

The King Island World War 2 War Service Fund

During World War 2, Jeffrey Barnes 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, spelling or terminology 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.

Jeff was a prolific writer and his 16 letters start in 1940 and end in 1945. He was first posted to the 2/40th Infantry Battalion but on 27 March 1941 was reposted to the 2/4th Army Field Workshops. This is the reason he did not go to Timor with the 2/40th and become a POW, like many of his mates. He served in the Middle East in 1942, was promoted to Corporal on 9 January 1944, and to Sergeant on 18 August 1945, four days after the end of WW2. In his letters he writes of mates and places, and used a variety of paper including Aerogrammes.

P.S. Mrs Barnes & family
are well & send kind
Regards to all. JB.



Australian Young Men's Christian Association

Patron, HIS MAJESTY THE KING TK 3632 Pte J. Barnes.

Write Home First

D. Company
2/40 Battalion
5th Division.
Brighton Camp
2/194

Monday Sep. 2nd

Dear Jack.

Just a line in answer to your welcome letter which I received O.K. & was pleased to get same. I suppose you will think me a nice one for not writing before but I don't know. Time flies somehow. I don't seem to be doing much else than write letters. anyhow no excuses better late than never, first of all I want to thank you & your committee for the parcel from the comforts fund which I received O.K. although it had no number, & the contents were much appreciated, you people are sure doing a great job over there, that Ambulance appeal was sure a lesson to the Tasmanian people, the papers here gave it a big heading. Well John this is a big camp here & is growing every day. in fact it will be a dam sight bigger now as the Militia conscripts (Mr Mengies men as we call them) are just starting to come in for their three months training, they are not all coming here of course only the 2nd Field Battery I think, the rest are going to Mona Vale & Elphinstone. This place is a real little township when it is a light of a night. I have got a chance of getting in the Transport at last as I am attending a school of instruction for M. T. now, that is driving a Transport for our



Australian Young Men's Christian Association

Patron, HIS MAJESTY THE KING

Write Home First

Australian Defence Forces

11

194.

different companies in the 40th Battalion, I wouldn't like to leave that now as they are a good lot of chaps & a fine lot of Officers take them all through. They are settling down to work now with the 2/40th giving the men plenty of work & my hell that old Bayonet training fits a bloke for a start too what say you. We are having a real cold day here. Snow showers a long time since I seen any snow falling I can tell you, all through the weather has been perfect in fact too dry down south here, havent seen one days rain since I came had some frosts but nice days afterwards.

Well John I have done my best to get those numbers for you which I am enclosing, I havent got Morrie Lynne's yet he is a fair way over from me & I havent seen him for some time will send his on when I get it.

I had a letter from M^{rs} Morison this morning & I was pleased to get some K.I. news & to know that things were O.K. over there. Have you heard from John lately I hope he is in the pink, What stiff luck Charlie found after getting that distance. They are sure having some great Air Battles over there now must be doing a fair amount of damage. Give my best Regards to Jack & all the rest of the boys when you see them. Will close now & get back to work hoping that both you & M^{rs} Marshall & the rest of the family are well. Best Regards to all of them.

Believe John I am yours Jeff Barnes

TX3832 Pte J. Barnes.
D. Company
2/40 Battalion
8th Division.
Brighton Camp
Tas.
Monday Sep. 2nd

Dear Jack.

Just a line in answer to your welcome letter which I received O.K. & was pleased to get same. I suppose you will think me a nice one for not writing before but I don't know, time flies somehow. I don't seem to be doing much else than write letters. anyhow no excuses better late than never, first of all I want to thank you & your committee for the parcel from the comforts Fund which I received O.K. although it had no number, & the contents were much appreciated, you people are sure doing a great job over there, that Ambulance appeal was sure a lesson to the Tasmanian people, the papers here gave it a big Heading. Well John this is a big Camp here & is growing every day. in fact it will be a dam sight bigger now as the Militia Conscrips (Mr Menzies men as we call them) are just starting to come in for their three months training, they are not all coming here of course only the 2nd Field Battery I think, the rest are going to Mona Vale & Elphin. This place is a real little township when it is alight of a night. I have got a chance of getting in the Transport at last as I am attending a school of instruction for M.T. now, that is driving a Transport for our different Company's in the 40th Battalion, I wouldn't like to leave that now as they are a good lot of chaps & a fine lot of Officers take them all through. They are settling down to work now with the 2/40th giving the men plenty of work & my hell that old Bayonet training fits a bloke for a start too what say you. We are having a real cold day here. Snow Showers a long time since I seen any snow falling I can tell you, all through the weather has been perfect in fact too dry down South here, haven't seen one days rain since I came had some frosts but nice days afterwards.

Well John I have done my best to get those numbers for you which I am enclosing, I haven't got Morrie Lynch's yet he is a fair way over from me & I haven't seen him for some time will send his on when I get it.

I had a letter from Mrs Morrison this morning & I was pleased to get some K.I. news & to know that things were O.K. over there. Have you heard from John lately I hope he is in the pink, What stiff luck Charlie Youl after getting that distance. They are sure having some great Air Battles over there now must be doing a fair amount of damage. Give my best Regards to Jock & all the rest of the boys when you see them. Will close now & get back to work hoping that both you & Mrs Marshall & the rest of the Family are well. Best Regards to all of them.

Cheerio John I am yours Jeff Barnes

P.S. Mrs Barnes & family are well & send kind Regards to all.

JB.

RED SHIELD HUTS-HOSTELS
ON SERVICE with the TROOPS



Date 11/11/40
From
No. TX 3832 Pte. J. Barnes
2. Coy. 2/40 Batt.
5th Division
Brighton Camp,
Lismore.

"My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure"

Dear Jack,

Just a line to let you know that I am still alive & doing well & am hoping you are still keeping O.K. I am writing this mainly to let you know that I received another Parcel from the comforts Fund O.K. last week, & I want to thank you & your committee very much for same, you are sure doing a great job over there & we appreciate it very much. I can tell you that I make my coppers in the hut very jealous when I walk in with these Parcels from you people. They can't make out why they don't get them from the comforts Fund & I tell them they should of went to King Island & enlisted. Well John I am getting on alright over here & I like the life we are well advanced in our training now think nothing of walking twenty miles now, we get a good old route march once a week & plenty of walking the rest of it, I would look for a ride to burrie from home on the Island but would think nothing of walking to Wickham now. I haven't gone to the transport yet I passed my Exam for it but the trouble ~~here~~ is that they haven't got the truck for us all will get them when we get away from here don't know when that will be but by all accounts it won't be long now all the rumours in the world were going round here last week that we were getting final leave very shortly it certainly looks as though there is something doing as they are stamping our names & numbers on our

RED SHIELD HUTS-HOSTELS
ON SERVICE with the TROOPS



Date

From

No.

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"My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure"

identification discs. probably we will go to Victoria for a while to pick up the rest of our Brigade. How is John getting on I hope he is doing alright I suppose he has gone to Egypt now or is he still in England. Things are still pretty tough for us but we will fix it up alright ha! ha! What do you know about those mines in the Straits we don't know where we are now do we. I hope you people won't be isolated over there. How are things going over there I believe you have had a dry time I hope you have had the rain that we have had lately would make things a lot better for you if you have. I suppose the old cows are still giving a drop of milk send me over a drop for my porridge of a morning will you as we don't get any milk. How is Jack Michie & all the boys give them all my best Regards when you go to burrie I would like to come over for a few days but don't think it is possible. I believe things are fairly quiet over there since the boys have gone. A lot have gone away from here lately as probably you have heard, all the A. S. C. & Artillery & Machine Gunners have left.

Well John I will close now & go & get a bit of sleep as we have to be up early these days we are off on a two day trek tomorrow somewhere camping out at night & it is alright, give my best Regards to Mr Marshall & Family & hoping they are all well thanking you all for Parcel once again.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.

11/11/40

TX3832 Pte. J. Barnes
D. Coy. 2/40 Batt.
8th. Division
Brighton Camp
Tasmania.

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I am still alive & doing well & am hoping you are still keeping O.K. I am writing this mainly to let you know that I received another Parcel from the Comforts Fund O.K. last week. & I want to thank you & your committee very much for same, you are sure doing a great job over there & we appreciate it very much. I can tell you that I make my cobbles in the hut very jealous when I walk in with these Parcels from you people they can't make out why they don't get them from the Comforts Fund I tell them they should of went to King Island & enlisted.

Well John I am getting on alright over here & I like the life we are well advanced in our training now think nothing of walking twenty miles now, we get a good old route march once a week & plenty of walking the rest of it. I would look for a ride to Currie from home on the Island but would think nothing of walking to Wickham now. I haven't gone to the Transport yet I passed my Exam for it but the trouble here is that they haven't got the Trucks for us all will get them when we get away from here don't know when that will be but by all accounts it won't be long now all the rumours in the world were going round here last week that we were getting final leave very shortly it certainly looks as though there is something doing as they are stamping our names & numbers on our identification discs. probably we will go to Victoria for awhile to pickup the rest of our Brigade.

How is John getting on I hope he is doing alright I suppose he has gone to Egypt now or is he still in England. Things are still pretty tough for us but we will fix it up alright ha! ha! What do you know about those mines in the Straits we don't know where we are now do we. I hope you people won't be isolated over there.

How are things going over there I believe you have had a dry time I hope you have had the rain that we have had lately would make things a lot better for you if you have. I suppose the old cows are still giving a drop of milk send me over a drop for my porridge of a morning will you as we don't get any milk.

How is Jock Michie & all the boys give them all my best Regards when you go to Currie I would like to come over for a few days but don't think it is possible. I believe things are fairly quiet over there since the boys have gone. A lot have gone away from here lately as probably you have heard, all the A.S.C. & Artillery & Machine Gunners have left.

Well John I will close now & go & get a bit of sleep as we have to be up early these days we are off on a two day trek tomorrow somewhere camping out at night & it is alright. give my best Regards to Mrs Marshall & Family & hoping they are all well thanking you all for Parcel once again.

I am Yours Jeff. Barnes.

RED SHIELD HUTS-HOSTELS
ON SERVICE with the TROOPS



Date. Nov. 26th 1940

From

No. TX 3332

Pte. G. Barnes

D. Coy. 240 Battalion

Brighton Camp
Tasmania.

"My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure"

Dear Jack

Your welcome letter to hand a week or so ago
I am sorry that I have been so long in answering it but
you will have to excuse me as some of those chaps you
asked me for information about numbers & rank etc.
have taken a bit of finding but I think I have got them
all O.K. at last that is of course excepting young
Jaynes, Spurr & Last who have all left for overseas
I am not sure about young Jaynes I haven't seen him
at all down here but I heard he was in the sixth
Division Reinforcements if that is so he has just been
on final leave this last week so probably you have seen
him. Spurr & Last were in the A.S.B. & left here about
six weeks ago I suppose. I have been home to see the wife &
family again last week-end & came back last night we
get four days once a month so that is not so bad, I can't
find out how much longer we will be here it certainly
looks as though there is a move on somewhere for us.
We are marching up in Launceston Friday week it should
be a good turn but all the 240th are going, some japs
say we are going over the other side after that but God
knows. I went into Launceston yesterday morning
Jack & I met Jim Burgess & I can tell you we had a few
noggins together he was on his way to Flinders Island
told me he was going over to take charge of the fishing
fleet for that tanning factory should be a good job.

RED SHIELD HUTS-HOSTELS
ON SERVICE with the TROOPS



Date.....

From

No.

11

"My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure"

He looks well & is just as big a wag as ever. I hope you people had some of that rain that they got at Flinders last Saturday it sure must of rained. How are you keeping John I hope you are still on deck & having fairly good health also M^{rs} Marshall & the rest of the family have you heard from John lately I suppose you have hope he is good O. Will close now as time is getting on for me to be home in the hut, will put the information in for you that you asked me to get. Best Regards to all the boys when you go to Burrie not forgetting Jock Michie. Yes Jack Darby Guy has been discharged.

TX 3776 Pte. Ben Cordwell
H.L. boy 2/40th Battalion

TX 3783 Pte. M. Bight.
b. boy. 2/40th Batt.

TX 4000, ~~TX 4000~~ Pte. J. A. Lynch
D. boy. 2/40 Batt.

TX 3772 Pte. A. Lynch
B. boy. 2/40 Batt.

all Brighton
Camp.

Nov 26th 1940
TX3832
Pte. J. Barnes
D. Coy. 2/40 Battalion
Brighton Camp
Tasmania.

Dear Jack

Your welcome letter to hand a week or so ago & I am sorry I have been so long in answering it but you will have to excuse me as some of those chaps you asked me for information about numbers & rank etc. have taken a bit of finding but I think I have got them all O.K. at last that is of course excepting young Jaynes, Spurr, & Last who have all left for overseas I am not sure about young Jaynes I haven't seen him at all down here but I heard he was in the sixth Division Reinforcements if that is so he has been on Final leave this last week so probably you have seen him. Spurr & Last were in the A.S.C. & left here about six weeks ago I suppose. I have been home to see the wife & Family again last week-end & came back last night we get four days once a month so that is not so bad, I can't find out how much longer we will be here it certainly looks as though there is a move on somewhere for us. We are marching up in Launceston Friday week it should be a good turn-out all the 2/40th are going, some yarns say we are going over the other side after that but God knows. I went into Launceston yesterday morning Jack & I met Jim Burgess & I can tell you we had a few noggins together he was on his way to Flinders Island told me he was going over to take charge of the Fishing Fleet for that Canning Factory should be a good job. he looks well & is just as big a wag as ever. I hope you people had some of that rain that they got at Flinders last Saturday it sure must of rained.

How are you keeping John I hope you are still on deck & having fairly good health also Mrs. Marshall & the rest of the Family have you heard from John lately I suppose you have hope he is good O. Will close now as time is getting on for me to be home in the hut, will put the information in for you that you asked me to get. Best Regards to all the boys when you go to Currie not forgetting Jock Michie. Yes Jack Darby Guy has been discharged,

TX3776 Pte. Ben Cordwell
H.Q. Coy 2/40th Battalion

TX3783 Pte. M. Blight.
C. Coy. 2/40th Batt.

TX4000 Pte. T. A. Lynch
D. Coy. 2/40 Batt.

TX3772 Pte. A. Lynch
B. Coy. 2/40 Batt.

All Brighton Camp.

From Pte BARNES, J.R.
No. TX3832 D. COY.
2/40 BATT.
BONEGILLA CAMP
VICTORIA.



19/1/1941

Dear John.

Just a line to let you know that we have got over the first stretch of water safely on our long long trail. We have been shifted over here from Brighton to join the rest of our Brigade who are camped here that is the 23rd Brigade I believe we are here to do Brigade training, well to start with we came over on the "Zealandia" from Hobart about 850 of us our advance party of about 100 came a week before, we had a lovely smooth trip from Hobart to Melbourne, arrived Melbourne about five o'clock in the afternoon & then hopped into a special train which was a big one & landed us up ~~in~~ here at midnight that was last Thursday week they were good to us on the Boat had good food also a parcel from the Tas. comforts fund which comprised cig's & chocolate & nuts & raisins also let us have a Bottle of green ale a pie & for 1/1 which was very nice as usual. They had hot tea & pies & sandwiches ready for us at Spencer Street Station which was all very nice that done us of course until we got here. This is a new camp Jack about 10 miles on the Victorian side of Albany, it covers a lot of ~~land~~ ground it is built on different lines altogether to what Brighton is this one is built more for aircraft protection there is a bit here & a bit there all over the place.

From _____
No. _____



19

nevertheless it is a big camp there are between six or seven thousand men here. It is very hot up here for us Tasmanians but I suppose we will have to get used to that, we will be like niggers before we are here long we wear nothing but shorts not very hard on clothes up here John. We have no idea of course how long we will be here there are all sorts of rumours going about re final leave but one can't believe any of them. Well John I received your Xmas Parcel from the Comdants Fund O.K. & want you to thank them very much for me again the contents were all very much appreciated. You will be surprised to hear that I got word last Wednesday to say that I was the father of another little soldier doing well don't you reckon they are both doing well. I hope M^{rs} Marshall & the rest of your family are O.K. give them all my best Regards also all the boys when you go to Currie. How is John have you heard from him lately, is he still in England or not. Well John I will close now as it is dinner time hoping you are better than when you wrote to me before also that you find time to drop me a line soon.

Cheers to all & thanking you for Parcel once again.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.
adress on top of first page.

Pte BARNES. J.R.
TX3832 D. COY.
2/40 BATT .
BONEGILLA CAMP.
VICTORIA.

19/1/1941

Dear John.

Just a line to let you know that we have got over the first stretch of water safely on our long long trail. We have been shifted over here from Brighton to join the rest of our Brigade who are camped here that is the 23rd. Brigade. I believe we are here to do Brigade training, well to start with we came over on the "Zealandia" from Hobart about 850 of us our advance party of about 100 came a week before, we had a lovely smooth trip from Hobart to Melbourne, arrived Melbourne about five o'clock in the afternoon & then hopped into a special train which was a big one & landed us up here at midnight that was last Thursday week they were good to us on the Boat had good food also a parcel from the Tas Comforts Fund which comprised cigs & chocolate & nuts & raisins also let us have a Bottle of green ale a piece for 1/1 which was very nice as usual, they had hot tea & pies & sandwiches ready for us at Spencer Street Station which was all very nice that done us of course until we got here.

This is a new Camp Jack about 10 miles on the Victorian side of Albury, it covers a lot of ground it is built on different lines altogether to what Brighton is this one is built more for aircraft protection there is a bit here & a bit there all over the place. nevertheless it is a big Camp there are between six & seven thousand men here.

It is very hot up here for us Tasmanians but I suppose we will have to get used to that, we will be like niggers before we are here long we wear nothing but shorts not very hard on clothes up here John. We have no idea of course how long we will be here there are all sorts of rumours going about re final leave but one can't believe any of them.

Well John I received your Xmas Parcel from the Comforts Fund O.K. & I want you to thank them very much for me again the contents were all very much appreciated. You will be surprised to hear that I got word last Wednesday to say that I was the father of another little soldier doing well don't you reckon they are both doing well. I hope Mrs Marshall & the rest of your Family are O.K. give them all my best Regards also all the boys when you go to Currie. How is John have you heard from him lately, is he still in England or not. Well John I will close now as it is dinner time. Hoping you are better than when you wrote to me before, also that you find time to drop me a line soon.

Cheerio to all & thanking you for Parcel once again.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.

Adress on top of first page.

From W. J. P. Barnes.
No. TX 3832.
D. Cox, 2/40 BATT.
Bongilla Camp.
Victoria



9/2/1941

Dear Jack.

Here I am again going to drop you a few lines to thank you & your committee very much once again for that Banteen Order that I received quite O.K. I can tell you that the boys here were very pleased to receive it & that they couldn't have enough to say about the good work you are doing, we wish you all the best of luck. I was talking to young Ben Caldwell last night & he also asked me to convey his appreciation & thanks. I think all the boys received theirs O.K. We had no trouble here to cash them at the banteen we never had to cut them right out unless we wanted to, there is a big banteen here John also three or four smaller ones, some crowd in the wet one here of a night would like to have it for a pub. We have been here just on a month & it is a big camp, have no idea how many men are here altogether, but there are five Battalions without the odds & sods. This place is 12 miles on the Victorian side of Abury only two mile away from the Dume Weir which is a great job have been across it three or four times. This camp is well situated plenty of water, which is the main thing the worst part about it is that it is not sewered like Brighton is that is a great thing in a camp as you would know. We get plenty of P.S. Best Regards to Jack & all the boys.

From _____

No. _____



19

swimming here & it is good. these hot days we found it dam hot over here after Tassie but are getting more used to it now has been warm here this last couple of days again. When it does rain here it rains alright we have had several thunderstorms & it would fairly fall down but not a bit cold. warm as toast here about a fortnight ago we were coming home one night from a Bivouac & did it rain all the way but we didn't care only had our shorts & shirt on that is all we wear over here John we are lost if we have to wear long trousers I can tell you the Tassie boys are getting browned up now. There is some wonderful country around here makes one think at times he was back on N. I. when he sees the dairies have seen some good cattle & plenty of feed now I believe they had a bad time early but there is tons of feed going to waste now. Well John we are going to march in Melbourne next Friday morning about four thousand or more of us from here so there will be a good string of us won't there after the march we get leave until the following Wednesday so I am going home to Tassie on the Boat to see my new son which the wife has presented me with since I have been here there is a good crowd of us going over got a 14/- reduction on our fare so that is something. Will close now John thanking you once again hoping both you & Mrs Marshall's family are well. Cheers for now I am Yours Jeff.

Pte. J.R. Barnes.
TX3832
D. Coy. 2/40 BATT.
Bonegilla Camp.
Victoria

9/2/1941

Dear Jack,

Here I am again going to drop you a few lines to thank you & your committee very much once again for that Canteen Order that I received quite OK. I can tell you that the boys here were very pleased to receive it & that they couldn't have enough to say about the good work you are doing we wish you all the best of luck. I was talking to young Ben Caldwell last night & he also asked me to convey his appreciation & thanks. I think all the boys received theirs O.K. We had no trouble here to cash them at the Canteen we never had to cut them right out unless we wanted to, there is a big Canteen here John also three or four smaller ones, some crowd in the wet one here of a night would like to have it for a pub.

We have been here just on a month & it is a big Camp have no idea how many men are here altogether but there are five Battalions without the odds & sods. This place is 12 miles on the Victorian side of Abury only two mile away from the Hume Weir which is a great job have been across it three or four times. This Camp is well situated plenty of water which is the main thing the worst part about it is that it is not sewered like Brighton is that is a great thing in a camp as you would know.

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Cheerio for now I am

Yours Jeff

P.S. best Regards to Jock & all the boys

From Pte. J. R. Barnes
No. 7X 3832
M.S. Coy.
2/4 A. F. W.
Puekapungul
Victoria



4 / 6 / 1941

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I received the banteen Order that you sent from the comforts Fund quite O.K. & as usual it was very acceptable again. I wish to thank you & your committee very much for same. you are still doing a great job over there for the boys. The same week as I received your order I received a pair of socks from the comforts Fund in S. Australia also another pair of socks. balacava & a pair of mittens from the Presbyterian people who have a hut here all were very acceptable as the weather is getting pretty cold here now of a night especially when a fellow is on guard. Well John I haven't got any further away yet I am sorry to say I have had eleven months of it now & I have a lot of mates too one gets fed up doesn't he but there you are a fellow can't go away until they take him. I suppose there is time yet as I'm sure that we will all be wanted a lot more beside us especially the way things are now I'm sure they couldn't be worse I have just heard the news which says that we have lost just on another 3,000 men in brete either killed or missing which is a big loss. The French turnout now is rotten I would like to have a go at "Darlan". Pleased to hear that you had heard from John & that he was O.K. I only hope that he

From _____
No. _____



11

18

is still on top it was also good news to hear that the boss had a cable from Don & board to say they were safe I take it that meant that they escaped from Greece one wonders now if any of them went to Crete.

I see where there has been some more enlistments from the Island how many is that now John. I had a letter from the boss last week & he tells me that TB link has left the Island what a lot of changes there has been over there in twelve months. I met a young French dore last Sunday from the Island he is in the Engineers Training Depot. I haven't seen Eric Stephenson since he came back from his pre. em. will look him up this week-end. We are fairly busy with our work repairing guns & trucks etc. it is a lot more interesting than being on the Parade ground day after day one gets fed up with that.

Well John I will close now & go to bed hoping you are still on deck & enjoying good health. Give my best Regards to Mrs Marshall's Family & hoping they are also in the best of health, also best regards to Jack Michael & Birehie & all the rest. Let me know if old Fred Hadfield is still over this side & what his address is as I would like to see him I am going home to Jassie on my monthly leave next Monday week. I had a letter from Vera today & they are all well. Best of luck John & thanking you once again for the banteen order.

I am yours. Jeff Barnes (over)

P.S.

Keith is enclosing a letter also. I don't know whether he told you that he has got three stripes now well he has & is now a Sergeant.

Jeff.

Pte. J.R. Barnes
TX3832
M.S. Coy.
2/4 A.F.W.
Puckapunyal
Victoria

4/6/1941

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I received the Canteen Order that you sent from the Comforts Fund quite O.K. & as usual it was very acceptable again & I wish to thank you & your committee very much for same, you are still doing a great job over there for the boys. The same week as I received your order I received a pair of sox from the Comforts Fund in S. Australia also another pair of sox. balaclava & a pair of mittens from the Presbyterian people who have a Hut here all were very acceptable as the weather is getting pretty cold here now of a night especially when a fellow is on guard. Well John I haven't got any further away yet I am sorry to say I have had eleven months of it now & I have a lot of mates too one gets fed up doesn't he but there you are a fellow can't go away until they take him. I suppose there is time yet as I'm sure that we will all be wanted a lot more beside us especially the way things are now I'm sure they couldn't be worse I have just heard the news which says that we have lost just on another 3,000 men in Crete either killed or missing which is a big loss. The French turn out now is rotten I would like to have a go at "Darlan". Pleased to hear that you have heard from John & that he was O.K. I only hope that he is still on top it was also good news to hear that the boss had a cable from Don & Coad to say they were safe I take it that meant that they escaped from Greece one wonders now if any of them went to Crete.

I see where there has been some more enlistments from the Island how many is that now John. I had a letter from the boss last week & he tells me that Blink has left the Island what a lot of changes there has been over there in twelve months. I met a young French here last Sunday from the Island he is in the Engineers Training Depot.

I haven't seen Eric Stephenson since he came back from his pre. em. Will look him up this week-end. We are fairly busy with our own work repairing guns & trucks etc. it is a lot more interesting than being on the Parade ground day after day one gets fed up with that.

Well John I will close now & go to bed hoping you are still on deck & enjoying good health. Give my best Regards to Mrs. Marshall & Family & hoping they are also in the best of health, also best regards to Jock Michie & Birchie & all the rest. Let me know if old Fred Hadfield is still over this side & what his adress is as I would like to see him. I am going home to Tassie on my monthly leave next Monday week. I had a letter from Vera today & they are all well. Best of luck John & thanking you once again for the Canteen Order.

I am Yours. Jeff Barnes

P.S.

Keith is enclosing a letter also. I don't know whether he told you that he has got three stripes now well he has & is now a Sargeant.

Jeff

From Pte J.R. Barnes
No. TX 3832
M.S. Coy.
2/4 A.F.W/S.
Puckapunyal. Vic.



26/8/1941

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I am still alive & doing well & am hoping you are all the same. I received the comforts parcel that you sent per Keith Brown quite O.K. & I want to thank you very much for same. That parcel is going to be very handy on board the old Boat which I think we will be on our way sometime this week I am off this time alright & it is dam near time I have been in over 13 months now & am just about sick of it. Things are still tough over there John aren't they the old Russian is doing a good job holding them up. I had a good old yarn to Keith about the Island I would of liked to of paid you a visit myself on my final but time was all too short. How is the weather over there it is dam cold here this last two days a very cold wind blowing. I hope to be in a warmer climate soon as I believe we are going to the middle East. Well John I have got to go & do some more work so will close thanking you & your committee once again for Parcel. Best regards to Mr & Mrs Marshall's Family. You will be hearing from me later on the trip.
Best of luck to all.
I am yours Jeff Barnes

Pte. J.R. Barnes
TX3832
M.S.Coy.
2/4 A.F.W/S.
Puckapunyal. Vic.

26/8/1941

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I am still alive & doing well & am hoping you are all the same. I received the Comforts Parcel that you sent per Keith Brown quite O.K. & I want to thank you very much for same. That parcel is going to be very handy on board the old Boat which I think we will be on our way sometime this week I am off this time alright & it is dam near time I have been in over 13 months now & am just about sick of it.

Things are still tough over there John aren't they the old Russian is doing a good job holding them up.

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Best of luck to all.

I am yours Jeff Barnes

TX 3832 Pte J.R. Barnes
Machine Shop Corp.
2/4 Aus. A. 7. Wfs.
Middle East Forces.

Western Desert
19/1/43.

Dear Jock,

Just a line to let you know that I received my Xmas parcel OK & in plenty of time for Xmas I know I should of written & told you before but you will have to excuse me this time as I have been on the move since receiving same am now settled down again but for how long I can't say. I want to thank both you & your committee very much for parcel which I can tell you was very acceptable it is good & out here Jock to taste a piece of cake & pudding etc. I didn't think that cake could taste so nice. I saved my tin food for now & I can tell you that it is all coming in very handy now.

You people are sure doing a grand job over there for the boys keep up the good work I'm sure the boys all appreciate it all. Well Jock I have seen a bit of country since coming over this side of the world I was in Palestine all the time until I moved up here & [redacted] One did see a bit of vegetation in Palestine in fact there is some good country there.

I am now somewhere in the Western Desert & it is a great place I can tell you it is not sand like I thought it was but stone & dirt & the dust storms are crook one can hardly see five yds in front of him when it starts to blow it is very bad on the eyes. I can't say much about this place Jock as I am tied down to strict censorship will have to save it all up until I return that will be the day won't it. I had a fair look around while in Palestine went to Jerusalem & Tel Aviv on leave seen all the old sites in Jerusalem & was all very interesting Tel Aviv is a nice modern city practically built since the last war as you may know, it is run by Jews & they are doobers alright they have some nice modern homes. I have seen part of Cairo & also the pyramids from a distance hope to have a good look at them later. I was travelling across the Sinai Desert one few years ago there is the dinkum sand there. It is winter time here now & gets fairly cold here of a night but mostly fine days had no rain up here so far but had a fair amount in Palestine especially round about Xmas time & did it rain it just falls down there when it starts & gets very muddy. The Arabs there or Wags as they are called put in some wheat here & there & it was just nicely up out of the ground when I left & looked well.

I seen a good few of the boys & Ls. chaps I mean while in Palestine but never came in contact with young John Marshall. I don't suppose I will see any more of them now for awhile still one never knows. How is Jack Marshall. I believe he was sick again some little time back I hope he is O.K. again & able to take a little nourishment give him my best regards also Birchies old Ted & Adfield hope they are good O. also. How are things going over on the Island fairly quiet now I suppose I hope you fellows can keep those dam little Japs away from there. one doesn't get much news here the last I heard wasn't too good over that way. I suppose Joe Dohi still has a drop of all I wouldn't mind having a long two ales with you tonight. I used to get a drop in Palestine but it is cut out now if a chap is here long he will sure finish up on the square. Well Joe I will close now thanking you all once again for the Parcel & hoping that both you & your family are in the best of health. Keith Brown is here with me & sends best regards to all.

Cheerio for now.
I am Yours. Jaff Barnes.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



M^r. J. Michie

Burnie
King Island
Tasmania

AUSTRALIA.



WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH
THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

TX3832 Pte. J.R. Barnes
Machine Shop Coy.
2/4 Aus. A.F. W/S.
Middle East Forces.

Western Desert
19/1/42

Dear Jock,

Just a line to let you know that I received my Xmas parcel O.K., & in plenty of time for Xmas I know I should of written & told you before but you will have to excuse me this time as I have been on the move since receiving same am I now settled down again but for how long I can't say. I want to thank both you & your committee very much for parcel which I can tell you was very acceptable it is good O. out here Jock to taste a piece of cake & pudding etc. I didn't think that cake could taste so nice. I saved my tin food for now & I can tell you that it is all coming in very handy now.

You people are sure doing a grand job over there for the boys keep up the good work I'm sure the boys all appreciate it all. Well Jock I have seen a bit of country since coming over this side of the world I was in Palestine all the time until I moved up here a S **CENSORED**. One did see a bit of vegetation in Palestine in fact there is some good country there.

I am now somewhere in the Western Desert & it is a great place I can tell you it is not sand like I thought it was but stone & dirt & the dust storms are crook one can hardly see five yds in front of him when it starts to blow it is very bad on the eyes. I can't say much about this place Jock as I'm tied down to strict censorship will have to save it all up until I return that will be the day won't it. I had a fair look around while in Palestine went to Jerusalem & Tel Aviv on leave seen all the old sites in Jerusalem & was all very interesting Tel Aviv is a nice modern city practically built since the last War as you may know, it is run by Jews & they are robbers alright they have some nice modern homes. I have seen part of Cairo & also the Pyramids from a distance hope to have a good look at them later. I was traveling across the Sinai Desert on New Years Day there is the dinkum sand there. It is winter time here now & gets fairly cold here of a night but mostly fine days had no rain up here so far but had a fair amount in Palestine especially round about Xmas time & did it rain it just falls down there when it starts & gets very muddy. The Arabs there or Wogs as they are called put in some wheat here & there & it was just nicely up out of the ground when I left & looked well.

I seen a good few of the boys K.Is. chaps I mean while in Palestine but never came in contact with young John Marshall I don't suppose I will see any more of them now for awhile still one never knows. How is Jack Marshall I believe he was sick again some little time back I hope he is O.K. again & able to take a little nourishment give him my best regards also Birchie & old Fred Hadfield hope they are good O. also. How are things going over on the Island fairly quiet now I suppose I hope you fellows can keep those dam little Japs away from there one doesn't get much news here the last I heard wasn't too good over that way. I suppose Joe Dolin still has a drop of ale I wouldn't mind having a long two ales with you tonight I used to get a drop in Palestine but it is cut out now if a chap is here long he will sure finish up on the square.

Well Jock I will close now thanking you all once again for the Parcel. & hoping that both you & your Family are in the Best of health. Keith Brown is here with me & sends best regards to all.

Cheerio for now. I am Yours, Jeff Barnes.

11 Garrell St.
Baulfield
8/2/42.

Dear John.

Just a line in answer to your banteen Order that I received along with Keith's about a fortnight ago & I want to thank you & your committee very much for same you people over there are still doing a grand job for the boys. I wrote & told you not to send me a parcel for Xmas but along it came just the same & I was very pleased with it as I was up at Puckapunyal to an A. F. V. School during Xmas & I can tell you again that the parcel was very acceptable.

I was home in Tasmania to see the Wife & Family again last week they were all well & send best Regards to you all. I am still working here on Tanks in Melbourne but will be moving on again shortly I believe somewhere.

I seen Ted Curbishy & Dave Farrel in Launceston last week they were on their way home or leave I was pleased to meet some of the K. I. boys.

Will close now John hoping that you & Mrs Marshall & Family are well, thanking you & your committee once again & wishing all the best of luck.

Keith sends his best Regards to all.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.

11 Garrell St.
Caulfield
8/2/42.

Dear John.

Just a line in answer to your Canteen Order I received along with Keith's about a fortnight ago & I want to thank you & your committee very much for same you people over there are still doing a grand job for the boys I wrote & told you not to send me a parcel for Xmas but along it came just the same & I was very pleased with it as I was up at Puckapunyal to an A.F.V. School during Xmas & I can tell you again that the parcel was very acceptable. I was home in Tasmania to see the Wife and Family again last week they were all well & send best Regards to you all. I am still working here on Tanks in Melbourne but will be moving on again shortly I believe somewhere.

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Will close now John hoping that you & Mrs Marshall & Family are well, thanking you & your committee once again & wishing all the best of luck.

Keith sends his best Regards to all.

I am Yours Jeff. Barnes.



TX 3832 Pte. J. R. Barnes
2/4 Tank Workshops.
A. E. M. C.
Bandiana Camp
Victoria

Monday
June 26th 43.

Dear Jack

Just a line to let you know that I haven't forgotten you altogether. I hope that you are keeping O.K. as it leaves me at present. I received your welcome parcel again quite safe some little time ago & as usual was pleased to get same. I wish to thank you & your committee very much for same. You will note my new address now Jack we are not a Field W/shop any longer although you had my old address on the parcel it found me O.K. I sure had a good spell working

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND
VICTORIAN DIVISION

With Which is Affiliated

R.S.L. War Service
Fund



The Salvation
Army

Y.M.C.A.

Y.W.C.A.

down in Melbourne but it is all
finished down there now & I am
back at camp life again & believe
me it is not too good this time
of the year as it is damn cold up
here I can tell you, I am in a
good camp here in fact one of the
best. Well Jack & how is things over
on the Island pretty wet now I suppose
I was home in Lassie for Easter & met
Pugget & George Jaynes also seen
Blink Soden who is a Captain what do
you know of that he has got his chest
stuck out now. News is damn scarce
here Jack so will close with best
regards to M^{rs} Marshall & Family &
hope they are all well. Thanking
you once again for parcel. Best regards
to all the Boys.

I am yours Goff.

TX3832 Pte. J. R. Barnes
2/4 Tank Workshops.
A.E.M.E.
Bandiana Camp
Victoria

Monday
June 28th. 43.

Dear Jack

Just a line to let you know that I haven't forgotten you altogether I hope that you are keeping O.K. as it leaves me at present. I received your welcome parcel again quite safe some little time ago & as usual was pleased to get same, I wish to thank you & your committee very much for same. You will note my new adress now Jack we are not a Field W/shop any longer although you had my old adress on the parcel it found me O.K.

I sure had a good spell working down in Melbourne but it is all finished down there now & I am back at camp life again & believe me it is not too good this time of year as it is dam cold up here I can tell you, I am in a good camp here in fact one of the best. Well Jack & how is things over on the Island pretty wet now I suppose I was home in Tassie for Easter & met Nugget & George Jaynes also seen Blink Soden who is a Captain what do you know of that he has got his chest stuck out now.

News is darn scarce here Jack so will close with best regards to Mrs. Marshall & Family & hope that are all well. Thanking you once again for parcel. Best Regards to all the Boys.

I am Yours Jeff.

P.S. Keith Brown is O.K. & sends best regards to all.

Saturday
Nov. 27/43.

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I received my parcel quite safe some little time ago & as usual was very pleased to get same & I want to thank you & your committee very much you are still doing a grand job for the Boys.

I am still stuck here in this place & look like stopping here for awhile, it is sure a nice camp but one would sooner be up with the boys still that isn't our fault, we have got a fair amount of work to do & look like getting a lot more now that our chaps are using the tanks.

The weather is warming up here I hope you are having the good weather also & that you are having a good season. I am hoping to get over to see you all soon but only hoping I don't think I will have much chance, my wife & family are going over for the School Holidays.

Will close now with all the best to Mr Marshall & family - thanking you all once again for parcel. Best Regards to Jack & Birenie & old Fred. Hadfield when you see them.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes

P.S. Keith Brown is O.K. & sends best regards to all.

Saturday,
Nov. 27/43.

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I received my parcel quite safe some little time ago & as usual was very pleased to get same & I want to thank you & your committee very much you are still doing a grand job for the Boys.

I am still stuck here in this place & look like stopping here for a while, it is sure a nice camp but one would sooner be up with the boys still that isn't our fault, we have got a fair amount of work to do & look like getting a lot more now that our chaps are using the tanks.

The weather is warming up here I hope you are having the good weather also & that you are having a good season, I am hoping to get over to see you all soon but only hoping I don't think I will have much chance, my wife & family are going over for the School Holidays.

Will close now with all the best to Mrs. Marshall & Family & thanking you all once again for parcel. Best Regards to Jock & Birchie & old Fred Hadfield when you see them.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.

address

TX 3832, Oph. Barnes 9.
2/4 Aust Base. w/shops
dos shop. Lamb Corp.
Bandiana Vic.

Wed. July. 25.

Dear Jack.

I wish to apologise for not writing before & thanking you & your committee very much for parcel received some time ago was sure good to get same & to know that you people are still doing a grand job for the Boys. How is everything on K. I. feeling the winter now I suppose as we are here there is a beautiful frost here every morning but nice days afterwards. The news is sure good Jack I think the little Japs will soon crack up. It looks as though a lot of us old chaps will be released shortly, if so I will sure have a trip to the Island to see you all again. Keith is still here with me & sends his best regards to you all. Hope Mrs Marshall & Family are O.K. give them all my best regards also, the same goes to Barchie & Jack Michie. Hope you are keeping O.K. Jack. all the best & thanking you once again for parcel.
Yours truly, Barnes.

TX3832 Cpl. Barnes J.
2/4 Aust Base
W/shops
No. 5 Shop Tank Coy.
Bandiana Vic.
Wed. July 25.

Dear Jack.

I wish to apologise for not writing before & thanking you & your committee very much for parcel received some time ago was sure good to get same & to know that you people are still doing a grand job for the Boys. How is everything on K.I. feeling the winter now I suppose as we are here there is a beautiful frost here every morning but nice days afterwards.

The news is sure good Jack I think the little Japs will soon crack up. It looks as though a lot of us old chaps will be released shortly if so I will sure have a trip to the Island to see you all again. Keith is still here with me & sends his best regards to you all. Hope Mrs. Marshall & Family are O.K. give them all my best regards also, the same goes to Birchie & Jock Michie. Hope you are keeping O.K. Jack. all the best & thanking you once again for parcel.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.

TX3532 Cpl. J. R. Barnes
address 2/4 Aus. Base w/shops
P.O. Shop Lank Coy.
Bandana. Viet.

Tuesday Sep. 5/44

Dear Jack.

Just a few lines once again to thank you very much for the nice parcel I received some little time ago it was sure very acceptable & I want you to express my appreciation for same to the Committee of the War Service Fund. They have sure done a grand job for the Boys. I only hope that they won't have to do it much longer for us for the news is very good isn't it lets hope it is soon all over so as we can all get back home to our families again & live in a peaceful world. I have been home to Tasmania & seen my family just recently & it was great to be home with them again for awhile pleased to say they were all well. I hope that you & your Wife & Family are quite well please give them all my best regards. I think I am stuck here in this place for the duration could be worse off we have a great camp here. Keith is G.R. John & sends his best regards. Will close now. Thanking you all once again for parcel. Best of Luck to you all.

I am yours Jeff. Barnes.

TX3832 Cpl. J.R. Barnes
2/4 Aus. Base W/shops
No. 5 Shop Tank Coy.
Bandiana. Vic.
Tuesday Sep 5/44

Dear Jack.

Just a few lines once again to thank you very much for the nice parcel I received some little time ago it was sure very acceptable & I want you to express my appreciation for same to the Committee of the War Service Fund they have sure done a grand job for the Boys. I only hope that they won't have to do it much longer for us for the news is very good isn't it lets hope it is soon all over so as we can all get back home to our Families again & live in a peaceful world.

I have been home to Tasmania & seen my Family just recently & it was great to be home with them again for a while pleased to say they were all well.

I hope that you & your Wife & Family are quite well please give them all my best regards. I think I am stuck here in this place for the duration could be worse off we have a great camp here. Keith is O.K. John & sends his best regards.

Will close now thanking you all once again for parcel. Best of Luck to you all.

I am Yours Jeff. Barnes.



USE OFFICIAL ADDRESS ONLY.

From No. 7 832 Name Gpl. J. R. Barnes
Unit or Group 2/4 Aus. Base 1/5 Shop Date 11/12/44
C/o. 5 Shop Bankana
Victoria

Dear Jack.

Here I am again going to write & thank you very much for nice parcel received the other week also the nice card & Canteen Order received during last week. I want you to thank all those people for me who sent those things along. They are all appreciated I can tell you. Thanks for card with Xmas greeting & I want to extend the same to you all. I do hope that before next Xmas this business will all be over & that we are all settled down at home again. This is my fifth Xmas away from home during the War & I know that I am only one of many. Things are much the same here with no plenty of work to do. No idea how long we are here for, it has been very hot up here lately & the country is in a very bad state one of the driest seasons on record no rain to speak of at all this year. Hope it is different over your way. Trusting Mr. Marshall & Family are well & that you are O.K. yourself. Thanking you all once again & wishing you all the best for the coming season.

Cheerio John
Kind regards to Jack & Michie. I am yours. J.R.B.

TX3832 Cpl J.R. Barnes
2/4 Aus. Base W/shops 11/12/44
No. 5 Shop Bandiana
Victoria

Dear Jack.

Here I am again going to write & thank you very much for nice parcel received the other week also the nice card & Canteen Order received during last week.

I want you to thank all those people for me who sent those things along they are all appreciated I can tell you. Thanks for card with Xmas greeting & I want to extend the same to you all & I do hope that before next Xmas this business will all be over & that we are all settled down at home again, this is my fifth Xmas away from home during the War and know that I am only one of many. Things are much the same here with us plenty of work to do, no idea how long we are here for, it has been very hot up here lately & the country is in a very bad state one of the driest seasons on record no rain to speak of at all this year. Hope it is different over your way.

Trusting Mrs Marshall & Family are well & that you are O.K. yourself. Thanking you all once again & wishing you all the best for the coming Season.

Cheerio John

Kind regards to Jock Michie I am yours. Jeff.

TX 3832 Cpl J. Barnes
Address 2/4 Aus. Base W/shops
No 3 Shop Lanka Coy.
Bandiana. Victoria

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know
that I received your welcome parcel some
little time ago & I want to thank you &
your committee very much for same again
it was sure very nice you people are
sure still doing a grand job the only
thing I hope is that you won't have to
do it much longer for us & that this War
is soon over. I am sure that most of us
have sure had enough of it. I am very
sorry that I never had the chance to get
out to your place while over there & the
leave transport was the trouble & the
time seemed to go so quick but never

mind John I promise that I will be out
to see you next time I get over there.
I have had the Wife over here with me for
three weeks holiday lately - it was good O.
she is over on the Island now probably you
have seen her, I am ringing her up this
morning so hope to be talking to King Is.
again any old time now. How is your
weather getting cold now I suppose there
has been a fair amount of rain here this
last week. Keith Brown is good O. sends
best regards to all. I have got a couple of
hooks on the old arm at last John been a
long time getting them but better late than
never. Things are much the same here plenty
of work. Give my best regards to Mrs Marshall
& family, also Jack, Birchie & old Fred when
you see them. Will close now thanking
you all over again for parcel.
Best of luck. I am yours Jeff. Bane

TX3832 Cpl J. Barnes
2/4 Aus. Base
W/shops
No. 5 Shop Tank Coy.
Bandiana.
Victoria

Dear Jack.

Just a line to let you know that I received your welcome parcel some little time ago & I want to thank you & your committee very much for same again it was sure very nice you people are sure still doing a grand job the only thing I hope is that you won't have to do it much longer for us & that this War is soon over. I am sure that most of us have sure had enough of it. I am very sorry that I never had the chance to get out to your place while over there on leave transport was the trouble & the time seemed to go so quick but never mind John I promise that I will be out to see you next time I get over there. I have had the Wife over here with me for three weeks holiday lately & it was good O. She is over on the Island now probably you have seen here, I am ringing her up this morning so hope to be talking to King Is. again any old time now.

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Best of luck. I am Yours Jeff. Barnes