

22 February 1942

Pasta Suda for lunch and six of us missed out on it and got extra stew at night. Issue of wine - played cards for it again. Had a very interesting talk by Sergeant Stewart on the RAF and planes etc.

23 February 1942

Talk by Rennie Hynes on NZ railways units overseas.

24 February 1942

Talk by Purcell on Education by travel.

25 February 1942

Issue of cheese, nearly got caught with fire. A Sergeant Weaver escaped last night. He could talk Italian and German. Check parade lasted till 11.30 p.m. Two prisoners were taken out of their hut tonight and beaten up by the Carnieres guards (*French*) and the boys are mad. Dick Mussen spoke on the Solomon Islands.

26 February 1942

Issue of 40 cigarettes. P.S. letter received by Tommy from home. By the way Uncle Jerry had a serious accident, broke his backbone and little hope of his recovery. Uncle Sam, Uncle Joe and Uncle Win all doing well. In the news only crystallised sugar for public use in Italy from 1 March, also 4 ozs of soap per person per month, bread ration 200 grams a day and we get 500 per day. Issue of sugar and wine. The biscuit per week has been cut out; they want them for the front. All men 18 - 55 have been called up for service.

27 February 1942

Issue of cheese. Sergeant Weaver got caught on the French border.

28 February 1942

We went to a concert in Hut 31. It was very good.

1 March 1942

Pasta suda for lunch. Went to church and Padre Mitchell took it. It was his first service here. We were paid 14 liras each and George and I won 10 liras in a hut sweep. The 100 of us in the hut put in 1 lira each per day and there are 10 numbers drawn each time. It's a good idea as it enables a chap to get something extra. Wrote letter card to Mary and a postcard to Mr Spence. Charlie Bruce's birthday today and we gave him our wine issue. He didn't quite get drunk!

2 March 1942

I put cheese in my plain rice today. Was on a working party carrying gravel and concrete. We played Monopoly at night. One of the chaps made a board out of a square of the ceiling.

3 March 1942

We had (PG) Prisoners of War branded on our coats today. I went to the farmers meeting at night. The speaker was a South African on farming in the Transvaal. We had an impromptu concert in the hut tonight.

4 March 1942

We bought some cheese in the canteen today, 60 cents a cube. We got a Red Cross parcel, one between two, also 25 cigarettes, Gold Flake, each. George and I shared ours and we got 1 lb of butter, 1 lb of jam, 1 cake of cheese - $\frac{1}{4}$ lb, 1 lb of powdered milk, 1 packet of prunes, 1 packet of raisins, salt, sugar, 1 tin of bully, 1 tin of meat loaf, 1 tin of salmon, 1 tin of sardines, 1 packet of biscuits, $\frac{1}{2}$ cake of chocolate. A Canadian parcel. We were issued with cheese.

6 March 1942

Issue of cheese, soap, sugar, 25 cigarettes. They raided huts for fires and took some chaps to the cooler which is a tent. Last night we had a very interesting talk by a sailor who was at the Battle of Cape Mutapan. In the news 1800 RAF planes raided Paris.

7 March 1942

Another talk by Sergeant Stewart on planes and bombs.

8 March 1942

Open air church service, wrote letter card to Mum and postcard to Gilbert. Talk by South Africans on wild animals.

9 March 1942

Had milk and sugar on rice today and it was great, double issue of wine. I gave one to Irish for 500 competitions and sold the other for 1.60 lira.

10 March 1942

Our rations here have been cut down as from today and we get one loaf and one meal at 12.30 p.m., stew and coffee at 5.30 p.m. as well as the morning and no sign of parcels for about 3 weeks yet. Not so good for us.



Camp 52

11 March 1942

On working party today carrying stones from the river to the Italian barracks. It's no good on the rations we get. Issue of 25 cigarettes. The guard on the working

party told the boys today, "Musso finito, Italy finito, Hitler finito". A guard broke up some wood for us down by the river.

12 March 1942

One loaf smaller than usual, only 200 grams instead of 250 grams. News Tiny Freyberg has been Knighted.

13 March 1942

Issue of cheese and sugar. The sugar is beet sugar not cane. They gave us one tin of bully between three instead of giving it out with parcels. George and I went to a talk on Hollywood and an Aussie concert after it.

14 March 1942

Talk on New Guinea and at night on New Zealand.

15 March 1942

We were lucky and got two meals today, stew for lunch and macaroni for tea. Issue of 25 cigarettes each, 14 tubes of toothpaste and 14 singlets to the hut which were drawn for. 30 tins of bully and 300 cigarettes were stolen from the stores last night and they searched our huts today.

16 March 1942

Issue of sugar, cheese and onions. Wrote letter card to Mary and postcard to Keith last night.

17 March 1942

We got another parcel the same as the last one between three. Went to lecture on general farming in Canada.

18 March 1942

Paid 15 liras, less 3 lira for bed boards pinched from Indian huts- everybody had it taken off. Also some chaps had to pay for blankets etc. damaged at Capua. We had a concert in the hut at night and had the piano and other instruments.

20 March 1942

Issue of 150 grams of cheese, double issue. On working party carrying stones. Issue of blacking for boots and 25 cigarettes. Talk in hut on gold mining by a South African.

21 March 1942

Issue of sugar. Open air camp concert this afternoon. Talk at night by South African on natives and their way of living etc. Italian guards says that there are riots in Geneva, Rome and Naples and he says that the Italians bomb Geneva. Russians start their offensive today. Rationing of food in Germany.

22 March 1942

Wrote letter card to Mum and postcard to Jack Harrison. Talk by a sailor off the "Ajax" (22) on the Battle of the River Platte. She sunk 13 ships in the first 14 days of war and the first one two hours after war was declared. On the 13th day she had 21 torpedoes in the water at the same time and one hit.



HMS Ajax

25 March 1942

Inspection by new Camp Commandant today but he didn't come near our hut.

26 March 1942

Issue of sugar; bought onions at canteen 2.80 liras kilo. Talk at night by a sailor on subs, also the sinking of the Thetis sub in Liverpool harbour.



*Thetis Submarine
Renamed HMSM Thunderbolt*

27 March 1942

Issue of cheese. George's birthday and we were on a working party in the morning painting a roof and we helped the war effort by putting it on thick! In the afternoon a chap in one of the other huts hopped out a window in the out-of-bounds area and got shot twice by a guard after he had his hands up, but he is alright. Talk at night by South Africans on their campaign in Kenya.

28 March 1942

24 Medical men went away to a hospital today to look after Italian wounded. George, Bluey and I made a duff out of half a loaf of bread each, cheese and onion and it was good. They say Turkey is in the war, also that British troops landed in France and have taken prisoners.

29 March 1942

Wrote letter to Mary and postcard to Alan Robertson. Lucky today, rice instead of coffee for tea.

30 March 1942

Issue of cheese.

31 March 1942

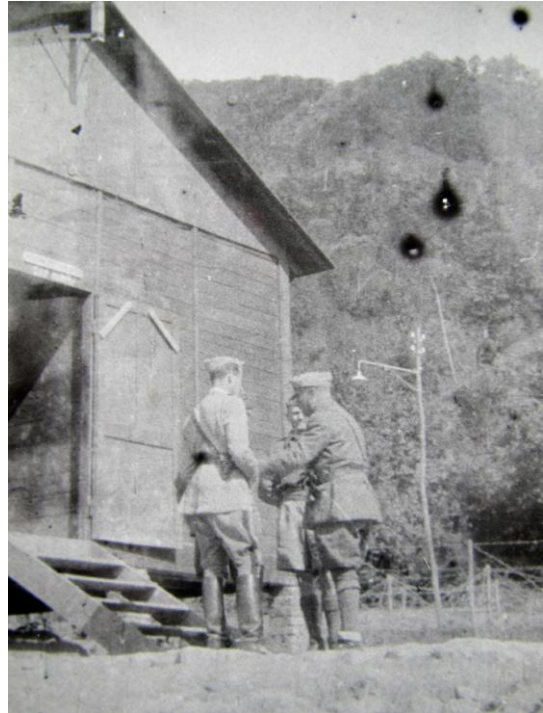
Issue of 12 cigarettes each, the first we had had for some time and are the boys happy. The latest about the parcels is that they were sent to the wrong place. Coreglia Station instead of Coreglia Camp and they will be here for Easter so the Commandant says. Rumour is that British troops are still in France. News is NZ Division is back in Egypt.

1 April 1942

Issue of cheese and sugar. Sold sugar for 3 lira. Won 3 lira yesterday in a hut sweep, also were paid 16 lira, less 3 for damages. Prison Welfare man in camp today. News - German population has increased from 32 to 97 million in 125 years. Letter from England says that in English papers of February there are enough parcels for 2 months.

2 April 1942

Rumour says that British troops are 60 kilometres into France and they are still landing as Jerry is shelling towns on the French coast. On working party this morning carrying stones in our arms to build fireplaces with. Rumour came from Italian guard. Big Naval battle in the Pacific. Huts were disinfected today and we had a medical inspection yesterday. Issue of 1 kilo of wood per man. German news is that the New Zealand Division back in Egypt is ready to return home.



Camp 52

3 April 1942 - Good Friday

We missed our hot cross buns today. Issue of cheese, 68 cigarettes; cake of soap; hut was searched under for a tunnel. Went to church service. All old and new copper has been called for in Italy and bread rationed in Spain.

4 April 1942

Malta bombed heavily. Town of Pizeg bombed. 600 houses blown up. George and I bought onions last night $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilos between us. Talk tonight by South African on tyre making in Dunlop factory in South Africa. Goodyear, Dunlop, India etc. makes are all the same with different names. Firestone - slightly different. Bluey and I boiled some coffee after dark at stone fireplaces.



Malta

5 April 1942

Issue of cheese and one orange each. Went to new rooms for lunch and had the usual mess up. We were there from 12.15 p.m. till 1.45 p.m. before we got through and had our lunch and were there about 5 minutes eating it. Wrote a letter card to Mum and

postcard to Gilbert. Had tea in hut, soup and it was good, better than coffee. Last night the Italian Sergeant told the boys that he is sick of war and in town chickens cost 90 liras each and that the average wage of workers is 35 lira per day. German news tonight says that a ship of Leander class sank in the Pacific. We also got an onion each.

6 April 1942

Issue of cheese. Italian guard says Hitler demanded half a million men from Musso. We were wakened up at 2 a.m. this morning and had to sit up for a check parade and we found out today that some chap was roaming round then. We have had great weather these last two weeks but it started raining last night and has poured down since then. Colombo bombed by Japs, RAF raid on Benghazi and Derma. Russians repulsed on all fronts. Malta bombed again.

7 April 1942

Raining again all day. Alex railway bombed also Malta. Russians have lost one million men killed and wounded this year. RAF raids Paris again. Unofficial word that parcels have arrived at the Station and that we will get one between two this week and one between three next week. Parcels arrived tonight in camp.

8 April 1942

Issue of cheese. Fine today but muddy. Great excitement today - issue of parcels three between 4 men. Some chaps got letters today airmail from NZ saying they were posted missing on the 28 December so our people had a good Christmas after all. The three parcels were split up. George and I took one and Bluey and Shorty one and we divided the jam, marg, biscuits etc. four ways also the meats. We had an apple pie between us for tea and it was lovely. The Italians were inspecting the parcels and taking all coffee out but our boys were too quick for them and got away with it, the reason being that they say the Italians in Egypt don't get coffee but we think they wanted it for themselves. There was supposed to be enough parcels in the consignment for one each but they were short when they arrived here. All the boys are happy tonight. We were all craving for sweet stuff. We also got three tins of cigarettes, 150 between us. News was - Russians attack seven times losing 400 dead and three Germans wounded, also the Germans had local increases capturing 59 positions. Brazil severs all diplomatic relations with Germany. Japanese shot up 130 planes in Burma wiping out the RAF there. Indians want to take over the complete defence of India. Jap tanker sinks a sub in America and loses three boats. Italian supply ship sunk by sub off Crete. RAF raid Western German, Benghazi, Derna, Desert Irona, activity at Maliki, destroyer "Havelock" sunk.

9 April 1942

On working party and we formed two chains from the river. 500 of us passed stones along for a path. The huts were fumigated with formalin this morning. A few New Zealander's received mail today posted 2 and 28 February. On same job in the afternoon. News came in today with chaps from hospital that Chiauari and Genoa have been shelled from the sea, also that if Genoa is bombed again there will be

riots. The harbour there is full and blocked with damaged and sunken ships. Also that this is the only camp that the rations have been cut in. The Italians had to give the coffee back to the lads today that they took out of the parcels yesterday, the Commandant made them give it up.

10 April 1942

Fine today. Rumours have it that we may get our bread ration increased. Dick and I played our game of 500 for the camp tournament and won. Down at the fires this afternoon we made tea and had a good look around at chaps making porridge out of breadcrumbs and there are a lot of different makes of fireplaces.

News - says that Japs say that the war in the Pacific is by no means over. Italians missing in Africa. 174 killed, 138 wounded, 16,495 missing in the month of March and on the Russian front 430 killed, 2093 wounded, 196 missing for the same month. Also in Africa, 29 killed, 273 missing and an Indian army 352 killed, 358 wounded and 130 missing. Two people shot in Germany for breaking ration regulations and a lot imprisoned in Italy. "Dorchester" and "Cornwall" sunk. German and Italian planes raid Alexandria and Malta. Severe Russian attacks repulsed. British repulsed in Libya at Maliki.

Commandant down at the fires this morning while the boys were brewing porridge, tea etc. and he tested some of it, also weighed the camp's two day's rations when they came in. He is evidently doing his best for us. The Italians lost in November 30,000 men and now 16,000 in March. A chap got a letter from Oamaru today dated 24 February. Word has come that a boatload of wounded going to Alexandria from Tobruk was sunk and some of our chaps we think were on it. The Japs say that the American Navy is finished for two years. The Free French are fighting in the Italian Sahara.

11 April 1942

Fine today. Rumour is that there are two million British in France. Issue of sugar, 15 cubes each instead of crystals and 25 cigarettes each. We were taken for showers and got a TB injection afterwards in the left breast over the heart and it knocked quite a few. It was more painful than in the arm but it went to the heart quicker.

More news a big naval engagement off Ceylon and we lost 6 boats, 120 planes and Japs lost one boat and 6 planes. Huns shot down 159 Russian planes in one month. Heavy raids on Malta and English papers say that as a reprisal Rome should be bombed. Some men in Genoa and other places receive 20 years each jail for hoarding food and flour. Some NZ mail arrived today.



Malta Fortress bombed

12 April 1942

I wrote a letter card to Mary and a postcard to Mrs Hampton. My chest is very sore from the needle.

News: Two large convoys to Malta completely annihilated. Malta bombed again; Germans sink 1½ million tons of shipping in one month in the Atlantic. All Russian attacks repulsed. Stafford Cripps mission to India fails. Indians want complete control and home rule.

13 April 1942

Issue of cheese - we don't get bread till 11 a.m. now and it's fresh. Had two meals yesterday, one very good and the other just water. On working party today passing stones along the chain.

News: RAF bomb Benghazi, three planes shot down. Russian attacks repulsed. The Duke of Gloucester takes an important position in Great Britain. For having a quantity of rubber in their possession one Italian got 20 years and two got 10 years each. Riots in Cairo severe attack on Sir Myles Lumpson's house and Lady Lumpson was tied to a bedpost, also Lady Warcell treated the same way. Submarine "Tempest" overdue and believed to be sunk. Americans say that the Japanese suffer the biggest air defeat of the war.

14 April 1942

Spent all day in bed with a sore tummy and head and throat. Sent George to Medical orderly for some aspros and he came up and took my temperature and then got three of his mates to take me to the infirmary about 900 yards from camp. I lay on a table for an hour waiting for the Doctor to come. He examined me and took me upstairs to bed.

News: RAF raids western Germany and drops pamphlets in Switzerland. Big conference of Yank Generals and Churchill in London and German papers say it is about the big push and they are in the dark about it. Churchill says English air production now equals Germany's, Italians and Japs. Japanese claim that since the start of the war they have sunk 5 battleships, 7 cruisers, 16 destroyers and 164 cargo boats totalling 936,000 tons, damaged 5 battleships, 9 cruisers, 28 destroyers and 3 aircraft carriers sunk. Their losses were 2 cruisers, 13 destroyers and 9 mine layers shot down 1300 planes and lost 165.

15 April 1942

I was examined by a Doctor again and got a dose of salts and my throat painted with iodine. The beds are much more comfortable than in camp, iron frames with canvas and mattresses. We got an issue of cheese and two meals also pay, only 12 lira they say it's the last lot to be taken off for damages. The chap in the bed next to me has a septic foot and the other chap in the room has a boil in his back passage. The infirmary is in an old stone house.

News: Genoa and Turin bombed by the RAF, 2000 people guilty of blackout offences in Turin. "HMS Cornwall" and "Devon" that the Japs sunk are still afloat. RAF bombs Holland, Belgium, Germany and France as well as Genoa, Milan and Turin and the Fiat works. English budget is 300 million pound in the cart. Heavy fighting in Africa but doesn't say where. Heavy Russian attacks all repulsed. Japs claim 32,000 Yank prisoners some on Peninsula. They were asked to surrender but would not.

16 April 1942

Issue of cheese and 25 smokes, more salts and my throat done again.

News: Indian rebel leaders want to throw off English yoke. Germans sank more Yank ships in 6 months than there has been built since the start of war. No Italian newspaper today so no news. Glyn Sells was telling us all about his stay in Norway when he was in the "Courageous" about 1936.

17 April 1942

We got an issue of cheese. Still in bed.

News: English papers report on movement in Ruhr districts of Berlin and strong feeling between Italians and Rommel's crowd in Libya. Japs are trying to isolate Australia and General Wavel is preparing Calcutta for defence.

18 April 1942

We got the Italian orderly to make coffee for us.

News: Japs claim Yank Generals captured in last lot. Yanks reach peak production in 20 days or face disaster. China is Yanks last line of defence and Yank dollars for Chinese blood. Germans shot down 20,500 Russian planes since the start of war and Russia produces 1,000 per month. 11 RAF planes shot down over channel. Heavy Russian attacks repulsed. English attacks Small Island of Crete and repulsed. English sub sunk in the Mediterranean and rumours that Yanks aircraft carrier attacks Tokyo.

19 April 1942

Cold and raining, also thunder and lightening.

News: Parcels arrive in afternoon. Tokyo, Yokohama and two other towns bombed by Yanks and Germans shot down thousands of planes. Japs shot hundreds last month with little or no loss to themselves. Photos in Italian paper of prisoners taken five days ago. Prisoners have been here 12 months. Goering more convinced of German success and food will be Russian downfall. Germany bombed by RAF.

20 April 1942

Very heavy rain all night and this morning, issue of cheese.

News: 57 old prisoners from other camps and hospital arriving today.

21 April 1942

Issue of sugar, 25 smokes also, one English parcel per man and 150 Gold Flake smokes between four men. I got another jab and was sent back to camp. George and I made some porridge and cocoa about 8 p.m. and it's the best we've had since being prisoners.

News: All Russian attacks repulsed and Germans successful. Indian failure of Cripes not to be taken seriously -they can put 7 million men in the field. News brought by the new prisoners. Russia has 350 divisions to put into the field and holds all German bases for spring offensive. Japs have spectacular success early in the war and Singapore has fallen but



they are being held in Burma. Chinese and Yanks doing well. Two Yanks to one Aussie in Australia. Malta getting bombed every night and hundreds shot down, 28 in one night. London has had no raids for 9 months and England is going back on peacetime rations on the 1 May. Commandos made five landings in France and three of them were successful. St Nazarea a failure. Jerry got wind of it. Landings penetrated from 15 to 50 kilometres and took and held two used aerodromes. Yanks ready to do the same in a big way soon to finish the war. Yanks in Ireland and have taken over Ports in Southern Ireland.

22nd April 1942

A very good talk last night on Gibraltar and bull fighting by a sailor. Issue of cheese, two meals and porridge for breakfast and tomatoes and onions for supper with ovaltine. Talk at night by Australian Air Force Sergeant on his training etc. and he was very interesting.

23 April 1942

Rained today, no news of interest.

24 April 1942

Issue of cheese. Rumours of parcels arriving here by 28th, a reserve by the 4th May of 1200 parcels.

25 April 1942 - Anzac Day

A parade of NZ and Australian forces. We paraded as 4th, 5th and 6th Brigade. The largest lot was the 6th with medical. The "Last Post" was played and we sang "Oh God our Help" and Kipling's "Recessional". We had a march past and the salute was taken by Padre Mitchell and he

had on the platform with him representatives of these units and countries: NZ, Australia, Canada, England, Navy, Army and Air Force, Poland, South Africa and Rhodesia. The Camp Sergeant Major sent word around to congratulate us on the display. George and I went to a wireless lecture yesterday. We had a talk in the hut last night by a Commando on his training and experiences in Egypt and Libya. We had a talk tonight by a chap on the 1936 Berlin Olympics which he attended.

WW2 wireless



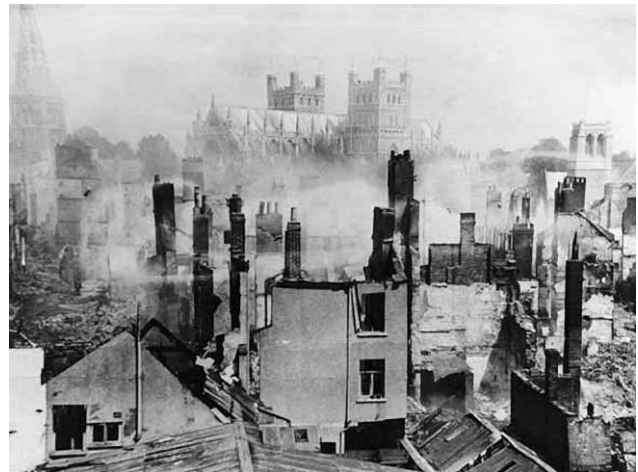
News: Russian paratroops land in Finland, Five or six at a time with wireless transmitters, also American troops land in India. RAF bombed Benghazi and civilians were killed. Malta raided again. Papers still talking of big continual offensive coming off this spring.

26 April 1942

Issue of sugar and 25 smokes. Two meals today. It has been fine all day. We had porridge for breakfast and it was great. Wrote a letter to Mum and postcard to Mary.

Bombing of Exeter, London

News: New Zealand and Fiji taken over by American Army law. Malta bombed day and night. Exeter in England bombed as a reprisal for civilian towns bombed in Germany. Germany bombed by RAF and there were civilian casualties. Local Russian attacks repulsed. German shock troop attacks successful. RAF attacks Italian convoy in the Mediterranean but owing to ack-ack fire and superiority of Italian seamanship, the attack was



unsuccessful. 18 planes shot down on Russian front, 17 of which were English. Germans claim 185 units of British shipping totalling thousands of tons, all naval boats. Meat cut by one third in England. George and I had ovaltine and cocoa for supper.

27 April 1942

Issue of a slice of polony, like Belgium roll and 40 grams of cheese. No news tonight. The rations of two days vegetables which came in today was less than half what we usually get and the Ration Officer says he doesn't know where the next lot is coming from. Macaroni is usually kept for 12 months before use but what we are getting now is only two days old and what came in today was dated 12 April 1942. Had a debate in the hut tonight on - Would NZ be better under American rule? - and the negative side won. Attended photographic lecture today with George.

28 April 1942

We got some Red Cross clothes yesterday and I got two shirts. Some chaps got socks and singlets. Raining today. George and I went to a radio lecture and we had a two loaf duff with currants in it.

News: Hitler made a speech in which he praised the Italians by saying they were healthy, robust and sober and the best soldiers in the world and also they had been at war for 30 years and never known defeat. He also said that Germany has to prepare herself for another winter of war. An Italian Sergeant who went away this morning said that we would be out of here by Christmas.

29 April 1942

Raining again all day. Issue of cheese, two meals. Made tea on Shorty's blower or coke burner which burned charcoal, there are a lot of them in camp and they save wood.

News: RAF raided the town of Rostock in the Polish corridor four nights running and 800 tons of bombs dropped each night. 100,000 people homeless and many civilians killed. The town of Norwich was bombed to the ground as a reprisal. Chaing Kai-Shek withdraws his Chinese troops from Burma because he is dissatisfied with the way Britain is muddling. An Italian aviator repatriated from Egypt says he was starved, small loaves of bread etc. and wet tents. The Japanese have bombed some island in the Philippines. Cologne was bombed, also occupied France. We had a talk by Private Rankin of NZ on Hollywood and he was very good.

30 April 1942

On working party today carrying stones from the river for a path in the camp. At 3.35 p.m. the Sergeant said three more trips then finish. It was 4.15 p.m. when we finished. George and I put our names down for a carpenter's job and there were a lot of others in for it.

News: American fleet is in the Mediterranean. RAF bombed Keil causing heavy damage and many civilian casualties. 100,000 Chinese surrounded by the Japanese.

1 May 1942

Issue of cheese, sugar and 25 smokes. Fine but cold. We were paid yesterday, 15 lira each and today I won 15 lira in a 50 cent hat sweep and it's very handy. George raffled his watch while I was in the Infirmary but he didn't get what he expected.

News: One Italian plane escorting shipping convoy in the Mediterranean and three RAF bombers arrived on the scene and the Italian shot one down and chased the other two off. There is a threat of German reprisal raids on English towns and Churchill says that the people are prepared for them and he will continue the bombing of Germany. Germany advances in northern and centre sectors and Russian attacks repulsed. News in a letter from England says yellow peril was all over the garden (Pacific) but is now under control and rotting and the red flowers are doing well. Rumours of parcels.

Talk by Sergeant Cook on farming implements etc. and their care and maintenance and he was very good.

2 May 1942

Fine but cold. George and I bought some onions and they have gone up in price from 2.80 lira to 3.30 lira. We had a duff - 1½ loaves each with half a packet of currants which was bought in the canteen for 4.40 lira.

News: Hitler and Mussolini held a meeting at Salzburg in Germany. A New Zealander had a letter from his brother in England saying he had gone to NZ House with some money to send him smokes and Gordon told him that the NZ prisoners were now getting one parcel each per week and the NZ Government have made arrangements to send us 200 smokes each per month, but we have yet to see them.

3 May 1942

Two meals today. Mother's Day. Wrote letter to Mum, postcard to Mary. Parcels arrived in camp today, 3100 making 3500 in total and there is great excitement in the camp like a lot of kids. I went to church this morning. George and I bought a packet of figs for 7.70 lira and they are very nice.

4 May 1942

Issue of polony and cheese. I was on ration party today putting the rations on the sling on the other side of the river. More parcels arrived today making a total of 5769 all told in camp, also some bulk food and clothing. The Colonel held a meeting this morning with the hut Commanders regarding parcels and he said that he had had orders to open every tin in the parcels and his idea was to put them all in one hat and for us to put an order in every day, but they didn't agree and they came to this decision - that they would issue one parcel between two, every four days and open a certain number of tins at a time. There is a lot of talk about this in camp and I think that their reason for opening tins is to stop hoarding etc. The latest rumour tonight is that we are to get a parcel each. The Colonel is going to sell knives and tin openers in the canteen and has given orders to the Carabinieri (Italian Military Police) to

leave them alone. We had a raid on our hut yesterday but it wasn't very thorough and they didn't get anywhere. No news tonight. There is a debate on now - the difference between the good old days and today and were we better off?

5 May 1942

Fine today. Issue of parcels, one between two. George and I had tomatoes for supper and also had a two loaf duff for tea. 50 Gold Flake smokes each. A letter from NZ says there was a 14 page bulletin and a 26 hour broadcast of casualties in NZ from the Libyan campaign. 49% casualties in the NZEF. A British paratrooper caught in Austria. Letter from NZ says - Uncle Joe doing well and will be joining you soon.

6 May 1942

Issue of polony, sugar and 25 smokes. Two meals today, both soup. Had showers in the afternoon. George and I are frying polony and bread for supper. Latest rumour is that Crete has been recaptured. There is a lot of sports gear and indoor games that have arrived in the camp, also 1500 books which will be lent out at a lira a time per month. Lovely and sunny today.

I have made a picture gallery with some cardboard and a few snaps and it brightens the wall up a lot. The last time we got parcels one was pinched out of the next hut and last night after lights out a chap was surprised in the hut trying to get another but they didn't catch him and he was later seen in another hut. Some chaps get their parcels and eat the lot at once, especially the South Africans. Heard one chap last night eating, jam, margarine and milk etc. with a spoon. He also got a parcel from home, sold the tobacco out of it and bought figs. He got dysentery. Some of the Tommy's also raffle socks etc. that they get from home but the winners never see the prizes. There were 1500 men in for two pairs of socks the other day at half a lira each and they can't find the chap that raffled them to get the prize. Somebody is doubling up in the hut for grub.

News in letter today. Genoa surrounded by barbwire and trenches expecting attack by the British, also Crete evacuated and Russians in Greece and Germans and Italians moving out, more prisoners expected here in a few days, supposed to be from Greece.

News Malta bombed, two spitfires shot down, one American plane brought down over Egypt, Benghazi bombed by RAF, Italian patrol activity in Libya. Two American battleships arrive at Alexandria presumably an advance guard of the Mediterranean Fleet. Italians deny this but say they may be there. 18 RAF planes shot down over the Channel. Heavy Russian attacks repulsed. RAF raid small town in civilian parts of Germany, and two bombers shot down. All women aged 18 to 25 are under state control as far as jobs go in England. Further rations on textiles and boots etc. in England. Italians say the British are at the last of their resources. Japanese cross the border of Chung Kung and the British are retreating. All Chinese called up. British Naval units at Madagascar. The Governor of the Island is in favour of British rule.

A talk tonight by Sergeant Taylor on NZ Taxi Company's in Auckland.

7 May 1942

On working party today carrying stones from the river for paths in the morning and this afternoon two of us were carrying gravel from the river to the Italian barracks and we made four trips in two hours, about 400 yards each time. The guard was very good and allowed us to sit down on the riverbank and it was very nice, like being in New Zealand. The fruit trees, cherries and figs etc. are very green and starting to bear fruit. We heard three Italians playing on a violin, accordion and a piccolo and they were very good. Very warm today. News just the same as usual. We have Percy Foster, the South African wrestler giving us a talk tonight on some of his career as a wrestler and wrestling in general. He was very good.

8 May 1942

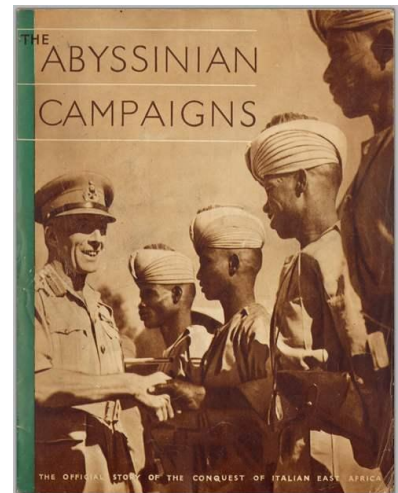
Issue of cheese today. We got another parcel this afternoon, one between two. Very hot today.

News as usual - part of Island of Madagascar has capitulated.

George and I made pancakes out of the Yorkshire pudding mixture and they were great, also had cocoa.

9 May 1942

We were not allowed to light fires till after 12noon today as it is an Italian holiday to commemorate their great victory in Abyssinia and they had a parade in front of the cookhouse. George and I fried bacon and tomatoes tonight. 357 chaps arrived today, mostly South Africans from a camp at Brindisi in Southern Italy. They were on a boat torpedoed off Greece and they have had a pretty rough time. We had a talk in the hut tonight by Private Broomhead on Australia and her industries, including almond oil for cosmetics and powders. Nothing of interest in the news.



Book written on Abyssinian Campaigns

10 May 1942

Only one meal today on account of the new crowd in camp. More parcels arrived today, 2100 more. Wrote letter to Mary and card to Mum.

News: Patrols in Libya, Rostock and another town raided by RAF in Germany. England says that they are only the start of a summer offensive as soon the sky will be black with British and American planes. England accuses Germany of using gas on the Russian front. Yesterday was Italian Empire Day and planes dropped leaflets over Somaliland telling the people not to worry as soon Africa would be under Italian rule. Japanese claim victory in the Coral Sea and the British claim victory around the

Solomon Islands. Japanese claim destroying an aircraft carrier and some other boats.

We had a lecture tonight by an Australian on sugar cane growing etc. and he was very good explaining it right from when it was planted until it arrived at the refinery. I learnt that methylated spirits came from sugar.

11 May 1942

My birthday today. I'm 23. George and I had a cake of chocolate from our last parcel and we put in a two loaf duff with a packet of Lexia raisins and cocoa in it and we are having it tonight with a tin of creamed rice and a tin of apricots, also from our parcel. The duff etc was just like a feed at home. Issue of cheese, sugar and 25 smokes today. It has been raining heavily all day and I've spent the time making a pair of shorts out of my ground sheet and fixing up the roof where it was leaking. More parcels arrived today.

News: Italian patrols in Libya. Tobruk bombed, Malta bombed and two RAF planes down. Russian attacks repulsed in Copland, Donesk and Mornave areas. 22 Russian planes down, three of which were Spitfires. RAF raid Belgium and unoccupied France and bombed non-military objectives. Burmese Government has moved to India. American troops arrive in Venezuela in South America to quell riots among the Navy. They have an airport there. Alexandria bombed also industrial areas in England. Letter from Christchurch, New Zealand says High School Old Boy's lost the cricket; also there are more cars on the road as they have plenty of petrol. Parcels tomorrow.

12 May 1942

I was up at 6.30 a.m. and I went down to the cookhouse for hot water for tea. The hills looked lovely and green and the dark pines made a great contrast with the light green olive trees on the hills. We got another parcel between two today and we got 50 Gold Flake and a tin of Players tobacco between us. Raining all day. A big lorry load of blankets, battledresses, towels and socks arrived today and they will be a great bonus to us especially the towels.

News: Malta bombed, Russian attack repulsed. Churchill's speech saying they are prepared for another winter and warning the people in a long list of German towns to take to the fields as they will soon have their town treated the same as Rostock by the rain of hell from the air. British and Chinese still retreating in Burma. Churchill says that soon Japan will be pulled up short.

13 May 1942

Issue of cheese, raining heavily all day, also thunder and lightening.

News: Malta bombed, four planes down. Italian planes attack a convoy in the Mediterranean. Two boats sunk. The battle for the Russian front is now in full swing. Japanese claim two USA cruisers and one battleship sunk in the Coral Sea, also a lot of other small boats. News from a chap who arrived from hospital today, - he says that the German offensive started two days ago and the Russians have repulsed them on all fronts.



Aftermath of Malta bombing May 1942

We had a talk last night by a chap on fox hunting in England. A chap in our hut was taken to clink tonight for 30 days for lifting an onion when we were on a ration party the other day. Bishop Gerard is in the camp now.

14 May 1942

Very heavy rain all through the night and most of the day.

News: Battle of Kurty now over with one division of Russians completely annihilated. Malta bombed. News from a chap who has arrived from another camp is that the Japanese claims are more or less correct and that the International Red Cross has asked the USA and Britain for ships to carry food to the POW's in Germany and Italy. Churchill has made a complete survey and check of all anti-gas equipment in England and Jerry thinks they are going to use gas against them.

15 May 1942

Fine today. Issue of cheese and blackening for boots. Pay 15 lira, less 6 cents per man for damage to sheets as there is no small cent lower than five. We had sardines, fried bread, creamed rice and ovaltine for supper. We should have got parcels today but we are getting them tomorrow.

News: Benghazi bombed, Malta bombed, English submarine attack on a convoy in the Mediterranean failed. Kurts still fighting and the Germans are on the defensive in other areas. South-east coast of Britain bombed. The Japanese fleet is north of Australia and they can expect an attack on the mainland anytime. Large demonstration in Trafalgar Square and the slogan was "Victory in 1942". In the news last night New Zealand, Australian, and Indian troops have been sent home from Egypt and their places taken by American troops.

16 May 1942

Raining again. We were on a working party but were not there when called so we didn't go out and there was a row over it. Issue of sugar and smokes each. Parcels in

afternoon. We got meat loaf, vegetables, sausages, apple pudding, chocolate, tea, sugar, biscuits, condensed milk, margarine, lemon curd and lexia raisins and sweets.

Rained heavy all night and this morning but cleared up in the afternoon. We got more straw for our beds yesterday and I had a good sleep. Last night a South African got a beaut of a hiding for changing labels on a tin he was swapping and he also lost his original tin which served him right. We are getting beans now in the stew instead of cabbage and it makes it great. Wrote a letter to Mum.

News: Malta bombed. Russian heavy attack repulsed and nothing else of importance.

18 May 1942

Very hot today. Issue of cheese and a change of sheets. Jack Greatbatch got three letters and his brother, Len, got three also one with a photo in. New Zealand troops are back in New Zealand and a chap here received another letter from his cobber who was recaptured in Benghazi hospital, so I think Alf Rawlings will be home as he was there. George and I had a fried meat roll and onions for tea, fried in a pan made by Shorty on a range also made by Shorty. We had a debate in the hut tonight and the motion was - "A woman's place is in the home". Our hut won.

News: USA aircraft carriers are in Australian waters supported by cruisers. Germans have pushed the Russians back to the town of Kurtz. In other Sections Russian attacks have been repulsed. Guerrilla warfare in the Balkans incited by the Russians. RAF planes shot down over the English Channel. Plymouth raided and naval units destroyed. Dick and I lost the final 500 game and lost 3 lira each.

19 May 1942

Today is fine. Issue of parcels, one between two and 500 Gold Flake each. Our parcel was very good. Dried milk, apple pudding, M & V mixed vegetables, tea, chocolate, biscuits, sweets, lemon curd, raisins etc.

News: USA munition factories which cannot be ready until May 1943 closed down as the ones they have are sufficient to meet the demand. 28 RAF planes to one German plane. Russians attacks repulsed.

We had a talk tonight by a Sergeant who was in China from 1937 to 1940 and he told us of incidents concerning the Japs on guard duty and on leave, also about Singapore. He also told us that at that time Japs were on a day's fasting per week and the Chinese were eating boiled earth.

20 May 1942

Issue of cheese smaller than usual. On a working party carrying stones from the river to the latrines and only made three trips in the morning and got some wood. Did not work in the afternoon. George and I had an apple pudding for tea. We baked it in an oven on our stove, also fried vegetables. We had a talk tonight by a South African on the diamond diggings and a big rush he had been on.

21 May 1942

Issue of sugar and 25 smokes. I won about 60 smokes at housie. I washed my battle dress today. George, Dick Mussen and Irish received airmail postcards today from New Zealand in their mother's writing. We had spaghetti in the stew today for the first time as the macaroni has run out altogether. The last used was date stamped "20 April". They also put peas in it, pods and all. Parcel received by New Zealanders from Middle East Red Cross dated April.

News: Mother's birthday. Issue of cheese. Parcel issue today, one between two. We swapped a tin of herrings for creamed rice and apricots. Questions are being asked in the House of Commons why the spring offensive hasn't started yet.

23 May 1942

Very hot all day. On working party in the morning carrying gravel from the river. Had the afternoon off. The smell of clover and other grasses, also cherries and figs was lovely this morning. We made a drink of two marmite cubes and condensed milk. Dick Mussen got a letter today dated 1 March. Not much in the news.

24 May 1942

A foggy morning but turned out fine. I've been making a cupboard today out of tins.

News: Usual Russian attacks repulsed. Mexico has declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan. Italian papers full of news of sinking of USA battleship of Maryland class by an Italian submarine. 10,000 Chinese surrounded by Japanese and a lot more baloney. No parcels arrived today so things are looking sort of grim. Wrote a letter to Mary and card to Mum.

25 May 1942

Issue of cheese. 300 Tommys went away to another camp this morning and there was an impromptu concert in the open air to give the lads a send off last night. No news tonight. We watched boxing for a while and had beans and toast for tea.

26 May 1942

Issue of sugar and 25 smokes. A great day. Not much news.

27 May 1942

Issue of cheese. On working party and didn't go out in the morning. Was using a pick and shovel on the road in the afternoon. Very hot today. We had two meals of soup - they are able to do them now that the Tommy's have gone. We had the last of the parcel tonight, a spiced meat roll between us. A load of parcels arrived tonight and we will get them about Friday.

In the news tonight we learnt that the New Zealand Red Cross are making arrangements to send POW's food and clothing parcels, it was in a letter from New Zealand. There are a lot of rumours about. One is that the Red Cross will take us over at the end of the month to feed us and take us to a neutral country and another

is that Musso wants peace by July or he will let British troops in and the latest is that peace is signed and they are using gas on all fronts.

News: Patrols in Cyrenia, bombs dropped over Messina in Sicily. Light damage and three soldiers killed, 300,000 Russian soldiers closed in a net and are being harassed from the air. The battle to the south of Kharkou is in full swing and all the attempts of the Russians to break through the cordon have failed. German, Hungarian and Romanian units are hampering the Russians by attacks in the north and southwest and there were air attacks striking numerous blows at the enemy main mass. Attack by Russians north east of Khorkof has been repulsed. Berlin states that to win the battle it will be necessary to maintain the pressure. A paint factory in Genoa has gone up in smoke. Three men in Roma got 20 years for illegal dealing in pork. One is a butcher and is the biggest man in the world and weighs 240 kilos or 37 stone. Peace was supposed to be at 6 p.m. tonight. The latest is that we will get one meal in 36 hours from 1 June.

28 May 1942

Hot all day. I've been making a cupboard.

News: Intense aerial action by Axis planes in Cyrenia. English base areas violently bombed. Tobruk bombed by Stukas, two RAF planes down. Gumbut aerodrome attacked by fighters, 25 planes caught on the ground some on fire and the rest damaged. Night attacks on Malta. Messina bombed again by the RAF. Two waves of bombers. Heavy damage to Duomo Cathedral and the Royal Varsity and private homes. Aerial attacks on the docks at Southampton and the south west coast of England. RAF make a raid on Norway and one on France. Six offenders in Trieste have been sentenced for smuggling tea from Yugoslavia. They had 245 kilos for which they paid 200 lira a kilo and sold it for prices from 700 to 10000 lira a kilo.



Bombing of Messina

Berlin Papers: Russians say that the Germans have thrown in new and powerful reserves but they, the Russians, have consolidated their positions. Germans have lost 50,000 dead and 800 tanks. The Japanese are waiting in Burma with five Divisions and propose to advance on India after the rainy season and await India's revolt. German papers say it will take 50 years to rebuild Malta. Two 25,000 ton Italian battleships launched. A German doctor says the reason why Germans can

fight the Russians 10 to 1 and the Britain's, 3 to 1, and remain undefeated is youth, health and absence of overeating.

29 May 1942

Issue of cheese. Hot all day. Issue of parcels and 50 Gold Flake each. They are new parcels dated April in British.

30 May 1942

Hot all day. Latest rumour is that the colonel is giving us a surprise on Monday. Riots in Genoa and Rome. Bread to go up 100 grams and vegetables up 40%, cheese rice and spaghetti to be cut out.

News: America says that her troops have disembarked in England and will do the same in France. Wrote letter to Mum.

31 May 1942

Hot all day. Two meals of soup. We were paid yesterday 16 lira. Bought onions today and they were down in price, 2.30 instead of 3.50 lira. Latest is that Musso told his people to prepare for an honourable defeat in six weeks. We had apricots in syrup and jelly for supper last night.

News: Fighting in Libya (Tobruk) continues with increasing fierceness. The Axis air arm has increased its activity in the back areas. Numerous tanks, armoured cars and lorries have been set on fire. Eight RAF shot down. Two Axis planes failed to return. RAF raided Cintanga in Sicily again last night with light damage. Misterbianco 6 dead and 15 wounded. Charcov - the battle is over. The Germans changed the defence into a great victory for Germany. Hungary and Yugoslavia troops took part, 5A, 9A and 57A Soviet Armoured Divisions, 20 infantry Divisions and 7 cavalry Divisions and 14 armoured Brigades all destroyed. 240,000 prisoners taken, 1249 tanks, 2026 guns, 538 planes and quantities of arms and equipment. Raid on Goroke by Axis planes on industrial plants. North Sea convoy, one 6000 ton ship torpedoed by a submarine. Reuters and London know nothing of this.

German Papers: In North Africa a fierce battle proceeds. On the 30th Great Yarmouth was bombed. British planes bombed Paris with civilian casualties and 6 planes down.

In the German Gulf two planes down. In the North Sea a German escort vessel shot down, 10 RAF bombers attacking the convoy.

Burma: The Japanese are consolidating. Seven days on the Libyan front - 111 English planes lost.

Peru has broken off relations with the Axis. A German blocklayer 61 years old has been condemned to death for stealing several garments collected in wool campaign.

I lost my signet ring tonight off my neck.

1 June 1942

Issue of cheese, 25 smokes, sugar. Very hot today. The smokes George and I got were covered in mildew. No news tonight. Welfare Committee meeting today. Report that the mid-day check parade is cut out and in the morning and night we can wear shorts. A swimming pool in the river to be opened on the 15th of this month. Parcels are to arrive regularly once a fortnight and will be issued to us twice a week, one between two. Rumours are that all medical men are leaving here on Friday morning and going home through Turkey.

2 June 1942

Parcel issue today. On working party and did about half an hour's work in the morning and in the afternoon 10 of us went over the river with barrows for some pieces of slate. It was very hot and we only did two trips. We could have got Vino and ice cream if we had had some Italian money. Not much news.

3 June 1942

Issue of cheese. Not much news. I received a Red Cross Air Mail card from Mum sent on the 8th of March and I sent the answer away today.

4 June 1942

Two meals yesterday and they weren't too bad. Very hot day. I have been up the last few mornings doing PT outside the hut with some of the boys.

5 June 1942

Parcels issue and 50 Golf Flake each. We swapped a tin of milk for a tin of oatmeal which was a good bargain.

News: Commandos made two landings in France and the second was successful. They say that the Channel is no man's land and soon France, Belgium and Holland will see fighting and the British, USA offensive is well underway. We are all hoping it won't be long.

6 June 1942

Very hot today. A boxing match on in the afternoon. Shorty Hunt had a go and lost but still collected 15 lira. Issue of sugar and 30 smokes each.

News: Papers say that Russia has offered peace to Bulgaria. Japanese bombed Honolulu also submarines in Sydney Harbour and they lost three. Two chaps in Florence sentenced to six months and fined a few thousand lira for listening to British radio.

7 June 1942

Two meals today and we had apples and dumplings for supper but they came out burnt! Very hot today. No brewing up till 12 a.m. as there was an Italian parade to

commemorate the day on which Italy became a Kingdom in 1848. Wrote letter to Mary and a card to Mum.

News: Naples bombed. Big naval battle pounding in the Pacific. A baker in Naples was fined 4000 lira for buying or selling flour at 25 lira a kilo. An Italian Cabinet meeting says that they have no gold and they are going on the grandstand that the food will be further rationed for the fighting men so what will happen to us and the ration law will be stricter. Russian attacks repulsed again.



Naples

8 June 1942

Issue of cheese. Hot today. A change of course. Coffee at 6 a.m., check parade 6.30 a.m., working party 7.30 a.m. until 10 a.m., lunch 11 a.m., working party 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., coffee 5.30 p.m., lights out 10 p.m.

9 June 1942

On working party today packing straw out of the parcels in the morning and carrying gravel in the afternoon. Hot all day. Issues of parcels in the morning.

10 June 1942

I went on a walk this morning with George, Shorty and Irish mainly to get wood but didn't get any. I enjoyed the walk though. Issue of cheese at 5 p.m. instead of in the morning.

11 June 1942

Fine today. Issue of smokes.

12 June 1942

Fine today. No parcels as none arrived this week. Issue of cheese.

13 June 1942

Fine today. We have not yet got the sugar we should have got on Thursday.

14 June 1942

Got our sugar this morning. There are a lot of rumours about parcels but none of them are true. Wrote a letter to Mum and a card to Keith. We had some apples with bread in and cocoa for supper. Two meals today.

15 June 1942

Issue of polony instead of cheese. Fine today. No sign of parcels.

16 June 1942

Quite a lot of excitement in camp today. The Italians found a tunnel under the hut next to ours and it was right outside the wire. They turned us out of our hut and we had to stop out all day. Lucky it was fine. Issue of 25 smokes each, also sugar.

17 June 1942

On working party in the morning and raining in the afternoon so we didn't go out. We were told yesterday what to do in case of an air raid as they are frightened of paratroops landing. We also hear that the big push is on in France. Two meals today.

18 June 1942

Raining today. Rumour has it that a truck is away for parcels but no sign of it yet. Issue of polony. They are searching the huts and getting knives etc. I suppose our turn will be soon.

19 June 1942

Raining all day. We had the last of our cocoa tonight also the last of our apples. This finished our parcel but we heard tonight that there are more coming over the weekend. No news as the canteen is closed and there are no papers. We hear that Germany has occupied the Island of Sicily.

20 June 1942

Fine today. Issue of cheese tonight and that's all we had for tea. There was a Red Cross man here yesterday and we hear that he said we were getting enough food. Great excitement tonight, a lorry has just arrived with parcels and you should have heard the cheer. They say that the New Zealand division is in Syria. We heard also that Fred Fuller and Arthur Hellewell, who were with us, are home in New Zealand.

News: British front line is from Assullum, Fort Cauppso and Sidi Omar and Tobruk is surrounded again. An Italian was fined 4000 lira and 6 months for listening to the BBC. Churchill has arrived in Washington for a conference with Roosevelt over the Japanese etc. Still repulsing Russian attacks.

21 June 1942

Issue of sugar and 25 smokes. Two meals today. Wrote letters to Mary and a card to Aunty Kate¹³. Two more loads of parcels arrived today and are the boys' pleased. One more load arrived which makes 10,500 altogether in camp. Enough for about five weeks.

22 June 1942

We hear that Tobruk has fallen to the Jerries again also 25,000 prisoners according to the papers last night. Issue of polony and cheese today. Parcel issue tomorrow, one between two as usual. Very hot today. Had a haircut and it cost two smokes.

News: Tobruk Garrison surrendered, 25,000 prisoners taken. On the Russian front Germany has captured four million men and thousands of tanks, cannons and planes since the start of the war.

23 June 1942

Parcel issue this morning. It was very good as we got milk, meat roll, bacon, mixed vegetables, raisins, custard powder, biscuits, cocoa, tea, sugar, meat paste and sweets. George and I got a tin of Players Tobacco and 50 smokes between us. I received a cable through the Vatican from Mum dated 1 April and it arrived in Italy on the 25 May.

News: A lot of rot about Libya but the papers say Axis have it well in hand and the forces are well on the way to Egypt. Malta bombed. Heavy Russian attacks on their front. 900 people arrive at Naples from Libya, mostly women and children.

Gordon Familton received a parcel today from his brother in the Middle East. Food and tobacco. Rumour has it that Tobruk was retaken also Benghazi and 38,000 Jerries are locked in Tobruk. They say that Churchill and Roosevelt are going to appoint a new leader for Libya. Five Generals captured in Tobruk. The papers also say that Churchill made a bad mistake in Libya and the London papers say the same hinting at wanting a new leader in England.

24 June 1942

On working party today. Carried stones in the morning and shifted Indian Red Cross parcels over the river in the afternoon. Ralph Willocks had a letter today from Bob Barnett all about Pat Abbott and the boys' and their change of address to Carroll Street. Jerry is still pushing towards Egypt.

25 June 1942

Issue of polony today. My loaf tasted sour and rotten. Two meals yesterday. 32,000 prisoners in Libya.

26 June 1942

Issue of sugar and 25 smokes, also parcels. Issue: We got two tins of biscuits, meat roll, mixed vegetables, carrots, bacon, creamed rice, tea, chocolate, margarine, jam, sugar and cheese. All very nice. Raining today but clearing.

News: In the news last night there was a reported earthquake in the North Island. That was confirmed tonight and it was in Wellington and as far as Masterton. Damage to the extent of one thousand million liras, casualties not known. RAF raids day and night over Germany. Russia still attacking. Jerries are still pushing in Libya, Solum, Hellfire and Bordia. 500,000 women and children evacuated from towns in occupied France to the rural areas in unoccupied France.

27 June 1942

Very hot today. 105 medical men left this morning and everyone thinks they are going back to Egypt. We all hope so. Ted Broomhead went, also four chaps from our "B" Company and we held an open-air farewell concert for them last night. Issue of polony and cheese but the cheese was less than one ounce per man so George and I cut for ours and he won.

News: Axis forces are 22 kilometres off Mersa. Heavy fighting on the Russian front. Churchill is still talking to Roosevelt. Vote of "no confidence" in the House of Commons for the high command. Italian papers say that England is only beginning to feel the power of the Wolf of Italy. No news about the earthquake in New Zealand.

28 June 1942

Very hot today. Two meals today. I wrote a letter to Jack, Doc, and a card to Mum. Some lads heard an air raid warning last night and heard bombing but it never woke me up at all.

News: The main item of news is that Axis is in contact with outer defences of Mersa. Heavy fighting on Russian front. RAF raids over Germany. General Warill has been recalled to Command in the Middle East.

29 June 1942

Issue of polony. I've been reading "The Lamp in the Desert" by E M Dell. I got a letter from Alf today telling us where they are and how they are. It was posted on the 15th April.

News: Axis are past Mersa 30 kilometres and it is rumoured that they have taken it and 6000 prisoners. The 9th Army is hurrying from Syria and Palestine to meet them. Heavy attacks on the Russian front. RAF raid Western Germany. News from letters says that Uncle Sam is in Egypt.

30 June 1942

On working party today carrying stones in the morning and wood in the afternoon. Parcel issue today also 50 smokes each. We got jam, margarine, sugar, cheese, paste, biscuits, tea, milk, chocolate, sweets, meat roll, tomatoes, bacon, minced beef and sultana pudding. Yesterday was a holiday for St Peter and St Paul's days.

News: Mersa has fallen 6000 taken and two boats sunk in the harbour. Heavy fighting still on the Russian front. Malta bombed. A bloke told us that Libya was lost on Eton Fields and that the English leaders are all old cavalymen with no knowledge of modern war. There are concentration camps in Germany for profiteers and defeatists and a German butcher got a death sentence for killing livestock without permission. Mersa is the last place which can be used in defence of Alexandria. Wogs say Egypt for Egyptians. Unofficial news says that a German General is in charge of Libya and that the Allies cannot get reinforcements up to hold it. Letter from England says that RAF planes go over Germany 1000 at a time,

unload and go on to Russia, reload and bomb again on their way back to England. It also said that the German people won't stand it and will give in before Christmas. We hope so. The bridge at Sebastopol has been taken. Letter says that Uncle Sam has bought a huge slice of land and hopes to have plenty of Turkey for Christmas.

1 July 1942

Issue of sugar and 25 smokes each. Swimming started today. Six from our hut besides others, four times a day. Two meals today both soup.

News: Axis forces have passed Fuci 30 - kilometres below Mersa and captured 1000 more prisoners, some Kiwi's amongst them. Meeting of big heads in Cairo. Alexandria bombed, Gibraltar bombed. Heavy fighting on the Russian front. Brenner bombed by the RAF many casualties, 200 RAF to 37 Jerry planes over Britain in June. Some of the lads had their photos taken and can send them home. Anthony Eden says in a cable to Egypt that Britain will defend Egypt to the last man. Russia says she will send reinforcements. London paper say that it wasn't intended to defend Mersa and it was of no consequence and another paper says England suffered its greatest loss of the war. A stand is to be made above Alexandria. Churchill refuses to disclose the Wanell's report in the House of Commons on Singapore. Owing to rationing 2500 shops will close in Britain. Rumour has it that Allied troops have moved in from Siwi. Very hot today. Jerry using a 24 inch gun.

2 July 1942

Went for a swim this morning and it was great. Issue of polony and George and I had polony, bacon and tomatoes fried for tea. Very hot today.

News: Axis mechanical forces have reached El Daba and there is fierce fighting there. Jerry has taken Sebastopol and Balabara. Fierce fighting.

3 July 1942

Raining first thing but turned out fine. We had to take all our beds outside today and clean the hut. Parcel issue - we got jam, margarine, cheese, sugar, chocolate, sweets, tea, milk, two meat rolls, figs, salmon, Yorkshire pudding mixture and biscuits. Paid today - 15 lira - 3 days late as they were printing coupons for the canteen. 15 new chaps arrived today from the camp at Brindisi.

News: Axis forces are moving towards the Nile Delta from El Alamein. They are smoking good English smokes and eating precious English biscuits. Churchill speaking in the House says news of great importance from Egypt - soon one million



St Pancras Station after it was it was bombed

USA and British men will be there with tanks, planes and guns. Tobruk was handed over by Commander without authority from higher up and was done three days before the Allies attacked. Egyptian gold was sent to a town in South Africa. Later news - 10 tons of gold has been raised from the ship "Maggera". We heard today that Tom Dowie got his leg off.

4 July 1942

Issue of cheese, no polony. Heavy fighting around El Alamein and on the Russian front. Uncle Sam's boys in New Zealand and Australia. Tiny Freyberg was wounded in the neck and Inglis took his place for a while.

5 July 1942

Wrote a letter to Alf¹⁴ and a card to Mum. Two meals and very hot today. Six Boston bombers raid Holland. Two shot down. Libyan news - Axis counter-attacks repulsed around El Alamein and heavy fighting on the Russian front.

6 July 1942

Very hot. Issue of sugar and 25 smokes. No issue of polony. We have potatoes and tomatoes in our stew now. Latest rumour has it that there is a big tank battle outside Paris. We had salmon and cold tomatoes for tea. We bought tomatoes in the canteen - price 3.30 lira a kilo.

7 July 1942

Parcel issue today and ours were very good. Nine sailors arrived in camp last night. Letter news - Carlton Hotel burnt down, also Wanganui mills.

8 July 1942

On working party today but were broken off in the morning and watered a footpath in the afternoon. A very easy day with two meals.

9 July 1942

Very hot. Issue of polony but is cut down by 20% so we only get a slice about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick.

10 July 1942

We bought peaches in the canteen today 3.30 lira for a kilo and made a dumpling with Yorkshire pudding mixture for tea and it was great.

11 July 1942

Very hot. No parcel issue today as the Colonel has cut it out only giving us half a parcel each per week as there are too many with boils and dysentery and the MO says it is caused through too much tinned stuff but we think differently. It's the stews!

12 July 1942

Very hot and issue of polony and cheese. Cheese has been cut down to 40 grams. Novice boxing today and tomorrow. Two meals today.

13 July 1942

Issue of polony, 25 smokes and sugar. Yesterday Dick Johnstone and Bill Sharp gave up their jobs in the cookhouse. I wrote a letter to Mary and a card to Gilbert Gow.

News for the past week: The sailors gave us some true news about the war as they have only been prisoners for about five weeks. Heavy fighting around El Alamein also on the Russian front. Japanese can't get off or onto Aleutian Islands; Yanks in New Zealand.

Bill Bee got a parcel from his folks in Oamaru. We had salami and onions and tomatoes hot for tea tonight. Very hot today but thunderstorm this afternoon.

14 July 1942

On working party in the afternoon carting wood over the river. Parcel is of 50 player smokes. We got biscuits, chocolate, barley sugar, sugar, cheese, margarine, jam, figs, curried mince, meat roll, stew, tomatoes and tea.

News: Fighting around El Alamein. Heavy fighting on the Russian front. Jerry bombs Rostov, Murmansk.

15 July 1942

Very hot all day. Two meals. A lot of private parcels came in last night but none for us.

News: Still heavy fighting on the Libyan and Russian fronts, RAF raids Germany. Berlin says that Churchill will make a second front in 1942 and we all hope so. Letter news says that all New Zealand POW's have been sent a clothing parcel and also tobacco from New Zealand House in London.

16 July 1942

Issue of polony. Very hot all day. Not much news.

17 July 1942

180 sailors arrived last night. They have been prisoners for five weeks. Parcel issue today, ours very good. Issue of sugar and 25 smokes.

18 July 1942

Issue of polony and cheese. We get ours in the morning now as we get our meal at night instead of at lunch hour. It started yesterday; half the camp gets theirs at noon and the other half at night.

19 July 1942

No letters this weekend to write - they have changed the day. We were paid on Friday - 14 lira, one taken off and we bought onions and tomatoes to help our parcels out.

20 July 1942

Issue of polony but I gave mine to George as I have a crook stomach today.

21 July 1942

No parcel issue today but a new shipment arrived today and they are Canadian ones. There have been a lot of chaps called out to go away and Cliff, Fam, Buzz, Sid, Irish and Bluey are among them. Shorty had a letter from his girl yesterday and she has broken off their engagement as fate has overtaken her.

News: Still fighting on the Egyptian front and heavy Russian attacks repulsed. RAF raid Holland and Germany. The next 80 days will be the most momentous of the war.



New Zealand soldiers engaged in a trench digging exercise as their rifles lie nearby, in front of tents & barracks at their camp in the dessert in Cairo

THIRD SECTION

DIARY FROM

18 August 1942 - 22 April 1945

18 August 1942 - Tuesday

Mary's birthday and our anniversary. On working party today carrying buckets of shingle. Issue of parcels, one between two as usual. We have only missed one issue this last month but there are none left now so we may miss out on Friday.

Events of the last month: I received a letter from Mother on the 26 July dated 22 February. George got a letter from a girl clerk in the GPO Nottingham and she is sending him smokes. The New Zealand Patriotic fund is sending us tobacco or smokes through an English firm. 8 ozs or 20 smokes per month whatever we suggest. There have been a few chaps, mainly sailors, new to our camp that were caught two months ago and they say the 20th has been wiped out again for the third time.

News is much the same. Still fighting in Libya mostly patrols. Heavy fighting on the Russian front. Hamburg bombed. A lot of talk of second front etc. Letters from New Zealand House give us news of an earthquake at home also sporting events and that the first consignment of New Zealand Red Cross food parcels arrived at Lisbon, also a lot of next-of-kin parcels and smokes are there for us but are held up on account of shipping.

On Sunday last there was an exhibition of arts and crafts in the camp and it was wonderful. Stoves, blowers, suitcases, sketchings, paintings and needlework among the entries. The Colonel and Italian Officers inspected them and brought some of the things. They also had the crown and anchor, roulette and other games there. They run all the time of course for cigarettes. Les Davidson from Ravensbourne arrived here with the last lot from hospital and he had shrapnel in both legs. Fam and Bill Bee have both had parcels, also Leon, Jack and Len. There have been two attempts at escape in the last month and both failed - hard luck to the three chaps. Bill Sharp and Dick have both left the cookhouse.

29 August 1942

Things are looking a bit grim now as we didn't get any parcel yesterday but they are expected up this weekend. Was on working party this morning shovelling gravel but were off this afternoon. George and I went out for a walk on Wednesday morning and got some wood. It was a great walk through the vineries. I got a letter from Mum tonight dated 7 July. I wrote to her yesterday. Last night we had a chap giving us a talk on his time in the Navy in the Mediterranean and China Seas, also about Narick etc. We had two merchant seamen the other night who were out of a boat sunk about a fortnight ago in the Mediterranean. They were part of a big convoy.

News: Two New Zealand doctors arrived here last night, Burns and Lusk. George and I bought grapes the other day, 5.5 liras a kilo, also pears at 4.40 lira a kilo and tomatoes 1.90 lira a kilo. Tonight news says that Sicily was bombed. Heavy fighting on the Russian front. Russians bomb Berlin. The chaps the other night told us that there were from 1000 to 1200 planes over Germany every night and the people of England are still looking forward to a second front.

30 August 1942

Parcels arrived today. The first lot of New Zealand ones, also Canadian and Scottish ones and there are all sorts of guesses as to what the New Zealand ones contain.

4 September 1942 - Friday

Issue of New Zealand parcels today and they are very good. George and I got 1 tin of coffee and milk, 1 chocolate, 4 ozs of tea, 1 jam, honey, butter and Chesdale cheese, 1 lamb and tomatoes, Frankfurts and vegetables and 1 tin of peas. We had an issue on Tuesday of English ones. We were on a ration party yesterday. Not much news.

5 September 1942

Boxing tournament today and it was very good with some good fights. I got a letter today from Mary dated 10 March and my photos stay on the wall despite what the boy's say.

6 September 1942

Boxing again today. Also a combined service as it is our national day of prayer.

News of the Russian front was very good tonight about Stalingrad being a fort. The General in charge of the 6th Battalion in Egypt was captured also a lot of other NZ troops.

7 September 1942

I was one of the men sent to the cookhouse to shell beans this morning and we got an extra dixie of stew each for our morning's work. They are trying a new way of giving us our meal but today it was stew as usual. Not much news.

No entry again until:

29 September 1942

Since I last wrote this up there have been quite a few changes about the camp. First of all we have missed four issues of parcels, which is two each as they were late in coming. However that has been fixed now. We got an issue of Canadian parcels today. On Saturday a truck and trailer load arrived and yesterday the same and today three loads arrived, some New Zealand ones amongst them so we are set for some weeks to come. The last week we have had a lot of rain and violent thunder and lightening storms. Our hut leaks a bit but not as much as some. We all got English greatcoats last week and yesterday some other clothes to make a full set of underwear, shirt and socks each. I got a pair of socks, the first I have worn since February and also a singlet. I also got my boots back after being mended.

On the 15th Bluey, Irish, Fam and Cliff went away with 500 others farming and we don't know whether they will be back or not but we hope so. There hasn't been much in the way of war news just the usual rubbish. It was in the paper the other night

about the sea and land attacks on Tobruk and Benghazi by the Allies which failed and tonight they talked about attacks at El Alamein, also that Stalingrad is slowly being taken.

Letters I've received - from Mary dated 5 July and on the 22 September, one from Ina¹⁴ dated the 10th May and on the 24 September, one from Myra dated the 22 July. I sent a Christmas card made by Jack to Mary and have two more to send, done by a chap Douglas¹⁵ and they are of the church on the hill above the camp.

We have some Yak men (*Russian*) in our hut this week while their hut is being repaired and their lingo is worse than Chinese. I've been busy making tin cupboards for the boys. Lately we have bought grapes at 4.40 lira a kilo, also peaches and there are apples coming in now and we may get them soon as it is near our turn for fruit. We have also had tomatoes and onions. We get an extra loaf of bread every 8 days and it comes in handy. The meals are back to the old style again after a fortnight's trial of the new idea and the whole camp gets it at night now and coffee or hot water at 11 a.m.

I went along the road for the mail today. Quite a good walk. The last time I went I got some grapes from a civilian along the road. Six of us got a billy made out of old tins and it saves tea and wood for us. It was made by a chap in another hut and he made a good job of it. George and I bought a small pack of cards for 3.85 lira for playing crib etc.

2 October 1942

We had a real issue day yesterday. We were paid 15 liras as usual. We had an issue of cheese, sugar and 25 smokes and bought onions at the canteen. Today we bought apples at 4.5 lira kilo and peaches at 4 lira. Canadian parcel issue today. Shorty and Bill Sharp and Bill Bee are going away farming there's a rumour that all the Kiwi's left are going to another camp. I wrote a letter to Mary tonight and sent a Christmas card to Mother.

Just the usual news. There are five million foreign workers in Germany including POW's and the food supply among them is very acute.

9 October 1942

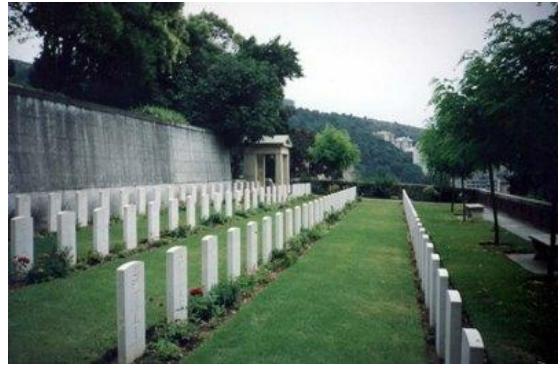
We got Kiwi parcels on Tuesday and again today with a few English ones amongst them. George and I got an English one today. Six bags of personal parcels arrived yesterday but none of our names among them. I got 10 lira from Brownie for making him a cupboard and 50 smokes from another chap. There hasn't been much news lately and I wrote a letter to Mother tonight and sent a Christmas card to Auntie Kate.

22 October 1942

Since I last wrote we have had three issues of English parcels and another one is expected tomorrow. I got a letter from Gilbert yesterday dated 22 April. Bill Bee, Bill Sharp, Dick and Shorty left us yesterday to go farming which leave only four of the original gang here now. Charlie Bruce and Jack Philpott both got a clothing parcel today. Jack's was from London and Charlie's from home. There has not been much in the way of news lately but what there has been sounds good. We have 24 South Africans in the hut now. They moved out of the bottom huts yesterday under protest and had the riot act read to them. I wrote to Mary last week and to the New Zealand Red Cross to get money out of my credit for food parcels. We can still buy grapes and are getting chestnuts and pumpkin in a day or so. There was a thunderstorm last night and we had to move our beds on account of the leaking roof as ours hasn't been fixed yet.

23 October 1942

We had some great excitement last night. The lights went out at 10 p.m. all of them because of an air raid over Genoa. It lasted until about 3 a.m. We could see the glow from bursting bombs and this morning we saw two drifting balloons. The guard was doubled all round the camp and we couldn't get out of the huts. It stopped the working party this morning and we didn't get our parcel issue until this afternoon, they were Canadian this time. Last Sunday we got an issue of sugar. This was a gift from the Brazil Red Cross and today we got two razor blades each.



Commonwealth War Cemetery Genoa

24 October 1942

Issue of Brazilian sugar today and we got our extra loaf of bread yesterday. There was another raid on Genoa last night and tonight about 6 p.m. we had another alarm and we had to stay in our huts until 8 p.m. I wrote to Mother and a card to Gilbert today.

25 October 1942

There was another raid on Genoa about 12.30 a.m. this morning and it lasted about 3 hours. In the news tonight it says that as well as Genoa, Turin and Sivona were raided. Many people were trampled to death getting into the air raid shelters but the morale of the people was high. British planes made a mistake and passed over Switzerland three times running. We had another alarm today and there was a shot fired at some chaps for not getting into their huts. The last walk I was on we saw the village where



Monument to Christopher Columbus

Columbus was born and a monument to him. The village church had not been finished inside as the money was only donated by the village people.

George got a letter from Fred Fuller yesterday and I got one from Gilbert last Wednesday dated 22 April.

27 October 1942

Received four letters from Mary yesterday and two today, also one from Mum. We got a Canadian Red Cross parcel issue today and last night two more loads arrived. 500 Tommies arrived yesterday and they were captured in Libya. It poured all day yesterday and today and tonight the lights have been out quite a lot as a result of the terrific storm. We got an extra letter and card to write today and I wrote to Mary and Mother. The Colonel gave us the extra letters to write.

5 November 1942

Thursday: We have had a week of rain and floods. The footbridge over the river got washed away on Tuesday so we didn't get any parcels until yesterday and we were lucky to get them as it was a Fiesta day for the Italians. We got Canadian parcels and after today there will be enough for three weeks. We had another air raid alarm on Monday for about three hours. We heard that Milan had been raided again but we don't know for sure as we couldn't get the paper to find out. We have a new routine now for the winter. Check is at 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. We get water at 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. and stew at 4.30 p.m. On Sunday the first check is 9.30 a.m. I wrote to Mother and Ina last Friday.

7 December 1942

Had a letter last night from Mother dated 26 April and I wrote to her. We also got a Canadian parcel issue and an extra one between five. George and I got one tin of cocoa, milk and Bovril and rolled oats. There was a big raid on Genoa which lasted about three hours. They worked right up the coast. Dick Mussen got his first smoke parcel tonight.

9 December 1942

Had a big raid on Saturday night and alarms yesterday. More parcels arrived yesterday.

22 December 1942 - onwards

Left Camp 52 on 22 December 1942. Got a Christmas parcel each and half a Canadian parcel.



Arrived at Camp 57 on 23 December 1942.



POW Camp 57



Lining up for food - Camp 57



Camp 57



Left Camp 57 for a working Camp 103/6 at Ampezzo on the 23 May 1943 and arrived there at night, 100 of us Kiwis. It was a great camp as it was all new. We were working on a power station in the turbine chamber.



Camp 57



Tapestries Alan completed while a Prisoner of War in Camp 57

Camp 103/6 at Ampezzo from 23 May 1943:

Taken from an article in the New York Times - 14th April 1948:

New power station opened near Trieste.

The newest hydro-electric power station in Italy, with the highest dam in Europe, some 450 feet high and 54 feet in diameter, was opened recently at Ampezzo, 60 miles north of Trieste. About 300 New Zealand prisoners of war were originally employed in the construction of the power station which was started in 1941. The station, which uses water from the rivers Lumei and Novarse will provide power for Trieste, Udine and Venice, and will alleviate greatly the serious lack of power which hampers industrial programme in this area every winter.

The New York Times photo shows a general view of the power station at Ampezzo, after its opening.



Power station near Trieste, Italy that Alan worked on

27 July 1943

I went to Udine Hospital for an appendix operation on the 28th with needles. Watched it all. Arrived back at camp on the 17 August 1943 and had 30 days reposa.

8th September 1943

News of Armistice.

9th September 1943

We left in a hurry for Treviso. Jerry walked in there on the 11th and we left from Germany on the 13th.

16th September 1943

We arrived at Stalag VIIA at Moosburg, 30 kilometres from Munich.



entrance to Stalag VII-A

Stalag VII-A



4th November 1943

Left Stalag VII-A for Stalag XIA Altengrabow near Magdeburg arriving there on the 6th.

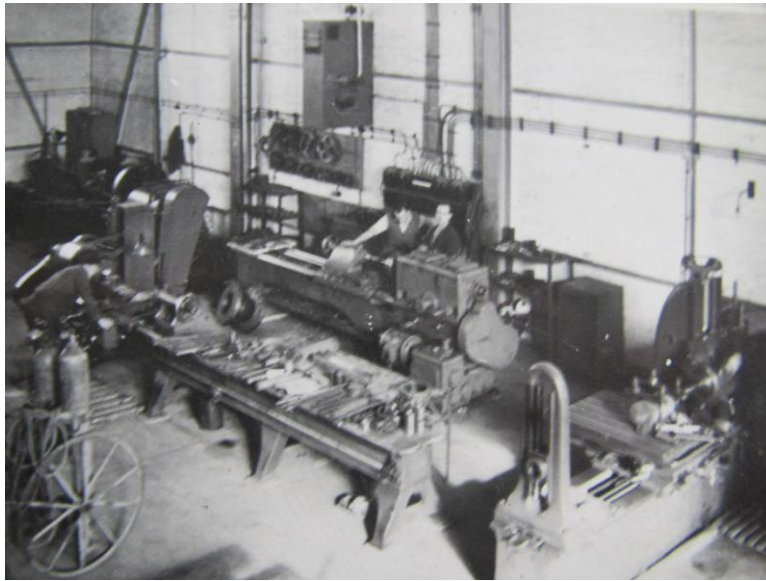
Stalag XIA

23rd December 1943

Left Stalag X1A and spent Christmas Eve on a train at Salzgitter station and went to a camp there on Christmas Day 1943. It was a good camp with fires and spring beds and we are now part of Stalag XIB. Started work on 3 January 1944 for Grosse Deutz. I got overalls and clogs and was given general labouring work. George is in a different hut and I am with Bernie, Eddy and Keith.



Stalag X1B



Alan's machine at the Grosse Deutz German Factory.



Taken outside the German Workshop.

16th January 1944

Sunday. It has been an eventful week. We had a daylight raid on Tuesday by the Yanks and we had a great view of it all. On Friday a Jerry bomber came down 40 yards from camp, there was nothing left of it. We received a parcel on Friday, the

first for months and we had a real blitz raid by the RAF at night all around us. The fires were a great sight.

22 January 1944

Received a cable today of Father's death. It was a great shock to me. I am trying to get a reply. Also got a letter from Ina dated 11 August 1942.

23 January 1944

Got a letter card each to write home. The first for the month.

30 January 1944

Had four days off work this last week as I dropped the end of a girder on my toe. Air raids three nights running on and off all night. Big raid today not far from here and our huts shook with the bomb explosions and heavy flack. It lasted about an hour. No sign of parcels and the situations getting critical. Sent a reply cable to Mother on the 24th with a German Officer who was here from Stalag XIB. I may have to pay for it.

6 February 1944

Had the cable returned to me on Friday with a letter card to replace it as it was not important enough to send by cable? Had an air raid overhead last Sunday night and the alarms have been ringing all week. We had one this afternoon. We had a heavy snowstorm on Friday night so we were an hour late for work. They have managed to borrow another parcel for us and more are expected on Monday or Tuesday. This is a good thing because everybody is bad tempered and touchy about the least little thing at present without cigarettes.

13 February 1944

A week of snow, a real winter. I have been working all week with Bernie¹⁶ doing wiring etc. We had a visit from SM Wickham, a British man of confidence from XIB on Thursday and the best of all we got a parcel on Friday night. Today a chap was paraded in front of the whole camp for stealing food on Friday while a raid was on. We had alarms nearly every day and night this week.

20 February 1944

Sunday: We had another week of snow and it's frozen now. Just the usual work shifting steel etc. Was working with Bernie¹⁶ for two days wiring an office. His wedding anniversary was on Thursday and we kept a cake of chocolate for it, not much but it was a thought. Have cut our smoking down and are trading for potatoes with them. The civilians are not like the Italians because they are scared to trade. Only one or two raids this week and planes flying over. The civilians are getting sick of them so it won't be long now. No more news of parcels coming yet but ours will last us till next weekend at least. An air raid today, 12 p.m. till 2.30 p.m. A German fighter-bomber made a pancake landing near the camp. Two men were on it and one was hurt. The pilot made a good job of it.

27 February 1944

Sunday: Have had a good week for mail receiving four letters on Monday, one from Mother dated 20 September and three from Mary dated September and October and yesterday I got two from Ina dated 29 September and 23 October with a snap of her in one. We have had snow and frosts all week and is sunny today. No sign of any more parcels yet. Eddy, Keith, Bernie and I have cut down on our smoking a lot and are trading them for potatoes and bread which are doing us more good. A chap on our working party walked off the job yesterday morning and got picked up two stations away and he is being sent back to Stalag tomorrow. He owes bread all over the camp.

5 March 1944

Sunday: Another week of snow and frosts. Just the usual work shifting girders etc. We had the usual air raid warning and went down the shelter on Thursday and Saturday for about an hour. We got 300 pairs of boots, 300 trousers and 300 pairs of socks on Tuesday and on Wednesday night we heard that our parcels had arrived at XIB for us and they are going for them tomorrow. I got a pair of new boots today, the first for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. Wrote a card to Mother today.

12 March 1944

Sunday: Have had a good week working inside the factory instead of in the snow and frosts. We spent 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours in the shelter on Wednesday the 8th and again on Thursday. A lot of AA parcels arrived on Tuesday night at 10 p.m. when everyone was in bed, but we were soon out. They were Canadian parcels and so we had tea and biscuits for supper. We got another parcel each on Friday and there is an issue for next week with a good reserve at Stalag which will last two months. We had to work this morning for 6 hours to make up for time lost in raids and the lads say, let there be more raids! George and Colin will be in soon for our usual Sunday chat and tea.

19 March 1944

Sunday: Have been working inside the factory all week cleaning a machine. Got a letter from Mary dated 14 November and one from Winnie on Tuesday dated 3 November. Wrote to Mary last Sunday. There was an air raid on Wednesday and a civilian hanger 30 miles from here was hit and some wounded were brought here to hospital. Parcel on Friday night.

26 March 1944

Sunday: The weather has been better this last week. Still working inside. Quite a few raids this week. Five raids in the 24 hours Friday and Saturday, one not far from us. We hear that two Yanks were picked up in Salzgitter. Parcels arrived on Friday and Mac went for them to a camp 20 kilometres away and saw Tom Abernethy there. We got Canadian parcels on Friday and will get more next week. Bernie's mate told him that three months would finish it the other day. Were paid for work today and I got 34 marks and bought an issue of soap and a bottle of beer each.

2 April 1944

Sunday: Another week of rough weather, snow and frosts but a great day today. There was a raid on Tuesday morning and we saw our planes overhead before going down the shelter. A raid nearly every day or night, just general alarms. Fighters hit a railway near here on Tuesday. Still working inside and Eddy got kicked out for breaking a drill the other day. Issue of Russian type smokes, 75 each today. Canadian parcels on Friday and there are English ones coming. Mr Wickham was here last night for a while on his tour of camps. We have had no mail this last week.

10 April 1944

Easter Monday: We had Friday and also today off and have had a great holiday. The best holiday of POW camps! Five days off and plenty to eat. Issue of English parcels on Friday and today an issue of Argentine bulk, 3 tins of meat, biscuits and sugar. A chap Robins escaped on Tuesday but was caught again about Friday near Hanover. Wrote a card to Mother and received a letter from Keith. More raids during the week and a big one on Saturday making us late home from work. Five alarms yesterday. We hear our friends in the east are coming our way fast and we all feel that it won't be long.

16 April 1944

Sunday: Have had a good week of weather and not much work. Yesterday was the eighth day and night of air alarms over this area. We hear that our troops are in Rome. We lost another bag of potatoes on Friday night for the second time but it's all in the game. No mail this week. I wrote to Mary today. We got a Canadian parcel on Friday, also toothpaste and toilet paper.

23 April 1944

Sunday: A good week for weather - received two letters dated November from Ina and one from Mary. I started working a boring machine on Tuesday. We had an air raid yesterday afternoon at 6.30 p.m. We saw fighters come down machine-gunning before we went down the shelter. At 2 a.m. this morning we had to go down the shelter again. It was a wonderful sight with the flares etc. We were down nearly an hour and the raid was on Brunswick. We had to go down this afternoon for half an hour. Bulk issue on Friday and a bit extra today, also toothpaste, blades and shaving soap. We had 10 eggs between four of us today, the first for 2½ years.

30 April 1944

Sunday: Received a New Zealand clothing parcel on Thursday night and a letter dated 13 February from Mary today. Wrote to her. We had a big raid yesterday about three hours. We saw the planes, big black ones and some silver, as they passed right overhead. We worked till 5 p.m. yesterday to make up for the day off tomorrow.

FOOD PARCELS			
ONE PER WEEK PER MAN			
RED		CROSS	
BRITISH		AMERICAN	
Condensed Milk	1 can	Powdered Milk-16oz.	1 can
Meat Roll	1 can	Spam	1 can
Meat & Vegetable	1 can	Corned Beef	1 can
Vegetable or Bacon	1 can	Liver Paste	1 can
Sardines	1 can	Salmon	1 can
Cheese-4 oz.	1 can	Cheese	1 can
Margarine or Butter	1 8oz.	Margarine-16 oz.	1 can
Biscuits	1 pkg.	Biscuits--K-Ration	1 can
Eggs-Dry	1 can	Nescafe Coffee-4 oz.	1 can
Oatmeal	1 can	Jam or Orange Pres.	1 can
Cocoa	1 can	Prunes or Raisins	1 can
Tea-2 oz.	1 box	Sugar-8oz.	1 box
Dried Fruit or Pudding	1 can	Chocolate-4oz.	2 bars
Sugar-4 oz.	1 box	Soap	2 bars
Chocolate	1 bar	Cigarettes	5 pks.
Soap	1 bar		
CANADIAN			
Powdered Milk	1 can	Spam	1 can
Corned Beef	1 can	Salmon	1 can
Cheese-8 Oz.	1 can	Cheese-8 Oz.	1 can
Butter-16 oz.	1 can	Biscuits-soda	1 box
Coffee-ground-8 oz.	1 bag	Jam	1 can
Prunes-8 oz.	1 box	Raisins-8 oz.	1 box
Sugar-8 oz.	1 bag	Chocolate-5 oz.	1 bar
Soap	1 bar		
REICH ISSUE			
WEEKLY RATION			
Army Bread-1 loaf	2100 grams	Soup-Oatmeal, Barley or Pea	3 times
Vegetables-Potatoes	400 grams	Cheese	46 grams
Other Seasonal	?	Sugar	175 grams
Jam	175 grams	Mare	215 grams
Meat		Salt	
Flour---on occasion			

6 June 1944

Sunday: Received 15 letters on the 9th and 11th of May. We celebrated my birthday by giving the other four supper of raisins and biscuits. On the 12th I jammed two fingers and lost the nail of one, it's not better yet. The six of us have had 28 tins and 112 cakes of chocolate this last fortnight, also tobacco parcels. Received six letters on Saturday. Two from Italy, one from Mr Paterson, Mr Gow and Winnie. Today we were told of Rome being ours also the great news of the invasion in northern France. The hopes and spirits of all at this time are very high but I think it will be a while yet before the end, just have to carry on as usual working and sleeping.

11 June 1944

Sunday: Played football this morning and I am very sore now. Received a letter from Mary on the 8th, also two from Ina in Italy. The news has been very good about the invasion, also Italy. Wrote to Mary last night.

18 June 1944

Sunday: It is the second week of the invasion and things are still going our way by what we hear. The civilians we work with are very touchy about it but have been quite pleased these last two days over this new invention which they are using over England. Received a letter from Mother dated 2 April and one from Mary dated 26 March. Wrote a card to Mother tonight. It's been raining most of the week, mostly due I think to war clouds. We received a Christmas parcel between two on Friday as well as our usual weekly one and we celebrated it today. Better late than never!

25 June 1944

Sunday: The weather was not much this week but today has been great. Raid alarms nearly every night and a big reprisal one on Berlin on Thursday for the rocket. Not much news but what we have had is great. Wrote card to Mum and a letter to Mary. Our average day is - up at 5 a.m. away to work by 6 a.m. by lorry. We pass through the town of Salzgitter and see Russian girls going home from work; also Italian soldiers and they look terrible dying on their feet as it were. After leaving the town we go about six kilometres through the fields to the works which is at a shaft head, but we have nothing to do with it. Where we work is a repair and maintenance

factory for oil wells all over the country. We work till 9 a.m. and have a $\frac{1}{4}$ hour break, then work until 1 p.m. and then have a $\frac{1}{2}$ hours break and finish at 5.45 p.m., then back to camp about 6.15 p.m. Roll call at 7.30 p.m. then bed.

9 July 1944

Sunday: Have had great weather this last week but dull today. On the 29th there was a big air raid. We saw 18 flights of planes about 60 in each. They say there were 3000 planes over that day. On the 7th there was another big one. We could hear the planes but could not see them. We have a piano accordion now and we sat outside until 11 p.m. last night listening to it. I heard of two books I want, - "The Road to Tobruk" and "Dunkirk, before and after". The news is great. They say that artillery is firing onto German soil now.

23 July 1944

Sunday: Wrote to Mary today. The news has been good. An attempted killing of Hitler the other day. There was a speech over the wireless yesterday morning and all the civilians went to hear it. They say that Goering and Rommel are missing. We have air alarms two or three times a day and at night. Still working a machine.

21 August 1944

Monday: It's some time since I added anything to this and there is quite a bit of it. We heard tonight that Paris fell today. We had a search at work a fortnight ago and Eddy was questioned. Saturday night was the first night there was no alarm for a fortnight but on the night of the 5th we had to go down the bunker as there was a raid about 8 miles away and it was a wonderful sight. On Friday it was Mary's birthday and engagement anniversary and there was another big raid. I got a letter from Mary and Winnie and Mother's birthday one last week. Some clothing came in and I got new trousers and a pair of socks. The weather has been very good here lately. I wrote a card to Mary yesterday. Still working the machine but I am getting fed up of this country.

19 September 1944

Sunday: Things seem to be moving our way at last. We have been just a year in Germany but it doesn't seem that long. There are alarms night and day now. We had six the other day. Of course we don't always see the planes but what we do see, looks great. We have seen as many as 500 in flights of about 40. Early this morning there was a raid very near here and there was a plane down. I never heard anything except an alarm earlier in the night but there were no planes over that time.



The last news we had was that our troops were in Germany preparing to attack the Siegfried line and Joe is moving towards Bulgaria. Even the civilians tell us it won't be long now. Two Kiwis escaped a fortnight ago and we have heard nothing about them yet but we hope they got away. We are on half a parcel a week now as they can't get any more through; also personal parcels and mail are very scarce now. We are still working but expect any morning to wake up and be told, no work today. We had a talkie picture yesterday titled "Marguerite Three" - it was in German with an English monologue at the bottom, of course it was a love story, but was very good when you haven't seen them for a long time. Wrote a card to Mother today. The weather is getting colder now and the days drawing in but we all think we won't be here for the winter.

28 September 1944

Thursday: Saw a wonderful sight today, hundreds of our bombers and fighters passing overhead. We saw about 12 bombers shot down and then it was time to make for the bunker. We think there was over a thousand. On Monday I received a letter from Mr Barr and Mary. I wrote to Mary on Sunday to make shoulder tabs for the six of us. The weather is getting really cold again now.

8 October 1944

Sunday: I wrote a letter of reassurance to Mary today. We went to a picture this morning called "Di Glden Stadt" or in English "The Golden City" and it was good but we didn't understand very much of it. I have just finished reading a book in two volumes called "This about all" by Eric Knight, a very good book. We had a big raid yesterday morning and saw only a few planes because of the mist but heard hundreds. We are still getting raids nearly every day and night now. Bernie went to one of the other camps on Friday for a trip and he says our camp is the best of them all. The nights are drawing in now and it's getting colder.

15 October 1944

Sunday: It has been very mild today. I have been busy darning socks. There was a big raid last night. I only heard a few planes low overhead and went to sleep again but Bernie saw it all, a lot of flack and machine gun burst from fighters. There were planes passing over continuously for over an hour. The news we get is great. Got a letter from Mother and one from Gilbert and three from Mary on Monday. Mary's were about the section, the latest being the 27 August. Bernie says I'm caught properly now! Wrote a card to Mother tonight.

22 October 1944

Sunday: I wrote a letter to Mary tonight. We saw another picture this morning, a musical comedy one, very good but I don't know the name of it. It was all in German. Big raid this afternoon on Berlin. Planes were going over for an hour but it was too cloudy to see them. The one last Saturday night was on Brunswick and they were using firebombs not High explosive bombs. Hundreds were killed and the town was

flattened. The sirens are just going again now at 7 p.m. They say the big push has started.

5 November 1944

Sunday: I had a letter from Mary on Friday dated 29 July. We have had alarms every night this week at about 7.30 p.m. lasting an hour, then all clear for an hour, then alarms again. No planes were seen except for last night when they dropped a lot of stuff not far from here. There was a big raid yesterday afternoon in the same place and we saw a lot of fighters. There was one on Thursday also and we saw hundreds of planes, bombers and fighters. I wrote a letter to Mary today. We are now going to work in the dark and home in it.

13 November 1944

Monday: We had Saturday off for an X-ray and we commemorated Armistice by two minutes' silence. I was stripped to the waist at the time. We had to work yesterday morning to make up for it. Last night we had pictures from 6 p.m. till 11 p.m., two newsreels, a German comedy picture about a chap learning to fly and the big one was about circus life called "The Three Codonas". It was a great night out. Today the power went off at work at 10.30 a.m. and we did nothing for the rest of the day. We knocked off at 5 p.m. instead of 5.45 p.m. and we walked home. We haven't had any raids for the last 36 hours but they say that the big push is on. We saw snow for the first time on the 7th, not very much. I got a letter from Mum tonight dated 2 September and two from Mary on Friday dated 23 July and 23 September.

26 November 1944

Sunday: I have been off work since Thursday with the flu but I am going in tomorrow. We had a big raid today and saw hundreds of planes. There was one on Tuesday with the same lot of fighters. They look wonderful cruising around up there making patterns with their vapour trails. There have been a lot of raids at night this last week just as we were having our tea but we have lamps. I received an April letter from Mary and a July one from Keith yesterday. I wrote a card to New Zealand House sending 120 pounds home to Mum today but I may beat it there yet by the news. We saw another film last Sunday which was all in German of course but it was very good - we can follow them pretty well. We got a Canadian parcel and 30 smokes each on Friday, the first in over a month but we haven't done so badly what with spuds etc.

I am working a Profile milling machine as well as the Borer now, one at a time of course. It may come in handy some time. We are getting showers at work every Saturday as there is no coke in camp. The civilians can't get any coke either.

17 December 1944

Sunday: We had a German picture this morning about a head waiter and also some newsreels. I got two letters on Friday dated the 4th and 8th October from Mary and Mother. Last week I got my April and July parcels and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of tobacco. Bernie and Keith got a parcel each so we had 48 cakes of chocolate between six of us. We got a

Canadian parcel between four of us but we are keeping it for Christmas dinner. Not much doing in the way of raids the last few days but before that we had some good heavy ones.

25 December 1944

Monday - Christmas Day:

It is 6 p.m. and I am just back from a concert given by our own boys and I am getting the tea ready soon. We are having a good Christmas, the best we have had as prisoners. Bernie made a pudding and George iced it for the six of us and we have some left still. We sang carols last night at midnight. There are six of us for dinner and Colin said grace. We have the hut decorated and it looks great. We had a very hard frost, 8 degrees below freezing the other morning, a real white Christmas. Got a letter from Keith on Friday and I answered it yesterday.

27 December 1944

Wednesday: Back at work today and very tired. We were up until midnight on Christmas night singing and we had supper after. I was resting most of yesterday. We have had no alarms over here since Sunday afternoon but we will get them. It's 12 degrees below freezing this morning and very cold and it's blowing now. We have thought and talked a lot about home between ourselves these last few days.

1 January 1945

Monday: The start of another year and we are still here but the future looks much better for us than this day last year. Last night we were snowball fighting at 10 p.m. and at midnight we sang "Auld Lang Syne" outside. We had cheese and onion sandwiches with beer tea for supper and we got to bed at 2 a.m. Ernie Eagle, Ron McDonald, Snow, Les and Tanky and our six were at the table. The last air raid alarm of the old year went at about 9 p.m. and the first of the New Year went at about 4 a.m. this morning and then there was a big raid at 11 a.m. not far away. Again tonight there was another big raid so things must be alright in the west. I wrote a letter to Mary today. There is not much said but we all hope and pray that before this year is out we will all be home with our loved ones. In the meantime we have to carry on working and looking after ourselves. George and Colin were in for tea with us.

14 January 1945

Sunday: It has been snowing most of the week with frosts as well but it was fine today. I wrote a card to Mary tonight. There was a big raid today with hundreds of planes going overhead and a lot of flack went up at them. Two were shot down. The flares were a great sight. I had a letter from Mother and one from Mary last week dated 22 October. We got a Christmas parcel each last week and half a Canadian one yesterday and we have three half issues left. We worked last Sunday and missed a film.

18 January 1945

Thursday: Owing to the raid on Sunday the power was off on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday we went to work at 9 a.m. and left again at 3 p.m. Tuesday we didn't go

out at all. On Tuesday night there was a great raid with planes going over for about three hours. The flack and flares were all around us. A great sight. Terrifying when you think of it. We saw three planes come down and heard one of them. At times the whole sky was lit up. This morning there were planes going over for an hour at 5 a.m. A great air offensive is on now.

21 January 1945

Sunday: The news has been great but the people here are very worried about the Russians, as they are in Germany now. The RSM was here on Friday and the parcel question seems to be alright for a while yet. We have had alarms but no planes over for a day or two. Wrote to Mary tonight.

28 January 1945

Sunday: It has been snowing all week and we have had to walk to work since Wednesday. Got gumboots yesterday, just the thing. We have had no planes over this area for some time but the news is good.

4 February 1945

Sunday: It is raining today and the snow is all gone. Yesterday we had an exciting experience. In the morning there was a raid and hundreds of big bombers went over and the all clear went. We left work at 2.15 p.m. and were on the road when the alarm went again. We saw three fighters diving and thought they were German when flack opened up on them. We were nearly at camp and watching these three when five others came over the hill and strafed (attacking ground targets using automatic weapons) a train about 20 yards up the line from us. We were just crossing the bridge in the truck and I've never seen it empty so quickly. There were another two trains hit on another line seen by George and Colin. The news is great. Joe is 50 miles from Berlin. Wrote a letter to Mary today.

11 February 1945

Sunday: No mail this week but quite a lot of excitement. On Friday there was a big raid and fighters came down strafing. We were standing outside the bunker at work watching three overhead when bullets started landing in the road in front of our hut. Ernie was standing 10 yards from where they landed. Last night there was a great bombing raid on Hanover and our hut was shaking. This morning we heard a plane overhead and thought it was German as there had been no alarm, but it turned out to be ours and it fired on a train up the line. The engine was wrecked, that seems to be all they aim at, to wreck the engines. The news is good by the reports.

18 February 1945

Sunday: I worked this morning, the only one of our party to do so. There's an all clear just gone but no planes this time. There was a big raid on Wednesday. We spent 2½ hours in the bunker and after the all clear, fighters came over strafing. One shot down not far from our job. We have a new gramophone and a few records in camp. News is very good. Bernie wrote half my letter to Mary tonight.

25 February 1945

Sunday: We have had raids night and day all this week, eating our tea by lamplight. We had a leaflet drop on Thursday and Saturday. About 19000 prisoners in France and the terms of peace imposed with a photo. We saw a lot reading them on Saturday. Turkey is in the war now.

26 February 1945

Monday: The news of Turkey is confirmed. There is also a raid on in Egypt at present.

4 March 1945

Sunday: It is now 7 p.m. and we have had no raid today, the first day for about a month. There was a heavy raid not far away yesterday morning and we were in the bunker for three hours. We got new battledresses today. It is snowing and the news is very good.

Dresden

11 March 1945

Sunday: We had a raid every night this last week, regularly at about 7.30 pm. The biggest raid of the war was on Thursday night and every town got it. One raid was on Dresden where two hundred thousand were killed. Our troops are over the Rhine. Colgna is ours now. Everybody thinks four or five weeks now.



The weather is improving and the days are getting longer now. Wrote to Mary today.

18 March 1945

Sunday: This last week the weather has been very good with real spring mornings and we have had a walk two mornings. On Tuesday and Wednesday we spent two hours each day in the bunker. Yesterday we had alarms all day and last night the all clear went at 4.30a.m. Bill Beven is just back from Stalag and he says there are no parcels but there are a lot at Lubeck, the Port in the north that is open to the Red Cross. Let's hope they get here soon as we only have two half issues left. We don't start work until 7 a.m. now instead of 6 a.m. and it makes a lot of difference. We have had our rations cut but the civilians have too. I wrote to Mum tonight. Bernie got a letter with a photo on Friday. We've got the band in our hut tonight.

25 March 1945

Sunday: We had to go to work this morning at Klein Mahner and unloaded shingle and two lorries of girders. The girders had American names on them. We had a bombing raid while we were there and we saw a great cloud of smoke in the same place as we saw one the other day. The lads in camp saw between three and four thousand of our

boys marching, or at least hobbling, along the road they had come nearly two months ago. Wrote to Mary tonight.

1 April 1945

Sunday: We had Friday off as it was Good Friday and we get tomorrow off as well. We had football this afternoon. The news is great. Kassel is gone and they are past it now. Some of the boys have their bags packed. We saw a great sight on Thursday night. The moon quarter is up and eight fighters were leaving vapour trails as they criss-crossed the sky right overhead.

2 April 1945

Easter Monday: A holiday tonight and the news is very good. Columns are advancing from Bulfeld east and north-east. There is a lot of army transport passing here today.

4 April 1945

Wednesday: The news is very good. Last night English news says they are 40 miles away. The married men from the rectory we are working in came back from Lingen today. The civilians are burying food etc. There was a house bombed in Salzgitter last night and we saw it today. He fired a burst at a light and came back and fired another and they came back and dropped a bomb. I didn't hear it but I heard a plane fire a burst over the camp earlier in the night. Two children and one adult were killed with the bomb.

6 April 1945

Friday 8.30 p.m. The flap is on and we are already packed up waiting for word whether we move or not, we are praying we don't. We worked as usual today and heard this afternoon that they are approaching Hildersheim. At present we can hear guns in the distance. The magazine has been emptied tonight of a few smokes. We are lucky in having some chocolate. I can't write any more, can't concentrate.

7 April 1945

Saturday 10.30 a.m. I am still waiting. Got to sleep last night at about 12.30 p.m. The boys say there was a lot of gunfire after that but I didn't hear it. Five chaps have gone. All is quiet now and we are still praying we don't have to move. The general opinion is that we won't, as it's too late.

8 April 1945

Sunday: We are moving off at 12 o'clock for where we don't know!

9 April 1945

Monday: Time 2.30 p.m. We are now at a village called Hornburg in a barn just outside and 25 kms from Salzgitter. We have just had a feed of spuds and peas. It was very good. Quite nice in the sun. We arrived last night and don't move until tomorrow. The Under-Officer is very good doing what he can for us.

10 April 1945

Tuesday: Time 11 a.m. We are still in the same place as yesterday. There were a lot of planes over in the night and we can hear gunfire in the north and northwest. It has been coming nearer since dawn and we still don't know if we are moving yet.

Time 7.15 p.m.: There has been gunfire all day and they say we are surrounded but we don't know. We saw some dive bombers this afternoon strafing etc. This is just like a picnic here.

Time 9 p.m.: Have just been watching gun flashes from the top of the hill and also big clouds of smoke. The poster said it was Bergbau in Salzgitter. It is the closest we have been since 1941 in Bengahzi.

11 April 1945

Wednesday: Time 2 p.m.: We are now free and having a feed at a house and a clean up. The Yanks are at Matterzall where we were. We had to move last night at 10.30 p.m. They brought some heavy guns back near us and we were on the move until 4 p.m. On the move back we were in a darky's truck and we are now in the town of Schladon. They wanted us to stay in an old factory but we didn't like it. Bernie and I went up the road and got in a pub.

12 April 1945

Thursday: I have just got up after a good sleep. These Yanks are treating us well. We don't know where George and the rest are. We are going to see what's doing in the way of transport. If there is one, we are going back to Salzgitter. The Yank food is great, they even have tinned heat for cooking!

14 April 1945

Saturday: We have just arrived at the airport at Hildershiem. We have registered, been before the MO and are waiting now for the planes to take us to England. They may be a day or two. On Thursday in Schlader, a woman came crying to Bernie for someone to sleep in her house as there were six women there and they were afraid of the Russians, so Bernie, George, Ginger and I went and stayed till this morning when we heard of transport to bring us back, so we got moving. We got about six good cameras there. This town here was in ruins from bombing. I have never seen anything like it before.



At Hildershiem

15 April 1945

Sunday: We are still here at the airport. George, Eddie, Colin and Keith went yesterday and are in England. We gave George a camera to take. Today Bernie and I went up into the town and had a look at the ruins. We saw the raid about three weeks ago that did all the damage. We also went through the photo department on this drome and it was in ruins but we got a few snaps. There are about three or four thousand men here now and it's pretty crowded. We hope to get away tomorrow. There were no planes today. We are not interested in the news now but we hear they are nearing Berlin.

It all seems like a dream, this being free!





Hildershiem



16 April 1945

Monday: Time 10 a.m.: We are sitting on the drome waiting on the planes. We have got breakfast and coffee out here which is much better than lining up. There are about 8000 in here now.

Time 11.20 a.m.: We have just watched 30 planes come in to land.

Time 8.20 p.m.: We are in the air heading for England. We left at 8.05 p.m. and it's wonderful with 26 on the plane. We will see a bit of the country under us before it's dark. It's like riding in a car.

Time 10.10 p.m.: We have just passed over Brussels with the lights on all over, what a wonderful sight. We are now over Lyon nearing the coast.

Time 10.30 p.m.: Travelling at 145 mph at 3200 ft!

17 April 1945

Tuesday: Time 9.30 a.m.: We have just had breakfast of kornies, bacon and eggs. We crossed over London last night and landed at 12 p.m. and what a reception we got from the RAF. They helped us out of the planes, gave us a smoke and then we went through a delouser and then Waff's took us over and gave us tea and then we came on here and had a feed and went to bed. I didn't know what to say to the girls.

18 April 1945

Last night we went to the town of Aylesbury and they gave us a great time. We are moving this morning and going through London. All the staff here are wonderful the way they are treating us. This camp is in Wootten.

19 April 1945

Thursday: We arrived here last night and today we have been to the dentist and Bernie has his new clothes. I'll get mine tomorrow. I got Mum's liberty letter, one from Mr Paterson and the firm's one. I sent a cable to Mum and one to Mary.

22 April 1945

Sunday: Margate: We are still here but we are moving tomorrow. I go to Broadstairs where George is and Bernie goes to Folkstone but the three of us are going on leave together. We have all our kit. Wrote to Mum and Mary. The weather here is wonderful. We went to a picture on Friday night. Storms over Lisbon. Saw Harry Reeves yesterday for the first time since the hospital in Udine, Italy.





Alan came back to New Zealand on board the Stirling Castle via the Panama Canal.
There were 3 tier bunks in the hold of the ship.

He landed in Wellington, caught the ferry to Lyttleton,
then the train to Port Chalmers.





The Minister of Defence has pleasure in presenting the enclosed Awards with the compliments of the Prime Minister and New Zealand Government, and in sincere appreciation of loyal service rendered during the war of 1939 – 45.

The following medals were awarded to Private Alan McDonald Cochrane.

1939-1945 Star:

The 1939-1945 Star is the first in a series of eight campaign stars instituted in 1945 to recognise service in the Second World War. It was awarded for six months service in specified operational areas. Those whose service was shortened by death, injury or capture or who were awarded a decoration or mention in despatches also qualified for the medal.

The ribbon has three equal vertical stripes of dark blue, red and light blue. The dark blue stripe symbolises the service of the Navy and the Merchant Navy, the red stripe symbolises the service of the Army, and the light blue stripe symbolises the service of the Air Force

This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.

It has a six pointed star with a crown and royal cipher in the centre.

The outer circle reads The 1939-45 Star.



The Africa Star was awarded for service in North Africa between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943.

The ribbon is pale buff in colour, with a central vertical red stripe, and narrower stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. The pale buff background symbolises the desert, the central red stripe symbolises the Army, the dark blue stripe symbolises the Navy and Merchant Navy, and the light blue stripe symbolises the Air Force.



NZ War Medal 1939 – 45

The War Medal 1939-45 was awarded across the British Commonwealth to all fulltime members of the Armed Forces for 28 days service between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945 irrespective of where they were serving.

On the obverse of this medal is the effigy of King George VI. On the reverse is a triumphant lion trampling on a dragon symbolising the Axis powers.

The ribbon is the red, white, and blue of the (British) Union Flag. There is a narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side. There are broad red stripes at either edge, the two intervening stripes being blue.



NZ War Service Medal

The New Zealand War Service Medal was awarded for 28 days' full time service or six months' part time service in any of the New Zealand Armed Forces, the New Zealand National Military Reserve or the Home Guard between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945. This medal was the first distinctively 'New Zealand' war service medal, which was emphasised by the use of the fern leaf motif on the suspender and the reverse, and the national colours of black and white in the ribbon.



Members of No. 3 Section - 16 Platoon

A C Adams (Blue)
W G Bee
A McD Cochrane
G E Downes
C J Ewing
G L Familton
O Fennesey
A S Hellewell
S Hunt
R E Merrett
W A Sharp
R A Todd

Army Service Dates

Signed on	12 May 1940
Burnham Camp	7 January 1941
Overseas	7 April 1941
Port Tewfik	14 May 1941
Maadi	15 May 1941
Wadi Nutrum	29 May 1941
Helwan 20 th	14 June 1941
Brigade	12 July 1941
Kabrit Point	19 July 1941
Baggush Box	15 August 1941
Back to Battalion	9 September 1941
Left Baggush	12 November 1941
Libya action	20 November 1941

POW Italy

Benghazi Camp	1 December 1941
Garian Camp	25 December 1941
Camp 66, Capua	30 December 1941
Camp 52, Chaiauri	1 January 1942 - 22 December 1942
Camp 57, Gruppiano	23 December 1942 - 23 May 1943
Camp 103/6, Ampezzo	23 May 1943
Hospital, Udine	27 July 1943
Camp Ampezzo	17 August 1943
Treviso	9 September 1943 - 13 September 1943

POW Germany

Stalag VIIA, Moosburg	16 September 1943 - 4 October 1943
Stalag XIA, Magdeburg	6 October 1943 - 23 December 1943
Stalag XIB, Salzgitter	24 December 1943 - 19 April 1945
Repatriated to England	19 April 1945

Alan's name tag from Stalag X1A.

Note: The information is printed twice on the tag. The reason for this was that if a soldier was killed in action, one part of the name tag would stay on the soldier the other piece would be taken for the purpose of recording the death.

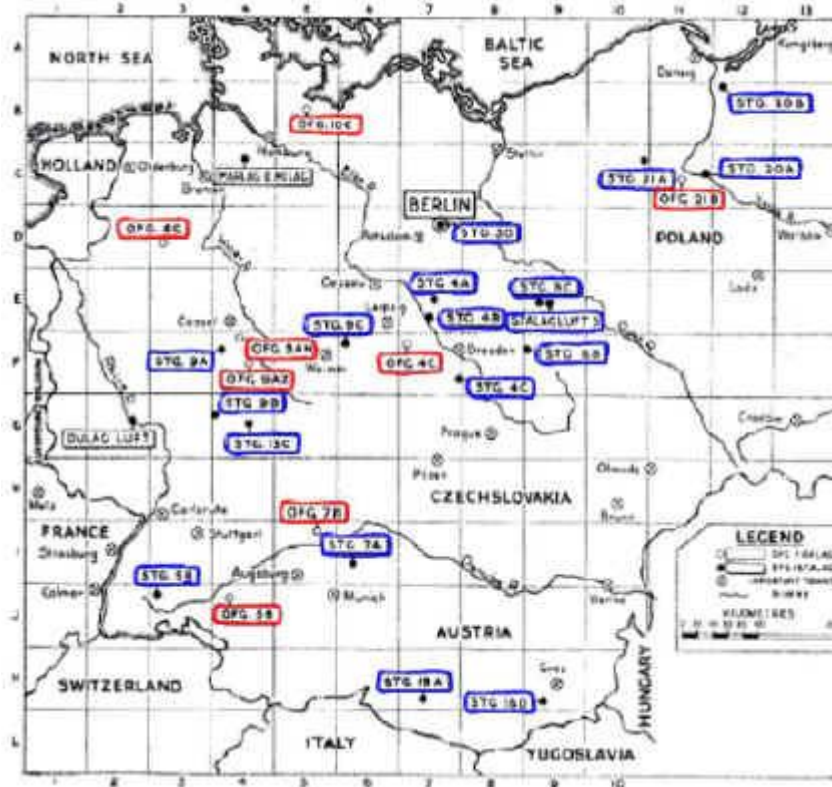


NOTES

Page 6 ¹	Marion Murray - cousin of Alan's
Page 12 ²	Mr Peterson - work colleague
Page 19 ³	Gilbert Gow - work colleague
Page 20 ⁴	Les Fagg - POW
Page 20 ⁵	Jack Dever - POW
Page 20 ⁶	Jack Miller - POW
Page 22 ⁷	Keith - Keith Cochrane, Alan's brother
Page 25 ⁸	Rev D Spence, Padre
Page 26 ⁹	Myra Hewitson - Mary's sister - later Alan's sister-in-law
Page 35 ¹⁰	Frank and Irene Harkness - Friends
Page 36 ¹¹	Winnie Cochrane - Alan's sister
Page 43 ¹²	Colin - Colin Cochrane, Alan's brother
Page 106 ¹³	Aunt Kate - Alan's Aunt, Catherine Ferguson
Page 116 ¹⁴	Ina (Thomasina) Hayes - later Alan's sister-in-law through marriage to his brother, Kenneth
Page 116 ¹⁵	Arthur Douglas, Artist
Page 124 ¹⁶	Bernie Martin - Friend



World War Two - German Prisoner of War Camps



This map shows some of the Prisoner of war camps that were located in German occupied countries.

The most well known German prisoner of war camps were known as either *Stalags*, short for the German word *Stammlager*, or *Oflags*, short for the German *Offizier Lager*.

Oflags (ringed in red on the map) were German prison camps for officers while Stalags (ringed in blue) were for both officers and enlisted men. Some of the Stalag camps were properly named *Stalag Luft*, short for *Stammlager Luftwaffe*. They were run by the *Luftwaffe* and were initially intended to house airforce prisoners. There were also camps known as *Marlags*, short for the German *Marinelager*, which were for captured naval servicemen.

Before being sent to a camp, a captured prisoner of war had to pass through a *Dulag*, short for the German *Durchgangslager*. These were transit camps where details of the prisoners were processed and they were interrogated. Under the terms of the Geneva Convention prisoners only had to give details of their name, rank and serial number but interrogating officers often tried to trick captured servicemen into giving away more information through clever questioning.

Prisoners would then be transported to a prisoner of war camp. The usual form of transport was by train and the length of the journey depended on both the distance to travel and the number of times the train would be shunted into a siding to make way for a passing troop train.



At intervals the train would stop and all the prisoners would be expected to get out of the train to either relieve themselves or empty their bowels by the side of the track.

Individual camp layouts varied from camp to camp, but all were enclosed with barbed wire and contained guard towers which were manned by armed German soldiers ready to shoot anyone trying to escape. Prisoners were usually housed in one-storey wooden barracks which contained bunk beds (two or three high) and a charcoal burning stove in the middle of the room.

Prisoners were generally given two meals a day - thin soup and black bread. Needless to say hunger was a feature of most prisoners' lives. All prisoners looked forward to deliveries of Red Cross food parcels which contained 'luxury' items such as butter, biscuits, chocolate and condensed milk as well as dried fruits and vegetables. Prisoners often improvised their own brick stoves and cooked their food in empty milk tins.

Daily routine varied from camp to camp but all prisoners would be expected to parade at least once daily for a roll-call. Some men would be put to work either around the camp or in the locality. A range of sports were played when the weather was fine and in the evenings there were sometimes concerts. However, for most, the overriding features of life in a prisoner of war camp were boredom, hunger and dreams of a better life once the war was over.



A series of war experiences published in an Arthur Barnett's publication by staff members.

The following were written by Alan Cochrane

A Solider Remembers

I have been asked to write about some of the incidents which occurred during my five years in the Army and as a P.O.W. in Italy and Germany. Although not claiming to be a literary expert, I will do my best.

Why did I join the Army?

It all started for me on a day in May, 1940, soon after my twenty-first birthday, in the recruiting depot in Rattray Street with a staff sergeant firing all sorts of questions at me: Age, illnesses, etc, etc including can you drive horses? To this day I have never found out what horses had to do with mechanised warfare or the P.B.I.



It may have been that spirit of adventure which we all have, or perhaps the thought of doing one's bit for King and country - to this day I couldn't tell you.

Incidentally, the same day I joined three other members of the staff did the same - so that Army had a field day from Arthur Barnett's! This brought the total up to six for the shop, Mr Arthur being in camp and Lewis Walkinshaw somewhere at sea. Lewis, by the way (those of you who knew him), went to camp the day after war was declared, and was subsequently lost when the Neptune went missing.

Of the four mentioned, I was the last to go to camp, which I did on January 7, 1941, arriving at Burnham to be greeted by Second-Lieutenant A.W. Barnett. Our first impressions of Army life weren't the best, as we had sawdust saveloys (warmed up) and tea out of brand new metal mugs. We also had them for breakfast the next morning as sausages.

That first night in camp is still very vivid in my memory. It wasn't so bad being one of a family of eight, but in our hut we had lawyers, bank clerks, farmers, even a turf agent - so you can imagine the embarrassment some of them must have felt that first night away from their own bedrooms. However, it didn't take very long for that to disappear. But there were quite a few who said that if ever they had any sons they would make them join the Boy Scouts. Abler pens than mine have written descriptions of camp life before now, so I won't bore you with mine, but there are one or two incidents I must record.

The Turf agent in our hut couldn't get used to mess room meals, and used to have all sorts of things sent to him through the post, including a roast fowl, which by the time he received it, was foul.

Towards the end of our stay in Burnham, we had to do night manoeuvres, and one night our platoon set off along the road for a route march. We only went as far as the first plantation, and worked our way into it a short distance. The sergeant said "All right chaps, here's where we stop" and we all sat down and stayed there for two hours, except two chaps that went back to camp and bought pies for all of us. The reason for this was that the sergeant had a hangover from the night before.

Another night we were ordered to drop our stretchers on the floor as a section of the fourth reinforcements were leaving camp the next morning, and it was a favourite joke to drop beds, irrespective of persons. However, it was a quiet night, but they had left their marks behind them in the form of rolls of toilet paper over every lamp post in camp.

We had final leave from February 28 to March 7. We sailed from Wellington on April 7. I was one who went in the advance party to Wellington. We crossed by night and I shared a second-berth cabin and on arrival went on board the *Mauretania*. The rest of the battalion crossed in daylight and what with their farewell parties the night before and no room to sleep on the boat; some were the worse for wear.

A Solider Remembers

Published May 1953.

Mauritania



We left Freemantle on April 19 and continued on our way with just one or two incidents to break the usual routine of ship life. On the 22nd the *Nieuw Amsterdam* left us to go to Singapore. On the 25th, Anzac Day, we had a full parade and service. Also the same day the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth* left us and went their way. It was on one of these days that occurred an incident which was reported in our local papers some months ago. The *Queen Elizabeth* suddenly put on speed and went some miles ahead, turned round, and came back into position again. What speed it was doing I have no idea being no judge of speed.

On the 26th we had our first glimpse of the East when we anchored in Colombo Harbour. That first day there we had quite a lot to interest us. There were lots of native boats around, with vendors trying to sell all sorts of things from ornaments to pineapples. The procedure of these transactions is this: First you haggle over the price and when that is agreed on, the native throws a line up from his boat with which you pull up a basket in which the money is lowered to him, and only after he has examined them to see they are not "dud" coins will he put the article in the basket for you to haul up.

For most of our stay here (10 days altogether) there were always barges alongside pumping fuel and water into our ship. The natives on these barges did quite a trade diving for coins. We had leave on most days. There were quite a few tugs that performed a shuttle service between the ships and the jetty. Here also people were kindness itself. There was a Services' Club and Y.M.C.A. where refreshments were served free of charge. There were also quite a few buses which did free trips around the town and suburbs. On one of these we first visited a Buddhist temple, then a Hindu one, where before we were allowed to enter we had to remove our shoes and have a red mark put on our foreheads just like a caste mark.

Another day we visited the Galle Face Hotel swimming baths. A salt water pool with small tables and chairs all around where refreshments were served. We also went for a walk through part of the native quarter called Slave Island. It wasn't a very pleasant trip - through dirty, narrow streets and by the end of that day we were all agreed that it was just as well that we had to be back on board before dark. Two of us had an offer one day of a free ride by car around the town but as soon as we were in it the driver demanded 30 rupees (which is over £2) so needless to say our ride was short lived.

A Soldier Remembers

Published November 1953

Incident on leave in Cairo

To get to Cairo from Helwan Camp we had to travel first by bus, most of which were ready for the scrap heap, and it was always a wonder to me that there weren't more accidents. These buses delivered us to Helwan Township then we went by diesel train (after a mad scramble to get on it any way you could, through windows etc). Cairo in 1941 was a city of troops of any different nationalities including English, Australian, New Zealand, South African, Indians, and the native population always seemed to know the new troops.

We were continually pestered by boot blacks, street hawkers and dragomen or guides who always wanted exorbitant fees for showing us places of interest which we could reach on our own very easily. The boot blacks' favourite trick if after persistent pestering to clean your boots (which were always clean) you still refused would dart up behind you and with a brush would plaster your boots with black grease, after which you had to have them cleaned.

One day we went to the native bazaar as one of our mates wanted to buy scent essence. This transaction took just the bare two hours to execute, as we first had to drink cups of coffee and talk about everything under the sun, except the business in hand.

Another day we visited the pyramids where a dragoman wanted the equivalent of 10s to show us the tombs inside the biggest one. We declined his services, and had a

look for ourselves. We decided it was too hot and strenuous for us to climb up to the top as a lot of others did, but we did have our photos taken on a camel which is a must when you visit these places. There were many places of interest but you have probably read better descriptions of them than I can give you, but before leaving the subject of Cairo there are one or two things I must tell you.



All shops with the exception of large stores, very seldom had price tickets or articles for sale. If you offered about 20 per cent of what was asked and had the time to bargain, you may get it at a reasonable price to your way of thinking, but even then it would probably be more than it was worth. Most of these places must have made fortunes during those years of war.

Also, in nearly every place there was a slab of marble on the counter on which when paying for anything, you put your coins and they had to ring, as there was such a lot of counterfeit money around. I remember once after being pestered by a boot black paying him a coin, then being followed by him for about a mile, he declaring that it was no good. That was one time at least, that I got my

own back. I quite enjoyed seeing all places of interest in and around Cairo, but my first impressions remain, it is a filthy place, and let's leave Egypt to the Egyptians and give me good old New Zealand every time.

A Soldier Remembers - August 1941
Published December 1953

At this time two of us transferred to Brigade Headquarters for a defence platoon. Our main duty was to defend the Headquarters and another which wasn't very popular with any of us was that we were to be a super demonstration platoon. More about that later.

A few days after this transfer we left Helwan Camp by train for Kabrit Point on the Suez Canal. Here our time was spent mostly on the Canal in small landing craft practising landing at which we became quite proficient being able to clear the craft within a few seconds of striking the beach. We had frequent spells of swimming, but the water being so warm it did not do us much good. Every second night we had to do picket duty 2 hours on, four hours off, but we soon got into the way of making sure that someone was about when the orderly officer came around.

The completion of this landing craft training came with a final do in which the whole Brigade took part. We went aboard the Glenroy (a parent ship for landing craft) in

the afternoon and sweated below decks till 2.30 a.m. the next morning. We then went over the side into landing craft. Here we were unlucky as we had drawn one of the larger craft with a 2 pounder anti-tank gun on board, and on beaching we had to help haul it about half a mile which believe me, was no joke. At least we didn't get wet which was one consolation. One or two of the craft struck a sand bank and the chaps thinking they were beached stepped off up to their necks in water.

We left Kabrit on September 13, and spent three days on the road to Sidi Hanish on the Mediterranean Coast, where we continued the monotonous round of picket and sentry duty every second day till October 6th. By that time the Brigadier I think had got tired of trying to make a model platoon out of us and packed us all back to our respective battalions. There the two of us made a very comfortable dugout with what we could acquire in the way of timber and iron plus the fly off the Brigadier's tent. Everybody was very healthy and fit what with route marches and swimming and instead of doing nothing in the hottest part of the day, the time was spent playing football.

November 9th 1941 - My first diary ends at this point as not wanting to lose it I gave it to the Padre and it eventually reached home after I was taken prisoner.

A Soldier Remembers
Published December 1953

We left Sidi Hanish on November 12, and we were all optimistic about what we were going to have in Tripoli for Christmas dinner. (Yes I had mine near there, but not what we had thought it was going to be).

The High Commissioner and General Freyberg were standing at the road block waving as we went by. One chap called out "See you in London Bill" and we did, but it was three and a half years later.

You would have thought that we were bound on a picnic; everybody was in such high spirits. Every stop we had was spent kicking a football and on night moves we had some good community sings (not the sort you hear here) until the order came from someone high up that all frivolities must cease immediately.

We travelled mostly by night and rested during the day. Every morning we had to dig slit trenches and one day we had struck a nice position where the digging was easy and had just settled down when we had orders to move. We shifted about half a mile and were told to dig in which was impossible, it was solid rock.

Then there was another side to the picture, more serious, a foreboding of things to come.

I can see it as if it was only yesterday. One day the chaps on our truck got talking about what was ahead and where they would get hit. One said in the head and he was subsequently killed, another said he would be hit in the circle made by his balaclava. He was wounded in the face and lost the sight of one eye. The third said he would be hit below the knees and he was by a fragment of shrapnel which he pulled out of his leg months later in a prison camp. I was always pleased after, and am to this day, that I refrained from making any comment for who knows you perhaps would not be reading this.

Seeing this is a Christmas issue I will relate briefly what befell us at Christmas 1941. The whole of the night of Christmas Eve was spent in open railway trucks mainly standing as there was no room even to sit. Christmas Day was spent climbing for miles up a zig-zag road to Garian, near Tripoli where our meal for the day comprised a small cup of hot water with two or three pieces of macaroni floating about, and a loaf of bread about the size of a sugar bun. This with a cup of black synthetic coffee comprised our total day's ration. However, we spent the evening singing Christmas carols to the wonderment of guards who just couldn't understand.

A SOLDIER REMEMBERS . . . *Published March 1954*

In my last article I mentioned where we had left Sidi Hanish on the 12th for the Libyan Desert very optimistic and full of high spirits.

We travelled mainly at night with trucks in close formation only a few yards between each. The truck in front of ours was towing an 18-pounder, and many a time we stopped with the barrel of it only inches from our radiator. I was quite pleased I wasn't a driver on this trip, as no lights were allowed.

The night of the 21st we spent mostly pushing trucks out of mud. The cooks' truck was lost for some hours and we got our tea at mid-night. Bully-beef stew that had been cooked at breakfast time.

On the 22nd we came in contact with Germans for the first time.

We had been told that our job was to straddle the coast road above Bardia which we did with very few shots being fired. Our platoon finished the day with four prisoners with whom we had a photo take, little realising that the positions would soon be reversed.



The Mosque at Sidi Rezegh

We collected a lot of souvenirs from field glasses to motor cycles and trucks; also foodstuffs.

We had been told that the German's rations had been causing stomach disorders amongst them, so one of the boys made a guinea pig of himself by having a spoonful of jam and we all watched him anxiously for some hours before we used it. We also found single tins of sardines and letters with single cigarettes addressed to Germany.

The two or three days following was spent moving and stopping with some alarms. On one of these my cobbler carried an anti-tank rifle for half a mile and finally had it sighted for a shot at a German truck and it wouldn't fire. The comments are not printable.

Nobody seemed to know where we were going or why. We even travelled one day in the same direction as a German column which was about one and a-half miles away. On the 25th we moved on to Belhamed which was overlooked by the Mosque at Sidi Rezegh, which has figured in quite a few Unit Histories. It was here that we ran into all sorts of trouble. We had our first taste of dive bombing with no casualties. That night we suffered heavily in a bayonet charge but reached our objective which was to link up with the Tobruk Garrison.

From then till 1st December we spent under constant fire from long-range guns and on the morning of the 1st were overrun by German tanks. What could you do with a tank a few yards away - and you with only a rifle! The first words spoken by them were: "Up Tommy, for you the war is over." That particular phase of it certainly was but there began another battle - the struggle for existence against starvation, ill-health, and the worst of all, boredom in prison camps in Italy and Germany, which lasted 3½ years.

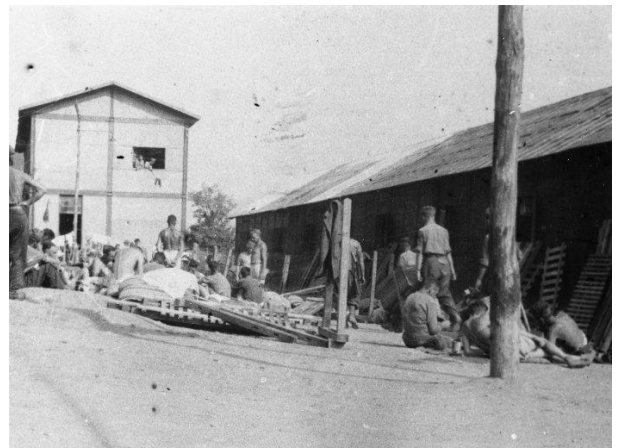
Incidentally I am reading at present the Official History of the 26th Battalion wherein is described where they watched our battalion being captured.

When captured there were 12 of our platoon left out of 32, the rest had either been killed or wounded.

A Soldier Remembers . . .
Published July 1954

Camp Fifty-Two

There was one attempt to escape from this camp which I will endeavour to explain although it was unsuccessful. Two



or three chaps in the next hut to ours lifted a section of flooring and started tunnelling. Their biggest difficulty being the disposal of loose soil, but as the hut was on piles about 2ft 6 in high, it was stowed under there.

We watched daily to see the new soil showing nearer and nearer to the outside of the hut but it wasn't that that gave them away. They had excavated the tunnel right outside the wire when they struck a soft patch and it caved in and a guard all but went in too. After the discovery there was the usual amount of screaming and yelling by the Ities and we were confined to the huts for the rest of the day and were counted time after time to see if anyone was missing.

The ringleaders were given a week or so in the boob which, as I've said before, was no hardship, and were congratulated by the Camp Commandant on their attempted escape. This Italian Colonel (who by the way wasn't a bad sort of bloke) fought with the British in the First War and I believe was shot by the Germans after the capitulation of Italy. He did what he was able to do with the limited power that he had to make things easier for us, always attended any concerts, boxing matches etc. that were being held in the camp from time to time.

A word now about what was outside the wire: As mentioned previously, the camp was situated in a deep valley and the hills on either side were very steep. We say of such places here that they are too steep for anything. Well there's an old saying, "nothings impossible: and believe it's quite right after seeing what had been done there.

The whole hillsides had been terraced and we were led to believe it had been done by slaves in ancient days. Little clusters of houses in the most inaccessible places with always a church nearby. Chestnut trees grew in abundance. The main crop was grapes with of course the usual vegetables including garlic. We were able to buy them in the canteen.

I think I've told you that we were paid a few liras each month in canteen chits. Well turning back to my diary, I see where the two Italians in the canteen were caught issuing chits for their own gain and they spent a very uncomfortable time for a few months in gaol.

A Soldier remembers . . .
Published 1955

We left Camp 57 on 23rd May 1943 as a working party of 100, all Kiwis, and arrived at Ampezzo at night after a train journey and a 10 mile march. It may be of interest to readers to know that the Ski Championships of the 1956 Olympic Games are being held at Ampezzo.

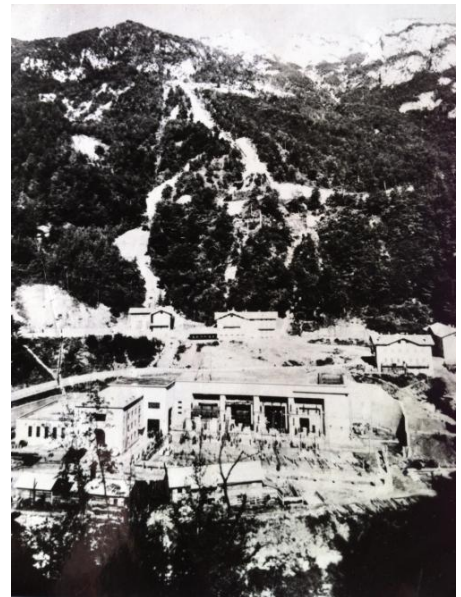
We were to work on a new hydro station and over the river there had been a new camp built for us. All very modern by Italian standards, conveniences and showers attached to each hut, canteen, mess room, and, of course, a special boob for the naughty boys. A friend of mine was the first inmate, a sentence of three days for being caught buying bread for cigarettes off the civilians. It was a joke really as he only had to spend the night there and then he couldn't sleep for the guard trying to learn English from him.

We had a couple of days before starting work and we used them to clean up the camp and level off a piece of ground for basketball. We were told we would be paid the same rate as civilians but it would be divided up as follows: - So much in camp money only good in our canteen, where we could buy, when available, fruit and toilet requisites etc; so much to be banked for us in the State bank; and the rest went to pay for the building of the camp.

So you see, I own a small portion of Italy, but they are welcome to it. Life in this camp was much more pleasant than our previous ones. Our daily rations were double that in non-working camps and were supplemented by the contractors we were working for and we also had something to occupy our minds with.

We all look forward to our annual holidays but believe me, after you have had 12 months' doing nothing it soon begins to pale and we were glad to be doing something.

The first job I was on was pick and shovel work in a gravel pit, filling skip trucks which were emptied into a hopper and from it into buckets on an overhead flying fox similar to that in use in Roxburgh for concrete. There was another flying fox from the railhead to the dam which was some miles farther up in the mountains, which was used for cement and it travelled over all sorts of country.



Now for a little explanation about the works:

We were on the hydro station and the most of it was being blasted out of the mountain. The central arch of Arthur Barnett's store would have fitted comfortably inside the turbine chamber which was reached through a tunnel about 75 yards long. The dam was on the same river but some miles farther into the mountains and the water was to be brought to the turbines from there mainly through tunnels.

Red Cross parcels were not available for the first two weeks but when they arrived we received two each, still with the string on them - the first time we had received them like that. In previous camps they had been opened and at Camp 57 every tin punctured. This issue continued for some time until regulations caught up with us and the interpreter wanted to open them all but after much protesting on the part

of our Sergeant, he was satisfied with taking labels off tins. This Sergeant was an expert at getting things done.

While in camp we were under the charge of the army but on the job, under the charge of the contractor and we played one against the other. To cite one case of this - the Army Lieutenant wanted some straw for beds which had been given to us by the contractor and on asking the Sergeant for it was told: "You do so and so for us and we'll give it to you" and we got what we wanted.

I spent a week in the gravel pit and then we were put on shift work in the turbine chamber, still loading trucks. We started at 6 a.m. and finished at 1.30 p.m. with a half hour break. The civilians worked 8 hour shifts without a break and they didn't want us to have one, but again we won.

There were 24 men on our shift, 12 worked inside the chamber and the other 12 worked outside emptying the trucks. These were pushed out of the tunnel by civilians for this reason. The Geneva Convention said that prisoners of war were not to work in the wet, and water dripped from the tunnel roof. The wet weather edict gave us quite a lot of fun later when we were again working outside. The Italians placed great emphasis on pay and there were times when we had brief showers of rain lasting perhaps 10 minutes, well, they stopped us at the first drops and did not start us till a full hour was up and once or twice the same thing happened.

Concerning pay, the funniest incident happened one day when we had just left camp to cross the river and the starting whistle went. We were met halfway over the bridge by the foreman and sent back to camp and told no work, no pay. We had a good holiday and after that they never said anything if we were late, which was quite often.

A Soldier Remembers. . .

Published December 1957

Work camp Ampezzo, Italy 1943

To continue impressions of the working camp from the last chapter I wrote. . .

The river on which the works were situated was very swift and very cold, too cold for us to swim in but we had very good showers attached to each hut which were most appreciated. I have mentioned that in the early days as P.O.W's we were plagued with lice, well we also had a plague of fleas in this camp and the only way we got rid of them was to take our blankets out each day and while one unrolled them, the other caught fleas. The record for one catch was about 40 to one blanket. This took up a lot of time of which we had plenty, but it was the only way of assuring some sleep at night.

The guards were always a source of amusement to us especially at roll-call every night at 10 p.m. when we were locked in. The guards would come in and endeavour to count us, but always gave up in disgust after such remarks, as so many on night shift, so many in showers, and lots of other remarks which the readers can guess for themselves.

One day two of the boys were taken up to the village to bring back mail as they thought, but it turned out to be two sacks of snails for the guards and I must say, they smelt very tempting cooking but none of us was sufficiently hungry to sample them.

One way of getting a spell from work for all hands below ground was for a skip truck of rock to be dumped, truck and all off the rails and over the edge of the dump. It always took at least half an hour for ropes etc. to be found to pull it up again. This always afforded us a good pantomime from the Italians.

The first two months on this job we had only our own clothes to wear but lots of promises of having them supplied but it took a major event to bring this about and it happened this way:

One day two lorries loaded with bags of cement arrived and 15 chaps were detailed to unload it, which they refused to do in their clothes. They were sent back to camp and were told that they would have to do time in the boob so all collected blankets etc. and were waiting outside, but were let off any punishment. The clothes arrived next day and the Italians unloaded the cement themselves.

A fortnight in hospital:

After suffering pains in my right side for some time I finally was examined by a civilian doctor who came to the camp every week. He diagnosed appendicitis and it was over to me whether I had it out or not. I decided to go to the hospital because who knew we could have been in worse plight, which proved to be the case. However, more about that later.

I left camp on 27th July after being awakened by the only one in our hut with a watch at 3.30 a.m. instead of 5.15 a.m. (he was popular I can tell you), with one guard and travelled by bus and train to Udine and went first of all to a dressing hospital, the top floor of which was a miniature prison camp with about 9 patients and four medical orderlies, all Aussies and Kiwis mostly from Camp 57.

I forgot most of the ailments but one Aussie was suffering from beriberi, a general swelling of the body caused by malnutrition, the cause in this case being the use of all his Red Cross food to gamble in the two-up ring. I might explain that in the big camps there were always chaps who would use their all to gamble, and there were Crown and Anchor and Two-up Kings especially. Also there was always on parcel day, a market which took the ancient form of barter and depended on supply and demand.

From an Oxo Cube you might end up with a pound meat roll or non-smokers could also name their price for cigarettes.

However to get back to the hospital - like in all hospitals even our own, cards have to be filled in and mine was done by the Italian priest who had learnt his English from the Aussies (most of whom had been captured in the desert in 1940), consequently his vocabulary contained a lot of slang and on my answer to my religion being "Presbyterian", he said "another bloody heathen"! That afternoon I was taken over to the main hospital and was examined by five doctors from a Lieutenant to the Colonel and they all wanted to operate at once except the Colonel. None of these doctors spoke English but from the one or two words I knew of Italian, I gathered that it was serious and proved that I had made the right decision to have it out. After this examination I was taken up to the P.O.W. ward where I found one of the local Port Chalmers boys and one from our work camp who had come there a week before me.

Although we were all confined to bed we still had to have a guard at night whose ritual was always the same - at lights out, stand his rifle in the corner, any vacant bed or the table and promptly go to sleep. Next morning I was operated on by the Colonel (who by the way was in his 70's) and I was the last of 8 that morning (the others were Italians). The staff was a very efficient team. When I arrived in the ante-room there was one patient being bandaged and one undressing, and in the theatre, one on the table and one getting the local. I had a glimpse of the needle which was used and it appeared to me like a knitting needle which was used for a spinal injection. On the table I had one look at proceedings and promptly shut my eyes. Hospitals and staff are the same the world over and I have nothing but praise for them at Udine.

The church sisters who had charge of rationing were very kind, especially to a young Australian who was gravely ill with TB. One visited him every night and always had fruit etc. in a pocket for him and at meal-time a piece of chicken buried in the cabbage pot so the Italian soldiers in the corridor couldn't see it. These chaps complained quite a bit about the prisoners getting extra rations; even the priest bought us chocolates and cigarettes and after shutting the door and to use his words, "so those jokers won't see", would hand them round.

The first two days I was on what they called quarter rations, black coffee at 5 a.m. in the morning (which I objected to being wakened for), a glass of sweet white wine and fruit. The next two days half rations which included bread and red wine and after that gradually back to cooked meats and vegetables. The monotony was broken one day by the air alarm when all Italians made for shelters and left us prisoners on our own. I arrived back at the work camp on 17th August and was put on 30 days reposa or no duties and spent the rest of my time in that camp in idleness as we received the first news of Italy's surrender on 8th September and we were on the move again. We all thought on our way home but little did we know that it would be almost two years before we got there.



ICRC

CIM/AIM/PTA/kt

Geneva, 04.12.2012

ATTESTATION

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received the following information:

Name and first name	COCHRANE Alan McDonald
Date of birth	11.05.1919
Place of birth	Outram, N.Z.
Father's first name	Robert John Maxwell
Mother's name	Brown
Rank	Private
Unit	2 nd N.Z.E.F.
Service number	16899
Date and place of capture	01.12.1941, Libya, N. Africa
Prisoner of war number	139772 Stalag XIA
Places of detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prisoner of war in Italian hands (according to a telegram dated 06.02.1942)• Detained in C.C. n°66 P.M. 3400 (according to a list dated 14.02.1942)• Transferred to C.C. n°52 P.M. 3100 on 22.12.1942 (according to a list dated 16.02.1943)• Transferred from C.C. n°52 to C.C. n°57 P.M. 3200 on 23.12.1942 (according to a list dated 25.02.1943)• Transferred to C.C. n°103 P.M. 3200 on 23.05.1943 (according to a list dated 26.06.1943)• Transferred to C.C. n°103 P.M. 3200 on 24.05.1943 (according to a list dated 05.07.1943)• Prisoner of war in German hands, arrived at Stalag XIA (according to a list dated 06.11.1943)

- Detained in Stalag XIA (according to capture card dated 15.11.1943)
- Transferred from Stalag XIA to Stalag XIB (according to a list dated 23.12.1943 and a letter dated 04.01.1944)
- Detained in Stalag XIB (according to a letter dated 22.01.1944)

From

- One telegram sent by the Italian Red Cross
- Five lists issued by the Italian authorities
- One capture card
- Two lists issued by the German authorities
- Two letters sent by the British Man of Confidence in Stalag XIA



LOCAL WAR CASUALTIES



1.

2.



3.

4.



5.

6.

1. Private R. H. Clark (died of wounds).
2. Private A. Gnettleburgh (died of wounds).
3. Private L. E. Dodds (missing).
4. Private I. S. W. Higgs (wounded).
5. Private I. Mills (wounded).
6. Private J. R. B. Richmond (wounded).



1.

2.



3.

1. Pte. J. K. Matheson (prisoner).
2. Pte. A. W. Armstrong (prisoner).
3. Pte. H. N. Reeves (prisoner).

LOCAL WAR CASUALTIES



Gnr O. F. Gray
(prisoner).



Sergeant D. Poli
(killed).



Spr F. Grigg
(prisoner).

In our Saturday night's issue the photo of Gunner Gray was inadvertently published as that of Sergeant Poli. Sapper F. Grigg was incorrectly reported as killed; as stated above, he is a prisoner.



- (1) Private P. C. Lewis (wounded).
- (2) Corporal J. H. Smith (prisoner).
- (3) Private A. Carter (prisoner).



- (1) Private S. J. Whitty (prisoner).
- (2) Private T. R. Abernethy (prisoner).
- (3) Driver J. Bardsley (prisoner).



- (1) Private A. McD. Cochrane (prisoner);
 - (2) Private G. G. Rass (prisoner);
 - (3) Private G. D. Wilson (prisoner);
 - (4) Able seaman S. G. Wilson (missing).
- The last two men are brothers.

War Record

Army No. 16899 Name: COCHRANE - Alan McDonald Unit: A INFANTRY

DESCRIPTION OF SOLDIER ON ENLISTMENT.	MEDALS AND DECORATIONS.
Date of birth: <u>11/5/19</u> Place: <u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Africa War</u>
Age: <u>21</u> <u>60 Days</u> Height: <u>5' 8" 1/2</u>	
Complexion: <u>Fair</u> Eyes: <u>Brown</u> Hair: <u>Black</u>	
Religion: <u>Presbyterian</u>	
Single, married, or widower: <u>Single</u>	
Occupation: <u>Shop Assistant</u>	
Place of enlistment: <u>Dunedin</u>	
Last employer: <u>Messrs. Arthur Barnett Ltd. Dn.</u>	
Last New Zealand address: <u>George Street Sawyers Bay. Dn.</u>	
Particulars previous military service:	

RECORD OF PROMOTIONS, REDUCTIONS, TRANSFERS, CASUALTIES, PUNISHMENTS, ETC., during service (as reported through routine orders or other official documents).

Particulars of Report.	Place.	Date.	Authority, and Date of	Entered by (Initials)
Entered <u>BURNHAM Camp I</u>	<u>WILMINGTON</u>	<u>7 JAN 1941</u>	<u>No. 6/41 2/1/41</u>	<u>"</u>
<u>GEN Leave to 8 3 41</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>17 2 41</u>	<u>19/41 16 2 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Spa to Camp Wray</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>17 3 41</u>	<u>66/41 13 3 41</u>	<u>G</u>
<u>Spa to "Unit X"</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>21 3 41</u>	<u>69/41 21 3 41</u>	<u>Camp</u>
<u>On 11/4/41 X HMT 25 (33 P.O. No)</u>	<u>69/41</u>	<u>15 5 41</u>	<u>RR 33/138 Ro 13 22/5/41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Imp to 20 Bn posted from 33 Bn</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>24 6 41</u>	<u>RR 133/117 Ro 21 24/6/41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>M/P posted HQ 4 Inf Bde Def Pt R. 20 Bn</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>12 8 41</u>	<u>71/49 Ro 8 19 8 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>M/P 1st Lt 20 Bn Pr Inf Bde Def Pt</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>9 10 41</u>	<u>71/49 Ro 16 15 10 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>M/P 1st Lt 20 Bn 4 Inf Bde Pr Def Pt</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>8 10 41</u>	<u>71/49 Ro 35 14 10 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Posted Missing</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>13 12 41</u>	<u>" 46 30 12 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Ret. " now repia. P.O.W.</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>13 12 41</u>	<u>" 8 24 2 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Stops X(III) list 2 NREF - m/c on</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>13 5 41</u>	<u>71/197 15 13 5 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>being t'd to X(III) list 2 NREF</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>13 5 41</u>	<u>71/197 15 13 5 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Stops of confirmed P.O.W. list 2/</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>13 5 41</u>	<u>71/197 15 13 5 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>NREF - UK on being t'd to X(III)</u>	<u>U.K.</u>	<u>13 5 41</u>	<u>71/197 15 13 5 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Qual for Award Africa War</u>	<u>U.K.</u>	<u>16 31 12 41</u>	<u>71/197 16 31 12 41</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Placed on N.Z. Roll</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>19 4 45</u>	<u>C.A.W. 123 22 4 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Safe in UK X(III) list t'd to</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>16 4 45</u>	<u>RR 319 Ro 11 19 4 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Rattick Wing 8 4 45 P.O. Roll</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>16 4 45</u>	<u>RR 319 Ro 11 19 4 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>t'd to Marginal Wing 2 NREF</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>23 4 45</u>	<u>73/10 1 1 5 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Rec. Capt. in Rattick Wing</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>23 4 45</u>	<u>73/10 1 1 5 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Imp to Rattick Wing 2 NREF</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>23 4 45</u>	<u>73/10 1 1 5 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Rec. 1st Lt to Marginal Wing</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>23 4 45</u>	<u>73/10 1 1 5 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Disemb. in NZ</u>	<u>NZ</u>	<u>19 7 45</u>	<u>Disemb roll</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>W.O.S. a.w.k. 5 days 20 hrs</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>12 6 45</u>	<u>73/10 11 15 6 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>18 days 4 hrs P. Forfeit 6 days pay</u>	<u>U.K.</u>	<u>12 6 45</u>	<u>73/10 11 15 6 45</u>	<u>JW</u>
<u>Under R.W.</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>12 6 45</u>	<u>73/10 11 15 6 45</u>	<u>JW</u>

PARTICULARS OF WILL.

Executor - Name: Luys Keith Cochrane Will already made and in possession of Base Records

Address: George W. Sawyers Bay, Dunedin Address: _____

RECORD OF PROMOTIONS, REDUCTIONS, TRANSFERS, CASUALTIES, PUNISHMENTS, ETC.,

COCHRANE during service (as reported through routine orders or other official documents).

16899

Particulars of Report.	Place.	Date.	Authority, and Date of	Entered by (initials)
Entered: <i>Relea 24.7.45</i> <i>Going imp</i> <i>deferred. To attend O.P. Dept</i> <i>Dudu Hosp for spec exam</i> <i>Relea on receipt of report.</i> <i>On leave for 91 days. Relea's pay</i> <i>pay. AF retained by Area XI</i> <i>to sub for 12.</i>	<i>Dudu.</i>	<i>4 K.</i>	<i>Form No 54, 24.7.45</i> <i>BR 33/3/10. R/13 22.6.45</i>	<i>Jan</i>
<i>to x O/S. P.R. 423 P.W. imp to Area</i> <i>XI receiving O.P. treatment</i> <i>at Dudu Hosp. on pay 5/8.</i> <i>Relea d. 4.9.45. Adet. Army</i> <i>pay incl. 91 days. O/S leave</i> <i>due ceases 4.12.45 then placed</i> <i>in Area XI Pool on 11/11/45. and</i> <i>Dischg 12.4.50 No 18428 mixed</i> <i>R/H to Area XI.</i>	<i>Dudu.</i>	<i>24.7.45</i>	<i>33/1/11 58. 30.7.45</i>	<i>Jan</i>
<i>Upd for O.P. to 1/P. Dudu Hosp.</i> <i>Upd for Dudu Hosp to sick</i> <i>at home on P & SA. addi-</i> <i>George St, Lawsons Bay.</i> <i>Get O/S. imp for Area XI sick at</i> <i>home to Area XI Pool on</i> <i>11/11. in accord with Area</i> <i>comd's P.O. Army pay</i> <i>inc 91 days O/S leave ceases</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>25.8.45</i>	<i>33/1/11. R.O. 94. 29.8.45</i>	<i>Jan</i>
<i>Relea</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>30.8.45</i>	<i>33/1/11 99. 2.9.45</i>	<i>Jan</i>
<i>Discharged 2nd N.ZEF</i>	<i>Area XI</i>	<i>4.12.45</i>	<i>33/1/11. 104. 14.9.45</i> <i>8/8/11 2 12.5.46</i>	<i>Jan</i>
DISCHARGED 4.12.45.				

ACTION AFTER RETURN TO NEW ZEALAND OR DISCHARGE ABROAD.

Nature of Document issued.	Date.	By	Address sent to	Pay Office advised.
<i>Let of Klisch N.2822 No 40045</i>	<i>18.9.47</i>	<i>RR</i>	<i>See Ach 807</i>	<i>Jan</i>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M.I.D. EMBLEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITALY STAR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1939-45 STAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> France & Germany Star
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ATLANTIC STAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEFENCE MEDAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AERICA STAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WAR MEDAL, 1939-45
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BRIT. ARMY CLASP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.Z. War Service Medal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PACIFIC STAR	

Appn. No. **4390**
Date **23.3.50**
Initials **DMOS**

Assessed by *[Signature]*

Checked by *[Signature]*

ISSUED BY *[Signature]*
Issued to *[Signature]*

1,500 parts/9/40-8575. Form 307/5.1

Prisoner of War Record

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY SERVICES

PRISONER OF WAR HISTORY-SHEET.

WAR. [Form N.Z. 307. (In pages of 100.)]
Army No. 16899

20 Bn
5th Bn
INFANTRY

Rank: A. PTE Christian Name: ALAN McDONALD Surname: Cochrane

Outward.		Inward, ex "		Service.				
Date.		Date.	Place.	From	To	Year.	Days.	
Attested ..	23/7/40	Embarked ..	18.6.45 UK	N.Z.	1.1.41	6.4.41	90	
Entered camp ..	18 JAN 1946	Arrived N.Z.	19.4.45 NZ		20.7.45	4.12.45	138	
Embarked ..	7 APR 1946	Discharged ..	4.12.45 Wgh	Overseas	1.4.41	19.4.45	4 104	
Disembarked ..	15.5.41	Reason for return and/or discharge:	Exchanged 4.12.45					Total .. 4 532
At ..	<u>Wgh</u>							

Next-of-kin: Mrs. G. Cochrane Relationship: Mother Address: George Street, Sawyers Bay, Dunedin, Otago.
Mary Janet Cochrane Wife of M. P. Hewitson, Sawyers Bay Post
Chalmers, 1832-1296.

Address at time of capture: Rosemeath
COCHRANE Alan McDonald CASUALTIES. Sawyers Bay Otago 16899.

Cable No.	Date of Casualty.	Nature of Casualty.	NOTIFICATION SENT.		
			To	Date.	By
25-12-41					
1873/2	13-12-41	20 Bn reports Missing N.D.	N of K.	25-12-41	dm
906/373	-	Rome cable P.O.W.	"	17-2-42	lo
906/464	25-3-42	At camp P. 666 Postal Military 3400	"	25-3-42	Gar
46/197	22/9/42	POW at camp P. 666 Postal (Capt)	"	23-9-42	Am
14/141/2/4/42	22-12-42	Military 31 or Robinson Rm. 3700 Postal Rome communication P.O.W. of camp 1/4/42	"	2-1-02	ST

Cable No.	Date of Casualty.	Nature of Casualty.	NOTIFICATION SENT.		
			To	Date.	By
106/267/2	26-7-43	Ltd. G.C.P.S. 103/6, R.M. 3200	N of Kin	27-7-43	Jmg
06/11		Received Capture Card dated			
15/11	15-11-43	15-11-43 - At XI A Germany.	N of K.	1-12-43	Jmg
106/28	28-12-43	at Stalag XI A Germany.	"	29-12-43	Jmg
106/127	21-2-44	P.O.W. No. 139772.	"	21-2-44	Jmg
		Camp leader comm. 4-1-44			
		left Stalag XI A Germany			
		P.O.W. No. 139772.	"	21-2-44	Jmg
106/154	22-4-45	Saga in U.K. 16.4.45	"	22-4-45	Kob

16899 COCHRANE A M/D

(A) No. of Part II Order or Part Author.	(B) Unit.	(C) Record of all casualties regarding promotions (acting, temporary, local, or substantive), appointments, transfers, postings, attachments, etc., forfeiture of pay, wounds, accidents, admission to and discharge from Hospital, Casualty Clearing Stations, etc. Date of disembarkation and embarkation from a theatre of war (including Airforce, etc.).	(D) Place of Casualty.	(E) Army Rank.	(F) Date.	(G) Service not allowed to reckon for Pension. Yrs. Days	(H) Signature of Officer certifying correctness of Entries.
2/10/41 14/1/41	R. Coy	Embarked HM.T. 25	Wight	Pvt	7 APR 1941		A.H.W.
2/10/105	33 Bn	ENTERED EGYPT	Egypt		15 MAY 1941		
2/10/105	"	POSTED TO 20 BN			12 JUN 41		
" 21/41	20 Bn	Made in " from 33 Bn					
" 27/41	"	Made in the 1st H.Q. H. Coy					
16-18-10-41	20 Bn	Refer to Station			12/8/41		
R.O. 35/41	20 Bn	1st Out of 20 Bn			4-10-41		
" 46 30/12/41	"	1st Out of 20 Bn			8-10-41		
" 8 24/2-41	20 Bn	Refer to Station			13-12-41		
		Microfilmed TAP 424 *			13-12-41		
R.O. 16 31-12-44	3011	Awarded Africa Star	UK	Pte	6-12-43		
" 19-4-48	Putback	Awarded Africa Star	UK	Pte	16-12-43		
" 19-4-45	Putback	Awarded Africa Star	UK	Pte	19-12-43		
25/45	"	Made in the 1st H.Q. H. Coy	UK	Pte	23-12-43		
1/45	Harquet	Made in from Putback Wing	UK	Pte	23-12-43		
11-15-6-45	"	Offence: WOAS AWL 5 days 20 Bn (AR Sec 15 (1). Punishment: Awarded 18 days FP for forfeiture of pay by RH.	UK	Pte	12-6-45		
Embarked 12/12/45	"	Embarked UK to NZ - RZ RV.S	"	"	12-6-45		
8/4/45 23-7-45	DR 423 PW	Retired. On 24/7/45. Reading Dep. to attend O.P. Dept. On Hospital for Gen. Vaccination Retd. on receipt of report of leave due 91 days. Remains on pay. No: retained by career & T. N.Z. 689 of 24/7/45	Queens	Pte	24/7/45		
8/4/45 30-7-45	DR 422 PW	M/1 area & remaining O.P. Section Hon. Hospital on pay 25.4.24/7/45	Queens	Pte	24/7/45		
9/4/45 29-8-45	DR 423 PW	Transferred from O.P. Dept. Hospital L. Hon. Hospital 1400 hrs 25.8.45	Queens		20/8/45		
9/4/45 31/9/45	DR 423 PW	Transferred from Hon. Hospital L. Hon. Hospital 1400 hrs 25.8.45	Queens		20/8/45		
10/2/45 19/9/45	DR 423 PW	Retired. On 4.9.45. Leave one. Army pay including 91 days O'leaves leave due ceased 4.12.45. Then placed R.P.W. Work on O.P. Section Special O. No. 1823 issued R.P.W. N.Z. 684 of 29/9/45 M/1 on SW at H.Q. H. Coy Post on SW at H.Q. H. Coy with one Commando Posting Order. Army pay including 91 days O'leaves leave due ceased 4.12/45	Queens		4/12/45		

DISCHARGE
COMMANDER
11/4/45

Service & Casualty Form

WAR.
Form N.Z.-729
(Army Form 10-105/A)
(Amended into 109/A)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM.

Army No. 16899

Signature of Officer: _____

Surname COCHARANE
Christian names Alan Mc Donald
Religion: Non
*Substantive rank and appointment: _____
*Acting, temporary, or local rank, giving date: _____
Attestation paper: _____
(Number of Army forms) 367
If of alien origin state particulars: _____
Date of birth as declared on attestation: 11.3.19
(d) _____
Date of enlistment: 23.7.40
Date service reckons from: 7.1.41.
Period of engagement: _____
(c) Special conditions (if any) of enlistment or rate of pay—
(d) Any subsequent variations of conditions of service—
Expiration of service: _____
(Class and period to be stated.)
Date of re-engagement: _____ Period: _____ yrs.
Trade on enlistment: Shop Assistant
Corps trade and grade: _____
Qualifications: (e) _____
Miscellaneous entries (f) :-
(f) (1) H. Black, E. M. J. C. F. Wood
(f) (2) _____
(f) (3) _____
(f) (4) _____

Corps. S INF Unit. 50th
1st Battalion (The Buffs)
2nd Bn
To be completed by O. i/c. Records when the soldier is transferred to or re-engaged in the Army Reserve :-
(i) Date of transfer to Army Reserve :— 5 Aug
(ii) Rank on transfer to Army Reserve :—
(iii) Date of promotion thereto :—
(iv) Service in present rank :— yrs. days,
(v) Re-engagement or re-enlistment for Sec. D, Army Reserve :— yrs. days.
Date : _____ Period : _____ yrs. days.
Category. Grade I Date. 23/7/40 Medical (b). _____
Authority. AZ 355
* Full name and address of next-of-kin and relationship.
John Cochran (Mother)
Grey-st. Eastwood Bay
Continued beyond 31 years to _____ (date service expires)
" " " " _____
" " " " _____
" " " " _____

NOTES:—

(a) Direct order particulars of any subsequent claim as to actual age after verification by birth certificate.

(b) Interruptions regarding completion of this subhead will be issued when necessary after mobilisation.

(c) It is to be returned on Home Service, period, if specified, also authority, and on what grounds.

(d) Information regarding allotment of these subheads will be made as may be necessary after mobilisation.

FORM 729/1 (31)

Nothing to be written in this margin.

War Services Gratuity Assessment

WAR SERVICES GRATUITY ASSESSMENT

[Form G-1A]

Service No.—ARMY: 16899

Name of Serviceman: Cochrane

AIR: _____

(Surname)

Alan W.P. Ball

(Christian name)

NAVY: _____

Arm of Service.	Assessment Service.		N.Z. Gratuity.	Overseas Gratuity.	Total.	Less Debts.	Net Gratuity.	Certified correct.	Date.	THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR BASE RECORDS USE ONLY
	From	To								
Navy										
Air Force										
Army (2 N.Z.E.F.)	7-41	4-12-45	228	154	200	46	200	X	6	30 JUN 1946
Army (Acct., A.H.Q.)										
Army (N.M.D.)										
Army (C.M.D.)										
Army (S.M.D.)										
Supplementary Gratuity payable in respect of Disabled Serviceman										
Circulation:										

(1) Accountant, N.M.D., Auckland.	(2) Accountant, A.H.Q., Christchurch.	(3) Accountant, N.Z.E.F., Wellington.	(4) Accountant, Air Department, Auckland.
(5) Accountant, Navy Office.	(6) Accountant, Army H.Q.	(7) Accountant, N.Z.E.F.	(8) General Section, Base Records.

Date of Entitlement: 31-3-46

[Base Records will delete paying authorities not applicable and forward to first paying authority remaining in panel. After action taken, first paying authority will cancel block containing its name and forward on to next remaining paying authority indicated. This procedure will be followed through until form is ultimately returned completed to Gratuity Section, Base Records.]

7943

Post-office Schedule No. 6421

1326.009/11/45-1333

Telegram received on death of father

Kriegsgefangenenlager STALAG XI A Datum 15.11.43
 Camp des prisonniers de guerre Date
 Name COCHRANE Vorname ALAN MCDONALD
 Nom Prénom
 Dienstgrad u. Truppenteil 16899 PRIVATE 2ND NZEF.
 Grade et Unité
 Geburtsdatum 11-5-1919 Geburtsort OLTRAM N.Z.
 Date de naissance lieu de naissance (103/6 ITALY)
 Letzter Wohnort GEORGE ST. SAWYERS BAY OTAGO N.Z.
 Dernier domicile
 Adresse meiner Angehörigen MRS R.J. COCHRANE (MOTHER)
 Adresse de ma famille
GEORGE ST. SAWYERS BAY OTAGO NEW ZEALAND.
 Unverwundet - leicht verwundet - in deutsche Kriegsgefangenschaft geraten -
 Non blessé - légèrement blessé - prisonnier de guerre en Allemagne -
 befinde mich wohl.
 en bonne santé.
 (Nichtzutreffendes ist zu streichen)
 (Rayez les indications non conformes)

Alan McDonald
Signature

20.9.43 mms HMEB 2237

COCHRANE Alan McDonald
 Pte.
 16899
 C.C. 103

21.9.43 Tel. REDCROSS, Wellington "FATHER DIED SUDDENLY
 AFTER OPERATION FOURTH SEPTEMBER LOVE FROM
 ALL SIGNED J COCHRANE "

15.12.43 Mess.tr.St.XI A.

Alan McDonald Cochrane JP

11 May 1919 - 23 March 1996

Death notice

COCHRANE, Alan McDonald, J.P., 16899, Pvt, 20th Batt., 2nd NZEF, ex POW, of 30 District Road, Roseneath. — On March 24, 1996, in the loving care of the staff of Craig Ward, Ross Home. Loved husband and companion of Mary (nee Hewitson), loved and respected father and father-in-law of Alison and John Moodie (Port Chalmers), Jennifer and Les Box (Roseneath), Neil (Roseneath), and much loved granddad of Leanne, Deirdre and Kelvin Box. — A service for Alan will be held in Hope and Sons Chapel, corner of Andersons Bay Road and Oxford Street, at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, March 26, followed by private cremation. Flowers respectfully declined, donations for St John Ambulance would be appreciated and may be left at the service. — Hope and Sons Ltd, funeral directors, FDANZ.

Acknowledgement in newspaper

COCHRANE, Alan McDonald, JP. — Mary and family wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to friends, relatives and neighbours for their care and support during Alan's illness. A sincere thankyou to all who attended his service, and for floral gifts, cards, letters, baking, phone calls, for the personal visits and donations received at the service for the St John Ambulance Association. Special thanks to the doctors and staff of the Port Chalmers Medical Centre, to the district nurses, the Craig Ward staff at Ross Home, the JP Association, the RSA, POW and 20th associations; the Rev Jenni Elmes for her pastoral care, and the Hope brothers. Please accept this as a sincere and personal acknowledgement.



20th NZ Infantry Battalion & Armoured Regiment Flag