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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.9 (March 1943)

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TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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Prisoners of War Pamphlet

ISSUED BY

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FREE TO NEXT-OF-KIN

Hon. Editor—Mr. J. ABEL

KEY TO ITALIAN CAMPS

Campo P.G.—

4	P.M.	3200
5	.....	3100	Serravalle, north of Genoa
12	.....	3200	Candeli, near Florence
17	.....	3200	Rezzanello, near Piacenza
21	.....	3300	Cheiti, Abruzzo
26	.....	3200	
27	.....	3200	San Romano, Pisa
29	.....	3200	Viano, east of Rezzanello
32	.....	3200	
35	.....	3400	Padulla, near Naples
38	.....	3200	Poppi, Arrezzo
41	.....	3200	Montalbo, near Piacenza
42	.....	3200	
47	.....	3200	
51	.....	3450	Amenti
52	.....	3100	Chiavari, Near Genoa
53	.....	3300	
54	.....	3300	
57	.....	3200	Gruppiquano, near Udine
59	.....	3300	Servigliano, near Ancona
63	.....	3400	
65	.....	3450	Gravina-Altamura, Lucania
66	.....	3400	Capua, near Naples
68	.....	3300	Vetralla, near Viterbo
70	.....	3300	
73	.....	3200	
75	.....	3450	Bari, near Brindisi
77	.....	3300	
78	.....	3300	Sulmona, Abruzzo
82	.....	3200	
85	.....	3450	Tutarano, near Brindisi
89	.....	3400	
91	.....	
98	.....	3550	Regusa, Sicily
107	.....	3200	
116	.....	85	Benghazi
129	.....	3300	
201	.....	3200	Military Hospital, Bergamo
202	.....	3200	Military Hospital, Lucca
203	.....	3200	Military Hospital di Riserve
811	.....		Hospital
Military Hospital Fara	.....		Chiavari
Military Hospital	.....		Bari
Military Hospital	.....		Caserta
Military Hospital Ancanfora	.....	
Hospital	.....		Udine
Hospital Angelo Mazzo	.....		Parma

Camps 4, 26, 42, 32, 47, 73, 82, 107, 203 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. 89 is in the Naples district.

Camps 53, 54, 70, 129 are situated in a Military District on the east coast of Italy. The district includes the towns of Ancona and Sulmona, also Viterbo.

EXPRESS MESSAGE SCHEME.

If you have not heard from your prisoner of war relative or he has not heard from you for over three months, arrangements have now been made whereby an express message may be sent by you. In this connection written or personal application should be made to Prisoners of War Enquiry Office at either Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington or Dunedin when the necessary form will be issued. The form, when completed, must be returned to—

PRISONERS OF WAR ENQUIRY OFFICE
96 TORY STREET,
WELLINGTON, C.3.

which will then arrange for its despatch by a special Air Mail Service which is reserved for Government correspondence.

THIS SCHEME IS RESERVED
EXCLUSIVELY FOR

PRISONERS OF WAR
NEXT-OF-KIN OF PRISONERS OF WAR
CIVIL INTERNEES
WHO HAVE BEEN WITHOUT NEWS OF
THEIR RELATIVE FOR OVER THREE
MONTHS.

TO HELP YOU.

Each issue of the Prisoners of War Pamphlet is carefully compiled with the latest information to assist Next-of-kin in all matters relating to Prisoners of War. It is essential that you should read and study this information carefully both in your own interests and to help facilitate the work of the Prisoners of War Enquiry Offices.

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(Set 2)

REPORTS on ITALIAN and GERMAN CAMPS

recently visited by

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DELEGATES

OFLAG III. C.

We have received information that this camp is at Hohenfels, in Bavaria, and not at Lubben on the Spree as previously notified.

OFLAG VI. B.

Official information has been received that this camp has been dissolved and the prisoners transferred to new camps. 455 prisoners, including all the Indians (about 30 to 40), have been transferred to Oflag IX. A/2 (at Rotenberg, in Westphalia). 413 prisoners, all R.A.F., to Oflag XXI. B. (at Schubin, in Poland), the balance, 1,860, to Oflag VII. B. (at Eichstatt, in Bavaria).

STALAG LUFT III. at Sagan.

The Air Force Camp at Sagan has been considerably enlarged, though the officers' camp is not yet completed. Lighting is still very bad and toilet facilities need attention. Improvements were promised by the Camp Commander. Red Cross parcels are issued at the rate of one per man per week, but there is a shortage of cooking utensils for private cooking. Two British medical officers have arrived here from Oflag IV. C. and are in charge of the infirmary. Equipment in the infirmary has been greatly improved. The Red Cross has been asked to send a supply of clothing. There are now three chaplains in the camp and services are held every Sunday.

STALAG VIII. B.

On the day of the visit there were 5,061 British prisoners of war in the main camp, where there have been no important changes since the last visit. Improvements in lighting have been promised by the autumn. Bathing facilities are better, but there has been a shortage of water. The arrival of the Red Cross parcels has improved greatly. The infirmary, in charge of a British medical officer, is inside the camp compound with the dental station and two dental officers.

Reserve Lazaret has a resident staff of eight British medical officers, one of them being an eye specialist. Diets are built up from the Red Cross parcels, and both the infirmary and hospital make a good impression.

Work Detachments E 412 and E 8 work in the same paper mill.

E 17, E 152 and E 244 work in cement works.

E 460 and E 46 do different kinds of work in connection with the building of a railway bridge.

STALAG XVIII. A. Wolfsberg.

Has improved greatly since the last visit. The new Camp Commander has proved helpful. Three new barracks are in use and almost 400 N.C.O.'s have been transferred to another camp, so that there is no more overcrowding. Additional table and chairs have been added, washing facilities are good in the new barracks, and a new sewer system is being constructed for the toilets. The chaplain is now allowed to visit the Labour Detachments. The prisoners of war are erecting a new hut themselves in which there will be a theatre and a comfortable reading room.

In some of the Work Detachments attached to this camp the men are on "task" work. When the task is finished they can return to camp and, therefore, have much more free time.

The men in Work Detachment 13048 live in an old castle and are more closely guarded than the others as they have all at some time made attempts to escape. They are, however, well treated and receive their mail and Red Cross parcels regularly.

All the Work Detachments from this camp seem to work under fairly good conditions and are reasonably well housed and fed. In an International Committee Report in July, the clothing position was stated to be very good and a reserve stock was held in the camp.

STALAG XVIII. B. at Spittal.

Situated in a valley surrounded by high mountains it now

contains the British prisoners of war from Stalag XVIII. D. (main camp) and 380 N.C.O.'s from XVIII. A. This camp is soon to be transferred to a newly built camp at Leubutz, south of Graz. Accommodation here is good, but at present overcrowded. New stocks of clothing are needed. A library, theatre and gymnasium are in use and Red Cross parcels are arriving regularly. British medical officers are in charge of the infirmary and camp hospital. There are vegetable and flower gardens.

Stalag XVIII. B. Annexe is the old site of XVIII. D. It is from here that the working camps are administered. This camp is also to be moved shortly. There are only 160 British prisoners of war in this camp. Their quarters are quite satisfactory. An entirely new German staff is in charge. They are said to co-operate with the British.

CAMPO P.G. 5—Serravalle, north of Genoa.

At the end of July contained 177 officers and 53 other ranks, who were transferred here in the middle of June. There are a chaplain and two medical officers. The building is a mediaeval fortress on the top of a steep hill. Although there were traces of damp on the walls, they were absolutely dry at the date of the visit. The senior British officer said that the food was good and that they could obtain plenty of fruit and vegetables.

The water supply, adequate until a week before the visit, was being limited to certain hours of the day while the inflow was being enlarged. The only space available for exercise is a courtyard, which is much too small. The camp commandant is known to be aware of the camp's deficiencies and to be endeavouring to make improvements.

CAMPO P.G. 38—Poppi, Arrezzo.

This camp contains mainly New Zealand officers, and a few South African other ranks. The favourable impression that the camp had previously made was confirmed. The bread ration here is above the normal. The prisoners' table is supplemented by tomatoes, melons, apples, pears, nuts and grapes from the kitchen garden which they tend themselves. Clothing was needed, but a consignment was expected. The water supply is defective in hot weather. Suggestions for its improvement have been made.

CAMPO P.G. 41—Montalbo, near Piacenza.

Conditions here have greatly improved since the camp was first opened. There are at present 142 officers and 45 other ranks. The courtyard of the Castle where outdoor games are played has recently been paved with concrete. There is a new storeroom with fitted shelves for parcels and officers' personal belongings. Mail and Red Cross parcels are arriving regularly. Clothing and footwear are in bad condition; the Red Cross have been asked to send consignments. The camp is still suffering from water shortage, as the new supplementary water service is not functioning properly and springs were dry at that time of year.

CAMPO P.G. 47—Italy. Visited 15th December, 1942.

This camp contains 928 officers and 200 privates among whom are 113 New Zealanders. It has small new concrete barracks and vegetable gardens.

The dormitories for the troops have bunks in two tiers, 40 men to a room. The officers have beds and live six to a room. They have weekly hot showers and there is a wash room with w.c.'s. There is a well equipped infirmary with 82 beds; sheets and pillow slips are provided. There is a pharmacy, a store for medical parcels, a meeting hall, isolation room, bathroom and disinfection installation. The medical officer is an Italian assisted by two doctor prisoners. The medical care is excellent. There is no dental surgery but a civilian dentist comes twice a week. A civilian oculist also gives atten-

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tion, but does not prescribe spectacles, the reason being that prisoners are not allowed to go to the town. Standard parcels arrive regularly and are intact. The sending of 500 medical and invalid parcels is necessary.

Shoes are in a bad state owing to lack of leather for repairs. Many officers were not paid from the day of capture until their arrival at the camp.

There are eight chaplains among the prisoners—one Catholic, one Dutch Reformed Church, six Free Church. An Anglican chaplain is desired. Many study courses have been organised. There is a sports ground and a theatre. There are complaints regarding destruction of book covers by the censor.

Discipline is good. It is an excellent camp.

CAMPO P.G. 57—Gruppigiano, near Udine. Visited 18th June. The enlargement of the camp is progressing rapidly, the new barracks are built on a stone basement. The kitchen, mess, and recreation rooms are housed in stone structures. In the vicinity of the barracks the flower beds are in full bloom and vegetables are grown. Red Cross parcels arrive regularly; 6,000 parcels arrived in the camp on the 17th June. It takes three to four months for letters to arrive from Australia and New Zealand. There are two doctor prisoners in the camp and a Catholic chaplain. The number of shower baths was increased during the hot weather. This camp has a satisfactory water supply. Football and other sports are played in the space between the huts. The good impression received during previous visits was again corroborated.

CAMPO P.G. 59—Servigliano, near Ancona. Three officers and 1,856 other ranks are detained here. The general impression of the camp is good. Mail, Red Cross and next-of-kin parcels arrive regularly. Clothing is said to be satisfactory and there is a fairly large stock. The improvements in the water supply should be completed by the end of July. New pumps and a second pipe line are under construction. An Anglican chaplain has arrived in the camp. There is plenty of space for outside sports and games.

CAMPO P.G. 66—Capua, near Naples. The camp consists of eight stone-built barracks 32 x 6 m. covered with corrugated iron, and 12 wooden barracks of the same dimensions covered with tarred paper. There are also tents, in good condition and watertight, where the newly arrived prisoners live. There is no dining-hall, but the prisoners can eat their meals under a big roof which has been built to shelter the troops during call-over on rainy days. New buildings are being constructed to be officers' quarters. Camp 66 is a sorting station where the newly arrived prisoners are placed in quarantine for three weeks, in the tents, then allocated to their special section of the camp where they remain until sent on to permanent camps.

CAMPO P.G. 75—Bari, near Brindisi. This camp is intended only as a temporary staging area where prisoners of war remain a short time before being forwarded to permanent detention camps. The prisoners are housed in wooden barracks, they have wooden bunks and are provided with a mattress, two-three blankets, sheets and a pillow. The prisoners are occupied in the kitchen gardens close at hand; the yield from this garden will make a welcome addition to the food ration. A new camp is being constructed which will be absolutely fireproof. It will have much better dormitories and sanitary installations, also recreation and mess rooms.

MILITARY HOSPITAL 201—Bergamo. This hospital housed 356 sick or wounded prisoners, with five British medical officers and a chaplain. British medical officers are allowed to practice as doctors under the Italian medical director. Food is described as abundant, well cooked and varied. Fish or meat is served daily and all ranks received wine. The hospital made a highly favourable impression.

MILITARY HOSPITAL Angelo Mazzo, Parma. One wing of the large military hospital at Parma is reserved for the British prisoner patients. The medical treatment and the food they receive is identical with that given to the Italian military patients. The sanitary installations meet all requirements. Dental care is given. Religious services are regularly performed by a Catholic priest, but the patients have been promised that an English chaplain will call once a month from one of the camps. The prisoner patients read and play games, those that are allowed to leave the wards can take exercise in the open air. Visited 10th June.

MILITARY HOSPITAL, Bari.

The building is modern, specially designed as a hospital. It is surrounded by beautiful gardens and can stand comparison with any hospital abroad. Three wards are reserved for British prisoners of war. They are light, airy and cheerful with windows overlooking the gardens and surrounding fields. The patients have iron bedsteads with woollen mattresses, a double blanket, pillows and sheets. There are two interpreters who translate the doctor's advice into English.

The meal served on the day of the Delegate's visit was rice, soup, meat, vegetables, milk. The portions were abundant and the prisoner patients declared that they were well fed.

A long verandah and the garden are at the disposal of the patients who are able to walk.

A number of Catholic chaplains take care of the inmates of the hospital and a British padre from Bari Camp is allowed to call when required.

DAILY FOOD RATION IN ITALIAN MILITARY HOSPITALS.

Bread	14 ozs.
Meat	14 ozs.
Or Poultry	17ozs.
Or Fish	10ozs.
Vegetables	28ozs.
Salad	5ozs.
Fruit	7 ozs.
Wine	1/5 litre

The meal served on the day of the Delegate's visit at 5 o'clock p.m. was composed of:—

Rice soup.	Vegetables
Meat	Milk

NEXT OF KIN PARCELS.

CONTENTS SLIPS ARE SUPPLIED IN DUPLICATE. BOTH COPIES MUST BE FILLED IN AND INCLUDED IN YOUR PARCEL.

UNBLEACHED CALICO for the final wrapping of the next-of-kin parcels must measure one yard square. Smaller pieces are not big enough. Perhaps next of kin do not take into consideration that when chocolate is added to the parcels their bulk is much increased.

SMALL BAGS.—We would recommend that next of kin put all small articles, such as razor blades, cakes of soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, boot polish, etc., into a small bag. These articles can easily be overlooked in the re-packing.

STALAG LUFT III.

Day of Prayer—9th August, 1942.

"To-day, in this camp, as at home in England, we have observed a Day of Prayer with a big parade at a Church service held in the open.

We (over a thousand of us) turned out as smart as possible with buttons, unpolished for the last two or three years, all a-shine. One of our bands played and it was indeed a pleasure to march to a stirring tune. Our junior British officer—group captain—read the lesson and took the salute at a march past at the conclusion of the service.

Hymns included "Jerusalem," "Fight the Good Fight," and "O, God Our Help in Ages Past." In our prayers we remembered our King and his Ministers, our Fighting Forces, on land, sea, and in the air, and our loved ones at home. I hope it will be the first of many such parades."

COMPLAINTS FROM NEXT OF KIN.

When next-of-kin are passing on complaints to us from, or with regard to, their soldiers in captivity, they must let us have the dates of the letters or parcels in question. It is impossible to investigate these cases without these facts.

NEW ZEALAND FOOD for OUR BOYS



Voluntary Helpers.

The Headquarters of the War Purposes Committee presents a busy scene every day in the week as the voluntary helpers come from various suburbs of Wellington to take their turn in packing food for our boys who are prisoners. They enjoy doing it too, though it is hard work. They feel they are making a really helpful contribution to the war effort when they see the cartons of food packed into boxes marked with the Red Cross, ready for the journey to Geneva and the prison camps. Close on 1,400 women take part in this activity and they come daily in groups of 34.

Motion Pictures.

On the 4th February a picture was shown at the Majestic Theatre of the packing of food parcels at Tory Street, and also the packing at the London depot. It was most interesting for all the helpers to compare the different methods used. It was the Christmas parcel that was shown being packed in London, full of all sorts of extra dainties for the festive season. The boxes all had Xmas clearly marked on them, and it is intended that they would be delivered and stored in the camps well before Christmas.

Blue Peas.

All our readers must be familiar with the contents of the New Zealand food parcels which compare favourably with any packed in other countries where there is greater variety of merchandise available. An innovation is the substitution of peas and sugar for the canned vegetables. In each packet of peas there is a small twist of mint. The inclusion of the peas has been commented on very favourably by dietetic experts.

Way They Go.

As we have said, the whole of this work of packing the food parcels is undertaken by volunteer helpers, the only paid personnel being the nailers and the handlers of the bulk stores. It is carried out on the chain system, and the team of 34 women pack in four hours 1600 parcels every day. Once they begin no one can stop. The goods are ready stacked in bins at the back of a bench and a helper stands before each bin. Away they go! The carton into which the goods are to be packed is before the first helper, into it she puts a tin of cheese and pushes it on to the next one who adds jam, and so on down the line. Each tin must go in its allotted place. Besides the "chain gang" there are other jobs to be done. They stencil the cases with the Red Cross over "N.Z." on both the ends and sides, 3,200 cans of tea have to be made up each 14-2ozs. Then there are 1600 cartons of sugar to be packed, the sugar being first placed in a bag and then in the carton. 1600 packages of peas must be made up with a small paper bag of mint in each. The chocolate must be opened from the bulk cases. To keep the teams fully supplied some four to eight voluntary helpers attend at the rooms five nights a week assisting with the peas and sugar.

Ready for Storage.

The daily workers are usually finished their work between 2 and 3 o'clock, and by 4 o'clock 200 cases, each containing 8 parcels, are ready for despatch to the storage at or near the wharves. Until a few months ago a card was included in each parcel, requesting the recipient to mail it to New Zealand, advising on the card the condition of the parcel, and any other remarks he might care to make; but on account of a request from the Red Cross (wherein they stated that the amount of work caused by these acknowledgment cards was becoming too great) it was decided not to put any more cards into the parcels. A card is, however, included showing that the parcel is a gift from the people of New Zealand and sent through the Joint Council to the International Red Cross for weekly distribution.

Come and See Us.

All next-of-kin of prisoners should see this work in full swing, as it is every morning in the week. We should be glad to show visitors, especially from other parts of the Dominion, exactly what is being done. After a visit to the food packing floor and the room where the next-of-kin parcels are censored they would go away heartened and encouraged by what is being done to ensure that our prisoners may one day come back to us in good health and spirits very little the worse for the unenviable experience that has befallen them.

They Passed their Exams.

Over one hundred men in the prison camps of Germany have sat for and passed examinations since they have been in captivity. This has only been due to the tireless efforts of the Red Cross Educational Books Section. This figure can in no way be taken as final, for many papers have still to be set and scripts are even now arriving from the camps.

The subjects of these examinations range over the widest possible field, from brewing to chiropody, languages to typography, but on the whole the papers tend to be on technical and professional, rather than classical, lines.

The German authorities have co-operated to a great extent by allowing the men time off from their work to sit for their papers, but the difficulty throughout, particularly in the larger camps, has been to find a suitable place in which to hold the tests. Examinations are held as far as possible under as strict conditions as would obtain at home. Qualified men act as invigilators and one examining body is sending comforts for the officers who took on this task in lieu of the usual "Expenses for Board and Lodging," which it was found rather difficult to assess in the circumstances. It was expected, on account of the adverse circumstances, that results might be below normal standards, but on the contrary the examiners have found that the standard is high. The prisoners themselves are anxious that no allowance should be made for their unusual conditions, so that their qualifications may carry full weight when the war is over and they return to civil life.

The examination for football referees has been applied for by seventeen men, while four more are anxious to take the examination of the National Association of Swimming Instructors (theory).

Successful Candidates.

Up to date, examinations have been held in the following camps:—Oflag VI. B. (now closed, personnel transferred to Oflag VII. B., IX. A/Z and XXI. B.), Stalag Luft III., Stalag VIII. B., Stalag XX. A., Stalag XXI. B., Stalag XVIII. A., Marlag and Milag Nord, and flag VIII.

The following number of candidates have been successful in the examinations which they took in camp:—

The Institute of Cost and Works Accountants, Intermediate	4
The Institute of Bankers	8
Institute of Bankers in Scotland	5
The Institute of Brewing	2
The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers	2
School of Oriental and African Studies	3
Institute of Structural Engineers	2
The National Association of Swimming Instructors	1
The Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers	1
Royal Horticultural Society	8
Institution of Electrical Engineers	7
The Institute of Transport	7
The Council of Legal Education (Trinity Bar Examination)	3
Town Planning Joint Examination Board	6
University of London (Matriculation)	4
Chartered Institute of Secretaries	17

PRESS STATEMENTS.

For nearly 12 months it has been the practice of the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office Headquarters to issue a weekly statement which is very kindly published through the Press Association of New Zealand. This statement is issued every Saturday and published in Saturday evening and Monday morning papers in the main centres. Next of kin are recommended to continuously watch for these statements as they contain necessary information from time to time, including changes in parcels instructions.

HELP FOR DEAF PRISONERS.

The Invalid Comforts Section has established an aural comforts service to relieve British prisoners of war in camps in Germany and Italy, so far as possible, of their disability. The deaf alphabet and text books on lip reading are being sent and the Invalid Comforts Section is also despatching diagnosis forms, which when returned, will enable the section to provide hearing aids where desirable.

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What he can get for His Money at the Canteen in an Italian Camp

In the camps in Italy a private is paid 1 lira a day and a non-commissioned officer 1½ lira. Medical personnel have had their pay increased to 3.75 lira a day. They are paid fortnightly, so you will realise what wealth they have to squander at the canteen. Among the letters you will read of one boy buying a pair of pyjamas and another capitalist being able to buy a wristlet watch. It is heartening to think of them being able to make such purchases.

The following is the canteen price list from an Italian prison camp.

	Lire
Shredded Tobacco.	
Various brands from	1.45 to 11.00
Cigars from	0.40 to 1.70
Cigarettes from	0.50 to 8.00
Filters	3.00 box of 100
Cigarette papers	0.50 pkt. of 50
Matches	0.40 pkt. of 40
Matches	0.60 per box
Matches	0.25 per pkt.
Alcoholic Drinks—	
Marsala gogol-mogol	1.10 per glass
Vermouth or Passito	1.00 per glass
White Wine	0.50 per glass
Miscellaneous Articles—	
Alum	1.00 a-piece
Pen-holder	0.70 a-piece
Various fizzy drinks	1.00 bottle
Note block No. 2	2.80 a-piece
Note block No. 3	4.00 a-piece
Note block No. 4	5.00 a-piece
Cigarholder	1.00 a-piece
Purse	2.80 a-piece
Liquid brillantime	5.20 bottle
Solid brillantime	6.00 tin
Timed Fish	20.00 tin
Mixed caramels	42.00 kg. tin (2½lbs.)
Writing paper and envelopes	0.15 1 sheet & 1 envelope
Picture post cards	0.10 each
Ordinary post cards	0.05 each
Assorted chocolate	70.00 keg. (2½lbs.)
Eau de Cologne	2.80 bottle
Condiments	7.00 tin
Assorted sweets	55.00 kg. (2½lbs.)
Shaving cream	2.70 tin
"Gitana" chocolate bonbons	2.70 slab
Vegetable slabs	0.27 a-piece
Toothpaste, with tin	3.90 tin
Toothpaste, in tube	2.90 tube
"Diamantina" (substitute cocoa)	15.00 tin
Tinned beans	17.50 tin
Small cheeses	0.80 a-piece
Cream cheese	25.00 kg. (2½lbs.)
Tinned fruit	27.00 tin
Tonic water	0.40 bottle
Cuff links	2.50 pair
Boiled sweets	39.000 kg. (2½lbs.)
Ink	1.10/2.70 bottle
Shoelaces	1.00/75/.60 per pair
Razor blades	0.35 a-piece
Condensed milk	28.50 kg. (2½lbs.)
Shoe polish (black)	1.40 tin
Razors in case	5.00 case
Fruit compote, frozen	15.50 kg. (2½lbs.)
Fruit compote, in tin	7.50 tin
Pencils	0.60 a-piece
Bologna Sausage	28.50 kg. (2½lbs.)
Mustard Pickle	15.00 tin
Pickled Olives	14.00 kg. (2½lbs.)
Panforte (cake)	44.00 kg. (2½lbs.)
Shaving brush	3.50 a-piece
Nibs	0.10 a-piece
Combs in case	1.50 a-piece
Bakelite soap case	1.40 a-piece
Cigarette case with spring	2.00 a-piece
Note books	1.00/1.40/2.20
Shaving soap	2.70 tube
Cake of soap	3.60 cake
Sardines in oil	14.00 tin
Cleaning powder	1.30 envelope

In Japanese Hands

Zenzugi Camp, Shikoku Island, Japan.
John M. JONES, Radio Operator, P. & T. Dept.,
Waiutu, Westland.

I have finally been permitted to write to you and I hope it arrives all right. I am in Zentsuge War Prisoners' Camp in Japan, and am being well treated. Our main food consists of soup, rice and bread. I am in good health and am not being bothered, so please do not worry too much. Hope you are all keeping well and getting everything you want. I think we will return soon. Was captured in the north Gilbert Islands on 11th of December, 1941, and unfortunately lost all photos, etc. Two other operators are here with me—Sid Wallace of Greymouth, and Max McQuinn of Oxford, also four other New Zealanders and a few English, Australians and Dutch, the majority being Americans from Ocean and Wake Islands. Nearly 400 of us have quite a lot of fun with the American Navy men. I am now working clearing rocks and shrubs on a hillside, and my hands are getting quite hard now. We were issued thirty cigarettes a week and will be able to buy them soon. I have seen quite a lot of Japan. It's very pretty at present with cherry blossom. I spoke from Radio Tokyo to New Zealand per recording six weeks ago. Hope you received it all right. Please do not worry about me, as I am keeping fine. Hallo, Dad. I did my job A1, and don't forget to have a huge meal ready when I arrive. I'll never complain of food again. Keep your chins up and write to me through the Red Cross.

PRISONERS' KITS.

APPLY TO DIRECTOR, BASE RECORDS.

Where next-of-kin can produce a letter from a soldier prisoner wherein he expresses concern about his personal belongings hoping that they have been recovered and that next-of-kin will receive same, the Director, Base Records, accepts this as a direction from the soldier and hands over the effects if they have been received.

FOOD PARCELS RECEIVED.

Shipments Since Opening of North African Campaign.

The position respecting the transport of parcels is that since the 20th November six ships have sailed from Lisbon for Marseilles carrying Red Cross supplies, two of them Swedish and four Portuguese. In addition, at the time the sailings were suspended, a Spanish ship which was en route for Marseilles put in at Barcelona, but later completed her voyage. The British Prisoners of War Department has heard from Geneva of the arrival there, since the suspension, of two cargoes of Red Cross supplies equivalent to about 440,000 parcels.

Parcels at the Camps.

Acknowledgements have been received from the camps by the International Red Cross Committee during the period 16th June to 15th October of the receipt of 1,226,027 food parcels, and cases of food in bulk equivalent to 202,244 food parcels. These figures are especially interesting in that they tally quite well with the number of food parcels sent from Geneva into the camps during that period. Among those acknowledged were 4,056 New Zealand parcels.

During the same period 7,835 invalid comfort parcels and 41,133 tobacco parcels were acknowledged from the camps to the International Red Cross Committee.

AIR MAIL SERVICE.

We have advised all next of kin to use the Air Mail Service in writing to prisoners of war. In this connection it is interesting to note that a letter posted by this service in September was received by a prisoner in Italy in November.

Shoe brush	2.80 a-piece
Tooth brush	5.50 a-piece
Pocket mirror	2.50 a-piece
Tillo (disinfectant soap)	2.00 pot
Nougat, crisp	2.30/1.70 a-piece
Nougat, almond	56.00/58.00 kg.
Fountain pen	20.00 a-piece

Sports and Entertainments at the Camps



Big Cricket at Stalag VIII B.

Here is a vivid description of the big Cricket Test played against England on a Sunday in September. New Zealand won the toss. "I opened to a fast bowler. The second ball struck a bump and came up and got me fair between the eyes. Carried off and they brought on the next victim. Plastered up by doctor and batted next half hour. Lucky my nose wasn't broken, only a couple of lovely black eyes. It was a grand game and after looking certainties we were just beaten; but we beat Australia by 23 runs."

First Annual Sports.

Stalag Luft III held their first Annual Sports Meeting in August. The winning barracks scored 66 points compared with the next score of 44. Eleven barracks had entered so the winning "House" was duly elated.

They seem to play bridge in teams from the various barracks too. One lad writes: "Have quite a good footy field, full size, with a bit of a hollow in it. I am in the barrack's first fifteen and also play bridge for them."

They play volley ball, quoits, etc., and swim in the fire tank.

In the Oflag.

Our first news of sport in Oflag VII. B. tells of playing football and also that baseball is very popular in the camp as they have a good many Canadians.

Oflag III. C. has good sports grounds on which they play rugby, soccer, basketball and hockey.

Evenings in Camp.

One boy describes evenings in a prison camp as follows:—"Evenings spent at cricket, cards, chess, boxing and the usual meeting of the Army Council after lights out when we discuss how the war should be further proceeded with, long reviews of the Battle of Greece, and a final motion of the utmost confidence in Mr. Churchill."

Merric England.

Stalag XVIII. A. put on a one-day show entitled "Merric England," and by it raised 1,000 R.M.'s for the camp funds.

"We opened early in the day with a procession headed by the Drum Major, a band, and six Maori warriors. Behind them came 'Lord and Lady Blimp' in a special two-wheeled cart drawn by the 'Rubbish Party.' Other characters in the procession were 'Madame Zaza,' 'Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm,' and 'Antony and Cleopatra.'"

The show was formally declared open by the Beauty Queen and ended with an Empire concert given by New Zealanders, Australians and Britishers.

Stalag XVIII. A. has been running general knowledge competitions at the week-ends. "We have to find about 150 questions and answers each time and you can bet this keeps us quiet for quite a time. We'll be having a spelling bee next week-end."

At this camp they are converting their old quarters into a theatre. They have a music class and choir and are working hard on a lot of old songs for a big augmented choir sing. One boy says: "If I'm here for many more months there will be few songs I don't know some sort of bass part for. J.R. has started a new Harmony Class for his advanced pupils. That's us."

They have a wonderful new piano for the concert hall, a Viennese "Dorr."

Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Campo P.G. 52 held an Arts and Crafts Exhibition. Some of the entries, according to one member of the camp, had to be seen to be believed. All entries were made with home-made tools. This Art Exhibition seems to have slipped a little from the pure fields of art when we read that side shows at the exhibition included crown and anchor, roulette, banker, darts and coconut shies. Perhaps the not so artistic had to be bribed to come.

Campo 52 has good gramophone records, many of them in English and gramophone concerts are held about four times a week. It also has 2,000 books in the library. This camp has a society called the CADS, Camp Amateur Dramatic So-

Here and There

Sick Prisoners of War in some German Military Hospitals are given 50 pfennigs a week. It is good to know they have some money to spend.

Medical personnel are allowed to write more mail than ordinary prisoners. Doctors can write 8 letters, 8 cards and 8 notes monthly, and medical orderlies can write 4 letters and 4 cards.

Zweilager means two camps. It is our opinion that when the letter Z is added to a camp address, e.g. Oflag IX. A/Z it does not necessarily mean another camp, but only a division of the base camp.

Food Ration in Hong Kong Prisoner of War and Civilian Camps.—Daily: 8ozs. rice, 8ozs. flour, 4ozs. meat (including bone) of poor quality, 2.5ozs. sugar, vegetables, also poor quality.

Occupational Therapy.—A new service has been initiated during the past year by the Joint Council which will operate under the Invalid Comforts Section. The object is to provide occupation for the sick and wounded prisoners. During the past year 7,000 men have been supplied. Some have taken up tapestry work and weaving.

Campo P.G. 59.—In a letter written to England in September a prisoner stated that "food parcels were continuing regularly, all next-of-kin parcels arrived and 300 books from the Red Cross last week."

A German Tribute.—A prisoner writes that when he wore the boots and breeches which he received in his second next-of-kin parcel, the Germans for whom he was working told him "how lucky he was to have such good parents and what a wonderful movement the Red Cross was, and how thankful the English prisoners ought to be."

From the Land we Love so Well.—In a letter of thanks from a prisoner in Stalag XX. B. direct to St. James's Palace, London, he ends by saying, "I only wish I could explain what it is like to handle something which is British from that land we love so well."

The Orthopaedic Mission of Swiss doctors that we have told you about visited Stalag XXI. A. in August. They measured 100 odd amputation cases for artificial limbs in three days.

The Indian Comforts Fund, of which Mrs. L. S. Amery is Chairman, despatches 20,000 food parcels weekly to Indian soldiers and seamen who are prisoners of war. The fund also undertakes the duties of next-of-kin to all Indian prisoners of war in Europe, regularly sending them parcels.

At Selfridges the Lord Mayor of London recently opened a comprehensive Prisoners of War Exhibition. Special features of the Exhibition are a full-sized model showing the kind of living quarters in a good German camp, and a large map which brings home the long distances over which parcels have to be transported by land and sea, and land again before they reach the camps.

A Picture from Stalag XVIII. A.—"I shall remember the scene, late one night, when the men got their parcels. We served them out from a farm cart in the twilight, and a kindly guard switched the searchlights on to help us. All over the grass and path the men were on their knees pulling tins and cartons out of their cardboard boxes. Their cries of rapture, surprise and delight would have supplied a symposium for those grand workers, the Red Cross, to work by. If only I could remember these highlights and forget the lowlights when I come home."

NEW ZEALAND MEN STILL IN CRETE.

The New Zealand Red Cross Commissioner in the Middle East has cabled us recently that a number of New Zealand men are still in parts of Crete.

ciety. They recently put on three one-act comedies which were very good indeed. The props were marvellously improvised out of scraps.

Contract Bridge.

Contract bridge also has its devotees in the Italian camps. We read of one man learning to play in Camp 38 and improving his game in Camp 52. In Camp 107 one four are playing up to a million points. They have reached 40,000.

TEACHING THE BLIND

INVERCARGILL MAN IN PRISON CAMP.

There is a school for blind prisoners of war in Germany. Here they are taught music, massage, shorthand and type-writing besides handicrafts such as basket making. Lieutenant the Marquis of Normanby is in charge of the school and the teacher of music is an Invercargill man, Sergeant Rutherford Brown.

In letters to his parents, Sergeant Brown tells something of his life as a prisoner of war and as a teacher of music to his unfortunate fellow prisoners who have lost their sight in the war.

Writing on August 23 Sergeant Brown says: "It is very quiet here, but one always seems to have something to do. I get up about 7.30, have my breakfast and get my pupils cracking on their practice. At 10.30 I have a Braille class, where I am learning the ordinary Braille system with Lieutenant the Marquis of Normanby, and later I will be doing the musical Braille system, which is quite different. After lunch I have four lessons (there will be more next week) and then a break before a walk at 3.30, arriving back just about dinner time. In the evening I usually manage a bit of practice myself, then supper and bed at nine. Sometimes I manage a game of tenniquits or bridge after dinner, and sometimes am at band practice. Last night we had a concert run by the Harmonica Band with some singing, short sketches and an interval by the dance band which played two new numbers that I brought from Camp VIII. and arranged for them.

Rural District.

"The district around here is very pretty and rural and the walks are usually through woods along the sides of small lakes and through the local village, typical of German villages all over the country. But it gives such wonderful pleasure to get out at all, and do the blind boys enjoy it! As I look out at the window now the village church looms up above us, built in stone in 1740 odd. I haven't been in it yet, but I hope to some time."

In a later letter Sergeant Brown states that the musical lessons had been interrupted by the arrival of a batch of wounded Canadians and that he had been called on to assist the medical staff. (Sergeant Brown was a chemist in civilian life.) He writes: "The worst cases were put into one ward and I was put in charge of it. For one week I was absolutely flat out with no other medical to help me with 16 patients. Then as some of the lads got better my work eased off considerably. One boy died the first night, but the others are O.K. now. It has been very exciting, but I have enjoyed it."

Colonial Capers.

Writing on September 23 Sergeant Brown says: "Last night we had a great time. The Dominions of Canada, New Zealand and Australia put on a concert called 'Colonial Capers,' and it went over with a bang. There were three sketches, a camp fire scene, Dad and Dave, and a nudist colony stunt, and they were really funny. The Kiwis put the finish to it with a fully dressed Maori scene. We did the canoe poi, with actions, to which I sang the verse in Maori followed by a haka led by a Rotorua Arawa and ending with 'Maori Battalion.' We got a wonderful reception and it was a grand show considering that two of the leaders, both Maoris, have peg legs. Four of us, one Milton (blind), one Rotorua (peg leg), one Auckland (short leg), and one Invercargill (100 per cent.) sang 'E Pari Ra' and 'Pokare Pokare Ana' in Maori, and we had a ukelele solo and a guitar solo from two Canadians. Everybody seemed very thrilled with it."

The entertainment side of the blind school will be starting in a while I hope. The Marquis of Normanby asked me yesterday if I would get some of the lads who can do any little thing to work together towards forming a little band, singing, piano and plays, and, of course, I am keen to get a quartet going too. They are a very keen lot of lads and nothing is too big for them. It is really amazing what they can do and most of them make very light of their afflictions."

STALAG ON SHOW IN A LONDON STORE

By "Daily Mail" Reporter.

Relatives of prisoners of war were able to walk into a London store yesterday and see exactly how their men in Germany are living now.

For the Red Cross, aided by letters and drawings from prisoners, have constructed a full-size replica of the quarters in which our captured men are housed.

They live in large wooden hutments. In the good camps, two men share a space about 12ft. by 8 ft.

Their sleeping bunks, built of wood, are erected against the wall, in tiers two deep. Each man has a wool-stuffed palliase and two thin dark-grey blankets. They have no pillows or linen of any kind.

Just above the head of the bunks, which in many cases have been constructed by the prisoners themselves, the men have built narrow wooden shelves on which to put their belongings, their brushes, mugs, razors, and odds and ends of personal property.

WOODEN STOOLS

In some camps, instead of chairs there are only low, 3ft-long wooden benches and crude wooden stools about the height of footstools.

The furniture is only what the men have been able to build for themselves from planks. The tables are about 4ft. long by 3ft. wide and are nothing more than planks placed on crossed bars.

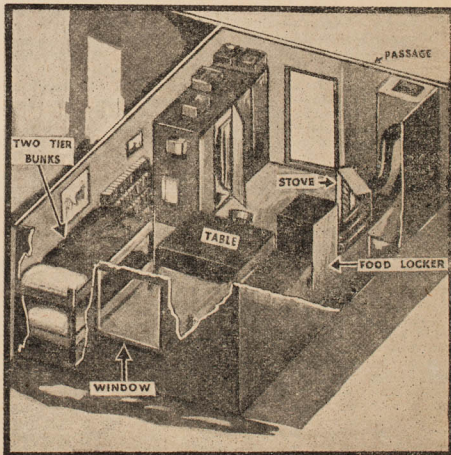
Heating is provided by a large continental stove banked up with wood. On the flat top of these stoves the men are able to boil water.

STRING "CLOTHES-LINES."

They have to do their own washing, and string their clothing above the stove on lengths of twine they collect from their parcels.

Where our prisoners have been able to get wood, they have built themselves "sideboards," on which they put their books and their photographs. They use them also as an extra table.

About 24 men live and sleep in each hutment. This camp is on show, together with many features concerning the life of a prisoner of war, in Selfridge's Exhibition Hall from 9.30 to 4 o'clock daily until December 2.



PRISON CAMP IN GERMANY
Reconstruction of a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany is on view at a London store. The model has been built from drawings and descriptions contained in letters British captives have sent home. "Daily Mail" picture shows you a typical four-man hut. Much of the furniture is built by the captives in their spare time. Stoves with wood fuel are the only source of heat.

PRISONERS' OF WAR LETTERS

A P.O.W. APPRECIATION

Sir,—Another letter has arrived from my son, Pte. R. A. Forster, Stalag VIII B, asking me to forward a further £5 to your funds in appreciation of the wonderful services your organisation has rendered to our boys in P.O.W. camps.

This is the third £5 contribution my boy has made in less than a year, and it is certainly a pleasure as a parent to read his glowing tributes and comments concerning the material assistance he and his 'cobbers' have received during captivity in Germany.

I would like to emphasise that according to his own statements of which we have many, he has been well treated from the time he was wounded in Crete until the last letter written in August, 1942.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Robt. A. Forster.

Enclosed Cheque £5.

P.G. 47

LIEUT. R. McG. WOOD.

Wellington.

October 12th Great work this week—you letter via N.Z. House dated August 8th arrived—one of the first to reach N.Z.'ers in our crowd, and the news was appreciated by many . . . I never felt better . . . I have patched my shorts where the MG bullet went through, and if they not worn out I'll bring them home as a souvenir.

On Saturday the old inhabitants turned on a pantomime which was quite good, the props being excellent and produced from nowhere. Educational classes start tomorrow and quite a lot of talent has come to light. I am taking Italian, advanced French, Economics and German. Other classes on the go are Book-keeping, Shorthand, Company Law, Art (by Capt. Earl Haig), Architectural Drawing, Mathematics, Vet. Science; which is pretty good considering there are only about 250 here and no imported talent. At present we get a Red Cross parcel each, weekly, which is an excellent thing. We put all the cookable things into the mess and they produce great results with them. I am learning table manners; Now I always rise from the table feeling that I could eat a little more!

October, 22nd. No big excitement this week except a game of hockey against the old hands, which we lost. We leave this camp in two days. Sorry to leave in some ways.

2/LIEUT. J. H. MONEY, 5th November. Auckland.

This camp is streets better than anywhere else I have been though I still miss the glorious mountain views of No. 35. We feel more like civilised beings again and less like exhibits in a zoo. We now have table cloths and glasses and cups if you please. My old empty butter tin mug begins to stand idle.

LIEUT. D. C. LATHAM, 5th November. Stratford.

We are expecting to receive mail any day now. Quite a few of the boys have had air mail letters via New Zealand House, London. I am now taking a course in Agriculture, and finding it very interesting. I am also giving a series of lectures on the Co-operative Dairy Industry in New Zealand and Farmers' accounting. We are having lovely sunny weather just now and play games, baseball, basketball, etc., so am keeping pretty fit. Red Cross parcels arriving regularly.

W. H. ROBINSON, CAPT., Church Army., 9th July Auck.

Here again, still alive and well on feeding twice a day. So far I have not received any letters, or parcels; several chaps from New Zealand have had mail. I am unlucky, perhaps tomorrow I might click, I hope so anyway. The farmers around here are busy ploughing. I was surprised to notice that the farm work is done by oxen. I haven't seen a horse around here, but lots of times, I have heard a Palestine Nightingale, namely a Donkey, braying on the road. The soil in this part of the world is very good; the crops do well. I would say that the land here is far more fertile than ours.

LIEUT. F. D. CHRISTENSEN, 12th November. Marton.

Some of the chaps have had letters from New Zealand addressed to a P.O.W. Camp, so I'm expecting a letter from you any day now. The 'University' started up yesterday. I

am taking Book-keeping, Auditing, Shorthand, Industrial Organisation and German. Am also thinking about Company Law and Wills and Administration of Estates. But lecturers here are all South African and so far no text books have arrived so think it would be a waste of time at present. I've written to England for four text books, Dicey's Student Digest of Conflict, Salmon on Torts, Enell, "Principles of Equity", and Anson, "Contracts". Two for new subjects, two for revision. The New Zealand High Commissioner may send you a bill for these four. Please pay it out of my allotment. Expect the books to arrive about end of January. Am also expecting a parcel of clothing from High Commissioner in London in the next six weeks, also tobacco. Games are in full swing here now. I have played Basket-ball, or Baseball every day almost in the last week. These will soon stop when the snow falls. So far the winter has held off unusually well, but when she comes, they say the snow falls to a depth of four feet!! We are allowed out for walks twice in three weeks. The country is quite like New Zealand, except that it is densely populated. But it looks good to see elms and oaks and such trees instead of figs.

CAPT. HERBERT G. TANSLEY, 17th December. Auckland.

Well I have got one item of interest to tell you in this letter and it is that I received your August parcel containing the shoes, etc., during the week and you have no idea what a kick it gave me. I could not have had a better fit with the shoes and slippers if I had chosen them myself, and you don't just know how civilized and comfortable I feel once again to trot round in them, and needless to say they were envied a lot by many. The chocolate is lovely and I am enjoying it together with others, whom I am sharing it with. The rest of our gear from the last camp arrived also during the week.

LIEUT. H. D. GILFILLAN, 21st October. Auckland.

Still going strong and keeping out of mischief. We had a game of Rugby again to-day, I played on the wing again. It's good fun and keeps you fit. Can you imagine it at my age? It's time I got more sense. . . .

5th November. Here's another letter and as you can see from the address, we have changed our abode once more. It is quite a pleasant spot and we are quite comfortable here. I do wish we could get some mail before long. Some of the chaps have had a letter from home already. It's getting on towards winter time here, but I suppose by the time you get this it will be mid-summer in New Zealand—I'm going to start on a course in farming while I'm here. They have asked me to lecture on sheep and cattle from the New Zealand standpoint, so I'll have to do a bit of head scratching to remember what is what. It should be useful after the war.

FLYING OFFICER GEORGE EDMUND GUTHRIE,

23rd November. Feilding.

As you can see from my address, I am at a new camp. We got two day's notice and all the New Zealand Officers went. We had a hectic time getting all our gear straightened up, and on the last day a huge number of next-of-kin parcels arrived. There were two for me, both my first and second. Gee, it was a great thrill. The pullover is just ideal, many many thanks for knitting it and for anything else you were responsible for in the parcels. You can imagine the wonderful thrill it is to get something actually from home. It created a problem for shifting but we managed, the two kit bags Dad included were most useful. We had a party on the last night, and I was paraded round showing my pullover. Well anyway it was good fun and we left the camp with many a feeling of regret. We had a wonderful trip up in daylight in beautiful weather and saw many beautiful towns and strange sights, we are further north now in a very large camp of about 1,000 officers and over 200 men, all N.Z. officer prisoners are here, approximately 200, and the balance South African. We do not have the beautiful view we had in our last camp, in fact we look at a brick wall but there is plenty of ground for exercise, where we play basketball, football (of a kind) and baseball, and walk miles. It isn't bad and will improve.

DVR. C. W. KENNEDY, 7th November.

Tapanui.

I am a pound short of 12 stone now. I have received

YOUR LETTERS HELP US KNOW THE CONDITIONS OF THE CAMPS.

two letters from you last week. My letters are a long time reaching you. The first few were not too cheerful, but that could be expected. The weather is still good here. Your parcel has not arrived yet, but I have plenty of clothes and it is only the barbed wire that is keeping me back. I am getting mail from you fairly regularly now. We get three hot showers a week and have plenty of soap to keep clean.

CAPT. JAMES H. G. CARNACHAN, 12th November. Auckland.

I have received two clothing parcels, one being the excellent one you sent. My first letter from the new camp told you of my good fortune in meeting Ken Turtill, Jack Carrol, Norm Wilcox, Peter Maxwell, Ron Bush and many other good friends. Probably it will not seem extraordinary to you in New Zealand that we have met, but actually taking into account the number of camps in Italy, the distances that separate them, and the way in which one can become separated from one's friends in the sorting out, it is really particularly fortunate.

CAMPO P.G. 52

CAPT. G. C. T. BURNS.

Hawera.

BIG STOCK OF RED CROSS PARCELS.

This is a camp containing nearly 3,000 men, of whom most are South Africans. 900 are New Zealanders, the rest are Tommies, etc., with an odd Pole, Australian, etc., including quite a few sailors. There are two officers who have been here a few months, both NZ. padres, Bishop Gerard and Padre Mitchell. They have never had medical officers here, but there are two Italian medical officers. The camp is said to be a model men's camp, well run, and morale is very high indeed.

17th October. Had a good walk this week up to a church on a hill nearby. This church contains a miracle-working picture, and its walls are covered by dozens of votive offerings presented by those benefiting. Had a good camp concert last Sunday, with the camp "Swing Band", and several quite good entertainers, and the inevitable female impersonators.

4th November. This week I had my N.Z. House clothing parcel from London posted in June. There were some useful clothes in it, but unluckily the chocolate had been skillfully removed en route, before reaching Switzerland, I think. Of course, it is wonderful how few parcels are tampered with considering the circuitous route they take. I am expecting your parcel sent in March to arrive soon. Last week in the pouring rain about 500 new prisoners arrived—all Tommies taken at Tobruk. They were very bedraggled, and were given Red Cross parcels on arrival, while the rest of the camp had a whip round for clothes, cigarettes, etc, for them, and they soon picked up their spirits. The food situation is good, with a big stock of Red Cross parcels,—plenty of cigarettes now.

13th November. I have just had your letter of 4th September. We have a book in which is pooled all New Zealand news, and I learn from it a lot of news about things in New Zealand. Food situation is O.K.

R. E. OLSEN, no date.

Auckland.

I have had a real treat this week, the last three days receiving thirteen letters. They were dated May, July and August. So far the second next-of-kin parcel from you has not arrived, but should not be long. I have come across quite a few boys that I used to work with, also some from Gisborne, we exchange news and talk of old times. Have just received our Red Cross food parcel full of good things, and as you say, Mother, they certainly do a great work. We have two loud speakers installed in the camp grounds, so are now able to listen in to music.

PTE. LEONARD S. TURNBULL, 3rd October. Papakura.

I've been unlucky lately and had no mail for months. It's just on twelve months since I was taken prisoner but don't worry about me, and I'm quite well now and putting on weight. The Red Cross parcels are wonderful. Three between four men. Don't send any clothing except khaki shorts as I have plenty. Also send Aspirin—razor blades—Gillette, leather boot laces, and chocolate. The treatment is quite reasonable here—they do all in their power to help us.

CPL. L. W. MOORE, 17th October.

Auckland.

... Conditions are good here now and I'm sitting in bed penning this in my new pyjamas, a gift from an Anzac Society in South Africa.

24th October. No parcel arrived for me yet, the boots will be welcome as I am wearing a size ten at present. In the future,

send nothing more at all in the clothing line—too bad eats are barred.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

PTE. H. ROY PUDDLE, 17th September. Christchurch.

An airmail service has commenced for us. I received your letters on Saturday. The usual camp entertainments are taking place regularly—sports meetings, concerts, plays, boxing contests, etc. Next month the camp boxing championships are to be held. After a lull of two weeks more parcels arrived and we had an issue today (English). You'll be interested to know that I and other medical personnel had our pay increased recently to 3 lire 75 cents daily. Have also been paid up to date for the past period when we were receiving the old rate. Result was a credit of 629 lire 30 cents. The money has been very handy for buying little "extras" from canteen. You'll also be interested to know that I have been able to purchase a wrist watch for 425 lire.

October 3rd. Here I am with 5 letters to answer; that number having arrived during the last week. We medicals now have the privilege of sending two letters and two cards weekly. I think I told you that Alan Ward and a party of medicals left here some time ago and I understand are at a hospital. We had hoped that they were in line for repatriation, however that may come. I am still waiting for my study books to arrive from England.

October 15th. Received August, 10th, letter yesterday. C.E. is going well. After a month's warning we had (two Mondays ago) a Quiz on Mark's gospel and followed it up this Monday with an outline of the Gospel by Arthur Arnold.

R. G. MONTGOMERIE.

HAWKE'S BAY AND POVERTY BAY AT HOME.

Had a Napier district meeting of the 15th instant. From Napier: Bishop G. V. Gerard, R. P. Langley, A. J. Carr, J. C. and L. W. Greatbatch, R. A. Jones, E. F. Doggett, J. Goodall, W. Blundell, C. L. Louissou, P. J. Madden, G. Swainson, J. H. Owen. From Taradale: J. M. Simonsen. From Waipawa: D. Cochrane and J. W. Freemantle. From Hastings: H. K. Frost. From Waipukurau: D. L. Taylor, J. Sullivan, R. A. Canning, F. Daily. From Gisborne: B. Jenkins, H. A. Coleman, G. W. Donnelly, A. E. Nicholls, D. W. McKenzie, F. H. Collins, R. J. Reynolds. From Wairoa: M. Gemmell, H. C. Drajer, N. R. Hinechesman. From Danversville: B. L. Cunningham, N. Fryer, J. F. McDavitt. From Tolaga Bay: J. D. H. Jackman. From Te Puke: J. H. McKenzie. From Whakatane: M. R. Gattsche. From Whakatu: N. Wiley. From Puketitiri: J. Simcox.

The above meeting was arranged by 'Aussie' Langley and the Bishop completely bowled us by providing afternoon tea. He stated that he had just received a parcel from General Freyberg and thus he could do the honours—his batman made an effort in building a cake and also coated some biscuits with chocolate, the Bishop said he was glad to be able to hand on some of his "windfall." A great afternoon, self thanked Langley and the Bishop. Bishop made a good reply. The leaves are falling from the trees now and today is the first wet day for some time, summer being well on the wane. A N.Z. Doctor has just joined us.

SGT. A. GORDON BROWN, 3rd October.

Dargaville.

I have had my birthday. Nine of us had a party; the boys made a cake, it was very good under the circumstances. One of your letters just received had greetings in it and that helped to make it more pleasant. Please do not send any more clothes just now. We have been helping the Q.M. the last fortnight with the Red Cross clothing. We are very pleased to do so. Sometimes we go up the road and get the mail. It is a walk and a charge. Do a lot of reading. We have over 2,000 books in the camp and they are a big asset.

28th October. Have received letters written July 19th. That is the latest news I have had. It was Labour Day on Monday. It rained and many N.Z. boys said it was just like New Zealand. Our Red Cross Parcels are coming in regularly now, so we should have no fear of our Christmas parcel not arriving. Some lamb and green peas will be something like home.

PTE. R. D. ROBERTSON, October 9th.

Wanganui.

Another week gone, no mail or parcels. I've been doing pretty well for mail up to now. There is a load of personal parcels in tonight. I bought a pair of pyjamas this week. 30 lire, a month's pay, how's that for a luxury, but still to me

they are worth it. I'm feeling pretty good just now but not looking forward to the winter.

23rd October. No letters this week but I received my first next-of-kin parcel from New Zealand House, London. Gee, it is a beaut, nearly all the boys have got one now. I got a shirt, pyjamas, singlets, underpants, three pairs of socks, a sweater; I'm wearing that now as it is a very cold night, also a pound of chocolate. Towels and hankies, then to top all that off I got a Cigarette parcel with 400 cigarettes in it. I am pretty well off just now.

GUNNER H. A. READMAN, 16th October. Christchurch.

I received the parcel of clothes in good order. I am afraid that I am at a loss to find words to express my appreciation for them. If possible, could you forward to me a few back copies of the Journal of Agriculture as I am seriously considering taking up farming for myself when we are back in New Zealand and they should be useful to me.

PTE. C. McL. BISSET, 18th September. Christchurch.

Letter day again and my main item of news is that I have lost my mates Vin Russell and Les Croft. They have gone farming with about a third of the other Kiwis and I was very sorry to see them go. I am now brewing with Dave Harvey. I don't expect to see the boys again in this country but we'll have a grand re-union wherever we meet again—we've shared everything down to our last cigarette for nearly a year. I think I just about hold the hut record with 41 letters. We came in for a lot of banter about our N.Z. food parcels from the Tommies and S. Africans—they wanted to know if all the cows had died as tea was included in the parcels but no milk or sugar. However the stuff was beautiful, especially the honey which was voted 100 per cent. Some of the butter was not too good but I suppose the heat did that. However send on the parcels as our supply has run out and it is 23 weeks since we had a parcel. Believe me, they are a welcome necessity.

GNR. M. N. WATSON, 3rd & 16th October. Christchurch.

Highlight of the week when I received a large mail, eleven letters and a clothing parcel from N.Z. Prisoners of War Centre, London. So with Mait's clothes, and mine and those you have already sent we will have sufficient, so please do not send any more clothes. The pipe and pouch I received in my parcel were most acceptable, as my "Old Pal" was ready for a spell, even if I didn't think so my neighbour did. Such is life in a P. of W. Camp. It is really surprising how one settles down to the daily routine. Talk about "Country Cousins come to town"; I guess we'll have them well licked when we get out of this.

17th and 24th October. We are both well. Last fortnight has been perfect regards weather. The Bishop has gone away for a while on a Pastoral visit to other camps, so Randal and I are carrying on Church of England services with Padre Michell's help. This life is not doing us any harm, our grateful thanks to the Red Cross whose food parcels have been arriving regularly. Orchestral concert to-day and variety show tomorrow in which I am taking part. Choir now started on Stainer's Communion Service which was written from memory by Doug Palmer, our choirmaster. Doing Gloria and all. Hope to do it by Christmas, if not before. Well, another week is over. How they do fly past, even in this place. With rehearsals for plays, delivering lessons in English, and trying to learn French, Italian, Shorthand and do some practice in each. Then we have choir practice. Brewing up tea, and so forth from our Red Cross parcels, washing clothes, and yarning about things in general, mainly recalling the happy events of the past or building high hopes for the future. The time moves slowly but pleasantly on towards the great day when "wars shall be no more."

S. C. WELSFORD, 5th September. Christchurch.

We are pretty good here—we to-day received through the Red Cross our first Kiwi food parcels and we all note them to be the best of the lot—of course in saying this we mean that they are extra good. We have had a big gap in mail, but I have received your two letters of May 10th and 20th recently.

PTE. J. STEVENSON, 6th October. Dunedin.

We received your letter, which was the first one, the other day, dated 23rd July. We are in a different camp now and we are working on the land doing drainage work and we work seven hours a day, except Saturday, when we work five. We get paid one lire, ninety cents an hour. We have been here about three weeks.

CPL. J. E. G. BARRY, 14th November. Auckland.

The other week we had a concert organized by the New Zealand boys and it was very good, equal to many professional shows. We have a wireless installed in the camp now, and can listen to some good music. The weather is turning very cold now, but so far we have had no frost. Received two more letters from you this week. Red Cross parcels are arriving regularly, and they make a very welcome addition to our diet.

H. T. UPTON (W.O. II.), 2nd September. Auckland.

This week has been a good one, three letters from New Zealand, one from England, half a Red Cross parcel. Two New Zealand doctors have joined the camp. Our supply of Red Cross parcels ran out a week ago and another load came up on Sunday which included some from New Zealand. We were issued with one between two of us, but so far no New Zealand ones have been issued. I'm very keen to see what Friday's half will be. The two doctors who have joined us here are Bryan Lusk and Bob Burns, both from my old unit; it's grand to have them here.

23rd September. It's funny how good times always seem to follow bad ones. It has been a dreary week and we were getting "browned off" when to-day I got ten letters. We had had no parcel issue for the past four regular days, and were feeling it a bit, when a load arrived up here in the camp. It makes a great difference to us.

SGT. G. M. GOLDFINCH, No date. Auckland.

I've just received a letter written on March 20th, making the third letter and a couple of Red Cross messages since I've been here. Most of the boys have had some news, but I'm one of the lucky ones. I can readily understand now why some parts of Italy are famed for their summer, the weather is glorious and makes up for all the rain we have had. We are expecting a bathing pool to be ready shortly, and it will be great during the hot part of the day. So you see, we are not badly looked after here.

PTE. I. G. FORDHAM, No date. Auckland.

Hello, there, and I guess the flowers will be blooming now "way down under." Pardon my outburst, but we now have a Yank Canadian cum Kiwi in our hut, and these things get into one's blood. Well the letter mail has been a bit quiet this week, but the parcels have rolled in and I caught my third cigarette parcel. An interlude is now called for as this parcel issue and it's more New Zealand. To resume: most rules have exceptions and this is proved with New Zealand parcels, because one can certainly keep these good things down. 300 hymn books arrived this week so the services should be even brighter now as reading hymns from a blackboard is not so hot. The Padre and Bishop are still going strong in their own ways and quite a number of church members have been confirmed. And now we cry "Tally Ho" once more.

SPR. VICTOR TUOHHEY, 23rd October. Auckland.

I have received a clothing parcel from N.Z. House, London. It contained many things I urgently wanted, most important being pyjamas, towels, socks, underwear. Your parcel has not arrived yet. As you probably have two parcels on the way to me now containing clothing, do not bother about any more as with them I will have more clothes than I can use.

Pte. CHRIS. H. BOYCE, 10th October. Cambridge.

Delighted to receive yours of the 1st August. Mail is an absolute godsend these days and I've been in luck lately. New Zealand Red Cross parcel this week, very nice. Fancy getting Anchor butter and K jam here. I shall never grow tired of praising the absolutely magnificent help of the Red Cross. Thanks to them I've put on 7lbs. in weight since last April. Bush and I also both received a clothing parcel from the N.Z. Red Cross, London, this week, mine was not intact, but got some very nice things, and we are amply supplied with warm winter clothing. I am doing very well, have read many books, also Shakespearean plays and many Geographical Magazines. I have learnt many things these last few months and my knowledge of geography has improved immensely. This life has its comical side—Two-up, Crown and Anchor, Pitch and Toss, etc., go all day long. I feel that life has taught me things which will be of service always. Roasted chestnuts for supper bring back school-day memories. Word of any of my comrades, good or bad, is welcome. I have a warm bed, a good roof, great friends, plenty to read, enough to eat and am indeed grateful. I realise my lot is not a bad one.

24th October. Red Cross food parcel for us to-day. They are doing great things for us, and if they could only hear the

cheer that goes up when their lorry arrives, they would know how thankful we are to them.

A splendid symphony concert last Sunday. How I enjoyed it. Bishop Gerard has been gone two weeks visiting other camps. We hope for his early return. I often serve for him at Communion, and it was my job to take 27 candidates up to him for confirmation. Still read plenty. I keep busy what with our washing, cooking, church daily, working party twice a week. I'll love you to see me brewing up with a home-made fireplace out of jam tins, and we know how to use wood with economy. Two crickets bats in camp now. Had a hit on Wednesday, the main difficulty was in my exuberance to restrain myself from hitting the ball "back-over-beyond."

Pte. W. J. MEEHAN, 3rd October.

Port Chalmers.

I received letters from you dated July 27th. I received your beautiful New Zealand parcel containing boots. You will never realize what that parcel means to me. And every article was perfect. Chocolate was most delicious. I shall not require anything further in that line. From now on just simply send me as much chocolate as you can. You can wrap it up in the tin as you have done, and also enclose an occasional pair of socks, a towel, and some toilet gear.

SGT. R. H. TAYLOR, 3rd October.

Whakapara.

We are now granted an air-mail service, so should speed letters up. I have just had your air mail, 11/7/42. Being from a medical unit, we now get extra money, and having a canteen in camp can buy a few things, though they are dear. In view of this you need not worry now in sending parcels. Clothes I am well set up for, having got a next-of-kin parcel from England. Every month I get cigarettes in two hundred from England also. Now that things are organised we do fairly well, so you have no need to worry. The dark days have gone, thank goodness. I must add here civilian clothing sent to prisoners of war is confiscated this end. Anything in khaki (shirt) is O.K. Ordinary under-clothing is permissible.

PTE. G. A. PLUMMER, 24th October.

Auckland.

A mail again this week. You have no idea of the hour I received them. I'll guarantee—11.30 p.m., when I was still working on parcels. We had a big parcel mail which we finished entering on the book at about 1.15 a.m.

Another lot of lads were going up to another camp to do some farming, so we thought that we would give them their parcels before they left, so we worked till we finished and then did not manage it. About parcels, we wrote about them very early when we did not know enough about things. The ones you send every three months will prove more than ample, really they will. Then there are the invalid parcels through the Red Cross for lads who are run down.

TWO LIBRARIES.

SGT. R. M. MORGAN, 3rd and 4th October.

Was thrilled to receive your letter (8th July) last Tuesday. We still have the two choirs going, and are putting on concerts regularly. The talent in the camp is quite amazing. Besides all the actors and vaudeville artists we have lecturers in a great variety of subjects. My chief interest at present is in the music lectures, given by a Dunedin lad. We have had two exams so far, and I was second in each, and highest aggregate marks. Our second term commences on Monday, and we'll delve further into harmony and counterpoint. I am also reading quite a lot of books these days, have two libraries, the main one has about two thousand volumes. We can get books on all subjects from biography to crime. The orchestra also have a lot of new instruments and music. A great deal of interest is being displayed in the Baseball Tournament being held just now. You'll be pleased to hear that I am receiving extra pay in here now, as I'm recognised as medical personnel. Also am permitted two letters and two cards per week. Can afford to buy a few extras now in the biscuit and sardine line. We can purchase excellent sardines for 2/8. Grapes, apples, tomatoes and onions are still rolling in.

24th October. Have had my first clothing parcel from London.

CPL. MARSHALL, 17th September.

NEW ZEALAND PARCELS ARE JOLLY GOOD.

"There isn't much doing, we lost a few of our pals the other day. They went to another camp, so things are a bit quiet. Our New Zealand Red Cross parcels arrived last week. They are jolly good; among other things there was a pound of butter, honey, and by Jove, it pepped the bread up. I

wouldn't mind if we got a bit more of them. The parcel you sent has not arrived yet, but some Southern camps have had theirs in the last fortnight, so mine should not be long now. I hope you are well for I am. Things are not so bad.

24th September. Things are O.K. as usual, the mail is scarce though. I think we have seen the last of the fine weather.

PTE. DAVID BREMNER, 28th October.

Auckland.

I received two letters yesterday, and though they were not recent ones, they were very welcome. We can now send air-mail letters, but please don't expect too many. One has a hard job to balance the budget, but I will send them as often as I can. I am sending this one air mail, hoping you will receive it before Christmas, and know that I am all right here, and that there is no need to worry about me, although I have had only this one clothing parcel so far (the one you sent in March). By the time I get the others, also the one from New Zealand House, which I have not had yet, I should be well set up for clothes. The only things I will be needing besides chocolate, will be tooth paste, socks, hankies, boot polish, shaving soap, and any odds and ends you know I will be needing. I hope you don't have to go to too much trouble getting these parcels together, but if you could only know the thrill one gets out of receiving them I think you would say it is worth while.

M. N. WATSON, 13th November.

Christchurch.

Last week I wrote about my first parcel from you. It was an excellent parcel which arrived in perfect order (thanks to Red Cross) with all contents there. Had a good concert last week put on by "Kiwis" of Camp. Now working on parts of Messiah and a pantomime for Boxing Day. Winter weather coming here. Pullovers very comfortable. Many thanks for letters received during week (November 13th). Surface mail letters were quicker than some air mail letters. Life here going very well. We are most thankful for the Red Cross food parcels which come regularly, one a week. Mail more plentiful. Organizations, concerts, lectures, church activities and library functioning well. So all lads are fit and finding interests in something. Baseball is a very popular sport. Aiming at four days' entertainment for Christmas time. December 24th, variety concert; Christmas Day, "Messiah"; Boxing Day, pantomime; and December 27th, 3-act play. Only one copy of "Messiah," so having a great time copying out parts. I can see staves ruled out in my sleep now. Randel and I have now a pen which rules three lines at once, so will help. Lew Rudkin received his parcel from home the same night as I did. Mait and I are both in the happy position of having plenty of food, warm clothes, so we have no fear of the winter in that direction. (November 5th.) Had a very wet week which doesn't make life in a Prisoner of War Camp very interesting. However, I'm fortunate in having footwear which does keep my feet dry, a real treat. Yes, I have a lot to be thankful for. The concert went off very well. The shirt you sent was just the thing to wear in the last scene which was taken from "The New Moon."

PTE. J. MILLER, 15th October.

Tamarunui.

I have received your letters dated 25th May and 2nd June. I saw all the cities in Libya, spent my birthday in one, Christmas near the other, and my first glimpse of Italy was on New Year's Day, when I was allowed on deck for a breath of air and saw a famous volcano, snow covered and smoking. It was a fine sight. As soon as we landed we were given a hot shower and our clothes fumigated—they needed it. There is a good supply of Red Cross food parcels in camp, nearly enough to last to Christmas. We get parcels made up in England, Scotland, Canada and New Zealand. The New Zealand parcel is a good parcel, although the Canadian is best. They are all very welcome.

CAMPO P.G. 57.

SGT. A. O. CRAIG, 7th September.

Masterton.

I am well and keeping healthy. The Red Cross will advise you what to send. They are doing a wonderful job here for the prisoners, I cannot speak too highly of them.

CPL. RENATA WANOA, 30th July.

Gisborne.

I have received my first parcel from the New Zealand House, July 23rd. Two hundred cigarettes. Allison and Brookling have also received cigarettes. There hasn't been any mail from you home folks to date, but mail has been coming in every day dated as close as early in May. Dad, when you answer this

OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN LIKE TO READ YOUR BOY'S LETTERS.

letter could you give us any sporting news you have. It will be appreciated here by most of the boys.

B. A. HOWARD, 1st September. Frankton.
I have received a parcel you sent me and it was grand. The things you sent were very welcome, and what I had two of I gave to the other boys. Please do not send me any more, Mum, as we are well looked after both by the Italians and the Red Cross. I have also had more letters from you. The weather is great and we have endless games of cricket.

A. W. NOBLE, 22nd September. Wanganui.
Perhaps you would like to know how we fill in the days. Arise about six with coffee at half past—clean up our quarters and then do about an hour's exercise—a bit of reading or writing with lunch at eleven-thirty—French class at twelve-thirty and usually a sleep till roll call at three—tea at five

after which we do justice to the goods sent by the Red Cross. We manage to get in a rubber or two of bridge and finish off the day with half an hour's walking—to bed at nine. You can see by this that we are not going to seed. The officers are in a compound next to ours and about three nights a week they put on a concert and on other nights lectures on different subjects. The weather so far has been really grand. Naturally never a day goes by without discussions on our homeland—what we are going to eat and do when we return—it helps a lot. As I have written before we hear little about the outside world and when anyone new comes in they are immediately mobbed and everything they say is mopped up with great gusto.

PTE. E. P. RICHARDSON, 13th September. New Plymouth.
What thrills this week—they say it never rains but what it pours. First of all Ernie Caldwell arrived in this camp 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. And now I have got your first parcel. I told you I had a clothing parcel from New Zealand 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. H. R. HOOGAN, 31st August. Te Kiri.
At last I am able to get a few lines to you although there is not much I can write about as yet except that I am doing fine and have just about given up cigarettes, and of course, beer is right off, but not for long, I hope! We have not been shifted to a permanent prison camp as yet so I can't give you my address or send letters regularly.

We are not doing bad —(erased)— Get a hot meal every day also 1 tin of bully and some biscuits also coffee and sugar. So that's not so bad but only get 15 cigarettes a week and that is what I do hard.

PTE. C. F. ROSS, 30th August. Wanganui.
Up to date I have received no letters but as mails are so uncertain and irregular I am not worrying. They'll probably turn up in a bunch. It is very hot now but cold showers have been fitted and we can keep cool and clean. Parcels have arrived in camp from New Zealand. It is good to see them get here. I have received one letter from you, also received a cigarette parcel from New Zealand House, 400 of them. Am well and doing fine.

PTE. W. S. DAVEY, 2nd May. Havelock.
We have started doing a bit of gardening; we have quite a few things up already, quite a number of the boys have received letters from home lately. We got a Red Cross parcel the other day, and it was a bit of alright. We had a good open air concert the other evening, we have got quite a good band in the camp now. It consists of two piano accordions, two violins, 1 banjo, 1 mandoline, 2 steel guitars, 1 cornet and believe me they sound jolly nice played together. There are quite a few good singers among our chaps and there are quite a lot who have given lectures on different parts of the world, and their experiences when travelling before the war started. I gave a talk the other night on the Marlborough Sounds.

I. J. COUSINS, 8th September. Feilding.
To begin with I will tell you we were captured on the 22nd July, not just a few of us, but the whole of the 25th Battalion and a sister Battalion also . . . all we have to do now is to make the best of it until the war is over. We get a Red Cross parcel once a week, or one between 7 of us seven times a week! They are really good parcels with between 15 to 21 articles in each and don't we enjoy them too. Without them the macaroni

would be a bit unpopular! At the moment we get hot coffee in morning and a stew of macaroni and silver beet and water at 11 a.m. and at 4.30 p.m. another of the above mentioned! Also we get four small loaves of bread between 5 of us each day. It could be a lot worse.

PTE. E. J. GRAYNDLER. Carterton.

The Red Cross parcels have got here at last and they are wonderful. They have everything in them. I am now waiting day by day for a letter from home. Please do not worry, things have brightened up considerably and I am in good health, and quite happy. For tea I shall have N and V and a cup of tea. To-morrow morning I shall have porridge with milk and sugar, how is that?

SGT. P. M. TARRANT, 23rd October. Eltham.

TWIN BROTHERS.
I am please to be able to tell you that things are going along very well. We are getting a regular supply of Red Cross parcels and they are splendid. To-day we got another huge thick blanket, and expect to get sheets any day at all. We have good huts to live in and bunks to sleep in. There are plenty of games to play and should soon be very fit. We have also had an issue of woollen underwear, socks, shirts, towels and a heavy uniform. The uniform is only until the battle dress arrives. By the way we have all been issued with new greatcoats.

PTE. W. G. TARRANT, 18th September. Eltham.

Morrie and I are still both safe and well and in Italy. We are not in a permanent camp yet, but any mail or parcels sent to this address will be forwarded on to me. I will write again when settled in permanent camp. We are in tents and have palliase and two blankets each and our food is quite good. Yesterday we had our first taste of a Red Cross parcel and believe me it was very good. We had a fairly lean time while in Africa, but picking up now, at present feeling very well and fit.

LLOYD PRICE, 13th September. Southland.

I am pleased to say, I have had quite a few of your letters now and everything seems to be going along not so bad. I suppose you have had a card or two from me long before this gets there, as some of the boys have had word from home that their letters are arriving there. We have some new arrivals in camp.

20th September. I have not had any more letters from you lately, but one last week, the last I had was dated early in June. I had my first private parcel to-day, 400 smokes from New Zealand House, London, and I guess the clothing parcel is not far away. It will be very welcome to us. There was a touch of frost last night and the days are drawing in fast and winter will soon be here again.

We have been getting a bit of fruit here lately, very nice too, cherries, peaches, plums, tomatoes, in fact some of the boys are getting quite fat. We have a lot of new books in the library here, so will have a bit of good reading to fill in the time.

CPL. L. G. BROWN, 20th October. Dannevirke.

We have had two concerts here lately, and they are very good, as there is some good talent in this camp. Costumes were all made from coloured paper from Red Cross parcels. We also have a piano bought by us prisoners and have recently held a few dances and believe me they were quite good fun and warmed one up nicely. Some take the part of the girls and the dance is properly conducted, MC. and all. It all helps to pass time.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION.

PTE. KEN TURNER, 23rd October. Frankton.

I am in the pink and getting fatter every day. I have just finished making myself a suitcase out of old biscuit tins, it is a bit rough but I will improve as I go. It is just great now with the chaps here, talking about old times, the hours just fly. We have made a fire which burns charcoal instead of wood, and the bellows I made out of an old ground sheet and it works like a forge. Lately Jock and I have been frying meat rolls, fritters, and pancakes out of our parcels. The porridge we are keeping for the cold weather. I got chocolate off a chap for cigarettes so not smoking is a help here.

E. R. WILLIAMS, 6th October. Greymouth.

You will notice by my new address that again I have been on the move. I am up and about again, and it won't hurt to tell you that I've been in hospital with the chest again. It

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PTE. H. We sary. I

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PTE. K.

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PTE. T.

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is ever so much different from down south, up here in the north. The air is cold clear and although the days are quite hot, the nights are cold. The hospital is an excellent one, and the treatment good. We have only been here five days, and am quite enjoying the change. The last two weeks the boys have been issued in this hospital with Canadian Red Cross parcels which are excellent. We also get 50 English fags each week.

CAMPO P.G. 65

PTE. H. K. CATRAN, August. Remuera, Auckland.

We have a free barber service so shaving gear is not necessary. Hear we are to have an increase in our pay. Doing first rate. Time flies here actually and it's an easy life, five hours work once a fortnight. I'm not worrying; lucky to be all in one piece—I'm fit as usual, and still smiling. Letters coming up better now. Weather glorious, and seas of golden wheat all around. I have received a Canadian Red Cross parcel. I was talking to Bill Rope, of Te Kopuru, the other day. Harvesting in full swing all round. Had marrows and cucumbers, O.K. too, and we don't waste the cucumber skins. Boiled marrow leaves are O.K. too. Had a big tin of herrings for dinner. Received a shirt and socks from the Red Cross and parcels still coming up, and they are good too.

PTE. HEC. CHANDLER, 12th August. Wellington.

Here I am again, just finished a good old brew of tea, although I had no milk left from my last parcel, it still goes down good with me. I am still in the pink and keeping well. We heard that a chap named Egan from Lower Hutt is returning to New Zealand. I knew him quite well, as he was a prisoner with me in other prison camps before he was released and returned to Egypt. His brother, Terry, is here with me and is also fit and well. I am due for another Red Cross parcel on Friday, 14th, so am looking forward to it. 26th September.

I am in good health and am being treated well. The food is good, the quarters also. This is my first letter after all these months of absence. It certainly has been a long time, and I'm eagerly awaiting a letter. After one year wandering in the Grecian mountains, I find myself in the best of health, so don't worry. There are three N.Z. cobsers here and one Aussie, we are a combine on the share alike basis.

PTE. KENNETH TURNER, 1st September. Frankton.

I am still in the best of health and enjoying life as well as can be expected. It is much better than I did expect, now that we are all in one permanent camp, and the wonderful Red Cross parcels are coming up each week. We have had some rain lately, but cleared up now. The sun here is too hot for me. We have a lot of fun here, making puddings, pancakes, porridge, stewing fruit and making tea or cocoa every couple of hours. It all helps to pass the time. It is great to see the boys swapping different articles and the different trade values—coffee, cocoa, chocolate, Yorkshire pudding mixture, and custard powder are well ahead in demand and prunes, dried apples, fruit pudding and biscuits are close up.

It is just like a bazaar and I reckon I will be able to make a good bargain after this life. Still, it is a great experience for those who come through in one piece as I have. One thing, I am in as good health as I was when I left home, so I have a lot to be thankful for. I reckon I will appreciate things a lot more when I get home to New Zealand and don't think I will be going far from home.

PTE. TREVOR DUNNE, 18th June. Parnell, Auckland.

The journey to our new home was interesting. The country was more varied with rolling hills, and we saw a bit of the sea. The spring flowers were sheer loveliness as in Greece. The grass under the olives, and the cornfields were pooled with gold and crimson, wine-red, cream, blue and scarlet. It was glorious. Even the straggling bits along the railway were like neglected gardens. Much of the land was divided by old stone fences, grey and tumble-down and lichened. East Tamski, I could have cried. The olives were innumerable, like a thin forest over the whole land, and this makes the distant country look exactly like a lazy sea. I was taken in several times. Every now and then we would see a white town among the olives with an old cathedral or a grey dome or two twisting above the hills. Our new camp, thank heaven, has a more interesting outlook than the last, but still nothing so good as Greece. It's cheerful to look at though, and that's a blessing, although it's inclined to make one year for free-

dom at times. We're well out in the country and we're counted each morning to the accompaniment of a chorus of larks as the sun comes up. Apparently we can do nothing about the 10/6 for Red Cross parcels. All I can do is to change my allotment of 4/6 a week to you, which I'll do, and wait till after the war. After the war! Hurry up, time! What a day when we all meet together again. You'll be thoroughly Americanized I suppose with a nasal twang and a vocabulary I won't comprehend. Has Marge got a Yankee boy-friend yet? I talk of mixture of English, Afrikaans, Arabic, Italian and Greek. We'll have to get used to each other again. Helen and Stephnie—good heavens, I can't imagine them now. How long is this ruddy war going to last? Love to you all. PTE. L. G. HUGHES, 10th May. Palmerston North.

I am in the best of health and am being treated very well. We are shortly to be issued with sheets for the beds. The camp we are in is still under construction, and shows signs of being O.K. Some of my cobsers have left recently to take up agricultural work and I hope to be going to work very soon I would very much like some decent books to read, but I suppose that is impossible. Will be receiving another Red Cross parcel in a few days. Good old Red Cross!

7th June. Have news that I am probably to go to work some time this week. Cheers! The weather has not been particularly good the last few days.

CAMPO P.G. 75

PTE. E. W. FAIL, 30th July. Christchurch.

I have been at our new address nearly three weeks now and we still continue to do well for ourselves. I am keeping fit and well and am putting on weight. I have a permanent job at an officer's Transit Camp, I came here as an attendant, but I am a wood chopper now. It is hard work, but I don't mind as we are getting well fed, and I am getting hard and fit once again. There will be quite a lot of N.Z. officers passing through this camp shortly, so I will very likely meet a few I know. In any case I will be able to get some home news.

September 6th. There is quite a lot of N.Z. mail coming in to this camp now. Most of the officers who were here when we first arrived have been sent to their permanent camps and the camp is nearly empty now. I have put on over a stone in the last two months. PTE. E. C. MOYNHAN, 7th October. Wellington.

Great doings in camp to-day, personal parcels have arrived, only a dozen or so, but it is a start, some parcels are clothing and others are cigarettes. I did not get one, but every New Zealand prisoner gets one of each, so I'll get some eventually. The clothing parcel comes from N.Z. House, London, and the cigarettes from the British Red Cross.

It is getting on for 12 months since I became a guest of the Italian Government. Time certainly flies, doesn't it? Don't worry about me, as I'm better off in this camp than I've been since a P.O.W.

PTE. C. ATHOL HANDCOCK, 7th September. Pahiataua.

We have been issued with letter cards, so can write home again. The food is better now, and we are receiving Red Cross parcels which help top off nicely.

CAMPO P.G. 78

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT ERIC EDMUNDS, October. Palmerston North.

All is well with me. Have had a Red Cross parcel every week—they are a Godsend. My greatest need at present is clothes. Going to lectures daily and play basketball and deck tennis a lot helps to keep one fit. Write by special Red Cross letters, latest here dated August 10th. Write to me air mail by special P.O.W. letter via Lisbon, latest here from New Zealand a week ago dated 30th August, 1942. I have had one letter since being captured, eight days ago it arrived, dated 17th September. New Zealand House is also sending me a clothing parcel containing a supply of underclothing, toilet requisites, and some chocolate, in addition to 200 cigarettes each month. Do not send any shirts or pullovers in any other colour than Air Force blue or khaki, as others are liable to be confiscated. We have been very fortunate here since I arrived (24th July), in receiving a Red Cross parcel each almost every week. Some New Zealand parcels were issued three weeks ago. They are by far the best in my opinion, and it was grand to taste some honey, especially from home again. This is a good camp, there are fifty odd New Zea-

PLEASE SEND US COPIES OF YOUR LATEST LETTERS.

landers here. We have lectures and games to occupy our time, a good library, and a walk once a fortnight. The environs are very mountainous and beautiful. It snows in the winter. We are very fortunate indeed in getting a Red Cross parcel each a week. Was captured in shirt and shorts, but will have had a greatcoat, battle dress, 1 shirt, 1 pair socks, 1 pair boots from the Red Cross, which are a great help for officers are dependent on parcels for clothes, or such as they can buy from older established prisoners of war.

FROM A CAPTAIN, 21st October.

Big excitement this morning as the word has gone the rounds that we are moving again. When or where we do not know, and I think we care little as we can knock up a home anywhere under any conditions. Still waiting for mail which should not be long now. Copy of New Zealand news sheet arrived from England last night, and was appreciated ever so. Gisborne was included in the news. We'll miss our crags and mountains, but maleesh! Getting issued with long woolly undies I hope before we leave, as the nights are cold. Have been able to buy quite a lot of things at the canteen which helps things along. Playing football, of a kind, to-morrow, but will not take my old place as my weight is around the eleven stone mark. Am knocking off football—strain is too severe on physical upkeep. One game of basketball a day keeps one fit enough. All this is "shop," but I know you are interested and our topics are limited. People—faces—places and dates are becoming slightly dim with time, but not for long I sincerely hope.

CAMPO P.G. 107

PTE. J. HUTTON, 13th October.

Am enjoying a rest after a week's toil digging and certainly have no trouble working up an appetite. It is very warm here and we all wear just shorts. Yesterday was parcel day. Without a doubt the best day in the week and we never lose that Christmas stocking feeling. If folks who contribute to these Red Cross parcels could only get a glimpse of us on issue day, I guess they'd realize how their work is appreciated. Jack Craig, a tobacco cocky from Motueka and I pooled our parcels and we certainly do them justice. This week he drew a Canadian (strong favourites) and I a Scottish one—a very good combination. During the past week, I received six letters. Dave Galbraith is in this hut, and Young Hollamby was in Camp 52. I'm having a hard job keeping the wasps out of my condensed milk and jam (parcel). Several have already committed suicide.

W. F. ANDREWS, 5th September.

Waianakarua. Cambridge.

I am still in good health, and received 5 letters last week. The parcel was wonderful; it's great to get into bed at night in pyjamas after a shower and Protex. The shoes are a blessing.

DVE. GEORGE BEST, 6th October.

New Plymouth.

We have commenced work digging huge drains and levelling off a large part of swamp country. We start work at 8 a.m. and have an hour for dinner and stop at 4 p.m. and march back to the barracks. The time passes very quickly, and we are beginning to feel the benefit after having so little to do during the last ten months.

NO NAME—, 14th October.

Inglewood.

You see my new address. I am a working man now—digging ditches, getting tough, and very fit. Very comfortable, new camp. Wonderful weather. Going to play contract bridge. Pinto and I and two others are playing to a million points. Have reached 40,000.

F. W. BOWERS, 5th October.

Waihi Beach.

We are draining as you can see but note that we are not working of our own free will. It is compulsory. It is a new camp, is very good, conditions are good. We have brick barracks, showers, etc., and the Red Cross parcels every Saturday, when they are available. The New Zealand Red Cross parcels are wonderful but they would be perfect if they had milk and sugar, but I don't want you to think we are grumbling, but we don't get milk.

J. R. JOSEPH, 5th October.

Taieri Beach.

I have just received my first mail. One letter from you dated July 30th. It was great to hear from home and to know that you are all well and knowing that you know I am safe and well lifts a big load off my mind. We had an issue of clothing last week. I got a singlet and a shirt but no socks. Seeing

it is mild weather, I can do without just now, but will be glad to get some of the parcels you mention. I made pancakes to-day from a packet of powder and a tin of condensed milk we got from our Red Cross parcel. I cooked them on a stove made out of empty tins and they were real good.

PTE. H. B. VICKERY, 5th October.

Lower Hutt.

I have received thirteen letters from you and one clothing parcel, so hope you have received letters from me, as I write each week. We are having warm weather just now, but winter is not far away.

13th October. Please don't send me any more clothing just yet, but if you are allowed, would like Gillette razor and blades, also chocolate, boot laces, socks, towels.

L/CPL. REG. F. HOLLOWES, 5th September.

Whangarei.

I received your most welcome letter posted 4th July. Don't send any more parcels as I will have stacks of clothing. I have had 2 food parcels from Egypt, had have a couple more on the way. We get a food parcel from the Red Cross each week, and to-day we got out first New Zealand food parcel packed in New Zealand, and believe me they are good. New Zealand butter, honey, jams and meats make me feel homesick.

CAMPO P.G. 201

PTE. W. F. MOSS, 7th October.

Hokitika.

We missed out on the letters last week as we were on the move from the south. We have been transferred to the North of Italy. The hospital we are in now is quite O.K. There are good beds, good food, Red Cross parcels and grounds to walk in, so I am not doing bad here. It is quite enjoyable. We were shifted up from the south in a hospital train and had a splendid trip. It took us two days. This is a very beautiful country, a rather quaint mixture of ancient and modern buildings make the towns and villages very picturesque. The whole rural districts are just like a huge market garden. Yesterday I went to the funeral of one of the Coy. boys that died here. I was one of the pall bearers. The cemetery he was buried in was a most impressive one. These Italians certainly do some beautiful monumental work. The tomb stones were works of art and the stones they were made out of were of beautiful grain and colour. It was a big civilian cemetery with soldier plots in it. We get this letter and 1 letter card every week and it is surprising how keen one is to write.

SGT. F. H. FRASER-SMITH, 7th October.

Waikouaiti.

We get very little news here as to what is happening in the outside world, and much speculation takes place as to what the actual position is. However, reading between the lines, things as a whole must be progressing fairly satisfactorily. The weather lately has been warm—an Indian summer. Did I tell you that each week we receive a Red Cross parcel. Wonderful and original are some of the dishes we manage to produce; it passes the time.

PRISONS AVEROFF ATHENS

WILLIAM DITCHBURN, 10th May.

Wellington.

English books are very difficult to get hold of, and we have too little patience to play cards, our three greatest interests are food, sleep and thought. The food problem is helped by the arrival of Red Cross packets now and then. We are quite high in spirits when we get them. As for sleep—well as you know how I like bed, they still have a hellava job to get me out in the mornings. These days a cup of tea (which is a Red Cross contribution by the way) in bed, is making prison camp life more bearable. Coming to the third interest, which is thought. Well we live more in the past than anything else. "Ao-tea-rea" is the most lovely and desirable place that I can think of now. When cooped up within four walls, ones thoughts easily turn to the mountains and bush of home. I can vividly picture the snow capped mountains of the Rimutakas and the blue haze of the Orongorongs as well as I could two years ago.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

RADIO OFFICER JACK HOLT, 23rd November. Auckland.

To-day I've been out on a voluntary job, they are making a little — and chapel for British men, officers volunteer labour. Weather is breaking now—it's late autumn here so we've had a good bit of rain... I'm studying maths, electricity and English at present, so keep occupied. Next Tuesday is my next football game (inside right), and I'm a lady again in the next production 'Desert Song'. Keep going, don't we?

P/O S. D.

We are visits and wandering in we picked so here v are do— good—

J. D. M.

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DULAG LUFT.

P/O S. D. PARNELL, 6th September. Wellington.
We ran into a bad packet of trouble on one of our nocturnal visits and crashed 180 miles behind the lines. After 17 days wandering in the desert, experiencing thirst and hunger, we were picked up by the Italians, and transferred to the Germans, so here we are. I am in poor shape now, but the treatment we are receiving will soon build us up again. The food here is good—don't worry, all's well.

STALAG LUFT III.

J. D. MURRAY, 22nd October. Wellington.
My parcel has not yet arrived, but hope it will do so soon. At present we are experiencing the first indications of winter. I am becoming used to the idea of winter and summer being reversed from your time, though it seemed strange at first. I am still fit and well. Church work and study in that connection still occupy most of my time.
COLIN BRUCE MCKENZIE, 24th October. Taranaki.

Letters are cut down, so you will perhaps be a bit short for a while. Your latest letter is dated 26th July. Had a New Zealand parcel to-day, and it was a beaut. I have any amount of warm clothes now, including five woollen vests and long underpants, two roll neck sweaters, four pairs of pyjamas. We have a nice little theatre now, and the boys put on a variety of shows which are very good. We have seventy men in each barrack here, and play inter-barrack sports. Yes, we certainly have any amount of "brews." We have 10 men at each table and each takes a turn at "stoozing," so that 9 out of 10 mornings we get tea in bed.

1st November. Am in the pink and playing Rugby for New Zealand. Would like a pair of tennis shoes in next parcel please. Can stand plenty more "Kriegel" life. It's not bad at all, but my hair is getting grey.

FLYING OFFICER K. J. STANFORD, D.F.M., 6th September. Marton.

By now you will know I am a prisoner of war, unhurt and full of health. I guess I must have been rather optimistic to expect my luck to hold for two years. Still, I am alive and kicking and you won't have to worry so much as we are pretty well looked after here. The Red Cross provide magnificent parcels of food. We were set on fire over a target and so had to bale out with all haste. I floated down quite safely into the railway yards and then got picked up by a sentry. I am now settled in this camp, which is a permanent camp for R.A.F. officers, so I know quite a lot of the lads. I would like some books, papers, note books, etc., as there is very little to scribble on. I am as fit as Kindergarten in training and so far feel fine. There is plenty to do, and I'm learning German and taking English lectures, playing bridge, volley ball, quoits, etc., and getting very brown indeed. It's been gloriously hot and I run round in my underpants and swim in the fire tank about half the size of the Huntly baths.

J. D. MURRAY, 22nd October. Ashburton.
I am doing quite a lot of study now, as the nights are longer and so one is not tempted to be outside. We are getting along well in our Theology and Doctrine lectures, from which I am learning a great deal. I have also had a few books through from England, including Paterson Smythe's "Life of Christ" which are very helpful. I am also giving quite a number of addresses in Church services. This Sunday is "All Saints' Day," and I have prepared an address on that subject. Studying under an Anglican chaplain has certainly helped to widen my views a lot. We are also busy preparing for Christmas, we are practising seven choruses from "The Messiah" and a similar number of arias. It is going very well too. I am conductor for some of the choruses, but for the performance the orchestra conductor will take both choir and orchestra. We also received two copies of the "Crucifixion" (Stainer) recently, and I am using some of the choruses as anthems. We have a fine Church choir, 30 strong, but need more music for them. I have now trained them to take the Anglican service fully choral. Not bad for a Presbyterian? At Christmas we are having a big carol service. Plenty of work for choirs. Oh that the true peace on earth and goodwill towards men may be felt at this Christmastide. Let us pray God that it might, and that the New Year might usher in a new era of better understanding between all nations.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND US LETTERS DATED EARLIER THAN SEPTEMBER.

STALAG V.B.

SIGNALMAN J. M. FLOWER, 14th September. Tauranga.
Things go along here just the same. Work six days a week and we are paid 70 pfennigs a day. About 20 of the English patients who are in perfect health again are permitted to work the garden, kitchen and laundry. This place was and still is a convent. It is like a self-contained village, very nice indeed. I work with three others in the kitchen and have a good time. 8 a.m. till 11.40 a.m., 2 p.m. till 5.40 p.m. 28th September. I received the two Red Cross parcels. I have had two parcels from Cannings, two from you people, two parcels of cigarettes from England, 41 letters from you up till 13th July. Only five missing. None of the boys here are from my unit. We all jog along very well. In this room we are now five, two work in the garden, two in the laundry and myself in the kitchen, so we do very well. This last week has been very cold. There is no country in the world like New Zealand.

13th October. Since last writing, I have received two letters from you on the 8th instant, written July 13th and June 8th. I had two pounds of chocolate in each of the two parcels from England. Some of the boys went to Stalag proper last Wednesday. I suppose the rest of use will move any day now. We are all bright and well—just waiting.

STALAG VIII. B.

STOCK OF RED CROSS PARCELS.

PTE. R. L. LITTLEWOOD, 8th November. Raetih.
Mail has been coming through very slowly. Received five letters a week ago, the first for two months. One reason was that the party I was with shifted about and letters took a while to catch up. The work we are doing now is in and around a rubber factory. Very interesting, for it is all made of coal. It comes here in the raw state and the finished articles are identical to the real rubber. There are only twenty of us here. Ten New Zealanders, two Australians, and the rest Tommies. We are under ten minutes' walk from work, start at 5.30 and finish at 1.45 p.m. six days a week, so we can't complain. The billets are reasonable with plenty of coal and electric light and Red Cross parcels. At present our supply will last till February at one parcel a man. A marvellous organisation never to be forgotten by us P.O.W. Now winter is here and the first snow was two weeks ago, and expect it to stay at the end of the month for at least four months. Thanks for the warm clothes that have been sent me for the cold weather. It should not worry me now.

CPL. T. M. PITCOON, 21st September. Te Kuiti.
I received a parcel from the New Zealand Red Cross Society containing 400 cigarettes, on the 13th September, and to-day have received a further parcel. The Society is doing very good work, which is greatly appreciated by the prisoners.

DRIVER C. FARLEY, 11th October. Christchurch.
We are getting Red Cross foodstuffs more regularly now and on Tuesday we got a New Zealand food parcel. I am on regular day shift now, working from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Am shifting spoil by wheelbarrow for building sites.

D. J. ROBINSON, 5th September. Wellington.
Received parcel containing slippers, etc. Very grateful for contents especially, nugget, tooth brush, and vests were appreciated by some of the Canadians (from Dieppe) as I have sufficient winter gear now. This week's copy of "Camp" publishes my name for a parcel, regimental number only being given. By applying to Berlin I will receive it. A chap brought in a Koala cuddly toy, 6in. size; some Aussie pilot who'd always carried it in his plane and kept it when shot down. 20th September. Mail restrictions on again till 9th October. Am on list for clothing parcel to-morrow—my fourth—might be second from N.Z. House. I am well set up for clothes till January, 1944. The majority of our boys are the same—comfortably clothed.

It may interest you to know that in this camp are quite a few elderly British soldiers... some aged up to 60 and even 62!—members of a Pioneer Corps taken in 1940. Also when the Dieppe boys arrived here (mostly Canadians) their teeth were found to be in a very bad condition and the Stalag Dental British Officer has informed England to make certain that the next batch of men sent here are dentally fit. Since he's been operating he's averaged 800 extractions a month.

17th October. Have read extract from Red Cross write-up on this camp. Quite a good account, hope you've read it, it'll give you a true picture of our life here. Yesterday received my 4th tobacco parcel from Patriotic Fund.

FLOCK HOUSE BOY.

J. A. Kinnuman. London.
Have just received your third parcel of May 28th, which arrived in excellent condition. I spend many an hour telling my fellow-prisoners of Flock House and how it originated, and they are very interested, and somewhat awed, at the size of the station and the amount of men required to manage it. Have got quite used to this life, but prefer to be with the Division. Have not met any of the Flock House boys who are prisoners.

W. H. BRIGHT, 31st August. Auckland.
It is fairly hot here just now, so we run around in shorts only. There is a Concert Party here, and they put on quite a good show, also a brass band. We manage to feed reasonably well with the assistance of the Red Cross parcel system, whereby we get sugar, butter, tinned meat, ovaltine, cocoa, tea, etc., in fairly good supply. Be careful what you say in letters. Do not mention army or anything like that, as the censor will just destroy the whole letter. The Red Cross always send cigarettes, which, being a non-smoker, I exchange for bread or a tin of jam.

GRAHAM COLEMAN, 5th September. Greytown.
Something went wrong this week. I received 3 letters one day and 5 the next, also two parcels, one your February one. Have plenty of clothes now. Rumour says we move from this Camp soon. Heard about the 'quake, also rumour that November parcels from New Zealand are here.

DVR. A. D. STANDEN, 3rd August. Lower Hutt.
I received 800 cigarettes from New Zealand House, so far they come 200 every month. Make it known in the Prisoner of War paper that all New Zealanders are receiving their parcels and cigarettes each month from the Patriotic Fund.

DVR. L. T. ARMSTRONG, 23rd August. New Plymouth.
What a surprise to get my first parcel from you. I wish you could have seen me. I could not have been more pleased when as a kid I opened my stocking on Christmas morning. I went through and through the parcel time and time again whispering my thanks to you all. Two days after receiving your parcel I received a clothing parcel from the Red Cross.

DVR. C. FARLEY, 28th August. Wellington.
Since I wrote your last note, I have received a clothing parcel from N.Z. House, London, and 1lb. Players cigarette tobacco. The parcel had 3lbs. chocolate in it which went down in a big way; also a nice safety razor, brush, shaving stick and tin Brillantine, the first oil my hair has had since a prisoner.

27th September. I was recalled back to Stalag VIII B. from the mine to do my 7 days in the clink, for reasons I can't explain here on account of the old bugbear censorship. We passed through Breslau on the way. There was a party of 52 of us and there were about eighty men here when we arrived. We are boring, by steam plant, to sink a new shaft for a copper mine and working three shifts. The earlier party are in a slightly different locality and they are already underground putting in drives. We have good billets and I met several N.Z.'ers who I knew in civvie street. The farmers here in Germany are busy gathering in their potatoe crops and the next will be the sugar beet. Prisoners get jobs in the sugar beet factories when they start sometime next month.

L. J. CARPENTER, 4th October. Christchurch.
I have received your two parcels and for a prisoner I am well dressed and can look forward to the next winter with the confidence of being a bit warm.

A. BROWNE, 6th September. Wellington.
Some chaps have had up to July so I hope there are some more letters at the Post Office for me. The first New Zealand parcels arrived last week. The contents are very good, although we were surprised that there was no milk. The issue was one between six. Since last writing you I have played in two cricket tests. We lost to England but beat Australia. I had the honour of Captaining the New Zealand side. As the wicket is very rough scores were low, the bowling being on the top. Spectators numbered about 3,000 and barracking livened up the game a lot.

B. E. SWAIN—no date.

I received a letter last week and received a parcel yesterday. I also got a clothing one from England as well. Am on a new job in the country, there are only a few of us on it. Having great sunny weather here at present.

25th September. Well this new job is the best I've been on yet. It is eight hours a day. There is great scenery about us and a creek runs under the house we are staying in. I have just had tea and feel O.K.

25th October. Got a bag of mail yesterday. Am getting your parcels now. There is not much news to write about. CPL. D. M. SUTHERLAND, 13th September. Wellington.
Just received your letter of 3rd December, 1941. Hang of a long time to wait. There must be a hold-up somewhere, because none of your parcels have come to hand either. Fortunately the Red Cross sent two clothes parcels, so I am not so badly off. Am still in a work camp and feeling pretty fit. We have not had any football for months because we lost our ball.

15th October. Once again we have shifted to a new home. The accommodation is good. A football ground has been marked out and a League started. There are N.C.O.'s from several different Stalags. At present we are passing through a famine, probably due to change of camp. Hurry up the Red Cross parcels, but they should be here any day now.

DVR. FRANCIS WILLIAM DAVIS, 13th Sept. Invercargill.
I have received quite a few letters from you and the parcel, thanks a lot. The weather here is beginning to get colder now, although we have bright sunny days. I am still working at the sawmill. It is a good job and extra bread rations for it. We had the travelling pictures here last night and they were quite a change.

CPL. DAVID EVITT, 13th September. Auckland.

Three letters from you this week dated 28th May, July 1st and 8th. Australia is playing New Zealand at cricket to-day, but I'm afraid the New Zealand eleven will be too good for them. We have some Canadians in camp with us now. We had New Zealand Red Cross parcels on issue last week. They're very nice—as are they all. In future clothing parcels would you send more soap and chocolate. I have quite a lot of clothes now, but don't stop sending them, AS THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO HAS NONE, such as the last arrivals that left England, with towel and soap only. I'm taking advertising again at school and also Spanish and Accountancy. The school has a very extensive syllabus now and some very good tutors, so one can take almost anything. A Hockey League has been formed in our compound, so I have a game about every other day, and also play football quite a bit. The rest of my time I fill in playing contract and reading—and washing clothes, Ugh!! I have been getting Canadian food parcels lately and they are best we've had yet.

L/CPL. L. P. SOUTHEE, 30th August. Wellington.

We weren't given any letter cards last week, reason being that Jerry prisoners in Aussie are not receiving any mail. I am sure that there must be some other reason besides that. The buzz has been excellent for the past two weeks. Everybody's in high spirits. You read in the papers of raiders in the Atlantic, Pacific, and so on, but I bet you don't read of the New Zealand raiders in Germany that stripped a big fat director's garden of practically all his edibles. I have no means of doing up pickling cabbage. Well now, I'll say Cheerio, and hit the hay with the inner man satisfied with stolen fruit. GNR. NOEL K. BERTIE, 22nd August. Wanganui.

I have a good surprise for you this week. I have received one of your clothing parcels, the one you sent on the 2nd of February. I have also received a book parcel, so I have done all right for parcels this week. I will most likely receive some from New Zealand House shortly. I have received your letter written on the 20th of May, also two snaps of Dorset.

L/CPL. R. J. LEONARD, 20th September. Waimate.

I went t-day (with the Doctor) for our weekly "Medical Corps" walk with a guard, a very fine chap. We leave camp and walk in the woods for two hours. It is beautiful and lots of people walk there. On the way home after the rest we can whistle again. I enjoy it immensely and the feeling I get in those woods is something I can't describe. One has to be kept a prisoner for some time to be able to appreciate nature in exchange for barbwire. When the war is over I would like to spend a fortnight in this district as a free man but not in winter. It is beautiful in summer. I feel better than ever in my life.

Gisborne.

HARRY

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STALAG IX C.

HARRY VAUSE, 16th August.

Ellerslie.

Have received another two of your letters and also parcel from home with underwear from Valley; please pass on my thanks. It was alright in every respect. Boy! was it good to get something from home. Your last two letters I have received during the last week, and they were written in May. I have found some other means of filling in my time now, as well as work. Classes in German and bookkeeping are keeping me fairly busy. If you think of it would you send me a few exercise books and notebooks and a fountain pen and ink in the first parcel you send. I always seem to be wanting something. By the time you get this, I ought to have enough underwear to see me out for a while, but socks and handkerchiefs are always handy, also gloves. Work is pretty hard on them.

C. R. A. BROWN, 15th September.

Greymouth.

I received another parcel from you the other day. This time it was a summer parcel and was very nice. So far I have had four parcels from you. Three through the Red Cross and one direct from you. Also I have had 1400 smokes and I can tell they are very welcome, and once again my thanks.

SGT. E. H. EVERTON.

Auckland.

We had New Zealand parcels two weeks running. A real treat after 18 months to taste mutton once again and the butter and honey were grand. We should be in poor shape without our fine friends of the Red Cross. It is much we owe them. My fourth clothing parcel arrived. I am all right now for the duration, however long it may last. We have moved from our stables to new huts, so the living is a little more pleasant. Most of us have become inured to living rather hard, speaking roughly, living, eating and sleeping in the same room, almost on the same bunk, that it seems strange to be in clean quarters, still cramped, but neat and comfortable. I think after all this time with 3 or 2 blankets, and no palliases, that a feather bed and home comforts will seem a close approach to an earthly heaven.

PTE. S. M. SPROULL, 8th September.

Fairfield.

I will not feel this winter as I did the last as I now have plenty of warm clothes, thanks to the parcels you have sent me. The hours of work have been shortened, so we play football to help pass the time. We had a splendid concert last night, put on by some of the new boys in our camp. They have an orchestra consisting of three saxophones, two violins and a set of drums. (We hope to get a piano shortly.) And was it good? We have some sort of entertainment every weekend and also on Wednesday nights. Next week we are having a boxing competition and they are usually pretty good shows, and very popular. A couple of Tommy friends keep me in reading matter and are going to show me the sights of London when the time comes.

STALAG XVIII. A.

GNR. DON CROFT, 25th October.

Lower Hutt.

No mail now for over a month and no parcels for three. I can't understand it at all. Still before long I suppose I will be flooded with it. There are only 40 odd of us left here for the winter. All the other have gone to another camp about 100 miles away. By the way, I am studying a course on bookkeeping. It consists of twelve lessons of which I have had two. It occupied my mind as well as helping me to keep my hand in.

PTE. G. A. PAUL, 10th September.

Mangere.

Once again we Sanitarians are able to enjoy the privilege of extra writing cards. Weekly walks have also been granted. As before mentioned this is a camp for non-working N.C.O.'s but there are some 60 of us people here. Perhaps you are aware that some of our unit were repatriated from Italy, at least we have heard from one or two men back in New Zealand. We have a weekly meeting of our New Zealand Club here. Sometimes many interesting items of domestic news are gleaned. Last night a Maori sergeant gave a lecture on the Thermal Regions of Rotorua. A racial humour was apparent though for the most part unconscious. At certain places one brought the whisky. Some good talent is displayed at the weekly concert. A dancing night is also held. Unfor-

tunately we always miss the feminine element, though in some plays commendable efforts have been made to supply the defects. The French are adepts at it. Many take their basketball very seriously and some good matches are played. I believe you have visitors from overseas.

SERGT. E. H. EVERTON, 22nd August.

Auckland.

We had our first New Zealand food parcels and they were very fine. Good fresh butter and real pukka honey. It was good to see familiar labels on everything. I expect you realise from our constant references to packets how much we all owe to the Red Cross organisation and you folks at home behind it. The parcels arrived in good condition. A batch of sick for repatriation left this morning. Many good friends of mine gone. I hope the exchange really comes off this time. We had a farewell outdoor concert for them last night and my Haka team did a repeat to close the show. Very pleasant to get out occasionally on a walk. Matahiki, our Haka leader, has gone with the sick. I think they will see Bill Foreman and H. Duncan (Dr. Foreman and S/Sergeant H. Duncan, VIII.B.) January 4th clothing packet arrived. I have now a full kit, so have my mates. Don't send any more shirts. Blades, chocolate, socks and short underpants are always welcome. Patriotic cigarette parcel arrived, these are always very welcome. We have moved into new huts infinitely preferable to the stables we have been living in for the past thirteen months. Have a good bed by the window, the second shelf (2nd story flat we call it). The bunks are in three tiers, three floors, three middle and three upper, 9 sleepers in all. They don't waste much space in this part of the world, but at least we have reasonably clean quarters with a wooden floor. Have a real good bunch of mates. A bunch of sick have gone to VIII. B. and we are not nearly so crowded.

GNR. A. W. FORD, 1st September.

Auckland.

Just a card, because I've nothing else, to thank you for both letters I received yesterday after lapse of quite a long time. I got six letters. Yes, I have had two parcels from home, now I am not wanting anything. I've plenty of clothes and cigarettes. A little grub with be O.K.

GNR. A. E. THOMPSON, 23rd August.

Christchurch.

Received my third parcel from you and that makes practically a full complement of clothes for me now. The shorts and pyjamas were very acceptable. In future could you only send me things like toothpaste, washing soap, socks, etc., and a pair of sandshoes. Of course, if you send anything else I have some cobblers who have not yet had a parcel whom I would like to help. We have received permission to make a basketball court on our parade ground and I have been in my element teaching the boys the game. I may not be a good worker, but I shine where sport is concerned. To-night the Toc H ran a Mock Court with the band providing incidental music. It was a great show, only the Judge and the two policemen knew who were the victims to be charged, which added to the fun.

GNR. A. W. FORD, August.

Auckland.

How are you all; it's a fair while now since I have heard from any of you. Our mail is being held up for some reason or other. I hope to get a letter or two again soon. We have had New Zealand parcels here and they are very good. When I get home, or out of this the sheep had better look out, about three meals and one would be gone. I'll tell you what to prepare for me when I get home. Roast mutton with mint sauce, green peas, roast kumera and potatoes, cabbage cooked nicely and for sweets the same again also about three cups of tea.

SGT. GEORGE F. PHILLIPS, 26th August/12th October.

Lower Hutt.

No mail from you yet and I am afraid I have very little news for you. Most days are the same here, perhaps a little work in the cookhouse in the morning and most afternoons spent lying in the sun—not a very strenuous life. I sometimes envy the German soldiers going on leave twice a week, but I doubt if we could get out, so it doesn't really matter. I will have to have a lot of practice before I ever face a party at the Crow's Nest again. I think I should be very quickly on my back. I still do my half hour's gymnasium a day with the German patients. I quite enjoy it, too. We have women instructors and they give us some pretty hard exercises. Our ward is rather full up at present as we have some Russians in with us for a while. They are not as fortunate as we are as they don't receive parcels or letters. You understand, Russia does not belong to the International Red Cross. I think my German

is improving a little. I can understand people I work with and they can understand me but with the others it is not so easy. There are as many dialects in Austria as there are in England and I don't understand all those yet. Things go on here as usual. I do a bit of work in the kitchen which is run by women. That is where I have picked up most of my German. Also still go to gymnastics. Weather is quite warm yet but the leaves are quickly changing colour. I have now heard that there is an International Commission coming to this hospital on the 21st of this month; they are to examine us for repatriation.

STALAG XVIII. B.

M. D. DRAKE, 3rd August. Mount Eden.
Last Tuesday, the 20th, we had our first fall of snow on the heights around here. Summer time ends in another week's time, and then we shall probably only work nine hours a day. Last night, believe it or not, we had about six gallons of beer free and we enjoyed quite an interesting evening. By the way, the estate on which we work belongs to a Baron by the name of Milnhof who has been up to see us once or twice with his wife; both of them speak very good English and seem to be quite concerned over our welfare.

W.O. II. JAMES K. WELCH, 10th September. Masterton.
This week we had an Arts and Crafts Exhibition and very successful it was too. I had about 15 drawings in mostly cartoons and caricatures. Altogether we had well over 200 exhibits. Some of them were very ingenious, such as a tiny Ak Ak gun carved out of a cake of soap, and a badge made completely out of silver paper, and polished smooth. We hope to hold another and bigger one in two month's time with prizes and a selection for sale.

PTE. N. W. ALLEN, 25th October. Dunedin.
Three letters arrived yesterday . . . all dated about 25th May . . . I am O.K. and things are as good as can be expected. We have had some very hot weather but now winter is coming on very quickly.

STALAG XVIII. D. 306

DVR. N. B. HUDSON, 17th October. Lower Hutt.
I received a card from J. Lester (P.O.W. VIII. B.) and I answered it, but they sent it back to me again and told me that I could only write to a brother. I have received two parcels so far. We will soon be starting our winter now, it is starting to get cold. All those summer clothes you sent me in those two parcels that I have received are in rags now. I have only one shirt left and I am keeping that for the winter.

CPL. R. A. ANDERSON, 6th September. Utakura.
We have just unloaded 3,000 Red Cross parcels from the station, as an additional ration. Every two men were issued with a milk parcel. They contain custard powders, cocoa, ovaltine, Horlick's malted milk, arrowroot and such like foods. We staged a sports meeting here this morning and managed to clean up the Frenchmen in nearly all the events. I met Stan Hilder yesterday, when he came in for a few hours from his forestry job. The big mobs of sheep have grazed their pastures bare and are making for the hills, the dogs have a hard job to hold them. I managed to keep my photos and wallets. The authorities have them at present, but I should have them back soon.

17th October. There is a trace of winter creeping in to the atmosphere of late, and we are expecting the initial fall of snow any day now. Because of a restriction being placed on the amount of mail that we are allowed to receive, I have had no letter for some time. However, a small amount is to be released daily this week, so that I'm living in hope. Since last writing, I've been working on a fruit job. Originally we were loading apples at the Railway Station, and yesterday started at another place on the outskirts of this town, handling apples and spuds.

PTE. E. G. STANDING, 28th August. New Plymouth.
I got one of the parcels from home last week end and it was very good. The sex will be very handy this winter. I am still getting cigarettes from the N.Z. Patriotic Fund, so it is not so bad. We are playing football here now; we have not much room, but we get a lot of fun. Our team won the

final of the first competition yesterday, so we are very pleased with ourselves.

PTE. DOUGLAS BRUNDELL, 20th September. Dunedin.
I wish to thank you for four parcels I have received from you, the last one I had last week. I think now, I have got all the clothes I need. I am working on a farm and you understand one needs good footwear. I am quite well, in good health and comfortable under the circumstances.

PTE. N. W. ALLEN, 8th November. Caversham.
I am a proper old cocky now. I have been harrowing most of the week with a horse and a cow. I received two of your letters this morning, 23rd July and 4th August, and they came in good time. Yes, in the first parcel there were two blankets, so the other must have been added by the Red Cross, or whoever it was. I have plenty of clothes now, and the best thing to do is just to send what you think is necessary. I received a pair of new boots to-day and they are O.K. I do not know if you have sent me any boots, but if you think it is worth while you could send me a good pair of working boots, 7½ to 8 to be sure.

JOHN A. KENNEDY, 25th October. Dunedin.

MAIL.
It's only a letter card this week, as the German High Command have cut our allowance down. I am jogging along O.K. My mate and I are in a new Kommando. Every day we look for him with longing in our hearts. The man who brings us news of home and also Stalag Marks, He rides a bike of yellow, a true and trusty steed, And once a week, without fail, he brings us mail to read.

He doesn't seem to hurry, but he get here just the same, And when there's any mail for us it drives us just insane, Let's hope they never call him up, or take him off his job, And that his mail gets so big he has to hire a cob.

For that is all we live for, news of folks and home, And if the mail comes often, you'll never hear us moan. So do your stuff Mr. Postman, and do not let us down, And when you die, and leave this earth, you'll surely get a crown.

STALAG XX. A.

L/CPL. C. F. JOHNSON, 2nd August. Wellington.
I hope you are doing all right at home, as something seems to have gone wrong with my mail. I have had only one letter from you in the last three months. And none from anyone else. I hope my letters are getting through to you. Anyway, things are not so bad here now, the weather is fair, and we are getting our Red Cross parcels regularly. The last lot issued had a lot with New Zealand and Australian cards in them. Donated by N.Z. and Aussie Red Cross. There are only a few New Zealanders and Aussies here.

OFLAG III. C.

GRAHAM COLEMAN, 4th October. Greytown.
Note new address: now in N.C.O.'s camp. Been here a week and when it gets going properly should be much better than last place. Met Jim Welch, Bert Ginders and McPherson from Commercial Bank. Excellent sports ground here, but hope we don't have another cricket season here. Had a long train journey getting here. Have plenty of clothing.

CPL. R. G. H. LEWIS, 4th October. Bay of Islands.
I am still O.K. I hope you are the same. This is my birthday. I know you haven't forgotten. I only wish I was home with you. Please note new address. We have good billets here.

SGT. W. J. NESBUT, 11th November. Petone.
We have arrived at our new camp. It is a better camp. The hut will be much warmer in winter. I am among my mates which means a lot. I received a parcel from you before we left. It was posted in February. I would like a pair of braces and sandals.

CPL. M. CHINNERY, 16th October. Waitoa.
I know you have not had a letter from me for well over 15 months, for I suppose you know by now that I have only been recaptured a little over two months, and as you realise it was impossible for me to write for the first thirteen months of my experience. I am sorry to cause you any undue worry

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for I presume I was posted missing, believed killed, but I can assure you I am in the best of health and I am having as good a time as possible under such conditions after my strange experience. When I first arrived in Germany I went to an ordinary working camp and as N.C.O.'s are not forced to work they shifted all of us who didn't volunteer to work to a special N.C.O. non-working camp. Believe, me, conditions here are much better than in our last abode, and we are being treated as N.C.O.'s, whereas 300 of us lived, ate, and slept in one huge room before, there are now only 12 men to each hut, apart from it being cleaner, healthier and warmer. There is not a hundredth part of the noise, actually we have very little to complain about as prison life goes.

D.S.O.—DULAG, STALAG, AND OFLAG

SGT. PILOT HAYMAN, 15th October.

Timaru.

As you can see by the address, I am now in a new camp and with a new number. In case it is not clear on the front, here it is: "P.O.W. No. 90, Oflag III. C." We have not been promoted, as although now in an Oflag it is a camp for N.C.O.'s only. We Air Force chaps now pride ourselves on being D.S.O.'s, having progressed through Dulag, Stalag and Oflag. One way to get a medal anyway. Parcels have been coming in well. Uncle's cigarette parcels come pretty regularly; one of games, cards, and blood and thunder novels, and another of food from a friend in Cairo. Incidentally, in the past week, over thirty murder and Wild West novels have come for the twelve of us in this hut. Need I say more than to ask you to hint gently that although soldiers, we do not revel in gore. No letters for three months or thereabouts, but they are building up somewhere, and will one day arrive in a heap. The camp here is nearly five thousand feet up, and in quite attractive country, green fields with woods beyond, up amongst the clouds but rather cold and going to be colder very soon.

CPL. WYNN WILSON, 3rd October. New Plymouth.

Climate seems more bracing and environment more interesting. Billets are more comfortable. Winter holds no terrors for us. We have a football ground and are getting a few games in before the blizzards come. Then I could use some skis.

ANGUS MACDONALD, 15th October. Waipu.

THREE PARCELS.

Received seven letters late July and early August and much delayed December parcel. Have now received first three intact. This is an old officers' camp and is much more comfortable, and we live like a little family. We are six Englishmen and six New Zealanders, all good friends, and I being the only sergeant am Hut Commander. I think the climate will be better here and our quarters will be warmer; in fact, conditions generally are better as we are all N.C.O.'s and do the internal running of the camp ourselves. We arrived here on 26th September and have already had a concert and have two excellent bands and a big sports field. I've had several games of Rugby.

CPL. ROY HENDLE, 3rd October. Wellington.

I'm writing from the new camp, Oflag III C. It is much better than VIII B, and as it is further south, won't be so cold. All the N.C.O.'s have been shifted here, so here I am. We can't be compelled to work other than camp duties. I'm afraid I can't give any details. I'm in the best of health, etc.

JOHN GRAINGER, 3rd October. Onehunga, Auckland.

This is a new N.C.O.'s camp in Germany where are gathered non-working N.C.O.'s from Greece, Crete and France. It is a huge camp with good accommodation and sports grounds.

CPL. STANLEY SHAW, 16th October. Wellington.

Since I last wrote to you I have been transferred to another part of Germany. The new camp is a great deal better than the last one. We live in huts—12 men to a hut, whereas previously we had lived in barracks with 150 men to a barrack room. Here we have an unlimited supply of water for all purposes. The treatment we receive is quite good. We are treated here as soldiers, not as criminals. I have received both my first two parcels. I am thankful for everything, especially the rug. The Red Cross are not operating fully here yet and we are all waiting patiently for a supply of food parcels and cigarettes. We have not had our full issue of cigarettes for the last twelve months. I will not be able to write so often as mail is now restricted.

CPL. KINGSLEY BROWN, 3rd October. Auckland.

You will see I have shifted. The new camp is a change from the old being placed amongst tree-covered hills. It consists of small huts, each holding 12 men and is more comfortable than the barracks at VIII B. Rations are about the same, and we hope the Red Cross soon finds us again. Your February parcel reached me at last, just before we left VIII B; my first parcel, and delighted I was to receive it. I will only need maintenance now, with any spare space filled with chocolate. The pipe was great, and most welcome. We have Rugby, Soccer, Hockey, and Basketball all being organised. School opens on Monday in the concert hall, so things are starting. I am feeling well in this climate.

SGT. F. J. PHILPOTT, 15th October. Whangarei.

Since last writing we have been busy moving to our new camp, and getting settled in. We are very comfortable, only 12 men in a hut. Climate here is marvellous. Received a cigarette parcel from New Zealand House, also 16 letters from friends. Red Cross food parcels issue have been very poor during the last five months; many weeks we have to go without. I expect your third parcel any day now. During the past week some of the boys have been going around with their hands tied, as reprisals to what is happening to German P.O.W.

SGT. A. E. CROMMELIN, 17th October. Napier.

Just to say we are now settled in our new camp; a new non-working N.C.O.'s camp. It is a totally different part of the country and is an enormous improvement on Stalag VIII B. We live in little bungalows of twelve men each. Despite the absence of Red Cross supplies, everyone is pleased with the move. Have been here three weeks now. Winter is very close now. Have had mail (at last camp) up to July.

S/SGT. L. A. POLSON, 14th October. Christchurch.

We have been issued with three blankets, china soup bowls and mugs, knives, and spoons and it is definitely better than drinking out of tins, etc. There are a very bright crowd in our hut, of which I am in charge, seven New Zealanders and five Tommies from different parts, and we are a real communal team, sharing everything that comes into the hut. So far the Red Cross are not functioning properly but we soon hope to have a regular supply of parcels and cigarettes. The other day I received two cigarette parcels from New Zealand House (400 cigarettes) and as some of the others also received some we have been right for smokes for a few days. I am attending school again and am trying to make arrangements to sit the London University Exam. next year. There has been a slight break in the mail this month, but I hope to be able to write regularly again from now. There is a good Military band and a "Swing" band here and they have already given concerts.

SGT. E. J. TIPPETT, 4th October. Rangiriri.

I have been in this camp a week and met old pals here. It is better than Stalag VIII B, but would sooner be out working. I did not want to come but had no option. We had an awful trip of three days, and stop here for the duration. Jack Martin is trying to arrange another working party.

CPL. JOHN JAMES LARCOMBE, 17th October. Christchurch.

Just a line, you will notice that I have had another shift; we are in a big N.C.O. camp. I don't do any work. Quite a nice camp, 12 men to a hut. Don't send any more clothing. Razor blades, chocolate and etceteras are all I need. I have enough clothing to last me for years. The last letter I received from you was written on June 28th, 1942.

FRANK FORTUNE, 16th October. Wellington.

After 3½ months at Stalag XVIII B, we shifted here about a month ago, and it is our best camp to date. Our billets are small cabins set in long streets after the style of a motor camp. It is an ex-officers' lager, as the address shows, and the streets of huts cover a large area. At one end of the camp is a large sports ground, and Rugby, soccer and hockey are in full swing, so I had my first game of Rugby since leaving New Zealand. The camp is a concentration of non-working N.C.O.'s from various camps in Germany, and it was interesting to meet the Dunkirk boys, and those caught on Crete. Have met several friends from the old battalion and heard of many more who are still in other camps. There are two orchestras here and a military band from among the Dunkirk boys who have now been prisoners over two years. Received a third parcel from you a couple of days ago, including a pair of

shoes. Receiving very few letter forms and cards lately, so opportunities to write are scarce.

CPL. ERIC FRAYLING, 16th October. Auckland.

I am not sure if this will go Air Mail or not so in case it does arrive before the card I sent last week I had better tell you that we moved from Stalag VIII B. at a few days' notice by train to a different part of Germany altogether. We were three nights in the train arriving here on 26th September. It is bush-covered hill country and very picturesque. Have a good gang—5 Aussies, 4 Tommies, and Stan Bowen, Herb and myself, Kiwis. The huts are very comfortable, bunks round the walls, a table, forms, shelves, etc., with a small coal stove in the centre. There are about 250 Aussies, 340 New Zealanders and round 2,000 Tommies, all N.C.O.'s. We do all our own fatigues, cooking, etc. About one-third of the camp is affected by the reprisals and have their hands tied during most of the day time, but it has not worried our part yet.

T/BDR. SCOTT BELL, 4th October. Auckland.

In case you have not yet received my last Post Card advising you of the change of address, here it is: New number 141b, and address Onag III C, Germany. We are many miles from our last camp and are about 3,000 strong. All N.C.O.'s.

SGT. E. H. EVERTON, 5th November. Auckland.

No mail has been sent on from our last camp, so with 2 months gone we are rather looking forward to something at just by Christmas. There have been one or two hold ups with our mail. The new Camp is infinitely better than the last, and the food is a bit better. Red Cross parcels took several weeks to find us, but now they are regular again the outlook is more cheerful. The Camp is a series of small 12 bunk huts, complete with stove and table, we are able to make a little garden and path in front and some semblance of home for ourselves. We are still occupied fully with concerts, choirs and such like.

CPL P. D. JOHNSON, 14th October. Wellington.

In my letter number 17, I said that I hadn't heard from you for nine weeks. The next day your letter of 11th July arrived (only taking five weeks) and then in the afternoon I received a second parcel in excellent condition. Everything was just what I required, and am looking forward to receiving the boots. On the 2nd September, I received another two of your letters dated 14th April and 20th June, the last one being censored in U.S.A. There are rumours of repatriation for us. We have been Prisoners of War for eighteen months now, so something should break before long. I am not doing any medical work now other than handling medical supplies, as all my time is taken up with the dance band and concert party. We put in a lot of time and I am just about back in form again, and this afternoon we are playing for the hospital patients through the wire. The medical orderlies are now allowed to go for walks again three times a week, but until I receive my new boots I must be like Cinderella and stay at home. Although I am in Oflag III C, this letter was written last month and is number . . . censored . . . so in future letters will give you the doings here. Everything has been up the pole lately, no parcels or mail and our hands tied up, but over the last-mentioned Commandant has been very fair. Like the rest of us, he has had his orders to execute and it's all in the game I suppose.

DAVID EVITT, 14th October. Auckland.

We've quite settled down in our new camp now, although at first we thought the mail problem would be difficult, but yesterday I received five letters. Last Friday another fag parcel turned up which makes three. This is a really good camp. To-day we've been busy building an oven on to our stove and it has turned out quite successful. The weather has been getting steadily colder and the coal issue started about a week ago. We've had very little rain, but when it does rain the place gets very boggy. However, I was issued with a new pair of army boots last week and with all my clothes I'm not giving a hang for the winter, snow or anything. I am glad to see that you are receiving my mail O.K. Would you send me a heavy lumber jacket next parcel? Not leather, of course.

CPL. ROY HENDLE, 3rd October. Wellington

I'm writing from the new camp Oflag III. C. It is much better than VIII. B. as it is further south, and won't be quite so cold. All the N.C.O.'s have been shifted here, so here I am. We can't be compelled to work other than camp duties.

I'm in the best of health, hope you are the same. Am well off for woollen clothes, but am hoping for a blanket or rug and some shoes, tennis, leather or even slippers in your second or third parcel.

CPL. A. T. MARSHALL, 3rd October. Inglewood.

I have shifted to Oflag III. C. This camp is the best I have been in so far. Electric light, range, spring beds, etc. We are all N.C.O.'s here.

CPL. W. J. S. HILL, 16th October. Stratford.

I have received three parcels from you in New Zealand and they are lovely, and also received the hair clippers. I have plenty of clothes now and well set up in that line, so don't send any more clothes, only some socks. The chocolate was good, also the tooth paste. We have shifted to a new camp, being only for N.C.O.'s. It is a large camp with plenty of room and a large football field. We have quite a mixture, Aussies, Pommies and New Zealanders. My correct address and new number is on the front of the form.

CPL. FRANK LIDDARD, 15th October. Christchurch.

We are in huts with comfortable beds and ample bedding, a camp stove, and altogether we are much better off. There are five Tommies and seven Kiwis in our hut. All the other huts have 12 in them, so we are the odd hut. I have a cigarette parcel from New Zealand House since arriving and one letter.

STAFF-SGT. F. J. HILL, 15th October. Westport.

Has been a glorious day. Took advantage of same to wash some clothes. Had a shower, shave, hair cut. I am in splendid health. We live in very cosy huts which accommodate 12 men. I am in charge of this hut, which is named Kiwi House, as there are 11 New Zealanders and one Welshman in same. Huts are equipped with double-decker wire bedsteads, electric light and stove. The lads have just finished making an oven which is a great success, also have a large sports ground, concert hall, church and school. Have been to a good variety show, and lecture since arrival here. Last week I received two cigarette parcels from London. Were very acceptable, always something coming to light.

SAMUEL A. KENNEDY, 1st November. Tauranga.

We've been here for two weeks now, but this is the first card that has been issued. This is an old officers' camp and I think should be O.K. when things get settled. It seems months since I have heard from home, and I could do without anything if only news could come.

OFLAG VII B.

CAPT. M. G. WADEY, 4th October. Wanganui.

We are more or less settled down in our new camp and find it much better on the whole than VI. B. A much better outlook here, more like New Zealand country. I am sitting in the sun writing this and at the same time having a grand view of a football match. The camp is laid out in two terraces, on the top one is the barracks buildings, two-storied brick and the lower consists of the recreation ground and garden. Plenty of trees about and also grass instead of dirt. Have received the May parcel and that makes three of yours, and the winter holds no fears for me now that I have the blanket.

CAPT. PETER WOOLLEY, 19th September. Auckland.

I am a bit late with this letter. Mail have been upset by our moving. We had a very good trip to our new camp, and a very nice place it is. Plenty of room, brick buildings (both single and double stories) plenty of trees, and a wonderful view. There are about 1,800 of us at VII. B, but I have lost a lot of real friends in the move, particularly those of the R.A.F. who have gone to another camp. Just received letter dated 3rd-5th December, 17th-19th May and 2nd-8th June. Please don't send any more clothing, as I have enough at present, without what is on the way to last 12 months.

11th October. Received your clothing parcel, posted November. Eleven months on the way. It arrived in quite good condition, and the contents are perfect. I have found a new job. I now look after all the food that comes into the mess, including private and Red Cross parcels. We have two cooks on for a month at a time and I decide what they are to prepare and what food in general is to be eaten. I also cut and prepare all the bread. The scheme works well and everybody is quite happy.

CAPT. DENNIS R. BRICKELL, 10th December. Dunedin.

We arrived at Eichstatt early on September 2nd, and marched through the town, a beautiful Old World place with

paved streets, castle, but of serene P.O.W.! oblong gates on living block areas, houses, 1 block area and seats on its of terraced gardens, pitch, twings at The nor and the river with half a r are larg terior li dust ma Have be more di on certa to writ For the four in moment Dieppe. time thi Dietetic class. LIUT. Been ments yards be will be front a Thank new boy ledged very pl good a frame, have to the "bit were s day an our bl Dieppe treatm on full LIUT. So in mov write. a plea much trees o I am CAPT. A rived th thorou beauti been i a nar is a n VI. B. at the from 6 sent li 1' circun ever, conver

paved streets and massive buildings dating back to the 16th century, overlooked by a grim emblemented and turreted castle built about 1660. Everything was so clean and an air of serenity pervaded the place—very refreshing to a tired P.O.W.! The camp is situated in a shallow valley and is oblong in shape, running east and west. One enters the main gates on to a wide terrace on which are three double storied living blocks, hospital, canteen and cookhouse, various store-houses, lavs, etc., all roughest in deep cream. Between each block are silver beeches, chestnuts, and elms with rustic benches and seats and along the front runs a wide asphalt road lined on its outer edge with elm trees. Beyond these, a steep bank terraced with wooden seats, overlooking the playing field and gardens. The former is all in grass and divided into football pitch, two tennis courts and various other things. More buildings at both ends. Officers to the east, orderlies to the west. The north boundary is a sheer hill, bare with rocky outcrops, and the south, a double row of elms, the wire, then a small river winding through green fields to the timbered valley side half a mile away. The view is limited, but beautiful. Rooms are large and airy. Eighteen people (7 New Zealanders). Interior lavs, and electric light. The trees, cleanliness, lack of dust make this a paradise compared with our previous abode. Have been three times a week. You may find my mail even more disjointed in future because here we have post cards on certain dates; any not posted cannot be used, so one has to write on set dates even when there is no mail to reply to. For the period September 9th to October 8th we were allowed four incoming letters. Life here is full of interest at the moment. People are being fettered because of incidents at Dieppe. Don't let it worry you—it doesn't us! I'm filling in time this winter learning Maori. Book-keeping, Physiology and Dietetics from one of the medical staff and an advanced P.T. class.

LIEUT. J. BUCKLETON, 11th October. Wellington.

Been here one week. Living quarters and sanitary arrangements 100 per cent. better than VI. B. Trees and grass 600 yards by 300. Stone buildings and W.C.'s When rest arrive will be about 1,800 of us. Pretty valley, cliff behind and in front, a river, 400 yards of crop land, then a timbered range. Thank goodness no mud this winter. Lot of Canadians here, new boys. No mail for long time—9th July last one. I acknowledged latest mail and parcels in a card a few days ago. Was very pleased with tapestry. There is a chap here who is very good at it and he will start me off. Trying to acquire a frame, but as we cannot get wood of any sort, perhaps will have to go without. At the moment our biggest excitement is the "binding of prisoners." All the Dieppe officers and orderlies were sent up to the local Schloss several days ago. Yesterday another 250 odd were picked at random and are now in our block out of which we had to move, together with the Dieppe chaps who were sent back. We understand that the treatment has been very humane and they have been put on full rations. We all expect to have a turn at it shortly.

LIEUT. H. HOKIANGA, 20th September. Opapa, H.B.

So sorry in not writing sooner only we have been so busy in moving from one camp to another that we just could not write. Yes, we are settling down now, and I must say it is a pleasure to see grass and lovely tall hills. This camp is much better than the last. We have a nice walk around with trees down one side and just outside the wire is a lovely stream. I am quite well.

CAPT. G. A. ROBINSON, 19th September. Masterton.

After a very pleasant journey lasting 20 hours, we arrived here on the 13th from VI. B. Travelled second class and thoroughly enjoyed the trip which took us through some very beautiful country. This Camp, the best so far that I have been in, has many new buildings, grass and trees, and is in a narrow wooded valley not far from a very old town. There is a small stream just down the slope outside the camp. Am in a room with 15 others some of the chaps who came from VI. B. with me. The weather is very good, much warmer than at the other camp. Am hoping for another parcel soon, one from New Zealand in seventeen months is not so good.

6th October. Since moving I have received your parcel sent last November, it was intact.

17th October. I am writing this under rather peculiar circumstances of which you are, no doubt, fully aware. However, I want to make it clear that apart from the minor inconvenience caused by being handcuffed for twelve hours a

day, we are receiving humane treatment. Please do not worry on my account. Am just going to make some tea.
CAPT. J. P. HUNTER, 29th September. Raglan.

Have had a wonderful morning collecting three of the parcels sent off by you. Two of them had blankets in, which are most welcome as the nights are becoming cooler now. Evidently my luck has changed, as I had quite resigned myself that they had gone west. I don't think that I have ever been so well off for underclothes in my life. The country-side is looking beautiful at the moment, the trees are starting to change colour, alas a fore-runner of winter, still let's hope it's the last.

2/LIEUT. OWEN B. COPELAND, October.

The camp is an improvement on VI. B. The buildings are brick and concrete and draught proof. We are in a valley surrounded by hills and have just had two days' rain and winter is coming on. Letters have arrived. Suppose you are hearing all sorts of things about handcuffing. We are just about fed up with it.

LIEUT. H. J. RADFORD, 20th September. Auckland.

We've been here just over a week and are just settling in. The Camp itself is certainly more pleasant than the last one with quite a few trees around, and with plenty of grass playing fields. The huts that we are in are quite new and very clean, but hold 32 each, divided up by cupboards and beds into messes of eight. So far we haven't been able to gather our messes together but hope for a general shuffle round soon. The parcel situation is a bit obscure at present but we have had a small issue from bulk to tide us over. The journey here was very refreshing, we travelled in "carriages" for a change with a short walk at the end, through rather a pleasing old town. The Camp is situated in a small green valley, the far side of which is covered with trees, all very pleasant. Naturally we haven't had any mail since we arrived.

24th September. We are slowly settling down in our new camp and have been fortunate in being able to get our mess together. Our two Canadian messmates (from Dieppe) are settling down. They're very decent chaps and their draw is still a novelty. The only snag at present is that we only have a carbide light, but have been promised electric light shortly. I had another game of football yesterday, and hope to have a game of baseball soon, the latter game having received quite a fillup from all the Canadians in Camp. Cooking facilities in our rooms are not quite as good as the last Camp, but we have a canteen kitchen which each block uses in turn and they cook things pretty well. Our turn comes round every ten days.

28th November. My November clothing parcel arrived to-day, including the shorts, which I asked for in my last letter. It certainly filled up the gaps in my clothing and I don't know that there is anything to suggest in the next few parcels.

20th October. Still no mail from you but one from your Mother—1st December, 1941—Pretty swift work what! No news from here—the reprisals are still on and the boys in the chains are petty browned off.

OFLAG IX C

MAJOR W. G. NICHOLSON, 15th October.

Since I wrote last, we have moved to a new camp. The one I am at is a Girl's School, which is centrally heated, and will be quite warm in the winter. We can see the mountains on which trees like Christmas trees are plentiful. A little stream runs close by and with the green fields make quite a pretty picture.

OFLAG IX A/Z.

Was more than overjoyed to receive two letters from you dated 3/6/42 and 17/6/42. Restrictions are placed on mail, and the receipt and despatch of mail is governed by the number received by German prisoners. We are allowed a larger number than those unfortunates, so must not complain. We have a bevy of Medical skill here, both British and German, that would be hard to secure in peace times. So it is all to the good. Things are fairly comfortable, with central heating, communal cooking, and a lovely view from the window. All the old Dunedinites have gone to a different camp but there are two new ones whose names I have not yet ascertained.

LIUET. F. L. WARD, no date. Marlborough.

The move has taken place at last. We had quite a long journey in fast trains, approximately 500 miles in less than 12 hours. Conditions are quite good here. The Red Cross does its good work everywhere. I have also met many of the chaps who were in Athens Hospital. This building was once a girls' school, and as the doors are built accordingly, one has to bow one's head frequently. Quite a lot of talk just at present about repatriation, but I will believe it when it happens. I am quite fit and well, and it is very interesting here. Plenty to do, and one meets people who have been 'bagged' more recently than oneself. There are a few study groups but I have not joined any yet as I am still 'settling in'. Just before I left Stalag XVIII B. I received a parcel from you. I think it must be the one you sent last February. Do not send any more clothes, as I am well stocked. Tooth-paste, tooth brush, shaving stick and perhaps a bootbrush are about the best things you can send.

F. E. S. LONG, 20th October. Wanganui.

When I arrived in this camp, I met a member of my staff, Don Hunter. He was with me in Egypt and Greece and was taken prisoner in Crete. Don went out as a 'Padre' to a men's camp last week. I have found it most difficult to settle down in this new camp. A greater number of Officers and Orderlies—a bigger building with no "quiet" room—deprived of my books still to come from Ofag IX AH, etc., all help to create this feeling of unrest. We have had no walks to date, but expect them to start to-morrow. The weather is gradually becoming wintry. "Central heating" is now operating and the building is quite warm. We have a splendid "Exchange Mast" here, one can swap "almost everything" for almost anything. For instance, I swapped a shaving brush for a pair of brown shoes—good value. I have also had tobacco for matches, etc. It's a grand scheme.

DVR. D. A. HEYBOURNE, 15th September. Christchurch.

At last I am telling you that I have left Hospital, although this place is similar to a hospital in the way that there are doctors. It is a huge rock building situated in the hills of a very quiet spot in Germany. Here I have met up with chaps who have left hospital at different times over the last nine months. Some of these chaps I have not been able to recognise on account of their improvement. On the whole this is a nice place, and I hope to spend the rest of my refangenen days here. The trip from the last hospital Stalag IX C took a full day and was very enjoyable. My leg is improving very quickly now. Some of the boys here have been properly wounded but they are always cheerful.

5th November. I have had nine letters this week. They are the first you wrote after hearing of my being a prisoner (nearly two years). You ask how I am off for money. Well I have not got any and almost forget what it looks like. I have no need for it. If I was a millionaire prisoner I would not be any better off. I have plenty of good clothes and receive buckshoe fags every week. Except for a slight limp I am first class. I have been for some long walks and have been able to stick the distance. I still have hopes that repatriation will take place.

OFLAG XXI B

FLYING OFFICER NEVILLE MACK AICKIN, 24th October.

Palmerston North.
As you can see I have been shifted to another camp somewhere in Poland—perhaps the German censor will let this pass (thank you Censor). This camp is an old school of some sort and is a really beautiful place, plenty of gardens, flowers, etc., and a pretty little church, also a good climate. The food is not as good as that of Stalag Luft III, but nevertheless I would rather be here. The journey up here was very nice, bags of machine guns, so nobody tried to escape.

FLYING OFFICER S. D. PARNELL, 14th October. Wgton.

I am quite a lot better and started exercise yesterday. The weather is beginning to get very cold now, but we have good stoves and 96 men in each hut to keep us warm. I have been put on Malt and Cod Liver Oil by the doctor. Have received an issue of Red Cross clothes for the approaching weather (1 pair of long underwear, 2 pairs socks, 1 pullover, 1 army shirt, 1 pair army boots, 1 set pyjamas, 1 pair long trousers). Thank goodness! We are supplied with German keg beer at about

1 litre per head 6 nights per week at 1 mark 30 pfg. Educational periods have started which fill in some time. I am taking 10 hourly lectures each week. The days drag by just now, but I hope they will improve as I become serviceable for sport. I do miss my meat! However, we are pretty well off considering our position.

STALAG VIII B.

CPL. A. D. AYR, 12th September. Wellington.

It has been very dull weather to-day but the rain has managed to keep off pretty well so it did not interfere with the open air boxing competition. I have had four letters in the last month. I had a good little job around the gardens for a week and we did all right for ourselves one way and another but it has come to a finish now so I am back to sleeping and reading most of the time. We all get a bit fed up here at times, but it has its good points as well and we can always get a laugh now and then. The Red Cross parcels are rolling in in good style, so we are doing O.K. in the food line and that is the biggest concern of ours at present.

SGMN. S. J. MORRIS, 20th October. Auckland.

Things are continuing O.K. here. It is getting colder now and we will soon be in the snow again. I am still working, and as 12 hours a day leaves very little time to yourself the days seem to fly by and I am settling down pretty good. A lot of N.Z. parcels are arriving now and I am anxiously awaiting another from home. My mate has had three so far. SGT. J. S. CONDER, 29th August.

I have been keeping in the best of health lately. Am playing basketball, football and deck tennis. We received our first New Zealand Red Cross parcel this week. Only kept one-sixth but were really thrilled to be able to eat our own produce. We received besides one quarter Canadian and some South American bulk so are just able to manage.

20th September.

I have had eight letters in the last two weeks. Have had to work on Sundays lately. Working in a coal-mine. Toddy had 400 cigarettes and a clothing parcel from London House, but none for me. Got half of his smokes though. We objected to working on Sunday, but as usual, got the worst of it. We will have to get a few days off soon. Some of us are feeling the effects of hard work and light food. I have had a cigarette and clothing parcel from N.Z. House, very acceptable. These Jerry's beat me, they can't see that if they give us a decent spin they will have better results. If it wasn't for the Red Cross we would be in a bad way sometimes. Thanks to the Red Cross.

PTE. AUBREY M. G. AIKEN, 6th Sept./18th Oct.

Whanaki, North Auckland.
A good night's entertainment by the camp band last night and all this week in the theatre. I am still in the convalescent barracks and have good mates; Fred Aukett and many other medico's are in the medical compound. Some of the medical orderlies are going out with different working parties but the majority are here together. Parcel received to-day, all warm clothes been repacked at N.Z. House but in really good condition. (Posted parcel 28/8/41). We have a big open air boxing competition on to-day, a very good afternoon's entertainment. We went for a walk and a swim yesterday. It is a beautiful Sunday evening and I have just returned from church. Received mail during week. We are all well here but the weather is getting quite cold at nights now and we wish we had a fire to light and sit round of an evening. I went to a grand lecture on New York last evening in the school rooms, and they are starting a series of lectures now the evenings are getting longer. A very large consignment of food parcels came in this week for a reserve for the winter months and our Red Cross issue remains very good. Our last parcels were N.Z. parcels, packed in Canada and very good too.

11/10/42. Weather has turned very cold this week and we have been re-issued with new great coats. Two letters from you this week, the latter dated August 6th find us very well. I have never had an opportunity to find out if the flavour of the fruit here is different as there is no issue. Pleased to hear all is well at home and certainly look forward to your letters. Here's hoping you get this before Christmas and Peace through the world with it. I have received two of

your parcels and 3 cigarette parcels from N.Z. House. I am well off for clothes now and am well prepared for the cold now it is here.

W.O. II G. E. SUTHERLAND, 27th September.
Had two letters from you addressed to Athens 25/9/41. They took a long time to reach me. The parcel has not yet arrived but if it was also addressed to Athens there is time for it yet. I think I told you I had received the second one and am now well fitted out with clothes for this Winter. Apart from the ones you have sent I have had two from N.Z. House. They were good sensible parcels too, supplied, I think, by the N.Z. Patriotic Fund.

12th October. Your letters of 6th and 31st May to hand. Have had two parcels from you now. Well the weather is beginning to get cold now but do not worry I have plenty of warm clothes now.

CPL. C. W. COOK, 25th October. New Plymouth.
Had a letter dated June 14th and it looked like a crossword puzzle with pieces snipped out. Another dated July 18th intact. Had a loud speaker put in our room and it is corker lazing in bunk listening to it. I am well.

PTE. IVAN J. TEMPLETON, 6th September.
Since my last letter have received the February clothing parcel. The boots, etc., are very acceptable and will help to make our life more comfortable. The mail also has been good lately, in fact the fastest service since receiving your letters—July 3rd letters received here August 27th. Swimming has been a pleasant change from routine and is much appreciated by all.

D. J. ROBINSON. Wellington.
13th August. Our Camp Commandant, a tall elderly naval officer, has permitted the gates of the compounds within the Camp to be opened during the day. You will not realise what this means to us—it makes us feel more honourable P.O.W. than convicts. To-night the Church was packed for the Choral Concert. Among the items were chorus from "Messiah," "Creation," "Jerusalem," etc.

9th November. There is talk that the current mail ban comes off to-morrow so am looking forward to receiving more mail. We are hoping the school and theatre will be reopened before Christmas. Now that weather is cooler we notice the lack of fires. A dear old soul in N.Z. wrote asking one of our boys if we get leave. Another bright young thing in England wrote wishing she were a P.O.W. "You boys must have so much opportunity for study." It does not seem as though we shall receive Red Cross parcels individually again. The meats, fruits, etc., go to the cookhouse and all the food is boiled into the soup (here line censored). Not having our food in dry state will take some getting used to. Tea is also now made in the cookhouse and we receive a small mug twice a day per man.

OFLAG III C

CPL. JOHN GRAINGER. Onehunga.
31st October. A couple of days ago I received ten letters—the first I have had in a couple of months. The latest were dated June. By the way, don't bother to write air mail as from results the air mail is taking longer than surface. Yesterday I received an educational course on Printers' Costing, it is very complete, comprising the British Master Printers' Federation costing system and Pitman's Course based on it.

14th November. Another letter from you this week. This camp is the best I have been in to date. Last Saturday I witnessed a thrilling Rugby match between N.Z. and Wales. They are building a concrete swimming pool so if we are here next summer we'll be able to enjoy a swim.

Addressing Letters to P.O.W.

It is remarkable the number of Next-of-Kin who do not adhere to the written instructions.

Have you read pages 2-3 of the Brochure ?

You must remember the letters are going to Foreign Countries, not to British.

P.G 47.

LIEUT. K. LONGMORE, 21st Oct./12th Nov. Wellington.

The last two days have been gala sports days when we played No. 1 compound at soccer and hockey. They won both the first time, but yesterday we drew in soccer but lost the hockey. A baseball competition is also in progress, so far Ernie Batty's team, including myself, are winning. We've had one or two touches of winter in the mornings but I've put on my battledress and been quite warm, woolen underwear and an extra blanket on the way too. We've all got a fairly good store of food in our private cupboards. I've got butter, biscuits and milk, good fatty foods. We are all New Zealanders in this bungalow. Things are becoming organised very well. Educational classes start soon. A canteen is going and I bought some slippers. It also sells wine and Bruce McMillan and I usually wander over at 5 p.m. and have a couple before dinner at 6.30 p.m. The Red Cross parcel situation is very good. We brought our private savings from the last camp. I should be O.K. for fodder during the winter. The grounds here are more spacious. There is enough room for games and gardens. V.H.'s wife was 21 yesterday so we all had a nip and drank her health. There is no library here yet but quite a lot of private books are about and so far I haven't been stuck. We were issued with an extra blanket on Saturday and now sleep very cosily. We have organisations for nearly everything. A Chamber of Commerce has been formed, a gramophone club, a theatrical society, education and sports committees, etc.

NEXT-OF-KIN QUARTERLY PARCELS.

Next-of-kin may now purchase by application to their nearest Prisoner of War Enquiry Office, a woollen set consisting of heavy army jersey and three pairs sox, all khaki colour, for their quarterly parcel.

Footwear for Italy.

ONLY army boots (studded), canvas shoes with rubber soles and indoor slippers with soft soles are allowed.

Clothing.

ONLY khaki coloured for Italian Camps.

ONLY service colours for German Camps.

The same colour restriction applies to underclothing that could be worn outwardly.

Camps recently visited by the Red Cross International Committee Delegates.

Reserve Lazarett III. B.—Visited 19th January, 1943.

Camp Leader: James Garner. There are 31 British among the 62 patients and of those 6 are New Zealanders. The accommodation is adequate, the bedding is changed regularly and hygiene is satisfactory. The cases are mostly working accidents and fractures from Stalag XVIII A. Books have been distributed. The hospital made a good impression.

Reserve Lazarett IV.—Visited 19th January, 1943.

Camp Leader: Douglas Greig. Of the 171 patients 44 are British and these include New Zealanders and one British doctor. The accommodation is satisfactory but the food is monotonous. There is abundant cabbage, meat three times a week, 12 ozs. bread daily. The rations are controlled and three diets are possible. Visits are paid by a padre and the patients are supplied with books and games. There is some delay with correspondence, the New Zealand representative has only received four letters since he was captured. There is a reserve of food parcels and cigarettes.

British Detachments of Stalag XVIII. A.—Visited 21st and 22nd January, 1943.

There are 6 detachments working in industries the personnel of which numbers 495 of whom 80 are New Zealanders captured in Greece. The general conditions are satisfactory in spite of primitive sanitary arrangements. There are very few chaplains. The prisoners have a lending library, an orchestra, a food parcel weekly. They work eight hours a day. There is delay in correspondence and the state of the clothing is bad

in some detachments. 15 detachments are working on farms, among these are 27 New Zealanders of whom 4 are Maoris. The same general remarks are applicable to these detachments. The prisoners are appreciated by their employers. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the morale is good.

Food Parcels in German Camps.

Owing to the probability of great difficulty in delivery of food parcels because of the German occupation of Vichy France, the International Red Cross advised camp leaders to limit the issue of food parcels to one fortnightly instead of one weekly. In December two ordinary food parcels and one special Xmas parcel per man were issued in most of the German camps and during January two parcels per man were delivered.

Further information received from Geneva states that normal issue was resumed from the beginning of February and the men are now getting one parcel per man per week.

Prisoners in Japanese Hands.

By Cable from Geneva.

The Japanese Army distributed the following relief goods:

Philippines	13,000 tons
Hong Kong	850 tons
Malaya	12,000 tons
Sumatra	500 tons

Clothing in the Camps.

Some very interesting reports have just come to hand showing the position with regard to the distribution of clothing,

blankets and boots to prisoners of war in Germany and Italy. The German authorities have at last agreed to give all British camp leaders a more effective measure of control over the issue of such clothing. The camp leaders will now be able to control the book-keeping records kept by the camp authorities as well as verify the stocks in store and indent on Geneva for their requirements.

The reports showed a considerable improvement in the general position regarding the issue of clothing, boots, etc., in practically all the camps.

ENQUIRY SECTION.

PTE I. M. COURTNEY, a Bren gunner, 18th Auckland Battalion was reported missing near the end of last July. He was later reported Prisoner of War and wounded. If any reader of the Prisoner of War Pamphlet can supply any information about him, his whereabouts or the extent of his wounds, please forward same to this office.

GUNNER R. W. BURGIS was reported missing in June, 1941, and reported P.O.W. in October of that year. In February, 1942, his camp was given as Stalag VIII. B. From information his parents have received from boys who were with him he was wounded and taken by plane to Greece, but this has not been officially confirmed. If any reader can give any information about this boy, will they please communicate it to this office?

COMPLAINTS

Since the beginning of the year, odd letters, mostly anonymous, with complaints from Next-of-Kin regarding the treatment of Prisoners of War have been appearing in various newspapers throughout the Dominion. These letters unfortunately carry what might be called scare headings such as HUNGRY ITALY — MISSING HIS PAGES — HARD ON PRISONERS — NO PARCELS — NO RED CROSS PARCELS OR FIRES — NO INWARD MAIL. Then follows extracts from Prisoners' letters with, in a few cases the name of the prisoner concerned, but the majority do not contain this information. To make matters worse the date when the letter was written and the Camp where the Prisoner was interned at the time of writing are often omitted.

These newspaper cuttings are naturally brought under the notice of the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office and if important details are not stated we are powerless to follow up the case. We have, however, no desire to suppress public criticism and in fact welcome constructive criticism.

The main duties of the Office are to do everything possible for the Prisoners of War and their Next-of-Kin. Surely it is not too much to ask that when Next-of-Kin have any complaints and they desire to write to newspapers that they supply the full story and at the same time send the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office Headquarters a copy so that we will be in a position to investigate and if possible rectify matters.

Next-of-Kin can rest assured that in cases where it is felt there is the slightest cause for complaint, cables of enquiry are immediately sent forward to the International Red Cross at Geneva.

HELP US TO HELP YOU.

PRISONERS OF WAR ENQUIRY OFFICE.

J. ABEL,
Chairman,