

FROM THE FRONT,

Writing to his brother, Mr. W. H. Whitlock, from "Somewhere in France" under date July 4th; Corporal Walter Whitlock says:—I suppose you have heard of our scrap at Bullecourt on May 3rd. I can tell you that it was "some scrap." We went over (the 5th and 6th Brigades) just at daylight, and we were on the right of the 6th. Fritz was waiting, and down came his barrage before ours, but our counter artillery work steadied him a bit. We had about a quarter of a mile to go over the open, and his machine guns opened like a veritable hailstorm. Then we began to have casualties, though I got my gun crew right up without a single loss. Somewhere on the left word was received to get out, and most of the men went back, but we hung on and joined with the 6th, who had found a weak spot. Then back came the rest of our boys, and we occupied two lines of the once famous "Hindenburg line." Our troubles were by no means over, as the enemy occupied the trench on one end, and we were practically cut off on the other side. But what we took we held. And so all day and night there was furious bomb fighting up and down the trench, and we machine gunners, though we did not get a clear show, had plenty of work and, though suffering heavily, held on. I only lost two of my crew—both wounded—and being in the thick of it all the time we were very lucky. Out

all the time we were very lucky. Out of 594 who went over the top in our battalion we lost 400, so you may guess it was "some warm." For this I received the Military Medal. I will tell you some other time, perhaps, of my own special part in the business.