

Hawke Battalion

Yemenos.

but best same old address

17-1-16.

My dear Eric

I'm full of regrets but don't blame
me. I haven't had a moment for weeks -
since I returned to that never to be forgotten
spot in the Peninsula called Hilles with the
accent on the first syllable. We've had some
pretty poor times there but the last 3 weeks was
beyond the limit. We had, in addition to the
most vile weather, which filled the trenches up
above our knees with liquid mud, the
combined attention of all the enemy & guns
from Surla and Anzac after they were evacuated -
The shelling really was bad - so bad that at times
one saw little chance of getting out alive. My
last week in the trenches, I had more cornetries
in the Battalion than I had had in any week
since July. The Turks concentrating fire from
8 1/2" guns on all our lines. We were told
about 10 days before we left that we were
to be relieved by the 9th Army Corps. Whether
that was well intended or not I don't
know but it ended as you know now, not
in one being relieved but in evacuation -
It was only just in time as the weather
& the enemy would have evacuated us
forcibly in a very short time. I wrote you
a short note just before the evacuation
& sent it off by my servant who as a
matter of fact did not turn up till 5

day after I got here having got stranded on a
boat with stores + baggage but then I did not
think we were going to get off without heavy
heavy loss. As it turned out we hardly lost
a man - it was eminently successful - we left
the last night & I'm sure we are breasted a
sight of relief when we got on board the
troop carrier. I know I did though one can
hardly think of all we've sacrificed there
for absolutely nothing - However it's a bad
chapter ended - a very bad one & if we
had not gone ~~as~~ it would have been a
worse one: that is the only consolation
we had taken over the trenches held by the
French who left before us and they were
most "unhealthy" - from every point of view
except that they were very clean until the
heavy rain came - It was cold too - & is
now!! Well we came over here into
tents which blow down on every occasion -
we had 48 hrs rain hard & a gale
consequence mud everywhere. My tent
came down but I was away on a
trip to an isle called Jumbros where
I was sent to make a report as there
is a possibility we may go there
& Garrison it! for a time! In fact I

am under orders to be ready to move there with 200
men at 2 hrs notice - It's very nice to Gahipoti
and Fritz on his aeroplane comes often but
it might be worse though one doesn't like the
idea of garrison work but the men badly
want a rest - Also the climate in this
part of the world at this time of the year is
quite impossible - rain wind snow frost
gales - every sort of horror! I'm very well
again but do not like the cold - ~~It~~ I
really think everything is very much in the
air and nothing really is settled - There
are rumours of Salonika - for which thank
you! The climate is worse there! At present
there is much heartburning going on about
decorations - French & English! I must say
it has been very uncertain but which
matters. Naturally one would like something
but but if only one gets out of this alive
& well I'll be quite satisfied - One
Gen. apparently would take for us the
legions of Honour etc which were offered &
only accepted a few - ~~It~~ he has some ideas
on the subject! The only thing one doesn't want
people to think one has not done right -
However I suppose they can't do that if
you've been mentioned in despatches & kept
Command of a Battalion all these months under
fire - but when other people who do nothing
& never risk their skins at all get all
sorts of things, it is pretty hard - However!
I'm quite a philosophical word - I'm
afraid I haven't written about Coles - mind

rather busy with other things - It seems to me if
the war goes on we must ask him to
accept a "retaining" fee until it is over -
I don't know what he gets now but I think
a clear understanding - a talk with him
you - as to what he draws from the Army &
what would be wanted from us to make it
up to his salary should be found out. He
should not of course be better off because of
the war & we can't afford it - I am quite
willing to talk in with any proposal you
make to him - however drastic - Will you
apologize to anyone I haven't written to
if they mention it? I only received a mail
the first for a month or more when I got
here & haven't finished opening the letters
yet. Also - I'm getting very garrulous -
What do you again think about my new
salary. As you know it doesn't make
2d difference to me if I take it as I
do now & give it away or stop it
altogether. I see an agitation going on
in the papers - about MPs giving up
their salaries & many doing so - write
by return & if you think it advisable
I'll write a letter to Dear Somers
& one to the House both of it. Must
stop - hope you weren't annoyed about my
mentioning the papers - any of them in
condensed form but don't let "Korotki" go in any!!!
Perhaps better straight from yourself but as you like
No Leslie -

RHD Camp
Imbros.

but old address is best

Feb 1. 1916.

My dear Eric.

I've just got your letter of the 8th Jan and can't tell you how very sorry I am - It is really too terrible to believe - I'm afraid it's no good, from your letter, hoping for better news and we can only think the poor wee lassie has left you. It is cruelly sad & one can't help wondering why such things should be - One realizes what it means & how much when one has kiddies of one's own & I am more sorry than I can say for your M^{rs} - You know we have all the sympathy I can offer and I only wish one could say or write something which really helped but I know one cannot.

As you see I'm at the alone Island. I've had a very strenuous but comparatively comfortable and safe time since leaving the Peninsula - I woke up in the night now hearing the wind howling (& it does howl here) & bitterly cold & my first thought is one of gratitude that I'm not shivering in a wet & cold trench. As a matter of fact, I do not think we should have been able to stay on the Peninsula very much longer. I was sent over here on the 19th to take over from the Army & in time we shall have a fair sized garrison here. At present the wind blows all day & every day & it's impossible to get troops on shore on or off the Island - the harbours is not a grand one! I am extremely busy as I have to take over all the various

services in the island - intelligence - civilians & their
control - supply - ordnance - police & all the
numerous things which have before been
carried out by a fairly large number of men.
I do not know what is in store for us in
the future but I am not sorry for a month or
so rest away from the firing line & the men
need it very badly. 2.2.16. Interrupted yesterday
& again just as I started - However 2 hours after
I return! Its blowing a gale & has been doing so
for 5 days consequently the embarkation & disembarkation
of troops is a very difficult matter! Our headquarters
here consists of two sunken ships the Oruba &
Michigan & if they go the road goes - all the
guns go & we are stranded - It is a
somewhat difficult job this - dealing with a
friendly population mostly fresh in a kind but
from various. There are so many complications
that I cant enter into them! We keep a
military zone which entails many outposts
& many anti air craft guns as were the
nearest thing to Gallipoli & Fitz comes &
visits us often - thank goodness its been
too rough lately! I hope my letter re
the salary award & you approved - I think
its right & I think if you agree it ought
to be published. If you think I'd better
write to Treasury & say I'd give it up.
I'd do so - No difference to me! Again
ad man, my deepest sympathy - I do feel
so genuinely sorry for you & you & I
is truly, kind
John
Carter

Hawke Battalion

13.2.16.

Hawke Battalion
pt RMB^{de}

RN Division

90 GPO London

My dear Eric.

The above the correct address was -
for how long I know not. I've had no mail
for some time & do not know your news at
all - but I'm hoping will get one soon.
There is not much news here - still at
Sembros - but I think its only a fleeting
visit. All sorts of rumours about our
going to Salonika. It will be an awful
shame if we do get sent now - we must
have a month to get straight & reorganize -
My men are all over this island doing all
sorts of jobs. I've got a heap of new officers
& 340 new men and are busily getting
to start a fresh: but I suppose they want
us to take part in another evacuation
No evacuation is now complete without
the RND! I've about tired of this war
but I don't see any end. I'm told that
Sir Elphinstone says it is going to be over
much sooner than people think. I hope
he's right! Well all we broke up for
& how politics are to be carried on, I
don't know: or how we are to live at
all in England, I also don't know!
However lets get home alive first. We
haven't been worried here much. Fritz's

Comes along on his aeroplane occasionally but we've
spotted him lately and he hasn't had a chance
& the weather is against him as it's always
blowing a gale. If we'd still been at Helles, we
should never have been fed there!!! As a
mercapt escape. Tell Coates if you see him
I'm with him some also with others
but really, we had no time. I do a tremendous
amount of work here and seldom seem to
get a minute. There's such a lot to see to.
A nice crowd there are in Parliament! I
should think every speech made by Pringle or
his crowd tend to make the war last at
least 3 months longer. It really disgusts me
reading the London papers and particularly
the Parliamentary Intelligence - one can
only gasp to think there can be such people
in a crisis like this or that any body of
electors could have ever voted for them! I
don't believe they'd get a chance of being
returned now - at least I hope not!

I don't like to say anything about home
news - as I have heard nothing -
I hope you think by Mrs is looking fit &
don't frighten me again about Grand
visits. Fair are quite a shock. Not forgotten
yet!!!

Cherish

Josephine

Hawke Battalion

Royal Naval Division

Z3:2:16.

My dear Simonds,

I have had very little time to attend to private matters since the evacuation of the Peninsula: I should, otherwise have written to you before with reference to my official salary as Member for Reading.

As you, and I believe, all my constituents are aware, I have not received any of this salary myself, since the outbreak of hostilities, but it has been devoted, quarterly, to assist such objects in connection with the war as ~~was~~ ^{was} each time considered most advisable -

I do not, however, think, ~~that~~ when such rigid economy is required by the Government of all classes, that I am justified in drawing money from the Public funds even for the purposes for which it has been used and I have, accordingly, notified the Treasury requesting them to discontinue payments

Yours sincerely
E. Wilson.

Hawke Battalion
Royal Naval Division

23 Feb 1916.

My dear Eric.

From two letters of the 4th received
last night - very many thanks. I'm very glad you are
up & about again. Your last letter worried me much.
Do go slow. I know it's very difficult but it must
become sometimes and it gives you a chance
afterwards! I'm afraid my chance of leave is
a little dim! If there is a 3rd leave I'll get
it & that would probably be in 6 weeks time
or so when the lot which has only just left here
to start comes back. The general (Kenes) left
this morning & now I am really no longer with
the battalion but have had to leave it and
take over the Brigade till he returns. I would
much rather have stayed with my own people
as I can't care much for this work - it means a
lot of little worries & some rather big ones: & if
we have to move to Salonika which is quite on
the cards, it will mean a great deal of
worry! The general was very glad to go &
so should I be. If he hadn't gone I
might have put in but he has every claim
as he never left the Peninsula and both
of us couldn't go. I only hope he comes back!!!
I enclose you a letter for the papers re my
salary - as you say it doesn't matter a
thingers less to me which way it is -
I may hope the people I read won't think
they'll get 400 more out of me in Subs because
they won't - as a matter of fact as far as

I can rather, they have been very good to me in not
asking much during my absence. Our mails are
hopeless - all over the place - You may get a
letter or two very soon - & whether any of ours
reach England I don't know. The Army PO has
gone & now we have to trust to the tender
mercies of the RVD at Mudros who are most
inefficient. A tube (German aeroplane) came up
this morning but thought it was the better part
& went back again - all is very perceptible here -
we go out & blaze at Gallipoli - or rather the
ships do - pretty often & they have all much
chance of mounting guns there. The socks
& Brehan have also yet come out! I got no
letter from you with this last mail & knowing
of course that one had written it was
most annoying: & others from people referring to
other letters written of an important character
which I have never received! Am very well
but shall be glad for this reason to
finish - Have had more than enough of it
& never thought I'd be on this isle! However
there are worse places I suppose and nothing
seems doing in Salonika or Egypt. In the
latter place there must be much overmanning
of troops - So long. I hope you'll get this
this year. My salaams to your Ma^m

Yours
Cashie

Have written Treassey also.

pt Bde Hq's

Jumbroo.

7.3.16.

My dear Eric.

The mails are most erratic. When the RND Postmaster at Mirdoo manages to find a letter, he sends it on & as ferries have from Mirdoo here only run 2^{ce} a week, you can imagine the result. No letters from me since the are dated the 13th from Buteleigh - seems a cheery spot! After all Jumbroo is not so bad, there are worse spots. Its very pretty, the weather is quite good - to-day like summer & there's plenty to do. I am still commanding the troops here - about 3000 but don't mention any number as it is not supposed to be known - the strength of the garrisons of these islands - & find plenty of work. The men are very happy - getting plenty of work & drill and also recreation. So are the officers - I've just been playing Dabney Polo against the "Russell" Hoyship - & can hardly walk. A most painful amusement backback. We won after a fast(?) game by 3-0. It was really good. There is no news

from here. The Turks have put up a few guns
on Gallipoli & put at our disposal. We
have monitors on them or also a very
strong Aerial wing here - also will be
mentioned) to watch the Straits for fear
lest our friends the Goeben & Breslau
may think fit to come out. I was at
Venetia on Saturday inspecting - I've
also the troops here under his command
and its quite a pleasant spot. Not
exciting. They are about 4 miles away
from Asia then. Of course one has to
be on ones guard against any possibility
& watch all ports & harbours & keep an
eye on the civilian population. We
have boundaries, guards & a big system
of intelligence & at present they behave
well after a lesson or so - but they go
on. I'm very fit & am hoping still
for some leave but am doubtful unless
I get home altogether - Gen Paris
was here about week & said when I
mentioned something about going on
next leave - "Oh you cant possibly go"
I'm fully entitled! & its only this
job & a reorganization of the RMD
which will stop me. However will see
cheerful & let of but for Jessie.

Thubroo.

March 19 1916

My dear Eric.

I'm still doing "military
proms" of the island but you
better go on addressing me to Hauke
Baldⁿ. I don't think they take the
Baldⁿ away from here if they do &
leave we here, I'm wise to be ^{some} here. We've
had no mail for a fortnight and so
no letter of yours to answer but I am
hoping will get a mail in tonight,
in which case I shall expect that I
shall receive a letter from you. I am
really very fit and the climate here
excellent though the winds very cold
still. No news about our future. I
personally hope we shall be left here
another month - by then the 2 Baldⁿ
here will have finished their musketry
& training & I hope ready to go anywhere.
Of course I'm still hoping for a bit of
leave but whether I'd get it or not
I don't know. I fear quite sure I
am entitled to it but I fear we don't
get all we are entitled to in this
world - lucky for us perhaps!!! Ah his

very fairly peaceful here. We shot at old
Turk man on the peninsula daily. The
other day our 14" monitor fired at him
without losing its coverings in the harbor
here & a very good shot too - 23000 yards.
We've had considerable excitement in the
air. The Germans apparently got annoyed
with the activity of our airmen & sent
one of their star turrets down from Austria
or France with a (Focke⁺) German fighting
machine - on Wednesday, using an
old Turkish seaplane as bait, he
surprised one of our fighting machines
but except for damage to the machine,
nothing happened - on Friday he took
on 2 of our fighting machines & a
great battle in the air ensued. We don't
know what happened to him: he got
away whether hit or not we don't know -
& our machines got home - but only
just - the observer in one shot in 3
pieces in the leg and the pilot through
the kidneys. He fainted as soon as
he'd got his machine to land & the
observer was already unconscious through
loss of blood. Pretty near things. We're
after him again tonight - They are
by fine fighters these German Focke's -
I don't know if that is the way to
spell it - but they're real fighting

machines, & kept for fighting only. Guns are
 fast but large and a big target &
 loaded up like an old Gypsy caravan
 with everything - cameras wireless etc.
 I suppose we shall learn what is really
 wanted some day. I've heard no
 news except that W.C. advocate the
 return of Fisher. It would be, I think,
 a howling mistake & I can only think
 he is doing it to placate Fisher & avoid
 all that Fisher can & will say about
 him later. Nice man! Perhaps you
 can tell me when we are going to
 do something or attempt something
 which is likely to finish this old
 war. At present we sit still &
 only evacuate! or get tied up in
 hopeless muddles in out of the way
 places - This can't go on much
 longer. One thing we can't afford
 it financially! & another thing is
 I'm very bored with this war! Well -
 I've no real news. I hope all
 is as well as can be with you &
 I'd be very glad if I got a chance

4

of seeing you & a face again before long.
I'm seeing a lot of the Navy now -
just been lunching on board the Thesaurus -
old & was a blister ship - can't be
torpedoed - so they say!!! Cheers &
the best of luck.

Tom

Leslie.

Letters.

52

22.3.16

My dear Eric.

Just got your letter of the 27/2 - many thanks. Am very glad you're feeling more fit but do, for evening's sake, go slow & don't think you are as fit as I'm ^{sure} sure you look! No more news about our home selves yet & a quiet life here except for the air. Last night an impetuous German came & dropped bombs on us at 1 am. No damage luckily - we fired at him also no damage unluckily - I expect he'll be here again tonight or soon. Nice moonlight nights still & calm, just the thing for him. A Zepp went over Thasos yesterday going East so I expect we may have him before long. It seems to me this war is going to end entirely by fighting under the sea or in the ^{air} land. I hear we now have submarines with 12 inch guns! Very glad we have 219 in in our dock. An last efforts at Big Airships not exactly a "succès fou" - I hear you got the Xmas Plum puddings from the Wellington Club otherwise I should certainly have written. I'll write a note to Jones on the subject. Two things I want to ask you about. One

about Rose: my secretary. He's doing absolutely
nothing except address newspapers & one
which he does up so carefully I lose my
temper in doing! He may be called up
some time being of an eligible age. Of
course I don't think he's fit to serve or
should have sent him off before. I really don't
see ~~any~~ ^{any} point in keeping him but naturally
am not going to send him adrift in the
world. Is this a good time to write him
& suggest his getting another job? Would he
be able to & would you like him in the
business? I believe you are pretty short.
He is slow but reliable. Don't say anything to
him & I shan't write him till I hear
from you. He sends his about myself.
I've been away now a year & practically
have done nothing for Reading or been in
Reading for getting on for 2 years! I see one
or two members are resigning their seats
for military reasons - I'm quite willing
to resign mine if you think it
advisable & for Reading to get in
someone who can do the work. I don't
pretend for the moment I'll be able to
do more than I am doing politically
(which is nothing) till the end of the
war. I'd really like your honest opinion
as I know you'll give it. I feel as if

I am not doing my job but of course it is
of no fault of my own but as I told
one of them it is theirs for electing a
man of military age. If the war goes
on much longer I'll be over military
age. No news about leave. I'm
going to try for it again but nothing
will be settled until the future of
the RND is definitely decided upon.

Have an infinite amount of work
& writing in front of me so will cease -
As the Tommy has it I am in the
pink & hopes this puts you as it
leaves me

for
Leslie,

Inubra

1-4-16.

My dear Eric.

Nice date but no April fooling in this one though I often think the power that he must think every day is April 1st! More particularly now when a process of complete disorganization of the R.R.D. is going on! Gen Paris is coming here on Monday & I am arranging a large review of all my 3000 details to say farewell to him - at least I suppose that is what it is for! He writes me that all my staff is to be taken away - mounted police brigade major - staff captain - clerks & everything & I must carry on as best I can! He knows I shall be pleased! I have replied by putting in a strong application for leave to which I am more than entitled but owing to these islands I have not been able to get at present. I see no other way out of the difficulty except to go on leave. To show you how well we do things here, I am enclosing a programme of a concert

given by my Baldahin - Pretty good visit it
 & the show was excellent. Yesterday - dont
 I know it B. day! - I played cricket
 & the Russell & made 49 - Nearly died.
 Your young brother used to be in the Russell -
 I think in the N. Sea. They are a real
 good lot but am afraid they may be going
 down - I shall probably know more
 news after the GOC has been here &
 will write next mail or may even
 catch this. All work here but with
 much doing. I had a very interesting
 trip with the Admiral on ^{Thursday} Friday. went
 in a destroyer to Tenness & Rabbit Island
 then to have a look at the V beach
 & up the straits as we saw some
 smoke coming down. He doesnt mind
 how close he goes in. The fish sbst
 we ran very nicely. Hope to get a
 letter from you tomorrow & to hear of our
 safe. etc again - Best wishes

Jim
 Lshie.

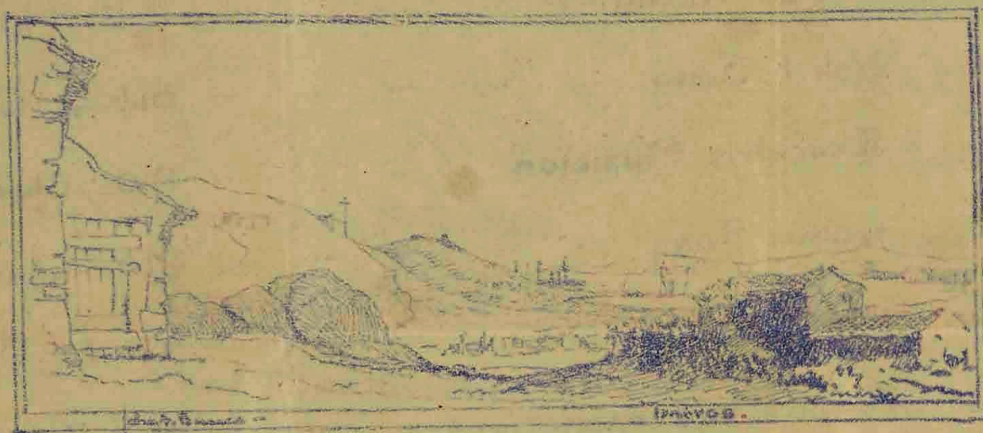
Souvenir



Programme.

— HAWKE BATTALION —

O.C. - Commander W.G. RAMSEY FAIRFAX, R.N.



— GRAND CONCERT —

under the
patronage of

Lieut. Colonel LESLIE WILSON, D.S.O., M.P.

Commanding 1st ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE.

STONE HUT
HOSPITAL VALLEY

Saturday, March 25th 1916, at 19.45 o'clock.

PROGRAMME.

Part 1.

1. Choruses on the Piano A. B. Fairlamb.
2. Ragtime Song P. O. Inglis.
3. Scotch Recitation A. B. Miller.
4. Yokel Song Sub. Lt. Black.
5. Eccentric Musician P. O. Blackhall.
6. Comic Song P. O. Clark.
7. Irish Song Sub. Lt. O'Hagan.
8. Female Impersonations A. B. Lamel.
9. Coon Song A. B. Mollett.
10. 3 Rounds Exhibition Spar.

(Middle Weights)

A. B. Clark and A. B. Hayman.

INTERVAL.

Part 2.

11. Comic Singing Competition.
12. Original Recitation. L. S. Gale.
13. Tenor Song Sub. Lt. Kelvin.
14. Song Lt. Comm'r Peckham.
15. Concertina Selection Japper Greenhalf.
16. Song and Dance A. B. Rutherford.
17. Card Manipulation A. B. Newbury.
18. Scotch Song Sub. Lt. Paton.
19. Patter Comedian A. B. Lynch.
20. Choruses on the Piano A. B. Fairlamb.

Accompanists.-

L. S. Burdett and A. B. Fairlamb.

GOD SAVE THE KING.



Jumbros
6:4:16

My dear Eric.

After a number of heated arguments, the G.O.C. has given in to my going on leave - at least I think he has - and if he does not repent or the new one doesn't as Gen Paris goes home this week - Just this moment received a cable to say all leave parties to go to Muro's, to Madero but I am not to leave until the Admiral's approval has been secured! That doesn't worry me as I'm sure John de Robert won't stand in my way & if there's no ferry, the Admiral here will always give me a destroyer to send me to Madero. *Admiral* *non venous* *que non venous* - & you'll hear for certain from him if I'm coming when. Now I'm only going to be home if I come for a short time & so I don't want all positions but I feel I've deserted the coast navy so much that I'll

do anything you like - a meeting ^{+ a visit to} ~~over~~
the clubs including Liberal but I won't come
into Reading at all if there's to be any of
the congress here touch about it & of
course no party politics. I think I'm
an anarchist now. Leave it to you
if I come to do what you like but
I'm sure I can't make a speech! Fryth
how. There seems a bit to be done
anyhow now as nothing is done at
present - I don't know when I'll
hear or when the transport home
sails. I think they're getting the
leave party to Murdoch unimpaired
early. Cheer on - I like to
see you but don't like to put too
much faith into this leave - the
disappointment would be too bad

My Leslie,

Mudros.

April 18. 1916

Tuesday

My dear Eric.

You'll have heard by now that I'm not coming home at any rate at present. Just as I was starting, the news came that the whole RND was to be turned over to the Army at our rates of pay & we were to be relieved in these islands by Turks from Egypt & all leave was cancelled. It's pretty rough - but of course I can't put in a special case for myself & stick the men going, so I return with the remainder of the disappointed leave party to Subros on Thursday after having issued farewell orders, eaten farewell dinners and said goodbye to everyone for it was very doubtful if I returned at all to the RND. Of course this alters everything & I suppose we shall go to Egypt or England - The forces, I hear, to be reorganized fitted out & then sent under the Army to Mesopotamia, E. Africa or France. I'm pretty disappointed as you may imagine but there it is - war is war! and one must keep a

Mudros.

April 18. 1916

Twenty

My dear Eric.

You'll have heard by now that I'm not coming home at any rate at present. Just as I was starting, the news came that the whole RND was to be turned over to the Army at our rates of pay & we were to be relieved in these islands by troops from Egypt & all leave was cancelled. It's pretty rough - but of course I can't put in a special case for myself & stick the men going, so I return with the remainder of the disappointed leave party to Subros on Thursday after having issued farewell orders, eaten farewell dinners and said goodbye to everyone for it was very doubtful if I returned at all to the RND. Of course this alters everything & I suppose we shall go to Egypt or England - The former, I fear, to be reorganized fitted out & then sent under the Army to Mesopotamia, E. Africa or France. I'm pretty disappointed as you may imagine but there it is - war is war! and one must keep a

Now as I hold ^{which are} ~~firmly~~ ^{firmly} that every individual
 must be prepared to make the greatest
 sacrifices in his ^{or her} power to win this war - (to
 win it so decisively that the military + naval
 power of Germany is crushed for all time)
 and ^{that} ~~all~~ ^{should} work now with an eye to the
 future so that we shall be as prepared to
 take advantage of peace when it comes for
 the advantage of all our people and the consolidation
 of our Empire ~~which have~~ done so much for us
 as we were unprepared at the outbreak
 of war - ^{to play take our share in this great struggle.} These two principles, among others,
^{& debts of honour} I hold to be ^{due} to those who have made the
 greatest sacrifice possible that man or woman
 can make & we should be no longer fit
 to take ^{again} the great place in the world's history
 we have held so long did we not pay ~~that~~ those
 debts to the uttermost farthing.

All the above you can extract &
 use should occasion require it! better
~~undoubtedly~~ & perhaps, ungrammatically -

I am decidedly disappointed about not
seeing you all again soon. It may be
we shall be sent to England - lets
hope so. Meanwhile though we are
to hold ourselves ready for immediate
embarkation, I feel that nothing will
happen for 6 weeks or so &
they might just as well let me
come home! Cheers oh!

Joyce

Mudros.

29.4.16.

My dear Eric.

What a life! Nothing doing!
Back here from Mudros & still no news -
I might just as well have gone on leave.
I'm clearing up troops from my command
gradually but only to send them to Mudros
in anticipation of orders which don't
come. I suppose some one some some
day will decide what they want to
do with some 15000 trained & tried
troops & not leave them to wander
about islands in the Aegean sea. I've
not been unbusy but want to get
doing something solid again &
surely we are wanted. I don't it
tragic about the "Russell". It was
our flagship here & all the officers
were chums of mine. We've had
no definite news except that the
R. Q. Sydney Remant's Captain &
Commander have been saved. Your
young brother was in her same time
since in the Grand Fleet. I am
awfully waiety news as I knew them
all so well. The are excitement
a couple of air raids killing no one but

turning me out at 3 am or 0300 as
 we call it now, and the capture of
 6 Turks who got adrift in a lighter
 from W beach [Gallipoli]. There was
 a strong wind & the lighter got loose.
 The Turk officer told them to jump
 in the sea but they told me they were
 frightened. They seemed quite happy
 being prisoners. I examined ^{separately} each &
 all told the same story. Tired
 by the Dumps but utterly tired of the
 war - all wanted to go back to their
 homes & families. None wanted to
 return to Gallipoli except one who
 had given a friend two notes to
 change & hadn't got the change she
 wanted to come back here again. ^{When he'd}
 They say there are not many German ^{got it!}
 officers there now and that these are
 "plants" of troops. I'm busy
 moving animals & vehicles & one
 battalion tomorrow to Mudros.
 They wanted my staff & self to move,
 but I'm hanging in a bit. I don't
 like Mudros & at any rate there
 is always something doing here. I
 went over to Tenedos & other island
 in a destroyer last week. Had a

re, good time but these waters are full of
 mines - most dangerous! The poor old
 Bulldog (TBDD) got it in the neck or
 rather in the stern and lost the 1st
 Lieut & gunner. The sub was asleep
 in his cabin (which exists no longer)
 & was blown 100 yards into the sea -
 He remembers nothing till he got
 in the sea & has only a small cut over
 his eye! This island is really
 looking beautiful now - but I'm tired
 of it. I walked out to Ponape
 to-day on business & did a
 round trip which nearly killed me in
 the heat! We have a new
 fresh foreman here who is an
 anti Venezuelan man but a very
 good man. He's coming to pay an
 official visit on Wednesday and
 I'm going to receive him in State.
 I'll have to give him luncheon &
 all our fresh meat has given out!
 so its Bully Beef or a local
 lamb if I can produce one from a
 local robber. Nice state of
 affairs in Ireland. I thought it
 was coming. One of my officers is
 the son of J. H. Campbell. (Dubliner)
 MP

He told me (on returning from leave) of the
 state of affairs in Ireland. Three facts
 seem to stand out from the scanty knowledge
^{got from} the writers - one that Ireland
 can never have Home Rule. 2 that
 Bismarck ought to be impeached. 3
 that if Sir Roger (assessment is not hanged
 (not shot) the sooner the better goes
 and some men of common sense are put
 in their places the better. —

Well - I've had little news from home
 lately - the mails, like everything else,
 have gone wrong - I'm very well
 but feel as if this war had gone on
 for 10 years - Hope all well with
 you - In respect to your wife

Yrs
 Leslie

Mudros.
1/5/16.

My dear Eric.

Two letters from you just arrived - one of 7th and one of 9 April. I'm afraid you had a further explosion when you got my letter written about the right to resigning my seat! but there it is - I don't think it fair to go on like this but if they don't want me to, of course I don't want to! The last thing I want, I assure you - and you can perhaps understand my feelings on the matter - is that it perhaps were now that I am not actually fighting but enjoying a life of comparative ease with not a large amount of work to do. It really is a waste of time & the work done here could be done as well & easily by any of the Old & Bold Garrison Regiments & yet they keep us hale & hearty young men doing this & not apparently are to make up their minds what they do intend to do with us. We have absolutely no news here - are starting to concentrate at Mudros to be ready. I sent away one Bath & a lot of weapons & horses to day & am very thin here now. Oh hope it won't be another Kut-el-Amara! but I don't see how the Turks or anyone are going to get here & I can well compete with any of the islanders.

They wanted me to go too & I really suppose I ought to
 have let her put them off for the present. I
 hate hundreds and the staff there. This is much
 better. To-morrow I go to Teneros for the day and
 will round the other islands - Every thing is very
 peaceful except an old Fokker came over at
 5.30 this morning. We made him hop & very
 nearly got him - the shooting was quite good. I
 think he wanted to know the meaning of the
 transports. I hear the Mediterranean is full of
 mines dropped by submarines. Jolly isn't it?
 Nice trip this is. I think they'd better tow this old
 island home - the safest way. There
 are all sorts of rumors & I think it
 very likely the whole Division will go home. At
 any rate I shall start soon again to agitate for
 leave. I might just as well have gone but
 people always get panicky & are frightened of
 what is going to happen. No I have not heard the
 story of Birdwood's the Argon who comes out salute
 him - tell me! I liked the copy of order to the
 command re their population! It is rather difficult
 to believe it is quite true! I'm afraid my ^{husband}
 will be very disappointed at my leave being cancelled.
 I wish I'd said nothing about it but I felt it
 was so certain! However nothing is certain in
 this war except that we'll all be broke at the end
 of it! Cheers! Am very fit
 Mrs Lester

Hawke Bay
1st RN Bde
RN Division
40th PO
18/4/16

My dear Eric.

You are - you poor devil - in for a spell of bad luck. I got your letter of the 31st written in bed when you were very bad: Very good of you and I'm awfully sorry & only hope you are getting quite fit again now. A change will do you both good though the seaside is not too cheering. I'll be very anxious to hear from you again but our mails seem to have gone to glory or the bottom of the sea! I'm still at Sumbros though how long I'll be allowed to stay here I can't say. Already they're trying to send us to Salomika - the 2nd Brigade goes on Monday & rumours has it that the Govt. wants to send us a week later but the Vice Admiral will have something to say in that matter as we are looking after this island & as we have the air service here & an important Naval base, he's not going to leave it ungarrisoned. All sorts of rumours about the RND - that it is to be reduced to 6 batts for garrison duty in these islands & all security stopped. I believe the letter is correct - if the former I shall try to return home & get a job in France. I've already taken steps in the matter but with a word!!! I read in the Mercury about the Women's Ass^{ts} Liberal - I don't understand what it is all about but they don't seem happy! My daughter will be a bad one to replace. I suppose she doesn't get

on with the Candidate or his wife or Belcher! However
no trouble of mine - I find it difficult even to keep
interested in the Parliamentary reports - One is
so ashamed of the lot of them - At any rate
the House of Parliament gained a very valuable
member in Jerry Reid - one of the best with any
amount of common sense & a most distinguished
orator. I'm working very hard - it's raining like
blazes but I'm in a hut! A lot of strapping is
going on by the ships outside. Don't know what
it is & too wet to go & find out. I went to
Tenedos on duty 2 days ago - a pretty little island -
very close to Asia! The Turks are repairing
the batteries at Seddel Bar but no much
activity up the straits to be seen. They keep
our ships away from Helles now & from the
entrance to the Dardanelles. Nothing much
seems doing anywhere. Were training hard &
reorganizing - badly wanted! especially if
we are sent off. Were not nearly fit to go
for another 6 weeks at least but then it is -
& we shall not go right on the right in a
poisonous part of the line - all marsh or
mountain & the difficulties of supplies &
transport insurmountable & we have none
of the latter so it means carrying everything!!!
& I loathe a pack! Cheers Oh - I wish this
old war would come to an end - I'm
fed up with it -

J. S. P.

Ceshe

Still at Dubrov.

9.5.16.

My dear Eric.

Very many thanks for your letter of the
23rd April - quite quick. It was a blow my
leave being cancelled & I haven't recovered yet.
I've written a note by this mail to General Sinton
about his boy - it is really tragic. Oh damn this
war! I have heard from my M^s of the
peregrinations of M^s Boxer - none of them
sound at all proper. I wish someone would
drive me about in motor and wait while,
as the lads pebble say, I had my pleasure!
My condolences on your re-election as Chairman,
also my congratulations to myself. My dear
man, I don't know what I'd do without
you. I shall certainly not open my mouth
politically until I see you if & when I come
home. It is impossible to gauge the feeling
at home from the few papers one gets but
to the ordinary soldier it seems that someone
wants breaking up a bit & a little more
"kick" put into the affairs at home. Of
course I think Bull ought to be impeached
for the Irish disgraceful affair & if Cosment
is not hanged, I give them all up. Well we
are on the war again. I'm full up with
booth work in my army. I'm not allowed to say

2

Where we are going to but its not further from home &
as far as I can see there will be same dirty
work for as at the crossroads be me way moons
have waned. Personally I with my Base Staff
leave here on Friday next for good or bad - I
go to Mudros - when I move from there I know
not - but I dont expect to be there long and
then I suppose we will be hearing of air that
terrifying howl in the air & the experiencing the
disorder & chaos which always surrounds active
service! However! I dont understand what
is going on but were for it as air I think &
I wish they'd give me a few days leave first.
I must try & manage a bit some how - how
I dont know. I'll be sorry to leave here. I've
been here nearly 4 months and its quite
pleasant - weather charming - bathing delightful -
just enough work & excitement to keep
one going but its too good to last & I
suppose a damp & I - I think is the
future prospect. My Base is here & can
go till its needed - What will happen
if we I dont know but I'd much rather go
back to it than have the Base - It may sound
ambitious but I used it - they all my own
pals and I dont want to leave them. As I
shant get the Base permanently, I neednt worry.
Have the best of luck - with & I'll get it
some time somewhere. What a life!

J. C. Cash.