

VX12843.

Sgt. SAUNDERS. R.W.

C. Coy. 2/7<sup>th</sup> Bn.

17<sup>th</sup> Bge. AIF. Australia

14<sup>th</sup> May, 1943.

Dear Dorothy

I received your letter today. I was very surprised to hear from you, as I did not know that Harry had any particular girl friend, although he spoke of one, he never ever mentioned any names. I had not seen him for over 2½ years, and received only one letter from him just before he was killed. So he had very little chance of telling me he was going to be married. His death was a great shock to me and the rest of the family, and it upset Dad very much indeed, because as you know we are the only two boys in the family.

Harry was the younger of course. Even now it is very hard for me to realise that he is gone and it all seems like a very bad dream, but we have got to realise it is the truth.

Knowing the "Kid" as only a brother can know him, I can assure <sup>you</sup> that if he could have his way he would certainly not have us or any fretting over him. He is buried in a small military cemetery very close to where he fell in battle, someday I hope to make a pilgrimage to his grave. I am some where in New Guinea, and I have been over here for some time now.

3.

I have been in action against the Japanese a couple of times and was able to avenge Harry a couple or more times.

At present I am ~~is~~ having a rest after spending a week or more in hospital with a couple of very common complaints. I have quite recovered now though and expect to be back at work before another week has gone by. I hope you will excuse this note paper letter but real writing material is very scarce over here, and we have to use whatever is the best or we can procure. I will welcome any letters from you, as all letters are

very welcome in this place.  
 If I have the chance when I am  
 in Melbourne again, I will come  
 out and see you, but I don't  
~~know when that will be, it won't~~  
 be for a good many weeks yet.  
 I will let you know at a later  
 date when I will be coming.

It is raining here today and it is  
 fairly cold. it rains nearly every  
 day or night, and our boots and  
 clothes are nearly always wet.  
 At present I would like nothing  
 better than to get into some nice  
 sunshine and relax.

Well Dorothy I must say cheerio  
 for the present hoping to hear from  
 you in the near future. I remain  
 Respectfully yours.

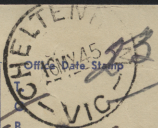
Reg. Saunders.

T.G. 42.

This Telegram has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations. The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

The date stamp indicates the date of reception and lodgment also, unless an earlier date is shown after the time of lodgment.



Beh. C.4417  
7/1944.

TELEGRAM

Office of Origin.

No. of Words.

Time of Lodgment.

B.

*Postal Acknowledgment & Delivery*  
*Personal. Mr D. H. Saunders*  
*14 Elbe ave*  
*lieut R. W. Saunders wounded*  
*in action I regret to*  
*inform you that VX 13843*  
*Lieut Saunders R. W. Hasben*

7/1944.

TELEGRAM

Time of Lodgment.

B.

Office of Origin.

No. of Words.

Time of Lodgment.

No.

*Wounded in action*  
*A date not given the*  
*minister for the army*  
*extends his sincere sympathy*  
*minister for the*  
*Army.*

4.3/c



My Darling

Capt. R. J. Anderson  
C. Bay 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt  
29.6.51

just a note  
containing some money  
that I won playing poker  
I'm sending it on to you  
I hope you can find some  
use for it.

Our CO is leaving us  
today we are all very  
sorry to see him go but  
we don't mind, because  
we have a very good  
CO coming

I am sending £19.10.0 I  
suppose you'll pay most

of it into the bank. I sent  
you £2 yesterday.

Well darling Chessie  
for now. I hope you like  
the writing paper. its  
made of wood.

Chessie for now dear  
give my regards to my  
3 little sweethearts.

I still love you your  
loving husband.

Reginald

x x x x

x x x x

3/400 229. LT. BOSSUNDERS

A. Coy, 3 Bn. R.I.R.

17<sup>th</sup> Jan '50.

My darling Wife

I received two of your letters today and one from mum. I'm sorry I wrote you such a nasty old letter, but ~~it was~~ I still love you with all my heart and soul, Now about Nick Lovell's wife and he, writing to you and inviting you up to their place in Castlemaine, write and tell them you'll be up there in about 5 weeks from now, because, today I sent you £30 which you should receive in that time, It will be enough to buy you some things and pay for your holiday, don't worry about the kids and me, take care of your self, because both me and the children need you such a lot and remember dear to us you are the most important person in the whole world, also don't worry about money, I'll send you another £20 or so whenever you want it, Also dear if you can't manage on the allotment, write and let me know and I'll allot you more, also don't buy anything on time payment if you can't pay cash, write and let me know

PTO



And I'll send you over what you want in the way  
 of money, I will need some to buy a new uniform  
 and a few other things when I leave here, but \$30  
 should be enough for that. I really would like  
 you to have a holiday and stop worrying about  
 me, but quite all right if I don't write to you  
 for long periods at a time, it's only because  
 I'm too busy or something else, it's not because  
 I've stopped loving you, because I'll never do  
 that, and besides when you worry you get run  
 down and get in bad health, so you see I don't  
 want you in bad health, I want you to be  
 happy and gay, for me when I come home, and  
 please don't take any notice of my sour letters  
 because I can't help it if I get lonely and  
 home sick now and again in this land of  
 eternal snow and ice and cold winds.  
 Believe me dear I love and I trust you in  
 spite of what I say, I know that inside my  
 heart I love as God meant man to love  
 woman, and I trust you as much as I  
 could, well you have my heart over there.

with you, keep it warm dear and always carry  
it with you, because you are the only one I could  
ever trust with it. Yes dear you, sweet, precious you,  
are the guardian of my heart, and the guardian  
of my children, so you too dear you have the  
advantage of me, you have it with you, where-  
ever you may be, everything that is me, even  
- though I'm here in North thousands of miles  
away, you hold me as though I'm tied with  
heavy chains to the front door, because you  
have my everything, my love, my children and  
my spirit, it's only my silly old body over here  
and that will come home some day and then  
you'll have all of me. So you see dear I'm  
really not very far away at all, it's only that  
I'm working late and have to leave in the  
mornings before you wake up, you don't ever  
see me, but, I sleep beside you every night and  
I kiss you good night every night and I kiss  
you good morning every morning, but your sleepy  
head is always asleep, when I come home  
and when I leave. Sometimes ~~the~~ I see the

xxxx

children and they see me, but think they  
are dreaming, so forget it in the morning  
Yes dear I'm with you all the time even now  
while you are reading this, I know I am, and  
why you ask, because you are with me, and  
you are very brave and you sleep with  
every night and in the cold hours before the  
dawn when I'm awake, waiting and  
standing too, you keep me warm and you  
speak to me, and tell me that you love me  
and we plan together you and all the lovely  
things for our future, And you assure me that  
I'm safe and will return to our home, and you  
keep me safe, yes dear you have been with me all  
the time and you are going to stay with me for ever  
Well I'm going to ~~now~~ and sleep and  
you are going to watch over ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> so to you  
that is so far away I'll say Goodnight  
sleep tight, my love God bless and keep  
you safe and well until I return I  
Remain your loving Husband. Rixxxx

FOR MY BABIES:- ALL MY KISSES and PATERNAL LOVE  
FOR YOU!- MY. Abt

Thurs day Dec 51

My Darling

I love you very much I have your photo in front of me now and also our babies photo's they are always in front of me and you so N<sup>o</sup> 5 Jan dets. Gee honey I love you, it's kupts me so much to love you, because if you were not my only darling I could do anything. Please I'da give my special love to Barbie as I lil her in bed I can't help think off the day she hid under the bushes from you in 14. Lill. Avenue and the day she ate the mails, the intense joy she gave us both when she was out first born, all the pain and your hair cuts and false alarms. My first sight of her  $\frac{1}{2}$  and hour old but darling she was lovely to me and you sitting up in bed, looking more lovelier than ever.

Excuse my poor writing, but tonight I miss you and if I am inarticulate, it's because I love you so and my eyes are so much in love with you that they are dim to all else.

XX

Excuse me for being so silly, but darling I feel so very lonely tonight I miss you my darling and our 3 little darlings so very much that it makes me want to cry. But I'm hoping that I'm home with you all very soon.

Darling give Glen a big hug for me because she is such a special one. I wonder does her eyes flash the same and does she still sweat and is she as wild as ever. Her hair ringed like it was at Fair St. on the gas stove. ~~And~~ last but not least is my own precious baby, I'll bet she is spoiled by everyone including the 2 big sisters is her hair still curly and does she still call for her daddy when she is in trouble. Gee honey I love you all so much it hurts and I'm doing my best to get home to you all again. Cheerio for now sweetheart.

With my fondest love only to you and our precious babies

lovingly always yours.

Reginald  
XXXX

To my darling wife

For you.

Though the hills and dales separate us  
And I am miles from you  
My love is always honest  
And for ever ~~is~~ remains true.

~~I dream of you my darling~~  
I leave the warring nations,  
And drift gently off to sleep  
And then I see your sweet, tender, face  
Out of sleeps shadows creep.

I dream of you my darling,  
When soft night shadows fall  
I see again your wistfull smile  
And hear your soft sweet call.

Then we are together  
In loves sweet, tender glow  
With your soft arms around me  
All my troubles fade and go.

And then I am awakened  
And life is very real  
But dreams are only fancy  
Whilst our love is ~~very real~~ <sup>some thing</sup> we both feel.

Goodnight my little darling  
I am drifting off to sleep  
Goodnight my only sweetheart  
Our love will always keep. x x x x x x  
Bob.

I am thinking of you that is why  
I wrote this little poem to you, it is  
dedicated to our love, and it is only  
meant for you. So darling when ever  
you are feeling lonely and blue read it  
because it will always remind you  
that no matter what happens there is  
one person that still loves you  
goodnight darling  
Bob.

84. Walker, Crescent.  
Narrabundah. A.C.T.  
2604.

Dear David

Congratulations on making <sup>it</sup> into the army. I am pleased to know that the Saunders tradition is in such worthy hands.

The army is what you make it, it is a great character builder and if you can be a successful soldier, you can be a successful man. When I first went into the army over 25 years ago, my father told me it was just another job and success meant promotion. He also said that I would meet real men and mates and that my whole world would change. It was all so very true.

You have a long history of military men in your family, Apart from myself and Uncle Harry killed in New Guinea, you have had. Pte Reginald Rawlings M.M. your great grand uncle, killed in France in 1917. Then Joe and Kenny come more grand uncles in the 14-18 war. Then in the Boer war you had great grand father Holden my mothers father. In world war II many of your blood cousins served as pilots in the R.A.F. and as sailors on Australian warships. I was the only one to return to Australia, and finally your own grand father Saunders who served in the light horse and as a machine gunner in world war I they did not all bear the Saunders name but they are all of the same blood and skin as you.

Wear your uniform with pride and good luck,  
Love Dad.



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

3rd Bn The Royal Aust Regt

HEALTH CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above named personnel have been medically examined within the last 24 hours, are fit to travel by air and are free from all communicable diseases, VD, pediculi pubis etc and that their inoculations and vaccinations are up to date.

DATE: ... 4/11/52 ...

..... *A. B. ...* Capt  
RMO 3rd Bn Royal Aust Regt

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