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My dear Sir Ronald

The cablegram received from you today has been forwarded to the Division & Brigades which cooperated in the series of successful operations associated with the capture of Hamel, and on their behalf I have already telegraphed to you their cordial and sincere thanks.

I am also deeply indebted to you for your personal interest in my work and in my recent appointment to the highest command in the field yet held by an Australian. I am proud to feel that I enjoy the confidence of Australia & of the Commander-in-Chief; but I am prouder still of my association with the magnificent troops of whom I have been placed in command. - During the past three months, their performances have eclipsed all ~~for~~ their previous records, and they stand, in my opinion, unchallenged as the finest troops in Europe, not only for their endurance and gallantry in action, but also for their true soldierly qualities and bearing. - When the story of the doings of the Australian Corps ~~during~~ ^{since} the opening of the German offensive on March 21 can be told in detail, and the decisive influence of their activities is realized in Australia, I am sure that the nation will ^{not only be very proud of them but will bitterly} deplore our ~~waning~~ ^{waning} numbers, and ~~will~~ ^{will} regret the ~~growing~~ ^{growing} burden ^{imposed} upon those who remain, - a burden which grows daily through lack of reinforcements. -

I have also to thank you ^{& Her Excellency} ~~you~~ ^{sincerely} for your many courtesies to my wife & daughter, who, I fear, are beginning to feel my long absence, and their constant anxiety for my welfare. -

Please ^{accept &} convey to Her Excellency my kindest regards and remembrances
yours very sincerely

Sir R. M. Ferguson G.C.M.G. &c.
Governor-General of Australia