

SOLDIER'S LETTERS.

In a letter to his brother Mr. W. H. Whitlock, Private Walter Whitlock writing from "Somewhere in France" says:—

Since I wrote to you last we had some very heavy fighting. Early last month we went over the top, this making my second hop over the top. As you know by this we were in the stunt during the latter part of February and March. Poor Art Carson was wounded and so far I have not heard from him. . . . During the past week we have had both Battalion and Brigade sports, which turned out a great success; we had some mounted events at the Brigade sports for the officers and transports, and some of them were not too bad, considering that the horses have not had much training. At Brigade sports on Saturday I had the pleasure of meeting the Marriott brothers of Hubbertstone. It was a surprise to me when I heard that they were over here, as I had heard they were in the Light Horse. They are now in the 20th Battalion. It is nice to meet fellows of the same district as we have so many interests alike and can talk over old times. Another chap that I met lately was Jack Sheean. I think that you might remember him. He was a porter on the Parkes railway. Jack is a driver in the artillery, 4th Division, and one day I was talking to Charlie McLean just a day or two before the charge

just a day or two before the charge. We were just speaking of Sheean when he came down to see Charlie, who he knew was there, and I have saw him a few times since then, but poor Charlie McLean was wounded in the stunt and one Parkes lad killed and several more wounded. I was talking to Joe Dunnet to-day. He says that Bill Carson was back with the Battalion again, but was looking pretty thin on it. Poor old Dick Ross was wounded, but I think he got a god Blighty in the leg, and Herb Ross was slightly wounded also. I don't think either are hurt too badly. I suppose that you will be surprised to hear that I have been awarded the Military Medal for the "scrapping" during the hop over. It came as a great surprise to me when I was told by the Colonel that I had been awarded it. I have not yet received the medal, but I suppose when General Birdwood comes around again he will give it to me.

In a later letter to his sister Private Whitlock pays a high tribute to the valour of the stretcher-bearers whom he describes as "heroes' every one."
