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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**

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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, 96 TORY ST., WELLINGTON.



Hon. Assistant Editor—Mrs. J. W. JACK

FREE TO NEXT-OF-KIN

Hon. Editor—Mr. J. ABEL

REPORTS on ITALIAN and GERMAN CAMPS recently visited by INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DELEGATES

STALAG IV. A.—Hohnstein.

About 800 British prisoners of war are in this area, though only seven are in the main camp; these are in charge of parcels for the work camps. Considerable improvements are reported in the four mining camps in this area. The new Camp Commander is said to be very understanding and relations have improved.

STALAG VII. A.—Mosburg.

Visited 9th March, 1943.
Camp Leader, S.Q.M.S. Edward Berry. Doctor, Capt. Kenneth Todd.

The strength is 1818 prisoners, of whom 361 are at the base camp. There are 31 New Zealanders, five doctors and 11 medical orderlies. There have been no changes since the last visit. The accommodation and sanitary installations are mediocre. The food is good and supplemented by parcels. Uniforms and shoes are in good condition, but there is a lack of socks and underclothing. The Camp Leader controls and distributes all stocks. It is possible for the prisoners to cook the food from their parcels. There is only restricted space for sport. The state of the prisoners' health is satisfactory and their morale is high. There is an adequate infirmary and a well-equipped hospital. There is difficulty with diets. A small quantity of white bread and milk is available. The medical personnel have been vaccinated against typhus, although there is no epidemic. There are sufficient medicaments and materials, except for making sets of teeth.

In 1942 there were four deaths and one in 1943.

There are three Anglican chaplains and one Roman Catholic priest. The library contains 4,000 books. There are no facilities for theatrical shows or orchestra, but various games are played. The general working conditions are good. The clearance of mail is well organised. The discipline is satisfactory.

STALAG VIII. B.—Reserve Lazarett.

Visited 13th February, 1943.
Camp Leader, Major C. W. Horncastle, R.A.M.C. Surgeon, Major A. N. Slater, N.Z.M.C.

There are 282 British prisoners in this hospital including 21 New Zealanders. There are 10 doctors and 97 medical orderlies.

The buildings are new and well situated. The dormitories are excellent and divided into surgical, medical and isolation wards. The Camp Leader controls the rations and the prisoners prepare meals according to their own tastes, also using their private foodstuffs. Milk diets are possible and there is a reserve of invalid comfort parcels. The Camp Leader distributes the regular Red Cross parcels. Clothing is in good condition.

The sanitary arrangements are connected with sewers. There were 130 surgical cases, 90 medical cases, 30 mental and 40 infectious cases. There were neither typhus nor tubercular cases. The hospital equipment was complete but there were few medicaments. Those sent by the Red Cross were much appreciated and freely used by the doctors. There have only been 32 deaths in the last 16 months. The padre from the Stalag visits the patients and the hospital has the benefit of concert and cinema shows from the Stalag. There are plenty of English books. Discipline is good and the medical personnel work under excellent conditions. Generally speaking it is a remarkable hospital.

Work Detachment E.3.

Visited 10th February, 1943.
Camp Leader, C.S.M. Haberfield. Doctor, Capt. John Borrie, N.Z.M.C. Dentist, Capt. J. M. Green, A.D.C.

The personnel comprises 769 British, of whom 38 are New Zealanders, 100 marines from Marlag and Milag Nord, and 12 medical orderlies. The accommodation is suitable and the hygiene adequate. Extra rations are given for heavy labour. The clothing is in good condition.

There is an excellent infirmary with equipment perfected for all possible treatments. Dental care is given, dentures are even provided for P.O.W.s of neighbouring Work Detachments. Regular visits are paid by chaplains from Work Detachments 21 and 48, which are located in the neighbourhood.

The library contains 3,000 books. Study courses are used. There is a theatre and orchestra and games are played. The discipline is excellent and the Camp Commandant is very understanding. They have stocks of parcels for two weeks. The P.O.W.s work on the construction of a factory and under satisfactory conditions. The morale is high and there is remarkable organisation.

Work Detachment 20.

Visited 10th February, 1943.
Camp Leader, Frank Batty.

There are 594 prisoners in this Detachment, including the New Zealand Anglican chaplain R. J. Griffiths.

Work Detachment 40.

Camp Leader, Capt. Gordon Knowles, R.A.M.C.

The strength of this camp is 592 prisoners, including one New Zealander. The general conditions from every point of view are better in this camp than in the other camps. It made an excellent impression.

Camp 319, dependant on Stalag VIII. B.

Visited 12th February, 1943.
Camp Leader, R.S.M. Frederick Reid, replacing R.S.M. George Gittey. Medical Corps, Erwin Popper.

The personnel consists of 149 British N.C.O.s including five New Zealanders. The climate is healthy. The accommodation and hygiene are rudimentary. The Camp Leader controls the rations and food parcels. The clothing is worn and the men wear clogs. The state of health is good, the average weight of the men being between 10 and 11 stone. There are no tubercular cases; there are 30 patients of whom 14 are unfit. There are sufficient medical supplies. All the prisoners have been vaccinated against typhus. 36 urgent dental treatments will be undertaken in the Military Hospital, but there is no material for artificial dentures. They have 400 books but few musical instruments and very little sports equipment. Two letters and four cards are allowed per month.

Mail addressed Stalag 319 is kept back. It is necessary to send mail via Stalag VIII. B.

Zweilager of Stalag XVIII. A.

Visited 26th January, 1943.
Camp Leader, Sergt. Kaplin.
There are 100 British prisoners including 20 New Zealanders and 42 N.C.O.s. It is a transit camp for convalescents from former Stalag XVIII. B. There are abundant food stocks controlled by the Camp Leader. There is an infirmary containing 52 British, one doctor, one Anglican padre and eight British medical personnel. There is a fine library. There are 14 dependent Work Detachments. The reserves of clothing are insufficient and there is an absence of mending materials. They ask for sports equipment and musical instruments.

Work Detachments 10030, Stalag XVIII. A.

Visited 26th January, 1943.
There are 340 British prisoners, including 100 New Zealanders. They work on the construction of a dam for a hydro-electric power plant. The accommodation is adequate and the extra rations for heavy labour are augmented by food parcels. The foodstuffs are controlled by the Camp Leader. There is an adequate infirmary with stocks of medicaments. There is no sports equipment. The men's teeth are not in good condition, but the authorities will remedy that. There are no books, theatre, music, games or music books. Educational courses have been suspended. There is a padre. The daily pay is 70 pfennigs. There is delay in mail. It is a good camp and the morale is high.

STALAG LUFT III.

Visited 22nd February, 1943.
Senior Officer, Group Capt. H. M. Massey, Representative N.C.O.s and other ranks, Sergt. James Deans.

In this camp there are 2,228 British prisoners, among whom are 108 New Zealanders. The accommodation is suitable and the hygienic arrangements are remarkably good. The Camp Leaders control the rations which are supplemented by parcels at regular intervals and are ample. The clothing is good and there are sufficient stocks, but several articles of clothing are in too small sizes. There are 28 patients in the infirmary, but none serious cases. Invalid parcels make diets possible and dental service is supplied. Twelve of the patients are eligible for repatriation. Three chaplains exercise their ministry freely. There are cinema shows, theatricals, newspapers, a library, numerous study courses and examinations in course of preparation. Sport is well organised. Relations with the Germans are good. Mail has been slow lately. This camp made an excellent impression.

The following is the strength of New Zealanders at the 1st April, 1943, in the Civilian Internment Camps in Germany and France:—

Flag VII.	2	
Biberach	1	Oflag 55 VD.
Saint Denis	1	Front Stalag CXX.
Vittel	1	

ITALIAN CAMPS.

C.C.P.G. 5 P.M. 3100—Serravalle.
190 officers and 54 other ranks are de-

tained here in a very old fortress. All are officers who have previously made attempts to escape, and owing to the nature of the building and surrounding country, supervision is easier than at an ordinary camp. Conditions otherwise are much the same as at other officers' camps. Orderlies are quartered on the ground floors. There are two British doctors and two chaplains in the camp. Some walks have been arranged.

C.C. P.G. 66 P.M. 3400—Capua near Naples.

It has been very much enlarged since the last visit and is now divided into five sections. About 1,700 prisoners are living in stone barracks in the second section. The third section will be for officers when completed. Indian prisoners of war are lodged in the fourth section and as soon as they are transferred the tents will be removed completely and new wooden and stone buildings erected. The large spaces between the sections are used for gardens and recreation. New wash rooms, shower-baths and latrines have been built.—At present to be a sufficient supply of water. An Italian officer is in charge of the infirmary, and four British medical officers work with him. All the prisoners have been vaccinated against diphtheria. Italian newspapers and magazines are distributed in the camp.

There is a considerable improvement in this camp.

C.C. P.G. 73 P.M. 3200, near Modena.

The capacity of Campo 73 is at present 4,000, and is to be enlarged to 8,000. At present there are over 3,000 British, who, at the time of the last visit were still accommodated in tents. The camp is in two sections. The second section is composed of brick barracks and when the prisoners are installed in them the first section will be rebuilt on similar lines. The new barracks are to have stoves for the winter.—At present the men eat in their tents or outside. Hot showers are allowed once a week and the sanitary installations are satisfactory. Two wooden barracks are used for an infirmary, with an Italian and two New Zealand M.O.s in charge. A dental surgery is to be installed in the new camp—there will be plenty of work for the dental surgeon—and an oculist is to visit the camp. There is a British Anglican chaplain and an Italian English-speaking Roman Catholic priest.

Military Hospital C.C.P.G. 201 P.M. 3200—Bergamo.

Many of the 327 patients here were brought from Caserta and Bari Hospitals. Most of them are wounded. Bed linen is changed every week. There is a good supply of coal for the central heating, which is not to be started before December. Mail is slow, sometimes taking as long as two months to arrive from England. Some private parcels have been received and there is an ample supply of Red Cross parcels. Clothing is sufficient at present.

Military Hospital C.C.P.G. 202. P.M. 3200—Luca.

Once a civil hospital and recently reopened for prisoners of war, Luca creates a very good impression. There is accommodation for 800 patients. At the time of the visit there were 534 pa-

tients—13 British doctors, one chaplain and 104 orderlies. Eight wards are kept for the patients. The orderlies live in barracks. The prisoners are disinfected on arrival and everyone averages a shower every two days. Food is sufficient; it is cooked by nuns and Italian soldiers. Patients are allowed supplementary diets. Two large courtyards are available for exercise and permission for walks for the orderlies is under consideration.

Military Hospital C.C.P.G. 203. P.M. 3200—Bologna.

Only British prisoners of war are in this hospital at present. It is described as a large school building at a holiday resort, surrounded by fields, fruit trees and vineyards. There is central heating and a good hot water supply. The orderlies are accommodated in two connected rooms which are warm, dry and comfortable. The hospital is very well equipped and there is ample water supply.

Military Hospital—Modena.

Forty-five British soldiers are confined here, all from Campo 73 P.M. 3200. The buildings are of stone, solidly built amid cloisters, colonnades, courtyards and gardens. Among the Italian personnel is a Red Cross nurse who speaks fluent English and is of great help to patients and doctors. Red tiled floors and metal beds give a very clean impression. Bed linen is changed twice a week. Loud speakers are installed in every room. The buildings are centrally heated. Parcels and mail are regular at present. Parcels are sent on from Campo 73.

Caserta Hospital.

This hospital has a capacity for 1,250 patients. The British prisoners of war were lodged in long wide halls, where there is plenty of light and air, but were probably to be transferred from Caserta to a new hospital before the end of the year. The use of blue electric lights at night made the rooms rather dark and ventilation was bad when the shutters were shut. Sufficient Red Cross parcels have been received. Clothing is needed for those who are to be discharged from hospital. A dental surgeon and complete surgery are available.

Military Hospital—Morigi di Piacenza.

This hospital is entirely reserved for British prisoners of war. At present there are about 180 patients. The hospital is run by Italian staff and the patients appear to be quite satisfied with their treatment. There is a store of coal and wood for heating for the winter and a good stock of Red Cross parcels. A request has been made for clothing for those prisoners who are to be discharged from hospital. A British chaplain is in charge of religious services.

Military Hospital—Ascoli.

Two large rooms are reserved in this military hospital for British patients. They are well looked after by Italian personnel, including two Red Cross sisters and are supplied with hospital clothing on arrival. Dental treatment is given by a civilian dentist. Specialists are available from a civilian hospital nearby. Sanitary installations are satisfactory, but the hospital has suffered from water shortage and water supply has been limited to a few hours daily. As in all Italian hospitals, food appears to be good, well cooked and quite sufficient.

Door: Mr. Ian Vandrey, 2004

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS

Packing Centre Workers Congratulated.

The Joint Council Commissioner, Col. Bernard Myers, who has done such splendid work in London for the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society, and Mrs. Myers, gave a party at the Prisoner of War Packing Centre on December 22, in recognition of the valuable work done there by the workers. A permanent staff of six (Mrs. Burke, Miss Connolly, Mrs. Pragnell, Mrs. Bissell, Miss Nott, Mr. Fraser), with Mrs. de Beer, Mrs. Burdekin, and Miss Smith as part-time voluntary helpers, copes with the whole problem of providing first clothing and chocolate parcels as soon as advice is received of New Zealand prisoners of war. The number of prisoners on the roll is 7,276. The total number of parcels despatched from December, 1940, when the first seven were sent, to date is 11,337, of which 8,295 have been sent since January 1, 1942. The ten-pound parcels, which have to be packed in three separate wrappings and very strongly tied, also involve a tremendous amount of intricate office work to ensure that each man gets in his turn what he requires. In addition, the Post Office entrusts the responsible work of censorship to Mrs. Burke.

In his speech Col. Myers conveyed to all concerned New Zealand's thanks for their devotion to duty, mentioning particularly the invaluable help of Mr. Burdekin and Mr. Jervis, of New Zealand House, and the leadership of Mrs. Burke, to whom Miss de Beer paid a personal tribute on behalf of the workers.

Mrs. W. J. Jordan, who represented the High Commissioner, absent owing to temporary indisposition, spoke feelingly of the importance of the work. Dr. J. Newman Morris, Vice-Chairman, Australian Red Cross, referred to his recent visits to packing centres in Melbourne, Toronto, Glasgow, and London, and commented on the splendid spirit which this Red Cross work seemed able to evoke everywhere. Mrs. S. F. Waterson, wife of the South African High Commissioner, represented South Africa at the gathering.

CHEWING GUM.

Arrangements have been completed whereby the Prisoners of War Packing Depots will be supplied with stocks of Chewing Gum sufficient to allow the inclusion of, at least,

NINE SMALL PACKETS

in every Next-of-Kin Quarterly Parcel. The Chewing Gum will be added to the parcels as a gift from the Patriotic Fund.

HOSPITAL P.G. 206 — P.M. 3400
Visited 16th March, 1943.

The number of prisoners is 666 of whom 8 are New Zealanders. The housing and sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. The hospital is well equipped. The discipline is good. Parcels arrive from Geneva in good condition. The food is satisfactory and the general impression is good.

Educational Books

Applications for books and Study Courses increases almost daily as the news reaches the camps of the professional bodies who have agreed to hold their examinations in Germany. In one camp 200 men out of 370 are preparing for an examination of one kind or another. The results prove that the prisoners, notwithstanding manifold difficulties can achieve the same success as candidates working under more favourable conditions at home.

Life in a prisoner of war camp, except for the officers, is not one of leisure. Many of the men are dispersed in working parties at a distance of anything from 2 to 50 kilometres from the base camp, and transfers are frequent. In the Stalags the hours during which study is possible are few, and the accommodation very restricted and necessarily makeshift. The silence enjoyed by a student at home in library or laboratory is unknown.

A special tribute must be paid to the camp leaders and education officers who have inspired their men to attend the schools and classes which they have so ably arranged. Where so many have co-operated it is difficult to select names, but mention must be made of the special educational organisations at Marlag und Milag Nord, Stalag Luft III, Stalag VIII. B., Stalag XX. A. and Ilag VIII.

The University of Oxford.

The University of Oxford has instituted a special Honours Examination in English literature and Language for which it will grant a certificate or diploma. Mr. C. S. Lewis, of Magdalen College, and Professor Tolkein, have made a list of 300 books which will be the basis of the examination, and 30 men have submitted themselves as candidates.

An Education Officer of an Air Camp writes: "This indefinite period of captivity gives the men a chance to stop and think, to look into the future. For some it is the first time they have been able to afford the time to deviate from the routine in order to learn something different, a language perhaps, or for the office worker some form of mechanical knowledge. Here, on the one hand, we cater for the dilettante, who takes this opportunity to explore new fields. On the other hand we have men who are seeking to fit themselves for a position in post-war life. . . . Without the aid of your Educational Service this prisoner of war life would be one of stagnation, but through the efforts of the New Zealandian it is a period of praiseworthy effort in adverse conditions. If I had the power I would inform every professional body and every employer in England and the Dominions that the letters P.O.W. can, and often do, imply an added qualification.

Special New Zealand Publications.

We in New Zealand take our share in this good work. The Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society allocated £1000 to be paid in quarterly instalments to the War Organisation of the British Red Cross

Society to meet the cost of special publications supplied to New Zealand prisoners of war, and also to help them with overhead expenses incurred in this work.

Many of the books required are only published in New Zealand and deal purely with New Zealand conditions. These are being forwarded from here by the Prisoners of War Committee in ever increasing numbers. The following is a list, giving the names of publications, that have been sent in considerable quantity:—

Allan Leslie—Diseases of Breeding Ewes.
J. B. Johnson—N.Z. Veterinary Handbook.

L. J. Wild—Soils and Manures of N.Z.
F. W. Hilgendorf—Wheat in N.Z.
Amess and Johnston—Science of Dairying.

Weston—N.Z. Farmers Own Accounts
Maxwell—Afforestation in Southern Lands.

Lipscomb—Breeding and Management of Live Stock.

Hill—Culture of Lucerne.
Hopkins—Practical Bee-keeping.
Hilgendorf—Weeds of N.Z.

Hilgendorf—Farmers' Foes in N.Z.
Covley—Classing the Clip.
Handling the Wool Clip For Sale.

Laing and Blackwell—Plants of N.Z.
Dixon—Nature Study Notes.
Maori—N.Z. Nature Book.

Martin and Pakeha.
Geography and History of N.Z.

Enting—Practical Book-keeping.
Enting—Advanced Accountancy.
Enting—Secretarial Law and Practice.

Neale—Guide to N.Z. Official Statistics.
Murphy—Outline of Economics.
Waddy—Mercantile Law.

Williams—First Lessons in Maori.
Grey—Nga Mahi a Nga Tupuna.
Wall—New Zealand English.
Baker—New Zealand Slang.

P.O.W. GREETINGS

Christmas messages from the Prime Minister and the High Commissioner were forwarded by air mails letter-cards to all camps and hospitals in Italy and Germany in which there are New Zealand prisoners of war. The letters were sent off in time to ensure their arrival at the camps well before Christmas. This entailed writing to no fewer than 35 camps and hospitals in Germany, and 40 in Italy. The messages were:—

From the Prime Minister.

"On behalf Government and people of New Zealand I send a heartfelt message of Christmas greetings. At this time and always you and your comrades are in thoughts of those at home who join with me in wishing you good health and better fortune and the best of spirits."

From the High Commissioner.

"The staff of the New Zealand House and all other friends here join me in sending hearty good wishes for Christmas and New Year and after. May brighter days be in store for you all in 1943, and may you all be safely reunited with your own folk before very long."

Repatriation of Prisoners at Smyrna

Just a year ago the International Red Cross Committee sent their Delegates to assist at the repatriation of wounded and sick prisoners of war and protected personnel at Smyrna. The following is a precis of the reports they sent to Geneva giving full accounts of the proceedings. We feel that in view of the fact that a further repatriation has just taken place at Smyrna, next-of-kin cannot fail but be interested in their story.

The International Committee was asked to send a Delegate to accompany each of the two Hospital Ships and they chose Dr. A. Perrot, a Geneva surgeon, to go aboard the Italian Hospital Ship and Dr. Vischer, head of their Delegation in Cairo, to go on board the British Hospital Ship. They also thought it advisable for their Delegate in Turkey to go to Smyrna to be there when the Hospital Ships arrived.

After getting a list of the men to be repatriated as he passed through Rome, Dr. Perrot embarked on the Hospital Ship "Gradisca" at Bari. The "Gradisca" is a boat of 14,000 tons, beautifully fitted up and manned by specialised personnel. The surgical wards have 25 beds and each has a bath room and rooms for dressings attached. There are large operating theatres, a bacteriological laboratory, X-Ray plant, etc. The ship is air-conditioned. Twelve voluntary Italian Red Cross nurses served on the ship.

The British wounded arrived in lorries. They had come straight from their camps, spending one night in Bari. Five British officers were the first to come on board. After being assembled and their names checked on the lists their belongings were disinfected. They undressed, putting their uniforms and underclothing in numbered hemp bags and were given white cotton pyjamas to put on. A little later warm woollen pyjamas were issued so that they were warmly enough clad to walk on deck. Each officer had a cabin and the non-commissioned officers were billeted two or three to a cabin. An adequate meal was served to each prisoner within an hour of their arrival on board.

The British officers had the use of the big dining-hall on the upper deck as well as a lounge room for games and reading. They had practically the same food as the Italian officers and were allowed to walk on the upper decks. The Delegate changed some Egyptian money into Italian for one of the officers and this enabled them to buy drinks.

The hospital ship used for the Italian prisoners on this occasion was the "Llandoverly Castle." The Italians were brought right to the quay in two hospital trains and the same process of checking names was gone through. Both the voyages took place under perfect weather conditions and the two hospital ships dropped anchor 300 metres from one an-

other in the port of Smyrna. Turkish officers of the Port Police came aboard and the Delegates went ashore to make contact with representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent, the Turkish authorities and the British and Italian Consular representatives.

M. Raymond Courvoisier, the International Committee Delegate at Ankara, had been a few days in Smyrna, and with the help of the Governor of Smyrna and the Consular representatives, the last details concerning the arrival of the ships, the location of the anchorage, the number of ferry-boats, pontoons and launches required had been discussed and decided. After the arrival of the hospital ships there was some disagreement because the captain of the Italian hospital ship wanted to take on only a few hundred Italian prisoners a day in order to facilitate medical inspection and disinfection. The captain of the "Llandoverly Castle" was determined to sail the next day. This difference was smoothed over after several visits from one boat to the other. Exact agreement was reached and the exchange of prisoners commenced at 7 o'clock the next morning when the Italian Medical Corps prisoners crossed to the "Gradisca" on a Turkish ferry-boat. The badly wounded and the stretcher cases were sent down in slings on to a flat pontoon, on which the luggage was also placed. By 12.45 the exchange was completed and the "Llandoverly Castle" sailed at 3.30 that afternoon. How thankful and happy these men must have felt to be sailing for home on a British ship, cared for by their own people.

SOLDIER'S WIFE.

No tears must fall. No coward shadows darken
The faith he looks for in your steadfast eyes.
Have strength to bear your cross of patient waiting,
The lonely hours that are war's sacrifice.
For you no drums roll out, no flags are flying,
No glory waits, nor laurel leaf of fame
... But somewhere in a hell of tortured madness
A man finds peace when'er he breathes your name.
You are his comforter, his shield, his haven,
You are the shrine he carries in his heart;
His never-failing fount of love courageous,
Unfaltering faith: 'Tis thus you play your part.

F. BENNETT.
Wellington.

ITALIAN CAMPS.

The following locations should be added to your list of Prisoner of War Camps in Italy.

C.C.P.G. 203...P.M. 3200, Military Hospital, Bologna.

C.C.P.G. 73...P.M. 3200, near Modena.

C.C.P.G. 82...P.M. 3450, Arezzo.

C.C.P.G. 85...P.M. 3450 was originally a Transit Camp, but War Office advises us that it is now a Base Camp with thirteen dependent work camps.

Instructions have been received by cable from Geneva that all next-of-kin be particularly instructed to use the full address. If your boy is in Camp 52 you must address his letters as follows:—

C.C.P.G. 52...P.M. 3100.

Place names are not to be used except in the case of hospitals where no numbers are given.

PERSONAL EFFECTS—PRISONERS OF WAR.

The Director of Base Records wishes to bring to the notice of all next-of-kin of Prisoners of War that where a prisoner's personal effects are held by Base Records, they can be released to the next-of-kin on production of an authority from the soldier, or a letter or card from him giving an indication of his wishes in regard to the disposal of his belongings.

Many months ago, Base Records communicated with the International Red Cross at Geneva, requesting that all prisoner of war camps in Italy and Germany in which New Zealanders are interned be circularised setting out the position regarding personal effects held in New Zealand and informing the prisoners that, should they desire their belongings to be taken over by their next-of-kin, they should forward an authority direct to the Director of Base Records, Wellington, or when writing to their next-of-kin, include such a direction or request in their letters.

Advice has now been received from Geneva that both the Italian and the German Authorities have given the necessary permission to circularise the camps and it is expected that all New Zealand Prisoners by now will be aware of the position.

Any relatives of soldiers receiving from Prisoners of War a message suggesting that the effects should be handed over by Base Records, should submit such a communication to the Director, Base Records, Wellington, and furnish also an address to which the effects are to be sent. The utmost consideration will be given to all requests.

Sports and Entertainments at the Camps

Sport Equipment.

At the present time the Red Cross and St. John Organisation is assembling sports boxes to replace worn-out items in some camps and there is an inclusion of 400 sets of boxing gloves, four sets in each of 100 cases. In addition, 300 cases are being assembled to cover the basic needs of the new main base camps, and each of these cases will also include four sets of boxing gloves, thus it is hoped to send out 1600 sets very shortly.

In the case of newly formed camps particularly, complaints regarding lack of sports equipment are always liable to occur, as it is naturally some little time after the establishment of such camps before the International Red Cross authorities at Geneva learn of its requirements and are able to effect the delivery of consignments of sports equipment. Everything possible is done, however, to provide as much material as possible of this kind.

Frost and Slush.

There is not much to tell you about games in either the German or the Italian camps. The conditions have been too wintry for much outdoor sport except a camp such as Stalag Luft III, which is fortunate enough to have a skating rink. They have some skates too that have been sent by the I.R.C.C. and are expecting to have great fun on their rinks.

Oflag III. C. has many rugby and soccer teams and was planning to start international games in December. The ground soon became unplayable with frost and slush, but they had been able to hold two of these matches—England v. Australia, 15-9, and Wales v. New Zealand, 3-3. The captain of the New Zealand team is confident that "we will beat them on dry ground."

In Stalag VIII. B. New Zealand beat England 14-5 in their Rugby game at Christmas time.

Music in Camps.

Musical instruments are now difficult to obtain in Britain for prisoners of war, but are in great request in the camps. Learning of this scarcity, the Canadian Junior Red Cross Society has made a most handsome contribution of a thousand instruments of different kinds—saxophones, clarinets, flutes, trumpets, ocarinas, cornets, violins, small guitars, small drums, ukeleles, mouth organs and twenty sets of "traps."

Christmas Celebrations.

Special efforts seem to have been made in all the camps to provide some extra diversion at Christmas.

Oflag IX. A/H reports a good concert on Christmas Eve and after church on Christmas morning, dinner at 12 o'clock in a nicely decorated hall. After dinner they had singing and musical items from the band and the M.O. read a letter written to them by Queen Eliza-

beth, which was greatly appreciated. On Boxing Day they had a pantomime—"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." "It was well got up and full of laughs. Dopey was a real character."

"French Without Tears" seems to be a popular piece. We read of it being played in Oflag IX. A/H and also in Stalag Luft III. The officers did it in the latter camp and it ran to three performances when they played it for the N.C.O.'s and other ranks.

"Outward Bound" was the choice of theatrical talent in Stalag XX. A. Stalag VIII. B. does not seem to have been able, owing to restriction, to have had many shows in the main camp, but from some of the Work Detachments come reports of much theatrical activity. It seems that some of these shows do the rounds of the Work Camps.

"Each show runs three nights. We had the one-act play 'Ghost of Jerry Bundles,' and a musical show in three scenes—cockney—"Meet the Family." They were both extremely good. Next time we are to have a full length musical comedy, then variety show, then Christmas 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.' Men must make believe in this existence and with music, concerts, dances and Red Cross issues the spirit is tip top. 'Desert Song' is to be played in February."

A pantomime entitled "Treasure Island" was played on Boxing Night in one of the VIII. B. Work Detachments. It was described as a very different and up-to-date version of the old book. Supper was served too. "My friend and I had a piece of Christmas cake which had been made from biscuits, etc., and weighed 17lbs."

From Oflag III. C. we hear of their very strong choir. For the Christmas carols they picked the best talent out of the 3,000 in the camp. There are Welshmen among them and that always means good singing.

Scotsmen must be there in good number, too, because they held a Burns Night. There probably wasn't much "haggis" or "whuskey," but they had twelve Scotch songs.

In the Italian Camps.

The entertainment group in P.G. 47 put on the pantomime "Cinderella" at Christmas time. The booking opened for it on the 17th December. They have done a one-act play adapted from P. G. Wodehouse's story "In the Soup." "Bertie Wooster and Jeeves were very well played and the fellow who played the part of Honoria Glossop did so most effectively. Aunt Agatha, of course, was rather a formidable person, and taking them all round they created quite a sensation."

A big Christmas programme was arranged in P.G. 52, "but had to be speeded up and crowded into three days. We had 'Arms and the Man' yesterday a pantomime to-day, and will have 'The Messiah' by choir and orchestra to-morrow. The pantomime was first rate, with excellent costumes, music and dancing. We have a very talented Englishman here who dances, acts, plays and arranges any music, and who produces our shows wonderfully. The female impersonators are getting very adept and we are getting together a good crowd of entertainers."

Invalid Food Parcels

Some very interesting facts have been given us about invalid food parcels which are supplied to the camps on the basis of 3 per cent. of the camp strength, in addition to which 2,000 parcels a week are sent to Geneva so that they may always have a stock to supplement any extra requirements the camps may incident for. Invalid comforts are sent at the rate of 33 per cent. of the strength of the hospitals, although this arrangement has recently been modified and the hospitals are now usually serviced according to their requirements as advised by the medical officers.

The Invalid Food Unit is made up of two parcels, "Milk" and "Food." The "Milk" parcel contains such commodities as Bengers, condensed milk, Ovaline, Horlicks, etc., and the "Food" parcel, rolled oats, honey, bovril, cocoa, minced beef, salmon, etc.

Diet Charts.

With these invalid parcels are sent diet charts showing the percentage of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, calories, etc., in all the foods and how they should be combined with the daily camp ration to form suitable diets for patients who need such treatment. Definite diet charts are made out for such diseases as kidney and stomach troubles, and diabetes. These are so clearly set out that the prisoner himself could follow them if there was no competent medical officer to help him.

It is surely very satisfactory to think that such an efficient system exists to help prisoners who need special diets and care with their food.

Corinthia Hospital and Stalag XVIII. A.

The preceding account of the service is well borne out by this extract from a mother's letter: "My son has been a very sick soldier, he contracted malaria in Greece and has had 14 months in hospital with relapses of this fever, also dysentery, and his diet was of great importance. We were very upset thinking of the hard food he would have to survive on. Thanks to the Red Cross his diet was all it should be under the very best attention. The Red Cross parcels have never failed and he has never eaten any of the prison food (German). Every care is taken of the sick and even extra clothing, such as pyjamas and hospital comforts, were added to my personal parcels when they were repacked in England."

CHOCOLATE PARCELS.

If next-of-kin have advice from their boys that they are well supplied with clothes, we would suggest that they send a Quarterly Next-of-Kin Parcel

ENTIRELY OF CHOCOLATE.

See your latest Chocolate Instructions: You must return all coupons, labels and dockets with the Special Chocolate Slip and envelope and advise us that it is your intention to send

A CHOCOLATE ONLY PARCEL

Here and There

Auto-therapy Parcels.—This service is proving a great success. Well over 8,000 sick and disabled prisoners of war have been provided with work in occupational parcels sent last year by the Invalid Comforts Section. There is a growing demand for this class of work both from the German and Italian camps. One of the Italian camps is asking for a book on elementary knitting.

Arts and Crafts.—Campo P.G. 116 held an Arts and Crafts Exhibition where more than one hundred articles were on show. They included carpet slippers made from old puttees, pots and pans of all kinds from old biscuit tins and cigarette holders of "exquisite shape and finish." The last were on sale at six cigarettes each, this being the usual camp currency, money being scarce.

Parcels of Seeds.—The Royal Horticultural Society in Britain had 456 parcels of vegetable seeds and 196 parcels of flower seeds made ready and on their way to the camps by the end of November last year. Mostly gifts by leading seedsmen of the Society. In addition, seeds have also been sent from Canada. Pumpkin seeds have been sent to camps where there are South African prisoners and Australian grown onion seed to camps containing Australian prisoners.

Stores Despatched from Prisoners of War Dept., London.—In the last two weeks in January the following were despatched to Geneva: Pencils, matches, barbers' requisites, jig-saw puzzles, cricket equipment, shinty sticks and hockey balls, Indian clubs and skipping ropes, four complete orchestras, 36,000 tins boot polish, 100,000 pairs boot laces. For other than British prisoners, the exports during the fortnight included twenty million cigarettes for Polish, Belgian, Norwegian, Dutch and French prisoners, boots and shoes, sheets and pillow cases for Polish prisoners, supplies for Channel Island deportees and printed silk squares for child internees in enemy occupied countries.

Charles O'Donnell, who was serving on H.M.S. Manchester when she was sunk while escorting a convoy to Malta, writes to thank the Joint Council, as expending agents of the National Patriotic Fund Board for Prisoners of War, for parcels which he received while he was interned in North Africa. They were Canadian parcels packed in Canada on behalf of New Zealand and he says he is unable to suggest any improvement in either the variety or the quality of the parcels packed.

South African Appreciation of N.Z. Food Parcels.—A card sent to the N.Z. Red Cross Society by Dirk Andries Grobbelaar from Campo P.G. 54, reads: "S.A.P.O.W.s in tent 9 of this camp wish to convey to your Society their sincere thanks for the parcels received a few days ago. The contents were excellent, just what men placed in our position require, and we can assure you were disposed of with relish."

Half a Million Parcels.—New Zealand sends nearly half a million parcels to prisoners of war every year. The numbers are made up as follows:—416,000 food parcels; 32,000 next-of-kin parcels; 2,000 book parcels.

"The British Prisoner of War," which is now being posted to every next-of-kin of a New Zealand Prisoner of War, is sent to us free of cost by the Prisoners of War Department of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, St. James' Palace, London.

Addresses for Italian Camps.—We have received a cable from Geneva instructing us that the Italian authorities insist on the letters C.C.P.G. being placed before the first number and that P.M. and the number must also be included in the address. If your boy is in P.G. 52, you must address your letter as follows:—

C.C.P.G. 52 P.M. 3100.

You remember that no place names are to be used except in the case of hospitals where no numbers are given.

Toilet Requisites are always welcome to the boys in the prison camps. We would suggest that if your boy now has plenty of clothes your next parcel should be chocolate and toilet requisites.

Camp Leaders.—The International Red Cross is establishing a new system of supplying the prison camps. The Camp Leaders now have better control over the clothing stocks and in future are to indent on Geneva for the requirements of the men in their camps. The same system is to operate for requirements of musical instruments, sports goods and indoor games.

Parcels from U.S.A.—Under recent regulations issued by the Government of the United States of America, parcels may only be sent from that country to British, Dominion and American prisoners of war by their next-of-kin or by someone appointed to act in their place. Next-of-kin of prisoners not residing there may not transfer to anyone in the U.S.A. the responsibility for sending their next-of-kin parcels.

BOOK PARCELS SENT BY NEXT-OF-KIN.

There seems to have been some question in the minds of Next-of-Kin as to HOW THESE BOOKS SHOULD BE SENT.

They MUST be ordered through a bookseller and sent BY HIM to the Prisoners of War Enquiry Office, 96 Tory St., WELLINGTON.

The weight of these parcels must not exceed 11 pounds.

They have no relation to the quarterly next-of-kin parcels.

BOOTS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR IN ITALY.

Next-of-kin who desire to include ARMY BOOTS in their Quarterly Parcel and are unable to purchase same, are advised to buy a pair of heavy boots from their local Boot Shop and arrange to have them studded.

Prison Camps in Japanese held Territory

Changi Camp: Cabled advice has been received that Changi was the Military Air Port of Singapore and is now apparently a Prisoners of War Internment Camp.

All the following information has been received from the International Red Cross Delegates in the Far East.

Mail for the Far East.

As the camps are approximately stabilised the Japanese authorities are now proceeding with the distribution of the bulk mail received for prisoners from abroad. The Japanese Official Bureau advises the following despatches of the 230,000 letters which arrived up to the end of last year. They have been distributed as follows:—

Malaya	180,000
Java	10,000
Shanghai	7,500
Hong Kong	21,500
China (excluding Shanghai and Hong Kong)	600
Philippines	5,400
Burma	8,100
Zentsuji	4,500
Japan (excluding Zentsuji)	800
Others	200

Our Delegate visited filing and sorting offices where some 150,000 letters are being sorted by 40 whole-time workers.

LETTERS TO THE FAR EAST.

According to the latest information received all letters to the Far East should be typewritten or printed in block letters and kept brief; not more than 40-60 words.

REPORTS ON CAMPS

NOTE: When reference is made to prisoners receiving parcels from relatives and friends this refers to a parcels service locally inaugurated, by which Chinese and charitably minded other nationals send in food and comforts for the prisoners.

Shanghai War Prisoners Camp.

Visited 13th January, 1943. This camp has been transferred from Woosung Village at the mouth of the Whangpoo River to a new site, nearer and more convenient to Shanghai. It contains 48 British naval personnel and merchant seamen, with 1,500 Americans. The amenities of the camp are well maintained, in some respects even improved.

The state of health is satisfactory and the P.O.W. are in good spirits. The celebrations (Xmas) were a great success, thanks to facilities and co-operation accorded by the Japanese authorities. The P.O.W. were thankful for gift parcels from home (ex Kamakuramaru) and deliveries from the Red Cross which were made possible by funds from the American Red Cross and the unstinted help of local residents. The authorities have granted permission for the

P.O.W. to publish weekly camp newspaper. The International Delegate is to supply the printing outfit and materials.

The daily ration is as follows:—
54 ozs. Meat
1½ ozs. fish
4 ozs. bread
vegetables

Whilst this is larger than the rations supplied by the Detaining Power to members of its own forces it is desirable that it should be supplemented in order to ensure the continued good health of the P.O.W. The Camp Commander has consented to the Red Cross increasing their deliveries, especially of bacon, ham and fresh fruit.

The barracks are well heated. Additional quantities of clothing are to be supplied, also shoes, gloves and handkerchiefs. A sewing machine and a washing machine have also been supplied. An experiment is to be made in the purchase at the camp, directly from the farmers, of additional quantities of eggs and vegetables. If the experiment is satisfactory this contribution will be enlarged.

HONG KONG.

The following particulars apply equally to Argyle Street, Shamsuipo and Bowen Road: "Treatment of prisoners very good. Camps impress by cleanliness and orderliness. The Japanese authorities supply medicines and drugs but not tonics. Outward mail limited to one letter or post-card with a maximum of 200 words monthly. The last overseas mail was despatched in July on the "Asamamaru," subsequent mail awaiting next direct opportunity. 3,000 books have been supplied to the P.O.W. camps by the Red Cross, but more are wanted and these are now being collected. Recreation of various kinds is satisfactorily provided for but I am investigating the possibilities of further extension."

Saint Theresa Hospital has not been used since August.

North Point Camp has been closed since October when prisoners were transferred to Shamsuipo.

Stanley Internment Camp.

Report from Hong Kong 25th Jan., 1943.

The strength of the camp was about 1,200 men, 1,000 women and 300 children, comprising 2,408 British including 58 Canadians, 46 Dutch, 17 Americans, 8 Belgians, 4 Norwegians.

The Delegate makes regular whole-day visits, interviewing 20 to 50 persons on each occasion.

The health is generally good, that of the children very good, thanks to the adequate standard rations augmented by regular parcels service. This averages 600 parcels weekly from relatives and friends. The internees are receiving a considerable number of regular cash remittances from donors in Shanghai. Recreation is well provided for. It consists of various ball games, lawn bowls, boxing, darts, music and theatricals and during July sea-bathing was enjoyed by a large number of internees on an excellent beach. A library is provided and it is still being extended. School facilities for the children are adequate. Religious

services have been organised. There is a canteen and adequate hospital accommodation.

The living quarters consist of modern buildings. The former prison quarters and prison compound are not used for the internees. Part of the accommodation is somewhat crowded without involving actual hardship.

PRISONERS CAPTURED IN MALAYA.

The Malayan Government Agency, Sydney advises us that a cable received in March from the Colonial Offices says that, according to unofficial but reliable reports from the Swiss Consul at Bangkok, 20,000 to 25,000 missing prisoners captured in Malaya (including British Army and Volunteer personnel) are now interned in camps at Banpong and Kam-buri districts in Thailand. The Secretary of State adds that general conditions appear to be satisfactory but communication with outside is not allowed and mail is forbidden.

PARCELS DELIVERED TO MALAYAN P.O.W. CAMP.

By cable Geneva advises that a receipt, dated September, has come to hand from a Malayan Prisoner of War Camp acknowledging receipt of 48,818 packages, including 360 damaged packages.

In Singapore, a further loan of \$1,000 Swiss francs has been arranged for purchases.

RELIEF DISTRIBUTED IN JAPAN.

In April, Dr. Paravicini, the International Red Cross Delegate in Japan, advised that the following standard parcels and medical parcels, ex "Kamakuramaru" and "Asamamaru" relief held at Yokohama were distributed in Formosa, Korea and Japan.

Prisoner of War Camps.	
Standard Parcels	12,066
Medical Parcels	49
Civilian Internee Camps.	
Standard Parcels	296

The Delegate is keeping 1,441 standard parcels and 5 medical parcels in stock to meet any urgent demands.

N.O.K. QUARTERLY PARCELS.

In cases where the Next-of-Kin are desirous of transferring the responsibility of sending

QUARTERLY PARCELS

to a person residing overseas, it is imperative that they

ADVISE THIS OFFICE

that the necessary arrangements can be made with our Overseas Office.

ADDRESSES.

STALAG 383—Previously Oflag III. C.

In setting out the address of men in Stalag 383, the ORIGINAL Prisoner-of-War number should be given AFTER the words British Prisoner of War.

The new number should be PUT IN BRACKETS after the Camp Address.

OFLAG XXI. B.

Communications for Prisoners of War in Oflag XXI B. should be addressed to STALAG LUFT III.

as that camp is the central censoring place for mail.

THIS INSTRUCTION DOES NOT AFFECT PARCELS.



ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE?

The parcels pictured above contain the non-permissible articles included in Next-of-Kin Parcels censored at the Wellington Depot over a short period.

Next-of-kin would greatly assist the Voluntary Workers who handle these parcels if they would carefully follow the instructions in the Brochure and the new list of permissible and non-permissible articles in connection with Next-of-Kin Quarterly Parcels.

The above photo will give an idea of the tremendous amount of unnecessary work involved in correspondence and the returning of articles which have been included in Quarterly Next-of-Kin Parcels, but not permitted to go forward.

HELP US TO HELP YOU.

PRISONERS' OF WAR LETTERS

OFLAG III. C.

Cpl. STAN SHAW, 20th Nov.

Wellington.
The mail restrictions are now lifted, so I shall be able to write more regularly. I am hoping to get some letters soon as I have not had a letter from anyone for over two months. Yesterday a consignment of Red Cross Christmas parcels arrived, so we are assured of a good feed on Christmas Day. The lads have built me an oven of clay which functions very well. It got so hot last night that I burnt the cake. This earned me the name of Alfred.

Cpl. G. A. HILTON, 16th Nov.

Whangarei.
Good food and plenty of parcels at last. Twelve men to each hut, spring beds, and plenty of coal, electric light, etc. A crowd of new fellows arrived here a few days ago and I received a great shock when they spoke about a young fellow having died in their camp, by the name of John King of the 2nd N.Z.E.F. When in Crete Jack and I arrived at the docks with other P.O.W., but the boat couldn't take us all, so we arrived back in prison camp that night. Two weeks later I left Crete, but Jack was in hospital.

Bdr. L. F. STEWART, 3rd Dec.

Auckland.
Your letter arrived yesterday dated 3rd and 7th September. They were the first I have had for nearly three months. Now that we are all settled down in our new home (with no work) I hope that the mail will start rolling in. Choir singing is now a full-time job for me. There is wonderful talent in the choir (including Welshmen).

ALLAN PALAIRET, 4th Dec.

Christchurch.
I am over 14 lbs. heavier than when I joined up and very fit. So there is no need to worry, and I mean it is the truth. Your letters take from 2-3 months to reach me.

E. J. TIPPETT, 5th Dec. Rangiriri.
Yesterday I had a letter posted in June and one posted 22nd July, all the contents of the parcel were intact and in good order (posted in May). It is rather amazing to see the ingenious ovens there are in this camp. We could get things cooked at the camp kitchen, but only at certain hours, and our ovens ensure opportunity to cook whenever we like. We struck a patch of red sand near our hut and it only had to be put into a square mould and rammed and we had ready-made bricks. It is rather remarkable stuff — sets like concrete when it gets hot and retains the heat from the fire for hours.

A. K. BROWN, 3rd Oct.

This is more comfortable than the barracks at VIII. B. Rations are about the same, and we hope the Red Cross soon finds us again. We have Rugby, soccer, hockey and basketball all being organised. School opens on Monday. We had a few cabbages at VIII. B., but the white butterfly benefited—not us. I have

been moved and even renumbered (2242). We do not work and receive no pay; we live on our wits; 15 marks (£1) lasted me four months. This camp is far less depressing than my previous one. The climate is healthier and living conditions better. When the Red Cross parcels turn up—and they are now expected—it will be comparatively comfortable, although cold. The school has started and 12 of us taking secretarial exams. have started a study group, which will prove of great help to learning and discussion.

Cpl. F. A. BROWNE, 17th Nov.
We had our first snow a couple of days back. The countryside looks quite pretty clothed in white. I don't think the cold will worry as much this year as our billets here are very snug and we have plenty of fuel. The ground is now too slippery and wet for hockey, football, etc., although we have had some good games. The sports ground here is quite large. We are still doing well for Red Cross supplies and had the pleasure of seeing Christmas food parcels arrive today.

F. E. STUCKEY, 20th Dec. Feilding.
I am in a first-class room with three others. We pool our Red Cross food parcels, and one man cooks for the lot, and very well he does it. I have just been to an inspiring church service, the choir of over 500 male voices was wonderful. We are to have a carol service on Christmas Eve, the singers picked from over 3,000 men. The snow has melted and all is slush. I went to a very good concert the other night.

E. H. EVERTON, 25th Nov. Auckland.
BURNS' NIGHT.

After nine weeks' wait our mail at last caught us up. Our next show, "Let Revelry Reign." We've 12 songs to sing on November 30th for a Burns' Night—all Scottish obviously. Am learning the accordion. It ought to be practised in a fifty-acre paddock. Music plays an important part and turns a drab existence into a reasonable one. There is a "Pantomania" in rehearsal for Christmas. Doing quartettes out of the old "Scottish Student Song Book." Letters received May, June and July. I've had five clothing parcels and seven cigarette parcels. You do New Zealanders very very well. S/Sgt. A. S. REID, 6th Dec. Dunedin.

Daily routine (roughly): Up at 07.45 (1) breakfast; potter round till 11.30; soup and spuds; usually band practice in afternoon; dance thrice weekly 19.00—22.00 hours. Otherwise read or yarn with other lads. Not much, but the days move round. Wash-day, Sunday—how I hate that job! "Slushy" for the room once a week. Tea at 16.30.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

E. H. EVERTON, 25th Dec.

Whangarei.
Last night we sang carols for the Nativity play, including "And the Glory" from Handel's "Messiah." Sounded fine. Our choir strength is now up to 38. David Liand and his accordion were there and we had a right grand sing-song till 1

a.m., with the Walsh boys and some of the old Wolfesberg stalwarts of the choir. Then Fulton and I came home to room 243, so with much fiddling we prepared a stocking for old MacRobbie, a Melbourne policeman, who sleeps below me and who has had no parcels. Greetings from Santa Claus, and a bon bon we made, and a little sprig of holly made it look realistic. We had made Christmas from tin wrappers and a little pine for a Christmas tree on the table. At 6.30 we turned out to sing (with choir and band) carols, and woke every room, much amusement — hard white frost but no snow. 10.30 we went down to the gate and went to the hospital to give them some carols and some fun. We dined at 1 p.m., Christmas pudding, steak and kidney pie, chocolate biscuits and good brown tea. We then signed each other's menus—each a cartoon of individual concern—I'm all teeth and big black moustache, plus kiwi hat. At 10 p.m. we had a concert till midnight. On Boxing Day we had dinner a la Red Cross. Cy and I went to walk it off on the footy field, at present a sea of mud, everyone else in bunks sleeping it off. The Christmas tree is draped with a couple of bonbons we made and all cartoon menus. I was half-way through a corking pudding when letters arrived. Four of us were lucky, letters were August and September. New Zealand and Australia played England Rugby this afternoon, victory to us. The July parcel arrived just in time for Christmas.

Cpl. JOHN GRAINGER, Auckland.

Yesterday I received my third next-of-kin parcel. It is the one you despatched in November of last year, taking a year to reach me. It arrived here intact and in good condition. I am now well equipped for clothes, so don't send any more as I have more than sufficient.

HERBERT SAMPSON, 5th Dec.

Ormondville.
You will be surprised and pleased to hear that we are not faring so badly when I tell you that we have just baked for ourselves (don't faint) a Christmas cake. As I've told you previously, we are in wooden huts of 12 men and in our hut we pool and share together everything we get. We have been saving up all little necessary odds and ends out of our parcels for this cake for the last two months. Incidentally we have built an oven on our small stove which works very well. Of course, according to our viewpoint the cake turned out very well, at least it looks it, it's about 14in. long by 12in. wide and 3in. deep, so the 12 of us should have a good slice each. I also received last week a clothing parcel from the Red Cross, which contained 8 or so cakes of chocolate which I was extremely pleased to get, as it gave me great pleasure to be able to return to others some of what they had been giving me out of their parcels from home.

Bdr. C. C. PETERSON, Dec.

At present the camp is like a skating rink, with the frosts we are having. For the last month football has been postponed on account of the ground being

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

unplayable. The last two games played were matches between England and Australia, 15-9, and Wales and New Zealand, 3-3. I was a proud player that day as I was selected to captain New Zealand and the match was a draw, three all. The ground was in a terrible state owing to rain, and I am quite confident that we will beat them on dry ground. An account of the game was taken and autographs of the team, and both are being sent home.

Sgt.-Pilot K. COMETTI, 14th Jan.

We have settled down again after Christmas—not too bad considering the circumstances—a Christmas parcel from the Red Cross (containing cake and pudding) and we put on a Christmas show—had football and boxing matches. We have some good swing bands, and had some dances, but of course, missed the girls. I think all our thoughts turned homewards during that period. I haven't had any letters for a while, but will no doubt get a lot soon. Some of the New Zealanders have had their August clothing parcel.

Sgt. S. PARKER, 5th Dec. Wanganui.

There are three thousand men in this camp, drawn from all camps in Germany. We are divided into eight companies for check parades and we have two rugger and two soccer teams in each. In about two weeks we will be starting international games, so I hope I can make the New Zealand team. Tell Martin that Larney Bradley is here. He used to play five-eighths for Hawke's Bay prior to the war. Letters received to-day written in early August, I also received my third parcel from you this week. It's too cold for outdoor sports now, so we spend all our time reading and playing cards.

Cpl. PATRICK CULLEN, 4th Dec.

Hawke's Bay.
Last week I received the fourth parcel from you. Some time ago I wrote telling you not to send any more clothes for a while as I have plenty to see me through this winter. Am keeping fit and well.

Spr. A. K. BILLINGS, 5th Dec.

Waitakaruru.
Had a real good trip out to the woods yesterday to collect wood for the hut; was good sport amid the snow, almost like being free again. That will be the day. Should be over 11 stone now, in fact I put in a hour a day wrestling. It is a very cold day here, the coldest yet. All the other boys are in bed. We get a good issue of coal and go out to the woods once a week. 100 per cent. better than Stalag VIII. B.

Sgt. N. J. MASTERS, 13th Nov.

Wellington.
Have organised all sorts of activities to help pass the time. We have a good military band, a dance band, a good concert hall—have had some good concerts—a university, many subjects such as languages, mathematics, history, economics, farming, engineering, etc., a good sports field for Rugby, soccer, hockey, etc., plenty of books and no work, except of course the usual camp fatigues. Received my third clothing parcel to-day. Have plenty of clothes now.

A. H. KYLE, 4th Dec.

A very cold winter is now on us, everything is frozen solid with snow everywhere. Boots are useless, so we all wear wooden clogs. Unfortunately I am still without an overcoat, otherwise I have plenty of good warm clothing. This afternoon 12 of us had a meeting to make a Christmas menu, so that between now and Christmas, we can save up for a good dinner. We soon hope to have sports and a library going. At present cards are played all day. There is a daily issue of brickettes. Just now I have a big bag of spuds gathered while out on a job. None of us here has to work, as we are all senior N.C.O.'s, except camp fatigues. After 18 months of trying to see a dentist we have one coming.

Sgt.-Pilot W. HAYMAN, 7th Dec.

Timaru.
Your August parcel arrived on the 1st December, all present and correct, and just ten days after your May parcel, also O.K. They were both first class, and I am pretty well set up for this and any further winters. The blanket is just the thing, as already we have had a few inches of snow, and some fairly stiff frosts. Toboggans are appearing like magic, and are very useful for carrying coal, wood, anything or anybody. If we had an ice rink and some skates or some skis, and the wide open spaces at our disposal, things would be quite interesting. There are five New Zealand airmen in this camp.

Cpl. D. M. EVITT, 6th December.

Auckland.
No roll call this morning, so we all spent the day in bed. It's 2 o'clock now and I'm just out. We have a great system here for messing. Everything we get goes into a common pool, and we have a permanent cook, the rest of the twelve take it in turns, two at a time, to do the housemaid's job for the day. Hot water comes up at 7 in the morning and the two on duty collect it, make tea, and spread the bread and bring it to the rest in bed about 7.30. We get up at about 8 and parade is at 8.30. Lately we've been spending the afternoons making and working out cross-word puzzles, skis, dinner at five, wash-up and then settle down for a game of contract or chess, or perhaps there's a concert on or Housie Housie. Supper at about 8.30. Bed at nine and lights out 10 o'clock. That's our day. The life's almost too good to last.

Sgt. ILLMAN JAY, 15th Nov.

Received three letters from you that had been over twelve months on the way, better late than never. We are quite warm and have plenty of clothes. I have received only two of your parcels so far. I think the others will arrive soon, the Patriotic Society's cigarette parcels are arriving all right though.

Cpl. M. FOSTER, 16th Oct.

As far as I know there are three thousand non-workers here. The weather has been fair and much warmer than VIII. B. On September 1st received my fourth clothing parcel. I think it was November dispatch. The cigarette parcels are coming through slowly from England, but are nearly always mortgaged.

Cpl. J. C. QUINLAN, 6th Dec.

Otahuhu.
Snow is now the usual condition and at present the camp roads are dynamite. It snowed and froze, then thawed, rained and then froze very hard, so we have now about 5 inches of ice on the roads and we skate about. The huts are quite warm, being double walled and floored, with glass wool packed in between, and our fire goes most of the day and night. We have parties out in the surrounding bush for wood, besides which they allow us a daily issue of briquettes. We get hot water three times a day for tea, etc., and twice a day for washing and can boil as much as we need ourselves. This camp is a long way ahead of the last (VIII.B.) and we have much more freedom and less interference.

Spr. N. J. THOMPSON, 20th Nov.

Auckland.
We've built an oven of clay round the stove, and can we cook? Nicely browned puddings and cottage pie a specialty. Can send mail by air for 40 pennings. Have been unemployed for a while so cash is rare.

Sgt. ALLAN SAVORY, 13th Nov.

Auckland.
We are very comfortable here and already have had some good Rugby. Last Sunday New Zealand played Wales, a draw 3-3, and England beat Australia. Wally Cooper (late Tec. Old Boys) is skipper and being a new-comer I was emergency, coming on five minutes after the start. Thoroughly enjoyed the game, played as it was under real winter conditions. We are further north here, but out of the mountains.

OFLAG VII. B.

Lt. G. J. RUSTIN, 10th Nov.

The weather has taken a distinct change recently and although we have had no snow it is bitterly cold and wet. The pullover you knitted me is doing great service and will continue to do so until well on into April. We have had some very interesting news-letters from New Zealand House recently with details of earthquakes and other items of interest. This morning when I have finished writing I shall do a spot of manual labour digging in the construction of a new ice rink. I doubt if we shall start skating before the New Year, but the sooner the better as there is not much exercise to be taken as it is rather muddy underfoot.

Capt. E. S. McLEAN, 29th Dec.

To-day a parcel from yourself, attache case and all contents complete. The boys will be "choc" happy on New Year's Day. Doug Kelsall also received his August parcel, so we have plenty of sweets at the moment. I still have a sweet tooth. Christmas dinner was really good, we saved for weeks for tit-bits, Greener was chef. A soup, sardines on toast, steak and macaroni pudding, Red Cross Christmas pudding, some good English coffee and chocolate. We were able to see some of the boys afterwards, Dennis Brickell, John Findlay and Co., quite a change to yarn again. Frosty weather again, takes a daily dozen to get the kinks out of the legs. We are to start sparring again soon.

Lieut. H. HOKIANGA, 20th Nov.

Porangahau.
Have received two of your parcels, one through New Zealand House and one direct from New Zealand. Also received parcels from the Red Cross and don't know what we would do without them.

D. C. ALLISON, 19th Nov. Nelson.

I have just received my second parcel. Everything was in order and the chocolate went down like melting snow — which reminds me, we had our first fall of snow this year, two days ago, though it didn't stay for long. Well, continuing, the shorts came a little too late in the season to be of service, but I've salted them down for next summer, that is if we are still here. I am still in shackles and it doesn't seem as if its ever going to end, but we're not worried. We've just had some new ones put on with long chains between. What a laugh!!!
C. W. G. PATTERSON, 10th Dec.

Dunedin.
I think you for No. 4 parcel. I have just realised that you sent it off last August and it arrived here later than my last air mail letter, August 2nd. I have just received notification of my promotion to Captain dating from 26th April, 1942. While writing this we are listening to records sent to me by friends from England. Now I have got leather there is no need for boots. The ones I have got will see the war out.

Capt. PETER WOOLLEY, 19th Nov. Auckland.

We have just had our handcuffs replaced by a two-foot length of chain with a padlock for each wrist. It is a great improvement, and I don't really mind much if we have to stay like this for the rest of the war. Life is quite bearable, writing and listening to a gramophone. Have been playing quite a lot of bridge, and going for a couple of walks per day. This walking is done in an anti-clockwise direction round the barbed wire. At present (while manacled) we are separated from the rest of the camp and our walking is confined to the football field.

OFLAG IX A/H

Capt. F. W. O. JONES, 20th Nov.

Actually been lecturing once a week to a small class on surveying and I'm studying town planning under an English architect with a view to sitting an exam. for membership of the Town Planning Institute immediately after the war. I have been lecturing to a class of interested officers on "Hydro-Electric Construction." No books at all to refer to and everything from memory.
4th Dec.

REPRISALS LIFTED.

The reprisals that we had on here are now all lifted and life is normal again. Settling down to serious study and I now have books which were sent from England.

19th Dec.

This week I received a book on Reinforced Concrete which you had sent off at the end of June. Several of us are getting quite a little technical library together now and managing to do quite a bit of work. Haven't had any letters lately, but we get a certain amount of New Zealand news in news letters from

New Zealand House in London. They give us the general happenings at home. New Zealand House has been extremely good to us with clothing and cigarette parcels and arranging for books to be sent. I find technical books best from which we can keep in touch with our old work. Next week we get a special Red Cross Christmas parcel.
26th Dec.

BAGPIPES.

Christmas Day dinner was a very fine meal—tomato soup, steak, peas and potatoes and Christmas pudding and sauce followed by coffee and also a bottle of beer per head. We had our dinner all in one sitting (usually two) with dining hall suitably decorated. There is a big proportion of Scots officers here and we had the ceremonial marching in of the piper playing bagpipes followed by a sword dance by an orderly dressed in kilts. The bagpipes we have here, by the way, came all the way from New Zealand. They were the property of a New Zealand officer on Crete and during the fighting they were lost and weeks after we were captured the owner got them back from a Cretan.

Pte. JOE HYNES. 27th Dec.

Otorohanga.
I am keeping very well since last Christmas and am now getting round well with an artificial leg and the other one in plaster. Last Christmas I was a bed patient, but this one I am sitting at the table in the day room, downstairs writing this letter home. The boys here worked hard at their concerts, etc., and everything was a great success. Last night we had the band again, with singing, etc. I am one of those classed for repatriation.
10th Jan.

Red Cross parcels are scarce now, no cigarettes and no mail for over seven weeks. Last week they put on a play called "French Without Tears." It was well acted and a credit to those who took part. Since I started this letter I have been moved once again to another block used mainly for massage and cases needing electrical treatment. My leg is in plaster and with the help of crutches I am able to get about fairly well.

A BLIND MAN WRITES.

T. R. H. WOOD, 10th Dec. Dunedin.

I am working hard at my Braille and typewriting lessons and as you can see from this chronicle I am proceeding O.K. with the latter. I am up each morning at about 7 a.m. and after breakfasting have my first lesson on the typewriter. I am then free until after dinner, when I have rather a full afternoon, before proceeding on a walk just before tea. In the evening I attend a reading class for the blind, where a sergeant very kindly reads to us for an hour. Lessons are usually for 1 hour duration. Life has been pretty cushy here of late, as we have always been counted in bed, but starting from this morning we have to parade at 8.30. We are very lucky here in the fact that we get one parcel and 50 cigarettes each week. We are very much indebted to the Red Cross because they have seen us through a very lean time wonderfully well. The rations here are as good as any we have heard about. With regard to our entertainment side

we have a concert every other Saturday, and on alternate Saturdays with these we have a whistle drive or some such similar evening. At a recent Saturday concert I was surprised to win a few cigarettes for playing the mouth organ. Our latest recreation here is dancing, at which most of the blind boys participate, and it is really funny to have about a dozen or more blind boys floundering all over the place.

1st Nov.

I am pretty busy with my studies and music, etc., but after Christmas we intend to start on the trade side of the school, doing boot repairing and the like.
23rd Sept.

Good news to report this time, 12 more letters to hand, also second clothing parcel making my total number of parcels to 7. Have started to learn the piano now, and incidentally our instructor is a Sgt. Brown from Invercargill, who was a chemist there. Our big colonial concert came off last Saturday and proved to be a great success. We had quite a number of Maori songs and Waltzing Matildas, etc. At present I am busy rehearsing for a concert to be given in a week's time by the Dominion troops here and between the Canadians, ourselves and the Aussies, it ought to be a good show. My hardest job is learning Maori from the Braille copies.
Major C. A. Le LIEVRE, 11th Dec.

Tauranga.

I see by the German papers that you have large numbers of U.S.A. troops in New Zealand. I sincerely hope if they are to see fighting they will have to leave New Zealand to get it. I have been able to purchase a nice Rolex sports watch from Switzerland. My New Zealand peaked hat which came in my last parcel from you is the envy of all New Zealanders here. Most of the officers here are Dunkirk men and have never seen peaked hats. I'm happy too to have my Hauraki badges. Winter is truly here and everything is white and looks as if we will have a white Christmas as once more.

K. J. MATHESON, 14th Nov. Dunedin.

It is much better here, plenty of life, a concert party every week, and there is always plenty of other amusements. I am certainly seeing the country. I have been around quite a bit since coming to Germany, it always breaks the monotony changing round. The weather is getting cold now, but I don't feel it as I have tons of warm clothing and a good bed to sleep in.

Major M. A. BULL.

This place was a woman teachers' training college. Though crowded, it is incomparably better than the camp we left (Otago V.I.B.). The thrill of sheets, chairs with backs, lined floors and decent sanitation is just wearing off. There's central heating and cooking is all communal. There are only 300 odd officers here—including about two dozen New Zealanders. Red Cross parcels have been quite regular through the summer and do the job perfectly. I'm coaching and teaching more than ever here. I have plenty of clothing for myself and have given some to a few Canadian wounded who have arrived.

OFLAG XXI. B.

Flying Officer J. J. PALMER, 16th Jan.
Havelock North.

Yesterday received first clothing parcel sent by you in June. It was an excellent parcel and all intact. I shaved off my beard on New Year's day after three months' growth. Everyone reckoned I looked like the fellow on Players cigarette packets. Coldest day we have had so far. Was 22 deg. Centigrade. Have an ice skating rink and toboggan run going. We had quite an amusing Christmas. The cake I made was as heavy as lead, but we all enjoyed it, also had some wine made out of raisins and it had a hell of a kick, especially on us tee-total prisoners. We are all optimistic.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

WILLIAM ALEXANDER, 6th Oct.
Wellington.

I received the parcel you sent in April last week, everything was intact. The weather here at present is fine, but we are due for a change any time. I have nearly got my two years in, the time flies here, which is a good job for us all. We had a big boxing tournament here last Sunday week. It was very good entertainment. I have been on the sick list for quite a spell.

23rd Oct.
Letters are very scarce. I have not had one from you for months. Your April letter was my last.

Radio Officer J. HOLT, 13th Jan.
Auckland.
Here it is much the same as usual—football is finished for the season and ice hockey is replacing it, the boys having made a swell ice-rink. We have a new dental officer here now who is an Auckland, so I'm going over for a chat. Studies going on, but not very fast.

STALAG LUFT III.

Sgt. KEN FAUSETT. Auckland.
Received your first parcel to-day, one also from N.Z. House and a few days before a cigarette parcel from New Zealand House as well. With what you have sent and the Red Cross issue of clothing I am well fitted out for clothing. The parcel was intact and everything in good order. There were 400 cigarettes in the cigarette parcel.

Pilot Officer S. G. COOPER, 13th Nov.
Wellington.
Quite a romantic tale, my capture, in the grounds of a castle belonging to a Belgian Princess, about 8 miles from Brussels. A real fairy tale castle, turreted with battlements and surrounded by a lake. It must have been at least 400 years old, and was built of stone with drawbridge complete. Unfortunately I did not meet the Princess as she is married and lives safely in Canada. I heard this from one of her old retainers who gave me a cup of coffee, while I was awaiting the pleasure of my German captors. The Red Cross bulk issue is marvellous and we have plenty of warm clothes.

Sgt. C. M. LAIRD, 22nd Nov.
Paraparaumu.

ALL PARCELS RECEIVED.

I have been very busy lately crocheting myself a blanket out of scraps of wool from old socks and pullovers, etc. This is the fourth parcel I have had running in four months and have all now which have been sent. Ten in all. You can imagine I am pretty flash with clothes.

L.N.A. EDWARD H. L. HAWKHEAD, 14th Nov.
Methven.
Have received three of your parcels and two from New Zealand House. Clogs are the boys to keep the toes from seizing up. No, you needn't be alarmed about clogs—though you've never seen them, for they are a very fine institution, especially when one has no necessity to proceed any faster than dead slow and stop with clogs (wooden). It is possible to stand in the snow with a temperature 15 deg. below Zero for an hour or more and keep your feet warm, whereas in boots you would stand a chance of frost bite. I've so many books it takes quite a decision before picking the right one up. Time hasn't altogether been wasted you know. The Christmas Red Cross parcels have arrived here.

FROM A PADRE.

Capt. J. W. WALTON. Auckland.
We three padres went and saw the German Kommodant at his request yesterday. He was kindness itself, and is going to leave no stone unturned—in his power—to help us in our work. Plans for church are to be submitted, and we are keeping with special services our Patronal Festival. You will remember I held a special service a year ago at Luit L., St. Michael's and All Angels. We went for a pleasant walk to-day along the bush-clad river bank and over the other side into the town to see a castle that is now a hospital. It was good and refreshing to be out. Razor blades (blue Gillette), socks, nugget, shaving soap and chocolate are extremely popular.

Sgt. J. L. COY, 29th Sept. Wellington
Get up in the morning about 8, play football, ice skating, bridge, darts, or read, and asleep by 11 every night. Plenty of time for study and we are well catered for here. Of course, it's a large camp and there are some pretty smart lads here and one can learn anything he sets his mind to, but you would be surprised how hard it is to settle down to it. Had a damn good Christmas, considering the existing conditions, and celebrated in the true style by getting drunk, believe it or not. The English officers here gave us a Christmas present of beer and what with home brew raisin wine, a good time was had by all.

F/Lt. R. G. CLARK, 2nd Jan.
Snow has commenced falling again after having had Christmas with very pleasant weather. We had a very good time and my room-mates prepared an excellent meal to which I asked the New Zealand dentist, Pat Monkes of Auckland. Father Godreau gave us midnight Mass with which we had a choir singing Gregorian Chant. It was lovely having the privilege and he has been a great boon to us. There has been a lot of

home brewed wine which helped to give us alcoholic refreshment.

P/O E. G. RUEGG, 29th Dec. Wellington.

Received my first letter the other day. It was from England and arrived on Christmas Eve. Had a better Christmas than I expected, thanks to the Red Cross Christmas parcel we received. It contained cake, pudding and chocolate, biscuits, so we had quite a good meal. We are now on half-ration of parcels though, so it looks like rather a lean winter for us. I feel that I am putting on a little weight in this place, due to the lack of exercise and eating too many potatoes which are very good for enlarging the corporation.

Sgt. L. F. MABEY, 29th Dec.
We made one or two cakes and iced them. Here's the menu for the day. Breakfast, Canadian biscuits and milk, toast with jam and coffee. Dinner, baked potatoes, carrots and meat roll. Christmas pudding, sweets and biscuits (high tea), jelly and blanch mange, toast, Christmas cake, cocoa. Well, I reckon that was the best Christmas in a Kreigle camp.

F/Sgt. K. H. GREGORY, 28th Nov.
Our Christmas dinner turned out pretty well, thanks to the fact that the Red Cross Christmas parcels arrived in time. The dinner was so large that for the rest of the day we lived on tea and a couple of biscuits. Some of the lads had home brew in the shape of raisin wine, and were able to get a bit more of the Christmas spirit for a while. On Sunday night we went to a show in the camp theatre, and thoroughly enjoyed it. The individual items were excellent, and the scenery and costumes very good. Earlier in the month, the officers came over and gave three performances of "French Without Tears." This was also very good. Occasionally there is a German film and we are scheduled for several shows by the camp talent, so the entertainments during the winter should be more plentiful than has been the case earlier. We have also constructed two skating rinks and as the Red Cross have sent some skates we should have some quite good fun. Have now received three clothing parcels—two from New Zealand House and your first.

Sgt. H. G. HEDGE, 15th Nov. Dunedin.
There are quite a number of New Zealand clothing parcels arriving here now. They contain 8 bars of chocolate, which appear to be the standard thing. The boys are highly pleased with these and they're far more satisfactory than the one tin of emergency chocolate ration which they used to contain.

Sgt. GALLAND, 18th Nov. Dunedin.
Received parcel despatched on 27th May. I am now well provided with all necessary clothing for my stay here. A week ago I received a parcel from New Zealand House and with the clothes the other boys had provided me with, I have more than I can use. Winter has been setting in and it has been trying hard to snow for the last week. I have made myself secure against cold, having made a rug out of old jerseys and started a hive of industry in the camp for several of the boys are making them.

YOUR LETTERS HELP US KNOW THE CONDITIONS OF THE CAMPS.

CROCHET EXPERT.

Sgt. SELWYN H. SHARP, Dec.

Auckland.

The weather is getting very cold now so I made a crochets hook out of an old tooth-brush and with the wool of old socks have made two blankets. . . . We had a very good Christmas here. The Red Cross sent us a Christmas food parcel, so we were able to put up a really good Christmas dinner. The Jerries gave us about eight pints of beer per person, but it was a bit too light to get a spark on. Nevertheless, it tasted pretty fair. . . . Hope you sent the crochets cotton and needles. If you can get a yard of good linen and some embroidery cotton (plenty of blue), I've got plenty of time on my hands and want to get a good tealoth done. At present I'm doing a few repairs to pull-overs and making woollen hats. It helps pass the time away and also brings in a bit of extra chocolate.

H. M. Dowding, 30th Nov.

My fifth parcel arrived from home last week, everything O.K. I feel quite proud strutting around in my dressing gown. Played Rugby yesterday in the final of the knock-out, and we managed to win, 3-0. Snow was falling most of the time so it wasn't very pleasant. I am taking a class for book-keeping for one hour each week. Teaching others helps to keep me in touch with the game myself.

29th Dec.

This year I had the best Christmas I have had since I left home. Went to midnight Communion on Christmas Eve—got to bed at 1 a.m. Christmas Day we spent most of our time eating or preparing meals. Instead of the usual two slices of bread for breakfast, we had porridge, sausages and chips, followed by a hot roll (made from pancake mixture and biscuits) and butter and cafe-au-lait. Went to church at 11 o'clock. Did not have dinner till 3.30—meal consisted of veg. soup, grilled steak, roast and mashed potatoes and cabbage, followed by Christmas pudding and custard. We were intending to have another hot meal in the evening, but could not eat any more than biscuits and cake for supper. The Red Cross certainly sent some good things for us.

STALAG III D.

A PADRE WRITES.

5th Jan. Wellington.
I have just been called to the hospital and as the mail will be gone by mid-day must give you a rushed account of our Christmas. We had a marvellous time over the holidays and the pantomime was a great success and also the Coral Service. Our camp has been joined by another and as they had all their Christmas shows ready we saw them at the New Year. It was grand weather and we had football during most of the daylight hours. There were four of us here (officers) with the M.O. of the other camp and we really felt we had captured the spirit of celebration. How we all thought of you, drinking toasts to you all in very weak potions. The Christmas parcels were grand. I also had your lovely parcel.

18th Jan.

No mail from New Zealand for a long time. Here we are under snow with fine sunny days. Games are suspended, but we have lots to read and are going to work on our next concert right away, so that will keep us busy. Another tobacco parcel from New Zealand House yesterday, so we are well off for smokes for some months.

STALAG V.B.

Signalman J. M. FLOWER, 20th Dec.

Tauranga.

As I am working I receive 70 pgs. a day. I am working with the other lads helping the nuns over at the convent. This hospital is part of the convent building. The convent is a particularly nice place, just like a little town in itself. Some of us work in the kitchen, some in the garden, and some in the laundry. One day we expect to be sent to a Stalag (camp), but are very happy here, that is as happy as a prisoner can be. Christmas Day next Friday. We are all busy getting ready for a concert, etc.

3rd Jan.

Christmas and New Year have passed and thanks to the Red Cross we have had a very good time. Friday, Saturday and Sunday of both weeks have been holidays, so we were able to have lots of fun. Christmas Eve concert (French and English), Christmas Day, a real sit down at table, dinner and tea, and in the evenings party games. Boxing Day evening, competitions of all kinds; Sunday afternoon and evening, English concert. We scrounged tables and forms, and the loan of an empty room from our keepers with streamers and packing from the Red Cross parcels, branches from the trees outside, etc., we made a real good job of decorating, and believe it or not, a real Christmas Tree (a fir tree), also from our keepers, which we also decorated. A 2-course dinner, tongue, spuds, green peas, followed by Christmas pudding and custard, coffee to drink. At both meals we had miles of streamers, crackers, paper hats, whistles, etc. Not a bad effort. A 2-course tea, sausage, in batter, with fried spuds followed by more Christmas pudding. Supper, Christmas cake and coffee. Yesterday received the two books from (England) Red Cross.

31st Jan.

Since last writing I have received 3 letters from you, December 16th, 1941, June 22nd, and December, 14th, 1942. I have received two electrical text books from England and am doing some maths. Radio text books are forbidden, so I am out of luck in that respect.

Dvr. C. E. FERGUSON, 1st Nov.

Hokianga.

I have received three clothing parcels and when another one arrives, I will have enough to keep me going for the duration and a bit over. Although I am still in hospital, I am quite alright, and am all quite happy and have no doubts about anything. There are pictures this afternoon, but we cannot understand them as they speak in French. I have learnt a little German.

STALAG VII. A.

BILL ARMSTRONG, 25th Oct.

My friend Bill Patton from Waihi and I run the ward and we get on very well together, sharing all our parcels and even having a common purse. At present we have sixteen patients, all English. They get very good treatment. The Red Cross are doing a great work in the way of supplying medical equipment, hospital comforts, pyjamas and extra food comforts, etc. During the day we have about five drinks such as cocoa, tea, Bengers food, ovaltine, coffee, bovril, etc. To-night I am cooking a special pie. Two tins of bully beef, a layer of bacon on top sprinkled with onion, then a Yorkshire pudding on top of that, followed by blanch mange, jelly and timed fruit, and coffee to top it off. The parcels are keeping up well and we have quite a lot of food put away for a rainy day. I have received another Red Cross clothing parcel, and was pleased to be able to give most of it away to an Australian who had not received any parcels. I am giving English lessons in return for French to a French professor. He is very capable, speaking five languages fluently. He had Carnegie Scholarship to lecture in America before the war. We are still receiving our weekly Red Cross food parcels and also a supplement to medical orderlies, and really we live quite well. I had rather an interesting experience last week going as interpreter with two English patients to another town to a specialist. I was a French-English interpreter—a French interpreter translating it into German. It was a real thrill to be in a train again, to walk past the shops and see civilian life. It makes one wish for the day when war shall be no more. Our spirits are still high—the Red Cross parcels keeping up well. But like the rest I am still waiting for "The Boat." We are still living as well as ever—we are able to exchange any surplus food at a French exchange where we can get macaroni, spaghetti and biscuits, etc., and so vary our diet. We have built a fine new tennis court in the hospital grounds for the personnel of the hospital, and we have ½ hour singles or 1 hour doubles every day.

WILLIAM RAWSON, 13th Sept.

Hunterville.

Have at last started to do a little work and with a slight improvement could perhaps make the grade for the Public Works. There are about 400 in the camp—all English—except our hosts. It is in quite pleasant surroundings and also has the pleasant advantage of having a very nice swimming pool a few minutes from the camp. Have been busy cooking most of the day, even though 3 o'clock am still adorned in pyjamas. What with porridge, custard, and Yorkshire pudding I have been in a terrible mess and only hope we will be able to distinguish one from another. I had a parcel from New Zealand House containing among other things a kit bag, which was most useful. It seems to me that our own Patriotic Society is better organised than the others, as our boys get far more than the Aussies and Tommies.

DESMOND PATRICK NILSSON.

Dannevirke.
Arrived at Athens where I was kept on the station for two days, then shifted to hospital when I stayed a fortnight. I was well treated by both the doctors and nurses. The German Red Cross visited us and brought books and a parcel for each of us, from our Red Cross. I didn't realise how much the Red Cross was doing till I was a prisoner. From Athens where I stayed for four days at hospital we were flown to the South of Italy, there. I had the splint off my leg by this time and was walking around. Then came to Germany by train. They left me at a hospital here for eight days, then camp to camp. I am doing alright here, with Red Cross parcels from home, we get quite sufficient to eat. I'll be a good cook by the time I reach home, as we cook our own meals.

Sgt. Pilot KEN COMETTI, 11th Oct. Wellington.

I received a parcel of cigarettes yesterday from the firm in London, so I am not short of smokes. I have not had any of your parcels sent to me as a prisoner of war yet, only the one addressed on from England, but no doubt I will get a lot all together.

25th Oct.

We receive our parcel from the Red Cross every week, some from Canada, paid for by the N.Z.R.C. Although I have clothing posted from England, I have received none yet, due to my changes in addresses no doubt. I have received quite a few cigarette parcels from New Zealand House.

STALAG VII B.

I. J. TEMPLETON, 5th Dec. Dupined

The parcel of books posted in July arrived. These will be very useful as I have just managed to get a number of mates together to play with. We should be very busy with all types of studies—salesmanship, play-reading, cocoa and chocolate manufacture, literature this winter. The biggest event lately has been our change to new sleeping quarters. Still the same work party but completely new room to sleep in, etc. 22 men in a room which is much more comfortable. A good fire is provided in each room and as everything is new we are very elated. The weather is very cold and the clothes we receive from home are welcome.

4th Jan.

I have returned to the main Stalag and have renewed quite a few old acquaintances. Perhaps you would pass on to any carriers that you meet that Allan Murray is fit and well. Photographs of New Zealand are still eagerly sought and some of the most interested people are the Canadians. Requirements among the men are boot-blacking, tooth-paste, tin openers, soles and nails for boots sent from home, boot brushes and shirts with collars—much warmer.

STALAG VIII B.

Pte. G. McDONALD, 5th Jan.

Mentioned in my last card of having received my August clothing parcel. All the clothing and chocolate were in a fine condition. My mates here always re-

mark about the fine quality of Cadbury's. The barrack room was nicely decorated over the holidays. Plenty of streamers, fir tree sprigs, and a Christmas tree, lit up with candles and covered with glass ornaments like you buy at home. We all had plenty of good things to eat at Christmas from the Red Cross Christmas parcels. Chocolate, plum pudding, fruit cake, biscuits, sweets and steak with macaroni were some of the items on the menu. I can tell you we did very well for prisoners of war. Weather kept fine over Christmas, but became squally at New Year with some snow. There is about a couple of inches of snow on the ground at the moment.

Dvr. L. M. BUCKINGHAM, 5th Dec. Cambridge.

I have just spent eight days in the "cooler for an escapade I had recently, and believe me it succeeded in cooling me all right. I had little else to do but dream of my darling, etc.

Christmas Eve.

It is Christmas Eve in the barrack, but I am happy! For why? For I am in love and charity with my neighbours and I understand and appreciate in my heart the true significance of Christmas. I reckon that on this depends whether one is to be joyful and not on one's circumstances. I have a branch of pine decorated beside my bed. Special Christmas carol services in church to-morrow. Concerts in barrack rooms and on succeeding nights a pantomime—"Aladdin" in cinema. We shall have beer in canteen, but fear not, it is not particularly intoxicating in these parts. Our Christmas food parcels are prima-X, pudding, cake, chocolate, biscuits, steak and kidney pie, steak and macaroni, sweets, milk, tea and so on. Have consumed a large portion of mine already. The Red Cross parcels are a veritable godsend. Half a dozen sox at the end of bunk, but think Santa Claus will find chimneys too difficult here. Very "hot" band playing at a Stalag (buck) dance next door.

9th Jan.

I was greatly thrilled to receive my fourth parcel from home.

R. J. UDEN, 27th Dec. Putaruru.

We have had a concert in this barrack room three nights on end. On Christmas Day we had a Rugby match and yesterday a race meeting. The horses were wooden ones, but that didn't matter or make any difference to our fun. We had bookies and a tote and all the rest. Grey and I had a successful day and showed quite a profit on the day. We had a Christmas pudding parcel given to us this week. It contained cake, a Christmas pudding and some chocolate biscuits, and chocolate, etc. Still haven't missed having the usual plum pudding on Christmas Day since I have been overseas, so haven't done so badly. The weather is still very good, hard frosts, but no snow about. We had some beer but it reminded me of the brew you made at Atiamuri. We go back to work again to-morrow and I won't be sorry as the first few days in the barracks are O.K., but time seems to pass much more quickly when there is something to do.

RUPERT S. BERG, 28th Dec.

Wellington.
Thanks to the Red Cross parcels we had quite a good Christmas dinner. Without the parcels it would have been a pretty poor Christmas dinner as our Christmas ration of meat was 14 ozs. of questionable sausage per man.

JOHN H. HINE, 20th Dec. Stratford.

We have been very busy in our spare time decorating our rooms with odds and ends from the Red Cross parcels. It is an interest and brightens the rooms a bit. I've burst out with coloured pencils in amazement to myself (and others). We have one tree up to date in our room with tinsel paper and some miniature ships, cars, top hats on it. I'll make some bells from the silver paper out of the cigarette packets. We're all making paper hats, and there is a great variety too. Still having nice weather. Looks as though it may hang on till the holidays.

A. H. MANDENO, 20th Dec.

Te Awamutu.
We are still having amazing weather for this time of the year. It is just like spring, exceedingly mild. I only hope it remains like this for Christmas as there is quite a large programme of sport posted up. I expect we will have three or four days off work. Our mail has been very scarce lately.

5th Jan.

We have had quite a fair Christmas here, finished work on the Thursday dinner time, and started here again on Monday and a break likewise for the New Year. Numerous concerts were held in various barracks and a good spirit prevailed throughout the camp. Had a Christmas parcel of food each and here is my menu: Steak and tomato pudding with fried potatoes and green peas followed by the inevitable plum pudding. Good old Red Cross, nice big cake in the parcel, also a packet of chocolate biscuits. We had half an ordinary parcel each for New Year as well, so you can see we have not done so badly. It takes a very small plate full to satisfy my appetite now. Remarkable, there was no snow over Christmas—nice weather for sport.

Dvr. F. E. MILLAR, 22nd Nov.

This week I received my third parcel, and to-day I made a kit bag out of the canvas. Please don't send any more clothing, I can't use it, I've got enough for another war as well. I was talking to Major Slater this morning. He is the surgeon here and is very popular. I have been lucky with the cigarettes lately and about a week ago received half pound of good pipe tobacco from Betty and half pound from Patriotic Fund.

L/Cpl. A. D. DEANS, 22nd Nov.

Hornebush, Canterbury.
Very pleased to get another clothing parcel from you. I hadn't been expecting one for some time yet, which makes it all the nicer to get it unexpectedly. All you need send till I let you know will be just tooth-paste and brushes, and also strong clothing and boot brushes. I also received some gramophone records and books. We have been getting Red Cross parcels (food) very regularly

PLEASE DO NOT SEND US LETTERS DATED EARLIER THAN JANUARY

lately, which is a good thing. We received the other day some German-English dictionaries and grammars which we had paid for over nine months ago and which I thought we would never see.

Dvr. C. H. ANSLOW, 22nd Nov.

Wellington.
Many thanks for your letters and also the clothing parcel. Words cannot describe my thanks for them all. The timing of it was marvellous. It arrived on my birthday, 18th November. It is the best present I have ever received. I am working a morning shift this week; in my opinion it is the worst shift of the lot. The boys in the Main Stalag are still tied up, so far we are not, besides they aren't, or no work would be done. The local camp news is forbidden now, so we imagine things are not going too good, with Jerry. However "Geforgeness" telegraphy is remarkable; we get quite a lot of "boloney."

Capt. JOHN BORRIE, 26th Oct.

A DOCTOR WRITES.

Had an extremely busy week with a trip to Stalag VIII. B. on Monday, which necessitated rising at (censored) to catch a train at (censored). We were there by —. Life is much better out here. I managed to see Capt. Slater, N.Z.M.C., and Ed. Cartside and other Lazarett doctors, then had a hurried visit around the Stalag trying to square up my medical and Red Cross supplies which have been at VIII. B. all through the summer. In future I shall be ordering direct on Geneva. On Thursday I had my usual pleasant visit by train to a small Work Detachment in a — village near the one hill in these parts. The 20 minutes walk across the common among ubiquitous gaggles of geese is very pleasant. On Friday took sick to the British Hospital in the country town — Kilom away on the Oder. Bill and the other M.O.'s were very busy having — British and — Russian beds. You can realise how much of our good health we owe to the Red Cross parcels. I have a new German Oberstabsarzt (A.D.M.S.) who promises to be as co-operative as his predecessor. This week-end I had a visit from Ed. Cartside who, having replaced Major Charters as eye-specialist at the Lazarett at my request, was sent to examine — of my men for eyes. We worked on Friday night and Saturday and were able to go on Sunday with our military band of 25 players to Bill's hospital. We went by lorry. I am very proud of our camp now. My long range programme for organisation is fast bearing fruit and all should be happy for the winter. We are one of the best camps here.

L/Cpl. T. P. CLARKSON, 29th Nov.

Paeroa.
The ban is still on our Red Cross parcels, even though we have thousands here we are not issued with them. The boys out on working parties still get them. I hope it lifts soon. The boys are sick of being tied up. Some more of your mail to hand even though it is old it is very welcome.

D. T. GARDNER, 24th Nov.

Ramarama.
This week I have spent a couple of days pumping from one sewer to another.

We have had some wet weather and had our coats returned, so winter must be close. Lately I have done a good deal of reading, mainly "tripe," as the school is washed out for the time being. Sport also has been washed out for a while, but will, I hope, be in full swing again some time. Freezing point has been reached and the clothes freeze on the line instead of drying. However, we do not feel the cold as we did this time last year. The other day the drops of water hanging from the points of the barbs were frozen. The first snow fall is melting, but the remaining flower plants have shrivelled.

T/Cpl. JOSEPH T. ANGELL, 8th Nov.

Whangarei.
I am out working with other British Prisoners and I find it quite all right. Conditions are fair enough. We get our Red Cross parcels fairly regularly which of course is a great help to us all. I volunteered for work for Jerry. You see N.C.O.'s don't have to work if they do not wish to, but since I've been out I find the hours much shorter and the days seem to fly.

Pte. C. G. WALKER, 20th Sept.

Hawera.
Much joy in camp on Friday. Over 8,000 Canadian Red Cross parcels arrived. Enough for over three months at one a week. Had half one yesterday. They're marvellous, best I've seen yet. Packed in Canada for New Zealand Red Cross. Have received 86 letters and 6 parcels since March and clothing parcels from New Zealand House, also 400 cigarettes from New Zealand House. Playing Rugby now. Just enjoyed delicious supper with Canadian tea.

Dvr. W. H. N. HASLEMORE, 7th Nov.

Riverton.
Thank you very much for your parcel. I also received one the following day from New Zealand House in London, so you see I am set for clothes for a while. The only thing I didn't get was the blue overalls, which the Germans took out, as they say they come under the civilian clothes list. The parcel from New Zealand House had all winter clothes, also a nice kit bag which came in very handy to put all my gear in. I escaped and took to the hills, I was finally caught in March of this year, and so you can see I did try to get back to Egypt.

I received another cigarette parcel from New Zealand House and a clothing parcel from you. I am not working at present, I'm having a spell back at Stalag. I have got writer's cramp in the wrists, but not through writing!

GEORGE P. BRAGG, 21st Nov.

Wellington.
I have now enough clothing to last twelve months, having now received all your parcels, four in number. Small things are always handy, and I need a canvas bag to put everything in.

J. R. STODDART, 17th Nov.

Dunedin.
I would have been ½ mile underground shovelling coal, but my health would not stand that, so I am back in Stalag doing light work. Will try for the forestry work when I have to go out again. There is not enough space to explain what the Red Cross and Patriotic So-

cieties are doing for us, and how they relieve the monotony of this life. They are great friends to us all. Every corner of this Empire and almost every language is represented here.

A. T. DUNCAN, 15th Nov. Wellington.
Things here are not so good as they used to be, for since this "reprisal" business, entertainments and school have been closed down, ditto camp library. We are also kept strictly to our separate compounds and cannot mix as we used to. Red Cross food parcels are not issued to us weekly as of old, but Red Cross food is served with our rations through the Camp cook house. Personal parcels, however, still come to us occasionally, so things are not so bad.

Pte. PATRICK ALBERT LYNCH, 24th Nov. Wellington.

Life goes on here much the same. Work in the paper factory is quite reasonable and although it has not yet arrived, I shall be combating "old man winter" outside this year. Had a hard game of Rugby this afternoon, but nothing worse than a few bruises.

Dvr. ARTHUR Q. POPE, 4th Nov.

Wellington.
I'm out of the Stalag and the tying-up racket now, and on another job. We're in great billets with all facilities, with 12 (all New Zealanders) in a room, a stove with plenty of fuel, good blankets and hot and cold showers, etc. My job is in the stables grooming and feeding horses, about 7 till 11 and 2.30 to 3.30, and will be shorter when the snow comes. I've only two parcels to date from home, and lost most of that kit, but on arrival back at Stalag, various New Zealanders rigged me up with more stuff than I lost. Don't send any more gear for another two parcels, only odds and ends and chocolate please.

MORGAN DAVIS, 22nd Nov.

Ashburton.
I am still working at the sawmilling job. First snow to-day. Winter is on us, let it come, plenty of clothes this time. We get good parcels from the Red Cross. Give them all the support you can. My third parcel (sent in May) has just arrived in splendid order. The boots are first rate, good fit and a grand pair.

KEITH G. K. RICHARDSON, 8th Nov. Dunedin.

I am not at the Stalag now, but out on a party. We have an 8½ hour day for generally 5½ days a week, and do our washing etc., during the week-end. Books to read are our problem, but I manage to study German fairly hard, and so time passes.

Dvr. J. WILSON, 1st Nov.

Dunedin.
I don't suppose you will have had many letters from me lately. So I'll tell you why! I tried to escape, but was only away four days, when I was caught, and after spending ten days in prison, I was sent to another job. The weather for my little expertise, job none the worse is getting cold again. But I don't worry as I am well rigged out for winter, thanks to you and the grand Red Cross.

L/Cpl. R. H. VAUSE, 24th Oct.

Our latest indoor entertainments are dances, we have our own orchestra of four instruments. A few weeks ago we

had a fancy dress ball. The dresses were as good as any "civvy street" ball.
Pte. K. L. RITCHIE, 1st Nov.

Clvedon.
We get two of these forms a month to write home. Mails and parcels come through very well. Have only had two next of kin parcels so far. The first one took nine months to reach me. Many thanks, but we have had a clothes parcel from New Zealand House in London, and still receive Red Cross parcels regularly; they are simply great. Will be able to show you some new dishes when I get back home. Still on old pick and shovel; we work ten hours a day.
Gnr. C. E. PIERCE, 8th Nov.

Hamilton.
Last Saturday night we had a bit of a concert to celebrate the opening of a new room for meals and recreation and it is a great acquisition. It is clean and white and light with 7 windows, and 4 good electric lights (incidentally with flash glass shades). Also we have been allowed to hire a piano. It's a good one, and we appreciate it very much. As we have a good warming stove we are pretty well set for the winter, which is much later in coming this year.
Gnr. G. H. TURNER, 4th Jan.

Lower Hutt.
Your fourth parcel has arrived on 23rd December (posted in April) and what a grand Christmas present. Not allowed to have boiler suit. The thick socks are ideal for it's pretty cold in this part of the world. You may think that we have spare clothes, but this is not so, for any surplus is passed on to new arrivals, and those unlucky ones whose parcels do not arrive. Also two book parcels have arrived. The selection could not have been excelled and having four good books means that many can read them and they can be exchanged for other good ones. Also we received a food parcel. The first complete one for months. Also could visit the men who were released from chains for three days. So things have been pretty good.
JAMES MYLES, 15th Nov. Wellington

I'm cooking for our party, so I don't have to go out, but I do jolly long hours. I dread another winter here. You'll be surprised to hear we have bought a pianola between us. It cost us twelve hundred marks. We get paid every week but the money is not much use to us as there is very little that we can buy. Just received two clothing parcels from you. That is four I have had. Please don't send any more clothes.
Pt. D. J. PATERSON. Hamilton

Received a clothing parcel from New Zealand House and a cigarette parcel. Up till now I've had 1,200 smokes and three clothing parcels, so you see we New Zealanders are being well looked after, and don't we appreciate it. Well, I'm just off to the sports field for a kick of the old football. Yesterday another clothing parcel arrived for me. It would do you good to see the pleasure we get out of these parcels.

ERIC JOSEPH OWEN, 13th Dec.
16 MONTHS IN CRETE.

I have spent the last sixteen months in the Island of Crete, and I have kept very well. I find it very cold here in

Germany. I am going out to work in a timber mill. Howard Holmes has been good to me, he has given me some clothes and other small articles. I hope he is well. I have been very worried in the last sixteen months knowing you did not know where I was. Norman is working in a mine. I have lost my litig hair in front, I put it down to old age. The boys with me are very musical and we pass away the hours very happily. I have not received any parcels yet, but they will come.
2nd Jan.

I am well. I have been a Prisoner since the 1st October. I have received most of your letters.
Pte. FRANCIS R. CONGHLAN, 16th Nov. Nth. Auckland.

I have received another clothing parcel from you with shirts, pyjamas, and pullover, etc. I am still in Stalag and don't know when I will be fit enough to join George again.
28th Dec.

We have celebrated a grand Christmas under the circumstances. Rugby: N.Z., 14; England, 5. Carol singing, concert, dancing and items. My partner and I won the waltzing competition, and in the "Funniest Dance" (snake) I was second in the last turn, winning a pair of hair clippers.
Gnr. J. K. BARCLAY. Dunedin.

We had a pleasant surprise, an H.M.V. gramophone arrived. We borrowed records from a nearby pub, some of them were English. "The Chestnut Tree" was one. Among the German ones was "The Beer Barrel Polka." We have had music ever since and hope to get some records from the Stalag. It makes a difference to have music in the place. Australian clothing parcels have been turning up and we all have plenty of clothing now. Some good parcels arrived, books, jams, etc., and a new soccer ball. Don't do much cooking nowadays except for steam puddings. Two guards have just taken over. Guards may come and guards may go, but we go on for ever. Most of them are very decent and, except when one is in a bad mood, it is hard to think of them as enemies. I have received four parcels and with contents of New Zealand House parcels have about as much clothing as I need. I get enough cigarettes from New Zealand House and the Red Cross. Am keeping well, so you have nothing to worry about. Received 8 ozs. of N.Z. tobacco from New Zealand House last week. We also received some records from Stalag. Our library is quite good now, and have some good books—Kipling, Dickens, Stevenson, etc. We start the 8-hour day from to-morrow. Just enough daylight to get it in. We know quite a few people in the nearby villages by now and give them a "good day" when we see them.
R. W. JOHNSTON, 15th Nov. Whangarei.

We have a concrete floor in our billet, so I use the slippers when I'm sitting down playing cards. I should not suffer from cold feet this winter. Another issue of Red Cross food and cigarettes has arrived at our party, so we are all set again. The boys are all busy making cloth mittens for working in. The chocolate was packed in a tin. I was won-

dering if you did it or the Red Cross. We are just going to sit down to a game of poker. I did a bit of hair cutting to-day.

STALAG IX A/H

MARQUIS ACTS AS WAITER.

Pte. K. J. MATHESON, 2nd Jan. Dunedin.

The blanket comes in very handy as it is pretty cold at nights now, but I don't feel it as I have three blankets, two sheets, and my overcoat. We had a very good dinner on Christmas day, tongue, mashed potatoes, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, plum pudding, a couple of beers, and waited on by a Marquis, the Marquis of Normandy. He is a prisoner along with us. The holidays went along not so bad, nearly every night, we had a concert. On New Year's eve we were allowed to stay up until 12.30, so took in the New Year with the band playing. Plenty of snow these days, but it is quite warm since the snow came.

STALAG IX. C.

Sgt. HINTON, V.C., 5th Sept. Dunedin

I have received no mail from you for some weeks now, but I have great hopes that some will come to-day. Cliff Clark, Air Force, Hastings, is in the next bed to me, celebrating his birthday with a tin of sardines. And my 33 birthday passed before I remembered.
15th Oct.

Received six letters from you to-day and lots from others. Bob Buckley, Christchurch, is out working at a trade, also Gus Brown. We are all in different parts of the country.

STALAG XIII C

R. H. THOMSON, 20th Dec.

I received a parcel (Aug. 10th). This is the first I have had from you. It had everything necessary and was most exciting. Just now I am having the best break I have had as a prisoner. I have had a series of fairly lean times—some exciting, some interesting, some monotonous and some decidedly unpleasant. But for the moment I sleep in pyjamas, bath in warm water, work a bit for our own boys, walk about a bit each day, talk and live in congenial company and eat fairly considerably. Christmas promises to be an event of sorts—I have missed my three so I am going to enjoy this one.

STALAG XVIII A.

Cpl. I. A. McLAY, 25th Oct. Dunedin.

I am the Confidence Man at this camp. I thought I had finished with it when the other camp broke up, but no, here I am at it again. It is rather difficult here, as I have to do my own interpreting and I am afraid my German is not exactly first class, but I struggle along some how. The fellows here are really a decent lot and that makes it a lot easier. The work I am doing is harder than any I have done previously, but I rather like it, and am now, I should say, about a third-class axeman, and I am told, improving fast. We had a darts tournament. The darts naturally enough finished up in a rather decisive victory for our English friends. Things here are much the same, long evenings which we

fill in by playing cards and now and again we manage to persuade one of the boys to give us a lecture and we have some rather interesting discussions. It is remarkable the amount of work put on the Confidence Man at times like this—settling in a crowd of new fellows. I don't mind, as it all helps to pass away the time. Work is continuing just the same.

Sgt. GEO. PHILLIPS, 3rd Jan.

Wellington.
Had a large parcel from England containing games, books and a ping pong set. Also twelve hundred cigarettes, so the chaps here all did pretty well for smokes. Some were from the New Zealand Patriotic Society. Some of the New Zealand chaps have received parcels from home lately, so I am hoping there may be some for me about. The snow seems to be staying with us this time and I have been told ice skating is well away in town here. There are a pair of skis here that I intend trying out in the garden later on. There are no slopes, but I will try walking a bit.

Pte. M. L. ROBERTSON, 1st Nov.

Te Aroha.
Our life here is very monotonous, although we are quite comfortable. All the week is taken up with work consisting at present of building a big stone bridge and the approaches thereto. Saturday afternoon is filled in with washing clothes (which I hate!), receiving Red Cross parcels, pay, etc. Sunday is a free day which we spend mostly in bed this weather.

L/Cpl. E. WOOD, 4th Oct. Dunedin.
Been doing a fair bit of ploughing and harrowing this week. You would have a bit of a laugh if you could see me ploughing with a couple of oxen. The work isn't bad taking it all round. Better off for clothes than I was last winter, didn't even have a pullover or boots, let alone socks, but have got plenty of everything now. If it wasn't for the Red Cross things would not be too good. The people themselves treat us better than we expected.

D. C. ROBERTSON, 15th Nov. Nth. Auckland.

Have just taken my washing in, finished my darning and cooking tea. By Jove, when the war is over a man will make someone a good wife, what with washing blankets, clothes, etc., darning, cooking and sweeping, it doesn't do one any harm. We have also learnt the value of food. In the early stages of my P.O.W. career I would never dream of wasting the water I washed my eating utensils in. It's great how hard a man can live if he is put to it. The boys keep pretty well—boils are the most common ailment here—and even in these conditions the Kiwis are head and shoulders above everyone else.

Pte. A. G. MARTIN, 23rd Nov. Nelson.

Received third parcel from you only five weeks since the second arrived. The slippers were too small for me, so picked out ones with smaller feet. Put cards on their beds and the highest won. They were won by an "Aussie," a popular win as they (the Aussies) are unfortunate with their parcels and mail.

P. CHURTON, 4th Oct. Auckland.

Concert last night and very good too, ten pieces in the band and they certainly "go to town" in the good old way. The crowd are very good writing songs, poetry, plays, and acting and producing. The latter is very good fashion and what with the gear that is "wiped" for the job and the efforts would do credit to anyone. Last night the show lasted from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Toe H is getting well to the fore here too, what with getting the folk together and providing entertainment (usually on Sunday nights).

Pte. R. BROWN, 12th Nov. Nelson.

We get our Red Cross food parcels every week, so have no complaints. We are going to have another sports meeting on Sunday. I received five letters yesterday, dated June and July. We had our first movie show to-night and I quite enjoyed it. I have had four parcels from you to date, also 10 cigarette parcels, so I cannot complain.

19th Nov.
A lot of New Zealand parcels have just come in.

S. J. STOCKLEY, 15th Nov. Waihou.

Numerous food parcels packed in Canada on behalf of the New Zealand Red Cross Society have arrived here. They are exactly the same as the Canadian parcels we have had before and leave nothing to be desired. The Aussies are getting a lot of personal parcels that have been held up for nearly a year. Please do not send any more clothing parcels. The boys over here have come through wonderfully well so far and we are still getting a regular supply of Red Cross food parcels and cigarettes, and as long as these continue no one need worry over our health.

Signalman A. R. FERGUSON, 1st Nov. Hokiangia.

I will not be cold this winter anyway. So far the weather has not broken. It is the best autumn they have had for years. We have gone a bit modern on our farm this year. We are ploughing with a tractor, the ground was so dry I could not keep the hand plough in. Each week we receive a Red Cross parcel and every night can enjoy a cup of tea in our own small room.

E. A. BERKAHN, 20th Sept. Palmerston North.

I have been in Germany now two weeks in the Prisoner of War Camp. I was in Greece for twelve months. I was free, having escaped from prison. I was caught in August, 1942, and had a tough time with the police, but I am all right now. I was caught in June, 1941, and wrote a letter in August before escaping.

21st Nov.

I need to keep to a diet of milk foods and not meat and with the Red Cross parcels we, and I myself, are able to practice a diet. When I was in Greece, I was able to take fresh milk, but in prison camp I have the English tinned milk. Since I have been a prisoner in Germany, I have been in hospital, but I am glad to say I am nearly cured now. This month the German, Swiss and English Commission for sick prisoners of war passed me as unfit for work and a chance to be sent home.

Sgt. W. H. FAGAN, 28th Oct. Christchurch.

We have our own vegetable garden, and it is lovely, green peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, lettuces, also flowers, so we are not doing so badly. I received your fifth parcel, so I have plenty of warm clothing. I have a good job in charge of 200 men. Aussies, Tommies and New Zealanders, the chaps in charge of us are not a bad crowd. We get plenty to eat, well cooked, and I am very thankful because we have good beds and good quarters. The men are road making, but I don't have to work hard. I have enough to do looking after the food and barracks. We have a Church Service and Communion and best of all we get our Red Cross parcels regularly, so what more can I wish for. We get credit for keeping our camp in first class order.

D. W. SULLIVAN, 1st Nov. Nth. Auckland.

Sunday afternoon, a day off work and an opportunity for the letter writers. I am liking it here at the working camp. There are only fifteen of us at the job. We are doing logging in the forest. It is heavy work but makes one strong which is just what I want. We get plenty of potatoes, beetroot, cabbage, apples, swedes, etc., and with the Red Cross parcels every week things are O.K. The New Zealanders here receive 200 cigarettes a month through New Zealand House. Not having been long in "jug" I have not received my first issue as yet, but I hope to receive one shortly. The New Zealand Red Cross seems to work better than any of the others.

BERTIE DAYSH. Te Awamutu.

I am fit and well and out working again, but this time at a farm and believe me it is quite a change. There are only nine of us here—four Aussies, three Tommies and two Kiwis, and we have very comfortable living quarters and good food, even sheets on our beds, so I am doing all right. We do all sorts of different jobs. Picking up apples and potatoes, cutting grass for the cows, making cider which is strong to drink, as I found out the first time I had some, but I am used to it now. They run about 60 cows, quite a big farm here as everything is hand fed and stabled, so I am learning quite a lot about this class of farming. The people are very decent and treat us just like one of themselves. Have not had any mail for quite a while but as I have been shifting about it may have been delayed.

Pte. N. J. BLAIR, 14th Dec. Te Horo.

I expect this letter will be rather late in reaching you as the mails are delayed and we have had no letters for nearly a month. I have had about four cigarette parcels from London and New Zealand Patriotic Society. The leather was very useful in your parcels and I am having it put on my boots this week. The warm clothes are also very good now winter is coming on. It is not nearly as cold as it was last year, however. We have only had two slight falls of snow.

25th Dec.

To-day is Christmas Day. We have much the same parcel as last year. We have dinner at the farms. I had turkey at mine, and we have our own dinner in the afternoon. Our first mail for five

weeks came yesterday; there were two from you, one dated 26th December, 1941, just a year old. The other is dated 22nd September, 1942. The Red Cross parcels are arriving very regularly. The things we find hard to get are boot-laces, hair grease, combs, and a cigarette lighter would be useful as matches are hard to get. We get plenty of soap and clothing from the Red Cross. We are getting three days off this Christmas, and spend the mornings at the farm, and come home after dinner.

STALAG XVIII. D.

Pte. L. BRYANT, 15th Nov.

FRENCH LEAVE. Wellington.

I have not written for some time as my friends and I have been away on a tour. We thought that as we had been in a prison camp for 15 months we were due for a little leave (French leave). We had exactly five days' freedom, travelling on two bicycles, and we had a really wonderful time. We travelled two hundred miles at least, and saw quite a lot of the country. We are both back now in our Stalag after having been arrested, awaiting the consequences. Don't get worried. Mother, over this, I have plenty of cobbles in our Mr. Crawford for the same offence. I have received my fourth clothing parcel. I have more clothes now than I have ever had in my life, so please don't send any more. I have also received to-day 1,500 cigarettes from the Patriotic Fund. The food parcels are marvellous. If it were not for these we would have a pretty lean time. Well, winter is here again, we had our first snow yesterday. However, we are well prepared this year, thanks to you people at home and our Red Cross. There are very few here who have not had clothing from home. I received your third parcel last week, making my fifth, the other two being from the British Red Cross. The trousers in this parcel will be very handy as we go out walking on Sundays. My new job on the deviation work I told you about is going well, the guards are very good. There are 100 of us in the working party, mostly colonials.

Gnr. B. H. UMBERS, 1st Nov. Dunedin.

CIGARETTES FROM PATRIOTIC FUND.

I am an old cow-hand now and am also able to carry about a ton of turnips (more or less) on my head in a basket. The bowers (farmers) think I am viel stark (very strong), but that's what they think. Clocks go back to-morrow. We leave the Lager at 6.30 a.m. and return about 8.30 p.m., that is our winter working time, having half day off on Sunday. I am receiving 200 cigarettes a month regularly from the Patriotic Fund, New Zealand. They help me on my way.

DAVID NOBLE, 4th Oct. Auckland.

We are in much better health, and have plenty of clothes for this winter. I have received three parcels from you, also two from the New Zealand Red Cross. I have tons of clothes now, and the boots you sent me will be worth their weight in gold. One cannot express one's deep gratitude and thanks to the

Red Cross for the wonderful job they are doing.

STALAG XX. A.

Cpl. A. J. SPENCE, 18th Oct.

Wellington.

There is plenty to do around the place when one cares to go and look for it. We play basketball, cricket, Rugby and deck tennis. In the evenings I play a lot of contract and chess. I do a hell of a lot of talking about yachting and everyone in my room is fed up to the teeth with the R.P.N.Y.C. I have learned to bang out a couple of tunes on an accordion and I can strum a guitar. I received some books on photography from England, also a syllabus of the Institute exam, which I hope to sit.

J. CARTER, 20th Sept. Dunedin.

I am very pleased to tell you that I have received two of your parcels and another 200 cigarettes the same day. Also three more Red Cross parcels, so it was a good day. Last week I had three Red Cross parcels and two hundred cigarettes. The New Zealand Patriotic Funds are sending us the 200 cigarettes every month, so we are not doing so bad.

R. D. GOLLAN, 29th Nov. Dannevirke.

It's been a great two weeks. Last week I got my third parcel, 200 cigarettes from New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board, and eleven letters. Then this week another 200 cigarettes and five letters. In fact, now I've underpants I have all the clothes I need for some time. Plenty of Red Cross parcels these days.

15th Nov.

We can write air mail now, so hope this comes through much quicker than usual. I had a letter about 10 days ago written in June. Could you send me a pair of boots, the chances of getting more aren't so good. Combs, laces, boot polish, tooth-paste and odds and ends. I am staying on the farm for the winter, but I am trying to get a change if I can. I've been ploughing lately and the earth is frozen.

STALAG XXI A.

S. S. GRIFFITHS, 13th Dec. Dunedin

Have enclosed two photos of the band in the Lager next door, and the cast of a rather dramatic play "Outward Bound." I understand we will receive, starting from the New Year, one parcel between two men each week—not so good.

6th Dec. When we leave the hospital every morning to go out to our despatching store in the town, we go very muffled up, overcoat, scarf, gloves, as we have to tramp through the snow. We are making arrangements for Christmas dinner here, there won't be any choice food and wine though. I would scrap it all for some scrambled eggs on English white bread. They had a band concert next door during the week, very good too. I really haven't come into contact with the Germans much, just a guard when we go to work.

L. F. SCORRAR.

Castor Bay.

We have just had sheets issued for our beds, and are much more comfortable

in consequence. The good old Red Cross come up to scratch every week and we have nothing to complain about. I get news letters regularly from the High Commissioner, so am fairly well posted on civil affairs. I am stuck with the job of Camp Leader and Snr. Br. Officer. There are 300 of us here, all ranks. The New Zealanders get a good name wherever they are.

W. W. HENLEY, 7th Jan. Dunedin.

I have just been listening to the weekly "prop" (evidently this means propaganda) and the news seems to be looking up. Mr. Curtin (Australia) does not seem to be optimistic though. Mail has gone to the pack, but I have a cigarette parcel. During the last week we have had some very heavy falls of snow and work has been mainly clearing the paths in the town. Everything is looking very picturesque and I enjoy going out. The little kids dash up and down the streets on skates or small toboggans, muffled up in strange dresses, and the horse-drawn sleighs have tiny bells attached. Even the barbed wire around the camp has taken on a different aspect and looks like very fine lace work. Last night Bill, Harry and I were detailed to fetch some trunks from the station. It was snowing big flakes at the time and freezing hard, but muffled well up and trudging sometimes knee-deep in snow, drawing the sledge, we soon got warmed up. The trunks had to be taken inside a private house, the first I've seen since England.

26th Dec.

Yesterday we celebrated with a huge dinner, with the orchestra playing and the W.O.'s waiting on us. It was a great success and I slept all afternoon to get over it. Then we had chocolate biscuits and Christmas cake for tea, and in the evening, while the boys had a concert, we played bridge. You all have been in our thoughts very much and on Christmas Eve when you would be sitting down to Christmas dinner. We made a toast to the folks at home.

C. E. BARWELL, 4th Oct.

I received two letters this week. They were dated April, and June. That means that although one and six was paid to send them air mail, one of them took five months to reach me. I received another cigarette parcel from the New Zealand Patriotic Society. We received some bulk food from the British Red Cross last week. It was the produce of Argentina. The cheese was a bit wild. We had to chase it round the room when we wanted a piece. I found it not bad to eat if I held my nose while I was doing it. To send air mail letters we pay forty pfennigs, about sixpence. We are all from units of the New Zealand Medical Corps and were part of the repatriation party which got as far as Rouen last October. I have seen Belgrade, Mons, Amiens, Liege and Berlin. I worked in the hospital at Salonika. If Mum at any time feels a little depressed tell her to sing "Where Is My Wondering Boy To-night?" He is probably in an air raid shelter.

STALAG XXI I.

Pte. C. E. BARWELL, 10th Oct.

We had a concert last night not as

good as those at XXI. A. but quite good. Evidently boys from Scotland predominate, most of the songs sung were Scottish such as the "Road to the Isles," and "Bonnie Dundee." The British dentist here is H. V. E. Jessup. It was given out at a concert that H.V.E. are his initials, and not as some thought—"High Velocity Extractions." I received the message you sent through the Red Cross and also two through the Church. They took about six months to reach me. There are six New Zealanders and one Aussie here.

27th Dec.

We celebrated Christmas as well as we were able. We had a Red Cross parcel each. Our lights were on till midnight. 11th Jan.

I received two cigarette parcels yesterday, but have had no letters for two months. That long darned needle I have found very useful. When the chap in the bunk above me gives me cheek (he often does) I just push the needle up between the bed boards with excellent results. One of the New Zealanders received a letter the other day which took 16 months to get to him and it had no number on it and was addressed to Greece. It had been to ten different camps.

CAMPO P.G. 38 P.M. 3200

Capt. D. F. RIDDFORD, 9th Sept.

Featherston.
Just after writing my last letter to you in which I said I had not received my next-of-kin parcel either from England or New Zealand, my first next-of-kin parcel from New Zealand arrived. Two days later I got my first one from England. The New Zealand one had been sent February 2nd and the English one March 2nd. The same week I got a parcel of books. All my needs in the matter of clothing are now satisfied except for a battle-dress which I hope to get from the Red Cross. This week I got a letter from England, which took only just over three weeks in transit.

CAMPO P.O. 47 P.M. 3200

Capt. P. J. BREWSTER, 3rd Dec.

Wairoa.
We have enough Red Cross parcels to see us to the end of January, as 3000 came in to-day. We have an extensive education system here, lectures every day on law, commerce, languages, history, art, music, engineering and many others. We have a small theatre where shows run for about a week to enable everyone to see them.

ALLAN EDWARD DENNARD,

17th Dec. Wellington.
This camp is miles better than anything I expected and life so far is O.K. The camp has practically all the New Zealanders in it. Among those here from Wellington are Pat. Matterson, Hector Burns, Cliff George, Major Mentall Harding, Bob Bradshaw, Norm Carter, Carl Watson, Wynn Mason and others. We are all in excellent spirit and things are well organised in all ways. Meals are really excellent with rations. Red Cross parcels and purchases together. It's getting very cold now, but I was lucky to get greatcoat, battle dress and woollen undies at hospital, so I am O.K.

Dvr. S. G. Thear, 20th Nov.

Hastings.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS.

Plenty of cats and a Red Cross parcel every week. We have hot showers about three times a week and it is O.K. We have quite a bit of work to do, but it makes the time go very quickly. 12th Dec.

I've just received your first parcel from home. It was great although it took a long while to get here. It is just like the Hastings weather now. We have a frost in the morning and it turns out a nice day. The Christmas parcels have just come in, so Christmas will be O.K.

Capt. J. F. BAKER, 17th Dec.

Dunedin.

PLENTY OF GEAR.

The best bit of news so far is that your second parcel arrived the day we left and I was jolly pleased to get it. The quantity of chocolate was a pleasant surprise and so far I haven't felt peckish enough to eat any, so it will be a good reserve for the leaner days. As a matter of fact we were all rather amused at our large possessions, for we all walked into camp with nothing and lived on that for several months, and now we were unable to carry all our gear and had to leave the heavier stuff to be sent on some time this week.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

Time is galloping along reasonably well and now it is less than a fortnight to Christmas, so we are all looking forward to such as we are getting for the festive season. Firstly the Red Cross with their usual high efficiency have already delivered to us a quantity of special Christmas parcels for consumption on the day. The canteen is angling for supplies of wine, etc., and the entertainment group are putting on a pantomime "Cinderella." Talking of parcels, we have enough Red Cross parcels to last until the end of March, so things aren't so bad for the winter. Concerts, plays and talks occupy a few evenings so we're all right.

CUTHBERT STEELE, 17th Dec.

Wellington.
All our gear arrived the other day from our previous camp and we had a busy day sorting ourselves out. We are now properly settled in. I am going to a variety concert to-night, but as the letters have to be in first thing in the morning I am leaving that till my next letter. All this must sound as though we live in the very lap of luxury—the life is only what one makes of it. However, there will be a few things to tell you when I get home. We are to get a special parcel from the Red Cross for Christmas. We distributed the books in our library on arrival in this camp, we got five each.

Lieut. T. D. WHITE, 17th Dec.

Christchurch.
Your clothing parcel arrived last week as well as 400 cigarettes from London. That certainly made up for a lot. The polo neck pullover is a sneezer, and the chocolate was beyond words. You cannot perhaps visualise the happiness these parcels can create. I was as crazy as a handycot for a short time. Mail is again terribly unsatisfactory.

Major C. L. BRETT, 17th Dec.

Hamilton.

Last week all the crowd who were taken last November arrived here, including Trev. Atchley, Mike Sheriff, John Hislop, Jack Bevin, etc., so you can imagine there has been a lot of chin wagging. The New Zealand Red Cross parcels are marvellous and I can assure you that their splendid work has meant much to us in the last few months. Unfortunately the parcels do not contain any biscuits or sugar. However, we are thankful for everything we get and the pound of New Zealand butter is marvellous.

(Editor's Note: Sugar up to 1lb. in weight has for some months past been included in the parcels packed in New Zealand.)

We were issued with a shirt without collar, so I have to make a collar out of the tail, and tie out of the tail of another. We all miss the library at our last camp. We have started our classes again and are having four periods in the morning and free afternoons apart from our popular talk series. I have been asked to give lectures on agriculture. I am also hoping to continue taking French, Italian, book-keeping, economics and literature. I have been placed on the C. of E. Council here. Unfortunately we have not a C. of E. padre here at the moment, but have applied for one and hope he will arrive soon. I had to read the lesson yesterday at Matins. I am also one of the two New Zealand representatives on the Mess Committee. I was able to buy a pair of pyjamas at the canteen the other day and also a pair of woollen gloves, and they are a great help. I feel very grateful that we got our battledress at the last camp.

Lieut. R. M. WOOD, 24th Dec.

Christmas will be quite bright. We are each to receive a Red Cross Christmas Parcel with cake and pudding included and 50 cigarettes are also being issued. A pantomime will be running over Christmas and from all accounts it's very good. The props that have been made are amazing. I was a stage hand in a P. G. Wodehouse play which ran a week. No snow yet, but wet, muddy ground has cut out outdoor sports and made every day like a wet Sunday. A few of us are passing a lot of time sorting out vegetables in cookhouse.

Lieut. J. H. MONEY, 31st Dec.

Auckland.
First two parcels reached me within a week or two of each other—November and December—and in excellent condition, and I am now well fitted out. There is no need for you to send anything more. Some books are at last arriving from England. Unfortunately they all have to go back to Rome for censorship, but I suppose I'll get them some time. Thanks to grand Red Cross we celebrated Christmas in truly great style, each chap getting a special Christmas parcel, containing a lovely pudding, half of which we have saved for New Year, cake, chocolate, biscuits, confectionery, etc., a grand effort, and the wonderful feeling that you are still a remembered member of a great Commonwealth is glorious.

PLEASE SEND US COPIES OF YOUR LATEST LETTERS.

Lieut. R. M. WOOD, 18th Jan.

Wellington.
Really we can't complain of the way we celebrated Christmas and New Year in the circumstances. I've received a lot of books from Geneva which were of great use as we now have a library going with enough books for one per man. Bed is very popular and contract bridge is the current craze. The weather is a bit cold for lectures. I can read the Italian newspapers fairly well now. Still very fit. Morale very high—good company here. The only gear is a few footballs brought from other camps. Red Cross stuff may be on the way.

Lieut. E. D. MABIN, 17th Dec.

Nelson.
Am set up very well for the winter, and spare clothing I have given to chaps who haven't any. The April parcel hasn't turned up yet.

31st Dec.
Christmas has passed quite pleasantly, thanks to the Red Cross Christmas parcels. The cake and sweets made it seem like home. We had the first fall of snow on the 28th. Your April clothes parcel arrived on the 22nd, and now I'm well set up for clothes. I have the study books from the censor minus their covers, so after the New Year will settle down to some book-keeping.

18th Jan.
Nothing much doing here as there is too much snow outside. Haven't had any mail for over 8 weeks.

CAMPO P.G. 52—3100

W. A. WEAKLEY, 21st Nov.

We were like kids round a Christmas Tree when the Red Cross food parcels arrived, last food parcel was direct from New Zealand. I have just been issued with Red Cross thick underwear so will pass them on to a chap whose issue has not arrived yet. We have a loud speaker system installed, quite a treat. Sending this airmail—cost three days' pocket money—hope it is worth it.

D. E. GREAD, 5th Nov. Christchurch.

PARCELS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

I was lucky enough to get a small clothing parcel the other day. There were about 200 of them came into the camp from the New Zealand and Australian people in South Africa, and were for the Kivis and Aussies in this camp. There was a pair of pyjamas, which are just the goods, a pair of socks, singlet, short underpants, shaving gear, soap, a small hand towel, a handkerchief, and also a mouth organ. I have written the small card and thanked them.

5th Nov.

The mate and I had pumpkin for dinner to-day, with sardines mashed up in it. It was quite good. We get the pumpkin from the canteen and cooked it ourselves. We all have our little fire places to brew up in. We make them out of tins from the parcels. There's some marvellous contraptions among them—all sorts of different patents. It's just like a bush fire down in the brewing up area, with all the smoke about.

Pte. N. M. WATSON, Christchurch.
22nd Dec.

Have just returned from second panto-

mime production. The Messiah was well rendered. Had to have both early as all New Zealanders leave this Camp to-day for Camp 57. Just had wonderful Red Cross Christmas parcels issued to us. Great cake and puddings and all sorts of good things.

11th Dec.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Since last writing I have had one of the biggest surprises of my life. As you'll remember last Friday was my Birthday and what a day. Mait gave me a present from himself, and one from the 'folks at home.' Neil gave me chocolate from his food parcel. Then in the afternoon they turned on a party. Toast and cheese fingers, salmon and bread, celery and bread, biscuits and sweets all most attractively got up although as you will realise done in the real miniature scale of catering. Nevertheless it is surprising how attractive a spread can be laid out in a Prisoner of War camp. But this was not the finish to my Birthday celebrations as Neil, Geof. C., Synsley C. with whom I play bridge most evenings turned on another spread. Toast and sardines, cheese and marmite savories and cake which Neil iced and decorated by making a big "Club" and putting one of my initials in each loop. Then to top things off Neil received his first parcel from home, so we had New Zealand chocolate. I forgot to mention we had a fruit salad (about one spoonful each).

Have been living well lately, canteen has had beetroot, so have bought it and cooked it up in our 'blower' one day, and had it cold with bully beef from our wonderful Red Cross parcels and second time with bacon from same source. The work of the Red Cross makes life here much happier. Please give donations towards the work. I'm hoping to make a cake next week from pancake mixture, raisins, and sultanas from Red Cross parcels and currants from the canteen. Have saved various tins of meats and vegetables for first course on Christmas Day and pudding with custard to follow also from our Red Cross parcels, and hope to have a "fruit salad" of tinned figs, crushed pineapple, prunes and raisins with condensed milk. Thanks to the Red Cross parcels we'll have a real day of "eat." The Italian authorities are very good in allowing us to cook and buy fuel for so doing. You'd laugh at our small stoves and ovens all made from fruit tins from parcels on which we boil our water for various "brews" during the day and cooking of vegetables, cakes, pikelets, and so forth. The latest are "blowers" fireplaces with bellows or fan wheels to give a forced draught. They save fuel which is most important.

Capt. G. C. T. Burns, 8th Dec. Hawera.

DOCTOR WRITES.

Bad news from Switzerland this week that Red Cross food parcels will again be short this winter and that we must cut down our issue to one per fortnight. (Rest of letter heavily censored.)

16th Dec.

There was quite a big paragraph in the local paper last week about a fire at Seaciffe Mental Hospital in which some patients lost their lives—that's the only

time I've seen N.Z. news in the paper here. We receive an immense number of medical parcels now, containing milk food for sick chaps as well as drugs and dressings, though the health of the camp is still good.

21st Dec.

TRANSFERS.

Like a bolt from the blue has come the news that all New Zealanders (except myself and our other doctor, Brian Lusk) are to leave this camp next week. This will leave only 'Tommyies and South Africans behind, the latter predominating, and although it is difficult in our position here as doctors to make close friends, what friends we have will be going.

29th Dec.

A batch of Penguin books arrived last week as arranged by you through London well battered, also five of Cape's Travellers Library, minus covers. It is now useless to send good books as all covers are removed presumably for the linen in them.

4th Jan.

We had a bit of a concert on New Year's Eve and they left the lights on till after midnight. We had quite a pleasant Christmas with special Christmas food parcel and permission to buy a bottle of Vermouth. Then we had a presentation of the gifts from the Pope to the camp. We had five piano accordions as well as medals, stamp collections and diaries. I got a bronze medallion struck for the third year of the present Pope, a diary containing extracts from his writings, and an album with an almost complete set (unused) of Vatican City stamps. These are intrinsically valuable, I don't doubt, as well as very interesting souvenirs. We had a new draft of Tommyies arrive, bringing the camp strength to over 3,000, now mostly Tommyies with about 1,200 South Africans. We naturally miss the New Zealanders.

Cpl. J. H. SMITH, 14th Nov.

We had a service for Armistice Day which is also celebrated as King Victoria's birthday. A prayer, some hymns, short speech and our bugler sounded the "Last Post," "Reveille" which was acknowledged by the Colonel of this camp. You will think I am leg-pulling but this week we had loud speakers installed in the camp area and we now have wireless with our P.T. classes. I have been speaking with a chap from Castleford, he made us a blower to boil the dixie, about 2½ pints in 3 minutes, very good. The mail has just arrived but I have not been lucky. I am writing to Rome re my mail, it must be lost I think.

Pte. RANKIN, 14th Oct. Dunedin.

Sunday afternoon again and we have just finished our afternoon brew. We get our food parcels on Saturday afternoon and those who are lucky also get their personal parcels so Sunday is a day of rest and building up for the week's toil. We usually have about four brews of tea during the day and the biscuits and chocolate get a thrashing. We bring in the wood from where we are working and look after the breaking and splitting of it into suitable sized pieces for the stove. We have now had

eight days at work and our job is digging ditches to drain swamp land. We have a walk of about 1½ to 2 miles from the camp and start at 8 a.m. working until 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch between 12 and 1 o'clock, and then walk back to camp. We have a cold shower and by tea time "Scoff" is up (heavily censured).

NELSON PROCTOR, 11th Nov.
Whangarei.

I am O.K., plenty of Red Cross food parcels, ample warm clothing, fairly regular mail and first class health. We are being very well treated here considering our position. Loud speakers have been installed so we have wireless music played. Had a short service on Armistice Day and observed two minutes' silence.

Gnr. JOCK CLEMENTS, 11th Nov.
Wellington.

I got both clothing parcels on the same day. One was from New Zealand House, London, and the other was from home. Then on 1st November I got the other one. They confiscated the good shirts as it is civilian wear, but they took my name, etc., and I believe I get these back after the war. Everything in the parcels was in excellent order. I shared ½ New Zealand House chocolate with Arch, also gave some to the boys. I now have more clothes than I need so please don't send any more. Thanks for the mouth organs. I give the boys a tune. We had an Armistice Service this morning, Padre Mitchell officiating. To-day is also His Italian Majesty's birthday also and holiday for the Italian people. We get quite a lot of news from New Zealand letters which is given out during the church parade in the evenings when Italian and German bulletins are read out. Each hut appoints a sergeant who is also on the Welfare Committee, for this job. We have also one for education and one who looks after our canteen interests. I have noticed when out on working parties many of our common weeds growing here. We get a Red Cross parcel between two every four days now. Just splendid. Grateful thanks to all.

Spr. VICTOR TUOHEY, 4th Dec.
South Auckland.

Have received a lot of mail lately. Takes about two months. All letters must come air mail from New Zealand whether they are written on airmail cards or otherwise, as yours written in ordinary letters and posted without stamps have arrived in good time. Soap is plentiful, thanks to the Red Cross. Food parcels have been constant up to now, one per week, but owing to transport difficulties and other things will now be one per fortnight. I have a little reserve set aside for Christmas. I mean it to be better than last.

L/Cpl. BRUCE JENKINS, 19th Dec.
Gisborne

Red Cross parcels arrive regularly. We have plenty of books to read. Smokes and tea; we also have concerts and play quite a lot of bridge. I have never felt better in my life. We don't rise until 9 o'clock each morning and go to bed at 10 p.m. The beds are good and warm, with sheets, and we have plenty of warm clothing.

L/Cpl. DOUGLAS ATICHISON.

Shannon.
Mail is still coming in well and I have had my share, my total is now somewhere about the 100 mark. It is very good of friends to write so regularly. They all help to bring New Zealand closer to us. To-day a large batch of parcels came in. Have just got a clothing parcel from New Zealand House sent in July—a bit late but very welcome as you can guess. Contents: Pyjamas, shirt, woollen underclothing, 3 pairs of socks (I had one pair), heavy pullover, scarf, gloves, balaclava, towel, razor, kit bag, shaving brush, soap, comb, braces and 1 pound of chocolate. So I can now face the winter without any fear. Certainly, efforts have been made by the authorities to make our existence as pleasant as possible under the circumstances, the obtaining of musical instruments, books, and so on—we are grateful for these privileges. Consequently a good spirit prevails in the camp and will, I think, continue.

Pte. D. D. BENTLEY. Waitomo Caves.
I must thank you for the two parcels from home. It was great getting them the same day, we also received a consignment of New Zealand Food parcels, and very welcome too. They were in perfect condition—it was great eating New Zealand butter and honey again. Sorry to say my money did not last long. I spooned it, that is to say I ate it by the spoonful. If you see any of the Red Cross people, you can then tell them how pleased we all were to receive their wonderful parcels. We get news once a month from England of the going on in New Zealand so that brings us a little closer home.

CAMPO P.G. 57. P.M. 3200

19th Dec.
C. E. PEAGRAM, 6th Nov.

Our treatment here is fairly good though we rely a lot on what the Red Cross do for us, especially in the way of parcels of foodstuffs, cigarettes, and clothing. We received a parcel per week plus a cigarette issue and the days are counted from one issue day till the next.

19th Jan.
I have been playing quite a lot of deck tennis when the weather allows and doing plenty of study in between and would like some embroidery cotton as I have taken up needlework. We have a good library here. I am a member of the debating society and I have also taken up shorthand and book-keeping. We have had one issue of warm clothing, and plus our Red Cross parcel per week makes life bearable.

A. A. FORRESTER, 10th Dec.
Dunedin.

The food here is good and wholesome and the Red Cross parcels which we get about once a week, beyond praise. I scored a good one last week, a Christmas invalid parcel, some of the contents: plum duff, a stick of chocolate, 50 State Express cigarettes, tin of prunes, peas, turtle soup, cheese, butter, jam, milk, tea, honey, sugar, marmite, tin of salmon, egg ingredients rolled oats, etc. We have football grounds, tennis courts, and baseball, 2 fine social concert huts, library

and a splendid shower house, and not a bad canteen. Comfortable wooden huts, and electric light, good bunks and a straw stuffed mattress, 2 clean sheets and 2 very thick blankets, so with an overcoat on top what more does a chap want. Feeling stronger, and better day by day. Have plenty of warm clothing thanks to the generosity and kindness of the old hands.

Cpl. R. J. HEMSLEY, 15th Dec.

Hawera.
I have managed to get a job in one of the working parties in our camp ground as it gives me something to do, occupies my mind and also gets me a bit of extra food which is also very acceptable. Parcels from the Red Cross are rolling in fairly frequently now, so it looks as though things are looking up. We even have barbers so don't have to shave ourselves. Living in luxury, don't you think?

Pte. B. R. PERCIVAL, 19th Nov.

The Red Cross Food parcels help us a lot as they contain things we need which we would otherwise be without. To-day is the day that we usually get our parcel but they are late this time and haven't turned up yet although I believe they are on the way. They are a real blessing to us and I wouldn't like to be without them again for very long. The Red Cross is doing a wonderful job for us boys and deserves all the support possible as it is a huge undertaking to provide for so many. It is very cold here now and likely to be worse yet and no doubt the winter will be over by the time I can hope to receive a parcel from home. However, I am not faring badly as I have now one set of warm underclothing, a pair of trousers, a shirt, a jacket, a pair of issued socks (in addition to the pair I had on) and a new English greatcoat. I am hoping to get a New Zealand House parcel from London later containing more underwear, etc., which will no doubt reach me long before any parcel from home. It gets dark here early now and the only place to keep warm is in bed so we go to bed early.

E. D. WHITE, 26th Nov. Stratford.

All is organised with good clothing and receiving regularly the ever welcome Red Cross parcels which make all the difference. At present I am keeping well and reasonably fit, but feeling the cold now that winter has arrived, but I guess it won't be long before one gets used to this weather here among the snow-capped mountains. The lads I am in with are practically all strangers to me, although they are New Zealanders, Aussies, and are a fine batch, and I know we will get along together. We have hopes of a good Christmas and New Year if all turns out as well as anticipated after a bit of organisation. Later there should be much to occupy one's time, and I may even do a bit of the old hairdressing to help along.

Pte. R. E. RYAN, 28th Nov. Eketahuna.

We had some rain here last week. Some of the boys got letters the other day, they send them to New Zealand House, that is how they got them so soon and I hope to hear from you soon and to get a parcel from New Zealand House—the

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boys that get them say they are very nice.

Pte. R. A. HUNTER, 22nd Dec.

Wellington.
The health of the camp is good and I have received some mail from home. There is a good library and sports facilities. Later on I intend taking some study. We are all looking forward to Christmas dinner. Tinned lamb, Christmas pudding and some wine, we hope. We have missed on the Red Cross parcel this week but hope to get one next week. I would like cigarettes and chocolate. We get 1 lire a day pay and are paid twice monthly. We have had quite a lot of rain but huts are good and the blankets are warm. We retire at 7 o'clock and rise at 7 a.m.

REGINALD R. ROOKES, 24th Nov.

Pungarehu.
I am still in the hospital and expect to be here for a long time yet. But still it is very good here. We are well looked after and fed and we also receive our food parcel every week. I am not in bed but can get up and go to bed whenever I please. We get up and play cards and other games. We get plenty of milk to drink and I like milk now. News is scarce in these parts but I suppose you don't care about the news so much as long as you get a note now and then.

Sgt. L. F. R. JACKSON, 9th Dec.

Ahipara Beach.
We are having a cold but fine winter. Last year the boys reckon there was snow in October, one of the worst winters for a good many years. You would be having it fairly warm now. We get a special Christmas parcel from the Red Cross with a cake and pudding in it. Gosh it will be good!!

L/Cpl. T. W. D. IRELAND, 21st Dec.

Napier.
Friday is Christmas Day. It has been raining for a whole week and our compound is worse than a coveyard as there is mud everywhere and everything is so uncomfortable. One good feature is we have lovely warm huts and get a wood issue for the fire which heats up the joint nicely. For Christmas Day we are having coffee synthetic at 7.45 a.m. and at 11 a.m. vegetable skilly, not too much water, and at night macaroni, rice and peas. The Red Cross are issuing a Christmas parcel so everything is being jacked up O.K. I am having a little bit of wine and Dave Walsh and I are going to make a duff. Hope it turns out O.K., so between the two of us we should be in good spirits. Chaps that were captured with me got mail to-day so I am still hoping. It was sent in August and through New Zealand House in London, but that is not the quickest way so I am told; ordinary air mail is, I believe, the quickest. A lot of Kiwis from another camp are coming here soon so probably I will see some more friends.

Sgt. C. W. V. FOUNTAIN, 26th Nov.

We are many hundreds of miles from where I wrote last to you. Don't quite know where we are now, except that we are well up in the north of Italy and it is very cold. This is a permanent camp and much more comfortable than the transit camp we went to from hospital.

Had a very interesting and quite comfortable trip which took about 38 hours. Went without sleep but as everything was new about us we didn't miss it so much. Had to change trains three times with long waits in between. Apart from the middle stretch of travelling, which was done in trucks, we travelled in third class carriages much to the disgust of the locals, and much to our delight. Luckily we were a small party and that I should think, accounts for our comfort. The north is a much more picturesque part than the south and seems more prosperous; fertile land all cultivated. Most of it is done by oxen and we saw from the train twelve and fourteen oxen pulling one plough. Very heavy frosts every night followed by fine but not very warm days. We were issued with Red Cross underclothes and an Italian overcoat at the transit camp. Apart from those I'm still struggling along in short pants and shirt—a little chilly at times. Hope to get well equipped here soon. Saw Alan Kingston here and he and his friends gave me a lovely warm scarf, a pair of socks, toothpaste, towel and handkerchiefs, so I'm not badly off. They have been here a long time and have had parcels from home.

E. W. H. FORDHAM, Auckland.

NEW ZEALAND PARCELS.
We received our first issue of New Zealand Red Cross food parcels and believe me they are good. There was only one way they could be improved and that would be by having sugar and milk in place of something else. As far as milk goes I heard about it previously so kept enough for tea this week. The peas were just like green peas at home. We have had small tins of them in English parcels but they don't come anywhere near up to these in taste and are artificially coloured by the look of them. The meats also surpassed most others we have had so I think that speaks well for New Zealand production. Of course we always eat these things that do not keep in the first day or two as the tins are punctured when we get them. The parcels are excellent and much appreciated and if we can get one once a week till we leave this country we won't be doing so badly.

Pte. JOHN L. JONES, 9th Dec.

Napier.
Except for an occasional job when we are "hut for duty" which occurs about once a week we do no work at present. Just looking forward to the day when we will all be together again. All days and weeks are a repetition of the previous ones here.

L/Bdr. G. E. SCHOFIELD, 25th Dec.

Napier.
Thanks to the Red Cross we are doing well here to-day. Puddings, cakes, etc.,

CAMPO P.G. 66 P.M. 3400

Sgt. JOHN EDWARD BISHOP, 17th Dec.

Ashburton.
Well this is what I have been waiting for for a long while to be able to write and let you all know what was what. I am pleased to say that I am well and on the up grade. Was Prisoner of War in Libya for five months and I managed

to keep well but that was all. We have just landed here a week ago and conditions are better, but we are just in a transit camp now and they say things are all right in our own permanent camp so there is no need to worry one bit. I wrote two letters when in Libya but do not know if they got home or not. It was a great treat when we arrived here to receive our first Red Cross parcel. We get one per man each fortnight they say. You can all imagine what things tasted like after being without so long. The parcel contained all necessary needs and will always be looked forward to.

D. J. GIBBS, 12th Dec.

Nelson.
Don't like barbed wire much, but it won't be for ever. I still have my watch (parting gift from Mental Hospital, Nelson) and my fountain pen. We get a Red Cross parcel between two of us each week. Contains 1lb. butter, 1lb. jam, powdered milk to make 1 1/2 gallons, 6 ozs. of prunes, 5 ozs. raisins, 5 ozs. chocolate, 12 ozs. sugar, 4 ozs. tea, 2 ozs. coffee, 4 ozs. cheese, 1 tin beef, tin luncheon sausage, small salmon and small sardines, a wee cake of scented soap. Without this we would not have made it. Thank Red Cross for me. Am with Home troops and South Africans. Hope to go to a New Zealand camp soon.

CAMPO P.G. 57 P.M. 3450

Bdr. H. J. HOLMES, Oct.
Yesterday my first parcel from you arrived. I must say that I did not really expect it for another couple of months anyway. I was the first chap (New Zealander) to get a letter from home and now I am the first again to receive a parcel from home. Words quite fail me in expressing joy and thanks for such a thoughtful parcel. I had not a pair of socks to my name for six months' past as those I was wearing when captured wore out. I did not have time or opportunity at the time I was taken to retrieve my pack or haversack so had only what I stood up in. The only two personal articles I had with me were my pipe and a scarf. I promptly recognised the little nail scissors. The pyjamas are what I had been looking forward to for some time.

CAMPO P.G. 107 P.M. 3200

F. R. J. COLLINS, 24th Dec.

Christchurch.
To-night I got a letter posted on the 27th October. So I am up to date. I have been very lucky with my mail. I seldom miss a week.

30th Dec.
Well, Christmas has passed and it was very cheerful and enjoyable. We received one Christmas parcel between two of us. It helped to create a real Christmas feeling in the camp. We had a sing-song in the hut in the evening and altogether we had a very good time. I don't know what came over me but I sang a song so maybe I'm not as old as I sometimes feel. The snow is quite well down on the mountains we can see and on moonlit nights it is a marvellous sight.

5th Jan.

I've had ten letters in the last five

days. I'm still about the luckiest chap in this hut. On New Year's Eve, of course, we had a sing song in the hut and most of us stayed out of bed and saw the Old Year out and the New Year in.

Pte. TREVOR REID, 16th Dec.

Featherston.
There isn't much we can do with our work money. Work is going all right, it won't do us any harm. It doesn't affect me at all, mostly shovel work. I was lucky with the wound in my shoulder. I haven't felt it at all. It missed all the bones and anything else of importance. So far we have had ample food and the parcels are usually here. We don't often miss. Should start getting mail soon that will be a great day. Time flies, we work 5 1/2 days a week and it's no time between week-ends. We have about four frosts on end, don't get much wind, and the rain comes all at the one time. I seem to have enough warm clothes, got another thick singlet so now have a complete change. Have a very good overcoat and boots so haven't felt the cold at all.

Pte. C. GALVIN.

Te Mata
About two months' supply of parcels arrived here a day or so ago. There is also 12 bags of personal parcels waiting to be distributed. One of these days I'm picking, I will get a letter or two from someone even though they may be bills.

16th Dec.

Today is the first opportunity I've had to write an air mail letter. I could have before but money was the difficulty. You mentioned in one of your letters about boots—Well I would certainly like a pair, also a pair of khaki strides.

5th Jan.

Have received eight letters so far. I did not like the idea of asking but since you have asked what I want I will write down a short list. Most of all I want a pair of boots, sox, gloves, and a pair of pants. Books also, and chocolate is very acceptable. We do not receive English papers, but we are receiving consignments of parcels fairly regularly.

JOHN H. WILSON, 27th Oct.

Kohu Kohu.
Well it won't be long to Christmas now and summer with you. Don't send any more winter clothing. Send anything but. There must be a lot of chaps returned home to New Zealand by now. Believe some of the chaps painted a racy picture of P.O.W. life when they got back. All I can say is that some people have short memories.

Pte. H. NICOL.

Masterton
Well, what do you think of this? We have just had our first Christmas dinner, our first since being Prisoners of War. Received a Red Cross parcel from New Zealand to-day and what a treat. We owe our recent good health to Red Cross parcels. Have had no mail for five months so am still expecting letters and parcels. Have quite a bit of exercise here when fine but there's been lots of rain and thunderstorms.

Pte. N. H. JONES, 7th Dec.

Inglewood.
I must tell you I have received 7 letters from you and wasn't I pleased as it seems years since I have heard from you. I am keeping well since I have a little work to do. Still waiting for a parcel from you, have received one clothing parcel from the Red Cross, short, singlet, underpants, socks, and hankies, much appreciated.

Cpl. W. A. SHARP, 13th Jan.

RED CROSS CLOTHING ISSUE.
The weather is extremely cold here just now although fine, we have terrific frosts. We have just had a Red Cross issue of English boots, underclothes and socks, battle dress, jersey and hat, so the boys look very smart. I still have not had any cigarette parcels, etc., from London House, so I think I shall write to them also this week. 200 cigarettes a month which is what the other chaps are getting are a big help.

30th Dec.

This has been rather an auspicious week as regards mail. Saturday last I received your June parcel, the March one is still to arrive. Needless to say the chocolate did not last long. What one wants most here are chocolate, socks, smokes and soap. We have just completed three days' holiday in celebration of Christmas and believe me we fared well. We got 1/2 a Christmas parcel each, containing cake, duff, biscuits, etc., and our usual issue parcel on Saturday. You will see that it was a much better Christmas than the last one which was spent at Tripoli.

Pte. R. W. Hewitt, 9th Apl.

Masterton.
I have still had no letters or news since I went up the desert, but we get lots of New Zealand news from chaps who have been prisoners for some time and get letters fairly regularly. We heard wool was up 15 per cent, and that F. xianna won the G.N. but don't know who won the New Zealand or Melbourne Cups. We had a good Christmas. The Red Cross sent up a special Christmas parcel and the Italians gave us wine for our canteen, also some more for the New Year. It was rationed, of course, but if one could find enough men who didn't drink it was easy enough to get a good spark up. . . . We have the old camp going well now and have concert parties and a library with some good books. The winter is coldest but fine, so far, and we are well clothed and not asked to work in the wet.

H. SILVESTER.

Tauranga.
Well, here I am decked out as a British Tommy. Eight hundred uniforms along with bales and bales of underclothing have arrived in camp. The underclothing was distributed during the week. To-day is devoted to the problem of uniforms. Now while the underclothing generously billowed and flowed around the largest of us, the average size of the uniforms fit snugly round the smallest of us. There are also two hundred uniforms short of camp tally. The fitting problem particularly for us, the more generous in bulk, was a real one. However my unenvied distinction of pos-

session about the most tired pair of trousers in the hut obtained for me precedence in issue. I received size FIFTEEN trousers. Whack-oh. (He takes FIVES in civies.) Judging by our fitting experience the New Zealander is a much broader average man than the Tommy. The South African is a larger man than either but slim for his size. To-morrow we have a visit from a representative from the Vatican City. Today has been all excitement preparing for the event.

STANLEY BERTRAM WOLFE.

New Plymouth.
Just had another letter from you dated 22nd June. The new job is going fine. I told you last letter that we were working and can now give you some idea of what we do. We work 40 hours a week and get paid by the hour. On top of that we get extra rations and better living conditions, showers, clothes, washing facilities, etc. The camp itself is new and up to date in everything—hospital, canteen, barber shop, bootmaker and all the rest of it. The work is mostly spade work, digging drainage ditches, and was rather tough for the first few days but now I'm feeling the benefit of it, as brown as a nigger and fighting fit.

Gunner L. C. SUTHERLAND, 30th Dec.

I received my first parcel from home a few days ago. It was a great thrill for me when I opened it and saw all the good things inside. The slippers will sure get a hiding as it is starting to get cold here now. I think it is the second parcel you sent so I suppose the first one will turn up soon. Well, Christmas is just about over, we all had a pretty good time. We each received a special Christmas parcel which contained a cake and a pudding. We had three days off work for Christmas.

P. L. RANKIN, 18th Nov.

Saddle Hill.
We worked only 2 1/2 days last week, heavy rain making the ground too wet to work on. The ditching and levelling off of the land is going on steadily and we have made a big difference in the 6 weeks we have been on the job. With our three lire a day wages we can buy onions, pumpkin, meat extract, pudding mixtures, and dried fruits and by cooking these up we can help out our rations.

5th Jan.

I have had no more letters since I got yours of August 12th. We have had a few days off work lately owing to bad weather and the snow is coming lower down on the mountains. When some of the boys hung out their washing early this morning it wasn't long before the clothes were frozen stiff. As we are now past the shortest day, we can expect some cold weather but there is always the consolation that the days are getting longer and the sun higher and hotter and as we are on a plain we get all the sun there is. The draining and levelling work is still going on and what we have finished looks swell. It is all divided into blocks of about 15 by 2 chains with drains between. Each block is built up in the centre so as to give fall to the drains on each side.

30th Dec.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas has come and gone and it was a great improvement on our last one. About 10 days ago I got a new pair of Red Cross boots and on the 22nd your first parcel arrived. Then on Christmas Eve we received a special food parcel between each pair of men, its contents being 1lb cake, 1lb. Christmas pudding, 4lb. sweets, 4lb. chocolate, 4lb. chocolate biscuits, 1lb. butter, two tins of meat and one tin of jam, 3oz. tins of cheese, tin of milk, tea and sugar. Our cooks had been saving a little out of each day's rations for some time so as to enable them to put on three meals on Christmas Day and we started the day with dixie of boiled rice to which we added some milk, sugar and tinned figs. About 10 o'clock we made some tea and at mid-day we had another dixie of cabbage, rice, pumpkin, meat and gravy followed by the Christmas duff and custard. We made tea again in the afternoon and our evening meal was a dixie of pasta ascute, and we finished off the day with another brew and the remains of the cake and some bread, butter and jam. Altogether, it was quite an enjoyable day. Yesterday we received a Canadian parcel each to carry us over the next week, so prospects are not so bad at present. The shirts are rather light for winter wear, but I was able to swap one of the towels for a flannel shirt, giving me two.

LEONARD W. GREATBATCH, 5th Oct. Napier.

Your parcel hasn't turned up yet, but the next-of-kin parcels are still rolling in. We are very happy in our new camp, do 7 hours work a day, breaking in land, draining, etc., for which we get extra rations, and 1 lire 90 cents per hour, which we will be able to spend at the canteen when it opens.

PARCELS ARE STILL ROLLING IN.

Next-of-kin parcels are still rolling in, also London House ones, and cigarette parcels, so my turn will come soon I hope, as there are quite a few who haven't received one yet. They are lovely parcels, the London House ones. We have been very fortunate with food parcels too, one each week so far and enough left for two more weeks. Will describe a day's effort—4 a.m. a mug of tea and meal out of parcel, meat roll, or bacon or what you have, tinned of course; 7 a.m., leave camp, 1 hour walk, start work and work 8-12, 12-1; loaf of bread and soup, work 1-4 p.m. and return to camp. Have shower, and then stew at 5 p.m. and 1 loaf of bread. Make brew of tea about 7 p.m., have 1 loaf and biscuits from parcels, and then perhaps three rubbers of bridge. Half day Saturday, food and clothing parcels issued in the afternoon. Sunday is washing and repose, and there you have it.

CAMPO P.G. 148 P.M. 3200

R. AEKINS, Dec.

As you will see by my new address I've changed camps. I've only been here a few days, but I think it will be O.K. We have great scenery, as there's a "corker" river right alongside. It's too cold for swimming. I'll start next season at home. I'm in good health. No more mail as yet.

Pte. JIM MCGILL, 5th Nov. Pokeno.

Guy Fawkes time, you will never guess where I am—in the house of correction not for murder or theft—the story will be interesting over a glass of ale and I hope at not too-far-distant a date. My sentence is eight days—the crime will not blemish the fair name of McGill. I wonder if it is like this in Mt. Eden?

17th Dec.

Just a line to tell you of my change of address. We have only been here three days, conditions not the best. 250 of us working for a contractor, real navvies, pick and shovel. We leave camp at 7.30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. I receive my mail fairly regularly—the shortest time has taken just over two months for the air mail cards.

CAMPO P.G. 201 P.M. 3200

Cpl. B. C. HUNTER, 5th Dec.

Hastings.

THREE PARCELS IN ONE WEEK.

Mail has been arriving fairly regularly lately, but for the first week now in quite a long while, I haven't had at least one letter; in fact, it has been quite a black-out, except for the fact that I received the second parcel you sent me, really it is marvellous. I have waited almost twelve months for one parcel, then suddenly receive all three in one week—one from England, and the March and June ones from yourself. I now have almost as much stuff as I had in civil life and very many thanks, I certainly shan't feel the cold as much this winter. The chocolate was particularly acceptable from the food point of view because sweet stuff is what we need more than anything.

A. H. McBRIDE, 6th Nov.

Palmerston North.

Yesterday was my birthday and I received a Red Cross parcel on that day, so I say that was my birthday present. The weather is getting colder and we have an extra blanket. We entertain ourselves once a week by having concerts and they are good. Other nights we have talks on various things.

11th Dec.

Last week an officer brought me a nice mouth organ, and now we have music and a sing-song in the ward, also give items at the concerts.

CAMPO P.G. 202 P.M. 3200

Pte. ALAN WARD, 8th Aug. Timaru.

As you can see by the address I am working in a military hospital. It is over five weeks since we came here and time is passing quite quickly. This is a large hospital for prisoners of war, there being over 100 of us orderlies and some of our own doctors. The work is interesting, especially after 7 months prison camp life. We have good quarters and life on the whole is not so bad. A fortnight ago I received a Red Cross parcel (N.O.K.) sent from the New Zealand Red Cross. The parcel contained 24 items—clothes, brushes and toilet gear and chocolate, also a kit bag.

FUNERAL SERVICE.

I went for my first walk outside the hospital gates to a funeral. Whenever a patient dies about 10 of us orderlies are usually allowed to go, taking it in

turns. They are buried in the civilian cemetery about half a mile away, the burial service being taken by our own padre. It was attended by the Italian Colonel and two officers and 15 soldiers and ourselves. After the service we were taken for a walk around the cemetery, which is a very large one, and contains some very fine specimens of sculpturing work, and on the whole very interesting. After leaving we were taken back to the city and had a walk through part of it. It is a very large place, having a moat and all complete. The city of Lucca contains 100 churches and a population of 80,000 inside and outside of the old walls. It is surrounded by hills with dwellings dotted all over them and reminds one very much of Christchurch.

Pte. C. D. BENNETT, 6th Nov.

Geraldine.

This week I am quite pleased with myself as I can go short distances without crutches and can get along to the meetings at night. I should think by the look of them, my wounds will be healed by Christmas time. The doctor says it has taken longer as it's near the ankle, which is always moving. However, he is pleased with the progress made. Monty and Jack Richards and I hope to go out to camp together. Jim Crawford left for camp a week or so ago. He was jolly good to me while here, doing a lot of little jobs for me. Dave Jacobs, of Hinds, left for camp, or campo as it is called here, a week or two ago. Yesterday I got my English-Italian grammar and it seems a jolly good one. I never realised before how much of my school English I had forgotten. However, it's good for the mind to have something to puzzle over, and passes the time well. The meetings of an evening are very good—a good concert last night, singers, reciters, conjurers, etc., and a very good community sing leader who made the chaps laugh before he had said half a dozen words of the joke he was telling.

**OSPEDALE MILITARE
PARMA**

Pte. J. WILKINS, 31st Aug.

Papakura.

NEVER OUT OF SMOKES.

I have a bit of news for you this time, only don't put too much faith in it. I have been passed by a Repatriation Board to be sent home. We are getting plenty to eat which is one of the main things, as well as plenty of smokes.

8th Nov.

I haven't had any mail from you for over two months or more. We get plenty to eat owing to the fact that we get a Red Cross parcel every week. We are never out of smokes now. We get 75 a week, which keeps us going. We have a lot of Red Cross stuff here. Some of the jokers are knitting pullovers. The weather is starting to get a bit cooler now.

OSPEDALE CASERTA

C. J. FRANKS, 20th Sept.

Lower Hutt.

We play bridge for 6 hours a day. I hope you were not in the dark too long as to my whereabouts, as posted missing and wounded would worry you a lot. We have had two Red Cross parcels and

they are the real backbone of this life. You get a real thrill when they arrive. One of the boys passed away this week and we had a funeral to-day. I might say one of the most impressive sights I have ever seen. The road was lined by the boys as Guard of Honour, a short Church service and the pall-bearers took the casket 200 yards to gate of camp, with two parties doing slow march and carrying three beautiful wreaths made of big ferns and lovely flowers with big ribbons done in gold leaf bearing "Italian Sympathy." A most impressive sight.

L/Cpl. J. V. BEVAN

I am still in hospital and very well and just waiting for the cuts to heal. Life here is very boring. Books are few, outside news there is none, so you'll see that the "Dominion" will come in handy for packing in parcels. Still we are being well treated and consider ourselves very lucky all things being considered, and I reckon I've actually picked up a wee bit of weight due to lack of exercise, macaroni or rice, and two Red Cross parcels which we receive one between two men every ten days—they are a Godsend. Thank goodness I'll be able to return to you all safe and sound in wind and limb, but Mum, you'll have a full-time job appeasing my appetite.

Sgt. L. G. G. HAY, 30th Aug.

Dunedin.

It's lovely here, beautiful sunny days, green trees, etc., and if only we were not boxed up with barbed wire and sentries, it would almost be like a holiday. This is my day—every day the same. Awake about seven and walk round the block before breakfast, which consists of a ladleful of coffee, nothing else. But I save some bread from the night before and soak it in the coffee. From then till ten I have a smoke and a walk or read, then go to an Italian class run by a Welsh soldier, from 10 to 11.30. About 11.45 we get dinner, a bowl of macaroni, a rissole, sometimes fruit (a pear or two small tomatoes) and a round loaf of bread (less than half of half a New Zealand loaf), which has to last the day. From then till 3 I rest, have a couple of smokes and read. At 3 the British orderlies give us a cup of tea (out of the Red Cross parcel). At 4 we get five Italian cigarettes (pretty awful) and a glass of wine, and about 5 we have tea, a bowl of rice or macaroni, and a piece of meat. After tea I play bridge till dark and then prepare my best meal—supper—out of my half of the Red Cross parcel. We get one between two, every 10 to 12 days and they save our lives, small tins of butter, jam, sugar, meat roll, bacon, dried fruit, etc., and 25 English cigarettes. They're great, but take a careful rationing to last the time. My mate beats me in this respect, he's a "real miser" and his future wife will be able to feed him on the smell of an oily rag. We get hot water for our cocoa and tea, and so have a decent supper, getting to bed at about 9.30.

CANTERBURY AND WESTLAND PROVINCES:

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P.O. Box 1098, Christchurch.

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OSPEDALE MILITARE TERRITORIALE (Piacenza)

Cambridge.
We have all been issued with a blanket apiece, a welcome addition to our two sheets which were becoming insufficient. Despite the fact that the wounds on my arm are not yet healed I started getting massage the other day. We each received a whole Canadian Red Cross parcel last week, they are much better than the English parcels, having a pound of glorious butter in each and a pound of delicious milk powder, enough to make 4 quarts of good milk. There are also raisins, prunes, chocolate, cheese, 1lb. jam, 2 tins of meat and 2 of fish. So you see we are not forgotten. The South African Colonels are doing more and more here, they are good and kind beyond words. They think that in about five months my arm may be operable, in which case I hope one of them does the job.

1st November.

Another large batch of Red Cross parcels came in the other day, so we have an assured supply of butter and milk at least until Christmas. I have started shorthand. . . . I am forging ahead but slowly with Italian, but believe I have a better grasp of it already than I ever had of French. Next week I shall have my German grammar. . . . I believe that the Italians are making special arrangements for treatment for nerve cases. Just at the moment our Red Cross parcels are coming in regularly every 12 days.

8th December.

It is very cold here now and very foggy. It is a bit of a shock to find that sunny Italy has in the north at least a worse winter than Sussex.

CAMPO. P.G. 52—P.M. 3100.

Chaplain CAPT. H. A. MITCHELL.
29th Dec.

Christmas again—the third I have spent away. The day was wet and gloomy, but I take my hat off to the men for the way they stood up to it. The Christmas Red Cross parcel was a gem, and made all the difference to the men. It included a cake, a plum-duff, a tin of sweets, jam, margarine, sugar, chocolate biscuits, etc. I wandered round some of the huts, which they had decorated as best they could and saw them having dinner. They were as happy as children. It made the heart glad. On Christmas Eve members of the Roman Catholic, Church of England, and Free Church choirs went round the camp singing carols. That was appreciated. On Christmas morning I had a communion service with more than 350 present, and in the evening a carol service with more there in spite of the cold. The spirit of the camp has been just splendid. The boys are all very optimistic.

CAMPO P.G. 107—P.M. 3200.

Pte. CON GALVAN, 13th Jan.

It's been a day for the prisoners in here to-day. There was an almost complete outfit of battle dress for every man, besides a lot of other clothing. The

pants were a Godsend as far as I was concerned.

CORRECTION.

In March Pamphlet we printed figures for distribution of relief goods to Japanese camps. The figures for the Philippines should read 1,300 tons and for Malaya 1,200 tons.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

The Australian Red Cross Society is actively engaged in arranging for their Prisoners of War to have educational books. They are negotiating for the appointment of a representative in Great Britain who will be responsible for the provision of facilities to enable Australian prisoners to study subjects applicable to Australian professions and occupations.

The food parcels for their Prisoners of War are packed and despatched from Canada by mutual arrangement. Thus they fulfil their quota of food parcels for their prisoners, and the Canadian parcels are universally popular.

ENQUIRY SECTION.

Dvr. C. MUTCH, No. 3693, 4th R.M.T., A.S.C., 1st Echelon, was taken prisoner at Corinthia, Greece. His wife has had no news of him since.

Pte. CHARLES HENRY MARTIN, No. 22130, 21st Auckland Batt., 2nd Echelon was reported to have been taken prisoner in Crete on the 23rd May, 1941. No further word has been heard of him.

Would next-of-kin who have boys in either of these two sections make enquiries from them as to whether they have any knowledge of the whereabouts of either Dvr. C. Mutch or Pte. C. H. Martin. If they can secure any further information, will they please send same to this office.

Dvr. R. H. D. WOOD, N.Z.A.S.C.
Gnr. MURRAY D. McLAGAN.

We inserted enquiries for these two men in our No. 6 and No. 7 Pamphlets. Now they are both reported to be safe in the Middle East. We are sure all our readers will rejoice with their next-of-kin in this good news.

STALAG XXI. D.

Pte. C. E. BARWELL, 31st Jan.

We made a very good cake out of powdered biscuits, currants, prunes, margarine and yorkshire pudding powder. We had a Christmas pudding, a small cake, 1lb. chocolate biscuits and a small tin of confectionery in our Christmas parcel. They were great luxuries. The Scottish men celebrated New Year's Day. The lights were on until about 1 a.m. on New Year's Morning. At midnight on New Year's Eve they sounded the "Last Post" and sang Auld Lang Syne. Yesterday England played Scotland at football, England winning by 5 to 1. On the 31st we went to a cinema show. It was quite good. The first I have seen. The talkie was in German, but printed in English underneath. At midnight on New Year's Eve five of the wild Scotsmen dug me out of bed and insisted on my having some cake, Christmas pudding and biscuits.

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND

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