

A Country Squire

The Ancestral Families of Graham Squire and Anne Keightley

Postcards to/from the MEINCKE family including Gordon MEINCKE,
mariner.

Researched, written and transcribed by Jan Squire
Version 2 2022

Gordon Meincke 1886 – 1964

Gordon was born Ernest Gordon Meincke in March 1886, in Kapunda, to Frederick Meincke and Mary nee Williams. Mary died in April 1889 when Gordon was just three years old.

Frederick remarried in April 1896, to Jane Wilson, when Gordon was ten years old. It is not known how Frederick brought up his children between wives, but Frederick's youngest sister Edith never married, and most likely helped with their care. Frederick and Jane had a further six children, and at some point, the older (ie Mary's) children went to live with Aunt Edith. Gordon did not get on with Edith, according to stories handed down to Anne, and he took himself off to sea, becoming a cabin boy to the Captain on the ship *Inverlyon*, in about 1900, aged 14 years. In many of the Postcards on the following pages, he later describes himself as a steward. He would have been a general 'servant' to the ship's officers, but also carried out general duties as well. He appears not to have been trained as a sailor as such. His main role would be as a drinks and food waiter, and possibly a kitchen hand. He made several trips between England/Ireland and South Australia, and travelled via Cape Horn on two occasions.

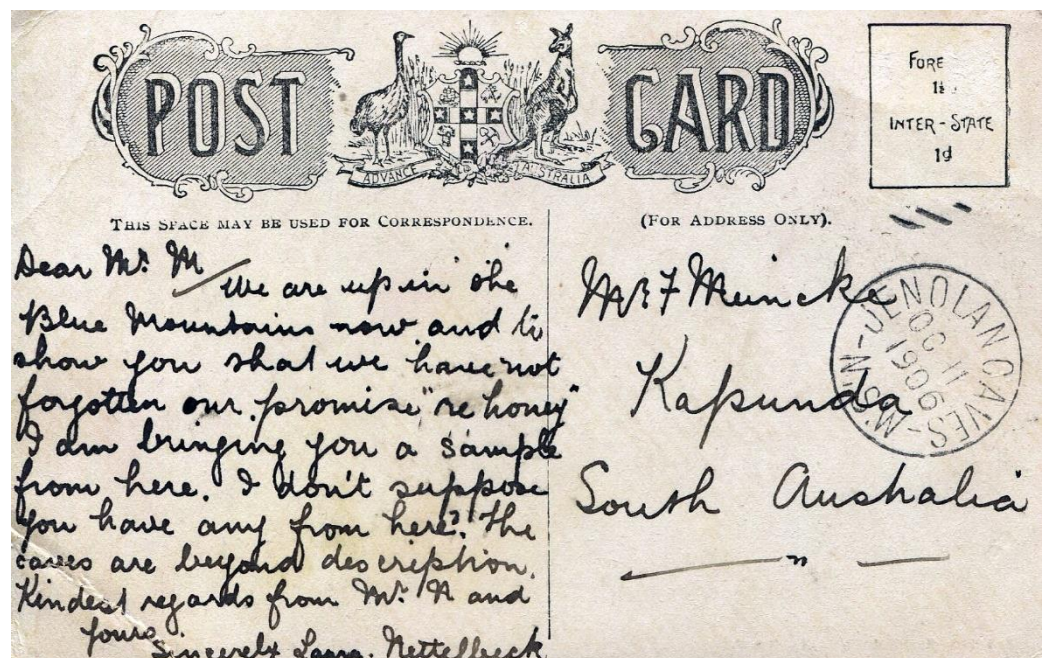
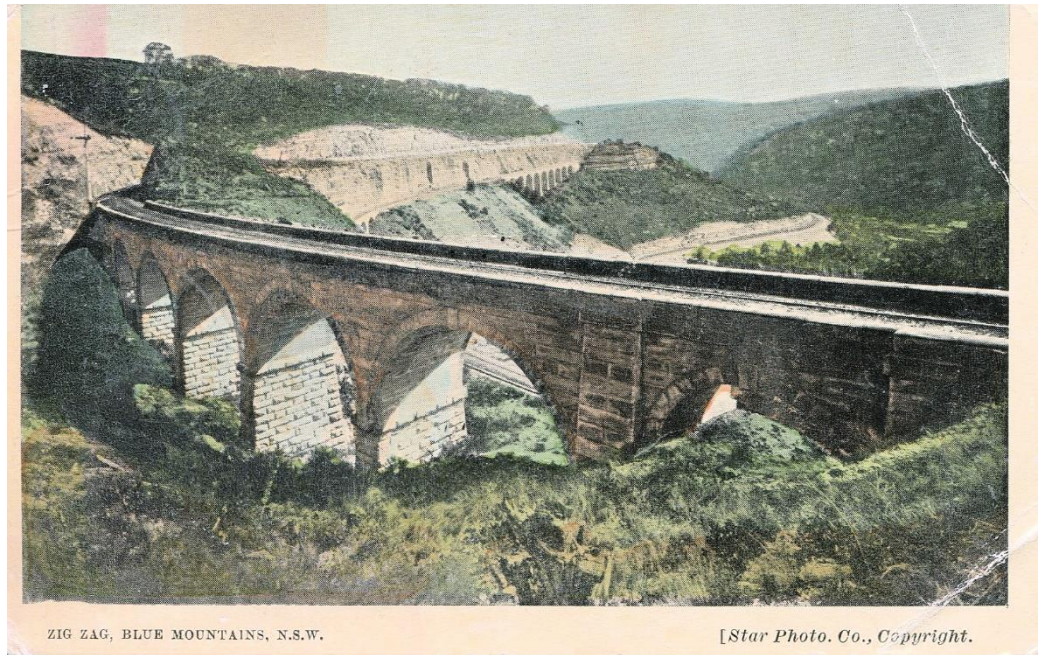
He returned to Kapunda in 1907 after 8 years at sea on the ship, and married Effie Barrett in 1911. They had two children including Anne's mother Joan Langdon. In 1915, at the beginning of WW1, most of the family changed their surname to Langdon, to avoid issues with a German sounding name. (They were actually from a Danish family though.)

Gordon and Effie ran a fruit and veg shop in Moonta for a time (see photo below), then did the same in Taillem Bend. Gordon had probably moved to Adelaide by 1925, when Anne's mum Joan began her schooling. Gordon worked for Charles Birks from this time, later becoming David Jones. His final work was as a caretaker and floorwalker at Birks. He died in 1964.

Moonta shop. This photo was probably taken in the 1970's. I have a photo taken in 2020, when the building was not trading, and looked rather sad.



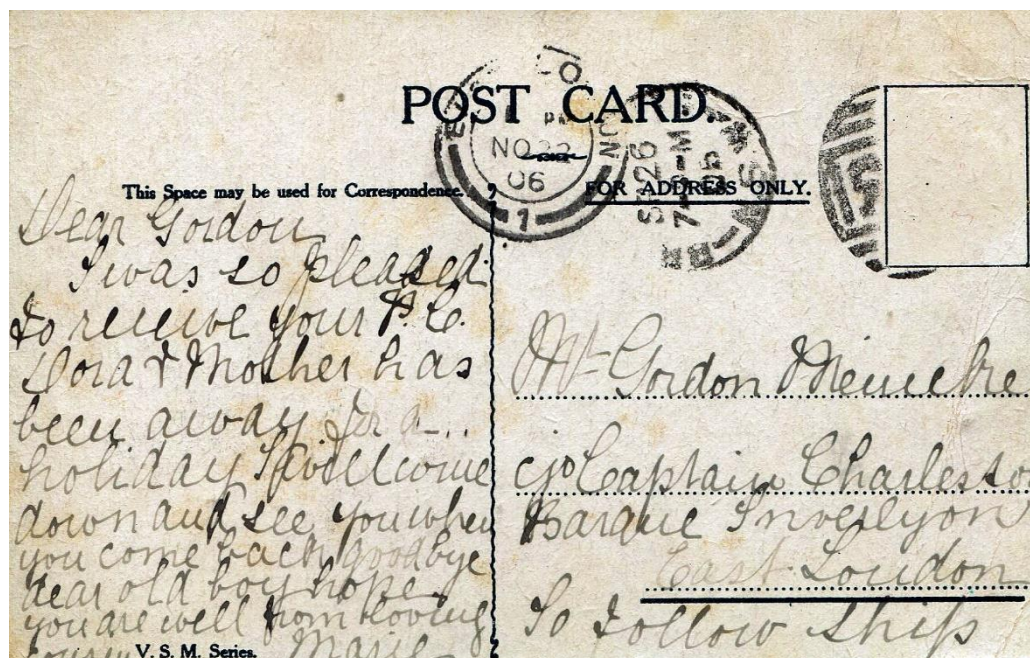
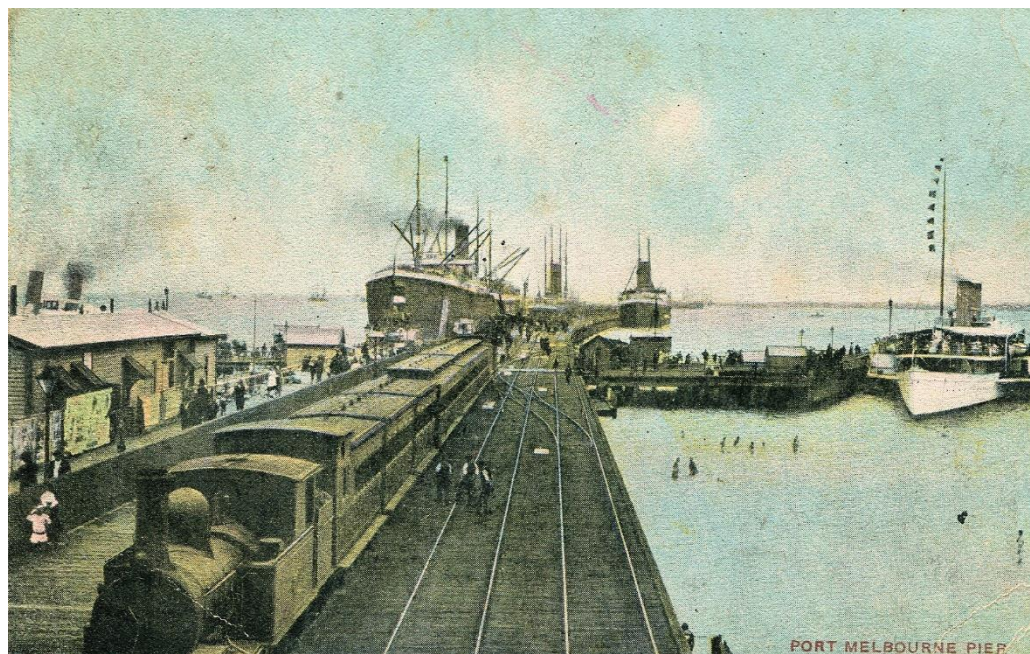
Zig Zag
Blue Mountains NSW.



To: Mr F Meincke
Kapunda. South Australia
Postmark Jenolan Caves.

Dear Mr M.,
We are up in the Blue Mountains now and to show you that we have not forgotten our promise 're honey' I am bringing you a sample from here. I don't suppose you have any from here? The caves are beyond description.
Kindest regards from Mr A and
Yours sincerely Laura Nettlebeck
6 11 1906.

Port Melbourne Pier.



To: Mr Gordon Meincke
c/o Captain Charleston, Baque Inverlyon
East London (to follow ship)

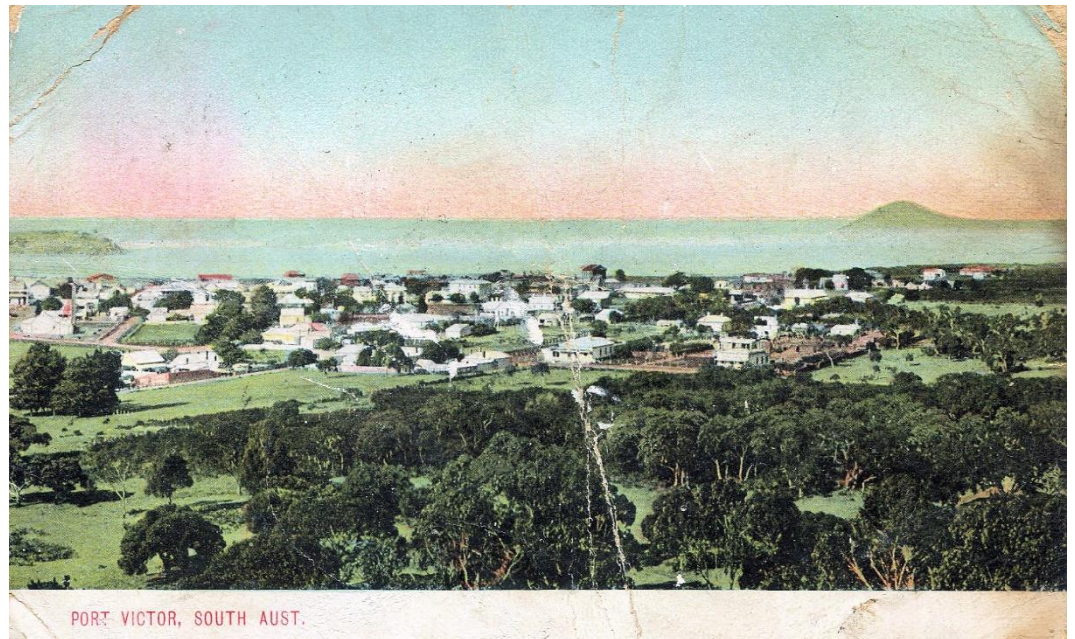
Dear Gordon,

I was so pleased to receive your PC. Dora and mother has been away for a holiday. I will come down and see you when you come back. Good bye dear old boy hope you are well.

From loving cousin Marie.

Postmark 7 May 1905[??]

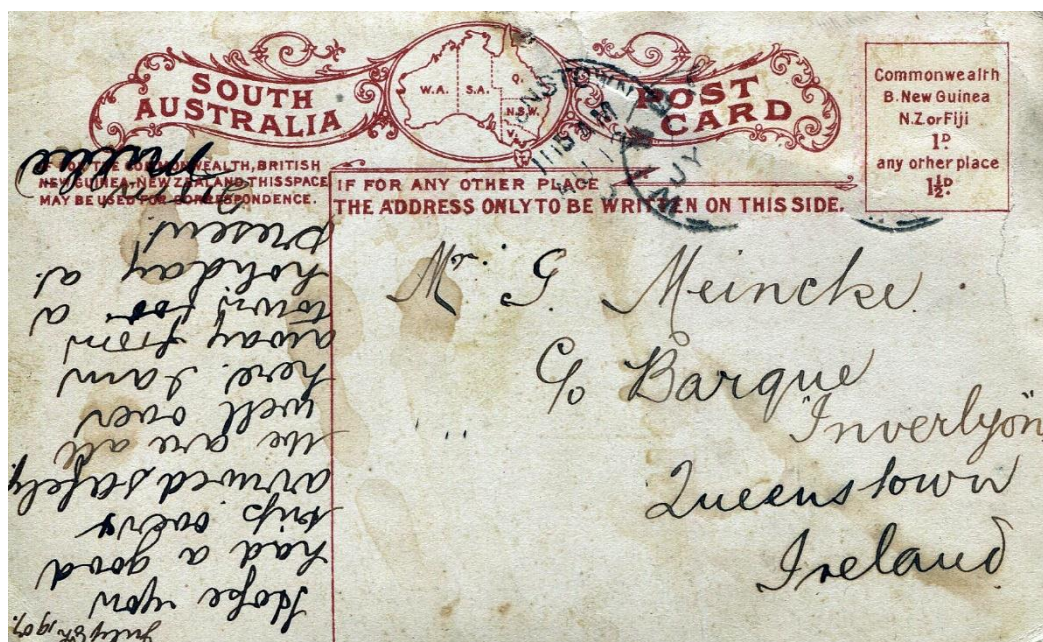
Port Victor, South Aust.



To: Mr G Meincke
c/o Captain Charleston
Barque Inverlyon, East London
Forward to Capetown if ship left.

Greetings from Kapunda hope you had a pleasant voyage, and for a safe return from Ma and Pa.
New address; Gawler Gasworks. Going to move on 1st of March.

View on Torrens Lake,
Adelaide.



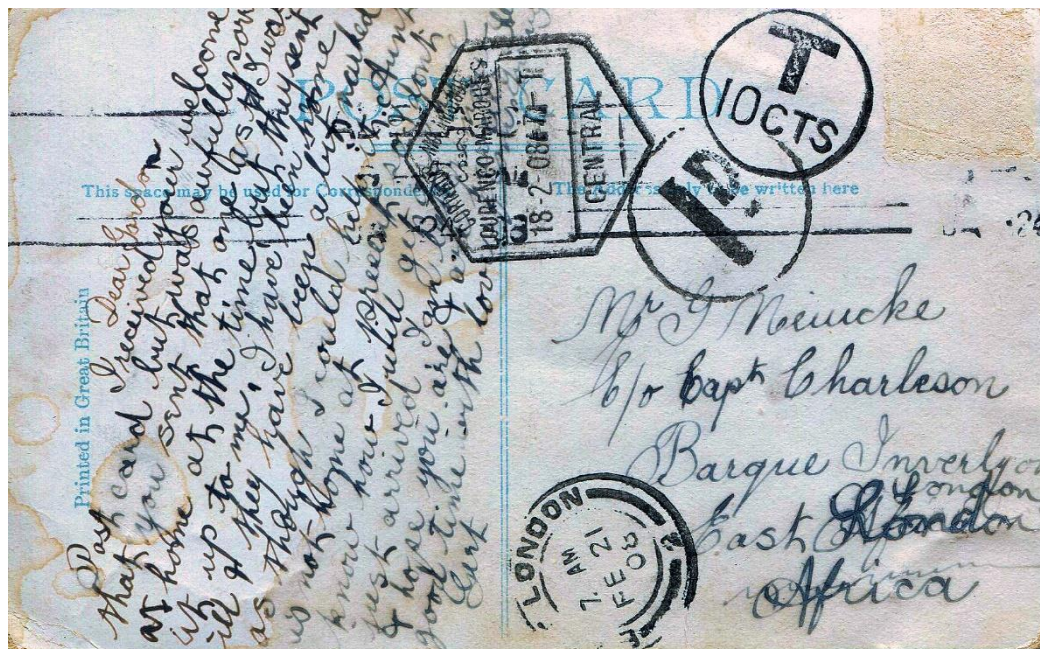
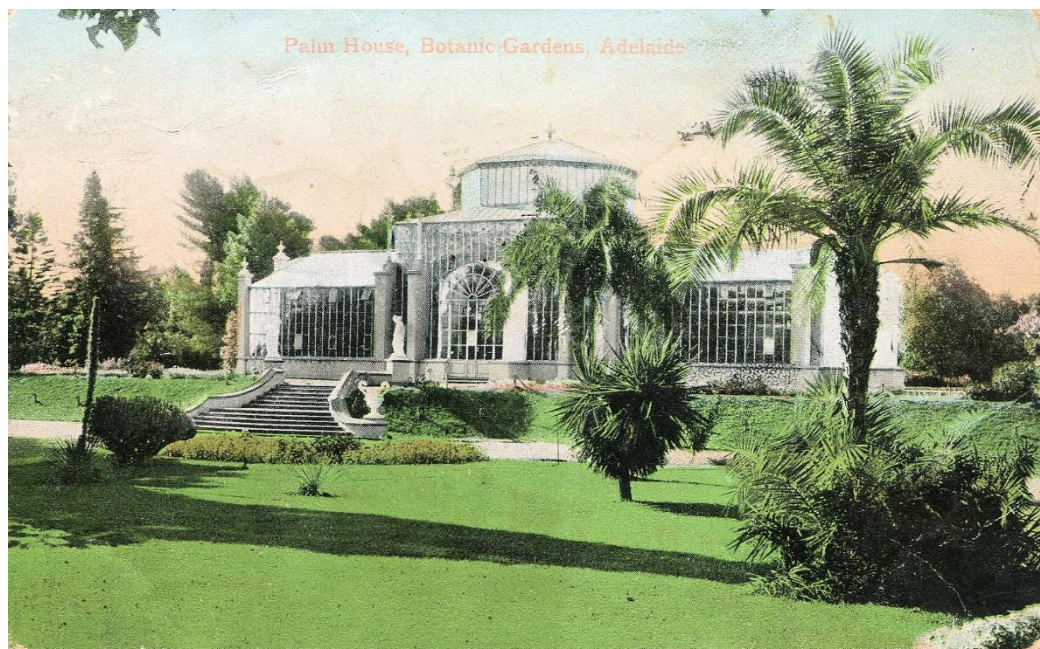
To: Mr G Meincke,
c/o Barque Inverlyon
Queensland Ireland.

Adelaide 8 July 1907.

Hope you had a good trip over and arrived safely. We are all well over here. I am away from town for a holiday at present.

From Millie

Palm House, Botanic Gardens, Adelaide.

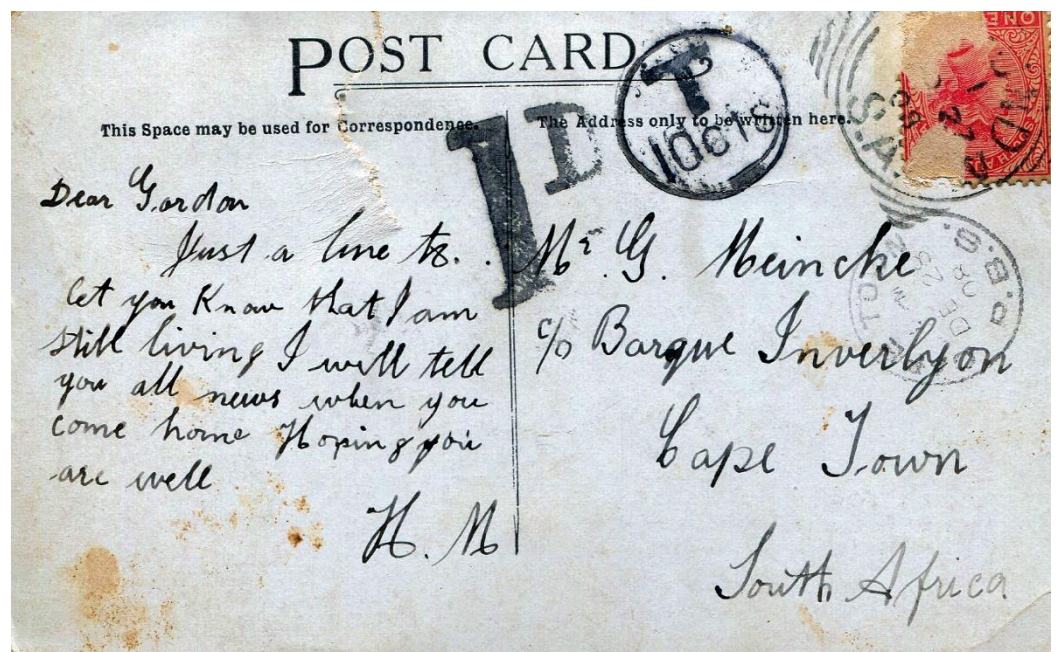


To: Mr G Meincke
c/o Capt Charleson
Barque Inverlyon,
London, East London, Africa.
Dated; 21 February 1908, London.

Dear Gordon,

I received your welcome postcard, but was awfully sorry that you sent that one as I was at home at the time but they sent it up to me. I have been home ill and they have been a bit narked as though I could help it. Aunt is not home at present so I don't know how I will get - - just arrived. I am - -. I hope you are and are - - good time. With love, Aunt Gert.

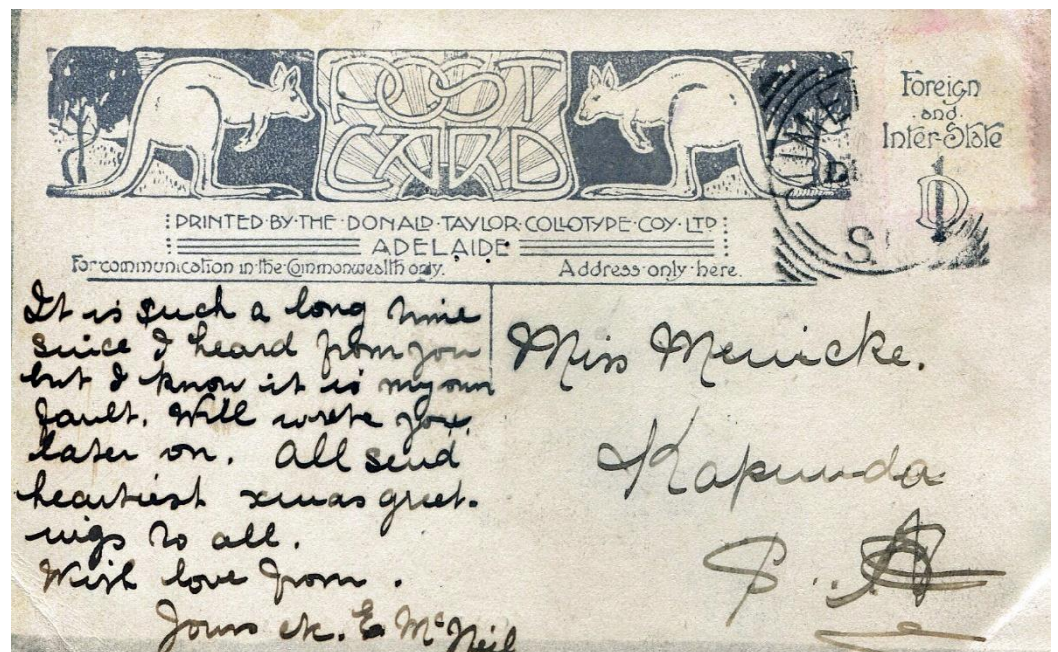
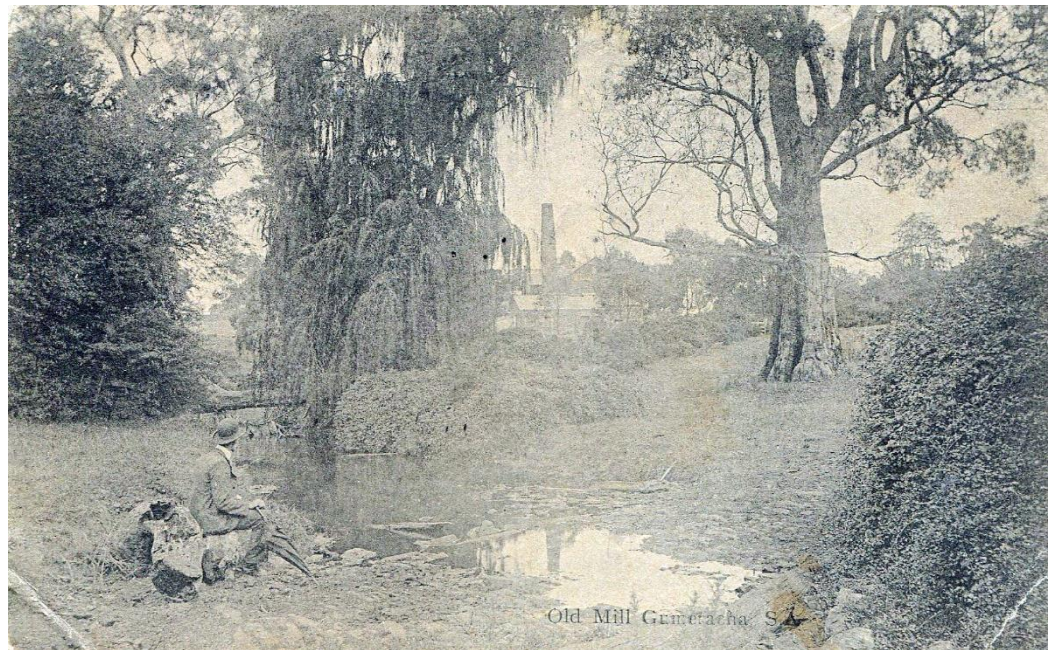
Glenelg
Commemoration Day.



To: Mr G Meincke
c/o Barque Inverlyon,
Cape Town South Africa.
Dated ?? 1908.

Dear Gordon,
Just a line to let you know that I am still living. I will tell you all news when you come home. Hoping you are well.
H M

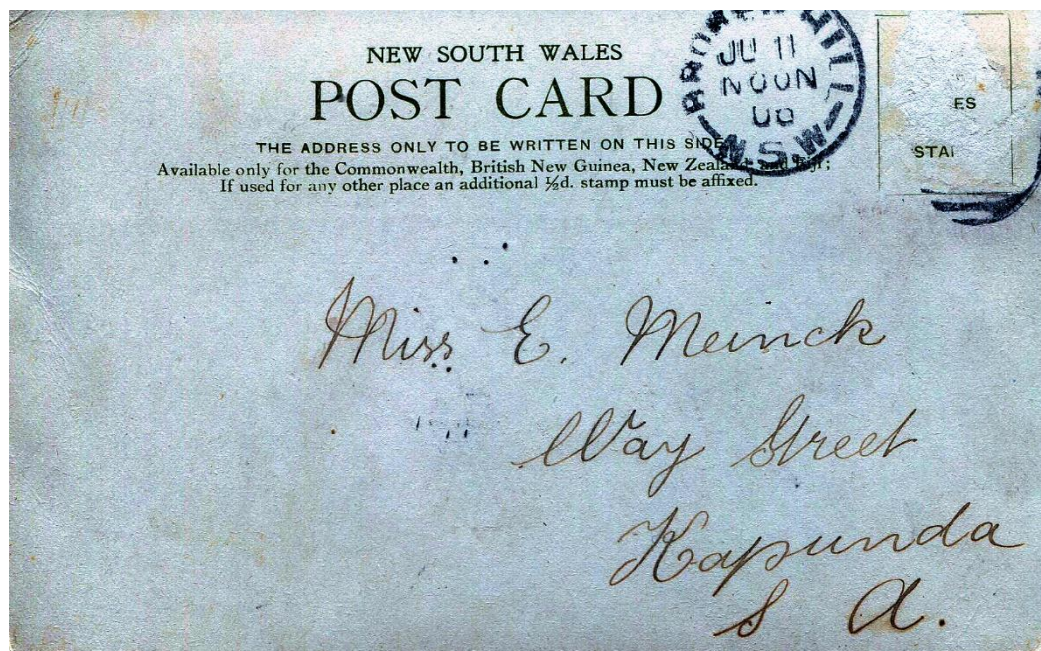
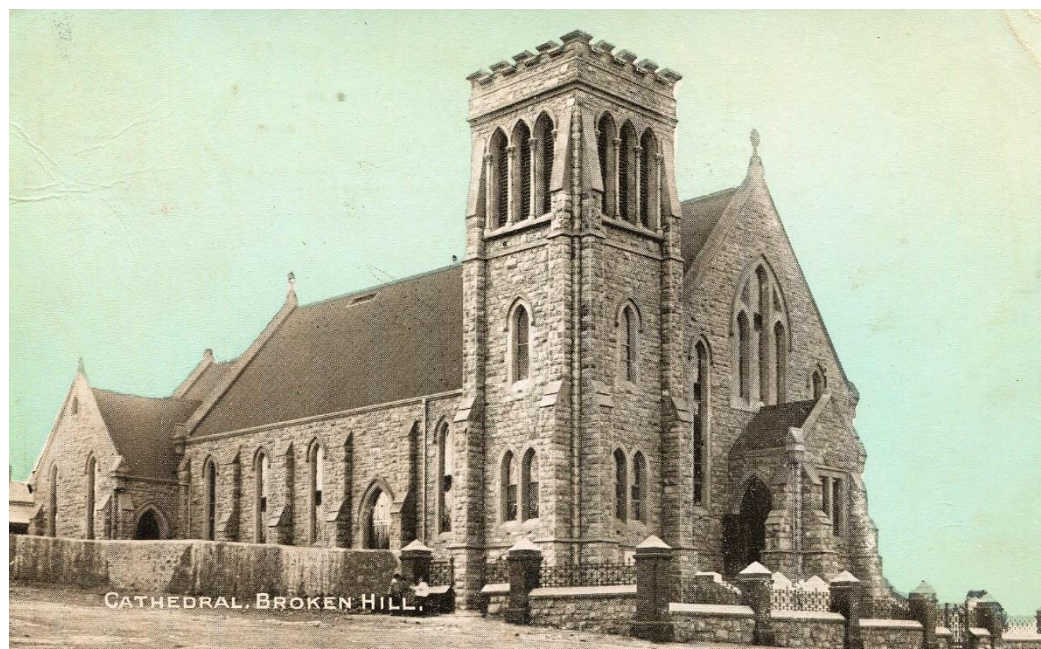
Old Mill, Gumeracha.
SA



To: Miss Meincke,
Kapunda. SA.

It is such a long time since I heard from you but I know it is my own fault. Will write you later on. All send heartiest Christmas greetings to all.
With love from, yours etc, E McNeil.

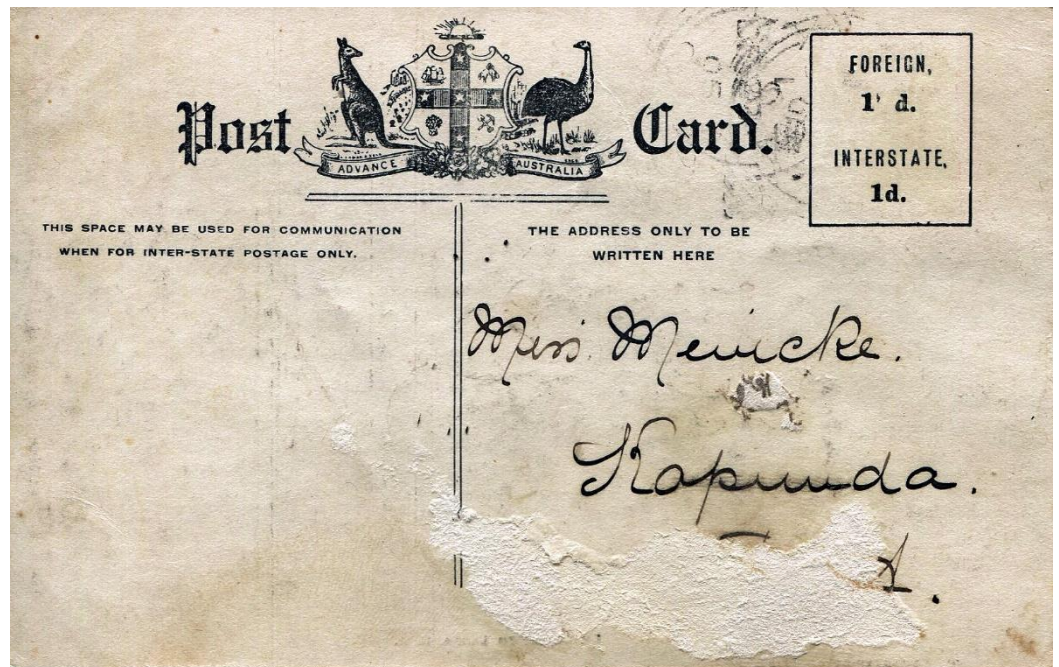
Cathedral, Broken Hill.



To: Miss E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda. SA
11 June 1906, Broken Hill.

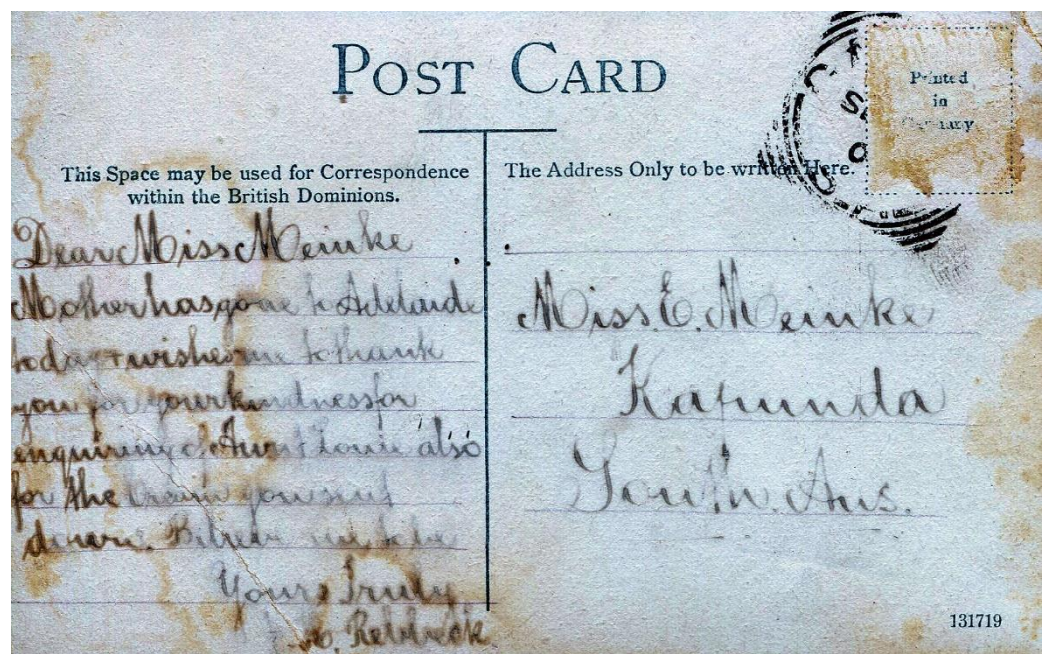
[no text]

Entrance to Laura, SA.



To: Miss Meincke
Kapunda. SA

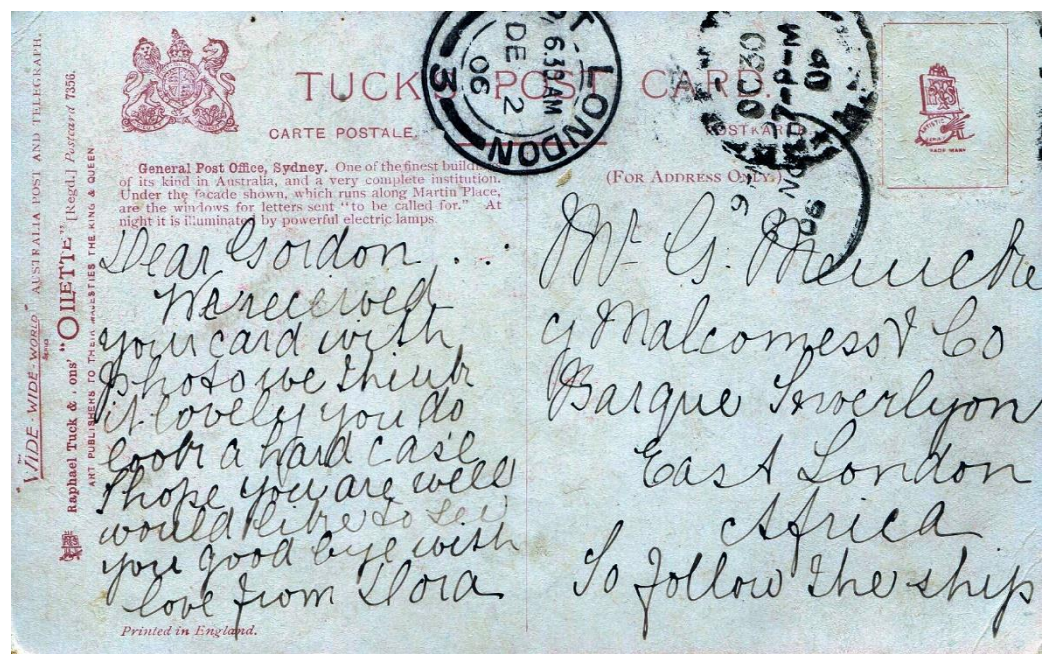
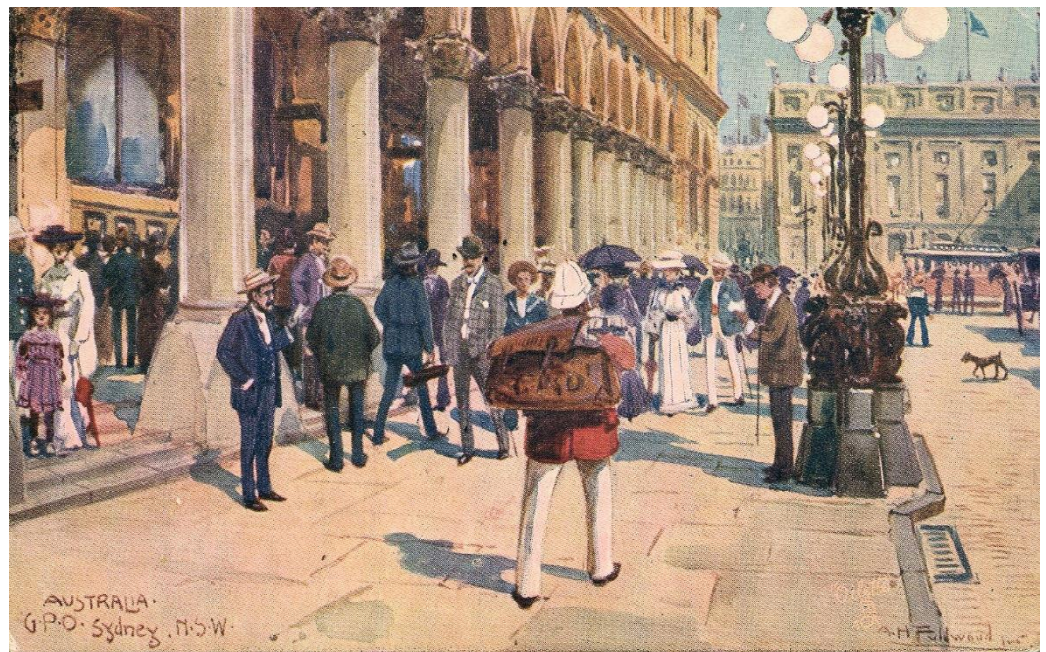
Goose Island Bridge,
Gawler, South Australia.



To: Miss E Meincke
Kapunda South Aus.

Dear Miss Meincke,
Mother has gone to Adelaide today and wishes to thank you for your kindness for enquiring of Aunt Louie also for the – [cream?] you sent down. – we to be,
Yours truly, M Rebleck.

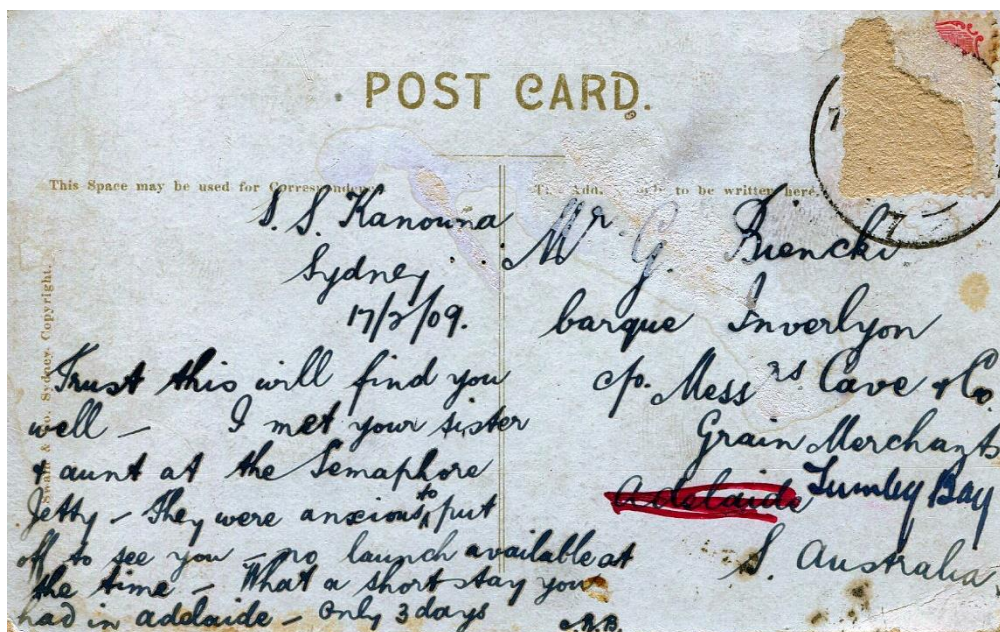
GPO, Sydney. NSW.



To: Mr G Meincke
Malcolmess & Co
Barque Inverlyon
East London
Africa (to follow ship)

Dear Gordon,
We received your card with photo we think it lovely you do look a hard case. I hope you are well would like to see you Goodbye with love from Dora.

St Andrew's, Town Hall and Market, Sydney. NSW.

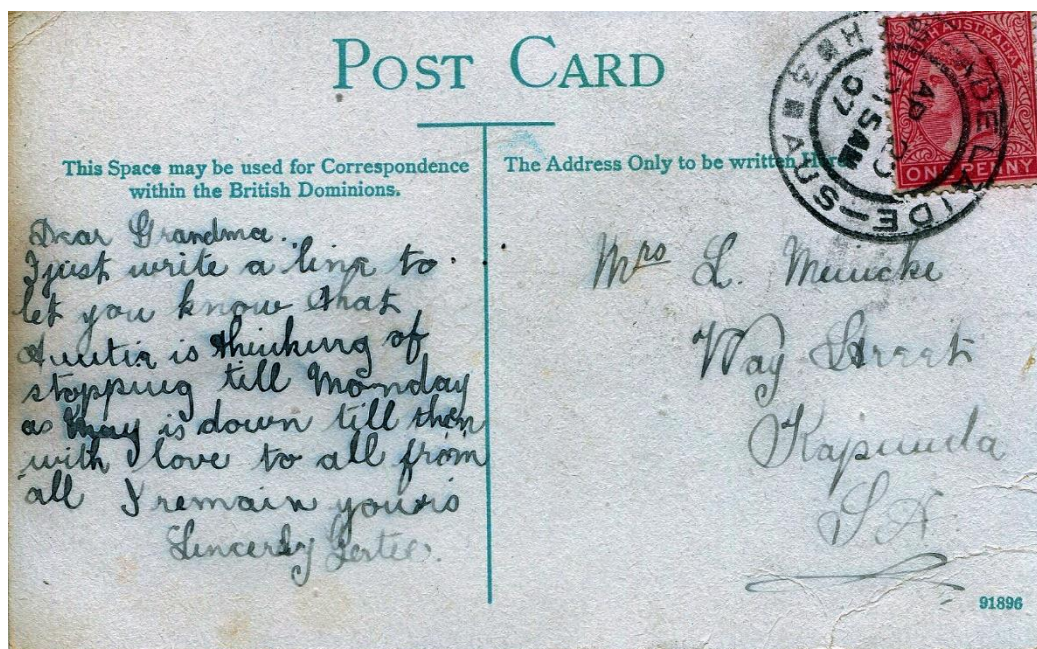


To: Mr G Biencki
Barque Inverlyon
c/o Messrs Cave & Co. Grain Merchants
Tumby Bay, S Australia

SS Kanowna
Sydney
17 2 1909.

Trust this will find you well. I met your sister and Aunt at the Semaphore Jetty. They we anxious to put off to see you – no launch available at the time. What a short stay you had in Adelaide – only 3 days.
M. B.

North Adelaide from St
Peter's Cathedral, SA

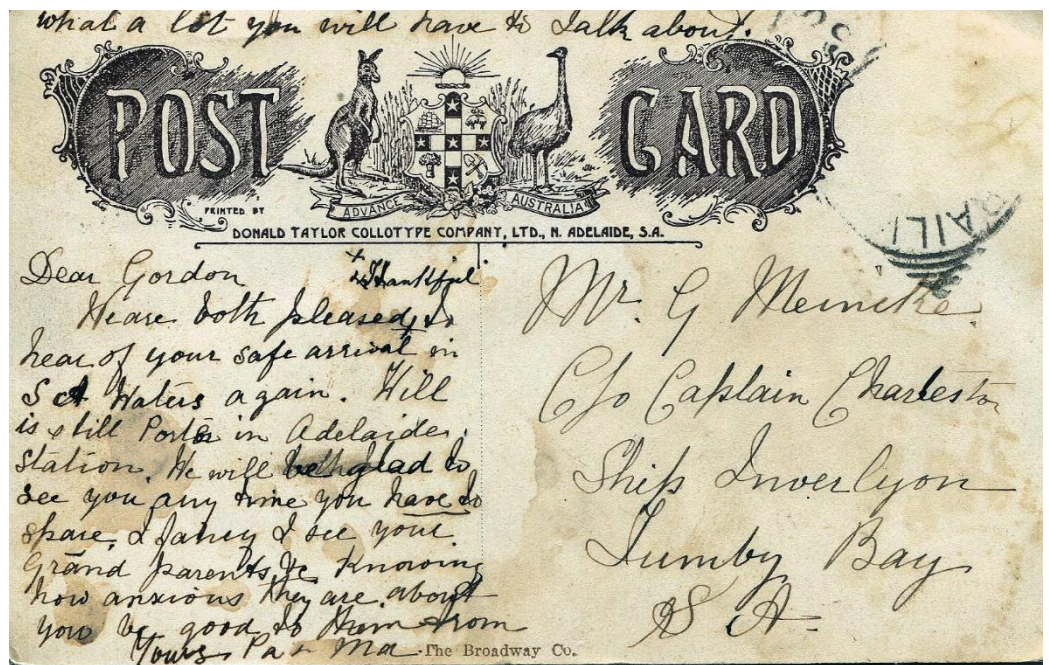
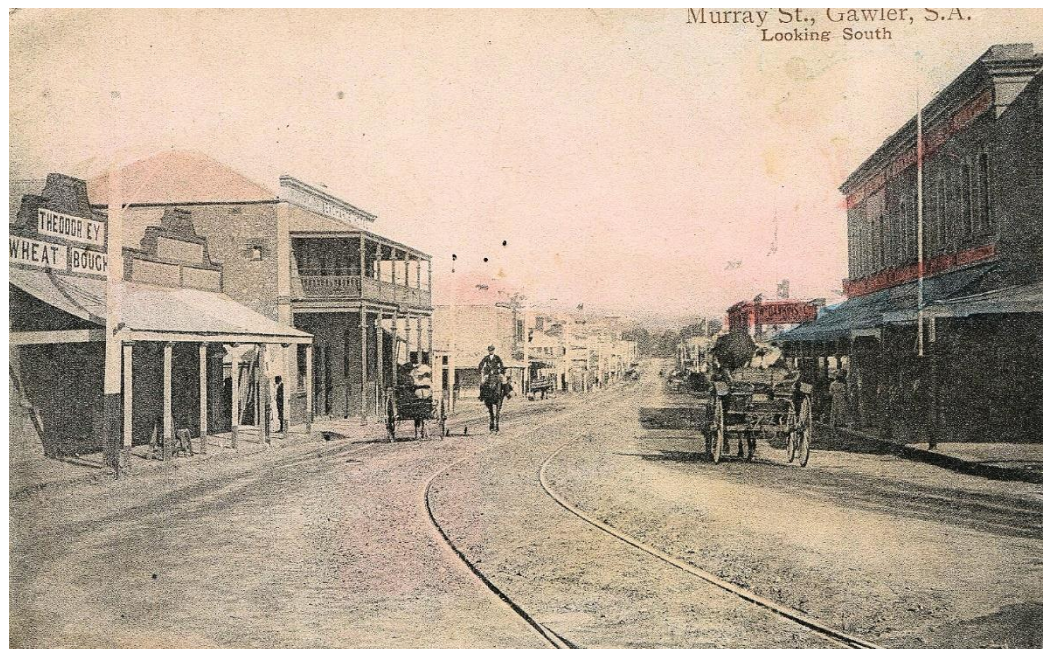


To: Mrs L Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda. SA

Dear Grandma

I just write a line to let you know that Auntie is thinking of stopping till Monday as May is down till then. With love to all from all. I remain yours, Sincerely, Gertie.

Murray St, Gawler. SA
Looking South.



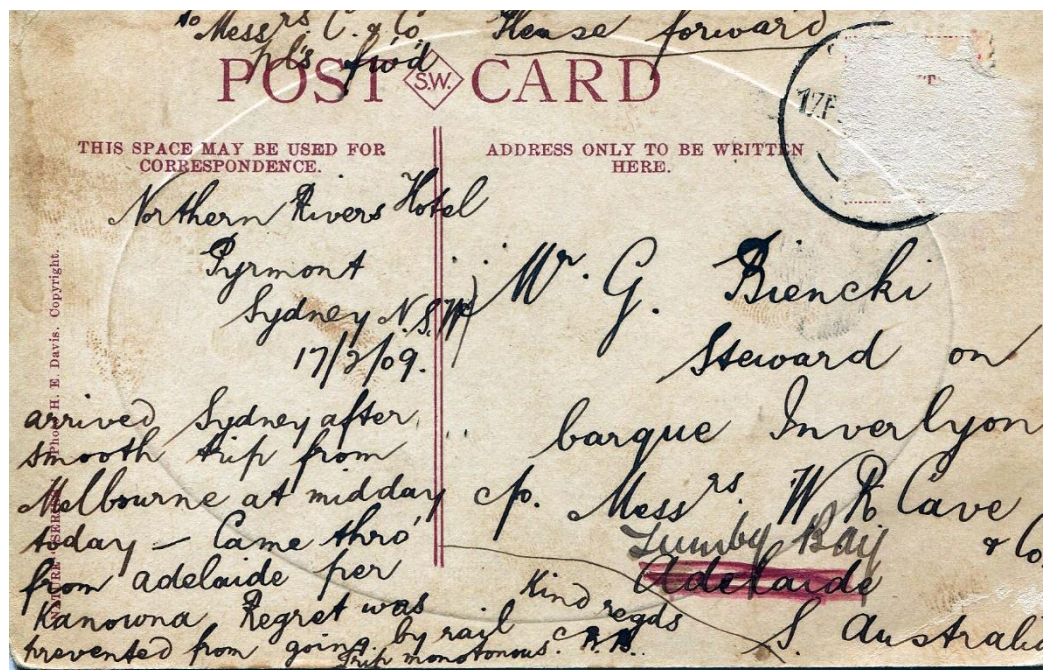
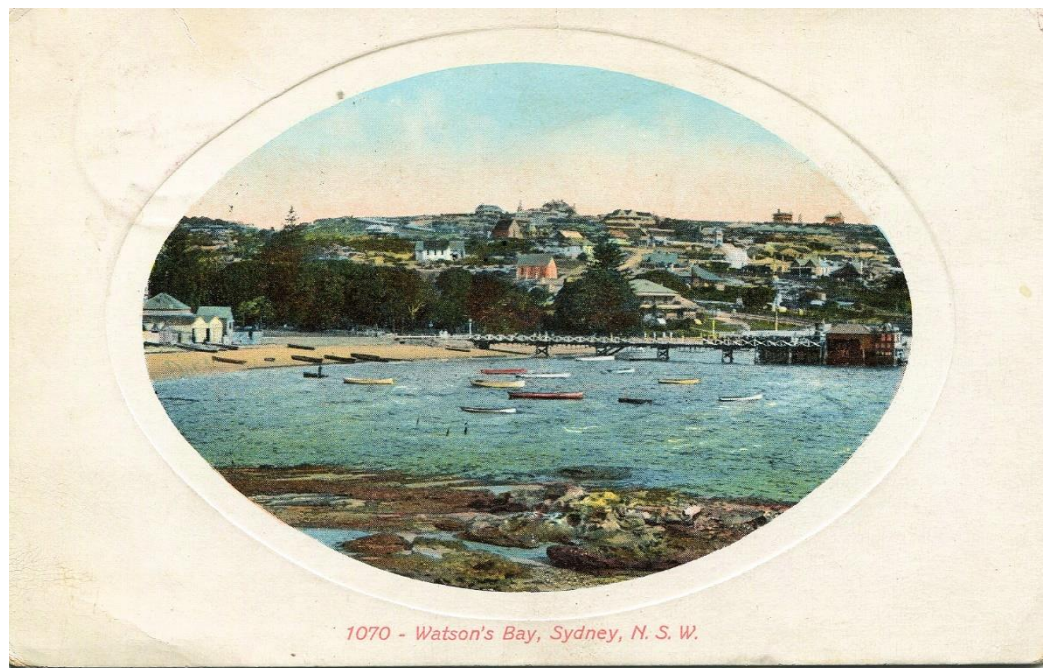
To: Mr G Meincke
c/o Captain Charleston
Ship Inverlyon.
Tumby Bay. SA

Dear Gordon

We are both pleased to hear of your safe arrival in SA waters again. Will is still porter in Adelaide Station. He will be glad to see you any time you have to spare. I fancy I see your grandparents & knowing how anxious they are about you. Be good if -. Yours, from Ma & Pa.

PS What a lot you will have to talk about.

Watson's Bay, Sydney.
NSW.



To: Mr G Meincki
Steward on Barque Inverlyon
c/o W R Cave & Co
Tumby Bay SA
Please forward.

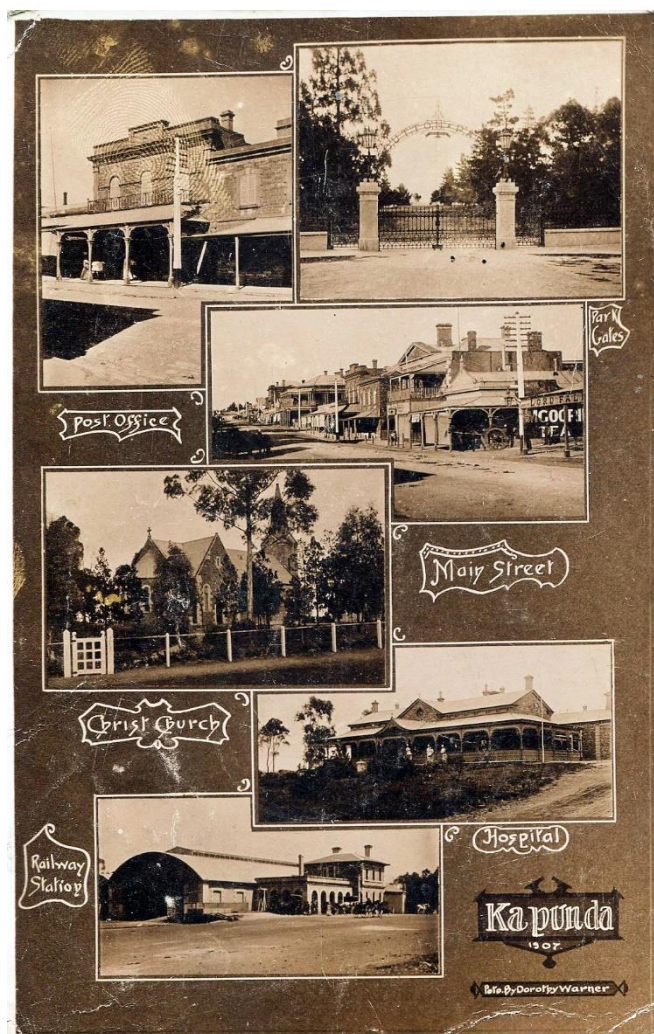
Northern Rivers Hotel
Pyrmont Sydney NSW
17 2 1909.

Arrived Sydney after smooth trip from Melbourne at midday today. Came through from Adelaide per 'Kanowna'.
Regret was prevented from going by rail. Trip monotonous. Kind regards. R. B.

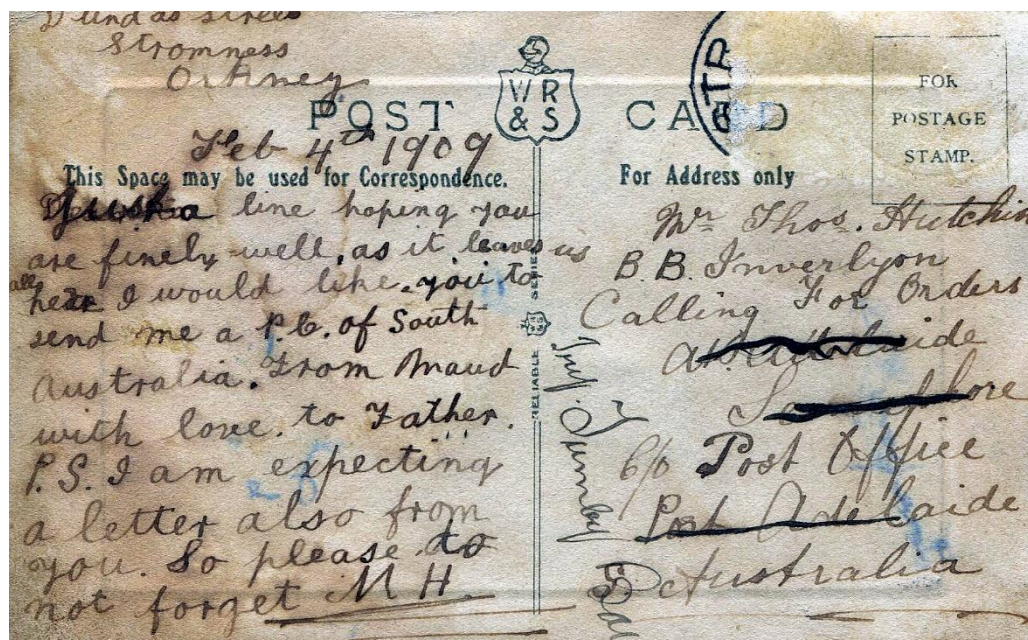
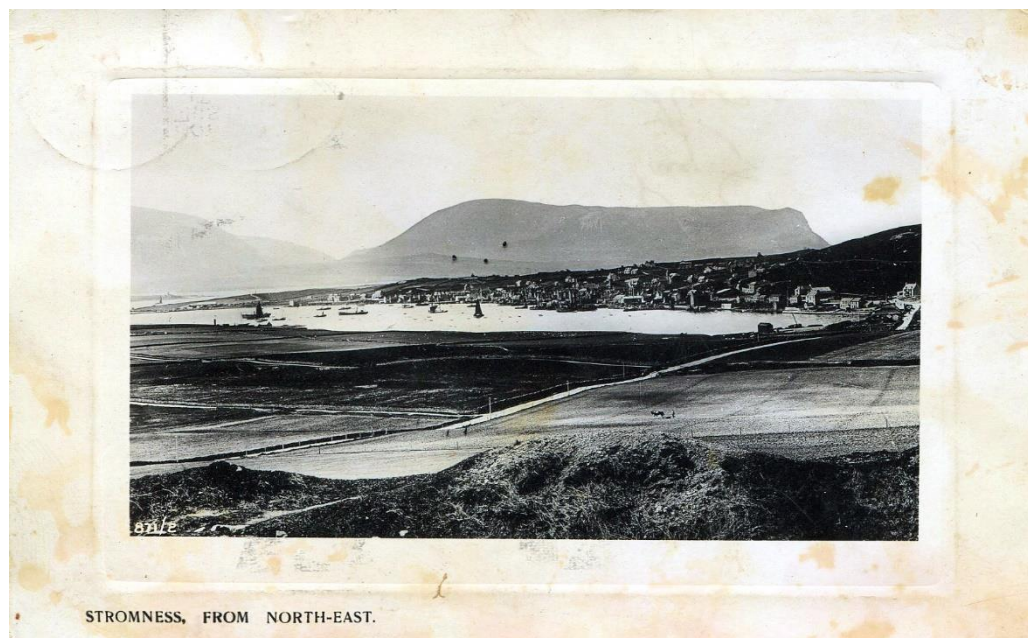
Kapunda. 1907.

To: Mr G Meincke
Ship Inverlyon
Delagoa Bay, Africa. (to follow ship if gone).

Dear Gordon,
At last I have managed to write to you back. Have not known where to write -, but when I heard today your folks were writing you, I thought I would let you know I am still alive and have not forgotten. I hear your ship is visiting some different ports this time. That is good and you are a lucky chap to have as many opportunities of seeing as much of the world. By the time you receive this Easter Anniversary will be over. I am again conducting & we are hoping for a good time. Shall we see you Easter 1909? Mr, Mrs & Miss Lyne are all ok as I hope this will find you. Hoping your projected voyages will be attended with pleasure and safety. Regards from all. Yours sincerely.
G W C Lyne.



Stromness, from north east.



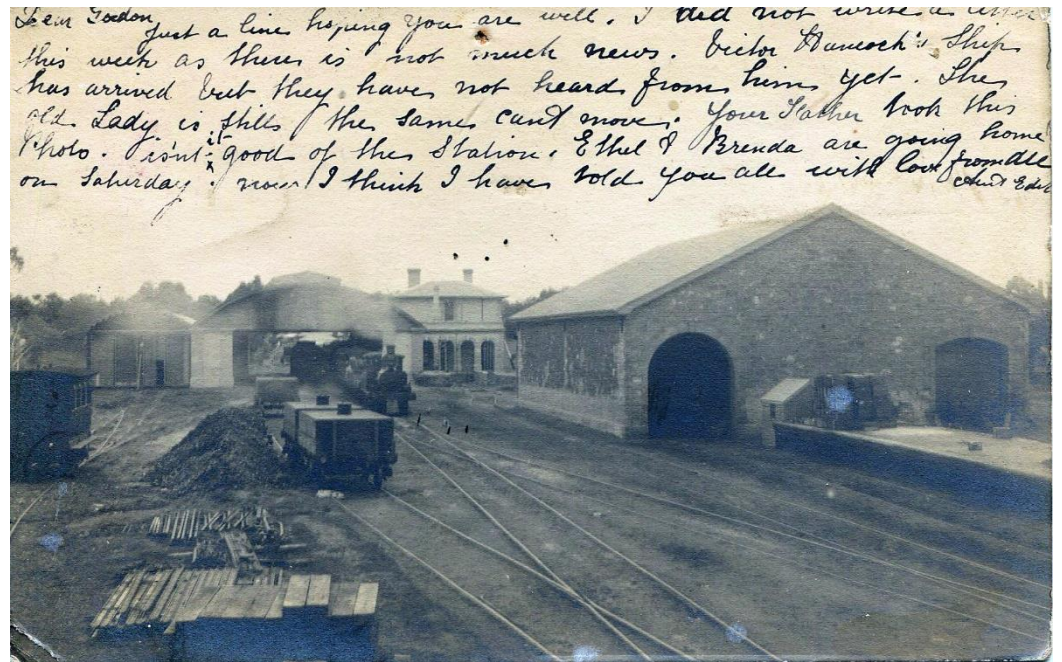
To: Mr Thos. Hutchinson
B B Inverlyon (calling for orders)
Adelaide Semaphore
c/o Post Office Port Adelaide Australia

Dundas Street, Stromness Orkney.
4 February 1909

Just a line hoping you are finely well as it leaves all here. I would like you to send me a P C of South Australia. From Maud with love to father.

P S I am expecting a letter also from you, so please do not forget. M H

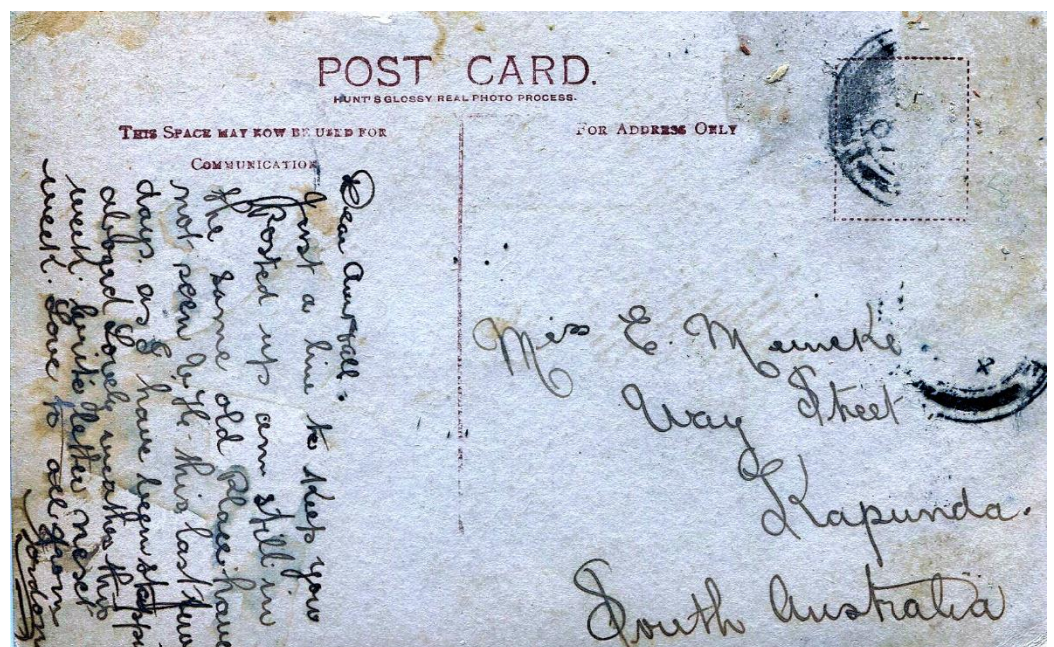
May be Kapunda station.



To: Mr G Meincke
Barque Inverlyon
c/o Capton Charleston
Queenstown Ireland
to follow the ship

Dear Gordon,

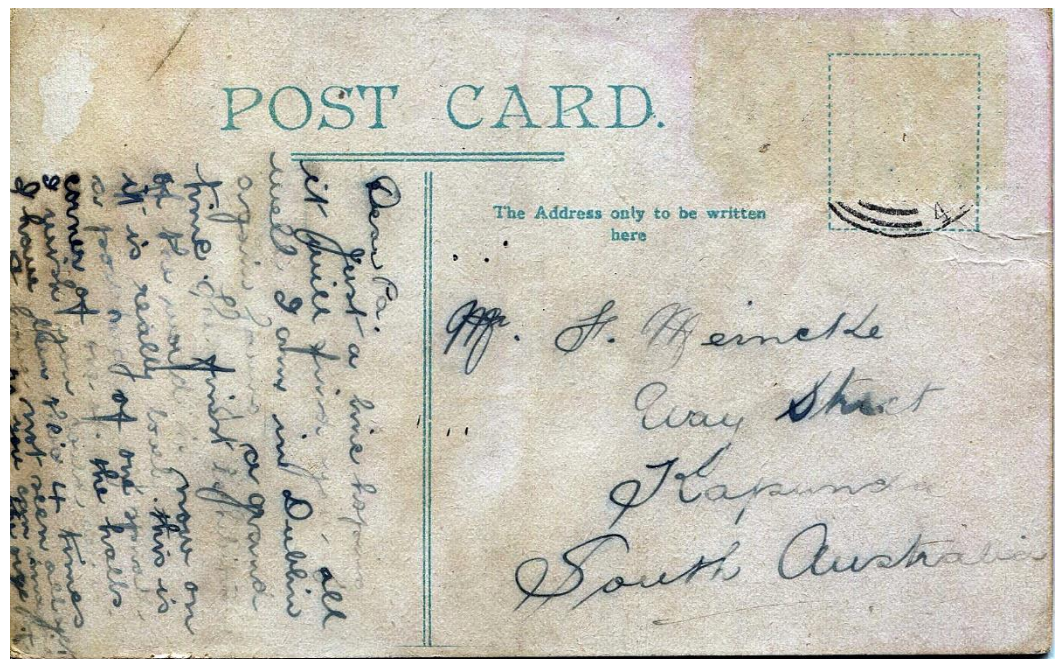
Just a line hoping you are well. I did not write a letter this week as there is not much news. Victor Hancock's ship but they have not heard from him yet. This old lady is still the same, can't move. Your father took this photo. Isn't it good of the station. Ethel and Brenda are going home on Saturday. Now I think I have told you all. With love from all. Aunt Edith.



To: Miss E Meincke
Way Street, Kapunda South Australia

Dear Aunt and all,
Just a line to keep you posted up am still in the same old place have not seen V H. this last few days as I have been stopping aboard. Lovely weather this week. Writ letter next week. Love to all from Gordon.

View in Palace of Industries
Irish International
Exhibition, Dublin 1907.

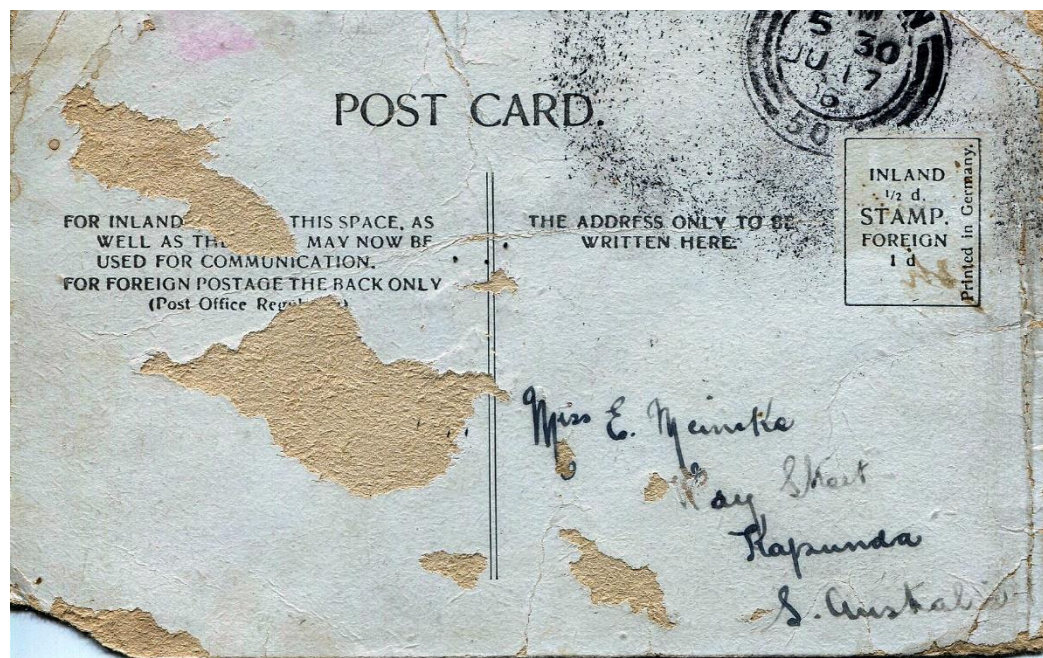


To: Mr F Meincke
Way Street Kapunda South Australia

Dear Pa,

Just a line hoping it will find you all well. I am in Dublin again having a grand time of the first exhibition of the world it is now on it is really lovely. This is a post card of one – of it. The halls I wish you could see. I have been there 4 times and have not seen all yet so you can imagine the size of it.

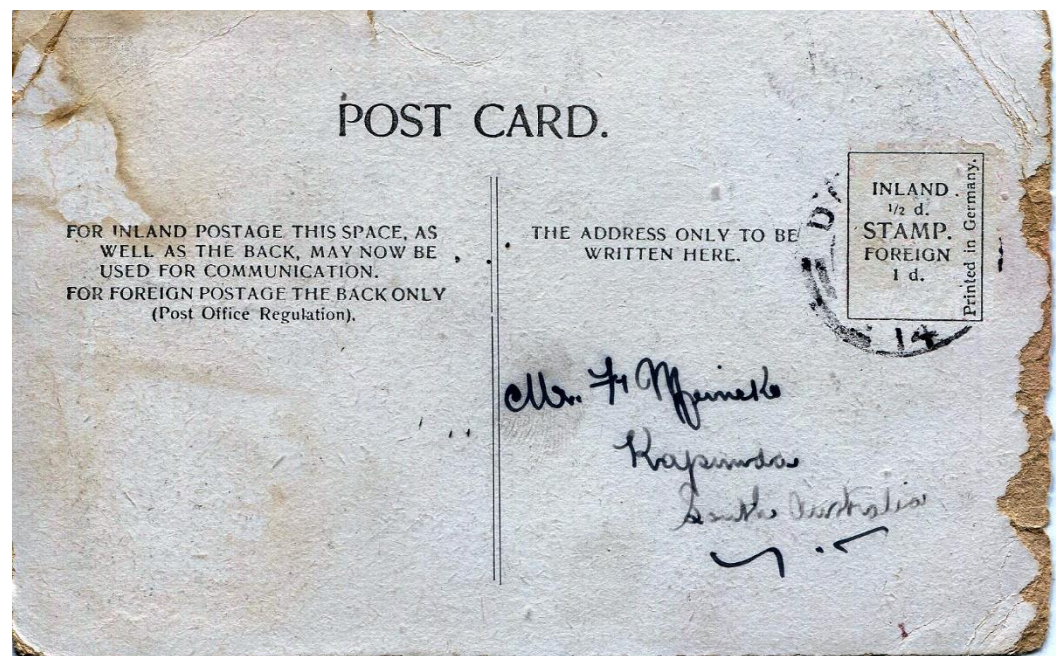
Albert Memorial, Belfast.



To: Mis E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia
15 June 1906

[Difficult to transcribe . . .JS]

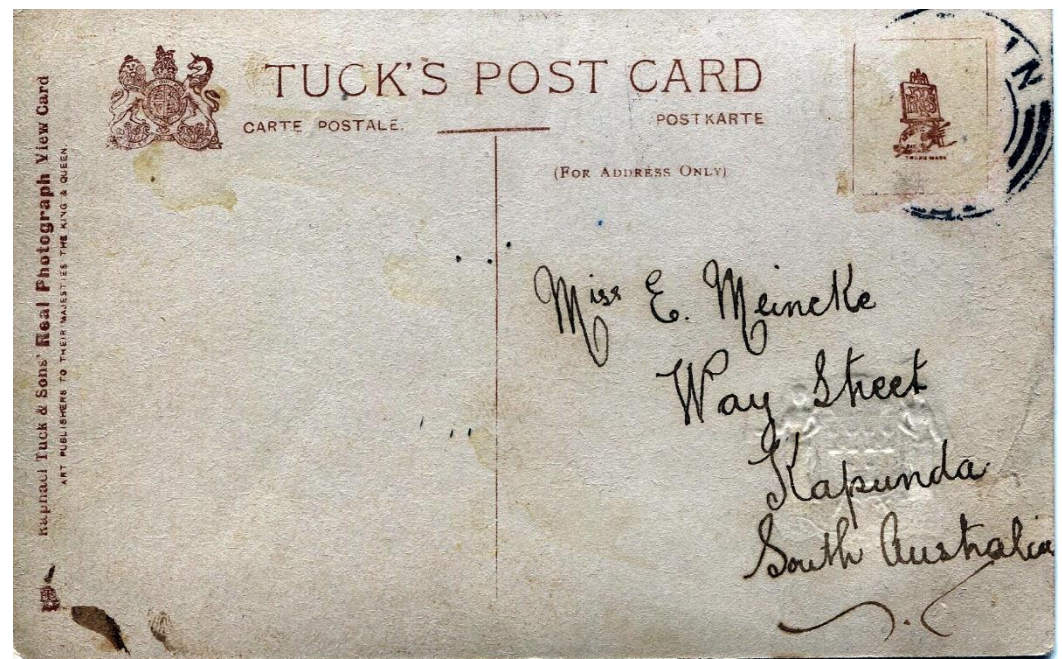
Royal Avenue, Belfast.



To: Mr F Meincke
Kapunda South Australia

We arrived in Queenstown on 25th, got orders and arrived at Dublin on 27 May 1906. Been here for 3 months Hooray. – enjoyed myself. Here's hoping you are all well. Remember me to all. With love from Gordon.

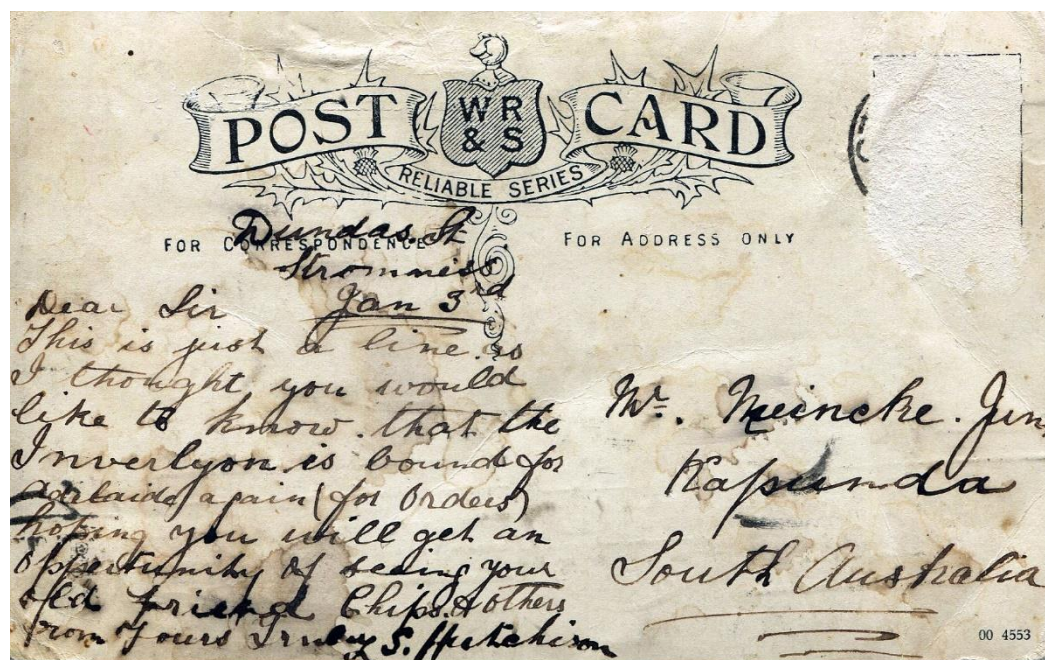
Dublin.



To: Miss E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia
4 June 1906

Dear -, I received order this morning Tuesday 4th writing as soon as I can. Pretty place as you can see. Hoping all well.
Best wishes. From Gordon.

Stromness, from south.



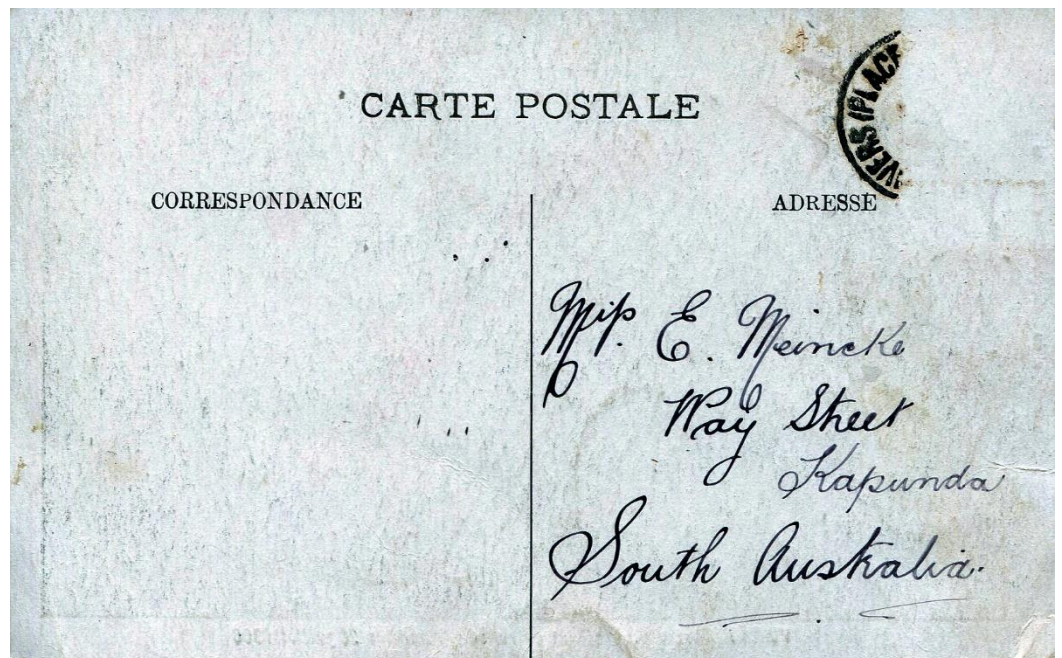
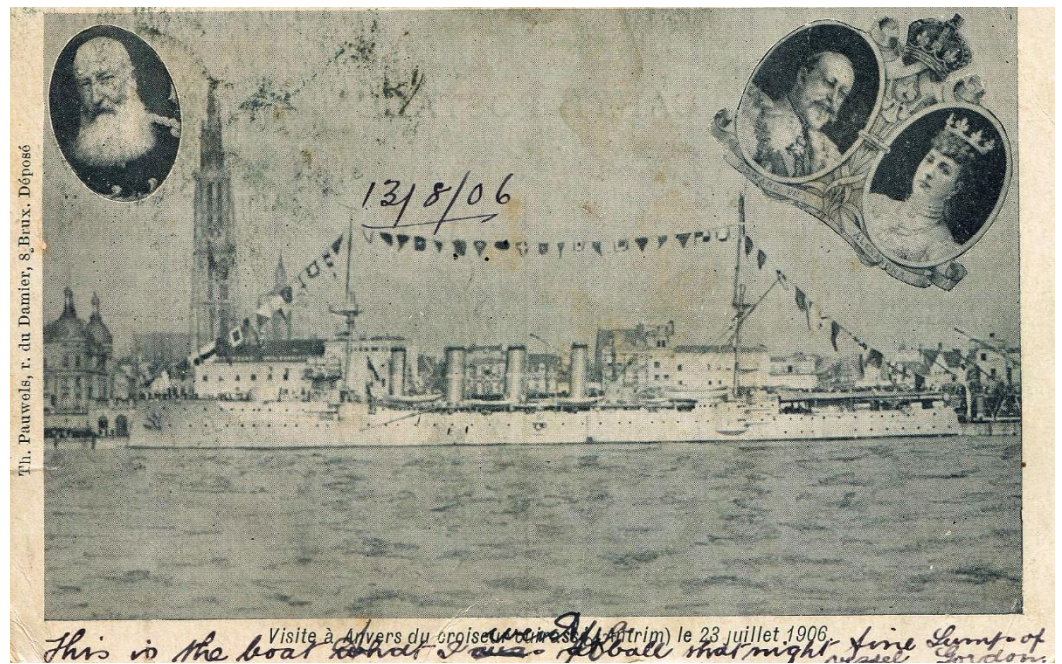
To: Mr Meincke Jun.
Kapunda South Australia

Dundas Street
Stromness
3 January.

Dear Sir,

This is just a line as I thought you would like to know that the Inverlyon is bound for Adelaide again (for orders). Hoping you will get an opportunity of seeing your old friend Chips and others. From your friend S Hutchison.

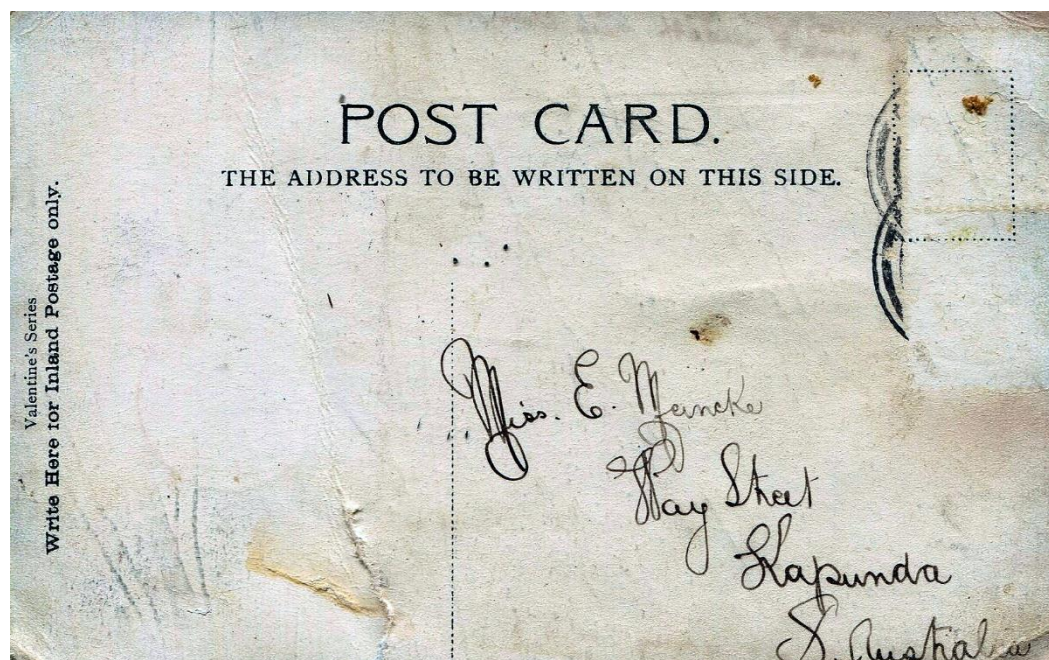
Postmarked Adelaide 5 February 1910.



Miss E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia
13 August 1906

This is the boat that I were -ball that night fine lump of vessel. Gordon.

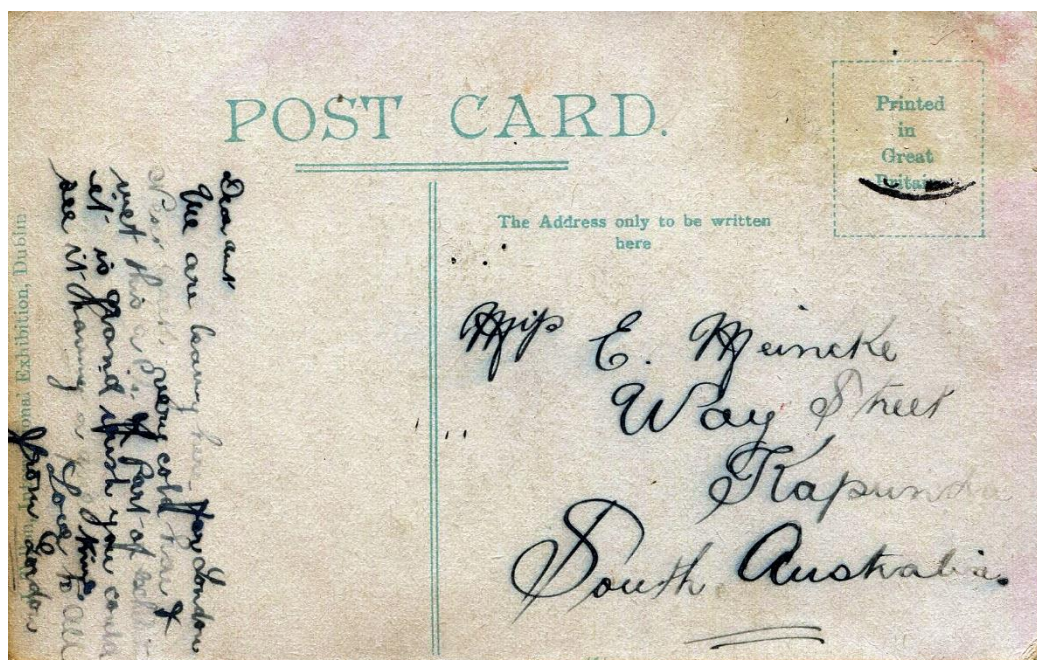
County Dublin.



To: Miss E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia
22 June 1906

Leaving Dublin Sunday 25 June for London writing letter there. All well. With love to all. From Gordon.

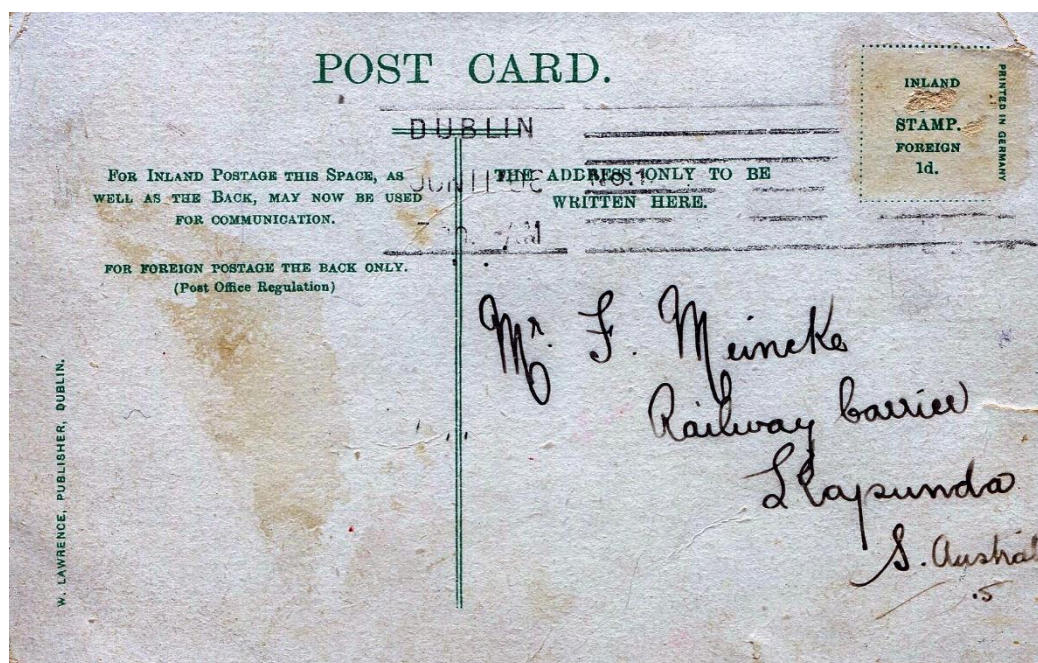
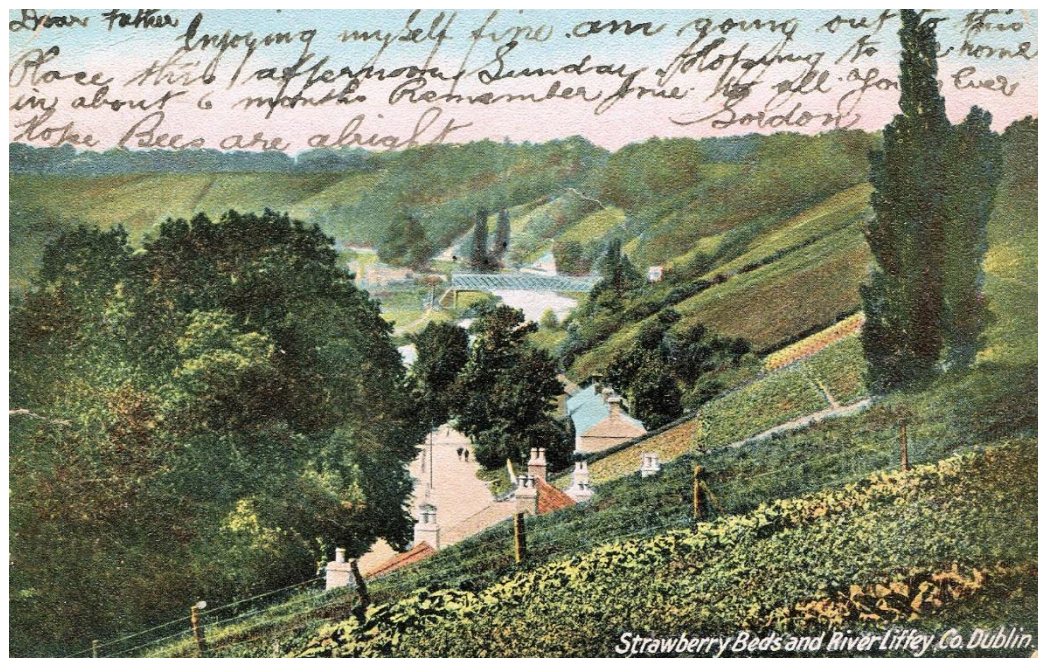
Irish International
Exhibition, Dublin. 1907.



To: Miss E Meincke
Way Street Kapunda South Australia

Dear Aunt,
We are leaving here for London next week. Very cold here & wet this -. Part of exhibition it is grand wish you could see it. Having a good time. Love to all.
From Gordon.

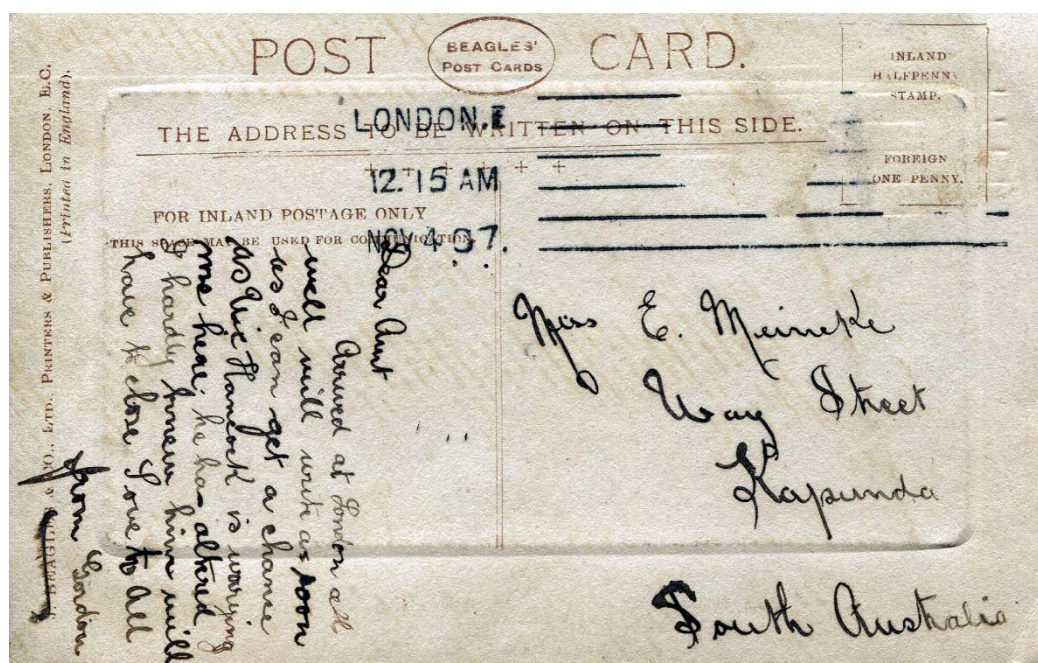
Strawberry beds and River Liffy. Co. Dublin.



To: Mr F Meincke
Railway Carrier
Kapunda South Australia

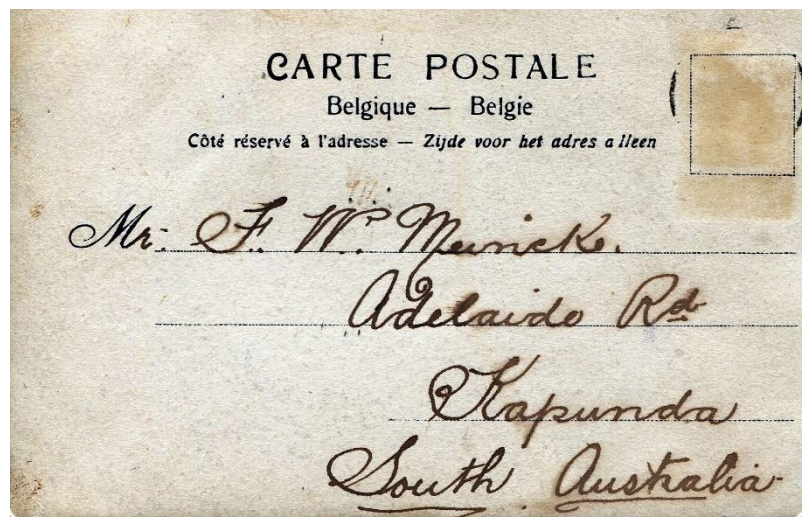
Dear father,
Enjoying myself fine. Am going out to this place this afternoon Sunday. Hoping to be home in about six months.
Remember me to all. Hope bees are all right. Yours ever, Gordon

Buckingham Palace,
London.



To: Mis E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia.
4 November 1907

Dear Aunt,
Arrived at London all well will write as soon as I can get a chance. As Vic Hancock is worrying me here he has altered I hardly knew him. Will have to close. Love to all.
From Gordon.



To: Mr F W Meincke
Adelaide Road
Kapunda South Australia.

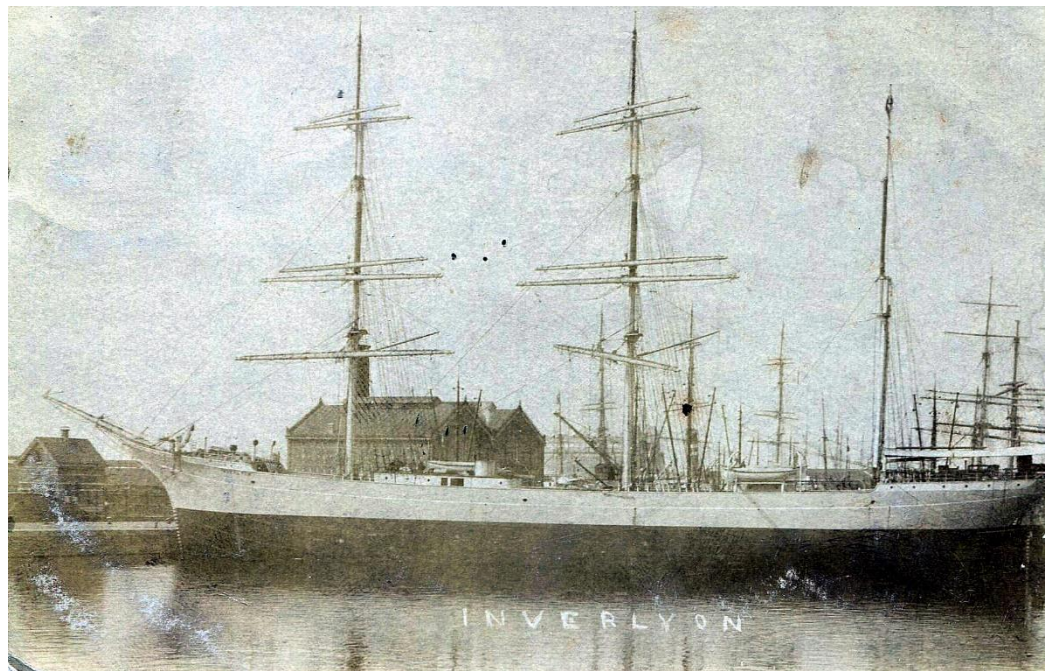
I am ready for any emergency now as much water as we had will not hurt me. My hat does not fit. This was to wear under the fore rigging.



To: Miss E Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia

This is 4 apprentices & Capt's boy and you know the other bloke [steward in white top]. We had just finished putting stores away when this was taken rough & ready. With love.
From G E M.

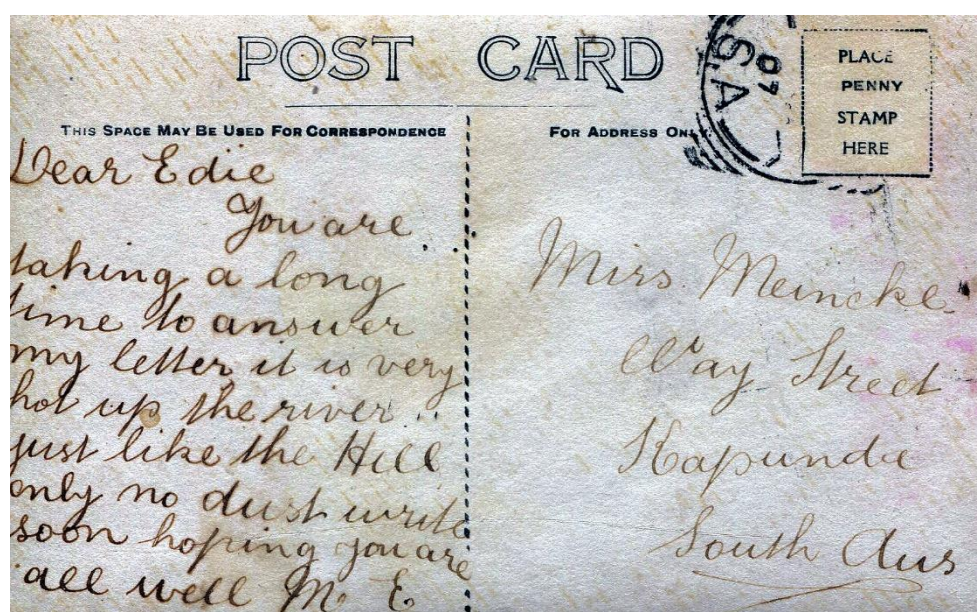
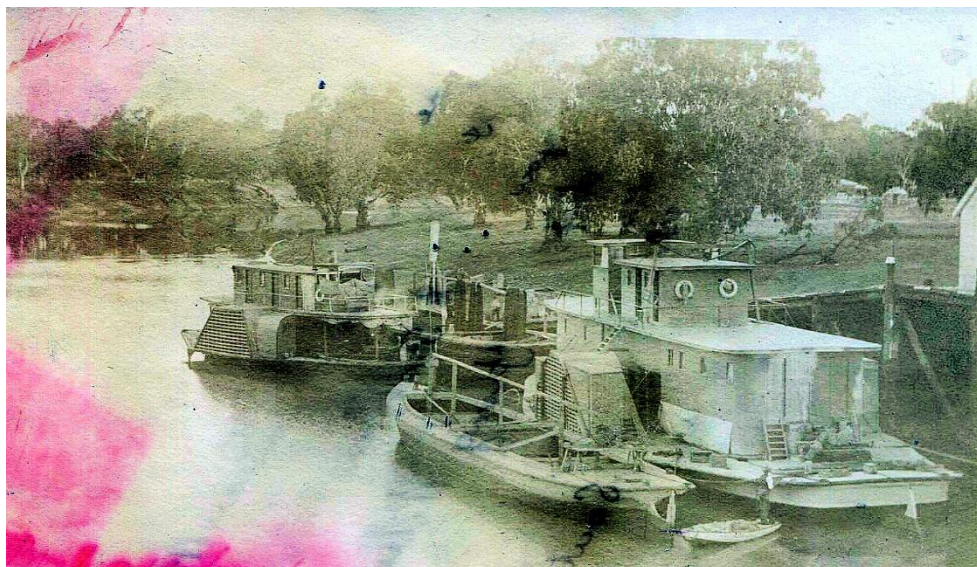
Inverlyon.



To: Miss Edith Meincke
Way Street
Kapunda South Australia
5 August 1906.

[no text]

[no label]



To: Miss Meinke
Way Street
Kapunda
South Australia

Dear Edie,
You are taking a long time to answer my letter it is very hot up the river just like the Hill only no dust write soon hoping you are all well. M E