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# Camp News

As this is not an official publication of Army Headquarters of the New Zealand Military Forces, all matters intended for publication should be addressed to The Editor and reach this office not later than 2 p.m. Mondays. Correspondence is invited on topical items of interest. Only business communications should be addressed to the Manager. Extra copies of "Camp News" may be obtained on application to the Manager, "Camp News," 3rd Floor, Whitaker's Buildings, 11 Manners Street, Wellington.

VOL. 3. NO. 140 Wellington, Friday, September 18, 1942

## Tough Guys of the Home Guard Moorland Patrol

(A. W. Brockbank in the "Daily Mirror.")

Tough guys of the Home Guard are the men of the Moorland Patrol—a special unit recruited mainly from city workers in Manchester and trained to fight in the wild moorland on the Lancashire-Yorkshire border. They became the first Home Guard Commandos in the country.

No man in the "foreign legion" as some of their pals call them, is over fifty. He must be physically fit and capable of remarkable endurance since the weather in the country of his patrol is sometimes the worst in England.

For his own safety, he must learn to walk to a compass bearing, possess the shepherd's instinct for dangerous ground, know how to take care of himself and his pals in the moorland mists which so often blanket that wild part of the country, and learn to live on iron rations.

Because guerilla warfare has always been part of their training the moorland patrol have become the Home Guard's invisible men.

They have brought the art of camouflage and unseen movement to a fine degree of perfection.

This is the sort of winter training they have been doing. One night they advanced over two miles of moorland to fixed points from three bases, thence on compass bearings to positions for attack at zero hour, followed by attack on a tank harbour.

Observers in the tank harbour afterwards confessed that they neither saw nor heard any movement. With soil-stained faces and hands the moorland patrol became a ghost army that struck silently in the dark.

They are skilled in fieldcraft, camouflage, map reading and route finding. Scouting and patrol work and night fighting are an important part of their training.

Up to September, 1941, patrols were maintained nightly, whatever the weather, without a single patrol losing its way in this extremely difficult moorland country.

After September, the patrols were withdrawn, but on two nights a week patrols have been taken to the moors not become rough and coarse.

Bad weather has not interrupted this training, which almost rivals in its toughness that of the Regular Army.

Each man learns how to walk silently in the dark and crawl invisibly by day. Some of the men are ex-Scouts and have trained their colleagues in tracking, and in reading nature's ever-changing face.

The patrol has become one of Britain's most potent guerilla bands, and since their own particular region of moorland is near the Lancashire industrial field, the importance of the guards in the event of a parachute attack is obvious.

## PRISONERS' PARCELS

### New System To Assist Next-of-Kin

A new system to assist next-of-kin to prisoners of war has been adopted by the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society. In the past it has been the practice to send clothing coupons only when the quarterly label was issued to next-of-kin, but in future the set of 15 coupons will be forwarded every quarter irrespective of when the Red Cross label is due to be dispatched.

Inquiries have been made as to why all labels, etc., are not forwarded at the same time. The official reply is that if that were done it would mean that the four packing centres would have to handle over 6000 parcels at one time. That would not only mean that much more packing space would be required, but that packers would have to work frantically for several weeks in each quarter to prepare the parcels for shipment. On the other hand if the parcels reached the packing depots in relays throughout the quarterly period, the handling became easier, and there was no marked accumulation of parcels for any particular ship, but every ship available could take its proportion.

The receipt of these coupons by next-of-kin must not be taken to mean that they are due to send another parcel. They are simply forwarded now to enable next-of-kin to secure wool with a view to having it knitted in readiness for the parcel and to make purchases of clothing and so forth, when stocks are available. Labels will, as previously, be issued on certain dates (not the same to everyone), and parcels must not be forwarded till next-of-kin are in possession of the Red Cross



"Care to go sick for a few days, Nobby? The wife's sent a home-made cake!"

—"Daily Mirror."

tie-on label. Any unused coupons must be returned.

### Faults Of Senders.

The failure of a large number of the senders of prisoner-of-war parcels to fill in their names and addresses on the Red Cross label, to enclose acknowledgment cards, and to fill in and enclose the duplicate contents slips, is likely to hold up the censorship, according to the weekly bulletin of the Prisoners of War Inquiry Office. The instructions should be adhered to by next-of-kin for their own benefit.

The total prohibition of the sending of parcels from Cairo to New Zealand prisoners of war is announced. Hitherto up to 100 a week had been sent through friends and relatives of prisoners in the Middle East.

Acknowledgment cards from prisoners are now arriving freely in Wellington, and after checking are sent on to the senders of the parcels.



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## WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?

Even though you are in Camp you can prepare for your return to civil life. Spare time study will qualify you for a good position. Write for particulars and mention the subject you wish to study. Here are a few of the 300 Courses:—

- |                            |                                       |
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| Carpentry                  | Diesel Engines                        |
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| Radio Serviceman's Exam.   | Ground Engineer                       |
| Wiring License             | Motor Mechanic                        |
| Electrical Engineer        | Accountancy                           |
| Civil Engineer             | Welding                               |
| Navigation                 | Commercial Artist                     |
| Analytical Chemist         | 1st & 2nd Engine Drivers' Certificate |
| Mechanical Engineer        | Short Story Writing                   |
| Professional Examinations. |                                       |

## INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS, Dept. 3, 182 Wakefield St., Wellington, or Dept. 3, N.Z. Insurance Buildings, Queen St., Auckland.

The prisoners of War Office headquarters requests that next-of-kin forward copies only of letters which were written in April or the beginning of March from Camp P.G. 52, Italy.

### Army Speed Limit.

Though Army vehicles were, for obvious reasons, excluded from the recent legislation (aimed at conserving tyres) making it a civil offence to drive vehicles at a speed exceeding 40 miles an hour, a recent instruction issued by the Quarter-master-General states that such exception applies only in the event of a national emergency. Strict observation of the maximum speed limit laid down by the Army authorities for Army drivers of motor-cars and motor-cycles is required. The limit is the same as for civilian vehicles—40 miles an hour on roads.