No. 11 Casualty Clearing Station

March 26, 1918

My dear Father & Mother,

Did you receive word that I was slightly wounded? I sent along a field card on the day that I came here and now I shall write more fully.

First of all I am well, and will soon be returning to duty. I did not think that the scratches that I received would even get me this far, but the week's spell has been very much appreciated I can assure you. So don't worry any further about me.

It happened quite suddenly, last Wednesday night (at 11.00 pm). We were in the end of a trench, just moving onto a road to take up another position. I was in the lead and the platoon following in single file – shells were dropping around – suddenly we heard one coming that seemed closed than usual, so everyone crouched down in the sap – and the next instant a small H.E. shell burst – in the trench three yards away – knocking four of us – three slightly and Cpl Roddan seriously. Two pieces went through his left leg, breaking it and otherwise knocking him about badly, and saving me as he was just behind me. I only got about a dozen small pieces in the thigh & the "rear" (making it awkward to sit down) but the wounds are only skin deep – the shock was the worst part.

Now I am alright and consider myself very lucky to escape so lightly. A few hours afterwards we were bowling along in an ambulance car, Alec Roddan the only stretcher case – lost consciousness on the road so he was taken off at No. 9 CC while we came onto this place and are having a good time. (It wont last long enough worst luck.) But I am very thankful for your sakes especially, that I came out of it so well.

I do hope that Father has quite recovered from his illness, it must have been very disagreeable to be in bed in your January weather.

I daresay there will be some letters for me when I get back to the battalion, and I will have some reading, and perhaps the parcels that you and Edie send for my birthday will have arrived too. You are all so thoughtful, and its like a little bit of heaven to get your letters from time to time.

The weather here now is generally good – a few cold days in between fairly hot ones. I believe that we shall have a good summer this time – let us hope that it will finish this awful business. You will see by the papers that things have livened up along the line, and I trust it will be the final fight.

I suppose Claude and Ern Pieper will be nearing Australia by this. They will have some experiences to talk about so hope you see one of them. We had a great time together while at Warminster. I must try to find Les if our Div are out of the line when I get back.

I may also see Les Denyer, but it is not likely, he was all right when I heard from him last.

I get a letter occasionally from Mrs Parsons, she keeps me posted with Salisbury news – now that I am here and look back on the good times that I spent at "Blighty". I feel very thankful to my friends over there & and I hope to see them again some of these times.

Just wait until I get back home and I will keep you going with my experiences, until you get tired of my "jaw". As Fre says "That will be the time" and I hope it wont be long either.

The sisters here are very kind. I was talking to an Aust. Sister who has just arrived from No. 14 Gen, and she knows Dorrie a little, so I learned that Dorrie is still there and is well. I must drop her a line one of these days.

It is rather hard to keep up the writing to each one over here – but I do my best always. Well my dear Parents I will close now – will write again soon – rest assured that I'm all right. Kindly rem. Me to all friends – give my love to Ann & Ern & Fre & accept tons of love for yourselves – from

Your loving son Wal xxxxx