



## Summary of Items to be Transcribed - Lieutenant Towner Collection

This list will assist with the spelling of some Personal and Place names when transcribing the content of the items.

Item	Format	Date 1	Extent	Author	Content 1	Content 2
1	Telegram	26 June 1915	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Telegram from Edgar Towner, advising his departure from Pinkenba Wharf, Brisbane.	
2	Letter	August 1915	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, to his family in Blackall. The ship is now in port and expects to land in Egypt the next day. He describes the activities on board during their voyage from Queensland.	
3	Letter	10 August 1915	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Abbassia, Egypt to his family in Blackall. He describes Polygon Camp, 8 miles from Cairo where he is stationed with the 25th Infantry Battalion.	
4	Letter	24 August 1915	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Abbassia, Egypt to his family in Blackall. He gives an account of his trip to Cairo and the Pyramids.	
5	Letter	29 August 1915	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Abbassia, Egypt to his family at Blackall. He hopes to be included in the troops serving on Gallipoli. He has seen many casualties being transported to the hospitals in Cairo.	
6	Letter	6 October 1915	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Heliopolis, Egypt to his family in Blackall. He has received their letters, but asks for more news from home, to keep his spirits up.	

7	Letter	21 October 1915	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Heliopolis, Egypt to his family in Blackall. Tom Legh is recovering in Gezireh Hospital from dysentery; he spent last Sunday in Cairo with Claude Rouse; he is enclosing some photographs.	Tom Legh, #306 11th Light Horse Regiment. Claude Rouse, #438 11th Light Horse Regiment.
8	Letter	1 November 1915	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Incomplete letter from Edgar Towner, in Heliopolis, Egypt to his family in Blackall. His battalion did not win at the Military Sports held last Saturday; he is sending birthday presents for his sisters Crissie & Clara.	
9	Letter	22 November 1915	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Heliopolis, Egypt to his family in Blackall. He has visited the Barrage at the River Nile Delta; he sends on their letters to his sister Greta who is serving on Lemnos Island; there are now thousands of soldiers in the camps.	
10	Letter	1 January 1916	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Tel el Kebir, Egypt to his family in Blackall. There are many troops arriving in this camp which is located near Sweetwater Canal [Ismailia], there is much farming in the area, and nothing much to spend their money on.	
11	Letter	14 January 1916	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Tel el Kebir, Egypt to his family in Blackall. The camp is like a city with railway sidings & electric light. He visited the old city of ZagaZig, where he witnessed a local festival.	
12	Letter	1916	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Incomplete letter from Edgar Towner, in Heliopolis, Egypt. He describes the town of Maadi, the cultivated land next to the Nile, and the desert beyond.	
13	Letter	13 April 1916	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He is now in France, they are busy and working mostly at night. He advises to put his land holding on the market.	
14	Letter	30 April 1916	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He witnessed an enemy plane being brought down, later a German plane dropped a wreath to put on the airman's grave.	

15	Letter	13 May 1916	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. Their camp has been shelled, he was unhurt. They are all carrying gas helmets for themselves and the horses.	
16	Letter	4 October 1916	3 pages	Robinson, Greta	Letter from Greta Robinson, London to her cousin Edgar Towner. She introduces herself and gives general family news. Her husband of 3 months was killed while serving as an officer on HMS Hawke which was sunk in the North Sea, 1914.	ROBINSON, Ernest, Lieutenant, RNR
17	Letter	28 November 1916	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He is having a better time now that he is an officer (2nd Lieutenant), he has the use of a telephone and a batman to look after him.	
18	Telegram	25 December 1916	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Telegram from Edgar Towner to his father in Blackall, wishing all a merry Christmas.	
19	Letter	16 March 1917	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He advises that he is now a full Lieutenant and his address has changed. His sister Greta is now stationed at Boulogne, he is forwarding their letters to her.	
20	Letter	31 March 1917	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his mother Greta Towner, in Blackall. He advises that he has altered his allotment in favour of her, now that his debts have been paid out.	
21	Letter	10 June 1917	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. They are not currently in the front line, he hopes to get leave to Paris, and advises he has been recently 'Mentioned in Despatches'.	
22	Letter	18 June 1917	1 page	Herley, John H.	Letter from John Herley, in Brixton to his nephew Edgar Towner. He has received Edgar's photos, they have had an air raid, but none of the family were hurt.	

23	Letter	1 July 1917	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. The discipline is now much tighter, orders to be carried out, without question; they are shortly to be reviewed by the G.O.C. and are readying their equipment for inspection.	
24	Letter	9 August 1917	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. They have had a long spell and expects to have leave shortly. The officers are well treated, with three or four course dinners every night.	
25	Letter	1 September 1917	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. The weather is miserable; he has a spot on his pupil that may need seeing to, but it is not practical at the moment.	
26	Letter	14 October 1917	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He is forwarding their letters to his sister Greta who is now at 1AGH Rouen. They have recently had a very rough time, with heavy losses of men and materials during the recent battle. He is sending a German soldier's pocket wallet.	The wallet contained papers relating to Hermann Schoenfeld, listed as killed in action, 9 October 1917
27	Letter	31 October 1917	4 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He is near the front line now, bombs being dropped every night, causing many casualties. The quality of the horses they are now getting is inferior, no longer the hardy Australian horses that can stand the hard conditions.	
28	Letter	15 November 1917	2 pages	Towner, Greta Norma	Letter from Greta Towner, in France to her brother Edgar Towner. She hopes they can both meet on leave, in London. She refers to rumour that Edgar had been awarded the DSO, published in the Queenslander.	
29	Letter	1917	2 pages	Towner, Greta Norma	Incomplete letter from Greta Towner, in France to her mother in Blackall. She is on leave. Recent letters announced the news that nurses were to be trained to administer anaesthetics.	
30	Letter	30 November 1917	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He will authorise the sale of his property by cable; the weather is still mild, he expects to be granted leave shortly.	

31	Letter	26 December 1917	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He has spent Christmas evening at the Officers Club in Baillieu; he was 7 days in the front line with the Machine Gun Section.	
32	Letter	6 January 1918	5 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He is going on leave to England on 8th January and will stay with his Uncle Randal; the American troops are now nearby in the forward areas.	
33	Telegram	15 January 1918	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Telegram from Edgar Towner, in France wishing his family in Blackall season's greetings.	
34	Letter	8 April 1918	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. They are billeted outside Amiens after a participating in a major battle.	
35	Letter	23 April 1918	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. Currently in reserve, they are being billeted in a village; he quotes humorous stories about the AIF.	<b>Page 3 of the letter is written in French.</b>
36	Letter	5 May 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. They are billeted close to Amiens where it was recently bombed by enemy planes. Gas is being largely used; the American troops are now being seen.	
37	Letter	7 May 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. They are currently camped very near a large gun emplacement, but have been moving about a lot recently.	
38	Letter	6 June 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. They are having a quiet time at present, although enemy bombing takes place every night.	
39	Letter	9 July 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He confirms that he has been awarded the Military Cross, he is presently camped on the Banks of the Somme; he has been Intelligence Officer at Company Headquarters.	During the operations South of MORLANCOURT, near Albert, on the night 10/11th June 1918.

40	Letter	18 July 1918	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He is sending them his letter of congratulations from General Birdwood. The German troops are engaged in a large battle to the south of their current position.	
41	Telegram	31 July 1918	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Telegram from Edgar Towner in France, to his family in Blackall, advising he has been awarded the Military Cross.	
42	Telegram	2 August 1918	1 page	Towner, Gresly Lewkin	Telegram from Lewkin Towner, Clayfield to his mother Greta Towner in Blackall, regarding his brother Edgar's Military Cross.	
43	Letter	15 August 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner in France, to his family in Blackall. He is behind the lines at present, the enemy has abandoned much equipment and all the villages have been destroyed in the heavy fighting.	
44	Letter	12 September 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner in Rouen, France to his family in Blackall. He is convalescing at No.2 Red Cross Military Hospital, after being wounded in the field.	
45	Telegram	18 September 1918	1 page		Telegram from Base Records, Melbourne to Edgar Towner snr, in Blackall, advising son Lieutenant Towner wounded.	
46	Telegram	18 September 1918	1 page		Telegram from Base Records, Melbourne to Edgar Towner snr, in Blackall, advising son Lieutenant Towner admitted to hospital, England.	
47	Letter	30 September 1918	4 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Scotland to his family in Blackall. He is convalescing in a country home 'Rankeilour' in Fife with other allied officers.	
48	Telegram	7 October 1918	1 page		Telegram from Base Records, Melbourne to Mrs Greta Towner, Blackall advising Lieutenant Towner now convalescing.	
49	Telegram	14 October 1918	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Telegram from Edgar Towner, in London to his family in Blackall, advising he is quite recovered.	

50	Letter	31 October 1918	5 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He has a billet in a boys school in a French village, and they are having an easy time. His batman was severely wounded at Mt St Quentin and will be sent home.	
52	Letter	12 November 1918	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, Saint-Leger-les-Domart, France to his family in Blackall. The armistice has been signed; he hopes to be able to attend some of the courses to be offered by the AIF Education Scheme.	
53	Letter	19 November 1918	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Saint-Leger-les-Domart, France to his family in Blackall. They are 14 miles NW of Amiens and will be part of the group commanded by General Rawlinson to march to the Belgian border.	
54	Letter	13 December 1918	4 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Petit Fayt, northern France to his family in Blackall. He advises he has been awarded the Victoria Cross; he has just returned from leave in Paris and saw his sister Greta in Rouen before returning to duty.	
55	Letter	21 December 1918	5 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Yves Gomezee, Belgium to his family in Blackall. They arrived in the village of Yves Gomezee after a four day march, he is billeted with two kind ladies who take great interest in his comfort.	
56	Letter	27 December 1918	4 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Yves Gomezee, Belgium to his family in Blackall. He is keeping fit and well, and contemplating on what he will do when he gets out.	
57	Telegram	30 December 1918	1 page	Towner, Greta Norma	Telegram from Greta Towner, London to her family in Blackall. She sends Christmas greetings, and advises Edgar awarded Victoria Cross.	
58	Letter	2 January 1919	2 pages	Towner, Greta Norma	Letter from Greta Towner, in Hertfordshire to her brother, Edgar Towner in Belgium. She is at a nurses convalescence home, in St Albans, she asks that he bring home a souvenir of interest.	

59	Letter	9 January 1919	3 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Yves Gomezee, Belgium to his family in Blackall. He hopes to be in the next draft for repatriation, and asks about his possible entitlements as a returned soldier in Queensland.
60	Letter	13 January 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Yves Gomezee, Belgium to his family in Blackall. He is waiting to be allotted to a draft for return to Australia, he should receive 60 days leave before being discharged.
61	Letter	20 January 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in London to his family in Blackall. He has two weeks leave and has been to stay with Uncle Randall in Yorkshire and is now with Uncle Jack. Food is scarce; he has been to see a few shows.
62	Letter	9 February 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Montigny, France to his family in Blackall. They are quite close to Charleroi, but expect to move to Brussels shortly. He hopes to be repatriated home this month, with some time available to visit friends on his return.
63	Letter	17 February 1919	8 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Montigny-le-Tilleul, to his family in Blackall. He has just returned from Brussels and Antwerp on leave.
64	Letter	24 February 1919	1 page		Letter from a representative of Osboldstone & Co, printers & publishers, in Melbourne to Mrs Greta Towner in Blackall. They thank her for and return to her the photograph of her son Lieutenant Towner, which they have reproduced.
65	Letter	25 February 1919	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner in Montigny-le-Tilleul, to his family in Blackall. The strikes in England have delayed the departure of men to Australia. He will go on leave to Brussels again shortly.
66	Letter	4 March 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner in Montigny-le-Tilleul, to his family in Blackall. He is billeted in the summer residence of the de Wander family, and will go on leave to Brussels shortly. Charleroi is now out of bounds due to criminal behaviour there recently.



67	Letter	15 March 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner in Montigny-le-Tilleul, to his family in Blackall. He has just returned from leave again to Brussels, he hopes to be in the next draft to return to Australia.	
68	Telegram	1919	1 page	Fowles, Percy	Telegram from Percy Fowles, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane to Edgar Towner snr, in Blackall, congratulating them on Lieutenant Towner's achievements.	
69	Letter	25 March 1919	4 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner in Montigny-le-Tilleul, to his family in Blackall. He explains how to address his letters now he has been awarded the VC, and is glad to read the drought in Queensland has broken.	
70	Letter	3 April 1919	1 page		Letter from Major Jackson, S.O.I. & R. Soldiers, Brisbane to Mrs Greta Towner, Blackall, requesting details of Lieutenant Towner's return.	
71	Letter	21 May 1919	1 page		Form letter from Base Records Office, Melbourne to Mrs Greta Towner, Blackall advising of Lieutenant Towner's return per the <i>Karagola</i> to Australia from England.	
72	Letter	23 May 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, encamped at Sutton Veny, to his family in Blackall. There is to be a parade through London on Anzac Day, demobilisation of the troops proceeds slowly, he hopes to embark at the end of the month.	
74	Telegram	16 June 1919	1 page	Towner, Greta Norma	Telegram from Greta Towner, Brisbane to her father Edgar Towner, Blackall advising of Lieutenant Edgar Towner's arrival in Brisbane.	
75	Letter	14 July 1919	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Blackall to his family. He has been visiting friends there but will travel by card to Barcaldine.	
76	Letter	22 July 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, in Rockhampton to his family. He is travelling to Brisbane after visiting Longreach and Barcaldine, and is being treated right royally.	
78	Letter	3 August 1919	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, Brisbane, to his family in Blackall. He will cable them when he leaves for home, he and his sister Greta went to dinner at his brother Lewkin's home.	

79	Letter	6 August 1919	1 page	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, Brisbane, to his family in Blackall. He has been delayed from returning home, he is to be best man at Captain Cottam's wedding.	
80	Letter	13 August 1919	2 pages	Towner, Edgar Thomas	Letter from Edgar Towner, Brisbane, to his family in Blackall. He will be leaving the next day for Sydney, for ten days.	
81	Letter	16 November 1919	2 pages	Harte, Mr	Letter from Mr Harte, Brisbane, to Edgar Towner. He advises on the prospect of Towner obtaining a military appointment, and is hopeful for a good result for the upcoming Federal Election.	
82	Letter	1919	4 pages	Sacre, A. & E.	Letter from A. & E. Sacre, Yves Gomezee, Belgium to Mrs Greta Towner. Edgar Towner was billeted with the authors for seven weeks during his time in Belgium.	The letter is written in French.
83	Postcard	12 July 1917		Towner, Edgar Thomas	Postcard from Edgar Towner, in Perth, WA to his sister Crissie in Blackall. He advises that they leave Fremantle tomorrow for Colombo.	
84	Postcard	21 October 1915		Towner, Edgar Thomas	Postcard from Edgar Towner, in Heliopolis, Egypt to his sister Crissie, in Blackall. Their sister Greta is encamped on the Island of Lemnos.	
85	Postcard	8 July 1917		Towner, Edgar Thomas	Postcard from Edgar Towner, in France to his family in Blackall. He has received their letters, and wishes them prosperity.	
88	Postcard	14 February 1919		Towner, Edgar Thomas	Postcard from Edgar Towner in Brussels, to his family in Blackall. He is on leave in Brussels with two other officers.	
89	Postcard	21 March 1919		Towner, Edgar Thomas	Postcard from Edgar Towner in Montigny-le-Tilleul, to his family in Blackall. His return home will be delayed as demobilization is proceeding slowly.	