

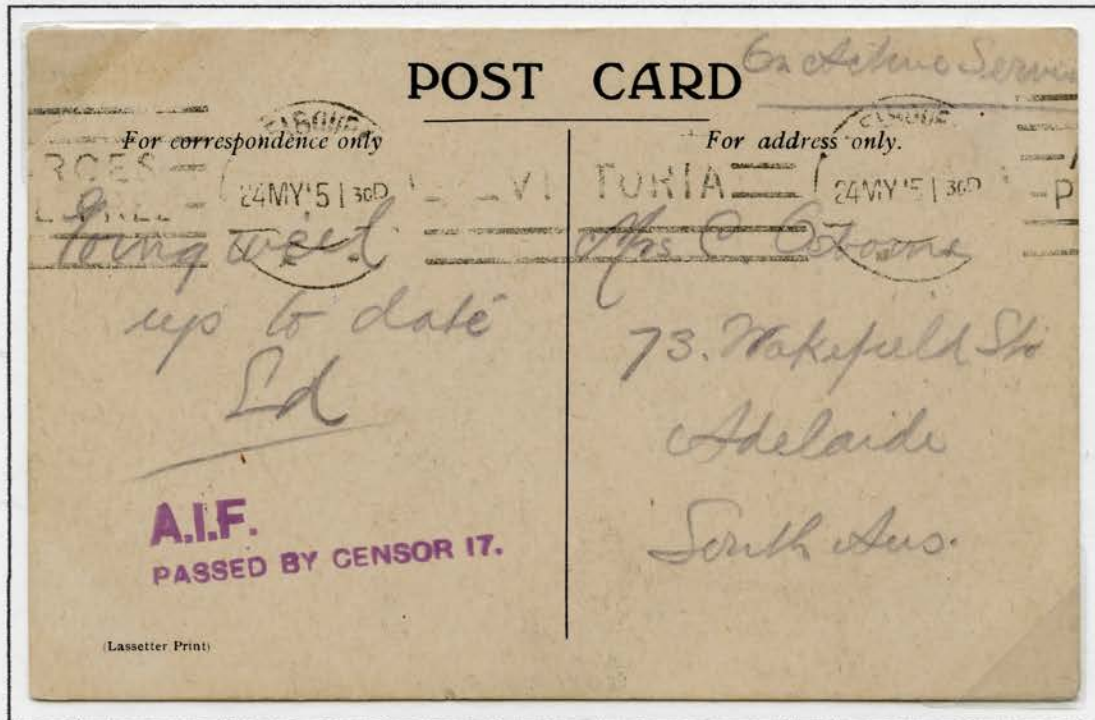
## The Fourth Convoy

7<sup>th</sup> March - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1915

The Fourth Convoy consisted of only five ships which by-passed Colombo, docking at their final destinations of either Port Said, or Alexandria.

The final destination for the A17 "Port Lincoln"- Suez, Egypt

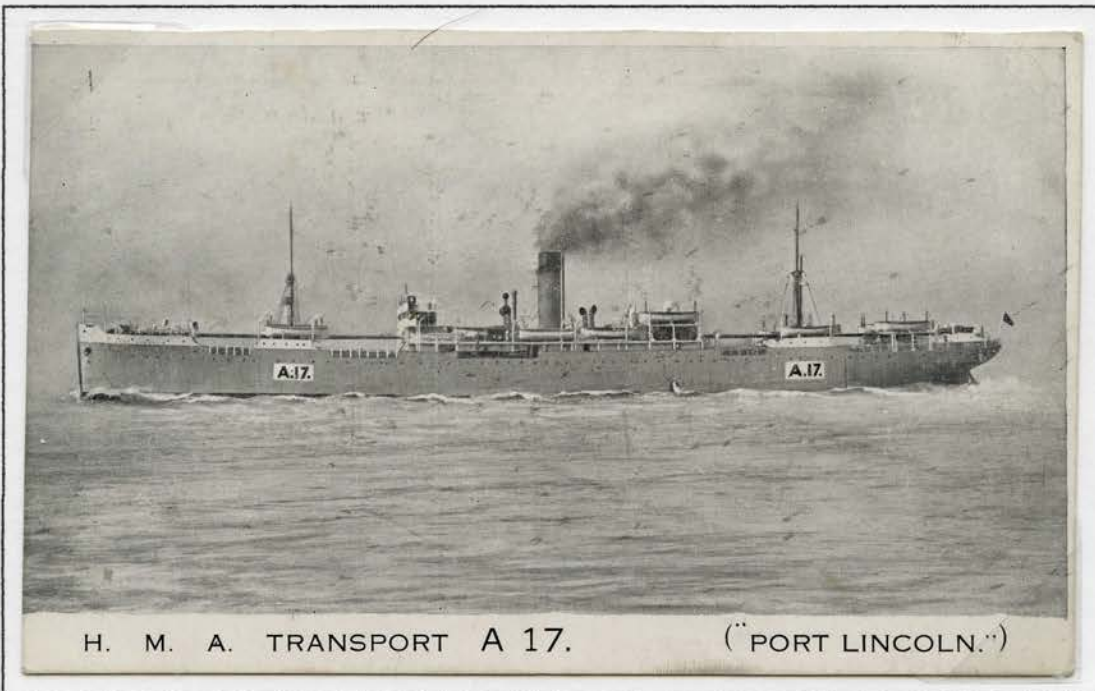
26<sup>th</sup> April 1915



**A17 "Port Lincoln":** Suez, Egypt on the 26.4.1915 to South Australia

**Postal markings:** "A.I.F./PASSED BY CENSOR 17" handstamp in violet (Finlayson Type MCM 15).

**Note:** The troopship departed Adelaide on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1915 and this card was bagged on arrival at Suez on the 26<sup>th</sup>. It was carried by the R.M.S. "Mooltan" from Suez to Australia, where it entered the postal system at Melbourne on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.



### **A17 "Port Lincoln":**

A real "photo" postcard of the troopship written at sea three days after leaving Adelaide for Suez.

Unusually, this card was not censored. The name of the ship and "A17" on the hull should have been inked out by the censor before being posted.

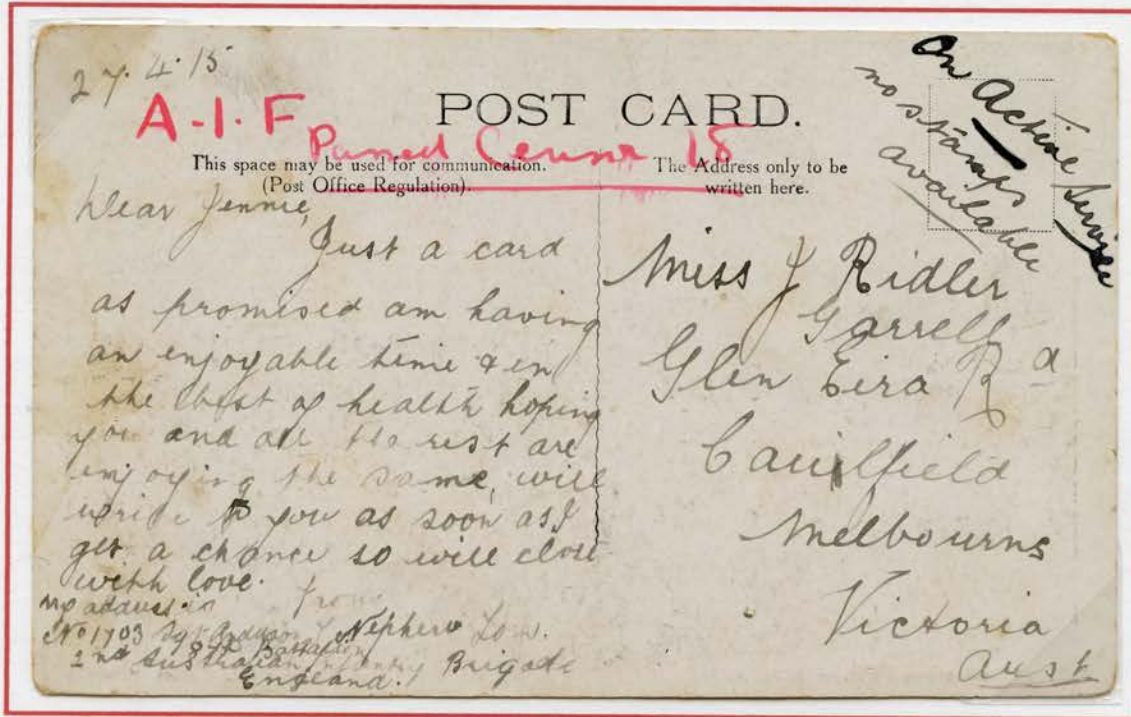
# The Fourth Convoy

7<sup>th</sup> March - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1915

The final destination for the A18 "Wiltshire" - Port Said, Egypt

24<sup>th</sup> April 1915

## A rare maritime manuscript censor



A18 "Wiltshire": Port Said, Egypt 27.4.1915 to Victoria

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed Censor 18" manuscript in red in a similar style to the official cachets. This is the only example recorded.

Note: This card was written by Private Thomas Anderson who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for an attack on a pillbox in Ypres on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917. Promoted to Lieutenant, he was further awarded the Military Cross for bravery at Rosiers on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1918. He survived the war and returned to Australia on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1919.

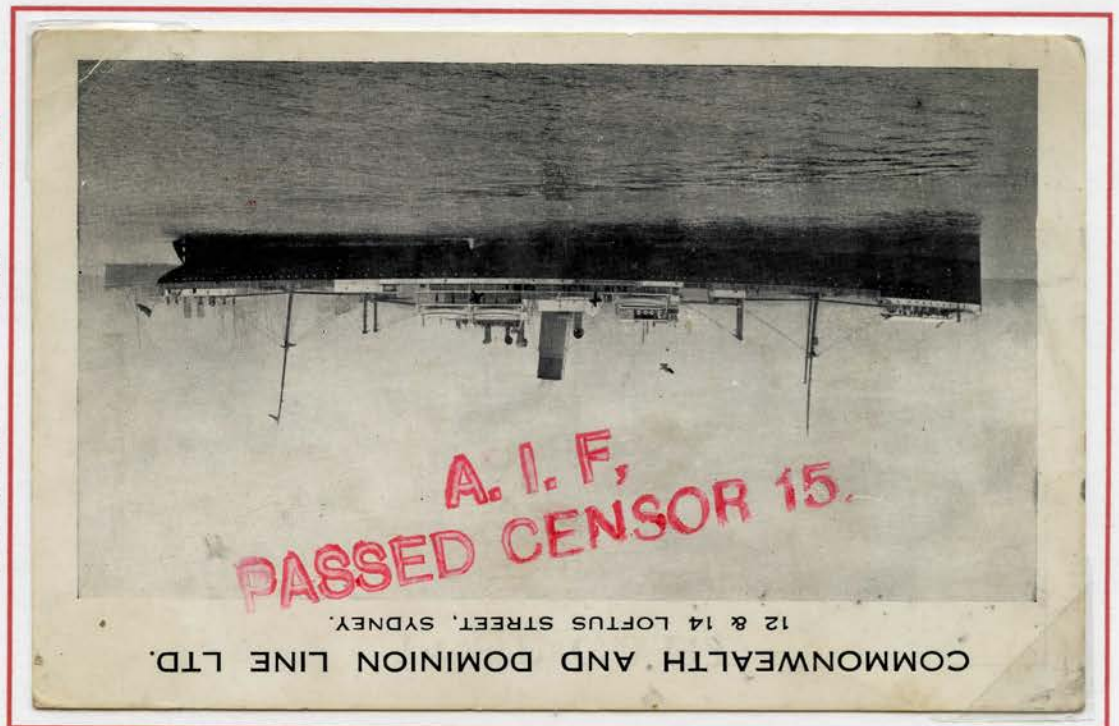
The final destination for the A15 "Star of England" - Suez, Egypt

15<sup>th</sup> May 1915

Postal markings: "A.I.F./PASSED CENSOR 15." handstamp in rose (Finlayson Type MCM 17).

One of the few recorded examples of this handstamp

Note: This card was written by Private Thomas Brunton of the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion who served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1919.



A15 "Star of England": Suez, Egypt on the 15.5.1915 to Tasmania

## The Fifth Convoy

10<sup>th</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> June 1915

The Fifth Convoy comprised of six ships which took different routes on the way to Egypt, with ships docking at Colombo and Bombay on the way to Egypt.

### Preparations for the Fifth Convoy

March 1915

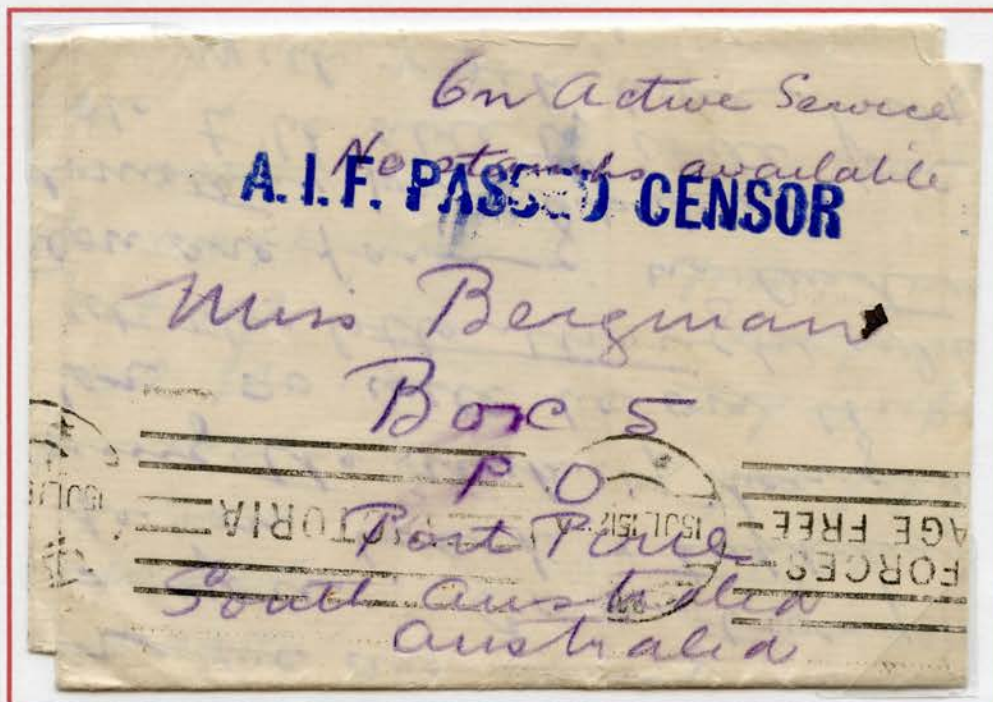


A20 "Hororata": Outer Harbour, South Australia 7.3.1915 to New South Wales

This postcard of Karnak, Egypt was written by Jasper Armstrong, a crew member on the "Horarata" which was returning from the First Convoy and on the way to Sydney for the first embarkation of troops for the 5<sup>th</sup> Convoy.

### The final destination for the A55 "Kyarra", Port Said, Egypt

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1915



A55 "Kyarra": Port Said, Egypt 3.6.1915 to South Australia

Postal markings: "A.I.F. PASSED CENSOR" handstamp in blue (Finlayson MSM 8/A)

**Note:** The A55 "Kyarra" was the only ship in the Fifth Convoy to call at Colombo. The letter reads "we called into Colombo for coal, but were not allowed to land much to our disgust".

## The Sixth Convoy

8<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> August 1915

The Sixth Convoy comprised of sixteen ships which took different routes on the way to Egypt, with ships docking at Colombo and Bombay on the way to Suez or Port Said in Egypt.

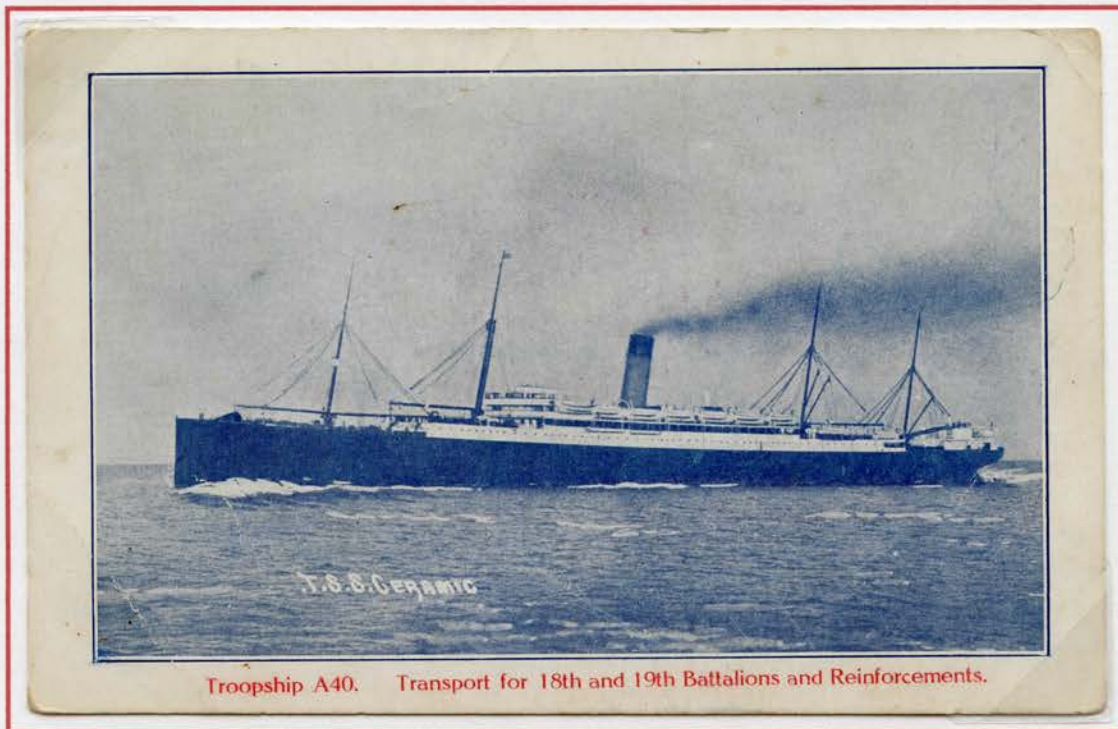
## Preparations for the Sixth Convoy of the A40 "Ceramic" at Sydney

April 1915

### A40 "Ceramic":

A scan of the reverse of the postcard below illustrating a colourful message side.

Although dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 1915, the soldier writes at the base that they left Sydney on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.



**A40 "Ceramic":** A rare overprinted postcard which contravenes the censorship laws by designating the troopship number and the army units that will be embarking.

**Only a couple of examples recorded of this overprinted troopship card**

## The Sixth Convoy

Preparations for the Sixth Convoy of the A14 "Euripides" at Sydney

8<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> August 1915

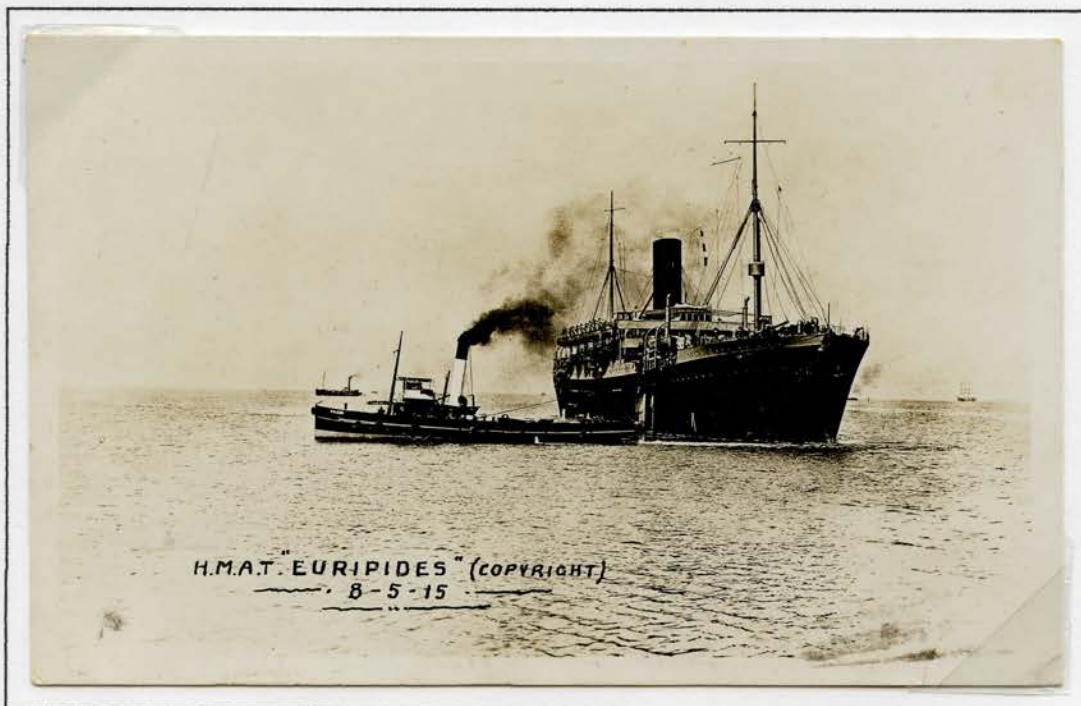
April 1915



**A14 "Euripides"**: A rare real photo postcard of officers and crew in Sydney dated April 1915 on the reverse in preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> Convoy.

Prior to embarkation of the A14 "Euripides" at Melbourne

8<sup>th</sup> May



### **A14 "Euripides"**:

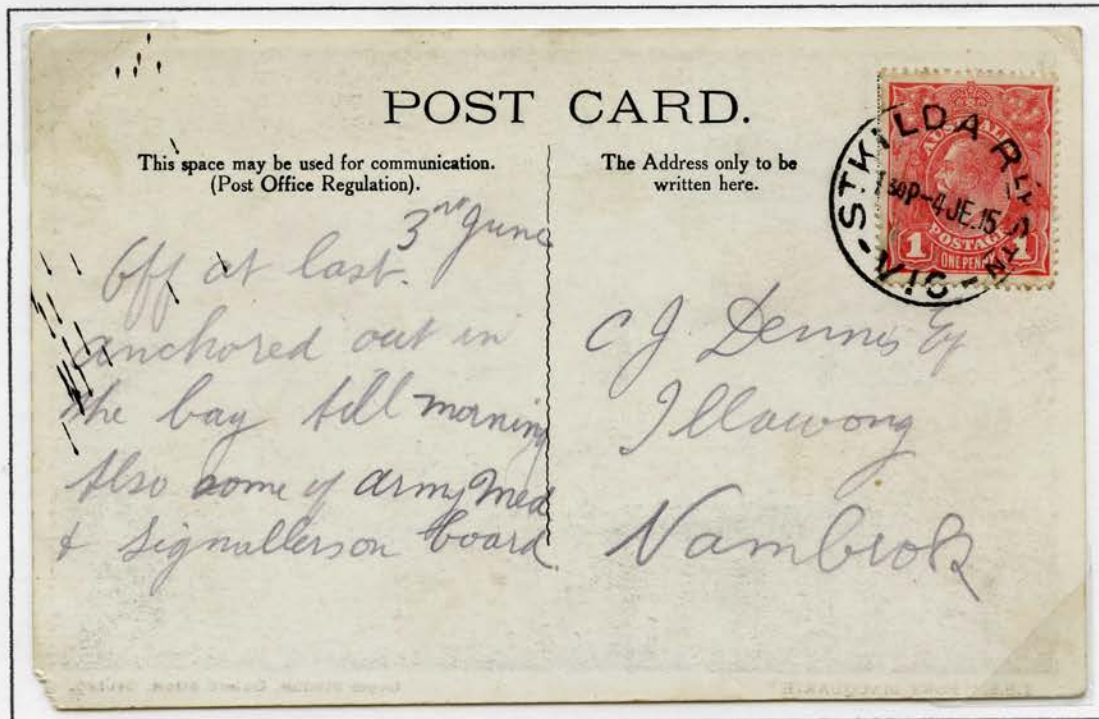
A real photo postcard dated "8-5-15" the day she sailed from Melbourne, published by Josiah Barnes, an official embarkation photographer from WW1.

## The Sixth Convoy

Prior to embarkation of the A39 "Port Macquarie" at Melbourne

8<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> August 1915

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1915

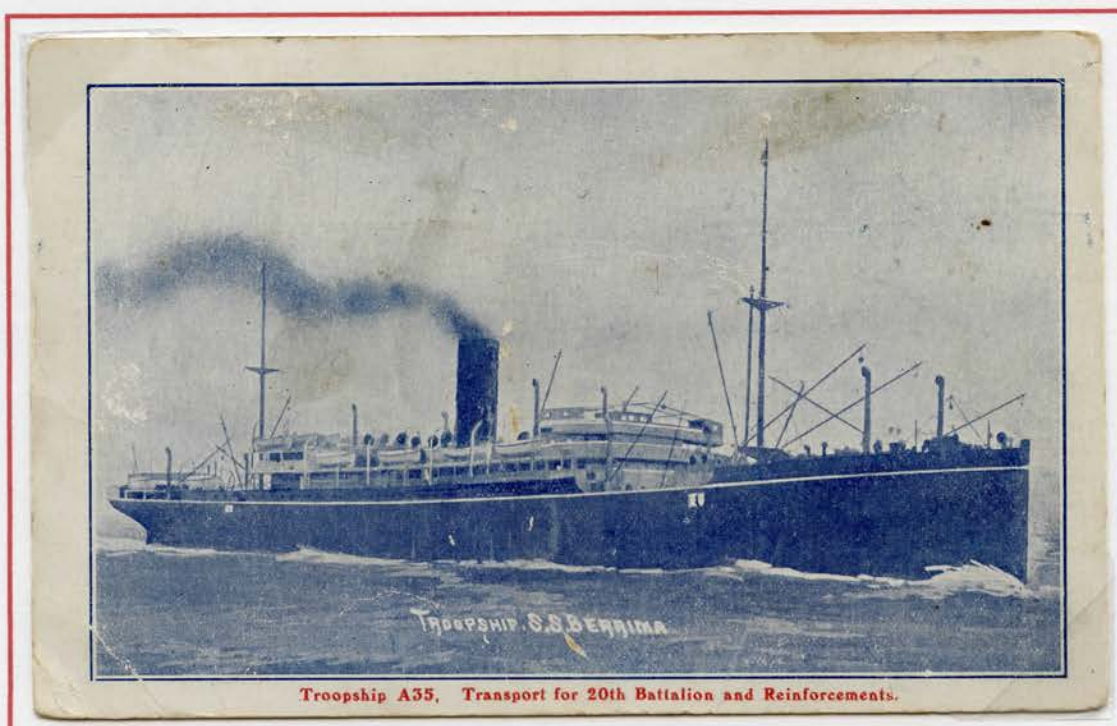


**A39 "Port Macquarie":** St. Kilda, Victoria 3.6.1915 to Nambrook, Victoria

**Note:** This card was posted the day the "Port Macquarie" embarked from Melbourne for Suez. The card reads, "Off at last. Anchored out in the bay all morning". Although on active service and eligible for free postage, this card had pre-payment of 1d postage. It was written by Lieutenant John Dennis who served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 12.7.1919.

Prior to embarkation of the A35 "Berrima" at Sydney

26<sup>th</sup> June 1915



The only recorded example of this overprinted card.

**A35 "Berrima":** A postcard of the troopship overprinted in red in Sydney for the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion prior to embarkation to Egypt on the 26.6.1915.



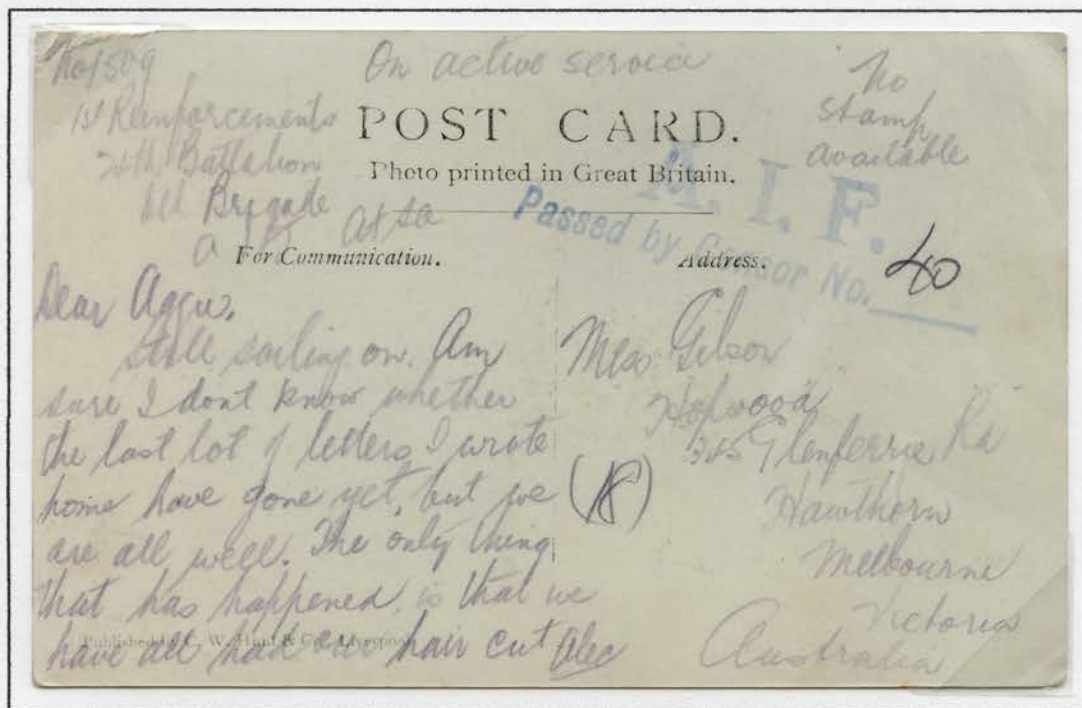
A40 "Ceramic": Melbourne, Victoria 28.6.1915 to New South Wales

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by Censor No....." censor handstamp in blue (Finlayson Type MCM I/J) with "40" inserted in manuscript

Note: The lettercard was written by Private Randolph Edge of the 18th Infantry Battalion which left Sydney on the 25th June and docked at Melbourne the following day. He was killed in action at Gallipoli on the 27th August during the charge at Hill 60.

The A40 "Ceramic" on route to Suez

July 1915



A40 "Ceramic": Suez, Egypt 20.7.1915 to Victoria

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by Censor No....." censor handstamp in blue (Finlayson Type MCM I/J) with "40" inserted in manuscript

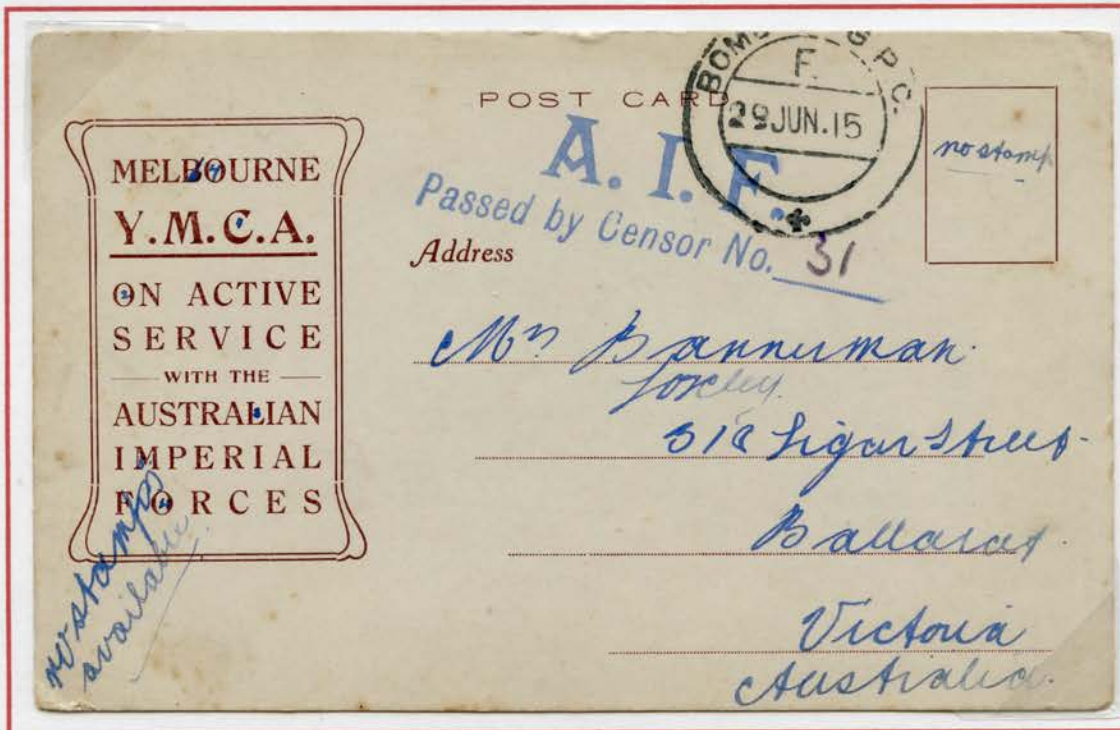
Note: Unusually this postcard does not have any date stamps. It was penned by a soldier from the "1st Reinforcements/24th Battalion/6th Brigade", bagged and posted on arrival at Suez on the 20th July.

**The Sixth Convoy**

**The second port of call of the A31 "Ajana" at Bombay, India**

**8th May - 1st August 1915**

**29th June 1915**



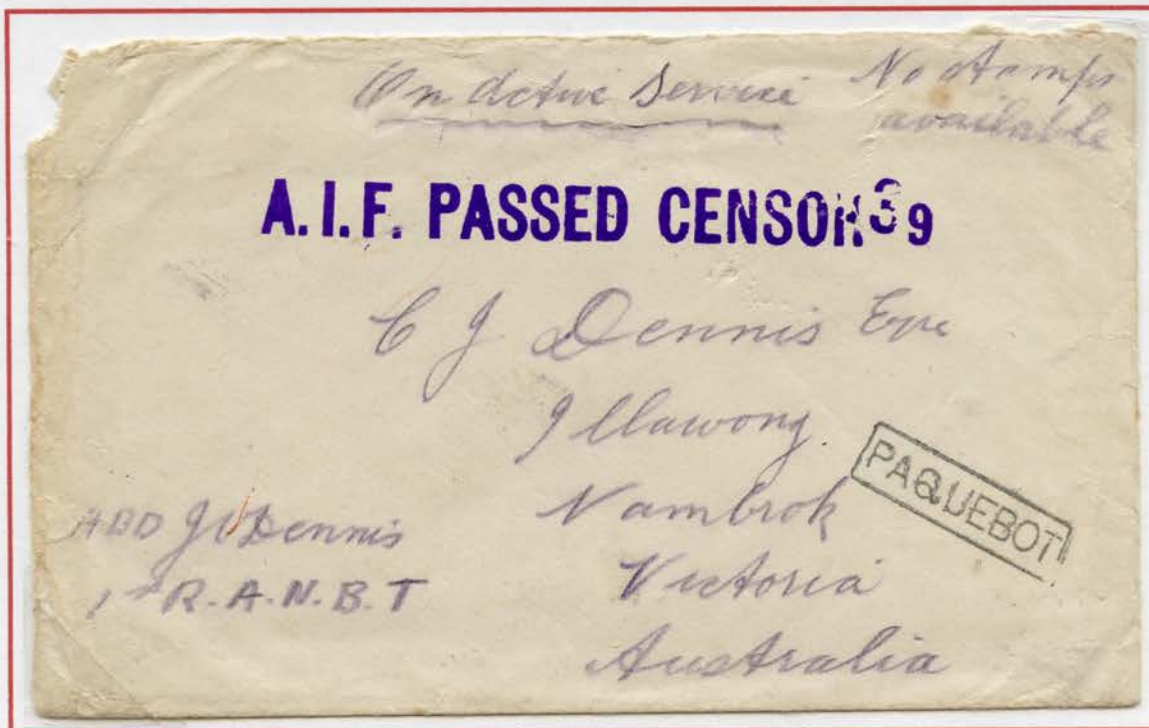
**A31 "Ajana":** Bombay, India 29.6.1915 to Victoria

**Postal markings:** "A.I.F./Passed by Censor No \_\_\_\_\_" in blue (Finlayson Type MCM I/J), with "31" in manuscript

The card was written by Driver Percy Bannerman of the 6th Field Ambulance who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 19th February 1919.

**The first port of call of the A39 "Port Macquarie" at Bombay, India**

**3rd July 1915**



**A39 "Port Macquarie":** Bombay, India 3.7.1915 to Victoria

**Postal markings:** "A.I.F. PASSED CENSOR 39" in purple (not listed by Finlayson); "PAQUEBOT" handstamp in black applied at Ceylon.

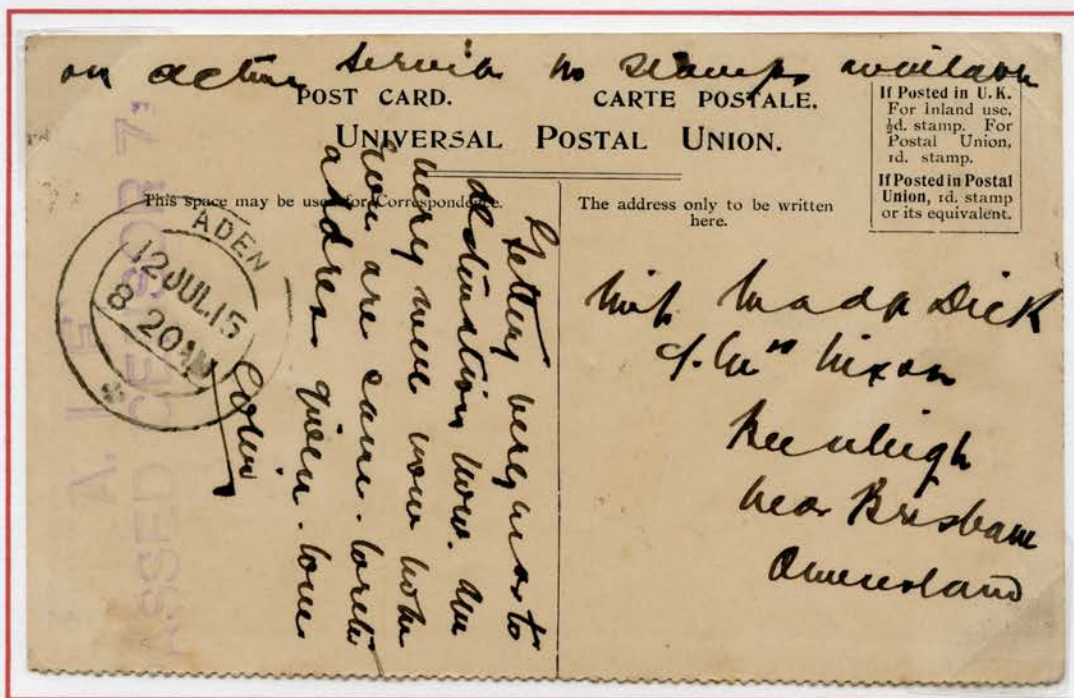
**Note:** This troopship mainly carried horses, which is confirmed by the letter dated the 30th June and written by Lieutenant John Dennis: "Had a rough trip across and lost a terrible crowd of horses as the boat rolled badly. Over 80 altogether, 25 dying the last two nights". Mail from troopships carrying mainly horses is very scarce.

## The Sixth Convoy

The first port of call of the A7 "Medic" - Aden

8<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> August 1915

12<sup>th</sup> July 1915



**A7 "Medic":** A postcard of the "Medic" used from Aden 12.7.1915 to Queensland

**Postal markings:** "A.I.F./Passed Censor 7" cachet in violet (not listed by Finlayson).

The only recorded example of this censor cachet

The final destination of the A19 "Afric" - Alexandria, Egypt

26<sup>th</sup> June 1915



### **A19 "Afric":**

A rare photograph of the troopship docked at Alexandria unloading horses on to the dock.

For the 6<sup>th</sup> Convoy, the "Afric" carried only horses and reinforcements for the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment.

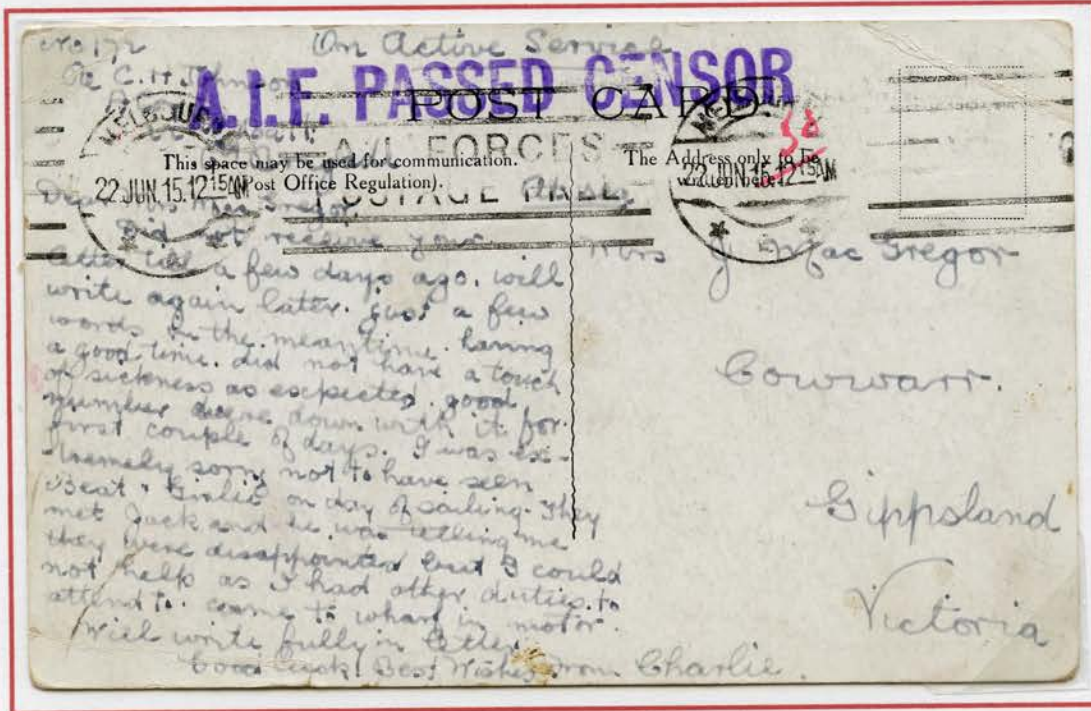
**The Sixth Convoy**

8th May - 1st August 1915

The final destination of the A38 "Ulysses" at Port Said, Egypt

24th May 1915

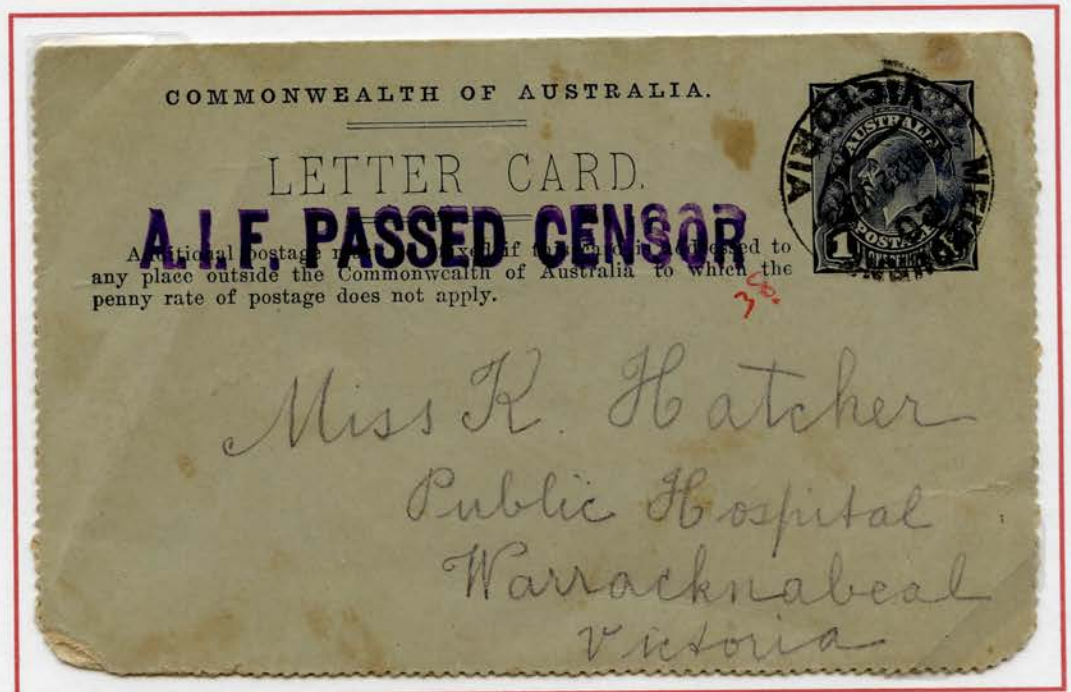
**An unlisted troopship cachet**



**A38 "Ulysses":** A postcard of the troopship used from Port Said, Egypt 24.5.1915 to Victoria

**Postal markings:** "A.I.F. PASSED CENSOR" cachet in violet (not listed by Finlayson) with manuscript "38" in red

**Note:** On the reverse, the card is censored with the ships name removed. The "Ulysses" docked at Port Said on the 24th May where the card was placed in the "bagged mail" and shipped to Melbourne, arriving on the 22nd June. The card was written by Private Charles Johnson of the 22nd Infantry Battalion.



**A38 "Ulysses":** Port Said, Egypt 24.5.1915 to Victoria

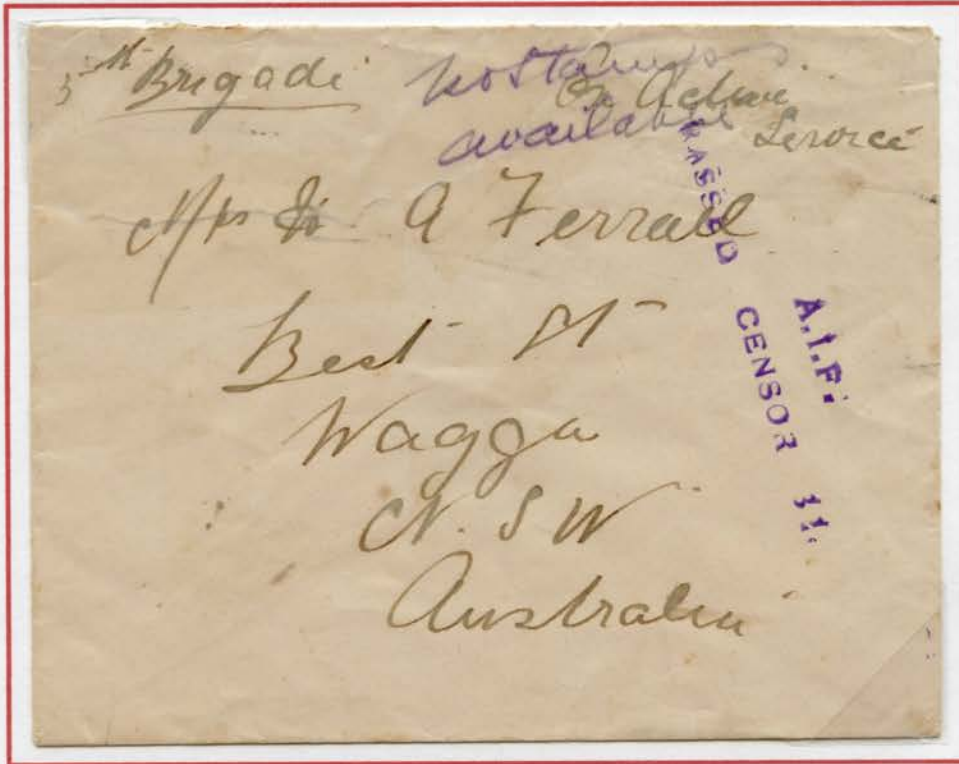
**Postal markings:** "A.I.F. PASSED CENSOR" cachet in violet (not listed by Firebrace) with manuscript "38" in red

## The Sixth Convoy

The final destination of the A32 "Themistocles" at Suez, Egypt

8<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> August 1915

14<sup>th</sup> June 1915

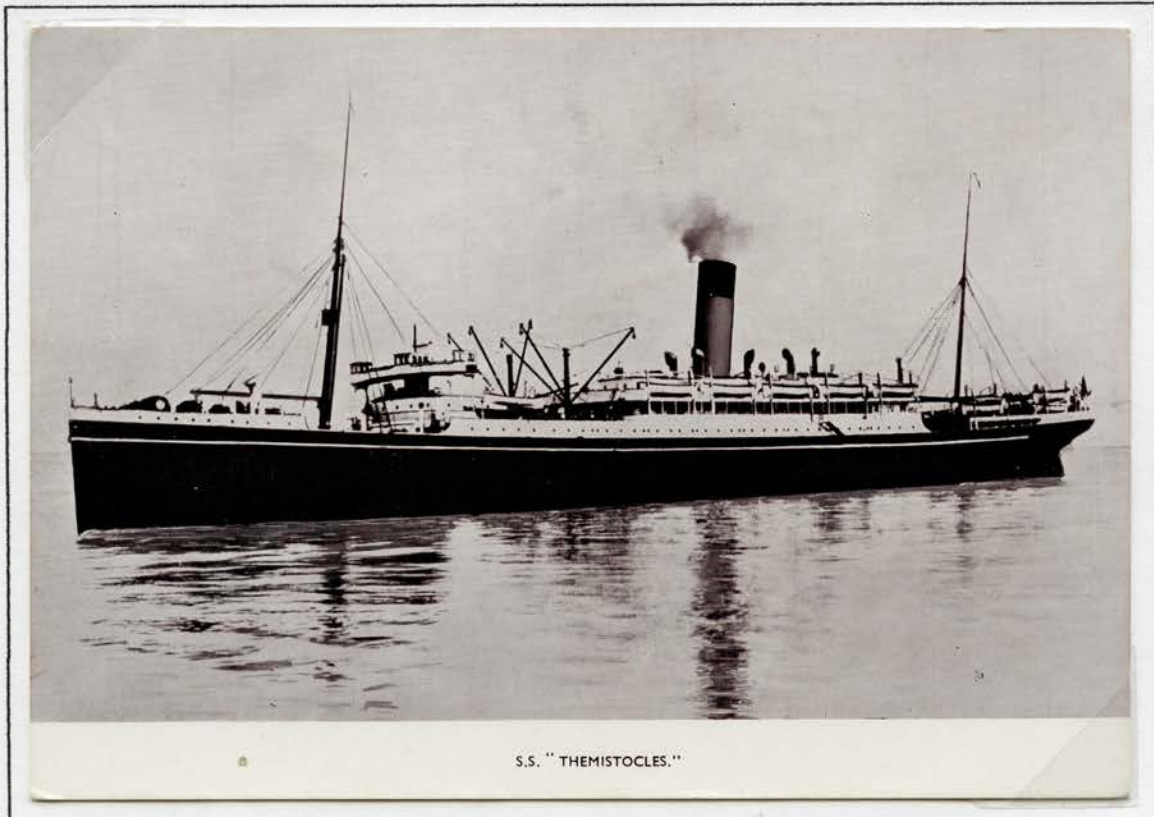


A32 "Themistocles": Suez, Egypt to New South Wales

Postal markings: "A.I.F./ PASSED CENSOR 32" handstamp in purple (not listed by Finlayson).

**Note:** Although the ship's number is not clear, there is another cover from this correspondence confirming the allocation to the "Themistocles". The envelope was written by Private Herbert Ferrall of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion who served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1919.

*Ex Stern*



S.S. "THEMISTOCLES."

A32 "Themistocles": A postcard of the ship prior to the war when it was a civilian liner

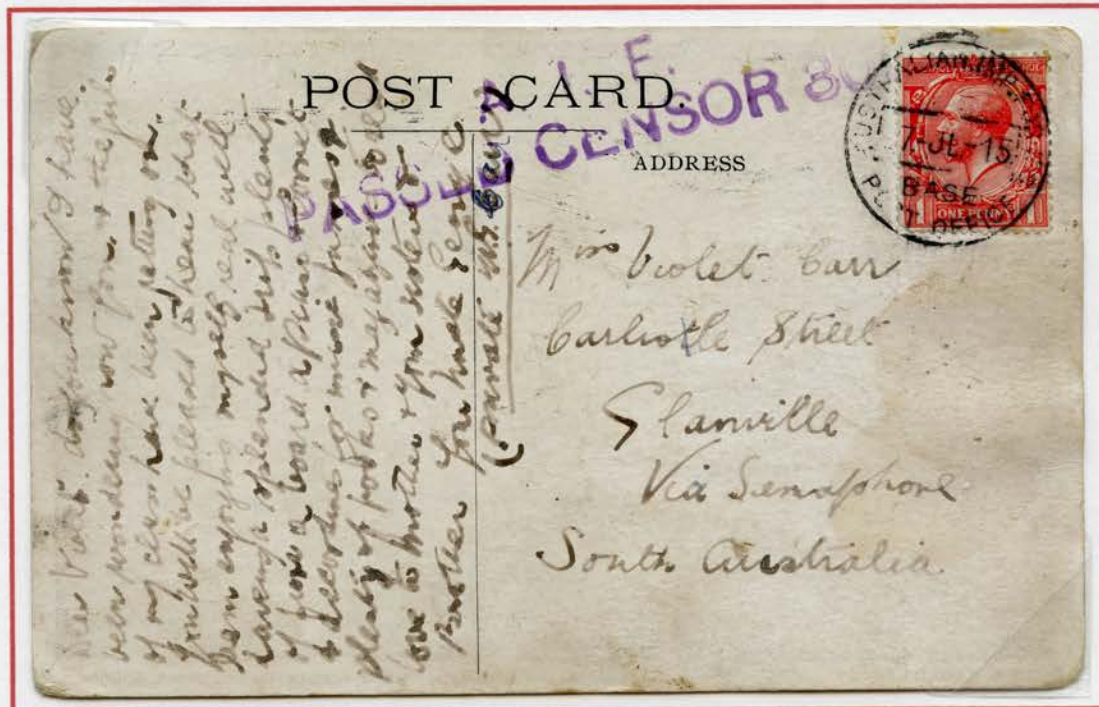
# The Sixth Convoy

8th May - 1st August 1915

The final destination of the A30 "Borda" at Port Said, Egypt

23rd July 1915

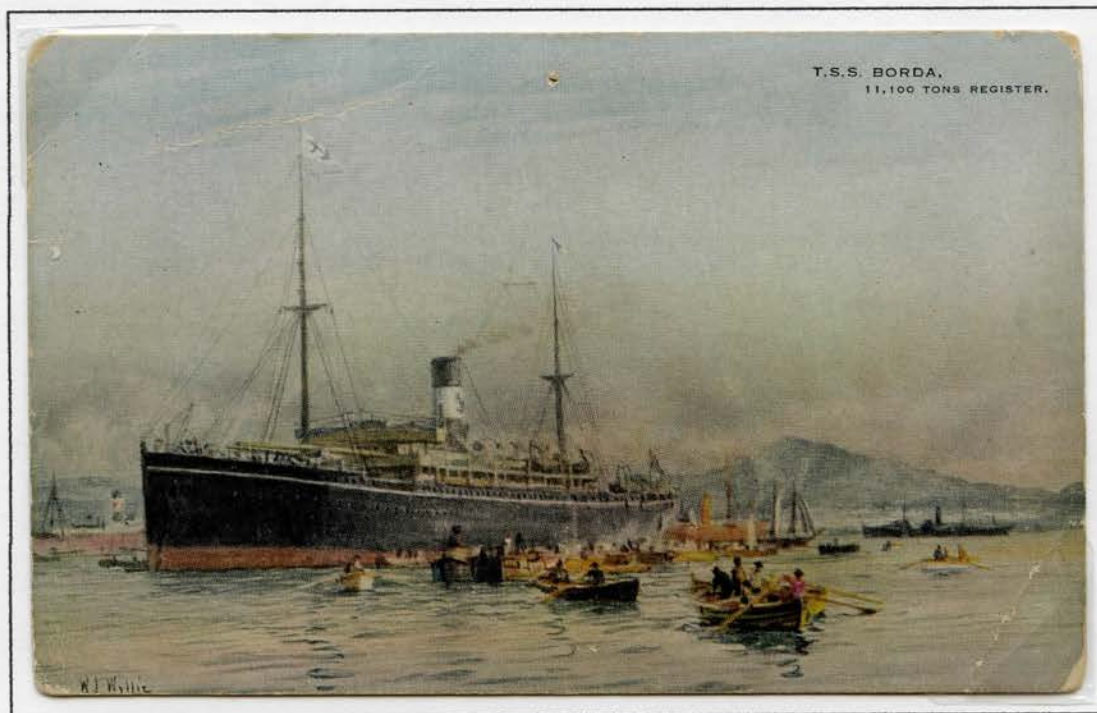
## An unlisted troopship cachet



**Note:** The card is unusually franked by a Great Britain stamp, indicating prepayment of postage, and cancelled by the Base post office datestamp of the 27.7.1915 at Alexandria.

A30 "Borda": Port Said, Egypt 27.7.1915 to South Australia

Postal markings: "A.I.F./PASSED CENSOR 30" in violet (not listed by Finlayson)



A30 "Borda": A postcard of the ship prior to the war when it was a civilian liner



## The Ninth Convoy

7<sup>th</sup> June - 28<sup>th</sup> October 1915

There were eight transport ships on the Ninth Convoy, embarking troops from all the Australian states except Tasmania. There were no stops on the sub-continent, with final docking at either Suez or Port Said in Egypt.

### The departure of the A67 "Orsova" - Melbourne, Victoria

17<sup>th</sup> July 1915

#### A67 "Orsova":

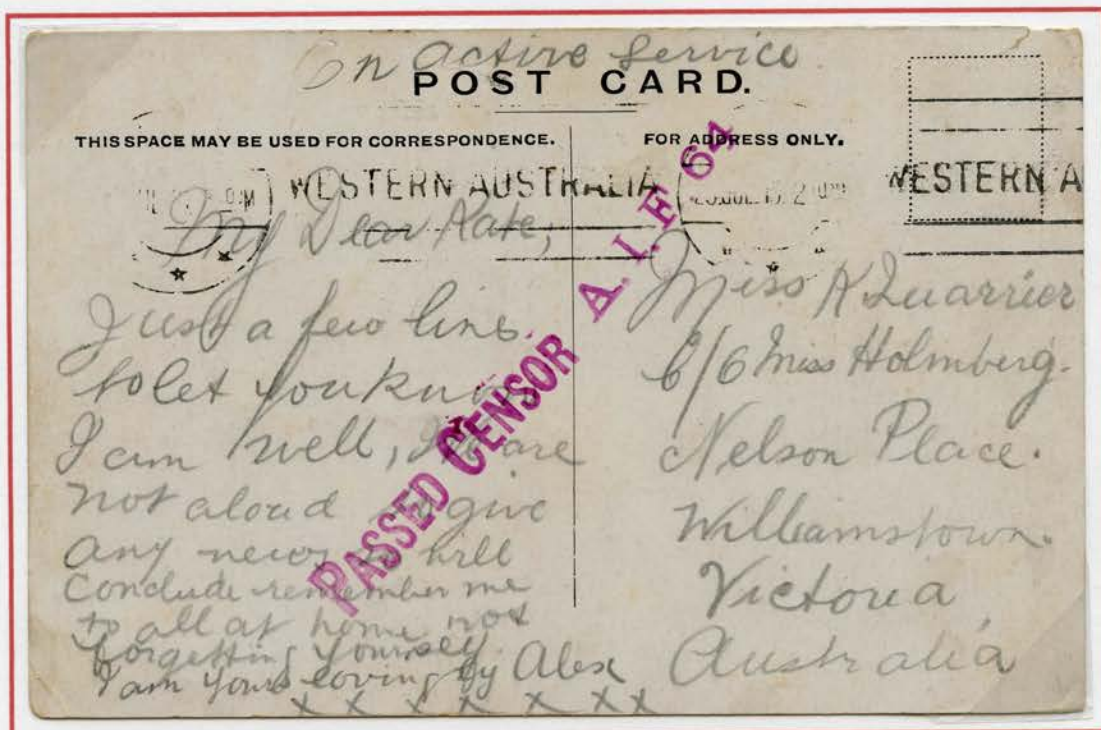
A real photo postcard of the troopship dated the 17.7.1915 and published by Josiah Barnes, an official embarkation photographer of WW1.



### Stop over of the A64 "Demosthenes" at Fremantle, Western Australia

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1915

#### An unlisted troopship cachet



A64 "Demosthenes": Fremantle, Western Australia 23.7.1915 to Victoria

Postal markings: "PASSED CENSOR" handstamp and the "A.I.F. 64" in reddish purple (both not listed by Finlayson) allocated to the A64 "Demosthenes".

This combination of two censor cachets is very rare, with only two examples recorded of these handstamps

# The Tenth Convoy

The departure of the A68 "Anchises" at Fremantle, Western Australia

28<sup>th</sup> July - 29<sup>th</sup> September 1915

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1915

Not all communications to loved ones just before embarking were sent via the postal system.

Below is a rare telegram sent by Private Oscar Stahl of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion to his mother in Kalgoorlie informing here that he had left for Egypt that day.

After serving at Gallipoli, Private Stahl was sent to France where he died of wounds on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

NOTE: The Figures at the bottom represent time received at this Office.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

K.T. 2.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 22

OFFICE DATE STAMP.



## TELEGRAM.

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.  
All complaints to be addressed in writing to the Deputy Postmaster General.

Station from, No. of Words, Check, and Time Lodged.

Remarks.

Fremantle 16 1/ 48 53opF

Mrs FA Stahl

74 Ward St Kalg

Left today give my love to all Oscar

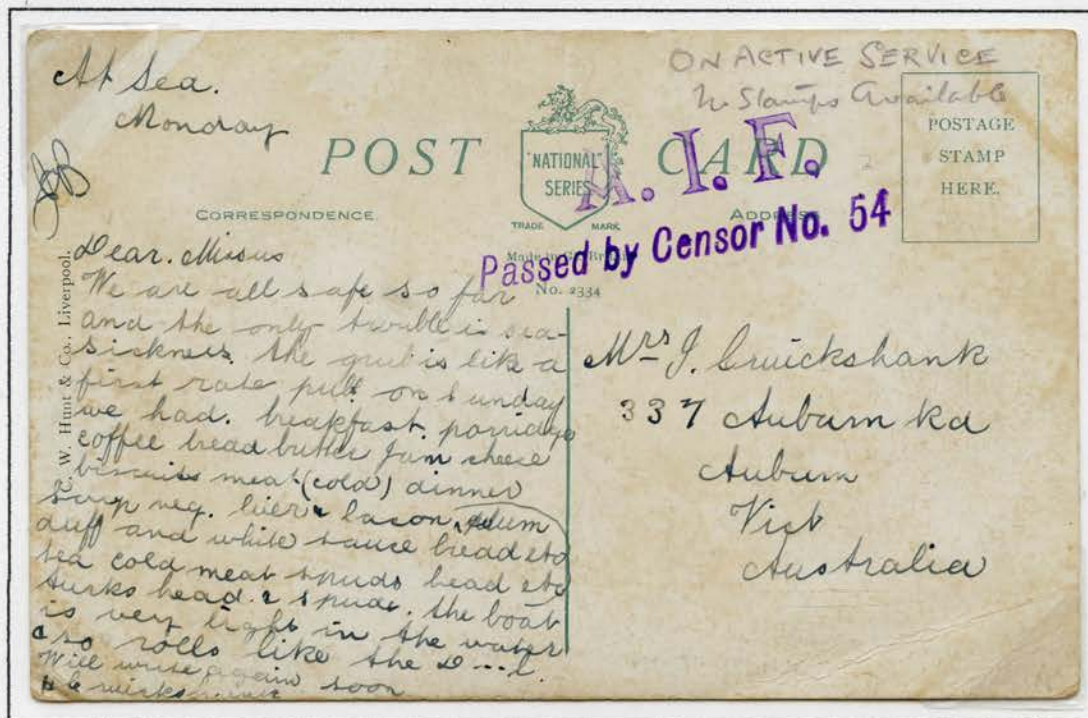
## The Tenth Convoy

28<sup>th</sup> July - 29<sup>th</sup> September 1915

There were five transport ships on the Tenth Convoy, with no stopovers on the sub continent. All of them docked directly at either Suez, Alexandria or Port Said in Egypt.

### The final destination of the A54 "Runic" - Suez, Egypt

9<sup>th</sup> September 1915



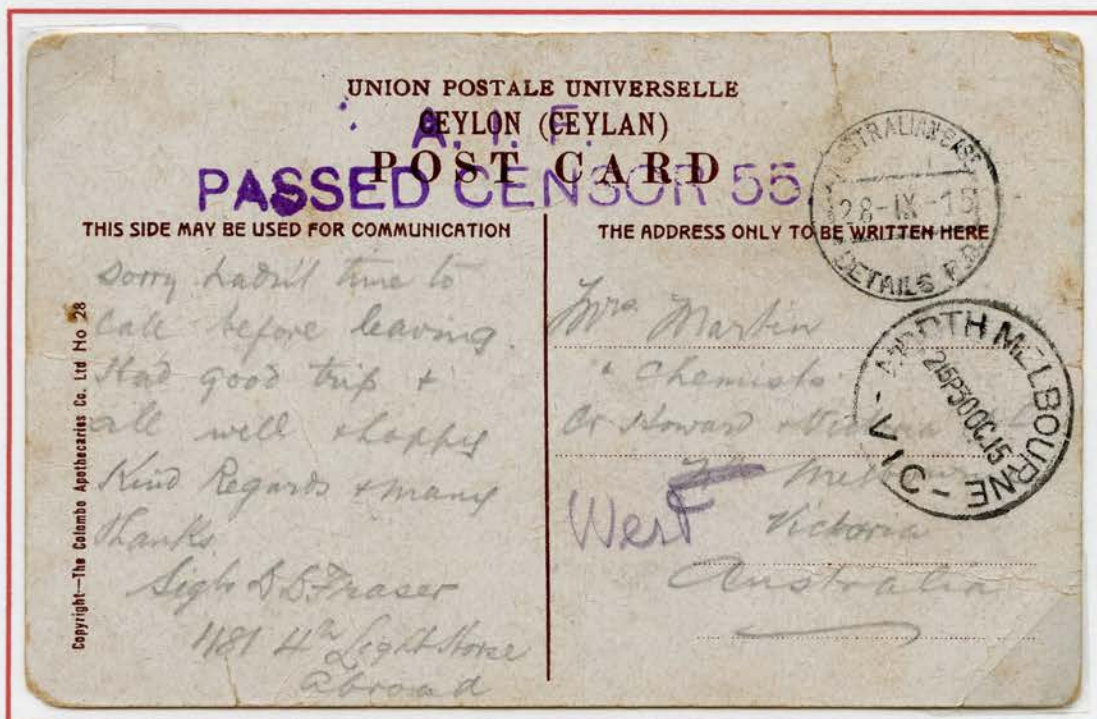
A54 "Runic": Suez, Egypt 9.9.1915 to Victoria

Postal markings: "A.I.F./Passed by Censor No. 54" handstamp in purple (Finlayson Type MCM 1/G)

The card was written by Lance Corporal Walter Cruickshank of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, who was killed in action at Villers Bretonneux on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

### The final destination of the A55 "Kyarra" - Alexandria, Egypt

28<sup>th</sup> September 1915



The card was written by Signaler David Fraser of the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment.

A55 "Kyarra": Alexandria, Egypt on the 28.9.1915 to Victoria

Postal markings: "A.I.F./ PASSED CENSOR 55" handstamp in purple (Finlayson Type MCM 20).

Only a couple of examples are recorded of this maritime censor cachet