

"Home"
March 24th 1919

My Dear Son

We received your Airgraph & were really not surprised to see you had moved but were of course hoping you would keep out of that "hot spot" till I suppose a change is better than staying in one spot too long. I hope you see something of "Mt Vesuvius" in eruption it must be a grand if also a terrifying sight. I hope you get more to eat over in Italy you should now get plenty of Spaghetti it is off the market out here had about a nice Italian girl, I believe they are quite handsome when young but not so hot when old age creeps on. you are certainly seeing something of the world Albert but oh how I wish you were in old N.Y. Albert Dawson is somewhere in Italy. I think he is a sergeant, I am going to write to Auntie Ellen & find out his address & I will then let you know. MacDougal from Lunny's is missing in Italy. Had got your letter last night

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he was very pleased that you wrote to
him, I wish I had started writing a letter
to you, I don't know when he will finish
it, he gets these inspirations now & again.
Evelyn also got your paragraph & so did
Mrs Woollett, she read it out at the parcel
afternoon to the ladies, very thoughtful of you
Albert to send one. Jack Clark is building
a house for himself in Rotoua, he is on a
pension. The Forestry appraiser is coming
out here on Monday to mark about 2
million ft of timber so that we can start
on the Block, the angle dozer is
finished & is to be delivered next week.
Then it is full steam ahead, don't worry
old boy, the firm is still above water &
is likely to be so now when the new
bush is going to be milled well Jarlot &
Sons are some bodys, they are still
cutting it & I have found some beautiful
trees, they will be after your big "Joke"
in a weeks time, the tractor is right
up high on a ridge where they can look
over Rotoua lake. Albert that tractor is
simply marvellous. & when it gets its

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brand new angle dozer or woult it look
business like, Lindsay has a film
already to take photo's of Albert I am
proud as a peacock when I go to town
to think we have made good in our
own business we have had a mighty big
struggle the toughest was before we got
the tractor that blooming "Pinion" that
was always breaking & then the old
"Robby" it's a wonder it didn't break your
heart, when you had to drive it. We went
down to Youngs last Wednesday both their
mills have just about cut out, the Potockin
Mill messed on Waione No. 9. so they are
looking for more bush every day. & the
Pongkawa Mill has just about cut out
so they will finish together I will tell
you more when I hear what is going to
happen I think they have been a bit
too slow. of course since milling was
controlled the nearest mill to the bush
has to cut it, which of course is sensible
thank goodness we are just going to
start our bush & not finishing it.
Dulcie & Lin are very happy & it is good

to see she is ⁴ just the wife for him
& keeps the house spotless & cosy, & looks
after him, gives him plenty to eat, &
that is the way to his heart. Jimmy
Loanes wife had a son this makes two
girls & a son (3) coming on isn't he.
We are having some dreadful weather,
raining everyday, winter seems to have
come all at once. Rangataiki flats have
again been flooded & a cloud burst on
Hill crest & just about flooded Phakalané
out the whole town had to be evacuated,
as a big lake had formed up on Hill crest,
& only a culvert held it back, if it had
burst through there would have been a
major flood & there would have been nothing
left of Phakalané, all the engineers &
public works were called up & they managed
to turn the water another way, as it
was the water fall that comes down
the hill was a roaring cataract & boulders
& logs floated down the sheets, the water
that went through the sheets was 3 ft deep
& so swift you couldn't cross over. as
I hope ships came off the Hills & spoiled

the lawns in many places piled up against
 the backs of the houses, the little stream
 by Millers store is now 10 ft deep & 20 ft
 wide & has to have a bridge over it, we
 only got the rain, but the mill worked.
 Rita is just going to have her holidays,
 she is doing very well, & is getting very
 clever with her sewing, she does a little
 private sewing at home besides her shop
 work. Well Albert I think I have written
 all there is to write about for this time
 so I will say good night & fondest love
 from us all. keeps clear from all dangers

Mum

Lid is posting a photo to you of herself
 & her two bonny boys. to-morrow
 I am sending you a parcel of chocolate
 on Monday.