



Signal Section  
"A/C" boy  
2nd Bn Cambs Regt  
c/o Army Post Office  
1635

No 1 letter

Dear Mum, Matey & Rosa,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am getting on O.K. I hope you got my other letters safely and that you will let Mary have another one of my photos to replace the one that I took with me. I am quite enjoying myself it reminds me of the holidays we used to spend and altogether it



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has been very interesting. Like Jack I can get fags 50 for 1/10, by the way will you please let Jack know my address in your next letter to him. We get four good meals a day and there are two swimming baths but I don't know whether they are going to use them or not. Well it will be quite exciting wondering whether I am going to



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run into Jack or not.  
I hope Old Mati has been able to shake that cold off alright he must take care of himself tell him while Jack and I are away. How is the "Nation" getting on these days, I was speaking to Mary about her getting a job at Brews I thought Rosa wanted me to, she said she thought if she would stand a good chance of



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getting in as they were taking girls on in the "account" clerks' departments but if I was Rosa and she really wanted a change why not write to Mary herself. Well I must close now as I want to write to Mary before lights <sup>out</sup> trusting that everything will go alright with you, I shall be thinking about you all the while and don't you go worrying about me as ever.



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since Jack went I have wanted it this way, I know it is a job to keep from worrying, I shall be worrying about you at home but we must look forward to the day when we are all reunited.

So cheerio + Sons of Love

Your Loving Son  
+ Bro  
"Jamie"

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| x | x | x | x | x | x | x |



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after having been to Morning Prayer held by the Padre this morning, it was a very nice service held in one of the dining rooms on board there were quite a number of men there although it was a voluntary parade. I am getting used to this kind of life although I find I can't sleep so well in a hammock as I can in a bed, mind you I sleep O.K. once I do get off I wonder if I shall have the same kind of



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thing happen to me as what happened to Joyce Overland's husband only the other way round I guess Mary would not like it much if it did, has she been down lately? How about Rosa has she been to many dances lately and met any more airmen, what was that fellows name who took her photo, that one of her sitting by the piano? and where did he come from? she seemed to keep that very quiet I



(8)

thought. I hope you have heard from Mary by now you should have done as she said she would write to you. By the way I hope you have started collecting my increase in allotment by now if not you will have to write to them about it as they have stopped it from 20.10.41 this end, I am very glad I made it though as I am only getting 10/- a week now the rest is going to my credit. I



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managed to bring  
 Mary's Christmas present  
 & Birthday present with me  
 although it was a squeeze  
 it won't be long now  
 before I can open my  
 birthday presents I am quite  
 looking forward to it. Well  
 I shall have to adjoorn  
 again now I shall try  
 to fit a bit more on  
 before I hand it in  
 cheerio for the present.  
Monday. Well I will just  
 add a bit more on to this  
 today, it has been quite



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rough today, although  
 I am very pleased to say  
 I enjoy it this way, I think  
 a real sailor would probably  
 call it calm, but to me  
 of course it seems rough. Well  
 I trust & pray that you will  
 all keep well and safe until  
 I return, don't for goodness  
 sake worry about me as  
 you know I have wanted to  
 do this ever since Jack  
 went, cheerio, I must close  
 now, love to all, x x x x x  
 x x x x Your Loving Son  
 x x x x Jim. x x x x x



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P.S. Tuesday Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

I forgot to tell you that I should be very pleased for you get Mary's present from me for Christmas I don't mind how much you spend as I know that I can leave it safely in your hands. I shall write to Jack as well this time although his address may have been altered by now he should get it eventually I find that his letters have helped me considerably as to how to go on, I hope



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H. Titmarsh Esq

he will have had some of yours by now he should have surely by now. I was ever so pleased with the photo and thanks ever so much for bracing them up and getting them so quickly, I really was surprised when I went down to Mary's and saw your letter there. Well I shall have to pack up now or the censor will have to work overtime, so Au Revoir My Thoughts are With you  
love to All <sup>your loving son</sup> x x x x x x x x x x  
x x x x x x x x x x



(2)

really must say that I have nothing to grumble about in that line.

This voyage has made me realise one thing, that is that I wish I had joined the navy years ago instead of working all those hours inside that factory looking as white as a sheet. I am enjoying every moment of it and spend most of my time up on deck although there is nothing new each time you go up it seems fascinating



(3)

just to lean on the rail and watch the boat moving through the water, the weather is very good so far in fact it is not so cold as those old paddle steamers we used to spend our holidays on. I tried to see Wilf Illett but I just missed him it was dark at the time and I couldn't stop I did see Mary West and had quite a pleasant time with her though, you will be pleased to know. I haven't



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been sea-sick yet. touch wood, most of the fellows have but what really surprised me was the fact that Ralph has not yet been affected, I really thought he would be one of the first, whether it is because someone bet him a half-a-crown he would be I don't know but he certainly has withstood it. Like Jack I can get 50 fags for 1/10 although I can get as much chocolate as I like I haven't seen



(5)

any oranges yet. I wonder if you have received that tea from Jack from Durban yet and whether he is still there or not it will be very nice if I do happen to run into him sometime in the future. Well I shall have to close down now I will perhaps add a bit before I hand it in.

Sunday 2. 10. 41.

I am going on with your letter now

**EXAMINER 6421**

O. A. S.



PAID

Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Frost

27, Railway Road,

Disbech

Cambs.

7th Letter

No 5933820

L/Cpl J. E. Frost

Signal Section

"A" Coy

2nd. Bn. Cambs. Regt

c/o Army Post Office  
1635

December 18th.

Dear Mum, Mamey and Rosa

I think I

had better start this letter in telling you that I have spent almost four days on shore here at Capetown, and that I had a most enjoyable time. It was on Tuesday ~~the~~ of December that I got my first glimpse of South Africa after having rolled out of bed I looked through the window near my bed and lo and behold, there, dimly in the distance, could be seen the rugged coast-line of South Africa, it is impossible

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to tell you what a thrill it is to see land after having seen nothing but sea and sky for quite a while and to know that you have really travelled all that way from England, also most of the lads were, like me, quite excited at the thought of getting ashore, having been given reasonable hope of this beforehand, together with various warnings of what we were and what we were not to do upon mixing with the civilian population once again.

Later on during the morning as the land began to get quite near the unmistakable outline of the Table Mountain.

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gradually became clearer together with the peaks on either side of it. About dinnertime we were entering Table Bay and from the boat we then saw Capetown with the Table Mountain standing directly behind it encased in snowy white cloud. I afterward learned that when the top of it is covered with cloud the people of Capetown allude to it as the Tablecloth. After getting well into the Bay we dropped anchor, prior to docking, which we accomplished after dinner with the aid of tugs. Upon approaching the quay side I was reminded very much of Southampton with the

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tall loading cranes lining the side of each berth (these were made in England by the way) and the great warehouses where cargoes are stored before loading and after unloading different ships. The next thing I noticed was that everyone seemed to be polishing boots and buttons in preparation for going ashore this was due to a rumour which afterwards materialized that we were to be allowed ashore that evening and very shortly afterwards having waited anxiously for passes we very speedily got all "brassed up" and walked down the gangway to put our feet on South African

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soil for the first time. After much showing of passes we managed to get out of the dock gates, but by this time it was after seven o'clock so of course most of the shops were closed but Ralph and I took the opportunity of having a good look round, it was lovely walking round the shops with their windows fully illuminated and the coloured street lamps making the whole place as light as day, a bit of a contrast from the black-out which we used to experience back in Good Old England, although it was such a change from what we had been used to

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I personally wasn't long before I didn't notice it, I rather expect this was due to the fact that we have had so many new experiences during this voyage that another one doesn't impress me as much as it would have done had I have seen the lights shine once more in England, without having come abroad. After Ralph and I had wandered around for quite a while, gazing at the Christmas Goods in the shop windows and making mental notes of the things we intended to buy, we came across a building which we soon learned was the City Hall, and coming from this

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great hall was the sound of clapping and cheering, upon going closer we found out that it was a meeting of the United Party Congress and that the person who was to address the packed building was none other than Field Marshal Smuts. During the opening address by the chairman we were fetched from the doorway where we were standing and taken up to a seat on the stage among the civilians some of them big members of the South African parliament. When the Field Marshal had finished speaking and after the singing of the South African and the British National Anthems the

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meeting closed with the Premier of South Africa surrounded by people congratulating him on his fine speech, by then Ralph and I had already decided to try and obtain his autograph so elbowing our way to the front we found out that two other soldiers had pipped us on the post, after getting our guide to Capetown out ready in our hand we still continued to try our luck, and after signing the first two soldiers books General Smuts took Ralph's and mine and signed them too, so we are now the proud possessors of Field Marshall Smuts autograph, I can tell you I was very

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pleased with the way we had spent our first night at the base, the other fellows seemed quite envious of us although of course they didn't admit it, when we told them about it upon our return to the ship, just before midnight, when our passes for that day expired. The next day first thing after breakfast we went on a four mile route march, just skirting the town, to the accompaniment of our own regimental band who by the way had been holding regular practices and giving concerts at intervals during the voyage the best of these being held on a Sunday evening when they played some well-known

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marches, during this concert while divine service was being held on the ship the Padre broke in and asked us all to join in singing four well-known hymns among these being two very great favourites of mine, one was "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended," and the other "Abide With Me," I enjoyed this concert very much and it was in my opinion the best they have held. To get back to the route march I quite enjoyed them too, as we carried no equipment whatever and just wore our tropical shirt and shorts, and when we had gone about half the distance we used to stop on a common (which was actually

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part of a golf course) to smoke and eat ice cream for a while until it was time to start the other half of the march, through a different part of the town back to the ship.

Upon arrival back at the ship everyone used to rush around to get ready for leave and were soon off the boat when the passes which commenced at two o'clock were issued out. This should bring me up to Wednesday and for this day Ralph and I decided the first thing we would do would be to send you a cable so after finding out about these EFM telegrams when we had decided on the text, we sent them off

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to you hoping that they would arrive by Christmas Day as we were told they would be held up for about a week after we had left port, according to my calculations they should be there two or three days before I hope so as I know it will be a comfort to you, I only wish I knew how you & Jack were getting on. Well after we had got these cables off we went round the town shopping to get some things which we needed for our personal use, I wish you could have been with us it was lovely, there was plenty of everything although I thought things were rather dear as

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compared to England, it seemed like a dream seeing shops stocked full of such things as chocolate, fruit, and cigarettes, and things which it is impossible to obtain back there in England the beauty of it is too that there was no rationing and no bother of giving up coupons, there are only two things which I particularly noticed that they were not quite so free with, one was newspapers and the other was tins of cream, although this didn't seem to affect the ice-cream trade, for myself I ate more ice-cream than I have eaten for a very long while the weather being so grand I think it

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really warranted it. They had a Woolworth's store there and many other big bazaars & shops of a similar nature, where you could roam round for any length of time, buying things here and there on different floors the means of transport being by lift and escalator, I am afraid I must admit that even though Ralph and I were not particularly inclined to buying anything we would whenever possible travel up to the top floor and down again for the novelty of doing so, it being the first time Ralph has ridden on an escalator. By the time we had done all the shopping we wanted to do and had

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been to a canteen for our tea it was getting rather late so we thought we would finish the evening off at the pictures so we went to the Appollo, which is a "Bio-cafe", which means that instead of paying at a pay-box you go inside and sit down and later on a waitress will come round and ask you for your order so that you can have a meal while seeing the picture. Ralph and I had a fruit drink which cost us 9d. so you see it was quite cheap, the picture by the way was "The Four Just Men" and I quite enjoyed it. This finished our day for us and when we had handed

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in our passes I was quite ready for bed, not being used to so much exercise. The next day Thursday we had previously arranged we would try and get a trip out somewhere in a car as it had been posted on Ships Orders that private cars would line up at 2 pm. down the Dock Road for the purpose of entertaining the visiting troops and also showing them round the various places of interest in Capetown, so after our usual route march Ralph and I went to the appointed place at the time stated, but although we weren't aware of it then we were to be a trifle dissatisfied, this was

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in no way due to the lack of generosity of the civilian population of Capetown, but the fact of the matter was that it seemed as if every other soldier had the same idea, and that they had got there before us, so after waiting for quite a while and seeing these luxurious cars roll up and fill up with troops we decided to accept a suggestion from the women of some South African Voluntary Service who was getting up a party to go by bus to a delightful little sea-side place not far away, the lady one of many whose sole purpose was aiding the soldiers to find

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such entertainment led the party herself. First of all we caught the Service <sup>Bus</sup> which among many other things were free. (All Municipal Services including trains were free.) and after travelling along the coast road for about five miles among some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen, very much after the style of English Scenery, in fact you could almost imagine yourself somewhere in Britain, we arrived at this pleasant little spot called Camps Bay. After having had a free tea at one of the S.A.W.A.S. (South African Womens Auxilliary Services) canteens we walked

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down through this village to the Swimming Baths where again everything was free, costume, towel, and all, it was here at this baths that I swam my first length, I did it quite easily too. Having spent a very enjoyable hour in these baths we got dressed and came out feeling very refreshed for our dip and from there we proceeded to a cafe which was on the front where we had a meal of good old eggs and bacon and at the same time watched the surf breaking over the rocks at the end of the most wonderful beach I have ever seen, it consisted of very fine white sand which was absolutely free from stones

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it almost looked as if it had been scrubbed white. When we had walked back across the beach to the road we thought we would try our luck at hitch-hiking in South Africa as we should otherwise have had to wait quite a while for the first bus to come along, so the first car that came along we chumbed and it stopped right away and after climbing in it took us back along the winding hilly road to Capetown. Upon arriving back at our starting point Ralph and I went and played a game of billiards and then returned to the ship tired but happy. The next day being Friday we had

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previously planned to spend at another well recommended seaside place but I am afraid to say that here again we were in for a disappointment owing to the fact that when our passes were issued we found out that firstly our passes had been curtailed 30 mins making the time of expiration 11.30 p.m. and also that this was to be our last few hours of shore leave in Cape-town. The reason that we had to change our plans was this we thought we ought to do some more shopping as we both wanted to send you something home and we also wanted to send cables to Crewe and get a small stock of perishables

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which we should consume very shortly after sailing so that they wouldn't turn bad, if we had purchased them on our first day ashore we would have had to store them that much longer, with the added risk of them turning bad much sooner. Well after getting a book or two, some chocolate & fruit, to take back to the boat with us we saw an advertisement that said that the shop on which the bill was stuck undertook to send silk stockings home for troops post free, so after a little debating as to whether we should or should not, we very nervously pushed open the door and walked up