

Esperance
May 4th 96

My dearest Cis

Whatever will my little sweetheart think of me for neglecting her so? I know I have not written for three days but really my dearest I cannot help it, and even now I can only spare you a few minutes, as the mail closes shortly and I must not let the steamer go without a few words. Well Cis I have been so awfully busy lately that I think (-----) of missing a meal or two. That Municipal Council building is a treat not to be envied. Now that the work has started, each & every councillor has some suggestion to make some of them most absurd and ridiculous. They get me awfully annoyed at times they come down here make some suggestion or ask me an opinion which I give very quickly then they start on the "Railway" which is the leading topic here and as they all talk nineteen to the dozen you can imagine how much of my time is wasted If I say "I must be going to such a place" well they are going that way too. If "I have a letter to write" they will wait in the office till I have written it out so on. If I say "I am busy" "They do not wish to monopolise my time" Oh dear no! They just wish to suggest so and so which occupies about two hours if they were left alone and generally terminates by them saying they must see Councillor "Muchtalk" or someone else and ask his opinion.

Well my dear old Love you will think this rather dry so I must change the subject.

Arthur returned by the "Flinders" he is looking splendid I had a few words with him, but as he changes the topic to business I had to be content by knowing that you were all enjoying good health which I was pleased to hear, however I will have a long talk with him in a day or two I hope. I would dearly like to receive a letter from you first saying that he had had an half hours quiet conversation with you.

Now Cis it is nearly 9 the time of closing of mail so I must very reluctantly draw a conclusion. I do sincerely hope Cis that you will understand why I have not written and remember that you are always uppermost in my thoughts when I am working as well as well as in fact always.

I feel disgusted with myself for not postponing some of the drawings & writing a few times, but I feel sure you will understand. Will you not my own sweet little darling.

Please give my kindest regards to all and see that you get a nice kiss from the moon.
From

Yours as ever x
Ray xxx

(Horizontally at top of page 1)

P.S. Have you written to the other Cis yet? I will write you a nice long letter in a day or two.
Yours, Ray