

Zestoun

Egypt  
9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1916.

Dear Ralph

I am writing this in a big hurry, so please excuse the scribble. I am sending you a small parcel with a Turkish bullet, and a bent "Tommy" bullet in it. I got them while we were up in the trenches. The whole bullet, with the broken case is the type of ammunition that the English troops use. This one that I am sending you happened to be lying on top of a sand bag on the parapet, when a Turkish bullet struck it, and knocked the stuffing out of it. We were having dinner in the trench when it happened, and it fell down beside me so I put it into my pocket. I will send you a badge that I got from one of the men that we relieved in the trenches. That is if I can find the thing. We have been out drilling most of the day, even though it is Sunday, but we are used to that. How is my bull getting on?

Thank you for all your letters & papers.  
 We got our parcels that the people  
 from ~~the~~ ~~front~~ sent us to-day. I got  
 Auntie Laura's cake yesterday. Didn't we  
 have a feed in our tent. It's a pity  
 that all these parcels didn't reach us while  
 we were at the front. I suppose  
 that we will be away fighting some  
 where else by the time this reaches  
 you. When you hear that we are  
 away fighting again ~~do~~ do you think that  
 you could stuff a piece of candle into  
 the bundle of advertisers, because we are  
 always short of candles, and its very awk-  
 ward without them. The papers always  
 reach me, even if the letters are late in  
 arriving. I think that some of my letters  
 have gone astray, but that's nothing  
 unusual out here. All my parcels  
 have arrived alright. Thank you all  
 for your big Xmas box. I kept it for  
 Christmas day. I wonder if you got those  
 few coins that I sent to you from

Semnos. I saw in the paper that five  
~~of our~~ Maumate nurses had been draw-  
ned on that transport that was torpedoed.  
I met an Australian at Etzycac who was  
saved from the boat. He said that the  
nurses were all put into the first boat  
by themselves, and when they swung  
the next boat out, the ~~ropes~~ ropes snapped,  
and let the second boat load fall on  
top of the nurses. Of course I don't  
know if it is true, ~~but~~ I will have to  
stop now.

I remain  
your affectionate Brother  
Ted.