PATRON OF NATIONAL COUNCILS OF Y.M.C.A'S: HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

BRISBANE

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

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PATRON MILITARY CAMP DEPARTMENT H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

6th of the 49th Batt

"To thine own self be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man"
—Shakespeare

WITH THE COMMONWEALTH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

BELL'S PADDOCK

Enoggera, 1st Sept 1916

Dear Will.

As I feel much better to day, I am answering your letter that has been owing some time

On account of being sick I had the misfortune to miss my Miniature shoot & this means I have to wait for the next squad & the Lord only knows when I will have the opportunity of trying my skill.

As soon as I pass I will be home like a rocket as we won't have much more time to dwell, as I hear, we are timed to leave this month. The boat has already

been abolished us.

Joe has been kind enough after finishing his Musketry to wait & see if I pass this next Week & if so We will both be Home then together.

I suppose Ted has told you the news re training. & If not tell him to illustrate it & if he is not too much taken up in petticoats you will be very much interested.

It is raining here every day & mild weather so you may guess the country looks well. There must be a great surplus of swede turnips this time for they load our plates daily with them. The grub here on the whole is pretty good, in fact only for a rats tail & leg a chap got in his soup last night. you could get fat very quickly.

any one asking when I will be home. tell them about the 10th or earlier if possible according to how I get through my firing & whether I qualify.

We cannot arrange to shoot a match with Wallaville for certain but I will write if we have a chance.

Good news Roumania chipping in on our side, as the Russians are pouring through already & will take stopping now.

Conscription will go on from now I believe & in any case it will frighten a lot to join.

One thing John will not be troubled with water this time as in all probability we are in for a wet spring.

Joe has gone to Brisbane

& he has got a very moist trip
I can assure you.

Alf is making out the other side of Roma. managing a station & Beck will be going shortly So then we will have to go some where else when in Bris.

As my space is getting very scarce & no more news I know to Interest you I must soon close. So with best wishes to you all at Home & hoping you are all well.

I am
your Lovin Brother
Erny.

Same adress.
6th of the 49th Batt
Bells Paddock
Enoggera
Brisbane

Remember me to H D Walker if you see him.

I hope Father & Mother got home safely & are keeping well.

Hon. Treasurers
T. T. TILLOCK
Hon. A. W. MEEKS, M.L.C.

Letters from Pte E. Allen 49th Bn

For God, For King & For Country

Hon. Secretaries
G. F. CALDWELL
C. H. JAFFRAY

Y.M.C.A.

SYDNEY
Y·M·C·A
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Y.M.C.A.

President
JOHN KENT

General Secretary
W. GILLANDERS, B.A.

29th Oct

~~REPLY TO~~ Dear Will

Just a line to let you know that we are allright. We landed at Durban 191 S Africa & had a real good time. We visited the Zoo & saw a grand display of Animals & birds, including a seal. We are on the Ocean again & sailing but I cannot say where we are going.

Durban, bar on the niggers is a beautiful place & the suburbs are better even than the town. The Niggers though are terrible & simply swarm around the Ship grabbing & fighting over pennys & scraps of bread & meat we throw to them.

They are very frightened to go in the water & if anything drops in they get it with a stick or else leave it there. A wash wouldnt hurt them either.

It is very close & muggy here & much like Queensland to live in (raining every now & then)

My adress is at present No 2615. 49th Batt 13th Infantry Brigade A I F. but this may be altered later on but letters well find me in any case with this adress. Dont forget to write as soon as possible as news of dear old Queensland

2

will be very welcome when we settle down again. I was pretty sick at times & had to visit the Doctor on two occasions, but the landing at Durban cured me & I hope to keep well for the remainder of the trip. We may see a submarine anytime & I hope if it happens to be an enemy one on board, which I hope it does not. Myself don't appreciate a cold bath as much but I hope we have water will be rather cool for a bit wide of the marks & jokes the men some safely, & tell them we have been in a few days the hot weather & I may write to him some day if required. Remember me to Albert H. & tell him I got the photo. but she may not get them as they were given to a man in a hurry & I sent a photo to Pat. Hoping you are all well at home & wishes to you all at home & best wishes to your brother

I am
your fond
Ernie

Codford
25th Nov 1916.

Dear Will

We arrived here safely & had a good trip over. You have heard of flying fish I know & I have the honour of seeing thousands of them. They can fly like birds & it it nothing to see them fly 1 & 200 yds & they do not go in shoals as I was led to believe but very scattered we saw them for about 1000 miles one here & one there & they stay in the tropical parts.

Ned told you of our arrival here so no need for me to go into further details.

We were inocculated yesterday & this was fair torture

2

& I was so stiff & sore that I simply couldnt straighten up.

Of course we have 48 hours off duty & considering the torturing we thoroughly deserve it.

It is very mild weather here & not anyways cold as yet. There is a slight misling rain but not a cold rain.

We saw Pat Killeen to day & he is the same hard case as ever. also George Chapman & Clark.

According to all accounts we will soon be fighting now as the battalions are being badly cut up & will want replacing.

Our boys are in good spirits & every morning say

One day nearer the grave. I think they are about wright as there isn't much chance of escape once you get into action.

We get the genuine account of things here & it is not going anyways in our favour yet.

There is companys leaving here for the front every other day & are generally back in a few days wounded some are more lucky & get shot & some linger on for awhile.

The three of us are still together so you see we are hanging on well as yet considering sickness about.

4/

This place is a bed of clay & no use for farming or in my idear very little use for anything else.

There is nothing I have saw yet a proaching Australia only the weather.

As we have not been on our leave yet I have no more news this time.

We get four days leave & will have a look arround & will be able to let you know results later.

Remember me to all at home & with best wishes for a merry X mas & a Happy New Year & hoping you are all well. I am

your loving Brother
Ernest.

Codford
Dec 26th 1916

Dear Will

Just a line to let you know of our whereabouts & at present Old England is getting cursed from every Australian more & more & all you see here is fields of snow & ice, sometimes you do get a change for it gets colder & more foggy with rain continually.

The three of us have fearful colds & can only whisper, Anyway we will have a change shortly for we leave for the front in France on 4th Jan.

Remember me to Albert Hellings & also tell him I think very little of his country & it will see my heels as soon as I have done soldiering.

2/

We have saw the sun a couple of times but not for long it seems fair ashamed of itself & only comes out for a few minuites. It is not like Qld & goes round by the South. Rising in the S. East & setting in the S.W. & the icy winds here comes from the North.

There is nothing here aproaching Qld. only girls & they are more numerous & hansome.

We knew it was X mas yesterday because we had Pudding for dinner, otherwise it was the same as other days.

I would like to have a good gallop again after horses round the paddock bareback.

3/

Tell John not to sell the chestnut one eye mare or any of her foals but he can sell any of the others.

This is a long war & I do not know when we will return but we can only hope for the best & do our bit while we are here. So as news is scarce dear Brother I can only wish you a Happy New year & hoping you are all well at Home & are having a very prosperous New Year Also give my love to Father & Mother & all at Home So

"Au Revoir."

Your loving Brother
Erny.

Same
Adress.

Codford
2nd Jan 1916

Dear Will.

Just a few lines to let you know we are still awaiting orders for embarkation but I think tomorrow Night will see us in France & seven days there training & then to business. So I suppose when you get this we will be hard up against it.

This flag is out of a packet of cig-arettes & as I took a fancy to it I am sending it to you. Joe got a letter from Lil to day but the Christmas tin & my letter is still absent

We went on a route march today & when we got back to camp we were pretty tired you bet. Of course we had full pack up & overcoat on as well so we lost some sweat. We marched about 7 miles in 3 hours with about a 50 lb pack

I weighed to day & was 12st – 4lb & have gained a stone in weight since landing here & feel much better now.

What do you think of the new army scheme for raising food for the Army. They put us digging up the ground today between the huts & tell us it is for potatoes. I imagine the spuds it will produce by then the boys are done tramping on it especially as it is a bed of clay.

2

The weather here has taken a turn & it is now no colder than the winter days in Queensland. but I suppose we will suffer for it later on.

We had sausages for tea tonight & whether they were made of cats or dogs or sheep or pigs we thoroughly enjoyed them. Topped up with a piece of pudding & cake we got at the Y M C A. The food at the Y M C A for Soldiers is cheap & good & it is there we thoroughly enjoy a good cup of tea coffee or cocoa.

Oh well dear Brother no more news this time. So hoping you are all well at Home & with best wishes for a bright & Prosperous New Year & Hoping you are all well.

I am

your loving Brother

Erny.

France
8th March 17

Dear Will.

~~to day~~ I got a glimpse of your letter to Joe dated 2nd Nov & was pleased to hear you were well & I hope Mother has throughly recovered before now

I hope the season continues to be a good one & you get plenty of rain even if it does spoil a bit more of Dad's oats & lucerne.

Regarding conscription the boys are pleased it failed & say they would be sorry to see their friends enlist to come over here to fight. One thing the cold is awful & your fingers are numbed all day in spite of woolen gloves. I cannot mention any Military matters as you will see by envelope so you must be content with knowing we

2

are all well at present & so this is the main thing.

I got Lilly's letter & will answer it as soon as convenient & also one from F Stone.

I could tell you some interesting news now but must refrain from so doing just yet awhile.

I don't like France at all & it is a very cold miserable country in my Judgement.

With love & best wishes to you all Home & hoping you are all well

I am
your Loving Brother
Erny

[RC10085]
1DRL/0027

France 1917
23 April

Dear Will

Just a few lines to let you know we are all well at present. I am pleased to say the weather is much milder & it only snows now about once every other day with only a couple of showers of rain in between times. so this is not too bad.

Fritz is now getting what we call particular Hell. & we simply pour a continuous hail of missiles on his trenches from morning until next morning. That is what is called a barrage & our gunners are so expert at the game they simply lift the Spells over our heads when we advance & sometimes they only fall a few yards in front of our boys. Once trip

2/ dropped a few short and need-
-less to say we made no further
headway for awhile.

The guns doing this fine
work are very often 2 miles away
& much further often.

I have seen many of
our brave lads strewn about
the ground. Sometimes in dozens
& on one occasion was stretcher
bearer which I might mention
is a very bad job & I was pleased
when we were relieved of this
awful work. I do not mean
to say hard work but the
trouble was lying the poor
fellows in a comfortable way
on the stretcher

I am in the devil's gun
section now & you should
see them flying. They simply
strew the ground with bullets
& are very accurate.

3/ I was on fatigue work the other day & while digging in the middle of a road I came on a boot & found on further investigating the skeleton of a Fritz. Of course we only take these little affairs as every day occurrences & do not take much interest in them.

We only have at present one lot of cloths & needles to say we are lousey as bandicoots & considering they breed very rapid you may depend we won't get much free of the vermin for a while. We have to chat ourselves every day or we would be eaten alive.

Now for the weather eh — In the first place it is daylight from 4 o'clock A.M. until 9 P.M. It is cool first thing in the morning bet

very pleasent in the middle of the day.

We are all wishing the war will soon finish but I suppose it will depend on how Fritz is situated.

I suppose you have heard of poor Tom Scott. I was only a few hundred yards from him when he got killed. He was a sergeant & as game as a lion & often told me Fritz couldnt kill him. He was shot through the head with a machine gun with several bullets.

I haven't seen Jack yet but I will be on the look out for him.

As I am writing to John I haven't much time

at present I must soon
bring this letter to a close
but give my love to Dad &
Mother & Lil. & tell them I hope
they like the cards.

Hoping you are all well at
home & are having a glorious
season. I must say "Au Revoir"

Your Fond Brother
Erny

P.S. France no Bon to cold
on your feet.

I am
Your ever
loving Brother
Ernest

France
4/10/17

Dear Will

Just a few lines in answer to your very welcome letter which I received yesterday & was pleased to hear you are well. So at last the very sad news has reached Home & as you say I can immag-ine how you all felt the awful shock & I was won-dering how it was you hadn't heard before this.

Well I am pretty right as yet but as this is the land of Hell at present I do not know how things will turn out later on. I must only hope for the best & God grant as you say that I may be spared to return to my Home again. Ned or Joe in my idear will never see the old Home again (certainly not Ned). & as for poor Joe's chance well it will be a great miracule if he ever does.

The weather here at present is fairly mild but today some cool winds & rain came down for a while & the ground is getting sloppy & wet again.

I havnt saw J Scott & do not know his ad-ress. I also wrote to H Eggar but never got a reply & P Killeen was away sick. I saw W Burridge & he was in the same Convalescent Camp as myself He has been wounded twice & still hammering away. I also see a lot of our Gin Gin district Boys including J Griffen. H Handley. D Dixon. D Manderson. J Murray etc.

I must now say "Au Revoir" & so with very best wishes for a Merry X mas & Happy New Year & sincerely hoping you are all well at Home.

From. Pte., Ernest Allen.
14th. October, 1917.

Killed in action

France
3rd Nov 17

Dear Will

I received your very welcome letter yesterday & was pleased to hear that you were all well at Home. As regards myself I am well at present.

The weather the last two days here is very mild with drizzling rain. The rain fall here is very regular & every day it comes some slight Showers with little bits of hail intermixed at times.

I saw P Killeen here today & he is well & wishes to be remembered to you all. Also T Moten is all right again.

I havnt received any papers you sent as yet or Xmas parcel but they will come abright later on. I got the Billy Edie sent abright & every thing was in splendid order. & not even the small cakes were broken.

I hope you have had good showers of rain since your last letter as things will be pretty dry otherwise.

So the Rammages have left the old place at last, well I thought the old People couldnt keep the place going much longer & I am sure it was impossible for Tom to keep two places going.

I have young Arthur's Photo yet & am keeping it for a Mascot. & I would like young "Crick" also.

So Jack Garrett is still at the shooting. Well good luck to him I doubt

2

very much when I am his age if I will do likewise. Anyway I am very pleased to hear he is keeping well.

I cannot shoot half so well now as when I left & if it was left to me now to get the prizes that I previously won, well I simply couldnt do it.

Remember me to all our old Friends & tell Father & Mother I will write to them later. John can please himself as regards what I said about Sid. He can send the money in place of the turnout if he likes. just whichever suits best.

I got some Photos from Bdl. some she had taken herself & they are very good for an ametuer but Arthur is perfect.

Love to all at Home & sincerely Hoping you are all well & are having a Glorious spring.

From your Ever Loving Brother

Erny

Kelly

No 2615 –
49th Batto
6th Dec 17

Dear Will

Your very welcome letter arrived safely to day date 6th Sept & I am pleased to hear that you are all fairly well at Home.

So you got the slip of papers on the attics of tanks & it is as you supposed they do carry a bit of France at times. I do not know whether Fritz's haul was as you said was in your papers but the other certainly was. I don't think he gets much meat out of the tanks anyway & possibly he finds them pretty rough chewing at times.

So Scott Scotts will arrive Home. He had a bad wound in the foot. May this damnable war be over before he has to again tackle its. I never had the pleasu

2

of seeing Dave over here but Tom I happened to see on my arrival. He was as game as they make men & Fritz could never in the least scare him. But just before the poor fellow got killed he said to me that it was a bit solid & the sooner it finished the better.

I wasnt far away from where he was killed but never knew for some days after.

Remember me to Curly Crozier & ask him how he likes Qld now. I saw a cousin of his in the same Batt as myself. He is a champion Boxer for his weight.

Yes I have had a bunch from F.M. Smith & she writes a splendid letter. I am always pleased to hear from Her.

So E Lulsen has arrived

3

in Blighty. Oh well I wish him the best of luck. He will want it all over here.

Your parcels sent by same mail have not yet arrived but will do so later on.

So at last they have again had a good came lesson. Well its up to them anyway.

Old Simpkinson & the farm I have cut clean out of my mind but will deal with Him accordingly when I return & (if I don't) just state that it is my wish for Him to remain there only as long as the Law advises that he cant be bundled out. As soon as this is possible it is my last wish that he be cleared out like all other intruding abnoxious weeds that do likewise.

I have no time for

4

such as He & at present we are at war with a far better species of Manhood.

So the Chestnut Mare has a foal like old Daisy. Tell John to be extra careful in handling it as it will be as wild as a hawk & I do not want anything to happen it through carelessness. Tell him to be sure & not sell either of them evens if he has to knock up every horse on Mt Bania to quiet it & run them in a yard. (not barb wire)!

Pleased to hear the little Hereford bull is turning out well. He came from a good place & ought to turn out well.

Fred isnt married yet she. if he doesnt hurry up tell him I will beat him after alls. But not imported stuff for me Oh

5

No; The Australian every time But some of our lads dont think this & have married Blighty Girls & have now a young Australian or two to greet them on their furlough

So yourself & H Bawden have finished P. snaring & Shooting.

The Photo you sent of the Possums was lovely & just wouldnt I liked to have been with you especially at the bees nest they certainly cant sting like the Huns & the honey I bet was very handy.

I am pleased that John got Gilvies to ring bark the Creek paddock & that the timber is drying well.

Thanks for the clippings & I dont think Dobbie would swing clubs over here for 24 hours without getting a bit disturbed (especially in the Cambrai Hall).

We got our first frost today & it looks like continuing & will in my idear be another cold winter.

I must say Au Revoir for the present & wish you all at Home a very Prosperous & happy New Year and sincerely hope you are all enjoying the best possible health (I am well) So with kind regards & love & very best wishes to you all

I am

your ever loving Brother

Tony

Kind Remembrance to Albert.

No. 2615
49th Batt

France
9/12/17

Dear Will.

I recieved your ever welcome letter today dated 23rd Sept. & was very pleased to learn that at Home you are all fairly well.

I see by same letter that you have wrote to the Magor of Batt. explaining the position that I am now situated. You will probably get a reply that may enlighten you all on the subject. I also sent a letter in from my Battallion for which I had no reply as yet. Probably they think it a scheme of my own to sneak out of the business but if they only knew the true state of things which you being a skholar care (& will) explain in your letter They then should give me a hearing

As far as myself is concerned

2/

I can only meet the same fate which has befallen our two lads, that is look-ing on the dark side. But this is what I want to know whether I should ~~not~~ do the best thing by continuing, or as I asked to be allowed to return to my own Home duties & by full-filling them in a right & just man-ner I would be still assisting the work over here & would also be doing my own work which at present must be paid for or neglected.

I know (everyone arround us knows) how the old Home is already broke up by the awful news already spoken of again & again & don't you think that I am right & just in explaining my case.

I am on a base job at present but as yet nothing definite

3/

is settled in the matter & any day I may be again leaving for the firing line. I havnt a green envelope or I would have enclosed this in same.

The weather as yet is not very cold for here but it is raining again & looks like continuing for sometime

Yes I will certainly drive you to Bundaberg with the pony if ever I get the chance. I will make it my first trip that is if you still have the Pony when I return.

I have some important land business which I must get fixed up as soon as possible on my return & this will be a good chance to again give the Pony a run.

I know you dont like the train & as it is too far for you to ride It would be just splendid to drive.

4/

I wrote Home a few days ago in answer to some letters I recieved. I got Fathers letter & was surprised to see how well he can write yet. I think when I am 75 I will have a good hump on my back & carry a stick for support

The parcels you mention have not arrived yet but may do so any day. Parcels are always slightly delayed.

I sent Mother my photo & in case it never reaches Home I am also sending you one which I hope you recieve.

I am pretty well again & sincerely hoping you are all well at Home So with love & my very best wishes to you all

I am

Your Fond Brother

L Allen

Folkestone
26th Mar 18

Dear Will.

As I am just returning from leave & have a few minutes to spare I will let you know how I think of things in general.

To begin with I had a splendid holiday & wish I was going in place of returning. Well I suppose before this you will know that Fritz has started a very big offensive & is causing a lot of trouble at present but if he keeps it going things will be alright & he will get something worth having shortly & may return quicker than he bargained for. He will find that he hadsnt Russia to contend with on this front.

Well the way things are at present I expect my career to be a very short one in France & will end one way or another very soon now. Probably you are surprised at my speaking ~~in~~ this tone but as things are in France at the present time (a Whirl wind from Hell) you will probably

2

understand my meaning. 'A man cant last forever & it will be short & sweet from now on.

There was a sharp frost here this morning & a cool wind blowing. I think it is the dying kick of winter.

I expect to get a bundle of mail when I get back again to my unit & will write you again then if possible. Remember me to Albert H & any Friends enquiring & I would like to be over there you bet for a few weeks now.

Love & kind remembrances to you all at Home & best wishes for a mild Winter.

I am
Your Fond Brother
Ern

No. 2615
Pte E Allen
49th Battalion
a Coy
A. I. F.

Ernie Child's Address

On Active Service Abroad

No. 21,203,
Driver E. E. Childs,
108th. Howitzer Battery,
8th. Field Artillery Brigade,
3rd Australian Division,
Australian Imperial Forces.
France

Nurse May Skyring's Address

Staff Nurse, G. M. Skyring,
C/o. Agent General for Qld.
409–410 The Strand
London,
England.