

**Sicily—and a bottle of Wine.**

Lance-Corporal William Yates, a former local police constable and Nelson Town footballer, who is now serving with the Royal Marines, has written a cheery and interesting letter from Sicily to his friend, P.C. Ralph Wood, the well-known Nelson policeman-cricketer. Lance-Corporal Yates describes his experiences in Capetown, Egypt, Malta and finally in Sicily, where he met two police officer friends of pre-war days, George Carrick, of Colne, and Len Davies, of Barrowford. Both of them, like himself, were in the "pink of condition," he says, and to celebrate the occasion they "cracked a bottle of Musso's wine." His letter opens: "I am now in Sicily, with a beautiful billet and plenty of fruit, wine and cigars, which are all, I am happy to say, at poor old Mussolini's expense. Since leaving England I have travelled many, many miles, and I am now priding myself on being quite a globe trotter. After leaving England we had quite a long sail, and the first time we left ship was in South Africa. In Cape Town I spent a few of the most enjoyable days of my life; everything was marvellous, and the people kindness itself. I could have stayed there for the duration, but this was not to be, and we packed our traps and started our travels once again, this time to the home of the original forty thieves—Egypt. There we were on a sand diet—sand at every meal—and apart from camels, sand and a bad smell, there was nothing at all. We had to put up with this for a while until we moved on to the famous George Cross island of Malta, and this was a place I cared for very much. The people were O.K. to get on with, and there was any amount of fruit to be obtained. The only trouble was that I got bitten quite a lot by mosquitos; they are non-malarious, but they leave nasty sores. After leaving Malta we made for Sicily, where, as you probably know, the Royal Marines were the first to land. But they can look after themselves all right."