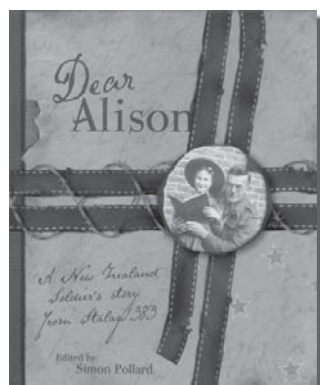




NON-FICTION



Dear Alison

Simon Pollard (editor)

Penguin NZ

ISBN 978-0-14330-460-9 hb RRP \$30.00

Target age 5+

In July 1942, with a notebook and pencil he had bought from a German guard, Dudley Muff started a very special diary. Dudley was 42 and a prisoner of war in Stalag XVIII B in Germany when he wrote this diary for his niece, Alison. Miraculously, the diary survived the war and now serves as a poignant account of one New Zealand soldier's determination to survive at all costs.



Simon Pollard is Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at Canterbury Museum and Adjunct Professor of Science Communication at the University of Canterbury. In 2007, Simon discovered that the original of the diary that his great uncle Dudley Muff wrote while he was a prisoner-of-war in Germany was at Canterbury Museum. After Penguin New Zealand agreed to publish the diary, Simon spent 18 months, in his spare time, writing an introduction and epilogue to help put the diary in perspective almost 70 years after the end of the war.

Great Activity and Event Ideas

1. Visit a war memorial, war graves at a cemetery or a museum.
What did you find out about WW2?
2. Invite a veteran to speak on experiences of WW2.
3. Find out more about the rights of prisoners of war as outlined in the Geneva Convention. Are these rights always observed?
4. Run a discussion on whether diaries are a good way to find out about historical events? What are the pros and cons of using diaries to record history?
5. Find other diaries which reveal historical events in your library.
How do they compare with *Dear Alison*?



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**CHILDREN'S
BOOK AWARDS**

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Activity

Write and illustrate a diary entry for an event you have experienced.