

## The Hon. F. JONES

Minister of Defence

Visits Army Headquarters

A visit was made to Army Headquarters just prior to Christmas by the Minister of Defence (the Hon. F. Jones), who had afternoon tea with the members of the civilian staff of the Army Department. The Under-Secretary of Defence, Mr. H. Turner, welcomed the Minister, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the way in which the staff had performed their duties during the past year. His remarks were endorsed by the Chief of Staff, Major-General J. E. Duigan, who mentioned the tremendous help the civilian staff had been to the service side of the Department.

The Minister said that it was the first opportunity he had had of meeting members of the civilian staff. He recognised the enormous amount of extra work thrown on their shoulders by the outbreak of war and the voluminous correspondence that had to be handled. It was gratifying to know that the duties had been performed loyally and ungrudgingly, particularly when this entailed long hours. In wishing all the compliments of the season, the Minister said he felt sure that the staff would continue to give of its best in the year to come.

## New Branch of Air Arm

Provision for the establishment of a new branch of the Royal New Zealand Air Force is contained in regulations recently issued. Officers from civil life may be appointed to the new branch to take over administrative duties which are normally carried out by officers of the general duties branch. Provision is also made in the regulations for the establishment of a medical branch. Another new clause provides that in time of war or of imminent national danger, when it is expedient to promote officers or airmen to bring the Air Force up to war establishment, such promotions may be of temporary rank. Officers and airmen so appointed shall be entitled to the pay and allowances for the equivalent substantive rank. Acting rank (unpaid) may be granted pending confirmation of appointment to higher rank, temporary or substantive.

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## Official Farewell Function

At Exhibition

FIRST ECHELON ENTERTAINED.

Soldiers crowded the Exhibition Cabaret on December 22nd, at a dance given in their honour by the Metropolitan Patriotic Committee. It was the official farewell social function for men of the first New Zealand echelon, and though most of the soldiers were Wellingtonians, there was a sprinkling of representatives from other districts who were spending their final leave in the capital.

The Union Jack and New Zealand's own flag flanked the orchestral shell, and a large Christmas tree in a silver stand was set in the centre of the dance floor. Other decorations were not necessary, for the uniforms of the guests of honour lent a sufficiently varied and patriotic note. Although the dance was officially given only for men of the Special Force, towards the end of the evening the blue Air Force uniform and the black and white of the Navy were conspicuous in the throng.

Mr. J. W. Andrews, Mayor of Lower Hutt, welcomed the men, and Councillor Martin Luckie read a telegram of good wishes and congratulations from the Mayor, who was unable to attend. "You carry with you our best wishes," Mr. Luckie said. "The debt of gratitude you leave on the shoulders of those in Wellington who are left behind will never be taken off—your sacrifice has not been made in vain." When the speaker called for cheers for the men it seemed strange, but was typical of the times, to hear feminine voices raised in response.

The Metropolitan Committee was assisted by the executives of the Official Camp Entertainers and the A.N.A. Club in entertaining the guests.

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## CHURCH OF ENGLAND

"Base" to be Established  
at Trentham Camp

The Church of England is to have a building which will act as a base for the chaplain's work and will provide centres for reading, writing, recreation, entertainments, and the distribution of light refreshments. Similar work was undertaken in the last war, the Church, through its Military Affairs Committee, raising £50,000 for these activities. The Military Affairs Committee, with the assistance it is seeking from all Church of England people throughout New Zealand, is again undertaking this work.

Plans have been prepared for the "base" at Trentham Camp by Messrs. Gray Young, Morton and Young. They provide for a wooden building of one floor, having a malthoid-covered roof. The building will contain a hall, 54ft. by 34ft., divided by folding doors, to make a reading-room and a recreation room. By folding the doors back there will be one big hall for social or Church purposes. The hall will be equipped with two open brick fireplaces and a serving counter and storeroom. At one end will be the chancel, vestry, and officers' living-room and bathroom, and at the other end a stage, with a dressing-room on each side.

The hall will have two entrances with porches, and lighted on both sides with dormer windows. The chancel will have a special finish and will be cut off from the rest of the room with curtains when it is not in use.

The building, without furniture, is to cost £1750. Similar buildings are to be established in the other camps. The fund being raised for the Church's work among the Forces is to be spent by the Church, as it comes within the exemptions allowed by the Patriotic Purposes Emergency Regulations.

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