

Rations of the Australians at Gallipoli

WG CMDR Derek Moore

Presenter: WG CMDR Derek Moore

Abstract:

The combat rations supplied to the Australians at Gallipoli in 1915 consisted of a very limited range of foods – predominantly Bully Beef, Hard Tack Biscuits, Tea and Sugar.

Consequently, the Australians suffered significant nutritional problems. These included general malnutrition, which contributed to the morbidity and mortality from both disease and battle injuries.

Scurvy, due to insufficient Vitamin C in the rations, was one of the specific nutritional deficiencies suffered by many of the servicemen. A chronic lack of water was an ever present challenge too.

This poster examines the food and nutrition issues experienced by the Australians at Gallipoli.

Biography:

Derek has been a member of the RAAF Specialist Reserve for over 30 years. His roles have included both consultancy e.g. to senior Health Services and ADF Catering personnel, plus training. The latter has embraced Health Services training at both RAAF Richmond and RAAF Williams, whilst Catering training has been delivered at RAAF Wagga and HMAS Cerberus, to a variety of both Air Force and tri-service courses.

Author's affiliation:

Wing Commander Derek Moore¹

¹Joint Health Command - Southern Region

Corresponding author:

Derek Moore

Corresponding author's email:

derek.moore@defence.gov.au

The Red Cross Information Bureau: Vital Aid to the Homefront.

Steve Campbell-Wright

Presenter: Steve Campbell-Wright

Abstract:

The Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society was established in 1914, within a fortnight of the declaration of World War I. By the end of 1914, hundreds of local branches were established across Australia. Throughout the war, the Society concentrated its efforts on providing comforts for those deployed overseas and assisting those who returned wounded. As an international welfare organisation, the Red Cross was well placed to seek detailed information about prisoners of war and the circumstances around deaths in battle or captivity. In the case of deaths, the Red Cross was often able to provide a more humane explanation for the loss than official condolences and correspondence could. The Red Cross Information Bureau was formed in 1915 to coordinate information and conduct research relating to wartime captives, deaths and burials. Through a case study of the twin Lord brothers, who enlisted in the Australian Flying Corps in 1915—one who returned and one who died in captivity—this paper shows the Information Bureau at work and the extensive efforts that were made to provide accurate and reliable information to worried and grieving families. Air Mechanic Will Lord died in Turkish captivity during the infamous death march to the Taurus Mountains after the 1916 Siege of Kut in modern-day Iraq. Investigations by the Bureau spanning three years finally determined his likely outcome. The important work of the Bureau provided answers and a degree of comfort for thousands of families and was a major factor in helping families to cope with their loss and adjust to life after the war.

Biography:

*Steve Campbell-Wright is a PhD candidate in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. He is also a serving officer in the RAAF with over thirty years' experience. His studies focus on military aviation history and cultural heritage. His 2014 publication, *An Interesting Point*, charted the history of Point Cook, Victoria in its centenary year as the birthplace of Australia's military aviation and the subsequent home of the RAAF. Steve also likes his history to be practical, and he volunteers on historic aircraft restoration and replica projects at the RAAF Museum in his spare time.*