

SINGAPORE MILITARY HOSPITAL

Auckland Doctor In Charge

LARGE AND VERY MODERN INSTITUTION

Advice has been received in Auckland that Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Craven, M.C., Royal Army Medical Corps, medical superintendent of Auckland Hospital, is commanding officer of the Alexandra Military Hospital on Singapore Island.

The Alexandra Hospital, which has been fully equipped to meet any emergency, is one of the finest institutions of its type in the world. Planned a few years ago, the great hospital was practically completed before the outbreak of war.

Its equipment and facilities are of the highest order. The radiology section has apparatus to deal with all types of X-ray work. Another department provides for massage, ultra-violet or infra-red rays, and a specialist handles ear and throat complaints. Operating theatres are air-conditioned and medical and surgical equipment is the most modern in the world. Attached to the hospital is a laboratory in which research and pathological examinations are carried out to safeguard services personnel from disease and infection.

The wards are in the care of English nursing sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and the principal matron (Far East) has compiled a list of suitably-trained women in Singapore who will be called in to assist when the need arises. There is little disease among men of the services stationed in Malaya because of the splendid organization working throughout the country in combating possible sources of danger.

Dr. Craven, who was appointed superintendent of Auckland Hospital in 1932, left for overseas a year ago. He had a distinguished Great War record, going to France in 1915 with the rank of captain in the 1st Northumberland Field Ambulance. He commanded the unit in the later stages of the war, and returned from active service in 1919 as lieutenant-colonel. He was awarded the Military Cross and the Cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

N.Z. AIR SQUADRONS

Visits By Mr. Fraser

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, and the High Commissioner, Mr. Jordan, visited the New Zealand fighter squadron at its operational station. Mr. Fraser, seated on blankets and a mattress in a pilots' hut, chatted with "the boys."

The squadron has shot down five Germans, of which Flight Lieutenant E. P. Wells, of Cambridge, has scored three and Squadron Leader M. W. B. Knight, of Dannevirke, and Pilot Officer Charles Stewart, of Wellington, have bagged one each.

Mr. Fraser told the pilots that their experience would be valuable if they returned to New Zealand, and asked whether they would like to go.

Squadron Leader Knight said: "Yes, but I should like to see this season out."

While Mr. Fraser was inspecting the Spitfires, Squadron Leader Alan Deere, D.F.C., of Wanganui, who has shot down 17 Germans, landed. Mr. Fraser congratulated him on his narrow escape when his fighter was damaged by gunfire over France and he was forced to limp over the Channel, prepared to bale out at any moment, but reached his base safely. One piece of shrapnel stuck so securely in the glycol tank that it prevented the oil from leaking out.

Mr. Fraser visited a hospital and saw Sergeant I. J. McNeill, of Rautoki, who was shaken after a forced landing. Mr. Fraser heard that planes of the New Zealand squadron are engaged in escort duties for sweeps over France.

At Bomber Station.

Arriving at the station a few hours after their planes had returned from plastering Hanover, Mr. Fraser visited the New Zealand bomber squadron. Among the men was the Victoria Cross winner, Sergeant J. A. Ward, to whom Mr. Fraser said, "New Zealand is very proud of you. I congratulate you most heartily on your well-deserved honour." Mr. Fraser was

NEW ASSOCIATION OF RETURNED MEN

Meeting In Wellington

OTHER FORCES AND NEXT-OF-KIN INCLUDED

A representative gathering, including Navy men, met last night in Wellington at the invitation of the executive of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. Association, when it was decided to form a Wellington branch.

The Dominion president, Mr. E. L. Thwaites, briefly explained the aims of the new association which, he said, was open not only to all who were serving or had served overseas in any branch of His Majesty's Forces in the present war, but also to their next-of-kin. He said that the association would bring into action a cross-section of the community free from bias and unhampered by old prejudices. It would be well-equipped to face the problems in which every section of the community would be involved on the return of men from overseas.

Mr. Thwaites said that the association would in no way clash with the interests of the N.Z.R.S.A. or its aims and activities. On the contrary its ambitions and ideals were so comprehensive in scope as to cater for many who could not be included under the existing constitution of the N.Z.R.S.A.

Mr. H. J. Preston, representative of Auckland next-of-kin, assured the meeting of the great support given the association by the next-of-kin in Auckland.

The meeting after deciding to form a branch in Wellington fixed August 25 for a meeting of those covered by the membership, including next-of-kin.

The following committee was formed: Messrs. F. R. Crompton (chairman), W. Pleasants (interim secretary), D. G. Sherriff, R. Duck, R. Smith, W. D. Anderson, G. Hoskin, D. C. Filp and G. K. Morgan.

LONGER LEAVE

Soldiers Who Were Due In Camp This Week

"As a result of further consideration of the leave question, new arrangements are being made which will give these soldiers a longer period in their homes," said the Minister of Defence, Mr. Jones, last night, referring to soldiers who are now on leave, and who were due back in camps this week.

"New train and travel arrangements are in hand and the timetables will be distributed to army area officers and railway stationmasters by Wednesday," the Minister added. "Soldiers are advised to confirm their departure time and date by inquiring from the nearest army area officer or a stationmaster on or after Wednesday. So that the fullest advantage can be taken of this extra leave, it is essential in the soldiers' own interests that personnel should travel in accordance with the new timetable. This extension of leave applies only to those who were due to travel back to camps this week."

introduced to the members of Sergeant Ward's crew, including the Auckland, Sergeant Gunner Box, D.F.M., and Sergeant Observer L. A. Lawton, Wellington.

The squadron paraded at a hangar and Mr. Fraser walked down the lines shaking hands with every man. He talked to the men in the sergeant's mess, the audience including more than a dozen D.F.C.'s and D.F.M.'s who had distinguished themselves over Germany. The airmen told Mr. Fraser that they wanted, before returning home, to finish the job for which they went to England.

Mr. Fraser has cancelled his Belfast visit. It is believed that this is because his presence is required in London owing to the Far East crisis.

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