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Dear Billy,

Have got time to write you at last. Am getting on alright. cant growl only at the weather & its exceedingly hot we have it 114.5° in the sun frequently 120 in shade so you can imagine what with the sand blowing abt its "alright." would be better if water was cheaper. have to pay 1st (5th) a gallon for condensed water so you may be sure we dont waste much. wont have a good wash when I get back to civilization. Ill get in the River soon & wont come out till Ive had a good soak. I have been in the above office for about a fortnight & am doing alright. The boats across the Sea Gold Mining Co Ltd. Mr Warren is Local Director & Attorney in his confidential takes me out & stands treat by the way you can get no drinks whatever in an hotel. unless you let me use his "Safety" bike & he is an alright boss I got £3 a week for a stars & what have got directly & Bradford has started at £2:10:0. all his food found. I have my breakfast & tea in our camp namely a tent 8 ft x 10 see me boiling my Billy (can) & making Sea Toff its a funny life I can tell you up here. dont want to wear jackets (or trousers) if it comes to that for you dont want them. Our "chums" here are principally camels (thousands of them) & "blacks" there is an awful lot of business done. you can see money fly here. we are not a mile from the famous "Bayly, Howard mine" or Londonderry, Sindat & all those mines. we are about 300 miles from nearest seaport situated amongst a beautiful sand plain hardly any trees worth calling trees not a blade of grass. Coming up here on the track across the plains kept passing skeletons of horses etc that had perished by the way horses are very little good. as when we got to the 12 mile soak expecting to find water it was dried up. a man has to pay just the same price for drink for his cattle as we pay for our drink & water