

## 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, linemen, 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, of 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, and 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 end 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 15-minute 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 barely 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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