

**NEW APPOINTMENT**

**Lt-Colonel S. H. Gould**

WANGANUI, March 4.  
Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Gould, officer commanding the Fourth Battalion, Wellington Regiment, has relinquished that appointment on his being appointed area commander, Area 6, with headquarters in Wanganui. His area extends from the Waitotara River to Waikanae. Included in the command are various Home Guard formation and Territorial battalions and former National Military Reserve battalions. Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Jardine, D.S.O., M.C., who was area commander in Wanganui, has gone to Wellington. Lieutenant-Colonel Gould was formerly area officer in Wanganui and went overseas on a special mission last year. On his return he resumed his office as area officer. Recently he was appointed officer commanding the Fourth Battalion, Wellington Regiment.

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**FALSE RUMOURS**

**Circulation Deprecated By Mr. Fraser**

**DETRIMENTAL TO MORALE**

The circulation of false rumours was deprecated by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, in an address last night. He said the spreaders of false rumours, some of them stupidly reflecting on those in authority, nationally and locally, whether they were aware of it or not were internal enemies, and should be opposed, exposed, and silenced.

"There has been some foolish talk and spreading of rumours which are destructive to our war effort," said Mr. Fraser. "There is no need for the enemy to have Fifth Columnists in our country if our own people spread false rumours which undermine public confidence. Whether stories detrimental to the morale of our people, spreading suspicion, distrust and despondency come over the air from Tokio, or are foolishly and thoughtlessly spread in New Zealand, they are equally dangerous."

Mr. Fraser said that some newspapers which had consistently given support to the war effort generally had unfortunately helped to create a feeling of some distrust by publishing inimical articles. One, he said, published a stupid article on the reason for Japan's precipitate entry into the war, another permitted a wild article without foundation in fact on the occasion of the fall of Singapore. Another published an article completely distorting the attitude of the British Government and the British people to the Dominions, and so on. Surely that sort of thing should be guarded against, or must it be stopped by the Press censor? He had no hesitation in saying that any necessary action would be taken to stop the dissemination of such false statements and perspectives which were bound to have a detrimental and depressing effect on the minds of the people.

"Then there is the charge that the War Cabinet is keeping back information that ought to be made public," said Mr. Fraser. "That is simply not correct. Nothing is kept back except what would be of service to the enemy, or what we have been asked by Britain, the United States or Australia not to publish."

"It is again quite wrong to say that information which could be published is being suppressed because the House of Representatives discusses matters in secret session. There is nothing to prevent Parliament having a public discussion such as the House of Commons has at any time, but there are many important matters which are never discussed in the House of Commons except in secret session, just as with ourselves."

**Lost Arm, Kept in Fight**

His left arm blown off above the elbow during a bayonet charge, an Indian boy, little more than 18, gave his officer his rifle and ammunition and carried on throughout the action with a bayonet which he picked up in his remaining hand.

The story is told in the announcement of the award of the Indian Distinguished Service Medal to Sowar

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**WEATHER EXPERTS**

**Appointment To Air Force Positions**

The importance placed by the Air Force on accurate weather information by its own experts is shown by the recent appointment of a large number of officers of the meteorological service to the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Nineteen have been gazetted to various ranks, of which the highest is wing commander and the lowest pilot officer.

Abhe Ram, Indian Army (Cavalry), for his gallantry at Mechili.

When his arm was blown off he did not hesitate, but went up to his squadron commander and gave him his rifle, bayonet and ammunition, remarking, "You take these now; I can't use them."

"Sowar Abhe Ram continued on in the attack with dash and determination and picked up a bayonet to use in his remaining hand," it is stated.

The senior officer is Wing Commander M. A. F. Barnett, whose civilian duties were those of Director of Meteorological Services. He had a distinguished academic career and at Cambridge University was a pupil of Lord Rutherford. He gave particular attention in his studies to various aspects of radio research and to those aspects of meteorology affecting aviation.

Second in command to Wing Commander Barnett is Squadron Leader R. G. Simmers, who is a doctor of science and has been with the meteorological service since 1928. He was awarded the Polar Medal in bronze for his work with the Mawson expedition to the Antarctic in 1929-31.

Other officers, all of whom hold high university degrees, are gazetted as follows:—Flight Lieutenant, acting-Squadron Leader C. E. Palmer; Flying Officers, acting-Flight Lieutenants C. J. Seelye, J. F. Gabites, C. G. Green, N. G. Robertson and I. E. M. Watts; Flying Officers C. W. Tremewan, E. H. Howell, A. B. F. Ayers and C. W. Stewart; Pilot Officers, acting-Flying Officers J. A. Hunter, D. I. Patterson and I. S. Kerr; Pilot Officers J. W. Hutchings, E. G. Edie, M. L. Browne and C. S. Ramage.

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