

To the Sydney.
Morning Herald.

"Watsonia,"

M^cIntosh Street
Gordon PR82/8
8/8/16

Dear Sirs

The enclosed letter is from
my Brother-in-law who is serving with the
imperial army in France. If you care to
publish it you are at liberty to do so. Just
leaving the personal matter out relating to
ourselves.

Sincerely Yours.
Sydney Luckett

P.S.

Please let me have the letter back
again when finished with

Mrs Varney (bot's address)
Greywell

18/3/15.

12 Woodham Hampshire In France
My dear sister, (somewhere)

At last I have received your address and I now take the opportunity of writing a few lines to you, hoping this will find you and all your family in perfect health and spirits. as this leaves me at present. I don't know if you do, but I expect you get all the latest war news almost as soon as they do in England and know by now all about our splendid victory of last week. Of course our Casualties were pretty stiff. I should say anywhere between 4 or 5 thousand, but we captured 2 very important villages and the German trenches beyond the villages & about 2000 prisoners & left nearly 20,000 killed & wounded Germans. We have had a terrible winter here, for months we had a continual downpour of rain and by way of a change snow. I don't

thinks that we had a fine day
(except xmas day) from the end
of October up to the end of Feb.
It's been a cruel time for our
chaps in the trenches, they have
often had to stand up to their
waist in icy cold water and
always over the top of their
ankles in mud, of course we
had a lot of men suffer
from frost bite through it
(which means loss of toes, feet,
fingers etc.) but they have stuck
to it like heroes and I am
pleased to say that the fine
weather has set in, and with
it's aid we shall give the
Germans a dammed good
pasting. It would do your heart
good to see our men when
they leave the trenches for 24
hours rest, they swing down
the roads as if they were going

3

to a tea-party, smothered from top to bottom in mud, yellow faces (the effects of living in trenches) but laughing & singing. It's quite a common sight - to see a Regiment about 1200 ^{strong} go into the trenches & return in about 10 days with only 2 or 3 hundred, I really don't think that the 'people at home realise the enormous losses we get and how near it is to them. When I got leave last November there seemed to me to be hundreds & hundreds of able bodied young men walking about, God knows we could do with them out here, I would like to arrange a sight-seeing party & take them over the front & show them how the French & Belgians are facing the music, not that those of the British army already out here are any the less valiant, I think

It would put a spurt into them.
Since I started this letter to you
we have made a move up Country
and we just got a letter from
Dad, who I am pleased say has
got Downstairs again also Mother.

I also got a letter from my
wife, poor kid, she is petting
very much, but I'm pleased to say
she is in good health, as is also
Freddy, who started at school in
February. Well Nellie & Sid, I
shall be always pleased to get
a line from you & we will, if
God spares me, send you a nice
long letter after this War is
over. Give my love to your children.
I hear that you have another
increase, congratulations, but oh
Tut Tut, I will close now with
fond love from your affectionate
Brother Fred.

16.
9/7/15

Letter

Sydney, New South Wales

Miss Mavis Fleming.

Rooty Hill.