

NX 33261  
Pte A Mitchell  
2/18<sup>th</sup> Bn. B. Coy  
22<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Bde.  
Malaya

Dear Win

Here I am again dear, and getting settled in our Barracks. They're brick buildings and nice and cool during the heat of the day. It's mighty hot when the sun is shining. But most of the time there's plenty of rain and clouds. The country we are in is lovely and green. In place of the good old gum trees, we have rubber trees, coconuts and other Palm trees. As for the people here, well you have seen most of them at Colombo. The Malay is something after a Japanese, only browner. As a soldier he's a fine little fellow. We are up country some distance, and almost on the seashore. It's all very interesting, but Manly has it all beat. I don't know how long we are to stay here, it may be just a few weeks or even years. I hope it's not too long, as we don't get any leave at all now. There's nowhere to go if we did. I think we shall see more of the country before we are through here. There is not very many mosquitoes where we are now. Any breeding place near the barracks are dealt with, so it keeps the place more or less clear of them. We have a camp stretcher to sleep on, two sheets and a blanket, also mosquito net. It felt queer sleeping under it the first night.

We left Singapore base by train. The liner looked very majestic as we disembarked and marched away from her. And then the train. The carriage we got was more like a cattle truck. I managed to get a short sleep on the luggage rack. It was wood, the seats were too, so it didn't make any difference. I suppose it would be in the Sydney papers, about our safe arrival. I heard on the trip over that we had been sunk. We had a very quiet trip. No raiders or anything to pass the time with.

Well Win, it's raining again. I believe it rains most of the time. But, it's cooler when it's wet. I have a good bit of walking to do now. Capt. O'Brien's quarters are about a mile away from mine. The walk's alright if it wasn't so darned hot. We may get a truck to take us there later on. Our clothes take some time keeping up to. We have to bath and change twice a day, otherwise we would soon be a smelling. A man has to be very careful with his health, or he would soon have something wrong with him. There's nothing to worry about. We are well looked after. The food is a little different and will take some getting used to. We don't have to work in the heat of the day so it's not so bad.

We dear, I hope you received the photo of the Bn group I sent along. There's several of the boys have taken snaps of me at different times, but so far they haven't been able to get them developed. So, you will just have to wait until they can. You should see our mess room here. It's a long building made out of bamboo and thatched with palm tree leaves. These natives are fine at that sort of thing.

Well, how's everything at home? I hope you and Phyl are keeping well, and all the others. It won't be long now before you are moving nearer to them. Remember me to Mr & Mrs Winterbon. Tell Charlie I would like to have him with me now. In one way I should have liked to have gone to the Middle East. Then I could have looked Bert up. It's safer here anyway and should be very interesting work. I don't know how I am going

to like the jungle when we get into it. A man will have to cut his way through, it's so thick. I suppose there will be wild animals and snakes about. How about a pet monkey or a nice long snake? Or I might bring you a tiger skin rug. It doesn't look like Grace getting that German steel helmet for under the bed. But we might bump some other blokes who wear them.

I wrote home to Mother just before leaving the boat, so I will write to Mum next. There's not much I can say now. So have a good time dear, it won't be too long before we are back again. Anyway I hope not. It's time they were getting on with this war, and getting it over with, It may be a day or so before this letter gets away, so far there's been no mail in or out. But we must give them a chance, we only got here yesterday. Just look after yourself. I will do the same. Keep smiling.

Your Loveing Hubby

Arthur