



# **ALBERT WILLIAM DILGER**

**SERVICE NUMBER: 2452**

**RANK: LANCE CORPORAL**

**UNIT: 12<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION**

**AWARD: MILITARY MEDAL**

**8 JUNE 1888 TO 31 MAY 1918**

# Albert William Dilger

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**SON OF: WILLIAM AND MARY DILGER, SWANSEA TASMANIA**

**CONFLICT: FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 – 1918**

**OCCUPATION: BRIDGE BUILDER**

**MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE**

**AGE AT ENLISTMENT 9 JULY 1915: 27 YEARS**

**RELIGION: ROMAN CATHOLIC**

**FATE: KILLED IN ACTION 31 MAY 1918, FRANCE**

**CEMETARY: BORRE BRITISH CEMETARY, HAZEBROUCK,  
NORD PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE**



## Albert William Dilger

### The early days in Swansea

Albert William Dilger, known as Bert was born on 8 June 1888 and raised in Swansea. He was the eldest of eight children and enjoyed his sport especially football.

Bert studied at the local school and then trained as a bridge builder for a local contractor including for some time with his younger brother Harry who also served on the Western Front with the Australian Imperial force in World War 1.

Bert played in the Swansea football premiership team of 1905 and was often named amongst the best players and for a time was the secretary of the Swansea football club. He was known to enjoy fishing and according to research was a member of the Swansea Homing Society.



The Swansea Football Premiership Team of 1905. Bert is standing third from the left.

Photo Courtesy of GSBH Society

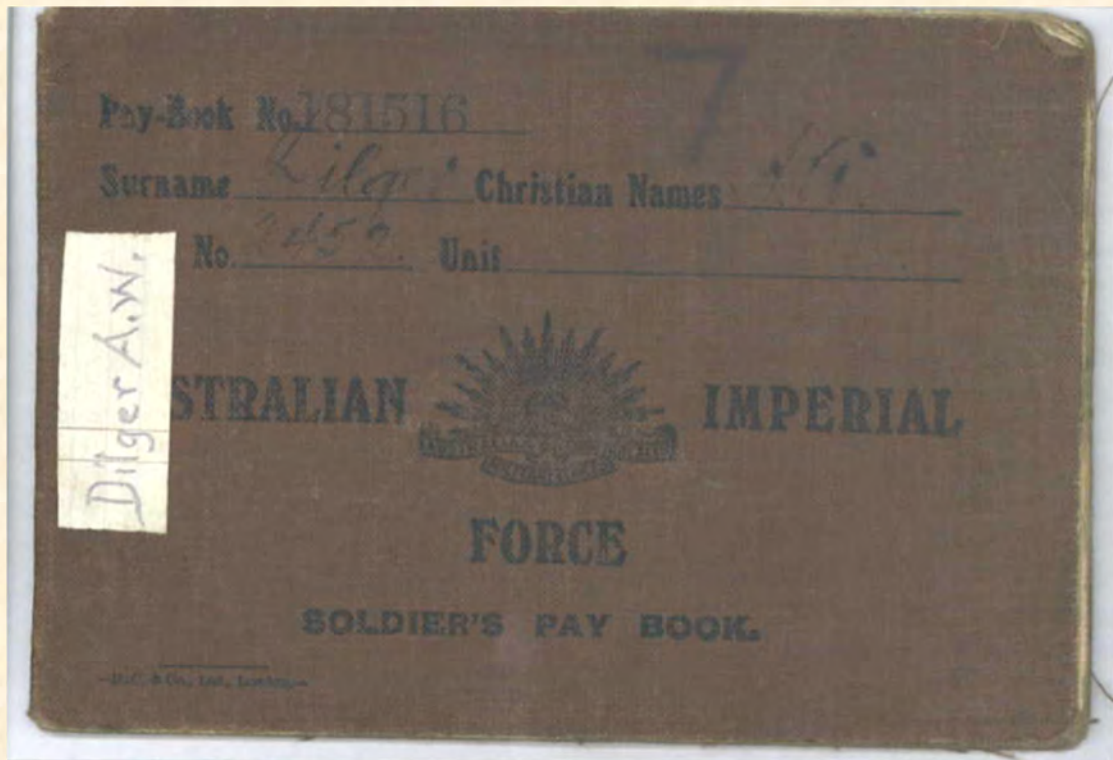
Bert was the son of Mary Elizabeth and William (Will) Dilger. Sadly Bert's father Will Dilger died unexpectedly on 21 February 1906 at the age of 42 in Boobyalla near Ringarooma where he had been working. He apparently died of an epileptic fit. Soon after his death and again sadly a fire broke out in the Dilger's home in Swansea and it was badly damaged. Although some of the children were in bed at the time and had to be rescued, all members of the family survived. The Launceston Daily Telegraph of 6 April 1906 stated the sympathy of the whole community is with them in their trouble, as it is only a short time ago since they were deprived of their bread winner. Mrs Dilger and family heartily assisted to save her place. Although all the clothes were destroyed, with flour, sugar, and all other kitchen necessities, had it been a windy night it would have been more serious."



Bert Dilger's family home in Swansea

## Enlistment, early action and injury

Bert enlisted on 9 July 1915 at the age 27 years and departed from Tasmania to Adelaide and arrived in Alexandria, Egypt in January 1916 and following a few months in training arrived on the Western Front in France. Like many other soldiers and due to the weather conditions he soon caught the flu and was hospitalised. Bert joined the 12th Battalion which was made up of mostly Tasmanians.



On 24 July 1916 Bert was wounded in action in France receiving gunshot wounds in his back and right arm and was hospitalised in the Third Western General Hospital at Cardiff, Wales. When the hospital closed in 1919 the patients were 50% orthopaedic and 50% mentally ill patients. He then spent further time convalescing at the Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital at Epsom, Surrey. The Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital at its peak held over 4000 patients. He returned to training at Perham Downs in 1917 while still recovering from his wounds.

At the end of November 1916 Bert caught mumps and was hospitalised in France before being discharged 2 days before Christmas. Sadly in January 1917 he was again injured, this time receiving a severe shrapnel wound to his right arm and was sent to England to the Horton County of London war hospital. He again returned to Perham Downs camp for training purposes and rehabilitation. Bert received the sad news that his younger brother Harry was killed in action in Armentieres, Belgium on 31 January 1917. Harry was just 19 years old.

In March 1917 on his return to the Western Front, Bert was transferred from the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion to the 69<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was promoted to Lance Corporal. He returned to the 12 Battalion in November 1917.

On 9 January 1918 Bert suffered gunshot wounds to his legs and face and was again hospitalised but was soon reclassified as fit for elementary field work and re-joined the training school, and then soon returned to active duty.

## Bravery and Berts military medal at Messines, France

On 16 Feb 1918 Bert was awarded the military medal for bravery.

The commendation read as follows:

*On the night of the 9th/10th January 1918 east of Messines, Lance Corporal A.W Dilger was in charge of a patrol. They got within 20 yards of an enemy post and were heavily bombed. Lance Corporal Dilger was wounded through the ankle, which was broken, and Private R.T Hortle was badly wounded in the thigh. The remainder of the patrol, wounded in a lesser degree, returned to our lines.*

*Lance Corporal Dilger remained with Hortle and carried him back, a distance of about 90 yards, and was subjected to heavy rifle and machine gun fire in doing so. Undoubtedly Private Hortle owes his life to Lance Corporal Dilger's gallant action.*

*Report by Brigadier General commanding 1st Australian Division, AWM files.*



Mrs. W. Dilger, of Swansea, has received news that her son, Lance-Corporal Albert Dilger, of the 12th Battalion, has been awarded the Military Medal for a very brave deed done in France. He, with three others, was ordered to cut some wire in front of the German trenches. They were seen and fired on by the enemy. Two of the men got safely back, but the third was very severely wounded. Dilger, who was himself slightly hurt, stayed behind with his wounded comrade. He hoisted the man on to his back, and crawled on hands and knees with him for a considerable distance, until they reached their own lines.

Mercury article 25 May 1918.

Bert Dilger's military medal is held in the Swansea Historical Rooms (part of the East Coast Heritage Museum and Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society Inc.) The medal was donated by his niece Marge Bouchard, who apparently inherited it from his two sisters, Kit and Nell Dilger.

## Killed in action and a mother's pain.

Sadly Bert was killed in action at the age of 29 years just 3 months later on 31 May 1918 and was buried at the Borre Cemetery in France. (It should be noted many thousands of Australian soldiers still have no known gravesite.)

The then Glamorgan Council moved a special motion in his honour which reads:

*At the meeting of the Glamorgan council last week the Warden, Mr A. J. Amons moved "That a letter be forwarded to Mrs E. Dilger sympathising with her in the great loss she has sustained through the death of her other son, Albert William, who was recently killed in action in France, and that is be placed on record the high esteem that the Council entertained for*

Bert's mother Mrs Mary Dilger was offered a public ceremony for the presentation of Bert's military medal but responded as follows: "I will be greatly obliged if you will post the medal direct to me as I have not desire whatever for a public presentation".

BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A.I.F.,  
21st October, 1918.

Dear Madam,

It is with feelings of admiration at the gallantry of a brave Australian soldier who nobly laid down his life in the service of our King and Country, that I am directed by the Honourable The Minister to forward to you, as the legatee of the late No. 2452 Lance Corporal A.W. Dilger, M.M., 12th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, the Military Medal which His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award to that gallant soldier for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty while serving with the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force.

I am also to ask you to accept his deep personal sympathy in the loss which, not only you, but the Australian Army has sustained by the death of Lance Corporal Dilger whose magnificent conduct on the field of battle helped to earn for our Australian soldiers a fame which will endure as long as memory lasts.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly let me know whether it comes safely to hand by signing and returning the attached receipt slip.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M.E. Dilger,  
Swansea,  
Tasmania.

Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

Bert Dilger in his Will bequeathed everything to his mother Mrs Mary Dilger.

390

121115

Will

I, Bert Dilger Albert William Regimental Number 2452 serving in 69th Bn. formerly in 12th Bn. of the Australian Imperial Force do hereby revoke all former Wills made by me and declare this to be my last Will I devise and bequeath all my real estate unto

absolutely and my personal estate I bequeath to my mother Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Dilger Swansea Tasmania In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of July A.D. 1917.

A. W. Dilger

Signed by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament the same having been read over and explained to him in the presence of us both present at the execution who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses Sgt. H. R. Bruford 3 Fermanagh Rd. Camberwell Victoria Mining Engineer W. J. Upchurch Corporal D. Coy. 69th Bn. A.I.F.

CM Form 511B. 11828 303

WILL.

Name in full. I, DILGER, Alfred William.

Unit. Regimental Number 2452 serving in 69th Bn. & formerly in 12th Bn. of the Australian Imperial Force do hereby revoke all former Wills made by me and declare this to be my last Will.

Name and Address of person or persons to whom it is to go I DEVISE and BEQUEATH all my real estate unto \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of person or persons to receive personal estate (See Note) absolutely, and my personal estate I bequeath to my mother  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Dilger, Swansea, Tasmania.

Fill in Date. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of July A.D. 1917.

A. W. DILGER. (Signature).

All alterations to be initialled by Testator and Witnesses. Signed by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament the same having been read over and explained to him, in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses.

FIRST WITNESS Signature of Witness H. R. Bruford  
Address and Occupation 3 Fermanagh Rd. Camberwell, Victoria.  
Mining Engineer

SECOND WITNESS Signature of Witness W. J. W. Upchurch  
Address and Occupation Corporal D. Coy. 69th Bn. A. I. F.

N.B.—Personal Estate includes Pay, Effects, Money in Bank, Insurance Policy, in fact everything except Real Estate.

Certified to be a true copy of the will of No. 2452 Pte. DILGER, Albert William. (MCM) 12th Bn. A. I. F.

Checked EAK CPL 11.6.18. J. E. Hunter CPL., or.  
Estates Branch,  
Adm. Hdqrs., London.

In his personal possession on the western front were a wallet, photos, a prayer book, 10 cards, a brownie camera and a sewing kit. Mrs Mary Dilger was subsequently sent a mothers and widows badge with 2 stars, one for each of her sons – Albert William Dilger and Harry Clarence Dilger.







Albert William Dilger, Clarence Frederick Dilger (Cousin) & Harry Clarence Dilger all killed in action in world war one



## Today's Swansea RSL pays tribute.

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd (Swansea RSL Sub-branch Inc.)		
CLUB PRESIDENT: LTCOL NICHOLAS WILSON		PO Box 17
SECRETARY: TRACEY KEAN		SWANSEATAS 7190
CLUB MANAGER: TREVOR THOMAS		Phone: 03 6257 8188 Email: swansearsl4@bigpond.com
The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance		

02 April 2016

**Mr G. Barnett, MP**  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier  
Liberal Member for Lyons  
Public Building, 53 St John Street  
LAUNCESTON TASMANIA 7300

Dear Mr Barnett

On behalf of the Swansea Returned and Services League Sub-Branch, I am honoured to provide a brief statement on the occasion of commemorating our townsman, Albert William Dilger, late of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Imperial Force.

The Dilger name itself is well-established in the Swansea district. Indeed it was prominent on the outbreak of the First World War with several members of the family enlisting. Albert, or Bert as he was universally known, joined in July of 1915; at the relative old age of 27, listing his profession as bridge builder. He was 5' 8" tall, with a dark complexion reminiscent of his family. He embarked for France and was wounded on several occasions – at the very least three – and proved an able soldier with a promotion to Lance Corporal. Less a brief stint in the 69<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Bert served exclusively in the might "Blue and White" of the 12<sup>th</sup> – Tasmania's own.

In early 1918, Bert was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry – a feat that was no doubt talked about in the local township for some months. Of course, as is the brutal nature of war his pride was short-lived, as he was killed in action only three months later.

Today, Bert is commemorated on our town's memorial with other sons, fathers and brothers who bore the supreme sacrifice. As we approach ANZAC Day, the timing of this correspondence is most meaning for it reminds us all that Bert and his comrades will never be forgotten. Indeed, as the Ode reminds us, "... at the going down of the sun, and in morning, we will remember Them."

Mr Barnett, as you embark on this important task, let me thank you for this invitation in letting me, on behalf of the townspeople of Swansea, give such remembrance. Let Bertie know that he is his memory, his actions and deeds, and his sacrifice is not lost on us. We revere him and he is contained within our collective prayers.

Kind regards

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Nick Wilson  
President  
Swansea RSL Sub-Branch Inc.

**End Note: Further military and medical records are attached.**

No. 2452, Lance Corporal  
**DILGER, Albert William**  
 12th Battalion  
 31-5-18  
**KILLED IN ACTION**  
 (Mother) Mrs E. V. Dilger.

RECORDED ON H. R. CARD

**Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.**

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier: Albert William Dilger
2. Unit and Number (if known): 2452 12th Battalion
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—  
 Town (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ District: Logan State: Queensland
4. What was his Birthplace: Logan, Qld
5. Date of Death: May 31st 1918
6. Place where Killed or Wounded: France

**Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.**

1. What was his Calling: Foot Overseas
2. Age at time of Death: 29
3. What was his Service: State
4. What was his other Training: \_\_\_\_\_
5. If born in Britain or Ireland, at what age did he come to Australia: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars): No
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Was he associated with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship): Brother to late Private Harry Dilger who was killed in action on Jan 31st 1917

9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—  
 Name: Mary E Dilger  
 Relationship to Soldier: Mother  
 Address: Logan, Qld

10. Name and Address of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—  
 Name: Albert Dilger  
 Address: Logan, Qld

**NOTE**—This Folder is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fold in form, and stick down corners flat so that the addresses printed in reverse. The information is required urgently.

1918

2nd Aust. Infantry      1st Australian      Australian      16th January, 1918.

16th Battalion 2nd  
A.I.F.

1st Lt. Corporal  
Albert Edward  
DILGER.

On the night of 9th/10th January, 1918, east of BESSINNE, 1/Pl. A.S. DILGER was in charge of a patrol. They got within 90 yards of an enemy post and were heavily bombed. 1/Pl. DILGER was wounded through the ankle, which was broken, and Pte. H.P. BOTTLE badly wounded in the thigh. The remainder of the patrol, wounded in a lesser degree, returned to our lines. 1/Pl. DILGER remained with BOTTLE and carried him back, a distance of about 90 yards, and was subjected to heavy rifle and machine gun fire in doing so.

O.C., Military  
16th Bn., Medal.  
A.I.F.

Undoubtedly Pte. BOTTLE owes his life to 1/Pl. DILGER's gallant action.

*Awarded*

Brig.-General,  
Commanding 1st Australian Division.

Date recommendation passed forward.

	Received	Issued
Brigade Division.	10/1/1918	14/1/1918
Corps Army.	10/1/1918	15/1/1918

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

Serial No. 2057      Rank 1st Lt.      Name Dilger Albert William  
 Corps 1st A.I.F.      *1st A.I.F. 2nd Bde 7th Regt*

Place of Birth *Warrackbee 9.15 A.A.*  
 Date of Birth *27 Nov 1886*  
 Name of Parents *Frederick & Louisa*  
 Name of Spouse *Miss Alice M. Dilger*

Service  
 1st A.I.F.

Place of Award  
 Depot

Height

Weight

Complexion

Hair

Eyes

Build

Other Particulars

Remarks  
*Wounded in action 9th/10th Jan 1918*  
*1st A.I.F. 2nd Bde*

Notes and Observations  
*Recommended Military Medal 11/1/1918*  
*1st A.I.F. 2nd Bde*

*Albert William Dilger*

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2152 Name DILGER Albert William  
7<sup>th</sup> Unit 12th Battalion  
Joined on 9/7/15

*Subscribed*  
✓

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?  Albert William Dilger
2. In the Parish of \_\_\_\_\_ is or near the Town of Swansea in the County of Gloucestershire
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, please to be shown)  Yes
4. What is your age?  27 yrs
5. What is your trade or calling?  Bridge builder
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?  No
7. Are you married?  No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Widow Mother Mrs Mary Elizabeth Dilger Swansea
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?  No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Ineligible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?  No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge  No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?  Yes
13. Have you ever been required or called for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?  No
14. (The married man, residing with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of a family should) Do you understand that no separation Allowance will be paid to you after enlistment during your term of service?  Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and return there?  Yes

I, Albert William Dilger do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and bound voluntarily again to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allow out the sum two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 7/7/15

Albert William Dilger  
Albert William Dilger  
Signature of person enlisting

\*The money should be applied to the rate of recruitment and to expenses incurred in the service of the Government.  
† For full rates to be allowed in the wife, and if there are children three-fifths the same to be allowed.

Description of Albert William Dwyer on Enlistment.

Age <u>27</u> years <u>1</u> months	DISTINCTIVE MARKS.  <u>Scar left thigh</u>
Height <u>5</u> feet <u>8 1/2</u> inches	
Weight <u>11.11</u> lbs	
Chest Measurement <u>33 3/4</u> inches.	
Complexion <u>Pale</u>	
Eyes <u>Blue</u>	
Hair <u>Black</u>	
Religious Denomination <u>R.C.</u>	

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz.:-

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hemorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendulous testicles; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or R.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date 8.7.15

Place Hobart

James Price  
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that the Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him

to 12th Battalion

Date 12 August 15

Place Blarney

Atkinson James  
Commanding Officer

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

The foregoing questions were read to the person enlisted in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to by him.

I have examined his personalization papers, and am of opinion that they are correct.  
(This to be struck out except in the case of persons who are natural British Subjects.)

Date 9/1/15

W. H. Gray-Lewis  
Signature of Attesting Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED\*

3. Albert William Dilger swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 15th July 15 until the end of the War, and a further period of four months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

So Help Me, God.

Albert William Dilger  
Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at Blairmont in  
the State of Tasmania  
this 9<sup>th</sup> day \_\_\_\_\_ of  
July 1915, before me—

W. H. Gray-Lewis  
Signature of Attesting Officer.

\*A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All oaths must be taken before the Attesting Officer.

Army Form B-101

Casualty Form - Active Service

Regimental No. 2452 Rank 1st Lt Name Silger Albert William

Entered (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Terms of Service (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Service includes term (c) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to (a) rank \_\_\_\_\_ National position (a) out of 50,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Year	Month	Event	Place	Remarks
1	6-17-17	G.O. 18th Detachment	TAKEN ON STRENGTH	GALLIPOLI
2	6-17-17	Discharged	Algeria	6-17-17
3	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
4	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
5	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
6	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
7	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
8	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
9	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
10	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
11	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
12	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
13	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
14	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
15	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
16	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
17	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
18	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17
19	6-17-17	Rejoined unit	France	6-17-17
20	6-17-17	Wounded in action	France	6-17-17

Army Form B-101

Casualty Form - Active Service

Regimental No. 2452 Rank 1st Lt Name Silger Albert William

Entered (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Terms of Service (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Service includes term (c) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to (a) rank \_\_\_\_\_ National position (a) out of 50,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Year	Month	Event	Place	Remarks
21	20-17	Wounded	France	20-17
22	27-17	Rejoined unit	France	27-17
23	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
24	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
25	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
26	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
27	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
28	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
29	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
30	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
31	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
32	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
33	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
34	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
35	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
36	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
37	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
38	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17
39	5-17	Wounded in action	France	5-17
40	5-17	Rejoined unit	France	5-17



**Sheet 3**

Organizational Number: **2452**

Army Form 100 (Rev. 1-19-50) **Casualty Form - Active Service**

Regiment: **12th Battalion**

Rank: **Sergeant** Name: **Bilger** Unit: **1st Battalion**

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Age or Enlistment: \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months

Enlisted on: \_\_\_\_\_ Terms of Service: (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Service begins from: (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of promotion to present rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to former rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Extended: \_\_\_\_\_ Re-enlisted: \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification: (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
in Corps Trade and rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Particulars	Station	Grade	Remarks
01/30/17	PROB	Moved to Co	Private	None
04/17	do	PROCEEDED	Private	do
12/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
10/1/18	do	2nd Battalion	Private	do
2/5/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
2/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
2/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
2/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
2/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
16/2/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do

Date	Particulars	Station	Grade	Remarks
10/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
2/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do
2/1/18	do	1st Battalion	Private	do

Signature of Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
1st Lieutenant

FORWARDED SECTION, 2nd DIVISION, C.I.C., P.F.T.  
27 JUL 1918

*Rec'd from Unit 19 10 1918*

Statement of Service of No. 2152 Name Carl DeLger

Date in which served	Particulars, Duties, Location, etc.	Period of Service in each		Remarks
		From	To	
REJOINED UNIT	In Hospital (back) - <u>UNIT</u> in Hospital	10/4/18	10/4/18	
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Admitted on 11/1/18	11/1/18		
	Proceeded to France to train in 55 Victoria's from London	England	11/1/18	
	S. O. S. U. S. COLLEGE STON	Washington	12/1/18	
	Proceeded from London to France	France	12/1/18	
	Discharged from 12/1/18	France	12/1/18	
	Rejoined Unit (later)	France	12/1/18	
	Discharged from 12/1/18	France	12/1/18	

I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect.

17215  
 Statement of Service of No. 2852 Name Sergeant R. W. ...  
 Page 4 (B)

Date	Description, Location, Country, etc.	Place	Date	Remarks
	Placed in ...		21-2-17	
	... 3005 ...		22-2-17	
	... 19/3/17			Jr. 42/3611
	...			69 <sup>th</sup> Div
17-2-17	...		19-2-17	...
	...			...
	...	...	2-11-17	...
	...	France	11-11-17	...
	...		9-1-18	...
	...		29-1-18	...
	...		15-2-18	...



Signal Corps  
Army Form 4, 1918

Regimental Number 8888

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Report of Corps 1918  
 Rank 1st Lt. Surname W. J. H. Jones Christian Name Walter William  
 Religion Methodist Age or Enlistment 26 yrs months  
 Enlisted on 10/10/17 Term of Service 3 yrs Service includes term of 1 yr  
 Date of promotion to present rank 11/1/17 Date of appointment to lower rank  
 Extended 1 yr Discharged 1 yr Qualification (1)  
 in Corps Trade and Rate  
 Description 1st Lt. Signal Corps Signature of Officer

Date	Place where received	Part of previous service which counts (If from the Army, to include the date of discharge or release from service)	Rank or Grade	Period (month)	Remarks (If from the Army, to include the date of discharge or release from service)
			Returned		
			Discharged		
4/1/17	Co. 1st Lt. Co.	Remanded in action	Private	4-1-17	From 1st Lt. Co. 1st Lt. Co.
4/1/17	2nd Lt. Co.	2nd Lt. Co.	"	4-1-17	
4/1/17	2nd Lt. Co.	"	"	4-1-17	
12/1/17	2nd Lt. Co.	"	"	12-1-17	
12/1/17	"	2nd Lt. Co.	"	12-1-17	
12/1/17	"	2nd Lt. Co.	"	12-1-17	
12/1/17	"	2nd Lt. Co.	"	12-1-17	
12/1/17	"	2nd Lt. Co.	"	12-1-17	
12/1/17	"	2nd Lt. Co.	"	12-1-17	

1918

Date	Place where received	Part of previous service which counts (If from the Army, to include the date of discharge or release from service)	Rank or Grade	Period (month)	Remarks (If from the Army, to include the date of discharge or release from service)
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	
12/1/17	1st Lt. Co.	Part. 12/1/17 to part. 12/1/17	1st Lt.	12/1/17	

Form 1042  
Army Form 1042  
Regimental Surgeon 2144

### Casualty Form - Active Services.

of 1011. Regiment of Corps 12th Bn.  
Rank 444 Surgeon 12424 "2nd Lt" Christian Name 412271 211122  
Regiment  
Enlisted in Terms of Service (a) Service begins from (a)  
Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to latest rank.  
Extended Discharged Qualification (b)  
or Corps Trade and Date  
Occupation Registrar of District

Date	Event	Place of Occurrence	Service	Remarks
17/11/17	C.O. 12th Bn.	Rejoined Bn	France	11/11/17 20 04/7223
18/1/18	"	Wounded in action (3rd Coy)	FIELD	9/1/18 20 4/273
10/1/18	Exp S.P.A.	Exp Unit. Adm.	"	10/1/18 20 100
25/1/18	I.L.R.310.	Exp exp and then adm.	"	1/1/18
26/1/18	"	Ins. to Unit	"	26/1/18
2/2/18	C.O. 12th Bn.	Rejoined Bn.	"	2/2/18 20 4/100
12/2/18	"	To Class of Elementary Field Work.	"	12/2/18
2/3/18	"	Rejoined Sr. School.	"	22/2/18
12/3/18	Just. Comm. D.O's 1011	Awarded the Military Medal	"	20 12/200

1. In the event of a case which is covered by the provisions of the Army (Casualty) Regulations, 1915, the Registrar of Districts shall be notified by the commanding officer of the unit concerned as soon as possible after the date of the occurrence of the event.  
2. The Registrar of Districts shall be notified of the date of the occurrence of the event.

Date	Event	Place of Occurrence	Service	Remarks
11/4/18	C.O. 12th Bn.	To Musketry & Lewis Gun Unit	FIELD	9/5/18
25/4/18	"	Rejoined Sr. School	"	22/5/18 D.O.
1/5/18	"	Killed in action	France	31/5/18 21.740 20/3043

(Signed) S.S. Hall  
Captain  
per officer in charge

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE - G.S. 1011  
27/5/18

*Handwritten notes in red ink:*  
Bureau of War Records  
France  
1/1/18  
1/1/18  
1/1/18

S S Persia

Dear Mum

I am sending a few lines to let you know that I am alright. I have just about got over the sea-sickness we have had a pretty rough trip and all hands have been bad, but all are getting lively again. I will start and tell you what bit of news there is to tell since we left Melbourne. We left Melbourne Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 o'clock and had a rough trip round to Adelaide one night was very rough we had thunder & lightning the ship got 20 miles out of its course but after we arrived at Adelaide on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 o'clock and left for Fremantle @ 7 o'clock the same day and are still on the way. I think we should get there on Tuesday morning. When I say Adelaide I mean Port Adelaide, the City is 10 miles further on and I don't think the Big boats can get up. They are terrible grabbers at Port A.. they used to charge us tip-top prices for anything we bought oranges that we can buy for 1d each on the ship they used to charge us 4 for 6d. one of the boys that was selling on the wharf told us that they put 2d per bottle on the cordials while the soldiers were there I don't reckon that very patriotic do you. I hope they let us ashore at Fremantle we will have been on board a week then. One good thing there is plenty good tucker on board we get meat 3 times a day and at 7 o'clock in the evening we get biscuits and cheese.

Well Dear Mum I must send Lil a few lines

from Fremantle so I will say Ta-Ta

for the [present with love to all at home

from Your Loving Son

Bert

Envelope

Post marked Fremantle 17 Aug 15 Western Australia

Mrs W. Dilger

Swansea

Tasmania

20-2-16

Just done  
to you all  
from  
your loving  
Auntie  
Betty

Dear Murn

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still knocking along alright and that I received your letter of Jan 14 and also one from Nell & Gus. I suppose Gus has gone back to school long before this.

I am glad you got my letters from Lommo you ought to get plenty every mail, I get some fairly regular but I think there must be a few parcels hitching about.

Ed is still away but I think he must be having a good time I also a letter from another chap that went land he said they were having a bit of sport.

We are still having it very quiet but I expect they will soon have something going to make us keep our colts about us.

How are Mr & Mrs Gunton getting on now I hope they are well remember me to them, I suppose Uncle Charlie and all are getting on alright.

Has Marge got her piano up yet we will be able to have plenty music if I am back before she goes away again. Tell Nell to make the best of a good chance, I will write to her this week.

Well Murn must ring off now so Ta-ta with



**NOTHING** is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

*I am quite well.*

~~I have been admitted into hospital~~

{ ~~sick~~ } ~~and am going on well.~~  
{ ~~wounded~~ } ~~and hope to be discharged soon.~~

~~I am being sent down to the base.~~

I have received your { letter dated Jan 16  
telegram ,, \_\_\_\_\_  
parcel ,, \_\_\_\_\_

*Letter follows at first opportunity.*

I have received ~~no~~ letter from you

{ lately.  
for ~~any~~ time.

Signature  
only.

*A. W. Dilger*

Date 21-2-16

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

11101-1106-112  
March 5<sup>th</sup>

1916

My Dear Mamma

Here I am again  
sending you a few more  
lines to let you know  
that I am still well and  
kicking along alright.

The last letter I got from  
you was dated Jan 21<sup>st</sup> &  
got one from Lil the same  
date.

By the tone of Lil's letter  
Harry has made up his

March 5<sup>th</sup>  
1916

My Dear Mamma

Here I am again sending you a few more lines to let you know that I am still well and kicking along alright.

The last letter I got from you was dated Jan 21<sup>st</sup> & got one from Lil the same date.

By the tone of Lil's letter Harry has made up his

get a job at the Base in Egypt, well he deserves it he has had a pretty good go and wants a bit of a change like that.

I only know one of the new reinforcements who came to the 12<sup>th</sup> and that was Viv Cole, Tony Cole's son.

I heard that Dave Marshall was in the 15<sup>th</sup> Batty if he is I might not see him. I have not heard yet what Will is in. I have not run against Alma yet.

mind to come over & hope he gets along alright he will be alright if he takes care of himself.

I got the sheep skin coat the other day my word it is a good one, it will be splendid when the weather is cold we are having it fairly hot at present also pretty windy & dusty.

I have not seen Ted lately but he is alright again one of our officers saw him in Cairo the other day I think he is trying to

Andrew is also still away. We have not had much news of the war lately as I don't know much how it is going along.

This is a wonderful letter this time 4 pages. Will Dear Mamma I am about out of news so remember me to everybody and give my love to all at home with heaps for yourself so far. I am  
Your loving son  
Rett.

On Active Service



**WITH THE BRITISH  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**  
*France*

Address Reply to:

2452

April 12<sup>th</sup>

1916

*The A. H. Pilger*

*B. Co. 13<sup>th</sup>*

*12<sup>th</sup> Battalion*

My Dear Mamma

Here I am again going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am well, and hoping you are the same. It is a good while since I wrote but we have not been able to send any lately, I sent a hurried line to you before we left the Suway and told you not to expect any more letters for some time. I hope you got it safely. Well Mamma dear I am a long way from where I wrote last, we are in France but

France

27 – 4 – 16

My dear Mum

Well Dear Mum I am just going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am alright. I got a parcel from you on Tuesday, thank you very much for the good things that were in it, everything was in good order. I got a letter from you and Nell, also from Kit & Ella and one from Iris all were written in the first week in March I suppose Harry will have left Tasmania long before you get this letter, there will not be many chaps left in Swansea if they keep on coming at the rate they are doing so now. We are beginning to get some lovely weather here now, the last 4 or 5 days it has just been like early summer in Tassie, it reminds me a lot of Tasmania at times and especially now all the fruit trees are coming out in bloom. You see a lot of funny things here sometimes, they train Dogs here to work at all sorts of things you often go along here & see a dog dragging a small cart about. I sent you some P.Cs the other day I hope you get them. Oh, next time you write tell me how the elections got on, I might not see the paper with it in. I have not seen Will yet, I am afraid he got sent to another

Battn, and I have not seen Dave Mc Neil yet. Have you heard anything, he was in the 12<sup>th</sup> in the A. M. C. , I believe he was a splendid fellow too, nothing was too much for him to do for anybody.

Well dear Mum take care of yourself & remember me to all

My old friends & give my love to all at home so Ta – Ta

well best love from

Your Loving Son

Bert

Some smudging so some parts of this letter are illegible (denoted with xxxxx)

Xxxxxxx

30 – 7 – 16

My Dear Mum

I am just writing  
you a few lines to let you know  
how I am getting on. I managed  
to get in the way of a Hun's bullet  
but it did not damage me very  
much. I was coming down from  
the new front line where we  
had the battle at Pozieres, I guess  
you have seen all about it in the  
papers, with a message to our  
Colonel and when I was  
Crossing a piece of open ground  
Xxxx a sniper just caught me  
about the front rib, the bullet  
went just into the flesh a little  
way and came out again.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxx I did not get up  
with the xxxxxxxx I had to carry  
my xxxxxxxx backward & forward  
I think it is about the hardest  
bit of work I have ever taken  
on.  
We are getting treated tip top  
over here the sisters are real  
good. We are (some of us) going  
to be let out tomorrow for  
3 or 4 hours, we will be able  
To have a look at the town  
Cardiff is a good big place  
While I am over here I will  
write and tell you all that is  
going on and what we have  
been up to since we arrived

Page 2

in France.

I am almost sure to get some  
leave and be able to get to London  
before I go back to the Battn  
They owe me about 5 pounds and if I can  
draw that I will be able to have  
a good time. I have not had any  
leave since I joined.

Ted was safe the last I heard  
of him I did not see Andrew  
at all, there were a terrible  
lot of our chaps slightly wounded  
but there were not such a  
lot killed outright. You would  
not know that there had been  
any villages out there al all  
there is not a single wall  
standing my word our guns  
to rock xxxx in, the Huns  
also send a fair share but  
ours must make it like a

living hell for the Germans.

I hope you are doing as I often  
tell you Mum, that is not to  
worry about me at all I will  
be alright & I hope you are  
all well. I wonder where Harry  
Is goodness knows when I will  
get another letter, don't alter my  
address.

Well Dear Mum I will write a long  
letter in a day or two I have been  
carrying a letter in my pocket  
about a fortnight but have  
been able to post it.

Well dear Mum give my love to  
all at home so Ta –Ta for the  
present with heaps of love from

Your Loving

Son

Bert

For God, For King, & For Country

Y.M.C.A

Y.M.C.A.

Y.M.C.A.

Patron

with

Patron

YMCA National Council

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Military Camp Dept.

HM The King

HRH Duke of Connaught

Salisbury Plains

Oct. 24 1916

Dear Mum

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in the hospital and doing well. I got up on Friday and I am in a hut out side and I am in with old Sid Morey is hear with me . I hope to be going out to join my unit on Saturday and I wont be sorry. It is very cold down hear now we have had a few very rough days lately but it seemed if it is going to clear up a bit now and I hope it does. The mumps are not to bad to get once in a way because it is a good spell and I never had them very bad. I suppose you are starting to have some hot weather in Australia by now and we are starting to cop the cold over hear. I got a letter from Norman Balett yesterday and he said that he saw Bert last Wednesday and he was very well. I reckon he was over at my Camp yesterday but the other boy would be looking out for him. About a fortnight ago Norman Balett cousin got word that he was kill so you can imagine how xxx he will feel when I tell him that he is still going. There was an axident out hear this morning. There was a flying machine flying about a ¼ of a mile away from us and something went wrong with the machine and he fell and was killed we could see the machine falling from where we are. I hope to get some letters from home today the boys will send them to me from camp.

Well dear mum I havent any more to tell you down in this place so I will say good bye with best love from your loving son

Harry

give my love to the girls

and remember me to the boys in Swansea

Envelope

Y.M.C.A.

Mrs W Dilger

Swansea

East Coast

Tasmania

Australia



France  
10-12-16

My Dear Mum  
just sending  
you a few lines to let you  
know that I am getting  
along alright and hoping  
that you & all at home are  
well & happy.

I was on my way back to the  
line the other day, but I  
got the mumps, so of course  
I had to go to hospital, I am  
well again now but have to  
stay in the isolation hospital  
about another week yet, I  
was anxious to join up the

Battn again before Xmas but  
I dont think I can do it in the  
time now.

I have not had any letters  
since I left England the  
latest I had was written  
early in August.

Harry is over here but I  
dont exactly know where,  
Allan also was at the Base  
when I left it, but it is quite  
likely he has gone up the  
line by this, I saw C. Wallace  
the other day he has a job  
at the Base.

How are Uncle Chris & Charlie  
& Quenton getting on.

Well Dear Mum I have no news to tell  
so give my love to all at home & remember  
me to all old friends, so Ya-Ya for the  
present with heaps of love from  
your loving son. Bob.

**ACTIVE**

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]  
**SERVICE**

This envelope must not be used for  
money or valuables. It cannot be accepted  
for registration.

NOTE:—

Correspondence in this envelope need  
not be censored Regimentally. The  
contents are liable to examination at the  
Base.

The following Certificate must be  
filled in by the writer:—

I certify on my honour that the con-  
tents of this envelope refer to nothing  
private and family matters.

Signature  
Name only

A. H. Dilger

[Several letters may be added in this  
Cover, but these must be from the same  
writer. The Cover should be addressed in such  
case to the Base Censor.]

Address:—

Mrs H. Dilger  
Swansea  
Yarmouth  
Australia

France

5-1-14

My dear Mumm

Here I am about to send you a few lines to let you know that I am alright.

I got a bit of a crack the other day with a very small piece of shell, I did not expect to be sent away but I was and got as far as a *Barrage de Bagny* *Habitat*. It will be going back to the *Battal* in a day or so I think, my hit in the right arm just above the elbow, a small high explosive shell burst right alongside my mate's chap from *Scott* who was *Wentworth* and I, my mate never got a scratch and I only got one very small piece, we were not in the front line but were doing work near <sup>it</sup> and living in the support line.

I saw *Alan* he was quite alright

and is in D. Coy.

I have not seen Ned he has been transferred to the Engineers and has a very good job I believe, I did not see Andrews further he is not in the 13<sup>th</sup> attn now, I think he is with Divisional headquarters, they both deserve a spell.

I sent you a cable the other day, so you will know I am alright.

Well dear Murn I will ring off now I will write to all in a day or two I guess it is his turn now.

Give my love to all at home and remember me to all old friends as far as for the present with best of love from

Your Loving Son  
Regt.

France

25-11-14

My Dear Mamma

Here I am again just going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am getting along alright and hoping you and all at home are well.

I have not had any letters since joining the Battalion but I don't think it will be long before they come along.

I have not written to Mamma about poor old Ted he is buried up in Belgium, one of our lads told me that he has put a Cross at the poor old boys grave, he was not knocked about, he was killed by a machine gun and I think buried for some time before they got him out.

I got a photo of the High School Football Team out of an old Comrade the other day, I expect Ted will enjoy himself a bit, being Capt of the Team, I also got one of Inge, she has done well in her Class.

I have not seen much of Allan lately we are not killed very close together, I see G. Arnold often, I saw

B. Wallace the other day but did not have time to have a talk with him.

I have received a letter from the Agent General telling me that the money you sent me has arrived and been placed to my credit in my pay book, I might get a chance of leave to Paris and if I do it will come handy there, I wish I had got it while I was in England as I could have sent some decent Xmas presents home.

I wonder if I will be lucky enough to get my parcel this year I hope so, it won't be long now before some of them are coming along.

How is Mrs. Gunton getting on now, remember me to her.

I sent a lot of photos to you when I was at the Base I got them taken there, I hope you get them safely you can distribute them where you wish.

Well Dear Mamma I have no news to tell you, give my love to Ted & Nell & Myrtle & Doll, and remember me to all old friends as I must say

Ya Ya now with heaps of love from  
Your loving Son  
Bert

France

14-12-14

My Dear Mum

Here I am just going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am still kicking along alright and hoping you and all at home are well. I am writing this in my dug-out as you can guess we are somewhere near the front line, but it is fairly quiet.

I have not had any letters since I got to France, except one that was returned to me that I had written to poor old Ted) but I hope I get some before Xmas & as usual, I have written to Hedgers about my mail.

Poor old Ted is buried at a

place in Belgium called  
Westhoek Ridge, you can tell  
Mr. Lyne.

They have put a cross to his grave  
I have not had a chance to go  
and see if I could <sup>not</sup> find just  
little Harry's grave yet but I  
may get a chance soon.

I have not seen anything of  
Fred yet. Will come to come  
over although I think we passed  
~~pretty close to where Fred was~~  
the other day.

We have not been having much  
rain lately, but plenty of frosts, but  
they are not so bad as all the  
mud is frozen, we had a  
small fall of snow a couple  
of nights ago but it did not last  
long. I expect we will get  
plenty after the New Year.

I expect you have got Fred home  
again for his holidays

How is Mrs Gunton getting on  
and Uncle & Aunt's remembrance  
me to them all.

I hope Lil & Nell are well  
also Myrt & Doll.

Well Dear Mamma I really have  
no news to tell you so give my  
love to Lil & Nell & Doll & Myrt  
so take care of yourself Dear  
and I will ring for the present  
with heaps of love from

Your Loving Son  
Popt.



Y.M.C.A

In the Field

3-2-1918

My Dear Mum

Well Dear here

I am again just going to send

you a few lines to let you

know that I am still kicking

along alright and hoping

you and all at home are

well.

I got a letter from Ella yester-

day written on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, I have

nearly all Oct letters to get yet

and also the parcels, I expect

they will soon come along now,

I did not know that poor old

Fred had been killed, until

Page 2

3 or 4 days ago, it is very bad

news I expect his Dad & Mother

would be very much upset I

don't know where he was killed

but will find out if I can,

his unit is not very far away

from us at present, I will

write a few lines to his father

in a day or two.

Page 2 (contd)

We are having a very mild

winter over here this year, we

are having very little rain and

not much snow, but a lot of

nice frosty weather.

I forget if I told you about

page 3

sending you a Xmas Book

Australians in France, I don't

know what it is like, I did

not see them, but I hope it

is good, I don't know what I

was thinking about, that I

did not get one sent to

Aunties when they were taking

orders for them, I told them

to send one to you and did

not think of sending two it

was too late when I did

think of it I am very sorry.

I saw herb Walker yesterday

he looks better than when

page 4

I saw him before. I also

saw C Wallace, I think he

is cooking for the Battn boot

page 4 (contd)

Envelope

makers.

I have not heard anything

Australian Commonwealth

ON

of Allan since he was wounded

Military Forces

ACTIVE

Oh I am very sorry to hear

Australian Y.M.C.A

SERVICE

That Mrs Walchs boy has

been killed, I send her my

Mrs W. Dilger

deepest sympathy, I hope she

Swansea

is cheering up alright and not

Tasmania

too broken hearted.

Australia

How are the girls getting on I

passed by censor

suppose they are jogging

No. 4596

along the same as ever.

Page 5

I hope Mrs Gunton is keeping

well remember me to her.

Well Dear I have no news to

tell so give my love to the

girls & Doll & Myrt and

remember me to all old

friends so Ta Ta for the

present with heaps of love

from

Your Loving Son

Bert



In the Field,

5-2-1918 191

My Dear Mamma

Hell Dear here I am again just going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am still picking along alright and hoping you and all at home are well.

I got a letter from Olga yesterday, written on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. I have nearly all let letters to get yet and also the parcels, I expect they will soon come along now. I did not know that poor old Fred had been killed, until



In the Field,

191

3 or 4 days ago, it is very bad news, I expect his Dad & brother would be very much upset, I don't know where he was killed but will find out if I can, his unit is not very far away from us at present, I will write a few lines to his father in a day or two.

We are having a very mild winter, not very this year, we are having very little rain, and not much snow, but a lot of nice frosty weather.

I forget if I told you about



In the Field,

191

sending you a Xmas Book, Antrodia in France, I don't know what it is like, I did not see them, but I hope it is good, I don't know what I was thinking about, that I did not get one sent to Aunties, because they were taking orders for them, I told them I to send one to you and did not think of sending two, it was too late when I did think of it, I am very sorry.

I saw Herb Walker yesterday, he looks better than when



In the Field,

191

I saw Jim before, I also saw B. Wallace, I think he is cooking for the Bath boot makers.

I have not heard anything of Allan since he was wounded, I am very sorry to hear that Mrs Wallace's boy has been killed, I send you my deepest sympathy, I hope she is cheering up alright and not too broken hearted.

How are the girls getting on, I suppose they are jogging along the same as ever.



In the Field,

.....191

I hope Mrs Gunton is keeping  
 well remember me to her.  
 Well dear I have no news to  
 tell so give my love to the  
 girls & all of my friends and  
 remember me to all old  
 friends so Ya-Ya for the  
 present with heaps of love  
 from  
 Your Loving Son  
 Bert.



ON  
ACTIVE  
SERVICE.



Mrs H. Hilgert  
 Swansea  
 Tasmania  
 Australia

A. F. A 2042  
H. Gen. No. 75248

FIELD SERVICE  
  
POST CARD



The address  
only to be writ-  
ten on this side.  
If anything else  
is added, the  
post card will be  
destroyed.

Mrs W. Dilger  
Swansea  
Yarmouth

510006-1061



Headquarters, Fourth Army,

To No. 2472 Lance Corporal A.E. DILGER,  
Australian Infantry.

22nd February 1918.

*I congratulate you on the gallant act by which you have won the*

MILITARY MEDAL.

*H. Rawlinson  
Genl.*

Commanding Fourth Army.

France

14 – 3 – 18

My Dear Mum

Here I am again just going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am getting along alright and hoping you and all at home are well and cheering up alright. I have had a few more letters during the last week (Dec letters), I have also had a letter from Will and find that he is in England for a few months, I was very pleased to hear that he has won the Military Medal, I wonder what he got it for, and talking about Military Medals Dear Mum, I must tell you that I have been lucky enough to win that honour, I expect you will have received word about it before you get this note I don't know if you will be told by them what I got it for so I will tell you in this note. You will remember me telling you some time ago about having a patrol out and getting into a bit of trouble, I had 3 men with me at the time and when we struck the enemy one poor chap got terribly wounded, the other two got away one of them slightly wounded, I got a few scratches also and stayed close to the lad that could not get away, then got him on my back and crawled away with him until I got far enough from Fritz to get up on my feet, and then carried him to our wire and went and got stretcher bearers, who helped me to get him through the wire, I am very sorry to say that the poor lad has since died of his wounds, one of his legs was almost blown off. I am sending the Order that I got yesterday as I cannot take care of it here. You often ask in your letters if I received the money you sent me, but I hope you have received my letters telling you that I got it alright and thank you very much Dear, I am trying to add a few more pounds to it and get leave to Paris. I have not been able to get any further information about poor Fred and Ted yet but will do so as soon as I can.

Well Dear Mum give my love to Lil & Nell

& Doll and Myrt and remember me to all

old friends so I will say Ta Ta for the present

with heaps of love from

Your Loving Son

Bert

France.

14-3-18

My dear Mum

Here I am again just going to send you a few things to let you know that I am getting along alright and hoping you and all at home are well and cheering up alright.

I have had a few more letters during the last week, (see letters), I have also had a letter from Will and find that he is in England for a few months, I was very pleased to hear that he

has won the Military Medal, I wonder what  
he got it for, and talking about Military  
Medals. Dear Mum, I must tell you that I  
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money you sent me, but I hope you have  
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want to add a few more pounds to  
it and get leave to Paris.

I have not been able to get any further  
information about poor Fred and Ted  
yet but will do so as soon as I can.

Well dear Mamma give my love to Bill & Dick  
& Doll and Myra and remember me to all  
old friends as I will say Ta-Ta for the present  
with heaps of love from

Your Loving Son  
Bert.

France

April 1<sup>st</sup> 1918

My Dear Mum

Here I am again just going to send you a few more lines to let you know that I am kicking along alright and hoping you and all at home are well and cheering up alright. I have had a fair number of letters lately also a couple of parcels , I got the one with 3 packets of X cut in yesterday and I must thank you very much, Dear, it is fine to get a bit of Australian Tobacco, the stuff we get over here is very poor, the stuff we get issued with is hardly worth smoking. I suppose you a bit anxious now this big battle is going on, but don't worry I will get through alright, I also think that this big go is going to end the war very soon, especially if the allies give him a big smack, which I think they will do, they must have killed thousands of Germans down there, and he cant stand that very long, the bit of ground that has been lost is nothing so long as he is being smashed up gaining it. So Myrt has gone back to Hobart, I hope she gets on well and has plenty pupils, how has Nell been getting along with her music, she ought to be fairly good now. I hope the girls have a good time on their holidays and also that you have a good one too.

One of our chaps who has been on leave to England told me that he saw Allan over there, and said he was waiting for a boat to go back to Tassie, one of his arms is not too good I believe, but he is lucky. How did Trev get on at his exam, did he go back to school, he done well at the sports on Boxing Day, he must be some lad as an athlete, I expect I will have to take a back seat when I come back. How are Uncles and Aunties getting on & Mrs Gunton & Mrs Walch remember me to them all.

Well Dear Mum give my love to Lil &

Nell & Doll so I will say Ta Ta

for the present with heaps of love

from

Your loving son

Bert

2100100312

France  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 1918

My dear Mamma

Here I am again just going to send you a few more lines to let you know that I am kicking along alright and hoping you and all at home are well and cheering up alright.

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214-11-1063

I will get through alright, I also think that this big go is going to end the war very soon, especially if the allies give him a big smack, which I think they will do, they must have killed thousands of Germans down there, and he can't stand that very long, the bit of ground that has been lost is nothing so long as he is being smashed up gaining it.

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I hope the girls have a good time on their holidays and also that you have a good one too.

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waiting for a boat to go back to Yassie,  
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How did You get on at his exam, did he  
go back to school, he done well at the  
reports on Roseing Day, he must be some  
lad, as an athlete, I expect I will have  
to take a back seat when I come back.

How are Uncle & Auntie getting on &  
Mrs Guntor & Mrs Watch remembers me  
to them all.

Well Dear Mamma give my love to Lil &  
Nell & Doll so I will say Ta-Ta  
for the present with heaps of love  
from

Your Loving Son  
Bost.

France

16 – 4 – 18

My Dear Lil

Well old party here I am again just going to send you a few lines to let you know that I am still kicking along alright and hoping that you and all at home are well and cheering up alright I have not been able to get many letters away during the last couple of weeks but you do not want to worry, I will be alright, so cheer Mum up and tell her not to worry. I had a letter from Mum a few days ago, that is the only one I have had for a good while. How did Albert Skeggs like having to go back to camp, I suppose he would not care for it too well, I know I would not like to have to come back here again after getting back home. What is A. Jack going to do he ought to be looking out for something before this time. Things seem to have been a bit mixed here lately, a lot of the French people have had to evacuate their homes where the Germans advanced and near the line our lads have been getting a nice lot of milk lately from the cows that were left behind, one place near there are 11 cows and our chaps milk them And keep the milk, and an old Froggie comes up and feeds the cows and gives some of the milk to a few calves, and the boys have the remainder, he also told them to get the fowls and rabbits & pigeons so you can bet they have been in Clover lately. Well old party I have a xx chance of getting this away now, so give my love to Dear Mum and Nell and Uncles & Aunties and remember me to all old friends so I will say Ta Ta for the present with heaps of love from

Your loving Brother

Bert

Give my love to Doll.

In The Field  
26/4/18

Dear Mr. Dilgo,

I enclose a few particulars  
concerning the Raths in Aethin & burial of your son  
Capt A. W. Dilgo. Trusting they may be some  
comfort & satisfaction to you.

The C. O. wishes me to express to you my respects  
& most hearty sympathy in your heavy bereavement,  
together with the prayer that God may give you  
& all surviving family, the strength & comfort you  
need. Yours sincerely & respectfully,

Mr. E. Dilgo,

Swansea

Wales

H. A. Hayden

Colt. Chaplain.

12th Bn

2452

Dilger Sgepe A. W. 12<sup>th</sup> Bu.

Killed in Action 4/6/18.

Sgepe Dilger was with his Bu in the front line  
Ancher. A high explosive shell burst on top of  
him, killing him instantly. He was buried by  
the R. C. Chaplain attached to 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde, in the  
Military Cemetery at home. A War Cross has  
been erected over his grave, which will be Compulsory  
buried by the Graves Registration Unit.

Strathzule  
H. A. Hayden



E.T. No. 1.

# TELEGRAM.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, TASMANIA.



This Message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.  
All complaints to be addressed, in writing, to the Deputy Postmaster-General.

B58800...16

Station from, No. of Words, Amount, and Time Lodged—

Remarks—

Victoria Barracks Melbourne Mrs. M. E. Dilger	30 2/2	5pm on 8 <sup>th</sup> P.O.D. Swansea Tas
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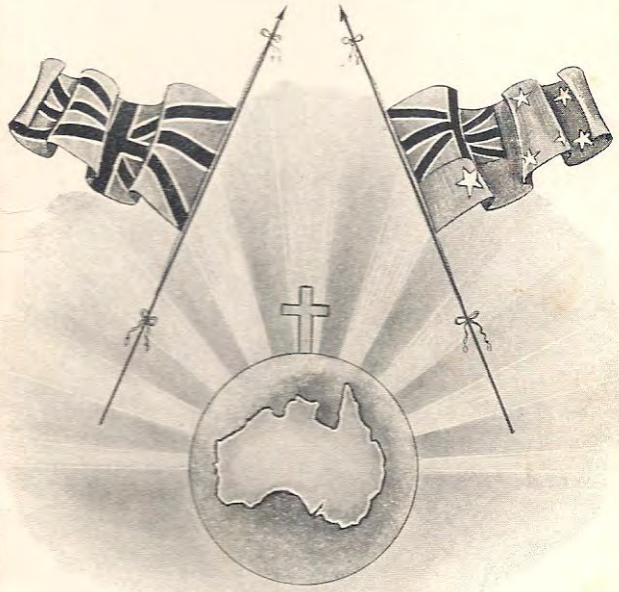
Lance Cpl Albert Dilger admitted County of  
London War Hospital fifteenth January  
gunshot wound right arm will advise  
any thing further received

Base Records

NOTE.—The figures at the bottom represent the time received at this Office.

Sltc 2017.10 K3

"He rose responsive to his Country's call."



*With Sincere Sympathy*

Sleep is a reconciling,  
A rest that peace begets;  
Doth not the sun rise smiling  
When fair at eve he sets?

Rest you, then, rest, sad eyes,  
Melt not in weeping,  
While he lies sleeping  
Softly, now softly lies  
Sleeping.

*A Message from the Heart  
to comfort  
you in your need.*



To *M<sup>rs</sup> W. Kelzer*

From *W. V. M<sup>rs</sup> Reardon*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, London.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GRAVE

OF LATE

(Name) *DILGER, Albert William*

(No.) *2452* (Rank) *L/Cpl.*

(Unit) *12 Bn.*

Buried *Borre British Cemetery*

*Plot 2 Row D Grave 16.*

Nearest Railway Station *Hazebrack*

This Photograph is supplied by the Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries, who regrets that owing to the circumstances in which Photographic work is carried on, in some cases only rough Photographs can be obtained.



Name and Address of Correspondent to whom  
Photograph sent.

(Name) *Mother Mrs M.E. Dilger*

(Address) *Tasmania Aust.*

Communications respecting this Photograph or the  
grave of the deceased Soldier should  
be addressed to—

The Officer i/c Records, Australian Graves Services,  
A.I.F. Headquarters, Australia House,  
130 Horseferry Road, Strand,  
London, S.W. 1.

or

The Officer i/c Base Records,  
Department of Defence,  
Melbourne,  
Victoria.

S.L.S.S.Ltd. B872A-28



AUSTRALIAN  
IMPERIAL FORCE.

**Thank you**

A special thankyou and acknowledgment for the excellent support received for the above research to the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society and Fran Read of Hobart, author and historian.

**In memory of  
Lance Corporal Albert William Dilger**



**The price of liberty is  
eternal vigilance**

**Lest we forget**