

TELEPHONE NO 2.

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LANGLEY LODGE,  
Jan. 2. 1915 HEADINGTON HILL,  
OXFORD.

My dear Spencer

I have been wanting to write for a long while but what with running over to France for 2 or 3 weeks at a time, Admiralty work & trying to do Museum work as well - I am fairly stumped for time, so you must excuse me. I am off again on a mission to France the day after tomorrow. By the time this reaches you it may seem belated to wish you & Mrs. & Miss Spencer the best of luck in 1916, but as it is only just turned 1916 here now, as I write, I am really wishing it hard. We have started the new year with severe gales & trees have been falling all around, also the floods are well out & it still pours with rain.

One doesn't yet see daylight in the war, but as far as I can see our prospects are all right & I feel quite optimistic in spite

undesirable happenings. The strain is a long one & may for a while become more severe, but in the long run we are bound to win.

I am awfully anxious about my things, which you were sending off when you wrote in June. Nothing has yet turned up, nor have I any notice from shipping agents. You did not send a bill of lading & I don't know in what ship the things were forwarded, so I can't make enquiries. I fear I must give them up as lost on the way home, a very serious matter for me as many of the papers & a book or two are of great importance for my work & by no means easily replaced. I also had slides, notes

justice like other Australians have done.  
I have not yet seen Miss Stirling & do  
not know where she now is. I hope so  
very much to see her while she is over  
here. I heard that she had left Rouen  
& was doing motor driving, but  
where I do not know.

I have visited & reported on some  
50 or 60 French Hospitals so far  
& have done other jobs for the French  
Red Cross in many parts of France.  
I do not know how much ground I  
shall cover this trip.

Well I must stop now & pack up so  
with renewed good wishes to you all  
from us both & much looking forward  
to our next merry meeting -

Yours truly

Henry Dalfour

P.S. The photos you were sending have not yet arrived

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& specimens, many of which were of value. So I am mourning the loss & abusing ships that sink & still more those who sink them. I am sorry you should have had so much trouble without the desired result.

I shall be delighted to see the collection of Australian implements put together for me by Kenyon & shall greatly appreciate this accession to the Museum, but hardly like to think of their being risked on the sea — unless they are sent via S. Africa, which is probably a safe route. The Mediterranean just now is by no means safe.

D. Mahony came to see me some while back. I was delighted to see him again. He has got a commission in the Army & will no doubt do himself & Australia