

The League of Loyal Women of Australia.

"FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE."

Chairman:

MRS. M. COGHILL,
STUART ROAD, DULWICH.

Hon. Treasurer:

MRS. C. T. KNIGHT,
THIRD AVENUE, ST. PETERS.

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. C. WRIGHT,
MILITARY ROAD, SEMAPHORE.

32nd Battalion Club.

Adelaide,

Dec. 9 1916.

Stuart Rd.
Dulwich.

Chas. R. Hodge Esq.
Ryishās
University of Adelaide.

Dear Sir.

I am enclosing a few brief notes regarding my husband, Lt. Col. D. M. R. Coghill, in reply to your memo of Dec. 4.

I am sorry that I was unable to let you have this by Friday as through the letter going to St. Peters first, I did not receive it until yesterday evening.

I trust that it will not be too late for your purposes.

Yours faithfully,

Gertrude M. Coghill

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Lt. Col. D. M. R. Coghill left South Australia in Nov. 1915 in command of the 32nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Brigade, A. I. F.

Immediately on arrival in Egypt he was appointed to the command of an important post on the Suez Canal where he had a large mixed force under his orders consisting of Australian & New Zealand troops, British Field & Siege Artillery, Royal Engineers, Indian Cavalry (Lancers) & Bikanir Camel Corps.

His troops began the first trenches under Lord Kitchener's Canal Defence Scheme in this section of the Canal Defence. His work at this post receives high commendation from the General Officer Commanding. After being occupied in the Canal Zone for six months the battalion went to France where the troops were soon put to work in the trenches and improving our defences generally, which work was mainly performed at night time.

This was followed by a period of sleepless nights and heavy fighting in which the battalion successfully attained the objective set, and captured and held ~~for~~ about eleven hours the third German trench where the Commanding Officer was with his

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men, waist deep in water and mud, for the enemy had flooded the trench.

The enemy kept up a heavy shelling all night and his counter attack next day proving too strong the battalion was forced to withdraw along with the rest of the Division to our own trenches, having however inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

The Colonel almost miraculously got through with only a few scratches.

The following passage appeared in the orders received from the Brigade Head quarters:-

"The G. O. C. desires to express his warmest appreciation of the manner in which all officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade carried out their orders in the operation of the 19th/20th July, and his heart-felt appreciation of the magnificent gallantry & devotion to duty displayed by all ranks."

A few days later Col. Coghill suffered a nervous breakdown as the result of the terrible strain he had gone through and recently returned to Australia.

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After a short rest he was Camp Commandant of the
war service Camp at Gawler, till that Camp was
closed as the result of the Referendum on National
Service.
