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SOLDIERS' LETTERS. TROOPER MACPHERSON

Trooper Norman Macpherson of the Nelson Mounted Rifles, son of Mr N. Macpherson of Fairfield, in a letter to his sister Mrs A. Patrick, of Pleasant Valley says:—Our letters are all censored so I cannot give you much news we have been in action, and had a very hot time, but our boys were very cool and did good work. Out of the Tenth Nelson Mounteds that night we lost two men and a good many were wounded, Sergeant Berryman had a narrow shave of losing his eyes, he was side on and the bullet went through the bridge of his nose; he was also hit in the leg by a piece of bomb. Towards the finish the enemy were only a few yards off us. We were in the trenches and some of them were just lying on the other side of the parapet, we could see their bayonets now and again poking over the parapet. We could not think of putting our heads up, we could only raise our rifles over the top and let fire. If the enemy had had any go in them and charged us they could have killed the lot of us, as we were so few to their number. Up to this date (June 12th), we have lost six out of the Tenth Mounteds, and about a dozen or so wounded, though some of them are back again as they were only slightly wounded. Major Hutton got wounded that night too, only a slight wound, and we expect him back any day, and will be pleased when he does come for all our squadron have a very high opinion of him and would go anywhere with him without a moment's hesitation. The shells and shrapnel are bursting about us frequently, and a good many get put out while others are wounded, so a man is no safer away from the firing line. We get good food here and plenty of it. Yesterday we got an issue of bread, which we appreciated. We left our horses in Egypt and it is a treat to be without them. There is no work for them here yet awhile. We had an armistice day here about a fortnight ago for the Turks to bury their dead. I don't exactly know how many, but they went into thousands, and they had been lying about for days. Our destroyers and cruisers do good work here. They are bombarding every day, but some days more than others. The *Triumph* was sunk here about three weeks ago by some submarine. I saw her go down, and over one hundred lives were lost in her I believe. The climate here is much better than Egypt. It is midsummer, now and jolly hot through the day, but we have not the sand and dust to contend with. Sergeant Anderson is Quartermaster now. Sergeant Burnett from Dovedale is wounded, also Hector Guy, but I suppose you will see the casualty lists. The Australians are great fighters and don't take much notice of their officers. The Australian Mounteds and we New Zealanders are together, and we think a lot of each other. The Infantry are not far away, but we don't see very much of them.

AN ANZAC HONOURED

On Friday evening a social was held in the Pleasant Valley schoolroom, in honour of Sergt-Major N. McPherson, lately returned from Egypt. A large crowd attended, the door receipts being very satisfactory. Dancing was indulged in until 10.30, when a presentation of a framed certificate recognising war service was made to the guest. Mr Murphy, chairman of the patriotic committee, referred to Sergt-Major **McPherson** as an Anzac who had also seen service during the Boer War. His length of service and the rank gained through his own personal efforts spoke well for his capability, and although not personally known to many now in the district—he had gone through the local school as a pupil, afterwards going to Nelson—his welcome was none the less hearty, as was evidenced by the audience who afterwards sang "For he's a jolly good fellow," and gave him three cheers. Mr Vucetich followed, and after referring to the part taken in the war by Sergt-Major **McPherson** read a piece of poetry on Gallipoli by a Timaru soldier. He also feelingly referred to the death of Sergt-Major **McPherson's** soldier brother in Egypt. Sergt-Major **McPherson** in reply thanked the people of Pleasant Valley, and also the local guild from whom most acceptable parcels were periodically received. He said that he and his brother had done their part in the war, he himself having the luck to come through safely. After cheers were given for returned soldiers dancing and card playing were resumed. Supper, supplied by Mr Bryant of Geraldine, was handed round later and the social gathering came to a close at 1.30. The music was supplied by Messrs Fletcher and Heyder, and extras by Miss Prisk and Messrs

Patrick Quaid and W. Sugrue. The direction of the entertainment was taken by Messrs Woods and Robinson who made very efficient M.C's.