

1947
NEW ZEALAND

MILITARY FORCES OF NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His
Excellency*

REPORT

The Hon the MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

Wellington, 20th June, 1947.

SIR.—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the New Zealand Military Forces for the period 1st June, 1946, to 31st May, 1947.

GENERAL REMARKS

The year covered by this report has been devoted mainly to the completion of the process of demobilization, to planning for the future, and to the commencement of the reorganization of the Military Forces for peacetime requirements.

A major commitment has been the enlistment, training, and despatch of replacement personnel for 2 N.Z.E.F. (Japan). The first relief, approximately 4,200 strong, left for Japan early in the period under review. Arrangements are now well in hand for the despatch of a further volunteer relief Force to replace those now serving. The new Force will be reduced in size to a strength of 2,400 all ranks, which will include approximately 400 volunteers for a further period of service from the present Force. This reduction in strength will necessitate the disbandment of one battalion and a field battery and a scaling down of other units.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

With the retirement of the Director-General of Medical Services, Major-General Sir Fred Bowerbank, K.B.E., E.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.A.P.C., K.H.P., the appointment again became part-time, and Brigadier W. H. B. Bull, O.B.E., was appointed from 31st March, 1947.

Colonel (temp. Brigadier) K. L. Stewart, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., was appointed Adjutant-General and Second Military Member of the Army Board, *vice* Colonel (temp. Brigadier) A. E. Conway, C.B., O.B.E., retired, from 1st September, 1946.