

"At Sea" Hospital Ship
"Delta"

Aug 11th

Dear Mum

I suppose you have heard by now that I have been wounded. It is nothing serious, so it's nothing to worry about. I caught a bullet in the left knee, about ten

minutes after the my charge of Hill 971." The 15th & 16th Battalions & the Gurkhas captured it in a big charge just after daybreak. We had been marching all night, each man carrying 270 rounds of ammunition, two tins of beef, a haversack full of hard biscuits, waterbottle full, two bandoliers, two gas

respirators either a shovel or a pick for digging in, two sandbags, rifle & bayonet and entrenching tool, and I had to carry a bomb as I am a bomb carrier.

So you can tell after going all night over hills with bullets knocking our chaps out every minute was not too sweet. When we reached the hill they pushed us up to the firing line, and then we charged. It was grand ~~the~~ the way our chaps went for them, Gurkhas & Australians & Dublin Fusiliers all mixed. I was in the rush and saw a Turk about five yards in front I dropped my pick & went for him.

but he was below a ridge about 3 feet high, I made a jump over the ridge and the bullet caught me while I was in the air, and I came down on my head, my bayonet sticking in the ground. The Turk made a jab at me with his bayonet but he had three through him before he could get to me. It was grand and yet it was awful some of the sights could not be described.

I had to stagger about three miles to get away from snipers, and then I had to wait on the beach 9 hours, and then when we were on the makeshift jetty coming off to the ~~beach~~^{hospital}, they started sniping us and there was a panic and the jetty

gave way and we all went in about
4 feet of water. I have been in bed three
days with my knee in splints and
the food is lovely. It is a fine ship. you
cant tell she is going she goes so smooth.
We are on our way to Alexandria but I
stand a good chance of going to England
another $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch and my knee caps would
have been shattered and I would be
crippled for life, perhaps lost my leg.

The doctor injected some stuff in the knee
yesterday and the pain was awful a thousand
times worse than when my thumb was bad.

I must do now as the sister said I must
go to sleep. Give my love to Lill and Reg and
remember me to Jack + Lorn. Give my love to
Mrs Bates + the girls and tell her I will write.
You let Mac know at work. Remember
me to Mrs Hetherington + Percy + Bella.

So goodbye with love

I remain

Your loving son
Frank

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