

UQFL 497

Charles Betteridge papers

Size	2 boxes
Contents	Papers, postcards, photographs and realia relating to the World War 1 service of Richard Betteridge.
Biography	Richard Betteridge served in World War 1 as a 2nd aircraft mechanic, signaller and radio operator with the Australian Flying Corps 67th Squadron, stationed in Northern Africa and the Middle East. The collection donor, Charles Betteridge, is Richard's son.
Notes	Open access

Box 1

Folder 1

Letter, Charles Betteridge to Peter Cahill, 2 Nov 2008. Provides contextual background to collection and detailed list of items. Note: Original item numbers have been changed.

Folder 2

5 pages of coded handwritten signals written on original YMCA Mediterranean Expeditionary Force stationary, 11 Sep 1916

Folder 3

- Honour scroll from King George V to Henry Robertson Henderson Watson (Charles Betteridges' uncle)
- 2 medals awarded HRH Watson (possibly given to Betteridge's mother by her other brother, William Osborne Borthwick Watson)
- 1 medal, no. 52671, awarded to Betteridge's father
- 2 victory medals dated 1945

Folder 4

Small black leather wallet marked 'Xmas wishes from Australian YMCA, 1918'.
Contains:

- 7 original Suez Canal passes
- 2 Kantara Military Railway Movement Orders
- 1 3d class Kantara to Ismailia rail ticket dated 23 Sep 1916
- 1 business card, Sergeant E. Luff, Headquarters, AIF
- Original concert program by AFC for Saturday 2 Feb 1918
- 'Complements of the Season' card from the Wireless Section of the AFC

- Betteridge's original Certificate of Discharge, 10 Jun 1919, Sydney
- Message from King George wishing "God-speed, and a safe return to your homes and loved ones"

Folder 5

2 leather wallets

Collection of postcards:

- 'The end of the "baby-killer"' showing Zeppelin airship being shot down over UK (personal note on back)
- 'Going, going, gone: The man behind the gun', Lt W. L. Robinson, V. C.
- Branksome Chine, Bournemouth, 171 (personal note on back)
- View from Babbacombe Downs, Torquay, 3164
- Hand-sewn Australian Commonwealth Military Forces emblem sent from France, 22 May 1916
- P&O liner Plassey with Liverpool (17 Mar 1919 on back);
- Jack (personal note on back)
- On the Dart, 891
- Prayer to the Holy Family exiled in Egypt
- 17152, The Cliffs, Bournemouth
- Officer (personal note on back)
- Groups of servicemen
- Christchurch Priory
- Babbacombe beach and pier
- Natural Arch, Torquay
- Upper Pleasure Gardens, Bournemouth
- Darland Banks (personal note on back)
- Cobham road (personal note on back)
- Birthday message (personal note on back)
- Union jack (personal note on back)
- Wentworth Falls, Blue mountains, New South Wales (personal note on back)
- Three children (personal note on back)

Folder 6

Canvas bag with initials RB in black

Contains:

- Originals of 13 postcards and photos (some with personal note on back) on pp. 82-92 in the photo album (also in this box).
- Small envelope with a sprig of white heather and a cloth badge of the AFC (?Australian Force Canteen) on a small piece of cardboard with 'good luck' written on it

Folder 7

Printout, battle between *SMS Emden* and *HMAS Sydney* at Cocos Island as reported by Captain von Mullen

Folder 8

Newspaper cuttings, eclipses, 1980s

Also in Box:

1 Cd with 2 images of trunk and secret compartment where Richard Betteridge collection was found:

- Wooden trunk itself (with lid closed), with Richard Betteridge's hand-painted sign on the lid, "R. Betteridge. Fragile"
- Secret compartment (with some items in it), located at the very bottom of the trunk with a panel over it. In this photo, Charles Betteridge (Richard's son) raised the compartment up to indicate its size and depth (about six inches).

Box 2**Bundle 1**

Kodak camera, 1916

Bundle 2

Field service kit containing eating utensils, leather trimmer, bottle opener, tongs, pencil, wooden peg etc 'Levers shaving stick' with some small buttons

Bundle 3

Field service kit, 'Red Cross Society, Kurri Kurri, Australia, NSW Division', containing 2 reels of cotton, small metal sewing needle dispenser, and a small bundle of heavier sewing cotton

Bundle 4

Film negative album, includes negatives 51-75 of scenes around the Northern Rivers of New South Wales c. 1920s

Also in box:

Photo album of images taken by Betteridge senior c. 1916-1919 in Middle East; Locations include Suez Canal, Kantara, Heliopolis, Cairo, Mustabig, Gaza, El-Arish, Matarich, Kilo 143, Wehi Sheikh Nuran, El Mejdal plus those taken from the train during his return trip to the UK and the SS Plassy on which he returned to Sydney in 1919. Also includes post cards and 14 photographs of the wreck of the German raider *Emden* on Cocos Island after doing battle with HMAS Sydney (see Box 1 Folder 7 for more information), and aerial photos of French cities after 1918 bombing raids.

Orient Line Map, 1911