

EDMUND (EDDIE) 1887-1915. Eddie, known as Ted to his friends, completed his schooling at Albury and worked as a shearer for a short time around the district before going to the North Island. His address in Wellington was C/o Mrs Kate JEW, 188 Lambton Quay. Kate was his mother's sister. He worked for a time for Mr F GAMMELL, Karikau, then Taumaranui, Tangarakau, Wanganui River, Otane and probably went to Sydney for a short time. He was working for J.T. HEWITT, Big Hill, Kereru ,Hawkes Bay, when he enlisted for the army on 7 October 1914. He sailed from Wellington on the "Athenic" as a member of the 2nd South Canterbury Company about a week after he enlisted. On their way to England they called at Hobart and Albany in Australia and Colombo in India.



Eddie wrote as often as he could to his sister Lizzie. The following are some excerpts from his letters:

7-10-1914 "I am writing this all in one, I hope you will excuse me but really brothers and sisters I must write and say goodbye. It may be for the last time but I must do my duty for my country. Will tell you everything when I come back, of course I am sure I will have one or two brother-in-laws when I come back. Nell I want you to give my kind regards to all my friends."

26-10-1914 "Just a line to let you know I am still alive, I suppose you all went to the Show this week. Well we are still plowing our way across the briny. I may not be able to write long letters as all letters are read before they are sent."

17-1-1915 Zeitown "Well we have not got to the front yet, but we are expecting to have a fly at the Turks anytime now. This is a very interesting place I have been in one Mosque that cost 27 million to build, some blocks are solid gold. There is also lovely scenery on the Nile but us Privates cant afford to go to too many of these places on our 1/9 a day. We have to pay 3d a day for tucker I know it is no good writing to Father as he would never answer it. Well I must ring off as I am blown for news."

18-4-1915 Military Hospital "How is the BROSNAANS is there any of the girls married yet. How is Gertie I hope her eyes are better by this, do you ever hear from Mollie, you can tell her I am all right when writing. It is just 15 days today since I got knocked out. I am tired of my bed now."

4-7-1915 "Dear Liz I am about right again and will be going back for another spin very soon now. I don't think there is much chance of Wattie BODDYE getting away he is too small, he will be lucky if he doesn't. I have sent some badges, my cap badge is the last I have so you can get it covered and make it into a broach. Whatever did you send my photo to the Weekly Press for. I kicked it out when I saw it. I don't want all N.Z. to know I stopped a pebble."

15-7-1915 Alexandria, Egypt "I am pretty good now and leave on a boat in a few days and will be back with the boys when you get this. The war seems to be going very slow. We have had no interesting news for a long time now but something must give way very soon. I suppose you knew old Mack was killed. It is hard to think all a fellows cobbers blown out, I haven't hardly one left out there now but I will make new ones. Well Lizzie I have no news only I am going away and thought that I would drop a line before I went so you may not get any more for some time, but will try to send a postcard. So will have to close hoping this will find you all in best of health and all doing well. So with best love to Father, Mother, Sisters, Brothers not forgetting yourself, I will say Goodnight and may God bless you all, I remain, Your Loving brother, E O'REILLY ps, When you write to Molly tell her I am all right, if she sends me her address I would write to her. With kind regards to all old friends, don't forget to remember me to old FEDDON and old Frank MALLETT, Good Luck Eddie."

This was the last letter the family received from Eddie. He rejoined his unit on 30 July and was killed in action on 7 August 1915. His name is on the Index No.M.R.5 Chunuk Bair Memorial, Anzac Cove and the inscription reads:

O'REILLY, Pte, Edmond, 6/1219. Canterbury Regt. Killed in action 7th Aug. 1915 Son of Mr and Mrs Michael O'Reilly, of Albury Sth Cant. 13.

Eddie's medals were sent to Mrs Kate JEW, (legatee of Eddie's will), 1 Kennedy Street, Wellington.

All was done that men could do but all was done in vain.