

## The late 2320 Private Edward Henry (Ned) Harth

Letter from Private John Henry Montgomery of the 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion A.I.F. to Mrs Annie Harth of Goombungee, wife of the late 2320 Private Edward Henry (Ned) Harth expressing sympathy at her loss and explaining the circumstances of his death. Montgomery had been the best man at the couple's wedding just 12 months earlier.

*France, August 10, 1917.*

*Dear Annie,*

*Just a few lines to let you know as much as I can about the sad fate of poor Ned, who fell on the battlefield on the 2nd day of August 1917, as I daresay you have heard before now from the military authorities, I cannot express my sympathy toward you and all his people, but you will just imagine how I miss him and how I feel for all at home.*

*Ned, at the time he was hit, was engaged in carrying a wounded man to the dressing station, and he was struck in the stomach with a sniper's bullet. The bullet went right through him and out of his back. Unfortunately, he only lived about an hour, and I am sorry to say he was dead when I reached him, but he had been well attended to, so I could do no more. I am sending you his pocket wallet and ring which I am sure you will be glad to receive. I handed his pay book into the officer commanding our company, and anything concerning his pay will be attended to by headquarters. I cannot say much more about it, but if there is anything you want to know just write to me, and I will do my best for you. And kindly write and let me know if you get the wallet all right. I must close with deepest sympathy.*

*Jack*

*No. 2352 Private J.H. Montgomery*

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