

Camp Entertainers

Concert at Trentham

Hall Packed to the Doors

The new Salvation Army Hall at Trentham Military Camp was packed to the doors last Wednesday night, a number of the men, to obtain a better view of the stage and performers, climbing on to the rafters, where they were content to remain the whole evening. The reason for the wholehearted enthusiasm, on the part of the "Diggers," was yet another of those excellent concerts arranged by the executive committee of the Official Camp Entertainers.

The programme opened with a number of tuneful melodies played by Douglas Roche and his De Luxe Orchestra. Mrs. W. Duncan sang two numbers and had to respond to an insistent encore. Two community songs were then played by Douglas Roche, this number being followed by Una Weller, the clever elocutionist, who captivated the "boys." She responded to several encores. Miss Hazel Martin and her ballet, Misses Ngaire Bray, Betty Painter, Billy Pond, Irene Davies, Fay Coleman, and Flo Turner, in smart white satin military costumes, proved very popular, and their item had to be repeated. Miss Ena Rapley's singing of "Love Will Find a Way" and Sweet Mystery of Life" was loudly applauded, and, in response to an enthusiastic encore, she sang Parted." The orchestra played her popular hits, and Mrs. Duncan and Miss Weller also had to appear again to satisfy the audience.

During the brief spell, lucky numbers were drawn, each winner receiving a gift.

At the conclusion Colonel McHugh thanked the organiser, secretary and executive committee for their efforts and paid high tribute to the class of entertainment given by the performers. Cheers were given for all, accompanied by musical honours.

The performers were the guests of Colonel McHugh at supper, and the organiser expressed appreciation of the hospitality extended them by the D.C. Colonel McHugh thanked the performers, and especially complimented the Official Camp Entertainers on the programmes presented, saying that they provided the type of entertainment most appreciated by the men.

MEN FOR ENGINEERS UNITS.

Numbers of men employed in civil life in the many branches of the Public Works Department are included in the personnel of the various engineers' units formed for the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Five engineering and stores clerks attached to the Department at Auckland were farewelled by colleagues last week when they left to commence training as prospective non-commissioned officers for the Third Echelon.

Legionnaire G. S. Wilkinson

Enters Officers Training Camp

12 Years in the Army

Though he has already had 12 years in the army and saw service while still in his 'teens in the Great War, Legionnaire G. S. Wilkinson, of Hastings, is to return to the army, and last week entered the officers' training camp at Trentham. When the last war broke out he was in King's College, Taunton, Somerset, and though a month off his fifteenth birthday, he ran away from school and joined the Third Welsh Fusiliers.

It was not until six months later that his parents located him, and then he was in France. They claimed his return on account of his age, but a few months after his return to college the First Welsh Guards were formed, and again he ran away to become the first drummer boy in the battalion. Later he was sent to Aldershot and attached to the Third General Hospital, to be posted eventually as sick-corporal to his battalion. With it he served in France until the Armistice, after which he was a member of the Army of Occupation in Germany until 1922, when he was drafted to India and was at General Headquarters, Bombay, where he completed his 12 years' service in the Imperial Regular Army and took his discharge with the rank of sergeant.

He was prominent in the formation of the Hastings and district branch of the British Legion, and his reaction to the call for men for the present war was that as a fit and trained man it was his duty to rejoin the colours.

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"OPEN HOUSE"

CLUBROOMS FOR SOLDIERS

A LOWER HUTT VENTURE

Further hospitality is shortly to be offered to the forces in Trentham Military Camp by the Hutt Valley branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association, who are calling a meeting of all interested citizens to-day (Friday), for the purpose of forming a committee of helpers to assist in organising a social club for the many men who spend their weekly leave, particularly Friday nights, in Lower Hutt. The R.S.A. plan to hold "open house" for all soldiers in their comfortable clubrooms in High Street every Friday night from 7 till 10 p.m., when the rooms will be open for recreation games, entertainment, and occasional dances. Light suppers will be provided and a first-class orchestra will be available for the dances.

The central situation of the club will also offer splendid facilities for men to leave parcels, and an inquiry service for shopping and various activities will also be available. With the co-operation of the people of Lower Hutt it is anticipated that the scheme will be most successful and will fill an urgent need.

The popularity of the fortnightly dances given by the branch was illustrated last Friday night by the attendance of well over 200. A lively orchestra and a well-balanced programme of old-time and modern numbers kept the floor filled, and the attractive supper served by the committee of ladies was in keeping with the general excellence of the arrangements. Khaki uniforms and the navy blue of the R.N.V.R. were well to the fore and the evening went with a twing from start to finish.

TRENTHAM BAND

Assists Recruiting Campaign

The appearance of the Trentham Camp Band in the city streets last Friday to assist with the present campaign for more men for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force attracted a very large audience to the mid-day recruiting rally in the Town Hall. The band occupied seats behind the stage and contributed to the musical programme. The guest artist was Miss Joy Asquith, and the song leaders were Jack Morris. Mr. Ernie Dean was at the piano.

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