

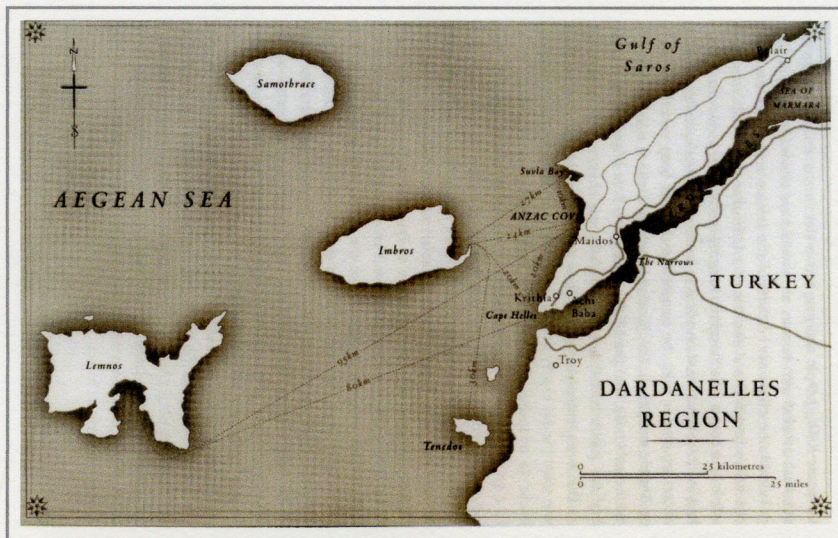
## 5. The Gallipoli Campaign

### Geographical Map

The principal locations used by the Allies during the Gallipoli campaign are detailed on the map of the Dardanelles region below.

**Lemnos Island:** This was the island used by the Australians as the launching post for the Gallipoli campaign. Mudros Harbour provided ideal shelter for the ships. The wounded soldiers from Gallipoli were initially treated at Australian General Hospital No. 3 and the Australian Stationary Hospital No. 2 located here. The more seriously wounded were evacuated to either Egypt or Malta.

**ANZAC Cove:** The original landing was expected to take place at Brighton Beach, however, the soldiers were dropped at a much hillier region two kilometres north which became known as ANZAC Cove. It was here that the principal activities of the landing, evacuation and supply of the Australian troops took place.



**Cape Helles:** The original landing of the British troops on the 25th of April 1915 was at Cape Helles.

**The Narrows:** This is a narrow stretch of water which ships must pass in order to sail on to Constantinople. The British Royal Navy believed in February 1915 that this stretch of water was impregnable and engaged with the Army to devise a plan to take the Dardanelles by land.

**Suvla Bay:** With the early stalemate of the Gallipoli campaign, it was decided by General Hamilton to mount a fresh attack at the start of August. The British launched their new offensive at Suvla Bay with assistance for two weeks of Australian troops from the 2nd Infantry Brigade. This ended in another standoff which prompted thoughts for the evacuation from the peninsula.

**Imbros Island:** This was the island that the British used to launch their attacks on the Dardanelles. The Royal Navy used Kephalos Harbour for the refuge of their leading battleships including HMS Queen Elizabeth, the flagship which housed General Hamilton's headquarters.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## The Landing

The Australian 1st Division was given the task of effecting the first landing at Gallipoli on Sunday the 25th of April 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Brigade making the first spearhead at 4:30 am. The 1st and 2nd Infantry Brigades landed shortly thereafter. The planned landing on the gentle plateau of the northern reaches of Brighton Beach went awry, and the Australians landed on much hillier terrain two kilometres north, which became known as ANZAC Cove.

The challenging ground impeded the Australians progress and the Turks fought valiantly to defend their homeland. Very little headway was made. The initial targets of "Baby 700" (a hill) and Hill 971 were never reached, and the Australian Imperial Force was forced to dig in. By the 28th of April, the beach head was only 2.5 km long and 1 km wide. Roll call on the 30th of April disclosed that were 4,931 casualties from the Australian 1st Division.

Amid the confusion, there was no thought of mail in or out of Gallipoli.

### Contemporary photographs



A contemporary photograph entitled on the reverse "Turks shelling Transports off Dardanelles".



A contemporary photograph entitled "Landing a part of Transport". The landing lighters are numbered "A12" indicating they are from the troopship "Saldanha".

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Contemporary photographs



A rare contemporary photograph of troops on board the transport ship TS "Novian". The soldier has written on the reverse "This was taken on board the T. S. Novian while anchored at the Dardanelles waiting to land the horses. We had 360 horses on this boat. They were all down below the deck."

Photographs of the soldiers on board the troopships to Gallipoli are rare.

### Mail written on the troopships embarking to Gallipoli

The postcard below was written by Private Aubrey Diprose of the 3rd Light Horse Regiment, who embarked aboard the SS "Grantully Castle" from Alexandria to Gallipoli on the 9th of May 1915.



The card is addressed to Tasmania and Private Diprose writes:

"...this morning we were up at one o'clock, we are moving to the front, we are leaving our horses and going as infantry, it seems funny having puttees instead of leggings and spurs. I am writing this on the transport, they are just leaving the wharf. When we land in 2½ days time it will be within the enemy gunfire. We are all feeling very excited..."

The card is cancelled on arrival at Gallipoli by the 4th Infantry Brigade datestamp of the 17th of May 1915.

Unusually, the British type censor cachet has had the numbers excised. These have been recorded occasionally used at Alexandria, however, a few other examples used on Australian mail at Gallipoli confirm that the excised cachets were used for a small period of time there as well.

Usage of British censors with the numbers excised on Australian mail at Gallipoli is rare

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Establishment of Postal Facilities

### The first post office at Plugge's Plateau

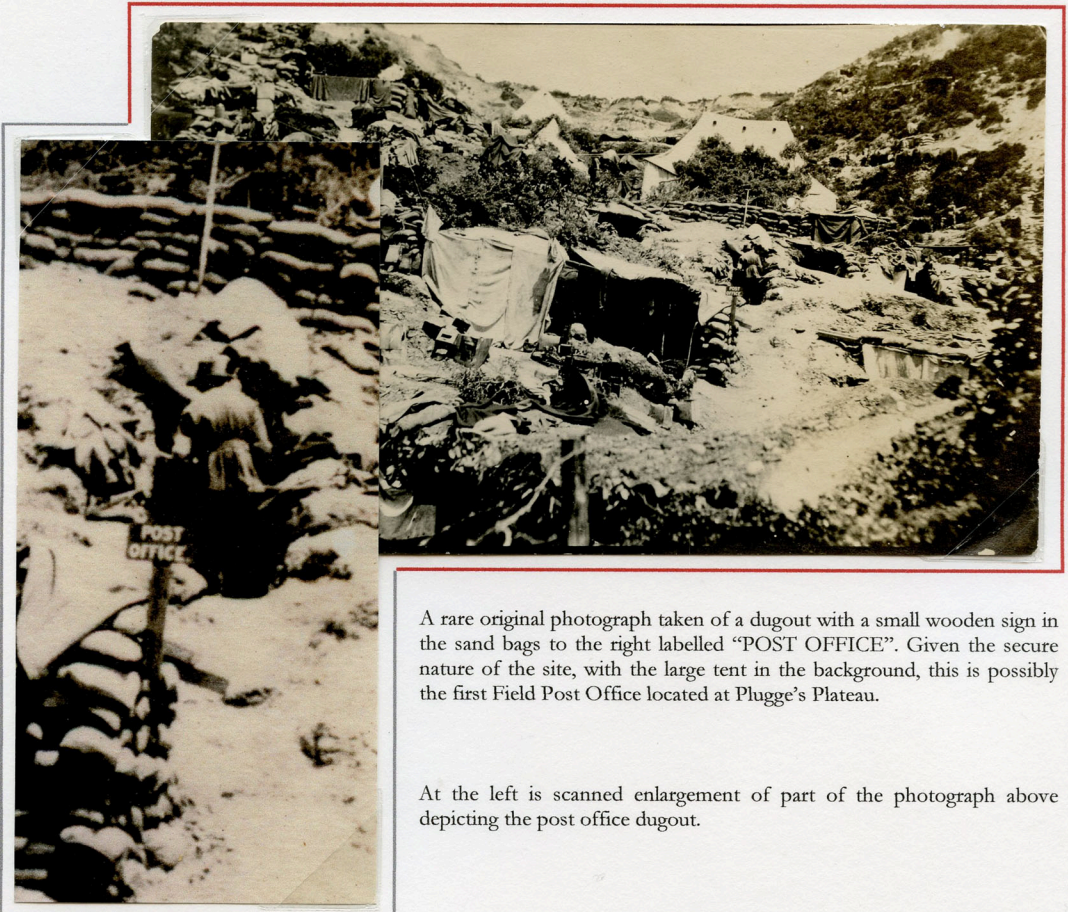
With the fierce fighting during the first weeks of the Gallipoli Campaign, little thought was given to writing home to loved ones, the main focus being to establish a sustainable position in the hills of ANZAC Cove. By the third week, the first functional Australian Field Post Office was located at Plugge's Plateau, in a sheltered area which provided cover for the troops and stores. Various formations used this Field Post Office as they came into the "line". It is known that the 1st and 3rd Australian Infantry Brigades used it, and others could have done so as well.

At the same time, an Advanced Base Post Office was established on the beach. It was on the beach that incoming mail was received off the lighters at night from Lemnos Island, with outgoing mail exchanged at the same time.

### Infantry Brigade and Light Horse datestamps

The Infantry Brigade and Light Horse datestamps that were used in Egypt were brought to Gallipoli to process the mail from the soldiers. The 1st Australian Divisional datestamp was used at the Advanced Base Post Office on the beach. Owing to the congestion of so many troops in small areas, mail was posted at the nearest field post office, which was not necessarily the office that was normally attached to a particular brigade.

### Contemporary photograph of the post office "dugout"



A rare original photograph taken of a dugout with a small wooden sign in the sand bags to the right labelled "POST OFFICE". Given the secure nature of the site, with the large tent in the background, this is possibly the first Field Post Office located at Plugge's Plateau.

At the left is scanned enlargement of part of the photograph above depicting the post office dugout.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Datestamps brought from Egypt

#### Corporal Archie Garlick

The postcard below was written by Corporal Archie Garlick of the 3rd Field Ambulance Reinforcements of which a photograph of him is shown at the right.

Many of the troops had studio photographic portraits taken of them whilst in training in Australia or in Egypt. They were sent home as souvenirs to loved ones, and often they were the last photographs taken before being killed or wounded in action. Corporal Garlick survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919.

#### 1st Australian Divisional Field Post Office

Recorded usage: 21st May - 2nd December 1915

The 1st Australian Divisional datestamp was used at the Advanced Base Post Office on the beach.

## Infantry Brigade and Light Horse Datestamps



A picture postcard with the "1st AUST. DIV. FIELD P.O." cds of the 10th of June 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 10), with the British censor "PASSED BY/ No. 2200/ CENSOR" cachet in red (Firebrace Type CM 2), allocated to the 1st Australian Division Headquarters.

**The Gallipoli Campaign**  
**1st Australian Infantry Brigade**

**Infantry Brigade and Light Horse Datestamps**  
**Second period of use: 10th November - 14th December 1915**



A postcard headed "ANZAC" and addressed to New South Wales and cancelled with the "1st AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O." cds dated the 10th of November 1915. This was used during the second period of use at Gallipoli, after the Brigade had rested at Lemnos Island from the August offensive.

**2nd Australian Infantry Brigade**

**Second period of use: 5th November - 14th December 1915**

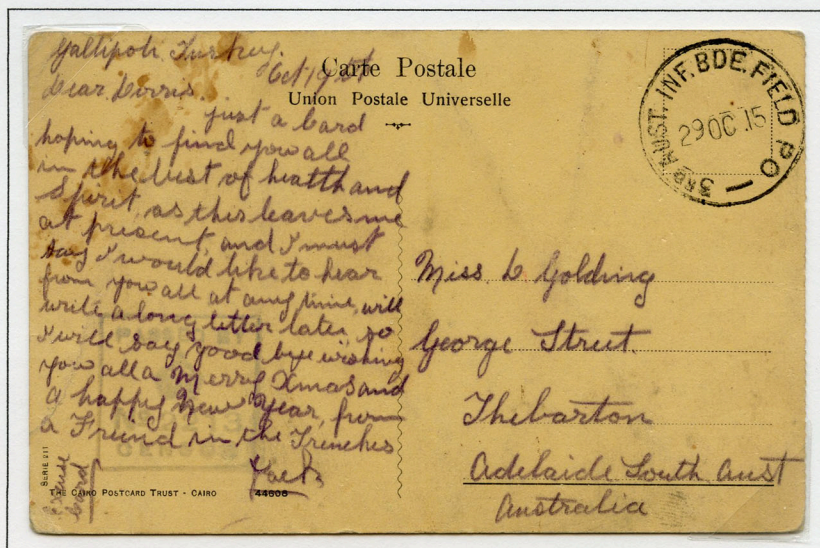


A Field Service Postcard addressed to Victoria and cancelled with the "2nd AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O." cds dated the 23rd of November 1915, when the Brigade had redeployed to Gallipoli after resting at Lemnos Island in October.

The card was written by Captain Clarence Daly of the 6th Infantry Battalion. At Gallipoli, Captain Daly lead a party of 50 men for the attack on the German Officers Trenches on the 4th of August 1915, an action in which my grandfather was awarded his first Military Cross.

**The Gallipoli Campaign**  
**3rd Australian Infantry Brigade**

**Infantry Brigade and Light Horse Datestamps**  
**Recorded usage: 25th May - 29th October 1915**

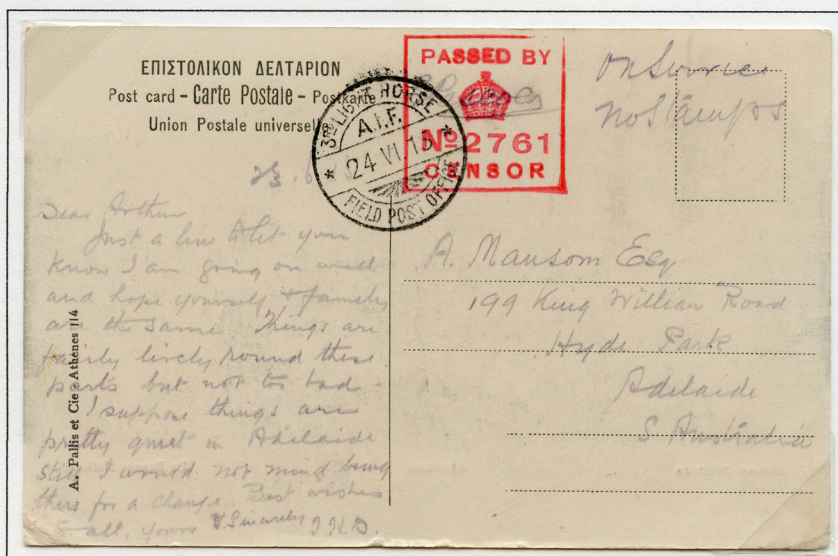


A picture postcard headed "Gallipoli, Turkey" cancelled by the "3rd AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O." cds of the 29th of October 1915 and addressed to South Australia. There is a British censor "PASSED BY/ No. 2213/ CENSOR" cachet unusually in blue, allocated to the 10th Battalion. The writer whose name is Jack, signs off "from a friend in the trenches".

**This card represents the latest recorded usage of this datestamp**

**3rd Light Horse Brigade**

**Recorded usage: 30th May - 15th December 1915**



A picture postcard with the "3rd LIGHT HORSE/ A.I.F./POST OFFICE" cds of the 24th June 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 24) when they were based at Walker's Ridge.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### 4th Australian Infantry Brigade - Type 1 datestamp

## Infantry Brigade and Light Horse Datestamps

Recorded usage: May - June 1915



A Field Service Postcard with the Type 1 "4th AUST. INF./ BGDE/ FIELD/ P.O." cds of the 21st of May 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 20/1) and addressed to England, with the British censor "PASSED BY/No. 2232/ CENSOR" (Firebrace Type CM 2), allocated to the 13th Infantry Battalion.

### 4th Australian Infantry Brigade - Type 2 datestamp

Recorded usage: July - December 1915



An envelope with the Type 2 "4th AUST. INF./ BGDE/ FIELD/ P.O." datestamp of the 19th of September 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 20/2) and addressed to New South Wales. Envelopes used at Gallipoli are quite scarce due to the shortage of writing materials. It was written by Lieutenant David Roth of the 12th Light Horse Regiment.

This envelope shows the 4th Brigade's datestamp postmarked during its first period of use at Gallipoli from the landing in April to late September 1915.

**The Gallipoli Campaign**  
**5th Australian Infantry Brigade**

**Infantry Brigade and Light Horse Datestamps**  
**Recorded usage: 5th September - 16th November 1915**

The author of this card writes "It is not to [sic] bad over here it seems to me to be a game of chance."



A picture postcard headed "Gallipoli" with the "5th INF. BDE./ FIELD P.O." cds of the 16th of October 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 16) and addressed to Victoria. There is a British censor "PASSED BY/ No. 2971/CENSOR" cachet in red (Firebrace Type CM 2), allocated to the 17th Infantry Battalion.

**7th Australian Infantry Brigade**

**Recorded usage: 2nd September - 9th November 1915**



An envelope with the "7th INF. BDE./ FIELD P.O." cds of the 2nd of September 1915 and addressed to the United States.

Gallipoli mail addressed to foreign countries is quite rare.

This cover is the earliest recorded date of use of this datestamp.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

## Infantry Brigade and Light Horse Datestamps

Recorded usage: 4th September - 18th November 1915

An envelope with the enclosed letter headed "Gallipoli" with the "2 AUST LH BDE FIELD PO" cds dated the 4th September 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 24) and addressed to New South Wales. There is a British censor "PASSED BY/ No. 2254/ CENSOR" cachet in red (Firebrace Type CM 2) allocated to the 6th Regiment of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade.



Due to the scarcity of writing materials including pencils and writing paper, envelopes with complete letters from Gallipoli are quite scarce. Most of the mail sent by the soldiers were postcards.

The letter provides an interesting insight as to the living conditions of the soldiers at Gallipoli. The author, Corporal Whitford writes:

*"Sugar and flour is plentiful here, but butter is right off the menu, in fact I have seen none since I left Egypt. We get the ordinary variety of flour but no baking powder so you see it is no great cop. Bread is issued at times, also fresh meat - not often - and milk, jam, sugar, rice, bacon, biscuits - not dog biscuits but harder - lime juice, rum, cigarettes, tobacco and matches - one box a week, so we don't spill any of the latter. Now and again we get eggs, figs, raisins, currants and vegetables, the latter desiccated, which need soaking for a week almost. All things and the King and Country considered, soldiering is a good game and though one does not put on weight, it is a great education in money saving. I have drawn nothing for about 16 weeks and spent the same amount. I have met several of the old Ford Street boys, Errol Patrick and Charlie Bosward have both met their end. A number of my Lemora pals struck trouble in the last set-to but the majority had had a good run. I am feeling very fit and hope to be in it at the finish with the Regt. Though it is time we had a spell".*

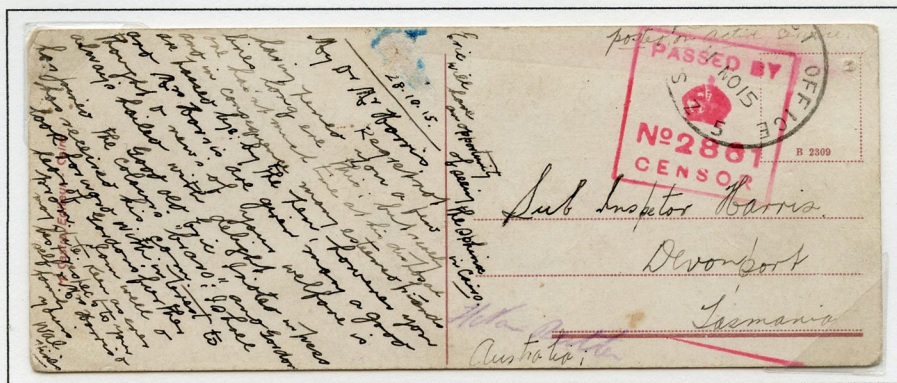
The letter was written by Corporal Hamilton Whitford of the 6th Light Horse Regiment, who transferred to the 1st Field Ambulance and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery at Chuicholles, France in August 1918. He survived the war and returned to Australia on the 8th of October 1918.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

British post office SZ 5

## Australian Mail Processed through the British Military Postal Service

Recorded usage: September - 16th December 1915



A picture postcard with the British “FIELD POST OFFICE/ SZ 5” cds (Firebrace Type 12) and addressed to Tasmania, with the British censor “PASSED BY/ No. 2801/CENSOR” cachet in red (Firebrace Type CM 2).

This postcard from the Australian 4th Infantry Brigade passed through the British military postal system. This was a general headquarters datestamp which opened at Gallipoli in September 1915, and was closed on ANZAC beach on the 16th of December 1915 during the evacuation.

The postcard was written by Lieutenant Walter Hines of the 15th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action in France on the 6th of August 1918.

## Australian Mail Processed through the ANZAC Headquarters

Recorded usage: April - mid December 1915



A Field Service Post Card with the “AUST. & N.Z. ARMY CORPS/ HEADQUARTERS/ FIELD P.O.” cds dated the 5th of November 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 9) and addressed to England.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

The Australian soldiers on the Peninsula were keen to write home to their family and friends in Australia, which is where nearly all the correspondence originate from.

However, communication between soldiers on the Dardanelles is almost unheard of, except for official signals.

The crumpled postcard below is the only example of "local" mail recorded posted at Gallipoli.

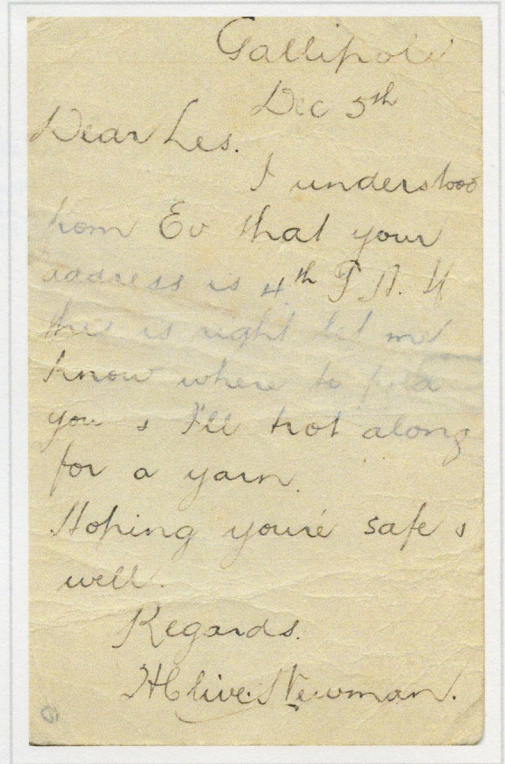
The card was written by Private Harold Newman of the 3rd Signal Troop of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade to Private Les Frayne of the 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance. The postcard is written late in the campaign and headed "Gallipoli Dec 5th". He writes:

*"I understand from Ev that your address is the 4th F.A. If this is right, let me know where to find you and I'll trot along for a yarn"*

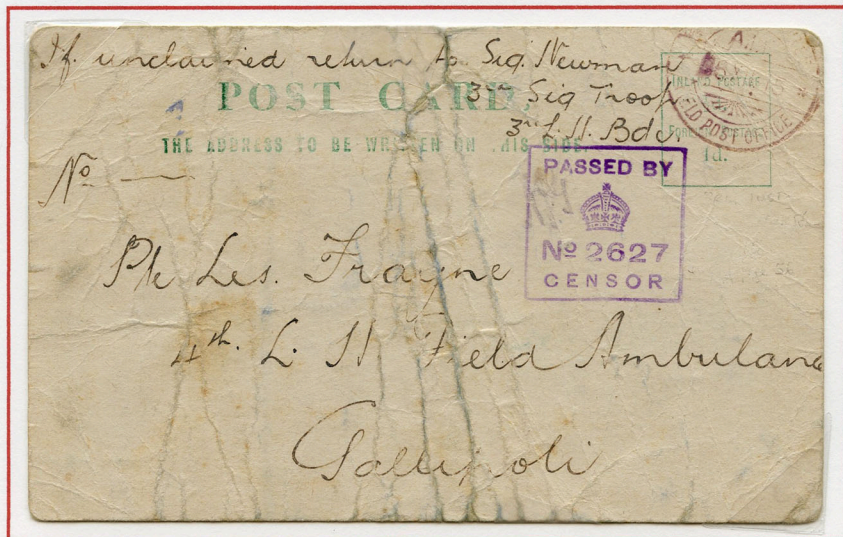
Both soldiers survived the war and returned to Australia.

A reduced scan of the message side of the card is illustrated at the right.

## Locally posted mail at Gallipoli



## The only locally posted item at Gallipoli recorded



A postcard addressed locally on the Gallipoli peninsula and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse datestamp of the 6th of December 1915.

Ex Blake

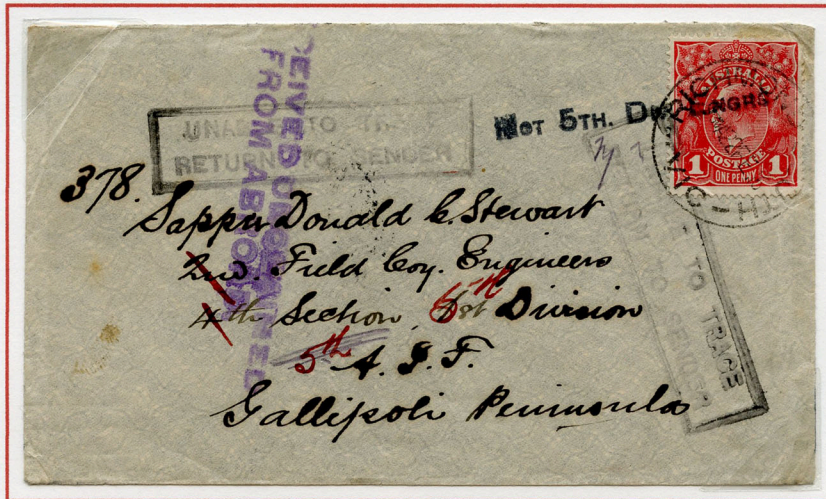
## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Mail Addressed to Soldiers at Gallipoli

### Mail addressed to Gallipoli contravening military censorship laws

An envelope cancelled at Richmond, Victoria on the 22nd of February 1916 and addressed to Sapper Donald C. Stewart of the 2nd Field Company Engineers, 5th A.I.F., Gallipoli Peninsula.

Mail addressed to soldiers at Gallipoli is rare, with only a handful of examples known. Virtually all envelopes recorded are addressed to soldiers as "A.I.F. Abroad". Distinctly stating "Gallipoli" contravened the military censorship laws of Australia and Great Britain.



The cachets on the envelope illustrate the efforts that the military postal officials went to in delivering mail to soldiers at the front. Detailed below is an abbreviated outline of the events taken to deliver the letter:

**Australia:** 22nd of February 1916, Richmond, Victoria: Envelope posted to Gallipoli

**Egypt:** March 1916. The envelope arrived in Egypt, and was then redirected to France where the Australian troops had been sent to the Western Front, after the evacuation of Gallipoli in December 1915.

**France:** April - July 1916

Field post office: 25th April 1916

Unframed "NOT 5TH DIV ENGINEERS" cachet in black (not recorded by Emery)

Readdressed to the 6th Division

**England:** August - September 1916

Unframed "UNABLE TO TRACE/ RETURN TO SENDER" (Emery Type CA 170) cachet in black

Unframed "RECEIVED UNCENSORED/ FROM ABROAD" (Emery Type CA 171) cachet in violet

**Australia:** 14th October 1916: Dead Letter Office at the Base Records Melbourne datestamp applied

20th October 1916: Posted in a Returned Letter to the soldiers father

Sapper Donald Stewart was promoted to Corporal and was awarded the Military Medal and Bar for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in Ypres, Belgium on the 26th of May 1915, and at Corbie, France on the 21st of October 1918. He survived the war and returned to Australia on the 23rd of March 1919.

*Ex Emery*

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Processing the Mail

### Manuscript "Killed in Action"

The Australian postal officials had great difficulty processing mail addressed to wounded soldiers, or those killed in action. The envelope below illustrates how these letters were unceremoniously endorsed "Killed in Action" and returned to the sender, usually a close family member.

A rare patriotic Letter card cancelled at Adelaide on the 2nd of September 1915 and addressed to No: 1995 Sergeant H. S. Mills of the 4th Infantry Battalion, On Service Abroad (at Gallipoli)..

On the front is in manuscript "Killed in Action" and authorised by his commanding officer. The envelope was returned to the Base Records Office In Melbourne on the 11th February 1916 where the Letter card was handstamped "S.O.I." in purple (Emery Type CA 4G). It was forwarded to the Adelaide Dead Letter Office on the 25th of February.

**Note:** The abbreviation of S.O.I. signifies Senior Officer Informed.



Sergeant Hessel Mills was killed in action on the 8th of August 1915 in the attack on Lone Pine. He has no known grave, and is remembered at the Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli.

### A message from home

The Letter card is written by Sergeant Mills cousin, Ivor Smith. It conveys much of the feeling of the Australian population, and the eagerness of loved ones to return home.

*"We were all so very pleased to know that you were then well, trust when you receive this you will still be feeling OK. Fancy you poor boys going without a wash for 3 weeks! You must have looked like dusky Afghans. Did you have any mirrors handy? .....what adventures you will have to relate when we see you again, and do hope it will be very, very soon."*

*Ex Emery, Blake*

### The only example of a military cachet specifically used at Gallipoli

An envelope with the "1st AUST. DIV. FIELD P.O." cds dated the 23rd of July 1915 and addressed to New South Wales, with the British censor "PASSED BY" No. 2213/ CENSOR" cachet in red, allocated to the Australian 10th Infantry Battalion.

At the lower left is the "On Active Service/ No Stamps Available/ RAILWAY SUPPLY DETACHMENT / A.S.C." cachet in red (not recorded by Firebrace).

The envelope was endorsed in pencil at the top left "Censored/ E. Milne/ Capt."



Edmund Milne enlisted as a Lieutenant in the Australian Imperial Force from Harden, New South Wales, where he was a traffic inspector, and raised the 1st Railway Supply Detachment which embarked for Egypt in December 1914.

He was promoted to Captain in March 1915 and appointed as the railway transport officer in Cairo in May. His detachment was sent to Gallipoli to operate a light railway intended to connect inland positions with the beach, but the short length of track laid along the foreshore never operated.

His unit was employed in off-loading and distributing water, rations and medical comforts. In November, he was temporarily appointed Major and principal supply officer at ANZAC in charge of the Army Corps Reserve Supply Depot, before taking command of the 11th Company of the Australian Army Service Corps.

**Two examples of this military cachet are recorded**

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Censorship Cachets

Recorded usage: May - 21st December 1915

Although most of the mail from the Australian troops in Egypt was censored using individual locally made cachets, the strictures of censorship became more formalised at Gallipoli, with each brigade being issued a boxed British censor handstamp.

### Allocation of the British censor cachets to Australian units

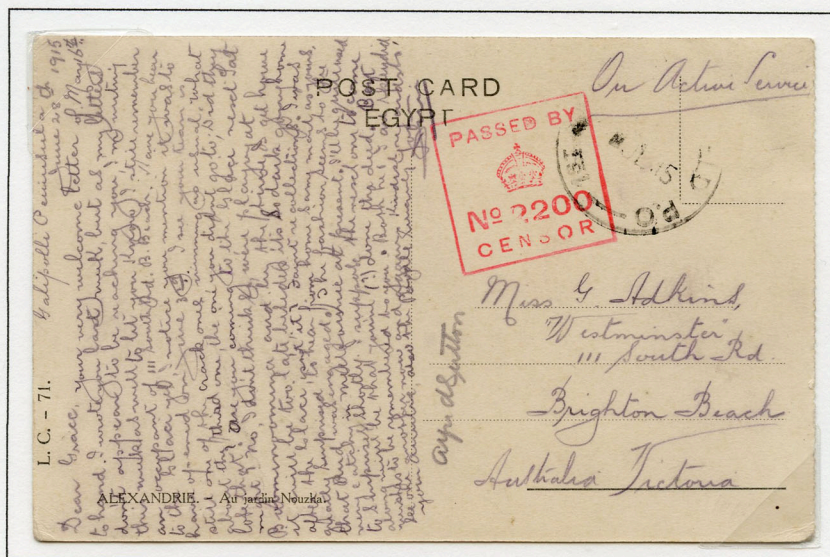
Each Brigade was allotted five censor cachets: one for the Headquarters, and the others to each of the four Battalions.

The Light Horse Brigades were allocated four censor cachets: one for the Headquarters, and the others for each of the three Light Horse Regiments.

The ANZAC Corps were allocated with censor cachets as they were deployed at Gallipoli.

The British censor cachets allocated to the Australian units are nearly always struck in red ink. Other colours exist including purple, blue and black, however, these are much scarcer.

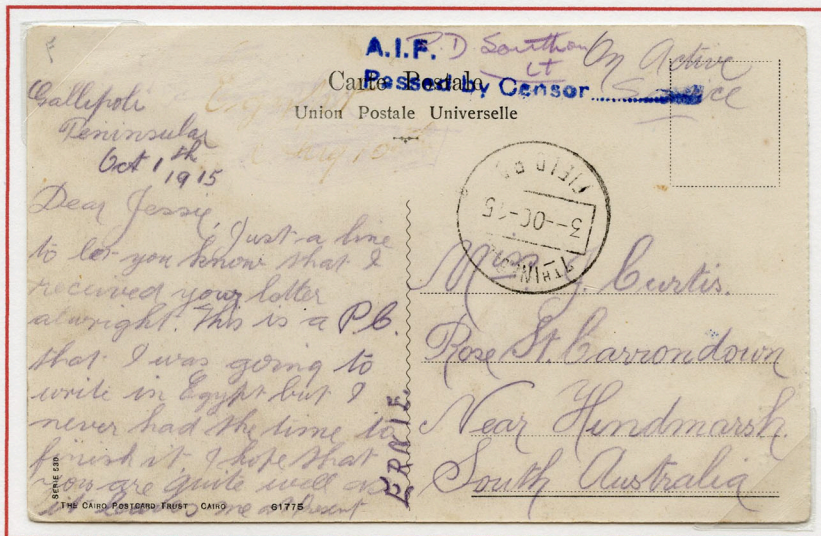
### British Censor No: 2200 allocated to the 1st Australian Division Headquarters



A picture postcard headed "Gallipoli Peninsula" with the "1st AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O." cds of July 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 11) and with the British censor "PASSED BY/No. 2200/ CENSOR" cachet in red (Firebrace Type CM 2), which was allocated to the 1st Australian Division Headquarters.

**The only recorded use of an Australian censor cachet at Gallipoli**

A picture postcard headed "Gallipoli Peninsula" and cancelled by the 7th Infantry Brigade datestamp of the 3rd of October 1915 and addressed to South Australia.



The card has an "A.I.F./ Passed by Censor....." cachet in blue which is not listed by Firebrace and is very similar to some of the troopship censor cachets. It is signed for censorship by Lieutenant Ronald Southern of the 27th Infantry Battalion as part of the 7th Infantry Brigade. He was awarded the Military Cross for bravery during the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge in France on the 7th of October 1917.

**Proof of censorship at Gallipoli**

The 7th Infantry Brigade datestamp was used on Gallipoli from the end of August to mid December 1915. This card is dated the 3rd of October, proving that the censor cachet was applied on the peninsula. In addition, there is no boxed British censor cachet, which was applied to indicate censorship on all mail posted from Gallipoli.

This is the only example of an Australian censor cachet used on the peninsula. All other correspondence was censored by the Australian units with British type censors allocated by the British military postal officials.

Ex Finlayson

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Contemporary Photographs

After the turn of the century, availability of affordable camera equipment made photography a more accessible hobby to the general public. Many of the troops were of the opinion that the war would be over in a few short months, and a number of soldiers purchased cameras to record their own personal experiences of the war. At the landing of Gallipoli, many soldiers placed their cameras in their backpacks to record the event.

### My grandfather's camera at Gallipoli

Among them was my grandfather, Sergeant Norman Tutton, who packed his camera in his knapsack. He landed with the 6th Battalion in the second wave at 9:00 am on the morning of the 25th of April, and was greeted by intense rifle fire from the Turks. His best mate, Private Ray Wasley was killed beside him when they landed at ANZAC Cove. Sprinting up the beach, my grandfather dropped his pack and headed up the hilltops for protection from the guns. His pack was later picked up off the beach and sent back to Egypt, and then to his parents house in Northcote, Victoria. They assumed he had been killed on the beaches of Gallipoli. A couple of months later, he was able to send a postcard home saying he had survived. My grandfather's camera ended up back in Australia, so he was unable to record his time at the Dardanelles with photographs.

### The proliferation of cameras at Gallipoli

However, many other soldiers were able to record their service at Gallipoli. The use of cameras throughout the conflict record a rich history of the beaches, the dugouts, and the close proximity of the Turkish trenches. This continued with the Light Horse Campaign in Palestine. Yet, when the Australian soldiers reached the Western Front in 1916, all photographic equipment was banned. The British military had a much tighter control of the Australian troops than they did in Turkey. The use of cameras by the soldiers was considered a high security risk, and anyone found using them was immediately court martialled with severe penalties including imprisonment. Thus, there are a number of contemporary photographs taken by the diggers at Gallipoli, whilst images from the Western Front were mainly available through printed postcards, newspaper publishers, and official wartime photographers.



A contemporary photograph taken of the beaches on ANZAC Cove. Beach images are a common theme for many of the photographs taken during the Gallipoli campaign.

This image shows the unloading of field artillery guns on the beach, with a number of diggers walking the beach in their "birthday suits" after a swim in the bay.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Contemporary Photographs

The small series of photographs on this page were taken by a Sergeant from one of the Queensland Light Horse Brigades. On the reverse of each image are detailed captions of the location and terrain that the Diggers encountered. Sadly, these are the only details available.



*"Dugouts on the back of Lookout post over Victoria Gully, Anzac".*



*"Lonesome Pine Trenches after artillery bombardment. Showing Gaba Tepe in the distance and the beginning of hill 971. Achi Baba in the distance".*



*"Lonesome Pine Ridge. This is the kind of ground our lads went over".*



*"A Turkish trench only 10 yards distance from ours. Hill 971 in the distance".*

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Contemporary Picture Postcards

### Quinn's Post

The term "posts" was given to a number of landmarks on the front line and they were frequently named after senior ANZAC officers. This trench was named after Major Hugh Quinn, commander of C Company, 15th Battalion, who was killed in action on the 27th of May 1915 in defence of the position.



A very early real life picture postcard of "Quinn's Post Gallipoli 1915" published in England.



A picture postcard of "Quinn's Post at ANZAC"

## The Gallipoli Campaign

The purpose of the Field Service Postcards was to send a message to the recipient by striking out parts of the printed text. The reverse of the card states "If anything else is added the postcard will be destroyed".

Two Field Service Postcards were issued to the Australian troops each week for those soldiers who were fighting in the front lines.

### Type 1 Field Service Postcard

Cards with the Royal coat of arms were printed in England, whilst those without were printed in Egypt. There were many different sub-types of these Field Service Postcards printed during the campaign.

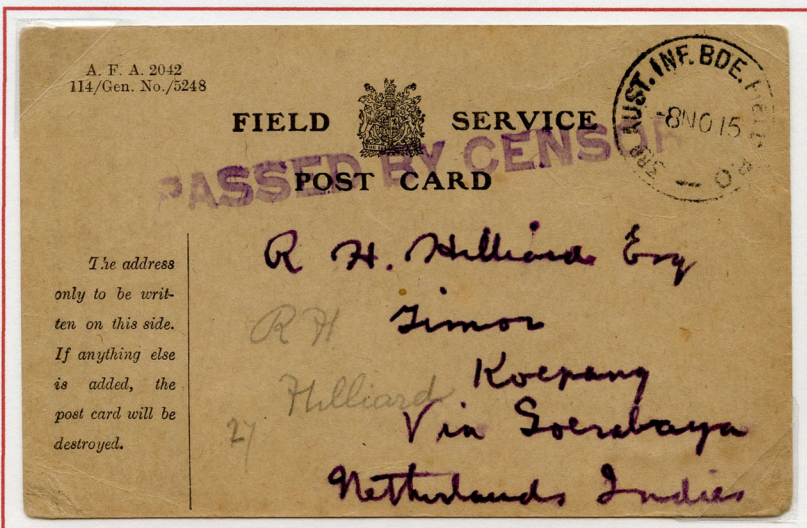
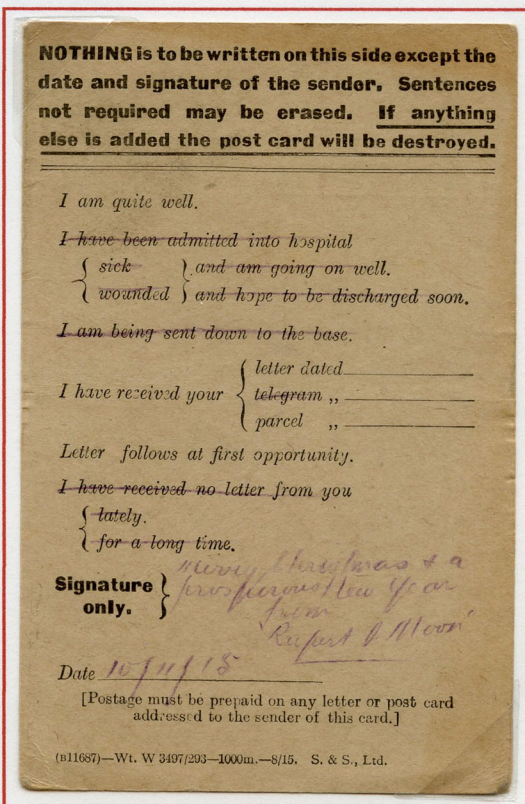
### Award of the Victoria Cross

The author of the card at the right was Lieutenant Rupert Vance Moon of the 4th Light Horse Regiment, who wrote a small note conveying Christmas greetings which was contrary to regulations, and overlooked by the censors.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery at Bullecourt in France on the 12th of May 1917. Wounded four times, he led his men in the capture of a German trench, taking 184 prisoners. He survived the war and returned to Australia on the 10th of June 1919.

His Victoria Cross is on display the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

### Rare usage to the Netherland Indies



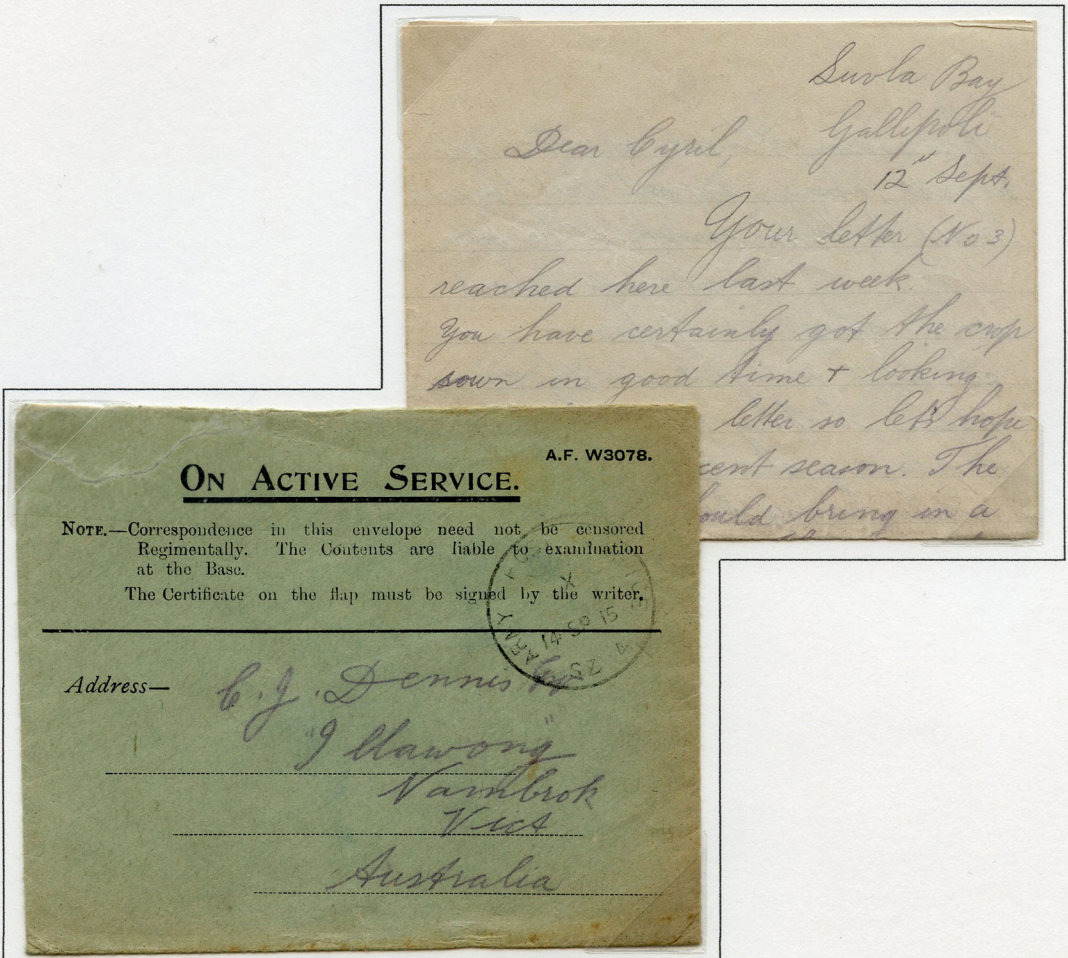
A Type 1 Field Service Postcard with the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade datestamp of the 8th of November 1915 and addressed to the Netherland Indies. The unframed "PASSED BY CENSOR" cachet was applied at Brisbane.

Gallipoli mail addressed to foreign countries is quite rare.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Honour Envelopes

Green "Honour" Envelopes were introduced in March 1915 and issued on the basis of one envelope per man per week. They were printed on green paper with a certificate which had to be signed on "honour", to the effect that they contained only family matters, hence their name. They were rarely censored, although a small proportion were liable to be examined by the Base Censor. All envelopes were supplied by the British Army Post Office.



A green "Honour" Envelope with the British Army Post Office SZ 4 cds dated the 14th of September 1915 and addressed to Victoria. This datestamp was only in use for four months up to December 1915 for the final offensive at Suvla Bay.

The original letter headed "Suvla Bay/ Gallipoli" was written by Able Seaman Driver John Dennis of the 1st Royal Australian Bridging Train to his cousin at the family sheep farm at Nambook. He writes "This morning while having breakfast a small shell lobbed along side some of us but did no damage though the shower of gravel and dust stung like a charge of saltpetre. There have been about a dozen of our lot hit all with shrapnel, only two not likely to recover." Lieutenant Dennis served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 12th of July 1919.

Given the number of "Honour" Envelopes issued to Australian soldiers, they are surprisingly scarce written from Gallipoli.

## “Smoke-O” Postcards

In early 1915 a number of welfare groups raised money to sponsor food and tobacco packages for the soldiers fighting overseas. One of the most popular examples of these were the tobacco packages, which were sent to British Empire troops throughout all theatres of the war. Within the parcel was a pre-printed postcard, which the recipient was encouraged to write back to their donor expressing their gratitude. They quickly became known as “Smoke-O” postcards owing to the illustration on the front of the card of a soldier enjoying a cigarette. Their usage from Gallipoli is rare.



A “Smoke-O” gratuity postcard addressed to the United States and cancelled by the 1st Infantry Brigade cds dated the 15th of August 1915, with an Englished boxed “PASSED BY CENSOR cachet in rose (Firebrace Type CM 2). The postcard was written by Private George Ayre of the 3rd Infantry Battalion and he writes:

*“I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your gift of tobacco and cigarettes. I appreciate your gift as only a true Australian can especially as only yesterday we won a glorious victory which gives your gift a greater value.”*

The “glorious victory” Pte. Ayre refers to was the attack on the Turks at the Battle for Lone Pine which was taken by the 3rd Battalion in the first week of August 1915. He survived the war and returned to Australia on the 2nd of January 1919.

## Postage Due of foreign mail

Australian mail from Gallipoli to foreign destinations is quite rare. Since the United States was not at war at this time, it did not recognise the free mail status of soldiers serving overseas, and the card was taxed 4 cents postage due on arrival.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

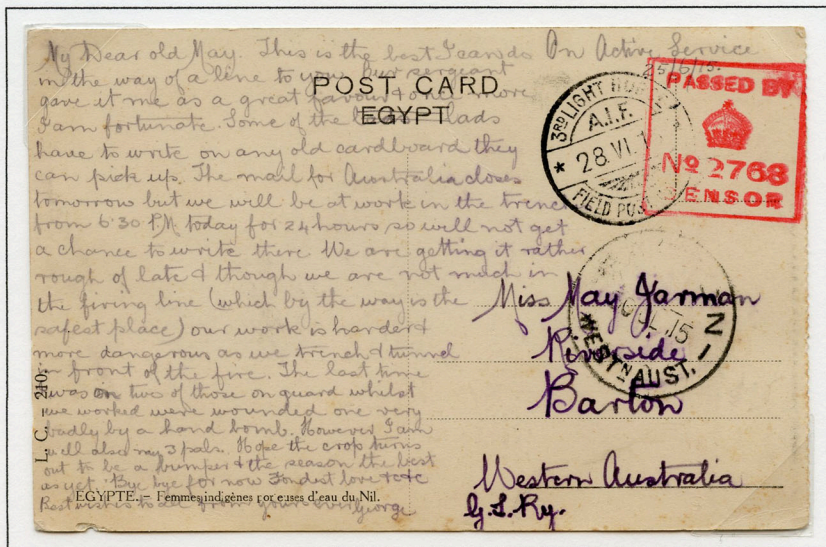
## The Shortage of Writing Materials

The landing at Gallipoli presented major problems for the soldiers writing home. When the troops landed at ANZAC Cove on the 25th of April 1915, they discarded their packs as they climbed the hills to fight the Turks. By the end of the third week, the Australians had established their positions sufficiently to think of writing home. However, their packs which contained their envelopes and writing paper were never recovered. Besides the intermittent issue of the Field Service Postcards, there was no paper available to write letters home.

### Writing home about the shortage of postcards and writing paper

29th May - 23rd August 1915

From late May 1915 there are at least half a dozen postcards recorded written home to Australia where the troops complain about the shortage of writing materials. Some (including the postcard below) mention how other soldiers were using "any old cardboard" to write home.



A picture postcard from the 3rd Light Horse Brigade dated the 28th of June 1915 and addressed to Western Australia. By June when this postcard was written, there was an acute shortage of writing materials, which is evidenced in the message on this card:

*"This is the last I can do in the way of a line to you. Our sergeant gave it to me as a great favour and once more I am fortunate. Some of the lads have to write on any old cardboard they can pick up"*

The recorded period of use of the "home made postcards" is from the 29th of May to the 23rd of August, with this card dated in the middle of the shortage of writing materials at Gallipoli.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Ammunition box

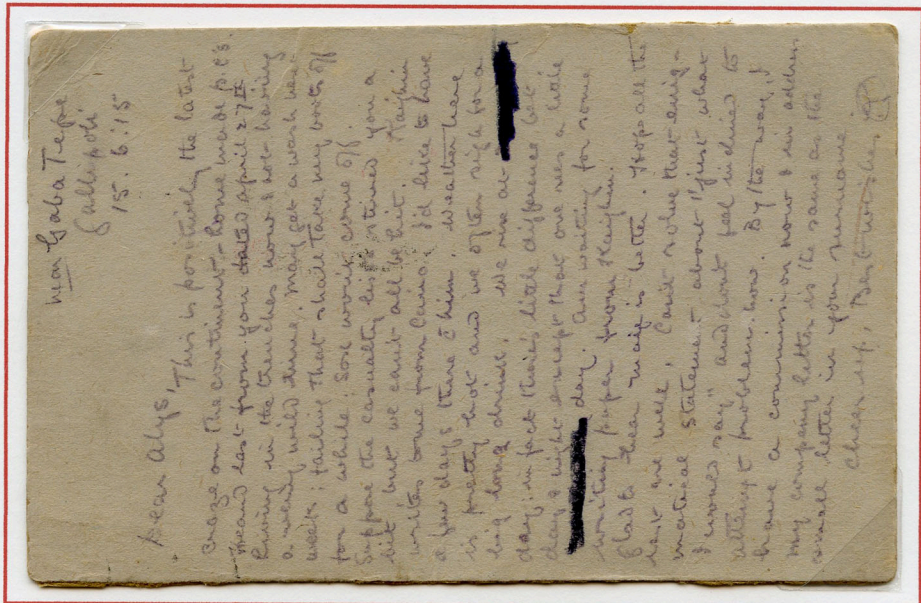
Ammunition boxes cut up to form postcards are the most common forms of “home made postcards” encountered, and make up the majority of examples which have come to light. Twenty years ago, it was estimated that about twenty examples of these cards exist in all forms, however, the number is probably closer to fifty cards and envelopes.

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915



An ammunition box cut to produce a postcard cancelled by the 1st Australian Divisional Field post office cds of the 21st of June 1915.



An ammunition box cut to produce a postcard and headed “near Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli”, dated the 22nd of June 1915 and addressed to Victoria .

The soldier who wrote this card confirms the absence of writing materials and states **“This is positively the latest craze on the continent - home made postcards”**. He continues “we are living in the trenches now & not having a very wild time. May get a wash next week. Suppose the casualty list stirred you a bit, but we can’t all be bit. ....am waiting for some writing paper from home.”

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Drapkins cigarette carton

A Drapkins cigarette carton cut to form a postcard with the 1st Australian Divisional Field post office datestamp of the 16th of June 1915.

The card reads:

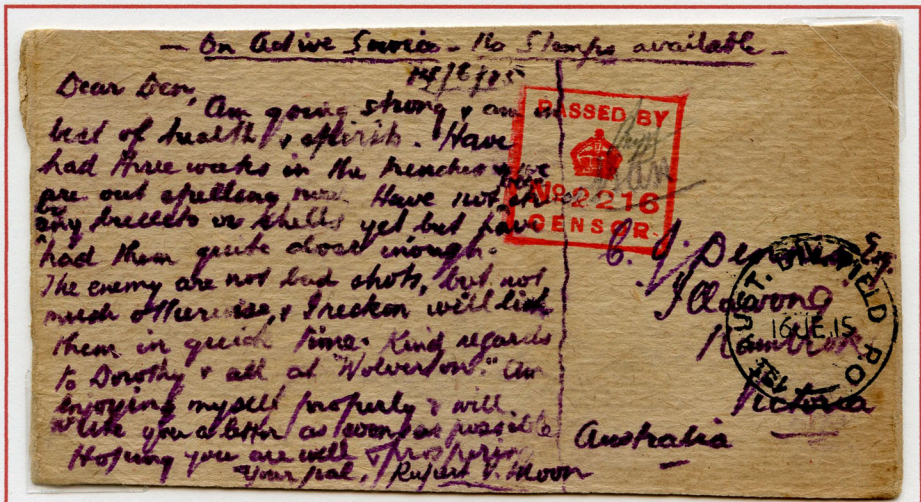
*"Am going strong & am in the best of health and spirits. Have had three weeks in the trenches and are out spelling now. Have not been hit by any bullets or shells yet but have had them quite close enough. The enemy are not bad shots but not much otherwise, I reckon we'll lick them in quick time".*

This card was written by Lieutenant Rupert Vance Moon of the 4th Light Horse Regiment who was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery at Bullecourt, France on the 12th of May 1917.

At the right is a scan of the reverse of this card.

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915



**The Gallipoli Campaign**  
**Special Crown cigarette carton**

**The Shortage of Writing Materials**

**Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915**

**The "Shrapnel Pellet" postcard**

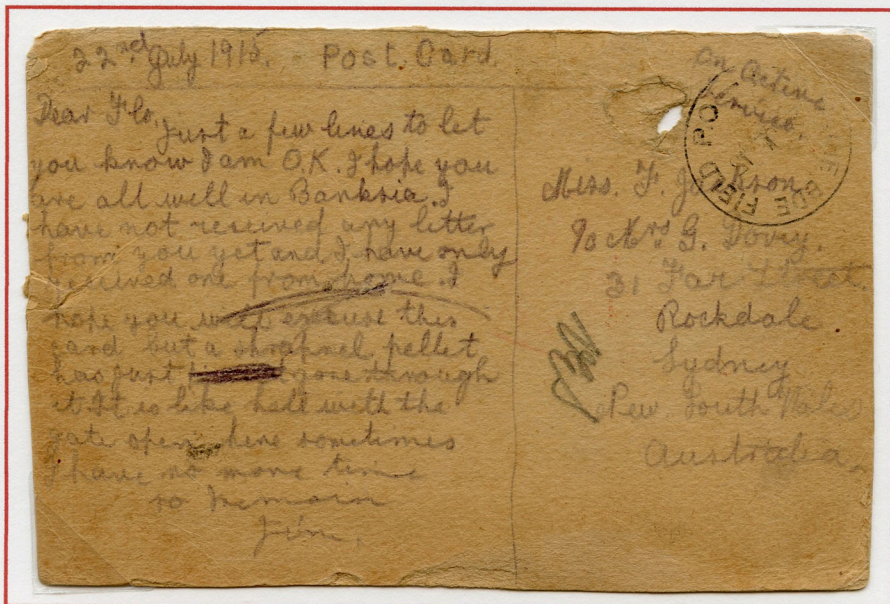
A "Special Crown" Virginia cigarette carton cut down to form a postcard with the 1st Australian Divisional Field post office datestamp of the 22nd of July 1915.

This card provides great insight into the dangerous conditions experienced by the soldiers at Gallipoli. It reads:

*Dear Flo, Just a few lines to let you know I am OK. I hope you are all well in Banksia. I have not received any letter from you yet and I have only received one from home. I hope you will excuse this card but a shrapnel pellet has just gone through it. It is like hell with the gate open here sometimes. I have no more time to remain, Jim".*

This is one of the most significant postcards written at Gallipoli. It was penned by Private James Smith of the 3rd Infantry Battalion who was wounded in France and returned to Australia on the 8th of August 1916.

A scan of the reverse of this card is illustrated at the right.



## The Gallipoli Campaign

Nestlé chocolate box

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915



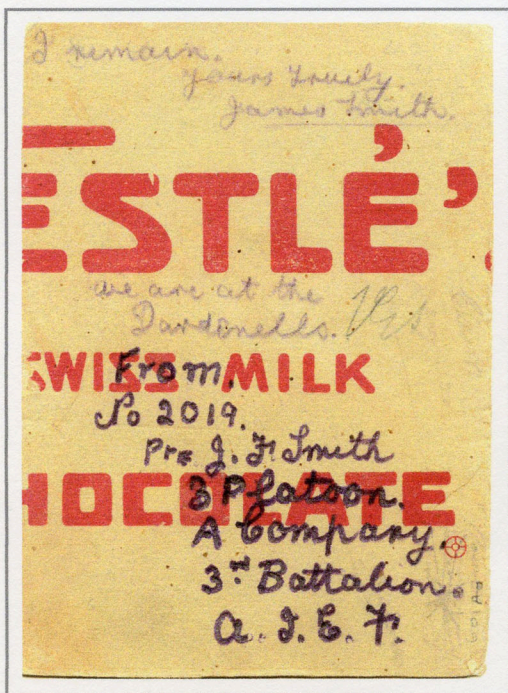
A Nestlé Swiss milk chocolate box cut to form a postcard with the 1st Australian Divisional Field post office datestamp of the 7th of July 1915.

This card confirms the problems with the mail at Gallipoli, and a longing for home and reads:

"Dear Flo,  
I have not received any letter from you yet I have written about 9 letters now. Don't you know my address or is it I haven't received the letters you wrote. I will put my address on here again. I am in the best of health & spirit. I often long for old Sydney and the good times we had together. I have hopes of it all over again. I am still the same. Remember me to Mr and Mrs Jones. My address will be on the other side, I remain yours truly, James Smith."

Private James Smith of the 3rd Infantry Battalion was wounded in France and returned to Australia on the 8th of August 1916.

At the left is a scan of the reverse of this card.



## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Deakin's Fruit Jams cards



## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 3rd - 23rd August 1915

### Army food suppliers providing postcards to solve the shortage of writing materials

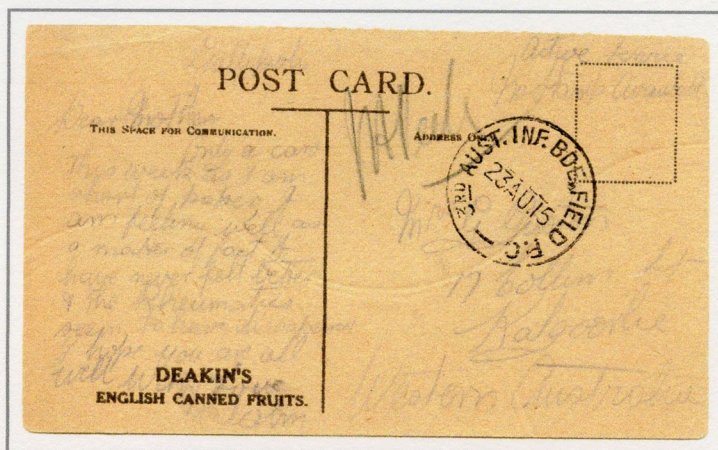
At the left is a Deakin's Fruit Jams postcard which was provided to the soldiers with eight to a box. Deakin's were the principal suppliers of jams to the Allied troops at Gallipoli. **The card has circular indentations consistent with being packed with jam tins.**

Given the extreme shortage of writing materials, these postcards would have been readily used by the troops to send messages home, yet they are extremely rare.

**One of five examples recorded of the Deakin's Fruit Jams postcards sent to Australia.**

### Deakin's jam tin grenades

It is interesting to note that once the Deakin's jam tins had been consumed, the tins were sent back to the beach, where a party of forty soldiers were employed to make "jam tin bombs" using shrapnel or what ever metal fragments they could find. These were the first grenades of the Gallipoli campaign and were vital in the August offensive at Krithia and Lone Pine.



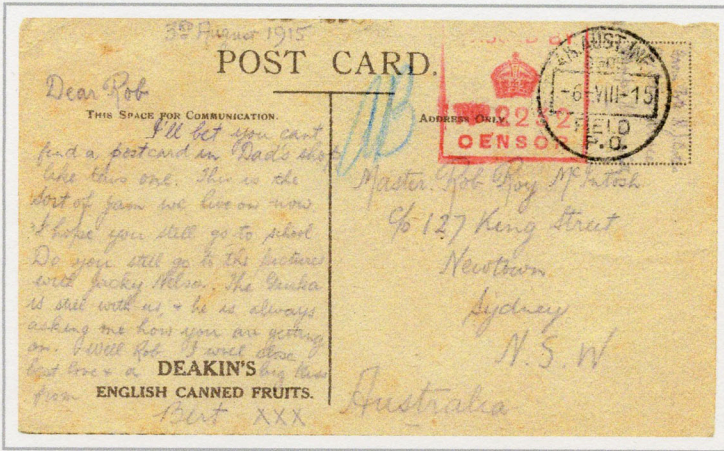
A scan of the reverse of this Deakin's Fruit Jams postcard headed "Gallipoli", and cancelled by the 3rd Infantry Brigade cds dated the 23rd of August 1915. The card was written by Private Malcolm Gaston of the 11th Infantry Battalion who writes "Only a card this week as I am short of paper".

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Deakin's Fruit Jams cards

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 3rd - 23rd August 1915



The card was written by Private Albert McIntosh of the 14th Infantry Battalion. He writes:

"I'll bet you can't find a postcard in Dad's shop like this one. This is the sort of jam we live on now."



The front of this Deakin's Jams postcard was very colourful. It is interesting to note that Private McIntosh has written "Rob" above the right hand boy in reference to the addressee, his brother. The card has circular indentations consistent with being packed with jam tins.

Two other examples of this Deakin's Jam design have been recorded, one to Australia, and another to New Zealand

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### "Necessity is the mother of all invention"

"Necessity is the mother of all invention" and as early as May 1915, soldiers began to cut cigarette and chocolate cartons, ammunition boxes, etc. into postcards and write on the reverse to loved ones in Australia. Other inventive materials to write on include sheets of paper folded up into letter form; even tiny cigarette boxes were utilised to send messages home.

#### Ledger paper folded to form an envelope

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915



A ledger paper folded and glued to form an envelope with the "1st AUST. DIV. FIELD P.O." cds of the 21st of June 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 10) and addressed to England.



#### Writing pad paper folded to form an envelope

A sheet of writing pad paper folded and glued to form an envelope with the "1st AUST. DIV. FIELD P.O." cds of the 21st of June 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 10) and addressed to New South Wales.

*Ex Blake*

It is interesting to note that both of these "home made envelopes" were posted on the same day.

The use of "home made envelopes" during this period is very rare, with only a couple of examples recorded

**The Peninsula Press folded to form an entire**

**Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915**

# PENINSULA PRESS.

---

|        |                         |                |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------|
| No. 36 | FRIDAY, JUNE 25th 1916. | Official News. |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------|

---

## The Fall of Lemberg.

News has reached us of the retaking of Lemberg, an important town about fifty miles East of Przemyśl.

A German wireless message states that the capture of Lemberg "has caused universal rejoicing at Constantinople, and flags are out everywhere."

A mutilated German wireless report begins as follows:—"These attacks made us master of

## On the West Front.

Paris, June 24th.

The French official report, received by wireless, says:—

North of Arras, between Souchez and Ecurie, there has been an extremely violent artillery engagement. The Germans launched further counter-attacks, one near the cemetery at Neu-

Am Active Service.  
 Miss J Boncher  
 20 My<sup>12</sup> Lary  
 Continental Hotel.  
 Cairo.

P. 8 BY  
 No 12 15  
 CENSOR

EAST. IND. BDE  
 20 JUL 15

*Ex Blake*

Half a dozen examples of the Peninsula Press folded to form an entire are recorded

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Sheet of paper

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915



A sheet of paper folded to form an entire with the 1st Australian Divisional Field post office datestamp of the 15th of June 1915.

Only a handful of folded paper entires have been recorded from Gallipoli.

This entire was written by Lieutenant Rupert Vance Moon of the 4th Light Horse Regiment who was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery at Bullecourt, France on the 12th of May 1917.

### Award of the Victoria Cross

‘His citation reads:

*On the morning of the 12th of May 1917, in a portion of the Hindenburg Line east of Bullecourt, Lieut. Moon displayed most conspicuous bravery in an attack on a German strong point. His own immediate objective was a position in advance of the enemy trench. His orders were, having captured this, to move onto the trench itself and co-operate in the general attack in progress there. Lieut. Moon was hit in the face when advancing to his first objective, which, after a sharp bomb fight, he captured.*

*Leading his men, he engaged in the attack on the trench which the enemy held in force. Here he received another wound in the shoulder which spun him around and dazed him for a while. His men wavered and hesitated, but Lieut. Moon again rushed forward, calling to his men “Come on, you’ll not see me left boys”. His men rushed after him, and the enemy broke and retired to the strong point in the rear of the trench.*

*Behind there was a sunken road where the enemy had a large dugout from which parties had been continually emerging to reinforce the defenders to the foot. Lieut. Moon’s party, now much diminished, fought on in the general attack, which was so strongly pressed that the enemy to the number of 184 surrendered. Lieut. Moon had by this time received another wound. Sitting down among his men with blood and sweat pouring from him he remarked “It was a hard fight boys, I’ve got three cracks and not one of them good enough for blighty”.*

*Then he busied himself with the consolidation of the captured position and went down into the sunken road where he received a bullet through the face, fracturing his jaw. Only then would he consent to retire from the fight. His bravery was magnificent and was largely instrumental in winning a fight against superior numbers, safeguarding the flank of the attack on Bullecourt and gaining 184 prisoners and four machine guns”.*



Lt. Rupert Vance Moon, VC.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

An envelope stitched together and returned to sender

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915

Again, "Necessity is the mother of all invention" and this envelope reused, stitched together, and posted back by Sapper Avery at Gallipoli to his father in Broken Hill represents the highest level of the diggers ingenuity in sending mail home.



An envelope from Broken Hill dated May 1915 and addressed to Sapper Louis Avery of the 3rd Field Company of Engineers in Egypt and then forwarded to Gallipoli.

With the shortage of writing materials, Sapper Avery decided to readdress the original envelope back to his father at Broken Hill. To ensure the contents stayed inside the envelope, he stitched it together with a dark multi-coloured thread. The obsolete stamps were crossed out in manuscript and postmarked with the "1st AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O." cds of the 5th July 1915 (Firebrace Type DS 11).

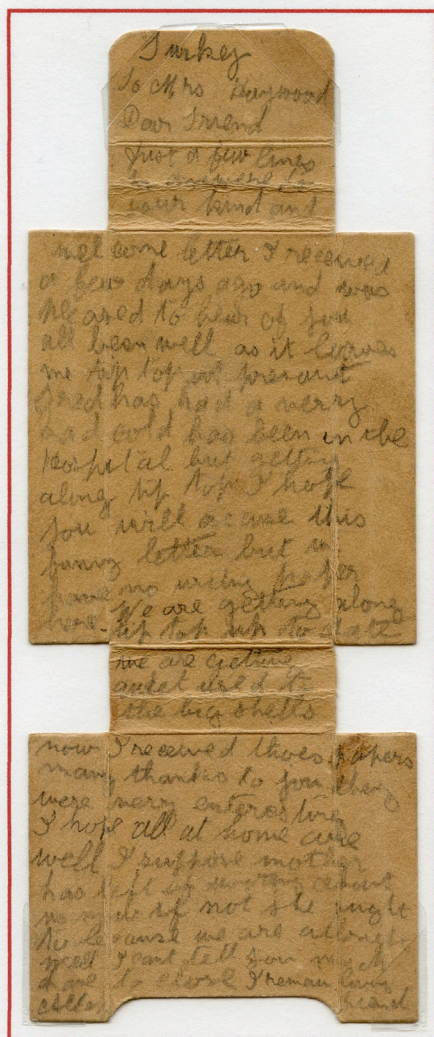
Sapper Avery was awarded the Military Medal for courage and devotion to duty at Ypres on the 6th of October 1917.

*Ex Blake*

**The only example of an envelope stitched together and returned home to the sender recorded**

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Cigarette box

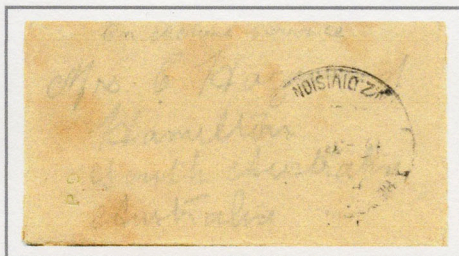


## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915

A Pinewood cigarette box originally containing five cigarettes, where all the available space inside has been utilised to write the message. It has been cancelled by the New Zealand Headquarters datestamp and addressed to South Australia.

The message reads ***"You will excuse this funny letter but we have no writing paper here. We are getting along tip top to date"***.



A scan of the front of this cigarette box, folded to the size that it was mailed through the post.

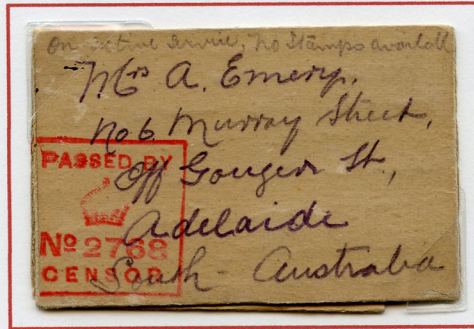
Four examples of cigarette boxes posted from Gallipoli are recorded. All are addressed to South Australia and are posted within two weeks of each other.

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Cigarette box

## The Shortage of Writing Materials

Recorded usage: 29th May - 23rd August 1915



Another cigarette box originally containing five cigarettes, where all the available space inside has been utilised to write the message. It is cancelled on the reverse by the 3rd Light Horse Field post office datestamp of the 24th of June 1915 and addressed to South Australia.

The box was written by Sergeant Howard Hahn of the 9th Light Horse Brigade who writes *"Dear Sister, I have just received your letters and papers. These are the first I've received for over two months"*. Promoted to Lieutenant, Howard Hahn served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 10th of July 1919.

**Four cigarette boxes are recorded posted from Gallipoli**



A photograph of troops from the 9th Light Horse Brigade in training at the Gawler Military Camp around January 1915. Sergeant Harold Hahn is pictured at the top left.

**August 1915**

In August 1915, the Turks dropped propaganda leaflets from the air on the Australian and New Zealand soldiers, appealing for them to surrender. Many of the soldiers treated these leaflets with mockery and contempt. With a shortage of paper, most of these pamphlets were used as a toiletry accessory, hence their rarity and low survival rate. It is fortunate that the particular example below is not in soiled condition.



**AUSTRALIAN and NEW ZEALAND  
SOLDIERS!**

**YOU HAVE BEEN TRICKED  
YOU CANNOT WIN**

**You can only die here far from home  
or suffer from hunger or thirst.**

**The English, insatiable in their desire to dominate  
will waste your lives in their vain attempt at glory.**

This propaganda leaflet was souvenired by Major John Burns Scott of the 10th Light Horse Regiment who drew a landscape drawing on the reverse of "Walkers Ridge Looking North". He was killed in action on the 8th of October 1915. The leaflet then passed to General Sir Charles Monro, who succeeded General Sir Ian Hamilton as Commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and was found amongst his effects.

**This is one of the few surviving examples of this propaganda leaflet**

## The Gallipoli Campaign

### Contemporary postcards

The expectation was that the Allied Forces would be marching into Istanbul within three weeks of landing at Gallipoli. With the staunch defence of their homeland, the Turks halted the advance and the number of Allied soldiers killed and wounded began to mount up quickly.

The wounded troops were brought back to ANZAC Cove for evacuation, which is shown in the postcard at right, *"Collecting wounded on the first hill at Gallipoli"*.

Assessments were quickly made of the wounded men. Those soldiers with minor wounds and a quick chance of recovery were sent to Lemnos Island. Those with more serious wounds were evacuated to either Egypt or Malta.

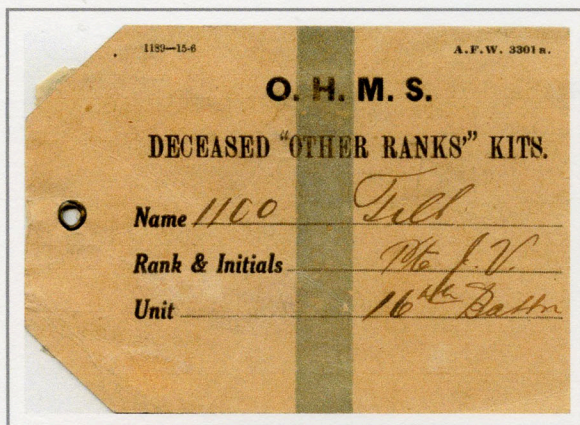
Below is a real photo postcard of the "Australian Wounded at ANZAC Beach".



## The Gallipoli Campaign

## Soldiers Killed In Action

With the high rate of casualties at Gallipoli, the army was responsible for returning the kitbags of the soldiers killed in action to their next of kin. A special "packet" postage rate was established and authorised by the Postmaster General to return these items in sealed condition back to families of the deceased.



A scan of the reverse of this parcel tag.



A registered OHMS "DECEASED "OTHER RANKS" KITS" parcel tag with a private address label on the reverse franked by a Second Watermark 1/- Green Kangaroo stamp cancelled by the Registered Melbourne datestamp of the 22nd of March 1916 and addressed to South Australia.

This parcel tag was attached to the kitbag of Private James Till of the 16th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action on the 10th of May 1915. He is buried at the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.

**Only one other example of a Gallipoli casualty kit parcel tag is recorded**

## The Gallipoli Campaign

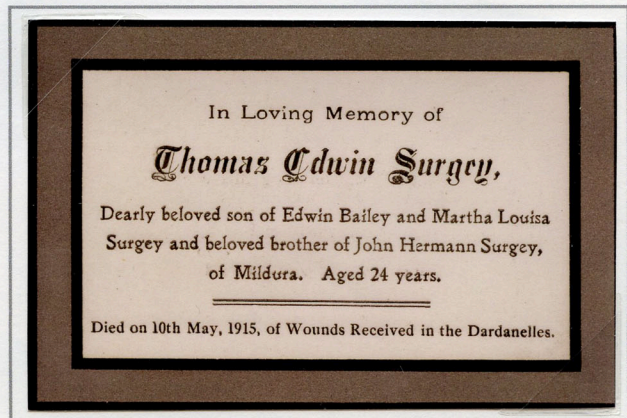
## Soldiers Killed In Action

### Memorial cards

The action at Gallipoli bought a terrible cost to young Australian men. During the campaign, 7,594 troops were killed. Families and friends back home held memorials to the fallen soldiers whose bodies rested on a foreign shore.



A scan of the inside of this memorial card is illustrated at the right.



A memorial card for Private Thomas Surgery of the 8th Infantry Battalion who was a farmer from Mildura. He was wounded in the thigh and abdomen on the first landing at ANZAC Cove on the 25th of April 1915. He was being evacuated by ship to Alexandria where he died and was buried at sea on the 29th.

These memorial cards were prepared by the soldier's family and presented to relatives and friends at their funeral back home.

The printing of Christmas Cards for the Australian Battalions when resting from the fighting on the Western Front from 1916 to 1918 are readily found, however, Christmas cards from the Gallipoli campaign are very rare. They were printed in Egypt for preparation for the troops at Gallipoli.



A rare Christmas card from the 7th Infantry Battalion, Xmas 1915, Gallipoli Peninsula

This Christmas Card was sent by Lt. Aubrey Liddelow of the 8th Infantry Battalion to his wife in Malvern, Victoria. He was transferred to the 59th Infantry Battalion with the rank of Captain, but was killed in action at Fromelles in France on the 19th July 1916.

At the right is a scanned image of a photograph of Captain Liddelow.



**Only five types of Australian Gallipoli Christmas Cards are recorded**

## The Gallipoli Campaign

## The Evacuation December 1915



Written on the reverse and sent under cover, the Tasmanian soldier writes:

*"This is a photo of the Dardanelles in the week the snow fell. It is one of the 8th Battery's guns."*

One of the primary reasons for the evacuation of Gallipoli was the inclement weather. After the Turks pushed back the major August offensive, the resulting stalemate forced the British Generals to reassess the possibility of victory. In November, the bitterly cold weather contributed to the decision to evacuate. This real photo postcard is a rare image of the Australian soldiers in the snow at Gallipoli.

### Mail from a soldier returning to Egypt

The postcard below of the troopship "Caledonia" is dated the 26th of December 1915 when it transported troops from Lemnos Island to Alexandria, after the evacuation of Gallipoli. It was written by Corporal Archie Garlick of the 3rd Field Ambulance. Corporal Garlick writes to his mother *"This is the boat I was telling you about in the letter. I had a very enjoyable trip. Expect to go ashore today and will write then"*.

