

MELBOURNE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,

On Active Service with the Australian Imperial Force in Egypt,

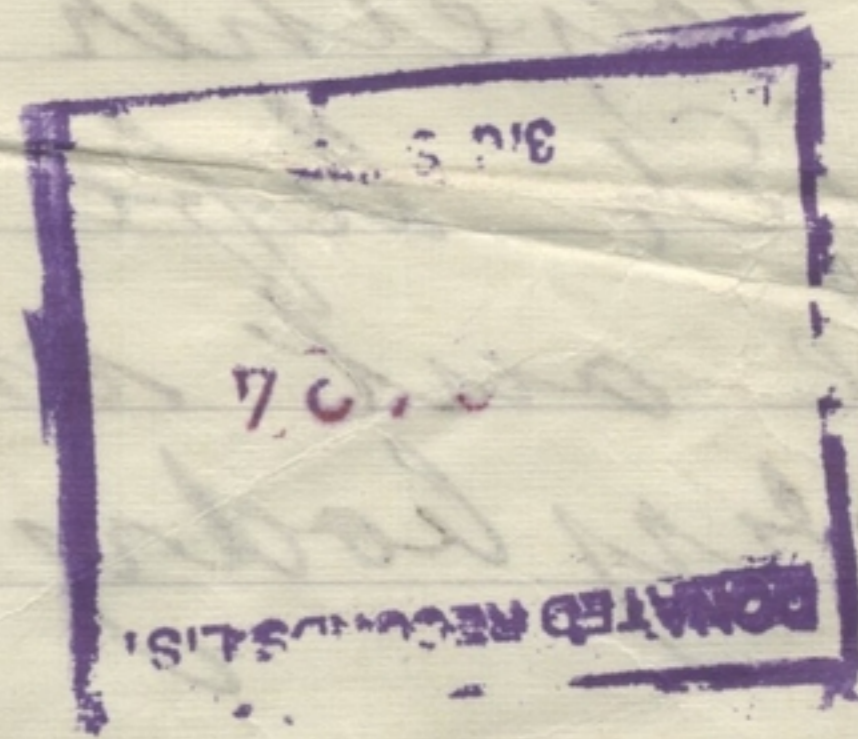
MENA CAMP, PYRAMIDS,

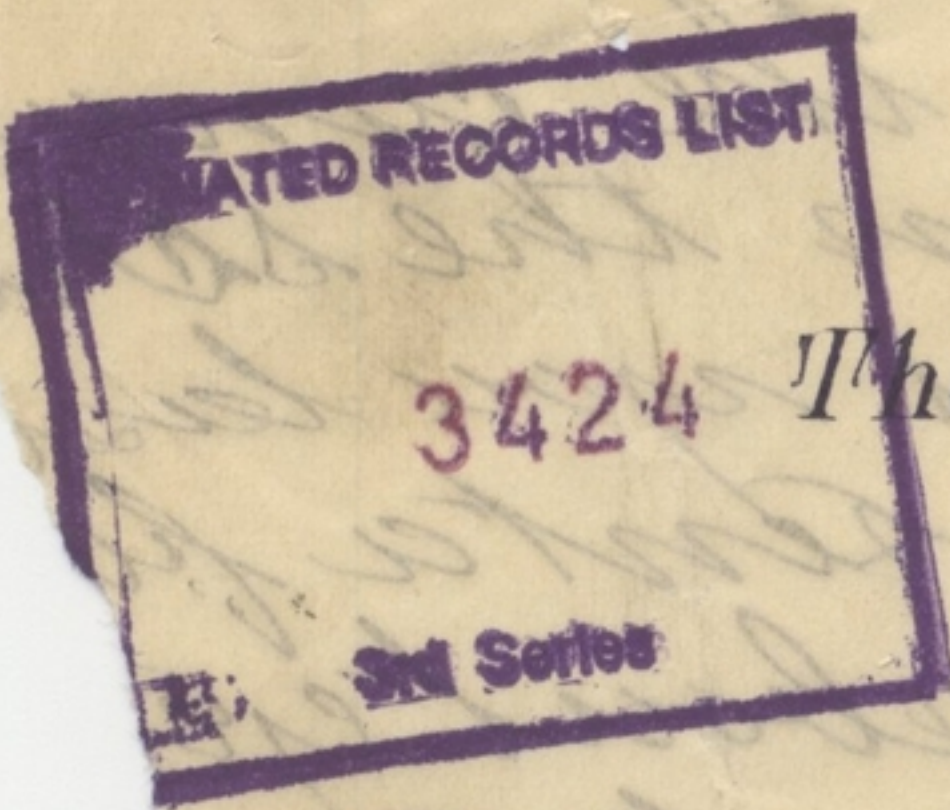
Jan 3rd 1915.

Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that I received your Xmas cards and one from Annie. It was very kind of you both to send me my Xmas cards I got them yesterday morning I am glad to hear that you and Annie are keeping well for I am keeping well enough here considering the grub we get but I have lost a good bit of weight since I first joined the contingent. I am sorry that there is not much news to tell you from here for life is pretty much the same here day in and out it is just the regular routine work of the army marching and drilling it is not a bad sort of a life taking it all up together at any ^{rate} it is a much easier life than working ones life out in the stockade. But everybody is wishing they would

make a move out of this place
either to England or the front
I would like to have a month
in England before we go to the
front I see that there has been
another English battleship lost
in the channel That is a bit
more that ~~we~~ the British will
have to take out of Germany's
hide for she knows now that it
is only a matter of time with her
I see by this morning's paper that
Australia is going to send
another 100 thousand men I am
not surprised for men were just
simply going mad out there to go
to the war There was many a man
envied us first contingent men
for being so lucky to get off to
the war Well Mother I think that
I will now draw to a close
so with love to you and Annie
I remain
your loving son
Jack





The Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force

(W.A. CONTINGENT.)

7 Jan 191

Dear Mother

I just a line to let you know that I received your welcome letter the other day I am glad to hear that you and Annie are keeping well for I am keeping in the best of health I am sorry to tell you that we are still in camp at Mena I am beginning to think that we are here for good for I don't think there is any signs of us leaving for a long while yet There has been some fighting here in Egypt with the Turks there has been about six hundred prisoners come into Cairo this week from the canal There was two battalions went down to the canal from our contingent last week but I have not heard

whether they got down to the point
in time to have a hand in the sale
last week now Mother I told you last
week that my officer had sent a po
to Sir George Piel to see about eye
my money paid over to you
I have wrote to the manager of the
Commonwealth Bank in London
today so that you might be able
to draw the money all the quicker
for at the rate of two shilling per
day by the time you get this letter
you should have about twelve
pound due to you so when you get
this letter write straight away to the
manager of the Commonwealth
Bank in London and if necessary
show him this letter and I think
that you should be able to draw the
money all right now Mother I hope
that this will find you and Annie
in the best of health and with
love to you and Annie
I remain
Your loving son
Jack

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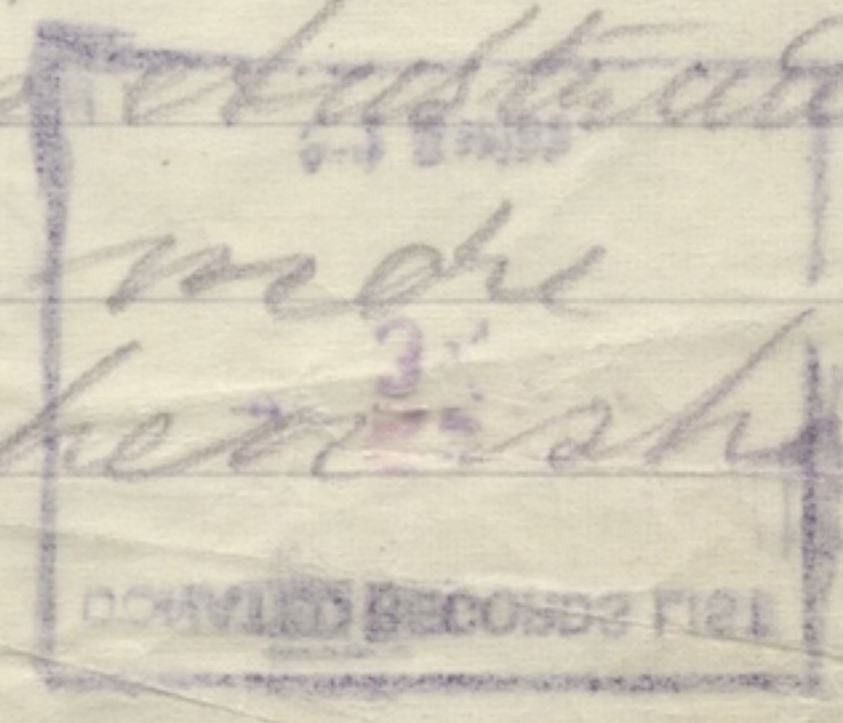
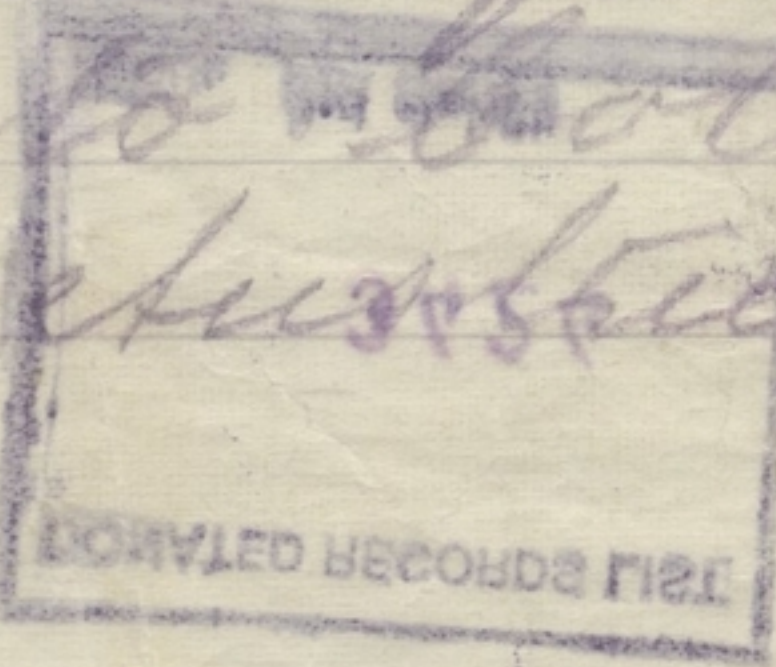


MENA CAMP, PYRAMIDS,

10 Jan 1915.

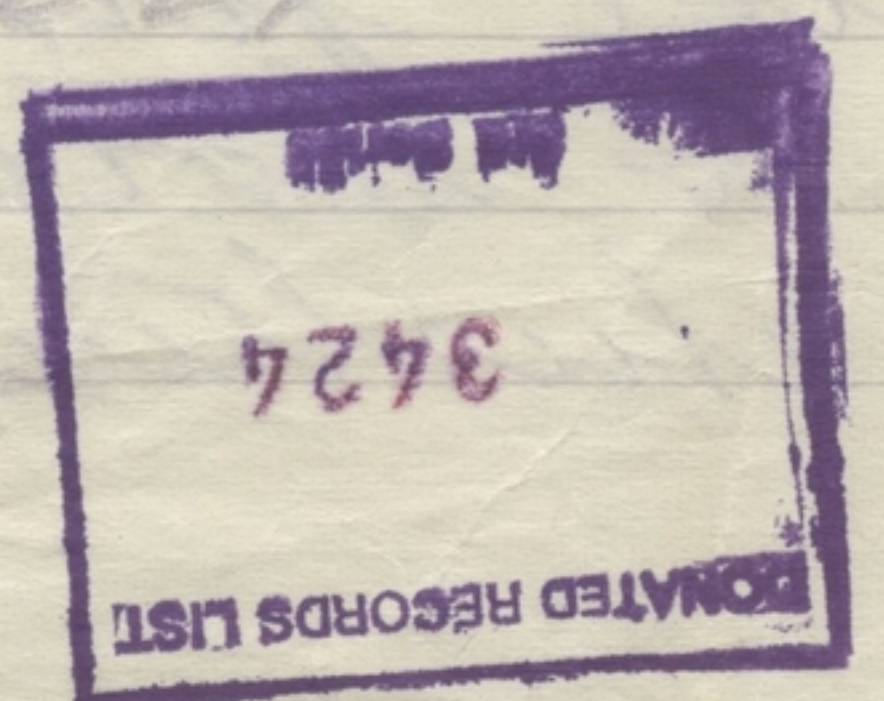
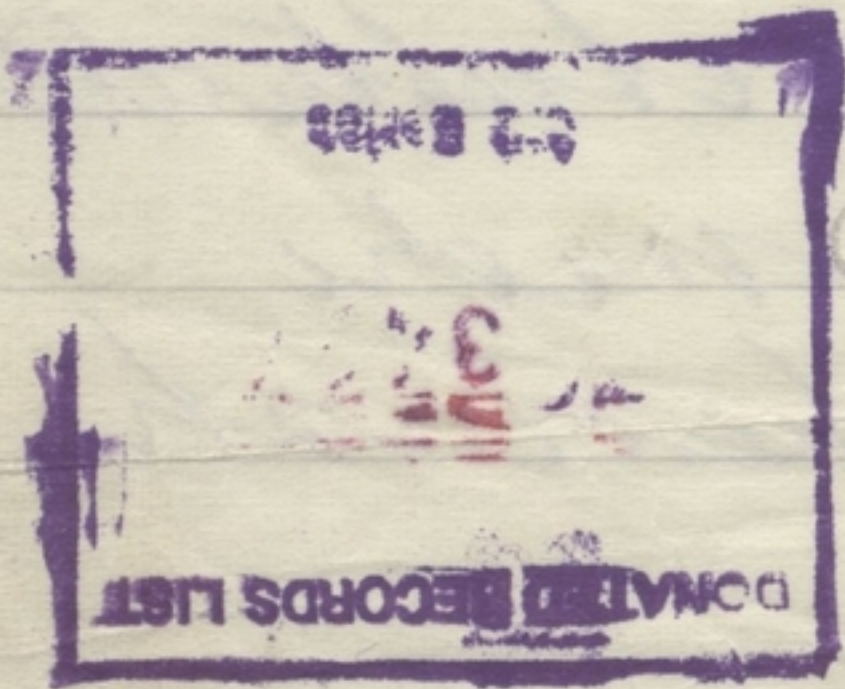
Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that we are still at Cairo I got a letter from you the other day and some papers I am sorry to hear that the Germans ^{got} so near to Shields but I don't think that you have much to fear of any ^{thinly} ^{sort} of the occurring again for they would get too hot I typed from our plot for I suppose that they are keeping an extra sharp lookout for any of the German ships that may chance another run out of the Suez Canal I see that there was another of our ships ~~blown up in~~ the channel what did the people at home think about the Sydney sinking the Esmeralda the Sydney belonged to the Australian Navy and she was escorting the first contingent from Australia to ~~Suez~~ ^{Suez} with five more Australian warships when she

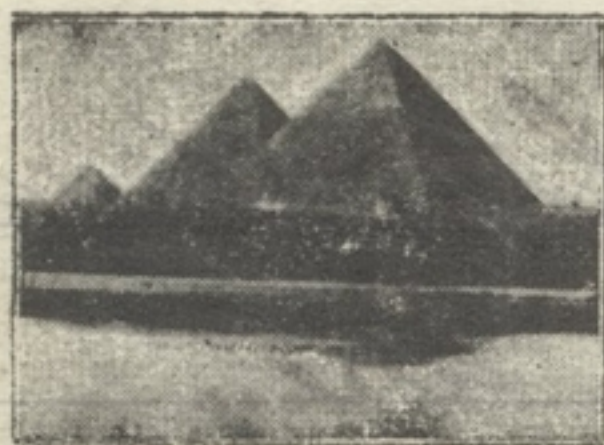


left us one morning and when
 we came in sight again the
 next day we heard that she
 had struck the tender & can
 tell you that things were pretty
 lively aboard, all the ships in
 the convoy there was 38 liners
 transporting us to Egypt - we had
 a pretty lively time. On the 11th
 the day the tender was sunk the
 elidic was the transport that I
 was on. The old Colonel shouted
 beer for all hands on board
 and we all drank to the health
 of the Sydney pretty deeply.
 I am afraid I can't give you any
 more news as everything is the
 same here so hoping that this will
 find you and Annie well as it
 leaves me at present so with love
 to you and Annie
 I remain

Your loving son
 Jack



MELBOURNE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,



On Active Service with the Australian Imperial Force in Egypt,

MENA CAMP, PYRAMIDS,

14 Jan 1915.

Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that I received your letters and one from Eunice yesterday but I have not received the parcel yet I am glad to hear that Eunice is getting better and hope that by the time that this letter reaches home she will be quite well again I am sorry to hear that you have not drawn any of the money that I made over to you but I am going to see my Colonel as soon as he comes into the camp today and see if he can sub me a few quid to send to you until I can get the other money fixed up for I have no money at all except the shilling a day which I draw So that I expect that I will be able to see the divisional paymaster and fix up about your money for you should have been drawing 2 shilling a day since the 25th of October so that if you had drawn what you should have you would draw about eight pounds

but you need not worry Mother for it will
 come to you eventually for there are
 hundreds of us sheeps belonging to the
 old country in the same fix for it was
 like this We all expected to go to England
 and we made the part of our wages
 that we did not want to draw over to our
 accounts in the Commonwealth Bank in
 London and coming to Egypt messed us
 completely about for the Commonwealth
 Bank has no Branch in Egypt so that
 any alterations that has to be done with
 accounts has to be done through the
 paymaster so that I will send you
 some money as soon as I can get things
 fixed up with the paymaster & Mother
 I hope that this letter will find you and
 the Aunty well as it leaves me at
 present for I am feeling pretty well
 just now so with love to you and
 Aunty

I remain
 Your Loving Son
 Jack

DRL 3424 (328)

MELBOURNE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,

On Active Service with the Australian Imperial Force in Egypt,



MENA CAMP, PYRAMIDS,

24th Jan 1915.

Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that I am still at Mena I have not received a letter from you this week but I suppose that it has went astray and I will get it later on Now Mother I told you in my last letter that I was going to ask my officer for a sub off my account that I have got in the Commonwealth Bank in London well Mother he could not advance me any money here but I have signed a form that he made out for me to send to the Bank in London but they want a copy of your signature and I have not got that to give them so that I will just have to give them your next letter which will be a copy of your handwriting I am making the order payable of 2/- per day from the 25th of

October so that you should have
about 9 pound due to you up
to today so that once you start
to draw from the bank you will
be able to keep on drawing it
every week without any hitch
it was our coming to Egypt
instead of going to England
that messed everything up
like this and dont forget that
I made the order over to my
my mother - Sarah Simpson
So the sooner that you write
and tell me that every thing
is fixed up and you are draw-
-ing the money the better
pleased I will be ~~pleased~~ I have
not received your parcel yet
but I suppose that I will get it later on
Now Mother I hope that this note will
find you and Annie well as it leaves
at present so will love to you and
Annie

I remain

Your Loving Son

Jack Simpson

P.S.



28-2-15

Dear Mother
Just a line to let you
know that we are leave-
ing Egypt today I don't
know where we are bound
for but hope that it will
be England or France
now Mother you will have
to excuse short note as
we are all in a hustle
and bustle to get the
transports wagons packed
and leave this afternoon
so with love to you and
Annie

I remain
your loving son
Jack

14 Putnam St.

So. Shields.

May 24th 15

Dear Jack.

Today is Whitmonday & as the mail leaves tonight I thought I would send you a few lines to try & cheer you up. It will be a very miserable holiday for mother & I for we both feel as though we have no right to be happy as long as you are in danger. I haven't entered a place of amusement since Christmas. The second list of Australian casualties was in the Daily Mail this morning.

Mother was dreading seeing your name, but thank the Lord your

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his body was picked up about a fortnight after. All lives were lost. One of the lads has been wounded in the Dardanelles. Do you remember him living opposite us in Frederick St back lane. He is with the Anson Battalion. Such a lot of Shields lads are out there, you will very likely meet them. You will be seeing some terrible sights. ^{One of} The war correspondents in the Dardanelles is giving some fine accounts of Australian bravery. Did you get my letter that I wrote on Thursday? I hope you did. I ~~to~~ am chancing sending you a packet of cigarettes so hope you get them. It isn't what I would like to send you but still I know you will appreciate

name wasn't among. Oh Jack we do pray & trust that you are spared to us. Brother is so miserable & so bitter towards the slackers at home. Did you get that letter with Jack Potts photo in? Poor lad he was killed in France at the battle of Neuve Chapelle. He is married brother Bob was wounded last week & has been brought over to a Leeds hospital. Do you remember Doggs lad that lived in Frederick St. The one I mean was your age ^{about} 23 & was a school teacher? Well poor lad he enlisted at the beginning of the war & was killed in France last week. Poor little Clem Chipchase was steward in a ship that the Germans torpedoed in the Channel &

14.

a good old Doodbine. Now dear Jack
I haven't any more to say just now
but hoping & trusting that you
will have a safe return home &
with love from mother & myself.

I remain,

Your ever loving sister.

Annie.

P.S.

I won't worry you to write to me
for I know that even when you
are off duty you will need all
the rest you can get. So long as
mother gets a few lines for Jack it
would make your heart ache to see
her waiting & watching for the post.

I do hope the censor will let you
have your tabs Jack.
Mother is writing too.

14 Bertram St,
So. Shields.

June 3rd 15.

Dear Jack.

How are you keeping?
Mother has not had any word
from you since she read of the
landing of the Australians in
the Dardanelles. Of course I expect
you will have had your hands
full tending the wounded, for I
see by the papers that the Australians
have had a heavy list of killed &
wounded. Oh Jack! we do pray
for you to be spared a safe return
to us. There are a lot of Australian
wounded from the Dardanelles in
hospitals & gentlemen's houses in

men's work as all ^{the young} men are enlisting.
The sooner they all enlist, the sooner
the war will be over.

There has been a terrible lot of
recruits from South Shields this
last fortnight.

Now dear Jack I will send you
a few more lines again before
the week is out. So hoping
to hear from you soon with
love & best wishes for your safety
from mother & myself.

I remain
Your Ever loving sister
Auntie

P.S. I am sending
you your tabs &
so is mother

the south of England. ^{Some} These photos
were in the Illustrated Chronicle &
my word they did look fine &
noble. If you let us know that
you are receiving our letters
alright I will send you a box
of cigarettes & some nice chocolates,
but of course I don't want to
chance them & then for them to
be returned to me. Oh to have
you home again. "Home" will not
be complete again until you ^{come} back
again. Mother is lonely during the
day for I am out from 7 a.m. until
5 p.m. I get home to dinner
every other day but of course I
always have my breakfast at the
office. I like my work fine.
Girls will soon be having to do all

14 Bertram St,
So. Shields.

June 15th 15.

Dear Jack,

As it was mail day & mother was writing I just thought I would write you a few lines to try & cheer you up. Even if it is not very long I know you will appreciate it. How are you keeping? I expect you will be kept very busy tending the wounded as I see by the papers that there is a very heavy casualty list for the Dardanelles. Oh! if only this terrible war was finished, for it seems dreadful to think that so ^{many} fine, healthy young men have to be used as fodder for guns. The

for ever in her thoughts & she can't
be happy. I am keeping fine now,
I only wish I knew for certain
that you were just as well,
now dear Jack I haven't any more
to say just now, but will write
again this week, so with love
from you mother & myself & praying
for your safe return home again

I remain

Yours ever loving sister

P.S. I have sent you a parcel that

We would like a few lines in
your handwriting if you could
spare the time dear Jack

Goodnight lad & God protect
you for you poor old mother's sake,
for Oh Jack! how we do love you.

brave Australians have lost very heavily
too. There are some splendid accounts
in the papers of their daring & bravery.
Mother & I have sent you a box
of 50 Woodbines on chance with this
mail, so I hope you get them
alright & I needed say I hope for
I know you will enjoy them &
think of mother & I at home safe
while you are just out there in the
middle of danger. But you were
always of a brave & sturdy nature,
so I don't suppose you ever think
of danger. I am registering the
parcel to ensure you getting them
if not they will be returned back
to me. But I do hope you get
them Mother is keeping a bit
better just now but of course you are

Enclosed you will find you

packet of tabs.

I do hope the censor will be kind enough
to let you have them. He will if he can
know.