Letters from

Pte Charles Alfred Wilson

A. I. F. 6832

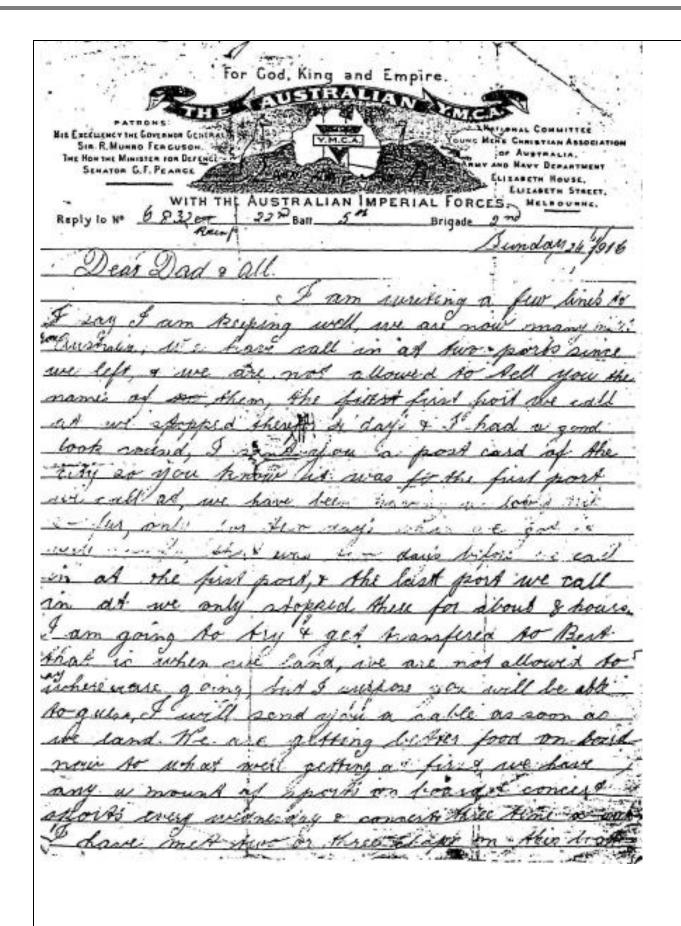
To Australía

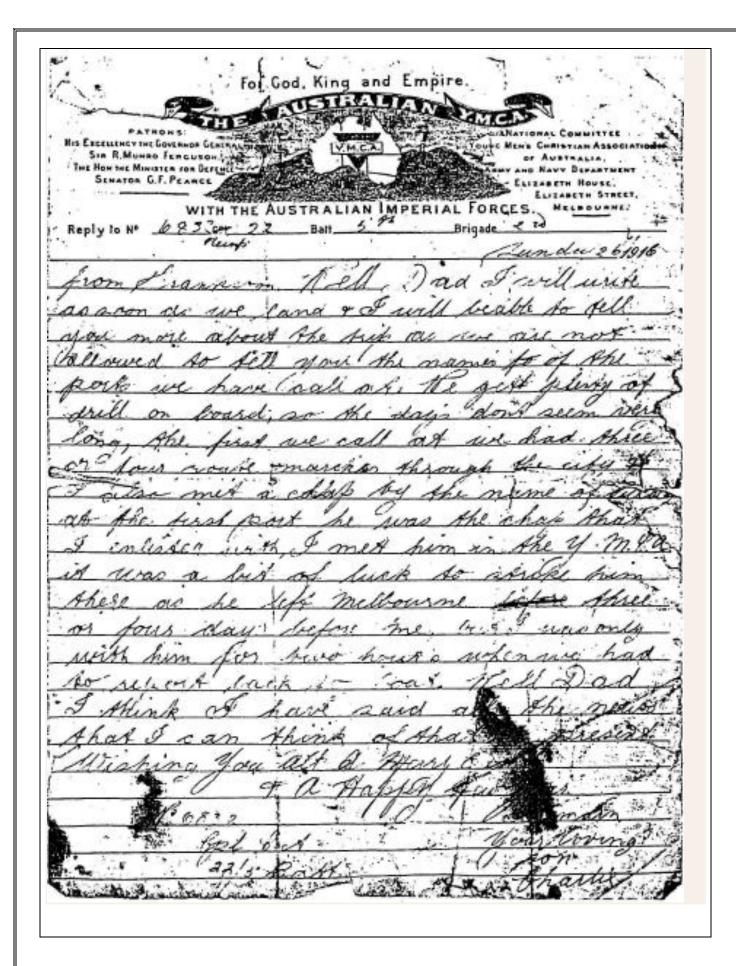
1916 & 1917



With thanks to Laurie Wilson - Bonnie William from Dundee

for permission to use the letters





1916

The first letter is dated Sunday 26th November 1916 (on the voyage to England):

Dear Dad and all,

I am writing a few lines to say I am keeping well, we are now many miles from Australia, we have call [sic] in at two ports since we left & we are not allowed to tell you the names of them, the first port we call at we stopped there 4 days & I had a good look round, I sent you a post card of the city so you know it was the first port we call at, we have been having a lovely trip so far, only for two days which we got it very rough, that was two days before we call in at the first port, & the last port we call in at we only stopped there for about 8 hours. I am going to try & get transferred to Bert – that is when we land, we are not allowed to say where we are going, but I suppose you will be able to guess, I will send you a cable as soon as we land. We are getting better food on board now to what we are getting at first, we have any amount of sports on board & concert sports every Wednesday & concerts three time a week. I have met two or three chaps on this boat from Frankston. Well Dad I will write as soon as we land & I will be able to tell you more about the trip as we are not allowed to tell you the names of the ports we have call at. We get plenty of drill on board, so the days don't seem very long, the first we call at we had three or four route marches through the city & I also met a chap by the name of [illegible] at the first port he was the chap that I enlisted with, I met him in the YMCA it was a bit of luck to strike him there as he left Melbourne three or four days before me, but I was only with him for two hours when we had to report back to boat. Well Dad I think I have said all the news that I can think of that the present. Wishing you All a Merry Xmas & a Happy New Year. I remain Your loving son,

Charlie XXXX

G. cH W. 22 theinfs 3 th Bathalin # 2 Bugade A.J. A Lark Hill Bamp. During son Altrad as Dad + all av Home one from Jim, I have seeined soon Eget them I will send you one of the I am not having them taken until tomorrow o am sending by this mail view's of London & will by the next much views of Salas bas

sch the wellages blacksmith stands, there so only to I Shink I have said all the news at present

1917

The second letter was written from the Lark Hill Camp, Durrington on Saturday 3rd February 1917 just over 2 weeks before his death:

Dear Dad and All at Home,

Just a few lines to say I am quite well up to the present, I have just come back from leave from London after four days I had a good time but if I have the luck to get another four days leave, I would not spend it in London because it is over run with soldiers, soldiers from all parts of the world, if we want to enjoy ourself it is better to get out into the country, were [sic] there is not as many soldiers. They had us on a draft to go to France last week, but we kicked up about it because they were sending us to France without any leave, so they took us off the draft & sent us on our leave to London. We have been in the camp 6 weeks now, & I have not received any letter from home yet only one from Jim, I have received two letters from Bill, & five from Nean up to the present. I am having my Photo taken over here so as soon as I get them I will send you one of them, I am not having them taken until tomorrow. I am sending by this mail views of London & I send will by the next mail views of Salisbury. I am also sending by this mail some cigars card which I have saved since I have been here they can share them up between them-self. It has been terrible cold here lately, it has been snowing & rain & we have been drilling in it without our overcoats.

I am going to try to get transferred [sic] into the motors transports, next week, We have had a few deaths out of this company, since we have been here, for three weeks we average one death a week, so you can guess how bad the weather is over here. I don't think this war will last much longer to what the papers say over here. Just about five miles from here is the (Spreading Chestnut) under which the village blacksmith stands, there is only the blacksmith shop there now.

Well Dad & all at Home I think I have said all the news at present hoping this letter will find you all in the best of health as it leaves me at present, I will now close with Love to all at Home.

I remain Your Loving Son

Charlie XXXXXXXX.