

The King Island World War 2 War Service Fund

During World War 2, Loris Archie, received a Comfort Package or a Money Order from the King Island (Tasmania) War Service Fund, and then corresponded with the Fund.

In August 1940, the Island Fund was formally approved to operate independently from the State of Tasmania. It was run by a group of volunteers, led by Mr John (Jack) Marshall. John was an ex WW1 soldier, also the President of the local Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA), founded on King Island in 1919. This is now known as the Returned and Services League (RSL) and the King Island RSL Sub branch is still in operation.

The fund distributed packages to locals who had enlisted and other people who had no connection with King Island. As a mark of respect 139 service personnel wrote letters of thanks, totaling approximately 530 letters – they form the basis of the collection. Further information on the Fund and its operation can be found on the Community Page.

The challenges for a service person during World War 2 to write a letter was to firstly find the inclination (often directly related to their mental condition due to combat), time, paper, a writing implement and a place under cover. Occasionally a letter was typed and the paper ranged from high quality to loose scraps, and as the war progressed supplies dwindled. With letterhead paper, naming a unit or organisation, do not assume that was where the person was when writing. Paper was borrowed and passed on to mates. Occasionally, a Telegram was sent where the emphasis was on brevity as each word added more to the cost.

The standard of writing is directly related to the standard of education and sometimes a friend or a Chaplain would write a letter on a person's behalf. Many of the letters were addressed to Mr Marshall (or just Jack), his wife, a member of the voluntary committee, or the RSSAILA. Some letters are very brief while others are detailed and mention other people, or events they have witnessed. The Marshall's also lost their son John while on Active Service, and some writers asked about John or acknowledged his death to the family.

For most of the war, letters were subject to censorship and this is often observed in a cutout section on a page – if the other side was written on it was also deleted. Many letters have the initials or the signature of the person who checked them prior to posting.

What follows is a scan of the original letter and a typed transcript, based on the original. Grammar or spelling has not been changed or corrected, and if more than one letter was written they follow in date order. Some of the original letters, although stored correctly, are very faint and fragile, but all have been included along with undated letters. They are perhaps the only surviving documents written by this person.

Loris wrote her first letter in 1943 (undated), two in 1944 and one in 1945 (undated).

104908
ACW archie LV.
RAAF PO.
Melb WT
Frognall.
TO.
President.
War Service Fund, Currie.
Dear madam,
I wish to convey my
most sincere thanks to yourself
and committee, for the very
welcome parcel, which arrived,
by happy coincidence, just
in time for my birthday.
Wishing everyone all the Best,
Yours sincerely.
Loris Archie.

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ACW Archie LV
RAAF PO.
Frognall,
Melb.

17.1.44

President,

War Service Fund,

I wish to thank you all for the
gift and greetings which you sent
at Christmas. They were most
welcome and greatly appreciated.

With Best Wishes to all

Yours sincerely,
Loris Archie.

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Frognall,
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ACW Archie LN.

RAAF PO

Frognall
Mell.

17.2.44

TO

President,
War Service Fund,
Lorne

Dear madam,

Once again I wish to express my thanks to yourself and all the members of your organisation, for the lovely parcel which I have just received, and which needless to say is very welcome, and greatly appreciated, apart from material value.

The fruit and condensed milk made a very appetizing sweet when we were particularly tired of army rations. We (girl friends and self) opened them and used the milk as cream, and it was excellent.

Thanking you once again.

yours sincerely
Louis Archie.

104908

ACW Archie LV.
RAAF PO
Frognall
Melb.
17.2.44

To
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War Service Fund,
Currie

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Yours sincerely
Loris Archie.



104808

acw archie LV.

Grat 469

RAAF

East Dale.

President.

War Service Fund,
Burnie.

Just a few words to try
to express my thanks and
appreciation for the money
order, which I received just
before I went on leave, also
for all the parcels received
throughout last year.

Wishing all your members
all the best for the new
year

I remain,

yours sincerely,
Louis Archie.

104908

ACW Archie LV.

Group 469

RAAF

East Sale.

President.

War Service Fund,
Currie.

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Wishing all your members all the best for the new Year

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Loris Archie.