

GENERAL FREYBERG TAKES SALUTE

Spectacular Parade

NEW ZEALANDERS AND FREE FRENCH

BEIRUT, April 11.

Arabs, Syrians, French and British cheered with enthusiasm as New Zealand and Free French R.A.F. troops marched in ceremonial parade through the streets of Beirut this week. It was by far the most colourful and spectacular parade in which the New Zealand troops had taken part in the Middle East.

Major-General Freyberg took the salute as hundreds of New Zealanders and French cavalry mechanized units marched past. General Freyberg was cheered by the crowd as he walked down the steps of his hotel on to a specially-erected dais which was the saluting base. The town was gay with bunting, Union Jacks and flags of the Free French forces flying side by side from many buildings.

Thousands lined the five-mile route through the city streets and when the infantry marched past with bayonets fixed, followed by a mobile column, great cheers rang through the old Syrian city.

An ovation greeted the commander of the parade, a newly-promoted brigadier, when he arrived at the head of the procession. He dismounted from his car and took up a position on the dais beside General Freyberg. At the head of the procession was the New Zealand brigade band playing martial strains. Resplendent Free French cavalry added a touch of pageantry that seemed almost out of place in a world of mechanized war.

Along came the guns of a New Zealand field artillery regiment, rugged, businesslike 25-pounders, that moved silently over the cobblestones on their pneumatic tyres. They were followed by the guns of a New Zealand anti-tank regiment. Bayonets flashed as infantrymen from Auckland, Wellington and the South Island marched with heads high and arms swinging.

A veteran officer of the last war led the detachment of the R.A.F.

Led by their own trumpet band, the French Foreign Legion, marching in column of sixes, contributed much to a colourful parade. A long mobile column rumbled past, and at the end of the procession came two ambulances with two New Zealand sisters beside the drivers. Soldiers and onlookers—French, British, Australian and New Zealand—cheered and sprang to attention as the girls of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service went by.

FINE LEADERSHIP

Brigadier's Service

(N.Z.E.F. Official News Service.)

The official citation accompanying the award to Brigadier Parkinson states: "This officer left New Zealand with the main body and commanded his regiment with distinction in the Western Desert in 1940 and Greece and Egypt in 1941. During the campaign in Greece his resource and leadership were largely responsible for the successful withdrawal of a large section of the force from the Penions Gorge on April 20. At the battle of Molos and during the subsequent withdrawal he showed great coolness and gallantry.

"Since his return to Egypt he has been untiring in his efforts to reorgan-

ize and retrain his regiment, which was largely depleted by the casualties in Greece and Crete, and by many demands on it for staff and for officer cadet personnel, to its previous high state of efficiency. Brigadier Parkinson has given sterling and unselfish service throughout a long period, and now has been selected to raise and command a New Zealand Army tank brigade."

The citation in regard to Major Ross states that he did splendid work in the

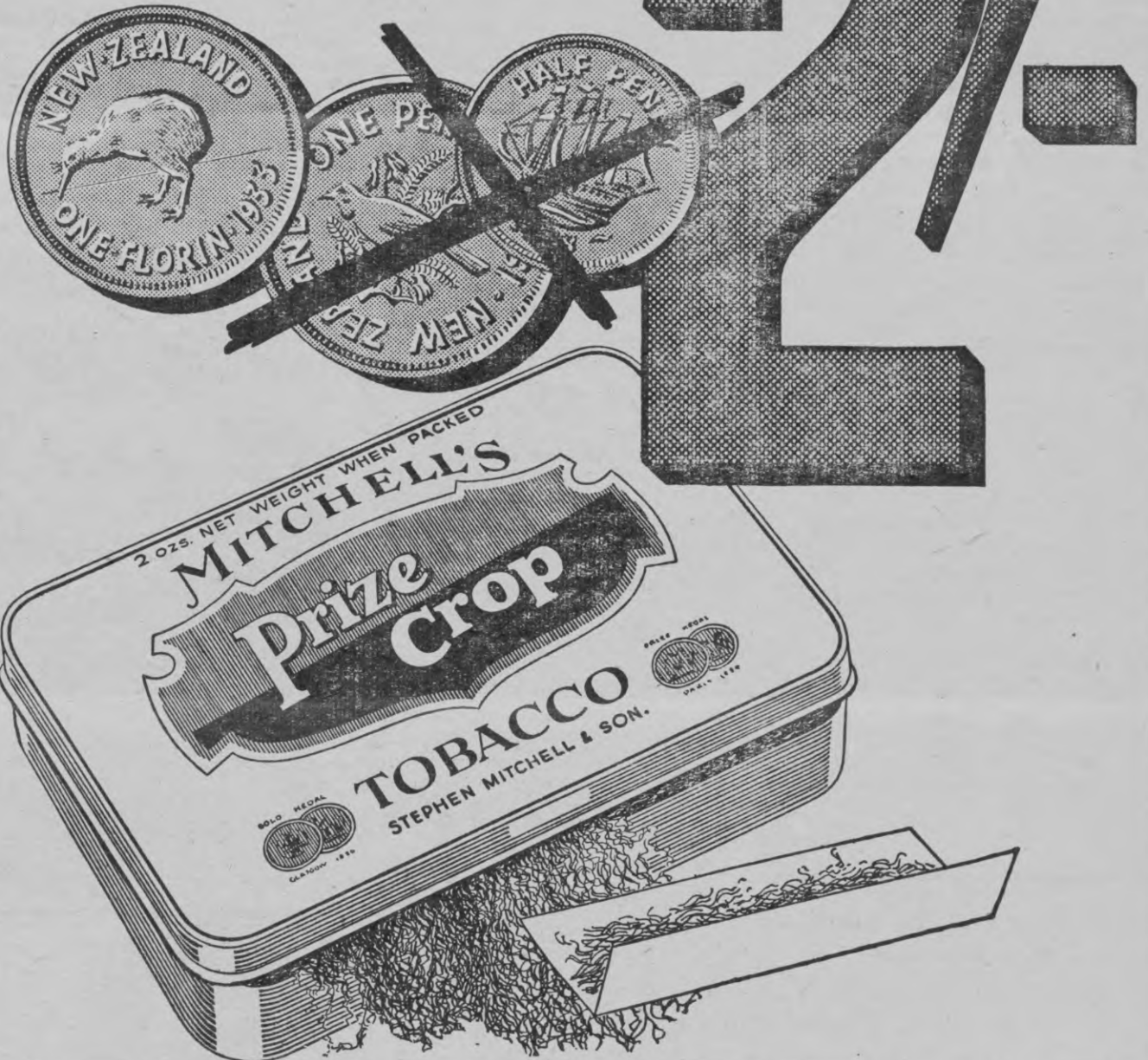
preparation of the Greek campaign in the capacity of D.A.Q.M.G., New Zealand Division. He served throughout the campaign in that capacity, and subsequently during the period of reorganization carried out important work in connexion with the administration and re-equipment of the division."

Chaplain's Untiring Work.

"Untiring work in organizing the social and spiritual activities of a convalescent depot over a period of 14

months, during which time there were as many as 800 to 900 men coming and going, and periods of additional duties on account of enemy action," are attributed to the Rev. Mr. Winhall. This citation adds: "Mr. Winhall carried out single-handed duties for which it has now been found desirable to allot two chaplains. In addition to the above he performed many duties with other units of the Second N.Z.E.F. in the canal area over a wide radius, and in some cases also with British units."

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