

Christmas Greetings
from the Troops

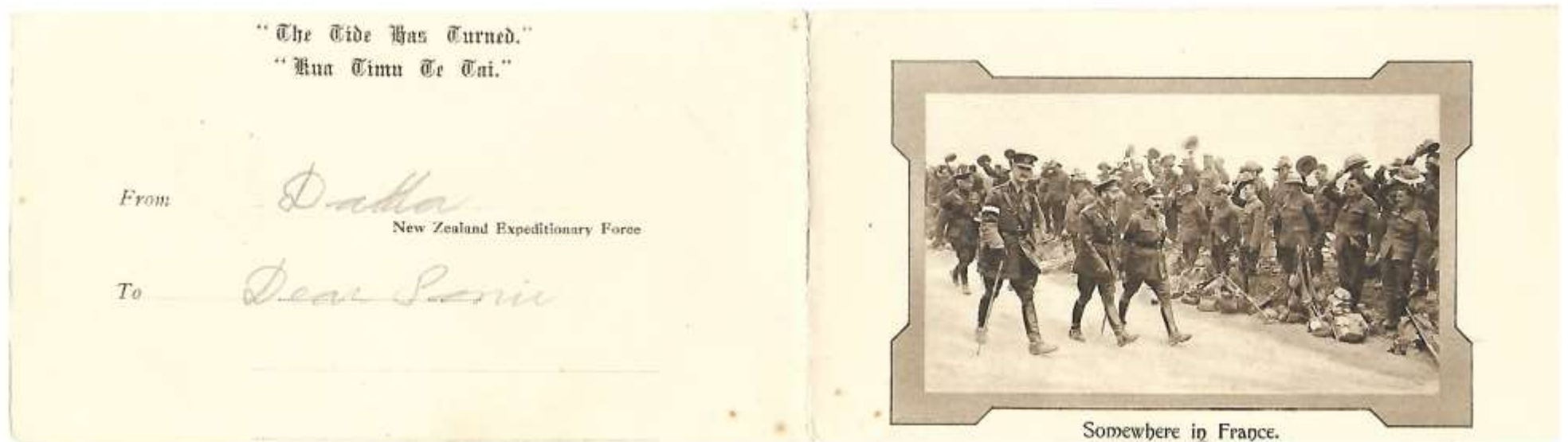
The Waimana, H.M.N.Z. Transport No.12, departed Auckland for Wellington on October 11th 1914.

She joined the convoy of 10 ships carrying the Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force which sailed from Wellington on October 15th.

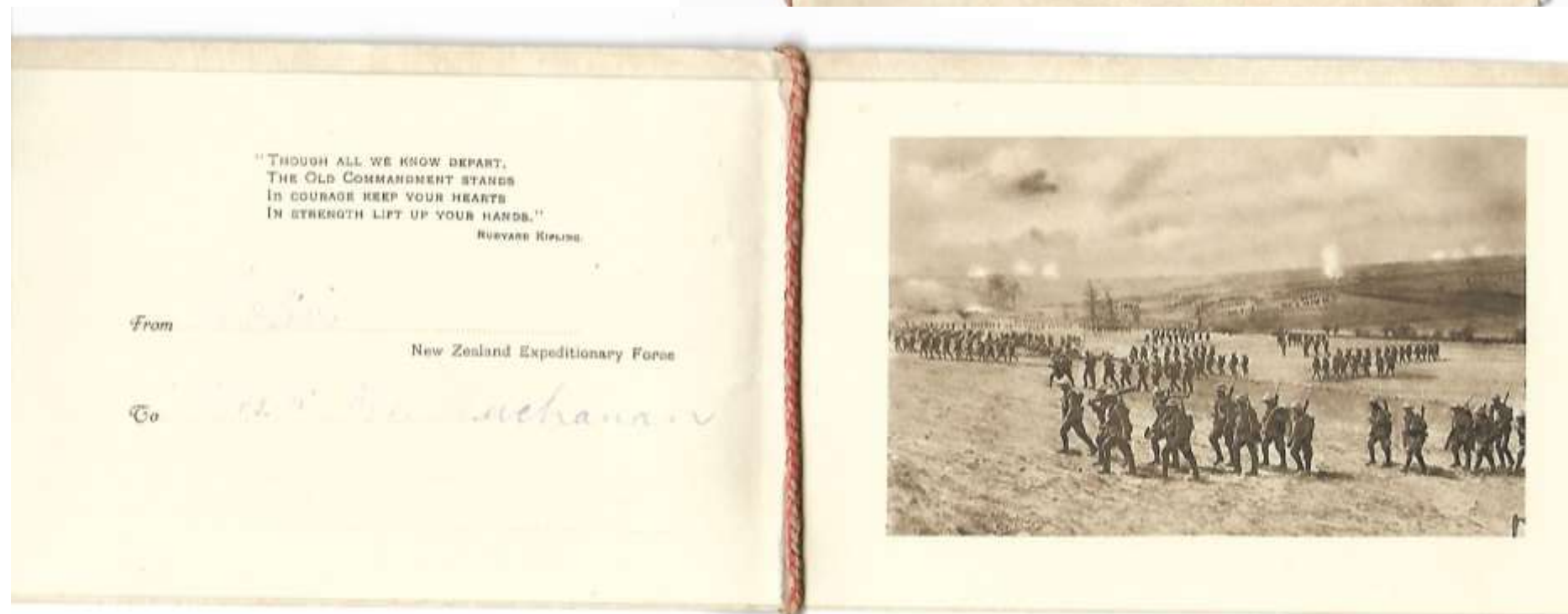


Christmas card produced by S.J. Clarke & Co. Ltd. 45 Moor Lane, London and sent from France in 1917.

The New Zealand Division had been involved in the battle of Messines in June and in the battles of Broodseinde and Passchendaele in October



Christmas card sent from France in 1917



Christmas and New Year card 1918-1919 from the New Zealand Engineers.

Victory at last.

In 21 days, the New Zealanders marched about 250 km from France
through Belgium reaching Germany on December 19th.



HE IS SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE AND AS BUSY AS BLAZES
DOING HIS FRAGMENT TO MAKE THE WAR END,
AND HE IS THINKING OF YOU, FOR ONE OF HIS WAYS IS
NOT TO FORGET TO REMEMBER A FRIEND.

HE'S A SAPPER AND DOESN'T DENY THAT HE'S FED UP
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE OF DODGING THE SHELL,
BUT AT ALL OTHER TIMES HE HAS STILL GOT HIS HEAD UP
AND SENDS YOU THIS CARD TO TELL YOU HE'S WELL.

AND WHATEVER HE'S AT WHETHER MAKING OR BREAKING
IN TRENCH OR IN BIVVIE, IN SUN OR IN RAIN,
HE'LL BE PAUSING TO-DAY IN THE PAINS HE IS TAKING
WISHING GOD BLESS YOU AND BLESS YOU AGAIN.

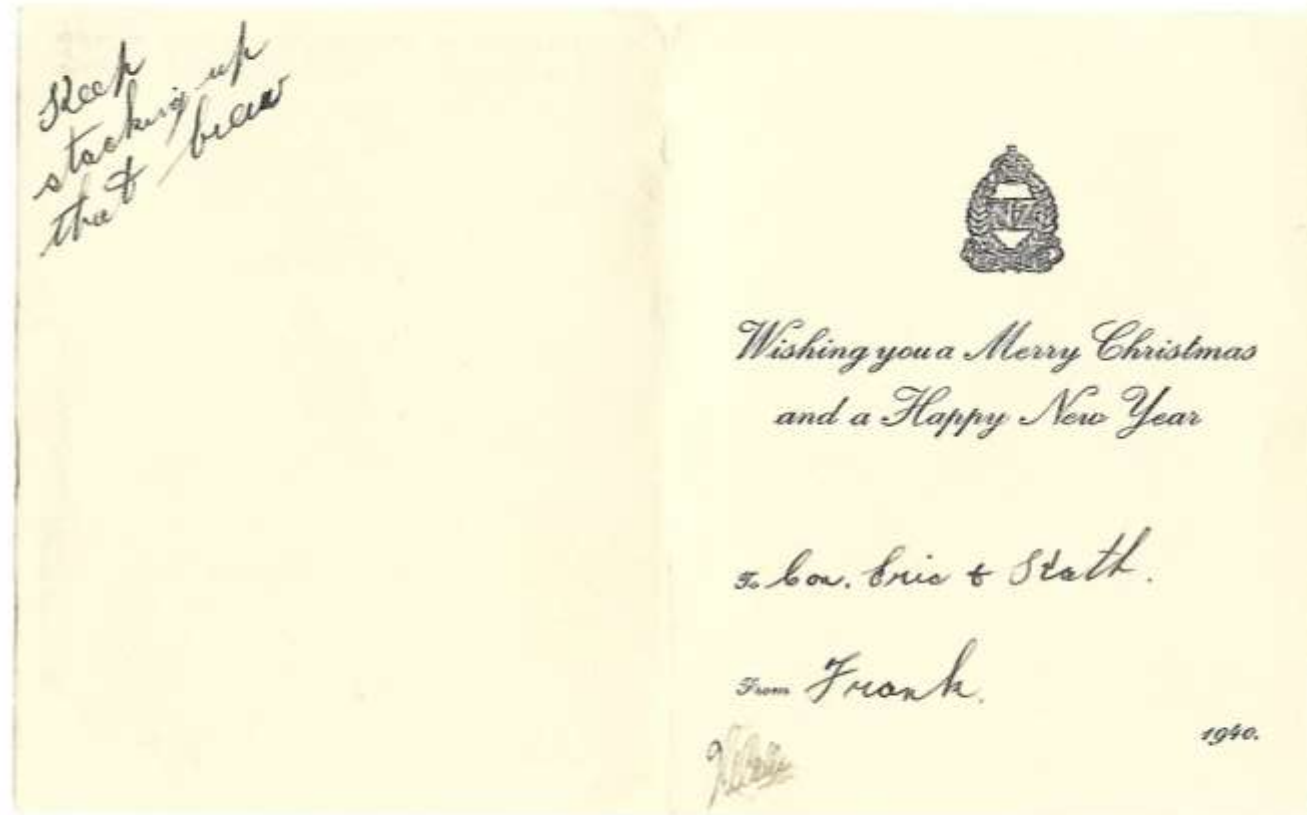
To Gerty + Walter

From Horace with love.



1940 Christmas card designed by Peter McIntyre.

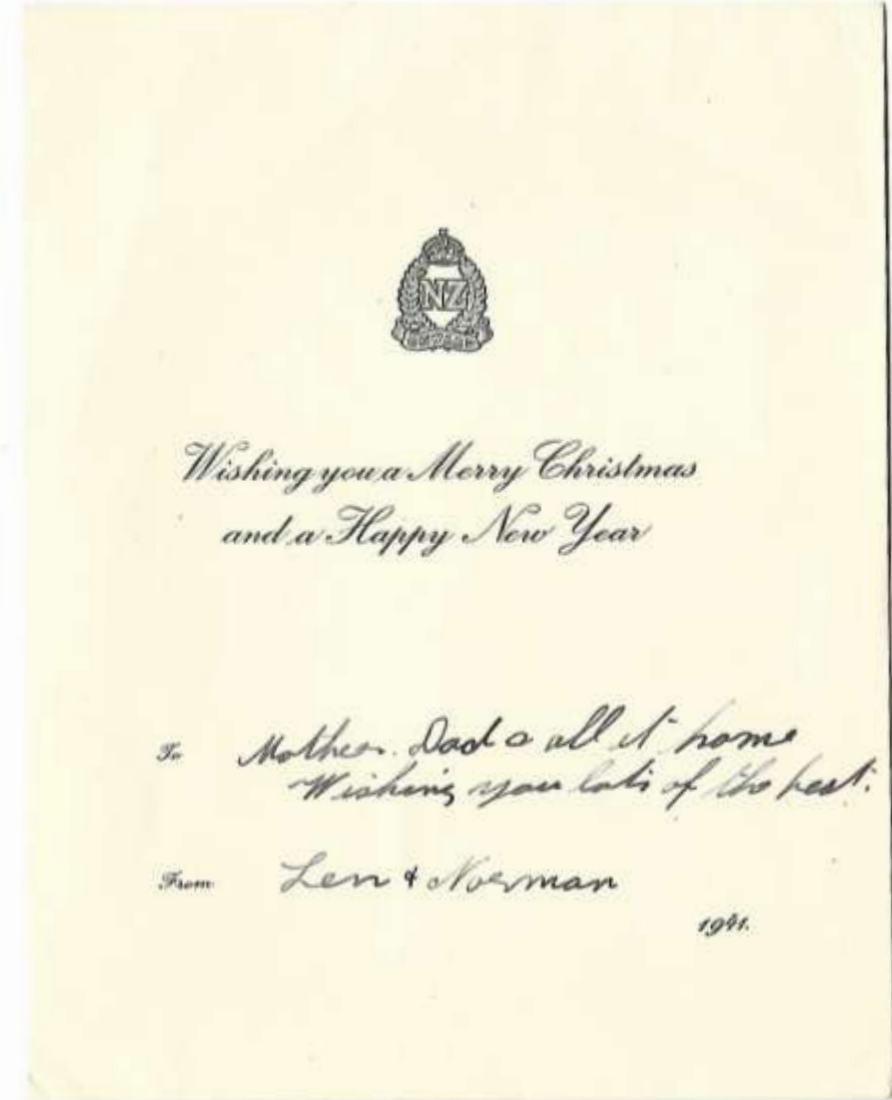
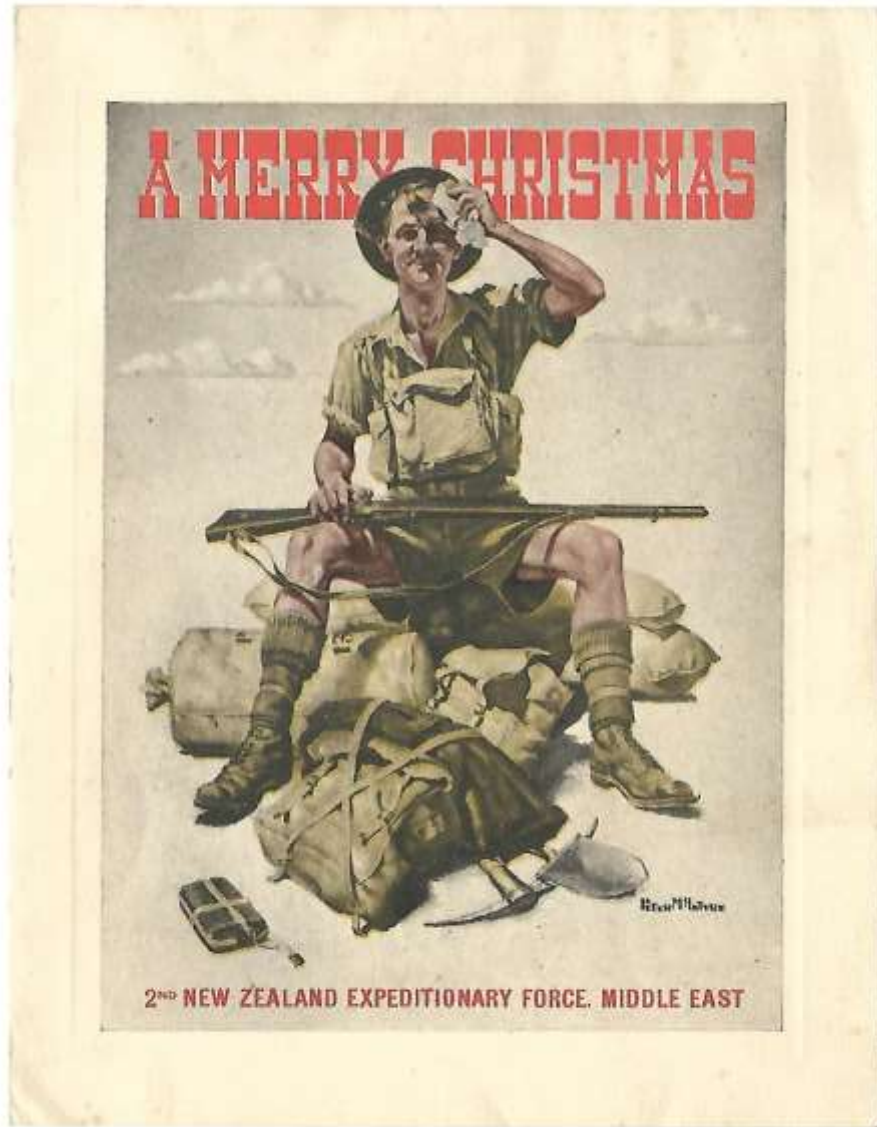
The card is countersigned by the censor H. Cully



1941 Christmas card of the 2nd NZ Expeditionary Force designed by Peter McIntyre.

Peter McIntyre (1910 – 1995) was New Zealand's official war artist during World War II.

His work was recognised by the issue of a set of stamps in 1998 depicting four of his paintings.



1943 Christmas card from 2NZEF in the Middle East.

The card was designed by Neville Collins



Christmas card designed by A. Folchi-Vici

Sent from Italy in 1944 by a member of B Company, the 23rd Battalion



A Christmas airletter designed by Peter McIntyre for the 2nd NZEF.

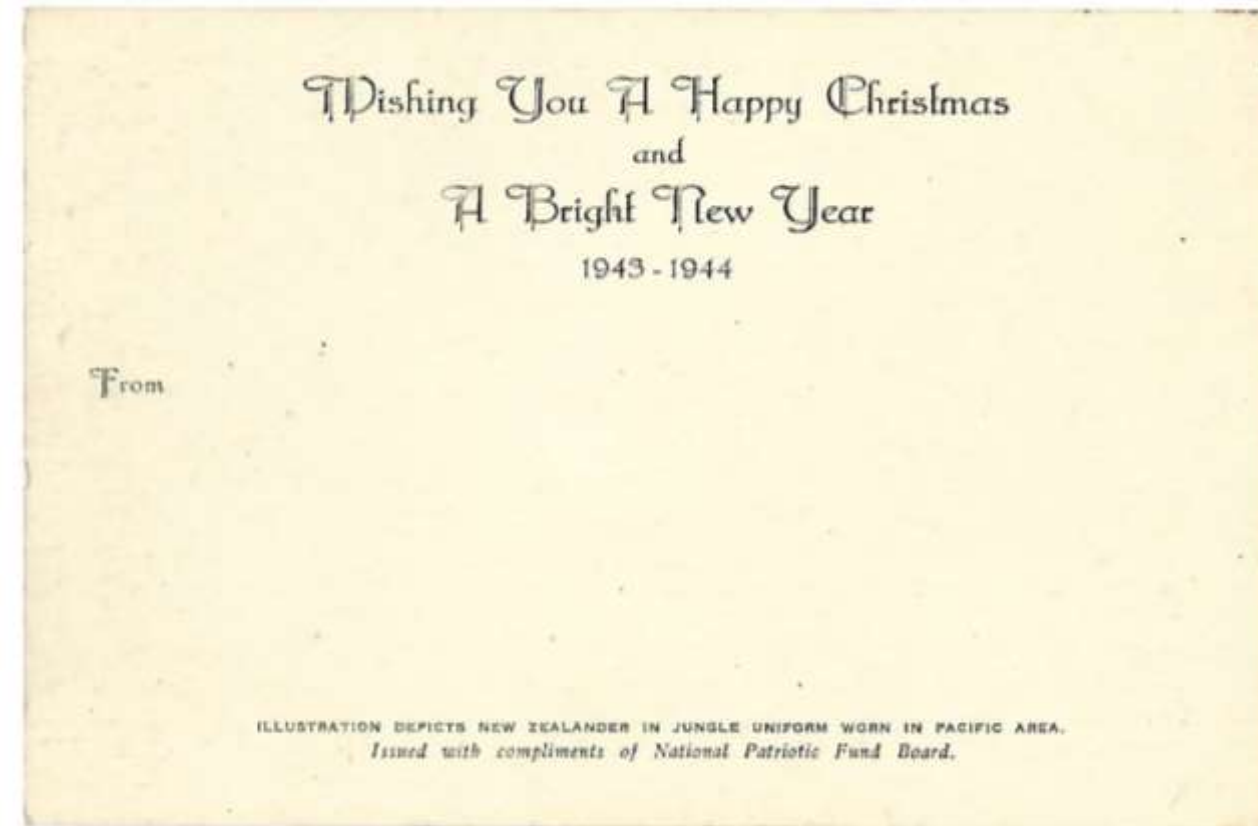
This was sent by Private A.K. Thompson from M.P.O. KW5 on October 7th 1944 when the Division was at Virserba near Rimini in Italy.

The crowned shield PASSED BY CENSOR No. 7958 is signed by C.A.Dodds



Christmas and New Year card for 1943-1944 from the NZEF in the Pacific.

It was produced for the National Patriotic Fund Board.



Envelope with Christmas card for 1944 – 1945 sent from H.M.N.Z.S. Hawera cancelled in purple with N.Z.E.F. FIELD POST OFFICE.

A violet boxed rectangular PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR No. 12 (NEW ZEALAND), assigned to the Naval Officer in Charge, Fiji, is signed by a lieutenant in the RNVR



An airgraph service instruction and message sheet for Christmas and New Year 1944 – 1945.

The airgraph service between the Middle East and England was introduced in 1941 and then from Cairo to Wellington in 1943. Each airgraph cost 3d.

The service ended in 1945 by which time 2 million forms had been used.

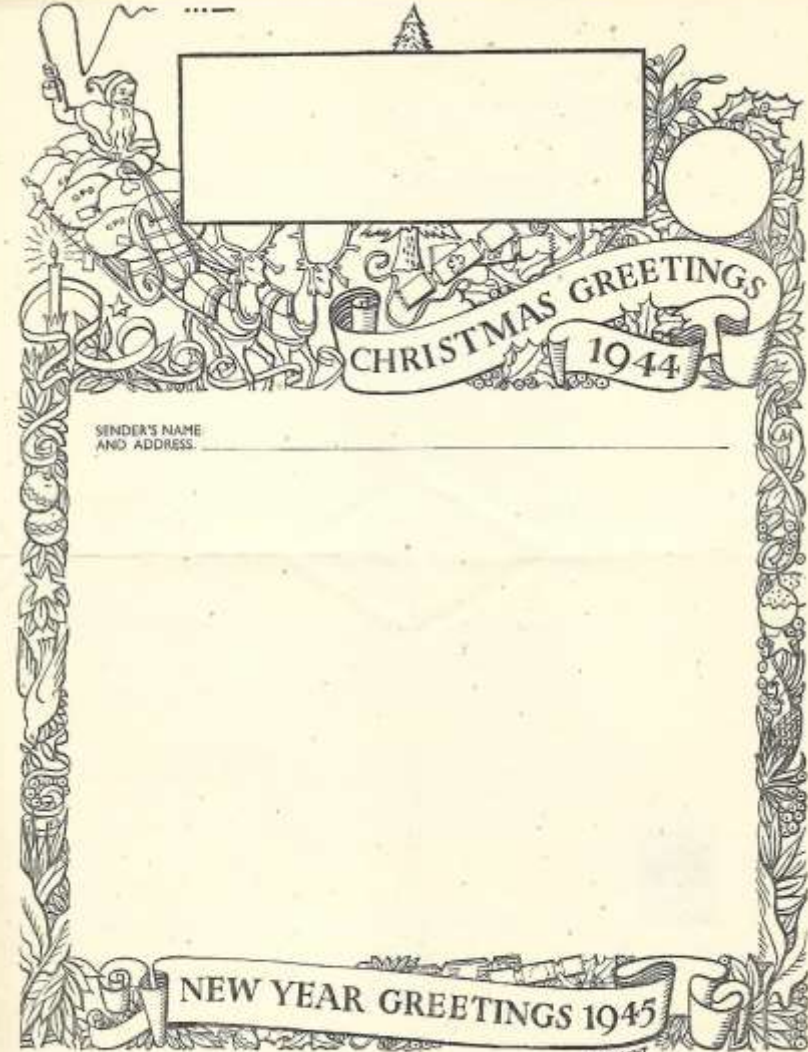
airgraph service

- The destinations to which the airgraph service is available may be ascertained at any Post Office.
- Nothing should be written on this side of the paper.
- The whole of the message should be written on the other side below the sender's name and address.
- The name and address to which the message is to be sent should be written in large BLOCK letters wholly within the panel provided. The address should be the same as for an ordinary letter except in the case of airgraphs for personnel of Merchant Navy ships, which should be addressed to the addressee and ship (by name) followed by "c/o G.P.O., London, E.C.4."
- A miniature photographic negative of the message and address will be made and sent by air mail. At the destination and a photographic print, measuring about 5 inches by 4 inches, will be made and delivered to the addressee. It is therefore important that the message should be written very plainly and that the address should be written as large as possible in block letters. Wherever possible, black ink should be used. Very small writing is not suitable.
- The completed form may be handed to at any Post Office, or if preferred, may be forwarded to London in an envelope addressed to: "Airgraphs," Foreign Section, London.

In that case it is desirable that a large envelope should be used and that the form should be folded as few times as possible, preferably in the same direction as the writing. As an exception to the general rule that postage is payable on letters addressed to Government Departments, Postmasters, etc., postage is not payable on covers containing completed Airgraph forms addressed to "Airgraphs," Foreign Section, London.

- If it is desired to send more than one sheet, a separate form must be completed, and the name and address of the sender and of the addressee must be inserted on each form in the usual way.
- The original will be retained by the Post Office and eventually destroyed.

please complete your message and post without delay



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
1944

SENDER'S NAME
AND ADDRESS:

NEW YEAR GREETINGS 1945

BEAUFORT

A 1943 Christmas airgraph sent on November 9th by Private Thomason of the 24th Battalion 2NZE, which was then part of the Eighth Army.

It was about this time that the 8th Army had moved from North Africa to Italy.

Write Address in large BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

THE ADDRESS MUST NOT BE TYPEWRITTEN

Mrs. T. C. Thomason
Mangorei Road R.D.
New Plymouth
TARANAKI
New Zealand

Freight Officer's Stamp
Unit Code
107

Military Airgraph Service authorized by Egyptian Postal Administration
Write the message very plainly below this line

Date 9/11/43

Sender's Address 16691 Pte Thomason 24 Bn. 2 N.Z.E.F. M.E.F.

Christmas Greetings
from The Eighth Army

Love and Best Wishes
for James from George x4

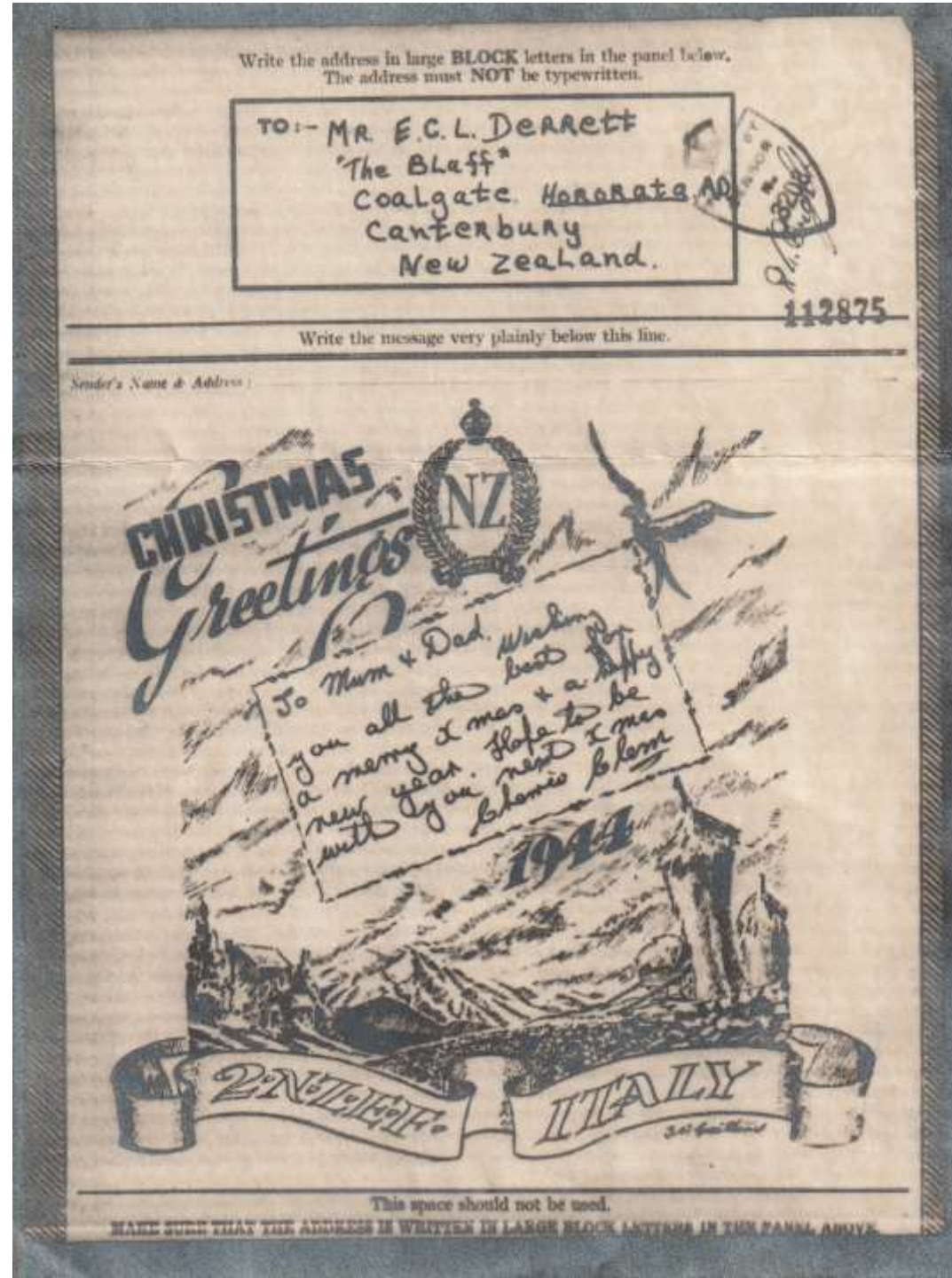
"Together, you and I
we will see this thing through
to the end"

THIS SPACE SHOULD NOT BE USED

A Christmas Greetings from the Mediterranean airgraph of unknown date.
The sender, Corporal Penman, was in B Depot at the Advanced Base.

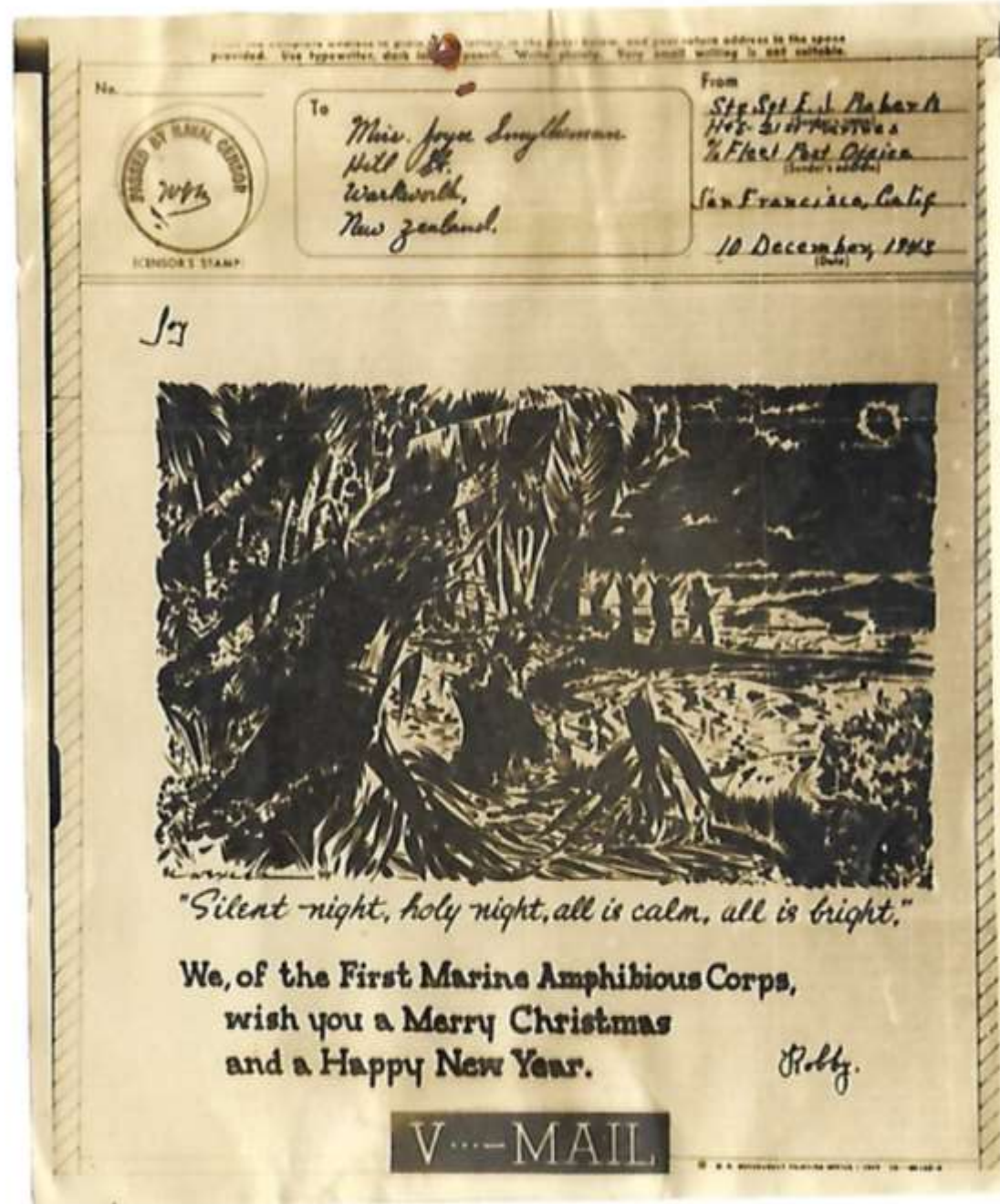


A 1944 Christmas airgraph sent from Italy.
(courtesy of Andrew Dove)



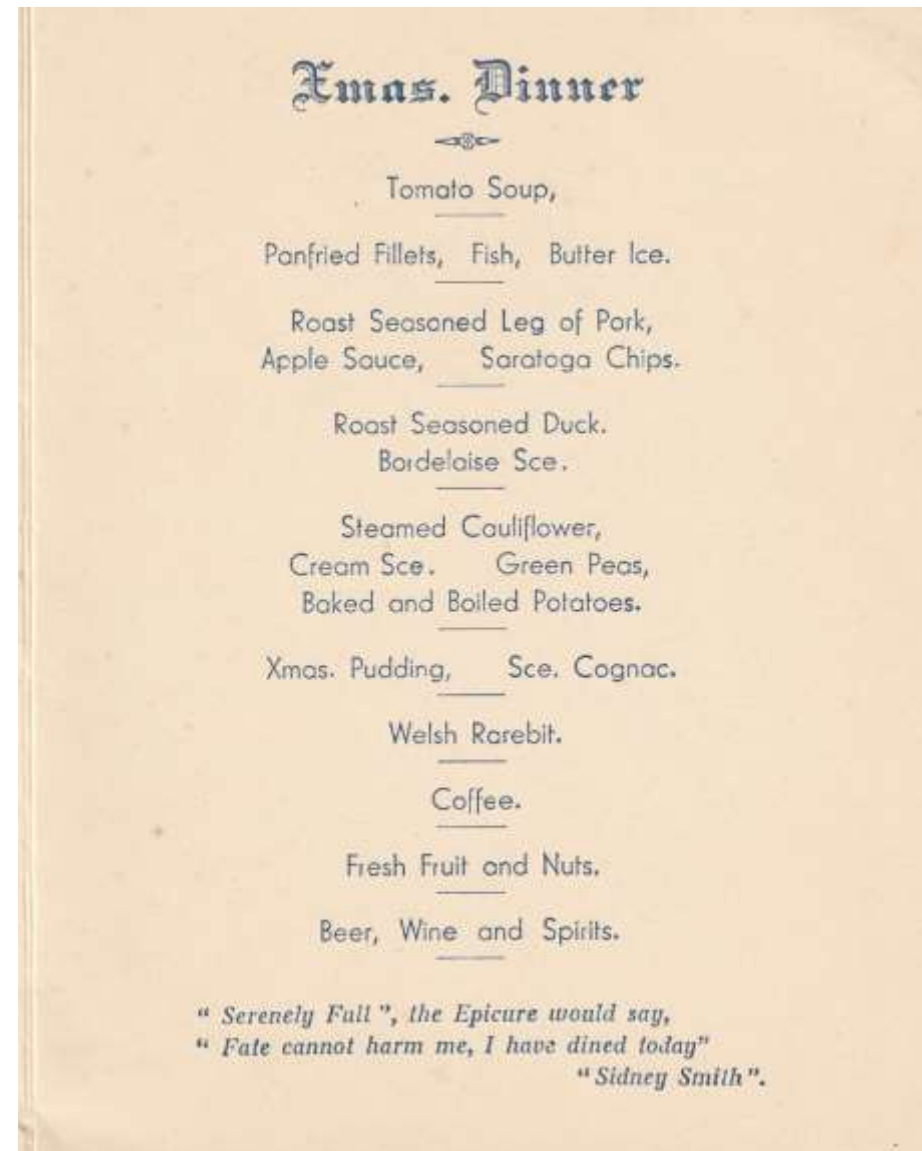
A 1943 Christmas V-mail sent on December 10th by Staff Sergeant E.J. Roberts of the First Marine Amphibious Corps

V---Mail was the American equivalent of the airgraph service



1940 Christmas Dinner menu in the Sergeants' Mess at the 1st NZ Convalescent Depot in Moascar.

(Courtesy of Andrew Dove)



Christmas card produced by the Christchurch City Council and Libraries in 2018
as part of the New Zealand WW100 commemoration
'Remembering the First World War 1914 – 1918'.

