

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 00.30 HOURS B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1942. THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO.

#### EXPANSION OF ARMY CADETS

A country-wide expansion of the Cadet Force has been initiated by the War Office to provide boys with pre-entry training for the Army. Recently, recruiting figures have risen sharply, and more than 150 new cadet units have been formed in the past month. Today there are altogether 530 cadet units, with a total strength of nearly 60,000 cadets, compared with 198 units of a strength of 13,000 cadets at this time last year.

The training will be based on the "Certificate A" syllabus, as for the Junior Training Corps, and Cadets who wish to become specialists or tradesmen in the Army will be helped to start their training while they are in the Cadet Force. Apart from its military aspects, however, the Cadet Force is one of the recognised national youth organisations and its general object is to train boys to become good citizens. Thus its development has been planned by the War Office in close co-operation with the Board of Education and with other youth organisations, both service and civilian, and also through local Education Authorities and their Youth Committees.

The expansion of the Army Cadets in each County is directed by a County Cadet Committee, set up under the Lord Lieutenant. These Committees are charged with the formation of new Cadet Units, and any person, or group of boys, wishing to form a new Cadet Unit should write to the Secretary of the County Cadet Committee (who is also Secretary of the County Territorial Army Association), c/o the County Territorial Army Association offices. Boys who wish to join an Army Cadet Unit can obtain the address of the nearest unit either from the local Home Guard or the Local Education Committee.

Each Cadet Unit is affiliated to the local unit of the Home Guard, into whose ranks it is hoped all Cadets will go when they become 17. Through the Home Guard, Army Cadets can get many kinds of help, such as the use of a drill hall and the loan of instructors and training equipment. There are no rigid rules as to the number of cadets in a Unit or sub-unit.

The War Office is supplying free uniform, the battle dress of the Army, and is also providing financial assistance to the Cadet Force in the form of capitation grants for efficient Cadets between the ages of 14 and 17 and for those who obtain Certificate A.

The new uniform has in the front of the field service cap a small blue strip: a shoulder flash bearing the words "Cadet Force": and a shoulder title giving the name of the County.

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WAR OFFICE