

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

During World War 2, Edward Moon 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.

Edward wrote six letters to the Fund, two each in 1940, 1942 and 1944. They are of a similar style where he passes on his thanks for what has been sent to him. His time in New Guinea resulted in a period of hospitalization, then recuperation in a Convalescent Depot in Ballarat, Victoria. Edward also acknowledges the many groups on King Island who were supporting the war effort.

1 X 25201

A. Cox

A. I. F. Training Depot

60 Tac

7. 8. 40.

Dear Ladies of Grassy.

A parcel of very appreciable, and useful, goods, bearing the good wishes of the King Island War Service Fund reached me on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. and, though I don't know who has control of the said organization I believe that you ladies were, either directly or indirectly, responsible for the sending of those commodities.

It is my desire, therefore, to express my profound gratitude to the party, or parties, concerned.

I may say that the gift arrived as something of a surprise.

When my enlistment from the Island



was cut short in Tasmania, I thought I would have forfeited whatever right I might have had to any tokens of goodwill from that quarter. But where folk are actuated by kind thoughts, and not mere form, no such barriers exist.

In writing these few lines I feel sure I am expressing the sentiment of all members of the various forces who have gone from your sphere of service; and I trust that your work will always be considered worth while.

A thousand thanks  
yours in the Great Cause  
E. H. Moon.

VX 25201  
A. Coy  
A.I.F Training Depot  
Colac  
7.8.40.

Dear Ladies of Grassy.

A parcel of very appreciable, and useful goods, bearing the good wishes of the King Island War Service Fund reached me on the 26<sup>th</sup> July; and, though I don't know who has control of the said organization I believe that you ladies were, either directly or indirectly, responsible for the sending of those commodities.

It is my desire, therefore, to express my profound gratitude to the party, or parties, concerned. I may say that the gift arrived as something of a surprise. When my enlistment from the Island was cut short in Tasmania, I thought I would have forfeited whatever right I might have had to any tokens of goodwill from that quarter. But where folk are actuated by kind thoughts, and not mere form, no such barriers exist.

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A thousand thanks  
Yours in the Great Cause  
E G Moon.





Victorian Y.M.C.A. Military Service Department

PATRON: HIS MAJESTY THE KING

"It is not sufficient to live,  
But to live well."

Write Home First

10 Nov 1940

VX25201 Pte E.G. Moon  
No 1 Platoon, H.Q. Coy  
2/22 Battr. Bonegilla  
Vic

Dear Sir or Madam.

It is with deep appreciation of your kindness that I write this note of acknowledgement.

I have now received three tokens of the goodwill of the King Islanders, and I assure you it makes me feel very glad to have been among you.

The first parcel reached me at Colac. The second was re-addressed to Seymour, while the third followed me to Bonegilla and thence out into the Kiewa Valley where we were doing a three days' manoeuvring trip.

I am, for the greater part, enjoying military life; though sometimes we all find it rather tedious. But what job isn't?

You won't want a long, rambling, epistle from some one you don't know. So I will just say Thank You in closing

Yours Gratefully  
E.G. Moon

Enclosing a small photo - so you may see what the recipient of your kindness looks like

10<sup>th</sup> Nov 1940  
VX25201 Pte E.G. Moon  
No 1 Platoon, H.Q.Coy  
2/22 Battn. Bonegilla  
Vic

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Yours Gratefully  
E.G. Moon

VX25701

Sig. E. G. MOON

100. RAE ST.

NORTH FITZROY NY

VICTORIA

3.10.42.

To the Chairman

K. I. War Service Fund.

Dear Sir

My conscience was rather badly smitten when I received your letter a few days ago, containing the Bantien Order, for which I tender my thanks. I remember two expressions of the Fund's kindness of which I have given no acknowledgement. One was a Christmas parcel which I received in Rabaul. It was extra nice, and the other was a Bantien order which I received in a bundle of mail that was posted after Rabaul fell, and which I collected at St. Kilda after my return.

In reply to your queries I returned to Melbourne on April 28, and admitted to Heidelberg with malaria, and tropical ulcers. I was not wounded, I am happy to say. But I have had a fair stretch of hospital life since I returned.

There is no word of discharge at present. But I understand one of the 2/22 are to face the Medical Board for reclassification.

E. G. Moon

With many thanks, I am  
Yours faithfully  
E. G. Moon.

VX25201  
SIG. E.G. MOON  
100 RAE ST.,  
NORTH FITZROY N.7  
VICTORIA  
3.10 42.

To the Chairman  
K.I. War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,

My conscience was rather badly smitten when I received your letter a few days ago; containing the Canteen Order; for which I tender my thanks. I remember two expressions of the Funds kindness of which I have given no acknowledgement. One was a Christmas parcel which I received in Rabaul. It was extra nice; and the other was a canteen order which I received in a bundle of mail which was posted after Rabaul fell; and which I collected at St. Kilda after my return.

In reply to you queries: I returned to Melbourne on April 28; and admitted to Heidelberg with malaria, and tropical ulcers. I was not wounded, I am happy to say. But I have had a fair stretch of hospital life since I returned.

There is no word of discharge at present. But I understand we of the 2/22 are to face the Medical Board for re-classification

With Many thanks, I am  
Yours Faithfully  
E G Moon.



Australian Red Cross Society. VX25201  
Incorporated by Royal Charter 1941.

**FOR SAFETY.**

IN YOUR LETTERS DO NOT REFER TO:—

The name of your ship or other ships in the convoy or its escorts;  
The date of sailing, ports of call, or probable destination;  
The description of troops aboard, any other information which, if intercepted, would be of value to the enemy.

PTE E. G. MOON (OFFICIAL)

B. Coy, 107 Conv. Depot

BALLARAT, VIC.

31. 12. 42

To the Secretary

King Is. War Service Fund

Dear Sir.

I was very pleased indeed to receive the parcel you sent some few weeks ago. The goods contained therein were both useful and acceptable.

Only those of us who are in the Service know fully what these practical expressions of kind thoughts are worth. I have been made happy many times through the kindness of you King Island folk, and so I would say a big "Thank You" for it all.

I am in good condition now, and I expect soon to be ready for further service.

Wishing you all the best possible for the ensuing year.

I am  
Yours Thankfully  
Edward G. Moon

Howe

VX25201  
PTE E.G. MOON  
B. COY., 107 CONV. DEPOT  
BALLARAT. VIC  
31.12.42

To the Secretary  
King Is. War Service Fund  
Dear Sir.

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I am  
Yours' Thankfully  
Edward. G. Moon



# AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

In Conjunction with  
**Y. M. C. A.**  
(Use Official Address only)



From No. VX 25201

Name PTE E. G. Moon

Unit or Group 19 AUST INF BRIGADE, A.I.F. Date 21. 1. 44  
AUSTRALIA

To the President  
K.I. Sub-branch  
RSSAILA

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to find your welcome and useful gift awaiting me on my return from a long and arduous leave. I had received a very interesting letter from you quite a long time ago. You will probably remember it when I say it had been re-addressed several times and eventually returned to you. So you sent it again on a more successful errand. The only reason I never acknowledged it was that it said there was a parcel on the way, and I was awaiting its arrival before replying. But I have decided to give it up for lost. However accept my thanks for sending it, and also for this latest gift and expression of good wishes. I was also happy to receive a gift of a canteen order from the K.I. Branch of the Country Women's Union, which I have written to acknowledge.

I will send my subscription to the League next pay.  
Many thanks yours cordially E. G. Moon.

MAIL YOUR LETTERS A.P.O.

DO NOT MENTION MILITARY ACTIVITIES.



VX25201  
19 AUST INF BRIGADE, A.I.F.  
AUSTRALIA

PTE E.G.MOON  
21.1. 44

To the President  
K.I. Sub- branch  
RSSAILA

Dear Sir.

I was delighted to find your welcome and useful gift awaiting me on my return from a long and enjoyable leave.

I had received a very interesting letter from you quite a long time ago. You will probably remember it when I say it had been re- addressed several times and eventually returned to you. So you sent it again on a more successful errand The only reason I never acknowledged it was that it said there was a parcel on the way; and I was awaiting its arrival before replying. But I have decided to give it up for lost. However accept my thanks for sending it, and also for this latest gift and expression of good wishes. I was also happy to receive a gift of a canteen order from the K.I. Branch of the Country Women's Assocn, which I have written to acknowledge.

I will send my subscription to the League next pay.

Many thanks

Your's cordially

E.G. Moon.



# AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

In Conjunction with  
**Y. M. C. A.**  
(Use Official Address only)



From No. 1525201

Name PTE E G MOON

Unit or Group 19 AUST INF BRIGADE A I F Date 23 1 44

AUSTRALIA

To The President  
K I Sub Branch  
RSS & AILA

Received  
11th Feb 1944  
C.I. H. H. H. H.

Dear Sir

I suppose by all good rights, I should address this to the Secretary. But I prefer to send it to you as most of the communications I receive from the League are in your handwriting.

I am writing this for the dual purpose of sending my subscription for the current year to the League enclosed in P.D. and of saying a big 'Thank You' for a parcel which I received two days ago. It had been sent on Oct 6, and had been re-addressed a few times before it eventually reached me.

The articles it contained were all most useful and the kind of things any soldier would appreciate.

Thank you very much  
Yours for Victory  
George Moon

E. G. Moon

MAIL YOUR LETTERS A.P.O.

DO NOT MENTION MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

VX25201  
19 AUST. INF. BRIGADE A.I.F.  
AUSTRALIA

PTE. E.G.MOON  
28.1.44

To The President  
K.I.Sub- branch  
RSS&AILA

Dear Sir

I suppose by all good rights, I should address this to the Secretary.  
But I prefer to send it to you, as most of the communications I receive from the League are in your handwriting

I am writing this for the dual purpose of sending my subscription for the current year to the League (enclosed is 10/6) and of saying a big "Thank You" for a parcel which I received two days ago. It had been sent on Oct 6, and had been re-addressed a few times before it eventually reached me.

The articles it contained were all most useful and the kind of things any soldier would appreciate

Thank you very much

Your's for Victory  
George Moon.