



In a Hun Pillbox
6/1/18

My dearest Nellie.

Your most welcome letter acknowledging the receipt of Worthing letters and parcels arrived here today. It is just alright to get letters right up in the trenches. We are holding the front line for a while and is not so bad only for the intense cold. The snow is about 2 feet thick on the group here now and frozen hard but thank goodness it is a dry cold and not a wet one.

I deeply regret to say that Eddie Schmidt was killed up here on the 29th of Dec. I was only about 300 yards from where he was killed. We were out on fatigue carrying up gear to the support and a shell caught him. He was killed instantly. He is buried at Westhoek Racecourse quite close to the remains of the old grandstand. There is a cemetery for New Zealanders just there. I saw his grave next morning as we went by covered with snow and just a little wooden cross with his name on it. Poor Eddie, it was jolly hard luck for him.

You mentioned in your letter that you had not got the book of the history of Worthing and West Tarring. I posted that parcel a day or two later if I remember right so possibly you will get it a few days later, I hope it has not got lost, and the picture of Simons Bay I also sent about the same time, but you should have got that, also a little NZ handkerchief I sent you. I sent one home and one to Millie and they have not got theirs at home yet, nor a belt of badges (27) that I sent, so I have to take it for granted that some parcels go astray.

I am very pleased that you liked the scarf. If it is half as cold out your way next winter as it is here it will come in very handy, also to hear that you have written them, they will be delighted to hear from you. They weren't half inquisitive about you.

I had a long letter from Stanley Allen yesterday. He is a good sort and writes regularly every month and told me of the final clearing out of the Karamea boys. Jack Johnson and T. Issel among the rest. Ted will take it hard, just a daddy too. Stanley said he was appealing too. Poor old Stanley says he expects his turn will come in the second division but although it will be hard to go he says that will go like a man.

Many thanks for the papers, they are coming regularly now. I have joined up again but I think a good many went west while I was in hospital. I saw Mick O'Keefe last week. He looks well. He has seen Tunny too but I have not yet. Must close now.

Love from Reg xxx

A. E. Dean

Ferntown

1918

Thursday 17th January 1918: Went for bathe with Marie J. and Muriel Kemp. Received word of Eddie Schmidt's death.

Friday 18th January: Raining, cleared in evening. Mill, Fred and I drove up to Arthur Duncan's welcome. Mill stayed at Horracks'.

Saturday 19th January: Fine. Mother and I drove up for Millie. Boat came in. Got letter from P.O. for Reg and card for Tunnie. Shower coming home. Mother sent parcel to R. H. Auckland to Reg.

Sunday 20th January: Fine. Mother and I started for church. Tide too high so went to Blackburns'. In evening Mill and I went up to A. Jennings. Wrote 14 to Reg. Enclosed letter for him.

Monday 21st January: Fine, dull. I went down to Jones' to post letter to Win. Saw Hag on mudflat trying to fix car.

Tuesday 22nd January: Fine. Horrack family and Jim Duncan down.

Wednesday 23rd January: Mill and I drove to Karamea. Vic came home with us. Two letters from Reg. Fine.

Thursday 24th January: Left home at 9.30 a.m. Caught car. Had puncture on mudflat. Mary Gibens, Miss Bertha and Mrs McCreanor on car. Arrived Seddonville between 2 and 3 p.m. Win and Leo met me in town. Win and I went to see Mrs Sutton then to Schmidts'. Mr M. Green died.

Saturday 15th June 1918: Cold wind. Stayed up for dinner. Miss E. went to Port in morn. Letter No 39 from Reg. Plan of E. Schmidt's grave enclosed. Went to Port in evening.