



~~Farwell~~ ~~Cairo~~ ~~Gallipoli~~
~~End of Campaign~~

Gallipoli

Cairo

31st Dec - 1915

Nellie dear old Nell

I received your
more than welcome letter dated 20th Nov
with pleasure & delight. Yesterday also five in
all by this mail from Strathearn two from
Edmund and three from darling Mater
expect to get another big mail before
long Parcels Xmas dinners etc, tons of same
floating about somewhere probably at
Base Depot Alexandria, however it will
all come along in time - I think that
I have received all letters from home
up to date. Well Nellie dear you will be
glad to know that I am back in Egypt
once again, it is the most glorious clim-
- ate in the world to winter in so there you are
Of course you will know from the Papers
by this, the fact that we have withdrawn
our Troops from Gallipoli - We are busy
years of work for all, reforming Brigade



a

We will probably get a move on as soon as we are ready - of course you know that I have left the dear old 4th L. Horse, now Commanding 8th L. H. Regt. 3rd L. H. Brigade. I am fit and in excellent form, everybody tells me that I have put on condition, of course soldiering is an easy life for me, take everything all as a matter of course without worrying, the man who worries at this game, soon goes under. Well dear girl you can feel proud of your Australian Soldiers, the landing of our troops last April at Anzac Gallipoli was a magnificent achievement in every sense ~~way~~ - but our withdrawal was a marvellous piece of military strategy probably never equalled in all the annals of history, we withdrew on the last two nights over 42,000 men from under the very nose of as brave and alert ^{an} enemy as ever troops had faced in many places trenches only from 10 to twenty yards apart this embarkation took place during clear moonlight nights, without a single casualty there were arrangements & preparations made



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To treat 20,000 casualties if occasion had arisen for us to have got a hard knock, which we would if the Turks had ~~not~~ had any idea of what our movement was. I fancy they had an idea that there was something doing, but expected a big attack from us - however have heard that they shelled & kept up a heavy fire on our deserted trenches until two (2) o'clock the following day, when they charged the trenches with fixed bayonets & found no one to welcome them, an awful sell was it not - I had my usual good luck to be given the command of last Party to pull out of the trenches, the post of honour for 3rd L.H. Bde. The last night consisted of 3 Parties A. B. C
A. Party left at 6 P.M. B. 10 o'clock C at 2-15 ^{a.m.}
My C. Party consisted of three Machine Guns 40 men of all ranks, our job was to hold our post at any cost until 2-15 a.m., guess if they had of attacked we would have held our position alright, never had the slightest doubt of the result. We arrived at our place of embarkation at 3 a.m., discipline told from start to finish there



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there was not the slightest mistake or confusion, all parties carrying out their various jobs quietly without any unnecessary excitement or noise - excellent Staff work and splendidly carried through by all concerned. No doubt you have read all about in the papers failure of attack advance launched from Suvla Bay in August last. Suvla Bay was on our extreme left, why this movement was a failure it is not for me to write. however after that move miscarried it was not much use us hanging on ~~any~~ any longer in Gallipoli - Edmund may be interested in all this matter. I sent a cablegram to Mater today New Year greetings, this is the 2nd New Years Cable that I have sent Strathearn from Cairo & hope I will have the luck to be back here to send one for 1919; tis a year tomorrow New Years day since receiving official notification that I had obtained my Majority so you see two steps in rank for twelve months is alright I have everything to be thankful for my good luck what do you think dear girl the same I guess



Good night
Yours lovingly
Leslie

I had I received a very long interesting letter from dear old Mr Bill he is a sterling old chaps alright, he writes a good letter too also inclosed was a short letter from Blanch she said she wouldnt write a long one as "George" was writing for all the was worth and would give me all the news one meets almost everybody you ever heard of here in Cairo Doctor Springthorpe and Charles Ryan & scores of others I met yesterday - Poor old Willie it was awfully sad especially for Emma & Ken I am very sorry for them - I am glad to know you are having such a good season at Strathearn I wouldn't mind if I could land home to be with you all, loved ones for a fortnight it would be lovely - Well Nellie darling I have written you a rambling sort of an epistle this night so will switch off and go to bed have a big comfortable tent all to myself that comes of being a C.O. With special fond love to dear Mater & your dear self and all at Strathearn

P.S.
Will write to Edmund
shortly - his

Derry Post.

20th April 1916

My dear Mater

I am wondering how you are, as Edmund said in his last letter that you were not very well, but bright and smiling as usual. Well darling mother I pray that you will improve a lot now that the nice mild Autumn weather will be setting in at Strathearn. Cheer up dear heart and get strong again as your Soldier Boy is looking forward to the day when you will welcome him home, with your bright and happy smiling loving face. We have had a good mail in today, the boys in the lines are always in great heart and spirits, when their letters from home arrive, I am awfully glad that you have had such a good season I can picture dear Old Strathearn looking lovely, the roses will be superb, and all the rest of the grounds must appear beautiful

-Well Mater dear we Mayfar's have never envied anyone their homes, as Strathearn has always been good enough for us, has it not. By todays mail I received two letters from Edmund and also one from Ernest, and a good few others from my lady friends etc. Now dont laugh as it is quite alright.

I hope Nellie gets the parcel I sent to her from Cairo, as it should have arrived before this. We are getting along alright here in the Sands of Sinai, doing Patrol work, a Squadron of 9th a h. B. with one of my Officer and twelve men went out to Jiff Jaffa about 70 miles from our front line, attacked and captured a Turkish out-post of 40 men. We had one casualty only I am sorry to say it was my Corporal who was killed; the Turks had six killed & five wounded. Our horses are all in fine condition Ned & Dick splendid both grand hacks. I am as usual in good form & health. Captain George Hydiard called in to see me today, he is looking well. Good byes for the present Mater dear With fondest love to thee, & all at Strathearn Leslie

~~B.C.M.A.Y.M.R~~

El Arish
2/2/17

My dear Edmund

I just a few lines to let you know that all is well. Received your very welcome letter of 21st December by last mail a few days ago - I was awfully sorry to hear that the blessed wool dress had come down on you & hurt your shoulder & sincerely pray that it is alright again before you get this - Give my love and greetings to Emma & Ken - We are still in Camps here in Hod Masaid. This is the very spot that Ibrahim Pasha was camped in with his Army when the Great Napoleon came up and defeated him. The Turks then fell back on El Arish which was a much bigger town than at present. After Ibrahim's defeat just at dark Napoleon called his Generals together & told them that El Arish must be taken & Ibrahim's Army routed before daylight, however his Generals cried out impossible.

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our troops are all exhausted after
our long forced march and hard
fighting here. Napoleon replied it is
my will & my orders are to be obeyed
~~at~~ The Town was taken during the night
and the Turkish troops utterly routed, I
could tell you many stories of Nap's
march across the desert here, he was
just a marvel in many ways.
Well old Chap the Australasian mail
closes here in a few minutes so
must conclude with love to all
at Strathearn Wishing you no
end of good luck

Yours Always
Sincerely Leslie

I DR

El Arish
18/2/17

My dear Edmund

Received your very welcome letter of 31st Dec. a few days ago. I thank you for all your kind New Year greetings & shall wish you & all at Strathearn the same - I trust the holiday visit to Strathearn will do Emma & Ken no end of good. Please give them my love & good wishes. It is awfully good of Ernest to go over to help you with the Kipping, he is a good old Chap, is he not, I hope you have got over all effects of bad shoulder long ere this. I will be leaving here for Cairo this evening going up for 3 days leave, I missed the trip to Luxor from Romani last November the day that my leave was granted for, the order to move to the front line again came along so I let the leave go as I had no wish to miss a Stunt I don't you know. I am awfully glad to know that you have got such abundance of grass at Strathearn perhaps you will have the chance of

(2)

of getting a fire going through the
winter this coming March - Well
to damn old chaps after one has been
here in Egypt you can realize what
the future for Australia is, When our
people take on irrigation, it is a
great shame to let all our flood
water go to waste - I hope your small
water melons do alright, I am enclosing
you a few of a melon something like
a rock melon they are great on them in
Egypt bigger than our rock, I doubt
whether they will grow by next season
they have been in my tunic pocket since
last I was up in Cairo last July -
Well I have no news of interest to
write this day so will conclude as
I will be called to tea in a few
minutes, the Climate is still glorious
here on the Blue Mediterranean Sea
Please give my greetings to all
old friends

With love & good wishes
to all Yours sincerely
Leslie

I DR

Palestine
8th April 1917

My dear Edmund

Received two letters from you by last mail Feb 9th & 22nd with usual pleasure. There is a big area of good country here where we are at present, vicinity of Gaza. We have been all round Gaza, also a number of our mounted men were in the heart of the town and brought away three of their big guns and a lot of prisoners, however the Turks still hold the town altho we had a fair fight for it the other day, it is now the job of the Infantry to take the trenches, we will go for them when we get them in the open, we will strike hard soon, as we have the Railway up here now troops & supplies piling up fast - Gaza is the place where Samson carried away the gates on his shoulders, it is a fairly big town. We are camped at present a couple of hundred yards from the sea, will go & have a good swim when I finish this letter, I am quite at home in the sea, hope to swim the Helles Pont before returning home, the weather is becoming warm now, however the summer is nothing like as hot up here as it is on the Sinai.

Desert, all the same Sinai desert is not half as bad as what you would imagine, I guess Moses hadn't a bad time there during his 40 years with the Israelites, time appears to go by like the wind when you are roaming over the desert, I never found it at all monotonous - Our horses got so as they could plough through the sand up to their knees without distressing them in the least it is surprising how they get accustomed to it now their trouble is to get used to the hard ground again, of course they are getting used to it gradually as we still have patches of sand country here. There is a lot of cultivation here consequently good grazing for our horses, and now they are all fit for our next big stunt. which you will have read all about long ere you get this scall - The girl is Marie Stanley who writes to me, Sister of my old orderly George George is now in England or France in the Flying Corps I think he has got a Commission my late orderly Frank Moore got the W.C.M. Moore is a fine lad I very nearly got him a Commission in the Flying Corps, he had the bad

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luck after a 6 weeks course at a school
to fail in one subject of his written exam-
ination, which threw him out, he had gone
through well with all his other exams.
I may fix him up in somethin' else
later on - I hope you got a good
price for the Wool & Co's you told
me about being Executor for poor old
Rod's will - You & Fred Cocks will have
a lot to do before you get the business
fixed up. I am glad to know that
you are all well & prathe arm
With love to dear old Nell & her
Uncle Emm & Ken, and kindest
greetings to all old friends
M. J. G. Gows Always Sincerely
Percy [RC10092-2] mad
DRL 491

P.S. When next time you go to the City look through Palace my think at Vic Copper Palace and see whether the moths have got in to same - put a good supply of moth balls in it again and see whether the moths have got in to same - soon will be able to get a key from Mc Ewans and by dear Edmund that will open it soon

25th May, 1917

Received two letters by last mail dated 29th March & 1st April I am glad to know that all is going so well with you, it is splendid getting such fine falls of rain during the last couple of months it was hard luck you didn't beat neighbour Hill in price of wool all the same you did fairly well - however I am glad you got such a good price for fat wethers. Well old chaps I guess you were disgusted, when you got registered packet to find old bits of coloured glass only. however the glass is from an old Roman Church of the 5th Century built by Justinian, Near Mayar, Napoleon excavated the ruins and removed everything of value, I think I sent you some photos of the ruins. We went out on a stunt a few days ago a long night march returned compliments with the Turks around Beersheba, the Turks are well entrenched from Gaza to Beersheba, we have a pretty tough problem here now - We were out on the front line for some time, but have now come into the Sea Mediterranean, having a good time bathing etc.

There is the remains of the old Roman road running along the coast from
 Caesarea to El Arish, formed principally
 of Cement, this road was about 30 ft wide
 in places still the cement is 3 feet thick, almost
 as hard as granite, will last until the end of the
 world, they can't make anything at the present
 to equal it. Major Mc Allister O.C. A Squadron
 died of his wound received during our big fight
 on 19th April, the bullet was in his lung and
 they had to operate on him, he never rallied
 after operation, he was a fine fellow 6 ft 3 in
 well built, he leaves a wife and two little girls
 to mourn his loss in N. S. W. Well old Chaps
 I wish I could send you a few thousand
 acres of the country that lies between here &
 Beersheba it would be worth about £60 per ac
 with your rain fall at Strathearn. The climate
 here is good not as hot as you get it at
 Strathearn during the summer - So you
 see our luck is still in - Please give my kindest
 greetings to Miss Gotch & Mrs & Mr Chrysal when you
 write, Bugler Chambers was a nice well conducted
 lad - well I am as usual fit & well. Well old Chappie
 Good bye for the present With love to all, Yours always sincerely
 Leslie

Glass

Palestine

8th July 1917

My dear Edmund

Received your more than welcome letter of 11th May & I am glad to know that all is going so well with you at Strathearn - Yes it was a pleasant surprise to us for the Labourites to get such a knock out at last election - Yes old Chap Gaya & Beersheba" well it was not the easy snap that most thought it was to be, however we the Light Horse took a turn right around Gaya on the 9th April, it was an Infantry show to take the Trenches, well they failed so I can't say any more understand? Lieutenant G. Fay returned back to the Regiment last night he is quite alright again & am glad to say, & am recommending him for his Captaincy he turned out a fine Officer in the field as cool as possible under fire.

I am afraid you will miss some of my letters for end of May & early in June as the boat with our Egyptian mails to Australia was sunk about 16th June. I suppose you will see in the papers that I have been awarded the W. S. O. - We are now back

from the front line in reserve, I think we will be going back to the Beach for a fortnights spell soon - as our men & horses can do with a rest as they have had a pretty hard time on the front line during the last six weeks, we would have a stint about every week generally about 24 hours continuous going, we would have a pretty brisk engagement with Jacko every now & again. Our Brigadier Gen Royston has been away on leave for the last 10 days he has returned to day & must go over to see him shortly when he is away I take Command, his health has not been too good of late & sincerely trust the trip to Alexandria will have done him a lot of good - he is great, one of the best especially in a fight he is always well up in the front line where a Brigadier should not be of course, all the same he always has the luck to come out O. K. I am still in the pink of health of course I should be, as this is an easy life for me very little to do, and a glorious Climate, the reason why I have such an easy time, is that I only do my own job & make all the other people under

I.D.R.

me take their responsibility & do their
work, when the whole chain of responsibility
is carried on from the head down there is
very little for any one individual, you
will be surprised to hear that there are very
few who run on these lines, but try to do
everybody's job "so there you are" which
is the better way? Well old Chappie
must away with love to dear old
Nell Uncle Ernest & family Ann &
Lken & the greetings to all old
friends

With love and no
end of good wishes
Yours always
Sincerely Leslie

THE
GEORGE NUNGOVICH EGYPTIAN HOTELS CY.

HOTEL-CASINO

CAIRO

SAVOY HOTEL.
GRAND CONTINENTAL HOTEL
& HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.

PYRAMIDS

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.

HELOUAN

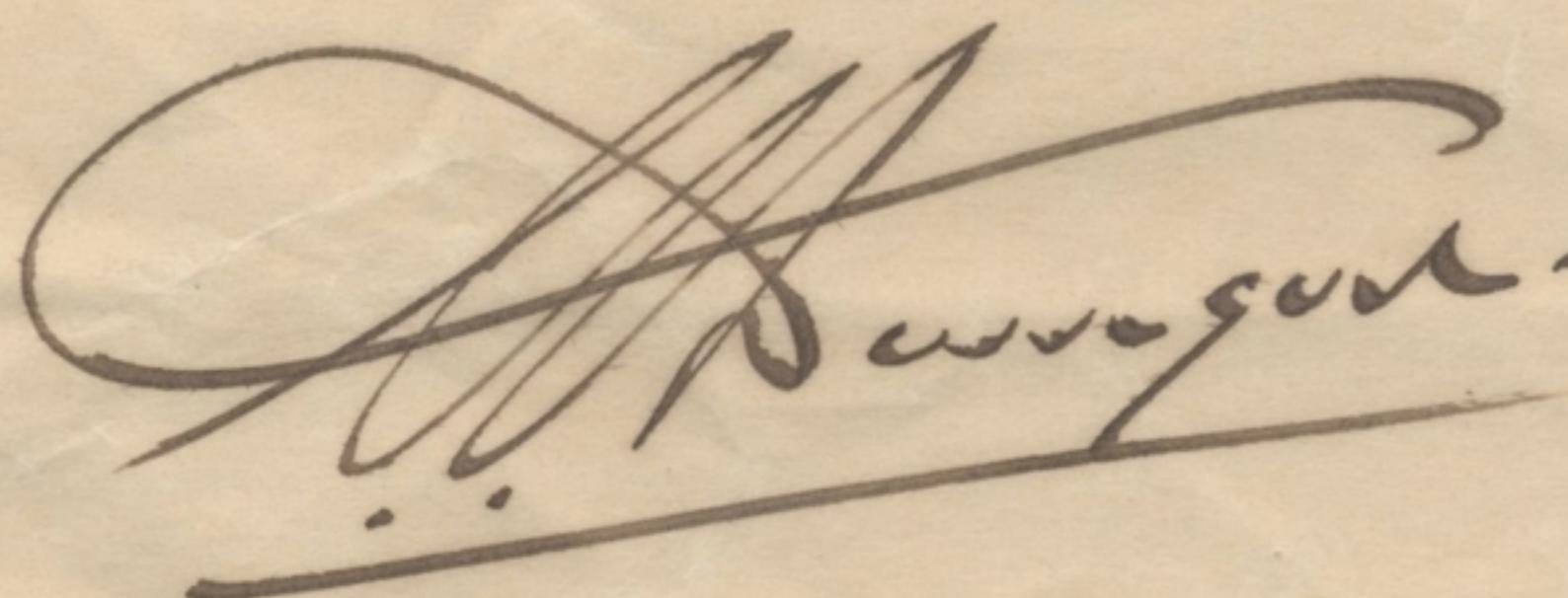
GRAND HOTEL.
HOTEL DES BAINS.
BATH ESTABLISHMENT.

San Stefano, June 15th 17.
(EGYPT)

Dear Colonel/

My most sincere and hearty congratulations on your new honour, I was delighted to hear it and I know the whole of your Regiment will be delighted - I hope to be back with you again before very long, went in for my first swim this morning. Best of luck.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Nungovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'G' at the beginning.

Palestine

29/8/17

My dear Edmund

Received your letter of 4th July
by last mail also two others by former mail
I am glad to know that all is well at Strathearn
I wrote to Nellie some time ago - The glass was from
the ruins of an old Roman Church of the 5th Century
this church was excavated by Napoleon, of course
he removed everything of value. We had a months
spell on the Beach ~~near~~ at Marakab near Khan-
Yunes, we all enjoyed the sea bathing, at present
we are in support of the front line, in about a
fortnight we will relieve the front line troops for a
month or so. I think it will be some time before the
big move takes place Gen. Allenby is now in Command
of this front, the right man for the job. Use I will
write Geo. Noye a few lines - I hope your trout come
along alright they ought to do well in Stony Creek.
Geo. Tay is back with us fit & well again he
has his Captaincy now 2nd in Command of A Sqdn
I trust Ernest & family are all well & prosperous
Send my love & greetings to them please. I am as
usual fit & well - Good bye for the present - With love
to all & best of luck - Yours always the
Same Res -

1901.

Palestine 21/11/17

Dear Mr. Maygar.

Allow me on behalf of the Officers
the Regiment myself to extend to you and the rest of
your family our deepest sympathy in the very great
loss you have sustained by the loss of your brother
Lieut Col Maygar who died at ~~Hospital~~^{ELIMARA} on 2nd inst
result of wounds inflicted by an aeroplane bomb near
Beersheba on 31st ult; by his death ^{he} is not only a very
great loss to the Regiment but also to the Brigade and
the whole of the Forces here as he was one of the
bravest and most capable Officers we had and
whilst he had temporary charge of the Brigade, during
the absence of General Thopson, he was complimented
by the higher Commands on the way he handled it,
personally I feel his loss very much as he was my
greatest friend and we have been associated in military
matters for over 17 years. I will now give you a few
particulars as to how he met his death, on 31st ult
we were in the firing line all day and were relieved
by the 11th Regt about 16 o'clock in the afternoon, we then
retired to near Desert Corps Hdqrs where we arrived
just about dusk, your brother went to Hdqrs to report &
I took the Regt on some little distance to await him,
we had dismounted and he had just joined us & was
talking to some of the men in the rear of the Regt when
an enemy aeroplane came up and bombed some
traverses in our rear, the Colonel was hit & Air force

burled with him, that was the last I saw of him before I
sent men out to look for him, a man brought him back
back and said he was severely wounded & had been taken
to a Field Ambulance, the Regt had immediate orders
to go out to a certain position & I was unable to see
him, we were then attached to another Brigade & were
fighting for two days and a night and when we got back
& inquired at the Beersheba Hospital and was told he
was sent back to Ram, we went back there a couple of
days later and on arrival there was told he had died.
I was told that his arm had been amputated & that
he was getting on well, in fact a little before his death he
was laughing & joking with the men in the hospital
when a sudden hemorrhage set in and he died shortly
afterwards, he was buried near the hospital at Ram.
but I regret I was unable to get a photograph of his grave
or do anything to it as we were then only a very short
time, this as the first opportunity I have had of writing you
as we have been marching & fighting almost constantly since.
I have arranged to have all his personal effects forwarded
on to Cairo to be sent back to Australia, including his
saddle & bridle, I have a pouch containing a ring & some
coins, these I will send you by registered mail at the first
opportunity, one of the Y.M.C.A Officers also has some articles
which lie had on his person, these I will get & forward on later.
I enclose a letter I received from Major General Hodgson G.B.C.
Australian Mounted Division, this will show you in what high
esteem he was held, again extending to you our deepest sympathy
If there are any other documents you require please let me know &
I will forward them if possible.

Yours sincerely
A.W.L. McLean, M.A.

1 DRL 491

Palestine

25/5/18

Dear Mr Maygar

I have been trying for some time to get a photo of your late brother's grave at IMARA Palestine and at last I have succeeded and enclose it herewith and trust it will reach you safely, there has recently been a good deal of fighting in there, & parts in which this Regt did well as usual, but at present everything is very quiet, I'd not say for how long, at present we are camped on the Jordan near Jeniche in a very dusty camp, we are about 1200 feet below sea level & the weather is very hot but it will be much hotter later on as this spot is said to be one of the hottest places on earth, the Jordan is rather a pretty river just now, it is very fast flowing & has trees & undergrowth along the banks, with kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Alfred McLean R.A.M.C.

JRC

KILLEEN,
LONGWOOD.

Mar 5

Dear Mrs Maygar.

Whilst I was in Sippisland last month
Mrs Lecture and I called on a Mrs Harbeck who has four
sons fighting. one killed, she agrees if we would like to
hear her sons letter ^{written} during the night of the Evacuation of
Ammac. This was the last company to leave as they held
the wireless up to 1/2 past 2. he says. What do you think
of my Colour, he is A.I. Coloured, 3 times during the
night he brought me hot coffee which he warmed up
12 raisins apples & biscuits. he knows how to look after
his men. I am bound to do anything for him.
This is the last lot to leave the trenches & I am
actually leaving the wireless & cannot leave them

my food. His name is Lieut Colored
Maygar U.C. Mrs Tuttle
and I were so pleased to
see him he begged to see
Mrs Harbeck
that his name was on our

Mr Maygar -
Strathearn
Longwood.



church role of honour & we
met him well, I hope you have
good news of him. & that he has
had a rest. Believe me
Sincerely yours
Anne Chorley