

'The Lear Collection'

Contributed by David Free of Bathurst, NSW.

Dorothy Lear was a young lady living in Victoria in the early 20th Century. In 1920 she compiled a photo album from photos and postcards sent to her by her brother [**Dvr, later Sgt 10996 Eric Nightingale Lear, 22nd Coy, AASC**] and four friends. Eric was killed in action and two of his friends were also killed in the war.

The photos are displayed in close to chronological order, though there are some small anomalies in ordering.

Dorothy lived until 1985. The family appears on Ancestry sites.

In 2022 this album was purchased by a NSW resident. I have tried to describe what appears on each page using the great detail provided by the seller, plus other research. I have called this batch of photos 'The Lear Collection,' just to commemorate the lady who created it and to differentiate it from other albums I own. Needless to say, the photos until this year have not been published and are, in their own way, unique. – David.

PAGE 1 of album

Two photos of OG Cotton, 3 DSC AIF [**Spr 11018 Oscar George Cotton, 3rd Divisional Signal Company**]. Taken at Durban, South Africa, on the trip to Middle East/Europe. The other soldier is not named.





Three photos of Stanley Adam Pearse, FAB [Gnr 944 Stanley Adam Pearse, 4th Bty/2nd Field Artillery Brigade]. Many of the photos in the album were apparently taken *by* him, though these obviously are *of* him. Perhaps taken in Egypt.





PAGE 2

Gallipoli 1915. Four photos and a postcard. The postcard [of snow on Anzac] obviously isn't unique but is a period card. Photos titled 'The Beach at ANZAC' Believed to have been taken by SA Pearse.







PAGE 3

Mixture of Egypt and Gallipoli. The Gallipoli ones are especially interesting. One shows a group of Turkish prisoners and two Australians. One digger holds an axe while a Turk looks quite worried about it.









[I believe this is the cemetery at Tel-el-Kebir where British soldiers who fell on 13 September 1882 are buried. An entrenched Egyptian force under the command of Ahmed Urabi was defeated by a British army led by Garnet Wolseley, in a sudden assault preceded by a march under cover of darkness. The battle was the decisive engagement of the Anglo-Egyptian War. The Diggers often in letters refer to scouring the old battlefield when they were there in 1916. – Ed.]





[Possibly three Australians talking to a British military policeman at the entrance to the Ezbekieh Gardens or Cairo Zoo, popular tourist spots for the Aussies in Cairo. – Ed.]

PAGE 4

Mixed bag. **Pte 2070 Thomas Taylor** when in the 4th Light Horse Regiment. Thomas Taylor, Flying Corps, Palestine 1918. Two photos from Gallipoli (or one from Egypt), 'The Section,' 10/12/16. Cecil Rhodes Monument, Cape Town. So photos from the trip over plus theatres. The Flying Corps photo is especially nice.





J. J. 1918. Palestine



Gallipoli

[Below: A windmill on the Island of Lemnos. Note the ships in Mudros Harbour– Ed.]





*The section
10/2/16*

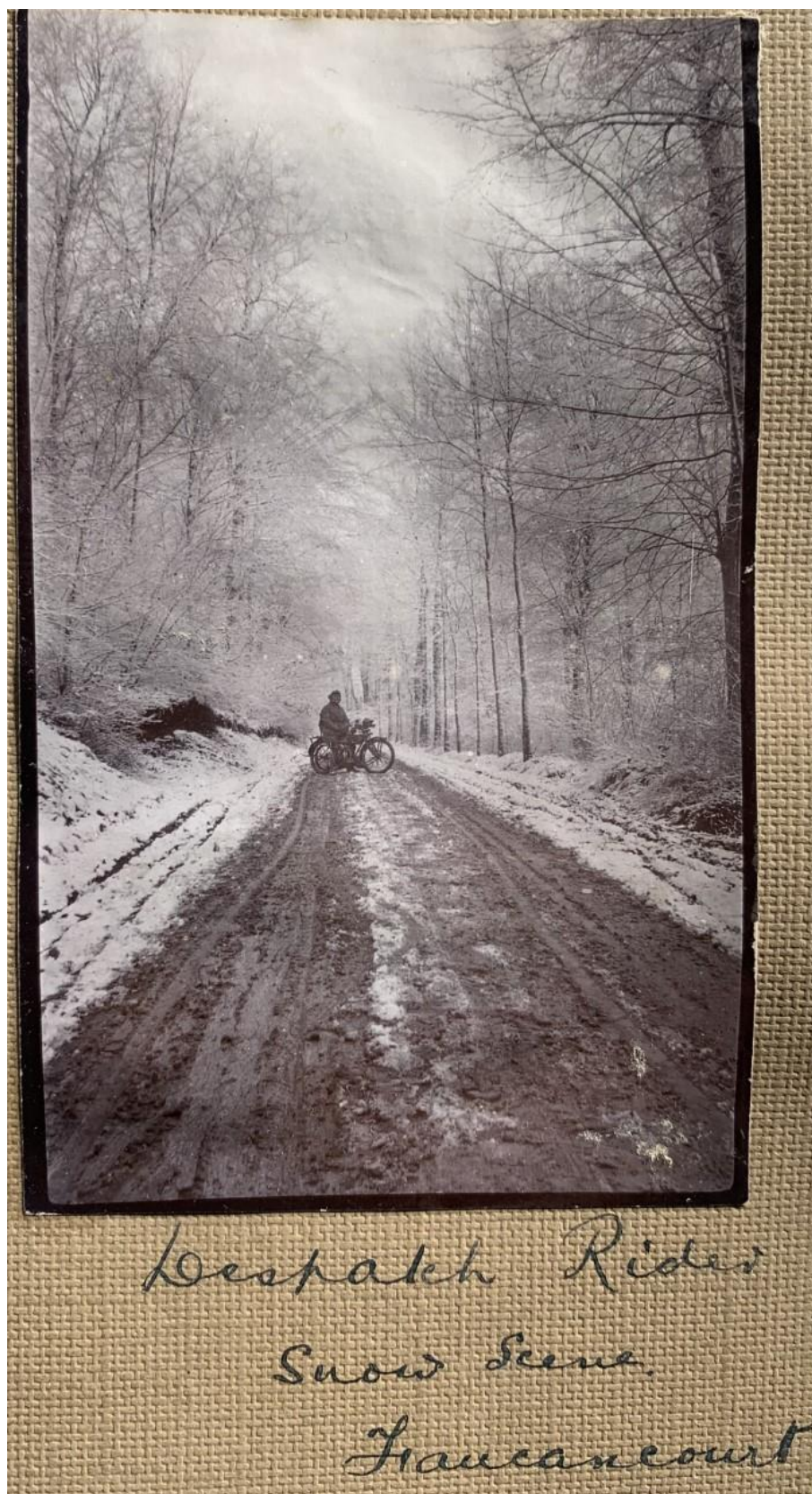
There were four men in a light horse section. When going into battle dismounted, one member would stay minding the horses, and bring them forward in case of a retreat or advance from the firing position. – Ed.]



*General Phibbs
Major General Caplan*

PAGES 5, 6 and 7

Western Front photos, mostly of Villers-Bretonneux 1918, some of Croix-du-Bac and Le Buger (?).



Despatch Rider
Snow Scene.
Foucaucourt

[Probably Foucaucourt, near the Somme River and between Le Treport and Amiens. – Ed.]



Villers Bretonneux.



Church at Villers Bretonneux



Grocer's Shop. Villers Breton



Croix De BacK. Ruins of Cathedral.

[Probably Croix-du-Bac, south of Steenwerck, west of Erquinghem-Lys and Armentieres. – Ed.]



[Can't find Le Buget or Le Bugar. Maybe Le Verguier? – Ed.]







Cross Roads



Villers Br





Church.



Chateau

PAGE 8

Images of the grave of Dorothy's brother, Eric, KIA 24 July 1917. Buried at Trois-Arbres Cemetery (about 5 km north-west of Armentieres). He was aged 25. [The two grave photos were taken at different times, maybe 1917 and 1918 – Ed.] Also a silk card sent by Eric to his father on the occasion of his father's birthday, 3 Oct, 1916. Original and in fine condition. Described at base.





Monument to fallen
Soldiers in the
barracks.

[Interesting that the Cross of Sacrifice was erected prior to all the grave markers being changed to the IWGC headstones. – Ed.]



Profile of Eric Lear

Sergeant 10966 Eric Nightingale Lear, born in Fryerstown, Vic, three years' service in Volunteer Cadets (rank of officer); working as clerk in Federal Public Service (Quarantine Bureau); living at 126 Gatehouse Street, Parkville, Melbourne; enlisted 17/8/16, aged 24 years and six months, height 6'¼", weight 160 lb; chest 35-38", dark complexion, grey eyes and black hair, C of E; married to Annie before embarking; appointed driver 21/4/16; embarked on *Persic*, Melbourne, 3/6/16; disembarked Plymouth, 25/7/16; continued trained in UK; marched out to 3rd Division Train Details, 20/11/16; promoted to sergeant in 867th Coy to complete establishment, 22/11/16; marched in to ASC Training Depot at Parkhouse from Lark Hill, 16/12/16; marched out to Lark Hill detachment 17/1/17; proceeded to France with ASC reinforcements 22/2/17; arrived HT & S Depot, Havre, 24/2/17; marched out to 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion 28/2/17; TOS 6/3/17; marched out to 3rd Divisional Train 10/3/17; re-joined 867th Coy, 12/3/17; detached to 3rd Division Pack Troops 15/7/17; wounded in action 23/7/17; admitted to 11th Field Ambulance with gun shots wounds right axilla, buttock, arm, thigh, knee, calf 23/7/17; transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station 23/7/17; died of wounds 24/7/17, buried at Trois Arbres Military Cemetery, 3.5 miles WNW of Armentieres; Annie (of 95 Hope St, South Yarra) granted fortnightly pension of 53s/9d from 3/10/17.

On the AWM roll of Honour circular, Annie wrote: *Left hand bowler for the North Melbourne Cricket Club. Also captain of the 22nd ASC Cricket Club while in France. A member of the Civil Service Rowing Club, for who he was the Stroke.*

According to a news snippet in the 'Gippsland Standard' of 10/8/17, Eric was 'struck by a shell blast on the right side.'

Profile by Graeme Hosken.



From Eric - Sent to his father on his birthday
from. France
Oct. 3rd 1916.

Eight members of Civil Service Rowing Club who left by 'Persic' June 3, 1916. Eric is arrowed (front left). Other group shot "taken on voyage over." No. 4 Platoon Eric was in [possibly at an Allied School of Instruction for NCOs or pre-war milita]. All are named. Photo of Dorothy and another girl, taken circa Xmas 1916.





Christmas 1916

[In the photo below, Eric is second from left, third row. – Ed.]



Back Row.—Sgt. J. W. Bell, Sgt. W. S. Sproule, Sgt. R. G. Williams, Sgt. F. F. Miller, Sgt. J. Upward, Sgt. A. F. White, Sgt. J. C. Anderson, Sgt. G. M. Garcia, Sgt. A. Hume, Sgt. N. G. O'Bryan, Sgt. D. W. Coleman, Sgt. W. N. Bea-

ver, Sgt. R. G. Ball, Sgt. L. C. Dalton.

Third Row.—Sgt. L. Loughman, Sgt. E. Lear, Sgt. E. A. Smith, Sgt. P. G. Sharpe, Sgt. G. G. Gluth, Sgt. A. E. Haughton, Sgt. F. H. Allan, Sgt. A. C. Drummond, Sgt. G. H. Still-

man, Sgt. F. E. Rochussen, Sgt. R. R. Jackson, Sgt. J. Brake, Sgt. A. B. Harper, Sgt. J. L. Dougharty, Sgt. R. N. Blackwell.

Second Row.—Sgt. J. G. Latham, Sgt. J. E. Martin, Sgt. H. B. Jackson, Sgt. M. G. Sloman, Sgt. E. H.

Quinn, Capt. C. C. Read, Sgt. O. E. Muller, Sgt. J. L. Herrin, Capt. A. B. Keage, Capt. H. Chapman, Sgt. B. Thompson, Sgt. D. C. Armstrong, Sgt. W. T. Hogg, Sgt. T. J. Holmes.

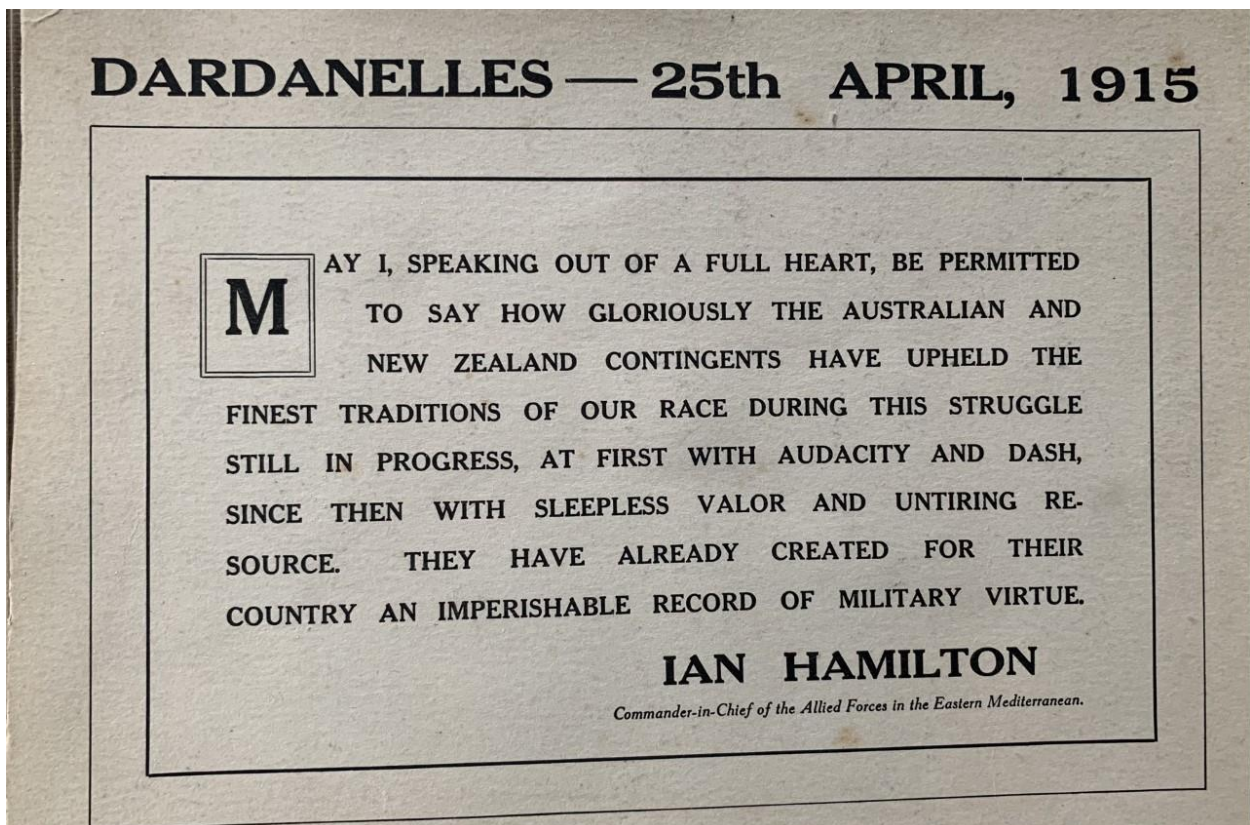
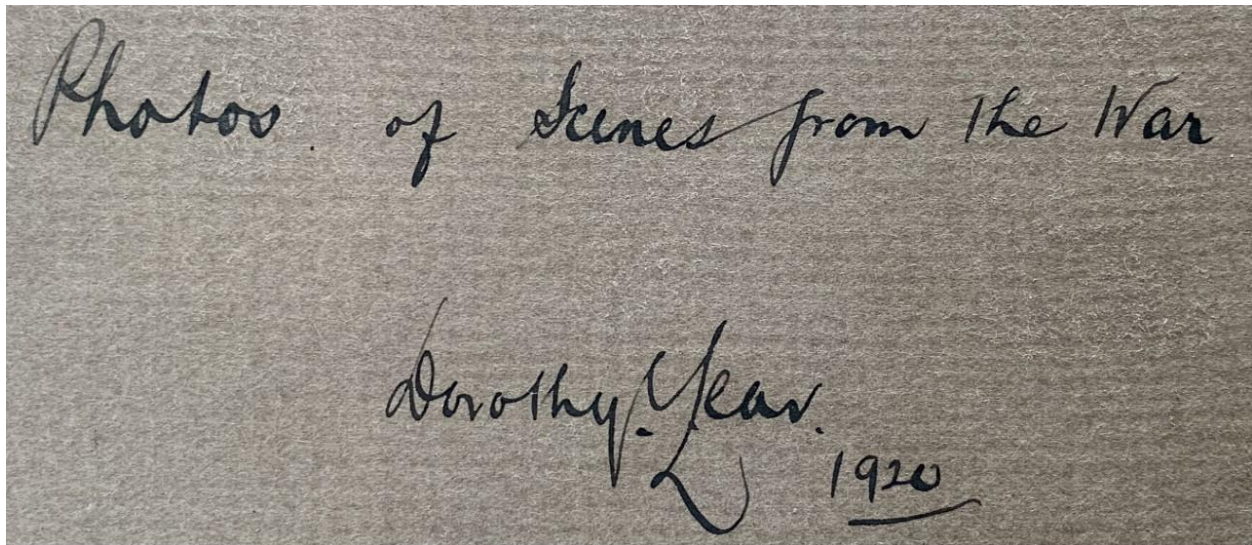
Front Row.—Sgt. F. G. Lewis, Sgt. S. R. Lewis,

Sgt. E. G. Loof, S.S.M. A. E. Joyce, S.S.M. W. Kimber, Sgt. J. C. Downey, Sgt. T. L. Gepp, Sgt. N. Gratton, Sgt. R. H. Gregory.

Sitting.—Sgt. J. A. Thwaites, Sgt. W. D. L. Cummings.

PAGE 10

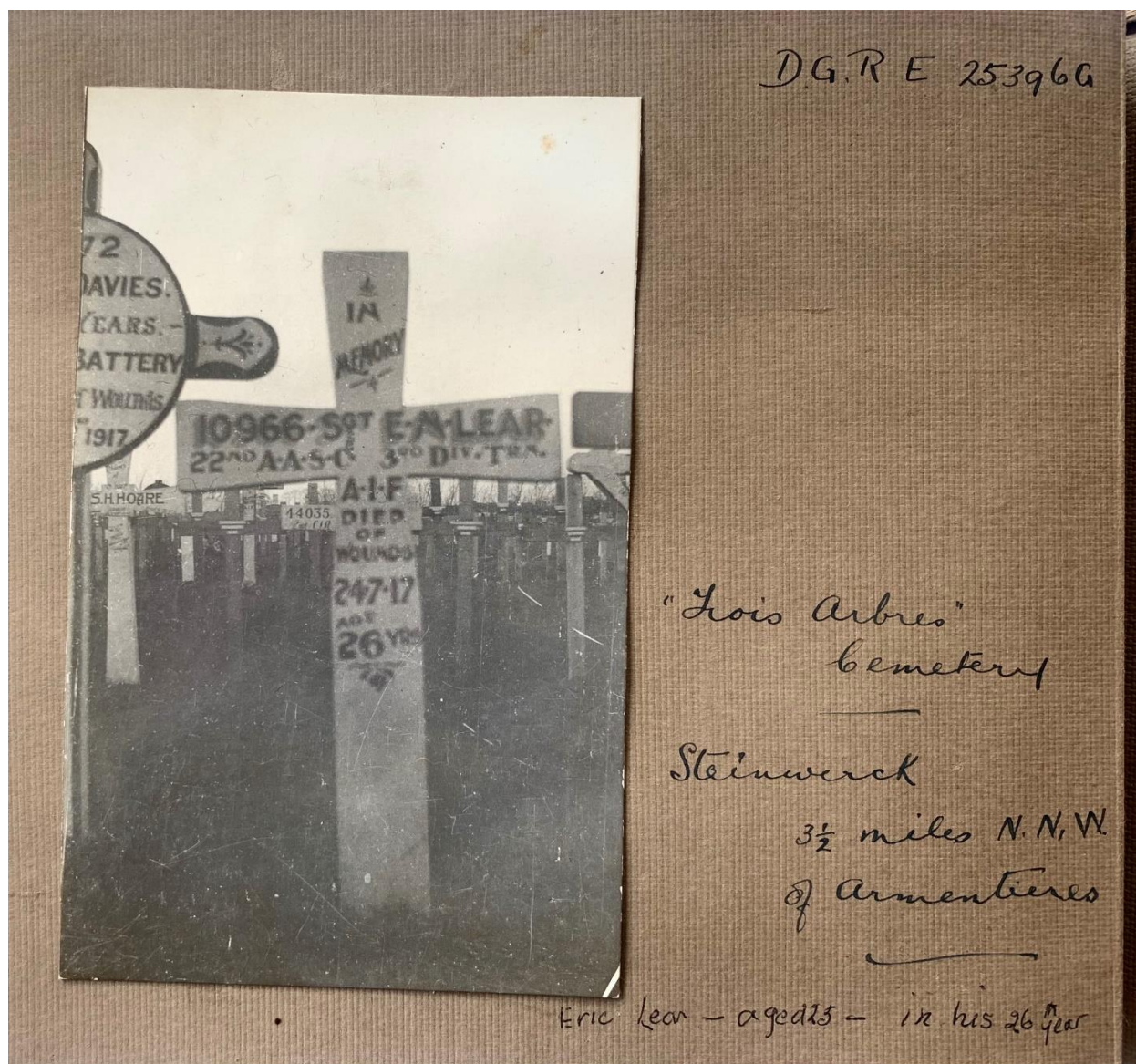
Dorothy's written introduction to the album. Printed dedication. Three photos of ladies back home. Bottom two probably Dorothy at different times. Group shot in swimming pool – Dorothy at extreme left perhaps. Location not identified.





PAGE 11

Photo of Eric's grave with fuller description. [This image is most likely the photo of his grave sent by the IWGC to families. Usually, three copies were supplied but more could be ordered but had to be paid for. – Ed.]



POSTCARDS

Postcards are glued in throughout the album. Each appears to have written messages on the reverse and in some cases can be partially lifted to see these. The risk of damage is too great to lift them very far, so until an expert feels like examining them, the “messages home” will remain unknown.

The cards and photos were sent home (according to the seller) by:–

10966 Dvr Eric Nightingale Lear, 22nd Company AASC, AIF DOW 24/7/17.

944 Gnr Stanley Adam Pearse, 2nd FAB, KIA 4/10/17.

2070 Pte/later Lieut Thomas Taylor, 4th Light Horse Regiment and 67th and 1st Squadron AFC, AIF.

Lieut Christian Peder Christensen, 39th Bn AIF KIA, 29/7/17.

11018 Spr Oscar George Cotton, 2nd Divisional Signal Company AIF, RTA 3/7/19.

[See next page for the top image turned the right way up.]

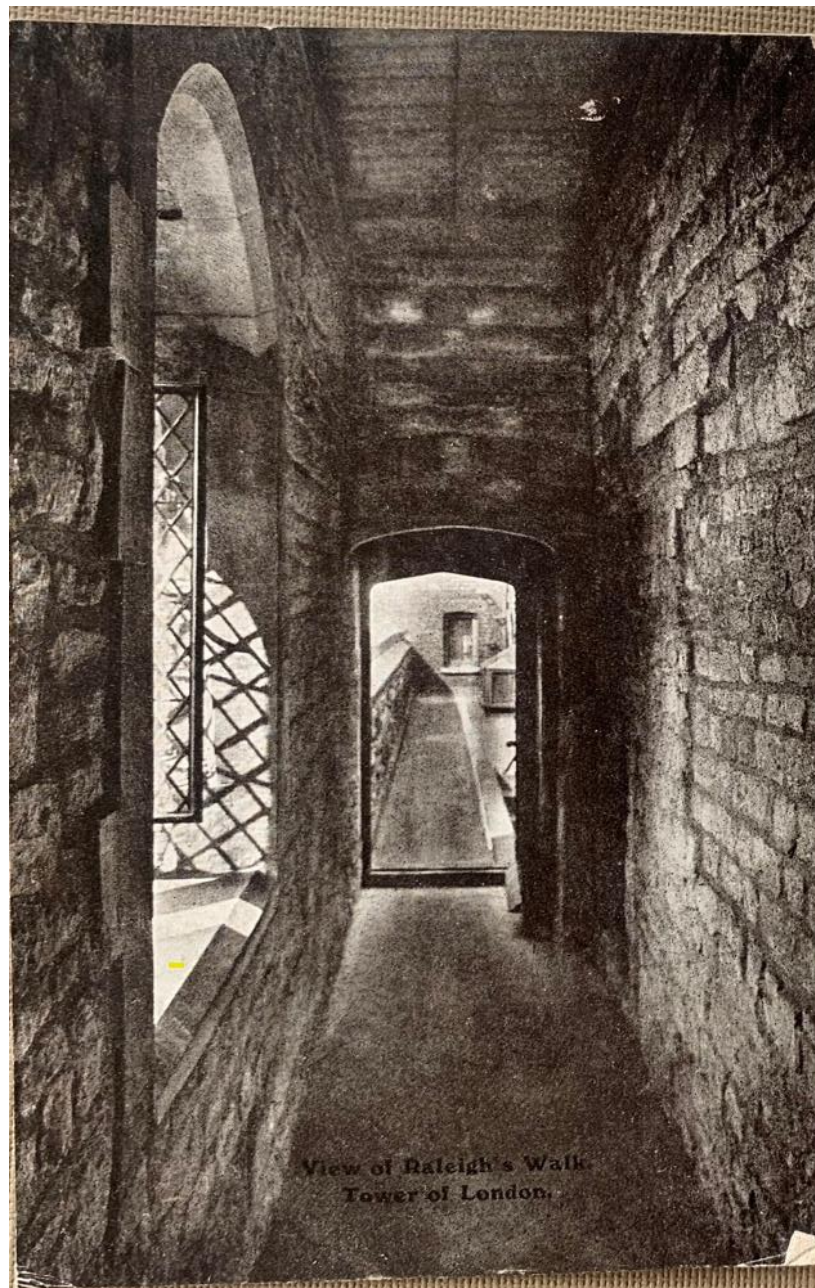


View of Raleigh's Walk
Tower of London.

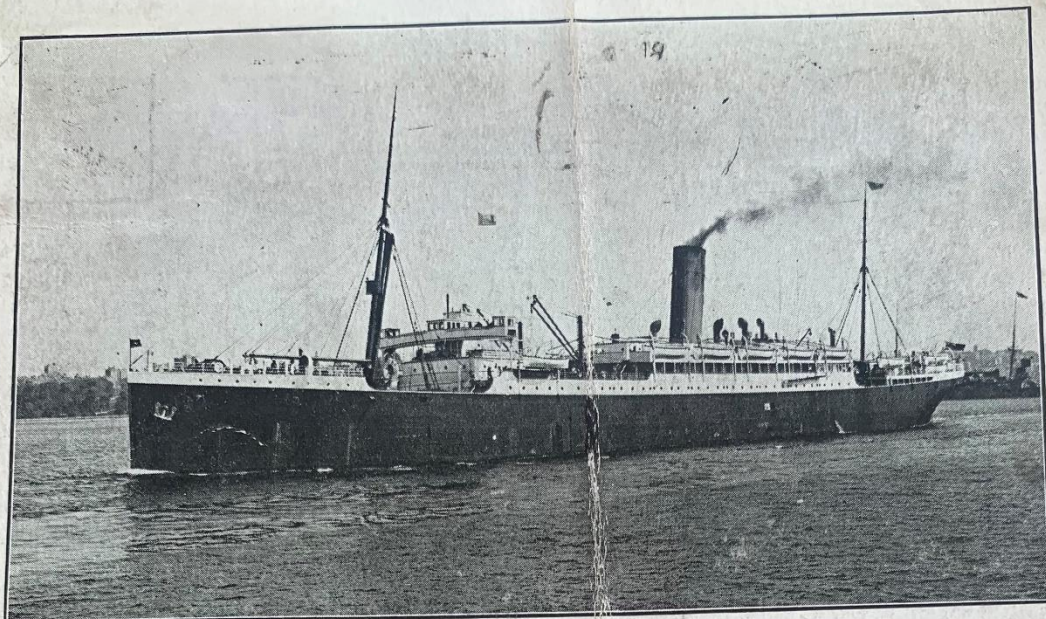


133 LONDON. — Oxford Street. — LL

From bus in carport at Salisbury 1916-17



NOTE: The photo at left is *not* from the Lear album. It was found on the discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au website. Eric Lear is standing on the far left. It may have been taken when Eric was in the militia. – Ed.



EXCHANGE STUDIOS

T.S.S. "THEMISTOCLES" leaving Sydney.

49 PITT ST., SYDNEY
N.S.W.

From L. Taylor. - The troopship in which he sailed to the front.



ALBANY from Town Jetty

From here. - at sea.

[Photo of Albany is likely taken from Mount Clarence in Albany Heritage Park, near the present site of the Light Horse Memorial and the National Anzac Centre. - Ed.]



From S.A.P. from Ireland - on his last leave.



From C.P. Christensen - England in Canada