

A.F.A. 2012.  
114 Gen No. 5248.

FIELD SERVICE  
POST CARD



The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed.

*Mr H. V. Hewitt*  
~~Doncaster~~  
*% H. V. Hewitt* ~~Doncaster Hill~~  
*"Fairfield"*  
*Glea INNES* *New South Wales*

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

*I am quite well.*

*I have been admitted into hospital.*

*{ sick and am going on well.*  
*{ wounded } and hope to be discharged soon.*

*I am being sent down to the base.*

*I have received your { letter dated \_\_\_\_\_*  
*{ telegram " \_\_\_\_\_*  
*{ parcel " \_\_\_\_\_*

*Letter follows at first opportunity.*

*I have received no letter from you*

*{ lately.*  
*{ for a long time.*

Signature  
only.

*Wome*

Date *13.3.16*

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]



21.3.16

HMT

S.S. NORTHLAND

259

Dear Father & Mother & Others,

After a most excellent six days we are in sight of the white cliffs of – the South of France. Yours truly is very well & fat despite the numerous inoculations that form part of the “duties” of a soldier. I’ve just had a couple more. The men naturally are in great spirits & the pink of condition. We have had a very easy time for the last few months & are told that we are to have more training over here, which is a nuisance! We want to make a move & get home.

We expect to live in billets over here, which will be a new experience. I don’t expect to have any bothers with our men – they are a good lot of fellows. We travelled in open trucks, as usual, from Ismalia to Alexandria – but really if it had been a 1<sup>st</sup> class trip it wouldn’t have been any better. We all slept well & the journey was only at night.

I am awfully pleased to get our boys away from Egypt – it was quite the wrong place to put them & I personally never liked the place. Ismalia was the best place of the lot as far as I saw them.

I suppose you heard I was transferred to B coy. – I did expect to go to a new Division, but our Brigade has been taken intact to be the first for France, & so we miss our turn, which is rather an expensive compliment for a lot of us. But it will be alright in the long run. The name of the company doesn’t make any difference in my address as the Battalion alone is quite enough.

This boat was a German, but she will do me for a sea voyage – We have a bathroom for our cabin. The 27<sup>th</sup> Bn are on board with us – it’s the first trip we’ve had with them. The 28<sup>th</sup> came with us from Australia & 25<sup>th</sup> to & from Lemos to Alexandria, so now we know the lot.

Best love

Tom.

Pilot just coming aboard.





CARTE POSTALE

CORRESPONDANCE

ADRESSE

*Armentières*

*All well here*

*Love  
Tom*

*8.6.16*

Dear Mother,

Here we are again. OK & full of oates. Thank goodness it's Saturday night. The Hun likes Friday for a hate so last Friday week he gave us a beautiful gas attack when yours truly & his trusty gas helmet were in the firing line, where the gas & bullets & shells & bombs were thickest and the horrors of gas are a thing of the past - thank goodness. Not that it ever did have too many horrors for your scientific son after he had seen the latest fashion in gas helmets.

I am not sure if I told you before about Mr Hun's effort to gas us. I was just down in the line on a friendly visit - to pass the time away & have a look round before we took over from the Tommies. After doing the rounds & seeing all was O.K. at 12.15 I decided to vamoose to my home a couple of miles off. So with the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of the Regiment, off we went. Suddenly a man rushed up over our parapet. "A raid" I thought feeling for my revolver that wasn't there. "Gas" quietly said the chap who had been in front as a listening post. He had heard the cylinders hissing, for the gas comes off like steam out of a boiler. Off came our steel helmets & I saw a cloud of white coming up. "Gas alright" says I & on goes my gas helmet. It's a cloth bag with two goggles & a spout to breathe out by. Of course there had been a lot of shelling but now she livened up considerably & the range shortened on to us. All their machine guns also were going so as to drown the noise of the gas.

Well we went along from bay to bay & gradually the fog lifted and at half past one I tried a cautious sniff & then off came our helmets. "Look out for a second cloud boys" we passed along, but none came. The shelling had been very severe & ours had been tip top on to them. Of course when they sent the gas along we thought that they would attack, and I picked up a thick waddy & got a few Mill's bombs (hand grenades). I don't know if they were stopped by our artillery or what, but we were all much hurt at their reluctance to come along.

The Tommies behaved splendidly - I had to congratulate their colonel in the morning. After it was over you should have heard them whistling & singing quietly to themselves. They were good.

Yesterday was Friday so the Hun tried to frighten us with "minnies". They can't throw them very straight, thank goodness. They make a nice little bang and dig a nice little hole - only about 8 feet deep & 15 across. Luckily they are very local in their effect. We got a "dud" - one that didn't go off. It was just a big paint drum or oil drum, filled with explosive. Arthur is OK - he was in the gas attack too but a bit farther back.

We hope soon to hear that Mr Hunn is tired of war - very tired. We are going strong.

Cheeroh Mother dear. Give my love to them all at home. I hope Father & you are well & happy. We are.

Your loving son,

Tom.

Belgium 7.7.16

Thanks for letters.

Mother dear,

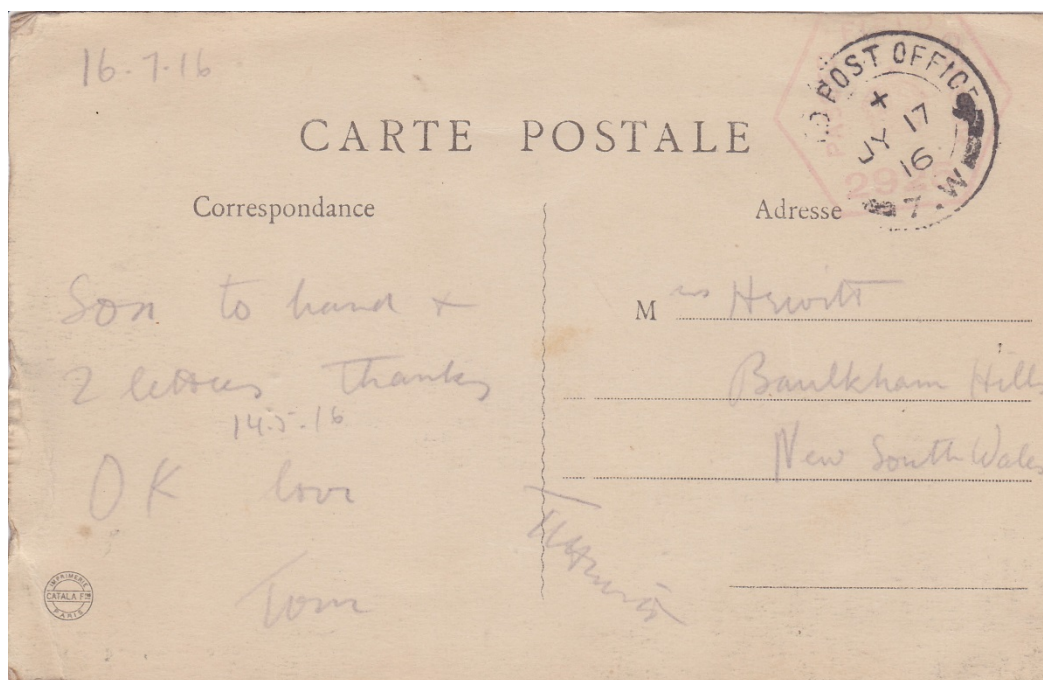
Just a brief note ere I turn in for a 3 hours sleep. Ratt-a-tat-tat go the machine guns – Bim boom bom bam bim go the guns away down on the right where they're strafing. Next door our cheerful signallers are singing quietly. I have a pipe from their dug out to mine. And they've some dugout! Dug in - steel rails - concrete - sandbags. Mustn't lose your post commanders you know. "26 minutes to eleven" calls the signaller "Divisional time Sir". "Message from the Sgt. Major Sir" says my orderly corporal. It's a list of work done on the various sectors. We are busy improving as usual - parapets to be made thick - Dugouts to be put in stronger - trenches improved and that ilk.

All the machine guns are at it tonight. Of course they do no harm - only make the men keep a bit lower than usual. And did you see that German flare just land outside my dug out? It makes a bright white light on everything. You fire them out of a big pistol into the air. They're really not much good to see things by, but when they go up everyone keeps quite still.

Today the poor old Hun had an accident. He was firing his biggest bomb at us - a "minnie warfer" & it exploded before it left the gun. That's the best luck we've had today, because we don't like Minnie. I am O.K.

Best love to you all,

Tom.





France 16.7.16

Mother dear,

Two letters from you - one at Glen I. [Innes] & one at Daruka, reminding me of the old spot. Both very doleful because I am killed or something. What matters it if one is killed provided we win! Don't be silly or I'll not write a line to you at all.

As a matter of fact I have been enjoying exuberant health & been enjoying the time of my life. I don't know if I told you I saw Sonning, Reading & Windsor & found them very pretty - almost as good as France. We have been in three different lots of trenches & left them all much improved & the Huns quite pleased to have met us. Some of them even came to live at our place! Just now we are near a big river and having a good time. Can't even hear a gun go off.

Got a letter from Deane who to his great delight is now in France too. Talks French like a native he says (native of Australia I expect). Tis a great life, the soldiers. Yesterday I had a fine ride on my noble steed & visited a ruined chateau & stayed out for tea with "the Heavies". They put on no end of dog, the heavies - heavy trench mortar batteries.

I got a very excellent pair of socks from you (28<sup>th</sup> pair) and as luck would have it I was very glad to get them as we have left most of our things elsewhere. Also 2 pairs that I gave away from Mrs. Lee of T'field [Tenterfield]. I've 128634 pairs of socks now and have rented a deserted factory to store them in. But I'm wearing your last pair just now & very good them is.

Church parade today - second time in France. Not nearly as nice as the church parade on the flag ship two days before the Jutland fight.

The British have been doing some real good work lately & everyone is feeling very pleased. The Huns are almost out in the open at last & even the cavalry get a chance. You should see the poppies, cornflowers & other flowers in the fields round here - regular splash of colour everywhere. I struck an old dame at work in the fields - 74 years old - yesterday & gave her a bob for beer. She was pleased! Arthur is OK.

Best love to you all,

Tom.

Thanks for sox.

Nance

3.10.16

Mrs R.H.Compton

52 Palace Court. W.

London.

In response to your enquiry of Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> I beg to inform you that Capt. T.C.Hewitt was killed in action in the attack on Pozieres Ridge on the night of 28/29<sup>th</sup> July. He had acted very gallantly and decisively in rallying his men and taking them forward as far as the entanglements where he was shot. Unfortunately this was the last that was seen of him.

Offering you my condolences to convey to his mother & friends,

F.W.O'DONNEL Major

C.O. 26<sup>TH</sup> Bn. , 7<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. , A.I.F.



LO/MB.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE FILE  
INFORMATION BUREAU  
FOR OBTAINING NEWS OF SICK, WOUNDED AND MISSING SOLDIERS

9071

TELEPHONE: CITY 1014.

HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY,  
10 A.M. TO 1 P.M. & 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

SATURDAY.

10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.



DALTON HOUSE,

115 PITT STREET,

SYDNEY.

19th January, 1917.

N.S.W. DIVISION

CAPTAIN T. C. HEWITT, 26th BATTALION.

Dear Madam,

We send you copies of the following reports, which have been forwarded to us by the Red Cross Information Bureau in Brisbane, who received them from our Agents in London. In each case they consist of a statement made to our Agents by the soldier whose name appears at the foot of the report:-

" Keating K.C. 913, C.Coy. 26th Battn. told me that Capt. Hewitt was badly wounded in his dugout by two bullets. He was advised to go back but refused. Then a shell came and blew his dugout in and killed him. Keating was there at the time; this was at Pozieres.

Reference: Pte. H. Kingston, 910,  
H.S. "Stad Antwerpen"  
Calais, 13-10-16."

" I knew Capt. Hewitt - he was over B. and his initial was "T", and I was told by L/Cpl. Hamilton of B. V1.7 on the 28th July that Capt. Hewitt had been killed by being shot through the head at Pozieres and was killed outright. Hamilton told me he saw this happen. Hamilton was killed afterwards. There was only one Capt. Hewitt in the Battn.

Reference L.G. Wright, 1543, B. V1. "

" I saw Capt. Hewitt about a minute before he was killed, and was told by several men in D.- B & D were mixed up at the time - who said they saw it, that Capt. Hewitt was shot through the head and killed outright.

Reference: E.A. McKenna, 1816, D. X111.  
2nd A.D.B.D. Etaples. "

Mrs. Hewitt,  
Dunsden,  
BAULKHAM HILLS.

Yours faithfully,

*Langdon Owen*

## Transcriber's notes:

To view Tom's official military records, view the Discovering Anzacs/National Archives website at:

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/213020>

There are 33 original military documents to view (click on 'view/transcribe' under 'Official record'), and if you want to get more involved, you can register and transcribe some of them on the page to make it easier for future readers! Other sources and contributions can be viewed from other parts of Tom's profile page in the form of Images, Timeline, Life Events, Stories and Comments.

The following websites can be accessed directly via the 'Other web links' on Tom's profile page on the Discovering Anzacs site, or via the links below.

Additional letters have been contributed to the *Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales collection of World War I letters* by other family members. These are available to view at:

<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=990786>

Items of particular interest from the Mitchell Library website above:

Items 9, 10 & 11 are a letter from Tom to his brother William (Will), 40, 41 & 42 is from Tom to his father and other siblings and Item 49 is a copy of Tom's last letter home (part of which is quoted in Item 85), written to his mother.

Item 50 is a letter from Tom's father to William on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1916, where he informs him of Tom's death and recounts how the family found out during that day.

Item 81 has a photo of Tom & his brother Deane as published in the Toowoomba Grammar School Magazine, where Tom taught as Science Master from 1909-1915. They are both in uniform which suggests this could be the photo that Tom sent to his Mother as referred to in the letter dated 21.2.16.

Items 84 & 85 are also from the Toowoomba Grammar School Magazine and give an overview of both Tom's time at the school and accounts of his final days.

Additional information, including primary and secondary sources, is available on the University of Sydney's Beyond 1914 website:

<http://beyond1914.sydney.edu.au/profile/3162/thomas-cotgrave-hewitt>

Other official details and documents regarding Tom can be found on the following websites:

The AIF Project: <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=136033>

Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour: <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1635392/>

It is interesting to note that Thomas Cotgrave Hewitt's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on a number of dates including Thursday 31 March, 2016 at 10:18 pm, which marks the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth (coincidentally also the birthday of his sister Helen and a great-niece). From this website, you can also view Tom's embarkation documents and Red Cross documents:

Red Cross documents: <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1486579/> (click 'view digitised record')

Embarkation Roll: <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1922346/> (click 'view digitised record')

Commonwealth War Graves Commission website provides details regarding Tom's casualty details on the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MEMORIAL:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1461897/HEWITT,%20THOMAS%20COTGRAVE>

*Letters transcribed by Tom's great-niece Janette Mayne (née Donaldson), with assistance from Eva Donaldson and Tara Mayne. Notes finalised and web links verified April 2015.*