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HORACE MOORE-JONES

1868- 1922

Gallipoli - No. 1, 2, 3 Outposts

Watercolour 23 x 70

Signed & dated 1915

25,000 - 35,000



At the outbreak of war in 1914, Horace Moore-Jones was living in Britain. He was 42 years old, but gave his age as 32 so he could enlist with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Moore-Jones was sent to Gallipoli to draw the area because there were no effective maps. Towards the end of 1915, despite an injury to his drawing hand, he succeeded in producing over seventy watercolours of Gallipoli. These works were first exhibited at New Zealand House, London, April 1916, and were well received by the military and public. General Alexander Godley, of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force said *Nothing that I have seen or read on the subject of Anzac brings more vividly to my memory the pleasantest features of our sojourn there*. Moore-Jones was more critical of his experience, saying *Gallipoli was like eight months of hell*.

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Returning to New Zealand in 1917 after being declared medically unfit, Moore-Jones exhibited his highly successful watercolours throughout the country. They became a departure point for his descriptive lectures about the campaign. After the New Zealand government failed to buy the watercolours they were purchased by the Australian government.

Moore-Jones's most widely recognised work was not painted at the battlefield, but from a photograph. His depiction of Private Simpson and his donkey was completed when Moore-Jones was exhibiting his watercolours in Dunedin, three years after the Gallipoli landings. He altered the composition of the photo to make for a more dramatic drawing. Moore-Jones died of burns received while rescuing people from a hotel fire in 1922. New Zealand's best-known war artist from the First World War, his Gallipoli sketches were acclaimed in Britain and New Zealand and are a vital component of the collections of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Auckland City Art Gallery, Hocken Library and Waikato Museum of Art and History. Very few of this artist's Gallipoli watercolours remain in private hands.