

***The transcript of a letter sent by William MacKay to his Sister,
Annie Stott (nee McKay) in New Zealand, dated 1st May 1941.***

Penmure Golf Club
Barry, Angus
1st May 1940

My dear Sister,

I received your letter of 16th January and was very pleased to hear all your news. We were very disappointed at not having a visit from Don and his pal Jim as we were looking forward to having a pleasant time as [sic] Xmas as Eddie, my boy, was also on leave at the same time. As Don's Regiment has gone East there is not much prospect of seeing him again as no doubt when War is over, Don will take the shortest cut for home to see you all again.

I heard from Fanny that Ted died last year. There is no doubt he looked well after the family after our Mother died.

I can hardly realise that it is 50 years since you left Walton-on-the-Naze. I have been to Walton twice since I left there on joining the Army. Once on my honeymoon in 1901 and again about 10 years ago. So much has changed that I hardly knew the place. The fields at the Naze where we used to gather Blackberries has all been built up with houses. The apple orchards round about our house in Broomfield cottages are all down and built up with Villas etc.

I called on my last visit and saw some of the Trigger family who lived near us at the Cottages. Our house was No 3 and their's No 7. Aunt Harriet was still about on my last visit to Walton but she died at a ripe old age a few years ago. I have not had any word of Aunt Sarah's family for over 40 years. After this terrible War is over I should like to visit Walton again.

We have been in this post at the Golf house for the past 14 years and when this War finishes I shall retire for good and settle down in the Country as we prefer living in the Country to the Town.

We are having a very trying time during this War but our locality has been most fortunate in not yet having been bombed. The nearest bomb falling about a mile away from our house.

My family consists of Eddie, who is in the Royal Air Force. Marion is married with two of a family (a boy and a girl) and lives at Brighton. Her husband is a chef. My other girl Rebie died 4 years ago. She was married, had a bonny boy and was buried all within a year. She was coming home from the Maternity home when her kidneys took a bad turn and she died within a few days. It was most tragic and it affected us all greatly. We received a photo of him a few days ago and he is growing up a fine big boy.

Isobel is my only child by my second marriage. She will be 13 on the 24th of this month and she is very tall for her age. She must take her height from the MacKay's.

My wife wishes to be kindly remembered to you and your husband.

Kindly remember us to the other members of the family should you see any of them or when visiting to them.

I think I have told you all the news this time and trust that this old Country with the help of the Colonies will weather the storm and that we may be assured to live our lives in our own way.

We send our kind regards to you and your husband and family and hope that you will all be spared many years.

I remain your affectionate
Brother
Will

- *'Ted' was Edward Hector 2nd in Rockhampton.*
- *Mother was Rebecca McKay nee Forsdyke, Edward Hector 1st McKay's first wife.*
- *Aunt Harriet was Rebecca's sister, married to John William Snowdin. She died in Walton in 1938, 3 years prior to the writing of this letter.*
- *Aunt Sarah was another of Rebecca's sisters, married to James Frederick Batchelor. She died in Walton in 1923.*
- *'Eddie' was Edward Hector 3rd MacKay.*
- *'Rebie' was Rebecca Forsdyke MacKay who married Henry Moody.*