



NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FUND BOARD

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

19088

Sgt. R. T. Street,  
26 Bn. H.Q.  
2 N.Z. Div.,  
M. E. F.  
30 April, 43.

Dear Mum + Dad,

It is some weeks now since I last wrote to you, but you have probably guessed the reason why no letters have arrived for some time. We have been in action again, so of course letter writing is out of the question then. I am pleased to say I came through the conflict without a scratch.

Since my last letters to you, written not far from Gales in the South of Huniria, we pushed on in pursuit of the retreating enemy. We were able to see much of the country at close range. The farther north we came, the better the country appeared. We passed through thousands of acres of olive trees.



planted in perfect alignment,  
 the rows stretching for miles. It  
 is said there are 70,000,000  
 olive trees in Tunisia. I can  
 quite believe it. Around the  
 area of Sfax, is one unbroken  
 mass of olives, from horizon  
 to horizon. They reminded me  
 of the Rivaula apple orchards.  
 When we passed through large  
 areas of wheat & rye & barley, with  
 bright red poppies growing among  
 the crops. There were fields just  
 one glowing mass of colour - of  
 wild flowers - golden & white  
 daisies, red poppies & blue &  
 mauve flowers.

At El Djem, we passed  
 an ancient Roman ruin - a  
 huge amphitheatre - second  
 largest in the world capable  
 of seating 65,000 persons. Here,  
 I find stone gladiators, to pieces  
 etc. - the dens of the lions  
 can still be seen.

North of Sousse we caught



up with the enemy. At least, he  
 was waiting for us in the high  
 hills that now appeared before  
 us. On the flat ground south  
 of the hills, the mosquitoes were  
 terrible. I was a mass of bites  
 & lumps on hands, face & neck.  
 Lozens & dozens would boom  
 around one's head when in ones  
 slit trench at night. Fortunately,  
 they weren't the malarial variety.  
 Well we attacked  
 the enemy at night & took our  
 objective & at last got some  
 high ground for ourselves. The  
 Indians did an excellent  
 job - scaling sheer cliffs to  
 capture a hill with a  
 magazine on top called Yakrouma.  
 It was stern fighting with rifle  
 & bayonet & hand grenade.  
 I have never seen the  
 enemy use so much artillery.  
 Shells came from all directions  
 & for almost a week, we  
 lived in our holes. To go out



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into the ferry was looking for trouble. The mosquitoes were as bad as ever on the hills every. Our chaps did a second attack some nights later.

Then we were relieved. Our I. O. sprained his ankle while up on the hills & was sent out so I was acting Intelligence Officer & I. Sgt. as well. However, he is back again with us.

We have been having a good rest for a few days. I have had a swim in the sea. have washed my clothes & have had my hair cut. Yesterday Jones, Minister of Defence paid us a visit. It sounded like an election-eering speech.

Well my dears, I will write at greater length when at last we have finished our job for & they get some leave. I haven't had any for over a year. By the way, I received



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a remittance for \$ some days ago. Many thanks.

A parcel from Edna has just arrived for me, so I will close & open it.

There go another 38 of our planes. The sky is blue with them, all day long.

I am 100%. Don't worry about me please. I hope you both are well.

Love from your son,  
Rear