



20/6/48

Dear Dad,

I'll suppose you'll reckon its about time I wrote but I think you understand I was expecting a new address and consequently was holding off.

To start with I had a wonderful time in my sojourn at Katanning. Mrs and Mrs Rae were both great scouts and were continually popping something fresh on us in the way of entertaining us. They have a large sheep station and, of course, we found plenty to do round about. The other two chaps were Sydney riders, Doug Johnston & Ken Foreman.

We had plenty of riding, shooting, rabbiting and the Lord only knows what. One day we stripped the carb on the car and remedied its defects - temporarily at least for its was still running alright when we left. I spent one day crutching sheep and nearly broke my back. Moreover we played a bit of golf in its paddocks.

To the week end to make up a party Mrs Rae brought out a few of the local gals. I think Mrs Rae enjoyed our stay almost as much as we did for



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normally she's here in that big house by herself all day whilst the old man and his manager are out on their several tasks. As it was we used to order her out of the kitchen after every meal whilst we washed and cleaned up everything we could lay our hands on.

Her son, Gordon, a little more advanced with his training than we was here for the first few days of our stay. He was half expecting to go East to finish, although personally I don't think he would. In any case I took the liberty of inviting him up home, if he ever got stuck for somewhere to go. If, at any time, he did arrive I'd like you to show him round and give him a good time for his wonderful matter was marvellous to us. Jack Hagan could probably show him a thing or two. In any case, as I said before, it is most unlikely you'll see anything of him.

Since then I've been into Perth again twice and still manage to have a good time then so I suppose I shouldn't moan. I was most disappointed ^{last} week end when the postings were announced and I was not amongst them. It is now running into months since I finished my course here and if I bother about much longer I'm afraid I'll have forgotten my all I've learnt.

Quis is a miserable existence for there is very little for us to do and we do even less. However they are perpetually on our trail and try help any one who's caught bludging. I've only been up once to date, D.S., and circumstances were such that I was able to use the gift of the gab and a little diplomacy and soon cleared myself & companions, although I suppose we were as guilty as most of those punished. Naturally having little to do, we have all day to do it in. I hope I didn't say anything rash in the telegram I sent for I forgot what I said. I know I was faking a bit fed up when I sent it. There is no doubt about it, one does lose all enthusiasm, but I hope it is only temporary.

At the moment I'm doing guard duty, it is now just on 2 a.m. and quite cool out here on the river flats. John, who's on with me seems to have the same idea as he is also punishing the pen.

What is the latest from Dan? Any more word re the APT 22? I take it Doreen is still teaching at the Gully! I had and I note from Lillian during the week. Din Dier is quite taken up with the life here as I was at his stage. He was a friend of mine in Ken. He went to Assumption & later worked and knocked about with Ben Gallagher. Peter and I used to knock about with them a lot.

I had another letter from Peter recently. He likes the life in New Guinea or at least he doesn't mind it & so far has not been hit by any of the eggs or schrapnel etc. etc. I wanted to be remembered to you all.

I'm glad to hear Ken is just about right again. Shall learn him!

By the way you can now call me L.A. & what is more important however is that I'm getting 4/1 per day ^{rise} and have several weeks back pay to collect next pay. For the present I'll not make a further allotment but will bank the extra myself.

The big event of the trotting world over here, the Winter Cup, is to be held next Saturday and I hope to be able to go. At present I fancy two of the back markers Hoback & Black Panther. The papers seem to think they are handicapped out of it but the former has treated me alright to date & I think I'll be going for him. I've seen all the finalists for 6 of 1 races last week were heats of the Winter Cup, there being 100 odd acceptors. I haven't seen the fields but if you think anything worth it have an investigation or two for me on the ^{probabilities} ~~probabilities~~. I notice Cressdon are again well up in the football world and also that young Kevin Dymov is doing particularly well in the centre for North. You might tell that to Dan for I'm sure he'd been interested to know that, according to the papers Owen has trounced centremen all and sundry up to date. Ted apparently hasn't played with the first yet this season.

Well, Dad, I'm afraid that is the issue, I hope you have thrown off your cold. What Haw is from keeping? I suppose he'll be well on the spot for Pat Collins' ordination. Next month, no doubt?

I haven't any further news I ~~don't~~ think (double dutch) so I'll wind up for the present, Dad. Love to all the family
Dad.