

P O Box 283

Sydney Oct 1st 1920

Dearest Mother,

The last note I sent was a very scrappy little one wasn't it? I hope it arrived alright. We got back to Sydney on Sunday Sept 23rd - we had been away just a fortnight. We had a very good trip - engine trouble of course, but we didn't worry as we had plenty of time. I've got some nice snaps which I will send when I get copies printed. Perhaps they will help to convey to you that I am not pining away & getting thin. I weigh more than I ever did at home now, so please don't worry about me that way. I used to weigh 11 stone 7 lbs at home & now I'm just about 11.5 & before the trip I was 11.9 - getting fat & lazy I was.

You will be interested to hear that I have insured my life. I intended to do it before I left home but didn't. I am insured for £500 at a cost of £10-10-10 per annum, so if I pay out any time there will be something to pay my debts with & help my widow (if any). I don't intend to die for some time, but it's cheaper per annum if you start young with the insurance. The Company I'm insured with is the "Australian Mutual Provident Society" of Pitt Street, Sydney. They have a bonus scheme whereby if I live a long while the £500 increases in about 25 years gradually to nearly £1,000. They seem to be a pretty good firm. Most of the men in this business are insured with them.

Will you convey this information to the gentleman who so kindly holds my proxy? By the way I never paid money for drawing up the deed. Has anything been done about it? I shall be interested to hear if Father is able to handle my new bonds & things alright with that. Mr Lloyd let us into something in the Guildford P.P. didn't he? - has anything transpired yet? I think if they ever pay a dividend & by any chance go above par, I shall sell out unless it seems pretty certain that they will continue to pay well. I know better men for my money I do.

I played tennis at Mr Hoskins' on Saturday afternoon again. A Mr Bradlock came to afternoon tea & brought ^{one of} his daughters. Mrs Hoskins had spoken about me to her & she came to meet me. She asked me to go to that place in a week or so - time - they'll be away for a holiday for a while.

Mrs Hoskins says they have a fine big place & two cars as things is looking up! Mr Bradlock has a son alone in London & so she feels sympathy for me which is very nice. I am to spend Christmas with the Hoskins at Bay View where they have a cottage. I found a message when I got back to the office asking me to run up for ^{past} the week end - but it was already past.

I am going over to live with the Benhams in a few days - they are already installed in the house we are sharing. I hope to improve my tennis & my bridge.

while I'm there. They were playing bridge at the Hoskins
on Saturday evening & cutting in and out. They insisted
on my playing a rubber & in fear and trembling I did
so. We won by 300! Someone showed g^d at me as my
winning @ 3² = 100 but I rather electrified them by saying
I didn't play for money if they didn't mind. They didn't a bit
& Professor Welch paid it to his wife who was my partner
instead. I don't know whether to spoil the game by playing
for money or not. - I never have yet & don't like to start.
Though it seems rather silly declining to play for money sometimes.

I will try to take snaps of my friends here
soon as you can see what they are like. I'm meeting
some very nice people nowadays.

Sunday Oct 2nd M^r & M^{rs} Clark & John had left the boarding
house when I returned as John's cold didn't improve. They
went to Killarney on the north shore line for a month
or so before returning home. The place is almost full
of old women. I have never seen so many ladies of advanced
age living together. Fortunately I am going to start sharing the
house with the Berbens this week sometime - as soon as I can
get my luggage packed and sorted. I was over to see them
yesterday & played tennis. Took Pat Farlane of whom I have told you
I think & in the evening played rags with him & his banjo. We made a
terrific noise like Bob & I used to do.

Please tell Edna I will write & thank her for the very nice
birthday present later - the mail goes today at 4 pm. The next will
be about 14 days behind this.

Best love to all
Your loving son
Bertie

P.S. I think it was very funny the way you killed the rabbit
at the farm. Edna's description of the proceeding was
very amusing. Ask later how he would like to have a
Ford Tour truck which wouldn't go in low gear, foot
brake and hand brake useless & a 5 miles long hill in
front of him. He might be interested for offering it for 6⁰
I think! - I had that experience but we got up & got to
a Ford Service Station just as one of the Dry-codes
gave out! I'll tell you all about it later.

Yours
Charles