

# CARDBOARD LETTERS

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Anzac Cove, 10 July 1915

“Do not be surprised if you get a cardboard letter sometimes.”

The landing took place on the 25 April 1915, and the bulk of the force was still at the beachhead in July 1915 some ten weeks later. The Supply of writing materials was very critical and was made far worse with the sinking of the St. Louis V, which was one of the main supply trawlers.

## ANZAC COVE - GALLIPOLI



Posted 7 June 1915  
Letter written 30 May 1915  
(Reverse plain & blank)

Extracts of letters published in the publication  
*Letters from Gallipoli* by Glyn Harper  
Auckland University Press, 2011

20 June 1915

“The official prohibition of correspondence has at last been removed. Issued with a piece of paper and envelope...waiting for the supply ship... been on Anzac Cove now for six weeks”

ANZAC COVE - GALLIPOLI



Posted 10 June 1915  
Letter written 30 May 1915



Reverse - being a part of a soap packet (Ottoman Empire hieroglyphics)

Posted 10 June 1915  
Letter written 30 May 1915

10 July 1915

“Your letter yesterday was the first I have received since we left New Zealand. Mail day is a great day here at the front & you can imagine how we look forward to getting news from home.”

10 July 1915

“I cannot promise to write to all ... my stock of writing material is very limited & I have also at times had to use cardboard off tobacco boxes, and think myself lucky to even to get that...do not be surprised if you get a cardboard letter sometimes,

10 July 1915

“Just received the mail 2 letters from you and 2 letters from sister. Sent Postcards from Lemnos...mail closes very shortly...”

### ANZAC COVE – GALLIPOLI



Posted 17 June 1915

Letter written 17 June 1915

*(Reverse Plain but endorsed “Sorry there is no view on this side”)*

#### *Extracts*

14 July 1915

“Mail just arrived, received six Weeklies and 7 letters, parcel from the Liverpool Fund) Lord Liverpool) and had a good view of HMS *Triumph* when she was torpedoed” (25 May)

16 July 1915

“ I am just about out of writing material and it is a problem where one cannot get more... even a bit of cardboard is hard to get – I try to keep a little in hand so that I am sure of being able to write to Mother...”

ANZAC COVE – GALLIPOLI



Posted 28 June 1915  
Letter written 24 June 1915  
(Reverse Handstruck Insignia NZ Medical Corps)

ANZAC COVE – GALLIPOLI



Reverse showing the Insignia  
Posted 28 June 1915  
Letter written 24 June 1915



Cardboard bases from Artillery Shells used for a letter written home.  
National Army Museum, Waiouru, 2010.98.1

Prestige Philately offered the following two items in their auctions 2011

Anzac Cove

13 June 1915



Lot 951 (Reduced)

(Manufactured from tobacco box)



Lot 952 (Reduced)

The message is of interest!

*"I suppose you will think this is the latest in postcards - they are all the rage here with us... We are living in what is called 'Canterbury Gully' in little holes in the sides thereof with a blanket stretched across the front..."*

Prestige Philately Auction 2014

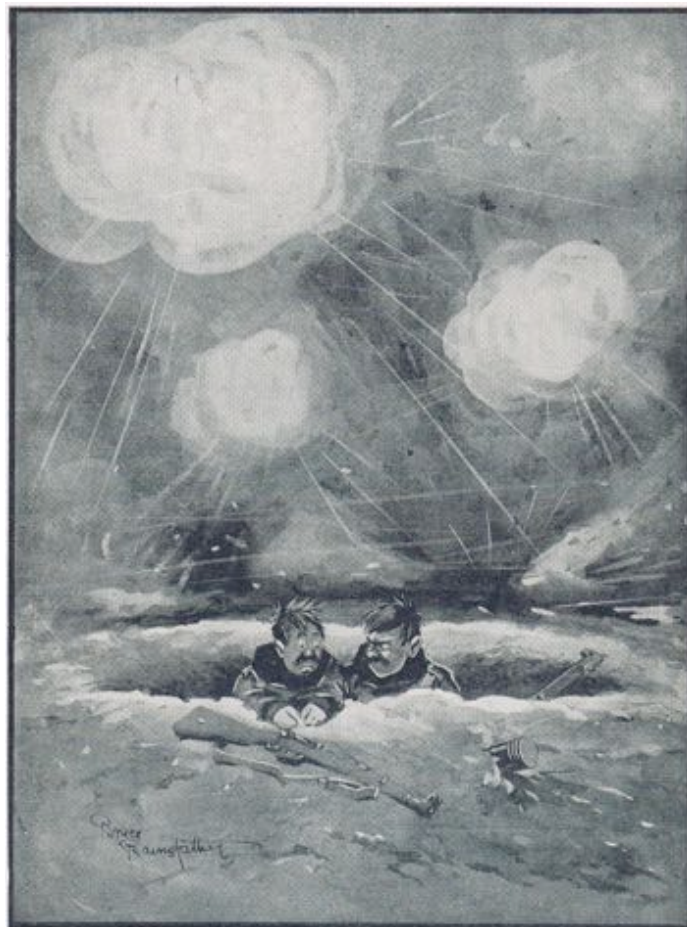
1 July 1915



Lot 1073 (Reduced)

The message reads

*Hotel Cecil – I have no paper so have made a PC from cardboard... we are dug down about 5 feet into the earth...*



“ Well, if you knows of a better 'ole, go to it ”

One of the classics by Captain Bruce Bairnsfather of “*The Bystander*”

## CARDBOARD LETTERS

### “A number 8 wire mentality”

These Cardboard Letters are just another example of “a number 8 wire mentality” and for collectors overseas, this is a term that epitomises the “**kiwi bloke**” as someone who can turn their hand to anything, meaning the ability to create anything from whatever scrap materials are available to hand.



Men from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Light Horse Regiment taking over

Any comments and examples of similar material would be appreciated.

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