

## **The King Island World War 2 War Service Fund**

During World War 2, Alfred (Rex) Bramich 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.

Rex wrote five letters to the Fund covering the period from January 1943 to December 1944. He mainly expresses his appreciation for what he has received, comments on boot polish, but provides no information on his work. Interestingly is the different types of paper he has used and the fact that every one of the letters has the initials of the censor.

30971  
Ltbl. Bramish R.  
Group 610  
A.F.P.C. 71  
Townsall  
Sch 2ld.  
23 1.43.

To Whom it may concern,

This is a letter to express & convey to you my whole hearted & genuine appreciation & gratitude to your organisation for the Bantam Order which I received from it last Thursday.

It is indeed a great inspiration to us to know that our efforts are being watched & appreciated by the home folks in our community.

May I take the liberty of congratulating you on the gigantic job that you are denoting so much time & efforts to & which you are doing so well.

My whole hearted thanks & best wishes.

Yours Gratefully  
Lx Bramish

30971  
LAC. Bramich AR.  
Group 610  
A.F.P.O. 71  
Townsville  
Nth Qld.  
23.1.43.

To Whom it may Concern,

This is a letter to express & convey to you my whole hearted & genuine appreciation & gratitude to your organisation for the Canteen Order which I received from it last Thursday.

It is indeed a great inspiration to us to know that our efforts are being watched & appreciated by the home folks in our community.

May I take the liberty of congratulating you on the gigantic job that you are devoting so much of your time & efforts to & which you are doing so well.

My whole hearted thanks & best wishes.

Yours Gratefully  
Rex Bramich



30941

Libb. Bramish A.R.

Group # 892

A.F.P.C. 41

Townsville

23.1.43.

The President

King Island was Service Fund  
King Island.

To whom it may concern,

Once again I  
acknowledge yet another one of your gener-  
ous gifts, this one for Xmas. It came to me  
in the form of a Bantam Order, the most  
useful gift of all. May I convey my  
profound gratitude to each member of  
your fine organisation & congratulate them  
on the fine work they are doing in  
this respect. This together with the card  
conveying your good wishes were re-  
ceived with genuine appreciation.



Yours very Sincerely  
Libb. Bramish.

30971  
LAC. Bramich A.R.  
Group N 872  
A.F.P.O. 71  
Townsville  
23.1.43.

The President  
King Island War Service Fund  
King Island.

To whom it May Concern,

Once again I acknowledge yet another one of your generous gifts, this one for Xmas. It came to me in the form of a Canteen Order, - The most useful gift of all. May I convey my profound gratitude to each member of your fine organisation & congratulate them on the fine work they are doing in this respect. This together with the card conveying your good wishes even inclined with genuine appreciation.

Yours Very Gratefully  
Rex Bramich





AUSTRALIAN  
COMFORTS FUND

In Conjunction with

Y. M. C. A.

(Use Military Address only)



No. 30971

Rex Brambleth

Group 610 194

A. F. P. O. 71

Townsville

Vth Dld

Mon May 31 1943

To whom it may concern, May I ex-  
press my profound gratitude &  
appreciation to your organization  
for the parcel of comforts which I received  
from you a few days ago. The parcel  
was composed of such articles as  
would be useful & most acceptable to  
any man in any of the services, showing  
the precision & care with which they  
had been selected & packed. At this  
particular spot an acute shortage of  
boot polish has been experienced so that  
made the parcel doubly welcome. It is  
a great thing to be looked after in this  
manner & although I am just one of  
many who feel the same way, I can  
say that my thanks is sincere  
& may I congratulate your organization  
on the magnificent job of work it is doing.

MAIL YOUR LETTERS A.P.O.

DO NOT MENTION MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

Yours very gratefully  
Rex Brambleth.

30971  
LAC. Bramich AR.  
Group 610  
A.F.P.O. 71  
Townsville  
Nth QLD.  
Mon May 31<sup>st</sup> 43

To Whom it May Concern,

May I express my profound gratitude & appreciation to your organisation for the parcel of comforts which I received from it a few days ago. The parcel was composed of such articles as would be useful & most acceptable to any man in any of the services, showing the precision & care with which they had been selected & packed. At this particular spot an acute shortage of boot polish has been experienced so that made the parcel doubly welcome. It is a great thing to be looked after in this manner & although I am just one of many who feel the same way, I can say that my thanks is sincere & may I congratulate your organisation on the magnificent job of work it is doing.

Yours Very Gratefully  
Rex Bramich.

30971  
L.H.B. Bramish A.C.  
S. 10/10  
A.F. P. G. 71  
Townsall  
26. 11. 43.

The Secretary,  
King Island War Service Fund  
King Island.

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I received a parcel from your organisation, so would you please accept these few words of appreciation. I am indeed deeply grateful for this gift & each & every article which the parcel contained, was something useful & in most cases things that are now obtainable in camps & this way, making them all the more acceptable & appreciated. I know that I am only one, but I am quite certain that all the lads feel the same way about the fine work you are doing. In closing may I wish your organisation every success in future & once again many thanks.

I am

Yours Very Gratefully

Res. Bramish.

610



30971  
LAC. Bramich A.R.  
Group 610  
A.F.P.O. 71  
Townsville  
26.11.43

The Secretary,  
King Island War Service Fund  
King Island.

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I received a parcel from your organisation, so would you please accept these few words of appreciation. I am indeed deeply grateful for this gift & each & every article which the parcel contained, was something useful & in most cases things that are un-obtainable in camps up this way, making them all the more acceptable & appreciated. I know that I am only one but I am quite certain that all the lads feel the same way about the fine work you are doing. In closing may I wish your organisation every success in future & once again many thanks.

I am  
Yours Very Gratefully  
Rex Bramich.

USE OFFICIAL ADDRESS ONLY.

RED SHIELD HUTS  
AND SERVICES  
FOR THE  
FIGHTING FORCES



FROM: 30971.  
NAME: LAC BRAMICHA R.  
DATE OF GROUP: 624.  
R.H.F. TOWNSHIP.  
19. 12. 4.

King Island was given land  
burnt  
King Island  
Tasmania.

Dear Sir,  
I seize this opportunity of extending to you my sincere & heartfelt thanks to you, organisation, in acknowledgement of the banner & note which I received from it a couple of days ago. The banner & note was most acceptable & many thanks for it.  
My congratulations to your organisation for the splendid work it has undertaken & is carrying on.  
In conclusion I thank you again & in doing so may I wish each member of yours a very Merry Xmas & every success in the coming year.

Yours Very Sincerely,  
Rex Bramich.

R.G.G.

Do Not Mention Military Activities

30971  
LAC. BRAMICH A.R.  
GROUP 624.  
R.A.A.F TOWNSVILLE.  
19.12.1944.

King Island War Service Fund.

Currie  
King Island  
Tasmania.

Dear Sir,

I seize this opportunity of extending to you my sincere & heartfelt thanks to your organisation, in acknowledgement of the Canteen Order which I received from it a couple of days ago. The Canteen Order was most acceptable & many thanks for it.

My congratulations to your organisation on the splendid work it has undertaken & is carrying on.

In conclusion I thank you again & in doing so, may I wish each member of yours a very Merry Xmas & every success in the Coming Year.

Yours Very Gratefully,  
Rex Bramich.