

BROKEN HILL SOLDIERS

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

PRIVATE R. TELFER.

Private Reg Telfer, of the A.M.C., writing from Polygon Camp, Abbassia, Egypt, on August 19, to Mr. E. Vivian, of Argent-street, Broken Hill, states in the course of his letter:—

“We are leaving for the Dardanelles next week. There are thousands of wounded arriving just now,, and all the hospitals in Egypt are full. There are nine hospital ships in port at Alexandria full of wounded unable to be landed. Because of this casualties are now sent on to Malta and England. Hope the Egyptian hospitals are full when I get knocked over. Two thousand wounded arrived at the big Palace Hospital, Heliopolis, last week. Train after train comes in, all painted white, with a big red crescent on the sides of the carriages. They look very nice outside, but their contents would make you weep. Gaunt, haggard, unshaven men, looking more like shadows than men, lying on the bunks, of which there are twenty to a long carriage.

there are twenty to a long carriage. I won't be sorry to get away from Egypt, for the sand and heat and flies make it not a land of pleasure or a paradise by any means. I've been to the Pyramids and the Sphinx, about fifteen miles from here, on the other side of Cairo,, and I have had a trip round some of the regular sights of Cairo. I have also been to the barrage, a place where a big weir has been constructed across the Nile. The water is used to irrigate the land, and bountiful crops and green acres are the result, for this desert land will grow almost anything with water. The car fares are cheap. It costs a half-penny to go a couple of miles, and 2½d. to the Pyramids, a ten-miles' ride from Cairo. We go to Cairo pretty often. The Soldiers' Gardens are very shady and cool, and a cheap meal can be got there. On the whole, though, things are dearer than in Australia. There is plenty of work for us here. Jack Edwards, accountant of the South mine, is the man who does the book work. He is a lance-corporal medical orderly. Our staff numbers eight, including Dr. O. E. Marshall, of the West Coast. Among the Broken Hill men now here are Mr. W. Hogg's son, Mr. E. Barton Hack's son, Mr. Hebbard's adopted son,, Harold Smitheram, and Mr. Horwood's two boys. It seems...

old Smittheram, and Mr. Horwood's
two boys. It seems ages since I joined
(on January 15). Hope you get the
Arabic papers all right, and can read
them. I can't."
