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Camp News

As this is not an official publication of Army Headquarters of the New Zealand Military Forces, all matter intended for publication should be addressed to The Editor and reach this office not later than 2 p.m., Mondays. Correspondence is invited on topical items of interest. Only business communications should be addressed to the Manager. Extra copies of "Camp News" may be obtained on application to the Manager, "Camp News," 3rd Floor, Whitaker's Buildings, 11 Manners Street, Wellington.

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Thursday, March 21, 1940

Major-General
J. E. Duigan,
C.B., D.S.O.



Photo by Richard Andrew

Chief of the General Staff
of the New Zealand
Military Forces

Major-General J. E. Duigan, C.B., D.S.O., who has been Chief of the General Staff of the New Zealand Military Forces since April, 1937, was born and educated in Wanganui.

During the past 39 years he has had considerable experience in almost every branch of army work, and his career as a soldier on active service and in the Permanent Defence Forces of the Dominion has been distinguished.

He was one of the youngest men to serve in the Boer War with the Second Brabant's Horse and the Second Kitchener's Scouts. After two years' active service in the ranks of these units he was granted a commission in the 10th New Zealand Contingent. On returning from South Africa he joined the Permanent Forces and was appointed a cadet in January, 1903. In September, 1905, he received his commission and held the rank of Lieutenant until 1909 when he was promoted Captain.

Following special courses in Field Engineering, Electric Lighting and Signalling in England, he passed the Entrance Examination for the Staff College at Quetta and proceeded to India, in December, 1912, for a period of two years.

On the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, Captain Duigan was appointed General Staff Officer, 3rd grade, with the N.Z.E.F. and embarked from Colombo on the 15th November, 1914. In January, 1915, he was promoted to the rank of Major and appointed Officer Commanding the New Zealand Tunnelling Corps, and served in that capacity until January, 1917. He served as General Staff Officer, 3rd Grade, at the Divisional Headquarters of the N.Z.E.F. before being promoted to General Staff Officer, 2nd Grade, Sixth Army Corps, British Armies in France. From July 17th to December, 1917, he acted as General Staff Officer, 2nd Grade, to the New Zealand Infantry Reserve Brigade, and for the next three months he held the position as instructor at the Senior Officers' School at Aldershot. He was awarded the D.S.O. in 1917 and mentioned in despatches.

His next assignment was an appointment from the War Office for special work in the United States. He returned to New Zealand at the end of 1918 and was given the position of Chief Infantry Instructor at Featherston Camp. In 1919 he was promoted Lieut.-Colonel and appointed General Staff Officer for the Auckland district where he won distinction as an outstanding officer. He was appointed O.C. Northern Command in October, 1930, and promoted to the rank of Colonel in April, 1931. In 1936 Colonel Duigan was honoured by being appointed Aide-de-Camp (additional) to His Majesty the King, and the following year received the Order of C.B. In April, 1937, he was promoted to Major-General and appointed G.O.C. the New Zealand Military Forces.

Major-General Duigan has specialised in military engineering, which has become of great importance since the mechanization of the Army.

Thursday, March 21,

Ricochets

It was found that an ex-sergeant aged 58, who tried to rejoin the army, had stained his hair dark brown much for the saying that old never dye!

A recruit declares he does not mind the sergeant-major telling him what he thinks of him, if it would leave out the bad language. His sergeant-major is anything but the type of sergeant-major used to be, there was much left.

"The unscrupulous embezzler can pin nothing on Goering," declares a Nazi. "The other medal would certainly be the question."

According to a political commentator, Goering's influence in Germany is weakening. Perhaps the explanation explains why he is so heavy.

"Even to-day there are some who regard long hair as a sign of weakness," we read. If we remember that Sergeant-Major never laboured under that particular delusion.

"I told my wife that I was exhausted," said a man. "and she just laughed at me." Had he evidently forgotten the theme song.

When the waiter slipped the soup turned turtle.

Increasing daily: Hitler's Handicap.

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