

Address:

CONSTANTINOPLE,
JULY 12TH 1915.

MY DEAR FAMILY :-

I AM AFRAID THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES
WILL HAVE LET YOU KNOW THAT I WAS MISSING ON JUNE 28TH.

IT IS A GREAT RELIEF TO ME TO FIND THAT I AM
ALLOWED TO WRITE TO YOU AND ABLE TO SAY I AM IN GOOD HEALTH AND
RECEIVING EXCELLENT TREATMENT AS A PRISONER OF WAR.

WE WERE TAKING PART IN AN ATTACK ON JUNE 28TH
AND RECEIVED THE ORDER TO RETIRE. I WENT OUT TO TAKE THE ORDER TO
A SQUADRON WHICH HAD GONE FURTHER OUT. THE WAY OUT WAS PRETTY
"UNHEALTHY" AND I CRAWLED INTO AN OLD MACHINE GUN PIT TO COLLECT SO
-ME WITS AND BREATH. I COLLECTED A "FROZEN SPINE" INSTEAD, FOR OUR
OWN MACHINE GUN SPOTTED ME AND INSISTED WITH MONOTONOUS ACCURACY
THAT I WAS OF THE OPPOSITION. THERE WAS NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO
DUCK FOR AN OLD HALF FILLED TRENCH FURTHER OUT WITH GOOD OVERHEAD
COVER. THAT MACHINE GUNS MISTAKE WAS EXCUSABLE. I HAD BEEN ONLY
TWENTY OR THIRTY YARDS FROM THE ENEMY AND NOW I WAS IN THE MIDDLE
OF HIM. I WAS EXCUSED THE IGNOMINY OF LAYING DOWN MY ARMS - THEY
WERE PROMPTLY LAID DOWN FOR ME. AND HERE I AM, A PRISONER OF WAR,
HAVING FAILED IN MY MISSION AND NO LONGER ABLE TO SERVE MY COUNTRY,
BUT IN GOOD HEALTH AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE WAR ENDS
AND I CAN GO HOME. WITH THE AUSTRALIANS IT IS CONSIDERED A
DISGRACE TO BE CAPTURED. IT WAS BAD SOLDIERING ON MY PART TO GET
WITHIN THE ENEMY'S ADVANCED LINES, BUT I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND
IT IS NOT LACK OF COURAGE MAKES A MAN DO THAT.

NOTE.—The figures at bottom of form indicate time Cablegram was received in Sydney.

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(2).

I SAW BERT THE DAY BEFORE THE ATTACK AND HAD LETTERS THAT DAY
FROM JESSIE, NELL, MADELEINE, AUNT KATIE. AND ELLA WARNER
WILL YOU PLEASE THANK THE WRITERS. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO
WRITE AGAIN AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LETTERS ADDRESSED

"HEADQUARTERS, PRISONERS OF WAR, CONSTANTINOPLE, MAY REACH
ME. X THESE LETTERS (MINE) ARE OF COURSE CENSORED AND IT IS
THEREFORE ADVISABLE NOT TO WRITE AT LENGTH X

WITH FONDEST LOVE

MAURICE.

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