

The Royal Australian Navy in 15 Objects

Object 4

Turkish Flag from HMAS AE-2 & Associated Finial



The captured Turkish flag came from the survivors of the World War I the Australian submarine HMA Submarine *AE-2*. *The submarine had the distinction of being the first submarine to make its way through the heavily defended Dardanelles. In ensuing days she disrupted the Turkish sea supply lines in the Sea of Mamora.* It is believed that the flag was a souvenir of *AE-2*'s commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Henry Stoker, taken at the end of his captivity as a prisoner of war.

The Turkish finial from a regimental flag came from Able Seaman Driver Robert 'Luks' Luxbridge of the RAN Bridging Train that served in the Dardanelles campaign. It is of heavy brass and nickel plated 'star and crescent' finial taken from a Turkish regimental flag captured at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli. The hollow ornamental finial is in the form of a brass crescent moon encircling a small nickel-plated five-pointed star, mounted on the top of a nickel plated ball and socket.

This finial would originally have been fitted to the top of a Turkish flag pike bearing a gold embroidered crimson regimental standard. Able Seaman Luxbridge found the finial on 8 August 1915, a day after the Suvla Bay landing, about a mile from the beach, in a bush shelter which he thought had been either a Turkish brigade or regimental headquarters judging by the papers and litter lying around. Later research suggests that this may have been the headquarters of the 34th Regiment.



Location: The Australian War Memorial & the Seapower Centre-Australia.