

Esperance  
March 9<sup>th</sup> 1899

My dear old Cis

Here I am back in the little town of hope at last – but only for a short time – after a pleasant tide tho not without adventures My word Cis I feel awfully pleased now that I was delayed on the road through the accident to my bike otherwise I would have arrived yesterday when I would have (-----) the blues as I would not have received the very thing I hurried for – a letter from my sweetheart – as it was the mail arrived this morning with your dear letter but I must not forget to tell you Cis that I think you were a naughty mean little girl not to write me a line before Had I arrived here a couple of days earlier I do not know what I would have thought I would have pictured my dear little girls ill in bed and all sorts of horrid things. At the time my machine went wrong I was awfully annoyed, now I look back with pleasure feel very grateful to my iron steed for failing me.

Well Cis my own as it is it did not matter much I received your dear letter about an hour after my arrival so I will not talk any more about the might have beens. I am awfully sorry to hear of the state of affairs at Sandringham Poor Minnie must feel it very keenly especially coming as it does on top of Alder's troubles and I so admired the way she worked and kept her troubles to herself always ready with a joke or a smile one would have thought she was the happiest woman on earth.

I trust that ere this reaches you she will have the house full and that Alder's prospects will be much brighter.

I am very sorry to hear that I have been running you into such heavy expense in receiving my letters Cis I never dreamt for a moment that they were all underweight However you must let me off this time & I will not let it happen again.

I am very pleased to hear that you have been enjoying yourself love and I trust that you will continue to do so although I cannot allow young gentlemen to stand at the gate after midnight talking to my little girl. Why Cis I believe I am getting a little jealous (Eh!) What do you think.

And so dear little Beryl has gone school teaching what a nice teacher she would make Cis so loveable and kind why her pupils would be like the

sunday school scholars who were taught by Ivy a young lady from Hawthorn

Well Cis I intended to tell you all about my trip but I think I will have to postpone a detailed account till my next as I wish to write quite a budget of letters by this mail.

In brief I had a lovely trip one or two days being rather warm only 120 in the shade everything went splendidly will I arrived at Kalgoorlie Here I had the misfortune to collide with a salvation army soldier - thro no fault of my own – this seems to be a bad omen as

although his machine was completely wrecked mine was very little the worse for the accident as I fixed it up in about a minute and proceeded on my journey after going about 75 miles or 50 miles this side of Kalgoorlie I struck a stone with my pedal which I bent slightly tho nothing to speak of. I did not feel at all comfortable as the occurrence was unusual and a presentiment of danger thrilled through me and I could not get rid of it after going about 5 miles the pedal dropped off but I soon fixed it on again and eventually reached Widgiemooltha the stage for a midday halt after a good meal and securing a pedal I resumed my journey everything appearing to work splendidly I had only gone 3 miles when my tyre punctured so I sat down on the road and patched it up it was terribly hot – the weather I mean- in fact it was so hot that the solution used in repairing the tyre would not harden and was consequently useless. Well after struggling on for about thirteen miles and demounting every mile at first and latterly every few yards to patch the tyre up I was obliged to give up riding as the machine would not carry me

Having no water I could not camp so I had the option of walking ahead 22miles to the next water or walking back to Widgiemooltha where I would have the assistance of a cyclist whom I had passed on the road who was going to stay at Widgiemooltha for the night. I chose the latter arriving at about 8pm with a terrific thirst. Well we were up till midnight trying to fix up that tire but without success. Fixing it up temporarily I made an early start but as a repetition

of the previous afternoon looked very promising I was very reluctantly compelled to avail myself of the services of the Norseman Coach when it came along.

Arriving at Norseman I gave the wheel to a cycle Importer etc. the thought he fixed it up and as everything seemed as right as right could be I started off and by pumping every ten miles I managed to reach Esperance two days later than I would have only for the mishap.

Now Love I have told you quite a lot about it but I must now conclude with love to all & trusting your mother is keeping well with a big kiss from

Yours only  
Ray

P.S. Everyone seemed pleased to see me on arrival & they say I am looking well nearly everyone I met on the track had a message of some sort for me from Esperance.

Do not forget to send me a photo Cis. If all goes well I will be with you soon my darling Ray

*Inverted at top of previous page*

Give my love to Ruthy, Minnie, Beryl Hattie Dorothy etc etc  
Ray

*Sideways at top of first page*

P.S. I have not had time to turn up those invitations I had from the lodge but will send them by next mail

Au revoir Mitzpah

Ray

Excuse envelope it is all I have

*Inverted at top of page 2*

If you can not read this please burn it