

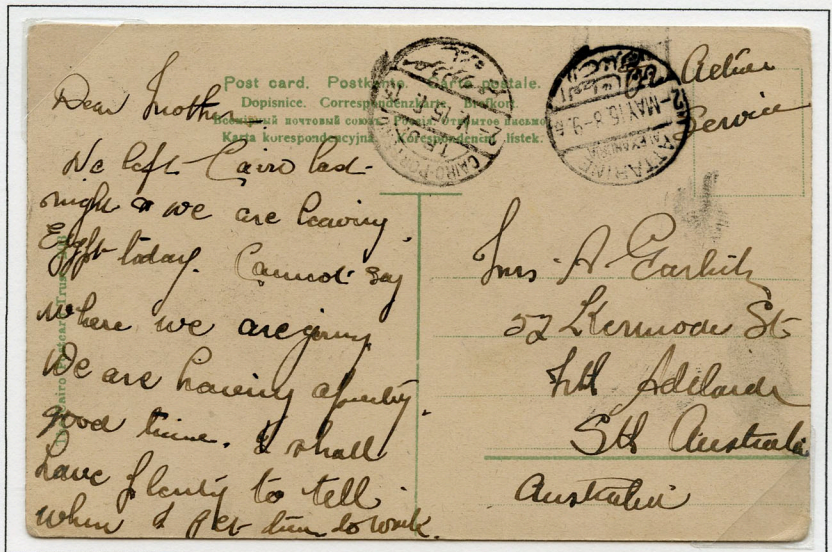
Deployment of Australian troops to Lemnos Island

The 3rd Infantry Brigade were ordered to prepare the headquarters for the reception of the main force of troops at a later date. Over the next month, the 1st and 2nd Australian Infantry Brigades were despatched to Lemnos Island, together with large contingents of British, French and Indian troops.



A postcard sent from a soldier embarking for Lemnos Island

This card was sent on the 2nd of May 1915, the day the 3rd Field Ambulance left for Lemnos Island. Archie Garlick served throughout the war and returned to Australia in 1919.



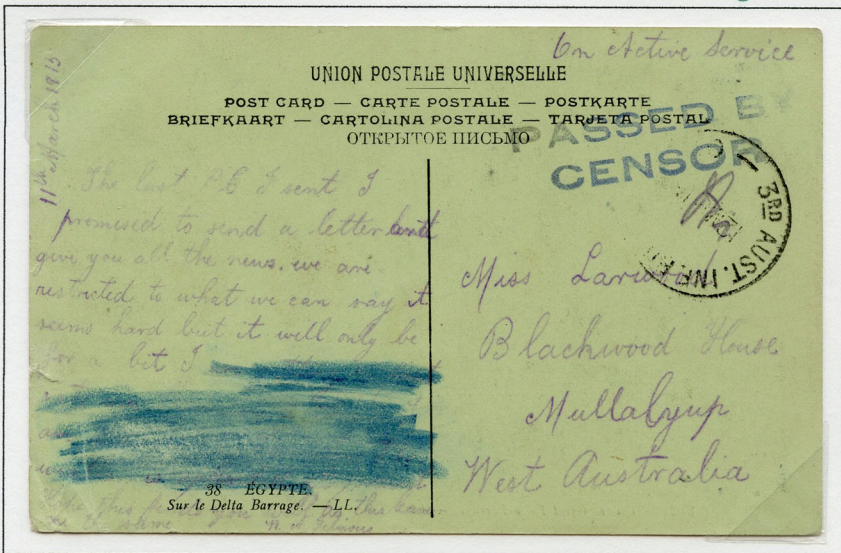
Lemnos Island

Censorship of mail before the Gallipoli landing

The 3rd Infantry Brigade were the first Australian troops to land at Mudros Harbour on the 4th of March 1915 to establish the advanced camp and prepare for the Gallipoli landings.

Censor cachet Type CA 25

Recorded usage: 10th March - 23rd April 1915



This card has been heavily censored at the base, indicating a message that contained sensitive information about the location of the troops.

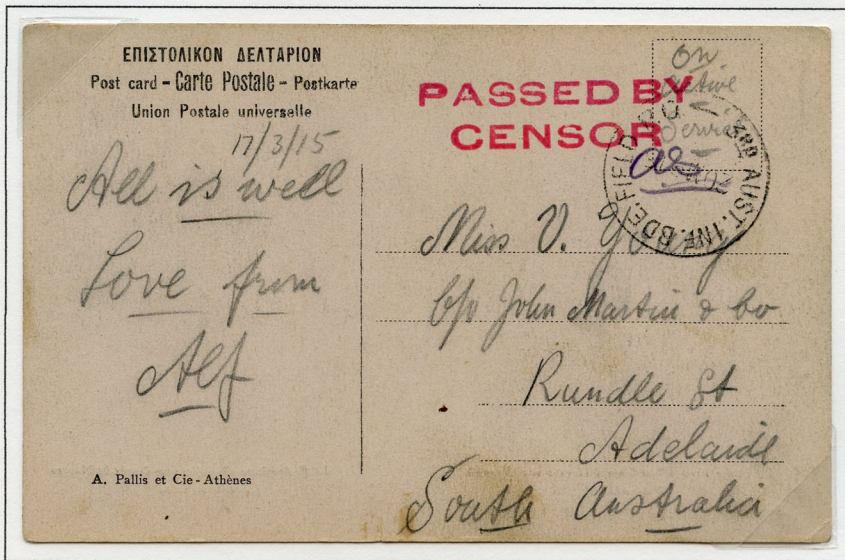
It was written by Private William Gilmour of the 11th Infantry Battalion who served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 8th of October 1918.

A picture postcard with the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade cds dated the 11th of March 1915 and addressed to Western Australia with the unframed "PASSED BY/CENSOR" handstamp in blue and initialled for censorship (Firebrace Type CA 25). This censor cachet was only in use at Lemnos Island.

Ex Finlayson

Censor cachet Type CA 25A

Recorded usage: 10th March - 23rd April 1915



This card was written by Private Alfred Young of the 3rd Field Ambulance who served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 12th of November 1916.

A postcard with the "3rd AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O." cds dated the 20th of March 1915 and addressed to South Australia with the unframed "PASSED BY/CENSOR" handstamp in red and initialled for censorship (Firebrace Type CA 25A). This cachet was only in use at Lemnos Island.

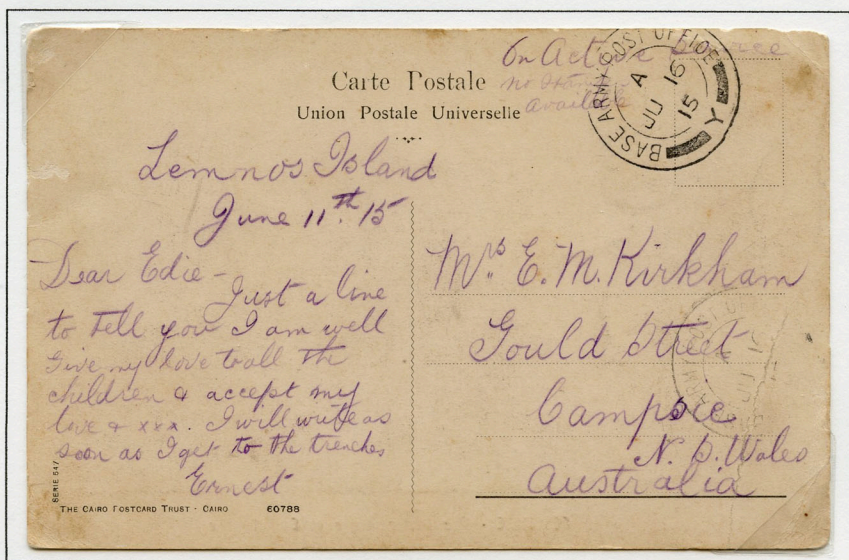
Lemnos Island

Australian Mail Processed Through the British Military Postal Service

The British Base Army Post Office

Recorded usage: 26th May - October 1915

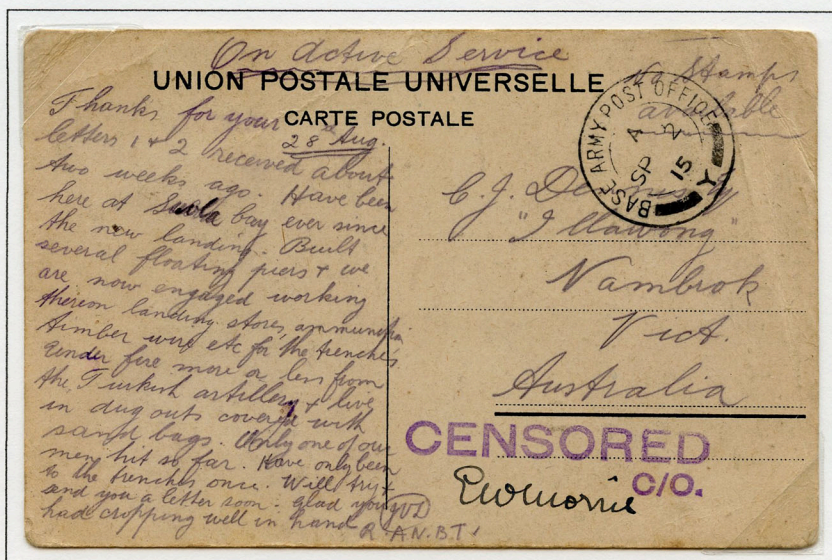
The British Base Army Post Office Y datestamp was allocated to H.M. Transport "Aragon" which was moored in Mudros Harbour on Lemnos Island from the 26th of May until the end of October 1915.



A picture postcard headed "Lemnos Island" with the British "BASE ARMY POST OFFICE/Y" cds dated the 16th of July 1915 and addressed to New South Wales. The soldier writes "I will write as soon as I get to the trenches".

Unlisted censor cachet

Recorded usage: 2nd September 1915



A picture postcard with British "BASE ARMY POST OFFICE/Y" cds dated the 2nd of September 1915 and addressed to Victoria. The card has a straight lined "CENSORED/C/O." handstamp in violet and initialled (not recorded by Firebrace) and the author writes "and we live in dugouts covered with sandbags".



A scarce real life picture postcard of the "Australian Camp at Lemnos 1915" showing a series of tents. In the foreground are a number of horses, indicating that this could be one of the Light Horse Camps.

Contemporary Photographs



Contemporary photographs from Lemnos Island are surprisingly scarce. After the initial landing, the island was used as a hospital base, for soldiers rest and recuperation, before being sent back to the front. These two images from an unknown photographer show three officers at rest within the barren landscape. The second photo shows the ships at anchor in Mudros Harbour. These photographs are believed to have been taken in October 1915.