
Featherston Military Training Camp and the First World War, 1915–27



Tim Shoebridge

**Manatū
Taonga**
Ministry
for Culture
& Heritage

Featherston Military Training Camp and the First World War, 1915–27

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Cover image: A view across the Featherston hutment camp, c1916 (00-038-011, Wairarapa Archive)

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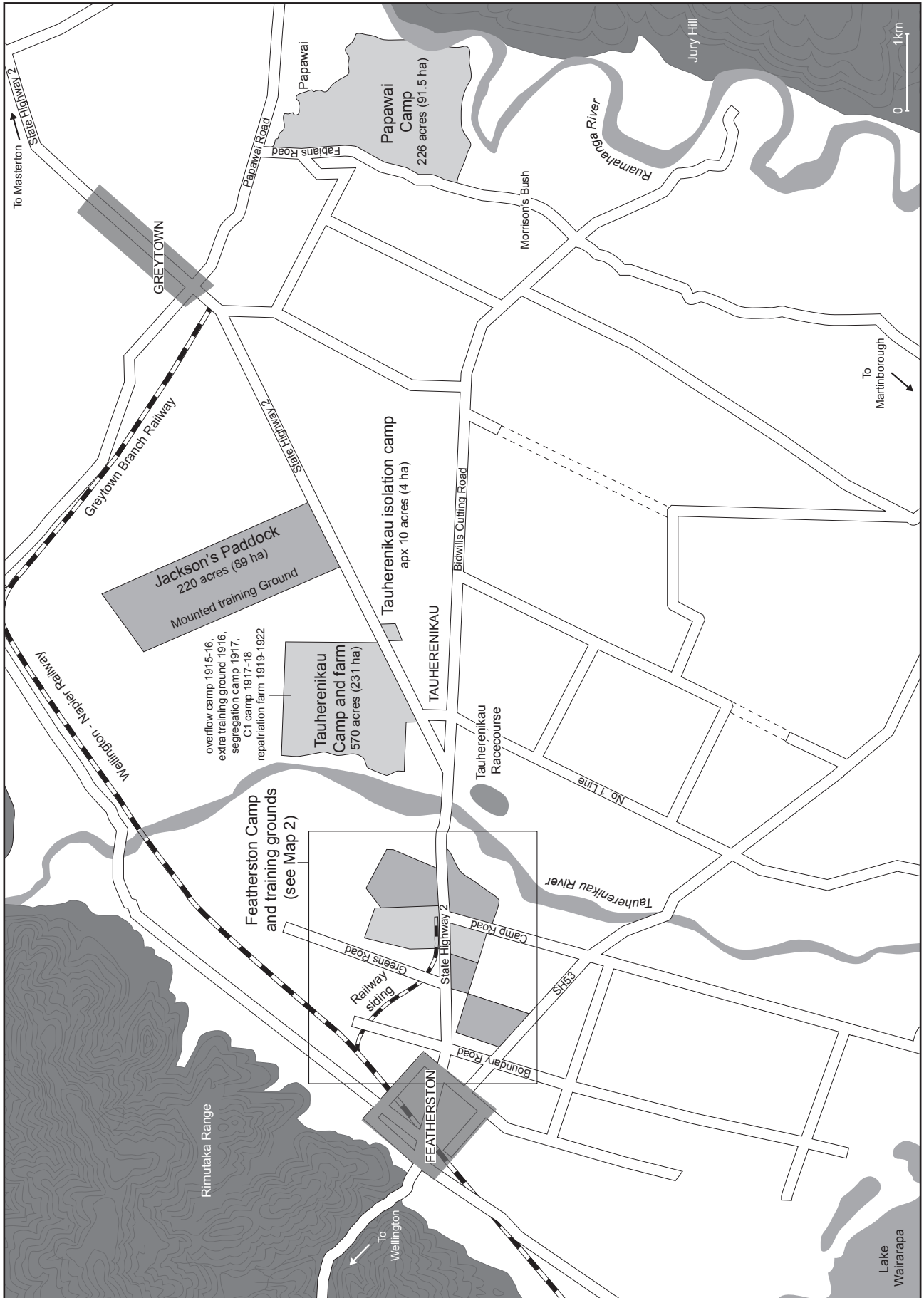
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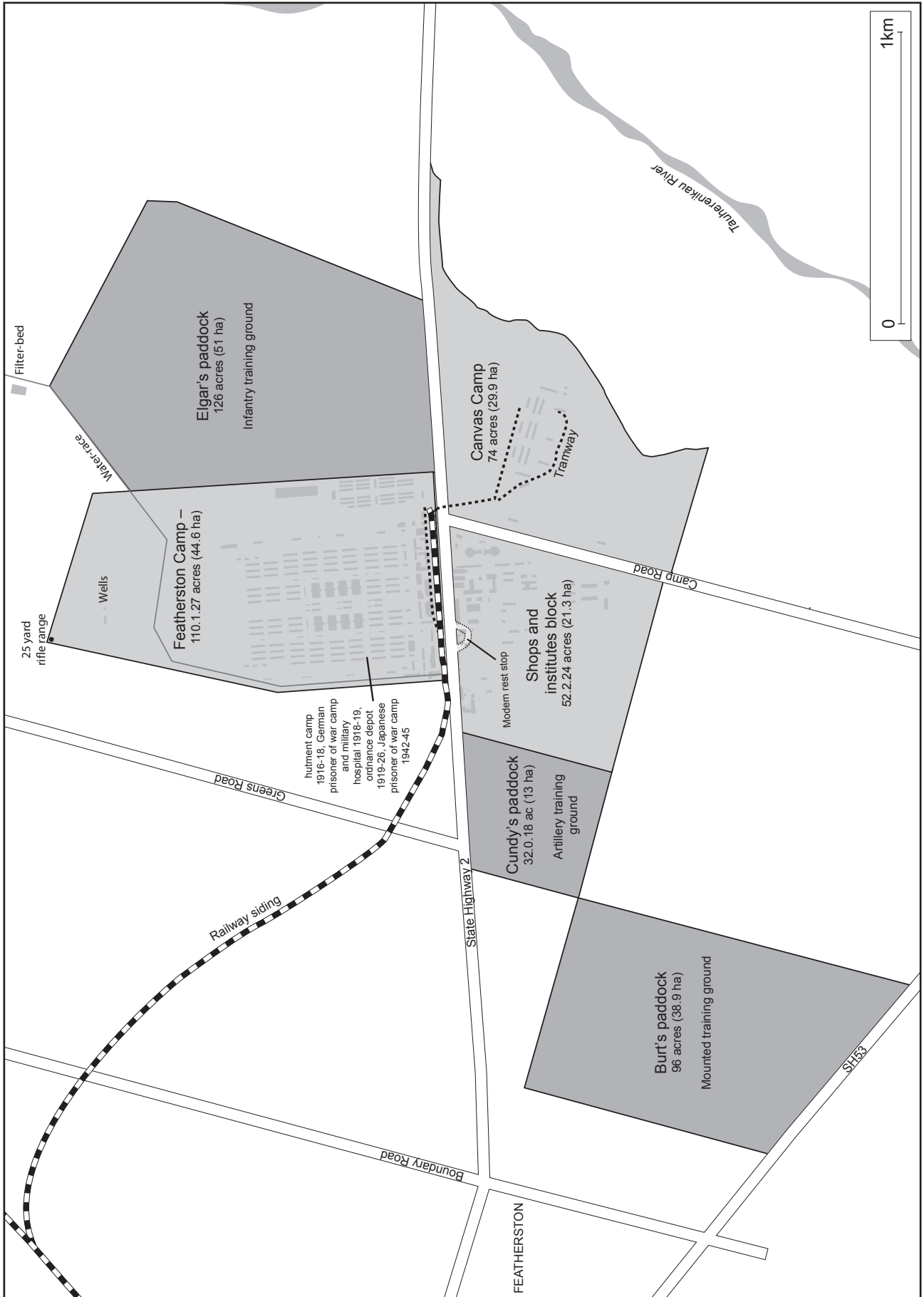
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Map 1: Location map showing Featherston Camp, its training grounds, and its satellite camps



Map 2: Featherston Camp and its training grounds

Preface

Featherston Camp was the largest of the military camps in New Zealand where reinforcements for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force trained during the First World War. Most army personnel trained at Trentham Camp from October 1914 until July 1915, when the Defence Department revised its training arrangements. From January 1916 Trentham and Featherston camps shared the bulk of New Zealand's training needs, with Maori and Pacific Island troops based at Narrow Neck Camp in Auckland and medical reinforcements at Awapuni Camp in Palmerston North. Featherston Camp, together with its satellite camps at Tauherenikau and Papawai, could accommodate 9850 men in huts and tents. Its campsites and training grounds collectively covered 1861 acres (753 ha) of land in the Featherston–Greytown area.¹ Around 60,000 New Zealand military personnel who subsequently served overseas spent time at Featherston Camp, about two-thirds of the total.² The government used the camp as a military hospital and German prisoner of war camp during 1919, and then as an ordnance depot until 1927. The army built a new Japanese prisoner of war camp there in 1942, which was closed in 1945.

This report is an offshoot of a book about First World War heritage sites in New Zealand currently being written by Imelda Bargas and myself for Manatū Taonga/Ministry for Culture and Heritage. The Ministry decided to utilise the research conducted for that project to create this more detailed report on the site's First World War history. This reflects the Ministry's role in commemorating New Zealand's past military activities and the sites where they occurred. Featherston Camp is perhaps the most important surviving First World War-related site in New Zealand, in addition to its history as a prisoner of war camp in the Second World War.³ This report is not an exhaustive treatment of its subject, but rather a first attempt to document the 'whys', 'whens' and 'hows' of the camp's First World War history.

I'd like to thank Neill Atkinson, Imelda Bargas, Christine Barnett, Andy Dodd, Alec Dondertman, Damien Fenton, Neil Frances, David Green, John Hodder, Andrew Jourdain, Ian McGibbon, Natasha Naus, Adam Simpson and John Van Vliet for their assistance with this report and the ongoing heritage sites project. Morag Torrington created the maps, and Sarah-Jane McCosh carried out the design work.

Tim Shoebridge

March 2011

1 Featherston Camp and the camp system

A Wairarapa camp

Featherston Camp grew out of the need for a convenient, well-equipped, and safe place where the ever-increasing numbers of wartime recruits could receive their four or more months of military training before serving with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force overseas. In October 1914 the Defence Department had established Trentham Camp in the Hutt Valley near Wellington as a central training camp for all recruits. Initially this was a canvas camp for 2000 men. In January 1915 the Department decided to construct hutments for 120 officers and 3500 men, along with a few other buildings such as a military hospital. Work began in March, but overcrowding and wet weather delayed progress. New waves of recruits kept arriving at camp, pushing the numbers from 4000 men in January to 7000 in May, placing huge strain on the camp's basic facilities. An outbreak of respiratory diseases, measles, and cerebro-spinal meningitis that hit Trentham between May and July 1915 overwhelmed the camp's primitive medical facilities and killed 27 recruits. Trentham's medical authorities called for the camp's evacuation on 9 July. The recruits were relocated to overflow camps at Waikanae (on the coast north of Wellington), Rangiotu (17 km south-west of Palmerston North), Maymorn (5 km north-east of Upper Hutt), and Tauherenikau (between Featherston and Greytown in southern Wairarapa). A commission of enquiry blamed the outbreak on poor hygiene and overcrowding.¹

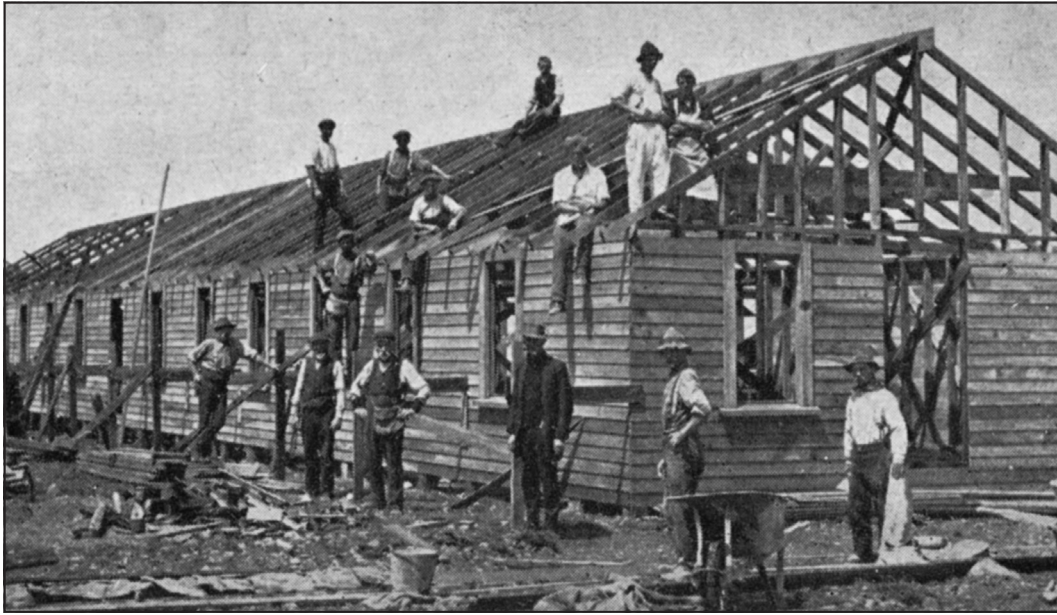
The Defence Department quickly realised the need to both dramatically improve Trentham Camp and to open a second large camp to prevent future overcrowding. On 13 July 1915 Brigadier-General A.W. Robin, commanding the New Zealand forces, recommended the establishment of a second camp to Minister of Defence James Allen. He proposed that recruit, elementary and musketry (rifle) training remain at Trentham, and that 'advanced collective training' take place at the second camp. Recruits would return to Trentham prior to embarkation. Robin regarded the flat Wairarapa valley as 'eminently suited' for military training, as well as being 'within reach of Defence Headquarters and of Trentham Camp.' If the men were equipped at and administered from Trentham, the camp could operate on a relatively small scale. Robin proposed that the recruits continue to train elsewhere until the camp was built, so workmen could 'start right away on a second permanent camp with proper roads, water supply, sanitary arrangements, hospital etc.'²



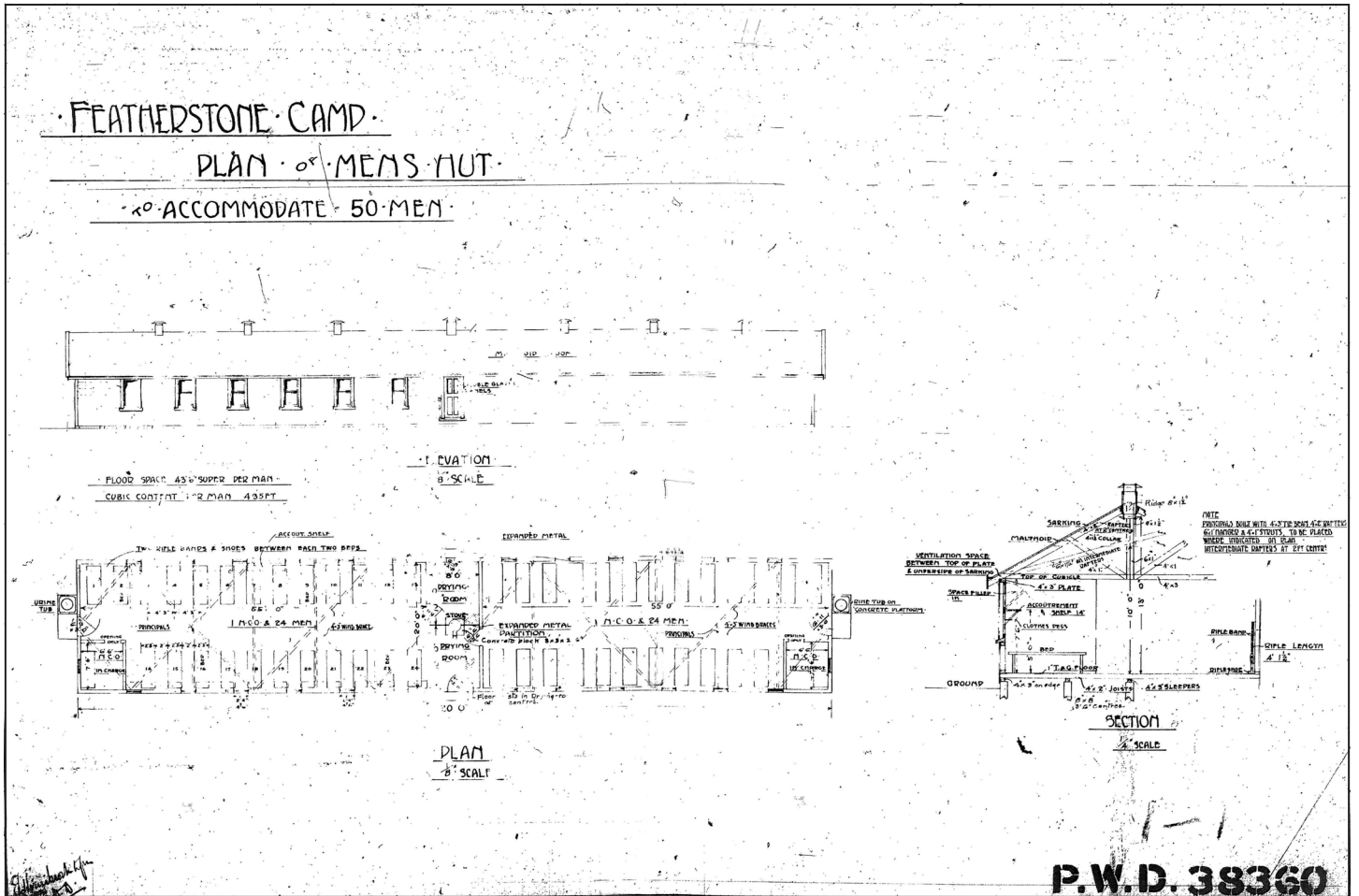
Public Works builders pause beside the cookhouse and dining halls during construction of Featherston Camp, 1915 (1/2-104271-F, Alexander Turnbull Library)

Robin despatched Majors C.R. Macdonald and N.P. Adams in mid-July to inspect the Wairarapa district for a suitable site. The pair settled on a wide, flat open area of farmland near the small township of Featherston and the temporary training camp at Tauherenikau. The site had a number of advantages. It was near the railway line that connected the district with Hutt Valley and Trentham Camp, via the steep and windy Rimutaka Range. A short railway siding through adjacent farms would allow troops, equipment and goods to be delivered to the camp. The site's gently sloping and stony ground would allow surface water to drain away easily – an important feature after the nightmarish mud and overflowing soak-holes at Trentham. The nearby Tauherenikau River would provide a ready source of water and roading metal. Perhaps most importantly, the men could be taught musketry at the nearby Papawai Rifle Range.³ On 24 July Robin formally recommended that the government purchase the site, and that it should allocate £50,000 (equivalent to \$6.7 million in 2010) to buy the land and facilitate the camp's construction.⁴ Cabinet agreed on 29 July.⁵

The campsite comprised several boulder-strewn and scrub-covered blocks of land straddling Tauherenikau Road, the main highway between Featherston and Greytown. Farmer Thomas McIvor accepted £1174 (equivalent to \$156,400 in 2010) in compensation for the loss of his 110 acre (45 ha) section on the north side of the road. Ten absentee owners held title to small allotments of a 2.6 acre (1.1 ha) block adjoining McIvor's farm, a hangover from a time when speculators hoped for close subdivision of the land around



Workmen building one of the Featherston hutments, 1915 (*Stanbrook*)



The August 1915 plan for the Featherston hutments (*PWD plan 38360, ABZK W5433 box 30, Archives NZ*)

Featherston township. This block remained undeveloped, and the land purchase officer set to work purchasing the allotments. He presumed the sections could be taken under Public Works legislation if necessary. Mrs Margaret Burt owned a 52 acre (21 ha) block opposite the McIvor block which would be an ideal extension to the camp. She agreed to the Department's offer of £684 9s (\$91,200) as compensation. Charles R. Cundy and Alfred Tyer, two of Mrs Burt's neighbours, were willing to lease paddocks to the government for the duration of the war.⁶ On 21 September 1915 the Governor gazetted the McIvor and Burt blocks as a camping-ground for defence purposes under section 225 of the Public Works Act 1908.⁷

Figure 1: Featherston Camp land⁸

Section	Size	Acquisition	Disposal
Northern section of main Featherston Camp block (sec 571)	50.3.37 acres (20.6 ha)	Gazetted as Crown land, 21 September 1915	Sold into private ownership, 1960
Southern section of main Featherston Camp block (sec 575)	59.1.30 acres (24.1 ha)	Gazetted as Crown land, 21 September 1915	Sold into private ownership, 1990
Block on south side of road (sec 60 and pt 58, institutes, hospitals, etc.)	52.2.24 acres (21.3 ha)	Gazetted as Crown land, 21 September 1915	Sold into private ownership, 1990 (except memorial reserve)
Canvas Camp (pt sec 505)	74 acres (29.9 ha)	Leased from 27 January 1916	Lease concluded, 1921

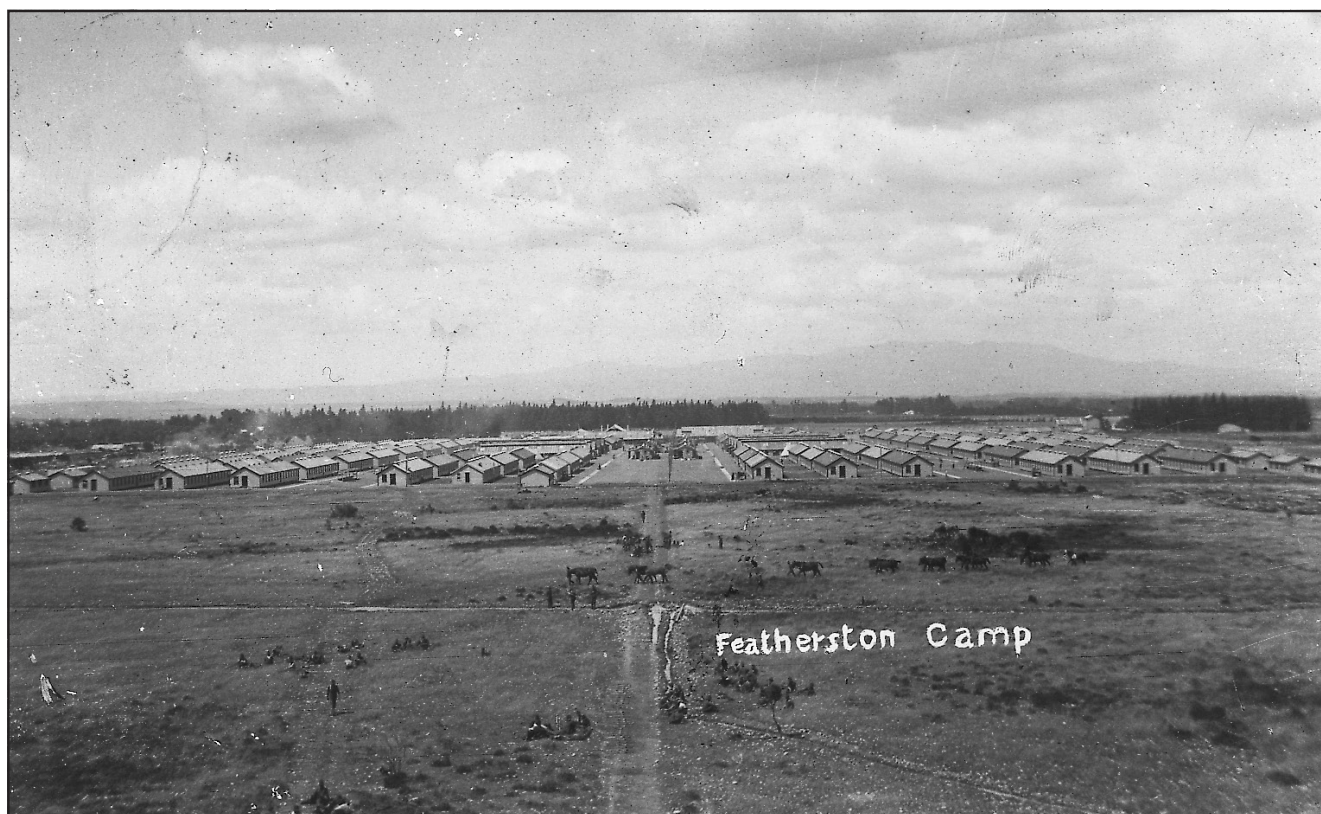
Building Featherston Camp

Robin reported that the Defence Department was too overworked to fix Trentham and build Featherston Camp on top of all its other work, and urged Allen to call in the Public Works Department to do the construction work instead.⁹ The Minister agreed, and on 22 July 1915 the government appointed Colonel E.H. Hiley, the current Director of Railway Transport and General Manager of the Railways, to act as director of a new Works Branch entrusted with camp construction. The role placed him in overall charge of a civilian workforce employed by the Public Works Department, under the management of Public Works Engineer-in-Chief R.W. Holmes, of Raurimu Spiral fame.¹⁰ Robin felt Hiley's appointment would 'ensure co-operation between the Public Works and Railway Department; and that the works are completed in accordance with the Military requirements.'¹¹

The Defence Department initially intended Featherston Camp to be (as the *Evening Post* put it) 'practically a replica of Trentham.'¹² The earliest plans show a basic camp for 2500 men and 600 horses, with 50 hutments, latrines, cookhouses, a quartermaster's store, a few administrative buildings, and space set aside on the south side of the road for a hospital, shops, and religious institutes.¹³ The broad concept changed little from start to finish, though the scale increased dramatically. Robin's initial plan for a small camp, subordinate to Trentham for supplies and instruction, soon made way for a large camp with its own

self-sufficient administrative centre. On 11 August the Imperial government accepted New Zealand's offer of two more infantry battalions for service overseas with the NZEF, and the Defence Department expanded the capacity of Featherston Camp from 2500 to 3500 men to accommodate the extra numbers.¹⁴ In mid-October it increased the capacity again to 4500 men, meaning yet more hutments and administrative buildings, and a new Canvas Camp on an adjacent property – needing its own dining halls, ablution blocks, and other basic buildings.¹⁵ The number of hutments planned rose to 62 in September and 90 in early November.¹⁶

These changing arrangements created a challenging working environment for Holmes and his men, who also had to contend with Hiley's demands they work faster than they deemed possible. By 24 August 1915 there were 49 men on the site, preparing sleeping quarters for the main building workforce. The building materials had been ordered, and work had commenced on the railway siding and the surveying of drainage facilities.¹⁷ Hiley grew anxious and frustrated by the slow progress, and urged Allen to complain to the Minister of Public Works. The 150 men on site by late September had completed (or nearly completed) only four hutments, two huts, one dining hall, one cookhouse, one wash-up, and one latrine.¹⁸ Progress had sped up by the beginning of October, with seven hutments, two wash-ups, two officers' huts, the quartermaster's store, forge and shoeing shed, and two latrines completed. Two streets had been formed and half the drainage system built.¹⁹



The Featherston hutment camp facing south, c1916. Camp water-courses cross in the foreground. (00-038-074, Wairarapa Archive)

Construction accelerated from October onwards as more workmen arrived at the site, with numbers peaking at more than 1000 in December.²⁰

The high winds which would later plague recruits at Featherston made the construction process difficult. The Defence Department had approved plans based on the 'open air principle': wide gaps were left in the eaves to ensure good ventilation (see Chapter 4). The workmen reported that the wind threatened to blow the semi-constructed hutments off their foundations and made life inside almost unbearable. Holmes reported to Hiley that even 'with every door and window closed it is impossible to keep a kerosene lamp alight' – let alone sleep.

In the officers' hut used as an office, every paper had to be weighted to enable any work to be done; also the amount of rain driving up the eaves opening and falling into the rooms rendered them uninhabitable on the windward side. The wind, also, thus getting under the roofing material, causes it to flap so badly that it will soon be destroyed.²¹

The Defence Department eventually agreed that the 'ventilation inlets' could be blocked during wet or windy weather, but stipulated that they must be left open at all other times under the camp medical officer's direction.²²

The Public Works men met the Defence Department's 23 January 1916 deadline for completion, and the 1400 men camped at Tauherenikau marched into Featherston Camp the following day.²³ The *Evening Post* reported:

The camp, as might have been expected, was not quite finished yesterday when the troops entered. Some 300 men of the Public Works Department were still engaged in hammering and banging away, and it is anticipated that it will be three weeks or a month yet before they are finished. The administrative offices, shops, canteen, etc., are now receiving their final attention, and the hot showers will soon be ready. The cold showers, however, are already available. The electric light also should be turned on shortly, and the permanent canteen will be opened at the end of the month, a temporary one being run in the interim. The camp will not be fully occupied until Sunday next, when the 10th Infantry Reinforcements, who are at present enjoying their final leave, are due to return.²⁴

The Department had also leased the 74 acre (30 ha) Tyer property, which adjoined the southern part of the camp, as a Canvas Camp to accommodate 2500 men, and this was ready for occupation shortly after the main camp. Tauherenikau Camp was empty after 24 January, but remained in use as a training ground. The Department also leased four paddocks adjacent to Featherston Camp as training grounds and the Papawai rifle range for musketry training.²⁵

The camp's usefulness depended heavily on good access to and through it. The main camp contained six internal metalled roadways, five of which ran north to south through the blocks of hutments and the sixth east to west separating the administration section from the hutment section. The central (north–south) road through the hutments served as the camp's main road. 'The main road dividing the hutments is quite an imposing promenade', wrote camp employee G.L. Stanbrook in 1917; 'it is 147 feet [45 m] wide by over a quarter of a mile [402 m] long.'²⁶ The metalled internal roadways were cambered downhill

towards a central gutter which carried surface water away. The Department gazetted the public highway as being part of a military camp from 12 March 1916, meaning it was 'closed for traffic except with the consent of the military authorities'.²⁷ The camp's private railway siding, which branched off the Wellington –Napier railway line near Featherston, allowed camp authorities to unload men and goods under covered awnings at the quartermaster's and forage stores. The Works Branch extended the siding by building a tramway across the road to Canvas Camp.²⁸



Featherston Camp post office and forage store (with veranda), facing east, c1917. The railway line allowed men and goods to be dropped off right at the camp's doorstep. (*Stanbrook*)

2 Training

The Defence Department trained all reinforcements (other than those earmarked for the Maori Contingent, the Medical Corps, and the New Zealand Tunnelling Company) at Trentham Camp between October 1914 and July 1915, but split the load between Trentham and Featherston camps from January 1916. Trentham and Featherston shared the training of infantry reinforcements, always the bulk of the NZEF's fighting force, while Trentham retained the engineers. The mounted rifles, signallers, artillery and machine-gun specialists, and the Army Service Corps, all carried out their advanced training at Featherston. By 1918 the camp had 90 permanent instructors.¹

Training thousands of recruits at a time required a lot of space. Land purchase officer A.H. Kimbell leased five neighbouring paddocks from landowners, providing a total of more than 474 acres (191.8 ha) of training ground (824 acres / 333.5 ha, including the sometimes-vacant Tauherenikau Camp site). A 126 acre (51 ha) paddock adjoining the main camp, owned by farmer Martin Elgar, served as the main infantry training ground. The infantry and mounted men trained at the 96 acre (38.9 ha) Burt paddock, near the southern part of the camp and adjoining the 32 acre (13 ha) Cundy block used for artillery training.² The camp authorities also used other local properties on an informal basis, particularly for overnight camps. H. Morrison's property at Morrison's Bush (near Papawai Camp), in particular, saw regular use.³ The 226 acre (91.5 ha) Papawai Camp served the needs of the units requiring advanced musketry and machine-gun training (see Chapter 7).

Figure 2: Featherston Camp training ground leases⁴

Lessor	Purpose	Size	Date of lease	Occupied by Defence Department	Vacated by Defence Department
Charles R. Cundy	Artillery training	32.0.18 ac (13 ha)	29 November 1915	3 February 1916	21 May 1919
J.N. & G.F. Burt	Mounted training	96 acres (38.9 ha)	9 December 1915	1 March 1916	21 May 1919
Martin Elgar	Infantry training	126 acres (51 ha)	14 December 1915	27 January 1916	9 June 1919
E.H.S. Jackson	Mounted training	220 acres (89 ha)		8 May 1916	4 July 1918



A detail from a 1917 manoeuvre map of the Featherston Camp area, designed to exactly emulate the maps used by the British and French on the Western front. The entire Featherston district was mapped down to the last building and tree to help train the men to understand and use the landscape and its resources in combat situations. (T1 185 12/285, Archives NZ)

Infantry training

The infantry made up more than half the NZEF's overall strength throughout the war, with the proportion reaching 60% by 1918. In 1914 New Zealand worked to maintain a total of 4062 infantrymen in active service through a flow of reinforcements; by 1918 this number had more than tripled to 14,371.⁵ Infantry training imbued recruits with 'soldierly spirit', improved their physical fitness, and taught them 'the use of rifle, bayonet, and spade.'⁶ The 16-week infantry training programme began with three weeks of recruits' drill and physical training at Trentham, followed by four weeks – mostly spent at Featherston – of drill (from squad to platoon levels), physical training, bayonet-fighting, elementary musketry, individual training, and elementary night training. Final leave in the ninth and tenth weeks was followed by platoon and company drill, more night operations, physical training and bayonet-fighting, and advanced musketry.⁷ The other units shared many of these elements, splitting off into more specialised training after their basic drill and musketry work was complete.⁸ More advanced training followed in England to flesh out the men's understanding of current conditions at the front.⁹

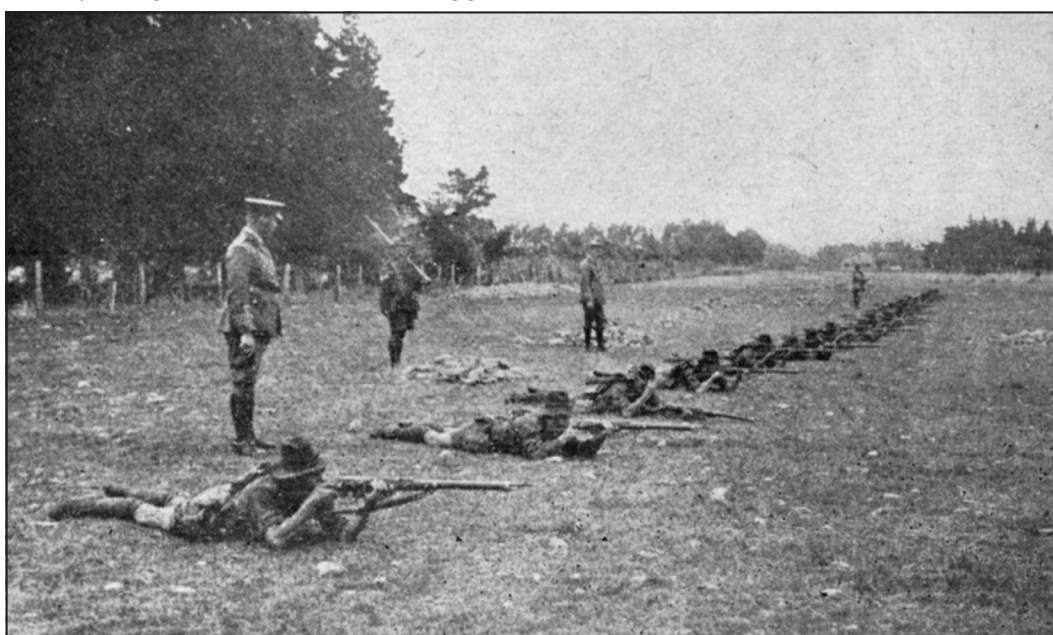
Drill helped instil 'soldierly spirit' by teaching the men to follow orders and act in unison. The infantry learnt most of the various phases of drill instruction on the Burt and Elgar training grounds. Drill in its most basic form consisted of learning to march in formation

with weapons, starting with small groups and moving to larger ones. Gradually the recruits moved into more advanced combat training, learning to attack and defend, and to engage in hand-to-hand combat. The main training grounds also featured a number of realistic western-front-style trench networks. Recruits learnt to dig and reinforce these, and to attack from them.¹⁰

The recruits eventually left the camp neighbourhood for outpost work. Each reinforcement draft spent a night bivouacking in the open during a two-day march, at Morrison's Bush, Papawai Camp, or 'other broad, level fields somewhere in the intervening distance'.¹¹ These expeditions taught the men how to make camp and put various aspects of training into practice. In some cases half the men defended Jury Hill while the other half attacked it at dawn.¹²

Most infantry musketry training took place on the long ranges at Trentham Camp. The lack of a full-scale rifle range at Featherston Camp was sometimes cited by critics as a failure on the part of the military authorities.¹³ The other units training at Featherston mainly used the rifle range at Papawai Camp, though a 25 yard (22.9 m) rifle range was built at Featherston Camp's northern extremity in early 1918. Captain J.A. Wallingford, reporting on musketry training at Featherston in April 1916, had recommended that the Defence Department build a 25 yard rifle range near the camp for 'Miniature Rifle Work' and 'Landscape Target, Elementary Fire Direction and Machine Gun Training'. 'I place great faith on this class of range', Wallingford noted, 'and go so far as to say that "A man can be trained for war thereon while we cannot train Machine Gunners without it."' ¹⁴ The Defence Department built the Featherston range on the 'sealed Hythe pattern', with an 18 ft (5.5 m) high brick wall behind it to catch stray bullets. The *Marlborough Express* noted that the design was 'the latest thing in rifle ranges'.¹⁵

Infantry training at one of the Featherston training grounds, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)





The Featherston Camp horse lines (stables), facing south towards Canvas Camp, c1917 (Stanbrook)

Mounted rifles training

Mounted rifles units, which could move quickly, had played an important role in the South African (Boer) War of 1899–1902. As the *Field Service Regulations* put it, ‘Ability to move rapidly and to cover long distances in a comparatively short time gives cavalry power to obtain information and to obtain and to combine attack and surprise to the best advantage.’¹⁶ The realities of modern trench warfare diminished the value of mounted infantry on the Western Front, and the numbers of mounted rifles declined as a proportion of the overall NZEF force. The mounted rifles stayed behind in Egypt to fight in the Middle East against the Ottoman Turks when the rest of the NZEF moved to France in 1916, so New Zealand continued to train mounted reinforcements at Featherston.¹⁷

Mounted recruits spent the first seven weeks of their course on the ground doing recruit training – drill, bayonet-fighting, attack and outposts, and musketry. The next four weeks covered basic training with horses, and the remainder was spent on the more advanced and strategic aspects of training (including a four-day mounted trek).¹⁸ ‘The mounted infantry are the rovers of the camp’, noted journalist Will Lawson in 1917. ‘They may be met with in any part of the valley or hills, reconnoitring, scouting, map-making, or engaged in other of the many phases of their training.’¹⁹

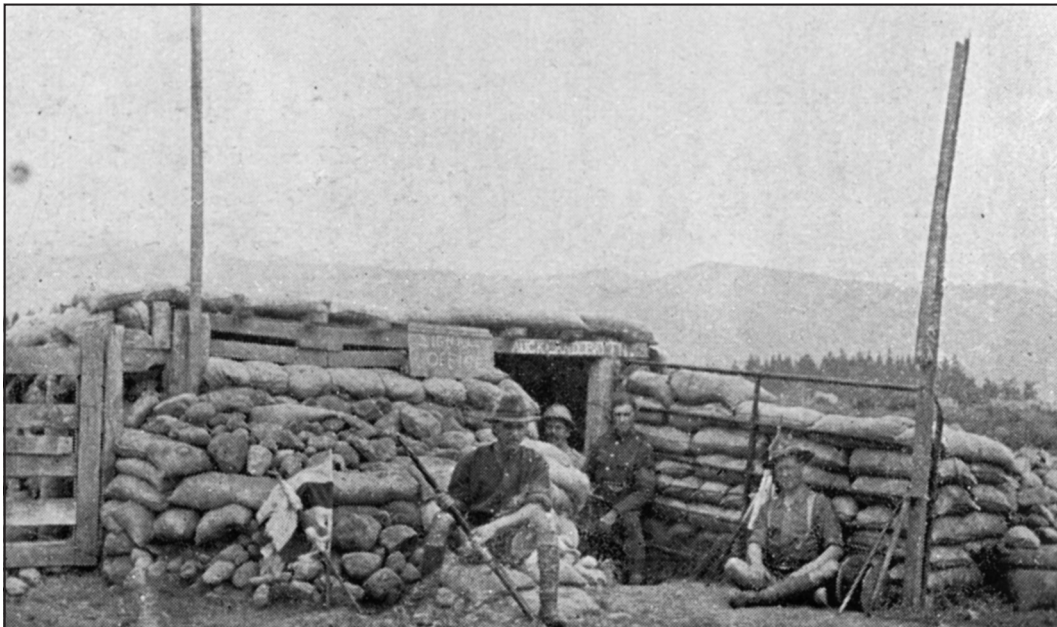
Featherston Camp provided stable accommodation for 500 horses, along with a riding school and training grounds for mounted men. The camp’s designers laid the horse lines out along the camp’s eastern boundary, along with saddle rooms, harness rooms, guard rooms, and forage stores.²⁰ The 20 open-sided stables, each housing 25 horses, featured concrete floors, electric lighting, and waste-water drainage. Manure was collected in a ‘dung dump’ for incineration.²¹ The camp’s Veterinary Hospital treated horses for a variety of ailments and illnesses. Each round of mounted recruits trained with the same horses, which lived at camp all year round.²²

Signallers and Engineers' Signallers

Signallers took charge of communication at the front, relaying messages between the commanders and the front line. Trainee signallers moved around the district with a cable wagon, which allowed them to connect the camp with the training instructors, and the training men with each other, via field telephone. During artillery and machine-gun practice, signallers transmitted the order to fire and reported whether the shots had been successful. 'The Signallers are always busy on the roads and hills', Stanbrook wrote in 1917.

Their waggon, with its drum of insulated wire that is paid out by the roadside, is a familiar object to travellers in the district. From the waggon to flag-stations, and from the flag-stations to the helios in the hills, headquarters keep in touch with all that is being done, and when the artillery and machine-guns are at battle practice the signallers of all grades keep the guns and targets in touch with the various signal centres, and with the camp.²³

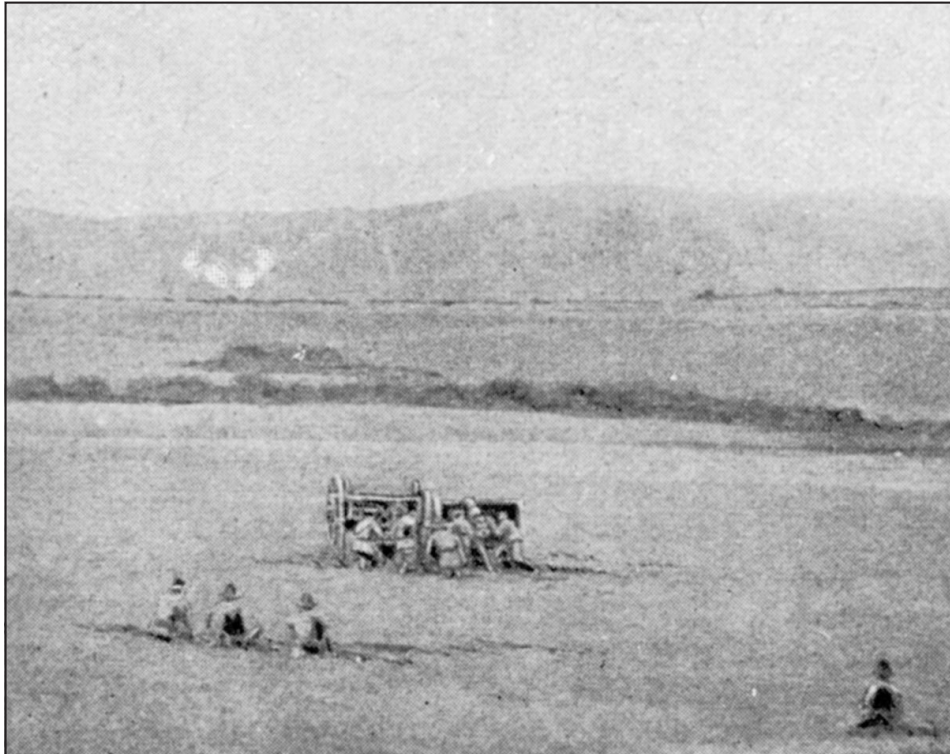
Though the Engineers trained at Trentham Camp, the Engineers' Signallers trained at Featherston. They built an almost invisible underground labyrinth of trenches to practice signalling with flags, telephones and buzzers. Sections of trench had names such as Nesbit's Nest, the Whispering Gallery, Hyde Park Corner, Lacey's Lane, and Pall Mall. The underground parts of the trench system were lit only by lanterns.²⁴



Entrance to the signallers' trenches at Featherston, c1917 (Stanbrook)

Artillery and machine-gun training

The Field Artillery provided the direct and indirect firepower the infantry and other units relied upon to suppress, disrupt or destroy their opponents, using both conventional artillery (such as 4.5-inch howitzers and 18-pounders) and later more specialised trench warfare



Artillery trainees shell Jury Hill, Papawai, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)



The machine gun emplacements at Papawai Camp, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

weapons such as trench mortars. Their 16-week training programme included instruction in the practicalities of handling larger weapons and their associated technology (communications and signalling, digging trenches and building gun pits, etc.), in addition to the usual drill and musketry lessons. In their first three weeks recruits learnt foot and physical drill, rifle exercises, guard duties, and musketry. The next eight weeks were devoted to specialised technical training, animal management, mounted drill and signalling. Fire discipline, digging, selection and occupation of positions, and gun practice kept them busy in the last five weeks.²⁵

Cundy's paddock, the main artillery training and parade ground, contained two lines of 'properly constructed trenches' by March 1917. An instructor demonstrated the devastating power of artillery that month by firing a trench mortar from one trench and destroying the other. 'Subsequent inspection of the ground showed that considerable damage had been done,' reported the *Evening Post*, 'the stones being badly smashed. One of the bombs had landed fair in the trenches, and had proved very destructive.'²⁶

The main gun practice was carried out on H. Morrison's property at Morrison's Bush near Papawai Camp, which backed onto Jury Hill (Pukengaki). There the larger artillery pieces, the howitzers and 18-pounders, were fired across the Ruamāhanga River at targets on Jury Hill around 3000 yards (2743 m) away. The Artillery Signallers viewed the shooting from various vantage points and communicated with the gunners using flags, while the Engineers' Signallers sent news back to the gunners via a portable telegraph that ran through a central cable wagon.²⁷

Featherston Camp hosted a machine-gun section from mid-1916. A lack of instructors had previously prevented machine-gun training, but the return to New Zealand of men who had used the weapons in action prompted the Defence Department to order six guns and establish a Machine Gun School.²⁸ Recruits selected from the mounted rifles and infantry received eight weeks' specialist training in working the guns and associated tactical manoeuvres.²⁹

Practical training took place at Papawai Camp, where eight machine-gun emplacements were laid out along the bank of the Ruamāhanga River facing Jury Hill (near the Morrison's Bush property where the artillery trained). The flooded Ruamāhanga washed away the initial emplacements built by the 16th Reinforcements, but by September 1916 the 17th Reinforcements had constructed 'model emplacements as good as any built within the same space of time ... on the Western front'.³⁰ Logs, sandbags and posts protected a tunnel which opened into the circular gun chamber. The gunners received orders by field telephone from 'headquarters', a trench behind the emplacements.³¹ The men fitted out the facing riverbank with a variety of targets that simulated battlefield scenarios. These were named 'Berlin Gorge', 'Hohenzollern Redoubt', 'Anzac Gorge', 'Goal Posts', 'Jury's Copse', 'Pontoon Lake', 'Wiggin's Copse', 'Shingle Bank', 'Pathway' and 'Clay Bluff'.³²



The butt of the 25-yard rifle range at Featherston Camp, built in 1918 (*Bargas & Shoebridge/MCH*)

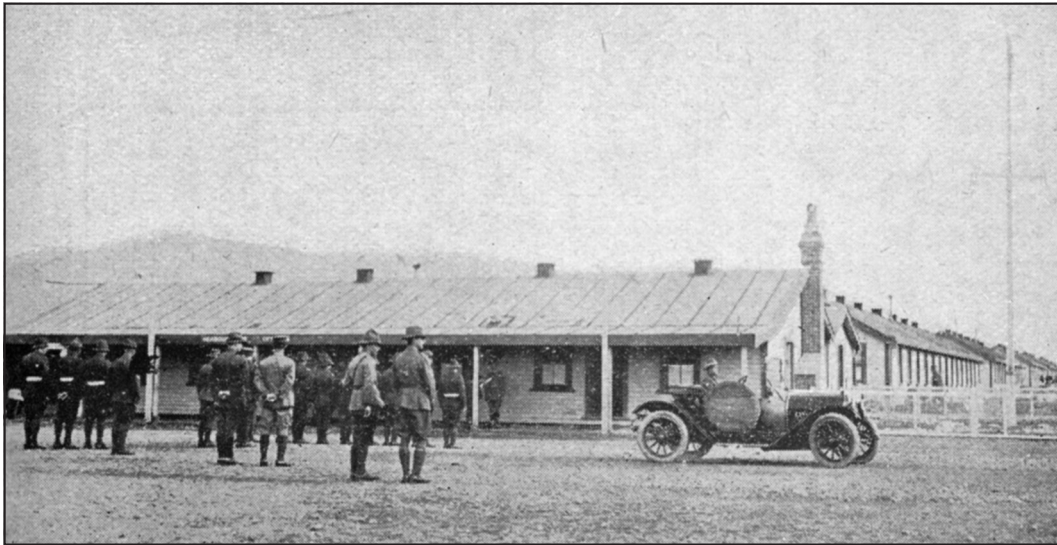
Army Service Corps

Recruits destined for the Army Service Corps, which supplied the forces with food, accommodation and other necessities of life, also trained at Featherston. Stanbrook noted in 1917: ‘The Army Service Corps waggon may rumble out ... on a long trek, which will take them from camp for three days, during which they will go through every feature of their field training, even to recording in their note-books the crops available for fodder, the houses in which the troops might be billeted, and the food supplies available.’³³ They received their musketry training at Papawai Camp.³⁴

Rimutaka march

The writer A.H. Reed recalled that as his period of training at Featherston drew to a close, ‘the prevailing topic of conversation was the impending “march over the hill”’. Except for final leave this was the last big event of our New Zealand training.³⁵ Men packed their bags on their final morning at Featherston Camp, then marched over the Rimutaka Range in full uniform and kit to complete their training at Trentham Camp. Columns of more than 1000 men marched the long arduous road over the hill, farewelled by the people of Featherston as they passed through the township. An ambulance followed the men up the hill, ready to take care of anyone who collapsed on the way. The ladies of the Wairarapa Patriotic Association prepared a hot meal at the summit, where a hut with tanks and boilers had been built for the purpose. The men bivouacked for the night at Kaitoke, at the southern foot of the range, where they could refresh themselves in the Hutt River. They marched to Maidstone Park for lunch the next morning, then carried out night operations in the Mangaroa Valley, near Upper Hutt. They marched into Trentham Camp the following day.³⁶

3 How Featherston Camp worked

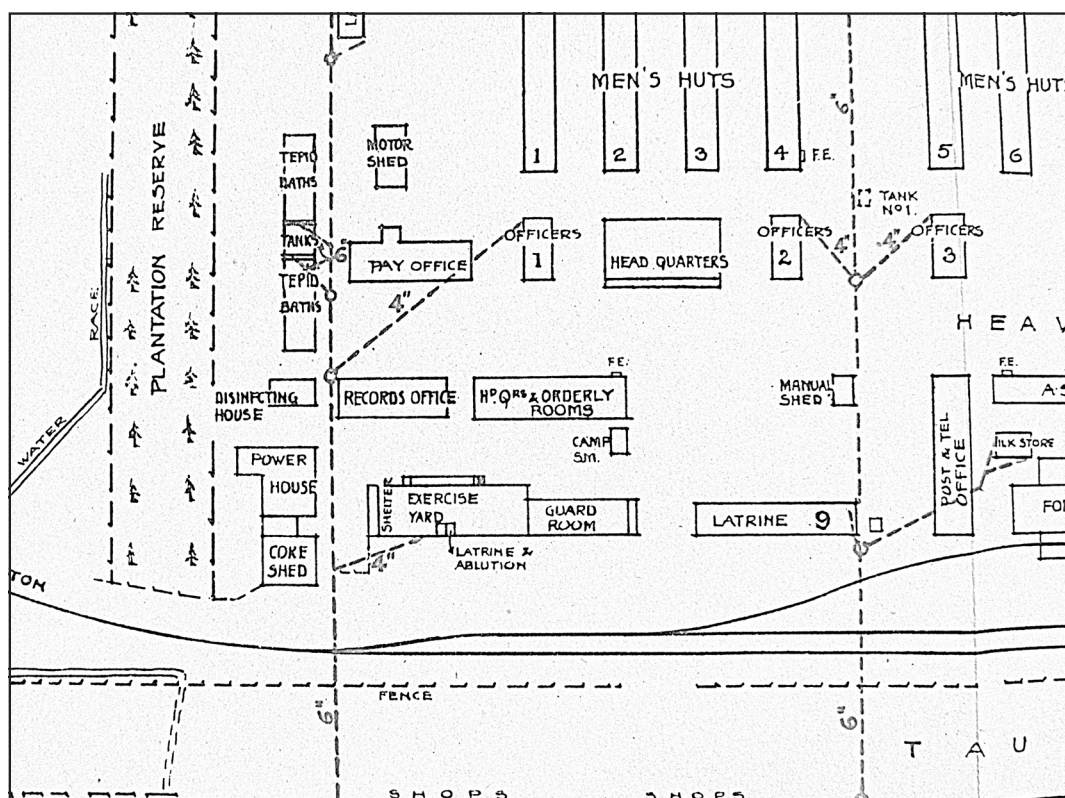


Featherston Camp headquarters, facing north-west, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

Keeping Featherston Camp running was a major organisational feat. The camp could hold 7000 men at any given time, and the military authorities were responsible for housing them, feeding them, washing them, entertaining them, and disposing of their waste every day.

Camp administration

Colonel Noel P. Adams served as Featherston Camp commandant for the war's duration, drawing experience from an earlier stint as Camp Adjutant at Trentham. Major Neville Newcomb and Captain J.W. Silcock acted as Adams' adjutants, effectively the camp's chief executive officers. Camp Quartermaster Major G.B. Banks, who reported to them, was in charge of clothing, equipment and sanitation.¹ These men made up the camp executive, and worked out of offices in the headquarters building along with a supporting team of clerks. They collectively managed most aspects of the camp's daily administrative minutiae.² The headquarters building also served as the hub of a precinct of administrative buildings located between the hutment camp and the railway siding adjoining Tauherenikau Road. The nearby camp records office managed the personnel files of all men in camp, and the



Detail of 1917 Featherston Camp plan, showing the camp's administrative complex, power house, and shower block ('tepid baths') (T1 185 12/285, Archives NZ)

recruits called at the adjacent pay office to collect their weekly allowance. The building's sturdy brick strongroom held the soldiers' earnings.³

The eastern half of the camp's administrative precinct consisted of a group of storage buildings and workshops. The railway siding terminated outside the camp's forage store and quartermaster's store, which served as an entrance-way to a courtyard of buildings holding food, oil, disinfectant, and coal.⁴ The quartermaster's store also housed equipment and clothing.⁵ It was here that new recruits were issued with uniforms, bedding and other kit.⁶ The maintenance of camp facilities and gear was undertaken at the neighbouring workshops, where the camp tailor, shoemaker, armourer, saddler, carpenter, blacksmith and electrician could all be found.⁷

'Perhaps the most frequented place in camp' according to Stanbrook, the post office was an important point of contact with the outside world. The men posted 1,134,140 items and received 1,250,650 during 1916, when it was the country's fifth-busiest post office.⁸ The 'compact and well-arranged building' incorporated a 'public office, with counters for parcel post, letters, money orders, savings bank, and ... telegrams.'⁹

Food

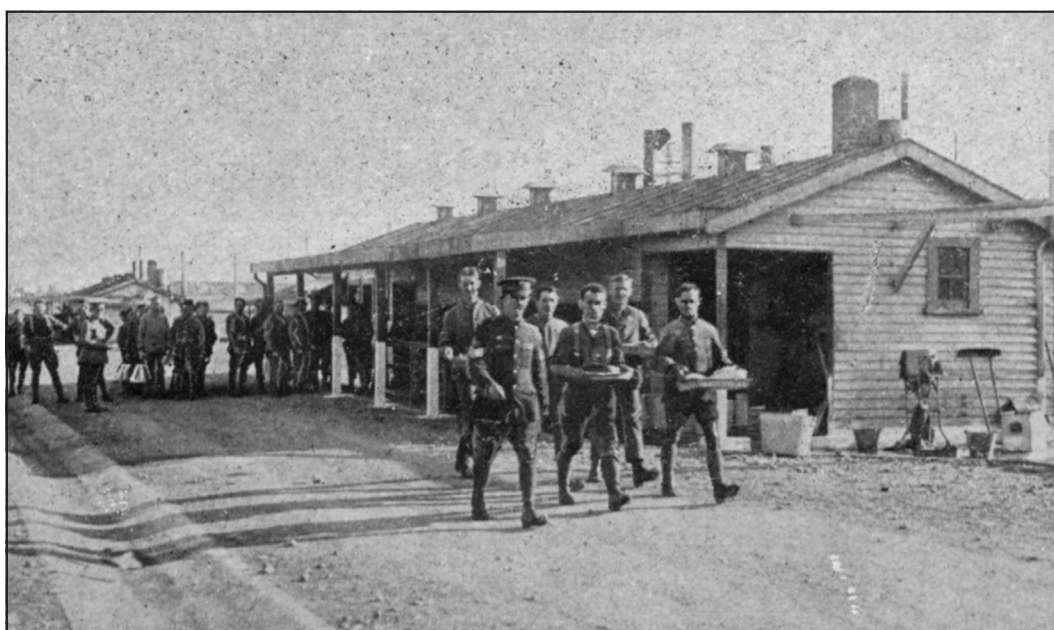
Keeping the men fed was a daily challenge for the camp supply officer and his team.¹⁰ They had to provide a daily ration of 6 lb 2¾ oz (2.8 kg) of food per man, amounting to around 21

tons (21,337 kg) of food for the whole camp. This included 9000 lb (4082 kg) of meat. The camp purchased fresh produce and bulk foods from the local markets, and sourced 400 gallons (1818 litres) of milk each day.¹¹ Featherston Camp had its own bakery from August 1916, which produced around 7000 lb (3175 kg) of bread every day by 1917 and as much as 9000 lb (4082 kg) in 1918.¹² The brick bakery had four ovens capable of cooking 300 one-pound (454 g) loaves at a time. The ovens ran continuously, providing a constant supply of fresh bread. The bakery cost £800 (equivalent to \$105,000 in 2010) to build, but was estimated to save the camp £3600 (\$400,000) each year over what it would have paid a contractor.¹³

The camp cooks prepared meals in the six cookhouses at the centre of the hutment camp. Each cookhouse could cater for 1500 men in a single sitting using three cookers.¹⁴ The eight dining rooms, each of which seated 600 men, were among the largest buildings in the camp.¹⁵ Shortly before mealtimes the men paraded beside their huts before being led into the dining halls.¹⁶ The camp also had separate cooking and dining facilities for officers and civilian workers. The officers' mess contained a built-in kitchen and a dining room seating 200.¹⁷ The hospital block had its own cookhouses, dining halls and food storage buildings.¹⁸ Canvas Camp, too, had its own cooking and dining facilities.¹⁹

Water supply and drainage

The mud and drainage problems at Trentham ensured the Defence Department's commitment to getting water into and out of Featherston Camp in an orderly fashion. The camp initially drew its drinking water drawn from two 40 ft (12.2 m) deep concrete-lined wells at its north-western extremity. An oil engine and an electric motor pumped the water up to a 13,000 gallon (59,100 litre) water tank on an elevated stand. Gravity created enough

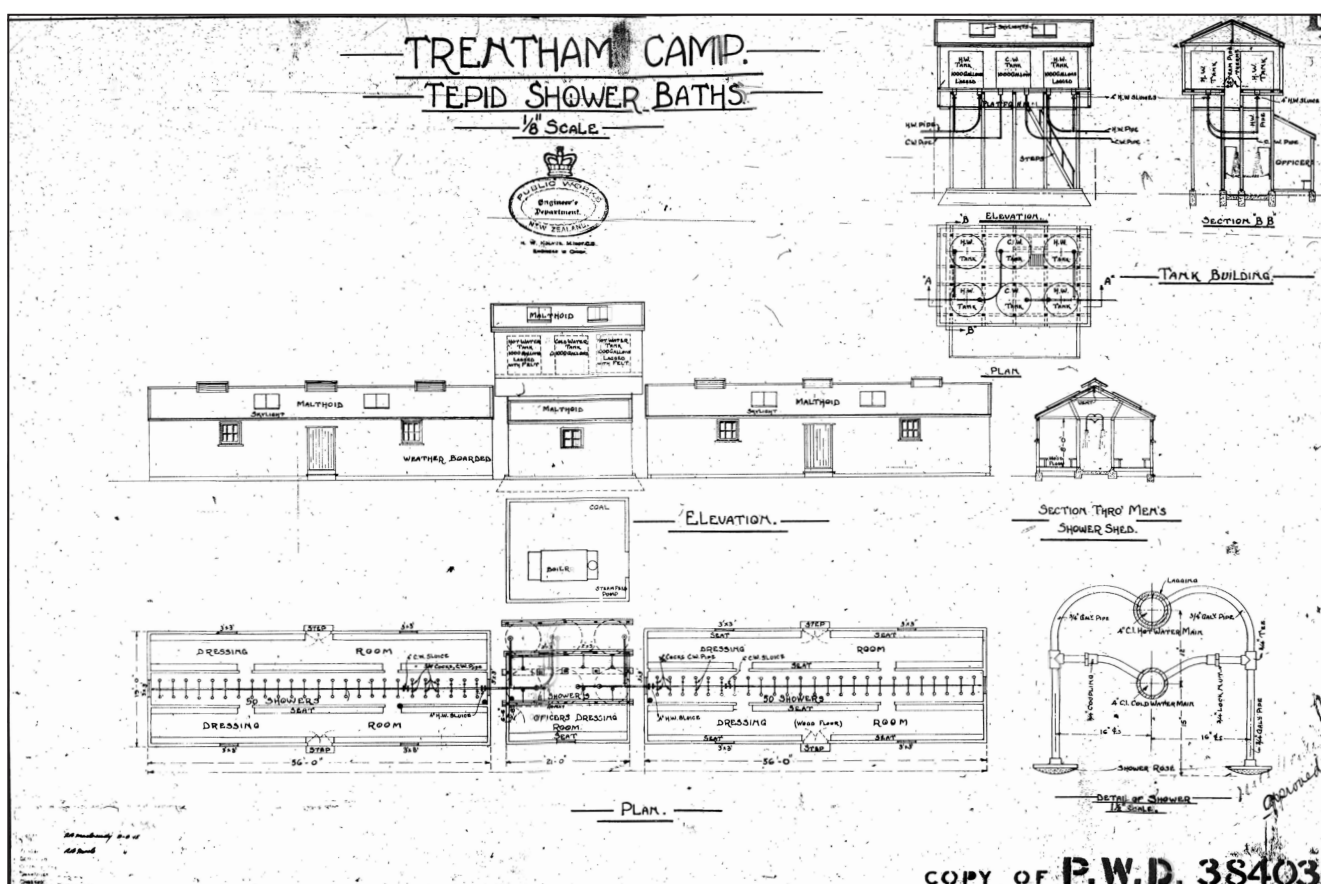


Men at one of the Featherston Camp cookhouses, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

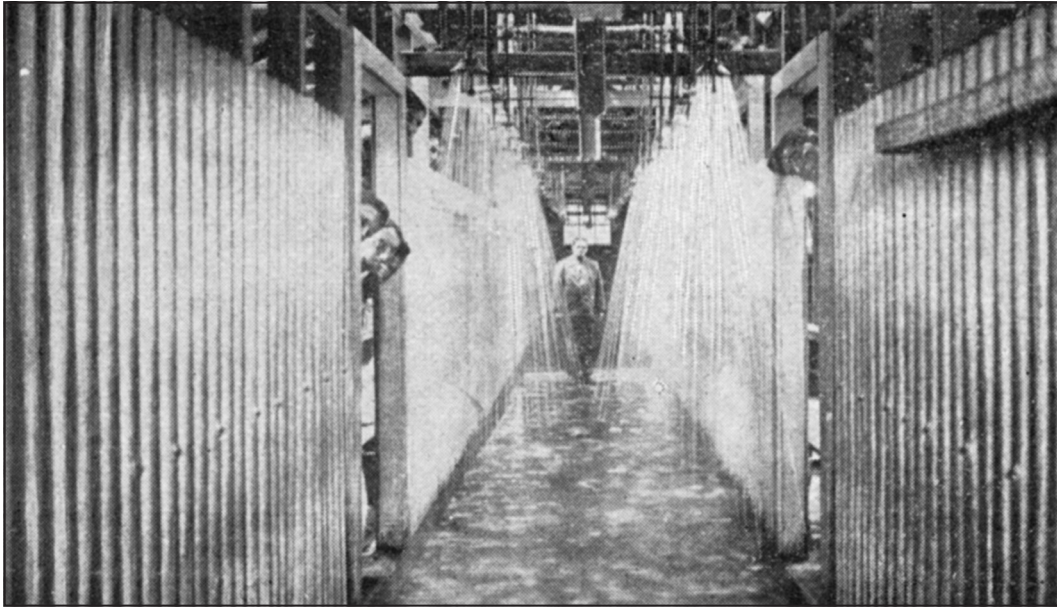
pressure to propel the water into the cookhouses, medical buildings and other places where fresh water was required.²⁰ Water use had to be restricted during dry periods when the level in the wells dropped. This prompted the Works Branch to remodel the camp's water supply system towards the end of the war. The Branch constructed a concrete reservoir with settling tanks and sand-filters in a paddock adjoining the camp's northern boundary. Water was diverted for 3 miles (4.8 km) to the reservoir from the Featherston–Longwood water race. By this means 160,000 gallons (727,360 litres) of filtered water could be provided to the camp each day.²¹

A network of watercourses carried water for 'ablutions, stables, latrines, etc' into the camp. Water was drawn from the nearby Tauherenikau River along a main water race which fed open watercourses that crossed the northern part of the camp and traced the western boundary. The water passed through filter beds before being piped around the camp.²² 'In all over 6¾ miles [4.2 km] of steel piping have been used in the reticulation of the camp, in sizes ranging from 8 inches [20 cm] downward, while nearly 700 taps have been connected', wrote Stanbrook in 1917.²³

The Public Works Department initially planned to have waste water ('from the ablu-tion-stands, cook-houses, showers, etc') drain into four soak-holes at the camp's southern end, but by December 1915 it had decided to pipe it through a central drain into a side-channel



August 1915 plan of the shower block built at both Trentham and Featherston camps (PWD plan 38403, ABZK W5433 box 30, Archives NZ)



Inside the Featherston Camp showers, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

of the Tauherenikau River.²⁴ Rain ran into the concrete channels running down the centre of the camp roadways, which helped to drain away surface water. Unlike those at Trentham, the buildings at Featherston were fitted with spouting which carried rainwater from roofs directly to drains.²⁵ The Works Branch ‘remodelled and relaid’ the drainage system in the main camp and Canvas Camp in 1918.²⁶ The hospital block had its own septic tank, ensuring that water polluted with medical waste wouldn’t enter the river system.²⁷

Showers and toilets

Featherston Camp’s recruits washed in a single shower block situated in the south-western corner of the hutment camp. An eight-man shower cubicle for officers in the building’s centre divided two 50-man cubicles for the rank and file. The shower chambers ran lengthwise, with dressing rooms between them and the external walls.²⁸ Allowing 20 minutes for each group to undress, wash, and dress again, 300 men could pass through the showers in an hour.²⁹ The recruits could treat themselves to a cold shower any time between reveille and 5 p.m. daily, but hot showers were only offered in one of the shower chambers between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. The men also had to shower on specific nights, as specified in Routine Orders.³⁰ The shower block was beside the water race on the camp’s western boundary, allowing water to be drawn up easily into boilers at the rear of the bath-houses. The water supply and temperature could be monitored from the nearby powerhouse, meaning that – unlike at Trentham – the bath-house needed no dedicated staff.³¹

The camp’s toilet blocks lined the boundaries of both the hutment camp and Canvas Camp. Enclosed by a corrugated-iron wall, latrine blocks consisted of two rectangular toilet structures backing onto a narrow concrete cleaning channel.³² Men on latrine duty cleared



A bathing parade at the Ruamahanga River, Papawai Camp, c1917, with Jury Hill in the background (*Stanbrook*)

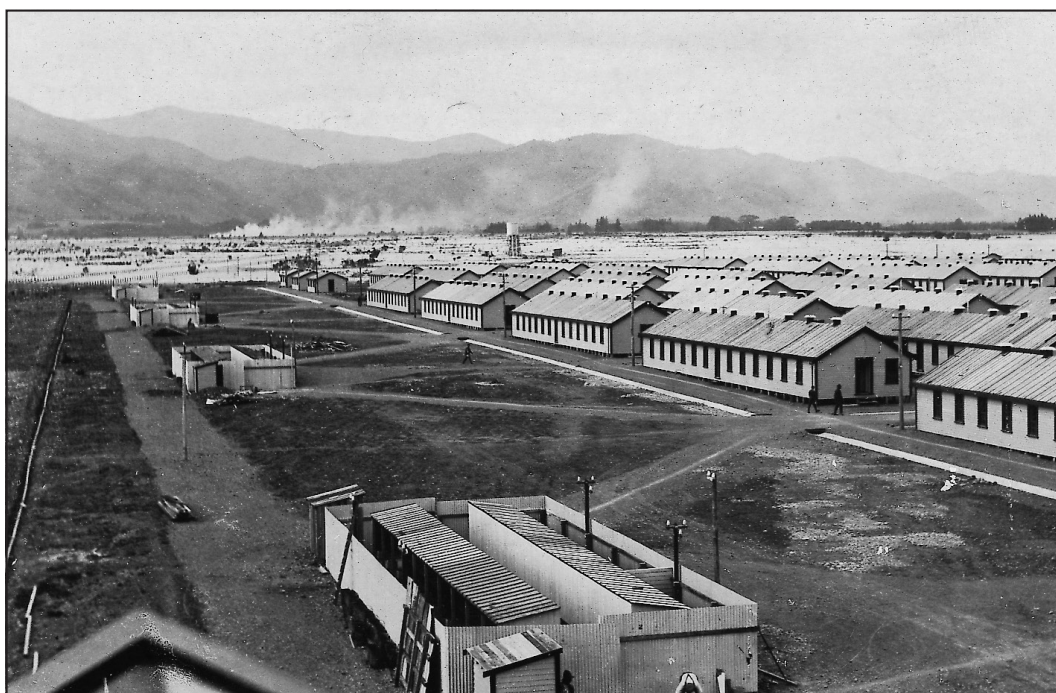


The Featherston Camp powerhouse and coke shed, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

the 'latrine drums' from the toilet boxes twice daily, replacing them with clean drums lined with a little disinfectant. Men sprinkled a layer of sawdust into the drum after each visit. The cleaning crews cleaned the toilet seats and cubicles thoroughly, and replaced the mixture of sawdust and kerosene which lined the toilet box floors.³³ The waste was carted off to be incinerated or buried.³⁴ Accounts of camp life suggest that waste was more often buried in shallow trenches on neighbouring properties than incinerated.³⁵ Free-standing urinals also dotted the hutment camp, and there were 'urine tubs' on the end of each hutment for nocturnal calls of nature.³⁶

Motive power

Featherston Camp used several forms of motive power. A powerhouse at the south-western corner of the hutment camp conveyed electricity (for lighting only) throughout the camp by overhead copper wires.³⁷ The camp's growth after January 1916 strained the capacity of the original generators, leading the Works Branch to extensively overhaul the machinery. The camp met the cost of this work by selling electric current to the camp shopkeepers and neighbouring farmers.³⁸ In 1917, a 125 BHP Westinghouse gas suction engine drove two 75 kilowatt Crampton generators, providing 3000 points of light across the camp.³⁹ By 1919 three motors powered 5600 points of light.⁴⁰ Coal and firewood fuelled the bakery ovens, the incinerator, the cookhouses, and the various fireplaces around the camp. In 1917 the camp burned 60 tons (60,963 kg) of coal every week, along with 12 tons (12,193 kg) of coke and 32 cords (116 m³) of firewood.⁴¹ Oil engines and petrol pumps propelled water into pipes and shower blocks (see page 23).



Featherston hutment camp facing north-east, with one of the toilet blocks in the foreground, c1916 (00-038-076, Wairarapa Archive)

Rubbish disposal

Featherston Camp contained two incinerator blocks, built of brick and cement on a foundation of packed stone, with cast-iron doors and grates. The larger block, at the camp's north-eastern corner, had four incineration chambers, including several traps designed for the disposal of faecal matter (though only sometimes used for that purpose).⁴² A smaller facility served the needs of Canvas Camp. The incinerators appear to have had a dedicated staff, as Public Works draughtsmen drew up a plan for an 'Ablution [building] for Incinerator Staff' in May 1916. This was to have two bathtubs and separate rooms for clean and dirty clothes.⁴³ Men on incinerator fatigue kept the facilities 'clean and wholesome' by scrubbing and spraying disinfectant. Camp standing orders forbade men on incinerator fatigue from wearing their normal clothes for this work, and they had to take a hot bath before visiting their hut or the dining halls.⁴⁴ The Defence Department also established a pig farm at Tauherenikau Camp in April 1918, 'for the purpose of utilizing to best advantage all waste food material' at Featherston and Tauherenikau (see Chapter 7).⁴⁵

4 Health and hospitals

The loss of life, expense and embarrassment caused by the Trentham epidemic in 1915 left the Defence Department anxious to keep the men in Featherston Camp as healthy as possible. Maintaining a constant flow of healthy reinforcements to the front also grew more important as the war progressed and the number of men left to enlist or be conscripted declined. The military medics faced the complex task of keeping the huge numbers of men in camp healthy, and, sometimes, of improving the health of men who were not quite healthy enough to enlist. The simple hygiene precautions and rudimentary camp hospitals described in the military manuals were clearly inadequate for camps of this size, scale and duration. The Defence Department increased the number, size and sophistication of medical facilities at Featherston Camp as the war wound on. It also prescribed exacting standards of cleanliness to help keep illness and accident away. 'The worst treated inhabitant of Featherston Camp is not the stray pup or the night duty man, but the disease germ', wrote Stanbrook in 1917. 'No housewife or sanitary staff wages such vigorous, scientific, and unremitting warfare against all bacteria harmful to the human body as is done at Featherston Camp.'¹



The Featherston Camp rotunda hospitals (00-038-037, Wairarapa Archive)

Camp hygiene

The camp authorities rostered daily fatigue parties to take care of a variety of cleaning duties. One party scrubbed down the cookhouses, ensuring that grease-traps, gratings, taps, swill and refuse-tubs were spotless.² 'If a little grease is left in the corner of a tin, or a "rosy" or "dixie" shows the least evidence of careless cleaning, the sergeant-cook knows what to expect,' observed Stanbrook in 1917.³ A.H. Reed well recalled the exhaustive dining room cleaning fatigue. 'The tables, including table legs, and forms, were scrubbed. The concrete floor was swilled with water and scrubbed with long-handled brushes, the water being pushed out into the gutter, after which the floor was again scrubbed.'⁴ Another party collected rubbish twice daily for incineration, their actions monitored by the camp's 'Sanitary Police'. Yet another collected rubbish from camp streets and kept the gutters clear.⁵ Latrine fatigue, perhaps the bleakest job the camp had to offer, is described in Chapter 3.

The camp's standing orders demanded that sleeping quarters be aired and cleaned every day. Hutment ventilation inlets had to remain open, except in wet weather, to ensure rooms were fresh and healthy. The hutments had to be washed out with hot water, soap and soda, at the direction of the Principal Medical Officer (PMO). Shelves were to be brushed off every day, and the huts thoroughly disinfected between groups of occupants. Tent doors were to be rolled up each fine morning to allow the maximum through-breeze, and their wooden bases were removed for cleaning once a week. Bedding and kits were to be aired outdoors as the PMO directed. Each soldier kept his own set of cutlery and was responsible for keeping it clean.⁶

In early 1916 H.B. Kirk, the Professor of Biology at Victoria University College, offered his services to help combat the spread of flies around the camp, noting that flies had spread dysentery at Gallipoli the previous year. Kirk reduced fly numbers significantly by placing fly-traps around the cookhouses, painting tree branches with insecticide and spraying the camp regularly.⁷ 'There is no fermenting refuse about', wrote Stanbrook, 'and the places [flies] usually frequent are veritable death-traps for them.'⁸

Hospitals

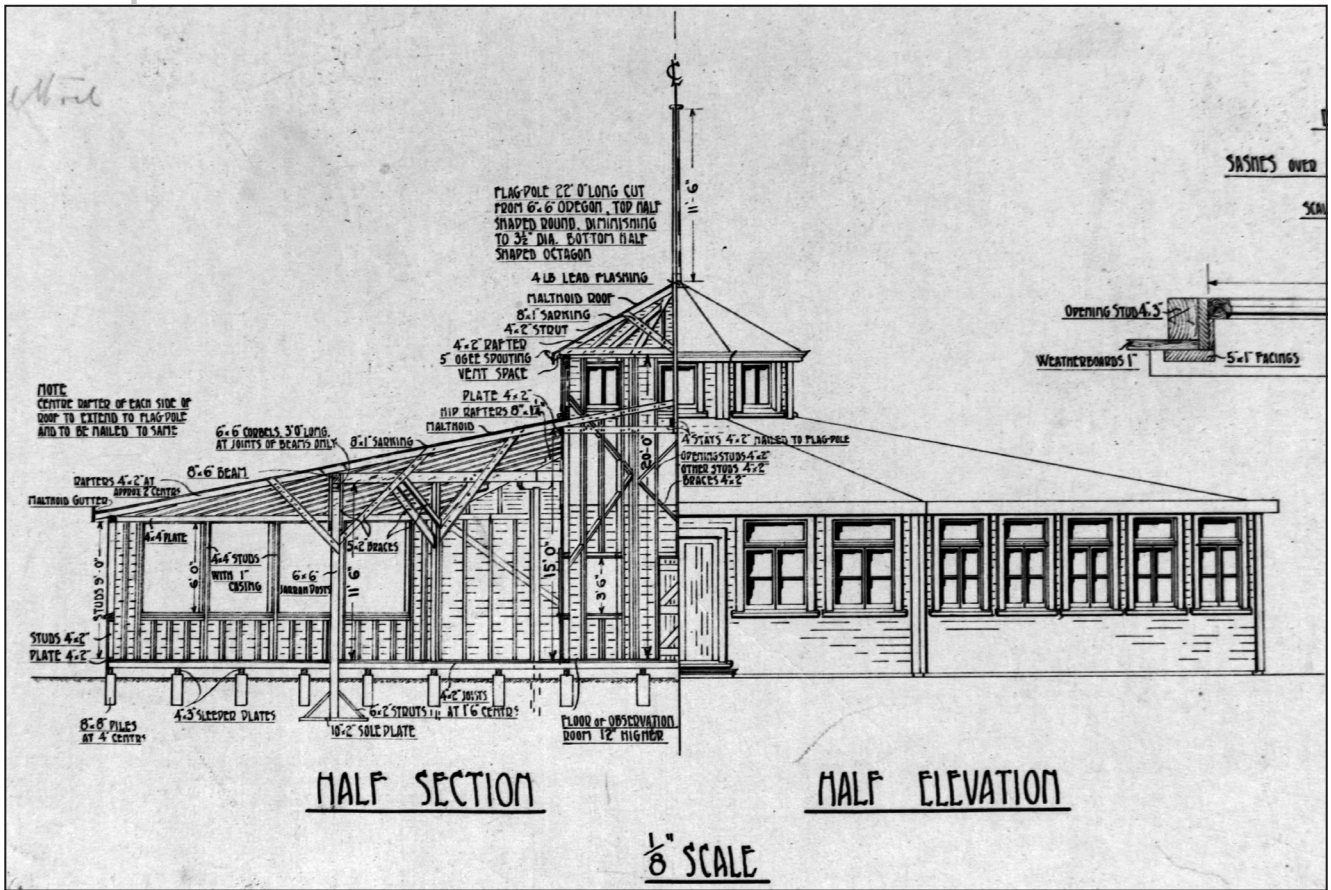
The district's first military hospital opened at the Tauherenikau Racecourse on 12 July 1915, to treat the men at Tauherenikau Camp who were suffering from respiratory illnesses contracted at Trentham. Those more seriously ill were moved to Greytown Hospital for further treatment.⁹ The Works Branch laid out a wedge-shaped medical precinct at Featherston Camp in the spring of 1915. This included an octagonal 'rotunda' hospital, a medical inspection block, and buildings for storage, food preparation and accommodation. The Branch preserved a belt of trees along the block's eastern boundary, and laid out tidy pathways, neat lawns, shrubs and benches to provide a peaceful and attractive setting.¹⁰ A second rotunda ward was built facing the first in early 1916.¹¹



The camp hospital grounds, facing northwest towards the Salvation Army institute clock tower, c1917 (00-038-035, Wairarapa Archive)

The Featherston Camp medical section led a separate life from the rest of the camp, with its own accommodation, cookhouses and dining halls, and even its own drainage system. The two 'partly open-air type' rotunda hospital wards provided beds for 160 men.¹² Each building consisted of an octagonal observation room with a rectangular 'annexe' wing attached to one side. The northern ward (Hospital No. 1) contained a treatment room, bathroom, kitchen and storage room, and a series of smaller wards. Hospital No. 2 contained an operating theatre and three other wards.¹³ These buildings embraced the 'open-air' treatment philosophy of the era, combating respiratory illnesses in part by ensuring a constant supply of fresh air. The rotunda wards featured 'open sides that can be closed as desired, so that there is an abundance of fresh air for patients at all times.'¹⁴

Medical staff inspected all new recruits on arrival for signs of illness, and daily sick parades provided an opportunity for men in the ranks to step forward for treatment. An orderly corporal toured the huts and tents to note their names, and these men reported to the medical hut for inspection and treatment. 'The total number attending sick parade each morning is considerable', wrote Stanbrook, 'because the men are impressed with the necessity of reporting sick if they have the slightest thing wrong with them.'¹⁵ In 1917, 6277 men were admitted to hospital.¹⁶ Patients assembled at the medical inspection block to be seen by a doctor in the examination room.¹⁷ The building was extended in 1916 to enlarge the waiting rooms and provide an office for a camp chiropodist.¹⁸ The camp also provided an inhaling-chamber in which men with colds could have their throats sprayed with the drug chloramine T, a treatment that was soon said to be achieving 'remarkable results'.¹⁹ By 1917 the camp had its own Bacteriological Laboratory.²⁰



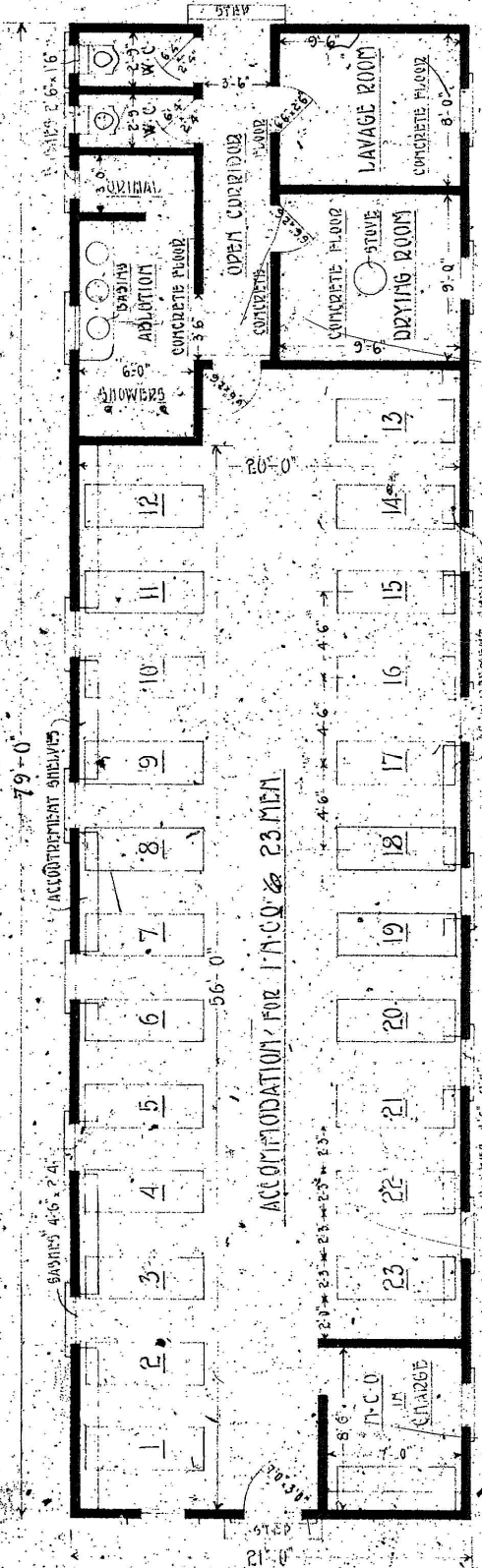
A detail from the architect's plan of the Featherston Camp rotunda wards, October 1915 (PWD plan 38960, W5 505 38960 pt 2, Archives NZ)

The Defence Department established the New Zealand Dental Corps in November 1915 to treat soldiers' teeth both before and during combat. Many recruits were turned away from service because of the state of their teeth, and the military dentists worked hard to provide basic treatment that would allow the men to enlist.²¹ Heavy demand for dental treatment overwhelmed the camp's six-chair dental surgery, and the Works Branch doubled its size in April 1916.²² By 1917 the camp surgery employed 13 officers and 39 NCOs.²³

The prevalence of venereal disease (VD) amongst soldiers – both returned servicemen and recruits fresh from the civilian community – led to the establishment of a VD 'lock hospital' at Featherston Camp in mid-1916. As the war progressed and the supply of fresh recruits grew harder to maintain, the army committed itself to treating recruits with venereal disease rather than turning them away on medical grounds. The 23-bed building, based on the hutment design, was fenced off from visitors and fitted with separate toilets, showers and drying rooms to isolate contagion.²⁴ Hiley insisted that the lock hospital be surrounded by an 'insurmountable' 7 ft (2.1 m) barbed wire fence, with only one gate for access.²⁵ Those who couldn't be treated at Featherston were despatched to Quarantine Island in Otago Harbour for further treatment.²⁶

FEATHERSTON CAMP

HUT FOR VENEREAL PATIENTS



PLAN

SCALE 8 FEET TO AN INCH

TO BE ERRECTED IN A SIMILAR
MANNER TO MEN'S HUT P.W.D. 38360

P.W.D. 40302

Ward for venereal patients at Featherston Camp, surrounded by a seven foot high barbed wire fence (P.W.D. plan 40302, ABZK W5433 box 31, Archives NZ)

The Defence Department built an isolation ward complex at the southern end of the camp in early 1917. The Evening Post reported in January 1917 that the hospital was:

intended specially to provide for measles cases, and there will be an annexe for the reception of cerebro-spinal meningitis patients whom it is considered desirable to isolate. The hospital should be erected within three months, and should thus be available before the winter months produce their normal increase in the amount of sickness among the troops.²⁷

Seasonal illness persisted despite these precautions, though outbreaks on the scale of the Trentham epidemic were avoided (at least until the 1918 influenza pandemic). Deaths remained relatively rare, given the large number of men passing through the camp:

Figure 3: Deaths at Featherston Camp, 1916–1918²⁸

Year	Disease	Accident	Suicide
1916	37	1	2
1917	17	5	7
1918	172	1	1
TOTAL	226	7	10

NB: around 60,000 men in total trained at Featherston Camp during these three years



Featherston Camp dental surgery, complete with a decorative rockery made by the men (00-038-133, Wairarapa Archive)

Tauherenikau Camp hospitals

Several small hospital facilities monitored the health of those based at Tauherenikau Camp. The Tauherenikau Racecourse hospital remained open throughout the war, and the Department extended the racecourse totalizator building in 1916 to accommodate 30 patients.²⁹ Tauherenikau Camp also had its own Isolation Camp on the opposite side of the road. With a frontage of 8 chains (161 m) and covering about 10 acres (4 ha), this land was leased initially from landowner A.W. Wilkinson and subsequently from the Public Trust on behalf of his estate.³⁰ The Isolation Camp centred on a medical hut which included an inhaling room, an inspection room, a dispensary, and doctors' and orderlies' quarters. A two-bed ward could accommodate urgent cases before they were transported to the hospital at Featherston Camp.³¹ 641 men passed through the Isolation Camp in 1917 alone.³² The Department's use in 1917 of Tauherenikau as a segregation camp to separate new (and potentially ill) recruits from the rest of the troops is discussed in Chapter 7.

1918 influenza pandemic

The 1918 influenza pandemic which claimed around 8000 lives in New Zealand, killed 284 men in New Zealand training camps – including 172 at Featherston Camp.³³ The first signs of illness occurred at the Tauherenikau C1 Camp, where men who had arrived from Auckland on 24 October for fitness training (see Chapter 7) began to show signs of illness. Lieutenant-Colonel R.J. Makgill attributed this outbreak to overcrowding on the troop train that brought the men south. The numbers of the ill grew steadily in late October. The pandemic hit Featherston Camp with full force when the men returned from weekend leave on 4 November – the camp doctors recorded 137 new cases that day. The number of new cases climbed each day, peaking at 418 on the 7th, after an exceptionally stormy night on which many camp buildings and tents were wrecked by wind. This led to the men being crowded into small spaces, accelerating the spread of disease.³⁴

With sick men swamping the camp's hospital facilities, the authorities quickly converted the camp institutes, 43 of the hutments and other large buildings into temporary hospital wards. All training stopped, as the doctors called in healthy men from the reinforcements to replace the medical staff as they fell ill – 11 of the 21 nurses were sick at one point. The doctors treated the worst cases in the rotunda hospitals and isolation hospitals, with other buildings dedicated to men in various phases of illness and recovery. They treated the sick men with sodium salicylate and shots of liquor. 'Alcohol (*e.g.* whisky, brandy, or rum) in my opinion proved of great value in the epidemic, and I am convinced that many lives

were saved and illnesses averted by its use during the epidemic in camp', wrote the camp's Principal Medical Officer.³⁵ The total number of ill men peaked at 2462 on 11 November, and gradually declined thereafter.³⁶ The camp hospitals treated 3174 men during November, but admitted only six new cases in December (when most men had left).³⁷ In late 1919 the names the men who died at camp during the pandemic were added to the memorial at Featherston Cemetery commemorating those who died during training at Featherston.³⁸



Memorial to men who died at Featherston Camp, Featherston Cemetery, October 2010 (*Bargas & Shoebridge/MCH*)

5 Camp life

Camp facilities had few home comforts, and this was not only in the interests of economy. The camp helped enforce the communal living and thinking of military life by ensuring men trained, ate, washed and slept at close quarters and in large numbers. Such conditions were not enforced on officers or civilians, who had partitioned sleeping quarters and relatively private dining, washing and ablution facilities.



Daily hutment inspection at Featherston Camp (00-038-006, Wairarapa Archive)

Hutments and Canvas Camp

The hutments built at Trentham between March and July 1915 provided a basic template for those designed for Featherston Camp shortly afterwards. The Trentham hutments had been loosely based on photographs of hutments built by the British army in 1914. The Department employed a group of civil, medical and military experts to design a hutment for local conditions, briefing them to maximise space and ensure a healthy living environment. The Trentham huts, which were 140 ft (42.7 m) long by 22 ft (6.7 m) wide, were used to accommodate 100 men in two compartments of 50, despite contemporary British military thinking that each compartment was suitable for only 30. The huts were clad in corrugated iron. The men dined in the hutments and slept on the floor on straw-stuffed mattresses. A four-inch (10 cm) gap running the full length of the eaves ensured a constant supply of fresh air. The camp lacked drying facilities so clothes remained wet, and mud was walked into the huts onto the surfaces on which men slept. The Trentham Camp Commission

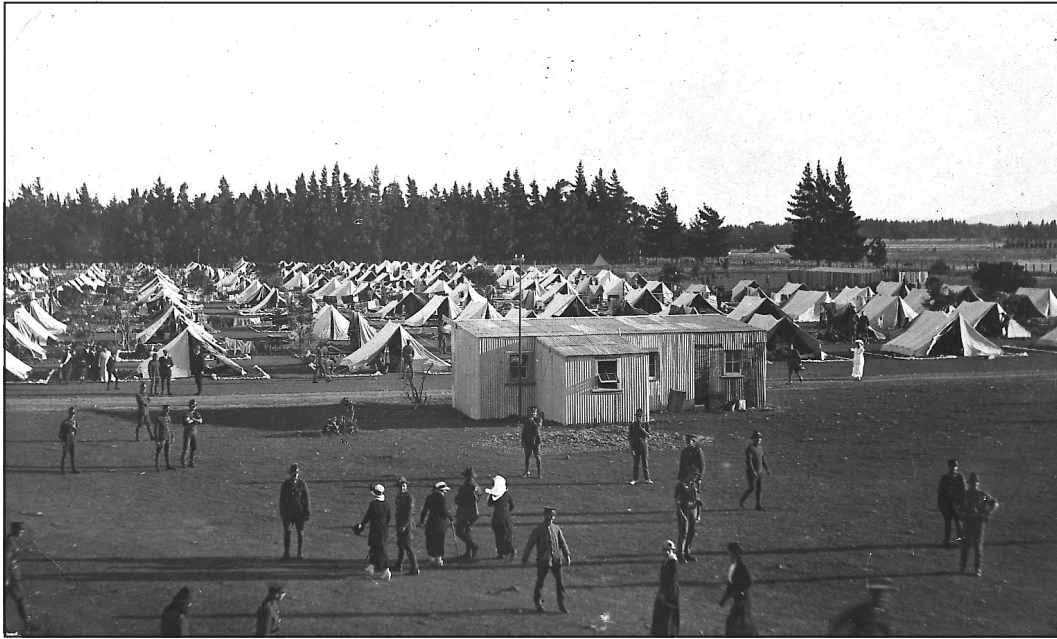
found that the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions had contributed to the men's poor health and aided the rapid spread of respiratory disease.¹

The Featherston plans drawn up in August 1915 showed that the Defence Department had absorbed the lessons from Trentham. The Featherston huts would be smaller – 120 ft (36.6 m) by 20 ft (6 m) – and house half the number of men. Each hut was divided into two 24-man sleeping compartments, with an NCO in a separate cubicle in the corner. Each man had a wooden stretcher lined with a straw-stuffed mattress. There was a shelf above his bed, and a space for a rifle and a pair of shoes beside it. A narrow central room fitted with a stove to dry wet uniforms bisected the sleeping compartments. In contrast to Trentham, the Featherston huts lacked trestle tables and chairs. Instead, the men ate in dining halls and spent their evenings in the church institutes.² Each of the sleeping compartments was considered a separate hut, so the hutments were numbered 1 to 180 despite there only being 90 separate buildings.³

The Works Branch painted the Featherston hutments cream with red facings, and fitted them with grey malthoid (tar matting) roofs.⁴ The huts were clad with unlined timber, which was thought to provide a warmer and more pleasant living environment than Trentham's corrugated iron. The ventilation gaps in the eaves were reduced in size, and 12 large windows in each sleeping compartment allowed in plenty of light.⁵ The recruits competed daily to have the cleanest and most orderly hut, with the reward of a silver cup and sometimes a small increase in their leave allowance.⁶



50 men slept in each hutment, which was divided into two compartments separated by a central drying room
(00-038-015, Wairarapa Archive)



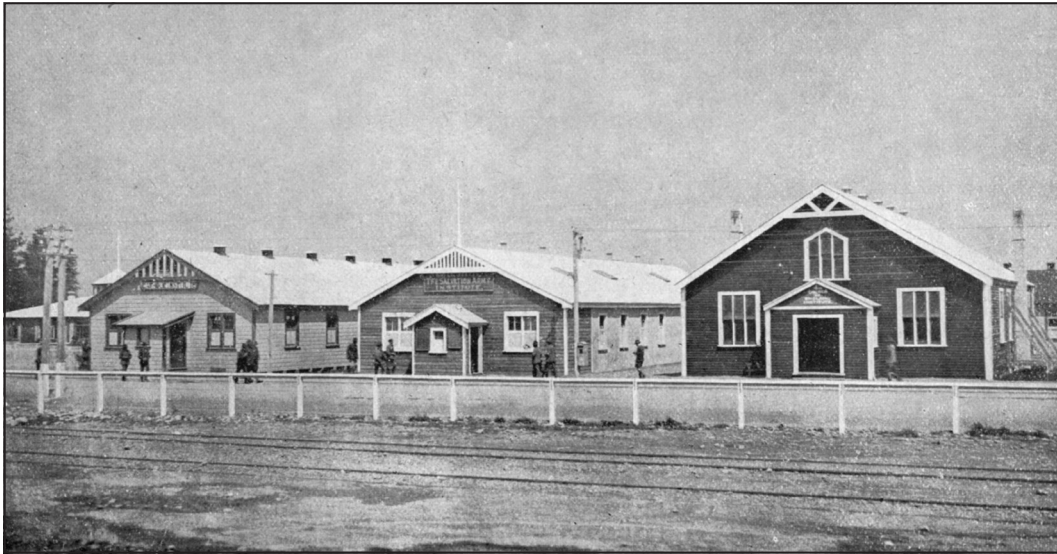
Canvas Camp, facing south-west (00-038-126, Wairarapa Archive)

The layout of the sleeping quarters for other personnel was less concerned with familiarising the occupants with communal living and military discipline. Sixteen officers' hutments on the boundaries of the hutment camp each accommodated 10 officers in separate sleeping cubicles. Each officers' hut had an ablution room and showers.⁷ The accommodation for orderlies fell between these two extremes, with sleeping quarters for 24 adjoining central ablution and shower rooms.⁸ Huts for civilian employees provided sometimes quite spacious and private sleeping quarters.⁹

The camp authorities regarded Canvas Camp as a separate camp with its own amenities and leadership, even though it adjoined the main hutment camp. It had its own dining halls, cookhouses, ablution blocks, drying rooms, and ASC store.¹⁰ Recruits spent most of their time at Featherston sleeping in hutments, before being shifted to tents for the last phase 'to harden [them] up for the more strenuous work ahead.'¹¹ Canvas Camp accommodated 2500 rank and file men in eight-man tents with wooden bases that kept them off the ground. Stanbrook noted in 1917 that the tents had been 'laid out in the ordered exactness of a model township'.¹² The men gathered and whitewashed large stones, which they used to surround their tents, line pathways and create decorative rock gardens. The stones also helped to shelter the men from the prevailing high winds.¹³

Church institutes

Featherston Camp's four church institutes provided the soldiers with a place to relax, write letters, play indoor games and attend concerts, lectures and religious services. The evangelical Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) had operated spaces for letter-writing and recreation at pre-war Territorial training camps, and got permission to establish a



The Catholic Institute, Salvation Army Institute (before its clocktower was added in mid-1917), and Church of England Institute, c1917. The United Institute stood behind these buildings. (*Stanbrook*)

facility at Trentham when this opened as a permanent camp in late 1914.¹⁴ By June 1915 Trentham could boast a further five institutes, operated by the Salvation Army, the Church of England, and the Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches.¹⁵ These groups also maintained institutes under canvas at Territorial training camps during the war.¹⁶ The Defence Department agreed to construct buildings for each group with camp labour, provided the churches covered the cost of construction and ongoing operational expenses.¹⁷

Several of the churches decided to extend their operations to Featherston Camp while it was being planned in the spring of 1915. The Church of England built a smaller version of a large new institute that was being built at Trentham.¹⁸ The Public Works draughtsmen drew up a standard church institute plan for use at Featherston. The Salvation Army adopted this for its institute, which was built by the Works Branch in late 1915 or early 1916 (a clocktower was added in mid-1917).¹⁹ The Catholic Church adopted the same stock plan for its institute, which was built after the camp had opened.²⁰ The YMCA combined with the Church of Christ and the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Congregational churches to fund the construction of a huge three-halled building behind the three other institutes. This 'United Institute' opened in May 1916.²¹ The Defence Department agreed to carry out ongoing maintenance work on the institute buildings, which had cost it £11,096 7s 5d (equivalent to nearly \$1.1 million in 2010) by the end of the war.²²

Men of any (or no) religious belief were welcome in all the institutes, though each housed a chaplain for the relevant denomination and a chapel for worship. The chaplains led church services and parades each Sunday, provided spiritual counsel to individuals, and visited the sick in hospital. Some men sought to reinvigorate their faith through confirmation before facing the front, while others asked the chaplains to witness their wills – or even granted them power of attorney in case they returned incapacitated.²³ The institutes provided a

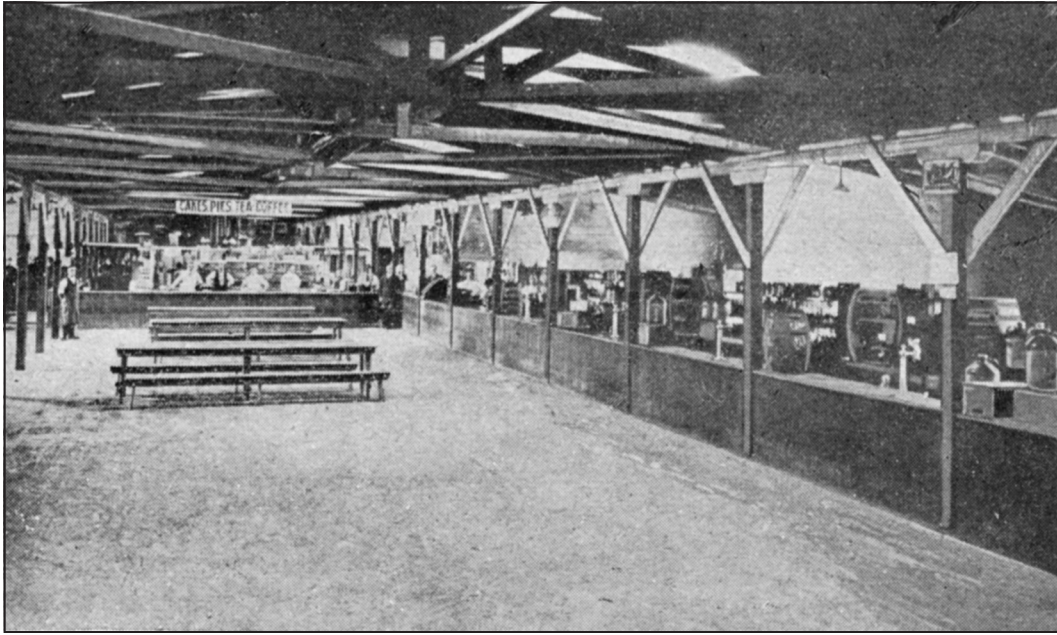
space for social activity and entertainment as well as quiet reflection. All offered a variety of indoor games ranging from billiards and playing cards to shuffleboard, draughts and ping-pong.²⁴ Travelling musicians and local patriotic societies staged concerts in the institutes, and visiting speakers lectured the men on a variety of religious, secular and military topics. The public donated books and magazines to the institute libraries, while the churches provided writing paper and envelopes so the men could keep in touch with family and friends. They penned hundreds of thousands of such letters each year.²⁵

Soldiers' Club and Officers' Club

In late 1915 the government agreed to split the cost of building extensive and well-equipped soldiers' and officers' clubs at Trentham and Featherston camps with local patriotic societies. These clubs, which filled the same purpose as the church institutes, were operated by the YMCA. The Wairarapa Patriotic Association and the government each paid half of the £1200 (\$157,000 in 2010) construction bill for the Featherston Soldiers' Club, which opened with the rest of the camp in January 1916.²⁶ Far larger than the church institutes, the Soldiers' Club comprised a concert hall, a reading and writing room, and a 'social room', and was managed by a live-in caretaker.²⁷ The building was subsequently extended to provide separate spaces for noisy games such as billiards and ping-pong and quieter games like draughts and chess.²⁸



Soldiers' Club, Featherston Camp (1/2-006886-G, Alexander Turnbull Library)



Interior of Featherston Camp canteen, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

The Officers' Club was similarly spacious, and included the officers' dining hall.²⁹ Stanbrook described the building's slightly different function from that of the men's institutes and Soldiers' Club:

The spacious dining-room seats 200 officers comfortably, and the arrangement of the adjoining kitchen and pantries enables the staff to serve meals to this large number without any loss of time. Leading off the mess-room is the ante-room, with its easy chairs and open fireplace, and next to this is the billiard-room. Here there are three well-lighted tables and all the required fittings. The room also contains a piano and an abundance of easy chairs, while opening onto it is the bar, where soft drinks and smokes are on sale. The writing-room is in a small wing apart, and provides a quiet retreat to which the officers can retire after their strenuous day in the field and attend to their mail.³⁰

Canteen and shops

The men could buy extra food and other goods at the camp canteen with their weekly allowance of 4s (\$20–\$25). At 208 feet (63.4 m) long by 52 feet (15.8 m) wide, the canteen was one of the camp's largest and most conspicuous buildings.³¹ Stanbrook noted: 'At the canteen the soldier is able to buy clothing, toilet requisites, fruit, soft drinks, all kinds of tinned goods, cigarettes and various tobaccos, stationery, hot tea and coffee, cakes and meat pies – in short, the canteen has nearly everything for the man who has money to spend.'³² An on-site bakery provided fresh food.³³ One thing the canteen could not sell was alcohol. From February 1915 it was illegal to sell alcohol to soldiers in uniform except to drink on the premises where they were sold, and from November 1915 it was illegal for anyone to possess alcohol on the grounds of a military camp.³⁴ The Defence Department initially

contracted private operators to run the canteen, but cancelled the contract early in 1918 so that it could be run by C2 men (those classified medically unfit for military service) on behalf of the Department. This both lowered prices for the soldier and generated some income for the Department.³⁵

The Department also allowed private businesses to operate in the grounds of the camp. The shopkeepers paid both rent and trading rights to the Department, and opened at times prescribed by the camp authorities (7–8.30 a.m., 12–1.30 p.m. and 4.30–9.30 p.m. on weekdays; 12–9.30 p.m. on Saturdays).³⁶ This arrangement provided basic services to the recruits and also helped meet the huge costs of operating a military camp.³⁷ By May 1916 the shopkeepers at Trentham and Featherston camps had collectively paid the Department £20,750 (equivalent to more than \$2.6 million in 2010) in rent and trading rights.³⁸ The shops at Featherston included military outfitters, bootmakers, a laundromat, baths, a watchmaker and jeweller, a hairdresser, a bowling alley, and a recreational indoor rifle range.³⁹

Camp and community

Recruits at Featherston Camp had many opportunities to interact with the outside world during their training. The camp opened its gates to visitors between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Outside these times the permission of the camp headquarters was needed.⁴⁰ The recruits could also apply for leave from camp on certain evenings and weekends, in addition to their week-long home leave in the final weeks of training. A special train carried men to Masterton on Wednesday evenings, Saturday afternoons, or for the weekend, and another took men to Wellington for the weekend.⁴¹ Masterton residents billeted soldiers on weekend leave, and Wednesdays featured weekly ‘evening entertainments’ at the Masterton Town Hall (Opera House).⁴²

The men could similarly apply for weekend leave in Wellington. Camp rules allowed them to visit Featherston or Tauherenikau during their time off without applying for leave, so long as they were back in camp by the allotted hour.⁴³ The men regularly visited Featherston and other neighbouring towns for food, companionship and entertainment, generating a lively taxi trade centred on the camp. ‘Dozens of motor-cars ply for hire between the township and the camp, carrying officers and men who are going on leave or returning’, observed the *Evening Post* in September 1916. ‘The taxi business is booming at Featherston.’⁴⁴ The camp standing orders strictly regulated the fares taxi drivers could charge, the authorities evidently fearing exploitation.⁴⁵ The recruits were soon a familiar sight around the towns, particularly Featherston.

On certain nights the township is painted – not red, but khaki. In the quiet streets where in peace times one would meet no one there are now to be seen everywhere groups of soldiers. They are not boisterous, nor given to larrikinism; that the townspeople have learnt. If they are rowdy at all it is among themselves; to civilians they are quiet and peaceable. They take their fill of enjoyment, but they do not worry other people. In Featherston there are two hotels. Before the war they were quiet, country hostelries.



The main road and railway bisecting Featherston Camp, showing the camp shops and the Salvation Army Institute clocktower in the centre, c1917 (00-038-014, Wairarapa Archive)

Now they are crowded nightly, but with sober, orderly men. The military authorities have ample powers to control such establishments so far as soldiers are concerned, but the Featherston hotels, being well managed, have not called for the exercise of such powers. The soldiers, too, show little disposition to abuse their freedom. They may take a “spot,” but that is not their only pleasure. In the parlour of one hotel is a piano, and on it the accompaniment to many a song and chorus has been strummed.⁴⁶

The Featherston Camp Military Police took charge of maintaining order while the men were out and about, posting pickets (or ‘picquets’) in Featherston when the men were allowed to visit the township, and accompanying troop trains to Masterton and Wellington.⁴⁷ The camp guards took charge of the occasional man who returned to camp drunk or outside the regulation hours, giving them a night in the guardhouse cells.⁴⁸

The Featherston community rallied to provide facilities for the men training in their neighbourhood. A committee met in March 1916 with a plan to build a soldiers’ club in Featherston township, to be funded by the district’s old-established settlers. They raised £3450 (equivalent to \$435,000 in 2010) by subscription, the entire cost of construction. Minister of Defence James Allen officially opened the ‘Anzac Club’ in October 1916. The club hosted dances, dinners and other social occasions, and the men could play billiards or the piano.⁴⁹

6 Featherston Camp after the Armistice

Hospital and prison, 1918–1920

The demobilisation of Featherston Camp commenced shortly after news of the Armistice reached New Zealand on 12 November 1918. Influenza remained prevalent in the camp, with 1200 men in hospital and another 1200 convalescing. This distracted the camp's administration from the big job of discharging the men.¹ The healthy men seeking discharge paraded for medical inspection, returned their kit to the quartermaster, and called at the pay office to receive their final pay. The *New Zealand Times* reported in early December:

The parade grounds are empty, and the rifles are leaning idly against the wall. ... The camp is fast emptying. Tents in canvas camp are being taken down, and stretches of bare ground mark the place where recruits were initiated into army discipline and life under canvas. ... The camp strength decreases by about 500 per day, and soon there will be but a small maintenance staff left. ... The camp shops are "cutting" their prices, and instead of khaki clothes and badges they display "civvies" for the soldier customers. Grey felts take the place of forage caps, and ties and collars stand where lanyards and puttees were displayed formerly. The camp life, which has lasted four long years, shows signs of a gradual death, and very soon the last man will saunter out of the gates with his pack on his back, and his face turned towards home.²

All but a few of the recruits had left by early December.³ The only men to stay behind were those still afflicted with influenza and other chronic ailments.

Sitting about the [hospital] lawns and gardens is a quieter throng of men – wearing the conspicuous blue suit of the hospitals, and looking with wistful eyes at the stream of men going home. These are the fellows who have passed through the worst of the epidemic, and who are yet to know the part of the convalescent man, who is fed on special food. There are still some hundreds of men in the hospitals, but they are doing well. Some still are listed as "serious," and anxious relatives await the turning point which is to decide.⁴

Patients with consumption or heart problems were not alone at Featherston Camp during the year after the Armistice. In the wake of the influenza pandemic, the Health Department demanded that the Defence Department vacate the quarantine islands it had used during the war. Thousands of men would be returning from Europe within a few months, and the country's quarantine stations would need to be functioning to protect the general population from diseases they might bring back with them.⁵ The Defence Department announced

that the soldiers afflicted with VD who were being treated at Quarantine Island would henceforth be treated at Featherston Camp. Wairarapa residents were outraged about 'this class of soldier being located within short distance of a centre of population,' though the camp had, in fact, housed a VD 'lock hospital' since mid-1916. Many feared that diseased and dissolute men would run amok in the community and infect public toilets with contagion.⁶ Allen tried to diffuse the panic by refuting a rumour that 200 men 'suffering from venereal disease in a most aggravated and repulsive form' were to descend on the community – there were only 36 mildly afflicted men, who wouldn't be released until cured.⁷

The Defence Department also moved 300 prisoners of war from the quarantine station on Somes Island in Wellington Harbour to Featherston Camp in mid-December. This apparently caused no particular concern to the community – even when six POWs escaped for several days in April 1919.⁸ Around 160 POWs were sent back to Germany on the *Willochra* that month. Those who wished to remain in New Zealand had to wait for the Versailles peace treaty to come into effect before they could be released from military prison.⁹ In December, six months after the signing of the treaty, the prison camp was still in existence. The Department now planned to send more men home to Europe and release others back into New Zealand communities 'on parole'.¹⁰ A dozen men were still imprisoned at Featherston Camp in April 1920. 'For what reason do they keep just a few men locked up all day in a small house, without a proper exercise ground, and thus almost drive them mad in this dreadful monotonous place?', one of them asked the weekly newspaper *New Zealand Truth* that month. A Defence Department spokesman blamed the delays on 'factors outside their control', such as the 'impracticality' of repatriating men to Russia.¹¹

The Department decided in December 1919 to convert Featherston Camp's hutments into a storage facility for the 'many thousands of tons' of New Zealand Division equipment which was gradually trickling back from Europe. The 120 remaining hospital patients would be moved to newly-opened military hospitals elsewhere in the country. The closure of the prisoner of war camp was imminent.¹² "Diggers" who were in the Featherston camp at the time of the armistice would hardly recognise it now as the same place', remarked a columnist in Nelson's *Colonist*. 'All the flower plots so carefully attended by fatigue parties are over-grown with weeds, and the whitewashed stones are scattered about in all directions by cattle.'¹³

Last years of Featherston Camp, 1920–1927

In 1920–21 the Defence Department faced the question of how to reorganise its war-time facilities to suit the needs of peacetime. It decided to focus its activities around three military districts, Northern Command (based at Ngaruawahia), Central Command (based at Trentham), and Southern Command (based at Burnham). Each base would include a mobilisation camp and an ordnance depot. Trentham's more convenient location made it an easy choice for the Central Command depot, which left the Department to decide what



Kaiwaiwai Hall, formerly part of the Soldiers' Club, Featherston Camp, October 2010 (see p.40) (Bargas & Shoebridge/MCH)

to do with the vast complex of buildings and facilities at Featherston. In July 1920, Major-General G.S. Richardson suggested that part of Featherston Camp should be retained for storage purposes until a new depot could be built at a more suitable location. Much of the camp could be dismantled, and the buildings sold off.¹⁴ The Department announced in October 1920 that the camp would soon close. By 1923 it planned to keep the camp in use only until the ordnance buildings at the new Ngaruawahia camp were completed.¹⁵

The Department decided to sell the camp buildings off in stages, retaining those needed for storage and to accommodate a skeleton administrative and maintenance staff. The buildings would be offered for tender, with government departments given the first option, followed by returned servicemen. The Public Works Department offered more than 120 of the buildings for sale between October 1920 and August 1922. Local soldier settlers purchased many for farm buildings, while others found new uses around southern Wairarapa as church and community halls. Some were demolished and the timber sold.¹⁶ The Kahutara Hall Committee purchased the Soldiers' Club for £300 (equivalent to \$27,200 in 2010) in July 1922. One wing became the Kahutara Hall, another the Kaiwaiwai Hall. Hutment 84 was converted into the Presbyterian Sunday School in Martinborough the same year.¹⁷ The Chanak Crisis of late 1922 prompted the Department to halt the sale of camp buildings lest the country need to mobilise once again.¹⁸

Featherston Camp entered its final stages in 1926. Major Edward Puttick noted in August 1926 that he expected the site to be completely cleared of buildings by 1 November. 'I may say it is the intention of the Department to retain the land owned by it in the meantime possibly for an aircraft landing ground. It is extremely improbable that the area



Kahutara Hall, another section of the Featherston Camp Soldiers' Club, October 2010 (*Bargas & Shoebridge/MCH*)

will ever be used for camping purposes.¹⁹ The Department had leased the site for grazing in July 1926, and it sold the powerhouse machinery and most of the remaining 75 buildings the following month.²⁰ These included 35½ hutment buildings and a variety of workshops, storage and administrative buildings. Four hutments were relocated to the army base at Fort Dorset in Wellington, and the Agriculture and Prisons departments bought several workshops and storage buildings.²¹ The water supply system was left in place for the benefit of local farmers, though the Department would no longer maintain it.²² The railway siding was pulled up in August 1927 for reuse in the Palmerston North Railway Deviation.²³ The Featherston War Memorial, which was unveiled on Anzac Day 1927 (25 April), was partially built of the river stones which marked so many men's experience of Featherston and Tauherenikau camps.²⁴

The site since 1927

The government reoccupied the site of the main Featherston Camp hutment camp (section 575) in September 1942 for use as a prisoner of war camp for Japanese work crews and military personnel who had been captured by American forces at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. These men were housed in wooden barracks buildings constructed on top of the concrete remains of the First World War camp. The perimeter was secured by high barbed-wire fences. An incident at the camp on 25 February 1943 culminated in the deaths of 48 prisoners and a guard. The surviving prisoners embarked for the Japanese port of Yokohama on 30 December 1945. A detailed examination of this phase of the site's occupation is outside the scope of this report.²⁵



The site of Featherston Camp in November 1941, less than a year before the Japanese prisoner of war camp was built on the site. The camp's water-race filter-bed is visible in the top-centre of the photo. (AALJ W3492 2, Archives NZ)

The government retained ownership of most of the site after 1945, leasing the land for grazing. It sold the northern part of the main camp to a neighbouring farmer in 1960, and the rest of the main camp and the hospital/institute block on the south side of the road to private owners in 1990.²⁶ The Greytown Returned Services' Association organised a memorial to the First World War camp on the site of the canteen in the late 1970s. A Japanese Peace Garden commemorating the prisoner of war camp was created in 2001.²⁷



The modern rest stop at Featherston Camp, on the site of the old canteen, barber's shop, and tea rooms, October 2010 (*Bargas & Shoebridge/MCH*)

7 The satellite camps



Tauherenikau Camp (00-038-114, *Wairarapa Archive*)

Tauherenikau Camp

Situated on flat land near both the Wellington–Napier railway line and the Papawai rifle range, with a ready source of water and ground which drained easily, Tauherenikau Camp was an ideal site except for the high winds which whipped through it. A nearby site had been successfully used as an officer training camp in 1911, convincing the Defence Department of the area's suitability for an overflow camp in the aftermath of the Trentham epidemic.¹ Groups of reinforcements descended on the site from 9 July 1915, for a period of two weeks that was soon extended. The landowner, Herbert Linscott Williams, initially leased 30–40 acres (12–16 ha) to the Department. This was increased to 350 acres (142 ha) after the Department decided the camp would remain in use until Featherston Camp opened. Williams' paddock would be used as a camp and training ground until December 1915 (while Featherston Camp was being built), and as a part-time training ground only from January 1916 until the end of the war.²

The men drilled on parade grounds adjoining their camp, and learnt elementary musketry at the Papawai Rifle Range before returning to Trentham for advanced musketry training.³ They laid out basic roadways and footpaths with gravel from the nearby riverbed, and surrounded their tents with painted white stones. The camp drew water from an artesian well, and a cookhouse and washing-up houses were soon built to serve the men in tents.⁴ The

nearby Tauherenikau racecourse buildings became a makeshift hospital, while severe illnesses were treated at Greytown.⁵ The men soon had the choice of several church institutes at the camp.⁶ An *Evening Post* reporter described Tauherenikau Camp in September 1915:

The tents, with plenty of room in between, have been erected in groups for each company, under the shelter of manuka patches or hedges, and there being more than sufficient ground available, are changed to new sites at regular intervals, so that the ground occupied is always sweet and clean. ... [S]pecial attention has been paid to sanitation and the draining away of the water used for ablution, bathing, and cooking purposes. The latrine arrangements designed by the Camp Commandant and the principal medical officer are particularly good for a temporary camp, and the same remark may be applied to the disposal of the ablution, bathing, and washing up water, which, after passing through filter-beds, is pumped a considerable distance, where it is allowed to filter away. A special building has also been erected where, with hot and cold water laid on, the men may get hot baths in large galvanised iron tubs.⁷

The politician T.E.Y. Seddon was in Tauherenikau Camp with the 9th Reinforcements in late 1915.

Eight of us shared a tent. The winds blew and blew, and in the morning often we would wake to find the tent poles had pierced the canvas top, the cold canvas falling as poor comfort on eight tired forms. It was hard work in Tauherenikau Camp. Early morning physical drill, instruction in musketry, platoon drill, and supervision by strict officers and N.C.O.s of our detailing what we had learnt to units of fellow recruits, made the days speed along while the nights were given up to more study of drill books.⁸

After the 1400 men stationed at Tauherenikau marched to the new Featherston Camp on 24 January 1916, Tauherenikau reverted to a training ground.⁹ The site was largely unoccupied over the following eight months. When H.L. Williams complained in July 1916 that the Featherston men had constructed unauthorised trenches and wells in the camp paddock, and left rubbish lying around which could injure his stock, the Department agreed to maintain the property better.¹⁰ Tauherenikau Camp was revived in August 1916 when a minor health scare at Trentham Camp prompted a temporary reduction in numbers there.¹¹ It remained in intermittent use over the following 10 months.¹²

Tauherenikau Camp entered a new phase in June 1917, when the Defence Department reopened it as a 'segregation camp' (or 'winter camp'). The Director-General of Medical Services explained the camp's objective in his 1917 report:

The Tauherenikau Camp is a segregation camp formed for the use, especially during the winter months, of recruits during their first month of service, that being the most susceptible period of their training. Coming in as they do from all parts of the country, and having been possibly in contact with infectious diseases, it has been considered advisable to segregate them ... until the longest period of any incubation of any infectious disease is over.¹³

This would hopefully shield the large numbers of men in the main camps from new ailments brought in from the general population. The camp would also separate the men



Roadways, building foundations, and what appears to be the remains of training trenches are still visible at the site of Tauherenikau Camp (*Bargas & Shoebidge/MCH*)

from each other while they were actually in residence. The paddock would be divided into four camps, 200 ft (61 m) apart, each with its own cookhouse, ration store, drying-room, showers, and latrines.¹⁴ As the men could mingle in the canteen and the three church institutes, these buildings were constructed on the model of ‘open air structures used in consumptive sanatoria.’ The Assistant Director of Medical Services acknowledged that the buildings ‘could not be held up as examples of comfort, yet they were habitable under even the worst conditions.’¹⁵ This new, more extensive use of the property finally prompted Williams to request that the Department purchase his whole farm, which he was struggling to work economically with soldiers coming and going. The Department bought the 570 acre (231 ha) property in December 1917.¹⁶

The segregation camp idea proved successful, but with the onset of warmer weather in November 1917 the Department decided to give the camp another new function – that of a C1 Camp.¹⁷ Men classed as C1 during their medical inspections were judged ‘likely to become fit for active service after special training’, and the C1 Camp was effectively a boot camp for increasing fitness.¹⁸ The camp subjected the men to a rigorous training regime, ‘a judicious blending of physical exercises, route marching, infantry training, and general fatigues.’¹⁹ Of the 7187 men who passed through the camp, 49.1% left fit enough to transfer to the reinforcements.²⁰ The camp employed 122 people during this period, from administrative clerks to cooks, carpenters, nurses and training instructors.²¹

A pig farm set up on the property in April 1918 helped dispose of food scraps and waste from both Featherston and Tauherenikau. The resulting pork was sold to earn money for

the Department. The acquisition of the Williams property also provided space to grow vegetables and carry out general farming to the benefit of the camp.²²

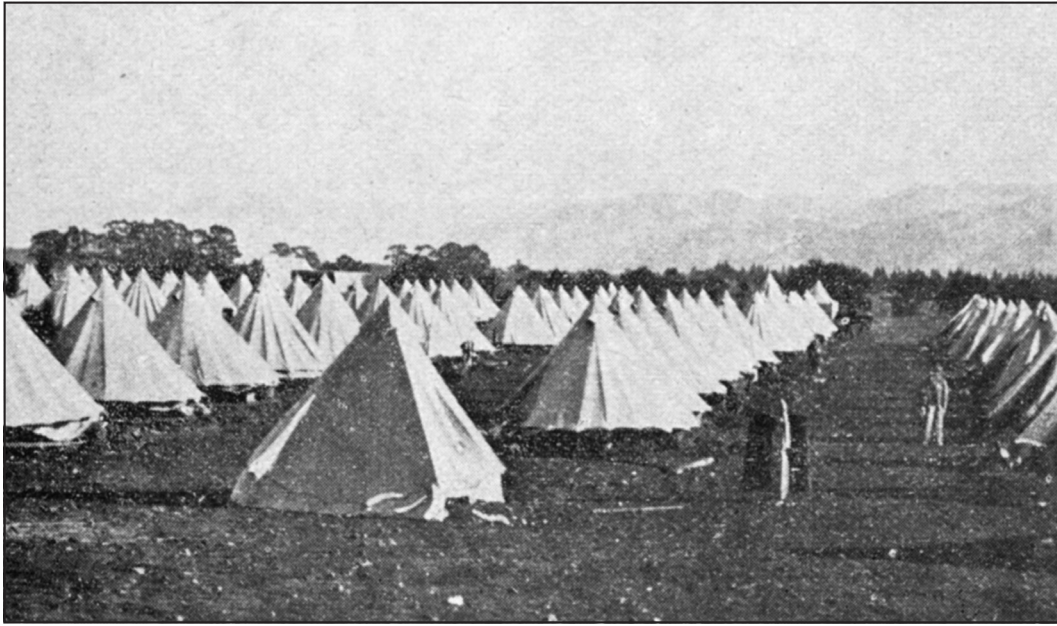
Tauherenikau Camp closed shortly before the armistice and was deserted by late December 1918.²³ The Repatriation Board, entrusted with rehabilitating returned servicemen into the civilian workforce, saw the property as an ideal training farm. While most ex-servicemen farm trainees received tuition at one of the existing Agriculture Department farms, these farms did not accept men with respiratory problems. The Repatriation Department took over the Tauherenikau lease in October 1919 as a special farm for treating such men, since 'the healthy climate of the Wairarapa renders the place specially suited to men susceptible to tubercular disease.'²⁴ The Department moved the Featherston Camp motor garage, butcher's shop, vegetable store, Principal Medical Officer's office, dental surgery and the annexe to hospital rotunda 1 to Tauherenikau as trainee quarters and farm buildings. Other buildings were constructed from Featherston Camp timber.²⁵ The accommodation was, naturally, set up on the 'fresh air principle', with the men sleeping in cubicles which opened onto a sun veranda. The farm also had a dining hall, a recreation room with billiard tables, flower beds, and electric lighting.²⁶

The men were trained in 'the lighter branches of farming', mainly market-gardening, bee-keeping, poultry-keeping, and pig-breeding.²⁷ By September 1921 they were also dressing sheep carcasses and tending to 300–400 fruit trees.²⁸ The demand for farm training gradually declined, and by June 1922 Tauherenikau was one of only two ex-serviceman training farms still operated by the Repatriation Department.²⁹ It closed in December 1922, and the government leased the property to farm manager John Brydon in April 1923 under a soldier-settler lease arrangement.³⁰ A subsequent lessee freeholded it in September 1953.³¹

Papawai Camp

The Papawai rifle range existed by February 1888, when the Greytown Rifles and Featherston Rifles held a shooting match there.³² It may date from the establishment of the Papawai (Native) Rifle Volunteer Company in February 1886.³³ The busy and politically influential Ngāti Kahungunu community based at Papawai Marae leased the land on which part of the range was situated to a Pākehā farmer.³⁴ The lessee, in turn, leased the range to the Wairarapa Rifle Association for competitions and general range shooting.³⁵ The range was popular and events there were well-attended.³⁶

The presence of the Papawai range was among the factors which led the Defence Department to select the Featherston district for its second major training camp in July 1915 (see Chapter 1). The men stationed at Tauherenikau Camp were using the 15-target range at Papawai by August 1915, and the Department soon set to work refitting it to suit the needs of the musketry training course.³⁷ The Department built wooden gratings in the target trench, a target shed, a building and turf mound at the firing line, and a magazine at the site.³⁸ The range and the grounds around them covered 226 acres (91.5 ha), and



Papawai Camp facing east, c1917 (*Stanbrook*)

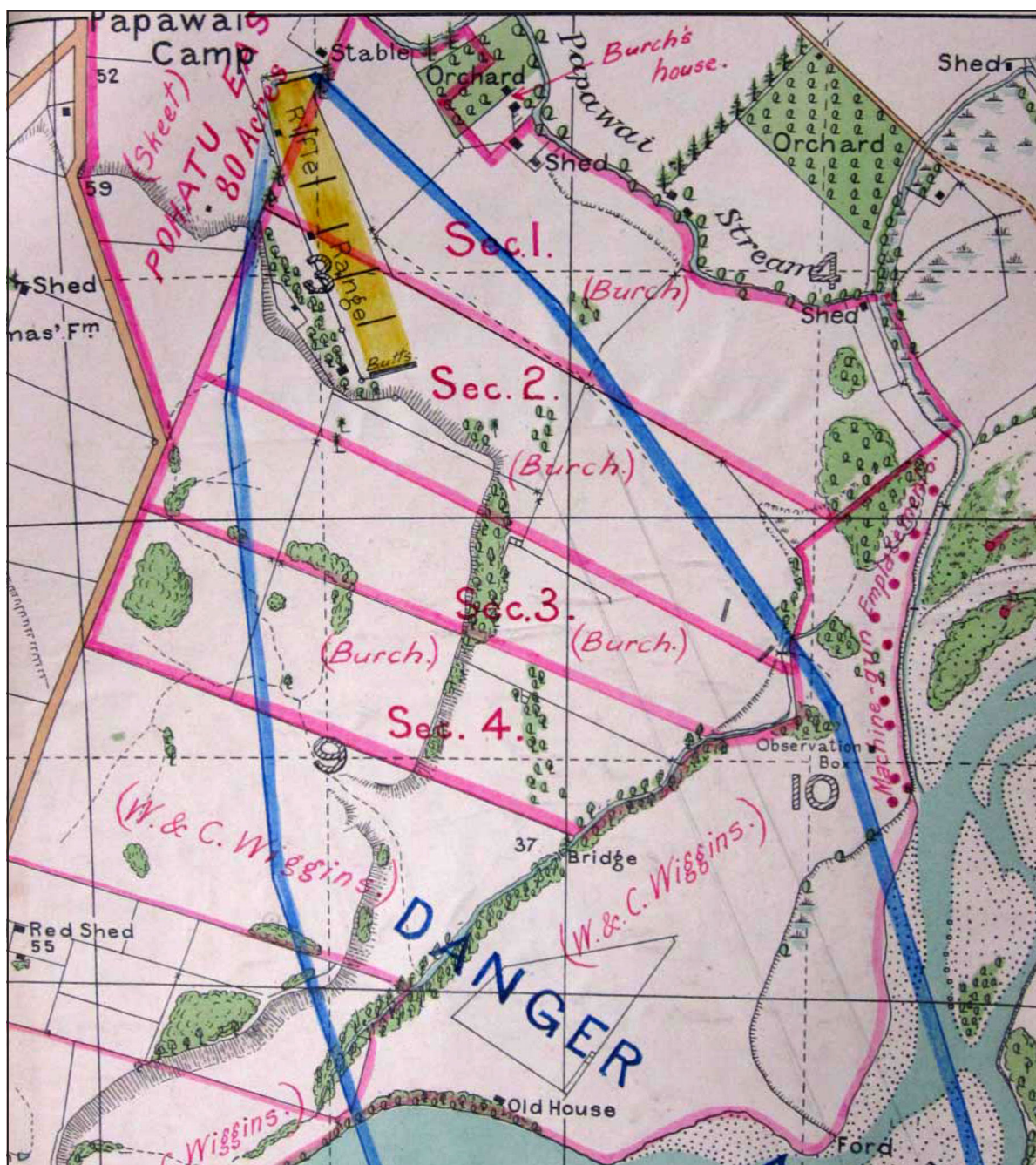
straddled two neighbouring properties. Owner Basil Burch and his neighbour John Skeet (who leased his section from Papawai Māori) agreed to lease their blocks to the Department for the duration of the war.³⁹

As it was a 13 km march from Featherston Camp to Papawai, musketry instruction made for a long day for the recruits. They sometimes camped at Papawai overnight, between Fabians Road, Papawai Stream and the rifle range firing line.⁴⁰ In mid-1916 the Defence Department decided to establish a permanent canvas camp at Papawai for 500 men. Several buildings already existed by July 1916, when the Department decided to build a new cook-house, dining hall and ration store, and to construct two covered wash-ups, a milk store, a quartermaster's store, and a tank stand with timber from the old buildings. The Department also put in proper drainage and water supply systems, and soon afterwards decided to add a hospital and a headquarters building.⁴¹ By 1917 the camp also had a canteen and a YMCA institute.⁴²

The use of Papawai Camp expanded beyond the original rifle range in early 1916. The Department added a 'grouping range', which was apparently a free-standing wooden structure lacking the firing line and butt sculpted out of earth of the main range.⁴³ A drill area was developed adjacent to the campsite.⁴⁴ The biggest change came about in June 1916, when the Department began to utilise the camp's eastern flank, and the adjacent Ruamāhanga River and Jury Hill, for training machine gunners. The machine-gun emplacements, artillery training on the adjacent Morrison's Bush property, and battle practice on Jury Hill are discussed in Chapter 2.

The artillery, the Army Service Corps, the Mounted Rifles, the Signallers and the Machine Gunners received all their advanced training at Papawai Camp from mid-1916 until the Armistice in November 1918.⁴⁵ The site was deserted by Christmas 1918 and the

buildings were sold off for removal the following year.⁴⁶ The site was apparently used as a camp by American servicemen during the Second World War. The rifle range continued to be used for competitive target shooting until 1988, when the owner cancelled the arrangement with the Wairarapa Rifle Association.⁴⁷ The butt and firing line of the original range remained clearly visible on the property in February 2011.



Plan of Papawai Camp, July 1916 (AD1 696 4/252, Archives NZ)

Notes

Preface

1. Wellington plan SO24488, LINZ; Wellington certificates of title WN35A/748, WN35A/749, WN891/1, LINZ; A.H. Kimbell to Assisting Under Secretary, 22 June 1916, and H.C. Nutsford to Under Secretary, 8 April 1918, W1 586 23/122/2 pt 2, ANZ Wellington.
2. This is a (very rough) calculation based on the numbers of infantry, mounted men, artillery, and signallers to embark for overseas service, starting with the 10th Reinforcements (*War, 1914–1918: New Zealand Expeditionary Force: Its Provision and Maintenance*, Marcus F. Marks, Wellington, 1919, pp. 18–39 (hereafter *NZEF: Its Provision and Maintenance*)). This figure doesn't account for the 9924 men in training in New Zealand at the time of the Armistice.
3. The site's surviving features are documented in archaeologist Christine Barnett's recent report for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust ('Archaeological Assessment of Featherston Military Camp and Featherston Prisoner of War Camp', New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Wellington, 2010).

Chapter 1

1. 'Trentham Camp Commission', *AJHR*, 1915, H-19B.
2. A.W. Robin to Minister of Defence, 13 July 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
3. 'Report on Sites for a Permanent Camp in the Wairarapa Valley', 21 July 1915, AD81 box 3 5/196, ANZ Wellington.
4. A.W. Robin to Minister of Defence, 24 July 1915, AD81 box 3 5/196, ANZ Wellington.
5. E.H. Hiley to Minister of Defence, 29 July 1915, and 'Featherston Camp – General Arrangements', 29 July 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
6. E.H. Hiley to Minister of Defence and note from James Allen, 11 August 1915, AD81 box 3 5/196, ANZ Wellington.
7. 'Land taken for the Purposes of a Camping-ground in Block IV, Wairarapa Survey District', *New Zealand Gazette*, 23 September 1915, p. 3284.
8. Wellington plan SO24488, LINZ; Wellington certificates of title WN35A/748, WN35A/749, WN891/1, LINZ; A.H. Kimbell to Assisting Under Secretary, 22 June 1916, and H.C. Nutsford to Under Secretary, 8 April 1918, W1 586 23/122/2 pt 2, ANZ Wellington.
9. A.W. Robin to Minister of Defence, 13 July 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
10. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, pp. 29–30.
11. A.W. Robin to Minister of Defence, 14 July 1915, AD1 box 683 3/379/1, ANZ Wellington.
12. *Evening Post*, 6 August 1915, p. 8.
13. 'Proposed Camp at Featherstone to Accommodate 2500 Men and 600 Horses', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38370, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
14. *Evening Post*, 11 August 1915, p. 8.
15. A.W. Robin to Minister of Defence, 12 October 1915; 'Featherston Camp – Additional Accommodation', 13 October 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.

16. 'Proposed Camp at Featherstone to Accommodate 2500 Men and 600 Horses', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38370, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; 'Featherston Camp General Plan (To Accommodate 4500 Men)', registered 3 November 1915, PWD plan 39011 (see PWD 38432), ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; E.H. Hiley to James Allen, 25 September 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
17. R.W. Holmes to E.H. Hiley, 24 August 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
18. E.H. Hiley to James Allen, 25 September 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
19. R.W. Holmes to E.H. Hiley, 2 October 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
20. 'Graph showing number of men employed by Public Works Dept on Military Camp construction', registered 12 September 1918, PWD plan 46852, ABZK W5433, box 35, ANZ Wellington.
21. R.W. Holmes to E.H. Hiley, 23 September 1915, W1 586 23/122 pt 1, ANZ Wellington.
22. *New Zealand Expeditionary Force: Camp Standing Orders*, Marcus F. Marks, Wellington, 1919 (hereafter *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*), p. 187.
23. E.H. Hiley, 'Featherston Camp – Items to be attended to prior to taking over', 27 January 1916, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
24. *Evening Post*, 25 January 1916, p. 3.
25. A.H. Kimbell to Assisting Under Secretary, 22 June 1916, W1 586 23/122/2 pt 2, ANZ Wellington.
26. G.L. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, Brett Publishing Co., Auckland, 1917, p. 12.
27. 'War Regulations Act, 1914 – Highway at Featherston Camp closed for Traffic except with Consent of Military Authorities', *New Zealand Gazette*, 13 April 1916, pp. 1053–4.
28. 'Re Proposed Military Camp at Tauherenikau [i.e., Featherston Camp] and Branch Railway Thereto', 6 August 1915, AD81 box 3 5/196, ANZ Wellington; Plans of Featherston Canvas Camp, registered 17 January 1916, PWD plan 39459, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.

Chapter 2

1. *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, p. 246.
2. W1 586 23/122/2 pt 1, ANZ Wellington.
3. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 83; *Evening Post*, 8 April 1916, p. 6, 12 August 1916, p. 5, 9 September 1916, p. 6
4. W1 586 23/122/2 pt 1, ANZ Wellington.
5. These figures are calculated from the tables in *NZEF: Its Provision and Maintenance*, pp. 12–15.
6. General Staff, War Office, *Infantry Training (4–Company Organization) 1914*, Harrison and Sons, London, 1914, p. 1.
7. *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, p. 196; *Infantry Training (4–Company Organization) 1914*.
8. *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 195–202.
9. A.H. Russell to C.M. Gibbon, 30 June 1917, AD10 box 8 16/13, ANZ Wellington.
10. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 83, 86; *Infantry Training (4–Company Organization) 1914*.
11. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 83
12. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 83, 95–7.
13. 'Royal Commission on Defence Department Expenditure, 1918', *AJHR*, 1918, p. 40.
14. J.A. Wallingford to Chief of the General Staff, 13 April 1916, AD1 box 1010 53/17, ANZ Wellington.
15. *Marlborough Express*, 14 February 1918, p. 4; *Evening Post*, 13 February 1918, p. 6.
16. *Field Service Regulations: Part 1: 1909*, p. 14.

17. The proportions are calculated from the tables in *NZEF: Its Provision and Maintenance*, pp. 12–15.
18. *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 201–2.
19. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 7.
20. 'Featherston Camp Proposed Saddle Rooms and Forage Store for A & B Squadrons', registered 10 August 1915, PWD plan 38406; 'Featherstone Camp Proposed Guard Room at Horse Lines', registered 19 August 1915, PWD plan 38480; 'Proposed Harness Room & Forage Store for ASC', registered 4 January 1916, PWD plan 39373, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
21. 'Featherstone Camp: Proposed Stables for Mounted Infantry', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38363; 'Featherston Camp Stable Lighting', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38370; 'Featherstone Camp: Detail of Dung Dump Pits at Stables', registered 10 August 1915, PWD plan 38420; 'Featherston Camp Gullies for Stables', registered 12 January 1916, PWD plan 39436, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
22. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 43–5, 69–72.
23. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 7–8.
24. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 98–101.
25. *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, p.199; *Field Service Regulations: Part 1: 1909*, pp. 15–18.
26. *Evening Post*, 27 March 1917, p. 8.
27. *Evening Post*, 12 August 1916, p. 5; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 59–67.
28. *Evening Post*, 27 May 1916, p. 9.
29. *Evening Post*, 27 May 1916, p. 9; *Obinemuri Gazette*, 8 August 1917, p. 3; *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, p. 201.
30. *Evening Post*, 8 September 1916, p. 7.
31. *Evening Post*, 12 August 1916, p. 5, 8 September 1916, p. 7; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 91–5.
32. *Evening Post*, 8 September 1916, p. 7.
33. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 7.
34. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 26.
35. A.H. Reed, *An Autobiography*, A.H. and A.W. Reed, Wellington, 1967, p. 154.
36. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 87, 105–10; *Evening Post*, 24 September 1915, p. 8; *NZEF: Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 212–15.

Chapter 3

1. 'Trentham Camp Commission', *AJHR*, 1915, H-19B, pp. 2–4; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 104.
2. 'Featherston Camp – Proposed Head Quarters Building', registered 1 December 1915, PWD plan 39190, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 31–4.
3. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 26, 35–7, 104; 'Featherston Camp Records and Pay Office', registered 3 December 1915, PWD plan 39210, ABZK W5433 box 30; 'Featherston Camp Pay Office', registered 26 May 1916, PWD plan 40248, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington.
4. 'Proposed Plan of ASC Depot Featherston Camp', registered 26 August 1915, PWD plan 38544, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ.
5. 'Featherstone Camp Proposed Quarter Master's Stores', registered 6 August 1915, PWD plan 38385; 'Featherston Camp. Proposed Additional Qm Mr Stores', registered 25 November 1915, PWD plan 39161; 'Featherston Camp Additional Quarter Master's Stores', registered 13 December 1915, PWD plan 39257, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ.
6. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 29.

7. 'Featherstone Camp Proposed Workshops', registered 19 August 1915, PWD plan 38466, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ, Wellington; 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington.
8. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 19–20; 'Featherston Camp Post and Telegraph Office', registered 1 September 1915, PWD plan 38607; 'Featherston Camp Post & Telegraph Office', registered 14 March 1916, PWD plan 39791, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ, Wellington.
9. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 19.
10. 'Trentham Camp Commission', *AJHR*, 1915, H-19B, pp. 2–4; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 104.
11. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 53–4.
12. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 54; 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 31.
13. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 31; 'Featherston Camp – Proposed Bakery with Continuous Ovens', registered 4 February 1916, PWD plan 39559; 'Featherston Camp Bakery', registered 15 February 1916, PWD plan 39616, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington.
14. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 16; 'Featherston Camp – Plan for Cook House and Accessories', registered 11 September 1915, PWD plan 38707, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington.
15. 'Featherstone Camp – Proposed Dining Halls to Accommodate 600 Men', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38369, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
16. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 14.
17. 'Featherstone Camp – Proposed Officers' Mess', registered 5 August 1915, PWD plan 38386, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, pp. 23–4.
18. 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington; 'Featherstone Camp – Larder Store for Hospital', registered 21 December 1915, PWD plan 39324; 'Featherston Camp – Cookhouse for Hospitals', registered 10 March 1916, PWD plan 39760; 'Featherston Camp – Dining Hall for Medical Corps', registered 13 March 1916, PWD plan 39782; 'Featherston Camp – Cookhouse for Medical Corps', registered 14 April 1916, PWD plan 40002, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington.
19. Canvas Camp plans, registered 17 January 1916, PWD plan 39459; 'Featherston Canvas Camp Dining Halls', registered 2 February 1916, PWD plan 39545; ABZK W5433 boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington.
20. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 16; 'Featherston Military Camp – 13,000 Gallon Tank & Stand', registered 27 August 1915, PWD plan 38545; 'Featherston Military Camp – General Plan showing water supply', registered 22 September 1915, PWD plan 38757; 'Featherston Military Camp Pumping Plant', registered 15 December 1915, PWD plan 39265; 'Featherston Military Camp – General Plan showing water supply mains', registered 12 January 1916, PWD plan 39434; map of water supply from wells, registered 10 July 1916, PWD plan 40533, ABZK W5433 boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington.
21. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 31.
22. 'Featherston Military Camp – General Plan showing water supply mains', registered 12 January 1916, PWD plan 39434; 'Featherston Camp – Intake Chamber for Water Race Supply Main', registered 12 January 1916, PWD plan 39437; 'Featherston Camp – Wrought iron work for intake chamber and gullies', registered 13 January 1916, PWD plan 39445; map of water supply from water race, registered 10 July 1916, PWD plan 40534; ABZK W5433 boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington.
23. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 17.
24. 'Featherston Camp General Plan (To Accommodate 4500 Men)', registered 3 November 1915, PWD plan 39011 (see PWD 38432); 'Featherston Camp – plan shewing line of main 12" sewer to Tauherenikau River', registered 13 December 1915, PWD plan 39256, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; direct quote from Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 17.
25. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 17; 'Health of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force whilst in Camps in New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1917, H-19J, p. 4.
26. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 32.
27. 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington; 'Detail of Septic Tank. Camp Hospital. Featherston', registered 3 November 1915, PWD plan 39012, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.

28. A Featherston Camp plan indexing the plan numbers of camp buildings lists PWD plan 38403 for the Featherston Camp tepid shower block ('Featherston Camp General Plan', registered 10 July 1916, PWD plan 40533, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington). Plan 38403 shows the 'Trentham Tepid Shower Baths', registered 9 August 1915, PWD plan 38403, ABZK W5433 box 29, ANZ Wellington; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 17.
29. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 32.
30. *NZEF. Camp Standing Orders*, p. 69.
31. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 32.
32. A Featherston Camp plan indexing the plan numbers of camp buildings lists PWD plan 37583 for the Featherston Camp latrines ('Featherston Camp General Plan', registered 10 July 1916, PWD plan 40533, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington). The sequence of plans bearing that number (concerning Trentham Camp buildings) is missing the latrine plan (ABZK W5433 box 29, ANZ Wellington). A comparison of an overhead view of a Featherston Camp toilet block (WA 00-038-076, Wairarapa Archive) with the plan for the women's toilet built at the camp ('Featherston and Trentham Camps – Ladies Cloak Room', registered 17 May 1916, PWD plan 40177) suggests they were constructed on the same principle.
33. *NZEF. Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 185–6.
34. Plans concerning incineration of sewage include 'Featherston Camp – Group of 4 McCrystell Incinerators', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39385 (plan 1); 'Camp conservancy', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39385 (plan 4), ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; *NZEF. Camp Standing Orders*, p. 186. See also R.W. Holmes' comments about the idea of incinerating sewage in R.W. Holmes to E.H. Hiley, 25 November 1915, AD1 box 684 3/436, ANZ Wellington.
35. Reed, *An Autobiography*, p. 147; see also correspondence in W1 586 23/122/2 pt 1, ANZ Wellington.
36. 'Featherstone Camp Plan of Mens Hut', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38360; urinal sites at Featherston Camp, registered 14 February 1916, PWD plan 39609, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington; *NZEF. Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 185–6.
37. 'Featherston Military Camp Power House', registered 29 September 1915, PWD plan 38787; 'Engine room of Tauherenikau [i.e., Featherston] Camp', registered 13 September 1915, PWD plan 38710; plan of electric lighting at Featherston Camp, registered 30 June 1916, PWD plan 40486; ABZK W5433, boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington.
38. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, pp. 31–2.
39. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 18.
40. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 32. Advertisements for the sale of the power house equipment in September 1926 described them as 'Two 3-cylinder 125 b.h.p. vertical Gas Engine, made by British Westinghouse, direct coupled to ... Two 75 k.w. d.c. Compound Wound Generators, 250 volts, 260 r.p.m., made by Crompton and Co.' (*Evening Post*, 26 August 1926, p. 4).
41. 'Featherston Camp – Plan for Cook House and Accessories', registered 11 September 1915, PWD plan 38707; 'Featherston Camp – Proposed Bakery with Continuous Ovens', registered 4 February 1916, PWD plan 39559; 'Featherston Camp – Group of 4 McCrystell Incinerators', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39385 (plan 1); 'Featherston Military Camp Incinerator', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39415; 'Featherston Camp Bakery', registered 15 February 1916, PWD plan 39616, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ Wellington; Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 55.
42. 'Featherston Camp – Group of 4 McCrystell Incinerators', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39385 (plan 1); 'Camp conservancy', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39385 (plan 4); 'Featherston Military Camp Incinerator', registered January 1916, PWD plan 39415, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
43. 'Featherston Camp – Ablution for Incinerator Staff', registered 17 May 1916, PWD plan 40176, ABZK W5433 box 31, ANZ.
44. *NZEF. Camp Standing Orders*, p. 186.
45. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1918, H-19, p. 25; 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 27.

Chapter 4

1. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 102.
2. *NZEF Camp Standing Orders*, p. 186.
3. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 103.
4. Reed, *An Autobiography*, p. 144.
5. *NZEF Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 186, 189–90.
6. *NZEF Camp Standing Orders*, pp. 187–90.
7. *Evening Post*, 10 February 1916, p. 8; 'Royal Commission on Defence Department Expenditure, 1918', *AJHR*, 1918, H-19C, pp. 43–4.
8. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 103.
9. Col. Valentine to Adjutant General, 21 January 1915, AD1 box 743 12/139, ANZ Wellington; *Evening Post*, 12 July 1915, p. 2, 13 July 1915, p. 8, 20 August 1915, p. 4.
10. 'Tree belts to be preserved', registered 22 September 1915, PWD plan 38788; 'Featherston Camp General Plan', registered 15 June 1917, PWD plan 42440 8-7, ABZK W5433 boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington; images of hospital grounds 00-038-035, 00-038-036, and 00-038-037, Wairarapa Archive.
11. The first plan I have seen showing both rotunda wards is dated 24 May 1916 (W1 586 23/122 pt 3, ANZ Wellington).
12. 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, pp. 32.
13. 'Featherston Camp Proposed Military Hospital' (three plans), registered 21 October 1915, PWD plan 38960; 'Featherston Camp Proposed Military Hospital [No. 2]', registered 20 March 1916, PWD plan 39825, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
14. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 38; 'Featherston Camp Military Hospital Details of Shutters', registered 16 November 1915, PWD plan 39084; 'Featherston Camp Details of Sash over Canvas Shutters at Military Hospital', registered 18 January 1916, PWD plan 39468, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
15. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 102.
16. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force (Report of Director-General of Medical Services Showing the State of the Health of the) Whilst in Camps in New Zealand, for the Year 1916', *AJHR*, 1917, H-19J, p. 1.
17. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 38.
18. 'Featherston Camp Medical Inspection Block', registered 21 October 1915, PWD plan 38961; 'Featherston Camp Proposed Additions to Medical Inspection Block', registered 8 March 1916, PWD plan 39750, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
19. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 38; 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force (Report of Director-General of Medical Services Showing the State of the Health of the) Whilst in Camps in New Zealand, for the Year 1916', *AJHR*, 1917, H-19J, p. 4.
20. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 40.
21. Will Lawson, *Historic Trentham 1914–17*, Wellington Publishing Co., Wellington, 1917, pp. 103–4.
22. 'Featherston Camp Plan of Dental Surgery', registered 22 November 1915, PWD plan 39123; 'Featherston Camp Additions to Dental Surgery', registered 26 April 1916, PWD plan 40053, ABZK W5433 boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington.
23. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 46.
24. 'Featherston Camp – Hut for Venereal Patients', registered 5 June 1916, plan 40302, ABZK W5433, box 31, Wellington; 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington; 'Venereal Diseases in the Dominion', *AJHR*, 1916, H-38, p. 1.
25. E.H. Hiley to R.W. Holmes, 20 June 1916, W1 586 23/122 pt 3, ANZ Wellington.
26. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1917', *AJHR*, 1918, H-19B, p. 2; 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 32.

27. *Evening Post*, 27 January 1917, p. 4.
28. Reports on the health of the troops in camp, *AJHR*, 1917 H-19J, 1918–19 H-19B.
29. 'Proposed Additions to Isolation Ward, Tauherenikau Racecourse', June 1916, Plans-80-2302 and 2303, ATL; 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1917', *AJHR*, 1918, H-19B, p. 13; 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 33.
30. H.C. Nutsford to Under Secretary, 3 May 1918, and A.H. Kimbell to Under Secretary, 17 May 1918, W1 586 23/122/2 pt 2, ANZ Wellington.
31. *Marlborough Express*, 2 June 1917, p. 2.
32. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1917', *AJHR*, 1918, H-19B, p. 13.
33. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1918', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19B, p. 5. The death figures given here are slightly different from those given in Figure 3, as they include Featherston Camp deaths which occurred 'Out of Camp' (giving a total of 187 deaths of all causes that year).
34. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1918', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19B, pp. 11–12.
35. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1918', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19B, pp. 23–4.
36. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1918', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19B, p. 24.
37. 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Health of the Troops in New Zealand for the Year 1918', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19B, p. 2.
38. *Marlborough Express*, 11 November 1919, p. 4.

Chapter 5

1. 'Trentham Camp Commission', *AJHR*, 1915, H-19B.
2. 'Featherstone Camp Plan of Mens Hut', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38360, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; 'Defence Forces of New Zealand', *AJHR*, 1919, H-19, p. 32; 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington.
3. 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington.
4. *Evening Post*, 25 January 1916, p. 3.
5. Stanbrook (ed.), *Featherston Military Training Camp*, p. 13.
6. *Evening Post*, 27 March 1916, p. 6.
7. 'Featherston and Trentham Military Camp Officers Huts', registered 4 August 1915, PWD plan 38361, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington; 'Featherston Camp – General Plan', 1917, T1 185 12/285, ANZ Wellington.
8. 'Featherston Camp Additional Orderly Rooms', registered 8 December 1915, PWD plan 39228; 'Featherston Camp Orderlies' Hut', registered 10 March 1916, PWD plan 39763, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
9. 'Featherston Camp Hut for Canteen Civilian Staff', registered 3 March 1916, PWD plan 39713; 'Featherston Camp Hut for Medical Officers', registered 28 March 1916, PWD plan 39879, ABZK W5433 box 30, ANZ Wellington.
10. Canvas Camp plans, registered 17 January 1916, PWD plan 39459; 'Featherston Canvas Camp Dining Halls', registered 2 February 1916, PWD plan 39545; 'Featherston Canvas Camp Drying Rooms', registered 11 April 1916, PWD plan 39966; ABZK W5433 boxes 30–1, ANZ Wellington.
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Abbreviations

AJHR	Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives
ANZ Wellington	Archives New Zealand, Head Office, Wellington
LINZ	Land Information New Zealand
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
NZEF	New Zealand Expeditionary Force
PWD	Public Works Department
VD	Venereal disease
WA	Wairarapa Archive, Masterton
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

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C.E. Daniell diary, 1915

Ray Clapperton postcard collection (00-038 group)

The image features a minimalist design with several thin orange lines radiating from a central point in the lower-left quadrant. These lines extend towards the top-left and bottom-right corners of the page. A small starburst graphic, composed of several short orange lines meeting at a central point, is positioned to the right of the text.

**Manatū
Taonga**

Ministry
for Culture
& Heritage