

301 Georgie's River Rd.,

Croydon Park

Sydney 2-5-64

Dear Mr. White,

A French author who was born in Bapaume intends to write a history of his native town and is collecting information for this purpose. He had read in the Official History of the 1st A.I.F. that your father played an important part in the events of that memorable St. Patrick's Day in 1917 when the 30th Battalion captured the town. He is a member of the Lions International. Through this organization he contacted a man named Keith Donaldson in a Queensland town with which Bapaume was affiliated and asked him to try and contact your father. I think K. Donaldson was a member of the 2nd Battalion of the A.I.F. He contacted the Secretary of the 2nd Battalion Association in Sydney, a man named Roger Morgan in Manly. He told Roger Morgan your father was born in Kogarah on 24th June 1894 and was a medical student from Auburn. Roger Morgan contacted the Secretary of the 30th Batt. Assn. Reg Hogan. There is not one officer alive today in the 30th who took part in the capture of Bapaume so Reg Hogan asked me to write the story to the French author. I have been corresponding with him for some time. He is very appreciative of my efforts. He earnestly wants a photograph of your father Capt. A. C. White M.C. for inclusion in his history.

He was a very popular officer in the 30th. I was one of the 3rd Reinforcements which he commanded. It would fill pages to tell you of the efforts members of our Association have made

to contact his relatives. We know you have three married sisters but we don't know if your Mother is still alive.

There is a Dorothy White in the phone book but it wasn't your Mother. A Mrs. A. C. White was no longer on the number given.

I know that it is a big thing to ask any member of your family to give up a photo of their Father, particularly if they only had one, but I do hope that you can obtain one for me, even if it is as Wing-Commander in World War II. That could be explained to the French author. If you have one you could send it to me, or if you prefer it you could send it to the French author whose address is:-

Monsieur Gaston Degardin,
Rue de la Republique
Bapaume
Pas de Calais
France.

I am, yours sincerely
Robert Mather.

301 George's River Rd,
Croydon Park
2-6-64

Dear Mr White,

I received the photo of your father today. It is an excellent photo. I cannot imagine any reason why Gaston Degardin in France would not be satisfied with it. Nevertheless I will mention to him that you have offered to get a later photo if he should prefer it. I was not in "B" Company; but I was one of the 3rd Reinforcements which your father commanded. He had an irrepressible sense of humour even on the battle field when the whips were cracking. After the war I was on the literary committee when he was chosen to write our official history. Then he was transferred to a specialized job in the meteorological department which he explained would require special study and he had to relinquish the job of historian. Most of "B" Company men are in Newcastle. They hold their annual reunion in November at the nearest date to Armistice Day. You would be surprised how many people will be thrilled to know that we have at last got this photo. I think Roger Morgan the Secretary of the 2nd Battalion Assn. who first contacted the 30th Batt. Assn. for this purpose had begun to think we were indifferent. He reminded me in one letter that time was running out for all of us. He didn't realize how difficult it was but I assured him I had no intention of giving up. All's well that ends well. Many thanks and best wishes from
Bob Mather.