

B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

MISSING

A

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.

No. 2364

Name Sydney Edwards

Unit 51st Battalion

Joined on 5-5-15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Sydney Edwards
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? North Adelaide
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) no
4. What is your age? 30 years
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Stockman
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) Mother: Mrs. Rundle, 89 Northwick Street, West Adelaide N.A.
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 Incurable 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 rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? no
14. (For married men and widowers with children and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? no
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? yes

I, Sydney Edwards, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children widowed mother

Date 29 April 1915

S. Edwards

Signature of Person Enlisted.

~~10/11/16~~
B576

Kriegsgefangenen-Schein
Geprüft
Kriegsgefangenen-Lager
Fürstentum P.M.
Nürnberg
F. a.

For British War Office. Extract

Evidence as to Officers or Men on Missing Lists.

I (Regimental No., Name and Regiment) 2364 Coy Q.M.S.I
S. Edwards 51st Aero Sqdn

British Prisoner of War interned at Nürnberg

certify that I ^{was} actually saw (Regimental No., Name, Regiment, or in the case of an Officer, Name, Rank and Regiment)

~~killed~~
~~wounded~~
~~taken prisoner~~ } (cross out the word or words that do not apply) at
Progniet Farm on the 3rd Sept 1916

PARTICULARS.

(If the Officer or soldier has died, you should give fully your reasons for knowing him to be dead—e.g., whether you saw him buried. In all cases you should state your reasons for being certain as to the identity of the officer or soldier referred to.)

Signature of Officer or soldier S. Edwards, Coy Q.M.S.I
Unterschrift des Offiziers oder des Soldaten

Date 6.2.17
Datum

Signature of Commandant of Camp
Unterschrift des Kommandanten
or Officer in charge of Hospital
oder des Chefs

[Signature]

Stamp.
Stempel.



(6 3 28) W10445-10/15 HWV(P2156/3) G15/1260
7332-221-3000 9/16

Zentralkomitee vom Roten Kreuz
(Abteilung für Kriegsgefangenenfürsorge)
Berlin S.W., Abgeordnetenhaus

Description of Sydney Edwards on Enlistment.

Age... 30 years 8 months.	DISTINCTIVE MARKS. Vaccination marks 3 left arm Scar on right side of head (behind vertical line passing through ear) about size of two shillings piece; inner end of right collar bone scarred but very prominently showing sharp edge. right side of foot not so developed as left especially towards lower heel.
Height... 5 feet 8 ⁷ / ₈ inches.	
Weight... 147 lbs. 33 ¹ / ₂	
Chest Measurement... 35 inches.	
Complexion <u>Yellow</u>	
Eyes <u>grey</u> R ⁶ / ₂ L ⁶ / ₂ B. ⁶ / ₂ E ⁶ / ₂	
Hair <u>light brown</u>	
Religious Denomination <u>Ch. of England</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; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.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... 29. 4. 15

Place... Moora West Australia

W. S. Myles
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

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

to... 7th REINF. TRENCH BATTN.

Date... JUN 14 1915

Place... Blackboy Hill

Commanding... Camp... Co. ...

Chapman

Embarked 25 6 15

CARD CHECKED

Statement of Service of No. 2961 Name Edwards Sydney

Units in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc.	Period of Service in each Rank.		Remarks.
		From-	To-	
1 7/11 Reps	Private	5/5/15	15/6/15	
2 Do	Corporal Sergeant	16/6/15		
	Transferred to ranks (own request) or joining battalions	8 15		Pte 25 - 4/9/15
JOINED UNIT ADMITTED HOSPITAL REJOINED UNIT	St George's Hospital (Casualty)	14.5.15 20.7.15 7.1.16		Pte 17 - 2/9/15 Pte 1662 - 2/9/15 Pte 10716 - 2/9/15 Pte 1055 - 2/9/15
	Transferred to 8th Bn	1.3.16		Pte 11432 13/3/16
	Promoted Corporal	15.3.16		Pte 20210 12/3/16 Pte 3023 4/4/16
	Promotion To be sergeant	24.3.16		Pte 4/1584 12/4/16
	Promotion To be C.O.M.S.	21.3.16		Pte 6/1203 22/4/16
	MISSING In Action France	3.9.16		Pte 30/4852 24.9.16
Placed on	Suppl list of M.C.D.S. 12-16			3rd Bn 8th Bn 3/11-4/17
	Ref D.O. 4852 sub part			
	5712 reported missing Now unofficially reported to be a Prisoner of War Captured 3-9-16			Pte 5712
	Ref D.O. #1/5712. Previously reported unofficially Prisoner of War on 3-9-16 now officially reported Prisoner of War in Germany and wounded on 3/9/16. War Office List No 200B of 8/11/16 B.S.W. Batt.			Citiz 426 Pte 1/120 1-1-17 X 31493

SEE COPY A F B103 ENCLOSED

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

Lt. Col

M.H.

27 FEB 1921
DESPATCH

[Signature]
24th February, 1921.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from the Fourth Supplement, No. 31759 to the London Gazette, dated 30th January, 1920, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by you.

X X X X

AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL.

"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the above reward in recognition of gallant conduct and determination displayed in escaping, or attempting to escape, from captivity, which services have been brought to notice in accordance with the terms of Army Order 195 of 1919. To be dated 5th May, 1919 :-

No.2364 Company Quartermaster-Sergeant S. EDWARDS. "

X X X X

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 38 dated 29th April, 1920.

Yours faithfully,

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.
[Signature]

Mr. S. Edwards, M.M.,
Mallett,
Via Hallett,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA....

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

As 1995.11.2. 24 JUN 1918



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."

CABLE ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."

TELEPHONE BRANCH, VICTORIA 8860 (10 LINES).

SWD/DAW.

1995/11/2

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.

DA

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD, LONDON, S.W. 1. *13726*

Transport (For action)
C.P.M. (For information)
Records (For information)

June 21st, 1918

No. 2364, C.Q.M.S., EDWARD, S., 51st Bn.

Under authority of memo. D.A.G., A.I.F., 19/3/141 of the 12th instant, approval has been given for the return to Australia of the abovenamed H.C.O., who is an escaped Prisoner of War from Germany.

He is being temporarily employed in the Records Section of these Headquarters, and it is desired the O.C., of that Branch be informed the date he is required to embark.

Shannon
Lieut.-Colonel.
A.A.G.

file with ad. 3/7/18

MAP

ELB.

5th February, 1920.

Officer in charge Records,
A.I.F. Headquarters,
130 Horseferry Road,
LONDON, S.W.1

Returned herewith is form which was apparently sent here in error. It is noted that mention is made thereon of No. 15, E.R./R.Q.M. Sgt. S.W.S. Edwards, 3rd Infantry Brigade Headquarters, having been a prisoner of war, but no such record is held at this Office. Army Form B. 103 shows this N.C.O. to have embarked at Taranto on 8.10.18 for return to Australia on 1914 furlough.

Records show that No. 2564, C.Q.M.S. Sydney EDWARDS, A.I.F. Headquarters, was taken prisoner on 3/9/16 - wounded thigh - escaped to Switzerland on 10/5/18 and arrived in England on 24.5.18. He embarked for return to Australia on 15/9/18.

Major,

Officer i/c Base Records.

A.G. 3/a
L.S.

A. 451/18/3842.

75096


THE PALM-LINEN
SUPER STRONG

24th August, 1918.

Commandant,
5th Military District.

It is notified for information that No. 2364,
Company Quarter Master Sergeant Edward, S., 51st
Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, who was a prisoner
of war in Germany escaped to England via Switzerland.
This Non-commissioned Officer is being returned to
Australia for discharge at an early date.

2. Please arrange for his discharge from the
Australian Imperial Force accordingly.

Sgt Phillips
27/8


(Sgd) V. G. M. SELHEIM

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

O. in C.
BASE RECORDS.

Referred by direction of the Adjutant
General for information.

P. G. M. Selheim
Staff Captain,
Adjutant General's Branch.

24/8/18 .

RA/AB

1st December, 1916.
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

J 077/16

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

CONFIRMATION OF TELEGRAM.

MELBOURNE

BASE RECORDS

Section 95

p 2139 Advise if any official notification of 2364
Sydney Edwards thirteenth Reinforcements eleventh Battalion as
Prisoner of War stop last notification received shows missing
stop letters received from soldier.



PAYMASTER.

S.S. Gulligan
9/12
P.A. if original was has been answered
AS

I herewith confirm my Telegram of even date reading as above

For District Paymaster

5th Military District.

ELS.

5th MO

Army Form H. 103-II-
Part II.

(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II)

Regiment or Corps 11th Bn 51st Battalion. Regimental Number 2364.
 *Substantive Rank C.Q.M.S Surname EDWARDS Christian Names Sydney
 *Acting Rank _____
 (* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)

To be folded on this line.
Nothing to be written in this margin.

W 1889 FP 1130 500000 5/18 G.W.P.Co.(499)

(A) Report	(B) Authority of Part II, of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
		Embarked		25/6/15	
1/8/15	H.M.T.	Embkd. for Dardanelles	Alexandria	31/7/15	
	BERRIMA				
7/8/15	OC 11th Bn.	T.O.S. from 7th Reinforcements	DARDANELLES	4/8/15	DO19/1662
21/8/15	"	Reverts to rank of Pte. at own request.	"	"	DO20/1848
2/7/16	"	To Hospital	"	17/9/15	
19/9/15	3rd.F.Amb	Adm. to Hosp. CONSTIPATION & INFLU:	"	"	
"	"	Transf. to	Mudros	"	
28/9/15	7th.A.CCS	Adm. PYREXIA	Gallipoli	"	
"	"	Transf. to Hosp Ship.	"	"	
21/9/15	HS."Somati"	Adm. to Hospital CONSTIPATION	Malta	21/9/15	
25/9/15	St George Hosp.	Adm. to Hosp. DEBILITY	"	25/9/15	DO46/4916
"	"	Trans to Ghair Tuffeka	"	"	
15/11/15	HT Bornu"	Emb. for Mudros	"	15/11/15	
2/12/15	O/seas Base	T.O.S.	Ghezirch	4/12/15	
5/1/16	OC "	Disc. to Unit	Tel-el-Kebir	28/12/15	

(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II)

(A) Report	(B) Authority of Part II, of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
8/1/16	O.C.Bn	Rejoined Unit	Tel-el-Kebir	7/1/16	DO 10/1058
29/2/16	"	Trans. to 51st.Bn A.I.F.	Serapeum	29/2/16	DO25/2170.
/15	CO 51st.Bn	Trans from 11th.Bn 3rd.Inf.Bgde A.I.F.	Tel-el-Kebir	1/3/16	DO1/432
18/3/16	CO.Bn	Promoted Cpl.	"	15/3/16	DO3/1063
1/4/16	"	Promoted Sgt	"	24/3/16	DO4/1387
15/4/16	"	Promoted C.Q.M.S.	Serapeum	21/3/16	DO6/1703.
5/5/16	CO.Tpt. Ivernina	Proc. to join B.E.F.	Alexandria	5/6/16	
9/9/16	CO B213.	Missing in action	France	3/9/16	DO33/4852 ✓/13
4/11/16	"	Unofficially reported Prisoner of War by Private letters	"	3/9/16	DO41/5712 ✓/13
8/11/16	List 200B War Office X34493	Captured at Monquet Farm Interned at Reservezarette Grafenwehr GSW LT. THIGH	London	"	DO1/120 ✓/184
	CO.51st.Bn	Placed on Super List of N.C.O's Absent from Unit 3 months		3/12/16	DO24/2354E
13/5/18	Telegram from Mills	Prev. rep. Prisoner of War in Germany now rep. Escaped to Switzerland arrived		10/5/18	DO38/1735

Nothing to be written in this margin.

ELS

5. M. O.

(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corps ~~11th Bn~~ 51st. Battalion. Regimental Number 2364.

*Substantive Rank CQMS Surname EDWARDS Christian Names Sydney

*Acting Rank
(* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)

To be folded on this line.

Nothing to be written in this margin.

W 1889 PP1130 500000 6/18 G.W.P.Co.(479)

(A) Report		(B) Authority of Part II. of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks and initials and rank of an officer
Date.	From whom received.					

Message from Wellington Bks. 25/5/18			Ref.D/O.36/1735 dated 16/5/18 which reads Escaped to Switzerland etc. Now reported Arrived England			24/5/18 D050/2127E
22/6/18 B213 Adm. Hdqs London			T.O.S. (under AIF Order 962) from 51st.Bn (Escaped Pris.of War)			England 17/6/18 D026/529E
7/7/18 B213 Adm. Hdqs London			Re-trans. to 51st.Bn on marching out to No.2.Com.Depot for return to Australia.	"		1/7/18 D028/1637E
13/8/18 "			T.O.S. (under A.I.F.Para 962)Records from 51st.Bn ex No.2.Com.Dep)	"		7/8/18 D033/1864E
7/8/18 No.2.C.Dep Weymouth			Marched out to Admin.Hdqs.London for duty with Groves Rigestration Branch (Class A)	"		"
6/9/18 Adm.Hdqs London			Re-trans. to 51st.Bn on marching out to No.2.Com.Dep.pending return to Australia			England
9.9.18			Returned to Australia per Transport D22. Escaped Prisoner of War.			Tentative Nom.Roll SOC.,AIF

H. H. H. H. H.
LIEUT.
For Officer in Records.
Admin.Hdqs A.I.F.LONDON.

PRIME MINISTER - VICTORIA
1916 3652/13

DEFENCE
A. I. F.
284 / 78

200
5180

TELEGRAM.

T. No. 1. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. _____

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA.

OFFICE DATE STAMP.

MELBOURNE
1916
C.E.

3109.15-
C 2008.

31 CN

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.

STATION FROM, NO. OF WORDS, AND CHECK.

REMARKS.

Perth 73 5/9 11 a m 3 5pm

Prime Minister

Melbourne.

ACK'D. 6/10/16.

P.M.
12076.1916

Sending Station and time received at this Office respectively.

Number two three six four company quartermaster sergeant
sydney edwards D Coy thirteen brigade fiftyfirst battalion
france A I F has advised a relative in cardiff england that he
is wounded prisoner germany stop friend has cabled next of kin
Mrs Rundle kimberley Street leederville this news stop No intima
tion of any kind received by Mrs Rundle next of kin circumstances
very distressing kindly enquire and advise urgently.
Wilson Premier.

The Acting Secretary,
Department of Defence.

RECORDED
17-OCT-1916
RECEIVED

Referred, by direction, for favor of attention.

For Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department.
6/10/16.

PRIME MINISTER - VICTORIA
1916 3652/14
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department.

Investigations are being made by cable.

Melbourne,
10/10/16.

D. Rundle
Secretary.

13

jackets; 5 p.m., same as 11 p.m.; and 7 p.m. same as 1 p.m.

I got my letters sent on well through Lechfeld, also my parcels, which were opened in my presence at Hasberg by the sentry, who kept the tins, &c., and sent the empties to Lechfeld.

Before leaving Lechfeld I and a French sergeant had arranged with Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Edwards and another French sergeant to escape on the night of 29th April. These two were quartered at a village about 12 kilometres from Hasberg.

We all started on that day according to arrangement. I and my French comrade crossed the Swiss frontier on 11th May, and they crossed it on the 9th at a spot within half a mile of where we crossed. I calculate the distance we had to travel was altogether about 250 kilometres.

Escape. April 29, 1918.

Opinion of Examiner.

This is a bright intelligent youth, and gave his experiences in a straightforward way and is quite reliable.

(Signed) B. L. ANSWRUTHER, Col.,
27th May 1918.

NOTE.—As much of the evidence given by this witness with regard to Lechfeld has already been put on record, it has been omitted from the printed report. The complete evidence is filed in the records of the Committee.

No. 2013.

Name, Rank, No. and Regiment.	Edwards, Sydney, C.Q.M. Sergeant, 2364, 51st Batt., A.I.F.
Home Address.	C/o. H. Collins, Lueerndale, Mt. Bryan, South Australia.
Place and Date of Capture.	Mouquet Farm, on Somme. 3rd September 1916.
Nature of Wound, if any.	Bullet wound in left thigh.
Occupation and Age.	Sheep-breeder; 33 years of age.
Capture. Sept. 3, 1916.	I was wounded and captured on the 3rd September 1916, about midday, at Mouquet Farm on the Somme. There were about 19 others of my unit captured with me, including 2nd Lieut. Halvorsen.
Journey. Sept. 3-4, 1916.	We were marched to Velu near Cambrai. We stayed at Velu until the evening of the 4th, and were then taken to Caudry by train.
Caudry. Sept. 4-10, 1916.	Caudry was a hospital near Cambrai. Stayed there one week. Here we received the best attention I knew of while a prisoner. We received the same attention and food as the Germans.
Journey. Sept. 10-12, 1916.	On 10th September, 120 of us, all wounded cases, were taken by train to Grafenwöhr in Bavaria. The journey took 48 hours. It was a hospital train properly fitted up. We were treated properly, and the two German female nurses were exceedingly kind.
Grafenwöhr Hospital. Sept. 12-Dec. 1916.	We were treated just the same as the German wounded.
Nürnberg. Dec. 1916—June 1917.	At Grafenwöhr we were placed in a big barnack which had been turned into a hospital. About the end of December 1916 I was discharged from hospital and sent to Nürnberg Lager with about 25 others. I was seven months here. This was a working camp, about 6,000 to 7,000 prisoners. I have heard it has since been moved to Bayreuth. Being an N.C.O. I did not have to work. The accommodation here was good. All the N.C.O.'s were allowed to make bed frames for themselves. This sleeping accommodation was the best in the camps I saw in Germany, but we had no fuel allowed and the cold was intense; the men suffered extremely. We had washing facilities provided for us; the sanitary accommodation was only fair. There were no means of drying our clothes, and we had to put them on damp. There were no officer prisoners but about 25 British N.C.O.'s. The N.C.O.'s did not have to work, the privates were employed on various work in the district near. No men ever worked in ammunition works. Some were sent to it and refused; they were punished, but this was stopped by the American Ambassador.

The men received pay for their work, but I do not know what—there were various rates. There was a canteen but very little to buy. The food was very bad here, worse than the hospital at Grafenwöhr.

I first received a parcel at the end of January 1917. I received parcels here regularly except for two months. The reason for the stoppage, March and April, was because they found in the French parcels instructions how to destroy property in Germany. Without the parcels we might have managed to exist but not more. The postal arrangements were fairly good. The parcels were always opened in the presence of someone representing the British prisoners.

Nothing was taken away from the parcels to begin with, but after the two months stoppage all tins were taken out.

There was a small football ground for recreation. We could only smoke outside the barracks. There were occasional religious services.

The American Ambassador visited this camp once while I was there. He came in the usual course of visiting camps. He asked anyone to come out who wished to speak to him; we were paraded. Complaints were made about being sent to work on ammunition. No more men were sent to ammunition works. Things had been going quite smoothly prior to his visit, except for this ammunition business, and went on again after he left.

I never saw any ill-treatment of British prisoners here, or, as a matter of fact, at all.

I was sent with 21 other N.C.O.'s in June 1917 to Lechfeld. Lechfeld is a prisoner-of-war camp. Here N.C.O.'s who did not work were separated from the other prisoners, and the N.C.O.'s who did work remained with the other prisoners.

There are British Help Committees in the camps, but little to help with. The parcels that come for prisoners who successfully escape are taken by the Germans. The postal arrangements here are extremely bad. Very few letters reached me.

From August 1917 to April 1918 I received one letter only from my mother in Australia. She wrote every mail. My letters did not go regularly either, although I wrote two letters and four postcards a month. Many did not arrive at all. Some friends of mine in Cardiff sent to me once a week, from December to April, 5s.; I received only four instalments, and my letters acknowledging these amounts were not received at all.

The Dutch Ambassador came to Lechfeld twice while I was there. I wrote to him twice. I complained about several things, not receiving parcels or the money, and the general treatment in the camp. He promised to look into things—there was a slight improvement afterwards; *e.g.*, previously the parcels were censored by the Germans without any representative of the prisoners being present; afterwards this was allowed. I do not know whether this was due to the intervention of the Ambassador or our complaints.

At Lechfeld I noticed we were never allowed to assist the new prisoners in hospital, they had to exist on the German food. I went to the General about it. I think he was the General of the 1st Bavarian Army Corps. He listened to me, but said we were not allowed to communicate with the prisoners of another company.

The punishments were severe. For escaping from Lechfeld the punishment is known as "bivouac"—that is, the prisoner is put into a barbed wire pen and kept there continuously for so many days and nights on bread and water. This had been used for French and Russians, and they were starting on the British just as I left. The time varied from three to seven days. The effect is very severe on some men. They are put into very thin German clothes for the purpose of increasing their suffering.

At Lechfeld I saw many instances of great cruelty to other nationalities, but the British are not so badly treated. I think it is because they are more afraid of us. We retaliate, the Italians and Russians do not. A German told me 35,000 Italians came to Lechfeld, while I was there, to be fumigated; they were in an adjoining camp at various times, but we had no contact with them.

Lechfeld, June 1917—
April 1918.

Edwards

n7894/21 *10

COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES.

TELEPHONES:
Dls. Hd. Qrs. ... A3147
S.O.O. ... A1575
D.P.M. ... A1675
 A2334
and for other Branches see
Military Dept. in Telephone
Directory.

5th MILITARY DISTRICT.

G/E.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
PERTH.

11th February, 1921.

In your reply please quote:

D.C.R.

Officer i/c Base Records,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE.

Will you please send "Extract from Gazette" to No. 2634,
C.Q.M.S. EDWARDS, 51st Battalion, of Mallett, via Hallett, South
Australia, with reference to the award of Military Medal.

2634



[Signature]
Captain,
for D.A.A.G. 5th M.D.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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