

STORAGE

Cool-storage space was secured for 950,000 cases of fruit, but at a later date over 200,000 case space had to be transferred to the use of the United States Joint Purchasing Board. During the war period, several stores highly suitable for fruit storage have been erected, but there still remain many old stores which are costly in operation and poor in efficiency. These old stores are utilized only for temporary storage.

All fruit in cool store is under constant supervision, and the Council endorsed the policy of marketing the fruit before waste develops. Adherence to this policy keeps wastage loss at a minimum—this year the loss in fruit actually cool-stored was less than a quarter of 1 per cent. of the total sold through the Division. It also avoids repacking costs. On the other hand, this policy means that the supply to the public during the last three months of the years is very small.

In Canterbury and Otago, climatic conditions are suitable to storing fruit in the orchards, and this practice is followed to supplement cool-store stocks. This season 50,000 cases were stored in orchards.

DISTRIBUTION

The following table shows the distribution of this year in comparison with previous years :—

	1940.		1941.		1942.	
	Apples.	Pears.	Apples.	Pears.	Apples.	Pears.
Civilian markets ..	1,559,000	159,000	2,037,000	329,000	1,537,000	159,000
U.S.J.P.B. ..	..	..	..	..	31,000	1,000
New Zealand Forces ..	30,000	5,000	55,000	15,000	158,000	23,000
Schools ..	..	..	113,000	..	156,000	..
Export ..	587,000	..	4,000	..	..	..
Miscellaneous sales ..	77,000	3,000	92,000	3,000	42,000	..
	2,253,000	167,000	2,301,000	347,000	1,924,000	183,000
Dehydration ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total crop ..	2,253,000	167,000	2,301,000	347,000	1,924,000	183,000

	1943.		1944.	
	Apples.	Pears.	Apples.	Pears.
Civilian markets ..	1,522,000	198,000	1,512,000	230,000
U.S.J.P.B. ..	267,000	23,000	479,000	26,000
New Zealand Forces ..	94,000	11,000	66,000	9,000
Schools ..	91,000	..	102,000	..
Export ..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous sales ..	47,000	3,000	43,000	4,000
	2,021,000	235,000	2,202,000	269,000
Dehydration ..	5,000	..	113,000	..
Total crop ..	2,026,000	235,000	2,315,000	269,000

Because of the abundant crop, it was possible to increase the supply to Armed Services without significant reduction in the supply to the public. The increase to the military Forces was approximately 300,000 cases.