

TENNANT CREEK HOTEL

— J. M. & F. E. ATKINSON, Proprietors —

27 August 1953
5-30 pm.

Dearest June,

I'm sitting in my bedroom out of the heat! We arrived here shortly after 10 AM this morning in quite cool weather - we ran into some showers of rain on the way up; but we have since had a hot north wind blowing and it is now like a hot summer day back home.

We arrived in Alice ahead of time yesterday and I was able to see the base, and John Flynn's memorial at Mr Gillan's before tea.

The "Gruant Arms" is mainly a drinking establishment - the bar is open until 10 PM.

I shared a room with Mr Holland, and whilst he is a nice chap, it didn't seem the same. We got up at 6 AM to leave for the drone at 6-45 AM. We found that the cook had slept in, so we had to go without breakfast.

It was a most interesting trip up. We flew beneath the clouds, and had an uninterrupted view all the way, although

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2.

it was a bit lumpy. The Bird was sick most of the time. He returned this afternoon with the G.G., so I hope that his stomach is better behaved on the way back.

I did have the opportunity to return by road but didn't take it. Alice Springs is about 300 miles away and it would have meant driving all night. I will probably see more tomorrow from the air than I would have by road at night.

This is quite a small town spread out along the N.S. road.

I didn't get any photographs of the ceremony although a lot were taken by others. It was so windy that I had to stand behind the G.G. during the ceremony to hold the flags in place. They were sewn tightly together in the centre, and the sick cord attached to the cotton.

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3.

I had the wind up all through the ceremony that I was going to beat the G.G. to unveil it. However all went very smoothly and it was really most impressive. There was a crowd of about 400 present - some travelling hundreds of miles.

The name of this hotel by the way officially is Scott's Hotel, so I'm quite at home.

It's really quite a nice place - better than the one at Alice. There are actually 2 pubs in the town and the other one is also quite modern. I have a double room to myself in the front with double doors out onto a terrace.

Today was a public holiday in Tennant's bush because of the ceremony. I went out and back in a new bakkie to the bairn. On the way back the driver slowed down to 75 mph a couple of times, but for most of the way he travelled quite fast. The bairn is on the main road

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about 15 miles out.

Well it's 6 O'clock and time now
darling so I'd better go and have it.

I'm going to the pictures tonight!

The AIM have arranged a screening of the film
"The Inlandus" at their hotel, so I'll see if
I can get a barba to take.

I'm returning on Saturday as originally
planned, and it will be wonderful to see
you again. I've thought of you and the kids
quite a lot whilst I've been away.

Must go now—

All my love

Eliza

+++ } Leach
+++ } tonight