

WRITTEN AT PRATCH CAMP THAILAND
5TH SEPTEMBER 1946.

DEAR MOTHER

I AM WELL & THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
WRITING IS POSSIBLE THEY HAVE JUST GOT
SOME PAPER IN AFTER THREE
WEEKS WAITING. I AM WRITING A
CABLE ALSO, YOU WILL HAVE GOT IT
BY NOW.

YOU WILL WANT TO KNOW HOW I GOT
HERE, WELL I WAS IN CHARGE
SINGAPORE UNTILL OCTOBER 1942 &
AFTER A FIVE DAY RAIL JOURNEY GOT
TO THAILAND ON THE 3RD OF NOVEM-
BER AFTER A 6 DAY VOYAGE ON A BARGE
UP THE ITAE KLONG (NOT THE KONG)
RIVER FROM KONTONBURI THEY
DUMPED US ON THE SIDE OF A MOUNT-
AIN WITH JUNGLE STARTING FROM
THE BANK & COVERING HUNDREDS
OF MILES OF SIAM & BURMA. WE

CLEARED A SPACE AND BUILT A CAMP
FROM THE MATERIAL AROUND US DAMBOO
TIED WITH STRING TAKEN FROM THE BARK
OF A TREE. THE PLACE WAS NAMED
KANU AND WE HAD TO BUILT RAILWAY
TO CUT ALONG THE FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN
WE HAD 600 MEN THIS JOB KILLED 125 OF
THEM IN 6 MONTHS. I LEFT THIS AREA
IN AUGUST 1943 AND CAME TO A CAMP CALLED
CHUNGKAI 27 MILES FROM KANTONBURI. I WAS
HERE UNTILL MAY 1944 DOING ODD JOBS. I
THEN TO NAROMPATON WHICH HAS
THE SECOND LARGEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN
THE WORLD I WENT BACK UP COUNTRY IN
JANUARY 1945 TO A CAMP CALLED TATA
WAN. FROM THERE AFTER A WEEKS
JOURNEY I CAME TO THIS. WE WERE
TUNNELING INTO A MOUNTAIN MAKING
BOMB PROOF MAGAZINES FOR AMUNITION
ALL THE PLACES I HAVE MENTIONED WERE
NORTH WEST OF BANGKOK THIS ONE IS
NORTH EAST UP CHUNGKAI WAY. I HAVE
BEEN HERE SINCE MAY 1945.

WELL THATS ALL ABOUT ME NOW ABOUT YOU.
THE FIRST MAIL I RECEIVED SINCE LEAVING
HOME IN SEPTEMBER 1941 WAS A POSTCARD
IN NOVEMBER 1942 3 YEARS AFTER I WAS
TAKEN PRISONER. IT SAID MARGARET'S
SON GROWING FINE LAD, BETTY & HUSBAND DO-
ING WELL. I GATHERED FROM THIS THAT
THEY WERE BOTH MARRIED. SINCE THEN
I HAVE RECEIVED 12 CARDS & 3 LETTERS
IN ALL SOME BACKED DATED ONE OR TWO
ARE FROM BET. THE LAST BEING JANUARY
THIS YEAR. THESE CARDS TALK OF SONS
AND DAUGHTERS AS ACCOMPLISHED
FACTS. I AM IGNORANT AS TO NATAL
DATES OF BIRTH AND HOW MANY YOU.
JUST SAY THEY ARE KEEPING WELL.
I GATHER FROM THESE CARDS THAT
MARGARET HAS A SON AND DAUGHTER
AND BET. A DAUGHTER IS SHE STILL WORK-
ING HER ADDRESS IS ALWAYS R.C. U.S.
YOU HAD BETTER SEND ME A LETTER
GIVING ME THE HISTORY OF THE LAST
FOUR YEARS. IT IS FOUR YEARS THIS
MONTH SINCE I HAD DIRECT NEWS
APART FROM TWO CABLES AT CHRIST-
MAS 1941

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ON FOR
MONEY DID THEY INCREASE YOUR ALLO-
TMENT WHEN THE COST OF LIVING WENT
UP. YOU SAY FROM TIME TO TIME THE
OLD MAN IS WELL AND WORKING BUT
NOT IF ITS A SEA. I HOPE YOU ARE
ALL STILL WELL.

WE ARE EXPECTED TO BE MOVED ANY
DAY FROM HERE THEY SAY TO RANGON
BY AIR SO DONT WRITE TO THAILAND
OR THE VICE VICE I HAVE BEEN FAIRLY
FIT DYSENTERY 5 TIMES MALARIA 9
TIMES TWO MINOR OPERATIONS ONE
FOR HEMERIODS & ONE FOR A COLLAR
STUD ABSCESS IN MY HEEL JUST A
MONTH AGO. IT WAS AN INCH INSIDE
MY HEEL AND IF THE WAR HAD FIN-
ISHED A WEEK EARLIER I WOULD HAVE
GOT AN ANAESTHETIC BUT THEY HAD TO
DO IT WITHOUT. I GOT A SPINAL INJECT-
ION FOR THE OTHER. THATS ALL JUST
NEW YEARS TRULY JACK