

REGULAR FORCES.

(a) COMMANDS.

Colonel P. H. Bell, D.S.O., A.D.C., relinquished the appointment of Quartermaster-General and Third Military Member of the Army Board on being appointed Officer Commanding the Northern Military District and to command the First (Northern) Division, Auckland, on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Brigadier.

Colonel O. H. Mead, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., relinquished the appointment of Adjutant-General and Second Military Member of the Army Board on being appointed Officer Commanding the Southern Military District and to command the Third (Southern) Division, Christchurch, on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Brigadier.

Colonel N. W. McD. Weir, A.D.C., relinquished the appointment of Officer Commanding the Northern Military District, Auckland, on being appointed Officer Commanding the Central Military District and to command the Second (Central) Division, Wellington, on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Brigadier.

Lieutenant-Colonel (*temp.* Colonel) R. A. Row, D.S.O., relinquished the appointment of Officer Commanding the Central Military District, Wellington, on being appointed to command the Northern Field Force, Auckland, on the 14th October, 1940. On the 30th January, 1941, he relinquished this command temporarily on being seconded for attachment (temporarily) to Headquarters, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Lieutenant-Colonel (*temp.* Colonel) E. T. Rowlings relinquished the appointment of Officer Commanding the Southern Military District, Christchurch, on being appointed to command the Southern Field Force, Christchurch, on the 14th October, 1940.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. Potter was appointed to command the Central Field Force on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Conway, O.B.E., was appointed Adjutant-General and Second Military Member of the Army Board on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Avery, C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed Quartermaster-General and Third Military Member of the Army Board on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Colonel.

The foregoing appointments and transfers were occasioned by the reorganization of the Territorial Force on a Divisional basis.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. G. Goss was appointed Colonel, General Staff, on the 14th October, 1940, and was granted the temporary rank of Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Williams, D.S.O., was granted the temporary rank of Colonel whilst employed as Commander, Royal New Zealand Artillery, on the 14th October, 1940.

New Zealand Temporary Staff.

Major-General Sir Andrew H. Russell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., was appointed Inspector-General, New Zealand Military Forces, on the 23rd September, 1940. For the period 10th October to 28th December, 1940, in addition to his duties as Inspector-General, New Zealand Military Forces, he acted as Chief of the General Staff and First Military Member of the Army Board when Major-General Sir John Duigan, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., N.Z.S.C., was absent from the Dominion on a tour of duty to India and the Middle East.

(b) CASUALTIES.

During the year there were 35 discharges of W.O.s, N.C.O.s, and men. Of this number, 1 reached the retiring age, 12 were medically unfit, and 22 were discharged. One died on active service.

CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION.

During the year measures were taken to strengthen home defence. The Territorial Force was expanded, reorganized, and brought on a war footing. Consequently new formations were adopted.

HEALTH OF TROOPS.

During the year the health of the troops has been good and no serious epidemic has occurred among troops in mobilization or Territorial camps or fortress troops. A widespread but mild outbreak of gastro-enteritis was encountered, more especially at Waiouru and Foxton Camps. Very searching investigations were made by the medical officers, and it was found to be bacterial in origin.

As evidence of the low incidence of serious illness in all camps, mobilization and Territorial and fortress troops depots, it may be mentioned that there were only 26 deaths during the year. The causes of these deaths were as follows: 3 respiratory disease, 8 accidents, 8 cardiac disease (with the exception of one man these consisted of temporary camp staff), 3 cancer, 1 meningitis, 1 perforated duodenal ulcer, 1 myelocytic leukaemia, and 1 nephritis.

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

No. 1 Hospital Ship "Maunganui," with Colonel D. N. W. Murray, D.S.O., as Officer Commanding Troops, left New Zealand on 22nd April. The hospital ship was fitted up by the Union Steam Ship Co., Ltd., and wholly equipped by the Army Medical Department. The ship is so fitted up that the rapid embarkation and evacuation of sick and wounded will be possible, and the various departments have an equipment equal to that of a large general hospital. There was a full medical staff, including medical and surgical specialists, and 20 members of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service. There is accommodation for 379 patients, of which 200 beds are suitable for cases of the most severe type.