News, Letters and Postcards

The Galloway News:

Reported some general war news as well as more local news. The Intimations section had a special 'On Active Service' section with deaths and prisoner of war information.

Galloway News 26th February 1944

DEATHS. On Active Service.

cochrane.—In January, 1944, of wounds received in action, Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Archibald Hamish Fitz-Gerald Cochrane, K.O.S.B., dearly beloved son of Commander and Mrs Cochrane of Rusko, Gatehouse, Scotland.

The paper also often included an 'On Active Service' column within the paper which included more details of service men and women who had been killed, injured, taken prisoner of war or had received an award. Unlike the newspaper reports for the First World War there were almost no photographs of those involved.

Galloway News 19th February 1944

The Galloway News was sent abroad to areas where local men were known to be serving.

Intimation has been received to the effect that Captain, John Sproat, R.A., younger son of Mrs Sproat, 22 High Street, Gatehouse-of-Fleet, who was previously reported missing, is now officially reported killed in action in January, 1944. He was serving with

the Central Mediterranean Force, and his wife resides in Edinburgh.

Creetown produced a series of newsletters called the **Ferry News Letter** between 1943 and 1946 which had more local news. These were also sent out to troops.

FERRY NEWS LETTER

From the Creetown and Carsluith Comforts Committee.

To those in the Forces whom we have the pleasure to serve.

No 7

PASSED BY CENSOR.

MARCH, 1945.

The story featured here told the sad story of Jane McDowell who was killed returning home from Gatehouse in September 1942 during a blackout period. Her brother William was killed in action in March 1945.

Copies of the Newsletters are now published in a booklet 'Ferry News Letter 75th Anniversary' available from the Creetown Heritage Museum.

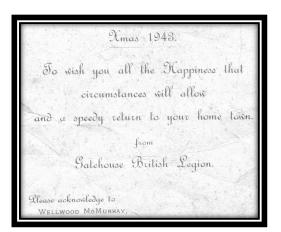


William M'Dowall.

It was with a deep sympathy that we learned of the death in a military hospital in England of William M'Dowall. He had been on service on the Westen. Front and was brought to this country critically ill. His father and mother travelled to Birmingham and were with him when he died. He was laid to rest in Kirkmabreck Churchyard beside his sister Jane, who lost her life in an accident when returning from a Fire Watch meeting at Gatehouse earlier in the war. Much sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs M'Dowall and their family.

During the war years the British Legion in Gatehouse sent Christmas cards to members.

Personal letters could be sent to serving men and women although these were censored and were slow to arrive, probably because of censoring.



The following is a series of correspondences involving 2 soldiers from Gatehouse and their families. Special thanks to Sheila Wallace for sharing her family's war correspondence.

Transportation of troops

often involved long slow journeys, and servicemen were encouraged to write home as a way of passing the time. Many described the new and unusual sights they saw in Egypt, India and the Far East.



Freddie Hay

Dear liver, 109516

Bear liver, 1008 dissie g expect you will have heard from mother that g am off overseas, it was a quicker more than ever g expected, but why worms wire frafable better ownseas than anywheelse, at least g hope so. We had great fun when we crossed the equator the other day, all those who hadn't been over before got tiffed into a tank full of nater, it was a laugh, or that we way scarce these days.

Above is part of a letter from **Freddie Hay** to his sister Cissie in 1941, whilst he was en route to Burma.

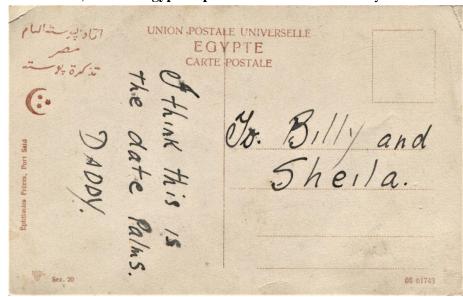
Postcards were popular. Here is one that Freddie Hay sent to his mother from France



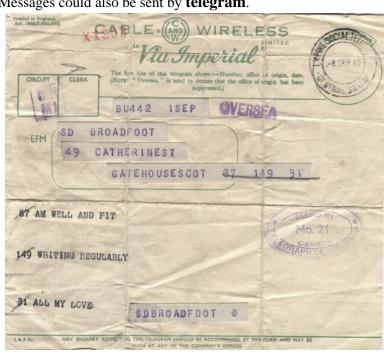


Stewart Broadfoot (Freddie Hay's brother-in-law) sent this Egyptian postcard to his children Billy and Sheila.





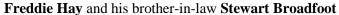
Messages could also be sent by telegram.





Telegraph transmission costs were kept to a minimum by using number-coded phrases. The sender would simply quote a series of numbers, whilst the receiver would add the text associated with those numbers.

See the example here.







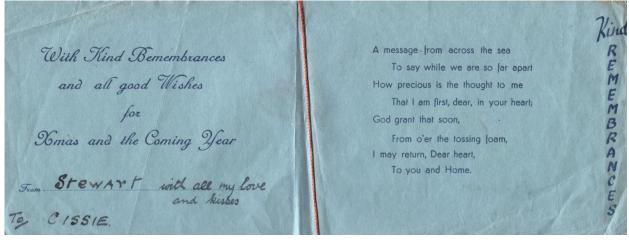
Prisoners of War were permitted to send messages home.

These examples were sent by Freddie Hay to his mother from Japanese PoW Camps in Sarawak and Borneo.



Special cards were produced by the Forces for troops to send home. **Stewart Broadfoot** sent this card from **Egypt** to his wife Cissie.





Stewart's sister Grace Broadfoot, who was in the WAAF, sent the card below from Dumfries.





Two more **Christmas greetings** from abroad.



