

# Third Echelon Parades Auckland's Impressive Tribute

## SPLENDID BODY OF MEN

With the swift passage of the months New Zealand's Second Expeditionary Force is taking shape. On Saturday, under blue sky and in bright sunshine Auckland saw a parade of Third Echelon troops who, as recently as May 15, marched into Papa- and Ngaruawahia camps as untrained men.

**Businesslike in Battle Dress**  
 The appearance of all batteries and battalions in battle dress was strikingly different from that of the First and Second Echelons when all save the Forestry Battalion were attired in old-time service dress. Battle dress gives an entirely new appearance to a large body of men. It somehow makes them appear more businesslike and purposeful. They look like fighting men. The middle-aged people who saw the parade must have regretted that the famous peaked hat of the New Zealand Division is not a proper part of battle dress. The jaunty service cap is smart, but for New Zealanders it lacks the distinctive appearance of our troops. What a wealth of traditions is bound up with the old peaked hat. Old Diggers especially must regret its virtual passing. Nowadays, the famous hat, still part of the general "issue," is worn only for training denims. A sad degradation for a hat which everywhere added to the presence of this Dominion's fighting forces in 1914-18. **Artillery, Engineers, Infantry**  
 The parade was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. R.N.Z.A., officer-commanding the 33rd Field Regiment, and he was followed by Captain H. E. Gilbert,

R.N.Z.A. Units assembled were the Sixth Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery, the 33rd Battery of the Seventh Anti-Tank Regiment, the Artillery Training Regiment, the 13th Railway Construction Company of the New Zealand Engineers, the 16th and 17th Railway Operating Companies of the New Zealand Engineers, the 24th (Auckland) Rifle Battalion, and the First Infantry Training Regiment.  
 Prior to the addresses by military, civic and State dignitaries, all units were paraded in mass formation, stretching the full length of the Domain oval. Bayonets were fixed to the engineer and infantry units, and officers, almost indistinguishable in battle dress, took post in review order. As the official party moved to the dais, in front of the grandstand, all ranks came to attention. The officer commanding the district Colonel N. W. McD. Weir, was received with a general salute.  
 To the crowds of people massed on the banks about the oval the drill movements of the troops were impressively smart. Applause marked each movement. As the engineer and infantry units came to "the present," and afterwards sloped arms, the simultaneous smacking of many hands on butts and stocks sounded like the splashing of water in a mechanically-operated fountain. The precision was

### Y.M.C.A. OFFICIAL

#### Tributes To Mr. J. D. Hunter

Tributes to Mr. J. D. Hunter, one of the Y.M.C.A. representatives with the third echelon, were paid by directors and members of the Wellington Y.M.C.A. at a recent dinner.

Mr. R. H. Nimmo, who presided, said that before his departure for Auckland three years ago, Mr. Hunter had been prominent in various departments of Y.M.C.A. activity. He had served as chairman of the physical work committee, chief of the Optimists' Club, and young men's representative on the board of directors. His athletic abilities were of a high standard, and in his church relationships he gave convincing evidence of his growth as a fully developed all-round Christian personality.

On behalf of the groups represented, Mr. Nimmo presented Mr. Hunter with a leather portfolio.

Others who supported Mr. Nimmo's remarks were Mr. L. J. Greenberg, who confirmed his belief that Mr. Hunter was an ideal selection for the task of serving with the forces, Mr. C. J. Falconer, chairman of the Y.M.C.A. National Council, Mr. W. H. Hindle and Mr. R. M. Brasted.

admirable. Following the speeches there was a final general salute before the troops marched off.

Especially striking on the march out of the Domain were the reinforcement units for the Maori Battalion now in England. Lieutenant-Colonel C. Shuttleworth's 24th Auckland Battalion also won much admiration by their marching, bearing evidence of much skilful training and hard practice. It is a most efficient unit, of which Auckland can be proud. On the line of march most civilians were puzzled by the unit designation tags, but to those who could read them they were as revealing as the pugaree colours of old.

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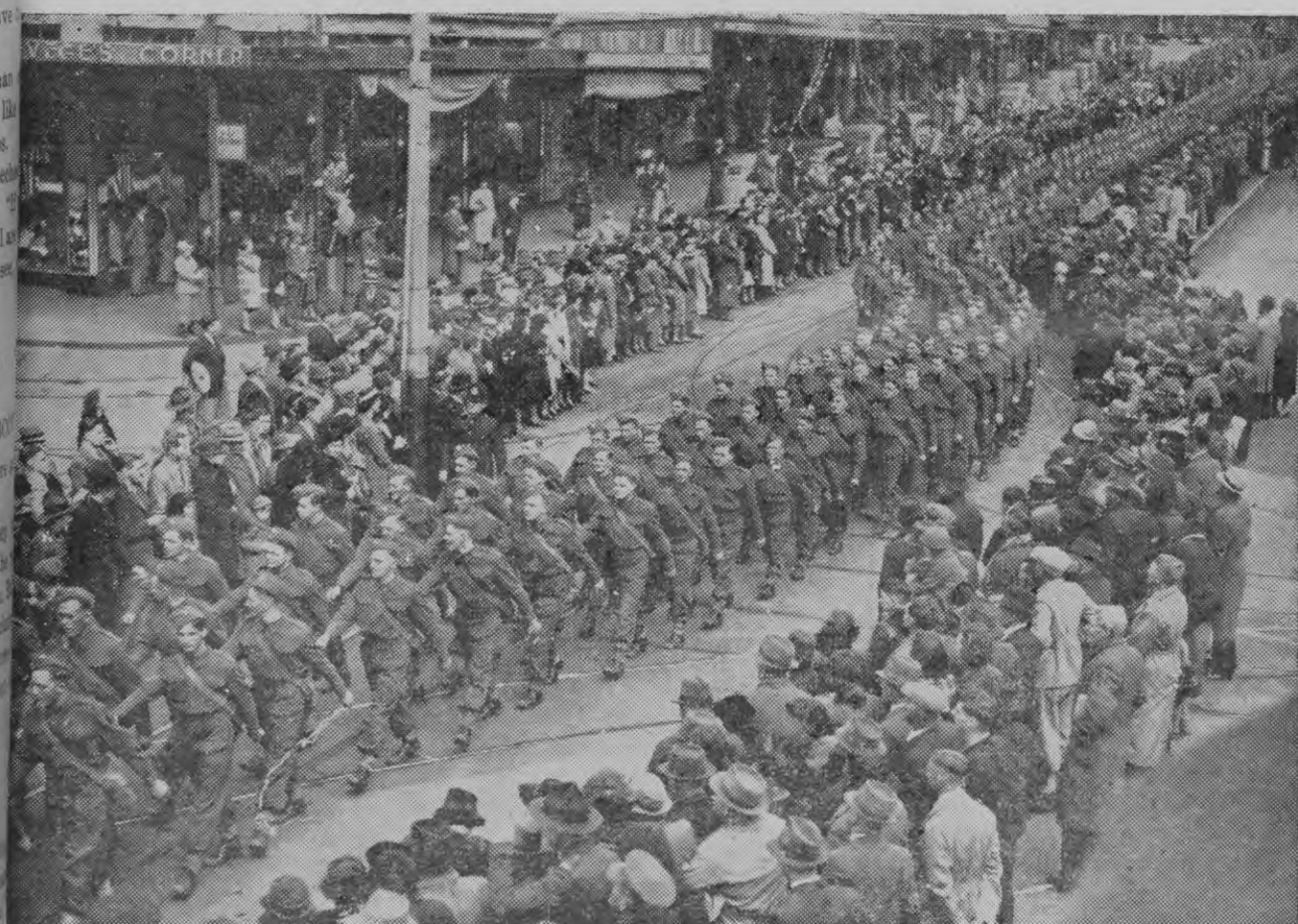
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Third Echelon marches through Auckland City. ("Auckland Star" Photo)