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MAJOR-GENERAL W.H.C. RAMSDEN, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.
COMMANDING 50th DIVISION IN LIBYA

Major-General William Hardock Chaplin Ramsden, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., was born in October, 1888. Commissioned in 1910 he joined the West India Regiment. Two years later he transferred to the East Yorkshire Regiment.

During the Four Years' War he fought in the Kameruns, Nigeria, France and Belgium, winning the M.C. For 10 months he was with the Royal Flying Corps. In the last critical phase of the great struggle he was a Major in the Machine Gun Corps on the Western Front.

He next saw active service on the North West Frontier of India and in Palestine. In the course of four strenuous years, 1936-39 he earned two mentions in despatches and the D.S.O. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel at the beginning of 1936, he was given command of a battalion of the Hampshire Regiment. He became a Colonel in July 1939 and a temporary Brigadier the same day.

During the first three months of the present war he remained in charge of the West Lancashire Area. Then he took an Infantry Brigade to France, as part of the 50th Division, which he now commands in Libya.

During the campaign in Flanders the 50th Division fought gallantly in the British counter-attack at Arras which attempted to close the gap in the French front. Later, in much hard fighting it made good the canal line which protected the threatened south western flank of the B.E.F.

For his services in France General Ramsden received the D.S.O. and the C.B.E. In December 1940 he was promoted Major-General and given command of his Division, which a few months later he took to the Middle East. It had its first experience of desert warfare in the sharp encounters on the Libyan front last summer.

WAR OFFICE