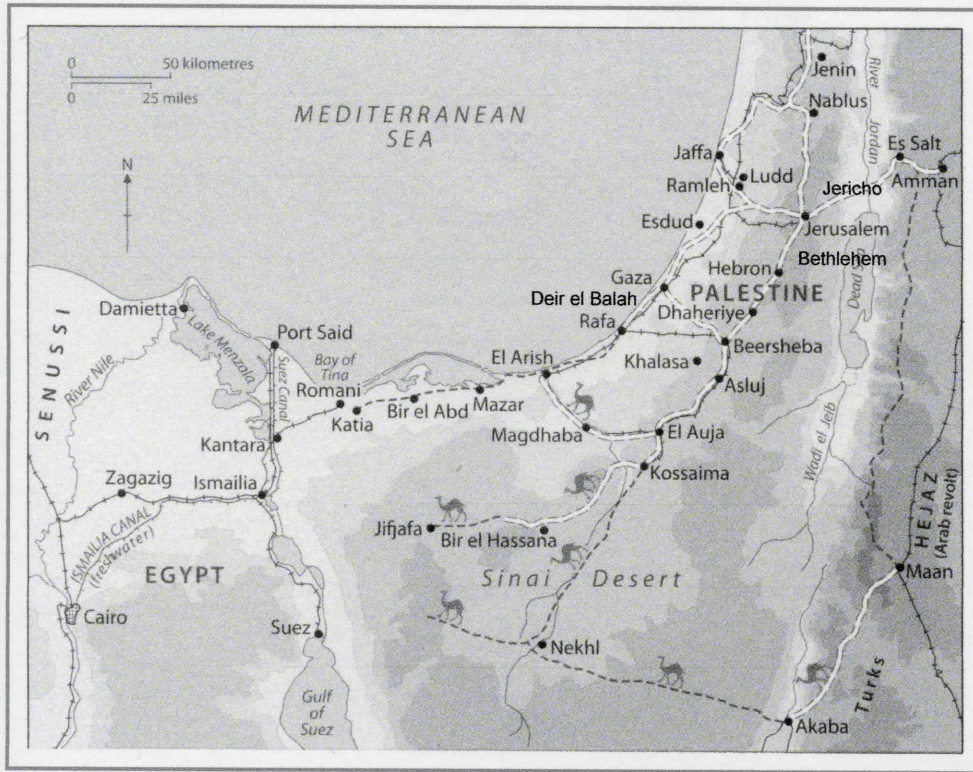


9. The Australian Mounted Division

The Australian Mounted Division, originally formed as the Imperial Mounted Division in January 1917, was a mounted infantry, light horse and yeomanry division. The division was formed in Egypt, and along with the Anzac Mounted Division formed part of Desert Column of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The division comprised the Australian 3rd Light Horse Brigade, (formerly of the Anzac Mounted Division), the 4th and 5th Light Horse Brigades, two British yeomanry brigades and the Imperial Camel Corps.



The battle field locations of most of the ANZAC Mounted Division is represented in the map of the region at left.

Datestamps were distributed to the following units:

- 7.1 Australian Mounted Division Headquarters
- 7.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade
- 7.3 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade

- 6.4 Imperial Camel Corps Brigade
- 6.5 5th Australian Light Horse Brigade

7.1 The Australian Mounted Division - Headquarters

The British "FIELD POST OFFICE/ DM 2" datestamp was transferred to the Australian Headquarters on the 27.6.1917.

Two types of datestamps were used as the Headquarters for the Australian Mounted Division where their usage is detailed from the following locations listed in the table at the right.

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Palestine	Gaza	10.10.1917	31.10.1917
	Beersheeba area	1.11.1917	4.11.1917
	Gaza area	5.11.1917	26.11.1917
	Jerusalem area	27.11.1917	4.1918
Transjordan	Jordan Valley	30.4.1918	8.1918
Palestine	Ludd area	23.8.1918	17.9.1918
	Alfule area	22.9.1918	
Syria	Damascus	4.10.1918	27.10.1918
	Homs	1.11.1918	4.11.1918
Lebanon	Tripoli	6.11.1918	12.3.1919

9.1 The Australian Mounted Division - Headquarters

Jerusalem area, Palestine

Period of use: 27 November 1917 - April 1918



A photograph endorsed on the reverse "*A panoramic view of Jaffa*". The Australian Mounted Division entered Jaffa on the 6.12.1917 in preparation for the assault on Jerusalem.

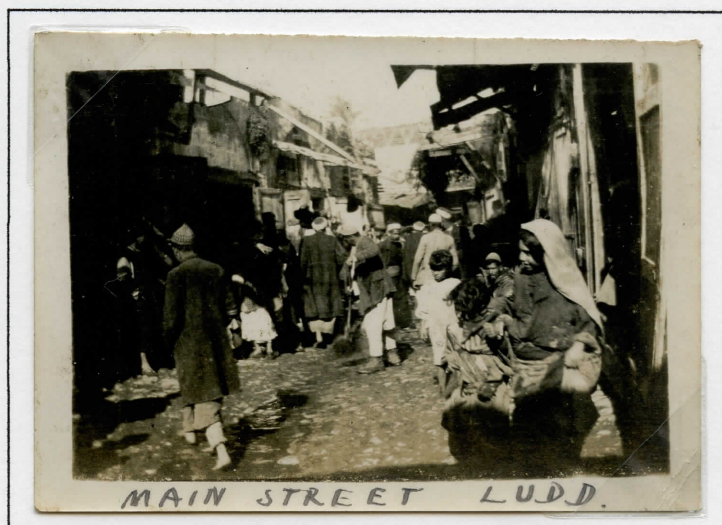


An envelope cancelled by the Field Post Office DM 2 cds dated the 30.12.1917. This datestamp was used by the Australian Mounted Division Headquarters when it was stationed in Jerusalem, Palestine, at the time when the Turkish troops were making a series of counter attacks to try and retake the city.

9.1 The Australian Mounted Division - Headquarters

Ludd area, Palestine

23 August - 17 September 1918



These two photographs were taken after the occupation of Ludd by the 1st Light Horse Regiment on the 26.8.1918. The left photograph shows the mosque and minaret with the Greek Orthodox Church on the right during the of centuries of religious acceptance in the region. The photo on the right shows the main market street in Ludd.

Tripoli, Lebanon

Period of use: 6 November 1918 - 12 March 1919



An envelope cancelled with the Field Post Office/ DM 2 cds dated the 10.12.1918. This datestamp was used by the Australian Mounted Division Headquarters when it was stationed in Tripoli, Lebanon until March 1919.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

The 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade comprised of the 8th Light Horse Regiment from Victoria, the 9th from both South Australia and Victoria, and the 10th from Western Australia. There was only one type of Australian 3rd Light Horse Brigade datestamp used by the Australian Mounted Division during the campaign which had been in constant use since the Gallipoli conflict. It was transferred from the Imperial Mounted Division in February 1917, and changed its name again to the Australian Mounted Division in June 1917. Its usage is detailed from the following locations listed in the tables below:

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Palestine	Rafa area	1.1.1917	16.1.1917
	Gaza area	9.3.1917	26.6.1917
	Beersheeba area	1.11.1917	26.11.1917
	Deir el Balah	2.1.1918	1.4.1918
	Selmeh	5.4.1918	
	Jericho	7.4.1918	26.4.1918
Transjordan		30.4.1918	4.5.1918
Palestine	Jericho area	5.5.1918	4.6.1918

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Palestine	Bethlehem	14.6.1918	13.7.1918
	Jericho	20.7.1918	20.8.1918
	Ludd	25.8.1918	18.9.1918
	Jenin area	21.9.1918	
	Damour area	1.10.1918	
Syria	Homs	2.11.1918	4.11.1918
Lebanon	Tripoli	5.11.1918	15.3.1919
Egypt	Zagazig	17.3.1919	29.6.1919

The Battle of Rafa

The Battle of Rafa, fought on the 9.1.1917, was the third and final battle to complete the recapture of the Sinai Peninsula by Allied forces during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. The Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF), including the 1st and 3rd Light Horse Brigades attacked an entrenched Ottoman Army garrison at El Magruntein to the south of Rafa. The victory marked the beginning of fight of Ottoman territory of Palestine.

Rafa area, Palestine

Period of use: 1 January - February 1917



A Field Service Postcard cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade datestamp of the 10.2.1917. After the victory at Rafa, the 3rd Light Horse Brigade continued to patrol further towards Nekhl.

Note: The card was written by Signaller Mervyn Lance Mitchell of the 9th Light Horse Regiment, who by the end of the war was promoted to Lieutenant, and returned to Australia on the 3.7.1919. Unusually, on the reverse of the card he writes "I hope to be discharged soon" contrary to regulations, which took over two years to accomplish.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Gaza area, Palestine

Period of use: 9 March - August 1917



A photograph endorsed on the reverse "*The first horses watered after securing of Khan Yunis*" located in the southern Gaza area which was taken in mid 1917.

The photograph was taken by Captain Arthur Clayton who was the medical practitioner for the 3rd Light Horse Brigade.

Another photograph taken by Captain Arthur Clayton of a group of officers of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, endorsed on the reverse "*Major Sukman, Capt Raglan, Lieut. McFarlane, Lieut. Ayliffe, Lieut. Farmer*".

Lieutenant James Ayliffe, second from the right, died of wounds on the 7.11.1917 after the Battle of Beersheba.



A.F.A. 2042.
114/Gen. No./5248.

FIELD



SERVICE

POST CARD



Recd 105.17

The address
only to be writ-
ten on this side.
If anything else
is added, the
post card will
be destroyed.

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

*Mr B. J. Mitchell,
Audit Office
King William Street
Adelaide
South Australia*

A Field Service Postcard cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade datestamp of the 26.3.1917.

After the victory at Rafah, the 3rd Light Horse Brigade continued to patrol further towards Nekhl.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Gaza area, Palestine

Period of use: 9 March - August 1917

An envelope cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse datestamp of the 15.1917.

This datestamp was used by the Brigade after the abortive Second Battle of Gaza on the 17.4 when they were withdrawn to and camped at Marakeb, on the coast south of Gaza.



A real photo postcard endorsed on the reverse "Dead Turks near Gaza".

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Gaza area, Palestine

9 March - August 1917



A real photo postcard of watering the Brigade horses at Wadi Ghazze, Palestine dated June 1917 in preparation for the Battle of Beersheba.

Patrolling Beersheba area, Palestine

Period of use: September - October 1917



A Field Service Postcard cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 3.10.1917 when the brigade was patrolling the Beersheba area before the attack later in the month.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Beersheeba area, Palestine

Period of use: 1 - 26th November 1917



These two photographs were taken just after the Battle of Beersheeba. The photo on the left is endorsed on the reverse "Street in Beersheba with hospital and Town Hall at top of street". The second image is of "Prisoners being brought in to Beersheeba main street. All in flames when we entered".



An envelope to New South Wales cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 20.11.1917 when the brigade was stationed in the Beersheeba area in Palestine.

Mail from the Light Horse at Beersheba is rare

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Amwas, Palestine

18 November 1917

After Beersheba, the Australian Mounted Division on the 18.11 forced the enemy from Latron by a flanking movement on the north. The Turks were reported to be evacuating Jerusalem, and Chauvel ordered his English yeomanry to move rapidly on Bireh and cut off the retreat. The 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade on the left was to endeavour to outflank Latron from the north and north-east while the 4th Brigade made a direct assault.

The 9th Regiment on the flank pushed into the hills to Amwas and came under brisk fire from machine-guns and light artillery. No Turks showed on the dark, harsh hills ahead, but each approach was evidently watched and guarded. For some hours the 8th and 9th Regiments probed fruitlessly at the ramparts. So steep and rocky was the ground that the horses had frequently to be led. After some heavy bombardment from the Notts Battery, the Turkish artillery was silenced, and the town taken.



This series of photographs was taken by a soldier after the town of Amwas was taken by the Australian Light Horse with the English yeomanry.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Deir el Balah, Palestine

Christmas 1917



A Christmas Card produced in Cairo for the Australian Y.M.C.A. for 1917 - 1918. This card was sent by Lieutenant Howard Hahn of the 9th Australian Light Horse Regiment to his home in South Australia.

2 January - 1 April 1918



These two photographs were taken by a soldier in the 10th Light Horse Regiment, the only one raised from Western Australia. The first image is written on the reverse *"A happy family at dinner at Belah"*.

The photograph at the right is endorsed on the reverse *"Some of D Troop, C Sqn and their officer Lieut. Hammond"*.

Note: The officer in the foreground is Lieutenant Leslie Hammond, a veteran of Gallipoli who was recommended for the Military Medal on the 5.7.1917, but it was not awarded. He was wounded in action and repatriated back to Australia on the 30.8.1918.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jericho, Palestine

Period of use: 7 - 26 April 1918



A scarce Registered Letter to New South Wales and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 12.4.1918 when the brigade was stationed in Jericho in Palestine.

Amman, Transjordan

7 May 1918



A photograph dated the 7.5.1918 taken by Private Robert Wilson (2598) of the 9th Light Horse Regiment. On the reverse is written "A Turkish Sergeant issuing dates to prisoners captured near Amman, at Shunet Nimrin".

Note: This photograph was taken after the second Transjordan attack on Shunet Nimrin in the Jordan Valley on the main road from Ghoraniyeh to Amman. Mail posted during this period of the campaign has not been recorded by Proud. Private Wilson survived the war and returned to Australia on the 19.1.1919.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jericho area, Palestine

Period of use: 5 May - 4 June 1918



A photograph taken by Lieutenant Howard Hahn of the 9th Light Horse Regiment and endorsed on the reverse "*Latrum. End of a days march on the way to Jericho*".



A Church of England envelope addressed to South Australia and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 27.5.1917. The datestamp was used when the Brigade was patrolling the Jericho area in Palestine.

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jericho area, Palestine

5 May - 4 June 1918

A photograph taken by Corporal George Lowe (Service No. 902) of the 8th Light Horse Regiment and endorsed on the reverse "B Troop, C Squad" formed up in the desert."

Corporal Lowe survived the war and returned to Australia on the 3.7.1919.



Jericho area, Palestine

Period of use: 20 July - 20 August 1918

<p>A.F.W. 3078. W200/M1959 4/12. M. & S. LTD.</p> <p>ACTIVE</p>	<p>[Crown Copyright Reserved.]</p> <p>SERVICE</p>
<p>This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.</p> <p>NOTE:—</p> <p>Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.</p> <p>The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—</p> <p><i>I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.</i></p> <p>Signature } Name only }</p> <p><i>Edgerley W.A.</i></p>	<p>[Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must all be from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]</p> <p>Address:—</p> <p><i>Mrs. Edgerley</i></p> <p><i>Methodist Parsonage</i></p> <p><i>Mount Barker</i></p> <p><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></p>

An Honour Envelope cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse datestamp of the 21.7.1918 when the Brigade was patrolling the Jericho area in Palestine for the month before moving on to the Ludd area.

The envelope was written by Lieutenant William Edgerley of the 9th Light Horse Brigade who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 10.7.1919.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jericho area, Palestine

Period of use: 20 July - 20 August 1918



A photograph endorsed on the reverse "Coming back from Jericho"



A Church of England envelope cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 20.8.1918 during the period when the Brigade was patrolling the Jericho area in Palestine for the month before moving on to the Ludd area.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jericho area, Palestine

September 1918



This photograph was taken by Private Joseph Hillgrove of the 9th Light Horse Regiment, amongst who's effects this photo was found.

A photograph of Turkish prisoners taken at the Battle of Jenin on the 20.9.1918. The Australian Mounted Division captured over 2,000 prisoners at Jenin, located on the southern edge of the Jezreel Valley.

Lejjan, Jenin area, , Palestine



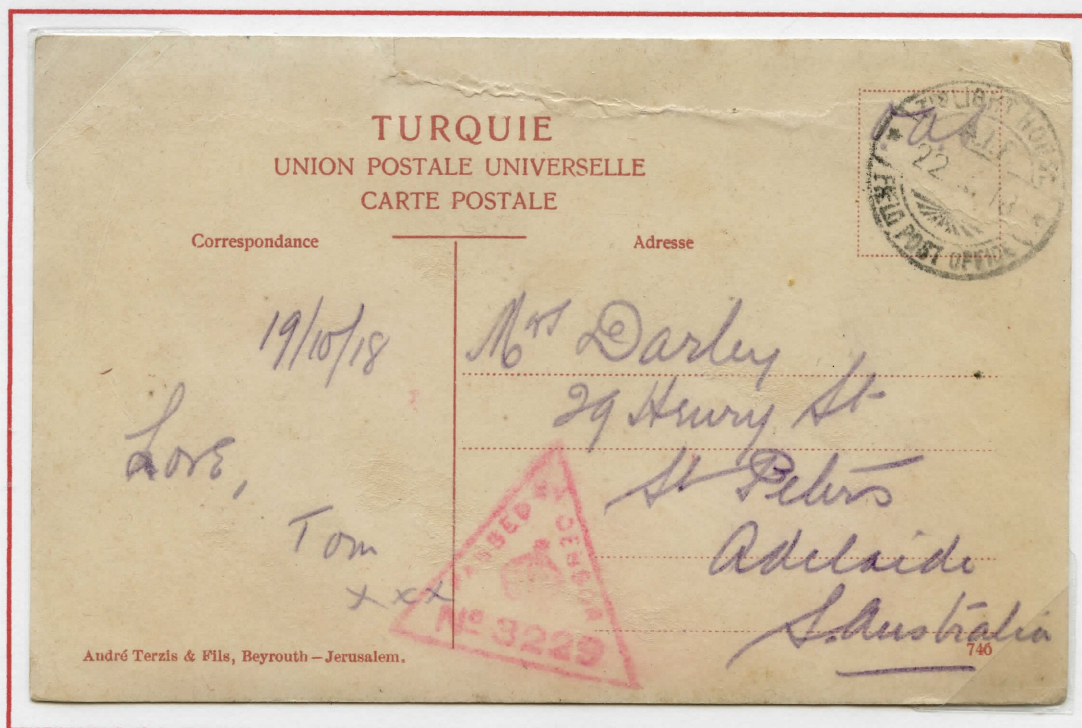
A couple of days later and just eight miles north west of Jenin, the 3rd Light Horse Brigade captured 400 Turkish and German prisoners in a short skirmish at Lejjan.



9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

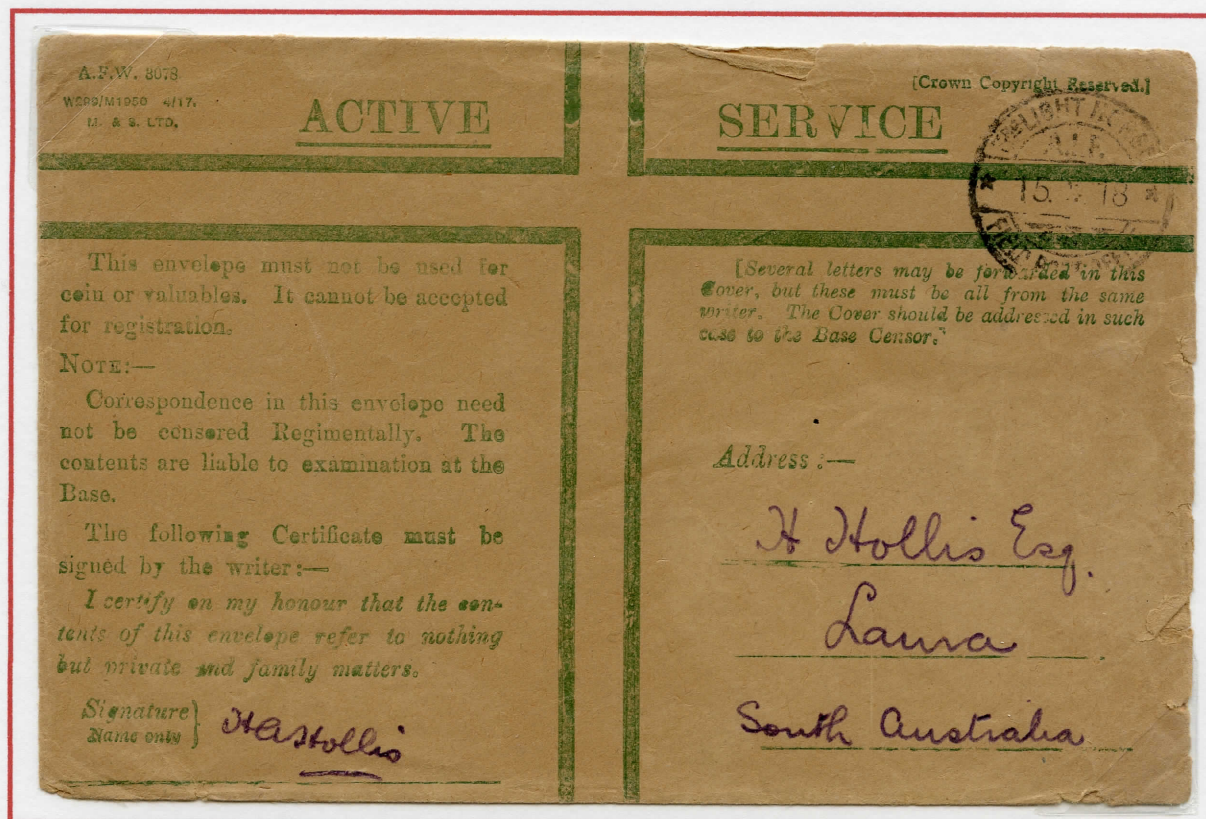
Darmour area, Palestine

October 1918



A rare Turkish postcard addressed to South Australia and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 22.10.1918. The card was written by Major Thomas Darley of the 9th Light Horse Regiment who was awarded an Order of the British Empire for his service during the Light Horse Campaign in 1920.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud



An Honour envelope cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 10.10.1918. The envelope was written by Private Henry Hollis of the 10th Light Horse Regiment who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 19.3.1919.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud

9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Rayak, Lebanon

4 - 5 November 1918

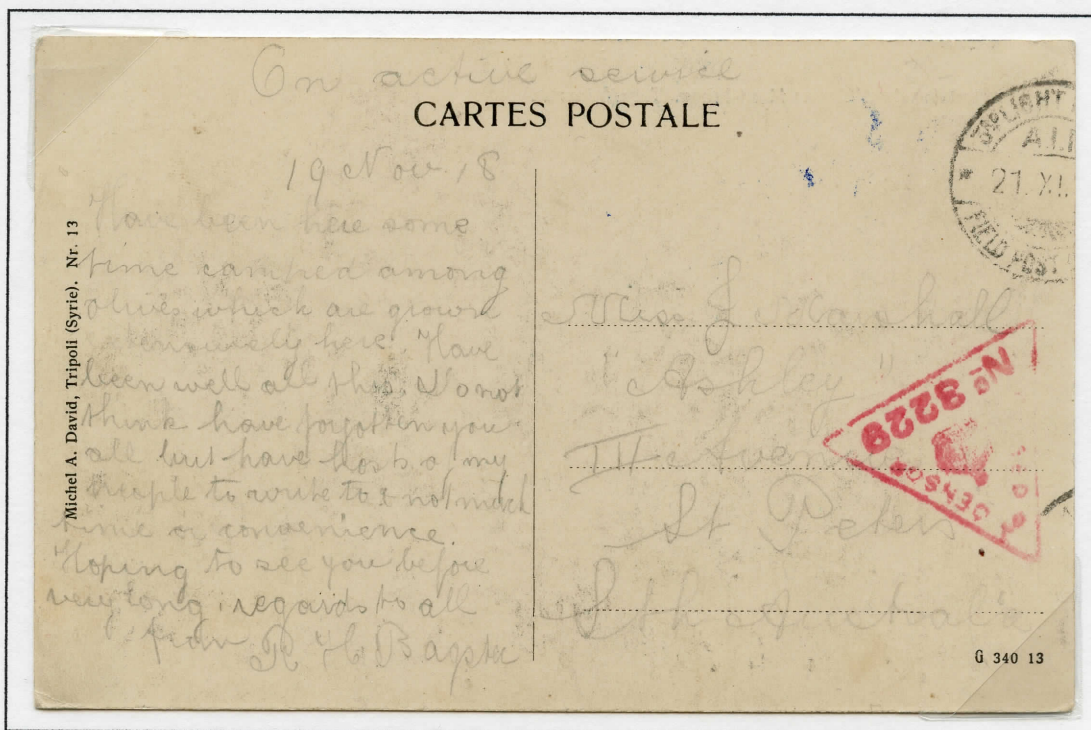
This photograph was taken by Private Joseph Hillgrove of the 9th Light Horse Regiment, amongst who's effects it was found.



A rare photograph of a German Albatros D.Va fighter plane captioned on the reverse "*a nose dive which came to grief, Rayak*". The Germans had an airfield at Rayak in Lebanon, and this photograph would have been taken in early November when the Brigade was on the way to Tripoli.

Tripoli, Lebanon

Period of use: 5 November 1918 - 15 March 1919



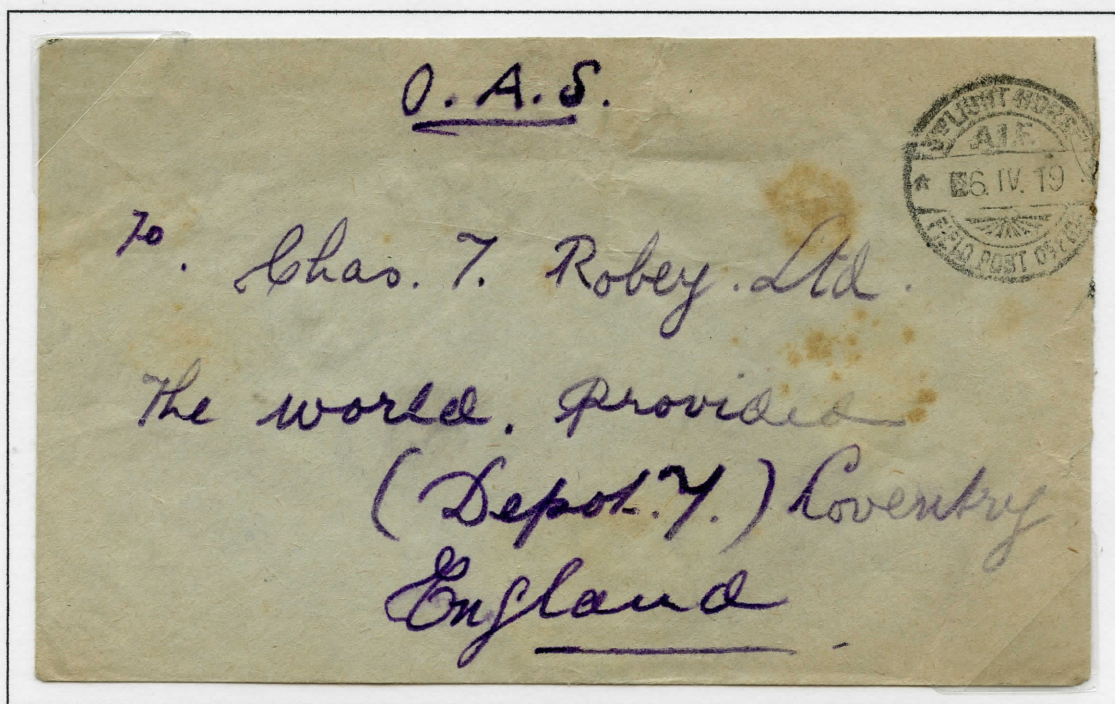
A postcard addressed to South Australia and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse cds dated the 21.11.1918.

The card was written by Private Reginald Bagster of the 9th Light Horse Regiment who served throughout the Light Horse Campaign and returned to Australia on the 10.7.1919.

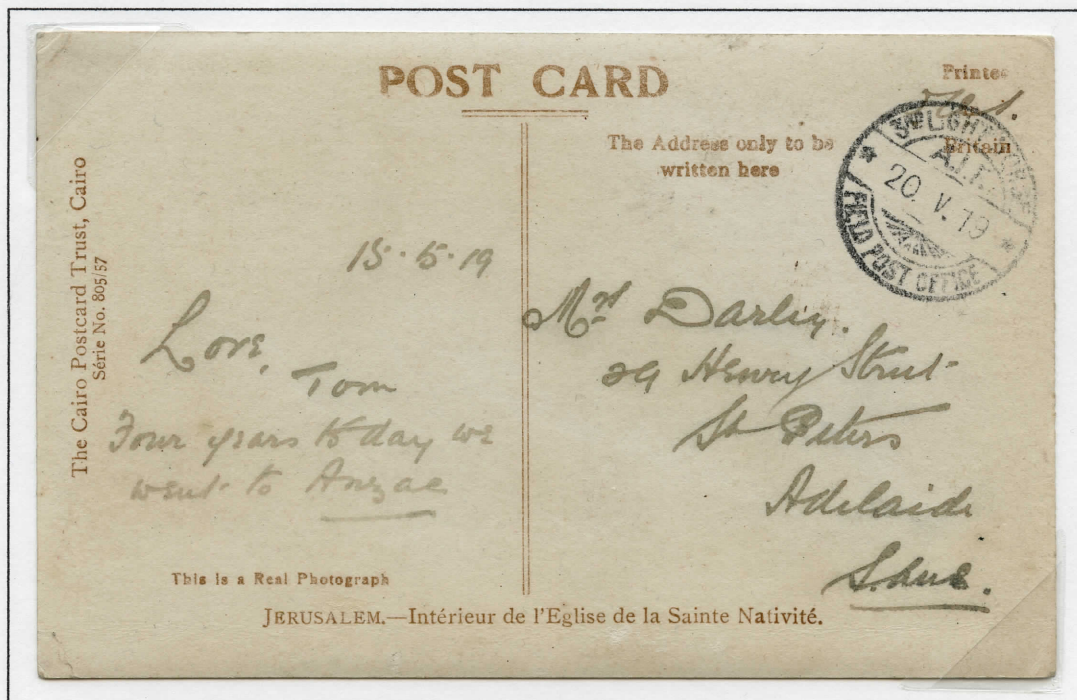
9.2 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Zigazag, Egypt

Period of use: 17 March - 29 June 1919



An envelope cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse datestamp of the 6.4.1919 when the Brigade was resting in Egypt preparing to be demobilised home to Australia.



A postcard addressed to South Australia and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse datestamp of the 20.5.1919.

The card was written by Major Thomas Darley of the 9th Light Horse Regiment who was awarded an Order of the British Empire for his service in the Light Horse Campaign in 1920.