

Stoker Plate.

Mees 44.

H. M. A. S. Sydney.

Sp. G. P. O.

21/9/41.

Dear Sam,

I suppose you are surprised at the headlines, and more surprised that I never saw you before I was drafted. Well all I can say is I am very disappointed, as the boarders sent me straight off without giving me leave for my affairs. I expected a couple of days at least, and I was going to spend them with you but what a surprise I got. Goodness know when I will be able to see you now, I feel awfully rotten about it. The day I was drafted I was allowed the evening off this was a week ago, I couldn't go to Randenong as time wouldn't allow it. I just had time to say goodbye to my girl friend, but she expected me to be able to have a day or two with her before I went so that I. Another disappointment. Love

is a nice girl Sara, if I had had the
cash I might have got married before
I went, but I expect to be engaged to
her next Xmas. Her people are very nice
and have a stone, on Dillion Hill. Lucy
has a fine big Pontiac and took me
out in it just before I went, if we had
enough petrol we could have gone to see
you for about five minutes.

Well Sam, my job isn't
anything like a stoker's, as I am watch
keeping on one of the main engines, taking
temperatures, and checking gauges, etc. It
is a soft job, but the hot engine room
and noise of the pounding gives you
me a richly feeling, it's really the smell
of the hot oil. The ship is pitching
quodha, but seasickness doesn't worry me,
but I will be a long time getting used to
the Engine Room.

Well Sam I hope you will write
when you can. Let me know how Peta is,
I hope she is better. Give my love to
Marie. I will close for now, hoping to get
a chance to see you one day.
Yours affectionately
Robert