

**GIFTS FOR TROOPS**

**Major-General Freyberg Appreciative**

**TWO BANDS FORMED**

A letter received yesterday afternoon from Major-General B. C. Freyberg, C., Officer Commanding the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, is a testimonial to the work of the National Patriotic Fund Board in its endeavours with the co-operation of the public, to provide comforts for New Zealand's armed forces. The letter, dated February 19, was addressed to the chairman of the board.

Major-General Freyberg deals first with the provision of band instruments for the First Echelon. "I thought you would be pleased to hear," he writes, "that the band instruments presented to your society by two of the infantry battalions have proved a great success, and two very good bands have already been formed. . . . I can assure you that they are a great asset."

Referring to the provision of comforts, Major-General Freyberg states: "Distributions of gifts from your society during the voyage were fully appreciated by the men. It is encouraging for us to know that we have the support and understanding sympathy of bodies such as yours working for while we are away."

**NEW OFFICERS**

**Cadets Receive First Commissions**

**PASSING-OUT CEREMONY**

On Friday, March 29th, 83 officers who have successfully completed a course of instruction at the Army School, Trentham, received their appointment to commissioned rank. The occasion was marked by a formal passing-out ceremony for which Major-General J. E. Duigan, D.S.O., Chief of the General Staff, was present. The general inspected the cadets on the school parade ground, took the salute at a march, and later addressed the new officers in the Army School theatre. The splendid physique of these men, they are nearly all above the average height — was matched by the fitness on the parade ground and they are in every respect a credit to the staff of instructors.

When General Duigan arrived at the parade ground he was met by Major H. L. Sugden, N.Z.S.C., Commandant of the Army School. Other officers on parade included Captain N. Early, N.Z.S.C., Company Commander and Infantry Instructor, Captain R. J. D. Davis, Small Arms Instructor, Captain G. A. Perry, Artillery Instructor, Lieutenant G. F. McIlloch, M.B.E., Drill Instructor.

At the conclusion of the parade the company assembled in the theatre where they were addressed by General Duigan. "I was very glad to see you on parade and there is no doubt that during the time you have been here you have made very rapid progress, and judging by the reports I have received, you are fitted to be commissioned," he said, "I am sure you will not think for a moment that I know all you need to know as a soldier. In another day or two I will

have completed 40 years' service, 36 years of which has been with the New Zealand Regular Forces, and I haven't finished learning yet by a long way.

"Your responsibilities will now start as far as soldiering is concerned. You will have a direct responsibility to the men you will lead in the 2nd N.Z.E.F., not only to make yourself efficient, but to make them efficient. The end of all training is the battlefield. The final test of the training of the men is when they are faced with the enemy. By your leadership you may be able to prevent casualties in the field.

**NO 40-HOUR WEEK**

"There is no 40-hour week in the Army. The Army does not put up its shutters or close the office door at 4.30 p.m. For 24 hours a day and for seven days in the week an officer has to be on deck. He has to be going all the time thinking ahead of his men and trying to make his command efficient. The first duty of an officer is to see that his men are happy and contented. If you look after them and attend to their wants, they will follow you anywhere.

"Your men will be the first to find you out if you don't know your job. No one is quicker at that than the New Zealander. The efficiency of the

soldier depends on his skill at arms. He must be a master of the various weapons with which he is armed and know what to do when he is in difficulties.

"When conditions are bad, see to your men's comfort first before you look to yourself. I am sure you will put your hearts into your work with the Third Echelon. I know that if General Freyberg had been here today to see you he would have been pleased. I have been impressed with your physique. I noted the good square jaw that shows determination to go on and stick it out if ever you get into a hot corner. If you do that you will come back with the same traditions the old Division built up under General Russell. I congratulate you all."

At the conclusion of the parade the new officers received their commissions at once. Most of them left camp immediately to commence the four days' leave granted at the conclusion of the course.

**Infantry.**

Central District.—A. H. Armour, V. P. Boot, E. P. Bunny, K. C. M. Cockerill, H. R. Dix, M. Handyside, S. B. Hoby, B. A. Marris, J. Milne, C. R. McColl, E. K. Norman, C. G. Rands, J. D. Reid, G. S. Sainsbury, S. G. Smythe, A. A. Torrens.

Northern District.—J. A. Carroll, M. Chinchon, J. Cullwick, A. T. Eady, M. L. Hill, W. A. Hubbard, R. H. Matthews, P. V. H. Maxwell, C. W. McLean, E. K. Percy, R. S. Smith, I. M. Thomson, J. Tyerman.

Southern District.—A. L. Aickin, J. S. Albon, H. Bailey, J. H. Dillon, A. C. Elworthy, P. E. Hazeldine, B. V. A. Jones, H. Macaskill, F. M. Ollivier, P. B. Smythe, J. Stevenson, F. W. Sutherland.

**Maori Battalion.**

A. Awatere, H. K. Green, H. Hokianga, H. T. Maloney, A. Mitchell, J. C. Reidy, P. C. West, H. Whareaitu, T. Wi Repa

**Artillery.**

T. H. H. Acland, J. C. Brown, M. G. Cutlbert, C. V. Duignan, W. E. Halford, F. W. Johns, P. A. Longmore, L. T. Mark, R. J. McElroy, W. J. Rainbow, H. S. Richardson, G. A. Robinsor, B. W. Rodie, G. J. Ruston, K. Stych, A. J. Wren.

**Signals.**

G. J. Froude, A. G. Hultquist, M.P., N. W. Laugeson, A. S. G. Rose, J. W. Tonge.

**New Zealand Engineers**

Hitchcock, F. W. O. Jones, D. M. Paterson, J. B. Wallace.

**Machine-Gunners.**

W. R. Aislabie, D. J. Drennan, C. M. H. Gibson, E. A. Hunter, R. D. Timms.

**Army Service Corps.**

J. Fenton, H. Hope Gibbons Surgeon.

**FALL FROM TRAIN**

**Soldier Injured**

Back injuries were received by Ray Pakau, aged about 20, believed to be a member of the Second Echelon, when he fell from a moving train at Hastings on the 29th March, states the "Evening Post." The train, which was conveying troops to camp, was moving from the station yards when Pakau fell from the platform of a rear carriage. He was taken to hospital where his condition is reported as not serious.

**WHOLE TEAM IN FORCES**

Leading team in the Whangarei senior B Rugby competition last season, Whangaruru, has all its fifteen players in the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, the majority being with the Maori Battalion, states a Whangarei correspondent. Some are now overseas with the First Echelon and others are in camp with the Second Echelon. The members who left this week after their leave were given a rousing farewell by the residents of Whangaruru.

**ENLISTMENT POSITION.**

Dominion enlistments for service overseas with the 28th (Maori) Battalion up to February 17, the latest date for which returns are available, total 2595. A large number of recruits have still to be medically examined, but those who have so far passed before medical boards have been classified and dealt with as follows:—Fit, 1219; temporarily unfit, 228; permanently unfit, 278; in reserved occupations, 137; sent to camp, 767; balance available for posting to camp, 570.

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