

The Mill
26/4/44

Dear Albert,

As you'll agree it's high time you heard from me again. I'm satisfied that the chap that said brothers never write was very nearly right. How are you in your new surroundings, you certainly are getting around and seeing the world. Are you getting any new wrinkles in the timber business if so save them up and maybe we can try them here. You'll have quite a lot to learn here such truck driving, bulldozing, welding to mention a few. It's a very different story to the old benzine witch and Hardies truck to cart logs. However you'll learn fast and I'm sure it will be

very interesting for you.
At present the three forest
rangers th staying with us
crossing Smiths bush. Theyre
quite nice chaps. The King &
Queen stand has been
smoothed over without any
trouble for it seems quite
a common thing for millers
to warden across survey
lines when it suits them.
However we won't make a
habit of it, Its risky. Hell
I'll be pleased to see you
back here and are we
going to go haywire when
that day comes. Beer, women,
and fun in plenty is going
to be the story. I reckon
we are entitled to sit it
once our futures are secured
here, and they will be by
then. May this foul war
soon end. Our blade is
here on the job, but the

front power ³ control unit
is not quite finished yet
but should not be long.
There ~~is~~ ^{are} many hours of hard
work for it piling up here.
It is costing quite a lot of
expense attached to obtaining
Smiths bush and getting into
it and I think its going
to be a bit tough for a
while, but once we're over
it nothing should hold us
back as we will have over-
come the bogey that's been
holding us back ever since
we started sawmilling. Not
having enough timber in
view to do things as we
first wanted to. We'll make
it in the end. if we keep
tackling the major problems
and beating them. I give you
a brief account of how things
are here. The old White is
still doing a big job.

The tractor in first class
order, Lindsay & Lucie well
settled down, they've just
bought a radio from old
Claude. By the way I went
fishing at O'mairi with Claude
at Eos Easter. Dam me if
he didnt didnt start his
old tricks. I gave him hell
and brimstone including a
wicked elbow jolt in the
guts. God he was a sorry man
& in fact he was so cut
up he cried like a kid, but
I could not relent. I caught
the the service car at Opotaki
the next day and came home.
A dam shame but it just
disgusted me. I havent been
to any Whakatoiro dances for
a while, as its hard f. to
find someone to go with but
make up for all that "after
the war." Dam the lousey thing.
Pulled your big white pin

Today. Its a beauty, 23 feet ^{girth} and
and fourteen feet ~~long~~ long.
5000 feet in a fourteen
foot log and round as
a barrel.

Well I'll close this scribble
of mine and post it before
I pack it away for another
three months.

Hoping you'll be with us again soon
Yours sincerely

Loan