

States forces in the Pacific. Of this vast total, 579,290,000 lb. have been supplied by New Zealand.

This includes not only great quantities of fresh foods, but also canned and dehydrated foods locally grown and processed under a programme undertaken especially for United States forces by Australia and New Zealand. To this end, in vegetables alone, New Zealand has provided 63,050,000 lb. of potatoes, 52,240,000 lb. of other fresh vegetables, and 18,260,000 lb. of canned vegetables.

The New Zealand Government has made great efforts to increase the production of vegetables solely for the purpose of meeting United States requirements. More than 5,000 acres of pasture land have been taken over by the Department of Agriculture and transformed into market gardens producing up to 4,500,000 lb. of fresh vegetables a month for the United States, New Zealand, and allied armed forces. Over 1,000 employees are now working on the Government vegetable-growing programme, many of them women who have been specially recruited and trained for this work. Large quantities of these vegetables are dehydrated and canned in special plants constructed since the war began. Virtually the entire output of these plants is going to American and New Zealand forces in the Pacific area.

Of more than 400,000,000 lb. of beef and other meats supplied by Australia and New Zealand to United States forces, New Zealand has provided 81,500,000 lb. of beef and veal, 5,250,000 lb. of lamb and mutton, 21,890,000 lb. of pork, and

31,210,000 lb. of bacon and ham. To this can be added 51,570,000 lb. of canned meat, and 14,560,000 lb. of other fresh and processed meat.

It may be surprising to some New Zealanders to learn that in the period under review the country provided for the United States forces a greater weight of sugar than of butter: 45,590,000 lb. of sugar were supplied, and 30,520,000 lb. of butter. To the butter total, however, may be added the contributions of cheese (9,120,000 lb.) of evaporated milk (19,470,000 lb.), and of other dairy products, (27,160,000 lb.).

To meet these great and increasing United States requirements for foodstuffs while at the same time maintaining the supplies which New Zealand is committed to send to the United Kingdom, the New Zealand Government has imposed strict rationing of butter, cream, milk, sugar, and meat commodities of which there is normally a vast surplus over local consumption. The people of New Zealand accept these minor manifestations of the exigencies of war, as most of them fully appreciate their good fortune in living in a country so far removed from the actual horrors of war. Indeed, now that the demands of starving Europe are increasing, many New Zealanders have voluntarily suggested that their meat ration be further curtailed in order that the people of Britain, so long in the front line, may not be compelled to pull in their belts still further for the purpose of sharing what little they may have with the famine-stricken victims of Nazi Germany.

PIPE-LINE TO BATTLE

We reprinted in *Korero*, Vol. 3, No. 1, an article from *The Listener*, England, called "Pipe-line to Battle," written by Major Peter Rainier. We have since received from Major A. Russell Currie the letter we print below. Major Currie was at the time of the events of which Major Rainier wrote Officer Commanding, 8 (N.Z.) Fd. Coy., N.Z.E. whose connection with these events is explained in the letter.

THE ARTICLE "Pipe-line to Battle," reprinted from *The Listener*, England, in *Korero* Vol. 3, No. 1, of February 12, 1945, makes interesting reading. Having had the opportunity of reading the whole of Major Rainier's excellent book and appreciating his remarks on "Pansy-

pants" and difficult Staff officers, it is a pity that one part, about the pipe-line full of salt water, is spoiled by being far from the facts as I know them.

In 1941 the 5 (N.Z.) Inf. Bde. commenced work on the position called Fortress A, but known to all Kiwis as