

YEAR OF CHANGE AT TRENTHAM

Great Development Of Military Camp

PERMANENT BUILDINGS REPLACE TENTS

More than a twelvemonth, Trentham in the Hutt Valley, has probably had more than any other place in the island. The enormous growth of military camp since the outbreak has been responsible for the

During the war, Trentham was a country township that woke up a few days. In the quiet, half-emptied military camp came and went a few members of the permanent and comparatively small bodies of regulars and other troops under seasonal training.

Today, Trentham is astir night and day with the movements of men in on duty or on leave. Where the visitor was hard put to rout out anybody in the camp, and might stray unquestioned into the empty fields, he is today surrounded by sentries with fixed bayonets, gateways of a township of more than 50 buildings—not including tents. The growth of the camp is little less than those who only see it from the windows of passing trains. When the camp is over, the camp is likely to form an important permanent military headquarters, so thorough has been its development in the past year.

Recreational activity still continues. New hutments have just been completed, to increase the accommodation in the central school of instruction. This will provide for approximately 100 more men. A new kitchen block is being added to the Army school.

Officers' dormitories are being completed. A garage to house some 200 motor-vehicles is being constructed, and this, with the increasing mechanization of the forces increasing provision is made for garaging, maintenance and repairs.

No Soldiers Under Canvas.

Soldiers-by in the train frequently show sympathy for men under canvas on the cold winter nights. But there are no men under canvas at Trentham at present. The military authorities have taken over the people's accommodation at Trentham racecourse as temporary accommodation for those who are occupying the bell-tents visible along the road and railway line. The stands stand empty. The men are housed in quarters as comfortable as many of them are accustomed to in civil life—better than in many bush shanties and blocks camps or whares. To this doubt is due to a great extent the soldiers' immunity from illness, other than the influenza which has been prevalent among civilians as much or more among the soldiers.

Many respects the war has brought Trentham to Trentham. Unprecedented trade in tobacco and other trifles come to the village stores, not only for the troops, the majority of whom, indeed, obtain what they want from canteens, but from civilian visitors to the camp. Teashops and refreshment houses have done better in the past year than ever before. But for all that, for all their friendly interest in military activities so evident around Trentham, the local people look forward as much as anybody else to the day when the clip-clop of racehorses' hooves in the streets will again replace the tramp of route-marching platoons.

BRITAIN TO HITLER.

"Peace?" Who are you to raise This cry and veil it with a threat of horrors worse to follow—why Your hands are bloody yet. You brought this curse upon the world And to your fall we'll fight, Your banners shall remain unfurled Till we show that Right is Might. —"Dhow Nunda."

Sergeant Major —

Don't forget to wake me in the morning and bring me in a nice hot

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NORTH AUCKLAND SQUADRONS.

The formation in North Auckland of new independent squadrons of Mounted Rifles to operate in hilly country adjacent to the east coastal areas is being put in hand immediately, states the "Auckland Star."

The establishment of the new squadrons is being undertaken throughout New Zealand by Colonel H. J. White, D.S.O., D.C.M. of the N.Z.S.C., Army Headquarters, Wellington, and Captain G. F. Yerex, N.Z.S.C. They have commenced a tour of both islands, and they arrived at their starting point, Whangarei recently.

The new squadrons are to operate in coastal areas which are difficult of access by other branches of the service, and provide a link between the harbour defences which are under the control of the National Military Reserve.

Organisation in North Auckland commenced with a conference in Whangarei between Colonel White and Captain Yerex and senior officers in the district. As far as the Northland squadron is concerned, it will cover the area north of Whangarei in the vicinity of the east coast, and extend inland for about 10 or 15 miles, according to the nature of the country. Another squadron, to be known as the Kaipara Squadron, is to be formed in the area south of Whangarei. A number of retired officers have already offered their services. Applications for enlistment in the new squadrons can be made at defence offices.

NEW HOSPITAL.

NARROW NECK CAMP.

PROVISION FOR TEN BEDS.

The erection of a new hospital at Narrow Neck military camp is well under way, and it is expected that the

building will be ready for occupation shortly. A single-storey structure and up-to-date in every way, the hospital will contain ten beds, and accommodation is also being provided for several nurses. This will replace the present hospital, which contains about 20 beds.

The new hospital is located near the site of the old artillery barracks, and commands a good view of Rangitoto Channel. The hospital at present in use is just outside the main entrance to the camp.

UNIT OFFICERS*

RAIL AND FORESTRY.

COMPLETE LISTS GAZETTED.

The current Gazette contains the names of all officers for the eight special railway, forestry and army troops companies recently established by the Government, and at present in camp at Ngaruawahia and Trentham. The list is as follows:—

12th Railway Survey Company.—Captain (temporary) S. T. Dibble, promoted from lieutenant and transferred from the 8th Field Company, New Zealand Engineers; Captain F. L. Park, Captain G. W. Nelson, Second-Lieutenants K. J. Mawson, R. G. Drummond and J. A. Andrew.

13th Railway Construction Company.—Major R. T. Smith, Captain A. G. Park, Second-Lieutenants A. A. Treloar, L. C. E. Malt, G. K. Armstrong (commissioned from the Advanced Training Company) and F. K. Roberts.

14th Forestry Company.—Captain O. Jones, Lieutenant H. E. Crosse, M.C., Second-Lieutenants J. B. Valentine, B. J. Climo (commissioned from the Advanced Training Company) and W. Austin.

15th Forestry Company.—Captain Courtney Biggs, Lieutenant C. Mc-

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Manus, M.M., Second-Lieutenants J. O. Gough, E. S. Tuck, A. L. Poole and K. O. Tunnicliff.

16th Railway Operating Company—Major F. W. Aickin, Captain G. T. Poole, Second-Lieutenants D. A. Clarke, C. H. B. Bishop and J. M. B. Lockett.

17th Railway Operating Company—Major A. H. Sage, M.M., Captain J. A. Jull, Second-Lieutenants J. N. Nicholson, A. T. McMurtrie and H. J. H. Waterhouse.

18th Army Troops Company.—Captain W. E. Lucy, Second-Lieutenants J. R. Concher (commissioned from the Advanced Training Company) and F. E. N. Tuck.

19th Army Troops Company.—Major C. Langbein, Captain J. N. Anderson, Second-Lieutenants L. C. Smart, C. H. Page (commissioned from the Advanced Training Company) and R. J. Collins (commissioned from the Advanced Training Company).