



UNION-CASTLE LINE

H.M. Hospital ship
"Genart Castle".

28.11.15.

Dear Mrs O' Donnell

Long before this reaches you, I know you will have had official intimation of your Boy's death, but I thought you might care to know what few details I am able to tell you. He was brought on board to us very seriously wounded about the head & face on Friday morning 26th inst.

All that was possible was
done for him & he seemed
to be getting on nicely & took
his food well, but suddenly
last night he got worse &
died at 2.50 am this
morning ^{- 28.11.15} x There must have

been more serious internal
damage done, than was
suspected. He was quite
sensible & did not seem to
suffer much till just
shortly before the end when
he became unconscious.
He will be buried at sea -

All his letters, papers, books,
purse watch & camera, I have
done up in a parcel & sealed
written his name etc: on
them & also your address, so
trust they will reach you in
due course through the

Government-offices. The
enclosed letter I found
amongst his papers, so
venture to enclose it.

May I also send you my
deepest sympathy in your
great-loss. It may be some
small comfort to you to

know that he had a woman's
care at the end of his young
life, for there are Sisters
in all wards on this boat
& I know they personally
looked after him & did
all they could for his comfort
& welfare -

His name is one more added
to Australia roll of honour,
she has certainly given of
her best, fighting for a
high principal -

yours in all sympathy
(Mrs) Fr. H. L. Reddell
Matron

12
Tel-El-Hebi
Egypt 23/1/16

Dear Madam

Being a dear friend of
your son Fred & probably the last of
his Hawana mates who saw him alive
I feel I must write & tell you of the esteem
& love we ^{all} had for him & how grieved
we feel his loss. I had only known poor
Fred twelve months (it was at Mena Camp
I first met him) - but I quickly grew fond
of him & often paid him ~~at~~ a visit at Mena
Camp. When we left Egypt last year to go
to Gallipoli we got separated, his unit
landing at Anzac & mine at Cape Helles.
On my return to the front early last August
I had the good luck to be put ashore at
Anzac Cove where I ~~of~~ again had the pleas-
ure of meeting Fred & during the week I
remained at Anzac I spent some happy
hours with him in the trenches. As I
had to rejoin my battery at Helles I did
not see Fred again till we met in the
rest-camp, Gemnos Island. In camp at
Gemnos we saw much of each other & by
the time had become close friends & were
often together. It was there last October I
saw him last as he bid me good bye
before proceeding again to Gallipoli.
After the evacuation his battalion came &
camped beside ^{again} ~~us~~ at Madros Gemnos Island

2
I when I sought for him I received
the sad tidings of his death. The war
has taken as victims most of my dearest
friends of the 1st Division but none was more
dear to me than your son. I feel consoled
by the thought that he died a heroic death
fighting for freedom & justice against
tyranny & military oppression. You have
my heartfelt sympathy and I can realize
how terrible your grief must be for I
loved him too

Fred's friend
G. Lewis.

Moascar
4th February, 1916.

Dear Mrs O'Donnell

Your Amas beard came to hand a few weeks ago for which I thank you. I have been trying to find time to write to you but have been so busy with parades and other things that I have not had an opportunity.

Since our return to Egypt we have had a busy time undergoing training, and I expect that we shall soon be taken to a new battle front.

I was deeply grieved to hear that poor Fred was killed and I wish you to accept my deepest sympathies

Whilst on the Peninsula the 1st Battalion were about 2 miles away from our position and I was unable to get round there. On Sunday last I was able to go to Tel-el-Kebir and whilst there I went and saw the Serjt. Major of B. Coy. who was one of Fred's mates.

The Serjt. Major said that on the night of the 25th November Fred went into the trenches as a relief. The Turks on that night were troublesome and it was thought that their snipers had got into advanced positions. Two chaps had been wounded during the evening and at about 10 pm. Fred whilst shooting through a loophole was hit by a bullet in the forehead. He was taken to

the Hospital and next morning a
 Corporal took Fred's pack and belonging
 to him. Fred was then pretty weak
 but when asked if he wanted any
 letters written or anything done
 replied "No, that he would do his
 writing on the boat". The corporal
 says that he thought that Fred
 would pull through and that Fred
 thought the same. News was
 afterwards received from the Hospital
 ship that Fred died of wounds ~~and~~
 at 3 am. on the 28th November, it
 came as a surprise to them and
 they were all grieved to hear the
 news because Fred had been so
 well liked and such a favourite
 with all the boys. The Sgt. Major
 said that he intended writing you
 but had forgotten your name and
 asked me to express his deepest sympathy
 to you.

4

I have been trying to see someone here who was in Alf's company but up to the present have been unable to locate his Brigade.

It is very hard on those at home not being able to get any news because the news received from the Defence Dept. is very meagre.

I have not yet heard whether my brother Ned has left but I suppose he shall soon be along with his Battalion.

The weather here just now is hot during the day & very cold at night. I am now getting ready to go out on an all night bivouac and an attack at dawn so shall close hoping that you are well.

I am
Yours faithfully
D. H. Weaver