

COPY OF BRIG. GENERAL ELLIOTT'S LETTER

to Sister of

F. WRIGHT, late 1062 D. Company 7th Battalion.

Egypt. 8/4/16.

Dear Mrs Taylor,

I have your letter, dated 2nd March - to hand this day. I am, very pleased indeed to hear from the relatives of any of my boys, and to give them any information I can regarding them.

I knew your brother - Corporal Wright - very well indeed. He was one of the best. After distinguishing himself several times by his coolness and courage, he was made Corporal, and then we moved into Lone Pine. We were only 500 strong and we were then attacked by some 3,000 Turks. We were very short of hand Grenades and the Turks appeared to have literally thousands of them. Nevertheless my boys held them back and drove them back again and again. When at last we were relieved and counted up our losses we found that out of 511 men and 15 Officers all but 167 men and 4 Officers had fallen. The trenches were a dreadful sight, being in places two or three deep with mangled corpses and wounded men, which for the time being it was impossible to remove, and they were frequently trodden on in the desperate struggle to keep the parapets manned. You will have heard that Capt. Tubb and Corp. Dunston and Corp. Burton got V.C's there. They held a Barricade at the end of a trench; originally there were 10 of them, but all except Tubb and Dunston were killed, Burton being killed just at the very last. The Turks used to charge up to the Barricade and then bomb over at the place a charge of explosive against it, and blow it in. They did this three times, but each time they rushed in through the gap our boys, - led by Capt. Tubb - bayoneted them and drove them out and rebuilt the Barricade. Capt. Tubb detailed your brother and another boy named Webb to stand back a little from the Barricade, each with a thick blanket or a half filled sandbag, and when a Turkish bomb came over catch it and throw it back, or smother it, with the blanket or sandbag, so that the defenders at the Barricade would not be injured. These two boys then at the risk of their

own lives saved the lives of others. Finally, however, one of the bombs exploded just as your brother caught it and killed him instantly, his head being badly shattered. Webb kept on for some time afterwards and finally one exploded in his hand and blew both hands off. He died at the dressing station.

I recommended all these boys for the V.C. - Tubb, Dunston and Burton got V.C.'s - Webb the Distinguished Service Medal. Why they did not give anything to your brother I cannot say, no doubt had he lived he would have got at least the D.C.M. if not the V.C.

There are so many who do brave deeds that it is almost impossible to receive recognition for them.

Please convey my deepest sympathy to your Mother for her bereavement. If anything could console her it would be the manner of her Son's death. He laid down his life for his friends.

Capt. Tubb is due to arrive in Australia about the date of this letter. He would be delighted, I am sure, to call and tell you all about your brother's death. He could not speak too highly when I saw him last about the splendid work your brother did for him, and the other men, holding the Barricade, protecting them from their bombs.

I am sending your letter home to my wife. She will be delighted if you call and see her. She is only too proud to know and meet relatives of my boys.

With deepest sympathy.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. Elliott.

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