

ANNIE'S LETTER

The following is a letter from my gt grandmother's Sister Annie Fullarton (nee HOLT) born in Liverpool 1872. It is addressed to her sister Mary Jane Smith (nee Holt) who was born in Liverpool 1865. Annie who had emigrated to Merrigum, Victoria, Australia in 1915 had been back to England for a holiday and was returning to Australia. She wrote the letter on board ship.

Envelope dated 15th November 1929 is addressed thus:

Mrs M Smith
3 Lovat Street
Off Queensland Street
Edge Hill
Liverpool
England

The letter is as follows but has been typed due to difficulty transcribing. The original can be seen under Keepsakes.

On board S.S. Esperance Bay
Aberdeen & Commonwealth Line
Fremantle

Australia via Suez Canal

Dear Sister

Just a few lines to let you know we have got so far; in another ten days we will be Home. You can't imagine what a relief it is to be coming back here. I know for a fact no one that has lived out here any length of time could live away from it.

I have had a dreadful cold but it is nearly better now. We had a bad storm a few days ago. A woman said "What would we do?" I said "Don't worry me, I don't care what happens - the ship doesn't belong to me. Besides, look at the funeral expenses you will save." So I got rid of her.

By Jove, the customs are going to hit us hard. We have 40% duty to pay on anything we have bought in England or any of the ports coming across. So I expect to have to pay out but what is the use of worrying. The 11th of November was Remembrance Day. There was a very nice service; any returned soldiers lined up at the Captain's request on the top deck. There was three minutes silence, then the Last Call and then two wreaths to represent Flanders poppies were lowered over board.

I hope you got your glasses mended. When I get home I will not forget my promise all being well. Tell Annie I feel pretty paltry for not buying the (bolt?) of silk I promised her but I will send her something later on. But remember me to her and give Lily and her my love.

Did you see anything of Martha and her pretty daughters? I never went near them and I only seen Tom the once. He came to Mrs Evans.

Think news has run short so will close. With love your sister.

This is the address. Don't forget to write.

Mrs A. Fullerton
Merrigum
Victoria
Australia

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTES

Annie and Lily were Mary Jane's daughters.

Tom was Tom Ray who later went to Australia and became Annie's second husband.

Martha was Annie and Mary Jane's sister-in-law. She married William Holt.

Mrs Evans is unknown to me.