

From Captain Gerald Evans

France

10-9-16

My dear Minnie-

I received two letters from you dated 17th & 23rd July, also one from Harry so have been very well treated, papers have also arrived up to middle of July. The Hancock family are still keeping their name up, seven is a good record - Am glad to hear you get my letters regularly; I write enough but owing to the censorship they must be very dull; not much better than a glorified Field Service Card. I am going to write a good account of things to Father when I get a chance to get it home.

Have written a lot of letters just lately & sent several Cablegrams. Had a letter from Mary Shanley enclosing a letter of introduction to Father Ormond, a cousin of hers, tell mother to send me the names of some of her cousins & I will be able to see them all at the same time - Mary informs him that she used to nurse me; first I heard of it.

Tell Mother that two of the best soldiers & hardest cases I have struck yet are named Dwyer & Reilly, they are both wounded now. Your last letter was written on the day that I was wounded, we were having a very warm time then -

I have not heard from Ken since he first enlisted, he is not a very good correspondent. I will not write to him till he gets over here, he might go straight to England and should have a fairly good time if he does. I have not had a days leave since leaving this Battalion, so should catch some if there is any going.

The Germans have a bomb called the "Minnewerfer" (Minnie for short). It holds about a gallon of scrap iron, bits of shell etc, anything that will hurt, you can see them coming through the air quite plainly in the day time, they have sent a lot over here, but have not caught anybody yet; but make a dickens of a noise -

Mother seems to have spent a long time with the Cherubs at Killingworth; are they as cherubic as ever? Mary S. tells me Bailey is over here somewhere, I would like to know his address.

11-9-16: Received a parcel from Grace today containing sox, cigarettes etc, very acceptable.

Love to all
Your loving brother
Gerald

In the front line 31/8/1916 to 13/9/1916 at Ypres (near Zilebeke?) and in reserve 13-26/9/1916. Quite a few Minnewerfers used in this area...

Article extracted from Trove. **Letter from Lietenant (later Captain) J. Austin Mahoney MC**, 24th Battalion (KIA 5th October, 1918 at Montbrehain). See Michael Ganey's 2015 book, "Two Captains, from Gallipoli to Montbrehain" for further information on this brave man.

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this last affair. I was ten or 12 yards away at the time. Most of our boys are heroes and they did great work. I do not think there are any better fighters in the world. The wounded too have hearts like lions. I have met some old friends since I came out of the trenches. At a village some miles back Herb Tanner called to see me. He is looking well too. Next day Lieut. **Gerald Evans** happened along, and is looking bigger than ever. They say he is a great man in the trenches. Who should I meet next but Cpl. Frank Dwyer. He was looking very well too, and they tell me he is absolutely without fear in the trenches. He and **Gerald Evans** do great work together I am told. Herb told me that poor old George Goodland was killed.

Ganey says in his book:

Frank Dwyer survived the war and died in 1922. Frank Dwyer was the husband of Austin Mahony's Aunty, Johanna Dwyer.