



NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FUND BOARD

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Received
2/4/43.

19088
Pte. R. T. Street,
26 Bn. H.Q.
2 N. Z. Div.
M. E. F.
21 Feb., 43.

Dear Mum & Dad,

Here I am
again with a few lines. I have
been very busy during the past
week & haven't had time to
write a letter till now. We are
still living in the same place
in the same city. In my previous
letter I mentioned about the
concert we were putting on here.
Well, we have given two per-
formances so far & tonight
will be the third. We had a
hard job to get a suitable
place to hold the showing, as
the Kiwi Concert Party is here
now, using one theatre, & a
Scottish concert party is in
another theatre. However, we
were given permission to have



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The use of the ball-room in the Governor's palace not far from here (just around the corner in fact.) The palace is a magnificent structure of stone & marble with lovely grounds. The ball-room, although not so large as we would wish, is a lovely room with decorated ceiling, concealed lighting & so on. Our carpenters & electricians put up the stage in the correct manner, with foot lights, coloured spot light, curtains, of course ferns & flowers as finishing touches. We are lucky in having a chef who has had many years on the stage in a professional capacity. She is an excellent pianist as well.

We have been able to collect costumes to suit our items; Italian colonel's dress uniform (brand new) my frocks & things & so on.



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I tell you, we had a great time sorting out all the clothes & trying them on. Well, we have had a packed house each night & many have been ^{un}able to get in. The Brigadier was present at our opening performance & congratulated us on our excellent show. We are known as the "Front Liners" as we are all chaps who have been in action & can only practise in our spare time. The King Consort & his wife spend weeks practising their numbers & do not go into action. So our Bill-board reads "Front Liners"

in

Thumbs up!
It is at the entrance to the Palace, & beside it is a board with sketches of the ten of us in our various costumes, done by a young



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R.A.F. artist.

I am the female impersonator of the show & with my make up, wig & those other things which go to make a lady look the way she does — well, I scarcely know myself when I look in the mirror.

This morning we had some photos taken of the cast, so I will be sending some & you can see how I look. We have a big supper. Just on for us each night after the show at the Y.M.C.A. rooms here. Last night we had fruit, salad & cream, sausage rolls, sandwiches, scones, biscuits (not the Army ones!) tea & coffee.

As of the cap I have brand new battle dresses. The Colonel saw our show & promised us new uniforms, as the ones we had were looking the



worse for wear. We had fought
in them, slept in them &
recently worked on the wharves
in them.

We have been very busy &
still are, working in shifts
for 24 hrs. a day down at
the wharves, unloading stores
etc:- I worked 18 hrs. out
of 24 last week, lifting
cases from lighters onto
the shore. Some of the chaps
have been unloading coal,
a dirty job; as also is
the job of rolling barrels of oil
from the barges on to the shore.
The wharfies in N.Z. would
be demanding their 10/6 an
hour or whatever they get, if
they were here doing the work.
~~had~~. Our N.Z. boys shifted
the greatest weight of stores etc:-
in one day (several thousand
tons.) Day & night the work
goes on. We have been excused



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duty on the wharves since our concert has got under way. When the phafs ~~are~~ are off duty, they can see our show.

Had an air raid the other morning. The barge was like a gigantic fireworks display. Two big bombs made the windows rattle. No damage done.

I have sent Edna five parcels from here. Besides a leather shopping bag, I have sent several excellent books on geology and history etc. - beautifully illustrated. I will send Dad one or two.

Well my dears, I must close now. I am in the pink & hope you are also. Am enjoying life at present.

Your loving son,
Kewat