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

No.7 (November 1942)

Acquarone Salonica (printer)

TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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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. Owing to the shortage of paper it is obvious that only the more recent letters can now be published, as these give the most up-to-date information to other next of kin regarding the situation at the various camps. Please, therefore, do not send any letters posted from Prisoner of War Camps dated earlier than July, 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.

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P.O. Box 456, Dunedin.

ITALIAN PRISON CAMPS.

The Italian Camps were originally known by place names, but have recently been given numbers in lieu of names. Next of kin must in future be particular to discontinue the use of names and use only numbers. The following list gives an outline of the information at present available:—

P.G. 12.....	P.M. 3200	Candeli, near Florence
P.G. 17.....	P.M. 3200	Rezzanello, near Piacenza.
P.G. 27.....	P.M. 3200	San Romano, Pisa.
P.G. 29.....	P.M. 3200	Viano, east of Rezzanello.
P.G. 35.....	P.M. 3400	Padulla, near Naples.
P.G. 38.....	P.M. 3200	Poppi, Arezzo.
P.G. 41.....	P.M. 3200	Montalbo, near Piacenza.
P.G. 52.....	P.M. 3100	Chiavari, near Genoa.
P.G. 57.....	P.M. 3200	Gruppiquano, near Udine.
P.G. 59.....	P.M. 3300	Servigliano, near Ancona.
P.G. 65.....	P.M. 3450	Gravina-Altamura, Lucania.
P.G. 66.....	P.M. 3400	Capua, near Naples.
P.G. 75.....	P.M. 3450	Bari, near Brindisi.
P.G. 78.....	P.M. 3300	Sulmona, Abruzzi.
P.G. 85.....	P.M. 3450	Tutarano, near Brindisi.
P.G. 98.....	P.M. 3550	Military Hospital, Lucca.

Camps 65, 66, 75, and 85 are Transit Camps.

In our No. 2 Prisoners of War Pamphlet, published in March, there is, on page 2, a very complete account of Servigliano, Campo P.G. 59, as it must now be known, and a photograph of the camp on page 7. A report of Montalbo, Camp P.G. 41, appears on page 2 of Pamphlet No. 3.

CASERTA HOSPITAL.—This is a large permanent Military Hospital. Four 2-storey wooden houses with large verandahs are at the disposal of the British prisoners and the 150 officers and men seem to be well cared for. Parcels arrive very irregularly and mail takes a long time, but these are the only complaints reported.

Visited 24/3/42.

CAMPO P.G. 35.—This new camp was opened on March 23rd. About 400 officers and 80 other ranks are housed in a fifteenth century monastery. There is ample accommodation. Modern installations are still being completed. The Indian prisoners of war have separate rooms. Parcels have not yet been received in this camp and letters take a long time to arrive. About seven rooms constitute the infirmary. They are said to be well furnished and in charge of a doctor and two medical orderlies. Cinema and radio installations will soon be completed, and books, footballs and games are being sent to the prisoners.

Visited 14/4/42.

CAMPO P.G. 41.—155 officers and British orderlies are detained here in an old castle near a village. The castle was once the summer quarters of the students of a college and has been adapted to its present use. There are dormitories, recreation rooms and dining rooms, all light and airy and heated by wood fuel stoves, which have been functioning since December.

Red Cross parcels are distributed equally between all the prisoners of war. There has been a period when parcels have not been arriving regularly. Without the parcels the food is hardly adequate, particularly for the officers, who, in conformity with the Convention, do not draw rations, but pay for their food.

The prisoners are allowed on the terrace and in the yard of the castle whenever they like and are taken for escorted walks in the mornings and afternoons.

Visited 12/3/42.

CAMPO P.G. 52.—Over 2,500 men are housed in wood and stone barracks laid out on a flat plain protected by the surrounding hills. Heating will be installed before next winter. New modern shower baths with hot water heaters have been installed in a building near the camp, as the washing facilities in the camp itself are not yet satisfactory.

The latest report states that Red Cross parcels are arriving more regularly and in good condition and an improvement in the food was noticed. Medical and dental inspections take place every month.

Visited 1/4/42 and 5/5/42.

The following account of Campo P.G. 57 is taken from a report written by Lieut. S. Edgar, an Australian, recently repatriated:—

CAMPO P.G. 57.—This camp has much to recommend it, but also much has yet to be done for the administrative side. The situation is entirely flat and uninteresting, being in a river plain ringed with snow-capped mountains in the distance. Sleeping accommodation consists of double walled wooden huts, approximately seventy to eighty feet long by fifteen to twenty feet wide, well ventilated and dry. Each hut houses 89 men, who sleep on two-tiered palliasses. The issue of one double and one single blanket is hardly enough for the winter months. A scale of wood ration for heaters in each hut was sufficient only for them to be used three or four hours each night.

Washing benches and latrines were open to the wind, but upon representations being made to the Red Cross delegate this was adjusted.

Cookhouses and ration rooms are of a fine airy type and no complaint can be found in this direction.

Space for sport is the best of any camp and every advantage is taken by the troops to use the meagre equipment to hand.

In this camp prisoners of war were issued with the equivalent of 5 gms. of tobacco per day, of a very inferior type, but nevertheless most welcome. Cigarette issues were received in all the camps, but it was only in P.G. 57 that any degree of regularity was reached,=5 cigarettes.

Personal mail from overseas arrives approximately every month, but a delay occurs between the censor's office and the camp.

CAMPO P.G. 59.—Clothing and food parcels are urgently needed at this camp. There are ample shower baths, and sterilising installations and a well-organised infirmary where regular visits are paid by doctors and dentists.

A British chaplain and Italian Roman Catholic priest attend to the religious needs of the prisoners. This camp was opened in January, and recreational facilities have not yet been fully developed.

Musical instruments and indoor and outdoor games have been sent. Walks have been arranged and wireless loud speakers have been installed. Relations between the prisoners of war and the Camp Commandant are described as excellent.

Visited 20/3/42 and 1/5/42.

CAMPO P.G. 66.—This is a large transit camp and prisoners of war do not usually stay longer than a few months. A transfer of all prisoners of war was reported to have taken place on 26/3/42, but this has not so far been confirmed. More huts are being built at this camp to take the place of the tents which were in use and which will now be used as mess rooms. At present they are used as accommodation for negro prisoners. Visited 24/3/42.

CAMPO P.G. 78.—This is one of the largest prisoner of war camps in Italy. There are about 200 officers and 1,800 other ranks housed on a site where there was a prisoner of war camp during the last war. Officers, N.C.O.'s and men are in three distinct sections, living in one-storied buildings of

brick and stone. During the great cold of last winter the heating stoves were not adequate. Large ones have been promised for next winter, and windows are to be mended.

As at P.G. 41, and indeed in all the camps in Italy, the chief complaint is the non-arrival of parcels and difficulty in procuring enough food for the officers.

A large playing field has been constructed for the men, but the officers have only a small field. Loud speakers are installed in the camps and Italian programmes are transmitted through them. The prisoners have pianos and are able to buy Italian papers, magazines and books, particularly educational books.

There is a well organised hospital, run by three Italian doctors attached to the camp. Two British chaplains hold regular religious services.

Visited 7/3/42 and 23/4/42.

PARCELS FOR THE CAMPS.

With regard to the mention in these reports of irregular arrival of parcels in the camps, the International Red Cross has informed the New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. W. J. Jordan, that the shortage of food parcels in the prisoner of war camps has been remedied, that full supplies have been sent to all camps from Geneva, and also that an additional reserve of two parcels a man has been established.

The reasons for the shortage were briefly as follows:—Supplies sent from U.S.A., in anticipation of which packing in Britain was cut down, did not materialise. An accident to one of the Red Cross ships at Marseilles put her out of action for nearly three months. The remaining ships were not sufficient to transport from Lisbon normal supplies of food as well as clothing which was urgently needed in the camps.

BULK SUPPLIES SENT.—As a result the International Red Cross had to draw on their remaining reserves. Bulk supplies of food were sent, but it is clear from prisoners' letters that they did not realise that these supplies were sent to take the place of parcels.

In the case of Italy there was an added difficulty. At the end of January the Italian authorities informed the International Committee that the camps were to be given numbers instead of names, and that until the numbering was completed no parcels should be despatched. This held up Italian supplies for two weeks, and further delay was caused by a new instruction that parcels from Geneva must no longer be addressed to camps, but to a central agency in Italy for distribution.

At the request of the Italian Red Cross, 3,000 extra food parcels each for Camps 75 and 85, and 5,000 extra parcels for Camp 66 have been despatched from Geneva.

Owing to recent developments in Libya, increased supplies of parcels will be needed in Italian camps to which British and Dominion prisoners are likely to be sent. Britain is increasing her despatches, and New Zealand is increasing her quota and packing 8,000 food parcels per week.

Each Camp Leader now holds reserve stocks, in order to be able to give each prisoner his weekly parcel, even when the number of the personnel is augmented. When that happens a certain time must elapse before the International Committee can get the lists of prisoners brought up to date.

GERMAN PRISONER CAMPS.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD.—This visit was made to the old camp at Sandbostel, where 950 prisoners are still interned. There is plenty of free space. In some of the rooms the light was said to be rather poor, but stronger bulbs were procurable in the canteen.

There are no bathing facilities, but officers and men have separate wash rooms with running cold water, and hot water can be had from the kitchen.

There are two British doctors and a British dentist in attendance at the infirmary. More serious cases are sent to the Reserve Lazaret at Sandbostel.

The reports say that this hospital has been enlarged and medical treatment improved. Patients have been provided with hospital clothes. Parcels are sent here from Marlag und Milag.

Visited 10/4/42 and 11/4/42.

STALAG XIII.C. at Hammelburg, east of Mainz.—The camp is composed of wooden hutments which appear to be rather ancient. It is over-crowded and the three-tier bunks take up all the available space, the prisoners have very little room for their personal effects. Every prisoner has three blankets. The dormitories are heated by two stoves, which, however, are not allowed to be lighted till 11 o'clock in the morning. Only the Concert Hall and the Infirmary are lit by electricity, the other rooms have four petrol lamps which are most unsatisfactory from the point of view both of lighting and ventilation.

Donor: Mr Ian Voudrey, 2004

The food is well prepared and adequate quantities are distributed. The prisoners receive 330 grammes of bread a day. They can heat up their tinned stuffs from the Red Cross parcels on the stoves in their hutments. 330 grs. = 11 ozs.

The clothing of the prisoners in this camp is satisfactory. They all have warm underclothing, only gloves are missing. The conditions in the Labour Detachments are not so good.

The camp library comprises about 4,500 books.

Mass is said in the camp every Sunday.

Private parcels arrive well and the collective consignments are controlled by the Camp Leader.

The Camp Leader stated that sanitary installations are inadequate, but on the other hand the food is good and the attitude of the Germans gives rise to no criticism.

Visited 3/2/42 by Drs. Schirmer and Masset.

OFLAG IX A/H.—Oflag IX A/H is an officers' camp which was re-opened in January, 1942. Most of the officers here are from Oflag VI. B., others are from Stalag VIII. B. This camp is divided into two parts, an upper and a lower camp.

170 officers and 180 orderlies are in the upper camp, a picturesque old castle, high on the top of a hill. The senior officers are comfortably housed in small rooms. Other officers share rooms, 34 R.A.F. officers are in one. These rooms, with big windows, are well lit, centrally heated and not over-crowded.

Warm water is provided for showers once a week. Clothing conditions seem to be satisfactory; a shoemaker is at work in the camp.

Mail has been rather delayed owing to transfers from the various camps, but is now beginning to arrive regularly.

The lower camp is a converted barracks on the edge of a small river, a short distance away from the upper camp. Here are 115 officers and 22 orderlies in rooms which are heated with coal stoves and lit with electric light. Some of the rooms are rather overcrowded, but otherwise the conditions are much the same as in the upper camp.

In both camps there are small infirmaries run by British doctors. Some of the officers are repatriable cases, brought back from Hellag, Rouen. The general health condition of the camp is good.

Here is a letter published in "The Prisoner of War," the official journal of the P.O.W. Dept., St. James's Palace, London: "Oflag IX. A/H 3rd March, 1942.

"There is a narrow path on the battlements where we walk. On the south wall of the fort bordering this path is a mass of clematis, a few apple and pear trees; they are full of bud and the daily visitors are the tits and one female blackbird who will almost let one touch her. From this terrace one looks down 300 feet to the little town with its half-timbered houses and the church in the middle, with the railway like a toy beyond, and beyond that again the pine woods. The lower slopes of the hills are covered with orchards and I am looking forward to seeing the blossom. So, you see, though we are restricted, we are not badly off."

STALAG XXI. A., Schildberg, Poland.—The camp consists of three separate buildings—the "Seminar," one part of which serves as Reserve Lazaret; the Gymnasium—known sometimes as Gym O; and the Fabriklager, where the N.C.O.'s and surplus medical personnel are housed.

There are 1,750 British prisoners of war in this camp. About 850 of them are repatriables from Hellag, Rouen. These "unfit" prisoners are in Gym O, which is much over-crowded; a number, moved after the last visit from the Seminar to Gym O, are to be moved back again.

Bathing and washing facilities are good in the Seminar, but the prisoners in the other buildings have to walk quite a distance to the delousing plant to have their weekly shower baths. The Protecting Power representative approached the Camp Commandant on this subject and an improvement was promised.

The full medical staff consists of five British doctors and two British dentists, and the patients are well treated.

The men are said to be fairly well clothed, except for shoes; about 400 pairs are urgently needed.

Red Cross parcels are distributed to all prisoners, but private parcels are very irregular in arrival and often pilfered. There is plenty of room for outdoor games. Swimming is to be allowed when the weather permits. Work in agriculture labour detachments stopped during the winter, but working parties will soon go out again.

Visited 24/3/42.

STALAG III D

This Stalag (which is in the Berlin area) has under its command four work camps, two work detachments in factories,

and a hospital. The total strength in February was over 2,000 including about 70 men in hospital.

The general impression made by all these work camps and detachments and by the hospital, when they were visited in February, was very good. Food parcels were arriving well, and the clothing situation (except in one work detachment) was satisfactory. The German camp staff, it was stated, seemed anxious to do what could be done for the prisoners and to carry out all possible improvements. The spirit among the prisoners was described as excellent.

WORK OF THE CAMP LEADER.

In every Camp and Labour Detachment there is a Camp Leader chosen by his fellow prisoners. He acts as liaison officer between the camp authorities and the prisoners. The Camp Leader in the Stalags should possess a list of the names of the Camp Leaders of all the work detachments attached to his Stalag, as well as information of their location and strength.

He checks and distributes the Red Cross parcels, and checks the consignments of clothing as they arrive in the camp from Geneva and can verify the stocks. He has, however, no authority to dispose of the garments as he wishes or to check their distribution.

Here are two articles from camp newspapers which deal mainly with the activities of Camp Leaders. They were printed in the "International Review" and we reproduce them here for you.

Stalag XVIII. C. calling you.—Monthly Bulletin No. 6. April, 1942.

Division of Consignments from the Red Cross at Geneva.

By the intermediary of the Red Cross at Geneva, organisation in charge of the co-ordination and division of the gifts of the French Red Cross and that of other countries, we receive varied consignments of food and tobacco.

How is this distribution dealt with in the camps?

A Red Cross van arrives at the station. The office of the Camp Leader is immediately advised. The Camp Leader, or failing him, his representative for the distribution of Red Cross parcels to necessitous cases, our comrade Jacques L., comes to the station and, after verification of the seals of the van, takes charge of it and proceeds with the unloading.

The goods are stored in a place kept for this purpose in the Post Office building, to await division and despatch to the various Work Detachments and Lazarets. In principle, distribution to the central camp is only made when despatches to the outside are completed.

Sometimes a wagon is not immediately distributed on its unloading. We think it advisable to tell you the reasons. For example, latterly we received a van containing:

- 216 cartons of biscuits, about 5,400 kg.
- 22 cartons cigarettes, about 10,120 pkts.
- 6 cartons tobacco, about 1,920 pkts.
- 40 boxes jam, about 200 kg.
- 4 cartons cheese, about 600 cheeses.
- 2 sacks almonds, about 100 kg.
- 2 cases dates, about 60 kg.
- 14 cartons figs, about 133 kg.
- 10 cartons cocoa, about 1,600 pkts.

Now we must remember that we are 12,000 comrades at Stalag XVIII. C., and, if it is very easy to distribute, in the camp itself, 450 grammes of biscuits or a packet of tobacco for six, or again 8 grammes of almonds per man, it is not the same for the Work Detachments for which packing is often lacking. Furthermore, it is impossible to weigh biscuits and dried fruits when it is a question of supplying 400 Work Detachments. Moreover, the quantities for each man would be insignificant and all the petty detail would require a great deal of time. It is thus necessary to await the arrival of two or three wagons from the Red Cross in order to make a more substantial division.

On the other hand, some of our comrades in the Work Detachments are surprised to learn that the neighbouring Detachment has received sausage, for example, when their Work Detachment has not received it. But they forget to say that they have had jam, or some other food stuff that their comrades in the neighbouring Kommando have not had.

Having to deal with the small quantities of cheeses, dates, jam or sausage, etc., as we receive it, we must, for the distribution of these goods work by equality of weight and nutritive value. Under these conditions, all the members of the Stalag cannot receive exactly the same share, but, from the point of view of weight and food value, they are equally divided.

Willenburg Echo—Camp Magazine Stalag XX. B. No. 5, Marienburg, April, 1942.

This monthly bulletin of 8 mimeographed pages, contains a long discourse from the British Camp Leader on various subjects which have direct interest for the men. The problem of military effects and the available stocks, advice relative to their upkeep and conservation takes an important place. He exhorts the prisoners to observe economy in the matter of clothing with a thought of the approaching winter. He warns them against the destruction of sabots and slippers, whose destination should not be that of helping feed the fire.

The Camp Leader explains the distinction between individual and collective parcels, the succour of the British Red Cross transmitted by the intermediary of the International Committee. Postal communications and discipline formed the topics of other remarks.

He also published a catalogue of musical instruments which could be acquired through him at prices varying from 20 to 250 reichmarks; xylophone, violin, vibraphone, carillon, accordion, zither, violoncello; there were no piano-accordians available at the moment.

He published a request from a prisoner, who, having received in his clothing parcel two boots—left foot—asks if any of his comrades have found in their parcels, two boots—right foot—of the same size and would consent to a readjustment of the respective pairs.

An officer prisoner also gave the men useful advice on the helpfulness of encouraging their sense of humour. He announced the arrival of stocks of clothing, among which were military trousers which had already been issued to the chaplains and officers. The distribution of these to all the men was expected. He recommended that everyone should do their best to see to the care and upkeep of these clothes, mentioning that trousers were not intended for the cleaning of shoes, a task to which brushes were much more appropriate.

Sports news had a place of honour, boxing especially. The champions were mentioned with comments on their characteristics and their performances. Then this little periodical finished with a series of riddles and a cleverly executed sketch.

FOOD PARCELS.

Every British prisoner of war should receive a Christmas food parcel. These have been packed in the English and Scotch packing centres and no effort has been spared to provide our men with parcels containing similar festive fare to that which they would have enjoyed at home.

To be as certain as possible that the parcels arrive in time they were despatched before the end of July in special boxes with "Xmas" marked clearly in red on all four sides. On arrival at Geneva they are not put in reserve with the ordinary parcels, but are kept apart to be distributed to the camps in time for Christmas Day.

HIS CHRISTMAS BOX CONTAINS.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 tin chocolate biscuits | 1 tin cheese |
| 1 block chocolate | 1 tin plum pudding |
| 1 tin jam | 1 tin butter |
| 1 tin steak and spaghetti | 1 tin steak and tomato pudding |
| 1 tin condensed milk | 1 tablet soap |
| 3 bars sugar | 1 packet tea |
| 1 tin Christmas cake | 1 tin sweets |

The weekly food parcels which go to prisoners are not as festive as the Christmas ones, but they all contain 10 lb. weight of as much nourishment and health sustaining foods as possible. The contents are most carefully and scientifically thought out to supply the deficiencies in the prison diet, which is apt to be short in fats and proteins (the body-building foods), so a good proportion of these is in each parcel.

VITAMINS.

Vitamin A, which helps to build up resistance to disease, is contained in the chocolate and margarine. Vitamin B, which is good for the nerves, is in the biscuits. We all need Vitamin C to keep us healthy, and this is contained in the jam and fruit bars. Vitamin D, which is necessary for the health of bones and teeth, is also in the margarine. The additions of vitamins to these foods does not affect the taste.

Variety in diet is also extremely important, and not only do the food parcels break the monotony of the prison food, but the parcels themselves are varied. Britain packs no less than nine standard parcels. The parcels sent from Canada are again different, containing, among other things, salmon and sardines. Australia sends parcels and our New Zealand ones

too all add to the variety of foodstuffs. Hard Army biscuits are included in many of the standard parcels, as their hardness helps to counteract the rather "soggy" nature of the prison rations, and they are also good for the teeth and gums.

NEW ZEALAND FOOD PARCEL.

The following is a list of the goods packed in Prisoners of War Headquarters, Tory Street, Wellington:—

- 14 ozs. cheese.
- 1 lb. honey.
- 12 ozs. meat (beef, tongue or mutton).
- 16 ozs. meat (boiled, roast, corned beef or mutton, lamb and green peas).
- 16 ozs. butter.
- 8 ozs. blue peas with mint.
- 6 ozs. sultanas.
- 14 ozs. jam.
- 16 ozs. coffee and milk.
- 8 ozs. sugar.
- 3 ozs. tea.
- Emergency ration chocolate.

MEDICAL COMFORTS AND INVALID FOODS.

Here are some further interesting details on the subject of medical parcels:—

Proof that their contents are adequate and that the parcels are useful, is shown by an extract from a letter sent to the Invalids' Comforts Section by the Senior British Officer, a Major, R.A.M.C., of a prison camp in Germany. He wrote: "The standard invalid comforts parcels contain all that we require in the way of special foods. Up to the present, the supply has been satisfactory, and as long as it continues we shall have no difficulties."

10,000 PARCELS A WEEK.—To supplement these provisions for the care of casualties among prisoners the Invalid Comforts section of the Red Cross and St. John sends, through Geneva, to the British medical officers in German and Italian prison camps, 10,000 standard medical parcels a week. They consist of "food units" and "medical units," each designed by War Office medical authorities to meet the general needs of sick and wounded prisoners.

Half of the "food unit" consists of a parcel containing an assortment of milk foods, as follows:—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 tins Domo milk | 1 tin honey |
| 2 tins Glucose D | 1 tin margarine |
| 1 tin Allenbury's diet | 1 tin sardines |
| 1 tin Benax | 1 tin tomato extract |
| 1 tin Horlick's Hosp. | 1 tin marmite cubes |
| 1 tin Arrowroot | 1 tin Yeatex |
| 1 tin Robinson's patent groats | 1 pkt. sugar |
| 1 tin ovaltine | 1 pkt. barley sugar |
| 1 tin creamed rice | 1 tin Cerebos salt |
| | 1 tin Cremola rice pudding |

The other parcel in the "food unit" is made up of more solid foods, such as minced beef or collops, tinned fruit, tinned salmon, meat extract, honey, lemon curd and other suitable items.

The "medical unit" of four parcels is designed to provide remedies and preventive for all ailments. The contents of the parcels include disinfectants, soap, bandages, gauze, lint, etc., as well as the usual contents of a well-equipped home medicine chest.

NEXT-OF-KIN PARCELS.

To assist next of kin when preparing their parcels, the following is a suggested list of contents for a parcel:—

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 fine tooth comb | 1 pr. striped pyjamas |
| 1 comb | 2 woollen singlets, long sleeves |
| 1 shaving brush | 2 prs. socks |
| 1 nail brush | 2 handkerchiefs |
| 1 stick shaving soap | 1 shirt (khaki or coloured) |
| 1 cake washing soap | 1 pr. gloves. |
| 1 cake toilet soap | 1 balaclava |
| 1 razor and blades | 1 pullover, long sleeves |
| 1 dentifrice (solid or powder but not in tubes) | 1 scarf |
| Chewing gum | 1 towel |
| 2 pencils | 1 washer |
| Bootalaces | Hussif (i.e., mending kit) |
| 2 prs. woollen underpants | |

This list, it is considered, is ideal for a first parcel, and in fact, as a basis for subsequent parcels. Senders are asked, however, to remember that maintenance and replacement of prisoners' clothing and effects is of importance and should be kept constantly in mind.

We would refer you to the lists published in Prisoners of War Pamphlet, No. 6, of the **Standard Winter and Summer Clothing Parcels** which are despatched from London to all New Zealanders as soon as they have been officially notified prisoners of war. When the prisoners receive these parcels, which will probably be some time before your parcel could arrive, they will be very adequately clothed.

Colonel Tennant, who has recently been repatriated from Italy, recommends the sending of **warm clothes**, soap for washing clothes, as well as soap for personal use, also **socks**, as prisoners are only provided with calico covering for their feet.

Officers have to buy boots, socks etc., for themselves, so that if these can be sent by next of kin it is a great boon to them. An officer has to use 80 of his 120 coupons to purchase a pair of boots.

An important item for inclusion in these parcels is anything which can be used for mending footwear. Leather soles, nails, etc.

CARELESSNESS WITH COUPONS AND DOCKETS.

Some next of kin are very careless about the safe custody of the coupon cards, and will not follow instructions about dockets, unused coupons, and the top of the card if all the coupons have been used.

Next of kin must follow directions implicitly or the P.O.W. Enquiry Office may be forced to withhold the issue of further coupons until the previous card is properly accounted for.

FOUNDATION FOR RED CROSS TRANSPORTS.

In 1941, when the land route from Lisbon became more and more difficult, the International Committee were forced to create a sea route between Lisbon and Marseilles in order to ensure the regular transport of relief consignments for prisoners of war and interned civilians. A regular service between Lisbon and Marseilles has been running for the past year, comprising five Portuguese and Swedish ships chartered by a national Red Cross Society.

Hitherto the Red Cross Committee have not bought or chartered vessels in their own name, but they intend to acquire ships, in the name of above-mentioned Foundation, which would be intended exclusively for Red Cross use.

From the standpoint of Swiss law, ships which are to be transferred to the Swiss flag must become Swiss property. Since the International Red Cross Committee, in view of their limited resources cannot assume the financial liability of a ship-owner, a special body with legal status has been created in the form of a Foundation into whose ownership the ships will pass.

The modest capital with which this Foundation has been floated requires that the transfers of the ships shall be made free of charge and that the State or relief associations in question shall be guaranteed for any damage or responsibilities which are not covered by income derived from the shipping. The organisation which has made the ship available shall have a preferential use of it. After the fulfilment of the increased Red Cross transport obligations which result from the present war, the ships will again be placed at the disposal of their original owners. When that time comes, the seller will have a preferential power of redemption.

Thanks to this Foundation, which has its headquarters at Basle, the International Red Cross Committee has found a means of overcoming the lack of neutral cargo space by procuring the right to fly the Swiss flag on ships which had belonged to belligerent States.

In the "International Review" of July comes news that the Foundation has acquired its first boat, the Belgian steamer "Frederic," which was at Casablanca. It is to be used for the duration of the war for the transport of Red Cross goods in the Atlantic.

She has been given the name of "Caritas I," and was handed over to her new owners at Casablanca on the 22nd April, 1942, the ceremony being honoured by the presence of the Swiss Consul for Casablanca and representatives of the French maritime authorities.

The "Caritas I" will carry to North America the parcels, goods and letters for the German internees and prisoners of war, and bring back to Europe supplies for prisoners of war and interned civilians of all nationalities.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

One of the most striking things about prison life is the ingenuity displayed by the prisoners, whether it is making scenery for the camp's latest musical show, or a pack of cards for a five-day bridge tournament.

There are many professional actors in the camps who help the men to put on shows.

One of the largest camps in Germany is Stalag VIII. B., near Dresden, and here the "inmates" have specialised most successfully in big musical shows. There is a 15-piece orchestra here that has recently been allowed to make a ten day tour of the outlying working parties. All its uniforms, music stands and stage decorations are made from Red Cross food boxes and sheeting. One man writing home mentions that "they put on new shows nearly every week, and do the thing thoroughly."

"Snow White," "The Desert Song," "The Wizard of Oz" and two original shows, "Paradise Alley" and "Oh Yeah" are among their efforts.

From reports received, Oflag VI. B. must be the most musical camp of all. They have four orchestras, 250 gramophones, and lately the Scots have been in self defence demanding bagpipes. Richard Wood, formerly a professional singer, is the conductor of the main orchestra, and all music lovers will recognise its scope when they are told that it is 50 strong, including four French horns and a Bass tuba. A recent programme by these musicians included a Haydn Symphony, a Mozart Piano Concerto, and a Bradburn Concerto. In March an hour's performance of "The Magic Flute" was given with soloists, and last Christmas there was a carol service similar to that given at King's College, Cambridge.

So popular are the concerts that they have to be given for six or seven nights in succession to accommodate all those who wish to hear them.

Not the least cheerful part about all this great entertainment activity is the frequent helpfulness of the German Commandants and guards. A programme of a show at Stalag XVIII. D., for instance, specially acknowledges help in a production from the German camp staff, and both at Marlag and Milag Nord and at Stalag XXI. A. the Commandant helped the men to get "props," make-up, and even dresses.

News about shows in Italian camps is not very plentiful, but in Sulmona, P.G. 78—one of the largest camps—there is quite a lot of activity. Plays are frequently put on and we hear of scenery being ingeniously contrived here, as in the other camps, from Red Cross food boxes. Even the string round the boxes is unravelled to make wigs.

In Camp P.G. 52, euchre, 500, and bridge tournaments have been held, and open air concerts are put on every second night. They have a full piano band and some excellent talent. Try and visualise soldiers, sailors and airmen from all corners of the Empire seated in a huge semi-circle around the "Stage" with piano and banjos to provide the music.

During July 300 banjos and 300 flutinas have been sent to our prisoners.

Six small complete orchestras are being assembled for despatch to the camps. Sheet music for these camps is still banned by the Italians.

Orchestras now being sent to prison camps by the Red Cross consist of a large piano accordion, two violins, two banjos, a guitar, a trumpet, four ukuleles and a set of drums.

SPORT.

Sport plays a great part in a prisoner's life. From every camp come reports of internationals being played on home-made cricket pitches or football grounds.

From Oflag VI. B. we hear that the Gordon Highlanders defeated the Argyls by three points in a Rugger match. Soccer is also played there, England beat Scotland 3-2 in the Soccer International.

A letter from Stalag XX. A. shows that basketball has its followers too.

"It has been a lovely spring day here to-day for the start of our basketball international matches. France beat Scotland easily. Wales surprisingly beat the English side, who were favourites. The "Aussies" beat New Zealand, and Ireland had a bye. We have now more than double the space on top of the fort open to us for exercise and that makes things much more interesting."

Baseball is also played in Campo P.G. 52 in Italy. There, too, they have held a boxing tournament in which there were ten very good bouts.

Swimming pools seem to have been made available to many of the camps in the warm months.

A letter just to hand from Stalag Luft III, tells of a big **Rugger** match held there on the 6th July.
"New Zealand beat Wales 11-0. We have some classy players, including Kimberley, who used to play inside Hunter for 'Varsity in Christchurch."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Medical personnel at Stalag XXI. A. get 10 reichmarks every ten days. English prisoners of war at this camp will get £2 monthly deducted from pay.

New Zealand University.—For prisoners taking general subjects such as Arts or Science, New Zealand University War Concessions Committee will favourably consider accepting any passes gained under London University in reasonably similar subjects.

Prisoners taking strictly professional subjects, such as law or accountancy, should enter, without fee, through Harrop, 7 Northiam, London, N. 12, who will cable to Dominion for papers.

The Prisoners of War Pamphlet is printed by the Prisoners of War Committee of the Joint Council. It is sent free of charge to all next of kin, but is not for sale and cannot be obtained by other than next of kin.

Coffee and Cocoa. Recently a gift of 130 tons of raw coffee was sent to Geneva from Venezuela. Germany would only permit its importation in small quantities and as roasted coffee. It had therefore to be roasted and ground in Switzerland. It was then packed in paper bags and sent to the prisoner of war hospitals. A gift of cocoa beans is at the present moment undergoing the necessary transformation.

Herb Tea. As they did last year, the International Committee is preparing for despatch to the prison camps supplies of lime, verbena, camomile and mallow. The Swiss people gather and dry these and they are much used on the Continent as we use Ceylon and China tea. Lime tea is especially good to reduce temperature and camomile tea for stomach or bowel disorders, so our boys no doubt are learning the use of these things.

Interned Civilians. The following is taken from an account written by a girl who escaped from a civilian camp: "It can be imagined with what feelings we received the first batch of Red Cross parcels from England. . . . The Nazis had done their best to impress us that English food went to the bottom of the sea, and that what was left to eat was of poor quality! The first sight of sausages, sardines, biscuits and butter was an eye-opener both to us and to the Germans who saw the parcels. The meals of bacon and sausages and the good cups of tea which followed was the best possible advertisement for the Allies. They counteracted months of Nazi propaganda and enormously raised the morale of the camp."

Missing Articles. Prisoners sometimes report that articles are missing from their personal parcels. The British Red Cross states that parcels often arrive at Lisbon in a damaged condition owing to sea water or other accidents. These parcels are repacked in Lisbon and any articles so badly damaged as to be useless are withdrawn. The parcel, therefore, arrives in the camp in an undamaged condition, but with articles missing, because they have been taken out in Lisbon when the parcel was re-conditioned. The Post Office has arranged that in future a slip shall be put in at Lisbon by the Portuguese authorities stating that articles have been taken out.

Nurses from Corregidor. According to information sent to the International Committee by its Shanghai delegate, M. Egle, the 67 nurses from Corregidor, all safe and sound, have been interned in the Manila University, where they are well treated. M. Egle also advises that about 13,000 civilians had been interned at Saint-Thomas and that letters received from 200 among them indicate that the treatment and living conditions are excellent.

Christmas Card from the Pope. One of the special Christmas cards which were given to prisoners of war in Italy from Pope Pius XII, by his Apostolic Delegate has been sent in to this office. It says:

"With ever-greater paternal solicitude we turn our thoughts to each of you who, in your separation from distant homes at this Christmas season, feel very keenly the absence of your loved ones. May our prayerful and affectionate good wishes sweeten the bitterness of that separation and be to you all a source of divine comfort and Christian hope."

A repatriated private makes a donation and writes the following:

"Carry on with the good work and believe me as an overseas soldier I speak on behalf of many thousands when I say

the job you are doing is far beyond mere verbal praise or thanks; it is indeed a great pity that many people have no conception of the truly wonderful work your Society is doing."

Copy of Letter from Internee in Hong Kong, 25/5/42:

We are now in a camp of 3,000 men, women and children in close quarters and wartime conditions, with medical services in constant demand. Beri-beri is prevalent.

25/7/42. There are about 2,500 British subjects still in the Stanley Internment Camp, which is beautifully located. The internees have considerable liberty within the confines of the barbed wire boundary. However, I must say that for several months all of us went hungry and in most cases lost weight. When we finally got a fair amount of bread things began to look a bit better.

"COOKING FOR PRISONERS OF WAR."

This pamphlet has now come to hand. It is printed in London and sent to all Camp Leaders in German and Italian prison camps. The pamphlet contains recipes and hints for making the best use of the contents of the Red Cross food parcels and prison camp rations.

We thought next of kin would be interested if we printed in each P.O.W. Pamphlet some of the recipes.

Potatoes: 1. To avoid waste, scrub to remove dirt, and boil in their skins. Put into boiling salt water, the larger ones, which will take longer to cook, first, and the smaller ones later. They will take 25 to 30 minutes, depending on their size. 2. For variety remove the skins after cooking and then mash well. 3. If an oven is available bake the potatoes as follows.—Scrub till clean and place on racks and cook till soft. If cooked they will burst when pressed with the fingers. This takes 40 minutes to an hour. 4. If any potatoes are left over serve as follows: (a) in soups; (b) to make meat cakes; (c) to fry with left over cabbage or vegetables to form "bubble and squeak"; (d) to cover meat or vegetable pies; (e) as base for sandwich spread. 5. Serve all potatoes immediately, do not keep hot.

Savoury Cheese Balls (for 10 people). 4-5 ozs. cheese or cheese rinds, ½ lb. bread or biscuit (crumbed), salt and pepper, stock. Grate or chop cheese, mix with crumbed bread and seasonings. Moisten with stock or water. Roll into balls. Bake in oven till brown. Serve with cabbage.

CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO

Next of kin are requested to take special note of the references to supplies of tobacco and cigarettes having been received by various prisoners.

These are forwarded regularly from New Zealand House, London, at the rate of 200 cigarettes or tobacco (per man per month) according to the individual's preference which he supplied on a letter card. In addition three brands of cigarettes made in New Zealand are forwarded monthly from New Zealand also, based on an allowance of 200 cigarettes or tobacco per man per month. The cost of the cigarettes and tobacco both from New Zealand House and from New Zealand is something over £35,000 per annum, excluding all taxes. This is paid out of the SICK AND WOUNDED FUND OF THE NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FUND BOARD.

PRISONERS OF WAR LETTERS

STALAG VII. A.

From Pte. W. ARMSTRONG, dated 17th April.

Up to date I have received a clothing parcel from home, 3 book parcels from the Students' Relief at Geneva, a book from Belfast, and THIS WEEK 3 PARCELS EACH OF 200 CIGARETTES FROM NEW ZEALAND PATRIOTIC FUND. However cigarettes are at a premium here. We have three tins of bacon in the larder, so we will be having some good Irish breakfasts, porridge, bacon and eggs. We still receive a weekly Red Cross food parcel and it is wonderful when there are no parcels in reserve how the van arrives in on Thursday. I am working in the Hospital and receive 3 marks a week. At present a new barrack is being built for the hospital personnel. Your mail, too, is arriving regularly. Air mail from 4-5 weeks which is very good. I would like you to have a peep at our

Prisoners of War camp. We are almost a self-contained community, with bootmakers, tailors, watch-repairers, opticians, hairdressers, etc. We also have a church, a theatre, complete with footlights and coloured lighting, screen, etc., a library, university, football, basketball, boxing, wrestling and cricket and even a bowling rink with metal bowls. There are no officers here except M.O.'s. The Poles are a great lot. We are now in our new barrack and I mess with 2 New Zealanders, one Englishman and one Frenchman and we all take our turn at cooking. We make some real good meals, e.g., last night we had turtle soup, mince and vegetables, custard, jellies and fruit. Yesterday I received your excellent parcel and now have more clothes than I require. Send no more clothes this year. To-day the English beat the French at football, 8-1. Last week the Rugby turned into a melee. Feelings are rather strained. I have received another clothing parcel from the Red Cross. Letters are rather regular.

STALAG IX. B.

L/Cpl. JOHN F. DUNCAN, dated 13th March.

I have just had the pleasure of receiving my first mail for about 11 months, and I'm thrilled to bits—17 from home. So far I am the star letter receiver among my 11 coppers, who, by the way, are 10 New Zealanders and one Aussie, and the greater part of the letters have been read by all. We have a good library here and an orchestra and are allowed out for walks. One Red Cross parcel a fortnight; cigarettes are not very plentiful.

STALAG IX C.

From B. GOODWIN, dated 24th February.
I am still feeding all right with bags of Red Cross parcels. Next of kin have also received four acknowledgment cards for Canadian Red Cross food parcels.
From Sgt. Pilot C. H. HOWARD, 5th July.

This week I received my second and third clothing parcels from you. I am now well set up for clothing, etc., so do not worry about sending me any more please. I have nearly exhausted the library here. My literary taste has improved and considerably widened since my sojourn in Germany. We are situated in a rural district and it is full of interest to us colonials (from the inside of a window). We see the women workers in the field, old fashioned carts being drawn by milking cows or oxen. Peasants, men and women, old and young with big wicker baskets strapped on their backs. It is now hay-making time and most of it seems to be cut by hand.

A BLIND MAN TYPES HIS OWN LETTER

From Sgmn. T. R. H. WOOD, dated 17th July.

I have managed to get among the parcels, and have received five all told. Of course, parcels are the most important item here, and to receive five I consider myself very lucky. Well, there is not much news here, weather pretty horrible, if I remember rightly, we had our summer on a Friday. Still, we take full advantage of what few snatches of sunshine we do get and have quite enjoyable walks in the open. I hope that you fully realise all about my injuries and do know that I am blind. I tried to make it clear to both Mum and yourself in my earlier letters, but I don't think that all my letters arrived safely. Of course I have long since grown accustomed to my disability and have made rapid progress at braille and all the other useful things we are being taught here. By the way, how do you like my typing. As for requirements, I don't think that I have many; I have clothes by the score, thanks to the Red Cross, and several mouth organs, and the rest of the boys just suffer in silence while I do my worst. But the wants of a Gefangenener are simple.

8/8/42. We get 200 cigarettes a month from New Zealand House so we are not badly off for smokes, and that is the thing here. A music teacher has just arrived to take the blind reading music, so I am very keen on getting started on it.

STALAG XVIII. B.

From Cpl. J. E. GRAINGER, dated 27th July.

I moved here two days ago. This camp is a N.C.O. camp and most of the N.C.O.'s who were captured in Greece are here. The accommodation and food are very good, much better than Stalag XVIII A. Here we do no work except the camp fatigues, which are very few so we have plenty of time for sport and study. With the two clothing parcels I have received from you plus the one from the Red Cross, I have plenty of clothing now.

From Pte. ALAN ROBERT NOALL, dated 1st July.

We had a dance last Monday and it was a great success. There were some very charming "ladies". My partner and I won the Statue Waltz. Last Saturday New Zealand contested against Australia in the General Knowledge Test. I was in the team and we won the contest. School has started in full swing and I am taking German, French and Book-keeping. We have settled down in our new home and now our pencils and letters are arriving. Everything is 100 per cent. and leaves nothing to be desired. This is a place that one dreams about, clean billets, beautiful surroundings, flowers and vegetable gardens, snowcapped mountains all around us.

From Cpl. P. D. JOHNSON, dated 17th June.

I received the first parcel in excellent condition and expect the second one any time now. The camp is situated between two mountain ranges that tower 6,000 feet up. The scenery here is just the same as one would expect it to be, but we have yet to hear the yodellers. In this camp there are only N.C.O.'s and they do not have to work, but yours truly has taken on the M.I. job again. About 6 weeks ago we formed a Kiwi Club in the camp and have a weekly muster of 80 or 90. Wally Cooper, the Maori All Black captain, is the chairman; any New Zealand news received during the week is passed round and we always finish up with a few Maori songs and supper.

1st July. My second parcel arrived on the 18th July, unfortunately though, half of it was ratted, but I will explain in No. 15.

From S/Sgt. A. J. REID.

Have had a pretty good month for mail and parcels, yours received after the long blank of five months. In all, I have landed this month, two letters, 4 book parcels (8 first-class swot books), 2 food and tobacco parcels from a friend in Egypt, and two Patriotic cigarette parcels—most welcome. The organisation of this new camp is in full swing now, and I am building up again from 9st. 12lbs., that ought to give you some idea, but am now 100 per cent. fit and well. Playing basketball (in small doses) and deck tennis.

STALAG XVIII. D.

From Pte. L. W. GUTHRIE, dated 30th June.

At the present time we are in a new Camp, the address instead of being Stalag XVIII D is now Stalag XVIII B. At present I am in a ward with four others, one Kiwi, one Aussie, one Tommy and a Scotty.

Dated 14/7/42. Just a note to let you know I received your second parcel, but half the contents had gone astray, including the four shirts, so I don't think it advisable to send any more under the circumstances, unless it is cigarettes.

From Sgt. M. E. MULHERN, dated 5th July.

Received another 200 cigarettes from the Patriotic New Zealand Fund this week. You might write to them and tell them how we appreciate it, when cigarettes come here we share them. We have had 8 chaps from a larger two miles from here to dinner to-day and what a great feed we had with the stuff from the Red Cross parcels. Working very hard these days, sun very hot; hoeing in the fields is tough work, and one gets very weary, 15 hours a day, but I am very well. I work cows in my new place. As a matter of fact there are more cows than oxen being worked. There is a lot of work to be done on the farms specially now the harvest is coming on. Will be cutting the crops this month. Think of the monotony of working 15 hours a day for just one's food. Just imagine how we look forward to Sunday. Since the Red Cross food parcels and our parcels from home have arrived things are pretty comfortable with us. Received another parcel from Patriotic Society.

Dated 2/8/42. We are right in the middle of harvest, and believe me there is plenty to do. The crops are cut with the scythe, put into bundles, and tied with a band of straw by hand—far removed from the harvest in New Zealand. We have plenty of reading matter and it helps a lot.

From Pte. R. AMTMAN, dated 26th June.

You are enquiring if I have received my packets yet, but by now you must know I have received two of them, and they are a great help, but if I get many more I'll need a ship of my own to bring it all home with me. Do not worry about the food, as we still get our Red Cross packet each week. I am still waiting for my third parcel and I expect it any day now as two of the other boys have received their third. I received a parcel from the New Zealand Red Cross sent through England containing clothes, but as my bag is full and one of the other boys has very little I gave most of it to him.

From Pte. J. E. RUSSELL, dated May.

Our Red Cross parcels continue to arrive regularly and we have now all been fitted out with new battle dress, in fact we are all brand new.

Dated 15th May. Yesterday I received a parcel from the Catholic people of New Zealand and last week one from New Zealand.

Dated 25th May. I am a real farmer by now, complete with straw in my hair, etc. We have plenty of work to do here on the farm. Our Red Cross parcels arrive regularly. I have also had a parcel of clothing from England. By now we all have new boots, uniforms and greatcoats. To-day is Whit Monday and we have a holiday.

From MAURICE ROBERTSON, dated 28th June.

I received your second parcel two days ago and it was grand. There was nothing missing. If you think that we will be here long enough it would be a good idea to send us a good pair of boots each. We are now getting regular parcels of cigarettes from the N.Z. Patriotic Fund as well as food parcels from the Red Cross from whom, by the way, I received two clothing parcels. We have a garden attached to our working camp now and had green peas from it to-day.

STALAG 306 XVIII. D.

From Pte. A. S. DUNN, dated 11th August.

I am in hospital, should be about in two week's time. I have a nice bed with clean sheets and plenty of books to read. The boys put on a concert last week, it was very good.

From Pte. N. I. BLAIR, dated 2nd August.

Had a parcel of clothing from London this week. Last week I got a letter from you dated the 21st June. I am finding things quite pleasant here. Most of last week I was thinning and spraying grapes.

From Cpl. A. R. BREAYLEY, dated 9th August.

A letter came from England last week from a book firm saying that they had posted two books on motors to me. Oh! how does one stop woollen socks from shrinking when one is wearing them? I had another letter from you last night, the mail comes every Saturday night. The harvest is in full swing. We have no reaper or binder and the crops are cut by hand. I have been scything barley and corn while the women have been binding it. There is still a lot of oats and wheat to be mown, then comes the thrashing. We will be making cider next month, but not by hand as we did last year; this time the motor will be fitted up for it. The motor is a portable one, more or less, and is used for chaff cutting and thrashing. I, being the chief engineer, as no one else on the farm knows anything about it.

From Sapper J. E. PARNS, dated 19th April.

We are all doing pretty well here, each man had an issue of malt and cod liver oil, and believe me it was good; to be taken three times a day after meals. All our clothes were getting very tattered and torn and last week we were issued with new battle dress, uniform and new overcoat; believe me it is good to be well dressed again. Last Sunday your parcel arrived—wasn't it great! Those socks were just what I needed. Weren't the others jealous. Everything in it, Mum, was just great, actually what I needed.

FOUR PERSONAL PARCELS—TOO MUCH STUFF.

From Pte. R. A. ANDERSON, dated 21st June.

I received another personal parcel this time from the English branch of the New Zealand Red Cross. I've really got too much stuff now, so in case my previous letter hasn't got through don't send me any more for a while except socks and chocolate. At present we are making hay; so is everybody about here. My boss traded one of the horses for a pair of oxen the other day and I had quite a pleasant little outing to a village some miles away to collect them. Have now had four personal parcels and have really too much stuff. In a few days I'll have been working here for a year. Please write to the New Zealand Red Cross and tell them I greatly appreciate the parcel they sent via Canada.

Dated 26/7/42. Had a real summer's day, so this afternoon we all picked up the boys from the other camp and went swimming in one of the mill streams. Returned to the other camp, had a cup of tea and collected the new issue of Red Cross parcels. This morning I made quite a passable fruit cake (at least nobody has died from after effects) from a col-

lection of ingredients from our Red Cross parcels. We mowed and carted in the rye this week, then ploughed the patch for the next crop. We manage to get a little bit of beer occasionally.

From Pte. M. C. GILLESPIE, dated 26th July.

It is only a fortnight since I received your second parcel and to-day I have had one from the New Zealand Red Cross. I'm well set up for both winter and summer now. This packet included a pair of nice leather slippers—a Godsend. The Red Cross keep us well supplied with parcels of food, medicines, disinfectants, books, etc., in fact we couldn't be better off in that direction. Cigarettes also come in very regularly from the Red Cross, the Stalag and to the New Zealand men from the New Zealand Patriotic Fund.

From Pte. N. W. ALLEN, dated 2nd August.

You said the Red Cross were glad to hear we were getting the packets. Well, yes, they come through quite well. I had one from the New Zealand Red Cross on Tuesday and it was sent from England on 2nd February, and it was a good parcel. There were about 30 articles in it ranging from pyjamas to boot laces. I have only had one of your parcels so far. With our Red Cross packet we get quite enough to eat and I have enough clothing to carry me on for quite a while.

From L/Sgt. DOUGLAS WILLIAM DICK, cable dated 8th Sept. Douglas camp near Marbury Tyrol Austrian Frontier Garrison Town fruit growing district SW of Vienna due South Gratz.

From Pte. HENRY REID, dated 6th June.

I have just received another parcel of clothes, etc., from the New Zealand Red Cross, London. We are at present hay-making and have plenty of good wine to drink and pretty good food. You want to see me with my oxen team—pretty good. We all go out by ourselves carting and doing different jobs—pretty good with the scythe, etc.

From Mr. F. V. NANCARROW, dated 10th May.

Another parcel this week with 200 cigarettes and some food oddsments, very welcome. Then yesterday my special mate received 500 cigarettes from England. That brings the total of my private parcels to five, and of course some 30 to 40 odd Red Cross ones. We are certainly being looked after. We have received two parcels of figs, raisins and nuts from a private citizen (English) in Turkey. Also this week came a new batch of books including A. P. Herbert and Hugh Walpole, etc.

From Pte. L. S. WILSON, dated 21st May.

RECEIVED YOUR PARCEL OF CLOTHING ON 8th APRIL. The pullover and underwear was just what I was needing and the socks are always handy. We have all received a new uniform and boots and great coat from England and we get a parcel regularly every week from the Red Cross and I can tell you we appreciate it very much. They sure look after us, thanks to the Red Cross. I have also received 600 cigarettes in the last three weeks, two hundred in each packet from the New Zealand Patriotic Society, so you see we are well cared for. We have good huts and warm beds and plenty to eat.

From Pte. B. A. J. CURRIE, dated 3rd May.

By the way I received another 200 cigarettes on Thursday and at the moment I am well off for smokes. As usual there was no name with them so I don't know who to thank—this makes 600 I've had. At the moment I am quite content, I've had a good tea of fried sausages, tomatoes, potatoes, second course apple pie, creamed rice and custard and, of course, a cup of tea all supplied by the good old Red Cross.

Dated 24th May. I WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE A PARCEL LAST SUNDAY FROM YOU; EVERYTHING WAS IN GOOD ORDER and I am well off for clothes now. We are quite happy to-day as we get a holiday tomorrow, WHIT MONDAY. It is not a national holiday but most of the peasants are Catholics so they keep the Holy days.

From Bombardier M. J. L. ROBINSON, dated 3rd May.

We are all very pleased to receive this week a new uniform and some better boots. The ones you sent in your third parcel have not arrived yet. It would be a good idea to include in a future parcel some leather for half soles. I told you before I think that I RECEIVED YOUR PARCEL CONTAINING BLANKET, SOCKS, ETC. The first one you sent will be here any time, probably. I am working on a farm, fit and well. The people are most kind and you need have no fears for my welfare. You would be amused to see your son trying to persuade the cows to do as he wishes. Very often they do as they wish, I am afraid. I am not a smashing success as a farmer. We are receiving our Red Cross parcels regularly.

STALAG XX. A.

From Cpl. A. J. SPENCE, dated 20th June.
I acknowledged the receipt of your first clothing parcel. The soap, socks and toothbrushes and paste were the most acceptable items—those things are pretty short here. We are holding an international cricket league shortly and I am playing for New Zealand. I have bought an 80 base piano accordion.
Dated 4th July. None of the lads have been getting anything through this mail. I sent through the Red Cross for some technical books on photography, together with an examination syllabus. I received a letter the other day informing me that they had been despatched. I am taking an engineering course. You need have no worries of our mental stagnation.

From Pte. D. L. FERGUSON, dated 10th June.
I have now received 54 letters from New Zealand. Have got my teeth and glasses now. Yes, we get a Red Cross parcel sometimes.

Dated 24th June. JUST A LINE TO THANK YOU FOR MY FIRST PARCEL WHICH HAS JUST ARRIVED. It was the best parcel that has arrived here both for quality and quantity—nothing missing.

STALAG XXI A.

From Pte. S. S. GRIFFITHS, dated 7th June.
We went for a swim in a small man-made lake up in the fields. We are supposed to be going twice a week, so here's hoping. I have had TWO CIGARETTE PARCELS WITHIN THE LAST THREE WEEKS from the NEW ZEALAND PATRIOTIC FUND, London and am expecting another any day now, as the New Zealander next to me has had three. There are 200 in each packet. I made a pair of bathing shorts out of the blue mottled scarf from the New Zealand Patriotic Society. We get our letters every Saturday now.

Dated 14th June. No letters from you for a fortnight now, last one written on 29th March. Went to a concert along at the big camp here last night. You can probably imagine what it was like—chaps coming on as chorus girls dressed in short crepe-paper skirts. Story was about a titled family going across to the film industry in America and being taken down. I had to strip down a bit—was just like a Turkish bath (in the hall, I mean!)

From Pte. C. E. BARWELL, dated 1st March to 31st May.
I am about fed up with looking at green uniforms and barbed wire. I hope Dad removes all the barbed wire off the fences before I come home. The censor has complained about your letters not being written clearly. I have some seeds of Flanders poppy and will bring them home. Send me two pairs of socks, that is all the clothing I want. Write to the Minister of Defence and tell him that several members of the New Zealand Medical Corps are having difficulty in proving that they belong to the Medical Corps and therefore protected under the Geneva Convention. I am one of them. It may be fixed by the time you get this and it might not. I have written to the High Commissioner. If you want to send anything, what I want most is an aeroplane, a pair of wings or even a good pair of wire cutters. Crops and vegetables grow very quickly in this part of the continent. I received a cigarette parcel (200 cigarettes) from the New Zealand Patriotic Society last week.

Dated 14th June. I was very pleased to get three letters from you. The mail is given out every Saturday. IT WAS GOOD TO GET THE PARCEL YOU SENT CONTAINING GYM. SHOES, ETC. LAST WEEK. It was in good condition. The New Zealand chocolate was very nice. Are you under the impression that I have a foot blown off? The shoes were both for the same foot.

STALAG LUFT III.

From B. N. HARDEN, dated 28th June.
Although the army at VIII B. had quite good orchestras and shows, we were very rarely allowed to attend, so it is quite a change to have our own here. The conductor this afternoon was Frank Hunt, who was with us on the "Rangitane." Rugby and Soccer are in full swing here now, and in a few minutes I am going to watch the first International Rugby game between New Zealand and Wales. The last few weeks we have been getting half a Red Cross food parcel per week. It is a big improvement to none at all, as we had for some months, but I hope it soon goes up to one a week. It makes a big difference. Breakfast, lunch and supper consist of a slice of bread each, and then we have five potatoes and soup and Red Cross food for a meal about five o'clock.

Dated 19/7/42. Kin and Ian received some text-books from the Red Cross this week. It seems strange to be playing football in mid-summer. The last few weeks we have had a whole Red Cross parcel each, and it is the first time since the end of January that we have had them regularly. Have received several cigarette parcels from New Zealand House lately. They go to the combine. I am reading Victoria Regina, a series of plays by Hausman, and have just finished "How Green was my Valley."

Dated 16/8/42. Had a tobacco parcel from New Zealand House this week. Have had a compound sports meeting last week. There are 11 barracks in this compound, each containing 164 men.

From Sgt. J. F. COMBS, dated 31st July.
I received my first New Zealand parcel two days ago. It was wonderful though the parcel was burst and the toothpaste and sandals were missing. The chocolate was grand and is the most valued.

From Pte. C. E. GAUTHERN, dated 5th July.
I am well off for clothes now, also cigarettes, so are all my mates, our main necessities are books and chocolate. Last week our nearest comrades came up and gave us a concert, tip top. We have now got a chess club up, about 18 players. From Capt. Padre WALTON.

Parcel was good. Socks are ever always useful. Chocolate a Godsend. The price in camp between ourselves is 150 cigarettes for 1-lb chocolate. Tennis shoes a great asset.

From Sgt. J. L. COY, dated 10th June.
I'm really a man of leisure these days, found a lot of dormant talents, cook, gardener, housewife and bottlewasher, so will be a great help to Mum when I come home. I know I will appreciate a meal that isn't cooked by myself. In the way of parcels, don't send any food stuffs, except chocolate, and keep up the old tobacco supply. Don't bother about clothes as I am O.K.

Dated 17th July. Taken all round we aren't doing too bad, we get a parcel a week from the Red Cross and it's amazing what you can do with it when you work in with 10 other men. I will introduce you to some queer recipes after this lot is over, but I'm afraid you won't appreciate them—and neither will I then. Don't forget to check up on Air Ministry about transferring my English money home to you as I have written to them telling them to pay it to my next of kin.

Dated 1st Sept. Just received your letter sent to New Zealand House after you hearing I was missing. That's record time, just 2 months. Brown as a nigger with bags of sunbathing and swimming. We have just concluded a very satisfactory sports meeting with the officers, and needless to say the N.C.O.'s won. New Zealand House is doing a grand job of work and keeping us informed of all the news from home, as well as sending us parcels; so don't bother to send me any.

From Observer S. G. COOPER, dated 21st June.
The food is very different from what we have been used to, but we are helped out by the Red Cross Food parcels which are a Godsend. We do our own cooking, usually in combines of from two to ten men. It helps to pass the time away. The Germans allow us to cultivate small food plots and the vegetable seeds are supplied by the Red Cross. We have organised sports—football, etc., and we are just starting to organise educational classes. We also have a very good library.

Dated 3rd July. We do a lot of sunbathing, and walk around the camp in bare feet and short underpants, or perhaps nothing at all. Quite a nudist colony. Each hut, divided into two, has approximately 80 odd men in each section. We have one small cottage stove for 80 men but as we only cook one hot or main meal a day it just serves, but sometimes you will eat at 12.20 or perhaps it will be 8.30 p.m. We sleep in two decker bunks with straw and two blankets. One blanket we sew together and make a sleeping bag for warmth. The camp is sheltered, being built in the centre of a big pine forest. Educational courses will be organised shortly and we have our own band and musical concerts.

From Pilot Officer R. G. STARK, dated 10th June.
YOUR PARCEL WITH THE LOVELY SLIPPERS ARRIVED A FORTNIGHT AGO AND IT WAS GREAT. IT WAS INTACT BUT FOR THE SOAP. The singlets I will put away in the hope that they may not be needed. Here we have put the clock on two hours which means that we do not need to ruin our eyes in the electric light. It works extremely well. My room-mate, Major Dodge, has just given me a fine pair of boots so I am now perfectly equipped.

From Sgt. KEITH W. SHEARER, dated 8th June.

RECEIVED YOUR AUGUST, 22/8/41, PARCEL THE OTHER DAY AND AM VERY PLEASED WITH IT. The heavy underwear is a bit late, and I hope I don't have to use it. One winter here is enough for me. The total weight of rations here for a week is 14 1/2 lbs., 11 1/3 consists of spuds and swedes, Ersatz loaf — margarine 8oz., sugar 8oz., Ersatz honey — whey curds 1-7/9 ozs. All these are weighed before cooking. — is lost in peeling spuds and swedes. (The above lines were blacked out, but we managed to read some of it).

OFLAG VI. B.

From Capt. JOHN P. HUNTER, dated 5th July.

Some chaps have had parcels that left home this February, as well as all others sent. I can tell you I'm taking a pretty lean view of things, but one has a lot to be thankful for. Went to a wizard show last night; it lasted only an hour, but of its kind it was absolutely tops. These shows certainly cheer one up and make life bearable. Am helping to keep a set of books which keeps me from getting too rusty.

From Cpl. B. M. WATENE, dated 18th June.

I received your parcel yesterday and believe me I am very happy about it, not because I'm short of clothing at the present time but coming from home made all the difference. I'm wearing the Mosgiel singlet to-day. The chocolates were very welcome, my mate and I are enjoying the eating of them very much. I received a clothing parcel from London, New Zealand House, like your parcel only it had more clothes in it. So you see I am far better off now than I was twelve months ago. There are seven Maori officers here, this being an officers camp. However there are about a couple of hundred of other ranks here doing odd jobs.

From Lieut. D. R. BRICKNELL, dated 24th June.

Have just received a second book on chocolate so I can now go ahead. This came from the Red Cross—bless 'em. For the last week I have had a spring bed—Oh, the luxury of it after 14 months! We had a marvellous stage show of "George and Margaret," the best I've seen of our many good shows and we now have a "talkie" camera installed—only one picture so far, quite an amusing comedy in Germany with English sub-titles, quite easy to follow. Our vegetable gardens are coming on and we are looking forward to lettuce salads, already had some radishes and watercress. It was a treat to see one lad cutting his small patch of lawn with a razor blade yesterday. Had letters 13th and 20th April from you.

Dated 9th July. I have had your November clothes parcel and very nice too. You had obviously put a lot of thought into it and I do appreciate it. You have asked for details of a day's routine (26/4/42) that's easy: rise 7.30 a.m., shave, wash and make bed, check parade 8.15 a.m. to 8.45; breakfast and washing-up etc. until about 10. Strip off and play with medicine ball until 10.30, 10.45 to 11.15 physical training. 12 o'clock lunch, consisting of a bowl of soup. The afternoon is spent reading, sunbathing, playing stool-ball, cricket, walking, visiting other blocks, lectures, and snoozing until 4 o'clock when hot tea arrives from cookhouse and we have afternoon tea. Evening check parade 6.30, main meal around 7 to 7.50, cold in summer, hot in winter. Then we walk for a while in the gloaming, go to concerts when on, visit, read or play cards until 11 o'clock. Light out and so on ad nauseam.

From Lieut. G. A. McRAE, dated 29th May.

Have mentioned parcels in previous letters BUT REPEAT THAT HAVE RECEIVED THREE FROM YOUR SOURCE ALREADY so future seems good. They have made a grand difference. Major McDuff and Rattray have gone to another camp along with some 200 senior officers. New Zealanders here with the passing of the Rugby season take up Soccer which we have found to be an excellent game. Out of the 2,800 odd people here, the majority of whom are football minded, a very high standard is reached. Ward McRae is perhaps the master of the soccer code in this camp. We also have race meetings which are rather like snakes and ladders—a lot of fun. Charlie H— (in private life the Earl of H.) is a keen bookmaker on these occasions and gives good odds.

From Capt. JOHN S. FINDLAY, dated 23rd May.

YOUR AUGUST PARCEL ARRIVED YESTERDAY FULL OF GOOD WINTER CLOTHING. DON'T SEND MUCH CLOTHING IN THE FUTURE BUT THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF CHOCOLATE ALLOWED. I received a Turkish parcel too. It consisted of figs, prunes, mixed nuts and cigarettes. I went to a piano recital by Eric Arden, all jazz

and light musical comedy. Went to a 2 1/2 hours show called the "Blackeye."

Dated 2nd June. Still thrilled about your parcel. Have had two more from Turkey. We have dug some vegetable and flower gardens in camp and planted some lettuce, radish and turnip and some mixed flower seeds. These came from Switzerland. We had quite a good showing of daffodils and jonquils while they lasted. Small boxes all over the place with two or three blooms in each.

OFLAG IX A/H

From Pte. C. D. LAPWOOD, dated 12th June.

I received a parcel of food from Egypt, which was very acceptable and sent "by the boys." Received your letter 16/3/42 on 10/6/42 and your parcel of 10/2/42 on 11/6/42. We medical orderlies are now allowed out to the village sports field once a week. At this ground we are endeavouring to make a swimming pool in a creek that borders it. Once again I say that I am well off for winter clothes for I have had two clothing parcels from you and one from N.Z. Patriotic, England.

Dated 26th June. Yours of 30/3/42 received 17/6/42. We Prisoners of War have made wonderful improvements to the castle grounds of late, especially in the moat, where vegetable and flower gardens, rockeries, have been made, also badminton, deck quoits and cricket. For the latter we have broken laws in all manner of ways.

Dated 10th July. Our orderlies' concert went off "with a swing" and was a great success. The New Zealanders did Arawa tribe Haka. We have started getting in winter coal supply. At last our vegetable garden has yielded a couple of meals of lettuce. July 2nd celebrated by tin of New Zealand oysters, 7 Aussie peaches both sent from Egypt. Our cricket XI well beaten last Sunday for first time. Be better for all if you sent no more clothing for a while. Would like Steradent, braces and a few small things.

From Pte. L. H. ROWLAND, dated 18th May.

Have collected our rations, a job that comes along about every five days. For dinner to-day we had bacon, beans and potatoes and for tea to-night there is meat pie, swedes and potatoes. We have plenty of tea made four times a day, also hot water for cocoa or ovaltine, but sugar is very short. Pictures are put on here once a week and we see some quite good shows. Last night the officers put on quite a good concert.

ILAG LIEBENAU.

From Miss E. G. I. ROGERS, dated 12th April.

I feel so happy to be going back home that I can hardly explain my happiness. Please write and tell all friends this good news. Perhaps you may get it through the Red Cross. A way may open soon and we will be able to correspond again. We have been well treated here and wonderfully cared for, as well as by the International Red Cross. Receiving weekly food parcels more than ample for all needs.

ILAG VIII.

From Capt. J. T. DODGSHUN, dated 9th April.

I am in a British Internment Camp at which I hope soon to be able to commence some dental work. I went to a very good play the other night, it was very well done, entitled "Night of Romance" by Ben Travers. They had a music sextet accompanying and playing the incidental music. I have met several New Zealanders here who have been very interested to swap news from home.

P.G. 65.

From Bombardier R. P. GRIFFIN, dated 20th April.

One of my pals has carved out a chess set and is teaching me the game. Am in a debating team for next week; also trying to organise a mock trial. We have no work to do and amuse ourselves with home-made games, talking and working out what we should be doing at home at the same time. Among other topics food leads the way and most of us are compiling recipe books which should be a boon to some lucky wife. I am also replanning my bedroom. I manage to keep myself busy as a section leader, Toc H, song master, comper and talent hunter, and my latest flattering job is on the "Brain Trust," work out general knowledge questions and spelling bees. Our Toc H evenings take the form of a prayer ceremony and then someone

gives a lecture of some description on his life industry, etc. We intend to start educational classes in languages when we can get paper.

From Pte. A. H. BINNEY, dated 20th April.

We are able to get a draw on our army pay but I don't know how long before we get it through. I put in for 10/-, it will buy a few little extras to help fill up. We are expecting a visit from the Red Cross any day now, also a parcel which will be more than acceptable as goodness knows when I will get one from you. I cannot write to anyone as there is a lack of writing material.

From Pte. H. K. Catran, dated 21st May.

I was the first Kiwi to receive a New Zealand letter so was I envied? It was great to get the letter, and makes everyone feel we are not so far from home. I am keeping fit and doing a bit of sun-bathing these days. We do not have to work here. Our meals are quite good. Coffee for breakfast, bread and cheese for dinner, and macaroni or rice for tea. We are paid, and have a canteen. We get an issue of smokes, only 35, but I always did smoke too heavily. Entertainment is limited as we have no books here, but they are coming. The boys hold concerts, lectures, debates, etc., excellent programme this week. I have not room here to describe the circumstances of my capture, but believe me we had no option. Out of 52 only 18 of us got out alive, out of a very sticky mess, so you see I have a lot to be thankful for, and I know it.

P.G. 57.

From Pte. J. F. LYON, 5th June.

At present we are getting Red Cross parcels frequently and things are much better than they have been for some time. I hope you are not sending too much of value in any parcels, and I have no particular need at present.

From Sapper I. J. COLMAN, 6th June.

A NEW RECIPE

Well, here I am with Red Cross parcels coming in regular of late. All are feeling the benefit of them. Quite a bit of sports gear has come in lately, and one chap in our hut has started a boxing class which keeps you fit and passes the time. By Jove what a lot we owe the Red Cross. The New Zealand House, London, are sending a clothing parcel, pyjamas, shirts, etc., toilet gear, and 1½-lb. chocolate to all New Zealand prisoners of war, and 200 cigarettes a month. Some of them have already arrived and they are lovely, so when mine arrives I'll be well off for clothes. Here is a popular recipe when Red Cross parcels arrive. Take a clean fish tin, punch holes in it, grate up your loaf of bread, add cocoa, sugar, raisins, prunes and anything out of your parcel, mix vigorously, add little water, take clean tin (½-lb milk tin idea) slap her in, plunk on the lid, tie her down, and send to cook house, result first class duff. Of course you must have that professional prisoner of war touch in these dishes. The most popular dance of the evening was the Prisoner's Hop.

From Sgt. J. BUTLER, dated 18th April.

We are entitled to a parcel a week and to date have received one and one between two men. They are very good and we have a lot of fun bargaining and exchanging various items—much like an auction mart. Also much fun cooking, especially making meat-rolls, etc., by grating our bread and keeping the meat out of the stew; as we have meat only twice a week and then only a few very small bits about ½ in. by ½ in., it is a bit of a problem. Sometimes we put in prunes or orange-peel. I had the best meal to-day since being captured. We carried our rice and had with it onions and a tin of bully-beef. We average about seven onions every six days and cost is 2½ lira (7d.). We got chocolate in the parcels and by Jove it was a treat. Gardening is in full swing and another chap and I (Sgt. Dick Blackstock from Eltham, Air Force) have three plots measuring about 15ft by 4ft. each and are just ready to plant lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, pumpkin, spring onions and beetroot. Seeds supplied.

From Gunner JAMES HENDERSON, dated 17th April.

We have had two issues of Red Cross parcels, full of good things and we are getting cigarettes. Please don't think of me as unlucky. I am not! I am becoming daily more proficient in the old crutches and feel far stronger than a fortnight ago. Encountered some Italian wounded recently—quite decent little blokes, and oh yes! I got two eggs for Easter. It is 7 p.m. and as I write there is a large bowl of tea, marmalade and butter

at my right hand—delicious—the result of an issue of Red Cross parcels. They certainly are eagerly anticipated by the boys.

CAMPO P.G. 52.

Chiavari, Near Genoa.

[Shortage of paper has compelled me to have to omit dozens of letter from this camp dated March and April. From the many letters we have received from prisoners at Camp 52 we give you a picture of the camp. All the information is taken from the prisoners' own letters.—Editor's note.]

Situation. This camp is situated in a narrow valley with terraced hills rising steeply on both sides, the terraces being cultivated in grapes, cereal crops and fruit trees. From the camp three churches can be seen high up on the hillsides and, especially on Sundays, the sound of chiming bells fills the valley. There are quaint little villages every mile or so, the houses of which are two storied, look very old and are of moss covered stone. The region abounds in slate quarries, some of which our boys visited on their daily walks. The camp is bordered on one side by a river. They can see the road from the camp and watch huge Deisel trucks and modern buses go through the valley. The boys all write with enthusiasm of the blossom of the fruit trees, wisteria in flower and the small wild flowers, violets, daisies and buttercups. The days were very long in June, early light and not dark till 10 o'clock. There were scores of fireflies and the cuckoo and nightingale could be heard every night.

The Camp Commandant seems to be a very good type and does his best for the welfare and comfort of the men.

The huts are comfortable. The bunks are two-tiered and plenty of blankets are supplied. The ground conditions of the camp were very muddy and wet up to last March, but are, of course, better now summer has come. The work the men do is mainly for paths and camp improvements, they describe getting rocks, probably from the river, and standing in a line, pass the rocks chain fashion. They are on these working parties about every third day.

In June facilities were provided for a daily shower.

A check parade is held three times a day.

On Anzac Day a parade was held of all the Australians and New Zealanders in the camp.

Sport. Physical drill is held every morning from 7 to 7.30 outside the huts. It is voluntary. The daily walks taken every morning by the prisoners sometimes cover as much as five miles.

Baseball is played, there are some very good players in the camp who are anxious to teach the others.

In June a Boxing Tournament was held. There were ten very good bouts. The gloves for this were supplied by the Red Cross along with other sports equipment which has arrived in the camp.

The swimming pool in the river, which has been long promised, was to be opened on the 15th June and the boys were keenly looking forward to it.

Religion. The spiritual needs of the prisoners are well cared for. Padre Mitchell and Padre Gerard are both in this camp. The church services are very well attended, although only standing accommodation is available. Morning prayers are held each morning in the Padre's hut, various men taking turns conducting them. These too, are well attended. A choir has been organised. On Sundays there is Communion at 7 a.m., morning and evening service, and Bible Class at 4 p.m. Every Sunday they sing the hymn "Holy Father in Thy Mercy." The Padre also holds lectures in the evenings.

Food. Boiled rice and macaroni is issued alternately with a meat and vegetable stew. They have their daily bread ration, dark bread, and a mug of coffee in the morning. A cup of wine is issued twice a week. A cheese issue of 200 grs. = 7 ozs is given out three times a week. This is good stuff says one of our boys, being pretty strong and tasty. Their special Sunday meal is a concoction of macaroni, cheese and fried onions.

In June Red Cross food parcels were arriving very regularly. They were issued on Tuesdays and Fridays, and one parcel was shared between two men. In a special part of the compound fires are allowed to be lit and weird and wonderful are the stoves that have been made out of the tins from the Red Cross parcels. There they heat and try their skill at cooking the contents of their parcels.

Privates are paid one lira a day and non-commissioned officers a lira and a half, and on pay days, which take place

twice monthly, there is a rush for the canteen where there are figs, cheese, prunes, sweets, etc., for sale. The men also speak of having been able to buy onions and cherries.

They get an issue of five cigarettes a day.

Education and Entertainment. Euchre, 500 and bridge tournaments have been held. There is a supply of games, such as Monopoly, and these are handed round, each hut being allowed to keep them a few days before passing them on.

Open air concerts are held every other night. They have a full piano band and some excellent talent. Try and visualise soldiers, sailors and airmen from all corners of the Empire seated in a huge semi-circle around the "stage" with piano and banjos to provide the music.

The prisoners see German and Italian newspapers and hear the Italian broadcasts.

Classes are held in French, Gaelic, German, Italian, grammar, book-keeping, music, shorthand, etc. There are lectures on wireless, motor engineering, radio, electricity, agriculture, philosophy, history, economics, building and allied trades, etc. It should be mentioned that one man came away from his lecture on pigs and poultry with a recipe for "home brew" beer and stout. How does that fit in?

They have talks and impromptu speeches. The following shows the great variety of subjects dealt with:—Yachting experiences, recent naval battles, film industry at Hollywood, big game hunting, New Guinea, all by men with first-hand knowledge of their subject. The boys say that they feel that "despite barbed wire around us that all the world lies before us and wars don't last for ever."

A library was opened in the camp in June and there is now a more adequate supply of reading matter. Before that there were very few books, it was thought only one book to each forty men. One boy wrote: "There is such a lack of reading matter that I derive great enjoyment from the perusal of a milk tin label."

Mail.—Letters from New Zealand began to arrive in the camp about April and were coming in freely by June. About 700 Red Cross messages arrived in the camp in June, an answer to one of which was received in New Zealand on the 25th August. Some mail now arrives into the camp every day.

P.G. 52.

From Cpl. B. C. HUNTER, Hut 41, dated 3rd June.

I have just received my first letter from you, and am thrilled to the boots to receive news from home, it is wonderful, every bit as good as a meal, which at the moment is what we most need. Already two or three Red Cross clothing parcels have arrived in camp and their contents are most useful.

GAIR, Hut 36, dated 8th June.

I received your welcome note (dated March 22nd). Our Red Cross parcels have been coming in pretty regular the last six weeks and most of the boys are looking a lot better and even putting on a bit of condition. A few of the chaps have also received parcels from England and from cobbers and brothers in the Middle East.

From Pte. LAURENCE BUCKINGHAM, dated 8th June.

The cherries are ripe now, and I have just eaten 1 lb. of them. I bought a book for a lire and lend it round. We have plenty of tea to drink, it comes in the Red Cross parcels and we make it ourselves. There are some great models of stoves to be seen here, all made from tins out of the parcels. I have one with an oven on and I baked a pretty fair cake yesterday out of bread, margarine, cocoa and currants.

From T/Sgt. R. B. PARSENS, dated 16th April.

We received our Red Cross parcels during the week, everyone is happy again. I have used all my fruit now, so am a bit stumped until the next parcel, or pay day. Among other things in my parcel were figs, margarine and dried milk, so I used half my bread (black out here), whole meal bread, chopped figs, a piece of margarine, two spoons of dried milk, mixed just damp and boiled it in a tin. I have still one or two more meals before the parcel runs out. We are issued with a portion of cheese three times a week and my favourite meal is a roll of bread, an onion and issue of cheese.

From Pte. J. L. SPICER, dated 8th June, Hut 35.

No need for much clothing, just a pair of shorts, all you can wear really as it gets so hot. A couple of days more and we hope to start the swimming parties.

From Signalman B. V. ASHE.

A fairly big educational scheme is starting to-morrow. There are courses in book-keeping, wireless and quite a few more interesting subjects, but as we have no books they will be pretty general. We might get books through the Red Cross. We went for a walk last Thursday, under guard. About once a week I have been on working parties around camp, carrying up stones from the river and doing other jobs for the improvement of the camp. We walked up the valley and passed small farms where all sorts of fruit trees were blooming among small plots of brilliant green cereals.

From Sgt. M. CROFT.

Food is the main thing in life—we've all come to that conclusion. Well, at present we are enjoying a parcel. We have a nice tasty dish every night. We're able to buy onions at the canteen now so are able to make tasty duffs and other dishes. The brewing up station is a hive of industry and I only wish you could see it. There is a concert to-day in our recreational hall and you can bet we have some good talent amongst us. Educational classes start next week and I am going to see what I can learn about agriculture. I applied for a book on Diesel work some time ago. Lectures are on every night.

From Pte. R. L. COLLINS, dated 5th June.

Received my first letter this week. Maybe you can imagine how much those 25 words meant to me after six months' captivity. The Red Cross has supplied us with some clothes and I am well off in that respect except for socks. They have also sent us some food parcels which contain good things. We all crave for sweet-stuffs. At 10 a.m. I make a cup of tea, again in the afternoon and have cocoa at night. These extras make a big difference to us and help to relieve the monotony. Some of the boys have received next-of-kin clothing parcels sent by the N.Z. Red Cross in London. These latter gifts are rather mysterious as we know nothing of who actually sends them.

From Sgt. A. GORDON BROWN, dated 2nd June.

It is grand to get mail from home. Some of it has been getting here in six weeks.

From Pte. A. J. WEBSTER, dated 8th June.

It is very hot here now. I spend a lot of time making shelves out of tins which come in the parcels. I ran out of wood for boiling up, so made a charcoal burner. It works well. I made the pump out of a biscuit tin. There are some great patents to be seen at the buying station. The parcels are still arriving regularly. A swimming pool had been made and arrangements are being made for us to go for swims in the near future. Swims will be very welcome this weather.

From Pte. E. L. FIELD, dated 8th June.

A good many letters and some parcels for our chaps still continue to come in. A lot of mail seems to be on the way. Church services are held regularly now and Padre Gerard took it this morning for C. of E. A library has now been started in the camp and there is now quite a bit of reading material.

From Sgt. E. S. ALLISON, 2nd June.

Check parade is on just now. We are checked three times a day to make sure we have not stepped over the barbed wires. Everywhere old men and women are tilling the soil or preparing the vineyards ready for the grapes to make the rich red wine. Send tons of tinned butter, hard biscuits, and chocolate. Great rejoicing because last Tuesday I received your first letter of March 9th—it was better than a tonic. Have plenty of pork sausages, honey and all the other good things all ready.

From Sgt. R. A. PINKHAM, dated 3rd June.

A lot of chaps have received letters written in March. WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING A FOOD PARCEL FROM THE RED CROSS EVERY WEEK LATELY, THEY ARE VERY GOOD. WE ALSO HAVE RECEIVED CLOTHING FROM THEM TOO. A few of our chaps have received personal clothing parcels through the Red Cross.

From Cpl. W. A. SHARP, dated 3rd June.

Several New Zealanders have received parcels through the New Zealand Red Cross containing clothes, chocolate and cigarettes. We received another half parcel to-day, so are not doing so bad in the food line. We have been getting two half issues per week now for about four weeks and are hoping that the Red Cross will keep it up. I have just completed a job I detest—washing clothes. I feel sorry for you when I think of the huge washings you used to have. I've made up my mind to buy you a "Beatty" when I get home. We hear that not even the Air Force has got a chance in New Zealand against the Yankee soldiers.

From Gunner A. H. (Jock) CLEMENTS, dated 4th April.

Our Padre is a very good minister and the Church services are most interesting. We have a choir and Bible Class. We have received Red Cross parcels. Three parcels among four men, they were splendid parcels. We have porridge with condensed milk and some golden syrup. We are all most grateful to the Red Cross for this wonderful service. We have bunks arranged one above the other and sleep warm. We have a piano, set of drums, two or three mouth organs and a banjo.

From Pte. J. O. ELLIOTT, dated 8th June.

I received your letter of February 23rd—the New Zealand mail seems to be coming in quite all right now; I hope it continues to do so. There was a boxing tournament in the camp yesterday, 10 very good bouts. The gloves were part of some sport equipment sent by the Red Cross. The weather has been great for the last few weeks, hot sunny days almost like Egypt. There is some talk of a swimming pool in the near-by river being made available to us, it will be great if it is. Some of the fruits are ripening now, we have had cherries in our canteen. They are a bit dear, but probably will become cheaper as the season progresses. The Red Cross parcels are still arriving as well as 50 cigarettes each week. I am looking forward to receiving some parcels from you as I need socks badly now.

From Pte. I. G. FORDHAM.

Saturday afternoon marked our first open air concert, and it was quite a success. The sight of hundreds of chaps converging upon the arena, each with his seat tucked under his arm (the seat consisting in the main of his board pillow support, sometimes upholstered with a straw pillow) was reminiscent of a Rugby match at Eden Park. The instruments have proved a marked asset and quite good talent is available. This week we received a Red Cross parcel between three men, it being a Canadian effort, and would you please let the Red Cross people at Auckland know that we appreciate these gifts very much.

From L/Cpl DOUGLAS AITCHISON, dated 2nd June.

Well the old mail continues to roll in and majority of New Zealand boys have had word from home though still a number have so far been unlucky. Quite a number (several dozens) have had comfort parcels sent through New Zealand House, London, so our mail is not so bad all things considered. I have now had one letter during each of the past three weeks. Some have been dated as recently as six weeks ago, so the service is evidently a fairly fast one.

Dated 8th June. The weather has been kind to us the past three weeks and is almost reminiscent of Egypt and we are taking full advantage of the sunshine and are rapidly becoming a shade of black. I understand we are to be granted facilities for swimming in the near future, and will be able to cool off when we get too hot.

From Pte. J. P. PORT, dated 3rd June. Wasn't I pleased to receive yesterday my third letter from you written on 14th March. I will most certainly appreciate your parcel when it comes. I presume the wool boots will be a kind of slippers and they will be most welcome as such a lot of our time is spent inside our hut and I only have a very heavy hobnailed Italian issued pair of boots. Luckily just lately I have scored a Red Cross pair of socks and a very nice khaki flannel shirt but I can do with lots more. Wish you could have seen my previous socks, the one pair stood up to six months daily use and although I reversed them they were never darned. WE'VE BEEN GETTING RED CROSS PARCELS (food) quite regularly the last few weeks, and we had one yesterday. There is one issued and shared between two on a Tuesday and Friday. I ate half pkt. biscuits with half tin golden syrup, and margarine, half tin beef roll, 2 fig bars, 4 block chocolate, cooked about pint rolled oats and put a tin preserved apricots in it, had several spoons of condensed milk in a brew of tea all yesterday afternoon, so it will show you how we go the sweet stuffs when we get them. I've eaten a full tin of jam by the spoonful.

From Pte. L. R. COLEMAN, dated 2nd June.

It is really spring weather now, the trees are all out in leaf and we are getting the spring rains and the weather is really quite mild. We are to get a RED CROSS PARCEL BETWEEN TWO OF US TO-DAY as soon as check parade is over. We get one parcel and share it out, believe me it is the best thing we get here. I got a pair of socks the other day that were hand knitted, and had been sent to one of the Tommies from England, so I am actually quite lucky.

From C. H. BOYCE, dated 2nd June.

Your message through New Zealand Red Cross arrived Thursday and letter from Roturua (5th March). We received a Red Cross food parcel during the week and believe me Bush and I get a lot of fun out of them. I feel fully confident that you are doing all you can to help and as for the parcels that went astray, don't worry. To-day represents just six months as a prisoner.

Dated 8th June. No mail this week, but as I've had five letters and two message forms and some chaps none as yet, I've no complaints. When we first reached Italy daylight was 8.30, dusk 5 p.m. weather cold, snowy and very wet. Now the sun rises very early, daylight 5.15 and a clear blue sky doesn't give way to night until 10 p.m. I served for Bishop Gerard during the week, the first New Zealander to do so here so I shall always be a little proud of that. He is a splendid man doing a man's job in this camp. The splendid old Red Cross produced another supply of food parcels for the camp this week, they will always have a future supporter in me. Some chaps have had parcels from London and friends in Egypt but I know my day is coming. Being family cook I must now prepare tea, biscuits, and marmalade for tea on Sunday.

P.G. 38.

From Capt. G. C. T. BURNS, dated 8th June.

While letters are coming to hand well from New Zealand—none for me yet. There is still a handful of us who have not yet had mail, but some chaps have had as many as 20 or 30 letters so far. Parcels of clothes and food here also arrived from Egypt, New Zealand and England. I'm not destitute for clothing yet but hope some arrives by next winter. I was late for roll-call (which we have twice a day) last week and so had to be orderly officer, an office not usually performed by medical officers. We had a visit from a gentleman from the Swiss Legation; to him we submitted various complaints and requests. We feel it is time they did something about us medical officers, we may stay here as ordinary prisoners, we may go to other camps to act as medical officers, and there is a chance of repatriation in exchange for Italian medical officers in our hands.

From Pte. MAURICE BOYCE MACGREGOR, dated 30th Mar.

We have received our first Red Cross parcel, and from now on we will receive one a week. The parcels are wonderful. The Red Cross certainly know what a prisoner needs. They contain all sorts of food, from steak and kidney pie, to jam, cheese, biscuits, 50 Ardath cigarettes, cocoa, ovaltine, sugar, pepper, mustard and fish, milk and chocolate, and all sorts of other things, to clothing. We are definitely getting enough food now. I have had my first drink of tea in a year. We are all in the highest spirits now, and hoping it won't be long. So you see it isn't necessary to send any goods now.

From 2nd Lieut. DUDLEY N. POTTS, dated 13th March.

I am O.K. and being very well treated. Spring is here, and I am sitting in a window in lovely sunshine, talking in Italian and sometimes in French for a change. I am quite in my element, because no one speaks English here, and I have to do all my talking in Italian, French and German, so I am getting plenty of practice. My voice has its advantages too, especially when I sing their arias and operas. I hope to get to one of the camps as interpreter.

Dated 9th April. Have left hospital, and thoroughly enjoyed my stay after the first week or two. I was lucky speaking the language. It was necessary, there being no interpreter. While there I heard Gigli sing and saw Madame Butterfly on a film with a splendid Italian soprano. One night I sang for them Tosca. Red Cross parcels arrived here this week from England and were very good and much appreciated. We have interesting evenings here. Different ones give lectures on all subjects and it is grand.

From Lieut. J. F. BEVAN, dated 7th April.

We have had two parcels from the Red Cross, which have improved our bill of fare. Also, now that we have a piano, talent has come to light and provided two good evening concerts—Beethoven, Schubert, Handel and Strauss, with two or three good tenors as well. Haven't got our seeds in the garden yet, but have got a nursery going and expect to be planting soon. Some of the chaps have had letters from England. We were most grateful to the Red Cross for the soap and the other good things. Most of us have managed to buy a certain amount of clothing—pyjamas and underclothes—here, and, with the

showers and Red Cross soap, should be free of lice for a while. (In an earlier letter, he stated that he was being paid at the rate of 700 lira per month, out of which he paid 400 lira for "board" and had the rest available for clothes, etc.)

P.G. 35.

From Lieut. E. GORDON MACPHERSON, 15th April.

I have not had a chance to write for over a fortnight and now here we are at last at our permanent camp. It is a lovely old Carthusian Monastery and in this beautiful sunny weather we are having it is very pleasant. I am Hutchinson's assistant adjutant and my time is very full and passes quickly. We and Peter Dix (interpreter) and Capt. Bellamy (mess president) share a down-stairs quarter, an office, a bedroom and bathroom, otherwise it is only colonels, majors and senior captains who are in quarters, the rest are in one long dormitory, which runs right round the main court over the cloisters, it is 1/4 mile all round. We have a small garden about 25 ft. square in which we are hoping to grow things; there are 5 fruit trees blossoming now, which I think are plums. It all feels to me very much like being back in college. There are about 350 officers here in all and several more New Zealand officers have joined us here. From 2nd Lieut. W. S. DUKE, dated 21st April.

I am still O.K. and enjoying grand weather and magnificent surroundings. At present I am busy studying music, accountancy and advertising, so altogether the days pass quite well. No sign of any mail from you yet, soon be six months since I heard from you on 4th November.

STALAG XVIII A.

INTERESTING.

From Pte. L. B. OLSEN, dated 5th July.

We were out on a job to-day and it seems the whole population spend their Sunday at the lake, all the trams we passed were packed to the limit. I've been down near this lake, it's quite a nice place, very much like our Rotorua lake, only not nearly so big. We have managed to keep things going, as I've told you before, concerts, games, debates, lectures and so on. We have quite a number of books which helps greatly to occupy our evenings and take our mind off thoughts and so make this life here bearable at least.

From G. PHILLIPS, dated 24th June.

Another of your parcels arrived this week. I also received a packet from London containing a soccer ball, so we have been playing quite a lot lately. We have moved from the first floor to the third in the hospital and our Sister has been put in charge of another hospital. We have a French doctor here who will now be dealing more with us, although the German doctors are directly in charge of us.

From Pte. J. W. STEPHENS, dated 12th May.

Each man has received a suit of underwear, a pair of socks, shirt, braces, and a jersey, which came in very handy. They have all been sent by the Red Cross who have also sent us games and a set of boxing gloves. We are lucky enough to have with us a professional boxer from Aussie. All the boys in my hut have been busy gardening this morning, sowing seeds for our own vegetables. I received a parcel of 200 cigarettes from the N.Z. Patriotic Society. This is the second one I have had. The boys cannot speak too well of the wonderful way the Red Cross is looking after us.

From Sgt. E. H. EVERTON, dated 14th February.

Big events this week. Both your parcels arrived. (First parcel we sent in July, 1941, c/o N.Z. House without Prisoner's Number or Camp. Second parcel we sent in October, 1941, c/o of our own Red Cross P.O.W. Dept., Auckland.) Can assure you I am set up in clothes adequately for a good 12 months. We sleep like so many "shelves of bodies," 3 tiers — ground, middle, top. Sleep amongst gear, blankets, boots, dixies, Red Cross food boxes, in a lovely mix-up on our middle flat, 18 men to a block—top—head—head—top. New item entitled "Stick it Gefangenen, Stick it." Jack Lindsay's parody. Very good —after these lines: "Of 'Essen' there is little, of drinking there is less, we walk around the barracks and survey an awful mess, we fancy we've forgotten how to use a trouser-press. Stick it Gefangenen, etc.," for 14 verses—some unprintable. All humorous and topical. The Britisher seldom loses his sense of humour.

Dated 26th April. We put on a combined orchestra choir show last night. We had such things as "Gondoliers," "Knights-bridge March," solos—"Trees," "Love I Give You My Heart," "Song of Songs," Grandpa's "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes," "Juanita," "Old Black Joe," "J'Attendrai," "Drunken Sailor," and such like. Some very good soloists in camp and the choir and orchestra with new instruments have improved no end. A

brand new set of instruments arrived from England. Much Rugby being played. Digger team practising a Haka outside our door now. Have just watched the Kiwi team beat England 12—0. Just like being at Eden Park, muddy ground and all.

Dated 5th July. The boys have made basketball pitch and deck quoit pitch from our sun bathing space. Games going all day. All our 6ft. x 5 ft. plots are growing Red Cross seeds with great gusto and much laughter and perspiration. It is truly amazing what good feeling there is amongst us. New Zealanders are particularly good. There's never a hard word except in jest, and in any case we all have hides as thick as rhinoceroses from constant leg-pulling. I'm smoking a pipe and thoroughly enjoy the New Zealand Fund tobacco. If you know anyone connected with this you might convey our very sincere thanks for this extra tobacco. There are many here not so well off as we, and we are able to do little good turns and perhaps make their existence a little more worth living. THANKS TO YOU AT HOME, THE NEW ZEALANDERS ARE AS WELL OFF AS ANY AND BETTER OFF THAN MOST FOR EVERYTHING THAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS EXISTENCE LIVABLE.

From Pte. ROSS GORE GRAHAM, dated 11th May.

To-day we have been issued with new battle dress, but the trousers I received were for a man about 6 feet tall, so I am going to try to change them. Received two letters to-day and parcel of clothing. Have just received two more letters. The latter was dated October 21st, but the P.O.W. number was wrong—hence the delay. This last week received my third cigarette parcel (200 cigarettes). To date I have had 56 letters, two clothing parcels, and three cigarette parcels. My working suit in the afternoons is a pair of shorts, boots and socks, and nothing else (a hat of course), so you can guess what the weather is like. The work we are doing, log rolling, is interesting and hard enough to keep us all fit and well. I am still having good meals by the aid of our Red Cross parcels, which supply all the necessary vitamins.

Another big week, five more letters from "home" and my fourth cigarette parcel. We are having a holiday, it being "Whit Monday," we are hoping to have football to-day, and a swim in the river.

Dated 21st June. I am on a new job at present—building a barracks. It is hard work, but more interesting than log-rolling. We have quite a few books in camp now, and it is surprising how the time passes. I don't know if I have given you any particulars about our camp. It is situated in the middle of a big field about 300 yards from the railway, and is surrounded by grass and crops. The mountains on either side make it a wonderfully fertile valley.

TO AUNT DAISY.

From JAS. HENLEY, FRANK BALLOCH, COMPTON TICKLE, dated February.

Situated as we are, i.e., in a working camp, we often think longingly of the recipes you used to broadcast over the air. We are three unfortunate Prisoners of War who mutilate the food we receive in our Red Cross packets owing to the lack of foresight on our parents' part in not providing us with cooking lessons in our youths. Has the Patriotic Society gone into liquidation?

From E. M. HOLMES, dated 14th February.

BROADCAST RECIPES.

I thought you may like to hear from some of our former listeners who are now Prisoners of War. Though we have never taken any interest in cooking before we were captured, now we have become really proficient in the art. Some of our frying pan recipes are famous throughout the Camp. This one being most popular. Take one piece of old bread, beat to crumbs with heel of boot, then take two eggs, but keep your eye on the farmer, add one handful of raisins, mix to a thick paste, keep both eyes on dish otherwise it will be dive-bombed by your pals. Then fry, on our most treasured possession, the only pan in the camp, until the fire goes out. Tell your listeners, Aunt Daisy, to eat before it's cold, or else engrave your name on same. All the best to Uncle Scrim, and 22B staff. Tons of good wishes to yourself.

Pte. JOSEPH ALEXANDER BAXTER's parents write:

I must now thank you very much for all you have done for us all. I have now received two Cards from my son saying he has received two of our next-of-kin parcels. I have also had one card from the Red Cross in Scotland, saying Joe had received a food parcel from them, also six from the Red Cross, Canada. He also told us he had received a parcel from the Red Cross at Cairo. Once again many thanks.

From Cpl. L. FISHER, dated 1st March.

I am wearing my grey shirt now. The blades and chocolate were very handy, also soap, toothpaste, etc. It didn't take long to get here did it? All the boys are getting their mail and parcels, so you can see that we are pretty well off here. We are receiving our RED CROSS PACKETS ONCE A WEEK, cigarettes, etc., a great boon to us to have a few smokes.

From Pte. G. R. STOUT.

Their letters seem to get through all right. My barber's shop is still going well and I get plenty of laughs with all the boys coming in. Still receiving RED CROSS PARCELS AND HAVE HAD TWO OF YOURS SO THINGS ARE NOT SO BAD.

From Pte. W. J. L. SHAW, dated 30th May.

I must thank you very much for the LOVELY PARCEL. THIS IS THE SECOND PARCEL I HAVE RECEIVED. The sandals are splendid, also the silver grey pull-over is the envy of our working party.

STALAG VIII B.

From Capt. J. BORRIE, dated 17th May.

A DOCTOR WRITES.

On 23/4/42 was sent as M.O. to the largest working party from VIII B, the size of an English battalion. There are six M.O.'s in this area. Have equipment as good as any G.P. and have Col. Boyd's auroscope, etc., can test eyes for long and short sight, haemoglobin blood sedimentation rate, B.P. apparatus, and surgical equipment for all minor surgery. Have ordered a sigmoidoscope and an electrical steriliser. Have large sick parade each evening at 6.30 p.m., then minor surgery. Have 20-bed hospital. Get fairly good supply of drugs from the Germans and dressings from the Red Cross. Each Saturday do varicose veins, eyes, etc. Went to a city size of Dunedin to see about the steriliser. Warren and Noakes here as dental officers serving this district. I also visit three other camps. I almost feel free at present, and seeing the German men and women and children at close quarters, who behave exactly like us except for their language. My life is now almost fantastic. Postal lab. services and X-rays fairly good.

Dated 16th June. I ran a most successful arts and crafts exhibition last week, and we had some very fine work in it. All the Germans were mightily impressed. I have, on my visits here and there, been able to buy a certain amount of colour and drawing paper for the artists, who are most grateful for it. Yesterday lectured to all the camp on public health, and gave them a good ticking off. To-day started louse inspections, and next Saturday give T.A.B. Daily in every way the camp improves, sports, boxing, football, theatre "horse racing," general tidiness, etc., etc. Everyone is interested in flower gardens and have small plots, but as all the soil has to be carted from the woods, not many have large vegetable gardens.

Dated 6th July (an air mail card—Luftpost). Am well, reasonably happy, and enjoying a very warm, sunny summer. Returned to Stalag for a two-day visit to get Red Cross drugs.

From Pte. COLIN HILL, dated May 3rd.

Received three parcels—your clothing parcel posted in November and two cigarette parcels from the Patriotic Society, 400 fags altogether. Yes, we get quite a decent pay and buy what's available, I seem to spend most of mine on lemonade. We are working ten hours a day, sixty hours a week, building a concrete road, not a bad job.

From J. P. SCHRIFFER, dated 17th June.

The crops and spuds are doing well in this lager. We have a garden for each barrack room. There are only eight in this room, all sergeants. I am the only Kiwi here. There are over 100 in this working party building a village. The chief tool these guys use is a small axe and they build houses with them. I want Frankie to write N.Z. Red Cross and thank them for two parcels I received, also the Patriotic Fund, and thank them for three lots of cigarettes which were enjoyed by all. These smokes and things keep a chap's chin up and help lots.

From Pte. L. C. LITCHFIELD, dated 28th June.

I received three cigarette parcels this last week from the N.Z. House, two hundred in each parcel. We have all sorts at our working party—boxing, football, and we have got a billiard table. I received my first parcel from you yesterday. There are quite a few parcels arriving from N.Z. lately.

From Dvr. L. W. HOUSTON, dated 28th June.

I received my first Patriotic parcel from the N.Z. Patriotic, 200 cigarettes, they come every month. All the N.Z. boys have had them. You can tell everybody who wants to know that they are doing their bit well. We had a gramophone given to us last night and another uniform. I have bags of things from the

Red Cross, towels, gloves, pull-over, scarf, socks, singlets and underpants. In fact our uniforms, boots, etc., are all Red Cross stuff and they are wonderful. You want to see us tearing about the hills with great trees, it's a good job this, and I am learning German in my spare time. We get our washing done here each week. The Nuns at the Convent do it, they make them like new too. They also do our mending, and we also get our meals there and they are good.

From JOHN F. HINE, dated 12th July.

Parcels are still in good proportion from New Zealand. One posted in February came last week, so No. 3 should be along soon. Norman had an invalid one last week, very good. I've had about 70 letters and the first two parcels since the 19th January, so have done fairly well, also two cigarette parcels. We are fairly well off for books, change them around. Just changed some for fresh ones from Stalag. I've a suit-case and kit-bag full of gear now, so am well set. It's good to change after work.

From Cpl. JOHN WILLIAMSON, dated 5th July.

I was ever so pleased to get your parcel. I surmised it was posted in February as 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. 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.

Dated 18th July. We are now receiving Red Cross food regularly each week. I am still working in the gardens for the camp. The job will last another three months and then the winter will set in. To date I have received 7 parcels, 5 cigarette and 1 clothing from N.Z. House, and 1 clothing from home. There is a concert in the next barrack room. We have had quite a bit of news from N.Z. supplied to us by the head of N.Z. House in London. We have established a news service among the N.Z. prisoners of war here, and any little bit of home news he gets in his letters he passes it on to his mates.

From Ppl. GWYNNE LEWIS.

I am pretty fit now and getting plenty to eat. The parcel was a Godsend, the one with the blankets and boots in it; all there, and in good order—thanks to the Red Cross and the German authorities.

Dated 18th July. Your letter of 1th April here safely. I have plenty of cigarette parcels coming in and am o.k. for clothes. Please send some tan boot polish for those boots you sent me, From FRANK BROWN.

A class in electrical engineering was recently introduced and I am finding it just the thing. After a long break I was delighted to get several letters from you dated January.

Dated 12th April. I was particularly pleased to get yours of 10th February yesterday, only two months.

Dated 18th July. I was delighted this week by the arrival of your third parcel. If only you could see the pleasure one gets in having something real arrive from home you would be amply repaid for the trouble. All the contents are just great and I am now well set up for both winter and summer under-clothing. The chocolate arrived in perfect condition, it sure puts energy into the old body.

From Gunner R. J. COX, dated 7th June.

The grass grows very quickly, already they are mowing it with scythes as is the old way—around here. The cardboard that is produced in the factory where we work is dried in the fields while the summer is on. We spread it in the morning and pick it up before the sun goes in the evening. We are working 9 hours a day now as they make the most of their short summer season. We get a fair deal in any extra hours put in, also we have a fine guard at present, which makes things much better.

From Cpl. L. D. LEE, dated 7th June.

Tomorrow I collect another cigarette parcel from N.Z. House. This will be my third of 200 each. Some of our chaps have received their second clothes parcel from this source. 'Tis light to well after nine o'clock and "lights out" is a farce because we don't need them. The other day a party of us went out in the woods adjoining the camp and brought back a load of firewood. It was truly delightful, the cool green and all the fresh growth, above all the absence of barbed wire.

WELL OFF.

From Sgt. J. A. FORBES, dated 5th July.

Last week was my lucky week, for I received your parcel with the sandals, etc. (posted in February). It was one of the best parcels I have seen come into this camp, but please

don't send me any more, as I have enough clothes to keep me going for two years or more. If you can send me some chocolate and pipe tobacco, I would appreciate it very much. Last night my name was on the list for two cigarette parcels from N.Z. House, London, each parcel containing 200 cigarettes which I exchange for pipe tobacco. Since February I have received two clothing parcels and five cigarette ones, from N.Z. House and the Red Cross.

From Pte. RAY BRADLY, dated 20th June.

I've just got a new set of teeth (I lost my old ones in Greece) and they are a lovely set. They are made by our own doctors and orderlies and they make a good job of them. All the material is sent here by the Red Cross. They have a big hospital here in this camp, with all conveniences, with our own doctors and orderlies and they have a lot of work to do. That's one thing the boys have to be thankful for. The camp have their own band and they hold band concerts, etc., of a night and they are very good.

From Cpl. A. K. BROWN, dated 12th April.

I was in a nice mess when I wrote that card in June, with a poisoned hand and a mild attack of dysentery. Still three months roaming in the hills put me back on my feet (even to boot leather) and when you talk of our orchard, just think of me going through miles of vineyards, with figs, and walnuts thrown in. Crete is famed for grapes, and for 4 months or so, I had as many as I could eat. I am still busy at school and the time flies past, but it will be a "DAY" when we cease to be prisoners of war.

Dated 19th July. I received my first cigarette parcel from N.Z. Patriotic Fund, 400, which will come in useful both for smoking and trading purposes. Cigarettes are the real currency of this camp, and during the past 4 weeks we have "bought" some greens (mainly turnip tops) which duly boiled with salt and a dash of fat, have made a welcome variant to our diet. School, cards, cooking, marching up and down the compound, the periodical bath, a shift of barracks, all combine to fill in the hours of durance. Some chaps have come in from St. Lazarre show and given us news. We found out what the papers said about our show, and it cheered us up quite a lot.

From Cpl. B. A. MORRISON, dated 28th March.

I went to our Arts and Crafts Exhibition and it was very good. There were paintings, pen and ink drawings, wood carving, fancy worked table centres, a set of chess men carved out of toothbrush handles and many model ship ash-trays. At the school I am studying Diesel engineering and going through motor engineering. There are also loud speakers all over the camp from which he hear our orders and have music at different times a day. The school here is very good and you can learn all kinds of subjects such as French, German, arithmetic, art, law, engineering theory and many other things.

From Cpl. A. J. EASTWOOD, dated 14th June.

Last Friday we received a Red Cross parcel each, and we sure have had a real rum day of eating. Breakfast: canned tomatoes, fried bacon, fried potatoes, fried bread, fresh lettuce and cocoa with all trimmings. Dinner and tea on the same lines, but pudding and custard, and ovaline for a change. We live well when we get the parcels; it is great to be able to lie back in bed and have a "Players", a big stick of chocolate, paper lollies or biscuits and marmalade.

From Pte. J. H. HORSBURGH, dated 14th June.

We have just had another Red Cross issue and I have had a very fine tea, thanks to the Red Cross, and we are getting parcels of food each week, so, as you will see, we have something to look forward to each week now.

From HARRY JAMES CARPENTER, dated 12th July.

Received yours of 19th April and Edith's of October 27th on the 8th of this month. Edith's being wrongly addressed it has, of course, been all over the place. Your recognition of me in one of the photos that appeared in the newspaper is quite likely, and would be a group of the staff working in the Camp Hospital here. I had my fifth cigarette parcel from N.Z. House this week—a total of 1000 cigarettes so far, and have had 2 clothing parcels—so don't worry about parcels. I am well set up in clothing and toilet gear.

From Pte. I. J. TEMPLETON, dated 7th June.

THE CLOTHING PARCEL POSTED IN NOVEMBER HAS ARRIVED and as the weather is very warm (no warmer than Central though) the light clothing is very much appreciated. The chocolate was a treat especially with the C.F.H. wrappers still on. The pyjamas are the envy of everyone's eye.

From Pte. W. G. A. "BRONCHO" WALKER, dated 7th June.

Had a parcel from N.Z. House, London, very nice, contained all the things that I needed, so any further parcels you send need only contain socks, towel and make up the weight with chocolate and a few cakes of soap, which is always handy. I had another cigarette parcel of 200 cigarettes from N.Z. House, but, oh! for some good old New Zealand tobacco. We work in a factory eleven hours a day or night, as it's shift work.

From ARTHUR Q. POPE, dated 5th July. RED CROSS STUFF IN PROFUSION.

Last night, to my great surprise, my second parcel came through from home, so that makes three all told now, in the last couple of months. The kit bags are very handy and the light shirts. I have all the gear I require for a long while now. Our garden is supplying us well, wild strawberries and blackberries are plentiful and Red Cross stuff is coming through in profusion, as well as 200 smokes a month from N.Z. House.

From Pte. N. S. JARDINE, dated 19th July.

We now have a weekly N.Z. news letter—any item of general interest in private mail is handed in and a bulletin compiled, and it's amazing how interesting it becomes. Had another good play on recently, called "Oh, Yeah," the acting being outstanding and last night a concert in our own compound by the wounded. I have given different things to Australians whose luck has been right out. An N.Z. "missing list" shows some boys we know.

From T. P. CLARKIN, dated 19th April.

ON 10th APRIL RECEIVED YOUR FIRST PARCEL AND ON 19th RECEIVED YOUR SECOND PARCEL, and of course was very thrilled. The chocolate was very acceptable and send as much as we are allowed.

From Pte. F. R. CONGHLAN, dated 22nd February.

Well at last I have good news for you. YOUR SECOND PARCEL TO ME POSTED ON NOVEMBER 6th ARRIVED SAFELY LAST NIGHT.

ENQUIRY SECTION.

Dvr. R. H. D. WOOD, of the N.Z.A.S.C., is officially notified as being a Prisoner of War in Stalag VIII B. Actually the last letter received from him was from Crete. If any next of kin has seen his name mentioned in a letter, would they please communicate with this office?

STOP PRESS

FOOD PARCELS PACKED IN NEW ZEALAND.

From R. TIETJEN, August 20th—Stalag XVIII A.

I received my FIRST PARCEL from you to-day. I can't find any date as to when it was sent, but it is the one with the bluey-grey slip-over and grey flannel shirt; in fact, it is a very good parcel and I believe there are two more parcels from you on the road. At present I am pretty well stocked for clothes, no use overdoing it. I will let you know if I am becoming short of anything. All mail has been held up, both out and incoming, but expect it to be released soon. OUR RED CROSS FOOD PARCELS THIS WEEK ARE THE FIRST N.Z. ONES WE HAVE HAD, AND ISN'T THERE A LOT OF TALKING GOING ON, AND VERY GOOD THEY ARE TOO, INCLUDING BUTTER, HONEY AND PRIME LAMB, etc.

(This acknowledgment is the first that we have sighted in New Zealand where a New Zealander has actually received one of the prisoner of war food parcels packed in and despatched from New Zealand.—J. ABEL, Dominion Chairman, Prisoners of War Enquiry Office, Wellington.)

RECEIVED THREE PARCELS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

From Sgt. E. H. EVERTON, June 1st—Stalag XVIII A.

Your THIRD PARCEL arrived. There's such a lot of people behind the wire. It becomes a little world of its own.

From Pte. L. G. GARDINER, Aug. 16th—Stalag 306 XVIII D.

I HAVE RECEIVED THREE PARCELS FROM YOU, but there were no boots, only a pair of slippers in the third parcel, and I could do with a strong pair of hob-nailed boots. I think there will be enough cooks in the house when this war is over as I am getting an expert.