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ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Write Home First.

19088 Pte. R. T. Street,
Intelligence Section,
Battalion Headquarters,
26th Battalion,
2nd. M. E. F.
Middle East Forces.
14th Dec., 1941.

Dear Mum,

Here I am again, fit & well. Your letter No. 1. written in September arrived a week ago, & I have now received all your letters. The first three took a long time to reach here, owing to their having been sent by surface mail.

Please note my change of address. I am now in the Intelligence Section. This is what I have been hoping all along to get into, as it is more in my line. This is Map & Compass work included & it should be very interesting. I am now quartered in a "bug-out" somewhere up the "Blue" & as they say over

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here. That is, I have moved up from Base Camp to my present abode in the desert.

It is quite different here from any previous camp I have been in. We live in "dug-outs", properly sand-bagged & covered over, & although we haven't any of the conveniences we had before, we are making the best of it & are quite happy. It is indeed amazing how well one manages in the desert. The meals are first class, cooked & eaten in the open as there is no shelter above ground whatever. It is wonderful how the cooks manage with so little at their command. Yet we get very good stew, rissoles, potatoes & onions, jam tart & vice, porridge, bread & jam & cheese, & plenty of tea.

In our quarters underground, I have three mates. They are all

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from Canterbury. One used to work in the "Lands by Survey" & knows Ted Plankuch very well; another was and ~~is~~ an accountant in Ch. Ch. & the third was a farmer. We get on very well together & hope to have a happy time at Xmas which is not far off now. One of our little band received a very nice Xmas. cake from his girl yesterday. There is a Canteen here & one can get a bottle of beer of an evening.

We haven't yet started work as we have been occupied in getting our quarters in order. We have an office besides our sleeping quarters, also underground. We look like a lot of rabbits here. When mess times come round, we emerge from our openings in the ground & converge on the cook-house (open air.) The country here is nothing

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but a barren waste; not worth a
bit an acre. The day after we
arrived here, we experienced a
slight dust storm. We wore our
eye-shields. It was bad enough,
but must expect much worse I
suppose. We are allowed a water
bottle of water a day, to shave
wash & anything else. At present
the weather is quite cool here
& we are wearing battle dress.
The wind seems to blow from
all points of the compass.
Well, a week ago
today, I had leave from Base
Camp & Colin & I visited the
Pyramids at Giza for the second
time. We climbed to the top
of the great pyramid & took
some snaps. At night we
visited the "Music for all Club"
heard some first class music.
Colin is still at Base Camp
& Bob is at a hospital some.

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57 where you seldom stay for long together in the Army.
Have been wondering about you all in N.Z. since Japan came into the war a week ago. We hear little news here; no papers as yet. I suppose the Home Guard will be in readiness for any emergency. Well, hump, I will bring this to a close now. Don't worry about me please, as I'm probably safer here than you are in N.Z. I hope these lines find you all well. How is the Bowdgie?

From your loving son,
Revan.

P.S. I said Bob was at a Hospital. He is an orderly there; not a patient.

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6/ I had a swim in the sea yesterday. Went in in the nude & thoroughly enjoyed it. It is almost mid-winter here, but the water wasn't very cold. Dad would have enjoyed it too. There was a good surf running.

Rewari

P.P.S. Received your welcome letter a few minutes ago with Dad's endorsed. This is the first mail I've received since being here in the desert. Your letter was most welcome. Yes, you could send some rags Mum, & now & again a packet of Valet safety razor blades (1/6). They are most difficult to procure here, & expensive. Otherwise I have everything I require.

Love from Rewari