

**Transcripts of letters and documents relating to**  
**Captain David Gerald Evans MC**  
**Written during World War 1**

Transcribed and collated by Evan Evans between 1994 and 2017



**Captain Gerald David Evans, M.C.**

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian INF.

Born 8<sup>th</sup> December 1889, Redcamp

Died of wounds 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1917.

Aged 28 years

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

Plot 19, Row A, Grave 11

Dorrie (Dorothy) and Margie (Margret) (Albert - interest) Hungerford from Greta Sth/Fairfield Park,  
Myrree on 15 mile Creek. Not close relations of Hungerfords from Sydney (ie Muriel Hungerford)

## Gerald 1903-1914

### 1<sup>st</sup> VIII Melbourne Gramar 1907

**Notes**

Back row (from left): Mr J.M. Macfarlane, J.F. Herring, G. Ross-Soden, S.J. Gardiner and Mr A.J. Evans. Front row: C.L. Baillieu, D.G. Evans, R.W. Creswell, A.A. Gunnerson and A.F. Jolley. In front: L. Heath (cox)

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**Title**

First Rowing VIII Crew

**Item Type**Photograph  
Digital Image**Date**

1907

### 1<sup>st</sup> VXIII Melbourne Gramar 1907



1907

Standing:- W.L.Jack, A.A.Gunnerson, E.S.Anderson, D.G.Evans, A.H.O'Hara Wood, B.M.Morris,  
L.Bruce, Mr.M.Wilson.

Sitting :- R.O.McLachlan, D.M.Fraser, H.B.Lewers(Vice-Capt.), G.Ross-Soden(Capt.),  
D.B.Payne, E.F.Atkins, R.W.Knox,

In Front:- K.G.Jamieson, C.H.Flere, C.H.Martin, J.Munro, A.F.Jolley, R.A.Jackson.

| <u>SCOTCH</u>               | <u>GEE LONG G.</u>           | <u>WESLEY</u>               | <u>XAVIER</u>                |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lost<br>6.8(44) to 7.11(53) | Won<br>19.20(134) to 3.3(21) | Lost<br>5.8(38) to 8.11(59) | Won<br>26.20(176) to 4.2(26) |

## PRIVATE SALES,

Messrs. J. T. Brown and Co. report having sold the following horses privately within the last month:—Account Mr. Jas. Fortune, 3 draught mares; account Mr. S. Newton, the racehorse Athan; account Mr. E. M. Evans, the racehorse Levi; account Mr. W. E. Flanagan, chestnut buggy mare; account Mr. Wm. Lewis, two buggy horses; account Mr. E. Land, the racehorse Jack Preston; account Mr. C. B. O'Neill, 1 brown mare and 1 roan pony; account Mr. F. Evans, the racehorse Juba; account Mr. J. W. W. Beaven, the well-known buggy horse Barney; account Mr. W. Hoysted, jun., 1 pony mare; account Mr. M. A. Evans, 1 brown pony gelding; account Mr. Gerald Evans, the hunter Rauji; account Mr. W. H. Hoysted, the thoroughbred stallion by Amherst from Swallow, for shipment to Western Australia; account Mr. J. F. Farrell, the racehorse Val Arthur, also grey pony; account Messrs. Hazell Bros., 1 draught gelding; account Mr. H. Nolan, 1 draught colt; account Mr. E. A. Byrne, 1 draught gelding; account Mr. F. Moore, the champion high jumper and hunter, Wisdom; account Mr. Thos. Simmonds, 1 brown gelding.

## POSITION OF CLUBS.

|                  | W. a. | Lost. | Drawn. | Possible Points. | Points Scored. |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------|------------------|----------------|
| Beechworth ..... | 3     | 0     | 0      | 12               | 12             |
| Wangaratta ..... | 2     | 1     | 0      | 12               | 8              |
| Moyhu .....      | 2*    | 1     | 0      | 12               | 8              |
| Eldorado .....   | 1*    | 3     | 0      | 16               | 4              |
| Milawa .....     | 0     | 3     | 0      | 12               | 0              |

\*Eldorado forfeited a match.

The Wangaratta footballers journeyed to Moyhu on Saturday last to fulfill their engagement with the locals. Victory rested with the visitors by 23 points, the scores being—Wangaratta, 8.5 (53 pts.); Moyhu, 4.6 (30 pts.). Notwithstanding the rains of the past week, the ground was in good condition. Taking the match throughout it was not of that open order many would imagine would be the outcome when these teams are pitted against one another, but still on many occasions there were flashes of brilliancy on both sides that pleased the spectators immensely. Moyhu were minus the services of Gerald Evans, their champion follower, through an injured knee, and at the commencement of the game had some difficulty in obtaining a full complement. Chas. Carter, of Beechworth, had charge of the game.

### FOOTBALL.

#### MOYHU V. WANGARATTA.

(BY "CUNGRADIN.")

Moyhu journeyed to Wangaratta by train on Saturday, bringing nearly 200 supporters with them. There was a large attendance, about £6 being taken at the gates. Those who saw the match witnessed a very exciting game, but on the day Moyhu should have won. Both teams were well represented. The home team were minus "Tot" Turner, who has retired from football, while Moyhu were without T. Simmonds. Wangaratta, through the agency of Coswello, scored a goal within a minute of the bounce, without a Moyhu man having touched the ball. From the centre Corker and G. Evans played the ball forward. From then till near the end of the quarter Moyhu stormed the locals' citadel, but owing to the over-egerness of their forwards they were unable to score a "sixer." The quarter ended in favor of the home team—11 points to 6. At the commencement of the second term Skehao, from a mark, hit the post high up. The visitors at this stage were having by far the best of the play, the ball remaining in front of the home sticks the greater part of the time. Meadswy, Hickey and M'Rae were putting in good defensive work, while Whitty and Evans were doing their best to get a "big point." The visitors were rewarded at last by seeing Hill score a goal from a clever screw kick, and shortly after this cool forward booted another. Bad play on the part of the Moyhu backs gave M'Swiney the easiest of goals, the term ending—Wangaratta, 2 2; Moyhu, 9 8.

Some good play was witnessed on the resumption of operations, the ball travelling from end to end very rapidly, until Skehan, from a nice place kick, scored a third goal for the yellow and blue. This seemed to spur on the blue and white, for Stone and Coswello put on goals in quick succession, and M'Rae, from a doubtful free kick, got another as the bell rang, the board showing—Wangaratta, 5 5; Moyhu, 3 8. The home team's supporters were jubilant, as they knew what their boys were capable of in the last quarter, but they had reckoned without the well trained country team. Hill got his third, and Moyhu's fourth, goal immediately on the change of ends, and as T. Byrne, from a good mark, bolstered the two flags, the excitement grew tense. The scores at this period were—Moyhu, 5 8; Wangaratta, 5 5. Corker was doing excellent work in the centre, ably seconded by Evans (2) and Whitty, while M'Rae was "always in the way" when the ball came in the other direction. Wangaratta put on two be- blinds, making only one point between the teams. A lot of wing play ensued, until M'Swiney succeeded in making the scores equal from a hurried snap. From then till the end each side strove to get the lead, but the bell rang on a drawn game.

Wangaratta, 5 7 (39 points).

Moyhu, 5 9 (39 points).

On the Moyhu side, Gerald Evans played the best of the 36. He was ably assisted by Corker, Whitty, Hill, Byrne and Simmonds (first half); while M'Rae, for the locals, played a splendid defensive game, and was good elsewhere. Others who showed cut prominently were Hickey, Meadswy, Gregg and M'Swiney. Maroney umpired impartially.

### FOOTBALL.

#### WHITFIELD V. MOYHU.

The above teams met at Whitfield on Saturday, the main point of the match being to keep the O. and K. Association players fit for their final matches in the premier-ship contest. Seeing that the Moyhu team has a lot of admirers in and around Whitfield, it was a pleasure for the Whitfield boys to give them a run. Mr. J. Kennedy umpired the match much to the satisfaction of both teams. This match proved to be the most enjoyable yet played by the home team. It might be said that the visitors played to a system which was much admired by their supporters. Their play speaks well for their chance in the premiership. The visitors were entertained by the local boys in the evening for which Mr. G. Evans returned thanks on behalf of the visitors. The supper arrangements were carried out admirably by Mr. J. L. Smith.

### Albury Banner & Wodonga Express Fri 28 June 1912

#### RAIN AND FOOTBALL.

Dear Uncle Jeff.—We have had some lovely rain, and there is plenty of mud about. Father is busy ploughing. There was a football match here on Saturday between Moyhu and Wangaratta. The Wangaratta team and their barrackers came out by a special train. Wangaratta won the game. There was great excitement, as Moyhu had been premiers of Owens and King Association for three years running.—Your fond niece, Myra Perryman.

(It's good to take interest in some sport. It's a kind of seasoning to life's joint.)

**MOYHU.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]  
The local team of footballers was entertained on Tuesday evening by the young ladies of Moyhu, when there was a large attendance, including visitors from Wangaratta and other parts of the district. A splendid supper was provided, which was evidently appreciated, and the ladies were highly complimented on the manner in which they had carried out every detail of the proceedings. The principal speakers to this effect were Messrs. M. A. Byrne, J. P., Eddy, H. Evans, J. Martin and W. Lewis. Messrs. Hickey and Frank O'Grady, of Wangaratta, eloquently acknowledged the treatment they had received. During the evening songs were contributed by Misses K. Fulton and K. Whitty, and recitations by Misses K. Lewis and Meagher. A comprehensive programme of dances was gone through under the direction of Mr. T. H. Byrne as M.C., to excellent music supplied by Miss Davidson, of Wangaratta, and Mr. Wilson, of Moyhu, and continued until an early hour in the morning. At the close of the entertainment the ladies presented the football club with the sum of £5, being the amount received for admission. As might be supposed, the members of the club are highly pleased with this evidence of appreciation by their lady friends and supporters.

**F O O T B A L L.**  
**OVENS AND KING ASSOCIATION.**  
**MOYHU PREMIERS.**

One of the largest crowds this season was present at Millawa last Saturday afternoon to witness the battle for the district premiership between Moyhu and Beechworth, the weather conditions being all that could be desired. Both teams were well represented, and both confident of victory. As Moyhu were credited with paying more attention to training than their opponents they were made favorites, and as the game progressed the green and gold proved the better conditioned team. Mr. Boyle, a V.F.L. umpire, had charge of the game, and carried out his duties satisfactorily. Messrs. P. and E. Reid were the goal umpires, and Messrs. J. Keogh and R. Grant timekeepers.

Beechworth obtained a slight advantage at the outset, but after a minute or two's play Moyhu gained the upper hand, G. Evans booting a goal for them. It was not long before the same player secured a minor point. Then the red and black took a turn at attacking, Donn and Murdoch kicking small points, Snow following with a goal. A brief period of wing and centre play then took place, which ended by Beechworth pressing home an attack, and Walker caused the pair of flags to be waved. Next work by T. Byrne and Simmonds put the red and black on the defensive, a point coming from Hill. Just before the first change Hardy added a point for Beechworth. The first to score in the second term was Moyhu, and as far as scoring went they had the best of it for the first half of the term, behinds coming from Stubbs, Slater and E. Evans (3). Beechworth rose to the occa-

sion and transferred the play to their opponents' territory, and a goal came from Pemberton. From the boucos Hill notched a small point for the green and gold, and a minute later Hardy did the same for the red and black, and another was added by T. Webb. This was followed by two goals by Hill for Moyhu, making the scores at the adjournment—Moyhu, 3.8; Beechworth, 3.5. On resuming Beechworth shone out, a goal being punted by Snow. As things turned out this proved to be their only score in this quarter, Moyhu putting on four goals three behinds, E. Evans, Whitty (2), and Hill annexing the majors. Two dozen points were in Moyhu's favor as the last stage was entered on, and the ball had not been set going many moments when Hill caused six more points to be added to their tally. Dashing play by Miller and Murdoch ended by T. Webb bagging a six-pointer for Beechworth, a minute later a behind came from Allen. A fine run by Anderson around the wing caused the red and black to defend their territory. J. Byrne then had a place shot, the post being struck. Beechworth, through a determined dash by Ross, followed with an attack, Allen snapping a goal. This was followed by Hill doing the same for his side, and then two more came from Whitty and J. Byrne, also a behind by Hill. Although the scores were greatly against them, Beechworth played on gamely, a run by Ross and a long kick by P. Webb placing them within striking distance, Snow and T. Webb kicking behinds, and then another came from Smith. Whitty kicked a behind for Moyhu just before time was announced, making the scores—

Moyhu, 11.14 (80 points).  
Beechworth, 6.10 (46 points).  
The result came somewhat as a surprise, for a closer contest was expected. Moyhu

played a good game, and used more judgment in picking out their men. Although defeated Beechworth did not begrudge Moyhu their victory, and were the first to congratulate them on gaining the day. This is the third consecutive season that Moyhu have carried off the premiership.

FOOTBALL.

MOYHU V. BEECHWORTH.

Although football is a winter pastime, the conditions prevailing on Saturday last were very disagreeable. Light rain commenced to fall as the train steamed out of the Beechworth station, and by the time Wangaratta was reached the weather was anything but pleasant, heavy rain having set in. Upon arrival at this centre word was received from Moyhu in the effect that pouring rain was in progress, but having journeyed thus far it was decided to fulfil the engagement. After about half an hour's stoppage the coach was boarded, and despite the copious down-pour of the watery elements all were in a happy mood upon arrival at their destination. The sumptuous repast provided by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shin's added to their enjoyment, and had Jasper Platvas been more considerate a more harmonious feeling could not have existed. The match commenced about a quarter to three in drizzling rain. Moyhu were the first off the mark, but they were driven back almost as quickly. Walker, E. O'trey and Miller were responsible for the ball going in front of the local up-ribs, where Leonard raised one flag through striking the post. A little wing play ensued but telling work by Walker, A. O'trey, Webb, Daidy and Snow put the locals on the defensive, a snaphot being marked in the month of the goal by M. Byrne. Wallace, B. Walty and G. Evans transferred the play to the visitors' attack, the latter named having a relentless shot. A moment later he had another try, a point being scored. Carter's kick-off was accepted by Hume; but

Moyhu returned, G. Evans having a place shot. The ball had become rather heavy at this stage, and it failed to reach its mark. T. Byrne took up the attack, and he, too, was driven back by Smith and Hume, Clarke playing across the centre. Kennedy's work found the Beechworth half backs defending again. They responded well, and the running was taken up by E. O'trey and Webb, which brought the play to the other end. E. O'trey had an angle shot, nothing being registered, and the next moment his brother Alf. had a fruitless try. T. Byrne had scarcely kicked the ball along the wing when it was back again, A. O'trey passing to Leonard, from whom Daidy attempted to secure. He failed to hold it, but succeeded in having his kick, a point being gained for a "pooster." Beechworth were still full of fight, G. Evans turning off the attack. Moyhu forced the ball around the scoring-board wing, and on to the visitors' attack. Carter and Thomas repulsed the first onslaught; but G. Evans returned, Carter then picking up and tapping to one of his comrades. The umpire, being under the impression that the ball was brown, gave a free kick to Hill, and he had no difficulty in raising the two flags. The gong sounded shortly after.

Moyhu, 1.1 (7 points).  
Beechworth, 0.2 (2 points).  
Give and take play marked the opening of the second term. Through the agency of Hill and Booth Moyhu gained the upper hand, Hume and Miller preventing any scoring. Booth punted it back, E. Evans marking, and a point was notched. Carter's pass to Hume, to Crouch, brought the ball half-way round the wing, Webb and Miller taking it further on. They

were temporarily stopped by Hannon. From the centre Clarke booted to Walker, and he to E. O'trey, one flag being raised. The visitors made another desperate attempt to score, but failed. G. Evans and Hill shone out conspicuously for Moyhu, their efforts being checked by Thomas and Miller. G. Evans again forwarded, and Hill, from a mark in front, scored second goal for the yellow and blue. T. Byrne endeavored to repeat the deed, Crouch stopping his little game. Back again the ball came, and Hill booted a minor point. Brilliant play on both wings and across the centre by each side ensued for a brief period, followed by Slater and H. Evans placing G. Evans in a good scoring position, and he did not fail, two flags being waved. Miller and Hall were doing their best to score for the red and black when the interval was announced.

Moyhu, 3.3 (21 points).  
Beechworth, 0.3 (3 points).  
On resuming it was found that the rain had stopped, but in the previous quarters no notice had been taken of it by the players. After a little centre play, Turner and Allen became conspicuous for the visitors. However, E. Evans and Hill prevented them doing any damage, and the ball was quickly sent amongst the visitors' defenders. Jas. Byrne winding up with a behind, Webb repulsed an attack by Slater, and Snow another by Hannon, but B. Walty was more successful, for he registered a point. Beechworth made a determined rally, and got over the centre line. Kennedy determinedly drove them back, Slater conceding his efforts, aided by T. Byrne. The work put in by Crouch, Walker, E. O'trey, Snow and Couslas proved too

POSITION OF CLUBS.

| Club.          | W. | L. | Draw. | Points. | Goals for. | Goals agst. |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|-------|---------|------------|-------------|----|----|
| Moyhu.....     | 4  | 0  | 0     | 16      | 13         | 8           | 24 |    |
| Beechworth...  | 2  | 1  | 0     | 8       | 17         | 21          | 11 | 23 |
| Wangaratta.... | 1  | 1  | 0     | 4       | 13         | 20          | 8  | 12 |
| Millars.....   | 0  | 2  | 0     | 0       | 10         | 13          | 14 | 13 |
| Whareroi.....  | 0  | 3  | 0     | 0       | 2          | 20          | 14 | 30 |

much for Moyhu, for two bold attempts were made to score, the first striking the behind post from an angle and the second scoring a point. Again the play was in front of the local up-ribs, E. O'trey, Miller and Daidy being very prominent. From a bounce in front over a disputed mark, Beechworth added another single. The kick-off having reached almost half-way round the wing, Walker picked it up, and with a running kick sent to Couslas. The latter also had a run, and when within range had a shot, two flags being produced. G. Evans had a long place shot for Moyhu at the close of this term.

Moyhu, 3.5 (23 points).  
Beechworth, 1.5 (11 points).  
Beechworth, being a clean points to the bad on the last change, dashed into the local territory full of hope. The first attack by Miller and Walker was turned aside by E. and G. Evans. Miller, Turner, Snow and Webb again had the ball hovering in front. This also failed, likewise another by Thomas and Leonard, through fine play by Hannon, Kennedy, Slater and Hill. A chain of marks by Couslas, Miller and Turner ended by Thomas driving well into the fortified country. Stubb worked it away, only to see it returned by A. O'trey, Snow, Miller and Walker, the latter's try being touched when it had almost reached the desired end. Nevertheless, it was a point, and every little helped. Thomas marked the kick-off, and drove it back again, Maher relaying. Turner then played to Miller, Maher saving the situation. Again did Miller bombard, and once again Maher distinguished himself. The visitors appeared to have their opponents beaten, for Thomas, Leonard and Walker again came at them, the latter making the two flags from a good point. Only five points separated the scores, and Beechworth were battling with plenty of confidence. It was anybody's game. The red and black shone out from the bounce, Miller beating all his opponents with the exception of G. Evans, who rose to the occasion brilliantly. The play now became very fast, the ball travelling all over the ground, but more frequently from the centre to the Moyhu etidado. This display of

lightning-like exchanges lasted for a few minutes, and some attractive football was shown. Moyhu, evidently thinking it was time they had added something to their three-quarter's tally, made a dash at the Beechworth goal, and from a little ground play in front a point was scored. Thomas bolted around the wing from the kick-off, and the work put in by Allen, Smith, Clarke, E. O'trey and Webb placed the sphere at the foot of the local goal, but the next moment Turner had it back. Slater and Kennedy relieved splendidly, and at the call of time Webb was in the act of making another attack.

Final scores:—  
Moyhu, 3.6 (24 points).  
Beechworth, 2.6 (18 points).  
Thus ended a friendly encounter in a win for Moyhu by six points. The winners were best served by G. Evans, Hill, Slater, Kennedy, T. Byrne, E. Evans, Maher and B. Walty. They played with one man about, having reserved a place for T. Simmonds, but they could have done with an additional player in the concluding term, for they had their work cut out in preventing their opponents from snatching a victory, which was almost accomplished.

The evenness of the play shown by the Beechworth players makes the task of mentioning the best very difficult, but special mention should be made of the fine work performed by Webb and A. O'trey, who followed all through, and having to bear the burden of the day. P. Mason as umpire was all that could be desired. It is true he was responsible for Moyhu's first goal, but it must be remembered that he is not infallible, and one slip should not be sufficient to condemn any man. Both teams were satisfied with his work, which speaks for itself.

# FOOTBALL.

## MOYHU WIN THE O. AND K. PREMIERSHIP.

The final match for the Ovens and King premiership was played at Milawa on Wednesday between Moyhu and Wangaratta, in the presence of a good attendance of spectators. This match was originally set down for decision last Saturday, but owing to the unpropitious weather it was postponed until yesterday, in the hope that conditions would be more favorable. A more perfect day could not have been chosen, ideal spring weather prevailing. As will be remembered, these teams met in the semi-final encounter a fortnight previous, victory resting with Wangaratta by a dozen points, the weather on that occasion being of a stormy nature, especially in the concluding stages. Although Wangaratta achieved a decisive victory in the semi-final bout, there were many who were of opinion that the order would be reversed at the next meeting, as it was known that Moyhu had not been playing together for several weeks, the reason for their remaining quiescent during that lengthy period being due to the fact that the other teams to qualify for the "chosen three" in the first round had not made their positions secure. On the other hand, there were equally as many who "pinned their faith" on Wangaratta; contending that the blue and white "carried too many guns" for their opponents, and basing their views on the fact that Moyhu were outclassed while the rain held off on the previous battle, and then having as much to say in the handling of the ball as did the other side when the going was heavy. In consequence, more than ordin-

ary interest was evinced in the present game, quite apart from the fact that the result carried with it the coveted position of the premiership for 1910. Right from the commencement everything pointed to an interesting battle, and as the different quarters were entered on the interest became more sustained. Eventually, amidst an outburst of cheering, Moyhu were proclaimed victors by but seven points, the final scores being—

- Moyhu, 8.8 (56 points).
- Wangaratta 6.13 (49 points).

Last year Moyhu also had the honor of being placed at the top of the list, although the termination on that occasion was unsatisfactory. This was brought about by Whoronly refusing to take part in the final round after winning the minor premiership. Wangaratta, as in the present instance, then played Moyhu, and the latter, gaining the day, claimed the premiership. Happily a much more harmonious feeling existed this year, and the three teams who secured the best averages "faced the music." The positions for 1910 are as follows:—

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Moyhu .....      | 1 |
| Wangaratta ..... | 2 |
| Beechworth ..... | 3 |

Could not find Chronicle Rept  
For Sept 1910 for this game

FOOTBALL.

BEECHWORTH v. MOYHU.

The second semi-final contest under the auspices of the Ovens and King Association was played at Wangaratta last Saturday between Beechworth and Moyhu. Both teams travelled by special trains, and had large followings. Great interest had been taken in this contest—in fact, it was the chief topic during the past week—and the majority of the spectators present predicted an even game, but they were sadly disappointed so far as the exhibition shown by the minor premiers was concerned. Moyhu showed vast improvement in their play, being very accurate in their passing and shooting for goal; but Beechworth performed wretchedly, especially in their kicking for goal, and it came as a great shock to their numerous supporters. They also failed in their short passing, their dash appeared to be missing, and on frequent occasions several wandered away from their allotted positions—a very unprofitable procedure. The winners, on the other hand, went in for long kicking, and it proved far more effective than the tactics adopted by the red and black. It must be said that the winners were very fortunate in one respect, and that was the way in which the ball favored them in many instances—but that is all in the game. There is no doubt that it was not Beechworth's true form, and they are sure to show to better advantage in

the final encounter—at least, it is hoped so. Umpire Tulloch, of the V.F.L., had charge of the game. Messrs. P. Reid and B. Moadway acted as goal umpires, and Messrs. J. Kough and G. Powley were the timekeepers.

Moyhu got to work quickly after the bounce, and Hill booted a minor point, which was followed by a goal by Anderson. They attacked again, but two good marks by Hall and Craig turned aside the aggressive movement, and telling work by Turner, Smith, Schmidt, Walker and Thompson placed Moyhu on the defensive. The ball hovered in front of their sticks for a minute or so, followed by Miller snapping a point. Youlden accepted the kick-off, and returned. Simmonds booted away, and his efforts being seconded by G. Evans and Whitty, play drifted to the Beechworth citadel, a behind coming from T. Byrne. Marchant, Youlden and Walker reversed the order, Tracy scoring a point. The Moyhu players had Beechworth in difficulties once again, Snow turning aside their attack, and the next moment the same player again prevented any scoring. Moyhu were not to be denied, a brilliant drop-kick by Corker causing both flags to go up. Miller and Dunn were conspicuous for Beechworth from the bounce, followed by Thompson's shot producing one flag, the player mistaking the behind posts for the goal posts. Youlden had the kick-off brought back, Otreay's shot going across the sticks. After a

little centre play had been indulged in, the red and black were, in the act of pressing home an attack when the ball rang.

Moyhu, 2.2. Beechworth, 0.8. Beechworth dashed away at the bounce, Otreay passing to Johnson, a point being notched. They again attacked, but were eventually driven off by M. Byrne and Simmonds, and with almost lightning-like rapidity the play was in the red and black territory. Snow turning aside two hot attacks, D'Alton, Otreay, Tracy and Dunn stumped the Moyhu heights. After the umpire had twice thrown the ball in from out of bounds, Tracy punted a small point. Haanan was instrumental in play being transferred to the centre, and then amongst the Beechworth half-back division, where Ashmead came to the rescue; Craig secured from the latter, and Thompson and Schmidt were the means of Johnson being placed in a position to have a shot, only one flag being raised. Miller endeavoured to score the next moment, and from a bounce in front Tracy obtained a single, to be followed by a goal by Otreay. Moyhu succeeded in gaining the upper hand, T. Byrne annexing a point. First one side and then the other tried hard to press home attacks, and at last Walker secured the red and black's second goal, and shortly afterwards a behind was added. Just before the adjournment Johnson had a try a couple of yards in front, but to the surprise of everyone only a

minor was notched. Beechworth, 2.9. Moyhu, 2.3.

On resuming, the green and gold were the first off the mark, and had the ball in close proximity to the red and black fort. Out of bounds was the order on the right hand side of the sticks, and then on the left, followed by Simmonds snapping a behind, and then another was notched. As the result of fast play down the centre, Turner passed to Thompson, a place kick "doing the trick." Immediately afterwards J. Byrne, with an angle snaphob, secured a goal for his side, and subsequently E. Evans (through Mahoney's head work) booted another. Moyhu attempted to "repeat the dose," but Hall had to be reckoned on. After a little centre work, Beechworth were again forced to defend their territory. They not only succeeded in doing so in a business-like manner, but had the satisfaction of putting their opponents on their mettle, Walker with a running shot striking the post. Again McDonald booted away, and good work by Mahoney gave J. Byrne an opportunity, and he did not fail, fifth goal being recorded. A little later they obtained their sixth major, Mahoney piloting it through. Moyhu, 6.6. Beechworth, 9.10.

With a deficiency of thirteen points, Beechworth dashed Moyhuwards, but M. Byrne proved as impenetrable as a

stonewall. After a brief period of give and take play, the red and black scored a point. An irritable rush by the Evans brothers ended by Gerald booting a goal. Another was almost scored, but Snow stopped it. Out of bounds play was the order after Beechworth had failed in a scoring attempt. Again the green and gold gained ascendancy, Bourke booting a goal. Beechworth then had a turn, the effort proving fruitless. A long

kick down the centre was the means of putting the red and black on the defensive, a behind coming from Mahoney's boot. In kicking off, Snow made a bad kick (the only mistake he made during the match), and Hill had no difficulty in punting another goal. For a minute or so Beechworth holed attacked, the result being a point by Turner. The Evans brothers again became conspicuous, but the work of Hall, Otreay, D'Alton, Marchant, Walker and Turner found the ball again brought back. H. Evans, T. Byrne, Skehan, Mahoney and Hill reversed the order, the latter punting tenth goal, to be succeeded by a behind a moment or two later. Two dashes by Beechworth just before the termination ended in two behinds being added, making the scores—Moyhu, 10.7 (67 pts.) Beechworth, 9.14 (82 pts.)

Next Saturday Moyhu and Wangaratta meet at Minawa, and on the following Saturday Beechworth (through winning the minor premiership) play the winners to decide the major premiership.

# Moyhu Racing Club.

## ANNUAL RACES,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th.

Office-Bearers:—President, Mr John Evans; Vice-President, Mr. J. T. Byrne; Judge, Mr. John Evans; Secretary, Mr. J. W. Johnston; Treasurer, Mr. Mat. Byrne; Starter, Mr. J. Cowan; Handicapper, Mr. J. Tanner; Timekeeper, Mr. Jas. Lindner; Clerk of Scales, Mr. W. Hulme; Clerk of Course, Mr. T. J. Byrne; Stewards, Messrs John Evans, Jas. Walsh, Gerald Evans, Albert Evans, W. Skehan, Jas. Byrne, H. Hill, Dan Byrne, T. J. Byrne; committee, Messrs C. Schulz, T. Labert, W. C. Hulme, D. Byrne, M. Byrne, P. J. Whitty, D. Walsh, E. Johnston, R. Moore, D. Slater, R. Bartley, P. J. Byrne, J. McCague, and W. Vadden.

### PROGRAMME:

Novelty Pony Race, of £5, first horse £4, 2nd horse £1 4 furlongs, 14 hands 2 inches and under. Ponies allowed 12 yards for every inch under 14.2. Start at 2 p.m. Nom. 4s.

Maiden Plate of £8 second horse to

Maiden Plate, of £8, second horse to receive £2 out of stake. W.P.A.

For horses that have never won an advertised prize. 5 furlongs. Nom. 5s. Start at 2.30 o'clock.

Trials Stakes, of £8, second horse to receive £1 out of stake. For horses that have never won a flat race exceeding £10. 6 furlongs. Nom. 6s. Start at 3 o'clock.

Pony Race, of £5, 14.2 and under. 1st £4, 2nd £1. Half a mile. Start at 3.30 o'clock.

Moyhu Handicap, of £15, second horse to receive £3 out of stake, 9 furlongs. Nom. 6s, accept. 4s. Start 4.5 o'clock.

Farmers' Purse, of £10, first horse £8, second horse £2 out of stake. Weller Handicap; amateur riders. 6 furlongs. Minimum weight, 9st.

For horses that have never won an advertised prize exceeding £10, and the bona fide property of a resident of the Shire of Oxley for three months immediately prior to day of races. The onus of proof to rest with the owner, the decision of such proof to rest with the stewards. Winner of Maiden Plate incurs 7lb. penalty. Nom. 10s. Start 4.45 o'clock.

Flying Handicap, of £8, second horse to receive £1 out of stake. 5 furlongs. Nom. 5s. Start 5.30 o'clock.

Nominations for all events to be in the hands of the Secretary, Moyhu, before 7 p.m. on the 28th March, for all events, enclosing name, age, colour, latest performances of horse and strictly the necessary deposit. All horses not scratched on or before 12 o'clock on day of races will be considered acceptors and held liable for acceptance money. Weights will be declared on Saturday, 4th April, 1914. Members' Tickets of 10s and upwards admit member and two ladies free, under this amount in admission. All children 14 years of age and under free. Bookmakers' fee £1 1s. All Bookmakers to lodge with the Secretary on morning of races £10 in cash as a guarantee. V.R.C. Rules strictly adhered to. Winner of any handicap flat race of £10 or upwards, after declaration of weights, to carry 7lb. penalty in Trial Handicap, Moyhu Handicap, Farmers' Purse, two or more such races 10lb. penalty. J. Tanner, handicapper. No horse handicapped without nomination fee. Jockeys must produce licenses.

Special Train from Wangaratta Day of Races. Luncheon Booth on the Ground.

# FOOTBALL.

## MOYHU DEFEATS WANGARATTA.

The Wangaratta footballers journeyed to Moyhu by special train on Saturday last, and were accompanied by a large number of supporters. It was the first time this season that these teams met in connection with the Ovens and King Association, and a ding dong contest was expected. The result of the game was a victory for the home team by 6 goals 6 behinds to 4 goals 10 behinds. Moyhu were without the services of J. Slater and B. Whitty, but the men who replaced them did not disappoint their supporters. Wangaratta tried two new players—Fahy and Pritchard. The latter, who was a shining light in the Eldorado team last year, has not found heart to 'get into' the game yet, in fact it was hard to tell which side he was playing for. D. Carmichael was also absent from the visiting team. Moyhu had evidently been training continuously for Saturday's game, realising that they would not have such a soft thing as on former occasions. Wangaratta on the other hand were hopeful, with a slight alteration in their ranks, to make a better stand than they did against Beechworth; and probably would have done, but for the repetition of their very bad habit of kicking points instead of goals. Wangaratta, although having fourteen opportunities, only managed to put the ball where it counted most four

times. As a comparison Moyhu from twelve tries scored the "sixes" six times. The game was in charge of Umpire Walker. The Wangaratta boys have not yet got the "hang" of Walker's umpiring, and are not likely to, as he is not at all consistent in his decisions. He did not even give satisfaction to the winning team. The game was very disappointing from every point of view. Two good teams that ought to have given a fair exhibition of football were allowed to have their own way when they should have been penalised, and were hampered on the other hand, when a sparkling of good play was beginning to be seen, by the ball being called in and bounced. It eventually developed into a very rough and not at all attractive match. The umpire was, however, impartial in his awards, as during the match he gave 23 penalty kicks to the home team, and 28 to the visitors. Moyhu is a fine team, and their system of accurate passing had the Wangaratta boys nonplussed on more than one occasion. Without that fine combination—the three Evans brothers—however, the team would be at a great loss. Wangaratta, although playing a strenuous and defensive game, often passed the ball into an opponent's hands, when meant for a colleague. They were also weak on the forward line. Many times when the ruck brought the play forward there was no one to handle the ball capably enough to snap a goal, and the ball either went out of bounds or behind the sticks. Wangaratta have a few good marks, Cameron

without doubt being amongst the best. The first quarter, in which the home team had the advantage of a slight breeze, was vigorous, without being unduly rough; but in the second and third quarters, when the players were paying more attention to the man than the ball, the spiteful acts led to reprisals on both sides. Straggling, elbowing, hacking, punching, and all the tricks of a spiteful player's repertoire were used. The climax came just about the middle of the third quarter when two players suddenly clashed into one another. They came to blows, and the crowd rushed the ground. The combatants were stopped, however, by their fellow players, and the game proceeded once more. The teams were represented by the following players:—Wangaratta—J. Brennan (capt.), Hauser, Gleeson, Meudway, H. Dodd, G. Dodd, F. Jackson, H. Hill, H. Condron, W. Stubbs, Nicol, J. Cameron, Moly. O'Brien, L. Fritchard, Fahy, Gill and F. Woodberry; Moyhu—E. Evans (capt.), H. and G. Evans, T. Byrne, T. Bourke, E. and M. Pendergust, F. and B. Corker, J. Newlon, M. Mahony, B. Wallace, H. Hill, G. Stubbs, J. Whitty, W. Armstrong, D. Byrne and J. Muher. Messrs W. Melville and Leathart acted as goal umpires, and Messrs C. Finemore and T. Hickey timekeepers. Mr. W. Vouden was referee. The game was in progress some little time before anything of direct benefit was done. The Dodd Bros' piece of defence work was the first individual effort to gain ap-

pearance. The play went to Moyhu's forward, where first point was scored from the ruck. The ball flew up and down the ground several times before Cameron marked and passed to Gill close up, but he unfortunately hit the post. The play went to the centre, where F. Corker and Evans were conspicuous. Brennan got a free and sent to Powley, who from an angle got Wangaratta's first goal. From the bounce the play went towards the railway line, where G. Evans was awarded a free. He placed, but only a point resulted. Again Moyhu attacked, but F. Jackson went high, and marking sent the ball well out again. T. Bourke was here to be seen doing good work. Brennan secured and passed to Woodberry, who kicked for goal, but Muher in the sticks was handy, and got the ball safely away again. The green and golds were keen on the wing and a good understanding existed between Evans Bros. and Hill, who was unlucky in only getting a point. Another point soon followed. Meudway, Condron, and Stubbs resisted the attack again, but Bourke, Mahony, Pendergast and a few others gave the maroons no peace, and the ringing of the bell saw H. Dodd relieving well. The visitors had three points the advantage in the play for the term, the scores being:—

|            |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|
| WANGARATTA | ... | 1.1 |
| MOYHU      | ... | 0.4 |

Wangaratta were first to get busy on resuming. The ground play on both sides was bad, all players with one or two exceptions showing out poorly, and there were many mis-judgments in the flight of the ball, the game thus depreciating as a spectacle. Woodberry, who was not playing badly, scored a point. Wallace and Pendergast relieved the minds of their supporters by getting the ball away for a while, but eventually Gleeson scored a point. Now Moyhu attacked strongly, and good play by Corker, Byrne and Newton called for applause. Harold Hill has found his place in goal, and at this stage made his usefulness apparent. "Corr" Stubbs for Moyhu got a penalty kick, and booted a goal for his side. Nicol, Powley and Hauser, who were now coming on better, did good individual service. T. Bourke came to light just now, and took a nice mark. He sent forward and a line chain of marks from G. Evans to Hill to Byrne resulted in the latter placing and netting a splendid goal. Ken. Cameron went in with determination, and brought off

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one of the prettiest marks of the day on the wing. Many times Wangaratta brought the ball forward, but T. Bourke was ever watchful and returned again and again. Hauser, with a long kick sent up one flag before half time. Moyhu from their two tries got two goals this quarter, whereas Wangaratta from three attempts only realised as many points. Scores:—

MOYHU ... .. 2,4  
WANGARATTA ... .. 1,4

Wangaratta started off with a rush, and before the spectators could realise what was happening Cameron had passed to O'Brien, and a point resulted. Evan Evans showed how reliable he is at this stage, and sent well forward, where his brother, Gerald, was awarded a free kick right in front. He made no mistake about getting a goal. Whitty, Armstrong, and Byrne each received applause in turn. Cameron again passed well into the hands of Stubbs, who sent to Hill (who had been changed from goal-keeping), but the everlasting point was again the result. Mick Prendergast, who had taken some very severe knocks put in good work, which was the indirect cause of a point being rushed for his side. At this stage a disturbance took place amongst the players, and the game was suspended for a few minutes. Hill secured a free kick out of the bout, and sent the leather spinning forward; Cameron marked close up, but kicking badly, nothing resulted. H. Dodd relieved a promising attack, but

Armstrong eventually got the goal, and with it the enthusiasm amongst the home team's supporters grew considerably. The term was now up, and the scores were:—

MOYHU ... .. 4,5  
WANGARATTA ... .. 1,7

The opening of the last term saw the play confined to the centre for a while, before G. Evans from a running kick got Moyhu a goal. From this on Wangaratta played a more reliable game. A nice little chain of marks made their supporters cheer Meadway, Fiddler and Gill. The play was right in front of Moyhu's goal. Jim Gleeson was awarded a free, but he made his supporters say "nasty" things about him by only kicking a point. Bourke, Byrne, and Corker were trying, but O'Brien tapped the ball to Gill and that worthy punted a nice goal. Ben. Corker promises to be as clever as ever, before many matches are played. He passed to Evan Evans, who kicked a goal for his side, followed quickly by a point from the same boot. The unceasing pressure was beginning to tell on the big men of the home team by now, and Wangaratta had the better of the play. Cameron, who seemed to be everywhere, had a snap, but Maher in goal again saved. Hauser was held, and he got a free a good distance out, and the excitement reached fever heat when he put on a nice goal. Hauser was again responsible for a score by hand-balling to Nicoll, who registered a point. Wangaratta were not, however, having all the

best of it, for many times the leader went from end to end. Woodberry amidst applause sent to Gill, but F. Prendergast secured and returned. Gleeson came into possession for a free and passed to Powley. He in turn thought it best to pass to Fiddler, and thence to Hauser, who added another goal. This effort was too late, however, as was realised when the bell rang shortly afterwards. The final scores were:—

MOYHU ... .. 6,6  
WANGARATTA ... .. 4,10

The best football was seen in the concluding part of the game. Those who showed out best for the winners were Evans Bros., Corker Bros., Byrne Bros., Bourke, Prendergast, and Mahony, and were ably assisted by most of the others. The most prominent for Wangaratta were Hauser, Meadway, Jackson, Gleeson, Brennan, Condron, Gill, Woodberry, Stubbs, Cameron and Dodd Bros, and the others perhaps will do better next time.

## **Gerald 1915 summary**

**New Gerald letter 16/2/1915**

**The Australian Hotel**

Spencer Street  
Melbourne

16/2/ 1915

My Dear Father

Arrived quite safely last night – saw mother & girls today – Owing to a misunderstanding I went out to Sandringham. They came in so I did not see them till after dinner.

Mother has taken it alright. She seems to understand the case. She & I spend the afternoon out at St Kilda, the girls went back. We are all going to the pantomime tonight. I will report at the barracks in the morning. It is much cooler today. I saw Mr Wilmot this morning, he gave me a letter of introduction to Colonel Wallace the state Commandant.

I will write you again tomorrow night and tell you're the Corps I am in.

Your loving son  
Gerald

"Igerald 12 ? 1915 enlist"

"18 Febuary 1915"

Redcamp

Moyhu

Friday

My dear Minnie -

You are quite settled in your new home by this time I suppose. Hope you have a good time. The cook seems to be getting on alright so far, she just plods along all day and half the night.

You will be pleased to hear that I am going to the war. I volunteered last Monday & am going down next Monday evening 15<sup>th</sup> and will report myself the next day.

There is only one reason I am not in Egypt now and that is Mother - but I know now when volunteers are getting scarcer she will be glad I am going. I will stop in the Australian Hotel. We did not get the mail last night.

Your loving brother

Gerald

*(The Australian War Memorial records show that Gerald enlisted in Wangaratta on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1915, where he presented for medical examination by Doctor Wyatt Docker, who considered him 'fit for active service.' Gerald was 24 years and 2 months old. He was a 'Collingwood 6 footer' at 5 foot 11 inches (180.5 cm) in height and weighed in at 13 st 4 lbs (85 kg), hazel eyes and light brown hair).*

Wangaratta Chronicle (Vic. : 1914 - 1918) / Wed 17 Feb 1915

**Volunteers for the War.**—Mr. **Gerald Evans**, son of Mr. John **Evans**, of Red Camp, has volunteered for service, and proceeded to Melbourne on Monday. Mr. **Evans** is a fine athletic young fellow, and was one of the finest footballers in the Ovens and King Association. Mr. Wm. Usherwood, of Myrree, has also volunteered, and left on Monday for Melbourne. Mr. Philip Shore, son of Mrs Shore, Wangaratta, is a member of the Second Commonwealth Contingent.

New "John Evans re Gerald enlistment, 19/2/1915"

Redcamp

19 Feb 1915

My Dear Eleanor

As Gerald wrote to Minne yesterday, no doubt you will know before this reaches you that he has volunteered for the war, and will be going to Melbourne on Monday. I suppose he will arrive on Monday night & will stop at the Australian Hotel Spencer St. You will feel this very much & so do I but he is doing what every man ought to do & when he asked me what I thought I had to say that he was doing right. Gerald told Albert and Ken. I don't know whether he has told Harry yet or not, or what any of them think about it. I told Jack who does not like it & may try to dissuade him, but I don't think he will succeed. Jack says the Broadmeadows camp is a rather dirty place. I suppose it is like the camp at Sydney –

I am relaxing(?) a letter from Julia. I had written about her lack of land. Not a very important matter.

I do not care much for Australia or the people in it, but I dislike the Germans more & have great sympathy for the allies & the gallant men at the front. Gerald has not told Evan yet. Evan thinks of going to Benthoug(?) for a day or two & home about the beginning of next week.

Today I think I will write to Julia Usherwood is going to Wangaratta.

I feel deeply for you. I would gladly go in Gerald's place but that would not do of course. There certain things a man must do himself.

Yours affectionately

John Evans

"3gerald ? April 1915"

"12 April 1915 postmark  
Officers School of Instruction  
Broadmeadows  
Sunday

My dear Mother -

Just a not to tell you that I arrived in the school ..... (missing) ..... there yesterday.

I have to go over in the morning... (missing) .....

it will be very hard work ..... (missing) .....

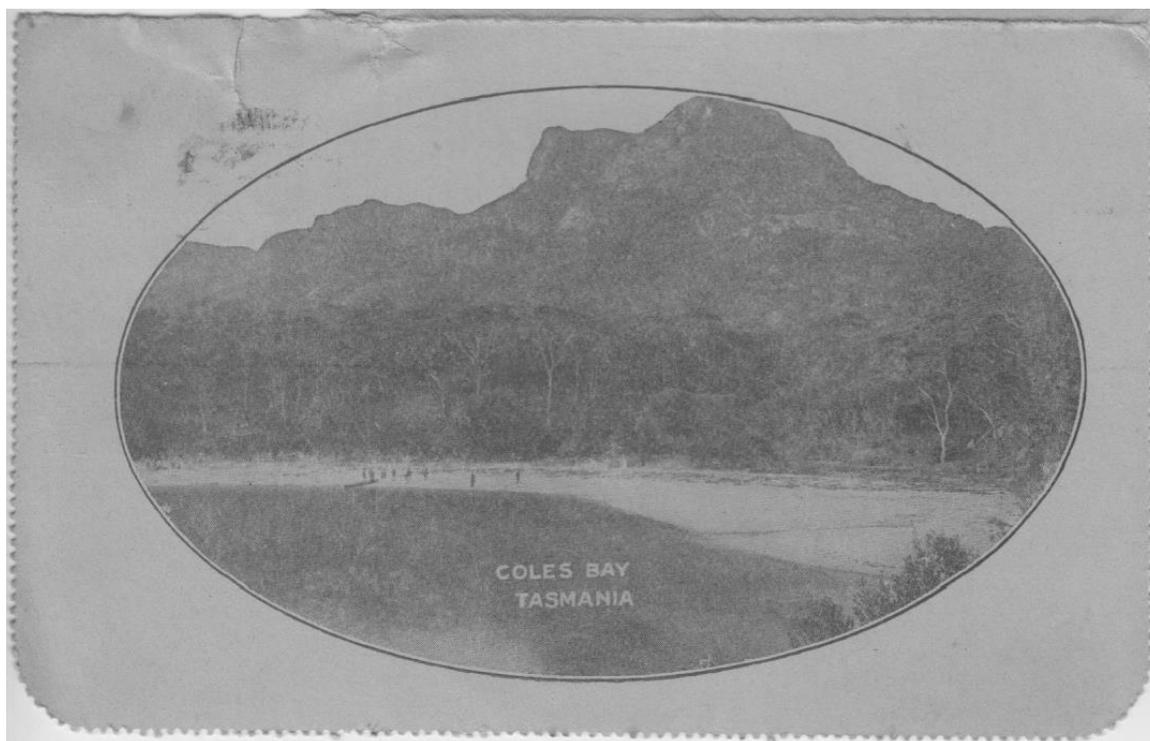
time so I won't have much time for writing.

The course will last a month. We will not get any leave through the week - but will get each weekend off from 3 o'clock on Saturday.

I think there were over two hundred in for the school & about 40 selected. Am sorry to leave Bill behind in the infantry & I think he is pretty discontented but it can't be helped. Am sure the brigade won't go for a long time yet.

Love to all  
Your loving son  
Gerald

*Letter card with picture of Coles Bay, Tasmania on the back. April*



"2gerald ? ? 1915 BroadM"

"Febuary /March1915 ???"

Depot PO

Broadmeadows

Wednesday

My dear Mother -

Am writing this from Killingworth - We were given two days leave on the Monday & I am going back tonight. The mud should be a bit better now. I see by the paper that it is still raining at Redcamp, you must be rather tired of it by now & should have a bit of mud with you too.

I sent Father a pair of gum boots on Monday, they are very good in the mud, I have some. This place looks nice & green & should have some nice sheep feed on it soon.

Lily and Miss Short are staying here so they have quite a house party. I haven't had any letters from home since I came back but suppose there are some there if I could find them.

I saw two Ely's & Evelyn Lotcutt in town on Monday, also May Evans. Think Allan is going up to Redcamp so he will tell you the news. He may be going as far as Tallarook with me this evening.

Love to all.

Your loving son

D Gerald Evans

Wangaratta Chronicle (Vic. : 1914 - 1918) / Wed 17 Feb 1915

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"acertificate 11/5/1915"

No. 2282

C.M. Form S. 1.



### AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

THIRD Military District.

School of Instruction for NO 5 OFFICERS TRAINING SCHOOL

## CERTIFICATE.

This is to Certify:—

THAT CORPORAL D.G. EVANS of the  
A.I.F. has passed through a School of  
 Instruction, of TWENTY SIX working days (total \_\_\_\_\_ hours'  
 instruction), held at BROADMEADOWS, and obtained a  
 (a) PASSED Certificate. IN INFANTRY DRILL, MUSKetry AND FIELD  
 TRAINING

At the Examination held at the conclusion of the Course he obtained the following percentage of marks:—

|                   |              |       |
|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| Theoretical _____ | } Aggregate. | _____ |
| Practical _____   |              | _____ |

REMARKS:—<sup>(b)</sup>

James Tully COLONEL

Chief Instructor, School of Instruction

for NO 5 OFFICERS T. SCHOOL

(Place) BROADMEADOWS

W. H. Smith Capt.

(Date) MAY 11TH 1915 191

for Commandant 3RD General Staff, 3rd. Mil. Dist.  
Military District.

*New Gerald Sept? 1915*

Reinforcements

Broadmeadows

Monday

My dear Minnie

Thanks for you your last letter, I got one from Harry today telling me about the show ect, there must have been quite a party in Wangaratta.

I also got a long epistle from George Simmonds Jun<sup>r</sup>(?).

If you have any old books, sixpenny novels etc I would like you to send some down to me for the men on board the ship. If addressed to me, I would get them alright.

I have not heard anything further about sailing but expect we will go on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

I haven't any news, I wrote to Mother yesterday.

Love to all

Gerald



**Army Camp, Broadmeadows circa 1915 - no known names**

## AU REVOIR TO LIEUT. G. EVANS.

An enthusiastic and representative gathering assembled at the residence of Mr. R. Shanley, "Fairfield," Moyhu, on Saturday evening, to wish Godspeed and a safe return to Lieut. **Gerald Evans**, who will be leaving for the front shortly. The function was held in the barn, which was transformed for the occasion. The decorations were a special feature and were beautifully carried out in white and yellow roses, wattle blossom and greenery. An "Au Revoir," surrounded by horseshoes and the flags of the Allies, occupied a conspicuous place, and a large horse shoe done in red, white and blue was suspended over the young soldier and presented to him when leaving. The work was done by the Misses Gibb and Shanley, and Messrs W. Gibb, W. Gibson and J. Shanley, and reflected great credit on their taste. Mr. T. J. Byrne was chairman, and after reading apologies from Messrs W. Vadden, Carl Schulz, Mat Byrne, T. F. Byrne and D. Byrne, proposed the toast of the Guests of the Evening, and presented him with a gold wristlet watch, inscribed: "Presented to David Gerald **Evans**, by his Moyhu district friends, on his departure for the front, June, 1915." The Chairman said: "It is a pleasure and privilege to preside on this occasion to do

honor to our young hero, Lieut. **Evans**, who leaves shortly for the front. His many friends have assembled to-night to wish him "Au Revoir" and every success in his military career. He is a native of this district, and we all know his many sterling qualities, and feel sure that wherever duty calls him he will bring honor to himself, his parents, and country. (Applause.) He is one of Australia's best, and is going to fight for the old flag—the flag we were born under, live under, and hope to die under. (Applause.) The Australian's performed at Gallipoli a feat that will be written in history in letters of gold, and the letters will get brighter every year. It is a compliment to our young soldier to see such a gathering here to-night, but it is nothing to what we will give him when he returns with the laurels of victory and covered with glory. Lieut. **Evans**. I will ask you to accept this wristlet watch as a slight but sincere token of our esteem, and when you are thousands of miles away it will remind you of the many friends you have left in Moyhu. (Applause.)

Messrs H. Wagg, W. C. Lewis and Joseph Lewis and D. Shanley also spoke to the toast.

Mr. D. Shanley then presented Lieut. **Evans** with a spirit flask from the Myrree tennis club, and on their behalf wished him good luck.

Lieut. **Evans** in responding, said: "My heart is full when I see so many of my old friends around me to-

night, and listen to the kind words said of me. I don't deserve them, if I were even worthy of a quarter of them I would be well satisfied. I am not a hero—I am only doing my duty in answering my country's call. The war is going to be a long one, and the help of every man, woman and child is needed. We don't want to live under the German flag—I know I don't. I enlisted as a private, but was fortunate in getting into the Officers' School. All the same I would go into the tanks again to-morrow. (Applause.) We will be all one when we get to the front, and when I have men to lead I hope I'll do it with honor. (Applause.) I am very pleased to be with you to-night, and to have this opportunity of bidding good-bye. I do not like leaving, for this is home, and I know you all. I am just the same to you now as when I rode along the road in times of peace. I am very pleased this gathering is at the residence of my old friend, Mr. Shanley—better pleased than it had been held anywhere else. I cannot find words to thank you for your gifts. I do not need them to remind me of my old friends, but I can show them to others. The watch I will wear always—it will go where I go. And the flask I will fill with Moyhu spirits to see me on my way. (Applause.)

The Parents of the Guest was proposed by Mr. Shanley, senr., and Mr. **Evans**, senr., responded. Other district volunteers was proposed by

Mr. Wagg, and responded to by Mr. Stickle. The Allies was proposed by Mr. Baker. The Ladies by Mr. E. **Evans**, and responded to by Mr. W. M. Gibb. The Chairman by Mr. W. Gibson.

Songs were contributed by Misses Gibb and Bailey, Messrs T. J. Byrne, J. Leslie, F. Byrne, A. Gibson, E. **Evans** and W. Baker. Accompaniments were played by Misses Gibb and **Evans** and Mr. W. Baker.

A dance followed and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the AuM Lang Syne and the National Anthem, and so terminated a happy and pleasant night. The following committee carried out all arrangements:—Messrs W. Vadden (chairman), H. Wagg, Mat Byrne, W. M. Gibb, J. Gibb, P. Shanley, T. J. Byrne, W. C. Lewis, Joseph Lewis, and W. Gibson (hon. secretary).

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Shanley for use of barn and piano, to Messrs C. Schulz and Byrne and Nolan for assistance in various ways.



Gold watch thought to belong to Gerald Evans, given to him by his friends from the Moyhu district, at Richie Shanley's, on his departure for WWI in October 1915  
No engraving found on watch which is strange?

*New "Gerald –probably September 1915"*



### **REINFORCEMENTS**

Broadmeadows

Sunday

Dear Miss Shanley –

Many thanks for your letter & the contents. I feel they will bring me good luck, and very much appreciate the spirit in which they were sent. I am quite overwhelmed by all the good things that were said about me & only wish I deserved some of them.

I have had to work pretty hard since I came back as the final leave unsettled my company a good deal.

The weather has been very fine & the camp is quite dry which is a great comfort. I met Father in town yesterday.

Please remember me to all your people & hoping to see you all again some day.

I am

Yours sincerely

D Gerald Evans (signed).

*New "Edi Prentice to Gerald, undated but probably September 1915"*

Redcamp  
Thursday

My dear Gerald

This ist just a little note to say goodbye and wish you all sorts of good luck. I was sure you would have had another weekend. I would like to have gone to town to see you off but I hope to be in town when you come back, and you will hope claim(?) at the hancately(?) ensure(?) and send me some postcards on your way home. I wish I had my scarf finished to send you. I admit(?) really made you anything. I am sending you a few little violets just to remind you, Gerald is nice(?).

Goodbye Gerald dear. Hoping you are not feeling very lonely.

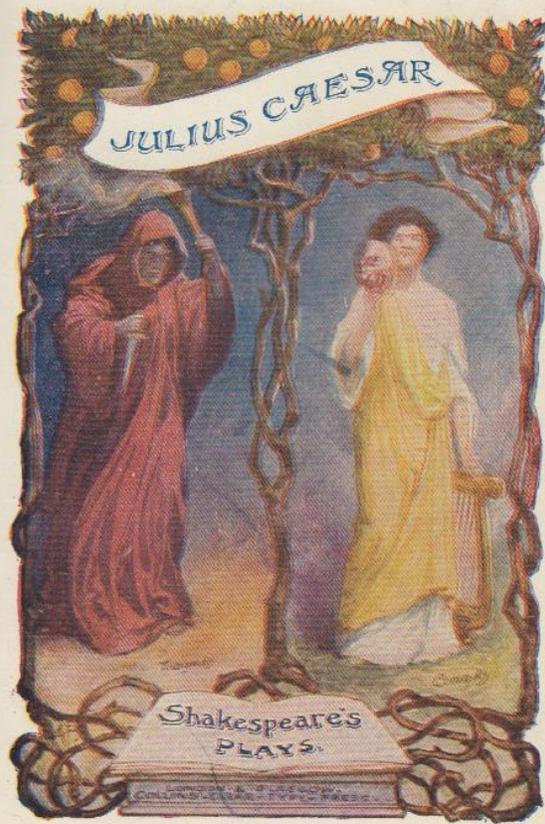
Love from  
Edie



Book that someone gave Gerald on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1915 before he embarked to Europe



From the painting by Sir E. J. Poynter, Bart., P.R.A.  
 Reproduced, by permission, from the original in the Manchester Art Gallery.  
 "Julius Caesar" (The Ides of March).  
 Calpurnia. "What mean you, Cæsar?" Act II, Sc. II.



Thanks to the kind permission of Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., the text of "The Stage Shakespeare" is printed from the "Globe" edition of 1900, which, in general, is that of the celebrated "Cambridge Shakespeare."

*Handwritten:*  
 K. C. Evans  
 24-9-15.

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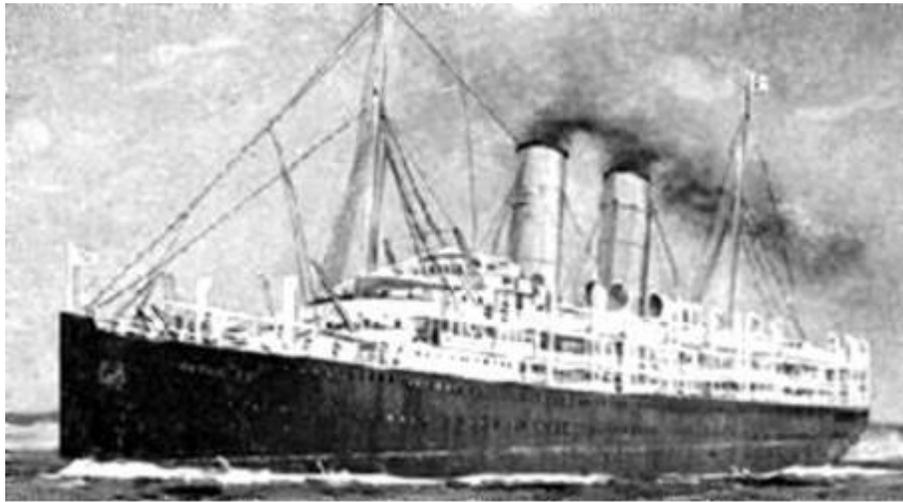
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Gerald Evans departed Melbourne of RMS Osterley on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1915



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P06566.003

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>ID number</b>       | P06566.003  |
| <b>Collection type</b> | Photograph  |
| <b>Object type</b>     | Black & white - Print silver gelatin  |
| <b>Maker</b>           | Unknown   |
| <b>Place made</b>      | At sea  |
| <b>Date made</b>       | October 1915  |
| <b>Description</b>     | Group portrait of Australian junior officers and nurses on board RMS Osterley on their way to Egypt. Back row, left to right: 2nd Lieutenant (2nd Lt) Frederick William Marks, 7th Battalion; 2nd Lt David Gerald Evans, 22nd Battalion (later 8th Battalion, died of wounds on 20 September 1917; 2nd Lt Robert Armstrong Morgan, 21st Battalion (later Captain, 57th Battalion, killed in action 25 April 1918); 2nd Lt Harry Bateman Archibald, 6th Battalion (later 14th Field Artillery Brigade); 2nd Lt Charles Edgar Shaw, 24th Battalion (later Captain, 55th Battalion); 2nd Lt John Arthur Hill, 23rd Battalion (returned to Australia 4 December 1918); 2nd Lt Alexander George Campbell, 24th Battalion (later awarded DSO, Captain and 8th Battalion); 2nd Lt Harold Bartram, 5th Battalion (later Lieutenant); 2nd Lt Ronald James Dickson, 23rd Battalion (later Major 59th Battalion) and Lt Thorold Robert Casboulte, 8th Battalion (returned to Australia on 30 January 1918). Middle row: Captain Atkins, Medical Officer; Sister Jolly, Captain Williams, Lieutenant-Colonel Scriven VD, Lieutenant Robley, Sister Meldrum and Captain Hamilton. Front row: Lieutenants Marks; Lt Ernest Henry George Kemmis, 6th Battalion, (later captain and killed accidentally on 22 July 1918 when he fractured his skull during a horse race); 2nd Lt Samuel Carty Kilduff, 22nd Battalion, (later Lt, returned to Australia on 16 December 1917); Lt Thomas Alfred Hooper, 5th Battalion, (later killed in action on 18 August 1916); 2nd Lt William Holman Roberts, 21st Battalion and Lt William Brace (Bruce?) Bennett, 8th Battalion. |



**HMS Osterley, October 1915, Gerald's ship to Egypt.**

"5gerald 26/10/1915"



REINFORCEMENTS.

26<sup>th</sup> October 1915

My dear Mother -

We have arrived in Egypt at last. We got to Suez at 6 yesterday morning & left there about midday arriving at Zeitoun at 6.30. Zeitoun is about 10 miles from Cairo & very near Heliopolis.

The trip from Suez was the most wonderful sight I have ever seen, right up the valley of the Nile & through the Irrigation Area. The place is swarming with natives working or pretending to. The ploughs look about 2000 years old & are drawn by two cows or bullocks that look like they come out of the old Bible pictures. The funniest thing is to see the little donkeys getting along with great loads, and sometimes a nigger or two.

There are quite the quaintest old water wheels among the green crops. We are at the Zeitoun Camp & got into camp after dark, it is a desolate place out among the sand.

I went up and saw the Heliopolis hospitals today, it is an old Egyptian Palace. I have not been into Cairo yet. I have met a lot of fellows here that I knew in Australia.

We had a great trip over on the Boat and was sorry to leave in a way but very glad in others. I am pretty tired tonight. The weather is pretty hot in the day & cool at night & the sand is the very devil to walk in.

My address will still be the same. If you want to know about where I am write to Mr Gordon Stuart C/O Cooks, Cairo, they will make enquires and let you know. I thought I would be inclined to write a long letter but I don't feel inclined now, I think the mail goes tomorrow.

There are thousands of horses over here doing nothing.

Good bye

love to all

Gerald

"7gerald 1/11/1915"

Zeitoun

Sunday Nov 1st 1915

My dear Mother -

As the mail leaves tonight I think that I had better try and write to you this morning. Will have been here a week tomorrow. It has been pretty hot the last few days but is rather cold at night. I have been into Cairo a couple of times & it is rather an interesting place & some very fine buildings. There are a great many Australians there, people who have relations at the front or here.

The Australians have donkey races up the street & the people have to get off the track. I am going out to the pyramids today with some of our chaps so it should be rather a nice trip but rather warm me thinks. The 9th Reinforcements arrived a couple of days ago. They left Australia before us. As they are all fellows that I know it is very nice to have them.

There are any amount of Colonels & majors over here. They are nearly as thick as flies.

We hear very little about the progress of the war, except Gallipoli, they are making very little headway there and just about holding their own. They have some beautiful horses here & they are very well kept. I have been getting on alright. I had to take Command of the whole Battalion while General Maxwell inspected it, a couple of days ago but didn't have much to do. It is quite on the cards that I will be asked to be Adjutant for the Battalion but don't know if I will take it, it would mean advancement but might miss the company, going away and separated from my mates.

We have know idea how long we will be here. I saw Percy Kidgell in Cairo last night & also saw one of those O'Brien's from Greta but was not talking to him. Percy was quite voluble.

The Melbourne Cup will be run on a Tuesday & I think they are going to have some kind of a sweep on it.

Well the others are waiting so will have to stop. With love to all.

Your loving son

Gerald Evans

The same address

*"6gerald 1/11/15"*

*Postcard to :*

Harry Evans Esq  
Redcamp  
Moyhu  
Wangaratta  
Victoria  
Australia

1-11-15

Dear Harry

Have been out of the Pyramids today & had a Camel race but didn't win. Have been having a gay time mixed with hard work & sand. Plenty of the last two.

Gerald

"8gerald 7/11/1915"



## REINFORCEMENTS

7th November 1915

My dear Mother -

As this is Sunday morning I think I may as well write to you.

Last Sunday half a dozen of us went out to the Pyramids & had a pretty good time. We went all around on camels & finished up by having a race on donkeys down to the Bena Station.

There are only two pyramids now, one has been demolished by an English American Syndicate. The Sphinx is a good deal knocked about in the face.

I was on picket duty at the Kasr-el-Nil Barracks last Monday, these barracks were built by Napoleon and we were camped just in front of where he lived, they are now occupied by the Devon Regiment. I went through the Museum last week, they have plenty of Mummys there, lots of them thousands of years old, also some Alabaster statues. This week I have been over to Abbassia for three days doing the Musketry course at the Rifle Range, it was pretty hot in the day time.

I am getting together quite a fluent vocabulary in Arabic & can swear with the best of them. I have not had any letters yet, some of the men got some yesterday. I sent a cable home yesterday, but don't know if you will get it. They cost 4 piastres a word at weekend rates.

I reckon you will get this about Xmas time so must send you all Xmas good wishes.

I haven't heard anything about Frank Ridgway over here.

A lot of officers have to go through another School of Instruction but don't know whether I will have to or not. They have some beautiful Mosques but I haven't been through them yet. There are men going to the front every week from here, some Imperial Officers went this morning.

I am going into Cairo this morning, there is not much to do out here in the sand. Some of the ladies don't look bad over here but they have their faces half covered by a veil. Don't know what they are like after it is removed.

Love to all & Good bye

Your loving son

Gerald Evans

Some letters have just arrived, none from Redcamp for me, I got one.

*New Gerald 8/11/1915*

Zeitoun Camp

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 1915

Dear Father

I wrote to Mother by yesterdays mail. I thought I might get some letters from home today, but none so far. I got a letter from Aus yesterday posted on 4<sup>th</sup> October, so it didn't wast very much time. I have been here a fortnight today. I am quite used to things, nearly all the offices in this training Battalion went through the same school of instruction as I did, so we are sticking together well I think it will be the same at the front.

I saw an officer Lieut Harace Dawson in the Heliopolis Hospital who had returned from the front suffering from shock owing to a shell bursting too colose, he went over with Mr Cox & the last time he saw Cox he was making for a dugout for himself, he said Cox looked very much like a German with a fierce moustache & close cropped hair.

When Clive Williams got over here (Evan knows him) he heard his brother Charlie had been killed in action, some men swore they had actually seen it done, also the office with him, it was absolutely untrue and it is a great mistake to believer the Rumours that you here.

Cairo is packed full of soldiers of every sort, I saw some wounded Ghurkas from France suffering from gas yesterday.

I went though the Citadel yesterday, this was the first part of Cairo Napoleon occupied, it is a high fort about 1000 years old. There are beautifl Mosques up there, one holds 4000 people on the floor. Two of these Mosques have been restored by Lord Kitchener & they are wonderful. One of the Mosques at the Citadel was built by Mahamed Ali who took the Grecian architect's eyes out so that he would not build another like it. Not a bad lie, the Egyptian guides tell you all these yarns, but some of the work in these buildings is marvellous.

We are kept fairly busy, I am Orderly Officer today and am having an easy time. One of our chaps got cut about a bit in a motor accident last night & has had to have a few stiches put in. the Car drivers go like the dickens, but they are pretty clever.

I saw General Munro yesterday who is succeeding Sir Iam Hamilton. He is a pretty smart looking man.

I hear you are having a very good season in Australia. It must be a contract with the last one. It is possible that I will have to go through a School of Instruction but don't know yet. We are all pretty eager to get to the front now we are so close.

I think things are pretty quite now pareparing for the Winter.

Love to all

Your Aff<sup>ate</sup> son D Gerald Evans

New "Minnie to Gerald 18/111915"

Redcamp  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 1915

Dearist little Jumbuck(?)

There is'nt much news since I wrote last and I suppose this will arrive just in time for the New Year. I do trust it will be a happy one for you & that this horrid war will be over & you will just got to England & have a good time. It would be glorious then. I had a letter from Florence Polson last night, she say she is going to write to you & her brother is fighting in France in the 19<sup>th</sup> Artillary Division, but is now in England on furlough. Florrie seems to think her husband will go after Christmas. She says she would not stop him but she think the single me should go first, but I don't see why they should if the married can afford to leave their wives and children.

Katie drove Nona & Doris into Wangaratta. I had to writ to Mrs Campbell to ask if Nona could stay longer. I got a nice letter from her & she said Attie (Alec Campbell?) you were as lively as a cricket after you left Fremantle.

We are sending you a rabbis skin waterproof vest as they are better than sheep skin. I think it will go by this mail. We are also sending Bill Usherwood a sheep skin vest.

On Tuesday, Nona had to go home on Wednesday & hated going, she says she is coming back as soon as they come from King Island in the beginning of the year. Allent(?) was very sad when they left. We went for the picnic last Sunday to the Fifteen mile. There was only one accident, Doris bucked Harry off the three Handcocks(?) were chasing hime with water and her got on Doris to get away from them & was stooping down to dodge the water when Doris bucked but he was not hurt although he just missed a tred. Dot got Harry off Doris while she was in the wars. Kathie went into the Notcutts for working(?) for that day but didn't like Maude here manner is too abrupt, she & Tone(?) got a shock when they saw Dot's case(?) strapd(?). Tone just walked about and clapped his hands.

Evan cam back with Katie on Tuesday, he looks well bur has to use crutches & rest for a while – one leg isn't healed & I had a letter from Ken, he says he supposed we would want him home soon to keep the rabbits from the door. He says it is the limit selling in the black dust over there, it sounds as though he were getting tired of it.

Ian Whitty & Wilfred & Jack Evans are going this week I believe there ..... lots(?) going. I hope the will ....., poor Mrs Mick is in a stat I think she has to go to town now to see Ken off.

We finished sheering last Monday without any hitches except Toni Whalley having to because he was careless. It didn't rain at all but looks like it now & it would do good. We haven't hear from Bill Usherwood since he was on Gallipoli. I habe he got over safely when the transport was torpedoed.

Mother sends all her love to her baby. She and Evan are just pouring(?) for a drive.

Goodluck

Your loving sister

Minnie

*New Gerald 29/11/1915*

Zeitoun

Egypt

Nov 29 1915

My dear Mother

Since writing to Minnie I have received two letters from her, both of which were written before one I received previously, I suppose they all cam on the same boat.

The boat that Bill Usherwood went across in was torpedoed but only a few me were lost. There are three officers with us now, who were on the boat, the men behaved wonderfully and the ships stokers & engineers rushed the boats. The captain shot several of them. Lieut Pierce ..... (?) who went through the same school of instruction as I did called for vulunteers & went down & kept the engines going & they managed to beach the boat & saved a lot of lives. Piece was mentioned in the report & promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

I enquired about Frank Ridgway & Bill Usherwood at the record office, they are alright so far.

Bill must have had a bit of scraping to buy those scarves as the privated don't get much pay over here.

I went out to the Races at the Greywich(?) Sporting Club yesterday, it is a beautiful place with Golf links, Polo ground, tennis courts & everything complete, an ideal place for picnic races. The horses are also Arabs & Barbs(?), they cannot go very fast, but the racing was interesting, they have the totlisator & it is quite strange not to hear the Bookmakers.

I saw young Carmichael from Greta at the races. He was in the 8<sup>th</sup> L.H. that were cut up so badly, only 58 left out of 400 odd (sic. This was the charge on the Nek on Gallipoli, 8<sup>th</sup> August 1915). Carmichael was in the first line but was not touched. He got enteric fever after and is now in the pay office in Cairo.

It is quite possible that I will be here some time as I believe they are going to send the men away without us, & Lord knows how long we will be here.

I think we are going up to the Barrage the dam across the Nile where they work all this irrigation scheme from. It should be interesting.

It is not much use asking question in the letters as one cannot get an answer for a couple of months, but I hope they will write plenty of letters & tell me all the news. I have been very lucky so far & have the record here easily.

Love to all

Your loving son

Gerald

New "Gerald – Mother 12-12-15"

Zeitoun

Egypt

12 . 12 . 15

Dear Mother

I have written a long letter to Father so am afraid I can scrape up the energy for another one –

I am sending you some photos I have taken that might interest you. I have a letter from Nell the other day. It will be rather hard if they have to take to typewriting ect now I think. I would rather keep a boarding house or work in a shop.

Evan must have had a nasty time. Couldn't make out was wrong with him till I got Fathers letter.

We have a very comfortable Camp & will let you know when I leave.

Give my love to all.

Goodbye

Much love

Gerald

PS: I have received letters this morning, 13 – 12 – 15, from Father 7 Nov 1915 and also from Minnie DG Evans

New "Gerald – Minnie 14-12-15"

Zeitoun

Egypt

14 – 12 – 15

My dear Minnie

Yours of Nov 5<sup>th</sup> came the day before yesterday. I also got one from Father. I got five that day, so did alright. It is very nice to get letters over here. I am enclosing a few snaps taken lately. I hope you will put them away somewhere, I may want them.

Thanks for your letter with all the news in it. They must be very short handed with the shearing when they call in Gerry's aid. I reckon he would get in the road some, but he might be alright as tarboy if he didn't swallow the tarbrush. When is Edie going to send him to war?

Fred Howard is down with the remount crowd, I hear is a batman to one of the officers. I though he would be too slow. Tullet my batman is a bonufor(?), will back him against Fred, he is very faithful too, minds like a dog.

You certainly must have had a houseful of women when Doris & Nona were there. Evan had bad luck being unfit for combat, but he seems to have been doing alright.

Things are hurring a bit here but one cannot say much as the censor is pretty strict now but don't think he will censor any of my. My address is still the same.

Father says the country is looking very well. Have they sold my cattle yet? I with the boys would write to me some times. Don't call that pony Yelta & I think Colleen oge Asthone is too long. I still think that tactical move of mine was alright but it didn't come off did it?

We have to go out all day tomorrow, so will ring off.

Goodbye

Your aff brother

Gerald

New "Gerald – 19-12-15"



Aerodrome Camp

Heliopolis

**REINFORCEMENTS**

19 – 12 – 15

My dear Mother –

Hope you don't get tied of reading my letters, but if you get them all, they must be a bit of a bore for you. I sent a cable to you yesterday with Xmas Greetings which I think you should get about Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There have been a lot of wild rumours lastley & I thought you might think we were in action & I sent the cable to allay any anziety you might have on the subject.

I have had quite a big day yesterday finding friends relations etc. I found Frank Ridgway at last at Ma'adi. I had written to him but his reply went astray, so I went down and found him. He is looking awfully well, much bigger than when I saw him last & very cheerful though a bit tired of soldering I think. He is a corporal. When I got back to Cairo I was in a resaurant having dinner & Wilfred Evans and David Evans (Herbert's son) were there. Wifred has a moustache, David is very like Jack with the same jaw, he is in the LH Ambulance & expected to go away today but don't know if he did. Wilfred came in the artillery with Ian Whitty whom I saw this morning. Stan Gardiner, two Steeles, "Chips" Adamson, two Fannings (Evan will know these, they were both at Grammar). Bob Hore Lucas from Albury are all with the same lot. They are camped about 100 yards from me at present.

It is a great thing to bring people together, this war, isn't it?

The Censoring of the letters has been very strict lately & as I have to to it all for my men I get pretty sick of it. It takes us a lot of day if time, but I should be able to write a good love letter soon. Some of them are very lovey dovey.

I got a letter from Edie the other day which I have answered, also a Rreferee & Despatch from Minnie this morning but haven't had any parcels yet. Frank says he gets his parcels regularly.

I haven't heard anything of Bill Usherwood yet. It is very had to find anybody here.

Hope to get some letters this week. Expect we will have a bit of a trip on Xmas day.

Good-bye

Love to all

Your loving son

Gerald.

*"New Gerald 25/12/1915"*

Christmas Day 1915 (Egypt)

My dear Mother

Am writing to you tonight not because have very much to write about, but because it is Xmas day or has been. I have thought of you all a great deal today – even more than usual – because Xmas day always smees to be celebrated with much guston at Redcamp. I suppose ther is a goodly gathering today.

I had one present, every soldier has been given a present of tobacco & chocolate in a small tin box, mine is all tobacco, am going to send it home as a souveneir or curiosity.

We have to stay in Camp all day as we were the sentury Battalion. Only for that I was going to Alexandria for the week-end. We have a very nice dinner, I am enclosing the menu, which you will see has been compiled after much thought, the mess was nicely decorated by a Sergeant who was a window dessor at the Colisseum.

Had a church Service this morning the only time I have been to church on Xmas day, a special message from the King was read to us.

Tomorrow is Sunday & think it is just as well as some of the boys are feeling the strain a bit, have dined rather well but not wisely.

The artillery are moving to another camp tomorrow. They done wast much time that lot. Jack Evans... .. drill all day today & they aslo work till lunch time on Sundays –

I cannot write any more now as I wrote to Minnie on Wednesday which will arrive by the same mail as, by rights.

I hope next Xmas will see me at home again. I wish everybody a Happy New Years.

Your loving son

Gerald

## Gerald 1916 summary



**Gerald Evans Egypt 1915: Gerald winning prize**

*"agerald 10/1/1916"*

6th Training Battalion  
Zeitoun  
Egypt  
10-1-16

My dear Mother,

Excuse the pencil but am writing this in rather a hurry. I wrote to Father & Minnie last week & sent the letters home by Mrs Stewart. My Company was taken away from me last week & I am left here with all the other officers who have also been parted from their men. It is bad luck as one gets to like the men after being with them so long.

I am going into the School of Instruction here to do a machine gun course to fill in time, don't know what they are going to do with us & don't care much. Bill Usherwood is at present at Tel el-Kebir & is a corporal, have not seen him yet. I saw his officer who told me about Bill.

I saw Wilfred Evans yesterday, he is down at the Ma'adi Camp near Frank Ridgeway.

I think a lot of the letters written to me have gone astray & I have gone to the Brigade. I got a paper from them yesterday & there are millions of letters there unsorted.

This machine gun course is pretty hard and I don't know how I will get on. Campbell went through the last school & got a special certificate but he is an engineer by profession.

Tell Evan that I saw Fred Fairthorne the other day. He was on Gallipoli from first to last & is in the Artillery. He was looking a bit thin but otherwise alright.

I haven't much news for you as I wrote all I could last week.

Good-bye  
Your loving son  
Gerald

My address till further notice  
6th Training Battalion  
Zeitoun  
Egypt

"bgerald 29/1/1916"



## REINFORCEMENTS

Address-  
6th Training Batt<sup>n</sup>  
Zeitoun  
29.1.16

My dear Father,

I returned to my Battalion yesterday having completed my Machine Gun Course. I got on fairly well and finished with an average of 93% for eight exams. It was most interesting and will probably come in useful some day. Machine Guns are easily the most important weapons of this war. The Germans found this out in the Russo - Japanese war & though Sir Ian Hamilton, who was a British attache in this war reported this to his Government of the work they had done, the British are only now waking up to the fact & increasing the guns in every Battalion by doubling the existing number.

I had a letter from Harry yesterday dated 12.12.15 & some papers sent by someone in Benalla, I do not know who. I sent a cable home last week changing my address to the one above.

We had a little excitement today, we were ??? inleping Battalion & were called out ready to march out in case there was trouble with the niggers but nothing came of it.

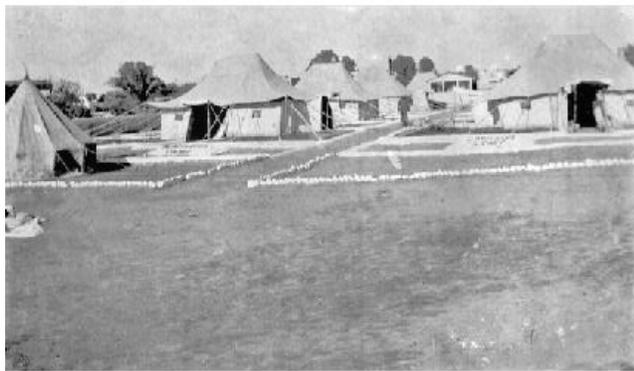
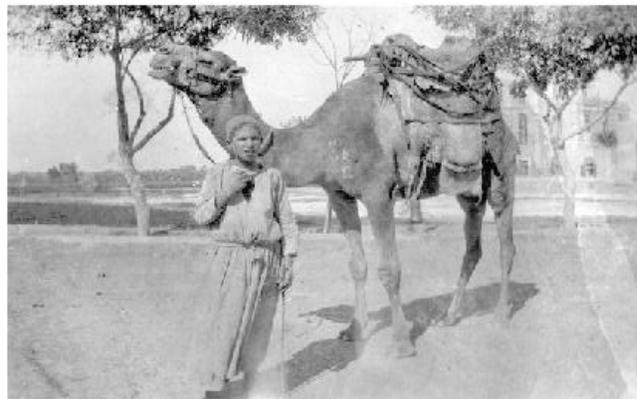
When you get this the worst of the Summer will be over, it is a pretty trying time for everyone at Redcamp in the Summer, there is so much to do, I suppose Evan will have recovered by this time. I hope the boys will not go from Redcamp to the war, if one goes from a family it is a fair thing. On the 17th of February I will have been in Camp 12 months & never fired a shot - lots of men who enlisted months after me have been in it & out of it by this time. Am glad mother is looking well, there is not the slightest need for her to worry about me, I am as safe as those at home -

I am having a very comfortable time and have very good mates. I have written several letters home lately.

Lots of love to all  
Good-bye  
Your loving son  
Gerald

Selection of photos taken by Gerald Evans in Egypt, 11-1915 to 3-1916





"bcertificate Egypt/1915"

**CERTIFICATE**

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION - ZEITOUN

**MACHINE GUN CLASS**

I certify that No. \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Lieut Name Evans, D.G. Regt. 5th Rein 22nd Battalion  
has attended the above School for a Machine Gun Course of three weeks, and has attained the  
standard required for that of Machine Gun Officer, Class Gunner.

*J.L. Pardre Major*  
for Lieut Colonel, Commandant  
School of Instruction, Zeitoun 1915.

No. 10 Course

**MACHINE GUN CLASS.**

---

I certify that No. \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Lieut Name Evans, D.G.  
Regt. 5th Rein 22nd Battalion has attended the above School  
for a Machine Gun Course of three weeks, and has attained the standard  
required for that of a Machine Gun officer.  
Class Gunner.

*J. L. Pardre*  
Lieut Colonel, Commandant.  
School of Instruction, Zeitoun 1915.

No. 10 Course

E.T. No. 7.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.  
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

*Copy*

Office Date Stamp.  
7. 2. 16

# CABLEGRAM.

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.  
All Complaints to be addressed, in writing, to the Deputy Postmaster-General.

F.54(315)-C.1352

at bottom of form indicate time the Cablegram was received at this office.

Number and Route.

Station from, Date and Time Lodged.

Number of Words and Official Instructions.

*Eastern 515*

*Cairo 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm*

*To Evans.*

*Redcamp*

*Wanyarratta*

*Address. 6<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion*

*Geelong Hill*

*Signature. Evans*

"cgerald 16/2/1916"

16-2-16

6th Training Battalion  
Zeitoun  
Egypt

Dear Harry,

I received a letter from you some time ago & don't think I have answered it yet, as I have not received any letters lately, it is very hard to write them.

I have been warned to hold myself in readiness to leave here and expect to go to Tel-el-Kebir before the end of the week. There are about thirty officers going & a lot of men so it will be alright going together, as they are a very decent lot, things will be pretty slow down there but am glad to be getting away from here although this is the best home I have had since joining the army, the tucker is good & the work easy, we had a stiff day yesterday, marching over the sand with full packs & 220 rds of ammunition up, I began to wish I was in the Light Horse, a lot of the men drop their bundles, they don't get enough of it.

The paper says that the Russians have captured Eryerumy ? I hope this is true as it should be important.

I suppose the harvest is now a thing of the past & you are beginning to think of putting in the next crop. It is just Spring here & the lucerne crops look very well. They seem to use most of the lucerne green.

We had a concert last night & had a very merry time, some of them getting well blithered.

I believe there is a mail coming in today & hope I get something out of it.

Am enclosing fifteen photos in this letter. Most of them taken on the trip to the Sahara.

Must ring off now.

Good luck

Yours

Gerald

"dgerald 22/2/1916"

4<sup>th</sup> Australian Auxiliary Hospital

22-2-1916

My dear Mother,

I came in here with the mumps on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. Rather a rotten way to commence my second year of Military life -

It was jolly painful for the first few days & it was hard to eat anything solid but the worst is over now but I have to stay here a fortnight altogether in isolation & stay in bed for a few days more -

There are eleven officers altogether, very decent chaps, although there are three Captains among them & a major. Some of the Sisters are not too bad either.

I expect to go to Tel-el-Kebir when I leave here and I may possibly be attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Alex Campbell & Jack Hogg also, so it will be alright.

Hope you can read this but am writing it in bed. Have not had any mail for a long time & am very sick of it, I got a pair of sox and cigarettes from M<sup>rs</sup> Hungerford the day I came in here, don't know how it fluked through. It is the only parcel I have received bar the waistcoat, it was quite nice to get something.

I sent a cable home on Friday, do hope you got it.

Needless to say there is very little news to give in hospital but will write a longer letter when get up.

I will ring off now

Love to all

Your loving son

Gerald Evans

Address

6th Training Battalion

Zeitoun

Egypt



Gerald Evans' 8th Battalion Tie pin

"egerald 24/2/1916"

4th Auxiliary Hospital

Attassich

Egypt

24-2-16

My dear Evan -

It is very long since I had a letter from any one that I seem to have lost touch somehow and it is hard to write letters without resorting to repetition of the same old things - am afraid all my letters home must read about the same. However now I am in hospital & I have time to write am going to make hay while the Sun Shines.

I wrote to Mother by last mail letting her know about getting in here & also cabled, so you doubtless know all about it this time. I expect to be up.

I have been allotted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in this here organisation & am very glad to have a settled unit at last. Alex Campbell & Jack Hogg who I have been with all the time went down today & I will waste no time in joining us when I can get out of this place. Things are very quite in Egypt but of course there are a lot of troops here & they don't take any risks, it is not expected that there will be any serious attack on the canal but Johnnie Turk will get a very lively time if he does come along. I think he will have all that he can do to keep the Russians back from his own Country without attacking Egypt.

I hope you will have a good Autumn, I have not heard yet if the wool and grain was sold; but suppose the wool has been, anyhow by this.

Charlie McCardel was in my camp for a good while but they have moved out somewhere since I came into hospital, so don't know where he is now. There were a lot of fellows I knew in that camp, all that Greta crowd & Young & Conners from Wangaratta.

As soon as I can make certain of my future address I will cable home. Am enclosing some photos, also sending some Dardenelles post-cards to Minnie which I had for a couple of months.

Good-bye and good luck

Your affectionate brother

Gerald Evans

Writing from Egypt on 16th January to his parents, Mr. and Mrs J. Mahoney, of Hansonville, Sergt. Austin Mahoney, says that he is as "good as gold" after the successful evacuation of Gallipoli. He received the Christmas billy sent along, and it was the admiration and envy of the tent, and the contents, especially the things to eat, were much appreciated. They are training hard and commencing to feel fit again; he weighs 13.5, but was weak and worn out on leaving Turkey. He has had a number of visitors to his tent, included amongst them being Lieut. Gerald Evans, of Redcamp, who is bigger than ever, and looks the picture of health.

*"4gerald Officers roll" Transfer from Alexandria Egypt, to Marseillaise***WHITE STAR LINE***Picture of ship*

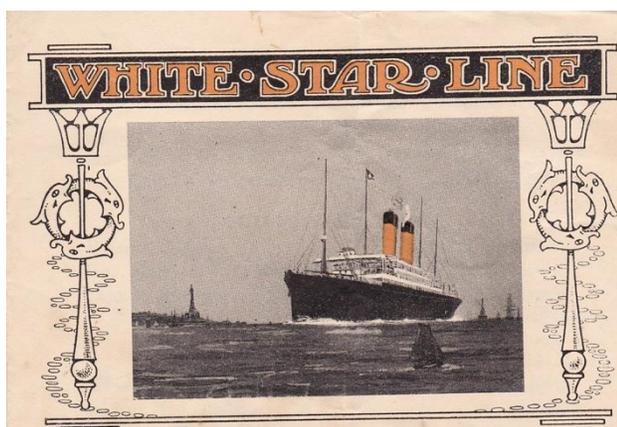
S.S

**H.M. TRANSPORT "MEGANTIC."**

Commander: G.R. Metcalfe, Lt.-Comm. R.N.R

**ROLL OF OFFICERS**  
OF THE  
7th and 8th Battalions  
**THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**  
(SECOND BRIGADE).  
**and Details.**

UNDER THE COMMAND OF  
**Lieut.-Colonel C.H. BRAND, D.S.O.**  
(Ships Adjutant = Capt. J.W. MITCHELL.)



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**Australian Imperial Forces.**

Brig.-Gen. J. K. FORSYTH ... G.O.C. 2nd Bde., A.I.F.  
Lieut. E. G. Permezel ... 2nd Bde., H.Q., A.I.F.

**SEVENTH BATTALION.**

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Major A. Jackson              | 2-Lieut T. V. Barrow |
| Hon. Major A. J. C. Hart      | " L. E. Trawin       |
| Capt. C. H. Swift             | " W. H. James        |
| " H. E. Bastin                | " P. C. Rodriguez    |
| " A. Oates                    | " W. D' Altera       |
| " J. Campbell (M.O.)          | " E. W. Hill         |
| Hon.-Lt. J. E. Scholes (Q.M.) | " E. J. Hopkins      |
| 2-Lieut W. Campbell           | " T. P. O'Connor     |
| " A. J. T. Brown              | " W. T. Appleton     |
| " A. N. Hamilton              | " A. F. Phillips     |
| " L. C. Symonds               | " H. C. Anthony      |
| " F. S. Hood                  | " A. J. C. Cox       |
| " J. W. Hopkins               | " H. A. Sutherland   |
| " J. B. Harris                | " R. Hillard         |

**EIGHTH BATTALION.**

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lieut-Col. C. H. Brand, D.S.O. | 2-Lieut J. C. Foden |
| Capt. Heydon (M.O.)            | " A. G. Campbell    |
| " D. F. Hardy                  | " D. G. Evans       |
| " J. W. Mitchell               | " W. G. Claridge    |
| " G. E. James                  | " W. Grant          |
| " A. B. Lodge                  | " G. T. Lovett      |
| " T. S. Hurrey                 | " J. R. Davidson    |
| Lieut. J. G. Bolton            | " W. Colvin         |
| " J. C. Traill                 | " J. R. Blackman    |
| " C. L. Fox                    | " D. M. Muir        |
| " L. P. Fay                    | " C. T. Mummery     |
| " W. B. Cook                   |                     |

**DETAILS.**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Capt. F. Coen ...        | 5th Brigade, 18th Batt. |
| Capt. Chubb ...          | A. S. C.                |
| Lieut. J. D. Gemmell ... | G. H. Q., R. A.         |
| Mr. Arthur ...           | Y. M. C. A.             |

"fp gerald 1/4/1916"



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1916

My dear Mother,

I wrote to father and posted it last night in Marseillaise so you should get both of these letters together.

We arrived quite safely last night. I managed to dodge the Torpedoes, the Captain never left the bridge all the way from Alexandria. We left on Monday and arrived here on Friday.

This is the prettiest port I have seen yet. We got in about 4 pm and passed the Notre Dame de Armeniers right up on a hill & as we came into the harbour, passed within 50 yards of the Chateau d'uf where the Count of Monte Cristo was imprisoned, it is a very small island right in the mouth of the harbour with a very old stone building on it. All the troops but two corps went on by train, I stayed and we had to march about a mile and a half to this camp getting here at 11 pm. The country around the bay is very hilly and rocky and our camp is in a small basin with old houses & vineyards and orchards all around it & quite close.

I picked some daisies and will send one home in the letter, there is plenty of spear grass which reminded me of home. Everything is beautifully green with the Spring just coming on and I am afraid La belle France knocks poor old Australia into a cocked hat for beauty.

We may go on tonight I believe. We have a three day railway journey which will give us enough of it. I took some photos this morning but doubt if they will be much good as the light was bad. I will send you a cable if I get a chance today but they are not granting any leave.

Bill Usherwoods battalion left this camp last night. I left Frank Ridgeway behind at Seriapium on the Canal.

It is a long time since I heard from home, hope everybody is well.

We had a bonzer trip over and I was a little bit off one day but otherwise all correct.

Excuse the pencil and writing. I wish you could see this place. You had better come over to London & when the war is over we will do a trip, they call the Australians six bob a day tourists now and other things. Will ring off now with love to all.

Address  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, A.I.F

Your loving son  
Gerald

Landed in Marseilles and then took train on 2/4/1916 to Bailleul, Northern France

passed within 50 yards of  
the Chateau d'if where the  
Count of Montebriote was  
imprisoned. It is a very  
small island right in the  
mouth of the harbour with  
a very old stone building on it.  
All the troops but 700 boys  
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mile and a half to the  
camp getting here at 11 PM.  
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April 1<sup>st</sup> 1916  

 REINFORCEMENTS.  
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on Friday.  
 This is the prettiest spot I  
have seen yet. We got in  
about 4 PM & passed the  
Notre Dame de Armentieres  
right up on a hill & as  
we came into the harbour



"ggerald 13/4/1916 WB"



## REINFORCEMENTS

13<sup>th</sup> April 1916

My dear Minnie,

I wrote to Mother a couple of days ago and though there is very little to write about. Today we took the whole Company up to the baths and they had a hot bath and clean clothes, the men are looked after much better here than Gallipoli and we should have a fair time as they get plenty of shells from the trenches, but the shells are pretty big. We hear them all night and generally the troops are billeted in farm houses, barns etc and it is a great change from Egypt, it is quite a pleasure to get among the white people again. Some of the girls are pretty and they have bonzer complexions but I like the Australian girls the best.

It has been jolly cold here & wet for the last few days & we feel it a bit after Egypt and a lot of men have colds. I am going up to the trenches tomorrow to have a look at them for three or four days. It should be very interesting, it is hoped that I don't stop one but don't think there is much chance. You will soon have Winter now, you have no idea how pretty this place is, parts of it are like beautiful gardens.

The Australians have made a very favourable impression here both among the English army and the French people. The Germans have been all through this part and did not do very much damage except take stock & food from the people. I saw one church they burnt, they put straw & petrol in it & broke all the windows & practically destroyed it, though it was made of stone.

Address

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion,

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade,

1<sup>st</sup> Division

A.I.F

*(Written from camp between Bailleul and Steenwerck, Northern France)*

Will ring off now

With love to all

Your affectionate brother

Gerald

hgerald 15/4/1916



NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

---

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital  
 { sick } and am going on well.  
 { wounded } and hope to be discharged soon.

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your { letter dated \_\_\_\_\_  
 telegram, \_\_\_\_\_  
 parcel, \_\_\_\_\_

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you  
 { lately }  
 { for a long time.

Signature }  
 only. }

Date 15-4-16

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

(83314) Wt. W3497-293 2,250m. 3/15 J. J. K. & Co., Ltd.

Relocated to Erquinghem-Lys (Just north of Fleurbaix)

"igerald 18/4/1916 WB"



## REINFORCEMENTS

Tuesday  
18<sup>th</sup> April 1916

My dear Mother,

I wrote to you last Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>. Since then I have spent the 4 days in firing line trenches with a British Regiment gaining experience. I had a good time, it was pretty quite except when the machine guns got going. I returned to my Company today. You feel a bit awkward and wary of the bullets for a start but this soon wears off. It rained most of the time and that was not very pleasant but my cold was cured, so it was just as well.

We get English papers frequently and keep in touch with things a bit - but it is deadly not getting any papers or letters from home. The English fellows get their letters in two days. They are very decent fellows but have quite a different manner to our fellows. Billy Hughes has caused quite a lot of excitement over here, the English have quite a dislike for Asquith and his crowd with the exception of Lloyd George whom they don't trust.

We play a lot of Bridge. There are six of us in this Billet & we live jolly well. The tucker in the trenches is not bad either & the dugout fairly comfortable but you have to keep your clothes on all night. Do you play Bridge now?

There are Australians every where now and they get on pretty well with the people.

Percy Kidgell came to see me the other day, he is very distressed because some of the Gibbs & Shanleys have not gone to the war. It is raining hard tonight, so there will be some more mud tomorrow. Have you read "The Sentimental Bloke" by C.J. Dennis, it is awfully good & a great favourite here.

I am sending my address again: 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division A.I.F. it should be a standing joke by this time. I am going to write to Father tomorrow probably.

Good-bye

Love to all  
Your loving son  
Gerald

*Erquinghem-Lys (Just north of Fleurbaix)*

"jp gerald 29/4/1916"



April 29th, 1916  
Saturday

My dear Mother,

We have had quite an eventful time since I last wrote to you.

This week the weather has been beautiful just like the Spring in Australia, in fine weather the Aeroplanes are always very active and this week especially so. On Sunday morning two German planes were brought down, one within half a mile of our billet; we saw it fall quite clearly just like a shot bird, it was a direct hit the shell passing clean through the engine, both the men in it were killed, it is the custom with the Aviators that when one of the enemy is brought down behind our lines, they collect all his personal belongings and clothes and take them over the German lines & drop them, so last evening about 6 o'clock a German plane flew over our billet and dropped a wreath and a note thanking our men for having done this. The German planes are faster and superior to ours but our men make up for this by extra daring. Our men counted 450 shell fired at one British Major in one flight over the German lines, not counting machine gun fire. They call this chap the "Mad Major" he has all his planes perforated with bullets and shrapnel.

On Tuesday last the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli this Battalion held a sports meeting. My Company D was very successful in the best section competition our company got 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. My platoon was 2<sup>nd</sup>, beaten by 2 points. I ran the flag race and pulled in the tug of war. We were second in both of these. I was judge in the Anzac Sprint for men who were at the landing at Anzac.

They are giving eight days leave for England - of course the men who have been longest within the Battalion go first under ordinary circumstances. My leave will come in three months time an officer five days. Lieut. Fox in my company went last night. His people live at Brighton, England, he has not seen them for eleven years, he only heard he was to go one hour before starting, so the visit would be quite unexpected, he was going to send a cable home for me.

Last Tuesday we were inspected by General Walker C.O. 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division and on Thursday by Sir Douglas Haig the C in C and yesterday a Major General inspected our billets so there are plenty of tin Hats here. Will ring off now.

Have new Address :

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade

1<sup>st</sup> Division A.I.F

Your loving son

Gerald

*(Erquinghem-Lys (Just north of Fleurbaix. On April 27<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion inspected by C in C General Sir Douglas Haig on parade who commented to CO "You have a fine battalion. I congratulate you. Their handling of arms, steadiness and marching is equal to anything I have seen.") Sports day was for ANZAC day, 25/4/1916*

44 1916  
April 29  
Saturday



DEAR MOTHER

My dear Mother We sure had  
quite an eventful time since I  
last wrote to you  
This week the weather has been  
beautiful just like the Springs in  
Australia, in fine weather the

airplanes are always very slow  
and this week especially so.

On Sunday we went to German  
planes were brought down by us  
within half a mile of our battery  
we saw it fall quite clearly  
just like a shot bird. It  
it was a direct hit  
shell passing clear through  
the engine; both the men in  
it were killed, it is the custom

with the Germans that when one  
of the enemy is brought down  
behind our lines they collect  
all his personal belongings  
clothes & take them over then, so  
German lines & drop them, so  
last evening about 6 o'clock  
a German plane flew over  
our battery and dropped a  
bomb and a note that they  
were not for having day this.  
The German planes are faster &  
superior to ours but our men  
make up for this by extra daring  
Our men counted 450 shells fired  
at one British Major in one  
flight over the lines, not counting  
machine gun fire.  
They call this chap the "mad major"  
he has had all his planes  
perforated with bullets & shrapnel

3. On Tuesday last the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. The Battalion held a sports meeting. My company D was very successful in the best section competition our company got 1st by 3 runs & a half platoon was second. I ran in the flag race & pulled in the tail of van we were second in both of these. I am judge in the Angas & spend for men who were at the landing at Angas. They are giving eight days leave for England - of course the men who have been disappointed the Battalion go first under ordinary circumstances. My leave will come in three months time and officen every five days. Kiss to in my

4. Company went last night to people live at Brighton. In England, he has not seen them for eleven years, he only heard he was to go the hour before starting, so the visit would be quite unexpected, he was going to send a cable home for me. Last Tuesday he was expected by General Walker C.O. 1st Australian Division & on Thursday by Sir Douglas Haig the C. in C. & yesterday a Major General & expected other billets so there are plenty of tin hats here. Will be off now. Love till  
 8th Battalion  
 2nd Infantry Brigade  
 1st Division  
 A. I. P.

"new gerald 5/5/1916"



Thursday 5 - 5 - 1916

My dear Minnie

I have been going to write to you for some time. I am down to it now. Have not had a letter from you for a long time but I know there must be lots about some where - Had a letter from Evelyn Notcutt the other day & she told me they had been ringing you up on the phone so the long delayed phone must have arrived at last.

Suppose Harry and Dick Shanley have been given a D.C.M. or something, it must be jolly handy.

This is not a bad war if one can only dodge the few chances of getting cracked that are going. We live fairly well even here in the front line, we have a cook who is an excellent forager. Last night we had cow roast beef with three vegetables & salad with dressing & spring onions, all complete, & we topped off with stewed rhubarb & whipped cream. Tullet my batman is also going strong, they are both old soldieres and new their way about.

I wrote to father the other day & also mother a few days before. Think Frank Rigway is still in Egypt & W Kehn(?) to be for some time. It must be the very devil down on the Canal now the heat there is terrible.

They seem to be having a great go at Verdun. The French will do well if they can hold the Hun.

Suppose things are fairly at home now & they are had are hard at work putting in the crop. The farmers are very funny here but they have very fine horses. Most of them only keep one & they are very often bigger than Hero -

Will ring off now

Love to all

Gerald

*In the Fleurbaix area - not far from Fromelles. General Birdwood called around lunch time on way back from front. Some shelling of billets on this day, no casualties. Intermittent shelling on following days.*

*New Gerald 7/5/1916*



Sunday  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1916

7<sup>th</sup> May 1916

My dear Mother  
How are you getting along?

We had a fairly lively time this week, they shelled our billet one morning but nothing happened.

The Germans made pretty heavy bombardment of the line we are supporting a couple of nights ago, we moved up pretty close but were not wanted. The guns make a dickens of a row, you can hardly hear yourself.

Speaking.

We have to stand to arms at night & at daylight for an hour from 2.45 to 3.45 & last night we had to sleep in our cloths because there was a leave on –

Suppose they are had at work ploughing at home. Have not had a letter lately, the last was written on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

We have very comfortable quarters – we live in a house and have a bed to sleep on. The houses we are billeted in are very nice, we have a good cook and altogether are not doing to badly.

The Irish have been playing up, they picked a good time for it to help the Germans. I see Cusement is an Orangeman.

The English have conscription at last, it is about time too.

Saw young Ferguson from Milawa on the road the night I came over, he has been in England for some time.

I have very little news to tell you but will write again soon

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade  
1<sup>st</sup> Division AIF

Love to all  
Your loving son  
Gerald

PS. We look like a lot of actors in full uniform now. We each have two gas helmets, a pair of goggles for tear shells, and a shrapnel helmet made of steel, & we have to walk about in single file so we will be like crows when we get home. Tear shells are very disagreeable, they make your eyes water & you cannot see for a while. We had them all around our billet a couple of nights ago.

Gerald

*In the Fleurbaix area. General Birdwood called around lunch time on way back from front. Some shelling of billets on this day, no casualties. Intermittent shelling on following days*

*"cgerald congrat 1916"*

CONGRATULATORY.

649.

The commanding officer joins with the remainder of the Battalion in extending hearty congratulations to Lieut. D.G. Evans, M.C. and the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of "A" Company on their splendid achievement on gaining the championship of the brigade in the Recreational Training competition. The manner in which all the ranks of the Company applied themselves to the training for, and carrying out of these tests, was well worthy of the Battalions reputation as the premier Battalion in the Brigade.

*This maybe have been in the ANZAC sports day on 25/4/1916?*

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion did their first stint in the trenches at Fromelles (15 days) This area was used as a "training area" for new troops to get them used to trench warfare.*

"kgerald 17/5/1916"



## REINFORCEMENTS

Wednesday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1916

My dear Mother,

Am writing this from the trenches. We came in on Sunday night & have had a fairly quite time. the next mail doesn't go for a fortnight so I must catch the one closing tonight. A mail came in last night. I got a letter from Nell Ridgeway & Doris Notcutt but none from home. Nell wrote on 19th March & says you got my cable. About then she had had a letter from Auntie who was at Redcamp.

The reason that I have changed to pencil is that I have only one penful of ink here. Tell Minnie that the pen had worked splendidly since leaving Melbourne.

The work is fairly strenuous here but they take us out for a spell when we have been here for a while, so it is very different to Gallipoli where they had to stay in the trenches for months on end on bad food, the food is good here.

It was funny the night we came in; the trenches here are very close to the villages & as we came in through the homes the Hawthorn hedges were quite white with blossom. There are plenty of Quail, pheasants and partridges about the trenches but I have not shot any yet. There is a full moon & it shows things up well.

I hope to get some letters from home now they are about. Have you got the Anzac book, it is very good. When we are relieved we go back out of the trenches altogether. I haven't had much W'ratta news lately & haven't had any papers.

We had a big bombardment a few nights before we came in, but it didn't do much harm.

I will ring off now  
love to everyone.

Address:  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade  
1<sup>st</sup> Division  
A.I.F

Your loving son *Written from the trenches near Fromelles.*  
Gerald *8<sup>th</sup> Battalions first stint in the trenches*

"new gerald 23/5/1916"



Tuesday  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 1916

Dear Father

As one of our fellows is going to England on leave tonight, I am going to write a note for him to post

—

We have been in the trenches for a while & it is not bad fun, but we have been having a fairly quiet time, although the Bombs are a bit sudden, while writing the Hun is shelling a building just behind our lines & raising enough dust for a few thousand sheep on a road.

There has been a lot of mail lately but did not get any from home. Although I got some others. I am unlucky with home letters, the last was 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, so don't know much of what is going on.

The hours are pretty long here & one has to get his sleep in patches, the nights are very short which makes it better for this game.

We have had a lot of Australian papers lately up to the end of March. I see one of Mr Whitty's rejects was good enough to win the Australian cup, he must have a good team ---

Are they doing anything with the Redcamp thoroughbeds?

There is plenty of grass about these trenches but it would be risky for running cows in. You see very little signs of the enemy. I had a couple of shots at one yesterday morning but think I missed him. I was very proud of shooting down one of their wind guages. We have a great assortment of these as the gas question depends on the wind, of course. The weather is great now but it was wet over the first few days.

I have not seen Bill Usherwood since coming to France. It is had to get about here & when they are in the trenches we are out (of contact?).

I got a reader(?) from Minnie with views of Hunchback.

Will stop now with love to all  
Your loving son  
Gerald

*Written from the trenches near Fromelles.  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalions first stint in the trenches. Gen  
Birdwood inspected the trenches on 19/4/1916*

"Igerald 25/5/1916"



Thursday  
25-5-16

My dear Minnie -

I have been going to write to you for a long time & am down to it now. I have not had a letter from you for a long time but I know there must be lots about somewhere - Had a letter from Evelyn Notcutt the other day & she told me they had been ringing you up on the phone, so the long delayed phone must have arrived at last. Suppose Harry and Dick Shanley have been given a D.C.M or something, it must be jolly handy.

This is not a bad war if one can dodge the few chances of getting cracked that are going, we live fairly well, even here in the front line, we have a cook who is an excellent forager & last night had cold roast beef with three vegetables & salad with dressing & spring onions all complete, & we topped it off with stewed rhubarb & whipped cream. Tullett my batman is still going strong, they are both old soldiers & know their way about. I wrote to Father the other day & also Mother a few days before.

Think Frank Ridgeway is still in Egypt & likely to be for some time, it must be the very devil down on the Canal now the heat there is terrible.

They seem to be having a great go at Verdun, the French will do very well if they can hold the Huns there.

Suppose things are fairly at home now & they are hard at work putting in the crop. The farmers are very funny here but they have very fine houses, most of them keep one & they are very often bigger than Hero -

Will ring off now

Love to all

Gerald

*Written from the trenches near Fromelles. 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions first stint in the trenches.*

"mgerald 2/6/1916"



2<sup>nd</sup> June 1916

My dear Mother -

Since writing to you last we have come out of the front line and now have a nice little place to look after, it is alright; but a bit lonely for me.

Have not had a letter from home yet though I got one from Australia dated April 17<sup>th</sup>, the last from home dated Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Think the family must have gone cold on me. I see a good many Aust papers of all sorts & also saw some W'ratta ones the other day.

It is very nice to get a good sleep again as one goes a bit short. Further on, even now, we always must sleep in our clothes, ready to hop out at a moments notice. There is plenty of water out here so I can keep clean which is a blessing.

I saw a lot of papers today and see that Cap & Bells & Ittitox won races in W.A. I see Mr Langlands is still making inquires about Bob, it seems funny that he cannot find out one way or the other.

It is over eight months since I left Australia. Some of them over here have been away eighteen months. There is some consolation in the fact that the first seven years is always the worst. I have not seen Charlie M<sup>c</sup>Cardel lately but will look him up at the first chance & find out how he is getting on, he looks pretty small in his uniform but is a pretty smart little chap.

I have been very well since the mumpo attack and never have a sick day. I hope you went away for a spell during the hot weather, it should be very nice at home now.

Give my love to everyone and take tons for yourself

Your loving son

Gerald

*Out of front line after 15 days into billets near Fleurbaix*

"ngerald 4/6/1916"



**REINFORCEMENTS.**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1916

Dear Father

I got a letter from you yesterday dated 20th Feb, so it was written a long time ago, however it is the latest one I have had from home, so was very pleased to get it, it had been addressed to Zeitoun Egypt.

The harvest had just been finished when you last wrote but you only mentioned the yield of one paddock. I have been expecting to hear from some of the boys about crops and anything or everything that concerns the place, but don't think I have received half a dozen letters from them all put together since leaving Aust eight months ago; I think if anyone is sore over the letter writing am not the one to blame.

I'm glad you got through the season without having a bush fire, they would have been very hard to stop this year. The grass among these trenches is wonderful, prairie & cocksfoot mixed with self sown stuff of all kinds three foot high, I would like to take up a run here for bullocks, but not just now.

We have just heard of the fight in the North Sea. The British fleet appears to have been knocked about but it may do them good to get a bit of a drubbing. The British fleet is wonderful; the people in Australia cannot realise its worth, but the German fleet will be dangerous if underrated; they will come out, when it suits them; the German is a wily bird.

The French have been very good at Verdun.

I will look Bill Usherwood up at the first opportunity. The people at home cannot write too much as the very smallest things interest me. Lately I have been reduced to reading old letters over.

Hope you and Mother are very well.

Give my love to all

Your loving son

Gerald

*In billets near Fleurbaix. The sea battle would have been The Battle of Jutland (31<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May). It was part of the successful efforts of the British Fleet to blockade the German navy.*

"ogerald 11/6/1916"

France

11-6-16

My dear Mother

I received a letter from Father a couple of days ago, dated 1<sup>st</sup> of April. I am glad to hear you are getting my letters & wish I could say the same for the letters from home. However I get a little news from home indirectly through the papers that come in, the Corp Clerk always brings me any Wangaratta papers that come in, I saw two March Chronicles the other day, one where I had seen the Evans etc in Heliopolis & one where Austin Mahoney had seen me. A man in this battalion came to see me about five minutes ago, he had a letter from Nellie Shanley, he got Xmas pudding from her on Gallipoli, & in reply to his letter of thanks she mentioned my name, which he was going to answer. Quite romantic! Tell Edie to get busy on the Xmas pudding stakes right away.

Father assumed that I knew everything that is going on when I really don't know anything. He says Ken is in camp. I would like to know where he is & what Battalion as soon as possible, I advised him in the event of enlisting to go to Victoria, where he would always know somebody - but don't suppose he has done this -

I have been in the trenches for a good while, and am out for a while now resting. Trench life has agreed with me & my health has never been better.

The events lately have been quite exciting with naval battles etc. I am very sorry about Kitchener who deserved a better end. The Russians seem to be slapping things up a bit, hope they keep it going. The Hancock's must be aggressive, six of them going.

I am going to get this letter posted in England, Captain Hurrey, my Corp Commander is going on leave tomorrow. Enclosed is a one franc note, somewhat worse for wear. Each little town seems to have a note issue.

I hear that Prince Bardolph won the Sydney Cup, a bit of luck for Mark Whitty.

I will stop now  
With love to all  
your loving son  
Gerald E

*(written from near Sailly-sur-la-Lys, Northern France, close to Fleurbaix)*

"pgerald 23/6/1916"

France

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1916

My dear Mother -

Hope you received the letters by last mail - I think probably some missed, but you must have received quite a bunch if they all got home -

Suppose you are right in the middle of winter, hope it is not too cold and muddy, the weather is great here now, although last week was a bit wet.

Since writing last I have knocked about a bit and now attending an Engineering School learning to dig trenches etc. It is rather hard work as I have not done much of the pick and shovel work lately - just watch others doing the work. Will be going back to the line pretty soon. I bought this writing pad at a French village, the small towns here are just like the pictures of them - they are very pretty and all the hedges and trees have leaves on them now - I have bought a couple of broaches and a brass ash tray as souvenirs & are sending them home per post to Minnie -

There are a lot of wheat crops around here also potatoes and acres of French beans, peas etc. The men ineligible for Military Service and women do all the work and do it very well.

I see Major Scott has received his DSO, he told me in Egypt he was going to get it.

I don't seem to be able to write a letter today but will write to somebody again before the next mail closes. love to all at home.

Your loving son  
Gerald

*(written from Neuve Eglise, Belgium to Messines quarter Belgium on the day they go into the line in Ploegstrat Red area - D Coy in reserve) 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the line 23/6 to 4/7/1916*

"agerald 17/7/1916"

France

July 17<sup>th</sup> 1916

My dear Evan -

Have a letter from you dated 28-5-16 and was very pleased to hear from you. I have written to you several times and it is a wonder you have not had them. I have been very lucky with letters lately -

Am sorry to hear the Doctor would not pass your leg which is bad luck but perhaps just as well - you will be able to settle down to it better now.

You must just do what you think best with my money and will be pleased if you have a flutter in sheep or anything, it doesn't matter much -

How are things going? I am glad to hear that the season has been good at home. Am writing to Mother by this mail which should get there as I am sending them back, also sending a cable as I don't know when I will be able to write again -

The Winter should be just about over when you get this. This is a very brief note but time is short.

Good-bye

Your affec. brother

Gerald Evans

*(written from near Varennes in the Somme, France, just before the battle for Pozières)*

"bgerald 17/7/1916 WB"

France

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July

My dear Mother -

We have not been able to post any letters lately and I have an idea that my last letters might have missed the mail too, however I hope this one will get through as I am going to send it back where things are not quite so mixed - I have been very well off for letters lately, have had them right up to the end of May from Father, Minnie, Evan & Alan. I am going to send a cable today if possible. Have had about 8 papers in the last week also the Melburnian from home.

Have had plenty of walking about lately and quite enjoy it, I never thought I could walk so far -

Goodness knows when I will be able to write again, but still cannot write a decent letter. What is Frank Whitty doing back in Moyhu? He must have just gone to Egypt for the trip. We are all writing hard in this hut as we only have about 1/2 an hour to do it in. You were at Killingworth when I heard last, did you stay there all Winter?

I hear you have had a lot of visitors at home -

Alec Campbell is still with this Battalion & Jack Hogg is with the Brigade Machine Gun Company, they are both very nice fellows.

This paper has been knocked about somewhat in transit but suppose it will do - The war seems to be taking a very favourable turn now but don't think it will finish for a good while. I don't think Ken would have much chance of getting home from W.A.

I must ring off now & I don't know when I can write again. Will write to Evan today.

Love to all  
Your loving son  
Gerald

*(written from near Varennes in the Somme, France, just before the battle for Pozières)*

*new Letter from Bill Usherwood (Gerald Friend), 27/7/1916 – after Poziers*

27/1/1916

*To who? Probably to Evan?**..... Bill Usherwood talking about the battle of Pozieres and Gerald role in it.*

As I said before he had just come out of the warmest corner in this part of the globe, and consequently was somewhat dirty & unshaven and a bit ragged and he hadn't had a sleep for several days. Do you realise what that means? In case you don't fully, I'll give you an idear in a few words. It means that he has been with his men playing a big part in the biggest game being played in the world today, with the result that is company took & held the most advanced position we haold in our line today and the fact that I saw him tired & dirtt is clear proof that he wasn't only showing his many how to play the game but was helping them to play it and it takes a man to do that, a Gentleman and a sportsman, and when we get them for leaders, the rank and file won't fail and the result of the game is never in doubt. Unfortunately we get too few such.

You have reason to be very proud of your representative from Redcamp. I have told you this before but you have more reason than ever now. So put on a bit of swank (as the froggies say) every one of you and don't forget that when Ken gets over here he'll play his part as well.

Gerald is perfectly sane in mind and sound in body and limb, so there can not very well be much the matter with him, can there? So and there isn't either, he got a smack on the ribs which made them sore for a day or two, but he wasn't wounded, not even sightly. So don't go asking him a lot of questions about his rib because he may take it the wrong way and resent even you refering to him in such terms. Really though, I have told you the whole truch, and excepting the clout on the rib which was a bit sor, he came out without a scratch.

He isn't likely to be in again for a good while now. I think, as they'll have to have a spell and reorganise. Now I think I have given you all the information that I am possessed of concerning that notorious Big Brother of yours, so I conclude now by saying that if the opportunity offers, I'll cable your father to let you all know that Gerald is ok.

Bestwishes to all  
Sincerely yours JWU  
(Bill Usherwood).

"cgerald 31/7/1916"

France

July 31st 1916

My dear Mother -

I have not written for some time as we have been rather busy & have not had an opportunity - but I was lucky enough to get out of it with a slight crack on the ribs & did not leave the Company.

I have been well off for letters, have had several from home & plenty of papers so I have not done badly - I just heard there was a mail closing for Australia inside and hour so I have not much time . My last letter from Australia was dated June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie M<sup>c</sup>Cardel came through the stunt alright but young Wilcox and Goodland did not - Alec Campbell got a nasty crack but is getting along well. I will cable you at the first. Have you come back from Killingworth?

I am trying hard to write something but it is hard with the censor to contend with, you will probably know all about our stunt before this as they are sure to write it up a lot in the Australian papers. Our Battalion has done remarkably & my Company was furthest ahead of the lot. I don't know what I will get out of it - but hope a promotion anyhow - I have been long enough getting my second stan.

How are you all getting along? I was inoculated for tetanus yesterday because of my wound, I got it on the first day but managed to stick it right out, it is pretty right now, but instead of having to march they give me a horse to ride. I will write and account of this scrap when I get a chance to get it through - I saw Bill Usherwood the other day, he is a sergeant and looks very well. I hope he got along alright, he was going in when I saw him.

The shell fire passes all imagination.

Will stop now, with love to all  
your loving son  
Gerald

*Written after 1<sup>st</sup> Australian attack on Pozières, from Canaples (Nth of St Omer) where they were resting. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in Sausage Valley or Pozieres 23-27/7/1916.*

*Notes: This was written after the battle of Poziers. The "crack" on the ribs must have been when Gerald was wounded in the Chalk pit the Lt Andrewartha talks about in his sympathy letter. I think Gerald may have been mentioned in dispatches in this battle. Really nasty battle in which more Australians were killed for this ground than anywhere else.*

*On the 25/7/1916, D Coy was 50 yds beyond Cemetery and C Coy met with strong opposition that was overcome with great determination speedily to get to their objective NE of Village. D Coy sent forward a patrol (was Gerald part of this patrol?) which came within 100 yds of Mouquet Farm, later seeing strong German forces moving along the OG1/OG2 towards the Windmill. Reported this and called in artillery bombardment on the Germans. Very heavy shelling during day. Consolidation.*

The details on this patrol are bit sketchy. Refer to Cobbers in Khaki pp 119-120 as best source. It seems R Sgt Major Frank Goodwin led this patrol. Certainly it gained much fame for "derring do" in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion but no ribbons for those involved?

From CEW Bean's notes: AWM38 3DRL 606/53/1 - July 1916

S.M. Goodwin

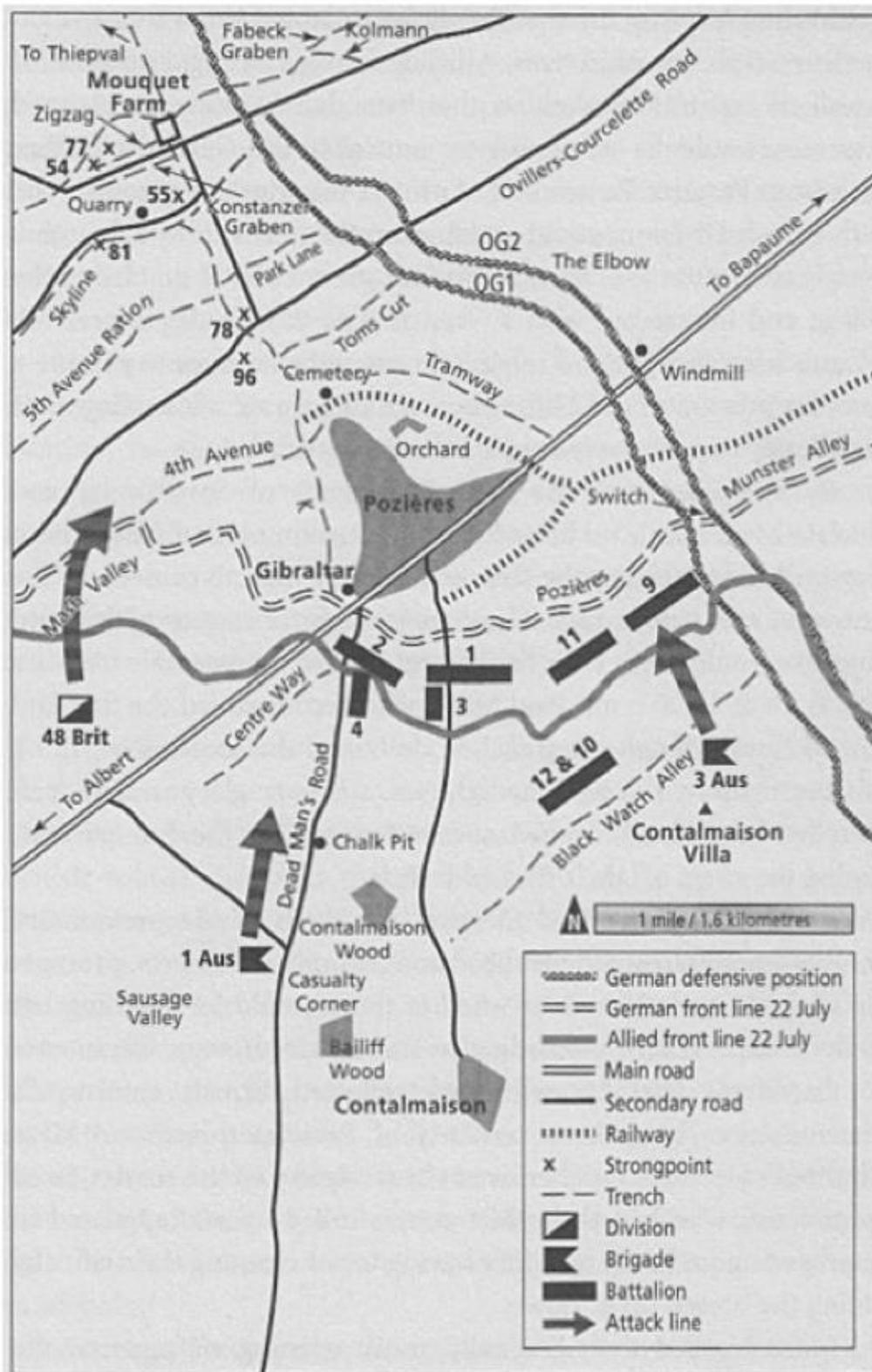
They were not empty  
Goodwin went up  
K 4 in rear of them.  
(C.E.W.B. 31/8/16.)

on their right. The first major  
of the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn wandered far up  
1 trenches at 1 back of  
trenches with 1 British 48<sup>th</sup>  
Divn says it cannot pass,  
& has found them empty.  
"I only seed one German,"  
he sd, " & I shot <sup>at</sup> him but  
he ran away & I cd not  
catch 'm. I went along an'  
got in mud up to ma knees  
- I know the trench is unoccupied  
or ah cd not have found it

67 36'

like that " - He says  
he saw Le Mouquet ahead  
of him.  
If we don't occupy the  
trench 1 German will -  
& we are to get two  
lengths of it tonight (two  
bad mistakes in the trench  
numbering of Blamey's  
order - he is tired to  
death for want of sleep).  
So is the whole division.

Casualties 23/7-27/7/1916 Officers 4 killed, men 77 killed  
Officers 7 wounded and men 259 wounded, 16 missing. Also 4 officers wound but still on duty  
(Gerald was one of these)



Map of Pozières battlefield between 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> September 1916  
 from "Pozières" by Scott Bennett, Map 2 pg 55.

Lieut. **Gerald Evans**, writing from France on 2/8/16, after leaving hospital having recovered from his wounds, to his brother, Mr. Hubert **Evans**, says:—"Was very pleased to get letters from you yesterday. There was a large mail waiting for me when I came back from this latest "stunt," which you will have heard all about long before you get this. I was unlucky enough to get a smack in the ribs before I even got near the business, but it was not enough to put me out of it. My Company did the "Star" turn of that particular party and got furthest ahead—so far that the heads would not believe we were there. I am hoping the boys will get some ribbons out of it—they certainly deserve them—they are wonderful. Young Willcox and Geo. Goodlands went under; Charlie McCordel is alright, and I am sure must have done fine work as he is in the Scout Platoon. Bill Usherwood is a Sergeant in 23rd. I saw him the day we came out.

***Mentioned in Dispatches Recommendation 6/9/1916:***

***Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, March to September, 1916***

*As a platoon Commander of "D" Coy, this officer has done consistently good work. In the attack on Pozieres on 25/7/16 he showed great courage and initiative. His platoon led the attack and under heavy fire from M. guns and artillery. He has the credentials for leadership, and his coolness and calm courage have given the men under him great confidence.*

***Major General N.M. Smyth on behalf of Major General HB Walker***

*Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division*

*"dgerald misc 1917"*

*Letter incomplete to Minnie? in the batch starting Gerald 3/3/1917 but I think this is from after Pozieres?*

*page 3*

the firing line, I hope you will always stick up for him especially when the war is over, he will want it-

The stretcher bearers over here are wonderful, the work they do. The weather has been lovely lately, quite warm.

How are my horses getting on? I have been riding a bit lately and quite enjoyed it. I will see another cable soon as the other may not reach you & I will probably be reported wounded but I am quite alright and may get some promotion out of it.

I must now stop

Love to all

Your loving brother

Gerald

"dgerald 3/8/1916"

France

3-8-16

My dear Evan -

I had a letter from you tonight and I must answer it at once because the mail closes in the morning, I have written a devil of a lot of letters home during the past few days but they have been posted. Your letter was dated 9-6-16.

I am very sorry to hear of the varicose veins, hope they will not affect you.

I have written such a lot of letters home that my letters must suffer because of repetition. I am pleased to hear you've had a good Autumn & are having a good time, have you disposed of the wheat? 3000 bags must of taken a bit of harvesting -

We have had an easy off the last few days & the boys are celebrating it in great style; they deserve it too, if anyone says anything to the detriment of the Australian Soldier, give him one for me -

I had a letter from Dorrie tonight, tell her my brigade is the second not the sixth. She tells me of a bonzer time spent a Redcamp -

Poor George Goodland was killed, also young Wilcox & Edwards of Wangaratta, I hear Brown of Milawa is missing. I sent a cable a few days ago home & am sending another tonight. Poor little Alec Campbell got a very nasty knock, I hope that the injuries will not be permanent, he tells me he is getting on well - Ken could not possibly get back from the West to go home. I wanted him to enlist in Vic but evidently he scorned my advice; as a matter of fact I have a shrewd suspicion that he intended to enlist when he went to the West --

Glad to hear the bank a/c is looking healthy.

I must stop now as I have some work to do

Love to all

Your Aff<sup>ate</sup> brother

Gerald

*Written after 1<sup>st</sup> Australian attack on Pozières, from Canaples (Nth of St Omer) where they were resting*

*"dLean 11/8/1916"*

**EW.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE  
Base Records Office, A.I.F.F.  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE, 11th Aug., 1916.

Dear Sir,

I now beg to advise you that Lieut. D.G. Evans, 8th late 22nd Battn., has been reported wounded. It is not stated as being serious and in the absence of further reports it is assumed that all wounded are progressing satisfactorily.

In the event of further information coming to hand you will be promptly notified.

It should be clearly understood that if no further advice is received this department has no later information to give.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J. Evans,  
Redcamp,  
Moyhu

J.M. Lean  
Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

VIA WANGARATTA. V.

Note: This will probably be from the "crack on the ribs" see letter 31/7/16 occurring 24/7/1916

"egerald 11/8/1916"

France

11-8-16

My dear Mother -

How are you getting along. I have been having quite a decent time lately; we have had a fair march but lately have been just doing ordinary drill which is quite a relief after the very strenuous time we have had -

Suppose everything comes to an end though. There has been a mail lately but have not had a letter, however I had plenty of mail at the last place and had a long read up on the others. Yesterday I got a parcel from Minnie containing a scarf and a pair of sox from Pearlie, it was sent on the 1st of June. I saw Austin Mahony who used to play football with us, he is looking awfully well & very fat. I think soldiering must agree with him better than his former work - Have you been having a good season?

I hear the Moyhu district has been very lucky. I sent a cable to you some time ago but have not heard that it has gone yet, they generally send you a card from the base. I had a card from father, it has been sent from Moyhu on July 19th -

I hope to have some more letters soon - I see that they had some fun on the canal with the Turks - I wouldn't mind being sent back to Egypt for the Winter - the climate is beautiful in Egypt in the Winter. I think this letter will probably go with the last ones I wrote. I wrote to Albert yesterday. I will stop now

Love to all  
Your loving son  
Gerald

*Photo included in this letter of Gerald in Egypt (I think). He is standing on the steps of a building with a cane in uniform.*

*Written from Vadencourt which is due west of Albert in the Somme. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion again went into the lines at Pozieres 16/8/1916 to 21/8/1916.*

*"Letter included with letter to Minnie*

France

28-8-16

My dear Mother -

This is just a very small note to let you know I am quite alright, I wrote to Minnie yesterday but since then have had letters from Minnie, Father & Evan which I will answer if I get time.

Am glad you have had a long stay at Killingworth and missed all the mud at Redcamp, though I wouldn't mind it now if the mud was up to my neck. -

I also received a letter from Minnie last night & there is some more mail in today - I have not seen anything of Wilfred Evans or the others for a long time, as we have been on the move all the time, but think they will be alright.

The weather has been great lately, just a few showers, they are harvesting now and have a funny old way of driving it.

I have a horse to ride up the march now being a Company Commander Ahem? it is better than walking. I have got a bit tired of walking, it will be hard if I have to go back to it again, as I probably will if the other officers come back -

Edie is getting very warm at photography but I would not have known you in the group she sent over. I hear you are a quite accomplished hand at knitting. Think I will have to take up knitting. I am going to send another cable in a day or two to make sure of you getting them. Have not heard from Alec Campbell lately but hope he is alright, he got a pretty nasty crack.

I still have Tullet my batman, he has stood the strain alright, he is 56.

Must stop now.

Tons of love from

Your loving son

Gerald

*Out of the front line again, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was again in the lines at Pozieres 16/8/1916 to 21/8/1916. Transferred to Flanders in the area around Bailleul – Poperinge?*

*fgerald 28/8/1916"*

France

28-8-1916

My dear Evan -

This in reply to your letter received last night, dated 7-7-16. I have written to Mother & Minnie in the last two days.

I am glad to hear you are having a good year & getting good prices for stock. I believe horses are very cheap but if there are any of mine are fit for sale, it would be better to sell them.

I think young Tanner of Hansonville is the only one of that lot left here now; Condron Wang was killed & young Whitty wounded -

I thought Alan would have just about burnt his boats when he went to see the Doc -

Our Doc got a Military Cross in the last engagement, he is a quaint old bird -

How will the horses get on you sent to Melbourne to race? That second filly should be handy at the pony meetings at that height -

Have you got many sheep to shear, it is dead funny to see them shearing here, they round them up in the paddock, stick a couple of hurdles round them & get busy, most of them will eat out of your hand-

Reapers and binders are very scarce, but one day during a march we halted near where one was working & one of the boys did a couple of rounds on the binder to keep his hand in he looked a trick going around with his pack on -

You seem to be having a devil of a lot of rain at home, the house seems to be having a big dust up; somebody must be going to get married -

I must stop now

Love to all

Your affate Brother

Gerald Evans

*Out of the front line again, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was again in the lines at Pozieres 16/8/1916 to 21/8/1916. Transferred to Flanders in the area around Hazebroekl – Poperinge area? The digger with a pack on a binder was quite a famous sight and reported by many servicemen – suspect this occurred in the area around Amplier in the Somme???.*

"hgerald 10/9/1916 "

France

10-9-16

My dear Minnie-

I received two letters from you dated 17<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 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...*

Lieut. J. A. Mahoney, writing from France on 1/8/16, to his parents, Mr. and Mrs John Mahoney, Hansonville, says—"So much has happened lately that I do not know if I received any letters from you since I wrote last. My last was written up at the trenches after one of our hottest experiences in the war, but not as hot as we experienced since, before we were finally relieved. At present we are resting, and being re-fitted in a nice little village in the "Somewhere," getting ready for some more stirring work I suppose. I thought that we would get our English leave when we came out but up till now there is no sign of it. We have at last experienced a charge but I do not remember very much about it. After getting "over the top" I remember getting the boys spread out in a straight line in "no man's land." Then came the gallop about two hundred and fifty yards in the course of which I went head over heels into four different shell holes. This was about 10 o'clock at night. Of course the usual shells were falling and bursting all over the place, and we had some great dodging and ducking and jumping. I did not seem to notice the bullets that were flying all round, though next day when I went to have a drink of water I discovered a bullet had drilled the water bottle clean through. I must have been lying down at the time to have a breather as we carried the water bottles on our backs. But that wasn't the

on our backs. But that wasn't the narrowest escape I had. Many times I thought of saying good-bye to this old world, but as you know I have a good guardian angel. The worst part of the business is holding the trenches after we get them, as the Germans have their exact range and pound them to pieces with their big guns, and all we can do is to sit down and wait. "like wom-bats in a hole," and all the time we are unable to do anything in return. This is when the casualties occur unless we dig ourselves in at once. Though we are dog tired when we arrive we have to get to work and dig like porcupines till we are comparatively safe—and can't our boys dig! One of the inventions of this war is the barrage of fire. It is like a fence of bursting shells and shrapnel put behind the front lines to prevent reinforcements from coming in and also the men in the trenches from going out. We had to get through the barrage going in and as it is kept up continuously we had to face it again coming out. That is where we have to dodge and duck for you have to pass through a hail of shells and shrapnel. A couple of us set out together coming out. By going a long way round we escaped most of the shells, but weren't we tired when our journey was ended. I don't think I was ever so weary in my life, or so much relieved. Of course by this time you have heard that poor old Jack Japeurs was killed in

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.

*"igerald 10/10/1916"*

France

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1916

My dear Mother -

It is a good while since I have written to anyone at home but I missed the last mail - hope you will not be imagining all sorts of things about me.

There was a little matter of a raid that I happened to be in charge of, and I did not feel inclined to write till it was over; however it went off very successfully, and now can tell you all about it, it was very well done, & they have all said very nice things about me, and what you will probably like much better, I will not feel it is my turn to take part in a raid for a long time to come.

I have had lots of letters from everybody saying how pleased they were I was wounded because I would be away from the firing line for a while, the funny part is I have not been away from the Battalion for a day.

You cannot imagine what hard luck I had the day before yesterday, I had the warrant in my pocket to go on leave in England for ten days when I got sick, a bad bilious attack. I think, any how it stopped me, I am just about right again now, and as soon as I am well the pass will be forthcoming, it is the first time I have been ill like that since I can remember, I think it may have been a touch of ptomaine poisoning, however I am going to get properly well before I go as I want to do the leave full justice. What a bad fall father must have had, you must have got a fright. Alan and Pearlie are a strange pair as they must have taken all the dogs from Killingworth with them -

You will be sorry to hear that my batman Tullett has gone, he is 56 years & sleeping on the wet ground & so on was playing up with him so I got the Doc to send him back to Australia. He was a fine old chap as honest as the sun, & did not like leaving me, I have had him with me for 15 months and kept him out of all the rough business.

Captain Hurrey who was in the same Company as I for a long time has gone to England sick, he was always very decent to me - Dickson is now a Captain, all the fellows who went to new battalions got their promotion quickly, I was just due for mine but lately five original officers of this battalion have come back, so suppose I will be in the cold, these officers have been away 16 months, & most of them have seen practically no fighting, I will have to wait for another Pozieres, they are the stunts to make promotion. However I am quite content to bump? along as I am - Hope the next time I write will be from London.

I do not understand how you could have had a cable from Bill Usherwood, is he still alive? The paper says he cabled from England. He may have been picked up & got over there without his Battalion knowing of it -

Must stop now, with love to all

Your loving son  
Gerald

*Also included in envelope*

92 London

10 words

Evans Redcamp Wangaratta

Leave England very well

Love Evans      6-30 PM      17<sup>th</sup> Oct

*At this time the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in the line in front of Ypres at the Glasgow post which is Sth of Zilebeke – D Coy at Battersea Farm in reserve. From Battalion diaries: Raiding party trained for this for around 10 days before 30/9/1916, Raid a complete success with one German prisoner (later died) and two Germans killed. Lieut Joynt and one OR slightly wounded and Pt Smith (later DoW? Badly wounded. Identifications and information gained. Many congratulations from Army Corps, Division, Brigade command. Gerald led the raid.*

*Note: See “Cobbers in Khaki” page 132-133. It would appear that this raid occurred near Ypres in an area “north east of the bluff”. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, the whole unit moved into billets at Scottish lines, and on the last night of the month (30<sup>th</sup> Sept) the raiding party, with faces blackened and wearing balaclavas, crawled into No Man’s Land at 10pm and after covering the 50 yards at the agonizingly slow rate of only two yards a minute, attacked a sector of the enemy trenches north east of the Bluff, held by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Landwehr Regiment. The raiders scrambled across extensive entanglements using ladders and mats, and totally surprised the enemy. The raid resulted in several Germans being killed or wounded in their dugouts. A solitary wounded prisoner brought back by the raiders later died from his wounds at a casualty clearing station before he had divulged his unit identity. This was ascertained from his id discs.*

*The raid leaders, namely Lieutenants Evans, Goodwin, Joynt, Maguire and CSM Harris, were delighted to receive congratulatory messages on the success of the raid from their commanders at Corps, Division and Brigade level. Colonel Gordon Bennett (CO of 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion) was on “loan” to 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion for the training for the raid, “spoke highly of Evans’ leadership during the raid “He trained his men so well they did the work with calm regularity and precision in very great danger. He controlled his party with great coolness” Assume this is one of Gerald’s Mentioned in Dispatches.*

***Recommendation for a Military Cross, ended up being a Mentioned in Dispatches.***

***Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1916***

*Running a raid on the German trenches near Hollebeke on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> Sept/1<sup>st</sup> Oct, Lt Evans was in command of the left raiding party. He trained his men so well that they do the work with calm regularity and precision in very great danger. He took his post on the enemy parapet and controlled his party with great coolness. The party killed one German and brought to our lines one wounded German from whom the necessary identification was established. His fine leadership was to a very great extent responsible for the success of his party.*

***Major General Gordon Bennett, Commanding Officer***

"jgerald 11/10/1916"

France

11-10-16

My dear Evan -

I have had two letters from you lately and am going to answer them together, I think I wrote to you by the last mail, didn't I? -

We have not been having a bad time at all lately and hope it continues to be that way.

Think I told you young Jarrott was with this Battalion now, poor kid, Tommy should have kept him on the crick for a couple more years, he is not developed enough for this game.

I played in a few football matches and played pretty well for about five minutes. We played the sergents the other day and they beat us -

Have been off my feed for a couple of days & am now in the enviable position of having 10 days leave to England when-ever I like, which means when I am well enough to go.

Am glad to hear that the King River side is being developed at last, but you seem to be favoring colored labour aren't you? Alan & Pearlies arrival at Redcamp was characteristic of them, they have not changed any. I have not heard from Ken yet? I will write to him, he may be in the Salisbury camp now & might see him in England. How is the Patterson farm proposition getting on?

Good-bye

Your affec. brother

Gerald Evans

*At this time the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in the line in front of Ypres at the Glasgow post whe is Sth of Zilebeke – D Coy at Battersea Farm in reserve.*

New Cable text sent by Gearld 17/10/1916 saying he was on leave in London

92 London  
 10 words  
 Evans Redcamp wave air  
 Leave England very well  
 Love  
 6-30 P.M.  
 17<sup>th</sup> Oct  
 Evans

"kgerald 29/10/1916"

France

29-10-1916

My dear Mother -

Since writing to you I have returned to the Battalion from leave; it has been raining a good deal here so things are not very cheerful but suppose I will soon settle down again soon -

There was a letter from Minnie waiting for me ; in which she said Harry had a fall from his horse, hope it is not serious - I had a long trip back in the train, two days of it though I didn't have far to go.

I had my photo taken in London and sent four over to you, please give one to Minnie and do what you like with the others. Don't think Ken had landed in England when I was there, I went to Headquarters and inquired about him & they his unit was on the way over. I have told you about my trip in previous letters to various members of the family so will not repeat it - I had a glorious time, quite the best holiday I have ever had - When you come over we will go for a trip to Ireland together.

*(wish we had these letters - ee)*

You should get this letter about Xmas time, so wish you the very happiest one and hope to be home by the next, I meant to get you a Xmas present in London but could not think what you would like best, however I am enclosing 5 pounds in this letter by registered post & you can buy just what you would like best -

I wish you would go to Sydney in the hot weather for a spell, it would do you such a lot of good -

We went for a bonzer trip through the islands of the west coast of Scotland & my only regret was that you could not be there too. It is quite a short trip from there to Ireland.

I must stop now, with best love to all

Your loving son  
Gerald

*envelope has emblem of the Strand Hotel Ltd.*

*Written from Mametz, east of Albert, not long before the 8<sup>th</sup> shifted up to front which was in the region of Guillemont – Sth East of Longueval – 4/11/1916 to 10/11/1916. Gerald must have gone to England, Wales over about two weeks between Oct 11<sup>th</sup> and Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1916*

"Igerald 19/11/1916"

France

19-11-16

Dear Albert -

As it is a good while since I wrote to you here goes. I have rather gone cold on writing letters but now I am back in a decent billet for a few days may be able to carry on -

We had snow yesterday and the boys were looking a bit tucked up ; don't know how they will stand the Winter here -

There has been plenty of mail lately and had quite a lot of letters since coming out.

I see in the papers that the referendum has failed in Australia; what are they going to do now.

I have heard that Uncle Sam won the Caulfield Cup again but only a rumour, it will be a bit of a record if he has: how are the Safety fillies getting along that have gone to Melbourne. I see that Ultitox has been doing well in the West -

Have not heard anything from Ken yet, but expect he will write when he gets over here.

I saw Charlie M<sup>C</sup>Cardel this morning, he has done very well over here and seems very hardy.

We are having a bit of a spell now and it is very acceptable, the weather conditions are worse than the Germans and the mud is indescribable, though I have heard some excellent attempts at describing it from the men.

You will be on the verge of harvesting now and being short handed, will be very busy. This war doesn't show any signs of ending but may finish as quickly as it started. The way things are going I shall probably be in the line for Xmas.

I must stop now.

Love to all  
Your affectionate brother  
Gerald

*(written from camp in St Vaast training area (Nth of Amiens), after the 8<sup>th</sup> was in the line in the region of Guillemont – Sth East of Longueval, 4/11/1916)*

"mgerald 24/11/1916"

France  
24-11-16

My dear Mother -

I don't know how the mails go now but I am just going to chance this one. I got several papers yesterday including 2 Leaders & a Despatch from home. The Leader had my name in the casualty list

-

We have been having a spell lately and feeling quite bucked up. - We had a football match yesterday with the seventh and beat them easily.

I see the Germans have sunk the Brittannic. Now they are going pretty well. When I was on leave I saw a squadron of British Battleships and destroyers and you would wonder how the German submarines could live anywhere - Romania appears to be getting tickled up

What sort of a time have you had lately - has it been very hot? I wouldn't mind if some of the heat was transported over here. It was snowing the other day but has not been too bad last week. Today is Saturday & we have to walk about 4 miles to a lecture. On Wednesday I had a long walk to one of the large towns near here, about 15 miles altogether. The game wasn't worth the ??? I sent you 5 pounds in a registered letter about a month ago - I wonder if it will ever reach you - The old French woman in this billet is a hard case, she is about 80 & lives by herself, is a good old sort & told me her whole history the other night, I don't think she has ever been out of the village -

I haven't seen where any of the Redcamp horses have won any races yet, though I keep a look out for them -

This is a rotten letter but anything of interest there may be to tell would be cut out by censor.

I must stop now, love to all  
your loving son  
Gerald

*(written from camp in St Vaast training area (Nth of Amiens), Probably walked to and from Amiens for which leave was granted on Tuesday 21/11/1916.)*

new Harry Whitty 25-11-16

Hardcott Camp  
Salisbury Plains  
Nov 25<sup>th</sup>/11/16

Dear auntie Ellen

Just a line to wish you all a merry Xmas & a happy new year & to say that we have landed safely after a good trip over.

After leaving Cape Town the only port we called at was Dakar, a French sea port on the north western coast of Africa. We did not stay there long, they mounted a a gun on the transport, we came straight away. We got through the Bay of Biscay, we were met by about a dozen gun boats & destroyers which escorted us in. It looked very nice to see them circling around the boat & one taking a zig zag course in front. We anchored inside the Plymouth harbour about 2 hours after dark, & they had about 8 powerful search lights from the Drake Island Fort & other forts all playing on the water lighting it up for miles. The next morning we landed & had a 7 hor journey to Bonington Camp at Wool in the south of England. We stayed there a week, then came up here. It is a very good camp & only 7 miles from the City of Salisbury. We are getting four days leave next week. I am going home with Norman Searle, an English chap who came with me from Whitfield, so he will be able to show me around a bit.

I met a chap named Tom Bowes who used to live on the tableland above Whitfield last night. He is over from France for 3 months spell. He looks very thin. I also met a chap at Bonington Camp who was in Gerald's company in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He said Gerald was very popular with his me & was well when he left. We are going to France I think in a few weeks time, so I may have a chance to see Gerald then. The drill here is very stiff, no 8 hours a day about it. They have us drilling half the night at times.

We auntie I will now close with best love to uncle & all the girls and boys not forgetting yourself.

From your affec. nephew

Harry Whitty

Address

No 2170

Pte HW

37<sup>th</sup> Battalion

10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade

AIF

Abroad.

11  
lengthing it up 400 miles. The next morning we landed & had a 7 hours journey to Bovington Camp at Wood in the South of England. We stayed there a week, then come up here, it is a very good camp & only 7 miles from the City of Salisbury we are getting. Four days leave next week. I am going home with Norman Seale an English Chak who came with me from Whiffel a, so he will be able to show me round a bit.

I met a Chak named Tom Brown who used to live on the table land above Whiffel. Last night, he is over from France for 3 months spell. He looks very thin. I also met a Chak at Bovington Camp. Who was in Gerald's Company in the 5th Battalion he said Gerald was very popular with his men. I was well when he left. We are going to France &

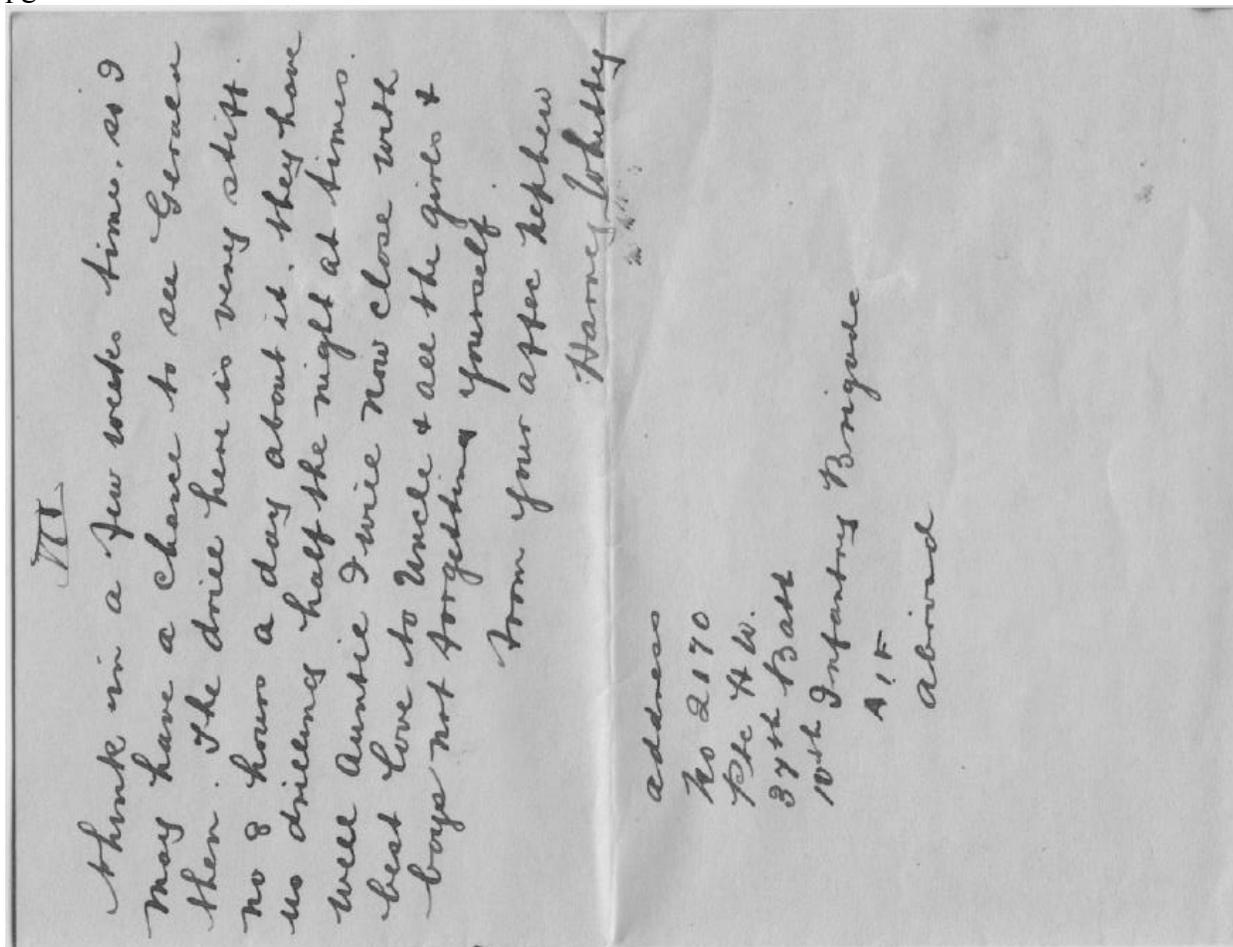
Hurdcott Camp  
Salisbury Plains  
Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>/1916

Near Auntie Ellen

Just a line to wish you all a merry Xmas & a happy New Year & to say that we landed safely after a good trip over.

After leaving Cape Town the only port we called at was Beakas a French Sea Port on the north western Coast of Africa. We did not stay there long they mounted a gun on the transport we came straight away. When we got through the Bay of Biscay we were met by about a dozen gun boats & destroyers which escorted us in. It looked very nice to see them circling round the boat & one taking a zig zag course in front. We anchored inside the Plymouth harbor about 2 hours after dark, & they had about 8 powerful search lights from the Drake Island Fort & other forts all playing on the water.

pg 3:



Harry Whitty

"ngerald 1/12/1916"

France

1-12-16

My dear Evan -

I have received two letters from you today, dated Oct - I believe the earlier October mail went down on the Arabia -

Am glad to hear everything is going along so well at home. It has been pretty cold today & am hoping it will snow- I saw Clive Williams for a couple of minutes today, he is in the 51st Battalion - also young Cozens from Bobinawarra, he has his commission - I have not seen Austin Mahony for some time but hear that he has a commission and the Military Cross so has done very well, good luck to him.

You seem to have done very well with the cattle. They must be very dear now.

Alec Campbell has gone on some engineering job and will probably get his Captaincy out of it - They seem to have rejected a lot of the eligibles who were examined - I wonder why? We had a sports meeting the other day. I competed in the football kicking but was out of form - we played the 7th Battalion and beat them easily - some very good men were playing including several league players.

Harry must have had a painful time with him.

I am second in Command of the Company now, a host of original officers returned to the Battalion as well as others from hospital and I had to go back a yard, it doesn't matter much really as I am with a very decent chap who was in D Corp with me ever since I joined the Battalion.

Young Jarrot has gone to hospital, it seems a shame to send boys like him over here -

I had a letter from Ken, he is in England. I expect he will stay there three months at least -

I received a hamper from the Mutual Store tonight sent by Mother and Minnie, it is very good -

I will sign off now

Love to all

Your Affec bro

Gerald

Censored

D.G. Evans

*(written from camp in Buive – sur-l'Ancere (Sth West of Amiens))*

*"ogerald 1/12/1916M"*

France

1-12-16

My dear Minnie -

This is going to be a very short note as I have already written to Mother & Evan tonight. I got three letters from you today and a lot of papers, also the hamper form the Mutual store, it is very nice and had a note from you in it, it had sox, gloves, biscuits, plum pudding, etc in it and was very acceptable. I got 15 letters today & don't know how I am going to read all the papers. Luckily, we won't be doing anything for a day or two & that will give me a chance. I also got a pair of sox from Mrs Hungerford & and Neallie Stevenson.

You will be going strong up to your neck in the harvest now and will be pretty short handed.

I got a Xmas card from Nellie Shanley today, very nice of her, would you thank her for me.

I had a letter from Carrie, she is a most ardent patriot.

Ken might go and visit Aunt Sallies great Aunt if you let him know the address - & again he mightn't, I have not had any letters from him - By the way what unit is Trevor in -

I saw Charlie M<sup>C</sup>Cardel the other night, that boy has done well here and came along absolutely on his own -

Good-bye

Love to all

Your loving brother

Gerald

*Censored*

D.G. Evans

*(written from camp in Buive – sur-l'Ancere (Sth West of Amiens), in the Somme)*

"pgerald 8/12/1916"

France

8-12-16

My dear Mother -

As today is my birthday, think I had better write to you - I had my last birthday in Egypt and it was a bit warmer than this; however I have a good camp and plenty of tucker today and what more could a man wish for?

Yesterday Archie Patterson came to see me. He is in the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion and I don't think he fancies soldiering very-much. Perhaps he will like it better when he has been at the was for awhile, one of Billy Forge's sons was with him, they both looked very well - I saw Cliff Anderson too, he is in A Corp 54th Battalion. Poor little Cliff is not very keen either. He was wounded in July with a piece of shrapnel, he looked very well and weighs over 12 st - Also saw Austin Mahoney and congratulated him on his Military Cross -

The mail closes finally for Australia tomorrow & you should get lots of letters from me if all I have written reach you alright -

I have not heard from Ken yet. No doubt he is having a good old time in England. I don't think it will be too bad for the next couple of weeks if the weather doesn't go mad altogether. I have not finished the contents of the hamper you sent me yet and am taking the bovril and chocolate right in with me, I gave the balaclava and mittens to one of the boys who didn't have one. -

I have not been able to get any cable forms lately so have not sent any to you, but will send one to you before Xmas - You will all be having a bonzer time then, I will be home for the next one, so it will be quite alright.

I must stop now, with love to all  
your loving son  
Gerald

*signed*

D.G. Evans

*(written from Bernafay wood, Sth of Longueval and West of Guillemont, in the Somme)*

*"New: aEvan to Gerald, 17/12/1916"*

Redcamp  
Moyhu  
17 – 12 – 1916

Dear Gearld

Mother had a letter from your on Saturday saying you have not had any letters from home. Since you left letter and papers have youe (?) from here every week and I know a good many more who have written and sent things, so you should have got some. I have written two myself and sent home papers but have not received any from you. I got one from Usherwood the other day. He is in the trenches and was well then he was in the boat that was in the boat that was torpedoed whe you were in Melbourne.

Mark Whitty was up here last week. He had a look at Grandi Florg's chesnut colt and Romances brown filly I put £50 each on them. He thinks he can sell them for me, of course I would take less. I think £35 would be enough for them.

We had catttle and sheep a the market yesterday. Two year old steers brought up to £9.16 down to £8.26, a very good price for 10 cows averaged about £10 a head. Two tooth ewes (150) at 28/6, & for 5 year ewes 26/1 (200), wethers, 4 and 6 tooth, about 150 27/8, merino wether 23/6, 4 tooth ewes (281) 29/-. The ones Harry bought for 23/6 three months ago, we sold about 1450 sheep and 45 cattle. I sold eight of our steers with the lot averaged just on £8 a head. There are three more steers and eight heifers of the lot left the heifers are worth about £6.10 and the steers about £8.10. Have not sold any of your cows or the three bullocks will get much more for them, soon they are worth now, Bullockes about £13 (3) and heiferes about £9 (3).

Your wage(?) is being paid in alright. There is about £50 in the bank now. The crops here are very good we are harvesting is now. I am now able to do much yet but my leg is improving very much lately. I was over at Fairfield foa couple of days. Dorothy had a couple of letters from you and poll card and Harries ??? engine driver has gone to the war. The Government are going to raise 50,000 more men and reinforcements which will mean bout 100,000 to the men will be a bit scarce here then.

Maidie is here now. Auntie and Nell are coming for Xmas. Pearlie and a Miss Green were here for a few days, they drove across. I was not here when Doris Notcutt and Miss Cambell were here, was in the hospital then.

Am afraid there is no more news. Mother sends here love

From your affec. brother

Evan M Evans

New Gerald Xmas cablegram 23/13/1916

E.T. No. 7.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.  
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Office Date Stamp:



# CABLEGRAM.

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.  
All Complaints to be addressed, in writing, to the Deputy Postmaster-General.

B.2437.15.-C.0007.

| Number and Route.  | Station from, Date and Time Lodged. | Number of Words and Official Instructions. |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Tia Pacific</i> | <i>London 23/12/16 1.3</i>          | <i>15.</i>                                 |

at bottom of form indicates time the Cablegram was received at this office.

*Mrs. Reacamp  
P.O. Kangaroo*

*Merry Xmas all very well love  
eighth December.*

Wangaratta Chronicle (Vic. : 1914 - 1918) / Sat 23 Dec 1916 /

Mr. and Mrs J. Evans, of Red-camp, last week received a letter from their son, Lieut. Gerald Evans. He was in Edinburgh at the time of writing, enjoying his furlough. He was well.

"qgerald 26/12/1916"

France

26-12-16

My dear Father -

Your letter dated 29-10-16 arrived some days ago when I was on the front line. Since then we have come back a bit and spent Christmas day in comparative comfort, as we had a turkey & plum pudding, and a dry camp with a fire, so could not wish for more - Everything seemed to be going satisfactorily when you wrote, hope they continue to do so - you will be in the middle of harvest now and will be fairly busy being so shorthanded -

I received several papers this morning with three local papers amongst them - Some of the excuses for the exemption are pretty funny, I could not help laughing at Dan Byrne saying he was supporting his mother and sisters - The papers seem to be full of the Conscription business, and it seems remarkable that it should have been rejected with all the papers unanimously in favour of it- Parker Moloney should be put out on his head at the next election, but don't suppose he will be - I would like to have the crawler here, he would soon find out if men were wanted or not.

I saw Austin Mahoney today & have seen Cliff Anderson several times. I wonder what the result of all this peace talk will be? I don't think England will consider peace at present, as they could be hardly be very favourable to her under the present circumstances.

I see poor Dan Slater came to a sad end. Dan didn't want to die in his bed, but it was hardly in "full cry" unless he was fishing. Am writing to Mother and Minnie by this mail, also sent a cable which was despatched from London on 16-12-16. Have not heard from Ken lately -

Will stop now, with love to all  
your loving son  
Gerald

*signed*

D.G. Evans

*(written from near Mametz, France just West of Albert)*

## Gerald 1917 summary



**Dad and Julie at Bullecourt Digger Memorial, 7-2000**



**Looking back to Bullecourt over wheat field from Bullecourt Digger 7-2000**

"agerald 7/1/1917"

France

7-1-17

My dear Mother-

Don't think I have written to you since Xmas day so here goes - Am at present at an Army School of Instruction for five weeks, which is rather a chuck in at his time of year; as I have a good bed and comfortable room, besides the school is really a good one.

The work is pretty constant and covers nearly everything. I had a lesson in riding the other day and we have another tomorrow at 7.45, rather early at this time of year. There are a lot of English officers here and one of them said this morning "I do detest early morning riding, it makes me positively sick". I had some great fun at the riding lesson, don't think some of them had ever seen a horse before except in pictures. You must excuse the writing but my hands are jolly cold.

I suppose my letters will go a bit astray for the next month as I am away from the Battalion.

This afternoon I am to play in the Hockey match, they wanted to make another team and as they said I could kick, hit or anything I thought the chance was too good to miss -

I see in "The Times" this morning that I have been "Mentioned in Dispatches" in the New Years Honours list. It is not much when you see all the Military Crosses kicking about but I suppose it is something. Suppose this was for the raid I took part in -

Somehow I don't feel inclined to write today so will ring off and write again when I feel more like it.

So love to all

Your loving son

Gerald

*also signed*

DG Evans

*(written from Officer School, possibly St Vaast, France, North of Amiens)*

"bgerald 7/2/1917 "

France

7-2-17

My dear Mother,

I will be leaving here in a very few days and have had quite an enjoyable time, and though the weather has been cold and the frosting hours fairly long, it has been a jolly good change and rest -

We have had some good sport such as wrestling, Tug of war and musical chairs on horse back, and Boxing, I am boxing in the officers heavy weight class and have won twice. I am in the finals tomorrow night and think I have a fair chance of winning.

I have not had my December mail yet but don't know what can have happened to it, suppose will get some when I get back to the Battalion - I had a letter from Austin Evans yesterday which I will answer one day soon - I will not be sorry to get back to the Battalion, as it becomes quite like home and one misses everything that is going on there. Are some grand fellows in my Battalion and it is almost worth going to war to know them.

I will be able to write a longer letter when I get my mail.

I wonder if America will come into the war. She looks very like it now. This is just a very small note to tell you that I am very well and happy.

Love to all

Your loving son

Gerald

*also signed*

DG Evans (*vertically*)

*(must have been written from the Officers training camp. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in the line at Bazentin le Petit trenches Flers line at this time.)*

New: "Gearld 9/2/1917"

Postcard

9 - 2 - 17

This is a group taken at the School I spoke of – Hope you are having not too strenuous time this Summer, it is not very hot here as you may imagine. Have not had any letters from home for a little while but hope to get some when I get back which will be very soon.

Love from  
Yours Gerald

Officer Training School Postcard, February 1917

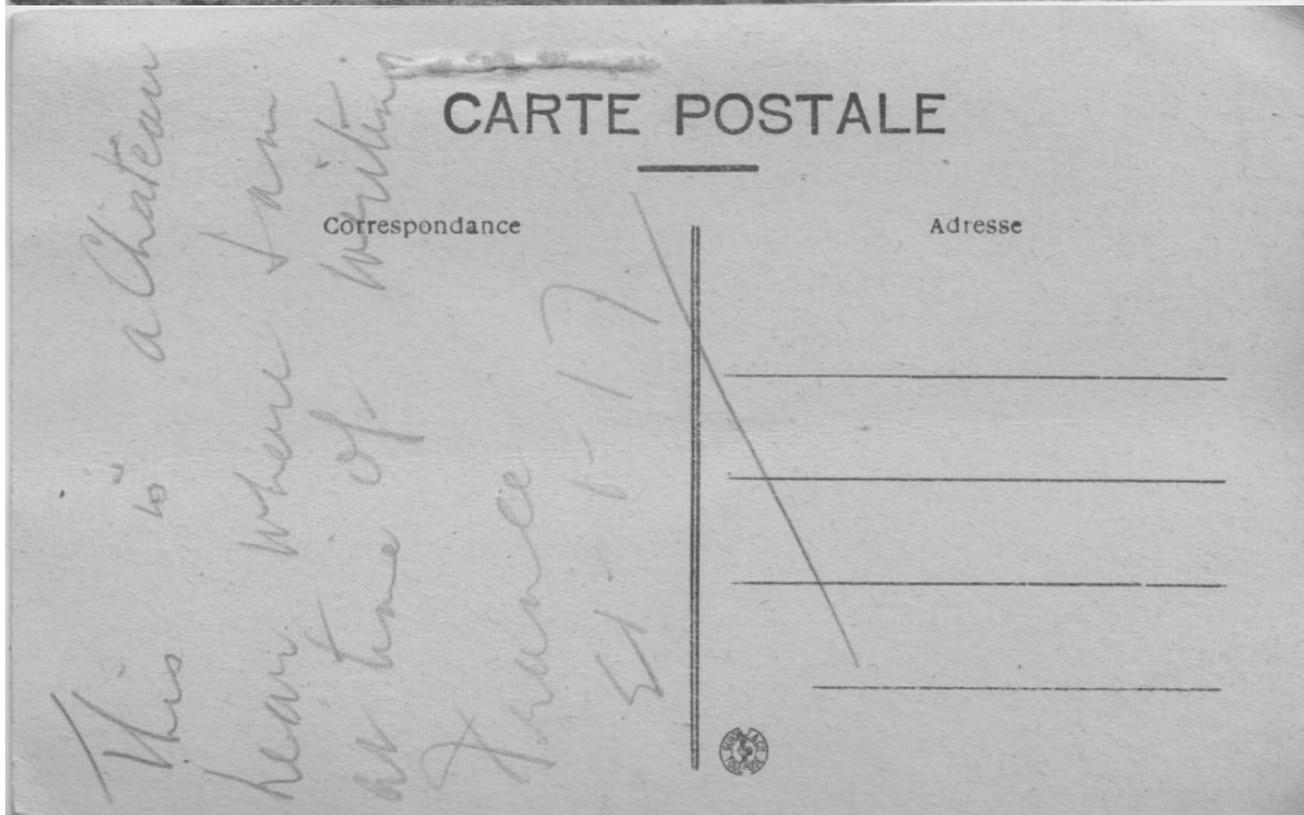


HENRY GEORGE CHARLES VISCOUNT LASCELLES later 6th Earl of HAREWOOD  
Husband of Princess Mary, in uniform Date: 1882 - 1947



Captain Gerald Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF

New Gerald 31/1/1917



This is a chateau near where I am at the time of writing  
France  
31-1-1917

*Assume the Officer training camp was near Étaples, France (just south of Calais)*

*The story goes that the Hon. David Gerald Lascelles "was named after a very brave Australian Captain who was killed in 1917," by his father Capt (later Major) Henry Lacelles, 6th Earl of Harewood DSO, commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards in the First World War. If this is legend is correct, then the Australian Captain was almost certainly Gerald Evans. This is plausible because Capt Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood DSO, commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards in the First World War and I believe that he was also at this Officer training school with Gerald in January-February, 1917.*

Dr Evan Evans  
15 Rianna Rd  
Lindisfarne Tas 7015  
Australia  
5<sup>th</sup> November 2016

The Right Honourable Earl of Harewood  
Harewood House  
Harewood, Lees LS17 9LG  
United Kingdom

Dear Sir

I am hoping you or your family may be able to help me regarding the naming of **Hon. Gerald David Lascelles**, who was I believe your uncle.

What I want to ask about is a family legend. This surrounds my late great uncle who died near Polygon Wood in Belgium in September 1917 (3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres). His name was **Capt. David Gerald Evans MC** (mentioned in dispatches 3 times) 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF. The story goes that the Hon. David Gerald Lascelles "was named after a very brave Australian Captain who was killed in 1917." If this is legend is correct, then the Australian Captain was almost certainly my great uncle. This is plausible because your grandfather, Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood DSO, commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards in the First World War.

The Australian RSL has set up a web memorial to honor our servicemen, particularly those that paid the ultimate price. The page for Captain David Gerald Evans MC is:  
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/232126>

It goes with our saying that although he had no children, our Gerald is warmly remembered within our family. My son is also called Gerald after him.

I would just like to check if this story is true and if so were there any further details. Obviously, Hon. Gerald Lascelles died in 1998 and his first wife Angela who died in 2007. I understand they had a son, Henry Ulick Lascelles (1953) and another, Martin David Lascelles (1962) with his second wife.

I would be most grateful if you could help with confirming or otherwise this family legend.

Yours faithfully

Evan Evans

[tassiebeerdr@gmail.com](mailto:tassiebeerdr@gmail.com), ph +61-3-6243-9556



HAREWOOD  
— Estate —

The Estate Office  
Harewood Yard  
Harewood  
Leeds LS17 9LF  
Tel: 0113 288 6252  
Fax: 0113 288 6567

e-mail: estate\_office@harewoodestate.co.uk

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dr Evan Evans  
15 Rianna Road  
Lindisfarne Tas 7015  
Australia

Dear Dr Evans

Thank you for your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> November. I must admit this is the first I have heard of this family legend.

All the names and dates that you mention, both to do with my grandfather, my uncle and his children are correct, but I am afraid I do not know if my uncle was named after your great uncle. Unfortunately there is nobody of that generation to confirm it.

It is however a lovely story and like you, I would like to believe it is true.

Yours sincerely,

David Lascelles  
Earl of Harewood



Dr Evan Evans  
 15 Rianna Rd  
 Lindisfarne Tas 7015  
 Australia  
 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017

The Right Honourable Earl of Harewood  
 Harewood House  
 Harewood, Lees LS17 9LG  
 United Kingdom

Dear Sir

I wrote to you on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 enquiring if your family had any recollection with respect to the naming of uncle **Hon. Gerald David Lascelles**, by his father **The Honorable Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood DSO**. Our family legend that has been passed down is that he was named in honor of my great uncle **Capt. David Gerald Evans MC** (mentioned in dispatches 3 times, died 20 September 1917, near Polygon Wood, Belgium) 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, who was the "very brave Australian Captain who was killed in 1917." When you kindly replied November 25<sup>th</sup> 2016, you indicated there was no longer anybody available to confirm our family legend.

Since this correspondence, I have unearthed a postcard which I believe confirms that Gerald and The Honorable Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood DSO met at an officer training school in France in February 1917. The attached postcard is from the officer training School that they met, sent home to Australia by Gerald. As such, I am quite certain that both Gerald and The Honorable Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood DSO met at this school as both are almost certainly in the picture (see attached and annotated).

That Gerald and The Honorable Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood may have become friends is a recurring theme of Gerald's other WWI friends. Typically, they were clean living and very brave men who were often recognized for their bravery with an MC or DSO. Even Gerald's Battalion Chaplain and confidant, Capt. Joseph Booth was also a recipient of a MC. Interestingly, I have been informed by one of the Australian War Memorial researchers, that the awarding of a DSO to a Captain or Major, as was also accorded to Gerald's friend Capt. Alexander Campbell DSO, is typically only given for acts of exceptional bravery second only to that of a VC.

The Australian RSL has set up a web memorial to honor our servicemen, particularly those that paid the ultimate price. The page for Captain David Gerald Evans MC detailing Gerald's service, pictures and letters can be found:

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/232126>

I hope that this snippet of new information is of value to you and your family.

Similarly, I would be most grateful if any further information becomes available if you could please pass it on to me. My interest is to flesh out our family's history, and as you said, it is a "lovely story and like you, I would like to believe it is true." Although we will probably never know the details, it is my opinion that the legend is most likely true which I think confers great credit on the memories of both of these very brave and honorable men.

Yours sincerely

Evan Evans  
[tassiebeerdr@gmail.com](mailto:tassiebeerdr@gmail.com),

ph +61-3-6243-9556

"cgerald 15/2/1917"

France

15-2-17

My dear Minnie -

Your letter of Dec 1st arrived quite safely today but cannot think where all my other letters have gone to.

I have arrived back in the Battalion since writing last and have been put in Command of a Company again. You seem to be having a pretty wet time and very late shearing. Flowry ? Bill seems to shearing for the whole country side -

We have not had any rain for about a month but it has frozen pretty hard and fairly cold on the hands and feet, but is preferable to the mud. I have not seen Ken yet but may run across him any day if he is back with his Battalion, I hope I do.

I see the Safety filly had bad luck, I reckon the Evans' should give up racing.

Have you heard anything from Ian Whitty or any of the others lately - I may get leave again to England pretty soon but am not very anxious about it -

I have not heard from the Turtle Doves lately, hope they are looking alright. I had a letter from Garrie the other day -

Since commencing this I have received a letter from you dated 20th Dec. I must have missed some your letters - Am glad you like the photo I sent over, you can do what you like with the extra ones - I wrote a good many letters from London -

I don't think Mrs Goekburn's friends address I would be to go and see her when I go over to England - I may get leave again pretty soon - The Germans are getting pretty desperate now and I see the Commander in Chief say we may finish the war this year -

I have had letters from and Don's since they were staying at Redcamp. Believe the mail closes tomorrow.

Love to all

Your loving brother

Gerald

*(written from Bazentin le Petit trenches Flers in front line/reserve. Battalion in the line 26/1-5/3/1917. This was around the beginning of the German withdrawal to the Hindenberg line).*

"dgerald 3/3/1917 "

France

3-3-17

My dear Father,

Your letter 7-1-17 arrived yesterday, also letters from Harry and Evan.

My letters my have been a bit irregular lately, owing to fewer opportunities of writing. We have been having a fairly busy time and one gets out of the way of writing.

I have not heard from Ken since he was in the Mumpo hospital, though I have written to him, but suppose he is alright.

You seem to be having some hot weather at last, it must have been a picnic shearing and harvesting in the wet -

I see the War Faxes are beginning to mount up, and will be a blister after the war alright, the only pay is to make Germany pay - The British forces in Mesopotamia seem to be having some success and it is very satisfactory to have recaptured Kut. I think the German is very uneasy on this front.

The Safety fillies have not been very successful yet but seem to be pretty good, it is hoped they will win a race soon - It seems like old times to have a horse racing. How is Mark Whitty, I haven't heard from him lately.

It was splendid getting these letters and hope you will all write plenty

Your loving son

Gerald

*(written from Bulls Run, Lusenhof Farm, in the line).*

"egerald 11/3/1917"

France  
11-3-17

My dear Minnie -

Your letters of 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January came today, thanks awfully for writing such bonzer long letters, they contained such a lot of news that I wanted to hear about. Am afraid my letters must have been very uninteresting lately as there is not very much happening lately that one can talk about.

I hope you will not believe anything about my promotion till you hear from me, but think it should come very soon now, however it doesn't matter much so long as one can keep out of trouble. You must have had a very busy time at home being so long without a cook, I hope you have one now - I have had a letter from Mrs W.K. Allan asking me to go and see some of her relations in Wales, also the address you sent from Ted Rickards, but I think it will be a long time till I get leave -

It wasn't bad Geoff Russel sending Hazel a trench card, as he has never been in a trench in his life -

You seem to have been getting some good prices for cattle again, and suppose you will want them with all the war prices -

Walter Forge must be a bit of a joke in his Company but think Walter has more cunning than we give him credit for.

Had a letter from Carrie today letting me know all the news about Red X etc. She must have a busy time with all the funds and so on - The comfort funds have been doing good work here lately, buy supporting coffee and soup for the men going to and from the trenches, and it has been very acceptable indeed.

I have not seen Ken - but suppose he is alright. Many thanks for the photo of Mother, also the sixpence it will bring me luck.

Well I must stop now,  
 Best of love to everybody  
 your loving bro  
 Gerald

*signed*  
 DG Evans

*(written from Bulls Run, Lusenhof Farm, after being in the line 26/1- 5/3/1917).*

"fgerald 30/3/1917 "

France

30-3-17

My dear Evan,

As the mail is closing today, I am endeavouring to make up for my slackness of late-

I have written to Mother & Minnie some days ago and their letters will probably arrive the same time as this -

You will see by the newspapers that events have been moving rather rapidly on this side of the globe and I really think we can look for even stranger happenings in the near future - The Russian Revolution may prove a blessing in disguise, at least I hope so, while I think the German retreat on this front has got the best of them thinking very hard. It has certainly made the warfare more interesting and open which is a decided treat after the eternal trench business.

As I told the others, I have seen Ken, who is looking awfully well and seems to like the life - I have decided to get him to come to this Battalion, if he will come -

I received a parcel of cigarettes from Mrs Joe Wells of Tarrawingee which I have distributed among my Company - I had a game of football for my Company & we won the Battalion competition. Roy Kennedy of Milawa was playing against me. It took several days to recover from my exertions -

The elections in Aus seem to be going to cause alot of excitement, I hope the people wake up and beat those devils who support the 1. W.W. & such people. Billy Hughes seems to be such a stickler -

Will write to someone else at home by this mail

love to all

Gerald

*Signed*

D.G. Evans

*(written from near Buive – sur-l’Ancere, France, South of Ameins and Sth West of Albert)*

New: "Gearld 4/4/1917"

France

4 - 4 - 17

My dear mother

I received letters from Minnie and Father yesterday and this is just a short note becauser we are leaving hear tomorrow and may not get a good chance of writing for a while.

Minnie said that you were going to Sydney when a cook arrives. I do hope you got a cook. Minnie says Evan was going to Melbourne to enlist – If he does enlist tell him to come to this Battalion or go to the Light Horse. M Macartney is over here in the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, an officer who saw him told me about him. I have written to Ken about a transfer but I have not heard from him yet –

Had a letter from Bertie, he tells me everything is going satisfactorily at home –

I tis snowing again today but the weather is improving –

I got a shock to see Pat Byrne of Moyhu here in the Battalion. I haven't spoken to him yet, but he looks pretty Beery.

Must stop now, with much love from  
Gerald

*(written from near Buive – sur-l'Ancere, France, South of Ameins and Sth West of Albert)*

New: "Gearld 11/4/1917"

France

11 - 4 - 17

My dear Mother

I had a letter from Minnie yesterday, dated Febuary 16<sup>th</sup>. So them must be another mail in - I went up to see Ken yesterday, but his company was away, so I missed him. It may be some time till I see him now, however I soon hope to hear that he is coming to this Battalion.

I saw Ian Whitty today for a couple of minutes, he has a commission and is in the Divisional Ammunition Column - he looks very well and has a good job - Wilfred Evans is still in the Battery and Ian says he is well -

I have a good supply of papers from home lately and am well off for news - Henry Wallace & Frank Corker came to see me the other day, they are in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion which is in my Brigade, they have just joined soe have not sampled soldiering yet.

I see you have not gone to Sydney yet, you must be as hard to get away as ever -

Did I tell you Pat Byrne was in this Battalion? We have not renewed acaintance yet, a bit of soldiering should do Pat good, but don't know how the devil he got here -

I am camped in a tent tonight and am jolly lucky to have it. A good tent will always do me - it have been fine all day but is raining a bit tonight.

The Germans are getting their coffee hat now on this front and you will have heard about it long before this -

Suppose I will get leave again before very long - which will be O.K.

Well I am going to knock off now and write to some one else later. Did you get the cable I sent 3 weeks ago?

Your ever loving son

Gerald

Signed: DG Evans

*(written from near Bapaume, France)*

"ggerald 30/4/1917 "

France

30-4-17

My dear Minnie -

You will wonder why I have not answered your letters lately but the fact is I have not had any opportunity to write, however I was delighted to get them, also the papers. I wrote to Mother yesterday and told her all the news I could gather so I haven't much to tell you -

The weather has been beautiful the last few days.

We have had a very busy time during the last fortnight but have had an easy time in the last few days -

My correspondence has got beyond me, the letters have been rolling in & cannot get time to answer them -

We caught a hare yesterday & and didn't forget to cook it, there are plenty of partridges about here too but they are hard to get.

They are taking a long time to win a race with the Safety fillies, about time we gave up racing -

Have had a couple of letters from Ken, he is getting on alright but does not intend to come to this Battalion.

Must stop now

Best love to all

your loving brother

Gerald

*(written from near Morchies, France, Battalion had just come out of line at Lagincourt-Marcel 16/4-28/4/1917)*

"hgerald 1/5/1917 "

France

1-5-17

Dear Father-

Your letter 26-2-17 arrived a week ago with several others from home. You are lucky having a good season and appear to be going to have a good Autumn. The weather was delightful here the last few days and the mud and rain of Winter seems hard to believe -

The men are in great heart and appreciate the change of weather; we had a hurried move forward some little-time ago and when the Company was ready to move I found one platoon had a football ready to take along, these men will always play football under shell fire -

Am sorry to say that Alec Campbell was badly hit but is progressing well -

We had an election day yesterday which I suppose will be unique in the history of Australians, I had to run my Company's ballot. You will be glad to get some cool weather & am very sorry to hear you have not been well.

I have had several letters from Ken who is quite alright but seems inclined to stick to his Battalion. You must excuse this letter but it is hard to tell news without offending the Censor.

Love to all

Your loving son

Gerald

*also signed*

DG Evans

*(written from Lagnicourt-Beugny Rd - Morchies, France, which is North of Baupaume and South of Bullecourt. Shortly after the on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, Gerald went to the front for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Bullecourt which is where he won his MC.)*

*New "???? to Bill Usherwood's father 27/5/1917"*

Somewhere in France

27<sup>th</sup> May 1917

Dear Mr Usherwood,

Your letter inquiring for any news which I know concerning your brother and my mate (Sergt. Tom. Unsherwood) reached me on my return to Battt. After having a few months in England in hospital. It was my intention to write to you right away but as we have to get up to the line sooner than we expected, I left you letter in my pack behind the lines and it was my misfortune to lose that pack. It was not untill Pte. Cubbins received your letter about a fortnight later that I was able to again get your address. Your brother Tom and myself have been mates from when we went into Broadmeadows together and as I had the next section to him we were very seldom apart. About a fortnight before the great battle at the end of July and during August last year (Pozières, sic), Tom was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and before the battle began he had charge of the platoon. We were fairly lucky for some time and after the first attack we reached our objective with slight loss, the five N.C.O.s of the platoon still going strong. Then on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> August it was surglet(?) to be in a party to hop over and did a trench along the road connecting up with the advancing troops on the flank. The last words Tom said to me, expecting orders, said to me were "It's a stiff job and has to be done, and we'll do it." We did it but I'll never forget that night. There was an enemy stong post directly in front and we had not sooner hopped the bags when their machine guns started to spit death at point blank range. The last I saw of good old Tom , he was doing splendid work getting his mean forand and digging in. It was soon after this that one of the other N.C.O's saw him wounded. He started to go back to the trenche but I am very very sorry to day he never reached there. I wish with all my hear that I could give you more cheerful news but I know that should I ever fall my last wish would be that my dear people should not be kept in suspense. I cannot in anyway see that anything else than that your brother died a good soldier's and man's death. Shells were falling think and fast and we never had a chance of seeing the ground again that would account for so many being missing. I was....

Remainder lost. Do not think this is Gerald who wrote this letter.

**Battalion Diary entry for 8/5/1917, Bullecourt-Hindenberg line**

At 11.00 a portion of our left Coy (A) moved in bombing squads down the OG2 from left of our position. No opposition was encountered and we installed a stop? (strong?) position at sunken road at U22.d.1.3. Enemy shelled new position heavily at 1pm? At 21.15 a strong party of Germans attacked the garrison at position U22.d.1.4 with rifle grenades and bombs. A hard bombing fight ensued but enemy was forced to retire. They repeated attack but were again repulsed. Enemy losses were heavy and we retained five prisoners (Grenadier Guards 9<sup>th</sup> regiment). The enemy subjected our line to heavy barrage. Our Artillery responded very effectively. 6 killed, 63 wounded & 1 missing

Gerald won his MC in this action (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May on citation). This occurred some where close and on the Bullecourt side of the Bullecourt Digger.

**Recommendation for Military Cross**

**Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 17 May, 1917 (Bullecourt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle)**

During the heavy fighting in the Hindenburg line on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> instant, Lieut. Evans was in charge of the flank company which had the enemy in the same trench alongside of them. Lieut. Evans organised and personally led a bombing attack along the trench, thereby gaining about 200 yards of same. He personally supervised the consolidation of the new position, successfully repelled three strong counter-attacks. Throughout the fighting, Lieut. EVANS' courageous and capable leadership and example inspired his men to a wonderful degree. By his dash and courage an almost impossible position was greatly improved and placed on a sound tactical basis. (Awarded)

Note: Gerald would have been fighting very close to or with Percy Lay who also awarded a Military Medal. Both Gerald and Percy were in A Coy.

Cablegram out line:

Field PRT Office 12

Receiving a cable, awarded Military Cross - well, love

Gerald Evans

Field PRT Office 12, was as  
Evans ~~was~~

Receiving cable, awarded Military  
Cross - well, love  
Gerald Evans

New "eBirdwood 4/6/17 MC" – originally signed by General Birdwood

1st Anzac Corps, 4th June, 1917.

Dear Evans,

I write to congratulate you very heartily upon the Military Cross, which has been awarded to you for your good work in the operations near Bullecourt on the 8th and 9th May. I can not speak too highly of the magnificent dash and determination which you displayed in organising and personally leading bombing attacks against the enemy, who were in possession of the right portion of the trench in which you had made your footing. After gaining about 200 yards in this way, you then carried out the consolidation of the position, and later repelled three strong counter-attacks. Your conduct throughout was of the highest order, and I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking you for it.

With good wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely

*signed*

W.R. Birdwood

1st Anzac Corps, 4th June, 1917.

Dear Evans,

I write to congratulate you very heartily upon the Military Cross, which has been awarded to you for your good work in the operations near Bullecourt on the 8th and 9th May. I cannot speak too highly of the magnificent dash and determination which you displayed in organising and personally leading bombing attacks against the enemy, who were in possession of the right portion of the trench in which you had made your footing. After gaining about 200 yards in this way, you then carried out the consolidation of the position, and later repelled three strong counter-attacks. Your conduct throughout was of the highest order, and I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking you for it.

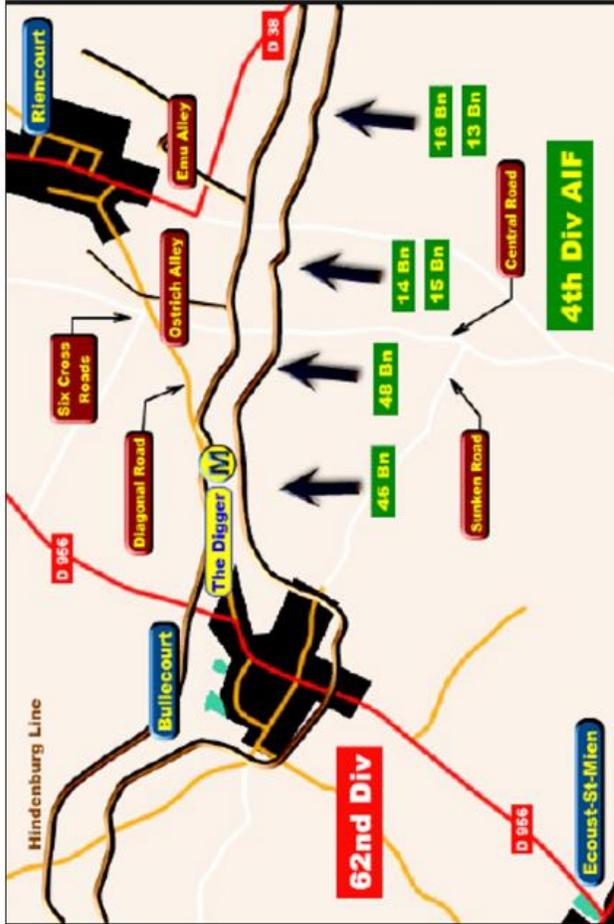
With good wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

*W.R. Birdwood*

BIRDWOOD

# Gerald Evans and 8th Battalion locations in 2nd Bullecourt 3-17 May 1917

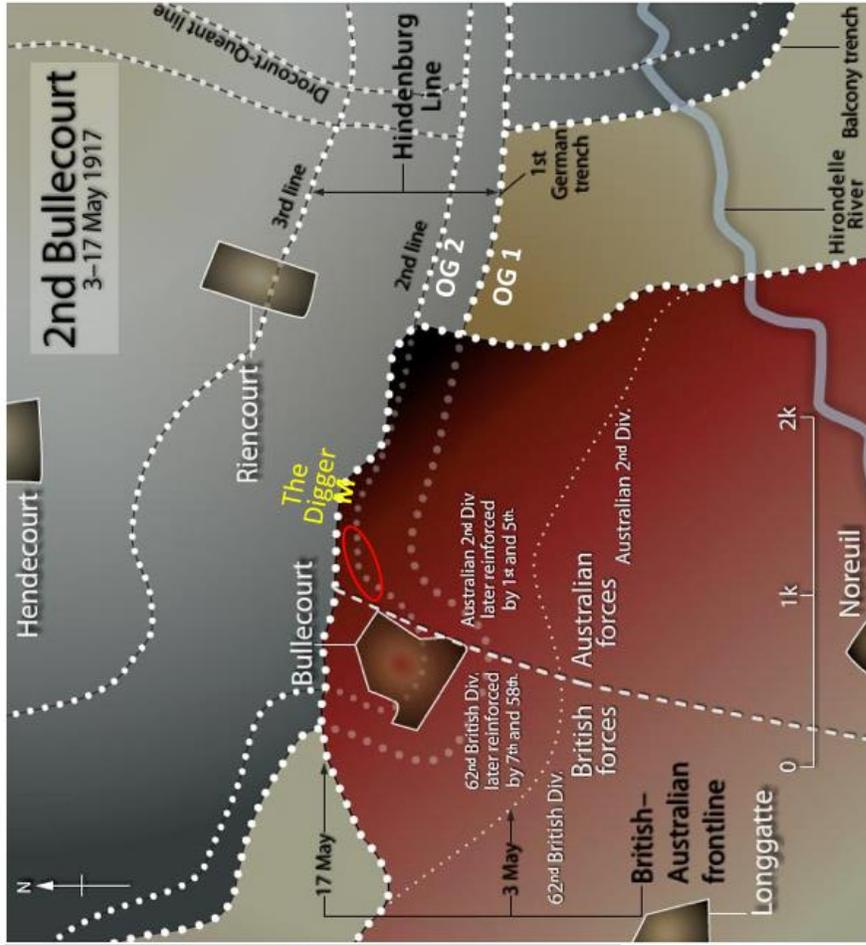


The Second Battle of Bullecourt

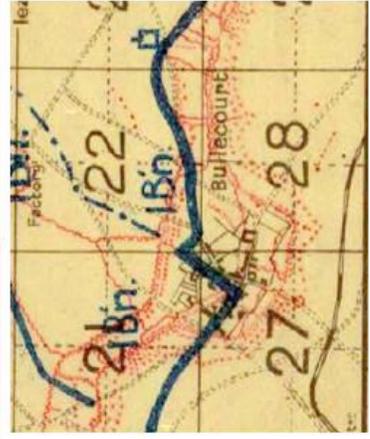
Three weeks after the first battle of Bullecourt the Australian 2nd Division, now with the British 62nd Division attacking on their left towards Bullecourt itself, assaulted over the same ground where the Australians had met defeat on 11 April. This time the Australian infantry attacked without tanks but was well supported by artillery. On the first day of the battle, 7 May, one Australian brigade on the right flank was unable to reach the German first line, and the British obtained only a foothold on the southern edge of Bullecourt, but the main Australian attack was successful in capturing the same German trenches the Australian 4th Division had been ejected from on 11 April. The battle continued for two weeks, the Australians and British committing four more divisions (the Australian 1st and 5th Divisions, and the 7th and 58th British Divisions). The Germans, also reinforced, made numerous unsuccessful counterattacks. By 17 May the Germans admitted defeat by ceasing attempts to recover their lost ground. Of 150,000 men from both sides who fought at Second Bullecourt, some 18,000 British and Australians, and 11,000 Germans, were killed or wounded in battle.

See "Australians on the Western Front"

<http://www.westernfront.gov.au/bullecourt/what-happened-here.php>



Position of Gerald's MC action?



New: "Gearld 10/6/1917"

France

10 - 6 - 17

My dear Minnie

This is going to be a very Mother letter. I am afraid as have quite lost my punch at letter writing.

Its been a good while since I have had any mail from home but was awfully glad to get your cable which was sent the day I went on leave.

Have sent Father a registered letter containing some cuttings. Norman Pinkenton came in to see me the other day. He has been 11 months in England & is now in the H.S.C so the chance of him getting hit is a very remote one -

Am enclosing some photos taken in Scotland, I had a great time up there.

Ken has not written to me lately but think he is getting on well.

Have written serval letters, so must sign off now.

Best love from

Your aff brother

Gerald

*(written from Brestle, France, Battalion Sports day on this day)*

*Probably for the Brestle Sports Day 17/6/1917. Ribbons presented by General Walker.*

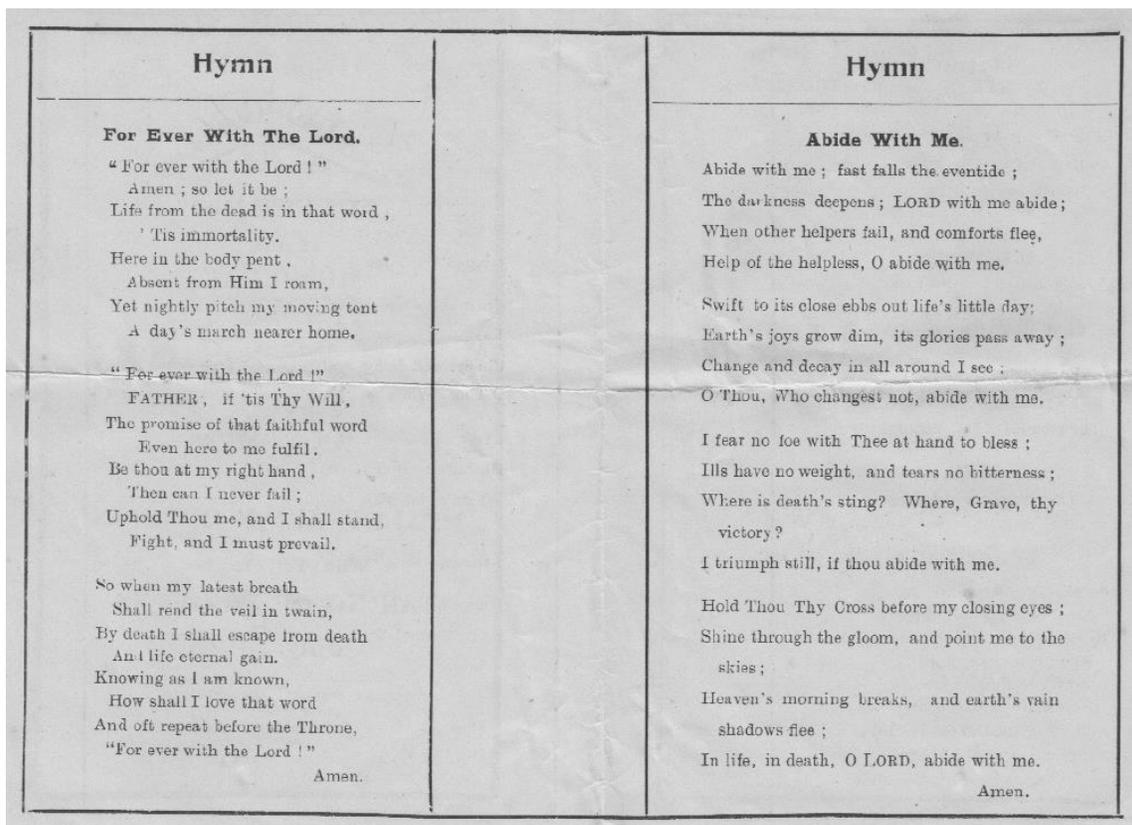
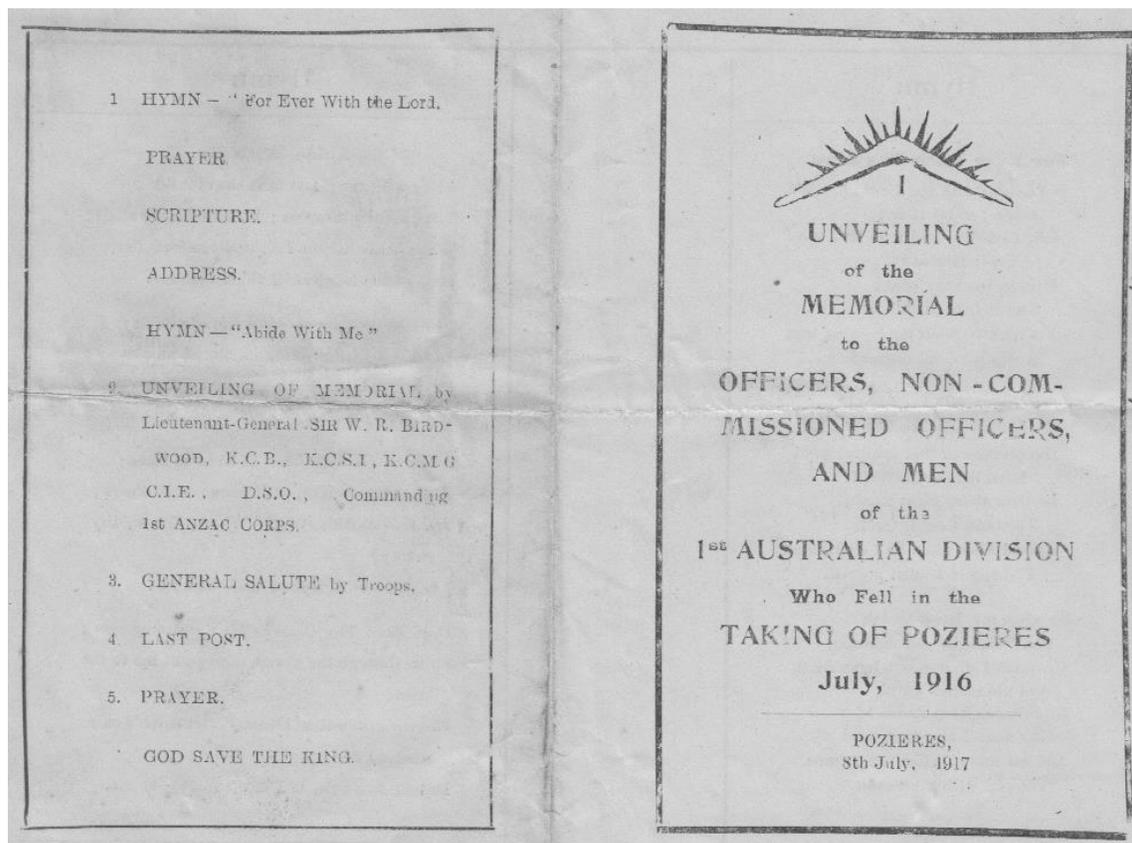
From the Battalion Paper.

Congratulatory.

The Commanding Officer joins with the remainder of the Battalion in extending hearty congratulations to Liet. D.S. Evans M.C. and the Officers, N.C.O's and men of "A" Company on their splendid achievement on gaining the Championship of the Brigade in the Recreational Training Competition. The manner in which all ranks of the Company applied themselves to the training for and carrying out of the tests was well worthy of the Battalion's reputation as the Premier Battalion in the Brigade.

**Order of Service, 8/7/1917, for the unveiling of the Poziers memorial for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.**

Eight men were selected to represent each company. Gerald was selected to represent A Coy. Found in Gerald's wallet.



"fDespatches 9/7/1917"

TELEPHONE:  
CENTRAL 4780.  
WJH/GMP.  
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO "THE SECRETARY."



## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. **89353**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE,  
BASE RECORDS OFFICE. A.I.F.,  
MELBOURNE. 9th July, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No. 29890 to the London Gazette dated 2nd January, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son Lieutenant D. G. Evans, 8th Battalion.

X

X

X

X

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

The following despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War, from General Sir Douglas Haig, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France :-

I have the honor to submit the name of the under-mentioned officer serving under my command, whose distinguished and gallant services, and devotion to duty, I consider deserving of special mention :-

Lieutenant DAVID GERALD EVANS.

X

X

X

X

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. 103, of 29th June, 1917.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Evans*  
Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

J. Evans. Esq.,  
Redcamp,



*The War of 1914-1918.*

*Australian Imperial Force*

*Lt. D.G. Evans, 22nd Inf. Bn. attd. 8th Inf. Bn.*

*was mentioned in a Despatch from*

*General Sir Douglas Haig, G.C.B., K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., A.D.C.*

*dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 1916.*

*for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.*

*I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's  
high appreciation of the services rendered.*

*Ernest-Charles Chamberlain*

*Secretary of State for War.*

*War Office  
Whitehall, S.W.  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1919.*

New "John Evans to Gerald 16/7/16" returned letter

Albury

16 July 1917

My dear Gerald

I have been here for a few days and as there are only three trains a week to Moyhu am waiting here until tomorrow.

I have been to Melbourne trying to arrange for money to buy 30 or 40 cows for Jack but have not succeeded yet. If I can get him the cows, he can pay interest and pay for me cows on a time payment system. If something of this ? cannot be arranged. I see nothing of him to do but give up the place and look for work. Cows and pigs are paying very well and would pull him through well. No doubt you and Ken are in the thick of the fighting and will have to be satisfied with the thought that " no news is good news".

We have our mail (?) time. We got your letters very frequently but they are about two months old when we get them. We comfort ourselves with the thought if either or you were sick or wounded that we would get a cable.

We are all very well, not with standing the wet season.

Recruiting is not going very satisfactorily. I think another effort to carry conscription will be made. I am glad the Russians are doing good work again and I have great hope America keep (?) entry (?) very soon –

May God be with you my boy.

Your loving father

John Evans

*"New: John to Gerald 8/8/1917"* returned letter

Redcamp  
Moyhu, Victoria, Australia  
8<sup>th</sup> August 1917

My dear Gerald

I am writing to you and ken tonight on the chance of catching the mail. Minnie and Evan have written re usual papers are giving ?

We were very pleased to get the packet containing General Birdwood's letter, also your ebs(?) notice of your company winning the Recreational Competition – I hope you know the boxing(?) competition who you are not having a terrible time – quite beyond anticipation – may God in his goodness protect you – I am sure your mother prays for you and Ken every day – I do also.

We write a good deal, but probably you do not get all we write –

We have been having fine weather for the few days. The Winter has been long & wet. The wattles are coming out now & the sarsparella is beautiful.

I hope the Russians will turn around and the Americans come quickly so that the year may be brought to a successful conclusion.

Your mothers messages could not be more loving – I will leave them to your imagination.

Your loving Father

John Evans

Letter returned: Killed in Action 20/9/1917, big pencil D on the envelope and deceased stamp  
14/6/1918

"gCommission 29/8/1917"

Signed George R.V.

Temporary

**George** by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, etc.

To Our Trusty and well beloved David Gerald Evans Greetings.

We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage, and good Conduct, do by these Presents Constitute and Appoint you to be an Officer in Our Land Forces from the First day of June 1915. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge your Duty as such in the Rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant or in such higher Rank as We may from time to time hereafter be pleased to promote or appoint you to, of which a notification will be made in the London Gazette and you are at all times to exercise and well discipline in Arms both the inferior Officers and Men serving under you and use your best endeavours, to keep them in good Order and Discipline. And We do hereby Command them to Obey you as their superior Officer, and you to observe and follow such Orders and Directions as from time to time you shall receive from Us, or any superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you.

Given at Our Court, at Saint James's, the Twentieth  
day of August 1917 in the Eighth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

David Gerald Evans

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

signed ????????

"igerald 26/8/1917"

France

26-8-17

Dear Father-

Many thanks for your letters dated 1st week in June. You had been having a lot of rain, the weather has been beautiful lately here; though the rain interfered with the push made a month ago as you probably saw in the papers.

We have not been in the line since last wrote to me and are having a splendid rest; think the men are going a bit stale on the continuous drilling and a trip to the line would do them some good -

Have not seen Ken again yet but had a letter from him and he is quite alright -

Jim MacCartney came to see me last Sunday, we had a long talk over things, he is a good trooper in the 4th L.H. and evidently looks at life from a troopers point of view, he wants to get Ken in his Squadron; Roy McLeish an old friend of Ken's is in Command of it, so no doubt they can manage it, as you know Ken preferred not to come to my Battalion: perhaps he was right. I think brothers should not be together in this game.-

Events are moving quickly here, the Russians have done their best to prolong the war indefinitely, but the French are very fine and as you will have seen have come again at Verdun, much to the Germans surprise. The Americans are a very smart looking lot and will no doubt make a difference; the Canadians have done fine work lately. I had a letter from Charlie who told me all about the stock business, stock seem to be very high and suppose the Auctioneers are making plenty of money -

I am still pegging along with the same company and am quite alright. Hope you are all the same and with best love to all.

Your loving son

Gerald

*(written from le Wulverghem sector (near Messen), Belgium)*

"kgerald 28/8/1917"

France

27th August 1917

My dear Minnie-

Your letter of June 19th came a few days ago after we came out of the last stunt, which I managed to get through with just the tiniest crack on the shoulder which didn't hurt at all -

I have not written to you since going in, it was not quite so hot as the last one but quite hot enough. Young Whitty was wounded not badly while Condron of Wangaratta was killed. Charlie McCardel is quite alright. Mother will probably be pleased to hear that we have done a move from that part of the world, but don't know what the new spot will be like -

It is great to get back and have a good hot bath & undisturbed sleep -

Since the last go I have been put in command of a Company temporarily but it will probably be permanent. I may get a Captaincy out of it - though there are some officers senior to me who will probably go in first -

I received a cable from father & replied to it. I was made first Lieutenant about a month ago -

Am glad to hear you are having the house fixed. You had better get to work & build a dug out for me, I will have it 40 ft deep & two entrances like the Germans with electric light laid on - they must feel very annoyed to know that we are using them now -

One place they had entire hospital under ground with kitchens, baths - everything billiard tables etc. They come in very useful now -

Yesterday we came through some very pretty country. They are harvesting now; the women do most of the work & do it very well. Reapers & binders are very rare. Mostly reaping hooks & scythes. One valley we passed through was surrounded by a low hill, they were harvesting right up the valley as well as hops & other green crops & hedges, there were about a dozen old windmills working around the hills & right on top was a very old Convent; been there since the flood.

They were playing baseball this afternoon near our Camp & get very excited over it, suppose you know what troops I mean; they are very hard cases & have a very pronounced twang.

I am waiting for Ken to write to me as it is no good me writing he would probably miss it on the way over -

I have been getting my mail very well lately & think I have beaten them all.

Will write to mother again soon

Love to all

Your loving brother

Gerald

*(written from Meaulte, France after training attacks near St Omer)*

*"jgerald 29/8/1917"*

France

29.8.17

My dear Mother -

Have written lots of letters to others of the family but have not written to you in over a week - Am posting you some photos today and hope they get there as they are pretty good; they will show you that I am not wasting away, the Chap who is with me is Captain Bob Wallis, the Adjutant of the Battalion.

I have been very well off for papers and letters lately - what a dreadful rain you have had; & the floods, they must have done a lot of damage. Am not going to write a long letter as there is not much to say - I am going to make the most of my bed, as don't often get one - Hope you have been getting my letters because I have been written plenty.

By the time you get this you will be in the middle of Spring; there won't be very much more hot weather.

Give my love to all.

**Final Movement order for Gerald Evans 5/9/1917 from Somme to Flanders (in Gerald's wallet)**

*On Payment*  
**MOVEMENT ORDER.** Army Form W. 3039.  
(In books of 100).

Train No. 8.53 Date 5-9-17

| Designation of Despatching Unit or Service. | Officers. | Other Ranks. | Sick and wounded men. | Prisoners of War. | Horses. |       | Vehicles.  |            | Miscellaneous No. of packages. | Truck loads. | Truck Numbers. | From | To |    |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------|----|----|
|   |           |              |                       |                   | Fit.    | Sick. | 2-wheeled. | 4-wheeled. |                                |              |                |      |    |    |
| 1   | 2         | 3            | 4                     | 5                 | 6       | 7     | 8          | 9          | 10                             | 11           | 12             | 13   | 14 | 15 |
|   |           |              |                       |                   |         |       |            |            |                                |              |                |      |    |    |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Officer Authorising Move.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Officer in Charge of Train.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ R.T.O. Despatching Station.

RECONSIGNED.

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of R. T. O. \_\_\_\_\_

(6930. Wt. W806/M302. 10,000 Dis. 10/13. D. D. & L. (E. 483.) Form W3039/E.

**MOVEMENT ORDER.**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE.**

1. This Movement Order is a British Authority to travel and, as such, must be carefully retained by the holder throughout his journey. It must be produced for inspection when required. Before the holder enters a train he must, in addition, be in possession of, or covered by:—

- (a) An Ordre de Transport.
- or (b) A Railway ticket, purchased at the Booking Office and paid for in cash.

In the latter case, the Movement Order, authorising the journey, must be endorsed:—

"On purchase of a ticket on payment"

and must be presented at the Booking Office for inspection. It must show definitely between what Stations travelling by rail is authorised and be countersigned and stamped by the R.T.O. (if there is one) at the starting Station.

2. The Movement Order will be made out in triplicate by issuing Officers (other than R.T.O.'s). One copy is retained for record, and the other two are sent with the personnel, live stock or material to the R.T.O. at the entraining Station, who, after signing, retains one for his own record and deals with the other as follows:—

- (a) In the case of Personnel, either unaccompanied, or in charge of consignments of live stock or material, he hands it to the Officer, N.C.O., or man in charge of the party.
- or (b) In the case of consignments, unaccompanied by Personnel, he hands it back to the despatching Service as a receipt for the consignment forwarded.

3. Separate Movement Orders must be made out for:—

- (a) Each destination Station.
- (b) Each consignment of material unaccompanied by Personnel.
- (c) Personnel, either unaccompanied by, or in charge of, live stock or material.

4. On completion of the authorised journey, all Movement Orders must be handed in to the R.T.O. at the destination Station.

New: "John to Gerald 9/9/1917" **Letter Returned**

Redcamp  
9<sup>th</sup> September 1917

My dear Gerald

This is Sunday night and suppose everybody have gone to bed. I went to Church at Myrree – a Rev Townshend officated and went on to Whitfield as usual. There are only three trains a week here and not mail at all on Mondays. I am going to past(?) by Mr Townshend(?) who be at Mr Coyeus(?) Englaude(?) at collock(?) tomorrow morning – Jim Heuneay(?) runs the mail on Wednesdays & Fridays, so tehre is a mail to Moyhu and Whitfield five days a week.

We received about six letters from you and Ken about a week ago. I am writing now on the chance of catching an outgoing mail. Minnie posted a about half a dozen papers to you and Ken, so no doubt you will get plenty of news. I tickes(?) are going on as usual only more so – I suppose there are 60,000 people out of work at present. The coal miners strick is the principle cause. Things are stopped for want of coal. The cause of the strike was the HJ Chater(?) Railway Commissioners instituting a card system to show the time each man was employed on each job. The object being to show the cost of work done. That started the game. Then other unions started striking in support of the Railway men. These are the reason given, but it is said to been in contemplation for a long time. The caucus being supported by the unions thought they could not be beaten. At present many unionists are going back to work and many volunteers are coming forward. I suppose the stricke will collapse and the leaders will loos their jobs.

We are still having wet muddy weather, it is bad for getting on with work. It must be something like what you have been having in France –

We are all well here. May Prentice has been here for some time. Katie cam las Saturday week. She has ten days leave or more I suppose. Katie has some kind of billet at school dues(?) It is pretty well paid. I believe Albert is keeping Safety Brake in under exercising her. He may give her run(?) at the Pubcotie(?) meeting coming off at Wangaratta next month. I am keeping Onaway in also. I may leave her for Ken or give her a run at Wangaratta also. Both are looking well, but are only doing hack work. I ride Onaway to Moyhu and back sometimes & canter along. I will give her more work soon.

Your mother and all are well. Your maother does a good deal of knitting. It is a great comfort to here to be able to do something for you and Ken. We have no cook just now. Minne and Eche(?) are working like Trojans.

The two fine from Fairfield Park came late for dinner today, but fared alright. I think Evan went back with them – Dorothy was riding horeen(?) and Marjorie Collen (your pony). The ponies looked as if they had very little work.

The Italians are doing well and I hope the Amercians will soon be ready also. I hope the Russians will get into shape again and finish the war. We want to see you boys back again.

With dearest love from your mother and myself

Your loving Father

John Evans

**Letter returned home: Killed in action – deceased. 14/6/1918.**

## "DIFFERENT KIND OF TROOPS."

### KAISER'S OPINION OF AUSTRALIANS.

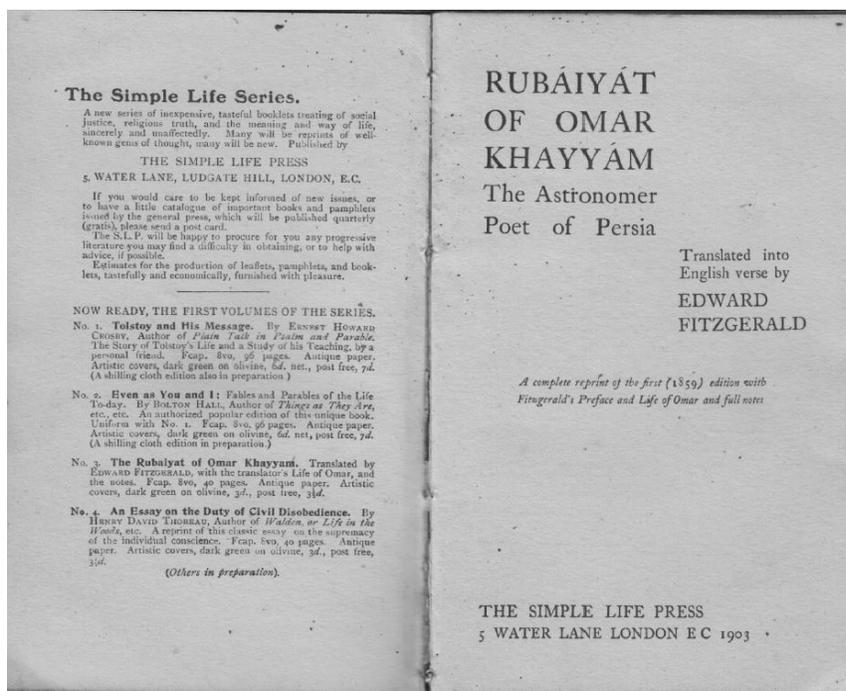
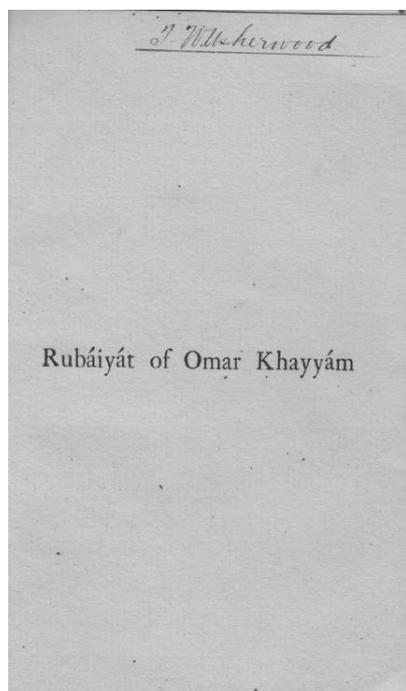
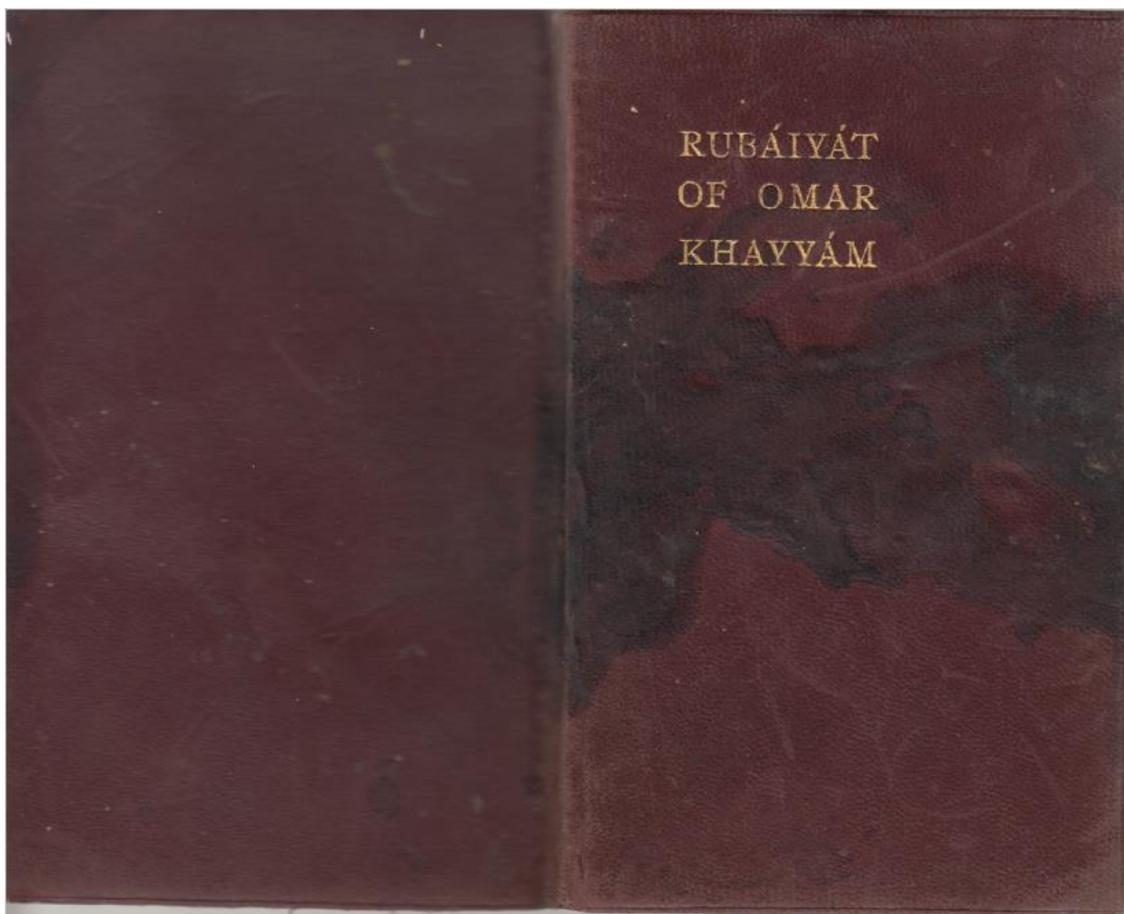
Private Wilfred Evans, writing from France to his sister in Maryborough, tells of some interesting battle events, and sends a copy of an address which the Kaiser forwarded to his troops opposing the Australians:—"Well, we are out of the firing line, after having a solid go for four months. The day before yesterday I had the good luck to be sent down to a beautiful spot on the French coast, with seven others from the battery, for fourteen days' rest—the first holiday I have had since I went to England thirteen months ago. We are on the sea, and all the country round is a picture, the most beautiful trees, waving green grass and crops just out in ear all round. The weather is perfect, and I am squatting out in the sun writing this letter. We can hardly realise the change from the awful winter, with its mud, rain, ice, and snow, to say nothing of shells, etc., etc. It is like dropping out of hell into a perfect heaven of peace and beauty. There is no doubt France can be a beautiful country when it likes. If only the rotten war would end, what a God-send it would be for the whole world.

beautiful country when it likes. If only the rotten war would end, what a God-send it would be for the whole world.

I saw Jack the day before I came down here, and all was going well with him. Dave is on another part of the front, so I have never struck him since I saw him in Egypt about eighteen months ago. Jack saw Gerald Evans the last time he came out of the line, with his clothes all torn, about a week's growth on, and looking very tired, but in good spirits. His battalion had done very well in the line, and he had won the Military Cross. By Jove! Australia should be proud of her infantry. I will say nothing about the artillery, although it is not too bad, but I always feel inclined to take my hat off to the infantry.

In one place we were in, the Huns made sixteen counter-attacks to try and smash them, but every time Fritz had to go back a wiser and a sadder man, until he gave it up as a bad job. I saw a captured address written by Kaiser Bill to some of his picked troops the other day, in which he said: "You are being sent against a different class of enemy in the Australians. They are clever fighters and contest every inch of ground, and hold the esteem of the German army as fighters, but they must be smashed; but, with the help of God and you (my so and so troops) I feel confident that you will do it." They came along and gave the Australians a pretty tough go, but got a terrible setback; in fact, I think they were wiped out. A mob of sheep is just going by, and the old sheepdog; it is quite like old times. You hardly ever see a mob of sheep in France, or rather I have not come across one."

**Book:** Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám that belonged to Gerald's friend Bill Usherwood. There appears an obvious blood stain on the front cover. As the book was not returned to Bill, I believe Gerald may have been carrying this book when he was mortally wounded at Clapham Junction in September 1917.

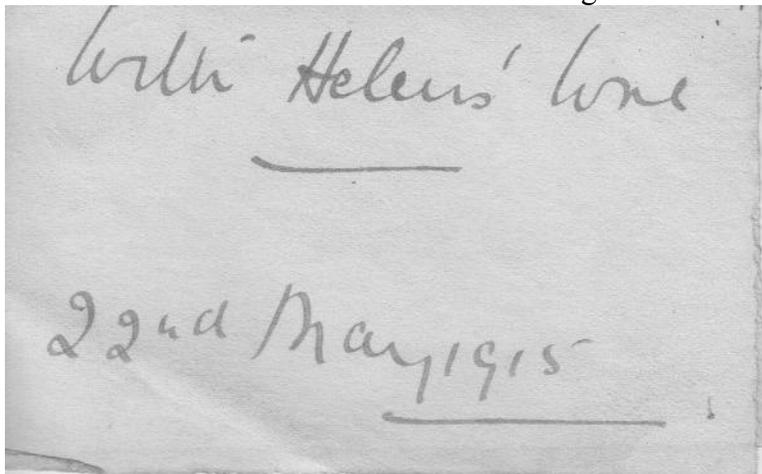




Gerald's Wallet that he was carrying when he was wounded 20/9/1917

**Wallet Contents:**

1. Pozieres order of Service for 1<sup>st</sup> Division Memorial on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1917.
2. Movement order Somme to Flanders 5/9/1917
3. Postcard of Chateau near where Gerald was officier training in Jan/Feb 1917.

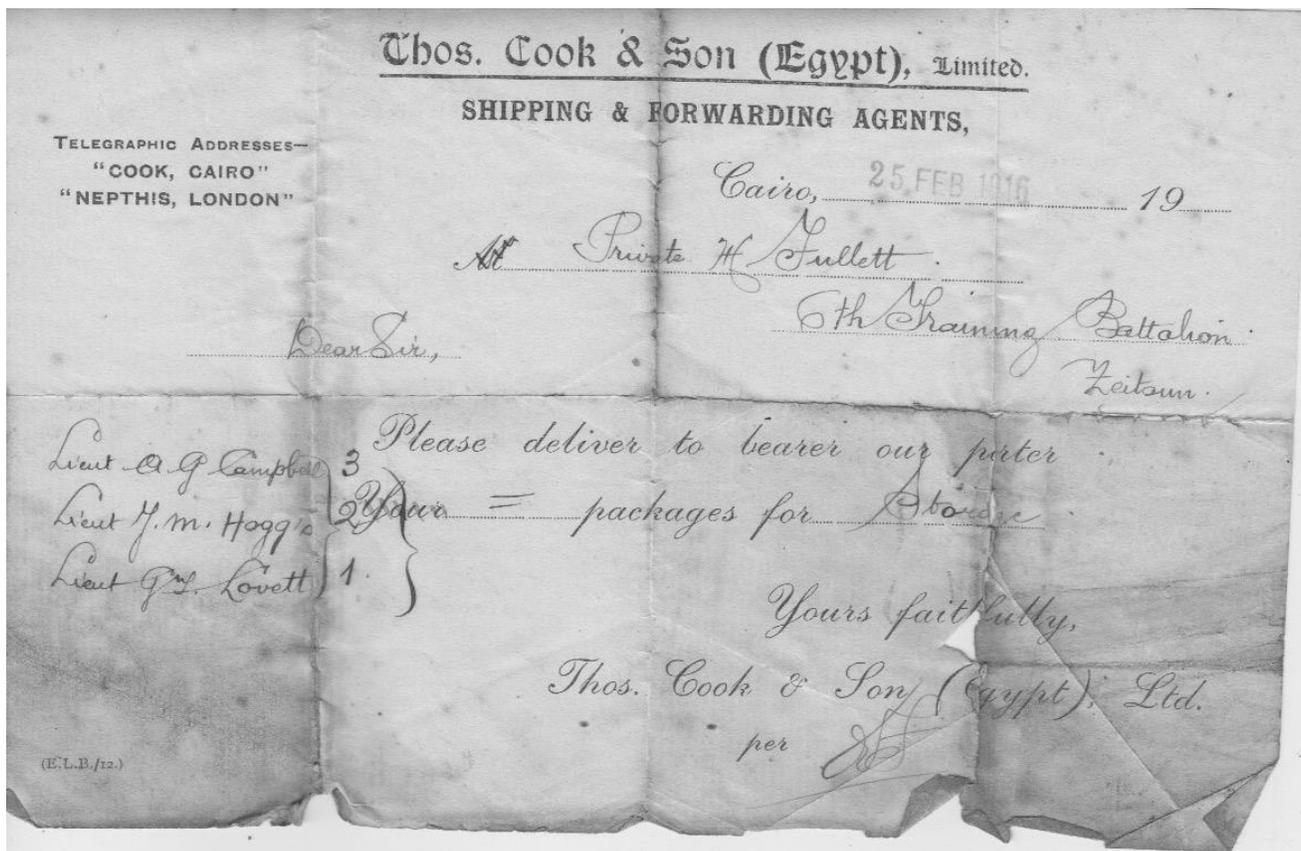


I suspect Helen was the person who gave Gerald the wallet?



On the back of Photo

Picture of Dorrie (Dorothy) Hungerford, who along with Margie (Margret) Hungerford were the “two turtle doves” Gerald referred to. Margie was also a very close friend of Albert Evans’. They lived at Fairfield Park in the 15 Mile Creek valley, essentially opposite to Banksdale.



Package forwarding for Liets Campbell, Hogg and Lovett from Gerald's batman, Tullett.



Photo taken in Egypt?

Two unsent postcards (including the one of Chateau mentioned earlier)



Postcard looks to be melange of the fountains at Versailles.



"l p John Evans 3/10/1917"

**A letter to Private Ken Evans from his father John Evans**

**On Active Service**

**re 2399**

**Private K. Evans**

**B Company**

**51<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion**

**Australian Imperial Force Abroad**

**Undeliverable**

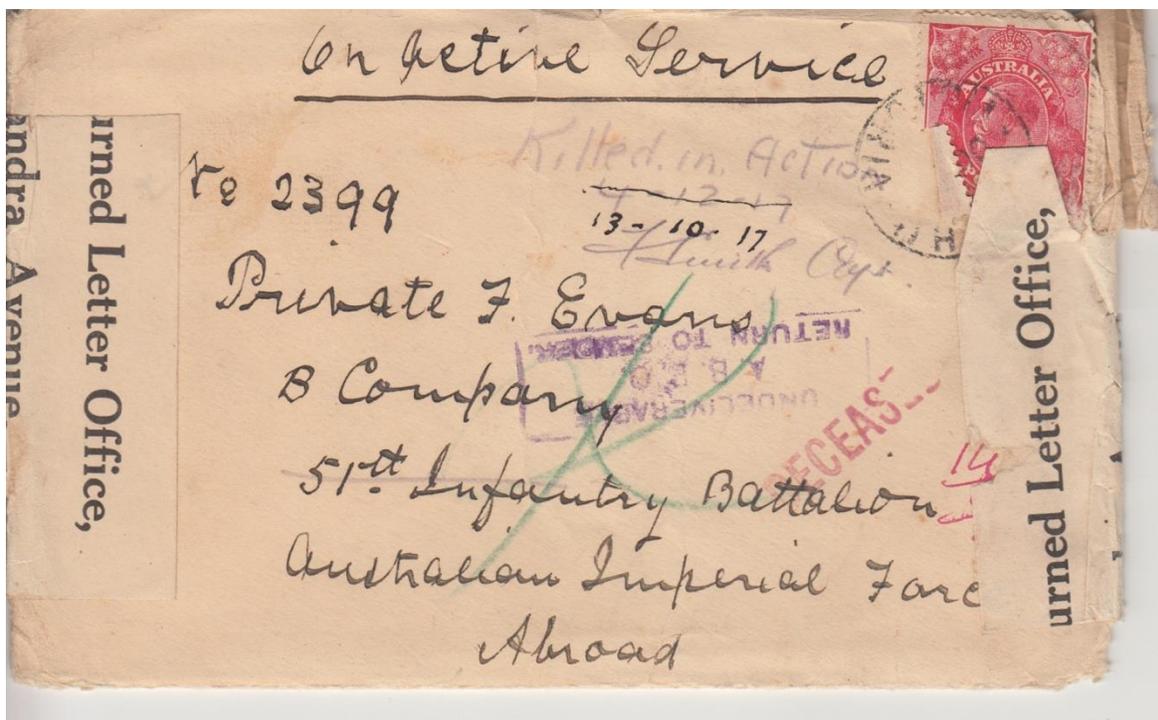
**A.B.B.O.**

**Return to Sender**

**Killed in Action**

**13-10-1917**

**F. Smith Capt.**



Redcamp

Moyhu

Victoria, Australia

3rd Oct. 1917.

My dear Ken,

We sent you a cable last week, reading " Sympathy loss of Gerald Mother brave" . In case the cable may not reach you we propose to send another to same effect, and make it reply paid as I think it may ensure a quicker answer. The cable informing us that our darling Gerald had died of wounds on the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. was sent by Canon Cue to Bertie on 25<sup>th</sup>. Bertie and Carrie came here the same evening. I was at Charlies' house Albury. The Griffith boys came with Charlie to break the terrible news to Grace & me. When I saw Charlies face I asked had it come? Yes it has come he replied. In my mind I was sure that both Gerald and you would be in the battles then raging. The Griffith boys were most kind & sympathetic and arranged that a car would be ready at 6 am next morning to take Charlie and me home. We did start but floods were so high that we had to go back and catch the express at Wodonga. When we arrived at Wangaratta, Bertie had just got back from Redcamp. He and Mrs Langlands met us and arranged for Tommy Harris to go back with us to Redcamp. All here were terribly broken up. None of us could quite realise the blow that had fallen upon us. I feel that none of us will ever again be as we were. We will understand each other better than we did, and be more kind and sympathetic to each other. In short more like Gerald. I have prayed that you two boys might be spared to come back to us & that God might bring us all to know our duty to Him and teach us how to serve Him. May & Edie who are both here feel the loss of Gerald very deeply. Katie wanted to come up here and I think your aunt is coming from Sydney. Your Mother bears up well & puts a brave face on for the sake of the rest of us but suffers much in silence.

We have had a great number of telegrams and letters of sympathy. Our calamity seems to bring our friends closer to us.

Your Mother is standing by me and saying tell him I wish I could have my arms around him and love him & tell him to bear-up & come back to us. We will pray for you.

With dearest love

Your Father

John Evans

Redcamp  
 Mayhem  
 Victoria Australia  
 37<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1917

My dear Ken,

We sent you a cable last week, reading "Sympathy loss of Gerald Mother brave" In case the cable may not reach you we propose to send another to same effect, and make it reply paid as I think it may ensure a quicker answer. The cable informing us that our darling Gerald had died of wounds on the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. was sent by Canon Cue to Bertie on 25<sup>th</sup>. Bertie & Carrie came here the same evening. I was at Charlie's home, Albury. The Griffiths boys came with Charlie to break the terrible news to Grace & me. When I saw Charlie's face I asked Had it come? Yes it has come he replied. In my mind I was sure that both Gerald and you would be in the battles then raging. The Griffiths boys were most kind & sympathetic and arranged that a car would be ready at 6 am next morning to take Charlie & me home. We did start but floods were so high that we had to go back & catch the express at Wadonga. When we arrived at Wangaratta, Bertie had just got back from Redcamp. He and Mrs Langlands met us and arranged for Tommy Harris to go back with us to Redcamp.

All here were terribly broken up. None of us could quite realise the blow that had fallen upon us. I feel that none of us will ever again be as we were. We will understand each other better than we did, and be more kind and sympathetic to each other. In short more like Jesus. I have prayed that you two boys might be spared to come back to us & that God might bring us all to know our duty to Him and teach us how to serve Him. May & Edie who are both here feel the loss of Gerald very deeply. Katie wanted to come up aboard I think your Aunt is coming from Sydney. Your mother bears up well & puts a brave face on for the sake of the rest of us but suffers much in silence. We have had a great number of telegrams & letters of sympathy. Our calamity seems to bring our friends closer to us. Your mother is standing by me and saying tell him I wish I could have my arms around him and love him & tell him to bear up & come back to us. We will pray for you  
With dearest love

Your Father

John Evans

*New John Letter, after 28/9/1917?*

*First part of letter missing. Maybe draft to Ken????*

When the cable came I was Albury. It was sent to Canon Cue and he sent it to Bertie who sent word to Charlie & he and Carrie came by car that night to Redcamp. Evan said he knew that bad news was coming when he heard the car. I also when I saw Charlie, all I said, "has it come." He replied, yes it has come. The two Griffith boys came with Charlie to the news to me. They most kind & sympathetic. They felt it very deeply indeed.

Charlie Griffith said he would have the car there at 'auphain' to take us though to Redcamp. We started at six next morning, but when we got about six miles past Wodonga we were stopped by flood water but got back to Wodonga in time to catch the Sydney express. At Wangaratta Bertie was back from Redcamp having left Carrie. He and Mr Langlands met us with the car & Tommy Harris got ready to take me to Redcamp. The roads were bad, they got bogged opposite Laherts the night before. They got Tom Lahert to pull them out with a horse.

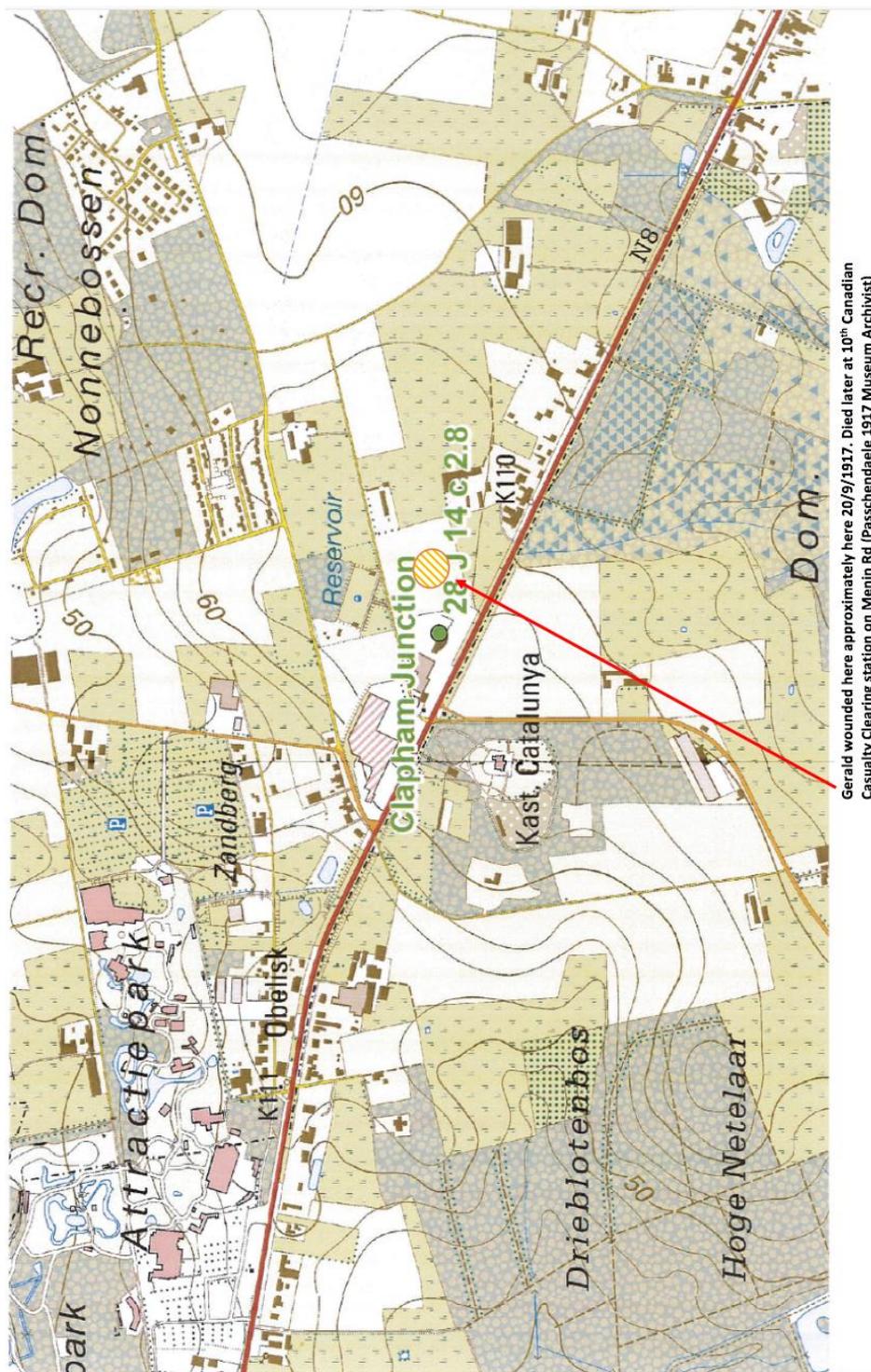
Our dear Gerald's death has aroused a wave of kindly sympathy. Last night we received a letter from Captain Hurrey with whose company Gerald fought at Pozieres. He has a great affection and admiration for Gerald. They were both wounded there. Captain Hurrey & he were in a shell hole wounded. Hurrey thought he was done for and Gerald would leave him, but Gerald went back for him.

I heard of Captain Hurrey before saying that Gerald Evans had saved his life twice. I pray that the good God will guard you and that you will soon come back safe sound.

Your loving Father  
John Evans

### 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Diaries: Going into the line from Zillabeke bund dugouts

|           |  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| 20/9/1917 | Zillabeke<br><br>Gerald died of wounds on this day | Advance towards Clapham Junction but slowed by rain soaked ground and delayed by 2 hrs by slow progress of 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion. Almost clear of Junction when enemy fired coloured flares, presumably his S.O.S for immediately the 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion was subjected to extremely heavy shelling from 77mm's while passing through this barrage area. At zero hour 3.5 Coys had cleared Clapham junction and 3 Coys were on the Tape Line. Despite obstacles and weather, attack successful. Nothing said in the Battalion Diary about Gerald. |
|-----------|--|---|



Gerald wounded here approximately here 20/9/1917. Died later at 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing station on Menin Rd (Passchendaele 1917 Museum Archivist)

## Gerald after death 1917 summary



**Last Post, Menin Gate, Julie and Dad, July 2000**



*"aAndrewartha 24/9/1917" Letter typed out on carbon paper for distribution to family*

France

24/9/17

Dear Mr. Evans,

It is my sad duty as one of Gerald's Officers in "A" Company, 8th Battalion to have to write to you and tell you of his death. At present quite a gloom hangs over the 'A' Company and the Battalion and Brigade over Gerald's death. I was one of his platoon officers, and one of the two officers with him at Bullecourt in the bombing attack when he won the Military Cross. On the morning of the 20th Gerald was just assembling his company prior to the great attack and was hit by a shell, and died the same day. Just a few days before the attack, I was sent to Brigade as Brigade Bombing Officer and felt I was leaving a grand friend as Gerald and I had been together in "A" Company for some time, and I was the oldest "A" Company left, and we were the oldest "A" Company left, and we were in the same billet together. When his Military Cross came through the men cheered, and when his Captaincy came we were more proud of him than ever. The boys worshipped him, his officers, his Colonel and his General loved him.

Though he made the greatest sacrifice, in that he laid down his life for his King, his Country and his God, the life he led, the example he set for us, will never be forgotten. He lived for everything that was good and clean, and had high, lofty and noble ideals, and above all he was a man among men. My mind last night was taken was taken back to Gerald when I heard a man recite 'Be a man.'

God grant that you may be helped to bear the great loss which has befallen you. We have lost our leader, our friend, our brother in arms, but when the men went over the top last Thursday morning they knew what was required of them and they answered the call. We have a vacant chair which can never be filled. Though he will not be with us in person we will always remember him. Our Padre will write to you, also our Colonel, and may this dreadful war soon end.

I must now conclude.

Yours sincerely,

signed

R.V. Andrewartha. Lieut.

Pg 1: Original Andrewartha letter 24/1/1917

Dear Mr Evans

France 24/9/17.

It is my sad duty as one of Gerald's officers in A Company of Battalion to have to write to you to tell you of his death.

At present quite a gloom hangs over the A Company & the Battalion & the Brigade over Gerald's death.

I was one of his platoon officers & one of the two officers with him at Bullecourt in the bombing attack when he won his Military Cross. On the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Gerald was just assembling his Company prior to the great attack & was hit by a piece of shell & he died the same day. Just a few days before the attack I was sent to Brigade as Brigade Bombing officer & I felt I was leaving a grand friend as Gerald & I had been together in A Company for some time & I was the oldest A Company officer left & we were in the same billet together. When his Military Cross came through the men cheered & when his Captaincy came we were more proud of him than ever. The boys worshipped him, his officers his Colonel & his General loved him.

Pg 2: Original Andrewartha letter 24/1/1917

Though he has made the greatest sacrifice in  
 that he laid down his life for his King his  
 country his God the life he led the example he  
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 lofty noble ideals and above all was a man  
 among men. My mind last night was taken back  
 to Gerald when I heard a man recite "Be a man"  
 God grant that you may be helped to bear the  
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 our leader our friend our brother in arms but  
 when the men went over the top last Thursday morning  
 they knew what was required of them they answered  
 the call. We have a vacant chair which never can be  
 filled. Though he will not be with us in person we  
 will always remember him. Our Padre will write  
 you also our Colonel & may this dreadful war soon  
 end. I must now conclude

Yours sincerely,  
 R. V. Andrewartha

*"bBooth 25/9/1917" Letter typed out on carbon paper for distribution to family*

France

Sept. 25/17

Dear Mr. Evans,

I hardly know how to pen this sad note to you. By the time you receive it you will doubtless have had the sad news of Gerald's death.

I knew him as a personal friend and tried to see him as often as I could for his friendship was a coveted thing. All his officers and men alike regarded him as a model man, clean and strong. His Company loved him and every man in his charge spoke of him as "one of the best". Perhaps the highest praise a soldier can bestow on any man. Fearless and true in all his dealings. He was in every sense a nobleman. The Sunday before the action an old friend of his The Rev. J.E. Lamble came over to see me and Gerald was so disappointed at not seeing him. I talked with him several times after that and although most of us were a trifle nervy because of what lay before us he remained the same. He did not reach the front line but was caught by a piece of shell as the boys were marching forward. Loving hands bore him to the aid post and he reached the Casualty Clearing Station some miles behind the line.

We are deeply shocked to learn that he passed away the next day. Those who saw him say he did not suffer and slowly lipped into the great beyond.

I know not how to say what I would, words fail at a time like this.

We are erecting a cross above him and all that can be done will be attended at once.

He died as he lived an example to all. None need ever be ought but proud to call him friend. He paid the greatest price that man can pay. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friend".

Forgive this sad letter but I felt I must write to you.

With deepest sympathy believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Booth MC

Chaplain.

Private address

St. Stephen's

Richmond

Vic

Pg 1: Original Booth Letter 25 Sept 1917


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

From  
 Sept 25 17

Dear Mr Evans  
 I hardly know how to pen this sad note for you. O3 of the time you were it you will doubtless have had the sad news of Gerald's death.

I know him as a personal friend & tried to see him as often as I could for his friendship was a coveted thing. All officers & men alike regarded him as a model man, clean & strong. His working treat him & every man in his charge spoke of him as "one of the best" & perhaps the highest praise a soldier can bestow on any man. Frank & true in all his dealings. He was in every sense a nobleman. The Sunday before action an old friend of his the Rev Y. L. Lamb came over to see me & Gerald was so

P.T.O.

Pg 2


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

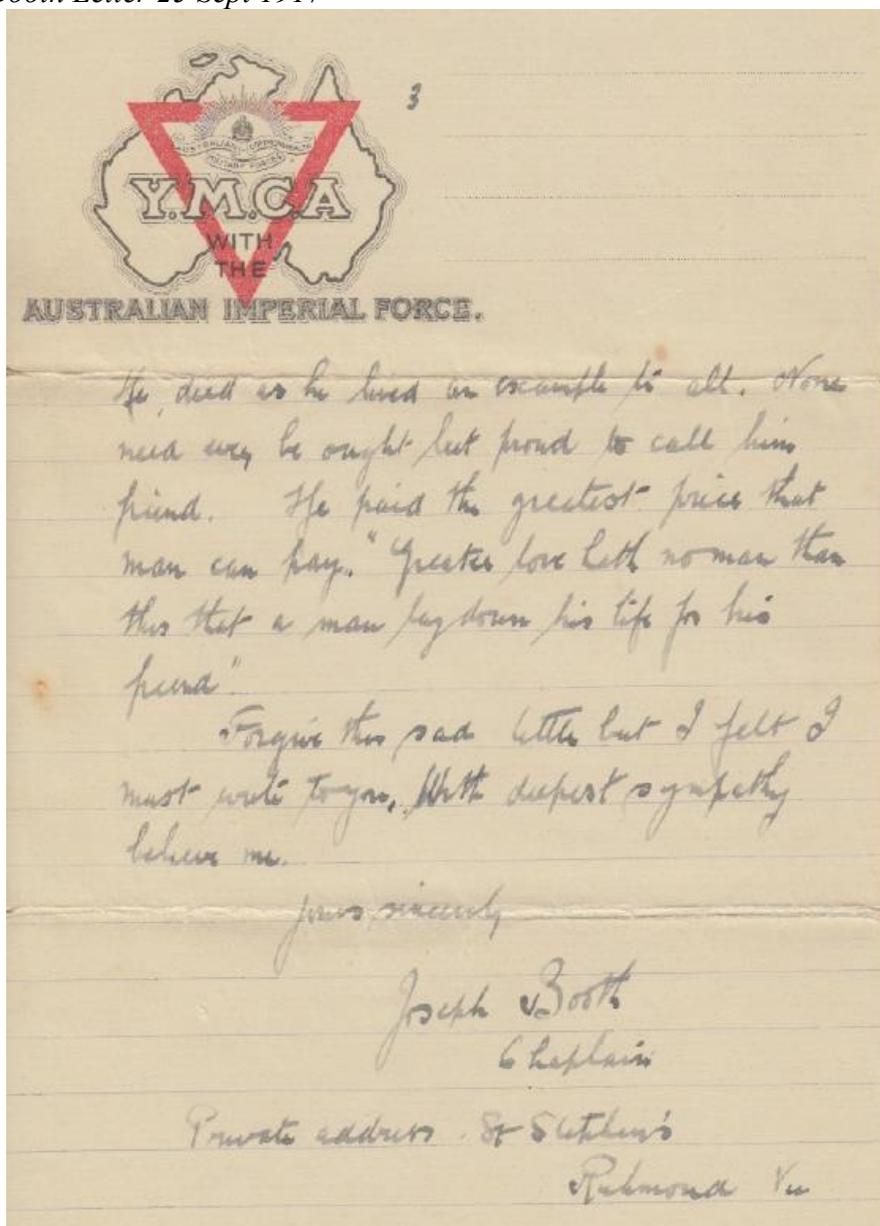
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We were deeply shocked to learn that he passed away the next day. Those who know him say that he did not suffer & slowly slipped into the great beyond.

I know not how to say what I would, words fail at a time like this. We are sending a cross above him & all that can be done will be attended to

P.T.O.

Pg 3: Original Booth Letter 25 Sept 1917



## NEWS OF SOLDIERS.

### DIED OF WOUNDS.

CAPT. D. G. EVANS, M.C.

In our issue of Wednesday we announced that on Tuesday afternoon official information was received that Captain David Gerald Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs John Evans, of "Red Camp," Moyhu, had died of wounds. The telegram from the Defence Department briefly announced that he had died of wounds received on 20th September. It would appear from this that Captain Evans was wounded while taking part in the assault of Polygon, which battle was fought on the western front on Thursday of last week, and which resulted in a great victory for the Allies. War correspondents at the front say this was the greatest Australian battle, both in the magnitude of the struggle as a whole and in the number of Australians engaged. "The men," one correspondent says, "were again superbly led by their officers, the younger of whom almost without exception have risen from the ranks by sheer merit." This last

sentence would, we feel certain, apply fully to the late Captain Evans while he was leading his men and up to the time he fell wounded. Captain Evans enlisted soon after the outbreak of war and proceeded to Egypt in 1915. He joined up as a Private, but promotion soon came his way and he left Australia as a 2nd Lieutenant. While in Egypt he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. From Egypt he went to England, where he underwent further training and then proceeded to France where he went into action with an English regiment in order to acquire practical experience and knowledge before leading Australian soldiers on to the battlefields of Europe. After this he went into action with the first Australian troops in France and was later made Captain. He belonged to A. Coy., 8th Battalion, 1st Division, which fought at Pozieres, Bullecourt and other places where the Australians went forward with such determination that nothing could resist their sustained and terrible onslaughts. It was in the deadly fighting at Bullecourt on May 8 and 9 last that the heroism displayed by Captain Evans received its reward. After this battle Captain Evans was awarded the Military Cross, and on 4th June he re-

ceived the following letter from General W. R. Birdwood:—"Dear Evans,—I write to congratulate you very heartily upon the Military Cross which has been awarded to you for your good work in the operations near Bullecourt on 8th and 9th May. I cannot speak too highly of the magnificent dash and determination which you displayed in organising and personally leading bombing attacks against the enemy who were in possession of the right portion of the trench in which you had made your footing. After gaining about 200 yards in this way you then carried out the consolidation of the position, and later repelled three strong counter attacks. Your conduct throughout was of the highest order, and I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking you for it." Captain Evans' fine work on other occasions came under the notice of his superiors, for he was three times mentioned in despatches. His death will be a great loss both to his Coy. and Battalion, and to the service generally, as he has proved himself a very capable and efficient officer and sterling soldier. He was esteemed by his brother officers and men, letters recently received from district soldiers going to prove this.

Captain Evans will be remembered by many in the North-East as a great footballer, especially in the painful days of the Moyhu team in which he was a tower of strength. Even while soldiering he enjoyed his games of sports, and after the success of his Company in a competition the following congratulatory paragraph appeared in the Battalion Paper:—"The Commanding Officer joins with the remainder of the Battalion in extending hearty congratulations to Capt. D. G. Evans, M.C. and the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of "A" Coy., on their splendid achievement on gaining the Championship of the Brigade in the Recreation Training Competition. The manner in which all ranks of the Company applied themselves to the training for, and carrying out of the tests, was well worthy of the Battalion's reputation as the Premier Battalion of the Brigade." The late Captain Evans was the youngest son of Mr. J. Evans, J.P., was only 25 years of age, and a native of "Red Camp," Moyhu. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School. His manly and genial disposition earned the affection of all who knew him, and the extensive circle of acquaintances of the Evans Family will mourn the Captain Evans, and sympathise with them in their great sorrow. Another brother Frank (Ken) Evans is fighting in France with the same Battalion.

*New Capt James Hurrey, 28/9/1917*

Domain Camp  
Melbourne  
28/9/17

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Evans

I was inexpressibly grieved to read the announcement in yesterday's paper of Jerry's death from wounds.

He joined my Company D. Coy 8<sup>th</sup> Bn, in March 1916 and in a short time I had formed a high opinion of him as a man and an officer, which subsequently became a deep attachment, so intimately were we associated in our lives, in the fighting at Fleurbaix, Messines, Pozierers, Martinpuich and Ypres. It was from the later place that I left the Bn in October 1916 and was invalided to Australia. I had one regret that I was leaving Jerry and Lt. Jack Blackman behind.

On service one conceives an attachment for some men which is deeper than any feeling I know.

Jerry was a grand man, and on the occasion of the attack on Pozieres we spent 12 hours in the Chalk Pit. The Bosche had seen us enter there, and that 12 hours I shall not forget. I had been slightly wounded, and very badly shaken just reaching that point. Jerry was wounded in the side and I felt hopeless almost quite sure he would go away, but to his everlasting credit he returned after having his wounds dressed.

D Coy. 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. Completed the capture of Pozieres. We took 3 Ml guns and 59 prisoners. We were 600 yds in advance of the furthest strong point and 1000 yds in advance of our line.

We followed our own barrage so closely that we got to between the German strong points unseen, and into K. Trench before the Bosche had chance to use his M. guns. The attack took place just before day-break, and when day broke we saw 1000 Bosches between us and our line. Our fire decimated them. Jerry used one of their own M. guns, and as my orders were no prisoners on account of our isolated position, the 59 men we took actually got through the fire to us.

I can not speak highly enough of Jerry's courage and behaviour, then or at any other time. I recommended him to the C.O. for his M.C. He/it got it then or later on for leading a raid. We were always given the tough jobs but the C.O. took all the honors.

The test of a man is to know what his men think of him and Jerry was, to use the boys' own phrase betokening the hall mark, "A dinkum bloke." Believe me that is the highest tribute a man can be paid.

I cannot write; what I wished to say seems not to be here. Any time any of you are in Melbourne and would like to see me, the above address will find me.

I am,

Yours sincerely

J.S. Hurrey, Capt.

Pg 1: Original Hurrey letter, 28/9/1917

Dominic Camp  
Melbourne

28. 9. 17

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Evans

I was inexpressibly  
grieved to read the announcement  
in yesterday's paper of Jerry's  
death from wounds.

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D Coy 8<sup>th</sup> Bn, in March 1916, and  
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Fleurbaey, Messines, Pozieres,  
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I had been slightly wounded, and very badly shaken, just reaching that point. Jerry was wounded in the Side & I felt hopeless, almost, quite sure that he would go away, but to his everlasting credit, he returned after having his wound dressed.

D Coy 8<sup>th</sup> Bn completed the capture of Poniwies, we took 3 M. Guls and 59 prisoners.

We were 600 yds in advance of of furthest Strong Point

and 1000 yds in advance of our line.

We followed our own barrage so closely that we got between two German Strong Points, unseen, and into a trench, before the Boche had a chance to use his M. Guns. The attack took place just before day break, and when day broke we saw anything up to 1000 Boches between us and our line; our fire decimated them, Jerry used one of their own M. Guns, and as my orders were no prisoners on account of our isolated position, the 59 men we took actually got through our fire to us.

I cannot speak highly enough of Jerry's courage and behaviour, then or any other time. Recommended

him to the CO for his M.C. he  
neither got it then or later  
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ours.

The test of a man, is to  
know what his men think of  
him, and Jerry was, to use  
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the Hall Mark, "A Whisker Blade."

Believe me that is the  
highest tribute a man can  
be paid.

I cannot write, what I  
wished to say seems not to be  
here. Any time, if you are  
in Melbourne, and would  
like to see me the above  
address will find me.

I am  
Yours Sincerely  
J.S. Hurrey Capt.

*"cCampbell 1/10/1917" Letter typed out on carbon paper for distribution to family*

1/10/1917.

FRANCE

Dear Mr. Evans,

By the time this letter reaches you, you will already know of poor Gerry's death, but I am just writing to tell you how terribly sorry I am that he is gone.

He and I had managed to stick together since we were Non. Coms. at Broadmeadows, and he is the best friend I have ever had. I arrived here two days ago, and did not hear of his death till then, but in any case I shall send you a cable as soon as possible, as this letter will take months to arrive.

He died at the 10th Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, and I shall go across there some time this week and get whatever information I can about him. So far, I have only heard that some pieces of shell went through his leg and body, but I have heard no other details.

We are getting a cross made to put over his grave, and when I go to the Clearing Station, I shall have a look at it and see that it is alright.

Good-bye for the present, Mr. Evans. With kind regards, and deepest sympathy for all you all at "Redcamp".

I remain,

Yours truly,

*signed*

A.G. Campbell DSO

Pg 1: Original letter from AG Campbell, 1/10/1917

France  
1/10/17

By the time this letter reaches you, you will already know of poor Gerny's death but I am just wishing to tell you how terribly sorry I am that he has gone. He & I had managed to check together since we were now coming at Broadmeadow & he is the best friend that I have ever had. I arrived up here two days ago & did not hear of his death till then but in any case I shall send you a cable as soon as possible as this letter will take months to arrive. He died at the 3rd Canadian Clearing Station & I will go across there some time this week & get whatever information I can about him.

Pg 2: Original letter from AG Campbell, 1/10/1917

So far I have only heard that  
some pieces of shell went through  
his leg & body, but I have heard  
no other details.

We are getting a crew made to put  
over his grave & when I go to the  
clearing station I shall have a  
look at it to see that it is  
all right.

Good bye for the present, Mr Swans,  
with kind regards & deepest  
sympathy for you all at  
Red Camp.

I remain  
Yours truly  
A.G. Campbell

*"dCampbell 3/10/1917" Letter typed out on carbon paper for distribution to family*

3/10/1917.

FRANCE

Dear Mr. Evans,

I went across to the 10th Canadian Casualty Clearing Station today to see if I could get any information about Gerry, but could get very little news at all as they told me he had died in the ambulance coming down. I had heard that he died in the 3rd. Canadian C.C.S., but it was evidently a mistake.

I also went to the Cemetery, which was close by and saw his grave. The registration unit people are putting up a Cross, but the Battalion is having a special one made for it. The grave is in the Lyssenhoek Cemetery, on the Poperinghe - Borchipe Road, about a mile south of Poperinghe, and is in Plot 19 A 11.

I saw the man who is responsible for looking after the graves, and made arrangements for him to look after Gerry's, and to plant some flowers on it. There is an agreement with the French Government that these Cemeteries are to be preserved after the War, so you may rest assured that it will be looked after alright.

If you should wish to enquire about the grave, I think you would do best to write to the Headquarters at Melbourne, and they will forward the letter on.

Good-bye for the present Mr. Evans,. If you should wish me to do anything for you over here, I hope you will write to me, and I shall always be most happy to do it.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*signed*

A.G. Campbell DSO

*Note: Alex Campbell survived the war. He married Amy Jacques in 1928 was based on the family suburb of Brighton Melbourne. They had 5 children. Alex was an engineer (at Ballarat Mines School before WWI) and went on to work in Burma, Papua New Guinea and Fiji in various gold mining enterprises. He was a director of Nth Broken Hill Pty Ltd. He died in an air crash 5/7/1936 at Melton. There was a very large funeral for him. Both he and his wife Amy are buried (ashes) in Springvale Cemetery.*

Pg 1: Letter from AG Campbell, 3/10/1917

3/10/17  
France

Dear Tom

I went across to the 10th Canadian Casualty Clearing Station today to see if I could get any information about Perry but could get very little news at all as they told me that he had died in the ambulance coming down. I had heard that he died in the 3rd Canadian C.C.S. but it was evidently a mistake.

I also went to the cemetery, which was close by & saw his grave. The grave registration unit people are putting up a cross but the battalion is having a special one made for it.

The grave is in the Lysenhout Cemetery, on the Poperinghe - Briele road, about a mile south of Poperinghe and is in Plot 19 A 11.

I saw the man who is responsible for looking after the graves, & made arrangements for him to look

Pg 2: Letter from AG Campbell, 3/10/1917

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to be preserved after the war so you  
may rest assured that it will be  
looked after alright.

If you should wish to enquire about  
the grave I think you would do best  
to write to the Headquarters at Melbourne  
& they will forward the letter on.

Good bye for the present. Mr Evans  
if you should wish me to do anything  
for you over here I hope you write  
to me & I shall always be most  
happy to do it.

I remain

Yours sincerely  
A.G. Campbell

*New: Condolance letter Gerald 26/9//1917*

Wangaratta  
Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 17

Dear Mr Evans

While know full well that writing I can saycan lighten in anyway the burden of sorry over the loss of your boy Gerald - than whom no finer or handsomer man ever left Australai for the front – I yet feel that I must write to say how deeply I sympathize with you & Mrs Evans in these your darkest hours – May your supreme sorry be bemptered to some extent by the natural pride that you begot a son, who on elistment quickly stood our in the ruck & later on in the battle fields of France gained awards & distinction for bravery & ability of the highest order.

In deepest sympathy  
J Reinuis ?

Sincerely yours  
Gel Buorwell?

*New: Condolance letter Gerald 4/10/1917*

Western Essendon  
4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917

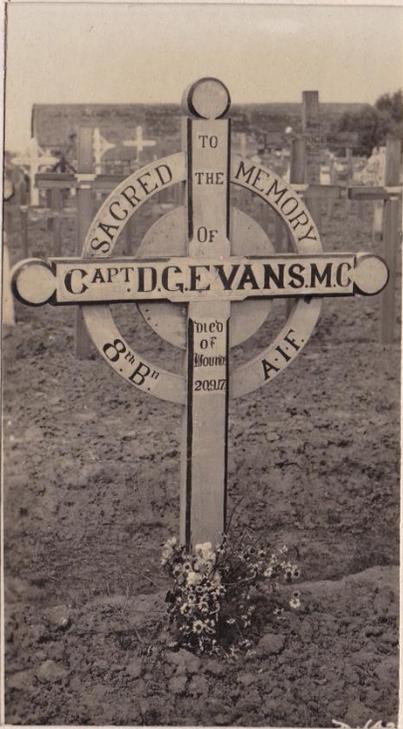
My dear John

It is useless for me to try and put on paper how we of our house felt when the sad news reached us – There was a mixture of pride & sorrow in all our minds. Gearld was loved by all and down to our youngest his name will not be forgotten and all his letters will be most carefully treasured but which of the younsters will claim then I do not know. He hlped them all round alike – “What is to He must be,” but things must appear hard to his mother, yourself & all the rest – However John one & all have the satisfaction of know that your boy cam to a glorious end. This I hope will help to take the edge off sorrow that must exist. Hoping that good luck may attend his brother & before long this dreadfull war will come to a satisfactory conclusion.

Remaining yours in pride & sorrow

RG Stevenson

(association with Evans family as Land, Estate & General Agents, Bourke St, Melbourne)



**Director of Graves Registration & Enquiries**

Begs to forward as requested a Photograph of  
the Grave of:—

Name *Evans M.C.*

Rank and Initials *Captain D.G.*

Regiment *81 A.I.F.*

Position of Grave *Lijssenthoek Military  
Cemetery Poperinghe*

Nearest Railway Station *Poperinghe.*

All communications respecting this Photograph should quote  
the number (*AA/8/3594*) and be addressed to:—  
Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries,  
War Office,  
Winchester House,  
St. James's Square,  
London, S.W., 1.

Owing to the circumstances in which the photographic work is carried  
on, the Director regrets that in some cases only rough Photographs can  
be obtained.

"COPYRIGHT FULLY RESERVED."

Gerald's original grave marker donated by the men of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the flowers planted were  
arranged by Alec Campbell, see letter 3/10/1917 above  
photo supplied by Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**FUNERAL. SOLDIERS' TRIBUTES TO MR. CAMPBELL.** Scenes at Necropolis. Impressive scenes were witnessed at the funeral yesterday of Mr Alexander George Campbell, who was killed with Mr C J Melrose in the aeroplane tragedy at Melton on Sunday.

Officers and men of the 8th Battalion, with whom Mr Campbell served in France in the Great War, and of the 39th Battalion of which until recently he was lieutenant-colonel commanding, paid many touching tributes to his memory. After a short service at Sleights mortuary chapel in Flinders street the hearse was preceded along Flinders street and across Princes Bridge to St Kilda road by an escort of about 40 men from these battalions.

The automatic traffic control lights at the intersection of Flinders and Swanston streets were switched off as the funeral turned the corner on to Princes Bridge, and the traffic was controlled by a constable while the 100 motor-cars which followed the hearse formed the long line along St Kilda road.

At the Necropolis Springvale the guard of returned soldiers, each wearing a red poppy in his buttonhole, escorted the coffin to the graveside, where Bishop Booth who was padre to the 8th Battalion in France, and was closely acquainted with Mr Campbell there and later in Victoria, conducted a service. He was assisted by the Rev Murray Scales, of Travancore, who was a schoolday companion of Mr Campbell.

After the service Bishop Booth paid a stirring tribute to the memory of Mr Campbell on behalf of his comrades in arms. "His service, both in war and in peace, set an example to his fellow-men which they would do well to copy," he said. "I knew this man in both spheres and knew him to possess courage ability and a human kindness which earned and kept for him throughout his life many friendships which even the tragedy on Sunday will not bring to an end," Bishop Booth said.

Every returned soldier present filed past the open grave and dropped his poppy on to the coffin after which the whole gathering stood to attention as the 'Last Post' was sounded. There were many floral tributes from military, financial and mining interests with which Mr Campbell had been associated

The pall-bearers were Sir Colin Fraser, Major-General C H Brand (formerly commanding the 8th Battalion), Colonel Jackson, Major Wheeler, Captain A. B Lodge, and Messrs H. Sheppard, M.H. Bailleau and T.B. Birkbeck. Among those who attended the funeral were Major Andrewwartha, Major Claridge, Lieut-Colonel Whitton and Major W.D Joynt, VC, Mr A. Wellington (representing the Returned Soldiers' League), Major-General G G H Irving (representing the Kew sub-branch of the league), Sir Herbert Gepp (Broken Hill Pty Ltd), and the director of geological survey in the Mines Department (Mr W. Baragwanath).

## Sources

- Birth Notice: *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 9 Feb 1889, p1  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/6221127>
- Engagement Notice: *The Australasian* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946) 3 Dec 1927, p17  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/140807487>
- Death Notices: *The Age* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954) 6 Jul 1936, p1  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/204910650>
- Funeral: *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 7 Jul 1936, p8  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/11889473>
- Obituary: *The Age* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954) 6 Jul 1936, p13  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/204910753>



Picture extracted photo of the Officers of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 20/2/1918, from Cobbers in Khaki,

AWM E 1811

**E01073**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01073

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>ID number</b>       | E01073  |
| <b>Collection type</b> | <a href="#">Photograph</a>  |
| <b>Object type</b>     | Black & white - Glass original whole plate negative   |
| <b>Maker</b>           | Unknown Australian Official Photographer  |
| <b>Place made</b>      | Belgium: Flanders, West-Vlaanderen, Ypres   |
| <b>Date made</b>       | 28 October 1917   |
| <b>Description</b>     | Officers and men of the 8th Battalion taking shelter behind a pillbox during an 'area strafe' at Railway Wood, in the Ypres Sector, whilst returning from the line. Identified, sitting at left, back row: Lieutenant (Lt) J O Pitt; Captain A G Campbell DSO. Front row: Lt T W Johnstone MC; Second Lieutenant P Lay MC DCM MM. Standing, left to right: 7150 Lance Corporal (LCpl) H J Gray, resting on shovel (killed in action 17 December 1917); 2936 Sergeant (Sgt) J T Pinchen MM; 2778 LCpl L A Scouller MM, behind Pinchen (killed in action 26 August 1918); 1111 Sgt J R Jorgenson; 6728 Pte R M Cullen. The soldier whose head can be seen top left is unidentified. |

"eGov Gen 9/10/1917"

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
MELBOURNE.**

9th. October, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by His Excellency the Governor-General to transmit to you the following message from Their Majesties The King and Queen:-

"The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country."

"Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow."

In addition to the above message, I am desired by the Governor-General to express Their Excellencies' heartfelt sympathy with you on the death of this gallant Officer.

Yours faithfully

*signed ????????* Lieut.-Colonel  
Official Secretary

J. Evans Esquire,  
Redcamp,  
Moyhu,  
WANGARATTA.



VICTORIA O. H. M. S. VICTORIA



J. Evans Esquire,  
 Red Camp,  
 Moyhu,  
 Wangaratta.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
 MELBOURNE.

9th. October, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by His Excellency the Governor-General to transmit to you the following message from Their Majesties The King and Queen:-

"The King and Queen deeply regret the loss  
 you and the Army have sustained by the death of  
 your son in the service of his country."

"Their Majesties truly sympathise with you  
 in your sorrow."

In addition to the above message, I am desired by the Governor-General to express Their Excellencies' heartfelt sympathy with you on the death of this gallant officer.

Yours faithfully,

*Forbes Howard*  
 Lieut.-Colonel

Official Secretary.

J. Evans Esquire,  
 Red Camp,  
 Moyhu

"hDespatches 30/10/1917"

TELEPHONE:  
CENTRAL 4780.

WJM/GMP.  
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO "THE SECRETARY"



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 32670

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.  
BASE RECORDS OFFICE. A.I.F.,  
MELBOURNE. 30th October, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No. 30107 to the London Gazette dated 1st June, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late Lieutenant D. G. Evans, 8th Battalion.

X X X X

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES  
-----

The following is in continuation of Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch of 9th April, submitting names deserving of special mention, published in the London Gazette, of Tuesday, 15th May, 1917 :-

Lieutenant DAVID GERALD EVANS.

X X X X

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 169 of 4th October, 1917.

Yours faithfully,

*Major* Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

J. Evans, Esq.,  
Redcamp,  
Moyhu,  
Via Wangaratta, VIC.



*The War of 1914-1918.*  
*Australian Imperial Force*

*Lt. D. G. Evans, 8th Inf. Bn.*

*was mentioned in a Despatch from*

*Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E.*

*dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917*

*for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.*

*I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's*  
*high appreciation of the services rendered.*

*Christmas. Churchill*

*Secretary of State for War.*

*War Office*  
*Whitehall, S.W.*  
*1<sup>st</sup> March 1919.*

*"gJohn Evans WB 10/1917 obit?"*

The dearly loved son of John and Eleanor Evans.  
He will not come to us, but we will go unto him.  
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay  
down his life for his friends.

*Unsigned, probably inscription on Gerald's memorial in Whitfield cemetery written by John Evans.*

*"hGerald obit draft"*

David Gerald Evans was born at Redcamp, Moyhu, via Wangaratta, in 1889. He was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Evans. He went to Melbourne Grammar School from 1905 to 1907 and was with his father on Redcamp Station until he was enlisted. He was promoted to Captain on 24th May, 1917, and was awarded the Military Cross in July, 1917. He died in the 10th Casualty Clearing Station as a result of shell wounds received at Zonnebeke Farm on 20th September, 1917, and was buried at Lyssenthoek Cemetery.

He was awarded the Military Cross for "Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He organised and personally led a successful bombing attack, consolidated the captured position and successfully repelled three strong counter attacks. His courage and able leadership set a splendid example to his men and placed an almost impossible position on a sound tactical basis".

ANON

Note: Most newspaper Obits give parents, excerpts from Andewartha letter and military honours.

Graphic of Australia (Melbourne, Vic. : 1916 - 1918) /

/ Fri 12 Oct 1917 / Page 9 /

The death of Captain David **Gerald Evans**, M.C., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. **Evans**, of "Redcamp," Moyhu, has caused great regret in that district and amongst his many friends. Capt. **Evans**, who was born at "Redcamp," received his early education from tutors, and completed it at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. He was a prominent member of the cricket, football and rowing teams connected with the school, and runner-up in the public schools' boxing championship. Soon after the outbreak of war, Capt. **Evans** enlisted, went into camp at Broadmeadows in January, 1915, and before leaving Australia, in September, 1915, had attained the rank of Second Lieutenant. After some months' training in Egypt, he went to France with the first Australians, in March, 1916. Whilst the A.I.F. were training in England he was sent with an English regiment to the front trenches for experience, and received his commission as First Lieutenant. For his work in two offensives at Pozieres he was mentioned in dispatches, and in May of this year presented with the Military Cross, for what General Birdwood termed his magnificent dash and determination in organising and leading bombing attacks near Bullecourt. Prior to his enlistment the late Captain **Evans** was engaged in pastoral pursuits at "Redcamp," Moyhu.

---

*"Gerald Obituary OM's"*

**OM'S War Services  
Obituary Notices**

**David Gerald Evans** who died of war wounds in France on 20th September 1917 was the younger son of Mr. John Evans of "Redcamp," Moyhu. He was born in 1889 and was at School from 1905 to 1907. He gained his commission on the 1st of June 1915 in the 22nd Battalion. After some months in Egypt he was on the 7th of April 1916 taken on strength of the 8th Battalion. He was then sent to France and on the 27th July 1916 promoted to Lieutenant. He was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's Despatches of 13th November 1916 and 9th April 1917 and was on 24th May 1917 promoted to Captain. On 18th of July 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for: "Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He organised and personally led a successful bombing attack, consolidated the captured position and successfully repelled three strong counter attacks. His courage and able leadership set a splendid example to his men and placed in an almost impossible position on a sound tactical basis." He died in the 10th Casualty Clearing Station as a result of shell wounds received at Zonnebeke Farm and was buried at Lyssenthoek Cemetery. One of his brother-officers writes of him: "In a short time I had formed a high opinion of him as a man and an officer, which subsequently became a deep attachment, so intimately were we associated in our lives in the fighting at Fleurbaix, Messines, Pozieres, Martinpuich and Ypres. On service one conceives an attachment for some men which is deeper than any feeling I know. Jerry was a grand man, and on the occasion of attack on Pozieres we spent 12 hours in the Chalk Pit. The Boche had seen us enter there, and that 12 hours I shall not forget. Jerry was wounded in the side and I felt hopeless - almost quite sure he would go away, but to his credit he returned after having his wound dressed. I cannot speak highly enough of Jerry's courage and behaviour then or any other time. The test of a man is to know what his men think of him, and Jerry was, to use the boys' own phrase betokening the hall-mark, 'A Dinkum Bloke.' Believe me that is the highest tribute a man can be paid." Another officer writes: "At present quite a gloom hangs over the 'A' Company and the Battalion and Brigade over Gerald's death. I was one of his platoon officers, and one of the two officers with him at Bullecourt in the bombing attack when he won the Military Cross. On the morning of the 20th Gerald was just assembling his company prior to the great attack and was hit by a shell, and died the same day. When his Military Cross came through the men cheered, and when his captaincy came we were more proud of him than ever. The boys worshipped him, his officers, his Colonel and his General loved him. Though he made the greatest sacrifice, in that he laid down his life for his King, his Country and his God, the life he led, the example he set for us, will never be forgotten. He lived for everything that was good and clean, and had high, lofty and noble ideals, and above all he was a man among men. My mind last night was taken back to Gerald when I heard a man recite 'Be a man.' We have lost our leader, our friend, our brother in arms, but when the men went over the top last Thursday morning they knew what was required of them and they answered the call. We have a vacant chair which can never be filled. Though he will not be with us in person we will always remember him."

### Our Honored Dead

David Gerald Evans

Died of wounds

20th Sept. 1917

### Commissions and Honors

David Gerald Evans - Capt., 8th Battn., - M.C.

### RSL Virtual Memorial link:

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/232126>

### National Archives of Australia link (details of service):

<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1908741>



**Captain David Gerald Evans MC, 8th Battalian 1st AIF,  
WWI penny, decorations, lock of hair and flowers from near Fleurbaix  
Died of wounds sustained near Polygon Wood, 20th September 1917, age 29**



**Redcamp soil on Gerald's Grave Lijssenthoek Cemetery Belgium, 7/2000, Julie, David and Evan**



*"jgerald grave"*

**Director of Graves Registration & Enquires**

Begs to forward as requested a Photograph of  
the grave of:-

*Name* Evans M.C.

*Rank and Initials* Captain D.G.

*Regiment* 8th A.I.F.

*Position of grave* Lyssenhoek Military Cemetery Poperinghe

*Nearest Railway Station* Poperinghe.

All communication respecting this Photograph should quote  
the number (A.A/8/3594) and be addressed to :-

Director of Graves Registration and Enquires,

War Office,

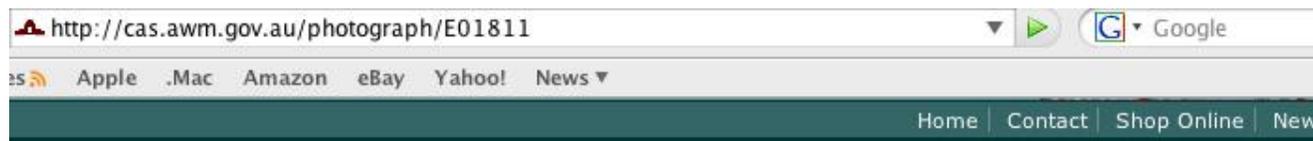
Winchester House

St. Jame's Square,

London, S.W., 1.

see letter from Alec Campbell 9/10/1917 for further details.

http://cas.awm.gov.au/TST2/cst.acct\_master?url=2145635637ZZZKEJOXEOEZ66386&stype=3&simplesearch=&v\_umo=&v\_product\_id=&screen\_name=cas\_search\_pkg.pr\_search\_by\_link&screen\_parms=acid~ps\_query=SELECT+~query\_id,+u.umo\_id,+u.attribute1,+u.attribute2,+u.attribute3,+u.umo\_id+FROM+umo+u,+umo\_attribute+ua1+WHERE+ua1.value='8+Battalion'+AND+instr(u.attribute5,'First+World+War,+1914-1918')%3E0+and+u.umo\_id+=+ua1.umo\_id+AND+ua1.attribute\_id+IN+(1667)~ps\_query\_text=Browse+Related+unit:+8+Battalion&screen\_type=BOTTOM&bvers=5&bplatform=Netscape&bos=MacPPC



## AWM Collection Record: E01811



**ID Number:** E01811

**Maker:** Unknown

**Place made:** Western Front: Western Front (Belgium), Ypres Area, Locre

**Date made:** 20 February 1918

**Physical description:** Black & white

**Summary:** Group portrait of the officers of the 8th Battalion. Left to right, back row: Lieutenant (Lt) A. W. Finlayson MC; Lt S. W. Young MC MM; Lt J. G. Pitt; Lt F. W. Tickle MC; Lt R. W. Dowling MC; Lt R. Woodhouse. Middle row: Lt J. G. Evans MC; Lt T. Anderson MC DCM; Lt R. V. Andrewartha; Lt J. Bourke; Lt P. A. Waters MC; Lt P. G. Perkin; Lt J. L. Foott; Lt W. D. Joynt VC; Lt R. G. Hutson; unidentified; Lt W. D. N. Hooper; Lt S. Young; Lt H. G. Whitton; Lt W. G. M. Claridge. Front row: Captain (Capt) **A. G. Campbell DSO**; Lt J. R. Blackman MC; Lt H. Fenton; Major J. H. P. Eller DSO; Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) J. W. Mitchell DSO; Lt Col J. C. M. Traill DSO MC; Lt A. D. Temple MC; Honorary Capt E. Freeman MC.

**Copyright:** Copyright expired - public domain

Photo includes picture of Alec Campbell, Gerald's best mate (front row left)

Capt A.G. Campbell DSO (Alec)  
Wrote two letters to  
parents after Gerald's  
death. Survived war.



Lt R.V. Andrewartha  
Wrote letter to parents  
after Gerald's death.  
Survived war.

=====Original message text=====

On Tue, 24 Feb 2009 10:26:43 +1000 Andrew Jack wrote: Andrew.Jack@awm.gov.au

Oops. I forgot to attach the recommendation.

I've attached a typescript copy of Campbell's recommendation for the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). Twenty years ago I taught myself to type by transcribing as many of the 8th Battalion recommendations as I could find. It's important to note that for a junior officer to get the DSO it would be for very high levels of heroism. In fact for a lieutenant or captain it was second only to the VC. I think it was only a week or so later that Donovan Joynt of the 8th received the VC.

Have you examined Campbell's service record at the Australian Archives database?

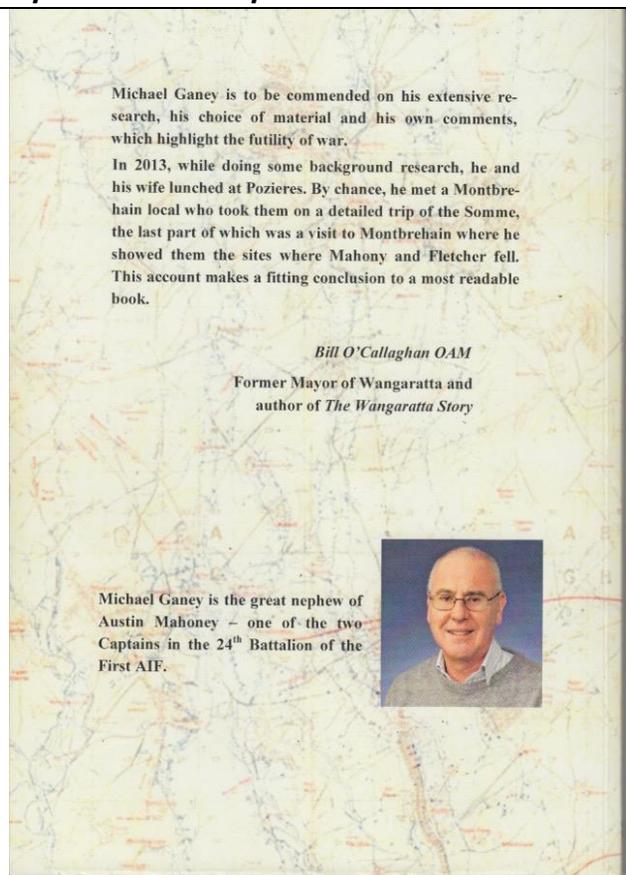
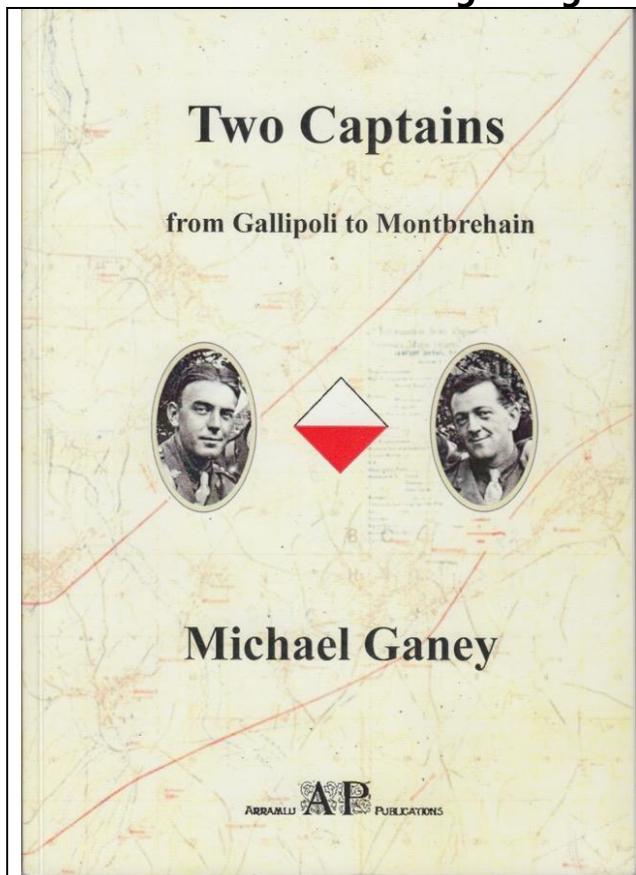
<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/imagine.asp?B=1851492&I=1&SE=1>

might work otherwise Alexander George Campbell will work. It seems he was a tough little fellow. Seriously wounded three times he didn't get back to Australia till 1919. By 1920, his last listed address was somewhere in Burma so it seems he followed his profession as a mining engineer for a while. Other than that there's not much more I can find out about him other than referring you to one or two more images of him: e01073 , e01071k, and P06566.003 ( the one from your family and the one including your great uncle)

cheers,

Andrew

## Books of interest regarding Gerald, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and his friends.



**Capt Austin Mahony** (24<sup>th</sup> Btn) was from Greta and was a good friend of Gerald's. Both he and Gerald met in Egypt and France with each typically describing the other as very fat and in the best of health (this was a compliment at the time). They also played football for Moyhu in 1913, both were very keen footballers.

Michael Ganey pictured at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne 21/4/2017. Michael is a volunteer at the Shrine.

### Two Captains: from Gallipoli to Montbrehain

Michael Ganey

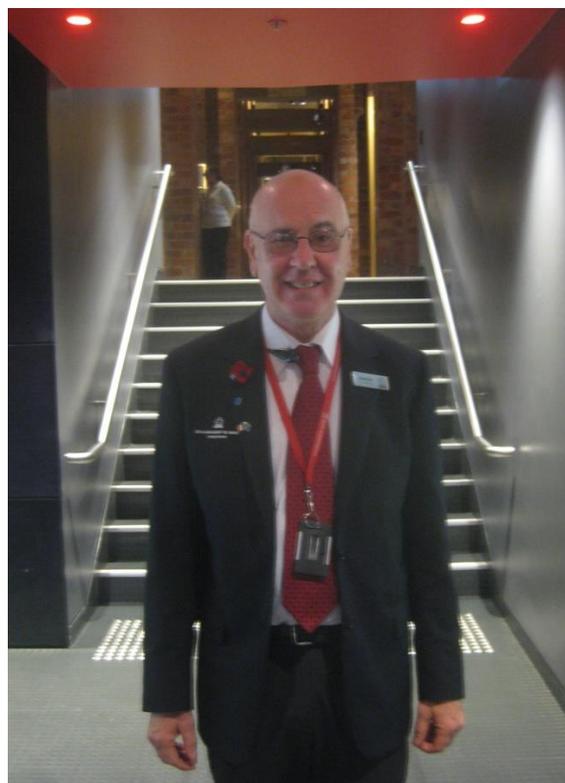
Published in June 2015 by

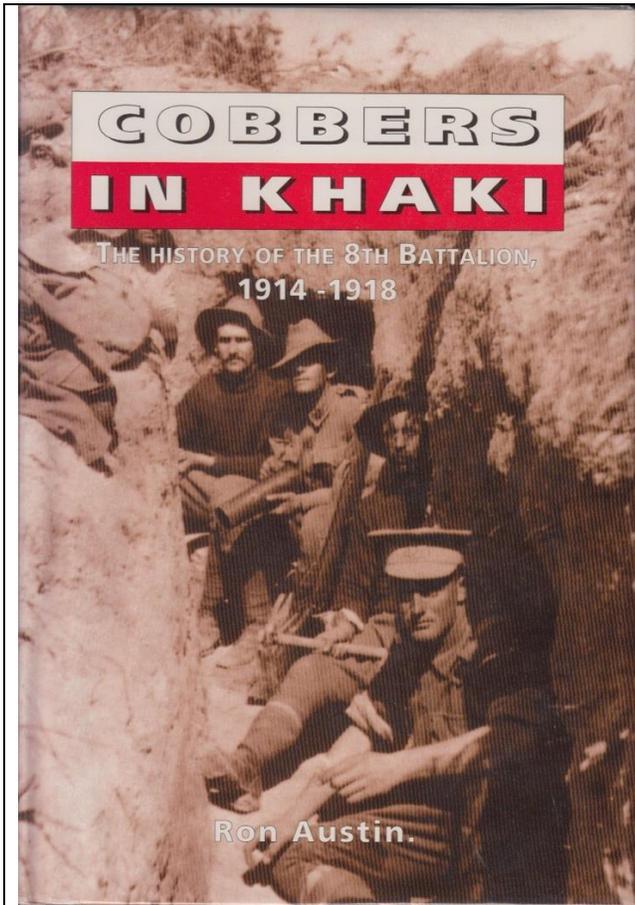
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Two Captains: from Gallipoli to Montbrehain / Michael Ganey.  
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Australia. Army. Battalion, 24th.  
Soldiers--Correspondence.  
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, Australian.  
World War, 1914-1918--Participation, Australian.  
Dewey Number: 940.41294





**COBBERS**

**IN KHAKI**

THE HISTORY OF THE 8TH BATTALION,  
1914 - 1918

Ron Austin.

## Honours and awards (gazetted)

### David Gerald Evans

David Gerald Evans was awarded the following honours:

---

#### Mention in Despatches

**Service**

Army

**Rank**

Lieutenant

**Unit**

8th Bn

**Conflict**

First World War

**Date of London Gazette**

4 January 1917, page 255, position 7

**Date of Commonwealth of Australia Gazette**

29 June 1917, page 1392, position 82

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#### Mention in Despatches

**Service**

Army

**Rank**

Lieutenant

**Unit**

8th Bn

**Conflict**

First World War

**Date of London Gazette**

1 June 1917, page 5421, position 66

**Date of Commonwealth of Australia Gazette**

4 October 1917, page 2623, position 120

## Military Cross

### Service

Army

### Rank

Lieutenant

### Unit

8th Bn

### Conflict

First World War

### Date of London Gazette

18 July 1917, page 7253, position 9

### Date of Commonwealth of Australia Gazette

8 November 1917, page 2939, position 13

### Military Cross Recommendation:

Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 17 May, 1917 (Bullecourt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle)

During the heavy fighting in the Hindenburg line on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> instant, Lieut. Evans was in charge of the flank company which had the enemy in the same trench along side of them. Lieut Evans organised and personally led a bombing attack along the trench, thereby gaining about 200 yards of same. He personally supervised the consolidation of the new position, successfully repelled three strong counter-attacks. Throughout the fighting, Lieut. EVANS' courageous and capable leadership and example inspired his men to a wonderful degree. By his dash and courage an almost impossible position was greatly improved and placed on a sound tactical basis.

Lieut-Colonel L.H. Mackay, Commanding Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Inf. Brigade.

| Schedule No.<br>(Or the full name) | Unit          | Regt. No. | Rank and Name                     | Action for which commended  | Recommended by  | Honour or Reward | (To be left blank) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------|--------------------|
|                                    | 8th Battalion |           | Lieutenant EVANS<br>David Gerald. | <p>During the heavy fighting in the Hindenburg Line on the 8th and 9th instant, Lieut. EVANS was in charge of the flank company which had the enemy in the same trench along side of them.</p> <p>Lieut EVANS organised and personally led a bombing attack along the trench, thereby gaining about 200 yards of same.</p> <p>He personally supervised the consolidation of the new position, and successfully repelled three strong counter-attacks. Throughout the fighting Lieut. EVANS' courageous and capable leadership and example inspired his men to a wonderful degree.</p> <p>By his dash and courage an almost impossible position was greatly improved and placed on sound tactical basis.</p> | L. H. Mackay<br>Lieut-Colonel,<br>Commanding Offr. 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade | MC.              |                    |

### Recommendations for Honours and Awards

#### Mention in Dispatches Recommendation 6/10/1916:

Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, March to September, 1916

As a platoon Commander of "D" Coy, this officer has done consistently good work. In the attack on Pozieres on 25/7/16 he showed great courage and initiative. His platoon lead the attack and under heavy fire from M. guns and artillery. He has the credentials for leadership, and his coolness and calm courage have given the men under him great confidence.

Major General N.M. Smyth on behalf of Major General HB Walker Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division

2nd Aust INFANTRY

1st AUSTRALIAN

1st A. I. F. Army

6th October 1916

8th Australian  
BattalionLieutenant David  
Gerald  
EVANS

Period March to September 1916.

G.O.C. Mention  
2nd Aust in  
Infantry Despat-  
Brigade cher.

As a Platoon Commander of "D" Coy - this officer has done consistently good work. In the attack on POLITHIA on 25/7/16 he showed great courage and initiative. His platoon led the attack and came under heavy fire from E. Guns and Artillery. He has the essentials for leadership, and his coolness and calm courage have given the men under him great confidence.

*H. B. Walker*  
Signed for Major-General  
Commanding 1st Australian Division.

### Recommendation for Mentioned in Dispatches

Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1917

A highly competent and efficient officer, who since joining the battalion 18 months ago, has done a splendid work and shown initiative and great ability as a leader.

His work as a leader of raiding parties has always been gallant. His calmness and courage had at all times given great confidence to men under him. He is most reliable, and his work has been consistently good and well worthy of recognition.

Major General HB Walker Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division

| Schedule No.<br>(To be left blank) | Unit                  | Regt. No. | Rank and Name                | Action for which commended  | Recommended by  | Honour or Reward            | (To be left blank) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|
|                                    | 8th. Battn.<br>A.I.F. |           | Lieut. David<br>Gerald EVANS | A highly competent and efficient officer, who, since joining the Battalion 18 months ago, has done splendid work and shown initiative and great ability as a leader. His work as a leader of raiding parties has always been gallant. His calmness and courage has at all times given great confidence to men under him. He is most reliable, and his work has been consistently good and well worthy of recognition. | G.O.C.<br>1st.<br>Aust.<br>Division.  | Mention<br>in<br>Despatches |                    |
|                                    |                       |           |                              |   | <i>H. B. Walker</i><br>Major-General,<br>Commanding 1st. Australian Division. |                             |                    |

**Recommendation for a Military Cross, ended up being a Mentioned in Dispatches.**

Lieutenant DG Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1916

Running a raid on the German trenches near Hollebeke on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> Sept/1<sup>st</sup> Oct, Lt Evans was in command of the left raiding party. He trained his men so well that they did the work with calm regularity and precision in very great danger. He took his post on the enemy parapet and controlled his party with great coolness. The party killed one German and brought to our lines one wounded German from whom the necessary identification was established. His fine leadership was to a very great extent responsible for the success of his party.

Major General Gordon Bennett, Commanding Officer

2nd Div. Brigade. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Division. 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. Corps. 2/10/16 Date of Recommendation

| Schedule No.<br>(to be left blank) | Unit               | Regt. No. | Rank and Name                       | Action for which commended  | Recommended by                    | Honour or Reward | (To be left blank)   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
|                                    | 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn | —         | Lieutenant<br>DAVID GERALD<br>EVANS | <p>Running a raid on the German trenches near Hollebeke on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> Sept/1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Lt Evans was in command of the left raiding party. He trained his men so well that they did the work with calm regularity and precision in very great danger. He took his post on the enemy parapet and controlled his party with great coolness. The party killed one German and brought to our lines one wounded German from whom the necessary identification was established. His fine leadership was to a very great extent responsible for the success of his party.</p> | <p>W. Bennett<br/>C. J. B. P.</p> | M.C.             |  |

Australian War Memorial Honour Roll (on Web site, [www.AWM.gov.au](http://www.AWM.gov.au))

## Roll of Honour

### David Gerald Evans

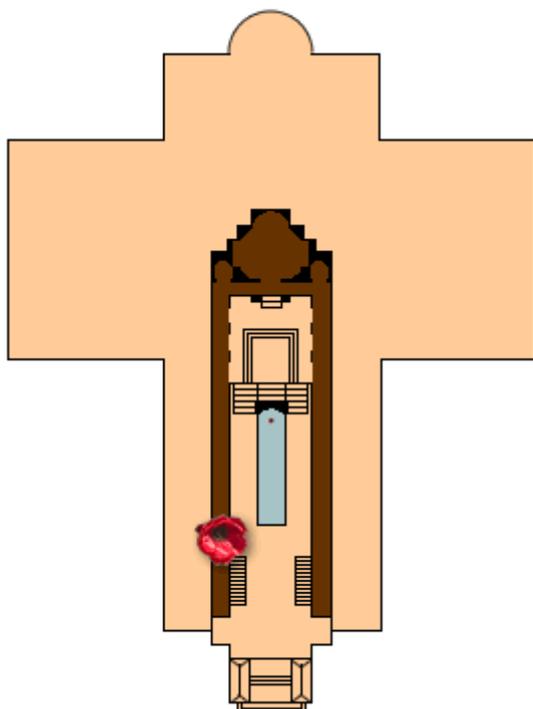
|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rank</b>                         | Captain [Capt]                                       |
| <b>Unit</b>                         | 8th Bn Australian Inf                                |
| <b>Service</b>                      | Army   |
| <b>Conflict</b>                     | 1914-1918  |
| <b>Date of Death</b>                | 20 September 1917                                    |
| <b>Cause of Death</b>               | Died of wounds                                       |
| <b>Cemetery or Memorial Details</b> | BELGIUM 11 Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery<br>Belgium |
| <b>Source</b>                       | AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War,<br>Army  |



View collection image:  
[PD6566.DD1](#)

### Location on the Roll of Honour

David Gerald Evans's name is located at **panel 52** in the [Commemorative Area](#) at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).



## AWM Collection Record: P06566.00



**ID Number:** P06566.001

**Maker:** Unknown

**Date made:** 1915; c August 1917

**Physical description:** Colour

**Summary:** Studio portrait of Captain (Capt) David Gerald Evans MC, 8th Battalion AIF. A grazier from "Redbank", Moyhu Vic, Capt Evans enlisted in 1915 and embarked from Melbourne on RMS Osterley on 29 September of that year. He was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for bravery on the 8/9th of May 1917 when he -personally organised and led a bombing attack along a trench, thereby gaining about 200 yards"wherein " by his dash and courage an almost impossible position was improved and placed on a sound and tactical basis". Capt Evans died of wounds near Polygon Wood, Belgium, on 20 September 1917. In this studio portrait he is wearing the white, purple and white striped ribbon of the MC suggesting the photograph was taken while Captain Evans was on leave in Paris or England shortly before his death. His brother, 2399 Private Francis Evans, 51st Battalion AIF, was killed in action, also in Belgium, on 13 October 1917.

**Credit line:** Donor D Evans

**Copyright:** Copyright expired - public domain

**Copyright holder:** Copyright Expired

**Related subject:** Brothers; Portraits

**Related place:** Western Front: Western Front (Belgium), Menin Road Area, Polygon Wood

**Related conflict:** First World War, 1914-1918

Last-Modified: Wed, 24 Sep 2008 06:10:56 GMT

# First World War Embarkation Roll

## David Gerald Evans

View the digitised record:

 [View record](#) (D.14Mb PDF file)

### Rank

2nd Lieutenant

### Unit

22 Infantry Battallon - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 - January 1916)

### Ship Name

RMS Osterley

### Date of embarkation

29 September 1915

### Place of embarkation

Melbourne

#### AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE—NOMINAL ROLL—continued.

| No.  | Name (in full)          | Rank.         | Age.  | Trade or Calling. | Married or Single. | Address at Date of Enrolment. | Next of Kin and Address.  | Religion. | Date of Joining. | A.I.F. Unit Serving in at Date of Enrolment. | Pay.                |                     |                                    |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------|------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
|  |                         |               |       |                   |                    |                               |   |           |                  |  | Before Embarkation. | After               |                                    |
|  |                         |               |       |                   |                    |                               |   |           |                  |  | Rate per Diem.      | Date to which Paid. | Daily Rate, excluding Special Pay. |
|  |                         |               |       |                   |                    |                               |   |           |                  |  | s. d.               | s. d.               | s. d.                              |
| <b>6th INFANTRY BRIGADE, 22nd INFANTRY BATTALION.</b>                          |                         |               |       |                   |                    |                               |   |           |                  |  |                     |                     |                                    |
| <b>5th REINFORCEMENTS.</b>   |                         |               |       |                   |                    |                               |   |           |                  |  |                     |                     |                                    |
| (EMBARKED AT MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, ON R.M.S. "OSTERLEY," 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1915.) |                         |               |       |                   |                    |                               |   |           |                  |  |                     |                     |                                    |
| ..   | Evans, David Gerald     | .. 2nd Lieut. | .. 25 | Pastoralist       | .. S.              | Same as next of kin           | .. Father, John Evans, Red Camp, Moyhu, Wangaratta, Victoria      | C. of E.  | 8.2.15           | ..   | 15 0                | ..                  | 17 6                               |
| ..   | Kilduff, Samuel Carty   | .. " "        | .. 24 | Salesman          | .. M.              | " "                           | .. Wife, Mrs. Kathleen Kilduff, 88 Cobden-street, Kew, Victoria   | R.C.      | ..               | ..   | 15 0                | ..                  | 17 6                               |
| 28   | Archer, Edward Percival | .. Acting     | .. 25 | Farrier           | .. S.              | " "                           | .. Father, Joseph Archer, 263 Canning-street, Melbourne, Victoria | R.C.      | 13.7.15          | ..   | 5 0                 | ..                  | 5 0                                |

## Red Cross wound reports

### Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files

#### David Gerald Evans

##### Rank

Captain

##### Unit

8th Battalion

##### File No.

1020613

 [View record](#) (D.25Mb PDF file)

The associated pdf has a series of accounts, some of dubious accuracy as to his wounding, death and where he was buried. He was wounded during the "Battle for the Menin Rd" and was moving through Clapham Junction when an SOS shell landed near him, with shrapnel hitting him in the left buttock, fracturing his femur and injuring his arm. He was taken to the 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Clearing Aid Station but

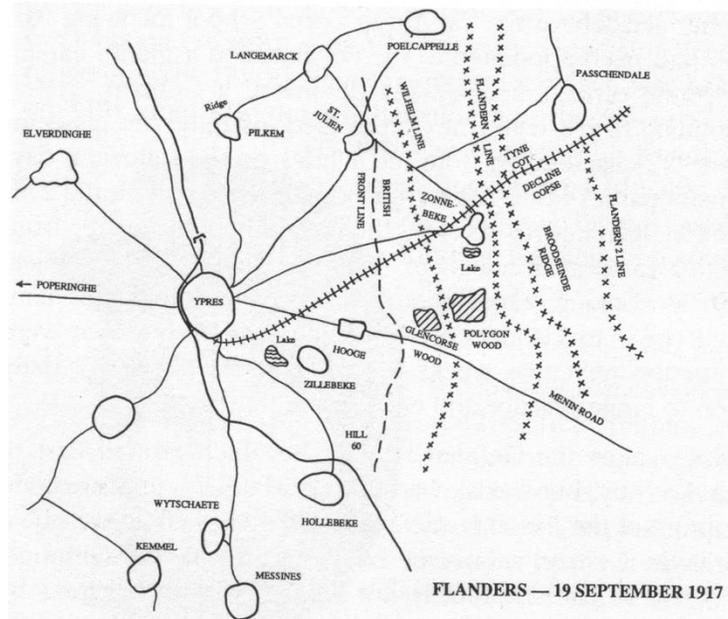
died there of wounds. Subsequently buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, near Poperinge, Belgium.

From “Cobbers in Khaki” pg 154

Talking about the beginning of the battle for the Menin Rd

“By 8.30pm on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> September, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion had assembled at Zillebeke Bund in preparation for the advance along the tapes to be laid by Sergeant Fred McVickar during the night. The men had been resting for almost two months and were now eager to resume the fight with the Hun. However, the heavy rain quickly churned the ground into mud and slowed to move to the assembly point at Clapham Junction. The front companies of the 8<sup>th</sup> soon overtook the rear companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, resulting in some delay, but this was of little consequence to the eighth as it was not required for the first two phases of the battle. At 5.15am most of the battalion was well clear of Clapham Junction and following behind the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, but Capt Gerry Evans’ rear company was hit by an enemy SOS bombardment just as it arrived at Clapham Junction. Evans was badly wounded, but gallantly refused any assistance as it would further delay the move to the start line. The CSM, George Harris, then took charge of the company, and with the assistance of Corporal Owen Carroll, led it through the barrage and into position. When the bearers returned they found the mortally wounded Evans, who later died in the 10<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station. Percy Lay noted that ‘we had lost the best Captain in the AIF’.”

Map from “Cobbers in Khaki” pg 154



Note Added EE: Gerald was wounded during the “Battle for the Menin Rd” and was moving through Clapham Junction when an SOS shell landed near him, with shrapnel hitting him in the left buttock, fracturing his femur and injuring his arm. He was taken to the 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Clearing Aid Station but died there of wounds. Subsequently buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, near Poperinge, Belgium.

## Ken Summary:

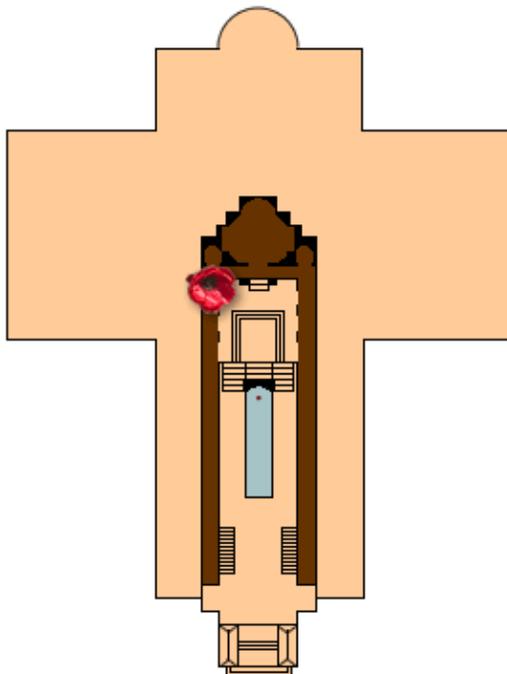
### Roll of Honour

#### Francis Evans

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rank</b>                         | Private [Pte]  |
| <b>Service Number</b>               | 2399   |
| <b>Unit</b>                         | 51 Bn Australian Inf   |
| <b>Service</b>                      | Army   |
| <b>Conflict</b>                     | 1914-1918  |
| <b>Date of Death</b>                | 13 October 1917  |
| <b>Cause of Death</b>               | Killed in action   |
| <b>Cemetery or Memorial Details</b> | BELGIUM 123 Passchendaele New British Cemetery   |
| <b>War Grave Register Notes</b>     | EVANS, Pte. Francis, 2399. 51st Bn. Australian Inf. Killed in action 13th Oct., 1917. Age 33. Son of John and Eleanor Lucy Evans, of Redcamp, Moyhu, Victoria, Australia. Born at Wangaratta. XIII. A. 30. |
| <b>Source</b>                       | AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army   |

### Location on the Roll of Honour

Francis Evans's name is located at **panel 152** in the [Comm: Area](#) at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the plan).



## Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files

### Francis Evans

**Service Number**

2399

**Rank**

Private

**Unit**

51st Battalion

**File No.**

1020710

 [View record](#) (0.13Mb PDF file)

## Diary of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF and Gerald Evans' movements April 1916 to September 1917

Expanding on a footnote in CEW Bean's "First World War Official Histories:  
Volume IV

### The Australian Imperial Force in France, 1917

756

THE A.I.F. IN FRANCE

[20th Sept., 1917

casualties.<sup>52</sup> The 12th Battalion, behind it, pressed forward and to the left to avoid the barrage, but the 3rd Machine Gun Company, which had just come up behind the 12th,<sup>53</sup> and the 9th and 10th Battalions, which were just arriving through Chateau Wood, were fully caught and suffered heavy loss. The 9th lost all its company commanders<sup>54</sup> and half its junior officers, and seemed almost hopelessly split up. Its carrying company dropped many loads, but, under the leadership of Lieutenant Meyers<sup>55</sup> and a handful of juniors, all the scattered elements struggled through to the tapes. The two rear companies of the 10th—carriers and "moppers-up" respectively—were plunged in confusion, but with the help of the adjutant, Captain Cornish,<sup>56</sup> sent back by Colonel Neligan to reorganise them, and of Captain Henwood, they also came through. On reaching their tapes the rear battalions of this brigade still lay fairly under the bombardment, and pressed forward to clear it.

News of the bombardment reached the artillery, the counter-batteries were turned on, and at 5.15 the bombardment eased, but five minutes later it came down again—"a persistent, heavy barrage," as Neligan describes it—this time extending southwards to the front between Glencorse Wood and Inverness Copse. Here the last companies of the 2nd Brigade's last battalion, the 8th, just arriving at Clapham Junction, ran straight into the shell-fire.<sup>57</sup> Some disturbance, including machine-gun fire, now broke out on the right where the northernmost brigade (69th Brigade, 23rd Division) of the X Corps was assembling. Although the shelling had extended to part of the 2nd Division's front on

<sup>52</sup> These were nevertheless its heaviest in this battle.

<sup>53</sup> Lieut. F. P. Bethune (of Hamilton district, Tas.), then in charge, had realized that the company lay in the German barrage area, and had already passed the order to edge forward. Commands, however, could only be whispered, and few men had moved when the barrage fell. (Bethune was the clergyman who delivered the sermon quoted on p. 70, Vol. III.)

<sup>54</sup> Captain C. J. Carroll (of South Brisbane) was wounded three times in Chateau Wood, Lieutenant F. B. Scougall (of Brisbane) killed near the tapes, and Captain J. F. McNaught (of Toowong, Q'land) hit in the head in Chateau Wood.

<sup>55</sup> Lieut. E. H. W. Meyers, M.C.; 9th Bn. Bank Clerk; of Ipswich, Q'land; b Cairns, Q'land, 18 Dec., 1896.

<sup>56</sup> Capt. W. G. Cornish, M.C.; 10th Bn. Warehouseman; of Kent Town, S. Aust., b Maylands, S. Aust., 9 Feb., 1893. Died 30 May, 1936.

<sup>57</sup> One of the company commanders, Captain D. G. Evans (of Redcamp, Moyhu, Vic), was badly wounded. He refused to let the stretcher-bearers delay the assembly by picking him up. They went back for him later, but he died of his wounds.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG1069749/>

**Source 2:** Diaries of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, AIF, 1914-1918

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG1000578/>

## 8th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised from rural Victoria by Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Private Thomas Cooke, one of 81 members of the battalion killed at Pozieres, earned a posthumous Victoria Cross during the action. After Pozieres, the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres.

In March and April 1918 helped to stop the German spring offensive. The battalion subsequently participated in the allies' own offensive, launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as, "the black day of the German Army in this war". For his actions on this day, Lieutenant William Joynt was awarded a Victoria Cross. The next day, Private Robert Beatham also earned a Victoria Cross by rushing four separate machine guns. He was killed in action two days later.

The battalion continued operations to late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919.

In November 1918 members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge. In April, the battalion was so reduced that it and the 5th Battalion were amalgamated to form a composite battalion. In turn, this battalion was amalgamated with another, formed from the 6th and 7th Battalions, to form the 2nd Brigade Battalion.

### Reference

R.J. Austin, *Cobbers in khaki: the history of the 8th Battalion, 1914-1919* (McCrae: Slouch Hat Publications, 1997).

## Extracted from 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF diaries.

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Location</b>  | <b>8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and Gerald Evans' activities</b>  |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1/4/1916<br>2/4/16   | On Train                                  | Marseilles to Bailleul, Nth France  |
| 3/4/16<br>14/4/16    | Between Bailleul and Steenwerck           | Settling into billets and beginning of training   |
| 15/4/16<br>24/4/16   | Erquinghem-Lys                            | Route marched to Jesus Farm near Erquinghem-Lys   |
| 25/4/1916            | Erquinghem-Lys                            | Anzac day sports held   |
| 27/4/16              | Erquinghem-Lys                            | Inspected by C in C General Sir Douglas Haig on parade who commented to CO "You have a fine battalion. I congratulate you. Their handling of arms, steadiness and marching is equal to anything I have seen." |
| 30/4/16              | Erquinghem-Lys to Fleurbaix               | Move to billets behind lines  |
| 1/5/1916             | Fleurbaix                                 | Billeted at Fleurbaix, just behind the lines. D Coy at Limit farm   |
| 2/5/1916<br>9/5/1916 | Fleurbaix                                 | General Birdwood called around lunch time on way back from front. Some shelling of billets on this day, no casualties. Intermittent shelling on following days  |
| 10/5/1916            | Fleurbaix                                 | Officers go up to front to inspect trenches on anticipation of relieving 6 <sup>th</sup> Bn   |
| 15/5/1916            | Trenches – Fromelles?                     |   |
| 19/5/1916            | Trenches – Fromelles?                     | Birdwood comes up and inspects trenches   |
| 28/5/1917            | Trenches – Fromelles?                     | German prisoner caught  |
| 30/5/1916            | Trenches to Fleurbaix                     | Relived from trenches – in tour lost 12 killed and 16 wounded.<br><b>15 days in trenches</b>  |
| 3/6/1916             | Fleurbaix                                 | Transfer to safer billets near Fleurbaix  |
| 7/6/1916             | Fleurbaix                                 | Col Brand transfers to command 6 <sup>th</sup> Brigade. Major A Jackson in temporary command of 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion   |
| 11/6/1916            | Sailly (-sur-la-lys?)                     | Transfer to Sailly  |
| 13/6/1916            | Sailly (-sur-la-lys?)                     | Memorial service for Lord Kitchner  |
| 15/6/16              | Sailly (-sur-la-lys?)                     | Major Coulter returns to command 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion  |
| 19/6/16              | Sailly to Neuve Eglise                    | Move billets  |
| 20/6/1916            | Neuve Eglise, Belgium                     |   |
| 23-24/6/1916         | Neuve Eglise, Belgium to Messines quarter | Move into trenches at Messines sector – Ploegstrat Red area D Coy in reserve  |
| 30/6/1916            | Messines quarter                          | Total casualties 11 killed and 34 wounded mainly from shelling  |
| 2/7/1916             | Messines quarter                          | CO Brand returns  |
| 4/7/1916             | Messines sector                           | West Kent regiment relieves Bn total <b>11 days in line</b>   |

|                        |                                    |  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|                        |                                    | Billets at Munque farm   |
| 5/7/1916               | Messines sector                    | Move to Bulford Camp   |
| 9/7/1916               | Messines sector to Bailleul        | Move to Bailleul to entrain to Doulliens   |
| 10/7/1916              | Train                              | Bailleul to Doullens (Somme)   |
| 11/7/1916              | Route march Berteaucourt-les-dames | Doullens via Beauval, Bonneville, Canaples, Halloy-les-Pernois and finally Berteaucourt-les-dames (about 53 km)  |
| 12/7/1916              | Route march Talmas                 | Berteaucourt-les-dames to Talmas   |
| 13/7/1916              | Route march Raineville             | Route march Talmas, Septonville, Pierregot, and Raineville   |
| 14/7/1916<br>15/7/1916 | Raineville                         | Practice attack and short route marches  |
| 16/7/1916              | Route march to Varennes            | Raineville to Pierregot-Rubempre-Herissart-Toutencourt-Hardenville-Varennes (about 20km)   |
| 17/7/1916<br>19/7/1916 | Varennes                           | In readiness to move and preparations for battle   |
| 20/7/1916              | Route march Albert                 | Varennes to Senlis-le -Sec, Bouzincourt to Albert in fighting order (about 15km)   |
| 22/7/1916              | Albert                             | All preparation for attack complete<br>Marched our of Albert via brickfields to old German trenches in sausage valley  |
| 23/7/1916              | Sausage Valley-Pozieres            | Moved up Sausage Valley to sth of Pozieres<br>D Coy selected to run water rations etc and this fatigue was carried out under constant shell fire – commented D Coy did splendidly<br>That night moved up Dead mans Rd via Chalk Pit to Pozieres – Albert-Baupaupe Rd. Much heavy shelling and many casualties around the Chalk pit area  |
| 24/7/1916              | Pozieres                           | Ready for attack in Pozieres – operations post postponed 24hrs   |
| 25/7/1916              | Pozieres                           | C & D Coys move from Bn HQ to strong posts in Pozieres held by A & B Coys. At 3.30am C & D attack, C on right, D on left towards the Orchard. Strong attack with artillery fire, quickly overwhelmed the enemy. Reached objectives by 5am. D Coy 50 yds beyond Cemetery and C Coy met with strong opposition that was overcome with great determination speedily to get to their objective NE of Villiage. D Coy sent forward a patrol (was Gerald part of this patrol?) which came within 100 yds of Mouquet Farm, later seeing strong German forces moving along the OG1/OG2 towards the Windmill. Reported this and called in artillery bombardment on the Germans. Very heavy shelling during day. Consolidation |
| 26/7/1916              | Pozieres                           | Consolidation of posts and positions, some friendly fire from Warricks Btn, lots of heavy shell fire, trenches wrecked. 8 <sup>th</sup> men and officers stood up to this very well.   |
| 27/7/1916              | Pozieres<br>To<br>Sausage valley   | At 3am relieved by 6 <sup>th</sup> Aust Brigade and reformed in the Albert Brickfields. Good work done by the runners and stretcher bearers.   |

|           |                    |   |
|-----------|--------------------|---|
|           |                    | Casualties 23/7-27/7/1916 Officers 4 killed, men 77 killed Officers 7 wounded and men 259 wounded, 16 missing. Also 4 officers wound but still on duty (Gerald was one of these)  |
| 28/7/1916 | Albert Brickfields | Rest and clean up. Visit by Generals Forsyth and Walker March to Warloy to Vadencourt were billeted for night   |
| 29/7/1916 | Vadencourt         | March Vadencourt to Herissant, Talmas, Lavicogne (SE of Doullens)   |
| 30/7/1916 | Lavicogne          | March Lavicogne to Canaples   |
| 31/7/1916 | Canaples           | Rest day and also for next 6-7 days   |
| 1/8/1916  | Canaples           | Reinforcements along with promotions (A, B & C Coys) Battalion strength now 29 Officers and 765 O/R. (full strength 800)  |
| 3/8/1916  | Canaples           | Addressed and inspected by Gen. Walker Training including route marching, bayonet fighting etc  |
| 5/8/1916  | Canaples           | Further training and Battalion addressed by CO Ready to move to la Vicogne on 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug   |
| 6/8/1916  | Canaples           | Number of officer appointments mainly in Coys A, B and C, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut Waters and Smith in D Coy   |
| 7/8/1916  | Canaples           | March (3 hr) Canaples to la Vicogne   |
| 8/8/1916  | la Vicogne         | March (5 hr) la Vicogne to Vadencourt   |
| 9/8/1916  | Vadencourt         | Training including signaling aeroplanes   |
| 10/8/1916 | Vadencourt         | Training<br>In afternoon stood by road as King and General Birdwood went by. Later Birdwood presented MM to several members of Bn.  |
| 14/8/1916 | Vadencourt         | Route march in afternoon from Vadencourt to Albert Brickfields  |
| 15/8/1916 | Albert Brickfields | Officers move forward to reconnoit Sausage Valley Later rest of battalion moves to barracks in Sausage valley   |
| 16/8/1916 | Sausage Valley     | Quiet day, move up sunken road (Dead Mans Rd) to Poziers  |
| 17/8/1916 | Pozieres           | Dug Communication trench – later called DOT trench Some shell and rifle fire with light casualties  |
| 18/8/1916 | Pozieres           | Ordered to relieve 5 <sup>th</sup> Bn in front line from Munster Alley to Tramline<br>A and C Coy's on line, D Coy in support, B Coy in reserve A and C move forward after barrage into heavy bomb and MG fire – attack beaten back, B Coy to reinforce.<br>A Coy tried again, although getting to German lines, they were pushed back. A failure of artillery fire to neutralise enemy noted leaving MG posts etc intact. Attack at night also seen as a problem, enemy warned |
| 19/8/1916 | Pozieres           | Heavy shelling, commenced digging saps towards German trenches  |
| 19/8/1916 | Pozieres           | Rotate men in front line to give relief from B Coy in Sunken Rd. Dug trench toward Gordon Highlanders on right to link up   |
| 21/8/1916 | Pozieres           | Shelling light<br>Battalion relieved by 19 <sup>th</sup> Bn AIF during night.   |

|                  |                        |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|
|                  |                        | Battalion returns to Albert Brickfields   |
| 22/8/1916        | Albert Brickfields     | Marched Brickfields to Warloy   |
| 23/8/1916        | Warloy                 | Marched Warloy then to Rubempre   |
| 24/8/1916        | Rubempre               | Marched Rubempre to Canaples  |
| 25/8/1916        | Amplier (Sth Doullens) | Back to training again  |
| 26/8/1916        | Amplier                | Move from Amplier to entrain from Anthieule to Godewaersvelde<br>Marched to billets at Clulaier Camp? Somewhere near Hazebrock??                                  |
| 27/8/1916<br>Sun | Flanders?              |   |
| 29/8/1916        | Flanders?              | Move to Poperinge   |
| 30/8/1916        | Poperinge              |   |
| 31/8/1916        | Poperinge to Ypres     | Travel by train into Ypres, march to trenches to take over from the Kings own regiment. Day quite except for Minnewerfers   |
| 1/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Sounds like they were out in front of Ypres towards the east around Shrapnel corner or the like????   |
| 2/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 3/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 4/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 5/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 6/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 7/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 8/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 9/9/1916         | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 10/9/1916        | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 11/9/1916        | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 12/9/1916        | Ypres                  | Relatively light fighting and shelling, seem to be just holding the line  |
| 13/9/1916        | Ypres                  | Battalion relieved by 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, go back into secondary lines near Brigade HQ   |
| 13-17/9/1916     | Ypres – in reserve     | Battalion doing fatigues supplying front line etc   |
| 18/9/1916        | Ypres – in reserve     | Raiding party under Capt Hurrey, Lieut Evans, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut Joynt, Lieut Maquire, & 13 <sup>th</sup> Bombing Officer Lt Goodwin selected. Gerald included |
| 19/9/1916        | Ypres – in reserve     | Wet and very muddy, limiting activity   |
| 20/9/1916        | Ypres – in reserve     | Raiding party proceeded to training quarters  |
| 21/9/1916        | Ypres – in reserve     |   |

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| 22/9/1916  | Ypres – in reserve  | Raiding party training, rest on fatigues (reserve for 13 <sup>th</sup> Brigade)  |
| 23/9/1916  | Ypres – in reserve  |  |
| 24/9/1916  | Ypres – in reserve  | Working parties  |
| 25/9/1916  | Ypres – in reserve  |  |
| 26/9/1916  | Ypres – in reserve  | Relieved by 13 <sup>th</sup> Brigade and marched to new billets in Ypres?  |
| 27/9/1916  | Ypres – Scottish lines  | Training, marching and fatigues  |
| 30/9/1916  | Ypres – Scottish lines<br>Some where near Brandhoek and Poperinge | Raid a complete success with one German prisoner (later died) and two Germans killed. Lieut Joynt and one OR slightly wounded and Pt Smith (later DoW?) Badly wounded. Identifications and information gained. Many congratulations from Army Corps, Division, Brigade command. Gerald led the raid. |
| 1/10/1916  | Ypres – Scottish lines  | Training, marching and fatigues  |
| 5/10/1916  | Ypres – Scottish lines  | Training, marching and fatigues – area very wet and difficult to undertake tasks<br>Dinner held to celebrate success of Raid   |
| 9/10/1916  | Ypres – Glasgow post  | Into lines again at Glasgow Post Fosse Wood (sth Zilebeke) in salient, D Coy in reserve at Battersea Farm  |
| 10/10/16   | Ypres – Glasgow post  | Repair lines and improvements – few Minewerfers about  |
| 14/10/16   | Ypres – Glasgow post  | Relived from line, march to Ypres and entrained to Brandhoek and then marching to the Scottish Lines   |
| 15/10/1916 | Scottish lines  | Entrained in Brandhoek to billets at Eperleclques in St Omer area  |
| 16/10/1916 | Eperleclques  | Rest and good billets, parades, marching and trainng   |
| 21/10/1916 | Eperleclques  | March to Arques, entrain for St Riguier? and marched to Yancourt?  |
| 22/10/1916 | Yancourt  | Building destroyed by fire later in day moved forward to Dernacourt  |
| 23/10/1916 | Dernacourt  |  |
| 24/10/1916 | Dernacourt  | Move Dernacourt to Mametz  |
| 25/10/1916 | Mametz  |  |
| 1/11/1916  | Mametz  | March from Mametz to Pommiers Redoubt Camp (a mile or two from Mametz)   |
| 2/11/1916  | Pommiers  | Move from Pommiers up the roud to Bernefay Camp – near Bernefay Wood? Just before Guillemont (Sth of Deville Wood)   |
| 3/11/1916  | Bernefay Camp   | Move from Bernefay camp up to Switch Trench  |
| 4/11/1916  | Switch Trench   |  |
| 5/11/1916  | Switch Trench   | Move from Switch trench to Biscuit and Grease trenches and Bulls Run BHQ at Pilgrims way   |
| 6/11/1916  | Trenches Guillemont   | Intermittant shelling and very wet   |
| 7/11/1916  | Trenches Guillemont   | Persistent MG, sniping and Artillery, prepare to attack – too wet to do almost every thing   |
| 9/11/1916  | Trenches Guillemont   | Fine day, shelling and ariel activity. Number of aeroplanes brought down   |

|               |                          |   |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| 10/11/1916    | Trenches Guillemont      | Too wet, attack abandoned. Relieved by 6 <sup>th</sup> Batt and move back to Bernafay Camp. "Men very much exhausted" |
| 11/11/1916    | Bernafay Camp            | Move Bernafay Camp to Pommiers Camp   |
| 12/11/1916    | Pommiers Camp            | Move from Pommiers Camp to Fricourt   |
| 13/11/1916    | Fricourt                 | Moved from Fricourt to Ribemont-sur-Ancre   |
| 14/11/1916    | Ribemont-sur-Ancre       | Battalion resting   |
| 18/11/1916    | Ribemont-sur-Ancre       | Very heavy snow, motor bus to St Vaast (Nth Ameins) for training  |
| 19/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Sunday – Church Parade  |
| 20/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Training  |
| 21/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Leave to Amiens granted   |
| 24/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Lectures, training, parades. 13 bags of mail received.  |
| 25/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Lectures, training, parades. 11 bags of mail received.  |
| 26/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Major Gen Walter visits bn., 3 bags of mail received  |
| 28/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Battalion Sports and visited by Aj Brig Lieut Col Jess, 8 bags of mail received                                       |
| 30/11/1916    | St Vaast (nth of Amiens) | Battalion entrained at Vignacort (Nth of St Vaast) enroute to Reserve area (Buive – sur-l'Ancere)                     |
| 1/12/1916     | Buive – sur-l'Ancere     | Parade at Heilly, 19 bags of mail received  |
| 4/12/1916     | Buive – sur-l'Ancere     | Moved to Fricourt   |
| 5/12/1916     | Fricourt                 |   |
| 6/12/1916     | Fricourt                 | Battalion moved Fricourt to Bernafay  |
| 7/12/1916     | Bernafay wood            | In reserve? (Sth Longueval, West of Guillemont)   |
| 9/12/1916     | Bernafay wood            | Training, marches, and fatigues   |
| 10/12/1916    | Bernafay wood            | Lt AG Campbell appointed B Coy bombing officer  |
| 13/12/1916    | Bernafay wood            | Preparation for taking over trenches  |
| 14-31/12/1916 | Remainder missing.       | Probably in the line in Guillemont or Longueval area for a few days, out of front line before Christmas               |
| 1/1/1917      | Mametz                   | C Coy at Melbourne Camp, D Coy at Adelaide Camp (Pommiers), D Coy doing salvage work and well                         |
| 6/1/1917      | Mametz                   | D Coy move to Melbourne camp, working parties   |
| 7/1/1917      | Mametz                   | Move from Mametz via Meaulte and Dernacourt to Buive – sur-l'Ancere   |
| 8/1/1917      | Buive – sur-l'Ancere     | Training, etc   |
| 14/1/1917     | Buive – sur-l'Ancere     | March from Buive – sur-l'Ancere via Lavieville and Henencourt to Warloy-Baillon                                       |
| 15/1/1917     | Warloy-Baillon           | Training, etc   |
| 23/1/1917     | Warloy-Baillon           | Move from Warloy via Herancourt, Millencourt to Albert to relieve 1 <sup>st</sup> Imperial Brigade Batt               |
| 24/1/1917     | Albert                   |   |
| 25/1/1917     | Albert                   | Move from Albert via la Boisselle, Contralmaison to Bazentin le Petit (Sth of Maritnuich btw Pozieres and Longueval)  |
| 26/1/1917     | Bazentin le Petit        | Take over trenches, C and D Coys first into line  |

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| 27/1/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Factory<br>Corner | Snow on ground, normal skirmishes, rifle fire and artillery   |
| 31/1/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Factory<br>Corner | Snow on ground and ground frozen hard. normal skirmishes, rifle fire and artillery but MG reported to be very active and dangerous for patrols  |
| 1/2/1917  | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Factory<br>Corner | C & D Coy come out of front trenches by A & B Coys  |
| 3/2/1917  | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Flers line        | A & B Coys relieved back to reserve trenches Flers line include OG1 & OG2 trenches – improvements done by draining and lifting duck boards  |
| 10/2/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Flers line        | C & D Coy relieved and proceed to Fricourt  |
| 12/2/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Flers line        | C & D Coys relieve A & B Coys   |
| 13/2/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Flers line        | Note that Lieut DG Evans returned from School and assumed command of C Coy  |
| 23/2/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Flers line        | Typical fatigues, repair etc under some artillery and MG fire   |
| 23/2/1917 | Bazentin le Petit<br>trenches Flers line        | Patrol move forward 700 yards to Bayonet and Scabbard trenches, later reinforced, relatively light resistance. Must have been the start of the German retreat to the Hindenburg line. |
| 25/2/1917 | Ligny Thillooy                                  | Move up to capture Lusinhof farm Then on towards Ligny Thillooy – little or no opposition   |
| 26/2/1917 | Ligny-Thillooy -<br>Bakley trench               | Move forward to Bakley trench – still light opposition  |
| 28/2/1916 | Ligny-Thillooy                                  | Consolidate position and rest   |
| 1/3/1917  | Bulls Run/Flers                                 |   |
| 2/3/1917  | Bulls Run<br>Lusenhof Farm                      | Barley trench, Bayonet, Grasslane & Hay Reserve   |
| 3/3/1917  | Bulls Run<br>Lusenhof Farm                      | Wind calm (many refs to this – no wind – no gas). Lieut Catron and 5 men killed in bobby trapped dugout. Light shelling<br>Liet DG Evans takes over command of A Coy                  |
| 5/3/1917  | Bulls Run<br>Lusenhof Farm                      | Relieved by 58 <sup>th</sup> Batt AIF – moved to Bendigo Camp.  |
| 6/3/1917  | Bendigo camp                                    | Batt marched out and past General Walker and congratulated on splendid work and appearance.   |
| 7/3/1917  | Bendigo camp                                    | Move from Bendigo Camp to Mametz  |
| 8/3/1917  | Mametz  | Inspection of arms and equipment, Medical inspection. Also inquiry held into the missing during Pozieres battles.   |
| 9/3/1917  | Mametz  | Training and reorganisation   |
| 14/3/1917 | Mametz  | Move from Mametz to Dernacourt. A Coy in Kaffir Camp rest in Dernancourt  |
| 16/3/1917 | Kaffir Camp,<br>Dernacourt                      | A Coy had rifle range practicing “grouping” and “application” at 100 yards  |
| 17/3/1917 | Kaffir Camp,<br>Dernacourt                      | Capt Kirsch takes over command of A Coy with Lieut Davidson appointed 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command (Gerald back to D Coy?)  |

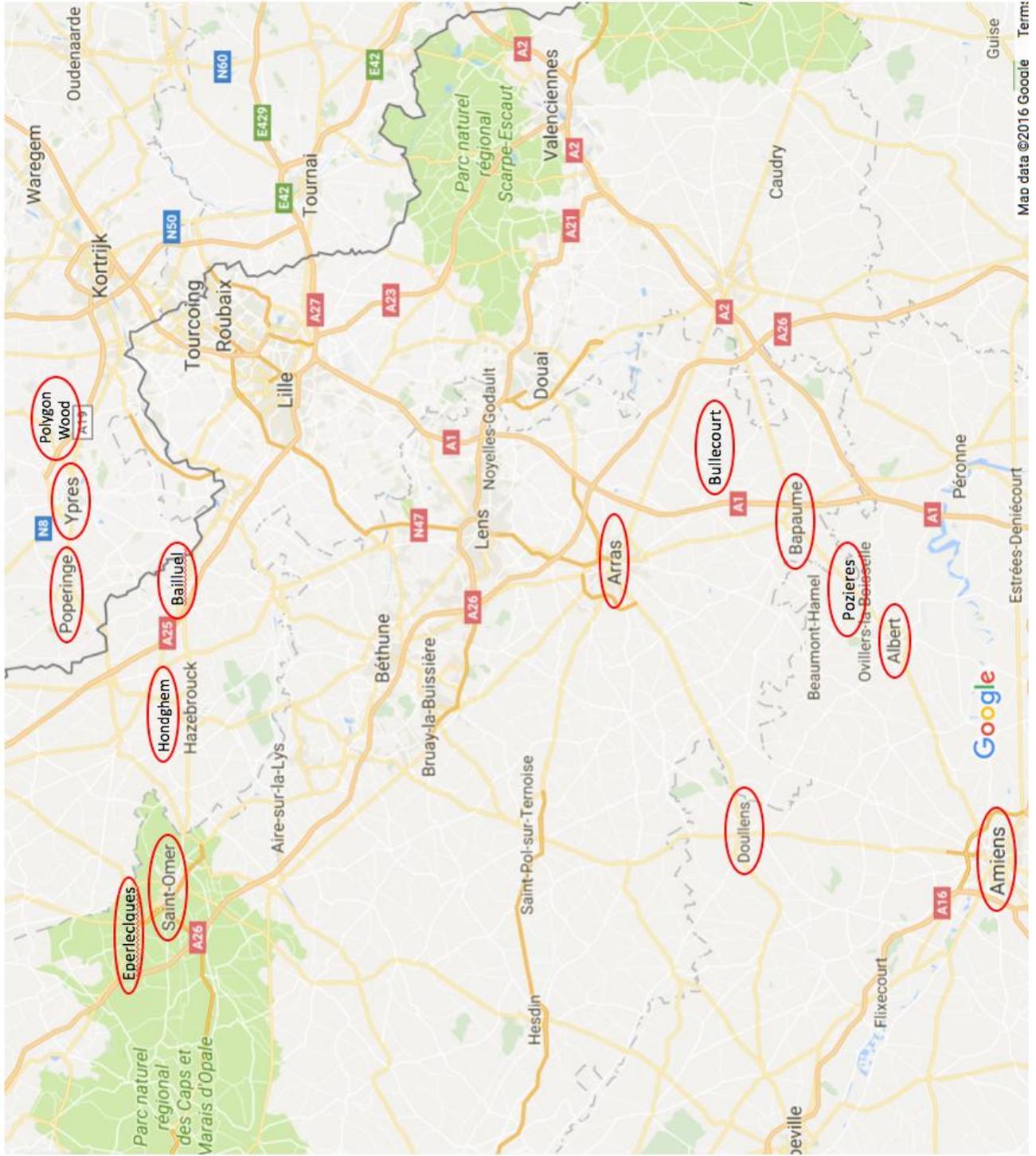
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|           |                                    | Training and discussions   |
| 21/3/1917 | Kaffir Camp,<br>Dernacourt         | Syllabus training am<br><i>Gerald and Ken meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1917, Gerald was based in Dernacourt while Ken's Battalion was moving from Buire-sur-l'Ancre to Mametz on the way to the front line in the region of Vaulx-Vracourt 28/3/1917 to 13/4/1917. Dernacourt is almost on a direct line between Buire-sur-l'Ancre and Mametz.</i><br>In afternoon, Battalion moved from Dernacourt to Buive – sur-l' Ancere |
| 22/3/1917 | Buive – sur-l' Ancere              | Training lecture on “Tanks”  |
| 30/3/1917 | Buive – sur-l' Ancere              | Training lecture on “Tanks”  |
| 31/3/1917 | Buive – sur-l' Ancere              |  |
| 1/4/1917  | Buive – sur-l' Ancere              | Training and marching  |
| 5/4/1917  | Buive – sur-l' Ancere              | Battalion move Buive – sur-l' Ancere via Dernacourt to Ovillers-la-Boisselle   |
| 6/4/1917  | Ovillers-la-Boisselle              | Battalion move from Ovillers-la-Boisselle to Bapaume   |
| 7/4/1917  | Bapaume                            | Battalion set to work constructing/repairing railway with 2 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Battalion   |
| 10/4/1917 | Bapaume                            | Battalion set to work constructing/repairing railway with 2 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Battalion   |
| 11/4/1917 | Bapaume                            | Battalion move from Bapaume to Villers-au-Flos   |
| 12/4/17   | Villers-au-Flos                    | Road repair work   |
| 15/4/17   | Villers-au-Flos                    | Battalion move from Villers-au-Flos via Beugny in direction of Lagincourt ending at Morchies in the reserve positions behind front line  |
| 16/4/1917 | Morchies-<br>Lagnicourt            | Battalion into front line relieving parts of the 20 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Battalion in sunken road on right of Lagincourt   |
| 17/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Consistent shelling with D Coy relieved by 17 <sup>th</sup> Batt   |
| 18/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Shelling, rifle fire and patrols   |
| 19/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | More artillery and one patrol reported coming up against Hindenberg line where the strong posts were strongly held.  |
| 20/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Enemy artillery very heavy, some gas shells, patrols testing German front line   |
| 20/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | 2 D Coy platoons attached and captured enemy strong point and occupied it (Gerald not involved) – Alex Campbell involved and commended for his work/leadership. Heavy barrage caused 50% Casualties, retreated from post with wounded and MGs  |
| 22/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Battalion relived by 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion and go into reserve lines   |
| 24/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Battalion relieves 28 <sup>th</sup> Battalion in Lagnicourt area.  |
| 25/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Bombardment of rear with gas shells  |
| 28/4/1917 | Lagnicourt-Marcel                  | Bombardment with gas shells at 1.00am, Later in day, Sergt Lay led patrol to breach German wire with Bangalore Torpedoes<br>Battalion relieved by 6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Batt to Morchies  |
| 29/4/1917 | Morchies                           | Fatigues, a bit of shelling  |
| 1/5/1917  | Lagnicourt-Beugny<br>Rd - Morchies | Battalion on supports, fine weather enemy aeroplaces active, some shelling   |

|              |                                 |  |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 4/5/1917     | Lagnicourt-Beugny Rd - Morchies | Battalion moved to Vaul-Vraucourt to support 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust Division   |
| 6/5/1917     | Vaul-Vraucourt                  |  |
| 6/5/1917     | Vaul-Vraucourt                  |  |
| 7/5/1917     | Bullecourt-Hindenberg line      | Battalion relieves 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion and part of 9 <sup>th</sup> Batt at the Hindenburg line at right of Bullecourt – this is probably sth of the Australian Digger Memorial in Bullecourt Heavy artillery   |
| 8/5/1917     | Bullecourt-Hindenberg line      | 4 men from 6 <sup>th</sup> Brigade came in from No mans land after being caught there for 6 days – good intel gained. Heavy artillery and repeated attacks at one of the positions on the 8 <sup>th</sup> Line. At 11.00 a portion of our left Coy (A) moved in bombing squads down the OG2 from left of our position. No opposition was encountered and we installed a stop? (strong?) position at sunken road at U22.d.1.3. Enemy shelled new position heavily at 1pm? At 21.15 a strong party of Germans attached the garrison at position U22.d.1.4 with rifle grenades and bombs. A hard bombing fight ensued but enemy was forced to retire. They repeated attack but were again repulsed. Enemy losses were heavy and we retained five prisoners (Grenadier Guards 9 <sup>th</sup> regiment). The enemy subjected our line to heavy barrage. Our Artillery responded very effectively. 6 killed, 63 wounded & 1 missing<br><b>Gerald won his MC in this action</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> May on citation). |
| 9/5/1917     | Bullecourt-Hindenberg line      | On series of enemy aircraft patrols very active Riencourt-les-Cagnicourt<br>Batt relieved by parts of 57 <sup>th</sup> and 58 <sup>th</sup> Battalions. 25 wounded   |
| 10/5/1917    | Bullecourt-Hindenberg line      | Move to Bullecourt via Vaux-Vraucourt to Biepuilliers-les-Baupame  |
| 11/5/1917    | Biepuilliers-les-Baupame        | Visit to Favreuil for well earned baths  |
| 11/5/1917    | Biepuilliers-les-Baupame        | Usual regemin of parades and training  |
| 20/5/1917    | Biepuilliers-les-Baupame        |  |
| 21/5/1917    | Biepuilliers-les-Baupame        | Move from Biepuilliers-les-Baupame to Ovillers-la-Boisselle  |
| 22-25/5/1917 | Ovillers-la-Boisselle           | Moved from Ovillers-la-Boisselle to Bresle (SW Albert)   |
| 23/5/1917    | Brestle                         | Inspections, parades and training  |
| 23/5/1917    | Brestle                         | Baths and Battalion sports in afternoon  |
| 31/5/1917    | Brestle                         | A Coy ran in Brigade Road Race in evening  |
| 1/6/1917     | Brestle                         | A Coy doing special preparation for Divisional comps   |
| 3/6/1917 Sun | Brestle                         | Church parade followed by route marches  |
| 4/6/1917     | Brestle                         | B Coy received advice the Lieut DG Evans had been awarded MC (Percy Lay MM)  |

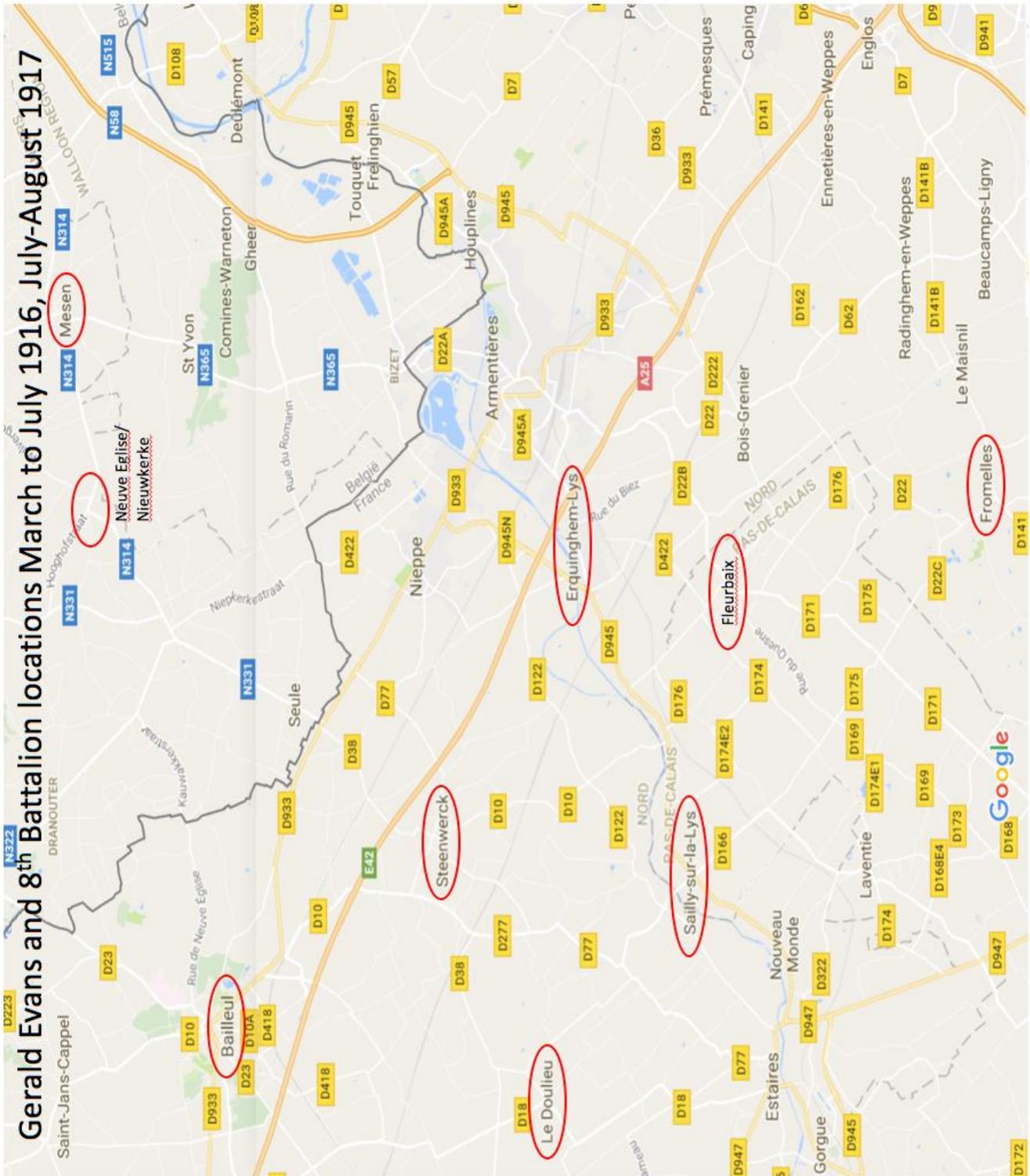
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| 6/6/1917         | Brestle          | Presentation of decorations made at Henencourt Wood by Army Corps Commander  |
| 10/6/1917<br>Sun | Brestle          | Church parade, then Battalion Sports day   |
| 12-13/6/1917     | Brestle          | Divisional Sports day Henencourt Wood  |
| 17/6/1917<br>Sun | Brestle          | Church Parade, medals from Battn Sports day presented by Gen Walker  |
| 18/6/1917        | Brestle          | Battalion moved from Brestle to via Senlis-le-Sec to Mailly Maillet  |
| 19/6/1917        | Mailly Maillet   | Simulated attack exercise on Englebelmer   |
| 24/6/1917<br>Sun | Mailly Maillet   | Church Parade  |
| 25/6/1917        | Mailly Maillet   | Route march  |
| 28/6/1917        | Mailly Maillet   | Return from Mailly Maillet to Brestle  |
| 29/6/1917        | Brestle          | Washing and cleaning up. Also received address on "National, Moral & Physical Aspects of Venereal Disease" by Archdeacon Ward and Lt Col L Cutler DSO. |
| 30/6/1917        | Brestle          | Training   |
| 1/7/1917 Sun     | Brestle          | Church parade, some left for infantry school at Henecourt  |
| 3/7/1917         | Brestle          | Training including gass and smoke, then bathing afternoon. Some when to Pigeon Course at Lavieville  |
| 7/7/1917         | Brestle/Poiziers | Five out of each company selected to go to the unveiling of the Pozieres memorial to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Division. Gerald selected.                    |
| 8/7/1917 Sun     | Brestle          | Lieut Mummery MC took 60 men to attend unveiling ceremony of Pozieres Memorial, Church parade cancelled due to bad weather                             |
| 12/7/1917        | Brestle          | Battalion assembled on main Amiens-Albert Road to be inspected by His Majesty the King as he passed through  |
| 15/7/1917        | Brestle          | Battalion moved as part of Brigade group to training area near Bray-sur-Somme.   |
| 16/7/1917        | Bray-sur-Somme   | Training as per syllabus   |
| 22/7/1917<br>Sun | Bray-sur-Somme   | Church parade  |
| 24/7/1917        | Bray-sur-Somme   | Move from Bray-sur-Somme to Meaulte  |
| 25/7/1917        | Meaulte          | Route march and training   |
| 27/7/1917        | Meaulte          | Battalion moved from Meaulte to Aveluy then by train to Cæstre then route march to training area at Hondghem (France, near Baileul)                    |
| 28/7/1917        | Hondghem         | Training   |
| 31/7/1917        | Hondghem         | Route March and Training   |
| 1/8/1917         | Hondghem         | Training   |
| 5/8/1917 Sun     | Hondghem         | Church parade, Training  |
| 8/8/1917         | Hondghem         | Battalion moved with Brigade to Le Doulieu   |
| 9/8/1917         | Le Doulieu       | Cleaning up then training as per Syllabus  |
| 12/8/1917<br>Sun | Le Doulieu       | Church parade, Training  |
| 19/8/1917<br>Sun | Le Doulieu       | Church parade  |
| 31/8/1917        | Le Doulieu       | Training as per Syllabus   |

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| 1/9/1917     | Le Doulieu   | Training as per Syllabus and route march through Steenwerck  |
| 2/9/1917 Sun | Le Doulieu   | Church Parade  |
| 3/9/1917     | Le Doulieu   | Visit by Acting Brigadier Col TA Blamey DSO – new methods of attack practiced  |
| 7/9/1917     | Le Doulieu   | Route marches and officers view model of ground near Glencourse Wood   |
| 8/9/1917 Sun | Le Doulieu   | Church Parade  |
| 14/9/1917    | Le Doulieu   | Battalion moves from Le Doulieu to Reningelst, Belgium   |
| 15/9/1917    | Reningelst   | Mover from Reningelst to Chateau Segard and Zillabeke Bund Dugouts   |
| 19/9/1917    | Zillabeke Bund Dugouts                             | Move forward for night attack, heavy rain falling  |
| 20/9/1917    | Zillabeke<br><br>Gerald died of wounds on this day | Advance towards Clapham Junction but slowed by rain soaked ground and delayed by 2 hrs by slow progress of 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion. Almost clear of Junction when enemy fired coloured flares, presumably his S.O.S for immediately the 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion was subjected to extremely heavy shelling from 77mm's while passing through this barrage area. At zero hour 3.5 Coys had cleared Clapham junction and 3 Coys were on the Tape Line. Despite obstacles and weather, attack successful.<br><br>Nothing said in the Battalion Diary about Gerald. |

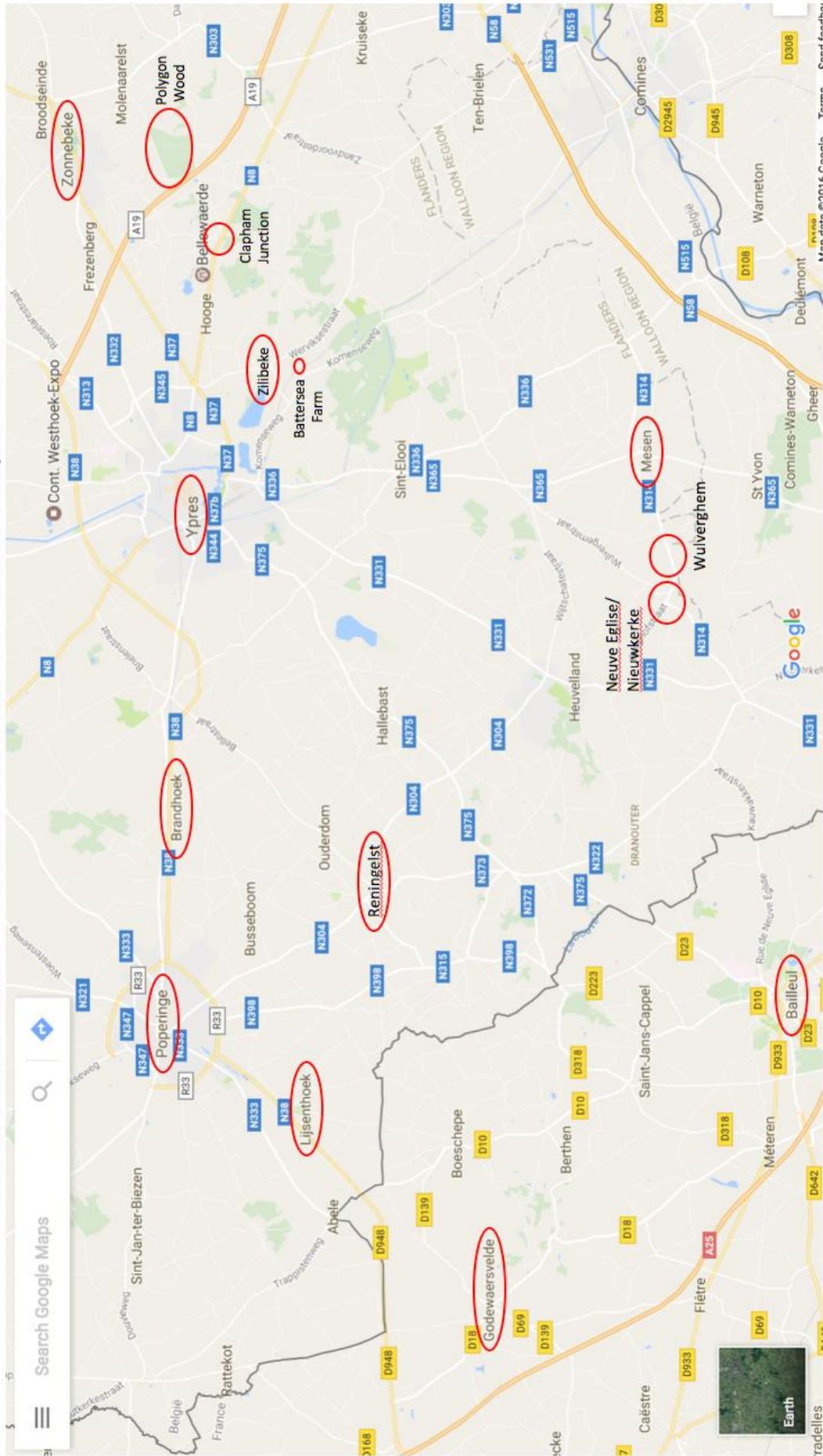
# Gerald Evans and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion locations Overview March 1916 to September 1917

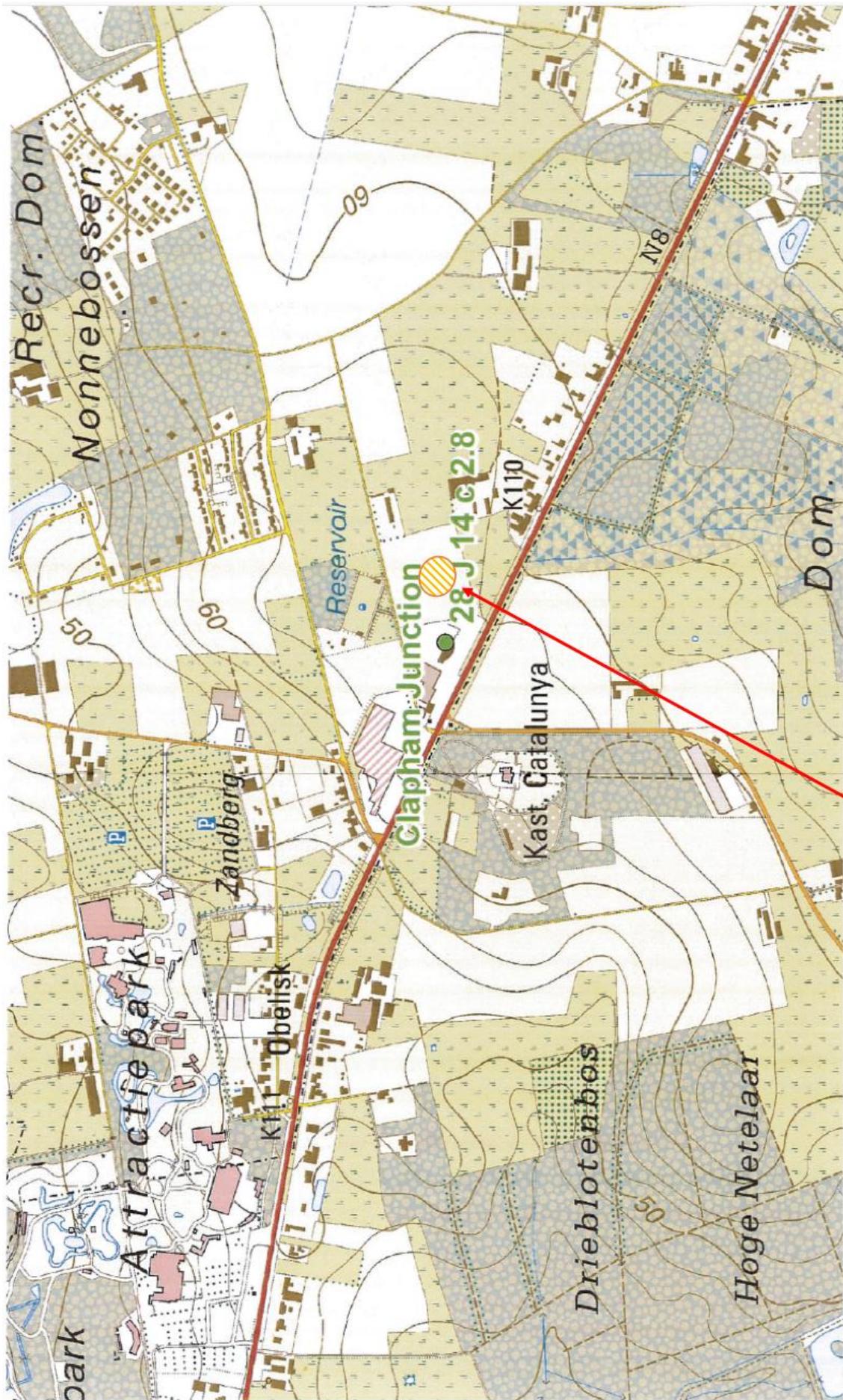


# Gerald Evans and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion locations March to July 1916, July-August 1917



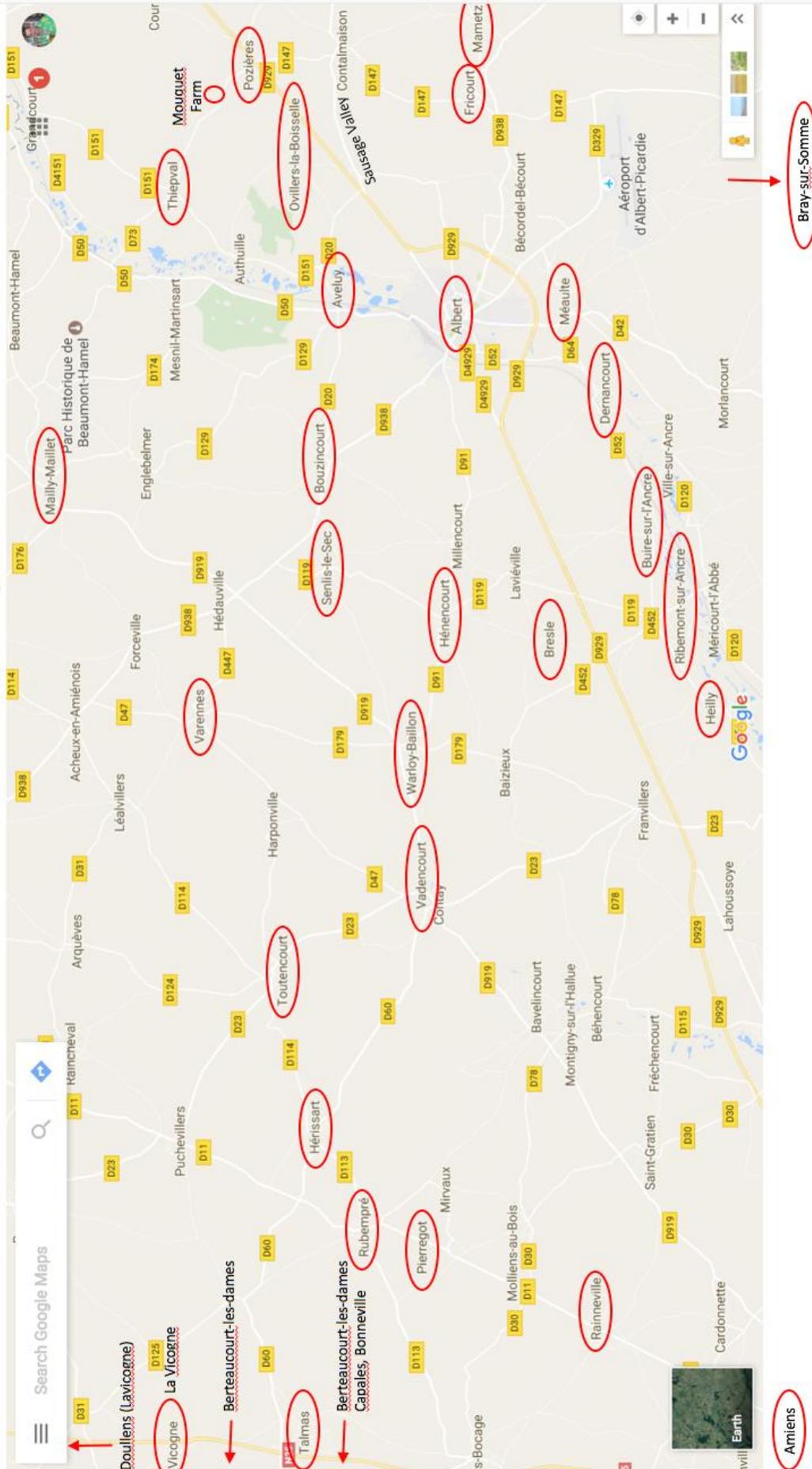
# Gerald Evans and 8th Battalion locations in Flanders September - 1916 & 1917

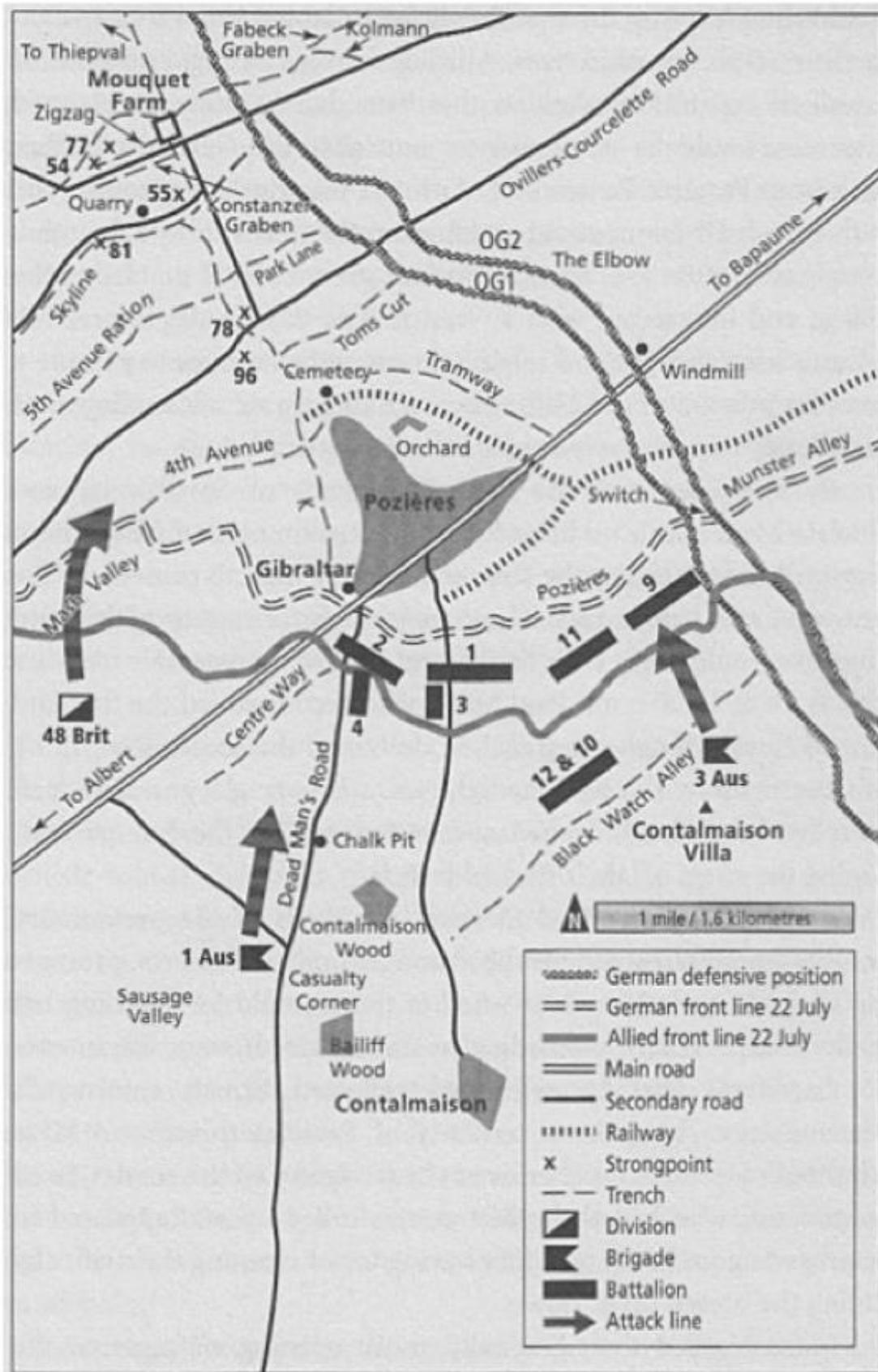




Gerald wounded here approximately here 20/9/1917. Died later at 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing station on Menin Rd (Passchendaele 1917 Museum Archivist)

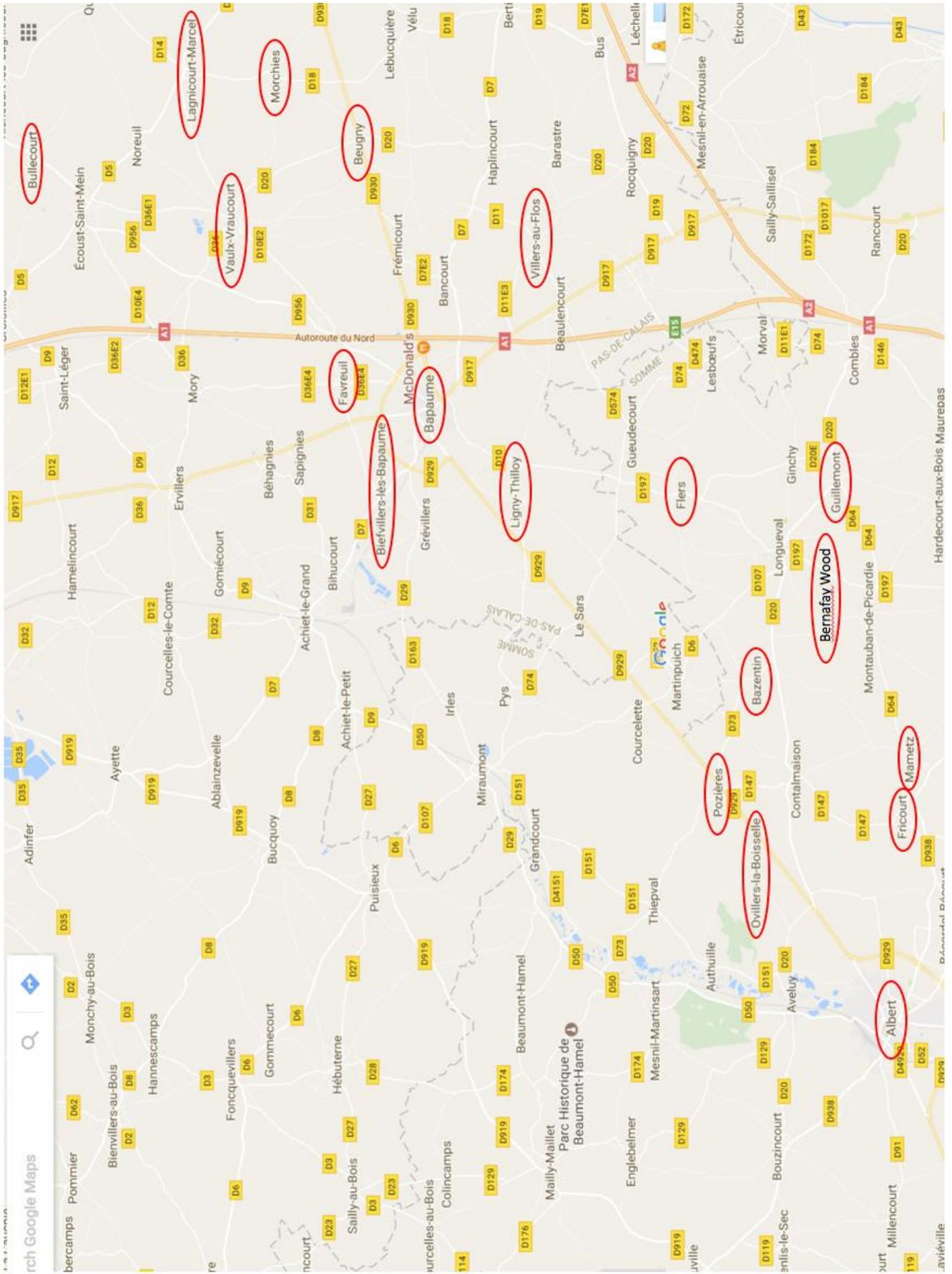
# Gerald Evans and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion locations in Somme July - August 1916, October 1916 – June 1917



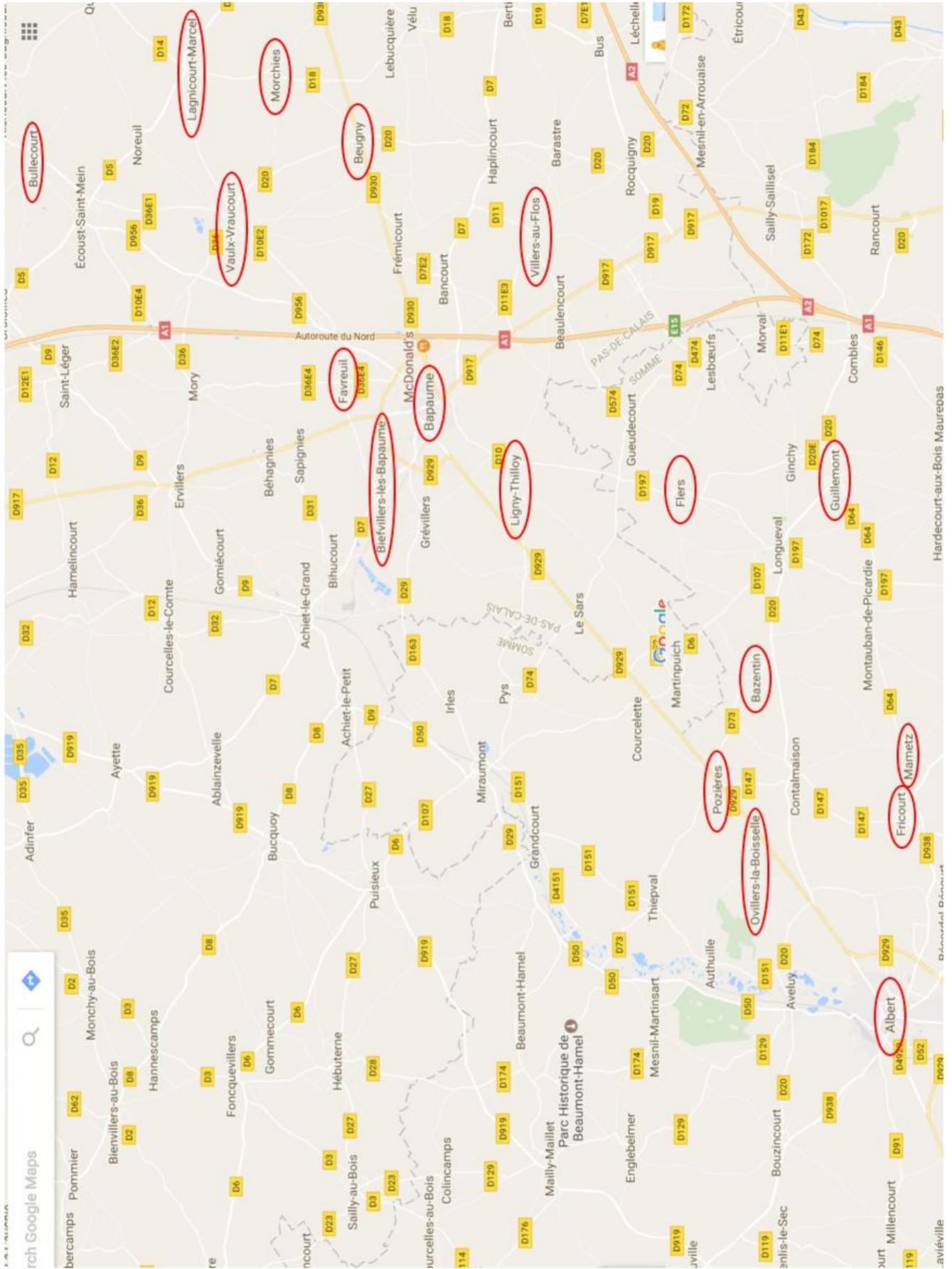


Map of Pozières battlefield between 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> September 1916  
 from "Pozières" by Scott Bennett, Map 2 pg 55.

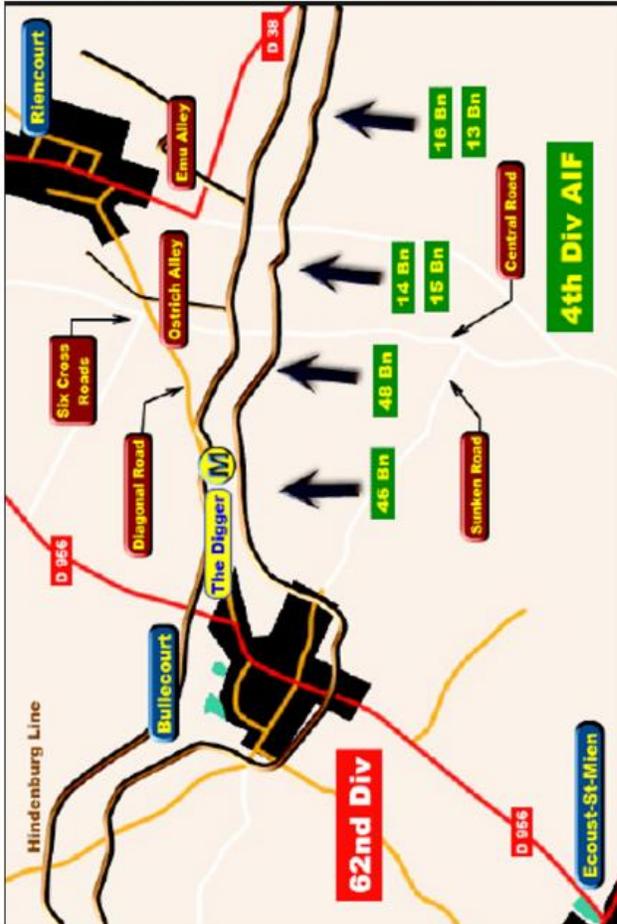
# Gerald Evans and 8th Battalion locations in Somme December 1916 – June 1917



# Gerald Evans and 8th Battalion locations in Somme December 1916 – June 1917



# Gerald Evans and 8th Battalion locations in 2nd Bullecourt 3-17 May 1917

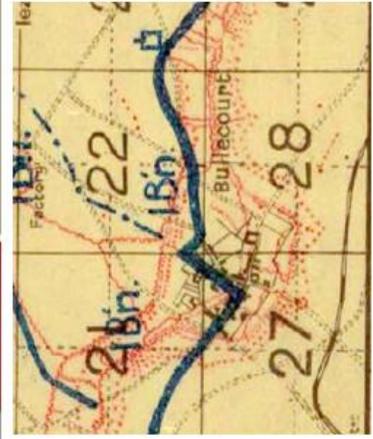
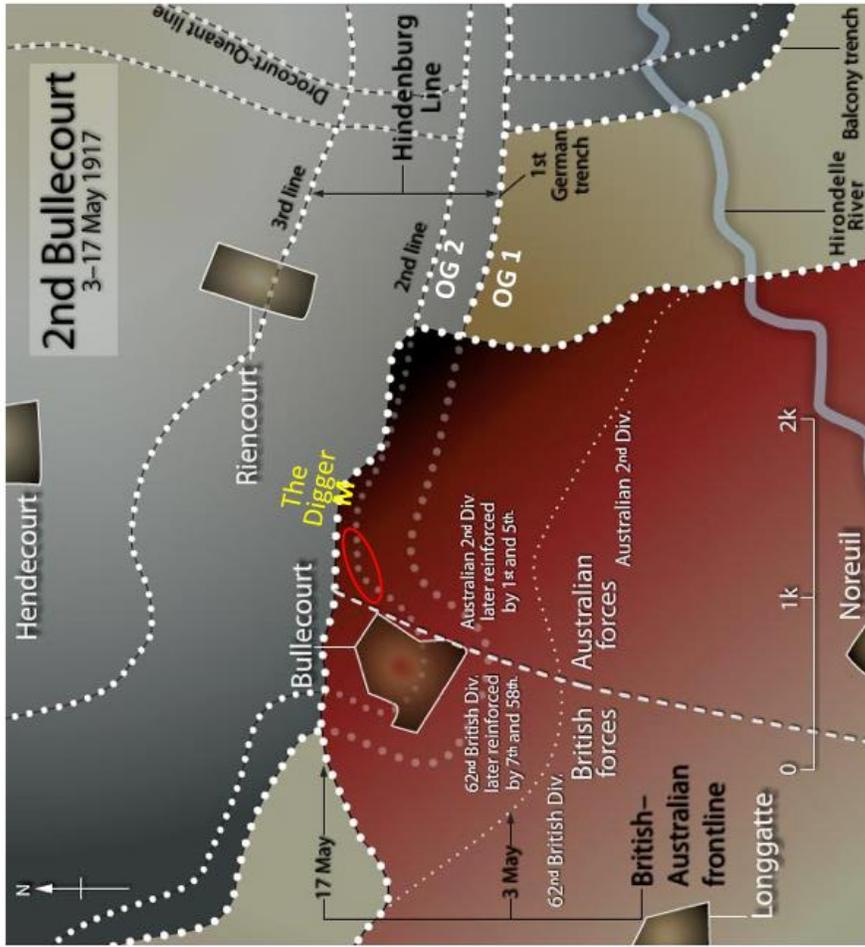


The Second Battle of Bullecourt

Three weeks after the first battle of Bullecourt the Australian 2nd Division, now with the British 62nd Division attacking on their left towards Bullecourt itself, assaulted over the same ground where the Australians had met defeat on 11 April. This time the Australian infantry attacked without tanks but was well supported by artillery. On the first day of the battle, 7 May, one Australian brigade on the right flank was unable to reach the German first line, and the British obtained only a foothold on the southern edge of Bullecourt, but the main Australian attack was successful in capturing the same German trenches the Australian 4th Division had been ejected from on 11 April. The battle continued for two weeks, the Australians and British committing four more divisions (the Australian 1st and 5th Divisions, and the 7th and 58th British Divisions). The Germans, also reinforced, made numerous unsuccessful counterattacks. By 17 May the Germans admitted defeat by ceasing attempts to recover their lost ground. Of 150,000 men from both sides who fought at Second Bullecourt, some 18,000 British and Australians, and 11,000 Germans, were killed or wounded in battle.

See "Australians on the Western Front"

<http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/bullecourt/what-happened-here.php>



Position of Gerald's MC action?

