

P.O. Box 247  
One Tree Hill 5114

15/1/92

Dear Mark.

Thank you very much for your interesting letter, greetings & the good photos of various parts of our area. My memory of course is not as good as it used to be, but your letter revived it somewhat.

I am of course rather upset on the reversal of our original idea of the Gdalu looking after themselves. Now I think too much is done for them & not enough done by them, in the practical sense. They were quite capable. Now too much money, without earning it, is given to them.

Do you know Peter Ballaghan of Ahulunry?  
I have been in touch with him over a few years & have just recently replied to a letter from him.

He sent me a black & white photo of the same tank? found on Elcho. I suggested to him that it could have been an auxiliary fuel tank, which is jettisoned when the fuel is used up.

Regarding the Gannet; - in August 1942 we were told of the Gannet crash landing near the S.E. corner of Ehren Bay. So on our way back from Girihala where we were delivering stores to the Missionary there, we called in at the sight of the landing. We could see the wreck from quite a distance as a fire had gone through the area some time after, & cleared the grass away. We, that is, the Gullyu crew & myself salvaged the two engines & the buckled fuselage. After many fires over many years I wouldn't expect anything would be left of the Gannet.

We sent the engines to R it at 7 head quarter in Darwin & eventually received a letter of thanks from them. I still have the letter.

(3)

I have a copy of the book written by one of the crew of the Gannet telling of their problems of getting to Milingimbi. The book is called '33 Days'. We did not meet the crew as we were on our way to Girikala at the time from Milingimbi. The book is written by George Booth who was the wireless operator. If you would like a copy of his book write to him & he could supply you with one I think. He gave me my copy. He now is a very sick man.

His address is -

George Booth.

14 Coral Road.

Bronulla W.D.W. 2230.

Another book just being published in Darwin of Elcho Is. written by Mrs Elizabeth Guy, the title being 'Only a Wife, Arnhem Land 1945-1952'. It should be quite interesting, I hope to get a copy. The price I believe is to about \$15.00 & should be available in Darwin.

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She & her husband were part of my staff  
for a few years.

My Wife's book is only \$5.00 so I will return  
the amount over paid, thank you.

Mr. Guri's book is written in a different style  
from my Wife's book & I should think very  
readable.

All the best for your new Health Association.  
I hope you have complete success in its operation.

I will look forward to hearing from you  
again when you have time to write.

Regards & Best Wishes for the New Year.  
Bäpa Sheppy.

P.S. I am enclosing with 'Half a century in contemplation'  
another small booklet which you might like:

HWS