

The Twenty Second Convoy

The final embarkation port for the A46 "Clan MacGillivray" - Fremantle

1st May - 16th September 1916

18th May 1916

An unlisted troopship censor cachet



A46 "Clan MacGillivray": Fremantle, Western Australia 19.5.1916 to Tasmania

Postal markings: "A.I.F. / PASSED CENSOR 46" handstamp in purple (not listed by Finlayson).

The envelope was written by Private Cecil Huxley of the 12th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action at the village of Ploegsteert, Belgium on the 8th June 1917.

The final embarkation port for the A13 "Katuna" - Fremantle

1st July 1916



A13 "Katuna": Fremantle, Western Australia 3.7.1916 to South Australia

Postal markings: "PASSED BY CENSOR" handstamp in purple (not listed by Finlayson) unusually applied before the ship had left Fremantle for Colombo.

Note: Very little mail is recorded from this troopship since it carried mostly horses and some light horse troops. The lettercard was written by Private William Sawyer of the 9th Light horse Regiment who served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 10th July 1919.

The Twenty Second Convoy

1st May - 16th September 1916

The first port of call for the A49 "Seang Choon" - Alexandria, Egypt

21st June 1916



A49 "Seang Choon": Maadi, Egypt 22.6.1916 to Queensland

Postal markings: "A.I.F./PASSED CENSOR 49." handstamp in purple (Finlayson Type MCM 4).

The final port of call for the A37 "Barambah" - London

28th August 1916



A37 "Barambah": Lark Hill, England 29.8.1916 to United States of America

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by censor No. 37" handstamp in purple (Finlayson Type MCM 2/L) with "37" inserted in manuscript. The YMCA envelope is cancelled on arrival at the Lark Hill training camp.

Note: Free postage was only available to countries within the British Empire. Since this cover was addressed to the United States, it was taxed 10cents on arrival for being under paid.

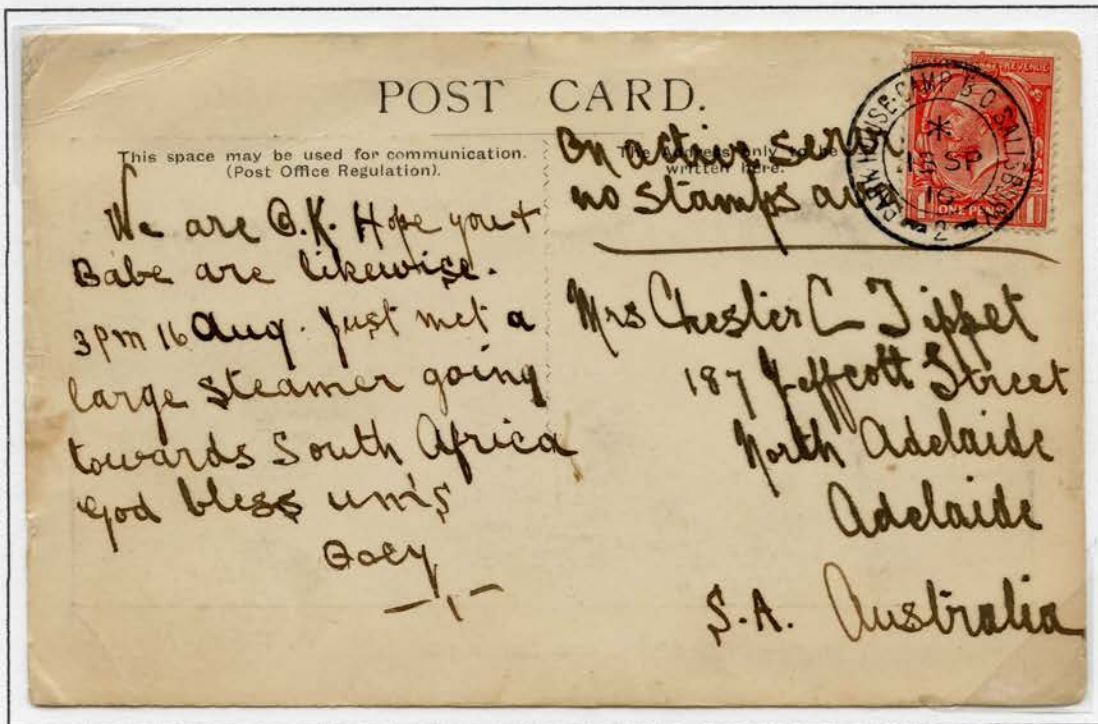
Covers addressed outside the British Empire are very scarce.

The Twenty Second Convoy

The final port of call for the A48 "Seang Bee" - Plymouth

1st May - 16th September 1916

10th July 1916



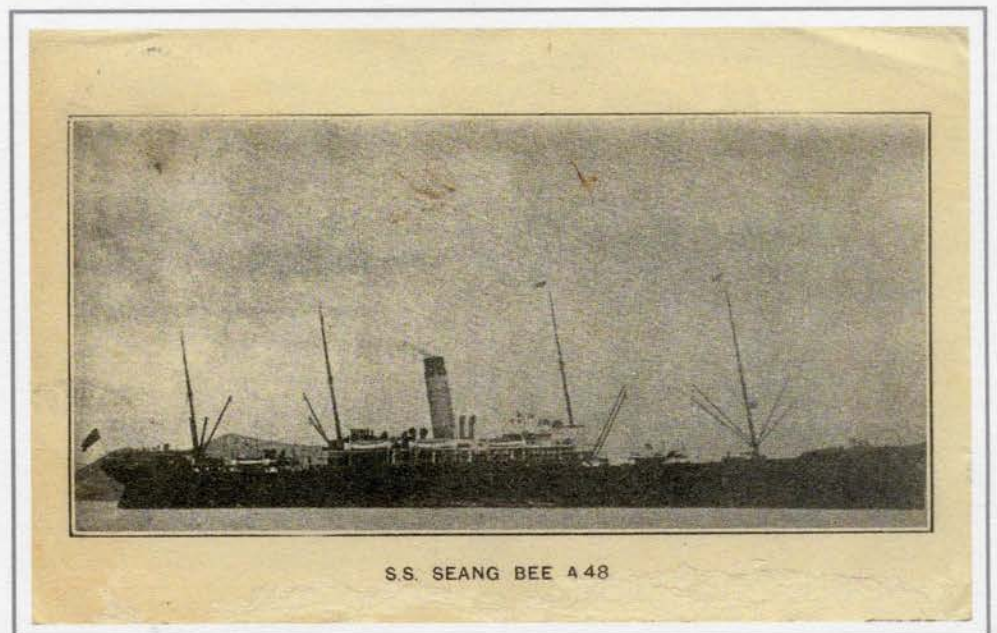
A48 "Seang Bee": Salisbury, England 13.9.1916 to South Australia

This postcard was written by Private Chester Tippet of the Army Medical Corps. The text states that they "just met a large steamer going towards South Africa", indicating the "Seang Bee" was on the final leg to England.

The card was embargoed and posted from the Salisbury training camp a few days after docking at Plymouth.

A48 "Seang Bee":

A scanned image of the reverse of this postcard which contravenes the censorship laws by designating the troopship name and number at the base.



The Twenty Third Convoy

4th July - 14th October 1916

The Twenty Third Convoy comprised of twelve ships, including two Royal Mail Steamships requisitioned by the Australian government with nearly all ships travelling via South Africa to England.

The final embarkation port for the A32 "Themistocles" - Melbourne

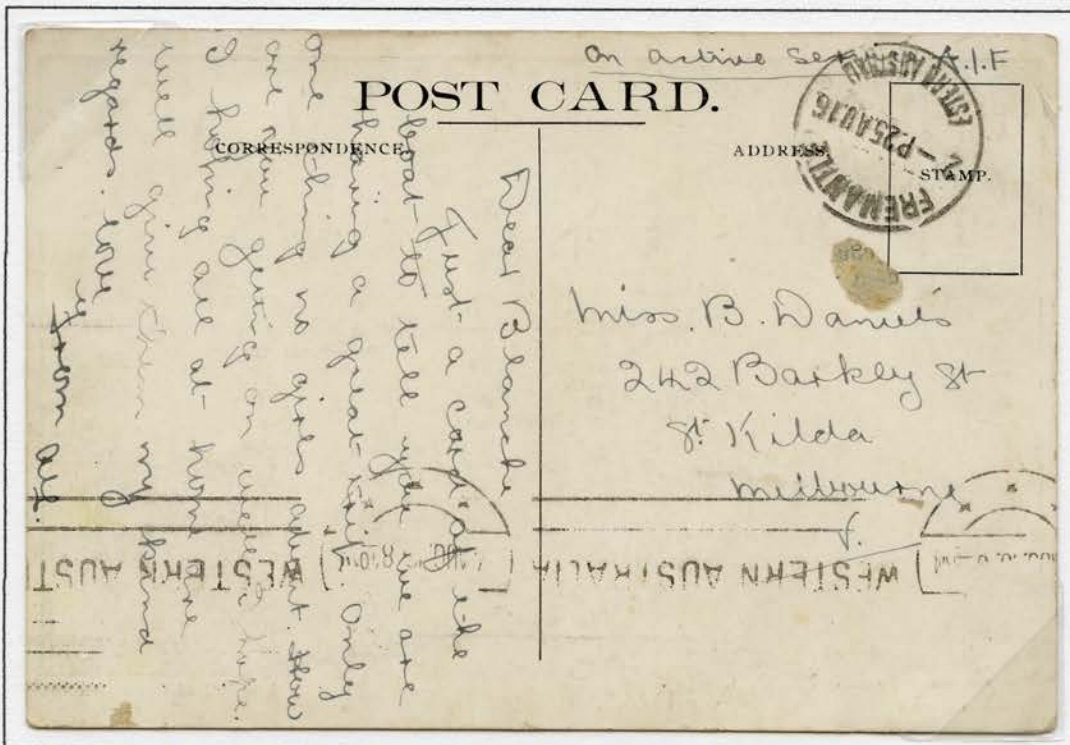
28th July 1916



A32 "Themistocles": A real photo postcard dated the 28.7.1916, published by J.E. Barnes, an official embarkation photographer. The troopship number A32 is clearly labelled on the side.

The final embarkation port for the R.M.S. "Orontes" - Fremantle

23rd August 1916



R.M.S. "Orontes": Fremantle, Western Australia 25.8.1916 to Victoria

A picture postcard of the Royal Mail Ship "Orontes" requisitioned by the Australian Government but not allocated a troopship number. The Fremantle datestamp of the 25th August 1916 is dated two days after she had left Fremantle harbour.

The Twenty Third Convoy

4th July - 14th October 1916

The final embarkation port for the A18 "Wiltshire" - Fremantle

30th August 1916



A18 "Wiltshire": Fremantle, Western Australia 30.8.1916 to New South Wales

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by censor No. _____" handstamp in purple (Finlayson Type MCM 2/L" with "18" inserted in manuscript.

Note: The "Wiltshire" left Sydney on the 23rd August 1916, yet there are no records stating that she called at Fremantle for this Convoy. However, this cover proves the stopover.

The first port of call of the A70 "Ballarat" - Durban, South Africa

1st September 1916



A70 "Ballarat": Durban, South Africa 1.9.1916 to South Australia

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by censor No. _____" handstamp in violet (Finlayson Type MCM 2/L" with "70" inserted in manuscript.

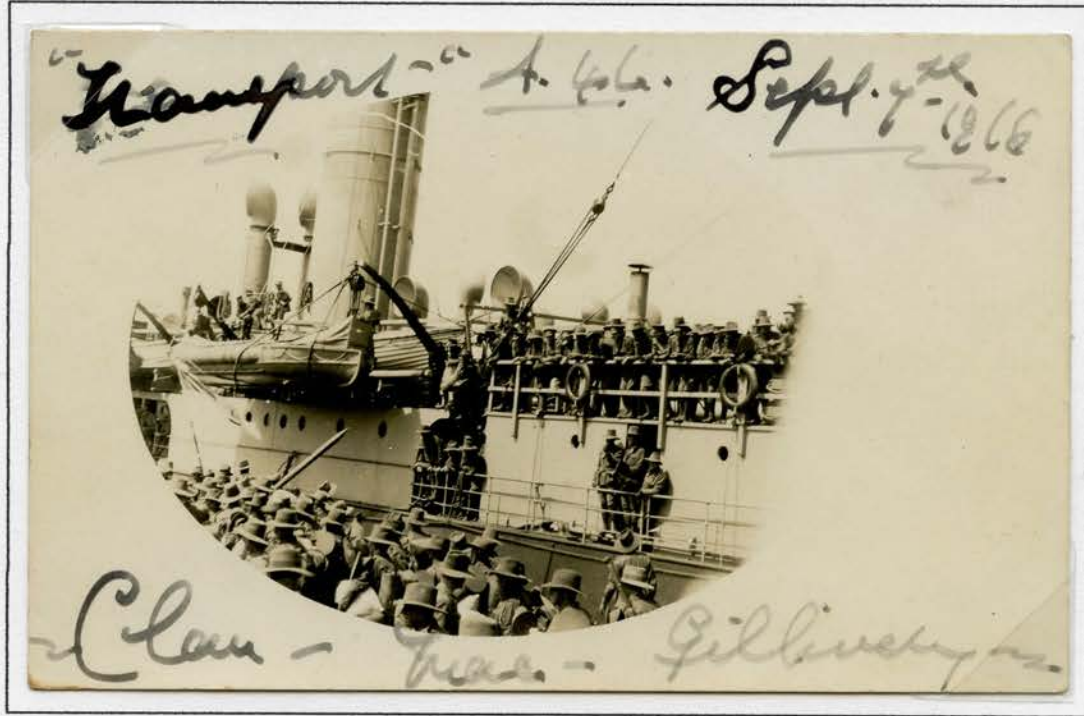
The Twenty Fourth Convoy

25th July - 18th December 1916

The Twenty Fourth Convoy was one of the largest to leave Australia comprising nineteen troopships with more than two months between the first and last sailings of the convoy.

The departure of the A46 "Clan MacGillivray" - Brisbane

7th September 1916



A46 "Clan MacGillivray": A real photo postcard of troops embarking at Brisbane. On the card is written at the top "Transport A.46 Sept. 7th 1916", and at the base "Clan Mac Gillivray", the date the vessel left Brisbane for England.

The departure of the A10 "Karoo" - Melbourne

18th September 1916

A10 "Karoo":

A real photo postcard of the departure of the "Karoo" dated the 18.9.1916 and published by Josiah Barnes of Melbourne, an official troopship photographer.



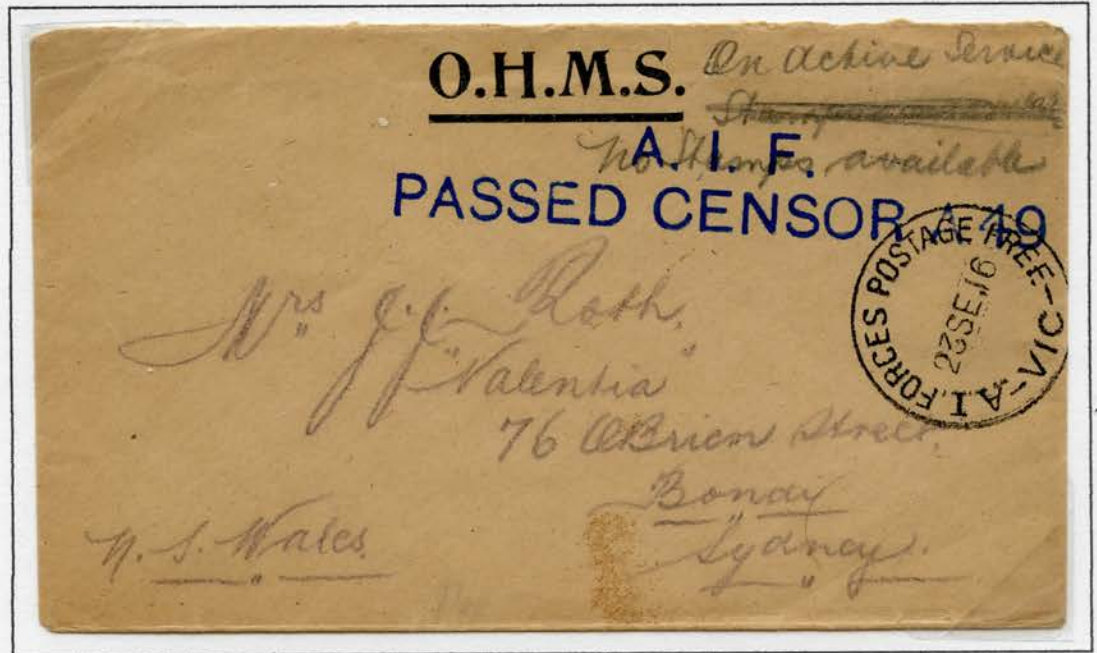
The Twenty Fourth Convoy

25th July - 18th December 1916

The final port of departure of the A49 "Seang Choon" - Melbourne

23rd September 1916

The A49 "Seang Choon" troopship censor handstamp is very scarce

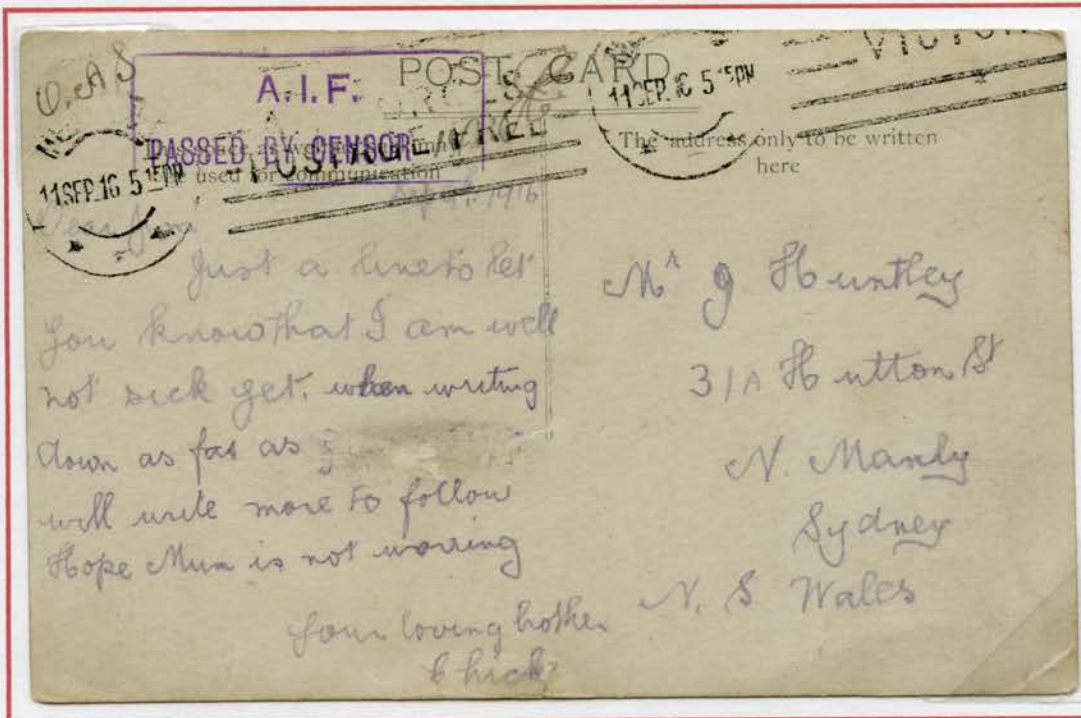


A49 "Seang Choon": Melbourne, Victoria 23.9.1916 to New South Wales

Postal markings: "A.I.F./PASSED CENSOR 49" handstamp in blue (Finlayson Type MCM 4)

The second embarkation port of the A14 "Euripides" - Melbourne

11th September 1916



A14 "Euripides": Melbourne, Victoria 11.9.1916 to New South Wales

Postal markings: "A.I.F./PASSED BY CENSOR" handstamp in violet (Finlayson Type CM 16) with manuscript "14" allocated to this troopship. The card is cancelled at Melbourne on the 11th September 1916, two days after the "Euripides" had left harbour.

The card was written by Private Charles Huntley of the 17th Infantry Battalion who embarked on the "Euripides" at Melbourne and was killed in action on the 3rd May 1917.

Note: This censor handstamp was recorded by Finlayson as being used by the 9th Light Horse Regiment in early 1916, however, its usage on this card as a troopship censor handstamp opens debate as to its origins as a censor marking in Egypt eight months earlier.

The Twenty Fourth Convoy

The first port of call of the A68 "Anchises" - Cape Town, South Africa

25th July - 18th December 1916

21st September 1916



A photograph captioned on the reverse "*Life boat parade on board H.M.A.T. Anchises*".

A photograph captioned on the reverse "*Coming through the tropics on board H.M.A.T. Anchises. A fancy plunge over the ropes*".



The Twenty Fourth Convoy

The first port of call of the A68 "Anchises" - Cape Town, South Africa

25th July - 18th December 1916

21st September 1916

An unlisted censor cachet

Hon. Treasurers
J. T. TILLOCK
Hon. A. W. MEEKS, M.L.C.

For God, For King & For Country

Hon. Secretaries
G. F. CALDWELL
C. H. JAFFRAY



President
JOHN KENT

General Secretary
W. GILLANDERS, B.A.

REPLY TO

4. 9 Sept 1916

Dear Daisy, just a line to let you know I'm still on active service. This

SYDNEY

SEE 21
1916

CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD
SEP 21
9.30AM
1916

WITH THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

On active service

Miss. Daisy

c/o Mrs. Edward Easton

Morphett Vale

South. Australia

A.I.F.
Passed by Censor No. _____

A68 "Anchises": Cape Town, South Africa 21.9.1916 to South Australia

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by censor No. _____" handstamp in violet (not recorded by Finlayson) with manuscript number "68" inserted.

Ex Blake

The Twenty Fourth Convoy

The first port of call of the A15 "Port Sydney" - Cape Town, South Africa

25th July - 18th December 1916

3rd October 1916



The front is written by Driver Clive Hodgkinson of the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 31st May 1919.

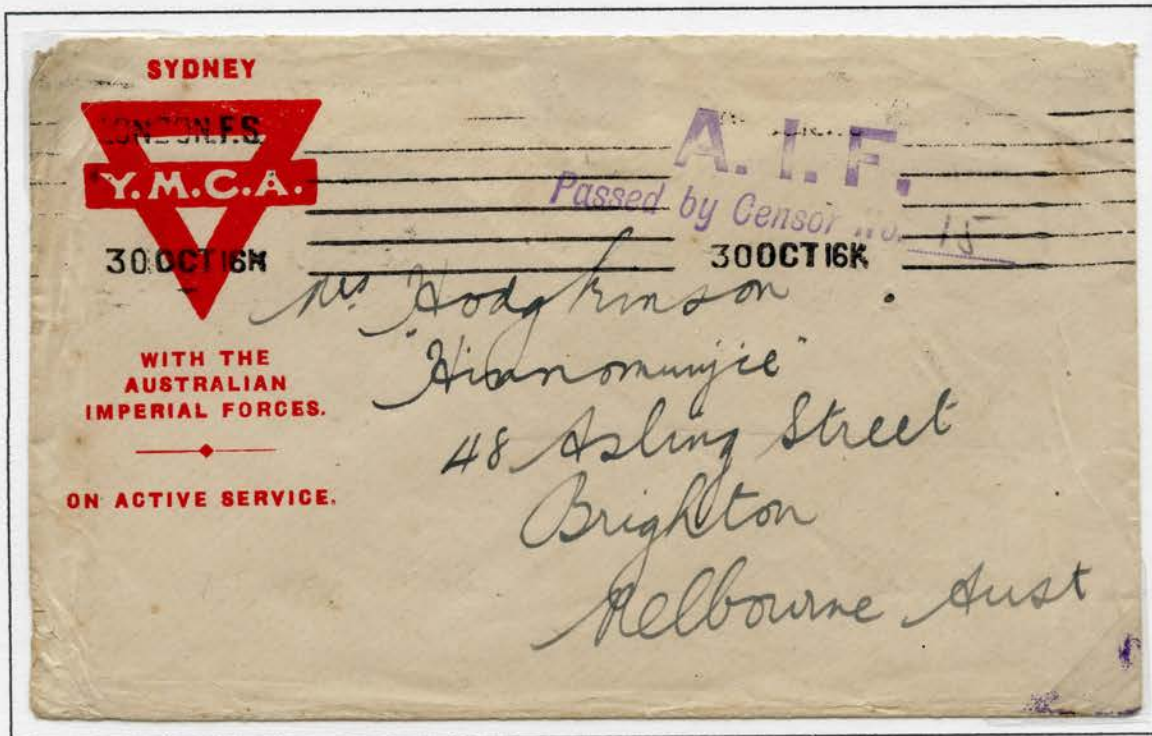
A15 "Port Sydney": Cape Town, South Africa 3.10.1916 to Victoria

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by censor No. _____" handstamp in violet (Finlayson Type MCM 2/H) with an additional "15" handstamp (not listed by Finlayson).

Rare usage of a numeral cachet to identify censorship of the troopship

The final port of call of the A15 "Port Sydney" - Plymouth, England

29th October 1916



A15 "Port Sydney": London, England 30.10.1916 to Victoria

Postal markings: "A.I.F./ Passed by censor No. _____" handstamp in violet (Finlayson Type MCM 2/H) with "15" inserted in manuscript.

Note: It is interesting to observe the different forms of censorship from the same troopship. The top cover is handstamped "15", whilst the lower cover has the number inserted in manuscript.

The Twenty Fourth Convoy

The voyage of the A14 "Euripides" to Port Natal, South Africa

25th July - 18th December 1916

28th September 1916



A14 "Euripides": A rare real life picture postcard of officers and N.C.O.'s of the 20th Reinforcements of the 1st Infantry Battalion taken on the 28.9.1916, two days before the ship docked at Port Natal. Identified in the photograph are:

Back row: Q.M.S. Young; Corporal Housden; Corporal Reed; C.S.M. Vial (Killed in action 30th October 1917 at Ypres, Belgium); Corporal McGill; Corporal Cliff; Sergeant Pedtana; Sergeant Newton

Middle row: Lieutenant Tudehope; 2nd Officer Iggleden; Lieutenant Johnstone; 3rd Officer McQueen; Lieutenant Moss

Front row: Sergeant Fielding; Corporal Ulsham; Q.M.S. Molphett

All these soldiers, apart from C.S.M. Vial, served throughout the war and returned home to Australia.



A14 "Euripides": A postcard of the ship prior to the war when it was a passenger liner

The Twenty Fifth Convoy

19th August - 28th December 1916

There were twelve troopships for the Twenty Fifth Convoy, with most going via Table Cape, Dakar, and arriving at London or Plymouth. A couple of troopships sailed via the Suez canal.

The departure of the A25 "Anglo Egyptian" - Sydney, New South Wales

19th September 1916



A25 "Anglo Egyptian": A real photo postcard of the departure of the transport endorsed on the reverse "HMAS *Anglo Egyptian* A25 leaving wharf Sydney with the 6th & 12th Light Horse, Sept 19, 1916".

The departure of the A71 "Nestor" - Melbourne, Victoria

2nd October 1916



A71 "Nestor":

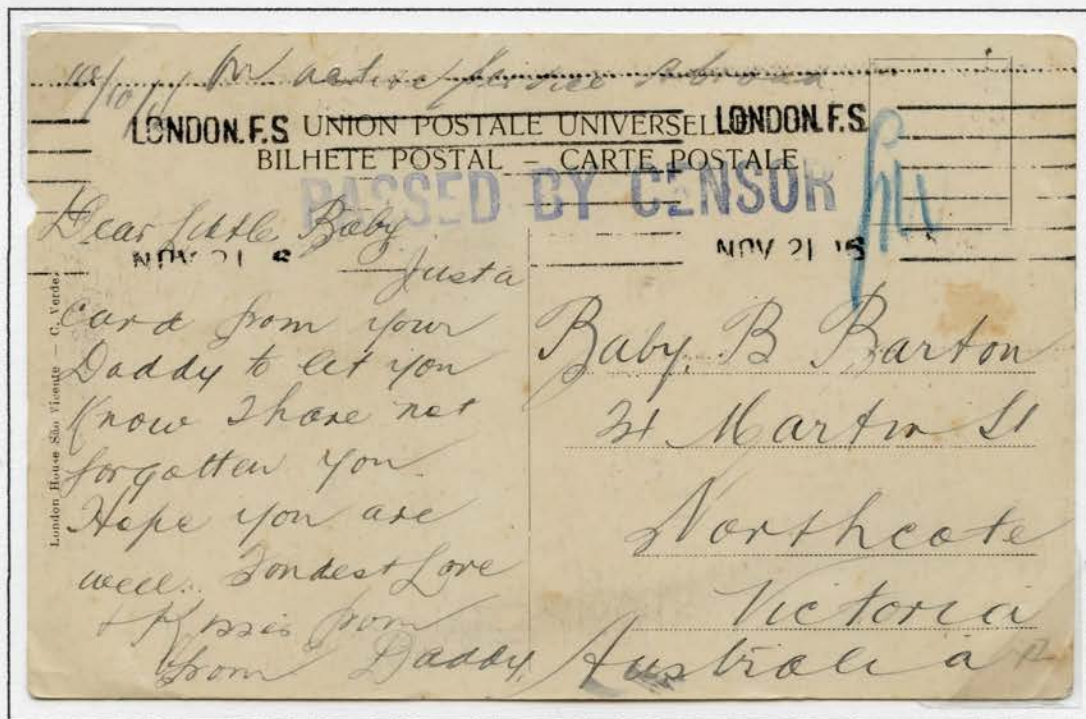
A real photo postcard of the departure dated the 2.10.1916 and published by Josiah Barnes of Melbourne, an official troopship embarkation photographer.

The Twenty Fifth Convoy

The final port of call of the A71 "Nestor" - Plymouth, England

19th August - 28th December 1916

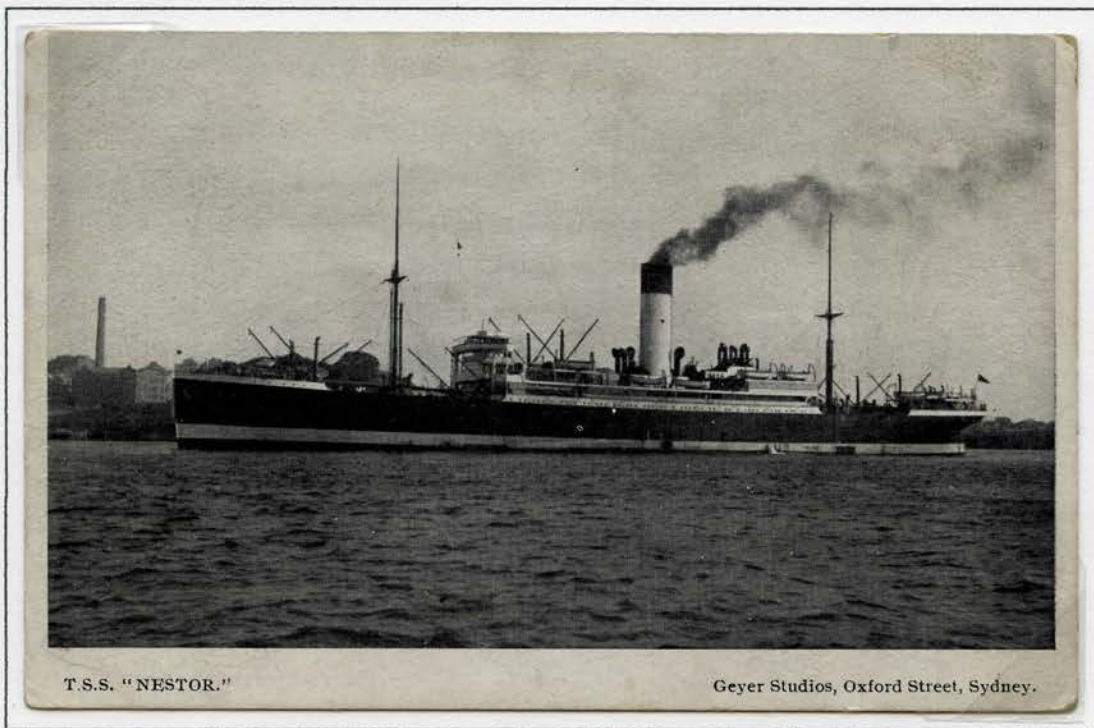
16th November 1916



A71 "Nestor": London 21.11.1916 to Victoria

Postal markings: "PASSED BY CENSOR" handstamp in blue (not recorded by Finlayson)

Note: This real photo postcard depicts the town of Mindelo, Sao Vicente in the Cape Verde Islands, an unscheduled stopover for the A71 "Nestor".



A71 "Nestor":

A postcard of the ship prior to the war when it was a passenger liner.

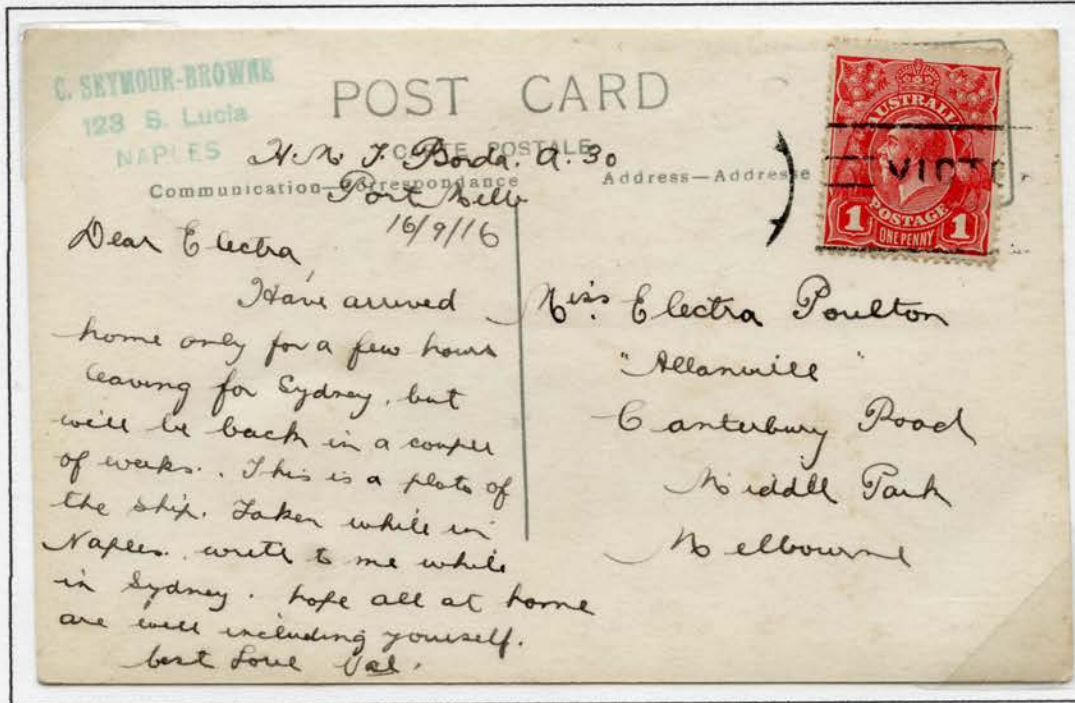
The Twenty Sixth Convoy

30th September - 28th December 1916

The Twenty Sixth Convoy comprised of thirteen troopships, with most going Via Table Cape, Dakar, and arriving at London, Plymouth or Le Havre. A couple of troopships sailed via the Suez canal.

Preparations for the Twenty Sixth Convoy

16th September 1916



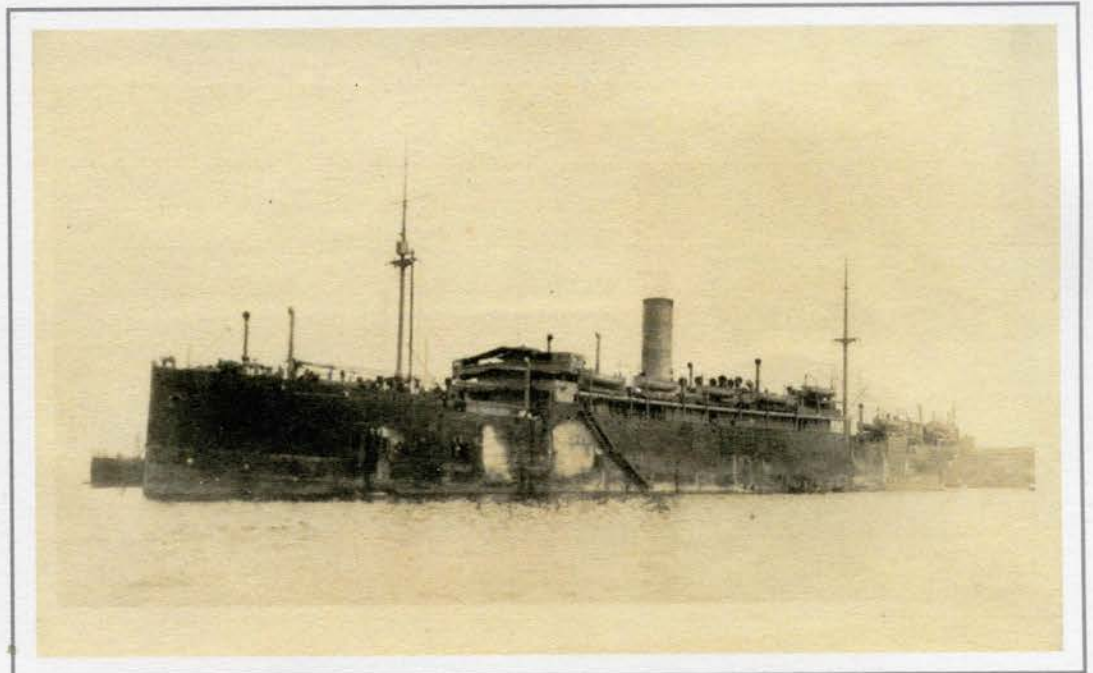
A30 "Borda": Port Melbourne, Victoria 16.9.1916 to Middle Park

Note: This is a very scarce postcard written by a sailor on the troopship A30 "Borda" returning from the 21st Convoy. He writes "This is a photo of the ship taken while in Naples", which was the final destination of the "Borda" on the 21st Convoy. The ship was returning to start the 26th Convoy starting in Sydney, and only stopped over in Melbourne for a couple of hours on the 16th September. He writes that he will be back in a couple of weeks. The "Borda" returned and docked at Melbourne as part of the 26th Convoy for a couple of days, leaving Melbourne on the 20th October.

Mail from sailors on the troopships is rare

A30 "Borda":

A scanned image of the reverse of this postcard showing the troopship docked at Naples on the 30th July 1916 as part of the 21st Convoy.



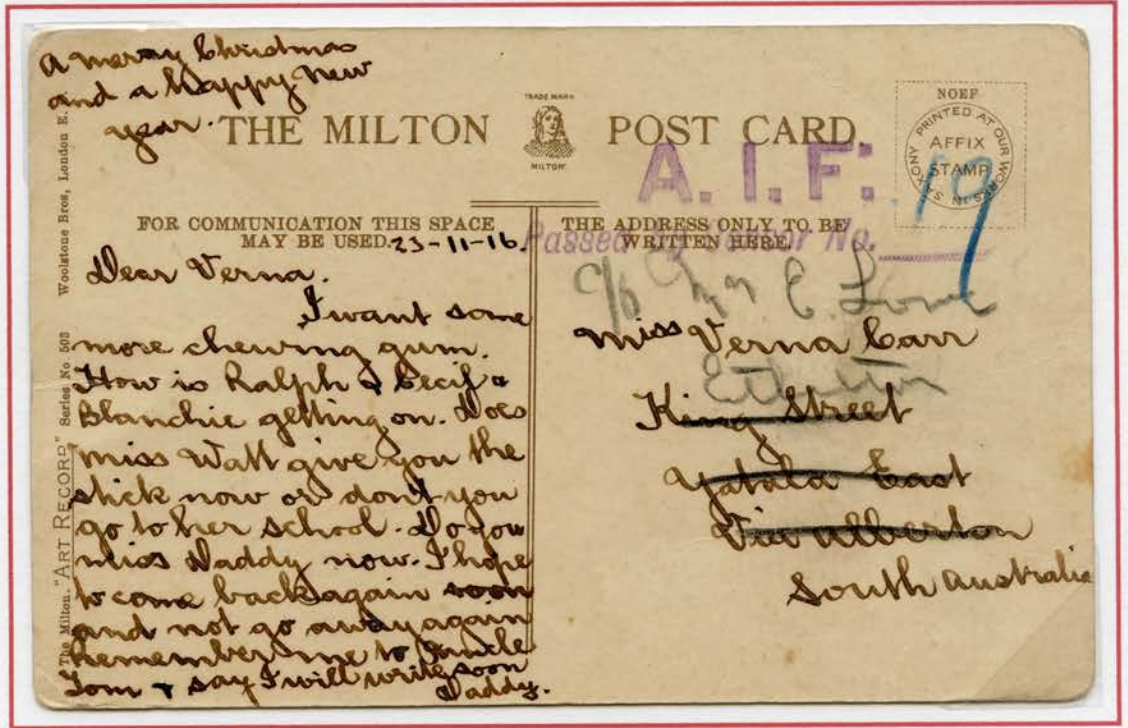
The Twenty Sixth Convoy

30th September - 28th December 1916

The first port of call of the A19 "Afric" - Port Natal, South Africa

27th November 1916

An unlisted troopship censor cachet



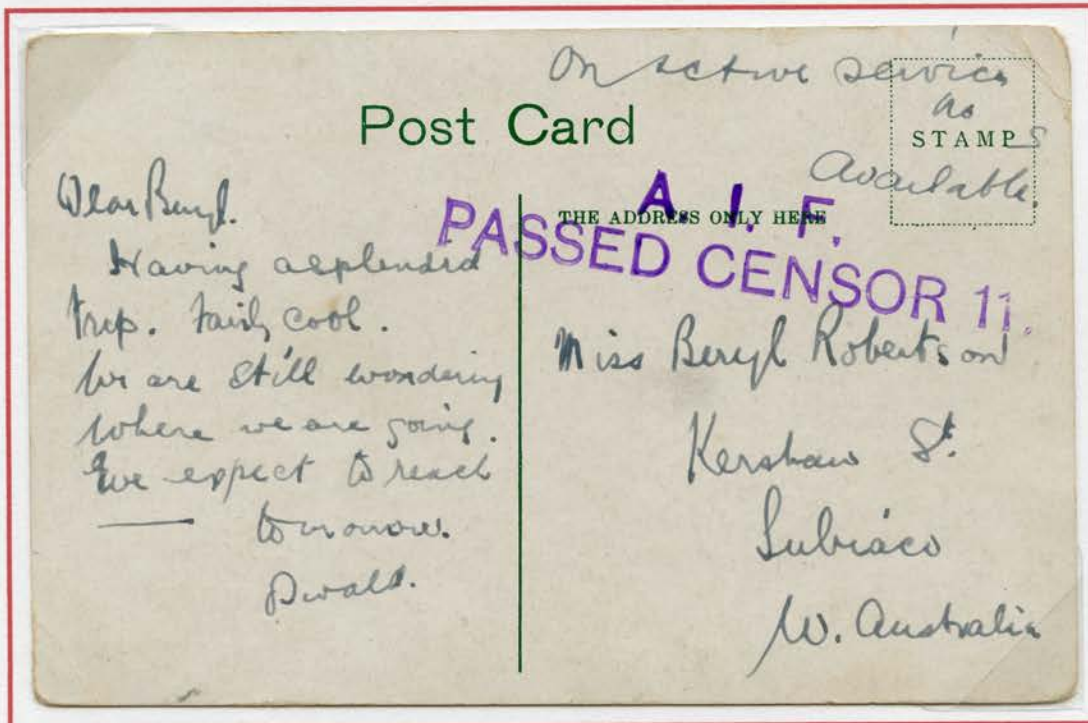
The card was written by Private Alexander Carr of the 27th Infantry Battalion who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 7th July 1919.

A19 "Afric": Port Natal, South Africa 23.11.1916 to South Australia

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by censor No. ____" handstamp in violet (not listed by Finlayson) with manuscript number "19" in blue.

The final port of call of the A11 "Ascanius" - Liverpool, England

30th December 1916



A11 "Ascanius": Liverpool, England 30.12.1916 to Western Australia

Postal markings: "A.I.F./PASSED CENSOR 11" handstamp in purple (not listed by Finlayson).

The only recorded example of this troopship handstamp