



OCCUPIED

BEHIND BARBED WIRE

4

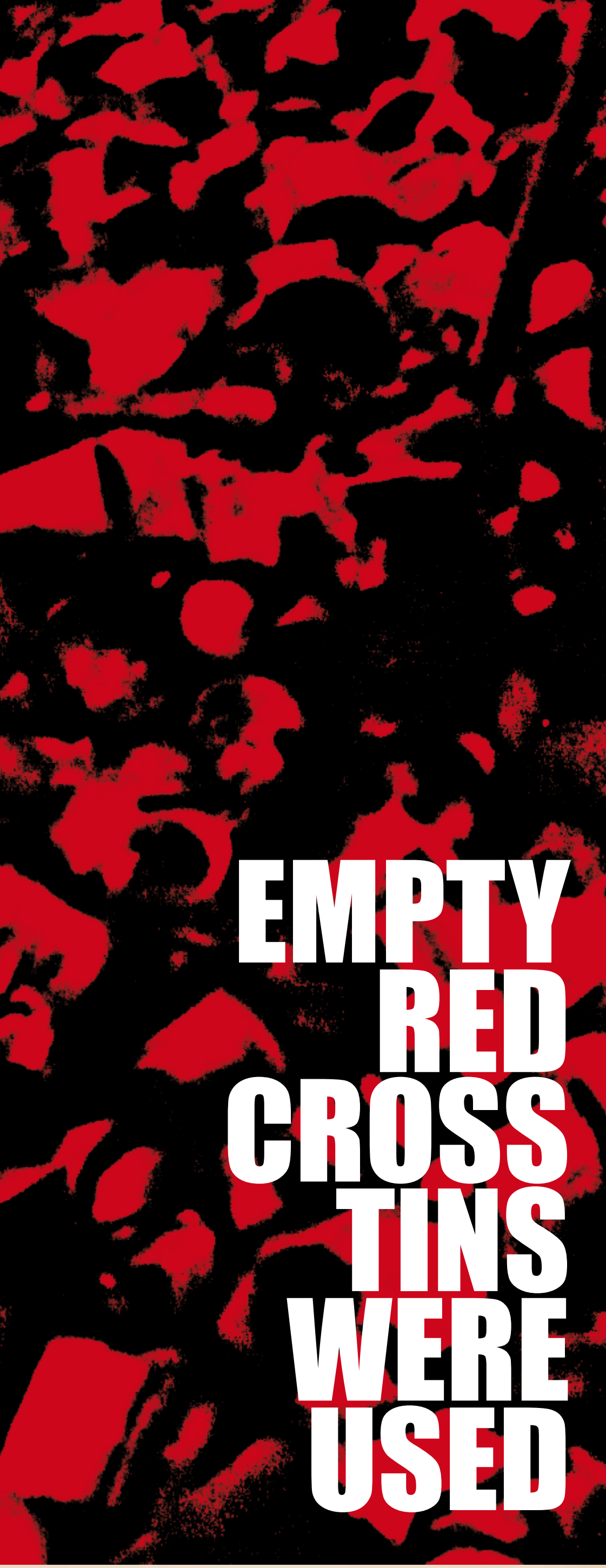
# DOMESTICATING THE CAMPS

The arrival of Red Cross parcels in the camps was welcomes not only for the food they contained but also because they provided raw materials for the production of functional and decorative items. A small industry developed that cultivated the collection of anything and everything that could be used and re-used.

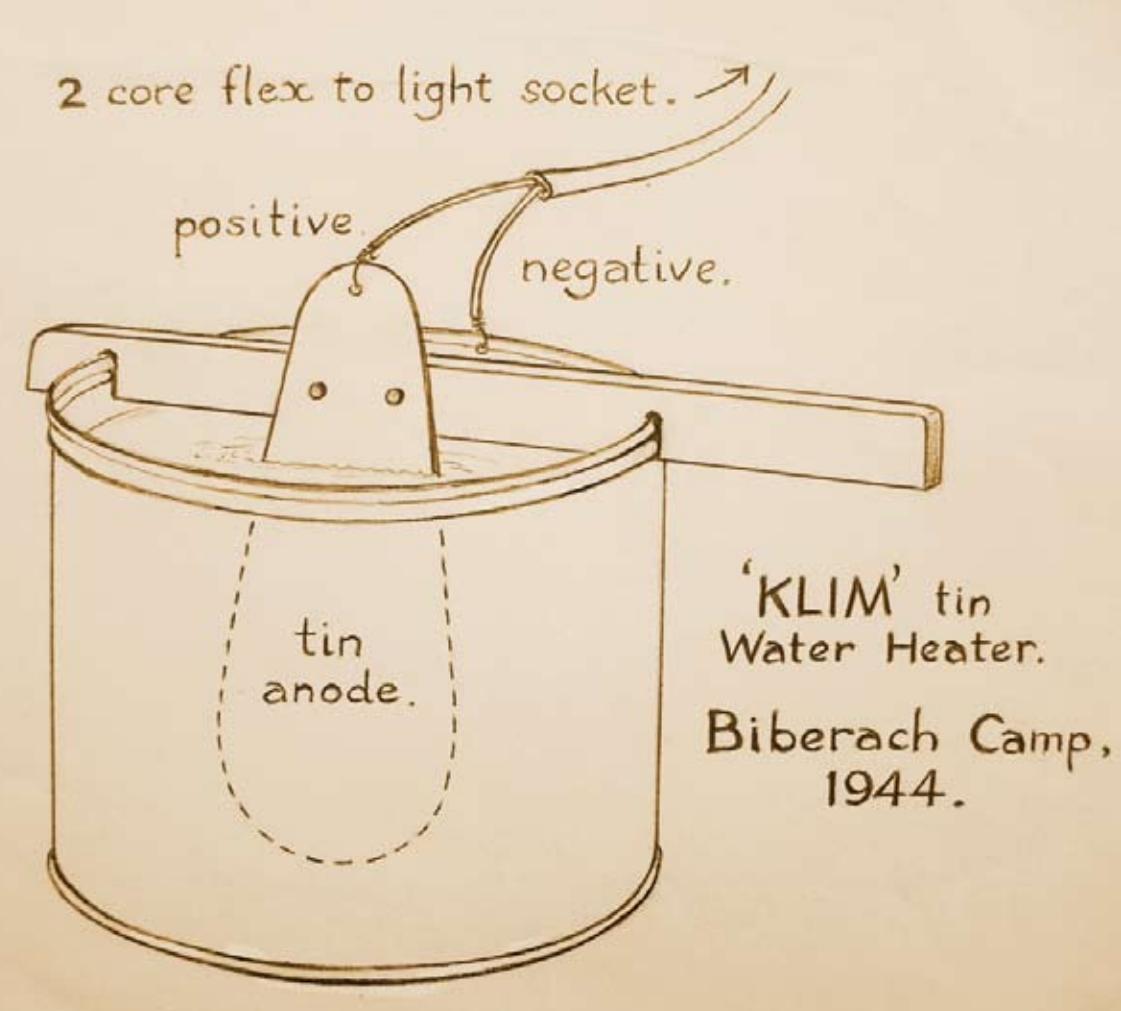
Internees became immensely resourceful and adept at producing a wide range of items for personal use. Empty Red Cross tins were used to make plates, mugs, trays, lamps and even primus stoves. Larger “Klim” tins were used to make simple water heaters and kettles or tea-pots. Wood from packing crates was used to make items of furniture, such as deck chairs, arm-chairs for older internees, or high chairs for babies. It was also turned into chairs for the camp theatre, or bookshelves. Cellophane packing material, parcel string and cardboard became the principle ingredients in making shoes.

Because of the lack of any privacy the production of storage boxes was a popular pastime. Lidded containers were made by plating and weaving parcel string and cellophane together. These gave the internees at least a “private” place in which to store very personal or valuable items away from communal eyes.

Fashion was not forgotten by the ladies of the camps who strove to produce items of decorative attire to help add colour to the few clothes that they were able to bring with them. Parcel string would be dyed, plated and woven into a multitude of items including sun-hats, hand-bags and summer sandals. Even the cellophane wrapping from the Red Cross parcels could be plaited into purses. Old clothes which could no longer be worn were taken apart and the material woven into beautiful belts. Colourful brooches were made from mere scraps of fabric. Woollen garments were unpicked, washed and dyed and then re-knitted into something new.



EMPTY  
RED  
CROSS  
TINS  
WERE  
USED



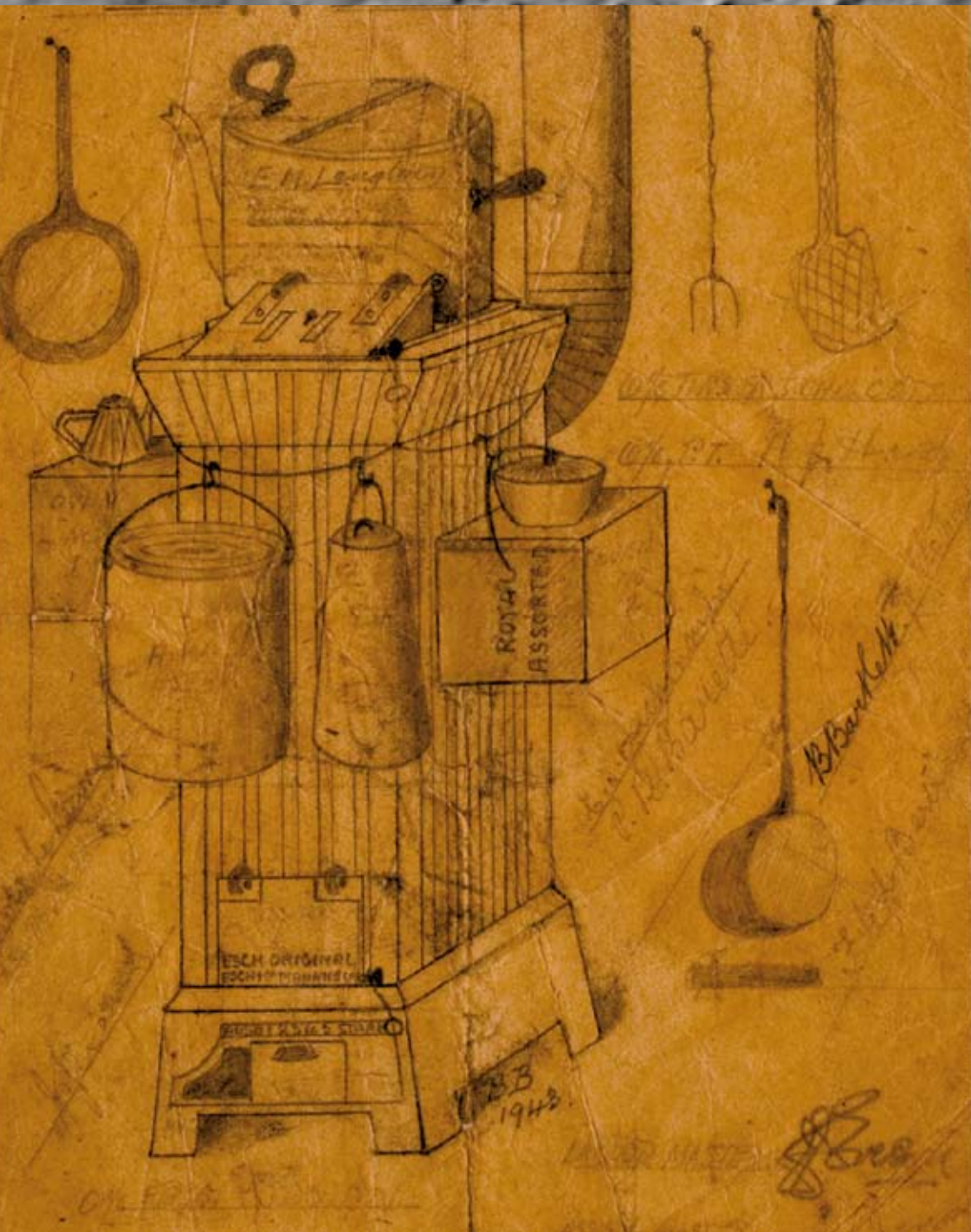
above left  
Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese  
consed eugiat, consetetuer sed  
magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu  
~~~~~

left  
Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese  
consed eugiat, consetetuer sed  
magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu  
~~~~~

above  
Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese  
consed eugiat, consetetuer sed  
magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu  
~~~~~

right  
Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese  
consed eugiat, consetetuer sed  
magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu  
~~~~~

below  
Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese  
consed eugiat, consetetuer sed  
magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu  
~~~~~



WOOLLEN GARMENTS WERE UNPICKED, WASHED AND DYED AND THEN RE-KNITTED INTO SOMETHING NEW