

TERRITORIAL FORCE

The plan for re-forming the Territorial Force is being developed in three phases. The first phase—the appointment and training of officers—has already been implemented. Voluntary enlistment of former officers of the 2 N.Z.E.F. proved most satisfactory and resulted in 451 officers of all arms attending general refresher courses held in the three military districts during February and May. Nearly all of the students were officers with long and distinguished war service. The courses were designed to bring them up to date in military matters generally and to acquaint them with changes in doctrine and in organization since the 1939–45 war. Corps refresher courses are to be held at the Army School, Trentham, and at Waiouru in June and July, and it is expected that some four hundred officers will attend.

Preparations have been made to put in train the second phase of the plan, which provides for the enlistment and training of N.C.O.s and the formation of Territorial units in skeleton form.

SENIOR TERRITORIAL FORCE APPOINTMENTS

Consequent upon the reconstitution of the New Zealand Territorial Force the following senior appointments were made on 1st December, 1948 :—

Brigadier F. M. H. Hanson, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.M., for duty at Headquarters, New Zealand Division.

Brigadier R. W. Harding, D.S.O., M.M., E.D., as Commander, 1st Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier I. L. Bonifant, D.S.O., E.D., as Commander, 2nd Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier J. T. Burrows, D.S.O., E.D., as Commander, 3rd Infantry Brigade.

2 N.Z.E.F. (JAPAN)

New Zealand's part in the occupation of Japan ended during the period under review, the New Zealand component of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force having honourably performed its allotted duties in the task of laying the foundations of peace and democracy among the Japanese people.

The decision taken in March, 1948, to withdraw the Force was put into effect during the latter half of the year. The first drafts of the main body left Japan for New Zealand in July, and the remainder in September, 1948. Rear parties returned home in December, 1948. Medical boarding and discharge of all returned personnel, other than those on Regular Force engagements, were effected as soon as practicable after their arrival in New Zealand.

FIJI MILITARY FORCES

In accordance with the decision of the Government to assume responsibilities for the defence of Fiji, Colonel C. L. Pleasants, D.S.O., M.D., E.D., has been seconded to the Fiji Military Forces as Commandant and representative of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff and has assumed his appointment in Fiji. Authority has been given for five additional officers and eight N.C.O.s of the Regular Force to be seconded to the Fiji Military Forces. The principal New Zealand Army commitments in Fiji will be the provision of instructors and administrative personnel for locally-raised Artillery and Infantry units, together with the provision of equipment for these units from stocks held in New Zealand.