



South Australians at war – transcript – PRG 244/11

Three letters received on the death of Howard Dodd at Gallipoli

PRG 244/11

Transcription of full document

Transcribed by Susie van der Sluys, September 2002

Terowie

26 April Feby/16

Mr Dodd

Dear Sir

I received your letter yesterday re your brother. I am very sorry that I am unable to tell you anything definite concerning his fate. I first met Howard in camp at Ascot Park we were tent mates there & also in Egypt. Howard left Egypt on the same boat as I did, the "Haidas Pasha" on the 12th April, for Lemnos Island where we remained until 25 Ap. that was the day of the landing on the peninsula. we reached Gaba Tepe (where we landed) on the evening of the 25th and landed early next morning & went straight into the trenches, where we remained for four days without being relieved I saw Howard frequently during that time. He was one of the coolest & most cheerful chaps I think on the Peninsula & a finer little soldier than I have never met. It was on the 28th or 29th Ap that I saw him last (I am not sure which date) We were in the trench together when Howard's mates bottle run out & as things were pretty quiet just then he said he would go down to the spring for a fresh supply. he took two or three other bottles besides his own and left the trench, he should have returned inside half an hour but I never saw him again although I was in the trench for about 30 hours after that. I would not say he was killed then I sincerely hope he was not. The fact that he was reported missing in June does not signify that he was there until then. I was reported wounded on June 12th whereas I was hit on May 3rd. I have asked several returned men that knew Howard, but none of them saw him after about that date

I remain

Yours Sincerely

Louis P (?)



13/3/16

Dear Miss Dodd

I undertook upon myself the responsibility of opening your letter that arrived here today dated at yours Jan 5th-16th to your Brother Howard in which you say you are anxious and worried and I think that you have much cause to be the suspense you people are under must be awful. I have argued it out with myself all the day but why should I shirk to do what I deem my duty. why should you and all your home be kept anxiously waiting in uncertainty I ~~he~~ am an old school chum of (?) and many was the talk we had of home although we were only together for a brief period but in that time we lived the old school days over again and I was practically with him until the last. In Howard you all have a brother and a son that you all might be proud of for you have good cause. many the time was his name mentioned during that first terrible week on Gallipoli for his courage and steadiness until may the 2nd and poor fellow he was hit and fataly at that never speaking a word after they tell me that death was instantaneous and now I am not a letter writer but please accept my most heartfelt condolences in your sorrow. we are all here trying to our bit and any day will see the last of any of us. And dear Mabel excuse the intimate expression remember me to all your people at home and anything that I can do for you in this distant land command and I will do it and please excuse me if I have been to abrupt in writing to you ever your Sincere Friend

Turner. W.

A. I. F.

Please excuse me not putting my address as I am overdoing it by advising you of this sad event

Belly T.

Victor Harbour

April 13th

Mr Dodd

Dear Sir

You wrote me yesterday asking for information concerning poor Howard. I will willingly tell you all I know. I know he is reported missing but he is not missing. He died for King & country on the night of May 2nd 1915. He was my tent mate at Morphetville Camp and Heliopolis Egypt He left Egypt for the front early in April with the 16th Battalion, but before he left he was transferred into the Signalling section of that Battalion. The 2nd Reinforcements did not leave Egypt till the end of April



Howard landed under very heavy fire on the Monday morning at 4.30 on April 26th, he had some very hard fighting. I heard from some of his pals that he was in good health & spirits up till he met his death.

I will explain a little to you about this charge which he had taken part. It was on the left flank, what we called Popp's Hills, the enemies trenches were only about 30 yards away.

They were prepared for this attack and were waiting on the side of the hill behind the trenches, Howard was with his pals, quite happy. Before the charge Howard went down to the gully to fill his water bottle His pals saw him go down, but after waiting for half an hour, wondering where he had got to, when one of his pals was going out to look for him saw him about 50 yards further up the trench with some more comrades, knowing he was safe they did not trouble anymore about him

After the charge was over they had orders to go down the gully for roll call. Howard's name was called but no answer came. He was killed in that charge. I did not see him myself, but my pals also his said he was seen dead in front of the enemies trenches. As I said before he died for King & Country he was well liked by all his comrades I will just tell you this, that he will be reported missing till two months after the war. They cannot report any soldier killed untill they get his Identification Disc, why they did not get Howard was because they had to retire from the position they had won leaving the dead behind. It hurts me to write this as Howard and I were great pals up till he left Egypt. I have not seen him since. I have played football against Howard, so I know pretty well, I don't think I can tell you any more, but if you think of any thing that you thought I would know just drop me a line and I will do my best.

Your Respectfully

Bugler A. H. Jarvis

P. S.

Perhaps if you could write to Sid Bowley of Goolwa he would know a little about him as I beleive he was near Howard on the 2nd May