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Camp News

As this is not an official publication of Army Headquarters of the New Zealand Military Forces, all matter 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. 1. No. 2. Friday, December 15, 1939

"The King"

There are many of us who remember being halted on the roadside at the Somme in 1916 for inspection by H.M. King George V, and the informality of the occasion has left a lasting impression of dignity and inspiration.

The recent visit of H.M. King George VI to the Western Front will no doubt be an inspiration to all troops throughout the British Empire, for "like father, like son," the highest traditions of our sovereignty are being maintained in the true British spirit.

The first order of the day issued to the British front line troops appropriately marks the occasion, and is as follows:—

"You have been chosen to go into action. We shall have the closest touch with our Allies, who have extended the warmest welcomes. A unique honour has been conferred on you. The opportunity is yours to maintain and enhance the glorious traditions inscribed on your colours. Be vigilant, be cool and fire low to the last man, the last round and a bit more. Not only the eyes of your country are upon you but also those of our Allies and the whole Empire. With justice on our side, the watchwords will be: 'On ne passe pas'—'They shall not pass,' and 'On les aura'—'We shall win.'"

Soon it will be our turn to uphold the traditions of the gallant N.Z. Division of 1914-18—Samoa, Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, Armentieres, The Somme, Messines, Paschendale, and such other names so familiar to the old soldier, will live again in the glory and achievement of our new army who will "carry on" with the same determination as our predecessors who never lost a trench and never failed in their objective.

A Christmas Message to You from The Minister of Defence

The enthusiasm you have displayed in carrying out your training is to me a matter for the greatest satisfaction, as is also the splendid manners in which you have responded to your instructors. It is impossible for me to meet each individual member of the Special Force, and I am glad to take advantage of the channel afforded me to give a message to each and every member.

I know that you all realise and appreciate the great traditions you will be called upon to maintain, and I am confident that each and every one of you can be relied upon to uphold them. The principal purpose of this message, however, is to extend to all my personal good wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

(Signed) F. JONES,
Minister of Defence.

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(Royal Command Skaters)

ELSA and FLEURETTE
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THAT LEAVES YOU DUMFOUNDED!

DAILY SESSIONS 11 a.m., 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0 5.0 p.m.
NIGHTLY SESSIONS 7.30, 8.0, 8.30, 9.0, 9.30, 10.0 p.m.

Soldier's Vocabulary

(By "SAMMY HALL")

It has become more and more apparent that the dialect of the New Zealand soldier has lost the characteristic "punch" accrued during the past century. Unless something is done to remedy the matter in the near future the inestimable ladies who act as hostesses at the conclusion of Sunday School parties and similar occasions will have to look to their laurels if they are to compete with the modern warrior in drawing-room expression. We feel certain that if things continue in the present trend our comrades, the English Tommy, will fail to recognize us, while Hitler and Goebbels and other pugnacious laddies of the "other side" will not even know we have arrived. The other day, during a company parade, an unfortunate individual in the front rank saw his rifle clattering to the ground, he shuddered and involuntarily closed his ears, remembering a similar occasion in 1916. My fears were groundless. The sergeant-major smiled politely and timidly suggested that the hapless private held his weapon in a slightly firmer grip. The private agreed that this would be wise, and every one seemed to be on the most congenial terms. I began to doubt the sanity of some of the officers when several similar occurrences were treated in the same manner within the next few days. I also came upon two quarrelling privates, showering one another with abuse. I approached eagerly, in anticipation of a fair dinkum scene. However, after one had called the other a nasty man, and his opponent had responded by poking out his tongue, I quietly faded out to the cot (wet).

Now, to come to the point. A certain inquisitive hound in our platoon spent all last Saturday afternoon in the office of the Registrar of Deaths and Marriages.

We have now, as you will see, the most important word in the Diggers' vocabulary.

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