

Aubrey Cecil Mahoney Bio And Letter Transcript

"This is Monday and I have not received a letter from you yet. Dear, hurry up and write because I'm very lonely. I do not know anybody so you know how I feel."

A plaintive letter from Aubrey Cecil Mahoney in training at Ngaruawahia, to his wife Elsie in Whangarei, 1940.

Aubrey Cecil (Aub) Mahoney was born in 1906 to Thomas Mahoney and Jessie née Cook, who married in New Zealand in 1900. He had three siblings: Dorothy Eileen (1901), Thomas Oliver John (1904), and Alma Ellen (1909).

Prior to the war he worked as a service car driver. He married Elsie Emily Ann née Welham, who was ten years his junior, in 1938, and by the time he wrote this letter he and Elsie had their first child, a daughter which would be Colleen Elsie Williamson, born in October the previous year.

Aub served as a bombardier in the 5th field regiment of the 2NZEF and was captured by enemy in Crete and in Germany becoming a POW twice, and yet survived to return home.

A second daughter Karen Patricia Mahoney, came along in 1948 but died in infancy.

Aub lived to the ripe age of 85, dying in 1992 in Auckland; and was interred in Waikaraka Cemetery. Elsie followed several years later in 1999.

Full transcript of the letter:

"This is Monday and I have not received a letter from you yet. Dear hurry up and write because I'm very lonely. There is no body here from Whangarei and I do not know anybody so you know how I feel .

We are only here for six weeks and then we go over seas so you see I want all the letters I can get from you. We do not get any leave for at least three weeks so I will not be able to get up for at least four weeks from now and then I will be up for a couple of days. Will you write to Mum and give her my address (sic) this is the correct one at the top of the page. All my spare time is going to be spent in writing to you & we do not get much of that. There are two chaps in my tent & they are real fine fullers & they want to come up and stop at home for a couple of days when we get final leave so I said they could come home with me.

Well dear I will write more when I get your first letter. Until then I send you all my love & kisses and also give my baby girl a big kiss from her daddy & my regards to mum and dad and the kids,
From your loving husband Aub."