

TRANSCRIPTS

**THE WORLD WAR 1 LETTERS**

OF

**NORMAN LEONARD &  
VICTOR BIRD TEEDE**

TO THEIR BROTHER IN BUNBURY

**GERALD HORDEN TEEDE**

## BACKGROUND NOTES ON TEEDE FAMILY MEMBERS

<http://www.mundia.com/au/Person/12184019/12566438781> Gerald Horden, Victor Bird and Norman Leonard were sons of Frederick James Teede and Mary Jane Crampton (lived on George Street, Bunbury).

There were other children <http://pridmore-olver.sytes.net/getperson.php?personID=19383&tree=1> (Family Tree website, why the Teedes are included in site is unknown).

### **GERALD HORDEN TEEDE (known as Hord or Hordie)**

Born Bunbury 1885 - died also in Bunbury during 1951

Married to Sadie

Children – twins Colin and Keith and Jean

Occupation –

1. Business owner (Draper) with shop in Victoria Street, Bunbury
2. Business in Yarloop (possibly)

Wife Sadie advertised in a local paper in 1913 her business of costumier and milliner. Exclusive winter dresses, coats. It is understood that this business is the same shop as Suzanne's is today (Corner of Victoria and Prinsep Streets, Bunbury)

### **VICTOR BIRD TEEDE (Known as Vic)**

See attached WWI Service Record

Service Number 11 Infantry Battalion - 24 to 27 Reinforcements (January-October 1917) Date of embarkation 29th June 1917 from Fremantle on HMBAT Borda (Ship No. A30) 7806

Born Bunbury 1889 and died in Perth 1940 (quite tragically, see below).

Wife was Alice Josephine Brown (known as Phine) in 1906 – one son Eric Victor born in 1916 and one daughter born in 1924

<http://pridmore-olver.sytes.net/getperson.php?personID=19418&tree=1> Extract - AS REPORTED IN THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER DATED Thursday 22 February 1940

DEATH IN CEMETERY. Man's Body Near Daughter's Grave. A pathetic tragedy was revealed yesterday morning by the finding in the Karrakatta Cemetery of the dead body of Victor Bird Teede (about 54), which was lying beside his daughter's grave. Near the body was a bottle containing a quantity of corrosive liquid. The body was taken to the Perth Hospital morgue, where an autopsy will be held. The discovery was made by a grave attendant whose duty it was to water plants, shrubs and grass on certain of the graves. About 8.15 o'clock the attendant found the man at the side of a grave where his 11-year-old daughter, Audrey Lois Teede had been buried about five years ago. The grave attendant summoned the cemetery superintendent, who communicated with the Claremont police. Constable Thorpe took possession of the bottle found near the body, and he then made arrangements for sending the remains to the morgue. The police ascertained that Mr. Teede, who was well known in Bunbury, had taken temporary lodgings at the house of a friend in Queen Victoria-street, Fremantle, last Thursday. He left there on Monday for Bunbury and was a passenger on a train which left Bunbury for Perth late on Tuesday night, arriving in Perth about 7 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Teede lived in Bunbury until about ten years ago. He was a brother of Mr. G. H. Teede, who is well known in Bunbury business circles. The late Mr. Teede was

involved in a serious motor accident some time ago and it is doubted if he ever fully recovered from the effects. He leaves a widow and a son, both resident in Perth

**NORMAN LEONARD TEEDE** (known as Norm)

Service Number 3952 Camel Corps, May 1916 to August 1917 - Reinforcements (May 1916 - November 1917) Date of Embarkation 9 November 1917 from Fremantle on HMAT Commonwealth (Ship Number A73)  
See also <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp> awarded 3 medals (not for anything special)

Born in 1893 in Bunbury - died in 1948 in Coolgardie (tragically, see below).

At the time of WW1 he was unmarried, but married Sarah Jane Gasmier after the war and had several children although only one is mentioned on this website .....

<http://www.royalblood.co.uk/D862/l862921.html>

<http://ww1wa.gravesecrets.net/t.html>

**TEEDE, Norman Leonard**



Service No 3952  
Trooper  
15th Light Horse Regiment

Born Bunbury, Western Australia  
Son of Mary Jane TEEDE of George Street, South Bunbury, Western Australia  
Bank Officer  
Enlisted 10 August 1917 in Perth, Western Australia  
Served in Egypt.  
Returned to Australia aboard the Delta on 26 August 1919  
Returned to Bank duty 18th September 1919

National Bank of Australasia Record of War Service of Bank and Staff 1914-1918



<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/46899980>

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/46899937>

DEATH AFTER FALL INTO SHAFT KALGOORLIE, March 30: Norman Leonard Teede (55), married, railway fletcher, of Broad Arrow, who was admitted to the Kalgoorlie District Hospital yesterday after having fallen over 35ft. down a disused shaft at Broad Arrow on Sunday evening, succumbed to his injuries at 8 o'clock tonight. Teede was found by his daughter Margaret at 8.10 a.m. yesterday, after having been in the shaft since 5.50 p.m. the previous day.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/95726631>

#### DEATH NOTICE

TEEDE.— Broad Arrow Progressive Association. — Members of the above Association are respectfully invited to follow the remains of our late member, Norman Leonard. The cortege will leave W. Strother's Chapel, 18 Hannan street, Kalgoorlie THIS (Thurs day) AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock, for interment in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery. — H. Nazzari, President. TEEDE. — Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders' Association. — Members are respectfully invited, to attend the funeral of our late comrade, Norman Leonard. The cortege will leave W. Strother's Mortuary Chapel, 18 Hannan Street, THIS AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock.— H. G. J. Ware, General Secretary.

**GEORGE SHAFER COX** (this is unconfirmed)  
See attached WW1 Service Record

<http://bunburyhistoricalsociety.com.au/photographs/>



Don't know which one is George Cox

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/87006265?searchTerm=George>  
Married to a Rene (Irene) whose family lived in Bunbury

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/32285147> MILLER. — In loving memory of dear mother and grandma, Catherine (Kate), who passed away on June 5, 1928, at Bunbury. Always affectionately remembered by Rena and George Cox and kiddies.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/87118896>

#### CARS COLLIDE - WELLINGTON STREET MISHAP

At about 4.30 yesterday afternoon a car driven by Mr George Cox, collided with a metropolitan car driven by Mr. W. A. Fordham. Mr Fordham pulled into the pavement by the Rose Hotel in Wellington Street dropped a passenger and was pulling out again when Cox's car mounted his running board and smashed the mudguard. Traffic inspector Renton was speedily on the spot and on testing Mr Cox's rear brakes, found them inefficient. No further damage was done.

## SYNOPSIS OF TEEDE LETTERS

**Synopsis of letters sent to Gerald Horden Teede** (known as Hord or Hordie) from his brothers Norman (Norm) and Victor (Vic) as well as other miscellaneous items – all from World War 1.

Actual letters are held at the Local History Collection, City of Bunbury Library.

**Letters from Norm Teede** – based in the Far East (mainly Egypt and Palestine)

### 1917

- 1 20<sup>th</sup> November POSTCARD - Written on voyage to Egypt  
~ Expects to be there for Christmas 1917  
~ Voyage enjoyable – heat increasing  
~ No time to write more
- 2 17<sup>th</sup> December POSTCARD (photograph of water buffalo with pyramid in background)  
~ First ride on a camel – did well  
~ Description of the desert camp and sleeping on the ground  
~ Visit to Cairo Zoo and gardens
- 3 19<sup>th</sup> December POSTCARD (photograph of palm trees with pyramid in background)  
~ In training camp but sightseeing as much as possible  
~ Visiting pyramids, getting good leave and spending most of it in Cairo.

### 1918

- 4 6<sup>th</sup> January LETTER – no envelope  
~ Thoughts on Egypt as a place  
~ Sightseeing / leave curtailed as camp is shut down on medical isolation (mumps in the camp)  
~ Lack of familiar food – not liking local food  
~ Prefers riding camels to horses (camel can carry more)  
~ Comment on conscription vote being lost  
~ Send parcels with chocolates and cigarettes please
- 5 19<sup>th</sup> January POSTCARD with envelope photograph of palm trees and pyramids  
~ Receiving regular letters – thank you  
~ Money is scarce – would like to have more to buy curio's etc
- 6 28<sup>th</sup> January POSTCARD photograph of camels and pyramids  
~ Postcard enclosed in same envelope as a letter  
~ Comment on camels as good mounts, wants to bring one home to ride down George Street, Bunbury  
~ Thinks “job” will soon be over
- 7 28<sup>th</sup> January LETTER – note manuscript date on letter is given as 1917, but postmark and content refers to 1918  
~ Early letters, submitted through the Censor Office, from Norm to the family were not posted from Colombo as expected but remained on ship until it arrived in Egypt  
~ Still in isolation re mumps in camp  
~ Cannot comment on what he would like to write about, war situation, as Censor would not allow it  
~ Being entertained by concerts coming to the Camp from Cairo  
~ Heard a lecture by Lord Radstock – English House of Lords – good orator  
~ Hopes there will be peace soon now that the Yanks are “in”  
~ Comment on Egyptian money systems and how the “Anzac” is overcharged

- 8      6<sup>th</sup> May                      LETTER  
 ~ Been in Egypt 6 months now  
 ~ Met Jack Salter – commissioned and on his way to France  
 ~ Playing football (AFL) and cricket  
 ~ Expecting to move ‘up the lines’ soon – a lot of casualties in other Battalions  
 ~ Opinion is that the Egyptian front is ‘finished’
- 9      6<sup>th</sup> May                      POSTCARD – photograph of Suez – Port Tewfik  
 ~ photograph shows the canal where the outpost is situated
- 10     14<sup>th</sup> April                     LETTER  
 ~ Received Hords letter from Yarloop  
 ~ Feels very fit and healthy – climate really agrees with him  
 ~ Caught some fish while out on patrol – good change of diet.
- 11     19<sup>th</sup> June                     POSTCARD Photograph of Alexandria – the French Gardens  
 ~ Beautiful place, very modern  
 ~ Is now working with horses, is sorry to leave the camels, but horses suit the countryside they are in now better than camels do
- 12     19<sup>th</sup> June                     LETTER sent from Palestine  
 ~ Still well and ‘strong’  
 ~ Palestine lovely green orchards and good soil  
 ~ Situated just behind firing lines and can hear guns roaring all day and night, Taubes (a type of glider) flying over dropping bombs, anti aircraft guns chase them off.  
 ~ Pleased to be joining ALH who are doing so well at present  
 ~ Hopes to see Jerusalem and other biblical places  
 ~ Fruit is grown by local Jewesses and sold to the camp
- 13     20<sup>th</sup> July                     LETTER sent from Palestine  
 ~ In good health, but regiment is training very hard – working and drilling from 4.15 am to 6 pm each day with horses  
 ~ Complaining about quality and quantity of food  
 ~ Troops approx 3, 000 strong  
 ~ Camped in a valley surrounded by orchards and hills, Jaffa is on the left, Jerusalem on the right and the Mediterranean sea approx 6 miles away. Is going into Jaffa for leave soon.  
 ~ Swords are to be issued, undergoing Cavalry drill – rushes and charges – anticipated role will be to charge gun positions  
 ~ Tells the story of Aussie soldiers drinking beer, being captured by Germans, then Germans (and beer) being captured by NZ Troops. Approx 600 Germans including officers captured  
 ~ Big battle took place. Monomotors (?) engaged. Germans were attacking British troops, Anzacs were in reserve. Turks reinforced Germans. Anzacs went into fight and won – 800 Germans captured, many machine guns and other equipment. Derogatory comment re ability of Turks to fight.  
 ~ Comment on lack of Palestine news reaching Australia. States that over 750,000 troops in Palestine, including 11,00 Australians  
 ~ Jordon Valley main area of fighting, held by allied troops, Germans and Turks fighting to regain it. Certain bridgeheads have been won and lost 6 times, but allies held them now. Germans short on water for the troops.  
 ~ Pessimistic about ‘end’ – appears far off now.
- 14     14<sup>th</sup> September             LETTER from hospital in Port Said  
 ~ Not wounded, but needed an operation for appendicitis  
 ~ Still weak and lost a lot of weight

- ~ Been in hospital 7 weeks at the time of writing
- ~ Not very complimentary re British hospital and nurses
- ~ More optimistic about hostilities ending soon
- ~ Mentions "young Urquhart" also being in hospital with appendicitis

- 15 10<sup>th</sup> November LETTER No indication of place
- ~ Talks about the process of demobilisation
  - ~ Troops from Palestine and Syria assembling in the one place (?)
  - ~ Contingent of troops going to Gallipoli to attend to Australian graves
  - ~ All waiting for the German surrender
  - ~ Has a good position in the Army Base Post Office, quite a treat after recent activities
  - ~ Is in the same place as the big compounds for prisoners of war – many thousands of Turks, Austrians and Germans held. Prisoner exchange – Turk and Australian – will happen soon
- 16 7<sup>th</sup> December LETTER from Kandarah
- ~ Good to speak of war having ended
  - ~ Working in Post Office again and expects to be there for the 'duration'
  - ~ Comment on the 1914 soldiers being repatriated first, others will have to wait 'patiently' as repatriation is based on year joined

#### 1919

- 17 25<sup>th</sup> April LETTER from Moascar, Egypt
- ~ Uprising by Egyptians for independence from England has stopped the demobilisation of Australian troops
  - ~ Egyptians 'very earnest about rioting and disorderly conduct' – want the English to 'clear out and leave them to manage their own affairs'.
  - ~ Most Government concerns have gone on strike and the soldiers are having to take over their roles
  - ~ Also protecting Europeans.
  - ~ Wants to be 'home' soon.

#### Letters from Vic Teede – based in the Far East (mainly Egypt and Palestine)

##### 1917

- 18 Undated – posted just before embarkation LETTER sent from training camp (Blackboy Hill ??)
- ~ Been in camp 10 weeks and just received notification of sailing in a few days
  - ~ Saying 'bye' to Norm, and saying he should get a copy of a photograph of Vic from his wife.
- 19 Undated – posted after recent arrival in England LETTER part of letter *written to his Mother* (not his brother). Pages 1 to 12 are missing. Letter begins at (manuscript) page 13.
- ~ Arrived in England and starting to train again
  - ~ Had a lot of trouble with being paid, and was very short of money. Had to request his wife to send money from Australia until admin was sorted out and he was paid.
  - ~ Comment on how scarce sugar and sweet things were in England.
- 20 28<sup>th</sup> August LETTER from Durrington Camp, Salisbury Plain
- ~ Arrived on 25<sup>th</sup> August at Devonport near Plymouth and entrained for Salisbury Plains
  - ~ Comments on how nice English countryside is and the narrowness of the

roads/laneways

- ~ Cannot get out of camp much as only get one Saturday afternoon per two weeks off.
- ~ Good deal of sickness on the way among the troops – meningitis, mumps, measles, influenza etc.
- ~ Sleeping arrangements ‘rough’
- ~ Plenty of aircraft activity as they practise etc
- ~ Anticipates being in isolation another 3 weeks, then going on leave
- ~ Durrington Camp is large – about 300 – 400 huts, and there are many other camps in addition to this one on the Plain.

21 27<sup>th</sup> January

LETTER from Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

- ~ Still a lot of illness in the camp – Bronchitis, Influenza etc – very cold conditions and accommodation not the best
- ~ Has kept well, but suffered from frozen fingers and toes.
- ~ Everything ‘frozen over’ even buckets of water inside the tents are freezing
- ~ Been warned for draft for France within the week
- ~ Mentions ‘sad news’ about WalBrittain and Mr Rodstrad
- ~ Mentions seeing Harry Fawcett, Mr Steine, “old” Pavy, Jim King, Doug Teede, also Fred Roberts being 2ic of a camp
- ~ Description of process of travelling to base in France.

22 ?? March

LETTER from Belgium – written while in ‘Trenches’

- ~ Arrived at Le Havre, and marched to the Base Camp. Mentions seeing Jack Caporn, Ern Campbell, Tommy Brittain all whom had Trench Fever and must return to Base Camp before going back to the Trenches.
- ~ Has been eating and exercising well – has increased weight and conditioning.
- ~ Marched back to Le Havre – took two days very hard marching with very heavy packs.
- ~ Marched through areas that Germans had held up to 10 days ago – much damage by shell fire, had to patch up houses they were staying in overnight to make them habitable.
- ~ Comment on how Germans seemed to target Churches,
- ~ Within days of arriving at the Battalion was told to report to Bandmaster. Every Battalion has its own band. Being in the Band means a fairly easy time, while behind the lines, but when ‘up front’ they still do front line tasks.
- ~ Driving a truck carrying equipment and supplies to the front lines, had some close shaves with shells etc.
- ~ Comments on use of high explosives, gas and shrapnel, has been very close to being injured but escaped so far. “Hell let loose”
- ~ Ordinary Australian Citizen would have “no idea of modern warfare”
- ~ At rest billets in village mentions meeting many others from Bunbury, their rank and status. Tommy Brittain was wounded
- ~ Is in general good health and had a good Christmas (ate “under the table” duck)

23 2<sup>nd</sup> May

LETTER from Birmingham War Hospital

- ~ Main news was he was injured (bomb shrapnel in right side)and is now recovering slowly – time on hands to write letters etc
- ~ Camped at “The Beggars Rest” near Ypres in Belgium and was truck driving supplies etc day and night.
- ~ Mentions a Jerry Campbell being killed by a shell
- ~ Met up with I.V. Williams now a Sargent driving a small train to close to the trenches with supplies. Very interesting description of how supplies get from railhead to trenches, including how track went over Hill 60
- ~ After heavy fire, units retreated. Interesting description of journey to city of Amiens including seeing displaced people walking along roads with wheelbarrows of belongings etc. Bombed villages,
- ~ Description of allied aircraft practising bombing and aerobatic manoeuvres,



including an airplane crash.

- ~ Description of aircraft bombing railway station at Amiens. Injury was sustained in this action.
- ~ Description of first aid, casualty clearing stations, field hospitals, hospital trains and boats and eventual arrival in England.
- ~ Description of injury, wound, operation and recuperation
- ~ Celebrates 29<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ~ Now quite comfortable, but didn't know when he would be returning to the unit.

24 2<sup>nd</sup> September

LETTER Hurdcott Wiltshire Command Depot

- ~ Has fully recovered. Has become a weather prophet as the wound itches when rain is due.
- ~ Mentions seeing many Bunbury soldiers
- ~ Has joined the Band as a Euphonium player but will only be there for another couple of weeks
- ~ Is being transferred to Overseas Training Camp to be trained and equipped for France again, but with the war being as it is hopes that it will be over before he gets there.
- ~ Again mentions many names of Bunbury based people who have been injured, gassed or had trench fever including his good friend Jack Cadden
- ~ Found out that George Lammerton was killed, Dick Clarke badly wounded and Ern Campbell also wounded.
- ~ Is very optimistic about the war ending soon, although says that the fighting is very rough at present.

25 10<sup>th</sup> October

LETTER from Overseas Training Brigade, Sandhill Camp

- ~ On draft for France expected to leave England that day
- ~ The Division he is to join has just gone on rest leave for 90 days so hopes the war will be over before going into the trenches again.
- ~ Mentions surrender of Bulgarians
- ~ Mentions Ray Baylis, George Birchall and Ring Sinclair
- ~ Christmas wishes sent

## 1919

26 25<sup>th</sup> January

LETTER Base Depot, Le Havre, France

- ~ Had a good as possible Christmas and New Year
- ~ Learnt of the death of his friend Jack Cadden, he died a few days before the Armistice
- ~ Waiting for repatriation – is in the Band playing concerts etc and accompanies troops marching from the Base Camp to the port to embark on ships for Australia – a 6 to 7 mile march
- ~ Mentions the “immorality” of Le Havre
- ~ Comments on several Bunbury businesses which have closed.
- ~ Doesn't know when he will be repatriated
- ~ Hopes to see Norm if they go through Port Said on the way home

## POSTCARD from Corporal G.S. Cox to a Mr Teede

### 1915/16 – from Gallipoli

27 Undated – postcard stamped “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – Gallipoli, 1915/1916

POSTCARD – thanking Mr Teede for a tin of chocolates which Cpl Cox had received and could just make out the senders name as “Teede” from Bunbury. He enjoyed them and it was nice to know he “was remembered”

**LETTER to Norm from "Old Pal Jack" (no surname is given)**

**1918**

28 8<sup>th</sup> April

LETTER

- ~ Just to let you know I'm alright
- ~ General comment on how hard the fighting is but also relates to spending a lot of time away from the front lines – "6/- a day tourists"
- ~ seems to do a lot of marching and journeys by train
- ~ saw enough in 3 weeks to last him a lifetime – no one could imagine it
- ~ Comment on conscription vote being lost again
- ~ Remember him to old friends etc

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

- Black edged funeral cards thanking Hord Teede for his sympathy
- Field Postcard sent by WalBritlaw in 1917
- Several empty envelopes
- Two picture postcards – black and white photographs titled "The EMDEN firing into SS KILLIN"
- Postcard photograph of 3 soldiers – no text just signed "From yours in the middle, WalCodford, 20/7/1917"

# LETTERS AND POSTCARDS

*from*

## NORMAN LEONARD TEEDE

Based in the Middle East during World War 1

*to his brother*

## GERALD HORDEN TEEDE

### TEEDE, Norman Leonard



Service No 3952  
Trooper  
15th Light Horse Regiment

Born Bunbury, Western Australia  
Son of Mary Jane TEEDE of George Street, South Bunbury, Western  
Australia  
Bank Officer  
Enlisted 10 August 1917 in Perth, Western Australia  
Served in Egypt.  
Returned to Australia aboard the Delta on 26 August 1919  
Returned to Bank duty 18th September 1919

National Bank of Australasia Record of War Service of Bank and Staff 1914-  
1918



**Postcard** – YMCA Perth, Field Service Department – no envelope, but must have been in one originally as “front” is not addressed but a continuation of the text. Text on Reverse.

“Message” side of postcard

At Sea  
20/11/17

Dear Hord

This is only a note, will write you more lengthily a little later on.

We are miles and miles from W.A. now and one can see nothing but water.

I am keeping well, and hope to continue so. I am enjoying the sea voyage and have not suffered from sea sickness. I expect to spend Xmas in Egypt, so when you are having your Xmas dinner just think of me “somewhere in Egypt”.

I will write you more fully on the trip when we reach Egypt, just now our letters have to be handed into the Censor, so I am pressed for time enough to write a decent letter. The voyage so far has been most enjoyable, and the weather all that could be expected, for exception of one or two wet days. The heat is very sultry, and I expect it will increase as we proceed. OVER

“Address” side of postcard

Wishing Sadie, yourself and the family, the best of fortune. With fondest love  
From  
Your affectionate brother  
Norm.



**Postcard** – no envelope text on reverse, front photo is of palm trees near a stream with pyramids in the background.

Abbassia Details Camp  
Cairo  
19-12-17

Dear Hord:

Just a card letting you know that I am still existing and keeping fairly well. You will see that I am now in Egypt, and in a training camp. We arrived here after a good trip and then settled down to commence our training about two weeks ago. This place is full of sights and I am doing my best to see all I am before going up the line.

I have visiting the pyramids and many other places of note and I am having a jolly good time. We have commenced our training with the camels and I think we will soon get accustomed to them. We get good leave and I spend most of it in Cairo and Heliopolis. Luna Park\* is a very good place of amusement and I have visited there many times.

Well Hord this is only a short note will write more next time. Give my love to all & keep good until I return.

With best love to Sadie from your affectionate brother, Norm.

Love to Colin, Keith and Jean.

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luna\\_Park,Cairo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luna_Park,Cairo)





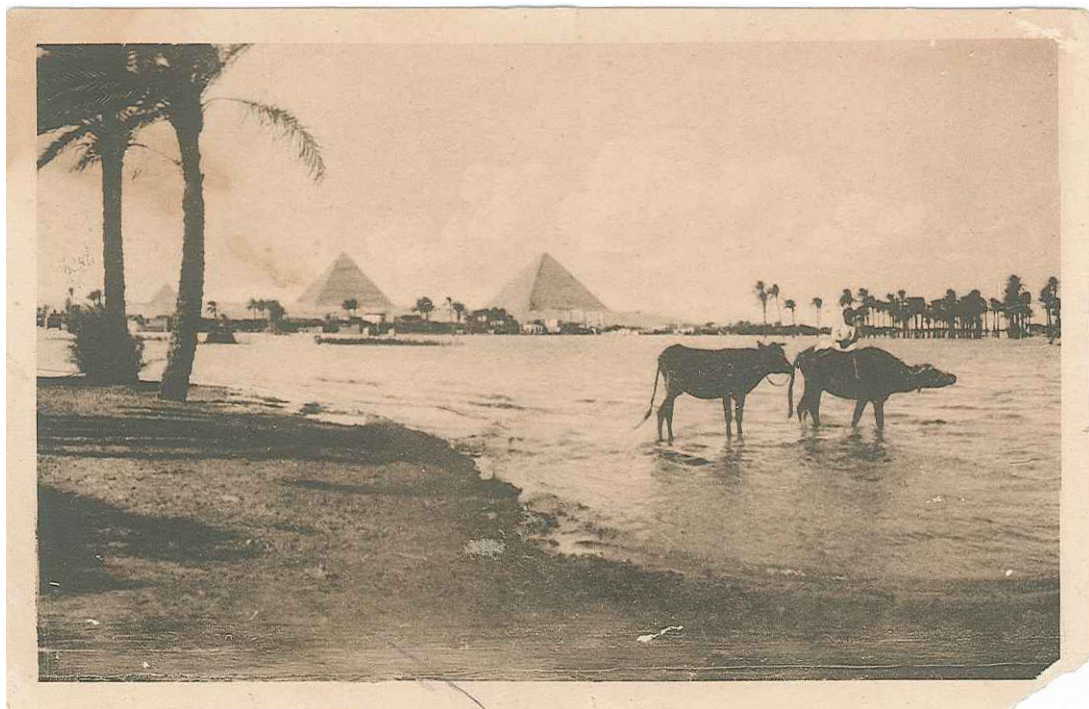
**Postcard** – no envelope Text on Reverse, front photo is of water buffalo in a river with pyramids in the background.

Abyssinia Details Camp  
Cairo 27-12-17

Dear Hord

I spent a good Christmas and I hope you all had an enjoyable one also. I had my first ride on a camel this morning and got on first rate. They are fairly easy to ride and handle. I do not know whether I have told you our camp is situated on the desert and of course there is nothing but sand and stones everywhere. We have to sleep on the ground but it is not so bad at all and I am quite used of it. On Sunday last I visited the Cairo Zoo and gardens which I enjoyed immensely. There is always some places to go to and I can assure you I am always on the go. Don't forget to write me a line or two every week, I have not received any letters yet, and you can well imagine how anxiously I am looking forward to the first mail from W.A. Give my love to Sadie and the kiddies and tell them I am in good health. Hope you are doing well with the business.  
*(words faint and unreadable) until my next.*

Love from your affectionate bro. xxx Norm.



3 quarto size pages written on one side only

Address

No. 3952 N.L. Teede  
Reinforcement Camp  
Camel Corps  
Abbassia  
Cairo

6-1-18

Dear Hord,

Just imagine how pleased I was to receive your ever welcome letter, it is the first from home but, I suppose others will arrive very soon, Mother will no doubt have written about the same time as you and I am looking forward most anxiously to her letters.

I am pleased to hear that Vic is OK and by now he must be in France, well I wish him the best of luck and sincerely trust on his getting through safely.

A letter from good old W.A., I can assure you; puts good spirits into us chaps out here. I have received five now, and I look upon them as treasures.

Well Hord, Egypt is a queer old place and full of interesting sights and I could spend heaps of money if I had it in satisfying my desire for sight seeing. Ask Mother to show you a letter where I explained my visit to the Dead City, it is very interesting and I hope you will get a good idea of it from my style of describing sights.

Our leave has been cut out now on account of us being in isolation, so

Page 2

therefore I cannot get about as I would wish.

I must tell you that I have not had a good feed since I left W.A. The Egyptian style of cooking is absolutely the opposite to what ours is, and often having a meal in one of the tuck shops I feel as though I have had nothing. We cannot buy meat, and that is the mainstay of our boys. The food in the camp is a little better to that in the city, but we cannot get enough to satisfy our hunger at times. No doubt you have received word of the fall of Jerusalem, and the various successes of our boys in Palestine. I think that will most likely bring peace. We do not get news before you, only that from Palestine.

As I have not been out of camp for some considerable time now, I have no great stock of news, so you must excuse a short note this time. I am now some class with the handling of my camel, and I prefer riding one to a horse, we can carry more food & rugs with us so that is a big consideration. I think

very soon we will go out for a stunt and afterwards I presume we will know something of the sands of the desert. I am looking forward to it, as it will be good training for us.

Page 3

I see where conscription has been turned down again in Australia, well that is bad luck but as the voluntary system is going pretty well I suppose we will have to carry on as usual.

I will have heaps to tell you on my return, and I presume you are well aware of the fact that we are debarred from writing lots of things that we would wish to give our folks some idea of in our letters. I have witnessed many great military sights and of which I will be able to describe to you some day when I return

Well Hord, always write to me even if it is only a few lines I will always appreciate them.

Let all at home know that I am keeping well and give Sadie and the boys not forgetting little Jean my best love.

Keep on smiling  
With love from  
Your affectionate brother  
Norm xxx

P.S. By today's mail I received papers from home and Subiaco and they are very welcome. If you send a parcel to me at any time, do not forget to include chocolates and cigarettes.

Norm

End of letter



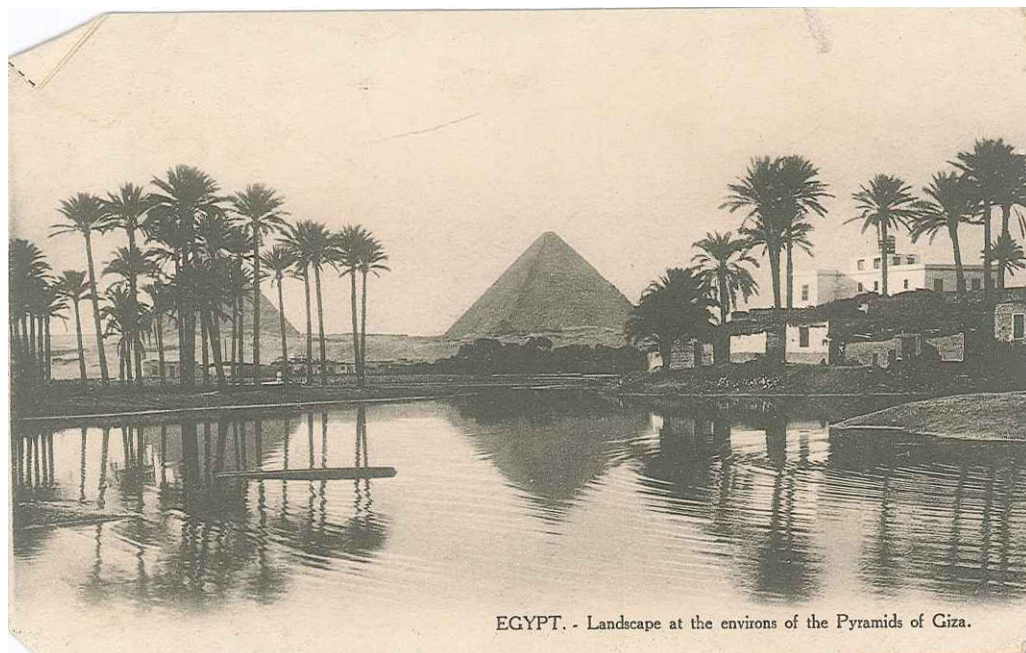
**Postcard** with Envelope – envelope is from Church Army “on Active Service with Field Postal stamp dated 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 18 “On Active Service and addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia. Postcard front is a picture of palm trees, stream and pyramid “Egypt – Landscape at the environs of the Pyramids of Giza”. Text on Reverse

Camel Corp  
Abbassia  
Cairo  
19.1.18

No 3952  
N.L. Teede

Dear Hord

Your third letter to hand safely. I hope you keep going as you are, I am quite pleased to get your letters. You will no doubt have a letter from me by this time letting you know some of the sights I have seen and also my doings etc. I am receiving letters pretty regular and I hope you all keep up your good start. There are heaps of little curios I would like to send home, but money is too scarce. Perhaps when I have a good run out in the desert, and come in for a spell, will have a good credit so will be able to buy up. Give my fondest love to Sadie, Jean and the boys. Keep smiling. Love from your aff. Brother Norm xxx



**Postcard** – no envelope Text on Reverse, front photo is of camels in the desert with pyramids in the background.

Egypt  
28-1-18

Dear Hord

Just a card with my few lines enclosed under the same envelope. The picture shows some of the steeds which I have to carry me up the line when I get attached to a battalion. I can tell you they make very good mounts, and I prefer them to a horse. Some of them are pretty wild, but as a rule a camel is more frightened of us, than we are of them. They are going to be our best friends out in the desert.

I would like to bring one home with me to carry me out to old George Street after being into town. Guess all South Bunbury would turn out.

Keep smiling Hord and cheer Mother up, do not forget to keep her on the bright side. This job will soon be over. With love to all at home, let them know that I am keeping well. From your affectionate brother. Norm.  
No. 3952 N.L. Teede



Envelope details

FRONT

“On Active Service”

The Y.M.C.A. With the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces

Addressed to: Mr H.G. Teede, Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia

Re-addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, PO, P. Office, Yarloop Western Australia

Triangular stamped “Passed by Censor No 3953”

BACK

Initials over sealed section N. Teede

**Postmark Bunbury Western Australia 11.30A 5 Mar 18**

LETTER

3 small pages written on both sides – 6 pages of script in total

Letterhead The Y.M.C.A. With the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces

Page 1

“Somewhere in Egypt”

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 1917 (should be 1918)

Dear Hord

**Your letter dated 22/12/17 to hand** and I notice your remark about not receiving my letters whilst on the voyage. Well, Hord all I can say to explain the late delivery is that short letters which mother received were posted at Colombo, my other letters I handed to the censor on the boat who led us to understand that all correspondence would go back to WA by the first boat. I take it that no mails were put off at Colombo but were carried right on to Egypt with us. My first letter to Mother was some ten or twelve pages which contained anything that happened of interest whilst on the voyage, I am very disappointed as it would cause you all to be expecting letters by each mail day, well I hope you now have all my letters including some from Egypt.

Page 2

Now Hord, one would think that I had heaps to write about, being in a strange land with plenty of sights to see, and leading a soldier's life. However, no, that is not the case at all. I think I have told you in other letters that our crowd is in isolation on account of mumps, the isolation was nearly being lifted when another case was reported and bang we went for another term which we are now undergoing. When in isolation no leave is granted, so we are in camp at all times leading a dull life. There are lots of military subjects I could write on,

but that is forbidden as you are aware of, so I must try and give you a few better items that may interest you. In this camp we often get good concerts from the city of Cairo, the other night a company called the "Scamps" from England (who are showing in a theatre called "The Kursaal" in Cairo) paid us a visit, and provide us with some good amusement. They are a company like the Dandies.

Page 3

Last night I went to hear Lord Radstock speak on the war. He is the first Lord I have had the pleasure of knowing, of course I found him no different to any of our own politicians in W.A. but my word he is a good orator and was very interesting. He is a member of the British House of Lords.

Of course, amongst such a crowd of soldiers there is always a chance of getting hold of some good artists and we hold our own concerts in the Y.M.C.A. but if it was not for the amusement I am sure our life would get monotonous. Perhaps we are lucky in being kept here, if we were not in isolation we would have been up the line long ago, and perhaps some of us would have had our issues. Still I maintain that the sooner we get into the business the sooner we will get our issue, what-ever it is going to be, and the sooner we can get back again, that's the thing I am looking forward to, what a great day that will be.

Page 4

Of course I am keeping my pecker up, and am carrying on and playing the game.

I had a letter from Vic yesterday giving me all the news of his leave in London. By jove, he had a tip top time, and I would give anything to be with him. We do not get leave here like they do in England; still we are willing to let the lads have that privilege as they have to face something hotter in France, at least that is my opinion of it, perhaps the old hands here think different.

Lets hope that this year will bring a peace, and that our aims will come out triumphant, I think that Germany is quite ready for a cessation of hostilities, but if so our claims they are thinking of, the indemnities are what they do not want to make but in the end they will give into us and pay up.

Page 5

The entry of the Yanks this spring I hope will make some trouble for the Huns, although Russia appears to be pulling out America will make up the loss. Surely our combinations will lick them on the Western Front, the same as the Turk is getting here.

I do not know Hord whether I have explained the money problem which the troops here have to face on their arrival in Egypt. We have to use the Egyptian coins and give up our own English fashion of shilling etc. Piastres

are the main items. There are 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, & 20 pieces. A piastre is equal to 2 1/2 d. (pence) in our money and a 5 piastre piece we treat as a shilling. 100 piastres make up an Egyptian pound and there are 50 and 100 piastre notes. It did not take the Australians long to create their own names for the coins. A piastre they nick-named "Disaster", "Dissonk" and "Dissie". A 10 piastre piece is just about the same size as our half-a-crown, but the 20 piastre piece is nearly twice the size. If I can do so, I

Page 6

will bring home a collection of the coins. The natives deal in milliemes which are not worth as much as our farthing. Ten milliemes make a piastre which is 2 1/2 d., so a tenth of 2 1/2 d. is hardly a farthing. We do not use milliemes much, only to pay our tram fares into the city. We have to deal in piastres, where the Gypos use milliemes, and it is only a rumour they do not take us down when we make a purchase.

Well Hord this is all this time, so I will conclude hoping you are all well. Best love to Sadie, Jean and the boys

With fondest love

From your affectionate bro,  
Norm

From No. 3952  
Tpr N.L. Teede,  
Anzac Base Depot  
Camel Corps.  
Abbassia  
Egypt.

Envelope – logo for “Church Army – Open to all” in a red shield on the front. Headed “on ACTIVE SERVICE” Stamped passed by Censor (very faded red triangular shape) . On reverse “post” stamp Army Post Office 17 13 S23 (only partially readable).

LETTER – 2 pages “letter sized” – one side only

Page 1

“Somewhere in Egypt”  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Hord

I have only just received your letter from Yarloop, and so as not to miss a return mail I am giving you a short note. The boat for Aussy is leaving here tomorrow, so I am writing this in great haste to be in time for the mail bag leaving here this morning.

Things are OK with me, never felt so strong before, this climate agrees with me immensely. Can always face my tucker and eat the roughest at that. To tell you the truth I feel as though I am in train (sic) for some event.

Guess you and Perce will have a shoot of some sort. How great to be motored out, & the trip will do you good. Mother will appreciate having Ida with her, and it will cheer her up.

It is getting hot here now, and I am tanned up already, I do not know what I will look like when the summer has done with me. I have had a good

Page 2

few swims and I consider we are dead lucky to have the water so handy. Fish are pretty scarce, but my luck was right in last week. Another chap and myself were out on patrol, and we tried our luck at fishing, we caught three salmon each weighing about six pounds. The change of diet was great, especially being cooked by ourselves.

Give my love to all, and keep on smiling

Write soon

Love from your affectionate brother  
Norm

Address  
No. 3952 Tpr, N.L. Teede  
11<sup>th</sup> Company  
53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion  
Imperial Camel Corp  
Aus. Imp. Forces Egypt

Envelope – Active Service with certification by Norm Teede on left hand side, addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, Victoria Street, Bunbury Western Australia.

LETTER – three “letter” size pages (air mail quality)

“Somewhere in Egypt”

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1918

11<sup>th</sup> Company  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion  
Imperial Camel Corp  
E.E.F.

Dear Hord

Time skims along and the year is nearly half way through, I have been here six months now, and it really appears that many years. I have crowded a great deal into those six months, and feel well satisfied with my travels.

When I write I always speak of the good times I have, in doing so I do not mean to insinuate that this game is all one big picnic, and I am sure you do not take it to be. We have our displeasures and set backs as well as good times, but they are all in the life and one only has to soldier on and wait until the job is over, when it will not take us long about pulling the civvy clothes on.

I met Jack Salter in Suez a few days ago, he has a commission now, and is on his way to France. He came up and spoke to me and we had a long yarn about the old place. Infantry also landed and I met many W.A. lads who were in camp before and after I left.

Page 2

They played our company a match of football, and we won by one goal, one behind. I kicked two goals four behinds and am now a big boom. It is a bit hot for footy now, and cricket is in full swing, our company lads are the champs and challenges are flying about in plenty. The W.A. boys at this company challenged the Victorians of same, which resulted in a win for W.A. I knocked up thirty seven which was top score. I did surprise myself, because I thought I was a big mug at cricket.

I do not think it will be long before this battalion moves up to the line, there has been a lot of casualties in the other battalions so I take it that we will soon be called for.

The general opinion is that this front is nearly finished, but I think that there will always be something doing here to keep the Turks busy. If this front does finish well then we will have to join the infantry or Light Horse. I would not mind a trip to France or England, but would not like to take on the foot slogging after being mounted. I hope the war ends for that would be no good to me, I would soon get my ticket back to Aussy.

Page 3

I am continually thinking of you all at home, wondering how you are getting along, and trusting that all goes well. Of course I am longing for the day to come along when Vic and I will return, I bet you will not stop us from yapping about all we have witnessed and not forgetting the wonderful sights etc.

Well Hord this is all this time, will try and give you more in my next.

Best love to all at home

From your affectionate brother, Norm xxx xxx

N.B. Had a long letter from Vic who is in Belgium. He says he is O.K. and hopes to get through safely. He reckons the Germans are continually sending shells into their possession of trenches, and that several have landed quite close to his dug out, sending heaps of dust and sticks all over the shop.

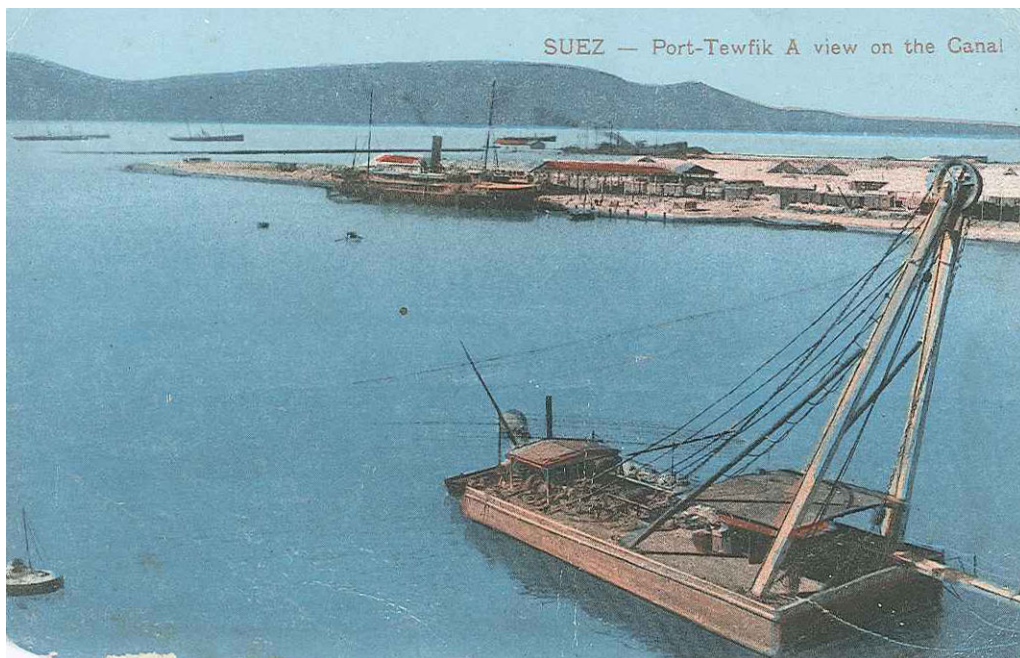
Norm



**Postcard** – no envelope text on reverse, front photo is of “Suez – Port Tewfik. A view on the Canal”

This is a snap of the canal about eight miles from where our outpost is situated. It is where we landed from Aussey, and will be mostly likely where we will embark for home after the job is over.

From Norm  
Kubri  
Egypt  
6/5/1918



**Postcard** – no envelope Text on Reverse, front photo is of Alexandria the French Gardens

Palestine 19-6-18

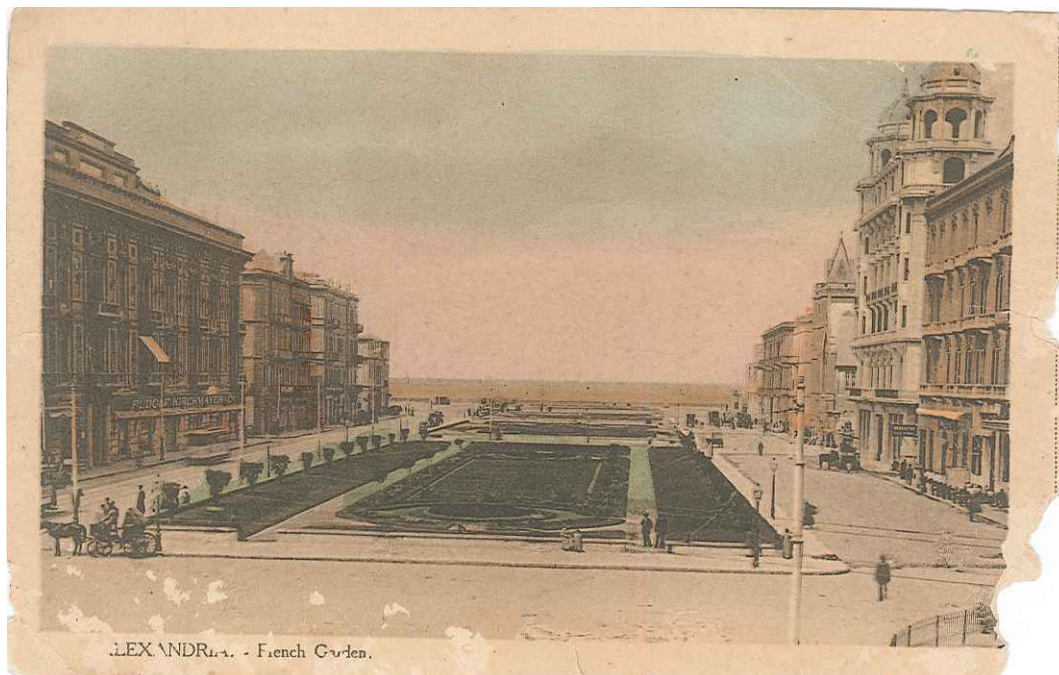
Dear Hord

What do you think of this picture of Alexandria, a very beautiful place, the most up to date city in Egypt, and about the largest, many times bigger than Perth, but give me good old Perth.

After a few months of here we will get leave to some city so I am putting my coins on their edges in the meanwhile.

I think that horses will be just the thing, the country suits them better than camels, still I am real sorry to leave the camels, anyway I had some good stunts with the camels and the experience will be of great use. Well Hord I will now conclude with best love to all. Cheer Oh

Love from your affectionate brother Norm xxx



One 'letter' size page, written on both sides. Letterhead for the YMCA with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. No envelope.

Page 1

Palestine  
June 19<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Hord

I think it is up to me to write a few lines letting you know that I am quite well and am still going strong. Always thinking of home and wondering when I will be back again amongst you all. I still maintain my good spirit by not looking back, and am going to soldier on until the job is o'er.

I am situated in quite a different scene to when I wrote to you last, instead of the sandy desert it is lovely green orchards and grass in plenty. We are now situated just behind the firing line and the guns are roaring all night and day. Taubes (*Note: see description below*) frequently pay us a visit, but are kept up by our anti aircraft guns. The very first morning we reached here a taube came over and our guns immediately opened fire, it did not take "Jacko" long to nick off home at top speed. We have finished with camels and are getting horses very soon, when we are to get some squadron drill and then make off to join our own A.L.H. pals who are doing so well at present.

Page 2

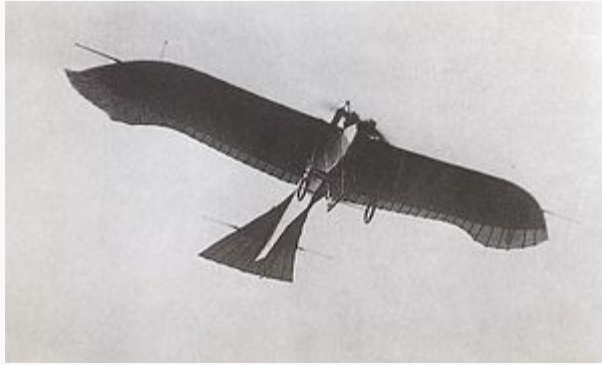
By the time this note reaches you I will no doubt be far away and seeing much service. I hope before we move to see Jerusalem and then write about what I have witnessed to you all. I have already seen many Biblical places, but will no doubt see many more in the future. It is no doubt that Palestine is a very good agricultural country, and will be very prominent after the war. The Turks have held it back by foolish laws. The soil is chocolate in colour and very much like that of our best wheatbelt country. Fruit is grown largely and Jewesses come to our camp selling it to the troops. A few villages are within sight and are occupied by the British, so I take it that these women come from there. To reach here we had a twenty two hours ride in open trucks, and I can tell you it was rather rough, but still it is all in the game and we took it smiling. We had very little notice to quit our last camp, consequently I was unable to write and let you know, and am likely in the future to be situated likewise, so Hord if I do not write so often as of old you will understand. You can rest assured that, I will write whenever possible, even if it be only a few lines. Give my love to Sadie, Jean, Colin, Keith & let them know that I am quite well. Hoping you are OK. So long and cheer oh until my next notes.

Love to all from your affectionate brother

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Norm xxxxxxxx

Information obtained from the Internet.

## **Etrich-Rumpler *Taube***



**Role** Fighter, Bomber, Surveillance, and Trainer

**Manufacturer** Various

**Designer** [Igo Etrich](#)

**First flight** [1910](#)

**Primary user** [Luftstreitkräfte](#)

No envelope

LETTER – five “letter” size pages

Palestine  
July 20<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Hord:

Your letter dated 6/5/18 to hand which I was greatly pleased to receive.

I am pleased to hear that things are O.K. in the old village, and that you are all in good health. I can say the same myself, although our regiment is receiving the most strenuous training known to any other crowd. Hord this light horse stunt means a lot of work, and we are kept going all day. Up at 4.15 a.m. (pitch dark) and work and drill until 6 p.m. I can assure you we are all fit for some rest when knock off time arrives. I must complain about the tucker we are getting, it is disgraceful and is causing much dissatisfaction. We have been promised a change, but that's all and I think that's all too, and it will remain as that. We are about three thousand strong, so you can well imagine the rumours. Horses are everywhere, and the sight is rather pleasing. We are camped in a

Page 2

valley, surrounded by orchards and lovely green hills. Jaffa is on our left and Jerusalem on the right. The Mediterranean Sea we can hear at night, I think it is about six miles away. In a few days time I will be going to Jaffa, so I will be able to let you know something concerning it in my next letter.

We have been informed that swords are to be issued to us, so it will be rough on Jacko the first time we clash. We are undergoing cavalry drill, which consists of rushes and charges at top gallop. When we do move off for action, I think our work will be to rush gun positions etc. a damned dangerous task, as our training denotes, still luck is all I wish for, I will go into it like mad. Our horses are tip top and selected for speed, some of them are pretty rough, but as a rule know their work. When the training is over, and we get marching orders, what a great sight it will be to see some three thousand of us on horses, swords at side, going forth to battle.

I must tell you of a little stunt that happened only about four miles from us about five nights ago. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Light Horse, holding a sector of the line, beer was on issue and of course it was greatly partaken of. A German regiment managed

Page 3

to cut through to barbed-wire and surround the position, I cannot tell you whether it was the beer they smelt, but anyway to go on with the narrative, the Germans soon had hold of the beer and poured it into them, and were

marching our boys away as prisoners, (also the remainder of the beer) when a Regiment of N.Z. Mounted Rifles galloped in and bagged the lot. 600 Germans was the catch, including a Colonel and staff. Here is another. A week ago we could hear a big battle taking place on our left, the roar of the guns was terrific, Monotors (sic) being engaged. It appears that a big party of Germans were attacking the Tommies who had the Anzac Mounted Division as reserves. The Turks were to reinforce the Huns when called upon, but somehow as soon as they sighted the Anzacs they turned and made off. The Anzacs quickly swung round, and came up on the Germans from the flank, thus causing the Huns to fight two movements at once. The Anzacs galloped in on top of them and a sharp fight was the result, but our lads soon became masters, the Huns surrounded in groups. The capture was 800 Huns, many machine guns and equipment. Of course the Huns are not giving Jacko a name for turning them down, the prisoners reckon Jacko can't fight at all.

Page 4

These two things I have spoken of Hord, are quite true, I know you do not get much of the news from Palestine. It would surprise many in Australia to know just what is going on, the same as you hear of France. I cannot make out why weekly cables are not despatched from here. Operations of big importance are taking place here, costing us hundreds of lives, but nothing appears in print in details. Do you know that there is over 750,000 troops in Palestine, including about 11,000 Aussies, a fact that hardly any people in W.A. know I am sure. There is a movement on foot here, headed by many Officers, to send the people news each week, I think it will be arranged to. The Jordan Valley, just at this moment is raging with battles. All troops are engaged. Germans and Turks are fighting hard to regain it, as if they are pushed back any further they will be short of water. Certain bridge heads have been won and lost six times, we now hold them all. It is hard to say whether we will try to advance any further in places, or whether we will hold on pending the serious position on the Western front. The end appears far off, most likely we will arrive back with grey beards in 1950.

Page 5

Under you will find my change of address, so keep it in prominence (sic) for my quick receipt of your mail.

I wonder how old Vic is progressing, I hope he is getting along first rate. Have not had a letter from him for sometime. Suppose he will be rejoining his battalion soon.

Well Hord I will end this out now, hoping you are quite your old self again.

Give my love to Sadie, Jean and the twins.

Love from your affectionate brother xxx Norm xxx

Cheer oh! And keep out of this show.

Address

3952 Trooper N.L. Teede  
A. Squadron  
15<sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt  
5<sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade  
Australian Imperial Forces Abroad

P.S. I am keeping fit, and becoming some class as a horseman.

Envelope – Active Service with certification by Norm Teede on left hand side, addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia.

LETTER – two “letter” size pages (air mail quality)

No 14 Australian General Hospitals  
Port Said  
September 14<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Hord

No doubt you will hear from Mother that I am in hospital with appendicitis. Well Hord my run of good nick came to a finish when appendicitis got me. I took ill very suddenly, I did not know what was up with me. Something was wrong so I paraded with the sick, mustered early each morning much against my favour on account of holding such a nice position with Brigade Headquarters which I will most likely lose now. At any rate Hord I am quite OK again, the operation is over thank heavens, and I am hopping about as of old. Still a bit weak, but will soon put on condition. Lost a lot of weight during the spin, but maleesh (*Note – see below*) I can soon put that on again. I have now been in hospital seven weeks, have been looked after first rate, always felt comfortable. Before I reached our own Australian Base Hospital, I was admitted to four English or rather Tommy hospitals, whilst in those I felt up to mud, the sisters cannot come in the same street as the

Page 2

good old Ausey (*sic*) Sisters. When I knew that I was bound for the No.14 A.G.H I felt quite pleased. There is nothing like being in your own crowd, in this game.

Well Hord old chap things look good in France, the business looks like pulling up. Marshal Foch appears the right man for the task of crushing the Hun. We hear of many rumours of peace over here, but talk is no good, nothing will attract my hopes until the thing really comes along in bold print.

News is pretty scarce this time Hord, will endeavour to give you a lengthy letter next time I write. I hope you are O.K. and also that Sadie, Jean and the boys are the same. Let all know that I am quite alright again, and that I will be the same as ever.

With best love to all at home.

Keep smiling. From your affectionate bro. xxx Norm xxx

No. 3952

A. Squadron  
15<sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt  
5<sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade  
Australian Imperial Forces Abroad



N.B. Young Urquhart is in hospital here, also with appendicitis. He has had a jolly rough spin, and I think he will be going home in the near future.  
Norm.

Note – “maleesh” is a slang word for maybe.

Envelope – Plain pale blue, addressed to Mr G.H. Teede Esq, Victoria Street, Bunbury Western Australia. Envelope headed in manuscript “On Active Service”. Stamp removed.

LETTER – three “letter” size pages (air mail quality)

A.B.P.O.  
Kantarrah  
Egypt  
10-11-18

Dear Hord

It is now sometime since I wrote you a few lines, there has been very little for me to speak of, the great news you are quite aware of, so it is of no use for me to give you that, but I must say that it appears as if Vic and I will be marching home very soon. For the demobilisation purposes it is proposed to bring all the Australians to Egypt, and ship them home in batches. Perhaps I will see Vic here, what a great reunion, I guess there will be plenty of excitement about. All Australian Light Horse regiments are coming down from Palestine and Syria to be camped somewhere pending the result of the peace overtures now taking place. A couple of regiments are leaving here very soon for Gallipoli to attend to the Australian graves on the peninsular and after caring for these heroic graves

Page 2

the units will most likely see Constantinople. The treat I would like to participate in, but no such good future luck I suppose will come our regiments luck. At any rate I am quite pleased to be able to return home feeling safe and sound.

There is not much excitement here, the troops are quite in good spirits over our own part of the great outlook, but appear to be waiting on the gong to sound the final and official notes of peace. Today is Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, and tomorrow is the day of Germany's answer to Gen. Foch. I hope it is surrender. We have it here that the Kaiser and Crown Prince have abdicated, so it appears as if the duration has come. What a great day when the world will once again swing in peaceful times, and all the boys are back again into eival civic ways. I am sure I will appreciate any old place in W.A. after this spin of military life in this land.

At present I am in a good possie at the Australian Army Base Post Office, plenty of work, but quite a treat

Page 3

after juggling the rifle on guards etc. I will most likely be here for a few weeks and then rejoin my regiment, at present I cannot say anything for a certainty.

Perhaps the Divisions here will be moved to another front, but it does not appear likely on account of the safe position we are in at present. Until the overtures for peace are settled I suppose they will hold all the Australians here.

The place I am now in is where all the big compounds for prisoners of war are kept. I have had a walk round and saw many thousand of Turks, Austrians and Germans. The Turks will soon be going back to Turkey and the Australian prisoners there sent back here.

Well, Hord I will conclude this note now hoping you are quite well. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to be home early in 1919. Keep smiling. I am in the best of health.

Love to all

From your affectionate brother

xxx Norm xxx

Envelope – small plain brown, no markings at all apart from the address Mr G.H. Teede, Victoria Street, Bunbury Western Australia.

LETTER – two small “letter” size pages written on both sides.

Page 1

A.B.P.O.  
Kandarah  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 1918

Dear Hord

It is now a fair time since you heard from me, and also since I've heard from you. I suppose you have plenty to keep you going just now so that's the reason of your silence. Don't give up your letters now the business has ceased, I still look for news from you so keep going until you know that I am on my way home.

The old war has pulled up at last and things are quiet once more, how nice it is to be able to speak of it having ended in our letters. You people at home must be greatly excited and no doubt delighted with the issue.

Page 2

Old Vic and I will soon come marching home to let you know of all we have seen during our spin. I suppose the demobilisation scheme will soon come into operation, the sooner the better the waiting is going to be hard but we can put up with it, we have put up with a great deal worse. What a day it will be when we are told to board ship for Aussie, guess there will be plenty of excitement that day.

At present I am working at the Australian Base Post Office, on the Christmas mails from your shores, letters everywhere, this is the place to see letters. I have been here three or four weeks and will most likely be here until the

Page 3

duration unless I can work my head out of it back to my regiment. Some say that we will be here until last, but nobody knows anything yet. The 1914 men are getting away fairly well but the heads will have to do things in a better style when they command the big job of getting the crowd home.

I suppose we will have to wait patiently until the happy day comes for the embarkation to good old W.A.

I have not heard from Vic for sometime, I hope he is alright and still going strong. He must be seeing some wonderful military sights just now. The Huns have realised our superiority, so I suppose

Page 4

during the armistice he will be get a good sight of it. What a great sight it must have been when the German Fleet surrendered to us. I hope to see some great sights before I get home. There are rumours of some of us going to England, I hope so as I would like to see it before I got back home.

Well Hord there is not much for me to write about this time so will cut it out with best greetings to all for Christmas & the New Year.

Love to Sadie, Jean, Colin and Keith.

Keep smiling until my next

Your affectionate bro  
Norm.

Envelope

Official Army Envelope "On Active Service" – right hand column signed certified, left hand column is the Address. Mr G.H. Teede Victoria Street Bunbury Western Australia. Front is also postmarked, Field Post Office 25 Apr 19. Envelope reverse has the date 25/4/19 written on the top flap.

LETTER – One foolscap page, written on both sides.

Page 1

Moascar  
Egypt  
25/4/19

Dear Hord:

No doubt you will be surprised when you receive this to find that I am still in Egypt, yes, too true I am well here and do not know when I am going to get out of it.

This jolly Egyptian trouble stopped our demobilisation, so of course we are like of old without any idea of when our homeward journey is going to come off. It is a bit hard being disappointed, but I suppose the best thing to do is to keep grinning and the time will soon spin along. The army of occupation is to arrive from England during July and August so I presume our job is to wait until they settle here.

These Gippies are very earnest about their rioting and disorderly conduct. They wish the British to clear out and let them manage their own affairs, they are very bitter towards the English and I think the trouble is going to last for a lengthy period. Almost every government concern is out on strike, and the soldiers have taken their places working the railways, trams etc.

Page 2

The place is being kept going by the troops and the Egyptians are just going about the cities holding demonstrations and shouting "Egypt for Egyptians", "Down with the Tyrants". Our boys are spread all over the country restoring order and protecting the Europeans. I hope the Army of Occupation comes along soon, so that we can get away. The trouble concerns England so let her manage it with the proper troops.

Vic wrote to me saying that he is applying for early repatriation; I hope he gets home as I would like to see one of us home soon. Vic for preference, he is married, I have no reason at all.

I see that Perce is at Goomalling, one of my old haunts. He says he finds it a busy little spot and is having some good sport shooting. He has met many

people that know me and they requested him to send their remembrances. I hope to take a spin up to see him when I return.

Well Hord I hope you are in the best of health and the business is going ahead first rate.

Give my love to Sadie and the Kiddies.

I am OK and anxiously looking forward to returning home.

With the best of health and luck

From your  
Affectionate brother  
Norm.

# LETTERS AND POSTCARDS

from

VICTOR BIRD TEEDE

Based in England France and Belgium during  
World War 1

to his brother in Bunbury

GERALD HORDEN TEEDE



No envelope

1 Page Blue writing pad "flimsie" style paper.

Undated

(Address) No. 7806  
Pte V.B. Teede  
26<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements  
11<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Australian Imperial Forces  
Abroad

Dear Hord

Just a few hurried lines to let you know we expect to be sailing on this coming Thursday, & to say goodbye to you, Sadie & the little ones.

I have only been in camp 10 weeks & it is rather sudden, but I shall be glad to get away & do my little bit & be done with it.

I had my photo taken today & Phine will give you one as soon as she gets them.

Goodbye old chap, & don't forget to write & let me know all the news as often as possible & I will keep you posted as to my doings also.

With best love from  
Your loving Brother  
Vic

Note – "Phine" is Vic's wife Josephine.

No envelope

Partial letter to MOTHER – starts at page 13, 2 notepad type pages written both sides.

Page 13

in Australia. We are starting all over again here, so it will take us a long time to learn everything. The training here is very strict & thorough, but I am not afraid of a bit of hard work, as the harder it is, the better I feel.

We have had a lot of messing about with our pay, & I have not had a shilling paid to me for over a month now. As tobacco & everything else is so dear here now, & I was broke when I left the ship, I had to borrow a quid from a pal to keep myself going. Out of that I sent a cable to Phine for some money & to let her know I was in England. This cost me 9/9 (*nine shillings and nine pence*), so there was not much left of the quid after the cable & a few things I wanted came out of it. The cable would not reach Phine for a week or so

Page 14

after I sent it, but she would have received it now some days ago. To have a cable sent straight away, costs three shillings a word, but of course, I couldn't afford that much, & had to send it at the cheaper rate of ninepence a word.

I asked poor old Phine to cable the money to me through the Commonwealth Bank, London, & I do hope she didn't have any worry in finding out how to send it. The Post Office people would tell her alright though.

I have been putting in most of my spare time on the ship and in camp, in writing letters to you all, & I expect you have got some of them by this time, I have written letters to Phine, yourself, Ida, Norm, Perce, Hord & Mr Brown, so I have plenty to write to. Most of the other chaps are fond of cards, but I have no time for them here, & would much sooner be writing

Page 15

letters to you all, so mind you write to me as often as possible, & keep the others up to the scratch also, as it is very cheering to get letters from home, when you are so many thousands of miles away.

I wrote to dear old Phine yesterday, but some of the news I gave her is not in your letter, & some of yours not in hers, so you must read out the news to each other, as sometimes I miss things in one letter & put it in the other.

How are you all at home, I trust you have been keeping tip top & not worrying too much about me, as there is nothing to worry over while I am in old England. Give my love to Dad & Frank. I suppose Frank will be in long trousers by the time I get back home. Won't he look a

Page 16

master Eh!

You know how I used to be so fond of sweet things at home. Well, anything here in that line is very scarce indeed, as sugar is so dear, so by the time I get home, I will not want so many sweet things, as I get very little here.

Well Mother dear, this is about all this letter, so I will have to close with fondest love and kisses, from

Your ever loving Son

Vic xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

P.S. Give my kind regards to Hord  
Vic

5 quarto sized pages – written on one side only (splash marks on top half of each page)

Page 1

(Address) No. 7806  
26<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements  
11<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Australian Imperial Forces  
Abroad

28<sup>th</sup> August 1917

Dear Hord

Just a line to let you know that we arrived here O.K. on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. And from the time I last wrote you (Freetown) nothing unusual happened. We landed at Devonport near Plymouth at about 6 o'clock on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst & entrained for Salisbury Plains that same afternoon in a special train that was waiting for us right alongside the docks. We had a train journey of 5 hours through beautiful Devonshire, Exeter and Wiltshire, & arrived at our present camp, Durrington Camp, Lark Hill, Salisbury Plains, at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. It doesn't get dark in England until about 9 o'clock, so we had about 3 hours sight of the country from the train, & my word it was more beautiful than ever I imagined it could be. Everything here is

Page 2

lovely & green. Green fields, green trees, all of such a deep green that we never see in Aust. & about every 2 miles you come to a village which is generally right in the hollows of the hills & you come upon them all of a sudden. The lanes in these villages are all about 10 yards wide and the little two storied houses, some of them hundreds of years old are very quaint & pretty, & just like what we have always read and heard about them. All the roads are made of some hard stone like our basalt & they are almost as level & smooth as Victoria Street is. They are lovely for long bike rides or motoring, but they are very narrow, & wind about in all sorts of curves & turns, & all along the sides the earth has been thrown up about 8 feet or so & hedges of trees and runners are growing all over them. Well Hord, I could go on writing for a long time, but I only

Page 3

intended writing this time to let you know I had arrived alright, but later on I will be able to write you a fuller account of what I see here, as there are a number of interesting villages and historic places around about this camp, within a few miles of us, but as we only get Saturday afternoons off, every fortnight it will take some time to see them all. We had a good deal of sickness aboard our boat, such as spinal meningitis, measles, mumps & influenza, & consequently we were all in the isolation tents, & as we are having such unusually wet &

stormy weather here now, we had to pack up our beds & blankets the other night at 10 o'clock & now we are quartered in some old open stables. Soldering is pretty rough alright, but it's in a good cause so will have to be put up with. Have seen dozens of aeroplanes flying around over our camp at times

Page 4

here, & my word they can go some. They make a terrible noise, something like 6 or 7 buzzing saw mills going at the same time. Have also seen an observation balloon a lot of good bands in the camp, & a lot of torpedo boats & seaplanes, which (torpedo boats) escorted us for about 2 days out from Devonport. They can travel very fast and are very small, sometimes we couldn't see them at a distance of 100 yards when they were in the trough of a wave. We didn't see any submarines, but there is a rumour about that a boat that was just behind us the night before we landed, was torpedoed & sunk, but of course we must take that with a grain of salt, as soldiers are great ones for yarns. We will probably be in Isolation for 3 weeks or so, & then we are to have 6 days holiday. I am going to spend mine in London, as

Page 5

that is the most interesting place for me.

Things don't look very promising at the Front, but we will be here most of the winter I hope, and then be sent over for the spring offensive, although I don't know for certain.

Trusting that Sadie, yourself and the children have been & are enjoying the best of health, & that business is good

With Best love  
Vic

P.S.

excuse scribble and briefness, but I am writing in the stable in between parades, so I have to write pretty quickly. Later on we will go into huts, which we are very nice indeed. Much better than at Blackboy.

Written on the left margin of the main letter (last page)

Durrington Camp is only a small portion of the military camps on Salisbury, & although this is a large camp of about 300 or 400 huts, there are many other camps larger still, & we can see huts for miles around on each side.

End of letter

envelope details

FRONT

“On Active Service” (stamp and last word removed)

Logo – Australian Commonwealth Military Forces – Australian Y.M.C.A.

Addressed to: G.H.. Teede Esq, Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia

Re-addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, PO ????? P. Office, Yarloop Western Australia

LETTER

3 quarto pages written on one side

Sutton Veny  
Wilts. Eng.

27<sup>th</sup> January 1918

Dear Hord,

Just a short letter to let you know that I received your two welcome letters by this last mail. One dated in Sept the other Nov. They are the only letters I have received from you so far.

Was much amused over the accounts of the trip you & Perce had up the Collie, & it made me wish that I had been with you. This country is no good for us Australians in winter, as the weather is so jolly cold and miserable always. Such a lot of our chaps have been in hospital with bronchitis, influenza and all those kind of complaints, but I have managed to escape them all so far, with the exception of getting all the tips of my fingers & toes frozen hard. I have had some good old snowball fights since the winter started & have seen small rivers covered with ice, & even the water in the fire buckets that we have inside our sleeping tents frozen hard, so you can see this country is not like our good old Australian, with its surf bathing and sun baths.

Well Hord, I have now got to the serious stage in this soldering business, as I have been warned for draft & expect to leave for France by next Wednesday the

Page 2

30<sup>th</sup> inst. So by the time you receive this I will be well at the Front. This last few days we have spent in getting fixed up with the things we have to have take over with us & by the time we get to our battalion, we will be loaded up

like camels. Packs don't worry me much though, as I can stand a good load & march miles now-a-days.

That was sad news about poor Wal Brittain and Mr Rodstead & I was so sorry to hear it.

In the last reinforcements to arrive here I discovered Harry Fawcett and Mr Steere amongst the Pioneers, & we have had some good wongis together, Harry Fawcett & I have been to church together several times in Warminster (two miles away from this camp), also old Pavey who used to work at Haywards. I also met Jim King (Norm's old pal) the other day. He is in the Overseas Training Camp, & has a job on the staff that Fred Roberts got for him. Fred Roberts is second in command of that camp, so you see he is some pumpkins. I have seen him several times. Once Doug Teede & I went over together to see him. He was very pleased to see us both.

Doug Teede is also in the same battalion as I am, so as he has gone back to France, I am going to try and get in the same company as he is

Page 3

in. Norm Holzmann is also there, so I will be with some decent chaps from old Bunbury.

We entrain at Warminster for Southampton, there we take the boat for Le Havre. From Le Havre we march to our base, a distance of six miles. There we stop for 2 days, get loaded up with a few more things, & then march back to Le Havre. From Le Havre we go in cattle trucks up to join our battalion, wherever it happens to be. I know all about this from letters we have got from some of our chaps who have already gone over. We are nearly the last of our reinforcements to go, as we have been isolated for a case of mumps that broke out in our hut, otherwise we would have been over there before Xmas. We have been lucky in missing a few more winter weeks in France, as there are not too many more winter weeks left.

Well, Hord, this is not a very decent letter this time, but we have a great number of things to do, so you must excuse this.

Trusting that this finds you all in the best of health. Remember me kindly to all inquiring friends. With best love to you all from

Your loving brother

Vic

On reverse of last page of letter

Should things turn out badly for me, I know you will help dear Phine and my little boy all you can. Vic

Envelope – Active Service with certification on left side front – Addressed to G.H. Teede, Draper, Bunbury, West Australia. Date on the reverse is 12/3/18

Letter is written on small sized notepaper headed On Active Service with Australian Coat of Arms in left top corner. 13 pages written on one side only, last page written on both sides – 14 pages in total. Last 3 pages are on YMCA Letterhead.

### **LETTER IS WRITTEN WHILE 'IN THE TRENCHES'**

Page 1

Belgium  
March 1918

Dear Hord

Yesterday I got a packet of letters that had gone to Sutton Veny Camp & had just now been re-addressed to me, & amongst them were letters from you dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec & Xmas Eve, & needless to say I was pleased to here from you again, after so long a spell.

My last letter was written to you on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, two days before I sailed for France. Well we got into Le Havre early on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> January & marched straight away from there to our base. There I met Jack Caporn, Ern Campbell, young Tommy Brittain. Jack Caporn had been in hospital for about 2 months

Page 2

suffering from trench fever & had then gone to their base before joining up with his battalion. Every man who has been in hospital does this. Ern Campbell & Tom Brittain had also been in hospital. Tom Brittain came along with us from Le Havre to join up with our Battalion, but both Jack and Ern had got a job at the base for a while & are still sticking to it. Ern Campbell was looking better than we did, & Jack was looking very fit, but had lost a good lot of beef. They both wish to be remembered to you. Jack & I went into Le Havre one afternoon & had a good look around the city. We also had our photos taken together & no doubt Phine (*Vic's wife - Josephine*) will have shown

Page 3

you one of them before you get this, as Jack sent her some. You will notice the condition I have put on. I am just on 12 stone, that is a stone and a half heavier than ever I was. However the work I am now on will soon pull me down, as it is very hard work and tiring.

Well I stayed at the base 3 days getting fitted out, & then we marched back to Le Havre, where we took train & travelled all that night & part of the next day. Then after two days marching, which I will remember as long as I live, as our



loads were too heavy for us, we joined up with our Battalion, which was then out of the lines

#### Page 4

resting for some weeks in a small ruined village, that Fritz had occupied for 10 days before he was pushed out by our chaps some months ago. To give you an idea of how solid the march up was & how heavy our packs were, a lot of old soldiers & some of our chaps had to give in, as they couldn't stick it any longer. I was almost speechless with a cold that I got about a week before leaving England, but I managed to stick the march out, so I reckon I am some route marcher now. The village was similar to a lot of other villages around these parts that I have since passed through. Some portions of

#### Page 5

the houses are standing in places, but in most cases they have been completely demolished by shell fire, & we had our billets in parts of houses that were still habitable after a bit of patching up of holes & windows with bags & things. Old Fritz seems to make a dead set on churches here, as I have seen such a lot of churches that have been very fine churches, now blown to blazes, & tombstones and graves knocked to pieces. Sometimes you will come across a church that has got off a bit better than others, & although the roof & ceilings have been knocked in, their walls will be left standing, but with terrible gaping shell holes

#### Page 6

all along them. As you know, the French are great ones on lovely churches & some of them were built many hundreds of years ago, so it is bad luck for them to have them knocked flat in a few minutes of shelling by Fritz.

Two days after reaching the battalion, I was told to report to the bandmaster of our battalion band, as they were badly in need of players, & I have been with them ever since. Every battalion has its band here, so there are hundreds of bandsmen in the army, & we all have to do our own little bit. When the battalion is resting we have a fairly easy time, as we don't have to do any

#### Page 7

drilling or fatigues, only play on parade in the mornings & guard in the afternoons, & play on a route march twice a week, but when the battalion is in the lines, we have to go up every day doing fatigues taking up barb wire and mending materials & this is pretty hard & dangerous work. Our battalion has now been over a week & we have been up every day doing our work, & I have had some very thrilling & close shaves. We have been on work pushing truck loads of stuff up to the lines. We have to push them up hills for about 2 miles or so, & I have had old Fritz's shells landing all around

Page 8

me, & I can tell you it gives you a nasty feeling up the spine to hear them screeching towards you & then to hear that terrific crash as it lands & see the mud & debris flying high into the air from high explosive shells. He also sends over gas shells & shrapnel along the line we have to travel each day, & I have already had a couple of pieces of shrapnel lob within five yards of me. One of our party got a wound in the hand only yesterday, so we are right in amongst it alright, & doing our bit. I have been coming home down the line at night time, when our guns have been

Page 9

going for their lives bombarding old Fritz, & I can tell you it is something to remember. The flashes from the guns of all sizes light up the darkness, & the noise they make is fearful. You feel as if you are getting thumped on the head by great fists, & you go nearly deaf. Altogether it is like hell let loose, & you can't help feeling sorry for poor old Fritz who has to receive it all, but you feel more sorry for yourself when you had to go through the little lot he sends over to us when we are up there. However as long as he goes on missing us, I won't complain, as a miss

Page 10

is as good as a mile alright in this game.

Well Hord, there are thousands of very interesting things I would like to tell you if I was allowed by the censor, but of course, it would not do, but one thing I must tell you & that is this. The ordinary citizen in Australia has absolutely no idea of how modern warfare is carried on, as when you get here you find all your ideas of what it is like are entirely wrong.

When we have done a certain period here in the lines, the batt. goes back for a few days spell, & then we go into another sector of the line, & do another

Page 11

period of fighting.

At our rest billets in the village I told you about before, I met Ring Sinclair several times & we had some good chats together. It was he who put the bandmaster on to me, & I am not sorry now, as it saves me from carrying a pack, which is the worse thing in this game. An Infantryman now-a-days is merely a mule. Ring is looking tip top. He tells me Jack Hoopman is in a pioneer corps. I have also met Jack Cadden twice and we had a good wongi. He is looking very well & is Inspector of Traffic here. I have also met a lot of other chaps from old Bunbury

Page 12

here. Dick Clarke, Jerry Campbell and Warrington (Lieutenants), Capt Tullah and Capt Coombes. Doug Teede, Norman Holtzmann, Roy Ramsay & Tom Brittain & Alec Bickley are also in my battalion. Doug and I spend a lot of time together. He is such a fine big fellow now. I met Morris (who used to work for Benekindorffs several times, also Jewel North, who is in the headquarters trench mortar battery. He looks very well too, but is dying to get home, like everyone else here I meet, as this country is up to mud for Australians. Old Yorkey Taylor is cook for our band now, & I do pretty well for tucker. He is unfit for further active service.

Page 13

Young Tommy Brittain was wounded up the line a couple of days ago. He was in an old pill box with five others, when a shell landed in it. Five were wounded & one chap killed. Charlie Worsley is a sergeant in our band, & he is a tip top cornet player now. He wishes to be remembered to you, as does Ring, Jack Cadden, Doug, Norm Holtzmann & Morris. Would love a dip now, but I suppose it must wait. I am in good health again now, & the weather is pretty good at present, but nothing like good old Aussy. I had a fair Xmas in England, & I was thinking of you all at home & how different it was to my last

Page 14 (on reverse side of page 13)

one with dear Phine. Of course we had duck (under the table) for dinner. However we had a good pudding, so that was something to be thankful for.

Well Hordie, I have been writing this under difficulties, so you must excuse all errors & omissions.

Trusting all are well at home with the best love from

Your affectionate brother  
Vic

PS Remember me to old Jimmy English & Carl. Vic

I got a letter from Norm from Egypt. He is well & wrote me a nice long letter.

Envelope – small with stamps 3 x 1d. (red) addressed to G.H. Teede Esq. Draper, Bunbury, West Australia. Reverse is “Australian Red Cross” in red

Letter – 20 pages written on small sized Australian Red Cross headed paper, written in pencil.

Page 1

1<sup>st</sup> Birmingham War Hospital  
Rednal  
Nr Birmingham  
England  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 1918

Dear Hord

I guess the news that I have been wounded & am now in the above hospital, will be old news to you by the time you receive this letter, as Phine will have told you from the cable I sent to her last week, but the full particulars of how I got it will interest you I know, so I will try and give you a brief account of my doings since I last wrote to you, up to the time I got knocked.

My last letter to you was dated about the end of March I think, & we were then camped at a place called “The Beggars Rest” which is up near the Ypres Sector in Belgium. From there, we used to go up to the lines sometimes in the day & sometimes in the night, doing the truck work I

Page 2

have told you about in previous letters. It was at this camp that poor Jerry Campbell was killed by one of Fritz’s shells, that he used to send in & around the camp there, on several occasions. We were in what is called Close Reserves & that is always a place where you are likely to stop a shell, as old Fritz sends them all over the country for miles around. I have had shells landing around me over eight miles behind the lines, so you can imagine they get a bit thicker as you get nearer the lines. Not far from that camp was a narrow gauge railway depot, & it was there I ran across I.V. Williams, who used to drive an engine in Bunbury railways. He used to live right on the top of that hill past Harlands, so you will remember him alright. Well he is a sergeant on the railways now & drives a small engine, which runs to different dumps a few miles behind the lines loaded with all kinds of materials for trench making

Page 3

and shells & other ammunition & supplies. At this depot I am telling you about we used to (in the latter part of our time up there) start with our truck loads of wire, etc & of course we used to go up much further than a train could go with safety, also over much rougher tracks, where an engine couldn’t go. Well he used to live in a lovely little sandbag humpy & I went over to see him three or four times & had some good wongis (slang for talks) about good old Bunbury.

Of course he had a decent made bunk & a good stove & treated me to a decent supper every time. Being permanently fixed there, he was getting much more tucker than a poor old foot slogging soldier. However I enjoyed it very much & was sorry that we had to shift camp very shortly after we discovered each other. He wished to be remembered to you all kindly. There was also another old Bunbury boy working there too, a chap named Joe McAlone, some relation to the Howards. He was also a sergeant & night foreman there of the

Page 4

yard. The track we used to go was right up over the top of the famous Hill 60, & the crater where that great mine was exploded last year, was just to the left of us & must have been more than a hundred yards wide, so you can imagine it was some mine & made a slight mess of the place. Well during our month or so on that job, we had some marvellous escapes, & I was beginning to think I couldn't get hit.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April we suddenly got orders to shift & had to pack up our traps lively. At about 5 in the afternoon we left the camp & marched from there through the village of Kemmel, over Kemmel Hill, the highest point in Belgium, past the village of Dranoutre & right through Locre to a camp outside that place where we stopped for the night. All these places have since been taken by old Fritz, & only about two or three weeks after we left there.

The next morning early we got into motor transports, & travelled

Page 5

in them as far as a place called Caestre, passing through numerous small villages and some very hilly and pretty country indeed. From Caestre we marched out into the country again & had dinner of dry biscuits in a large field. From there we marched to our billets in a small village near the important railway junction of Hazebrouck. There we slept in a big barn covered with straw, usually occupied by pigs, cows & fowls. It was just alive with lice, & lice in France are a terrible pest. We left there next night at 9 o'clock & marched back to Caestre, where we were entrained in cattle trucks for an unknown destination. The night was spent by most of us sitting up & a bit of sleep snatched now & again. We got out at 12 o'clock the next day at the large city of Amiens. It is the second largest

Page 6

inland city in France, so you can imagine it is some place.

After a snack, we marched right through the city & it was very pretty & interesting. In our part there was a large river running alongside the street & it is used in places to turn great mill wheels & electric lighting works, by means of canals running from the river. Whilst we were there a Fritz aeroplane tried to get over the city to drop bombs, but was driven off by anti-aircraft guns. The

streets in Amiens were very wide & in some of them there are six rows of trees, thus making some lovely straight avenues. One avenue was for horse traffic, another for bikes & motors going one way & down another on the opposite side of the street. The others were for foot padders. It was a great idea & looked very pretty. There were thousands of people there & they were lined along the streets as we marched through. There were also all kinds of soldiers getting

Page 7

about the place, in their different uniforms. French, English, Belgians & Australians.

From Amiens we marched on about 10 miles to a little village called Bertangles, where we were billeted in the loft of an old barn. The next morning I struck Jack Cadden outside our billets & had a good chat with him. I met him several times during the time we were at this village. I also met there little Ashel Norrie who used to be in the Bank of Asia at home. He is a lieutenant in our battalion, so is Dick Clarke.

By this time we knew we were in reserves on the Somme front, where Fritz had made his big push about two weeks earlier, & we could hear the big guns firing distinctly from the village.

We stopped there for 6 days & on the 12 inst, we got orders to march again, as we were going

Page 8

back to the place we had come from in Belgium, as old Fritz had broken through there since we had left & had taken the places I told you about earlier in this letter. Our chaps did not do any fighting on the Somme whilst we were there. We were only in reserves, in case he made a break through anywhere, when we would have been rushed up to help stop them.

During the time we were at Bertangles Fritz's aeroplanes used to come over at nights on bombing expeditions, but he never got any of us, as he was soon driven off.

Near this village there were several aerodromes, & it was a very common sight to see 30 or 40 of our aeroplanes flying around at all heights. We used to spend a lot of our spare time watching them doing fancy flying stunts, & I can tell you Hord they are simply great now. They fly around with such speed &

Page 9

grace & do such marvellous dives, loop-the-loops, special dives, corkscrew dives & all sorts of turns at any old angle, that they make a bird look silly alongside them. Now that's no kid, but the absolute truth. One day we were

watching them diving towards the ground & then when about 30 yards off or so, firing their machine guns at a supposed crowd of Fritz's on the ground & then shooting up into the air again. They were all practising at this, as it is the kind of fighting that was taking place during the great push by Fritz a few weeks previously.

Then they started doing fancy stunts & we had an hours good entertainment & it was a treat indeed, until one poor chap in doing a corkscrew drive from a good

Page 10

height couldn't right himself & was diving right to the ground an awful spill. We ran over to where he came down & he was pinned down by the engine. They eventually got him out by chopping the plane, but the poor chap was badly battered and died that night. It seems something must have gone wrong with his plane, as he couldn't right himself after doing the dive.

We marched by easy stages until we were came (sic) to the top of a hill overlooking Amiens & we stopped there until it was just getting dark. On the march we had passed a lot of poor people coming from Amiens with a pram or barrow & a few things in it. They had been forced to leave their homes, as Fritz was shelling Amiens and bombing it at night time. It was a very sad sight to see them getting along like that, & if some of our people in Australia had to do the same, I fancy they wouldn't hesitate long over the question of conscription.

At dusk we marched down into the city on our way to entrain at the

Page 11

railway station, which is in the middle of the city. As we marched through the city the place was quite dark & absolutely deserted, & seemed like a city of the dead. On each side of us we could see where shells had landed & knocked the buildings rotten & one couldn't help thinking of how different it all was when we had marched through the same city, only a few days before.

By now we could hear a shell from Fritz whistling over our heads to land somewhere else in the city & then we passed a dead horse in the street that had been hit by a shell. Well, it was about 8 o'clock when we halted in a street close to the station, to wait our turn, as there were other troops to entrain before us. This street was lined with avenues of trees, like I told you about earlier in this letter, & we sat down under them to rest.

We had been there about a quarter of an hour, when suddenly anti-aircraft guns close to us started firing & on

Page 12

looking up we could see just above us & very low down, a Fritz aeroplane flying around with our searchlights showing it up quite plainly, like a great white bird. It was circling around & around evidently trying to locate the station to drop bombs on it & absolutely took no notice of our guns firing at it. However, it missed the station with its bombs, as they landed down at the further end of our street somewhere. After this lot it was all quiet again for a while, but the guns commenced blazing away again, & this time there must have been 4 or 5 planes over, as at times we could see three at a time flying over our heads. Then the bombs started to fall & the noise & flashes were something awful in that street. The one that got me landed very close to us, & knocked buildings & a tree spinning. The tree seemed to be falling towards me, also bricks and stuff, so I sprang further out into the street to dodge them, but as I did, I suddenly felt as if I had

Page 13

been kicked in the side by a mule & I couldn't get my breath for a time. Then as I put my hand to my side, I could feel a hole there & the blood coming out, so I told a chap I had stopped a piece of shell, & he helped me take my equipment off & then gave me first aid. Old Yorkie Taylor was close to me when I got hit & he helped to bandage me up & looked after my tunic, so that I would have it with me when the stretcher bearers came along. There seemed to have been a lot of others hit besides myself, & I had to lay down & wait a long time before they brought a stretcher for me. All this time I could see aeroplanes flying around over me & I never knew what moment another bomb was going to land

Page 14

on me so I wasn't sorry when they carried me away. They put me in a motor ambulance along with two other poor chaps, who were groaning badly, & after about an hours driving, which I will never forget as long as I live, we were taken out at an ambulance hospital, but one poor fellow had died on the way. At that hospital, they bandaged the other chap & myself up properly, & then we were put aboard a motor once more & did another four hours ride to what is known as a Casualty Clearing Station. Once more our wounds were examined & dressed & then we were put aboard another motor & driven to another Casualty Clearing Station, which we reached at about 4 in the morning.

Later on in the morning we were put on board a hospital train & travelled until night, when we got out at Rouen & were taken to an English hospital there. It was a lovely hospital & everything was splendidly worked there.

I had been wounded on the 12<sup>th</sup>



Page 15

April & reached this hospital the next night. The next day (14<sup>th</sup>) I was put under the X Ray & a photo taken of the wound, & on the next day I was put under chloroform & operated on & a piece of bomb taken out.

When I came to I was feeling pretty sick & sore, & I had the piece of bomb hanging in a little bag & tied around my neck for a souvenir. The doctor told me he would give it to me. He was very nice & very clever, & I had some good jokes with him before the operation.

The next day (16<sup>th</sup>) was my 29<sup>th</sup> Birthday & I cannot say that I enjoyed it much, as I was still feeling pretty crook.

The next morning I was dressed & washed early & they told me I was bound for old Blighty. Well we travelled in a hospital train down to Le Havre, & at 8 o'clock that night I was on board the hospital ship "West Australia" & on my way across the English Channel once

Page 16

more. We reached Southampton early in the morning & were once more put into a hospital train. We arrived at this hospital on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup> April & here I have been ever since lying on my back, being dressed once a day & just waiting for the wound to heal up.

This is a very large hospital indeed. There are about 64 patients in the same big ward as I am in, & about a thousand patients here altogether, so it is some size.

However, the tucker here is very poor indeed & the running of the hospital poor. It appears all the permanent orderlies have been sent to France, & now they have to get on as best they can with the help of wounded men who are able to get about now. It is funny to be waited on by a chap with his arm in a sling, another with a crook leg & limping along, & others

Page 17

with walking sticks, so you can rest assured there is not much system or discipline about the place.

The doctor told me I was very lucky with my wound, as although the piece of bomb went into me on the right side, just below the ribs, it only reached a certain organ & never penetrated into it, so all I have had to do is lie still & wait for it to heal up.

This it is doing very fast, as although I had a nasty big hole at first, it is coming together great now, & I won't have much of a mark left afterwards. All the pain is gone now too, so I am pretty comfortable.

Well Hord old chap, I have

Page 18

written you something like a letter this time, so it will make up for anything I have missed before. I have not had a letter from you for ever so long, but I had a letter from dear old Phine & Mum the other day dated the 18<sup>th</sup> February, so I count myself very lucky indeed.

I trust business is going good & that you, Sadie & the children are all well. Give them my love.

Also remember me to Curl, Jimmie English & all old friends, & have a dip in the breakers for me.

Doug Teede got hit in the leg with a piece of shell while we were in Belgium, but he only got as far as a hospital in France, as it was not bad enough to take him to Blighty, so

Page 19

he was unlucky. Just before I got my knock, I got a letter from Doug to say that he was expecting to be back with the battalion before the end of last month, so you can tell George that.

Well I must close now with best of good luck & wishes from

Your affec. Brother

Vic

P.S.

Since finishing the above, the mail brought me in a letter from you dated 4<sup>th</sup> Mch last, written at Yarloop, also one from Perce, post cards from Mum & Frank, a letter from dear Phine & her Mother, Ruby & Thelma, so I have got quite a batch of them.

You can imagine how glad I was to receive such late letters whilst I

Page 20

am in Hospital, as it is something to occupy my mind.

I was very sorry to hear you have been so off colour again, but hope the few quiet days with Perce did you a lot of good. So Jack & Ida are in Bunbury now. It will be a great change for them all. Have not heard from old Norm for a long while, so I was glad to hear in your letter that he is standing things well. I am jolly glad he is not in France as it is Hell over there at the best of times, so you can imagine what it is like at present. God only knows how it will all finish up, but we must trust in providence for a good ending. Everyone is full up of it here & in France, & things here in the food line are far worse than I ever dreamt they could be.

With best love to all

Vic.

No envelope

Letter – standard letter pad size page written in ink 6 pages with the last page having manuscript on the top half of the reverse side.

Page 1

No 4 Command Depot  
Hurdcott  
Wilts: England  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 1918

Dear Hord

I suppose you have been thinking that I had forgotten all about you, as it is ever so long since I dropped you a letter, but I can assure you that I haven't. The fact is I have been kept jolly busy here in one way or another, & by the time I have finished the day's routine & kept Phine and Mum well posted as to my doings, besides a few others to Norm, Ring, Jack Cadden & other chaps I have become acquainted with either in France or here; I don't have much time to spare, but I must endeavour to drop you & Perce a few lines more often in future, even if it is only a few lines.

Well old chap, I am not going to give you an account of my doings since I last wrote you, as I am sure you have already had all the news of interest concerning your humble from letters I have written to Phine & Mum. No doubt you were a bit surprised at the cables from myself & the military authorities not agreeing as to the nature of my wound & its locality, but of course they were wrong, as they usually are in such matters. Then again my name being in the

Page 2

Casualty List as being dangerously wounded only made matters more mixed. However, I was dangerously wounded by all appearances in the first place, & was not allowed anything to eat until after I had been x rayed & it was found that the piece of bomb had not penetrated any vital organs. I was very worried as to what the authorities would cable home to Phine, & that is why I had the cable sent telling her I was doing well. As it turned out, it was just as well that I did so.

All that is very stale news now, as I have been quite well sometime now, & have not felt the slightest ill affects (sic) from the wound. The only thing is that it acts as a good barometer. Whenever there is going to be rain, it starts to itch, & it is a sure sign. If I get home again I intend starting in the weather prophet line, so I will always have a profession at my finger ends.

I think I told you before about playing in the band in this depot since I have been here. Well, I have been playing in tip top form & have been a bit of a

boon as a eupho player, but my time is up on the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month & I expect to go then. You see, we are only allowed to remain in this band for 2 months after being marked "fit for service again", & my time is up on Friday next. However, I have been expecting to go under an operation to have my old nose fixed up

Page 3

any day now, & of course that will keep me here a bit longer. You will remember I had it burnt out once by Joel, but it is as bad as ever again now, & it has been giving me those old crook aches behind the eyes & all the other old symptoms, of which you are fully cognizant (6 to 4 on that word).

When I leave this Depot, I go to the Overseas Training Camp at Sandhill, where I get fully equipped & trained for France again, which takes about 3 weeks.

I have met several old Bunbury chaps here, & you can bet we were always pleased to meet each other. When I first came here I met George Birchall & Harold Martin. Harold Martin has since got home to Australia I believe, with synovitis of the knee, but old George is still here with his sore foot. The next ones I met were young Alf Mort & long Sergeant Rose (the Bike rider). Sergeant is still here, but young Mort left for the Overseas Training Camp some weeks ago. Then I met Alf Anderson, who used to work at the Bunbury Herald office. We went on our hospital leave together as far as London. He came over from France with trench fever & is still here, but expects to go at anytime now. He wishes to be remembered kindly to you. The next one to come into this depot was old Ray Baylis, looking just the same old stick as ever, not a day older. He left France suffering with lumbago &

Page 4

will most probably get home to Aussie with it, as he has had a long spin at the war.

I have been putting in a lot of spare time with George Birchall & Ray at night time, & we have had some good walks around the country here. I also met Charlie Shaw here a few nights ago. He came over from France with trench fever & is stationed at this depot to recuperate for a time.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1918

This morning I went to see the Senior Medical Officer about my nose again, & he informed me that they are not doing any operations to noses now, so I will have to grin and bear it now until I get home again. But it is a nuisance all the same & I should have liked it fixed up properly before going over again.

I had a nice letter from old Norm the other day & he tells me that after having a bit of a spin with the Light Horse, he has got a job in the headquarters office of the Camel Brigade. Well I am glad to hear it, as it will be much better there

for him, & being in the Light Horse or infantry is well up to mud in this kind of war. It is a war of artillery, & the infantryman is only a hardworking navvy & food for the cannon. There is absolutely no science required I can assure you. It is all a matter of luck & if you are lucky you're missed by the shells & bombs. If you are not lucky, well its

Page 5

goodnight, or perhaps if you lucky again its only au revoir.

Had a trip into Salisbury City a few weeks ago with this band. We played a programme at a great military sports turnout there, which were held in a place called Victoria Park. It was a lovely laid out ground & the oval was as level as a billiard table. After I had finished playing one tune, I heard a chap singing out my name, & on looking around found it was Jack Braund the fire brigade chap. He came into Blackboy Hill just before I embarked, & he has only just landed in England a short time. He got into the engineers over in the eastern states so he told me, & he was pulling in the tug of war team of the engineers. Old Sergeant Rose was also pulling in another team, so you see the old town was pretty well represented. The team Sgt Rose was in beat Jack Braunds after one of the best pulls of the day, & got second in the final pull.

After we finished our programme, I went up the city & had a good look at the famous cathedral. It is a magnificent cathedral alright & will take a lot of beating for beauty, as the grounds & gardens are so nicely situated & laid out. Salisbury is very interesting, as it is a very old city & used to be known as Sarum in the old Roman days.

Page 6

Mother tells me in her last letter that you have been getting that old quinsy\* again & that you were going to have your tonsils cut out. I hope you have done so by this, as I can tell you it is only a slight operation, but saves you days of misery.

The last letters I had from Jack Cadden, & Ring Sinclair told me they were still going good.

I see by the casualty lists here that George Lammerton (the Umpire) was killed, & old Dick Clarke was severely wounded in the face. Of course his people will have heard all about it long before you get this, but I am so sorry for them. They will be awfully worried over it.

Ern Campbell was also wounded badly in the wrist sometime ago, & I believe has a good change of getting home.

The last letter I had from Doug Teede was in an (sic) hospital in France. He had got a dose of gas soon after he got back to the battalion from being

slightly wounded by shrapnel. I expect to hear from him at any time now telling me he is back with the battalion again.

Well Hord this is about all of interest this time, except to say that our allies are giving old Fritz whatfor just now, & everything points to a decisive victory for us in the near future, so if I am lucky, I hope to (over)

Reverse of page 6 – marked Page 7 (ink blots on the lower half of the page)

spend the Xmas after next at home with you all. May it come soon, as I am longing for a bit of fishing & some good old dips in the breakers.

Fancy your boys are 7 years old now. My word how time flies. I won't know them when I get home. I hope Sadie & the little girl are both keeping very well. Give them all my love, also kind regards to all enquiring friends.

With best love Hord, from  
Your affectionate brother

Vic.

\* *quinsy/quinsy – inflammation of the tonsils*

Envelope headed "On Active Service". Addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, Draper, Bunbury, West Australia. Postmarked A.I.F. CAMP P.O. and dated 11 Oct 18. Initials of A B N in bottom left hand corner. Nothing on the reverse side of envelope.

Letter - 2 pages of quarto sized notepad type paper. Written in pencil.

Page 1

Overseas Training Bgde  
Sandhill Camp  
10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1918

Dear Hord

Just a few lines to let you know that I am on draft for France again & expected to leave today, but now it appears we are not going until tomorrow. However things are looking pretty good for us now, so I am not worrying much about it except for the worry it is likely to give poor old Phine & Mum.

I believe our Division is out of the lines resting for 90 days, so what with that & the Australians & Germans looking for Peace, I will be unlucky if I can't get through O.K.

I had a letter from old Norm a few days ago & was surprised to learn that he had been in hospital after having been under an operation for appendicitis. He was unlucky alright, but perhaps he will be better off now that he has been operated on, as he had some trouble with his stomach before. Another thing it will have kept him out of the hot stuff that has been going on over his way lately. My word Genl Allanby has given the

Page 2

old Turks a nasty knock.

I suppose there was great joy in Aussie over the Bulgarians surrendering unconditionally. Well it was pleasant news alright, & I don't think it will be long now before the Germans & Austrians cave in or get badly walloped.

(Small hole in page)

I went over to Sutton Veny Camp the night before last to say goodbye to Ray Bayliss & Geo Birchall. Ray is leaving for Australia on 6 months holiday as he is a 1914 man. He is going to Bunbury & is taking a letter to Phine & Mum for me, so you must keep an eye out for him, as we have put in a good deal of spare time together here. George Birchall is tailor at the Training Camp at Sutton Veny & has a nice cosy job for the winter.



Ring Sinclair is working in the Q.M. Stores at Harefield Hospital. It appears he came over to London on leave & saw a doctor who said his heart was bad, so he was marked for Aussie, but preferred a job here instead.

Well Hord I must close now, with wishing you all a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year, from Your loving Brother, Vic

P.S. Haven't had a letter from you for months now.

Envelope headed O.A.N. Addressed to Mr G.H. Teede, Draper, Bunbury, West Australia. Postmarked and stamped "passed by censor" Signature of Pte V B Teede in bottom left hand corner. Nothing on the reverse side of envelope.

Letter - 7 pages of Y.M.C.A. Australian Imperial Force 'notepaper' – written in pencil.

Page 1

Aust Infy Base Depot  
Le Havre  
France  
28<sup>th</sup> Janry 1919

Dear Hord

My last letter was written to you on 2<sup>nd</sup> of last month & since then nothing much has happened here, with the exception of the coming and going of old Xmas Day. I suppose Xmas Day at home this time was a bit different & more happy & enjoyable than they have been during the war. Even here we had a great feed & everyone was in a happy mood owing to it all being over & presumably our last Xmas in this country.

You will remember that

Page 2

in my last letter to you, I told you how I had met Jack Hoopman and Mr Steere here & how they were on their way for England & then home. Well, I got a letter from Ring Sinclair a day or two ago, but which was dated as far back as 12th Dec, in which he told me he was at Weymouth expecting to leave any day for home as an army medical man aboard a transport. He also told me that Jack Hoopman & Mr Steere were there, so I suppose by this time they will be all just about home.

It was a great shock to me when I read in Phine's last letter of the death of poor Jack Cadden because that was the first I had heard of it. Jack & I had kept up a regular correspondence with each other, both when I was home & after I came to the war. The last

Page 3

letter I had from him was dated early in October, in which he told me he was going on leave to Blighty at any day. Well a few days after that I came over to France again, so I didn't write to him again until the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, in order to be sure he would be back off leave. The poor chap must have got hit just a few days before the end of the War & I was wondering why he didn't reply to my letter, as he was always so punctual. Wasn't it rotten bad luck after lasting so long in the business? He was the whitest chap I knew & my best friend & I feel

it keenly. We met several times up the line & always used to have a good yarn about old Bunbury & the old days. What a terrible lot of good fellows have been killed in this War.

I have never joined up with

Page 4

my battalion since it has been all over, but have dug in in the band here, just waiting for my own turn to come around to go home. There is no need for me to tell you how I am dying to get home again, as I know you will just about guess that. May it come soon is my earnest desire, as sleeping in leaky tents in winter here is up to mud, when loved ones, home and beauty, & a good soft comfortable bed are within sight.

They are going along great guns with the demobilization of the troops here. Already the 1914 men have all gone & nearly all the 1915 men out of France, so I trust my turn won't be long now. All the troops first go to England from here, but they all have to go through this camp first, as it is our Australian base, so I will see

Page 5

all the Bunbury fellows that go through. We usually play them into Le Havre on to the boat, which is about 6 or 7 miles from here. The other day young Jimmy Kenyon went through & I said goodbye to him on the wharf. He enlisted in N.S. Wales so was in one of their battalions.

We are kept very busy here, what with playing for the troops, various concerts at Y.M.C.A.'s & dances, & I have had some good looks around Le Havre, which has a population of about 120,000 & is a very prosperous City and shipping port. However, the immorality of the place is something awful to see & would open the eyes of decent living Australians. I will tell you more about it when I get back home, but I guess you will think me stretching things.

Page 6

I was glad to read in your last letter that you were holding your end up well in the old business line, & I trust that since this business ended you have been doing "Très bien!" (very good) business, as the Froggies say. Just fancy Fiddies, Jimmy English, Bunbury Hardware & Gilmour having to close down. Things must have been very hard. Mum told me in her last letter that she had not been able to let Gilly's shop, but I hope you have long since found a good tenant.

Was very interested in your news about how well Phine & our little man were looking, & I can tell you it will be the happiest time of my life when I am with them again & settled down "No more to roam" for mine, as old Aussie knocks spots off any

Page 7

of these countries.

Last night we had a light fall of snow, the first we have had this winter, so you see this has been something extraordinary for this time of year, & we have been let off fairly light so far.

I don't know yet when I will be leaving here, but I will cable to Phine when I am leaving England, that's if I have the cash. You see everyone goes to England first & stops there about 6 weeks getting ready for a boat, & I believe they are getting 14 days leave.

Well Hord I must now close with best love to Sadie & the little un's & to yourself, from

Your affectionate brother Vic

P.S. Had a letter from old Norm a few days ago. He was well & very delighted over the ending of the war. Hope to see him if we go through Port Said. Vic

Miscellaneous correspondence

From friends

Serving at front lines (including Gallipoli)  
during World War 1

to

GERALD HORDEN TEEDE

No Envelope – but must have been one as the card is unaddressed.  
Field Service Postcard – Front has Censor /certification etc but has a pasted  
'label' over it stating "WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR GALLIPOLI 15-1916" To Mr Teede From George S.C.

Cpl G.S. Cox  
c/o A.D.M.S.  
N.Z. & A Div Hqts  
Dardenelles

Dear Mr Teede

Just a little greeting from a friend at the war, who has not forgotten you. It's  
not much but it's sent with my sincere wishes. Hoping that the N (sic) Year is  
all that you desire.

I have never had a letter from you but I received a nice box of chocolates and  
I could just trace the word Teede as the sender. I thought it must be you, so  
let me take this opportunity of thanking you for your very kind thought, for I  
enjoyed them, and it's nice to know one is remembered. Hoping this finds you  
and the family well as it leaves me.

Yr sincerely G.S. Cox

Letter from "Old Pal Jack" to Hord Teede April 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

No envelope

8 small notepaper sized pages

Page 1

France  
April 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Hordie

Just a line to let you know that I am alright & still in this wicked world of living. I received your welcome letter several days ago, along with ten others, had quite a good time reading all the interesting news, have been expecting to hear from you for quite a long time but I specs (sic) you are like myself not very fond of writing, I simply hate it, although I

Page 2

suppose I have written more during the past twelve months than the previous five years & then they are always on to me for not writing, of course quite a number of letters go astray, but old Ted he is the dizzy limit right enough, he is evidently very fond of it (I don't think). Have only received one letter from him (perhaps two, am not quite sure) since I left, I suppose he is too busy with the motor boat of his, just give him a gentle reminder will you please, tell him that I am still in existence.

Page 3

Well Hordie what do you think of this terrible conflict now, this terrible Hun is making things very willing isn't he? He is taking some knocking out right enough, about a month ago we went right back for a spell but it didn't last very long, about twelve days, & we were hurried forward again quick & lively, were on the move for about a week, (6/- a day tourists having a look at this country) travelled most of the journey by train, but also did a lot of marching, & by Jove it did trim me up some, gave me

Page 4

beans, my legs & back are giving me no end of trouble, the same old complaint. The country looks beautiful now, especially where we are at present, everything is just greening up lovely, looks almost like a huge botanical garden, of course near the line where it is all torn up with shells, - well it almost makes you feel like sitting down & having a good cry, yes Hordie, I have seen a bit of war, in fact I saw enough in three weeks to last me for the rest of my life, it's awful you can't imagine it.

Page 5

Yes, I hope it will finish this year, I think it will soon come to a climax, it can't last much longer surely, although we never knows, does we?

Yes, conscription turned down again, it's hard to understand isn't it? I think I could give you some reasons why solders voted against it, some day I will tell you all about it, at least I hope to, it will take me too long to put it all down on paper, I could also write & tell you many things but of course you know censoring is fairly strict so it can't be didded (sic).

Page 6

I met Sticpy (Segt) just before we went back for a spell, spent several evenings with him, it was good having a good old chat about old times, he told me he saw Vic, he said he thought he was in the Band, He also saw Ring, I haven't heard from him (Ring) since we left Blighty, lost his address so have not been able to write to him, I received a letter from Kingy several weeks ago from a camp in England, he said he saw W. Walker & Pavy, didn't say what they were doing, I think Wally

NO PAGE 7

Page 8

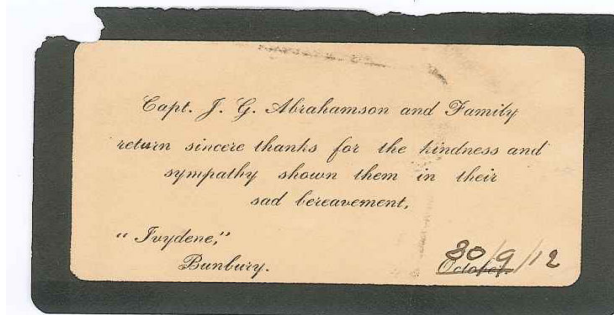
so you have been amongst the fishes have you, by jove Hordie you make my mouth water talking about excursions, frier de fish (sic), nice bread & butter, late suppers etc, it would just do me nicely, some day perhaps I may have the pleasure again. Now my dear friend I must bring these few remarks to a close, I hope they will reach you & family all in the best of health.

Kind regards to yourself wife & kiddies, from your  
Old Pal Jack

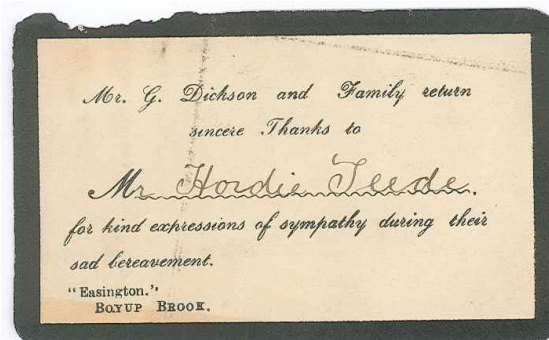


## Miscellaneous items sent to Hord Teede

- Black edged “calling” card typed script Capt. J.G. Abrahamson and Family return sincere thanks for the kindness and sympathy shown them in their sad bereavement. “Ivydene”, Bunbury – 30/9/12



- Black edged “calling” card typed script “ Mr G Dickson and Family return sincere thanks to Mr Hordie Teede” for kind expressions of sympathy during their sad bereavement” – “Easington” Boyup Brook. On reverse side in handwriting Mrs Blythe Thurs 12 Miss Armstrong 5 Mrs Hu 1/?10/ Thurs Morn (difficult to read)



- Field Post Card sent to Hordern Teede Esq, Wellington Street, Bunbury, Western Australia – set script which the sender must delete anything not required. Sent by Wal Britlaw (?) dated October 10<sup>th</sup> 1917. Set sentences left in the post card – “I am quite well”, “I have received your letter/telegram/parcel” (but none deleted), “Letter follows at first opportunity”. In manuscript “With Thanks, Greetings”
- Field Post Card sent to Hordern Teede Esq, Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia – set script which the sender must delete anything not required. Sent by Wal Britlaw dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 1917. Set sentences left in the post card – “I am quite well”, “Letter follows at first opportunity”
- Empty envelopes – all addressed to G.H.Teede dates 25 June 19??, Dec 9 18, Postmarked “Field Post Office 06 ? 18

- 2 Postcard Photographs – black and white picture of two ships – titled “The EMDEN firing into SS KILLIN – Taken by Capt Wilson, on board SS KABINGA – no writing on the reverse side.
- Postcard Photograph of 3 soldiers, only one identified is in the middle – text on reverse reads “From yours in the middle, Wal Codford, 20/7/17”

