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ON ACTIVE SERVICE

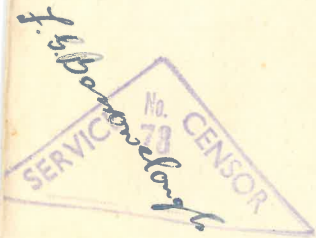
Mrs. J. M. Humphreys,

West Cliff,

Tauranga,

Bay of Plenty,

New Zealand.



40928 Maj. F. S. Barrowclough.

7 F.d. Amb.

2 N. 2. C. F. I. P.

N. 2. A. P. O 150

20.7.43

My dear Mother.

I was away at our base hospital at the week-end at a clinical meeting & was very pleasantly surprised on my return to find a totally unexpected mail in with your letter of July 9<sup>th</sup> together with all the newspapers cuttings - many thanks.

I like the sound of £2 a case for oranges over there. I wish I could start an export trade from here & get that price for them. I could now give up medicine & retire there.

I sent off to you last week a further sum of \$40 so hope you will get it before too long. I am afraid that I shall have to ask you to get something out of it as a birthday present for yourself even if it is very late as I could not send anything earlier. I am also afraid that this will be the last lot I can send in the meantime as I fear there will be no facilities for sending it now. If I get a chance I may be able to send you next month but I doubt it.

I am enclosing in this letter a map taken

P. T. O.

of me just outside my <sup>2</sup> tent some time ago. The  
Other chap is Capt. Given who shares a tent  
with me but at present he is away on a course  
in N.Z. I am sorry I can't often send photos  
as no cameras are now allowed. They were  
called in & all films had to be developed  
at Base. Hence the great delay as this snap  
was taken months ago.

I was sorry to hear that Mrs. Fitzgerald  
had had a broken leg. I had not heard of  
that before. I am surprised to hear that she  
survived that as I thought she would hardly  
have been alive now in any case. I am glad  
to hear she is better now. Please give them my  
best wishes when you see them.

You seem to be very much occupied still with  
the various patriotic activities. It is as well  
perhaps for them to have you to keep people  
reminded about the merchant navy. They have  
a very sticky job & everyone seems to forget  
all about them.

Things go on much the same here. My  
company is now back in hospital work so there  
is not so much to write about. Everything  
goes according to routine. We are hoping  
though that it won't be long now before  
we move on a bit nearer to Japan.

We had a big ceremonial parade here  
about 10 days ago at which Harold took the  
salute. He had with him a cabinet minister

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who was very anxious to shake the hands of all  
our patients so as Harold passed me on the  
inspection he told me they were coming up here  
straight after the parade so the Colonel & I  
left the others to march home while we  
hurried back in a jeep.

The war news seems to be improving doesn't  
it. The advance in Sicily & also in the  
Dolomites is a step in the right direction  
as is also the change of the German offensive  
in Russia turning into a retreat.

The last word I have from N. L. tells me  
that Eric seems to be improving a good  
deal with his spell of rest so things should  
not be so bad. All the rest of the family  
seem to be getting on quite well though  
not liking the cold.

I am afraid there is no further news I  
can give you as nothing seems to happen  
here these days so I must stop now.  
 kindest regards to Bert & very best of love  
to yourself.

Fred.