

**Transcript of Letters relating to QX60848 Private Arthur Trevor Jorgensen
AWM2017.60.1**

Transcriber: Helen Burfitt, January 2022

Transcript of the Australian War Memorial Collection relating to the Second World War service of QX60848 Private Arthur Trevor Jorgensen.

The Collection consists of one wallet of eight letters written to his mother, Wilhelmina Jorgensen, from 21 June to 5 September, 1945.

The transcriber's notes are at the end.

Transcript of letters from QX60848 Private Arthur Trevor Jorgensen, known as Trevor, to his mother over the period 21 June 1945 to 5 September 1945. Some letters are written by Private Jorgensen, others are dictated by him to a scribe.

QX60848

Pte Jorgensen T

A Coy 2/31st Aust [...]

A.I.F. Australia

June 21st 1945

Dearest Mother,

I suppose by now you are wondering why I haven't written, I have a good excuse this time. I am now camped on a Coral Island in the Pacific, not a bad looking place all that is missing is Dorothy Lamour.

The first day we got here we all started going for the Coconuts but now they are getting a thing of the past.

Seen a good show last night, a wonderful picture Bing Crosby in :Going my Way".

(2).

By the look of the place it has rained a lot and at present it is raining, just enough to make it slushy & miserable. A Couple of fellows were telling me that they read in the paper about Errol winning an M.M. I haven't heard from you for a while now, it might have got held up or are you not feeling so well. I received the parcel and also some papers, not forgetting the slip in the parcel, youll have to tell Fay that it will have to be a loss and not a credit. They will come

(3)

in very handy, thanks a lot mum. I hope when you receive this letter that everythings ok and you are in the best of health. I myself feel okay bar a slight cold. How's Fay getting on at School I believe she is sitting for Junior this year best of Luck Fay. Well mum thats all I have to say so I'll close now hoping this finds you in the best of health and all my Love to Fay & Yourself, Cheerio.

From Your Loving Son

Trevor XXXXXX

P.S. Keep writing

[...]
[on the reverse]
21/6/45

QX60848
Pte Jorgensen T
A Coy 2/31st [...]
AIF. Australia
July 4th

Dear Mum,

Seeing this is the first opportunity at writing you'll have to excuse the pencil and the dirtiness of the paper. The pencil is about as long as my little finger and the hands are all dirt & grease.

By now you have read about the great landing at Ballikpan. The usual saying is The wild man From Borneo. The only wild man we have struck is Nipon and he is as cunning as a Fox

(2)

I have been on one heavy clash with the sons of Nippon, believe me she is no picnic as Errol says. I have had grenades and bullets all around me but my luck seems to be sticking with me. I am in the best of health so dont worry about me I can take good care of myself. Had a letter from Errol awhile back saying he had won the M.M. I bet you got quite a thrill out of that. Well mum looks like I'll have to finish now, I'll write again as soon as I can so keep your chin up Mum.

All my love to Fay & yourself

Good night Mum

From Your Loving Son

Trevor

[...]

Qx60848
Pte Jorgensen T
A Coy 2/31st Aust Inf Bn
A I.F. Australia
July 6th 1945

Dear Mother,

Here I am again mum sooner than I expected I will let you know how I am doing as often as I can.

I received a letter from Mavis yesterday the first one for a considerable time you have me a bit worried over another operation, I am hoping thats the last and that you will be as fit as a fiddle in no time. The weather here in Balikpapan is not too bad a little on the hot side, so far we have struck very little rain thats one consolation.

(2)

I will tell you of a musing little incident that occured a couple of days back. When the Whizbangs were flying a fellow jumped in a trench and about two minutes later an Orang-a-Tang jumped in beside him, well he shot through like a light. Another thing

that happened to myself this morning, there are a lot of Native huts slotted all over the place, anyway I was down there leaning over a hole when all of a sudden I heard a lot of yabbering behind me. I got a hang of a fright thinking it was nips,

(3)

and me there without a weapon, As luck would have it they were only natives. The men give you a salute and the women bow, I am beginning to think I am a lord or something I got some Japs currency here I am sending a few home in this letter. The money is valueless but she does as a souvenire. Could have got hold of a sword but the way we were moving it was too much of a nuisance The blue ones, the ½ Gulden is worth about 1/8d each. The brown one is worth about 3/3 ½ d, and a couple there with one cent & ten cent (over)

(4)

The two big brown ones are more of an indian coin, if they were any good they would be worth about 18/9d each. And the lone red one is the money we get paid in it is worth 1/8d. When you got a stack of them you think you are rich. Like the Australians we have a nickname for them all ready, a Glider. Well mum thats all the news at present except I am well. Hoping everythings okay at home, I send all my love to you Fay & Mavis & Janice. Cheerio.

From Your Loving Son

Trevor

[...]

P.S Had our first bath today since we landed. T.J.

Qx 608 48

Jorgensen. T.

A Coy 2/31 Batt. A.I.F.

My dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am in hospital wounded in the right arm but not seriously

The letter is being written for me by Chaplain Macleod who visits the ward But later on I shall try and give you full details of how it happened.

But I dont want you to get worrying over me because I shall be doing alright – perhaps even get back to Australia. However, I am only guessing about this

In the meantime I want you to believe that I am progressing well, and will get the Padre to write again for me

It is raining hard so there is dust everywhere. I hope that you are all well

With Love

Trevor

QX60848

Jorgensen E

A Coy

2/31 Aust Inf Bn

18 July 45

Dear Mother

Just a few more lines to let you know I am getting along alright. I am still in hospital at Balikpapan but Expecting any day to be on my way home. Dont worry if you dont hear from me regularly as I cannot yet use my right arm. The bullet got me near the elbow & it is in plaster

I have received a letter from Mavis telling me that you were in hospital & I also received one from yourself a few days ago for which many thanks.

If Everything goes well I might be lucky enough to strike Glennie Hospital at home – but that's a big "IF".

Don't worry I'm being well looked after & will send a note Whenever I get a chance
Next time I'll be seeing Young Janice she should be able to call me "uncle"

Much love to all

Your loving Son

Trevor

18/7/45

M^{rs} W. Jorgensen

6 Stephen St

Toowoomba

Q.

T. Jorgensen

July 22nd 1945,

Dear Mum,

Just another note to say I am getting along alright, I still have the right arm in plaster and it looks as though it will be so for some time yet.

A Jap machine gun and I had a meeting but we didn't agree and I got the worst of it. I would like to teach the blighter to shoot straighter but as it was he managed to wing me in the right arm, and put a neat hole through the left wrist which caused no real damage. Another stray shot creased my ribs and I had to get six stitches put in, they have been taken out since. Despite all this I am feeling fine. The shots tore MMMMMM holes through the letters I had in my pocket, if I had had my wallet and the steel mirror on the other side I might have missed the slice on the ribs.

The worst part of the whole thing is that I have to stay in bed for the time being, but as I am now in a hospital ship with good food, splendid attention from the Sisters, and lots of fresh air I suppose it is not too bad.

I will write ag ain soon, but meanwhile don't worry as I am getting on alright.

Love from

TREV.

[...]

[on reverse]

2/7/45

QX60848
Pte Jorgensen T.
Pat 2/5 A.G.H.
A I.F. Australia
Aug 24th

Dear Mum,

You will probably get a surprise to see this writing and dont strain your eyes too much as my left handed writing isn't up to scratch yet. Well mum I am now able to walk around and make a nuisance of myself. My arm is doing fine and the doctor is very pleased with it.

Just came back from seeing Gracie Fields concert party it was only a small show and the real one is on wednesday. It went over very well, she sure is a wag.

You didnt know your son was a sick boy, I spent just about 6 weeks in bed, received 6 bottles of blood and also 4 million units of penicillin which represents about 280 needles you get a needle every 3 hours and believe me was I pleased when they took me off this morning.

We had a party on V night not a bad turn out, but it would have been better if a fellow had of been home,

Errols wrong I wish it was that close only it's a long way from there, I thought by now you would have known. Did Ivan Eiser ever tell you where he was going.

All I am waiting for now is a boat and also be lucky enough to strike the Glennie Hospital. Well mum my left hand is getting tired so I'll finish off now hoping everythings ok.

All my love to Fay and yourself.

Cheerio. From Your Loving Son
Trevor XXXXXXXX

QX60848.
Pte T. Jorgensen.
2/5 A.G.H.
5-9-'45

Dear Mum.

Your most welcome letter arrived to-day, & I was pleased to hear from you, as mail has been scarce, & it's sometime since I had a letter. The last one I wrote was a little over a week, perhaps it's the army mail service. They are pretty lax with it. Regarding the rumour, that has been going around, there's no truth in it, so don't worry. although my right arm was badly knocked about, but after some marvellous. surgery by the doctors, with skin grafts etc, I have a good arm, the only trouble is that the elbow. maybe stiff, but there is a big,

(2)

possibility. that it may come good.

To-day I paid a visit to Ron Naumann & he is only a couple of wards away. when I spoke to him, he didn't recognise me as I am pretty thin, like me he also has an arm wound but is coming on well. & we both be able to have a few chin wags now that we both are up & about.

Each night we go down to the beach which is only a few yards away & sit watching the sea roll to & fro, hoping that before long we shall be sailing home. The other afternoon we were invited out to afternoon tea, by some nurses,' who have been looking after us. & they gave us a good afternoon.

Well mum don't worry as all's well, & I doing fine, so for to-night, I'll say Cheerio. & all my love & best wishes to all.

Your Loving Son

Trev. XXXXXXXXXXXX

[...]

Transcriber's Notes

Private Jorgensen was killed on 18 September, 1945, thirteen days after writing his last letter. The plane on which he was being evacuated, crashed on Mt Carstens in West Irian, killing all on board. The wreckage was not located until 1967 and the bodies were recovered in 1970.

Ballikpan	Balikpapan, site of the landings to liberate Borneo at the end of the Second World War
Dorothy Lamour	Popular American actress and singer
Eiser, Ivan	Ivan Valentine Eiser; SN 170834; RAAF
Errol	Errol Norman Jorgensen MM; SN QX57206; brother
Fields, Gracie	Popular English actress, singer and comedian
Glennie Hospital	In World War 2, Glennie Anglican Girls School, Toowoomba, was requisitioned as an Army Hospital.
Junior	Junior Certificate Examination, mid secondary school
Macleod	Chaplain Donald Macleod, SN QX6347
Naumann, Ron	Ronald Naumann, SN QX35481
Nipon, Nippon, Nips	(In this context) Japanese soldiers
Orang-a-Tang	Orangutan; a great ape native to Borneo and Sumatra
V night	Victory Night, marking the end of the War