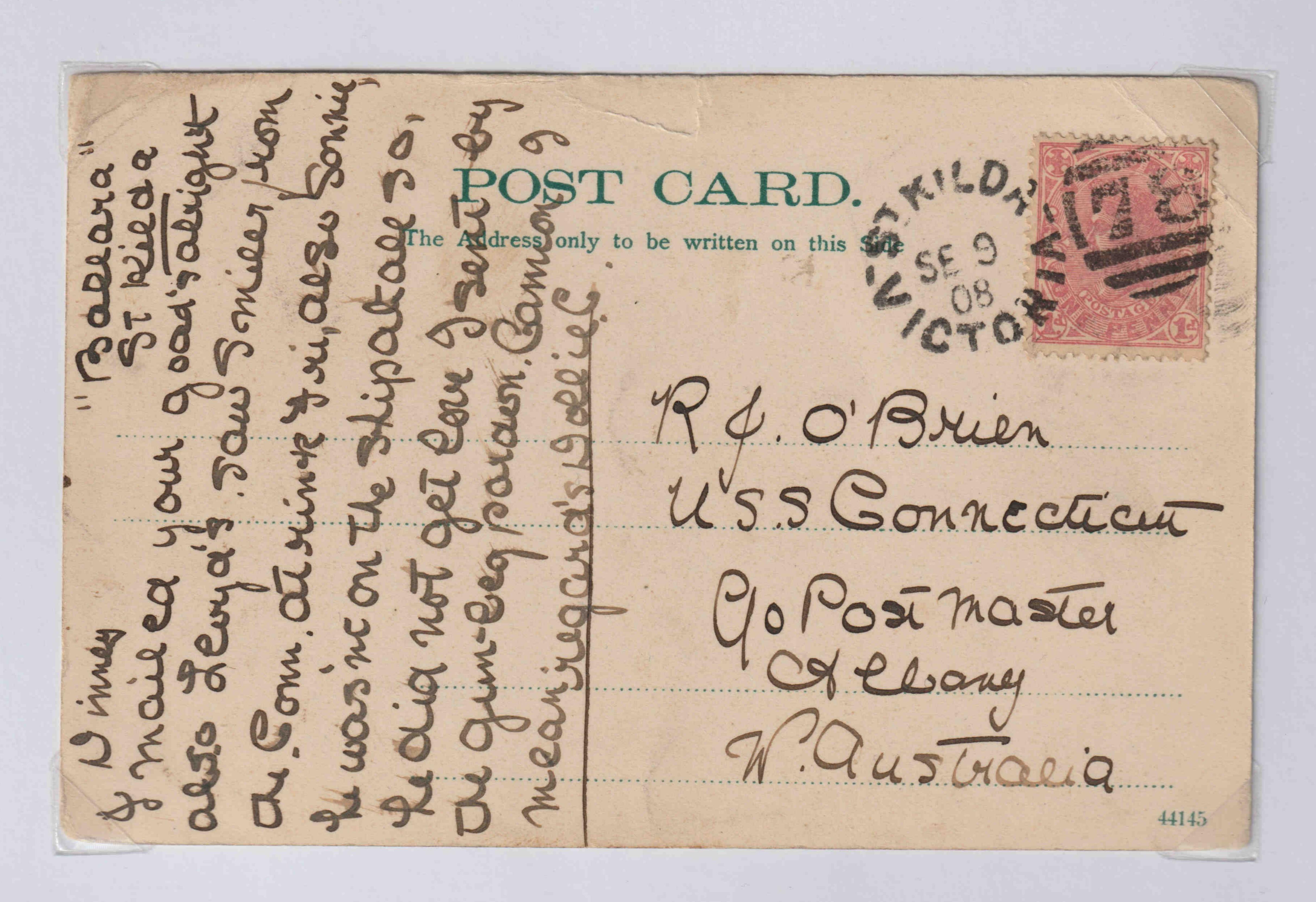
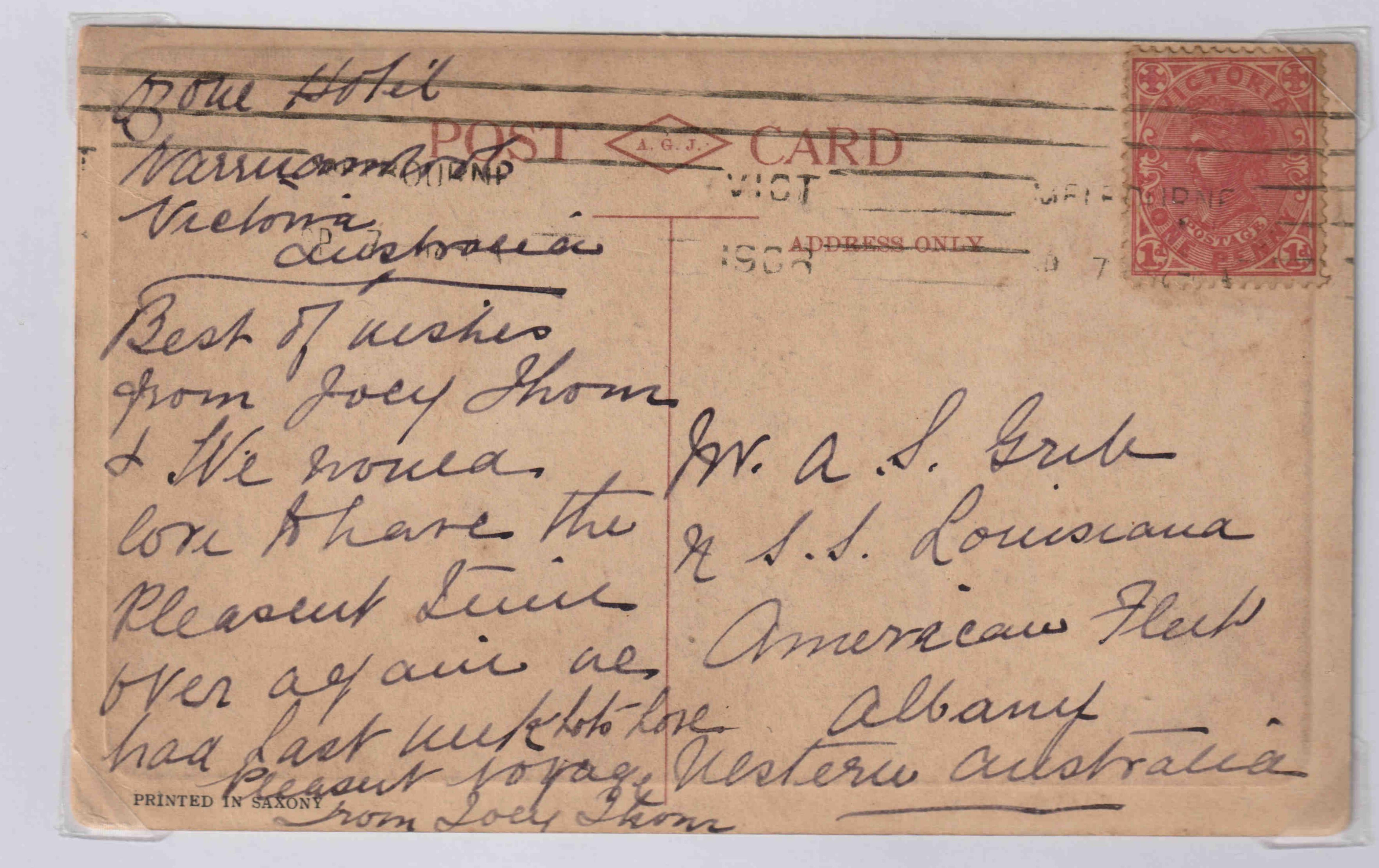
PREVIOUS PORTS

These are the only recorded examples of inwards mail from a previous port – Melbourne. View of Collins Street, Melbourne St. Kilda 9 September 1908



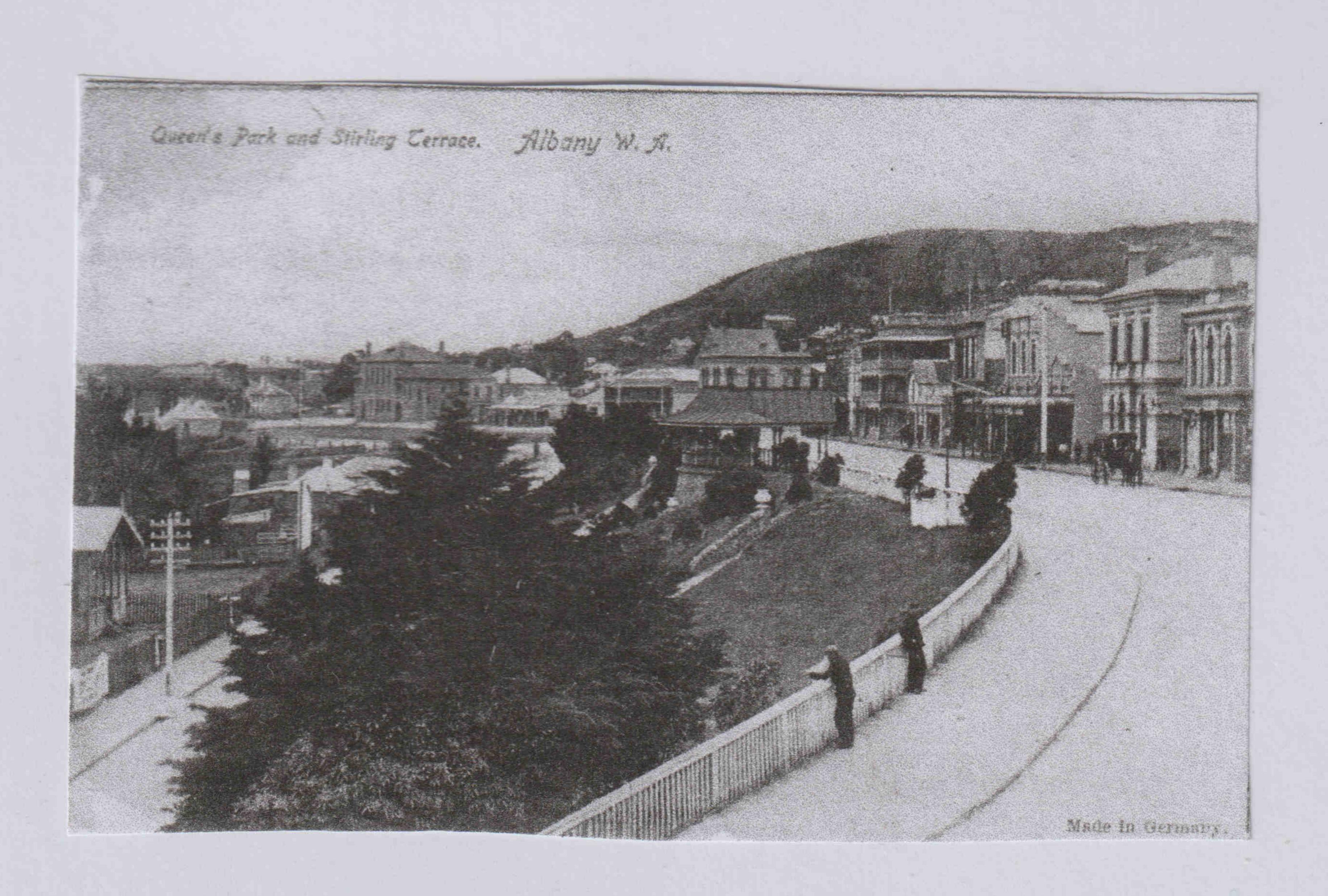


Princess Bridge, Melbourne Ozone Hotel, Warrnambool Melbourne 7 September 1908

PREVIOUS PORTS

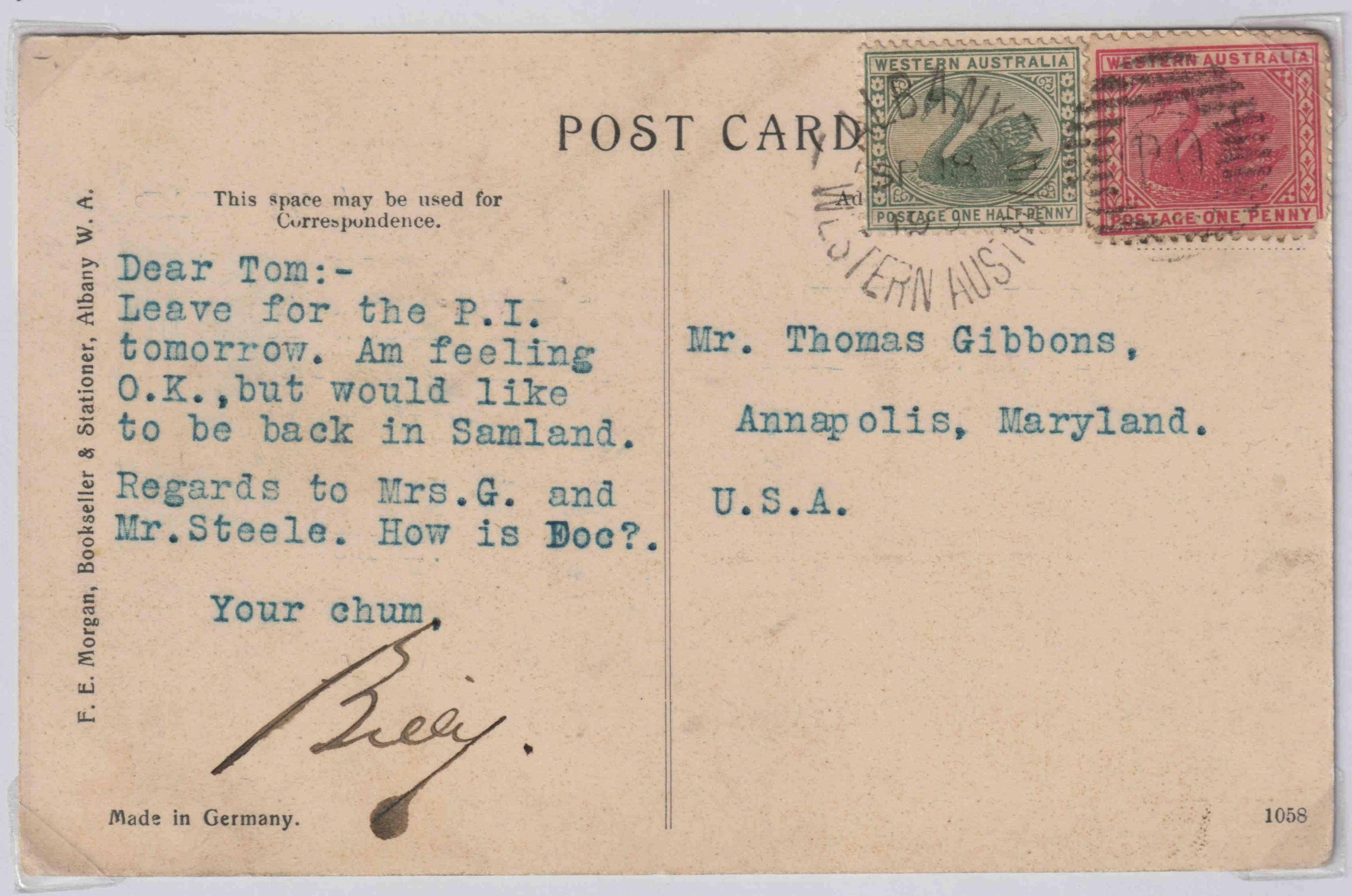
This is the only recorded correspondence to a previous port – Auckland. F.E. Morgan card Queen's Park and Stirling Terrace Albany Albany 16 September 1908

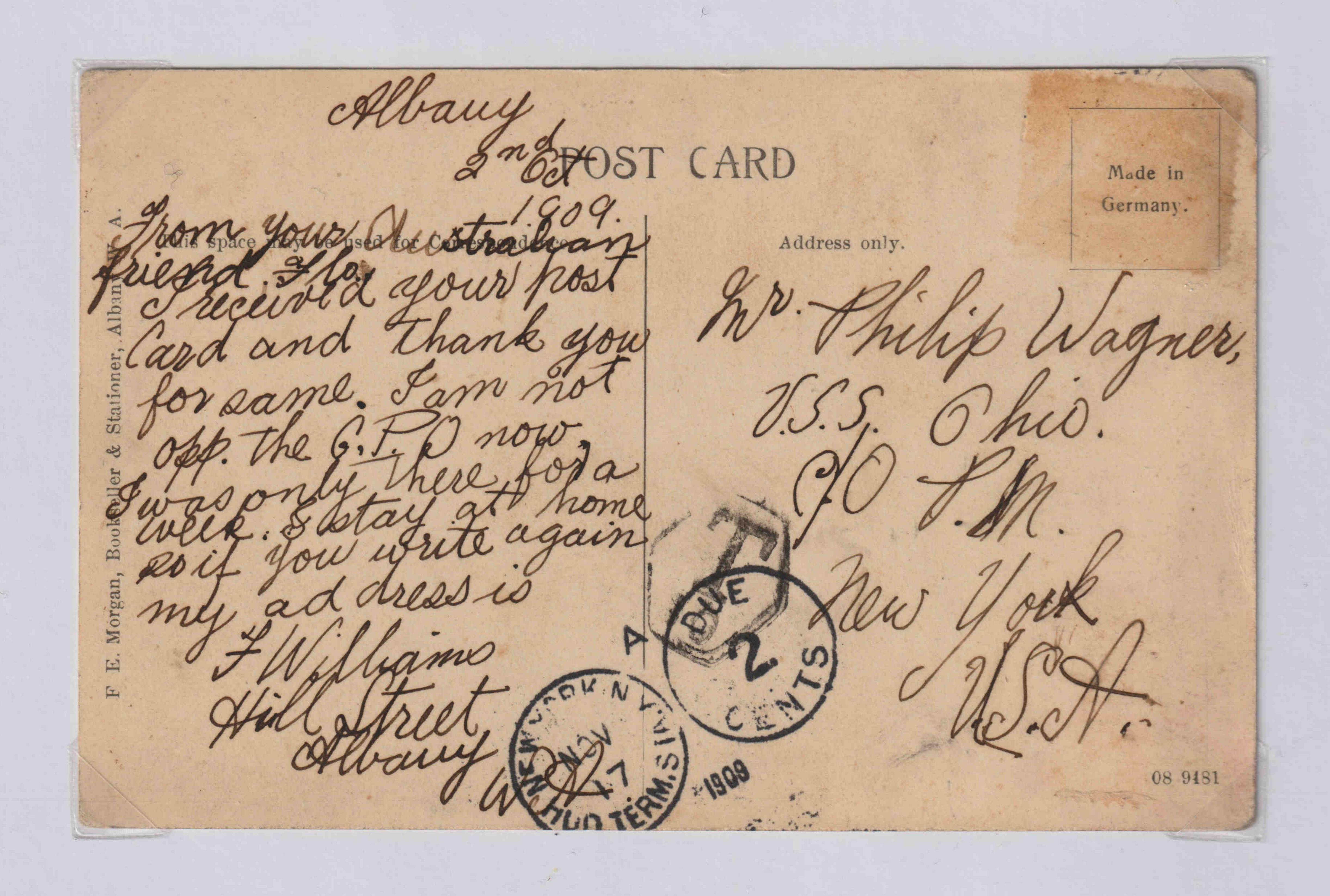




DEPARTURE

F.E. Morgan card view of Albany 18 September 1908





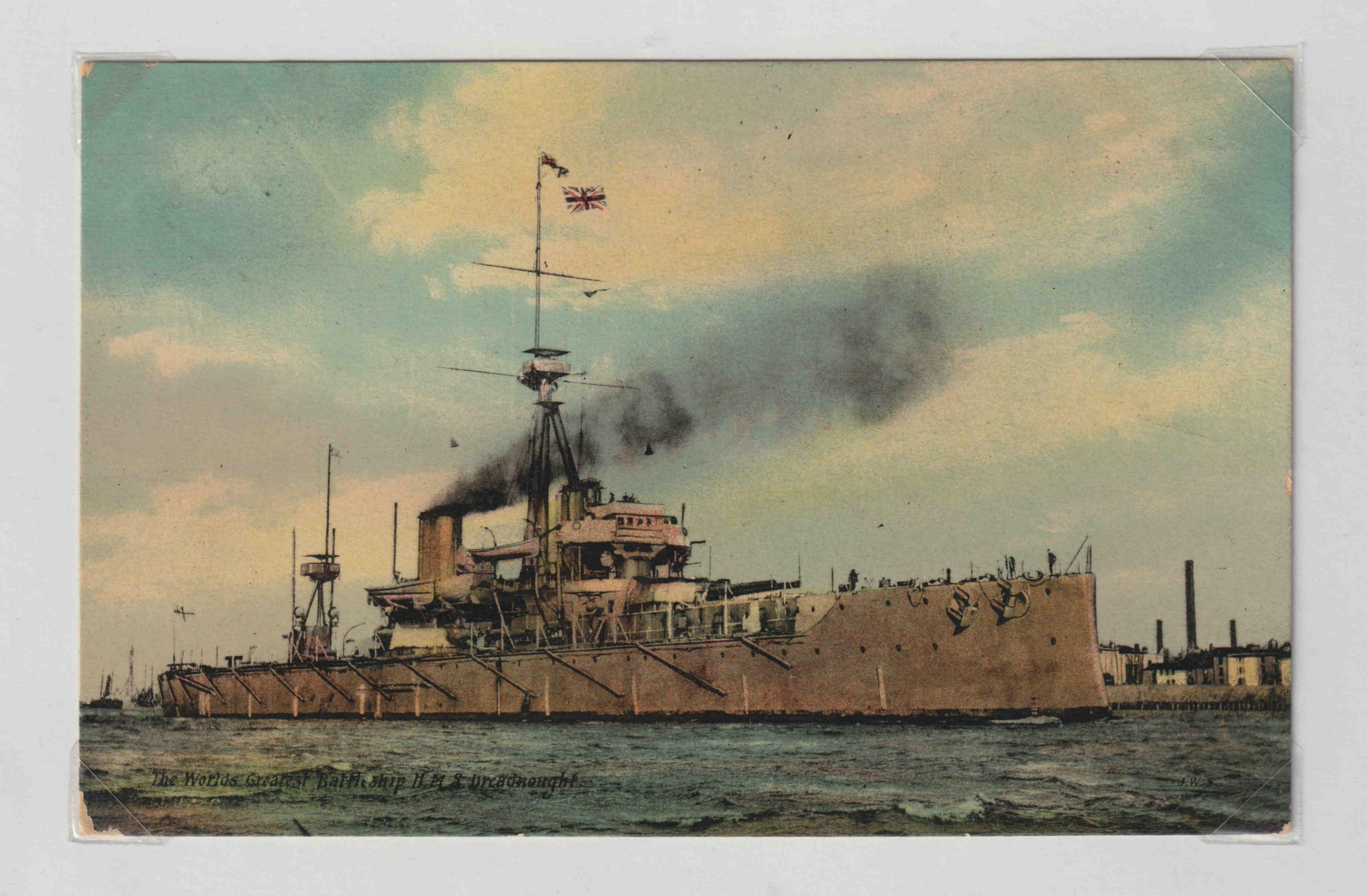
This is the only recorded item of subsequent Fleet correspondence. 1d stamp removed. Albany 2 October 1909, New York due 2 cents 17 November

SECTION C

HMS DREADNOUGHT

HMS Dreadnought was the British battleship whose construction started the Great Naval Race between Britain, Germany and the United States. No British battleship was in Australian waters until 1945. HMS Powerful was the only significant ship the Great White Fleet saw on the Australian Station at Sydney. The Royal Navy Australian Station was responsible for a quarter of the Southern Hemisphere below the Equator but was regarded by the Royal Navy as a "social station where, by mutual consent, not much work was done."

Following the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of 1902 the Royal Navy reduced its presence at Sydney while retaining Singapore. Surveys of the Western Australian coast continued but there was a reduction in the number of British naval ships calling at Fremantle and Albany. "Thought you might like to see our "big gun boat." Poole 22 May 1907



The Table below shows the recorded number of warship visits to Fremantle and [in square brackets] British survey ships and (in brackets) the number of non-British warships. The number of Royal Australian Navy ships in transit to Sydney are shown in bold.

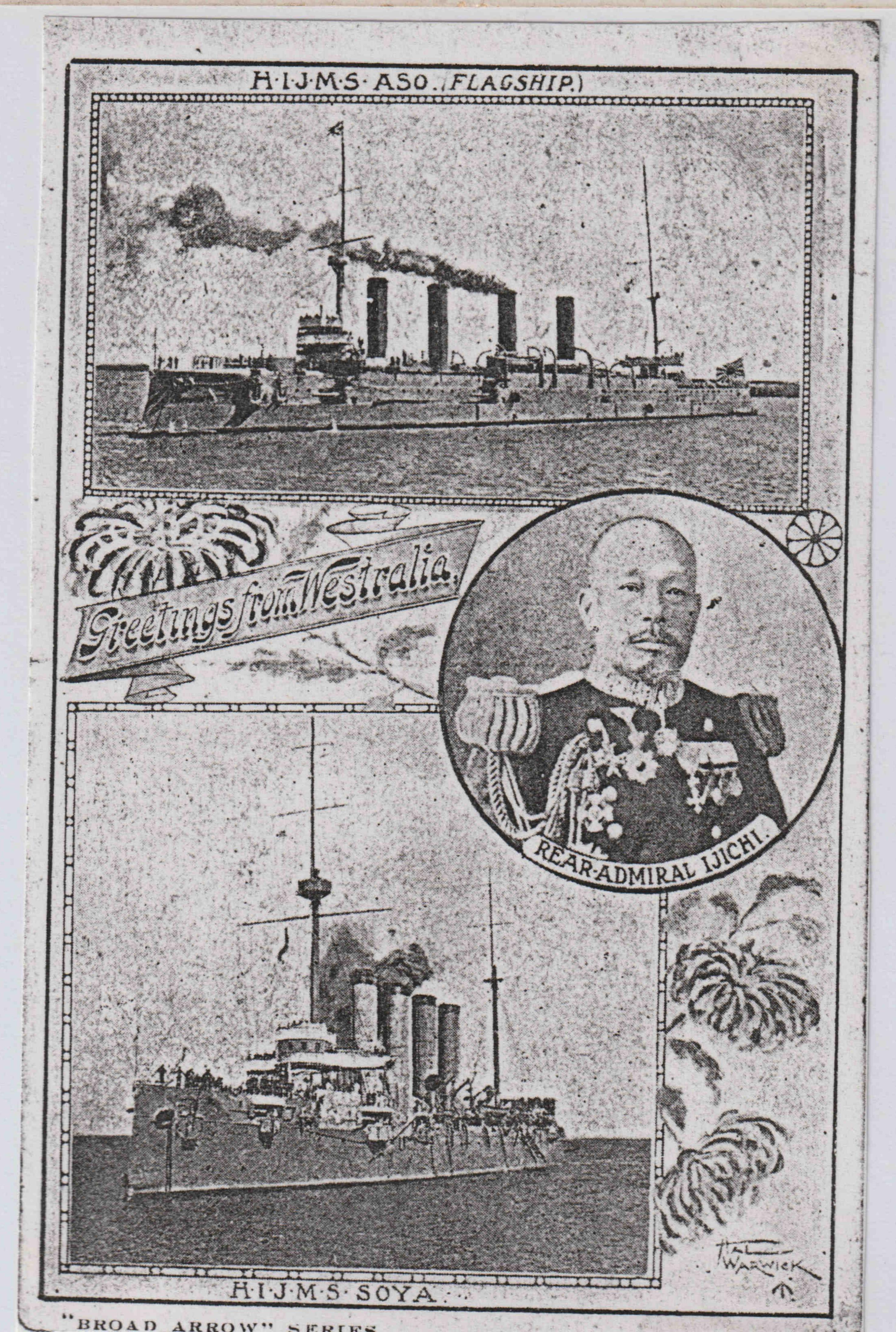
1829-1900 90 1901-1908 1908-1914 37

JAPANESE NAVAL VISIT 1910

The Anglo-Japanese Treaty of 1902 meant that the Japanese Navy was available for the defence of Australia. The HIJMS Aso and HIJMS Soya paid a goodwill visit to Albany and Fremantle in May 1910.

Postmarked Perth 27 June 1910





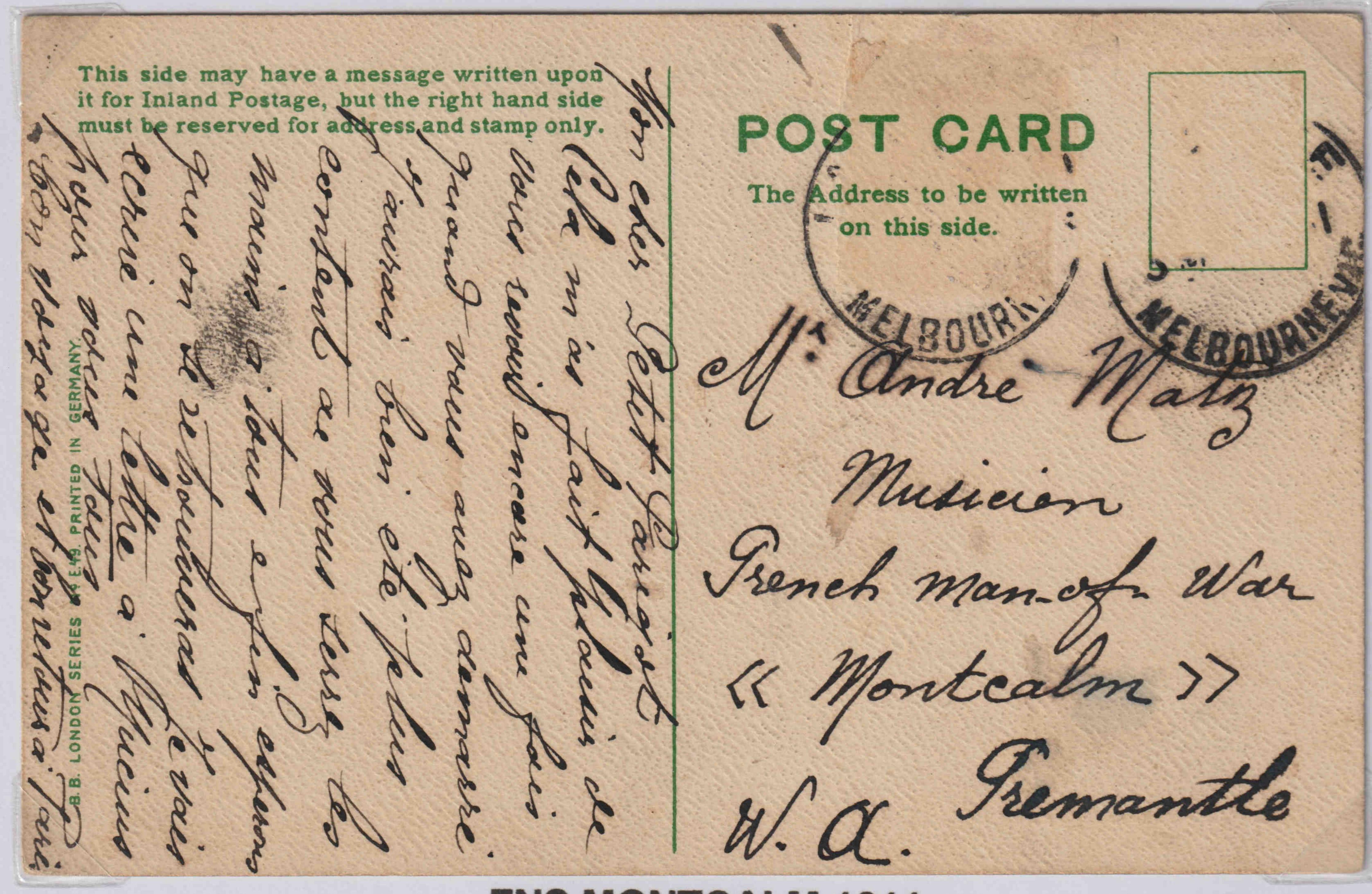
SMS POMMERN 1910

SMS Pommern was a pre-Dreadnought battleship and was the only battleship sunk in World War 1 when it was lost with all hands at the Battle of Jutland 1916.

Pope and Thomas (1982) recorded 7200 unsurfaced 1d postcards were supplied and rated used as Rare.

Indistinct Balbarrup 26 September 1910, much redirected





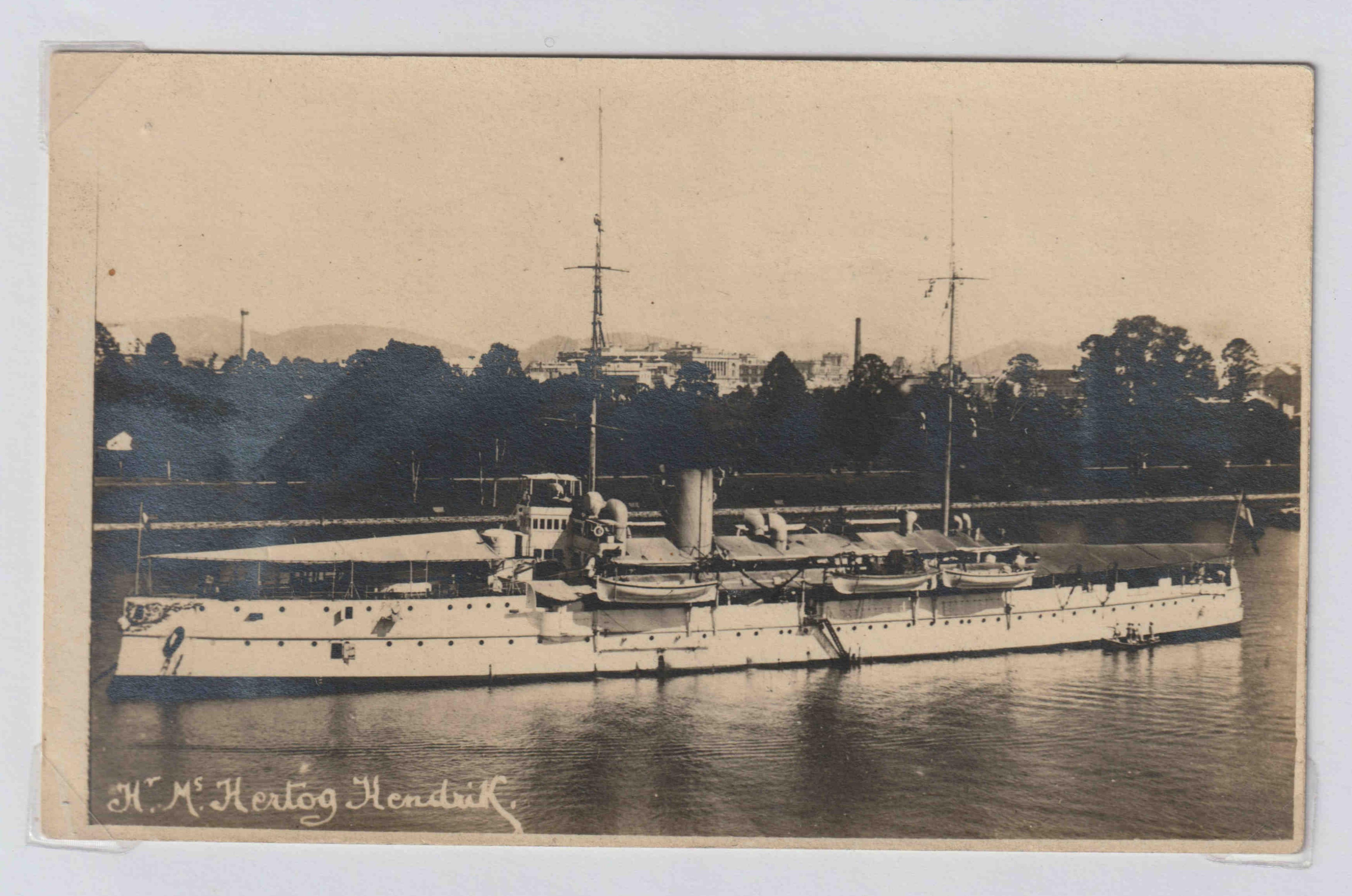
FNS MONTCALM 1911

Armoured cruiser Montcalm was in Fremantle from 15 February to 21 February 191 en route from Melbourne to Batavia.

Melbourne, stamp removed

DUTCH NAVAL VISIT 1910

Three Dutch warships visited Fremantle from 4th to 11th November 1910 en route from the eastern states to Sorabaya. To appreciate the significance of these visits it should be remembered that only three warships (all British) visited Fremantle at various times in 1908 and another three during 1909. The first Australian naval vessels arrived in 1910. Inscribed on back 'Departure of the Dutch Fleet Nov. 11th 1910".





HMS GIBRALTAR 1910

The cruiser HMS Gibraltar accompanied the Royal Australian Navy destroyers Parramatta and Yarra on their delivery voyage from Britain. Gibraltar arrived at Broome on 15 November 1910 where the destroyers passed to the control of the RAN before proceeding to Fremantle.

Real photo postcard, Broome 13 May 1911

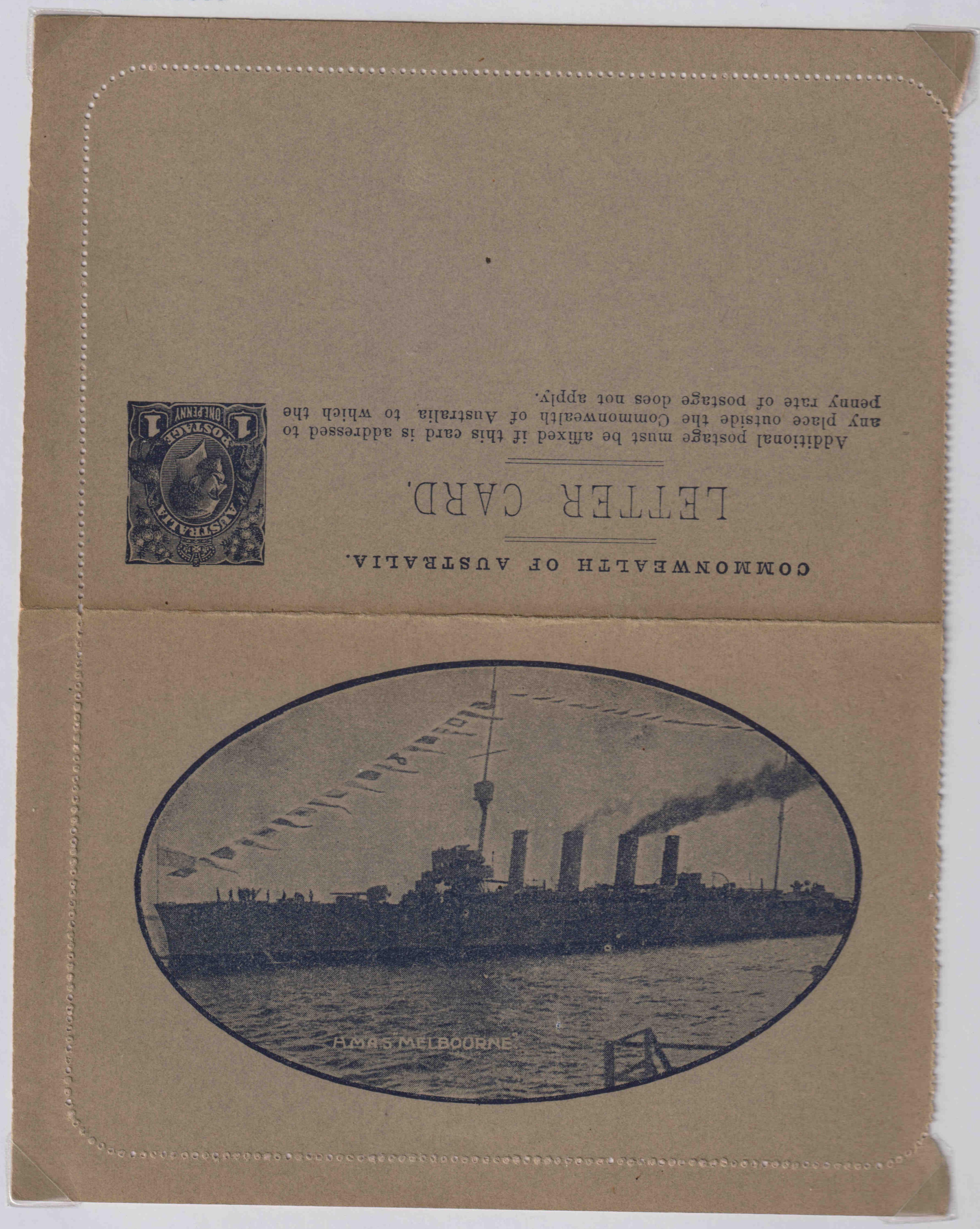


The Australian Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, was concerned with the diminishing British naval strength and issued the invitation to President Rooseveldt to send the Great White Fleet to visit Australia. The invitation was issued directly, rather than through Britain as protocol required, and was opposed by Churchill. The visit stimulated popular support for an Australian navy. A total of 6 destroyers, two light cruisers and a heavy cruiser were built in Britain for the Royal Australian Navy (a title given in 1911). The Royal Navy Australia Station was disbanded in 1911 and Australia took command of the command of the RAN in 1913 although it continued to function as part of the Royal Navy. NB The New Zealand Naval Forces were renamed in 1921 New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy.

HMAS MELBOURNE 1913

Light cruiser HMAS Melbourne completed her delivery voyage when she reached Fremantle on 10 March 1913. She departed for Albany on 14 March but there is no recorded mail from either port. Such was the popular interest in the new RAN ships that the Postmaster General's Department issued a Lettercard with an illustration of HMAS Melbourne.

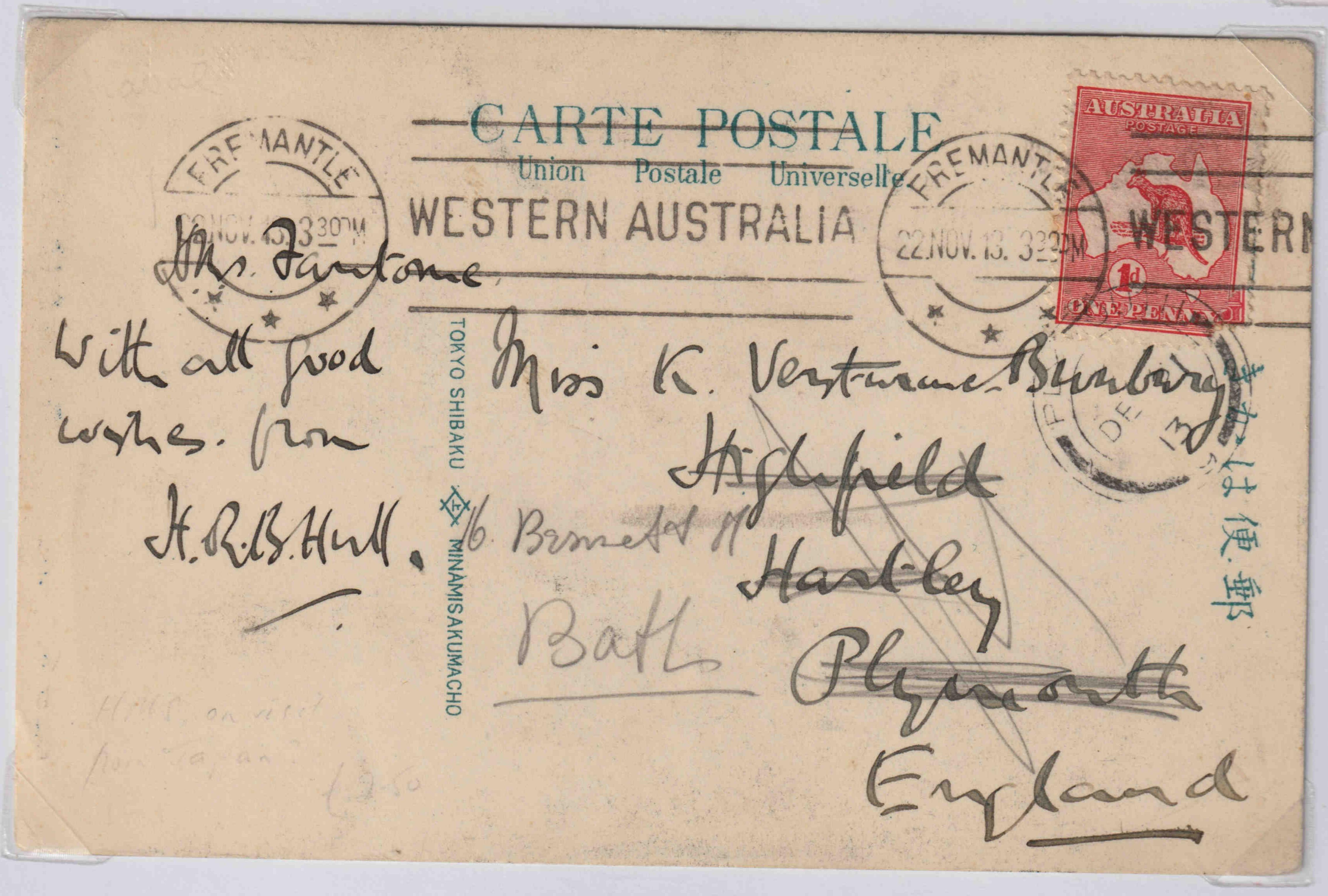
Plate B lettercard unused



JAPANESE NAVAL VISIT 1913

HIJMS Azuma (1st Class Cruiser) and HIMJS Soya visited Fremantle from 13 to 18 January 1913.





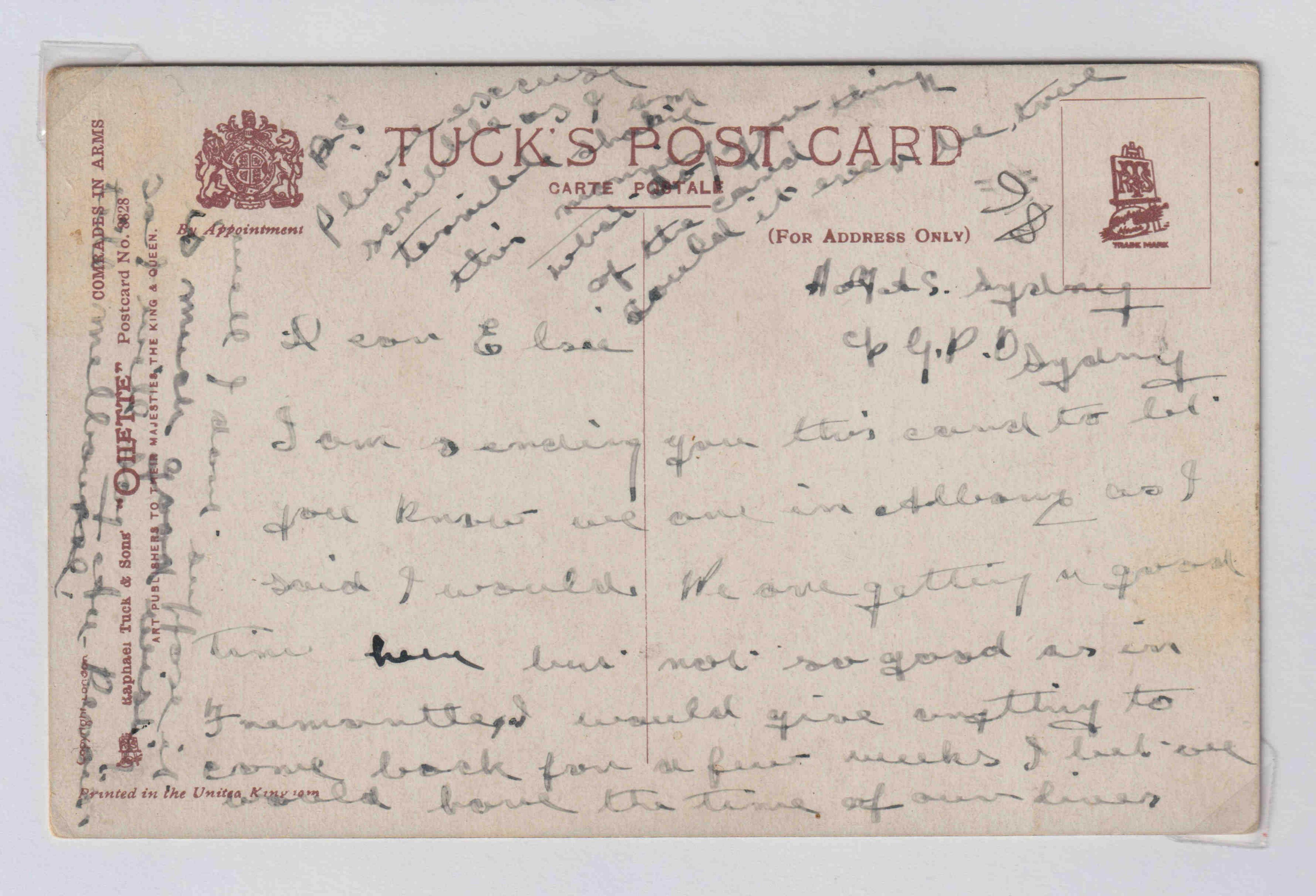
HMS FANTOME 1913

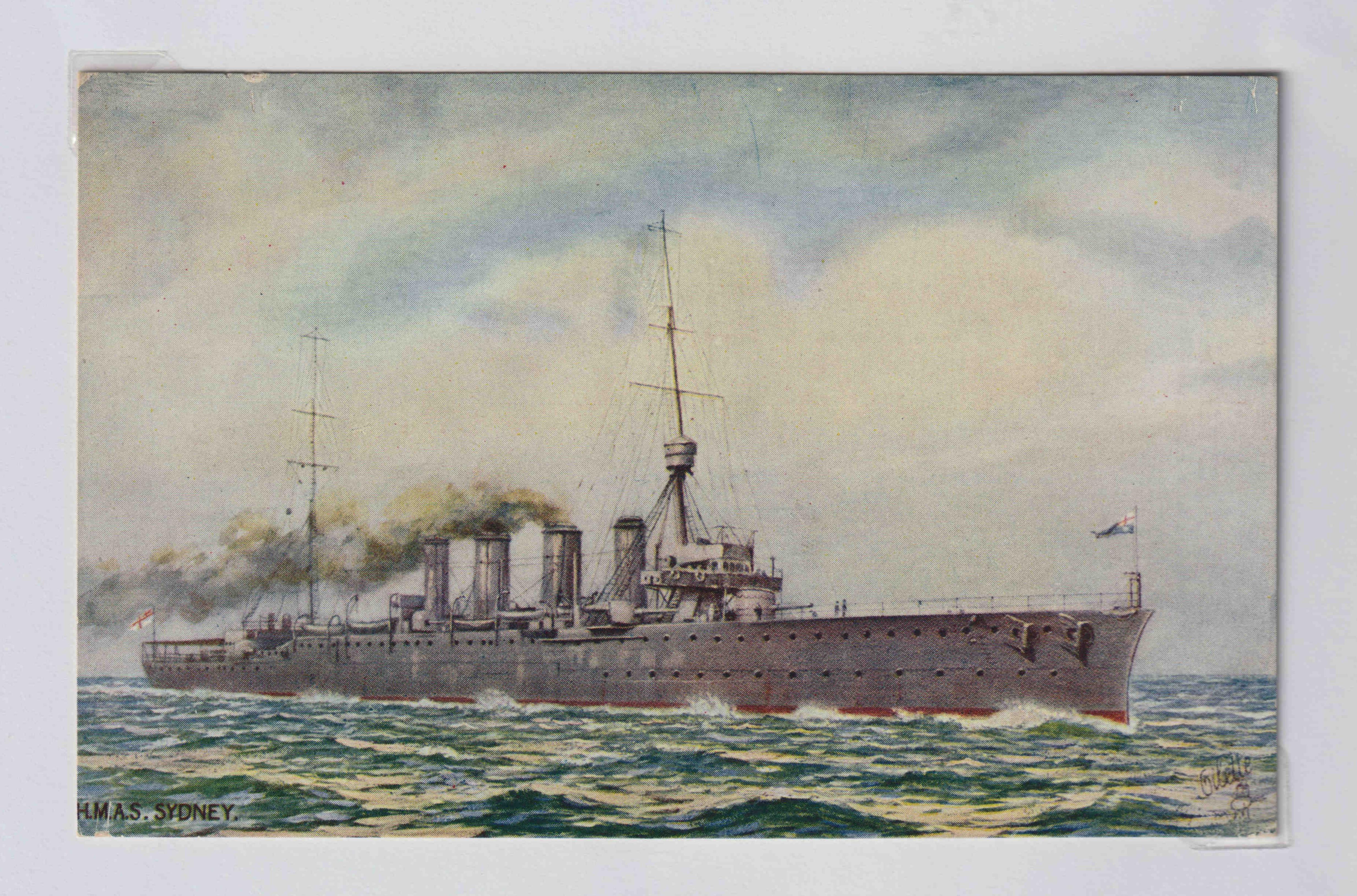
HMS Fantome was attached to the RAN and this card was posted on return to port after surveying around Broome.

Fremantle 22 November 1913, Plymouth 21 December

HMAS Sydney was in Albany between 19th and 27th September 1913 on her maiden voyage from England to Sydney.

Tuck 'Oilette' No. 8628 Comrades in Arms

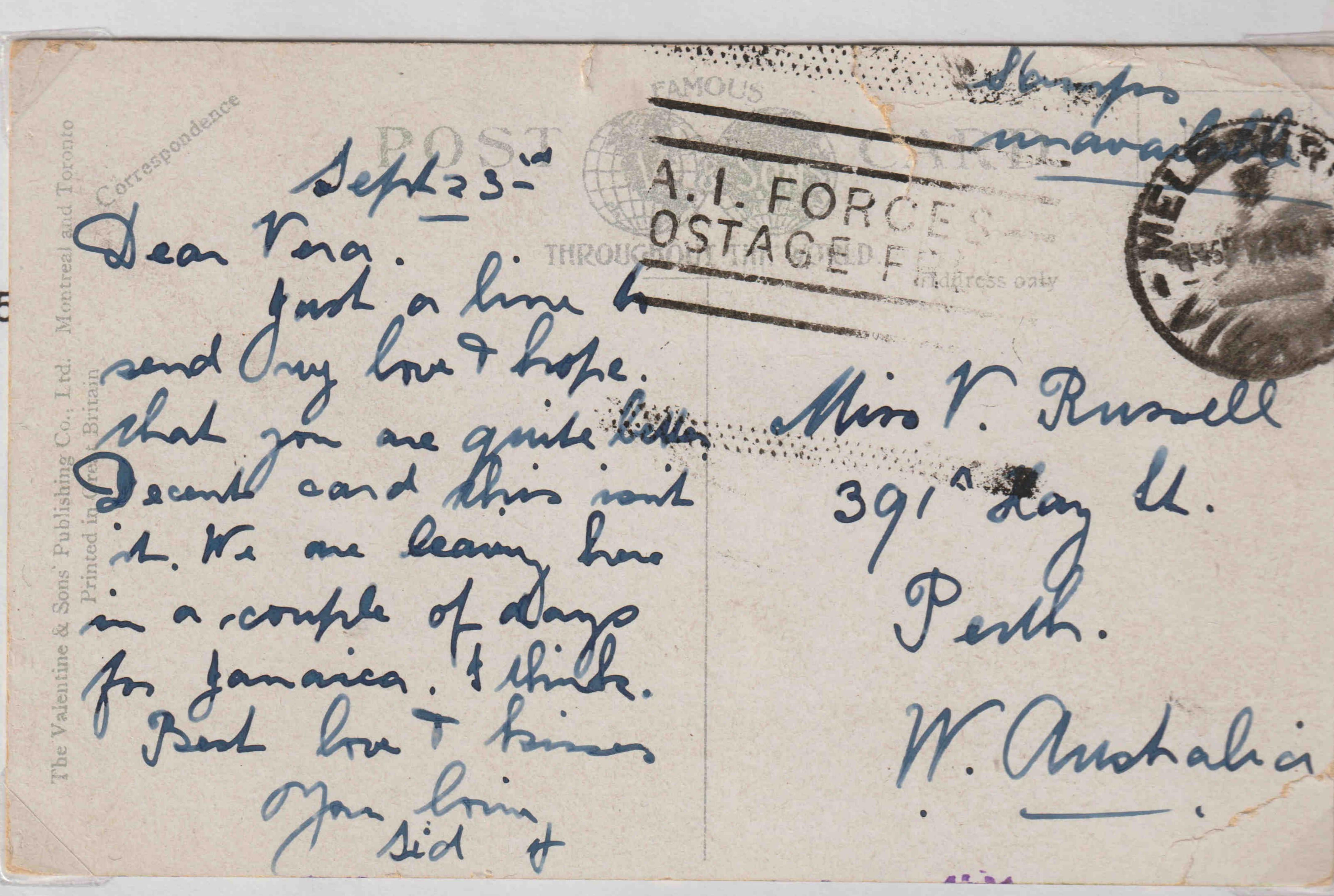




Tuck 'Oilette' No. 8758 HMAS Sydney Cruiser. Commissioned 1913, 5,600 tons

Haynes and Pope (1997, pp. 223-6) record 5 cards written by Sid to Miss Russell in Western Australia. This card is the only naval WW 1 item recorded in the past 30 years. Sid continued his running commentary on HMAS Sydney's movements and the censors did not see fit to take action.

"We are leaving here in a couple of days for Jamaica." PPC Halifax, N.S. Dated 23 September 1915 Stamps unavailable Melbourne 12 November 1915 AIF Forces Postage Free Struck in error



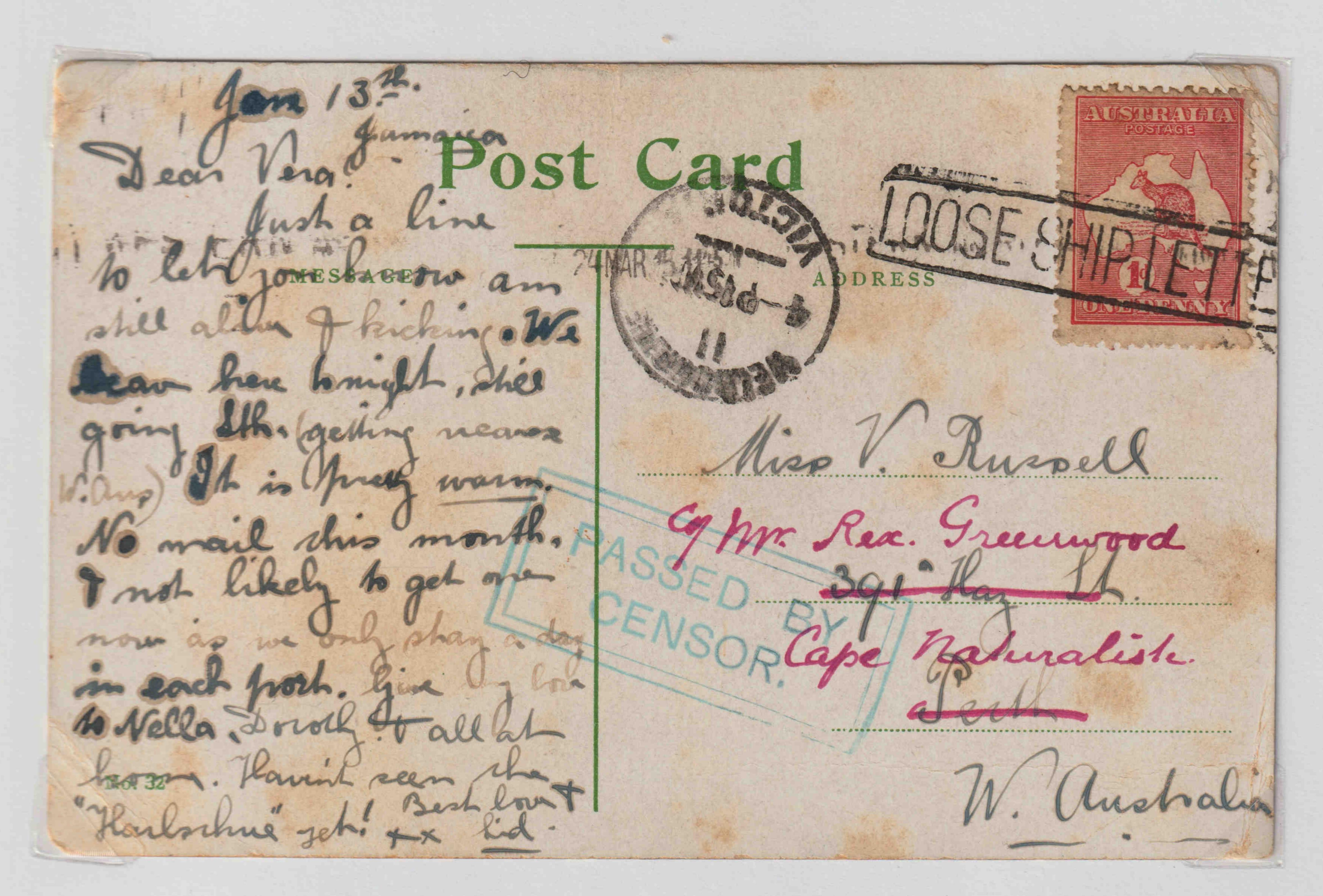
PPC. St Annes
Jamaica
Dated 4 January 1916
AIF Forces Postage Free
Victoria 12 February 1916
struck in error
censor cachet

HMAS Sydney patrolled West Indies waters uneventfully from January 1915 to September 1916.

Use of an Australian stamp cancelled by Melbourne Loose Ship Letter disguised location but message headed Jamaica Jan 13th.

"We leave tonight, still going south (getting nearer to W.Aus)... No mail this month & not likely to get one now as we only stay one day in each port ... Haven't seen the 'Karlsrhue' yet."

SMS Karlsrhue blew up en route to the West Indies.



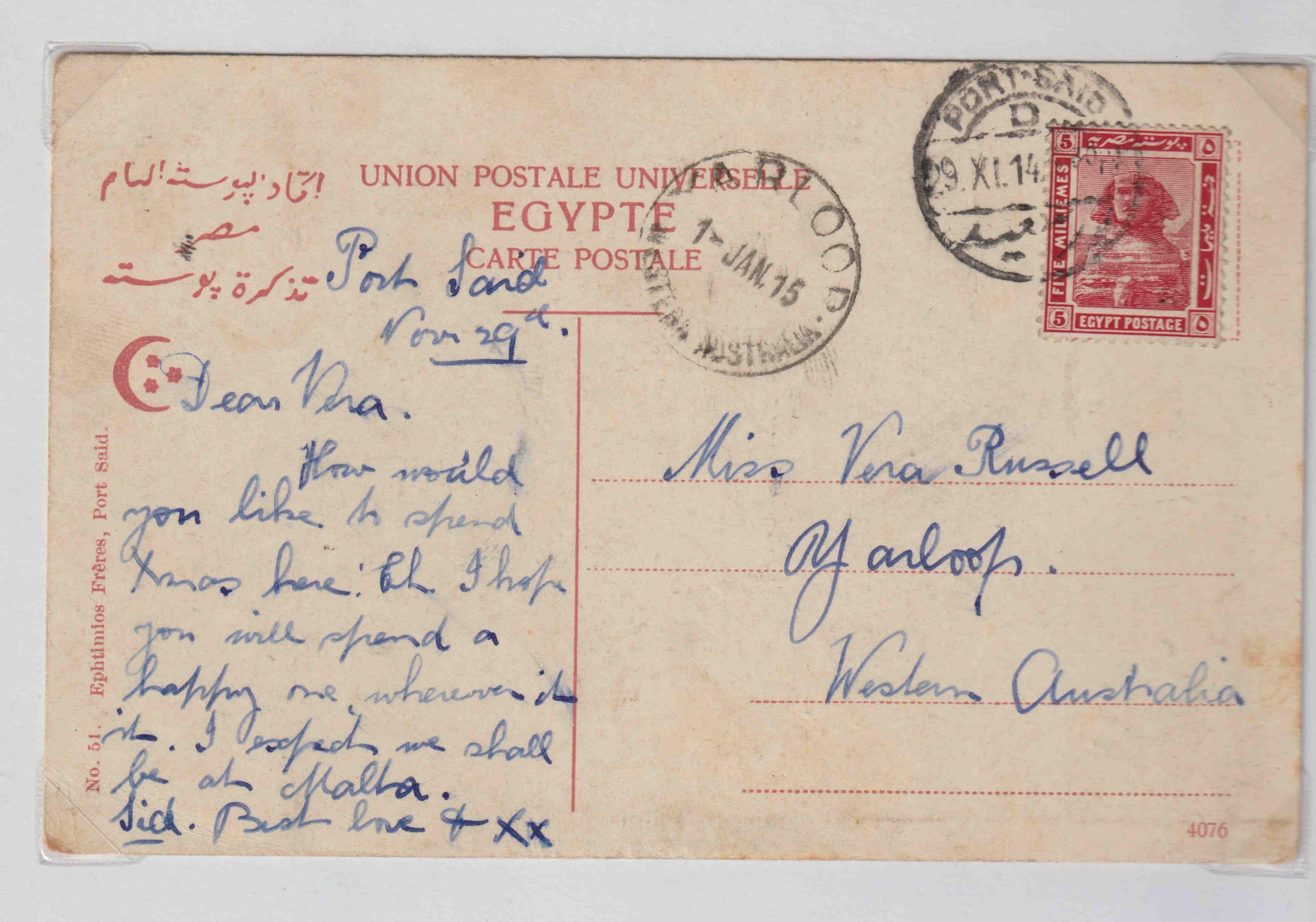
Melbourne
15 March 1915
Perth
Censor cachet

PPC Halifax N.S.
Dated 25 August 1915
AIF Forces Postage Free
Victoria 12 October
Struck in error
No stamp
Not taxed
Not censored



No mail to Western Australia from the ships escorting the First Convoy has been recorded. "On 11 February 1915, the Naval Censor informed the Naval Board that many RAN seamen's letters 'contain information concerning not only the past movements of ships, and their positions when the letters were posted, but also the future movement of men-of-war belonging to the Allies'." (Haynes and Pope, p. 436)

"I expect we will be In Malta." Port Said 29 November 1914 Not censored Yarloop 1 January 1915



Malta.

Dear Vera.

Lane had no mail

whatever got ! I we leave

to might, me shall be

backs in about 10 webs

mon I have had a

fine him him had a

ment dean. I had.

M. Chushalia

"Have had no mail
whatever yet!
We leave tonight and
will be back in about
10 weeks."
Valetta
2 December 1914
Malta censor cachet

Contrary to Sid's expectations, HMS Sydney and HMAS Melbourne were assigned to H Force and patrolled in the West Indies.

NAVAL ACTIONS

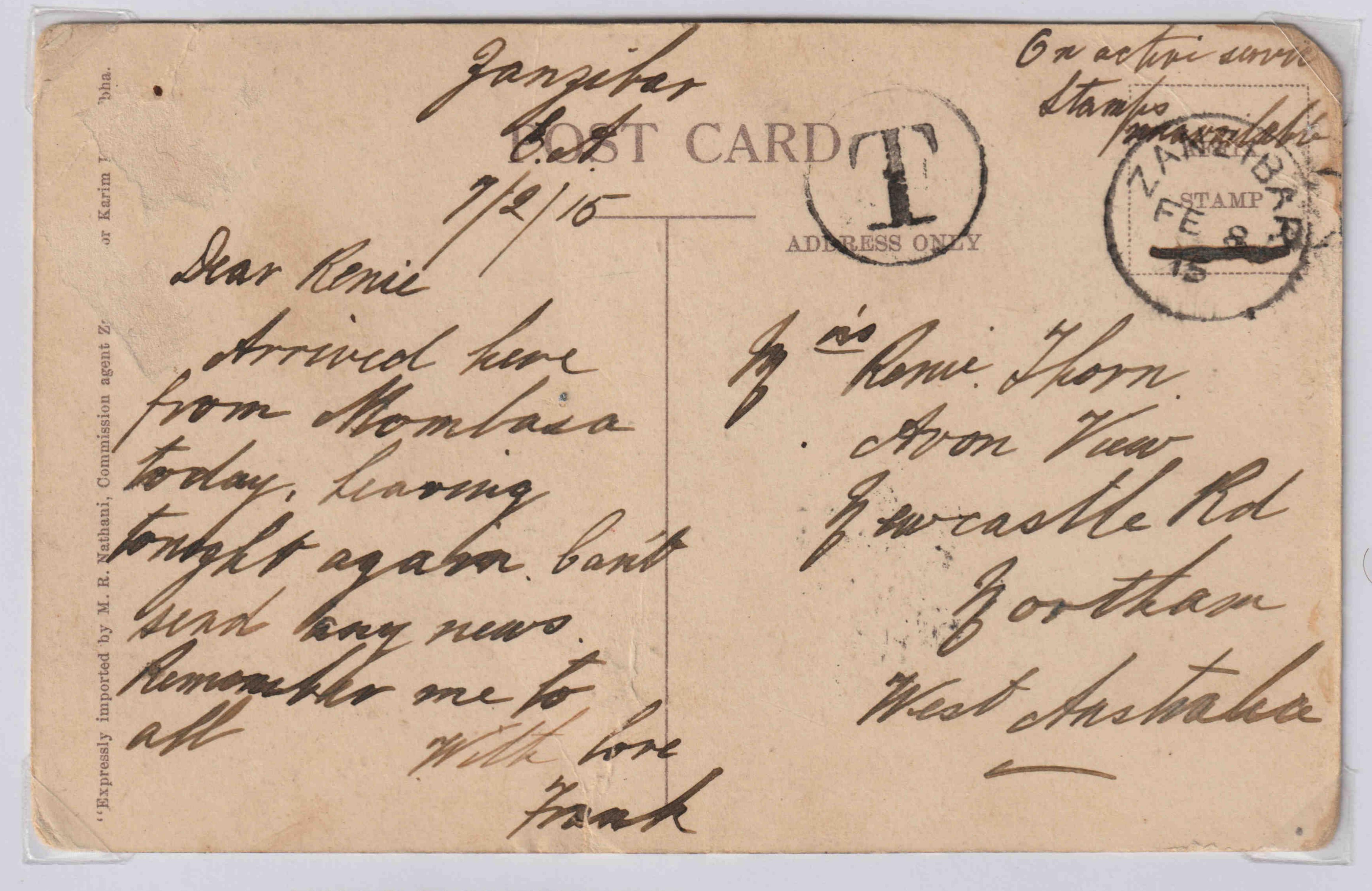
The Royal Australian Navy engaged in two serious actions during World War 1.

HMAS SYDNEY 1914

HMAS Sydney sank SMS Emden at Cocos Islands on 9 November 1914.



PPC Mkunazini Zanzibar 8 February 1915 T postage due



HMAS PIONEER 1915

The protected cruiser HMAS Pioneer sailed from Fremantle on 9 January via Cocos, Diego Garcia, Mombasa arriving Zanzibar 8 February. HMAS Pioneer fired more shots in anger than any other Australian vessel and was the only Australian vessel to take part in sinking SMS Konigsberg in the Rufiji River delta on 12 July 1915. Only WA cover recorded.

REAL PHOTO PICTURE POSTCARDS

Unknown manufacturer

Dignitaries and band farewelling ships
Unused





Bluejackets parading through Albany
Stamp removed, Xmas message from Cape Riche to Albany