

Galepali

Before posting this, I might say that we did land, & have safely arrived at our destination.

Our post is a very easy & comparatively safe one, where we can get good shelter behind a high ridge, & our trenches are also good, deep, & commanding a rare stretch of enemies country.

I am having a fairly good time, & find life full of interest here - these are interesting times are they not? We can see a long way around us, & at night the bursting shells from our ships can be plainly seen from here. The bombs, & Star-shells are also interesting to watch - from a distance: & we can hear the noise of engagements from various posts, both far & near.

As we shall be getting some cold weather here soon, we have to dig well into the hill for our 'dugouts' but we hope to get to construction for the winter! - Anything you would like from here? It is noted for its 'Karems' ~~but~~ whatever they are, so may bring one of them back with me.

Hope you are well.

Love to all

W. W.

on board S.S. Osmanieh

Have left Lemnos, + last night attempted to land at the arena, the scene of the 'big row', but the weather was too rough, + we had to postpone the landing. We are now lying in security, awaiting better conditions, so that we may carry on the disembarkation.

I had a good reception from my old comrades when I came back, + quite a number expressed their pleasure at seeing me back again, + in good health. Our Brigade Major was one, + asked very kindly about my wound, if there was any after effect, etc. If you remember, it was upon his office that I was hit. One man was killed last night aboard here by stray shot.

We could see the fire along the beach (where it cannot be seen by Turks) + heard the firing quite plainly as we lay in the cove.

I suppose that we shall get ashore tonight — it cannot be done by day, unless by great loss of life, as the Turks start shelling as soon as landing parties start work.

Shall write again later if possible
With Love

P.S.

Will

Cannot write to all, so please forward news + love to Grandma + all at Home to us.

France.

Sept: 24th 1916.

Dear Dad.

We have a fine position here, so quiet & peaceful that it is hard to imagine that there is a war on at all. Here the line is just being held, & a few raids carried out on the German lines, an air fight occasionally, & a few shells from us but only a very few from Fritz.

We are in support, & our posi. is in a wood, where we have some very comfy dugouts.

I have a good one with the R.S.M. & it is a place about 12 x 14' inside, wooden floor canvas bunk, nice little brick fireplace, two desks & stools, pictures on the walls, two glazed windows, & what is more marvellous, a sixpanned pitch pine moulded door, varnished. There is 3.6 of sand-bags all round & on the roof, & the inside walls are lined with kessian. When, on a cold night we get a coke fire going, & the door closed, we are very comfortable.

I have the pioneers constructing new dugouts while we are here, - the bn is on fatigues for the front

line. Being under & surrounded by trees we can move about pretty freely. Behind the position there is a fairly large cemetery, filled with white crosses, dating back to the early days of the war.

We have been here 4 days now, & not a shell or bullet has come anywhere near us. The Hun has left this line very thin as far as artillery goes.

I am sorry that your operations were not a success — will you have to undergo still more?

The weather for the past two days has been glorious, & the rain has held off nicely, allowing the mud, which was very thick, to dry up somewhat. There are some very marshy patches around here, & where much traffic goes, duck waders have to be laid down.

Have I addressed my envelope correctly? — I was not sure of your writing. I have just heard that another Zepp. has been brought down in London. Hurrah! — These raids will become too expensive for them soon!

We have them bluffed everywhere!

Please give my love to Mother & Chickie, same to yourself from yr affectionate son,
Willy

Oct 5th 1917.

Dear Dad,

I have been going to write to you lately, but so far have had no opportunity until now, & even now have not much time.

We have just come out of the line for 2 or 3 days, & expect to go back again very soon. The bad weather may possibly hold up the advance a little, which is a pity, for we were going ahead steadily & surely, & it was looking as if they must withdraw a good deal & find another line of resistance. It is very hard going, & seems to be getting worse every day - new inventions, & harder fighting.

Shall be glad when the Pals come in & ease the pressure a little.

The R. S. M. had H. B. out on Squad drill this afternoon

— I get very little drill at any time, & therefore am very stale. We got over it however!

That yarn about the 5,000 Australians getting leave to visit Aus: has recently been contradicted, — I never did take much notice of the rumour. — it has been floating about for a long time now. — It would be a very difficult — almost impossible thing to do just now.

Don't attempt to do more work than you are physically able to do — we can manage somehow without. So if you find work is too much for you leave it alone.

I am enclosing a photo of the Memorial we (the Pioneer) erected at Passines in memory of our lads who fell there.

The name plate is screwed on to the wooden cross, & the photo is an enlargement of the plate.

I stamped those names on
myself with single letter dies —
it took me quite a long time as
you will see. The plate is of
aluminum, & part of a 'plane.

Hope you are all well, &
having as good a
time as possible.

I am still in good health
so far.

With Love to Chickie
& mother & yourself
your Affec. Son
Will