

The King Island World War 2 War Service Fund

During World War 2, John Manson 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.

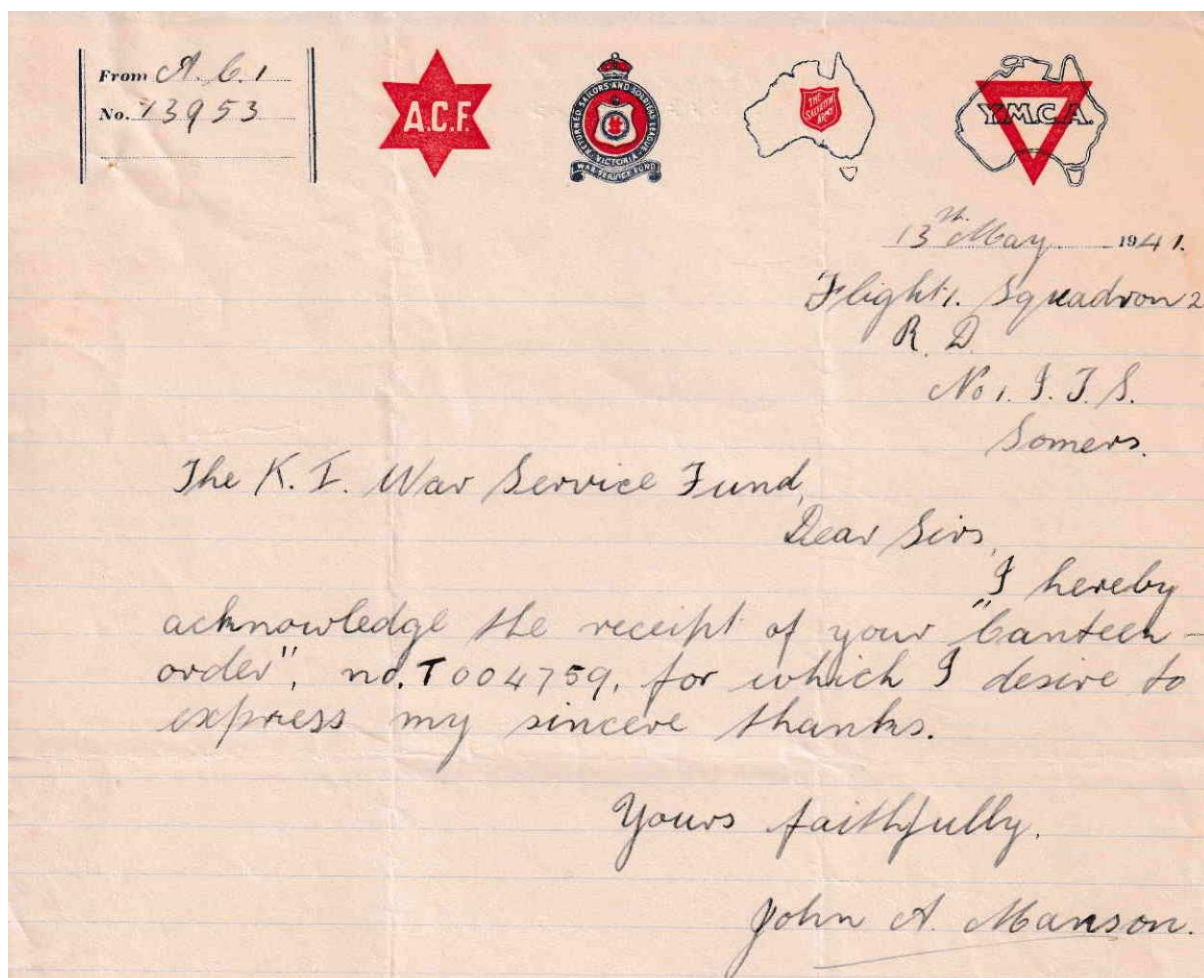
The challenges for a service person during World War 2 to write a letter was to firstly find the inclination (often directly related to their mental condition due to combat), time, paper, a writing implement and a place under cover. Occasionally a letter was typed and the paper ranged from high quality 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.

John wrote eight letters to the Fund; two every year from 1941 to 1944. His letters are brief and express thanks for the items, and list his different bases through Victoria into New South Wales and then to the Pacific area. Note that Canteen Orders were numbered similar to a cheque or postal note.



A.C.1.
13953

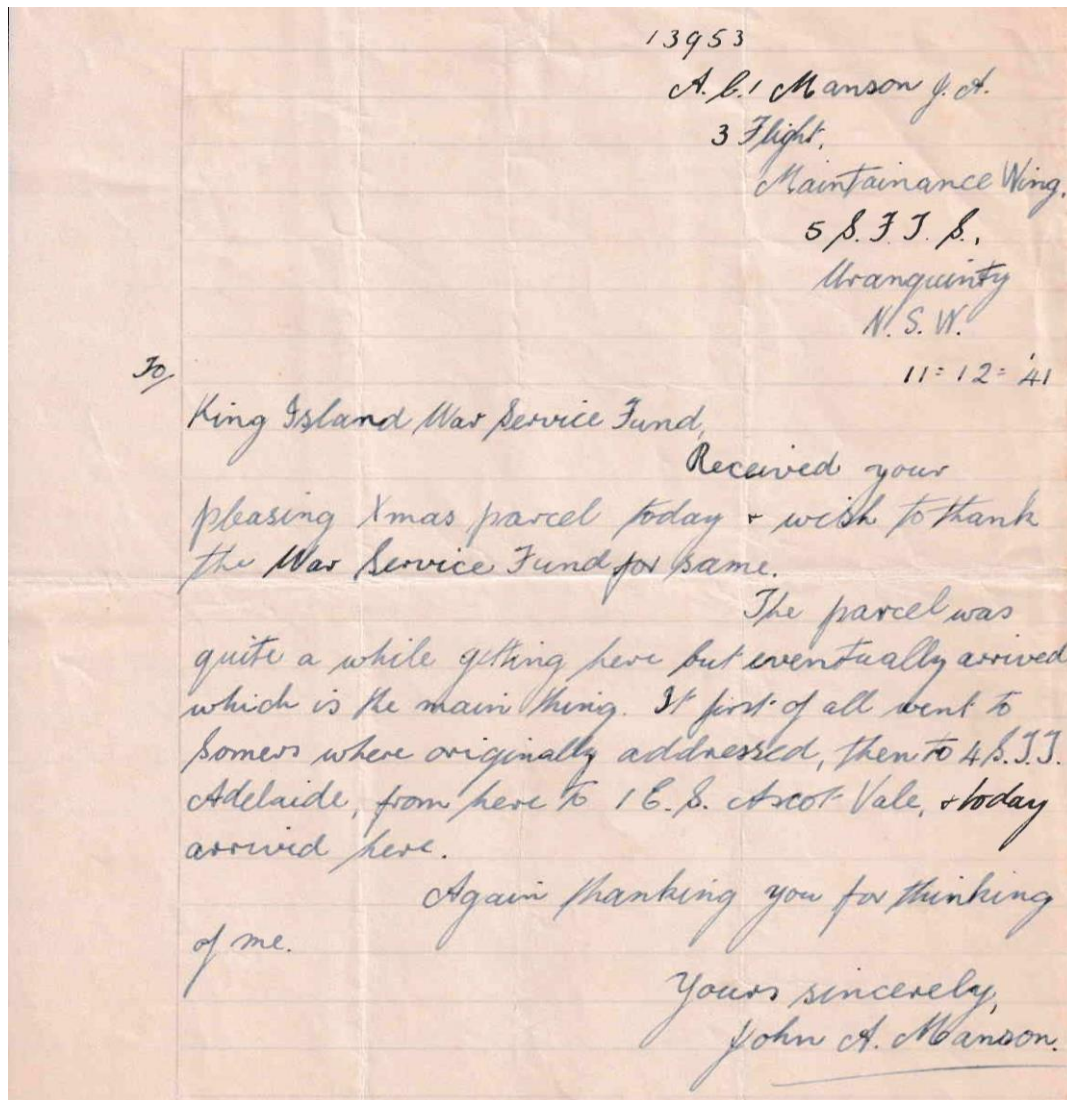
13th May 1941
Flight 1. Squadron 2.
R.D.
No 1. I.T.S.
Somers.

The K.I. War Service Fund,
Dear Sirs,

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your "Canteen-order", no. T004759, for which I desire to express my sincere thanks.

Yours faithfully,

John A. Manson.



13953

A.C1 Manson J.A.
3 Flight,
Maintenance Wing,
5 S.F.T.S.,
Uranquinty
N.S.W.
11:12: '41

To

King Island War Service Fund,

Received you pleasing Xmas parcel today & wish to thank the War Service Fund for same.

The parcel was quite a while getting here but eventually arrived which is the main thing. It first of all went to Somers where originally addressed, then to 4S.T.T. Adelaide, from here to 1C.S. Ascot Vale, & today arrived here.

Again thanking you for thinking of me.

Yours sincerely,
John A. Manson



Australian National
Airways Pty. Ltd.

13953

L.A.C. Manson J.A.,
R.A.A.F.

Bairnsdale,
Vic.

8-11-42.

The Comforts Fund,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Some
time ago I received a Canteen Order
from the above fund for which I
wish to express my appreciation.
I apologise for the delay in writing
& again thanking you.

I am,

yours sincerely

John A. Manson.

Red stamp: Recd

13953

L.A.C. Manson J.A.,
R.A.A.F.

Bairnsdale,
Vic.

8-11-42.

The Comforts Fund,

Dear Sir/Madam,

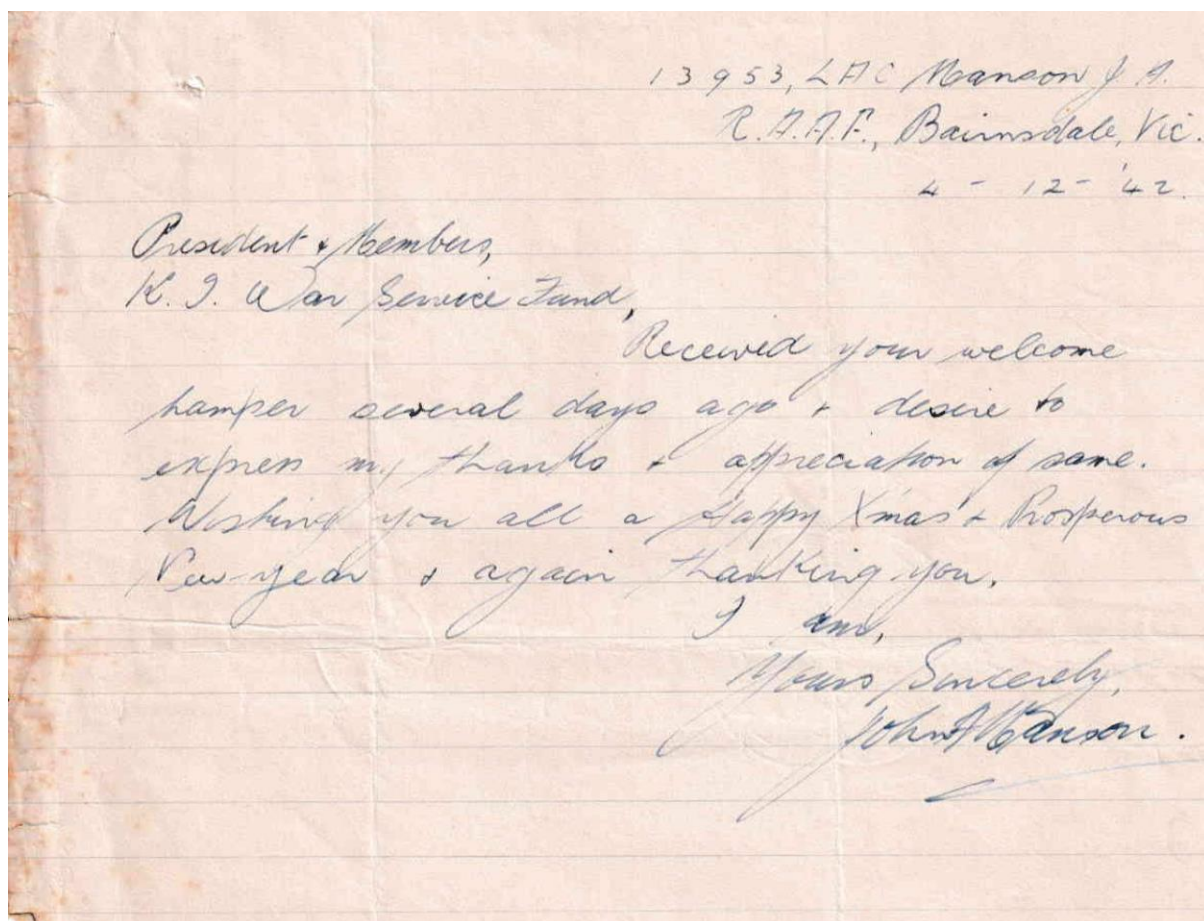
Some time ago I received a Canteen Order from the above fund for which I
wish to express my appreciation.

I apologise for the delay in writing & again thanking you,

I am,

Yours sincerely

John A Manson.

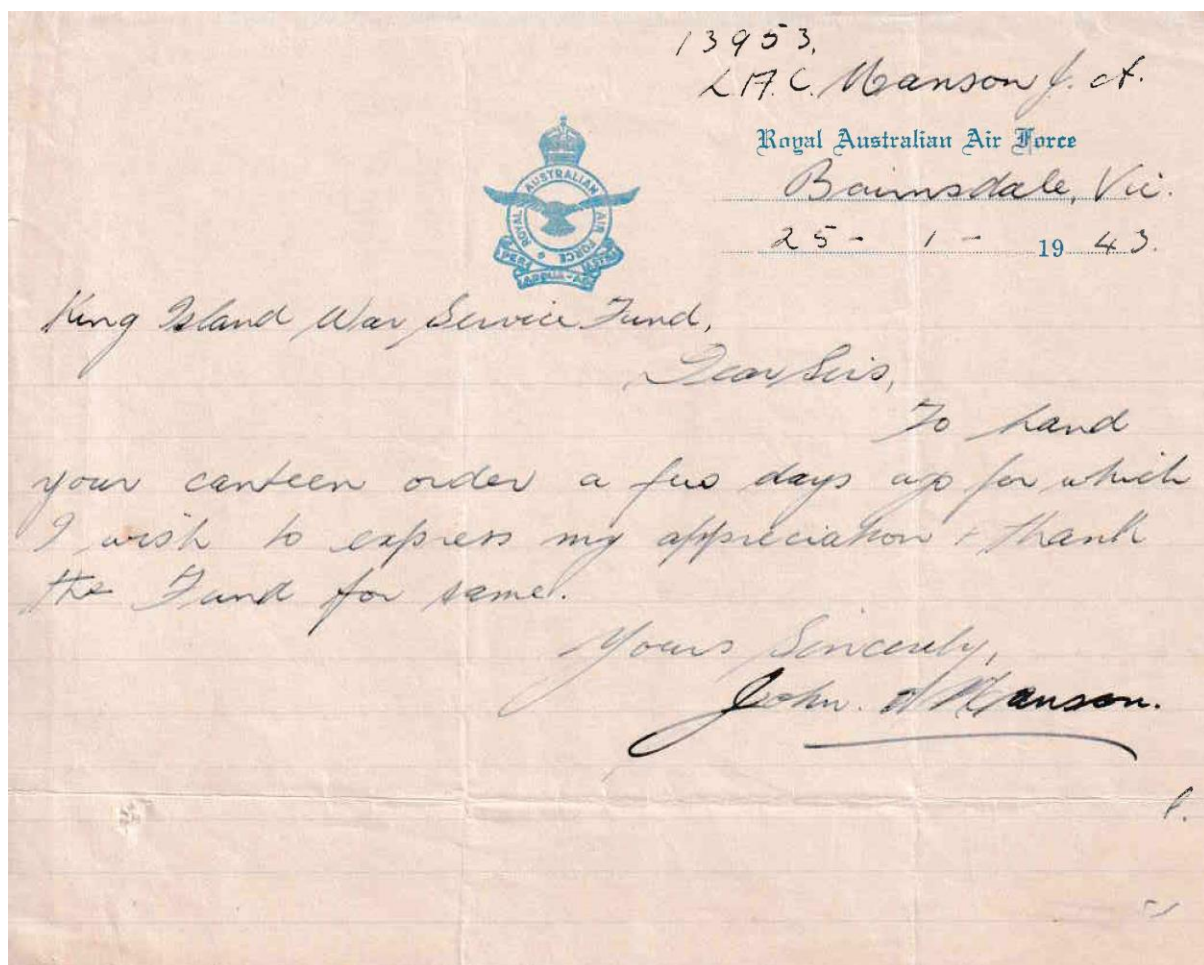


13953, LAC Manson J.A.
R.A.A.F., Bairnsdale, Vic.
4-12-'42.

President & Members,
K.I. War Service Fund,

Received your welcome hamper several days ago &
desire to express my thanks & appreciation of same. Wishing you all a Happy X'mas &
Prosperous New-Year & again thanking you,

I am,
Yours Sincerely,
John A Manson.

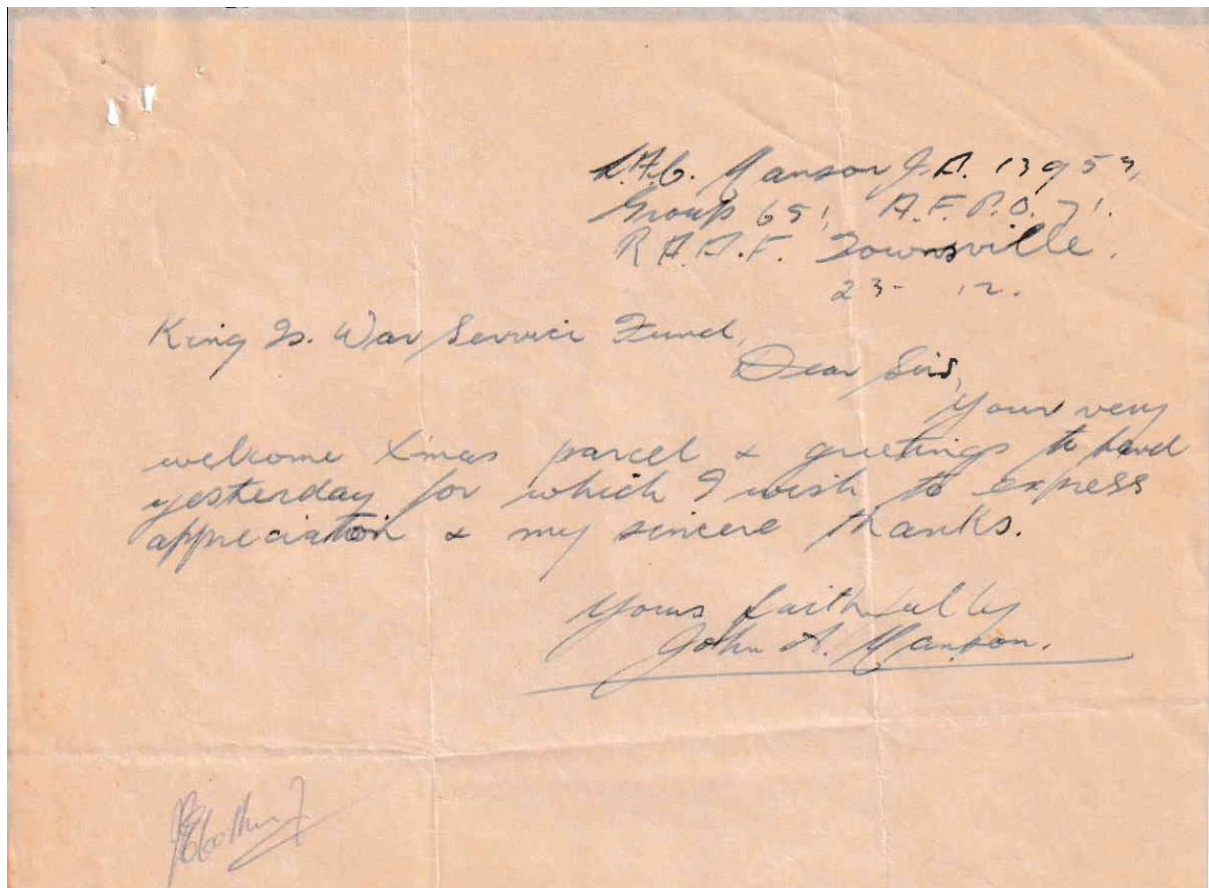


13953,
L.A.C. Manson J.A.
Royal Australian Air Force
Bairnsdale, Vic.
25-1-1943

King Island War Service Fund,

Dear Sirs,
To hand your
canteen order a few days ago for which I wish to express my appreciation & thank the Fund
for same.

Yours sincerely,
John. A Manson.



13953, L.A.C. Manson J.A.
Group 651,
A.F.P.O. 71,
Townsville.
21-12. [1943]

K.I. War Service Fund,

Dear Sirs,

Your Canteen Order to hand for which I express my sincere
gratitude to the War Service Fund.

Again thanking you,

I am,

Yours faithfully

John A Manson.

13953, LAC. Manson J. A.,
Group 651, RAAF,
Pacific.
11. 8. '44.

The President,
K. I. War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,

I hereby
acknowledge receipt of parcel
posted May 10th. & wish to express
my appreciation of same, & offer
my sincere thanks.

Yours sincerely,
John A. Manson.

13953, LAC. Manson J.A.,
Group 651, RAAF.,
Pacific.
11. 8.'44.

The President,
K. I. War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,
I hereby acknowledge receipt
parcel posted May 10th & wish to express my appreciation of same, & offer my sincere
thanks.

Yours sincerely,
John A Manson.

13953, LAC. Manson J.A.
Group 651, R.A.A.F.,
Pacific,
18.11.44.

The President
K.I. War Service Fund,

Dear Sir,

Received
your very welcome parcel forwarded
6th Sept. I wish to express my appreciation
of same. Contents of parcel were all in
good order. Again thanking you,
I am
Sincerely yours,
John A. Manson.

13953, LAC. Manson J.A.
Group 651, R.A.A.F.,
Pacific,
18.11.44.

The President
King Island War Service Fund,

Dear Sir,
Received your very welcome
parcel forwarded 6th Sept. I wish to express my appreciation of same. Contents of parcel
were all in good order. Again thanking you,
I am
Sincerely yours
John A. Manson.