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Pte. R. T. Street,

I. Section,

Headquarter's Company,

26th. Battalion,

2nd. M. E. F.

Middle East Forces.

19th. Jan., 1942

Dear Mum,

I was very pleased to receive two letters yesterday morning, one from Edna & one from you. I hadn't had a letter from you since 15th. January, but I suppose the delay was due to the Pacific situation - affecting the air-mail. Edna's letter of yesterday was the first I had had for two weeks. However, we can't grumble as we are very fortunate in receiving mail as regularly as we do. Compared with the troops during the last war, - well, there isn't any comparison so far as speed in delivery of mails goes.

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 I was pleased to hear the news from home
 & from Edna. She & the baby are doing
 well, & Edna says - quite rightly - that
 I am missing a lot in regard to
 the development & growth of Pamela.
 She seems to take notice of everything,
 Edna says, & likes her bath (takes
 - after her Dad!)

So far as news from this part of the world
 is concerned, there isn't very much to tell
 this week. Frank - one of the three of us
 who share this dug-out, went to hospital
 this morning. I think I mentioned in
 my last letter that he hadn't been well
 with gastric 'flu or something. However,
 he was up & about, but lost his
 appetite & couldn't get anything
 down. Yesterday, the doctor diagnosed
 his trouble as jaundice, so he packed
 up all his gear & was taken to a

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hospital this morning.

On Wednesday, our section went out for the day in our truck. I sat up on top & had a good view of everything — that is, miles of undulating, sandy country with here & there a collection of fig-trees in a hollow, or perhaps a clump of date palms. We searched for some time for the ruins of a Roman bath which was marked on our map, but failed to locate it. We did however, come across a well, the deepest I have ever seen. It was just beside a lone, tall-date-palm, & was about a hundred feet deep. It made one giddy to look down. The top & for a distance of some fifteen feet down was built of stones fitting perfectly together, & below the

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for the rest of the way, the well had been dug out of the rock. There was water at the bottom of this well, & it was possibly hundreds of years old.

We also located the ruins of a courtward station on the sea-coast. It was in a delightful spot, sheltered from the wind & the water was so clear & calm. It would have made an ideal picnic spot.

Yesterday afternoon Ralph & I went for a swim in the cove we found the week before. We splashed about & washed the sand off.

We have had windy weather this past week, & on Friday night we had a real sand storm. We had to go up & cover the ventilators with sack-
ing & then put the lids on as the sand was coming in. Next morning

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the steps leading out from here were completely covered with sand.

Fortunately, the sand here soon shakes out of clothes & blankets.

I had a few lines from Bob Holmes last week. He is a first aid orderly at an R. A. P. (Regimental Aid Post) & at present is several hundred miles from here. However, I expect to see him soon, & Colin too, who at present is quite a way from here. also.

Dell Mum, this seems to be all the news this week. I am still keeping very well; haven't felt better in fact. I will drop the Brock's a line now I know their address. It was good of Dad to write, telling them I was over here.

I hope these lines find you

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all well in Nelson.

From your loving son,
Rewai.

P.S. Your letter I received yesterday was
No. 15, written on 21st. Dec.