

Monday 7.5.17

Since writing I have rec'd a couple of green envelopes. Perhaps you all read of the little fight the Anzacs had with Fritz when he tried to break through our lines at Laguicourt.

Well I have enclosed an account of it from the Anzac Bulletin.

I am glad to say I was in it too Mumsie, also Arthur and it is only by good luck that I am not either killed or a prisoner in German hands. As we were all asleep when he broke through the line. Now Arthurs's Btn the 102nd were about ¼ mile further on than ours. Fritz got to their guns and proceeded to blow them up, placing Gun cotton in them. All the boys but 3 or 4 had been warned by this "as they were all asleep" & all got their guns put out of action so as Fritz could not use them, & got for their lives as they had no rifles.

The unfortunate chaps who had no time to get away were still asleep. Fritz killed & made prisoners. Now we knew nothing of all this. We had been firing a good part of the night & were all dead to the world. It was about 4 o'clock in the morning now & here Fritz was charging down on us, asleep, unconscious of our danger as our infantry were in retreat & had no time to use the telephone to warn us.

As luck would have it we were called out to stand to the guns that particular morning, not that we knew about Fritz breaking through – but just in case we were needed, as we are often at about that time that the infantry generally attack. Imagine our surprise when we found our infantry with machine gunsour guns and firing for their lives & Fritz coming down the hill about 500 yds away.

We soon got to work tho & we put such a barrage on Fritz that he soon had to retire & with that our supports who by this time had arrived charged! Fritz has had enough. He ... dozens & started to retreat.

Then every Battery opened fire & put such a barrage behind him & in front of him that the next time he thinks at attacking the Australians – He will reconsider perhaps. Such ended my little morning experience. As seen by the ...enclosed practically all our guns were recaptured on the whole. We gained a great victory & are eagerly awaiting another such opportunity to show him that the Australian infantry & Australian Gunners are not to be sneered at. Even tho they are "criminals" & originated from Barbarians, as the all steghast. The Kaiser said when recently speaking about the Australians.

I am still at O & have seen sights such as never to be forgotten. But to try & give an a/c of them is next to an utter impossibility. So will await until one of these days (Which we pray & hope is imminent) when I am sitting among you all enjoying Home Sweet Home telling you all of the great experiences which I would not have missed for anything, even tho at times one gets fed up with the whole show and prays and longs for home. Hope this is not sentimental or ...

I am afraid my letters have been of late, as more of "A matter of fact" than anything else. But you all quite understand I am sure that one is hampered to a great extent on a/c of the Censor.

Well now I have written more than I really intended to & Gladys will consequently have to suffer as I must be off.

Your true son

Harold xxxx

Letter transcribed by Mr John Burnet