

Signalman J. Mortlock 2336921,
No 3 Company,
Singapore Fortress Signals,
Malaya.
22/6/41.

Dear Joyce and Dad,

I am sending you a "Gift Food Parcel" this week from one of the big stores in the nearest civilised town. I did not know that I could do this until I saw it advertised in the paper. This store makes up 3 different types of parcels and includes postage

- (a) 2 lb tea, and 1 large tin of butter 13/9
- (b) 2 lb tea, 1 small tin of butter, and 1 lb cube sugar 12/9
- (c) 1 lb tea, 2 lb cube sugar and 1 lb steak and kidney puddi

Unless the shop can make up a special parcel for me I shall send you "c" owing to the fact that meat is your chief difficulty and that the other parcels have 2 lb of tea and I think that 1 lb tea will be sufficient. Please let me know as soon as possible that you receive it O.K.

I tried to send the parcel off yesterday but the shop was closed as it was Saturday afternoon. I saw Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery in "Mr and Mrs. Smith" yesterday and thoroughly enjoyed a good comedy.

Did I tell you but whilst we are up country every week we get a free issue of 40 fags and 2 boxes matches ~~or~~ or 2 oys tobacco and 2 boxes matches. Being a non smoker you have no idea how popular I am

when I draw my ration.

I will try and send you a "gift food parcel" as often as I can manage so in the circumstances will you please send me £1 postal order per month to enable me to do this. Please send postal order and not currency notes as the latter are very hard to change.

I have stopped sending my letters to you by air mail for the following reasons. Previously they were flown to Durban and thence by surface mail but this has now been cancelled and the only air mail service available now is by American Clipper and costs too much. (two dollars).

Whilst I remain up country I am attached to 11th Indian Divisional Signals but I'm hoping to go back to my old unit soon and the sooner the better.

For Christmas greetings I hope to send a cables to you, Auntie Diggie, Uncle Jack and Uncle Charlie but don't tell them in case something pops up and prevents my doing so.

Some mail arrived ~~at~~ today but there was none for me and I expect mine is wandering round Malaya trying to find me. However I have complained to the Army Post Office and the Company Office so perhaps it may reach me a bit sooner than heretofore.

I went out driving a 15 cwt truck today for an hour. I was taken to an airfield under construction so I couldn't hit anything which was a good idea. However as it was my first attempt I didn't do at all bad and thoroughly enjoyed myself tearing round the field and I didn't smash the truck up much to my surprise!!!

If you see one fairly reasonable don't you think it would be a good idea to buy a big carpet for the drawing room. I think it would be look a lot better don't you but unfortunately they aren't very reasonable. How is the wireless going? O.K. I hope.

The last letter I received from you was March 22 so there's heaps wandering round, trying to find me which I hope will be soon now that I've complained. The trouble is my unit haven't readdressed my letters to my temporary ⁷⁰ station here up country and have merely sent the letters back to the nearest Army Post Office and have left it to the latter to sort out which I consider very unsatisfactory.

The climate here is slightly better than Singapore one thing however about the camp; it is situated in a huge rubber plantation and consequently it is lovely and shady and ~~consequently~~ ^{naturally} we don't notice the heat quite so much but even so it's still too damned hot for my liking.

25/6/41

I received 2 letters from you to-day, Apr. 7 and Apr 22 so therefore your letters of about March 24, April 1 and April 15 haven't reached me yet. Your letter of April 22 contained Postal Order No W/1014823 for £1; thanks very much. I'm glad the tennis club is to continue but please don't send any clothes etc. as I can buy them very cheaply here. I have only received 1 Barnett Press since that very big bundle of them that you sent me yourself.

I went out driving this morning again. We

went to the airfield and I love around on my own to-day without the instructor sitting by my side and I did O.K.

26/6/41

It's O.K. but I'm quite sober. I'm enclosing herewith the label off a beer bottle; as you can see for yourself it consists of a nice friendly tiger under a palm tree - two very common things in Mal. I went out driving again to-day. I drove along the main road for about 20 miles; the width of the main road is about enough room for 2 trucks to pass one another with less than 1ft to spare and is full of ordinary and Z. bends and I did O.K. I hope to get a licence next week but even so I shall have to have another test when I return to Singapore.

27/6/41

I'm sending you gift "Good Parcel B" as the shop refused to make a special parcel for me; I expect you will have to pay duty your end; let me know if you receive it O.K. I will send you another in about 3 weeks as it is undesirable to send more than one parcel at a time in case the ship gets sunk. I drove about another 20 miles again to-day. The truck weighs 3 tons unloaded and 5 tons loaded but is called a 15 cwt truck. I went to the new carten in the neighbouring village in the evening.

28/6/41

Hoped to have gone out driving again but had to clean truck instead because of inspection. To-day is Saturday and this afternoon I shall be "hitch hiking" to - to see some civilization. Food remains awful but consider myself lucky that I have the money to buy food outside the camp. Feeling very fit
everything considered,

Love,
Jack.