

# POSTAL HISTORY OF WORLD WAR ONE

Robin Startup

Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society Inc

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# INTRODUCTION

In 1960 (16 January), Robin Startup produced his first effort at a publication to record the postal history of First World War particularly in relation to New Zealand and its forces. It was very limited in number and was produced basically by typing multiple copies by means of carbon paper. The publication was not sold but the copies produced were given to colleagues and fellow postal historians. Illustrations differed with maps (including some drawn by Robin himself) and other related documents he had obtained in his own master copy, while in the other copies there were illustrations mostly from news magazines cut out and pasted onto the pages. Their original sources were not recorded.

Robin's carried out extensive research, and did get access to archives now no longer in existence, at least one lost by fire. Some of the areas covered in his original publication have been subject to extensive further research and other publications being produced, but by his own account, not all information he found and used has been subsequently published elsewhere.

This therefore forms the basis of this publication, with reproduces the original 1960 work with a two fold purpose. The first is to make an early work of Robin Startup, one of the premier postal historians here in New Zealand, available to a wider audience. The second is to allow future researchers access to information Robin accessed but which is no longer available.

The question of course is what is that information no longer accessible that will make this publication useful. The publishers have made no attempt to determine where or what this information is. It is entirely up to those using this publication to determine the validity of anything contained in it.

Where there are areas where we do know there has been considerable further research since 1960, we have added an editorial comment for the assistance of the reader. To distinguish between original Startup text and editorial comment we have used differing typefaces. Original text is reproduced in Times New Roman, to closely match his typewriters typeface, while our editorial comments will be in the typeface of this introduction.

The Library Team;      Robert Duns,      John Sheppard  
                                 Paul van Herpt,      Malcolm Westgarth  
Christchurch, February 2019



## POST & TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT IN GREAT WAR

Immediately on the outbreak of hostilities in August 1914 a strict telegraph censorship was instituted over inland telegrams, cable-messages and radio-telegrams. Censors of cable messages were appointed at Wakapuaka (Nelson), and at Auckland, the termini of the two cables, and effective censorship established at the wireless stations. At first all code words and code addresses were prohibited but subsequently authorised codes and code addresses were allowed to be used. A censorship of foreign postal correspondence was also established.

Partial mobilization of the NZEF started within a few days of declaration of war and officers of the Post & Telegraph Department were released for service with the forces. These officers served in all sections of the forces, some in postal sections, others in signal units, but most in infantry and mounted units.

At first there was much uncertainty of the overseas mail services to United Kingdom and even by 8 August shipping and overland arrangements were being altered daily. The United Kingdom Post Office advised the Department on 14 August to abandon the Suez route for despatch of mails to Europe and United Kingdom, and to send such mails via San Francisco or Vancouver fortnightly, the first such mail being despatched 20 August.

On the arrival of the NZEF in Egypt arrangements were made by the department for the acceptance of soldiers weekend messages to the force (telegrams) at the reduced rate of 11½d per word. It was further arranged that weekend messages of social character for soldiers, sailors, or nurses of the NZEF in England, France, or Belgium would be accepted at 8d per word with a prescribed minimum charge,

these messages being cabled to London and thence posted. The system was later extended to soldiers or sailors at Malta and Gibraltar at the rate of 9d per word.

Unpaid or insufficiently paid letters and postcards from soldiers on active service belonging to any part of the Empire were delivered free or any charge to the addressee.

On the outbreak of war nearly every town and district in New Zealand proceeded to form its own war effort committee to raise funds for the war effort and to provide comforts and equipment for the soldiers in camp and overseas. About 18 August the Government decided to allow each district committee to select one member of the committee, usually the secretary, who would then be able to despatch letters and telegrams on the business of the war fund committee free of any charge of postage or telegraphic fees.

Until 1907 all Government Departments and many government agencies had enjoyed free franking of mails but this had been subjected to abuse over the years. On the introduction of official postage stamps all free franking privileges were withdrawn and replaced by what the Post Offices called the "Free list", this mainly consisting of the Governor General, Ministers of the Crown, Supreme Court Justices. The Postmaster General had power to extend the free use and use of this was made to the benefit of important personages, for example Sir Ernest Shackleton received free postage while in New Zealand. During the war wide use was made of this power to the benefit of the war fund committees.

The Wairarapa War Fund Committee, established in Masterton chose its secretary, Mr Herbenton, as its member to send free letters and telegrams.

The privilege was later extended to other classes of patriotic committees and, still later to the various branches of the Returned Soldiers Association.

Most of the privilege letters from such patriotic organizations seem to have passed through the mails with only the secretary's signature as a frank. The Auckland Provincial War Relief Fund used a circular rubber frank forming a double circle, an abbreviated version of the committee's designation appearing between the circles while a Red Cross appeared in the inner circle. This stamp was impressed in red or purple. Another rubber frank stamp of this time read "On Belgian Relief Business only".

The Post Office also arranged for the free transmission, without any charge for postage, of parcels addressed to Mayoresses throughout New Zealand on behalf of the "Liverpool Fund". Such parcels were collected in the four main centres before forwarding to Wellington. This concession was announced on 8 August 1914, the Patriotic Fund concession was announced on 15 August and on 6 October it was announced that free postage was granted on circulars from committees of British and Belgian Relief Funds. On 1 May 1915 it was further announced that all correspondence on Belgian Fund Business marked "B.F.B Only" was to be passed free of postage, a similar concession being announced to Serbian Fund Business from 1 July 1915.

From 1 October 1915 Mr D McClaren, as representing the Central Patriotic Committee in Wellington, was authorized to present free telegrams and letters on the business of patriotic committees, such correspondence being identified by the facsimile stamp of his signature. From November 1915 there was increased and wide extension of such postage concessions.

Several of the patriotic committees, issued stickers or seals at ½ d each in efforts to raise funds. These stickers were often affixed to envelopes and sometimes were placed alongside the postage stamps, thus being postmarked. Such seals or stickers noted are:

A dark green label 34 x 36 mm showing a wounded soldier on guard with a rifle, smoke from a battle scene is in the background, while an aircraft flies overhead. Across the top appears

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL WOUNDED FUND, the lower left corner the Red Cross, in red, and in the lower right corner, ½d.

A dull blue label 25 x 52 mm showing two soldiers with a bayoneted rifle at the ready advancing up a rise from the sea. Across the top appears POVERTY BAY WOUNDED SOLDIERS, across the foot WAR SEAL ½d.

A diamond shaped bi-coloured seal, 22½ x 22½ mm, the background being in khaki colour while the representation of a seal in the centre is in red. The inscription reads WAR / DISABLED / 1914-15 / SERVICE SEAL, and on either side appears ½d.

For more information on labels produced by the Patriotic Committees in various parts of New Zealand it is recommended reference be made to Heslop's "New Zealand Cinderellas Catalogue", 2002

A station of the trans-Pacific cable had been established at Fanning Island in the central Pacific in 1902, this island now being part of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands colony. A New Zealand Postal Agency was opened at the station on 29 November 1902 to provide postal facilities for the station, staff and plantation workers on the island. On 8 September 1914 the German raider "Nurnberg" landed an armed party that destroyed the cable station and raided the station buildings. Cash amounting to £35. 6s 7d and postage stamps £38 2s 0d were seized from the postal agency but the postal date stamp was not removed. Cable communications were restored with Fiji on 25 September 1914.

On 9 January 1915 it was announced that letters and parcels addressed to British Prisoners-of-war interned abroad were exempt from postage.

Postage rates on parcels for members of the NZEF in Egypt were altered from 21 July 1915 to;

Up to	5 lbs. in weight	1s 1½d
	7 lbs	2s 7½d
	11lbs	4s 1½d

In May 1915 public, information Bureaux were established at all chief post offices (Auckland, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin, Gisborne, Greymouth, Hokitika, Invercargill, Napier, Nelson, New Plymouth, Oamaru, Thames, Timaru, Wanganui, Wellington, and Westport) with the object of affording prompt information to the public on matters concerning the war.

It had come to the knowledge of the department that many people were quite at sea as to the avenues of information on a variety of subjects connected with the war, particularly concerning communications with the men at the front or in hospitals. Among the many matters of information the bureaux afforded were:

- Names on nominal rolls of NZ Forces
- Supplying enrolment cards
- Lists of wounded
- Cable rates and methods of cabling money to soldiers
- Condition of wounded soldiers
- Changes of addresses of next of kin of soldiers in the field accepted for forwarding to the Defence Department
- Parcel rates
- Any information regarding relief funds.

In 1915 the Government decided, that as expenditure was increasing due to war conditions, it would be necessary to temporarily suspend the penny letter postage rate, and to impose a war tax of ½d on



all postal matter including parcels, but exempting newspapers and letters to those countries where Universal Postal Union rates applied. It was further decided that a special stamp be issued to indicate the reason for the increase, and instructions were issued that the current ½d King George V stamp should be overprinted WAR STAMP.

No provision had been made for the obligatory use of the overprinted stamp and the main effect of the increase in postage rates was to increase the demand for 1½ d. 3d. 5d, and 8d stamps, the ½d stamp being mainly used on newspapers. The war stamp remained on issue until January 1920 but the postage rates were not reduced to their former level until 1926.

An exemption from the ½d war tax was made in favour of letters addressed to soldiers on active service or in camp in New Zealand and also on correspondence posted by soldiers and sailors in New Zealand. The Post Office estimated that this concession value would be £12,000.

In January 1916 a special branch of the Dead Letter Office, Wellington, was established to handle letters addressed to soldiers or sailors. This branch used a date stamp of type 59 (page 361). During the year ended 31 March 1916, 55,511 unclaimed or undeliverable soldier's letters were returned to the senders and the special branch was set up to handle the large amount of mail being returned from the New Zealand Advanced Base Post Office. Many of the parcels returned were infected with vermin and by arrangement with the Wellington Hospital Board the parcels were sterilised in the steam disinfectant before being returned to the senders.

Automatic cancelling or postmarking machines had been introduced in main New Zealand Post Offices in the years prior to the war and in January 1916 the first slogan connected with the war effort was introduced, this was quickly followed by others and these slogans led the general usage of slogans in peacetime. The first slogans were:

BRITISH PATRIOTIC  
EXHBN OPEND WGTN FEB 1916

being used at Wellington January - February 1916 and

FRENCH TRICOLOUR DAY ON 25th FEBRUARY

being used at Auckland 4 - 24 February 1916

From 1 March 1916 parcels addressed to members of the NZEF, which were concentrated on Wellington for despatch overseas, and which were found to be insufficiently wrapped, had a gummed label, printed in red on white paper, affixed and returned to the senders. This label read

C&FPP10

This parcel is returned as insufficiently packed. If it is repacked and presented again at any post office with this label it will be accepted without further payment of postage. The original wrapper with the stamps attached should be used if possible.

Early in 1918 the free postage concessions granted to war fund committees and other patriotic organizations were withdrawn as they were generally not required. In lieu the Central Advisory Board of Patriotic Societies was supplied with official stamps to the value of £500 by the Department of Internal Affairs for distribution to approved societies at the Board's discretion. This and similar remaining privileged were withdrawn November 1918.

The numbers of parcels dispatched to or received from members of the NZEF during the war were:

	DISPATCHED		RECEIVED	
Year Ended 31 March	Number	Weight	Number	Weight
1915	60,214	215,084 lbs	2,128	5,925 lbs
1916	251,164	960,841 lbs	2,516	6,108 lbs

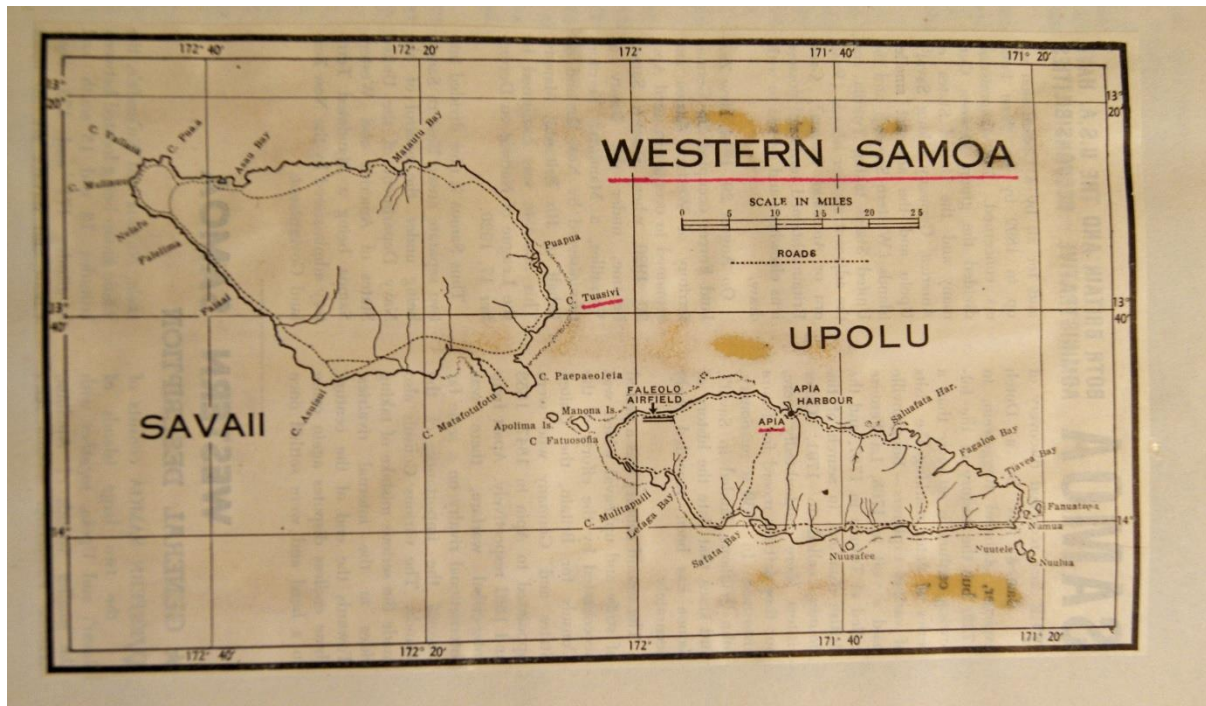


1917	392,235	1,498,537 lbs	891	1,931 lbs
1918	441,318	1,594,284 lbs	1,415	3,964 lbs
1919	9,851	33,593 lbs	384	1,423 lbs

All military postage privileges were withdrawn from 1 July 1920 and from 1 September 1920 free postage for British forces overseas ceased.

The subject of the Samoan Expeditionary Force has been extensively researched in the years since 1960. Much information can be found in "The Samoa Express", journal of the Fellowship of Samoan Specialists as well as numerous monographs published. Dates, times, sequence of events, numbers have all been reviewed and updated in these publications that they should be read in conjunction with this chapter

### 30. SAMOAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



The Samoan group lies between 13° - 14° S latitude, and 171° - 173° W. Longitude, 400-500 miles north-east of Fiji, and 130 miles north from Tonga. Western Samoa, the part with which we are concerned, consists of the islands of Upolu (430 square miles), Savaii (703 square miles) and the lesser islands of Apolima, Fanuatapu, Manono, Namua, Nuulua, Nuuasafee, and Nuutele. Both main islands are mountainous, volcanic, and more or less densely forested.

The 19th century saw inter-tribal warfare and international rivalry in the Samoan group. This was eventually settled in 1899 by a Commission formed by the interested powers. Great Britain withdrew her interest on being granted territories elsewhere, Western Samoa then passed under German control, and Eastern Samoa passed to United States of America. Though not garrisoned by military Western Samoa was actively controlled by German civilian administrators when warfare commenced in 1914.

On 6 August 1914 the New Zealand Government received a message from United Kingdom asking, that the German wireless station in German Samoa be seized, this was agreed to the following day.

Since early August 1914 territorial units throughout New Zealand had been offering volunteers for active service and enrolment from these men commenced on 8 August. By 11 August a composite army force of 1,415 men had been assembled in Wellington, equipped, and was ready to embark on transport ships waiting in the harbour.

On enlistment the soldiers had been accommodated in Buckle Street Army Drill Hall but on the morning of 12 August they embarked on H.M.N.Z. Transport No 1 “Moeraki”, and No 2 “Monowai. Training and organization continued on board ship and on 15th August the transports sailed from Wellington for an unknown destination.

The two transports escorted by “Psyche” “Philomel” and “Pyramus” arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia, on 20 August where they were joined by an Australian force. The fleet called at Suva, Fiji, on 26 August and then sailed swiftly direct to Samoa and appeared suddenly off Apia on 29 August.

While guns of the warships threatened the town boatloads of New Zealand soldiers were rushed ashore and, without any resistance, seized German Government buildings and offices including the wireless station and post office. Occupation of the territory was formally proclaimed by Colonel Robert Logan next day and the British flag hoisted.

The transports left for New Zealand late on 30 August with the German Governor and other officials for internment camps. On 1 September the remainder of the fleet sailed for German New Guinea.

Letters for New Zealand were written on board the transports by the soldiers but it appears that these were dispatched to New Zealand when the two ships sailed for Auckland. A detachment of the Post and Telegraph Corps, New Zealand Engineers, had sailed to Samoa with the force and on landing they took over the wireless station. The officers and NCOs of this detachment consisted of Captain J.L. Davies and P.O. Spry, Warrant Officer E.E. Dunwoodie, and Sergeants Croucher, J.S. Scott, and A.J. Simpson.

R/22 Corporal Ernest J. Dingle, N.Z. Railways Engineers, was placed in charge of the German Post Office and promoted to 2nd Lieutenant from 5 September 1914. On the seizure of the post office stocks of German postage stamps were taken over, these stamps were overprinted with G.R.I. (Georgius Rex Imperiatur) and the value in sterling by Samoanische Zeitung, a local printing office in Apia.

The stamps overprinted were various values of the German Samoan colonial issue type that had been first issued in 1900. Details of the overprints are:

½d on	5pfenning	brown
½d on	5 pfenning	green
1d on	10 pfenning	carmine
2½d on	20 pfenning	ultramarine
3d on	25 pfenning	black and red
4d on	30 pfenning	black and orange
5d on	40 pfenning	black and carmine
6d on	50 pfenning	black and purple
9d on	80 pfenning	black and carmine
1s on	1 mark	carmine
2s on	2 mark	blue
3s on	3 mark	violet-black
5s on	5 mark	carmine and black

The Post Office was re-opened to the public on Thursday 3 September 1914, with Dingle as postmaster. The over-printed stamps were place on sale for prepayment of postage. Civilians used civil postage rates but while soldiers enjoyed free of charge mails many posted letters bearing the stamps to obtain souvenirs.

Postal equipment had not been issued when the force sailed from New Zealand and when the post office was opened the two date stamps in use there were retained to cancel stamps and to date stamp

the outward mails. These were impressed in a black ink and were used until about late October 1914, a few weeks after the New Zealand made date stamp had been introduced.



When the New Zealanders occupied German Samoa there were seven village post offices open in addition to the main post office in Apia. These offices were allowed to remain open under the native scribe postmasters, using datestamps of the type illustrated above. These offices were:

ALEIPATA. A village on the south-eastern end of Upolu where the post office had opened 1 August 1909.

FAGOMALO. A village on the northern coast of Savaii where the post office had opened 6 November 1905.

MALUA. A mission settlement on northern coast of Upolu, west of Apia, where the post office had opened 24 April 1909

MULIFANUA. A village at the western end of Upolu where the post office had opened 3 November 1903.

PALAU. A village on the southern coast of Savaii where the post office had opened 13 January 1905.

SALAILUA. A village on the south-west coast of Savaii where the post office had opened 14 January 1905.

SALELAVALU. A village on the northern coast of Savaii where the post office had opened 4 November 1903.

The Samoan Expeditionary Force established tented camps throughout German Samoa and troops were also billeted in public buildings. Men were selected from the force to take over the place of German officials. The sub-post offices were thus used to handle mail between outlying camps and Apia.

When the force sailed from New Zealand it was at first called 1st Contingent, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, but later it was designated Advance Detachment, NZEF. On 7 September 1914 sample addresses were published in the New Zealand press to ensure that mail for the men was correctly addressed this being given as:

No.234 Private Henry Jones  
A Company  
5th (Wellington) Regiment  
Advance Detachment, NZEF  
C/- Wellington Post Office  
WELLINGTON

Postage rates established in Samoa for the civilian people were the inland rates of New Zealand. Arrangements were made for the regular steamer from New Zealand to the islands to call monthly at Samoa.

In New Zealand the Post & Telegraph Department arranged for stocks of current New Zealand postage stamps to be overprinted SAMOA, these stamps were:

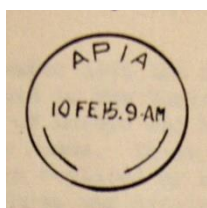
½d      green      King Edward      overprinted in red

1d	carmine	Dominion	overprinted in black
2d	mauve	King Edward	overprinted in red
2½d	blue	1898 Pictorial	overprinted in red
6d	carmine	King Edward	overprinted in black
1s	orange	King Edward	overprinted in black

At the same time the Post Office Workshops were manufacturing steel die date stamps for Samoan post offices, that had been requested by wireless message.

The stamps and datestamps were issued by the General Post Office on 16 September 1914 and placed on board the “Navua” or “Tofua”. Both ships arrived at Apia from New Zealand on 27 September, and the consignment of stamps was taken to the Apia post office and checked.

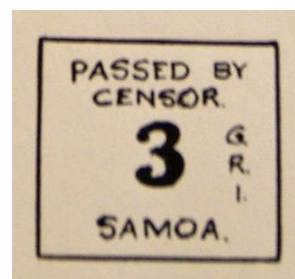
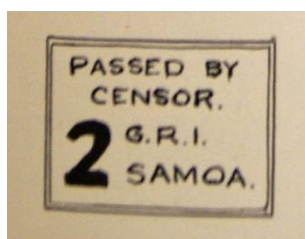
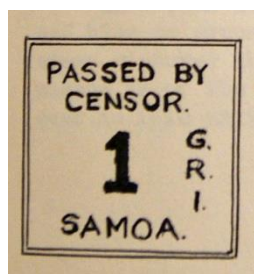
These stamps were placed on sale on 29 September 1914 and the New Zealand made datestamps brought into use, however, the German datestamps can also be found cancelling these stamps.



By this time the postal services of internal Samoa had been reorganized and by the end of 1914 the post offices at Alaipata, Malua, Palauli, Salailua, and Salelavalu had been closed. (All of these, except Salelavalu, were reopened later). The remaining offices of Fagomalo and Milifanua were issued with New Zealand made datestamps and a new office, Tuasivi, was also issued with one of these datestamps. Tuasivi is located on the east coast of Savaii and the post office was opened there about September – October 1914.

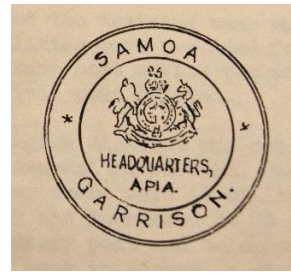
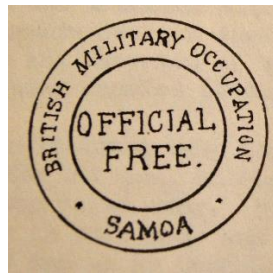
New Zealand letter-cards were overprinted SAMOA and issued from the General Post Office Wellington, on 5 October 1914. These were sent to Samoa on the “Tofua” which arrived at Apia on 19 October. New Zealand fiscal type stamps 5s yellow-green, 10s purple-brown, and £1 rose were also overprinted SAMOA; the 5s in black and the other two in red. These stamps were issued from the GPO on 13 November and dispatched to Samoa on the “Tofua” which arrived at Apia on 16 November 1914.

Military censors were appointed from the force to censor mail and outgoing wireless messages. Three rubber stamps with a serial number were issued to indicate that articles had been passed. These stamps were normally applied in purple ink but Lieutenant H.M.A. Wollerman, a censor at Apia, was using stamp 2 in green ink in August 1917.



In December 1914 the main body of the Samoan Expeditionary Force returned to New Zealand for subsequent service in the Middle East or Europe and by April 1915 there were only 250 men stationed in Samoa. These men were formed into a Samoa Garrison but were soon replaced by men who were

overage for active service. This small force was retained in Samoa until 1920 when the islands were placed under New Zealand civilian administration.



Mail from the military administration were franked with the above franchise stamp in blue. The stamp illustrated to the right was used on documents in purple ink and this also was probably used as a franchise stamp.

On 8 June 1949 Western Samoa issued a 5d stamp in black and blue to prepay the airmail postage rate to New Zealand, this stamp pictured the Post Office Apia. The office shown on the stamp is of the present building, not of the old office taken over in 1914 as that had been destroyed by fire late in 1929.

**REGISTERED LABELS:** Registered labels were also supplied of standard NZ type labels and the name APIA, SAMOA printed in one operation in pale blue.



## NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE - MAIN BODY

Robin Startup co-authored with Edward Proud the book "History of the New Zealand military Postal Services 1845-1991" 1992, and published by Postal history Publishing co, UK. While that book covers a greater time period , the contents of this 1960 work of Startup formed the basis for chapters 3 to 10

War was declared on 4 August 1914 and before 11 August when it was announced that New Zealand would send an Expeditionary Force to the European war front many territorial units had offered their services. Training camps were formed at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and men came from all over New Zealand to enlist at one of these camps.

In the Auckland Military District the training camp was formed at Alexandra Park in Auckland. Facilities were provided for the receipt and despatch of mails but a camp post office was not established, mails being handled through nearby civil post offices.

The training camp for the Wellington district was not formed at Wellington but land on and near Awapuni racecourse, Palmerston North, was taken over. By 19 December there were 45 officers and 1491 men in this camp and this number had increased to 75 officers and 2662 men by 25 December. A temporary post and telephone office was opened in the camp in the second week in August, a distinctive date stamp being used. This was of the standard type then being issued to civil post offices and bore the inscription AWAPUNUI around the top and -NZ- around foot. Mails were exchanged with the Palmerston North Chief Post Office.

On 5 October 1914 the Wellington section of the main body entrained for Wellington where they were temporarily accommodated in Trentham Military Camp, and the office at Awapuni closed. A post office was opened about 5 October at Trentham Military Camp under that designation.

The Showgrounds at Addington, Christchurch, were used for the mobilization and training of the Canterbury section. Facilities were provided in the camp for despatch and receipt of mails which were posted through the nearby Addington post office. Coin-in-the-slot telephones were temporarily established in the camp to provide telephone services.

The Otago Section mobilization camp was formed at Tahuna Park in Dunedin there being 1060 men in camp by 19 August. Facilities were provided for the despatch and receipt of mails, these being handled through nearby civil post offices. A temporary telephone office was opened in the camp and this used one of the Compulsory Military Training date stamps (type 1 page 344).

The first seven ships had been chosen to transport the convoy, the ships selected by 18 August being "Waimana" and "Athenic" of the Shaw Savill Line, "Willochra" and "Tahiti" of Union S.S.Co, "Star of India" of C & D Line, and "Ruapehu" of the NZ Shipping Company. The "Willochra" did not sail in the main body but other ships were included.

The organization of the Main Body of the NZEF was that of a headquarters of a division, divisional troops, a mounted rifles brigade, and an infantry brigade. In the divisional troops were detachments of the Post & Telegraph Corps, NZ Engineers, staffing the signal troop and divisional signals. Nine men were selected from Post & Telegraph Postal staff to provide postal facilities with the Main Body, an NCO and two men being required for each of the field post offices it was proposed to establish with Division Headquarters, Mounted Brigade Headquarters, and Infantry Brigade Headquarters. Sergeant R. Millar of the Masterton Post Office Staff was placed in charge, of the Divisional Headquarters Field Post Office.



The Post & Telegraph Department issued a circular instruction on 1 September "Letters to New Zealand from any member of the NZEF while absent on active service are to be delivered free of postage charges provided they bear an impression of an authorised rubber stamp, showing in an oblong frame the wording: "N.Z. MILITARY POST OFFICE" the date and, "EXPEDITIONARY FORCE". No charges are to be collected on such letters." This rubber stamp was type 10 (page 349) and was apparently issued to the mobilization shortly after this but were not brought into general use until the troops had embarked.

The address for members of the NZEF was announced in daily newspapers on 7 September, the example given being:

No.234 Private Herbert Jones  
A Company  
5th (Wellington) Regiment  
New Zealand Expeditionary Force  
C/- General Post Office  
WELLINGTON

The Wellington Section embarked on their waiting transports in the Wellington harbour on 24 September and that evening the four ships arrived from Lyttelton with the Canterbury and Otago sections. However, sailing was postponed next day until a stronger naval escort could arrive and mounted troops were sent ashore, infantry remaining on board ship except for shore duties and route marches.

While the troopships lay in Wellington harbour many civilians and friends visited the soldier on board. The visitors to the ships were given numerous letters to post ashore and these were apparently despatched free of charge by the Wellington post office, who also passed un-taxed letters shortpaid or unpaid that were addressed to the troops. It was reported that at the time the Postmaster General Mr R Heaton Rhodes, was visiting, one of the troopships when he was handed a ship's biscuit marked "On Active Service" and duly addressed, by a soldier who anxiously asked him if he could get it through the post office.

The troopships were given H.M. New Zealand Troopship numbers and these, together with port of original departure and number of troops on board, are

HMNZT	3	Maunganui	Wellington	566 troops
	4	Tahiti	Lyttelton	641
	5	Ruapehu	Port Chalmers	816
	6	Orari	Wellington	285
	7	Limerick	Wellington	516
	8	Star of India	Auckland	682
	9	Hawkes Bay	Port Chalmers	970
	10	Arawa	Wellington	1318
	11	Athenic	Lyttelton	1315
	12	Waimana	Auckland	1461

On 1 October the General Headquarters NZEF issued routine order No 30 "Postal Arrangement":-

"Each unit will detail a Non-commissioned officer for permanent duty at the Post Office whilst in Wellington. He will be furnished with a complete alphabetical roll of his unit, and in the case of units which are in more than one place he must know the whereabouts of the detached men. He will report to Captain Coombs, Adjutant, P & T Corps at the Post Office. In addition to above Officers Commanding Ships and Camps will detail an orderly to report daily at the GPO to collect mails. Officers commanding troops must make arrangements for

mails to be posted on transports, and see that the mailbags are taken to the post office at least twice a day.

As there is considerable congestion of mails in the Wellington GPO and as the majority of letters are insufficiently addressed, OC units are asked to use care in selecting their Postal NCOs and see that he reports to Captain Coombs without delay. In the case of units encamped away from the town the NCOs detailed for postal duty can be accommodated on the ship, and should report to the Asst.Adj-Gen to get the necessary accommodation.”

The previous day the following soldiers had been instructed to report to the Asst.Adj-Gen office on Transport No.3 for postal duties until the time of sailing.

10/445	Pte C.H..Pugh	Wgtn Infantry Regiment
11/321	Pte C.K. Griffiths	Wgtn Infantry Regiment
2/712	Gunner J C Burrell	Field Artillery Brigade
5/21	Pte V A Hodson	Army Service Corps
10/765	Cpl E.H. Kivell	Infantry Brigade HQ
10/1109	Pte J. Hillard	Infantry Brigade HQ
10/970	Pte R. M. Sutherland	Infantry Brigade HQ

On 15 October Officers Commanding each transport were instructed to detail a postal orderly for the transport, the to handle all postal business for the ship. A rubber date stamp of type 10 was sent with the instruction to each ship for issue to the postal orderly, the postal orderly being told to use this date stamp on all outward mail, on the letters as received, and that these letters would be collected from him at each port of call by the NZEF Postal Service. The postal personnel for Division Headquarters and Infantry Brigade field post offices were on board the headquarters ship “Maunganui” and the personnel for the Mounted Brigade field post office were on board “Athenic”.

Troopships 8 “Star of India” and 12 “Waimana” initially sailed from Auckland to join the remainder of the convoy at Wellington. Before the ships sailed the postal orderly on board each ship had been issued with a rubber date stamp that had been made locally in Auckland (type 11) this being applied in blue on troopship 8 and in purple on troopship 12. Troopship 5 “Ruapehu” which sailed from Port Chalmers, used a Dunedin made date stamp (type 12) in purple.

On 14 October the warships HMS “Minotaur” and HIJMS Ibuki” arrived in Wellington harbour and that day all troops ashore were embarked. The men working in the Wellington General Post Office sorting mails for the troops did not embark with their units but were accommodated overnight on “Maunganui” and took the mails out to their ships at 8am the morning of the 15th. All undelivered and unsorted mail on hand was placed on “Maunganui” to be sorted by the NZEF Postal Service at sea for delivery to the troopships at the first port of call.

The “Star of India” and “Waimana” escorted by HMS “Philomel” arrived from Auckland on the morning of 15 October, and all ships sent their last mails ashore in the tenders that left for the wharves at noon. The convoy sailed that afternoon.

After six weary days at sea the convoy arrived at Hobart., Tasmania, for refuelling, sailing that afternoon for Albany, Western Australia., where they arrived on 28 October. Here ships transporting the 1st Australian Division were waiting the arrival of the New Zealanders.

After arrival at Albany on 28 October instructions were issued that two lock-up posting boxes were to be provided on each transport, the mails being cleared at each port of call, sorted and bundled into bundles for Otago, Canterbury, Wellington, Auckland, England, and Australia. These mails were collected by the NZEF Postal Service staff from “Maunganui” and taken to the local civil General Post Office.

Censorship on the New Zealand ships was introduced on 29 October, and censorship regulations were laid down on 31 October, Major C. Shawe, being appointed divisional censor.

After a few days replenishing supplies at Albany the combined convoy put to sea, there being 26 Australian ships and 10 New Zealand ships.

HEADQUARTERS  
NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
N.Z. TRANSPORT No 3.  
13th October 1914.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

100. Embarkation.	Embarkation will be completed and all men on the Transports by 2-30p.m., tomorrow. Attention is drawn to "Embarkation Orders" issued by the Assistant Quartermaster General, dated 12th October, 1914.
101. States	An Embarkation State will be furnished by the Adjutant of each Transport to the Assistant Adjutant General, on N.Z.M.F. No 3, before 3-30p.m., tomorrow on Form 16. Any discrepancies between the State and the Embarkation Order aforementioned are to be explained.
102. Stamps & Railway Warrants	All unused Official Stamps and Railway Warrant Books are to be forwarded to the Quartermaster-General, Headquarters N.Z. Military Forces, Mt. Cook, Wellington, before embarkation.
103. Signal Lamps	Officers Commanding Troops on Transports are responsible that their Ship's are equipped with two Signal Lamps and the necessary oil or carbide for same.
104. Parliamentary Election.	A representative of the Electoral Department will be on board each Transport at 8-30 a.m., tomorrow when any man who has not already voted is to be given the opportunity to vote. Members of the Expeditionary Force, even if they are under the age of 21 years are entitled to vote if they have not already done so.
105. Postal Arrangements.	The Officers Commanding Troops on each Transport will detail an Orderly who will conduct the postal business on each Transport. A Franking Stamp as here illustrated has been sent personally to O's C. Troops on each Transport, and as letters are posted they are to be stamped with it. On arrival at Ports of call, mails are to be made up and will be collected by the Postal Service. No stamps are necessary beyond the Franking Stamp, which will be in charge of the aforementioned Postal Orderly.
106. Deserters	Reference G.R. Order 98 of the 12th instant, the files asked for must be sent in by 10a.m. tomorrow. A Roll is also to be prepared by Officers Commanding Units of all men who have deserted, showing particulars in Remarks Column..
107. Route March	The G.O.C., is pleased to record that only two men fell out on the Route March on Saturday last.
108. Rolls.	With reference to G.R. Order 95 on the 12th instant it has been noticed that in some instances Rolls have not contained full Christian names. This is necessary. All roll must be rendered in truly alphabetical order as in a dictionary.
109. Men Invalided.	G.O. Units will instruct their M.O. to render a return to the Assistant Director Medical Service immediately, of all Officers, N.Z.O's and men who have been discharged from Expeditionary Force for unfitness under the following heading: No... Rank... Name... Unit... Coy... Place... Date of

N.Z. MILITARY POST OFFICE  
OCT 13 1914  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.



NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ORDERS No 2.

BY

Major-General Sir A J Godley, K.C.M.G., C.B.,  
Commanding New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Headquarters,  
H M N Z Transport No 3  
COLOMBO  
15th November, 1914.

GENERAL STAFF

6  
Censorship  
Regulations

In order to prevent the disclosure of information likely to be of use to the enemy or to create alarm or dependency, strict censorship will be exercised on all correspondence emanating from Soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Correspondence will be stopped if it contains any reference to the names or movements of ships, the dates of sailing, ports of call or destination, or to the organisation, strength, state, position, or movements of Troops. Place from which correspondence is written or despatched is not to be mentioned.

All correspondence from the Transports of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force will be sent to His Majesty's New Zealand Troopship No 3 "Maunganui" for censorship.

Open letters will be received for censorship and immediately despatched from the next port of call.

Closed letters will be received, but will also be liable to censorship, and will be delayed.

Open letters, post cards, or urgent Telegrams, will be passed by the Censor for immediate despatch at the next Port of call, if they comply with the above orders.

All direct communication between the Ships and the shore is prohibited.

All post cards must be written in clear English.

Any Officer, N C O, or Man of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force attempting to evade censorship regulations will be severely dealt with.

It is obvious that these regulations must not only be observed by the Officers, N C O's, and Men of the Expeditionary Force, but also by the crews of the Transports conveying the Expeditionary Force.

7  
Appointment  
of Censor.

Major C. SHawe, Rifle Brigade, Reserve of Officers, is appointed Censor to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

(Sgd) W.G. BRAITHWAITE,

Lt-Col, General Staff,  
N.Z Expeditionary Force.

ADMINISTRATIVE

8  
First Rein-  
forcements

First Reinforcements are not to be treated as a separate section but are to be posted in excess of Establishment to the Squadrons or Companies to which they belong. The men to remain at the Base as First Reinforcements should not be detailed until just prior to the Unit moving to the Front, when those least fit for service will be selected.

9  
ROLLS

It has been found that the Rolls rendered at Embarkation contained a great many inaccuracies and that they were not prepared in a uniform manner. Officers commanding Unit will furnish to Headquarters "Maunganui" on arrival at the next Port of call a Nominal Roll of their Unit typed in

In order to co-ordinate the postal services of the NZEF and to provide a proper postal organization of Base and other postal services a special appointment of Officer-in-Charge of NZEF, Postal Services was now made, 2nd Lieutenant D.A., McCurdy being appointed to this position.

The convoy arrived at Colombo, Ceylon, on 13 November 1914 and while waiting for the ships to replenish supplies the troops were taken ashore for recreation. During their stay at Colombo the field post office on "Maunganui" despatched 45,000 letters and cards in closed bags for New Zealand.

On 17 November the convoy sailed from Colombo, arriving off Aden on 25 November where no one was allowed to land. The voyage was continued next day up the Red Sea, the first New Zealand ship "Maunganui" entering the Suez Canal on 30 November 1914.

It was originally intended that the 1st Australian Division and the NZEF would be landed in southern France, thence being entrained to join the forces in northern France, but while the convoy was moving north through the Red Sea the force was instructed to land in Egypt as Turkey was now at war and was already threatening the safety of the Suez Canal.

In Startup's original manuscript he has a note;  
"Type and page numbers refer to Volume III "Postage Stamps of New Zealand" (by R J G Collins and C W Watts, 1955, Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand)  
However in his manuscript there are numerous hand annotations and corrections that he added over time, particularly in the chapters dealing with the NZ Forces in England and France. These annotations have been included and are highlighted in red text, and crossed out parts similarly crossed out.  
These annotations also cross out the postmark references and give them a figure number. We have added these but have no information as to what publication or document they refer to.

## NEW ZEALAND TRAINING CAMPS

The first section of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, that sent to Samoa, was raised and dispatched in Wellington. Personnel of this force were either regular force men or territorials and training camps were not required. However territorial units throughout New Zealand were busy mobilising and when the formation of the NZEF for service in Europe was agreed to on 12 August 1914 preliminary training, had already commenced. These men, the Main Body personnel, were raised and trained within two months at the temporary district camps in Auckland., Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin commands.

After the departure of the Main Body training of reinforcement troops commenced in earnest, the training being carried out in permanent and semi-permanent camps within the Wellington command. The 2nd Reinforcements sailed from Wellington 14 December 1914 and thereafter there was no break in the continuity of reinforcements throughout the remainder of the war. Details of the individual training camps follows;

### Avondale (Auckland)

The Maori Contingent of 580 men trained at Avondale Camp on the Avondale Racecourse in Auckland city, sailing for overseas service in February 1915. The camp continued to be used for military training but all mails were handled through the nearby Avondale post office.

### Awapuni

Though the Wellington section of the Main Body was trained and organised at this camp, on the Manawatu Racing Club's Awapuni racecourse near Palmerston North, little use of the training ground was made until 1917 when medical reinforcements were concentrated here. The Awapuni Military Camp post office was opened at the camp on 21 August 1917 and operated there until 15 February 1919 when closed. This office used a distinctive cancellation (type 4 page 347).

### Featherston.

Featherston Military Camp, two miles north from Featherston in the Wairarapa, was established late 1915 as a permanent training camp with accommodation for 7,500 men. When the camp was built it was regarded as the quickest constructional effort in the southern Hemisphere. Work started in bare fields late in August 1915 and five months later, on 26 January 1916, it was handed over to the defence authorities complete. The camp was a self contained unit, it had a main road through the headquarters section lined with a post office, hospital, dental units, seventeen shops and a canteen. Elsewhere in the camp were 16 dining halls, six cookhouses, and about 250 barracks. Sewage and drainage was the camp which also had its own electricity plant for lighting.

Infantry Reinforcements, after five weeks preliminary training at Trentham, were moved by rail to Featherston camp, which had its own railway siding. After eight weeks intensive training at Featherston the men marched back to Trentham, a 30 mile route which included the Rimutaka and Mangaroa ranges.

A post and telephone office, Featherston Military Camp, was opened in the camp on 29 November 1915 and was soon given permanent status. The office remained opened until 11 January 1920 however the camp itself was retained and remained in use for many years afterwards.

A steel-die datestamp (type 3 page 347) was used at this office, being used with and without the time. It was mostly used to cancel stamps on registered letters but occasionally to date stamp ordinary letters when there were not enough to warrant using the cancelling machine. Mails were exchanged with the nearby Featherston post office twice daily.

An automatic postmarking or cancelling machine (type 6 page 347) was installed early in 1916 and was used until early 1919; one die of the standard type was used throughout its life.

An octagonal rubber datestamp was used in purple or blue on the postal counter to stamp registered mail letter-bills, parcel post receipt cards, registration labels, and even cancel stamps on registered letters. (type 7 page 348). This was used from 1916 until early 1919.

A similar shaped rubber date stamp was used on parcel post mail, either to cancel the postage stamps or to datestamp parcel post receipts (types 8 and 9, page 348). There were two similar datestamps and these were used in blue and purple.

An. oval parcels datestamp was in use by early 1919 and was probably introduced in mid 1918, this being of the standard oval parcels datestamp type. This datestamp consisted of a double oval (the outer oval being double lined) with the inscription FEATHERSTON M.C. (around top) PARCELS (around foot) between the ovals.

Registration labels, both printed and standard types, were supplied by the Post & Telegraph Department, and several varieties can be found.

#### Maymorn.

Variously known as Maymorn or May Morn Military Camp this camp was established as a temporary camp, pending opening of Featherston, on the Hutt – Wairarapa railway 3½ miles north from Upper Hutt and about a mile north from Mangaroa. This camp could accommodate 600 men and closed late January 1916 when the men were moved to Featherston.

A post office was opened in the camp on 8 October 1915 and on 16 October and a telephone office was opened in the post office. There had been a civil telephone office designated Maymorn open in this area since 1912 but this closed on 16 October when the camp office opened. The office which exchanged mails once daily with Upper Hutt, used a steel-die datestamp of type 3 page 347. The Maymorn military camp post and telephone office closed 27 January 1916 after a life of four months. The nearby civil Maymorn Telephone Office reopened on 27 January 1916 but closed permanently on 2 October 1916.

#### Narrow Neck Military Camp.

This camp which could accommodate 400 men, was used to train the Tunnelling Company, Maori Reinforcements, and native soldiers from the various Pacific Islands. Located near Devonport in Auckland most mails were handled through the nearby Devonport post office. A post office was opened in the camp on 2 August 1915 but closed 17 September 1915 after a life of six weeks. While the office was open most mails were still cancelled by the Devonport post office but a postal marking (type 4 page 347) was used on some mails.

#### Papawai Military Camp

A semi-permanent camp was established at Papawai north from Featherston and a little south of Greytown, as a subsidiary camp of Tauherenikau. A post office was opened in the camp 19 September 1916, exchanging mails once daily with Greytown, and closing 29 November 1918. The office used a date stamp of type 3 page 347 but the locality name was far larger.

#### Rangiotu Military Camp

A temporary military camp established at Rangiotu, 10 miles southwest from Palmerston North, pending completion of construction of the Featherston and Trentham camps. A post office opened in the camp 12 July 1915 and closed outward mails three times daily, the mails being handed to the nearby Rangiotu civil post office for dispatch on mail trains. The office used a steel-die date stamp of type 3 page 347 until it closed 30 May 1916.



#### Tapawera Military Camp.

A farming locality 36 miles south from Nelson on the Nelson-Westland highway, a temporary military camp being established here to train territorials and reinforcements. A post office was open at this camp at various times but little is known about the office. It used a date stamp of type 4 page 345.

#### Tauherenikau Military Camp.

This military camp was located on the banks of the Tauherenikau River near the slopes of the Tararua ranges, north from Featherston Military Camp. It was originally established as a temporary camp to accommodate men pending completion of construction of Featherston and Trentham camps. A post office was opened in the camp on 12 July 1915 but closed 7 August 1915 after a life of four week. It reopened 19 August 1915 and was provided with money-order facilities, but closed on 27 January 1916 when the troops were moved to Featherston Camp.

Being conveniently located to Featherston the camp remained in use and was given ever increasing use throughout 1916, the post office being opened several times for periods of three weeks, while reinforcement drafts were given initial training, but closed again 26 October 1916.

The office reopened 6 January 1917 but closed a fortnight later on 19 January 1917. It reopened 14 March 1917 as a permanent classified post office in a post office building and remained open until the camp was disbanded, the office closing 5 December 1918.

Two steel-die datestamps of type 3 page 347 were used at the office, the second datestamp having "No.2" shown under the date. Rubber PARCEL and REGISTRATION datestamps of octagonal shape were also used during the 1917 - 1918 period.

#### Trentham Military Camp

Trentham military camp, in the Hutt valley alongside the Trentham racecourse had been used as a military camp since the South African War and was first used in the Great War to accommodate the Main Body prior to departure.

A temporary post office was opened 5 October 1914 on arrival of the Main Body personnel and was given more permanent status on 20 October 1914. At first the office was accommodated in a tent but was soon established in an army hut. Eventually the camp grew into a permanent camp accommodating 6,500 men.

When first opened the post office used one of the Compulsory Military Training datestamps (type 1 page 344) with 1 above the date but early in 1915 two steel-die date stamps of type 1 and 2 (pages 347) were issued. The latter of these two dates tamps is decidedly more common.

An automatic cancelling machine types 6 page 347, was installed in 1916 and was used until 1919, one die being used throughout. The office also used octagonal rubber datestamps inscribed PARCELS and REGISTRATION (types 7 and 8 page 348).

The military camp remained in use after the NZEF was finally disbanded and the post office did not close until 11 September 1924.

#### Waikanae Military Camp

A temporary military camp established at Waikanae on the coast 36 miles north from Wellington, pending completion of construction of Featherston and Trentham camps. A post office opened in the camp 27 July 1915 and closed 3 ½ ' weeks later on 19 August 1915. The datestamp used by this office has not yet been recorded but could either be of type 3 page 347 or of type 1 page 344.

## REINFORCEMENTS

The 1st Reinforcements sailed from Wellington with the Main Body, NZEF, on 16 October 1914 and thus arrived in Egypt with the Main Body. However, at monthly intervals afterwards, a reinforcement draft was dispatched regularly overseas to Egypt or England.

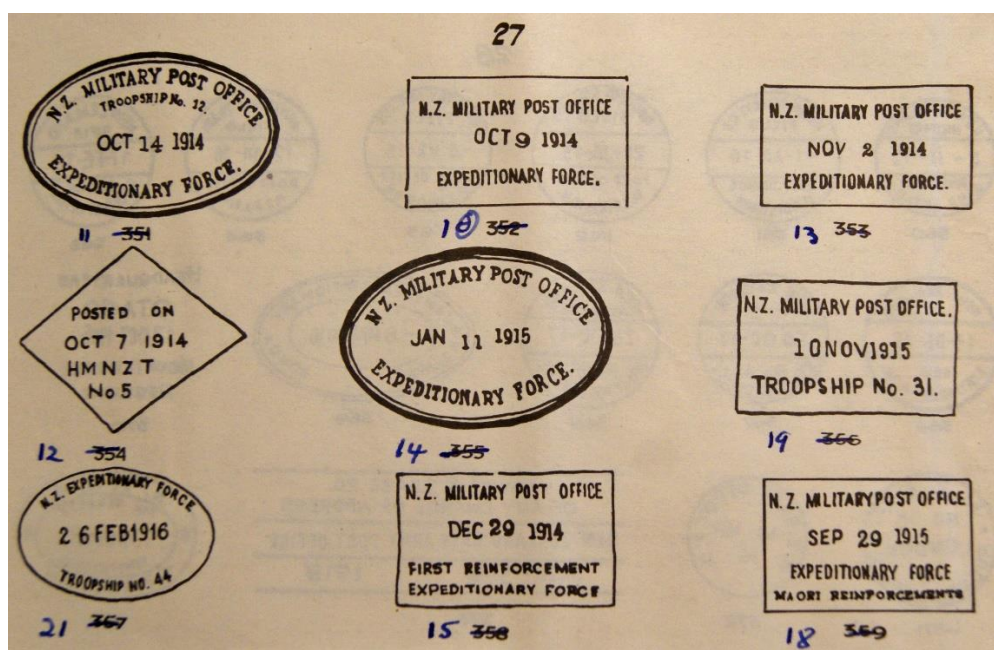
Postal Orderlies were included in the personnel of each reinforcement to provide postal facilities for the troops on board the troopships as well as to reinforce the New Zealand Army Postal Corps staff overseas.

Prior to the departure of each Reinforcement the Reinforcement Headquarters obtained, through the Post & Telegraph Department, a rubber die date stamp for use in date stamping cards and letters, as well as cancelling any postage stamps affixed to such articles of mail. Originally the date stamps included the name of the Reinforcement in the inscription but on 4 October 1916 prior to the despatch of the 7th Reinforcement on 9 October the Chief Postmaster, Wellington, requisitioned for date stamps showing the Troopship number instead of the Reinforcement title.

These date stamps, bearing the troopship number, were used en route to the overseas destination and on arrival were handed over to the Commanding Officer, NZ Advanced Base Post Office who returned them to New Zealand at the request of the Post & Telegraph Department. On receipt in New Zealand the date stamps were reconditioned and re-issued to the next reinforcements. It is possible that the Troopship number was removed and replaced with the new number but most likely the entire rubber die was removed from the metal base and replaced with a new die.

In 1916 Captain F.D. Holdsworth who had been appointed Director of Army Postal Services, NZEF, travelled to Great Britain with a reinforcement and naturally took an interest in the operation of the troopship postal affairs. On learning that the date stamps bore the troopships numbers he reported the matter to the Secretary to the Post & Telegraph Department "This seems to be a mistake as all dates, names and numbers of troopships are not allowed to the censor but they are shown on the outside of every letter stamped by the postmaster." This letter was received in Wellington on October 1916 and on 10 November the Chief Postmaster, Wellington, was instructed that in future the number of the troopship was not to be shown in the date stamps. From this time on date stamps were used in amended form, or not at all.

Details of the Reinforcements, and their date stamps follow:



#### 1st Reinforcement:

As noted this reinforcement travelled to Egypt with the Main Body, NZEF, the postal orderly attached to the reinforcement using a date stamp of type 15 (page 351) in purple ink. This is known used cancelling a pair of ½d New Zealand. King Edward stamps.

#### 2nd Reinforcements:

Consisted of 1,974 men sailed for Egypt on 14 December 1914 on Troopship 13 “Verdalla”. 14 “Willochra”, and 15 “Knight of the Garter”. Each troopship used a date stamp of type 16 in purple ink.

Troopship 16 “Talune” was used to take a Samoan Relief Force to Samoa and it is doubtful whether a post office was operated on board.

#### 3rd Reinforcements:

Sailed for Egypt on 14 February 1915, arriving 27th March 1910 sailed on Troopships 17 "Maunganui", 18 "Tahiti", 19 "Aparima", and 20 “Warrimoo”. Each troopship used a date stamp of type 16 in purple ink.

#### 4th Reinforcements:

Sailed for Egypt on 17 April 1915 on Troopships 21 "Willochra 22 "Knight Templar" and 25 “Waitomo”. Each troopship used a date stamp of type 17 in purple ink.

#### 5th Reinforcements:

Sailed 15 June 1915 for Egypt on Troopships 24 “Maunganui”, 25 "Tahiti" and 26 “Aparima”. Each troopship used a date stamp of type 18 in either blue or purple ink. One of these date stamps in purple, was used on 17 July 1915 to cancel stamps on a letter posted while the convoy was in an Indian port. This letter was embossed with the ½ anna green embossed envelope and also bore Indian postage stamps pair ½ anna green SG 156, pair 2 anna purple and a single 2 anna purple SG 166, a single 1 anna red SG 160, and a strip of three 2 pies grey SG 152.

#### 6th Reinforcements:

Sailed 15 August 1915 for Egypt on Troopships 27 “Willochra” and 28 “Tofua”, each troopship used a date stamp of type 18 in purple. The postal staff with this reinforcement were L/Cpl J.T. Carr, Privates F.J.Boggs, L.T.Cairn, and J.R.Fraser.

#### 7th Reinforcements, First Section:

Sailed September 1915 for Egypt on troopship 29 "Waitemata". The date stamp used onboard this troopship has not been noted but it was probably of type 18,

#### 7th Reinforcements Second Section:

Sailed 9 October 1915 for Egypt, the draft including further brigades of the NZEF. on troopships

50 "Maunganui" (1st NZ Rifle Brigade),

31 "Tahiti" (2nd NZ Rifle Brigade),

32 “Aparima” (reinforcements),

33 “Navua”

34 “Warrimoo”.

The date stamps supplied to these troopships showed the troopship number, not the reinforcement name and were used in purple, Troopship 30 reinforcement using its date stamp in blue. Army Headquarters instructed the Officer Commanding Troops that these date stamps were to be returned to the General Post Office, Wellington. All earlier date stamps had shown the date as month-day-year but from this reinforcement on the date stamps showed the date as day-month-year.

#### 8th Reinforcements:

Sailed 14 November 1915 for Egypt on, Troopships 35 "Willochra" and 36 "Tofua" used date stamps of type 19 in blue. On board the "Willochra" ship the post office occupied two cabins that had been knocked into one amidships, measuring 18 x 7 foot, and during the first three days at sea 2,000 letters and 600 parcels were dealt with.

#### 9th Reinforcements:

Sailed 8 January 1916 for Egypt on Troopships 37 "Maunganui", 38 "Tahiti" and 39 "Warrimoo". Date stamp of type 20 were used in purple. Troopship "Dalmore" carried horses to Egypt and troopship 41 "Waihora" carried forage, neither ship had postal orderlies on board.

#### 3rd & 4th NZ Rifle Brigade:

This convoy sailed from Auckland and Wellington late January 1916 on troopships

42 "Ulimaroa"	3rd NZ Rifle. Brigade
43 "Mokoia"	4th NZ Rifle Brigade
44 "Navua"	Maori Reinforcements & other units
45 "Waitemata"	Horses
46 "Aparima"	Horses

Troopship 42 sailed from Wellington and date stamps of type 13 and 19 were used on board in purple ink. The type 10 date stamp is known cancelling a 2d NZ King Edward stamp.

Troopship 43 and 44 sailed from Auckland and the Chief Postmaster, Auckland was instructed on 24 January 1916 to obtain locally two date stamps for each troopship, these of type 231, were made in Auckland by Messrs Alpe Brose & Co at a cost of 15s each, and were used at sea in purple ink.

The Maori Reinforcements travelled on board troopship 44 and the Postal Orderly continued to use his date stamp of type 18 which had been used on mails since September 1915, while the Reinforcements were in camp under training. This was used in purple.

#### 10th Reinforcements:

Sailed 4 March 1916 for Egypt on board Troopships 47 "Willochra" and 48 "Tofua", date stamps of type 20 were used in blue ink. On the "Tofua" the post office occupied a cabin measuring 7'6" x 5'6". No "squeezers" or crimp had been supplied to seal the lead seals on the mailbags so on arrival at Colombo the bags were taken to the General Post Office there and sealed with wax. The General Post Office refused to lend their wax sealer so eventually the New Zealanders used a New Zealand brass button on the wax.

#### 11th Reinforcements:

Sailed 2 April 1916 for Egypt on Troopships 49 "Maunganui" and 50 "Tahiti". Date stamps of type 19 were used in blue ink.

#### 12th Reinforcements:

Sailed 5 May 1916 for France on Troopships 51 "Ulimaroa", 52 "Mokoia" and 53 "Navua". Troopship 51 used a date stamp of type 20 in green ink but with the date arranged month-day-year, evidently on the earlier date stamps fitted with a new rubber face. This is known cancelling a pair of Ceylon 6c King George V, scarlet, stamps. The other two troopships also used date stamps of type 20 in green ink, but with the date as day-month-year.

#### 13th Reinforcements:

Sailed 30 May 1916 for Great Britain on troopship 54 "Willochra" and 55 "Tofua". Both ships used date stamps of type 20, Willochra in purple ink and Tofu in blue ink.

#### 14th Reinforcements:

Sailed 26 June 1916 for Great Britain on Troopships 56 “Maunganui” 57 “Tahiti” and 58 “Waihora”. Troopships 56 and 57 used date stamps of type 19 in green ink, while the Waihora carried forage and did not have a postal orderly on board.

#### 15th Reinforcements:

Sailed 27 July 1916 for Great Britain on troopships 59 “Waitemata” and 60 Ulimaroa”, both ships used date stamps of type 20 in purple ink.

Some of the later reinforcements used date stamps of type 15 that had been returned to New Zealand but most did not use any special postal markings though there were postal orderlies on board. Such mails were sent back to New Zealand in sealed bags and on receipt at Wellington were run through one of the automatic cancelling machines which had been fitted with a POSTAGE PAID head and using magenta ink.

# EGYPT

The New Zealand convoy steamed slowly northward through the Suez Canal, through Port Said, and West to Alexandria where the ships came alongside the wharves, the troops starting to land in Egypt on 3 December 1914.

Troops and horses marched through Alexandria to waiting troop trains and were soon speeding south across the delta of the Nile towards Cairo, 133 miles to the south. The first trains arrived at Cairo during the night time and continued 4 miles further south into the desert where the troops and horses tumbled out on to the sand. A tramp of a mile and a half across the desert to near a racecourse, and the tired men bivouacked for the night.

Sunrise of 4 December found thousands of men and horses on the edge of a limitless desert, a yellow sandy plain. Through the area ran the main Heliopolis – Suez highway running 84 miles east to Suez, and from this highway a new road was constructed north. South of the Heliopolis-Suez road Headquarters and Supply depots established their tents and lines, east of the north road the mounted rifles, artillery, and ambulance were established, and west of the north road the infantry were established. This was Zeitoun, New Zealand's first camp in Egypt, and later to become a pleasant suburban area of Cairo city.

The postal personnel arrived at Zeitoun early on 4 December and received their tents and equipment later that day. The NZ Army Post Office, of combined staffs, were opened there in a tent that afternoon. Posting boxes were erected at Division HQ, and Infantry Brigade HQ.

By the end of the first week all equipment and stores had been received and the three colonial camps had shaken down into something like order. Australian infantry were camped at Mena and the Australian Light Horse at Medi.

While at sea the soldiers of the Main Body NZEF had posted their letters and cards free of charge of postage but on arrival in Egypt they found the Egyptian postage rates and postage stamps had to be used.

The postage rates laid down in a circular dated 11 December to all units, were

Letters

to New Zealand, United Kingdom,

and British Possessions, 5 milliemes ( ½ Piastre) per 20 grammes

to other countries, 10 mills (1 piastre) for first 20 grammes,

6 mills each succeeding 20 grammes.

Postcards, to all countries 4 mills

inland, 2 mills

Newspapers 10 mills

Registration fee, 10 mills

The New Zealand Army Post Office stocked stamped postcards at 4 mills each and also embossed envelopes in packets of 20 envelopes, at 11 piastres per packet or 6 mills per envelope. In addition, Egyptian postage stamps were stocked and the following denominations have been seen on mail handled through New Zealand field post offices:

2 mills	green	Sphinx & Pyramids	1912 issue
3 mills	orange yellow	Ras El Tin Palace	1914 issue
4 mills	orange	Sphinx & Pyramids	1906 issue
5 mills	lake	Sphinx	1914 issue
10 mills	dull blue	Colossi of Thebes	1914 iss

H.E.A./26

POSTAL INFORMATION.

11th. December, 1914.

129 A.

British Postal Orders for payment in the United Kingdom and British possessions are now on sale. The following denominations are stocked:-1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, and 12/6.

Posting Boxes have been erected at Divisional Headquarters, Infantry Brigade, and at the Base Office.

The following are the rates of postage:-  
To New Zealand, United Kingdom, and British possessions 5 Milliemes (1/2 Piastre) for every 20 Grammes or fraction.

To other countries in Postal Union 10 Milliemes (1 Piastre) for first 20 Grammes, and 6 Milliemes for each succeeding 20 Grammes or fraction.

Post-cards to all Postal Union countries 4 Milliemes; inland 2 Milliemes.

The fee for Registration is 10 Milliemes (1 Piastre). This is additional to the usual postage.

Parcel Post rates may be obtained on application to the M.P.O.

The following articles are also on sale:-

Foreign Post-cards at 4 Milliemes each.

Embossed envelopes, packets of 20, 11 Piales, or for single envelopes 6 Milliemes each.

(Sgd.) D. McCurdy, Lieut,  
In charge Military Postal Service.

All illustrations have been photographed from Robin Startup's original manuscript in which they are folded (sometimes multiple times) and pasted in, before being bound in hard covers. This makes getting them flat for scanning or photographing difficult, which is why the latter was chosen irrespective of the folds, curves, perspective and condition to be able to show the originals as intended by Robin.



The inscription “No stamps available” was endorsed on letters when units were operating in areas without postal facilities.

Official correspondence from one unit to another in Egypt or Sudan was despatched free of postage charges provided the envelope bore the office stamp of the unit from which it originated and was franked by an officer of NCO. This resulted in the various frank stamps mentioned later.

The postage stamps and stationery, and stampless mail, were at first cancelled or date stamped with the rubber die date stamps of type 10 (page 349) and 11 (page 349) in purple ink and occasionally in black. The date stamps of type 11 hand TROOPSHIP No. and the number removed before being brought into use.

The first mails from New Zealand were received on 16 December and the postal staff spent all night sorting mail, finishing about six o'clock the following morning. When the mails were distributed there was great excitement in the camp “the expression on the faces of the men when they had received their letters was a picture – joy being written all over their features/” By the end of January 1915 a weekly mail was being received from New Zealand and this was being delivered to the men within a few hours of receipt.

It seems that the first letters for the men in the NZEF were posted in New Zealand largely without postage, however on 25 November instructions were issued throughout New Zealand that mails to the forces were not free of postage charges and that the postage rates were the same as those to England.

Letters	1d per ounce	
Parcels	up to 3lbs	1s
	7lbs	2s
	11lbs	3s

After the force arrived in Egypt numerous New Zealand correspondents started to send letters addressed to New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Egypt, instead of to NZEF C/- GPO Wellington. It was advised on 24 November that though the official mail address had not been changed there was nothing to prevent the address of NZEF Egypt being used.

The New Zealand Army Post Office that had been opened at Zeitoun on 4 December 1914 became Army Post Office, Base Details, the field post offices with Division Headquarters, Mounted Brigade HQ and Infantry Brigade HQ opening as equipment, was received, all offices being open by 9 December. It was announced on 26 December that mails for New Zealand would be closed at the Base Details APO every Monday, at 1.50 pm.

The rubber-die date stamps were not really satisfactory in the hot and gritty conditions of Egypt and late in December Lieutenant McCurdy had steel-die date stamps for the office manufactured by the date-stamp engraver contractor to the Egyptian Post Office. These date stamps were similar in layout to the Egyptian civil postal date stamps except that Arabic inscriptions were omitted. These date stamps (types 22 - 25 page 354) were introduced early in January 1915 but the rubber date stamps were not wholly replaced and can be found in use as late as 1919.

The date stamp for the Base Details APO (type 22) had the month in the date shown in Roman numerals (VII for July) and it is possible that this was not introduced until some time after the earlier date stamps.

Sometimes the rubber die date stamps of type 10 and 11 were used with a bar in place of the month and occasionally with a bar in place of the entire date. Instances are also found where the date slugs were not correctly arranged or where they were inverted.

With camp arrangements completed the New Zealand Expeditionary Force started training in earnest, long sweltering route marches being made through the never ending deserts surrounding the camps. Mounted units exercised their horses daily until they were ready to start unit exercises and training.

In mid-December it was decided to use the NZEF as the nucleus of a division, the two New Zealand brigades to be joined by the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade and the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade. The Australian Light Horse Brigade was attached to the forming division on 8 December but the

Infantry brigade did not land in Egypt from Australia until mid-January 1915, the New Zealand & Australian Division being officially formed from 18 January 1915. There was at first a great shortage of divisional troops but the situation was eased by the arrival of the British Section, NZEF, on. 24 December. Formation of the Division train was completed in mid-January and a New Zealand Field Post Office, staffed by a Sergeant and two sappers, was opened at that time, this office using date stamp type 26 (page 354).

On 25th January 1915 the NZ Infantry Brigade then at Zeitoun preparing the camp for the arrival of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade, was ordered hurriedly to the front reserve near the Suez Canal to support Indian troops against an expected advance by Turkish troops who were reported to be advancing from their base at Beersheba. Early the next day the brigade entrained at Helieh railway siding for the canal arriving there at night. Brigade headquarters and two battalions were de-trained at Ismailia and the other two battalions at El Kubri to the south, about 12 miles north of Suez. From these two points a line of defence posts were established along the canal, from El Ferdan in the north of Ismailia south to El Kubri. The field post office accompanied the move and was established with brigade headquarters in Ismailia.

The Turks launched their attack on the night of 2-3 February but this was repulsed. After a further three weeks guarding the canal posts the brigade was entrained for Zeitoun, arriving there on 26 February and occupying their old positions.

2nd Reinforcements NZEF arrived at Alexandria on "Willochra" on 28 January and were entrained for Zeitoun where they merged into brigade and division units. The 4th Australian Infantry Brigade arrived in Egypt in the same convoy and started detraining at Zeitoun on 1 February. The Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) maintained their own military postal service and on arrival of the Australian brigade at Zeitoun a brigade field post office was opened at the headquarters, this office using a date stamp of type 64 (page 361). Many New Zealanders were closely associated with the brigade and despatched their mail through the brigade field post office

It was announced on 15 February that arrangements had been made for free postage to United Kingdom India, Australia, New Zealand, and Ceylon, of Field Service Post Cards, Army Form A. 2042 sent by the British troops in Egypt. On 17th May it was further announced that arrangements had been made for the free postage on letters and postcards posted by the forces to their home countries.

At Zeitoun the NZ & Division was readily training and on 26 March the 3rd Reinforcements, NZEF, arrived. About this time the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, commanded by General Sir Ian Hamilton, was formed and the 1st Australian Division and the NZ & A Division were formed into the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps, the initials of the corps forming, the now famous word Anzac.

A postal section was established at the Headquarters of the A&NZ Corps on 10 March 1915, both to operate a field post office for GHQ staff, and also to provide postal liaison for the field post offices within the corps. Lt. A.W. Ross AIF was appointed the Assistant Director Army Postal Services and his assistants were S/Sgt E.C. Henderson AIF, Sgt J.R. Millar, NZEF, Cpl. C.A. Gabel AIF.

Soldiers of the NZEF who became ill or required hospital attention had to be admitted to the British General Hospitals, or to the Australian General Hospital. However in 14 March 1915 the Egyptian Army at Pont de Koubbeh, a northern suburb of Cairo, was taken over for the New Zealand General Hospital, and on 7 March 1915 No 1 NZ Stationery Army Post Office was opened there, using date stamp type 28 –age 354.

On 9 April the NZ & Australian Division entrained at Zeitoun for Alexandria and from there sailed north for the Gallipoli campaign. Division HQ, Division Train, and Brigade HQ field post offices accompanied the division to Gallipoli. The Mounted Rifles Field post office remained at Zeitoun and No 1 NZ Stationary APO remained at Cairo.

The British Army Base Post Office had been established at Alexandria being, controlled by the Director of Army Postal Services who had the overall command of the military postal services within the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force area. Mails from, New Zealanders, particularly from soldiers in

hospitals or passing through Alexandria, passed through the British Base APO and were cancelled there with a date stamp of type 63 (page 361) but inscribed "Z" at the foot.

The New Zealand Base Details APO moved north to Alexandria early April 1915 and opened there in Shed 45 on the Alexandria Wharves on 10 April as the New Zealand Advanced Base Post Office. Date stamps of type 10A and 11 were first used here as well as the date stamp type 22 but from 10 September 1915 these were replaced by an Egyptian made date stamp of type 32 (page 54)

On its move north to Alexandria a field post office was established at the camp headquarters at Zeitoun camp, this office being designated No 2 NZ Stationary APO and operated under Corporal W. McPhail with two sappers. The Office used a date stamp of type 28 but inscribed No 2. The office was also known variously as Zeitoun Camp Stationary APO, or New Zealand APO Zeitoun. On 18 November 1915 Sergeant E. R. Tombs from NZ Advanced Base APO was placed in charge of this office as increased work necessitated enlargement of the staff.

Mails from New Zealand for the NZEF were landed at Alexandria where they were taken over by the Advanced Base APO and after sorting and addresses checked, dispatched for the field post offices at Gallipoli or for the offices in Egypt

Owing to the heavy casualties experienced in the Gallipoli campaign and the wide dispersal of wounded New Zealanders to hospitals in Egypt, Malta and even England considerable quantities of mail were becoming undeliverable. It was now decided to change the system of mail distribution by establishing a card index. This was organized in August 1915 at NZ Advanced Base APO, a card being raised for each member of the NZEF showing his rank, number, and name and latest address. These cards were kept in strict alphabetical order and addresses were kept up to date by regimental movement reports and also by letter of advice from the soldiers themselves. This system was later adopted by both the Australian and British Army postal services and became part of modern military postal organization.

When the mails arrived from New Zealand they were sorted into alphabetical order and then compared with the index cards, being re-addressed to the latest recorded address. All mails for wounded or detached men were kept out and the balance forwarded twice a week to Gallipoli. By this means delay in delivery of mails to the men was kept to a minimum and considerable space was saved in shipping mails unnecessarily to and from Gallipoli. The practice in British and Australian army postal services at that time was to return the unclaimed or undeliverable letters to the senders after a short period in the hope the senders had been advised of a later address.

It is interesting to note that when the New Zealand forces overseas were at their peak in 1918 the average changes of address recorded at the NZ Base Post Office were 50,000 a month. The establishment of the NZ Army Postal Services had increased from the 9 who travelled with the main body to 235.

Considerably difficulty had been experienced in obtaining qualified personnel to fill the postal establishment of 32 all ranks for the NZ Advanced Base Post Office in Alexandria and approval was obtained for the dispatch from New Zealand of two postal personnel per thousand troops in all drafts, and one per thousand in reinforcements. The first men under this arrangement, Sergeant D. R. Smith and another, arrived in Egypt on 25 September 1915 with the Maori Reinforcements. Eight NCOs and men arrived with the 7th Reinforcements.

Some of the wounded troops from Gallipoli on evacuation to Egypt, were treated at the New Zealand General Hospital at Pont de Koubbeh in Cairo and at Australian Convalescent Hospitals at Zeitoun and Heliopolis.

A distinctive frank stamp (type 35 page 354) was applied in purple on outward mails from the NZ General Hospital but ordinary internal rubber stamps were used at this and other hospitals as well. Type 33 was used in blue and purple and type 34 was used in purple. This latter stamp originally included the facsimile signature of Major E.R. Nation, Commanding Officer of the hospital, this signature was probably removed later. Mails from the convalescent hospital were often posted through the Helwan civil post office.

Military units themselves, used various stamps as franks on official mails, such types being 30, 31 (page 354) while a stamp inscribed TH HOWITZER / N.Z.A.A. was used by a Howitzer battery of the N.Z Army Artillery. Type 46 (page 360) was used in purple.

To meet the demand for recreation facilities for Australian and New Zealand troops on leave in Cairo the Australian Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) combined to establish a large recreational club in the heart of Cairo. An existing open air theatre and skating rink with adjoining club facilities in the famous Esebekieh Gardens was requisitioned by military authorities and handed over to the management of the YMCA. This club soon became a popular rendezvous for soldiers on leave.

About May 1915 letter-writing facilities were provided at the club and were fully used. A problem arose immediately as to the posting of these letters, the usual civil postal channels could not be used on account of the military censorship requirements but by arrangement with military security authorities permission was granted for letters to be posted at the club and be handled by Cairo civil postal officials. Each outward letter had to be franked with the club official frank stamp (type 37 page 354) and be countersigned after a brief censorship. The news of the free letters with censorship reduced to a minimum soon spread and the postal department at the club became enormously popular. These privileges were withdrawn after a year through the difficulty in keeping pace with the amount of mail handled and also as other similar organizations were requesting the same facilities. The YMCA service itself used a frank stamp, in purple type 36 page 354.

At the NZ Advanced Base PO in Alexandria a Returned Letter Branch was established in 1915 to handle returned mails and several different rubber-die stamps were used in purple or blue (type 54, 55, and 57, page 361) as well a date stamp in a double lined rectangle 43mm long with an inscription NEW ZEALAND / ADVANCED BASE A.P.O./ date / RETURNED LETTER BRANCH, and another stamp, a single lined rectangle 68 mm long with the inscription Reported Killed / Return to Sender.

Reduced parcel postage rates were reduced from 14 May 1915, being on parcels posted in New Zealand to the forces overseas

Up to 3 lbs	1s
7 lbs	1s 9d
11 lbs	2s 6d

From 24th May 1915 British, Australian., Indian, and Colonial troops as well as New Zealand troops in Egypt were allowed to send ordinary correspondence addressed to their respective countries free of postage charges.

When the NZ & A Division left Zeitoun for Gallipoli the NZ Mounted Brigade was left behind in Egypt. However, by mid-May the division had suffered so many casualties that the brigade was dismounted and sent north to serve as infantrymen in Gallipoli, the brigade field post office accompanying the move.

Letters were occasionally posted through Egyptian civil post offices though this was a breach of censorship regulations. Letters of this nature are known posted through the Alexandria GPO and through the Attarine, branch post office in Alexandria. The Egyptian postal authorities had opened a post office designated Soldiers & Sailors Club, Alexandria, and quantities of forces mail were handled through this office.

On 15th October 1915 the NZ Advanced Base PO moved from Shed 45 on the Alexandria wharves to the spacious building of Le Forreti Theatre.

On 15th August the strength of the NZEF Postal Services was laid down as

Detachment	Officer	Sgt	Cpl	Sapper	total
Advanced Base P.O. Alexandria	1	2	2	10	15
NZ Stationary APO Cairo		1	1	2	4
Field PO Div Train		1	1	1	3
Div HQ		1		2	3

NZ MR Bde			1	2	3
NZ Inf Bde			1	2	3
Total	1	5	6	19	31

Evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula commenced 10-11 December and as the NZ & Australian Division arrived back in Egypt it was in placed in reserve to enable reorganization and re-equipping, being based at Moascar. Mounted troops returned to Zeitoun while infantry units were based on Moascar. After the division had returned the field post offices operated as follows;

- NZ Advanced Base PO Alexandria
- No. 1 NZ Stationary APO Pont de Koubbeh, Cairo
- No. 2 NZ Stationary APO Zeitoun
- Divisional Headquarters, Moascar
- NZ Mounted Brigade, Zeitoun
- NZ Infantry Brigade, Moascar
- NZ Rifle Brigade, El Daba en route to Moascar

On 13<sup>th</sup> January the troops were notified that the special green envelopes used for uncensored correspondence marked A.F.W3078 had been abolished and had been replaced by a similar envelope that was slightly larger and had "Crown Copyright Reserved" in the top right corner

Numbers of New Zealand postage stamps were used at this time on out-ward mails despatched through the NZ Advanced Base PO, a block of four ½d green King George V being known date stamped 21 January 1916 and a block of four ½d King George V (SG 479) being known date stamped 26 January 1916.

The field post offices with the division at Moascar and at Zeitoun were open daily between 0800 and 2000 hours, mails being closed daily at 1800 hours for NZ Advanced Base PO. These offices handled;

- sale of stamps
- sale of British postal orders
- cashing of British postal orders
- registration of letters and packets up to 11 ounces in weight
- acceptance of parcels up to 11 lbs in weight.

On 11th February 1916 Divisional Orders included a notice that British Stationary Army Post Offices had been established, at Port Said, Kantara, Ballah, El Ferdan, Ismailia, Shaluffa, Kubri, Suez Town, and Suez Camp, and exchanged local correspondence to and from the field, the lines of communication, and the base.

Anzac Corps Headquarters moved to Ismailia from Cairo on 4 January 1916 to control the sector of the Suez Canal area, running, from Kabrit to El Ferdan.

On 24th January the NZ Mounted Rifles brigade left Zeitoun for the canal defence area, camping alongside the-NZ Infantry Brigade at Moascar on the night of 28th-29th taking up a post at Serapeum the following day, the field post office accompanying the brigade in its move. Light Horse Brigades of the Australian Imperial Forces moved to the canal area and on 12th March the Australian & New Zealand Mounted Division was formed.

Plans had been made in. late February 1916 to transfer the MEF base from Cairo to Suez where a large building had been constructed for the use of the whole base MEF postal services, the move was planned for 15 March but word was received that the NZ Zealand Division was to be moved. to France and therefore only the Base Detail (No.2 NZ Stationary P.O.) moved from Zeitoun to Suez. Here the New

Zealand office provided base postal services for the NZ Mounted Brigades, and other units left in Egypt for the Sinai and Palestine campaign.

With the movement of the NZ Mounted Brigade to Serapeum and its inclusion in the Australian & New Zealand Mounted Division and with the New Zealand & Australian Division in reserve at Moascar the Anzac Corps was able to reorganise the Australian and New Zealand in Egypt, the New Zealand & Australian Division becoming simply the New Zealand Division from 1 March 1916. From the same time the NZEF Postal Services was redesignated NZ Postal Corps.

On 10th February the original Anzac Corps had become I Anzac Corps and a new II Anzac Corps was formed to control the three Australian Divisions. The 4th Australian Infantry Brigade had been withdrawn from the old NZ & Australian Division and included in the Australian Division, being replaced by the NZ Rifle Brigade returning to Egypt from the Senussi campaign. The NZ Mounted Brigade, in its inclusion in the Australian & NZ Mounted Division, was replaced by the formation, on 1 March, of the 2nd NZ Infantry Brigade from reinforcements and from men posted from the Mounted Brigade. A field post office was shortly afterwards opened at the 2nd NZ Infantry Brigade Headquarters, this using a date stamp of type 10, Page 349

On the reorganisation of the New Zealand forces the strength of the NZ Postal Corps was revised, the new war establishment dated 27 February 1916 being:

Detachment	Officer	Sergeant	Cpl	Sapper.	Total
NZ Advanced BPO,	1	8	4	37	50
NZ Stationary APO		1	1	2	4
FPO, Div Train		1	1	1	3
Branch FPO, Div HQ		1		2	3
NZMR Bde			1	2	3
NZ Inf Bde			1	2	3
NZ Rifle Bde			1	2	3
2nd NZ Inf Bde			1	2	3
Total	1	11	10	50	72

2nd Australian Division of I Anzac Corps was the first portion of the canal defence forces to leave for France and during the first days of March the NZ Division moved east from Moascar to relieve the 2nd Australian Division from canal defence duties.

The NZ Division was in line by 8 March and field post offices were operating;

Div. HQ FPO	Albury Hill	serving DIV HQ, 2nd NZ Inf Bde
NZMR Bde FPO	NZ MR Bde HQ	all troops at front & at railhead
1st NZ Inf Bde	staging camp Moascar	1st NZ Inf Bde, Ferry Post
NZ Rifle Bde	staging camp, Moascar	NZ Rifle Bde, Ferry Post
Div Train	Moascar	

Mails were closed fully at all offices at 1500 hours, except at the NZ Mounted Brigade which was now making its own postal exchange arrangements.

Orders were now received that the NZ Division was to move to France next and the 5th Australian Division commenced to take the NZ sector of the line. Most units of the division were back at Moascar on 25 March and the move was completed when Division Headquarters arrived there on 30 March. The Division commenced to move through Cairo for Alexandria and the NZ Advanced Base PO was instructed to hold all mails for the division until it arrived at Alexandria. Embarkation at Alexandria

for France commenced on 5 April 1916, and after the departure of the NZ Division and the major portion of the NZEF base the only NZ post offices left in Egypt were the NZ Base Details APO at Suez and the NZ Mounted Rifles Field Post Office.

Mails arriving for New Zealand were taken over by the NZ Base Details post office at Suez where they were carded and readdressed. These mails were then handed over to the British Army Base Post Office who forwarded them with British mails to the Corps HQ field post office in the field. The Corps FPO handed them over to the appropriate Division FPO who handed them on to the appropriate Brigade FPO which often consisted of three men with a tent and horses or a camel. There were forty odd brigades serving in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, only one of which was a New Zealand Brigade, so it was more practical to have New Zealand mails handled over British postal channels.

In the Anzac Mounted Division there were Australian field post offices at Division Headquarters, at Division Train, and with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigades, but the office with the NZ Mounted Brigade was run by New Zealanders. The Imperial Camel Corps Brigade was composed largely of Australian and New Zealand troops and the field post office with the brigade was run by Australian postal corps.

The New Zealand Mounted Brigade Field Post Office for the Sinai and Palestine campaigns originally used a date stamp of type 24 (page 354) but in September 1917 this was either replaced or superseded by a date stamp of type 62 (page 361) with the code letters NZ at foot. This was a standard skeleton type date stamp which was later replaced by a standard double ring "English" type date stamp, type 45 (page 360). The field post office with the Imperial Camel Corps used a skeleton and a "English" type date stamp with the code letters CZ.

The NZ Base Details APO at Suez used its date stamp (type 22 page 354) until it closed in June 1919. The field post with the Mounted Brigade was staffed with a Corporal and two sappers until it closed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1919 but the staff of the Base Details office changed during the campaign.

In September 1916 the NZ Base Details APO, known as Suez Transit Office or No. 3 NZ Stationary APO (other stationary APOs were now operating in England) had a staff of 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and two sappers. In May 1916 Sapper W.E. Rafter was posted temporarily to Port Tewfik on postal duty and while there, was acting Corporal.

In July 1917 the NZ Base Details APO was moved to Ismailia where it was renamed NZ Base Army Post Office but it seems it still used the original date stamp.

By April 1918 the staff of the office had been increased to 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 6 sappers and by August 1918 after the office had been moved to Kantara the staff had been further increased by the appointment of a Staff Sergeant. The office closed about June 1919 when the troops were evacuated to New Zealand.



## GALLIPOLI

Between Eastern Europe and Western Asia lies the great sea called the Black Sea, the Crimean Wars of the 1850s having been fought along its northern shores. This sea is separated from the Sea of Marmara in its south-western shores by the Straits of Bosphorus, a long narrow but navigable channel. The Sea of Marmara is separated from the Aegean Sea and the eastern Mediterranean by a similar long narrow channel known as the Dardanelles. On the northern shores of the Bosphorus stands the capital of Turkey, then called Constantinople, but now known as Istanbul. The peninsula forming the northern barrier of the Dardanelles is called Gallipoli.

The Gallipoli isthmus was first fortified in 1357 and modern fortifications were constructed on these early lines by British and French armies during the Crimean Wars of the 1850s and they were enlarged in January 1878 on the Russians threatening to take possession of Constantinople.

Prior to the Great War Russia had built up a large export trade in grains harvested on the plains of Ukraine, these being shipped to the rest of the world from the Black Sea ports. But when Turkey joined in The Great War on the side of the Germans the Bosphorus was blocked to international trade and the flow of grain ceased. If the war had changed at the Dardanelles campaigns and the Allied forces had been successful, there is no doubt that the grain trade would have been resumed and modern history of Russia would have been different. However, the grain was never resumed and Turkish seaport towns lost their importance.

On 2 January 1915 Lord Kitchener, Chief of Imperial Staff, received an appeal from Grand Duke Nicholas of the Russian Army in the Caucasus. Kitchener felt unable to provide troops and suggested a naval demonstration against the Dardanelles. On 13th January the War Cabinet decided on a naval expedition "to take the Gallipoli Peninsula, with Constantinople as its objective." If this had succeeded and Constantinople had been captured the whole Turkish war effort, involving many Asia Minor countries, would have collapsed.

A naval force of British and French ships carried out a preliminary bombardment of the Dardanelles fortifications and then entered the straits, but, after several ships had been sunk in the straits by mines, the naval expedition was abandoned on 18 March.

In the meantime it had been announced in London on 10 March that a military force was being sent to support the Naval expedition. If the naval attempt succeeded the military force was to land, establish a garrison, and press on for Constantinople. However, if the naval attempt failed the military force was to make an offensive landing.

By the time the naval expedition was abandoned the British 29th Division had reached Malta from Great Britain and some 2,000 Royal Marines and 4,000 Australian forces had been brought to the island of Lemnos. This military force, commanded by General Sir Ian Hamilton, was at first designated Constantinople Expeditionary Force. These military forces were now sent back to Egypt for proper offensive organization.

In the strategic planning for the offensive it would appear from a study of maps that the easiest way to force the Turkish defences and occupy Constantinople, would be to cross the isthmus at the narrowest point at Bulair. This venerable point was well defended and the British leaders decided to launch their military offensive on the most southerly point on the peninsula and then sweep north towards Bulair.

The forces available for the attack were 1st Australian Division, New Zealand & Australian Division, 29th British Division, Royal Naval Division, and a French Division, totalling 75,000 men in all.

The NZ& Division was warned at the beginning of April that it would probably commence to embark on 7 April and an advanced camp was established at Mustapha, near Alexandria, as a transit camp. Entraining at Zeitoun the Division moved north to Alexandria and embarked on the thirteen ships to transport the division. These ships, like many others in crowded harbour, were of all kinds, some were once proud liners, others were lice infested tramps.

The first ships carrying the NZ&A Division sailed from Alexandria on 10th April and the others followed within the next days. The liner “Lutzow” carrying Division Headquarters sailed on the



evening of 12th April and the tramp steamer “Goslar” carrying NZ Infantry Brigade Headquarters sailed on the evening of 17th April. The “Goslar” arrived at Mudros on 20th April and handed 100 bags of mail over to the Field Post Office attached to Division Headquarters for delivery.

At Mudros, in the landlocked harbour, each brigade and each division assiduously carried out landing practise, and sorted its men into three echelons “A” the landing troops “B” reinforcement troops with

essential front line equipment “C” rear parties and equipment, including Field post offices and other non-essential services.

The great armada of ships sailed out from Mudros harbour on the afternoon of 24 April and at sea divided into the four attending forces. The Anzac Corps fleet sailed steadily north up the Gallipoli coast coming to a halt just off Gabba Tepe. Echelon “A” men trooped on board destroyers and barges, were towed as close as possible inshore, and then towed the remainder of the way in.

The Turks commenced to repel the invaders as soon as the ships drew close ashore. Many men were wounded as they waited in the barges and did not even land, others jumped into the shallow water but were quickly cut down by hot Turkish fire. But other troops managed to get safely ashore and soon forced a position for themselves. The main striking force of the invasion was the 29th British Division which was to go ashore on five small beaches at Cape Helles with the objective of advancing six miles north to Achi Baba.

The Anzac Force was to land about 13 miles up the west coast between Gaba Tepe and Fisherman’s Hut, and to strike east across the peninsula through Sari Blair Hills to Mal Tepe. Simultaneously two main diversions were to be carried out. The Royal Naval Division was to make a pretence at landing at the isthmus at Bulair and the French were to go ashore for an armed raid at Kum Kala, later these two divisions were to be brought back to reinforce the main attack.

In the tragic attack on 25th April many hundreds of men were killed or wounded before they even had a chance of reaching the shore, by 8th May 1915 there were over 20,000 casualties, a third of the initial forces. Early in May the 29 British Division was reinforced at Cape Helles by the 42nd British Division, an Indian Brigade, and the 2nd French Division. Ground was gained only slowly in spite of costly attacks.

At the Anzac landing Echelon “B” personnel landed during the night of 25th-26th April and within the next two days supplies and Echelon “C” personnel were ashore. At first all units were horribly mixed up along the narrow straggling coastline that had been seized from the Turks at a high cost but within two or three days the troops had been sorted into correct order.

Nestling under the cliffs in what was soon called Anzac Cove administrative headquarters and supplies soon cut themselves sandbagged dugouts, and by the first week in May the Field Post Offices with the brigade headquarters, Division Headquarters and Division Train had been established.

In addition to the fresh divisions arriving from Egypt 6,000 Australians and New Zealanders were taken from the Anzac theatre and sent into Cape Helles to reinforce the attacks of the 29th British Division there. The NZ Infantry Brigade and 2nd Australian Brigade were withdrawn from Anzac Cove on the night of 5th-6th May and taken down to Cape Helles where, with other units, they were formed into a composite division. This division launched an unsuccessful attack with the object of capturing Krithia village, on 8th May. The line becoming stabilized the NZ Infantry Brigade was withdrawn on 11th May and returned to Anzac Cove on 19th May where the position had become critical.

On 12th May, 1915 the NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade, dismounted and employed as an infantry brigade, arrived at Anzac Cove to reinforce the Anzac Corps.

To handle the mails coming ashore from Mudros a Landing Post Office, worked by combined staffs of Australian and New Zealand postal services, was established in the beach in Anzac Cove. Mails were dispatched for the front daily from Port Said and Alexandria and conveyed north in any available transport, being handed over to the MEF Base Post Office “Y”. This British BAPO was first opened with MEF General Headquarters on H.M. Transport “Arcadian” a former peacetime liner which made regular cruises to the Norwegian fiords. Later the office moved to H.M. Transport “Aragon” and still later moved ashore to Mudros on the island of Lemnos where the forward base was established. Most supplies and equipment for Gallipoli were landed at Mudros but being often badly packed and unorganised there was soon much confusion. Mails for the men on Gallipoli caused the greatest difficulties the British Army Postal Services ever had throughout the Great War – it was reported that military mails occasionally just disappeared and the men at the front invented the saying “Imnos – Mudros – chaos”, Imbros being the island where the GHQ were established.

From Mudros mails were forwarded as opportunity offered for the various landing beaches, being conveyed by minesweeper, lighters, warships, or trawlers, and sent ashore to the three sectors by landing barge under Turkish gunfire. To handle the mails being landed at Anzac Cove the Australians and New Zealanders in the combined Landing Post Office worked wonders. Here the mails were checked and passed to field post offices with the Division and Brigade headquarters. There they were handed over to the regimental postal orderlies for delivery to the men of their units as opportunity offered, if for a frontline unit this was at night time, if a unit nearer the beach and comparatively sheltered, in daytime under gunfire. Sorting of letters mostly had to be done on the earthen floors of the trenches or dugouts.

The New Zealand Field Post Offices were located as follows:

APO Landing Office	Near beach in Anzac Cove
Division HQ FPO	Otago Gully, just a mile north from Anzac Cove and inland from Ocean Beach
Division Train FPO	Near beach in Anzac Cove on the northern side under Plugges Plateau
NZ Infantry Brigade FPO	West of Cheshire Ride about 1200 yards inland from DIV HQ And about 3000 yards northeast from Anzac Cove
NZ Mounted Rifles Bde FPO	About 1200 yards northeast from Div HQ near Hampshire Lane, and about 3200 yards north from Anzac Cove

There is some doubt whether the Field Post Offices with the NZ&A Divisions used their postal date stamps initially as it has been stated that they were only sent forward in September. However, field postcards have been seen from brigade postal markings early in June. A proportion of outward mail passed through British Base Post Office "Y" and was date stamped with military cancellations bearing the letter Y.

Limited supplies of Field Service postcards were available at the field post offices shortly after landing and these proved popular in the dangerous times the men had to live, being specially suitable for the laconic. Besides other short sentences the card bore the line "I am quite well", I have been admitted to hospital, sick, wounded" and one simply struck out the words that did not apply. These cards were issued to reduce the censorship difficulties of the few surviving officers with units on Gallipoli. A "green" envelope system for dispatch of letters liable for censorship only as base had also been introduced but this was not available at first on Gallipoli, this system had been originally introduced in March 1915 for B.E.F.

On 8th May, 1915 Division Headquarters ordered the Officer Commanding NZ Postal Service to come forward to ensure that the postal services for the NZ&A Division were functioning properly. Standard instructions were promulgated on 15 May and, in view of the place where postal services operation, this is quoted in full.

*HZ Anzac Cove. RO68.*

- 1. A branch field post office to serve the division has been established on the beach*
- 2. Correspondence and parcels will be delivered to postal Orderlies by units and Departments, who will attend to receive correspondence etc.*
- 3. Postal Orderlies will indent on O.C. Divisional Train for the necessary transport for the conveyance of inward and outward mails.*
- 4. The responsibility for the distribution of all letters and newspapers and parcels addressed to a unit is transferred from the branch Field Post Office to the regimental authorities upon delivery of the correspondence to the postal orderly.*
- 5. The Postal Orderly will be called upon to sign for every registered letter or parcel handed to him by the branch Field Post Office, the addressee similarly signing on delivery.*



6. *All mail for addressees with the unit must be readdressed at the regimental headquarters to the last known address, or if no address is known to the Base Depot. If the addressees are dead the mails must be endorsed accordingly and such endorsement must be signed in full by an officer, the greatest care must be exercised in this respect. All readdressed or endorsed mails must be handed back to the branch field post office and a signature obtained for all registered letters and parcels so handed back.*
7. *The postal orderly is responsible for the immediate return of all empty bags to the branch Field Post Office.*
8. *Mails for England, Australia, New Zealand etc (Censored and ready for dispatch) will be made up on Mondays and Fridays at the branch Field Post Office. These will be delivered to the Field PO HQ Australian & New Zealand Army Corps no later than 4pm on these days, whence they will be dispatched as opportunity offers.*
9. *All correspondence for wounded and deceased persons after being re-directed will be made up in separate bags, labelled, and addressed to the Base Post Office, Alexandria.*
10. *A limited supply of Field Service Postcards is available and may be obtained on the written application of Commanding Officers.*

On 25th May all units were notified that a Fleet Sweeper will leave Gaba Tepe at 3am daily for Mudros carrying wounded, prisoners, mails, etc. and on 19 July a Gallipoli mail posting notice was issued, this read in part:

*Mails to the under mentioned places will close daily at Field Post Offices, A & NZ Army Corps HQ, at times stated:-*

<i>Mails for .....</i>	<i>close at .....</i>	<i>Remarks .....</i>
<i>GHQ, 1st &amp; 2nd Echelon</i>	<i>)</i>	
<i>Kephalos</i>	<i>)</i>	
<i>"K" Beach, Kephalos</i>	<i>)</i>	<i>1100 hours</i>
<i>Cape Helles</i>		<i>0900 hours</i>
<i>Base 'Y' APO Mudros (including</i>		
<i>local delivery, Mudros)</i>	<i>)</i>	<i>Note: Brigade FPOs mail must</i>
<i>IG.C</i>	<i>)</i>	<i>reach the Divisional HZ FPO of</i>
<i>Egypt</i>	<i>)</i>	<i>the Division concerned not later</i>
<i>England</i>	<i>)</i>	<i>than 0930 daily</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>)</i>	
<i>New Zealand and all other</i>	<i>)</i>	
<i>Countries</i>	<i>)</i>	<i>1015 hours</i>

Throughout June a stalemate set in the Gallipoli campaign and though small areas of ground were gained the situation was so unpromising that the British forces decided to send five more divisions to Gallipoli. These divisions, 10th, 11th, 13th, 53rd, and 54th, arrived early in August 1915.

Three of the new divisions launched new attacks during 6-8 August and at the same time forces in the Cape Helles area advanced. A new landing was made at Suvla Bay, north of Anzac, and the new forces at Anzac were to press northwards. All attempts were unsuccessful and further attack late in August was also unsuccessful. From this time, no further major attacks were made on Turkish positions.

Early in August 1915 a barge carrying mails near Imbros overturned and 73 bags of New Zealand mails were lost, including 15 bags for NZ Infantry Brigade, 16 bags for NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade, and 5 bags for Divisional units.

About 16 August the Division Headquarters Field Post Office, by now at No 2 Outpost, was merged with Division Train Field Post Office, being placed under control of the senior NCO attached to the Division Train Field Post Office.

Some 516 bags of mail posted at Anzac between 14 and 16 November and of these 168 were believed lost at sea, possibly through enemy action, about two days later. **In a bad storm on 17 November 1915 tug "Gaby" with outward mails on board and towing two lighters has sunk, crew saved, but Christmas posting mails were lost.** About the same time the S.S. "Orange Prince" carrying mails for Gallipoli was torpedoed and lost. The mails lost consisted of 182 bags for New Zealand troops, 1050 bags for all Gallipoli areas including registered mails and official dispatched from Alexandria of 8-9 November, 577 bags Australian troops, and 45 bags for Indian troops.

2nd Lieutenant D.A. McCurdy was promoted Lieutenant from 26 September 1915 while commanding the New Zealand Postal Services.

On 8 December 1915 instructions were issued for the evacuation of Gallipoli and all outward mail dispatches were stopped from 13 December. A gradual withdrawal of troops and supplies was carried out under cover of darkness, administrative and non-fighting troops being removed on the night of 10-11 December, the last men being removed on 19-20 December. On evacuation, the troops were taken to Mudros and thence to Egypt. The southern theatre, Cape Helles, was finally evacuated on the night of 8-9 January 1916, completing the abandonment of the peninsula.



## **LEMNOS**

The Island of Lemnos is situated in the northern Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey, Greek territory, the island was loaned to the British forces for the Gallipoli landing. Mudros, the island's capital and main harbour was made the general base for the Dardanelles campaign but General Headquarters itself was established on the neighbouring islands of Imbros, nearer the Gallipoli peninsula.

Australian and New Zealand troops landed at Anzac Cove in April 1915 and it was not possible to give these troops a rest until the arrival of the 2nd Australian Division a few months later. On the arrival, each brigade was withdrawn in turn and given a month to two month rest and training at Lemnos.

The NZ Infantry Brigade was withdrawn from Gallipoli on 15th December 1915 and arrived at Mudros on 14 September. On landing the troops marched to Sarpi rest camp where the entire brigade bivouacked. The brigade left for Gallipoli on 10th November 1915.

The Brigade Field Post Office accompanied the Brigade to Lemnos and provided postal facilities for the troops while at Sarpi, mails being exchanged with British Army Base Post Office "Y" in Mudros, these being despatched to British Army Base Post Office "Z" in Alexandria where they were handed over to the New Zealand Advanced Base Post office for sorting and despatch.

In December 1915 the New Zealand and Australian Division established a transit camp at Mudros East to accommodate the Division during the withdrawal from Gallipoli. Divisional units were landed here from Gallipoli and, after reorganisation, were taken on to Egypt as soon as shipping became available. The camp was disbanded 24th December 1915.

A field post office was not operated in the camp but the offices attached to brigade and divisional headquarters probably functioned here with their units. Camp details Routine Order No. 1 dated 16 December 1915 instructed all transient units that they must make their own arrangements for despatch of outward mails which were to be handled through British Army Base Post Office "Y" located about half a mile from Egyptian Pier.

## **SENUSSI CAMPAIGN**

The sect of the Senussi, which was originally based on extreme asceticism and a return to the pure teaching of the Koran, was founded at the commencement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Mohammed Ben Senussi who claimed descent from the Prophet. When the Great War broke out the Senussi, by then several million strong, turned on the Italians and drove them out of Libya. The Senussi then considered themselves the rulers of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, they were friendly to the Egyptian government and disapproved of certain Sudanese peoples, and were thought to be friendly to the British. It was therefore a matter of surprise when a Senussi force invaded western Egypt but this was afterwards traced to German-Turkish influence who largely directed the Senussi forces of 20,000 men.

To counteract the Senussi advance, the British Troops in Egypt formed a Western Frontier Force (WFF) on 20th November under the command of Major General Wallace, and units were detached from the garrison forces already in Egypt, these forces consisted of:

- Mounted Brigade of Three Yeomanry Regiments
- Infantry Brigade of British Territorials
- Composite Regiment of Australian Light Horse
- A Battalion of 15<sup>th</sup> Sikhs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, NZ Rifle Brigade
- A squadron, Royal Flying Corps
- Divisional Train provided by 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the NZ Rifle Brigade sailed from Wellington on 10 October 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion disembarking at Suez, Egypt, on 15th November and proceeding overland to Aerodrome Camp near Cairo, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 18th November. On arrival in Egypt the two postal orderlies with the Brigade established a NZ Rifle Brigade Field Post Office as Brigade Headquarters at Aerodrome Camp, mails being exchanged with the NZ Advanced Base Post Office in Alexandria.

On 28th November, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion left Aerodrome Camp for Alexandria for duty in the lines of communications of the Western Frontier Force. The Battalion arrived at Quamaria Camp in Alexandria that night and next day was given charge of the lines of communication westwards from Alexandria. These lines consisted of the Egyptian State Railways railway running west along the Mediterranean coast some 100 miles from Alexandria to El Daba'a or El Daba. A company and Battalion Headquarters were established at the western terminal at El Daba and the remainder of the battalion were distributed in garrisons of fifteen different posts along the railways to Sidi Mergheb near Alexandria. The strength of these posts ranged from 25 men at less important garrisons to 312 men at El Daba.

The NZ Rifle Brigade Field Post Office which was using a rubber die datestamp of type 13 (page 351) accompanied the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion into the western desert and opened at El Daba on 3rd December.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion left Aerodrome Camp on 18th December and embarked on board ship at Alexandria, being transported 200 miles west to Mersa Matruh where they were landed and joined the Western Frontier Force base. Mails from the battalion were handled through the British Army postal service with the force but it is not known what datestamps they used.

Military mails for the NZ and other garrisons scattered along the Alexandria – El Daba railways were carried by slow army trains and were delayed always by two or three days. The NZ Army Postal Service obtained approval from the Egyptian Postmaster General Gordon Pasha, for NZ Army Postal personnel to travel with the Egyptian civil Railway Travelling Post Office on the fast daily train, and to collect and deliver mails from the military posts. The Field Post Office at El Daba was then closed about the second week in December 1915 and installed in the civil RTPO.

However on 19 December the New Zealanders relinquished command of the lines of communication and on 28 December the various garrison posts were handed over to men of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sikh Division. The Field Post Office on the RTPO was now closed and accompanied the battalion back to Quamaria Camp, Alexandria. Brigade Headquarter moved to Moascar Camp, west of Ismailia, early in January 1916 and the Field post office moved to there, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion joined brigade headquarters on 18th January.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion with the Western Frontier Force was engaged in several frontal sorties and columns against Senussi forces but on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1916 commenced to leave for Alexandria, being complete at Matras Rest Camp, Alexandria, on 18th February. The battalion rejoined the brigade on 28 February.

## MALTA

Malta consists of three large islands in the central basin of the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya in North Africa, and Sicily in Europe. The capital and chief port is located at Valletta on the island of Malta.

A British Naval Base had been maintained at Malta for many years prior to the Great War and on the outbreak of war the islands were garrisoned against enemy offensive.

On 26th March 1915 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements, NZEF, arrived in Egypt, and included the draft was a Maori Contingent of 14 officers and 425 other ranks. After a stay of about, two weeks in Zeitoun Camp the Maori Contingent was despatched to Malta for garrison duty.

It seems that the Maori Contingent was stationed at Valletta but it is not certain how outward mails were handled possibly they were passed free of postage through the Valletta General Post Office,

In August 1915 the Maori Contingent left Malta and proceeded to Gallipoli where they reinforced the New Zealand Division there, the contingent being divided amongst the three brigades in action.

Quite a number of wounded and sick New Zealand troops from Gallipoli were accommodated in British hospitals in Malta before going onto England. Mails from these men were passed free of postage through the Valletta General Post Office, the envelopes and cards being stamped with a rubber frank stamp consisting of a double circle 32mm in diameter with a cross (red cross?) in the centre of the inner circle and the inscription ON ACTIVE SERVICE (around the top) MEDTn (at foot) between the circles.

## MESOPOTAMIA

Soon after the outbreak of war with Germany it became clear that Turkey was waiting for a suitable moment to throw off her neutrality and join the war on the side of the enemy powers. This gave rise to anxiety as to the safety of the Persian Gulf oilfields, on which the British Navy relied for a large part of its supplies of fuel.

To meet this danger it was decided that as soon as Turkey showed her hand the best course would be to occupy Basra and thence afford support to friendly Arab sheikhs.

The Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force was formed in India and landed at Basra in November 1914 and commenced to advance north-westwards up the Tigris river towards Turkey. The campaign was fought with difficulty, the terrain being dry and barren and day temperatures extremely hot. One soldier described the theatre as "*miles and miles of b..... 'ell*" while an Arab proverb aptly sums up the conditions "*When Allah made Hell he found it was not bad enough, so he made Mesopotamia and added flies*".

The field force suffered several reverses in 1915 and in February 1916 control of field operations was placed under War Office, London, instead of under General Headquarters, Indian Army. The new General Officer Commanding was impressed with the need for re-organising the base and lines of the communication and he determinedly set about improving these before attempting to undertake any large scale field manoeuvres.

With the entire British Empire now behind the campaign reinforcements were despatched from any areas to replace the sorely tried field troops. New Zealand was asked to provide a wireless-telegraphy troop of 62 men and, though this was a severe drain on the experienced staff of the NZ Post & Telegraph Department, the whole troop, including officers, was supplied. This troop was formed into the NZ Pack Wireless Troop and sailed from NZ on 4th March 1916.

The Troop landed on 16th April 1916 at Basra, [founded 638AD the port of Sinbad the Sailor,] and after a short period there marched northwest into the interiors and joined the Cavalry Division.

On 4th July the NZ Troop was amalgamated with the Australian Wireless Squadron, the squadron provided all the wireless-signal facilities for the Cavalry Division.

Mails for the NZ'ers in the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Forces were addressed:

Number, rank, name

Squadron or Company

Battalion or Reinforcement

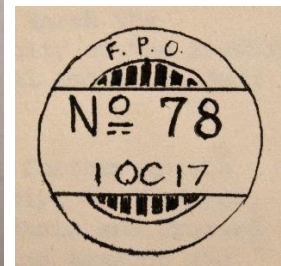
Expeditionary Forces in Persian Gulf

C/- General Post Office

WELLINGTON

The postal service for the field forces in Mesopotamia was supplied by the Indian Army Postal Service, which had been raised on a permanent footing in 1867 under the control of the Postmaster-General of the Punjab, to provide postal facilities to all forces of the Indian Army in internal or external campaigns.

Ordinary letters and postcards were free of charge of postage but registered letters and parcels were payable at the current Indian or British civilian postage rates, using current Indian postage



stamps, with or without the “I.E.F.” overprint. All such mails were despatched through Indian Field Post Offices – the datestamp illustrated is known on a letter from a New Zealander – or from Base Army Post Office.

In May 1916 the NZ Pack Wireless troop joined the Cavalry Division which then holding posts on the northern bank of the Tigris river near Kut al Hai, about 12 miles north from Sannaiyat.

By December 1916 re-organisation of the British forces had been completed and, with the coming of the cooler weather, the British forces launched their attack at the Turks.

On 13th December 1916 the Cavalry Division surprised the Turks at Hai and crossed the Hai river, launching an attack at the Shumrin crossing on 20th December. The Division raided the town of Hai on 11th January 1917.

The Division now formed part of the main attacking British forces and on 24th February 1917 led the forces in the attack on the retreating Turks, crossing the Tigris at Kut el Amara



20 miles up river from Sannaiyat, with the intention of cutting off Turkish forces at Sannaiyat.

When the Turkish forces on the southern banks of the Tigris river at Sannaiyat found their lines of retreat suddenly threatened they commenced a hurried withdrawal. On 26th February 1917 a fleet of British gunboats sailed up the Tigris, shelled the Turks, and turned their retreat into a rout. In their flight the Turks left the plain strewn with hastily discarded equipment, including “a wrecked field post office with Turkish money orders circling in the wind”.

On 27th February the Cavalry Division marched in Al Aziziya and established an advanced camp while lines of communication were completed with the rear forces. The advance on to Bagdad was resumed on 6th March with the Cavalry Division travelling along the northern bank though Zeur. The Division launched an attack near Lajj and 7th March arrived at Diyala. The river was crossed at Bawri, four miles north of Ctesiphon, on 8th-9th March and on 11th March the Cavalry Division passed around Bagdad – the city of the Arabian Nights – under Harun al Rashid – and occupied Al Kadhimain just to the North.

From Al Kadhimain the Division advanced further up the Tigris river, coming into action near Sakhlawiya on 19th March. On 12th April the Division was near Shatt al Adhaim and crossed the Adhaim river on 17th April. It now travelled towards the hills, up the Adhaim river, and on 26th April was near Band-i-Adhaim, where the Adhaim river emerges from the Jabal Hamrin hills. The village of Band-i-Adhaim was captured on 30th April.

With the increase in temperature with the coming of summer the weather was too hot for strenuous field activities and the Cavalry Division returned to summer quarters in Bagdad.

At the same time British forces were pressing north-west up the Tigris River Russian forces had advanced south into Mesopotamia and had reached Diyala River in June 1917. However Russia had become disorganised through the revolution and the Russian lines of communication became disrupted and they were forced to retreat. British forces now had to take over the area they had cleared.

One of the towns garrisoned was Kermanshah in Persia, the summer court of Harun-al-Rashid, Caliph of Arabian Nights, and in July 1917 the NZ Pack Wireless Troop was sent there to provide signal services. Indian Army Field Post Office No 110 operated in Kermanshah.

In June 1918 the NZ Pack Wireless Troop was withdrawn to Basra and thence despatched to France where the troop was merged with NZ Divisional Signals.

## SINAI & PALESTINE CAMPAIGN

When Turkey entered the Great War on the side of the Central Powers it was obvious that an advance from southern Palestine against the Suez Canal and Egypt was likely to form part of the Turkish strategical plans. Seizure of the Canal would paralyse the most vital line of communication with the British Empire and would seriously hamper the gathering of its armies. Even the threat must immobilise considerable numbers for passive defense alone.

Between the southern frontier of Palestine and the Suez Canal to the west lay almost 100 miles of almost waterless desert. It was crossed by three routes, of which the northern, near the coast, through Rafa, El Arish, and Quatiya (Qatia) to El Kantara, was the easiest and best. In spite of the difficulties a force of about 15,000 Turks was brought to within striking distance of the canal by February 1915.



The initial attack took place early in February and this was repulsed by Australian, Indian and New Zealand forces (see chapter on Egypt). Though the Turkish attack failed it proved the possibility of the desert and thus compelled the retention of strong bodies of troops in Egypt at a time when they were urgently required for the campaign at Gallipoli.

Gallipoli was evacuated in December 1915 and by the beginning of 1916 nearly 400,000 British troops were stationed in Egypt under three different commands but in March 1916 all forces

were merged into the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) under command of Sir Archibald Murray.

A defensive line had been taken up in the desert early in 1916 being some 8 to 10 miles east of the canal where nearly 80 miles of entrenchments were laid out in the hot dusty shifting sands. The defense lines were expensive in usage of British forces as a garrison and led to the crossing of the Sinai desert.

On 26 December 1915 62 officers and 1329 other ranks of NZ Mounted Brigade landed at Alexandria, Egypt, from Gallipoli travelled by rail to Cairo and then returned to their old camp at Zeitoun where the Brigade's horses had been kept in good condition while the brigade was in action.

Re-organisation commenced immediately and the brigade was brought up to full strength, consisting of Auckland Mounted Rifles (MR) Regiment, Wellington MR Regiment, Canterbury MR Regiment, and in addition a Machine Gun squadron, Signal Troop, Field Troop, Mobile Veterinary Section, Mounted Field Ambulance, and other details, totaling 107 officers and 2274 men. The Field Post Office of the Brigade was attached to the Brigade headquarters and followed the Brigade throughout succeeding moves it made through Egypt and Palestine.

New Zealanders from the Mounted Brigade reinforcements were formed into two Camel Companies of 125 men each, these companies forming part of the Imperial Camel Corps (ICC) Brigade that fought as such through the Sinai and Palestine campaigns. The companies were disbanded on 10 June 1918 and formed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Machine Gun Squadron of 229 men, being attached to 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade.

On 9th January 1916 the NZ Mounted Brigade paraded complete in all respects and continued steadily with brigade training until 22nd January. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January the brigade rode out from Zeitoun Camp to the canal zone, passing through Moascar and Ismailia, forming their brigade camp at Serapeum, about a mile from the canal and in the desert, on 29th-30th January. Here desert training commenced in earnest but in February a large portion of the brigade was sent back to Zeitoun where they were merged into units of the NZ Division which was ready to move to France. The exodus was later made good from reinforcements.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, the brigade was given command of a sector of the canal defenses, moving out to the railhead at Ferry Post on 6th March and taking over the sector. On 15th March the Australian & NZ Mounted Division was formed, consisting of:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade
- New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade
- Royal Horse Artillery, 4 territorial batteries.

Commanded by Major-General J G Chauvel the division established its headquarters at Serapeum. Divisional Headquarters, Divisional Train and other Divisional units were established impartially from Australian and New Zealand reinforcements. It did not take long for the division to become widely known as the Anzac Division.

On 1 April the NZMR Brigade returned to Serapeum from Ferry post but on 6 April left for Salhai, via Moascar, where the division had be instructed to concentrate, the brigade arriving there 7 April.

Turkish forces, under cover of fog, had driven in advanced posts in the desert near Katia and Ogratina, and on 23rd April the NZMR brigade was urgently ordered to El Kantrara. After a forced march east of about 40 miles the Anzac Mounted Division passed through El Kantara and occupied the front where the Turkish forces had attacked posts of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade.

The object of the Turkish raid at Katia seems to have been to cause alarm and thus prevent further withdrawal of troops from Egypt for France, as the movement of Divisions had been going on during the early months of 1916.

The first objective of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces was now laid down as to secure control of the Sinai desert which could be effected by an advance east to El Arish and once El Arish was garrisoned this would close the routes across the desert. The first steps were the occupation of Katia Oasis.

The New Zealand MR Brigade crossed the canal on 24th April 1916 and marched seven miles east into the desert to apposition named Hill 70 but by the time they arrived at the front the Turks had retreated. The New Zealanders then took up a sector of the Anzac Division front, being based at a point named Anzac Siding.

On 12th May 1916 the brigade marched out from Anzac Siding to Bir Et Maler, just west of Bir er Romani ("well of Romans"), where desert patrols controlled the west fringes of the Sinai desert. The brigade returned to Hill 70 on 20th June, arriving there on 24th June.

Progress of the British forces east across the Sinai desert was restricted by the rate railway and accompanying waterline could be laid – about 20 miles a month – but by July 1916 the forces, then consisted of 42<sup>nd</sup>, 52<sup>nd</sup> and Anzac Divisions were just west of Romani. On 4th August Turkish forces commenced to attack British positions and the Battle of Romani developed. The NZMR brigade left Hill 70 and moved 9 miles northeast to Mount Royston to reinforce engaged troops. The Turks were defeated and returned east to El Arish (anciently Rhinocolural), the British forces following them east across the desert. On 12 August Bir el Abd was occupied, this place lying 20 miles east from Romani. Division Headquarter moved to Bir el Abd and the NZMR Brigade camped nearby at Hod el Amara.

Reconnaissance of enemy positions was carried out on 16th-17th September and on 18th September the NZMR moved to Divisional reserve area at Bir et Maler. The brigade moved east to Bir Moseifig on 27 October and to Bir el Mazar on 13th November, and further east to Mustagidda on 24th November.

The railway had now advanced east to within 20 miles from El Arish and elaborate preparations were made for the Desert Column Corps of 42<sup>nd</sup>, 52<sup>nd</sup> and Anzac Divisions to advance on and occupy El Arish. Preparations were well underway for the advance on Turkish positions when information was received that they had been abandoned, and the Anzac Division now advanced onto El Arish. The NZMR Brigade left Mustagidda on a 15 mile night march east on 20th-21st December and occupied El Arish on 21st December. As it appeared that the Turks had retreated further east the Anzac Division continued its move southeast along Wadi el Arish to Bir el Magdhaba which was captured after a sharp battle on 23rd December. The NZMR Brigade was now placed in reserve and returned to El Arish, establishing camp on 24th December at Nasmi, 3 miles from El Arish.

The capture of El Arish completed the task that had been set the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. While the railway was pushed east to complete the gap to El Arish supplies were brought by sea from Egypt and landed on the beaches near El Arish. The EEF was now instructed to advance into Palestine, but before the campaign would be commenced, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division was withdrawn to France and was replaced by the 74<sup>th</sup> Division formed from dismounted Yeomanry.

The NZMR Brigade moved inland to a point called Kilo 139 on 1st January 1917 but returned to Nasmi on the coast near El Arish on 4th January.

The Anzac Mounted Division was now ordered forward to occupy Rafa (Rafah), the most eastern village of Sinai stranding on the Egypt-Palestine border. The Division left El Arish on 8th January 1917 advancing east crossed the frontier into Palestine early on the morning of 9th January. Division headquarters were established at Karm Ibn Musleh, on the frontier 4 miles south from Rafa, while NZMR brigade established camp near Shokel Sufi, a few hundred yards to the north. After an encircling advance later that day Rafa was captured and the Division was withdrawn to reserve, moving 11 miles west to Sheikh Zowaiid (named after St Zowaid) between Rafa and El Arish. The NZMR brigade returned to El Arish on 10th January.

After rest and training at El Arish the Anzac Division rode out on 22nd January and made an advanced reconnaissance to the east, to Khan Yunus between Rafa and Gaza, returning to Egypt and resuming camp at Sheikh Zowaiid. On 10th March the division moved its camp further east, to the coast of Rafa.

In March 1917, it was decided that Gaza (where Sampson destroyed the temple) in southern Palestine should be taken from the Turks thus freeing the whole of the plains of southern Palestine to the movement of British forces which would then be able to travel faster over firmer surfaced lands. Gaza was one of the five chief cities of ancient Palestine and is regarded as the door of Africa or Asia, having being taken in battle or destroyed more often than any other city in the world.

The EEF, now consisted of 52<sup>nd</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> and Anzac Divisions and Imperial Camel Corps, launched attacks on Gaza in March and April but these were unsuccessful, warfare settling down into irregular trench operations, stretching inland from just west of Gaza southwest towards Beersheba.

On 25th March 1917 the Anzac Division left its camp at Rafa and marched east through Deir el Belah, a well wooded area 10 miles west of Gaza and the forward base, and launch the first attack on Gaza. This was unsuccessful and the Division returned to Deir el Belah ("the Belah monastery) from whence desert patrols were sent out.

The second division attack on Gaza was launched on 16th April 1917, the Anzac Division riding 10 miles southeast from Deir el Belah to Shellal, coming into action on the afternoon of 17th April at Im Siri on the Shellal, - Beersheba road. The NZMR Brigade was withdrawn to Shellal for the night of 17th-18th April but moved back to the front next day. On completing of the fighting here on 19th April the Division moved two miles back to Weli Sheikh Nuran - which covered the Shellal crossing. The NZMR Brigade established outposts at Wadi Ghuzzeh (the Gaza river bed) to the east.

On 29th April the NZMR Brigade moved about 5 miles south to historic Tel el Fara where desert patrols were despatched to the north. Tel el Fara was anciently Shanuhin where the Hyksos, driven from Egypt, made their last stand about 1550 B.C. Destruction of the Asluj railway was accomplished on 23rd May and on, 28th May the NZMR Brigade was moved into reserve at Abasan el Kebir, about seven miles northwest from Shellal, from where desert patrols were despatched north.

On 3rd June the NZMR Brigade left Abasan el Kebir and marched north east through Khans Yunus (the "Inn of Munus"), camping on the shores of the Mediterranean at Marakeb on 8th June, for a period of rest and training in reserve.

The Brigade moved 6 miles back to Abasan el Kebir on 18th June to resume desert patrol activities and moved 3 miles east to Tel el Nara on 6th July. However, on 18th August the



brigade was again withdrawn to reserve and returned to Marakeb. The brigade moved back to Abasan el Kebir on 18th September for further desert work.

In July 1917 General Sir Edmund Allenby succeeded General Murray as General Officer Commanding E.E.P., with instructions to launch offensive action against Turkish forces, primarily to remove any threat of enemy forces in the Iraq area, and secondarily to clear enemy forces from Palestine. General Headquarters were moved east from Cairo to Khan Yums and positions in the field were inspected. Plans were laid to crush the opposition at Gaza by encircling the eastern flank of the front to the east of Beersheba (the city of Abraham), and then advancing rapidly north and rest on to the Turkish lines of communication.

To carry out these plans ten divisions were required and the EEF was accordingly strengthened, two divisions being brought from Salonika and a third formed in Egypt. The 20<sup>th</sup> Corps (10<sup>th</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> 74<sup>th</sup>, Divisions) was given the western sector of the front and the Desert Mounted Corps (Anzac, Australian, and Yeomanry mounted divisions and Imperial Camel Corps) the eastern sector.

The attack was launched 31st October and by 6th November both Gaza and Beersheba had been captured. Jaffa (one of the oldest towns in the world, whence Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord) fell on 16th November and the two Turkish armies in Palestine were separated, the 8<sup>th</sup> Army being contained in the plains north of Jaffa with the 7<sup>th</sup> Army was held in the hills defending Jerusalem.

The E.E.F. forces now wheeled and advanced on Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, but becoming held up halted their advance to allow lines of communication to be improved with Egypt.

Prior to the explosive attack, the NZMR Brigade marched 15 miles southeast to Bir el Esani ("the Esani wells") from Abasan el Kebir on 24th October, 8 miles southeast to Khalasa on 28th October and 8 miles southeast to Asluj on 29th October. The night march of 14 miles north to Beersheba commenced 30th-31st October and the next morning that attack was launched. By evening the Tel el Saba ("the Saba mound") action had been won and Beersheba captured. To protect the change of front of 20 Corps the Anzac Division now swung and strode on Tel el Khuwelfeh, about 10 miles north of Beersheba, which was reached on 6th November, actions being fought at Ras el Nagb and Tel el Khuwelfeh. The NZMR Brigade marched through Philista between 7th-10th November and on 11th and 12th November rested with Headquarters, 60 Divisions, at Jerame about 12 miles northwest from Tel el Khuwelfeh.

On 15th November the NZMR Brigade moved west to the coast and north to the front, coming into action at Ayun Kara on 14th November, occupying Jaffa on the coast on 16th November, military administration of that town being initially placed in the hands of the New Zealanders. Later the Brigade moved north and on 24th November took part in the Wel Audja river action, about 5 miles north from Jaffa, withdrawing south to Sarona on 1 December and returning to Jaffa on 5 December.

In the east the British forces launched their attack on Jerusalem on 6th December, the cities defenders surrendering next morning. The city of Jerusalem, First Lady of the World's Capitals, is 3,000 years old and its capture removed the threat of Turkish forces to Iraq as all Turkish reserves were exhausted in the actions in Palestine.

Trenches north of Jaffa were held by the NZMR Brigade until 10th December when the Brigade moved north to Ashad, arriving there on 26th December. The brigade was withdrawn to a rest and training camp at Rishon le Zion (probably names after Richard Coier de Lion of the



Crusades) on 12th January 1918, the camp lying on the main routes through the plains being 10 miles southeast from Jaffa on the Jaffa-Yebna road.

On 17th February the NZMR Brigade was moved up to the front again, moving east to Beit Lahm (Bethlehem) and thence joining in the advance on Jericho (Eriha) on 19th February. The action of El Muntar was fought on 20th February and next day Jericho was captured. The NZMR Brigade moved southwest to Rishon le Zion for rest and training on 26th February but on 15th March moved back to Bethlehem, arriving there 17th March.

The NZMR Brigade camped on 20th March at Tallat ed Dumm on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho, crossed the river Jordan, and came into action at Shunet Nimrin on 24th March, this place being about 8 miles northeast from Jericho. On 25th March the brigade moved east to Ain es Sir ("the Sir Sorings") on Mount Moab, and between 27th-30th March was engaged in the battle of Amman, 35 miles east of Jericho.

Turkish reinforcements were now arriving at Es Salt and Amman preventing any likelihood of success and all British forces were withdrawn from the mountains east of Jericho, the NZMR Brigade commencing its withdrawal on 31st March and arriving in Jericho on 2nd April.

When, during January and February 1918, the British forces pushed north, it was decided that a further blow in Palestine would force Turkey to sue for peace and towards this end the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Divisions were moved to Palestine from Mesopotamia. The preparations for the new offensive were well in hand when a German thrust in France caused a demand on the E.E.F. for all forces that could be spared. The 52<sup>nd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Divisions were dispatched complete to France in April and May and were accompanied by other British units. These units were gradually replaced by Indian cavalry from France and Indian units from India, and the E.E.F. now had to be reorganized on an Indian Army basis.

The NZMR Brigade was back in action on the eastern banks of the Jordan River on 9th April and during 1st-6th May carried out a raid on Es Salt, 20 miles northeast of Jericho, but again had to be withdrawn across the Jordan River. The brigade was back in camp at Tallat ed Dumm on 16th May and was camped at King Solomon's Pools by 29th March. A King's Birthday parade was held in Jerusalem on 3rd June and the brigade then move back to Tallat ed Dumm, arriving there on 13th June. On 15th June the brigade camped under the Mount of Temptation and next day were on the banks of the Auja River about 15 miles northeast of Jerusalem.

The action of Abu Tullul in the Jordan river valley was fought on 14th July and on 19th July the brigade was withdrawn for rest, passing through Tallat ed Dumm and arriving back at King Solomon's Pools on 26th July. They returned to Tallat ed Dummon 6th August and next day camped at Ain es Duk.

In September, General Allenby transferred most of his forces to a 15 mile wide front along the Mediterranean coast, leaving the Anzac Division to thinly hold the front along the Jordan River. As its part the NZMR Brigade moved north to Auja River on 5th September, and the advance was highly successful, completely surprising the Turkish forces who had expected the main attack in the Jordan valley. British forces pushed rapidly north towards Syria overcoming all opposition, by 26th October this front had moved 360 miles north.

As part of the division efforts of the Anzac Division the NZMR Brigade moved up the Jordan River on 20th September and came into action at Jiar ed Dameih ("the Dameih bridge"), about 20 miles north of the Dead Sea, on 21st September.

The forces now swung sharply east, Es Salt being captured on 25th September 1918, Seweileh 4 miles east of Es Salt falling on 24th September and Amman 12 miles east of Es Salt falling on 25th September, resulting in 2,500 prisoners being captured. The remainder of the Turkish

army in this area surrendered on 27th September and on 4th October the NZMR Brigade returned west to Jericho, moved back to Jerusalem on 8th October and to the rest camp at Rishon le Zion on 14th October.

The Turks now negotiated for armistice. This was concluded on 31st October 1918, the Turks having lost 76,000 troops as prisoners to the British forces, and were in no condition to continue the war. The NZMR Brigade was in camp at Rishon le Zion when the armistice was signed and it remained there until it returned to Egypt. On 27th November the Canterbury Mounted Rifles regiment left for garrison duty at Gallipoli, returning to the brigade late in December.

On 18th December the NZMR Brigade rode out from Rishon le Rion on the first stages of the journey back to Egypt, passing through Yebna on 18th December, Mejdell 19th December, Deir el Belah 21st December, and arrived at Rafa on 22nd December where the brigade established its camp.

The NZMR Brigade remained in reserve at Rafa but on 17th March 1919 was recalled to Egypt to assist quell local troubles, arriving at Kantara on 18th March and moved to Tanta in the delta area where camp was established, patrolling the delta area from there.

On 19th June, 1919 the brigade concentrated on Chevalier Island at Ismaila and on 30th June was disbanded, 1089 men sailing that day for New Zealand on "Ulimaroa". New Zealand detachments at Zeitoun and Alexandria were also disbanded and the last draft of New Zealand troops left Egypt for New Zealand on 23rd July 1919.

The Brigade Field Post Office accompanied Brigade Headquarters throughout all its movements. Letters and lettercards were received from the troops free of charge of postage but parcels were at British parcel rates and registration fee was 2d, these charges having to be prepaid in British or Indian postage stamps.

## NZEF BASE POSTAL SERVICES - FRANCE

The staff of NZ Advanced Base Post Office embarked on "Llandoverly Castle" and sailed from Alexandria, Egypt, for France on 9th April 1916 landing at Marseilles on 15th April. Entraining for northern France, the Post Office personnel bypassed the New Zealand Division concentration centre at Hasbrouck and moved to Calais where they arrived on 17th April, Calais, 22 miles southeast of Dover, had been the principal port for Anglo French trade, and now handled a proportion of personnel and stores being moved, between the BEF and Great Britain.

At Calais the postal unit was redesignated NZ Army Base Post Office and was attached to the British Army Base Post Office No 4. With a staff of 50 all ranks the office was accommodated in two regulation army huts, alongside the British Base P.O. but these huts were quickly found inadequate for the large amount of mail sorting that had to be done. It was decided that the correct place for the Base Post Office was in London where up to date facilities were, available and mails could be handled for New Zealand troops whether in France or England. The move to London was accordingly made in July 1916.

Postal staff in the Divisional Postal Unit were controlled directly from NZ Base Post Office as also were postal men attached to other units. The authorised strength of the NZ postal staff in France on 7th September 1916 was:

	S/Sgt	Sgt	Cpl	Ptes	Total
Division Train FPO	1		1	1	3
Division HQ FPO		1		2	3
Division Supply Column FPO			1	2	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Inf Bde FPO			1	2	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde FPO			1	2	3
3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde FPO			1	2	3
Railhead FPO		1	1	3	4
Total					22
Calais Transit Office			1	5	6
Infantry Base Depot			1	2	3
Reinforcement Camp, Etaples APO S17			1	1	2
Record Office, Rouen					
Total					12

Now with regard to the Division Postal Unit it is not known what postal date stamps the Division Supply Column Field Post Office used, but the other field post offices are dealt with on the chapter on the New Zealand Division in France.

The Calais Transit Office consisted of a New Zealand Section of British Army Base P.O. No 4 deputed to handle New Zealand mails between Division and Base Post Office in London. This office, as far as known, did not use distinctive postal date stamps but had all mails requiring postmarking stamped with either hand date stamps or automatic cancelling machine cancellation of the Base P.O.

The NZ Infantry & General Base Depot was established about May 1916 at Etaples, a small fishing village at the mouth of the river Canche 17 miles south of Boulogne in northern France that became the largest base and training camp in France, accommodating 100,000 men. An Army Post Office was opened here about May or June 1916 with a staff of 1 corporal and 2 sappers, the office being postally known as Stationary Army Postal Service (type 44 page 360), the first being 26½ mm in diameter with the thick arcs 7mm long. This was replaced 1917-1918 with a similarly inscribed date stamp 28mm in diameter with the thick arcs 9mm long. The depot was renamed NZ Reception Camp on 30th November 1918 but closed about January 1919 when the remainder of the personnel moved to NZ camps in Great Britain, the army post office closing about the same time.

A Corporal and one sapper were attached to British Army Stationary Post Office S.17 **est Sept 1915** at the headquarters of the British Reinforcement Camp at Etaples and here they sorted New Zealand mails that were handled. Letters from New Zealanders attached to various British units, and also New Zealand base units nearby in Boulogne and elsewhere, were also cancelled at this office. The office used hand date stamps of type 44 page 360 inscribed S.17 at the foot.

The postal established as at 15th September 1917 was:

	WO	S/Sgt	Sgt	Cpl	Pte	Total
2 Anzac HQ FPO					1	1
Division HQ FPO	1		1		2	4
Division Train FPO		1		1	1	3
Division Supply Col. FPO					2	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Inf Bde FPO				1	2	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde FPO				1	2	3
3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde FPO				1	2	3
4 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde FPO				1	2	3
Railhead FPO			1		3	4
<b>Total</b>						<b>27</b>
Calais (Checker)					1	1
General & Infantry Base Depot SPO			1	1	4	6
Record Office, Rouen				1		1
<b>Total</b>						<b>8</b>

The corporal attached to the Record Office in Rouen opened a small Stationary Army Post Office, designated S.W.Z.2 there about July 1916 to provide postal facilities for New Zealanders attached to British units and passing through the NZ Embarkation Camp there. Most mails were handled through British Army Base P.O. No. 2 there, but the corporal used a distinctive date stamp of type 44 (page 360) on outward mails he handled.

The New Zealand Embarkation Camp was closed in November 1918 when personnel moved to England and the postal Corporal moved to Base Post Office, London.

The Postal Sapper attached to II ANZAC Corps Headquarters Field Post Office handled New Zealand mails routed through that office. A **sergeant** was attached to this office from the NZ Division Postal Unit from 27th January 1918, the office by that time being Army Post Office H.22 indicating XXII Corps HQ FPO, as II Anzac Corps had been renamed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt S.E. Oppenheim was attached to the Headquarters of the Corps in 1917 to represent the NZ Division postal affairs and from 1st January

1918 he was appointed Deputy Assistant Director, Postal Services, directing all postal services within the Corps command.

In January 1918 when the 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade was disbanded a NZ Entrenching Group was formed and from 20th January 1918 a Corporal and two Sappers were attached to No. 4 A.S.C. of this group, operating a Field Post Office. It is not known what postal date stamps this office used, the office closed about November 1918.

The postal establishment was revised again on 31st August 1918, changed from the list given on previous page being

- 2 Anzac HQ representation deleted
- 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade FPO deleted
- Entrenching Group FPO added
- A checker was attached to Base FPO No 3 at Calais.

All these New Zealand Divisional and Base postal personnel were withdrawn from France late 1918.

## NEW ZEALAND DIVISION – FRANCE

The remnants of the NZ & Australian Division were evacuated from Gallipoli and were transported piece-meal back to Egypt. On their arrival there during the last weeks of December 1915 the Division was placed in reserve to enable reorganization and re-equipping to be carried out, the Division based at Moascar near Ismailia on the Suez Canal. The NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade was accommodated at Zeitoun Camp near Cairo.

Anzac Headquarters moved to Ismailia from Cairo on 4 January 1916 where the entire corps training programme could be adequately supervised. Reinforcements were continually arriving from New Zealand and with reserves already in Egypt the NZ&A Division was speedily re-equipped and organised, training commenced in earnest in early January 1916.

Late in January 1916 part of the Canal Zone defensive front was allocated to the Anzac Corps and on 24 January the two Australian Divisions commenced to move to the front while the NZ & A Division remained in corps reserve at Moascar, this greatly facilitating the reorganisation of the remainder of the NZ and Australian forces.

The new over-all organization came into force from 10 February 1916, the original Anzac Corps becoming I Anzac Corps while a new II Anzac Corps was formed to control the three Australian Divisions. In the NZ&A Divisions of I Anzac Corps the NZ Mounted Rifle Brigade and 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade were withdrawn and replaced by the NZ Rifle Brigade that was returning from the Senussi Campaign, and by the formation of the new 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade on 1 March 1916. Therefore, from 1 March, the old NZ&A Division was re-designated the New Zealand Division.

With the establishment of the new Infantry Brigade and renaming of the Division, the Divisional Postal Unit was enlarged and renamed accordingly. Field post offices, using the Egyptian made steel die date stamps (types 22 & 27, page 354), were operating as follows on 1 March:

- Division Headquarters    Moascar
- Division Train            Moascar – Ismailia
- 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade      Moascar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade      Moascar
- NZ Rifle Brigade          Moascar

Mails between the Division and NZ Advanced Base Post Office in Alexandria were handled by the Division Train Field Post Office.

At this stage further British troops were required to assist the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in northeast France and it was decided that I Anzac Corps should be transferred there from Egypt and be followed by II Anzac Corps when their organization was complete.

2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division of I Anzac Corps, holding portion of the canal defence zone east of Suez Canal, was the first division to leave for France and during the first days of March 1916 the NZ Division moved east from Moascar to relieve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division. The NZ Division was in line by 8<sup>th</sup> March, the field post offices being located with their respective formations at:

- Division Headquarters            Albury Hill
- Division Hill                        Ismailia?
- 1<sup>st</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade            Ferry Post
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division               ½ mile from Albury Hill
- NZ Rifle Brigade                    1 mile from Ferry Post

Orders were now received that the NZ Division was next to move to France and the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division commenced to take over the New Zealand Line. Most units of the NZ Division arrived at



Moascar on 23rd March 1916 from the eastern front, Division headquarters arriving there on 30th March completed the withdrawal.

Movement arrangements completed, entraining commenced at Moascar on 4th April 1916 for the ports of Alexandria and Port Said where, on arrival, the division embarked on waiting transports. Accompanying the division were major portions of NZEF base units from Cairo and Zeitoun but skeleton base details were retained in Egypt to provide base facilities for the New Zealanders still stationed there.

The transports carrying the division to France did not sail in convoy but left at irregular intervals. Division Headquarters sailed on "Minnewaska" while the balance of the NZEF was distributed over fifteen other transport ships. The first ships reached Marseilles in south France on 11th April 1916 and as the troops disembarked they were entrained for the British sector in northeast France.



The NZ Division was instructed to move to a concentration point in the Hazebrouck, Nord, area, normally a little market town centred around a large town square but now an important railway junction for the BEF. Divisional advance party reached Steenbecque (Steenbeck) three miles southwest of Hazebrouck on 13th April and the Division itself arrived in this area within the next three days. The Divisional Headquarters were established at Blaringhem, 1<sup>st</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade at Morbecque 2 miles south of Hazebrouck, 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade at Roquetoire west of St. Omer-Aire road and 3 miles northwest of Aire, and the NZ Rifle Brigade at Steenbecque where Divisional Train was also established.

On their arrival in France and the BEF area the New Zealand Division Postal Unit came under the general control of the British Army Postal Corps, through British Army Base P.O. 3 at Boulogne and BAPO 4 at Calais. The Egyptian made steel date stamps were now discarded and replaced by British Army steel-die date stamps of type 43 (page 361). The New Zealand Division was given the code letter "Z" and the date stamps were allocated as follows:

DZ	Division Headquarters FPO
1Z	1 <sup>st</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade FPO

2Z	2 <sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade FPO
3Z	NZ Rifle Brigade FPO
TZ	Division Train FPO
RZ	Division Railhead FPO

Division Railhead was a new Field Post Office attached to the Division party at the railhead, being responsible for receipt and despatch of mails by rail or road as the case maybe. Mails were transported between Division Railhead and the Division by the Division Train, being sorted at Division Train Field Post Office at the field supply centre and distributed to brigades and headquarters with supplies. Division Railhead FPO was established at Steenbecque.

On arrival of I Anzac Corps in France one of the more quieter sectors of the front was allocated to the Corps to give the Australians and New Zealanders some experience in the form of warfare prevailing before any active role was given to them. The two Australian divisions took over the Corps front between Fleubaix and Armentieres while the New Zealand Division remained in Corps reserve in Steenbecque area for further equipping and training during the spring of 1916. Corps Headquarters was located at La Motte-au-Bois or La Motte as it was more commonly called.

At this stage the NZ Rifle Brigade was redesignated 3<sup>rd</sup> NZ (Rifle) Brigade to bring the brigade into line with the British divisional nomenclature.

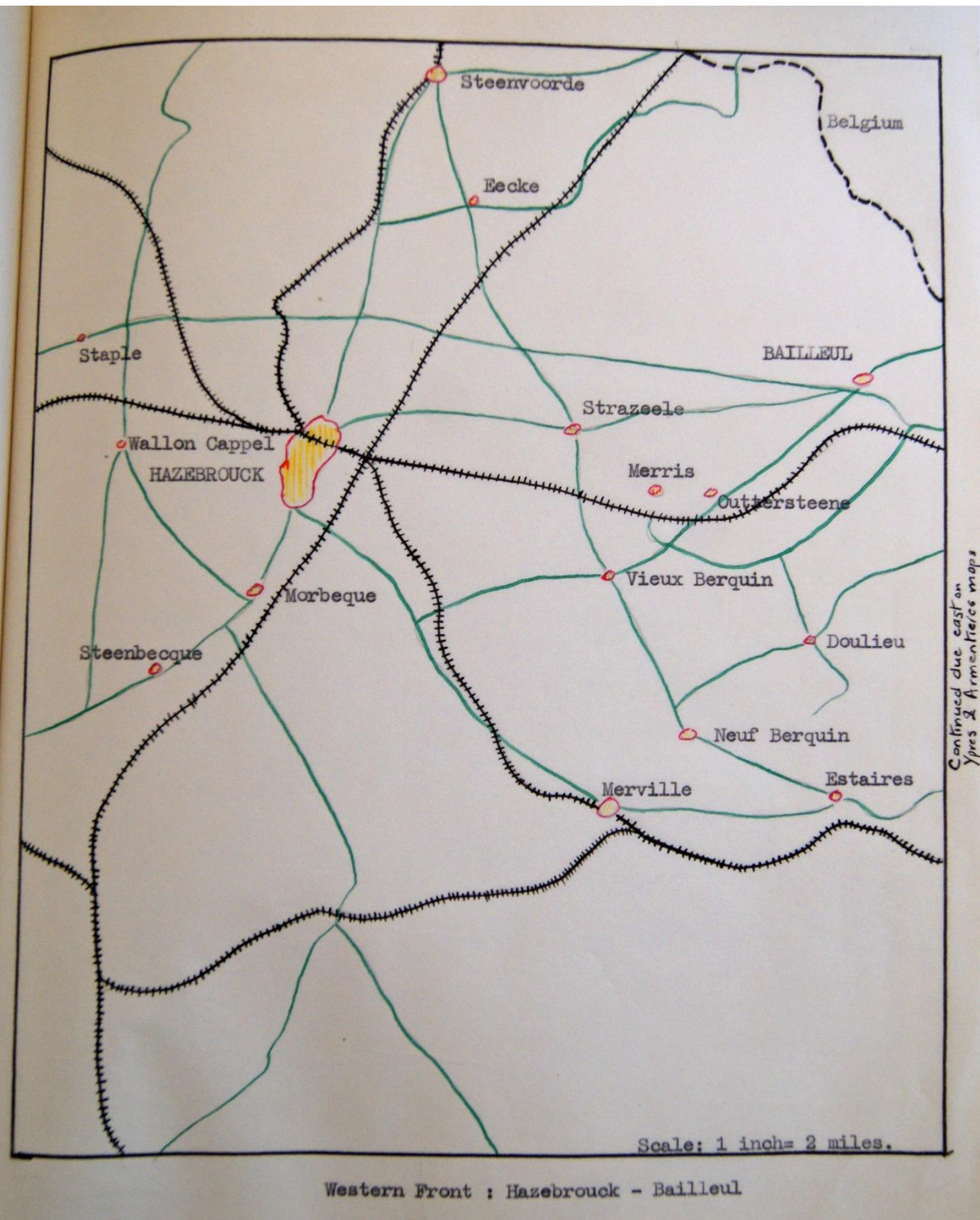


Preliminary instructions were received on 30th April for the Division's future role and on 1st May the Division marched about 15 miles to the southeast, Division Headquarters moved to Estaires – the next town on the Lys to Armentieres, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to Douliou, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to near Estaires. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade remained at Morbecque in preparation to taking over the portion of the Corps front.

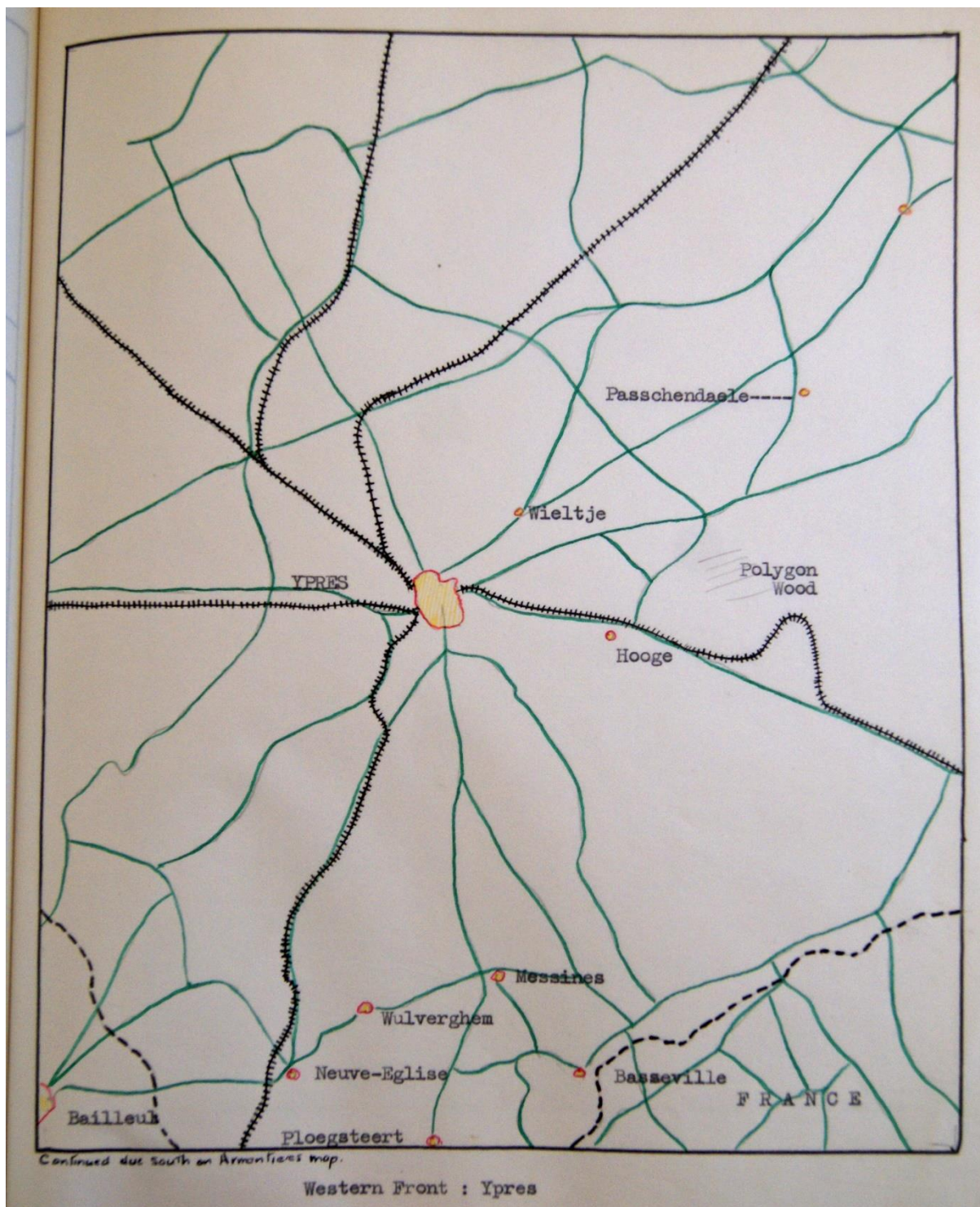
Orders were issued on 5th May for the New Zealand Division to relieve the 17<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division, II Corps, in the front line and on 9th May the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades exchanged positions so that the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade could move into the line together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade while 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade became Division reserve.

At this time the German forces were pushing an abortive attack in the Ypres Sailent to the north.

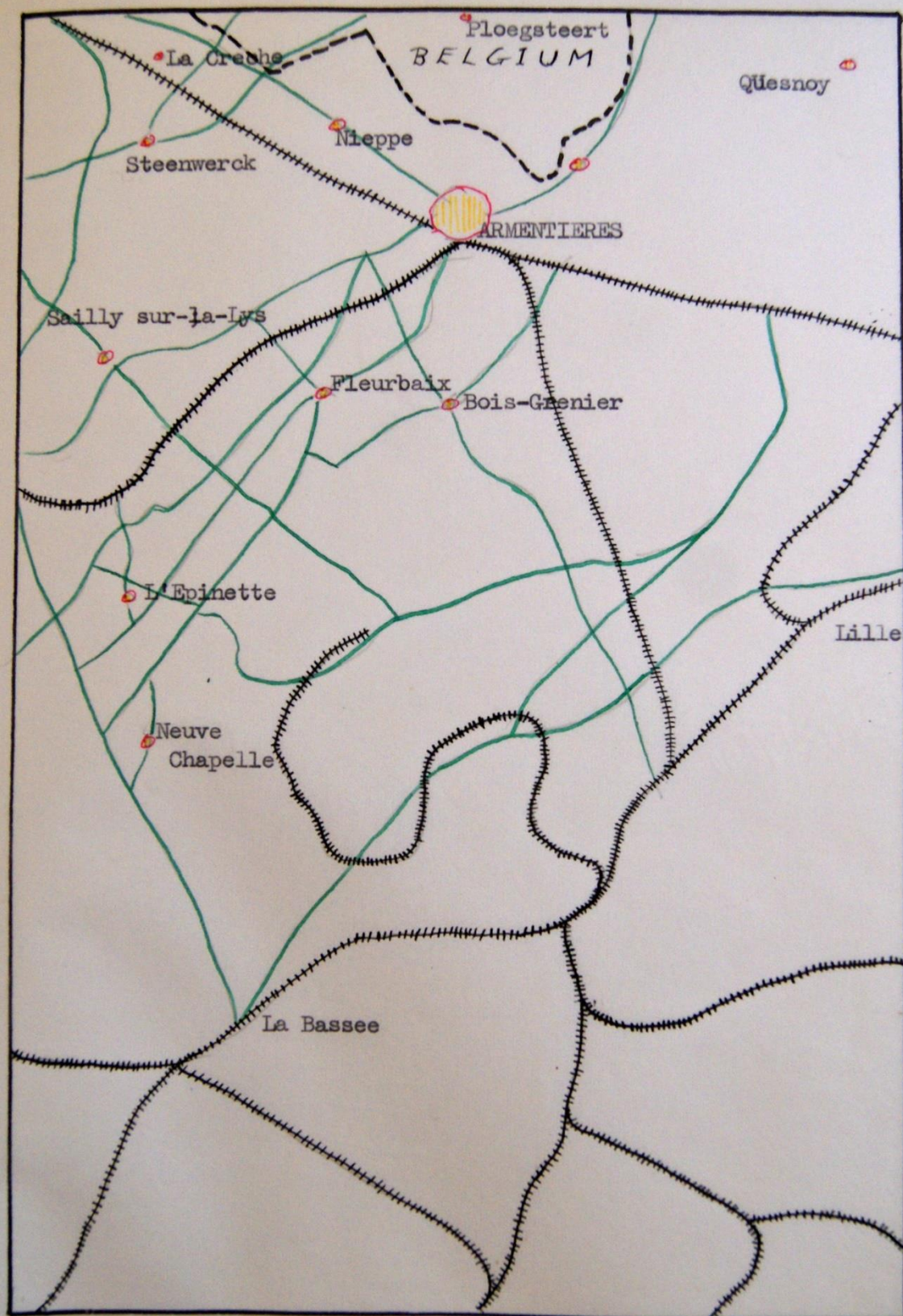






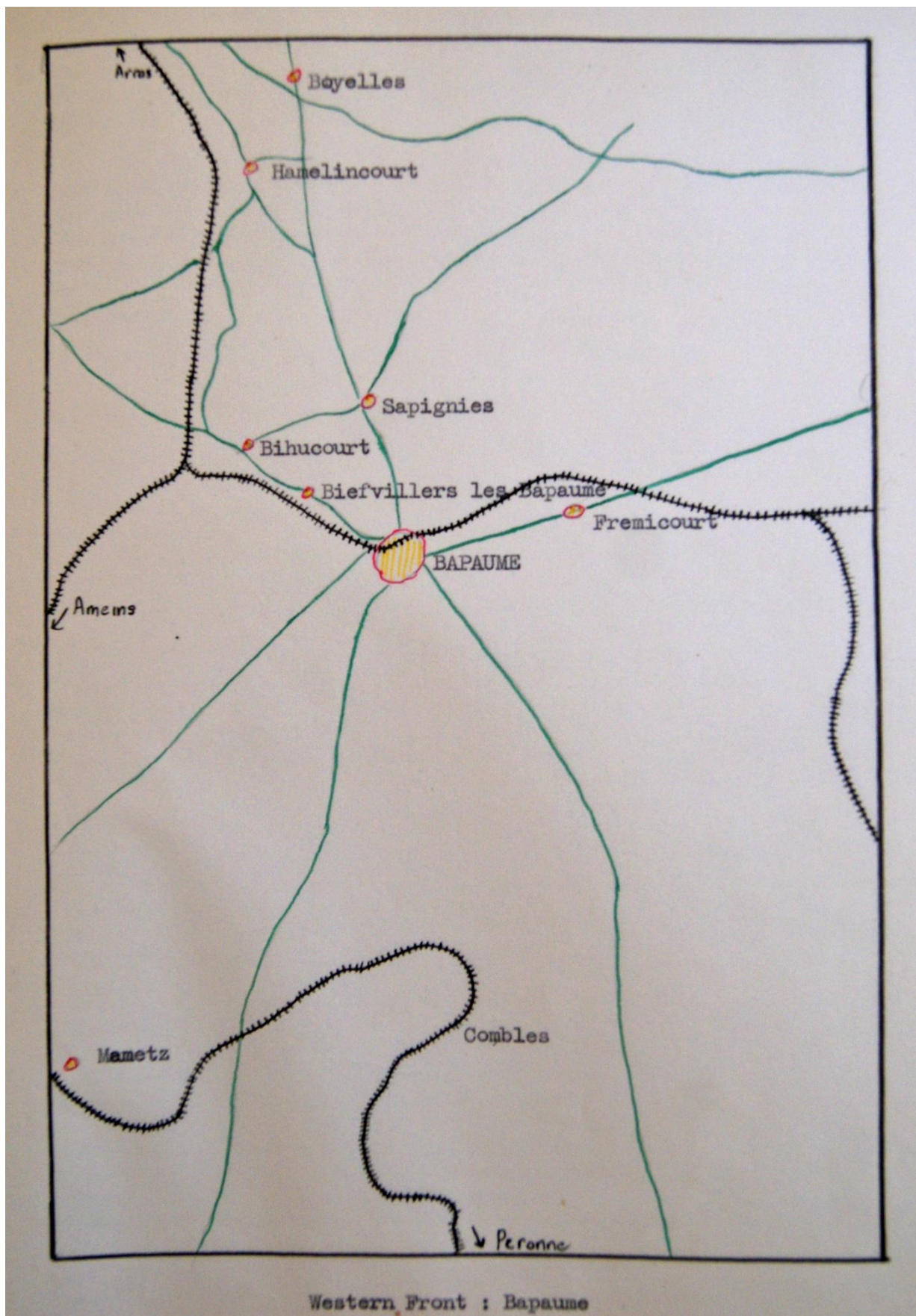






Western Front : Armentieres







On 13th May 1916 the New Zealand Division relieved the 17<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division in the front line, the New Zealand frontal sector extending some four miles east – southeast of Armentieres, running from Pear Tree Farm just south of Armentieres-Lille railway in the south to the river Lys in front of the Armentieres suburb of Houplines in the north. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade took over the southern or 1<sup>re</sup> Epinette subsector while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade took over the northern or Houplines subsector. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade remained in reserve to the rear of Armentieres. Movement was completed by 16th May.

The trench lines along the static front were places of mud and slush, particularly in wet weather and in the marshlands of Flanders. The following lines written at the time neatly sum up the situation:

*Misery unspeakable*

*Horrible, shriekable*

*Groundsheets unbreakable*

*- I DON'T THINK*

*Rain never ending*

*On us descending*

*Simply heartrending*

*GAWD!*

Within several hundred yards of the front any movement during the day brought a bullet or shell from the enemy lines, the real labours of the day therefore began with dusk. Patrols were sent out into No Man's Land, supplies and provisions were brought forward by Division Train, and defences were repaired. *"We got our mail then too, with astonishing regularity and promptness. Once during a quiet spell I actually found in my dugout, about midnight on a certain date, a copy of the "Times" newspaper of even date". – Ian Hay.*

During June, the II Anzac Corps consisting of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Divisions commenced to arrive in France and Corps Headquarters were established at Bailleul on 20th June 1916. The NZ Division was now transferred to the command of II Anzac corps being taken by 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. In the first week of July the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division was replaced at the front by the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division and command of the corps section was passed to II Anzac Corps, the I Anzac Corps with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions then left for the Somme theatre.

To allow for the change over of Corps command, the NZ Division section of the front was extended south taking over that sector held by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was brought to the front line on 4th July and took over Bois subsector and in the following week moved further south to include Rue du Bois. The division now controlled 8 ½ miles of line, a length quite normally held by two divisions.

The unsuccessful Battle of Somme was launched by British troops on 1st July 1916 and to assist these efforts local raids were carried out on the New Zealand front with the object of preventing German forces being moved north to the Somme.

The NZ Division was now required to reinforce the Somme front where the battle had been raging since 1st July 1916. During the first week in August the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division came into the II Anzac Corps front between the NZ Division and the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division and relieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> NZ (Rifle) Brigade which moved back to near Blaringhem. On 15th August the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division commenced to relieve the NZ Division which moved back into the Blaringhem area by 18<sup>th</sup> August.

On 20 August the Division commenced to entrain at St. Omer and Argues (2 miles southeast of St. Omer) and moved about 27 miles south west to a training area southeast of Abbeville which had become a large British base town. Here the Division passed under the command of X Corps, IVth, army, whose 32<sup>nd</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, and 49<sup>th</sup> Division had suffered badly in the Somme battle.

The last units arrived on the training ground in the lower Somme valley near Abbeville on 22nd August and training commenced for the future battle. Division Headquarters were established at Hallencourt,

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade at Yonville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at Airannes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade at Limercourt, which Division Train and Railhead operated between Abbeville and Hallencourt. Artillery units were trained nearby at Longpre where their mails were handled through British Army P.O. S.45

Though engineer units started leaving for the Somme front on 27th August it was not until 2nd September that infantry units commenced their 18-20 mile march eastwards. On that day 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade marched to Airannes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to Cavaillon, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to Le Quesnoy. In the beautiful autumn weather the march continued next day, the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade reach Yzax, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Picquigny, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Vaux-en-Amiens.

The march was resumed on 7th September and by 8th September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades had reached Lavieville, while 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade had reached Dernacourt. While 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades remained at Lavieville the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade marched to Moulin-du-Vivier and thence to Fricourt where on 10th-11th September a brigade of 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division was relieved, and also portion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. The front line now taken over at Fricourt was towards Deville Wood and High Wood. On 10th September the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades moved to Fricourt Wood and Mataz Wood. Command of this sector of the line passed to the New Zealand Division on 11th September.

Here the Division was placed under command of XV Corps IV Army with the division on the left of the corps section with 41<sup>st</sup> Division in the centre and 14<sup>th</sup> Division on the right. North of the New Zealanders, lay the right flank of III Corps with 47<sup>th</sup> (London) Division, which had relieved the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, in line.

British Army P.O. S.76 served Corps HQ and assorted units, NZ Division Train operated between there and NZ Division Headquarters at Fricourt. With the arrival of the New Zealand Division relieved 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division left corps command for refitting.

The Second Battle of the Somme commenced 15th September 1816 with XV Corps in the centre of the British front, moving forward with the assistance of tanks which were effectively used in warfare for the first time. On 18th September, the 14<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Divisions of XV Corps were withdrawn and the NZ Division was now joined by the fresh 21<sup>st</sup> Division and the refitted 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division.

Attack on the enemy line was now continuous and the New Zealanders were joined by the 47<sup>th</sup> (London) Division I the final attack in which New Zealanders took part. The attack was launched on 1 October and the objective Eaucourt – L'Abbaye, a heavily fortified point in the German lines, was captured. The NZ Division, which had suffered 6,700 casualties for the 23 days in action, was relieved on 4th October by the 41<sup>st</sup> Division and moved back to Fricourt under orders for transfer to II Anzac Corps of II Army.

At the time the New Zealand Division was withdrawn from the front the New Zealand field post offices were issued with a fresh set of date stamps inscribed with the code letter "B" which had previously been used by the Guards Division, BEF. It is probable that the old "Z" series were issued to field post offices of 41<sup>st</sup> Division, being one of the ruses used to prevent the enemy learning of the change in the front line.

The NZ Division was retained at Fricourt as XV Corps reserve for the proposed attack on 5th October but as bad weather necessitated postponement of the attack withdrawal of the New Zealanders was resumed. On 6th October NZ Division Headquarters moved to Hallencourt and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades entrained for X Corps area and thence to II Anzac Corps at Bailleul. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade left Albert on 7th October to join the Division.

The NZ Division commenced arriving in II Anzac Corps area on 10 October and were complete in Corps reserve by 12 October. Division Headquarters were established at Merris, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade at Estaires, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at Strazeele, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade at Outersteens. II Anzac Corps Headquarters, formerly at La Motte, were now at Bailleul.

The II Anzac Corps front was relatively stable, the southern sector being held by 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division and the centre sector by 34<sup>th</sup> Division. No division had been available to fill the northern sector and a composite force of two brigade strength had been formed to fill this gap.

The composite force was designated Frank's Force after the General Officer Commanding, Major-General G McK Franks of II Army staff. The force consisted of 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade of 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, 103<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of 34<sup>th</sup> Division, with Division Headquarters and other staff drawn from Army and Corps Headquarters.

About this time the Z Division was issued with special Christmas cards for sending home to New Zealand. On the address side appeared the YMCA sign at top left, with NEW ZEALAND/ON ACTIVE SERVICE in the centre, and the NZEF badge at top right. On the reverse side appeared a sketch of a New Zealand soldier and the appropriate greetings. The New Zealand YMCA service also issued a series of illustrated postcards, known as "red triangle" series.

On 13th October 1916 the NZ Division commenced to relieve the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division at the front, Division Headquarters being established at Sailly-on-the-Lys some 5 miles west of Armentieres. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade replaced the 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade at Rouge de Bout while the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was stationed at Fleubaix 3 miles southwest from Armentieres on the Neuve Chappelle road. On 14th October the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade relief, the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade attached to Frank's Force, the brigade moving into the Houplines sector, brigade headquarters being established at Rue des Jesuits.

Towards the end of November the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division arrived from its training camps in Great Britain and commenced to relieve Frank's Force which was then disbanded. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade returned to the NZ Division on 1st December and was placed in reserve at Estaires.

On 25th December 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade moving back to Division reserve at Estaires. After two weeks there the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade returned to the front and relieved 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade at Boutillerie, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade moving into Division reserve. On 24th January 1917 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade relieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at Cordonnerie, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade returning to Division reserve thus completing the cycle.

Late in January a German attack was expected and the 34<sup>th</sup> Division, in the centre of II Anzac Corps sector, was withdrawn to Corps reserve. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division extended its sector and 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade was moved up from reserve at Estaires to take over the line at Bois Grenier and thus join the NZ Division with the Australians.

Early in February the 57<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division arrived from Great Britain and commenced to take over the front from the NZ Division. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was relieved on 14th February, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 25th February. On relief the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade marched to Outtersteene then, on 22nd February marched north into Belgium, to Messines where a brigade of 25<sup>th</sup> Division IX Corps was relieved. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade took over a portion of the Messines front on 25th February and command of the sector passed to the New Zealand that day, Division Headquarter being established at Steenwerck with 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in Division reserve immediately to the rear of its two fellow brigades.

Probably in expectation for the move to Messines the series "B" date stamps used by the NZ Division Postal Unit were replaced by a series "C" date stamp which had originally been used by the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, BEF. This series consisted of the usual Divisional Headquarter, train, railhead and three brigades, but when the 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade joined the Division an extra date stamp C was manufactured and issued to its field post office. One of the Field Post Offices used two date stamps inscribed C.2 X but it is not known why or where these were used.

The II Anzac Corps front was extended on 13th March to allow for the withdrawal of IX Corps for the proposed April attack on Vimy Ridge. The NZ Division moved north to relieve 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division on the southern flanks of IX Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division taking over the New Zealand trenches and the 57 Division taking over the Australian trenches.

Division Headquarters remained at Steenwerck but 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was now in reserve at Le Touquet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at Wulverghem where 108<sup>th</sup> Brigade had been relieved, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade at Douve where 107<sup>th</sup> Brigade had been relieved. Here the New Zealand Division remained, with the rotation brigade movements, for three months prior to the Battle of Messines.

On 31st March the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade relieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade when then commenced a 40 mile three day march west to the Division training area at Tilques, southwest of St Omer. A brigade of 25<sup>th</sup> Division was now loaned to the NZ Division to temporarily replace the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade whilst it was under training. In

the last week in April a second 25<sup>th</sup> Division brigade marched into the line and relieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade when then marched for Tilques, arriving the on 6th May.

At the request of the British Government the 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade had been formed in England at Codford Camp from surplus reinforcement personnel and from experienced men drawn from the Division. The new Brigade arrived at Bailleul towards the end of May and moved up to the front where it relieved the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade for training at Tilques. Two men of the Division Postal Unit were attached to the brigade on 13th June and opened the 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade Field PO using a date stamp inscribed C.4.

Sapper J McMullen of the Postal Corps, was wounded while on postal duties on 13th June, and was admitted to hospital.

Preparations now began in earnest for the noteworthy Battle of Messines at the southern shoulders of the Ypres salient. At this time, II Anzac Corps controlled 57<sup>th</sup> Division, 25<sup>th</sup> Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division, and NZ Division.

The II Army with II Anzac, IX and X Corps was to launch the Battle of Messines with XIV Corps in reserve. In the II Anzac Corps sector the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division, the NZ Division, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Division were to lead the attack, the NZ Divisions objective being Messines itself.

To carry out the planning for the action Division Headquarters moved at the end of April to Westof Farm near Meuve Eglise. On 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1917 the New Zealand sector was held by 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades resting in the immediate rear in reserve, and with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade on its way back from Tilques. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade relieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade on 3 June.

At zero hour on 7th June a series of large mines were exploded right along the II Army front, resulting in a violent earth tremour felt miles away. A heavy and intense bombardment then crashed on the stunned Germans, and the assaulting Division quickly moved in on their objectives. The New Zealanders successfully occupied Messines village and were consolidating their position by 8th June.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division now replaced the NZ Division in action, Division Headquarters moving back to Baillein, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades to near Neuve Eglise, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to Neippa. It was now proposed that the attack should be carried on from further north and on 10th June the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade moved north to the trenches south of Warnave, where a brigade of 57<sup>th</sup> Division was relieved. The brigade attacked and pushed east into German trenches, Brigade Headquarters being established in Ploegsteert ("Plugstreet") Wood, a singularly unhealthy part of the line. Later the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades came into line alongside the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade remained in reserve. Headquarters of 2<sup>nd</sup> Canterbury Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, were established in a deep dugout under St Yves post office.

On 29th-30th June the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division relieved the NZ Division, Division Headquarters moving to Vieux-Berquin between Hazebrouck and Armentieres, while the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade moved to De Seule, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to Berquin. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade remained in the line and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in Division reserve under command of the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division.

The NZ Division moved back to the front about 7th July, Division headquarters moving to Doulieu, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades to Ploegsteert Wood. On 20th July the division relieved the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade again came under the command of the NZ Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade being brought into line. Division Headquarters returned to Steenwerck. Sapper O Johnston of NZ Postal Corps was attached to II Anzac Corps HQ on 24 July to ensure New Zealand mails were properly handled through the Corps area.

Preparations were now put in hand for the Battle of Passchendaele, or the Third Battle of Ypres as it was also known. To assist, the attached the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division and the NZ Division were instructed to carry out feint moved around Bassevillebeck (Basseville) which the New Zealanders were to seize. The attack was launched on 26 July and, after some setbacks, Basseville was captured.

The Divisional line was extended during the first days in August 1917, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade moving to Division reserve at Douve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade remaining in the line around Basseville, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade being in line astride the Douve river, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade on the Lys river.

Sapper W.J. Wilke of the NZ Postal Corps was wounded on 11th August and was admitted to hospital.

On 17th August the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and moved to Division reserve at Douve, and on 21st August moved to the corps reserve area at La Motte for training for the proposed attack east of Ypres. On 27th August the 8<sup>th</sup> Division relieved the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and on 31st August the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, these two brigades moving back to la Motte. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was relieved about 25th August by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division and then marched to La Creche to support the 57<sup>th</sup> Division which was holding trenches near Fleubaix.

Towards the end of August the NZ Division entrained from La Motte for the II Army reserve area at Lumbres in the Aa valley west of St Omer. Here the Division was trained in new fighting tactics. Meanwhile the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was left in the forward area under I Anzac and X Corps engaged in burying telephone and signal cables in rear areas of the Ypres battlefield.

In the Third Battle of Ypres the second attack had not been successful due to bad weather conditions and in the early days in September the southern part of the battle theatre was transferred to the II Army. Thorough preparations were now carried out for further attack – including 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade cable laying – and on 20 September the attack was launched with the Battle of Menin Gate, the result being a substantial victory.

Orders were now given for the II Anzac Corps to relieve the V Corps on the northern sector of the II Army front to allow the V Corps to carry out further operations. These orders to move to Ypres were received on 24 September and the movement forward began that day. 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Division and 66<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisions were added to II Anzac Corps to bring the Corps up to strength but these divisions were left in the reserve area while the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division and NZ Divisions moved forward.

Division Headquarters moved to Hazebrouck on 25th September and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades to Renescure, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade moved to Lumbres. On the 26<sup>th</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades reached Wall on Cappel and the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Renescure. On the following day Division Headquarters and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades moved to Watou, some 5 miles west of Poperinghe, while the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade moved to an area north of Hazebrouck.

On 28th September 1917 II Anzac Corps established their headquarters at Poperinghe and took over command of the V Corps sector. The 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade moved up to the front on 26th September and next day relieved 177<sup>th</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup> Brigades of 59<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Division, the brigade being placed under command of the 59<sup>th</sup> Division until the NZ Division took over command on 2nd October.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades arrived at Wieltje on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and then moved into the line relieving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade which moved into Division reserve. The 59<sup>th</sup> Division, now relieved, withdrew. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade arrived at Poperinghe from Vieux Berquin on 3rd October and was employed in further cable burying work in the II Anzac Corps sector. Division Headquarters were at Mersey Camp until 6th October when they moved to Watou.

On 3rd October the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division and the NZ Division led the II Anzac Corps in the battle for Broodseinde Ridge, the last British advance on the Ypres front. The 49<sup>th</sup> Division moved into the line on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October and relieved the NZ Division for reorganisation for further attack. Division Headquarters moved to Watou, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade remained in Poperinghe in reserve, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade moved to Winnezelle west of Watou, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, relieved of its cable burying duties by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, moved to the northern outskirts of Ypres, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade moved to Eecke.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Division together with the 66<sup>th</sup> Division launched the II Anzac Corps attack on 9 October in the Battle of Poelcapelle (Flemish “the church of the bog”) and under appalling conditions made little headway. Heavy rain and thick mud held up the advance.

The NZ Division moved back into the line on 10th October and relieved the 49<sup>th</sup> Division, the New Zealanders making a further attack which proved unsuccessful in the extremely poor conditions. Division Headquarters were established on the Yser Canal, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades taking over the line, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade being employed in cable laying and salvage, the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade being brought up from the reserve arriving 11th October.

On 15th October 1917 the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade took over the New Zealand sector from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade moving back to Hanebeck and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, to the old Ypres lines. On 16th October the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade left for the Lumbres area while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade moved to its place near Ypres. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, relieved from its cable laying duties, now moved to Hanebeck.

Canadian Corps took over the section of the line from II Anzac Corps on 18 October. Corps Headquarters moved back to Hazebrouck and divisions were withdrawn from the line, the corps to have a short rest before relieving X Corps on the right of I Anzac Corps.

On 19th October 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade left for Lumbres followed by 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade on 25<sup>th</sup>. Division Headquarters, relieved by 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division, moved from the Yser Canal bank to Nielles les Blequin on 22nd October.

After a period of training and rest II Anzac Corps troops now moved back into the front line to relieve I Anzac Corps in the area south of the Ypres – Roulers railway. 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division was now transferred to I Anzac Corps leaving the New Zealand, 49<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> Divisions in II Anzac Corps.

Corps Headquarters moved from Hazebrouck to the village of Abele, southwest of Poperinghe on 8 November, and Divisions prepared to move to the front relieving 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Polygon Wood area of the Ypres salient. The NZ Division reached the front on 15 November and took over its sector on 16 November, Division Headquarters being established at the hutted Anzac Camp at Chateau Segard about 2 miles west of Ypres. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades held the front with their headquarters in deep dugouts in the Hooze crater. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was held in division reserve while 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was employed in cable laying and salvage.

On 30th November Staff-Sergeant Major S.E. Oppenheim, of the Division Postal Unit, was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and was seconded for duty with II Anzac Corps Headquarters where he became the Deputy Director of Army Postal Services for the II Anzac Corps. He was promoted to Captain from 15th August 1918 while holding this position.

At the end of January 1918 II Anzac Corps sector was extended southward to include 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Divisions who were transferred from the command of IX Corps. The 66<sup>th</sup> Division was now withdrawn for attaching to V Army. By the end of December Australasia was represented in II Anzac Corps only by the NZ Division therefore from 1st January 1918 the corps was redesignated XXII Corps, the I Anzac Corps becoming at the same time Australian Corps.

The heavy losses of the NZ Division at Passchendaele and during the following winter at Ypres drained the available reinforcements and accordingly the 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade was disbanded on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1918, the troops being dispersed amongst the other three brigades to bring them up to strength. Surplus personnel were formed into a NZ Entrenching Group to carry out rear line work and to supply forward units with reinforcements.

On 24th February, the NZ Division, which had suffered over 5,000 casualties during the winter months, was relieved by the 49<sup>th</sup> Division and moved to Corps reserve for a months rest and training. Division Headquarters moved to west of Hazebrouck to Renescure, with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades near Staple. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was left at the front to carry out corps line work.

Before the Division was withdrawn the postal date stamps used by the Field Post Office were replaced by a "Q" series which had originally been used by Tanks Corps Field post offices.

German forces, with the collapse of Russia late in 1917, had been moving divisions from the western to the eastern front where preparations were made for offensive action, commencing with a strong surprise attack. This attack burst with unexpected suddenness on 21st March against thinly held lines and pushed the British lines, which remained unbroken, nine miles back by 23rd March. This action is known as the Second Battle of the Somme. All British reserves were called forward to repel the German advance.

The III Army was first engaged in action but in view of the importance of I Army's position in the centre of British lines, its greater proximity to the Somme battlefield and the distinct possibility of it



becoming engaged in the action, reinforcements for the forces in action were drawn from the II Army further north.

When the attack burst on the British line the NZ Division, in XXII Corps of II Army, was in corps reserve area being trained and refitted. On 24th March orders for the south were received and that day the division marched to stations at Cassel and Castre while the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, in the forward area at Ypres, entrained at Hopoutre, near Poperinghe. The Division was ordered south to join VII Corps in the Bray area on the Somme but with the increasing seriousness of the position orders for disposal of the division were changed.

After a journey via Calais, Bolougne, and Abbeville, the NZ Division was detrained between Amiens and Picquigny, and were brought forward as far as Pont Noyelles, some 6 miles from Amiens on Albert Road. Division Headquarters reached Ribemont on the Ancre on 25th March.

As units arrived in the Ribemont area from Amiens they were hastily formed into composite brigades and sent forward to Hedauville where Division headquarters had arrived on 26th March 1918. As the units arrived from Rivemont or Pont Noyelles they were despatched further forward to form a line between Engelbelmer – Auchonvillers ridge and Hamel. Portion of the New Zealand equipment was lost in the quick German advance but by the nightfall of 26th March the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division had established a front line, even though thinly held, and had linked up with V and IV Corps closing a dangerous gap between the two corps.

Next day the division sorted itself out and placed the brigades into proper order, beating off German attack in the meantime. Division headquarters moved to a more central position at Bus-les Antoies. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Headquarters, which had been established in a cellar in Colincamps, was blown up and destroyed by enemy shellfire on 28th March, 11 men being killed and 14 wounded. Next day the Headquarters was revived and established in a school in Courcelles.

With the continued movement of reserve troops into the front, the British line was soon established and strengthened. The NZ Division held a long sector of the front between Colincamps and Mailly-Maillet but this was shortened on 3rd-4th April when an Australian Division took over portion of the line. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was now withdrawn to Division reserve, leaving 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades in line. Division Headquarters had established themselves in a pleasant mansion at Louvincourt.

The NZ Division was relieved on 7th June by the 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Division and given a period of three weeks in reserve. Division Headquarters moved to Pas-en-Artois and later to Authie, the brigades being billeted in nearby villages.

On 2nd July the NZ Division returned to the front and relieved 57<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division which moved into Corps reserve, NZ Division Headquarters being moved from Authie to Couin. Other divisions in the IV Corps at this time were 37<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Divisions but the 62<sup>nd</sup> Division was shortly afterwards transferred to XXII Corps.

The 2nd Brigade was relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade on 17th July and 25th July the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was relieved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. American forces were now taking part in frontal action and early in August a battalion of the US 327<sup>th</sup> (Black Fox) Regiment was distributed amongst the NZ Division for frontline experience.

The IVth Army launched the Allied offensive on 8th August and on 14th August the German forces were thrown back on to the defensive and started to retreat. The IIIrd Army opened the major British offensive of the Battle of Bapaume on 21st August.

When the offensive commenced the IVth Corps of IIIrd Army consisted of 5<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Navy) and NZ Divisions. In the NZ Division the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade moved to the front from reserve and relieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade on 17th August, also taking over from 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade on 19th August. On 21st August the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade led the NZ Division attack and captured Puisieux. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade relieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on 22nd August and carried on the attack, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade relieved the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade on 1st September.

The attack on Havrincourt commenced on 2nd September and next day Division Headquarters moved forward to Fremicourt. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade relieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at the front on 8th September and on 14th September the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade relieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. On 15th September the 5<sup>th</sup> Division relieved the NZ Division which then moved back into corps reserve at Favreuil, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade moving to Biefvillers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to Bihucourt, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to Sapignies.

On 26th September the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade moved up to Bertincourt as active reserve in support of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Divisions which were holding the corps front, and on 28th September the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade moved to the Neuville-Bourgonval area. The NZ Division was now concentrated behind the corps front ready for a quick break through.

The attack commenced with the Battle of Cambrai on 29th September and the advance eastwards began. NZ Division Headquarters were established at Trescaull. On 10th October Beauvois, Viesly and Briastre were occupied and the Selle river cross, Division Headquarters moved to Beauvois on 11th October. Belle Vue was captured on 12th October and shortly afterwards the NZ Division was relieved by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, moving back to corps reserve at Fontaine-au-Pire.

On 19th October the Division moved from Esne to Beauvois and on 20th October the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was moved up to the front ready to move into line, but, through a temporary weakness in strength, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade moved into line instead. The NZ Division resumed the attack on 29th October and on 3rd November the Battle of Le Quesnoy commenced, the town being liberated the following day. In remembrance of this the people of Le Quesnoy named one of the main streets Rue de la Nouvelle Zelande.

While the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade remained in Le Quesnoy in garrison the NZ Division continued to move east, Division headquarters moving to Beaudignies on 3rd November and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to Fermedu-Fort Marton, and 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade HQ to a house on the Ruesnes Road. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was at Hartmount on 9th November but the Division then returned to corps reserve at Beauvois and was there when Armistice was declared on 11th November 1918.

On 28th November 1918 the NZ Division marched east from Beauvois on the commencement of the march into Germany, where they were to join the Army of Occupation. Bavai was reached on 1<sup>st</sup> December, Maubeuge on 3 December and Charleroi on 7 December when the Division came under the command of IV Army.

Namur was reached on 11 December, Huy on 12th December and on 14th December the Division came under the command of II Army. Verviers was reached on 19th December and on 20th December the division crossed the border into Germany, entraining at Herbesthal for Cologne, the 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Infantry Brigade being the first New Zealanders to arrive in Cologne.

On arrival in Cologne the NZ Division formed part of the British Army of Occupation and occupied various towns. The Division Headquarters were established in Leverkusen, the most important town between Cologne and Dusseldorf, on the Rhine north of Cologne, where a two storeyed building was occupied by the administrative headquarters. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was stationed at Leichlingen, northeast of Leverkusen, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at Mulheim, 4 miles south of Leverkusen, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade at Bensberg, being earlier at Bruck, another suburb of Cologne, where the brigade headquarters had occupied a chateau.

The NZEF, on the cessation of warfare, was now to be disbanded as quickly as possible, and drafts of 700-1000 men were detached from the NZ Division and sent to embarkation camps in Great Britain, the first draft leaving for England on 26th December.

When the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was depleted it was disbanded and remaining personnel merged into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. By early February 1919 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was depleted and it was disbanded, remaining personnel now joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade which now moved to Bensberg. Troops continued to steadily leave for England and on 1st March the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was disbanded. On 9th March all remaining personnel were brought together and NZ Division Headquarters moved to Mulheim. All Division units as well as the Division itself were disbanded here on 25th March 1919 and that day the final draft of 29

officers and 683 other ranks left Cologne for England. As the Division was wound up the Postal Unit was reduced, being disbanded when Division Headquarters field post office closed on 25th March 1919.

### Division Postal Unit – datestamps

Early in 1915 British Army Post Offices and Field Post Offices in France were issued with standard double ring "English" type datestamps being inscribed ARMY POST OFFICE or FIELD POST OFFICE with a letter or number, the R on ARMY POST OFFICE datestamps indicating a railhead and S a Stationary APO. On FIELD POST OFFICES datestamps the number indicated the number of the brigade, i.e. 151 indicated 151<sup>st</sup> Brigade, D followed by a number indicated the Division Headquarters FPO of the Division with that number, T indicated the division Train, and H and a number indicated Corps Headquarters.

As such datestamps faithfully showed the formation they handled mail for the datestamps were interchanged between Corps and Divisions as from July 1916 being changed every three months or so that they could not reveal any information of value to the enemy.

After 1 July 1916 all Division and Brigade initials datestamps were interchanged periodically between Divisions. On or about 1 February 1919 the datestamps circle restored to "home" formation.

	1-2000 FPO "Z" Field Post Office Grand Arsenal 1916 4/10/16	"B" 4/10/16	"C" 14/2/17	"Q" 24/2/18	
Division HQ	DZ A 21/9/16	DB	DC	DQ	
1 <sup>st</sup> NZ Inf Bde	12 + 3/5 - 27/9/16	1B A 5/10 - 27/10/16	C1 A 16/3/17 - 4/1/17	Q1 + 12/2 - 27/2/18	
2 <sup>nd</sup> NZ Inf Bde	22 A.B. + 6/5 - 6/9/16	2B + 13/10/16 - 3/1/17	C2 A x 3/2/17 - 7/6/17	Q2 + B 4/3 - 20/7/18	22 28 Feb 19
3 <sup>rd</sup> NZ (Mk) Bde	32 A.B. + 2/4 - 10/9/16	3B + 9/10/16 - 7/1/17	C3 x 8/5/17	Q3 + 14 - 22/3/18	
4 <sup>th</sup> NZ Inf Bde			C4		
Division Train	TZ A.B. 29/5 - 23/9/16	TB A.B. 6/4 - 23/1/17 20/11/16	TC	TQ	
Division Railhead	RZ	RB	RC	RQ	A2 + 30 MA 18
Other			C2X + x 11/7/17 5/4/17 14/1/18		

A clearer version of this table has been published on page 101  
Of the book  
"History of the New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845-1991"  
By Startup & Proud, 1992, Postal History Publishing Co, UK



# Standing Administrative Instructions (GERMANY)

## No. 18.

### REGULATIONS FOR CIVIL POSTAL SERVICE IN GERMAN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH ARMY.

Standing Administrative Instruction (Germany) No. 13 of 28th December, 1918, is cancelled and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

1. All letters, postcards and other postal packages will be subject to censorship by the British Military Authorities. No responsibility will be accepted for safe or quick delivery.
2. No letters, postcards or other postal packages will be accepted for express delivery or for registration or insurance. Articles of value, if sent by post, will be at the risk of the sender. Money remittances should ordinarily be made by money order or postal cheque. Public authorities, banks, or large firms desiring facilities for remitting or receiving large sums of money by post in coin or paper (i.e., notes, cheques, bills, bonds or securities), should make application in writing for a license to the Ober Post Direktor, Cologne, for transmission to the British censors, stating particulars.
3. Postal communication with places outside the British occupied area will be restricted to:—
  - (a) Letters and parcels for prisoners of war, which may continue as heretofore.
  - (b) Newspapers or official publications which have received the previous approval of the Military Governor.
  - (c) Letters referring to important business or urgent private affairs. Such communications if for German territory not occupied by the Allies, must be passed through the Burgomaster or other local official appointed to receive them, and must bear his stamp to certify that they are on important business or urgent private affairs. This official will be responsible also for the identity of the sender.
  - (d) Registered letters of declared value containing money sent or received under license (vide. para. 2).
4. Except letters and parcels for and from prisoners of war no communication will be permitted with the allied countries.
5. (a) All letters must be posted open to facilitate censorship. Packets and parcels should be made up in such a manner as to permit of subsequent examination by the Censors.
  - (b) Letters for delivery within the German territory occupied by the Allies may be posted in the ordinary posting boxes. Letters for unoccupied German or neutral countries may be taken to the civil certifying official by hand or may be posted in the ordinary posting boxes for transfer to the civil certifying official by the Post Office.
  - (c) The name and address of the sender must be clearly written on the back of every letter, on the top left hand corner of every postcard, and on the front of every packet or parcel.
  - (d) No language other than English, French, Italian, Spanish, Alsatian dialect, or high German may be used. German dialects are not permitted.
  - (e) The writing must be legible and in Latin characters when possible.
  - (f) The use of ambiguous phrases, unintelligible marks or signs, code, cipher, shorthand or any writing in secret ink is strictly forbidden.
  - (g) All reference to military matters is forbidden.
  - (h) Letters should be as short as possible. Long private letters will be liable to delay.
  - (i) No written communication may be enclosed in a packet or parcel.
6. All correspondence which does not comply with the regulations laid down will be stopped and may be destroyed. Other correspondence may be stopped at the absolute discretion of the British military authorities. Postage prepaid will not be refunded.
7. The carrying and transmission of any kind of correspondence by hand or by any other means whatever other than the authorised postal service are strictly forbidden, with the exception that personal delivery by the senders of local communications will be allowed within the limits of the local town or rural postal delivery area. Any person infringing this regulation will be severely punished.
8. Should an extension of postal facilities be found practicable later, due notice will be published.
9. These regulations will come into force at 5 a.m., January 15th, 1919.

H. E. AVERY, Lieut.-Colonel,

Assistant-Adjutant & Quartermaster-General.

8/1/19.



NEW ZEALAND DIVISION.

2915  
**Standing Administrative Instructions.  
(GERMANY.)  
No. 27.**

**REGULATIONS FOR CIVIL POSTAL SERVICE IN GERMAN  
TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH ARMY.**

(This Cancels Instruction No. 18, dated 8-1-19).

1. All letters, postcards and other postal packages will be subject to censorship by the British Military Authorities. No responsibility will be accepted for safe or quick delivery.
2. (a) No language other than English, French, Italian, Spanish, or High German may be used in communications by post. German dialects are not permitted.  
(b) The writing must be legible and in Latin characters when possible.  
(c) The use of ambiguous phrases, unintelligible marks or signs, code, cipher, shorthand, or any writing in secret ink is strictly forbidden.  
(d) All reference to military matters is forbidden.  
(e) Letters should be as short as possible. Long private letters will be liable to delay.  
(f) No written communication may be enclosed in a parcel.  
(g) The name and address of the sender must be clearly written on the back or front of every letter, on the top left hand corner of every postcard, and on the front of every parcel.
3. Newspapers and other publications published outside the British Occupied Area must receive the approval of the Military Governor before they are allowed to enter the British Occupied Area.
4. The parcels post will be restricted to the Occupied Areas. But as an exception parcels of a declared value will be allowed to and from Unoccupied Germany to contain only—
  - i. Money in coin or paper (i.e., notes, cheques, bills, bonds or securities).
  - ii. Jewellery and precious stones.
  - iii. Official and legal documents and forms.The full contents of all parcels must be stated on the cover and on the advice note.  
The maximum limit of weight per parcel is 25 kilos. for addresses within the British Occupied Area, and 10 kilos. outside the British Occupied Area.
5. The Sample Post will be confined to the Occupied Areas.
6. No communication will be permitted with the Allied Countries, except letters and parcels for and from prisoners of war.
7. All correspondence which does not comply with the regulations laid down will be stopped and may be destroyed. Other correspondence may be stopped at the absolute discretion of the British Military Authorities. Postage prepaid will not be refunded.
8. The carrying and transmission of any kind of correspondence by hand or by any means whatever other than the authorised postal service are strictly forbidden, with the following exceptions:—
  - (a) Delivery by the senders of local communications will be allowed within the limits of the local town or rural postal delivery area.
  - (b) Firms employing messengers travelling between head and branch offices, or between business firms may send business communications by such messengers, within the British Occupied Area, so far as permitted by German Postal Law.Any person infringing this regulation will be severely punished.
9. These regulations will come into operation on and from 12th February, 1919.

**H. E. AVERY, Lieut.-Colonel,**

Assistant-Adjutant & Quartermaster-General.

12th February, 1919.

## GREAT BRITAIN

When the British Government accepted the offer of a New Zealand Expeditionary Force at the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Base Camp accommodation in England was a matter of early consideration; it not then being known that New Zealand troops would first be required for the Dardanelles Campaign. Richmond Park, on the ~~Southwestern~~ outskirts of London was ~~originally~~ chosen, but a locality further removed from the attractions of London was suggested. Eventually the Salisbury Plains area was selected and a site planned ~~at Sling Camp~~, near Bulford, not far from Salisbury, in Wiltshire.

There were already a number of New Zealanders in ~~Great Britain~~ ~~England~~ at the outbreak of War and ~~many of these~~ immediately offered their services to the New Zealand Government. These men (totalling 6 Officers and 234 men) were formed into British Section, N.Z.E.F. and were trained as a machine-gun unit. After initial training ~~at Bulford~~ one of their first tasks was the construction of the New Zealand ~~Base Camp at Sling~~, near Bulford. Building commenced on what was afterwards called the No.1 Camp, but work ceased when news was received that the N.Z.E.F. was to land in Egypt. The British Section, N.Z.E.F. sailed for Egypt on 12th December 1914 and arrived there on 24th December 1914. Canadian troops then took over the construction of the camp and Sling Camp arose on this site.

While training in England and working at the Camp near Bulford the New Zealanders ~~had used nearby~~ ~~neighbouring~~ civil postal services, outward mails being despatched through ~~neighbouring~~ ~~nearby~~ civil post offices.

The High Commissioner for New Zealand in the United Kingdom, with offices in London, carried out military liaison work between the N.Z.E.F., the New Zealand Government and the British Government. ~~A small NZ Expeditionary Force Section was set up in the NZ Offices to handle this work in November 1914. Mails handled through this section were datestamped in blue or purple (fig 1) but early in 1915 a metal datestamp was introduced (fig 2) being applied in black.~~ However, ~~his~~ the High Commissioner's work was ~~greatly~~ lessened early in 1916 when N.Z.E.F. Headquarters arrived in England from France.

A New Zealand Military Hospital was established at Walton-on-Thames in Surrey in August 1915 to handle wounded soldiers from the Gallipoli Campaign. ~~These men being brought direct to England with English Troops instead of being taken back to NZ.~~ Mails from the wounded were despatched through Walton-on-Thames civil Post Office, letters and postcards, ~~being free of postage~~, bearing a special rubber frank stamp in purple ink. This is type 47 (page 360).

The New Zealand Division N.Z.E.F. moved from Egypt to France late in April 1916 and on its arrival on the Western Front many base units were transferred to ~~Great Britain~~ ~~England~~. Later several N.Z.E.F. Training and Reserve Camps were established in Southern England as well as Hospitals and other Depots ~~to cater for the Division in France~~. From 1st January 1919 these Camps and Units were re-organised for demobilisation and each New Zealand soldier eventually passed through one of the Camps on his way home to New Zealand.

"A" Group was formed at Sling, "B" Group at Codford and "C" Group at Torquay.

After the departure of the New Zealand Division and Base Units from Egypt ~~for France~~ a small Base was retained in Egypt to provide Base facilities for the New Zealand Mounted Brigade engaged in the Sinai and Palestine Campaigns. ~~This base being controlled by NZEF HQ London. However details of the base and brigade postal facilities are excluded.~~

### HEADQUARTERS, LONDON

As already mentioned the High Commissioner for New Zealand carried out military liaison work from his London offices. All official outward mails for New Zealand were handled through diplomatic mailbags, being postmarked on arrival and reposted in New Zealand. Mails for British addresses were posted through the nearest civil post office.

In March 1916 a Commandant of New Zealand Troops in England was appointed and established his headquarters in the High Commissioner's Office, with his administrative staff in two rooms in nearby Victoria Street. ~~This office took over much of the military work from the High Commissioner.~~



However in May 1916 Headquarters N.Z.E.F. arrived in England from Egypt and established administrative offices at 8 Southampton Row, W.C. In the second week of November 1917 these offices were shifted to 29 – 31 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. 1 where they remained until the N.Z.E.F. was disbanded in late 1919. Mails from personnel attached to Headquarters were handled either through the N. Z. Army Base Post Office when it was later established or through nearby civilian post offices in Southampton Row.



A **New Zealand Soldiers' Club** was opened in Russell Square W.C.1 on 1st August 1916 and catered for an average of 150 – 200 New Zealanders daily. It seems that a posting box was provided in the Club's writing room, mails being cleared daily and taken to the New Zealand Army Base Post Office.

**New Zealand Pay Corps** originally had their offices at 84 Rochester Row S.W.1 and later at 33 Chester Square W. Mails from this office were handled at first through South-western District G.P.O. and later through Eccleston Street Post Office.

The New **Zealand Ordnance Officer** established his workshops at 30 – 32 Farringdon Road E.C.1, mails being handled by Hatton Garden Branch Post Office. The New Zealand War Museum was established at the Ordnance Workshops later in the War.

**N.Z.E.F. Kit Stores** were established at 76 – 78 Gray's Inn Road, Holburn W.C.1 where the nearest civil post office was High Holburn Branch P.O.

**New Zealand Officer's Clubs** were established at 3 Granville Place, Marble Arch W.1 where Portman Square Branch Post Office was the nearest civil post office and also at 35 Hill Street, Berkley Square W.1 where Mount Street was the nearest post office.

In view of the number of soldiers' letters being handled through the civil postal service the British General Post Office (G.P.O.) issued circular instructions on 30 November 1915. In part this reads:-

*“(B) Letters which are posted unpaid of short-paid bearing some indication that they are sent by soldiers should be charged on delivery if addressed to places in the British Isles with the amount of the deficiency at the single rate of postage only. If posted unpaid by members of the Colonial Forces in this country and addressed to places abroad they should be forwarded untaxed”.*

#### **NEW ZEALAND ARMY BASE POST OFFICE**

New Zealand (N.Z.) Army Base Post Office accompanied N.Z. Division to France, leaving a Base Details Post Office behind in Egypt. In France N.Z. Army Base Post Office (with a strength of 50 all ranks) was attached to British Army Base Post Office No. 4 at Calais.

In June, 1916 the N.Z. Army Postal Services were thoroughly overhauled to ensure that the New Zealanders at the front received a fully efficient postal service. It was decided to attach a Director of Army Postal Services, N.Z.E.F. to Administrative Headquarters, N.Z.E.F. in London to ensure proper co-ordination between N.Z.E.F., British General Post Office and British Army Postal Services.

Mr F.D. Holdsworth of the New Zealand Post & Telegraph Department (formerly Chief Postmaster at Auckland) was chosen to be the Director of Army Postal Services and was appointed to this position with the rank of Captain from 7th July 1916. He sailed from New Zealand with the 15<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements on 27th June 1916 and took up his position in London early in August that year.

To provide a better postal service as well as obtain more convenient mail sorting facilities the N.Z. Army Base Post Office moved from Calais to London about the second week in July 1916. On arrival in London the office was at first accommodated in the 3 ½ acre building of Home Depot, Postal Section, Royal Engineers in Regents Park N.5 where **additional** postal equipment as required was provided by the British Army Postal Service.

All mails from New Zealand and other countries for the N.Z.E.F. were now sent direct to N.Z. Army Base Post Office where it was close-sorted into units and routed for despatch to France or to Depots in England. All mails from N.Z.E.F. were routed back to the N.Z. Army Base Post Office where it was close-sorted for districts in New Zealand and then despatched to New Zealand through the Foreign Section, London G.P.O., the such mail travelling back to New Zealand on N.Z. transport ships.

Quantities of mail for New Zealand posted by members of the N.Z.E.F. in England were sent in sealed bags direct to the N.Z. Army Base Post Office where the mail was date stamped and sorted. Such mails mainly came from outlying camps where postal facilities were not specifically available for New Zealanders.

As N.Z.E.F. mails had to travel through British G.P.O. channels articles handled were limited to those accepted by the General Post Office. From July, 1916 the British G.P.O. agreed to relax its maximum weight for parcels and to accept and handle parcels for the N.Z.E.F. posted from New Zealand, up to 11 lbs in weight.

From 7th September, 1916 the authorised war establishment of N.Z. Army Base Post Office was increased to 60 men from the 50 men establishment that had been brought from Calais. This number was additional to those men of the N.Z. Army Postal Corps who were employed at N.Z. Stationary Army Post Offices in England.

In November, 1916 the N.Z. Army Base Post Office was moved to the large 5 storied British G.P.O. mail sorting offices at Mount Pleasant, London E.C.1. The office continued to operate here until closed about October 1919 when the last members of N.Z.E.F. sailed from England for New Zealand.

The authorised strength of N.Z. Army Base Post Office was increased from 60 to 85 from 17th February 1917 as the number of men serving in the N.Z.E.F. had grown greatly. The increase in establishment was laid down on the basis of 36,000 men serving in the N.Z.E.F. and was to be increased in proportion of one sapper for every 600 increase in the N.Z.E.F. In August 1918, with a peak strength of 48,000 men in the N.Z.E.F. the strength of N.Z. Army Base Post Office stood at 100 men.

<u>Ranks</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Aug</u>
	<u>1916</u>	<u>1916</u>	<u>1917</u>	<u>1918</u>
Officers	1	1	1	1
Warrant Officers	-	1	1	2
Staff Sergeants	2	2	5	4
Sergeants	3	5	7	7
Corporals	3	4	9	11
Sappers	<u>37</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>75</u>
	50	60	83	100

In October 1916 Captain F.D. Holdsworth was promoted Temporary Major and from 31st August 1917 promoted Major while being Director of Army Postal Services (D.A.P.S.), N.Z.E.F.

On 31st May 1917 the following notice was published in "N.Z.E.F. Orders" "Postal. Letters and parcels from Troops in England –

- 1 *The ordinary rules apply to parcels.*
- 2 *Letters which are posted unpaid or short paid bearing some indication that they are sent by soldiers should be charged on delivery if addressed to places in the British Isles with the amount of the deficient at single inland rate of postage only. If addressed to places abroad they will be forwarded untaxed.*
- 3 *The foregoing also applies to letters posted by soldiers in hospital".*

In November 1917 it was announced that the United States Post Office had agreed to deliver without charge any unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters for addresses in the United States of America which showed evidence of having been posted by members of Allied Forces on Active Service outside the U.S.A.

Major F.D. Holdsworth in September 1918 asked to be allowed to relinquish his position as D.A.P.S. so that he could return to New Zealand. The New Zealand Post & Telegraph appointed Mr G.B. Dall (Assistant Secretary of the Department) to the position of D.A.P.S. from 1st October 1918 however; it seems that Mr Dall did not take up his duties, the news of Armistice probably changing the position.

Major Holdsworth relinquished his appointment as D.A.P.S. from 1st November 1918 and Captain D.A. McCurdy, Officer Commanding N.Z. Army Base Post Office (ex officio Assistant D.A.P.S.) was then appointed to D.A.P.S. and promoted Major. 10/1359 Staff Sergeant Major H.L. Walden was promoted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to take Captain McCurdy's place and 4/1968 Company Sergeant Major E.E. Cogan was promoted Warrant Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Class to take Walden's place.

On his return to New Zealand Major Holdsworth resumed his civil position as Chief Postmaster, Auckland but retired from the Department in October 1919.

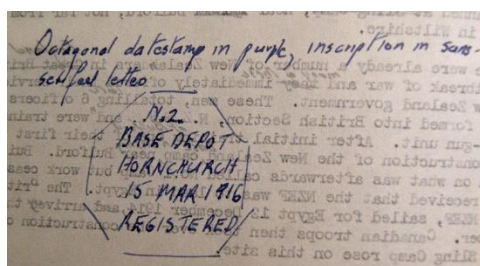
Major McCurdy was awarded the M.B.E. for valuable services rendered in connection with the War, this being announced in the "London Gazette" of 31st December 1918. He was promoted to Officer of the Order (O.B.E.) the following year, the award being announced in the "London Gazette" on 9th December 1919.

In 1916 the various Camps in England had produced their own Christmas Cards for issue to members of the N.Z.E.F. The Sling Camp card was a wartime patriotic card altered by adding, "Greetings from Sling Camp" in gilt under the illustration of a New Zealand soldier.

In September 1917 the N.Z. Division in France designed a Christmas card for issue to members of the N.Z.E.F. there and it was suggested that this card could be advantageously used by N.Z.E.F. units in England. This card was produced by Messers Cassel & Co at a cost of 84 pounds for 20,000 cards and was sold at 2d each through Camp canteens, with profits from the sales going to regimental funds.

The initial distribution of these cards in England was:

Sling Camp	5,000
Command Depot, Codford	4,000
N.Z. Rifle Brigade, Brocton	3,000
Hornchurch	2,000
Ewshot	1,000
N.Z. War Contingent Assn.	900
Brockenhurst	800
Walton-on-Thames	800
Grantham	500
Headquarters, London	400
Christchurch	300
Codford Hospital	200
Stevenage	<u>100</u>
	19,000



When the N.Z. Army Base Post Office arrived in England from France it brought with it the metal and rubber die date stamps that had been formerly used in Egypt. On several of these the designation for the office was shown as "Advanced Base Post Office" but later the word ADVANCED was removed from most of these stamps.

The office used a metal die date stamp in black for hand date stamping outward mails (illustration 32, page 354)(fig 7) and the word ADVANCED was deleted from this stamp between October 1917 and January 1918. It seems that its removal was effected by filing the letters down but the datestamp was badly worn late in December 1918 when the date stamp was recut when traces of the letters



ADVANCED show in impressions. The date stamp is normally found on stampless cards and envelopes but can also be found cancelling British postage stamps.

In 1918 the N.Z. Army Base Post Office obtained an automatic date stamping or cancelling machine to date stamp outward mails as well as back stamping inwards mails for the N.Z.E.F. As the cancelling type on this machine is very similar to those “Burns” continuous machines manufactured in New Zealand by for the Post & Telegraph Department it is probable that it was supplied from New Zealand. It is known as being used until early 1919 (illustration 69, page 364)(fig 9) The impression always being in black

A Returned Letter ~~Section or Branch~~ was established attached to handle letters returned undeliverable or unclaimed from the N.Z.E.F. This Section used rubber date stamps in purple or black to date such on letters they handled. The first date stamp was rectangular in shape, 42 x 31 mm (fig 10) with the inscription NEW ZEALAND / ADVANCED BASE P.O. / date / RETURNED / LETTER Branch in five lines. This was replaced in 1917 with an oval shaped date stamp, illustration 51, page 360.(fig 11) the designation being altered from Branch to Section.

A Registration ~~Section Branch~~ was also established attached to handle registered letters and it used a rubber date stamp on certain mails handled. This is illustrated as 52, page 360.(fig 12) Originally this date stamp was inscribed ADVANCED BASE A.P.O. but ADVANCED was subsequently deleted from the face of the same

Some of the troopship rubber date stamps were also used at Base Post Office to supplement the steel-die date stamp when large quantities of uncanceled or date stamped mails were being handled. The 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements date stamp, with the words SIXTH REINFORCEMENTS partially removed, was used in purple ink in November 1916.

~~N.Z.E.F. Records Office, Administrative Headquarters possessed a date stamp which was normally used for internal purposes (illustration 34, page 360) but this was occasionally used on outward mails.~~

A number of rubber stamps with various inscriptions were used on returned mails by the Returned Letter Section, being supplied in purple or black. Those stamps noted are:

- (a) REPORTED KILLED  
RETURN TO SENDER  
a rectangular stamp in single lined frame 68 x 22 mm (fig 14)
- (b) RETURNED  
NEW ZEALAND  
a rectangular stamp in single lined frame (type 54, page 361) (fig 13)
- (c) INVALIDED N.Z.  
a rectangular stamp in single lined frame (type 55, page 361) (fig 15)
- (d) RETURNED TO NEW ZEALAND  
an unframed stamp 64 x 6mm
- (e) DECEASED (types 57 & 58, page 361) (fig 16 & 17)
  - framed, 26 x 8mm
  - unframed 40 x 5mm
  - 43 x 7mm
  - 44 x 6mm
  - 35 x 5mm
  - 38 x 4mm



## NEW ZEALAND BASE DEPOT POST OFFICE

In January 1916 a military camp, covering 95 acres just outside Hornchurch on the Hornchurch – Romford Road, Essex was taken over for the New Zealand General Base Depot, N.Z.E.F. This Camp was used to accommodate men who were convalescing from hospital and also fit men waiting for return to France or Egypt. **Previously these men had been accommodated together with Australian troops in Weymouth.** About ~~March~~ **February** 1916 a post office staffed by convalescent troops was opened in the Camp, being locally called Hornchurch Camp Post Office but officially designated N.Z. Base Depot Post Office.

Owing to lack of proper organization ~~there were~~ **and apparently inexperience** complaints **were** made about the postal services and as soon as the New Zealand Division arrived in France a party of N.Z. Army Postal Corps men was dispatched to take over the office.

This party, led by Staff-Sergeant Oppenheim and initially consisting of Corporal M.W. Cummins and Sappers, P. Stevens and M.S. Schaab took over the Post Office on 11 May 1916 and within three days had dispatched 200 bags of accumulated mail.

This office remained functioning as such until July 1916 when N.Z. Military Post Offices were opened in camps in England, the office becoming No. 4 N.Z. Stationary Army Post Office (q.v.).

A metal die datestamp (type 41, page 360 – but with three short arcs around the foot) **(fig 4) a rubber datestamp applied in purple on registered mails (fig 5). All these postal markings are particularly scarce only one example of Fig 5 being known,** and a rubber unclaimed stamp (type 55, page 360) were used in this office. **In both datestamps an accent is shown over the O of Depot. It is uncertain whether this is also shown in the unclaimed stamp.**

## NEW ZEALAND ARMY STATIONARY POST OFFICES

On arrival in England in July 1916 the N.Z. Army Base Post Office established a series of stationary Army Post Offices in the larger New Zealand Camps to provide postal facilities for New Zealand troops. At first twelve men were detached for this work but as the services required grew larger the total number of men employed in the Stationary Army Post Offices (A.P.O.) reached 32.

The S.P.O. were;	No.1 A.P.O.	Reserve Group, Sling
	No.2 A.P.O.	1 <sup>st</sup> N.Z. General Hospital, Brockenhurst
	No.3 A.P.O.	Base Details Field P.O., Egypt
	No.4 A.P.O.	N.Z. Convalescent Camp, Hornchurch
	No.5 A.P.O.	Command Depot, Codford
	No.6 A.P.O.	2 <sup>nd</sup> N.Z. General Hospital, Walton
	No.7 A.P.O.	N.Z. Discharge Depot, Torquay
	No.8 A.P.O.	Reserve Depot, Brocton

## No. 1 N.Z. STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE

The original No.1 N.Z. Stationary Army Post Office (A.P.O.) had operated with the New Zealand General Hospital in Egypt but this office closed in June 1916, when the Hospital moved to England and was renamed No.1 General Hospital. No 1 Stationary A.P.O. in England was opened at the N.Z. Infantry Training Depot at Sling Camp on the Salisbury Plains.

Sling Camp was located on the main road between Amesbury and Tidworth and was 12 miles north from Salisbury, being two miles distant from Bulford. The present Bulford Barracks cover the ground of the original Sling Camp of the Great War.

There was a Sling Plantation here in 1899 when the land was purchased by the British Government for military purposes and the name of the Camp was derived from this plantation. On one portion of the land acquired Bulford Camp was constructed for training troops for the South African War, and has remained continuously in use ever since.

In April 1916 Sling Camp was taken over for the N.Z. Infantry Training Depot and in July 1917 was made the N.Z. Reserve Group Camp. There were 4,500 New Zealanders in this Camp in September 1917.

The British General Post Office had opened a ~~civilian~~ Post Office in Sling Camp in 1915 or 1916 and early in July 1916 Sergeant R. Miller with Corporal J.C. Grieg, Sapper A. Grieg and Sapper J.W. Price took over the office from the British Military Authorities.

The Sling Camp office was a sub-office of the Bulford Camp Branch Office of Salisbury and was located in a typical military hut of those times. The office had civilian made postal date stamps and these were taken over by the New Zealanders instead of using the special date stamp that had been used by the original No.1 Stationary A.P.O. in Egypt. There were two of these date stamps (type 66, page 361)(fig 18) differing slightly in the position of the letters, one date stamp always showing was used on outward mails while the other (without time) was used on the postal counter and on inward telegrams. Some mails were handled directly by the Bulford Camp office and may be found with its various cancellations. (fig 20)

A rubber stamp reading, "Drafted out from Sling Camp" was used on mails addressed to soldiers who had been sent from Sling to other camps or overseas (type 56, page 361).(fig 19)

Normally the Sling Camp date stamp is found on soldiers' stampless cards and letters but it was also used to cancel current British postage stamps prepaying postage in outward mails. A unique item is a 1d scarlet postage stamp of the 1916 King George V issue of Sierra Leone which was cancelled at Sling Camp on 8 August 1917, this having evidently been mistaken for a British 1d scarlet stamp.

In September, 1917 the strength of the office was increased to seven men, by adding three extra sappers. The office continued to operate until about September 1919 when the last men departed for New Zealand and the New Zealand camp was disbanded.

## NO. 2 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE

No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital had been served by No. 1 NZ Stationary A.P.O. in Egypt but when the Hospital arrived in England No. 2 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. was attached to it to provide postal services.

The Hospital arrived in England in June 1916 and took over an area from an Indian General Hospital at Brockenhurst, a country village in Southwest Hampshire on the Southampton – Bournemouth Railway. Here the Hospital was spread over a number of large private homes, Headquarters being in Lady Hardinge Hospital while other homes occupied were Balmer Lawn, Forest Park, and Lord Manner's Convalescent Home.

A maximum of 1,600 patients could be accommodated at the Hospital which remained at Brockenhurst until disbanded in January 1919 when the remainder of staff and patients were repatriated to New Zealand.

Corporal W. McPhail with Sapper D. Sclater opened No. 2 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. here at Hospital Headquarters in July 1916. Later a Sergeant was placed in charge of the office and in September 1917 the staff consisted of a Sergeant and two Sappers.

The date stamp (fig 2) used at this office in black had been manufactured and used originally in Egypt. This was of type 78, page 354 but with No. 2 replacing No. 1.

### **No. 3 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE**

The N.Z. Army Post Office regarded as No. 3 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. was the field Post Office at N.Z.E.F. Base Details in Egypt. ~~Full details are given under the chapter relating to the Sinai and Palestine Campaign.~~

### **No. 4 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE**

In June 1916 when New Zealand Camps were established at several places in Southern England the N.Z. General Base Depot at Hornchurch was disbanded and replaced by the N.Z. Convalescent Camp, this being made the N.Z. Convalescent Hospital in August 1916. The N.Z. Base Depot Post Office continued to function and in July 1916 was redesignated No. 4 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.

The Convalescent Hospital was located in the grounds of a private home, Grey Towers on the Hornchurch – Romford Road in Essex.

The Post Office was staffed in July 1916 with a Corporal and a Sapper but in September 1917 this had been increased to a Sergeant, two Corporals and three Sappers. The Office operated until March 1919 when the Hospital was disbanded.

**In July 1916** the N.Z. Army Base Post Office obtained several metal-die date stamps in England for issue to Stationary A.P.O.s such as this, the type of cancellation being illustration 42, page 500. **(fig 22) with the appropriate office number under the date.** The No. 4 Office normally used ~~this~~ **its** date stamp in black but in February 1917 green ink was used and in July 1917 blue-black.

### **No. 5 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE**

Early in June 1916 a British Army Camp at Codford St. Mary, on the edge of the Salisbury Plains and near Warminster in Wiltshire was taken over for the N.Z. Command Depot. Men here were sent from General and Convalescent Hospitals until they were declared fit for duty again or declared unfit for further service. The Camp could accommodate 2,500 soldiers but at one stage there were 5,200 men. No. 5 N.Z. General Hospital was established across the road from the Camp to provide medical facilities for the Camp and also Sling Camp 20 miles to the East.

No. 5 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. was opened at the camp in July 1916 with a staff of a Corporal and two Sappers. They used a date stamp of type 42, page 360 **(fig 22)** but with No. 5 replacing No. ~~4~~ **6**. In September, 1917 the number of staff at the office was increased to one Sergeant, two Corporals and four Sappers. The office closed June 1919 when the Command Depot was disbanded.

The date stamp used is normally found on soldiers' stampless mail but was also used to cancel stamps, the 1/2d and 1d King George V British stamps have been cancelled with this date stamp. Some mails were posted through the nearby civil Post Office of Codford St. Mary, the date stamp used at this office being the usual "English" type with thick arcs between the double circles and with CODFORD ST.MARY around the top and a Maltese cross at the foot. **Between January and May 1917 the datestamp in use (very much worn) was replaced by a similar datestamp (fig 23)**

### **No. 6 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE**

The New Zealand Military Hospital at Walton-on-Thames was taken over by the N.Z.E.F. as from 1 July 1916 and was designated No. 2 N.Z. General Hospital. The Hospital had originally occupied the grounds of a private home named Mount Felix but now accommodation was expanded when a large hotel named Oatlands Park House was taken over. By the end of the War accommodation was available for 1,900 patients and staff.

The No. 6 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. was opened in July 1916 with a staff of a Corporal and one Sapper, being increased to two Sappers in September 1917 and to three sappers in August 1918. A date stamp of type 42, page 360 (fig 22) was used at this office and this has been seen used as late as 10 June 1919. The office closed June 1919 on the disbandment of the Hospital.

In 1937 a new main street was formed in Walton-on-Thames and this was named New Zealand Avenue in memory of the New Zealand soldiers who had been hospitalized there.

## **No. 7 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY POST OFFICE**

In August, 1916 a N.Z. Discharge Depot was established at Torquay, Devon to accommodate those men who had been discharged from active service or home service and who were awaiting transportation to New Zealand. The Depot was established in two groups of nine houses which were used both as barracks and offices.

The No. 7 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. opened at Torquay about August 1916 with a staff of one Corporal and in August 1918 two Sappers were added to the establishment. The office continued to function until September 1919 when the depot was disbanded.

A date stamp of type 42, (page 360) (fig 22) was used with No. 7 in place of No. 4.

## **No. 8 NEW ZEALAND STATIONARY ARMY OFFICE**

In September 1917 N.Z. Rifle Brigade Reserve Depot was moved from its quarters in Sling Camp to Brocton Camp in Staffordshire in the Northern Command, where a portion of a large British camp was made available to the New Zealanders.

The New Zealand section of the camp covered 100 acres and was half a mile from Brocton Village, about 5 miles from Stafford and was perched on the northern edge of Cannock Chase.

No. 8 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O. was opened at the Headquarters of the New Zealand Camp in October 1917 with a staff of one Corporal and two Sappers. The office remained there until the Depot was disbanded in May 1919.

A British Army Post Office, Brocton Camp operated in the main Camp Headquarters and the New Zealand Office was made a sub-office of this. One of the Brocton Camp date stamps (type 69, page 361) (fig 24) was supplied to the New Zealand Office in lieu of the distinctive New Zealand date stamps.

In addition to the Camps and Hospitals mentioned above there were a number of other New Zealand Depots that were not provided with New Zealand Army postal services, there camps using British Army of civil postal services, or else forwarded and received mails from the N.Z. Army Base Post Office in sealed bags.

## **NEW ZEALAND FIELD ARTILLERY RESERVE DEPOT**

This Depot was originally established late 1916 at Talavera Barracks, Aldershot Camp, Hampshire, mails being routed through the Aldershot Post Office. In 1917 the Depot moved to Chadderton Camp at Royton near Oldham in Lancashire where mails were handled either through the Royton or Chadderton Post Offices. Later the Depot moved from Chadderton to Ewshot, near Aldershot where a portion of the British Army Artillery Barracks were taken over. These Barracks were a few miles from Aldershot and 2 ½ miles from Fleet. It seems that mails were handled through the ~~Ewshot Camp~~ Aldershot B.O. Post Office.

## NEW ZEALAND ENGINEERS RESERVE DEPOT

This Depot was also established late 1916 on part of the British Army Royal Engineers training ground alongside the Royal Engineers permanent barracks on the banks of the River Stour between the towns of Christchurch and Boscombe in Hants, about three miles from Bournemouth. During winter months the men were billeted in private homes in Boscombe but during the remainder of the year were camped under canvas. Mails were handled through both the Christchurch and Boscombe Post Offices.

## NEW ZEALAND SIGNAL RESERVE DEPOT

This Camp was established in August 1916 at Hitchin in Herefordshire but in February 1917 moved to Clifton (near Shefford) in Bedfordshire and in April 1917 moved to Stevenage in Herefordshire where the Depot remained until disbanded early in 1919. Mails were handled through nearby civil Post Offices.

## NEW ZEALAND MACHINE GUN RESERVE DEPOT

This Depot was established in August 1916 in the British Army Machine Gun Corps Camp area, a large camp capable of accommodating 50,000 men and laid out in three sections around Grantham in Lincolnshire, 102 miles North of London. General Headquarters (G.H.Q.) Section was at Harrowby (or Harruby) and the other two sections were at Clipstone and Belton Park.

The New Zealand Depot was established in the Belton Park section about four miles North of Grantham and there were about 550 New Zealanders stationed of being trained at the Depot. Mails were handled through the Grantham civil Post Office (fig 25), or the Belton Park Camp Post Office (fig 26) and also by sealed bag with N.Z. Army Base Post Office in London.

An unclaimed stamp (fig27) was used on unclaimable mails handled at Grantham.

In October,  
1918 the  
Depot Postal

Orderly, G.E. Paterson who was using the depot datestamp (fig 28) to date mark considered that he should have a proper date stamp for use on mails and requisitioned for and obtained a rubber-die date stamp (type 49, page 360) (fig29). This was used in purple or black as a date stamp on outward mails and as a back stamp on inwards mails until December 1918 when the Depot was disbanded. It is not certain whether this date stamp was used to cancel peerage stamps on outward letters.

## NEW ZEALAND OFFICERS CONVALESCENT HOMES

Two large houses in Lewes Crescent, Brighton, Sussex were taken over for Officer's convalescent homes in 1917. These homes (which could accommodate 50 Officers) were operated until March 1919 when closed. Mails were handled through the Brighton Post Office.

## NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL CORPS RESERVE DEPOT

This Depot was established at Ewshot, near Aldershot in April 1917 and operated until January 1919 when disbanded. Over 1,500 men could be accommodated here. Mails were handled through the Ewshot Post Office and possibly through the nearby Tweseldown Camp Post Office.

## **NEW ZEALAND EMBARKATION CAMP**

In March 1919 shipping strikes delayed repatriation of New Zealand soldiers and a temporary camp was formed at Sutton Coldfield to accommodate these men until shipping could be arranged. The camp was closed in May 1919 when the last men sailed for New Zealand. Mails were handled through the Sutton Coldfield Post Office.

### **CHECKLIST**

N.Z. Base Army Post Office	July 1916 – October 1919
N.Z. Base Depot Post Office	March 1916 – July 1916
No. 1 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	July 1916 – September 1919
No. 2 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	July 1916 – January 1919
No. 4 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	July 1916 – March 1919
No. 5 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	July 1916 – June 1919
No. 6 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	July 1916 – June 1919
No. 7 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	August 1916 – September 1919
No. 8 N.Z. Stationary A.P.O.	October 1917 – May 1919

## **ROYAL NAVY**

A total of 541 New Zealanders served in the Royal Navy during the Great War but they served as sailors of the Royal Navy – the Royal New Zealand Navy not being formed until World War II.

H.M.S. 'Philomel' was commissioned on 15th July 1914 as the first ship in the New Zealand station and was on a training cruise when War broke out, immediately returning to port. In company with 'Psyche' and 'Pyramus' she escorted the Main Body N.Z.E.F. to Albany, Western Australia and thence sailed for Singapore, arriving 12th November 1914. Three French ships were then escorted to Aden and 'Philomel' then patrolled the Red Sea. After assisting in defense work at Sinai the ship sailed for Malta for repairs arriving late December 2014.

The 'Philomel' returned to Port Said on 29th January 1915 and was ordered to patrol the Turkish coast, particularly the Gulf of Alexandretta. After her tour of duty there she patrolled the Suez Canal and then moved south to Aden where she arrived 28th April 1915. From Aden 'Philomel' proceeded to Somaliland in connection with the Mad Mullah's actions and on the conclusion of this work returned to Port Said carrying out patrol work along the African coast West of Alexandria during June and July 1915.

Aden now became threatened and in mid-July 'Philomel' moved back there to patrol the coast and assist in offensive action at Perim. This work continued until 30th October 1915 when the situation in the Persian Gulf became dangerous and she was ordered there to patrol the coast and escort British ships supplying telegraph stations connecting with the Mesopotamia expedition.

The 'Philomel' sailed on 24th December 1915 for overhaul at Bombay, returning to the Persian Gulf on 15th January 1916. She was again at Bombay for repairs 8th May – 12th June 1916 and when it became apparent that the ship would have to be properly refitted she returned to Wellington, arriving 16th March 1917 where she was paid off and the seamen sent on leave to their homes in New Zealand.

Other New Zealand seamen served in minesweeping work in New Zealand waters, in the Australasian Naval Force manning 'Pyramus' and 'Doris', in the motor-boat patrol services and in naval wireless work while others served with the Royal Navy in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.



## PRISONERS OF WAR

During the War, twelve New Zealand Soldiers were captured by Turkish forces in Sinai and Palestine and twenty-five were captured in Gallipoli, these men being confined in notorious camps in Turkey. Mails to these men had to be addressed to them:

No. Rank. Name  
N.Z. Prisoner of War  
Central Post Office  
Constantinople, Turkey

Letters or letter cards to these men were posted free of charge of postage however instructions were issued on 16 February 1916 that letters to them (primarily due to Turkish censorship difficulties) must not exceed four lines of writing and not to be sent more than once a week.

Turkish soldiers captured by New Zealand Forces in this theatre were handed over to British Forces who held them in Prisoner of War camps at Ras el Tin, Alexandria and elsewhere.

During the time the New Zealand Division served in France and Belgium 464 New Zealanders were captured by the German forces and these men were held in Prisoner of War Camps in Germany. Mails to them (dispatched free of charge of postage) had to be addressed:

No. Rank. Name.  
Regiment or Force  
British Prisoner of War  
Doeberitz, Germany

The mails being exchanged with Germany by the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen.

Immediately following the Declaration of War in 1914 German and Austrian people (whose loyalty to New Zealand was doubted) were arrested and interned in special internment camps. By 12 August 1914 48 Germans had been interned on Somes Island, Wellington Harbour and this number increased to 115 Germans and Austrians by 25 September 1914.

When German Samoa was occupied by the New Zealand Forces at the end of August the German Governor and other officials were brought back to New Zealand (being interned on Motuihe Island in Auckland Harbour) there being 83 Germans interned there by August 1917. The Devonport Detention Barracks, Auckland were also used to hold enemy nationals. Both Somes Island and Motuihe Island were normally quarantine stations.

The Internees were permitted to post two letters per person each week but were restricted to two letters per month to addresses in enemy countries; however, they were allowed to forward postcards. These articles of mail, under International Law (now embodied in International Red Cross Conventions) were dispatched by the New Zealand authorities free of any postage charge. Post Offices throughout New Zealand were instructed that from 1 August 1916 all correspondence addressed to Prisoners of War or Internees in the New Zealand Camps were to be accepted free of charge of postage.

Special postcards were issued for use by the Internees, these being printed by the Government Printer, Wellington late in 1914, stocks being sent to the two camps. These cards were reprinted in August 1917.

At the Camp on Somes Island outward mails were endorsed with a rubber stamp impression in red or purple, 80 x 26mm, reading INTERNMENT CAMP / SOMES ISLAND (illustration 72, page 366) and this mail was subsequently dispatched through the Wellington Chief Post Office.

At the Internment camp on Motuihe Island, mails and supplies were received from Auckland three times a week. Cards or letters from this camp have not been seen but it is possible that they were rubber stamped in a similar fashion to Somes Island.

A telephone office of the Post & Telegraph Department was operating on Motuihe Island prior to the War and this office was taken over by the Military and embodied in the Internment Camp, the operator being an N.C.O. on the Camp staff. This office used a metal "A" class datestamp for dating toll cards and telegrams and for cancelling postage stamps paying fees on such business. Such stamps have been found in philatelic collections. This office, designated Motuihe was made a Post and Telephone office in December 1918 after the internees had been evacuated and the island released for civilian purposes.

## HOSPITAL SHIPS

### No. 1 NEW ZEALAND HOSPITAL SHIP 'MAHENO'

The 'Maheno' sailed from Wellington for Egypt on her first commission as a hospital ship on 11th July, 1915. A Postal Orderly, one of the medical N.C.O. staff, was appointed to the 'Maheno' and used a rubber stamp (type 40, Page 354, Vol 3) in purple to date stamp outward letters which were put ashore at appropriate ports of call. This date stamp showed, at first, the inscription No. 1 HOSPITAL SHIP in the lower rectangle but late in October 1915 "No. 1" was removed.

On arrival at Alexandria, Egypt, she received orders to proceed to Mudros where she arrived 25th August, 1915 and was off Anzac Cove the following day. She sailed six times between Gallipoli and Mudros carrying wounded soldiers to base hospitals and made one such voyage to Malta. On 8th October, 1915 she sailed for Great Britain for refitting at Southampton. Mails that were put ashore on arrival were post marked here in black with a 60 x 10mm rubber stamp of type 71a, page 365 but with A of RAISED missing.

After refitting the 'Maheno' returned to the Mediterranean, arriving at Alexandria on 9th November, 1915, where mails were put ashore and date stamped by Army Post Office SZ.2 there. From Alexandria she sailed for Anzac Cove and carried wounded men from there to Malta. Orders to return to New Zealand were received at Malta, the 'Maheno' arriving at Auckland on 1st January, 1916 with 319 patients on board.

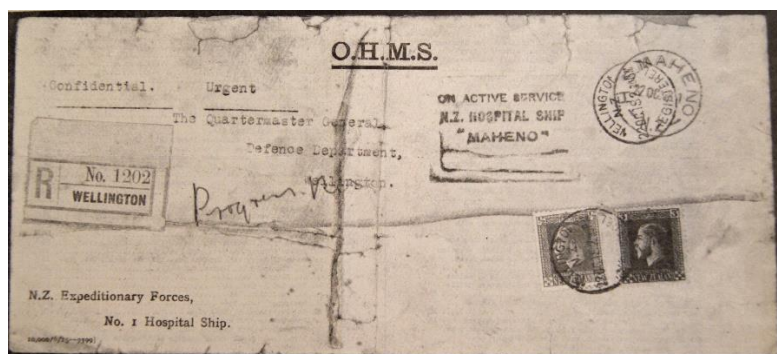
The 'Maheno' sailed from Wellington on her second commission on 26th January, 1916 and on arrival at Suez embarked 321 patients for New Zealand. Further patients were embarked at Colombo, Ceylon and the ship arrived back in New Zealand in mid-April 1916. She sailed again on 28th April and arrived at Suez, via Ceylon on 9th June, 1916. Three hundred patients were embarked at Alexandria for Great Britain and were disembarked on arrival at Southampton on 3th July. She then went to Havre to embark as many men as she could, 1,141 men were taken to Great Britain on her first Channel voyage and until October 1916 she continued in this work of conveying wounded men to Great Britain from France, 15,800 men being conveyed across the Channel during this period. On 28th October 328 wounded New Zealanders were embarked at Southampton and the 'Maheno' sailed for New Zealand, arriving back at Christmas time.

The third commission commenced on 16th January, 1917 when 'Maheno' sailed from Lyttelton for Great Britain via Australia and the Middle East. A new rubber date stamp of type 40, page 354 was supplied to the postal orderly, this being identical with the original date stamp except that the ship number was re-included and there was no stop after SHIP. This was at first impressed in grey but towards the end of the commission bright blue ink was being used.

A frank stamp of type 38 (page 354) was also issued to the postal orderly, this being applied in the same colour as the date stamp. The illustration given as type 40 is actually incorrect, the stamp being unframed with the frame shown being the rim of the base showing in heavy impressions. There was initially a fourth line of inscription, probably reading POSTAGE PAID or something similar, but this was cut out prior to the stamp being brought into use.

On arrival at Bombay on her voyage to Great Britain 329 patients were embarked on 10th February, 1917, 110 of them being landed at Port Said on 25th February, 175 patients were embarked at Malta on 27th February and on arrival at Avonmouth, Great Britain these men were landed. 379 wounded New Zealanders were embarked at Liverpool and the 'Maheno' sailed for New Zealand on 18th March via the Middle East and Australia, arriving at Auckland on 6th May, 1917. She sailed from Port Chalmers on 30 May for Great Britain via Australia and South Africa, 384 patients being embarked at Cape Town, these men being landed in Great Britain on 22nd July, 1917. On 8th August she sailed from Great Britain with 378 wounded New Zealanders and arrived at Colon, Panama on 21st August for passage through the Panama Canal. Some mails were landed in the Canal Zone postage stamp attached (1915 Panama Republic overprinted, SG 36), these stamps being cancelled with the Christobel C.Z.PAQUEBOT date stamp on 22nd August. Travelling via Tahiti the 'Maheno' arrived back at Auckland on 16th September, 1917.

Two other commissions were made in 1918 and 1919 and during each commission the 'Maheno' made two voyages to Great Britain to clear hospitals of wounded and sick New Zealanders.



## No. 2 HOSPITAL SHIP 'MARAMA'

The 'Marama' was first commissioned late 1915 and sailed from New Zealand for the Middle East on 5th December, 1915. A medical N.C.O. was appointed Postal Orderly and he was supplied with a rubber frank stamp of type 39, (page 354). This stamp was used in lieu of a date stamp on all postal articles, the date being added in pen and ink where necessary. Originally there was a fourth line of inscription but this was removed prior to the stamp being brought into use, probably this line read POSTAGE PAID or something similar. The frank stamp was used in blue ink on free letters from soldiers, on parcel post receipt cards and was also used to cancel postage stamps on registered mails = the 1/2d King George V and 1d Dominion Officials being so cancelled.

On arrival at Alexandria on her first commission the 'Marama' embarked 500 patients for Great Britain and after landing them at Southampton, returned to Alexandria. After voyaging to Marseilles she was directed to Salonika where she was used as a base hospital for the campaigns there. After taking a full complement of sick and wounded to Southampton, the 'Marama' sailed for Alexandria where she embarked the staff of N.Z. General Hospital for Southampton. Back in English waters the 'Marama' was engaged in carrying sick and wounded troops from France to England, carrying on one occasion 1,646 patients from Havre. The 'Marama' was recalled to New Zealand and sailed from Southampton with 500 wounded New Zealanders on 29th August, 1916.

Back in New Zealand the 'Marama' was again commissioned as a hospital ship and sailed from Wellington on 7th November 1916 for Great Britain via the Middle East. 3/786 Corporal W.H. Hulse, N.Z. Medical Corps was appointed postal orderly for this commission and was supplied with a distinctive censor stamp (type 88, page 367) which was used in blue, purple and red while the frank stamp was used in black, purple and red.

The 'Marama' arrived at Southampton 31st December, 1916 where she embarked 540 sick and wounded New Zealanders, sailing on 13th January, 1917 and arriving back at Auckland via South Africa and Australia on 5th March. She sailed on 22nd March from Port Chalmers for the Middle East and at Suez on 7th May embarked 380 patients for South Africa, arriving at Cape Town on 29th May, 1917.

When she sailed from New Zealand on this voyage the Postal Orderly had been issued with a date stamp of type 40, (page 354) but he used this sparingly. This was used on mails put ashore at Cape Town on 9 June 1917 in grey ink, the letters being date stamped at the Cape Town G.P.O. that day.

From Cape Town, the 'Marama' sailed for Great Britain via West Africa, arriving at Avonmouth 21st June, 1917. 565 sick and wounded New Zealanders were embarked there and she sailed 14th July for Panama, arriving at Colon on 29th July. The 'Marama' was the first Hospital ship to sail through the Panama Canal and the patients and staff received many gifts from Canal Zone people. Sailing from Balboa 31st July the ship arrived back at Auckland on 22nd August 1917.

Two further commissions were made, September 1917 – June 1918 and August 1918 – April 1919 and during each commission the 'Marama' voyaged to Great Britain twice to collect New Zealand sick and wounded personnel.

At the commencement of the third commission in September 1917 the postal orderly was supplied with a steel-die date stamp by the New Zealand Post & Telegraph Department, this being known used in February – March 1918 but its use is of some rarity. The impression consisted of a single lined circle 26mm in diameter with the inscription H.S. MARAMA around the upper periphery with – N.Z. – at the foot. This date stamp is known cancelling a pair of 1d N.Z. Dominion postage stamps on a registered letter.

For further reading on the topic of hospital ships attention is drawn to the following publications;

"Voyages of the Hospital Ships Maheno and Marama"  
by Earl Liverpool, 1918, Whitcombe & Tombs

"Maheno and Marama and the White Fleet"  
by John Murr, 2001, revised edition, Postal History society of  
New Zealand Handbook no 45.



## CENSORSHIP

In 1544 King Henry VIII ordered, under proclamation, that all books containing news of his Army in Scotland should be impounded and burnt, this being one of the early instances of mail censorship. A censorship need on press messages was seen at the time of the Crimean War 1854 but actual censorship was not imposed until the Great War when, in 1914 censorship was imposed on press, postal and telegraphic messages. In Great Britain, postal censorship was a branch of the War Office but in World War II a special department, Postal & Telegraph Censorship was established emulating the Great War censorship which was a vast network designed to defeat the enemy's attempt to extract information from behind the lines.

The first step to establish censorship was made contemporaneously with the outbreak of war. On 3rd August, 1914 it was announced in Wellington that all cables and telegrams must in future be in plain language and that a strict censorship was being established on all telegrams to and from overseas countries. This announcement was issued on agreeing to request for such from Great Britain. The Deputy Chief Telegraphic Censor was Lt. Col. W.H.S. Moorehouse stationed at Wellington, with Censors at Auckland (Lt. Col. Gudgeon, Captain Colbeck), Wellington (G.C. Rose), Nelson (W.S. Curtis, John Pollack, D.R. Edwards) and Bluff (Lt. Col. Henderson). Code indicators were allowed in addresses of cables between British Territories and Allied Countries as from 26 October. From August, the address had to be given in full.

Mail services to Germany, Austria and their postal agencies overseas and to Hungary and Luxembourg were suspended from 9th October, 1914.

Late in 1914, by virtue of Section 27 of the Post & Telegraph Act, 1908 which gave the Postmaster-General power to detain and open postal packets, a postal censorship was established on mail matter to and from abroad. W.A.I. Tanner was appointed Deputy Chief Postal Censor and attached to the General Post Office in Wellington. Assistant Postal Censors were appointed initially to Auckland (J.P.P. Clouston), Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington and later to other large centres. The Deputy Chief Postal Censor at Wellington was, until March 1915 titled Censor of Postal Packets.

All post offices were notified of the institution of postal censorship on 1 January 1915, the notification including instruction that all mail for Europe, United States, Central and South America had to be submitted to the postal censors, uncensored mail could not be dispatched overseas. Regulations were issued giving force to censorship and to prohibit persons from carrying private letters overseas and also prohibiting late fee posting boxes on departing ships. The penalty for breaches of the regulations was laid down as a maximum of three month's imprisonment or 100 pound fine.

Censorship on mail to United States of America was lifted from 1st March, 1915.

The censorship was an unpleasant surprise to troops leaving New Zealand, reducing a lover's epistolary rhapsodies to the expression of a few laconic sentences of entirely unromantic nature. The picture postcard enthusiast also encountered a rude seatback, the censorship being one of the causes in the rapid decline in the postcard collecting hobby.

Although Armistice was signed 11th November, 1918 censorship remained in force, censorship on press telegrams being lifted from 1st May, 1919 and all censorship on telegrams being lifted from 23rd July, 1919. Postal censorship on mail matter addressed to enemy countries was not lifted until 16th November, 1920. However, censorship on mail matter to other countries was lifted in December 1916 or January 1919.

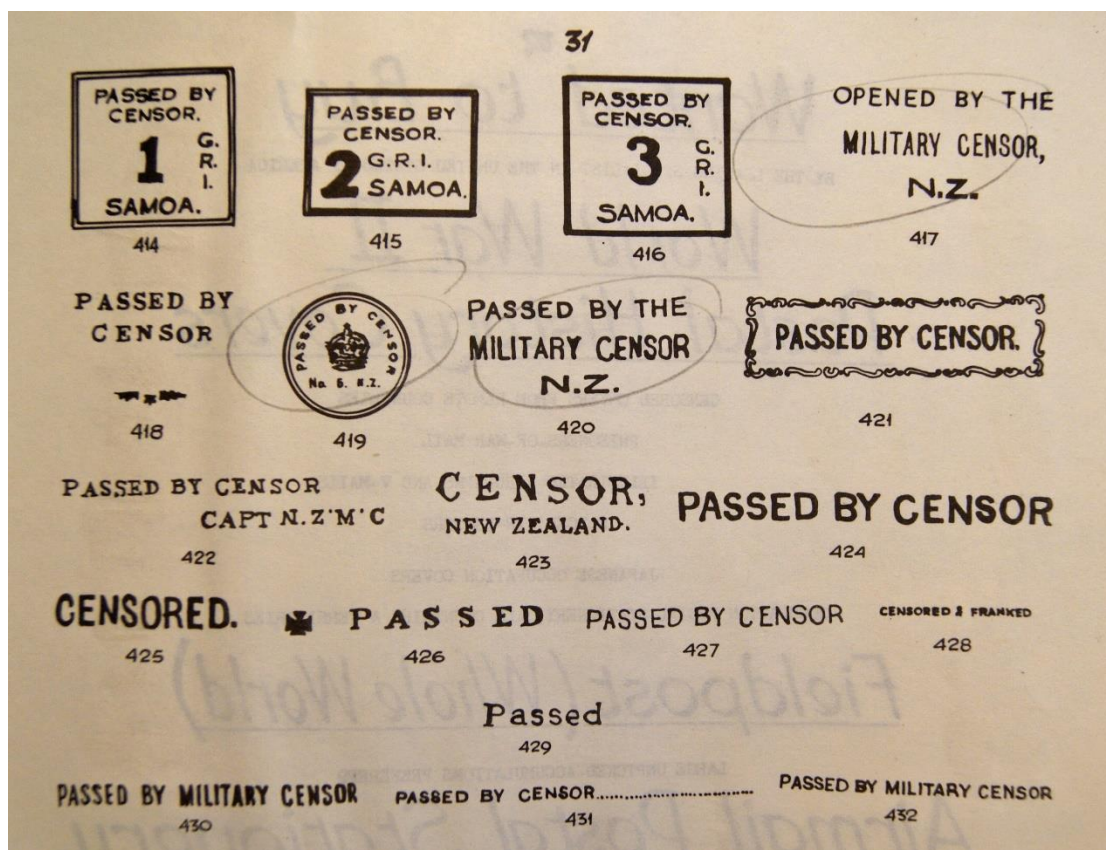
The civil postal censors (as well as military postal censors) used rubber stamps to indicate that they had checked and passed postal articles. Overseas military censors often used their censor stamps to frank military letters – to indicate that postage was free by virtue of active service.

Censor stamp markings are illustrated on pages 366 – 368 Volume III 'Postage Stamps of New Zealand' and illustration numbers (as well as Frank's 'Postal History Catalogue' Vol.1 illustration numbers) are quoted below:

73. (Franks 417) Impressed in purple by civil postal censors in New Zealand in use late 1914 until 1915 when replaced by type 91.
74. (Franks 420) The usual Postal Censor stamp used in N.Z., impressed in purple, replaced by type 81 in 1916. After being replaced one of these stamps was taken over by the Deputy Chief Postal Censor, Wellington who removed the top line of inscription and used it as an address stamp.
75. (Franks 425) Used in purple on board one of the troopships proceeding overseas in 1917 of 1918.
- 76., 77., 78. These stamps were used in Samoa (see the chapter on the Occupation of Samoa.
79. (Franks 418) Used on board a troopship.
80. (Franks 429) Used on board a troopship.
81. (Franks 426) Used on board a troopship.
82. (Franks 430) This stamp was used in various sizes and colours on board troopships. The following have been recorded:  
HMT 42. 56mm long – purple ink  
HMT 48. 48mm long – blue ink  
HMT 49. 63mm long – blue ink  
HMT 51. 62mm long – green ink  
HMT 52. 62mm long – purple ink  
HMT 55. 62mm long – purple ink
83. (Franks 428) A privately made stamp reading fully:  
*CENSORED & FRANKED*  
*BY F.E.H. COOKE*  
This was applied in red but with the second line deleted in ink by Lieut. Cooke. Used in Egypt by N.Z. Mounted Brigade.
84. (Franks 421) Used in purple on troopship conveying 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to Egypt.
85. (Franks 431) Used in dull blue and red on Hospital Ship 'Marama' in 1916.
86. (Franks 424) Used in red or blue on Hospital Ship 'Maheno' and in black on Hospital Ship 'Marama'.
87. (Franks 427) Used in purple in Mesopotamia.
88. Used in purple, red, blue and grey on Hospital Ship 'Marama' from late 1916 (replacing type 83) until 1918.
89. (Franks 425) Used in blue, 37 ½ mm long, on H.M.T. 56.
90. (Franks 422) Made up from loose type. Used in purple at N.Z. General Hospital in Cairo, the letter N was inverted and stops were misplaced after Z & M. A similar stamp (but in plain letters) was used at N.Z. General Hospital at Pont de Koubbeh in February 1918 in blue ink.
91. (Franks 419) Introduced in New Zealand in 1918 replacing initial stamps used by the Postal Censors. These were serially numbered and the following details have been recorded:

- 1
- 2
- 3 purple
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11 blue - Invercargill or Bluff
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 purple

92. 'Double Circle' British military censor stamped in Egypt. Purple and red ink is known and number 15 and 16 have been seen on New Zealand mail. Possibly used by a Censorship Unit in Cairo.
93. 'Square' British military regimental censorship issued to units of the British Forces, used in Gallipoli and Egypt and found in various colours. Serially numbered.
94. 'Triangle'- British military regimental censorship stamp used in various colours in Gallipoli, Egypt, Sinai and Palestine, apparently replacing No. 93. The following serial numbers are known used by New Zealand formations:
- |      |                               |                      |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3011 | N.Z. Division H.Q.            | April 1916, red      |
| 3237 | N.Z. Mounted Brigade          | June 1917, purple    |
| 3906 | 1 Brigade Training Camp       | issued 13 April 1916 |
| 3907 | 2 Brigade Training Camp       | issued 13 April 1916 |
| 3908 | Rifle Brigade Training Camp   | issued 13 April 1916 |
| 3909 | Mounted Brigade Training Camp | issued 13 April 1916 |
| 3910 | Headquarters Training Camp    | issued 13 April 1916 |



95. 'Hexagon'      Regimental censorship stamp used by British Forces in France. Stamps numbered with 3500 series were issued to the New Zealand Division on arrival.
96. 'Oval' -      British regimental censorship stamp and replaced 'Hexagon' stamp in November 1916, Various numbers ranging from as low as 94 to as high as 5320 were used by New Zealand units.
97. 'Oblong' -      British regimental censorship stamp used in France replacing the 'Oval' stamp in October 1917, again a wide range of numbers were used by New Zealand units.

A single lined rectangle stamp, 47 x 24mm with the inscription *PASSED BY CENSOR* along the top and a dotted line along the foot, was used in purple ink on HMT 36.

An unframed stamp, 58 x 13mm reading:

*CENSORED*

*NZEF*

was used in purple on a New Zealand troopship in 1918.

The following chapters were only in Startup's master copy and not included in the copies he distributed.

## **ANZAC AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS**

25<sup>th</sup> April each year is commemorated in both Australia and New Zealand as a day of memory, in respect to the many men of both Commonwealth nations who gave their lives at Gallipoli.

Artificial red poppies, after the type that grow on the Gallipoli peninsula, are sold throughout both countries during the week prior to Anzac Day to raise money for the welfare funds for returned servicemen.

The word ANZAC, coined from the name of the corps, cannot be used in connection with any business house, business venture, trademark, etc.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 1935 Australia issued two postage stamps to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps landing on Gallipoli. The stamps both show the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, United Kingdom, were 2d scarlet and 1/- black.

This Australian stamp had been obtained through the efforts of the Returned Sailors' and soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, the league informing the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association of the proposal.

The New Zealand R.S.A. applied to new Zealand Post and Telegraph Department in November 1934 for a New Zealand stamp to commemorate the anniversary, but this request was declined as there was insufficient time to arrange for the production of a stamp worthy of the occasion.

In July 1935 the Dominion council of the New Zealand RSA unanimously passed a resolution – "That the Dominion Executive Committee interview the Postmaster-General urging that a special ANZAC commemoration stamp or set of stamps to be struck, in terms of sale to be arranged with the Postmaster-General, the increased value of the stamps to be applied to the relief of distress among Returned Soldiers, the issue to be on sale during April 1936."

The Postmaster-General assured the council of his sympathy and it was therefore arranged that the 81 branch Associations should endeavour to obtain designs, preferably the work of members.

Fifty-one designs were received but not one was suitable for reproduction. On 6 December 1935 a drawing by L.C. Mitchell of Wellington, who, with other artists, had been invited to submit designs, was accepted.

Mr. Mitchell first drew a frame and background showing a view of Anzac Cove. The figure to represent a typical New Zealand soldier in the uniform worn at Gallipoli was copied from a photograph taken at Trentham Military Camp, by Mr. S Hall, an officer of the Post and Telegraph Department.

When approving this design the Postmaster-General also approved a recommendation that there should be two stamps of two denominations 1/2d postage plus 1/2d relief, and 1d postage plus 1d relief, and the amount raised for relief purposes should be paid over to the Returned Soldiers Association for administration by that body.

The stamps were printed by the Australian Note and Stamp Printer, Melbourne, Victoria. Fuller details are given on page 392 on volume 2 "Postage Stamps of New Zealand"



The total number of stamps printed and sold were;

Value	Printed	Sold
1/2d + 1/2d yellow-green	2,224,848	1,840,810
1d + 1d deep scarlet	3,030,448	1,179,218

The RSA provided specially printed commemorative envelopes, which were distributed through post offices, and 83,361 were posted on the first day of issue, 27 April, 1936.

The stamps were withdrawn from sale on 20 June 1936, two months later, and all unsold stamps destroyed. The net amount received by the Association as a result of the sales was 8,491/19/2 (pounds)



Anzac Rifle Range is the name of a special post office that has been established in New south Wales, Australia, for a number of years. This temporary office was first opened in 1930 at the request of the National Rifle Association of New South Wales during the period of the annual Prize Meeting. This post office was open for the years 1930 – 1938 inclusive, and has again been opened each year since 1948, usually opens for a period of a week.

In 1959 the returned services associations of Australia and New Zealand made proposals for the issue of commemorative postage stamps in both Australia and new Zealand to commemorate the landing at Anzac Cove. Turkey was also to be approached to issue such a stamp with the two other countries in 1967.

#### **AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND U.S. NAVAL CRUISE 1925**

Following joint U.S.Army – U.S.Navy manoeuvres at Hawaii the U.S.Fleet carried out a cruise to Australia and new Zealand to show the practical fitness of the Navy and also to foster friendly relations with the countries in the South Pacific. This visit did much to cement further the friendly feeling existing between the United States and Australia and New Zealand.

The fleet of approximately 60 – 80 ships visited New Zealand in August 1925, S>42 ships visiting Wellington while the remainder visited Auckland. The fleet consisted of three battleship divisions, a light cruiser division, destroyer squadrons, as well as tenders, minelayers and auxiliary vessels, manned by over 25,000 seamen.

The flagship was U.S.S. “Seattle” where Admiral R.E.Coontz USN flew his flag. The battleships were California, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia. Light cruisers were Marblehead, Memphis, Richmond, and Trenton.

U.S. Naval post offices were operated on board all the above named ships during this cruise but U.S.S. “Kanawha” was designated the fleet mail ship, being responsible for the collection from and delivery to ships of the fleet, and for the exchange of mails between the fleet and post offices ashore.

## TERRITORIAL CAMPS 1932 - 1939

For further reading refer to Chapters 11 & 12, Territorials 1920's-1939 in the book  
"History of the New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845-1991"  
by Startup & Proud, 1992, Postal History Publishing Co.

During the Great War annual territorial camps continued but distinct postal facilities lapsed. There was no great enthusiasm for military training after the great War ceased in November 1918 but the Defence Act requiring Compulsory Military Training remained in force. In 1922 the age for service was reduced from 25 to 21, then in the 1930's slump the need for financial retrenchment resulted, in 1932, in the suspension of compulsory military training. However territorial training continued on a volunteer basis and in 1937 an attempt was made to strengthen the defence of new Zealand by the establishment of a permanent scheme of volunteer territorial units.

During the years 1932 – 1939 various territorial units held annual training camps and distinct postal facilities were provided at the larger of these camps.

### **Glentunnel Military Camp**

A farming district 40 miles southwest from Christchurch on the Whitecliffes railway, Canterbury.

A relief datestamp was used during the only time the office was open  
27 February – 8 March 1934

### **Kaituna Military Camp**

A farming locality near Ataahua on Banks Peninsula in Canterbury.

The post office, using a relief datestamp, was open

20 February – 27 February, 1932

11 March – 21 March, 1933

### **Kowai Bush Military Camp**

A farming district on the Canterbury-Westland railway, 48 miles northwest from Christchurch.

The post office, using a relief datestamp, was open  
February, 1935

### **Matarae Military Camp**

A farming district about 42 miles from Dunedin on Dunedin-Cromwell railway, 3 miles east from Sutton.

The post office, using a distinctly engraved datestamp, was open

3 February – 14 March, 1933

15 January – 25 February, 1934

In succeeding years this office was renamed SUTTON MILITARY CAMP and used a relief datestamp, the renamed office was open

7 February – 25 March, 1935

6 February – 25 March, 1936

24 April – 4 May, 1937

30 January – 6 March, 1939

**Sutton Military Camp**

See under Matarae Military Camp

**Tapawera Military Camp**

A farming locality 36 miles south of Nelson on Nelson-Westport Highway.

It has not been discovered when this office was open but it is known that the distinctive engraved steel datestamp was in use several times to 1940

**Waianakarua Military Camp**

A farming locality 18 miles south of Oamaru on the Oamaru-Dunedin main highway.

The camp post office, using a distinctively engraved datestamp, was open

31 March – 6 April, 1936

**Waikouaiti Military Camp**

A farming locality 32 miles north from Dunedin on the Dunedin-Oamaru main highway.

The camp post office, using a relief datestamp, was open

16 February – 25 February, 1933

26 October – 4 November, 1933

29 November – 15 December, 1933

20 February – 3 March, 1934

29 November – 14 December, 1934

3 March – 9 March, 1935

22 January – 3 February, 1938

**Waiouru Military Camp**

An upland sheep farming district, 37 miles east of Ohakune

The camp post office, using a relief datestamp, was open

27 January – 2 March, 1937

31 January – 9 March, 1938

20 January – 27 March, 1939

**Wingatui Military Camp**

A small locality near Mosgiel, 9 miles south of Dunedin.

The camp post office, using a relief datestamp, was open

10 March – 21 March, 1939

**TERRITORIAL  
GIVE SERVICE  
HELP THEM**

Early in August 1938 the General Post Office, Wellington, issued a slogan die of the above slogan to the Chief Post Offices at Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington, with instructions that the slogan was to be used on automatic cancelling machines as often as possible. A protest against the use of the slogan was made by the Pacifist Society but this was rejected.

The slogans were introduced on 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> August and were used consistently through to September 1939 when, on the outbreak of World War II, they were removed from use.

Auckland used its die through to August 1940, all dies being recalled on 16 August 1940.

## APPENDIX 1

### THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1919 - PRECIS

#### 1 WAR IN WESTERN EUROPE

- A Detonation. July – August 1914
- 1 Austria-Hungary declare war on Serbia
  - 2 Germany declare war on Russia and France
  - 3 German invasion of Belgium
  - 4 Britain declares war on Germany
- B Early Manoeuvring. August – September 1914
- 1 German advance across Belgium
  - 2 France advances into Alsace
  - 3 British Expeditionary Force joins French forces
  - 4 Allied retreat down Channel coast
- C Battles of the Marne front. September 1914
- 1 Battle of Marne
  - 2 Front see-saws
  - 3 Battle of Ypres
  - 4 Trench lines consolidated Switzerland – Channel
- D Deadlocks of 1915  
(At this time the war had settled down to trench warfare, with every inch of land secured bitterly fought for)
- 1 British attack Neuve Chapelle March, 1915
  - 2 Germans release gas at Ypres April, 1915
  - 3 Allied unsuccessful attacks May, 1915
  - 4 Allied unsuccessful attacks, Loos Sept, 1915
- E Struggles of 1916
- 1 Germans attack Verdun February, 1916
  - 2 Germans capture Fort Vaux June 1916
  - 3 British attack at Somme July 1916
  - 4 French regain Verdun Dec 1916
- F Struggles of 1917
- 1 America joins Allies in war April 1917
  - 2 Allied spring offensive unsuccessful April 1917
  - 3 British attack at Messines June 1917
  - 4 British attack at Ypres July 1917
  - 5 British attack at Passchendaele Nov 1917
  - 6 British tank attack at Cambrai Nov 1917
- G Last Year 1918
- 1 Germans attack along front March 1918
  - 2 Germans Advance through Arras April 1918
  - 3 German attack at Lys April 1918

	4	American forces arrive	April 1918
	5	German attack at Aisne	May 1918
	6	German attack at Marne	July 1918
	7	French counter attack at Marne	July 1918
	8	British attack at Somme	Aug 1918
	9	Allied forces advance fast	Aug 1918
	10	German forced back to 1915 line	Sept 1918
	11	Allies advance on Germany	Oct 1918
	12	Austria collapses	Nov 1918
	13	Allies – German armistice	Nov 1918
II	WAR IN EASTERN EUROPE		
A	Opening of war		
	1	Germany declares war on Russia	July 1918
	2	Austria advance	July 1918
B	Invasion of East Prussia		
	1	German advance into Poland	Aug 1914
	2	Austrian advance into Serbia	
	3	Russian advance into East Prussia	
	4	Germans counter attack	
	5	Russians driven out of East Prussia	
C	Galican Battles, September 1914		
	1	Austrian advance into Poland	
	2	Russians force Austrians back	
	3	Germans reinforce Austrians, new attack launched	
	4	Russians begin “steamroller” advance	
	5	German counter attack	
	6	Russians forced back	
	7	Winter trench lines established in Poland	
D	German advances 1915		
	1	Russian struggle for Carpathians	Jan 1915
	2	Germans attack Masurian Lakes	Feb 1915
	3	Germans break through at Dunajec	May 1915
	4	Swift German advances	Jun 1915
	5	Poland occupied by Germany	Aug 1915
	6	Fresh German advances	Sept 1915
	7	Trench lines Riga – Czernowitz	Oct 1915
E	Balkan Campaigns		
	1	Bulgaria enters war against Serbia	Oct 1915
	2	Axis attacks launched on Serbia	Oct 1915
	3	Serbia occupied	Nov 1915
F	Salonika Campaign		
	1	British-French forces land from Gallipoli	Oct 1915
	2	Allied advance into Serbia	Oct 1915



	3	Bulgarians drive Allies back on Salonika	Nov 1915
G		1916 Struggles	
	1	Russian attack at Lake Narocz	March 1916
	2	Russian attack at Luck	June 1916
	3	Rumania enters war on Allies side	Jun 1916
	4	Italians attack Austrians	Jun 1916
	5	Rumanian advance into Austria	Aug 1916
	6	Austrian-Bulgarians advance into Rumania	Sept 1916
	7	Rumania occupied	Dec 1916
H		Collapse of Russia	
	1	Outbreak of revolution in Russia	March 1917
	2	Russian attacks crumble	July 1917
	3	Austrian-German forces on Russian frontier	Aug 1917
	4	German – Russian armistice	Dec 1917
I		Collapse of Bulgaria	
	1	Allied armies attack from Salonika	Sept 1918
	2	Bulgarian – Allied armistice	Sept 1918
III		NEAR EAST CAMPAIGNS	
A		Outbreak of War, October, 1914	
	1	Turkey declares war on Russia	
	2	Turkey declares war on Britain	
B		Turkish advances, December 1914	
	1	Actions in Caucasus	
	2	Turkish advance to Suez Canal	
C		Dardanelles Expedition	
	1	Naval bombardment	March 1915
	2	ANZAC landings on Gallipoli	Apr 1915
	3	Evacuation from Gallipoli	Dec 1915
D		Mesopotamia Expedition	
	1	British forces landed in Mesopotamia	Nov 1914
	2	Basra captured	Nov 1914
	3	Turkish attacks repulsed	Apr 1915
	4	Allies advance up river Tigris	
	5	Allies besieged at Kut	Dec 1915
	6	Kut garrison surrenders	Apr 1916
E		British advances	
	1	First British advances made	Dec 1916
	2	Bagdad entered, capital of Mesopotamia	March 1917
F		Palestine	
	1	British advance into Palestine	April 1916

	2	British attacks at Gaza	April 1917
	3	British break through Turkish front	Nov 1917
	4	Jerusalem captured	Dec 1917
G		Collapse of Turkey	
	1	Attacks launched from sea & Palestine	Sept 1918
	2	Turkey capitulated	Oct 1918
IV		AFRICAN CAMPAIGNS	
A		Togoland and Cameroons	
	1	Gold Coast forces occupy Togoland	Aug 1914
	2	British attack Cameroons	Aug 1914
	3	Coast area captured	Aug 1914
	4	Hinterland fighting ceased	1916
B		German South West Africa	
	1	South Africa forces attack	Aug 1914
	2	Attacks resume	Jan 1915
	3	German colony surrendered	July 1915
C		German East Africa	
	1	British naval attacks	Aug 1914
	2	East African Expeditionary Force landed	Nov 1914
	3	British forces repulsed, evacuated	Nov 1914
	4	British naval blockade established	Mar 1915
	5	British attack launched from inland	Feb 1916
	6	British naval attacks successful	July 1916
	7	Germans commence guerilla warfare	July 1916
	8	Armistice	Nov 1918
V		PACIFIC EXPEDITIONS	
A		Tsingtau, China	
	1	Japanese-British forces attack	Aug 1914
	2	Tsingtau surrenders	Nov 1914
B		German Samoa	
	1	New Zealand forces occupy Samoa	Aug 1914
C		New Guinea & Solomon Islands	
	1	Australian Expedition lands	Aug 1914
	2	Germans capitulate	Sept 1914