

Home

Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> 1844

My Dear old Albert.

Well here I am

a bit slow again son, but really I am  
terribly busy & after a tiring day I am  
glad to sit & do nothing, we have the  
bush cruisers boarding with us up to  
now we have had 3 bush (Govt) & Roy  
Tomsett, one of the Govt men got sick  
so we have now 2 of these chaps  
Mr Armitage the head ranger & a Mr  
Ben Brothers (he was with you over in  
England) I might tell you we pumped  
him dry about you he I believe was  
in Harbicks hospital with you.  
he asked me how to ask you how would  
you like one at the "Golden Poth", up to  
now they have appraised  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the  
bush, which they have now got  $1\frac{1}{2}$   
million this includes tawa to, they have  
found 3 Totara's, it is the best  
Pine that Mr Armitage has ever seen  
& he has been cruising for 16 years

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including the South Island, for a start it didn't look too healthy but ~~was~~ this was when they were cutting the lines but when they started appraising it was surprising at times it is a bit scattered but generally it is pretty good, some wonderful Tawa to, also Forung'ahou, they have been here 3 weeks now & will be at least 4 weeks more, they are very fine men especially Mr Armitage & very fair. Mr Armitage brought Mrs Armitage & his family of three girls out to see us one Sunday, they go home for the weekend, by five I'd & I are busy cooking, sometimes five lunches to cut, I get up at twenty minutes to six & breakfast at 6.30 am going flat out cutting lunches until 9. am, but I don't mind I bake all the bread & the men rave over it, in fact I get a lot of compliments about the cooking. One thing they do appreciate having a place to board & not having to come home after a day scrambling in the bush, I believe the supple jacks are just

terrible, often they have to go down on hands  
 & knees to get through, the pulling is  
 not going to be bad it ~~is~~ can all be  
 worked on the ridges there is going to  
 be a lot of bull dozing to do. Lindsay is  
 going out with the cruisers all the time, if they  
 can possibly spare him as he is getting to  
 know the bush & everything, by the way  
 Ted can hardly keep her excitement down  
 Roy is coming home possibly next week,  
 we are going to try & get high on the  
 engines again, unfortunately Roy Tomsett  
 has to be interviewed next Friday for  
 the Airforce, I hope we can keep him he  
 is a hard worker & very nice & a good  
 Boarder. Youngs have been here for a week  
 just Evelyn & the kids Evelyn isn't well  
 her nerves are not so good & no wonder  
 those two youngest. Shirley & Albert nearly  
 drive us mad, always howling & yelling  
 our house was like an Asylum & unless they  
 check them a bit they are going to have  
 trouble they don't give Evelyn a minutes  
 peace, they went home last night & really

Albert we were glad to see them go,  
what with the tax boarders we didn't  
know whether we were on our head or our  
heels, old Mrs Young & her husband came  
down to Beck yesterday, they are going to look  
after the children & Geoff Youngs are  
having Evelyn by herself. Paddy's kiddies  
are lovely, very gentle disposition & pretty  
I don't favour Paddy's kiddies at all, but  
Evelyns get me down they are not checked.  
I hope Evelyn gets alright soon, she is a terror  
to worry over trifles, she has a perfect home  
every convenience & their car is paid off  
& Cecil gets about £15 a fortnight clear &  
sometimes more & a good husband whatever  
does she want, she ought to have some of  
the worries & lack of conveniences I  
have had, but Albert now we have a  
nice home & every convenience & we  
have worked for it hard. Ken Freyer  
& Mrs & a friend were all out last  
Sunday, Ken was showing Ivan how to  
weld cast iron, he did like "white" &  
front springs, by give that Wolding outfit  
is good. The "Bedford" is perfect now.

Your "White" <sup>mine</sup> is cut up & gone Albert.  
Lindsay & Dulcie are very happy & Lindsay  
looks well, he looks a lot like you Albert.  
They are very cosy up there Dad & I went  
up for supper last night they have a  
beautiful "Wireless". Dad killed one of our  
wild pigs yesterday, I am making "Brawn"  
to-night, we are going to eat it  
without curing for Bacon as it was only  
small, we still have another wild one & a  
tame Tammy, which we will be making into  
Bacon, all meat except Sausages are  
rationed & if you are lucky you can get  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  a lb of Bacon.  $1/9$  per week per person,  
3 lbs a sugar a week &  $\frac{1}{2}$  a pound of Butter  
a week per person, the Doll Men get  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb extra  
of Butter a week & 11 worth of meat extra.  
Janey a producing country like this to be  
rationed, if some of the estates in the old  
country were cut up & dairy farmers put  
on milking cows perhaps there would be  
more Butter & Meat produced in Britain  
& leave us a bit more civilians are allowed  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb of tea a month I might say it doesn't go  
round. He got three letters last week

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the first mail we had had, a lot of mail  
was lost in Jan & Feb, tell me if you get the  
lot cake & chocolate, I sent they were  
sent to gether, separate parcels but I mean  
on the same day. Mrs Jack Wallace had a  
bad turn last Tuesday night & had to be taken  
to the hospital, they think it is gall stones.

By your Albert we have got some yanks in  
town & talk about cheeky, they yell out &  
whistle in the restaurants & grab the girls arms  
as they pass them in the street its horrible  
I would like to tell you how many are  
here but I know it wouldn't get through.

Well old son we did enjoy your letters  
they were very, very interesting. Italy must  
be in a very bad way. alright. Well Albert  
I think I will say goodnight now for this  
time with fondest love from us all

we are very well & hope you are  
likewise. x x x x  
Mum

Uncle Bernie & Aunt Mary & Allan  
are coming down in June.