

VX30 473.

PEDKUNGS MILL

12 PTN B Coy

2/8. Batt. AIF.

20th Feb.

Dear Mum,

I received your letter yesterday. It was terrible to hear that John had died at Bardia + that Joe is wounded. The 6th Batt. is camped quite close to here but I have been unable to go down + see Stan or any of the others yet but I hope to see them soon. I can't understand why you have not got any of my letters yet as I have written regularly until we went in to action just before Troubuch. I have been getting your letters fairly often + one from Win so far but have only

got one bundle of papers + your cake at
Xmas time. We have certainly seen some
country haven't we Palestine, Egypt, and now
in Libia. We saw ^{Tripoli} ~~Tripoli~~, Derna, Benghazi +
quite a number of small villages. The
country changes from desert to rocky hilly
country + then to fairly flat country
with a lot of farms all neatly laid out.

You'll never guess who I saw the other
day old. Rup. Pankhurst from Tongala he
looks about 30. He was asking after you
+ the children? couldn't make him believe
Win was married + Dot was working.
Young Ted Pankhurst is also here somewhere
though I have not seen him. I am in
hospital just now, nothing serious, just a
touch of flu its certainly alright laying
in a soft bed all day though I expect
they will send me out tomorrow.

I showed the photo to some of the boys
They picked out you as my mother + Jonah +
Dot as my sisters so Frankston must agree
with them. I hope you are as well as you
look in the photo + not worrying too
much about things. I got ~~your~~ the socks
you sent, the first pair, + they fit
O.K. many thanks for them as socks are
pretty scarce, I wore out 3 or 4 pair chasing
the Italians we chased them about 4 or 5 hundred
miles on foot all together. water was scarce for
a while, enough to drink but not enough
to have a wash ~~for~~ about 3 weeks, no wonder
the Italians gave in so easily, we must
have frightened them with our dirty faces
+ beards. I have just seen some of the
6th Batt boys + they said Stan + Eric are both
well. The doctor has just been round +
said that I am well enough to go

out to morrow. By the time you get this
we will be back in Egypt I expect. You'll
be able to tell the main Ridge folks how
I won the war I suppose you'll have something
on for ~~for~~ any way. I will close now as
it is time for dinner soup & stew
again if we are lucky just soup if we are not.
Remember me to all at Main Ridge and
Frankston and the Jones

From your
loving son
Des.