Transcripts of letters and documents relating to

Private Ken Evans

Written during World War 1

Transcripted and collated by Evan Evans between 1994 and 2016

2399 Private Francis (Ken) Evans
51st Battalion Australian INF.
Born 13th October 1884, Redcamp
Killed in Action 13th October, 1917
Aged 33 years
Buried Passchendaele New British Cemetery,
Belgium, Plot 13, Row A, Grave 30
Ken 1903-1914
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 Althan; account Mr. E. M. Evans, the racehorse Levi; account Mr. W. E. Flanagan, chestnut buggy mare; account Mr. Wm. Lewla, 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, jr., 1 pony mare; account Mr. M. A. Evans, 1 brown pony gelding; account Mr. Gerald Evans, the hunter Ranji; 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.

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*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 Beachworth, had charge of the game.
My dear Father,
Just as line to say that I am getting along alright so far. I have been to one sheep sale & one cattle sale. So far most of the cattle are being shipped down here from the Nth West at present. I believe the shipping season ends early in October as it gets too hot after that.

During the hot weather I believe the cattle come in by train and road from the country not so far from Perth.

Prime Merino wethers brought to 28 /6 at the sale here last Wednesday and spring lambs to 26 /6, all classes of pigs are very dear also.

Perth is rather a pretty town and clean and I should think healthy.

This week I am going to a place called Mingenen about 200 miles from here. There is about 200 horses to be sold there, 100 being from one stallion but I believe they don't often have horse sales over here owing to the scarcity of horses, they usually import a good many horses from the East but I suppose they will be hard to get over there this year and prices will be high.

Love to Mother and Minnie
Your affectionate Son
Ken Evans
Gerald & Ken 1916 summary
"Ken 16/7/1916"

5th/51st Reinf.
Blackboy Hill
W.A.
July 16 1916

My dear Father -
I was very glad to get your letter & hear that you were recovering from your fall.

I was vaccinated last Thursday and it has taken alright but I don't think I will feel the affect of it very much, some of the other men have been fairly bad but are recovering.

I think we will most probably leave here on the 28th - Aug - I will be glad when we get away as I am tired of being here, the general impression seeing to that we are going to England first. If you have any relations in Wales, you might let me know a I might have an opportunity of seeing them. I should think you will have a good season at home now, after the floods, the heavy rains should kill a lot of young rabbits in the burrows also.

Tell mother that I am very well and have everything I want in the shape of clothes, etc.

With much love to Mother, Minnie & yourself
Your affec son
Ken Evans

Notes on envelope:
1. Letter posted you today
yours received since.

2. Private J. E,
5th/51st Reinf.
Blackboy Hill
W.A.

3. Your letters received today
Love
    Evans
Love to Pearlie and Allen 5th/51st Reinf.
will send you a photo soon Blackboy Hill
J.E. W.A.

July 16 1916

My dear Mother -
You are a darling to send me that nice pocket wallet, it will be very useful. I also received the socks yesterday which Minnie sent me from you. Minnie said they are your first attempt, if so you have mastered the art at first try at it.

I am on my long leave right now which amounts to four days. From what I can hear we may leave here in about four weeks time. I believe the Battalion is now in France.

I am glad you are still at Killingworth as you will have a good rest chance. I received a letter from Father yesterday, tell him I that I have signed the document & posted it to Maurice Miller. Father said that you wanted to know the names of some of my friends, I haven't any very special ones however I get on alright with most of the fellows, however Private W.E. Gillett is my best friend here, he is a little man and a gentleman.

With very much love
from F Evans

Australian War Memorial records show that on enlistment Ken (Francis) was 32 years and 4 months old when he passed his medical examination at Blackboy Hill in Perth on March 3rd 1916, being 5 ft 9½ inches (176.5 cm) tall, tanned complexion, brown eyes and brown hair, and weighed 12 st 2 lbs (77 kilos).
My dear father
We are now within about three days of the coast of England and I beliew we are to land at Devonport and go from there to the Military Camp at Salisbury Plain. By the time we land we will have been about nine weeks on the water as we left Fremantle on Sept 20th.

I am writing this letter now as I can post it directly I land. The voyage has been a remarkably calm one, only about six days with a bit rough. This boat rolls a lot though even in a calm sean.

The only ports we called at were Durban, Capetown and Dakar, the last is a French port on the west coast of Africa.

We were allowed to land at Durban only, we had about 9 hours ashore there, and had a fair time. The people were very kind & treated us well. Durban is a pretty town.

The hotels in Durban are not allowed to serve a soldier in uniform with intoxicating drink unless he has a permit, and the law is strickly enforced. I believe this is the outcome of two Australian troopships which called into Durban some time ago and the men of a certain section of them carried on most disgracefully.

They got a twelve pounder gun on board this boat at Daker for self defence in case of an attack by submarines which appear to be active at present.

We took about three hours getting through a thick fog last night, so we must be getting near to England alright.

I am very well and hope that all at home are the same. With much love to mother, I hope she received my letter which I posted at Durban, also love to yourself & Minnie.

Your affectionate son

F Evans
My dear Father,
I was very glad to receive your letter dated Oct 29th which came to hand yesterday, also one from Minnie and I am very pleased to hear that all are well at home and the season is good. No doubt you have received some letters & a cable from me since writing. I have now been over here about three weeks and am well. I have not seen any Victorians I know so far, no doubt I will see some any day now.

I received a letter from Gerald last night, he is well, I am posting a letter to him tonight. He saw Archie Patterson & Billy Forge recently, also Cliff Anderson & a Mahoney & several others, he also received a letter from Cecil Lewis from Salisbury.

Naturally it is wet and muddy here at present, but it isn't too bad, we have a dry place to sleep and enough to eat.

Give Minnie my love and tell her I received the wild flowers alright.
With fondest love to Mother and yourself.

Your affectionate son
F Evans

51st Battalion
B Company
A.I.F

(Ken would have probably joined the 51st Battalion about 10 days before. Written from Vignacourt Nth of Amiens and close to St Vaast training area, France. Gerald was not far away at Mametz)
Ken 1917 summary
My dearest Mother,
I saw Gerald for a few minutes yesterday. I was marching through a village where his Battalion had been billeted for four days and he happened to be standing on the side of the road, I couldn't stop but we saw one another at about the same time, and he walked along side me for a good way & we had a bit of a talk, I was more than glad to see him as I have been wishing to for some time & he looks really well. He was leaving there that afternoon and we are moving in the opposite directions at present.

I received a lot of letters this month & can't tell you how glad I was to get them and to hear that all are well at home & the season is good; I like the local papers next to letters. All we want now is for the infernal war to end so as we can go to our dear homes in the only country in the world for me, Australia. However all will be well yet Mother dear & try not to worry too much as 1917 ought to see the end of it.

I am well and have everything that I want.

With much love to Father, Minnie and yourself
Your loving son
F. Evans

On the 21st 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
France
Mar 22nd 17

My dearest mother,

I saw Gerald for a few minutes yesterday. Hugo marching through a village where his battalion had been billeted for four days and he happened to be standing on the side of the road. I couldn't stop but we saw one another at about the same time, & he walked alongside of me for a good way & we had a bit by a talk. I was more than glad to see him as I have been wishing to for some time & he looks really well. He was leaving there that afternoon and we are moving in opposite directions at present.

I received a lot of letters this month & I can't tell you how glad I was to get them. I like and to hear that all are well at home, & the reason good. I like the local papers next to letters.
all we want now is for this infernal war to end as soon as we can go to our dear homes in the old country in the world for me Australia however all will be well yet mother dear I try not to worry too much as 1919 ought to see the end of it

I am well and have everything I want

With much love to father Mummy, Yourself & all at home

Your loving Son

J Evans
My dearest Minnie,
I received two letters from you yesterday & was very glad to get them, it is very good of you to write so often.

I received a note from Gerald yesterday he is well, no doubt you have received a letter from me saying that I had seen him about three weeks ago & he was looking very well. I was very pleased to see him as I was always wishing to

........missing..... looked me up yesterday
........missing..... that we were
........missing..... a day he has
........missing..... me a letter
........missing..... just received
........missing..... wished to be remembered to all at Redcamp. Gerald saw Frank Corker & Harry Wallace a few days ago.

That is a very good photo of Ginger & he looks very happy, I can't recognise many in the picnic party. I received a very nice handkerchief from Dorothy & a booklet from Marjory, am going to write to them.

With much love to Mother, Father and yourself

Your loving Bro

Ken

Please excuse writing, hands cold.

(written from near Bécordel-Bécourt, France. Had been in the line at Noreuil (near Bullecourt, at 1st Bullecourt) from 27/3-13/4/1917)
My dearest Mother,
I received your photo safely & was so glad to get it as I have often wished for one. I suppose Dorothy took it.

Minnie said you were going away for a change & you will probably be away when this arrives. I am always thinking of you & looking forward to the time when I will be home again.

The soldiers are all tired of this & that is putting it very mildly. I am very glad Evan was turned down. Tell Mary I did not meet any girls in England, was only there for three weeks.

With much love to yourself, Father and Minnie
Your loving son
Ken
F Evans

*(written from near Buire-sur-l’Ancre, France)*
April 21st 1917

Dear Mother,

I received your photo safely, I was so glad to get it as I have often wished for one. I suppose Dorothy took it.

Minnie said you were going away for a change. You will probably be away when this arrives. I am always thinking of you. I am looking forward to the time when I will be home again.

The soldiers are all tired but this is putting it very mildly. I am very glad Evan was turned down.

Tell Mary I did not meet any girls in England was only there three weeks.
My dear Evan,
I received a letter from you yesterday & was very glad to get it & Mothers photo I have often wished I had one. It is very good of you to write, I know I am a rotten correspondent.

It is very comforting to get letters from home and to hear that all are well & things in general are satisfactory. No doubt my letters will have reached home saying I had seen Gerald.

It was hard luck the filly getting hurt when she was going so well, I suppose you will try her again later on.

The weather is still bad and there has been a lot of snow this month. We are resting now and have been out of the line for a week.

With much love to Mother, Father, Minnie
Your loving brother
F Evans

(written from near Buire-sur-l’Ancre, France)
My dear Father,
I received several letters from you lately and was very glad indeed to get them, I also got two from Minnie since writing to her last. I have been getting good numbers of papers lately.

Our Battalion has had a pretty solid time of late, we are resting now.

It is a pity Safety Brake won't stand work enough to get her fit, as she would win races.

I am quite well, with the exception of Rheumatism which comes on now & again.

Trusting that all are well at home.

With much love to Mother, Minnie & yourself

Your loving son

F Evans

PS Hope to see Gerald again shortly

JE

(written from near Buire-sur-l'Ancre, France)
My dearest Minnie,

I read a letter from Gerald dated 1st just & and he was well & I may see him during the next week or so. His friend Campbell was hit rather badly but was doing well.

Our Battalion had rather a rough time when last on the line. We have been resting now for about three weeks and we needed it, expect to moving again shortly, of course we do the usual drill and practice route marches etc. I had a leave for a day yesterday to Amiens. It was a change to get away, there are some nice shops there and the cathedral is fine, well worth the journey to see it. The business people are only allowed to serve soldiers with refreshments, liquid or solid from 12pm till 2 & from 6 to 8.

The crops are beginning to show up now, some of them are about six inches high. The weather has been fine for about three weeks & some days fairly warm.

With much love to Mother, Father and yourself

Your loving brother

(Ken) F Evans

(*written from Buire-sur-l’Ancre, France*)
My dearest Mother
I have written a good many letters home lately, but it is some time since I wrote to you.

We have had a fairly easy time during the last four weeks away from the line, and the weather has been good.

I had a letter from Joe Lewis about a week ago advising me of the present which I have answered. It is very king of the people in the district.

I believe a good many more Australians are coming this way and I may have the chance of seeing Gerald again shortly. I haven’t heard from him for some time. I suppose he has been too busy to write.

Joe Lewis is very hot agains the men who are not enlisting. I would vote against conscription in Australia.

I hope you enjoyed your visit to Merriang. It is a very nice old place. I suppose Minnie and Edie are having a good holiday in Sydney.

There is not much of interest that one can write about here.

With much love to father, Minnie, yourself and all at home.

Your loving son
Ken  signed F. Evans

*51st Battalion were at Hondegam at this time training. Not far from Baillel.*
My dearest Minnie,
I hadn't received any letters for some time until today when I got ten all from home with the exception of two which were from Doris Notcutt, needless to say I was very glad to get them.

I got two letters within the last ten days from Gerald, he is well & has won the Military Cross. He said in his last letter that Frank Corker had been severely wounded.

I am glad to hear that you and Edie enjoyed your holiday in Sydney. Harriet Graham did well to run second in the Sydney Cup considering she got a bad run, it was a pity, she probably would have won had she got through alright.

I would cable you some times but we privates are not allowed to do so except for special reasons such as being wounded etc. I believe the reason for the restrictions is that soldiers are limited to a certain number of messages on the cable & the authorities wish to give the wounded and sick the preference, I suppose one reason is as good as another however the fact remains we can't send one. What you saw in the paper with regard to the Divisions is not true, the usual work is being done. You don't want to take much notice of the utterances of the politicians, they are often wide of the truth & most of them will say anything to gain their ends, the same remarks apply to their agents who are touring Australia at the present time.

Father says in his letter that I don't say much about what I am doing. Tell him that I can't say much, also that I don't need any money as I have arranged with the Commonwealth Bank, London Branch, to draw money when I require it, tell him that it is not true that the soldiers get any extra money to buy food with except the officers, who I believe get a little extra per day field pay. I have enough to eat in the army, of course sometimes in the fighting line we have to go short of rations, but it can not be helped and does not last for long & when out of the line, can usually buy extra food if required.

I have not received the parcel yet, but it may arrive alright. I have enough socks etc for the present; it isn't much use sending parcels of eatables etc unless they are registered, as the sharks along the way mop them up and they don't get as far as their owner.

With much love to Mother, Father & yourself
Your loving brother
F Evans

(Written from Steent-Je, south of Bailleul)
My dearest Mamie,

I hadn't received any letters for some time until today when I got two all from home with the exception of two which were from Doris Nottcutt. Needless to say I was very glad indeed to get them.

I have got two letters within the last ten days from Gerald. He is well & has won the Military Cross. He said in his last that he heard that Frank Carter had been severely wounded.

I am glad to know that you have enjoyed your holiday in Sydney as Harriet Graham and well to finish second in the Sydney Cup considering she got a bad start. It was a pity she probably would have won had she got through alright.

I would cable to you some times but we prisoners are not allowed to do so now except for special reasons such as being wounded etc. I believe the reason for this restriction is that the soldiers are limited to a certain number of messages on the cable & the authorities wish to give the wounded first preference. I suppose one reason is as good as another. However, the fact remains we can't send one.
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Money and the firstantity can get food if it is
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may arrive alright I have enough socks etc.
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parcels of eatables etc. unless they are registered
as the Shanks along the way more then up and
they don't get as far as their owners.

With many love to mother father yourself
Your loving Brother

# Town
O.A.S.

Miss M. Evans.

Redcamp

Moylan.

Via Wangaratta

Australia Victoria
My dearest Mother,
I received two parcels lately, one containing sox which I mentioned in a letter to Minnie, the last came two days ago, containing tobacco, sweets etc. Received a letter from Gerald last Friday, he is quite well, his Company is preparing for the Batt in the Brigade sports.

A chap in this Batt who has just returned from hospital in England saw Harry Whitty there, he says Harry is still far from well & thinks he will be sent back home from what he told me I think it is lung trouble.

Before I left Australia, I allotted four shillings of my pay to be paid into my account at the Commonwealth Bank, the A/C was to be transferred to London so as I could draw upon it if I wished, which has been done & part of the money has been paid in although the A.I.F. are usually about three months in arrears. Up till now I haven't drawn any of it as I haven't wanted any, however I wrote for 5 pounds about two weeks ago and received a reply yesterday saying that the A.I.F. had prohibited registered letters to soldiers in France and it was of course unsafe to send money by non-registered post, the only alternative that seems to be at all practical is for them to send a cheque, which I am writing them to do, however I will probably have some trouble getting it cashed.

I am not telling you this so as you will send money, because don't send any what ever you do as I have some and am not hard up .....

This is just another of the annoying restrictions imposed by the AIF on the soldiers.

We have been out of the line for about three weeks & had a fairly easy time. One of the men carried a pet rabbit about with him for about a fortnight. I am sure he must be a West Australian & don’t know what a pest they are in the Eastern states, however yesterday another man saw the rabbit running about and promptly killed it. I am sure the man must have been from the Eastern States, as it was the most natural thing for him to do.

We had Australian rabbit for tea last evening.

I hope you have a good holiday at Merriang and no doubt Minnie and Edie would enjoy themselves in Sydney.

It was funny that girl writing to father for my address as she is engaged to a chap in the artillery.

With much love to Father, Minnie & yourself
Your loving son
F Evans

(Written from De Seule (Bulford Camp – in training), also SE of Bailleul)
"iKen 22/7/1917"

France
July 22nd -17

My dearest Minnie,
I have not received any mail from home for a good while, no doubt it has been lost in those boats that have been sunk recently.

I believe there was a mail lost bound for Australia not long ago. I wrote alot of letters about that time, I hope they were not on that boat.

I heard from Gerald a fortnight ago, he is quite well. We came out of the line two days ago, the last time was not as bad as usual. There has been a spell of cool weather lately and some rain. There is not much news I can write about.

With much love to Mother, Father, & yourself
Your loving brother
F Evans

(Written from De Seule (Bulford Camp – in training), also SE of Bailleul)
France
July 22, 1917

My dearest Minnie,

I have not received any mail from your mother in the last few weeks. It is quite possible, with the amount of writing that was going on, that she may have been delayed.

As for the weather, it has been a bit chilly, and I have put on more clothes. I am not particularly bothered by the weather, though.

I hope that you are well.

With much love,

Your loving brother,

[Signature]

[Note: The handwriting is quite difficult to read.]
A letter to Private Ken Evans from his father John Evans

On Active Service
re 2399
Private K. Evans
B Company
51st Infantry Battalion
Australian Imperial Force Abroad

Undeliverable
A.B.B.O.
Return to Sender

Killed in Action
13-10-1917
F. Smith Capt.
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 20th Sept. was sent by Canon Cue to Bertie on 25th. 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
Redeem
May 1917
Helena Australia
27 Oct 1917

My dear Ken,

I sent you a cable last week, reading "Sympathy loys of Gerald Mother love" 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 arrive a quater sooner. The cable informing us that our darling Gerald had incur of wounds on the 20th Sept. instant by Canon Cuno to Bertie on 25th. Bertie & Carrie came here the same evening. I was at Charlie's home. Albury. The Griffith's 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 knew that both Gerald and you would lie in the tables then raging. The Griffith's boys were most kindly sympathetic and arranged that a car would be ready at 6 am next morning to take Charlie & me home to and start but floods were too high that we had to go back & catch the express at Broadway. When we arrived at Warrimatta Bertie had just got back from Redeem. He and Mr. Sparklands met us and arranged for Tommy Ham to go back with us to Redeem.
All here were terribly broken up. None of us could quite realize the blow that had fallen upon us. I felt 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 that more like Gerald. I have prayed that your two boys might be spared to come back to us, and that God might bring us all to know our duty to Him. Each one has to serve Him. Many who are here here feel the loss of Gerald very deeply. Katie wanted to come up to London. I think your aunt is coming from Sydney. Your mother knew her well and put a brave face on for the sake of the rest of us but offered 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, let them. I wish I could place my arms around him and hold him and tell him to bear up and come back to us. We will pray for you.

With dearest love,

Your Father

John Evans
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 cam by car that night to Redcamp. Evan said he new 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Diary Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13/10/1917</td>
<td>Frontline - Zonnebeke</td>
<td>Working with 45th Battalion. Shelling eases off during day Ken killed by shell on this day along with Lance Corporal Raemers and Pte Kennedy on Zonnebeke ridge just beyond Broodseinde, Belgium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Area in which Ken Evans was killed by a shell, 13th October 1917
Ken after death 1917 summary

Last Post, Menin Gate, Julie and Dad, July 2000
Francis Evans was born at ................. and was the third youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Evans of Redcamp, Moyhu, via Wangaratta, and a brother of David Gerald Evans. He was born in 1885 and was at Melbourne Grammar School in 1902 and 1903. On leaving school after being on Redcamp station with his father he joined a firm of Stock and Station agents first in Wangaratta and then with Dalgety & Co. Ltd. in Perth. He enlisted in Western Australia and was a signaller in the 51st Battalion. After a year at the Front he was killed by a shell at Zonnebeke on 13th October, 1917.

ANON
Dear Miss Evans
In answer to your letter written on Nov 25th 1917 enquiring about your brother, I am very sorry to tell you he was killed on the 10th October 1917 near Zonnebeke, Ypres. During our attack at that date mentioned, he was shot through the heart by a bullet, so suffered no pain whatsoever (*sic not consistent with official reports of him being killed instantly by a shell*). He was buried on the same night at Zonnebeke and a cross put up.

Your brother was one of my Coy Signallers and very brave chap he was. At any time I happen to be back on that front, I will have his grave photo taken and send it along to you.

This war has cause a lot of worry. I have lost three brothers and it is very hard writing home and telling ones mother about them, but still it is war. I don’t know that there is any more I can tell you about your brother. All parcels are returned to base, I do not know what will become of them then.

Yours truly
F Smith, Capt.

*Note added by Minnie to copy sent to Allan*

Dear Allan,
This is a copy of a letter just received. I know you and Pearlie would wish to see it. I take it that the letter? is a real Australian? saeneir? here to your both.

J.M.
suffered the pain what so ever. He never mention one
the cause any thing at all about your
brother was once I my boy
Signals and every thing had to be sent after the man
I forgotten I shall live as I was told I love you with all my
heart I shall send you all of your letters and will write
very hard writing to love
and telling our Mother about
you. But still it is one love
I have about you. I am back at the base I don’t know
what because of the news

Your truly Capn.
Card:
Mr and Mrs J Jarrott & family desire to express their very deep sympathy with Mr and Mrs J. Evans & family in their sad bereavement by the loss of their son and brother Private Frank Evans

Briarvale, Myrrhee
Dec. 12. 17

Dear Miss Evans
I did not write to your sooner, I was quite upset and could not bring myself together when I heard about your nobel brother’s death. I ask you all and to all you can to cheer your dear mother in her hour of greatest trial. I know what it is to loose a cherished son on the battlefield and therefore feel for you maother as only a mother that has lost a son can. I cannot write more. With best wishes from a bereaved mother.
Marther Jarrott.
Mr. & Mrs. T. Jarrott & Family

Desire to express their very deep sympathy with Mrs. & Mrs. Evans & Family in their sad bereavement by the loss of their son and brother Private Frank Evans.

Dear Miss Evans

Dec. 13, 1917

I did not write to you sooner as I was quite upset and could not bring myself together when I heard about your noble brother’s death. I now ask you all to do all you can to cheer your dear brother in her hour of greatest trial. I know what it is to lose a cherished son on the battle field and therefore can feel for your mother as only a mother that has lost a son can. I cannot write more.

With best wishes from a bereaved mother

Martha Jarrott
**OM'S War Services**

**Obituary Notices**

**Francis Evans** who was killed in action in France on 13th October 1917 was the younger son of Mr. John Evans of "Redcamp," Moyhu near Wangaratta and was one of several brothers who were with us. He was born in 1885 and was at School from 1902 and 1903, being in the crew in the latter year. On leaving School he was with his father at Redcamp for some time and then went into business with J.T. Brown & Co., stock and station agents. He went to Western Australia and was appointed auctioneer to Dalgety & Co., at Perth. He had excellent prospects but could not resist the call to duty, and enlisted in Western Australia, joining the 51st Battalion, in which he was signaller. He had been about a year at the front when he was killed by a shell at Zonnebeke. He had a dramatic meeting with his brother Gerald in France. They had not met for eight months and as Frank's battalion was marching into camp Gerald, not knowing who they were, stood by the roadside. Suddenly Gerald recognised Frank and called to him. He ran after the battalion and marched beside his brother for some distance exchanging greetings. This was their last meeting in this world, for both made the supreme sacrifice.

**Our Honored Dead**

Francis Evans

Killed in Action 13th Oct. 1917

**RSL Virtual Memorial link:**

**National Archives of Australia link (details of service):**
Kens original grave in Belgium:

Ken’s final grave head stone type supplied by Commonwealth War Graves Commission
"Ken's Grave"

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

IN MEMORY OF

(Name) EVANS. Francis
(No.) 2399 (Rank) Pte
(Unit) 51st Bn
Reinterred Passchendaele New British Cemetery
plot 13 Row A Grave 30
Nearest Railway Station Ypes, Belgium.
Ken Summary:

**Roll of Honour**

**Francis Evans**

Rank: Private [Pte]  
Service Number: 2399  
Unit: 51 Bn Australian Inf  
Service: Army  
Conflict: 1914-1918  
Date of Death: 13 October 1917  
Cause of Death: Killed in action  
Cemetery or Memorial Details: BELGIUM 123 Passchendaele New British Cemetery  

Source: 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 51st Battalion AIF and Ken Evans’ movements
December 1916 to October 1917

Source 1: Diaries of the 51st Infantry Battalion, AIF, 1914-1918

51st Australian Infantry Battalion (From AWM)

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 51st moved into the trenches of the Western Front within a fortnight. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and September, and suffered casualties equivalent to a third of its strength in both of the attacks (14 August and 3 September) it launched. After Mouquet Farm, the battalion saw out the rest of the year, alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. On 2 April it attacked at Noreuil, a village which had been fortified to delay the Australian advance. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the battle of Messines between 7 and 12 June and the battle of Polygon Wood between 26 and 27 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This occurred in France in late March and the 4th Division moved to defend positions around Dernancourt on the River Ancre. The 51st Battalion assisted in the repulse of a large German attack on 5 April, launching a critical counter-attack late in the day. The German threat remained until late April, and in the early hours of ANZAC Day 1918 the 51st participated in the now legendary attack to dislodge the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux.

When the Allies launched their own offensive in early August, the 51st Battalion was among the units involved and played an active role until the middle of that month, before moving to duties in the rear area. The battalion was ordered forward again in early September, in preparation for its last major operation of the war. On 18 September it provided part of the 4th Division's reserve for the attack on the Hindenburg "outpost line". Not long after the Armistice on 11 November 1918, drafts of men began returning to Australia for discharge. With the departure of the last of these on 5 May 1919, the 51st Battalion disbanded.

Battalion History:
Extracted from 51st Battalion AIF diaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>51st Battalion Location</th>
<th>51st Battalion and Ken Evans’ activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30/11/1916</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Reconnaissance of front line trenches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/12/1916</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Working party fatigues back to Buire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12/1916</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Relief of 52nd Battalion Bulls Rd, Grove Avenue, Hay Avenue, Flare Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12/1916</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Very clear day, German aeroplanes very busy, drop flares to guide artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/12/1916</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Relief by 12th Battalion, shift out to Meault then on to Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Complete march to Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>MO inspection for Trench foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Cleaning and Bath parades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Route march</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12/1916</td>
<td>Sun Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Voluntary Church parade and route march</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Musketry Rand Practice (grouping 30 yds range)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Voluntary Church parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/12/1916</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Moved from Buire-sur-l’Ancre to Vignacourt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/12/1916</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Moved from Buire-sur-l’Ancre to Vignacourt (Close to St Vaast training area) – 79 reinforcements arrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-23/12/1916</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Training and route marches – 55 reinforcements arrive. Ken probably joins Battalion at this point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/12/1916</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Church parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/12/1916</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Church parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30/12/1916</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Training and route marches – and range practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/12/1916</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Church parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/1917</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>68 reinforcements arrive, Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/1917</td>
<td>Vignacourt</td>
<td>Marched from Vignacourt to Cardonette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/1917</td>
<td>Cardonette</td>
<td>Marched from Cardonette to Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/1/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Marched from Buire-sur-l’Ancre to Fricourt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1917</td>
<td>Fricourt</td>
<td>Battalion located at Sydney Camp and did some improvements - 25 reinforcements arrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/1917</td>
<td>Fricourt</td>
<td>Marched from Buire-sur-l’Ancre to Bazentin camp B, (Bendigo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1/1917</td>
<td>Bazentin</td>
<td>Working party on Switch trench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14/1/1917</td>
<td>Bazentin</td>
<td>Usual working parties carrying and improving camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/1/1917</td>
<td>Bazentin</td>
<td>Commenced new Duckwalk communication trench to Flers along with normal working and carrying parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-26/1/1917</td>
<td>Bazentin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/1/1917</td>
<td>Bazentin</td>
<td>Relief of 50th Battalion at Flers. Gap trench and Switch Trench with 2 Coys at Hobart Camp – epidemic of mumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/1/1917</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Working parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-31/1/1917</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Working parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2/1917</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Working parties on Hay Reserve, Forage Avenue, Switch and Gap tenches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5/2/1917</td>
<td>Flers</td>
<td>Normal working, carrying and wiring parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-14/2/1917</td>
<td>Guedecourt</td>
<td>Take over of front line from the 49th Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/2/1917</td>
<td>Guedecourt</td>
<td>Minor attack successfully achieved – was this the beginning of the German retreat to the Hindenburg line? After attack Germans laid down a heavy barrage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/2/1917</td>
<td>Guedecourt</td>
<td>Battalion relieved by 50th Battalion and moves to Perth Camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example of training Syllabus:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17/2/1917</td>
<td>Perth Camp</td>
<td>Battalion engaged in supplying, working, carrying and wiring in Bde area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/2/1917</td>
<td>Perth Camp</td>
<td>Battalion moves to Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28/2/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Reorganisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>7.5 mile route march</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Brigade attack practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Practice attack – concentrated attacks on consolidated positions under cover of intense artillery barrage from trench or position within 2-300 years of enemy position. Further training in the use of ground, fire discipline, fire direction control &amp; mutual fire support is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Practice attack in conjunction with 49th Batt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/3/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Battalion moved Buire-sur-l’Ancre to Mametz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Gerald and Ken meet on the 21st 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-Vrącourt 28/3/1917 to 13/4/1917. Dernacourt is almost on a direct line between Buire-sur-l’Ancre and Mametz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22/3/1917</td>
<td>Mametz</td>
<td>Battalion moved Mametz to camp near Le Barque on Albert-Baupame Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/3/1917</td>
<td>Mametz</td>
<td>Battalion moved Mametz to camp near Le Barque on Albert-Baupame Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/3/1917</td>
<td>Le Barque</td>
<td>Battalion moved Le Barque via Bapaume to Vaulx-Vrącourt to relieve 25th Batt AIF. As movement had been rapid, the line of the 25th Batt was somewhat uncertain. Line of outposts right and front of Vrącourt Copse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29/3/1917</td>
<td>Vaulx-Vrącourt</td>
<td>Advanced on right to 300 yds in from of V Copse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-31/3/1917</td>
<td>Vaulx-Vrącourt</td>
<td>Some reorganisation of line for further attacks – light casualties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2/4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>Advance and attack Noreuil – report attached on this attack – seems like there was some German resistance as they were getting close to Hindenburg line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>Relieved by 49th Battalion and move back to Vaulx-Vrącourt area – supported 49th Batt by occupying Noreuil-Longatte rd (locality near Ecoust-Saint-Mein)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6/4/1917</td>
<td>Vaulx-Vrącourt</td>
<td>I reserve at old front line of Vrącourt Copse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>Relieved 49th Batt at around Noreuil?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10/4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>Move up towards Bulecourt to support 12th Bgd AIF to support their attack on Bulecourt and attach on Hindenburg line – Attack delayed due to late arrival of tanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11/4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>Tanks arrive and preparation for attack in support of 4th and 12th AIF Brigades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12/4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>1st Battle of Bulecourt, on 12th Batt relieved by 45th Batt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/4/1917</td>
<td>Noreuil</td>
<td>Batt relieved by 19th Batt and moved to camp near Beugnatre (</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/4/17</td>
<td>Beugnatre</td>
<td>March from Beugnatre to Bapaume to entrain to Albert and march to Bécordel-Bécourt camp (3 miles from Albert)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16/4/1917</td>
<td>Bécordel-Bécourt</td>
<td>Battalion resting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18/4/1917</td>
<td>Bécordel-Bécourt</td>
<td>Training according to syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/4/1917</td>
<td>Bécordel-Bécourt</td>
<td>Move from Bécordel-Bécourt to Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24/4/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Syllabus training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/4/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Brigade Sports and anniversary dinners all ranks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/4/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Syllabus training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/4/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Brigade Church Parade, Gen Birdwood attended and distributed MM ribbons to 7 members of Battalion for Noreuil operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-7/5/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Syllabus training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9/5/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Training including Divisional Rifl Competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Brigade route march of 8 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/5/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Divisional Parade and inspection by Army Corps Comander Gen Sir WR Birdwood – presentation of medals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14/5/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Coy tactical exercises and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/5/1917</td>
<td>Buire-sur-l’Ancre</td>
<td>Move from Buire-sur-l’Ancre to Albert to entrain and go to Caestre (west of Bailuel).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/5/1917</td>
<td>Caestre</td>
<td>Arrive 5pm Caestre and marched 8 miles to billets at Steent-Je (next to Bailuel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/5/1917</td>
<td>Steent-Je</td>
<td>Arrive 5pm Caestre and marched 8 miles to billets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20/5/1917</td>
<td>Steent-Je</td>
<td>Training as per Syllabus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 21/5/1917  | Steent-Je            | This is strange, Ken’s letter 22/5/1917 says that he and Gerald met on road while Ken’s Battalion was marching on 21/5/1917. However 51st diaries say Ken and the 51st were near Belgium near Bailleul – training at Steent-Je??? Maybe Gerald or Ken were on a special assignment – Ken maybe as he was a signaller???
<p>| 22-24/5/1917 | Steent-Je            | Training as per Syllabus                                                    |
| 25/5/1917  | Steent-Je            | Battalion moved out to S.28.a-sheet 28 1/40,000                              |
| 26-30/5/1917 | S.28.a-sheet 28      | Training and working parties to work as fatigues and guards                 |
| 31/5/1917  | S.28.a-sheet 28      | March from S.28.a-sheet 28 to Morbeque (Sth Hazebrouck)                     |
| 1-3/6/1917  | S.28.a-sheet 28      | Supplying working parties and training                                        |
| 4/6/1917   | S.28.a-sheet 28      | Battalion moves to Neuve Eglise area in Belgium                             |
| 5/6/1917   | Neuve Eglise         | Shift in preparation for attack at Messines                                  |
| 6/6/1917   | Neuve Eglise         | Shift in preparation for attack at Messines                                  |
| 7/6/1917   | Messines             | Attack on Messines-Wytchaete ridge “green line” commenced.                   |
| 8-11/6/1917 | Messines             | See operations report                                                       |
| 12/6/1917  | Messines             | Battalion moved out of forward lines to Camp at De Seule                     |
| 13-16/6/1917 | De Seule             | In reserve                                                                  |
| 17/6/1917  | De Seule             | Battalion moves from De Seule to St Omer area by motor Transport to Wardrecques (SE of St Omer) |
| 18-20/6/1917 | Wardrecques          | Training                                                                    |
| 21/6/1917  | Wardrecques          | Battalion moves from Wardrecques to Steent-Je by motor transport             |
| 22-24/6/1917 | Steent-Je            | Training                                                                    |
| 26/6/1917  | Steent-Je            | Officers and men who received medals for attack on Messines attended parade held by HRH Duke of Connaught in Square at Bailleul |
| 30/6/1917  | Steent-Je            | Battalion moves from Steent-Je to De Seule (Bulford Camp)                    |
| 1/7/1917 Sun | De Seule (Bulford Camp) | Training according to Syllabus.                                                |
| 2-12/7/1917 | De Seule (Bulford Camp) | Training according to Syllabus.                                                |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13/7/1917</td>
<td>De Seule (Bulford Camp)</td>
<td>Battalion relieves 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Battalion in Front Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14/7/1917</td>
<td>Messines</td>
<td>Enemy patrol attack – no casualties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/7/1917</td>
<td>Messines</td>
<td>Ordered to attack and capture enemy post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/7/1917</td>
<td>Messines</td>
<td>Enemy raid, two lewis guns captured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ploegsteert Wood</td>
<td>Battalion relieved by 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Wellington and 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Auckland NZ bats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/7/1917</td>
<td>De Seule (Bulford Camp)</td>
<td>Clean up, inspection and reorganisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/7/1917</td>
<td>De Seule (Bulford Camp)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/7/1917</td>
<td>Steent-Je west</td>
<td>Battalion moves to West of Steent-Je</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/7/1917</td>
<td>Steent-Je west</td>
<td>Brigade Inspection by Army Cdr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-30/7/1917</td>
<td>Steent-Je west</td>
<td>Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/7/1917</td>
<td>Steent-Je west</td>
<td>Shift to Vieux-Berquin area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-7/8/1917</td>
<td>Vieux-Berquin area</td>
<td>Training according to Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/8/1917</td>
<td>Vieux-Berquin area</td>
<td>Battalion moved from Vieux-Berquin area to Kemmel area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10/8/1917</td>
<td>Kemmel area</td>
<td>Orders to move in support of 57&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Division (4 hrs notice) if they come under attack otherwise training as per syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20/8/1917</td>
<td>Kemmel area</td>
<td>Training, fatigue work, carrying wiring and constructing support trenches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/8/1917</td>
<td>Kemmel area</td>
<td>Battalion moves to Wulverghem sector (behind lines at Messeine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/8/1917</td>
<td>Wulverghem sector</td>
<td>Battalion relieves 52&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-30/8/1917</td>
<td>Wulverghem sector</td>
<td>Fatigue work, carrying wiring and constructing support trenches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/8/1917</td>
<td>Wulverghem sector</td>
<td>Move from Wulverghem to Neuvre Eglise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9/1917</td>
<td>Neuvre Eglise</td>
<td>Move from Neuvre Eglise via Hazebrouck to Hondegam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3/9/1917</td>
<td>Hondegam</td>
<td>Reorganisation and elementary training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9/1917</td>
<td>Hondegam</td>
<td>Move from Hondegam to Matringhem (Sth of St Omer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-15/9/1917</td>
<td>Matringhem</td>
<td>Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-9/1917</td>
<td>Matringhem</td>
<td>Training and Battalion exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/9/1917</td>
<td>Matringhem</td>
<td>Training and Battalion exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18/9/1917</td>
<td>Matringhem</td>
<td>Training and Battalion exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/9/1917</td>
<td>Matringhem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/9/1917</td>
<td>Matringhem</td>
<td>Battalion moved by bus from Matringhem to Steenvoorde area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Day that Gerald died of wounds at start of 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Battle of Ypres</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/9/1917</td>
<td>Steenvoorde area</td>
<td>Move forward to Pioneer Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/9/1917</td>
<td>Pioneer Camp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/9/1917</td>
<td>Pioneer Camp</td>
<td>Move forward to Esplanade Sap, Ypres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/9/1917</td>
<td>Ypres</td>
<td>Completed arrangements for attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/9/1917</td>
<td>Ypres</td>
<td>Move forward from Ramparts dugouts, Ypres to Westhoek Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/9/1917</td>
<td>Westhoek Ridge</td>
<td>Move forward from Westhoek Ridge to front line and advance, light casualties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Activity Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/9/1917</td>
<td>Westhoek Ridge</td>
<td>Consolidate positions and put 350 yds of wiring in front of trenches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/9/1917</td>
<td>Westhoek Ridge</td>
<td>Battalion relieved by 46th Battalion and move back to reserve Westhoek Ridge positions – working parties burying cables, making tracks forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/9/1917</td>
<td>Westhoek Ridge</td>
<td>Working parties burying cables, making tracks forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/9/1917</td>
<td>Westhoek Ridge</td>
<td>Working parties burying cables, making tracks forward then Battalion relieved by 47th Battalion and move to Halifax Camp (Ypres?).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10/1917</td>
<td>Halifax Camp (Ypres?)</td>
<td>Move from Halifax camp after bathing to Steenvoorde area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-9/10/1917</td>
<td>Steenvoorde area</td>
<td>Reorganising, reequipping, and training, particularly on taped lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10/1917</td>
<td>Steenvoorde area</td>
<td>Batt marched to Abeele Railway station and entrained for Ypres and bivowacked at the Convent behind Ypres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10/1917</td>
<td>Ypres</td>
<td>Battalion relieves 49th Battalion in area in front of Zonnebeke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10/1917</td>
<td>Frontline - Zonnebeke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/10/1917</td>
<td>Frontline - Zonnebeke</td>
<td>Working with 45th Battalion. Shelling eases off during day Ken Killed by shell on this day along with Lance Corporal Raemers and Pte Kennedy on Zonnebeke ridge just beyond Broodseinde, Belgium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Diaries of the 51st Battalion have more extensive notes on training activities, orders and Battalion actions than those of the 8th Battalion.
Ken Evans and 51st Battalion locations Overview December 1916 to October 1917
Ken Evans and 51st Battalion locations in Flanders December - 1916 to October 1917
Area in which Ken Evans was killed by a shell, 13th October 1917
Ken Evans and 51st Battalion locations in Somme December 1916 – June 1917
Ken Evans and 51st Battalion locations in Somme December 1916 – June 1917