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CADETS.

The year's training commenced with the barracks, held during the first week of the year, and, as in previous years, a varied syllabus of a general nature was carried out in order to lay a foundation for the balance of the training. Through having the rifle range at the School, we were able to bring our weapon training instruction into line with modern practice where the recruit, after a minimum of instruction on the rifle, proceeds to the range and is able to apply the lessons he has learnt and discover what mistakes he is making.

Owing to the extension of the School curriculum, it was found impracticable to continue with two drill periods per week, and so we have reverted to the single, slightly extended, period. Although working on a reduced time allocation, Cadets have, nevertheless, carried out a comprehensive programme, the Juniors being occupied with their basic infantry training, while the majority of the Seniors have been engaged on the specialist branches—signals, medium machine gun, anti-tank gun, and artillery.

The promise of a live shoot towards the end of the training year served to lend more interest and purpose to the training of the Artillery and Anti-tank Platoons. On 3rd October these two platoons, under the command of Captain Chisman, carried out the shoot at Taiaroa Head. The guns used were the 18-pounder type, and the shoot was regarded as successful in every way.

The shooting was of an instructional nature at a range of 3,500 yards. Single gun ranging was carried out until the target was bracketed, and when the correct range was obtained the guns were given a deflection to put them off the line of the target and then fired for effect. This consisted of one round gunfire. In order that all members of the gun detachments might have an opportunity of carrying out duties on the guns, detachments were changed round after each series, and the members of the detachments were also changed. All the shooting was by indirect methods, although the gun position was

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at a point from which the fall of shot could be seen. The section N.C.O.'s observed and controlled the fire, while members of the Permanent Staff were present in the capacity of advisers and safety officers.

Throughout the shoot the fire discipline was excellent and many rounds of high explosive were used. The members of the detachments showed commendable steadiness and quickly accustomed themselves to gunfire. The Cadets had been trained on the modern 25-pounder gun-howitzer, and the dial sights of the 18-pounders used were adapted for their use so that, apart from differences in the detail of the gun drill resulting from the 18-pounder ammunition being in one piece, similar to rifle ammunition, while the 25-pounder round has to be rammed before the cartridge is placed in the breech, the laying of the guns was similar to that on the pieces that had been used for training.

The results of the shooting were very good, and the interest taken in this form of military training was clearly indicated. On the conclusion of the indirect shooting the guns were manned by the Anti-tank detachments and went into action as anti-tank guns, ranging and fire for effect being carried out.

On 29th October, for the first time in the history of the School, the Cadet unit was inspected by the G.O.C. New Zealand Military Forces, the inspecting officer in this case being Lieutenant-General E. Puttick, C.B., D.S.O., N.Z.S.C. After the inspection, the parade, led by the Band, which was making its first appearance on a ceremonial parade, marched past in column of route and then in column of platoons. At the conclusion of the march-past, General Puttick addressed the Cadets briefly, complimenting them on their good showing and stressing the value of Cadet training, not only to the individual and to the School, but also, as was shown recently, to the nation in time of war. General Puttick was accompanied on his visit by Brigadier E. T. Rowllings, C.B.E., N.Z.S.C., Officer Commanding Southern Military District, Colonel S. M. Satterthwaite, N.Z.S.C., Area Commander, and Colonel Meyer, United States Army.

At the close of last year we learnt that C.S.M. W. E. Chisholm had been successful in winning the William Robert Friar Memorial Prize for the Southern Military District, this being the first time that this honour had come to the School. The prize itself was presented to the winner after Assembly on 2nd October by Colonel Satterthwaite.

Shooting in the Imperial Challenge Shield Competition has now been completed, and it is pleasing to note an improvement in the unit average this year. The teams we entered for the Press Shield were unable to strike their best form, and the results, although good, will probably not gain a place in the competition.

The Moller Cup Competition for the most efficient platoon was concluded on Friday, 9th November, and resulted in a win for No. 1 Flight of the A.T.C., under the command of Sergeant A. W. Hollander.

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Detailed results are as follows:—No. 1 Flight, A.T.C.: Shooting, 68·5; Drill, 73—average 70·75. No. 5 (Artillery) Platoon, A Company: Shooting, 67·8; Drill, 66—average 66·9. No. 7 Platoon, B Company: Shooting, 49·8; Drill, 83—average 66·4.

In conclusion, we should like to express our appreciation of the co-operation of the Area Staff, under Captain W. H. McLenaghin, who have assisted us in every way within their power.

AIR TRAINING CORPS.

The policy of giving all Third Form Cadets general infantry training has reduced the Squadron strength this year to two flights. An interesting programme has been gone through with particular emphasis on navigation for A Flight. Visits to R.N.Z.A.F. Taieri have been fewer than in recent years, but those Cadets who attended the course held during the First Term holidays benefited considerably and also attained a good standard of performance. Three candidates sat Part I of the pre-entry examinations, two obtaining a credit pass and one a pass. Two Cadets have attended the n.c.o. courses held at Ohakea and did well in the courses.