

4 James St.  
Rotorua  
The Shortest Day  
1979

My Dear Cuff,

Today is like summer, not a cloud  
in the sky beautiful sunshine, its  
hard to believe (yes we had a heavy  
frost & it will be worse tonight)

Yes Collingwood was worth reading  
I will read it again in a few  
weeks, its on loan at present the

reader comes from Motuska I asked  
about a Gold finding book, says he  
can get me just what I need, well

I dunno, father time is having  
a bite at me, I can't take the cold &  
in early hrs of morning, feel the

need of brandy, a bastard  
really, Would love to go scratching  
for a bit of gold, will see what

the summer offers. I have heater on  
all the time. Have you progressed  
with your gardening at all, I do



have a good row<sup>2</sup> of leeks but think  
we will give up the worry of it  
B. hedgehogs have got into the  
potatoes, least said the better  
I don't doubt they will be quite  
also alright for seed, a beaut  
lot of spuds too but the thought  
of those filthy little swines makes  
my blood run cold they are  
got certefid, I spose we will  
get to cleaning up things. The damne  
speech & writing buisness is O.K.  
or near enough, Dr said it was  
a blood vessel break on the brain  
& it would come right, I have  
had it a few times but this was  
the worst, Old age I spose. numerous  
blood vessels would break, hands  
& once or twice a black eye, I had  
many breaks in the eyes during the  
winter. Dear Thomas is not  
recovered as yet, he sleeps in a



lives in, poor<sup>3</sup> sweet boy his eye  
is still in a bad way, the vet  
stitched ~~it~~ it & to stay for 3 weeks  
& weeks up tomorrow, he has all  
the doings, vitamins, etc that  
money can purchase, June force  
feeds him & he takes it like a  
lamb, cooks his dear self in the  
window & sleeps in a nest bed  
by the stove, hot water bottle  
changed 2-3 times a night.

Good for thought, it does seem the  
ancestral grandfather may have  
had his mind (elsewhere elsewear)  
Cant spell it elsewhere? who can  
blame him, a bit of female can  
be very attractive & the gold would  
always wait till tomorrow. We  
all get those sleepless nights & it  
can usually be blamed on the  
moon & this year the moons have  
been particularly brilliant. You



ask about Grace & me doing that  
Tinkle Tinkle business at pictures  
She had the contract to supply  
the music - I was a secondary  
helper, matinees or if she was  
sick. She had the brains to play  
with orchestra - I didn't, but  
used to get along alright. We went  
to Mandakaw once or twice a week  
The theatre manager took us there  
just some entertainment for folks  
who had nil of these things  
most times. Beryl presented me  
with a lovely cardigan, machine  
knitted I look like a million dollars  
in it. Spose I better get & do  
some more work now. Hope you  
& John are both well & able to keep  
warm much love Phil.