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Wed. 18-7-23

Dearest Mother,

The English mail in today but no letter from home! Tomorrow doubtless it will arrive! But perhaps in the middle of carnival week you were all too busy to write! I'll soon know.

I'm very interested to hear all about it & I'm sure however long your descriptions are they won't be a bit too long.

I'm pretty busy just at present & don't get much spare time to write in but some day (as I think I've said before) I'll tell you lots about the things I see & do. Keep on hoping!

I was working back at the office after dinner last night & Monday, but that was on some special jobs I had to do in a hurry & you can bet I don't intend to make a habit of it! Not this child! But when one is entrusted with work one likes to get it done.

I heard from Audrey & from Bea Post today. He seems very fed-up with London & the sameness of everything. I wish he could be out here with us.

It's difficult to imagine everything going on at home just as before when one is in the midst of entirely new surroundings & doing new work. But Post's letter & some snaps Audrey sent rather emphasise it.

I've seen the Bentons again once or twice

recently. There is a scheme on foot for me to share a furnished house with them at Randwick for about 6 months in the summer. It belongs to someone at the variety who is letting it while they are away pretty cheaply to them as they are people they know. I haven't seen it yet but it sounds rather attractive from their descriptions.

You say you thought living was cheap out here. Don't you believe it! Some few things are cheap but on the average it's just as expensive to live out here as in England.

I haven't much news & it's pretty late so you must excuse the brevity of this letter & read it twice instead of once.

I hope you are all quite fit after the holiday & are going to send me full descriptions - and snaps lots of them.

Best love to all,

Bertie

P.S. Friday 20-7-23.

The "Mongolia" the new P.T.O. Boat is taking the mail which leaves for Adelaide today. I think she's an ugly looking boat - very high deck & one funnel only, but she's supposed to be the latest thing. Your letter has not arrived but I had one from W<sup>m</sup> Mack today forwarded from the club

She says she will miss my impromptu verses  
on the staff which I used to sing at the dinners.  
& suggests I should write them out for posterity  
I can see it coming off!

I've been here over 3 months now - that  
makes one sixteenth of 4 years - and one twelfth  
counting from when I left home. Tempus fugit  
don't they as Edna says.

I am wondering how Bob is getting on now.  
I get no news of him or Mabel so I suppose  
they are still carrying on. Perhaps my earlier  
appeals for communications from them will have  
worked here now. If not I hope this will.

I'm going to a rehearsal again tonight  
for the North Shore Reading Circle, & the reading  
next Friday. I went to Professor Taylor's  
to dinner last night. They're very pleasant people.

I am beginning to get a grip on my job  
now, but the shipments business is still a little  
beyond me.

Goodbye for the time  
Percie