



THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES
TE RUA MAHARA O TE OPE WHAKAORA

SEPTEMBER 2020

REVELATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES IN NEW ZEALAND

OFFICER TRAINING EVOLUTION

On the Job Training | Locally Trained | Then Melbourne Trained

OFFICER TRAINING FINDS ITS PLACE

Aro Street to Booth College of Mission

OFFICER TRAINING PACIFIC STYLE

Beginning in Fiji

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Contact

The Salvation Army Heritage Centre & Archives

Te Rua Mahara o Te Ope Whakaora

Booth College of Mission

20 William Booth Grove, Upper Hutt 5018

PO Box 40542, Upper Hutt 5140

Phone: + 64 4 528 8628 ext 65051

Email: archives@salvationarmy.org.nz



The Heritage Centre and Archives also has a webpage on which you can find information and articles of interest:

www.archives.salvationarmy.org.nz

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WELCOME

to REVELATIONS 11

► We are now in the Spring of 2020 and are starting to see **God's nature springing into life** after the hibernation of winter. New blossom suddenly showing on the trees, new-born lambs, along with some warmer temperatures, helps us appreciate the different seasons of life.

Life doesn't stop, it keeps moving and evolving, and in this issue of Revelations we look at the **evolution of officer training** in our Territory.

What a **fascinating story** has evolved as The Salvation Army has grown and expanded in the countries that make up our Territory.

In the initial rapid growth of the late 1800s there was little time available for any formal training - it was **"on the job"** or in today's terms **"shovel ready"** training with a large dollop of faith thrown in that got us started on what has become an **amazing journey**.

Read on to see the evolution of officer training in our Territory.

Major Garry Mellsoy | **Interim Director** ◀

If you'd like to visit our Facebook Page Salvation Army Archives NZFT:

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Stained glass crest from the Aro Street college transferred to the Booth College of Mission where it resides in the foyer.

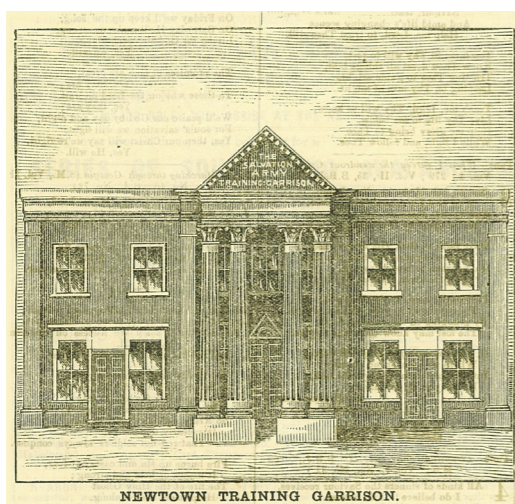
OFFICER TRAINING EVOLUTION

On the Job Training | Locally Trained | Then Melbourne Trained

► As The Salvation Army established itself in New Zealand during the 1880s there was very **little organised training** for those who made themselves available for Salvation Army officership. It must be remembered that many of these soldiers were very capable and could be considered **Biblical scholars** through their church background. A Christian upbringing with Sunday School attendance and Bible Study, etc., was very common then - society has a very different background today.

Joseph Hildreth made himself available for officership and was given 24 hours to leave his home corps of Wellington, gazetted in *The War Cry* as a cadet, then sent to assist the Flying Brigade at Doyleston. Three weeks later he was a Lieutenant. With **the Army sweeping from town to town**, everything and everyone was changing quickly.

In 1889 New Zealand was made a separate Territory, and it became evident that formal officer training needed to be established. In May 1890 a **Training Garrison for men** opened in Christchurch. Then a **Garrison for women** opened in Sydenham, December 1890.



The War Cry 25 July 1891. The Newtown Training Garrison for women (in Wellington), was established in Adelaide Road.



Featured are some of the women cadets from the 1894 training session based at the Newtown Training Garrison. The Garrison had officially opened on 14 July 1891. It had previously been a theatre.

The **Newtown Training Garrison** opened July 1891 for women.

In 1892 the training of men at **Sydenham** was transferred to **Ashburton**. Frustratingly the New Zealand Territory was amalgamated back into the Australasian Territory in 1894. All officer training for New Zealanders was to be conducted at the Melbourne Training College. However

there was a **Māori Mission Training School** established by **Ernest Holdaway** for women in Gisborne around 1897. In the meantime officer training continued in Melbourne until once again New Zealand became its own Territory in 1912. ◀



First intake of the Māori Mission Training School, Gisborne, February 1897. Back Row: Lieut. Lucy Smith (or Emily Lane), Lieut. Sarah Stirling, C/Lieut. Rose Evans, Capt. Margaret Wells, C/Lieut. Annie Johnson and Mary Spencer. Centre Row: Capt. Agnes Scott, Major & Mrs E. Holdaway, Capt. Mary Hartland. Front Row: Lieut. Maraea Tamatea, C/Lieut. Elizabeth Brown.



Men of the 1891 cadet session at the Melbourne Training College consisted of Australians and New Zealanders.

OFFICER TRAINING FINDS ITS PLACE

Aro Street to Booth College of Mission

▶ 1913 became the year for the first cadet session after New Zealand was established permanently as its own Territory in 1912. Pending the building of a training college the women cadets were accommodated in the building that later became a Bethany Maternity Hospital in Kensington Street and the men in a house in Upper Willis Street. The Aro Street training college was built based on the architectural designs of Stanley W. Fearn and Austin Quick and was awarded a gold medal by the New Zealand Institute of Architects for its design. It was officially opened on 2 April 1914 and because William Booth had recently been 'Promoted to Glory' in 1912, it was decided to name the facility the William Booth Memorial Training College.



Front elevation of the Aro Street Training College. Prepared by architects Stanley W. Fearn and Austin Quick, who won the gold medal award of the New Zealand Institute of Architects for its design.

In 1924 the cadets and staff formed a 'Life-boat crew' and embarked on a 'Tent Campaign' including 'Big Tent Meetings'.



The ediface of the Aro Street Training College - 1969.



The 1924 women cadets ready to embark on a campaign.

Sessional names started being used in New Zealand from 1924 - the first being 'Aggressors'. For seventy years the college provided accommodation and training for almost 1700 cadets. Many evangelical campaigns were launched by cadets from Aro Street, whether cadets armed with umbrellas declaring 'Get Right with God' or a campaign executed from a life-raft attached to the back of a truck.



Cadets from the 1964 'Proclaimers of the Faith' session, in class.



Cyril Bradwell presents a history lecture.



Booth College of Mission building under construction - 1983.



Facade of the Booth College of Mission - 2019.

In 1983 the 'Officer Training College' was constructed in Upper Hutt and opened debt-free. Later it would be called the Booth College of Mission. Previously the land was farmland, then homes were built there for a construction company.

Educational standards have advanced significantly, and over 37 years some 400 cadets have trained through the Booth College of Mission campus. ◀



Graduation ceremony at Hutt City Corps - December 2017.

Officers, cadets and staff in action at the Booth College of Mission



OFFICER TRAINING PACIFIC STYLE

Beginning in Fiji

▶ In 1977 the first Fijian officer candidates received a year's training in New Zealand then returned to Fiji to complete their second year in 1978. At this time the first Fiji Regional Training Officer was appointed. After initially using the Raiwai Hostel building, training moved to 54 McGregor Road, officially opened 22 July 1979 by Territorial Commander, Commissioner Lawrence Smith. The first commissioning of officers trained in Fiji was conducted by Territorial Commander, Commissioner Dean Goffin on 10 January 1981. In 1992 the Fijians were joined by Tongan cadets for training. The first commissioning of cadets to officer appointments from this joint venture occurred in January 1994. By 1998



there were 29 Fiji-trained officers in active service. Officer training remains very active in Fiji today operating out of the capital Suva. ◀

Captain Betty Hales leading a class with Fijian cadets



The Fiji School for Officer Training - 1986.