

Air Force Relations

From the early days of the war this organization saw to the provision of amenities, woollen comforts, &c., for Air Force personnel. Although the cessation of hostilities meant a lessening demand for woollens, there was still a considerable amount of work in providing garments for personnel returning home and those attached to the R.N.Z.A.F. Squadron, Japan.

New Zealand Lady Galway Patriotic Guild

During the year this Guild sent overseas 556 cases of clothing, making a total of 8,709 cases since its inception.

Overseas Seamen's Gift Committee

This Committee ceased to be an expending agent of the Board on the 31st December, 1945. The organization, together with a similar one in Auckland associated with the Auckland Metropolitan Committee, had, since the early days of the war, provided personnel on overseas merchant ships with gift parcels, woollen comforts, books, periodicals, and other ship-board amenities, mainly from patriotic funds. The Board desires to express its appreciation of the work of the Committee in this most important phase of the patriotic effort.

Woollen Comforts

The work of providing woollen comforts for service personnel was concluded in 1946, and brought to a close a service which had done much to add to the comfort of New Zealand service personnel both overseas and in New Zealand. The huge volume of knitting done by the women of New Zealand is indicated in the table set out below, and a special tribute is due to them for this magnificent work, and also to Mrs. A. A. Stitchbury (Navy), Mrs. D. C. McRae (Army), and Miss Morice (Air Force), who supervised the distribution of the wool and the sorting and packing of the knitted garments.

CUMULATIVE RETURN OF WOOLLEN GOODS MADE AND ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD
1940 TO SEPTEMBER, 1946

	Balaclavas.	Gloves.	Mittens.	Pullovers.	Scarves.	Seaboot Stockings.	Socks.	Miscellaneous.
Army ..	29,881	913	29,636	4,775	70,152	..	64,154	1,720
Air Force Relations ..	49,474	7,595	58,705	81,059	68,540	5	13,530	14,664
Navy League ..	32,232	5,928	26,747	20,203	26,514	8,725	29,129	6,633
Overseas (Army, Navy, and Air Force)	249,511	8,270	168,573	30,569	202,562	4,274	73,906	17,465
Totals ..	361,098	22,706	283,661	136,606	367,768	13,004	180,719	40,482

4. WORK OVERSEAS

Pacific

The year under review saw the termination of the work of the Board in the forward areas and its limitation to Fiji and Norfolk Island.

No. 1 Islands Group.—The supply of amenities to this area could not have been satisfactorily accomplished without the ready and practical assistance of Air Department in the provision of air freight. At peak, Air personnel were stationed on twenty-five