

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

During World War 2, Cecil 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.

Cecil wrote seven letters to the Fund from March 1943 to October 1945, where he expresses his appreciation.

TX 11616  
2nd Branch Off.  
9th A.C.S. H.F.  
Australia  
17-3-43

The Secretary.  
King Island War comforts fund.  
Currie

King Island.

Dear Sir or madam,

Recently, I received a canteen order from the King Island war comforts fund. I would like you to pass on my acknowledgements to those concerned.

I was very pleased to get it and appreciated it very much.

I may add I am looking forward to the time of victory so as I may be able to go back to King Island once again.

I remain

Yours faithfully  
Neal Bramich

Currie

TX11616  
Pte Bramich C H.  
9<sup>th</sup> A.C.C.S. A I F.  
Australia  
17-3- '43

The Secretary.  
King Island War Comforts Fund.  
Currie  
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I may add I am looking forward to the time of victory so as I may be able to go back to King Island once again.

I remain.  
Yours Faithfully  
Cecil Bramich

TX 11616

Pte. Brannich C.H.  
109<sup>th</sup> A.C.S. & I.F.  
Australia

16-6-'43

To the Secretary  
of the King Island war comforts fund.  
Currie

King Island.

Dear Sir or Madam

I would like you to pass  
my sincere thanks & appreciation  
on to the above mentioned fund  
for a parcel I recently received from  
them.

I was very pleased to get the  
parcel and find it a pleasure to  
acknowledge it.

I may say I greatly admire the  
work being done by the same fund.  
Once again offering you my appreciation.

I remain  
yours gratefully  
Beil Brannich

TX11616  
Pte. Bramich C.H.  
109<sup>th</sup> A.C.C.S. A.I.F.  
Australia  
16 – 6 – '43

To The Secretary  
Of The King Island war Comforts Fund.  
Currie  
King Island.

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I was very pleased to get the parcel and find it a pleasure to acknowledge it.

I may say I greatly admire the work being done by the same Fund.

Once again offering you my appreciation.

I Remain  
Yours Gratefully  
Cecil Bramich





# AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

In Conjunction with

Y. M. C. A.

(Use Official Address only)



Form No. TX11616

Name *Pte. Bramich L.H.*

Unit or Group *109 H.C.S. H.I.F. Australia* Date *19/12/43*

*Being 1st Land War Comforts fund*

*I would like to offer you  
my acknowledgement and appreciation  
for the parcel and good wishes I  
recently received from the above  
fund.*

*I may say I was very pleased  
to receive them and very heartily  
thank you for it*

*yours. Gratefully  
Leil Bramich*

*as*

MAIL YOUR LETTERS A.P.O.

DO NOT MENTION MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

TX11616

Pte. Bramich C.H.

109 A.C.C.S. A I.F. Australia

19/12/43

King Island War Comforts Fund.

I would like to offer you my acknowledgement and appreciation for the parcel and good wishes I recently received from the above fund.

I may say I was very pleased to receive them and very heartily thank you for it.

yours. Gratefully  
Cecil Bramich.



# AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

(Victorian Division)

With which is Affiliated

R.S.L. WAR SERVICE FUND, THE SALVATION ARMY,  
THE Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

TX 11616

Pt. Brannich, C.A.

109 A.C.S. H.E.

Australia

30/12/43

Mr. J. E. M. Marshall  
President King Island Sub. Branch.  
R. S. L. & A. S. L. A.

Dear Sir,

Would please accept  
my thanks and acknow-  
ledgement for the Good  
wishes and canteen order  
I recently received from  
the above branch, and  
pass on my thanks  
and appreciation to all  
its members.

Yours Gratefully  
Beil Brannich

John



TX11616  
Pte. Bramich C.H.  
109 A.C.C.S. A.I.F.  
Australia  
30/12/43

Mr. J.E.M. Marshall  
President King Island Sub. Branch.  
R.S.S. & A.I.L.A.

Dear Sir.

Would please accept my thanks and acknowledgement for the Good Wishes and canteen order I recently received from the above branch, and pass on my thanks and appreciation to all its members.

Yours Gratefully  
Cecil Bramich



Use Military Address Only

TX 11616  
~~C.H.~~ Bramich C.H.  
 109 A.C.C.S. H.Q.  
 ABOARD.  
 17/12/44.

The President  
 R. S. L. Sub Branch  
 King Island.

Dear Mr Marshall

I am writing you to  
 offer my heartfelt thanks and  
 appreciation for the canteen order  
 and Christmas card I recently  
 received from the R. S. L. sub branch.

Would you please pass my thanks  
 on to the other members.

It makes one feel real good to  
 know the folk back home have  
 not forgotten you.

yours Sincerely  
 Cecil Bramich

*[Handwritten signature]*

IMPORTANT—Any reference to shipping or troop movements will result in the delay or mutilation of your letters.

TX11616  
Cpl. ~~Pte~~ Bramich C.H.  
109 A.C.C.S. A.I.F.  
ABROAD.  
17/12/44.

The President.  
R.S.L. Sub Branch.  
King Island.

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I am writing you to offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the Canteen Order and Christmas card I recently received from R.S.L. sub branch.

Would you please pass my thanks on to the other members.

It makes one feel real good to know the folk back home have not forgotten you.

Yours Gratefully  
Cecil Bramich.





Use Military Address Only

Tx11616

Cpl. Bramish C.H.  
109 H. C. C. S. H.I.F.  
9/6/45.

To Secretary,

King Island War Service Fund  
Burnie

King Island

Dear Sir or madam,

I am writing to acknowledge a parcel received from you last week.

I was very pleased with the contents and would you please accept my heart felt thanks and appreciation for it.

Yours faithfully  
Cecil Bramish.

Hon

IMPORTANT.—Any reference to shipping or troop movements will result in the delay or mutilation of your letters.



TX 11616  
Cpl. Bramich C.H.  
109 A.C.C.S. A.I.F.  
9/6/45.

To Secretary  
King Island War Service Fund.  
Currie  
King Island.

Dear Sir or Madam.

I am writing to acknowledge a parcel I received from you last week.

I was very pleased with the contents, and would you please accept my heart felt  
thanks and appreciation for it.

Yours gratefully  
Cecil Bramich.

9/10/45.

TX 11616

Cpl. Bramich C.M.

104 A.C.C.S.A.F.

Bonjournville

Secretary

King Island War Service Fund.

Cornwall

King Island.

Dear Sir or madam.

I am writing to thank  
you for a parcel I received from you  
yesterday.

although it was posted on the 1st August  
it arrived in good condition.

Hoping you will accept my heartfelt  
thanks and deepest appreciation.

I remain

yours gratefully  
Cecil Bramich.

9/10/45.

TX11616

Cpl. Bramich C.H.  
109 A.C.C.S A.I.F  
Bougainville

Secretary

King Island War Service Fund.

Currie

King Island,

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I Remain  
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Cecil Bramich.