

Esperance May 21st 96

My Dear Sweetheart,

It, reminds me of Adelaide, writing to you my little girl every evening. Well Cis I have made a resolution; - That I will write to you my own every night if only say two words. I really cannot thank you sufficiently for your last letter I did so enjoy it. I have just been reading it over again. Just fancy that little watch being "fast" who'd a thought it possible for such (----) mechanical contrivance to possess so many qualities in common with human beings?

You dear old girlie to think that it is trying to our meeting come quickly – Well Cis it makes me happy to think that it comforts you and so my little "barracker's" favourites lost the race –Why you are not half up to snuff Don't you know that Ladies should always be in favour of the winners and have plenty of consolation for the losers? However I have not the least hesitation in saying that had it not been for the other crew "Ormond" would have won. But what does it matter as long as my little pet enjoyed herself.

I find that with all the advice you have received lately I have to open to you a little: -Now Cis the next time you go to a "Reception" try and get a seat in the centre of the room before you make an onslaught on the refreshments for your own sake as well as mine. To think, that after eating a few dozen buns in the corner of a room you "were fairly wedged

wedged in" between the walls is simply horrifying. I have been in a state of anxious excitement, ever since I read your letter, to know how you were extricated: Did they remove the walls or did you wait till by the aid of your digestion you were able to struggle out? This is to my knowledge your second disagreeable experience with buns and I know I should have advised you before but trust that even now I am not too late and in future you will always see that you have plenty of elbow room before you make a violent assault on a poor harmless bun.

Knowing that you will take the above to heart and think seriously over it I will change the subject. My own I cannot help thinking of your dear mother's letter. It is simply lovely she speaks as affectionately of you dearie. And as you have taken the new girl in hand (eh?) Well I hope you will not forget to tell or rather show her how to cut cucumbers and arrange the flowers for the table as I don't think I will have time to do these little duties when I come over and I am sure you will not. – I say Cis have you tried the effect of buns on the new horse. Judging by late experiments in Melbourne. I think they would be very (----)

Never mind my dear sweetheart I will tease you no more tonight.

The other evening I was over at the Pier Hotel which has lately changed hands and after completing

completing arrangements with the landlady for making additions to the premises. Her daughter came into the room and sitting down at the piano she rendered some beautiful music both instrumental and vocal among the songs were Whisper & I shall hear, Dear Heart, Ora Pro Nobis and the Holy City. How the first did remind me of you dearest. I would have given worlds to have been suddenly removed into your drawing room that evening. Do you remember me sitting near you

when you first tried that song? Yes but you did not know my thoughts, (----) of the lump I had in my throat.

Well my own I must now say "good night" I hope you have had a good chat with your "dear old Ruth" ere this. Kindly give my love to all not forgetting "Muddy" Minnie and take a big kiss yourself from yours only.

Ray

Friday Well here I am again my darling. I have just had dinner aboard the Rob Roy. The Captain who is an awfully jolly fellow came over this afternoon and as he gave me a talking to about not going down to see him, I had to go and dine with him Now I am back with my little girl but I am afraid I will not catch this mail. Should I fail the jolly old skipper has promised to post my letters in Adelaide. I am already looking forward to another letter from you dearest and I expect I will receive one by the "Lubra" which is due Sunday.

And so little kitty is playing havoc among the mice is she? Well I think she ought to know better than to catch and worry them before my little girl, but I suppose she is proud of her conquests and likes you to see her play with her victims. Later on no doubt she will get more sense and wait till Cis is in bed and dreaming sweetly.

Bye the way Kitty must have grown considerably since I left.

It is just possible I will go away tomorrow week on the survey I spoke of in a previous letter (---) do not expect to see a living being (except my axe and chainmen). I will have to forgo the pleasure of receiving any of your beautiful letters – However I am going to address a couple of envelopes to you and take them with me so that if possible I will send you a few lines in pencil, you will not mind pencil for a couple of letters will you my own. I expect I will be away for about fourteen days perhaps a little longer. Of course you will write as usual dearie as I will look forward to a budget of your dear letters when I return.

Now dearest I must try and catch the late bag of this mail as I do not care (----) the posting in Adelaide you know the skipper will have a lot to do in Port and may forget all about it. So with love to all I will conclude with plenty of kisses for yourself from

Your Ray

Mitzpah You must not worry pet.

(Vertical from first page)

PS I have not forgotten your photo Cis. I will try and do them before I go out surveying.