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SOLDIERS' GIFT - PARCELS.

During October-November 1944 we forwarded again a number of gift-parcels to sons of Members of our Society, serving with the N.Z. Forces overseas. During recent months the Secretary received due acknowledgment and grateful appreciation for the gifts from the following soldiers and sailors: Cpl. R.A. Walder; Gnr. R. Sax; Pte. D.R. Dorflinger; and three sons of Mr. W. Ungemuth. These boys are all most thankful for the small gifts sent. We are not publishing the letters received due to lack of space, excepting one from Alois Schicker, Taranaki, which we are certain our members will find interesting reading. He writes as follows:

"A few weeks ago my brother and myself got a very pleasant surprise, when we each received a gift parcel from your Society; they were very good and very much appreciated and I wish to thank you most heartily for the kind thought. - Well we are doing fine here and have had some wonderful experiences, thanks to the fact that we are able to talk Swiss. I was in Egypt only a fortnight when I had the pleasure of meeting several Swiss families and had some very pleasant evenings playing "Jass" and listening to the Swiss Accordion. When I left for Italy I thought "we had it" as far as Swiss friends are concerned, but not so, I was looking at some stamps in a shop, when I noticed some Swiss stamps. I told the seller that I had plenty as my people were Swiss. He then told me that there were 4 or 5 Swiss families close by and gave me one address. And what a surprise they got, they would hardly believe that we came from far away N.Z., and to think that we still could speak the native language. One man who owns a very large wireless business gave us a nice set, so we have plenty of music and the latest news as well.

In Rome my brother and I went to the Vatican. We saw several Swiss Guards in their bright uniforms and went over to them and addressed them in Swiss. They looked quite surprised and one said "Sind Sie Schweizer?". We then gave them our history. One of them, a very big chap, mentioned "I have a school friend in N.Z., and don't suppose you would know him, his name is Frank von Lanthen!" He could hardly believe it when I told him I knew him well. The Swiss people arranged an evening for us at the Swiss Club. There were about 70-80 present. First we played cards, then "Jass" with English cards, then I told them I preferred to play with Swiss cards. I pulled out a new pack out of my pocket which my mother gave me, and they were greatly astounded to think we still had Swiss cards. After that there was dancing for about 4 hours; it was like a Swiss party back home and certainly the most enjoyable evening I had since leaving home. Before we left Rome we had another pleasant evening in a private home, and I thought how lucky I was to be Swiss. Rome is a wonderful place and the 7 days I spent there went all too quickly, it's a place I could stop at for months. One Swiss told me he had an uncle in Okaiawa named Giacometti, and I was able to inform him that we were almost neighbors. Well, friends, I must thank you once again on behalf of Ernest and myself, and we extend greetings and best wishes to all our friends back home. Auf Wiedersehen!

Alois Schicker.

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AUCKLAND - 1ST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION.To all compatriots far and near!

The Auckland Social Committee invites all friends and countrymen to a social evening in commemoration of our National Day to be held at

The Overseas League Rooms,
3rd Floor, Queens Arcade,
Queen Street, Auckland
on

Saturday, the 4th of August, 1945.

May we again ask you all to assist us in making the evening a success. Will those wishing to participate please leave their names and the nature of their items at the door, or with Mr. F. Steyer.

A very pleasant evening is assured, supper and refreshments provided.

To defray expenses, a collection will be made at the door, sh. 5/- for Gents,
sh. 3/- for Ladies.

For the Committee - A. Peyer.