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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.

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Friday, November 29, 1940

Hitler's Serfs

The traitors who sold France in the hope of saving their skins, power and money, are beginning to learn the meaning of Hitlerism.

Growing apprehension—a whimpering, whispering fear that the Nazis seek to destroy France—is the keynote of the French Press.

France failed to learn by the example of other nations trampled on by Hitler.

Did she imagine that she would be spared?

Once more, let us say that Hitler's idea of peace is a world of slaves toiling for the greater glory and comfort of the Nazi gangsters and the German people.

It is a return to the worst days of feudalism, a feudalism without hope of religion, without a ray of cultural light, without any opportunity whatever for progress.

Indeed, Nazism triumphant would be the darkest age of all. Supported by the weapons of science in the hands of an essentially cruel people it would wipe out the very soul of mankind.

ADVANCED TRAINING

New Zealand Soldiers In Egypt

LIFE IN WESTERN DESERT

(From the Official War Correspondent with the N.Z.E.F. in the Middle East)

CAIRO, November 18.

With its own hospitals, post office, transport services, workshops and even bathing beaches, the New Zealand Contingent in the Western Desert has many characteristics of a self-sufficient community. While the enemy keeps his distance, battle stations in the New Zealand sector do not need to be continuously occupied, and units in the field lead comparatively normal lives. The daily routine of the troops varies according to their roles in warfare.

With the latest major digging task over, the infantry and artillery units are able to concentrate on advanced training. Engineers have 101 jobs to keep them busy, machinery to look after, heavy repairs to make, and constructional work of many kinds. Transport companies are constantly on the move with truck loads of foodstuffs and supplies. Signallers maintain the vital telephone and telegraph systems linking unit with unit, and keeping the whole force in close touch with the outside world.

Most troops live under canvas, but there the similarity with camp life in early training days begins and ends.

Security is now more important than appearance, and tents, sunk deep into the ground, are well separated and sited out of line so that bursting bombs may cause the minimum of damage. Parades, in the ordinary sense, have no place in the daily routine, one excellent reason being the necessity for avoiding concentrations of men. Moreover, military life has reached a phase where the men usually have definite daily jobs and go to them almost as in civilian life.

Organization of recreation and entertainments presents many difficulties in the field. All-wave wireless sets given by the New Zealand public are proving a great boon, and some units have been able to play football and hockey, challenging other Empire troops in friendly matches on dusty fields. Transport to Mediterranean beaches is provided almost daily for swimming parties.

"Fighting fit" were the words used by Mr. Anthony Eden to describe First Contingent men after seeing some of them during his recent tour. One need not go far to realize the aptness of this phrase. Deeply tanned and hard as nails, New Zealanders look veritable sons of the desert.

Astrologers predict Hitler's death early in 1940. It's going to go hard with those astrologers if they don't deliver the goods.

* * * * *

"Even to-day there are people who regard long hair as a sign of genius," we read. If we remember rightly, our Sergeant-Major never laboured under that particular delusion.

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