

## AN ITALIAN EX-P.O.W. WHC DIED FROM GRIEF

The war brought its avalanche of sorrow to almost every home, whether father or son or daughter fought on the side of the Allies or the enemy, and the return of men who were held in P.O.W. camps on both sides has brought a further realisation of the curse of war.

One such case has recently been revealed in a letter received by a resident of the Moss Vale district who had three Italian prisoners engaged under the employment scheme arranged by the military during the war.

A strong affinity sprang up between the employer and his family, and the men in their prisoner garb and correspondence has continued since their return to Italy.

Here is the story told by the mate of one of these men who returned with him on the same ship.

Upon their arrival, he found that his father had died, and from sheer grief he died about a week later. A deep regret runs

through the letter, which was interpreted by one in Moss Vale who can speak Italian. "You can imagine how deeply they felt the grief of losing their son and brother after waiting for so many years to have him once more in the family," runs the interpretation; "also myself who had spent six years with him in the army, and as prisoners together."

The writer, too, experienced a shock when he rejoined his family. His little daughter was only five months old when he left for North Africa, and now she is over six years of age.

Conditions in Italy are on a very low standard, and they ask for anything they can eat or wear or use.