



Methodist Church of Australasia,

QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE.

Soldiers' Camp Department.

Fraser's Hill

Brisbane, 21st July 1916

Dear Will

Our first initiation in military life, has not been as bad as people try to make you believe. We have good dry camps, plenty of blankets, clothing, and food, of course in the ruck a man has to look out for himself, or no one else will. Amusements here are plentiful, and fairly good Skuthorpes buckjumpers are here every week, and various entertainments at the White City, every night. We are all pretty crook on it just now, Erny is in Hospital, effects of inoculation I think, seems to fetch on an abominable cold & cough; At roll call in the morning, the cough music is deafening. The work here is not too hard, We've done no training yet. Yesterday I was Officer's mess fatigue, my job was peeling potatoes, washing up, & waiting on the tables. Not a bad crib, seven of us doing about as much work as two servant girl's have to do. The food was quite a change to the privates ~~and so~~. You can tell any of the good Templars that drink, intoxicating, I mean, is not allowed under any circumstances whatever, in these grounds. And the yarn's you hear about tarpaulin muster, to get beer is all rot. No one in this camp has ever asked me for a sixpense, although they are all adacious lorrhins. I wrote home to Mother about a week ago, so no doubt she has got it before now. I also wrote to John & Lily. We received a



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lecture from our C. C. the other night. It appears, there was a riot in Brisbane, and some soldiers under the influence of liquor, invaded a Dago shop, maltreating some of the Military Police. But he said as far as he knew very few if any, of our camp was implicated in it, Joe and I have applied for week end leave, but as I suppose all the camp has put in some of us will have to be turned down. We had splendid rain here Wednesday night & yesterday, I hope we got as much on the selection's. The climate since we came down has been magnificent, we hav'nt had one real cold morning.

I'm sorry to see the Allies big offensive on the western front don't seem to be progressing very fast, A lot of the Officer's seem to think conscription is a certainty, as soon as Mr Hughes comes back. I suppose the bugles will soon be sounding the last post note. when all lights must be out. So with best wishes. I remain yours loving brother. Edward

Address is

P. S. Kindly remember me to all kind friends, & tell any of them I'd be pleased to hear from them any time. So far I've written about ten letters and have only received two replies.



Methodist Church of Australasia,
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE.

Soldiers' Camp Department.

Fraser's Hill

Brisbane, 2nd Aug 1916

Dear Hill,

I received your welcome letter on Monday, and was pleased to hear you are all well. We are improving, a little, down here, but it's like the war, slowly. I received letters from Aggie, Frank Coles & Mrs Gerry Jamblin, to night. Mrs Jamblin replied on behalf of her husband, whom I wrote too. She tells me to be sure and give the Bundaberg, Soldiers Club a call, whilst on home leave. Say's she is President now, and will see that we get a good time of it. She also says she will try and get us an extra pair of soy. I see by Agg's letter you are having good weather up there. Erny & Joe have fairly bad arms from vaccination, but mine didn't take worse luck, however the doctor scratched another four on it yesterday, but it's too soon to know yet, if it will take yet. If it doesn't take this time, and I have to be done again, the trouble is, the twelve may all take together, when if it's not a job for the undertaker, it's very troublesome to say the least. I went to a bun struggle, at St. John's, Church of England on Sunday. And, I can tell you we had a splendid spread, also a musical entertainment. We were afterwards paraded to church, which wasn't nice at all. The Church of England is awfully superstitious humbug, and you have an awful time of it listening to their chanting & tom-foolery. I was over at the White City last night. there was a good entertainment over there, concert & pictures, free of charge to soldier's. Was on



James Hill

1910 Brisbane, 2nd Camp

duty, over at the bird cage ^{to-day} (Soldiers prison) The bird cage consists of barbed wire entanglement's about fifteen feet high. Armed guard's with fixed bayonets parade around all day & night. It seems to be fairly full too. There's always a few to put in after pray night, for breaking leave, & getting intoxicated. I see Aggie thinks the photo is a break up. And admit's for once, she didn't recognise me. Well I think it's just like me, and am well satisfied with them. I'll enclose one in this for you. I'm trying to get some more from another man, they'll be slightly different. I'll send one of them home too, when I get them. We may be able to get our home leave in about a fortnight. I intend to try, but it depends on my vaccination. Thanks for the scraps, they were very amusing. I like The Three Girls on The Wharf. But if ever I have the luck to return. I won't have much trouble in making a choice. Will think that's about all, until next time, from your fond brother, Edward

for the... it's very... to a... on Sunday... at St. John's... I can tell you we had a splendid spread... musical entertainment... the messengers... which was nice at all. The Church of England is a... and you have an awful time... listening to their chanting & tom-foolery. I was over at the White City last night. there was a good entertainment over there, concert & pictures, free of charge to soldiers. Was on

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



BRISBANE

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: THE HON. W. H. BARNES
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MILITARY CAMP SECRETARY: D. CLARK

PATRON MILITARY CAMP
DEPARTMENT:
H.R.H. THE
DUKE OF GONNAUGHT



"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

RIFLE RANGE

Enoggera, 24 Aug 1916

Dear Will

We got short & sharp notice about home leave to-night. Our unit leaves Queensland in about a fortnight. So they gave me four days to go home. Not much is it, but its that or nothing. And it means, bird-cage to stay longer. So I'm taking my leave, from Sunday. So if you get this in time, ask some-one, to kindly meet the first train on Monday. I'll be there for certain, at Maroondan. I've not seen Erny & Joe yet. so, I don't know how they are getting on. But I suppose they'll soon be off too. As they waste no time here. I'm getting on

BRISBANE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION
good here now, getting good health too.
since I left Fraser's. And we've been
doing a lot of shifting about, came to
Rifle Range from Chermanside yesterday. That's
about ten miles I suppose. I wrote to Lily
yesterday, but I knew nothing definite
then. Got a letter from John to-day, but
this'll save answering it. Well as I expect
to be home on Monday, I'll be able to
tell you all the news. So goodbye for
the present. Ned.

PATRON OF NATIONAL
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HIS MAJESTY THE KING.



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WITH THE COMMONWEALTH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

BELL'S PADDOCK

Enoggera, Sunday 10th 1916

Dear Will

I've had quite a
tour since I came back to camp last
Monday, including a trip to Pinkenba
but no doubt dad has told you about
that, as I wrote to him, the other day.
And now I've got my transfer to here.
This is my forthth A.I.F. training
Camp. There's only one more,
"Thomson's" to go through, in Queens
land. I saw Joe & Ermy here yesterday.
I in fact went in to Brisbane with
them. They had week end leave, but
I hadnt, so I had to get back last
night. Joe expects to get home leave
this

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



BRISBANE
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MILITARY CAMP SECRETARY: J. E. MOTTATT



PATRON OF
COUNCIL OF M.C.A.F.
HIS MAJESTY THE KING

WITH THE COMMONWEALTH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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

BELL'S PADDOCK

Engogers, Sunday 10th 1916

week, but may not be able to
come with him. We've had fearful rain
down here this week, made our parade
ground like a pig sty. If you have
had the same up there, reckon it
will make Dad's oats grow. We
saw Beck & Alf yesterday, they intend
to start for their new home, on Wed-
nesday. Alf put on yesterday trying
to negotiate a sale for his cab & horses
but couldn't get much for them. He
says he saw good horses sold for 2/6 &
3/ and particular good sorts fetched
as much as 5/ shillings. He was
agreeably astonished, when he got a

thirty five shilling bid, for his best
cab horse. We had some fine diversion
watching a foot ball match in Brisbane
yesterday. It must have been rugby,
judging by the casualties. Three men
were carried off while we were looking
on, in about ten minutes. At the last
one was pretty seriously wounded, neck
broke I think. The police stopped
further operation's. We were paraded
to church this morning, went to the
Methodist & Presbyterian. The Parson
gave a grand patriotic sermon. He
even extorted the Almighty, to help
destroy, the devilish Hunnish Milit-
iarism, wish he would, it might save
us a job. Oh Will, tell Mother, when
she get's my Photo's, from Bundaberg
to send one of the cabinet's up to Ivy
first chance she get's, as I promised
her one. I trust your face is much

then it was, when I left. Well as
I can't think of any more news
this time. I'll conclude with best
wishes, Ned.

THE SALVATION ARMY.

Headquarters: 69 Bourke St., Melbourne.



W. BRAMWELL BOOTH,
General.

JAMES HAY,
Commissioner.

SALVATION ARMY INSTITUTE,

MILITARY CAMP at Bells Paddock

5th Oct 1916

Dear Will

~~We~~ We are leaving for Sydney to-morrow morning, to embark, the boys are all churfull, and mad for gore. They started operation's in a minor way last night, by charging an anti conscriptionist meeting, a fair fight followed, but the civies had nt a possible, though they resorted, to diabolical hur, methods. Throwing hot ashes & vitriol, some of our boys got burnt a bit, but routed the meeting. On the other ^{hand}, Hughes P. M. got a magnificent reception, every conceivable place was packed and, the meeting was very ordly, so I think the referendum as good as law, I know I'm pleased to have volunteered, when I did. The end of the war seem's as far off as ever, and judging by the casualty list it will want conscription in India, before its over. We've had a good time of it these last few day's, but, the screw will be put on to-night at ten oclock, Roll-call every hour or so untill we leave, If we happen to miss a tattoo it means bird-cage. So, I'm staying in amusemusing my-self, at this caper, A couple of Scotsman are droning at the bag-pipes in our hut now, One of them headed our procession, playing some weird, wild scotch tune to-day. I'll let you know our address as soon as possible, & will correspond to some of you as often as possible. Goodbye for the present, Ned. My number is 2616

Hon. Treasurers
J. T. TILLOCK
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President
JOHN KENT

For God, For King & For Country

SYDNEY



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



General Secretary
W. GILLANDERS, B.A.

Letters from
Pte J. E. Allen.
49th Bn.

REPLY TO

Somewhere at Sea

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Dear Will

We are keeping in good health & enjoying our voyage so far. There's plenty of sport's on board, even betting on the cup, and you can see more stoush on board gratis, than you could see on land for money. This ship is a regular gymnasium, and contests of endurance, of all sorts are indulged in. We have a good band, also organ's for church on Sunday. So far we have had an uneventfull voyage, if it only continues. We've all written home, so you may get some of them. Best wishes from Edd.

Salisbury Plains

23rd Nov 1916

Dear Will

We've arrived safely, in England at last. And our first night's experience was not at all inspiring. After travelling over 70 miles in a slow train, we had to do a two mile tramp to camp carrying full kit's & equipment, about 80 lb in all, on a freezing night but we had a good reception at Exeter about half way. The Mayress & ladies there gave us tea & cakes which we thoroughly appreciated. But we didn't sleep over comfortable that night, without blankets, and in cold huts, and that night's cold, was a corker, every where was a block of ice in the morning.

23rd Nov 1916
Laliburny Plains

Dear Will

Address is Name

No 2616

6/49 Batt

13th Inf Brigade

A. G. F

On Active Service

in the morning
earlier, every where was a thick of ice
fats, and that night's cold was a
night, without blankets, and in cold
which we thoroughly appreciated. But
barrier there gave us tea & cakes
about half way. The 13th was a
but we had a good reception at 10.30
8.00 in all, on a freezing night
covered full but it's a equipment, about
to be a two mile tramp to camp

One of our lads, had a bit of amuse-
ment going through by train, at some
of the English names for things. He was
asked if ~~He~~^{up} "A woodbine chom" "
The Britisher meant cigarette." But
our cornstalk answered him in pure
Australian. We met Pat Killen
over here, he's about ready now for
the front. Pat's as hard a case as
ever, he's had his trip to London,
But, he doesn't think much of it's
Morality. In fact on asking him
about England. He said it was
a bit of a — all round. We
all due for inoculation this evening
but so far have done no drill. Hoping
all at home are well, with best
wishes. Ned.

For God, For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL
H. M. THE KING.

Y. M. C. A.
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT
H. R. H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Address reply to *Pte. J. E. Allen*

Bodford 26th Dec 1916

No 2616

*6th 49th Batt ~~m~~
13th Infantry Brigade*

*A. I. F.
On Active Service*

Dear Will

We are still training at Bod-ford Salisbury but expect a shift to France early next month, The Kaiser's peace talk is only taken as a joke here, just a scrap of paper. So I don't think there's any chance of peace, on Wilhelm's terms. The climate here is awfull. Snow, rain, or ice constantly, and we are all half dead with cold's. We had a very quiet Xmas yesterday, in camp, but had a very decent dinner. Post pork & plum pudding with apples & oranges, & a holiday. We had five day's dis-embarkation leave when we arrived here first, Joe went to London, but Erny & I went to Ryde. I had a good time over there, we stayed at Aunt Anon's place, She has a daughter, Cousin Edie, who is a real hard case, and has a fair education for England. I've had a few letters from her since. Tell the girl's she would like to hear from them. Aunt & Edie were saying they had a letter of your's sent from New Zealand, to them. And considered it very amusing. The people over there, had'nt seen many. Aust & before. And imagined us

For God, For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL
H. M. THE KING.

Y. M. C. A.
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H. R. H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Address reply to.....

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kind of savages, however we soon made friends, and gave some of the girl's quite a differed impression, before we left. We hav'nt got any letters up to date from Australia, but no doubt they'll soon start to come in now, & if you all got our addresses from Durban & Cape Town, I hear you are having a splendid season in Queensland just my luck to leave in a good season, but I hope it won't be long, before Germany throws in the towel, and gives us a chance to get back again. Blighty may be alright in summer, but give me sunny Queensland any time, and well, anywhere before Godford in winter. The grass in old England is cursed hardy stuff and is always quite green, even when you have to shift a foot of snow to find it, Well Well, before you get this, I suppose we'll be shooting at Fritz or Vice Versa. We have rifle ranges over here & some of us have done a lot of shooting, but I hav'nt fired a shot over here yet, we also have to practice bomb throwing. That's pretty dangerous, if you lose your head, and release the spring and hold it too long, before throwing. Best wishes for a happy New Year, from Ned.

17
March 9th

Dear Will

We were very pleased to hear that all is well, over home. Every letter we get from Queensland complains of the intense heat, & wet. Well we seldom see the sun over here. And warmth never enters our heads. The scenery in Sunny France, is slush, snow & ice, rain & sleet. About 2 inches of our toes, is quite dead; and the tips of our fingers, the same. Yet we are in splendid condition, and health. We get fair rations, and a liberal allowance of Bertha's best. I see things are still very stormy in Australian politics. And Mr Hughes is getting a bad time of it. Well he ^{be able} may do better after the election. I hope so any[^]how. But I don't think. So - growing green stuff has not proved very profitable at Ox-hill, but that's generally a farmers luck. I think John will soon be able to sell his surplus horses, for army rations. Benny got his letter from Ivy W. safely. So Daisy still has a couple of strings to her bow. And Ag, won't be a fly, in her ointment now. I was sur

frised to hear Norman B. meant bus-
-ness with. Pa. J. Joe got a letter from
Jim Shimmers, Jim & Dave are working
a big show, trying to get some hill em, as
he expresses it. We've seen a lot of the
local lads over here, but hav'nt seen the
Stewarts yet. I saw A. Raines once but
I don't think he recognised me. I saw
the graves of W. Noakes & G. Shavers, lately
rapoed here. G. Scott is in Blighty. &
Bill also. Of course Tom is with us. So is
C. Jensen. A Zensh. W. Britten & Julius
Weilsoen. I could say a lot about war
but as that is not allowed. I'll
conclude. by sending best wishes, and
hope for a safe & speedy return to
dear old Queensland. Best wishes from
your's Etc. Ned.

(1)

April 16th 17

Dear Will

Joe received the letter you wrote to him, but we are not getting your papers, nor Agg's wedding cake, that she said she sent, Was amused at what she said about Lt. Saunders, Put out of action by a lady sniper B.H. before reaching the firing line. Oh well, some G.I. will soon fix him up, and he can have another buckshoe, hop-over, at Fritz when he gets over here. Even veterans like, L. Blair, can have as much fight as they want if they like to face

(2)

the music over here, your
summing up of the big mire
up is pretty correct, as you'll
see, by the papers, Eh What?
I suppose by now, poor old
Mrs Scott, has had her sad
news, So you will soon have
a big Federal election, I hear
we are to have a vote on it,
i.e., if we are lucky enough
to want it. So they are having
a bonzer season in good
old Aust. well I'm pleased
things are, prospering with
every-one, John got a good
price for those steers & cows, but
we have not got his letter yet
Its very hard to get any-thing
to write about, from here,

(3)

except, war matters, easily
fill up a few pages on that
sub-ject, ~~if~~ but it no use, so
Dorrie Blair wrote to me, Eh,
Well I hav'nt got it yet, but
will be glad to hear from any
of the girls, over there, I often
get a letter from Cousin
E. Hollis, she's a hard doer,
just like Ag. They would be
very pleased to hear from our
girls. Erny & I spent a very
good time, on furlough at
Pyde. We have had an in-
vitation from Mrs Brough's
parent's at Leeds, to pay them
a visit, if we ever get the
chance. We made quite a
lot of friend's - at Pyde. The

(4)

English people were very hospitable to us. And cousin Edie, introduced us to plenty of pretty girls. They seemed to have an idea we Aust's were barbarians. But were soon agreeably surprised, ^{them} ^{they} and finished by knowing us to be real hard cases. Emy, got a letter from J. W. all right. We are all still intact, and going, like. Gobnie Walker. We are getting like old veterans now, take our rumps smoke ³ our fags, with the rest. Best wishes to all from Ned. I'm enclosing a Hun cartridge clip. that I salvaged at

April 22nd 17

Dear Will

Yours welcome letter of 1st Feb safely to hand & was very pleased to know that all's well at home. I also got a letter from John, giving some interesting details about stock etc. Gack Scott is over here & called on us the other day for news of poor old Tom, who had the misfortune to get killed, in our last stunt but no doubt you've heard the sad news, from his Dad Gack, looks well, but was terribly cut up on hearing the sad news, He've seen most of the gin gin boy's over here, ex-

cept, the Stewart Bros.
So you & the girls had quite
an adventure, at the creek.
Yes? We have plenty of that
sort, plus snow rice, & minus
dry clothes, Mother is sending
us sox &c. If we're only lucky
enough to get them, gee & I
had a couple of lovely cakes
sent us, but owing to the tins
not being soldered, they got
partly spoilt. So vegetables
are very cheap over there, quite
the reverse here, with every thing
I'll have to conclude, now
So with best wishes to all at
home. I am yours &c Ned

On Active Service



WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



C. Co. ⁴ 49th Battⁿ. April
Dear Will

Your welcome & interesting letter of 23rd Feb. safely arrived. I must say our mail seems to be coming well, since joining our Battⁿ. I've had quite a lot of letters, from home, & other places lately. Re Aeroplanes, I thought they were too common ^{to} mention, just like flocks of big birds over here. I've also seen some very interesting air fights, and I can assure you it don't last long, once the machine guns start to talk. Some times a machine just turns over, and drops like a stone. Plenty of tanks here too. In fact their bogged all over France, & my's in the reserve machine gun section, & I are still firming our faith to the rifle, the bayonet & Mill's No 1. He's handy, for ~~give~~ ^{give} ~~burn~~ ^{burn}'s to share among it themselves, in a dug-out. Etc. No doubt there's some deadly weapons for man-killing & Fritz has'nt all the best weapons of Kuller as the recent fighting proves. Poor old Tom Scott's promotion, was short-lived & h. Say

On Active Service

Lil must have got his letter quick, each is over here now; I also saw Tom Boten last Wednesday, when anzac day celebration's were held. We had a splendid afternoon's sports, and a bonzer dinner, consisting of, ham, roast meat & veal, and nicely mashed potatoes, beer in abundance. Oh! were fattening all-right, good I are both over 12 st. The weather here is improving, but the trees are still as bare as corks, no trouble to see the birds nest's; who appear to be building, in the hopes of something better turning up I suppose. Its now eight o'clock. Pippema, and quite light, so you can easily imagine the period of day-light we have. Pte Corbett experiences, are some-thing similar to ours but, he's hopping out of the frying pan etc. if he get's his wish. We have a lot of the Gippo, boys here. Trusting all at home are well, & hoping to be hot some-where in France, very shortly. I am yours etc. Ned.

C. Company, 49th Battⁿ 6th May 16
Dear Will.

Your very interesting
& welcome ^{letter} of 27th Feb to hand. I was
pleased to hear that all's well at home.
We are still searching the Hun's furrow
over here, and he is getting a sample
of our's in return. You said we never
mention ^{ed} aeroplanes. Well, one season
was, they are so numerous that I thought
it hardly worth while. The other ^{one}
main ~~one~~ is on account of censorship.
But I can assure you there more
plentiful & more deadly here, than
in Egypt, either in fighting quality
or bomb dropping. It's pretty to watch
a fight. But it's soon over. I see by Pte
Corbett's letter, that he thinks France
preferable to Egypt. I'd only like to
exchange places with him. Though it's
getting glorious weather here now.
The last week has been quite hot especially.

From. Pte. J. E. Allen.
6th. May, 1916

Killed in action

in places, but no doubt, you'll hear
some of the news over there. Wonder
how Will Stewart got trench feet,
I can't manage it, though it's a
d— painfull thing, I'm satis-
fied that Australians can stand
either cold, fighting, or hard-
ships of any sort, with the best of them.
For instance, We only had two blankets
each, all winter, no fire, a tent's
or hut's to sleep in. And the cold was
something awfull, your tea would
freeze before you could finish your
meals. Never see the sun in the win-
ter. The snow laid over a foot deep
& you could ^{scarcely} see the pond's, or rather
shell holes. There some size, for
over a month, goe & I never had a
day's sickness, of course our feet &
fingers goes quite dead or frost-bitten.
But we only curse & carry on. So
America has humbled her pride

at last. She may be able to help us
a little, after a few years organisatio
This mix-up seems to be going like
"The Brook" - We've just discovered
the mighty Flun; is stronger than
ever he was. & give a I had a day
in Amiens yesterday, had a fairly
good time of it. It's rather a pretty
place. But like all the rest of Europe
every-thing is very dear, just a
plain meal costs about 3 francs 2/6
It's no trouble to spend our sur-
plus cash over here, but it's just as
well to enjoy your-self when-ever
you get a chance, and it may do
the French a good turn. I hope you
get this al-right. And that you are
all well. With best wishes, I am
your's etc. Ned.

Dear Will

June 4th 17

So far we are still well, But at present are, about to go in the thick of a big offensive. We are bivouaced just behind the firing line. We are going over the top on a twenty mile front. And are to go right through ~~the~~ the Hun line, which consist's of four lines. Wilderness, of trenches. Our preparatory, consist's of a three day's heavy bombardment, with guns of all calibres, and gas, etc. The straffe at present, from our guns, is tremendous. Was in the front line last night. And the sight was, aweinspiring. And far prettier than any fire work's display I've ever witnessed. Pretty but Wngodly sight's every where. A lot of our battalioin is kept back, Erny is one of the lucky ones. But Joe & I, are going over, with the best of luck. We have shifted to another front now. If this attack succeeds, L. will soon fall. But I'm afraid the end of the war, is a long way off. Was talking to Knock, Mc-Kenzie, yesterday. He's a Sergeant Major in the A.S.C. So he's home & dry. I hope to be able to write when it's all over. So for the present Ah- Revoir. Ned.