

"Home"
Dec³⁰ 43.

My Dear Albert.

Well here we are again soon finished with -43 let us hope that -44 will see great results & also see you all home again we were expecting you every day, every body seemed to think that you were on your way home, but we have given up all hope of seeing you this New Year. I went to town the other day & I sent you another pound of Tobacco "Park drive" I hope it reaches you safely I will send you the number of the parcel when I get it. I also posted you a parcel a tin of green peas a tin of Tongue Jam Condensed milk & a piece of bath soap. I haven't been able to get any coffee & milk yet but I'll have a good look around when next in town it is hard to get anything in tins spaghetti & beans seem to have gone out of existence. I will send you another parcel shortly. I received three letters all together & the Lmas airgraph card, thanks Albert, it was lovely. This Lmas was pretty miserable, I can't

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get away as we had bad luck with the
'Bedford' a cracked cylinder head &
the main bearings went, parts are unprocureable
so the two boys scouted everywhere &
at last located a complete engine at Phaka
which we got for £15, it was completely
disassembled so they had to put it all together
& it is O.K. now only they are puzzled about
the timing so they have gone into Ben Fraser
to-night for advice, poor beggars they have been
busy, I'm took & ulkie up to Manabhai for
Chris's day & they came back on Sunday, Ivan
is trying to get to Phakalane for the New Year
I hope he can as they want a spell away
from work, Dad is busy putting the goose
saw in. It was unfortunate the way the
damage to the engine was done, the fan got
stuck (one blade) in the radiator & getting it
out of course a hole was ripped in the
radiator, Ivan was taking a load of timber
into the station & he couldn't make out why
it kept boiling, of course when he lifted
the bonnet he discovered the fan was
stuck & he put water into the radiator
& of course it was too hot & the cylinder

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head cracked, we are still waiting for the appraisal of the bush, the mill is still cutting rata in the mean time, Roy is still in New Caledonia & getting very very home sick, he can speak a little French but not much, Fiddy & the two little boys are very well little Roy is a beautiful little chap & loves ice cream, he is in to all kinds of mischief to day he got right on under the house so we had to coax him out with a biscuit, little Lance is a very good baby & is just starting to sit up. by the way he looks like you, little Rops eyes are brown & Lances are big blue eyes. Youngs are in Auckland, last Sunday week Rita brought four Americans out (construction unit) pig hunting Cecil & Evelyn came round, they were four very nice chaps about 35 to 40 yrs of age, by the way Rita has attractions for one of them, he must be about 40, & a real nice chap Alton Sweet is his name, about 6ft tall & broad built he is in partnership with his father in boat building in California, they shot one pig & they caught about a dozen little ones.

they had a great day & enjoyed themselves very
 much. I am sure Albert Bully beef & linned
 spuds will be a night mare to you when you
 come home again. Pet isn't in yet, but she will
 be in about a fortnights time, we have just got
 a little pig from Mikkelsen's & are going to
 get another one when pet comes in. Albert what
 do you think I have got a copper & ain't I
 pleased I think I have got all conveniences
 now, fancy hot & cold water in the wash house,
 do you remember the aroma & my wash house,
 Lindsay & Dulcie are getting married in Febua
 I don't know its date yet, they are to be married ^{my}
 in Mikkelsen's house & a dance in the Mana^{ah}
 Hall at night, so far they cannot buy blankets
 in fact they have had a job to buy anything
 & what they can get is so frightfully dear.
 I had a letter from Rose yesterday she keeps
 writing even if I don't I cannot understand
 her letters. I suppose I have told you Don
 Macdonald was killed overseas, Jimmy Farrelly
 hasn't been found, I guess he has gone west.
 You said not many air graphs have been received
 didn't you get mine I sent in Sept telling
 you about the bush. We are having glorious

weather real hot but nothing is yellow or burnt up yet we had an awful lot of rain before Xmas but it cleared up the day

Before Xmas eve it has been fine ever since Xmas is nothing in Rotorua this year just an ordinary Friday night quite a lot of shops are not re-opening until after the new year there is very little you can buy we tried to buy a box of strawberries & they were 4/6 a chip needless to say we didn't buy them, the boys were going to buy a chip in Whakatane & they were 10/- a chip, they left them.

plums are 1/8 a lb oranges are 6 or 8 each & apricots 2/- a lb & there is hardly any to buy.

Bananas are hardly ever in the shops I tell you you would get a shock if you went shopping working shirts (poor quality to) are 15/11 each.

Denims 19/11 each & woollen things are not to be thought of, by gosh it will be good to be back on our old footing again, Well Albert I think I had better stop now as it is bed time

so I will say good night & keep well & look after yourself & not too much "Lunatic soup" fond love to you from all at home x x x x write often, Albert we long to hear from you mum.