

MS-960

Spedding, Eric Claude, 1895-1916

Papers

Auckland War Memorial Museum – Tāmaki Paenga Hira

Note: This document is supplied only to facilitate private research and may not be reproduced without the permission of the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, New Zealand.

N. 2. M. G. Corps.

Grantham
England
28/1/1917.

My Dear Mrs Spedding,

Please do forgive
me not writing to you before
this but I have been frightened
of upsetting you, as I have been
upset. I had not the good
fortune to see poor old Spud, he
was hit and in hospital before
I got to France. I hope you won't
mind my writing and telling you
all I know of what happened him.
but I feel it my duty and
imagine that you much won't
to know all that happened as
far as I have been able to find

3

out. My dearest old
pal was wounded in the
Somme Advance. I am told
that he was hit with Shrapnel
and machine gun bullets. He
had 44 wounds in his body
but not a scratch on his face
or head. He was taken to the
Military Hospital at Etaples
and was progressing wonderfully
when "Gangrene" poisoning set
in upon his wounds which none
can stand and the worst
happened. Poor old Spud was
not in the least troubled with
his wounds, he was as bright
and as cheery as he always
naturally was until he passed
away and went West. He
had a lovely funeral with

full military
honours and has now a
most beautiful tombstone
and cross over his grave.
I have seen it. As soon as
I found out where it was
I went and paid my very
best respects to it. It was
an awful thing for me to do
when I spent the saddest
moments at the side of my
poor dear departed pal. No
one knows what I look in
him, nor do they know how
many thousand lives shall be taken
in revenge for him. Well
I am making myself too sad
writing so I hope you will

excuse my stopping.
Please give my very Best
Wishes and Respects to Doug
and your dear daughter and
please accept same yourself
from Yours very sincerely
Ed. Rasmussen

P.S.

I am doing my utmost
to get a photograph taken of
Dear Old Spuds Grave that I
may send you. His grave is
in the Etaples Military Cemetery
Ed. Rasmussen