

This letter was received from

Pte M. de Avilla

4th Batt. of "Ruskin"

Arden St.,

Waverley

To his Mother.

Return by post to

Put De W...
1918

1918
NEW YORK
LIBRARY

No. 15 Field Hospital
Alexandria,
June 1915

Are we down hearted
No.

Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am getting quite well again by now & hope you are all the same. We got into action on Sunday last month & I can tell you we went mad & done what no other troops in the world would have done. We landed under very heavy fire of the Navy & it was a great sight the warships bombarding the forts & the forts firing back at the ships. It was now our turn & at six in the morning destroyers came alongside our boat & took us off. We were fully equipped & carried two hundred rounds of ammunition & three days rations. The Turks opened fire on us & shells fell all round but luckily none hit & we landed without mishap. As soon as we put our feet on shore & they opened fire on us with machine guns & poured shrapnel into us. We then threw off our

Packs, fixed bayonets & charged. It seemed impossible that we would ever take it up but we went just mad & nothing could have stood in front of us. All day long the fight went on we suffered pretty heavy losses but drove them back about three miles. When night fell we worked like mad & improved our trenches we had dug for ourselves. We were attacked all through the night the noise was awful we must have slaughtered thousands that night. After being in the trenches 21 days I was shot in the side of my nose the bullet coming out the back of my neck knocking out 13 of my teeth & breaking my jaw in three places. Some of my gums have also been blown away I was also fighting two days with a fractured thigh. My wound is serious & very painful I have never ate anything for 5 weeks they treat me like a lord & can't do enough for me. I will never be in the firing line again although bad as I am I would give my life to be back at the front. I have never had a letter from any of you for four months you must have

forgotten me but I have not forgot you.
Things must be bad in Aus but nothing
compared with this here. I am disfigured but
no discredit to me I have done my share &
got my share but would like to do more
We get every attention & the food is fit for the
King Poultry, jellies, cakes, & sweets of all
kinds. don't worry about me as nothing
is good enough for me or anybody.

I will be coming back to Aus. after going to
Eng., & weigh 12 stone 7 lbs. & not got the least
sign of the Cough I am subject to.

Give my kind regard to all my friends.

suppose Frances has got a nice young
man & of some class. With much love
& kind regards to all

I remain
your loving Son
Rick

Letter
Private
Australia