

The King Island World War 2 War Service Fund

During World War 2, Victor Walters 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.

Vic wrote five letters to the Fund; four in 1941 and the final one in 1942. Although he openly admits that letter writing is a challenge, the content is newsy and positive. Vic mentions people he has met and describes the local people, noting that he served in the Middle East and then in New Guinea.

TX3075.

Dr. V. J. Walters.

A. Sec. 4th Aust. Div

A. M. G. A. A. S. C.

2nd A. S. F.

Abroad.

Dear Mr. Marshall.

6. 4. 1941.

just a line to let you know, & that I got your parcels, alright. Thanks, very much Mr Marshall, & I can truthfully say that I & all those that have left King Island appreciate the gifts very much, that we receive from the Island. especially the good-ole Australian Tobacco, & am allways sorry when the tin is empty. & have to go back on to this sog. cigs. & Tobacco that we get over here. I hope you & your family are in the best of calth, as it leaves me, very much the same, at present, in fact. have not felt better in my life, so there is no disputing the fact, that this life agrees with me, as well as being a great experience. to one. This is only one thing that I am sorry for, And that is, that the boys that left together from the Island. have not been, able to continue to stay together. There is only morrie Lynch. & my-self. left, here, now, all the others. have gone, to different places. So, I. have not seen any of them for quite a while, & cannot tell you. much, about them. But nodoubt, you have heard from them, themselves. so could tell me more about that subject, your-self. altho, I. did hear, that Charles Burkhett had gone back a good while ago, & if that is correct. he would no-doubt have arrived home, by this time, I. am having quite, a good time over here. I. have been to Jerusalem, for a few days. holiday, & did also spend a few days in Cairo So putting all. the places. And the trip over on, the Boat. & geather. I. do not think that I. have much room to grumble, But. I. nally do think, that I. would much rather, be home again, with you all, But one must

not, think of that; till this is all over & things are settled down again.
There, has nothing very strange, happened over this way yet. but one never knows
what to-morrow will bring forth. So, untill that day comes I will have to be
content with my present surroundings, the people around this place are interesting,
their habits are very strange. For instant, before I came over to this country
I never imagined any one, ploughing the paddock, with a couple of cows.
or a donkey & a camel. hitched to a forked stick; & there is quite a few Arab
villages that, I can go & have a look at when there is nothing else to do
But they are not very, hygene, I can tell you.
Well. Mr. Marshall. there is not very much else. that I can say in this
letter. So, will bring this letter to a close, hoping you are well. & thanking
you, once again for all your kind thoughts to us, over here. I remain

Yours, Sincerely
Victor Walters

MA 61/

TX.3075.
Dvr. V.G. Walters.
A. Sec 7th Aust. Div
AM.C.A.A.S.C.
2nd A.I.F.

Dear. Mr. Marshall.

6.4.19.41.

Abroad

just a line to let you know, & I got your parcels alright. Thanks. Very mutch Mr Marshall, & I can truthfully say that I & all those that have left & King Island appreciate the gifts very mutch, that we receive from the island especially the good – ole Australian Tobacco, & am allways sorry when the tin is empty & have to go back on to this wog. cigs. & Tobacco that we get over here. I hope you & your family are in the best of ealth, as it leaves me, very mutch the same at presant, in fact. have not felt better in my life, so their is no disputing the fac, that this life agrees with me as well as being a great expearence to one. Their is only one thing that I am sorry for. And that is, that the boys that left togeather from the Island have not been able to continue to stay togeather. Their is only Morrie Lynch & my-self left, here, now, all the others have gone, to different places. So, I have not seen any of them for quite a while, & cannot tell you mutch about them. But nodoubt, you have heard from them, themselves so could tell me more about that subject, yourself altho. I did hear, that Charlie Burkett had gone back a good while ago. So if that is correct he would no-doubt have arrived home, by this time.

I am having quite a good time over hear. I have been to Jerusalem, for a few days holiday, & did also spend a few days in Ciaro. So putting all the places And the trip over on the Boat to geather I do not think that I have mutch room to grumble, But I really do think, that I would mutch rather, be home again, with you all, But one must not think of that; till this is all over & things are settled down again.

Their has nothing very strange happened over this way yet, but one never knows what to-morrow will bring forth. So, untill that day comes I will have to be content with my presant surroundings, the people around this place are interesting their Habits are very strange. For instant, before I came over to this country I never emadjined any one ploughing the paddock, with a coupple of cows or a donkey & a camel hiched to a forked stick; & their is quite a few Arab vilages that I can go & have a look at when their is nothing else to do But they are not very, hygene. I can tell you.

Well Mr Marshall their is not very mutch else that I can say in this letter. So will bring this letter to a close, hopeing you are well & thanking you once again for all your kind thoughts to us over here. I remain

Yours Sincerly
Victor Walters



AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

27. 9. 1941.

IX. 3075.

Driver V.S. Walters.

A. Section

4th Aust. Division

D.A.C.

2nd A.S.T.

Aboard.

Dear Mr. Marshall

just a line to let you know. that I received the Canteen Order, + also the parcels alright, sent me time by time, by the King Island Comforts Fund. they have come in very handy. I can tell you, + I thank you very much, for sending them.

Yes I am quite alright, thanks Mr. Marshall. + I hope you, + also every one else, on King Island, + are also very well.

I am, as I suppose you know, in Syria. + also are a couple more of the King Island boys. Morry.

Synch, is not a great distance away from me + he also is very well. I saw Reg. French the other day. + he appeared to be getting on alright, after his illness he was very ill, a few weeks back. but except, for looking a bit pale + very thin he is alright.



AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

19

again now. Still the weather here, just at present, is enough to get any one, down. There has not been any rain, here for some six or eight months. & my word. the weather is very hot. Will be pleased when the winter sets in. Or better still, when I get back to Torry. for altho the Country might, be very nice, & all that, over this way. There is nothing to beat Aust. And Twelve months in this place, is quite enough for me. after that it starts to get monotonous. But things are looking a lot better, now, than when I first came over. So it might not be so very long, before I am on my way home, again, I hope it won't be. Anyway. Well. Mr Marshall, there is not much news to tell you over this way. I will bring the letter to a close, from yours

Paul

Sincerely

Vic Walters.

27.9.1941
TX.3075
Driver V.G Walters
A, Section
7th Aust, Divison
D.A.C.
2nd AIF
Abroad.

Dear. Mr. Marshall.

just a line to let you know that I received the Canteen Order, & also the parcels alright, Sent me time by time, by the King Island Comforts Fund they have come in very handy. I can tell you, & I thank you very much for sending them.

Yes I am quite alright, thanks Mr Marshall. & I hope you, & also every one else, on King Island & are also very well.

I am, as I suppose you know, in Syria & also are a couple more of the King Island boys. Morry Lynch, is not a great distance away from me & he also is very well. I saw Reg. French the other day & he appered to be getting on alright, after his illness he was very ill, a few weeks back but except, for looking a bit pale & very thin he is alright again now. Still the weather here just at present is enough to get any one, down their has not been any rain, here for some six or eight months & my word the weather is very, hot. Will be pleased when the Winter sets in. Or better still when I get back to Tassy. for altho the country might, be very nice, & all that, over this way. Their is nothing to beat Aust. – And Twelv months in this place is quite enough for me. after that it starts to get monotonius,

But things are looking a lot better, now, than when I first came over. So I might not be so very, long before I am on my way home, again, I hope it won't be. Anyway.

Well. Mr Marshall, their is not much news to tell you over this way. So will bring the letter to a close, from yours,

Sincerly
Vic Walters

Australian Young Men's Christian Association

Patron: HIS MAJESTY THE KING



Any reference to Shipping or Troop
Movements will result in the delay
or mutilation of this letter.

Think Clean
Talk Clean
Live Clean
Play the Game

No. TX 3075
Name V. G. Walters, Driver,
Unit 4th Aust Division
D.A.C. 19
2nd A.S.F.
Abroad.

Write Home First

10, 11, 1941.

Dear Mr. Marshall.

just a few lines to let you know.
that I recieved the parcle, you, posted to me, on August last. Thanks very much, it is all ways a plesure to recieve a gift, from our friends over in Tassie. Am always glad to get news of any sort over here.

I see, that you are thinking, Mr Marshall, that I am, not writing often enough. hence, the paper + envelopes, well, I suppose, I really ought to force myself, to write a bit more often. But the truth is, that, being a very bad hand at writing, find it a very hard job to write at all, well, any way. from, Now on I will see what I can do, in the way of letting you know more often how Morry Lynch, + my self, are getting on. poor ole Morry, is even worse a letter writer than I...

We, are both, very well, at present, thanks, getting plenty to eat. + putting on weight. Ther is no doubt, of this Country agreeing with us, for I have never felt better in my life. + know that Morry is the same. Do not see any thing of the other boys, so can not say, much about them, although I do hear a few bits of news of them, now + again So think it would be pretty, safe to say that they, also are, well.

But I have nodoubt, you hear more about them, than I, do myself, so could tell me, more than I know.

How is the weather, coming along, over your way. it should be getting pretty

Australian Young Men's Christian Association

Patron: HIS MAJESTY THE KING



Any reference to Shipping or Troop
Movements will result in the delay
or mutilation of this letter.

Think Clean
Talk Clean
Live Clean
Play the Game

No.

Name

Unit

Write Home First

.....19.....

good, by this time, as it is not very far from Christmas time, a matter of six weeks or so.

That is one good point about Australia, there is always very good weather for the holidays, + over here, it is the other way around, very cold, + plenty of rain, during the X-mas Months + dry + hot the rest of the year.

The hot weather over here now, has passed, + the cold is starting to set in. already there's been quite a lot of rain, + by what one hears, it has not even started yet; they tell me it does, when it starts, rains for three or four weeks on end, so, might have some thing to look forward to, later.

I have just had a few days leave in Palestine, had quite a good time too. there is always plenty to see, when one gets loose, for a while over here. I might have even, went in to, a good few places, That would have shocked the moral of a London policeman, Still it is just as well to go + have a look at them, while I am over here, this time. For, I am pretty sure, that I won't want to come back, to this Country, once I am home again.

Well, Mr Marshall. there is not much else to tell you this time, so will bring this letter to a close. Hoping you + the family are all well. Thanking you again, for the parcels, I will remain yours.

Sincerely
Vic, Walters.

T.X.3075
V.G. Walters. Driver,
7th Aust. Divison
D.A.C
2nd A.I.F
Abroad.
10.11.19.41.

Dear. Mr. Marshall.

just a few lines to let you know that I recieved the parcle, you posted to me on August last. Thanks very much, it is all ways a plesure to recieve a gift from our friends over in Tassy. Am always glad to get news of any sort over here.

I see, that you are thinking, Mr Marshall that I am not writing often enough. hence, the paper & envelopes. Well, I suppose, I really ought to force myself, to write a bit more often. But the truth is, that being a very bad hand at writing, find it a very hard job to write at all. Well, anyway from Now on I will see what I can do in the way of letting you know more often, how Morry Lynch & my self are getting on. poor ole Morry is even worse a letter writer than I.

We, are both, very well, at present thanks, getting plenty to eat & putting on weight. Their is no doubt of this Country agreeing with us, for I have never felt better in my life & know that Morry is the same. Do not see any thing of the other boys so can not say, much about them, although I do hear a few bits of news of them, now & again So think it would be pretty safe to say that they, also are, well.

But I have nodoubt, you hear more about them, than I do myself, so could tell me, more than I know.

How is the weather coming along over your way it should be getting pretty good, by this time, as it is not very far from Christmas time, a matter of six weeks or so.

That is one good point a bout Australia, their is always very good weather for the holidays, & over here it is the other way around, very cold, & plenty of rain, during the X-mas Months & dry & hot the rest of the year.

The hot weather over here now, has passed, & the cold is starting to set in already their as been quite a lot of rain, & by what one hears it has not even started yet; they tell me it does, when it starts raines for three or four weeks on end so, might have some thing to look forward to, later.

I have, just had few days leave in palestine, had quite a good time too. their is always plenty to see, when one gets loose, for a while over here. I might have even went in to a good few places. That would have shocked the moral of a London policeman, Still it is just as well to go & have a look at them, while I'm over here, this time. For, I, am pretty sure that I won't want to come back to this Country, once I am home again.

Well Mr Marshall their is not much else to tell you this time. So will bring this letter to a close. Hoping you & the family are all well. Thanking you again, for the parcles, I will remain yours.

Sincerly,
Vic. Walters.



WITH
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

T.X. 3075.

Driver, V.G. Walters.
A. Sec. 7th Aust. Div.
D. A. C.
2nd A.G.F.
Abroad.

4th 12th 1941.

Dear Mr. Marshall.

just a line, to let you know
That I received the Christmas parcel, sent to me
by the King Island Comfort Fund.
Many thanks, Mr. Marshall. I was very pleased indeed
to receive it. I do not know, whether or not Morrie -
Lynch, received his or not. But I do not see any reason
to doubt, that he did. For although his address is -
not the same as mine, they know at the post office
where he is, & if any thing comes for him. They
straight away let him know. I have not seen
Morrie, myself, for two or three weeks, so think he
must be on leave some where or other. The last time
I was talking to him, he told me that he was going
on leave, about Xmas, and as it, isn't very far.



WITH
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

away now. I think perhaps that is where he is
gone. Any he is alright. & other wise, I would have
heard about it. This his full address.

(Det. M. J. Lynch, B. Company, 7th Aust. Division, 2nd AIF
Aboard. - -)

Things have been pretty quiet here lately. Everything
and just at present we are all in good health.

Life has been much better since the cold weather
set in. It has driven the flies & mosquitoes away. For which
I am very thankful. There was billions of them here
a short time ago. & between them & the hot weather

They were kind of getting a good few of the lads
down. Well. Mr. Marshall, all the boys were hoping
last Xmas that every thing would be all over this
Xmas & that they would be home for it. But it

looks now as if they will have to build their hopes
on the next one, for I am sure none of us would like
to go home be for things are cleared up over here.

Well. There is nothing startling happening around
here just at the moment. so will bring this letter
to a close. Thanking you once again for the parcel.

And remain yours Sincerely
Vic. Watson.

Pauling

T.X.3075.
Driver, V.G.
Walters.
A. Sec. 7th Aust. Div.
D.A.C.
2nd A.I.F.
Abroad.
7th. 12th. 19.41

Dear. Mr. Marshall.

just a line, to let you know That I recieved the Christmas parcle,
Sent to me by the King Island Comfort Fund.

Many Thanks Mr Marshall. I was very pleased indeed to recieve it. I do not know, weather or not Morrie - Lynch, recieved his or not. But I do not see any reason to doubt that he did. For although his address is - not the same as mine, They know at the post office Where he is & if any thing comes for him. they - straight away let him know. I have not seen Morrie, myself for two or three, weeks, so think he must be on leave some where or other. The last time I was talking to him, he told me that he was going on leave about Xmas, And as it, isn't very far away Now. I think, perhaps that is where he as gone. Any he is alright or other wise, I would have heard about it. This is his full address. (Div. M.J. Lynch, B, Company. 7th Aust, Divison, 2nd AIF Abroad.-

Things have been, pretty quiret here. Lately. Mr Marshall And just at presant. We are all in good ealth.

Life as been much better since the Cold weather set in. it as driven the flies & Mosquitoes away. for which I am very thankfull. Their was billons of them here a short time ago & betwen them & the hot weather They were kind of getting a good few of the lads down. Well Mr Marshall, all the boys were hoping Last Xmas, that every thing would be all over this Xmas & that they would be home for it. But it looks now as if they will have to build their hopes on the next one, for I am sure none of us would like to go home be for things are cleared up over here. Well. their is nothing startling, happening around here just at the moment. so will bring this letter to a close thanking you once again for the parcles.

And remain Yours Sincerely
Vic. Walters.

T. X. 3045.

Det. U.S. Walters.

2/4 Det. Coy A.S.C.

M. of Inf. Bde,

A.I.F.

18, 12. 42.

Dear Mr. Marshall.

just a line in -
answer to your welcome letter dated
5th 12. 42. & to let you know that
I did receive the Xmas parcel you
kindly sent to me, thanks very much
indeed, Mr. Marshall. & I can truth-
fully say that I did appreciate it
very much. But I cannot understand
your other letter getting returned to
you as after all, I received one from
certain odds, from you, some time
about the middle of 42 - for which
I now thank, you & also for the one -

I received enclosed in your last letter.

But before I go any further Mr. Marshall
let me say, I truly had no idea
of the great trouble, that had befallen
you regards your Son. it came as
a great shock to me, when I read
your letter. So please, except my
sympathy, & let me say how so.
I am that, it as happened.

No. I am, afraid Mr. Marshall, I
could not advise you, as to ~~any~~ great
addition, as I have only seen him once
since he came back, from the Island when
he was over on leave, after returning from
the middle East & that was just before
I came over here. I do not know whether
he came over and here with us, I have not
and as heard any thing of him, so think it
very likely that he is still in Australia
you, perhaps know, do you, Mr. Marshall
that I myself am now in New Guinea

3
I have, ran across, a few of the other
boys. since being here, in-fact. was talking
to, Reg French, only last week, & I can
assure you, says Marshall that he is quite
alright, & he also happened to mention,
Jack, Perry, who he had lately seen
what. Reg, told me, Jack
is also very well, but of course
we all, very disappointed that
could not find out way clear

to get, over to the Island for Xmas.
But, perhaps next year we may have
better luck, I was also very sorry that
I could not ^{get} over to the Island, a few months
ago, when we all had leave, but I was
only able to obtain very little leave, & as I
wanted to get married, I had to stop
in Victoria, my wife, being a Melbourne
girl. Well, wishing you, all on the Island.
a very Happy New Year & a merry Xmas & hoping
we are all well as, it leaves me at present.
I will close now from you.

Very, Sincerely, Vic

BY AIR

Opened by Censor.

LETTER CARD

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

CENSOR
177

MR. JOHN MARSHALL

ELDDADO,
CURRIE,
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.

Opened by Censor.

T.X.3075.
Drv. V.G. Walters.
2/4 Aust. Coy. A.S.C.
AH. 21/ Inf. Bde,
A.I.F. (censored)
18,12.42.

Dear. Mr. Marshall,

Just a line in-answer. to your welcome. letter. dated, 6th 12. 42. & to let you know that. I did recieve the Xmas, parcel you kindly sent to me, thanks very much indeed, Mr Marshall, & I. can truthfully say that I. did. appreciate it. very much. But. I. cannot understand your other letter getting returned to you as after all, I. recieved one from canteen order, from you, some time about. the middle of, 42 – for which I. now thank, you & also for the one – I. recieved enclosed in your last letter. But. before. I. go any further Mr Marshall, let. me say. I. trully had no idea, of the great. trouble, that had befallen you regards your, Son. it came as a great shock to me, when I read – your. letter. So please, except my sympathy, & let me say how sorry I. am that, it as happned.

No. I. am, afraid, Mr Marshall, I could, not advise you, as to Morry Lynch address, as. I. have only seen him once since he came back, from the Island when he was over on leave, after returning from the Middle East. & that was just before I. came over here. I. do not know wether he came over here with us, I. have not. saw or heard any thing of him, so think it very likely that he is still in Australia

You, perhaps know, do you, Mr Marshall that. I. my-self. am now in New, Guin (*torn*) I have, ran-across, a few of the other. boys, since being here, in-fact. was talking to, Reg-French, only last week, & I. can assure you, Mr Marsh (*torn*) that he is quite alright, & he also happened to mention, Jack, Perry, who he had lately seen (*torn*) what. Reg, told me, Jack...is also very well, but of-cause...(*torn*) ..re all, very dissapointed that could not find our way clear to get, over to the Island for Xmas. But, perhaps next year we may have better luck, I. was also very sorry that. I. could not get over to the Island, a few months ago, when we all had leave, but. I was only able to obtain very little leave, & as – I. wanted to get married, I. had to stop in Victoria, my wife, being a Melbourne, girl.

Well, Wishing You, all on the Island a verry Happy New Year & a merry X-mas & hoping you are all well as, it leaves me at present.

I. will close now from yours.

Very, Sincerely, Vic