

On Active Service

Jack to Flora
18/7/16



Mrs. F. V. Hooke
"Oldenbette"

Wahroonga.

Sydney.

N. S. W.

Australia

Handed by. Gladys Kent.

63rd. Bn.

16th. Cus. Inf. Bde.

Wareham.

18/7/16.

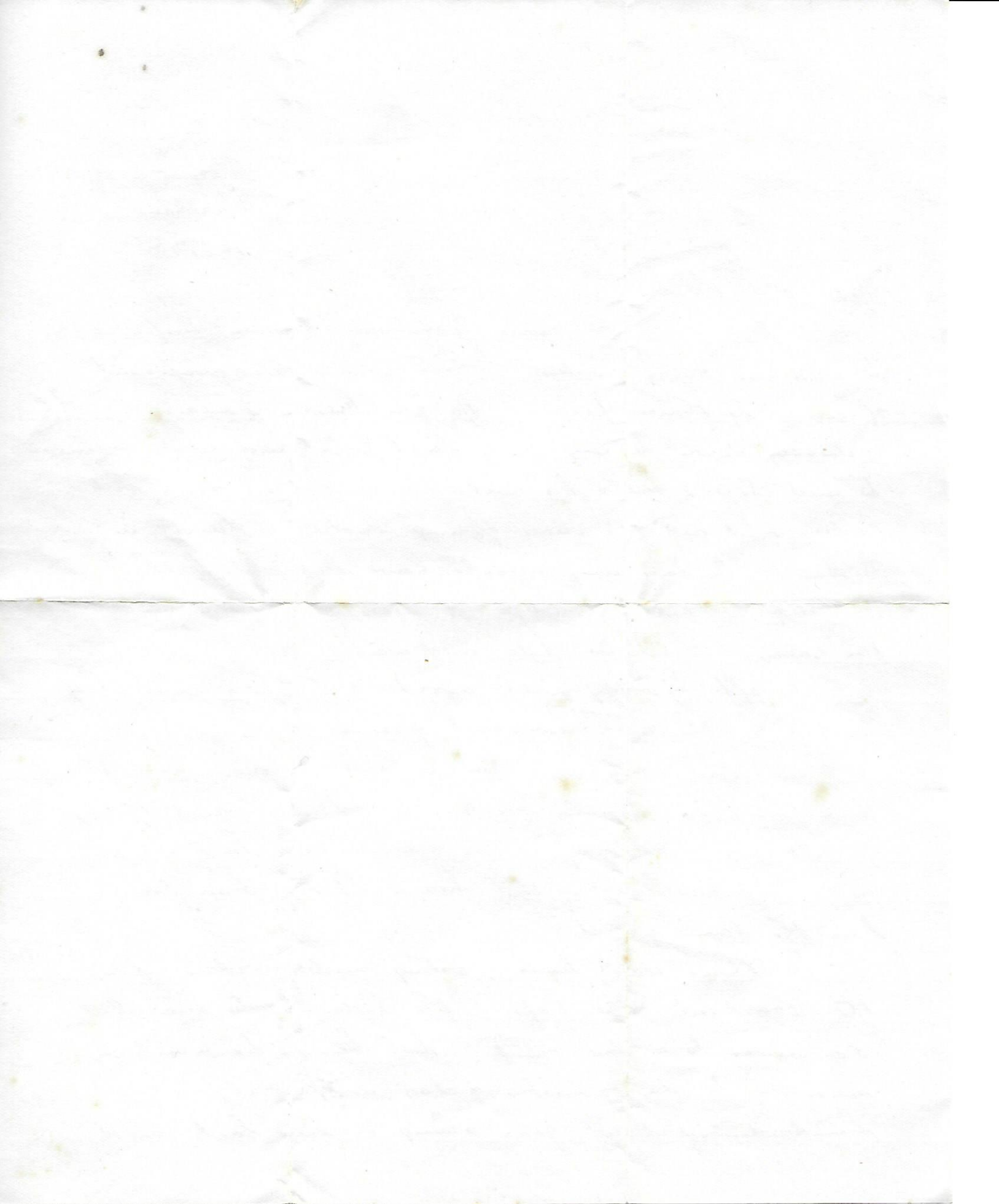
Dear old Flora

You were positively heaven inspired to send me those socks, which are a magnificent specimen of their species. Do you know I was actually down to my very last pair and was beginning to send S.O.S calls for socks to all the dear old ladies and all the dear young ladies I know in England. So far my signals have brought forth nothing. But like Eliza or was it Elisha, and the ravens I sit in state and wait.

I left Sydney with about 2 doz prs but they have gone through constant gravel crushing.

I am now in a new Bn which is one of the four Bns in cousin Jack's Bde. and Percy is with me. We only came down here last week so you probably have not heard of our transfer, from the family yet.

In three days time, acting under orders from the "Practical Joke Dept." the Bde is to march 50. miles to a new camp. Not being particularly anxious to do 17 miles a day with half a hundredweight of gear slung on my back and



round my neck, I have been "swinging the lead", which is an army expression in case you don't know it and being translated means "working my head". My efforts have been successful and I have been detailed as. O.C. advanced party or O.C. rear party one or the other.

This will mean travelling by train anyway, which I must admit is distinctly more comfortable, especially as it raineth and bivouacs have a habit of being unpleasantly damp when you lie under the stars this weather, with a waterproof sheet under you and one blanket over you.

I have not yet seen my worthy cousin, since I marched into here, as he has been away for some days.

Jane's man is in this Bn and holds the rank of Sgt. He left to-day to attend a school. He is a nice little chap and I hope they will be very happy.

Saturday was a red letter day as after 28 days without any home letters, I got 13 all in a bunch which made me feel considerably bucked.

The last time I saw Tid was about three weeks ago at Lady Poore's. She was looking much better. She has since gone home and has seen Peter, so I expect she feels better too by now.

Trud. S. has got a home appointment for a while and is somewhere up north. He is just the same and seems very young to be wearing three pips. He has

done very well I believe.

I got a letter from Bruce Hunter who is in hospital just outside London and is doing well. He is waiting to be boarded for Australia after his second attack of malaria.

I believe the frog is growing into a terrapin from all accounts. Time I came home to rub him with rods of iron sulphate. I'll whack him and thump him and kick him about the young scoundrel when I see him.

Give my fondest love to Granie and Edie and Bess and keep some for your dear self.

John.