

## VI. WORK OVERSEAS

*General.*—The expenditure under this heading (less buffet and other receipts) was £318,748, as compared with £197,461 for the previous year.

Goods shipped to combat areas overseas during the year weighed 2,534 tons (approximately 78,000 cases) and the value of the goods was £429,232. This does not include goods despatched for sick, wounded, or prisoners of war supplied to the Forces Club, Cairo, or goods issued to Navy, Army, and Air Force stations in New Zealand, visiting ships, and Navy and Air Force drafts proceeding overseas. The destinations of the goods shipped overseas were United Kingdom, Middle East, India, Canada, 3rd Division (forward area) Pacific, 3rd Division (base), No. 1 Islands Group, Fiji, Tonga, Norfolk, Samoa, transports, hospital ships, special service U.S. Navy, and Russia.

Items taken at random from the list of goods sent overseas during the year are as follows :—

	Pacific.	Middle East.
Balaclavas .. .. .	..	110,404
Biscuits (lb.) .. .. .	276,000	23,562
Cake (lb.) .. .. .	85,424	25,028
Chocolate (lb.) .. .. .	..	96,000
Cigarettes .. .. .	1,385,550	7,602,000
Cordials (bottles) .. .. .	41,820	7,536
Cups .. .. .	20,413	8,160
Darts .. .. .	23,636	576
Envelopes .. .. .	5,743,900	249,000
Football boots (pairs) .. .. .	2,497	2,250
Jerseys .. .. .	..	270
Letter-cards .. .. .	140,000	..
Letterheads .. .. .	15,678,500	3,743,000
Mittens .. .. .	..	50,204
Mutton-birds .. .. .	..	4,000
Penholders .. .. .	13,392	5,540
Playing-cards (packs) .. .. .	21,600	4,320
Razor-blades (packets) .. .. .	4,500	260
Scarves .. .. .	..	72,327
Shortbread (lb.) .. .. .	14,650	..
Shorts (pairs) .. .. .	96	129
Shaving-brushes .. .. .	5,000	..
Sugar (lb.) .. .. .	50,640	22,400
Table-tennis balls .. .. .	34,856	144
Tea (lb.) .. .. .	92,600	..
Toffee (lb.) .. .. .	73,500	93,012

The total number of gift parcels sent overseas during the year was 321,942, and gift Christmas tobacco parcels 8,550.

It should be noted that the shipments to the Middle East were merely to supplement existing stocks, whereas to the Pacific initial shipments are included.

*Australia.*—During the year the patriotic organizations in Sydney—the New Zealand Auxiliary War Unit, the New Zealand Association, and the New Zealand Branch of the Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' Imperial League of Australia—in conjunction with Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Mothes, the Army Liaison Officer, and Mr. W. Taylor, New Zealand Trade and Tourist Commissioner, Sydney, continued to care for all visiting personnel. Trips were arranged through the city and country districts, and dances and other entertainments were held in honour of all visiting troops. The Rector of St. Martins Church, Manly, the Rev. Mr. Elbs, placed a hostel at the disposal of visiting personnel and made them welcome.