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**SELECTING BRITISH
OFFICERS****Elaborate New Method****U.S. AND GERMAN SYSTEM**

LONDON, July 1.

The British Army has adopted a new system of selecting officers, based on American and German methods. Instead of the old system of a 15 to 20-minute interview, the candidates take a three-day course, when they are treated as officers, live as officers, and mess with members of the War Office selection boards.

The selection staff know the candidates' numbers only, being unacquainted with their previous records. Rigid military discipline is avoided and every effort is made to put them at their ease so they can give their best. The president of the selection board interviews all the candidates and forms his own opinion, while the commanding officers who visit the school may interview them and watch them in action and also form a personal opinion. A psychiatrist sees all "borderline" cases, while a lieutenant-colonel from each technical arm sees the candidates and records their suitability and technical qualifications.

Physical fitness is regarded as very important, and also the ability to act and think when physically fatigued. The tests call for intelligence and ingenuity, and they frequently reveal the presence or lack of physical and moral courage, pertinacity, or dash. Natural leadership is tested by situations in which each candidate is given the command of six or seven others. He must solve a problem which is designed to show whether he can appreciate a situation, make a reasonably quick and sensible plan, give clear, practical orders and see them put into action.

Finally, a conference is held at which each candidate is fully discussed, every member of the board giving his opinion. Thus the verdict is the result of a many-sided observation and examination of the man in a variety of circumstances. The verdicts tend to be impartial and also to reach a higher standard of accuracy.

Fundamental Tactics.

The tests are designed to assess the candidates' fundamental ability and character as well as the extent of his military knowledge, and they include a psychological test with patterns, which must be arranged in order, the problems becoming increasingly difficult and demanding commonsense for the solution. After a cross-country run which induces a bodily condition comparable with the strain of war, the men are given a simple problem of organization which they must solve.

Ingenuity and pertinacity are tested by an obstacle course, including a 30-foot palisade and a tight-rope.

The successful candidates are divided into three classes: Grade A going to the O.C.T.U. immediately; Grade B must wait for a vacancy, while Grade

Concluded last column page 5

DELTA

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CRITERION

NEW PLYMOUTH

NEW TAIHAPE

TAIHAPE

**CHRISTMAS CARD
TO N.Z.E.F.**

LETTER FROM LT.-GENERAL SIR
BERNARD FREYBERG.

Mr. Reg. H. Stillwell, of Wellington, formerly of Christchurch, has just received in receipt of a hand-painted Christmas card sent in December of last year, the following letter from Lt.-General Sir B. C. Freyberg:—

Dear Mr. Stillwell,

Your hand-painted Christmas Card, with greetings to the N.Z.E.F. has just reached me. I shall send it to my wife, so that it can be put in the N.Z. Forces Club at Cairo and be seen by the many who go there. I am sure it will give great satisfaction and will remind quite a number of the Scroll you sent in 1940. I was glad to get a copy of the facsimile of our Scroll which was used by the R.S.A. for the Victory Calendar—it has reproduced well.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

B. C. FREYBERG,

Major-Gen. Commanding 2nd
N.Z.E.F.

The Christmas card was 14 inches by 12 inches. The cover depicted a New Zealand scene with the words "Season's Greetings" to Maj.-Gen. B. C. Freyberg, officers and men of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. overseas. On the inside page was inserted a coloured photographic representation of Mr. Stillwell's Welcome Club stage setting which he designed and was painted by Mr. W. Conroy. The background depicts a tank, battleship and plane, representing the three fighting services with a large central Victory V. In front an overhead border carrying painted shields of Great Britain and

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**THE BEST OF LUCK
OLD MAN**

Staff/Sergeant H. L. Taylor

Is our Liaison man

And for any soldier boarded out

He'll do the best he can.

He interviews each man discharged,

And invariably he'll mention

If Army caused disablement

They'll probably get a pension.

Of course he doesn't promise,

He couldn't go that far;

He only takes the application

For the pensions registrar.

He asks a lot of questions,

What you did in civil life;

If you have a job to go to,

And if you have a wife.

He'll drop a line to the placement
officer,

And give what help he can;

He then completes the interview

With the best of luck old man.

—J.P.

her Allies. Surrounding the whole are large cut-out, hand-painted portraits of the following:—The King, Winston Churchill, M. Stalin and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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