

March 23rd,
1944

Col. Karl F. Baldwin, Military Attache
375 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia

Dear Colonel:

Your letter of February 17th arrived on a Monday morning, and I had a chance to read it before going to Rotary, so I took it along and had President Phog Allen read the paragraph in regard to New Zealand. It made a nice connection between you and our club. It is rather remarkable how our club has kept up. There have been many changes--perhaps twenty-five percent of our members are new, but interest is maintained and we have had some very good programs. An excellent program two weeks ago was given by Lt. Carman, the son of Professor Neale Carman of the University faculty. He had been in active service and had many missions to his credit.

This week we have had the pleasure of having Ed Stout who is the nephew of Grace Farris, the head of our circulation department, and Earl Farris, who looks after job printing and is superintendent of our shop. The boy has had eighty-three missions. He has had time to recuperate a bit on the trip home, but was still quite tired when he first got here, but I was astounded to see him looking so youthful and so well. He piloted a plane which sank three big Junkers trying to evacuate troops from Cape Bon.

Seventeen of our men are now in active service, and we do not count a score of boys who were with us as carriers or mailers at one time and are now in the service. The seventeen were men directly taken from our employ. We have others among youngsters who will soon be called, but in our regular group of employees, the average is quite a little higher than normal.

As I think I have written you, Gertrude and I had a real good visit with Philena and enjoyed the hospitality of Ted and Jean Aszman. They have a nice home and are charming hosts.

Speaking of the building, I think nothing would please Lawrence better than to have you back here after the war to head the R.O.T.C. I think that never again will there be the opposition to military training in schools that was evinced fifteen or twenty years ago. We all regret very much that you could not have secured the military advancement that would naturally have followed your long and excellent service, but perhaps on the whole, there was greater accomplishment for you in securing that much needed military building at K. U. and in having your opportunity for service "Down Under" than would be the addition of some stars on your uniform.

In reference to the South Pole, it still retains its purity, the North Pole having been smirched a bit by the claims of our infamous Dr. Cook.

Your fishing in the Bay of Isles sounds interesting, but it was a darn shame that you couldn't have landed more than a two hundred seven pound fish. I'll bet you had a pretty fight with him, and I