

Paul Garrison

4/11/14

Dear Jennie

I am just thinking of you + wishing you in my heart many Happy Returns. This will be rather late in reaching you, (if it ever does); but you will know my thoughts were with you.

Every thing is quiet here & altho a bit monotonous, I am getting a good deal of fun out of it.

One great thing, is I have been granted a permanent pass which allows me to go anywhere on the place. So I may be able to purchase fresh food + stores for the officers mess, + if I want a ride or a drive I only have to get a pony or servant, + there you are.

So you see I'm very comfortable  
& happy & having a really good time  
(you have often read about  
the beauty of the South Sea Islands  
& I must say they have not  
been exaggerated, no doubt you have  
~~also~~ also read about the beautiful  
girls; but up to the present I haven't  
been able to discover where their  
beauty lies. Some of the men are  
a very fine stamp indeed; but the  
women. Oh! They give me horrible  
~~addens~~ addens down the spine.

I had a lovely drive  
this morning. I went over the hills  
through the "pass" to the other side  
of the Island. to try & get some  
fruit & vegetables. I started at 6 o'clock  
& it was simply delightful in the  
cool but it was very hot coming  
back. & my poor horse was very  
tired; but I let him jog along as  
he liked & he was alright.  
Perhaps you can follow me

(3)

if I try + paint a word picture  
First a straight level road  
with banana + brown nut plantations  
on the right with the hills behind  
them. + little bits of native gardens  
+ jungle on the left. through which  
you could now & again get a glimpse  
of the glorious sparkling pacific. Then  
a sharp turn to the right + a  
steady climb to the foot of the hills  
with thick scented tropical vegetation  
on either side. + palms often meeting  
overhead. Then up a steep mountain  
road which disappears into the face  
of the mountain. through a tunnel. (which  
I believe was made by native prisoners)  
out into the glare again on the  
other side. Then a long winding descent  
with native villages + their crude paintings  
+ carvings scattered among the coconut  
pines, Papayas, Bananas, rubber trees, etc.  
+ finally down to the beach. where  
you watch the natives paddling about  
in their "dug-outs" on the lagoon or wading

(4)

up to their waists spearing fish.  
A little further along you reach  
the mission station where I pulled up &  
the boys ran out & took charge of  
my horse & gave him a drink &  
I had a rest & a chat with the  
missionary & then the return.

So there you have some idea  
of the sort of country this is.

I have no news for you  
so will close wishing you the Happiest  
Christmas possible in these terrible  
times.

God bless & guard you all  
Your loving brother  
Cranin

---

Answered  
17/10/15

Gallipoli

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 1915

Mother, Dad + Jennie

Dear ones

Just a short note to let you know I am well & happy. I received your parcel "OK" & the contents were simply "Top hole". But Mother dear you shouldn't waste your money on me. I have everything I can possibly want. The chocolate shop you sent me will last me 12 months at least.

You should have seen us. Leslie Brown an English laddie who was away with me in New Guinea had a parcel the same time, also from his mother & Dad in England whom he hasn't seen for about 5 years. Of course he must rush round to my dug out to open it. So we broke the two strings together. ~~From~~ By this time 3 more friends must crowd in to see the cause of the excitement.

Well talk about school boys ~~they~~ they were not in it compared to us.

(2)

There wasn't room inside, as it is only 6 ft 6 in long 4 ft wide + 4 ft high, so we sat at the door ~~tasting~~ lollies + chocolate + sampling the different cigarettes, with grins of delight on our faces, that would have made the sourest old pessimist in the world happy, could he have seen us. 'Pon my word I think we are nothing but a lot of overgrown boys after all,

Up to then we were unable to get anything like that, but now there is to be a regular supply every week of everything one could possibly want. From Ketchup Powder to Shaving Utensils + chocolates to Curry Powder + every kind of tinned fish + Fruit etc that you could think of + at the cheapest prices. Ridiculously cheap in fact. So you see we are well looked after now.

But wasn't I glad of that parcel. The Rose, ~~Scented~~ Geranium, + Ivy all came safely. It took me back to the dear old Nest. It must have been one of the last roses of this year. You couldn't possibly get any fears to me, they would be quite bad. I shall have some of next

(3) years crop instead & I'll pick them myself.  
I am so glad you liked my photo. I find I have quite a number of friends in Sydney who write to me constantly. I received one today from the girl who sent that to you. Telling me that it had gone <sup>of that</sup> you must have received it by now. It was a snap taken by Leslie Grove (whom I have already mentioned) a few days before leaving Liverpool NSW for the front & I expressed a wish in her hearing that I would like an enlargement sent to you. She immediately volunteered to do so. & secured, I afterwards discovered, the negative from Leslie. I gave her your address never really expecting to hear any more of it. I feel now as if I ought to apologise to her for doubting her promise. It was real good to go to that trouble & expense for a comparative stranger. He was only introduced by a fellow soldier of mine at the camp a week or so before, while on a visit to him. I received Jennie's double letter a day or two ago but found a difficulty in finding paper to reply on, until your supply came to hand. So the next page is

especially for her.

(4) I am glad young Chambers recovered his sight.

After all you did in the hospital without avail + then one little act of God + instant recovery. The age of miracles has not passed. I see that every day here. Why only this week I can tell you of two instances. - A large high explosive shell fell among a few of my friends who were farming and - did not explode. Last evening about 5 o'clock a fellow, Norman Lewis, was standing upon a knoll about 20 yards from us + Whiz-Bang etc. 75 comes over our heads + into the ground about 50 inches from him, blew a big hole in the earth, + never even scratched him. I might mention here, he is one of the coolest customers I have ever met. Simply turned round + said "Nearly got a new dug-out" + walked quietly on about his business.

I have not come across Regie here. You must remember there are a good many miles of front + its highly improbable we should meet.

Why on earth do you wish you were me. Since you have been nursing + helping to patch up damaged soldiers, you appear to have become quite blood thirsty



(5)

Not a bit like the dear Quiet little sister I left behind. Still I'll give em one for you if I get a chance; but I've a few little debts of my own to wipe off first.

I would just loved to have caught you all in your "Robes de nuit" when the Zepps passed over. I'm very thankful to think you came to no harm. If only I knew you were all safe from those diabolical machines I wouldn't worry.

I say. Dad! Here, play the game fair. It's your turn to write to me, Don't let the girls do it all. Just a few lines about yourself & "biz" & any old thing that comes along. What's B. Ken-Smith doing? I know you simply hate writing. Well just between ~~you~~ ourselves so do I; but we must make an effort these times. What!

I am going to try & send Rosie a note. I guess with her little brood she doesn't have much time to write. & goodness knows I ought to write to all the Aunties; but really I haven't too much

6 much time.

What do you think of the enclosed envelope isn't it a fine idea

By the way the corrections are quite in order. My promotion was gazetted today.

I am very glad, because I know you all will be glad to see our office place some confidence in my ability to carry out rather an important, responsible I should say job.

Good night, dear ones, God bless & guard you all.

Your loving fine brother

Ernie

Oh! I say Jennie! I didn't get those photos of you! I wonder where they have got to. I expect they will wander round & get returned like the letters did. If you are writing, just tell that wife of mine, that those letters she had returned to her bears my name on the envelope, & therefore my property. Just let me catch her ~~with~~ destroying them. Hate all! I waited patiently

Oct 1915 for them & by long I want 'em. I was travelling about 80,000 miles, with my me having seen them! Never heard of one a thing. I was

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13/4/16

Somewhere in France

My own dearest Sister

I received a letter from you dated 16/3/16 & later 3/4/16 the other day & I'm so sorry you didn't get my letter; but better luck this time.

You see by the above your belief about that was wrong. I say it was hard luck you did not see me on the pictures; but I am willing to bet any money the pictures of the landing at Sulva bay was an absolute "fake". Can you imagine they would allow any cinema photographer to be present at an important move like that.

I received your "Punch" & it's fine.

I wish those beastly "Zeppe" would leave you alone, they are troubling Molly a bit I think.

It was lovely to hit

(2)

a bit of land so like old  
England & after we left Marselles  
in the train I saw a lot of wild  
violets & primroses & bowships & the  
boys thought I had gone "dilly"  
I was so excited at seeing them again

I am glad you have had  
beautiful weather, as we are having  
a horrible wet time just now.

I say it's not a bit of  
good me trying to write. I keep  
on getting interrupted & now my  
"caboose" is being raided by a lot  
of serjents who want a warm up  
& are all talking & laughing & absolutely  
refuse to let me write.

So good bye for the present  
Fondest love to all.

Over your loving brother

Ernie

France

24/5/16

Dearest Mother

Just a few lines  
to let you know all is  
well with me.

I received a  
letter from <sup>both</sup> you & Jennie  
My word, Dadat  
my leave fly bye. I am  
simply looking for the news  
I hope it will not  
be another 21 months. Perhaps  
the next leave will be  
permanent & this bally old  
war will be over; but  
I'm afraid we can't expect  
that too soon.

Things are very

(2)

quiet here just now.  
Just the usual old  
bombing & shelling.

I have absolutely no  
news for you. I suppose all  
the news you really want  
is what is contained in my  
first sentence.

I am delighted Dad  
was able to get 1 1/2 tons of  
Red it will keep him going  
for a few days.

As I am rather busy  
I must curtail this little note.

kindest love to all  
God bless + guard you

P.S.

Ever your loving son  
Please don't put  
my Brigade on address  
list is forbidden  
only put (overleaf)

Ernie

E W. BAKER

W.O.

Head Qrs Staff

20<sup>th</sup> Bde

A.I.F.

France

France

19/8/16

Dearest Jennie

As soon as I can  
let you know I'll still  
get a kick on me.

Things have been  
pretty lively round here just  
lately & we are going into  
war for 28 days shortly.

This afternoon is  
just about all the news there  
is to tell.

Ever tried to write  
a letter when there is nothing  
to talk about? I tell you it  
is a great game. I've been sitting  
here for the last 5 minutes trying  
to find something to say; but can't.

Ah! happy thought. The weather  
has been very bad since I got



(2)  
back here; but the last two  
days have been dry; though  
still very cold. It doesn't seem  
5 weeks since I got back, but  
it is, & I'll soon be looking  
for more leave. You see I will  
be running home again before  
"no time".

Has Ernie R. been able  
to get his passport yet? I  
hope he does, it will mean so  
much to them, & its a lovely  
climate for children.

How are all the inhabitants  
of the West keeping? Mother doesn't  
mention health at all in her last  
letter. I sent Dad a pocket  
book per hand a day or two  
ago. Hope he received it safely  
& that you like the boxes.

(3)

If this reaches you in time  
As him if he remembers our  
last feed on Russell's Top.  
I bet he smiles. It was  
some feed. I tell you.

Soup. (Pea) Fish (sardines) Dietrich  
(mashed Potato stew) Poultry (Tinned chicken)  
very tough Sweets (Tinned Peaches + Peas)  
+ Ideal milk. Bread. Butter cheese  
coffee. Hows that for a dinner service  
Oh. I forgot Liqueur (Rum.)

I don't know who's birthday  
it was now. We had menu cards  
(old postcards) + all signed our  
autographs. I lost mine somewhere  
when we made our last move.

It was an interesting  
summer.

I must cease my chatter  
now as its nearly 4 o'clock (A.M.)

4 I must turn in.  
Give my love to  
Mother & Dad & keep hope  
for your own dear self.  
Good-night. God bless  
& guard you all.  
Love your loving old brother  
Francis

Frank

26/8/16

Dear Mother

I received your letter of the 21st inst last night. So glad you take my part then Blackie. But why accuse him of being an Annanias? Don't you really think a decent boy enjoys a few hours in a real home after being away for 12 months roughing it?

Ape Dad had a good time showing them about London Giddy old Coy.

I hope your pronunciation at end of war is correct.

I hope Tom R. has not

(2)

been called up & that  
he got his passport "OK"  
This opportunity is too  
good to let slip if he can  
prevent it

Sorry you had a run  
to Wandsworth for nothing  
You don't say if you  
had a look inside the warden  
or not

I expect Wally's letter from  
you has been delayed (Hospital  
letters often are) or he would  
have written to you.

If you want examples  
of Abraham's work. Buy the  
Anger book etc. This is  
compiled from writings of  
the boys. I think the advert  
at the end real funny

3

They appeared in a Times  
paper that was printed on  
a hand press on the beach  
at Anzac. Of course to appreciate  
them fully, you want to have  
been on the spot as there are  
many points anyone else would  
not understand.

Another Aust. Yarn.  
Time:- night. Scene:- Trenches.  
Gen. Begeer on tour through one  
of the forts. Sentry:- Halt!  
Who comes?  
Sentry:- "Well 'up is" a full somebody  
else blanket leg.

Give my love to Jimmie  
& Dad.

God night God bless  
Keep you all  
Love your loving Son  
(continue over) Ernie

France

15/7/16

Dear Dad, Mother & Jeanne

I received a letter from each of you today. Dads enclosing ribbon. Also "Punch" Am writing this note in the hope of it reaching you. We are shifting about all over the shop so as you can well understand have little time to myself & postal arrangements.

②

are bad.

Mr. Shanker left here yesterday for England to attend a school for 6 weeks & most likely will be calling on you again. You don't mention whether you have seen anything of Wally Jones yet.

Hope you like the good news from the front.

I think we have got the Boche at last.

More good rumours are just to hand; but



3

it will be very  
slow work, + not  
likely to be over  
yet. unless they  
suddenly collapse  
& throw up the  
sponge.

Am well +  
hearty except a slight  
cold.

An answer for the  
present.

God bless + keep  
you all.

over your loving

Ernie

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France

29/9/16

Dear Ones

I Am "O.K." We  
are having a very strenuous  
time.

Roy Armstrong got  
it in the leg. During the  
attack & was carried out  
by Thompson who somehow  
managed to get through  
safely. I am not  
on the fighting strength  
but have but pretty  
busy getting tucker to  
the boys in front line

+ bringing in the  
wounded!

Am supposed to  
remain with transport  
but can't stay back  
there, when everyone is  
wanted in the field.

Have been attacking  
4 Days expect to be  
relieved soon as our losses  
are rather heavy.

Don't worry for me  
I will get through "OK"

kindest love to  
all God bless & guard  
you always

Bennie

Frances 13/8/16

Dearest & Best of Mothers

I received your letter posted 7/8/16 last evening & am now able to set down & write a few lines in my billet. I have a nice comfy bed & just imagine clean sheets & also clean underclothes. — my word! What comfort! By the time you get this my little tribe will have arrived & hope your opinion of them is favourable.

I am sorry to hear that Fosi expects another. Poor little woman, she has enough on her hands already. Is it not possible for Carrie to get

(2)

put on home service or  
in the government laboratories.

There is no place for him  
with that tribe to look after.  
It's quite bad enough for me  
& if anything should happen to  
me Molly & the boys are fairly  
well provided for. But that any  
thing is going to happen, but I  
have a feeling that almost amounts  
to certain knowledge, I am coming  
through alright. So also I believe  
has Molly.

I am delighted to hear  
you are in communication with  
Roy & that he speaks well  
of his damaged leg. I was  
afraid the poor old chap  
would lose his leg.  
I'm glad the Zepps are  
not doing very much damage.

(3)

I think our artillery has them  
bluffed.

Things seem to be going  
well on our front. I expect  
our battalion will go up to  
the firing line again in  
about 7 or 8 days time.

I am in good health  
with the exception of a  
slight cold & am at this  
moment sucking one of your  
Brompton Lozenges which you sent  
me last winter.

Please give my love  
to all at the "Post" &  
keep heaps for yourself

Au-revoir May God  
bless & guard you all.  
Love your loving son

Ernie

France

22/8/16

Dear Mother

We are into it again & by the time you get this we will be out again. All so well with me & I am not going into the front line this time. Am staying in transport line & make one trip daily to battalion with stores etc.

We have pushed the Boche well back on this sector.

How we wait news for you am in the "pink" of condition.

Tender love to All.

God bless & keep you.

Love your loving Son

Ernie

Franklin

Sept 25/16

Dear Jennie

What do you mean by doubting my word with regard my hut? And why be inquisitive about the material my carpet is made of. Most certainly I have ~~pictures~~ on the wall. One is a study in Oils. I haven't yet been able for certain to make out what it is supposed to be; but that doesn't matter. By the snap of the hospital that Roy is in, it looks a fine place.

I haven't seen the 'Tanks' yet. They appear



(2)

to have done fine work  
I hope the Aunties  
Alvi & Mary are well.  
I think Ernie P is  
very slow if he can't  
~~manage~~ to get home now  
& again. I bet if I was  
only 2 hours from home I'd  
get there pretty often.  
The Fiji islands are  
not too unhealthy a little  
malarial of course but not  
bad & its a lovely place  
Anyhow its jolly sight more  
healthy than France just now  
I wonder if you  
saw anything of the last  
raid night before last.

3

I heard yesterday we had managed to get two of them + only hope it is true.

While I am thinking of it. Please don't send me any more copies of Punch. I get very few of what you send. + am always able to purchase it here. am very well supplied with all sorts of magazines etc. now.

I have enclosed a few postcards which I have been carting about with me. They may interest you.

4  
I hope Fosie's allowance  
will be increased, or I'm  
afraid the poor Kiddie  
will never be able to  
manage, or all

Would you mind  
sending me a bottle of  
Aspirin Tablets. I have a  
touch of "sore" + don't  
seem able to get them  
about here. Have enclosed  
10 Fes - the P.O. will change it  
for you for  $\frac{5}{2}$  I think that  
is the rate of exchange  
for this month. Please  
don't tell Mother ~~or~~ or  
she will certainly think  
I am ill + go worrying  
herself. It's only just a

slight touch brought on  
by the damp. & I want  
to check it in time

On revoir, Dearie, give  
my love to all dear  
one at home.

Ever your own loving  
old brother

Ernie

---

5  
Sept 25/1916

Belgium

Dearest Mother

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I received a letter from you today dated 18/9/16 also one from Jennie of the 21/9/16. So grieved to hear of the death of Young. Rule. 24 Is a pretty heavy toll for about 100 houses in one street.

Thanks for making Les. Dickson, Welcome. I don't know the lad myself; but his brother is a good staunch lavy. It seems very strange that your letter never reached

(2)

Wally Jones. Can't make out  
where he can be. must  
inquire

Some of the Australians  
seem very lucky. Fancy  
finishing their training in  
dear old England. We don't  
seem to have much hope  
of getting there.

Still it's no use  
growling. "C'est le guerre".

I am pretty well  
& the weather is very much  
better this last 3 days.

Thank goodness. Our poor  
boys were wet through day  
& night for about 8 days.

Lawrie's been successful  
in getting my leave this

3

time. So dont expect to  
get over for quite a  
long time. It will  
be all the sweeter when  
it does come

I must close now.  
Please give my love  
to Dad.

God bless & keep  
you all safe & well  
Heaps of love. Ever  
Your own loving son

Frank

---

7/11/16  
Francis

Dearest Jennie

I am finding time to write you just a little birthday letter. to wish you Many Happy Returns. I trust it will be a very happy day for you & a forerunner of many more to come.

I want to apologise for this awful writing; but the weather here is so wet, <sup>that</sup> this very pencil is all unsteady, & the lead keeps turning up its nose at me. All the same I'm in good health & spirits. I hope you have got rid of your cold.

I want you to accept the enclosed little note & buy



(2)

yourself a little something that  
you may want. I cant  
get anything here at all  
to send. Its only just a  
trifle; but it will show you  
you are not forgotten by your  
old brother.

There is very little  
doing on our front as the  
weather is too bad. + its  
almost impossible to move.

Its simply a sea of mud  
in which the boys sink up to their  
hips. Its impossible to convey  
a proper idea what it is  
really like. I have much  
to be thankful for in my  
position, not having to go into  
it. but very very seldom + its  
been my luck up to the  
present to avoid it. But our  
poor poor boys are in an  
awful plight.

(3)

They manage to joke about  
it all the same. & you would  
think it was a bully game

Well, dearie, I have  
little else to say. Will you  
please give Dad & Mum my  
fondest love & tell them I'll be  
writing <sup>as</sup> soon as I can; but on  
no account to worry if the  
mail is a little irregular  
for the next two or three weeks

Once again wishing  
you a very happy birthday  
God bless & guard you all

Everyones own old brother

Eddie

8/10/16  
France

Dearest Mother

I am sitting  
down in a little French  
farm, trying to find something  
to write about.

First of all you  
will want to know that I  
am well, + I suppose that  
is the main thing with  
you. (Getting concidered, ain't I)

We are having  
a rest for some little  
time, + they poor boys need  
it badly. The wet, breaks  
them up worse than the  
shells + trench feet seem the  
order of the day.

(2)

I have very comfy quarters here + share a room with Louis Kent. + am at this moment writing in the living room of the farm, with the daughter opposite me <sup>also</sup> writing + the loveliest cup of coffee along side which it is possible to imagine.

I tell you, its not a bad sort of old war at all, when its like this.

I've had a letter from Molly + she is O.K. so are the boys.

I am still worrying them about leave; but cant get any further.

I expect there will be an explosion when I

3

put in again next week.  
There seems to be  
an impression here generally,  
that the Axis will be  
likely to collapse before the  
end of the year; but that  
appears improbable to me.

It's too good to be true.  
Besides is it likely that  
such a wonderful military  
machine, as theirs undoubtedly  
is, would break down at  
the first really hard knock  
it has had? There is not  
the slightest doubt that they  
are staggered though, & if we  
keep hammering they must  
collapse utterly sooner or later.  
I didn't mean to write

(4)

an article on the war  
when I started. so  
I'll knock off.

Give my dear love  
to Dad & Jennie.

God bless & keep you  
all.

Adieu Mother of mine  
Kiss of love

Ever your own boy

Ernie

11/11/16  
Frank

Darling Mother

Am snatching a few spare minutes to scratch a line or two.

I am "O.K." but have very little time to myself owing to the bad state of the country. When I tell you it takes 15 hours to get rations up to the line + then only on pack horses you will be able to form some ideas of the difficulties; I am thankful to say that up to the present we haven't failed the boys + you can bet your bottom dollar that we won't unless we all get wiped out + that's not likely to happen.

Mails are very irregular just now principally through the

2

inclement weather. Haven't had  
any for some days. Last was  
from Jennie + yourself, both of which  
arrived together. Haven't seen anything  
of Mr Hooper since his return  
but from what I hear I believe  
he has fallen in love with you.  
Can give you no news  
as its very scarce.

Please give my fondest love  
to Dad + Jennie + keep for yourself  
God. night God bless  
+ guard you all.

Ever your loving Son

Ernie



I like you have Advance  
family of news. 14/2/18

Dear Jennie

I received your letter  
yesterday. Glad to hear you  
missed any damage from the  
last raid. How is the  
"Anemone japonica" getting along.  
I expect we will go in for  
gardens in our new quarters  
but I am afraid we shall be  
rather late with the planting of  
many sets. Our gardens here  
are most artistic.

I am sorry little  
Leslie was dissatisfied in me  
but I'll repair the fault at  
once.

I like you have a  
paucity of news. It's  
very difficult to report on  
anything here. With regard  
to our orchestra we are  
not doing badly. I am  
of course very slow + am  
afraid I will never be  
any good as my fingers  
are too stiff + after a  
little while I get the  
cramp. Still I am  
able to amuse myself  
+ in doing so, drive  
everybody else away. Ah! ah!

I had a letter from  
Auntie Grammie. Her writing  
is still very shaky

14/1/10

Dear  
mom

With  
dear  
I must  
close

with  
again  
after the  
Dear  
mom  
I must  
close

Yours  
John