

# The NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COIN AND STAMP CLUB INCORPORATED



**Our Club's 56th Year**

*30 JUNE 2020*  
*ISSUE #218*

## **OUR 4th NO-MEETINGS 'VIRUS' ISSUE**

### **BUT THINGS START AGAIN IN AUGUST**

Sorry....there is no meeting this month either. The Covid 19 hiatus still haunts us.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel

Orange Council has just allowed use of hire facilities like the Senior Citizen's Centre from Monday 29 June 2020. The use is subject to 1 person for 4 square meters (with 2m distances between persons), use of sanitiser on entry & exit, keeping a 'contact' sign-in register, and using wipes to de-contaminate seats and tables when you leave.

Orange Council has given us clearance to use the Orange Cultural Centre, subject to a page of similar Rules. The Club will therefore hold its **next meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020** (depending on what happens in Victoria). The number of members that can be present depends on how many '4 square metres' fit in to the room, but I think we will all fit. So no meeting in July.

The return of our **monthly Club small coin & stamp fair in the Orange Cultural Centre is scheduled for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**. It should be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month after that.



### **VALE DR LAWRENCE SHERWIN**

Some of you will know, but others not, of Lawrie's sudden death, at home, on Sunday afternoon 11<sup>th</sup> June. He was working in the garden, felt unwell, came in and sat down. He expired suddenly as Katie was making him a cup of tea. I believe it was a heart attack.

Your editor had worked with Lawrie for a long time – since 1974. Lawrie had been a Palaeontologist at the Geological & Mining Museum at 36 George St, Sydney since his appointment in 1966. When the Museum's research functions started to Lawrie took up the position of Senior Geologist in the Regional Mapping Section in the Geological Survey of New South Wales. I think he came to the Orange Office in that capacity in 1990.

He was a specialist in fossils that started with "G", like graptolites...and especially Ordovician and Silurian-age ones. He was always rushing off to overseas conferences. After graduating with the Sydney University Medal he had a spell at Cambridge. He had other short spells with the Russian Geological Survey in St Petersburg, and with the one in Mongolia. He received his PhD from Macquarie University in 1991.

He used to be a Councillor of the Public Service Association of NSW, a union that had 30,000 members. He was the P.S.A.'s delegate to the NSW Trades & Labour Council up until he moved to Orange.

He was a member of the Linnaean Society of New South Wales, the prestigious Royal Society of New South Wales and the Geological Society of Australia.

He was recognised in Australia and Overseas for his work in numismatics. He was an expert on a whole range of early Middle Eastern coinages, especially all those kingdoms that Alexander the Great set up on his invasion of India...like the Sassanian Empire. Someone remarked to your editor that they thought he was a professional numismatist. I replied that, "no, he actually had a day-job". His will directs his extensive collection of Ancient coins and his coin book library go to the Powerhouse Museum.

He was a Life Member of the Australian Numismatic Society (NSW Branch) and a member of the Orange Coin & Stamp Club. He had been treasurer and for more than 10 years had been assistant secretary. He was a regular contributor to this Newsletter.

Lawrie was also president of the St Mary's Conference of St Vincent de Paul in Orange. He had been an active member of Vinnies, except for the two years he was at Cambridge, since he was 17.

He had been conducting Orange U3A Astronomy classes once a month, as well as filling in for Geology. Astronomy involved night-time star-gazing sessions for U3A from his home in Clifton Grove. It was his other hobby.

He was also an accomplished pilot of small planes. He flew a light plane across the United States from west to east in the 1960's

He is survived by his wife, Katie.

He was involved in much, much more.

His loss for our Club is too sad.

Lawrie's obituary in Saturday's CWD read: -

SHERWIN, Lawrence Joseph 11.10.1944 - 31.5.2020 internationally renowned Geologist and Palaeontologist Late of Clifton Grove. Survived by his wife Katie. Lawrence will be sadly missed by his family and friends. "In Jesus's Loving Arms" A private funeral service will be held. NORMAN J PENHALL...

Lawrie's funeral was not a private service as advertised. It was held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Byng St on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The Church, unfortunately could only take 50 persons. Most of those who attended were ex-Government

Geologists and Directors of the Geological Survey of NSW, palaeontologists, academics and former co-workers.



Lawrie at his microscope at the Museum, above, and doing field-work near Cobar in 1967



### **OUR CLUB CIRCUIT BOOK IS STILL IN LIMBO**

Colin Richardson advises that circuit book has started to circulate once more.

However, please use this time to make up circuit pages for when it re-commences.

Please contact Colin direct

Email: [ptilinopus1@bigpond.com](mailto:ptilinopus1@bigpond.com)

Ph: 63690634

A blank circuit book page is at the back of this newsletter. Make a copy.

### **Orange Spring Fair 2019 participating dealers –**

#### **please continue to support them:-**

**Wynyard Coin Centre** (M.R. Roberts), 3 Barrack St, Sydney, 2000 Ph (02) 9299 2047. Fax (02)9290 3710

[www.wynyardcoins.com.au](http://www.wynyardcoins.com.au)

**A. Byrne Coins** (Tony Byrne from Canberra) – PO Box 53, MITCHELL, A.C.T. 2911, ph (02) 6255 4044) Buying and Selling

**Orange Stamps & Coins** (Howard Lyons), PO Box 9288, Orange, 2800;  
Mobile 0427 107 554  
Phone/fax (02) 6362 2368,

E-mail:

[howard.lyons@bigpond.com](mailto:howard.lyons@bigpond.com)

Buying and Selling - Stamps,  
Coins, Banknotes, Accessories,  
etc.

**Phil & Win Morehouse,**

Bankstown. NSW 2200 Ph:

(02)9707 4087, Email –

[wmorehouse@netspace.net.au](mailto:wmorehouse@netspace.net.au).

World-wide stamps bought and  
sold

**AAA Stamps** (Steve Burton) of  
Long Jetty. Phone 0432 540 760.

Email: -

[aaastamps@yahoo.com.au](mailto:aaastamps@yahoo.com.au)

Buying & selling World stamps

## ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB

Items for this newsletter could be  
posted to the Secretary at the Club's  
postal address: -PO Box 324  
ORANGE 2800

Better still you could e-mailed to: -

[ddolstra@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ddolstra@bigpond.net.au)

-Or phone 63 614 872

## DATES FOR LATER IN 2020 & FOR 2021

**Everything has been cancelled  
until at least 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly  
fair at the Orange Cultural Centre,  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020, 9-1**

**Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly  
meetings resume, 7.30pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>  
August 2020, Orange Cultural Centre**

**SCDAA Petersham Fair 30 August 2020**

**Canberra Fair, 10 October 2020**

**PHILAS Open Day, PHILAS House,  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Newcastle Half-National Exhibition 2-4  
October 2020, Newcastle**

**CANCELLED** now for  
October next year 2021

**ANDA Sydney Money Show, 24 & 25  
October 2020, Lower Town Hall,  
Sydney**

**Perth Stamp & Coin Fair 30 October-1  
November 2020.**

**Brisbane Stamp & Coin Fair, 7 & 8  
November 2020.**

**Hobart Stamp Show 2010: National  
One Frame Exhibition 13-15  
November, 2020. Hobart Town  
Hall CANCELLED**  
*[hobartstampshow2020.com.au](http://hobartstampshow2020.com.au)*

**PHILAS Auction#137, PHILAS House,  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Wagga Stamp & Coin Fair, 21 & 22  
November 2020, Sturt Primary School**

**SCDAA Petersham Stamp, Coin &  
Banknote Fair, Petersham Town  
Hall, 29 November 2020.**  
SCDAA Petersham Fair

**Toowoomba National One-Frame  
Stamp Show, 9-10 October 2021**

**Newcastle Half-National Exhibition**

**Date changed** from 2-4  
October 2020 to Friday 21  
October to Sunday 23 October  
2020 Newcastle Showground  
Exhibition Centre, Broadmeadow

## Alf Campe 30 May 1939 – 20 May 2020

Well-known Sydney stamp dealer and PHILAS House volunteer Alf Campe has passed away. He was enjoying the sunshine in his backyard in Melbourne when he started to walk back towards the house, collapsed with a heart attack and died immediately. He was ten days short of his 81st birthday.

Alf was the son of Belgian-born Alfred Charles (A. C.) Campe who established a souvenir shop at Manly Beach in 1919 after returning from service with the Australian forces. In 1924 the shop was moved to the Australia Hotel Arcade in Rowe Street, central Sydney and became a stamp dealer's shop. In 1928 it moved to the Bank of Australasia building on the corner of Liverpool and George Streets then in the 1930s to the Sydney Arcade between King and Pitt Streets. From 1941 to 1969 the shop was in the Royal Arcade (now displaced by the Hilton Hotel) and from 1969 to 2007 it was in Castlereagh Street. After A. C. Campe's death in 1952 the shop was run by his wife and sons Alf and Graeme (Graeme passed away in 2003).

Following the closure of the shop in 2007, Alf occupied an office in PHILAS House where he worked at disposing of his unsold stock, advising visitors on their collections and lotting material brought in for the PHILAS auctions. Alf had helped to set up the auctions in the 1970s.

From the PHILAS web-site

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### FROM THE WAGGA CLUB

The next item, compiled by Peter Simpfendorfer, the secretary of the Wagga Stamp Club: -

#### **BLAST FROM THE PAST No 5 – With “Simpy”**

All items are from various issues of Stamp News magazine.

**April 1977: Moomba Stamp Display** – The Victorian Philatelic Association staged its 1977 display at the Treasury Gardens from March 4 until March 14. Average annual attendance is around 18,000 visitors.

Brain Moore, a dealer from Dubbo had a two-page advertisement selling “airmail covers from the pioneering period of aviation” 1926 – 1937. Prices ranged from \$5 to \$50 per cover.

**August 1977: Make Collecting Pay By “I Tippem”** commented, “Have you noticed how hard it is to find good used copies of the Australia 1974 75c Feather-tailed Glider? If you put aside a few of these in FINE used condition I feel sure they will not go astray.” Today the stamp catalogues 75c. They have a white background and as with all such stamps, fine used copies are always hard to secure.

**Junior Club** reported that a West German firm published some interesting statistics relating to the number of stamps issued in 1975: over 7,500 stamps and 770 souvenir sheets were issued by 223 stamp issuing countries. The total face value was \$2,400 with Equatorial Guinea being the most prolific (482 items). In 1975 Australia issued 29 stamps with a total face value of \$4.72.

**January 1979:** Robin Linke from Perth was advertising complete collections MUH. Some examples Papua New Guinea 1952-1977 \$460, Norfolk Island 1947-1977 \$295, Australia decimal 1966-1977 \$500.

The 1979 *Australasian Stamp Catalogue* in full colour, 112 pages and with almost 1,800 illustrations was advertised by Seven Seas Stamps for \$4.50.



In **Junior Club** two stamps were depicted. Newfoundland 10c 1897 and USA 3c 1893 with each depicting an identical sailing ship. Newfoundland said it was "Cabot's ship the Matthew leaving the Avon" whereas the USA stamp said it was "Flag Ship of Columbus" (the Santa Maria). Obviously, they both cannot be right so which one was correct?

**May 1979:** There was an article on Special Sydney Ferry Mails in connection with the forthcoming SYDPEX 80 exhibition.

**Australasian Corner** also advised that Edlins Stamps and Coins "have opened retail premises in the very modern Belconnen Mall, Canberra ACT."

Another article was headed "Row Over Maximum Card Postmarks" wherein a prominent Adelaide printer alleged that Australia Post was backdating cancels on Maximum cards.

A four-page article by Alan Ross chartered the history of SEVEN SEAS STAMPS in Dubbo accompanied by several photos. The article finished "Perhaps two final points should be made...Seven Seas puts out in excess of 60,000 stamp packets each week and has reserve stocks of over 50 million stamps in the strong room. Try that for size!"

**March 1995:** Twenty-five years back Glen Stephens was penning his monthly column **MARKET MATTERS** and it continues today in Stamp News. His column in this issue was only one page and focussed on the PNG overprint set of eleven stamps.

Phonecards were also "hot" with sixteen pages devoted to this craze that eventually collapsed overnight.

Shields Stamps and Coins Pty Ltd had a 34-page supplement of items for sale. The first page also had a box headed "**BUYING – TOP PRICES PAID**" and included the statement "We spend nearly \$500,000 each year buying stamps and coins and that makes us one of the nation's leading buyers."

**Cinderella Corner** included an item on Personalised Stamps particularly those created by Fame/Face of Williamstown SA. The item included a scan of a stamp featuring yours truly in front of my beer can collection.



## ICELAND STAMPS NO MORE

Your editor picked up a story from the always informative Bendigo Club's *Golden City Philatelist*.

Apparently Iceland is to cease production of postage stamps and is closing its philatelic bureau after 90 years of operation. Existing stamps are to be used up but no stamps will be printed in the future.

Iceland's Postal Services Marketing Director said "If the government feels that it's culturally important to continue issuing new stamps, Iceland Post is ready to continue to do so. But before that, there must be a negotiation with government on how the cost is covered. Iceland Post simply cannot continue the cost of releasing stamps."

**M.R.Roberts**  
WYNYARD COIN CENTRE

### 3 Barrack St Sydney 2000

Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710 remains the same. Their e-mail address is  
[sales@wynyardcoins.com.au](mailto:sales@wynyardcoins.com.au)

Whether you want advice or can't find what you're looking for, contact us. We have a wide array of collectables in our store and our friendly team will be happy to assist you. Call us today on +612 9299 2047, or send an email to [sales@wynyardcoins.com.au](mailto:sales@wynyardcoins.com.au) or shop on-line.

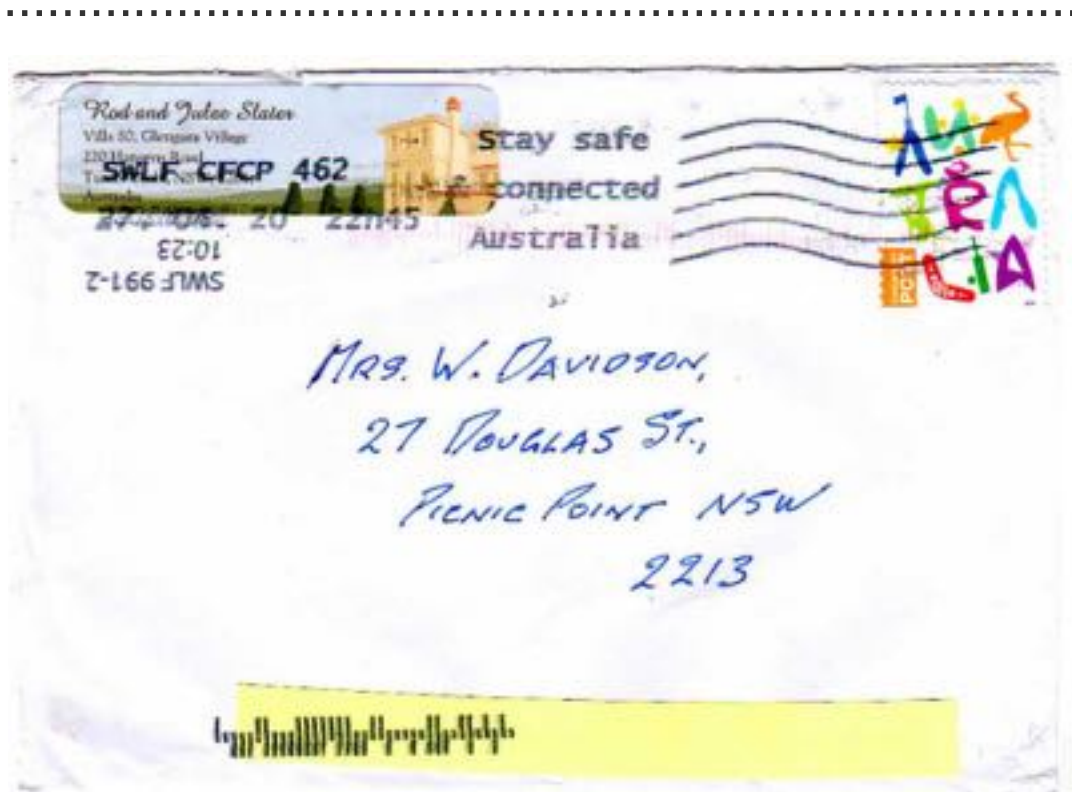
Now open regular trading hours

Regular Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 8:30am - 5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday & Public Holiday – CLOSED



The dastardly dog and the postie images have gone from the SWLF ink-jet cancel, and now it's 'STAY SAFE & CONNECTED'. A sign of the times.



**PITTWATER  
PHILATELIC SERVICE**

We carry Australia's largest world-wide stamp stock. We visit Orange twice a year—your opportunity to see our vast stock in the Central West!

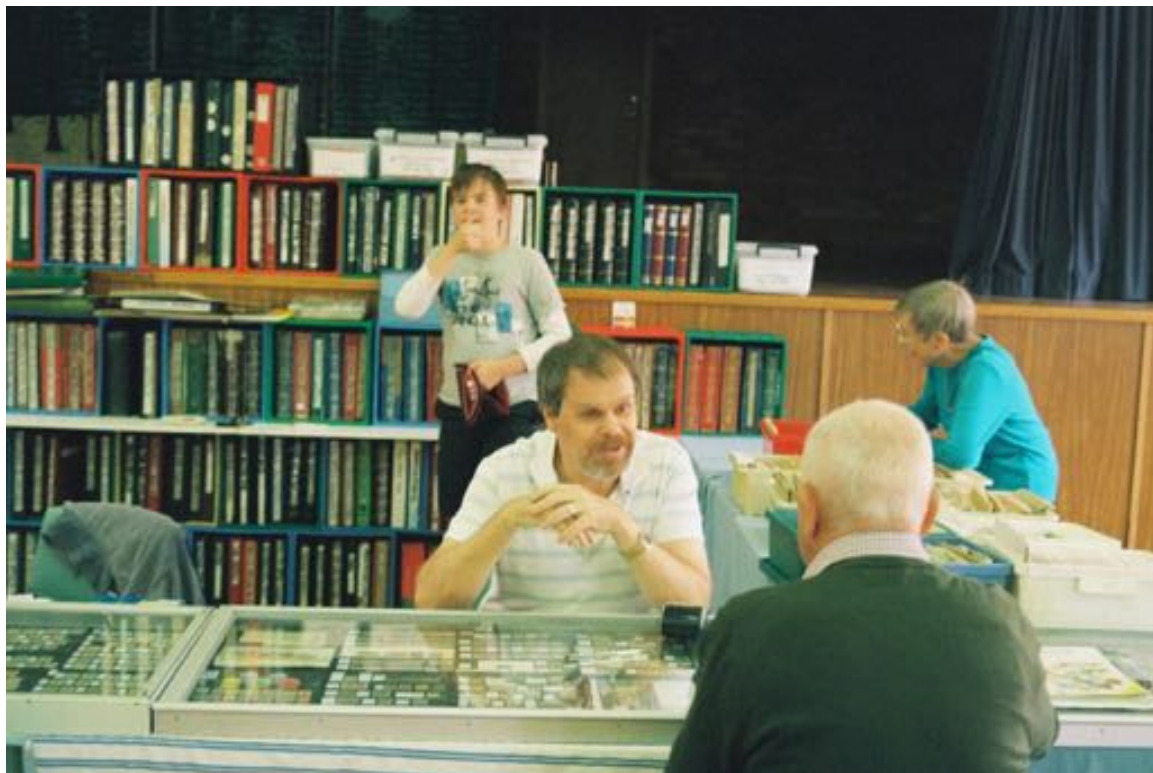
[www.ozemail.com.au/~pittwaterstamps/](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~pittwaterstamps/)  
*The largest range of internet price lists in the southern hemisphere.*



 Fine quality stamps of  
Australia, States, NZ,  
GB & the world. 

PO Box 259, Newport Beach, NSW, 2106.  
Ph: (0412) 904 295  
[pittwaterstamps@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pittwaterstamps@ozemail.com.au)  
Make an appointment visit our offices at  
Shop 18, 331-335 Barrenjoey Road, Newport Beach, NSW.

John Pearson with an unidentified customer (& animated son) at our 2017 Expo. Audrey Ferris is looking through a stock-book on the right.



## ORANGE STAMPS AND COINS

P.O. Box 9288, Orange. 2800

Email: [howard.lyons@bigpond.com](mailto:howard.lyons@bigpond.com)

Ebay store: <http://stores.ebay.com.au/orangestampsandcoins>



2020 Tooth Fairy - \$45-00 (not available at RAMint)

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2020 Qantas \$1 -100 years - \$12-50

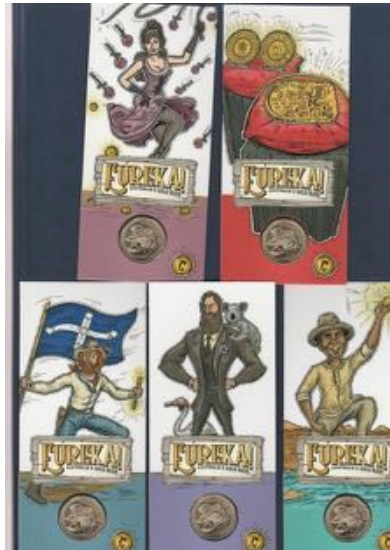
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2020 Brisbane ANDA Mob of Roos 'Brolga' Privy Mark  
Limited mintage of 3000 -- \$35-00



2019 Sydney ANDA Mob of Roos 'Waratah' Privy Mark  
Limited Mintage 3000 -- \$20-00



2020 Eureka Gold Rush **\$6-00 each Set 5 \$26-00**

**Coin only \$5-00**



2020 Eureka Four coin set "C,B,S,M" - \$27-50



Place an order via email or telephone. Payment can be made by paypal or credit card. Postage costs kept to a minimum.

We are only a phone call away.....02 6362 2368 (please leave message)

Shop direct on my Ebay store - <http://stores.ebay.com.au/orangestampsandcoins>



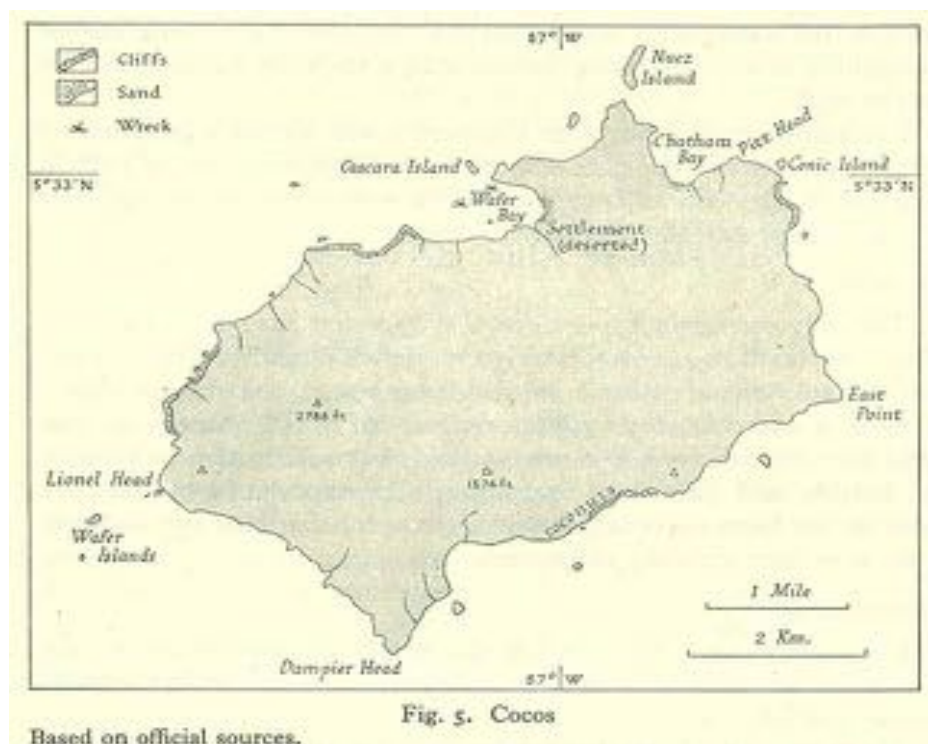
## THE OTHER COCOS ISLAND

I guess our stamp collecting members all have something from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in our collection. But there is another Cocos Island. It's in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Costa Rica in Central America.



It is sort of a Treasure Island. Robert Louis Stevenson's story of that name is loosely based on it.

The island became part of Costa Rica in 1832 by decree No. 54 of the Constitutional Assembly of the free state of Costa Rica. Whalers stopped at Cocos Island regularly until the mid-19th century, when inexpensive kerosene started to replace whale oil for lighting. In October 1863, the ship *Adelante* dumped 426 Tongan ex-slaves on the island, the captain being too lazy to take them home as promised. When they were saved by the *Tumbes*, one month later, only 38 had survived, as the rest had perished from smallpox.



The first claims of treasure buried on the island came from a woman named Mary Welsh, who claimed 350 tons of gold (about A\$25 billion in today's money) raided from Spanish galleons had been buried on the island. She had been a member of a pirate crew led by Captain Bennett

Graham, and was transported to an Australian penal colony for her crimes. She possessed a chart showing where Graham's treasure was supposed to be hidden. On her release she returned to the island with an expedition, which had no success in finding anything, with the points of reference in the chart having disappeared.

The best known of the treasure legends tied to the island is that of the Treasure of Lima. In 1820, with the army of José de San Martín approaching Lima, Viceroy José de la Serna is supposed to have entrusted treasure from the city to British trader Captain William Thompson for safekeeping until the Spaniards could secure the country. Instead of waiting in the harbor as they were instructed, Thompson and his crew killed the Viceroy's men and sailed to Cocos, where they buried the treasure. Shortly afterwards, they were apprehended by a Spanish warship. All of the crew except Thompson and his first mate were executed for piracy. The two said they would show the Spaniards where they had hidden the treasure in return for their lives — but after landing on Cocos, they escaped into the forest.

Hundreds of attempts to find treasure on the island have failed. Several early expeditions were mounted on the basis of claims by a man named Keating, who was supposed to have befriended Thompson. On one trip, Keating was said to have retrieved gold and jewels from the treasure. Prussian adventurer August Gissler lived on the island for most of the period from 1889 until 1908, hunting the treasure with the small success of finding six gold coins. The Costa Rican government named Gissler the first Governor of Cocos Island in 1897 and allowed him to establish a short-lived colony there. This had a post office, but I have been unable to find anything in the internet that shows a cover or even a postmark from there.

On May 12, 1970, the insular territory of Cocos Island was incorporated administratively into Central Canton of the Province of Puntarenas by means of Executive Decree No. 27, making it the Eleventh District of Central Canton. Cocos Island was declared a Costa Rican National Park by means of Executive Decree in 1978. Cocos Island National Park was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. In 2002, the World Heritage Site designation was extended to include an expanded marine zone of 771 square miles (1,997 km<sup>2</sup>). In addition, it is included in the list of "Wetlands of International Importance". The island's 33 residents, the Costa Rican park rangers, were allowed to vote for the first time in Costa Rica's February 5, 2006, election.



The only persons allowed to live on Cocos Island are Costa Rican Park Rangers, who have established two encampments, including one at English Bay. Tourists and ship crew members are allowed ashore only with permission of island rangers, and are not permitted to camp, stay overnight or collect any flora, fauna or minerals from the island. Occasional amateur radio expeditions are allowed to visit.



On January 29, 1936, Costa Rica released a set of eight stamps picturing the map of Cocos Island in various colours and in denominations of 4, 8, 25, 35, 40, and 50 centimos, plus 2 and 5 colons



against a plain background (SG #218-225). Perforated 14 except for the 25-centimo value which was 11½, the five highest values (except for the 50-centimo) were surcharged with new denominations (Scott #196-200). Earlier, the 50-centimo had received an overprint and two different surcharges (15 centimos in black and 30 centimos in blue) to mark Pan-American Aviation Day, declared by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, on December 17, 1940 (Scott #C55-56). On December 5, 1936, the denominations of 5 centimos and 10 centimos were added to the basic Cocos Islands set of stamps (SG226-227). However, the frames were changed and the plain background gave way to one that added the three ships of Christopher Columbus and removed the geographical labels. These were perforated 12. SG #226 was printed in green while SG #227 is carmine rose. Both of these stamps were, overprinted with OFICIAL in black ink in 1936 with the 5-centimo receiving an additional overprint — CORREOS / 1947 in red — on March 19, 1947 Cocos Island wouldn't appear on another Costa Rican stamp until November 5, 1992, when the 400th anniversary of its discovery was commemorated by a pair of stamps, one portraying the coastline with a waterfall on the other (SG #1541-1542).

Although the 1936 stamp shows Columbus' ships below the map of Cocos Island, the explorer never came close to visiting the area. Christopher Columbus only reached the eastern coast of Costa Rica, making landfall during his 4<sup>th</sup> voyage on Sept 18, 1502



SG #1541-1542





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## MEMBERS

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS TO ADVERTISE, TO SELL, OR TO SHOW YOUR WANT'S LIST. YOU CAN HAVE UP TO A PAGE

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## THE NEWCASTLE & SUBURBAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD AND ITS BREAD & MILK TOKENS



*Newcastle Co-Op bread and milk tokens*



The Newcastle & Suburban Co-Operative Society Limited began trading in September 1898 in rented premises at the corner of Charlton St (now Hunter Street) & Florence St in Newcastle West.

The Co-Op at Newcastle and at other places in Australia was based on the *Rochdale movement* in the United Kingdom. Australia's co-operatives developed 'in waves' from the mid-19th century through to the end of World War Two and then declined in the decade after.

When the B.H.P. steel-works at Port Waratah was established in the period just before World War I the Co-Operative membership doubled. A new store included grocery, clothing, boot & drapery departments.





*The Newcastle Co-Op expanded after World War I. It traded as The Store. It operated out of these Hunter Street premises. The building cost £35,000. The photo was taken in the 1920's.*



*Newcastle Co-Op membership tokens. In 1940 it had 10,000 members*

Branches of **The Store** later opened up in a number of Newcastle suburbs.



*In 1960 there were 50,000 members. In that year the metal membership badges were replaced by plastic cards.*

In 1942 the Newcastle Co-Op had the largest bakery in Australia producing 62 800 loaves a week. There was a second bakery in the suburb of Charlestown. By June 1946 they were baking 100,000 loaves a week.



*The Co-Op's bread semi-automated bread oven, 1945. An early bread token is shown, below:-*





*Newcastle Co-Op bakery cart. These survived in to the 1970's. You 'paid' not with money but with your bread token. In 1945 the Co-Op employed 102 bread carters. They visited almost every Newcastle suburban street. An early Co-Op bread cart is preserved in the Museum of Australia in Canberra*

Milk delivery began in 1924. The Co-Op's milk carts did the same thing as the bread carts, only earlier in the morning. You paid with a Co-Op milk token.





*In 1973 rising prices & competition caused the bakery, which was then at Gateshead, to close.*

Membership increased from 20,000 members in 1945 to a peak of 98,000 in 1974. After 1978 trading declined significantly. In 1980 with debts of \$12million the NSW Government appointed an administrator. From June 18 most of the Co-Op's assets were sold off. The last three of The Store in Hunter St, at Charlestown and Mayfield closed on 10 April 1981.



Based on *Newcastle's Living History* site of Newcastle University. With thanks.

## CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH 'SLUGS' & COIN-LIKE INGOTS



*U.S. Assay Office \$50 slug. This one sold recently for US\$110,000*

This fifty dollar octagonal gold coin—also known as a “slug”—was produced in 1851 in San Francisco. After the California gold rush began in 1849, it became apparent that a mint should be established on the West Coast to remove the need to ship the gold back to Philadelphia to be minted. Prior to Congress approving the San Francisco mint in 1852, California’s delegates passed a bill in 1850 establishing the U.S. Assay Office to assay (weigh and test purity of) gold and mint coins in San Francisco. Augustus Humbert was appointed to serve as the U.S. Assayer in San Francisco. He brought dies engraved by Charles C. Wright to produce coins made by Moffat & Company. On the obverse, or front, of the coin is a spread-winged eagle on the U.S. shield resting upon a rock; in its claws are an olive branch and arrows. Above the eagle is a cartouche containing the coin’s degree of fineness, in this case 887 thousandths. Within the circle is the text “*United States of America / FIFTY DOLLARS.*” Around the edge are the words “*Augustus Humbert United States Assayer of Gold California 1851.*” On the reverse is a spiral pattern created by and known as “engine turning.” This fifty dollar octagonal gold coin—also known as a “slug”—was produced in 1851 in San Francisco. On the reverse is a spiral pattern created by and known as “engine turning.”

California was originally part of Mexico. Hostilities between the U.S. and Mexico were sparked in part by territorial disputes between Mexico and the Republic of Texas, and later by the American annexation of Texas in 1845. Several battles between U.S. and Mexican troops led the United States Congress to issue a declaration of war against Mexico on May 13, 1846; the Mexican–American War had begun. Word of the conflict reached Alta California about a month later. The U.S. Army and Navy invaded. After 1847 California was under U.S. Military occupation.

The *Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo* formally ended the Mexican–American War in February 1848. For \$15,000,000, and the assumption of U.S. debt claims against Mexico, the new state of Texas's boundary claims were settled, and New Mexico, California, and the unsettled territory of several future states of the American Southwest were added to U.S. control.

The unexpected discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848 produced a spectacular gold rush in Northern California, attracting hundreds of thousands of ambitious young men from around the world. Only a few struck it rich, and many returned home disappointed.

California was given statehood by U.S. Congress on September 9, 1850.

Coinage was scarce in the period of California’s gold rush. Even Mexican coins were used. Because gold was widely available a broad category of privately-issued coin-like items that were used in place of official currency in the United States territory (later a state) of California during the gold rush of 1849.

Since the U.S. Government reserves the right to issue legal tender coins, The term California gold coinage is a misnomer and actually references coin-like ingots with a stated tender value, tokens with a stated tender value (denominated), and tokens without a stated tender value (non-denominated). These items are only classified as an ingot if the value of the metal was close to the tender value marked on the piece. It has been common practice among numismatists to label these coin-like ingots and tokens as 'coins', while labelling non-denominated tokens as 'tokens'.

Additionally small *California Gold* coins and tokens have been made in many locations other than California, often with a claim of being from California on the piece.



A number of coin-like ingots were produced from 1849 until 1856 in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, and \$50. Many of these were made by well-known assayers. Some of these achieved circulation on the east coast of the United States. All are highly valued.

There were fractional dollar 'coins' too: -

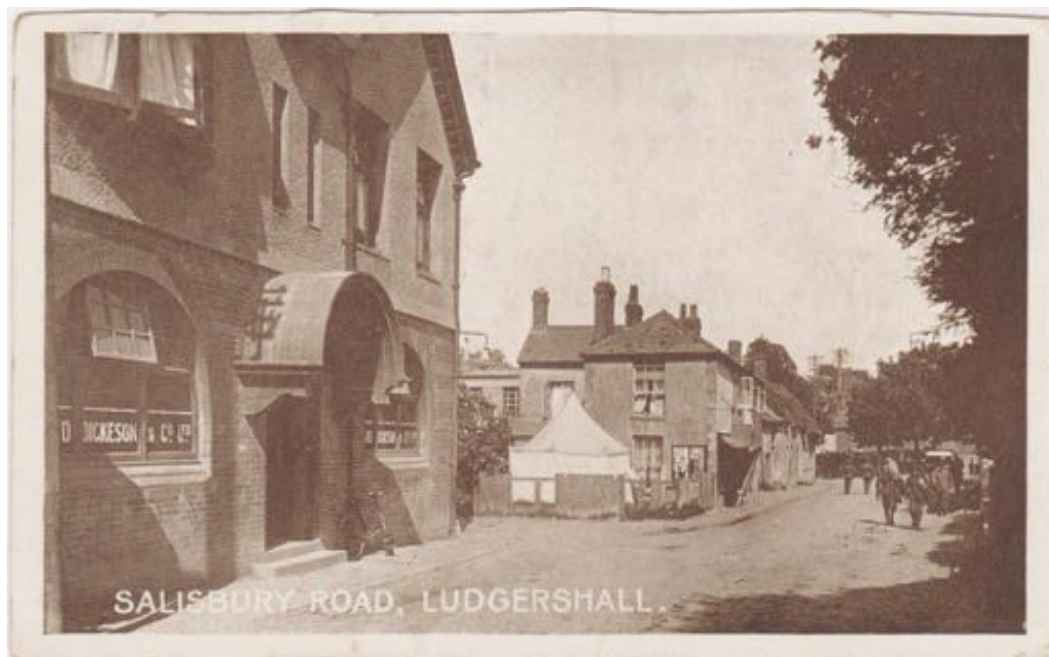


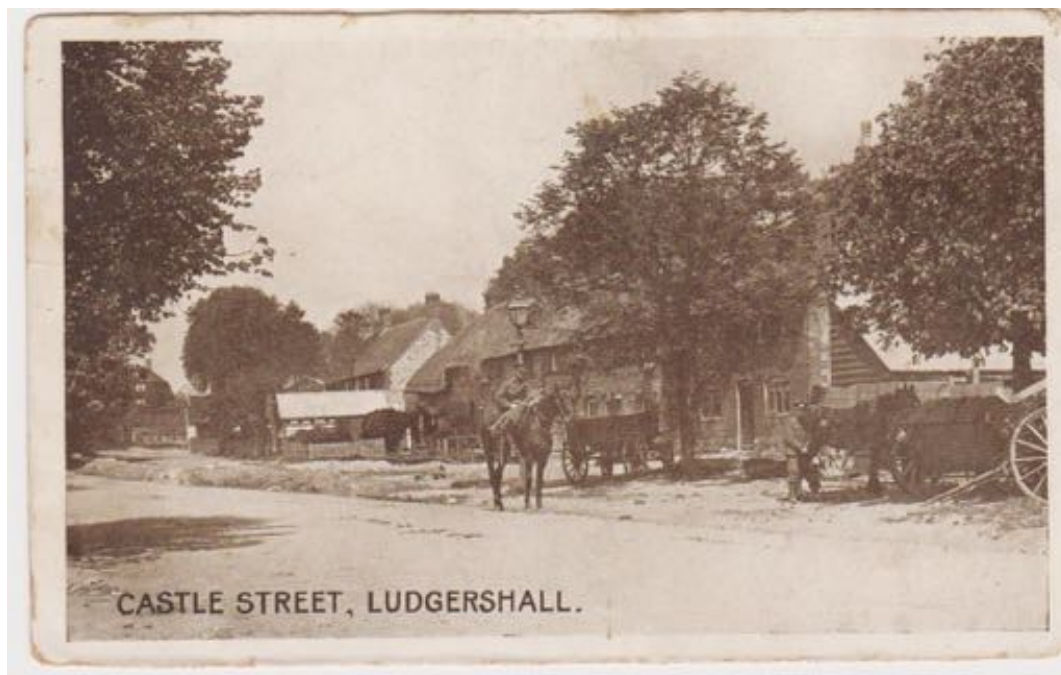
*California was awash with gold after 1848, but not much coinage for trading*



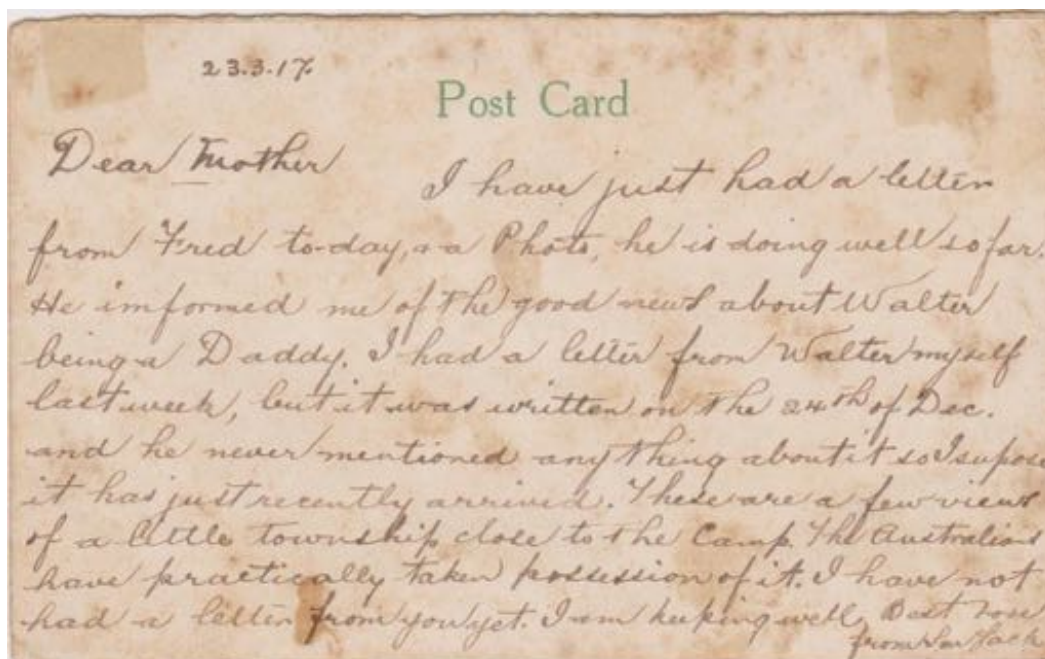
## FROM FOUR POSTCARDS OF LUDGERSHALL

In May this year your editor received what looked to be three rather dreary postcards showing images of the village of Ludgershall in Wiltshire in England. They were gratis and were added to some e-bay purchases. They were the sort of postcards that often sell for dollar or less, if they sell at all. They were neither stamped nor postmarked...all a bit ho-hum.





When you looked at the pencilled text on the back of one of them, they suddenly became a lot more interesting.



"23.3.17

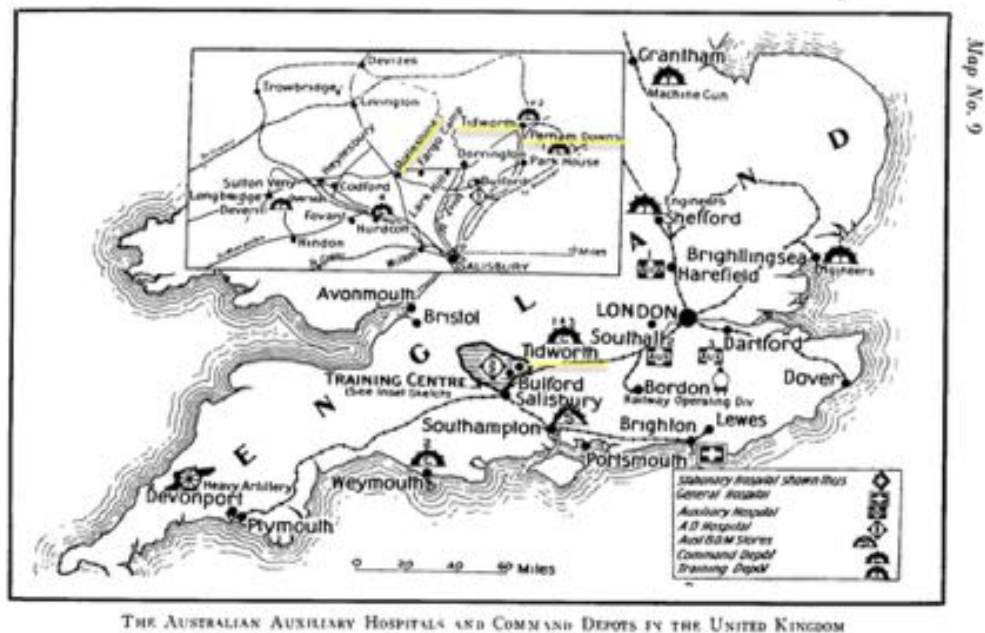
Dear Mother

I have just had a letter from Fred to-day, & a photo. He is doing well so far. He informed me of the good news about Walter being a Daddy. I had a letter from Walter myself last week, but it was written on the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. and he never mentioned anything about it so I suppose it has just recently arrived. These are a few views of a little township close to the Camp. The Austrians have practically taken possession of it. I have not had a letter from you yet. I am keeping well. Best love.

From Son Jack".

This Australian connection was worth research further.

It turned out that Ludgershall, and neighbouring Tidworth, were surrounded by several important World War I, Salisbury Plain, A.I.F. Camps.



From mid-1916, A.I.F. troops arriving in England from Australia were trained at three military depots around Ludgershall. The aim had been to turn them into soldiers who were prepared for trench warfare in Belgium and France.

An example the syllabus was: -

The No. 1 Training Company of the 15th Training Battalion covered warfare topics in the last 3 weeks of its 14-week training program. Instruction included:

- wiring
- firing rifle grenades
- firing the Lewis light machine gun
- dealing with a gas attack
- using bombs (hand grenades)
- using the bayonet
- routines in the trenches

After completing training in England, the troops received an extra 10 days of training at the major British base depot at Etaples, near Boulogne, on the French coast. British officers subjected them to a strict medical check and some military 'tests', such as practising their response to gas attacks.

At that time any casualties not expected to return to duty in France within a month were evacuated to Britain. After treatment patients were discharged to various Command depots including those around Ludgershall. Those not expected to be fit within six months were sent to Weymouth on the south coast, whence they were repatriated to Australia.

The purpose of the Command depots was to progressively improve the health of the sick or wounded man after his discharge from hospital, with the aim of returning him to active service.





*Officer Training Corps arriving at Ludgershall Railway Station & marching through Ludgershall on the way to Camp.*

## THE CAMPS

There were three camps used by the A.I.F. around Ludgershall: - Tidworth, Perham Downs and Windmill Hill.

**Tidworth Camp** was originally established when the British War Office acquired *Tedworth House* and large tracts of land to the north of the house in 1897. By 1916 this camp was extensive.



*The Military Barracks at Tidworth*

Tidworth Military Hospital was finished in 1907. Five more sets of barracks were added to Tidworth's Lucknow and Mooltan Barracks later. A Royal Ordnance depot was established in 1915.

A branch from the Midland and South Western Junction Railway at Ludgershall was built in 1901 and opened to passengers in 1902. Goods tracks known as Tidworth Military Railway continued from Tidworth station into the military area.

Tidworth became the headquarters for the Australian Imperial Force in the U.K. from mid-1916, being close to the numerous Wiltshire camps where the Australians were based during the war. For most of 1919, HQ staff at Tidworth were busy in the repatriation of Australian troops, with at any one time up to 40,000 men in these Wiltshire camps. Tidworth Military Cemetery contains the graves of 159 Australians, many of whom died in the influenza epidemic during the winter of 1918-19.

The number of Australian troops in Britain, and the resulting need for support services, led to the creation of a large Australian military organisation in Britain. Command of Australian troops was divided throughout the war. The Administrative HQ in Horseferry Road in London was responsible for the administration of all of the AIF overseas, for medical services and for liaison with the War Office. AIF UK Depots at Tidworth Camp on Salisbury Plain was responsible for training, for the command depots and for discipline. The majority of the personnel of the training depots were men on six-month secondment from frontline units in France, but there were a substantial number of Australian personnel permanently based in Britain.



*Changing the Guard AIF HQs of Base depot at Tidworth*



*Tidworth Barracks had its own Military Post Office. The postmarker shows 'ANDOVER' as it was the nearest large military post office sorting centre and town.*



*Tidworth Military Hospital*

**The Tidworth Military Cemetery** was set up to serve the barracks. It includes the war graves of 423 Commonwealth service personnel of the First World War. 100 were from New Zealand and 159 were from Australia, many of whom died during the influenza outbreak in late-1918 to 1919. Troops could not return to Australia because we were under strict quarantine.



*Tidworth Military Cemetery today*



*Tidworth Military Cemetery in 1919*

### **Perham Downs**

Conveniently situated a mile from Ludgershall station, Perham Down was initially used at the outbreak of war by some of the new Kitchener battalions. In 1916 Australia's **No.1 Command Depot** was established at Perham Down, accommodating 4,000 men, until it moved to Sutton Veny in October 1917.

Unlike many camps built in Wiltshire during the War, Perham Down continued with many of the wooden huts being replaced by brick buildings and continues to be used as one of the major garrisons on the Salisbury Plain.

Perham Downs was also the site of an Australian Military Hospital.

The Pioneer Training Battalion was based at Perham Down. Perham Downs also housed the 1st Division's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Training Battalions until they moved to Durrington in July 1917 and then in turn to Sutton Veny on October 1917.

The Overseas Training Brigade which prepared men who were discharged from hospital, by 'toughening' them up for their return to France, was formed here in June 1917. They moved to Sand Hill (Longbridge Deverille) near Sutton Veny in October 1917.

Australian troops referred to it as "Perishing Downs" because of the harsh conditions, especially at the sister camp at Windmill Hill.





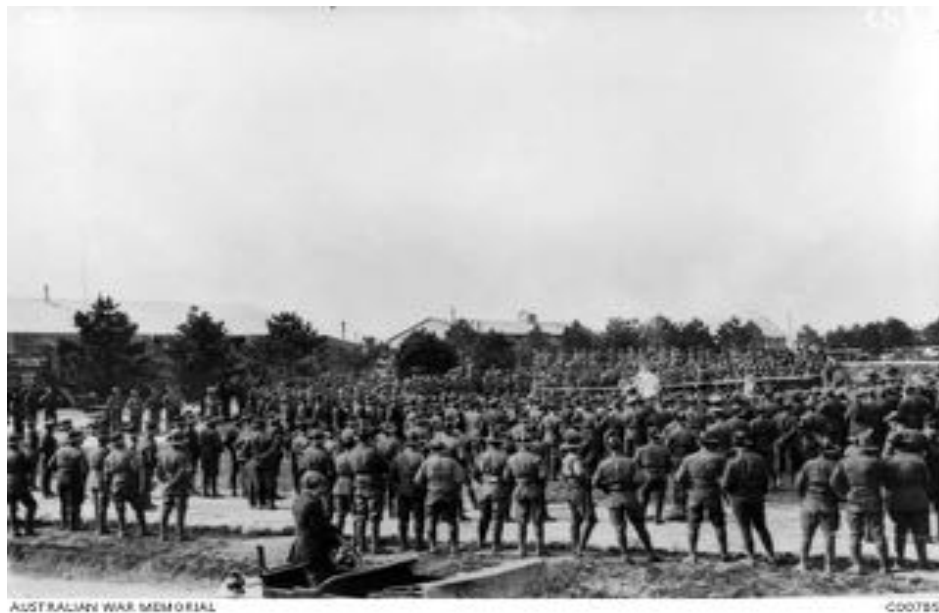
Perham Downs Military Post Office was operated by the A.I.F. in late-1916 to 1917. It used an **A.I.F. Camp P.O.** postmarker.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01276

*A section of the Perham Downs camp*



*A boxing match at Perham Downs Camp as the AIF look on*

**Windmill Hill Camp** was the worst camp. It was all tents.

Conditions there were abominable, especially in winter with 4,000 troops parading in the mud and snow.

It was used before World War I as a summer camp, but due its proximity to Tidworth and Ludgershall and to railways it meant that when War came, Windmill Hill was used all-year-round.



*The tents of the windmill Hill Camp can be seen in the background from the Tidworth Rly Stn*





Lettercard to Victoria from Windmill Hill camp, Ludgershall from I McIntyre postmarked **Windmill Hill** on 13 June 1917. This post office was operated by the British Army. From the Lara RSL Victoria collection The picture side shows 2 images of Tidworth





*'Then & now' images of Windmill Hil Camp*

Staff were busy at all three Camps at the end of the War with the repatriation of troops in 1919. At that time there were 40,000 Australian and New Zealand troops in these camps.

There was another camp used by the A.I.F. on the Salisbury Plain called Larkhill. This was near Dorrington, to the north of Ludgershall. It was 16km north of Salisbury.

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OWNER:

VALUE\$

NZ POST's new *Cakes & Bakes* stamp issue of 1 July 2020

