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A.Q. 9 Inf. Bde.,
2 NZEF.
Middle East Forces. 009
7.6.41.

Dear Mum & Dad,

In my last letter, I left off where Jack had arrived in boots by destroy-
er. They spent the first few days resting near the beach, & thought they would be on
the way to Egypt anytime. Then they were told that they were staying on, so
preparations were made & they moved inland a bit. I think that altogether they
were there 3 weeks before the attack, of which they had 3 days notice, began,
on May 20th. Jack had charge of two guns, Arthur Boyce had 2 others & Capt
Snadden was their troop commander. Their gun position was half way down
a terraced hillside overlooking Maleme aerodrome. The guns were on
a ledge & were partially concealed by olive trees. At 8 o'clock on the
morning of the 20th, Capt Snadden, going to the gun position for his
usual morning inspection saw troops carrying planes & gliders circling
& landing on Maleme aerodrome. A few minutes later, they opened fire &
caused heavy destruction among the enemy. They could see everything
& Snadden estimates that his 4 guns together accounted for 32 enemy
planes - nearly £500,000 worth.

Soon however, the enemy planes discovered them & they
were subjected to frequent dive bombing & machine-gunning. In the second
afternoon, May 21st, a Stuka came over, machine-gunned their
position & caused several casualties. Jack was directing the fire of his
guns at the time, stopped a bullet in the head & was killed
instantly. Capt. Snadden was at the other guns at the time, but
came up later in the afternoon, & heard the story, reporting it to his
headquarters. However, as far as Jack's wound was concerned, the only ones who
eventually got away from boots, were the walking wounded, so possibly you got my
letter before the official cable. He was laid to rest near by under the olive trees
before the troops withdrew, they spiked their guns & left them too. Sergeant Story, Jack's
other section sergeant, collected his watch, wallet & pistol to bring home. However,
since in the end, none of them got away, I don't expect we'll see these again.

His tin trunk will be here & I'll dispose of its contents, which won't
be much, & send anything home that I think you'd like. Capt Snadden was