

## **Narrative of a personal geography of warfare**

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### **Abstract**

Maps represent geography, including geographies of warfare. They range from simple notations of immediate battle plans to elaborate full-colour printed or computer-delivered products. They strive to show the terrain and elements of and on that terrain that has or will perhaps determine the outcome of a military engagement.

The unfortunate consequence of any military engagement is the loss of life. Those individuals whose sacrifice is generally lost in the accounting and reporting generalization of warfare 'disappear' without their contribution to a battle – and the individual's departure from family and loved ones, related training, preparation, transportation, preparation for battle and aftermath. Their stories are not recorded on maps produced to represent a campaign – these maps are impersonal.

The 'geography' of military campaigns can be represented by the assembly of many personal geographies of that campaign – the assembled experiences of military and civilian populations that were directly involved in action or personally effected by the outcome - either directly or indirectly. But how best to 'map' these personal geographies of warfare?

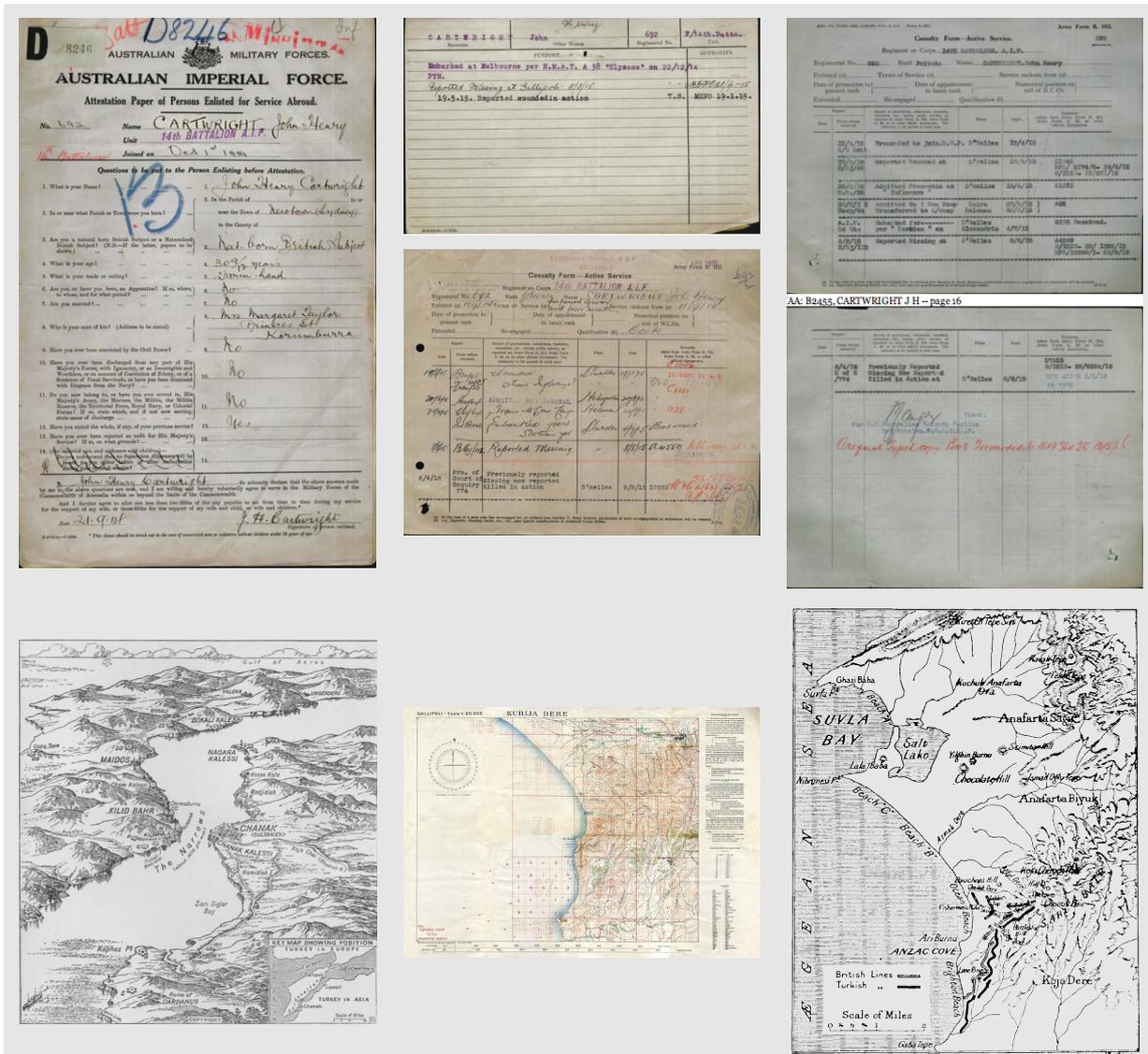
The geography portrayed in most maps of military campaigns do not provide any information about the personal geographies of a campaign or battle. These elements are missing. Personalisation is impossible when immediate geographical information is required to be represented prior to a battle or afterwards, as a record of the actual clash and its aftermath.

Personal geographies can be used to give an insight into the human stories of traveling to battle, the preliminary movements, the battle itself and combatant's reflections on what has happened. Mapping personal geographies can be done by assembling a montage of geographically-related artefacts, notes, annotations and maps that individuals have used to record their thoughts, feelings and reflections.

This paper provides an insight the personal geography of an Australian soldier who lost his life at the Gallipoli campaign in World War I. For Australians, this was a most significant campaign and troops from the relatively new nation of Australia fought and lost their lives far from their Antipodean home. In Australia the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the campaign has generated much interest and a number of projects have begun to commemorate and better understand the national and personal sacrifices made by Australia and Australian. The initial work related to representing personal geographies of warfare reported in this paper is one of the first steps that the author is making to make a small contribution to Australian endeavours linked to the 2015 anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign.

The paper elaborates on the development of a 'geo-historical album', built from records and artifacts of one individual that volunteered, fought and lost his life in the campaign in the Dardanelles. It describes the concept behind building geo-historical albums, how data and information was collected and procedures used for building albums. It then provides information regarding examples of future albums that can be constructed from personal geo-related artifacts and information used by politicians, soldiers, sailors, nurses and support

personnel, who used such information to make their personal assessments, records and reflections about the Gallipoli campaign. Finally, the impact of these personal geographies of warfare is reported.



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William Cartwright is Professor of Cartography and Geographical Visualization in the School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences at RMIT University, Australia. He joined the University after spending a number of years in both the government and private sectors of the mapping industry. He is Chair of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and Immediate Past-President of the International Cartographic Association. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a Fellow of the British Cartographic Society, an Honorary Fellow of the Mapping Sciences Institute Australia and an Honorary Fellow of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Melbourne and a Doctor of Education from RMIT University. He has six other university qualifications - in the fields of cartography, applied science, education, media studies, information and communication technology and graphic design. He is the author of over 300 academic papers. His major research interest is the application of integrated media to cartography and the exploration of different metaphorical approaches to the depiction of geographical information.