



STEAMSHIP "ASCANIA"

~~to report on the 10.5.1911~~
to my dear Eric
I had just a note to say
that I was in bed last night - I
was very tired & I was
because I'm not asleep!
I can't tell you any
news - it's very difficult
to write a letter when you
are so tired & I don't
know what you are doing
& what you think you
will do in the future - we
don't really know anything at
all! I hope you appeared



of my letter to the Mayor - it
 was written in rather a
 hurry & your ^{fraternal} ^{kind}
 mind ^{may} have found
 some errors. I ^{am} ^{very}
 extremely ^{grateful} ^{to} ^{you}
 for the ^{kind} ^{letter} ^{from}
 him ^{which} ^I ^{received} -
 All the men are comfortable
 & would be well but for
 vaccination but some
 have got foul areas - leg
 but mine is mine too
 well thank you but the
 doctor says it has taken
 nicely. I am like it

you are very well I am well
 is alright before I had done
 it all quite ^{as} ^{usual} ^{as} ^{you}
 I can ^{not} ^{say} ^{for} ^{my}
 news - but I expect when
 writing ^{with} ^{post} will be
 somewhat difficult. However
 no news is good news.
 This is a most comfortable
 ship and I feel myself
 O.C. troops so have a
 very nice cabin but also
 plenty of work and
 have to do all the
 cooking & orders - 70-80
 we had chums & I
 took the service. Very
 impressive, 1100 men

The weather is furious - and
and baldish day, which
unset a good many
otherwise excellent.

My dear Mr. Ward -
I have written but don't
know it - could be otherwise -

Remember me to all my
friends in Reading, though I
hope they are too numerous
for you to do it before
set back.

My best
 regards to your wife -
Miss Simonds

Yours
J. Stie



STEAMSHIP "ASCANIA"

23. May 1915.

My dear Eric.

I hope this will
reach you some day but
mails seem somewhat impeded
from this part of the world &
the postal arrangements are not
very easily carried out under
the conditions which I hear exist
at which I cannot attribute
otherwise you would not see
this at all. We leave this
ship to-morrow at daybreak -
at least I believe so and then
take in the life of the primitive
man for how long? I know not!

All I shall have is what I can carry on
my back - no horses or transport at
present, so I have taken or am going
to take to wearing a pack. In the
present temperature, I don't exactly
relish the idea! It would do your
figure good!!! I can't tell you any
news, am not allowed to but
I think there is a stiff time in front
of us and will have to go for
an week or so. The men are fit
except for ~~malnutrition~~ the fact they're
taken very little exercise for 11 days &
naturally are a little off but that
will soon be alright. We've just
finished your beer & I am sending
the casks back by the punter who
will be from your agent we have
them on board. Well it's difficult
to say what the future holds.

I don't think people at home
realize the many great difficulties
of the situation out here - If the



STEAMSHIP "ASCANIA"

public was told - as it might be.
of the thousands of heroic - really
heroic - deeds which are daily
performed in this part of the
world - I don't think there
would be one man in England
who would not join if he
possibly could - Well, however,
I would be a judge but "an
heroic" tale we meet again,
I don't expect to have any
opportunity to write or send a
letter but if I do get a
chance I'll send you a line.
The wife will I know but you
have my news of the ship too.

I have heard no news except a
few somewhat uninteresting wireless
telegrams since I left, some
news at Malta but nothing of ones
home or family - That is the
hardest part of the war. One minds
nothing else nearly so much. We in
had an excellent time on board &
now for biscuits & bully beef when
you can get either!

Remembers me to My Dear ✓
Sah friend in Rest

W. Eschi

Gallipoli Peninsula

1 June 1915.

My dear Eric.

May thanks for yours received here in this charming spot yesterday - I hope the beer question will be alright. I turned over the cables to the purser of the "Acania" & he faithfully promised me he would return them to your agent at Alexandria or Malta. I've had a very busy & sad time since I arrived here. On landing I was pelted with the terrible news of my brother Frank's death in the trenches. I don't think I've ever had such a shock. I can't now write about it now - it was awful - I was looking forward so much to seeing him & he would not be long met to me - He didn't suffer anything thank God. This is a pretty hot affair and were in for the time of our lives. Already I've had one officer wounded & we haven't been up to the trenches yet. I was up there yesterday & take the Ball^{er} here to-morrow for 4 days though I hear we're to do a big advance in three or four days which seems to me absolute madness. There are a lot of generals here who want to send home optimistic reports when things are much the other way! I suppose some day an end will come but

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I can't see how: we live in any ants as we
can shelter day & night - were all here
in our rest!!! camp 2 1/2 miles from the
Turkish trenches: and were only a very
few troops. The Road has been doing
splendidly & has ^{lost} ~~not~~ terribly but it has
got a really good name with the Army
now. I only hope my lass will do well.
There a good lot & are settling down well.
I think there giving them a pretty tough
preparation for a start off if this advance
comes off and it is eating a lot of
them. Well - you can't please publish
this letter but you can give them an idea
where I am. Don't get work & want to
quite happy were it not for poor Frank. I
luckily am very busy otherwise I shouldn't
be able to think of anything else. You may
be sure I'll run no unnecessary risk
but there are no moments when I'm any
safe here except in your day out and
then an old shell may come along - a
big one. I suppose this must be quite
a nice place - its very hot!!! & very
thirsty work - but were getting on alright -
with me occasionally & remember me to
all friends in Reading

Yours
John Estlin.

GALLIPOLI

June 9 1915.

My dear Enid,

I've just returned from a very strenuous 5 days during which I have had no sleep at all & came back absolutely filthy. The trenches here are not all joy being full of filth, smells and as hot as it well could be & the strain is rather trying as we never know when our friend the Turk will hit attack. We are not so very close as a rule about 150 yards off though in one place only a large redoubt built in the trench separates us & they occupy themselves throwing bombs.

We had a general advance or what was to be a general advance last Friday. It was pretty bad & not at all successful. I should have thought by now that those Generals who never come near the firing line & know nothing about local conditions except what they see on the map, might have learnt that you cannot do frontal attacks against well entrenched troops at the day time. I am sure they have learnt it well. Our poor hard Division

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suffered terribly & we gained practically
no ground anywhere. In the 2nd
Brigade we lost 980 men - one battalion
the one Smith came out with me
has ceased to exist for all purposes -
losing 28 out of 30 officers & 500 men.
One Brigade was much more fortunate
but still lost heavily - I had no officers
killed & wounded and about 50 men.
As I have to be careful of the censor,
I will not give my full opinion
of the strategy or tactics! but some
of the orders received based on the
most inaccurate information would
startle people! So how we are there
we were. You may read of
the progress of the Allies. You are
sure to hit it doesn't exist for
any practical purpose. We have a
large & ~~insurmountable~~ difficulty
in front of us - namely a hill
over 700 ft high full of wire
entanglement & entrenchments &
the sea 2 1/2 miles in rear of
our firing line trenches & here we
are - we can't move forward &
we can't move back without
swimming! and now in our

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our firing line trenches & here we
are - we can't move forward &
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swimming! and now in our

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rest (!!!) camp we are shelled happily
all day except when brother Turk
wants a sleep. We hear they
are bringing up a large quantity
of guns so what the end will
be is difficult to see. I am
writing this practically underground
as they are having their P.M. Shelling
& its unhealthily outside. The men
are really splendid - they were very
weary after their 5 days but
stick it well & are smiling now
again. They say France is a
picnic to this. It certainly
couldn't be worse but they are all
very cheery and happy. (I should
be too but I can't get over
my bother - It was the worst
blow I've ever had.) We don't
live at all badly. The rations
are excellent but its rather
difficult getting them up from
the beach. They always
plaster the road with ~~logs~~
shrapnel & the air is very
thick with bullets getting them
into the trenches. The flies
are getting pretty bad and I
supper had got worse. What we

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Snipers from north is Snipers. They are full of
pluck & very clever - all sorts of
ways they use to hide themselves -
usually they put kees on their backs
& crawl up to the trenches or get behind
if they can. I watched a bush cat
which was shaking a lot the other day
& there was no wind & then saw it
distinctly move some yard - so I
got a it with a rifle with another
man & it went very rapidly, at
last it stopped but whether the sniper
was only lying down or not I
could not say. We have a lot of
them - and they are very annoying -
some paint themselves & their rifles
green and are practically invisible
& have been found living underground
in quite large holes with a big stock
of food, water & ammunition. The
sharpshooter they've been pouring over
our camp has just got two of
my men but thank goodness not
very badly - one of them has been
slightly wounded already twice
in the last 3 days; and a sharpshooter
bullet has just whizzed past my
transport officer's head and my knee

I buried myself in the mud about 1 foot
 to my left foot. Nice safe life, this.
 They've been very lavish with their
 supplies today & I think they've
 got a fresh supply - I'm sure they
 run out soon. The safest place in
 the Peninsula is the firing trench.
 The beach is very unhealthy at times
 as they will shell it from Asia and
 there's a gun known as Annie
 from Asia which is a perfect demon-
 will I must stop. Peace seems to
 reign again and there is much to
 do. Write me soon. Remember me
 to all my friends in Peary. This is
 the different from journey up to
 Annon & back and going to the
 House. However I hope it won't
 be long before I'll be doing it
 again - Though we have fine
 weather, the small portion of the
 Gallipoli Peninsula we occupy
 is not exactly a health resort.
 Remember me to you both.

W. L. Estlin

Hawke Bath

Gallipoli
June 24 1915

My dear Eric,

You must circulate my letters to you as I have very little time and can't write as I should like to to all my friends in Reading - I've got a Resolution in front of me or rather on the sand in my dug out from West Ward. Please thank them very much and tell them I hope very much to be allowed to come back & be with them all again. When you write to me, send me an envelope. I can scarcely get hold of a piece of Service paper but envelopes are very scarce: and I shall be able to write at all soon & send it! We have just come down from the trenches after 18 days there and now I hear in 2 days time we are to go up again - we are frightfully short of men in the R.N. Division & one Brigade has had to go to Imbros for a rest having been very badly cut up & so there are only 2 Brigades left - so we do watch on & watch off in the trenches. Watch off is not all joy in the so called Rest Camp which is only 2 miles from

the firing line and we got happily shelled
 at all meal times + generally an
 evening bombardment - (The Turk has
 been very quiet today. I don't know
 why but am very suspicious - we always
 are when he is quiet - we had a
 bad time last week - I was ordered to
 take a Turkish trench about 80
 yards in front of our line + at
 12:30 am on the 19th we assaulted
 it - we didn't succeed the first
 time so went again at 2:30 am.
 and got in - the Turks retiring or
 rather running away - It was
 then the terrible began as I feared
 it might - I never liked the
 look of that trench - it was
 only a small one on a commanding
 position just opposite us and
 I felt sure they had it properly
 protected - as they had. As soon
 as we were in it - they
 started Shrapnel + maxims
 on the flanks - entrenching us
 badly - my men worked like
 Trojans + splendidly to put
 up parapets but it was very
 difficult to work + you couldn't
 put your head above the parapet.

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For the perfect hail of bullets - well
they stuck it till 8-20 + about 1 hour
before that, the bombing had started.
The Turks crept up in some dead
ground + just dropped bombs over
doing awful damage - when only
6 men were left in the trench unhurt,
(+ I'd only relieved the first lot who
took the trench $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before) we
had to retire - I lost 4 really good
officers killed 1 badly wounded +
80 men killed or wounded +
since then we spend every night up
there bombing each other. Fortunately
I had a catapult, + could throw
bombs further than they could
but it's not a pleasant situation -
and the bomb is such a horrible
instrument of warfare. It does
unimaginable damage to men.
The general sent a very complimentary
telegram one one week but I
think they thought we might have
held it having won it - + they
had another go with the same
Barrade ~~as~~ last night. They
were won the trench as we did
+ were bombed out in an
hour and I lost one of my best

friends Major Jones who led the assault,
 there is no doubt the Turk is a very
 good man as a fighting man &
 his trenches have all been engineered
 by very clever German engineers &
 consequently if we do succeed in
 taking one, we are immediately
 turned out of it by enfilade fire.
 Now they say they are using gas -
 if they do, I am sorry for all
 of us & I see myself swimming
 to Imbros the nearest island,
 as were only the sea behind us.

(The heat is bad & the flies worse,
 but we are all as cheerful as
 can be though these losses in our
 Battalion upset us all badly &
 I've already lost over 200) & only
 been here a month today -
 more troops are arriving but
 we can't put them here as
 we are crowded out as it is,
 and crowding is what they want
 for their shelling. The French
 on our right made a great
 advance - we call it part
 of about 200 yards and did a
 lot of damage with their big

ships guns. They were bursting out about
 500 yards from me in the trenches & the
 whole earth vibrated. - The Turks were
~~very~~ much disturbed
 & the French captured the Turkish trench
 hardly without any casualties. However
 the other was & counter attacks gave
 them much trouble & they had about
 3200 casualties but did well. I
 am very busy reorganizing the Batt-
 but get little time. - Today I
 have 600 men away digging -
 but much of a rest after 8 days
 trenches with the prospect of
 another 8 days in a few days
 time - (I am very fit & well
 but the strain is pretty hard
 sometimes) & I certainly never
 thought they would ask my
 Battalion after 2 months training
 at Blandford as a battⁿ to
 do work of this sort. (The men
 are doing splendidly - very cheery
 in spite of all discomforts and
 they are weary in trench life -
 in fact I don't know of any
 comforts!!!) but of course they are
 very fresh to it & want experience
 badly - I experience is very

dearly brought out here. Thanks ever so
 much for your letter about my brother. It
 was about the worst blow I've ever
 had & I don't think I'd ever have
 joined the RND only I wanted to
 be with him. Such a lot of my
 friends out here have been killed - it
 is pretty bad. We get us news and
 mails are few & far between - very
 erratic but the German submarine
 makes things difficult for transports
 & of course, the Navy cannot come
 round here much - were lost 3
 battleships as you know - it was
 its time - I saw a report of a
 speech by Winston Churchill when
 he said we had only a few miles
 of ridge & scrub to get over. I'd
 like his opinion of ridges when
 a hill like Achi Baba 700 ft
 high, studded with guns, riddled
 with trenches and covered in
 barbed wire stores are in the
 face day & night. It's a stiff job
 and one of the stiffest ever be-
 fore. I don't myself see
 the way out at present but
 when the reinforcements arrive

perhaps things may change. [?] They may
come soon also some high
explosive ammunition otherwise we'll
be all here to pretend were submarines!
Must stop ~~to~~ an revoir - remember me
to all my old friends in Reading.
I look forward very much to seeing them
all again, but I'm afraid it
won't be for some time.

Prof. Ernest Rutherford

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message 5

SM 1AW 48 AX JLS	Charges to Pay. £ s. d.	Office Stamp. 3-7-15
Service Instructions.		

Handed in at AX Office m. Received 9/15 m.

TO O.C. Hawke

Sender's Number <u>BM 6</u>	Day of Month <u>3rd</u>	In reply to Number	AAA
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following message received from G.O.C. RND
 for gratulation on very successful work done
 "the last two nights by
 "the 1st Bde" RND. Please convey
 this message to all ranks
 of your formation

FROM	<u>G.O.C. 1st Bde</u>
PLACE & TIME	<u>0905</u>

Hawke Bay

1st Royal Naval Brigade

R.N. Division

B.M. & Force

9.7.15.

My dear Eric

You are really a friend to write me as you do practically every week & your letters are most welcome. I wrote you a long letter last time I was down from the trenches which I hope arrived. The food is somewhat erratic but taking into consideration all the trouble there is in landing things here & the difficulty of transport owing to the constant attention we receive from German submarines, I think it is very good work that we receive letters or parcels at all. Today is Friday & we came down from the trenches on Tuesday night after 8 days there - that is we have done 16 days out of the last 22 in the firing line and we all need a rest pretty badly. We can get practically no sleep up there and of course is constantly on the qui vive more particularly at night & in the early morning. We did a lot of work this time, taking our firing line out about 70 yards to the front - this is done by sapping out communication trenches and then at

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night digging the firing line with its traverses
etc. You must do the latter in the open without
sapping. If you ever hope to finish it as
sapping is so slow & we dug out in the
open 3 nights & made a very good line &
were not caught by the Turks at it. Of
course we had a few casualties but
if they saw you, it means very many -
I had 9 men killed and 10 wounded
this time - better than last but bad enough
& of course we lose a certain number
since as the conditions of life here are
not exactly healthy with the heat and
the flies & a narrow trench to live sleep
& eat in. However // the men are very
fit, very cheery and worked splendidly -
The strain is bad - one man went
down off his head & one absolutely
deaf and dumb. There was really
only one exciting day & that was when
the Turks made an attack on our night
It was very sudden & unexpected & the
battalion on my right fell back &
I saw to my horror the whole of my
right flank being exposed. The Turks
got into the firing trench on my right
but with the aid of machine guns
& a counter attack they were cleared
out & peace resumed again - Just as the

3

was happening, about 20 men came over
their parapet exactly opposite to me but a machine
gun put them back pretty quickly. Apparently
this was a new Turkish army corps just
arrived - One prisoner we took said he
had been on the road 14 days from
Adrianople & was put in the trenches
right away. The whole Corps was
supposed to advance but didn't - I wish
they had because we were quite
ready & they wouldn't have had a
chance. If it hadn't been for the
temporary trouble on the night, I
would have let them come on,
for if you let them in till they are
about 20 yards off & then put your
men up, they have not an earthly
hope of reaching your trench. The
Turks were very well equipped - had
uniform, equipment and rifles. ~~Now~~
orders we have been finding are
dead Turks & prisoners, they send
short of ammunition. So are we -
and it is a thousand pities for
every day we give them, it only makes
it harder for us to advance as
they go on improving their trenches
& if we only had plenty of
ammunition now we could go ahead,

but to attempt to do so against trenches ^{up}
without pulverising the trenches we are
going to take with High explosive
is sheer murder to our own men -
we are helpless here now until they
send us H.E. ammunition & we want
lots of it if we are going to get through -
its the only way we shall and we must
get through within 2 months or not
at all, for the seas are so bad here
in October & onward that we shall
not be able to land stores after
them - such is my information & I
believe it is quite correct. In time
to come you will all hear all about
this expedition if anyone is left alive
to tell it!! but how we must
just go on doing our best & hoping to
goodness England will wake up &
send us & the press in France that
absolutely necessary article. Shell -
we've been 11 months at war
now & yet cannot get what is
absolutely essential to save our men's
lives - that is what hurts
us all - the need might well
have been realized at first
even by our best military
authorities & if we had had not

had enough up to last January. ⁵ there
was some excuse but here we are
in July & still we cannot advance
& are helpless because we have
not enough munitions. I wonder if
the people at home realize how
many men have been killed simply
on account of this - An one distinguished
general said to me the other day in
the trenches - If they do realize at
home & yet won't supply us, then
they're not worth fighting for - much
less worth dying for. The feeling
is very strong but I don't think, thank
goodness, the men themselves quite
realize the position but they know
something is wrong. Surely the Turks
have not much H.E. ammunition
if they had would be off the Peninsula
as it is they are making this very
unpleasant on the beach & in
the wet camps and now we
hear rumors of a 17" howitzer
being put up in Asia - hell -
I can go on for some time !!!
but must stop. As to the
R.D. there are all sorts of

6

rumours about its future. Samuith is
in the air. We have given over our
Sector of the Topyne to the 52nd Division.
Mine was the last batt. to occupy any
position. I don't think we'll go back
again. We are dreadfully short -
I've lost 5000 since we've been
here and started with about 11000 -
but with reinforcements have about 8000
now. My brigade has lost 57 officers
& 1000 men - at present the men are
all dipping every day. There are
several statements "quoted" in the
"best authority" every day but none
I know of really true. I have heard
several things from the Battery guards
the Canal in Egypt. They seem to
have had enough of heat & flies &
nothing to do. I can't let
them have my news - I can't
write to all as they're important.
I envy you your trip to London.
I shall be glad to hear the
~~proceedings of Broad St. & the~~
~~Proceedings again!!!~~ I'm very
fit - by best wishes to you
Wife I hope you find mine
fit & wish also my family!
Yours truly
J. M. Leslie

1000
Hans Baldz

23. July 1915

My dear Eric

Observe the address!
~~not Philipoli!~~ Today is Friday and I
am here on Monday for a weeks
rest. They tried to send me to
Hospital but I struck + am
lying here in a tent + doing absolutely
nothing except lie about. I got
sickness from the smell of dead
Turks + could eat nothing + got
rather run down and cannot
go on so they insisted on my
going away much to my disgust.
However I'm better though not
quite fit but I'm going back
on Sunday whatever anyone may
say as I can't leave my
men any longer - we had a
very strenuous week last week

as there was a big amount on our
 Sector on the Turkish lines. We
 were very close. Reserve but
 were all used up and in
 the end occupied the Turkish
 Trenches. But at a terrible
 cost. The 52nd Div. started
 the attack - that is the
 Highland Territorial Division -
 it got very cut up &
 we came in (the R.N.D.) and
 finished it. All suffered
 very heavily - one of our battalions
 the Portsmouth had not a
 single officer left. 2 Colonels
 were killed including a great
 friend of mine Col Evelyn
 who commands the battalion
 in my Brigade. The below
 which always has been next door
 to me. (Almost the work
 part was the occupation of

of the Turkish trenches after they were
taken. They were simply a mass of
dead - & dead in front & behind -
In the trenches themselves, the
Turks had buried all their dead
in the parapets & underneath &
you couldn't move a parapet or
walk anywhere without coming
across them. Consequently the
atmosphere was awful & it
upset a lot of us including
myself. I've never come across
such a horrible state of affairs
before could do very little - we
buried about 160 in 2 nights
but you couldn't get out
with the spade because of
the fire and the Turks
shelled us very hard after
we'd taken the trenches.
Altogether we buried in the

Detⁿ about 1000 yds. front an
 advance of about 400 yards -
 not much towards Achi Beta
 + one casualty was between
 3 + 4000: 3 are down
 have just arrived. Kit-chens,
 a fine looking lot of men. I
 hope they get a good chance.

This Island is about 10
 miles from the Peninsula.
 + the GOC lives here &
 conducts operations from
 here. I saw Jack
 Churchill this morning
 He is Camp Commandant!!
 His men are the
 the best of all and can
 sleep above ground.
 The RND has been
 promised a rest!!
 It has been promised me

for a long time & it must
 have me soon so that it
 can reorganize for it is
 all over the place at
 present. Some publications
 absolutely cut to pieces -
 Mine, thank goodness, is
 still more or less intact or
 less when I left it. I am
 nervous what will happen
 to it every minute I
 am away. Well, let
 me, I'd let you know
 what our next move is.
 Something must give soon
 as we can't stay where
 we are for the winter!
 I don't know what's going
 to happen! Save me or
 some people ought to get

murdered in the most
pamphlet manner over
his show. He is more
accepted & well & the
cars are better. Reminds
me to all

by
Justice.



TELEPHONE,
62 WOKINGHAM.

PENSDELL,
WOKINGHAM,
BERKS.

Gallipoli

1 August 1915

My dear Eric

2 letters from you one
of 7 & one of 13 July - also
the valuable & useful notes
papers & envelopes which I'm
now using. I'm awfully sorry
to hear you are so sick. It
really seems like glanders!
but I expect & hope by this
time it is all a thought of
the past. I saw parts of
my letter of the 24th published
in the papers. That was
slight but I hear there is

some chat about another letter
I gave to you. So Arthur
Hench tells me - when I told
you of the show on the 4
June + gave you the committee.
Apparently that is another
eyes! However the censor
at home published it + I
hardly don't care what they
say out here. I came back
from my bit of sickness
3 days ago + am quite alright
again + found my Cadd well

+ been though tired. I want
a change badly off the
Peninsula where they can
sleep in open ground
+ are not always under
shell fire. We are not
of the trenches now and
standing by as Army Corps
Review - doing walking
parties mostly on the beach.
By the time you receive this
you will have heard of
the new move. I think be

over. I don't know exactly when
it is to take place but very
shortly and great things are
expected of it - in fact Optimism
is so rampant that it is
expected to end this Expedition -
I hope sincerely it will be
so but I can't help but
shrink entirely that
optimistic feeling. We are
yours dependant on this
new Army K's Army
almost entirely for this
new affair and it is going to

TELEPHONE,
62 WOKINGHAM.

PENSDALL,
WOKINGHAM,
BERKS.

by themselves high - They are a
very good looking lot of men &
of course have had an
excellent training. Lets all
hope for the best. I don't
know what our role will
be but we are sure to be
to stand by ready - are the
"Old Guard" + if all goes
well we may have to
chase the fleeing Turk up
+ down the slopes of Ash
Baba! I don't think many of

the old troops can run very
far! However I'm glad
something is to be done.
Something must be done as
we can't stay where
we are much longer. The
winter is long & the rain is
about 3 weeks & then I
don't know what will
happen. The men can't
live in dry out with
a pot of water there & they

can't live alone ground with
continuous shelling - also
we have no harbors where
we can land supplies or
entire wounded in
rough weather & it flows
here a pale at the
winter - May thanks for
your offer - well - a case of
whiskey would be something
we'd all sit round &
look at with women &
awful & if it fetched up
your name would be blessed
for ever: so have a try.
I hope you get your cash back

from the "Ascania". Today is
my 39th birthday !!! Nice
present to spend it. Going to
celebrate it by a dinner at which
much valuable tinned food
from Peary's house will be
used. Will by agreement of
James & I all in
Rendy. I was truly sorry to
see Andrew Hill has been
killed. He is a very good man &
was such a good fellow.

My
Carter

Hauke Battⁿ

40

Jalipohi

10-8-15

My dear Eric,

/// Your last letter July 18th from
Heron on a note paper with a picture of a
hull which made my mouth water. Yes,
I would mind a few days there! as dull
as you like to make it! I hope you're
quite fit again. // Extraordinary thing but by W²
said I think you'd get dandruff! I'm
delighted when you are getting on so well
as to a most unpleasant thing, I've
always heard for a human to have -
but go & get any more Equine diseases -
then also quite enough kept for us
as it is. // I've just been inoculated
against cholera - now I think I've
been punctured against everything! Smallpox
typhoid cholera - there can't be much
more. // The case of yellow liquid you
say you have sent off will be most
acceptable & I (also others) await
its arrival with greater anxiety than
we do that of mine reinforcements, the
latter are certainly urgently needed!
I am afraid it was impossible for me
to send a cable on Aug 4. One thing
was I did not get your letter till

afterwards & another that I can't send
 private cables from here except by
 posting to Alexandria & a letter gets
 nearly as quickly. We are quite cut
 off from mails at present - there
 are thousands of bags at Sennar but
 nothing can get here because of the
 new move at present going on. We,
 personally, are not in it at present
 but in Reserve awaiting developments
 but may be in it any moment or may
 not be in it at all. I can't tell you
 the idea as the censorship forbids but
 you'll have seen it in the papers before
 you get this - you'll have also seen whether
 it has been a success or not - If we
 haven't captured yet the other side of
 one hill Achi Baba which we've now
 been facing for so long, it has not been
 a success for we are held up here &
 certainly will never take it by frontal
 attack - We tried again last week &
 the force 29th had large casualties & were
 held a Turkish trench & the 42nd did
 the same. If this new move is not
 a decided success, I don't know where
 we shall be! We shall be in the most
 awkward position a British force has
 ever been with the winter coming on!

There seems no doubt we are here for the winter
 with a cold here the day - snow and always
 a high wind to the place impassable!!!
 of course we cant live in dug outs when
 they are full of water - not outside them
 when you are shacked out of existence. So
 where are we? Well I suppose the Red
 was with fresh snow day but we've got
 a long way to go yet + you may see the
 R.N.D. winding Austria via the Danube
 yet! I dont know where we shall all
 be after the war! but its going to be a
 very different world + we'll all have to
 live a very different + more economical
 life. In fact I may have to return +
 reside in Australia to be able to live
 at all. I've got no news for you really -
 am very well - dont always feel very
 inclined to run 10 miles. The climate
 cant be called bracing. I bathe
 among the shells some days when I can
 get away which is one of my relaxations. Agnes
 called Annie from Asia gets long that way
 at times - well I hope you'll read good news
 of us in the papers but dont believe too much.
 If we havent advanced from this 3 1/2 miles we
 had in the South, it isnt good. Cheer up + the
 best of luck to you all
 Ever your
 Leslie

Hanshe Bates

Woolacombe Bay Hotel,
Woolacombe,

N. DEVON.

TELEPHONE 7.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"HOTEL, WOOLACOMBE."

RAILWAY STATION:
MORTEHOE (L. & S.W.R.)

15 8 1915

My dear Eric

Thank you for your letter and the letter in the paper!
I'm very glad to hear you are better & will be about as your big way again soon. No! I don't think I'd mind a week or two at Woolacombe Bay at all & would by no means grumble at having nothing to do. As a matter of fact we are not doing much at present as we are not in the trenches & mostly standing by being used when is necessary and waiting to chase the fleeing Turk up Achis Baba hill & over the top. He has not however shown up to the present any symptoms of a desire to fight.

in fact he has been making himself
 rather objectionable during the last
 war by attacking us. not however
 with much success except to
 himself. We are all waiting
 the developments to the north
 where the Austrians are. It
 was true your 13th Division
 have been in action though
 I think Bourne got killed in
 the trenches here before they
 left for that move. Its
 very difficult to say what
 the situation is. I'm not
 allowed to go on anything - for
 another I really don't know it.
 Anyway very optimistic reports
 which seem to be for you

TELEPHONE 7.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"HOTEL, WOOLACOMBE."

RAILWAY STATION:
MORTEHOE (L. & S.W.R.)

Woolacombe Bay Hotel,
Woolacombe,

N. DEVON.

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191

I think it possible Constantinople will
fall in a month - the best that
we shall all be swimming for
Tenedos in a week's time. I wish at
least to know I'm sure when you have
been into affairs at Blythmore St.
Our expenses ought not to be heavy
and I don't suppose our expenditure
is more than 350 a year is it?
If we don't get the other 150 from
contributions, we'll have to get
the Central Office to help or
get Coules to accept a retaining
salary. I think he'd do the latter
under the circumstances. Now
with allowances, even with 50 a year
knocked off, he is doing much better
than in better times especially as he
is now a Sgt into the prospect of
a Star as Sgt Major. Anyhow vice all

get to do with less + after the war, as far
as I can see, with nothing. It will
be a very serious problem to consider
as to how far ones political activities
can be pursued from a financial
point of view, compatible with a due
regard for ones growing family!!! I
have the MS from my last quarter
belong to the Beths Hospital. The
decision rests with you + the mayor if
she doesn't quite know what to do
with it. Well I'm fairly fit - as
well as me can be in the Dads
piece - quite cheap - but the
men are not well - a lot of
diabetes of a bad type - but
53 sick beds + its getting down
but up. No real part of
to write so often + must
appreciate. Cheers

Mr Leslie,

but much
you can use here!
FAS
17.8.15

Hawke Bato
falupli

68

My dear Eric,

No news except good news
for me. ~~for~~ a case of whisky arrived
yesterday!!! Had it not been for the close
proximity of Brigade 110th who would
have engaged the reason + probably
demanded their quota, the 110th would
have broken into wild cheering.
Really a most welcome present and it
came very quickly. There were also
2 bottles broken so only 10 remain -
only 10 - absolutely unusable for anyone
to possess 10 bottles of whisky here!
I wish peace to open an eye with
you from!!! We have with and you
desires + then now it has been
proved successful, I can get things
out the same way & would you
send a case of 1 dozen assorted
liquors especially brandy, rummel
cristal de menthe + cherry whiskey -
Even if it doesn't turn up, no
harm done but your way of
sending seems most successful
& the case did not come into

other panels but on its lovely own - We are
 off to the trenches again in a day or so
 its rather rough as we have been
 promised a rest for so long. The men
 are really quite unfit for trench work
 & we are all under the weather a
 bit. I'm 14 quins weak - I'm sick
 & send 6 or 7 men to hospital daily
 & have a sub list of 50 or more -
 its getting worse every day. However
 we keep smiling though I don't think
 there's one who wouldn't give forth
 a peean of joy if the war came
 to an end & we saw the last
 of this dusty & gloomy peninsula -
 One great hindrance to drive the Turks
 off the Peninsula has not yet
 been removed with success! We
 remember one where we were (with
 the attention of a few yards)
 3 months ago! but you will still read of
 continued progress of the Allies in
 the Peninsula. The all the
 progress is the summer & when the
 winter comes here!!! I think the
 Turk is waiting for that. Saloon
 and staff. I make remembrance
 of an old hat it - a word
 welcome one prose.

Hanka Bato^{na}.

81

30. Aug 1915.

My dear Eric.

2 letters from you received in the trenches - I am sure I'll never answer it - letters from a lot of Reading people which is very good of them. Mr. Munnick also writes & admires that I'll try & answer them some time soon. I am at the moment waiting for my relief to come up and so as not to waste any time start a letter to you, but it would be finished I'm sure. I hope not at any rate - as I want to get back after 7 days here & have a bath! Water is a most valuable commodity up here in the trenches, even more valuable than beer! The latter is only a dream of the past - It writes with whether you are a temperance advocate or not to say whether a good or bad dream! I tell my doctor he is a "hysteric" dipsomaniac because he talks & thinks of nothing else but the day when he can get a glass of beer again! However I must not go on to visions of the past & as to what we'll eat & drink when we see a bird again - the subject though is one which often occupies our thoughts when struggling in

a temperature of 100 in the shade to believe you
 are really enjoying bruly beef biscuits & tea.
 We have had a very quiet time in the
 trenches. Taking things all round & taking
 into consideration the fact that at no
 point are we more than 100 yards &
 in 2 places absolutely touching the
 Turks - that is there is about 20
 yards of "no man's land" and 5 or 6
 respective barricades on either side.

4pm 31st/₂

Got relieved & back here by 8 and continuing
 this for a short time - There are no major
 interruptions & they make the pace even in
 "rest" camp so hard that we really have
 no time & the men get very little rest.
 I've been writing since 11am all the morning -
 held a crust of sausage, & we had a
 moment. Though we only came down
 last night the men had to go on
 digging postholes tonight and this will
 go on till we return to the trenches in
 a week's time. Apparently we are
 here for the winter - not exactly a
 successful prospect but the advance
 from ANZAC seems held up entirely
 and we certainly cannot advance.
 As a matter of fact it is certainly a

very open question if we could stop the Turk getting through when he attacked in force as ours is a very thin Kharko line & we have absolutely no men in Reserve except the Battalions resting.

1st Sept.

Shall finish this same day. I've been hearing all sorts of stories about the Germans & do hope they are not true. The "buzz" as we call it here is that they were landed at Anzac and have had terrible casualties. How long had killed - he was of Brigade & the straightest man that ever lived. Kemura also died of wounds and altogether in that ^{ve.} cost about there were had over 30,000 casualties. I do hope the British Germans did not get it very badly but though only separated by the Turks some 9 miles we can get no news at all. The whole show has been a miserable fiasco. Generals & staffs complete had been sent home & there is no one to help us here. We are to start putting up winter quarters!! when material is available. I shall have no latitude left soon. I had a draft of 220 war babies 10 days ago, but now an of 600 strong & much sickness every day. The calibre of that

draft is smothering I can't talk about it. It
 is well too dispaupful - utterly
 untravelling & I'm not exaggerating because
 we've had to weed them out & put them
 in a special camp 89 under 17½ - &
 one 14½ yrs old however under 16 &
 boys under 17 - to fight the Turk!!!
 I feel that this is voluntary service
 the unweaned child dropped by his
 mother's hand to the recruiting station
 for the sake of the separation allowance
 & the doctor taking them for the sake
 of his gift for each recruit which is
 the 1st custom in the R.N. - well
 I don't stop. Your letters are most
 welcome. For myself I was very well
 but my work in the trenches has done
 me a lot of good & I'm by well now -
 It's already getting cold and there is
 to day one of the finest dust storms
 imaginable blowing. All the germs
 are up in the air & most find
 a home in some one I suppose.

Cheers - 5 100 pipes around this
 night for the birthday Club. The men
 were delighted with them. I'll write
 as soon as the cigarettes arrive.

Jimmie

Hawne Bath

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Friday: 17.9.15.

My dear Fri.

Your letter of 22 Aug. I got in the trenches. We've just finished 8 days up there and ~~are~~^{are} ~~about~~ for 7 - then back again for 7 and soon ~~so on~~!! at best that is all we can see ahead at present until the R.N.S becomes so beautifully less that it cannot hold the sector any longer. The sickness has been appalling and I am reduced to 450 men in spite of a new draft of 200 which arrived a month ago. Another draft of 120 for this Bath is expected in a week's time - the staff had some knowledge what they will be like. I hear worse than the last lot which will be almost impossible. We had quite a quiet time in the trenches last week - a lot of work as usual: every available man not actually in the firing line digging - Did you see those lines in Punch

If a million men with all their tools were to dig for $\frac{1}{2}$ a year

Do you think the Captain said "that we should then be clear?"

Not likely said the Adjutant knowing his Brigadier!

Very true! There is hardly an inch of this

75

Somewhat small portion of the Galapagos ²
Peninsula ^{which} which has not been dug up
for some purpose or another & still we go
on. Now we shall start redigging in order
to make our present quarters as suitable as
underground (with that ground clay) rooms can be
made to live in in wet & cold. Some day
it is promised - probably by next Summer -
material such as wood and sheets of corrugated
iron will be available to help in covering us
in the winter against the rain & wind. At
present there is on the Peninsula so we
live in hopes looking at delightful plans of
perfect dry and guaranteed dry and
comfortable. I see nothing in prospect but
spending the winter sitting in a water proof
on a biscuit box - for we will never be
able to lie down. We had a sample
of what it will be on Wednesday when we
had light rain for 3 hrs in the trenches.
Afterwards - the rain started at 4 am. it
was not so in the whole day but on
return to camp one dry spot were
still mud. We shall become very
hardy! I suppose people at home -
I mean those in power - do realize
what the prospects are here. I don't
suppose they could be worse than
they are. but were all getting quite

reminded us to anything - Today there is
 a lashing gale & it was quite cold this
 early morning - The dust is something to
 remember. Our news is all rotten here -
 I hear our casualties Surda way were
 so bad !!! & nothing gained - I'm really
 very well indeed - nearly all my original
 officers are away sick or wounded - There
 are a few left and I hope some day some
 will return but I believe they all get home
 to England - The place is full of rumours -
 some of which I suppose have a
 lining of truth - The latest is that
 Turkey is tired of fighting against us -
 & is going to join with us, Bulgaria &
 Rumania against Germany! I wish
 they would! Nothing would give me
 greater pleasure than to walk out
 of our trenches into the Turks &
 shake them warmly by the hand
 Right though they've been clear &
 gallant enemies - their pluck is
 wonderful and they've played the
 game on every occasion - I don't think
 are ever so the same as the Germans
 when the exact opposite is the
 truth! No I haven't seen the
 Berlin Germany. They are separated
 from us by 7 miles which the Turks

occupy at the moment & there are many
 obstacles in the way before we join them!!!
 mostly wire entanglement & a maze of
 trenches! We got about 80 yards nearer to
 them last week when we dug out a new
 line but at that rate of progress I'm afraid
 it will be sometime before we meet.
 nor can I get any news of them. We
 are simply holding this line - very
 thickly & if the Japs did attack in
 force, my Gieve waistcoat would be
 one's only hope! Be a Christian &
 send me a case of whisky -
 tout de suite!!! of course this is
 on order! The same way as the tub
 but a little slimmer bore is possible.
 I am awfully sorry to hear your W's has lost
 her sister. Is it right? if so do please
 give her my deepest sympathy & I also
 hope & believe the brother is
 better. This is a horrible war. Income
 tax in Australia 5/- at home will
 be 7/6 - so there you are. Do you
 know anyone who'd like a nice
 country house? Go on cheap - Sorry
 must stop

Joe [Signature]

PS

Y^r letter of 31 Aug just received have
opened mine again to add this -

My dear man. I shall take to drink
with all this liquid coming out. It
hasn't arrived yet - I'll let you know
when it does. It will be most
acceptable but will keep us going a
long time!!! Send the love to Rose!

With you thank the Directors very
much for the Cherry Brandy. If we
have to go through the winter here
of it arrives - it is so valuable I
am afraid of their being frozen on the
way - it will probably save more
than one life! - Its value, the
good of them & what I had several
others with drink their healths on
many occasions.

Lehman

In the trenches

Hawke Bath^W
27-9-15

My dear Eric

Please take note for the 2nd time
that my correct address is

Hawke Bath

1st R.N. Brigade

R.N. Division

B. M. S. T.

I do not belong to a Royal Marine Brigade -
though commanded by a marine & are myself -
but a ^{part} brigade of the R.N. Division in which
there is one Royal Marine Brigade. Very
complicated, I think, but then the whole
composition, discipline training etc of the
R.N. Division is one beyond an ordinary
same means comprehension. Two
letters from you unanswerable - excellent
scribe - 29 Aug & 6 Sept - I have an I,
sitting down in midst of much interruption
to send a reply. The enclosed is so delightful,
sent up one with last night's orders.
(One GOC. I'm sure you have a sense of
humour I'm sure today) that I'm sending it
on to you. This is so typical of what
happens in the trenches - One spends all
day & night answering commorders or
making returns or sending messages
round for one's name from your Brigade

Headquarters or altering your lines by order.
There is little peace - very little - just when you
think you've got five minutes - (as in the
last order -) you hear the GOC is ~~on~~^{on} his way
to visit your lines - of course you have no
idea whether he's coming from East or
West or if you wait at the East end of
the firing line for about 2 hrs, you get a
message his come in by the West & vice
versa - In addition to this, I find
that every order received states "OC Units
are responsible" &c &c - Apparently they
are responsible for everything! Talk of
making bricks without straw! OC units
are made responsible for doing all sorts of
things which would be comparatively
easy with the material but when
absolutely none is available, the Staff
know it should be done (so does the OC
for a matter of that) the OCs get an
order that they are responsible & the
responsibility has been shifted!!! I've
heard nothing about the Bales January
except what I've seen in the papers.
I wonder why Harold Henderson would have -
He must be very annoyed at having the
his regiment go off to Sahipak shortly
after - I'm glad the Finance unit
was a success - you say the members sit

sh^d pay rest of year exp if it comes along!
I hope it does - if not write to Mrs
Rose - I don't know when it was paid
up to last but its always paid in
advance and therefore the 3rd year is
not really due till 30 Sept or 4th quarter
31 Dec - but I hope its alright. I see
a 20% increase in incomes &
with heavy taxes what in Australia
about 5% in the way I don't see after
the war many subscriptions to anything.
The position in the way will have to
be very carefully reconsidered!
Honestly its going to be very serious!
but money is no object at present. I
cant spend any - my wife spends it
sending me things & the way they are
hope for is to finish the show off
properly & be allowed to come back
home again - intact! I'm getting one
of the oldest inhabitants of the Peninsula
now. The RN Division has lost
sick wounded killed & missing about
100% - & I have lost 21 off & 650
men out of my battalion - I've only
4 officers (company) left out of the
16. The emb command a company -
I've got a lot of new ones - all good
fellows but want teaching & I've just got

a new draft of 120 - quite a good lot - worth
 intr aimed - but a much better lot than
 last time - several I know - one a waiter
 at the Carlton Club!!! The yellow fluid
 has not appeared yet - but I live in hopes!!!
 I hope you thought the Deputy Member well
 when you saw her - By the way, I catch
 a pee with your views on conscription - the
 Nat. Service people sent me a paper
 to sign but I tore it up - of course I'm
 in favour of Nat Service but from her,
 I don't know what's wanted in England except
 that it appears to me that every nation
 duty in bringing the war to a successful
 end and means some great & grave
 expenditure of lives & money - if
 the job wasn't done here - for service
 in any capacity abroad or at home,
 if they want greater powers to deal with
 strikes - if they want anything which
 they think will hasten a successful
 issue then let them ask for it &
 the people with a must give it -
 been still in the same position - written
 part approaches - It's very cold
 at night - [Did you say the
 Directors had sent a case of Cherry
 Brandy?!!] Of course there is no chance

if it being snuffed in the way - we are the
 last people to get anything - times of
 communication get everything first - such it
 always is & we do all the work &
 have all the dis comforts. No preparation
 or material for winter yet - I don't
 suppose more than 10% of us will
 be hale & hearty after the first hot &
 cold months - However we hear there is
 a move on in France - at last. Let's
 hope with the very best results - I'm
 afraid it must be with dreadful casualties -
 I am in the trenches now for 7 days -
 have done 5 and got out on Wednesday -
 A fairly peaceful time - mostly bombing -
 the Turk is principally employed apparently,
 on strengthening his line - we have
 arranged them considerably into very modern
 contrivances - rifle grenades, gasland mortars,
 3.7 howitzers & catapult bombs. The
 consequence is that they ~~will not~~ ^{would not pop up} ~~with any longer~~ ^{with any longer}
 trench mortars against us early this morning
 and put 8 into our trenches. but with little
 damage as so far went off. We are
 arranging a proper "bait" for them to night -
 The Turk seems very cheery - sings a kind
 of Eastern chant whilst working which
 my men imitate. They don't seem to be

doing anything at Suvla - any more than we are
here - I suppose something will happen
some day. Meanwhile we live an open
air life! Between you & me the one
thing I long most for is a WC with a
plug for pee & water!!! I'm very tired
of these latrines of every shape & dirt &
discomfort. I must cease - a long letter -
Cheers! the best of luck

Tommy Wilson

<p style="text-align: right;">Army Corps H Q.</p> <p>No. _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25. SEP. 1915</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MED. EXPED. FORCE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25th September, 1915.</p>
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The Corps Commander has just received this diary from his late division. He thinks it as well that the 8th Corps should realize the appalling hardships undergone by our less fortunate comrades in Flanders. "One day of crowded joyous life in the Trenches - (Exclusive of Huns - Shells, or Bullets) (It may be explained that "AAA" is the sign for full stop in a telegram.)

- 5.p.m. Arrival in trenches. Temper normal. Half an hour spent in trying to appear interested while the outgoing officer explains to you the enormous amount of work he has done during his time there.
- 5.30 p.m. Outgoing officer departs. Half an hour spent in commenting with your own officers on the utter and complete absence of any signs of any work whatever having been done since you were there last.
- 6.p.m. Start your own work for the night.
- 6.15 p.m. Telephone operator reports he has got connection with Battalion Head-Quarters (N.B. Life in the trenches has now started)
- 6.45 p.m. First instalment of messages handed in to you.
- No.1. You will hold respirator and smoke helmet drills frequently during your tour AAA The signal for respirators to be put on will be 2 G's on the Bugle. Adjutant.
- No.2. Report at once if you have a fully qualified Welsh Miner in your company who can speak French and German AAA Age not under 18 years. Adjutant.
- No.3. All respirators will be immediately withdrawn AAA The signal for putting them on will be 2 blasts of the whistle and not as per the last part of my message 1 of this date. Adjutant.
- No.4. A French Aeroplane with slightly curved wings giving it the appearance of a German one is known to be in your vicinity AAA Use your discretion in accordance with Anti-Aircraft Regulations para.1, Section 5. Adjutant.
- No. 5. Report at once number of windows of smoke helmets broken since you have been in the trenches AAA The signal will now be two beats on a shell gong and not as per my message 3 in correction of my message 1. Adjutant.
- No.6. Re my message No. 4 for the words French read German, and for the word German read French AAA You will still use your discretion.
- 7.30 p.m. Messages dealt with. - Dinner.
- 8.30 p.m. Arrival of C.O. Suggests politely that your men would be better employed doing some other kind of work. Assent enthusiastically All working parties changed over to different work. (Temper indifferent).
- 9.p.m. to 2. a.m. Answer telephone messages.
- 2.30 a.m. Stand to arms. Walk round and survey the result of the night's work. Find the majority of it has been blown in by trench mortars in the early morning.
- 3.30 a.m. Try and sleep.
- 4.a.m. Woken up to receive the following messages -
- No.115. All smoke helmets are to be immediately marked with the date of issue AAA If no date is known no date should be marked and the matter reported accordingly. Adjutant.
- No. 116. R.E. require a working party from your company to-morrow from 6. a.m. to 7 p.m. AAA Strength 150 with suitable proportion of H.C.O.'s AAA Otherwise your work is to be continued as usual. Adjutant.
- 5 a.m. Woken up to send in "Situation" Report. Report situation normal.
- 9.0 a.m. Breakfast.
- 9.11 a.m. Scraping off mud in Oxford Street. Removing bits of Bacon in Bond Street. Re-burying Fritz, who, owing to a night's rain, has suddenly appeared in Regent Street.
- 11.15 a.m. Arrival of Brigade Staff, - Orders given for everything that has been dug out in the night to be filled in, and everything that has been filled in to be dug out.
- 11.16 a.m. Departure of Brigade Staff. Brain now in a state of coma. Feel nothing except a dull wonder. Rest of day spent in eating chocolates, writing letters home to children and picking flowers off the bank. Final message can remember receiving is about 12 noon.
- No. 271 The Brigadier General and Staff will shortly be round your trenches. Adjutant.

Hawke Bati:
Oct 4 1915.

My dear Sir,

A case of cherry ~~Whisk~~ Brandy arrived yesterday - but you please thank the Director very much indeed for it? It will cheer many hearts & stomachs in the cold weather that is coming and I am going to keep it for that. No other cases have yet fetched up. I don't know if they were sent off at the same time - but it is wonderful how cases of whiskey get lost on the lines of communication & down on the beach - We ordered & paid for one from Alexandria & it came over in charge of an officer but though all the other parcels of food &c he brought (126 in all) for different people in the Peninsula arrived, the case of whiskey vanished!!! However I live in hopes: still as you know. There is very little news here - nothing happening - Trenches 7 days & 7 days out. The wastage of men is still very bad - we have a few wounded but have been very fortunate lately in not losing many killed - the day after tomorrow we go up to the trenches again & have a rather nasty part of the time to come after - I hope we shall all have

much trouble but we've got 2 barricades & the
Turks trenches are all very close round us -
Don't see the need to be anyone but I've been
pretty sick since I came down last time -
I've done nothing but I was afraid of getting
it had become dysentery - The Dr tried
to have me on the Hospital ship but I
asked for another day & half, I've better
today & no signs of dysentery, only continued
visits!!! I think I'll be alright but I'm taking
things very quietly and eating nothing - I should
like to come home undecided before the
Battalion but it seems that very few will
be going out here. I hardly had the record
now of regimental officers; with one except
I've been away sick I do of OC's in
the Naval Division! - No news of what is
going to happen here - Still in the same place
between here & Suvla. We are getting horribly
thin on this line 1500 a week go away &
no reinforcements to speak of - This is a
shut out - I am being considerably
battered by correspondence on all sorts of
questions' not from home but here. We want
a regular mail now staff & are cut out of
here! So long - best of luck - I suppose the
war will end some day!

Yours truly,
Johnnie Walker

2 of my men have just been given the Distinguished Service Medal
& the King has deserved it!