**Bob and Harold Snape’s Story**

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INTRODUCTION**: (Walter Barber) 4 **SNAPE and COOK FAMILY HISTORIES** circa 20

**HAROLD SNAPE’s Attestation Certificate: 24 March 1915** JPEG 2

 The War Diary of Harold John Snape, RANBT.
Voyage: ex Melbourne 4 Jun 1915 (Transcribed from manuscript)
Gallipoli: 8 August to 20 Dec 1915 “”””””””””””””””””””””””””””
Lemnos, Egypt, work on Suez Canal “”””””””””””””””””””””””””””
Transfer to Artillery 4 Apr 1916 “”””””””””””””””””””””””””””
Gunnery Training to 26 May 1916 “””””””””””””””””””””””””””” 31

 HAROLD’s manuscript from enlistment to 12 Aug 1918 (Day no. 1153,
just three days before Harold was gassed). H’s complete, original manuscript 115

**BOB SNAPE’s Attestation Certificate: 15 Jul 1915**  JPEG 3

**‘SOMETHING IN THE DIARY LINE. NOT EXPECTED TO LAST LONG.’ (BOB) 15 JUL TO
2 AUG 1915.............................................................................................................................** 11 **(The ‘diary line’actually continues to Bob’s repatriation in July 1919.)**

**BOB SNAPE’S COLLECTED WRITINGS (letters, diary
fragments, short stories, some postcards and a poem) amount to
approximately 120,000 words.**

**REGISTRY OFFICE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (Bob and Madge) 21 SEP** 1915 2

**DIARY FRAGMENTS. (Bob) 30 DEC 1915 TO 24 DEC 1916** 20

Letter No. 3 ‘At Sea’ (Bob) 29 Dec 1915 to 2 Jan 1916 1
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Letter No. 6 ‘At Sea’ (Bob) 13 to 14 Jan 1916 1
Letter No. 8 ‘We arrived at Colombo...’ (Bob) 15 to 27 Jan 1916 2
Letter No. 9 ‘Zeitoun Camp, Egypt’ (Bob) 2 Feb 1916 1
Letter No. 10 ‘Ebel el Zeitoun YMCA…. Egypt’ (Bob) (unfinished) 5 Feb 1916 1
Letter No. 12 ‘British Soldiers’ Cafe, Cairo, Egypt’ (Bob) 14 Feb 1916 (‘I have seen Harold’) 2
Letter No. 16 ‘Cairo, Egypt’ (Bob) 4 Mar 1916 1

**DIARY EXTRACT (Bob) 4 TO 13 MAR 1916** 1

Letter No. 18 ‘YMCA with HM Force in Egypt’ (Bob) 1
Letter from C A Vinzent, Christian Scientist, (Paris), 2 Apr 1916
**Letter from C.O. 6th Field Ambulance to Bob re: request for transfer of Harold, 6 Apr 1916.**  1
Letter No. 23 ‘Somewhere in France’ (Bob) [Erquingham-sur Lys] 22 Apr 1916 2
Letter from Miss James, Christian Scientist, (London) 28 May 1916 1
Letter No. 30 [Erquingham] France (Bob) 11 June 1916 20
Letter 35 [Albert] France (Bob) 5 Aug 1916 2
Letter 39a [Canaples] France (Bob) 13 Aug 1916 1
Letter no. 40 [Rubempre] France (Bob) 20 Aug 1916 1

Letter No. 44 ‘Somewhere in Belgium‘ [Reninghelst] (Bob) 11 Sep 1916 2
Letter No. 45 ‘Somewhere in Belgium‘ [Reninghelst] (Bob) 14 Sep 1916 (‘Cut’) 3
Letter, un-numbered, ‘Somewhere in Umptydoo’ (Bob) 29 Sep 1916 1
Letter No. 48 ‘Somewhere in , Belgium‘ [Reninghelst] (Bob) 11 Oct 1916 1
Letter No. 57 ‘Somewhere in France’ 21 Dec 1916 (Bob) 2

**DIARY FRAGMENTS (Bob, two sets: one typed, the other
hand-written, here combined for period 11 JAN TO 15 NOV 1917** 4

Hand-written Diary Notes on Leave in England and Wales (Bob) 13 to 21 Jan 1917 2
Letter No. 62 London (Bob) 21 Jan 1917 2

**‘DIESE MASCHINE IST VON DER MASCHINEFABRIK KAPPEL**…………….’ Le Cateau, France,
24 **April,** 1917. [A captured, hand-written, German document, relating to some unspecified apparatus
or weapon.] The document has been signed by a Feld Kommandant. Translation:
“This machine was made by the Machine Factory of Kapel Chemnitz. It is forbidden to set
the Machine in motion, to remove parts from it, or to damage it.” 2

Letter No.74 ‘Somewhere in France’ (Bob) 25 Apr 1917 2
Letter No. 75 ‘La France’ (Bob) 5 May 1917 2
Letter from Henry Boulton, Snape PO, Saxmundham, England, 10 Dec 1917 1

‘**VISIT TO A FRENCH CHURCH.**’ 1
**‘ON THE FRENCH VILLAGE PRIEST.’** 1

Letter un-numbered. ‘Imperial Hotel, London,’ (Bob) 23 Aug 1917 1
Letter un-numbered. ‘France.’ (Bob) 12 to 26 Aug 1917 (summary of trip to England) 3
Letter No. 89 ‘France’ Bob) 6 Sep 1917 1
Letter No. 89a (mis-numbered?) ‘Somewhere in Belgium,’ (Bob) 13 Sep 1917 1
Letter un-numbered. ‘Somewhere in Belgium’ (Bob) 28 Sep 1917 1
Letter No. 92a---------------- (Bob) 6 Oct 1917 1
Letter No. 92c [Hoograffe, near Popéringhe and Ypres, Belgium], (Bob) 8 Oct 1917 2
Letter No. 94 ‘Somewhere in Belgium’ [Hoograffe] (Bob) 14 Oct 1917 2

**‘EIGHT DAYS IN PARIS’** (Bob) 24 Nov 1917 3
**‘MY FIRST TRIP TO PARIS’** (by ‘SNAP’) undated parody ,
(early 1918 because Americans present in Paris?) 4

Letter No. 100a ‘France’ (Bob) 19 Dec 1917 1
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**‘THE VILLAGE BARBER’** (Bob) published in The ANZAC Bulletin, January 1918 1

Letter No. 103 ‘France’ (Bob) 3 Jan 1918
Letter No. 106 ‘France’ (Bob) 15 Jan 1918 4
Letter to Frank, ‘Handell St, Bloomsbury, London,’ (Harold) 3 Feb 1918 PDF 2
Letter No. 115 ‘France’ (Bob) 20 Feb 1918
Letter un-numbered, ‘France’ (Bob) 2 Apr 1918, **‘A DEAR LITTLE PLACE CALLED LONDON’** 2

 **‘IN MEMORY OF HERBERT SMITH, ESSEX REGIMENT; KILLED IN ACTION, OCTOBER 1914`** (poem) 1
Postcard, Méteren, France, (Bob) 25 Apr 1918: church that inspired ‘In Memory of H Smith’1

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Letter No. 126 ‘France’ (Bob) 17 May 1918 2
Letter un-numbered, ‘France’ [Bertangles] (Bob) 26 May 1918

Letter to Bob (Miss Busch) 3 Jun 1918 1
 **Letter 131 ‘France’ (Bob) 14 Jun 1918 ‘... my position as confidential clerk to General Monash
 is now a definite fact....’**  2

Letter un-numbered, ‘France’ (Bob) 20 Jun 1918 [Spanish flu epidemic] 2

**Extract of a communiqué (Lt. Gen. Monash) June 1918 ‘......we appeal to every man to come,
 and come quickly.....’** 1

**HAROLD’s Commission as 2nd LIEUTENANT**, penned on 26 June 1918, (but only signed off
on 11 Dec 1918) 1

**PROPOSED ITINERARY for visit of the Prime Minister of Australia,
the Hon. Wm M. Hughes, on Tuesday 2nd July 1918** 2

**Letter of thanks to General Monash from French industrialist, from Lille, 27 Jun 1918** 1

Letter un-numbered, ‘France’ (Bob) 4 Jul 1918: **RETROSPECTIVE REPORT ON GERMAN STRATEGIC
WITHDRAWAL FROM BAPAUME IN MARCH 1917 AND ITS SUBSEQUENT OCCUPATION
BY THE ALLIES**. 4

Letter, hand-written, Pontypridd, Wales, (Harold) 1 Jul 1918 JPEG 4

**Letter, from GEN ERAL SIR JOHN MONASH to GOVERNOR GENERAL of AUSTRALIA, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, circa 4 Jul 1918, in praise of Australian troops
 and thanks for his personal support** JPEG 1

TRANSCRIPTION of above letter 1

**PHONE COMMUNICATIONS re: TRENCH WARFARE SITUATION, from MAJ.GEN. ROSENTHAL,
7.15pm, 14 Jul 1918.** WORD DOC with a scanned tract 1

**HAROLD’S LAST LETTER (transcribed) from FRICOURT WOOD, SOMME DISTRICT, France,** 2

**HAROLD’S LAST LETTER (scanned original)** JPEG 3

**‘THE DREAMER GOES WALKING WITH THE CHEERFUL THING’** (Bob) 14 Aug 1918 1

**PRIORITY TELEGRAPH from METEOR to GHQ: WEATHER FORECAST, 11.27 am, 17 Aug 1918,
the morning after Harold was gassed.** 1

**PARIS. MY SECOND TRIP** (Don’t let this out of your possession. It is too personal for any eyes save yours......)
**15 AUG 1918.**

Letter, hand-written, from **MATRON K.ROSCOE, NO.8 GENERAL HOSPITAL, to J.T.SNAPE,**
**18 AUG 1918**:............................................. **HAROLD GASSED**. (Original) 1

Letter, hand-written, from **MATRON K.ROSCOE, NO.8 GENERAL HOSPITAL,** to **J.T.SNAPE,
19 AUG 1918**:...........**HAROLD DIED** **FROM EFFECTS OF** **MUSTARD GAS POISONING**. (Original) 1

**Letter un-numbered, ‘France,’ (Bob), ‘Oh how can I tell you about poor old Harold?’ JPEG**  8

Letter No. 143, ‘France,’ (Bob), 3 Sep 1918 3
Letter un-numbered, ‘France,’ (Bob), 5 Sep 1918 3

Letter No. 144, ‘France,’ (Bob), 7 Sep 1918 1

Undated and unfinished/part-missing: **RETROSPECTIVE NOTES ON HAROLD’S ACTIVE SERVICE** 10

**Buckingham Palace condolence note: ‘I join with my grateful people.....’ George, R.I.** JPEG 1

**Anti-German propaganda piece, 20 Sep 1918 (8651,Cpl. R.O.Snape, HQ, Australian Corps )** JPEG 1

Letter No. 156, ‘France’, (Bob) 31 Oct 1918 2

**DIARY OF EVENTS &. from DATE ARMISTICE SIGNED, 11 NOVEMBER to 11 DECEMBER 1918** 16

**AUSTRALIAN CORPS Camp Order No. 27, dated 10 Dec 1918**  2

Letter No. 129, ‘Belmiers,’ (from **MOTHER), 14 NOV 1918..... ‘**my dear **B**ob**.....’
(RE: DEATH OF HAROLD; MAIL BEING FUMIGATED BECAUSE OF FEARS OF INFECTION
FROM SPANISH FLU).** ADOBE ACROBAT DOC 2

**ANZAC BULLETIN, No. 101, 13 Dec 1918, (cover).** 1

Letter No. 167, Ham-sur-Heure, Belgium, (Bob), 13 Dec 1918 1

Letter un-numbered, ‘Belgique’, (Bob), 22 Dec 1918 1

Memo from **D.A.&Q.M.G. FIFTH ARMY TO G.O.C. AUSTRALIAN CORPS. DATED 24 DEC 1918**
re: **MASS GRAVES AT FROMELLES, FROM 19 JULY 1916.** 1

**TRIP TO BRUSSELLS – JANUARY 1919,** (Bob), 29 Jan 1919 4

Letter un-numbered, ‘Ham-sur-Heure, Belgium,’ (Bob) Feb 1919 2

**MY FOURTH TRIP TO GREAT BRITAIN** 2

**A DAY IN GERMANY; AN UNAUTHORISED VISIT TO COLGNE, (18TH FEBRAURY 1919)**  5

**Memo from: Lieut. Gen. Talbot Hobbs, 10 Apr 1919, ‘To Whom it may concern...’** 1

**Memo from: Lieut. Gen. Talbot Hobbs, 20 Apr 1919, ‘The bearer, No 8651, Staff Sgt R.O. Snape... ‘** 1

**Memo re: ‘repatriation of Staff Sgt. R.O. Snape...‘5 May 1919** 1

**DIARY FRAGMENTS: 23 MAY TO 25 JUL 1919** 4

Letter un-numbered (Final), ‘At Sea’ aboard S.S. ‘**BREMEN**,’ a captured German vessel,
used as troop transport, (Bob), 13 Jul 1919. **(On 14 June 1919, first edition of ‘The Bremen Babbler’
was published “and the 100 first copies sold like wildfire.”** [Bob assisting Editor, Lieut. Halpin].1
No copy found in Bob’s collection).

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**APPENDIX I:
TERRITORIAL RECRUITMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE IN WORLD WAR 1.
(Extract from C.E.W. Bean, p 541, ‘From Anzac to Amiens,’ Canberra War Museum,
Halstead Press, Sydney, 1968.** 2
 **AWM** **PERMISSION REQUIRED !!**

**APPENDIX II:
TIMELINE of MAJOR BATTLES on the WESTERN FRONT (Green indicates Australian involvement)
Extract from ‘Australians on the Western Front : investigating the experience of Australians on
the Western Front 1916 to 1918’, Dept. Veterans’ Affairs, 2006 DEPT. VETERANS’ AFFAIRS PERMISSION granted by phone
from James Rodgers of DVA, Canberra: ..........................( “just acknowledge source.”) 2**
  **APPENDIX III:
MAPS:**

1. **NORTH WESTERN EUROPE, 1:250,000 Scale**, composite of six (6) canvas-backed wall-maps covering the area from the Normandy coast near Dunkerque in the west to Cologne in the east and from Paris to Strasbourg in the east. Compiled by Geographical Section General Staff, No. 2738 with Magnetic Declination as at 1914.
2. **FRANCE, LENS, 1:100,000 Scale,** canvas-backed wall-map centring on Amiens. Compiled by the War Office October 1915, Ordonance Survey 1916 with minor corrections as at 1.10.16
3. **FRANCE, AMIENS, 1:100,000 Scale** composite of two (2) canvas-backed wall-map centring on Amiens. Compiled by the War Office October 1915, Ordonance Survey 1916,with minor corrections as at 1.10.16.
4. \* ‘**Military Special’, GHELUVELT, 1: 10,000 Scale**, canvas-backed (laminated in 1980s) covering **POLYGON WOOD AND MENIN ROAD. G.S.,G.S. 3062. ORDONANCE SURVEY JULY 1917. TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 12.9.1917. SHOWS APPROXIMATE BRITISH FRONT LINE NEAR WESTERN EDGE OF MAP WITH PENCIL NOTATIONS IN TOP MARGIN AND SOME CRAYON MARKINGS ON FACE OF MAP.**
5. **\* ‘Military Special’**, **TRENCH MAP FRANCE, 1:20,000 SCALE, SHEET NO. 36 N.W. EDITION 6B. CANVAS-BACKED MAP CENTRING ON ARMENTIÈRES, TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 5.5.1916. PENCIL NOTATION IN TOP MARGIN. ORDONANCE SURVEY 1916. COLLECTED PERHAPS BECAUSE IT SHOWS WHERE BOB SNAPE WAS FIRST POSTED WITH A.M.C. 6TH FLD. AMB. AT ERQUINGHAM, NEAR ARMENTIÈRES , IN APRIL 1916.**
6. \* ‘**Military Special’, FRANCE, SHEET NO. 62 C, 1:40,000 SCALE. MAP TO ACCOMPANY H.A. SCHEME FOR MOBILE WARFARE, SHOWING DIVISIONAL AND CORPS BOUNDARIES, WITH ARTILLERY-LANES NUMBERING FROM 20 TO 58 STRETCHING FROM THE SOMME RIVER, EAST TO NORTH-EAST, CENTRING ON PÉRONNE.**

**APPENDIX IV:
PHOTOGRAPHS:**

**a) Aerial photography of battlefields:

i) 3C1151 N7 2c 8ac 30 Sep. 1916**

**ii) 3C1151 N26bd 25d 30 Sep. 1916**

**iii) Le Barque -Ligny
 Thilloy - Thilloy 22.N.1514 30 Sep. 1916**

**iv) Le Barque -Ligny Thilloy 16 Oct. 1916**

**v) Bapaume – Bancourt &
 Thilloy – Ligny Thilloy 16 Oct. 1916**

**vi) Bapaume – Butte de Warlencourt Rd.
 - Butte de Warlencourt 16 Oct. 1916

b) A SAMPLE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS of particular interest and importance.** Bob collected some **hundreds of picture postcards of the places where he was stationed in France and Belgium. Many show ‘before and after' images of front-line towns and villages.** Some he posted with a brief note on the reverse side, but most of them he posted home in bundles to give family an idea of his current surroundings. Bob and Harold’s father, JT Snape, had lived and worked in France for about six months in 1878.

 **i) Postcard from on board HMAT, ‘TSS DEMOSTHENES’, dated January 1916, showing a large group of soldiers of the 6th Field Ambulance and, on the reverse side, Bob has named all 34 of theml! This is a beautiful, clear photo).**

**ii) Sepia Photos of 6th Fld. Amb. troops (incl. Bob Snape) on board HMAT, ‘TSS DEMOSTHENES,’ in fancy dress.**

**iii) Second sepia photo of fancy dress group on ‘Demosthenes’.**

1. **Postcard of HMAT ‘TSS DEMOSTHENES’, at sea.**

**v)** French reproduction of a postcard of **‘SCHLOSS FRICOURT’**(Fricourt Château) drawn by a
German officer and sold in the occupied territories. It represents the château in November
1914, during the occupation. [Bob and Harold had worked together for about three weeks in a bunker underneath Fricourt Château, when Harold had temporarily transferred to 2nd Division HQ, (5 to 28 November 1916). Harold was later gassed in Fricourt Wood, near the old ruined château, on night of 15/16 August, 1918.]
 **vi) Postcard of a German infantry platoon looking like they mean business and all heavily armed with ‘stick-bombs’.**

**vii) Postcard of German infantry, in winter great coats, with their officers, photographed in front of a château. Unsmiling. Looking very unhappy, sullen, hands in pockets. Two reluctant-looking soldiers draped on the ground at the feet of their comrades. Possibly this is a group photo of P.O.W.s (?)

viii) Harold (RANBT) photographed with a field-gun crew at Suvla Bay/Anzac Cove. (The men in the picture are all wearing slouch hats, not steel helmets). After the snow storm in November 1915, Harold and others had gone up from the beach to help bring down troops affected by frost-bite.**

**ix) Harold in RANBT uniform (portrait).**

**x) Bob in AMC Stretcher Bearer’s uniform.**

**xi) Bob as ER Sergeant with Australia Corps HQ (Photographed in Paris, 1 August, 1918).**

**xii) Harold as 2nd Lieut. 46th Battery, 4th Div, AFA, on horseback at St John’s Wood Officers’ School, England. Harold’s horse is called ‘Trafalgar’.**

**xiii) Troops greet King George V at Warloy, France. (Lt. Gen. Sir John Monash at the king’s side?)**

**xiv) ‘Troupes anglaises’ (Aus?) entering Ham-sur-Heure, Belgium.**

**xv) Photo of Lt. Gen. Sir John Monash with 5 of his senior staff (unnamed) in ANZAC Bulletin
No. 89, 20 Sep. 1918. Bob Snape has annotated the picture with the names and ranks of all the
other officers.

xvi) The King arriving at “an Australian HQ” [Bertangles] for Monash’s investiture, 12 August 1918.

xvii)** Bob Snape and two other staffers photographed at Vignacourt (Louis and Antoinette Thuillier), undated.

**xviii)** Bob Snape and other staffers pictured at Château Ham-Sur-Heure.

**xix)** Château Ham-Sur-Heure, 17 Jan’y 1919, Prince of Wales (future Edward VIII) driving Rolls Royce past an Aus. guard contingent presenting arms.

**xx)** “To Glory/Going Home,” satirical post card.

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 **APPENDIX V:
Goldbuch (Army paybook) of KARL BILLERT (MUSKETIER).
Konigl Kommando des Ers Eatls: Inf. Regt. 52**d.o.b: 1 June, 1899, Prussia. Recruited: 18 June, 1917. Last date recorded in Paybook :- 1 April 1918.

**APPENDIX VI:
GERMAN EPAULETTES for 59th, 84th, 202nd and 137th REGIMENTS**

**APPENDIX VII:
‘GAZETTE DES ARDENNES’, 5 May 1918, No. 621, printed in Charleroi, Belgium.
‘Journal pour les pays occupés, paraissant six fois par semaine.’ (**German broadsheet for the people of the occupied territories).

**APPENDIX IX:
‘DAILY SKETCH’, No. 3019, London, Tuesday 12 November 1918,(One Penny, Free to the Soldier):
 ‘The King and his People hail VICTORY DAY’. (12 page pictorial newspaper).

APPENDIX X :
‘THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS’,** (London),26 May, 1915**,** (Part 42),48 pages.
includes:
 - a photo of the Gallipoli landings taken just before the boats came under fire as they were under tow by steam pinnaces; and
 - large photo of the super dreadnought, HMS Queen Elizabeth, ‘bombarder of the Dardanelles’.

**APPENDIX XI:
ANZAC BULLETIN, No. 71, 28 June, 1918; No. 92, 11 October 1918; No. 101, 13 December, 1918.**A weekly journal for members of the Australian Military, Naval Forces and Munitions Workers in Great Britain, France and elsewhere. Published by authority of the High Commissioner of Australia, Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.

**APPENDIX XII:**
**AUSSIE: a reprint of all the numbers of the Diggers’ own paper of the battlefield, wholly written, illustrated and printed in the field by members of the A.I.F.** Produced by the EDITOR, Phillip L. Harris, on behalf of The Australian War Museum. 1920. Foreword by Maj. Gen. C.B.B.White. No. 1 January 18, 1918 to No. 13 April 1919.

**APPENDIX XIII :

i) Harold’s Memorial Plaque (‘dead man’s penny’) embossed: “He died for Freedom and Honour.”

ii) Mother’s/Wife’s Bereavement Ribbon, with one star on it, signifying that she lost one son in the war.**

**iii) Harold’s medals: Bob’s Medals:** **1914 - 15 Star 1914 - 15 Star
 1914-18 British War Medal 1914-18 British War Medal
 Victory Medal Victory Medal**[Interestingly, there was NO Gallipoli Star awarded to Harold. Perhaps this is because he was RANBT (‘Navy’) personnel rather than ‘Army’; and serving at Suvla Bay, temporarily under the Royal Navy, in support of the British XII Army. It seems the Bridging Train was always “nobody’s child”: otherwise they wouldn’t have forgotten to pay them on Lemnos, precipitating the “pay-strike” (near mutiny) after the withdrawal from the Peninsula.]

 **APPENDIX XIV : (SCROLL, undated.............. posthumously awarded?)
‘A Tribute for the boys of Essendon for their gallant services rendered to the Empire in the Great War**Presented to **H. SNAPE** by the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City of Essendomn as a Record of and in Appreciation of his Patriotic Response to the Call of the Empire by voluntarily enlisting for Active Service in the Great War....................................’

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