

A Country Squire

The Ancestral Families of Graham Squire and Anne Keightley

Transcript of a letter from Malcolm KEIGHTLEY (stationed in India)
to his parents. Written 22 April 1944

Researched and written/transcribed by Jan Squire
Version 2 2022

(See original scanned latter below).

To:

Mr & Mrs H C Keightley
7 Mizpah Avenue
Unley South Australia Australia

From:

F/Sgt M C Keightley
AUS416968
Auspost Bombay India Command
Language English, cleared by censor.
22-4-1944

The other day I received a letter you sent thru GB and sure it was a pleasure to hear from you. It was 8 weeks to the day since I received one from you. I also received an AG [Aerogram?] and I will answer them now & then give you the news.

AG 8/3/44; Yes! The McCellands are more than good to me and I'll never forget my 21st party I know that.

As a matter of fact I did not have a "blackeye" and my mo' was at that time purely in the adolescent stage (it still is).

Its good to know that Aunty Dora is improving and that B & J's life has settled somewhat!!

21/1/44; We thought that you would like the AG with the 21st names on it, what memories it will bring back to me & what stories I can tell to you dears.

You know by now just what I received for my birthday, it seems decades ago. Time is a strange thing, it's hard to realise that May will be a beautiful woman of 21/22 years when I see her next. I must confess that my 21 years press on me at times. My Brough [brother??] of Metal Box told me that he had cabled home re Cec.

Your apple tart haunts me mother. I think of it every Sunday practically. In a few minutes I'll be wandering over to the Mess for Tiffen not that I feel much like it, it's so hot!!

Maurice 26! Now I thought he was 24/25 – there's that word "time" again.

Ray's statement re him sweating whilst I shivered was amusing. As I was reading it I was lying on my bed clad in a pair of u/wear with sweat pouring out of me.

Flying here is rather grim at times for the sun beats down on the aircraft and boy do they get hot. As you turn to take off about 140 degrees of oily heat hits you in the face although some days its not too bad at 3000 feet.

By the way how about this portrait you were going to have taken for me?

I had a AG letter from Geoff Botting recently and he sounded cheery and well which is a good thing!

I'll finish this when I come back from dinner I guess!!!

Lunch in the canteen 4 eggs & steak.

By the way you should see my bicycle. Beaut chrome bars and rims and flashing paintwork (and 2 flat tyres). I definitely look "plutocratic" and that's not a Walt Disney pun either.

Give my love to my sister-in-law. I'm so glad Morrie got home again & I'm looking forward to hearing that Ray has been home too, soon. The scamps they deserve it.

Goodnight my dears, my prayers are ever for you.

Your loving son, Malc

Transcribed on 19 April 2022 from an original Aerogram letter, by Jan SQUIRE.

FUS #16968
 P/O Keightley No 8 RAAF
 Subpost Bombay
 India Command
 22-11-44

The other day I received a letter
 you sent Mum & B. and sure it was
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 from you. I also received an AC and I
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 that time purely in the adolescent stage
 (if still is).

It's good to hear that Duntie
 Dowd is improving and that B's wife
 has settled somewhat!!

We thought that you would like
 the AC with the 21st names on it, what
 memories it will bring back to me &
 what stories I can tell to your dear
 Mum & B. because I just what I received to take off about 110° of oily heat

for my birthday, 7 seems decades
 ago. Time is a strange thing, it's hard
 to realise that Ray will be a
 beautiful woman of 21/22 yrs when I
 see her next. I must confess that
 my 21 yrs pass on me at times.

My Brother of Postal Box told me
 that he had called home re Lee.
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Dying here is rather gims at times
 for the sun beats down on the aircraft
 & boy do they get hot. Do you burn
 your face when you're out? I received to take off about 110° of oily heat

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 & I'm looking forward to hearing
 that Ray has been home too soon.
 the scamps they deserve it.

Goodnight by sea's my prayer
 are ever for you
 Yours lovingly Son
 Bob

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 IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
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Name KEIGHTLEY M.C.
 Rank /557
 No. Fus #16968
 Written in English
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