



H. Q.

Reserve Army

B.E.F.

12/8/16

Dear Burne

Just before leaving
you were enquiring about
an officer named Mills in the
23 Bn of 2nd Aus. Div. I am
sorry to tell you that his name
appears in the list of killed
on the 4th inst. The clerk has
only just found it & has asked
me to let you know.

Please accept my sincerest

sympathies

Yours Sincerely

S. R. Atkins

On His Majesty's Service.



Lt A. A. Burne

42nd Regt

3rd Divisional
Artillery
B.E.F.

W. A. Lewis



From Sgt J. R. Besler.
To Sgt Bond.

Particulars re. Lt. Mills 23rd Batta.

August 1916 Lt. Mills was leading his platoon into a front line position ~~captured~~ just prior to ~~the~~ ^{his} taking it over.

He got into the front line & was walking along it with his platoon. When a German shell landed just in front of the parapet. Unfortunately it was practically on top of the parapet & caused the death of five men & Lt. Mills. Lt. Mills was buried by men of his ~~own~~ ^{own} Batta behind the line he had come up to take over.

27. 8. 16

My dear Fairy,

The news of poor old Cecil has only just reached me. ~~off to him~~ and I can quite imagine what a blow it has been to you. But there - away from everything - it must be awfully hard to know just how you're feeling.

But Cecil did his job - & did it well. He was most gallant - ^{was} always thinking of his men who thought the world of him. Just after the 1st Australian Division went into action - I was posted to the ~~1st~~ ^{3rd} division and ~~was~~ ^{actually} have been in action with the 45th Batta ever since. ~~was~~
~~he~~ ^A ~~was~~ I wrote to poor old Cecil four or five times & didn't get a reply so dropped a line to his C.O. as I felt something might be wrong. I got the enclosed letter two days ago which I'm sure you'll like to see. As I'm with a battery I can't get away - especially just now when things are so strained - otherwise I would have gone up to Pozieres right away. ~~the~~ I didn't actually hear for some time after. Mails aren't coming very regularly now - especially up here. We aren't so very far away from where ~~poor~~ Cecil was killed - do on the same front - & if I had only heard

before I would have been up there
~~the~~ ~~at~~ immediately. There were a trick
about Cecil going away & you must try to be
a brave little woman now. His battalion went
into one of the toughest little bits on the whole of
the front of the offensive & he took part in one
of the hardest attacks. The village is in our
hands & our line now well on the other side
— but at a cost that you can realize only too
well. In writing this from our O.P.

in the trenches, from where we were quite a
number of attacks — successful & otherwise — British &
French. ~~The~~ It makes one realize

that this will be the last war.

The O.C. of the 2nd Battalion — or the
2nd Australian Division — called right away to you.
Try to understand that Cecil's gone in the first way
possible for a man. That may sound hard — but
I think you'll understand what I mean.

I wish he were able to write any more now
little woman — but I want you to know how I
feel about it. It was the worst blow he had
since he was started — and for you do

a thousand times worse. I had a
wonderful long yarn the last time I saw
Ceil & I realized how absolutely happy you
must have been. I know the matter
will understand — altho' I'm wondering where
you were when the news came through.

I'll have to stop now — as I've just been
snatching a few minutes. There's firing almost
night & day. ~~This is the~~
~~But~~ But there — amongst everything — things
like this seem to occur every day & at times
one wonders how men carry on at all. But it's
~~then~~ like Ceil that's been carrying this war to
the end that is inevitable — & we hope — not
far off. It's hard conditions for the men out-
here — but it's harder still for the women
left behind — but I know you'll be brave — little girl

As always

(Daisy)

Mrs C. Mills
"Kinellan"
Dalley Street -
Waverley
SYDNEY
— AUSTRALIA.



Handwritten signature or initials



28. 8. 16

My dear brother, I've just written
fairly about poor old Cecil. Even now I
can't quite realize he's gone — ~~the~~
~~in the~~ I know you'll all ~~be~~ accept
things in the right way. He did his
job — & has gone as many others on the
same night. Pozieres, where they
were was ~~one of~~ the worst bits of the
line. I was up there on a job two
days before I left the Staff & before the
2nd Australian Division went in. God
only knows how those fellows stuck it —
but the Australians did a job that
two or three English divisions had failed
to do — and Cecil was killed in one

of the worst scraps of the offensive.
I've sent Fairy a letter I got from
the OC of the 23rd Batta. After I was
posted to battery I got rather anxious
about Cecil as hadn't had an
answer to any of my letters. I wrote to
a man I knew on the staff & asked him
to look at the carnates. He sent
me the enclosed letter. Even then however
I feel there must be a mistake.

I wrote to the OC of the 23rd Batta & got
the letter I am sending to Fairy.

It's hard for the men who fall out
here - but it's harder for the women left
behind - for after all it's they who

suffer. Fairy was a brick to let Cecil
go & I know she will be brave now -
altho' God only knows how hard it will
be. From the long yarn I had

with Cecil I know they
must have been wonderfully happy,
later - when we go out of the line
I'm going to try & find out
where Cecil was buried. I am
writing now in fact - altho' I can't
leave my battery while we're in
action. We were just south of where
Cecil was killed. Division's don't
stay in the line long now - that
is here - & we are hoping that
we'll go out soon. Our infantry
have been out some time but were
covering a division that has no
artillery as we may not get
any out as soon as we expect.
I lost an awfully good chemist

on the 1st July - & the news of
Ceel on top - makes me feel this
war is madness - absolutely!

But we must carry on - & I'm
glad to say we're gradually pushing
the time when we want to - but
at a cost that only poor little women
like fairy can redress. I'm writing this
from the S.P., & won't be able to make
a long letter of it - you'll understand.
were firing night & day & it's fairly
quiet for the time being.
~~It was a first for me~~

Your affectionate son

Fanny

FRANCE

27.11.16

Dear Mrs Mills,

As I am at present acting company commander of D Coy I received your letter of 26/9/16. I have carried out your instructions by issuing orders that all parcels are to be distributed amongst your late husband's own men. Your husband and I were good friends and we had a lot in common as I am also a banker. If there is anything I can do for you I shall be only too delighted, and asking you to accept my deepest sympathy I am

Yours faithfully
R. S. Dale Esq.

8

2 DEC 16

Mrs G. B. Mills

Knellau

Dalby Street

Waverley

N. S. W.

Australia

318



Handwritten scribble or signature in the bottom left corner.



Bodford
England
2.0.7.17

Dear Mrs Hills

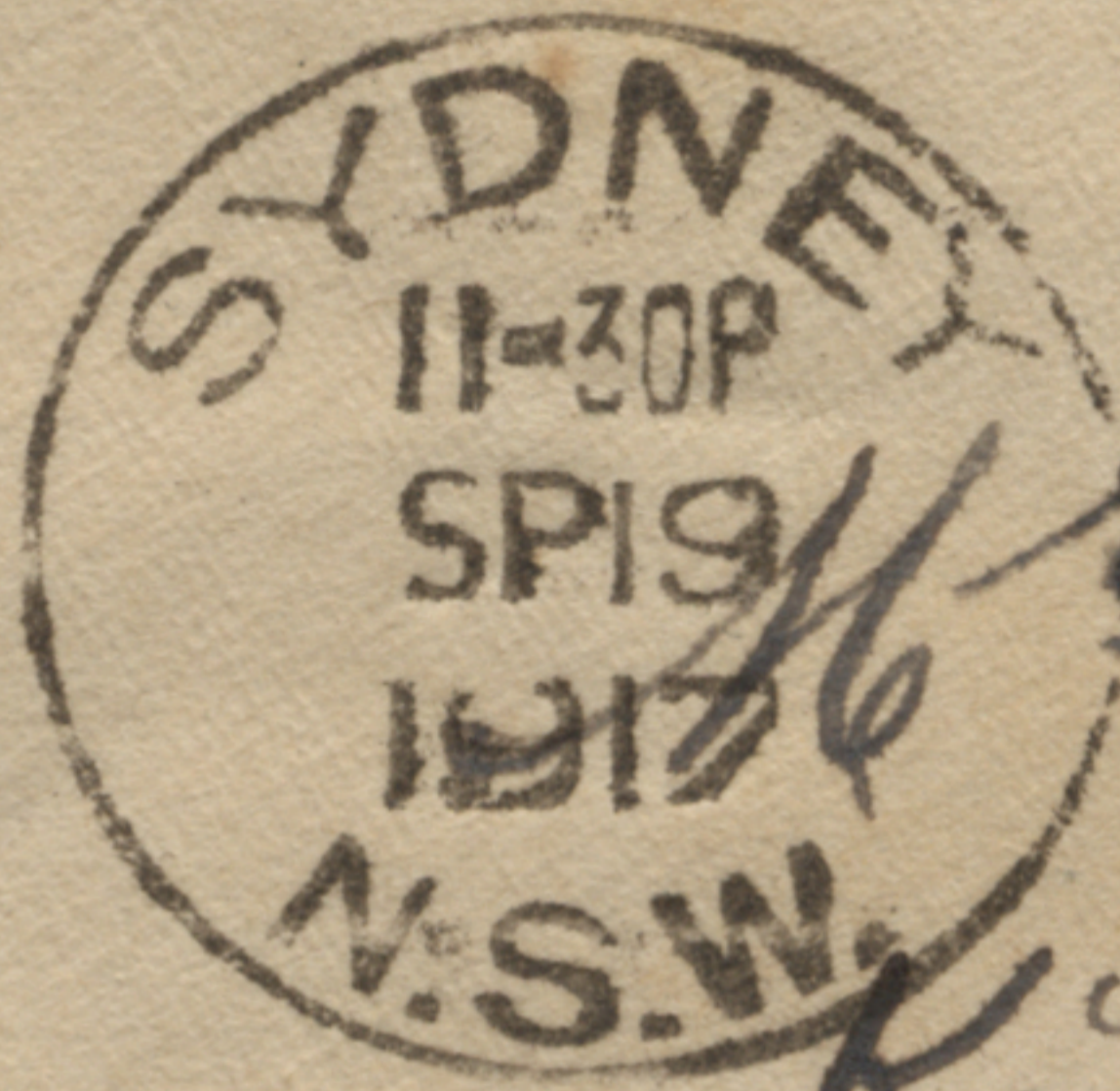
I received your letter dated the 5th March you see by the above address that I'm back in England once again not wounded I'm glad to say I had a severe attack of French fever and left the Batt. on the 6th May three days after our big stunt at Bullecourt I was in Hospital at Rouen in France for three weeks then came over land and spent a month in the Bath War Hospital and I'm now feeling quite well again.

Needless to say Mrs Hills how sorry I was to hear that you have not received the few little things that I collected belonging to Mr Hills his money belt which contained about thirty five pounds

in one hundred franc notes
besides some smaller notes
and cash which I should
say would bring it close
onto £100. In the Junie pockets
were some letters which
I put inside the pocket
book the photo of your little
boy taken sitting astride
my sisters big dog was in
the pocket book the day I
met your husband at Tel. El.
Kebir he showed me the same
photo and was so proud of
it. a fountain pen and compass
were also amongst the articles
also his watch. I was speaking
to him five minutes before
he fell it was while running
across no mans land to give
instructions to some of his men

when he was caught by machine
gun fire and as you have
been informed it was instant-
aneous. He was all for the
well fare of his men and I
have known him to give
men, doses that you had
sent to him. I've heard quite
a number of his men when
speaking of your husband
say. "He was one of the best"
and that coming from the
men is ^{the} highest praise an Officer
can get. When I go back to the
Batt I will make further
inquiries and will let you
know later if any thing
turns up. Really thanks
Mrs Mills for the lovely care
and cigarettes you so kindly
sent me and are a great treat

although I have never met
you I seem to know you
quite well from hearing
my sister Mr. Truagge in her
letters speaking so much about
you. I have just come back
from spending my four days
spent a week in Ireland
and a week in Edinburgh
and enjoyed every day of
it. Colford is a very quiet
little town but the country
all around it very pretty
now Mr. Mills will stop hoping
that will find you and the
little boy in the best of health
from yours very sincerely
Harry Pettit



~~Mrs Mills~~
~~Kinellan~~
~~Dalley St.~~
~~Waverley~~
New South Wales
Australia

~~Mr~~
Mr
Mrs
Miss
1917

