

Three officers of the British Army in India arrived in New Zealand on the 3rd August, 1926, on interchange with a similar number of officers of the New Zealand Permanent Forces, who proceeded to India for attachment to British regiments for a period of two years. The following are the officers interchanged :—

Officers of British Army in India sent to New Zealand.  
 Captain A. S. Hooper, The Wiltshire Regiment . .  
 Captain G. McI. S. Bruce, M.C., The Lincolnshire Regiment  
 Captain S. Gibbons, The Durham Light Infantry

Officers of N.Z. Permanent Forces sent to India.  
 Lieutenant J. A. M. Clachan, N.Z. Staff Corps (attached to The Wiltshire Regiment).  
 Lieutenant G. M. McCaskill, N.Z. Staff Corps (attached to The Lincolnshire Regiment).  
 Lieutenant D. T. Maxwell, N.Z. Staff Corps (attached to The Durham Light Infantry).

Shortly after his arrival in India Lieutenant D. T. Maxwell proceeded to China with The Durham Light Infantry.

In accordance with the approved policy, two Cadets were sent to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where they will undergo a course of instruction for eighteen months. On graduating the Cadets will be commissioned and attached for twelve months to British regiments in England, after which they will return to New Zealand and take up duty. Excellent reports have been received on the progress made by all our Cadets undergoing instruction at the Royal Military Academy and Royal Military College.

Enlistments into the N.Z. Permanent Staff during the year amounted to fourteen. These new men were required to make good the wastage caused by promotions to commissioned rank, retirements, and resignations. Candidates for appointment were selected to undergo a competitive course at Trentham Camp, and the final selection was made at the termination of the course.

For the first time since the war the whole of the N.Z. Permanent Forces, with the exception of some administrative services, were assembled at Trentham for a special refresher course and combined operations. The course was most successful in bringing all ranks up to date with the latest developments in armament and training, and especially in standardizing our instructional and administrative methods.

The Regiment of the Royal N.Z. Artillery has been to some extent reorganized and its control decentralized. It is now organized in cadres where required, all the cadres in a Command being under the senior Royal N.Z. Artillery officer in the Command, who in turn is responsible to the Colonel-Commandant of the Command. In consequence the duties of the Director of Artillery have undergone a slight change. He is now responsible for the training of recruits for the regiment, for the inspection and co-ordination of the training of all Artillery in the Dominion, and for duties in connection with armament, ammunition, the siting and design of defence works, and other duties at General Headquarters.

### 3. AIR SERVICES.

#### (a) *N.Z. Permanent Air Force.*

The strength of the N.Z. Permanent Air Force is now five officers and fourteen other ranks.

Liaison has continued to be carried out with the Territorial Land Forces of the Southern Command, the total flying-time involved being 20½ hours.

Air surveys have been carried out during the year, and the demand for this work is increasing. The principal tasks carried out were—Manawatu-Oroua Rivers (approximately 115 square miles); Hanmer Forestry plantations (approximately 20 square miles); Cust River (approximately 12 square miles). It is highly pleasing to find that local bodies for whom work has already been done are now negotiating for new and larger undertakings.

The work of the small staff at Wigram Aerodrome during the annual refresher courses of the Territorial Air Force officers was admirable, and its efficiency was fully demonstrated by the excellent flying totals obtained by all courses.

#### (b) *N.Z. Air Force (Territorial).*

The strength of this unit now stands at 101 officers.

Annual refresher courses were held at Wigram Aerodrome during the period 1st February to 28th March, there being five camps each of ten days' duration. A total of thirty-four officers attended, and of these thirteen were retained at an extra camp for additional training. This attendance shows a marked decrease from that of previous years, and indicates the urgent necessity for instituting *ab initio* instruction of trainees to replace the ex-R.A.F. war-time pilots of which the Territorial Air Force is now composed.

Except on the score of attendance, this year's courses were most successful. The officers under instruction were exceptionally keen, and the standard of flying showed a marked improvement. Over 560 hours flying was carried out with but one minor accident, which involved no injury to personnel. Several forced landings, owing to mechanical breakages in Monosoupape engines, were successfully negotiated.

Flying training was carried out on Avros, Bristol Fighters, D.H. 4's, and D.H. 9's, and included formation flying on all types. Training in use of the bomb-sight and bomb-dropping was carried out with the aid of the Batchelor mirror, and practice in wireless telegraphy from the air was also given.

The average flying-time per pilot was approximately 16½ hours.

Ground training included instruction on wireless, gunnery, and musketry, both theory and practice, and lectures on Army co-operation and air operations.

On the 15th March H.R.H. the Duke of York paid a short visit of inspection to Wigram Aerodrome. His Royal Highness graciously presented an autographed photograph to the officers' mess.