

with disappointment. I should expect the Italians, with German help, to have a real crack at this country before very long & we will have all the fighting we want.

It is curious that that is not a figure of speech merely. We have no illusions but are really anxious to get going. There was a thrilling scene in the picture theatre at Maadi Camp the night Italy declared war. About 800 men there, an officer of the W.C. came on to the stage & got silence. "I'm sorry to say Italy has declared war." In an instant every man was on his feet. There was a spontaneous roar, not a split second's pause or hesitation. Then everyone was told to get back to his unit & off they went in all directions all running & delighted. But there is a grim note in them & as I remember saying at the farewell in Kingston they mean business.

By the way, the official photographers came round last week and I believe that the photos will soon be in Auckland weekly & your Lance as well as at the pictures. The infantry shown are 20th Bn & you will understand why I sometimes appear proud of them. I think you will find your "humble servant" in the one of the Bn in close column of companies.

"We have had 4 months good training here and have done it honestly. We can march, however hot, can dig, in fact we get below ground almost in a twinkling, can handle our numerous &