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**The New Zealand prisoner of war
pamphlet: official pamphlet of the
Prisoners of War enquiry office of the Joint
Council of the Order of St. John and the
New Zealand Red Cross Society**

No.2 (March 1942)

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TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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Pamphlet No. 2, March, 1942

Prisoners of War Pamphlet

ISSUED BY

The Joint Council of the Order of St. John and The New Zealand
Red Cross Society

SICK AND WOUNDED FUND

The Prisoners of War Enquiry Office intends to issue at short intervals a pamphlet similar to this. All the official information supplied is taken from the monthly bulletin issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva.

Next-of-kin are invited to send copies of letters to any of the below mentioned offices. It is intended to publish as many as possible, but naturally we cannot guarantee to publish all those that are received. Please do not send any letters posted from Prisoner of War Camps, dated earlier than December.

Also make sure that the date of the letter is given.

Relatives are requested to send pictures of any large groups of prisoners for reproduction in this pamphlet.

HEADQUARTERS AND WELLINGTON:

63 Dixon Street, Wellington.
P.O. Box 139, Te Aro Wellington.
Telegraphic Address: "JOINTCIL."

AUCKLAND PROVINCE:

Bank of New Zealand Chambers,
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P.O. Box 247, Auckland.

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P.O. Box 1098, Christchurch.

2nd Floor, Queen's Buildings, Princes St., Dunedin
P.O. Box 456, Dunedin.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNED CIVILIANS.

In its last number the Revue Internationale published a memorandum on the indemnification of Prisoners of War who suffered accident at work, or incurred illness the cause of which could be traced to an accident. The International Committee expressed the opinion that the object of the legislation was to assure complete equality between the Prisoners of War and the local workmen. The national law should be applicable to them in every case, whatever may be the provisions, complete or embryonic of this law.

Enquiries on this subject having come to it from various Governments, the International Committee sets out the following considerations with regard to the interpretation of this ruling of Article 27, paragraph 4.

Some States were inclined, naturally only under conditions of reciprocity, to continue after the liberation of Prisoners of War the invalid pension which had been paid to the Prisoner of War who had met with accident in the Captor State. The State funds would thus be held liable to pay to the repatriated Prisoner of War the invalid pension which had been allowed him in the captor country, just as would be the case, unless there is a definite contrary ruling in the national law, should an injured local workman wish to leave his country and make his domicile in a foreign land.

Other States hold to the strict interpretation of the Convention: the obligation of the Captor State ceases with the captivity; the liberated Prisoner of War loses all right to the insurance which covers him in the Captor State against the risks and consequences of an accident at work. This system is actually authorised by interna-

tional law. "The belligerents," states the Convention, "are obliged to place, during the whole duration of captivity, the Prisoners of War who are the victims of an accident at work under the benefits applicable to workmen of the same category, according to the legislation of the Detaining Power." What is stipulated in the Convention is the obligation of the State to repair the injurious consequences of these work accidents while it detains the Prisoner of War, makes him work for his keep and thus exposes him to accidents. This obligation only exists because of the capture and detention, it finishes with them.

This legal system merits completion, either by an agreement between the Detaining Power and that to which the Prisoner belongs, or by a Clause in the Peace Treaty. There should also be an understanding to protect the badly injured Prisoners of War who may be repatriated during hostilities according to the rulings of Articles 68 and 71 of the Code. Actually it should be inadmissible that a Prisoner of War, mutilated and suffering from some permanent bodily injury following an accident, should be left for the rest of his days without compensation according to his incapacity for work. This workers compensation, total or partial, should follow him into his own country when he is reinstated there. It will be necessary that the Insurance Companies of his own country shall undertake the payment of the pension which has been paid him, up to his liberation, by the Captor State.

The cessation of all payment from liberation seems justified in the view of some Governments by the fact that the situation of Prisoners of War differs from that of the ordinary workman who suffers an accident. The Prisoner of War is fed, housed, clothed gratuitously, he is cared for by the Captor State, he is privileged beyond the local workman. If this differentiation is just and can be considered in this line of argument, it means that the day of the liberation of the prisoner sees the finish of the legitimate payment for his invalidism. Therefore it is necessary if the Captor State ceases payment of the invalid pension, the National State of the Prisoner of War, now liberated, undertakes this duty.

This system seems to be envisaged in a limited fashion by some Governments. As one knows, Article 27 sets out the work of Prisoners of War for the benefit of the Detaining State, but for privates only. Non-commissioned officers can only be compelled to the work of overseers, unless they expressly ask for remunerative work. And officers and the like can be allowed, when possible and if they request it, to do work which suits them. For these latter (non-Commissioned officers and officers) one should see the continuation of the workers' compensation after their liberation wherever their future domicile may be. This distinction is not made in the Convention; naturally it only concerns itself with the consequences of the work which the Detaining State is empowered to impose on private soldiers, and not with voluntary work.

The wish has been expressed and it seems incontestably useful that the Prisoner of War, badly hurt or gravely ill, repatriated during the course of the war, or at the end of hostilities, should be furnished with a medical certificate informing the competent authorities of his own country of the illness or accident from which he has suffered and the consequences of it up to the moment of his liberation.

In any case, and this is our conclusion—an invalid, liberated, should be assured of the continuation of the indemnity to which he has a right because of his total or partial invalidism, and, lacking accord on this subject between belligerents, it is altogether necessary that the Peace Treaty should attend to it.

In answer to a question asked him on August 4th, the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht has sent the International Committee the following communication, which was received on the 17th September and of which this is the translation.

Conforming to Article 27, para. 4 of the 1928 Convention of Geneva, Germany is bound "to place during the whole duration of captivity, Prisoners of War, victims of accidents at work under the benefits of the rulings applicable to workers of the same category, according to the legislation of the Detaining Power."

The obligation undertaken by the Reich to take care of these Prisoners of War is thus limited to the duration of their captivity. It ceases at the moment of the liberation of a Prisoner of War. Therefore, the Prisoner, victim of an accident, cannot attempt to obtain, after his captivity, a pension from the Reich.

It is only for non-commissioned officers, officers and persons of like rank, Prisoners of War that the protection of Accident Insurance remains valid after their captivity. They can, wherever may be their future domicile present their demand at the Accident Insurance Office (with the knowledge of the Head Office) in the same way as with the German Insurance.

AN ITALIAN CAMP.

Knowing that many of you have had information that your boy is "in Italian hands" and are awaiting advice as to his camp address, we felt it might interest you to read this detailed account of Servigliano Camp. No doubt the standard of Italian Camps and the treatment of prisoners will be fairly universal throughout Italy.

A picture of the camp at Servigliano will be found among those printed in this paper.

SERVIGLIANO CAMP.

VISITED BY M. PIERRE LAMBERT,

Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on the 10th March, 1941.

Generalities.

About 25 miles from the sea, to the south of Ancona, the camp of Servigliano, adjacent to the little town of the same name, consists of a group of white buildings shut within a high brick wall of 680 metres circumference; the enclosure thus formed being an irregular pentagon in shape.

The buildings are wooden hutments with double walls pierced with many windows. They are built on masonry foundations and finished with gable roofs edged with bricks. These hutments are painted white and placed end to end lengthwise. They are laid out in series, generally parallel, leaving between them sufficient space for the planting of a few trees and later on playing fields will be laid out. Actually it is necessary to set to work to improve the soil—and there is the fault of the camp as it is now—it is constructed on very movable clayey soil, ceaselessly watered by infiltrations from the neighbouring hills which convert it into a vast field of mud when the rains fall augmenting the humidity. To obviate this inconvenience, the Camp Commandant has planned and had some drainage canals dug. He has also had wagon loads of heavy gravel thrown on the earth and this has given it some solidity and firmness.

Here and there in the free spaces between the hutments, fountains and wells, have been constructed with basins where the prisoners can wash themselves in summer or see to the washing of some of their effects independently of the washing service organised for the whole of the camp.

Between each of the dormitory hutments there are small concrete buildings containing very cleanly kept latrines and basins where the prisoners can attend to their toilet. There is one of these buildings for each two dormitories.

The camp has been entirely renovated and much of it newly built. All the interior furnishing is new and electricity is installed throughout. Also—a precaution

rendered necessary by the fact that the main material is wood—several hydrants and fire plugs are set up in the camp. Chemical extinguishers are also kept to hand in a special hutment.

There are in all 22 hutments comprising dormitories, kitchens, dining halls, etc. One would say that the camp of Servigliano could take, if necessary, up to 3,000 prisoners of war. At the moment there are only 483 prisoners, all Greeks. It has just been finished, as a matter of fact it had only been in operation a few days. Everything was, however, perfectly in order when the International Committee's Delegate made his visit.

Out of the 483 prisoners there are 32 non-commissioned officers. The two convoys of prisoners arrived the same day (24th February, 1941), 423 coming from Sulmona and 60 transferred direct from the camp at Feiri, in Albania. The Delegates visited Servigliano 14 days after it commenced to function.

Dormitories.—Sixteen of the twenty-two hutments are fitted up as dormitories. These, as has already been mentioned, are rectangular constructions of wood, with double walls (which constitute sufficient insulation against the cold), painted white, clean, lit and ventilated by 14 windows. They are about 30 feet wide and 100 feet long. Sleeping accommodation is provided in two tiers of bunks. Mattresses are provided but are folded up during the day, each prisoner has two blankets. There is no provision of shelving to provide space for the prisoners to keep their belongings. They put them into sacks hung from nails driven into the framework which supports the roof. The prisoners sleep with windows closed and complain of being overcrowded in the dormitories. Just the ventilation of the daytime is insufficient.

The Delegate asked the Camp Commandant if he could not consider, at least while the available space is so considerable, a different distribution of men in the dormitories that they might not be so crowded.

Cuisine.—Because of the limited number of prisoners only one kitchen hutment is actually in use. It is huge and furnished with an immense kitchen range pierced with enormous holes which exactly fit the big saucepans. The cooks are Italian helped by some Greek soldiers.

The food is of good quality. The bread ration has been augmented at the request of the prisoners. Macaroni, spaghetti, etc., alternate with rice, beans and meat. The mess is always supervised by the Camp Commandant who tastes all the dishes. The prisoners seemed to be satisfied, and generally speaking find an improvement in their regime, certainly for those who came from Fiere, a definite improvement.

When the Delegate made his visit, the prisoners, in order to enjoy the sun of that day, already spring-like, were not using their dining halls, but, after having filled their platters at the kitchen were eating in the open air and drinking from one of the fountains set up in the centre of the camp and which supply very fresh and pure water. After their meal they wash their utensils in the basins of these fountains.

The non-commissioned officers have their own living quarters and their own kitchen and refectory. They fare exactly as the privates with regard to food and as they receive no pay they cannot augment the daily fare. Their dormitories are however more spacious.

Canteen.—The canteen has not yet been installed. The building which will contain it is nearly finished. It is situated right at the border of the camp, built actually in line with the wall of the enclosure. It will have an entry to the exterior and another to the interior of the camp. The canteen will thus serve both for the prisoners and for the Italian soldiers who act as guards in the camp.

Hygiene, Baths, De-lousing.—A small hutment situated at one corner of the camp houses the shower installations. It is built of concrete and has a concrete floor; it is divided into three big rooms. In the first is installed

a steam steriliser of the same type as those in use at Sulmona. Filled with clothing to be disinfected it is brought to a very high temperature and kept there for nearly an hour. In the second room the owner of the clothes that are thus being disinfected takes a shower bath. There are a total of 26 showers. The present system enables each prisoner to have a shower every ten days but this could be maintained even if their number was much increased. These showers are fed with hot water from two wood-burning water heaters. The third room, a sort of tepidarium, is a well warmed place where the prisoners undress and await their turn to go in to the showers, while their clothes, if necessary, are taken for disinfection.

Hospital.—Near to this building, another bigger hutment, of the same dimensions as the dormitories, encloses the various rooms of the hospital. In the centre one finds the room for consultations, where the Military Doctor attached to the camp gives the prisoners his attentive care. The patients await their turns in an adjacent room. The sick wards open out from these central rooms. They are painted white, are large and well lighted. The two first have six iron beds, painted white, as are also the side tables and the rest of the equipment which is quite up to date. These wards, lit with electricity are supplied with stoves. The rooms for isolation are smaller and have only two beds. The stoves, which are lacking in these smaller rooms will soon be installed. There is a bath room with several baths, closets and a special kitchen for the hospital.

State of Health.—At the time of the Delegate's visit to Servigliano camp there were only three patients confined to bed. One was suffering from acute sciatica, the second from an influenza cold, and the third, cared for in one of the isolation wards, seemed to indicate a case of typhoid fever. The doctor of the camp was awaiting confirmation of tests before announcing his diagnosis.

These were the only patients who were confined to bed, but there were several other prisoners on the road to convalescence who were suffering from their war injuries, many had frostbitten limbs, mostly their feet. Several were suffering from shell wounds in arms and shoulders. They all report regularly to the doctor.

In case of need patients who are able to travel could be sent to Fermo, a little town about 12 km. from Servigliano, which has a hospital, or to Chieti, where already several Greek prisoners are in hospital. A dentist will call at the camp several times a week.

Equipment.—New clothing has been distributed to the prisoners of war who had need of it. They received not only shirts, socks and pullovers but also shoes of the kind used by the Italian army. Police caps and even jackets and trousers similar in material and cut to those of the Italian soldiers, but with this difference that they have a band of stuff of another colour on the left sleeve, thus making a recognisable armband. The prisoners of war have been equipped from head to foot with clothing distributed by the Italian Government.

Life of the Camp: Discipline.—The routine at Servigliano is the same as at Sulmona. Discipline is maintained firmly, but very humanely, by the Major commanding the camp, an officer who sees to the welfare of the prisoners under his care with much understanding. The prisoners, non-commissioned officers and privates alike have, naturally, to salute the Italian officers of the guard who live outside the camp in hutments, alike in every particular to those of the prisoners. The guard is officered by fifteen officers, lieutenants and captains.

Surveillance.—A permanent watch is kept by half a dozen sentinels from watch towers which are set up at good distances from each other on account of the enclosing wall. They dominate the camp from wooden platforms. The guards are armed with rifles and have an electric bell near at hand to give the alarm, they also

have searchlights which can be directed into the camp. Encircling the enclosure of the camp a wire fence (not barbed) makes a second net; this double precaution seems to make escape impossible.

Work, Games.—The prisoners of war help with the work of conditioning the ground of the camp, with the planning of the drainage canals, and the spreading of the gravel which will transform this sea of mud into a ground where they will be able to exercise and practice their sports. The Delegate suggested to the Camp Commandant that if the prisoners formed a team he should sometimes allow them to use a football ground adjacent to the camp. The Commandant reacted favourably to this suggestion and will accede to it if possible.

Up to the present the prisoners of war have not had any walks outside the camp, but they are to begin soon, accompanied, it goes without saying, by soldiers of the camp guard, as is also the practice at Sulmona. They will thus be able to take exercise in the countryside and on the hills which lie in the neighbourhood and which are most attractive in good weather.

Intellectual Life.—The entertainments most wished for by the prisoners are cinematograph shows. These will be organised by the Camp Commandant, thanks to the collaboration of the local authorities, and also music.

There are no copies of the Convention of Geneva in the camp. At the request of the Delegate the Commandant placed one, in Italian, at the disposal of the prisoners, making them an oral translation of certain passages. The Delegate, however, reiterated his request that they should be given copies of this Convention in the Greek language.

Religion.—There is no chaplain in the camp. The Delegate asked that a priest of the Greek Church, an interned civilian from near Naples, should be allowed to exercise his ministry to the prisoners of war, both in the camps of Sulmona and Servigliano.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN ITALY.

In conformity with Article 68 of the Convention of Geneva of 1929 the International Committee of the Red Cross has been requested by the interested Governments to appoint the neutral members of two Medical Commissions which will make visits in Italy and the Near East to Prisoners of War, British and Italian respectively. For this service the International Committee has appointed Drs. Werner Greuter and Paul Burkhard, of Swiss nationality, as neutral members of the Commission which will visit the British Prisoners of War in Italy.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

On the 5th September the International Committee received a list of all British Prisoners of War who were in hospitals established on the territory of the Reich.

From the 11th September to the 1st October, Drs. E. Exchaquet and Rubli, International Committee Delegates, travelled in Germany through the military circuits V. and IX.; where they visited 30 Oflag, Stalags and hospitals.

Photographs.—From Oflag VII. C. the Agency has received a package containing 850 photographs—groups and portraits—of British officers, prisoners in this camp. These photographs were immediately sent to the prisoners' families.

Medical Corps.—The German authorities advised the International Committee that an order will be published stipulating that recognised medical personnel must not be employed in an occupation that does not correspond to medical duties, unless they have declared themselves, in writing, to be willing to work.

Despatch of Help to Prisoners of War from September, 1939, to September, 1941.

Since the actual beginning of the war the Service des Secours of the Red Cross International Committee has

shown an ever-increasing activity in the expedition of parcels destined for Prisoners of War of all nationalities. The figures shown in the following table give a general idea of this activity. It is advisable to state here that German and Italian Prisoners of War receive the help intended for them direct from Germany and Italy by postal mail. Under these circumstances the International Committee takes no part in the forwarding of these parcels and only attempts to control their distribution on the express demand of the donors. We would advise you that the heading "Individual Parcels" means the parcels sent to the Prisoners individually by name, all other parcels are sent collectively, addressed to the *hommes de confiance* of the camps, to be distributed by them according to the needs of the Prisoners.

PARCELS TO PRISONERS OF WAR SENT UP TO 30th SEPTEMBER, 1940.

Collective Parcels	kg.	kg.	Vans.
British P. of W.—			
Food	8,710,119		
Tobacco	272,364	9,451,618	922
Tonic feed	105,512		

Individual Parcels to P. of W., divers nationalities			
		99,550	10

PARCELS TO PRISONERS OF WAR SENT IN SEPTEMBER, 1941.

British P. of W.—	kg.	kg.	Vans.
Food	1,212,859		
Tonics	28,853		
Tobacco	37,014		

Clothing	1,288,726		
	38,623	1,327,349	108

One Kilogramme (kg.) is nearly 2½ lbs.

Daily Ration.—The following daily ration was given from an Oflag, in which were high ranking Belgian officers.

The food consists of 340 gr. bread, 70 gr. meat, 1,500 gr. potatoes or vegetables, 85 gr. tea "Ersatz" or 7 gr. coffee "Ersatz." This daily ration is distributed in three meals and the meat five times a week.

This ration, converted into or own weight measurement, would read:—

- 12 ozs. Bread.
- 2½ ozs. Meat.
- 3½ lbs. Potatoes or Vegetables.
- 3 ozs. Tea.
- ½ ozs. Coffee.

The following two articles are taken from "The Times," Friday, November 21st, 1941.

PARCELS FROM AMERICAN RED CROSS.

One learned from a memorandum issued by the American Red Cross ("News Service," 14th August, 1941) that this Society, since the beginning of the war, has sent more than 100,000 parcels. Over and above these parcels, the American Red Cross has sent the International Red Cross at Geneva, for the prisoners, 7,000 pairs of shoes, 294,400 pieces of soap, 46,428 woollen garments, 6,860 undergarments, 6,000 pairs of socks, material, thread, needles, scissors, hanks of cotton, etc.

In spite of the difficulties of postal transmission more than 2,000 cards of thanks from the prisoners have already been received at Washington.

PRISONERS OF WAR AT PLAY. INGENUITY OF OFFICERS IN OFLAG VII C

Letters recently received from Brigadier C. Nicholson, Senior British Officer at Oflag VII C, and Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Clay, the Camp Sports Officer, give some interesting details about the games played by British officers in that camp during recent months.

Lack of space made it necessary to concentrate on games which could be played in a small area, and the most popular were seven-aside hockey, teniquits, pass-ball (a strenuous form of basketball), table tennis, and putting. During the winter a skating rink was constructed. Two hours were reserved each day for ice-hockey, and there were many exciting matches. In addition, two curling rinks were made and kept fully occupied. Altogether the letters suggest remarkable improvisation in unusual circumstances.

Several inter-unit and individual competitions were held, and the results of some of the finals were:—(and there follows a list of British officers who won the Table Tennis, Pass-Ball and Teni Quoit matches.)

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.

In a letter recently received in England from Stalag XXA, one of the largest prisoner of war camps in Germany, the head librarian, Sergeant W. O. Wright states:

Some 11,500 books have now been received from England. The majority of these have been obtained from the British Prisoners of War Books and Games Fund and were dispatched from November, 1940, onwards. Parcels from as far back as December continue to arrive, and receipt cards are returned to England in bundles of 100. All hospitals, camps, and working detachments forming part of this camp now possess excellent libraries and a total average weekly supply of 200 books from England would be sufficient to keep them fresh and replace worn books.

STALAG V. B

From Corporal D. W. O'CALLAGHAN.

Dated 25/10/41. Since I wrote last we have received another Red Cross parcel, much the same as the last one, mostly food. Since we have been devouring our parcels, most of us have been putting on weight again. It is surprising how good-humoured the boys are since getting all these tasties to supplement our meals.

Dated 31/10/41. Here it is letter-writing day again and another batch of mail came in to-day, but there was none for me. We have several different views from our windows and just now the trees and buildings look like the scenes on Xmas cards. We get a paper once a week, called the "Camp," printed just for British prisoners. Biscuits, tinned meat, cocoa, milk, golden syrup, puddings, Ovaltine, custard powder and chocolate are some of the things that were most popular, with sugar and tea, of course.

Dated 17/11/41. Since writing last week I have had a shift of quarters. Before, I was in a big ward with about thirty other patients and now two of us share a little room of our own. My companion is a Serb, and neither of us can speak each other's language, but with a bit of bad Greek, German and French, we understand each other more or less. I forgot to mention that most of the patients here are French and Belgians, so you can imagine the variety of languages floating about. We have a whist drive every Saturday night in the big ward where I was, and gradually we have persuaded, first the French then the others, to join in the fun. Another lot of parcels arrived last night and there will be an issue to-morrow afternoon. Gee, it is great, the way the Red Cross are looking after us now we are in Germany. We had a pretty lean time of it till we got here, but now we are picking up nicely, what with the German potatoes and the English tinned meats and fish. The other day a big lot of books arrived from the Camp and there are some real good ones among them. Frank Ward got eighteen letters from home the other day so you can bet he was pleased.

Dated 30/11/41. A big quantity of Red Cross parcels arrived the other day and we are getting them at the rate of nearly one a week now. Some more books arrived and some indoor games. Among the games were three sets of Monopoly, which help to pass away the hours better than any of the games I have seen. The books are mostly volumes on engineering, gardening and things like that, but we have plenty of novels as well to sandwich in between too much study. I am quite well and since we have been getting parcels, the mind doesn't dwell so much on food all the time.

STALAG VII. B

From Pte. N. L. SAUNDERS.

Dated 19th October, 1941. It am still out on the chalk works, feeling fit and well. The boys are in a real good humour this week-end as we had an issue of gloves and also card games to play with during our off hours and days. We have also learnt that the High Commissioner is sending parcels to us and they are on the way already.

Dated 26th October, 1941. It is Sunday again and snowing like the blue devil. This week has been the worst for bad weather and cold that I have ever experienced and we have had to work through the lot. There is a rumour that we are shifting to a factory job so I hope it hurries along.

Dated 23rd November, 1941. Here we are again after a good week. It has been a pleasure to work. It has only been overcast and warm. We have the electric light put in our billets and it is all right after the old lamps. I believe I am putting on extra weight now. I don't know how I am doing it, as the work is solid.

STALAG VIII. B

From Dvr. I. E. APPLETON, dated 12th October, 1941.

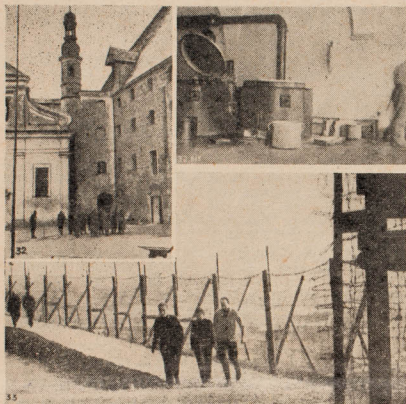
We are now in a permanent camp and are already feeling the benefits. It is very cold, in fact was snowing lightly this morning. This is an extremely large camp and modern. The German issue of tucker is rather better than previously but our main source of supply is the Red Cross parcel of which we receive one a week. We are also allowed to have photos sent to us so fire ahead and let me have some of you all. This is my 6th day here and already I am feeling miles better. We are looking forward to being deloused and getting new clothing.

You can omit sending soap and disinfectant as now we shall not need them. See the Red Cross about sending parcels. The trip up took us 7 nights and 6 days. Be sure and send some salt in each parcel.

Dated 26th October, 1941. Have a lettercard this week, we now get four postcards and two of these a month. We have three bands here, a military band, jazz and a 22 piece orchestra. I went to a performance of the military band on Sunday night. I counted 28 men performing and that was not all. They would make our best New Zealand bands pull up their socks, but that is hardly surprising as they come from the bands of the crack English regiments.

Dated 30th November, 1941. I am now out on a job on a big farm or estate and find it much better than being in camp. The work does a chap good and I am feeling much more like my old self while my strength is starting to return although I am not yet able to walk properly. We start work at 8 a.m. and then knock off at 12 for lunch, resuming work again at 12.30 and finishing for the day at 5. Our billets are very good. There are just 24 men on this party and each 12 have two rooms, a bedroom and living room. All rooms have the electric light on and each living room has a small stove.

In selecting these pictures from those in the Revue Internationale, the monthly bulletin of the International Committee of the Red Cross we have tried to give you some idea of the different types of camps. You will notice that the pictures show old buildings of the old chateaux type, barracks such as are built for the military and also hutments built of wood. The Italian camp shown is newly built especially to accommodate prisoners.



Offag VII. C., 32-33, the courtyard of the chateau. The kitchen. The promenade, from which there is a wide view over the countryside.



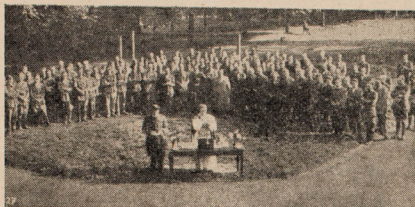
The Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross helps two British prisoners to fill in their capture cards.



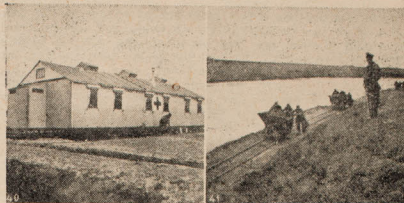
Stalag XXI. A. 38 Shows the building reserved for British prisoners. 52. A view showing a typical watch tower and sentry box at the entrance to a camp.



New Zealanders in Stalag XVIII. A.—Some of the boys may be recognised. Picture supplied by Mrs. J. McDermott, Great North Road, Auckland, whose son, Private George McDermott, is third from left.



Oflag IV. C. Mass in the open air.



Stalag VIII. B. 40 The Hospital. 41 A work squad.



Stalag II. D. The arrival of the mail.



32

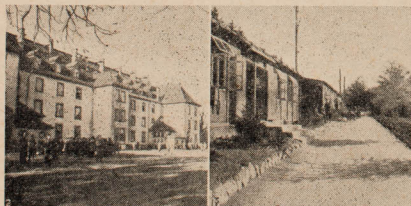
Oflag II. B. Prisoners listening to the radio. This picture shows the type of military barracks, probably built in brick and concrete.



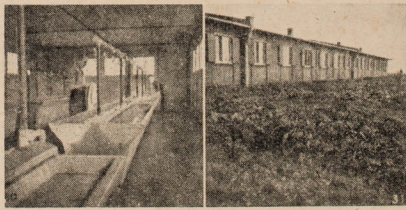
General view of the camp of Servigliano, Italy.



British wounded in hospital.



Views chosen to show different types of camps. 2. Courtyard and general view of Oflag XII. B. 3. Interior view of camp.



Stalagluft 30 The wash room at Stalag 31. One of the barracks at Stalag with the vegetable garden in the foreground.

Dated 9th November, 1941. The Northern Hemisphere has sent us a few promises of winter in the form of a snow fall or two. I feel so noble as I squirm under the cold shower and see snow on the ground outside. But we face the winter without fear. Our quarters are warm enough and we are all well shod, well clad, and well fed. You will see from the accompanying photo how hefty I am. (The photo was in the "Auckland Weekly" 14/2/42). Life here continues to be interesting. I am free to move round on the job, and there is plenty to do amongst the men. I'm reading like mad too, and spending about an hour a day in the creation of most amazing meals—a Yorkshire pudding for instance the other day. Unfortunately we have a Yorkshireman at the table.

Dated 5th October, 1941.

A PADRE WRITES

I hope you are all going along as well as I am. Life under prison conditions like these, with reasonable comfort, good warm clothing, plenty to eat, and Germany turning on a spell of perfect weather, is not too bad.

I am not yet able to do a full job of work, but I am taking regular services and am making use of the long days to get in some good study. Thanks to a very good library of Theological works this is possible, and I am at present wallowing in Church History. A few games of basketball and deck tennis have also varied the days, and we have been to our first entertainment—a musical farce—"Paradise Alley" written and produced by some of the men. It was a great show. The staging, dresses, acting and women could do credit to the "Diggers." It is amazing what can be accomplished in places like this.

Dated 26th October, 1941. Thrill of thrills to hear from you and know that your minds are at rest.

From Pte. L. W. HOUSTON.

Dated 2nd November, 1941. I have got a job working round the new hospital. It's all right. £oo. We get paid 70 Pfennigs a day, which is about 10s. We don't have to work hard at all. We are getting a clothing parcel from New Zealand House, London, soon that will be very welcome. Some of the N.Z.R.A.F. boys have had them and they say they are great. To-morrow we are to be issued with another blanket, pyjamas, towel and Red Cross nullovers, big roll neck ones."

Dated 9th November, 1941. Here I am again. Have you been getting my letters all right? One of the Dunkirk boys had a birthday party last night, five of them. They had a big cake, iced, fried potatoes, beans and meat. Fruit salad with milk and sugar and biscuits and butter and jam. All out of Red Cross parcels. Not bad for a prison camp. We cook some great feeds here and I have not been anywhere near hungry since I have been here.

Letter bearing post mark 18/9/41 from C. A. Linnegar, stated that cigarettes and chocolate were being received, also the weekly parcels from the Red Cross.

Letter received by Mrs. M. Sprague, Caversham, Dunedin, stated that he was receiving Red Cross parcels regularly. He had also received from his mother an Air Mail letter written 29/10/41 and in reply to this letter said that all he was in need of was chocolate and a sleeveless pull-over.

From Lieut. J. BORRIE, dated 25th October, 1941.

For the past month I have been travelling across Europe. The New Zealand medical officers left Athens

with the 26th General Hospital, R.A.M.C. personnel on September 30th, travelling by sea through the Cretic Isles, to Salonika. After a week, on poor rations, these, with a large number of prisoners, set forth across Europe, in a third class carriage, through Yugo Slavia, Hungary, Austria and Germany, to Silesia. The country was lovely, the harvest glorious and the autumn tints on all the trees never to be forgotten. Most of the towns we skirted, but saw a little of Vienna, especially a delightful suburb, in which was the Hoffman Piano Company. We were ten nights and nine days in the train and pretty done and hungry at the end of it. After an extensive search we marched into this camp. It is a mass of efficiency, run by men of Dunkirk. It is really only for men and is transit for officers. May, or may not, stay here on medical staff. Food is great. Get an enormous 10 lb. tinned food parcel regularly each week, so will put on weight. Wonderful spirit among men. There are classes in languages, history, engineering, etc., also a good theatrical company. Alf Slater is chief surgeon here to a 450-bed hospital which has just opened.

From S. M. LODGE.

Dated 16th November, 1941. At present nine other New Zealanders and myself are working on a big German estate digging drains and such like. The food is good and plentiful and we are well treated. We are also well treated by the Red Cross. Each man receives one parcel of foodstuffs per week and I can tell you that after what we have been through it is very much appreciated. None of us New Zealanders have had any word from home since we were captured and I can tell you we are all anxiously waiting for that first letter, which we hope will arrive before Xmas.

Dated 7th December, 1941. I am still at the same place and am doing pretty well. The Germans treat us very well indeed, and now that we understand a little of the language it makes things much easier for us. Next time I write I will be sending photos.

From Dvr. J. P. BRUNING.

... He says they receive a parcel each week. It is the main attraction and looked forward to very much. He also says their quarters and living conditions are good. In his last letter dated 7/12/41 he states the weather is rather raw, with a fair bit of snow lying around. "I've got a bit of cooking to do for tea, a pancake mixture and an apple pudding to heat up. Jellies and crushed pineapple. (It's from our Red Cross parcel). We get one every week. I am working on a farm now, have been for a month. It is much better for one's peace of mind to be doing something and time passes quicker. There are ten of us here, just a happy family. The farm is a big one, state controlled."

From C. H. TAYLOR, dated 16th November, 1941.

I am getting three good meals a day. A Red Cross parcel once a week and 50 cigarettes, so I reckon I am doing well. I am working in a factory, but it is not hard work, and I am putting on weight. It is getting very cold here now, about three inches of snow to-day, but we don't worry as we are in good warm quarters, the rooms are all well heated and it is really good, but still—no place like home! We have a very decent lot of guards.

From Sgt. J. D. MURRAY, R.A.F., dated 14th Sept., 1941.

This week has brought two pleasant surprises for me. On Tuesday, I received from New Zealand House, London, six letters written to me there before it was known that I was a prisoner. Though rather old they were very welcome. This morning our church service was conducted by Captain Chaplain Griffiths of Waimate, who is known

to you. We had a fine service, and I enjoyed it all the more as it was the first time for some weeks that I have not conducted the service myself. These two links with home have cheered me up considerably. We are occupying ourselves these days with classes, studying various subjects, in fact we have quite a college in operation. It is very helpful in many ways—educative, mental exercise and an occupation.

Sgt. Murray is a son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Murray, formerly of Lovell's Flat, and a member of the Knox Church, Dunedin. He was taken prisoner when the Rangitane was sunk, November, 1940.

From Corp. J. A. BARNES, dated 12th Oct., 1941.

A cold day, snow this morning but fine now. Nice and warm in our barracks room, and a new battle dress and underpants and shirts. Just been issued with new tooth-brush and razor blades. Get plenty of soap in our Red Cross parcels. Boys are all busy reading, writing their letters and playing cards. Looking forward to getting a letter from you. Going to a concert to-morrow night. Very good orchestra here. We are all N.C.O.'s together in this barracks—80 of us. Taking French and German lessons—help us to while away the time. Weeks go quickly—days not so quick. Am keeping diary which should make interesting reading for you—some day? We do a bit of marching and drill to keep fit, each day, except week-ends. We've just got to keep cheery and wait I guess. There's a good time coming.—Cheerio.

From Pte. W. J. GIFFIN, dated 12th Oct. and 18th Nov.

This morning, Sunday, we went to church 9 o'clock and heard Padre Hurst from Wellington. He gave a very fine sermon on Pride and Humility. There has been some home mail arriving the last few days, so expect to receive a grand thrill when my name and number is on the mail list, especially as I have not heard of you since last Easter. I am feeling very fit and well and Red Cross food parcels are excellent. This week's parcel was great; it contained herrings, meat loaf, baked beans, sausages, raspberry jam, N.Z. honey, besides sweets, dried fruits, etc. The past week has brought with it some additional clothing issues including pyjamas, winter underwear and a fluffy Argentine blanket, so you see my wardrobe is getting quite established and elaborate again. We have a grand little pup in the camp, he is a great pal and we call him Churchill and get a lot of fun out of him. There was a good show on last week—"Melodies of 1941." Included in the programme were items from a Maori choir, which were very good.

From D. J. MILLER, dated 17th Nov., 1941.

Everything is run on strictly military lines. We rise at 5 a.m., cup of tea shortly after, check parade 6.30 a.m., soup or stew 11 a.m.; 4.30 p.m., tea—potatoes, bread and a little jam. Cheese or paste and margarine. Another check parade 6.30, lights out 9 p.m. We are in good barracks with three furnaces in each and have comfortable bunks to sleep in.

The place where I am working is more a foundry than factory. Work is fairly heavy and each day I get as black as the ace of spades. Still the firm supply soap, towel and hot shower when finished, so it's not so bad. Had three days off with my wrist; start again in the morning. To-day it has been snowing—looks like winter has started in earnest.

STALAG XVIII. A.

From L/Cpl. F L. FULLER.

Dated 6th October, 1941. Wonder when your letters will start arriving? Thanks to the Y.M. and contributors we have a good reading library now. We are really exceptionally well off here—I managed to buy a brand

new Hohner 12 hole chromatic here. Suppose the old 16 hole is still kicking round Egypt somewhere. It is autumn here now—the deciduous trees are colouring the countryside with the tints and shades that poets rave about. It is so different from the predominant green of the evergreens at home. This must be the most beautiful time of year.

Dated 17th November, 1941. Since last writing I have received three more letters from you, two of which contained some most welcome photographs. Many thanks, they took only a month to reach me. We've stuck a needle into most any man to pass through this camp. The only education I am getting is how to cure "Kranks," a bit of reading—in the virtues of patience. We've more soap now than we can use.

From Pte. C. E. BARWELL. Dated Oct., 1941.

They are quite good here and I am keeping fit. I was out of the camp three days last week on a small job. There are some lovely homes here and beautiful gardens. They grow large quantities of vegetables. There are no fences around them and they are not annoyed with stock and rabbits. They grow dahlias, sunflowers and other flowers among the vegetables and this makes the countryside very pretty. Apple and pear trees grow along the roads and there are orchards everywhere. The fruit is green at present, but soon will be ripe. I received two Red Cross parcels since last letter, one each week. The first contained 1lb. drinking chocolate, tin milk powder, 4ozs. sugar, tin meat paste, tin meat loaf, tin golden syrup, tin of stew and vegetables, tin herrings, tin creamed rice, pkt. biscuits, one oatmeal, 4ozs. tea, 2 bars chocolate, 2 cheese, 1 jellies, 1 prunes. The one I received yesterday contained tin milk, tin cocoa, tin biscuits, 4ozs. tea, 4ozs. sugar, tin creamed rice, tin pork pie, tin meat loaf, 4ozs. chocolate, tin herrings, tin dripping, tin N.Z. honey, tin corned mutton, pkt. cheese, 1 toilet paper.

From T. WILLIAMS, dated 26th Oct., 1941.

Prison life at the present time means only to be deprived of a few privileges which army life gave us and to be behind barbed wire. Conditions have vastly improved since first we were captured. Even to-day we have Red Cross representatives making an inspection of our camp. To-day I had my first bottle of beer in months, when I was able to purchase it when I drew my rations for dinner. One such each week we hope will be the rule in future. We are well protected against the cold, however, as each man here has a new battledress, new overcoat and boots. Also stoves have been installed in our billets.

Dated 9th Nov. Our latest improvement in living conditions is the formation of an orchestra and a harmonica band also a choir. All the instruments including a baby grand piano we have subscribed from our earnings. Since winter has come and there have been several falls of snow my work with many others is clearing the streets of the town where we are.

From Pte. P. E. LEARY, dated 2nd Nov., 1941.

This week we have had fires, we have had some great meals from our parcels. An Aussie mate and myself shave together, it makes things go much further. Some of our feeds are: Monday, salmon; Tuesday, pichards; Wednesday, sausages and creamed rice, then steak and vegetables and stewed veal, curried mutton and peas. To-night (Sunday), bacon and jelly and crushed pineapple. I thank God for our Red Cross. Just now there is about 4 inches of snow on the ground and there have been some great snow fights. So far I have had no letters, but they must be close now, as some Aussies have had parcels from home.

Dated 18th Oct. I have heard quite a lot about collecting money for the Red Cross before, but realize what

they do now, seeing we are getting a parcel a week. Have had five now and there are five each in the camp at present.

From R. W. BROWN, asking us to write and thank you for the comfort and cheer that the receipt of the first Red Cross parcel has brought him. He received it on the 21st of September, 1941. This is what he says:— We've received our first Red Cross parcel and for the only time since I was captured I feel satisfied. After an entire German diet consisting of potatoes, sauerkraut and turnips with a little meat now and again for four months. It was wonderful to sink my teeth into some real English chocolate biscuits and jam. There is such a wonderful selection of foodstuffs, full of vitamins, such as cocoa, ovaltine and marmite. Also tins of meat, fish preserves, which will be most valuable because of the fat content, and I look forward to the winter with less dread than previously. I daresay there will be similar requests from all recipients of these parcels to their people to thank the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John for their thoughtfulness. I am sure they will be pleased to know that their efforts have succeeded in putting new heart into the thousands of prisoners-of-war.

We, the parents of R. W. Brown, also wish to join him in sending our heartfelt thanks to the Red Cross and St. John for their great achievement.

From L/Bdr. G. H. DENTON, dated 1st Oct., 1941.

Each night I'm helping on Red Cross parcel issue as the tins not required right away are kept under supervision. They're great parcels. Just stewed some dried apples for A.M. and going to make ovaltine now. Fit and well.

Dated 25th Nov., 1941. Although I have not yet had any letters from home since I've been here, I am hoping to get some soon. We got our Red Cross parcels this morning and we had a pretty good feed. Since the Red Cross parcels have been arriving regularly we have all picked up in health and spirits. There are lots of stocks of iron to be painted now and it will take several months to do it. As this work will be done in big sheds we won't notice the cold so much.

Dated 9th December, 1941. Just another little card to let you know that I am O.K. and doing well. The Red Cross parcels make a wonderful difference to our life here. We have a canteen going in our camp now and we can buy a few essential toilet requisites with our prisoner's currency. It is very cold here now. Snow falls are common, also sleet and rain.

STALAG XVIII. D.

From N. I. BLAIR, dated 26th November, 1941.

I have now had 24 letters, one of yours only took 23 days to come. I note that you have not yet heard from me. I have written 12 or more. I am pleased to get all your news. Parcels have not come yet. Nobody has had any from New Zealand yet. The special Christmas parcels for the New Zealanders have come however. Socks, gloves, pullovers, etc., are wanted. We have had a bit of snow here. We get special parcels at Christmas, also extra cigarettes.

From Pte. W. R. SINCLAIR, dated 8th November, 1941.

I have had two letters from you, dated 20th July and 3rd August. We are not short of food. Have had eleven Red Cross parcels, and at present am getting them each week, also soap and cigarettes. We owe a tremendous debt to the Red Cross, which we shall never be able to repay. At present I am working in the Red Cross parcel room. We observe normal working hours and as a rule have Saturday afternoons and Sundays free. Free time is occupied with writing, reading, cards, etc., also hot showers, washing clothes, having hair cut,

or making tea. A library has been instituted with a fair supply of good books and more to come. There is also a concert party, which performs from time to time. We live in buildings which appear to have been military barracks originally. Clerks and Red Cross workers occupy one large room. It is large and airy and is fitted with electric light and a heating stove. We sleep in comfortable bunks, in tiers of three. I have made some good friends, many more than I ever did in the army.

From R. AMTMAN, dated 1st October, 1941.

I am finding it hard what to tell you. So far things are O.K. although I am now away from the camp and on a farm on my own. There are ten of us altogether and at 6 in the morning we go to our various jobs, returning to our sleeping quarters at half past eight. We are getting plenty to eat, breakfast, morning tea, dinner, afternoon tea, and tea. I have also had up till now four Red Cross parcels, which are simply marvellous—meat, chocolate, etc., in fact nearly everything one can think of.

From G. C. IRVINE.

Dated 24th October, 1941. The time seems to go very quickly but may slow up during winter. We work 8—12 and 2.30—6 so the hours are good. Work mostly on Red Cross parcels.

Dated 5th November, 1941. Another letter arrived dated 22nd September—jolly quick I thought. The Red Cross send us almost everything we need. It is good to get beautiful Canadian butter and English jams. They also send us Gold Flakes which are very much appreciated.

Dated 11th November, 1941. To-day is Armistice Day but not for us yet. We have had a little snow and some good hard frosts and clear days, so like Central. Most of the chaps are in excellent health as I am.

From Sgt. M. MULHERN.

Dated 12th October, 1941. Well, here I am still working on the farm, well and happy as circumstances will permit. Parcels of food and tobacco from the Red Cross arrive regularly and make a big difference to us. We are paid 18 marks per month and are able to spend the money at the local store. We are unable to get soap and are issued with pieces of cloth to cover our feet.

Dated 2nd November, 1941. Still on the farm. The hours are long, but it keeps us from moping. Paul Campbell from Timaru, who is on the next farm to me, received a letter from New Zealand to-day.

Dated 27th October, 1941. It is very cold, but the trees and hills look beautiful. There are two New Zealanders with me here and they both received letters from home. We all look forward to Sunday. We go to our farms for breakfast and dinner, but cook our own tea with stuff from the Red Cross parcels. We know nothing of the outside world here in this farm life of ours. None of us can read German, but are able to make ourselves understood and are slowly learning the language.

Dated 16th November, 1941. Letters from New Zealand only take a month to arrive here. I don't know what you are allowed to send me, but anything in the clothing line will be acceptable. I wonder if you could send me an English-German dictionary. It would be a great help with the language here.

From Pte. G. D. PARRISH, dated November 22nd, 1941.

Yesterday I was very thrilled to receive my first mail from home. I received one letter from you and one from Mother. Well, I have just finished a nice cup of cocoa and some biscuits with butter and New Zealand honey. We receive an 11 pound parcel of food from the Red Cross every week so are doing very well. We are getting cold weather now and there's not much work to do. I spend most of the day in the house grinding maize, etc. Later we will be making baskets. All the cows here

are kept in sheds winter and summer, and milked three times a day. All the farm work is done by oxen or cows. I'll bet you would laugh to see me driving a couple of old cows.

From Pte. L. GARDINER.

I still work every day that is fine enough to allow us to work. If it is raining hard we work inside cleaning water pipes and painting them, sawing wood or polishing the machinery. It is very easy work and we always come home to warm beds or we can go to a concert. We hold three a week and the French hold two. I have not received the parcel yet but was only told just lately that it was arriving from England so I am expecting it any day now.

STALAG XXI. A.

From A. J. GRUBB, dated 12th October, 1941.

"I am well, Mother, so don't worry. I have received my first Red Cross Parcel and it was very welcome. At the camp where I am now, I was issued with a new Battle Dress and Overcoat and Underwear, so I will be fairly well clothed for the winter."

From Gnr. J. K. BARCLAY, dated 2nd November, 1941.

Sunday is a very busy day, what with bath, washing clothes, baking, etc. Last week-end I made a cake out of what I received in my Red Cross parcel. You can send the recipe on to Aunt Daisy. B. cake-powder, broken biscuits, bread crumbs, sultanas, dates, green-gage jam, black currant puree, sugar, salt and milk powder Turned out a great success and made two more small ones to-day. Not such a mixture, but just as good. I am a pretty good hand at cooking by now, so you will be able to take some time off, when I get back. What with chopping and digging I will be quite a handy man around the house.

OFLAG VI. B.

From Capt. G. M. BEAUMONT.

Dated 25th October, 1941. Several of us have received letters from New Zealand posted before we were definitely listed as prisoners and sent on from Geneva, and some have had replies from England. Since last letter we have shifted to a new camp. This is Camp VI. B and now contains most of the British officers. We met here the New Zealand officers captured in Greece, including Jack Findlay and Dennis Brickell and many others. I also met a Major Nicolson from Dunedin and gave him your address, and he says he will mention it in his next letter, as two letters are better than one. There is a much happier atmosphere about this Camp, probably due to its being much bigger.

Dated 28th November, 1941. The weather is now getting cold but winter has not set in yet as we still get very little rain or snow. Am still well and fairly comfortable.

From Lieut. D. BRICKELL.

We have just moved to a new camp—a 22 hour journey by train. It was marvellous to be outside for a while and the countryside looked beautiful in full autumn glory, reds, gold and brown. Arrived here in heavy rain, which didn't add to our comfort. This is much bigger than "V. B" and there are 3,000 of us here. Met all the Crete lads, Bruce McKenzie, Maurice Beaumont and a number who came overseas with me. It was a great reunion. Everybody seemed cheerful. We are out in the country here and in the distance all round us can be seen little picturesque villages, each with its church spire. Winter is rapidly approaching and we have fires now every day. At last I have joined forces with John Findlay, we are in a room for 12. Ken Simmonds, is with us too. The camp is large enough to eliminate the feeling of "wire phobia" that was beginning to get me. The walk

round is 1,600 yards. Have had only the two June letters from you. Am still fit. Hope to get new boots for winter, clothes ok.

From Flying Officer R. A. R. WHITE, dated 8 Nov., 1941.

I received quite a batch of letters from you this week also snaps. Have lots of friends here. We are now working on a skating rink for the winter. Snow has thawed now, envy you the hot summer weather. 3,000 officers here mostly army, but quite a few R.A.F.

British Red Cross wonderful organisation; don't know where we would be if not for them. Interested in all your news.

P.S.—Doing quite a bit of Vet. and Agricultural work.

From Capt. ALMAO.

Dated October 25th, 1941. Moved from Oflag X. C to Oflag VI. B. Before leaving camp was thrilled to receive my first letter from you dated 28/7/41, received 7/10/41, the second letter you wrote. The first is not here yet. Gratifying to learn of the wonderful courage of folks back home. We are now receiving weekly Red Cross food parcels and cigarettes. These parcels are excellent and we are feeling the benefit already. New camp much larger and better. Large numbers here. Met many more N. Zedders from Greece and Crete. Accommodation and comforts quite good. Play chess, bridge and read. Concerts and sports to see. Walk for exercise around "wire."

Dated November 18th. Still only one letter, read and re-read. Mail any day now. Fit and well. Longing for news. Lectures and classes have begun, must occupy the mind. I am taking writing (literary), mathematics and am learning German and French, also assist camp post office; am paid 27 marks every 10 days (about 36/-). Camp canteen sells odd things and occasionally food which supplements the rations.

Dated 29th November, 1941. We are to have an approved Xmas card to send, will follow later. Red Cross food parcels arriving regularly now; feeling so very much better and am gaining weight fast. A great organisation, believe me. Weather cold, down to about 25 deg, so far.

From 2nd Lt. T. N. WATT.

Dated 9th Nov., 1941. Have had several letters from friends and was thrilled to get a parcel from Doug. (a brother) from Cairo. You can imagine how pleased I was to get some things from my own people, particularly a balaclava, scarf, sox and a tin of that N.Z. Rex cheese. Have met up here with our officers from Crete, and a lot of N.Z.R.A.F. officers, including Jerry Potts, Laurie Edwards and "Butch" Brodie. Had 6 inches of snow last week, but it has all thawed to slush now. Winter is here all right. We have applied to see if we can get some skates for exercise through the winter. Am as fit as a fiddle.

Dated 18th Nov., 1941. Have had your letter dated 28th July and others from friends. It is lovely to get such cheery notes from you all. A lot of the Englishmen here have been very interested in it and photos will always be very very welcome. Have had clothes parcels from N.Z. House containing shirts, underwear, towel, sox, toilet gear, etc., so am not the least bit scared of the winter now. Seeing you have already two parcels on the way for me I am sure there will be more than enough to see me through the duration. The others are all as well off. Think in future you can confine clothes to sox and fill the parcel with chocolate and malt if possible. Cigarette parcels from N.Z. House have also started to arrive, so we'll soon be on the box seat. We are extremely grateful for all the Red Cross and you folks have done for us. Am fit and well.

Dated 28th Nov., 1941. Lots of gaps between letters. Weather has been milder, but expect the real winter any time now. All fit and well.

STALAG LUFT I.

From Sgt. L. MABEY, dated 14th Sept., 1941.

I'm glad to hear from you again. I am not in such a great need of clothes now that I have had two parcels from N.Z. House, so that if you could send me more chocolate and chewing gum and a couple of small musical instruments I would be grateful. I have had quite a few book parcels sent. I've also had three cigarette parcels from N.Z. House so I am not doing so bad now.

DULAG 183 E.P.

From R. KIRKLAND, dated 21st Sept., 1941. It will be a great day when I receive a letter from you. I am working in a stable, I have never any time to worry, I like the work and it makes the time fly. Use air mail paper when you write. It is good for rolling cigarettes. If you can send a parcel send peanut butter and chocolate. Give my love to everyone. When you write just write about home life. If you put in anything that should not be I will not get the letter. We get a half day off Saturday and Sunday. You don't need to worry over me. I have been lucky so far, I get a good feed on the job and a few cigarettes. I will be able to write about three times a month, so that won't be so bad. I am still with two chaps that I was with in Houph Houph.

Heilag, Rouen, France

From C. E. BARWELL.

Dated 20th Nov., 1941. I hope you are all well. I am longing to hear from you as it is eight months since I had a letter. I am now in a Repatriation Camp and hope to be in England soon. We received some woollen underclothes, a blanket, towel, pyjamas, pull-over and a shirt from the Red Cross last week. Don't send any parcels. We are very well treated here and I am keeping very well. The weather is quite good, yet.

Dated 28th Nov., 1941. I am in a repatriation camp in Rouen in France. We should have been in England a month ago, but there was some hitch in the negotiations and we will have to remain here until they are settled. I have had no letters, papers or parcels since last March. We are quite comfortable here and the weather is not very cold yet. Don and I had curried beef and vegetables and after that jellies and fruit salad with condensed milk for tea last night. Not so bad, was it. It was from our Red Cross parcels. I also received a singlet, underpants, pyjamas, towel, shirt, pullover and blanket from the Red Cross. We get a small bunch of grapes or an apple issued to us occasionally by the Germans. I am going into Rouen this afternoon to get my teeth fixed. I still have the watch and match-box you gave me.

Campo Concentramento, Mont Albó, Italy

From 2nd Lt. E. H. BISHOP.

Dated November. Have been in captivity since August 20th, but only arrived here a few days ago. We are now living in an old castle there being quite a number of officers here and I understand there is snow in the winter. Our conditions are not so bad and may improve later, although I miss our English tea, not having tasted a cup for four months. We take a certain amount of exercise every day, going for walks under escort, of course, but after spending four months dodging patrols in Greece, mostly in the mountains, I am fairly fit.

Dated 16th November, 1941. Another few lines to say I am still going strongly, etc. We seem well into the winter now and although no further falls of snow have occurred the weather remains very cold. During the past week we have been indoors most of the time except for one walk last Saturday. We have received a shirt, pull-over, etc., from the Red Cross at Geneva, also one pair of

pyjamas, and these are greatly appreciated as you will imagine. Please give my regards to all and write as often as possible.

Fonte D'Amore, Sulmona (Aquila) Italy

From Spr. W. SMITH.

Dated 21st Aug., 1941. Am quite fit and well. We get one post card and one letter issued each week, so will be able to write to you regularly.

Dated 22nd Aug., 1941. Have been in this camp three days, a prisoner for five weeks. Caught in Greece after hiding in the mountains for three months. We are in huts here with beds, mattress, sheets and blanket. Fifty English cigarettes, thirty-five Italian cigarettes weekly, and one Red Cross parcel each week, containing tea, milk, sugar, tinned fruit, meat, jam, butter, cheese, etc. Please don't worry, as we are well treated.

Dated 28th Aug., 1941. Great weather, just wear shorts and boots all day. Only six other New Zealanders here and they were captured in Greece with me. This is an English camp. New Zealanders and Australians are in another part of Italy. We have no work, but there are various forms of amusement which we can busy ourselves with during the day. Physical training classes, French and German lessons, debates, draughts, chess, cards, a library, general knowledge competitions, etc.

Dated 6th Sept., 1941. Had first touch of winter during past week. Plenty of snow here in the winter. Over one foot last Christmas. Just to put your mind at rest I am not in need of anything. All I own apart from what is at home, is a pair of socks you knitted. Everything is gone. However, I am honestly not in need of anything.

Dated 10th Sept., 1941. It is a wonderful work the Red Cross is doing, and is fully appreciated by all here. Every prisoner of war receives a parcel worth 10/6 each week and that is only a small part of the work done by the Red Cross. We do not get any war news here.

From Prato, Isarco (Bolzano)

Dated 19th Sept., 1941. Have now travelled from bottom to top of Italy, and are not many miles from Germany. Plenty of Australians here, but only one or two New Zealanders.

Dated 27th Sept., 1941. The barrack rooms are at present having heaters installed, so we won't find the winter so hard as we anticipated. The snow starts here next month and I believe it is a long winter. Have walks of two or three miles every day or so. It's great to get outside even for an hour or two, although we are not actually shut off from the outside world in the camp here. The main road and railway between the two countries run alongside the camp. The various forms of entertainment here are much the same as the previous camp at Sulmona.

Dated 3rd Oct., 1941. A New Zealand sergeant here received a letter a few days ago from N.Z. house in London saying that the Red Cross and Patriotic Society wished to do all they could for us and would we please state what brands of cigarettes or tobacco we liked, size of boots, shirt and our height, etc. Monthly parcels of cigarettes would be sent and quarterly parcels of clothes, books, games, etc. The interest taken in us is very much appreciated. There are only eighteen New Zealanders here.

Udine, Italy

Dated 1st Nov., 1941. Have just been shifted to camp in the mountains. It is very cold here. First day of the month and we are to be paid weekly from now on, but I don't know exactly how much. They are also opening up a canteen for us.