

be issued to troops prior to embarkation, but owing to the fact that our men in tropical climates do not always require such woollen goods the Board decided to adhere to its policy of building up the bulk supplies in Egypt and elsewhere for issue to the troops, if and when required. In the case of New Zealanders leaving the country to join the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force woollen goods of various kinds are issued prior to embarkation. Essential woollen comforts have been issued to men on isolated stations in New Zealand, and the question of issuing essential comforts to all men serving in New Zealand was under consideration at the close of the year.

The following table shows the number of knitted articles handled by the Board. These were knitted by the women of New Zealand from wool obtained by the Board for the Provincial Patriotic Councils. The Board desires to record its appreciation of the splendid service rendered in this connection.

Knitted Goods supplied from the National Patriotic Fund Board's Store as at 30th September, 1941.

—	Bala- clavas.	Gloves (Pairs).	Socks (Pairs).	Hussifs.	Mittens.	Scarves.	Pullovers and Jerseys.	Skull Caps and Miscellaneous.
Army Department ..	1,705	236	220	47,024	1,249	781	232	340
Air Force relations issues	8,946	2,370	3,442	5,242	10,276	10,457	12,184	..
Air Department ..	..	3	16	..	..	..	13	9
Navy Department ..	6,551	176	1,690	4,109	3,165	4,407	1,367	81
Navy League issues ..	10,449	123	2,318	98	7,229	9,135	1,797	2,474
Red Cross Society ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
Consigned overseas to Board's Commissioner	66,660	235	884	..	76,524	70,480	1,176	323
Miscellaneous ..	56	36	89	25	7	109	70	..
Totals	94,367	3,179	8,659	56,498	98,450	95,369	16,851	3,227
Stocks on hand ..	5,679	115	1,095	1,041	3,749	3,937	2,915	1,128

VIII. ASSISTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

(a) *Greece*.—Following a suggestion from the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, the Board decided to present to our Allies in Greece 10,000 pairs of socks, 5,000 pairs of blankets, 2,000 pullovers, at a cost of £10,000.

(b) *Air-raid Sufferers in Great Britain*.—Following the continued heavy bombing of British towns the conference of patriotic bodies held in June, 1941, decided that a further £100,000 (New Zealand) be remitted to the High Commissioner for distribution among various organizations dealing with distress as a result of air raids.

(c) *The New Zealand Lady Galway Patriotic Guild*.—Much valuable work has been carried out by this guild in collecting clothes for distribution among evacuees and distressed people in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. The guild has been assisted by transport organizations and shipping companies in conveying goods free. Reports from the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence of Great Britain show that from the County Borough Clothing Depots gift clothing sent to England is distributed through rest centres for persons rendered homeless by air attack.

IX. ANZAC WAR RELIEF FUND, U.S.A.

During the year valuable work was performed by the Anzac War Relief Fund of New York, and among the various comforts provided for New-Zealanders on active service were Christmas hampers of approximately six hundred parcels, which contained handkerchiefs, safety-razor blades, writing-paper, envelopes, shaving-soap, dentifrice, condensed milk, canned pears, oysters, aspirin, and chewing gum. The citizens of the United States also gave generous help to the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in providing twenty-five ambulances, one mobile dental unit and costly medical equipment, cigarettes, books and magazines, mobile canteens, £1,500 to furnish the New Zealand Expeditionary Force club in Cairo, and radio headphones for use in military hospitals.

X. SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE BOARD.

The following list gives some idea of the extent of the Board's activities in providing for the welfare of our troops in New Zealand and overseas :—

Recreational Huts in Camps.—Every recreation hut or marquee in camps in New Zealand and overseas staffed by welfare organizations mentioned earlier has been built, furnished, and is maintained from patriotic funds. Upwards of two hundred huts and marquees in New Zealand and overseas are now maintained on behalf of the Board.

Cafeterias are equipped by the Board, and usually return small surpluses, which are paid into the Board's funds. Receipts from post-offices in *huts* also paid to Board.

Troopships.—Games, sports gear, writing-paper, music, song-books, envelopes, fruit, talkie films, costumes, reading-material.

Bands.—Fourteen complete bands equipped.

Clubs.—London, Cairo, Suva, Lautoka, Alexandria, Halifax.

Subsidies to Clubs.—Tipperary and Services Clubs, Cairo; Homestead and Kiwi Clubs, Helwan.

Tobacco and Cigarettes.—Quarterly gift issues.

Allied Armed Forces.—Temporary services *en route*, and grants to comforts funds.

Regimental Funds.—Subsidies to Navy, Army, and Air Force Benevolent Funds, and modified grants to similar service funds where desirable.