

45-13th Ave
Roxboro PQ.
H8Y 2R8
Canada

16th Dec 88

My dear Richard & family

It will be quite an adventure wandering about India. How are you going in a team with a group or on your own. I'd never like to go in a group but it may be better in your case if you've never been before. Backsagha was the name of some land my father owned & we spent some of our holidays on. I enjoyed - we used to wander all over it. We even sat up for tigers once or twice. Our brother Fred was alive. The villagers wanted it killed as it getting their cattle. They drove & me we sitting on trees on either side of the road. The tiger just bounded across the road as we passed. If I was 10 or 12 Fred would have been ~~born~~ & your dad 6.

2 I don't remember what guns we used.
I think Fred & your Dad was
on either side of the road & I
was up a tree before the road.
Some locals were asking ~~them~~^{me}
what was I was telling them
& get away as I typed Dewi
was on as I looked back the
tiger was crossing small open
patch of jungle. I remember
checking Dewi if the men had
gone & wondering what would
happen if ~~we~~ wounded the
tiger. By the time I looked
back the tiger had crossed the
patch & I aimed at where I
thought he would be then &
heard Fred & I think your
Dad's shots & came down.

I may have been 14 maybe
your Dad remembers better.

I know well collected deer
antlers from tiger's kills &
bills & skin pythons etc.

It's in Mysore state & you
have to go by train from Bangalore
but we forgotten the name of the
station then by bus or walk

3
10 or 12 miles.

Peter is the one who is interested in the Sismies. I gave him all I had & he will be sending it to you.

A lady I think it was from Truckee sent us data on the Sismies in India which was interesting. Owen will try & write them & get some more information if possible. The trouble is the Sismies were Catholics & their births & marriage were not registered by the priests. The Protestants did get registered. So many priests were Belgian, French & they did not bother.

I've never been interested. My father was buried in the Catholic cemetery in Bangalore & my brother Fred in the Protestant cemetery there.

My mother was buried in Carl's family plot (that was her maiden name) in Calcutta

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I believe its Lower Ciculusa Road
Cemetery. I have some correspondence
date 1953 before I left asking
them have the record etc to
complete the grave. My sister
sends some money for the
up sup of the grave - I haven't
as I thought they would just
peck it unless you had
someone there to see the work
done.

When I was in Paris I looked
up a phone book & saw
two DESMERS one a
countess & one a person.

A Desmier from France who
was holidaying here he
was a retired doctor, he
did the same thing & phoned
to meet him we did &
Owen used to work for him.
He'd be about 86 now if he's
alive in 78 & I think he was
8 years older.

I wish you luck & hope you
have a good holiday. All the
best to all of you. Wish you a
Happy Xmas & a happy prosperous
New Year. Erce