My Dear Jean

You must excuse me for being so long in writing as I feel like crawling into a hole and never coming out again. I'm the miserablest and sorriest man in the all the world since poor old George was killed. We were like brothers. We were never apart. Out of the lines they used to call us husband and wife in Batt so you can tell how much I miss him. I did not know he was killed until we came out of the lines either as he was transferred into the machine gun section a few weeks ago and I was in the command. It's the first time we had been parted in the lines of dear Jeanie the way I feel this last.
few weeks I wish I were gone with him well dear little girl I can just imagine how you all fell at home being so far away but we will all try and cheer up and pray to God that we may meet in the next world every one the Batt thought such a lot of him he was so good and kind anyone that knew him couldn't help but like him and he had grown such a fine boy since he left Australia he must have stood six foot and was nearly 13 stone so you can guess how he filled out and grew I can't realize it's true yet oh how I wish it wasn't every line makes my heart ache no doubt poor boy he is better off but it is that are left behind that will suffer all his dear ones that loved him so well but we will all bear it a little for poor old George sake he wouldn't like to see us all so downhearted I am sure of that
I am very sorry to have to bring back old memories to all Georges dear ones at home but I know you would like to hear as much as you can about him he was never so happy as when he was in the line plugging at old Fritz. I'll bet he made the dirty wretch suffer this time with his machine gun before he died by what I can hear from one of the chaps that was near him at the time, he was killed instantous it was on the 5 of April at a place called [unreadable] near old boy was shot through the head as soon as we go up there again I will do his grave up with some flowers we are trasferred into different Batt now there is no need well dear Jean I will close with deepest sympathy to all at home and with two of love to all Your sincere friend Aussy