From No. J.L.109920 Name.L/Bets.J.L.Bottroff

Unit or Group. 48.Bty 13 cites Regt AIF Australia Date 28.6.46

Dear Ralph,

It’s quite some time now since I received your letter, to tell the truth. I just did not feel like writing, sort of swore off it for awhile, just for a break as it was getting me down, Too much of it is definitely no good so, lately, I have been doing more reading to quiet the nerves a bit. Anyway, what’s a week or two between friends, guess you get the same way at times. I have got to answer Betty’s letter too, which arrived a couple of days before yours, but, that will get done eventually. Life here is the same as ever now, Ralph we’re back to the usual routine and there is just enough work to keep me going, which is how I like it, otherwise I would go quite mad, this kind of life would quite easily do that too, believe me. There is nothing to tell you from here, mate, things are much the same. I am feeling as good as ever, Pictures here for the time being have been stopped, don’t know what the trouble is, whether they are overhauling the machines or not, anyway, no doubt they will be on again soon, I hope so as its our only form of entertainment, apart from sports, our football is still going strong and at present we’re occupying second place which is quite good, considering the set backs we’ve had, injuries and so forth anyway. The finals commence soon and we’ll see how things go then. We won our last game, comfortably, although we were pressed hard for the first half, but after that they hardly scored and we showed them a clean pair of heels.

Well that is the lot from here, Ralph and a poor lot it is too. How is the guard duties going, at present, suppose you are off them now, if there is anything I do not like it is guard, honestly I shrink at the very mention of it, still, I do not do it at all now being on permanent duties at the barracks, as a matter of fact. I haven’t been eligible for guard duty ever since being on the job, you see, quite often I have to tend to the motors at night and that excludes me from other duties, but they will catch up with me someday and then, look out John.

It is nice to hear that Win and Alan are keeping well, old timer, that’s what I like to hear and I hear that they are getting along fine at home, but, as you say, differences of opinions do crop up and then the happy union is upset and relations are strained a bit, but, I hope, for your sake, that such does not happen as I know how worrying it is. Win hasn’t written for sometime now, well over a year I should say and tell her not to write either Ralph for I can pass on my regards through you and that is enough, and while on the subject, please send along my best wishes and love when you next write, will you. Dad’s accident has been fully explained, mate and right now he is getting along fine. Mum is thinking seriously of taking him away from it all and settling down in a nice little house of their own.

I have been backing her up to the limit too for I’d like nothing better than to see them settled in a quiet little place with just enough to keep them occupied, but, you know mother and so doubt she will be there when it is all over.

Olive is still enjoying the best of health, Ralph, she is having her teeth attended to at present, getting the lot taken out as they are giving her a bit of trouble, so, guess that is for the better, she says her teeth will be like stars, come out at night. All the rest of the family are not doing too badly. Dad is still in hospital, has been there for about a month now and is not doing too well, but guess he will be right again soon. That is about the lot for now can’t think of anything else of much interest, so, will close, with all the best to you up there,

From

Your loving brother and pal,

John