

S.S. "WILTSHIRE"—TROOPSHIP A18  
AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONERY FORCES  
VICTORIAN LIGHT HORSE





# POST CARD.

Federal & Shire Lines Twin Screw Steamers  
"Argyllshire," "Shropshire," and  
"Wiltshire,"

12,000 TONS D.W.

THE ADDRESS ONLY  
TO BE WRITTEN HERE.



Quilp

WE sailed

this morning with  
letter at Albany

N.A. give fuller particulars  
later this is the boat  
we are sailing in B. and D.

W. E. Cleaver

Raymond St

Salisbury

Oct 14

Year 1914.

D.R. 4 4114 (1)



Somewhere in Palestine

10-6-17

Dear Papa Addie & Millie

I received

your welcome letter dated March 20<sup>th</sup> and am pleased to hear you are all well. The weather has been very hot here these last few days, but not nearly so hot as it is out on the desert in Egypt this time of the year, of course the green fields and being nearer the coast helps to keep it a lot cooler but we have plenty of work to do we are kept going at all hours of the day & night but it is not near so bad as Gallipoli as ~~there~~ there the enemy was always firing shells & bullets at you day & night as it is now we have our horses to get away from them when ever we wish and we can hear the shells bursting away in the distance

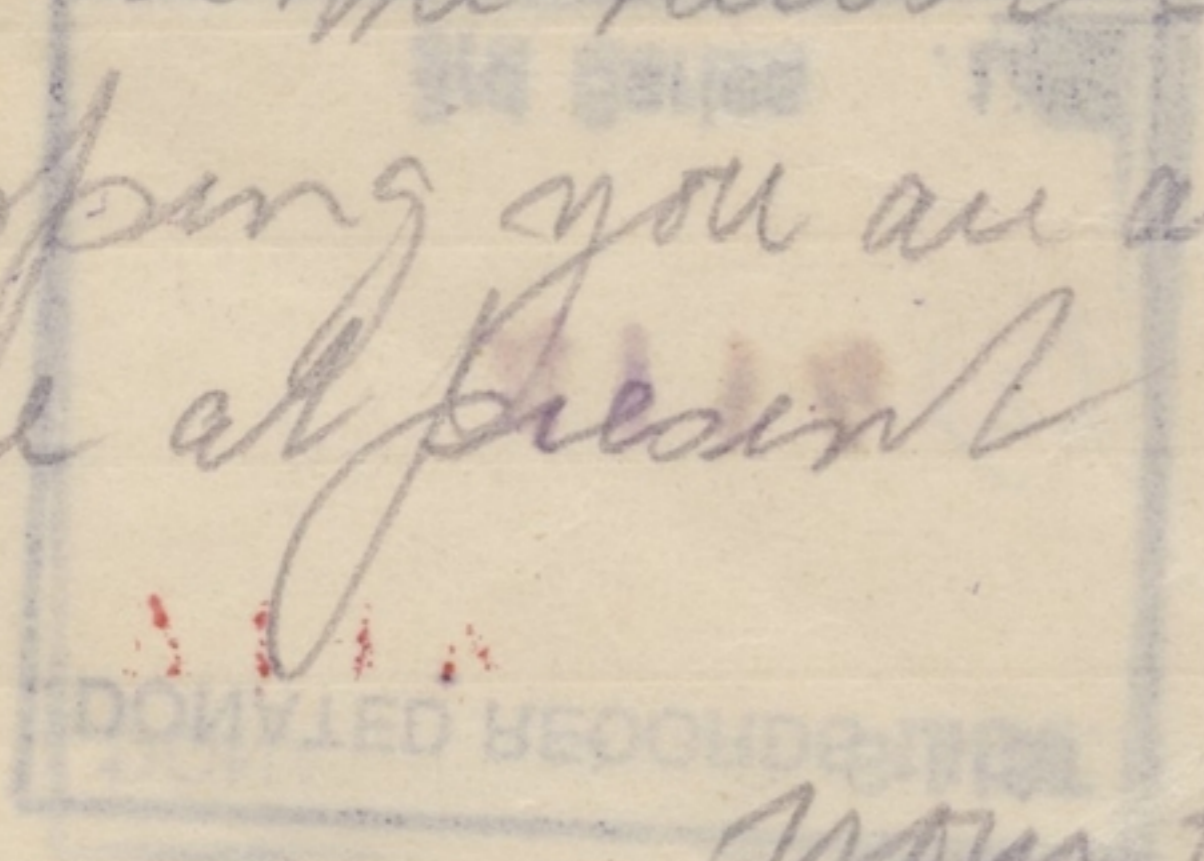


(2)  
which makes it more comfortable  
when you know you are safe & sound  
from them for the time being, the  
only thing there may be a hostile aero  
plane come over and drop a few  
bombs amongst us and our horses  
but a man is dead unlucky if  
he <sup>get</sup> hit with one of them as our  
anti aircraft guns keep them up a  
good height, we have not heard  
the result of the elections here yet  
but there seems to be a lot of  
squabbling amongst them over there  
they want to come over here and they  
will get all the fight they want.  
We heard over here that the recruiting  
committee was trying to get 5000 new  
men to take the place of 5000 men  
who came over under the command  
of the late General Bridges so that  
means the First Contingent to take



(3)

their places and give us six months  
 furlough to Australia, but I do not  
 think there is such luck. I think it  
 is only a recruiting dodge to try and  
 get a few to enlist which we can do with  
 just now, we were all lined up in a  
 ceremonial parade yesterday and there  
 was a few medals presented a few of the  
 heads Officers and Major Farr who named  
 Miss Bowden received one also it was  
 for the Battle of Romani that they  
 got them for. I do not think the war  
 looks much near the end not by reports  
 we get which are very scant than it  
 did twelve month ago anyhow America  
 might make a bit of a difference this  
 is all the news I can scrape up this time  
 hoping you are all well as it leaves  
 me at present



I remain  
 your loving son & brother  
 Randolph



Somewhere in Palestine

27-8-17

Dear Papa Addie & Millie

I received your welcome letters dated ~~April 30<sup>th</sup>~~ <sup>June 26<sup>th</sup></sup> & June 11<sup>th</sup> and also local papers for which I thank you very much as it is nice to get a bit of news about the district as we do not get much out here. We are still plugging away in the heat & dust and it is terrible at times, we are all waiting for the furlough to Australia what was so much talked about for a while, but it died out again, and only the other day they took the names & number of the originals in the Regiment and there was some guessing what they were wanted for, but the tale came through this morning that we were going in a months time and that it was in Divisional Orders but we have not got it officially yet, but it seems too good to be true, it would be grand to have six months spell and I think we deserve it after three years service without a spell and roughing it as we have to do, although it has not hurt me much it has broke up a good number, George Bingham has not been too good of late had a touch of Malaria Fever now has a bad cold, so is a bit off colour I saw Lawrence Jackson last week and he wishes to be remembered to you all and he also looks well but it is a long ride to where his canteen is and things a very dear a tin of fruit costs 10 Pashes



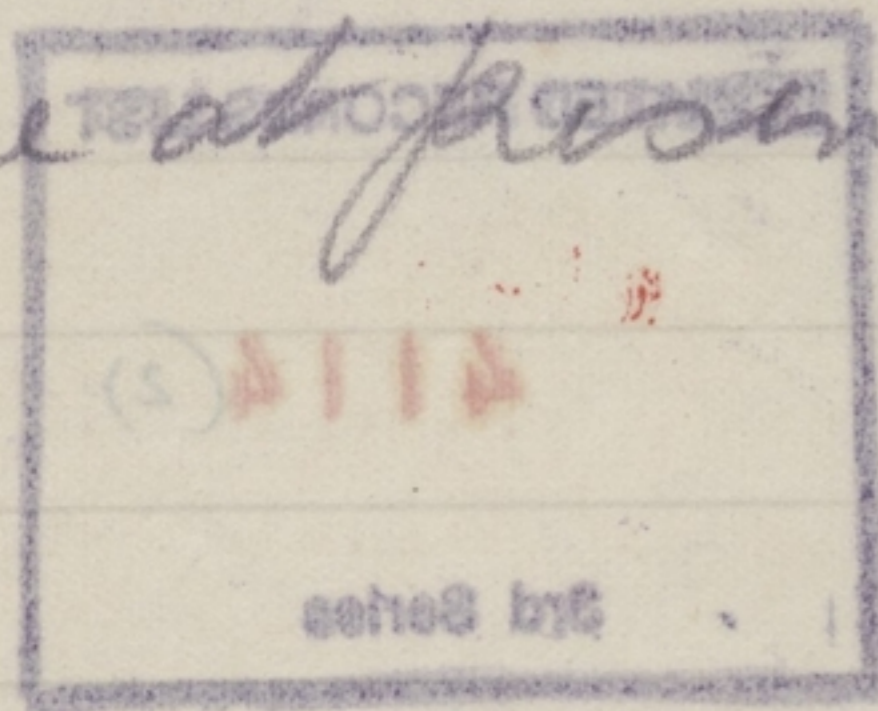
(2)

in fact everything is dear it takes nearly all the money we get to keep us going in tucker the rations are very short of late. I do not know what the Army are doing but they seem to be cutting us shorter day by day, we got 3 very small loaves of bread, 1 tin of jam & 3 tins of Bully Beef to do for us twenty four hours so you see it is not much when we are all healthy chaps and always in open even sleeping in it with the sky for a roof but I feel very well satisfied at the present time my mate just made some custard & coffee & milk whilst I am writing his letter I have just finished the custard and it was lovely, I am very pleased to learn you have sold well satisfactory and hope that the rest will restore you to perfect health again for I am sure you have earned a well deserved rest and hope you get all your accounts in satisfactory order need not worry about me as I can get along in this battle of life alright they won't show me many points if I can help it I if I ever have the luck to get back alright, I do not think I would care for Butchering again for a while anyway although this country here is no good to live in although the land is very good in parts but you would have to keep a machine gun on each corner to keep the Bedouins & Arabs from shaking the lot and there is no fences at all



all they do is dig a drain around the piece of  
land they own and shepherd their stock by  
day and lock them up in the village by night  
men women cattle sheep & dogs all sleep under the  
one roof, you never see a pig here ~~and you never~~  
see a dog to eat ~~on~~ even if you give a half starved  
Abit a piece of bacon, he will not eat it, I see there  
has been a few ships been sunk with some of  
our mail on it is our disappointing to learn that your  
letters have been sunk after all the trouble there is here  
to write them as we do not get much time to ourselves  
we are often away from our bivouac for days at a time  
and one gets very tired after a long ride and lot of  
fighting and it takes a day or two to get over it again  
and of course we have to look after our horses between  
times and it is a long way to take them to wash horse  
a day or so.

Peace way I suppose ~~is~~  
Mulle is married and settled <sup>longer</sup> I wish he had all the  
luck in my last letter which I hope you got as I  
write a good number which you do not seem to receive  
well I think this is all the news this time hoping  
you are all in the best of health as it leaves  
me at present



I remain  
your loving son & brother  
Randolph



# ACTIVE

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NOTE:—

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The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—

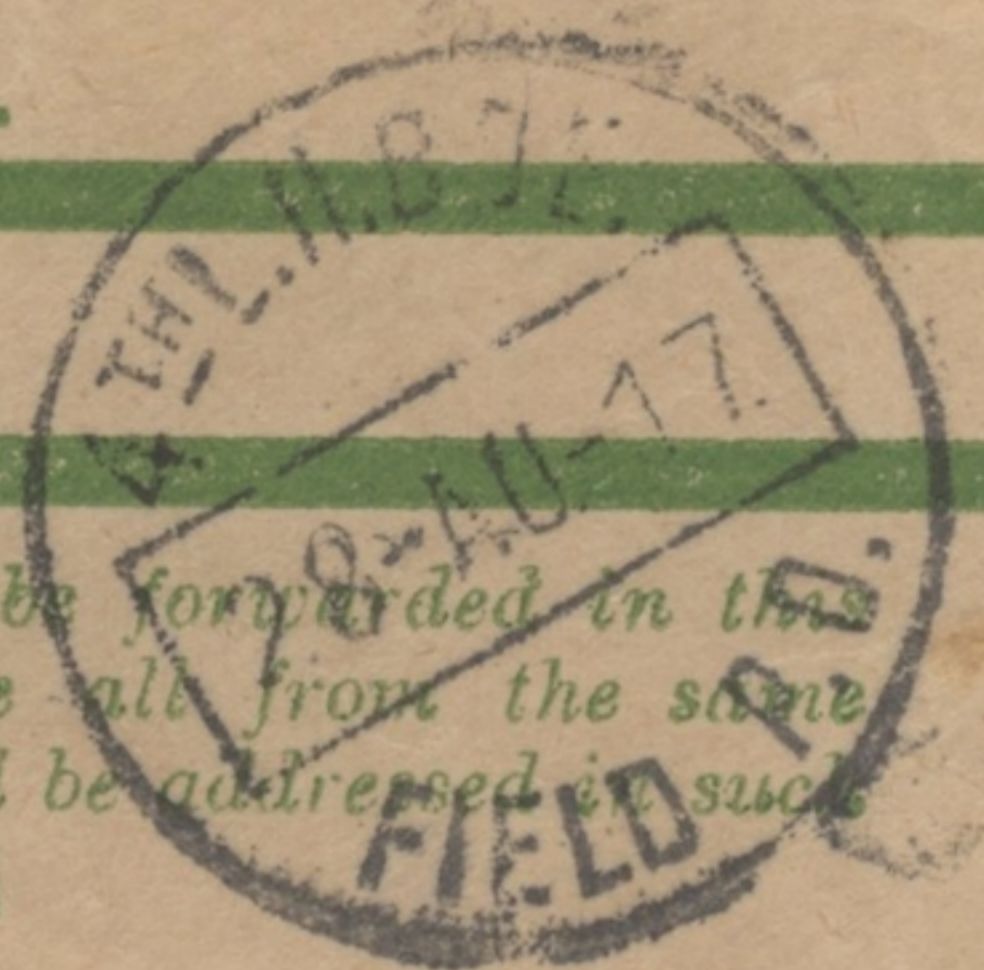
*I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.*

Signature  
Name only

E. R. Cleaver

# SERVICE

[Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]



Address:—

W. E. Cleaver

Sale

Victoria  
Australia



Somewhere in Palestine

9-10-17

Dear Papa & Addie

I received your welcome letter dated 18 July and am sorry to hear Papa is so bad but all we can do is to hope for the best and that time & a good rest will restore him to perfect health again, you say there is a chance of us first Contingent chaps or what is left of us getting a holiday back to Australia by Christmas, I also thought there was a chance when first we knew of it, but things are totally different now and I think our case is dough as far as getting furlough that way is concerned, I put in an application for three months furlough to Australia last Sunday it is known here as Compassionate Furlough and I had to attach Addie's letter to it to show them the reasons why I wanted it, but I suppose it will take a good while as it has got to go through a lot of different departments, you know what a lot of red tape there is in anything the government have anything to do with. But my Commanding Officer gave me an excellent recommendation, he put on the recommendation that I had been with the



(2)

Regiment since 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 1914 till the present date with the exception of fourteen days in hospital and character very good and also highly recommended this case, but there is a terrible lot of trouble to get it but it will be worth while if I can only see you all again if only for a month there has been no one under the rank of an Officer go this leave yet from here, but some have tried but been turned down, so you see my chance is not great, but if you never try you won't succeed, you could help me a great deal by applying at your end through Mr Wise who could see the Minister for Defence Mr Pearce and it would come through much quicker, but I hope I get it granted soon, only I do not give myself much of a chance, but if I happen to get it I will cable you straight away, we have been a long while without mail this time and only received Addie letter on Saturday last the 6<sup>th</sup> Oct but it had been to England and goodness know what roundabout route it took to get there trying to dodge the submarines, I got a letter from Willie yesterday but it was dated Aug 26<sup>th</sup> and must have come by the direct route but I never got any local papers, most likely you do



(3)

not get them now, being out of business, if so  
never mind bothering getting them especially  
for me, I will have to write two letters to you  
now as Mollie is married and will write to  
Mollie tomorrow night if I am home, we  
were out on outpost duty a couple of days ago  
and we seen a lovely fight in the air bet  
ween one of our aeroplanes and a German  
one, our chap brought <sup>him</sup> down to earth nearly  
on top of us. I thought he was going to  
crash into our horses. but he went about  
four hundred yards further on and we jumped  
on our horses and caught him before he could  
set fire to his machine which is the first  
thing they do if they get a chance at all  
as this chap had his flare pistol in his hand ready but  
we were on to him too soon and when he had the rifle  
pointing at his head he threw up his hands, which is  
best thing he could do, as we have not got much time  
for Germans especially, it is all Germans who man  
the aeroplanes here & some of them are very plucky  
when our chap landed he shook hands with him  
and said you are a better man than me, our  
chap put a <sup>few</sup> bullet holes through his water &  
petrol tanks and his mechanism run hot so



he had to come down, so they took his plane to pieces  
 and put it on a horse long and took it to the aerodrome  
 and took the pilot a prisoner, we will see his plane fly  
 ing our colours and fighting against them soon  
 The weather is starting to get cold here now especially  
 at night, but the dust & wind is awful at times  
 but we expect rain at any time now, and then  
 it will be the mud & wet which will be twice  
 as bad if it is anything like Gallipoli ~~which it~~  
 snows, as looking for wood is like trying to pick  
 up sovereigns, it takes us all ~~our~~ time to get a few  
 sticks to boil our billy when out on a stunt and  
 then we have to take a few pieces of bosc and tie it  
 on our saddle, I have never received the parcels  
 that Willie & Mrs Crisp sent me so. I can say  
 good bye to that lot. I receive letters regularly  
 from Lily Tolmie & Cass Martin and I also got the  
 Sydney Mail from Cass this mail, I wrote to Fanny  
 Polly last mail she asked me to <sup>write</sup> through Lily  
 Tolmie, so I thought it best to be sociable if it  
 does her good & won't do me any harm, but I  
 reckon she ought to have sent Fred over here to do  
 his bit, we still get a few bullets & shells pelted at  
 us but I have had the good luck to dodge them  
 so far & hope to continue to till the war is over

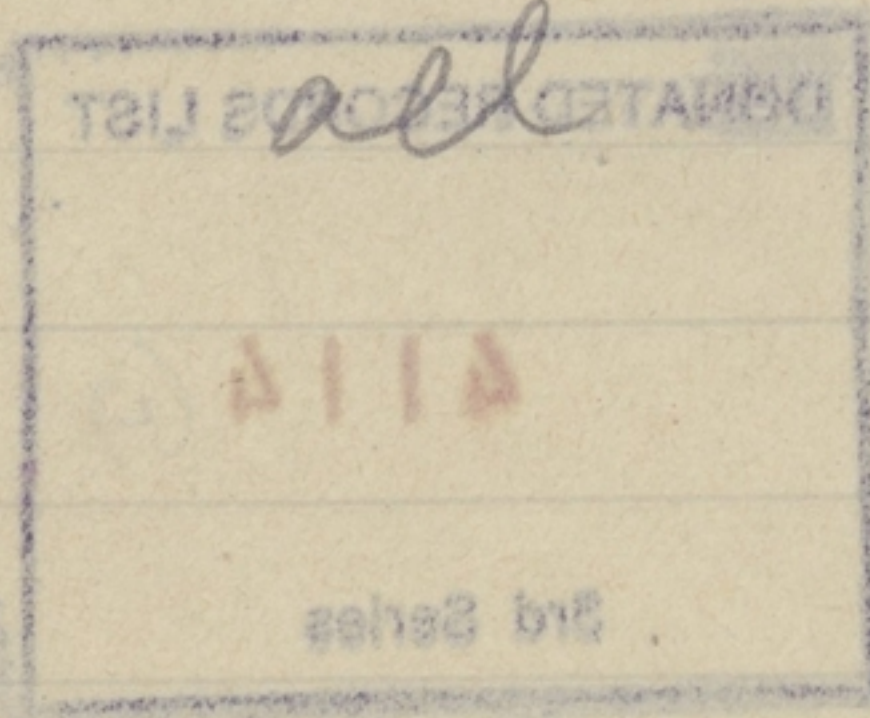


(5)

The German aviator which we captured said the war will last another two or three years yet. I hope not but I think he knows about as much about how long it will last as we do and that is not much. I hope the men that took over the business from you are successful, but was surprised to learn that you got no price for the goodwill, but hope you never put my saddle & bridle in with the business, as I hope to be able to use it again some day well this is all the news this time hoping papa's health is much improved & that Addie & you are as well as I am at present

I remain  
your loving Son & Brother  
Randolph

P.S. Hoping my Furlough is successful and will be home to have Christmas dinner with you





Somewhere in Palestine

10-10-17

Dear Millie

I received your welcome letter day Aug 21<sup>st</sup> and am pleased to learn you are much happier & feel freer which will be a great relief to you after so many years in the shop, I got a letter from Eddie just a couple of days before yours reached me and it was dated July but it had been to England and goodness know what route it took to get here probably via America, I answered it last night so I shall have to write two letters now instead of one which I do not mind when I have time, we have just finished our turn of outpost a patrol duty for a while & only go out on big stunts for a few weeks but this very tiring work, we leave our camp probably at 10 o'clock in the morning and do not return for perhaps four days & nights and the nights are getting very cold here now and the days much shorter it is dark here now at 5.30 in the evening and we have to rig up all manner of things for lights as candles are very scarce, at the present time I am writing this with light from a such lamp made from old bacon fat and the smell & smoke is nearly blinding me, but a fellow is used to so many discomforts that he



(2)

does not take much notice now, as long as he gets through somehow, so say you think there is a chance of us first Contingent chaps getting home for a holiday, so did I for a while but things seems to be hit in the head here, but I have taken it on my own account and I put in an application for three months leave of absence to Australia under what is known as compassionate leave, but it has last Sunday and today is Wednesday and I have not heard any more of it up to date, but it takes a good while as it has got to go through a lot of red tape my reason for so doing was on account of Papa's serious illness and I had to attach Addie's letter to the application, it would be grand to be home for Christmas if only for a few weeks to see Papa once again before he is taken from us as he has been a good Father to all of us and sometimes I cannot hardly realise him being so sick as he always looked so healthy I told Addie & Papa to get ~~the~~ <sup>wise</sup> to try and get my furlough through as you <sup>know</sup> men in their position can do a lot by seeing the Minister of Defence, but my Commanding Officer gave me a very good recommendation, to go on



(3)

to the different Generals which it has got to go through. I seen the recommendation as some of it was that I had been with the Regiment since August 1914 to present date with the exception of ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> been days in hospital & Character very good and "Etc" I forgot to tell you that I have three good conduct stripes which means one for every year of active service so you see I must have been a good boy, which reminds one of school days again, I do not run foul of them much but sometimes I have got to go off if I think I am in the right, or some of them would hamp ~~le~~ <sup>le</sup> you under their feet if you would let them but not for me, I care for none of them I do my bit and that is all I care about them One of our aviators brought down a Turkish plane with a German pilot in the other <sup>day</sup> nearly on top of our noses, I was a grand sight to see them fighting in the air, but when he landed we were on to him too quickly before he could burn his machine so Jacko is one pilot & one Soplane shorter to Bombus which he does with vigour now & again especially when out after Jacko's calf; "Jacko is the name we give the Turk" and am enforcing the law by telling you this but I cannot



help it as it was so grand to see him come  
at cropper as just a half hour previous he  
was bombing us, I have not seen Lowry  
Jackson for about two months but he  
looked well then a wished to be remembered  
to you & Bob and wished you every happiness  
in your new sphere of life, which I do also  
he ought to look well as he is out of all  
weathers and plenty eat not like us go to  
bed with empty stomachs very often and the  
sky for a roof very often, enclosed is will see what  
has been my hope for months, but it won't  
be any good when the rain comes which we expect  
any time now at present the dust is awful at times  
you talk about the dust in Sale it is nothing to  
over here, I laid down one night to sleep and had  
to dig my self out in the morning well I think  
this is all the news this time hoping yourself  
& Bob are in the best of health and I leave  
me at present

I remain  
your loving Brother  
Randolph

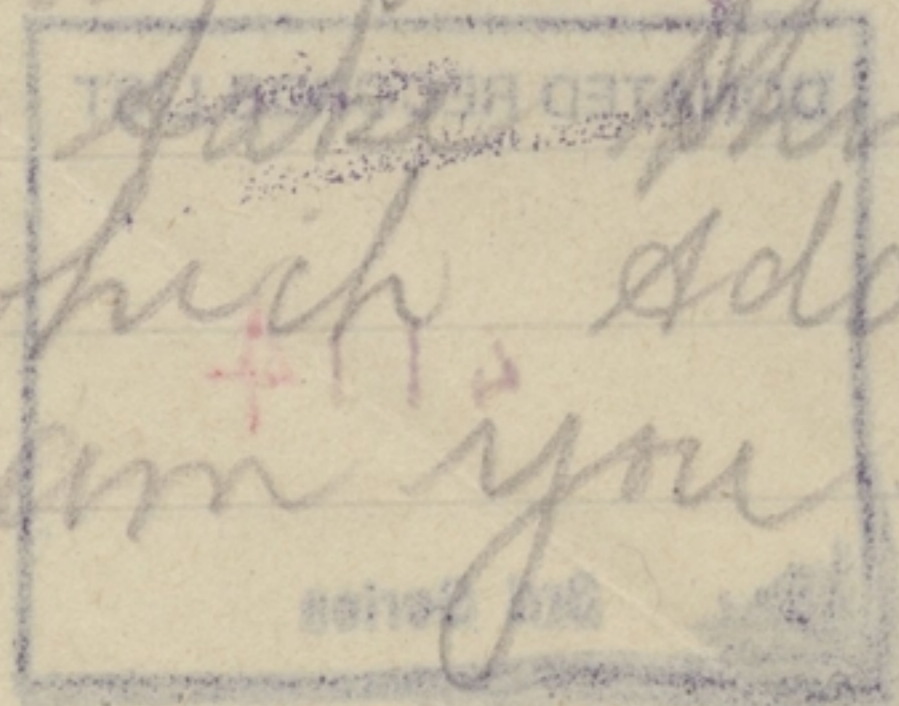


Palestine

26-10-17

Dear Papa & Addie

Just a few lines to let you know how I got along with my application for furlough which I wrote & told you in the last letter I sent to you, I had bad luck and my application was returned to me marked insufficient evidence as I told you I attached Addie's letter to <sup>the</sup> application and there was something about me not receiving the parcel and saying that you heard that the Sgt Officers are not backward at keeping them for their own use. I was brought over the coals for it, and severely reprimanded as they said the writer was liable to prosecution but my C. Officer did not seem to mind as he is a worldly & level headed man, and he reckoned that is what spoilt my chance of the furlough, but never mind, I suppose all will come right the end, a fellow might just as well run his head at a brick wall as try and fight them as they have the best end of the stick by far every time, the only chance one has is to <sup>take</sup> things kindly, I received the parcel which Addie sent me safely and the Plum jam you sent as an experiment was





(2)

lovely and kept well also carried well in the syraf  
tin which was a very good idea. I also took the salts  
next morning, and have made and eaten all the  
porridge it was altogether a nice parcel for which  
I thank you very much, I have been off duty  
this last three days and have been in the doctors  
tent, but am feeling alright again now, the  
doctor said I was run down and wanted a  
few day spell, he fed me up on arrowroot  
Bread &inned chicken which was grand  
after so much Bully Beef & Bacon, but I am  
feeling grand again to night, I saw a few "Gyppo  
Land Times" which, young Jenner had sent to him  
I see where some of the Hospital men & W. Corthill  
and also Bishop Phelan have been sqabbling  
amongst themselves, if they want fight they  
out to come here and they will get plenty of it  
well I think this is all the news this time hoping  
that papa is ~~is~~ Keeping well, now  
he is out of business and plenty of rest and less  
worry, also give my love to Mamma.

I remain  
your loving son & brother  
B andolph







Out scouting  
after the tanks  
one with belly  
in hand just  
going to have  
dinner  
to eat

H. B. Cleaver  
Paluxine

1917  
DRL 4114 (4)







This has been  
my home for  
months. It  
is easily shifted  
about from place  
to place

G. R. Cleaves

Palatium

1919

[Rc10100]

(A)

D.R.L. 4114



# ACTIVE

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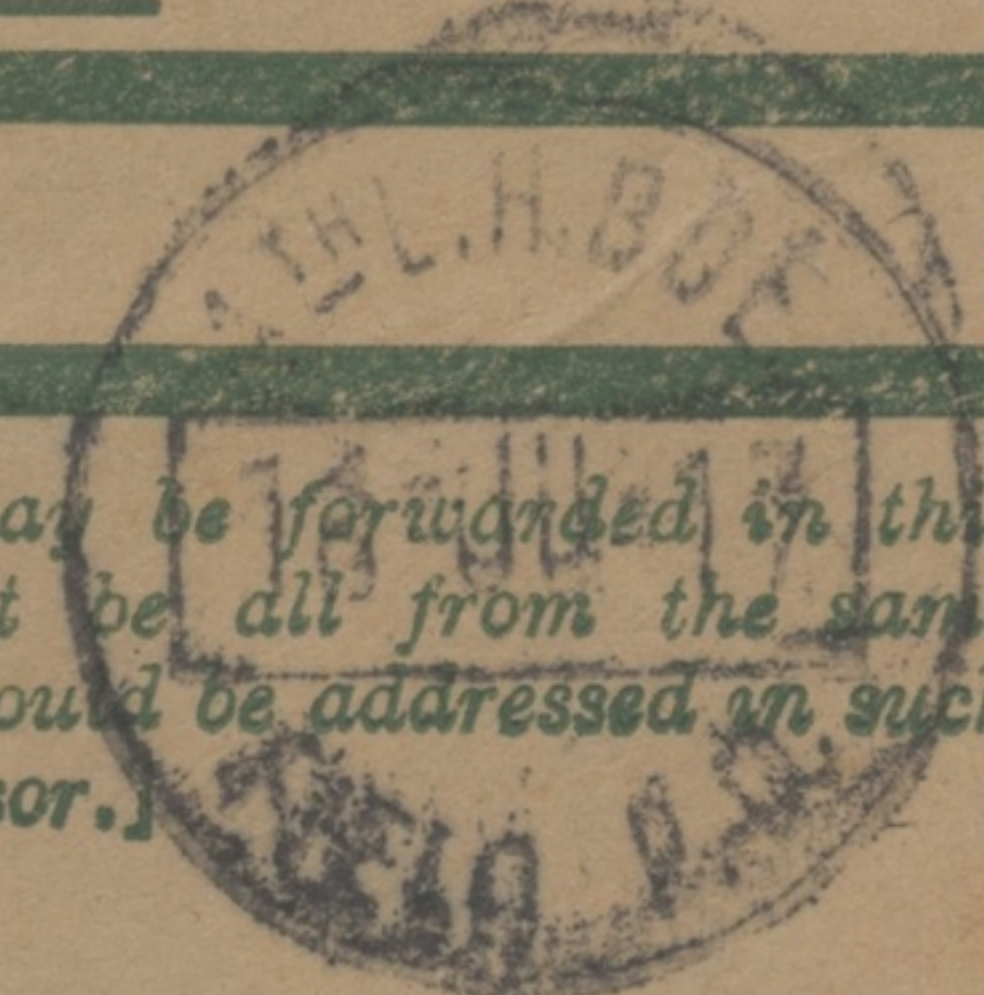
*I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.*

Signature }  
Name only }

W. B. Cleaver

# SERVICE

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Address:—

W. B. Cleaver

Sale

Victoria  
Australia



14-1-18

Dear Miss Beaver.

As we have just finished the first phase of operations & are back resting men & horses, I take this chance of telling you how your late brother met his death. At Beusheba, on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, a determined resistance was being put up by the enemy about 2 miles from the town, so our Brigade was ordered to take the trenches, mounted. Your brother was in the first Squadron that charged (led by myself), & after galloping over two trenches, full of Turks, we dismounted at the third & got in with the bayonet. Your poor brother was killed in the act of dismounting by machine gun fire, as were also his Troop Leader (Lieut Burton) and three others in the Troop. His death was practically instantaneous & he, with the others, were buried next day within a few yards of where they fell. Arrangements are being made, (now we are back,) to erect tombstones over the graves, photographs of which I will send you when completed. Our Sqn casualties were



two officers and ten other ranks killed, and eleven other ranks wounded, so, considering we took over 500 prisoners there, they were extremely light. A curious thing is that, like your brother, all the killed but one, were men who had been with the Regt from the start, and stuck to it through everything. Allow me to convey to you the deepest sympathy of all the officers, A.C.O's & men of the Regt in your sad bereavement. Your brother was one, who at all times & circumstances, was willing & ready to do anything he might be given to do, whether in the field or out of it, and by his conduct won the esteem & respect of all who came in contact with him. He is a great loss to the Regt, and is missed by all, but especially by those who left Aust with him in Oct. 14, I myself being one. His personal effects were gathered up & have no doubt been received by you ere this.

Believe me, yours very sincerely

Jas Lawson Major  
acting C.O.



*Maffra Shire,*

*Shire Hall,*

*Maffra*

13 May 1918

Dear Miss Cleaver,

I am in receipt of yours of the 11th and am glad to hear from you., because my two sons were in the same regiment as your brother, and writing to me of the charge at Beersheba, the eldest Sergt George W French, said they had lost a number of their men, who were the best men who ever lived, he felt sad about it but finished up by saying they died a glorious death. Recently my other son Jim who is a handy chap conceived the idea to do something in memory of his mates, so he found an old tank in the field, and with such tools as he could make he cut out a square of aluminium and engraved the boys names, made a nice cross and mounted it and set it up at Beersheba it was a 4 days journey from where he done this work. He sent me photos of it, which I have sent to Melbourne to be copied and enlarged, which I will present to the relatives of the boys who fell. I think it is a nice idea and shows the feeling that exists among soldiers. Your brother was a general favourite. He did his duty well and his



~~Maffra Shire~~

Shire Hall,

Maffra

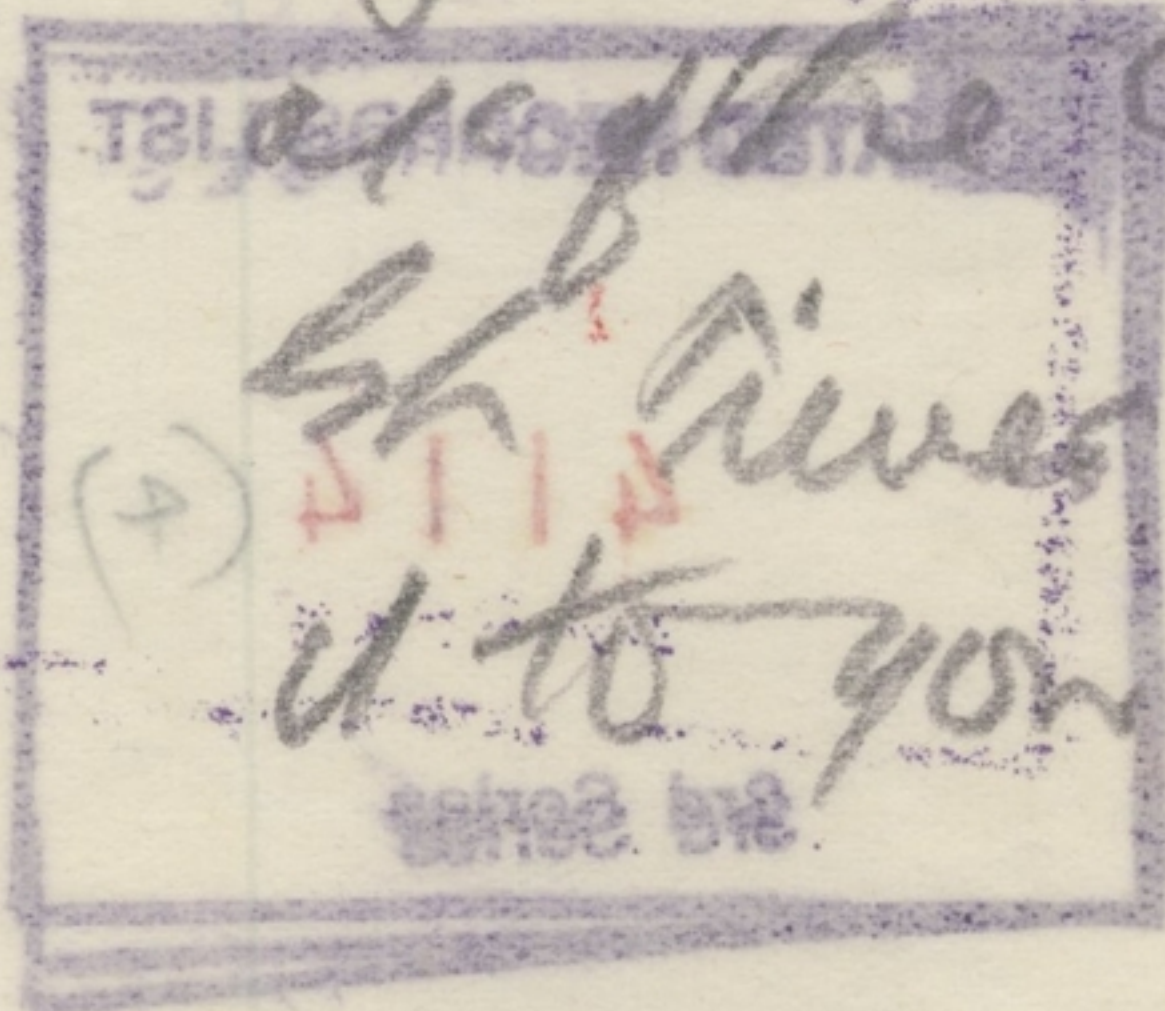
name will be revered with those who have given their all  
to preserve our ideals of liberty and justice. Please accept  
my sympathy. We are all mourning the loss of loved ones.  
I will send your address on to George, as I know he would  
like to write to you.

As soon as the photos are finished I will send you one, as I  
know you will prize it above everything.

Yours sincerely

James Menck

You have no doubt read my son's  
obituary which appeared in the  
Sh Times of the 11 Feb. if not I can send  
it to you to read.





"Beating,"

Maffra.

29th July 1918

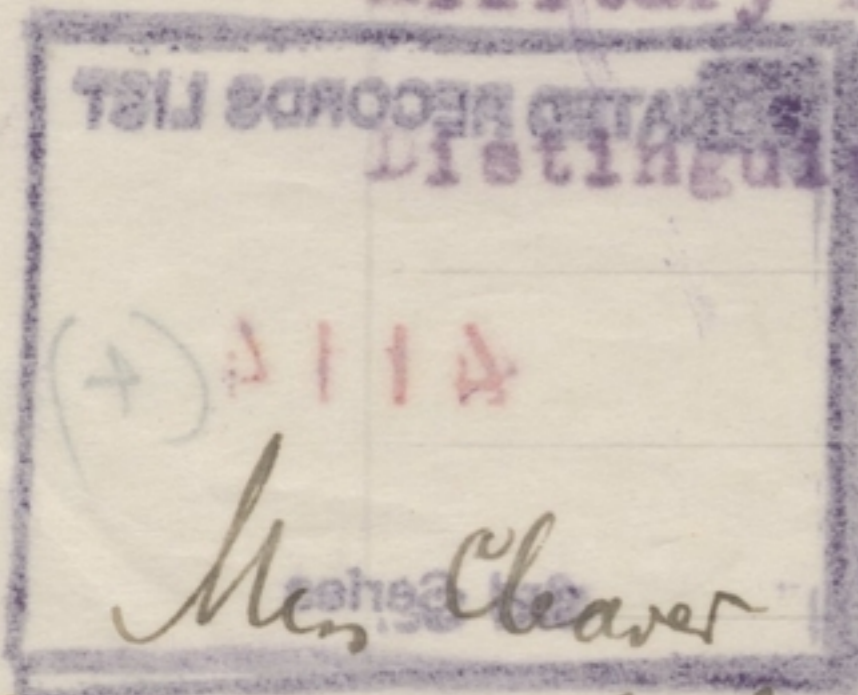
Dear *Miss Cleaver*

Under separate cover I am sending you the long delayed copy of the photo of the Beersheba cross, it is not up to my expectation as it has been slightly enlarged, but Jim writes me saying that he is sending a larger photo of the cross and the graves to each of the next of kin. He sent me one by last mail and it certainly is good and you will appreciate it if it arrives. The names on the 13 crosses at the head of the graves can be read easily, Jim wrote them on with a brush made by him from hair he pulled out of a mule's mane as they had no brushes. The whole is enclosed with a barbed wire and netting fence. He with a party of others made a trip from Gaza with a waggon and mules and erected the crosses and fence. I also send you a photo of each of my sons Jim and George who rode with your brother in his last ride on the 31st Oct '17. I would like you to frame their photos with his. Please send me a photo of your brother as I want to frame all the boys with my own. I have received replies from 11 out of 13, one of the mothers is in Russia, and the other Wickham I cannot get yet. One of my boys George was recommended for a Military medal in the Beersheba fight, and was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal in the battle on the Jordan last April.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully

*Bob French*



*Sale*

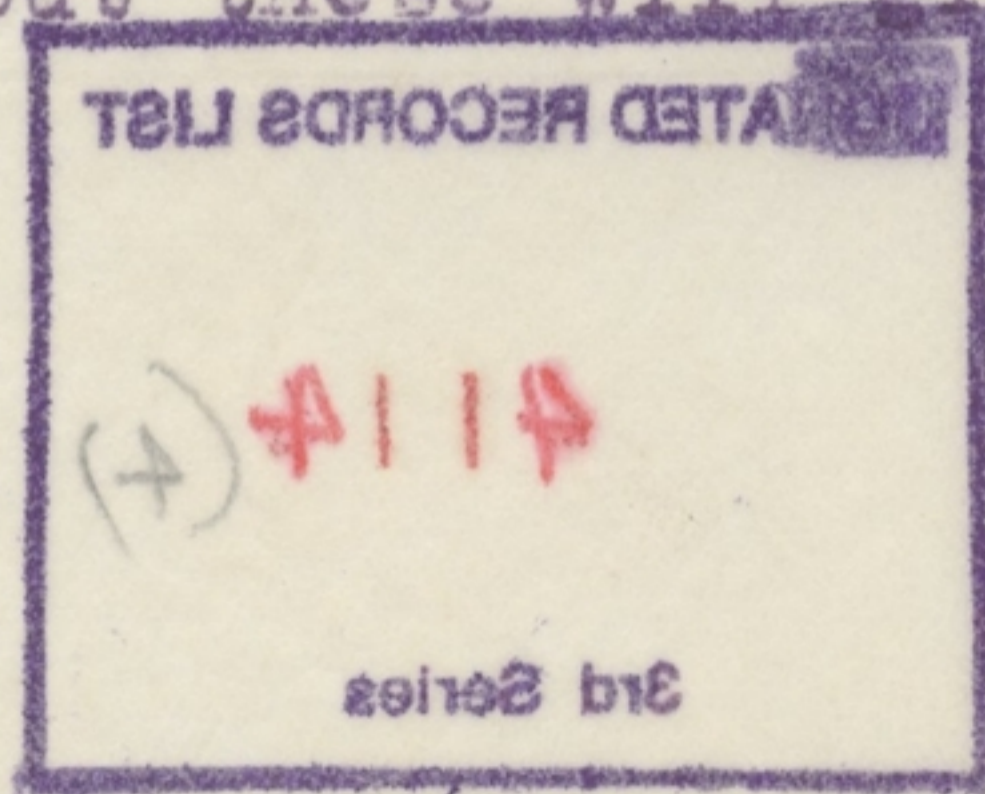


Maffra Victoria

Aug 23 1918

Dear M Cleaver

I enclose a set of three photos just received from Jim who has asked me to send them to you, he says the film of the enlarged photo which I mentioned in my last was lost in the battle of the Jordan by the Flying Corps who were doing the enlargement for him but these will give you a fair idea.



With regards,

Yours faithfully

James Deuch





**AUSTRALIAN  
IMPERIAL FORCE.**



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Headquarters, London.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GRAVE  
OF LATE

(Name) CLEAVER G. R.

(No.) 91 (Rank) Trooper.

(Unit) 4 Light Horse Regt.

Buried Beersheba

Nearest Railway Station \_\_\_\_\_

Palestine





Name and Address of Correspondent to whom  
Photograph sent.

(Name) <sup>E</sup> Father. ~~F. G.~~ Cleaver Esq.

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Australia \_\_\_\_\_

Communications respecting this Photograph or the  
grave of the deceased Soldier should  
be addressed to—

The Officer i/c Records, Australian Graves Services,  
A.I.F. Headquarters, Australia House,  
130 Horseferry Road, Strand,  
London, S.W. 1, W.C. 2.

or

The Officer i/c Base Records,  
Department of Defence,  
Melbourne,  
Victoria.

S.L.S.S.Ltd. B872A-28

**D.R.L. 4114** (2)

[R210096]







# POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS ONLY

↓ KODAK ↓  
A U S T R A L  
↓ KODAK ↓

Serg. SW Menck. D.C.M.  
4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment  
volunteered 12. Aug 14

D.R.L. 4114 (5)