

D805.N5 NEW

**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.6 (October 1942)

Acquarone Salonica (printer)

TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Note: This document is supplied only to facilitate private research and may not be reproduced without the permission of the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, New Zealand.

library@aucklandmuseum.com

AMM Tāmaki
Paenga Hira
Auckland
War Memorial
Museum

B305
N2 Res
(Set 2)

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

Hon. Assistant Editor—Mrs. J. W. JACK.

Hon. Editor—Mr. J. ABEL

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. Please do not send any letters posted from Prisoner of War Camps, dated earlier than June, 1942. Also make sure that the date of the letter is given, also Camp when known.

If you do not desire the name of the prisoner of war to be published with his letter, please make this clear when forwarding copy and the name will be deleted.

Shortage of paper does not allow us to publish copies of groups of prisoners, and as these are extensively published in several leading New Zealand weekly journals, next of kin are requested therefore not to send in photographs of groups.

The Editor.

HEADQUARTERS AND WELLINGTON:

96 Tory Street, Wellington.
P.O. Box 139, Te Aro Wellington.
Telegraphic Address: "JOINTCIL."

AUCKLAND PROVINCE:

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

CANTERBURY & WESTLAND PROVINCES:

105A Cashel Street, Christchurch.
P.O. Box 1098, Christchurch.

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND PROVINCES:

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

(Translated from the "International Red Cross Review," Geneva, by Mrs. J. W. Jack.)

WORK DETACHMENTS IN GERMANY

STALAG VIII B.

Work Detachment E.51 visited by Dr. Exchaquet and Dr. Rubli, 3rd February, 1942.

In a group of six hutments there are several hundreds of British Prisoners, among whom are five miners by trade. The camp is established near the pit head in the suburbs of a town. The wooden hutments are in good condition and the barbed wire enclosure is large.

As in all work detachments, the food, supplied by the employer, is prepared by German women. The provisions are always controlled by a British sergeant. The food is, generally speaking, good and in sufficient quantity. The men receive the extra ration for heavy work, and those who work in the camp, as well as the sick, only receive 250 grs. of bread, instead of the 320 grs. they are entitled to. This fact was pointed out by the International Committee Delegates and this error will be corrected. (250 grs. = about 9 ozs.)

The Red Cross parcels are distributed in the ratio of one parcel per man per week, but the camp does not possess a reserve stock of parcels. The camp leader is to ask the Stalag to supply him with a sufficient number to build up a six weeks reserve supply.

The medical service is assured by a British doctor and by two medical orderlies. The equipment of the infirmary is satisfactory, and in general, the state of health is good. However, the prisoners have to buy and to pay for medicines. Several days before the Delegates' visit they had made a purchase

of various drugs to the value of 400 R.M. Up to the present the cost of these purchases has been covered by a levy on the Prisoners' salaries. The International Committee Delegates pointed out to the Commandant of the Detachment that this was contrary to the ruling. The Commandant has promised that it will be remedied in future. The medical material supplied by the German authorities is not sufficient.

An Anglican religious service is celebrated each week by a lay prisoner. The Catholics have no religious help.

There are very few games. A box of out-door games, whose coming has been advised by the Y.M.C.A. is anxiously awaited. Indoor games are absolutely lacking and a consignment of these would be very welcome.

In the mines the men work in three shifts, of which the days, counting from leaving the cantonment to the return to camp, are of an average of 10 to 11 hours. Furthermore, the prisoners are obliged to do the normal working hours two Sundays a month.

The material installations and the nourishment of the camp is satisfactory.

STALAG VIII B.

Work Detachments E. 253 and E. 287, visited by Dr. Rubli, 13th December, 1941.

These two work detachments, where the conditions of housing, life and work are exactly the same, consists of, in the first, some dozens of British non-commissioned officers, and in the second, about twenty British Jews who were due to leave the following week to work in a factory manufacturing paper.

At the time of the Delegate's visit these men were employed in a sugar beet factory. They were housed in a great stone building, the rooms of which were mostly small, but well heated. They had wooden bunks in two tiers. Each prisoner has two blankets and as many more of their own personal blankets as they wish, these latter being entered on their clothing card. The washing installations, which are in an outhouse, are very primitive.

The food is good and in sufficient quantity; it is prepared by German cooks. During the period of especially hard work the men receive a supplementary ration for their heavy toil. For the last two weeks they have had the ordinary ration which corresponds to the normal ration provided for by the regulations.

All the men have "battledress" and an overcoat, but many do not have pullovers and only one shirt; others have not got leather shoes, no one has either gloves or scarves. The head of the detachment facilitates the interchange of articles as much as he can but he cannot go against the orders of the "company." Medical care is given by a civilian doctor and by a member of the British Medical Corps. Patients who are seriously ill are evacuated to the Reserve Hospital.

The men have worked in shifts, 12 hours a day, for five weeks. During that period they did not have even a single Sunday free. Now, since the "battle of the beet" finished a few days ago, they work eight hours a day and are free on Sundays. During this period of strenuous work their pay was 1.20 R.M. per day, now it is reduced to 0.70 R.M.

The prisoners write two letters and two cards instead of four.

No religious services have been held. The Red Cross parcels arrive regularly; they are controlled and distributed by the men's camp leader.

The Jews are treated exactly the same as their comrades and have no complaints to formulate; the civilians treat them well also. They stated that, according to advice received from other comrades, that this is also true of several other work detachments.

STALAG VIII B.

Work Detachment E. 27, visited by Dr. Rubli, 13th December, 1941.

This detachment, the personnel of which comprises several hundred British, had already been visited by the International Committee Delegate last spring. The men of the work in the mines. They live in stone buildings which were occupied by Russian prisoners during the war of 1914-1918. The rooms are small, very clean and have sufficient free space. Each room has a stove and the prisoners can have as much coal as they wish. The beds, of wood or iron, are in two tiers. Each man has two blankets and as many personal blankets as have been sent to him, these are entered on his clothing card. The sanitary installations are excellent. After his work each man has a warm shower at the mine; in the camp there is a washing place with 20 taps with hot water all day long, moreover, in each corridor there is a sink with a tap.

The food, which is prepared by German women, is very good, and is in three categories: 1. Schwerarbeiterzulage (extra for heavy work) for the several hundred who work deep in the mines; 2. Schwerarbeiterzulage for the men who work on the surface; 3. Ordinary rations for the prisoners who work in camp.

Medical care is given by a British Medical Officer assisted by members of the Medical Corps. This doctor enjoys entire liberty for his work; twice a week he sends his patients to the hospital in the town for any special examinations. He has a small infirmary with three beds. His consulting room is well equipped, there are enough medicaments and the doctor regularly receives "Medical Parcels." The state of health is good. There have been no deaths. The seriously ill cases are evacuated to a neighbouring hospital and then to the camp hospital.

With regard to clothes one must stress the fact that each man possesses "battledress," and overcoat, three shirts, two of which are given by the mining company, two pairs under-pants, socks and Fusslappen, as well as a working suit supplied by the employer. All are equipped by the mining company with working shoes and they have sabots to wear in camp.

The prisoners work eight hours a day and also every second Sunday, without receiving a holiday during the week as compensation. Grouped into two shifts they do very heavy work but under very good conditions. The pay varies according to the nature of the work, on the basis of 70 pg. per day.

There are no religious services.

The library has 400 books, of which 150 belong to the camp. The men are provided with games. They have set up a small orchestra and organised a theatrical troupe which was at the time of the Delegate's visit in the throes of preparing a magnificent Christmas spectacle. The camp leader himself, controls and distributes the Red Cross parcels which arrive in big consignments; actually there are nearly 3,000 of them.

One should also add that the men are well treated both by civilians and military.

To sum up, Work Detachment E. 27 is good, thanks to the consideration of the mine management.

STALAG VIII. B.

Work Detachment E. 276, visited by Dr. Rubli, 14th December, 1941.

Some hundreds of British prisoners work in a sugar beet factory, some of them are housed in an old house within the factory precincts and others in a recreation hall. The rooms in the old house are small and each contains several dozen men, but the free space is quite sufficient. The washing accommodation and lavatories are very primitive but each man can take a warm shower at the factory every day.

Wooden beds are arranged in two tiers. Two blankets are provided and the prisoners can have as many blankets of their own as they wish, these latter being entered on their clothing card. The rooms are well heated.

The food, which is prepared by two British cooks under the supervision of a German civilian is, on the whole, satisfactory. The men who do heavy work receive a supplementary ration. They all have "battledress" and an overcoat but not in very good condition.

Medical care is given by a civilian doctor assisted by a member of the British Medical Corps.

STALAG VII. A.

Work Detachment 2771 A, visited by Dr. Exchaquet, (British), 26th November, 1941.

This work detachment, which is situated on the outskirts of a town, consists of some hundreds of British prisoners. The men, who are working on a housing scheme, live in big wooden hutments with an interior lining of fibre board. The dormitories have bunks in two tiers supplied with mattresses, two blankets and a pillow. Heat is assured by hot air stoves heated by coal; sufficient coal is supplied.

According to the prisoners, the food, prepared by British cooks in a well-equipped and clean kitchen, is good. The men are clothed in assorted uniforms, French, Belgian, Dutch. They all long to wear the uniform of their own army. "They don't feel respectable," said the camp leader.

On the day of the Delegate's visit there were no patients in the infirmary. He was informed that a patient, suffering from cerebro-spinal meningitis had been removed to the hospital at Freysing, where he was still under treatment. His condition was very satisfactory. All contacts had been subjected to a bacteriological examination, and six of them, diagnosed as germ carriers had been isolated. After a second examination, made two days before the Delegate's visit, two men, still germ carriers, were in isolation awaiting further examination.

Up to the present the camp leader has held a religious service every Sunday, but nothing more has been done for the spiritual life of the prisoners. The International Committee Delegate has asked the responsible authorities to supply chaplains for the British prisoners in that neighbourhood.

The library contains only 40 volumes. The despatch of some reading matter is very desirable.

DELEGATE IN JAPAN.

On the 14th February, Dr. Paravicini telegraphed that prisoners from Guam and Wake Islands had thanked the Japanese authorities for the good treatment accorded to them.

Accompanied by a member of the Information Bureau of the Japanese Red Cross, Dr. Paravicini visited on the 12th March a camp of Prisoners of War situated on a fertile plain between pine clad hills. There the climate is healthy and the Delegate advises that there is no sickness. The area of the camp is three hectares (10 acres). There are two solid wooden army huts capable of housing several hundred prisoners.

SHANGHAI.

With the consent of the Japanese authorities the International Committee has appointed a Delegate in Shanghai in the person of M. Edouard Egle, who represented there the Swiss firm of Siber-Hegner of Zurich.

MEMB

Acco
mittee by
ruling ac
recognise
occupied

YOUR

Ma
instruct
in the
it will
one day
and pos

Th
up you

1. NE
2. OV
3. OM
4. NO
5. IN
6. CA
7. SE
8. IN

A nev
and enter
the fleet o
under the
You v
Red Cross
a maritim
of Portug
In the
tonnage, th
lar fashion
used in th
"Zemanel"
and "Embi
With
navigate r
Up to
assuring f
destined fo
nationaliti

On acc
particular
the Prison
tative in L
it was un
to New Z
comforts p
for such p
the British
invalids' co
such as re
Prisoner o
invalid co
Officer or

Donor: Mr Ian Vandrey, 2004

MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL CORPS IN GERMANY.

According to information sent to the International Committee by Dr. Marti, the German authorities have approved the ruling according to which a member of the Medical Corps, recognised as such, receives his pay and his wages when he is occupied on work not medical.

IMPORTANT.

YOUR PARCEL:

Many next of kin are not, in every way, carrying out instructions which are very fully, and plainly, explained in the Brochure. If you do not strictly adhere to these it will mean that you are imposing delays which, of even one day, may be the means of your parcel missing a ship, and possibly delaying its despatch for two or three weeks.

The following are common faults, and they will hold up your parcel:—

1. **NEGLECTING TO PUT** the acknowledgment card in the parcel.
2. **OVERLOOKING** the filling in and including of the second contents slip.
3. **OMITTING** name and address on back of label.
4. **NOT TYING LABEL** on parcel, but including it in contents.
5. **INCORRECTLY** addressing labels for Prisoners of War in Italian Camps. Using part of Camp address as Prisoner of War Number.
6. **CARELESS WRAPPING** of parcels, which may mean loss of small articles, such as razor blades, etc.
7. **SEWING** calico on parcel. It has to be undone and then re-sewn after censoring.
8. **INCLUDING** Chocolate Slips and Postal Note in parcel. This is contrary to Postal Regulations.

THE CARGO BOATS OF THE RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

A new boat, the S.S. "Padua," chartered last February and entering the service at the beginning of March, completes the fleet of transports sailing between Lisbon and Marseilles, under the sign of the Red Cross.

You will recall that it was in December, 1940, that the Red Cross International Committee instituted for the first time a maritime traffic, under its own control, between the coast of Portugal and the ports of Marseilles and Genoa.

In the beginning, restricted to some boats of very small tonnage, this service had only commenced to function in a regular fashion by the beginning of February, 1941. The steamers used in this traffic have been the Portuguese boats "Ambriz," "Zemanel," "Silva-Gouveia" and the Swedish boats "Vega" and "Embla."

With the exception of the "Silva-Gouveia" all these boats navigate regularly between Lisbon and Marseilles.

Up to the 5th February, 1942, 54 voyages had been made assuring the transport by sea of more than 25,000 tons of goods destined for Prisoners of War and Interned Civilians of all nationalities.

MEDICAL COMFORTS.

On account of odd requests made by next of kin for some particular medical comforts to be supplied to certain prisoners, the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office cabled to their representative in London, who, after making investigations, advised that it was unnecessary that Prisoners of War should write either to New Zealand or to the High Commissioner for invalids' comforts parcels. Owing to numbers of requests from fit men for such parcels and in view of arrangements explained below, the British Red Cross are not sending individually addressed invalids' comforts parcels unless under special circumstances such as requests from senior British medical officers at the Prisoner of War camps. New Zealand prisoners requiring invalid comforts should apply to the Senior British Medical Officer or the British Camp Captain. Invalids' food comforts

medicaments are available in all camps and hospitals in Germany and Italy to be issued at the discretion of the British Medical Officer or the British Camp Captain. Consignments are despatched from the Invalids' Comforts Section of the British Red Cross weekly, to all camps and hospitals on a basis of 5 per cent. sick men in 1,000. A reserve supply is to be held by the International Red Cross, Geneva, to be drawn upon in emergency, such as unexpected additional numbers in camps or an epidemic.

Regarding dentures, the detaining powers recognise liability for replacement of dentures and dental operations if the condition can be considered due to wounds (war), further, if a man is diagnosed as suffering from acute dental trouble he is entitled to extraction, stopping or treatment of stumps and where chewing capacity is destroyed, replacement of dentures. Reports received over many months, however, show that acute hardship has been incurred owing to necessary dental treatment not being forthcoming and much of the present trouble is not due to war wounds but to food and conditions of living of Prisoners of War. A Welfare Fund has been established in some camps to meet the cost of dentures supplied by German civilian dentists. Authority has now been given for dental material for use of British Prisoners of War dentists to be provided by the British Red Cross upon indent from camp medical officers. The following camps, amongst others, have been supplied:—STALAGS 7A, 8B, 18A; OPLAGS 4C, 6B; HLAG 8 MARLAGUND MILAG NORD. Consignments of dental material are in transit to OPLAGS 6B and 9A, STALAGS 8B, 21A and 18B. A small reserve of dental material is to be held by the International Red Cross at Geneva to service camps which have no British dental officer.

Regarding spectacles, arrangements in camps differ. Some have a Welfare Fund on the same principle as for dental treatment. Material and labour for the provision of spectacles is now limited. The medical officers collect prescriptions and forward them to the Invalids' Comforts Section of the British Red Cross. These prescriptions are expeditiously made up by the Joint War Emergency Committee of Optics, free of cost, and forwarded by air mail to the camps or hospitals.

In several cases recently where prescriptions were forwarded from London the prisoners concerned have acknowledged safe receipt of spectacles within 17 days of despatch from London.

In co-operation with St. Dunstons there is a very effective Braille service for blind Prisoners of War. In co-operation with the Institute for the Deaf, similar service for deaf is being established.

A small supply of vaccine is kept in reserve by the International Red Cross at Geneva and can be issued to camps and hospitals in an emergency. Close contact is kept with the medical officers in all camps and hospitals who are always prepared to report on the state of health of any sick or wounded prisoners of war.

The British Red Cross may be relied on to do everything possible to meet all requirements of Prisoners of War.

STANDARD "NEXT-OF-KIN" PARCEL FOR NEW ZEALAND PRISONERS OF WAR.

The following lists show the contents of the average summer or winter parcels which have been made up by the Joint Council Prisoners of War Packing Centre in London for despatch to all New Zealanders as soon as they have been OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED as prisoners of war.

FIRST PARCEL—SUMMER.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 Shirt, blue, khaki | 2 Packets Blades |
| 1 Vest, summer weight | 1 Shaving Brush |
| 1 Pants, summer weight | 1 Comb |
| 1 Pyjamas, summer weight | 1 Hussif |
| 2 Pairs Socks | 1 Tie, officers |
| 2 Handkerchiefs | 1 Kit Bag |
| 1 Gloves | 1 Linen Toilet Bag (when available) |
| 1 Towel | 1 Pair Tennis Shoes |
| 1 Soap | 1 Pipe and Pouch (about every sixth parcel) |
| 1 Toothbrush | and pipe cleaners |
| 1 Dentifrice | 2 Shirts for Air Force |
| 1 Brilliantine | 4 Collars for Air Force |
| 1 Nail Brush (2nd Parcel) | 1 Pair Shorts |
| either | 1 Pair Stockings |
| 1 Shaving Stick | 1 Braces |
| 1 Shoe Polish | 1 Leather Laces, pair. |
| 2 Pencils | |
| 1 lb. Chocolate | |
| 1 Safety Razor | |

FIRST PARCEL—WINTER.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 Shirt, Blue, Khaki | 1 lb. Chocolate |
| 1 Vest, winter weight | 1 Safety Razor |
| 1 Pants, winter weight | 2 Packets Blades |
| 1 Pyjamas, winter weight | 1 Shaving Brush |
| 1 Pullover, winter weight | 1 Comb |
| 3 Pairs Socks | 1 Hussif |
| 2 Handkerchiefs | 1 Tie, officers |
| 1 Gloves | 1 Kit Bag |
| 1 Balaclava | 1 Linen Toilet Bag (when available) |
| 1 Scarf | 1 Pipe and Pouch (about every third parcel) |
| 1 Towel | and pipe cleaners |
| 1 Toothbrush | 2 Shirts for Air Force |
| 1 Dentifrice | 4 Collars for Air Force |
| 1 Shaving Stick | 1 Pair Braces |
| 1 Shoe Polish | 1 Pair Leather Laces |
| 2 Pencils | |

U R G E N T .

STUDY YOUR CHOCOLATE INSTRUCTIONS:

We would draw your attention to the fact that when Chocolate is to be added to your parcel by this Office, allowance must be made for its weight when packing. Any overweight has to be removed from the parcel and returned to you, causing a good deal of delay.

Particularly when three (3) tins of chocolate are to be added to parcels do we find they are overweight, and we would draw your attention to the fact that every tin added by us weighs 2 lbs.

We cannot emphasise too strongly that the Postal Authorities will not accept overweight parcels.

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, GENEVA, AND THE BRITISH RED CROSS.

The latest figures from Geneva state that there were over 361,000 food parcels distributed from Geneva to camps for the month of April, and that there were on hand more than 1,200,000 parcels, it would appear from these figures that the cabled information received by the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office from the International Red Cross that they were building up stocks of food parcels is now being brought about.

Details have just come to hand of the standard food parcels being packed in England and Scotland at the rate of 90,000 each week. The following show the average contents:—

Biscuits 8	ozs.	Dried or Tinned Fruit 8	ozs.
Cheese 2½	"	Puddings 12	"
Chocolate 4	"	Jam 12	"
Fish 8	"	Syrup 8	"
Sausages or Bacon 8	"	Margarine 8	"
Sugars (2) 4	"	Meat, hot 16	"
Tea 2	"	Meat, cold 10	"
Vegetables 10	"	Milk 14	"
Tomatoes 10	"	Paste 3	"
Soap 2	"	Sweets 2	"
Oatmeal 8	"	Creamed Rice 12	"

In addition, assortments are made with small articles such as pancake batter, mustard, pepper, curry powder, beef cubes, lemoned curd, salmon, herrings and pilchards.

The International Red Cross, Geneva, cabled advising that the names by which Italian camps were previously known as Mont Albo, Gruppignano, are now not to be used. The address must only bear the camp numbers. Next of kin are still occasionally using the place names; this must be discontinued, as the Italian authorities have advised that if camp numbers are not correctly used, parcels will be returned to senders. Next of kin can rest assured that the Prisoner of War Censoring Departments will take full care that the parcels leave their depots correctly addressed.

BOOTS.

Letters arriving in New Zealand sent from Prisoner of War Camps in the earlier part of this year frequently stated the desire of men for boots to be sent. Additional reassuring information has just been received by cable advising that the Red Cross, Geneva, had despatched in March to Stalag VIII B., 3,200 pairs, in April 7,840, and in May 4,041 pairs. In a letter dated 28th July, written to the British Red Cross, London, by the British Camp Captain of Stalag VIII B., he stated that good supplies of boots and clothing had lately been received.

In the past it has been possible to send up to 100 personally addressed parcels per week from Cairo to New Zealand Prisoners of War. Many next of kin in New Zealand have taken advantage of this through other sons in the fighting forces or relatives and friends in the Middle East. A cable has now been received from the Red Cross Commissioner stating that personally addressed parcels from the Middle East are now totally prohibited.

SERVICE OF SUCCOUR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The despatch of goods by the Service of Succour of the Agency for the use of Prisoners of War and Interned Civilians has gone on unceasingly to the beginning of 1942.

Since January there has been the additional task of despatching food to the interned civilian Americans in Germany.

The following is a detailed account of goods sent forward to British prisoners in January and February, 1942.

British Prisoners of War.

	January	February
Food	1,467,828 kg.	550,367 kg.
Clothing	63,928 kg.	41,149 kg.
Tobacco	35,641 kg.	17,181 kg.
Medicines	17,097 kg.	8,356 kg.
Various	10,026 kg.	8,671 kg.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,594,331 kg.	625,724 kg.

Total of wagons, 626.
(1,000 kilogrammes is a little less than a ton.)

Personal Parcels for Prisoners of War.

	January	February
Food	12,555 kg.	7,727 kg.
Clothing	27 kg.	9 kg.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,582 kg.	7,736 kg.

Total of wagons, 3.

PRISONERS OF WAR LETTERS

Next of kin will notice that against many of the letters the name of some N.Z. town or province is shown. This is the town or district in which the next of kin reside and has been given as an indication to other friends and relatives.—EDITOR.

STALAG VIII B.

From Dvr. I. E. APPLETON (W'gton), dated 19/4/42.
Very pleased to have a letter from you on Tuesday, dated 25th January, an air-mail one, of course, the air mail is coming through well, but surface mail is badly held up. Personal parcels have also been coming through well this past couple of weeks but the Red Cross food parcels have not come through for some time. Rations have also been cut down a bit more even though we are working longer hours. Have been draining this past week, cleaning out culverts and such work. I was over at the hospital on Thursday and there saw a chap who was left behind with Vic. White on Crete, and Vic. is over there with him at the mine only about five miles from here.

From Gnr. C. E. HUMPHRIES (Gisborne), dated 19/4/42.
We are a small party felling trees in the woods and cutting them up. Quite a pleasant life in other circumstances. Socks are badly needed. I think I would risk an odd packet of chocolate now and again. Food is always food.
Dated 3/5/42.

We received a small issue of Red Cross tinned goods the other day and they are being very much appreciated. This last week some of the New Zealanders had cigarette parcels from N.Z. House, London. I was lucky and got a new pair of boots and so keep my feet dry. The guards are very good getting our clothing changed when necessary.
Dated 17/5/42.

There are quite a few nettles in the woods. We pick and cook them for greens. They help to fill up quite well. Also I find dandelions good, they need rubbing well when washing to take the bitterness out. This week we have been cleaning a garden and preparing it for vegetables, also tree planting. We have a pleasant walk each morning of some eight or nine miles, which I enjoy. The guards are very good in allowing me to get my teeth fixed up.

Dated 24/4/42.
Your one, with hand-knitted arettes from From D. J.
There We are in time, look job and th ward to be learned to full of ex makes you Dated off the top one, so it From N. F.
Receiv good frien factory an from Wai bad. We a we would From L. C.
Receiv ber, and brother, F the Xmas From Sgt. Write home and formation in July. I The dates October, 1 From Sgt. I rece for which received a Red Cross than welcome Lager and the party cels, etc. self under had an in have a ve is in char From W/C Am in is hard wo but live in Dated I am encl working. people wo holiday. enjoying t From Dvr. Dated feeling m arrivals to plenty to was. If y will you i wear on s se hard no 9 to 12. Dated Thank the Your SEC In it there From Dvr. Receiv to give up without nu in about fo of 50 sm and the N per man l

100 per-
w Zealand
land have
e fighting
cable has
er stating
East are

TIONAL

our of the
d Civilians
sk of des-
Germany,
t forward

uary
37 kg.
49 kg.
81 kg.
56 kg.
71 kg.

24 kg.

n.)

uary
27 kg.
9 kg.
36 kg.

TERS

the letters
This is the
I has been
-EDITOR.

4/42.

day, dated
I is coming
Personal
t couple of
through
a bit more
en draining
rk. I was
up who was
over there
re.

4/42.

ls and cut-
stances.
odd packet

d goods the
This last
parcels from
air of boots
ood getting

Ve pick and
en washing
en cleaning
en planting.
ght or nine
in allowing

Dated 24/5/42.

Your first clothes parcel arrived this week, a very good one, with just the right things I wanted most. The jersey you hand-knitted is a real beauty. Also received a packet of cigarettes from N.Z. House.

From D. J. MITCHELL (Tauranga), 8/3/42.

There was another concert last night, it lasted for an hour. We are in a great camp here; the boys who have been here some time, look as fit as fiddlers. The Red Cross are doing a great job and their parcels are very good. I am eagerly looking forward to hearing from you soon. Believe it or not, but I have learned to pray a lot in the last two years; but still the life is full of experience and excitement. This engineering school makes you think I have forgotten all I knew at school.

Dated 15/3/42. We make our hat badges out of tin foil off the top of tobacco tins, it takes about two hours to make one, so it passes the time away.

From N. P. (Bill) HUNT (Waitara), dated 1/3/42.

Received four of your letters so far. I have two very good friends in this party, Mum—I. McCullum from Tariki factory and Bill Gates from Hawera. I also saw Jack Teraki from Waitara a long while ago. Working in snow is not so bad. We are being treated very well, better than I ever thought we would be.

From L. C. MARTIN (Nelson), dated 16/3/42.

Received his first next-of-kin parcel posted early November, and that it was very much appreciated; both he and his brother, Pte. A. G. Martin (Stalag XVIII A) say how much the Xmas Red Cross parcels were appreciated by all.

From Sgt. A. E. CROMMELIN (Napier), dated 8/6/42.

Writes that up to date he had received two parcels from home and letters were arriving at irregular intervals. This information reached a friend in London and was cabled to N.Z. in July. It is pleasing to know that parcels are being received. The dates of the first two parcels sent are 28th July and 1st October, 1941.

From Sgt. G. R. STEPHENS, dated 17/5/42.

I received a cigarette parcel from the N.Z. Patriotic Fund for which I was very grateful indeed. Also two days ago I received a parcel of clothing and chocolate through the N.Z. Red Cross. The parcel was made up in England. It was more than welcome. I do not go out to work now, but stay at the Lager and attend to all the correspondence and discipline for the party and am the trustee for distribution of clothes, parcels, etc. I cannot speak German fluently, but can make myself understood and am learning much faster now. We once had an interpreter, but can manage now without one. They have a very good hospital here now I believe. A N.Z. doctor is in charge.

From W/O 11 G. E. SUTHERLAND, dated 23/4/42.

Am in charge of 85 men felling timber in the forest. It is hard work, but keeps us fit. Have not received parcel yet, but live in hopes.

Dated 25/5/42. Received two letters from you recently. I am enclosing photo taken in a village close by where I am working. It is NOT a propaganda photo as perhaps a lot of people would think. To-day is Whit Monday and we have a holiday. This mountain air is very good and I am lying out enjoying the sun.

From Dvr. R. R. HOLLIS.

Dated 10/5/42. Here we are at last having warm days and feeling much better for it. We have had a few more new arrivals to make up for those gone back sick, so we have had plenty to talk about and exchange what scanty news there was. If you are able to send another parcel for next winter will you include a pair of gloves suitable to withstand hard wear on stone? I am getting used to the work and it is not so hard now. My message is found in Romans, Chap. I, verses 9 to 12.

Dated 17/5/42. Very welcome letters arrived this week. Thank them all very much for their kind words and thoughts. Your SECOND parcel came yesterday and it was a surprise. In it was everything that I wanted.

From Dvr. A. C. POPE, 3/5/42.

Received a letter to-day written January 20th. Will have to give up thought of getting the first parcel you sent as none without numbers have come through, and those with numbers in about four months. Haven't had our Red Cross weekly issue of 50 smokes and the 10lb. food parcel for some weeks past and the N.Z. patriotic crowds' promise of 200 smokes a month per man hasn't eventuated. On arriving here we were issued

per man with battle dress, great coat, hat, two vests, two under-pants, 1 socks, 1 jersey and 1 pair clogs. I acquired shaving gear from other fellows who were taken in France, and such do my possessions amount to. Please send tooth-paste, boot polish and laces, a plate brush, gym shoes and chocolate.

From Cpl. T. M. PITCOON, dated 21/4/42.

I feel a lot better now than I have for some time past. Am out working again. It is not very hard work and I am being fairly well fed and looked after. We are in wonderful billets; in fact, the billets are the best I have been in since I joined up. Have been separated from the rest of the boys now, so am out on my own. The mob I am with now are quite decent chaps, so have nothing to complain about as far as that goes. Have received no mail yet.

From R. S. HAYES, dated 20/4/42.

Plenty of spring showers, the fields are all greening up and what not. It is also Hitler's birthday and the village is a blaze of red banners with the swastika in the centre. There is no holiday this year, the people have to work harder for victory, so we are told (one lovely raspberry). I hope you sent a couple of pairs of socks in your parcel. I have only the one pair and they are getting on their last legs. Could you send me a book parcel, we have practically nothing to read here, I would like some good modern authors—"Somerset Maugham," "Douglas Reid" and "Aldous Huxley." We have enough Red Cross parcels to last us for about another month and then finish. There is no transport available and so no parcels. We were out playing football yesterday and believe me it is a great outing for us after being cooped up here for a whole week.

From T/Sgt. C. T. POWER (Hataitai), dated 1/3/42.

Your parcel arrived A.1 a few days ago. All others were envious and you will never know how thrilled I was to receive it. The chocolate was like manna from heaven and showed no ill-effects from the trip. Tell Dad there are half the boys already after my Loewe pipe. Believe me I feel like a millionaire. (Parcel mentioned left here in November, 1941, so only took about 3½ months to reach him.)

From Capt. LES. KING, dated 1/3/42.

Your letters come in by every mail and I can always depend on at least one or two. The last received was dated 24th December. We got new beds in the barracks this last week and it's a big difference. Shelves and cupboards are coming up. My job is leading wood on to rail trolleys and pushing it into a hauler. The country around here is beautiful. I only hope your parcel arrives as I am in need of everything you sent, especially socks and handkerchiefs. Boots, shoes, slippers are a necessity too.

From LEWIS A. STEWART (Wellington), dated 21/3/42.

We are in good barracks and accommodation is good. Electric light, W.S. concert hall band, sports grounds, etc. I have plenty of clothing and receive Red Cross benefits weekly. We manage to get along comfortably here, so don't worry as to conditions. We have our own hospitals and staff. N.Z. House is sending a parcel to all New Zealanders here, some have already arrived. Send chocolate, that's all I need, I can get what else I want.

From Sgt. Pilot A. F. POTTER (St. Albans), dated 1/3/42.

Thanks very much for my next-of-kin clothing parcel, which I received all in good order last Tuesday (24th February). I am wearing the cardigan, smoking the pipe and writing with one of the pencils which you so thoughtfully included in parcel. My legs were hurt in the crash and are now giving me a little trouble in this cold weather. However, I am sure I shall feel better when the warmer weather comes. I am receiving my fair share of Red Cross food parcels.

From D. ROBERTSON, dated 22/2/42.

We are still regularly each week receiving a food parcel through the Red Cross and this week I got a tin of New Zealand honey. What a thrill to get something from there. I am in need of nothing you can send me. In the best of spirits.

From P/O H. M. KIMBERLEY (Nelson), dated 15/2/42.

On Tuesday packed up about 7 a.m. and moved back into our old compound again. Have got used now to packing up in about half an hour, shouldering my belongings and walking. The R.A.F. had a service in the afternoon. They have fitted up an empty barracks as a church which was opened last Sunday. For us it is quite an elegant affair. A large harmonium or organ, quite a respectable Holy Table and Communion Rails, etc., even a pulpit. I saw for a moment Ted O'Rourke, who played for Opawa and I think Marlborough Reps. He is the first New Zealander I've seen who I've known. We get little opportunity of seeing the Army boys or mingling with them.

From Dvr. B. E. SWAIN (Gisborne), dated 7/2/42.

Had a good dinner to-night, pork sausages and bacon and fried spuds topped off with creamed rice. If you send a parcel, send tobacco and clothes, as we get plenty to eat. At present I have more than enough. As we missed our Red Cross parcels for a month and as they arrived the other day WE HAVE HAD THREE IN ONE MONTH. We have apples, puddings and meat pies lying around in the lockers. We have finished the job here in the sugar factory and leave on Sunday for Lamsdorf, then to another job.

From Dvr. A. BURT (Timaru), dated 23/3/42.

One night we were addressed in the barracks room on "Tramping in England." The previous week we listened to a lecture on paper-making and printing. We go to bed at 9 p.m. here and are locked in till 6 a.m. in the morning. Tea is issued at 6.30 and a check parade follows a little after 7. Later on a good brisk walk while the barracks are swept and cleaned. Potatoes are served at 10.30, with soup one hour later. A large copper boils sufficient water for us to make a cup of tea. During the afternoon bread is issued, together with margarine, honey and tinned meat. Twice weekly, soup is also served in the afternoons. Another check parade at 4 p.m. each day. Red Cross parcels arrive regularly and are very much appreciated.

From Sgt. F. J. PHILPOTT (Whangarei).

Dated 13/4/42. I was ever so pleased to receive three letters from you. We have been without Red Cross food parcels now for nearly three months and do miss them badly. A pair size 9 men's wide boots would be appreciated, socks, shirts, tooth-paste and brushes, razor blades, soap, boot polish, cotton and plenty of chocolate are the most essential articles one requires every three months. Parcels from England take about six months to arrive. Have only received the one cigarette parcel. Your parcel must have taken less than four months.

This man's mother writes that clothing parcel No. 1 from N.Z. arrived early in February.

Dated 22/2/42. On Wednesday we had our Red Cross Christmas parcels given out. It was rather late, but they have only just arrived. They were beauties containing Christmas cake, plum pudding, 2 packets of biscuits, one being packet of chocolate ones, margarine and marmalade, two ½ lb. bars of chocolate, tea and sugar and tins of roast pork and steak and tomato pudding.

From Sgt. E. H. EVERTON.

No complaints to make at this stage of the game. THREE CLOTHING PACKETS FROM NEW ZEALAND AND FOUR CIGARETTES DITTO FROM OUR NEW ZEALAND FUND TO DATE. Too much in the way of lectures, books, concert and choirs to take part in and listen to, to make one bemoan the present fate. What's to be is to be, and that's about the best attitude to take. My latest mail is mid-March. Sunshine and water can't be rationed, so we have lots of both while the summer lasts. Red Cross is doing noble work on our account.

From G. P. BRAGG, dated 4/5/42.

I received the parcel two days after your letter of 22nd February, and was I pleased! The weather is getting warmer now. New Zealand House has sent parcels of cigarettes and clothing to some of the boys.

From Dvr. Wm. A. RICHES (Christchurch), dated 19/6/42.

Thanks for this letter, it was good to get it. It was the first letter I've had. I'm quite fit and back to normal weight again.

From L/Cpl. W. J. KISSOCK (Havelock N.), dated 14/6/42.

Glad to know that you have started to receive my letters written from Germany. This is the second letter I have received from you. A couple of weeks ago received clothing parcel New Zealand Red Cross via London. A good thing!

From L/Cpl. D. E. WEAVER (Hastings), dated 3/6/42.

Received letter to-day. As yet I have not received any mail from you. I am doing O.K. here and am in the best of health. Am out on a working party.

From Dvr. G. W. CRUICKSHANK (Invercargill), dated 8/6/42.

I received this on Saturday, so I am sending it back straight away. You were saying something about parcels, well I haven't received any yet, but I suppose they will turn up soon.

NOTE.—The last four letters are the return half of the Red Cross International message forms which were supplied to the next of kin when their relatives were first officially notified as prisoners of war.—EDITOR.

STALAG 306 XVIII. D.

From Spr. M. M. RICHARDS, dated 17/5/42.

Well, to-day here is Mother's Day, so I've made it my business to write to you, the rest of the lads are also writing. Have had a spell from bush-whacking. The rest of the lads are planting potatoes. I have been helping with the harrowing, also helped work up a 14-acre paddock for oats. There is talk of another shift and working on separate farms. The flower and vegetable gardens are beginning to take shape. I received one parcel from you and cigarette parcels from N.Z. Patriotic Society. All were very welcome indeed.

From Dvr. W. W. DAWSON (New Lynn), dated 10/5/42.

I received your first parcel this week and everything was good. They added more to it at the New Zealand packing centre. Thanks very much for now, and please thank the Red Cross for me for the wonderful parcels that they send over. I am still working on the farm with several others and we are being treated quite all right, but the farmers here have very old-fashioned ideas.

From BILL BUCHANAN (Walton), dated 3/5/42.

To Mrs. Gerring—The Red Cross are certainly doing a great job and we are all very grateful to them. Colin has received his first parcel from you and is very thrilled about it, he is also receiving plenty of mail and often lets me read his letters. I tell him he is very fortunate to have such a lovely mother, as you must be by your letters. We have recently been issued with new battledress, great coats and boots and the boys look very comfortable and smart again.

From A. C. SHANKS, dated 2/6/42.

I've had all letters up to January 7th, also two parcels and one from AH in Egypt, and two lots of cigarettes, so you see I've been lucky. I am very fit and working hard. I read a good deal and paint now and then, usually Sundays. Our work varies, sometimes pick and shovel and sometimes carrying building material, etc.

From R. A. ANDERSON, 28/4/42.

Some of us went down to the next village this morning for some Red Cross parcels and when I got there was delighted to receive two letters. One of the other lads here also had a letter from his mother, written in February, in which she mentioned reading in the newspaper that I was working on a farm, so I assume that at last you had some of my mail. We have some books issued from the Stalag and to-day got some nuts and dried fruits from the Turkish Red Cross. At Easter we were granted two days' holiday which formed a welcome break. Tried the horses out for the first time last week on a spot of ploughing and although one mare is stone blind they're quite a good pair.

From Sgt. A. G. GRAY, dated 27/5/42.

I have had another clothing parcel from you. It was sent along after the last letter I have had, so I have no means of knowing when you sent it. The boots were very useful and I thank you for them. Unfortunately, much of it was missing—the chocolate, socks, tooth-paste, etc., but it was very nice and I felt close to you again.

STALAG XVIII. D.

From Sgt. MICHAEL MULHERN, dated 12/4/42.

Was very thrilled to receive three letters from you this week. They were dated 4th, 13th and 29th February. When I was wounded I had a three-hour trip in an aeroplane. Am well off for clothing since receiving your parcel and can't think of anything I want.

Dated 10/5/42. I am getting quite a tan and work in my singlet. On Sundays and evenings they have a concert party and a very good band. Out on these farm jobs we have no time for recreation. Sunday morning we scrub and clean out our room. Sunday afternoon is the only time we have free. We have a few books, but, as you can imagine, it takes a long time to read one. Have received 200 cigarettes through the N.Z. Patriotic Society. So far your second parcel has not arrived although I had word it had arrived at the Main Camp. We all have new boots and uniforms now.

Dated 17/5/42. This week I received another parcel of cigarettes (200) from N.Z. Patriotic Society. They are very acceptable, as we are unable to buy them here. The parcel I received after your first one came from N.Z. Patriotic Society. We are in a valley surrounded by trees and everything looks very peaceful. With the oxen in place of horses, it is all very picturesque. You have seen the scene many times on the screen, in the travel-ogues, but am afraid it is not quite so romantic as that. I am very well and we are working very hard on the farms just

now. Everything is done by hand although they have started to put the electricity through here, which will make the work easier. I hope, though that we are not here to get the benefit. (Sgt. Mulhern had received a card stating his second parcel had arrived and he expected to receive it in a few days.)

From Sgt. J. S. HULL (Nelson), dated 29/5/42.

(This prisoner's father writes on 28th July: "About two months ago I sent the contents of a message I received from my son through the British Broadcasting Corporation, which he sent them by post-card saying he was well, working on a farm and getting mail regularly. The announcer in London said it was the first they had ever received and I thought such a unique case as this would be of interest for the pamphlet. The message was broadcast in May.")

As yet, I have not received your parcel sent in October, but have received one from N.Z. Red Cross, London. All get one of these. I have also received 400 cigarettes which I turned into food. In future, if you put my Army number on parcels be sure to put it in brackets as my number here is 4267 and we are in camps in villages all over Germany. I have had four months' work on a farm of a Swiss family and had a delightful time.

From L. BRYANT (Rotorua), dated 17/5/42.

I have had a great run of luck this week. Two more parcels arrived, making the third. I have now more clothes than I know what to do with, so please do not send any more just now. One of our boys who has been ill for some time died last week, tough luck after having come this far. However, he was given a fitting funeral which we were all allowed to attend. He was buried in Graz, in a Catholic cemetery where several other English and colonial boys are buried.

From KEN NIELSEN (Marton) dated 16/5/42.

I have just received a clothing parcel from N.Z. Red Cross. It has plenty of woollen underclothing in it and is very much appreciated. Last week we had a light fall of snow, quite unexpected for this time of year. I am doing quite well and receiving parcels of foodstuffs regularly. I have also been issued with new battle-dress, great coat and boots. The Red Cross are certainly doing great work, without them things would not be too bright.

From Gnr. A. McE, JACKSON (Inglewood), dated 29/4/42.

Had received a quarterly clothing parcel, also had been getting cigarettes lately, for which they were grateful and pleased.

From F. FORTUNE (Wellington).

Dated 26/3/42. Yesterday your parcel arrived with the blanket, pull-over, shirt, scarf, socks, etc., and it was very welcome. It had come through London and been re-packed there with the addition of a pair of pyjamas. Sporting gear has recently arrived here from the Y.M.C.A. and in the evenings and at week-ends the yard looks very busy with football, cricket, boxing and basketball in progress.

Dated 24/5/42. Received several letters from Egypt, one from Arch., also food parcels from the unit and from a pen-friend in Switzerland. To-day, Sunday, the boys are having some athletics and boxing as usual. The Red Cross has now sent us a small movie machine which shows silent films. For the first show we had a couple of German news reels and a cartoon. Have received a fine set of Economic books from Educational Section of Red Cross—a wonderful service. Am still fit and fat, trying to slim down a bit now with a bit of exercise.

From Dvr. H. L. DAWSON, dated 25/4/42.

The Red Cross are still the real people as far as us boys go. I have now had 600 cigarettes from them and I got a wonderful parcel of clothing this morning and a card from the N.Z. Patriotic, so don't send me any more clothing as I am quite well off for clothes. Tell the folk that there are very few N.Z. boys here, if any, that have had more mail than I have. I have had about 70 letters since I have been a prisoner. To-day is Anzac Day. We had a church service this morning at 5 o'clock, which, by the way, was very good. We have an English Padre here. I was offered a place in the N.Z. cricket team, but had to turn it down on account of my back.

Dated 8/5/42. Still received mail. I have made a lot of friends here—Aussies, Tommies, French, Poles and others. I bought a nice silver ring to-day, made out of 2 francs—they are a French coin. A French prisoner makes them and it is surprising what a good job he makes of them.

STALAG XXI A.

(NOTE.—Only three New Zealand men in this camp.)

From S. S. GRIFFITHS, dated 24/5/42.

This is the second letter I have sent by Air Mail; for a small charge we are allowed to send them that way. Haven't received your parcels yet. Been split up a bit lately.

Dated 31/5/42. Am sitting out in the sun writing this, in a pair of winter underpants (cut short). Never worn long underpants before and feel like a grandpa in them; of course, they were very handy when the snow was here. A few days ago I received a clothing parcel from the New Zealand Patriotic Fund, set pyjamas and underwear, towel, slip-over, balaclava, gloves, scarf, razor, brush, soap, toothbrush and powder and two pairs socks. I had 200 cigarettes from them also. We medical get 10 marks every 10 days (I since last October) and the English chaps have been told by their pay officers that they are having £2 a month deducted from their pay.

From C. E. BARWELL, dated 10/2/42.

Last week I received a clothing parcel from the New Zealand Red Cross. It contained a shirt, underpants, singlet, pyjamas, pullover, two pairs socks, two handkerchiefs, pair gloves, scarf, towel, balaclava, soap, toothbrush, tooth powder, shaving stick, tin nugget, 1½ lb. chocolate, razor and blades, shaving brush, and comb. We all received a food parcel from the Canadian Red Cross.

Dated 15/2/42. I received a clothing parcel from the New Zealand Red Cross. Among other things it contained a pair of gloves and a balaclava. I have travelled around Europe quite a bit the last few months. I have been through parts of seven European countries. We get a food parcel from the British or Canadian Red Cross every week.

From H. McL. MACMILLAN (Masterton), dated 1/2/42.

I haven't had any more letters since I left Ruen. There is a chap here from Gisborne and he is a very good sort. We have to get up at 7 a.m. every day, roll call at 9 a.m., another roll call at 5 p.m. For tea we have something out of our Red Cross parcels and fifth of a loaf of bread.

STALAG XX. A.

From Sgmn. R. DREW (Petone), dated 14/1/42.

The Red Cross give us a parcel every week and Supply clothes and cigarettes, so no worrying. The chaps have formed an orchestra which is good and there is one man who is an exceptionally good piano-acordian player. He goes into the potato room and plays while the chaps are peeling potatoes and most of the day we can hear some tune being played on the accordian while the chaps who are peeling potatoes are singing.

Dated 1/2/42. The orchestra just formed in this camp is real good. Next week the English chaps are putting on a concert and the following week the French chaps are putting on a play. Besides the weekly paper written in English there is a six-page typewritten magazine which gives the football and sporting results in England. A young Australian Padre who came with us and was liked by all left this camp just recently. They had a clothes issue the other day and I received a new English uniform and overcoat, a pair of boots and a set of underwear and socks. The English overcoats are double-breasted and are well cut and look smart. There was a notice on the board to-day stating that our numbers and addresses had been sent to Geneva. To-day a New Zealand chap received two letters.

STALAG XX. A. (5).

From Cpl. A. J. SPENCE.

Dated 3/3/42. To-day I received 18 letters—13 from my 11th July to 17th November, with about four missing. It was wonderful to hear from you again after a spell of nine months, they had apparently chased all over the country for me.

Dated 25/4/42. Sports and entertainments are plentiful and although there has been a hold-up in the Red Cross lately we are fairly happy

STALAG III D.

From Capt. H. COATES NEALE.

Dated 16/1/42. I have just finished my evening sick parade and having been doled out one letter sheet, the two padres and myself are busy writing them. But the difficulty is what to write. After four weeks in hospital with diphtheria I am glad to be back at work, particularly now that the work is much

lighter. Most of the difficulties involved in rehabilitating the prisoners have been got over now and the worries are much less. I find I am becoming fairly settled here and one can even get used to being encircled with barbed wire and hardly notice it there, not that I don't have my moments of impatience of course. We get our Red Cross parcels each week (thanks to a fine organisation) and we are becoming adept at cooking up interesting meals from the contents.

Dated 4/2/42. As yet I have not received any "Personal" parcel. Three days ago we all shifted from Camp 413 to Camp 520, only a few miles. This camp is quite new and I think better. Despite the persistent snow we are very warm and comfortable. There are only (censored) men in this camp and all the chronics have been weeded out, consequently I have much less to do. I must occupy myself with the old stand-by—learning German. I now know enough to ask for what I want and to avert most of the catastrophies from not knowing what is said to you.

Dated 2/3/42. (Camp 520). I am quite comfortable, fortunately. I have had two more letters. I am cook again this week. By the way I would be very glad of any snaps you could send. The trials of the first few months are over and our spirits are much higher. I am, of course, still a solitary New Zealander, but I am getting used to that. Here's hoping for your "personal" parcel.

STALAG XVIII. A.

From L. FULLER.

Dated 15/2/42. Since last writing I have received from you a further nine letters, so you see that mail is arriving very successfully. Yesterday I received my first parcel, it contained most everything a man could want. I have now a good deal more in the clothing line than I need, so has most everything.

Dated 22/2/42. Many thanks for your parcel which arrived last week. It sure was appreciated. Please thank Mrs. Rapley very much for the chocolate, but, as I said before, do not send any more as we are now very well off. The shirt was a stroke of genius. I do not think this is your first parcel to me, neither does Bill, who received one from home at the same time as I did and think his is the first. However, doubtless the others will be along in due course. We have a New Zealand football team and have so far defeated Australia twice and England three times, without getting licked ourselves. We have only a very small ground where we can only play seven a side. The ground is like iron, but we have a lot of fun.

From Sgt. J. J. JAY, dated 23/2/42.

Many thanks for the parcel, it is great to wear new and clean clothes again. We are not doing badly now, what with our Red Cross food and cigarette parcel, New Zealand Patriotic Society's clothing parcel, and last but not least your parcel. I am also pleased to hear that you have received a letter from me, but apparently my earlier ones have gone astray or have been sunk.

From Cpl. W. G. BELL, dated 15/2/42.

Great news, your October parcel arrived here on Friday 13th, and in spite of Len's laughter I am at the moment wearing the pink pants. Everything was in perfect order and very much appreciated. Gave the mitts and one towel to some of the boys who haven't as yet had any parcels.

From Q/M. P. Green, dated 8/2/42.

Many thanks for your parcel, it was wonderful to get so much in so small a space. There was not a thing missing. I am a proud owner. It's these kind thoughts which bring home much closer to us; that day to meet again cannot come fast enough for me. Chester and I are still making out O.K.

From S/Sgt. C. L. HASSETT, dated 19/3/42.

I received your first parcel a few days ago and was very glad to get it as I needed the things badly. Thanks for sending it and I shall look forward to the others on the way. I have received a few air mail letters from you, the latest end January. I am back in the Central Stalag again and we have quite a lot to keep us occupied. We have a library, hold sports meetings, educational classes and have a really good concert party which puts on some excellent shows.

From Bdr. R. OLDFHAM, dated 21/3/42.

You will be pleased to learn that the parcel despatched in August has at last reached me. I was very pleased with everything in it. Rather a coincidence that it never rains but it pours because a week before yours arrived I had a parcel from the N.Z. Patriotic Society. Now I am the proud possessor of quite a good wardrobe. Up to the present time I think I have received every letter that you sent me. We work some

(censored) a day. Being an N.C.O. I do not have to work, but prefer to. It kills time.

From T. REEVES (Lyall Bay).

Dated 22/2/42. I received your parcel and believe me it was very welcome. I have been going about without socks for the last three months. It is not so good when it is twenty or have sent now; send nothing that I don't ask for in future as it will only be wasted. The boys are looking more like themselves now, we can all thank the Red Cross for that, we would be miserable without them and the food, clothing and medicines they send. Could you send me a smoker's parcel regularly? I am never very well off for tobacco.

(Undated.) This afternoon we had a Rugger match between the Maoris and the Empire. It was a good fast game. The Empire won, three—nil. There is a concert to-night in the bath house. It should be good, the boys have been practising for the last three weeks for it. We were issued with light-weight underpants (English) last week and I am already wearing mine. They are easier to wash than the woollen ones. We ran a tote at the match to-day and I think our room made about 40 R.M. We will most likely give it to the Concert Party Funds. Up to date I have received two letters and one parcel from you, and can't understand the delay as most of the New Zealanders have had as many as 100 letters up to the last mail time.

From Gnr. R. M. LINDSAY, dated 29th March.

THANKS A MILLION FOR THE SECOND PARCEL WHICH ARRIVED ON TUESDAY. Everything was there and in good order. All the articles will prove very useful. Last night I went over to the compound and saw "Show Boat," a play produced by the concert party. It is the first time I have been out of the hospital grounds for six months, so you see I am much better now.

Yesterday I saw a Rugby match and to-day a game of soccer, followed by an open-air burlesque circus by the French prisoners. On Thursday I received a clothing parcel from the Patriotic Fnd. Several articles I did not need so I gave them to the other lads who are not so fortunate as myself. I am well set up for clothing now. Lance Rankin, one of my harrier mates, who is in the same ward, has had a few letters from Christchurch stating that the black-out is enforced.

The sandals are very useful and are worn all day, also the pullover comes in for its share. I WAS VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE HAIR BRUSHES AS THEY ARE UNPROCURABLE HERE AS ALSO ARE BOOT BRUSHES AND SHAVING BRUSHES. (These articles were contained in the first prisoner of war parcel which his mother despatched and were addressed to Stalag XVII A. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THIS PARCEL WAS RE-ADDRESSED ON BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES.)

Dated 22nd March. My weight is increasing. The mail lately has been rather irregular, but no doubt there is a reason for that. It is a month since I received my last letter. I have learnt to play bridge since I came into the diphtheria ward. The Padre, who is a great scout, often plays with us, and is very good. He is Captain Ledgerwood from Dunedin. He brought his choir over to the hospital last Sunday when he held a service. Football is played daily in the compound and also table tennis. Concerts are held twice a week. We have a general library and an educational one, also French and German language classes.

From G. PHILLIPS, dated 17th May.

Have received letters dated 25th January and 1st and 7th of March, these last two being about the quickest yet received. Also received a parcel of clothes from N.Z. Red Cross, besides more cigarettes and parcels of books and games from our London office. A race game with cigarettes for bets has rather displaced tidley winks as the most popular form of amusement in the evenings.

Dated 3rd June. Mail comes in fairly regularly now. By the way, I now carry the title of U-Boat Captain. The Sister said it is what they call the nurses who empty the bed pans, and as I have been emptying a few lately she had decided to give me this rank also. I am feeling very well and have a nice tan up through lying in the sun with just my shorts on. We had a visit from an International Red Cross Commission yesterday, inquiring into our conditions generally, but there were no complaints here. I had to talk to them as the fellow in charge of us was away at the time.

Dated 8th June. There is a gramophone blaring out some terrible noises right alongside me, also a tidley winks championship on my other side, so this letter may be a poor effort. There is a Maori chap in here at present named Mutare Pahau.

From Sgt. I am quite as fairly well boys who helped no

From A. T. This us he is q He also to help to ke and boxing Zealand b (another) He says th received a arrived in and tells makes to c

From Sgt. Have if best if address ar and lookin

From Sgt. I am in main c are here f Black (Au (Wanganu Canadian tip-top of the part I and makin frying out of a laund picture sh but I quit have a qu interesting must have parcels ye

Dated on 5th and on Febru thoughts. well, so very pleas

From Pte. Your I so bad. W away and I have had since I ha petition th which turn effort as t CEIVED a English g while you have a ton don't go f smokers h my horse c

From K. I This i we receive son says t and cigar appreciated Services? well too. and serio

DULAG LUFT.

From Sgt. GALLAND, dated 26/4/42.

I am now in the permanent camp and finding things not quite as bad as I expected. Thanks to the Red Cross we are fairly well provided for in the way of food and comforts. The boys who have been Prisoners of War for some time also have helped no end, so mother don't worry for me.

STALAG XVIII. B.

From A. T. COE (Dannevirke), dated 6/4/42.

This man's father writes: "A letter from our son informs us he is quite well and has been on night duty for six weeks. He also told us he and his comrades have plenty of sport to help to keep them fit and well—cricket, deck tennis, basketball and boxing—and that day of writing marked a win for New Zealand boys at cricket by beating Wales 108 to 36. A mate (another orderly) and Trevor are taking lessons in German. He says the hospital was comfortably busy. So far he has not received any next-of-kin parcels. About two letters and a card arrived in just over two months. He praises the Red Cross and tells us what a difference that wonderful organisation makes to every Prisoner of War's life."

STALAG IX C.

From Sgt./Observer H. M. ENGLISH (Hastings), dated 4/5/42.

Have received no letters from you since October 31st. Think it best if you address some of your letters straight to this address and not to New Zealand House. Doing fine at present and looking forward to a repatriation move.

From Sgt. J. D. HINTON, V.C., dated 3rd April.

I am now out of hospital and in another part of Germany in main camp. A number of the New Zealand Air Force lads are here from different parts of New Zealand—Forde (Nelson), Black (Auckland), Steve Jarvis (Auckland), Lew McCarthy (Wanganui), Fain (Westport), and several others, a number of Canadians and a good number of Polish Air Force boys—real tip-top boys they are too. There's about 300 of us all told in the part I am in. It would do you good to see us managing and making the most of the two stoves, boiling water and frying our cats. The room is very large and puts you in mind of a laundry and second-hand shop in one. I went to my first picture show—a talkie—two nights ago. It was in German, but I quite enjoyed it. They put one on once a week. We have a good dance band and the boys also put on some real interesting plays. None of my old company are here, they must have been sent to some other camp. No next-of-kin parcels yet; still hopeful.

Dated 15th April. I received two letters from you written on 6th and 16th December. They were the first since January and February. Thank all the people for their letters and kind thoughts. I'm out of hospital five weeks now and feel real well, so no more worrying for you now. We make life here very pleasant.

From Pte. J. L. DEMURY, dated 24th April.

Your letter only took two months to come, so that was not so bad. We have plenty of amusements to help pass the time away and my German lessons and reading also do their bit. We have had some fairly good concerts lately. It is over a year since I have seen a picture show. I won a table tennis competition the other day and received as prize a Christmas cake, which turned out to be a pudding. I was very pleased with my effort as there were forty entries. LATELY WE HAVE RECEIVED A COMPLETE NEW OUTFIT OF CLOTHES. The English great coats are very good. I don't think it is worth while you sending me anything. I am not too badly off and have a ton of clothes. Food is quite plentiful but 50 cigarettes don't go far with me. Luckily there are quite a few non-smokers here. We had a race meeting here on Saturday night, my horse Celtic actually won a race and put me in the money.

STALAG LUFT III.

From K. M. PALMER (Te Puke).

This airman's mother writes: "From all accounts which we receive the boys are finding camp life quite good and my son says time goes very quickly, strangely enough. The food and cigarette parcels sent by the Red Cross are very much appreciated and arrive regularly. N.Z. House and N.Z. War Services' Association, London, are looking after them pretty well too. The prisoners of war appear to be in very good health and serious diseases are rare; they have their own M.O. and

also quite a good dentist. They are receiving good treatment at the camp and the main thing is to adapt oneself. What they mostly miss is the news. There is a jungle system of news based mostly on rumours.

From Sgt. L. F. MABEY, dated 2/6/42.

I have just received a letter from you and received the two photos you sent and was grateful to receive them. It is one of the greatest pleasures receiving photos, as they bring back memories that are to be treasured. It is well over two years since I left home and it seems like a dream that I have lived and lost in the past. What do you think of this poem:—

Gifts our friends have given
Span a thousand miles of sea,
To pass the weary hours
Till the day when we are free.

Till the hours when triumph finds us
To lift the veil apart,
And cast a shroud around us,
With the longing of my heart.

There'll be hours of happy laughter
Days so crammed with glee,
In that joyous ever after,
In the days when we are free.

This, folks, is expressive of thoughts and hopes that pass through my mind when I allow myself to think of the future.

From D. E. FAIR, dated 6/5/42.

We took turns during the night travelling here, keeping a tourniquet on the arm of Robertson, who had been wounded. A Luftwaffe medical officer turned up about an hour after our arrival to attend to him and he was later removed by ambulance to the hospital, where he died that evening. About 9 a.m. we marched about half a mile to the camp where we were searched and then allotted barracks. The ten of us who had been eating together were allotted a table and obtained neighbouring bunks and are now comfortably settled down. This is a new and entirely R.A.F. camp, guarded, thank God, by reasonable Luftwaffe personnel, most of whom speak English. The officers are in a separate isolated compound, and it's apparently intended to house all the R.A.F. prisoners here. Besides our batch there are the very oldest prisoners and the most recent ones—the remainder are supposed to be arriving shortly. There are thirty or so Kiwis. Each barrack is divided into two rooms about 60ft. x 40ft., containing 40 double tier beds, a stove and four tables (ten men per table) at each end, and sufficient shelves for our requirements. To have a wooden floor and ceiling is a pleasant change from our gaunt concrete barrack at Bad Sulza. Each room has a kitchen with cooking stove and sink, and best of all the Jerry rations are prepared with reasonable care and are consequently quite palatable.

From Pilot Officer R. G. STARK, dated 3/5/42.

I am living on a slight eminence in a wood and to the north is a town of some size. I am very favoured indeed in having a two-room with Major Dodge and having my meals in a room two doors away where there are some excellent cooks and plenty of parcels. Most rooms have six chaps in them. I have not had any more clothing parcels yet, but I am not worrying as I am well equipped. Received 200 cigarettes from N.Z. Patriotic Fund last week and had a lot of tobacco and cigarettes given me by John Gillis and Hugh Rowe. Got your February 10th letter on 9th April.

From Pilot Officer I. J. SHAW, dated 11/5/42.

Well, here we are at Stalag Luft III and settling down very nicely. It is a much better camp than the last one, and we are all glad to be here. There are Red Cross parcels here, so we are better off for food than we have been for the past four months. Bill, Kim and I have formed a "combine" with a Canadian and an Englishman we are friends with, and we get on very well together. It is not very far from the old camp, but the train was very slow and we were in it for more than 24 hours and we were very tired and dirty when we arrived. The camp is quite close to a fairly large town, but at the same time we are in a clearing in the wood. German cities seem to stop very suddenly, and then the country begins. They do not straggle out as do our cities. It is set in a clearing in a pine afforestation and all around are trees, mostly pine, but a few others. The barracks are wooden, light and airy, and we are much more comfortable than at VIII B. This is apparently going to be a central Air Force Camp and there were about 6000 R.A.F. boys here when we arrived. They treat us with much more respect and courtesy than did their

equals of the German Army. We have seen the German camp officer about our commissions and he seems anxious to have our positions arranged, so we are hoping that we will have some news soon, especially as, as I told you, N.Z. House is doing something to help us. Each barrack in this camp is equipped with a beautiful little coal stove with an oven, on which we do our cooking. There is a very good coal issue to go with it, and we are all trying our hands at the composition of tasty dishes from our Red Cross food.

From Flight Lieut. W. LAMOND (Onehunga), dated 29/4/42.
We are more or less settled in our new camp now, and I have already received a few letters from you. We are in a very much bigger camp now and are six in a room instead of four as at Stalag Luft I. I am with four Englishmen and one Australian. Otherwise, things are much the same here as elsewhere. Our walking path, which is always around the perimeter, as near the barbed wire as we are allowed to go, is about three-quarters of a mile. The camp has been built on cleared forest land and we have been busy digging out the tree stumps in order to make football grounds and other sports areas. Your parcel arrived last month and it was so good I am eagerly looking forward for the next one.

From Sgt.-Pilot J. M. GARRETT, dated 14/4/42.
I believe this is to be a consolidated camp for all R.A.F. prisoners and all are looking forward to seeing some new faces. Also the New Zealanders, Australians and Canadians are to go into one hut together, so all are looking forward to the change. We have obtained a gramophone and we are writing New Zealand House to see if they can send us records.

Dated 13/5/42. At present we are treble our Luft I complement and having the time of our lives getting news from the new blokes. Jack Culpan, among about 100 other New Zealanders, including the "Rangitane" crowd, is here. Twenty of us, mostly "old stagers," are in a combine, cooking and living together and swapping letter news. On behalf of all the kiwis, I'm in touch with New Zealand House who, as you know, look after us pretty well. Received two clothing parcels yesterday—yours of September, 1941, and a new Zealand House one of December. Thanks very much, for it was all very handy. Would like nail brushes, light underclothing and plenty of tooth-paste next time.

From Sgt. H. G. HEDGE (Dunedin), dated 28/3/42.
Thank goodness the spell of non-arrival of mail has at last broken. I received yesterday your letter of the 30th January, 1942. Still, there were only two of us who received any, so I can consider myself very lucky. I have just received another food parcel from my Dutch Godmother, who, by the way, is a New Zealander, who used to live at Lyall Bay. She was a Phil Brant who was in the Surf Club there before she married a Dane and came over here nine years ago. It's a small world, isn't it. The source from Holland has stopped for reasons which are quite obvious.

Dated 28/4/42 (to a cousin in Slough, England). As you can see from my address we have shifted to a new camp. It is quite good and on the whole better than the last. I also received about a week ago a cigarette parcel from you. Thanks so much for sending these occasionally, they are most acceptable, especially at the present, as everyone is practically without cigarettes. I also received the first letter from home for three months the other day, so I am hoping that the route is open again.

OFLAG IX A.

From Lieut. C. A. L. FERGUSON (Mangapapa, Gisborne).
Under date 19th July, this officer's mother writes: "My son received his first bundle of mail May 7th. You can imagine his delight after waiting thirteen months for word from his loved ones. Chas. said he felt quite bucked up after receiving same. So far he has not received any parcels from me. I sent one August, 8th, 1941, it arrived safely in England on October 8th; the second arrived on February 28th of this year. I had cards back saying that they had arrived there."

From C. P. GRIFFIN, dated 30/4/42.
I like this camp very much indeed. We get walks to the sports ground and play football, etc. It is good exercise, but hard work when you are not used to such strenuous exercise. One will soon become accustomed to it again, though, shouldn't one? I wrote you a card on the day following our arrival here but I intend sending this by Air Mail.

OFLAG VI. B.

From Capt. D. A. GREENSLADE, dated 21/5/42.
Am reading "The Sun is My Undoing" at present, its main claim to fame is that it's longer than "Gone With the Wind." Have had some excellent parcels from Egypt including butter and New Zealand oysters also. We are having a holiday from dentistry at present. The surgery is being painted and running water is being put in plus some drainage. Playing football and hockey. Red Cross have sent us vegetable seeds—our room has a plot at which we are busily working. The August clothes next-of-kin parcel arrived on my birthday (15th May) all in good order. Glad you sent my serge uniform, also shoes. In future parcels please include leather soles, dressing gown, leather slippers, razor blades, brown shoe polish and toilet articles. Comforts parcel from England contained badminton set, clothes and books, also a pair of corduroy trousers which, unfortunately, were confiscated. Cannot speak too highly of the British Red Cross. Their parcels are splendid, clothes and cigarettes—am definitely the answer to the sheepfarmer's prayer at present. November next-of-kin parcel arrived six weeks ago—everything in good order.

(NOTE.—1st parcel sent August, 1941, arrived about four months' later than 2nd parcel sent November, 1941.)

From Capt. G. M. BEAUMONT, dated 5/3/41.
I have received my first parcel, one that you sent containing blanket, a pair of trousers and lots of other very acceptable gifts; not forgetting the razor and at least some good quality blades. Next, I have received a letter from you. It was dated 20th November, 1941, and I am sorry to see that at that date you had still apparently not heard from me. Also the air mail is now open to New Zealand again after three months and I can send this letter direct instead of through New Zealand House, like the last six or seven, so that it will possibly arrive before them.

Dated 16/4/42. Did I tell you we have a priest here? I generally get up fairly late before the morning check parade, and have a small breakfast after parade. Then read a book or walk for exercise, or swot until lunch. After lunch there is another period to fill in and then evening parade. Afterwards an evening meal and then fill in time till bedtime.

Dated 8/5/42. We are now getting towards summer here and the weather is much warmer so that we are now much more comfortable. We are fairly well off for clothes now from parcels and Red Cross supplies, but I could give a fruit cake an awful fright.

Name not Forwarded. Dated 4/6/42.
Had some fine days and got in a couple of sun baths—thanks to a slight alteration in the wire. Have played several games of hockey—5 a side—10 minutes each way on a miniature ground—quite strenuous. Started with a game 'Over 40's' v. 'Never Haves'. I played for the 'Overs' but was better qualified for the 'Nevers'. Every once in a while the referee inquired which side I was playing for and then penalised it!! All here are fit and well except for the inevitable minor troubles of a largish camp. I am now occupied off and on again as 'Painting Contractor'. We have five brushes—one German, made of stubble or the like; three old clothes brushes converted and one made from several shaving brushes—water, size, whitening and elbow grease! Have done the barber shop and half done the 'Swop it' mart. Future contracts—tailor's shop, cobbler's shop, workshop (all so called), isolation hospital (to be), a recreation hut (to be), etc. It is exasperating but healthy and useful.

From Capt. H. S. BUDD, dated 4/6/42.
Just over a year of it and just quietly I'm a bit like the old bloke who was sick of the palsy! However t'will pass. Mail from your end has been a bit slow this last month although I got four letters during the past few days. Hot as Hades and sunshine from (I am told) 5.30 a.m. to 9.45 p.m. Held a race meeting to-day. Horses carved from pieces of wood—hurdles, water jumps, bookies, tote and all. Borrowed a couple of marks and finished up winning about 50. Been to one or two Shakespeare readings. That old boy knew his stuff—also becoming very familiar (and fond) of various symphonies in A Major and B Minor, etc., played by a very excellent symphony orchestra. A new play is opening on Friday and promises to be good. Libraries are stacked with books and everyone is playing deck tennis, badminton, football, soccer and Rugby, hockey, etc.—although time passes very quickly and the only thing wrong with the scenery is that spot of barbed wire that runs round the whole outfit. All the boys you know here are fit and well. The Red Cross parcel question has improved and for the last few weeks we have been getting one per week. I

have not yet received any clothes parcels either from home or New Zealand House. They will arrive in due course.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD.

The Merchant Navy Comforts Service only deals with the next-of-kin parcels which are sent through their prisoners of war packing centre.

The camp is situated in the north-west of Germany in a large pine forest where trees have been cut down to make room for the camp. The prisoners are housed in wooden huts which are adequately heated and we are told that the lighting is satisfactory so that the prisoners can read and write in the evenings. The food is prepared in kitchens by British cooks and the prisoners themselves have facilities for the preparation of their personal foodstuffs. There is also a canteen, run by a British officer, where the prisoners can buy at reasonable prices, lemonade, cigarettes and the usual toilet articles.

There is an infirmary which is installed in a new building and is described as being of irreproachable construction from the point of view of hygiene, and has also a small dental surgery attached. There is a library, which, at the date of the report, consisted of about 1000 books and this is continually being added to. The most unsatisfactory feature of the camp has been the prisoners' mail, which has been very irregular and about which we have had many complaints.

The whole camp is under German naval administration, but there is apparently one camp Post Office for all the different sections of the camp which contains Merchant Navy prisoners, prisoners from the Royal Navy, and varied allied seamen. It seems that there is a shortage of German censors which causes a hold-up of the letters, and we hear that they are very often delayed for several weeks in the camp Post Office before being distributed. The postal authorities have taken up the matter and are doing all they can to see that a more regular service is established.

From W. R. ALEXANDER, dated 6/3/42.

I received your October letter last week, also the pull-over and socks. That is the only parcel I have received from you. I was wishing for the cake one to turn up but my luck was out. I resigned myself to a lengthy stay when I got here so you can guess my state of mind. The only thing I worry about is my food, which you can well understand is on the short side. My health is pretty good now.

P.G. 35.

From Capt. A. G. GILCHRIST, dated 14/4/42.

We have moved to a permanent camp at last. This is an old monastery situated about 2000 feet above sea level. The building is a huge affair with a four-sided quadrangle and cloisters. The whole place is very old, some of the masonry showing the dates 14th and 17th century. We are on the floor of a valley and high mountains look down on us. The valley appears quite fertile, but the mountains are bare and barren. There are five officers in our room—a South African bomber pilot, an Englishman and two New Zealand dental officers and myself. The New Zealanders are Skegg of Auckland and Aitken of Levin. The walls of the room are white-washed and we have comfortable beds. I am not doing any medical work.

P.G. 38.

From Lieut. A. S. RUSDEN, dated 24/3/42.

Plenty of smokes, a library and a piano. We are allowed so much money each month according to rank, and if what we want is obtainable we can have it. Lately I bought underclothes, slippers, hair brush, etc., which help one to keep respectable. As officers we have to pay for everything, including food, as there is no issue, but the system seems to work all right. Have bought some tools and seeds and shortly should have a good garden. This will be a great help and enable us to make up a few vitamins. Last Sunday a parish dignitary came and blessed the building.

Dated 7/4/42. The Italians were very good and give me cod liver oil and malt and then had some eggs with which I had some egg-nogs every day. Am very glad to tell you that we have had two Red Cross parcels, and have hopes of them coming regularly. They are excellent and make such a difference. We have walks sometimes which make a pleasant change and our guards are quite pleased to tell us of the historical interest of the places we see. Some of them talk excellent English, and we have one or two who can converse quite well

in Italian. One parcel arrived in good time for Easter. We have been able to purchase extra commodities, so we are expecting a reasonably enjoyable Easter.

From Capt. L. C. S. HILL (Parnell), dated 7/4/42. The big event was the arrival of two Red Cross parcels and they should come once a week now. They are splendid and make a big difference to our rations. With our hired piano and some music we have a weekly recital of good music and it's most enjoyable. Our daily ration varies little—at 9 a cup of coffee or cocoa, roll-call and sick parade at 9.30. There are several of our drivers and the Italian one, a very cheery fellow, comes daily also; 12, lunch; 2-4, lectures with a cup of tea at 3; 6, evening meal, and 8, a talk or another lecture; 9, ovaline and bed. We intersperse this with gardening, reading and cards as the weather and mood move us. On Saturday nights we have a formal dinner followed by a sing-song. There is no official breakfast, so the parcels were welcomed to provide a snack.

From 2nd Lieut. R. C. WEBB.

Dated 30/3/42. It's one of the big days of our lives as prisoners-to-day, as we have received our first Red Cross parcels and a remarkably good one too. We are getting a hot shower once a week, also got some soap in our parcel, which was more welcome than anything.

Dated 7/4/42. The once all-important question of food has faded into the background this last week. We put the majority of our Red Cross parcels into the mess and we have had most satisfactory meals. Easter is, of course, a big fiesta for the Italians and they have come to light well. Half a dozen lambs and various sweets and chocolate, in addition to our normal rations. As the Red Cross seem to have things well in hand I really don't think there is any need to send me any parcels; anyway, they would take so long to get here, and if the worst comes we can live on one Red Cross parcel a week and be much better off than at some stages of our captivity. Had a great walk yesterday, just meandering around for a couple of hours. Our camp is actually considered a health resort.

From Major G. I. B. THOMAS (Masterton).

Dated 8th and 16th March, 1942. I am housed in a large building on a hillside in the country and have a large sunny room which I share with two other Majors. Bishop Gerard was with us, but has left now after six weeks. My window overlooks a pleasant valley a mile or so wide, through which runs a river, road and railway, and there are many medieval castles, also numerous two-story stone farm houses on the hills in sight, and a few small villages on ridges. We are enjoying lessons and lectures in French, science, medicine, farming, book-keeping and engineering. I have been learning how to prune trees and grape vines and have practised on the trees and vines in the grounds. We are busy preparing a large vegetable garden and hoping for bumper crops. You will be pleased to know that we receive an apple and orange each per day, in addition to our rations of food. Do not trouble to send goods from New Zealand and do not worry about me as I have all I need excepting letters from you.

Dated 24th and 30th March, 1942. The Red Cross have sent us parcels from England and propose to send them regularly now. We now have no cause for complaint. What do you think? I had my first cup of tea for four months, and was it good? We have a canteen here and can purchase razor blades, shirts, socks, brushes, etc., so please do not send any goods as I have sufficient and there will be difficulty in transport. We are still busy with our gardens and have planted many seeds, mostly flowering annuals, so should soon have a blaze of colour. We have also planted out 1,000 onion plants and 1,500 garlic plants. There are numerous plots which small groups of officers have to cultivate various vegetables which will later come on to the menu. We also have vines and fruit-trees which are receiving attention from our orchardist enthusiasts. It is remarkable what good items some of the men can produce and we have at least one 2YA performer with us. Our library is a great help to us and we have books on many interesting subjects.

From Lieut. F. OSCAR BURTT (Rotorua).

Dated 15/3/42. We look down from our position on a hill on a beautiful green valley neatly arranged with vines and fruit trees. Many clusters of old houses dot the scene and two villages nestle in the hills not far away. It is very picturesque. This morning all the village bells were ringing and it was very like home. We have a piano—a beautiful instrument—and only about a pound a month for hire. I sing solos at our weekly concerts and last night a prize of a few figs was given for the best item! I won it. I am librarian, share a garden, give some lectures, read, walk and write, so the time does not drag

so much now. We were able to buy some nougat this week, a kind of cake the week before, chocolate the previous week.

Dated 22/3/42. Last night we had a special evening in the mess and as it is my birthday to-day it served as my birthday party. I wrote a short comic operetta for it. Our library received 21 books from the Italian Red Cross yesterday. We are going to buy another 100 books. Half the money I receive is spent on living. We buy all our food, fuel and replace crockery breakages. The rest is spent on clothes, sweets, tobacco, books, paper, etc. Have just bought pyjamas 4/1, underclothes, socks, shirt, handkerchiefs tie and slippers 10/-.

Dated 30/3/42. One day we went for a walk for a few miles. Our guards took us over pretty country and the weather was beautiful. Yesterday our first Red Cross parcel arrived. They were British parcels and we each received one. Mine contained cake of chocolate, sweets, marmite, cubes honey, tin of apricots, soap, sausages, tin vegetables, small tin sugar, pepper, raisins and a few other things. I also was lucky to get a tin of good pipe tobacco. We were thrilled. One does not appreciate how childish we all are at heart until he has gone without and then received what he was previously used to. My first smoke of Capstan tobacco was wonderful.

From Lieut. C. N. ARMSTRONG, dated 30/3/42. Lately I have been digging industriously in our little garden plot. I repeat most sincerely, and there is no question of a pistol being held to our heads that you have no cause to worry over my being in prison. We are really well treated. The authorities have commenced the practice of taking us in small parties for walks. We are, of course, very soft, and a couple of miles out and back leaves us fairly exhausted, but it is glorious to get outside the wire and into the hills. Our villa is a four-storied stone building with walls about four feet through. It used to be a runny before the war. The rations have improved so that I have started physical training exercises regularly with the return of strength and stamina. Now the long-looked-for Red Cross parcels have arrived—yesterday—with almost hysterical amazement and gratitude. Apparently we, as a new camp, were overlooked for the four months, but at last they arrived and are supposed to come regularly. If so, our lot will be fortunate for they are all we can wish for. The food in these parcels added to our ration is really adequate and good, particularly when we realise that while we are here we are but the drones of the Empire. I can only thank God that I did what I could in three campaigns before capture.

From 2nd Lieut. W. S. ROSS, dated 16/3/42. Have not been able to write for some time owing to lack of letter cards. We managed to get a few books for a library so we can spend part of the day reading. We get one letter and one card away a week if we are lucky. We manage to buy a few things occasionally so that we can spend a little of the pay they give us. A good feed of meat would be welcome as well as a lot of other things.

From Lieut. J. D. GERARD (Wellington), dated 8/3/42. We sleep five or six in a room with a stove, rugs, wardrobes and a marvellous view. By way of varying the routine we have a party every Saturday. This is achieved by saving half our wine ration during the week and devoting our lunch bread to make a pudding for dinner. During the afternoons and evenings we have lectures on every sort of subject and occasionally a debate or concert. To-day is our best to date, for besides being a Saturday, I have this letter to write. Some books have arrived, a piano will come this afternoon, and cake is on sale in our canteen.

Dated 24/3/42. To-morrow we plant our garden. The six in our room have a plot about 15 feet square. We intend to grow onions, carrots, radishes and tomatoes. Altogether quite a full life and would even be enjoyable if there was no war on.

Dated 14/4/42. Firstly a few words on Red Cross parcels which we now receive once a week. With these and six lambs and sundry confections provided by the Italians we have quite a festive Easter. We even had 1/6th of a bottle each of beer and sparkling wine.

P.G. 41.

From Capt. W. J. HESLOP. Dated 11/3/42. We New Zealanders are still patiently awaiting the arrival of some mail from home. One officer at this camp received two letters from N.Z. dated 12th and 18th December. The officers put on a very good concert last evening, the first item being an imitation of a Wild West talkie which was very clever and humorous. The meals for which we have to pay are much the same as before. Meat is con-

spicuous by its absence. My book-keeping students are progressing satisfactorily and the shorthand and Italian keeps me well occupied. Contract bridge is played a lot. I had my monthly bath to-day, consisting of a bucket of warm water.

Dated 25/3/42. We still have had only three Red Cross parcels during our four months of captivity which is rather a blow. In Italy here a captain receives 1100 lire per month, out of which he has to feed and clothe himself and by the time one has bought the necessities of life, there is nothing much left over. I am hoping this amount will not be deducted from our Army pay because what we receive here is only part of what our Army does for us gratis. Tom Bromley has a bed opposite mine, so I see quite a lot of him. Peter Clarry had two letters from England during the last two days.

P.G. 52.

From Dvr. W. F. ANDREWS (Cambridge). Dated 28/3/42. Some in camp receive mail from England, and parcels. We are hoping for a parcel from Red Cross, Middle East. They have let us down badly lately. We play cards, do a lot of reading.

Dated 14/4/42. We received three-quarters of a Red Cross parcel each. Have just made a drink of 'Ovaltine' with dried milk in it. The chocolate in them is most welcome. There is quite a variety of small tins of meats, about 20 articles in all. Marmite cubes (6) are very nice. We have all had a hot shower and an injection to-day. Yesterday did my washing so had clean clothes to put on and I am not feeling bad.

From M. N. WATSON. Dated 15/3/42. This week has gone very quickly as we have quite a number of activities, lectures, Bible class, choral society and concerts, etc., organized by chaps amongst ourselves which help to pass the time. I've been attending language classes and lectures on philosophy, which one chap is giving. We're now having a series on economics and another on history. Michael (brother) has been going too. They also have a "Young Farmers' Club" here and of course various members lecture on pigs, sheep, etc.

Dated 22nd and 29th March. Owing to lectures and activities the time seems to pass moderately well. I dare say you have gathered from my previous letters that nothing much happens from behind the wires of a prison camp to help letter writing.

Dated 5/4/42. We had daily study groups and services during Holy Week. On Good Friday, 10 a.m., Service of Litany and address, while in evening a service of seven short talks by chaps on "Seven Words of Cross" with appropriate hymns and devotions led by the Padre. Though in a Prisoner of War camp, educational classes were abandoned during Holy Week, but start again with greater force on Monday as we hone to have a new mess and recreational hut in action. The official opening is to-day when we parade down and have our daily meal at a table instead of being seated on one's bunk; the hut will be great for lectures, concerts, etc., which previously had to be on a smaller scale in our living huts. I am on the educational committee and also lecture on English grammar, besides taking Italian, shorthand, agriculture, etc. myself as a student, so time goes well. Two thrills during the past week. Some chaps received mail from New Zealand and we received a Red Cross food parcel. The arrival of mail was a great uplift to us all as it makes us feel that we are still in contact with our own land. The parcels are truly wonderful and contain jam, beans, and tomatoes, bacon, apple pudding, creamed rice, tea, cocoa, 'Ovaltine', sardines, salmon, various tinned meats, chocolate and cigarettes. We have an area in our compound where we can make fires and boil up our various brews.

From V. HORGAN. Dated 23/3/42. I am learning to speak Italian. Lessons are given every day between 4 and 5 by a Roman Catholic Padre. The food we are receiving at the present time is sufficient to keep us in good health. Apart from that we are receiving Red Cross parcels every week. I think I mentioned before we are sleeping in huts and have callasses filled with straw, two sheets, four blankets and a pillow. We have a small wine issue twice a week, receive five cigarettes a day. We also receive 14 lira a fortnight with which we can buy figs, oranges, cigarettes, etc.

From J. W. LAVIN. Dated 8/3/42. We are living in wooden huts which are very comfortable; we pass the time listening to lectures and debates, we have a concert now and again. Chocolate and smokes are the two things I miss most. We got our first Red Cross parcel, one between two of us, this week, and boy it does buck us up a lot and we had some real good feeds out of it.

From Cpl. B. C. HUNTER.

Dated 8/3/42. I am quite well and happy even though the food question hasn't improved. The recent arrival of a few Red Cross comforts did much to keep us in high spirits for a few days and I might add that most of us have now attained the status of professional cooks, that is concocting all types of dainty dishes out of nothing. The duff that Ken and I made the other day was quite a success.

From Sgt. E. A. O'HARA, dated 6/3/42. Have received nothing here yet. Am picking up a bit, weigh 8st. 6lb. now. Have started short walks now, and day before yesterday went for one—was grand after being penned up for weeks—about three miles—not very strong and had aches and pains next day. The Red Cross don't exist as far as we are concerned—not two complete breakfast parcels since capture.

From A. W. ALLAN, dated 1/3/42.

We get well looked after here. Pete Gale, Maurice Cameron, Bert Burgess and a lot of Uncle Viv's mates are here. We have a piano and other instruments now and have a few concerts. I've had a Red Cross parcel and it was very nice too. We are used to being inside a barbed wire fence all day.

From L/Cpl. D. AITCHISON (Shannon), dated 1/3/42. Lectures on philosophy, economics and agricultural history. A camp choir is being organised, and we even have a Farming Club. As our fellow "guests" are from all parts—Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia, etc., the latter organisation should prove very interesting to farmers. These I have mentioned are day-time affairs, but each hut (100 men) organises its own evening activities. In our hut, for instance, chaps are taking turns in talking about their occupations in civil life, and it is surprising how interesting they have so far proved—mining in South Africa, trout-fishing in New Zealand, and so on.

From S. WOLFE, dated 8/3/42. Sports are getting organised and some keen games are indicated in the near future when our sports gear arrives. Last week we received another Red Cross parcel of foodstuffs and needless to say it was much appreciated, especially the chocolate, jam and butter. By the way, I'm becoming quite a good cook now, every so often we make a pudding, crumble up some bread, mix in some figs, sugar, jam and whatever else is handy, tie it up in a cloth and send it down to the cookhouse to get it boiled. The result you may guess is very satisfactory, maybe a trifle heavy and soggy, but they go down and stop down.

From Sgt. A. STEWART, R.A.F., dated 22/3/42. I am sharing a room with five other N.Z. sergeants and we manage to get along fairly well together. We have received two or three Red Cross parcels to share amongst us and the contents were exceptionally good, especially the chocolate and jam as well as the English cigarettes. I have not received any letters so far, but am expecting some to show up soon as I have now been a prisoner for six months. A good old N.Z. Jersey cow would be handy here.

From J. WOOD, dated 15/3/42. We have had some jolly good concerts, as some of the musical instruments have arrived. We now have a piano, two guitars and banjo and a kettle-drum, a violin came too, but we sent it back as it was broken. I have joined a Kiwi Church Choir and am also joining a concert party. We have formed a Dramatic Society and are going to put on short plays when our budding playwrights write some, or we get some from other sources. Our Farmers' Club is flourishing and we have some very interesting and instructive lectures.

From L. H. COURSEY.

Dated 8/3/42. We received a parcel (one between two) on Wednesday, and so things have not been so bad. It contained 1lb. milk powder, 1lb. butter, two tins of meat and two of fish and many other things. They were Canadian parcels and jolly good too. We have felt a lot better as a result. We have a Padre in the camp now, a Mr. Mitchell, a Methodist or a Presbyterian, I am not sure which. He is certainly doing great work, he conducts services in the Anglican manner for us.

Dated 22/3/42. We have managed to get a piano for the camp and we have concerts, the items being given by Tommies, South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders and Poles. We have lectures in the huts nearly every night on various subjects and several educational lectures during the day. We do camp fatigue about one day a week.

From Dvr. L. R. HEWITT, dated 1/3/42. I am now a cook and quite a good job, warm beds to sleep in, so no use growling. We have had two Red Cross parcels and another lot has just arrived in camp, hoping to get it to-day, comes in very useful,

tea, cocoa, chocolate, honey, meat-loaf, butter etc. Am all right for clothes except socks.

From Dvr. G. R. WIND dated 16/4/42.

This place is just like "Old Mother Hubbard." We had a Red Cross parcel last Wednesday and have a tin of bacon left, so it certainly helps things along quite a bit. We are supposed to receive a Red Cross parcel a week, but so far haven't had them yet. We got tea in the parcel and condensed milk, etc. I can tell you it helps to fill in a lot of time brewing up a cup of milk. I had a great ginger beard about three inches long and the day before yesterday I borrowed a pair of scissors and a razor and it certainly feels good to have a smooth face again.

From Cpl. E. J. SMITH.

Dated 8/3/42. We are in huts with three blankets, two sheets and a pay-day every tenth day and five cigarettes a day. We run tournaments for crib, bridge, euchre and five hundred. Cards can be bought at the canteen. Reading matter is very scarce but we manage to get a book now and again. It will be good when we get the recreation room finished because we have all clubbed in and bought the necessary instruments for an orchestra. We had another Red Cross parcel last week, a Canadian one, and they are good ones too, real butter in them. That makes three Les and I have had between us since the start of the year.

From H. S. MILLER.

Dated 22/3/42. We manage to get a portion of a Red Cross parcel now and again and the last two that we shared were from the Canadian Red Cross and they were really good. Among the contents they had a one pound tin of butter and a big tin of milk powder and 3 lb. tea, all of which gives one something to make a special dish out of his ordinary everyday meals. The first parcel we got 3 lb. butter each but the butter didn't last very long, as I was craving for it so much I just simply slapped it on and cut it out in no time.

From L/Cpl. J. G. ROSS (Haumoana).

Dated 28/3/42. I haven't had any news from you yet. The last few days have been wonderful, real Hawke's Bay weather. We are doing fairly well as far as eats go. We have a few concerts in the camp now as we have a band and it helps to pass the time away. I am pretty good at darning socks now. I pulled my balaclava to bits to mend them and what a job it took all day—but time is no object.

Dated 14/4/42. Well, Easter was very quiet and we were hoping to receive a Red Cross parcel for it, but it did not arrive until the Wednesday after, and then it wasn't one each. We have been unlucky as far as parcels go. All the boys are like a lot of kids when the parcels arrive, one would think it was Christmas.

Dated 5/4/42. Went for a walk Thursday, about five miles. It was great, fruit trees of all kinds out in flower. We had to rest before returning to camp and it was beside a river. The banks and everywhere were covered with wild flowers, violets, grape hyacinths, primroses, daisies and many others. It is a country of wild flowers and plenty of sunshine. You would enjoy travelling through it.

Dated 15/4/42. One or two of the boys have received a few letters written on the 24th February. They only took six weeks to come over. I'm looking forward to one from you—had no mail since the middle of November when we were

From Cpl. W. E. MAY (Onehunga).
captured. Some more parcels have arrived, three to four men this time (English ones) and you can imagine the thrill we got out of them. We had fried onions and sausages for tea last night and weren't they good. We have an area set aside for lighting fires.

From C. HOLLAND (Richmond-Nelson).

Dated 23/3/42. I had a third of a Red Cross parcel this week and it's great to get a drink of tea and some real butter. As you may guess we do not get any luxuries and the parcels are just what is needed. My beard is quite long and I guess you would not know me now.

Dated 28/3/42. There are five Nelson boys here and we sleep side by side and are together most of the time. No letters arrived yet.

Dated 13/4/42. Even here we receive inoculations and we had one to-day. We received three-quarters of a Red Cross parcel this week and a mob of children is nothing compared to us when they arrive. If we do half the things we have planned we are going to be busy people for a long time after we reach home.

From K. DONALDSON (Rotorua).

Dated 5/4/42. Good Friday was a beautiful day and I spent it out sun-bathing. They have organised walks here

now and I went on one, quite a good break and the view up the valley was well worth it. It is really not so bad here.

Dated 14/4/42. We received 3 Red Cross parcels between four men and I have just finished my share. We hope to receive one per man per week in near future. We have a new commandant of the camp here now and I honestly believe he is doing his best for us. I am fit and well. One of the boys in our hut received a letter posted on the 2nd February in New Zealand, and as we are all New Zealanders in this hut you can bet we are all eagerly waiting for one also. We are now receiving two extra meals per week and with the new season's crop, should receive two every day. I believe we will receive two loaves too.

From J. C. and L. W. GREATBATCH (Napier).

Dated April. Camp 52 is situated in a picturesque valley with peasant houses dotted about the surrounding hills. Most of the hills are covered with olive and gorse trees and look a picture in the spring. The highway is a fairly important one with a village every mile or so and five churches with clocks and bells can be seen. An item of interest is the number of cable baskets from the hill houses to the roadway and the camp gets its supplies across the river from the road. There is also a small footbridge. The compound is roughly three acres, and three-quarters of space is taken by various huts—small bungalow type, occupied by officers and R.S.M.s, two-storied type holding about 100, and long narrow hall type, holding 100 with a small part sectioned off for sergeants and 50 double-decker bunks, each bunk has a palliasso, pillow, sheets and three blankets.

Dated Mid-April. We are starting lectures on educational subjects, including shorthand, book-keeping, engineering, languages, electrical subjects, wireless and various trades. We get a Red Cross parcel occasionally, they cause great excitement as it is the nearest approach to home sweet home. They have a stunning assortment.

From Pte. J. N. JOHNSON (Wellington).

Dated 7/3/42. Twice a week we receive an issue of wine and an issue of cheese. Sugar is also issued. This week we received a Canadian Red Cross parcel containing tinned meat, raisins, prunes, cheese, powdered milk, sardines, salmon, chocolate, soap, apricot jam and butter. The butter tasted wonderful after not having any for a few months.

Dated 14/3/42. We are paid by the Italians and have a canteen in which to spend it. By making a levy of two lire per man sufficient money was raised to buy some musical instruments. They have now arrived and are being used a great deal. Many concerts are being arranged. The Aussies and New Zealanders in camp have formed an "Anzac" Concert Party.

Dated 8/6/42. Once again the week has brought forth mail. I received your letter dated 8/3/42. I have not received the parcel yet, but expect it any day now. At present "Plum" and I have only one set of shaving gear between us. He supplies the brush and I supply the razor.

P.G. 57.

From H. R. PALMER, dated 3/4/42.

It is a beautiful day, the opposite to the Good Friday we spent last year in the rain and mud, with snow in the air. Recently about half a dozen former members of the N.Z. Field Hospital left here, in a trance at the glorious news that they were to be repatriated—going home!! One of these W.O.2, Ron Jacks, is a Christchurch man.

Next to repatriation, the occasion we look forward to the most is the issue of Red Cross parcels. If the people responsible for the organisation, the planning, the packing and all the other work attendant on the delivery of these food parcels could only see the great joy of the men here on the occasions when we receive them, I'm sure they would be amply rewarded. Can you imagine grown men lying awake until the early hours of the morning, excited as a lot of kids, over the receipt of their parcels?

I'm sure there's not a single man among us who is ever likely to forget parcels or the people responsible for them. We would all be pleased here if these few inadequate words could be published for them to see. Allan, Ron and I are all well.

From Gnr. H. JOHNSON, dated 22/5/42.

We have been rather depressed of late, but everything has happened at once. We had been out of food parcels from the Red Cross for two months and cigarettes were at a premium and then the parcels came to light and we are enjoying an

orgy of eating and smoking. Then we got the news that eight of the medical orderlies who were rumoured to be going to work as orderlies, were told that they were going to be repatriated to N.Z. Also the whole atmosphere of the camp is 200 per cent. better, brighter, and one is very optimistic all at once. We are all a little depressed at the lack of Red Cross parcels, but we are hoping for some soon.

From N. R. LORY, dated 13/3/42.

It's snowing here and is it cold?

If you were here the story told

Would warm your little hearts.

I'd tell you of the burning sands

In which I lived in desert lands,

I'd tell you tales of love my dear,

If only I could have you here.

I'm quite O.K. I wish to tell,

But "Prisoner," it hurts like hell.

I had a bit of luck this week, the compound ran a raffle to raise funds for goal posts and other things, and yours truly won the third prize, which was a fountain pen, quite a nice one too. Some of the boys from N.Z. received mail lately, but they have been captive longer than I have. Some of the letters were nearly twelve months old, but they were very welcome just the same. I am quite O.K. and I have a 100 to 1 chance of getting home and still have hopes of seeing the Old Country first.

Dated 28/3/42. Everything is again wonderful in the garden. We have just received another parcel from the Red Cross. You have no idea how it bucks the boys up, there's nothing like a contented feeling down below! Quite a bit of mail seems to be arriving in camp too. I did not write to you last week, but used my page to write to N.Z. House, London, re books on Mineral Feeding. Hope to hear from them soon as I have a great chance to study while here.

From M. BRADY, dated 29/3/42.

The weather is good now, real spring, and lovely and warm. It really is a pretty country, Italy, I would like to travel through it in peace time. Red Cross parcels arrived in again to-day and it is good to have a bit of chocolate and an English cigarette again. The Italian tobacco is quite good, but very strong. Every afternoon now we lie out in the sun and listen to the music on the wireless, they put on good music here. At night here we listen to lectures on such subjects as poultry farming, fruit growing, etc., with an occasional concert.

From W. G. WEST (Otorohanga), dated 29/3/42.

We are all well here. Claude is in the pink and so am I. Last Friday we received our first Red Cross parcel and by Jove! they are marvellous, full of tinned food of every description, also fifty English cigarettes each. We are picking at our food all day this week, and it makes a big difference to everyone—cheerful and pleasant, one and all. I wish I could give you a list of the contents of my parcel, but I'm afraid I can't.

From G. FLETCHER (Clevedons), dated 22/3/42. I am keeping well, but will be pleased when we get some more Red Cross parcels, as we have not had any for six weeks now. When there are no parcels we don't get any English cigarettes as there is a tin of fifty with each parcel. I will be glad when I get a letter from you as I have not had one of any kind since the 5th November last year. Jim Hutcheon, from Hamilton, is in this camp, and he says that Syd. Matthews was a prisoner with him at Renghax.

Dated 29/3/42. We all had a pleasant surprise this morning, as some more Red Cross parcels have arrived after an interval of seven weeks. I don't know yet whether there will be enough for one each, but at any rate we are certain to get one between two. We have been rather short of smokes this week, but have high hopes of getting some more soon.

From E. C. ROLSTON (Napier), dated 14/3/42.

Here we are again, still alive, and in a prison camp. Face has healed up but is all out of shape, and I am to be put before a Repatriation Neutral Board, so have more than a good chance of getting back to a British country where the doctors tell me I will get fixed up quite a bit. I don't know how long it will take, but any time up to Christmas is a fair guess. Was pleased to get some underclothes and socks from Red Cross to-day, also 50 fags which were more than welcome. Have got into a hut with a cobber out of my old platoon. Some day you may get a wire to say I've been exchanged for Italian sick and wounded, so here's hoping.

From F. C. STUART, dated 12/2/42.

The boys are putting on condition and looking much better than when we arrived. This is parcel day and its good to get

the full
cells. If
ditions we
From W.

I am
we are all
cause I've
American
were goo
been havi
contained
started ge
the camp
sunshine.

From CO

I am
we landed
or at leas
Red Cros
ward to.

From KE

I am
Greece fo
Italy and
good. I
all well a

From Sgt

The
ious talk
so I am
live. To
washing
is kept b
sleep mo
by freque
have com
adian but
make life
to receive

From S.

This
ton bomb
Farming.
We had
to-night,
service e
between
after mo
Canadian
ones.

Date
also two
ing a pia
often las
between

From C.

Date
who bro
Popé—a
they are
soul thro
biscuits,
for jam-

Date
Red Cros
people w
joy. On
issue loa

From So

Date
able to
followed
Christma
either. ?

the full cream, butter, milk and jam from the Canadian parcels. If the people at home could only see what good conditions we are now living under there would be no one worrying. From W. S. DAVEY (Waimaru, Havelock), dated 11/4/42.

I am doing well and feel sure it won't be very long before we are all together again, so get the old beer barrel ready, because I've got a lot of lost time to make up. We got some American Red Cross parcels the other day and believe me they were good. One article was a pound of prunes and I have been having stewed prunes every night this week. They also contained meats, fish, chocolate and drinks in it. We have started gardening here now for our own use. The grass around the camp is getting quite green now with the spring rain and sunshine.

P.G. 65.

From COLIN WELCH (Masterton), dated 5/4/42.

I am in good health and have some money left. We were in Greece for three months after the shipwreck and am now in Italy and going to permanent camp soon, which I hear is very good. I was captured on 25th November. I hope you are all well and not worrying too much.

From KEN. N. C. TURNER, dated 30/3/42.

I am in good health and have some money left. We were in Greece for three months after the shipwreck and am now in Italy and going to permanent camp soon, which I hear is very good. I was captured on 25th November. I hope you are all well and not worrying too much.

P.G. 66.

From Sgt. A. L. CAVERHILL, dated 8/3/42.

The evenings are spent rather pleasantly listening to various talks and lectures from anyone who is willing to speak, so I am still learning how people in other parts of the world live. To-day, however, is really sunny, so it will have to be washing day. There is an excellent choir in the camp which is kept busy with a long list of engagements in each hut. We sleep more comfortably now as live-stock has been removed by frequent showers and constant vigil. Red Cross food parcels have come to hand, one parcel between two, and we have Canadian butter on our bread, which is a real thrill. These parcels make life more pleasant. We only hope it is possible for us to receive them more often.

From S. R. FORD, dated 8/3/42.

This week I attended a talk given by a pilot of a Wellington bomber, which was very interesting, also a talk on Poultry Farming. Quite a number of prisoners are learning Italian. We had a church service here this morning and another one to-night. We have a minister in this hut who holds a short service every Sunday night. We received one Red Cross parcel between two of us this week. Contained a pound tin of butter, after not tasting such for months was delicious. It was a Canadian parcel and was very good, better than the English ones.

Dated 22/3/42. This week I have attended several talks, also two concerts. We have a few musical instruments, including a piano, which has livened things up considerably. Concerts often last till after midnight. We received a Red Cross parcel between three this week. You can guess it did not last long.

From Cpl. J. H. SMITH.

Dated 7/2/42. We had a visit from the Cardinal of Rome, who brought us games, we received a Christmas card from the Pope—a grand souvenir. We are hoping to send them home, they are signed by Pope Pius XII. Am still keeping body and soul together, even putting on weight. We are able to buy biscuits, etc., from our canteen, trade cigarettes for bread, bread for jam—it's a great life the sporting life.

Dated 3/3/42. Am still alive and kicking. We have had a Red Cross parcel again, feels like Christmas day. If only the people who packed them could see us they would weep with joy. One chappie has just finished making a pudding, a small issue loaf cheese and jam with syrup to taste.

LAGHOUAT, ALGERIA.

From Squadron Leader R. C. BRICKELL.

Dated 15/1/42. Christmas here was not bad, as we were able to buy lots of local wine and have a bit of a blow-out followed by quite a meal owing to the fortuitous arrival of Christmas parcels from Red Cross. New Year was not bad, either. The camp had a revue, "Les Girls de Laghouat," almost

up to Hippodrome standard, and the best laugh we have had for months. One of the high spots apart from the turns was the foot-lights, made out of milk tins and connected with a water dimmer, which actually worked, though most of the stage hands got a kick in operating it. We get quite a lot of fun out of life here on the whole. We are guarded by a special regiment repatriated from Syria, who are occasionally a bit small-minded about it, though we are on the fringe of the desert proper. It has been bitterly cold for weeks and few garments in the camp are not worn night and day.

Dated 12/2/42. My chief hobby is running the "University" of Laghouat. There are classes in French, German, Spanish, Arabic, mathematics, shorthand, book-keeping, first aid, Italian, wireless play reading—in fact anything some one knows and half a dozen others want to. Next best for passing the time are Red Cross parcels and next best just sitting in the sun which is beginning to get decently warm in the afternoon.

From DOUGLAS BURNS (cable received 6th July). Received two letters first since November. Being treated all right, am quite well. Soap, football shorts; love.

OFLAG VI. B.

From Major C. A. LE LIEVRE (Whakatane).

I will be signing a Bank Draft on the Union Bank of Australia, Whakatane, for approximately £5 for charity business from all Prisoners of War. It is an appreciation for various Red Cross in all countries from Prisoners of War. British officers here are able to give cheques straight out but the New Zealanders are different. The draft will probably not be presented till after the war is over. Takapuna (Auckland) sent Christmas Greetings to Prisoners of War at this camp. Please write and thank the branch. Odd letters to various Prisoners of War tell of activities in New Zealand, and we run a little news service here of New Zealand gossip. We will all be home for Christmas, 1942, so get a young turkey ready. Mrs. Le Lievre writes: "Last week the manager of the Union Bank sent for me as he had received the cheque drawn up on a piece of note paper with a stamp from Geneva and from Lloyds Bank, London. Of course I promptly gave him another cheque to keep this one from my husband. Major Le Lievre is now at Oflag IX A, which is a castle 700 years old, on the top of a hill 1400 feet above sea level. It has turrets and a moat, and they believe dungeons, but, of course, they are not for Prisoners of War. It is central heated and has a splendid library, some of the officers are Majors Macduff (Christchurch), Rattray (Dunedin), Gordon (Wanganui), Heatherington (Thames). IX A is a senior officers camp and mostly all Dunkirk men. My husband's letter dated Oflag IX A, May 22nd says: 'YESTERDAY I RECEIVED YOUR CLOTHES PARCEL POSTED LAST AUGUST, complete to the list. Blankets are beautiful. Used one last night and used other for pillow. Softest pillow I have had. The slippers are most welcome and fit perfectly. Bath day next Saturday and for me Coal Tar Soap. Boot laces was a splendid thought. Underclothes will be needed in a few months as it appears that spring, summer and autumn have to crowd themselves into under six months and old winter gets the balance. There are few countries to beat New Zealand. Chocolate I am saving for lean times. WE GOT OUR WEEKLY PARCEL TO-DAY BUT THAT FINISHES OUR STORE HERE. Still something always turns up and I have not been really hungry since I arrived at Oflag VII D last July.

STALAG VIII B.

From Pte. B. C. WOOLSEY (Abbotsford), dated 5th July.

I have some good news for you this week as I have now received my second clothing parcel for which I thank you and all who contributed to it from the bottom of my heart. Please leave out underwear in my next parcel and substitute chocolate, as anything to eat is much more useful to me. I had a wonderful experience last Sunday afternoon. Thirty of us were taken four miles away from camp to a small lake where we had a most delightful swim. You cannot imagine how pleasant it was to walk through the picturesque country side after spending over a year behind barbed wire.

From Pte. W. HUNIA (Te Hapua), dated 27th March.

I suppose you have received some of my letters by now, but I am still expecting one from you. Well, Mum, I am still in the best of health and hoping you are all at home the same. The last time I saw Ponauat and Toka they were very well. I have not seen Wiki and Joe yet, they are out working. At present I am working in a paper mill and it is a good job.

From Cpl. JOHN WILLIAMSON (Trentham), dated 5th July.
I was ever so pleased to get your parcel. The articles enclosed were invaluable to me. A lot of February parcels have been arriving here lately. No doubt the first parcel you sent in November was addressed to Stalag III. B. and consequently has gone astray, but it may turn up yet. I have had a clothing parcel from New Zealand House so I am set for clothing for some time until I tell you to send some more. However, I can always do with tooth-paste, tooth brushes, razor blades, another light shirt and underpants, and a bit of chocolate. Altogether I have received one clothing parcel and four cigarette parcels from New Zealand House in London and one from home, which is very fair.

STALAG III D.

From Pte. J. C. ANDREW (Roslyn), dated 6th June.
What a wonderful surprise last week! RECEIVED MY FIRST CLOTHES PARCEL which came in very handy, as most of my clothes were in holes, and the cold winds just seemed to whistle through and chill me to the bone. However, that won't be any more! At the same time I received several letters. Thanks for the snaps and please send as many more as you can. I have been for walks in Berlin. There are only ten New Zealanders in our camp, the others being English, Welsh, and Scottish. We have concerts and hear the Welsh choir and the Scots, etc., give us great entertainment.

STALAG LUFT III.

AT SAGAN, NORTH-EAST OF DRESDEN, IN SAXONY.
From Flight Sgt. K. H. GREGORY (Roslyn), dated 29th June.
I am quite well and more satisfied as I have received half issue of Red Cross parcels per week for the last three weeks. Our garden has not been doing so badly, so we may get something from it yet. Most of the others have petered out due to the poor sandy soil. I have heard to-day that my photo has appeared in the illustrated German papers and so must try and get a copy. Judging by the caption I am furious at being captured. Could you restrict the colour of my clothing to drab colours, as it is very dusty and dirty here and washing is rather difficult.

P.G. 75.

▲ Transit Camp at Bari, near Brindisi.
From 2nd/Lt. J. H. MONEY (Auckland), dated 14th March.
There are once again over seventy of us in this hut, which is a little smaller than our New Zealand Army hut which used to seem pretty full with forty and then we didn't have to eat in it! A desert island seems a pretty good thing just now. Occasionally, provided the guard doesn't forget and put the bar up, we are allowed to have one small window open at night, a concession to our notorious thirst for fresh air for which we must be duly grateful. Also we are now to get a hot shower every ten days, whether we need it or not! The Canadian Red Cross parcels which we are supposed to get at the rate of one between four every week, if we are good, each contain one glorious cake of soap; with any luck I am due for one next week and then we shall see who's boss! We have instituted a debating Society and meet once a week. With representatives from all over the Empire we get some very interesting speeches. On wet afternoons we have an hour's talk by a fellow officer, again subjects and experiences most interesting. We play Contract Bridge for cigarettes (one per 500 points) and it feels like playing for 2/6 a 100!

Dated 28th March. For the last three weeks our chivalrous hosts have allowed us one conducted walk a week. This has been a great joy apart from the somewhat deplorable state of some of our boots (I have worn the same pair continuously for 18 months, a tribute to the New Zealand makers as I am still one of the best shod). You will notice that I am writing in ink again, not so well as with the 21-year-old Waterman which I lost after capture but still with a pen which I hope one day to bring home as a souvenir. Rumour has it that we leave this very permanent transit camp at the end of this week. Heavens! how I hope it is true. We have been here now since December 13th and were told on arrival that we should be here 2 or 3 weeks. We have a few Indian Army officers with us now and they are a great bunch and loyal as blazes.

Dated 28th March. We missed our issue of paper last week so are allowed to write two letters now. We are definitely moving to a new camp early to-morrow morning. We are each to receive one-eighth of a Red Cross parcel before leaving, and when you've been in a syndicate dividing 4 sardines and 13 biscuits between eight people you've certainly been places.

One of the party did get a letter from England last week. We travelled very comfortably by train to this place, whose name I am not allowed to tell you. By the irony of fate it was used to imprison German officers in the last war. It is an old monastery built in 1726. A not very prepossessing front, but once through the main buildings it opens out into a typical quadrangle of two stories, the lower storey consists of large stone rooms flanked by deep and beautifully arched cloisters. The wing above extend over to the edge of the cloisters and in them sleep the junior British officers, once more in comfortable civilized beds with ample space between them and actually a plain but adequate cupboard between every two beds. The authorities are much more efficient here and we are once again treated as officers and gentlemen. We are ever so much happier here and there is nothing for you to worry about.

HELPING THE BLIND.

There is precious service that the British Red Cross Invalid Comforts Section performs. With the close co-operation of St. Dunstan's it ministers to the needs of the newly blinded Prisoners of War. There are, providentially, not a large number of these, but no work of the section is more valuable than this.

Tuition books are sent out containing clear directions for those at the camp—fellow Prisoners of War—who have care of the blind. With the books go special equipment, such as Braille watches and Braille games, and equipment for occupational therapy—all provided by St. Dunstan's.

Good results are reported. Several blind prisoners can now read and write Braille, and a small library of Braille books has been sent to them.

The aim is to prepare them for entry to St. Dunstan's on their return, and to promote the trained independence which enables them to triumph over even loss of sight.

Sgn. T. R. H. WOOD, dated 23rd April.

I am quite blind but am not disfigured in any way. Don't be disheartened, I am otherwise alright and by now I am quite accustomed to my injuries. I am getting on well with my Braille and also I am doing typewriting, so, in say a month or so, I will be able to typewrite my own letters. I saw J. Hinton (the V.C.) a few months back . . . when we were at the other hospital (IX C).

The following is a copy of a cutting which appeared in an English paper "The Evening News", dated 4th July, 1942.

"FOREST WALK FOR BLIND PRISONERS IN GERMANY"

Improved conditions in camp life in Germany are revealed in letters from blinded Prisoners of War. A letter to Sir Ian Frazer, M.P., from a rifleman in one of the newest camps for blinded men states: "This is a convalescent camp for all the wounded. It is by far the best place we have been in yet, spotlessly clean, with quite a lot of space to walk about in." Lord Normanby (a wounded prisoner) has seen it that we blind men walk about the grounds by ourselves. My day is full of interest. The morning is spent reading aloud, followed with an hour on the Braille writer. In the afternoon I am put on a normal typewriter. We then enjoy a walk in the surrounding forest, the fine weather making it very pleasant. The evening is spent with a book being read to us. Facilities to learn occupational therapy are now available to the blinded men, now numbering 28. Lieut. The Marquis of Normanby, who is not wounded in the eyes has devoted himself to their welfare.

ENQUIRY SECTION.

Readers can well appreciate the anxiety of next of kin who are without news of their missing relative. On that account we have decided to institute an Enquiry Section in the hope that other next of kin may have some information which will help to relieve the anxious ones. On account of the lack of space and shortage of paper we would ask that only enquiries of what might be termed a difficult type should be forwarded. No. 2007 Gunner Murray D. McLaglan, was captured in Crete and was reported a prisoner of war in a camp in Canea, Crete, and later in Stalag VIII B. His parents received only one card from a transit camp dated 26th June, 1941. Since then there has not been any further communication from him. The remarkable part is that although this man was seen in the camp in Crete it now appears that he was not transferred to Stalag VIII B and his whereabouts are still unknown. Perhaps other next of kin have seen his name mentioned in a letter. If so, it would be appreciated if such information were sent to this office.