A. S. Burrett. Esq.
3 Mackenzie st.
Melbourne.
Victoria.

I have ever seen, absolutly natural.
The light as I said before is very poor.
so I must close with much love to you all.

Your loving son

Sid.

I hope you are all in good health.
Write if you have time and break the monotony.

A S Burnett. Esq.
3 Nisbac Penyie St.
Glenhuntly.
Victoria.

(2) There is some talk of us coming back to town for the last eight days but it is not very probable. Last night I saw one of the troop ships passing through the Heads with several escorts. The searchlights flashing on them. It was one of the most beautiful sights

No stamps.
(1) No cash. } very scarce

"B" Sub Command
64th Infantry.
Military Camp
Point Nepean.

Sunday 18th 14

Dear Dad,

Just a few lines to let you know. I am having a real good holiday I wrote to you on Thursday but in a great hurry. How is Irene's. Hope she is better and out of bed. Thank Mrs Walsh for the nice lunch and tea she cut for me.
The light at present is very bad and I can hardly see the lines, candles are not issued until eight. The weather is splendid and I will come back very brown. The work down here is very easy and easier still to (duck-shove). We had another medical exam to day. (Farce). I have not communicated with Bert yet but will be doing so tomorrow very likely

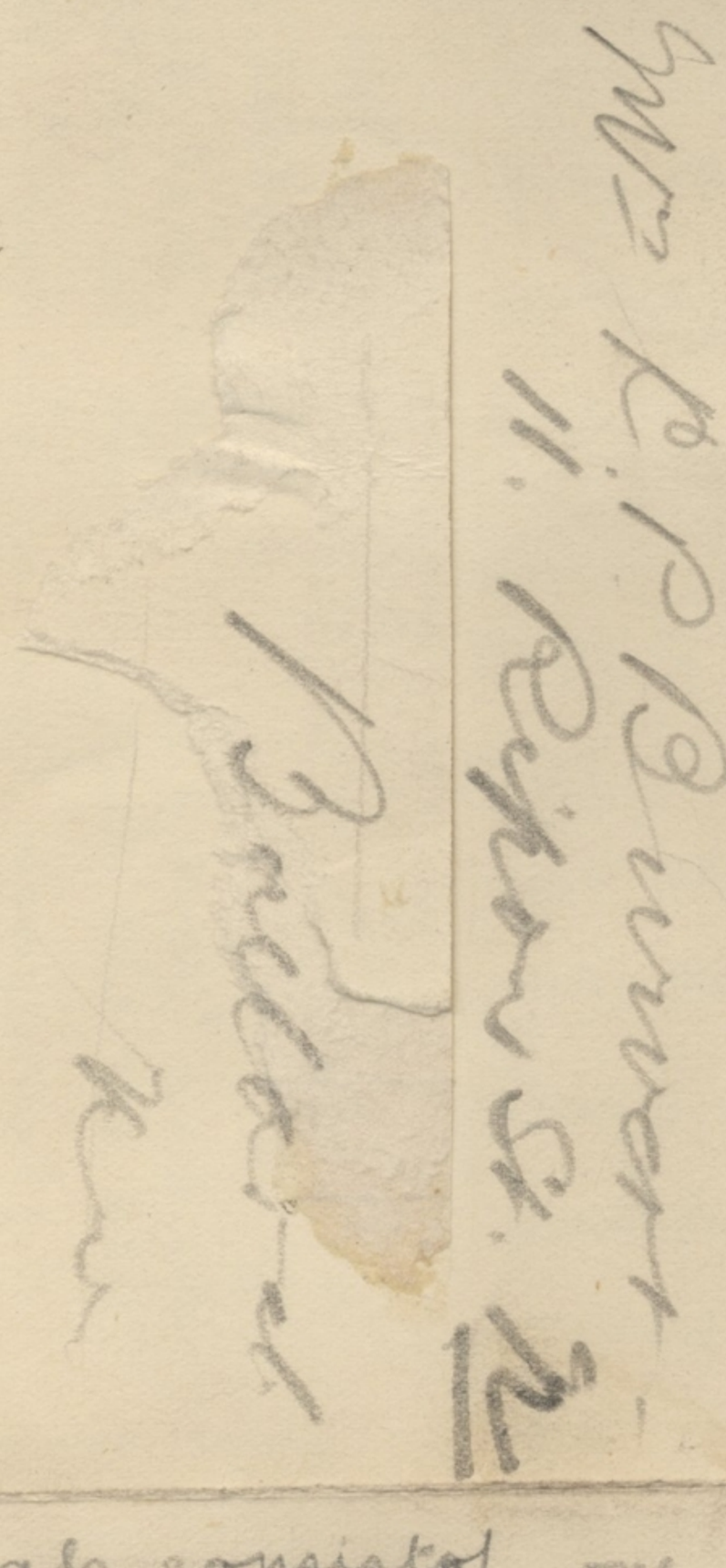
"B" Lst Command
64th Infantry.
Military Camp.
Point Nepean

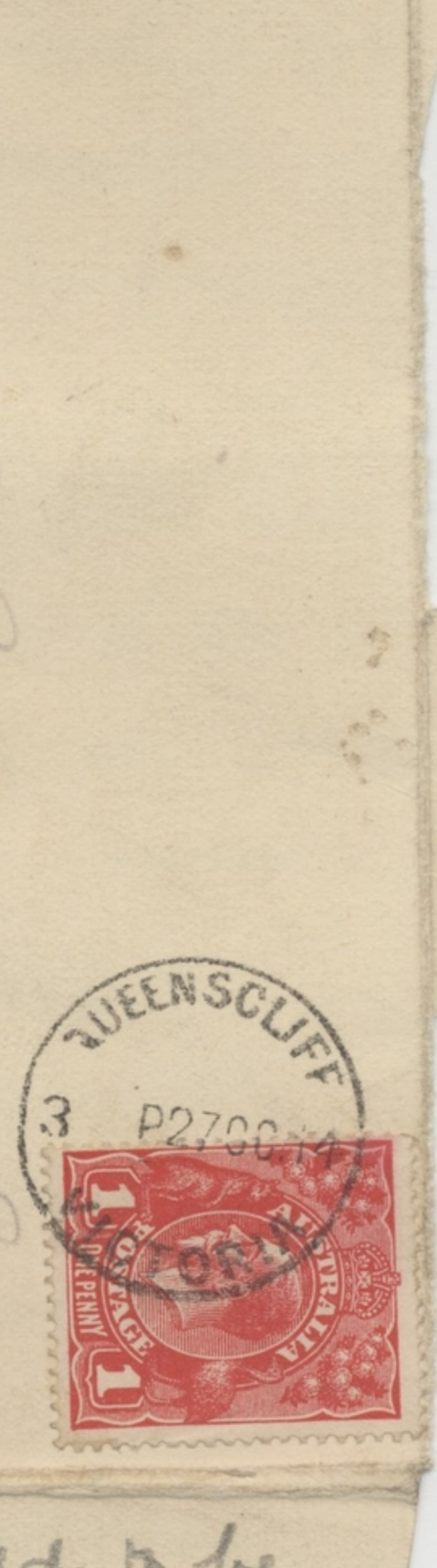
Dear Dad. 26-10-14.

Received yours of 20th with postal note, I thought my letters had gone astray. Thanks very much for 5/- and stamp. I am very well and hope to keep so. There are a great many things I would like to tell you but they will have to wait until I get home. I want you to let W.H. know that we do not leave the point before ~~the~~ Thursday at the very earliest. We are having very fine weather here with the exception of Saturday which was a beastly day. I saw Uncle Sam won the cup and was sorry and surprised you did not back him. St Carwyne will win the Melb Cup. One of the chaps in our lot had a 6th share in a ticket for "Tats" 1st prize, he gets £830 out of it. On the day I got up a sweep up 20/- to 1/- he actualy had the luck to win it. I drew the thing for Red St Carwyne, but I wanted the other. We were sitting in the tent and I got a feeling that Uncle Sam would win, I told all the boys. At the present time I am having 2 shifts of 2 hours each during the night then I am off all day. I miss my hot dinner each day very much. Our

course I join them but with reluctance. It is the 26th to day. eleven months since Mum died. I am pleased with tent mates, a jolly mob. Oh well I must close. hoping you are all well. With love to all. Remember me to Mrs Walsh and tell her to have a feed for me directly I come back. even at 2 in the morning.

Your Loving son Sid.





meals consist of one piece of fat supposed to be chop for breakfast, two slices of bread with a teaspoon full of jam in the centre for dinner and stake as hard as iron for tea with all meals tea or coffee, it is getting worse. I could do a plate of Rost beef and spuds now. No such luxury, a man from Portsea with peanuts and lollies is rushed at by a howling mob of dirty greasy soldiers of

(1) No. 1

The Young Men's Christian Association
WITH
H.M. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

From L/Cpl Burrett.
24th Batt. 6 Reg't. A Coy.

June 19th 1915.

Dear Dad

I have arrived safely in Egypt after a very successful trip, leaving Melbourne on the 8th May and disembarking on 12th June at Alexandra.
We reached Albany on the 13th May, Colombo on the 25th Port Suez on 2nd June, Port Said on the night of the 3rd.
On the whole it was a very slow trip the reason for that was we had to keep pulling up for the other boat which was the Flagship.
We did not land at Albany and of course were disappointed but were given to understand that we would have a route march at Colombo. There was a great deal of excitement when we dropped anchor, niggers running mad all over the place and trying to get all they could out of us by selling their coins, then when they had enough of that they brought the fruit to light and by jove their was a scramble, oranges being the chief thing they started off by selling them at 4 for 1p then they gradually came down to 12 for 1p a while after that you could buy about a case for the same money.
At this time the Colonel became very ill and orders came out that there was to be no landing, that got the fellows wild and fed up with boats and salt water.
I did not mind I knew we were stopping at

(2)

The Young Men's Christian Association
WITH
H.M. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

From.....
.....Batt.....Reg't.....Coy.

June 19th 1915

Colombo all night so I got a couple of chaps to join me in a venture to touch land, we got a good rope and made it with the aid of another small piece, long enough to touch the water, then the next trouble was to get one of the niggers to take us in to the pier, we eventually got one and he said he would take us in for a 1/, we rowed that not knowing that that was to too much but when we got into the boat and away from the rope the rotter wanted 5/, it seemed rather too much for about ~~a~~ half a mile so we agreed on 3/ each, there were three of us so we gave him half a quid and asked for 11/ change and got it, when we got out of the boat we tipped him 2/ so he got off light after all. We landed on a small coaling jetty a mile or so from the town, half way up this jetty we were stuck up by a big nigger and about a dozen or so kids the nigger said he was guarding the jetty and we could not pass (imagine how we felt) and the boat had gone back and no chance for another. We had to do something so we tried to push pass this nigg and the kids the big blokke pulled out a great big pig stabber and the kids grabbed lumps of coal and held them ready to fling them, then the nigger said he would let us pass ~~for~~ if we gave him a 1/, each we were just handing out when we heard a

(3)

The Young Men's Christian Association
WITH
H.M. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

From.....

.....Batt.....Reg't.....Coy.

June 19th 1915

loud smack and saw a white man hit the nigger on the head with a big ships frying pan they all bolted then and the chap, who was one of the crew from the other boat told us it was all bluff and we should have clouted him as soon as he spoke to us. From there we went a little further on and came to a rickshaw stand, hired three rickshaws and had a good spin round Colombo, of course it was night and we could not see anything like what there ~~was~~ is to be seen, but we enjoyed ourselves and got back quite safe at about 12 O'Clock, getting up the rope was the only drawback of our little trip but that was nothing. There were a lot of chaps who were getting off onto a coaling barge caught, sentenced to 10 days C.B., fined 1.0.0 and known as Colombo tourists who never reached Colombo.

Two chaps died at Colombo and were buried at that port but that was not all we lost another six between Colombo an Port Suez mostly real good fellows and fine big soldiers. I will never forget the call they play while a burial is taking place it seemed so often and would come without a warning, a man is lucky to be safe and sound here after so many dying, 8 on our boat and 9 on the other.

(4)

The Young Men's Christian Association
WITH
H.M. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

From.....

.....Batt.....Reg't.....Coy.

June 19th 1915

It is not often I write 4 pages but I have such a lot to say, the worst of it is I can't explain just now everything I have seen already. Port Suez is a very nice place that is, the better class quarters, some parts are very dirty, the best sights of all were along the Suez canal. I will tell you about it next mail. Port Said is a fine city I never landed there but it is a good place for a look round.

Alexandria, the port we disembarked at is a fine place but the best of all is Cairo, I am going there with some mates tomorrow from there round the pyramids, we will have all day it being Sunday I expect to see Bert any day now he will be alright as far as weather goes, I know I am. You have no idea how hot it is here, we are well in the summer and even the chaps that have been here all along are going under to it, our sick parade is enormous every morning and after drilling in the sun for a while you see the fellows going right out to it like flies. only one death since we have been here he was a quarter master Sgt and died of sunstroke, The drill hours are from 6 in morning till 9 then breakfast, lecture till from 10.20 to 12, dinner at 1 p.m. drill from 4.30 till 7.30. lea. We are camped on the edge of a desert and border of a town called Heliopolis which

The Young Men's Christian Association
WITH
H.M. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

From.....
.....Batt.....Reg't.....Coy.

June 19th 1915

runs into Cairo, well, after 7 in evening we are allowed into Heliopolis, all Saturday afternoon and Sunday without a pass, but if you go to Cairo you must have a pass and be properly dressed.

We are at present getting about in singlets, and our blues cut down to about an inch above our knees. it is about the coolest way of dressing. You could have answered my letter as soon as you got it and it would have been waiting at Alexandria a lot of the chaps got letters the day they got here. I like the training very much and have succeeded in getting a stripe, which does not benefit me financially but gives me ~~many~~ more freedom and advantages. one stripe goes a long way here, by the time you get this I may be Corporal that's two. I would have been at least Corporal if I had had a fair chance but all the fellows ~~were~~ that were Sargeants and Corporals ~~at~~ Broadmeadows have been reduced to the ranks and older and more experienced men put in their places.

I hope every thing is going on all right at home and I wish you would send Grandma a few lines I can't write this mail I have had enough. There are hundreds of wounded here and it is surprising to hear some of the tales they can tell. I will tell you more next mail there is one every week.

Your affectionate Son
Lid.

"NO SURRENDER"

Sgt Burnett 107
"A" Company.

24th. Battalion

6th. Inf. Brigade

(Australia)

EGYPT. 1/8/15

Dear Dad

I have not received one letter all the time I have been away and only for seeing Bert who was home a week ago I would be feeling very anxious. I hope one comes soon because I will be going soon.

Bert went this morning but he will not be going straight to the front I think he will be a little while before he gets there, all the same I reckon he is very lucky getting away so soon.

I saw him last night and he seemed quite happy and left me in very good spirits. I think he will be alright, he is more lucky than me, I have had no illness since I joined the force and with the exception of getting a bayonet into a sinew of my heel and scraping myself a few times I reckon I have done pretty well.

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

I am very pleased to say I am a full Sergeant now and I am almost certain to get my pay & back pay (which is down in orders for me to collect from the 8th May 1915 thats very handy, 10/6 a day) confirmed by next mail I will make my will out to you and I want you to have more and keep some for me but we will talk about that later.
I think you will be pleased to see I have not shirked but worked damn hard, and can say I am working my way up from the ranks, and I can tell you it is no easy thing I do not mean to praise my self but I have been using my brains and have been successful so far, my next step being Sergeant Major and I will have a chance at that ere long I must keep at it and I will soon be a Col Courtney.

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

We went to the Butts for three days and did pretty well our company getting a better percentage and boasting of the best shot in the Brigade.
Our Battalion has been attached to the new division which has been formed and it is said we will be off very soon any day in fact, but I want you to keep on writing because I think letters are sent on for a while.
I hope you are all keeping well I am not a cold foot but I would not mind being home for a few days. To day is Sunday and April today, whose photo I will enclose and want you to keep because we have been good pals all the time and if anything happens to him & I come out alright I will want it and there is no chance of keeping anything after we leave here, well we are going to the Egyptian

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

A museum in an hour or so and on the way I am going to get my photo taken I have been going to several times but somehow I have not done so but I will this time and you will get it next mail.
About that money I wanted you to send on, three pound it was well I will give you the address as follows.

Walter Madden.
C/o Mrs Robertson.
C/o Messrs Walker & Stalls
Little Collins St
Melbourne

I hope you have had no trouble about getting my money. I suppose there has been a certain amount all the same.
Well, Dad I will be drawing more soon next mail very likely I do not collect more here but you will get it in Melbourne.

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

I believe pubs have closed at nine in Melbourne now I would like a Bottle it is a thing not very handy if Mrs Walsh wants her Sunday beer and comes in late Saturday night. by jove I would like a good dinner now you cannot get one here no matter where you go and what you pay.
The C.O. of this Company knows you, it was a long time ago 1903 when he went round Melbourne with you his name is Captain J. Parkes and he said he was a petty Officer when he met you, he is a fine man and a straight out one, you may remember him.
Well Dad I have said all I can think of for the present, I hope you are getting my letters. With love to all

Your Affectionate Son
Ed.

Sergeant Burnett 1st
"A" Company.

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT. 22/8/15

Dear Dad,

I received your cable on the 4th 8/15. and I can assure you it was more than welcome. I got it when I was on the Hospital guard.

Well I said in one of my letters that Bert was on his way to Gallipoli and would be a while at Lemos, but instead of that he was sent straight to the front and had only landed a couple of days before they went into action.

The reinforcements he went away with were cut up and at the present I do not know whether he is wounded killed or alive but I can tell you this, that one of his mates who was sent back wounded was with him when he was hit and said Bert carried him back to his company. They were both going to fill their water bottles when it happened.

(2)

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

and after getting back to their Company this chap whose name is Armstrong says he never saw him again, but he saw another chap a week ago and he said Bert was going strong then so that's not so bad, but I am still trying to find out something definite as a lot can happen in a week over there.
Well Dad my last few days in Egypt are coming round but I am very glad and nothing would suit me better than if they were to come round now and say we want you to pack up.
I hope Bert is alright I seem to have a feeling he is but I can only hope for the present.
I would liked to have sent you a cable when he went into action but could not as the cash will not allow it.
We have our first lot of reinforcements

(3)

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

in now and they have been attached to the Company, they are a poor lot, hardly any training and no discipline amongst them.
I am getting on very well, going strong for a platoon and hope to have a commission before the war is over.
Captain Parkes had to detail a Sergeant to attend a school of instruction for a couple of days to learn thoroughly how to read a micrometer and I have got the job.
I am very pleased at getting it as there are a lot of Sergeants here and they would make no bones at getting it.
A few minutes ago Caulfin was sitting here chatting to me, he is in charge of all E.B. men prisoners & so on, it is a rotten job and he thinks so too.
It seems funny to think he was a member of the Criminal Investigation Dept and a

(11)

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

city detectives, the same with lots of others I have met here and who I knew in Melbourne.
I hope you get my letter in which I gave you the address to send some money to, but the pay as a Sergeant from 8th May is not coming just instead I am going be paid from June 6th to 27/7/15 as a corporal and from then as a sgt. You will get that in Melbourne as soon as my new allotment form goes through. There is another little thing I would like you to do, before Bert went we arranged to get some little thing to Reggie and the girls but I do not see anything much here and another thing I have not the money so when the extra comes through will you take 10/- and get Reggie a pair of sleeve links or something like that also divide half a quid between the girls that is from Bert & myself I bought a few little hand kerchiefs for Bert to send to the girls, but he went away too quick otherwise they would

(5)

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

have had more from him.
Young Howard is back from the front with a bruise under the heart, he was very lucky to get off so light, I was talking to him for about a quarter of an hour and then did not know him. he knew me because Condon sent him over to me, but he never said anything to me about who he was, he seemed rather stupid either that or very dense.
Well Dad I must stop writing now, dinner is getting ready and the tables are wanted. Hoping everybody is well and thanking you very much for the cable which made up for a dozen letters, I will now close with love to all,

Your Affectionate Son
Sid.

Familiarly hope Bert is well but you must not forget if anything has happened to him he fell on the field of honor.

You might also call on Mrs and for those kind words and send Sam Jettens or a letter of and from his kindness.

"NO SURRENDER"

Sgt Burnett. 15th.
"A" Company.

S.S. Nile.

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT. 1/9/15.

In case I do not have time to write to Clarice & Aunt Dorcas, thank them very much for their nice letters they are quite a comfort to me.

Dear Dad.

Well. I am now on my way across the little stretch of water which has been separating Bert & I. for the last couple of weeks, it is the only thing that makes me feel uncomfortable, not knowing how he is.
I have had no word from him nor can I find out from anybody how he got on in the scraps he has been in.
The young fellow who came across wounded and who knew Bert is coming back with our company.
The only thing which has upsilt our Battalion, and Brigade for that matter, is the tacking in of so many fresh reinforcements, a lot of them without any training, but I think we are going to make a name for ourselves. (that hill has not been taken yet).
It was a marvelous thing that your letter also Clarice's & Aunt Dorcas's letter reached me

(2)

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

only a few minutes before I left Heliopolis, being the only letters I have yet received you may be sure they were very, very welcome. I am sorry to think you thought I had not written but I know you got some by your cable.
The boat we are crossing by is the S.S. bile only a small boat and holding our Battalion and a few details only.
I was sick for a few hours after sailing but feel as fit and well as ever, I hope you are all still well and now you have received a letter or two your anxiety will not be so great, but of course there is Bert, Oh I wish I knew how he is, it would make it a lot easier for me, for as far as I am concerned I feel just as if I am out on a pleasure trip no matter how serious I look at the position only a few miles from here.

"NO SURRENDER"

(3).

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

I have fallen into another job on pigquiet so have not very much time for writing in comfort, but I want you to give best wishes & kind regards to all asking after my welfare and tell them I feel quite confident of my work as an N.C.O. Tell Grandma & Aunt Sydie I cannot write them just now but sent them an 8 pager only a few weeks ago, I also wrote to Aunt Dorcas, in fact I wrote 16 letters and I do not know how many post-cards only a week or two ago. There was one I left out and for which I am very sorry for ~~and~~ that was Miss Richardson, but you can thank her for wishing to be remembered and tell her I hope to be able to send her a few lines ere long. I have made my will out in your name, the extra pay starts from 6th June at 10/- per day. then from 27/7/16 onwards at

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

10/0 per day. I collected £8/1/0 the other day but it was too late to do anything with and I had no time to send it home. I lent a cobber £2/0/0 and he is writing his people in Melbourne telling them to send it on to you, he is a brother Sergeant named Dickenson and a fine little Chap he is, well you will receive that, there will only be a pound of it left after you buy those little presents for the girls & Reggie but you can perhaps make use of it.
I am to draw 3/5 per day here and 2/1 goes to my credit in Bank in Melbourne so if anything happens to me my pay book shows clearly where all my money lies.
Well Dad I must now close with much love to all and hoping you are all in the best of health

Your Affectionate Son
Lid.

It's the girls for me.

"NO SURRENDER"

Sgt C Burrett 15th.
"D" Company.
24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

~~EGYPT.~~ 22/9/16.

Dear Reg.

Just a few lines to let you know I am doing alright and receiving your letters & papers up to date, it is very good of you to write so often and to send a paper now and again, I got the little Australia you sent and am wearing it in the front of my cap instead of the badge.

You say Mrs Casey is dead, well you know what she was and my opinion of her so you can judge for yourself how grieved I am to hear it, (How many times) did she leave you or rather where did she leave all her money, she will know now that it was no good hording it all up only to leave it all behind where she could not worrit over it.

I am very disappointed Clarice & Dot Rene did not get their presents, but there is still a chance of them turning up yet.

Sorry you let that watch fall on Mrs Walsh.

"NO SURRENDER"

(2)

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

not but I suppose it will be better in a fortnight or so, it is not so bad as a boat perhaps.

My advice to Roy now is if his mother is so much against his joining to let it go I think we are getting all the men we want and I reckon quite enough from such a young country as Australia. This game, although I have had some jolly good times is not what it is cracked up to be, I do not care how soon I get back, (Australia for mine) is the saying.

We get plenty of visitors in this part of the world but not the same as we get in the meadows. they are of a grey back type or a rather red and large variety on which we have to use half a brick or so to kill. What with these annoying animals, the flies and smell of unburied dead turk while you eat your meal it is no wonder we chance Beachy Bill and go for a swim to free ourselves from such

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

Rifles. As I said in Dads letter there are a lot of things I would like to tell you but am not allowed.
As you seem so keen on it I will try and pot a couple of Turks for you, that is if they don't pot me first. you might hear a lot about the Turk being a coward but don't you believe it, he is a damn good fighter and will sometimes use stick or stones to gain his end.
I suppose it is just as well they cancelled football, I suppose it was holding a few back same with racing, I hope they do not stop Curfew bell with a vengeance then as Dad says. Well Reg I must now close hoping you are all well and shall remain so, ~~Hoping~~ With love to all
P.S. Hope you are getting on alright at work.

Yours Affectionate Brother
Sid.

Frank Hung

Written in the trenches

"NO SURRENDER"

Sgt Burrett 159.
"A" Company
24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

I do not think there is any fault in the delivery of letters addressed to me. Papers not sure of they might get the wounded.

EGYPT. 20/9/15.

Dear Dad

I was very pleased to receive your letters dated 26/7/15 on 31/8/15, one on 16/9/15 dated 2/8/15 and another yesterday which you sent on 10/8/15 and am very glad things are going on alright and all the family is well. I have already said in one or two of my letters that I received your cable and I reckon it was very decent of you to not to wait for the weekend. I was very glad to hear that Bert was quite safe and away from here for a while, I suppose you have heard from him since - he was wounded in the leg with a rifle bullet and sent to Malta and now ~~mostly~~ most likely having a bit of a look round. Well, I suppose he will be back here again soon and quite ready for more, hope he is as well off this time, I have had no word from him nor seen him since he left Egypt.

You asked me in your last letter how I was

"NO SURRENDER"

Send letters to same address
we are allowed to put the date or
place not both.

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

~~EGYPT.~~

getting on - well I am alright up to date -
living in dug-outs and trenches some not
fit to put pigs in, but still we have been
lucky up to date and are all quite happy
and could eat a good meal at any time,
that's not to say we get many.
There are a lot of things I would like to
tell you but we are forbidden to do so,
of course you will understand that, any-
thing out-of place the censors cross out.
I am glad you are having a go for another
position in the Treasury and hope you get it,
I think you have done your time in "D" work.
I was wondering whether it would take you
away from home much and if the probable trip
to Tasmania had anything to do with it,
however I hope you get it if you want it and
also the little trip.
I can quite imagine what things looked

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT.

like in Melbourne on Australia Day, it must have been just the thing for anybody who was not a twisted down-long looked for recruit, and all this we hear about women and girls going about hunting for recruits ought to be stopped, I reckon they would do better if they stopped at home and made a few soups or something, they want to put themselves in a young chaps place and see how they would feel - it is not every body that can go, besides that I think they are pushing things too much and will finde one of these days they should have Repts a few. Well Dad I think I have said all I am able to so will now close with love to all

Your Affectionate Son
Sid.

P.S. Remember me to all friends, and ask McMash if he got my letter.

Gallipoli.

Could perhaps have more to say next week.

POST CARD EGYPT

Dear Dad,

Had a couple of [illegible] from Gun[illegible]

I wrote you and Reg last week. I hope you got them alright. I am still feeling very well and hope you are all the same. ~~[illegible]~~

(February yet) I am still going in and out of the trenches, I might say more in them out! But it is wonderful how the time does go, just on a month now. Have you heard from Bert yet. I have not. Love to all

Your loving Son

5/10

Mr A. Burkett Esq
3 of Bourke St
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia

L. C. - 393.

CAIRO - Sailing boat on the Nile at sunset.
LE CAIRE - Voiliers sur le Nil au coucher du soleil.

On Active Service

20/10/15

C. A. S. Burnett. Esq.
3 McKenzie St.
Melbourne.
Victoria
Australia

6TH INF. BDE.
23-OC-15
FIELD P.O.

PASSED BY
No. 3019

Abroad.

20/10/1915.

Dear Dad.

It is with a sorrowful feeling toward you all that I write this letter, and my hope is that you will be able to stand the awful blow you must have got - as bravely as you have stood all your previous troubles. I know how you will feel it and needless to say my feelings for you are the same as those you have for me. I received your letter dated on the 14/10/15. and in it the first news of dear Berts death. it hit me very hard - for I had been under the impression he was only wounded - the fact that I had not heard from him did not worry me much because I know he does not write much and time passes so quickly here that I did not think for a moment he was dead. But it is as you say death must come to all of us sooner or later and I say the same as Mrs A.E. - it is a great consolation to know that his mother was there to meet him. Well Dad he died the best and most honourable death any man can die and I am sure he would not have changed places with anybody. I have not had a chance to cable you these last few days but I will as soon as I get a chance, I suppose you know by now that I received your cable. I have had a letter since the above and I am sure any more ~~more~~ following will reach me - but some of mine must have gone astray because ~~some of~~ a few people I have written to have not answered - Mrs Nash has not written - I wrote to Miss Green and several others before I left Egypt and they have not replied. It is good to have an Aunt like Aunt Dorcas - she has not missed a mail for a long time and she writes very welcome letters, I have written her a few times but they too must have gone astray, at any rate one of them did, for I wrote it before I received her first which was the first I received since I left home. Well I received one from Ruby and Aunt Dorcas this mail and they both enclosed a sheet of paper and an envelope - being short of paper (this pad is not mine) and leaving their letters in my dugout

On Active Service

20/10/15

A. S. Burnett Esq
3 McKenzie St
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia

6TH INF. BDE. 23-OC-15 FIELD P.O.

PASSED BY No. 5019

Had a letter from Auntie Sandina this mail also some cuttings from Ballarat papers which very Pretty sent. Sandina wrote Robt in about no not sending more letters & photos - they very Pretty sent. Sandina wrote Robt that there photos would have got lost - but if they were any good they would not have kept them & forwarded them on to Berts mates & Geoff. I will write, according to getting on the other side of the channel for disc meets about January.

I will have to wait until I come out of the trenches again before I can write them - I will send them a line ~~when~~ in a couple of days - you can tell them.

Some of Berts mates I believe are in Shrapnel gully - I will go round and see if any of them can tell me anything you might like to know. As far as I can gather he was put straight into the charge and was shot while on his way to the trenches we now occupy.

Well Dad I must now close with much love to all and try to look on the best side of things

Your loving son Sid.

1½

"A" Company
24th Batt
6th Brigade
A.I.F.
5/12/15.

Dear Dad

Very pleased to receive yours containing definate news of your resignation from the C.I.D. They say a change is as good as a holiday and knowing you dont go in for pleasure trips I think it will do you a great deal of good - you ought to have got away from that chamber of horrors ere this.

Well Dad I think I have received all letters from home lately but I have got far behind in answering them - I have not written for over seven weeks and not always for want of time - paper & envelopes are scarce but the reason is that I have not felt as if I could - I started three or four to Aunt Dorcas but they were never finished - I know how she would take Bert's death and I could not find words to reply to her.

I received a very interesting letter from Roy last mail also a few papers which we are always glad to get - I receive the "Australasian" pretty regularly from a Miss Sullivan a friend of Aunt Dorcas's. (always very acceptable.)

I have had (including your box of cigarettes via Mrs Robertson) 8 parcels sent to me - two of which were registered and not received any - but I

have not given up hope of receiving some of them yet. We all hope to get a pudding and a billy - I suppose some of us will if we are lucky but never mind we'll make up for it next Xmas.
For the first time in my life I saw snow fall and knew what it was to handle it - it was about 10 days ago and remained on the ground for a few days - quite long enough for most of us under present conditions - the weather now is good again quite warm during the day and early part of the night - lets hope it lasts!
It was very thoughtful of you to send me all those cuttings per Reg'd post but Aunt Sydie preceded you. I received hers a good three weeks before yours.
Bert's Battalion is back here now after having a spell - there are not many of the old chaps left but I may strike one or two who knew him - I got a letter from Ballarat demanding particulars of Bert's death but I could only read half of it - it was like a Chinese puzzle (small writing crossed) it looks as if they are short of paper - you had better send them some and put it down to my A/c. (second thought's you had better not.)
I made out that they were determined to get away from there and am wondering where they intend going - however they had their chance of a good thing

offered on two or three occasions by you and they refused - after all the trouble you went to for nothing they deserve all they get in the way of weather - that seems to be their main trouble.

I am glad Clare is going on with the piano it seems a waste to have it there and nobody to play it - very pleased Peg has become so efficient with the typewriter - I suppose it was quite like old times to have it home again - (what happened to the ticky typewriter truck.)

Tell Rene I hope she is nearly out of the "Abes". and growing a big girl - Dorothy always was a bit dull unless she had a wheel or something to play with but she will be alright - she's the only one I have not had a letter from yet - tell her to enclose a few lines in one of the others.

By the time you get this you will be well into the New Year - I have wished nobody a happy Xmas yet but I hope you all made the best of it - I can at least wish you all a prosperous and more happy New Year and may it bring forth success to you in your new position.

Well Dad I think I have said all for the present will write again next mail - Hoping to receive another from home next mail I will close

with love & best wishes to all. Yours lovingly
Jim

P.S. I have not received your cigarettes yet - but I may at any time - Best wishes to Mrs Walsh for Happy New Year.

"NO SURRENDER"

"A" Company.
24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
Tel-el-Kebir (Australia)
EGYPT Jan 23rd 16

Dear Dad,

First of all I must thank you very much for the fine box of smokes you sent me per Mrs Robertson. I received them while in Lemnos and you may be sure they were more than acceptable - I have still got some left - in fact I am at present smoking one. I am very sorry I caused you so much anxiety as to my welfare + causing you to go to the expense of another cable - but it was not my fault this time - because for some time before and after my departure from the peninsula no letters were taken - this is the first I have written since then. However I was very pleased to receive it, although I have been hearing from home regularly - no doubt it will be a relief to you to hear I am still well and in good

2

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT

nick - so I cabled you as follows:-
Well - love - Sid.
I received yours about a week ago but was not able to answer it immediatly on account of there being no telegraph stations handy, however I sincerely hope you receive it within reasonable time.
After leaving Lonesome Pine (that is where we spent fifteen weeks) and the peninsula behind - we arrived safley at Lemnos and although it being far from a likley place I enjoyed myself immensley in the way of long walks and a good deal of freedom - it was just great to feel you could hop your head about where you liked without having it nearly blown off - well after three weeks there we again embarked for Egypt

3.

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT

and after a couple of days good sailing we once more put our feet on old "Gib-it" land.
Alexandria was the port and from there we were packed (sardine fashion) into cattle trucks and taken straight to this out-of-the-way place - no township - fifty miles from Cairo - and 1% leave per day, so we aren't getting the holiday we thought we were to. It is only a matter of a few weeks I think before we will be into it again so we must make the best of a spell. Bert's Battalion came back to the peninsula a few weeks before the evacuation but it was not until their last day there - that I had a chance to see any of Bert's mates - however after a good deal of inquiring I found one and it happened to be Bill Kreger whose wife wrote to

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT

you - I found him a very decent chap but did not have many words with him as he was packing to embark that night - well he said he was in the charge with Bert and saw him go back wounded and thought he would be alright - he did not hear anything more until he heard from home.

The 6th & 7th Reinforcements were there for fortyeight hours only before they were called up from fatigue to go into the trenches - they went over the parapets with the rest of the boys to take the German Officers trench (a very stiff undertaking) with the result of loosing many good lives who fought so bravely.

I gave Bill Breger my address and told him to write me - I have not received

"NO SURRENDER"

5.

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT

one from him up to date but I think he is here now. I will see if I can spot him again and have another chat. I am very pleased you have been appointed and settled in your new ~~position~~ position - also hope you have got rid of your cold and feel well again. Glad Clare is progressing with her music. I expect to hear something good from her when I get home so keep her at it and dont let her play with that "sit-on shoulder" dog too much.

Dont think because I have not written that I have forgotten Birthdays and other dates because they are continually in my mind - last 29th November we were frozen to death nearly with a good snow - on the 30th we had a very severe bombardment

"NO SURRENDER"

24th. Battalion
6th. Inf. Brigade
(Australia)

EGYPT

I will never forget it - I thought I was gone at least a dozen times - it got a good many of our chaps - poor fellows - it came when we least expected it and we were helpless - just like mice in a hole only a very frail hole. However it is all over for the present and we're not sorry.

Well Dad there is such a lot I have to tell you I dont know where to start. For the present I think this is enough as I will be writing more nexet mail. Hoping you are all in the best of health and with much love to all.

I remain.
Your affectionate Son
Sid.

P.S.
Best wishes to Mrs Walsh.

On Active Service

Mr R. S. Burrett.
McKenzie St
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia.

FIELD POST OFFICE
A.I.F.
22 AUG 16
W.G.

FIELD CENSOR
2043

Mavis

P.S. Lovell has written to Don very shortly.

1916
188/3/3

5/4/16.
Somewhere in France.

Dear Reg.

Just received & read your interesting letter dated 21/2/16. also a newspaper and an Australasian from Miss Sullivan.

I have just time to scribble you a few lines on account of the mail closing in a few minutes.

We left Egypt on the 21/3/16. and arrived here safley and are now billeted in small villages, at any moment now we will be moving off and I hope very soon to be able to tell a little of what I have seen during the last few weeks.

Very glad to hear that all at home are well and hope they remain so - as for myself I am as fit as ever.

I must congratulate you on your promotion and think you have done exceptionally well - I hope you can keep it up - as I know you will - and I don't think it will be your fault if you do not get on.

Very pleased to hear you all had an ~~jaunty~~ enjoyable Xmas under the Circs. & and surprised to hear that there are so many people about town.

I wish I could have been home for the "hock" season but never mind I may be there for the next.

I feel a letter from home is sometime since I have not been able to write very often but during the few weeks may be a bit difficult to tell you anything about the present - but there will be much love to all - Remember me to all relly & friends & Mrs Richardson & Mrs Walsh.

Active Service

Mrs C. T. S. Burnett
3 Mornington
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia.

PASSED FIELD CENSOR 2943

Somewhere in France.

13/4/16.

Dear Dad,

It is sometime since I had a few lines from you whether you have written and they have gone astray I do not know - but one will come to light soon I suppose - I received one from Dorothy and Reg a little while ago and have answered Reggie's.

While on the "Magdelana" (that was the name of the boat we made the trip from Alexandria to Marseilles on) we were told we could write a few lines & they would be sent from Marseilles - well I wrote one to you but being on permanent submarine guard I was just too late to get it in - so I destroyed it - and did not write to you again until now.

We had a great trip - calling at Veletta (Malta) for a few hours and disembarking at Marseilles - we then entrained and after nearly three days journey arrived at our destination.

It was a jaunt worth having as I suppose you can imagine - and passing close to Eifell tower I should say I saw something of what you have seen.

We are now on the eve to going into the trenches again after being billeted in villages & small towns - which you can imagine is great to what we have been used to.

If a chap gets back he ought to be able to get a job in the foreign money exchange - what with piastres - gelds & money of France we know as much about them as our own coins.

Young Armstrong (the lad Bert picked up when wounded) is in my platoon now - he was transferred from the stretcher-bearers and seems a decent lad. Good to hear old Bert's always to hear from you and hope it will get his persistence or rather I am sure it will - he is a useful chap against after-all - only in write again next-shave. Joe Burns, Tom Lee & Fred Lee send their kind regards & affectionate love.

Hope all are in best of health and much love to all. Ed

Active Service

Mrs C. F. S. Burnett
3 Mornington Place
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia.

P.S. I forgot now that I had listened a little more to your French.

Let me know if Ruby gets a letter to her office. Hers must be missing.

On Active Service

FIELD POST OFFICE
A
28 AP
16
S.W.

FIELD CENSOR
2943

Mrs C S Burnett
3 McKenzie St.
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia.

22/4/16.
France.

Dear Dad.

Today I received a letter from you dated 8/3/16. the first for a long time - and the way in which you write I have no doubt you have been feeling anxious - I wish you would not worry so much - remember bad news travels fast - and if I was worrying over anything or anybody besides those at home I would have let you know at once. everything at present is A1.

Well in my last letter I told you I was going into the trenches again - (first time in France) we have just come out and with the exception of bad weather & plenty of mud all is well with most of us.

You can tell Reg I took his periscope up with me and it came in very handy.

Thanks very much for making the presents to Reg & sisters on my behalf - also for the good wishes from home for my birthday.

In thinking my promotion was only temporary you made a mistake I am glad to say - for I have been a paid N.C.O. since 6/6/15 - but owing to my not altering my allotment it has evidently not gone through to the base.

I feel very disappointed at them not reaching - one mail I wrote to all and detailed up to that time most of what I had seen - It is about

It is a miracle of time - writing and makes me feel down and of - I think me are more of late. You do not receive letters for all. I feel not the mail - I have sent to Reg & Aunt Dorcas. I hope to hear that they have received more since. I hope to receive more affectionate mail.

Your affectionate son Eric.

Egypt to home - also two to Aunt Dorcas

1

France.

9/5/16.

Dear Dad,

It is some time now since I had a letter from you - but have heard all are well through Aunt Dorcas. I can't make out how it was that the letters I wrote home on arriving in Egypt from the peninsula did not reach you - I wrote to many others as well but I have had no answers. As you will remember yesterday twelve months ago I embarked from Melbourne on my long journey - it is funny to think I am so many thousand miles away from home and in a place I never expected to see. That is not all though - we are all going to get leave to visit the old country - that sounds alright

doing it - in a letter received from Mrs Robertson she said it would be a race between us to see the works in Sheffield - I am going to win.
Some of the chaps who have their homes in England have already returned after having a good time.
If I get as far as London I must try and reach Sheffield somehow - the only drawback is in not having an introduction from Mr Nash - it is too late now for me to try + get one but I suppose it will be alright without.
France is looking great now - we have been getting some good weather + everything is green - at times you could easily imagine there was no such thing as war going on - at

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other times you couldn't procture anything else - after all said + done things could be a lot worse + comparing this place with Anzac it is a heaven + the boys know it too. I wrote you - Aunt Dorcas - Uncle Bert - Mrs Richardson - Ruby + Dorothy last mail - I hope they all received them. On the 27/4/16 I remitted to Melbourne that is to you (twenty pounds) £20-0.0. just use it on anything you like - I hope it will prove handy anyhow. In one of my letters written from Egypt I told you we were inspected by the Prince of Wales also General Birdwood the first Victorian Bgde to go to France. this will be interesting to know if you never received my letter. Well I see they have at last

brought in conscription in England.
it is not too soon either - I
reckon it should have been passed
long before this.
I don't think they will bring it in
in Australia - it's taking too many
men & too much money to keep
our little army going. the pay
is too great altogether. just think
of Russia paying her soldiers 1/2
per day against our six bob..
How are things going on in Melbourne
now - are there still plenty of men about.
or are they nearly cum out.
It is an awful thing for these French people
who are compelled - I say most of
them through monetary circumstances
from leaving their homes & going to
safer places - they just hang on to the
last - it is only when a house or two

a few hundred yards away are shelled & the
occupants killed or wounded that they
clear out carrying away in their hands
all they can carry of their possessions -
I have seen this continually & I can tell
you it makes our blood boil to see it
& only too eager to get at the Hun.
Some of us had a narrow escape a
few days ago but most of us got out
of it alright.
Well Dad I think I have said all I can
think of for the present so will close
hoping all are in good health & that
things are alright at home - with
love to all.

Your Affectionate Son.
Sid.

(1)

The Trenches
France
1/7/16

Dear Dad

The last letter I received from you was dated 8/3/16 since then I have not heard from you personally but have had a couple from the girls + one or two from Reg – he writes a very good letter – well they all do as a matter of fact.

Well Dad I am still jogging along – it's a terrible lazy life at times and what with the shifting about we get I don't know how some of us will ever settle down again – I suppose we will get sick of it eventually and only be too pleased to remain ~~we~~ where we are dumped though.

(2)

Up till recently things have been very quiet but things have livened up considerably the last few weeks and almost every night now there is some sort of a stunt on our small bit of line.

The night before last our Brigade made a raid on enemy trenches it's pleasing to be able to say our batallion came off with most of the honours.

Volunteers were called for & I was one - when after a few days the men were picked (mostly big fellows) I found to my disappointment I was not among them - there being

(3)

only a few men from each company required - well they made a success of it - having killed or wounded 50 or 100 huns - also captured a few prisoners & some trophies.
Of course we did not come out altogether without a casualty but what we did have were small - our batallion having 5 killed & 15 wounded.
We witnessed a great sight a few days ago - it was a fine day & the enemy had from eight to ten observation baloons up along our front - our aeroplanes surprised them & caught about six - all of which decended to

(4)

mother earth like big fire balls - the remainder were hauled in in record time - I'll bet old Fritz felt pretty downhearted after that little performance. They raided likewise all along it is reported that we got about forty altogether. I learnt a few days ago that both the lads that left "Mullens" for the front were killed on the peninsula - also that Peters had enlisted - I'd give a bit to have him in my platoon as a private - I'd see him on cooks fatigue pretty often eh.
What is the matter with Joe Lovell I wrote to him a couple of times from "Kenyac" also from Egypt -

(5)

but have had no answer to any of mine yet.

2/7/16.

Well Dad we passed another anxious night – always do when the wind is favourable for gas & me being the gas NCO. among other duties I must keep a good watch on the wind & for any sign of that deadly poison they put over at times.

We had another alarm last night but came off alright.

after they cooled down a bit I got some fine nose caps & a few good schrapnel bands – they are hardly any use to me here but if I could only get them home you could

(6)

have some fine souvenirs made from them.
I believe the 3rd Division are in England (have been for some time) it doesn't seem fair to us that they should be having all the best of it while we are still going strong - they haven't seen a firing line yet.
It's all the same though - even if we have been going over twelve months we are all still willing to do our bits I believe we are going to get a good chance to do that soon.
Received a fine parcel from Olma Reighton a few days ago its not the first either - very good of her to send them

(1)

isn't it.
Whatever made Miss Robertson go back so quickly from Egypt I was very surprised to hear that - for I was under the impression she was having a good time.
Glad to hear you are getting on alright at the Treasury - I suppose you hardly know yourself now you are on regular hours.
It is very pleasing to know that they are sending Bert's photo case home (I have still got mine) also that he was buried from the "Dunluce Castle" I often saw that boat waiting off the beach at "Anzac" to take

(8)

away its load of wounded while embarking for France at Alexandria we saw it again - she was built in Scotland - one of the lads knew it very well having made several trips on her before the war.

I think my leave to England is a good way off now on account of the authorities stopping all furlough for a while - but I don't mind how far off it is so long as it comes.

Well Dad I think I have said all for the present so will close hoping you are all in the best of health with love to all.

Your Affectionate Son
Sid.