

PAPAKURA PARADE



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OUR CAMP

Soon after the outbreak of the present War it was decided to establish a large camp near Auckland for the purpose of training Reinforcements and other troops and also to have ready a mobilised force so that in case of invasion troops would be immediately available for the defence of the City. Owing to its nearness to the city, on good roads and railway, and its proximity to the East and West Coasts, Papakura was selected as a suitable site.

The land was acquired from the McLelland family who, it is interesting to note had occupied it since 1845. The P.W.D. immediately let contracts for the construction of Headquarters and "C" Blocks and the work was pushed on with the utmost speed. The erection of "B" and "D" Blocks, MT Workshops, Post Office, Cinema, Institutes and later the Camp Library followed. The large garage and extension to the MT. Workshops were built early in 1941. The administrative buildings of "E" Block were erected in record time in Dec. 1941 by a company of N.Z. Engineers.

The construction of roads, drains and Parade Grounds kept pace with the buildings and all spare ground was laid down in lawn. The ornamental trees and shrubs were donated by the Auckland City Council.

The general appearance of the Camp with its well-kept lawns and tidy buildings is pleasing and impressive and troops in occupation have always taken