

on all sorts of trips, so you can see I do not stay home very long at a time. My most recent trip was to Tasmania where they were publicly celebrating the discovery of that island by the Dutchman, Abel Tasman, in 1642. On the same voyage he discovered New Zealand and the Fiji Islands. I represented the United States and therefore the American flag flew beside that of Australia and Holland. I had a short talk or two to give and I was the guest of the State for the 15 days on the island. I covered 1,700 miles by automobile. I saw some of the most beautiful Switzerland-like scenery, though it has never been my good fortune to visit Switzerland. I even went fishing in the Great Lake and we caught four Rainbow Trout, good fighters, the largest weighed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Early in the fall I spent some weeks doing special work for the "big boy". In this I was able to utilize the fundamental knowledge which I acquired 20 odd years ago and for which I received a fine letter of commendation from our big General.

I cannot write about the campaign, of course, but if reports in the press are true, we have the Japanese so far defeated badly in the air and on the water where ever we meet them. Certainly around 40% of all Japanese warships have been sunk this past year, and as I see it, when we have destroyed their fighting navy we can really go places.

My headquarters here are very quiet since we are along way from the front. Things are moving and I expect good events in the coming year.

I thank you for your kind esteem and I assure you it is mutual. We greatly admire you and Gertrude. Please give here my best wishes.

Very sincerely,

Karl F. Balderni