



## **The Thomas Noonan Collection**

**P42**

**The Special Collections and Archives Department  
Glucksman Library  
University of Limerick**

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The Thomas Noonan Collection**

**Reference Code:** IE 2135 P42

**Title:** The Thomas Noonan Collection

**Dates of Creation:** 1913-1921, 2007, 2010

**Level of Description:** Fonds

**Extent and Medium:** 33 items (21 files)

**Name of Creator(s):** Noonan, Thomas (1891-1915).

**Biographical History:** Thomas Noonan was born on 23 December 1891 and lived with his parents Michael and Catherine Noonan together with his four older sisters and two younger brothers at Ballyguy, Barrington's Bridge, Limerick. Thomas was educated at Murroe National School and later spent three years as an apprentice at McBirney's Drapery Emporium in Limerick city. He was engaged in clerical work until May 1914, when the prospect of better opportunities, together with the added spur of relatives already there, encouraged his emigration to Sydney, Australia. In September 1914, he enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force. Attached to the 13th Battalion, he spent periods of training in Australia and Egypt. In April 1915, Noonan was wounded in the landings at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula and was transferred to a military hospital in Cairo for treatment. In July, he was returned to front line duty in Gallipoli, where he was killed in action on 9 August 1915. He is buried at the 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery in Gallipoli.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated to the University of Limerick by Michael Noonan, nephew of Thomas Noonan, in two instalments on 28 May 2014 and 31 May 2019.

## **CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

**Scope and Content:** Diary, letters, campaign medals and other memorabilia relating to Thomas Noonan's military service in the First World War and his death in Gallipoli in August 1915.

**Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information:** All records have been retained except for two items not connected with Thomas Noonan, which have been returned to the donor.

**Accruals:** No accruals are expected.

**System of Arrangement:** The material has been divided into four series covering Thomas Noonan's family background, his military service, his death and the commemoration of his death. The second series has been further sub-divided by form. Within each series and sub-series, the material has been arranged chronologically by date.

## CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

**Conditions Governing Access:** Unrestricted access to all items except item P42/2/1/1, which is too fragile to be safely handled. A typed transcript of its contents can be found in P42/2/1/2.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction:** Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

**Language/ Scripts of Material:** English.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:** Mostly paper documents in good or reasonable condition.

**Finding Aids:** A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections and Archives Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

## ALLIED MATERIALS

**Related Units of Description:** Thomas Noonan's enlistment and service records can be accessed on the website of the Australian National Archives at <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8002648&isAv=N>. Biographical material is available from the Spirits of Gallipoli website at <http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/project/result/NOONAN-T-204.htm>.

## DESCRIPTION CONTROL

**Archivist's Note:** Papers arranged and described by Kevin Russell under the supervision of Anna-Maria Hajba.

**Rules or Conventions:** This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000; *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009; *National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names*, 1997; and *EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services*, 2018.

**Date of Description:** February 2015. Amended June 2019 and revised May 2021.

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**1 FAMILY BACKGROUND (c. 1912-1913)**

- 1/1 [c. 1912-1913]  
Black and white group portrait (194 x 149 mm) of the Noonan family. Thomas Noonan is second from the left in the back row.  
1 item

**2 HIS MILITARY SERVICE (1914-1915)**

**2.1 His Diary (1915)**

- 2/1/1 1915  
Pocket diary (50 x 75 mm) containing intermittent entries made in Australia and Gallipoli between 1 January and 6 August 1915. The last few pages contain entries on pay and directions for the use of Stymol tablets. *This item is too fragile to be safely handled.* For a transcript of the contents, see P42/2/1/2.  
1 item (72 pp.)

- 2/1/2 2015  
Transcript of P42/2/1/1.  
22 pp.

**2.2 His Letters to His Parents (1914-1915)**

- 2/2/1 20 July 1914  
From Waewera, 11 Rowe Street, Woollahra, Sydney, Australia, describing his journey through Cape Town, Durban, Albany and Melbourne; the Irish community living in Melbourne; and his arrival in Sidney. *Fragile.*  
5 pp.

- 2/2/2 [January 1915]  
On active service after parting from Melbourne with the 13th Brigade, giving details of life at sea. *Fragile.*  
2 pp.

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- 2/2/3** 1 March [1915]  
From The Aerodrome, Heliopolis, Egypt, outlining his sea voyage from the port of Alexandria, describing Cairo and Heliopolis and providing details of his activities at the training camp in Egypt. *Fragile*.  
4 pp.
- 2/2/4** 14 March 1915  
From Heliopolis, Egypt, speculating where his regiment is to be deployed and expressing his views on enlisting in the army. *Fragile and damaged*.  
2 pp.
- 2/2/5** 4 May 1915  
From Kasr-el-Ainy Hospital, Cairo, Egypt, describing his part in the Anzac landing under fire at Gallipoli, his wounding a few days later and his subsequent transportation to the military hospital in Cairo.  
6 pp.
- 2/2/6** 17 May 1915  
From The Citadel, Cairo, Egypt, providing further details of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli and observations of bayonet charges, shell fire and enemy cruelty.  
5 pp.
- 2/2/7** 17 July 1915  
From Gallipoli Peninsula, Dardanelles, describing his living conditions and asking for cigarettes and writing paper.  
2 pp.
- 2/2/8** 2015  
Transcripts of P42/2/2/1-7.  
7 items

**3 HIS DEATH (1915-c. 1916)**

- 3/1** 16 September 1915  
Copy of *The Sidney Morning Herald*, containing on page 3 Thomas Noonan's photograph and a notice of his death.  
1 item
- 3/2** [c. 1915-1916]  
Mortuary card in memory of Thomas Noonan.  
1 item

**4 HIS CAMPAIGN MEDALS AND OTHER ITEMS OF  
COMMEMORATIVE NATURE (1919-1921)**

- 4/1 [1919]  
Bronze memorial plaque bearing Thomas Noonan's name, popularly known as 'The Dead Man's Penny', issued to the next-of-kin of service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.  
1 item
- 4/2 [1919]  
Memorial scroll bearing Thomas Noonan's name, accompanied by a letter with a copy of King George V's signature issued to next-of-kin.  
2 items
- 4/3 [c. 1919]  
The 1914-1915 Star.  
1 item
- 4/4 [c. 1919]  
The British War Medal.  
1 item
- 4/5 [c. 1919]  
The Allied Victory Medal.  
1 item
- 4/6 April 1921 (date of original)  
Photocopy of a printed form completed by Thomas Noonan's father to provide information for inclusion in the Roll of Honour of Australia.  
2 items
- 4/7 11 April 2007  
Page printed from the Internet showing the location of the plaque bearing Thomas Noonan's name in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.  
2 items
- 4/8 18 June 2010  
Pages relating to Thomas Noonan printed from The Spirits of Gallipoli website.  
4 items