

Letter from Thomas Berghan to his brother Trevor Berghan

Written on four very light lined sheets of paper provided by the

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Dear Trev,

At last I have aroused myself from my usual state of lethargy to write to yours.

First of all how does it feel to be sporting two pips and returning a salute now and again to members of the "common 'erd".

So the Berghan McIntosh alliance went off smoothly - amid bottle of beer, or did you get reckless and sport the guests champagne. Anyway fellah I wish you and Daphne the best of luck etc. May you have many lusty sons; not enough for a football team but enough to make up the back line of same. The newspaper snap flattered you a little, did it not?

At present we are well up the desert living in dugouts which are quite comfortable with the aid of a few sacks and benzine tins. Our allowance of water is a quart a day so there is no such thing as a bath at night before retiring to the dest???? The sea is only about three miles away so a swim goes pretty well when one feels like an advertisement for lifebouy soap. I am dying to get a game of football as I am pretty fit. From present indications we haven't much show. All the good cricketers and footballers are in base. From your football write-ups lately, your football has slipped; about time you gave the game best ???? as you are getting on now your responsibilities are much heavier with a wife.

Have you given Joyce's prospective the once over yet? I'd hate to see the kid strike a crook egg as she and I are such good cobbors.

Your remark about the harem is entirely uncalled for - I wouldn't soil my virginal purity in this country for a thousand - its lousy and I never did like bought love - price 4/- a time.

I wished to hell I'd joined the Air Force now - I would probably have been a German bee???by now but there is a certain amount of individuality called for which is not necessary nor wanted in the army.

Well old pal I will close now wishing you a premature but nevertheless sincere Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

*From your Pal
Tom*

P.S. Give my kindest regards to Daphne.

Letter must have been written around Sept/Oct 1941 although no date on the letter. Trevor and Daphne were married in August 1941 and Tom died on Nov 23, 1941, in the battle of Sidi Rezegh. What a waste. Except that Hitler was in the end stopped. And without these soldiers and their sacrifice I'm not sure how he would have been stopped.