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AIR TRAINING CORPS

**Wing Commander Nicholls
To Be Commandant**

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

The appointment of Wing Command-
er G. A. Nicholls as Commandant of
the Air Training Corps was announced
yesterday by the Minister of Defence,
Mr. Jones. This follows the recent an-
nouncement of the decision to form an
Air Training Corps in New Zealand as
part of the organization of the Royal
New Zealand Air Force. A recruiting
campaign is being held in each centre
in New Zealand for the enrolment of
youths between the ages of 16½ and 18
years for training in the corps.

Wing Commander Nicholls is a Gis-
borne man who served with the Royal
Air Force in the last war. He has since
then been closely associated with both
service and civil aviation. As a mem-
ber of the Territorial Air Force, he
attended regular training courses till
posted to the Reserve of Officers in
1936. He took a prominent part in the
development of civil aviation on the
East Coast, with the eventual estab-
lishment of an aerodrome at Gisborne
and the inauguration of the Gisborne-
Napier air service.

On the outbreak of war, Wing Com-
mander Nicholls was called up for ser-
vice from the reserve and served as
adjutant at Rongotai, where the
ground training school was first form-
ed. On the establishment of the
R.N.Z.A.F. station at Levin, he held
the appointment of Officer Command-
ing Ground Training School till Aug-
ust, 1940, when he was appointed as
Administrative Officer at the R.N.Z.
A.F. station, Woodbourne, Blenheim.
He relinquishes this appointment to
take over the duties of Commandant
Air Training Corps, at Air Force Head-
quarters.

MAORIS AT EVENSONG

Cairo Church Service

N.Z.E.F. OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE.

Rich Maori voices were heard in St.
Mary's Pro-Cathedral at the Sunday
Evensong when a choir from a New
Zealand training unit sang the hymn
"Aue E Ihu Tirohia." Solemnity was
added to the service as the melodious
Maori words rolled through the huge
cathedral, making a deep impression
on the congregation of soldiers from all
parts of the Empire and English resi-
dents of Cairo.

Following the church service the
Maori party under 2/Lieut. Hameora
entertained with songs and hymns in
the parish hall. To convey an idea of
Maori customs, a scene of welcome was
enacted. The party was divided into
two, one half being the hosts and the
other the guests. After chants and a
haka had been given and the two
"chiefs" had pressed noses, tribal
games were demonstrated. An action
song dedicated to the Maori boys who
came to this country during the last
war and several English songs of this
war were sung. Two further hymns
presented were "E Ihu Toku Orango"
and "Tama Ngakau Marie."

Soldiers and nurses from England,
South Africa and Australia showed
their appreciation of the programme by
prolonged applause. Many admitted
that they had been not only surprised
but deeply moved by the quality of the
Maori music.

**CLEARING STATION
PRAISED**

"The clearing station in Wellington
for sick and wounded soldiers return-
ing to New Zealand from overseas was
a revelation to me, and I am convinced
that the authorities in the Dominion
are making genuine efforts to treat the
returned soldier in a manner that is
beyond criticism," said a Dunedin ser-

**NEW SOLDIERS' CLUB IN
TAIHAPE**

A new soldiers' club provided by the
Government and vested in the Well-
ington District Patriotic Council, was for-
mally opened in Taihape recently. Tai-
hape is the nearest town to the big
Waiouru military camp.

The new club, which boasts a room 70
feet by 36 feet, was formally opened by
the honorary secretary of the Provincial
Patriotic Council, Mr. Ward, M.L.C. He
said what pleasure it had given him to
visit Taihape and how grateful they all
were to the Government for having pro-
vided such splendid club premises for the
convenience and comfort of the men in
uniform when they were given the oppor-
tunity of visiting the town. He said
that an arrangement had been made to
run special trains into Taihape from
the camp at weekends, so that there was
no doubt that the clubroom would be
made good use of. Arrangements for the
management of the club premises would
be in the hands of the local patriotic
committee.

Colonel C. G. Powles, camp command-
ant at Waiouru, expressed gratification
that such fine club premises had been
provided for the men, and thanks for the
manner in which many people in Taihape
treated the men when they were in
town.

On his way back Mr. Ward visited the
club premises at Bulls, established
through the local R.S.A. for the benefit
of the airmen who are being trained at
Ohakea. He also visited the camps at
Foxton and Levin.

gent who recently returned sick from
Egypt. He praised the work accom-
plished in New Zealand for the treat-
ment of the sick and wounded, and
specially the transport facilities.
"From the moment I stepped ashore
from the hospital ship," he said, "I
was impressed with the ardent desire
of the people in charge that the sol-
diers should concern themselves with
nothing except the business of getting
well again. Everything they could
possibly do was done for us, and I am
not alone in my expression of grati-
tude to those who received us. In the
clearing station there is everything
one can imagine for the efficient and
proper handling of the men, and the
hospital cars on the trains are the last
word in comfort."

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