

Letters from Local Soldiers.

FIGHTS ON THOUGH WOUNDED.

Pte. P. Wilde, 2nd Worcesters (of Appleby Magna), now lying wounded in hospital near Chatham, writes on September 27: The day I got wounded was terrible. They had got the range on us a treat. Shells were bursting all round. I fancy I see them now. Poor old Jim was next to me the day before I got this shell wound. Jim cut my trousers and pulled a bullet from the back of my right knee. The officer told me to fall out, and wait for the medical officer, but I got Jim to tie it up, and off we went again. I was limping about like a duck with a broken leg, but I did not mind so long as I could get along, for I wanted to be with the boys in the firing line. Night time came, and we returned to the foot of a large hill to get rest and some rations. Early next morning before we started 2nd-Lieut. Smyth (I see by the papers he is dead) asked me if I could stick it. I told him I could. We went about a mile and lay down to have some breakfast (biscuits and cheese). It was just given out, and before I had time to have a bite I was wounded. I don't know what happened to the biscuit, but the cheese was all in a pulp from the way I squeezed it in my hand. I have laughed since over what I said to the chap on the other side of me. Just as I was hit I said "Oh Bill, it has knocked my foot up. Pick it up for me. He said "It is all right. Keep still." And he tied something round my leg to stop the blood running. Then the doctor came up. He said the stretchers will be up just now; but as soon as he went away I was making for the field hospital on my hands and knees. I got so far and was having a rest when the doctor gave me a lift, and from there it took me eleven days to get to Chatham.

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