

Introduction

In 2016 I was thrilled to be gifted a treasure trove of letters and other memorabilia that belonged to my paternal grandparents, Alf and Elsie Blyth. The paper is a coffee colour, the writing is in pencil or ink and the letters mostly in good condition were neatly folded, tied up with string and stored in a biscuit tin. They had travelled from Patersonia to Ravenswood to Cressy and finally to Devonport.

To say I was excited would be an understatement. I know how lucky I am to have been left so much wealth in terms of family history and I hope Grandma and Grandad Blyth are pleased that they are remembered so fondly.

Heading toward Christmas of 2016 I set about with great eagerness to begin the task of cataloguing and then transcribing 66 letters covering the period from 1911 - 1938. They were typed in MS Word and then converted to PDF to make them easy to share digitally. I used a handwriting font to try and give the impression of a real letter. The original letters have been unfolded and stored flat in plastic sleeves. I shared some of the originals with descendants. If anyone else wishes to have an original letter, then please contact me.

I was helped in particular by Bev Blyth, who assured me that after a lifetime of working with doctors, she would be able to decipher the old handwriting. Sometimes the letters were written in pencil, using all parts of the page so as to not waste any paper. The spelling and grammar are as they were written. This sometimes makes the letters harder to follow but it is authentic.

The Contents

The letters begin in 1911 and tell the story of Young Alf, who at 21 years of age is trying desperately to win the heart of the girl of his dreams, 22 year old Irene Elsie Towns. Elsie is working as a housemaid at homes of well-to-do folk in and around Launceston. Young Alf is working at anything he can get, sawmilling, road building and labouring in general. He lives at home in Myrtle Bank with his parents Alf and Bridget and six sisters Ciss, Kate, Win, Vera, Gladys and Phyllis. He rides a bicycle that causes him no end of frustration as the poor road surfaces provide lots of punctures! His teeth are a major source of concern, I believe he had them all removed when he was still in his early

twenties. Young Alf is ready to deal with any other possible suitors and makes it clear he can use his fists if needed. In the end he wins the heart of his *dear old girl* Elsie and they marry on New Years' Eve 1912.

It is clear that Young Alf's sisters were thrilled with his choice of Elsie as a wife. Reading the letters passing between Ciss, Win and Kate Blyth to Elsie during 1911-1912 you can feel the deep and respectful friendships that exist. The language used in their letters made me laugh, some turns of phrase could even be passed off now even though it is over a hundred years later!

A special find were some letters written by both Alf and Elsie when she was in Launceston giving birth, firstly to Doris in 1918 and then to Des and Terry in 1926. The arrival of twins was a big surprise to everyone and Alf writes of how he hasn't told the kiddies yet that there is a second baby coming home as well! He said "Phyllis was laughing till she was black in the face about having one baby brother so he didn't know what she would do when she found out there were two".

The letters covering 1935 are treasures in that the younger children (Phyll, Pat, Des and Terry) all wrote to their father when he was working away from home. The contents are touching and funny and must have been very special to him because he saved them while he was working out in the bush. Elsie talks of the trials and tribulations of being a single parent raising the family and keeping the animals and gardens going while Alf is away. This reminds me of the current way of life for FIFO parents (Fly in Fly out) who are away from home for lengths of time as they chase work, and how hard it is too on modern-day families.

My aim with this publication is to reproduce the letters in print and as a digital copy with additional notes and photos. They are in chronological order. I hope these notes help understand who the family members are. I have included a family group chart for the families of Alf and Bridget Blyth and Alf and Elsie Blyth.

The PDF versions will be placed on my family history website at www.megroloz.com where they can be downloaded.

Thank you Grandma and Grandad Blyth for taking care to preserve your memories so that we caught a glimpse into your younger selves. You were so loved and respected by all of us.



Elsie and Alf Blyth taken 1969 in Launceston.

Date	From	To
01 May 1911	Kate Blyth	Elsie Towns
1911	Cis Blyth	Elsie Towns
28 June 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
27 Sept 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
01 Oct 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
18 Oct 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
Nov 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
20 Nov 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
29 Nov 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
20 Dec 1911	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
10 Jan 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
18 Jan 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
18 Feb 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
29 Mar 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
08 April 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
28 Apr 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
01 May 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
01 May 1912	Kate Blyth	Elsie Towns
05 May 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
12 May 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
15 May 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
19 May 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
21 May 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
02 June 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
09 June 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns
15 Jun 1912	Alf Blyth	Elsie Towns

June 1912	Win Blyth	Elsie Towns
12 June 1915	Kath Blyth	Gwen Blyth
12 June 1915	Kath Blyth	Gwen & Vin Blyth
13 Aug 1915	Matt Towns	Alf Blyth
13 Aug 1915	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
25 Aug 1915	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
Aug 1915	Cis Blyth	Alf Blyth
Early Sept 1915	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
20 Sep 1915	Telegram	Alf Blyth
23 Sep 1915	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
02 Nov 1915	Matt Towns	Emily Towns
29 Dec 1915	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
28 Jan 1916	Matt Towns	Alf Blyth
09 Mar 1916	Matt Towns	Alf Blyth
29 Apr 1916	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
14 May 1916	Kath Blyth	Gwen & Vin Blyth
25 May 1916	Matt Towns	Alf Blyth
25 May 1916	Matt Towns	Elsie Blyth
June 1916	Matt Towns	Alf Blyth
06 May 1918	Alf Blyth	Elsie Blyth
09 May 1918	Alf Blyth	Elsie Blyth
15 May 1918	Alf Blyth	Elsie Blyth
06 Feb 1921	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
25 Aug 1926	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
12 Feb 1927	Claud Baldock	Alf Blyth
23 Aug 1927	Claud Baldock	Alf Blyth
08 Nov 1927	Vera (Mick) Blyth	Alf Blyth
11 Dec 1927	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
11 Feb 1928	Vera (Mick) Blyth	Alf Blyth
14 Feb 1928	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
11 Mar 1928	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
Pre July 1932	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
5 Jun 1935	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
10 Jun 1935	Phyll Blyth	Alf Blyth
12 Jun 1935	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
18 Jun 1935	Phyll Blyth	Alf Blyth
25 Jun 1935	Pat Blyth	Alf Blyth
04 Jul 1935	Pat Blyth	Alf Blyth
11 Jul 1935	Terry Blyth	Alf Blyth
17 Jul 1935	Elsie Blyth	Alf Blyth
17 Jul 1935	Des Blyth	Alf Blyth
21 Apr 1938	Kath Baldock	Alf Blyth

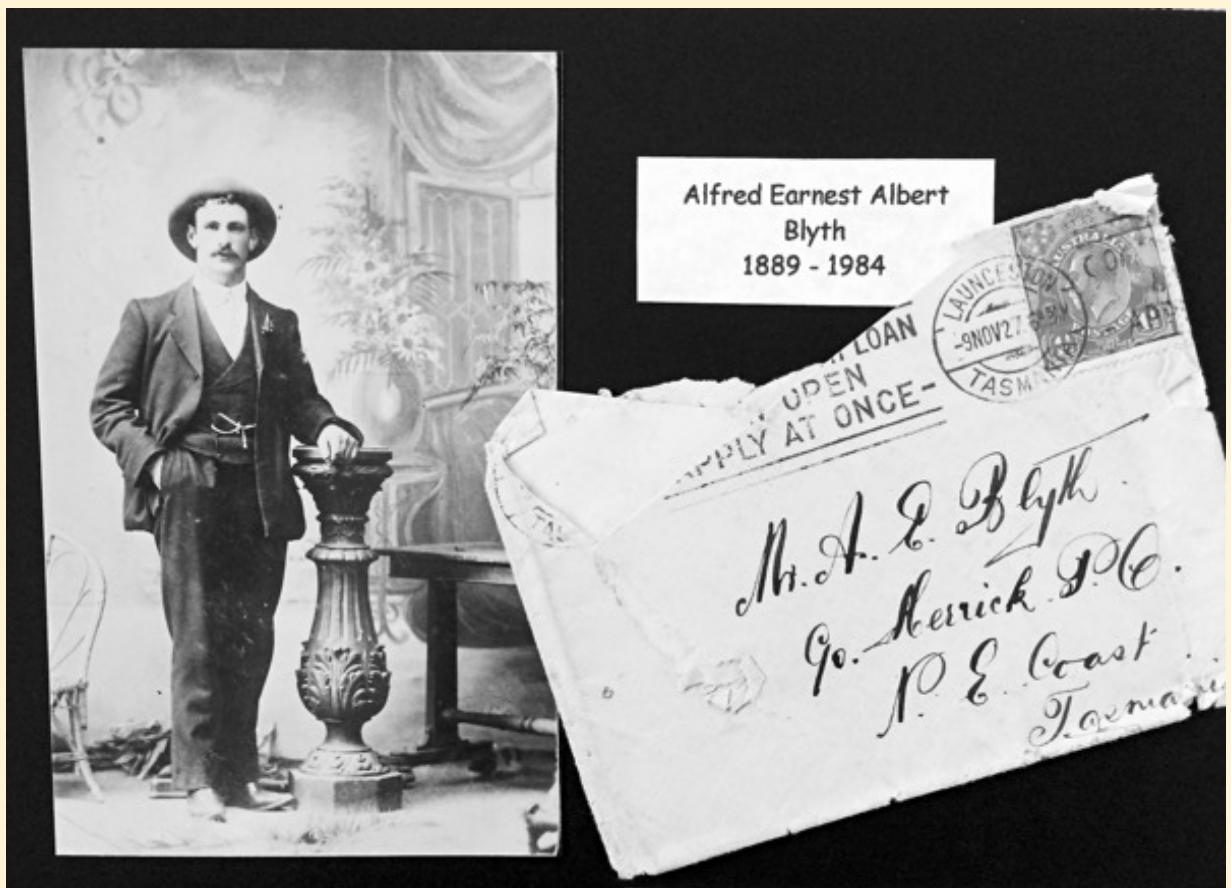
Alfred Ernest Albert Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Only son and eldest child of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Alf was born on 21st April 1889 at Prossers Forest and died on 8th September 1984 in Launceston aged 95 years.

Alf (Jnr) married Irene Elsie Towns on New Years Eve 1912. He wrote many of the letters in this collection.

They had eight children who all grew up, married and produced lots of children who are now spread around the globe.



Myrtle Bank

Dec. 20, 1911.

To my dear old girl.

as I promised I would write to you duck I am carrying out my promise if I don't in everything else but I am not up to much I might get Ciss to leave this letter with you on her way to town or I might Post it I don't know but I don't care so long as you get it duck somehow I tell you I have got a lot on my mind three things all at once and just Christmas time but I can't help it I suppose what is to be will be but I feel something off I tell you duck the first trouble was Sunday night and two others since I never went to work until to day and when I got home Monday morning I had headache and have got it yet but I suppose I am not the only one like that but I hope you are not worrying about it duck I have been very quiet this day and they all thing at the mill that's I am bad but I am stirred up somehow or another when I got home I could hardly stand up and had to go to bed early my back was fearful bad pain something terrible and had to get dad to rub it with black oil and a 7 o'clock I could not turn over in bed and I was a dummy I wished I was not here at all I tell you and I never got up till dinner time

Irene Elsie Towns of Patersonia, Tasmania

Youngest daughter of Tom and Emily Towns (nee Dunne)

Elsie was born on 21st May 1888 at Uplands, Avoca and died on 21st March 1976 in Launceston aged 88 years.

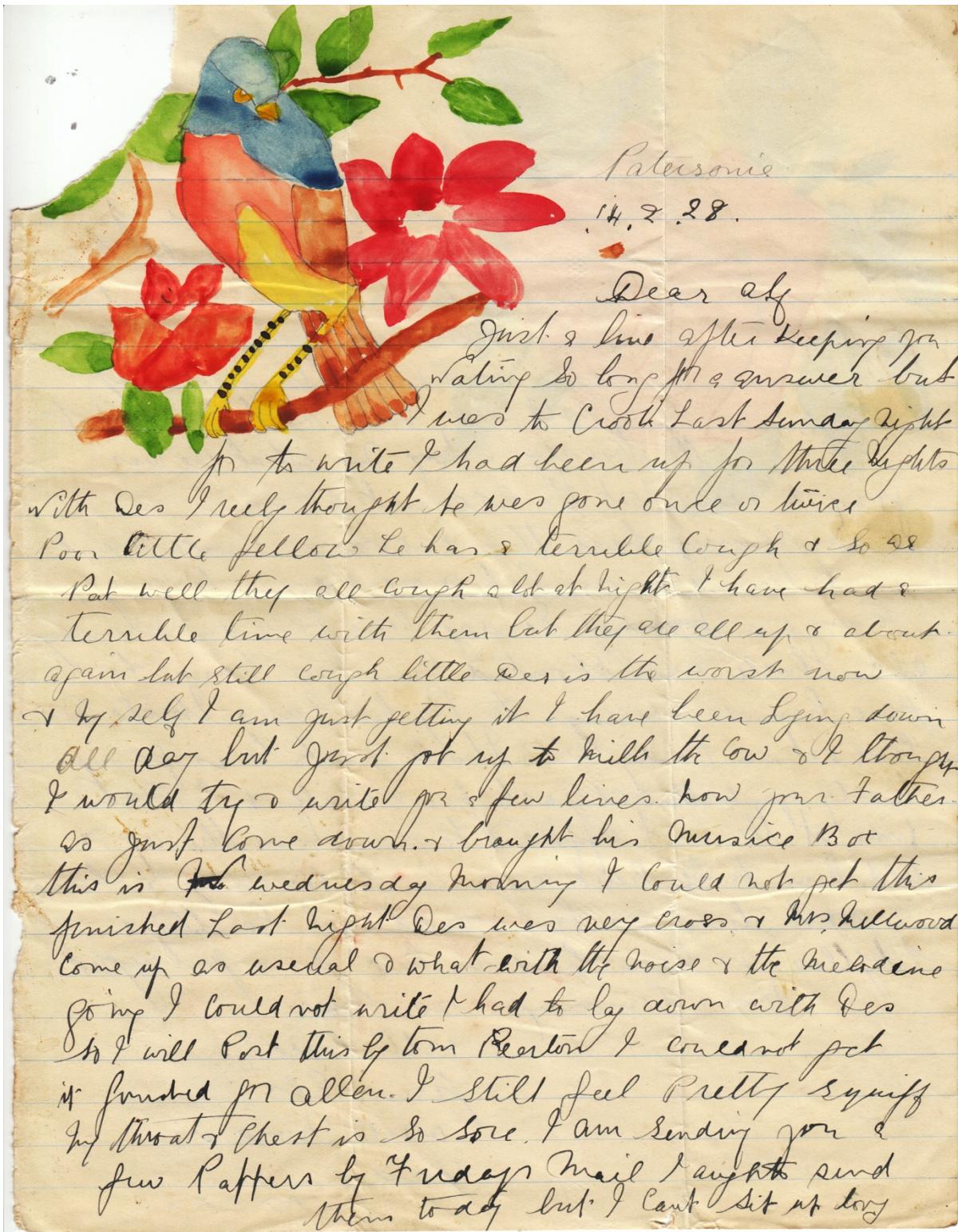
She married Alf Blyth Jnr on New Years Eve 1912. They had been writing to each other for up to two years as shown by the letters in this collection.

Elsie had one older sister Annie who is mentioned in the letters and seven brothers. The youngest brother Matt was clearly her favourite and he was also a good friend to Alf.



The photo on the left was taken when she was around 16 and below when she was 20.





Patersonic

14. 2. 28.

Dear Alf

Just a line after keeping you waiting so long for the answer but I used to Crook last Sunday night & to write I had been up for three nights with Des I really thought he was gone once or twice Poor little fellow he has a terrible cough & so do Pat well they all cough a lot at night I have had a terrible time with them but they are all up & about again but still cough little Des is the worst now & myself I am just getting it I have been lying down all day but just got up to milk the cow & I thought I would try & write for a few lines now your Father is just come down & brought his Medicine Box this is ~~the~~ wednesday morning I could not get this finished last night Des was very cross & Mrs. Hollward come up as usual & what with the noise & the medicine going I could not write I had to lay down with Des so I will Post this by tom Rector I can not get it finished for Allen I still feel pretty squiffy my throat & chest is so sore I am sending you a few Papers by Friday's mail I ought send them today but I can't sit up long

Family Group Sheet

18 February 2018

Father Alfred Ernest Albert BLYTH

Birth	21 Apr 1889	Prossers Forest, Tas
Death	8 Sep 1984	Launceston, Tas.
Burial	11 Sep 1984	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Occupation		PWD Labourer
Religion		RCatholic
Marriage	31 Dec 1912	Launceston, Tas
Father	Alfred BLYTH (1868-1956)	
Mother	Bridget CORKERY (1862-1941)	

Mother Irene Elsie TOWNS

Birth	21 May 1888	Uplands, Avoca, Tas
Death	21 Mar 1976	Cosgrove Park, Launceston, Tas
Burial	23 Mar 1976	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Religion		RC
Father	Thomas TOWNS (1856-1937)	
Mother	Emily Mary DUNNE (1856-1932)	

Children

F Gwendoline Mary BLYTH

Birth	18 Apr 1913	Victoria Hospital, Launceston, Tas
Death	23 Mar 2002	Latrobe, Tas
Burial	27 Mar 2002	Mersey Vale memorial Park
Spouse	Frederick George (Mick) BARKER (1914-1996)	
Marriage	28 Oct 1934	

M Vincent Alfred Matthew BLYTH

Birth	7 Sep 1914	Nunamara, Tas.
Death	23 Mar 1980	Launceston, Tas.
Burial	25 Mar 1980	Mersey Vale Lawn, Devonport, Tas.
Spouse	Margaret Isobel EWART (1924-1987)	
Marriage	15 Feb 1947	St Andrews Presbyterian, Launceston, Tas.

F Gladys Irene BLYTH

Birth	12 Sep 1916	Victoria Hospital, Launceston, Tas
Death	6 Sep 1997	Scottsdale, Tas
Cremation	9 Sep 1997	Carr Villa CT Finney Centre, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia
Burial		
Spouse	Max WOODBERRY (-)	
Spouse	Wallace (Brum) IMLACH (1907-2003)	
Marriage	Dec 1946	

F Doris Josephine BLYTH

Birth	11 May 1918	Launceston
Death	23 Jan 2002	Launceston
Burial	29 Jan 2002	Carr Villa, Launceston
Burial		
Spouse	Archibald Raymond SIMONS (-2005)	
Spouse	Sidney (Bobby) GEE (-1972)	

F Phyllis Veronica BLYTH

Birth	6 Oct 1921	Launceston, Tas
Death	26 Jan 2018	Tyler Village Retirement Home, Prospect Vale, Tasmania, Australia
Burial	31 Jan 2018	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia
Spouse	Keith Raymond Broadhurst (-1961)	
Marriage	23 Feb 1946	Church of Apostles, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia
Spouse	Vivian Keith Button (-2003)	
Marriage	marr	

F Patricia Betty BLYTH

Birth	14 Dec 1923	Launceston, Tas
Death	24 May 2010	Mt Esk Nursing Home, Launceston, Tas

Family Group Sheet

18 February 2018

Father Alfred Ernest Albert BLYTH

Mother Irene Elsie TOWNS

Children

Patricia Betty BLYTH (continued)

Burial	27 May 2010	Sunflower, Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Spouse	Ray Calvert (-)	
Marriage		
Spouse	Ken Hayes (-)	

M Desmond John BLYTH

Birth	24 Aug 1926	Launceston, Tas
Death	13 Feb 2006	from a heart attack; Launceston
Burial	17 Feb 2006	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Spouse	June HADLEY (1926-)	
Marriage	1949	
Spouse	Margaret Smith (-)	

M Terrence James BLYTH

Birth	24 Aug 1926	Launceston, Tas
Occupation		Pilot
Death		
Burial		
Spouse	Jenny (-)	
Spouse	Dorothy WATTS (-2003)	

Preparer	Comments
Kerrie Blyth PO Box 891 Devonport Tasmania 0408084438 family@megroloz.com	

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Family Group Sheet

10 January 2018

Father Alfred BLYTH

Birth	15 Jan 1868	CampbellTown, Tas
Death	9 Oct 1956	Launceston, Tas
Burial	11 Oct 1956	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Occupation		Labourer
Education		None
Marriage	20 Nov 1888	Launceston
Father	Robert BLYTH (1818-1898)	
Mother	Louisa Frederica Willamena KAUFMANN (1836-1874)	

Mother Bridget CORKERY

Birth	26 Dec 1862	Prossers Forest, Tas
Death	13 Aug 1941	Launceston, Tas
Burial	15 Aug 1941	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Religion		RC
Father	Jeremiah CORKERY (1818-1899)	
Mother	Judith Julia O'Connor / Connor/ (1826-1896)	
Other spouse	unknown (-)	

Children

M Alfred Ernest Albert BLYTH

Birth	21 Apr 1889	Prossers Forest, Tas
Death	8 Sep 1984	Launceston, Tas.
Burial	11 Sep 1984	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Occupation		PWD Labourer
Religion		RCatholic
Spouse	Irene Elsie TOWNS (1888-1976)	
Marriage	31 Dec 1912	Launceston, Tas

F Lavinia (Cis) BLYTH

Birth	8 Mar 1891	
Death	1978	Melbourne
Burial		
Spouse	Gordon Henry Bewsher (-)	

F Winifred Louisa BLYTH

Birth	20 Jul 1893	Prossers Forest, Tas
Death	25 Sep 1920	Phthisis Tuberculosis of the lungs; Myrtle Bank, Tas
Burial	28 Sep 1920	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Spouse		

F Kathleen Ivy BLYTH

Birth	26 Aug 1895	
Death	30 Apr 1986	Melbourne
Burial		Altona Memorial Park, Victoria, Australia
Spouse	Claud William Baldock (-1968)	
Marriage	27 Jul 1922	Holy Trinity Church Launceston

F Irene Vera "Mick" BLYTH

Birth	1 Aug 1897	Launceston
Death	2 Aug 1988	Launceston
Burial	4 Aug 1988	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Spouse	Gordon Thomas Walsh (-1959)	
Marriage	marr	

F Gladys Ruby Myrtle BLYTH

Birth	Jan 1900	
Death	20 Sep 1915	
Burial	22 Sep 1915	Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas
Marriage		

Family Group Sheet

10 January 2018

Father Alfred BLYTH

Mother Bridget CORKERY

Children

F Phyllis Laura BLYTH

Birth	23 Jan 1901
Death	22 May 1976
Burial	25 May 1976 Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas Section A10
Spouse	John Francis Dunn (1911-1972)

Preparer	Comments
Kerrie Blyth PO Box 891 Devonport Tasmania 0408084438 family@megroloz.com	

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Lavinia (Ciss/Cissy) Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Daughter of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Lavinia was born on 8th March 1891 at Prossers Forest and died in 1978 in Melbourne aged 87 years. She was the second child and first daughter of Alf and Bridget. She was always referred to in the family as Ciss or Cissy.

She married Gordon Bewsher in 1923. They lived in Melbourne all their lives as far as I know. Later generations of the family appear to be unknown to each other.

Cis and Gordon had one son called William (known as Billy). They are pictured together here c 1941.



Winifred (Win) Louisa Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Daughter of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Win was born on 20th July 1893 at Prossers Forest and died on 25th September 1920 at Myrtle Bank aged 27 years from tuberculosis of the lungs. She was the third child and second daughter of Alf and Bridget.



On 18th April 1915 Win gave birth to a daughter at the Salvation Army Home in Connaught Cr. Launceston. The baby girl was adopted and went to the mainland to live. She was known as *Elvie Madge Lyons* and she married Robert Michael Stevens on 7th June 1937 at RC Church East Melbourne.

Her son Raymond Stevens lives in Ferntree Gully in Melbourne.

I don't believe Win ever had contact with her daughter. Hanging in Grandad Blyth's lounge room were large oval portraits. One of them was Win and I always knew that Win was Grandad's sister and that she had died young but I was never encouraged to ask questions. I wonder why of all the Blyth sisters was Win the only one to have had a portrait done.



Elvie c1925



Elvie c1936

I think Win must have had a wicked sense of humour. Win and Elsie both worked as house maids or servants in the big houses around Launceston. Elsie was in Rosevears (on the Tamar River) working for the Gunn family when Win wrote to her. That's why I picked up on Win's quirky question to ask Mrs Gunn if she was loaded!!

Win's letter in 1912 says she is at *Lyndhurst*. The only property I can find of that name is one in Elizabeth St., North Hobart but I don't believe it is that one.

I wish I had copies of other letters from Win to help us know more about her but I suggest she was deeply loved by her family and friends and was a bit of a character. Grandad Alf had a funny sense of humour as did my Dad Vince. Quiet but always witty and fun to be around.



Carr Villa Cemetery Launceston, Tasmania



Alf and Bridget Blyth, Launceston c 1939

The letters mention romances between various young men with the three elder Blyth sisters and Elsie. My grandad seemed to be fighting off other suitors pretty often. One of them Rube King seems to be mentioned a lot as are Roy and Jack. I think Grandad worked with the three men building roads and in the sawmills. Rube King appears to be at the Blyth house quite a lot until a letter from Alf to Elsie dated 10th Jan 1912 says “Mr King is gone. Mr Blyth senior and him had a confab on Sunday and he soon got on the track”.



Blyth Family C1940

Taken at home at 5 Hobart St., Launceston

Left to Right

Mick and Tommy Walsh, Kath Baldock, Alf and Bridget Blyth, Phyllis Dunn.

Kathleen (Kate/Kath/Kallie) Ivy Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Daughter of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Kath was born on 26th August 1895 at Prossers Forest and died on 30th April 1986 in Melbourne aged 91 years. She was the fourth child and third daughter of Alf and Bridget.

Kath was quite a character with a deep and clever sense of humour. She became a school teacher and worked at the small country schools around North East Tasmania, teaching some of her nephews and nieces. On 27th July 1922 in Launceston she married Claud Baldock, and they moved to Melbourne. Kath remained there for the rest of her long life although she did return to Tasmania for visits over the years. Her family retain close connections with their Tasmanian cousins.

Kath and Claud had two children. Noel and Yvonne (known as Von).

Von, Kath and Noel c1945



c1970 with husband Claud.



In Patersonia, Tas. shop



Irene Vera (Mick) Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Daughter of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Irene Vera was born on 1st August 1897 at Prossers Forest and died on 2nd August 1988 in GeorgeTown, Tas aged 91 years. She was the fifth child and fourth daughter of Alf and Bridget. She was always referred to in the family as Mick.

She married Tommy Walsh and they lived in Tasmania. They had no children.

Vera on the left with sister Cis c1916



Gladys (Toggie) Ruby Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Daughter of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Gladys was born in 1900 at Prossers Forest and died aged only 15 years on 20th Sept 1915 in hospital in Launceston. She was the sixth child and fifth daughter of Alf and Bridget. She was affectionately known as Little Toggie. She is buried with her parents and big sister Win at Carr Villa Cemetery in Launceston.



Phyllis (Pat) Laura Blyth of Myrtle Bank, Tasmania

Daughter of Alfred and Bridget Blyth (nee Corkery)

Phyllis was born on 23rd January 1901 at Prossers Forest and died aged 75 years on 22nd May 1976 in hospital in Launceston. She was the youngest child and sixth daughter of Alf and Bridget. The family called her Pat but I also heard her called "Poor Me" in much later days!

She married Jack Dunn and they had no children.



Myrtle Bank

Wednesday (1911)

Dear old Els

Hope you got home bright and shiny for your washing as Alf is writing
I thought I would put a few lines in because I know he is just a bit
jealous of me if he says much I will cut him out altogether wont I
Duck I don't think you would crawl into a bag to get away from me.
Have a flutter to get up on Sunday week old girl or Sat afternoon if
possible. I'll tell Der... . I am not going up the mountain it would be
too much for me. I don't feel up to much I can tell you I felt very
queer on Monday and today I don't feel too bright. Rube got home last
night just as we were going to bed. Have you had a letter from Win this
week.

Oh Duck when you girls have your photos taken do give me one oh yes
please. Now Duck goodbye till Saturday week don't forget to come
dear.

Goodbye for the present With fondest Love
I remain ever your loving old mate Cissy XcXcXcX Write next week
Duck XcXcX

Myrtle Bank

May 1st 1911

My dear old Els

Just a few lines to let you know I am not dead yet; but I have had tooth-ache terribly tonight. I had a letter from Win on Saturday night. She got in all right, I am writing to her tonight.

Dear Elsie, there is a basket social up at our hall on Wednesday night. If you would like to come you are welcome to come and stay after the social. If you come, come up on Wednesday afternoon. I hope Mrs Lewis is keeping well, and I also hope little Mr Lewis is well. I am writing to Eileen tonight.

Dear Els I hope you had a good time on Saturday night. It is a pity Cis and Win could not have been here for that and Wednesday night.

I expect I will be down to the concert in the chapel, I suppose you will come. Tell everybody you see about the social there's a good old kid. Do come ducks. I think we will have heaps of girls.

Well dear I must say goodnight, and write to those dear sisters of mine.

Love from Kate.

Are you laughing at what I said! No duck

Myrtle Bank

June 28, .6.11

My dearest old girl

Just a half a line as I have got what you would call a rotten pen hope you are in the best of health as it leaves me a present. All the others you will have a job to read this letter my girl but I suppose you will manage it some how I'll bet. I got home at 8 o'clock on Monday night I called at Annies and I never called at my mother in laws because it was getting dark and I am frightened of her too poor old Annie was very ill when I came there on Monday night I was very sorry for them. I have not saw Win lately so I might see her soon I have not heard from Roy or George for a good while, Win or Vera I mean. Duck I am hoping to get to Town on Saturday I am going to Lyell in the morning and Dad is coming on Friday and Hubert is not coming so I'll be in a miserable place by myself on Thursday night so I think I can get away from there on Friday night or Saturday morning. I am writing to Mrs King this mail I am very sorry I could not get a good pen but never mind I am minding the cats again

tonight but I have plenty of company. Phyllis and Gladys is with me so I am not frightened. Win would not go to the dance with me so I would not go then I had to write a couple of letters and go away early in the morning. I am getting ready for Christmas when ever I'll bet I don't know but I expect I will not be far away from this little town. Now my dear girl you will excuse this a short letter I would like to say more but I am always getting into trouble for saying two much and being a newsence so I will conclude you can see for yourself that the pen is terrible and these young fellows are throwing dice and making a nice row, she wouldn't have you see so hoping this will find you.

Absolutely foo.

More not what can you expect from a poor fool than this but I don't care well I hope to come to town on Sat that is if it dose not rain before then as the roads get so wet and you cant ride at all and get mud wherever you go you know but they have all gone to the barn tonight so I suppose Win and Vera will share Ciss' boy between them. I think its tuff I don't know what others would call it if he dosent wish to have anything to do with them he ought not give them any encouragement. He cant go on like that always because Ciss thinks he is all wright and he is

selling her all the time but no one gets any thanks for anything you do
so I don't care how the world goes it always seems alike to me.

Now we are going to have our supper and go to bed I suppose you and
Ciss are having an awful time with them Boys you haven't got.

So goodnight my dearest

Excuse this writing theres a Dear or I will tell something I saw you
do to Tommy Towns.

So good night my Dearest Old Girl from you're A.E.B who never
got drunk on Monday for a wonder.

X X X X X X X X X X

I don't know if you know anything about Chinese language

xxx xxx xxx

Ballaccalaria
Myrtle Bank

27.9.11

My Dear Old Girl

as I promised dear I would write to you I was frightened as I am sure to send it duck I am well and hoping you are the very same I hope you got home all wright on Monday My cobber told me he saw you so I never got to work till Tuesday and when we went we could not start till half past two and the saw went very bad and we had to stop again a half past three so we only worked an hour so that was tuff wasn't it as now I am a very poor writer and don't lice it I will start to tell you about the concert I hope you are there duck as I will be sure to play up if you are not there of course boys always do girls never do anything wrong no ho you are there duck or if you are not I wont see much Dance but never mind duck I'll see you on Sunday afternoon if any of them kill me I dont care for any of them duck Only one duck and I suppose you know who that is duck Tom hurry up never hit me with the whip so I dont think he will now somehow I suppose Cliff and Rube will be laid on at the dance

I had a letter from Ciss on Tuesday and she is well and going to the Show one day so she says I am not sure about going yet I dont know whether to go or not Jack Bill Hyde Charlie Green are going and want me to go so I have not yet made my mind up well Old Kid I often thing of the couch and the time we have and ever hope for those times and the hugs I gave you duck now don't deny it you know its true and of the XXX three exes I suppose that means the three exes ale I don't know if it is or not well my dear Old Girl you will excuse this hurried job as I am very sleepy Jack and Me went to Skemps last night and made me very sleepy as I am in a habit of going to bed very early as a rule of course you would know nothing about that duck how is Roy duck I nearly forgot to ask about him but youll excuse me this time wont you duck I am dying to see you again duck

I will be glad when you come up to Annies Again I don't know how I will do without you my dear well duck I will conclude with a ton of love all for you my dear and hope you will except it I don't know how I will last till Sunday if I don't see you on Friday night so I remain your Loving Scrubber and always no duck your Boy

XcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXX

Few flies) the King dead)

I hope Rube has not yet beat me for my girl as I have been expecting
that for some time as he has promised it to others but I'll take it all in
good part the only thing

Myrtle Bank

Oct 11th 1911

My Dear old girl/ I am very sorry indeed they dont know how much
I miss you well dear I feel out of place my Dear I don't know how
I am writing or spelling duck because I am thinking of you and the
couch duck and I am very sorry that I could not get down on
Sunday duck but it rained something terrible to days back and we went
shooting to day and met Bill Hyde and he came home with us Jack and
me went to Mothers or rather your mother duck on Saturday because we
were thinking of going to the Dance and Raffle but it was not to good I
dont thing we met Mat coming home and he said it would not be much
duck and we were sleepy after the dance at Myrtle Bank but I was not
incline to go to any more for a while and we was back home at half past
ten and I am writing this letter in a terrible noise and I dont know
how I am wording it but I know you will excuse it duck and I am
terribly disappointed with not coming and see you duck but it rained two
much duck and the road was wet and I thought that I would get a
rough time this road is wet and tough duck I saw Mr Simons

yesterday and he asked me down on Sunday and he told me to come
any time I like as he says he was once the same as me he gave me a
bit of a barrack duck he is a case but I saw Roy up at the Concert
and he never barracked me duck and I never said anything to him duck
but you said I would have to get another girl at the concert but I know
you never meant that duck surely, but if you did there were none there that
I would take anywhere duck I never had much of a time duck I
would never of went only for Mrs Skemp she hardly had anyone to
sing as I thought I would sing a couple of songs but if you had of
been there duck I would have had a better time I am sure of that but
they say I am disagreeable duck but they can say what they like I
dont know if I am going to the Show or not but if I do I will call
duck I supposed you have heard a lot about me duck but I dont care
they are such a lot of sciters about here duck but they is a lot of them
going to you with some yarns but not concerning girls duck but Ill tell
you whether it is true or not when I see you duck I got something to
tell you when I see you well this is all duck this time.

Hoping this will find you very well as it leaves me not better after the
dance

I remain

Yours Always Alf

I dont know what to write duck I am nervy for thinking of what to
write but I think I am somewhere I am there myself well duck I
am mixed up tonight I dont know how I feel due thinking about you
duck I am really mixed up dear

I remain your old Boy of Alf B

I will be thinking of you now till I see you duck I am sum with you
duck

Good night Duck

XcXcXcXcXcXcX few for yourself

Give Ray a X for me

Myrtle Bank

18.10.11

My Dear Old Girl

I said I might come down to night duck but I have a fair headache to
Night duck hope you are well. Achlery is here to night and the girls and
Jack and him and dad are throwing dyce and playing cards and I dont
know what I am writing duck they say there is a dance at McKillops
Barn on Saturday but it might be like the other one that Jack and me
went to all the I don't know if ill go duck but I don't think I will go
duck but you never know what a goat will do do you duck I would of
liked to come down but I did not feel like it duck but ~~xxx~~ I might come
down that way Saturday evening or I will be down on Sunday but
you might come up to your Mother on Saturday and go to dance and ill
come down but I wont know until your letter comes or at least duck I
expect a letter on Friday or I go mad I think I have got something
to ask you when I see you duck and I don't know how it will go I'm
not sure well duck as I am a very poor one thinking of news and am
in a noise and head ache I will conclude excuse this bit of scribble wont

you duck and I will go to bed and Dream about you I know duck so good night your everlasting nuisance not got a girl in town duck or not drunk for now.

I am thinking of you darling and how I miss you so my thoughts they are always of you you will excuse this short letter I know duck if you don't I will squeeze you sum when I get you so it will pay you to believe it or Ill Kiss you to death when I get you I have been a bit squiff since Monday and have been in a temper at the mill and the boss said he thought I was locked up in town I never went to work until dinner time and I got a lot of barrick about town Els

Yours yours ditto duck I remain yours forever Alf

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dear Mrs Olding your husband nearly run me off the road last night, but ill have him he wont get rid of me like that.

Myrtle Bank
November 1911

My Dear Old girl

Just a line to let you know that I am still of the same but hope you are very well as it leaves me in a good temper we had to work until half past five to night in water up over our boot tops. We have to be in the D...

Dam again to day and it is not too good I tell you well and amongst some of the many things I am very sorry to tell you that I forgot to write to Bill Riggs and tell him to come down on Sunday but I hope you will let me off duck I wont tease you about Ray Roy Bill or Rube duck no not I you know I wont dont you, there is a Picnic over at the butter factory on Friday duck and they are going to have some fun they going to have 18 gallons of beer so I suppose there will be a drunk or two there so I wont go because I have got a bad name and I don't want to keep it going no longer and I think there is a Sports meeting at Patersonia on Saturday Night and a dance so Rodger told me to day but it will be some a dance at Mrs Randles Ha what.

I think I will knock off dancing again because I have had a good turn this time but I am getting barrick about the girls this week but I tell them girls dose not trouble me but a girl does and ill tell you when I see you who it is you could not guess. I know they told me it was girls but there is no S to "it it is only girls duck well news is pretty scarce this time but I cant think of anything to do or write about but rube is sure his arm is getting sum but he is getting anxious to go down the road or the corners. I don't know what he wants to get down there duck because it is nearer to town duck well old kid I am sorry I could not come down to Night/.

I have been writing this letter and they are all talking so I have made
a lot of mistakes but I think you will excuse me this time duck wont
you Siss is not too good yet she will have to see a doctor before she is
done well duck hoping this will find you in the best of health as it leaves
me at present

X X X X X X X X X X

A few flies duck

Tears (a smudge on the paper)

The roses red the violets blue

Carnations sweet and so are you

So as the one that sending this

And when we meet well have a kiss

And when we part weel have another

But don't go home and tell your Mother

Excuse this scribble as it is rotten

Yours Alf Blyth

Myrtle Bank

Nov 20 1911

My Dear Old girl

I am writing you a line or two and I suppose some one will think I am a funny fellow but no sence no mind you know but I am concidering tonight what is going to happen me and you bet there was something funny to keep me away but I was not frightened of Bill Riggs coming down but I punctured my bike and was at work Saturday afternoon and tried to mend it and had nothing to do it when I went to mend it and had to go down to Harry Hyde and get something to mend it with and have been Sat night and Sunday and now haven't done it and I am going to get Bill Hyde to help me do it at the mill and I have got a lovely headache to night and foot bad been at home Mum Ciss and Me and I am pretty quiet tonight but I will get over it some day. I am a bit off tonight because the Wage Bord was settled on Friday night and some of the Mill men are getting more and some less and the job that I am at I will not get any more but the others are going to some of them but if I cant barrack it out I will

soon leave it because it dose not take me long to leave a job being as I am lazy, so that's if I leave it will be early in the week I have got a job to go to but I would not like to go before New Year but if I leave I will have to go but I don't care.

Rube Dad and Vera went to Lyellroad on Saturday Afternoon and got back on Sunday night I am pleased with Bill and Jack back from the Island I think Dad Jack and Rube are going to Lyellroad Scrubbing I think they are not sure about it yet but they will soon know about it in a few days but if I leave the mill they want me to go with them but I don't think I will I have got a job to go to but I don't think I can I wont leave the mill if I can get what I want but I am pretty sure I cant well duck I don't know what is wrong but I feel very funny to Day and I suppose I will be wright in a day or two but I don't know if I am going to town or not on Saturday I don't know what to do I will know if you are going town or not on Saturday. I will let you know wether I am going or not I don't know if I can come down any night duck but I will see you as soon as you will see me wont you will know if I am going to town on Sat well duck I

feel off to night and must go to bed hoping you will excuse this bumbled
lot duck as I know you will so I will remain yours Alf Blyth

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX How is ray getting on duck
XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

Hope Bill wont be wild

Many a Ship has been lost at sea for the want of tar and rudder

Many a girl has lost her Boy for talking to another XcXcXcXcX

Myrtle Bank
Nov 29.11. 1911

My Dear Old Girl XXXXX

I promised to write to you I am now going to take the job on Ciss is writing you a piece I suppose you will laugh when I tell you I punctured my bike on Monday Morning and Ill fix it up before Sunday Morning Bill Hyde is going to town on Saturday and there will be a boy for you I will come to meet you on Sunday morning if I know you go in on Sat I will know when I get a letter from you on Friday I hope you are well as I have had toothache and headache for two days and nights and I am in a not good temper duck but it will be all right when I see you again duck as I am like you I never get wild I am afraid duck that I will forget how to smooge I don't know what you think Rube and Jack have lost their job of scrubbing so I don't know what they'll do now but all boys are fools aint they I very glad I am a man (hum) well duck not much news this time but as I don't feel much to night I know you will let me off with a small letter and a scribble nothing about Ray this time duck I am still thinking of

that letter you destroyed I haven't forgotten about it yet I was
dissapointed you said you would tell me what was in it but never mind
therell come a time some day. Rube is going to take my job at the mill
on Monday I think and I am going to need a holiday until Christmas
so I will playup well duck I cant think of much this time I only wish
you were here to night duck I wouldn't care for anything the only thing
I am afraid of is that I will forget how to smooge and that will settle
me but youll start me again duck wont you now say you will duck Ciss
and Rube is smooging away they are ... and I wish you were here
duck I would not say you were

I remain

Yours Alf x

?? mean baker (in right margin)

xxxxxx

don't let Ray tear this letter or it will be like mine
don't get drunk in town or youll see what Olds?

I would like a photo of you girls to poison rats.

Myrtle Bank

Dec 20 1911

To My Dear Old girl

As I promised I would write to you duck I am carrying out my promise if I don't in everything else but I am not up to much I might get Ciss to leave this letter with you on her way to town or I might post it I don't know but I don't care as long as you got it duck somehow I tell you I have got a lot on my mind three things all at once and just Christmas time but I can't help it I suppose what is to be will be but I feel something off I tell you duck the first trouble was Sunday night and two others since I never went to work until today and when I got home on Monday morning I had headache and have got it yet but I suppose I am not the only one like that but I hope you are not worrying about it duck I have been very quiet this day and they all think at the mill that I am bad but I am stirred up somehow or another when I got home I could hardly stand up and had to go to

bed early my Back was fearful bad pain something terrible and had to get dad to rub it with Black Oil and at 7 o'clock I could not turn over in bed and I was a dummy I wished I was not here at all I tell you and I never got up till dinner time (tear dear) on Tuesday and could hardly walk but it feels a good bit better today only pains when I move quick but I went to work today I don't know if I will be able to go tomorrow or not I feel as if I am going to be bad all together I got a cold in the back and I have suffered with it. Well duck I am not going to sing on Boxing Night I was going to sing (Some day when dreams come true) or (No one Knows) but I am coming to go to town on Saturday morning and wont see you until then duck. Poor old Win wrote to the girls and one of her Old Boys are dead and she thought a lot of him I tell you and she did not know he was in the Hospital and she went to see our Uncle and two cousins in there and she was talking to Uncle and he said this young fellow is pretty bad and he had the Screens around him and it was him and she never knew and Uncle was delirious he is very bad he has got Typhoid Fever and that's what the young fellow was dying and she never knew who it was and wrote a very sad letter indeed well duck I hope you are real well I could tell

you more duck if I was with you but I will see you on Saturday I am going to a Dr if I am no better by Saturday I have been spitting up blood today and I think it is only a bit of a change I might be all wright I wish that I was well duck I must close with something in my mind.

From your dearest Old Boy

Alf

I remain yours

All for dear self

Xxxxxx

Xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxx

Myrtle Bank
10/1/12

To My Dear Old Girl,

I now take the pleasure of writing these few lines. I am writing this Tuesday night as I am going down to Jack tomorrow night and you will excuse this short scribble as it is getting late I punctured my bike at the same place as it did when you and I were going up that night and I haven't mended it yet I have wrote to Win and Gladys tonight as I am putting up a record well duck I forgot that I would not get your letter on Friday duck I will be away and that is all I wait for so I will have to wait until I come home it will take jack and I two days and perhaps more we might not get home until Sunday the reason I want to go on Friday so I can see you on Sunday, duck if it had been any other time I would of went on Saturday I forgot to ask you were (where) you would be on Sunday but you will tell me in your letter and ill (I'll) search around and find you duck I wont (won't) get drunk at Scottsdale duck no never no more well old kid I don't know how I am going to leave here duck.

Mr King is gone. Mr Blyth seen and him had a confad on Sunday,
and he soon got on the track my word it is Quiet up here now duck you
would not believe it Only Mum Dad Mick Phyllis and me and it does
seem funny now Now duck you will excuse this short scribble wont you
duck I hope you look after them blue Stockings duck I have got a
toothache tonight and it is a miserable thing Why do we have ankles on
our legs to keep the calves from our corn I remain your ever true and
loving boy Alf Blyth I wish I was with you tonight duck I am real
miserable

Be careful how you handle the flies duck and I hope you are quite well
as I am at present only for toothache Mum says it is a good photo.

XcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcX

Good night old girl and tell Ray when he wants to smooge you that I
will knock his nose through his ear

Myrtle Bank

18.1.12

Xx To my dear old girl, XxXxXxXxXxXxXxXxXxXxXxXx

It is with great pleasure that I write these few lines hope you are well as it leaves us at present and I believe poor old Ciss is coming home on Saturday Perhaps Win and Kate is going to Wait for Tog on Saturday night as well have all the girls home on Saturday night. Jack is up with me tonight We got the letter from Waterhouse and is not as good as we thought but I think we are going on Friday night to Scottsdale and out there on Saturday So I will see you on sunday duck somewhere. I have had toothache today I suppose you will be able to tell me where you will be on Sunday when you write well duck I don't know what to write about duck I am a poor hand finding news.

I could tell you a lot duck if I was there and you know I can say a
lot don't you duck too much sometimes cant I never mind duck you will
be able to see they are talking and I don't know what I am writing
about well duck you will excuse me only writing this short scribble but
wait until I see you I will make it up and the sooner the better now.
I will say good night good night duck I wish I was with you tonight
you smooger.

My Dear Old Girl I remain your ever loving boy Alf,

Myrtle Bank

Sunday 18th (Feb 1912)

My dear old girl

Hoping you are as well as ever any one could be as I feel very well this day or two as far as health is concerned but lonely nowhere to go on Saturday nights and Sunday you know but I live in hopes to be closer to you on Saturday, next or it won't be my fault. Brother King is here today, he came up last night he was here when I came home from Lyell and him and Win is going it a treat today, I can't make them out Duck you take it from me, I would like to know more about it if I was them but I suppose it's best to mind my own business Duck. King says he is coming to town on Saturday or Saturday night but I don't know if him and I will come in together but I suppose I will be with him. He and Arthur has got a good start of me not so much road to cover and a slow old rider like me it takes me a long time you know, but I'll tell you now what my two mates said on Saturday.

At half past 4 o'clock they said we would leave for home and take a near out and we did and got in a big scrub and we had five miles through that and all up hill and it came on dark we were pretty tired. Walked 14 miles and worked all day and I thought we would never get out of it and still I laughed and they got wild with me. Still I was downhearted about it. I think we will have a better time on next Saturday, they say there is always a good time with a bad. They are all well at home now for a wonder there is always something wrong with some of us, me especially don't you think Old Kid. I am lonely now more than I ever was. I took Alec Burns saddle home this morning and saw Mrs Randle. I heard today that I was going to be married but they are clever up here. Well duck I am sorry you don't like grooming at the Mayors mind you don't get kicked duck. It is too much to ask you to write every mail duck. I have no stamps with me duck or I'll send you some but never mind duck I'd rather get a letter from you than anything duck, it is the only thing to stop me from thinking for a while. I never called at Annie's this morning, I wanted to get home to dinner. I used to like calling there a few weeks ago. I don't know yet if Mrs Cornish is going to give me 6 months or 12 but I suppose I'll be the worst in the world then. Hoping to see you duck

on Saturday as it seems like a year since I saw you. I don't know why but it dose. We are off at 4 o'clock in the morning again and we think we can finish on Wednesday, with luck and I hope we can because Herbert is going Rifle Shooting on Thursday so he's coming home for the dance on Wednesday night, and Dad will have to come and play and if we don't finish. I am going to stay and finish on Thursday. Do you think the Mayor would kick me if I come to see you. Never mind it won't be as bad as Mammy Towns with a broom. I get tons of sleep now duck, to much, I am dum I tell you duck.

GOOD NIGHT MY DEAR

One of your real boys are coming back to Patersonia one of the real boys two but you never know but I think he is two late as he is Married but that dose not always count my dear that's sweet so goodbye Old Sweet.

I remain yours Always not Roy AEB

XXXXXX

Thank you for PC and Mum and Phyllis two two
One squeeze for you dear.

Note: envelope included a short lock of black hair.

Myrtle Bank
Wed 29 March (1912)

My dear Old girl I am writing you a line or two I hope you got home safe I got back into Town 20 minutes past five. I went further than I thought with you duck but being with you I took no notice of the distance duck. I could go as far again with you duck and when I left you I felt miserable duck and I done a few of my jobs and went out to Win and she was tired and sleepy and I was the same and she did not care to go to town so I stayed with Win till I was freezed and then went back and got a good fire at Corcorans and got a paper and looked at it for a bit and I went over to the pictures for a while and they were no good to me without you pet.

They were showing a love tale and I thought of you duck and I went over to Corcorans and went to bed half past ten and I was thinking of someone at Rosevears when I was in a room by myself and that's the time I think of you duck when night comes. I have a bad pen and am making an awful mess of this letter when I woke and came down on Tuesday morning and found it raining I thought of the roads how nice

they would be so I hurried around to Adams and caught the motor so
I was some and got home clear of mud.

The motor man and I had dinner at your Mothers and Mat went
home with me so as I wouldn't get a hiding and Dad, Mat and I
went kingtailing and I got toothache today because it was so cold. I got
cold in my teeth and I am suffering today and tonight for it. Phyllis
has a sore throat and little Toggy is nearly choked with lumps in the
throat poor little devil she is crying tonight and I aint far from it but
not a sore throat but toothache and being away from you pet that's what's
wrong with me. I never rode fast the other night when I left you duck.
I hope you are well duckie you will excuse this scribble I know you
will. I would squeeze you hard if you don't you're the one aint you
duckie. Harry Millwood and William Roach thought I went to get
married but they shouldn't think should they duck. I wont ask them but
I'll have to ask someone els wont I pet you dear old kid my thought
are all of you. I never knew I could miss you so until I was put to
it and that's the time. You cant stop me from loving you no matter how
you try (Bly) I will end you a bit of news when I write on Sunday
duck. I wont have as good Saturday and Sunday as I did last one

I'll bet quids Mrs Hide wanted me to stay and have tea with them tonight but she cant beat you duck no one can beat you for me duck if that's anything to know. Jack and my rival got back from Ringarooma safe well pet.

I must now close with all love and kisses for your dear old self duck, I remain your ever true Boy Alf Blyth XcXXcXcX

I hope old Timothy Tinib don't keep this letter duck and you waiting for it and this XcXXcXcXcX Good night pet.

You can handle these kisses I'll bet duck
XcXXcXcXcXcXcXcX

I think I saw Mr and Mrs Gunn looking for you

Myrtle Bank
8 April 1912

My dearest Old girl I am in for it again but poor wretch I am always in trouble. I am sending half letter and late half but pet you will get a long scribble on Sunday, from me duckie. I know you will excuse me for this time and isn't it me. I went to work on Harry's Road on Tuesday morning and I tried to ride to the Mill and then walk but it took to long so on Monday I went and cut a track through the bush out by Crumps and I got through all right last night it was very dark but I found my way through the bush and the days are too short. I got in the dark tonight and thought I would never see daylight again because I got slied and came out at Hide's and never got home until five to nine pet and I am having my tea at quarter past nine and very wild to but when I want to do a thing and cant. I wanted to get home and write a long letter to you pet but I cant think what to write. I am the biggest fool in the world at writing a letter. I wish you could come up for the concert they are going to have some chopping and running in the day time so they say but here a chap not going to run or chop.

I have got a tooth ache tonight and don't know what I am writing. I was pleased with that nice letter pet and Mum liced her card very much. I would love to come down there with you what did you say about Annie beating you I would give you a real good squeezing if I could get hold of you for saying that you smooger. You know I would not throw you up for them all duck you know that well duck. I don't want to camp over there by myself in a tent and it is dark at five and it is a miserable game camping in the trees and I'd go mad in a tent by myself there long nights but I haven't got to go far I suppose but absolutely - the world is round and so is a chilling and you'll be mine if you are willing. I say duck do tell me what the Dr told you duck. I hope you are well at present duck as I am as far as health is concerned. I am glad to think that you met those young fellows last Sunday but don't you meet them or they might hook off with you but I'm not afraid pet. I am in for a bit of toothache tonight duck it is no good to anyone. Ciss and Win are coming out to Georges Concert but it will be a concert there is no one to sing at it so it won't be much. I don't get so much barrack now duck because they are getting use to you being away

duck. I hope you will not be wild with this letter duck and I don't know if you can read it will take you all your time.

I'll bet I was pleased with April calendar you sent me duck and believe me there is a lot of trooth in it I can tell you duck but send me yours duck please and I'll keep it for you. There is a few things in mine that is not wright but most of it is. What are you going to say to me pet about what I think I'd like to know what you are going to do to me but I know what you'll do. How dare you say that Annie would beat you I got it in for you. I must close now with very best and fondest love from your ever old sport and S.W.

Alf Blyth.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Good night pet xxxx I'll give you some when I see you. I am saving them up xxxx

All for you pet don't be too hard on me pet for this little letter will you or I'll x ... when I get youxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Myrtle Bank

28 April 1912

My dearest and Sweetest Old girl I now take the pleasure of writing you these few lines I can not come and have a smooge and tell you what I've to tell but duck I felt very miserable when you went away.

I hurried down Town and I missed the tram from the bridge that day and I walked to Duncans and they did not have Mats boots then so I had to wait until half past four o'clock and I went down to Miss Bonneys and Mrs Tom Gee was there and her baby, it is a splendid Kidlet x and then I came out to Win and she was by herself and I stayed about half an hour and I left Win nearly five o'clock and I was at Tom Fairies at a quarter to 6 O'clock and stuck a nail clean through my tube a tyre and had some solution but no patches and came up to Hayes and she could not find any so I went to Symonds and Jabe was just home from Town and I mended my bike and had some tea and a terrible lot of barrack. Mrs S says it wont be so far for me to go now and again and Jabe says why don't you Marry the girl and keep her at home but its all well for him isn't it duck.

I got up to your Mothers and my bike punctured again and Mat was mending his when I got there and the Little Moter Man was there and we mended Mats and then mine. Well pet it does feel funny to me to Night Saturday Night at home in my working clothes and I am doing Harry O'Neill's fence and as I came out the road to Night I looked down at the School and Sunny Side and the Olden times. This night a week ago I was with you duck and no one knows how much I miss you no one knows how my hart aches only you Dear and I do miss you so much as I do. I saw (Mrs Frank Littlejohn) yesterday and she remembered me and She wanted to know where you were and when you went away. I am going back with Harry Millwood. The middle of next week he has taken half of Bill Roaches job off him well Old pet just because you were not at the School Old Pearce wanted me to do a 40 chain of wire fence and May McArthurs 25 chain wire fence and I am going to build a Stable for little Earn Kettle but I cant do the fence because I've promised to go to Harry on the road. Well Dear I have got a lot to tell you but I cant tell you any of it or don't want to but never mind duck Old Kid I will only think off work when I am away from you duck.

I am getting a lot of barrack about you duck but I can put up with it all. I am going to finish this letter to Morrow night I am going to shoot a Kangaroo to Morrow xxxx

Dear Elsie Towns is your name single is your station I know that I me the only one will make the alteration XcXcXcXcXcX
Kate still eats candled and she has ate a candlestick and a box of matches so I don't know how she will get on yet. Well pet I hope you are real well as I am only for thinking and I can not help it duck I would like to see you tonight but I cant duck. There come a time some day I will have more to tell you to morrow night they are going to have a concert for George Hudson on May 24th. I am going to send him a line or two I am out of practice duckie you dear Old kid down there by yourself Sunday and all pet. I am thinking of you every night duck. I always think when night comes I think you can get up at 8 o'clock duckie. Well I have been working all day pet cutting wood and ear marking calves and walked miles shooting and never got anything duck. I saw Tommy Hurryup today and he is very pleased with me . and I must close. I could talk for hours if you were here pet it seems years

since I saw you pet and fancy it is not a week. There is some people living in Lyell and their name is Collins and they are coming out to the social and they used to live at Mr Charley Gunn's down at Rosevears so they say I don't know how long ago pet but sometime ago.

Well I must close now with best and fondest love from your fond and
ever Loving Boy Alf Blyth XcXcX

All for you pet I'll save them

Take them steady duck in a drop of water.

Excuse this scribble wont you I've wrote it in a hurry I know you will
excuse this pet wont you.

A little drawing of a boy and a girl kissing

This is not me or you

XXX

Some smooge

Myrtle Bank

1 May 1912

My dear old kid. I know you will excuse me for only a short letter. I hope you are well as I am only for heart-ache but you poor Old kid I know how you feel duck and I quite believe you when you say you had a howl. I feel broke up often duck although you say I am amongst people I know I don't bother them much I have never been down as far as the school once since you went away and that was last night I went to vote and I went out kingtailing with Mat down below Hides. I saw a lot of people when I went to the school about half past four. Old Dave Littlejohn didn't know who I was and Annie never knew me duck so I must of altered a bit. I had a nice beard and moustache but I would not like Annies sister to meet me with it on but never mind pet so long as I have it off when I see you. Kate is sending you a letter with this one now pet I will finish this scribble. I have been down to Hides. Mat and Dad are out kingtailing tonight I will write you a jolly fine letter on Sunday pet. I know what you think Annie told me you had not wrote to her yet and she was wandering how you were and she asked me did I hear from you.

I don't know what made her ask me if I heard from you because I never hear from you oh no. Well pet I am miserable without you pet I don't know what to do but I'll have you back some day wont I. There is a dance at the Hall tonight but there wont be a girl or boy outside at the hall and the girls mother came out after her but she dosent mind her daughter going out of a night with me now as bad as I am. Well pet I have a lot to say but I cant say it I don't know what to say but I am muddled from Your Own Boy Alf

XcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXX

Good night my dear old girl.

*XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX You can take these in water or jam but I
would like to be there to give them to you myself but isn't it me*

XXXXXX

Top of letter XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX Fat Johnny Bunny

Myrtle Brook
Myrtle Bank
May 1st 1912

My dearest darling Els

Just a bit of a reg duck in answer to yours, which I received yesterday, hoping it finds you as well as this leaves me not too striking. I have had banjo since Monday, but it is a bit better today. I have had toothache tonight and it is still fooling away a bit. The others are all pretty well excepting Phil. She has not been well for a long time. Her throat is sore and her headaches and also her teeth. The three little girls said thank you very much for the brooches, Phil picked the green one, Tog got the blue one and Vera the pink one. They are very pretty and they are so contented with them. Well duck, I do miss you and the rides on your dear old bike, but I suppose there is some reg misses you more what do you think duck. Alf told me I could put my letter in with his duck so I am performing tonight. You are very disagreeable to not write for about a year after you go away and then to only write to one of us.

Never mind duck we don't forget each other as soon as our backs are turned. Mat said the elustrious Jack was coming home tonight so I suppose he would perform after Mat left because he said he wasn't home when he left. I just heard a shot so they are popping them over. Dad and Mat ought to be mates. You can hardly separate them, they are like the Simean twins that's what they are suffering from they cant keep together enough. They were out shooting on Sunday (oh no rabbits). I am sorry the people seem so shy duck. I wish I was down there, we would be company for each other. Mum went down to vote yesterday and Dad and Alf too. Mum saw Annie and your mother. Oh duck we are having George Hudson's benefit concert on the 24th May. I wish you were here for it and I hope we have a good time. Alf has me engaged for the Mazurka now. He means to set on early to secure a partner now you are gone because he always had it with you didn't he duck. Well duck, the paper is full and I didn't want to put too much so that you will have to pay for it.

So with heaps of love and regards from all I must say goodnight.

I remain with love and kisses your loving little Katie
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX from me

Xxx from Phil XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX from all

Write soon dear

PS

On Saturday when Dad came home from the mill and told us that Mat was coming up on Sunday, Phyll gave an awful smile and clapped her hands and I said to Alf, "My word Phil is pleased because Mat is coming up" her face was doubled up with smiles. She said "Oh shut up, if it was Jack coming I bet your face would bend a bit". Isn't she a muck we nearly died laughing.

Well duck Mat come up tonight and he and Dad have gone ring tail shooting. Tog and Mick have gone with them and Alf is spending the evening at Hydes so Mum, Phil and I are here alone. Well Els don't miss the Gardener married to a bright girl and having reg.

Its too funny but as you say its love as hard as it can go. Galloping
love. Frank Wilson has a son.

Isnt it cloudy. I mean Emily has duck I went over to stay with
poor old Hilda on Monday week. Mat was laid on bright and shiny and
I sang to he and Hilda (oh no I don't know it do you duck). Mick
and Dad said to tell you they were pleased to hear from you and will
answer on Sunday.

Myrtle Bank
5 May 1912

My darling old kid I have had another Quiet Saturday Night duck with out you but before I go to write I can think of a lot of things. I was pleased to get that lovely big letter from you. I hope you are well as I am only for loneliness duck but Willie Hyde came up last night and I went down and helped him to carry his fone up I was wishing you were here duckie. I was down at Daves yesterday afternoon and they told me they saw you in Town Miss Towns and Old Dave told me you told him you hadn't heard from me for a day or two but I know the gay Old rascal teasing me. I got this paper at Daves and they reckoned I was going to write to you duck but they can reckon what they like. I saw Gordon Littlejohn and he says it is hard luck you and Win Both being down the Tamar but he wants me to go to look at a job with him down the Tamar somewhere but if we go it will be next Saturday Afternoon and of course I will see you pet but I am going to Georges concert and I will be Door Keeper and I will put them up the Strait that night. I wont enjoy myself without you pet. I would not go at all

but its Georges concert and I must go or it will look bad duck. I wont dance much. I wish you were here duck there aint much for me. I will have a nice little Mostache on. I don't know what you would do to me but I thought you would not do to much duck to me would you. Cliff Hack was up and stayed with us on Thursday night and he and Bill Riggs don't know if you know him pet but they and Alf Teice and Ade Burke are going to town to work this week on the Sand Hill and Mowbray. I am writing this letter Sunday Afternoon and am lonely two duck. I saw Tom Lewis going to Scottsdale the other morning and he wanted to know how you were and he reckend that you would not stay down there long and he said well I suppose you are going down the Tamar about Saturday and he wanted me to go with him to work down there pet but Im better by myself that all. I wonder how fat Johnny Bunny is getting and Brown no I do not. Do you think you can get up to Georges concert pet but no such luck I suppose. I wont stay many oures because I will be working on the road. This is some nice Ink I got from Aunt Lucy I hope you lice it. I would lice to write more often but I don't know what to say duck (I like to see them)

XcXcXcX

As time rolls on may he make them. I bet you Quids I don't xxxx
- space hum

And bring you good luck with a non -

Ide lice to see them xxxxxxxx - stop run,

Well pet there is another wedding up here but perhaps you heard about it before me I don't know but everyone you see knows about it. It seems funny to me but they say Arthur Williams and Louie Griffiths are the contracting parties but they say that they should have been married 12 months ago but I can hardly believe it duck. I have not seen Louie since she came home but so long as they are satisfied it nothing to do with others is it pet. Well duck I have made a lot of scrawls in this letter but you will over look that I'll bet wont you duckie. Well pet I would squeeze you if you were here tonight pet but oh no such luck is there duckie. I will wait for you if it is 20 years. Mick cut her foot yesterday poor kid.

I have got another wire fence to do when I am done on the road with Harry. I have got a half mile to do for the McArthurs but I might be somewhere else at that time if Gordon and I get that job. We wont

know till May 22 but duck the best day of the lot for the year is May 21st. I think well duck I could write for a week to you duck but I must conclude with best love and xxx from yours only boy A.E.A.

Blyth

these are all for your dear old self and mind with Old Mr and Mrs
Gunn you don't get shot and mind the little pope Gunn.

They are dangerous.

X

Envelope with the letter and addressed to
Miss J.E. Towns

C/- Mrs Gunn

Rosevears Jas

Myrtle Bank

12 May 1912

My dearest old girl

I am still alive and kicking and I had a letter from an old friend of mine and yours well pet I was very pleased when I got your letter and was pleased altho it was so small a small one is better than none duck. You know I would be pleased to get only a line from you but I would rather get a lot from you. Well I hope you are well as I am but very lonely. I never asked your mother for that photo duck I would of asked her for it only I wasn't game but I would of liced to got it. I will get her some day or I will make a big mistake if I don't get the photo I will get the girl and then I'll have her to myself then. Mat has just arrived here Sunday Afternoon half past two. Bert Freiboth is here helping Kate to wash up and poor Old Alf writing and cutting wood . Last Sunday I cut an enormous heap of wood and again today I am training. Mat, Jack and Jim got their PC all right. I haven't been to Patersonia for ages I don't seem to want to go down there as much now.

I say Louie Griffiths and Arthur Williams is soposed to be Married of course they wrecken they have been married 10 months but Arthur doesn't want his Mother to know. Mrs Griffiths wreckened they have been married 10 months only they kept it quiet and she has got a nice little daughter six week old and its name is Rosie Williams. I would not of told you duck only I know for a sirt but there are a thousand of them duck whats natural isn't sinful duck. Kate saw the baby she went up to Griffiths and saw them and told her all about it. Well duck I never told you when I came home Friday Night they gave me two letters one from Roseyears and one from New Zealand. Of course you now who sent the one from Roseyears and my old friend George Appleby and he is well and wished to be remembered to all the people up here and one that's not up here now as well. Well pet I could not get down duck I haven't seen Gordon lately and we never bothered about it duck. Well I am going to the concert, I'll take Mat because Hilda is in Sydney and I will look after her boys for her that will be good and I wish Mats Sister was here for me to take. Poor old Mat broke the pedal off his bike today so the bikes still braxe they are now good. Well pet I wish I could see you duck when so you think you can come up to

Town that's the time duck. You let me know when you can come up to town it will be before you get a holiday. I suppose when you have the weeks off I will see you all the time then. They are having a bit of chopping and running up at the Hall on May 24th what I told you about and I suppose you would be wild if I chopped duckie and I thought I would ask you and I would do anything you tell me duck. Mat tells me he is going to town next Saturday so I have got him to wait until I go at the end of the month. I hope pet that you can come up to town if I cant see you duck I wont go till you come up to town you dear old Kid I do miss you and I bet you miss me to not praising any self up but you know I think I'm the one because you know duck you musnt be too sure of anything but I'm pretty sure of you or I'll be had if I don't. Well duck you will excuse this letter scrawls and blotches. Kate and Vera are teasing little Phyllis about Mat and Mat and Kate are washing up and I cant write while there is a row or any one talking. I hope you feel well duck and pains gone now. I am lonely without you duck and I do wish you were here it is hard to be away from you. I feel miserable of a Saturday night or a Sunday. I really do miss you and am getting worse every day duck. The smooging we used to do duck oh no duck we would not smooge we never did did we.

Oh we looked quiet didn't we pet but people thought we were soft and slow because we never smooged in front of them but let us alone I am a fair smooger I know but pet you are a real smooger you dear old Kid you are the best old girl I ever saw and I wish you were here tonight I would squeeze you or I would try duck. Anyhow I know I am the only one that can cuddle you or at least the only one that you would let cuddle you willingly, the other could but not much in it for them would it duck. Never mind I will have you to myself wont I my dear old kid. Well old girl I am very near wound wound up for something to write there is a lot to write but I cant think and I get mixed up and I am better when I am with you aint I.

Well I must say good night dearling old girl. I remain your ever true
man (Boy I mean)

A.E.A. Blyth

All these are for you duck

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

PS

These are not very nice fish they are a bit out of shape but they'll do

I.E.I.A.E.A.B Ill bet you quids I do I do like to see them

Aint is shocking to show the fasten on the stocking

The roses red the violets blue

Carnations sweet and so are you

Envelope with the letter addressed to

Miss I.E. Towns

C/- Rosevears Post Office

Tasmania

Myrtle Bank

15 May 1912

My dear old girl

I now take the pleasure of writing these few lines hoping to find you well. I was pleased with your letter duck I think these calendars are pretty true in a lot of things anyhow duck I'll tell you what I think about them. Well mine I see you pet you poor old kid with rheumatism. I hope you are getting better now duck there is only Harry Millwood Bill Roach and I on the road and it will take three a long time to do it there are three more coming in a fortnight so it will take all of us a good while and the days are so short that I have to go to work in the dark and through the bush you cant get a bike to the job and you have to walk. I am going to camp over there when this concert is done with and I will be in the tent after the concert is over. I wish it was all over now I tell you duck I don't want to be bothered with it if I could get out of it . Well duck I wish you were here you would have a job to leave again after wouldn't you pet. Well it wont be much the concert and dance.

Well pet my toothache has all flown away but my heartache is still here too true. I miss you pet there is no mistake well I am only sending you a small note but I cant seem to think of any news. I have never heard from Win or Ciss since they went in because I have never wrote to them. It is only in love or in debt that robs us of our rest. Don't you think that Mrs Hide will do you duck but you know she could not do you pet there is none of them could do you pet don't ever think they could. Now pet will you let me know whether you think you can come up to the concert or what day you can get up to Town for a day and night. Duck well I only look for your letters duckie that's all I look forward two. I often think of the smooging I and you used to do I am no good at it by myself duck I am some when I've got you with me pet because as I've told you before you are the best Smooger I ever saw in my life.

Well pet as I am getting sleepy and feel tired and writing the same thing over and over but you will excuse this short scribble wont you duck. I was thinking of you tonight as I was coming through the scrub I was wishing you were with me duck. I am always thinking of you pet

I forgot to tell you Fred Pecks funeral. Bill Roach is going to kill him at Myrtle Bank so I don't know what Norah will say I don't care what they do to Freddy or Norah either so long as they leave you and me alone duckie so goodnight old Kid.

I remain yours ever loving AB

These are all for you pet xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Myrtle Bank

19 May 1912

My dear old kid another short letter. I was going to write your letter last night because I had a lot to do today and I felt to lazy and tired so I went to do my bike up a bit this morning and I was greasing the chain and of course turning the wheel and I turned one of my fingers under the cog and took it around under the chain and cogs and it was some solid I tell you but it was only one cog caught my finger and the other part jammed it so I cant write to plain or two much because it is paining more than a big cut. I will be expecting a letter on Tuesday duckie, it is too much to expect you to write every mail.

I am sending you a PC it isn't a nice one as I got it from Mrs Daves I haven't been in town you know don't you duck I am making a nice mess of this letter duck I hope you can read it and I hope you are in the best of health.

I am going to try and write a line to Cis and Win today because I haven't wrote a line to either of them since I have been in town but I

can't say that of everyone since I was in town and I might go to Skemps tonight they are humming me to sing and on the circumstances I suppose I will have to sing a bit of a ditty of some sort. I wish you were here duck I don't think it will be much there it isn't any girls about now and the fellows wreken they cant have a good time without girls but I never was one for girls so I don't know what about it.

I think my two brother in laws are coming up today, Mat and Jack you know I have six unmarried sisters so there is a good chance for some of them isn't there duck. I am going to have one good dance at the concert with Kate and am going to help to play. I will tell you what I think about girls born in May when I see you. I am not going to deny anything about April. I don't know what you think about April boys some of them funny cattle aint they. I suppose there is good and bad of all sorts aint their. We are having a terrible lot of rain up here duck. I told you I answered George's letter and I have not heard from him since I am pretty sudden on him aint I.

Well him and I were great friends at one time but when the both want
the same girl xxx it is a bit off isn't it but I would have fixed him more
if he had of been married but that doesn't matter some times but never
mind Else I know they cant have you can they, I know a young
fellow told another he had a good show with you if you fixed just when
I first went with you duck and when I see you I will tell you who
they both were.

Well duck I must close with best and fondest love from your old boy
Alf

Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxexcuse this crammed up these are your own xxxxxxxx

Myrtle Bank

21 May 1912

My dear old girl

I got your welcome letter tonight and I was a bit surprised to hear that you never got a letter from me and I am wild about it after me writing and posting it and you not getting it. I suppose that's why you never wrote to me on Friday it seemed a long time from one Tuesday until another with nothing to see form you duckie but never mind duck Kate got your letter and she says shell answer it on Sunday and tell you about the dance. Well duck this is all the paper I have I got a box of paper and the girls used it of course girls well duck I am sorry you are wild with me about that letter but it isn't my fault duck I don't want forgiveness but I wrote you a letter. I don't exactly know what to write about there is not much news if I was (was) with you I could tell you a lot of things, duck if I was with you, you said I would have to teach you to smooge again. It would take you a long time to forget it

I'll bet quids I never told you I nearly got a hiding a week ago.
There is only the Millwoods and Mervyn Boden that knows about it.
It is over a week ago duck was the first man challenged me out before
I never had a go at them. It wasn't because I was frightened of him
it was because he was an old man and I knew I could beat him easily
and everyone would wrecken I was a coward if I had of hit him but if
he isn't satisfied now I will lug him on Friday, he told them he would
have another go at me on Friday so if he does I will satisfy him or I
think I will. All men talk a lot of what they are going to do and this
great man is (William... D Imlach) There is going to be a Bicycle
Race up at the hall on Friday, good job I have left off writing isn't it
duckie. Well you said when you never got a letter some one had run
away with me there a funny thing to think. Well duck don't be frightened
of me running away if I do it will be with you or I'll never stay in
Tasmania many years duckie if I had you here tonight I would
squeeze you some. Wait until I get hold of you you'll see more duckie.

Tell me when you'll be able to come up to town wont you. Well duck I
am not quite sure but I think Jack is coming back on the road with his

Brother, I mean me, his brother is at the mill. What am I thinking of
I do miss you terribly. Mat and I shot three rabbits on Sunday night
with the rifle. Mat shot two and he was as pleased as if he XX Hilda.
Well pet you will excuse this scribble wont you. I don't think all that's
true about May Calender. Well pet if I wrote for a week I could not
tell you what I want two. I get mixed up all together.

I must close now close with best and fondest love from your Alf
XXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXX

I am yours AlfXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXXcXX this is crammed
XXcXXcXXcXXcXX

Top of the letter

This is a smugy letter I don't know if you can read it pet, if not xxx
this is yours xxxxx

Lyndhurst
Saturday
Winter 1912

My dearest old mate

Received your PC a couple of days back and thought I would drop you a line for old times sake. The reg you know. Well duck I am very pleased to hear you like the place and the people. You say the scenery is pretty, no doubt it is, most places about 12 miles from town are pretty. Cis said you did not have to get up till 6 o'clock, that isn't too bad at all is it, if that only lasts but perhaps it is just through winter.

I suppose that you have laid a few letters on before this, eh Else? Oh no) Cis doesn't like her place one little bit, she has an awful lot to do and has to get up at a quarter to six, ain't it deadly. We have been together every night since she came there. Cis gets Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights off and every other Sunday out to tea but I don't reckon she will be there for too many, I hear Els.

How do you get on with the young Breech loader, is it much trouble?
Do tell me duck, when you write, what kind of people they are and if
you still like it. I saw old crooked stomach today, as bright as ever.
Well dear really don't have any more news. I will soon be looking out
for a reg from you and I will write a longer letter next time.

I am expecting the elustrious Cis along in a minute so I will have to
draw off. I am yours to a cinder Isabella Slap-cabbage.

Goodbye old snake . Yours sincerely W.L.B.

Ask Mrs Gunn if she is loaded? Tell her I want to know.
It took 10 minutes but I got it. George is getting along splendidly.

PS

I just had a letter from Kate, she says that was up home yesterday, and
Jack came down and took Cis up to see the Leonges. I was going too
but they went without me and I couldn't find them. All the afternoon

I was looking, but no luck so I did not see Jack and came home very disappointed (ahh poor me)

I meant to post this letter on Saturday duck but had no stamps to hand, never mind the news won't be too stale.

XcXcXcXcXcXcX Goodbye duckie much love from Winnie

XcXcXcXcXcXcX

Myrtle Bank

June 2nd (1912)

My dear old girl

Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Just a line in a hurry I am confused today duck but I will get over it some day. I hope you are well as I am at present. I haven't much news duck Uncle Tom and his little boy are up here they came last night and I have been working all day duck. I've been over to Bodens and Skemps and I've got to go over to Jim Boden again tonight. Hubert has been sending messages to me for two or three days and he wanted me for a mate with him but I got to go and see him again tonight. He has gone for Alf Prior today because Dad told Hubert last night that I had a long job with Harry Millwood but I haven't got a fortnight yet duck so you can't blame me can you duck. Bushing is rough work and you don't like me at it I know duck but it is good money and it is tempting duck and road work is as hard and dangerous as bushing.

Well old pet I don't what I am writing there is a lot of them talking duck and I never got your letter last Friday and it seems a long time since I saw you pet but I will see you before long wont I. Well duck I am very busy grinding axes and cutting wood not the good Old Sundays like at Sunny Side ha what pet don't say anything. Kate and I went to see Old Harry Hyde last night and we never came home till 12 o'clock.

Well pet Dad is waiting for me to help him with the cows and then I will go over to Bodens and wont be back until ten o'clock tonight and I have been over there once today and now got to go again.

I would squeeze someone if they were here worse luck they are not. I see in the paper that job Gordon and I were after is not done yet so theres still a chance duck isn't there. Ciss never got a letter from Pioneer yet. She went to the dance on Friday night and she isn't home yet. My face has been swollen since last Wednesday morning until today so I am very fat now. I will be able to tell you more about my affairs next letter duck. I am miserable without you pet no one else for me will do.

Till the world goes rolling on if you know how much I love you would
listen to my song You cant stop me from loving you no matter how you
try I know your not responcibal for the twinkle in your eye some day
youll find a sweetheart and Marry by and by so you cant stop me from
loving you so please don't try) you wont try will you pet you don't know
how I feel today duck I am boxed up duck without you two true xx

I must now close with best love to my dear old Girl and everlasting
one AEA Blyth theres a name to go to bed with. I never mind
if... don't XXXXX XXX XXX XXX XXX take these after meals
XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

Goodnight pet I never asked your mother yet for her only single
daughter.

Myrtle Bank

No date on letter but believed to be 9 June 1912

My Dear Old Girl

Just a line in answer to your loving letter. I am sorry I could not write on Thursday but I know you are wild with me pet but I have been working all day today and its Sunday and 4 o'clock and we got to go to Daves yet tonight and back to my camp and my mate will be back in the morning and I hope I don't see that thing Mrs Cornish saw. Well duck I never got home till nearly Dinner time Sunday and I came to the School for my bike. I leave my bike with my Mother-in-law at the School and I came there about dark and stayed and had tea and yarneed to Jack and Mat not their sister this time and I stayed all night. I have put a week in the bush and it is pretty wet Duck. I have not been to see Annie yet shell think I have forgot to come and see them. I might go and see them tonight. Well pet I got the photos and they are good and I gave Jack the Other to give his mother because I was too frightened to give it to her.

Well pet I have a lot to tell you if you were here duckie I don't want you to think I am mean when I ask you this. I am working over there and it is dark and muddy and we work till night and we get our food brought up to the mill and if I want to write I have to come home so if I wrote to you every Sunday for a while duck I cant get yours and Ciss told you that I would get yours from Annies or your Mothers and it wont be fair to you pet to write two two my one you know. What if I was write you I can say more and Smooge you some but I'm no good thinking of what to write. You said I was a young tinker when I never went to Nellies Social but I admit I promised Teacher to go and help play, but I never knew you may think it is an excuse but ask anyone my jaw was puffed up like a football that week from Tuesday till Saturday and that's why I never went duck. I never heard how the Social went off when I wrote to you so I could not say anything about it. I am glad you fixed the PC. I thought it such a nice couch and I would like to have a Smooge on it with you pet. Will you go the the dance duckie don't get a boy will you or Ill K... I him if you do. Well duck I give you something for talking about Teachers sister.

Well pet I wont be home until next Sunday again. Well pet if you were at Sunny Side I would come over and see you then pet wouldn't I.

I would have wrote more if I had a good head to think of it but I'm a mutton head. Goodnight duck you old Sweet.

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

Well pet I must now close with best and fondest wishes form your Old Boy Alf Blyth X

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX These are yours.

Myrtle Bank

June 15th 1912 Saturday night

My dear Old Girl

I am now taking the pleasure of writing to you and it is the only pleasure I get to write to you or get a letter from you. I hope you are quite well as I am, only the same Old District trouble again poor old Tom Millwood, one of the best friends I ever had duck and a man every inch of him you have no idea duck how miserable I feel tonight. I've got to go to his funeral tomorrow duck and I think of much of Tom as his Mother dose in earnestness he was a good fellow I can prove that and fancy his poor wife and three little children duck it is worse for her duck. Well pet trouble will never end in this district duck well if I had not of just went down there I would of went out of this duck but I might not be there long. Ciss tells me tonight she has a job for you and her. Well pet I got home about 6 o'clock tonight duck. I went to the school for my bike and your Mother made me some tea and I had a lunch and I got home at dark. I suppose you knew all about Tom Millwood duck before this duck.

I got both your letters duckie and your mother never roused on me for getting so many letters from her daughter. I suppose she don't care what you do now duck. I am surprised at this business with Tom and Annie duck and if ever I thought they ahd a row about me duck I would never forgive myself if they did. Well pet as true as steel I never though of such a thing pet I am stunned I wont let him get jealous of me duck I bet. I am glad I knew about it pet. I went over with Tom last Sunday Night and I stayed their and we got up early and I went over to the hut and my mate was there and I am going back into that lonely hole of a camp by myself tomorrow night and Herbert don't come till morning he stayed with dolly and his mate has not got his girl or I kid myself I have got a girl at Rosevears. Well pet I love to get a letter from you and I cant get out to post one or I don't have the things to write with. I wish I had you at the camp Sunday night but when I havent got you duck I don't care if I am at home or in the camp by myself. I have not been home a night to stay for a fortnight and I have not much time to talk now I have to go to Daves for my things of a Sunday because I cant go on Monday morning.

I haven't time I have to go to the funeral at 2 o'clock tomorrow and after that I have to go to McArthurs Jack and I and then to Daves and so I have no time duckie but I have always time for you to smooge but you are a smooger duckie and

Letter resumes the next day Sunday 16th June 1912

I know you are well pet you are the only one I think about and I wish you were here to night. I would feel a lot better duck. It is Sunday night and raining hard. I have to leave Home before daylight in the morning and I have been to poor old Toms funeral today and it was a beautiful one two. It was raining hard all the time but still there were at a rough guess 150, their well being as I was a extra good friend of his I when picked by Harry his brother to carry him from the Heirs I did not of course refuse but I don't know why I did not like to do it so I got another to come and Mr Armitage and I took him from the Heirs and put him on the bearers shoulders and the good crowde showed respect to him and I was real pleased for the family sake that is showed he was liked. My dearest it shows that we never know the day we are called for and his poor wife was there and walked up and had the last look and I can tell you it was an Hour of silence except tears.

I pitied every one of them pet. Well I don't know when there is going to be a change at Patersonia I'm sure. Well pet you wont know what is wrong with me duck I have spelt this letter all hours and you will have a job to read it pet but you know I am funny like that as I thought a lot of him. I cant think what I was going to write to you pet because I am so mixed up. Ciss got a letter from George Appleby. I don't know if I spelt it right now pet. I never got an answer to mine yet I suppose you dear Old sweet you will have to come up soon as you and Ciss have to go away and we will see each other then pet wont we. My head has been aching for a week off and on thinkink bout you dear. I got your dear Old letters and it is the only pleasure I get to read them duck but if you did send two many your mother would not say anything would she, you could not send two many for me pet but it is not fair to expect two for one and I will be able to send you a sensible letter next time pet. I am ashamed of this in a way but you always make room for it don't you duckie. If you know how much I love you would hear my song but you know pretty well how much I love you don't you. I am always thinking of you my sweetest I often wish you were here with me when I am lonely and that's pretty often as I am lonely

when others are happy because your not their. Well pet it is after 10 o'clock and I am thinking of going to bed so I must say goodnight with all my best love from your Own Old Boy AEAB J.E.T someday. Goodnight my sweet Old Kid I never knew I would miss you so much as I do pet but you are always in my mind. I remain yours always XXXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX A Blyth.

I wish I could give you these myself XXXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX
We had a letter from Mr Crump and they are well. Duck let it be soon that you come up

The Mercury Friday 14th June 1912 P4

FATAL ACCIDENT AT A SAWMILL. William Thomas Millwood, aged 30, years, a benchman employed at a sawmill at Patersonia, was working at a saw bench on Wednesday afternoon, when, by some means, a piece of timber flew back and struck him in the abdo-men, inflicting a terrible gash. He was taken to Launceston on Wednesday night, and admitted to the General Hospital, where he died shortly after 5 o'clock last evening. No further particulars are available as to the cause of the accident, and an inquest will probably be held to-day.

DEATHS.

MILLWOOD.— On the 12th of June, at the General Hospital, Thomas William, dearly beloved husband of Mabel May, and second son of Mary Ann and the late Thomas Millwood, of Patersonia, aged 36 years.

No place

c 1915

Dear little Gwen and Vinty

I received the jam and thank you very much. You are a good little girl to send me such a lovely present. Vera says she was very pleased with Vinty's jam too and will send the pot back when she can fill it.

I will send you a present each soon. I was so sorry that it was too wet for me to come and see you, but wait till I come home next.

Vera said to give you her love.

Good bye ducks.

Love from Auntie Kally

Don't forget to write to me. Give my love to Mummie

I am very glad that Vinty can whistle. Win says she is coming down to see you.

From Auntie Kallie X X X X X X X X X X X X

Kamona

12th Jun 1915

Addressed to Miss Gwen Blyth

C/- Mrs A Blyth

Myrtle Brook, Myrtle Bank

My dearest little Gwen

Just a little letter for a little girl. I was very pleased to hear from you
and to hear that Vinty will write soon. Tell him I am looking out for
his letter. I suppose you are a big girl now Gwen. I will hardly know
you. I took your letter home with me last week and locked it in my
treasure box. I am going to keep it.

Good night little Gwen.

Best love from Auntie Kally

Love to little Vinty XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXc

For Gwen and Vinty

YMCA Letterhead

Field Service Building, Reinforcements
Camp

Claremont, Tasmania

Aug 13 1915

My Dear Sister

Just a line in answer to your letter which I received a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you and that you were well. I had a letter from Jack yesterday he says he is likely to come down here before long. How is Charlie Williams now oh and Mr Lewis. I hope he is better by this it would be terrible if he had anything up with him, the children would starve I guess. Did you get the photo I sent to you. When is Gwen and Vin going to get their photos taken before long I hope and I want one of you and Annie and Mother if you could get them taken. We are having a sports meeting here tomorrow but they don't have any chopping Matches here they are having a tug of war here they have picked us out for it today. I don't know how we will get on it is one Cumpanie against another.

Well Els old girl I think this is all I can tell you this time. I am writing to Alf and it wont do to put the same thing in his as yours so good night.

(On reverse side)

I got a bit pushed for room on the other side so good night with best
love from your ever loving brother. MB Towns

These are for little Gwen and Vin. And tell them I got their kisses.

YMCA Letterhead

Field Service Building, Reinforcements
Camp

Claremont, Tasmania

Aug 13 1915

Dear Alf

Just a line to let you now the Turks hasn't got me yet but I have got a ratten cold my head has been aking for two days and still going strong. There has been cases of Tyfoid feaver here this last weak so I heard them saying, but I don't know how true it is. There is fifteen hundred here now and some of them are pretty careless about where thye make their water but if they are cort they are fined half a crown.

Well Alf old bloke how are you getting on amongst the Ha lately - are they as thick as ever. We are having sports here tomorrow they are going to have a greasy pig and a mile run in Military boots and a lot of other things as well. Saw Jim Whiting and Edgar they send their best respects to you and Will Whittle also he said to tell you he is doing B. famous, we will be up to see you again if we can get our leave.

Well Alf old chap I must ring of as I cant think of much news just now, so good night with best respects from Mat so good night give little Gwen and Vin a XXXXX or too for me

YMCA Letterhead

Field Service Building, Reinforcements
Camp

Claremont, Tasmania

Aug 26 1915

My Dear Sister

Just a line or to hoping you are well as we are well here. We are having splendid weather down here lately. We have a pretty good time here. It is like a holladay for me I am still in good order I weigh forteen stone eight now I aint doing bad. Boob is down here after all I haven't had a verry good talk to him yet I saw him yesterday for a little while but he had to go about his business he was just going to his tent with one of the Sargents and he couldn't stay long to talk or he would have lost sight of him. Young Ted Mulcahy is doing well and Edgar and all other lads. I had a letter from Frank and Linda yesterday they are doing well. They said that little Ettie said to tell me not to go to the war but goe up to her place. Linda said Frank wants to go to the war very bad but she don't like him to goe. He said he didn't like to see me going away by myself but I am alright when I get to Germany bet your life.

YMCA Letterhead

Field Service Building, Reinforcements
Camp

Claremont, Tasmania

(Early Sept) 1915

Well Els old girl there I ont much news to tell you. I wrote to Annie last night. I am writing to some one nearly every night I aught to be a good writer when I goe away from here. Tell Alf little Vern Peterson is down here he onley came down a cupple of days ago he says he is going up for to be a officer he is a Sargent.

Well Els how is little Gwen and Vinty getting along. I wonder will Gwen know me when I goe up on leave. I reckon to get it in about a weak that's if they don't send us away very soon but I think I will get it. I will let some of you know when we are coming. I think we will be going away in about three weaks by the way they are going they are sending a hundred a weak away and we aint far behind the ones thy'e are sending. Well I wrote all I can think of now so I will draw my letters to a close.

I had a letter from Myrtle Brook yesterday they told me you and Alf
are going up there for a week so I am addressing this letter up there.

So good night with fondest love from Matt

XcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcX for Gwen and Vin

XcXcXcXcX and a few for you

Ta ta give my love to all up at Myrtle Brook.

YMCA Letterhead

Field Service Building, Reinforcements
Camp

Melbourne en route to Europe

23 Sept 1915

My Dear Sister

Just a line to let you know I am still alive we landed at Melbourne about ten o'clock today. We had a splendid trip over. I was just a little bit sick but nothing to speak of. They kept on the boat for about three hours and then they marched us to the station and then we came out here we got here about four o'clock. Young Jack and Gordon is here as well so I think we will go away together now. We are leaving here on Saturday so they tell us. I don't know where we are going to so I can't tell you. My word that is very sad about poor little Gladis isn't it. I can't imagine it yet it doesn't seem as if she can be dead. Did you get the photos I sent you before I left Claremont. I sent one to Phyllis and Glad but I suppose she was dead when I wrote it. Well Elsie I think that is all for the time best love from Matt

XcXcXcXcX

These are for the children.

I will send the address when I can get it. Good night I have got some more letters to write yet. There is about 1400 men here so there is a few more than there is at Claremont. Got to old Start till I see you again.

Remember me to Alf and all the others you see.

Editor note 2018:



Private Matthew Robert Towns

No 2928 12th Battalion 1915 then moved to 49th Battalion with no 3614.

Returned to Aust 18 May 1919

Club Hotel, Launceston

Sunday

1915

My dear brother,

Just a line as I know you will be expecting it to know how poor little Glad is. She is just about the same poor little thing. She still laughs at us and says she is feeling better but I don't think the poor little thing will ever be better.

I've stayed up with her till 12 o'clock and then we came down to the Orient to have a bit of a rest and we have all seen her today. I can't write today very much but will send you some word by Thursday. I feel too tired and worried to write any more. Give our love to Elsie and the children, they all send their love to you all. Goodbye, I hope to have better news for you on Thursday.

I remain with best love, your affectionate sister, Cissy.

2018 Editor Note: Gladys Ruby Myrtle Blyth (known as Toggy) died on 20th September 1915 and was buried two days later in the family plot at Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston. She was joined there by elder sister Win and her parents Bridget and Alfred.

Telegrams to Blyth Family

20 Sept 1915

Mrs Blyth just rang up to say Gladys has had a very bad turn, very low little hope. In haste Alice

21 Sept 1915

Dear Alf, I have just got word through to let you know poor little Gladys passed away last night. The funeral is to leave the Orient Hotel at 3 o'clock tomorrow for Carr Villa. You are not to go down until the morning. Accept our deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement.
Alice Toll.

45 Albion St
South Yarra
(Mothers sister's house)

2 Nov 1915

My Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know I got over here alright but sorry to say I got three days in the guard room for being two days over my leave. I never left Tasmania till Thursday and got here on Friday morning and when I went to the Barrocks to report they put me in the guard room and they didn't know what to do with me till yesterday and they sent me out to Broadmeadows and when I got there they gave me three more days leave, So I came out here to see Auntie last night, they all seem very nice. And Auntie is like you, She said she would like you to come over and stay with them for a while, all the girls is nice too. I have seen them all but little Annie. Well Mother I would have written before but they had me shut up in a room ever since I landed with no bedding and only a bit of bread and jam to eat for three days and nights, I never had my close... .

(Ed note: bottom of the page is torn off)

Tasmania till last night and never had a bed or blanket to sleep on, so that's just the reason why I never wrote to you before. I don't know rightly which camp I will be in yet but I think it will be Broadmeadows, Will Whittle is coming over in the Loongana tomorrow so I am going down to the boat in the morning to meet him, he is in the Artillary. So I am going to have to try to get away with him if I can. I am not going to try to get back to Tasmania now as I might have a chance of getting away with my old friends. Well Mother I don't know where your are now I heard you was in Scottsdale before I left but I will address it to Lisle and Mrs Falkner will send it to you I suppose. Well I think this is about all for this time hoping you are well as I am at present and all the people here is well, remember me kindlay to all I know also frank and linda if you see them.

With best love from Your Loving Son Matt XXXXX

2018 Editor note:

Matt's mother was Emily Mary Towns (nee Dunne) who was born in Kilmore Vic in 1856 to William and Annie Dunne.

She had three known sisters, Annie b 1862, Alice b 1871 and Edith Lillian b 1878.

Abbassia, Egypt

December 29 / 1915

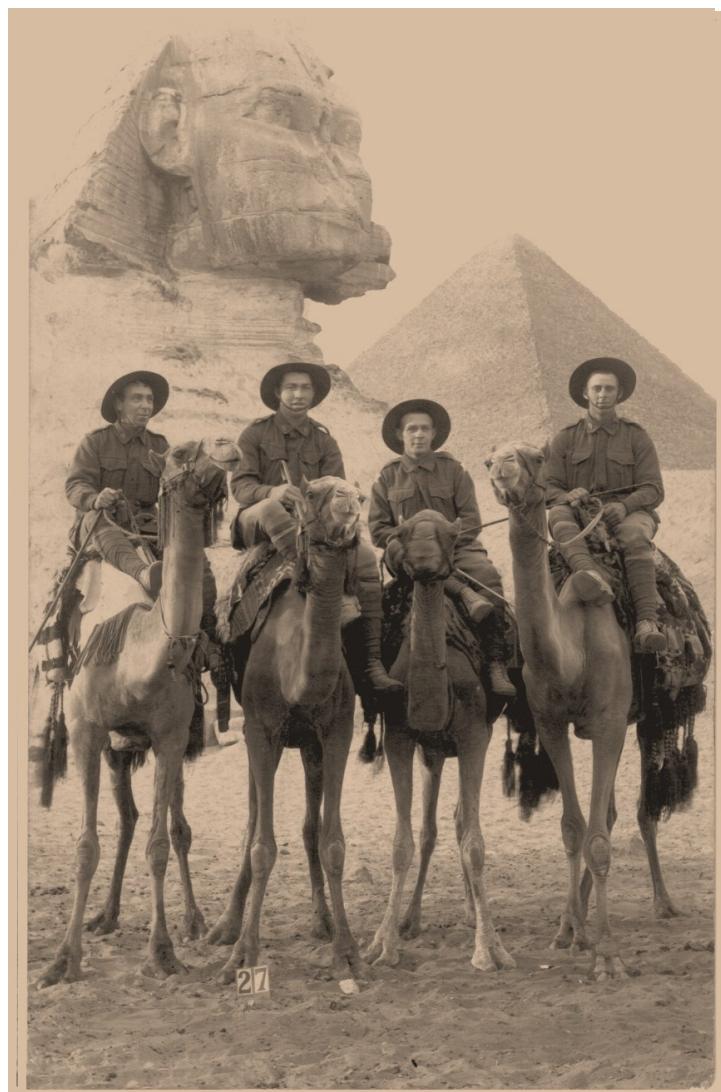
My Dear Sister

Just a few lines hoping they will find you in the best of health. Also Alf and the children. I got a letter from Vera and one from Kate yesterday the only letters I have got so far except. I got some from you and Annie and mother that was wrote when I had the measles before I went back to Tassie last time so that was all stale news. I was so pleased to hear from them as it is the first letters since I left Tassie. I got a terrible surprise when I learned that Vera was in the Sanatorium. It will be a terrible worry to poor Mrs Blyth and the Rat poor little chap will be terribly upset now I reckon. I wrote you and Annie a couple or three letters each since I have been here. The mail leaves here once a week. Tell Alf Boob has reached here and I wish he had the old bob bord here we would have a good time of a night.

We don't go out of the camp much. I don't go much on the little black gins after all and there aint many white girls here and what there is you cant understand what they say to you so they are no good to me. I saw Frank Burke on Christmas Day he was over at our camp he is camped at the same camp as Edgar only about three miles away from us but I haven't seen Edgar yet but I often see young Jack and Gordon. All the other blokes that I started with the first time is here we are all in the same camp so we don't have such a bad time after all. Well Els old girl I hope you had a good time Xmas but I don't suppose it would be much there aint many left up there to cause any fun now.

How is Kaser getting on in his new home I suppose he is Swished by this time. If he is tell him I wish him all sorts of good luck and also my new sister. Tell them I might be back to have next Xmas dinner with them. We didn't have much of a Xmas this year but it was better than I expected we had Xmas billies and tinned pudding, there was lots of other nice little things in our billies such as lollies and figs and cigarettes that was the only thing that seemed like Xmas at all.

Well My Dear I think I will close for this time, tell me how little Gwen and vin is getting on when you write. I hope he won the championship at St Patric River this New Year day. Give my love to all an except share yourself. I am your loving Brother Matt.



**Matt Towns in Egypt 2nd from left.
Others unknown.**

Egypt

28 Jan 1916

Dear old Alf

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well also the rest of your family. I hope little Vinty is well again now. I got a letter from Els the other day and she told me all about little Vinty being bad and I was verry sorry to hear about that. Well Alf old boy what sort of a Xmas did you put in. I suppose there wasn't much chopping going on up their through the holidays. I thought Vinty would have went well in some of them but if the chap has been so ill I suppose he wouldn't be very strong.

Els told me your mother hasn't been very well lately, they are having a bad time lately, I have only had one letter from Vera since I been here and that was wrote just after she went down to Hobart, but I have had three from Kate the last one I got she said she was just going home for Xmas but I suppose that is all over by this time.

I heard that old Jack Whitcomb and flow has gone away on their honey moon, but I would rather him have the honey than me I tell you. How is poor little Sid getting on tell him I got those kisses he sent me and also little Gwen and Vintys.

Well Alf old cobber I got a terrible surprise yesterday I was sitting in my tent and two chaps walked in and one of them was old Jim Leeho. I looked at him for a while before I spoke and then I wasn't sure about him as I thought he was dead. I asked a cupple of fellows that had been to the front with him and they told me that he was shot this was before I seen him, but it was Jims brother Jack. I tell you he was pleased to see me, and I was to see him again, we didn't have verry long to have a yarn but he is coming over to see me next Wednesday and we are going into Cairo together. I often see Edgar and Jim Whiting and young Jack. We have a bit of fun sometimes but a fellow cant go far on a bob a day, but I suppose we wont want much money before long I reckon we will soon be having a bit of their skelps. Frank Webber and Cyril Ryan is in the trenches now and I would have been with them but couldn't get away.

Boob is still going strong he is a hard case you would laugh to see him tormenting the niggers and talking in their language, he is just the same. They tell me that the Kiser was thinking of coming to the war after Xmas so I suppose he is in camp by this if he is coming. I thought the chap would have been married before this, and he is a fool if he don't.

Well Alf old cobber I think I will draw this letter to an end hoping you are all in the best of health. Give my love to all.

I still remain your true brother Matt Towns.

Remember me to old Jack McKillop, tell him Jack is doing well and he wishes to be remembered to all of you.

XcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcX kisses for dear little Gwen and Vinty

Telel-kibir

9 March 1916

Dear Alf

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well as I am at present. I haven't had a letter for about three weeks now but I suppose they have been muddled up for a while lately as I have joined the 52nd Batt, now and Frank Webber and Ted Morrison and all the other boys that came with me is in the same Batt as I am. But Cyril Bryan is in the 12 Batt and I don't think he will get with us again. I saw Will Corkrie last Sunday and he is doing well now and wishes to be remembered to all of you when I wrote. I haven't seen Edgar or Jim lately but I think they are in this camp somewhere.

Well Alf old boy I think I have told you most of the news here well it is all I can think of at present. All the boys wish to be remembered to you so I will say goodnight for this time give my love to Els and all the rest at Myrtle Banks also little Gwen and Vinty XXXXX from your old Brother Abroad

Address now is No 3617 52 Batt 13 Brigade AdF

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

These are for Gwen and Vinty hoping they are quite well ta-ta from
Matt

YMCA letterhead

Reply to B Coy 52 Bat

Egypt

April 29 1916

To My Dear Sister and Brother

Just a few lines hoping they will find you all quite well as this leaves me at present, except I have got a bit of a cold but that isn't much to speak of. I received your birthday present and letter which was inside the parcel and was affuly pleased to get it. I got it last night it was a bit late for my birthday but never mind better late than never, I enjoyed it very well I tell you Els and thought of the times I used to have at the old place where it was made. Well Els there was a good few of my maits in the tent with me so I celebrated my 21st Birthday with them altho it was a bit late, but they enjoyed it as well as I did. It was the best bit of cake I have tasted since I have been in Egypt. Well Els I am not at the front yet as you reckoned I would be when you wrote but still here amongst the dust and sand. I am about sick of Egypt it is a dirty hole of a place.

Frank Webber and Ted Morrison is still here with us. They wished to be remembered to you (letter torn at bottom of page so text is missing)

Time, I heard two or three times that he was in jale, but he was over here before I got the letters. I had a letter and card from one of his sisters the other day, she is in Melbourne and she told me she heard the same tale about him from home, but of corse she knew it wasant true because she came to Melbourne with him when he left to come away after Xmas.

Well Elsie old girl I suppose Gwen and Vin is growing big people now, I got the toffy they sent me. Tell Alf it reminded me of the time we was working at Dydleham.

How is Jack getting on with his farm I had a letter from Essie the other day when I wrote to her I told her I reckoned she would be married by Xmas so she wrote back and told me I was out of it, but she reckoned they would be married by the time I got this letter, So I suppose they are married by this. I have only had one letter from Jack since I been in Egypt.

Well I think I will close now as there is not much news to tell you, it
is very hot over here now, we get up at 4 o'clock of a morning and drill
from six to ten, and then from four o'clock in the evening till six, and
sometimes we go out of a night for an hower or two. Well E & A I
will close now with best love and wishes form your ever loving brother
Matt, I am sending you the little flower of the top of the page in this
letter, let me know when . . .

Editor note: *letter torn at bottom of page so text is missing*

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

These are for Gwen and Vinty and a few for yourself from your own
brother Matt

Kamona

14th May 1916

Addressed to Gwen and Vinty Blyth

Sunnyside

Patersonia

Dear little Gwen and Vinty

I got your two little letters and was very pleased to hear from you. You are good little people to write to me. When are you coming down to see me Gwen?

Vinty is too small yet but you are not. I hope your face is better and also Vinty's knee.

I had a letter from Uncle Mat the other day. I suppose next time I come out you will be quite big people.

I must close now with very best love from

Auntie Kally

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXcXc

For Gwen and Vinty from Kathleen

Egypt

May 25th 1916

My Dear Sister Els

I received your ever welcome letter and was glad to hear from you. I also got a letter from Ivy Annie and Mother and a lot more besides I got 12 letters yesterday. I had a good bit of reading and now I have got to do a bit of writing to answer them but I am only writing short letters to most of them or I wont get them all wrote, there is not much news here to tell you but I will try and write you a few lines where ever I am but there might not be much news in it.

I got the cake you sent me for my birthday, it was a bonzer. I wish I was where I could get one a bit more oftener. F Webber got a parcel from his Sister in Launceston there was two bonzer cakes and a lot of other things. Well Els I will write to you later I have told Alf all the news I can think of. How is little Gwen and Vinty. I don't reckon they will know me when I get back.

Well old girl I will say ta-ta for this time I am your loving brother
Matt.

You can give little Vinty and Gwen some of these ta-ta

Egypt

May 25th 1916

Dear Alf

I received your very welcome letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you also to know you are all well. I got letters from most of the people about there I also got one from Bill and Mother. I got the parcel that Els and you sent me. Well the first one any how, I don't know if I will get the other one or not. Well I see by that piece of the paper that you sent me that they must be a bit scared of you with the old axe yet.

Well Alf old chap what are you working t these times, I thought the Kiser would have been married before this, how is the Crown Prince getting on. I have wrote him a cupple of letters but haven't got any answers to them yet. I believe the chap is going strong with Miss Froggie Richards, he must have turned Addie down surley. I hope no one is carrying on with Marther whilst I am away. Eileen told me in

her letter that the old thing was going to write to me, wont that be nice
I hope she sends me some nice cake or a few cherrys, some thing nice.

Well Alf old boy I wouldn't mind if we were after the old roo again now, a fellow could always get a good feed when he came home. How is old Chum getting on. I suppose vin will be catching rabbits with him before long. Well I don't know when we will get a shift out of Egypt but I hope we soon get a shift we have been here too long now, I would like you to see Cairo it is the dirtiest hole of a plce in the world. I reckon you couldn't ammagen what it is like without you could see it to know. I would never believe it without I seen it
Ta ta Alf old boy.

We are on out-post nearly every night. Well I haven't had my close off for eight days now, and we do five hours drill a day and out-post of a night, I am not quite so fat now as I was when I was over their but I feel well. It is verry hot over here now in the day time but it gets cold of a night. I got a letter from c Williams the other day he is in France now, I wish we was their to instead of here. We only get a bottle of water a day to drink and wash in as well but I never wash in

it really never thought a fellow could live on it but of cores that is only some times, pretty often I don't know how Sid will get on when he gets over here it is a fair buggar of a place over here for lice flies and sand. I am as lousy as any bandycoote, we have to sit out in the sun every day and search our flannels to keep them down a bit as they would carry us out of our beds. I can nearly catch my regimental number now. We are in the trenches now but haven't seen any Turks yet and don't think we will wile we stay here.

YMCA of Tasmania

On Active Service with the AIF letterhead

(Egypt)

(June) 1916

Missing first page (letter to Alf)

But you must have been starting them up to get where you did. When I saw the names on the paper I felt like, I would like to be having a fly with them but I don't think I would be much good on the old axe now, dont get enough inside lining to swing her. There is times when we only just get enough food to keep us alive and that is all, I think they are getting us used to going without food, but I think we will be like Paddys horse we will die just as we are getting used to it.

Well I never thought a fellow could live on it, but of cores that is only some times, pretty often I don't know how Sid will get on when he gets over here it is a fair buggar of a place over here for lice flies and sand I am as lousey as any bandicoote, we have to sit out in the sun every day and search our flannels to keep them down a bit as they would

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2 Launceston
May 9th 1918

Dear Alf,

Just a line trusting you and the children are all as well as leaves me the same old thing only more sick and tired of been hear. I dremped I cleared home out of it last night but found myself well hear this morning. Willie was up to see me today and he come over to see me for a few minutes. I haven't been out since I went to Church on Sunday morning. I cannot walk too far. I had a letter from Annie today but none from Myrtle Bank or from you. I don't know if yous got any letter I wrote to you and Phill on Monday and just posted them when Win and Vera come up to see me and brought me a letter from Phill. Both Annie and Phil told me you went right home on Saturday night its what I thought you would doo. Eileen was up today and I gave her some money to put 2 lbs of sausages and 2 loaves of bread and leave them at Nelsons for Billie to take out to you tomorrow so I hope you get them all right. I only had 4/- or I would have sent you more

bread but if you want any more you aughto send by Billie or Tommie
for them in between times. I had to keep a cupple of shillings for stamps
or any little thing I might want.

Annie said you were up at her place on Sunday night or Monday I
couldn't say rightly which it was. I hope the Children are all well and
look after the chickens and Pip. I thought I would have nearly ready to
come home by this and pass I'll not come in so soon another time. It
is a fortnight tonight and I reckon I'll do another week yet and if I
do it will be just as I thought. I don't mind been in the Hospital but it
is so long waiting hear. Well Alf the girls have just come up so I'll
finish this letter and give it to them to post. They are all tired they have
been out to Carr Villa the three of them are hear and I cant wait any
more so I think I'll draw to a close this letter.

With fondest Love to yourself and the Children
from your Loving Wife Elsie Blyth

Vin Glad Gwen

X_cX_cX_cX_c *X_cX_cX_cX_c* *X_cX_cX_cX_c*

Launceston

May 15th 1918

Dear Alf,

Just a line in answer to your very welcome letter that I received this morning but was sorry to hear you had not got my letter because I paid Eileen the money on Thursday a week ago today and she got the sausages and bread and left them at Nelsons for Billy to take out on Friday and I wrote a letter to you the same night and posted it and I wrote again on Monday so as to let you know about myself been layed up so the letters must be out there somewhere and I never got a letter for too mails from up there. I didn't write to your Mother because the girls was up and couldn't get in so they said they would write and let your Mother know as I wasn't to write to much but I wrote to you every mail since I've been in hear but I'll address this one to Myrtle Bank as I thought you would get them quicker from Patersonia. It seems funny it is just my letters goes astray but I suppose the herring guts wants to find out all they can but they wont get much out of them. I was sorry about the parcel it would not be much good to you now as the sausages would be all sower and the all bread wet. Never mind I

hope I will be home soon, baby will be a week old on Saturday. Its was in to see May on Tuesday she came in to see the Dr as well and she got a surprise to see me in hear beside May. She said the mill was not working that day and it as rained in hear every day since but I hope clears up by the time I want to come home. I am glad all the children are well and I suppose little Glad will nearly forget me by the time I get home. Ciss and Win was up last night to see me and Ciss was pleased as usual, she would not open her eyes she is like the rest jest sleeps all day and night. She was born at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, I told you all about her in the other letter so I hope you get it. I was a bit wild when I didn't get a letter and two males past because the time seems jest as long to me waiting in hear its like being in jail but its not so bad now I can count the days until I go home. May will be going home on Monday and Mrs Bill Kettle is in the bed one side of me and May the other. Young Bill Kettle is in hear now seeing his Mum, he just come. She is a terrible noisie woman I was in hear 4 days and she never spoke a word to anyone and May said she had spoke to her and she never answered her but she as been talking this cupple of days a bit more.

Well Alf there is no news much to tell you. Win was coming up this afternoon so I'll get her to write to your Mum as it is horrible lying in bed writing. I am glad you go up to see the children often and it is a treat. I reckon to get a decent meal now again. I told Essie she could get one of the drakes some time I hope she doesn't take a duck. If she does she will have to yank it back she was to give me 2 pullets for one drake.

I thought old Mother dear would find out about the duck. I had a letter from Kate the other day. She said it seems like as if she is the only one to write to me. Everytime I am in the QH she said she was going into Scottsdale last Saturday but it diddnt rain as usual and she diddnt go. Give my love to all at home and tell them both me and Doris are doing well and these are some kisses for Vinty and Gwen and Glad XXXXX from Doris and myself oh and a few for Sid
XXXcX

I'll write my letters to Myrtle Bank from this one. I called the baby Doris Josephine. May called her baby Vede Iris.

So ta tar with best love to your self and children from Baby and myself. I am your loving wife Eloie XXXXXXX

Patersonia

Feb 6th 1921

Dear Alf,

Just a few lines to answer your very welcome letter that I received on Friday and was glad to hear you were all well but very sorry to hear that your bike gone wrong again. It seems a bit of bad luck for you from after been waiting so long for a bike. You said you missed your little mate but I think we miss you just as much. I hope it is alright thinking you are coming and I ask her tonight. What I would tell you, and she said she would send a kiss and to tell you to come home last Saturday. Next Sat I suppose she ment. Steve Bartley was up here last night to see if you was home and he told me to tell you the Mill is going to start cutting on Wednesday so you can have your old job back. They have got a team of bullocks now and the Haller is going to start in about another week and he said he would like for you to come as soon as you could. He can wait a week or so for you but when the Haller starts it will be a bit awkward for then he said your wage would be either 5 pound 8 shillings or 5 pound 10 shillings. I don't know which it was

now a week. He said it will be better for you near home. He said 6 pound ... well away from home.

I told him you would write to him yourself and let him know when you could come or if you were coming or if you could come.

I heard today that H Bartley as left the district they seem to think that he and Steve as had a row it was only Billie told us so don't say anything about it. You must excuse this short note as I am getting Katho and Ronnies things together Lionel is taking them to town tomorrow. Thank goodness for I don't feel much fit to look after them.

I have been so sick and my throat gets so swollen and sore I nearly choke at night some times. The others as been all fairly well Vince as got terrible pains in his stomach tonight he only got it today but I hope he will soon be better. I havent saw any of the Parkers only herd how the kiddies are going after Charlie next week and

These are all from little Doris and the others and myself love from Else

xxx

Love from Else

xx xxx

Patersonia

Aug 25th 1926

Dear Elo

Just a line in answer to Mick's shock I got tonight well I suppose we will manage them. There is always some things for the best and I am pleased to think you are all right and you is thinking of a name. I never told the kiddies there was two babies only Vince and he won't tell them yet. Phyllis nearly went into fits laughing when we told her she had a brother she laughed until black in the face so I don't know what she will say when she knows the truth.

I wrote you a letter last night and missed the mail this morning so I am going to go over to Mrs in the morning with these. I told you I had to learn Arthur Williams to ride motor bike this afternoon and I had a go with him. Well I never laughed so much in all my time I had to bring bike back home tonight and he stayed at his

mothers place and is coming in the morning to tackle to ride it to Myrtle Bank. I never saw such a mug in all my time. I showed him the note Mick sent me about the boys and he said we will have a drink on Sunday.

He is going in to see his Mother, she went under an operation yesterday and is doing well, she had appendicitis. I am coming in on Sunday perhaps before. I don't know what I am writing tonight but you will excuse this wont you. I will close with best love from all and except some for yourself and the lads.

Love from all. I remain your loving husband Alf
XXXXXX

Top of the letter - I am putting this in with others from yesterday.

43 O'Shannessy Street

Nth. Melbourne

Sunday 12.2.27

Dear Alf,

I received your welcome letter some time ago glad to hear you are all well as this leaves us in the pink. Plenty of sun to keep us warm. But today the warm spell has broken and it has rained nearly all day. So we were unable to go anywhere. Old Crossley will have a bit of a spell. She is still running well, and is the goods.

I suppose you haven't been able to sport a car just yet. The last big trip I done was over the Black Spur a frightful big climb, the longest pull in Victoria. But my buss went over quite easily, I had a few days off last week so I ground in my Valves and tuned her up. I had a run out yesterday to South Melbourne Beach and she run like a sewing machine. I suppose you heard of my good job cutting out. I have had two different places since Motor Body Building is falling off a little nothing much doing.

The job I have got now won't last too long But I have something else in view a man can't afford to be out of work these times especially here in Melbourne where living is pretty dear.

I had a letter from Kev the other day he said he had a likely buyer for that chassis of the The Minerva at £95 so if we pull that off and I have a good year I may bring my car over next year all being well. I hope your job hangs out allright for the winter I went down the other night to the Motordrome And seen a good nights racing Seen Hubert Opperman beat the crack French riders. Well old man I will ring off Hoping to hear from you some day. Remember us to all at home. Best wishes to all.

Yours Sincerely
Claude Baldock

PS

I hope your little man is well again and got rid of his clip our Kids are both well.

43 O'Shannessy Street

Nth. Melbourne

August 23rd 1927

Dear Alf,

I suppose you will think me dead for not writing sooner to tell you the truth I have given the writing game up and have taken to car dealing. Ken and I have also started an Interstate Car Agency so if you are wanting a good cheap car all you have to do is deposit about £5 in Kev's safe and drive away, I am sending Kev over a 38 Horse Power Minerva on Saturday's boat, I would like you to see it Alf and the following week I am sending a sports Ford underslung and special radiator 6 new tires and tubes, everything ok. I have bought these pretty right and hope to make a few pounds on them. The Minvera I bought for £25 electric equipment and a beautiful engine everything O.K. have a look at it as soon as you go to town, it will be too dear for you but when you think of getting a bus I'll get you one cheap and good my Croosley is worth looking at now I have it all done up ne Hood and paint a great car it is too old now. I was hoping to bring it over at Xmas But I don't think I am going to Tassie this year so I will let some of those fish grow.

Well Alf I hope you still have constant work. Kath tells me you little men are having a picnic today at least a birthday party, I would like to have made the chaps a present of a wireless set But I have too much money out at present. I suppose some day we will be better off. I have a good set and get some beautiful music and concerts I would like you to hear it.

If you are still thinking of getting a car don't get one over there. I can get you one at half the price you can over there and electric models at that at £35 to £40. What about you come over here at Xmas it will only cost you a fiver, I'll pay your fare one way it will do you good. I'll give you a ride in Crossley we will be going up to see Cis and you will be able to see the wonderful Gippsland and take a nice car back with you. I think you had better come we could book your passage back here before the rush comes on and you would be sure to get back in time for 12 months more work.

Best love to all from all of us.

Your sincerely
Claude

"Gladwin"

5 Hobart St.

Launceston.

8.11.1927

Dear Alf -

Just a line or two hoping you are well,

We had a letter from Els, and she sent your address so I sent for some papers. Hope you got them safely.

Wasn't that steamer collision in Sydney Harbour a dreadful thing?

We are having beautiful weather here, suppose it is the same up there?

Dad did not come home last weekend, but I think they will be coming home this week, as the Westlake has another job nearer town somewhere, out the racecourse way I think; and Dad will be able to come home at night. Gladys stayed a week with us, and got her glasses alright. Mum got your money from Mr Bourke and sent it to Els. She was to come in yesterday but I sent word it was a public holiday for the shops; so I expect she will come in one day this week! We, did not get a holiday

yesterday, and we were very disappointed, as we could have gone out with May? on Saturday and stayed until yesterday.

P.J. Baldwin's were about the only ones that did not get the holiday. Poor old George Priest died last week and Uncle Bob Blyth was supposed to be dying last week; but he is up and gone home again, as he thought the ewes would be lambing and there was no one to father them. We had letters from Cis and Kath last week. They are all well and send love to you. How is the work going up there, and how long do you think it will last. I did not have any luck with any of my Tatts tickets or sweeps. A girl who works near me won £12 on Melbourne Cup, and the old office girl at the Lonnye? won £5000 in Tatts. Some people are lucky aren't they. The old "Triumph" has not been drawn for yet, but they told Mum that it will be drawn any time now. Phyll is still working over time; and I am still on short time. I have every Saturday morning off. Mum, Phyll and I went to Lewis's for the evening last Friday. Percy Towns arrived back from Melbourne last Saturday, and stayed at Annies until yesterday, then went straight through to Legerwood. I suppose Vince will soon be coming in for bet on xxx. I hope he has luck.

The Baldocks are not coming over this Christmas, as Kath says they have not got any money. I am talking of going to Hobart, but I don't know if it will come off or not.

Melbourne Cup was a great success this year and there was a good crowd here over the ~~xxx~~ for the races. We have had some nice cabbages out of the garden, and next Sunday we are going to have green peas. How about coming to dinner; I don't know when I will be able to get up to see the shop. Phyll and I were long on the thought of getting up there this holiday. We might have the *luck to see* a trip out there soon. We got Els 1,000 onion plants ordered; ready for when she comes in. Now Alf I must say goodnight.

Love from Mum, Phyll and your loving sister Mick.

XXXcXXX

XXXcXXX

XXXcXXX

Patersonia

11.12.1927

My Dear Alf,

Just a line in answer to your very welcome letter I received yesterday. I was pleased to hear you was well and also glad of the 2 pound. I suppose you have got my letter before this and the Bills there is always someone waiting for the few shillings. we had the good rains here the same time as it was raining up where you are and we had a nice shower on Friday night it will do good and it done harm to some people it did harm for poor Jack you will be surprised to hear he got his nice big house burnt down Purcie is camped there and has his food at Jacks and he was over at Matts until 11 o'clock on Friday night and he got wet going over to Jacks and made a big fire and put his clothes to dry and went to bed in one of the other rooms and was woke up and heard cartridges going off and he run and opened the door into the kitchen and it was like a furnace they say he got a few things out but there was nearly all the furniture in it.

They say he had the house insured for a little but nothing on his furniture. So Purcie is the man to shift houses. Poor xxxx Jack his luck is still bad it seems.

I might tell you that Mr Alexander had a bad accident on Saturday also he got married it seems very sudden no one new mutch about it and Kelly Preston is getting married next month he is going to live in the Preston home and the old pair are going to town to live. I suppose Albie and Flo will be the next to be getting married. I hope you had a better Sunday today than last was. I have it to lively Edna Ellen and Mrs Laurence has been up today. Mrs Laurence brought her phone up with her. The potatoes are growing fast. Vince and I hoed some of them the garden is coming along since the rain the things look well. Did you see the Comet it is Devico's Comet Vince said to tell you we saw it to nights it didn't show out tonight we are going over to the mission in the morning got to be there at 7 o'clock so it is time I was in bed excuse short letter and I will write you by Wednesday.

From the little fellows

XcXcXcXcXcXcXcX

XcXcXcX

The children and myself all well hope you are the same love from Els

XcX

I am sending a few snaps that Kathie Lewis took. You will guess who they are I'll bet you will see to Mum's pony away for a walk on there own.

So good night old sport with fond love from myself and children from your loving wife

Elsie Blyth

XcXcXcXcXcXcX

"Gladwin"

5 Hobart St.

Launceston.

11.2.28

My dear Alf

Just hoping you are alright. I sent you some papers last week and addressed them to Pioneer; and I hope you got them alright. I had forgotten your address until Vince told me today. He came in for the Henley on Tamar today and we are taking him to Beauty Pt tomorrow, and he is returning home on Monday. He said the children had had the coughs badly. Poor little chaps never seem to get a fair ~~xxxx~~ do they.

Uncle Jack was in for a couple of days and Uncle Dan has gone back with him for a week or so.

Phyll has been on the sick list this week she has indigestion very badly and the doctor told her not to eat anything for three days. Mum had a sick bout last week. Xx is alright again now. Dad came home again last weekend and is coming home today.

We had a letter from Cis and Kath during the week. They are all well and one of the Gordons ran second at Caulfield the other day. Cis says they are improving as they go on. Mum backed the winner of Hobart Cup, and got 9/3 for half a crown.

How is work going Alf, we are pretty slack now and there have been such a lot of girls put off; but I am still hanging on.

The big picnic went off alright. There were 1400 textile workers went. But a terrible lot did not go. I could not be bothered with trams. The weather is still very cranky here; hot as blazes one day and rainy the next. Now Alf I must conclude, with love from us all.

Your loving sister

Mick

XcXcX

XcXcX

I sent xxxx Becketts Blue xxxx and Smith's so hope you get them alright. I am sent another lot next week.



Patersonia

14.2.1928

Dear Alf,

Just a line after keeping you waiting so long for an answer but I was to crook last Sunday night for to write I had been up for three nights with Des I reely thought he was gone once or twice Poor little fellow he has a terrible cough and so has Pat well they all cough a lot at nights I have had a terrible time with them but they are all up and about again but still cough little Des is the worst now and myself I am just getting it I have been lying down all day but just got up to milk the cow and I thought I would try to write you a few lines now your father as just come down and bought his Music Box.

This is Wednesday morning I could not get this finished last night



Last night Des was very cross and Mrs Millwood came up as usual and what with the noise and the melodeon going I could not write.

I had to lay down with Des so I will post this by Tom Pearson.

I could not get it finished for Allen. I still feel pretty squiff. My throat and chest is so sore I am sending you a few pappers by Fridays mail. I aught send them today but I cant sit up long I feel so sick. Purcie has gone up to Blessington Mill to work he reckons he will take John as soon as he gets fixed up Old Dave sent me a note the other day asking me what we was going to do about the account owing It is raining here this morning Vince went into Hennly on Sat and went down to Georgetown on Sunday came home on Monday old Uncle Dan shouted him his fair he gave him 10 shillings to pay his fairs Uncle

Dan came out on Friday with Uncle Jack He is going to stay up with Uncle Jack for a while and he saw Vince at the Post Office and gave him the 10 and told him to in to Hennly and have a good time as he would not be there Phyllis as been laid in bed for a fortnight.

Toms coming so later

with love

from Elo

Write more on Friday

XcXcXcXcX

Patersonia

11.3.1928

Dear Alf,

Just a few lines trusting to find you well and going strong in the land of life but I suppose you find it quiet after killing all those rats. It must have been lively at night before you caught them. I got your letter on Thursday. Vince did not go for the mail on Wednesday and was pleased to hear you will soon be home. Hilda was here on Thursday and I told her you wanted Matt to look out for a job for you and Matt told Vince yesterday to tell me if I was willing or I was writing to you I was to tell you Steve Bartley has got a job for you whenever you are ready as soon as he gets the mill ready at Sunnie Side. I don't know what it is that's the message Matt sent up. So it will be better for you and I won't be sorry to have you home at night it seems terrible hear on our own. Just fancy old Marrion went to Matt last Sunday and ask him if he would come back to the Mill again and he said Harrie let her come and ask him and he told her he had a good paid job now and he wasn't leaving it for them after the way they served him.

She is a crawler now but it will be better when they get the Mill set in in Sunnie Side. Mrs Laurence Millwood said they are burning it now and by the time you are all finished up they will be about starting cutting. All our little fellows are getting better slowly they still cough a bit at night Vince went up Rickety Arm and picked 30lbs Black Berries again today. Doris and Gladys went after dinner and got up there in time to help him home with them he had his tin full when they got there he is a champion on picking them that makes in all 100 and 10 lbs they have picked and he picked the most of them.

I might mention John has reely one young fooley come for him with a motor bike the other day that's the word Purcie sent me. I never new where he was as mutch he was not at the mill he has been working on Farms Harvesting it appears and John is to work on this farm for fooleys at Musselbrough. So I told the young fellow I haddent all his things ready So Purcie will have to come and get them he never sent me anything for his board that will come later. I believe he left a beaut of a mess in poor Dashed Jacks shed when he come down last Wednesday week to that Dance Jack stayed at McKillops and Purcie got drunk and went up and slept in Jacks big bed and Jack has had the tick hanging out

ever since. Jack said he cant get the, B, stink off it. Ess is home With her son. Old Crumpie was here today and gave me a little more doings of the District More trouble brewing in the MB District The good red headed one is on the go now and the Red Ellice heeler is the one blamed well old Billie said the old woman as good as told him thots the one they blame but dont say anything there will be more about it this is getting a good District great improvements going on and young Bill is going strong with Una Fawkner now. Gwen went down and stayed with Lorna Mcarthur on Sat and house keep until Mrs Jack went and meet Mary Mcarthur She comes over from Melbourne on Sat.

I sent in and paid old routley and got some more things I have got to send Edwards some money and they all snorting I havent heard anything from Rudd since you went Aunty Phill is down at Aunt Ellens for a holiday. I think this is all for the present as it is late I have been bottling jam and sauce and it is 11 o'clock now so I will say goodnight old Deer for present with fondest love from myself and children

I am your loving wife Elsie Blyth
XXXXXX

PS

I am very sorrie to hear about poor Jim Mitchells trouble having his wife ill Poor Kath Nellie will be sorrie to hear Nellie is so ill I suppose none of us are sure how long we are here for but it seems worse when you now you are likely to go off any minute like she is I think she ought to go to another Dr because that Derby Dr told Mrs Harold Churcher? that she has a leeking hart and Mother said she went to town to the Dr and he said it wasn't anything of the sort and she only wanted to rest it was other things caused it. So you ought to tell Jim Mitchel to try another Dr. Mother says she thinks it was like a good many more with Mrs Churcher and when things started she got frightened and that's what the Derby Dr told her.

I think Horrice is been to Bridport today took the Imlachs and the McArthurs as he went up early this morning and back tonight, Alby has done the Rover in and got a Chevrolett a grey with blue bonnet lost 200 on it. That's making money

Love from Elo

xx

85 Bathurst St

no date given c pre July 1932

Dear Alf

I am just writing this at Annie's as I haven't saw Mother yet. I have been looking for her and it is poring rain. I am waiting at Annie's now as Annie said Mother was coming up hear to see if there was a letter from me so I am going out now to have another look for Mother now but it is half past one now and Peartons leave at 2 and I want to send you some fruit for the children and a few sausages of something for yourself or some green lettice they look very nice in the window and they are good for the blood. I will write by Friday if I am not coming home or I might be able to send word out some other way to Pecks we want the seats. I would have called at Uncle Harrys this morning only I thought Mother would be at Annies and it was raining but I suppose I'll see her sometime this afternoon.

Mr T.J. Lewis is just arrived from the Coast. Some toff, light gray suit and Bap Arthur is still doing the block.

It would drive me mad to live in a hole such as this. I hope the little cow was all right when you got her. I will write a little more on this if I see Mother as I go down to Peartons so I will say ta ta for now with love from Els XXX

PS Just saw Mother haven't made arrangements going to see
... ... Carrecon now so will send word by Friday.

Patersonia

5 June 35

My Dear Alf,

Just a few lines as I promised I would write on Sunday but anyway I did not write Sunday this is Monday but I thought it would catch the boat if she goes on Wed. Gladys and Gordon came out yesterday afternoon and stayed until about 10 last night and I was not feeling the best because I was getting the flew. I was pains and aches all over and I have just got up It is very tight on my chest. Phill stayed home today My chest is lik (like) as if rasp has been run down my neck. Terrie has got it to but the chap said he wanted to go to school today he only had sore throat but I think he is getting it it has been so cold what with frosts & snow & wind it no wonder at a body having a cold I reckon you are lucky if there is no frosts or snow down there for it has been that frosty it would freeze throw all the bedclothes you like and put them on then rain and then another frost on top of that.

Vince and Mr Bucknell and killed Vincos pig on Saturday She weighed 148 lbs our pig wasn't fat enough

Bob has gave me two bags of chats from Charlies so I will fatten my
to up and Vince said they will come over and kill them if I let them
know when they are fat. Jack Miles came & Vern Towns just as they
came so they made them help & then Vince & Jack & Mr Buck all
went with the cart & bought 2 or three loads of wood & cut it up so
many hands made light work. & Lilly Collens had a birthday party on
Sat night & she sent word with Vince for us all to go so of course we
went over with them in the car that night me and all the kiddies & we
have come home with Max on the lorry but it was cold & I think that
set my cold off. I wanted Phill & Pat to go with bob and come he
would have took them for he went with us he & the good one but no Phill
wanted me to go and I new I was getting the cold. It wasn't a bad
little turn out She got some nice presents & old Fred got a pipe out of
it.

Phill has gone to meet Vince there might be a letter Phill has just got
back but no letter so the boat cant be in

This is Wed morning and I am finishing this letter for Vince to post
I got a tattersalls ticket Arne said your oversight was on the ticket I

guess it was your sindicate I will put it in this letter if it does no good
better luck next time I hope Jackie got his bike going again.

Allies dogs got into Old Joe Wilsons sheep & killed three & worried
another pretty bad he shot the dogs one dead and wounded the other a
white spaniel and is going to make Allies pay for his sheep he spent
25 /- a head on them old sheep for his xxx I think they are having a
court case over it My cold is not a whole lot better yet All the best Alf
ok xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The kiddies all send there love and except the best from your loving wife
Elsie Blyth

xxxxxxxxxx

PS Young Jack McKillop is back in Scottsdale Hospital with xxx on
his leg and one of his little girls got burnt pretty bad on the same day

Patersonia

10.6.1935

Dear Dad

We have just got your letter tonight, and I am glad you wasn't sick.
We had Vern down again, telling fox yarns, he's sitting beside me now
tell Sid Cork yarns about his motor-bike.

Jack Miles has something wrong with the B.S.A.

Lily Collins is having her 21st birthday on Saturday night and Max
Falkner is playing for it.

Vince brought his pig over for Mum to fatten and Rodeo and Vince is
going to kill it on Saturday.

Gordon Parks has left Trilly and he's living with another woman. Kevin
Parks was over and stopping at Kath's place.

There are carpenters at the school painting it now. I'll send you a
photo of Dawn, Gwen and Babe, Mick's sister but send it back to me
next time you write.

Charlie Ingeram was supposed to be married and have a daughter, but
I don't know if its right.

Frank and Minnie Butwell have had a bit of a tiff.

Well this is only a short note but I'll write more next time.

I remain

your ever loving daughter

Phyllis

Patersonia

18.6.1935

Dear Dad

I wrote to you before but Mum didn't post it, but I'm just writing you this little note. Gladys and Gordon came up on Sunday, and she was telling us about Pudgy's little boy.

Tom is working at the school now, but only for a few days. In the other letter I told you about Charlie Ingeram, I'll send it and a photo of Dawn. Kevin Parks books 8/- worth of tobacco on Kathie Luck's bill, he broke their wireless and took it away and didn't tell them until Kath went to turn it on, and Kevin said he took it to be mended and he told Kath it would be 2/- and when they went to get it, it was $\Sigma 3$ but he was in Melbourne then, he said he was going to Burnie to get smuggled away on a boat.

Little Shirley is reading this as I am writing it. I wish I was over with you for a while.

Mr Lawrence Millwood has got a weeks work from the bottom turn to the school.

There was a man tramping through here this morning, but Bob was here as luck happened.

Jack McKillop is in the Scottsdale hospital again, and the other night his little girl was standing by the fire in her night dress and it caught alight and burnt her arm, and they took her to the Scots-dale hospital to get it dressed.

Mr Westlake is still up here, but he is on his own now, he can't get a mate.

Tom Pickett is staying at Charlie Williams place for a while. I think Mum has told you most of the news although I have told you some.

I will close now,

I remain your ever loving daughter Phyllis

My axe is getting blunt but it does me for a while yet.

Mrs Kelly Pearton is supposed to come home this week, bad luck for Kelly I reckon. It was Mick Burkitts birthday the other day. How is your little clock going? Bob is carting out his potatoes from Charlie's place. Mr Lofton has come home form the hospital and another apsis has come on his thy, but he wont go back.

Patersonia

25/6/35

Dear Dad

I thought that as I was doing nothing I would write a note to you. I have been in bed for 2 days with the flue but I got up on Monday morning. Phyllis is in bed now with it. Phyllis Dee and Jerry went to school yesterday morning but Miss Freeman had Bronkitus and there is no school for a week. Vern towns came here today he wreckened he had a terrible back and the flu but he would go on playing with Dee and Ted and when they ask throw his back was had hold his back and Ooooooo me back.

When Bob come down vern had gone to town with Mr Olson, he said Vern was putting on to get to town. You know the coat that Uncle Pursey said he gave 5 pounds for well it was Jim Lewises he took it our of his wardrobe and six shirts everything except his good suit.

Jim said he saw his Father before Christmas. Tom Walsh was doing the school well.

I think knows is getting shot so I will close know with a loving kiss.
I hope the boat does not have to anchor. I would love to be
WhiteMark for to live Mum does too.

From Pat

XxxxxxXxxxxx

Half of these are for your black women This kiss from all X
Mum wreckons you will like her for she's like this
Love from your loving daughter

Pat

I would love to hear about the Mountains.

Patersonia

4/7/35

Dear Dad

I am just writing to tell you what's been done on Saturday. Vern and Veda landed up here. Lew Warren and Vince killed the biggest pig of the two. Veda came out to help Mum but shes moor of a newsens to her, than help her, she is going back on Friday - but she wants to stop till Monday.

We had a dance but we did not go it was to colect for the childrens prizes. Verns bad back he wrecked hed get into the dances and swet the cold out of him bob said it would be better to pick the axe up for a couple of days and that would swet it out of him and when he got home from the dance he was cold he had the flu for two days.

Well I am getting scarce of news so I will say goodbye.

Love from your loving daughter

Pat

Top of page xxxxxxxx from all

Patersonia

11.7.1935

Dere Dad

I hop you are geting on with the bridge-building.

The colours of the flower grand-Mother sent them to me.

Tomme has don oure school up.

I went over to Vincos place on Monday and went to town on Wednesday.

Sid Pearce has new ford U8 he don his car in.

Jim Whiting is in bed for 3 weeks.

Love from Terry

Patersonia

17.7.1935

Dear dad

I hope you are getting on allrite.

Sid Pearse has got a new ford V8 truck, he has done his car in.

I'm whiteing in bed with the flue, Phyllis has got a black and white
cittne Mrs Wilson gave it to her. Ron towns is working on the verhicle
at sid pearses mill.

Last week I went over to Vince's to stay for 2 days and I went to
town with Vince on fryday will Miss freenson has the fule so I didn't
miss any school. Jack and bob cilled the little pig on Monday she went a
100 LBS.

Mr sleet has gone to St leonards to live so we are got no man.
whith love from

Des

Down page xxxxx

Top of page Mum is writing to you to and I haven't wrot much.

Patersonia

17,7,35

Dear Alf,

Just a few lines to let you know I received your very welcome letter, also the cheque today Wednesday & I am answering it back tonight to catch the Air mail if I can get it posted anyway Tomorrow thursday I suppose I will just put c/o Air Mail I have never sent one by Air Mail my word I only wish I could get away out of this freezing hole and when you tell us of the lovely weather you are having it has rained here since Sunday & cold wind it keeps the flu hanging on I don't think Flinders would be a bad place to live it is lucky for you missing all this cold & wet weather for I am sure you could not have worked half your time. It just pored down here last night the creek is bank high & all the flat covered with water Jack Miles and Bob killed the little pig on Monday and it rained on them all the time. She weighed 100 lbs That is the last one. So we have plenty of bacon I wish I could send you a ham I might get a chance to send one by Dale Some time I sent the accordion with him.

I hope you got the packet lollies I sent you in the accordion But Gwen was with me and she said oh they might eat the lollies but I reckon they would think that the box was locked I had sent it in to Gwen She wanted it for to have a play on & She was going to get the corners done but old Wack had had it a week & never touched it so I got it as it was & the old chap said tell Mr Blyth to bring it when he comes back & I will do it for him he is very shakie poor old fellow. My word wasn't it bad luck for Purcie Littlejohn loosing there little girl well she was 15 years old next month she got pneumonia & died on Sunday night & Miss Carney died with it the same on Friday, it was Bettie Littlejohn that died it has been terrible this year the lot that has got pneumonia with this flue the wether is so cold & wet you cant go without a coat at any time of the day or night. Mr Prior was here today after dog licence he said half Launceston is down with flu. Des and Terrie has both wrote you letters & of course they must be sent separate. Des said he told you Mr Sleet had gone to St Lenards there is a policeman coming but we don't know who he is yet poor old Walt is Having crook luck with his sleepers Now he has got them out the road is closed & one of the lorry men got Fined for Carting them So I don't

know what he will do, it is a good job for you that you did not go in with him little Bob nearly lost his horse the other night he got down they got him in time & lifted him up Bob made him a stable now. poor Bob he has been very good getting us wood and doing little out side jobs while we have had flu. Ken is getting married on the 30th of this month giving a big spree at Jasper, did you get the tats ticket I sent you or was it yours it come hear but any how it wasn't the right one but we will live in hopes of getting the right one some day. Yes you can bring me a root of white violets and the blue to I love violets the spring bulbs is only through the ground hear. I will write again Sunday Or Pat and Phil wants to write to. that Des is a cutter he got to his letter and wrote it in about two minutes tonight all by his self and a few drawings you will see the same from Ted. We'll be glad when the five long days come and you are home again One good thing you have missed all this wether hear (weather here) you could not work if you had it hear for the wether

The violets smelt lovely when I opened the letter. Glad was home for a week & she went back on Saturday night after the Dance at Jasper

I will close for now with fondest love From myself and kiddies From
your loving wife Elsie Blyth

X X X X X X X

X X X X

I will say goodnight for now I have a bit of a headache its the wind
I think I have not been down the road since you left only to town its
so cold I don't like going far from home. don't miss Horsie Keep your
tail up on Des letter the dots made Phill laugh he taped it up quick and
poped it in the envelope.

20 Haines St
North Melbourne

21st .4.1938

Dear Alf

Just a line hoping it finds you well and the children much better. I had a letter from Gladys yesterday and she said they all had jaundice. You have certainly had a bad spin with sickness. I hope you had a nice birthday and are keeping well yourself.

I heard about the new grandson and hope it is doing fine. Poor old Peter Barker's nose will be out of joint now. He will say "here he is"

I have not heard anything of Perce since I came home. There were two letters here for him and I sent them down to the office as they would know where he is and send them on. He has not sent for his overcoat or any of his things he left here so he must be feeling the cold.

Tell Els that he has taken all his snaps and negatives so I won't be able to get her that snap until I see him or hear from him.

Well Alf I wrote Mr Bethel as soon as I came back but received now answer. I don't suppose he got the letter as I had forgotten the street so I just put Albert Park. The postmen are pretty good as a rule knowing the names but he may be moved. Anyway I suppose he has sold his mellow before this and even if not it would not be in such good order now perhaps.

Don't you think it would be as well to advertise all over again as I guess there was plenty ready to sell them now.

Are you getting cold weather? It is real winter here and 3 men have been lost in the snow and one died. We had red rain from the Mallee dust and terrific winds.

Well Alf I think I will go to bed now. I have neuritis in my hands since I came back but Noel and Von are not too bad. They send love to all and accept same from your loving sister Kath

Included in the letter is a birthday postcard.

