

*Letter sent to: Mrs A Mitchell
19 Pavilion St
Queenscliff
Manly Sydney NSW*

NX 33261
Pte A Mitchell
2/18th Bn
B Coy

Dear Win

I arrived back OK. We arrived Kelso at 10 pm so was in bed by 11 pm. Well Win I reckon the parting was the worst thing I ever had to do. You were so brave, and little Phyl too. I was glad you didn't come onto the station platform. It was heartrending to see the mothers, wives and sweethearts say goodbye to their boys. So many of them broke down. That's why I am so proud of you dear, you left me with a smile. I shall always have it with me. Just keep it up dear. I shall come back alright. It's no good worrying. When I saw you by the park rail the last time I almost cracked up. Then we started singing. I felt better then and managed to cheer one or two of the other chaps up. The young chap who shouted out to you, had had a few drinks to drown his sorrows, but he nearly went to pieces when he got into the train. I did my best to cheer him up. Now dear we are back at camp. Today they took the uniforms from us. We are to get light drill suits like the Darwin men. I don't think they are much good. I will try and get a snap taken in it sometime and send it to you.

There's a lot of rumours going round. One is that we are going to 'Singapore'. It might be right too seeing as we are getting the drill uniforms.

I believe that we march through Bathurst next Monday and then we won't be long before we sail. Anyway, if we go to Singapore we won't be in any fighting for a good while. So don't worry Darl, everything will be alright. I want you to look after yourself. I shall love you just as much when I get back. Then when all this is over, we can perhaps enjoy the rest of our lives in peace. I shall be glad when you get over to Manly Vale again.

Don't forget to write as often as you can. I shall always be looking for your letters. Let Phyl write now and then. I will put a note in for her now and then.

Well Win dear I think this is all this time. It isn't a very pleasant letter and I find it hard to write it. But we must face everything bravely like good Aussies.

So cheer up dear and smile. Keep your chin up. I'll do the same. All the best to everyone. A big kiss for my little girl and the rest for you. So cheerio darl till next week.

Your Loving Hubby

Arthur xxxx

PS I am going to write to the rest of the family soon. Keep your pecker up as mother used to tell me. ah! ah!