



DIVISIONAL PRESS

Mobile Printing Unit in Last War

Printing presses with the forces in forward areas are not uncommon in this war. Men who have served in the Pacific and in the Middle East will be familiar with publications produced by the Army for the troops in these theatres of war. In the last war, the New Zealand Division had a mobile printing outfit for printing Divisional Orders and anything else "from a louse ticket to a short catalogue." A. B. Clark, who established this mobile press, tells about it in this article, reprinted from "A History of Printing in New Zealand."

WE WERE AT FLEURBAIX, and at six a.m. I had come in from the "listening post" after a night of vigil in the cold, cold snow. I was hailed with the greeting: "Hey, Nugget, you have to go down to Divisional Headquarters for the duration." My disbelief was cut short by a sergeant who advised me to have a shave and "get going."

Two hours later I appeared at Laventie, and was immediately brought before General Russell, Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Reid (Assistant-Adjutant and Quarter-master-General), and other officers. After some preliminary questioning Lieutenant-Colonel Reid explained that the Divisional Officers desired to have a printing outfit, and asked me what would be the size and cost of a plant. I estimated £160 and the assistance of four men. This was agreed to, and the four men were sorted out.

This business completed and a list of my requirements drawn up, I was instructed to proceed to London the next day, and on arrival at the city to call on Brigadier-General Richardson, who might give me some assistance. It was eight p.m. when I arrived at the paymaster's office, and the following conversation took place:—

"Don't you know this office closes at four p.m.?"

"Yes, sir, but I have just received my instructions."

"Where's your pay-book?"

This was produced and elicited that there was no credit.

"There's nothing to come," said the paymaster.

"Well, I cannot accumulate on is. a day."

"I suppose you will have to have some cash, here is £10." Subsequently the officers gave me another £10, which was both welcome and appreciated.

On arrival in London I proceeded to Brigadier-General Richardson's office. He was very hazy about the business, saying: "I do not know where you are going to obtain this stuff, whether from the pawnbroker, the bank, or the dump; but you had better get it."

Armed with authority my next call was to Stephenson, Blake, Ltd., where I secured a new Arab platen, three series of type eight to thirty-six point, coat-of-arms, and various other items neces-