

# SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

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## SIGNALLER McLEOD.

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Miss Mary McLeod, Theodocia Street, has received two interesting letters from her brother, Signaller John McLeod (an ex-pupil of the Timaru High School) who is fighting at the Dardanelles. Each is written on a piece of cardboard, the letter being on one side and the address on the other. In one of the letters the writer says that he had just been having a week's spell, his lip being pretty right again now. He had discovered another High School boy in his battalion—Gabites—who had been in the thick of it since the landing. The writer says that he was quite well at time of writing with nothing to grumble about except sun-burnt knees caused by wearing knickers.

In a letter to his mother, signaller McLeod says:—I have been here a fortnight now and am quite well and unhurt, though others have not been so fortunate. The Australasian troops are doing well here and at present hold a very strong position. Our part of the trenches has been rather quiet lately, but we get a little shrapnel every day. I have seen young Dynos and Charlie Cowan. Both are well. We live in dug-outs in the sides of the hills and sleep in our clothes every night, in case of surprise. All fresh water is used for drinking only. Sometimes we manage to get down to the beach and can then enjoy a good bath. This is very pleasant after days in the trenches. We live mostly on hard rations of which we get plenty. I miss bread more than anything but grind up biscuits and make a sort of porridge which "goes high." The Colonial troops are making a name for themselves. All are cheerful and in good spirits.

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