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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.8 (January 1943)

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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 August, 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.
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Telegraphic Address: "JOINTCIL."

AUCKLAND PROVINCE:

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

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

TWO CHRISTMAS CARDS.

Printed on Prisoner of War Post Cards in Red and
Purple Ink.

To you on old New Zealand's shore,
We send good wishes by the score,
Success to all you seek the most,
We wish you by Kriegsgefangenenpost.

As Christmas Greetings cross the sea,
To those we love the most,
I send my loving thoughts' to thee,
By Kriegsgefangenenpost.

GERMAN PRISON CAMPS

STALAG LUFT I.—Visited 10th November, 1942.

Camp Leader May-Kevin, R.A.F. The personnel consists of 22 British prisoners, among whom are two doctors. There are seven New Zealanders who all come from Stalag Luft III. The accommodation is satisfactory, the food is prepared by British cooks. The following is the weekly ration per man:—meat, 12½ ozs.; fat, 7½ ozs.; substitute tea or coffee, 1 oz.; marmalade, 6 ozs.; bread, 4½ lbs.; cheese, 1½ ozs.; Nahrnittel, 5½ ozs.; sugar, 6 ozs. Clothing is worn. Orders have been

given for food and clothing parcels to be sent for 1000 men, which is the possible future personnel. The indispensable complementary parcels have not yet been received. The sanitary installations are mediocre, the attention fair. The operating theatre and examination room have not yet been completed. There are no religious services. The library has 3000 books. They are organising an orchestra, a theatre and also various study courses. There is a sports ground for the prisoners' use. There is delay with correspondence. Relations with the authorities are good. All requests are being taken up with Geneva.

STALAG LUFT. III.—Visited 14th May, 1942.

A new camp at Sagan in East Germany, for R.A.F. prisoners of war. The officers and men are in separate compounds. Both officers and other ranks have a reading room, library and recreation room. The men are rather crowded at present, but new barracks are under construction. Bathing facilities are satisfactory, though wash-rooms are not sufficient as yet. Red Cross and next-of-kin parcels are arriving regularly.

In a report received from Berlin dated 30th June, the total number of prisoners in this camp was given as 3,000. The Camp Leader is Group Capt. Massey, and his assistant Sgt. Cumpstey.

DULAG LUFT.—Visited 16th June, 1942.

Still an excellent camp. There have been no changes since the last visit in March.

In a report received from Berlin dated 30th June, the number of prisoners was given as 64, and the name of the Camp Leader was Sqdn. Ldr. R. D. Elliott.

STALAG VII. A.

Werks Camps 2916 and 2780 were visited on 10th June. 2916 is reported to be quite a good camp. Accommodation is satisfactory. Parcels are arriving well. The prisoners of war have a kitchen garden to help with the rations.

The number of prisoners in 2780 was given at 368 and in 2916 as 170.

2780 was visited in March, when it was not at all satisfactory. Some improvements have since taken place; paths have been repaired and gardens arranged, and ventilators for use at night have been ordered. The washroom is now satisfactory and a new latrine has been built, but bathing facilities still need improvement.

STALAG VIII. B.—Visited in May, 1942, as well as all the Work Detachments mentioned.

This camp in Silesia is the largest prisoner of war camp in Germany. There are 253 Labour Detachments attached to Stalag VIII. B. The total camp strength on 30/6/42 was 19,195. An I.R.C.C. report on a visit states that there were 4,733 prisoners in the base camp, the remainder being at work detachments or in lazarets. The nationalities include English, Irish, Scots, Welsh, Australians, New Zealanders and others. Distributed over the various camps are some 40 medical officers and 900 medical orderlies. The strength of the base camp includes 45 civilians, among whom are seven members of a Quaker Ambulance Unit.

The base camp is composed of rows of one-storeyed barracks, each with a wash room and running water. The barracks are of stone, built directly on the ground, which makes them rather cold in winter. There are large playing fields and room for vegetable and flower gardens. The men sleep on three-tiered wooden bunks, with wool stuffed palliasses and have two blankets each. Lighting has improved since the last visit, and bathing facilities are now quite in order. Except for the medical officers there are no officers in the camp.

Shipments of clothing have recently been received, but there is still need for battle dress. There is a gymnasium and the prisoners of war play football, box and have wireless and picture shows. A school has been arranged which some 800 students attend each day.

Four chaplains attend to the religious needs of the prisoners and are allowed to visit work detachments and men under arrest. Eleven British doctors and 39 medical orderlies work in the infirmary. About 260 wounded men were returned here from Heilag Rouen.

There is also a lazaret attached to the camp, where 12 doctors and 43 medical orderlies work. The 300 patients are well treated, the doctors being quite satisfied with their working conditions and supplies.

Work Camps E 276, E 42, E 355, E 109, E 250, E 352, E 354, E 140, E 381, E 398 and E 90 are small camps with less than 100 prisoners of war in each. Reports on the whole are satisfactory. Their work varies from forestry and road building to work in wood and paper factories, 8-10 hours day and week-ends free.

Work Camps E 46, E 22, E 27 and E 51 are all mining camps where 200-800 prisoners work in 8-9 hour shifts. They have one Sunday per month free. Accommodation is said to be fairly good in all of them. Relations with the employers and guards do not seem to be so good as in the other work camps. These camps will be visited again at an early date.

Work Camp E 3.—There are 750 men employed on construction work. They work ten hours a day and three Sundays out of four. There is a British doctor in camp and two British dentists. Many next-of-kin parcels have arrived lately.

Recently Base Records received a cable advising the transfer of a number of New Zealand prisoners of war from Stalag VIII. B. to Stalag 319. As this appeared to be a departure from the usual method of numbering prisoner of war camps in Germany, cabled enquiry was made of the High Commissioner's Office in London before accepting the information. The High Commissioner now advises that the address Stalag 319 is as given on Germany official lists and that these lists show a definite transfer. It is added, however, that the War Office is of the opinion that 319 is probably a working party number

and it is suggested that mails and parcels continue to be addressed to Stalag VIII. B.

STALAG XVIII. D.—Visited 1st June, 1942.

There are now no British prisoners of war in the main camp; they have been transferred to Stalag XVIII. B. The work camps, however, are still administered by Stalag XVIII. D.

Camps 1855 L, 1925 L, 750 L, and 518 L were all considered very good.

Camps 1931 L, 1812 L, 571 L, 1178 L, 2872 L, 489 L, 545 L and 2054 L were also good, but had various requests or complaints, all of which were settled at once by the Camp Commandant. They are all agricultural camps. The men work for different farmers who provide them with billets and food.

Camp 132 G.W.—The men work at a cement factory. The conditions of the camp have improved considerably since the last visit.

STALAG XXA.—Visited 18th May, 1942.

This camp is divided into three Forts and Camp 13A. All are on the outskirts of Thorn, in Poland. At Fort XV, non-commissioned officers who have not volunteered to work are detained. Fort XIV, is a hospital. Fort XIII, is a camp for slightly sick prisoners of war, and Camp 13A is a work camp. Living conditions in all the forts are much alike. Now that agricultural work has started again there is much less overcrowding. The British dentist in XIII. A. is allowed to operate in all the principal work camps. Fort XIV, gives a very good impression and at this time of year the patients are able to be out in the sun all day long, on the moat and in the gardens. Clothing conditions throughout the Stalag have much improved. Next-of-kin parcels have been arriving in large quantities.

Reports were also received on several small agricultural camps attached to this Stalag. Ehrental, Camps No. 89, 90, 28 where 15-20 men work for farmers, are quite satisfactorily accommodated in small peasant houses and fed by their employers.

In June the official figures given by the Germans for this camp were 7,574 prisoners in all, with 2500 housed in the base camp and the others distributed among 75 work detachments.

OFFLAG III. C.—Some of our New Zealand prisoners have been moved to this camp from Offlag VI. B. We have no reports on the camp, but have pictures showing good stone buildings, and we know that the camp is situated at Lubben, Sprewald.

OFFLAG VII. B.—Near Eichstaett, in Bavaria. Stone barracks on the outskirts of the town. There is a university whose extensive daily programmes last all day. It is a very good camp, admirably fitted up.

On November 4th, 1942, we received advice from a next-of-kin who had received cabled information from London that Capt. G., a prisoner in Offlag VII. B., had reported favourably on the new camp.

ITALIAN PRISON CAMPS

At that present moment many fresh numbers for Italian Prison Camps are shown in the notifications arriving in this office. We have no information yet about these camps, but we can at least try to give next-of-kin some indication of the locality in which their boys are situated.

CAMPO P.G. 5.—This camp is situated between Alessandria and Genoa. In July it contained 82 officers, among whom were eight New Zealanders and 51 other ranks.

CAMPO P.G. 21 is at Cheiti, Abruzzo.

CAMPO P.G. 47, 73, 107, 201.—These camps are situated in a military district in Northern Italy. The district seems to include Milan and Trieste and goes down as far as Florence, striking the west coast about Leghorn.

CAMPO P.G. 54, 70, 129.—These camps are situated in a military district on the east coast of Italy, on the Adriatic Sea. The district includes both the town of Ancona and Sulmona.

CAMPO P.G. 51.—This camp is situated in the heel of Italy.

CAMPO P.G. 38.—Visited 20th May, 1942.

Here 92 officers, of whom 90 are New Zealanders, and 23 other ranks live in an old monastery surrounded by a large park, in which the prisoners of war cultivate vegetables and fruit gardens. The whole building is well lit by electricity. One kitchen is used for all the cooking and is under the supervision of an officer prisoner of war. A dentist visits the camp once a week. The Camp Leader is Major P. W. Wright.

Donor: Mr. Ian Vaudrey, 2004

CASERTA.—Visited 15th May, 1942.

Two wooden buildings of Caserta Hospital are occupied by British prisoners of war. There are terraces and gardens where the prisoners of war can walk when they are able. The hospital is staffed by nuns and medical orderlies and has all the necessary equipment. British patients receive the same food as the Italian patients and are said to be well treated. Books and games are to be sent them and loud speakers are to be installed in the men's quarters.

MILITARY HOSPITAL, CLEMENTINA, BERGAMO, is at Bergamo, a large town in Northern Italy, north-east of Milan.

CAMPO P.G. 98 . . . P.M. 3550, is at Ragusa in Sicily. This number was wrongly ascribed to Military Hospital, Lucca.

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

The provision of intellectual and recreational facilities to alleviate the boredom and frustration of confinement is perhaps no less important to the prisoner than sufficient food and clothing.

To assist the morale and the mental welfare of prisoners the International Red Cross in conjunction with the Consultative Committee has an organised service which provides books and study courses for the prison camps. The main part of this work for British prisoners of war is carried out from the Bodleian Library at Oxford. This department works in close co-operation with the Consultative Committee at Geneva on which sit representatives of the International Red Cross, the International Y.M.C.A. and the European Student Relief Fund, all organisations which have Delegates who visit the camps and can cable urgently needed requests direct to Oxford. The International Student Service in Britain passes on all requests for books and study courses and also collects money and books from the Universities.

They co-operate with the Occupational Therapy Association by sending out the necessary books when they provide handicraft material for prisoners in hospital through the Invalid Comforts Section of the Red Cross. They have also sent out the text books for a candidate studying Occupational Therapy, one of the few professions for which there are likely to be more openings after the war than trained personnel to fill them.

The Department continually receives enquiries with reference to careers and employment generally after the war and passes on such information as it is now possible to obtain from the professional, technical or commercial organisations concerned; and is in touch with the Committees set up to deal with the question.

Question Forms.

The system for study courses is for blue question forms to be sent out to the camps for prisoners to fill them in, stating what subjects interest them and what standard they have already reached. On these particulars the Recommenders, who are all experts in their subjects, choose the books needed and consult the relevant Institutions or Educational bodies with reference to Study Courses and Examinations. Most camps have established libraries under a librarian, and in many cases now applications are being received for sets of books for the classes that are being held. At an officers' camp, for instance, Oflog VI B, there is a "University" divided into six "faculties"—Agriculture, Arts, Commerce and Industry, Engineering, Languages and Law. "It has," to quote a letter from the Officer in Charge, "about 20 sub-divisions: Arts cover History, English and Philosophy as well as the more practical forms; there are 22 languages being taught—even Albanian and Tamil. As you can imagine, the instructors are of a very high standard and anything like accountancy, banking, farming and law can be taught by practical experts: We have a Law don from Trinity, Cambridge."

At a camp for other ranks, Stalag VIII B, there is also a School, from which the C.Q.M.S. writes: "It is the only organised English school in Germany and was founded by myself in September, 1941. The syllabus contains 63 different subjects among which are Electric Engineering, Diesel Engineering, Auto Engineering, Accountancy, Shorthand, English, Maths., Geography, Advertising, Music, German, French, Spanish, Greek, Latin, Anatomy, Physiology, First Aid etc. All the 41 tutors are qualified men. The tutors for the last three mentioned subjects are qualified R.A.M.C. doctors. I myself am a Headmaster in civil life. The number of students who attend classes daily is 987, whilst the total number of men that the school deals with is 15,000—19,000, as we are now endeavouring to help those out on working parties As

you are probably aware, the growth of the school has been helped considerably by your aid with regard to books; without these it could never have been a success."

Examinations. Arrangements are now completed which make it possible for candidates to take examinations in the camps in Germany under proper invigilation and for papers to be returned to this country to be marked by the recognised examiners of the educational body concerned. In this way a prisoner will be able to qualify completely in a given subject while in camp, which is a great incentive to continued study and should be an immense help to him in his post-war career. To date about 600 candidates have applied to sit for a variety of examinations being held from April onwards. By far the largest number of these are for the external examinations of the University of London, mostly for Matriculation and Intermediate, besides a few sitting for the B.Sc., B.A. and B.Com Finals; one for the Diploma of Public Administration and one for the LL.B. The subject that comes next is Engineering, then the technical examinations of the City and Guilds London Institute, Banking, the Royal Society of Arts (mostly Languages and Shorthand). There are also candidates for examinations in Horticulture, Law, Accountancy, Insurance, Advertising, Surveying, Town Planning, Architecture, Transport and Shipping, and for the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, and a wide range of subjects is covered for which a few applications have been made, such as Brewing, Swimming and Grocery. The School of Oriental Languages (London) kindly set special papers in Malay for three officers in Oflog VI B, and has promised to undertake to set papers in Chinese and Japanese for another officer in the same camp.

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 the Dominion for papers.

We are sending the syllabus of the New Zealand Accountancy Examinations and a supply of suitable books for distribution to prospective candidates, to the office of the New Zealand High Commissioner, London.

First Successful Candidate.

About 600 men have applied to sit for examinations in various camps on the continent. Rifleman F. L. A. Newman, aged 23 is the first British soldier in the present war to pass a professional examination. He was taken prisoner in 1940 while serving with the Queen Victoria Rifles in the defence of Calais. He studied for this examination—the Preliminary Examination of the Chartered Institute of Shipbrokers—with text books and a study course sent to him through the Educational Books Section.

The examination was held in the only "quiet place" suitable—the dentist's surgery.

Five out of nine men who entered for the Senior General Examination of the Royal Horticultural Examination have passed.

Scripts have arrived in Britain recently from Stalag XX A and Ilag VIII.

Large quantities of stationery are required in the camps. This is a difficult request to fulfil, but it is hoped that arrangements discussed with the Swedish Red Cross may result in paper being sent direct from Sweden to the camps.

Camp Libraries.

Reports received show that the majority of camps in Germany are now furnished with excellent libraries, with satisfactory equipment, and are in charge of librarians who show great aptitude in supplying books to working detachments outside the main camps.

A large reserve of books of all kinds has been built up in Geneva, apart from those which are sent by the Educational Books Section specifically for educational purposes. For this reserve, the Indoor Recreations Section has already dispatched 25,000 volumes and is adding to it at the rate of over 500 volumes a week. Regular supplies are sent direct to the camps in addition.

Book Parcels.

Parcels of books can be sent to prisoners of war. These must only be new books and must be sent direct by the book-

sellers to the **Head Office of the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office, 96 Tory Street, Wellington.**

These parcels all have to be censored and great care should be taken that no books are included that are likely to be contrary to the censorship regulations. We cannot give you a complete list of the prohibitions but the following gives some indication of what is permitted and what is not permitted:

Anything to do with the Army, Navy or Air Force, this includes any Journals which might have new Electrical or Engineering ideas. Anything to do with E.P.S. or Fire Fighting Services or Automobile Guides or Handbooks, also Maps.

All political books or books giving suggestions of any kind of escape or making mechanisms for the transmission of messages. All anti-German books or books by Jewish authors. Some of Kipling's and G. B. Shaw's books are not allowed.

In general, scientific works and theoretical instruction books are admissible so far as they serve abstract theoretical teaching, and are not written by Jews or emigres, contain no maps and correspond with German interests.

All books by the following authors are prohibited:

Baum, Vicki	Marshall, James Lenor G.
Beaconsfield, Lord (Disraeli)	and Robert
Bergson, H.	Marx, Karl
Bromfield, Louis	Maurois, Andre
Ertz, Susan	Nicholson, Mrs. C. A.
Flecker, James Elroy	Oppenheim, E. Phillips
Fleming, Edward Lascelles	Rice, Elmer
Foerster, Fr. Wilhelm	Sassoon, Siegfried
Frankau, Gilbert and Pamela	Sidgwick, Cecily
Freeman, Joseph and Austin	Sienkiewicz, Henry
Golding, Louis	Sinclair, Upton
Gollancz, H. Sir I. and Victor	Spender, Harold Stephen
Guitry, Sacha	Swinerton, Frank
Hurst, Fannie	Stern, Gladys Bronwyn
Jacob, Naomi	Wells, H. G.
	Zweig, Arnold and Stefan

NEW ITALIAN RULES.

Cabled advice has been received that prisoners of war in Italy will in future not be permitted to receive any shirts other than khaki coloured. This applies even to Naval and Air Force prisoners of war.

Civilian boots and shoes are also definitely banned for prisoners in Italy, but Army boots, canvas shoes with rubber soles and indoor slippers may be sent.

The Prisoners of War Enquiry Office will have 800 khaki shirts available about the middle of January for parcels being forwarded to prisoners of war in Italian camps. Next-of-kin who cannot obtain a khaki shirt and who desire to take advantage of this arrangement should apply immediately to the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office, Tory Street, Wellington, supplying full details of the name and camp address of the prisoner for whom the shirt is intended. When the shirts are allocated next-of-kin will be advised as to the cost of same and will forward postal notes in the same manner as for the purchase of chocolate. The shirts will be added to the next-of-kin quarterly parcels at the packing centres.

The Day's Work in the Next-of-kin Packing Centre

I work in the Packing Department of Next-of-Kin Parcels at the Head Office of Prisoners of War Activities, Tory Street, Wellington. Here personal parcels are repacked and censored before being sent on their long journey to the prisoners of war. Voluntary workers from the Red Cross and St. John Organisations do this work. From twelve to twenty women work three days a week at long trestle tables re-packing and sewing up the parcels. Several men give invaluable service too.

My job is to examine the parcels before passing them over to the censor. First of all I look at the label to see if it has been properly filled in with the name of the prisoner on the front and the sender on the back.

Many of the parcels come tied with so many knots that the string is useless for further use. String is hard to procure and if more care was used in tying them we could use the string again. Sometimes a parcel comes in my hands all carefully sewn up. Every stitch of this must be undone which is a great waste of time that can ill be spared.

Next I look at the official card inside and put the date of receipt on it. Then I see that the list has been properly filled in. Sometimes next-of-kin do not fill this in in duplicate. This involves much waste of time because I must then fill in the second sheet for them. One of the slips is filed in the office with the clothing dockets and clothing coupons pinned to it, the other goes with the parcel. The slip is handed to the clerk who checks up to see what amount of chocolate and clothing has been arranged for. She hands me the docket for the clothing or chocolate which I place in the parcel concerned and I then pass the opened parcel on to the censor. To-day I have already put more than a hundred tins of chocolate into the parcels as well as many articles of woollen clothing.

I think it advisable to stress that even when parcels are sent with London labels, woollen comforts and chocolate are added by us, here in New Zealand, during the process of censoring and re-packing.

You should see the things that some people send, they don't seem to consider the regulations at all. Lately many have been sending toothpaste and shaving cream in tubes, hair oil in glass containers, ointment and insect powder. All these things are forbidden and their removal makes additional work. This morning I opened a parcel containing cigarette papers, jam and tobacco. Please remember that no food, with the exception of solid slab chocolate, is allowed in these parcels. Then, in spite of instruction, next-of-kin will include written messages. You must remember that enemy censors examine the parcels too and that no written messages must be sent or anything like a pattern on a garment that might mean a code. All printed matter is forbidden in these quarterly parcels.

When any of these contraband articles have to be removed from a parcel I cross them off the list and I try, from stocks we hold from the Comforts Section of the Joint Council, to make up the deficiency in weight so that a prisoner may not be the loser from the lack of attention paid to instructions by the next-of-kin.

The Censor's first thought when he looks at a parcel is to see whether it is for Germany or Italy. Only khaki shirts and khaki pullovers may be sent to Italy, then too, Italy forbids the sending of civilian boots or walking shoes. Trousers are not allowed to be sent to either Germany or Italy. The Censor then looks at the list and goes carefully through to see that nothing contraband slips by.

We despatch sometimes as many as 80 to 90 parcels a day, our record day was 115 parcels.

Some parcels arrive in a very sad state, partly due to careless packing, partly due to the poor quality of the brown paper and string. Small things should be wrapped in a handkerchief or a ditty bag, if one is being included. Lay out the two largest garments, such as pyjama legs and a towel cross-wise; put the articles in the middle, and wrap the larger garments round them. Boot blacking is not a good traveller and enjoys leaving large black stains on everything in a parcel. Sticking plaster should be put round the join of the tin. Razor blades are another source of trouble; they often arrive unwrapped, and the poor examiner gets cut. The other day a blade razor was sent. This is strictly forbidden, as are also any scissors other than small nail scissors.

It would be a very good thing if each next-of-kin would include a piece of unbleached calico in the parcel as this simplifies the final packing. We understand that ends of unbleached calico can be bought without coupons if they are expressly intended for sewing up soldiers' parcels.

The parcel is finally checked. Each of the women who are packers are well versed in the regulations and often query articles which may or may not be sent. Great credit is due to them for the interest and enthusiasm with which they carry on this quite arduous work.

The parcel is weighed and must not exceed 11 pounds, including all packing. It is very annoying to find parcels overweight. Senders do not seem to realise that they must allow for the extra weight incurred by the addition of one or more tins of chocolate. Each 4/- tin of chocolate weighs two pounds.

CLOTHING IN SERVICE COLOURS.

As there appears to be a tendency to tighten up restrictions on clothing in many camps in Germany and Italy, next-of-kin are advised to send woollen clothing in service colours only, as otherwise these garments may be confiscated by the camp authorities.

Prisoners Who Have Lost Limbs

Taken from the August number of the International Review.

Orthopedic Mission to Germany. In order to help those British prisoners of war in Germany who have had limbs amputated and who have not artificial limbs, the International Committee decided to procure these for them. To this end, a mission composed of doctors and mechanics, specialists in orthopedics, and being of Swiss nationality, went into the German prison camps to take the necessary measurements for the manufacture of the artificial limbs.

The German authorities agreed to this procedure and the British Government has declared itself willing to supply the necessary materials for their manufacture in Switzerland. All the expenses involved will be borne by the British Red Cross.

The total number of amputees to which this action applies is 433, of whom 272 are amputations of the leg, and 171 amputations of the arm.

The mission, comprising the Doctors Paul Martin and Ed. Burckhardt, and Mm. Oscar Egg and Alfred Freigiburghaus, orthopedic mechanics, arrived at Berlin on the 25th July, and there commenced its activities.

Entertainments

Music in the Camps.

During the past year, more than 2,200 musical instruments have been sent to Camp Leaders by the Indoor Recreations Section of the Prisoners of War Department—formerly the Fiction and Games Section, but renamed to bring its designation more closely into accord with its extended activities.

The section has dispatched hundreds more instruments to prisoners on behalf of their relatives and friends.

The Harmonica Displaced.

The supply of harmonicas, one of the more popular instruments, the Section reports, has now ceased. Instead, banjos, ukeleles, flutinas and ocarinas are being provided. The majority of the instruments which are sent to the camps are such as can be easily mastered, but to individual prisoners whose musical abilities have been brought to the notice of the Section and who can therefore be expected to put them to the best possible use, more expensive instruments have been sent—piano accordions, violins, clarinets, flutes and guitars.

Orchestras and Scores.

Complete orchestras of fourteen instruments have also been dispatched. Eight were sent in 1941 to camps in Germany. Six have now been sent to prisoners of war camps in Italy and three to Hospitals in Germany, where it is hoped that they will give pleasure to seriously ill and wounded prisoner patients. The demand for music of all kinds is overwhelming. Scores for military bands, symphony orchestras and small orchestral and dance combinations have been supplied. String quartets and solo pianists have been provided with suitable compositions. Requests for modern dance orchestrations can never be fully satisfied. Instrumental and vocal scores of operas and operettas suitable for amateur production have been furnished. Music for male voice choirs is in constant demand, and community song books have been provided in large quantities.

Most of the music has been purchased, but the Section has received welcome gifts from colleges and Schools of Music and individuals.

Amateur dramatic societies have been formed in many camps, and the demand for plays has greatly increased. Quantities of acting editions have been sent by the Section, as well as manuals on theatrical production, make-up and the preparation of scenery.

Indoor Games.

The provision of indoor games, especially for the long winter evenings in the camps, is an important and again an expanding feature of the work of the Section. Very large consignments have been sent in bulk to Geneva for distribution

to the camps by the World Alliance of the Y.M.C.A. under agreement between that body and the International Red Cross Committee. Playing cards remain the most popular item. The needs of the Italian camps have been specially studied. Thanks to the efforts of the above-mentioned bodies, delivery of games and books has been expedited to the prisoners' camps in Italy, and they should soon be as well supplied with them as are the camps in Germany which have been in existence for more than two years.

Blimey Seniorita.

Some of the shows the prisoners put on in the camps have inspired titles. "Blimey Seniorita" is a notable example. In Stalag IX C. they are ambitiously planning a touch of Broadway and Piccadilly Vaudeville, with a big slap up show to finish the season.

An Artistic Race.

One boy writes very enthusiastically from Stalag VII A. He had been to a French exhibition in one of the barracks. It was an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, models, arts and crafts, etc. He says "words fail me in trying to describe it, the French are a very artistic race. Last week I went to a French review and what a show. You wouldn't credit it. The females I assure you honoured your sex and many envious eyes were cast by love-forsaken prisoners of war. The stage, scenery, costuming and lighting effects equalled many good operas." One scene, the writing of the Vienna Waltz, was marvellous. The whole show was accompanied by an orchestra of 50."

Stalag VIII B. has also held an Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Stalag XVIII D. has received a large quantity of musical instruments as well as a cinematograph. They are now awaiting films. Films are shown almost every week in one of the hospitals, they talk of having seen "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "White Horse Inn."

At Stalag XVIII A. they have a chess club and hold bridge tournaments. They have some splendid talent and have a concert every week from their accordion band. In fact one of the boys says the band is "super."

Stalag XVIII B. has a really good dance band and seems to have a plentiful supply of indoor games. They mention darts, housey-housey, dominoes, cards, snakes and ladders, lexagon and others.

B.B.C. War Correspondent.

The Italian camps are gradually getting more entertainments organised. Campo P.G. 59 recently put on two plays and they have been having concerts. Eddie Ward, the B.B.C. war correspondent, was taken prisoner in Italy. He and another journalist put on a revue in a camp in Italy.

P.G. 78, one of the older established camps, has a very talented actor who recently played parts from Shakespeare. The boys said it was a marvellous show. They also have some very good pianists and have classical piano recitals.

P.G. 65 is hoping soon to have its own cinema, there is a New Zealander there who has had long experiences running cinematograph shows. They have a "Brains Trust," have general knowledge questions and spelling bees.

Sport

It is quite possible to keep healthy in a prison camp. In proof of this we would cite the fact that in an inter-regimental seven-a-side Rugby football competition in Oflag VI. B. the winners were a R.A.F. team who had been prisoners for over 2½ years. The team consisted of two Englishmen, two Scots, two Canadians and a New Zealander.

A "Gymkana" held in this camp included all sporting events in running as well as side shows and bands.

Boxing is very popular among the sailors at Marlag and Milag. The boxing schools train every night. One prisoner is the feather and light-weight champion of Jamaica, who is described as a very fast tough darky with a terrific punch.

The men at this camp ran a fortnight's sports meeting in June, with running, jumping, boxing, also an eight-hour cricket test between England and Australia.

From Stalag IX. C. we have the sad tale of a lad who was knocked out in the semi-final of the ping-pong tournament. The prize was a meat roll.

Cricket is played at Stalag VII. A., all their gear has been supplied by the Red Cross. Their net, which is a first-class job, was made from the string from the Red Cross food parcels

Volley ball, hand-ball, deck quoits, deck tennis are all played and some of the camps are very keen on wrestling.

Sport is very popular at Campo P.G. 78 (Sulmona), but the cricket is not very M.C.C. Apparently the pitch has a gradient of one in four, there is one wicket (at the top of the hill) and "you can be caught out off the roof or the walls of the huts around."

Levels seem to present difficulties at other camps in Italy. They tell us at P.G. 35 that they are busy levelling a football and basketball pitch and that they play a game of football every evening, "but it'll be better when the full pitch is finished."

Blind Prisoners of War

A letter was received by the mother of Sgmn. T. R. H. Wood, a blinded prisoner of war from the Invalid Comforts Section, London, from which we give you the following extracts:

"We have received a report on your son's medical condition from the British eye specialist, a prisoner of war, who is in charge of the eye cases at Stalag IX. A/H, and we are requested by him to let you know about it.

"First of all we would tell you that there is a Braille school at the same place where they are being taught on St. Dunstan lines to conquer blindness, and in the same building there is an eye treatment centre, which this British eye specialist prisoner of war is in charge of."

Then follows a medical report and a most satisfactory report of the actual progress Sgmn. Wood has made in Braille and what he is now capable of doing in reading, typing, shorthand. He plays the harmonica very well and also plays bridge with Braille cards.

Items of Interests

New Zealand Food Parcels.—These have arrived at a civilian camp in occupied France. The following letter was received from the Red Cross liaison officer in the British internment camp at Vittel, Vosges:—

"On behalf of this camp I am writing to express our deep appreciation for the parcels your organisation is sending us from time to time. It would be impossible to describe the joy these good things give to the internees, and how much they appreciate the tea, milk and other delicacies. We only wish that all who send donations to the New Zealand Red Cross could realise the pleasure their gifts are bringing to the lives of others."

Parcel for XVIII. A., 10 months in transit.—We are informed that a next-of-kin parcel, posted in Dunedin in August, 1941, received in London on the 6th November, 1941, arrived in Stalag XVIII. A. in Germany in June, 1942. This information may interest next-of-kin who have had acknowledgments of parcels in London, but no information concerning the same parcels from prison camps.

International Red Cross Message Form.—Next-of-kin of soldier prisoners availing themselves of the special International Red Cross message form issued by P.O.W. Enquiry Offices are warned that they must not mention the unit or regiment of their relative in a prison camp. The P.O.W. Office has been re-typing these messages, but on account of the work involved this cannot be continued, and incorrect messages will in future be returned to sender.

Wireless in Italian Prison Camps.—On the 6th July the President of the Prisoners of War Enquiry Section of the Italian Red Cross advised the International Committee that the installation of wireless and loud-speakers was being proceeded with in all Italian prisoner of war camps. The Camp Commandants would control the transmissions which would include German communiques as well as musical programmes.

Ever-ready Razor Blades are forwarded in bulk from the High Commissioner's Office, London, to German and Italian prison camps. They are addressed to the Camp Leaders who attend to their distribution.

Cousins meet in Stalag Luft III.—Our New Zealander saw a young man with "Iain Macdonald" written on his braces and asked him if he was from Glasgow. Can't you visualise how they gripped one another's hand; they were cousins coming from Scotland and New Zealand to meet as prisoners in Stalag Luft III.

Prisoners' Kits.—Where next-of-kin can produce a letter from a soldier prisoner wherein he expresses concern about his personal belongings and the hope that they have been recovered and that the next-of-kin will receive same, the Direc-

tor, Base Records, accepts this as a direction from the soldier and hands over the effects if they have been received.

Main Source of News. The main source of up-to-date news in the German prison camps is from R.A.F. personnel who arrive in the camps from time to time.

Internment Camp at Bangkok.—In a letter written on the 4th November, 1942, it was stated that the health of the camp was good and the morale high. The internees were kept busy with camp tasks. School had been started for the children. There is a small library and though food is not very good or in over-generous quantity it is supplemented by friends outside the camp. There are four doctors and several nurses among the internees.

Words of Appreciation. The International Red Cross, Geneva, sends on these words of appreciation concerning consignments of food parcels from New Zealand which have been issued at Stalag XXB., Germany. The Camp Leader writes:—

"These parcels are perfection in quality and are very greatly appreciated by all the British prisoners of war here. I should be grateful if steps could be taken to let the donors know our feelings, and at the same time perhaps you could express our sincere thanks for every good work which is done by them on our behalf."

Air Mail.—A prisoner writes from Campo P.G. 52 "Am sending this by air mail service, just inaugurated. If you have sent me socks and a sweater, please don't bother to send anything else because I will have enough clothes for the duration and any more will be an embarrassment." This letter was written on 18th September and would certainly seem to indicate that good supplies of clothes have been issued to the prisoners.

Invalid Comforts Section. We received advice from London in September that a reserve stock had been despatched to Geneva of 40,000 invalid food units and 1,400 medical units. We explained in the last pamphlet that these food and medical units are designed by the War Office medical authorities to meet the general needs of sick and wounded prisoners.

Savoury Sandwich. Recipe from Campo P.G. 52. . . . "Here is a savoury sandwich for your next bridge supper—sardines and honey—if any of your guests recover, let me know and I will send another recipe."

Acknowledgment Cards for Food Parcels.—Several thousands of these acknowledgment cards have come into this office during November and December. They are from almost all the German and Italian prison camps where our New Zealand boys are detained and, for the most part, are dated August and September.

LETTERS TO PRISONERS OF WAR.

The High Commissioner's Office in London has been informed by the Swiss Post Office that, in response to complaints made regarding delay in the delivery of correspondence to British prisoners of war, the German authorities stated that the work of their censors was hindered by bad writing and by the length of the letters received.

Next-of-kin are therefore requested to thoroughly study the instructions given on pages 1 to 5 in the Prisoners of War Official Information Booklet.

PRISONERS OF WAR LETTERS

OFLAG III. C.

HAROLD JOHNSON, 9th to 16th Aug.

I went down to the Post Office on Friday and received another cigarette parcel from N.Z. House. I have to go down again in the morning for a clothing parcel. Whether it is from home or N.Z. House I don't know as yet. Here is a commission for your Dad. Please draw £10 of my money and send it to the Red Cross with my thanks and appreciation.

It is great the way you can adapt yourself to anything. This life is a complete break from anything I have ever met with before, but having settled into a routine I find it not unpleasant, although not too pleasant. I fill in my time with a bit of reading, a bit of studying, a bit of exercise and eating and sleeping. My studying has undergone a slight change now. I am doing a bit of music theory at the school here, and

also studying German and Italian. Also keeping up my French by reading and speaking. Then for a change I help some English chaps here with French, Latin and maths. I have also a vague idea of taking up Spanish, so you see the old brain shouldn't stagnate.

This letter was written from Stalag VIII. B.

STAFF SGT. A. J. REID, 4th Nov.

Please note new number and camp, very large but comfortable. Received your second parcel a few weeks back (March parcel); contents 100 per cent.

OFLAG VI B.

LIEUT. T. N. S. WATT, 30th Aug.

We are being moved again, and sent to various places most of us going of Oflag VII B. Rather looking forward to the move, anything to change the monotony. We know that wherever we go it can't be anything like this place was when we first plithered and bogged our way in here. We have just got this place into some semblance of order and our flower gardens are a bright, clean spot. Poppies, zinnias and godetia seeds were sold to us by the locals and have grown well.

10th Sept. This may be the last you will get for a while as we are moving to Oflag VII B. The Air Force have gone to their camp, and most of the Army to their destination, we are last.

CAPT. NOEL CARDINER N.O.K.

It is amazing how the sun raises the spirits of Prisoners of War. I wander about all day until bedtime in only a pair of underpants and am very brown. Have been playing hockey every day and one feels grand after a shower following hard exercise. Haven't had any food parcels for months. Could you get in touch with someone in Egypt do you think, to send me an occasional parcel. They are very easy to get from there. Many New Zealanders here have had July air mails, and I had only one July air mail letter.

CAPT. M. G. WADEY.

I received my first-of-kin parcel posted in Sept., 1941, on August 3rd and everything was intact except a pair of slippers, which had evidently been removed.

LIEUT. H. J. RADFORD, 4/9/42.

Sorry only a card this time but no letters issued yet. Have just completed packing preparatory to moving to Oflag VII B. One party has already gone and also the R.A.F. and most of the older officers have gone to different camps. Received letter of 6th June and also my February parcel.

STALAG III D.

CAPT. HAMISH NEALE, 17th Sept.

I now have six letters of yours to answer at once. As I have told you none came for three months and then suddenly they all arrived. I shall answer them each in turn so it will take some weeks. Your most recent was written on 18/7/42 (just 2 months coming). I have now had three of the parcels you have sent and am now well equipped for the approaching winter. You need have no worries about me—with plenty of clothing and a coke heater I am as snug as the proverbial bug. We get our Red Cross food parcel regularly each week.

STALAG LUFT III.

PILOT OFFICER FRANCIS REECE, 7th Sept.

I received my next-of-kin parcel from England on Aug. 4th and your first one August 30th (this parcel was posted in March). They were both good parcels and intact. I am quite well stocked now except for shoes. The next-of-kin parcel had gym-shoes, and we have Red Cross boots, very heavy, O.K. for winter. It is exceedingly hot. We have fly purges every so often but they soon get in again. We have a play running here now, called the "Dover Road." The players are using our room for dressing. What a shambles. Yesterday afternoon the chap organised a race meeting. Horses were moved along the board by tossing a dice. They had side shows and bookies, hit the nigger, crown and anchor, a magician, fortune-telling. It was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed.

FLIGHT/SGT. K. H. GREGORY.

I had some luck the other day when we held an Athletic meeting, as I got 3rd in both the Shot Putt and Cricket Ball Throw. Two knives and a book were the winnings. The knives are very useful indeed as they have to function as a whole carpenter's shop.

PILOT OFFICER A. D. J. LAMONT.

I have been treated very decently right from when I was picked up after baling out. We got into a spot of bother and there was nothing to do but hit the silk—a wonderful feeling. I am able to write two letters a fortnight, but can receive any number of letters. Struan Robertson is here, also Frank Reece, from Dunedin. This is the place to hear adventure stories—some are really amazing. We have plenty of books and the Red Cross send us parcels once a week. Last week I received a wonderful food parcel from the Argentine Red Cross. Every one is cheerful, and as I said we are treated decently. Our accommodation is not so bad—eight of us to a room. There are quite a few famous chaps here, and I am in a room with some good fellows. We are all cheerful and getting enough food.

STALAG V.B.

CPL. D. W. O'CALLAGHAN, 12th April.

On three sides of us are the four storeys of the Hospital and, of course, in front of us is the barbwire. It is an ideal place for the chaps to get a bit of sunshine and fresh air especially the ones who have been badly wounded or ill for a long time. Since I have been working in the garden I have got back nearly all my old health and strength and am even getting a bit of colour too. We start work soon after eight and knock off at half past five. Two hours for lunch and we get coffee with bread and jam, cheese or sausage, morning and afternoon over at the garden. Our pay comes to seventy pfennigs a day or four marks twenty pfennigs for six days. The trouble is we can't do a terrible lot with it. We have a canteen where we can buy lemonade, soda water, razor blades, pencils, note books, etc. Most of our wants are supplied by the Red Cross in the form of little delicacies that come in the food parcels. Although I am still in Hospital I am no longer a patient. We are kept here to work in the gardens. We are working among glass houses and frames and picking up a few useful tips about the job. Most of the other convalescents do laundry work. Of course the Red Cross had not contacted us at that time or I would not have mentioned it. Soon after that we started getting medical comforts and food parcels. Besides a parcel a week I used to get yeast tablets, cod liver oil and malt and injections of Vit. B. every day until about two months ago (six months altogether).

8th June. I have just finished a piece of tapestry fancy work, about eleven inches by nine, with over eleven thousand stitches in it, worked to look like a village. We have ten new recruits in the garden for a day or so. They are Russian prisoners who have been in Hospital and are now convalescent. I am learning an odd word from them. Some of them can speak a little German so we can understand each other fairly well. Besides two Frenchmen, there are four New Zealanders on the job so that makes the total sixteen now. Four of us were working down near the Neckar river to-day so the Sister let us go in for a swim. On Sundays, instead of going for a walk now, we will go swimming. We have a pretty fair time here with concerts, card tournaments, swimming and plenty of books to read. The work outside makes one fit, otherwise I would get fat on all the food we get from the Red Cross. You probably remember I never got wildly enthusiastic about any of these organisations but I cannot say too much for the old Red Cross. They undoubtedly saved my life and a good few of us who had Beri-beri. At nights and on Sundays we have five hundred, bridge, monopoly and other games to keep us occupied, not to mention concerts which we have alternatively with the French at the week-ends. The orchestra has just lately benefited by a good cornet player. That brings the total to one piano, one saxophone, two violins, one banjo, one guitar and some improvised drums, and, of course, the cornet. We have quite a few good singers and comedians and there are one or two chaps who make wonderful girls, dressed for the part. We have to thank the Sisters for a lot of the props, the rest is bought locally by the proceeds of former shows.

STALAG VII. A.

GUNNER J. D. SHEARER, 7th June.

The weather is fairly hot with a bit of rain, mostly at night. We had one day off last week on account of the wet. Have received another of your letters dated 10/3/42, also another parcel from the N.Z. Red Cross in London, clothes, toilet gear, etc. I am lucky for some of the chaps haven't even got a letter yet.

14th June. Things are going along as usual, had a game of football to-day. The weather is fairly hot. Dawn at about four o'clock and darkness about ten. I am working from seven till five. We get beer and bread at nine in the morning and if they are concreting also in the afternoon. The library here has about 250 or 300 books in it now and some of the chaps are getting parcels of them from England. Still getting our Red Cross parcels and cigarettes. The Aussies here think the N.Z. Red Cross looks after us better than theirs does them.

5th July. Work is going quite well, we have a new boss but he is alright. Still getting our Red Cross parcels each week so are living not so badly. Have quite a few games here now, table tennis, deck quoits, several soccer balls, a rugby ball, cricket bats, etc. all from the Red Cross.

12th July. Well, the second parcel from you has arrived in good condition. The Red Cross parcels are still arriving each week. Whoever sends our parcels from N.Z. must have a good organization as out of all the Aussies here only about three have had parcels from Australia.

SGT. PILOT W. HAYMAN, 28th June.

A batch of fifteen letters arriving together. The weekly Red Cross parcels of food, and three long awaited cigarette parcels have arrived, and have been life savers. Hope you will continue to send lots of chocolate. There is still bags of sport of all sorts possible within a closed camp, every evening and every week end all available spaces are in use for rugby, soccer, volley ball, tennis, cricket, basketball and athletics. By the way England won the first test to-day for the ashes, Verity 71, against Australia's score of 80. The game, by the way, is not popular with the French, who did not know how hard the ball is. Several spectators who tried to stop, as they thought, a rubber ball, have learnt better. One demonstrated his Soccer ability by heading it and woke up quite some time later, it is a wonder he was not killed, the flourish with which he removed his hat before action was simply beautiful. Saw an all male cast review put on by the French, the costumes, scenery and choruses of beautiful damsels were marvellous under the conditions, it would have gone down well anywhere.

19th July. Very glad to say that your first parcel arrived in perfect condition and all correct. My new jersey is the envy of Stalag, and everything was most welcome indeed. Four hundred cigarettes and one from N.Z. House also this week and last week an invalid food parcel, so I am doing pretty well. Saw Pelissa, a French Davis Cup player in action on our court to-day, he was worth watching. A lot of the boys are resplendent in new uniforms, brass buttons complete, but some of us preferred to keep our battle dress and look like veterans.

STALAG VIII B.

Letter received from Capt. J. Borrie, N.Z.M.C., P.O.W. No. 23912, Stalag VIII. B.E./3, Germany, sent to Invalids Comforts Section, B.R.C., and received by them on October 29th.

"To one who has done so much for us here in Germany, I feel that I owe you a letter which might give you some idea of medical life in my camp—E.3 is some 60 kilom. from Stalag VIII. B. and is its largest working party, being numerically a little larger than a battalion. The men, engaged on construction work, are all fairly fit—leading an out-of-doors life. I have between 50 and 60 sick each day, holding sick parades in the evenings. I have a very attractive hospital of 25 beds (three for orderlies) in three rooms, painted green and cream. The patients have single wooden beds, their linen being changed each week. The great majority come sick with colds, diarrhoea, boils and minor accidents sustained at work. Major accidents are fortunately rare. I am proud too of my M.I. room complete with running water and stove for hot water. I have an electric steriliser, three dressing drums I get sterilised in a neighbouring civilian hospital. I was very lucky in bringing a roll of surgical instruments, ophthalmoscope, auroscope and stethoscope into captivity with me, all of which are now invaluable. Here I have been able to buy a B.P. Hb blood sedimentation and urine testing apparatus, besides kidney dishes and a binocular apparatus for examining eyes and lenses for testing for myopia and hypermetropia. It has taken time to get things in order, but now I feel that I can cope adequately with most emergencies."

S. W. G. BREW, 2nd to 8th Aug.

Last Saturday we had a sports meeting and I competed with the N.Z. team and we scored most points. I am in the best of health myself, and being well looked after thanks to the Red Cross. I received the first parcel you posted last Jan-

uary, yesterday. Everything was in order and it wasn't damaged.

PTE. MERVYN GRIFFITH (Wellington), 31st June.

Up the the present I have received 3 parcels from N.Z. House, one of clothing and two cigarettes. The clothing parcel contained the following articles: 1 singlet and underpants, 1 pair socks, pullover, scarf, pair gloves, suit pyjamas and some soap, all of which I much appreciate. Most of the boys from New Zealand have received at least one clothing parcel besides cigarettes.

GUNNER J. R. BARCLAY, 30th Aug.

Very hot to-day, good drying for the clothes. Washed my blankets to-day, and did they need it! For the next fortnight we are going to work on a state farm. Might be a good change. It is much cooler in the forest but even there we work stripped to the waist. It's very hot at night, have not slept under the blanket for a long time. In three day's time we will have been in this country for a year. We have a game of soccer every Sunday night. The white butterflies are bad here. Our cabbage look as if someone had fired a shot-gun into them. The beetroot has done well, and we are having some for tea to-night.

GUNNER S. B. CLARK, 20th Sept.

I have some good news for you this time, your first parcel arrived yesterday and it had been on the way ten months so that makes two that I have received from you. I expect the third will be here in a few weeks. Everything was in splendid order. I think I mentioned in one of my other letters not to send me any more clothing apart from handkerchiefs and socks with plenty of chocolate. I have plenty of clothing to last me for some time as I have had two parcels from New Zealand House besides what you have sent me.

L/B. D. H. OLSEN, 20th Sept.

My second parcel from you arrived yesterday, it was great, blanket was most welcome. Please do not send any more winter underclothes as I now have plenty. The pullover is wonderful, have had quite a lot of mail from you all, also from Auckland and England. Pullover on show tomorrow.

SGT. E. Z. TIPPETT, 16th Aug.

FARMING.

Yesterday I left early in a lorry for another trip in the country to get potatoes. All along the route people were at work in the fields. We saw one or two fine herds of Friesian cattle. The people here farm on rather old fashioned ideas compared with New Zealand, but this is more or less due to climatic conditions. The horses and cattle are housed at night practically alongside the living quarters of the farmer, so that they can easily be fed in the winter from hay and root crops that are stored in a loft overhead. Some of these barns would house thirty or forty animals and quite a few have a passage-way into the house. It was quite a common sight to see a youngster holding a couple of cows by chains while they were feeding and herding a dozen or so geese at the same time. Fences are very rare. I have received two parcels from you and my fourth parcel of 200 cigarettes in each from N.Z. Patriotic. "Like a gift from Heaven."

PTE. GEORGE McDONALD, 23rd Aug.

It gave me great pleasure to receive two clothing parcels two days after my birthday. One was from you and one from New Zealand House. The one from you was sent in February, it contained shoes and pyjamas. The chocolate was in very good condition. Please send no more underwear or handkerchiefs. Could you send some boot polish and brushes, also hair cream of some sort. It puzzles me how they play football in this heat. Mail is starting to come forward again, but so far I have not received any. I think our garden is a failure. What with white butterflies and being planted far too late. Tomatoes seem to grow very well in this climate.

—LLOYD, 19th July to 16th Aug.

Parcels posted February have arrived this week. Also 270 Red Cross parcels and 12,950 cigarettes and more bulk food to come to last 30 of us till November. Don't worry about our treatment, we get treated better than you would believe. Putting on weight fast, boys starting to call me "fatty." We are shifting into new quarters for the winter and I think they will be flash, too. We bought ourselves a new small stove this week for 40 marks (about £2 15s.). It would be a perfect stove for a bach, it's got a top as big as a gas stove and will boil a large mug of water in five minutes, and gives out a great heat. Two visitors from main camp reckon we have

the best camp attached to Stalag VIII. B. Received from Patriotic Society 400 Capstan cigarettes, and they were very welcome.

GNR. W. J. GRIFFITHS, 31st Aug.

Did I ever tell you I had some fun in Greece? I did lots too. Can speak the language fairly well, but of course now I am endeavouring to speak German. Easier than Greek. Space does not allow details of experiences; these will have to wait. We are harvesting now—to-day threshing oats, 7 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. Of course, have done no work for a year or more and am soft, but will soon get hard again. Am jealous of these chaps as they mostly got mail from New Zealand and home. Won't hear from you till about February, 1943.

THIS PRISONER OF WAR WAS MISSING FOR SEVENTEEN MONTHS AND CAPTURED LAST TIME IN ATHENS IN JULY, 1942. HE HAD A HARD TIME IN THE HILLS.

GNR. M. HEAD, 6th to 27th July.

Well, I have done my first day's work as a P.O.W., nice clean easy work in a timber yard. Start one week at 5.30 a.m., next at 2.30 p.m., and finish 10.30 at night. Letters are coming slowly only once a month. Received your parcel and badly needed the clothing and blankets. I also received a parcel of cigarettes from N.Z. House, so am well off for smokes. DVR. A. R. HILL, Wellington, 29th July.

Everything in the garden is lovely and I am putting on weight. The Red Cross are doing really wonderful work for us chaps out here, and please let those responsible know how much we appreciate it. We are working fairly long hours, the work is not hard and makes the time pass quickly. There are about 40 New Zealanders here. I have been doing quite a lot of art work lately and find it a great hobby. Sign-writing and concert scenery keep me really busy.

10th Aug. So far no parcels have arrived for me, but I am still living in hopes—the first N.Z. one should be here now. We had a two-day contest—boxing—in the open this week-end, the band playing between fights. Saturday night we had a dance, and on Sunday an excellent concert. There is plenty of good talent here, shyness is not known, and all the boys are triers. There is a spirit here that is found nowhere else; wherever there is song and laughter you will find the British P.O.W. Humour is a real gift of God, and we know how to make the best of it.

PTE. I. J. TEMPLETON, 1st August.

Talking about clothing parcels, perhaps you may pass on these items as being useful to send—steel mirrors, hair brush, boot brushes, tooth paste, towels (thick, not the thin Army issue), gym shoes (in preference to shoes), braces. Photographs are in great demand and give great pleasure to everyone. I had another swim yesterday evening and found it a great treat. The only trouble was an abundance of mosquitoes dancing attendance all the time. There were some fishermen nearby, but their catch was about as good as ours is frequently—nil. However, they have the supreme optimism of the followers of Isaac Walton. We can still smile and you should hear us singing! You see we have a piano and a concert is arranged every Sunday.

SPR. HENRY SMALLL, 1st August.

Your welcome parcel sent in February arrived this week, and contained everything on the sheet sent with same. The boots are wonderful, the hair brush and towel real comforts. The socks I keep for evening after work. Thank you all. Am nearing the end of the harvesting.

SGT. ROBIN HOOD, 27th July to 3rd Aug.

Have just received a parcel of 200 cigarettes from the N.Z. Patriotic Board, the third such parcel so far, so you will see I don't go short of smokes. Your first parcel sent October 1941 has at last reached me, the slippers, khaki woollen slacks, etc., all being intact after 10½ months of travel. Each night when I get back here, I have a cold shower and change and get into those lovely slippers and slacks and it is "just great" after a hot, sticky day in the cook-house. Made myself a birthday cake out of crushed biscuits and dried fruit, etc., from a Red Cross parcel, and not to be done out of the icing for same, made it with ordinary sugar mixed with margarine.

BOMBR. DEREK GRAINGER, 16th Aug.

I went to church to-day; in fact, I go every Sunday. We all take such an interest in religion here. The three N.Z. padres are doing a good job of work; it's a great sight to see the church packed to the doors every service. I also went to several concerts given by the camp symphony orchestra in the camp theatre; they were very good programmes: Beeth-

oven's Symphonies, Grieg, Dvorak, etc. Major de Clive-Lowe of the N.Z.M.C. is leading violinist, and a very good one too. Our compound borders on a wood and I get up early in the morning and listen to the cuckoos, also saw a little deer the other day. We had a Church of England service for a change, it was taken by Staff Sergeant Gascoyne, who is a lay preacher. All our Anglican padres have gone—Padre Hurst, a New Zealander, and Padre Robinson, an Englishman. We have left two N.Z. Presbyterian padres—Griffiths and Huddleston. It was a great treat to have the Te Deum and Venite, etc., again. I see by the N.Z. House News Sheet that you have had some bad earthquakes. There is a patriotic Scot playing the bagpipes, he's been at it all day and one does get tired of them! I was talking with a Kiwi to-day through the wire in the next compound; he's only been captured two months and strangely enough he comes from Grant Road. The Scot's just murdering "Over the Sea to Skye." By Jove, you'll never need to worry about me in future, because I've become quite a competent cook and I'm sure you could all go away from home and leave me. (Censor put a red tick by this last sentence and wrote in below: "I guess yet, he would prefer you will not. Is it? Ha! Ha!")

L. S. REDSHAW, 15th Aug.

Received one of your parcels yesterday, the one with razor and grey shirt. Gee, it feels good to get a parcel from home (magic word).

DVR. CHARLES F. H. SNELL, 16th Aug.

I have not received mail of any description since I have been taken prisoner. I am working in a sugar-beet factory and so far it is all right, but all jobs are the same. My comrades have been receiving parcels from N.Z. and seeing that I have not received any they have been giving me things like cigarettes and clothing, and it makes one feel uncomfortable in not having anything to repay them with. When mail comes in I am looking forward for one for me, and my heart drops when there is none. If only there were one or two words from home it would buck me up.

S/SGT. A. T. DUNCAN, 13th September.

Some of the New Zealand food parcels have arrived here. They're most popular and a wonderful advertisement for New Zealand. If the green peas in them could possibly be replaced by biscuits, they would, in my opinion, be "the ideal parcel." The method of packing them is similar to the Canadian parcels and is perfect, for they arrive here in excellent condition. These parcels are most important for us, and we indeed feel deeply indebted to all concerned. From the point of view of parcels and other comforts sent to us New Zealanders we are indeed the best off of all prisoners.

STALAG VIII. B.E. 75

L/CPL. R. J. LEONARD, 22nd June to 26th July.

Have I previously told you that now I have the help of an English doctor and I only wonder how I got along before with my little knowledge. I find my job more interesting than ever and I enjoyed it before. Red Cross supplies all coming in again, they have been slack and once again my avoirdupois is creeping up over the pre-war standard. Thanks for the photos, they are my best possessions and a great help at times. During this last week I have received all told 1,020 cigarettes and so I am literally swamped in them. I get plenty of help from those who have given me cigarettes before, so it is gratifying to pay such a valuable asset back. They are our medium of exchange and are very subject to inflation and deflation. Values are controlled by amount of packets coming into camp. Rather humorous, but it makes life go so smoothly. I have not received any clothing parcel from you yet, but they'll arrive in time. The boot slippers are the envy of the camp and on the whole I am better dressed than anyone (I think!) Strange to say, dressing up for Sunday is quite a serious affair and each "gefanganer" takes a pride in "walking out well dressed up on that day. At present we are rehearsing for a concert, yours truly being one of the leads in a musical turn. We have a decent library compiled of books sent from England to different chaps who give them in when read. I weighed myself at the station and I was 12st. 9lb., so there is no need to be concerned about my health. We send our clothes to the laundry—30 pfennig each article. I draw 100 pfennig, or 1 mark, a day from my pay. A mark is worth 1s. 4d. I received last week the March consignment of 200 cigarettes from the N.Z. Patriotic Fund.

STALAG IX. C.

SGT. J. I. B. WALKER, 28th July.

I am quite O.K. thanks to the Red Cross organization. Today we are having a visit from the Swiss Welfare Commission. I have just taken part in a pingpong tournament, hopping about mostly and was knocked out in the semi-final. Very good, too. Just now we have about 250 English here and some of the vaudeville talent is pretty good. The R.A.F. arrivals with the latest news are continually coming in.

27th Aug. We have just had a fresh batch of Red Cross parcels, also Red Cross clothing and boots. Just now our few privileges have been stopped because of an escape. Weather O.K. Our mail was stopped as a reprisal for something, but has now been restored. Not long ago a couple of hundred wounded lads from a big raid in France arrived here, mostly Canadians. Thanks to the good work put in by the English Doctors only two have died. The weather here has been very hot for the last couple of weeks, and has brought an array of wasps about the place. Still plenty of Red Cross parcels—one a week now.

SGT. J. D. HINTON, V.C. (Colac Bay), June and July.

So pleased my first next-of-kin parcel reached me a few days ago, my two mates and myself were just like kids and Father Christmas or Christmas time couldn't come anything near it. It arrived in tip-top order and all required. I'll not attempt to thank you, it was just great. I moved into a new camp a week ago. It's very nice. I'm quite contented, so please do not worry, a chap would indeed be ungrateful if he couldn't take this life at present and I have enjoyed what I have wished for at last, a little freedom, and one of the highlights was a grand walk. I went for almost ten miles. I'll admit I was pleased when I reached camp again. From this you will see life here is really good, and I just look forward to the day when I will return to see you all again. The new camp is still IX C. I received an English mail the other day, also your April letters have arrived. I made a biscuit pudding for tea and for a wonder it tasted just as good as it looked, a big improvement on the cake I told you I made so I'm doing alright in this line.

L/CPL. GORDON LEWIS, 15th June.

I have just returned from a most delightful walk. The countryside is very pretty, simply a mass of wild flowers. About eight of us went accompanied by a German Medical orderly. I have received parcels from the N.Z. Patriotic Sick and Wounded Fund, two parcels of cigarettes, also two parcels from Cairo, with cigarettes, handkerchiefs, socks, etc.—frightfully lucky, aren't I? I only wish I could show my appreciation to the Red Cross, for the wonderful work they are doing, and "doing so well," "excellent." In addition I receive the weekly food parcel without fail, plus 50 cigarettes. The food parcels are all we need, of the best quality and containing all the vitamins necessary. We are twenty-one Medical orderlies, and our parcels when issued are voluntarily handed over to our Sgt. Cook. He manages them, a menu for the week, "ample." The food requiring baking is prepared by him, then sent to the kitchen, modern and spotlessly clean, so you see how well off we are. I cannot say enough for the wonderful parcels of the Red Cross.

SGT. H. M. ENGLISH, 4th July.

Received two letters from you written in March, received April 30th. I am sending you a list of the parcels received. First of all six clothing parcels, contents: socks 13 pairs, shirts 4, underclothing, vests 5, pants 5, pullovers 5, including the special woolen one, pyjamas 2, plenty of chocolate, soap, razor blades, 2 razors, chewing gum, hussif, flannels, combs, hairbrush, polish, tooth paste, brushes, scarves, gloves, everything you have sent I have received. About 20 food parcels and Buster Winstone 200 every month. Clarrie Howard is still here with me, and he receives parcels from home. So you see our little New Zealand syndicate of two men is quite a prosperous affair. I am writing you another letter this mail.

STALAG XVIII. A.

W. B. SHAW Gisborne, 11th Aug.

Please don't get a shock when you receive this little note from your long lost son. I know that you have been looking forward to a letter from me for well over a year. Our boys are nursing me and feeding me up and treating me like a king. Most of the orderlies in the Hospital are boys from

my own unit and are all doing their best for me, a great lot are the boys of the 4th Field Ambulance. I had a year and two months of wandering all over Greece and the border towns trying to get out of the country but to no avail, had malaria very bad and am very low in health and condition at present. I am at the moment about 5 stone in weight and nearly "succumbed" in the winter. You have heard I suppose that over 100,000 Greeks died of starvation during that period, they are having a very tough time.

SGT. G. W. LEIGH, 16th Aug.

The chaps are in great spirits and good physical condition for which we must thank God, and to a large extent that wonderful organisation "The Red Cross." I do quite a lot of reading in my spare evenings and during the week-end, we have books in our library suited to practically every taste. My German is looking up well now, still with practice I will soon have three languages at my command.

ALL SHARE.

ALFRED GOULDER BIRD, 6th Sept.

I received your letter of Dec. 3rd, 1941, and the 1st and 2nd next-of-kin parcels. The first parcel I had on the 28th Feb., 1942, and the second on 5th Aug., 1942. The clothes were very good indeed and will be appreciated very much this coming winter. I am one of the lucky ones here having received four clothes parcels while many here have had none. The last parcel I had I gave it all away and every man in the hut who had had no clothes sent got a pair of socks, vest or shirt, etc. each. Roy Setters is here and is fine and well. He has only been a P.O.W. for eight weeks for he roamed about Greece for 13 months.

PTE. C. V. TURNER, 9th Aug.

I received my first parcel from you. It is a long time since I had any letters. I am still getting plenty of cigarettes from the Red Cross.

SPR. J. R. WEBB, 9th Aug.

I have not had any mail or parcels for a couple of weeks now as there has been a holdup with them. I have been to a German doctor with my ear and he has done it a lot of good. I would like you to send some books to read and some playing cards.

PTE. M. H. KOCH, 12th July.

I received one parcel from home, the second by your letters. I have plenty of clothes now I only want gloves and boots. I am short of wool for darning, but let us hope the war is over before I need it.

STALAG XVIII. B.

CPL. ROBT. A. ANDERSON, 10th May.

Now wear nothing but a pair of shorts when working. We have been planting crops all week, and have now finished the maize and nearly all the spuds. Last night we all went down to the other lager to collect our new battledress uniforms which the Red Cross have sent. Only one pair of new boots came here, size 11, and here my big plates of meat came in handy. Even though I am far from home I've got a good grip on the earth. More new boots are coming next month. Also to-day, meat, honey, chocolate and sugar came from the Argentine, and nuts and dried fruit from Turkey.

21st Aug. Have been on various odd jobs, shovelling coal, carting mail, etc. Lately we have been able to buy tomatoes, water melons in the canteen the French prisoners manage. Last Wednesday we shifted the Red Cross Magazine to a new building. The job took all day. We have a fair sort of library here, and quite a few musical instruments. Last Sunday the French prisoners put on a Fair which was quite a good show, especially as they are handicapped for material. Concerts occur about twice a week. The food is better than when I was here last year and with our Red Cross parcels we have plenty to eat. Besides the camp newspaper we also receive at regular intervals, approximately every month, bulletins of home news from N.Z. and Australia, sent via London. For sports we have basketball and cricket, but the old "two-up" is still by far the most popular.

ROUTINE.

GNR. G. C. IRVINE, 9th Sept.

We are counted each morning at 7.30, then we draw boiling water from the cook-house to make our tea for breakfast which generally consists of bread and jam. Dinner is at 12 when we

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draw potatoes, cabbage, etc., and heat up something from the parcels. At 3.30 we are again counted, and 4 o'clock draw more water for tea. At 7.30 again we get water for supper. We must be in our billets by nine and lights out at ten. All the rest of the time is taken up with cricket, volley ball, handball, deck-quoits, boxing and wrestling. We have a small gym. I have been doing quite a bit of wrestling lately—keeps my weight down. Our billets are good. About 160 to each building divided up into rooms of various sizes. We have six New Zealanders and three Aussies in our room. Each room has a little stove. Each building has its own lavatories and washing rooms. We get a food parcel each week and fifty cigarettes from the Red Cross. Have now had three clothing parcels from you, nine cigarette parcels from the Patriotic, one food parcel from Egypt.

H. F. WITTEN, 23rd Aug.

This Stalag XVIII. B. is really first class as regards living quarters and conditions. Rooms are large and plenty of air, beds are most comfortable and bedding is more than adequate, furniture is excellent and sanitary conditions first class, there being flush lavatories and a good bathroom (wash-basins). Hot showers are given once or twice a week for which we parade round the barracks. Food with Red Cross parcels is ample. The New Zealanders are the envy of all the other camps—cigarettes, tobacco parcels arrive regularly, while the clothing parcels arrive more often for us than most. The parcels arranged by the Patriotic Society are really top-hole. We appreciate the educational books the Red Cross supplies.

STALAG 306 XVIII. D.

PTE. J. D. MACKENZIE, 16th Aug.

Mind you, apart from usual things we have nothing much to complain of. Life is monotonous, we work hard all day—15 hours—and catch fleas all night. You mention Red Cross parcels. Yes, we thank God for them, and please never pass one of their boxes. I got your third parcel last Saturday, 8th August. Talking about Red Cross parcels I have just cooked a lovely Yorkshire pudding in our new oven. I put a whole packet of raisins in it and it was a beauty.

TPR. A. M. PHILLIPS.

I have received your first parcel. I am well off for clothes now except boots. I am having to wear wooden clogs and a lot of the English soldiers here are having boots sent from England. I would like you to send me a pair if you could, they would be very welcome. There has not been much mail from N.Z. for some time. I am still getting along all right on the farm here.

SGT. W. LINDER, 2nd May.

It is not so bad as one would think being in a prison camp. The Red Cross look after us well and we have really no complaints as regards treatment from our guards. We have now a well-stocked library which I can assure you is well patronised. The books are nearly all a gift from the Red Cross Society. Basketball is in full swing, and some very hard matches have been played to the enjoyment of everyone. We have been having concerts twice a week, and some really good talent has been discovered within the camp. Chess, draughts, cards, etc. (all gifts from the Red Cross) are played with great zest at night, so altogether we have plenty of recreation. We all do a certain amount of work (sergeants and above needn't unless they wish). I myself am second in command of our camp police, and I help to give out the Red Cross packets of which we get one a week each.

CPL. T. G. McREYNOLDS (Wellington), 2nd July.

I had a parcel of pipe tobacco from the Red Cross. I am working in the Red Cross Department. I get 18½ marks a month. N.C.O.'s don't have to work, you can if you like. I find it better to do a little, it helps one to keep fit and not grow lazy. There is a good bit of N.Z. mail in to-night.

8th July. Please don't send any more parcels, I have plenty and two large ones from the N.Z. Red Cross this last few months. I have given clothes to some of my mates, who have not been so lucky as I. It is marvellous who one meets in a place like this—earls, lords, sirs, and God knows who else. They may be somebody when they are home, but here they are just mugs like the rest of us. I see there is another parcel of smokes on the notice board from the N.Z. Red Cross for me.

12th July. I suppose you wonder how we keep ourselves clean. Well, we have hot showers every day and cold showers in the wash-shed. We get soap in our Red Cross parcels, so there is no need to be dirty.

17th July. I had one more parcel of smokes from N.Z. Red Cross this morning, that is 12 parcels of 200 a time since I have been a prisoner.

8th August. We have a ping-pong table here now, there is a contest on of all the players in the camp. We have a cup for the winner suitably engraved, it is not a silver one, it is made from an old bully beef tin. Went out on a truck to take Red Cross parcels to some of the boys working away from the camp, then later took the mail up the town, of course we have a guard with us, but nevertheless I did enjoy it. We were transferred to another camp many miles away, and I never saw anything like it in my life, the scenery was wonderful, but a few of us came back to work in the Red Cross Dept.

23rd August. This week-end was a lucky one for me. I started sorting Red Cross parcels and found one for myself from the N.Z. Red Cross, a lovely clothes parcel.

PTE. R. G. GALLY, 28th June.

Sunday is here, which means a few hours off for us farm workers. So far I am liking the work despite the long hours. Our main job is hoeing. Each farm has big plots of spuds, maize, turnips, wheat, corn, barley and other vegetables. All these have to be hoed two or three times a year and all by hand. Then there is the harvesting of the corn and wheat and the hay-making. Most of the farmers cut their crops with scythes. The cows and horses are kept in stalls all the year round and they have to be fed and cleaned out three times a day. We have two horses, four cows, three calves and three steers. We are paid every month in special Lager money for P.O.W. Second parcel arrived about 16/8/42. That makes four I have had, two from you and two from N.Z. Red Cross, London. We are still hay-making and I have learned to use a scythe. Received another parcel of clothing through the Red Cross and in it was a pair of leather slippers, so I have plenty of clothes now.

CPL. R. D. CURRIE.

Was more than pleased with letter and glad to know that you know I'm getting your parcels all right. I forgot to mention it before, but hope you sent plenty of soap, tooth paste and boot polish with the last parcel. Am fairly well off for clothes now. I never even had a pair of socks last winter and now have twelve pairs. Had another parcel of cigarettes from the Patriotic Fund yesterday. The two Aussies here don't do too good. They have had about five letters so far and one lot of smokes, and their letters take twice as long as ours to come here. Had another 200 cigarettes last week and a clothing parcel from the N.Z. Red Cross yesterday, that is nine lots of cigarettes I've had now. Some of them were from the N.Z. Patriotic Society. There were not any cards with the others, so I don't know who sent them. Have just finished my Sunday evening meal, which consisted of salmon, bread and Canadian butter, followed by a good strong cup of tea. I don't know what we would do without the Red Cross parcels.

STALAG XX. A.

DVR. C. H. COUTTS (Christchurch), 12th July.

I received your parcel on Monday, everything was there. I am well set up for clothing now, and hope I don't have to shift from here until after the war, as I would need a truck to shift my kit.

BACK PARCELS ISSUED.

25th July. I received all your letters up to the 26th April, and am getting one every week. We are having very warm weather these last few days. We received all our Red Cross issues last week. We were seven weeks behind and we got five parcels and two bulk issues, so have been living very well. I have been hay-making this week and am getting pretty fit.

L/CPL. C. F. JOHNSON, 5th July.

I received a parcel from you yesterday, and there was wild excitement for a while, especially as I have had no mail from you for a while. Everything sent was darned handy, and I feel like a million dollars. To-day I am decked out in as much N.Z. stuff as I can put on. To-day is Sunday, and we have been for a swim in the lake. The chap I am in with also got a parcel from N.Z. at the same time, so you can imagine the shouts.

14th July. Had a pleasant surprise to-day—600 cigarettes from N.Z. Patriotic Fund and a clothing parcel from N.Z. Red Cross in London. Still waiting to go out on a new job and expect it any day.

STALAG XXI A.

PTE. C. E. BARWELL, 26th Aug.

I received one letter yesterday. It is the only one I have had for several weeks and took seven months to reach me. I hope you are getting mine. The letter you wrote on 9th April and addressed to me reached me in six weeks, but I have had none written since then. There are only nine New Zealanders with me at present. None of these come from below Christchurch. I am a bit weary of this existence. About here they grow a fair bit of yellow lupin, similar to the blue one they grow at home. A blue cornflower, purple heather and several other wild flowers grow about the fields. The buildings are of brick with tiled roofs. There is no need to worry about our health. We receive good medical attention and our living quarters are good. There are facilities for keeping ourselves and our clothing clean.

PORT DE LA REVERE, NICE A.M. FRANCE.

SGT. R. D. PORTEOUS, 16th Sept.

Great thrills. This afternoon the parcel sent last year arrived in good condition, even the chocolate and chewing gum were in good condition, which is rather surprising considering the time the parcel has taken to arrive here. Everything is very suitable, particularly the silk pyjamas. As I have mentioned in my previous letters the Red Cross look after us very well. They send us consignments of 10lb. parcels which we receive every Wednesday. Lately they have been sending us Canadian parcels which are really excellent. The food we receive from the French is not too bad, so we really do quite well. Well, would you believe I have become quite a proficient cook? Yesterday I cooked (or is it made?), rather an attractive cake. We managed to procure some flour (inferior quality), and I added raisins, apple, butter and powdered milk. ENOS FRUIT SALTS made it rise beautifully. Gosh, it turned out a huge success. Haven't been hungry since. All your letters are getting through, but of course they take a long time. I have been down to Nice several times to have my teeth seen to. This camp is in an old fort about 2,600 feet above sea level, the view is simply marvellous. Behind the camps are snow-clad mountains. Below us we have Monte Carlo, on our left, and Nice on our right. Looking straight out to sea on clear days it is possible to see the outline of the island of Corsica. Our rooms open on to a verandah which is formed by the walls of the moat and we sun bathe here, but even sunbathing gets monotonous, so I have discovered one thing—"it is very difficult to do nothing." We have a basketball pitch outside the camp, but one or two others and self are not allowed out as we are "bad types," because once after much hard work we left the camp and the French guards take a poor view of escaping and find it hard to forget. Parade is not until 11 o'clock, so one can stay in bed if one pleases in the morning. Dinner at 12 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. Between meals we can make tea and bread-pudding and listen to the wireless. We have had sports occasionally and once a boxing tournament which I won't forget. I unfortunately met a "dark horse," he turned out to be an ex-Army champion, so I don't remember much about it! He kindly apologised afterwards, but said I made the pace—I don't get it! We expect to be moved shortly to a new camp near Lyon, as this is not a suitable position for winter.

P.G. 29

MAJOR R. S. ORR, 11th Sept.

After a silence of nine months eleven days I have at last received my first letter from New Zealand. Arrived in this camp in May and although I didn't like leaving the other one living conditions here are as good again, and we are all very happy. Our trip down here was very interesting and very beautiful country was seen. Here there are only two New Zealanders, the rest being senior British officers and we all fit in very well.

P.G. 35.

CAPT. C. A. FERGUSON, 8th June.

I received a N.Z. Patriotic Cigarette parcel, and from the N.Z. Red Cross an exceedingly fine clothing parcel of pyjamas, towels, pullover, slippers, underwear, toilet sundries, shirt and socks. No letters from you have yet arrived. We have quite a pleasant garden attached to our quarters, and are busy now getting as many vegetables going as possible. I am lecturing regularly in Accountancy.

LYON TREMAIN, 27th June.

Last week I went on a tour of a Monastery. This part of the Monastery contains a number of Chapels used by the Monks hundreds of years ago, and dates back to the 14th century. Building was carried on up to the 16th century, so the Monastery is 600 years old in parts. One painting of the 14th century is left, its value supposed to be priceless. The rest of the paintings were removed by Napoleon. The treasure room built in the 14th century had a floor of gold and silver, but was taken up by Napoleon. The oldest door is 600 years old. The kitchen is also 600 years old and remains very much the same as it was then. The bell that was rung by the Monks is only rung these times at the beginning of war and at the close of war. There are two cemeteries, one of the 14th century and the other of the 16th. The staircase leading from the ground floor to the first floor is absolutely unique, only one other of its kind in the world, which is in Madrid. The library is 600 years but the floor is now sinking. The staircase has withstood four earthquakes. The Altars in the Chapels are all built of inlaid marble and the walls of wood contain well preserved carving of the 14th and 16th century. The ceilings in all the rooms are magnificently painted and contain wonderful carvings and the colour is absolutely beautiful. Twenty-five Monks lived in this Monastery, an amazing fact really for such big place.

FOOD PARCEL STOCKS AND UNDERWEAR

CAPT. W. P. SKEGG, 21st July.

The Red Cross has turned up trumps lately. We received 3000 food parcels, which ensures one a week for about five weeks, and we have had three each in the last three weeks. We also had an issue of woollen vests. They are first rate quality and just about reach our knees they are so long. In addition we will be receiving a long pair of woollen underpants each, so the winter will not be as unpleasant as last.

P.G. 38.

LIEUT. DANIEL J. RIDDIFORD, 27th to 30th July.

About a week ago just after I wrote my letter I got my first tobacco parcel from N.Z. House consisting of 400 Players cigarettes. This was most welcome. I am looking forward to my first next-of-kin parcel and I am expecting it to arrive any day now! I have just finished reading the "Medice." There are six officers to a room, and in the room of which I am Chief Comrade (so called), there are the following whose names may be familiar:—Jock Allan, son of the judge; Allan Headman, the tennis player, and Angel Caselberg from Masterton. The mails are most irregular and letters generally arrive out of their proper sequence, but I have been very lucky to get so many. Some people here have only had one or two and some none at all. Since beginning this letter the mail has arrived, bringing me a letter. It describes the moving broadcast on the Anzacs of this generation. The N.Z. portion of the combination have certainly distinguished themselves and have made, and made willingly, a bigger sacrifice than any other part of the Empire. This was true at any rate up till the last desert show. Our garden, of which Angel Caselberg is chief gardener, or rather our plot is producing excellent vegetables. The tomato season is now on and we have had good ones. I have actually been able to get some of the Latin classics in Italian editions here that I wanted, so a start has been made on my course of Latin literature. Red Cross parcels supplement the diet. I have just received a food parcel from Egypt which was sent by John and Tony through the Red Cross. It has only taken a month to get here and must have come via Turkey. It wasn't as good as the English ones, but very quick in coming. The Red Cross at Geneva have sent us a prospectus of correspondence courses ranging from Journalism to Hotel Management.

P.G. 41.

CAPT. HARRY C. NAPIER, 25th June.

Just received your second letter; they take so long to reach us. At the moment all my wants seem to be supplied, except for soap, tooth paste and shaving soap.

17th July. Great news this week received another letter from you dated 13/4/42. One suit of warm underclothing and one or two light sets would be useful. We are all very proud of our Division and the compliments to it. Still in hospital, have my foot in plaster, but am able to walk and feel 100 per cent.

P.G. 52.

A DOCTOR WRITES.

CAPT. W. B. LUSK, 30th Sept.

As soon as a case becomes of interest it goes out of our sphere into the local Italian hospital. It seems to me such a pity that we cannot supply our own medical officers to look after our men when they really become ill for that is just the time they would appreciate it. Any chance you have of speaking to relatives of lads in the state of prisonerhood about clothing parcels talk boots, socks and pull-overs and tell them not to send other than khaki colour. The lads, especially the New Zealanders, are fit and well and bless the Red Cross parcels. Two letters from home to-day of very recent dates. Seem to be plenty of parcels on the way, which is a blessing. I have almost lost hope of my N.Z. House parcel ever turning up. We have a new arrival, a merchant navy engineer from one of the recent Mediterranean shows and he is good company. Went out walking the other day with Bishop Gerard and Padre Mitchell, a pleasant walk through miles of olives, chestnuts, grape vines and small hill villages. It is pretty steep and the produce is lifted about by cables and small trolleys. We did a bit of winding in the pouring rain for a senorina and for it received a bunch of fine grapes. They are all grape producers here, white grapes mainly, and very good they are. Chestnuts are coming in too, and we can usually get a few in passing. Amazing number of cases of appendicitis here, eight to date, and two since our arrival a month ago.

CAPT. G. C. T. BURNS, 14th to 30th Sept.

By paying a small sum (about 9d.) we can send letters by air mail now. I am now at a men's camp, it is very interesting. Things are very well run here. We have had within a fortnight two boxing afternoons, "Pygmalion," and this afternoon a "Springbok Follies," a concert by the South Africans, all very good and well staged. Chaps here are all very well and in good spirits. The colonel in charge has a sound outlook and is popular with the men for his treatment of them. The rest of the guards are pretty decent to us also. We are doing a fair amount of medical work. We are in a thickly populated valley on a small flat, well surrounded by hill-sides all terraced and cultivated. There are many churches and villages on the slopes. Yesterday I had a letter dated 22nd July, two months to arrive. We broke our spell without food parcels and there is another issue in sight. The hills are pretty here, with lots of trees, olives, chestnuts, etc. Bishop Gerard is very good company. Considering, we have all settled down to the life, so many services are now working which were non-existent last winter, such as being able to get the newspaper, arrival of N.Z. mail, etc. Camps are now well established, Red Cross parcels are coming in, making a tremendous difference.

GNR. MICHAEL NELHAM WATSON (Christchurch), 18th Sept.

Very pleased to receive your letters (April 11th and July 5th), also received first parcel. It arrived in excellent order and contained everything one could wish for. You can imagine how thrilled I was. Last Sunday, after writing, a large supply of Red Cross parcels arrived, giving us one each, which does help wonderfully and to-day more parcels have arrived. Yes, these parcels mean more to us than any Christmas parcels did. The lorries which bring them seem like Father Christmas of childhood. I am the sports representative for our hut, but apart from boxing there is not much chance of other sport such as cricket, etc. Mait. took the part of a judge in a play which went well.

PTE. ALEX. J. McNAUGHTON, 18th Sept.

Received your letter of the 10th March last Saturday, that's six months for the trip. I reached here almost as quickly myself, and think of the fun I had on the way. Am sending this by air mail service just inaugurated. If you have sent me some socks and a sweater, please don't bother to send anything else because I will have enough clothes for the duration and any more will be an embarrassment. Concerning the palmy bits, I think this is one of them. The valley looked rather bleak on arrival, but now it's as green as the Milford Track.

PTE. J. B. WAFER, 6th July to Sept.

We have now started swimming and we get one swim every three days. However, a chap feels nice and fresh after it. Red Cross parcels are arriving fairly regularly. Just a card this week, everything is O.K. I have not had any mail for a long time, but there was some N.Z. mail in yesterday.

L/CPL. DOUGLAS AITCHISON, 2nd July to 8th Sept. Hut 39.

Books are steadily arriving from England and a camp library has been formed, so it's not so bad. I have my English grammar classes twice a week, plus a few hours' tuition to a couple of South Africans who wish to improve their written English. Each day I have an hour or two spent in rehearsing with the Concert Party, we usually put on a show once a fortnight, becoming more ambitious as we go along. Please don't worry about us, our treatment is pretty good and improving all the time. The Kiwi's mail has more or less been at a standstill for the past month or two, and it's now nearly two months since I heard from you. Some of the chaps have not received a thing, poor devils. Mail from N.Z. seems fairly scarce, but parcels are coming in fairly well. We have started rehearsals for another concert. The last one went off very well, and a day or so later the captain-adjutant of the camp who was present sent for us and congratulated us on the show. It was very good of him to take the trouble and quite bucked us up, for he said the camp authorities welcomed these diversions knowing as they do how boring life could become, and that every aid would be given to us in our future work. Concert rehearsals, a bit of lecturing and helping librarian at odd times passes time. Our library has a good selection of over 1000 books, two months ago there were 300.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

L/CPL. R. A. MACDONALD.

Well, I was in luck this week. I received your letter of March 25th, and I assure you it was simply great to get some of the home news in a familiar hand-writting once again. The Red Cross sent me one of the most acceptable and useful parcels containing books for which I had applied some months ago. They are absolutely invaluable to us.

DVR. FRANCIS YOUNG, 1st July.

We are still receiving Red Cross parcels, they are wonderful, but not like the other boys get from home. Socks are our main need in the way of clothes, the Italian people keep us fairly well equipped otherwise, although we shall want woollen things for winter; also I am very short of shaving gear, no razor or brush. We are only allowed safety razors. Gillette is best as all blades fit.

DVR. E. I. BULLOT, 6th Aug.

Thank you for the clothing parcel which arrived yesterday. Believe me, it was just the thing. You could not have sent a better variety of clothing and the slippers have come in very handy working in the hospital. Also I received your letter sent on the 19th February.

H. T. UPTON, 16th Sept.

Both Geoff and I have been very lucky with Red Cross clothing, and are luckier than most with our mail. We've both had a fine next-of-kin parcel from home, and I've not only had two cigarette parcels and another next-of-kin parcel from England, but a food parcel from Egypt. Mail day is our greatest pleasure. I'm sending my letter each week by air mail, and hope that it will reach you earlier. We pay 2.75 lira and it should make a difference. We get an allowance of 1.20 lira per day and can buy a little in the canteen.

P.G. 57.

FOOD FROM HOME.

DOUGLAS L. MILLER, 13th Sept.

The main news for this week is, we are issued with the food parcels sent from N.Z. The butter is the best yet received in a parcel, and what I enjoyed most of all is the honey, it takes one right back home. The meat is also the finest that has arrived here, and we have sampled numerous food parcels. I definitely do not need any more clothing parcels. Once a year is ample, otherwise a chap has too much to cart round with him, and I am a very light traveller now. Clothes are no use unless one is wearing them. I do not need anything more now except a pair of socks now and again.

PTE. E. P. RICHARDSON, 13th Sept.

What thrills this week! They say it never rains but what it pours. First of all, Ernie Caldwell arrived in this camp. He is well and cheerful and we had a great time chin-wagging. Then, during the week, I had three letters from you, the latest dated 17th July, seven weeks getting here is good going. Now I have got your first parcel. I told you I had a clothing parcel from N.Z. House, didn't I? A beauty it was too, a real well-thought-out parcel. While on the subject, we received

food parcels from N.Z. this week. They were quite good, but contained no milk, the very thing we want.

PTE. J. A. SANDERSON, 16th June.

Well, as I said last week, we were well on the way to winning the cricket competition, and I am glad to say that yesterday we played the championship match and won it by a good margin. It certainly made things much brighter for the week. Well, the last five weeks we have had a parcel every week and you don't know what a difference it makes.

PTE. M. SULLINGS, 16th June.

We had a terrific electrical storm last night, the best display I've ever seen. Our parcels have been coming along regular lately and I have just finished eating a mixture of jam, milk powder and margarine—a chap eats all sorts of queer mixtures here. It will be great to taste some good old home cooking again.

TOTE WANTED.

PTE. L. Y. BARNETT, 25th June.

We are only being issued with this form now, the cards have been cut out. Everybody is outside watching the cricket. We have had some great matches here lately between the different huts. The boys have been betting hotly on their teams. Some of the boys made a wager that they would have their hair shaved off if their team lost, others their cheese issue, cigarettes and all sorts of things. You would laugh if you could see the bald heads walking about now.

PTE. B. A. HOWARD, 30th June.

This week is one that I shall always remember as I have had answers to my letters. I know now that you are getting letters from me. Thanks a lot for sending me a parcel. However, don't bother to send any more, as I have heaps of clothes.

P.G. 65.

CPL. LEE M. HILL, 25th May.

We have started all sorts of things to pass the time, such as French, Italian, German, engineering classes, boxing, sports, etc. A Canadian and I are putting on an entertainment and we have some good talent. Concerts, sing songs and talks so far, and to-night being Whit Monday and Empire Day, the Commandant has allowed us to have a special concert, songs from all over. The Kiwis are learning our own N.Z. song just now and our bungalow is haunted with Maori refrains. We are getting a cinema plant also, so no doubt my time will be well occupied and will not drag. The Red Cross parcels are wonderful efforts and the Gold Flake cigarettes a joy I have rarely experienced. I received a Scotch parcel this time, some of the chaps have had letters from N.Z.

REGINALD A. JACKSON, 11th May.

Have at last reached permanent camp. Have been in Italy since November, 1941, and have not received any letters or parcels from you or the Red Cross, and feel sure they would be most welcome.

PTE. KEN TURNER (Frankton), 17th July.

I have been busy lately cooking for a couple of chaps who go outside working, and time just flies. Have not enough time to do all I want to, and then there are the lectures and talks on things of general interest. There is some talk of us shifting to a camp with just New Zealanders. A couple of Y.M.C.A. chaps have received parcels from the M.E. in five weeks. I am still hoping for a letter, don't think it will be long before I get one now.

20th July. Just had tomatoes and onions for lunch and a sleep, so things could be worse. Would like to see a big slice of steak though.

PTE. A. B. PORTMAN, 11th Aug.

I have not received any mail, but letters and parcels are still rolling in, so still hoping. The Red Cross have been keeping the food parcels up, so I am feeling as good as I have since I was captured. We receive about a 7-8lb. parcel about every ten days. They contain a varied assortment of good tinned foods. All contain a packet of cigarettes and a cake of soap. They give us something to fill in the time, too. As some parcels contain food that requires cooking, such as porridge, pancake mixture and custard powder and there is always tea to boil up.

PTE. COLIN CHAPMAN, 12th Aug.

I am still fit and well and not doing so bad, keep on getting a Red Cross parcel occasionally, we look forward to them too. Mail still keeps on coming in a few at a time from N.Z., but I have had no luck myself so far. Our camp orchestra is

telling you about in previous letter has improved out of sight. I heard them last night for the first time for some time, and they were real good, felt as though I would have liked to go along to a dance and trip the light fantastic once again. One thing about P.O.W. life is that it teaches chaps to have plenty of patience, also to grin under the most trying circumstances.

GNR. BARRY CRESSWELL.

Yours truly has landed himself in a fine pickle. However, there was no alternative. Here I am dressed in Italian uniform (&.....censored), but well caged behind barbed wire. Proud to be one of the first Kiwis at this camp to receive N.Z. mail. All of the lads crowded round and I read it aloud even before glancing at it myself. On arrival in Italy from Greece I was the possessor of a fine three months' beard and had not removed my clothes day or night for the same period. My first Red Cross parcel has arrived. I do wish you could see the joy it brought and just how much these parcels means to we P.O.W.s—Boy! It was wonderful, 18 packages in all. The first time for six months I went to bed with a contented inner feeling. After this I am going to be a life-time donor to the Red Cross. Please convey my grateful thanks to them. I am now clothed in Italian uniform and have darned my only pair of socks till there is none of the original left. However, I am looking forward to my clothes parcel from you. Please do not worry, mother dear, I am being quite well treated.

H. R. J. THOMAS, 12th May.

Well, things are not so bad over here now. We have received two parcels and the weather has cleared up and is beautiful. I hope you have received all the letters I have written as you will know what I want.

PTE. H. G. HOBBS, 3rd July.

The time cannot fly quick enough for me. The issue of Red Cross parcels is wonderful, the contents being just what we want and oh! such excitement when the boys are opening up their parcels, it sure is like we used to be as kiddies on Christmas morning. We also received 50 British cigarettes, and were they good? Nothing of interest happens here at all. We make our own amusement and we have a very good orchestra which turns on some very good concerts and it is really surprising how fast the days fly past. More Red Cross parcels and much excitement among the boys, one would laugh to see their faces. Hope to get more letters now I am in permanent camp. We all think the Red Cross is wonderful and should be helped.

PTE. R. V. STAINES, 12th Aug. (Hamilton).

I received your letter of April 26th yesterday. It is the first one I have had for about nine months. Apparently there is some more letters for me somewhere. Everything here is all right, I am keeping well and I am with some good coppers. Ken Turner, by the way, sleeps just opposite me.

PTE. J. L. LIBBURY, 17th July.

Sunny Italian days are here making thoughtful hours pass more pleasantly. Classes and Toc H help too. Red Cross parcels, another large interest in our lives, to-day produced another. How much they mean to us! At one time we held our evening services in a bay of a bungalow (this gives rather a wrong impression of the building in which we are housed, but I will describe them to you one day shortly), but as the camp has grown in size and numbers have increased, we were shoved here and there until it is always held in the open. The R.C.'s have a padre (an Italian) who is a very fine gentleman and has done much for us of other faiths, getting us occasionally a prayer, hymn book, or New Testament. We have quite some clever brains who come to our Bible study and discussions reach a pretty high standard and are remarkably interesting.

S. H. HURRELL, 18th May.

I am fairly well and in a permanent camp now. Of course we have the same routine daily. There is no entertainment—the camp is a new one. Arrangements are being made for some band instruments. At present our interests are in the Red Cross parcels that are being issued. I hope to get mine in a couple of days. Waiting patiently for mail.

PTE. HAROLD JAMES SHAW, 28th May to 7th June.

I am in a different camp now and the change is doing me good. I wish you were here to see the country-side, it is at its best. It is different from Taranaki, where it is dairy or sheep farming; here it is all crops and every inch of ground is taken up with wheat, barley, grapes, vegetables, and fruit trees. I start work in three days' time and I should do all right. We are getting our Red Cross parcels regularly and they are wonderful, and also clothing. I started work on Tues-

day and I am enjoying it. We are working among the grape vines, dusting and hoeing, and I am feeling the benefit already. It is a great treat to get outside the wire and get into the fields as everything is peaceful. I have also received another Red Cross parcel, so I will be all right for the next few days. There seems to be plenty of them around and we will get one every ten days, so that is not so bad.

SGT. T. L. TATTERSALL, 25th Sept.

Just now everyone here is in the best of spirits. This week has certainly been the best of our prisoner life. We received our first Red Cross parcel. I must say I have never seen men so overcome with joy in my life. They were like children at Christmas. Besides this parcel we received 50 English cigarettes. Everywhere we look we see chaps doing cooking of various dishes that would put Aunt Daisy's recipes to shame. When we were first caught we used to joke about the Red Cross parcels, but all everyone can talk about now is that they are marvellous parcels. Dem is making bread-crumbs for a big duff, "Hoddy" is waiting to steam his, and mine is ready to come out.

TPR. LESLIE ANGUS McIVER, 17th July.

Well, nothing very eventful has happened this week, not that anything terribly exciting does happen here except a few attempted escapes. There was an attempt recently, but they did not get very far. We have received another Red Cross parcel which had to be shared between two and when split they don't go very far. Rumour has it that there are some more on the way, so we are all keyed up with expectation. Its just on time to hand this precious budget in. My excuse for leaving it until the last minute is some pears and tomatoes came to the canteen to-day and as we seldom see fruit I stood in a queue for two hours to spend all I had—ten lire—equal to ten days' wages or 2/1.

P.G. 75.

SGMN. G. MULVEY, 6th Sept.

A Priest comes in nearly every Sunday which is good. This camp is in (censored) and is just a transit camp. We will move soon to a permanent camp probably in (censored). Our treatment and rations here are quite O.K. The Red Cross gives us a parcel of sixteen—twenty-two items of food every week each. It contains meats, sweets, margarine, jams, etc. and is very good indeed. We pass away the time here all right, singing songs in the evenings and washing clothing, exercising and mess duties, etc., in the daytime.

GNR. GEORGE RICHARD JENSEN, 7th Sept.

My health and weight is in no way impaired, in fact I am thriving and when we get our Red Cross parcels we live like kings for a day, looking for the morrow when we get our next and wondering what the contents will be. There are all sorts of dainties in them, each article selected carefully, so in a way we are sitting on top of the world, plenty of shuteye, food, and so on. At times our grub is a bit light so we ration ourselves so as to get an even lot each day, no feast and then famine for me. I have become quite an adept needle worker lately, sewing pockets in my new shirt and making a small bag as well. I was fortunate in having my New Testament on me when captured, it gives me pleasure and courage, I can assure you. Most of my other personal gear was destroyed on the day, but I am not worrying as I have an intact skin and no patches.

NEWS AT LAST

Last week we received three letters from our son R. A. Gover, the first since he was reported missing in Crete, May, 1941. He was, last December, reported to be at Stalag VIII B, but turns out now to be in Italy. In first letter dated May 16th he says owing to circumstances he cannot relate here he has been unable to write for a year. This may be of interest to those who have had their boys reported to be at Stalag VIII B, but have had no letters from them.

L/CPL. PAUL DAY, 5th Sept.

We get one of these a week, so I'm chasing up the one I sent last week in case it misses. We're not at our final destination yet, but are very lucky in the camp we've been at so far, it's among olive, fig and almond trees which provide very welcome shade in the afternoon. We're in tents and really doing far better than I expected P.O.W. would be treated. Water supply is excellent. We all feel a lot stronger already, mainly due to regular receipt of Red Cross parcels which are truly marvellous.

PTE. H. N. REEVES, 6th Sept.

As we are now awaiting transfer to permanent camp, recreational facilities are nil, at present. My mates are with me, so have good company. Had another concert last night. Very enjoyable. Get paid one lire per day (72 to the £) 80 smokes (50 English) and one seventh tin weed per week so have plenty smokes. Weekly Red Cross parcel augment rations.

P.G. 78.

It will be cold in winter, but have received Red Cross issue of battledress and greatcoat, so won't freeze. Arrived here September 4th and have had Red Cross food parcels, which make life worth living. I am learning German and Italian, and doing a little French and economics. Have grown a monstrous beard. Am in good company here, and play a lot of basket-ball and some deck-tennis. A mixed camp this, English, Canadian (R.A.F.) and N.Z. with some Aussies in the next Compound. Quite a good library here.

P.G. 85.

PTE. F. BOND, 23rd Aug.

I received five letters from you the other day, the first I have had since being a prisoner of war. Things are looking a lot brighter now as we have just received our first Red Cross parcels and boy! are they good?

MAJOR G. C. WESTON, 28th Sept.

Italian is coming on well and I am now taking agriculture. It is taught by a sheep station owner from New South Wales and I am learning all sorts of things about farms and sheep. Our neighbouring officers put on a very good concert a night or so ago and we have a lecture on a general subject once a week. With all my lectures, duties and chores I find the day quite a busy one. I am in the basketball team and get a lot of exercise. The food is still very good and varied. For dinner to-night we had melon and sugar soup (lovely soup), mixed grill (Red Cross bacon and sausage), onions, marrows, prunes, cheese on toast and coffee. It was a special night but otherwise my tummy is contracting sympathetically and I don't feel hungry. Play bridge every night as the lights are not strong enough for the eyes not to be strained.

PRIVATE L. R. COLLISS writes from P.G. 52 in an Air Mail letter dated 24th October, 1942, that he has received his next-of-kin clothing parcel despatched from here in February, 1942, and also he has received two of the standard clothing parcels which are despatched from the High Commissioner's Office, London, immediately a man is notified as a prisoner. Private Colliss gives a list of what he received in the second parcel:—

Braces	1 shaving soap
Shirt	2 pcks. Gem razor blades
1 singlet	1 Gem razor
1 pyjamas	1 shoe polish
1 pair socks	1 pair laces
1 pair stockings	2 pencils
2 handkerchiefs	1 comb
1 pair gloves	1 army kit bag
2 hand towels	1 nail brush
1 soap	1 hair brush
1 tin Gibbs dentifrice	1 shaving brush
1 tooth brush	1 pair tennis shoes
1 pair shorts	2 lbs. chocolate.

He says: "Believe me they are grand parcels, all Kiwi prisoners of war will receive them; 200 cigarettes a month also are sent to us by the patriotic people and we are all very grateful. So you see there is no need to worry about us. We are doing well."

OFLAG VII B.

LIEUT. I. F. RANDELL, 20/9/42.

It is some time since I have written to you owing to the camp change-over. We had an excellent comfortable trip down and our new abode is in a most beautiful valley surrounded by tree-covered hills. A most pleasing feature is the trees and good roads, and grass inside the wire. Actually we do not see the wire very much as the trees hide most of it. Our quarters are new and not quite so over-crowded as the last place. About 90 Canadian officers from Dieppe are here, so of course we have the latest news of that show. We

have adopted one or two in our messes so as to help them along with the necessities which we can spare until they receive parcels. In this life one's attitude changes towards our fellow-man. It is just all help one another. Our heavy baggage has not all been sorted yet, so we are short of most things. Received your July 17th letters on 10th September, 1942.

24/9/42. We have now settled down in our new camp and quite happy. As soon as we get a theatre organised, also sports, etc., things will be normal again. We have not received all our goods and chattels yet as censoring is a terrific job. I am living in a room for six with the Canadian Coy. Commander, adjutant, postal officer and pay officer, myself being Company Q.M. Have had quite a busy period and the job will keep me off my bed in the cold weather. Well, the Dieppe people are quite optimistic, so here's hoping.

29/9/42. We have got most of our heavy baggage issued. My job has always been cook since being in the bag, but luckily I have escaped it this time. My job as Q.M. keeps me busy at meal times. The weather has dulled off again with light showers and cooler, no doubt heading for winter and snow. Have been very busy fixing up the Canadians with clothing, etc., and every official in the camp wants a return of some kind or other which means hours of writing. Harold Heiford, in my room, received a clothes parcel to-day with a lot of his gear in it. His mother got his trunk in December last. Our room mates are keen card players, so we get in quite a lot of fun. In the international match, New Zealand is on top at present.

October 4th, 1942.
Mail restrictions are on again and I can only receive four per month from you and we must write cards and letters alternately. There are 10,000 unlisted private parcels in the camp in which are a lot from New Zealand, so I have hopes of my stray ones turning up.

STALAG LUFT III

PILOT OFFICER S. G. COOPER, October 15th.

The Red Cross is wonderful and we have all been issued with warm underclothing and shirts, socks, etc., so we ought to be prepared for the real German winter. Am still doing a lot of good reading and study, attending lectures, etc. With practice we are improving as cooks and washerwomen. Next week we start concerts in the new concert hall that the boys have built themselves. Every week we have a debating society and what with bridge and athletics we manage to fill our time in. In fact, it is amazing the talent one finds amongst 1500 young men. It is quite interesting just visiting and yarning in different barracks. Each one's tale of escape from their plane would make amazing reading in any book.

STALAG IX C.

September 23rd, 1942. (Received January 7th, 1943.)

Mails both ways held up. May 7 last from you; but hear of 2nd big 'quake. Leaves colouring fast and beginning to fall. Harvest almost over; potato picking general. Next camp will be much better winter quarters than VI. B.—everything under one roof (which does not leak) and modern. School built 1910. We shall, however, miss the odd moment hot drinks that were made possible by stoves in our rooms. Cooking and messing now central, principal contents Red Cross parcels being pooled in kitchen, and combined with German rations for our use. Good to have bedrooms free from cooking and eating. Fourteen in our room—12 English, 1 Scot, 1 Australian. He is from Crete, most other from France. Glad of changed company. Half older than me, some by 10 years. Mostly served last war. One prisoner 1914-1918. I miss the other younger men with similar tastes and interests, and also VI. B. library (this is much smaller and lighter), area for exercise much restricted. Circumference of the walk is 200 yards compared with 1660 in VI. B. Setting delightful. Doubt if ever lived in prettier surroundings.—John.

October 2nd, 1942. (Received January 7th, 1943.)

We have had no inward mail for a month. Have had two trips away from the new camp. Here we may go out for escorted walks, and play cricket in a wood nearby. You can imagine what a joy that is after 17 months' enclosure, especially in a warm, sunny European autumn.

October 20th, 1943. Autumn breaking up fast. Evening parades inside; central heating on. But camp is over-crowded through concentration here of walking wounded, including many amputees. They may be repatriated soon.

CAMP REPORT.

CAMPO P.G. 70. P.M. 3300.

Visited 15th November. The impression of the camp is excellent. This camp contained 2735 prisoners, among whom were 8 officers and 482 N.C.O.'s. There are 57 New Zealanders in this camp. The Camp Leader is R.S.M. Davis. There are separate dormitories for officers, N.C.O.'s and men. The banks are three-storied, with palliasses and two woollen blankets. There is plenty of water, hot showers and the prisoners are allowed to bathe in the river. There is a well installed kitchen with food shop. The rations are normal, 600 prisoners who work receive double rations. There is a large vegetable garden of over ten acres, also football grounds. The sanitary conditions are good. The infirmary is being fitted up, there is a lack of hot water and an insufficient number of isolation rooms. The region is healthy, but there are several cases of malaria contracted in other regions. There were four cases of pneumonia, three pleurisy, one diphtheria, also itch and skin affections. There had been two deaths and several serious cases of chronic tuberculosis of the kidneys, have been submitted to the Mixed Medical Commission. A dentist visits the camp twice monthly.

They request invalid parcels, comfort parcels, bandages, sulfamides, Ichtyol ointment, vaseline, lanoline, cod-liver oil, quinine tablets, foies of artebrine plamochine. No clothing has been received. The International Red Cross Committee has been advised to forward supplies for 6,500 prisoners. They lack shoes and working clothes. Clothing has been supplied from the reserve stocks of 70 and 59.

Correspondence is irregular, the arrival of letters from England is poor, and there is no news from the Far East, but otherwise it is satisfactory.

They request football shoes, footballs, various sports equipment and games, musical instruments. The Camp Leader wants the English translation of the complementary agreements between Italy and England regarding prisoners of war.

ENQUIRY SECTION.

PTE. A. A. STOCKLEY, 29829, 18th Auckland Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

If any next-of-kin has seen any reference to this man in any letters from their boys, will they please pass their information on to this office?

STOP PRESS

DO THE FOOD PARCELS ARRIVE?

THEY DO!

For June receipt of 223,559 parcels was acknowledged by British Camp Leaders.

For July, 218,649.

For August, 264,506.

For September, 243,769.

For October, 152,682 (14 days).

CABLED ADVICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO THE EFFECT THAT TIN OR BAKELITE PLATES AND ORDINARY FORKS AND SPOONS MAY BE INCLUDED IN NEXT-OF-KIN QUARTERLY PARCELS, BUT NOT KNIVES.

CAMP ADDRESSES FOR PRISONERS OF WAR IN ITALY.

As some next-of-kin have received official camp advices bearing place names only, and parcels to prisoners in Italy must not bear place names but Camp Numbers, the Prisoners of War Enquiry Offices will, until a camp number is known, supply labels addressed to the Next-of-Kin Packing Centre, London. The only details which next-of-kin will need to supply when using same on their quarterly parcels will be the prisoner's regimental No., Rank and Name. The camp addresses will be added when the parcels reach the London Packing Centre.

WOOL.

The returns received from the stockists of the special wool show that next-of-kin are not taking full advantage of the service which was inaugurated for their benefit. It would be unfair to have the wool lying on the shelves at the special stockists and unless there is a marked improvement in the position, arrangements will be made to allow the next-of-kin of men in the fighting forces to participate in this scheme.

WE ARE ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE COPIES OF YOUR LATEST LETTERS.