

CAMP NEWS

THE SOLDIERS' WEEKLY

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Gratis to Soldiers.

VOL. 1. NO. 16

Wellington, Friday, March 29, 1940.

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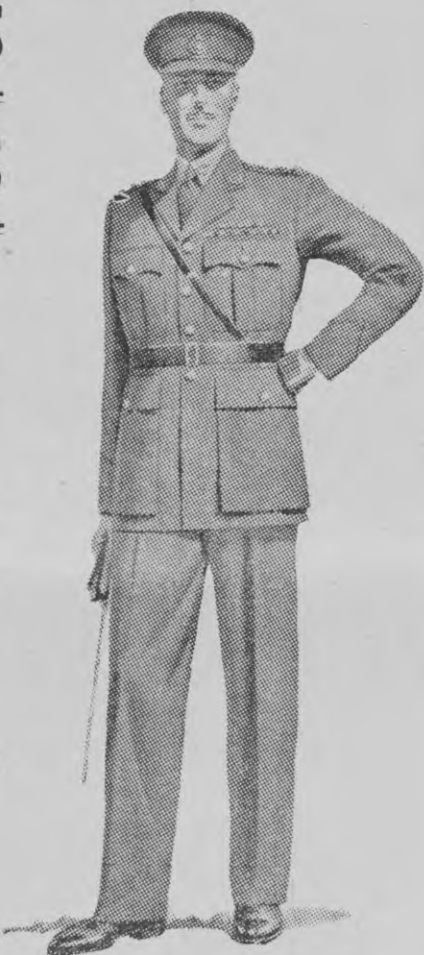
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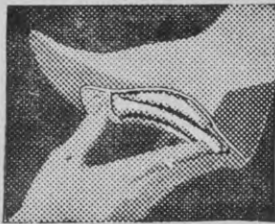
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Camp News

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.

Vol. 1. No. 16

Friday, March 29, 1940

OFFICERS & MEN

Good Relationship

COMBINED DINNER

Camp Gatherings

The good relationship existing between officers and men of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force and the good spirits of all ranks were strikingly exemplified at the Central District Mobilisation Camp, Trentham, on March 12, when officers and men joined together in farewell dinners before departing for their homes on final leave. The messes were decorated for the occasion with coloured streamers and the Army cooks put forth their best efforts to provide a special menu. The dinners took the place of the Christmas fare provided for the men of the First Echelon. The four-course dinner was fully appreciated by officers and men alike, and at the conclusion the mutual regard of officers and men was expressed in a series of speeches.

There were three separate gatherings. The 22nd (Wellington) Battalion entertained their officers in the No. 1 Mess, the brigaded units gathered in No. 2 Mess, and the officers and men of the 1st New Zealand General Hospital and the 1st New Zealand Convalescent Depot dined in their own mess.

At the Wellington Battalion gathering the company commanders congratulated the men on the high standard of training achieved and the willing co-operation of all ranks. During the dinner the mess was visited by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Andrew, V.C., N.Z.S.C., Commanding Officer of the Battalion.

In the brigaded units mess the Commanding Officer, Major J. W. Barry, N.Z.S.C., similarly stressed the happy relationship among officers, n.c.o.s, and men of those units. He said that in 29 years of soldiering he had never found such cheerful co-operation or willingness to serve. He hoped that spirit would always remain a feature of the units he had had the

pleasure of commanding at Trentham.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. McKillop, N.Z.M.C., Officer Commanding the General Hospital, spoke to the men of the medical units in their mess. Though they were the most recently enlisted of the Second Echelon units, already the work done showed how efficient they would be, he said. He thanked the men for their enthusiastic support of the training syllabus.

In the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Spencer, Officer Commanding the Convalescent Depot, Major N. F. Boag spoke on behalf of the officers of that unit.

COOKS REMEMBERED.

A popular toast in all messes was that of the cooks, who, it was said, while serving something special on that occasion, had always maintained a high standard of cooking. All speakers stressed the general excellence of the meals served in the camp.

Prior to the dinner the brigaded units formally marched to the mess room led by the band of the Second Echelon under Lieutenant C. E. Miller, bandmaster.

The friendliness between officers and men was illustrated by an incident after dinner, when the officers of one unit acted as mess orderlies to a number of sick men who were unable to be present in the mess. The officers, led by the Commanding Officer, carried the food from the kitchen to the hut and there served the patients. The other men of the unit were quick to appreciate this kindly thought and swarmed into the hut to cheer their officers.

The menu served consisted of roast lamb, beans, pumpkin, baked and boiled potatoes, plum pudding, cream sauce, fruit salad, trifle, nuts, fruit soft drinks, and coffee.

Special Course

"TRY-OUT" FOR OFFICERS.

On Saturday, March 16, a special course of one week for officers and n.c.o.s who have offered their services and whose qualifications and experience are unknown will be held at the Central District Mobilisation Camp, Trentham, while the Expedi-

tionary Force troops are on leave.

The course will be in the nature of a "try out" to ascertain what appointments if any those attending the course may be suited for. Approximately 100 of all ranks will attend the course. They will enter camp on the 16th and will return to their homes on March 23. They consist of officers and n.c.o.s, some of whom are too old for service overseas, who have offered to serve in various capacities.

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Loyalty Called Him to His Death

They thought he was a "deserter," but he proved himself a loyal soldier. He died at his post. That could be private William Quinn's epitaph. It is a simple story. He came to England from Ireland several years ago, prospered, and married a girl who lived at Chilcompton, near Bath. Here he settled down and became the father of two children. He joined an English regiment last July. In August he took his young wife and two children to Eire to see his parents for the first time. While he was there the war broke out. Although he could have remained in Eire in safety until the war ended, he wanted to rejoin his regiment and fight for Britain.

They Sent Him Aid.

But there were financial difficulties. Some of his regimental comrades heard of his plight. They sent him £7 from battalion funds so that he could buy railway steamer tickets for himself and family.

He rejoined his pals, and donned uniform—but he was a month late. He was brought before a regimental court, accused of being an absentee, because he had not rejoined his regiment on mobilisation. When the officers learned the facts they dismissed the charge and praised him for his spirit of loyalty.

He Was Reliable.

He had rejoined his regiment only a few weeks when he was knocked and killed by an electric train on the main Portsmouth-Waterloo line.

He was at his post as sentry at a certain place. He wanted to cross the line. He waited for one train to pass, but he could not hear nor see the approach of another.

One of his comrades said: "Private Quinn joined the regiment with me. He was a reliable young man. He was a hero. His death has hit his pals hard."

He could have stayed in Eire if he had preferred to, but he preferred to come and join us."

Line Response

The excellent response of officers of the Post and Telegraph Department to the outbreak of war for volunteers for service with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the Navy and Postal Corps has been most gratifying," said the Minister of Defence, Hon. F. Jones, last week. "Up to the present 680 members of the Department's staff from all parts of the Dominion have offered their services in some form of defence duty. This represents 19 per cent. of the officers of the Department who are of military age."

Nazi Crew Beat Up Own Skipper

The crew of a Nazi steamer, forced by starvation into a dash for home, found their captain trying to scuttle the ship when a British cruiser steamed into sight. Enraged, the German sailors beat up the captain to prevent him, and the steamer was captured.

This is the sensational story behind the arrival of the German ship as a prize in a West Country port.

She is believed to be the 989-ton *Leander*, which put into Vigo (Spain) when the war broke out. The ship was masquerading as a Russian vessel when taken.

When the British cruiser steamed within sight of her on the high seas, officers looking through their binoculars read the letters "U.S.S.R." on her side, and saw that she flew the Russian flag.

This disguise did not deceive the British cruiser.

Crew Are Happy Now.

The German crew—between twenty and thirty men—are now quartered in a British temperance hotel under a police guard. And they seem happy now.

For one thing, they have some square meals.

It is understood that they insisted on the dash from Vigo after being unable to get food. They were reduced to extremities.

They say there are now more than fifty German ships interned at Vigo.

Their captain, who was a member of the Non-Intervention staff during the Spanish Civil War, is now understood to be on a British warship.

The ship he tried to scuttle lies under a close British guard.

Two Scots, partners in business, joined the Balloon Barrage. Sending the balloon up for the first time, one was entangled and carried into the air.

His partner saw him soaring away. "Sandy . . ." he shouted. "Sandy . . . scatter some of our business cards."



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Recruiting Tour Returned Men

“Wonderful Spirit”

GENERAL'S PRAISE

The manner in which returned soldiers in the South Island are rallying behind the national recruiting campaign was commented on by Major-General J. E. Duigan, Chief of the General Staff, who accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister (the Hon. P. Fraser) on a recruiting tour of the principal towns in the south recently.

General Duigan said that the parades of returned soldiers and members of the National Military Reserve showed a wonderful spirit and a decision to rally behind the national recruiting campaign. The Territorial units in the various centres, too, had responded well. The note he had endeavoured to strike throughout the whole of the South Island was the fact that members of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. had the same spirit that animated the New Zealand soldiers in the Boer War and in the 1914-18 conflict.

During the tour the General visited the guards on duty at certain vital points and inspected drill halls and local recruiting offices. He made special mention of the way in which the men on guard duty at one Invercargill point had, during their off-duty hours, laid out their camp and improved its surroundings by planting shrubs and creating a flower garden.

Rugby and the War

TROOPS IN EGYPT

N.Z.E.F. Competition Second Round

Good form was again shown in the second round of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force inter-unit Rugby football competition play at the base camp in Egypt.

Results were:—

Army Service Corps 11 v. Auckland Battalion 9.

Machine Gun Company 5 v. Field Artillery Regiment 3.

Engineers and Signals 5 v. Motor Transport Company 3.

Wellington Battalion 18 v. Divisional and Brigade Headquarters 3.

Canterbury-Otago Battalion 8 v. Cavalry and Ambulance 3.

The first two matches were particularly impressive. Both were exciting and the issue of each was in doubt until the final whistle. The large attendance was delighted by the standard of play.

Matches in this inter-unit series will continue until the conclusion for the competition for the Freyberg Cup on April 3.

A trial match to select the New Zealand team will be held on Easter Saturday as a curtain-raiser to the annual British Army in Egypt versus Royal Air Force in Egypt game. New Zealand will meet a combined Army and Royal Air Force team on Easter Monday, the proceeds going to charity.

RETIRED OFFICERS

Help Appreciated Territorial Training

Appreciation of the action of many retired officers in coming back to assist in the training of Territorial units was expressed by Colonel R. A. Row, D.S.O., Officer Commanding the Central Military District, in an interview with “The Post.” The colonel said that when he visited Waiouru recently where several units have held their annual camps, a number of retired officers were present and some of them had attended only at great personal inconvenience to themselves. Their action had greatly assisted the training and had made up for the loss of experienced Territorial officers who had enlisted with the Expeditionary Force.

The units in camp at Waiouru included the 1st Battalion of the Hawke's Bay Regiment, under Colonel J. H. Irving, the 1st Battalion of the Taranaki Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Jardine, and the 2nd Field Company, N.Z. Engineers. The engineers did particularly good work there, including the erection of a tubular scaffold bridge over the Waitangi River.

Colonel J. L. Saunders, D.S.O., Officer Commanding the 2nd Infantry Brigade, was at Waiouru during the camp.

Maori Battalion

A Fine Impression

Lord Galway's Impression

A Cheery Farewell

His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Galway, inspected the Maori Battalion at the Show Grounds. He expressed himself highly pleased with all he had seen.

“I come to give you a message of most cordial good will on your departure to serve your King and Empire,” Lord Galway said. “I have heard much of the zeal and efficiency you have displayed in the course of your training, and I am delighted with everything I have seen this morning. I was thrilled by your marching song. You are about to proceed on the great adventure for which you enlisted. Forces are rallying to help the Motherland. It was splendid to see the men who have already gone from New Zealand as members of the First Echelon. The enemy will find, as they did before, that the Dominions will provide a most formidable asset to the Empire forces.”

In wishing the men the best of luck, Lord Galway said it was hoped that the campaign would be victorious, and the men shortly be back in their homeland. New Zealand's sons were playing a splendid part. Their predecessors built a great reputation for discipline, efficiency, and steadiness under fire, and he knew that the Maori Battalion would further enhance those traditions when facing the enemy.

Lord Galway took the salute at the march past, accompanied by Colonel Row, Officer Commanding the district.

DEMOCRATIC ARMY

Men From All Callings As Officers

PRINCIPLE OF SELECTION

If the varying professions and callings of those men in the advanced training company at the Army School of Instruction, Trentham, are any guide, the New Zealand Army is leading the world in the practical demonstration of the democratic principle in the selection of officers. There are 136 men in the company chosen by commanding officers from all units purely on the basis of their personality and general and military. Looking at a list of their occupations, one would find journalists, clerks, newspaper editors, stock agents, artists, engineers, travellers, insurance company managers, bank officers, servants, papermakers, printers, accountants, cheesemakers, architects, teachers, farmers, bachelors of engineering, and members of Parliament. The aim of these men is to give every man a chance on his merits.

There are All Blacks among them. Bullock-Douglas and Peppercorn, the athlete, Bainbridge, 440 yards champion (1934), and many others who have been successful in all branches of sport. The list of Parliament is A. G. Hultine and Plenty.

Not all of these 136 men may be for just as the equal opportunity principle is practised in selecting a train, so also is that of not favouring any man, whoever he is in civil life, who does not merit a grade in leadership and the qualities essential in a man. Those who do not get through turn to their units as n.e.o.s. possibly as privates.

Being in the advanced training company carries no privileges, but no disadvantages. Whereas the file with the main body of the train, there is no passing-out examination. His day starts at 7 a.m. and finishes at 9 p.m. In that time he has had a strenuous time to make bed the most comfortable place. He has to make his quarters tidy. Friday night leave is allowed.

There are infantry, artillery, machine-gunners, engineers, Service Corps, and divisional (mechanized) at the Army School. The course takes two months. There is no passing-out examination. The men are judged as they go, tests being made continually. Fitness for commissioning is judged on their general performance throughout the course.

Nights are occupied with lectures and a feature is that students are picked at random to give lectures to fellow-trainees on military matter that has attracted their attention during the day. Those who are commissioned are posted back to the arm of the service from which they came. They are second lieutenants, and a grant will be made to them to purchase uniforms and such necessary equipment as is not issued free. This is a substantial sum, but is quite adequate.

Captain A. H. L. Sugden, who is in charge of the Army School, is also a large number of men in training at the Central School of Instruction, under Major Caskill, as officers and commissioned officers for the first echelon.

The battalion was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Dittmer. The Trentham Military Band was present. Much public interest was taken in the proceedings. The men made an impressive display which was spoken of on all sides.

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Tribute to the excellent conditions provided for training the troops in New Zealand before sending them overseas was paid by Colonel J. Hargest, officer commanding the 5th Infantry Brigade, addressing a party of Southland farmers at the Exhibition recently. The Government had certainly done its part, he said. He believed no counsellor had put its troops into camp in better conditions. There was no extravagance in buildings, cooking, or the supply of food, yet the men were fed well that food was not even a topic of conversation—a most unusual state of affairs. The men were well clothed, well housed, and well paid. He believed the soldiers of the present force were better fitted to do what they had to do than their predecessors of 25 years ago. They were a force to be proud of, the flower of the country's manhood. They were coming up to the colours, and recruiting was progressing splendidly, though there was not the incentive to join up while no actual war was being fought in New Zealand troops overseas.

**Aiding Soldiers
Assistance with Life
Insurance**

The principles which the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board has been directed to observe in granting assistance toward the payment of life insurance premiums was explained by the Minister of Finance, the Hon. W. Massey.

The Minister said that it had been decided to assist to a reasonable extent in the case of policies taken out immediately before or subsequent to the date of enlistment. Special circumstances would always be taken into consideration and, subject to the prescribed conditions, each case would be treated as generously as possible upon its merits.

"I wish to make it clear," said Mr. Nash, "that assistance for this or for any other purpose will always be granted by the board in accordance with the financial circumstances of the applicant, having regard to his ability to meet from his military pay and other resources commitments entered into.

"The principles which the board has been directed to observe provide also that in each case the commitment should be reasonable in relation to the applicant's obligations and general circumstances. In connection with life insurance policies which have been taken out immediately prior or subsequent to the date of enlistment, it has been decided to assist in such cases to a reasonable extent.

"The provision of insurance is undoubtedly a sound policy, and the board has accordingly been authorised to consider applications for assistance in respect of new policies up to a maximum of £200 of insurance cover. There is an important proviso that the financial circumstances of the soldier must be such that the measure of assistance through the medium of the Board is justified.

"The policy being followed is along the same lines as that adopted in 1916-18, when the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board considered the payment of insurance premiums on new policies up to a maximum cover of £200."

**HAND OUT A
SMILE**

REAL THING.

Private: May I have a week's leave to get married, sir?

Captain: But I thought you had a week off last year for the same purpose?

Private: I'm afraid I did, sir, but this time it's the truth.

* * * *

THRILLING.

The man who had just returned from France was relating a thrilling experience.

"Yes," he said, "an Apache sprang at me in one of the streets of Paris, snatched my pocket-case of notes, and bolted. The gendarmes chased him, and when cornered he leapt into the river—"

"Ah!" said a listener. "Guilty but in Seine."

* * * *

An old soldier had been brought before his officer for the crime of having a dirty rifle. "A man of your service ought to know better," said the C.O. severely. "You are an old soldier, and know quite well what is expected of you. By the way, what was your last crime?"

"Having a dirty bow and arrow, sir," replied the man.

* * * *

MIGHT BE WORSE.

At the Army and Navy Rugger match a big spectator with a very loud voice kept shouting: "Up the Navy!" at frequent intervals to the discomfort of a little man in front.

During a lull, the latter turned round and said: "Pardon my asking, sir. You've served in the Navy, I suppose?"

"Lumme, yes!" bellowed the loud-voiced one. "I served in one of those 'hush-hush' ships."

"Ah," murmured the other. "Thank goodness you didn't serve in H.M.S. 'Thunderer!'"

* * * *

HER CHOICE.

Soldier: Which one of these pictures of me do you like the best?

Girl: The one with the gas mask on.

* * * *

"I beg your pardon, ma'am," said the newly-arrived Irish maid to the officer's wife, "but is it Colonel or Major I should be calling the Captain?"

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ARMY SUPPLY STORES. CAMP ROAD
TRENTHAM

THE EMBARKATION of the 1st Echelon 2nd, N.Z.E.F.

Some weeks after the declaration of war 4420 New Zealand soldiers embarked at Wellington to serve the Empire overseas, the second such contribution of the nation's manpower to be made within 25 years and the third in the history of a country just celebrating its centenary. They were, in effect, the first of the country's centennial offering to the Motherland. Great liners of an aggregate tonnage of 83,000 that but a few months before had plied their peaceful way on the leading sea routes of the Empire carried them under accommodation conditions that set standards hitherto unknown in the war history of New Zealand. The men embarked as silently as they had come forward when the initial call was made for volunteers for overseas. There were no great, cheering crowds for it was essential in the interests of the men's safety that their departure be kept as secret as possible.

Nature smiled on the city of Wellington this day, when from the camps in the Auckland district and from the Central District mobilization camp, Trentham, the men went aboard ship direct from the trains which deposited them at well-timed intervals on the Glasgow and King's wharves. It was beautifully calm and sunny—there could have been no better day for these thousands of young men setting off on the greatest adventure of their generation to see for the last time in possibly some years the capital of the land for which they were going forth to fight.

Despite the secrecy surrounding their departure there was a reasonably-sized crowd on the adjacent waterfront, no members of the public whatever being allowed on the embarkation wharves. They came early, simultaneous with the arrival of the first troop train on the wharves, and waited four hours and more to wave farewell. A large liner was berthed nearest the waterfront which accommodated this crowd of well-wishers and though most of them probably had friends aboard the three other troopships berthed further along—two of them out of sight—they were content, as it were, when they could not see their own sons and husbands, to wave farewells to those whose parents and wives could not make the journey to Wellington to say au revoir.

It was impossible in the interests of the efficient embarkation of the men to allow the public or even near relatives on to the wharves at which the troopships were berthed but when the first three had got away there was only one ship to cast off, the gate was opened to release on to the wharf at which she was berthed an excited crowd which gave the men on this ship a great and enthusiastic send-off.

The Watching Crowd.

All morning, after they had been embarked and allocated their quarters, the men swarmed on to the after deck of the biggest ship, which commanded the view of the waterfront crowd, and perched themselves on every vantage point that offered. From their oft precarious positions they scanned the watching crowd, trying to locate wives, sweethearts, parents and friends. With almost 700 men massed on the after deck it was a work of ingenuity for either a soldier aboard or a watcher on the waterfront below and some distance away, to make contact. When they did there was mutual waving and shouting of greetings and these over, just the silent watching of both parties—the departing and the remaining.

On the other ships the men gathered on the sides nearest the city end of the wharves, straining into the distance to attempt the impossible of distinguishing those on the waterfront.

Some enterprising watchers took up positions on small coastal steamers, there to exchange cheery greetings with the soldiers.

The waiting hours were not without incident. One middle-aged man ventured too close to the water's edge and fell into the harbour. He staged a short harbour swim for the amusement of the troops and was finally rescued by means of lifebelts and hauled out by a ship's officer, a police constable and two harbour employees. By this

time he was fairly well exhausted but he had held the stage for a quarter of an hour. This was too long for some of the soldiers, who called out to the crowd: "Hey there, you came to see us, not him!"

Leader Sails With Men.

The commander of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Major-General B. C. Freyberg, V.C., sailed aboard the largest of the ships. She took the headquarters of the division (70), the Fourth Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery (622), base depot details (45), headquarters, Fourth Infantry Brigade (60), and cast off for the stream at 12.30 p.m., the scheduled time.

Another ship took the 19th Wellington (Rifle) Battalion (790), Sixth Field Company of Engineers (250), Fifth Field Park Company of Engineers (160), and other small units consisting of the provost company, postal detail, employment platoon, base pay and post office details.

Other vessels took the 18th Auckland Battalion (790), Fourth Reserve Motor Transport Company (300), Second New Zealand Divisional Petrol Company (171), Second New Zealand Divisional Ammunition Company (166).

Here were also the Second New Zealand Divisional Light Cavalry Regiment (370) and some of the overseas base details.

One ship embarked the Second New Zealand Divisional Signals Company (300) and then proceeded to Lyttelton where she picked up the 20th Canterbury and Otago Battalion (790), the Fourth Field Ambulance (240), and the Fourth Field Hygiene Section (30).

On the rest of the ships the men were given the accommodation available to passengers and they were very happy about this. The men considered their quarters for the most part to be luxurious when compared with camp life.

Generally speaking they did not have a great deal to say. The outstanding impression they gave on being spoken to aboard ship was that they were thrilled and tremendously pleased that their great ambition to serve overseas was now, with the embarkation, a reality. The fact of such fine ships being at their disposal was another matter in which they were not silent. Whatever lay ahead would not rob them of the thrill they experienced when they stepped aboard these great liners.

Bull Terrier Mascot.

Mascots are inseparable from soldiering and the bull terrier, "Major," sailed aboard one ship with his master, Lieutenant Errol Williams, of

the Rifle Battalion. "Major" has lived at Trentham, spelled at Waiouru training camp, paraded with the troops in the grounds of Parliament House on their farewell public appearance and generally had a full but leisurely part in soldiering before and since the war. He was recently in attendance at his master's wedding in Christchurch, a trifle upset by the large white ribbon with which he was bedecked. He was given to Lieutenant Williams during his training days at Duntroon Military College, Australia.

Seven Special Trains.

Seven special trains brought the troops right on to the wharves and alongside their ships on the morning of embarkation. The first arrived at 8 a.m., the next at 8.30 a.m., and the third at 9.8 a.m. These were all from the Auckland camps. Then at 9.55 a.m., 10.40 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. trains arrived from Trentham camp. The last train, at noon, was from Auckland.

The arrival of the trains and the embarkation of the men was so well arranged that there was always a few minutes between the finalizing of the arrangements for one train load and the arrival of the next train.

The men who arrived on the early trains after all-night travelling were each given tea and a snack to eat on arrival on board the ships. This was arranged by the embarkation officer with the co-operation of the ships' staffs. Lunch was also served at midday and from what the men had to say afterward, they will have no complaints if this meal was a sample of the fare for the rest of the trip.

As each ship drew out there were the usual farewell songs, principally the touching Maori farewell melody, Hare Ra ("Now is the Hour when We must say Goodbye"), and cheers.

Embarkation Arrangements.

The embarkation arrangements were in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alexander Roberts, Chief Embarkation Staff Officer, who held a similar position during the Great War. Beginning with the Seventh Reinforcement, he continued till the end of the Great War and altogether 101,000 men taken overseas by 76 transports, were embarked under his supervision. At the same time as he was occupying this responsible position during the Great War Sir Alexander was supervising the training of artillery units.

His staff on the occasion of the embarkation of the first echelon of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force was seven in number, including himself, and the entire work was done on a voluntary basis. Work on the embarkation details had been proceeding intensively for three weeks prior to the actual departure. Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts beginning it and utilizing his staff as their services were needed.

Each ship had its embarkation officer. There were two senior officers for embarkation work, Captain D. A. Ewen, in charge of Glasgow Wharf and Captain G. Prictor, King's Wharf. The job of Lieut.-Col. Roberts was to supervise this staff.

The ship's embarkation officers and senior officers had to arrange the details of accommodation for all troop units, warrant officers, sergeants and officers on each ship. They had also to work out the messing arrangements for each ship. Then, on arrival of the trains on embarkation day, they had to check every man off on the unit roll to which he belonged. One of the big tasks of the job was for these officers to make themselves thoroughly acquainted in a short period with all the accommodation offering on these large ships and allocate it to the best advantage.

The "Outer Defences."

Part of Lieut.-Colonel Roberts's job was also to co-operate with the shipping companies and with the Transport Board regarding the fitting of the ships, the Director of Sea Transport, Mr. L. B. Campbell (secretary of the Marine Dept.) being responsible for handing over the ships to the Chief Staff Embarkation Officer properly fitted for the transport of troops. On embarkation day it was also Lieut.-Col. Roberts's duty to be responsible for

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Only the Best Ales and
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the "outer defences," that is the vision of the wharves and the public.

Lieut.-Col. Roberts specially arranged the help and co-operation from the ships' staffs, who he did and did everything they could help, the police, Wellington Harbour Board, Customs Department, the Boy Scouts of the Fifth Upper Hutt Troop who acted as messengers. For four days before the transport sailed an armed guard was stationed at the Army School of Instruction, Trentham camp. For the previous four hours prior to the sailing the troops were in Wellington, and the public could get near the ships without being on business and without an authority.

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Dance in Officers' Mess

There was a military thoroughness about the organisation of the dance held in the mess of the C.D.S.I. at Trentham Military Camp on March 11, and at which the officers entertained about fifty women friends. The officers were perfect hosts and seemed to have thought of everything, from hiring a bus to take their guests from the city to Trentham, to a buffet supper which the most fastidious hostess might well have been proud to provide. There was an excellent dance and, and huge log fires burned merrily in both the rooms. When the bus left for home, crowded with its load of fair passengers in their pretty frocks and cloaks, the officers crowded round singing "Goodnight, Sweetheart," "Merrily We Roll Along," and other popular songs; a farewell which pleased the girls, perhaps more than anything, that their hosts had enjoyed their company as much as they had enjoyed theirs. Colonel A. S. Wilder and Colonel J. Hargest were present at the dance, which had been organised by Lieutenant G. Colledge.

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ARMY FOOTBALL

Results in Egypt

WELLINGTON TEAM'S WIN

Prospects for the selection of a strong New Zealand Army team appeared bright on Saturday, March 11, on the completion of the third round of the inter-unit Rugby, wherein solid football was witnessed.

The game, wherein Wellington Battalion (12) routed Field Regiment (a) was particularly attractive. Machine-gun Battalion defeated Auckland Battalion, 6-3, in a more rugged match.

Other results were:—

- Motor Transport Company 5, A.S.C. 3.
- Canterbury-Otago Battalion 14, Brigade and Divisional Headquarters 3.
- Signals and Engineers 0, Cavalry 0.

Y.M.C.A. HUT.

The Y.M.C.A. hut at the Central District Mobilisation Camp, Trentham, was packed to the doors on Monday night, March 11, for the concert presented by a Wellington party arranged by Mr. Gray. An entertaining variety programme was given a splendid reception.

A Communion service was conducted in the Y.M.C.A. hut by Padre J. Hiddleston. It was followed by a service in which the sermon was replaced by the screening of a number of religious films.

Ricochets

President Roosevelt hopes to get the dinkum oil from Welles.

* * * *

European hymn: The Old Hundred!

* * * *

Let's hope the Spring proves to be the fall for Hitler!

* * * *

French say Germans have no chance of breaking through on the Western front. We i-magin-not!

* * * * *

"No half-time in war," says Lord Stanley. And, as waged by the Nazis, no quarter.

* * * * *

News Item: "The French are watchful." On the qui Vive la France!

* * * *

Reported that Germany is making a drive for scrap iron. If they make a drive on the Western front they'll collect some.

* * * *

Neutrals fear that they may be made a chopping bloc.

* * * * *

The men in the Navy to-day never go short of their rum ration, we read. However, this has nothing to do with that "zigzag course" we so often hear about.

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AMUSEMENTS

PLAZA THEATRE.

Movie fans, here's the picture for you, and we do mean you! It's Darryl F. Zanuck's production of "Hollywood Cavalcade," starring Alice Faye and Don Ameche, and filmed in technicolor at the Plaza Theatre. It re-enacts and photographs anew the romance of Hollywood from bathing beauties to world premieres; tells the great human story of Mike, who wanted to make movies, and Molly, who wanted only to be loved by Mike but who instead won greatness on the screen. It tells the drama of the men and women like them who conquered the entertainment world in the romantic, fabulous, zany years of Hollywood's rise.

Staged again, with great stars of to-day and great personalities of yesterday, you'll see slapstick and custard-pie comedy, with Don Ameche directing. You'll see the Mack Sennett bathing girls, and this time Alice Faye is one. Once again, Buster Keaton, Ben Turpin, Chester Conklin and the Keystone Cops are seen in hilarious scenes from the past. Once again, Al Jolson sings the song with which he electrified the world in "The Jazz Singer." You'll see Hollywood as it was and as it is, in a three-ring circus of entertainment.

The 20th Century-Fox film is at the Plaza Theatre. Just as "Alexander's Ragtime Band" brought back your happiest memories, so "Hollywood Cavalcade" will recall your fondest movie days. Irving Cummings, himself a 30-year veteran of filmdom, directed the picture, with Harry Joe Brown associate producer. The cast features J. Edward Bromberg, Alan Curtis, Stuart Erwin, Jed Prouty, Donald Meek, George Givot and Eddie Collins.

KING'S THEATRE.

A brilliant screen transmutation of Victor Hugo's renowned novel, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at the King's Theatre during Easter, with Charles Laughton in the title role, with a star-studded featured cast, with a record roster of atmosphere players, and with a vivid pageant of medieval Parisian life staged against dazzling sets of monumental proportions.

Treating of that significant period of European history just before Columbus discovered America, when thinkers everywhere were throwing off the shackles of superstition and ignorance and were awakening to a new world of progress, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" has long been a classic of literature. Written in 1823-30, the book created a worldwide sensation and established the name of Victor Hugo.

Its immortal tale deals with Quasimodo, the deformed but loyal orphan who rings the great bells of Notre Dame. A beautiful dancing gypsy, Esmeralda, comes to Paris for the annual Feast of Fools in the winter of 1482. She arouses the sinister interest of the King's High Justice, Frollo, who pursues her to the cathedral where thanks to the right of sanctuary, she receives shelter and safety. Later, Esmeralda flees, Quasimodo endeavouring to bring her back. He is caught and flogged for abduction, while Esmeralda finds refuge with the powerful Beggars' Guild.

While entertaining at the birthday party of Fleur de Lys, Esmeralda attracts a soldier, Phoebus, who is slain by the jealous Frollo, Esmeralda is accused, tried and sentenced to the gallows. The Archbishop of Notre Dame learns that his brother, Frollo, is really guilty of the crime, but before he can secure her freedom, Quasimodo rescues the condemned girl by swinging out of the bell-tower on a rope.

STATE THEATRE.

Something delightfully new under the screen sun is the tuneful comedy, "That's Right—You're Wrong," at the State Theatre.

Starring Kay Kyser with his orchestra and Adolphe Menjou, the picture breaks sharply away from the conventional boy-meets-girl success-story theme on which most band leader films have been based. With engaging candour, the producers admit that such a theme is threadbare—and develop their plot around the ingenious thesis that it is impossible to find any other theme.

Consequently, the story deals with the hilarious but futile efforts of a big Hollywood film company to make a picture with Kyser and his band, and in so doing it offers gay and laughter-packed entertainment. Kyser and his musicians portray themselves throughout and Menjou has the role of the luckless producer assigned to the task of bringing Kyser to the screen.

At first, Kyser and his followers are enthusiastic, and proceed to go to Hollywood in a big way. But presently Menjou discovers that his trusted pair of scenario-writers have concocted an utterly unsuitable story for Kyser, and are unable to think up a good one.

Faced with this impasse, Menjou tries to get Kyser to tear up his contract. The batonist fights back, his manoeuvres speeding up the film furiously to a hilarity-packed climax.

Kyser scores notably in his initial effort and with Menjou easily grabs the laugh-getting honours of the film. Lucille Ball is excellent as the glamour girl and May Robson furnishes much of the fun as Kyser's redoubtable grandmother. Edward Everett Horton, Roscoe Karns, Dennis O'Keefe and Moroni Olsen, along with the Kyser soloists, Ginny Simms, Harry Babbit, Sully Mason and Ish Kabibble, earn abundant comedy laurels.

Giving a vivid glimpse of what life is like in the totalitarian countries to-day, "Conspiracy," at the State Theatre, with Allan Lane, Linda Hayes and Robert Barrat in the leads.

The plot of this exciting adventure film revolves around a shipload of munitions sent to a foreign country and an ensuing web of intrigue between the secret police of that country and a grim band of patriots striving to overthrow its dictatorship.

Lane, as the radio operator aboard the ship, is speedily involved in the affair. He escapes from the vessel and swims ashore, only to find himself a fugitive from both sides seeking his life. A mysterious girl takes him in charge and endeavours to get him safely out of the country, and this leads to the thrilling series of adventures in which the pair are pursued by the police, try to escape by sea and fail, make a bold dash for the radio station at the harbour and summon aid for their final dash to freedom.

Exciting as entertainment, "Conspiracy" is also noteworthy for its presentation of the ceaseless plotting and counter-plotting that is going on abroad to-day. The work of its principals is excellent, particularly that of Lane as the fugitive, of Miss Hayes as the girl in the case, and of Barrat as an expatriate American who comes to their help.

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Friday, March 29, 1940



1st Echelon Embarking for Overseas Service