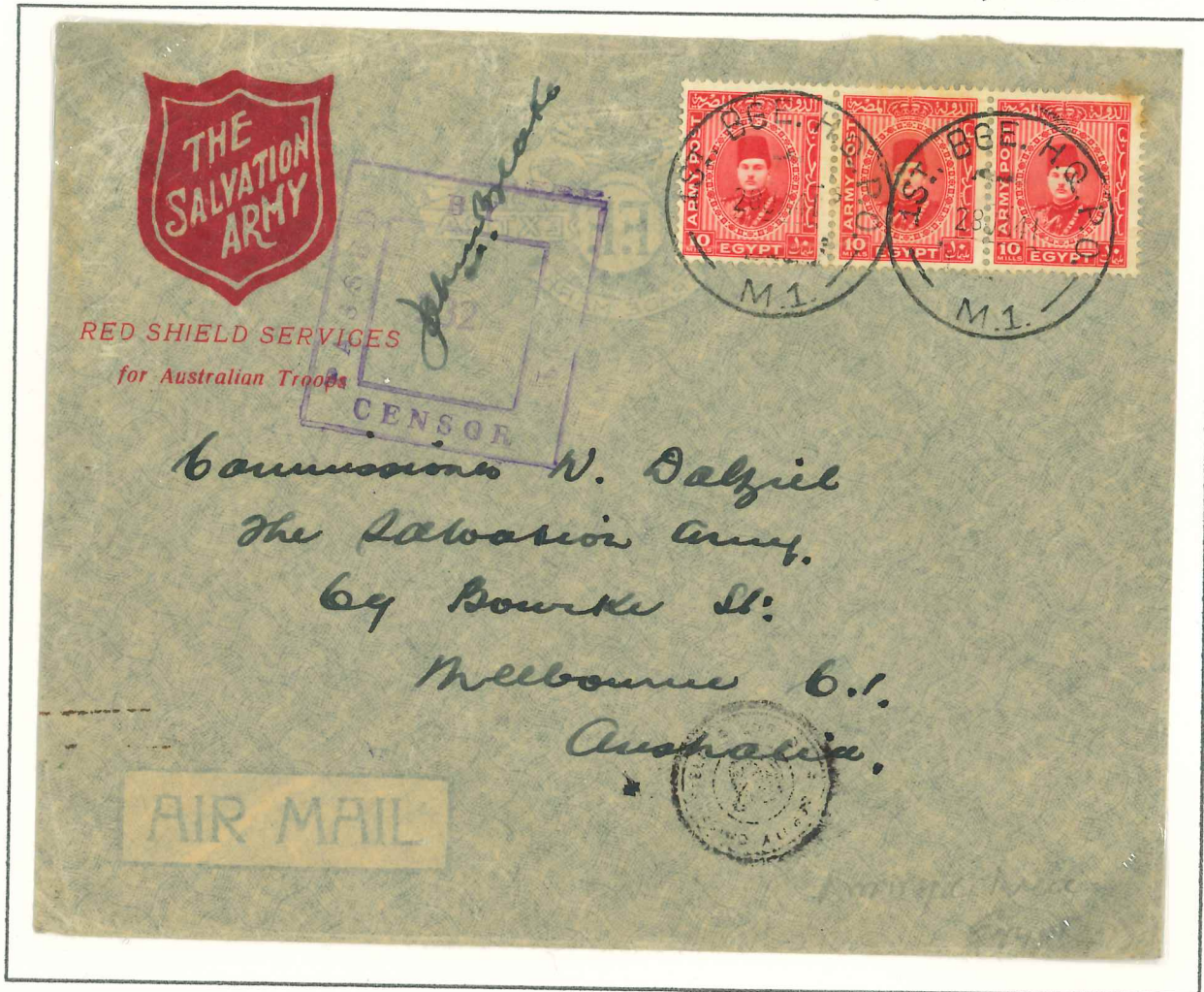


Australian Imperial Force

The Australians reached Palestine January 9, 1940 to set up camp and a postal system for the main body that started to arrive in February. The 6th Division moved to Egypt at the end of January 1941 and played a decisive part in driving the Italians back Libya. They also fought in Syria, Crete but returned to fight in the Pacific war when Australia was threatened by the Japanese.



1st. BGD. H.Q. P.O. M.1 which was later lost on Crete and 2nd. BGD. H.Q. P.O. P.2 survived the siege of Tobruk



New Zealand Forces

The first New Zealand troops arrived in Egypt on February 1940 being on the way to the Kingdom for the expected German attack on France. As the phoney war continued and the likely troubles from the Italians in Libya they were held in Egypt. Like other dominion troops they paid postage but on advancing into Libya discovered that postage was free. The designation K.W. may have been due to the nickname Kiwis but this was denied.



Australian Imperial Force

There was a rapid build of forces in late 1940 for which the original datestamps could not copy with. This necessitated borrowing from the British E series and FPO datestamps as well as EPP types. A further eight were borrowed from the Palestine PO of a skeleton form. Two shown below AUS FPO 37 and 36 were both used at Tobruk.



Australian Imperial Force

While the borrowed handstamps were meant to be returned, with introduction of the second series, such returns were erratic. Some continued in use not being returned until early 1943. One of particular interest is M.P.O.608 which not only continued in use but was taken back and put to use in Australia during April-December 1942.



E.608 was used on the Suez canal.
The lower cover, from Simla India, is backstamped E.608 19.AU.41



Australian Imperial Force

On July 4, 1941 new datestamps arrived from Australia referred to as the second Australian series. Two forms were used one AUT BASE P.O. and the other A.I.F. P.O. both with a number. Some of the borrowed handstamps were returned as these came into use.

A.F. W3078.

C & Co (6) Ltd

ACTIVE

2nd August 1942 A.

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—

Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—

I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature
Name only R Larmouth

[Crown Copyright Reserved]

SERVICE

[Up to three letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Address:— MRS. R. LARMOUTH,
C/O MRS H.F. STODDART,
DUNBAR,
ORANGAHAU,
HAWKES BAY,
NEW ZEALAND.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS CLUB

ACF

Italian stamps obtained in Libya during 1940 offensive.

Eugene Forman 17.

PASSED BY CENSOR
A.F.W. 3424.

VX9506

Mr. H. J. Mitchell,
Australian Soldiers Club,
Jerusalem.

PASSED BY CENSOR
A.F.W. 3295.

FIELD P.O.

3d NEW ZEALAND 3d
POSTAGE & REVENUE

CENTENNIAL OF NEW ZEALAND 1940

ITA LIA
LIRE 1

ITA LIA
LIRE 1

ITA LIA
LIRE 1

ITA LIA
LIRE 1

26

21

Australian Imperial Force



1st. BGE.H.Q. P.O. W.1 was based at Mughazi. Dated 5.JA.42 with back stamp Cairo 11.JAN.1942. The E.P.P. 58 was used by the Australian Base Post Office in Cairo.

Cover RAILHEAD P.O. R.M.1 dated 11.MA.40. with dumb cancel. R.M.1. was at Gaza Ridge from February 28, 1940.



Polish Forces

The 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division arrived in Palestine. They were formed from the Carpathian Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier-General Stanislaw Kopanski. It a unit of 5 000 men, mainly experienced soldiers, the 1939 veterans and volunteers. In August 1941 it moved to Libya where it won fame in the heavy fights during the defence of the besieged Tobruk, and in the spring of 1942 in the Libyan Desert. Gaza became one of the main assembly and training areas with some Polish forces remaining there until 1947.



Cover with Główna Poczta Polowa (Base Army Post Office) 113 dated 21.Ju.45. P.P.-113 was attached to the H.Q. of the 5th. Inf.Div. Kresova The date stamp operated from September 1943 at Nuseirat (just south of Gaza).

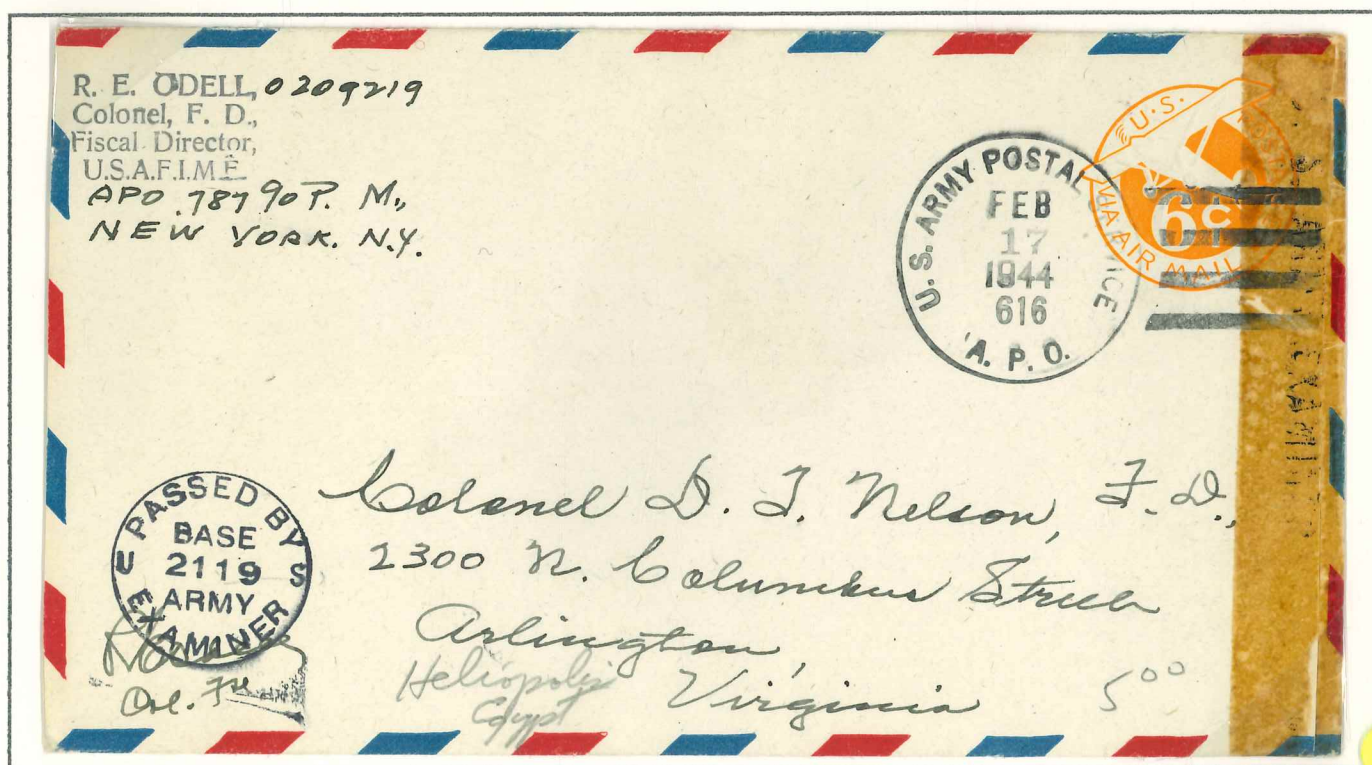


United States Army Air Force

When the British 8th Army was decisively defeated by Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps at the Battle of Gazala during early June 1942 the USAAF reluctantly sent air units to Egypt in support of its honoured agreement to give priority to the defeat of Germany. On 1 July 1942, the 57th Fighter Group, sent via West Africa, consisting of three squadrons the 64th, 65th and 66th with the first fighter sorties in North Africa being undertaken on 8 August 1942. The 57th was equipped with the P-40F Warhawk powered by a Rolls-Royce Packard-Merlin engine, in which it differed from the otherwise basically similar Kittyhawk. Later bomber groups were stationed in Egypt to support the war in Europe.

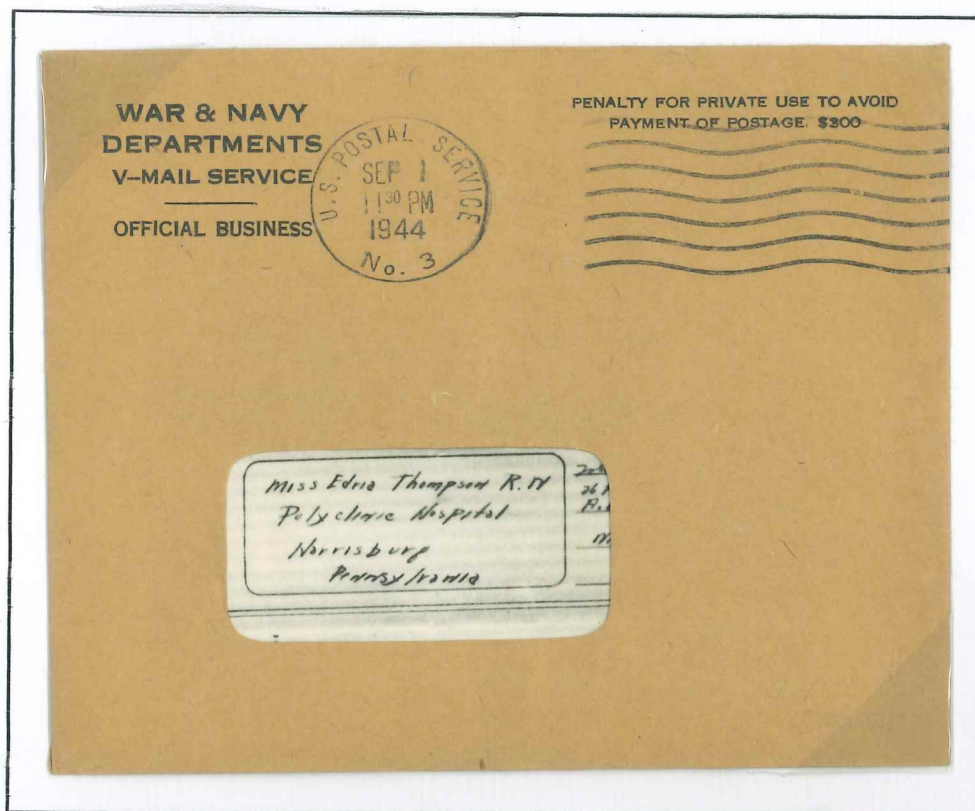


Upper cover datestamped U.S.A.ARM Y A.P.O. 678 allocated to H.Q. Middle East Command and the lower cover A.P.O 616 both A.P.O. served at the times shown at Camp Huckstep Heliopolis.

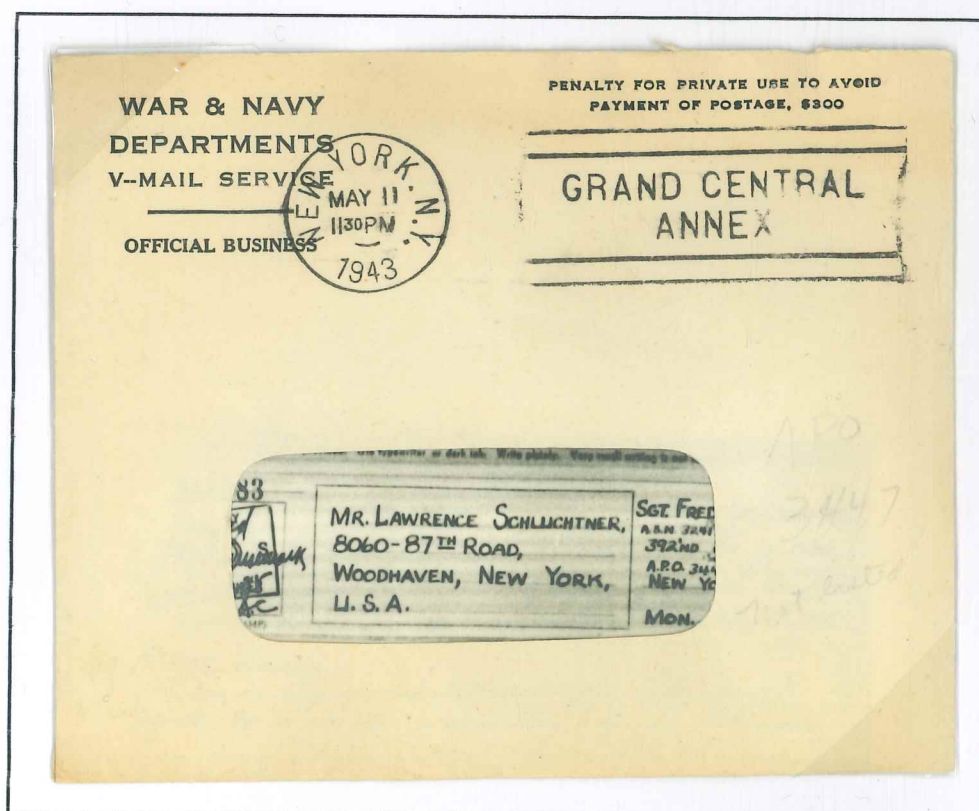


United States Forces

After America entered the war officials sought to reduce the bulk and weight of letters and rapidly copied the British Airgraph. Known as Victory Mail, more commonly as V-Mail, it operated during World War II to expedite mail service for American armed forces overseas. V-Mail used standardized stationery and microfilm processing to produce lighter, smaller cargo. The 37 mail bags required to carry 150,000 one-page letters could be replaced by a single mail sack. The weight of mail was reduced from 2,575 pounds to a mere 45. The service launched on June 15, 1942.



Upper cover U.S. Postal Service No. 3 dated SEP 1, 1944. Assigned to A.P.O. 616 Cairo 26th. Field Hospital. Lower cover dated 1943 then assigned to A.P.O. 616 Cairo 392nd Signal Company.



Royal Canadian Air Force



Two covers with F.P.O 600 used by the Canadians from early 1943.
The lower cover endorsed with B.N.A.F.—British North Africa Forces

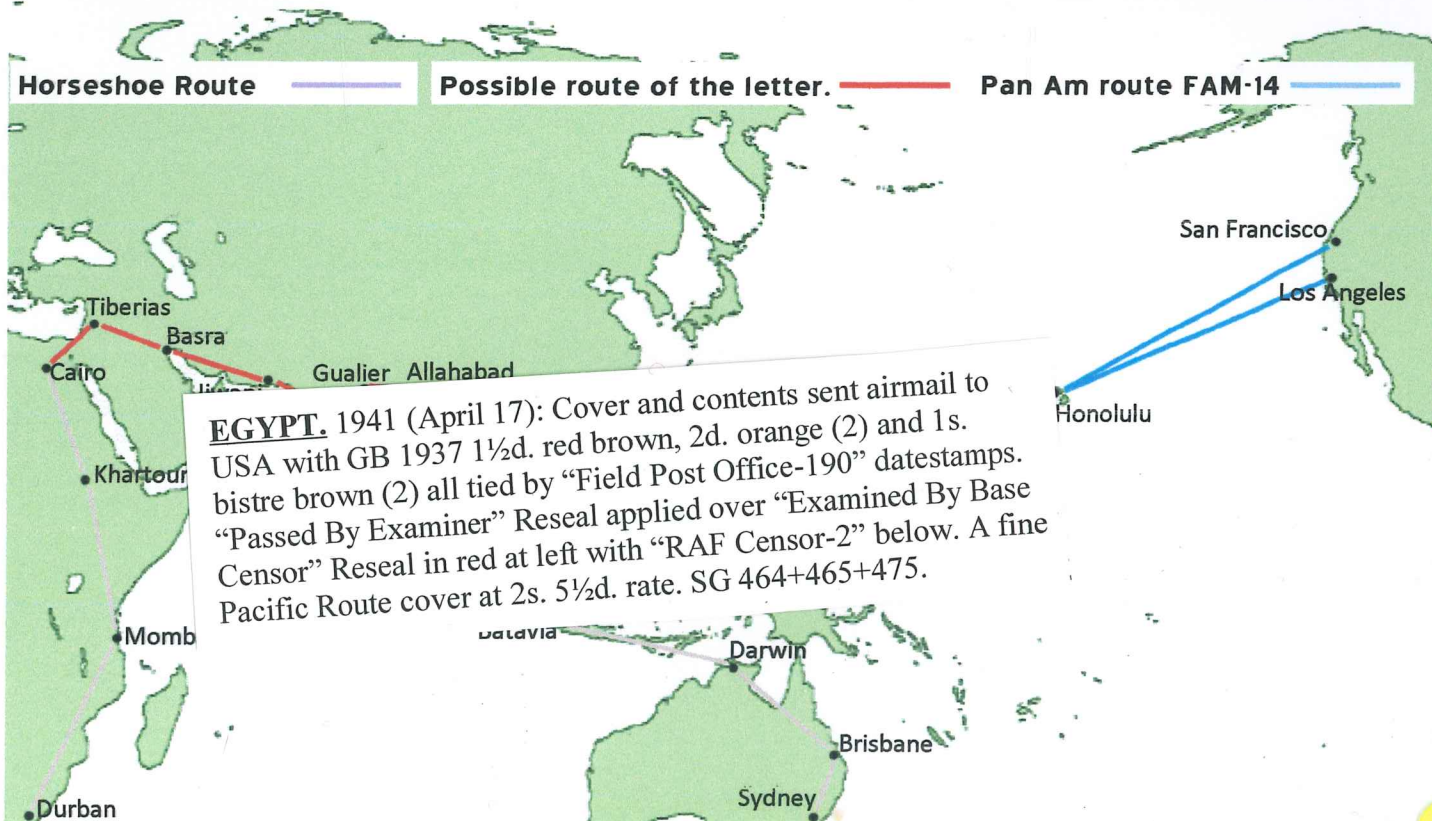
No. 417 "City of Windsor" Squadron RCAF was formed at Charny Down on November 27, 1941. Arriving in Egypt in June 1942, after a trip around the Cape, it was stationed at Kasfareet (Geneifa) on the bitter lake. The pilots were initially attached to the Aircraft Delivery Unit, whilst the ground personnel serviced US Bombers in the Area. The squadron re-assembled on September 6, 1942, equipped with Hurricanes and immediately began defensive duties in the Canal Zone and soon claimed its first victory, a Junkers Ju 88. The squadron became part of the Desert Air Force being re-equipped with Spitfire Mk VBs and Mk VCs, and in February 1943 it moved to the Western Desert. In July 1943 the squadron moved to Malta (Luqa), and then to Italy where it disbanded in Italy on July 1, 1945.



Pacific Route

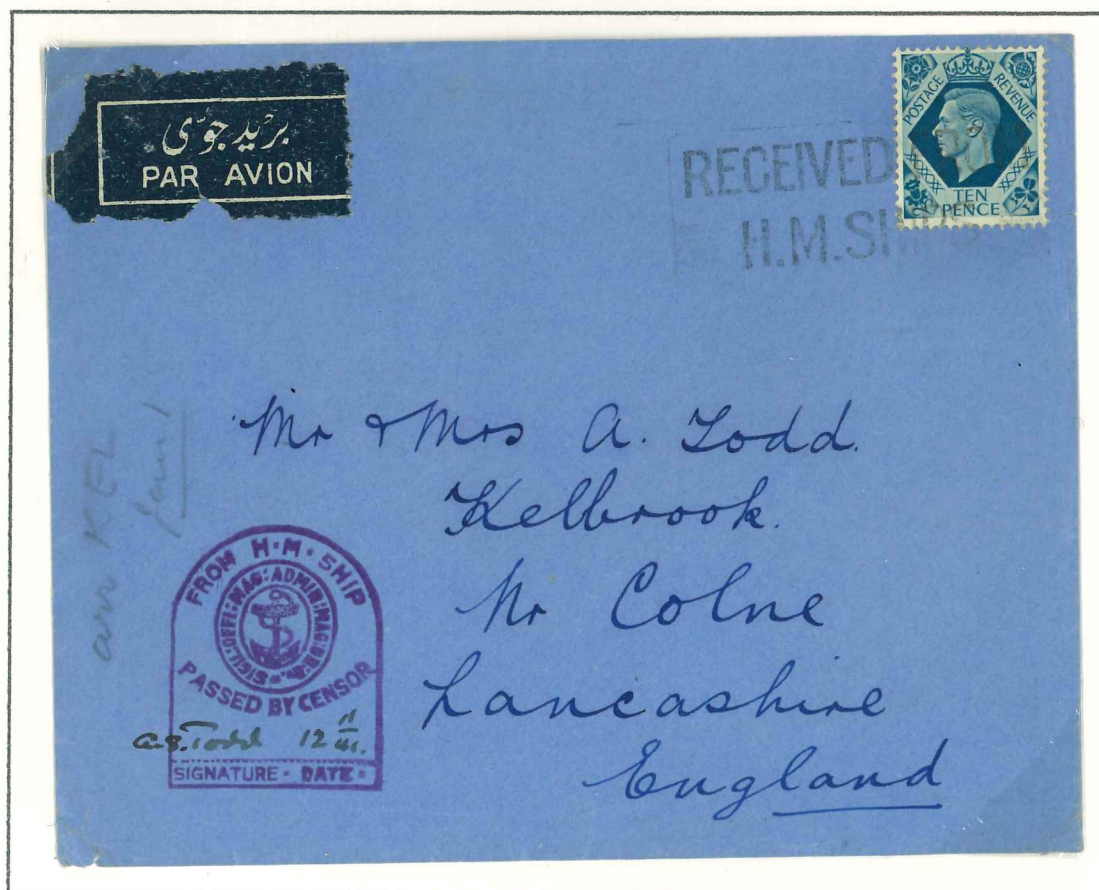


Letter from F.P.O. 190, which was at GHQ Cairo, dated Apr.41, to New York via the Pacific route. The sender was a member of No.1 Squadron S.A.A.F. Censored in Egypt and resealed it was further censored and resealed probably at Singapore when the letter was transferred to Pan Am flight FAM-14. On reaching the States the letter may have gone air mail or overland to New York



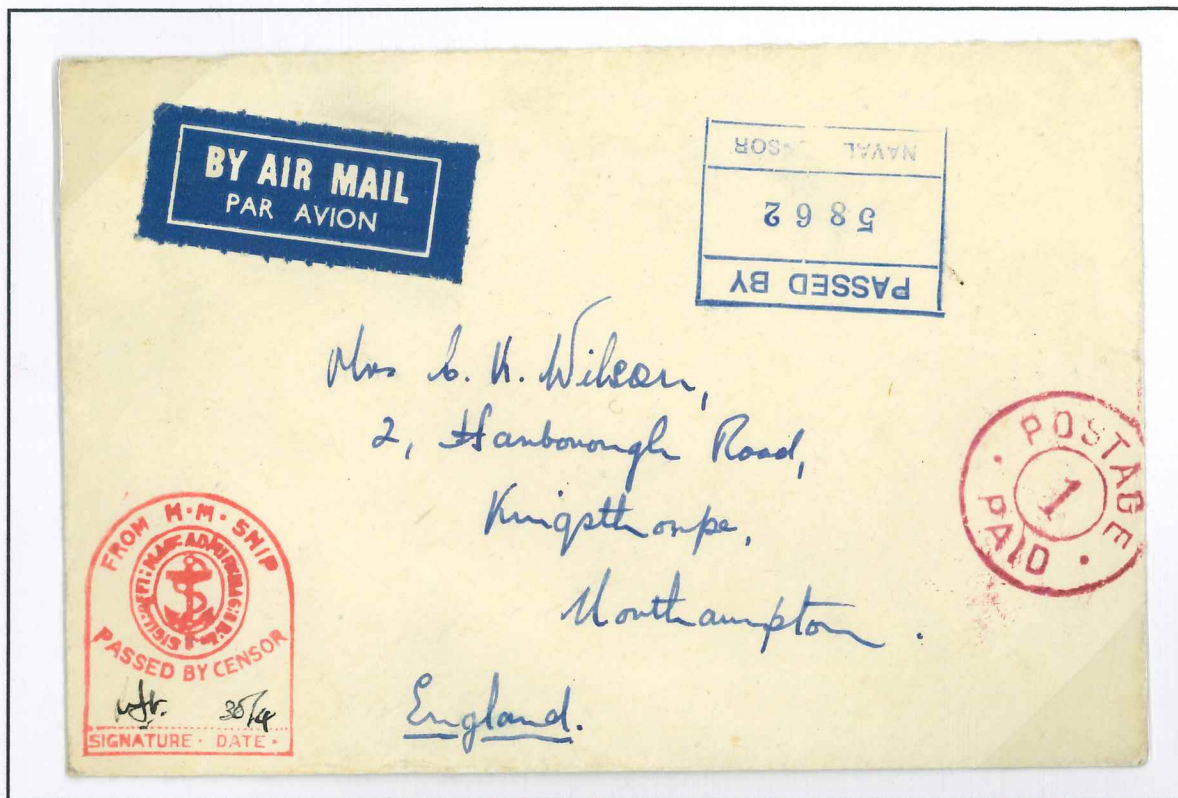
British Navy

Examples of the naval tombstone censor marking



Anonymous Postage Paid

Daynes "Wartime Airmail" states: "Naval Air Mail Postage Paid. Before the outbreak of the second world war air mail postage on mail from Royal Navy ships was often paid in local postage stamps on the letters. Wartime security led to the introduction of anonymous handstamps to indicate airmail postage had been paid.". The providence of these two covers is the Alan Brown sale December 1996, lot 441. Few of these Postage Paid covers exist. The 'PASSED BY/ 5862/ NAVAL CENSOR' was in use in Egypt thus showing the origin, probably Alexandria.



Air Mail Suspended



1/3d Air Mail letters to the Middle East were sent by sea to West Africa then by air to Cairo. After North Africa was cleared of axis forces it became safe to send ships through the Mediterranean. This being quicker than the sea/air route the air mail route was suspended in October 1943. Airgraphs and Air Mail Letter Sheets were sent by direct airmail.



Reported Missing

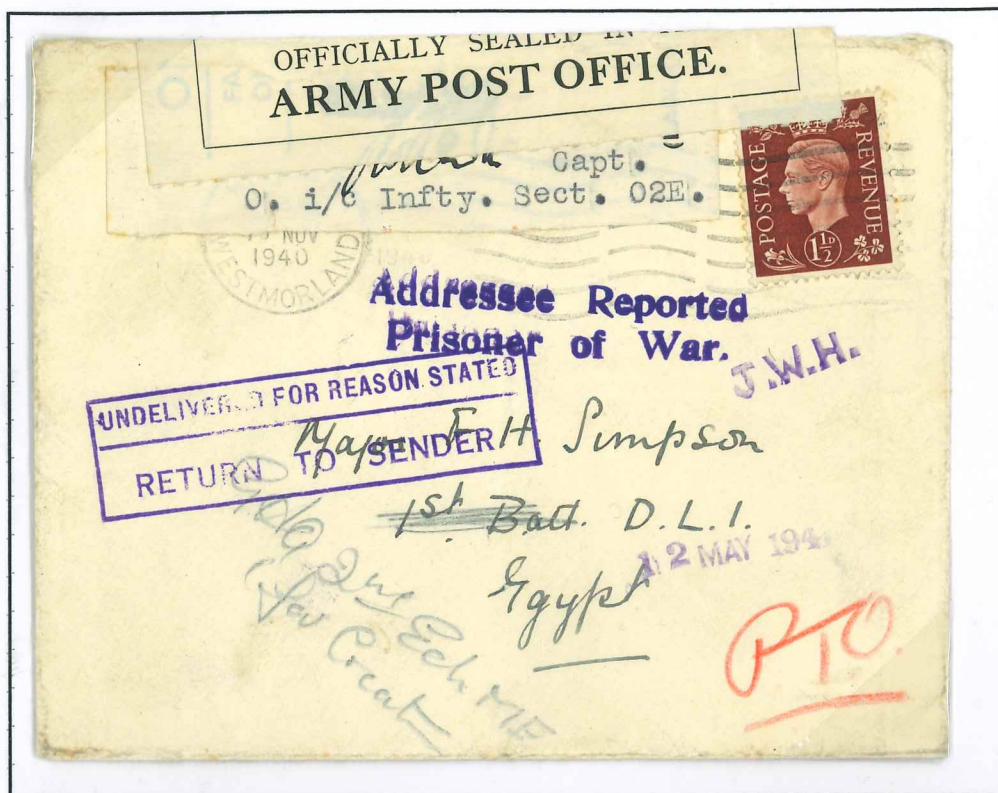


Letter to Captain J.V.Harrison of the 4th. Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The datestamp is unreadable, on the back it is stamped with F.P.O. 174 20.JA.43, which at this date was attached to A.P.O. S222 in Egypt/North Africa. The 2nd Battalion joined with the 4th and 5th Battalions of the Regiment into the 133rd (Royal Sussex) Infantry Brigade as part of the 44th (Home Counties) Infantry Division. The brigade was sent to North Africa in 1942 where they fought in the Battle of Alam Halfa and the Battle of El Alamein. In 1943 the 2nd Battalion and volunteers from the 4th and 5th Battalions were formed into the 10th Parachute Battalion. The brown resealing label reads "Found open or damaged and officially secured".



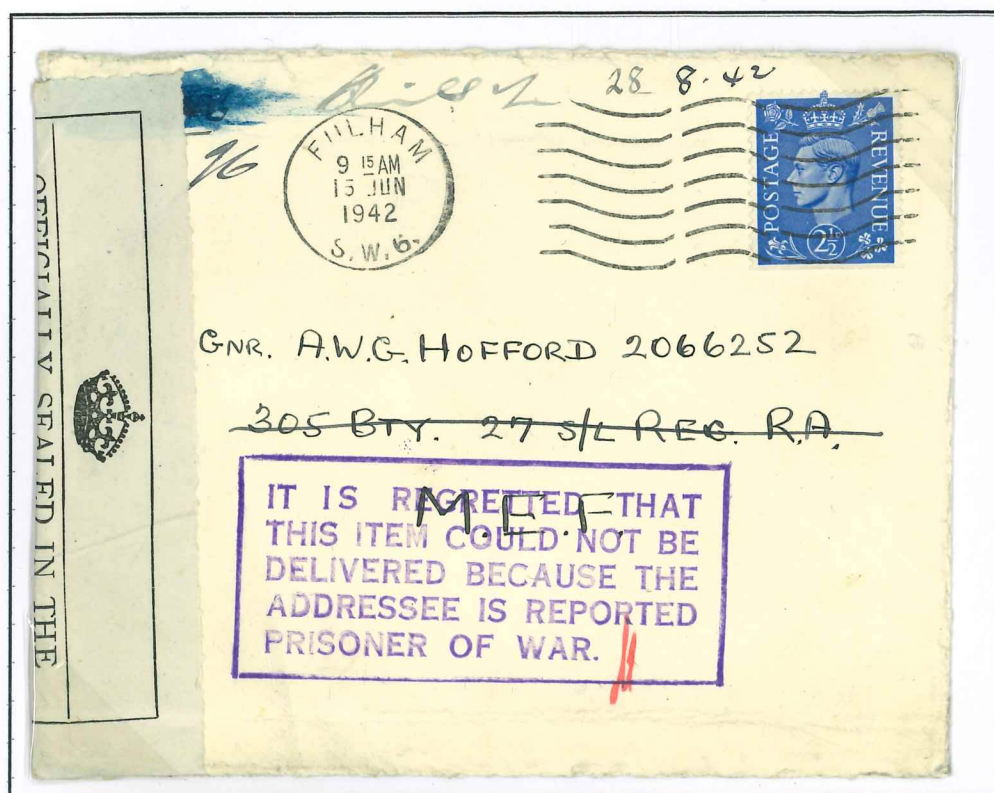
Reported Missing

ARMY POST OFFICE resealing label, for letters without the return address on the back they were opened to get the address of the sender. The letter was then resealed with label with the return address written on the back in red ink.



Letter to Major F.H.Simpson of the 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry. The cover is dated 11.NOV.1941 and returned 2 MAY 1941 it is therefore likely that Simpson was captured between the end of 1941 and early 1942. Possibly in Rommel's first advance in February 1941.

The lower cover to Gunner A.W.G Hofford dated 15.Jun.1942. The 27th Regiment RA was part of the forces that captured Tobruk 21 June, 21 1942 and soon after the letter possibly arrive was the battle of El Alamein starting on October, 23. Possibly Hofford was captured between these two events.



Reported Missing

Two covers sent by airmail at the prevailing rate of 1/3d.



Letter to Sargent Holdsworth of the Royal Army Service Corps. The date of the letter has been hidden by pen, there is also a straight line cachet and it is initialled. Some form of censorship?

The lower cover to Gunner H.L. 106th (Lancashire Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA it became part of 1st Cavalry Division in 1939 in the UK before moving to Palestine in January 1940. It was equipped with 4.5 inch Howitzers (424 Bty) and 18 pdr Field Guns (423 Bty). Later in 1940 it became 106th RHA. It moved to North Africa in August 1940, after serving in Crete. No. 1 (previously 424) and No. 2 (previously 4243) Batteries were designated as Anti-tank units. The cover has no readable dates

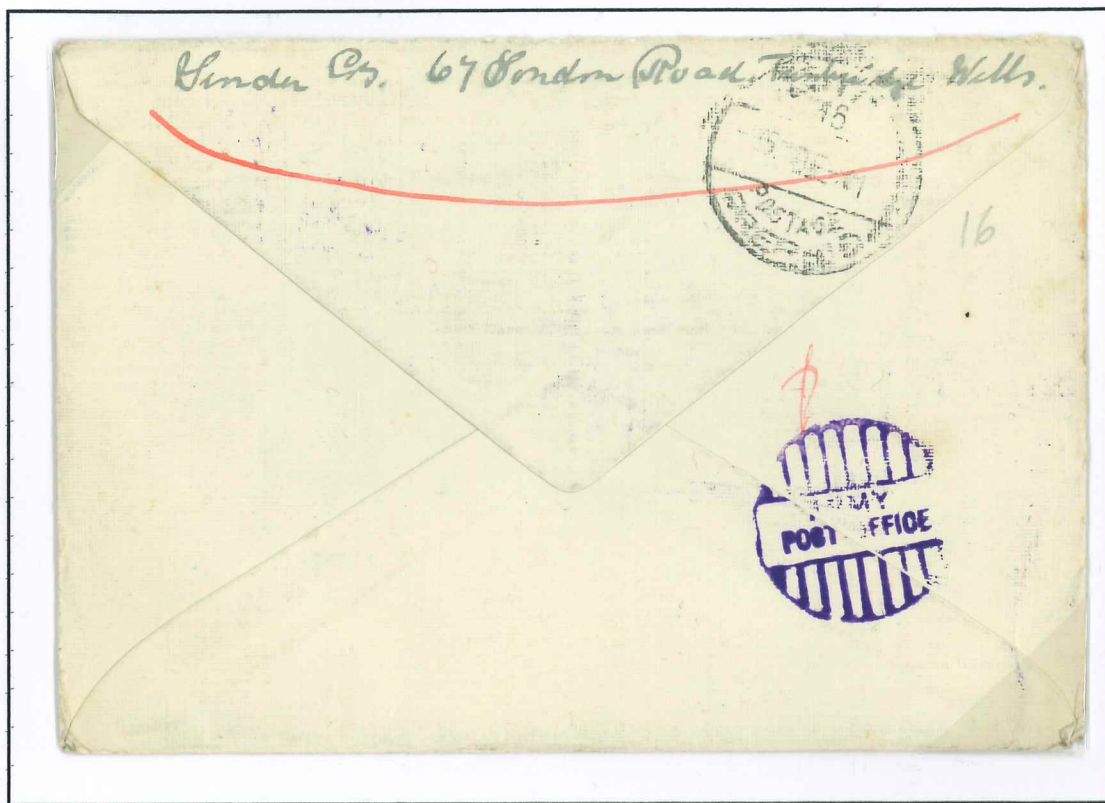


Reported Missing

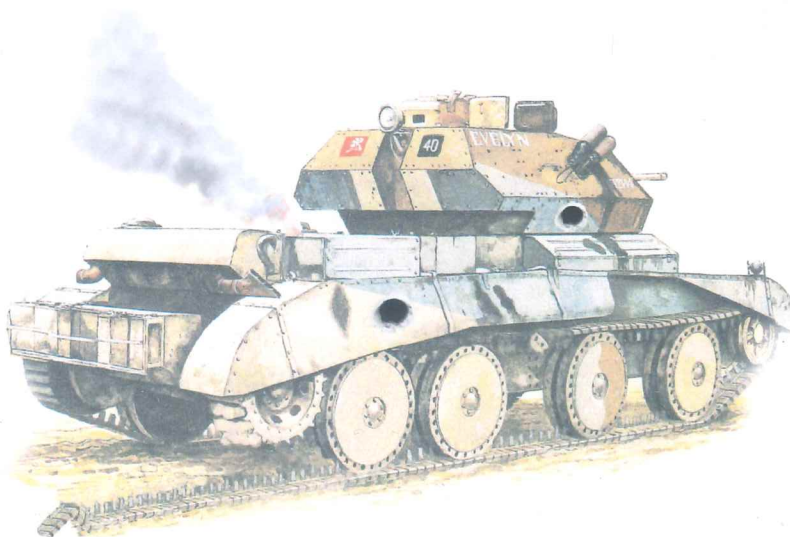
If mail could not be delivered it was returned to the UK. Such mail received a dumb ARMY POST OFFICE marking and one for the reason of return. Some times the return date is several months from the posting of the original letter.



Addressee Reported
Prisoner of War.



The 2nd Armoured Division it was created on 15 December 1939. In October 1940, the division sailed for the Middle East, arriving in the new year. It received the leftovers from the 1st Armoured Division being poorly equipped with about 150 Light Tank Mk VI. In early 1941, the division was sent to the Western Desert and was engaged in Operation Compass. Much of the division was captured at Mechili in Libya by German and Italian forces and officially disbanded On 10 May 1941. On the back of the cover is a postmark EPP dated 5.DE.41. while the original UK postmark is dated 29.APR.1941.

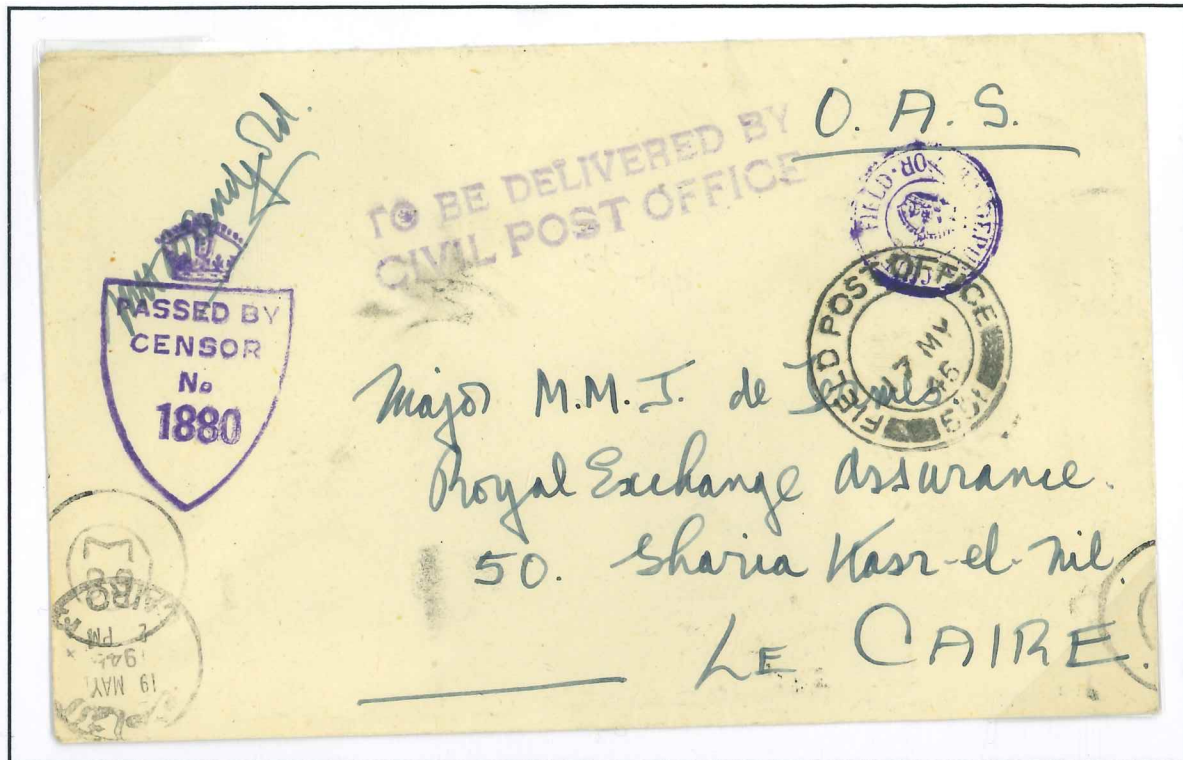


To be Delivered by Civil Post Office

There quite a bit mail sent by members of the forces to an internal address within Egypt. Mail would be sent to the Base Post Office in Cairo which would pass the letter on to the Egyptian Post for delivery. Some covers received the handstamp TO BE DELIVERED BY CIVIL POST OFFICE. Two of the three examples are back stamped with BASE ARMY POSTOFFICE 4 the main BAPO in Cairo.



To be Delivered by Civil Post Office



Censorship WWII

Forces mail was first censored by the British Military authorities during September 1939, soon after the outbreak of the war. In Egypt civil censorship was proclaimed on September 4, 1939 saying that all mail was subject to censorship. In practice it was applied to mail coming into and leaving the country. When military censorship was introduced is uncertain but the last date of an uncensored military letter is 21.SE.39 at Marsa Matruh and the earliest known censored letter is 19.SE.39 also from Marsa Matruh. Military censors are struck in a variety of colours including red, cerise, blue, blue-grey, green and black.

The Chief Field Censor department was responsible for the censorship of forces mail in Egypt located at General Headquarters Cairo. Censorship was one of the functions of a department within British Intelligence. Each brigade had a Deputy Field Censor department with responsibility for censorship they had their own censorship hand-stamps, but the individual units themselves also had their own censorship cachets. Letters censored at unit level could still be liable to censorship at the deputy or chief censorship level.



Cover sent from B.P.O. E.601 9.JU.40 has a double square unit censorship mark signed by the officer in charge. It also has two Chief Field Censor markings in green and purple. It has on the back a London postmark of 17.JLY.1940.

Censorship WWII

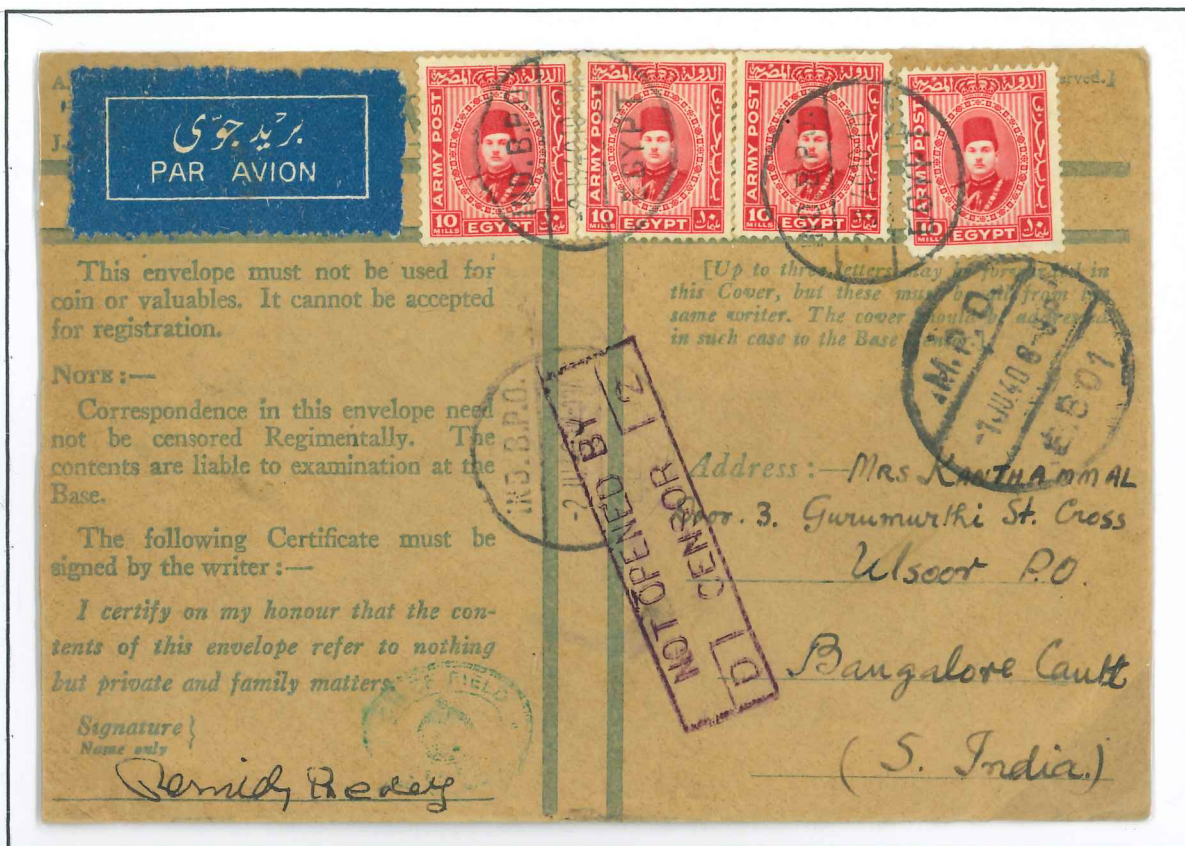


Two examples of the Deputy Chief Field censor marking. One with E.P.P.5 90?.SE.42 which was used by 234 Wing RAF/MEF.

Below a cover with E.P.P.63 6.DE.41 with a South African censorship mark. The Datestamp was used by South African Forces. At the date shown the South African 2nd Division was conducting a siege on Tobruk.



Censorship WWII

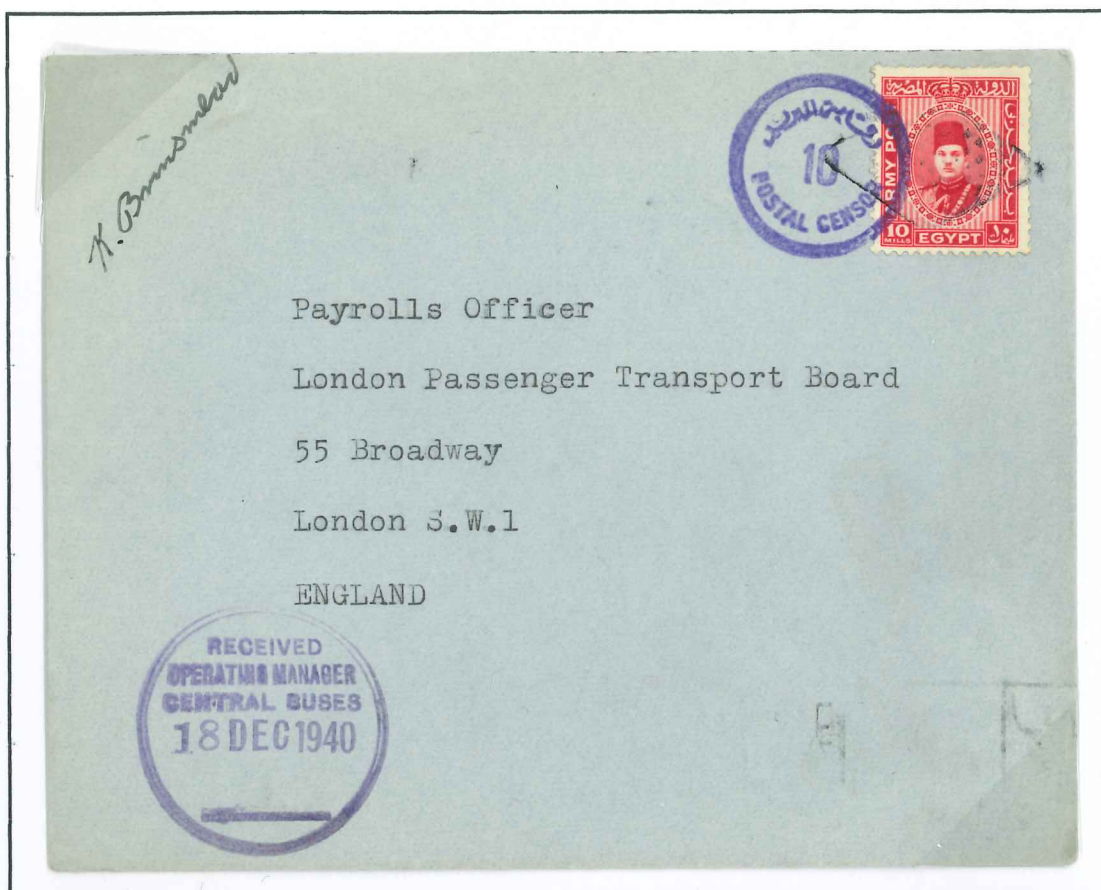


Upper cover with a Chief Field Censor mark plus NOT OPENED BY CENSOR probably applied in India

Below M.P.O? with PASSED BY UNIT CENSOR introduced in 1942

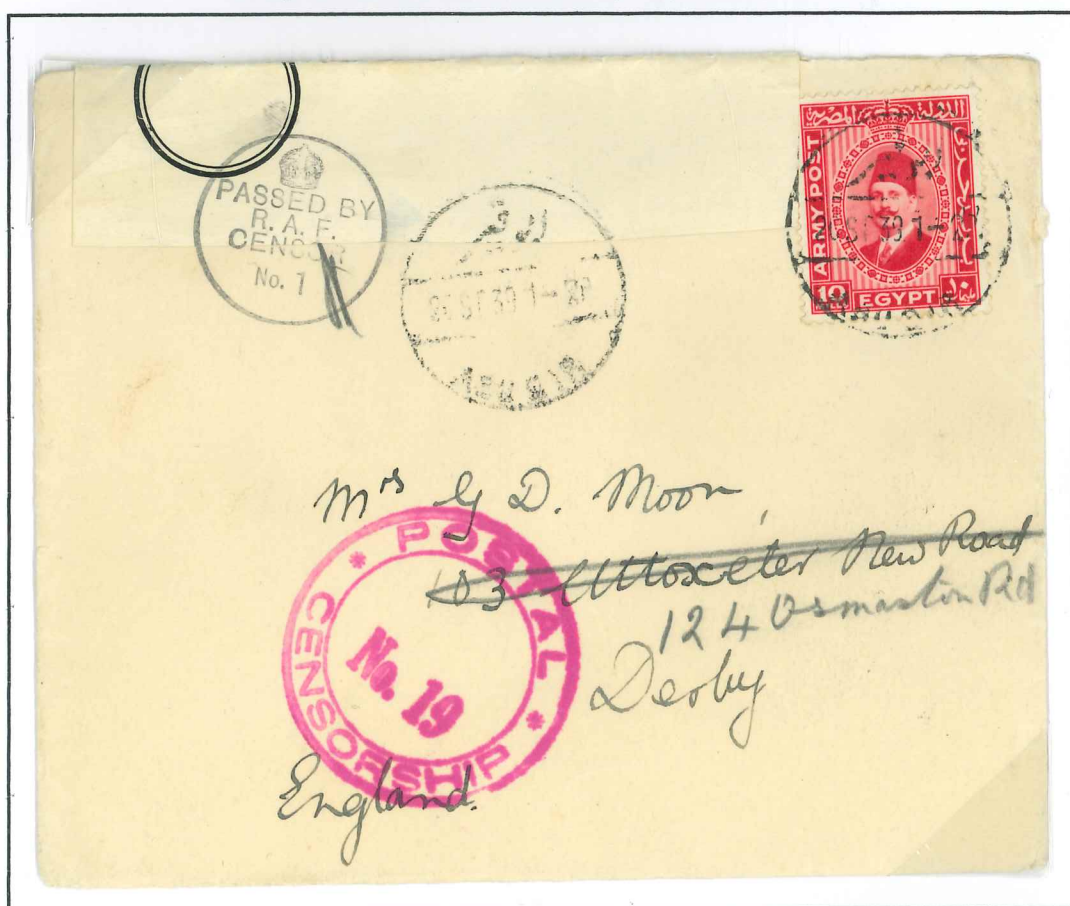


Censorship WWII



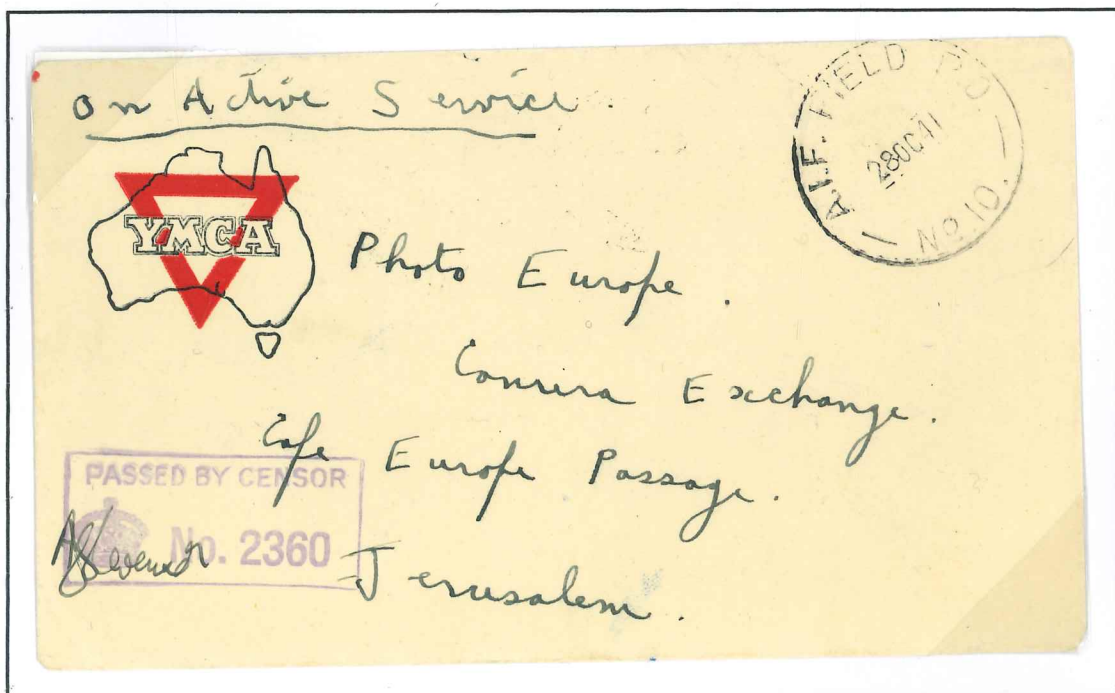
Upper cover a dumb retta and a civil censor mark on the stamp Andrews type 6a10 seen from DE.41

Below a cover from the RAF base at Abu Sur dated 26.SE.39. with R.A.F. censor and sealing posted in an Egyptian post box. It then received an Egyptian censor marking, Andrews type 14.1 which are only recorded in use during September 1939.





Two examples of censor handstamp type Daynes A100 originally used in France in 1939 it was introduced in Palestine in 1940.



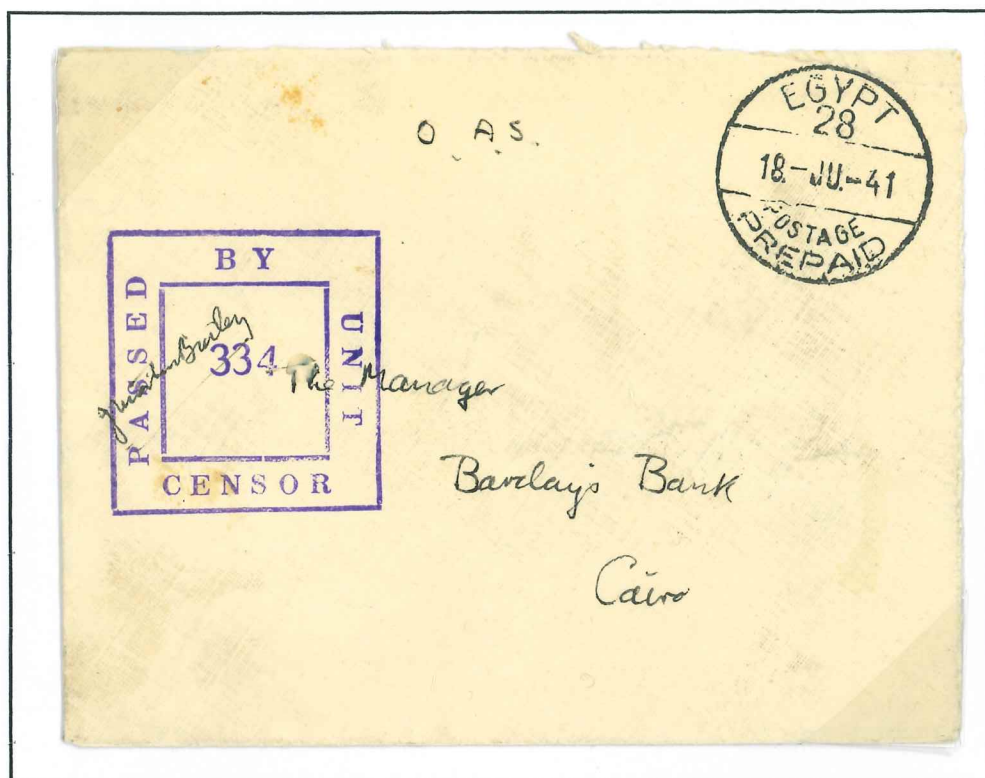


Two examples of censor handstamp type Daynes A200 and is similar to those found in Egypt during WWI. The upper cover is cancelled by F.P.O.368 21.JA.41 and was lost due to enemy action soon after.

The lower cover by M.P.O date ?. This postmark was loaned to the Australians

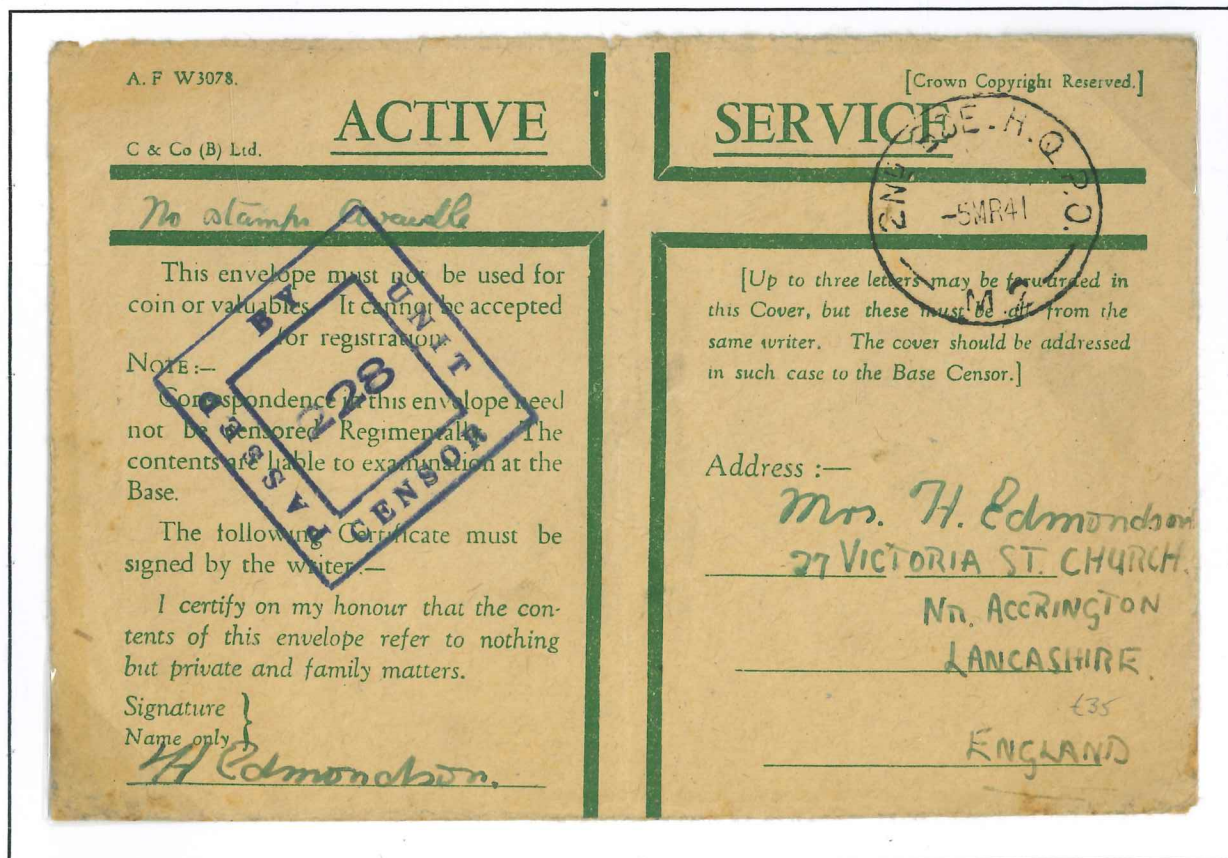


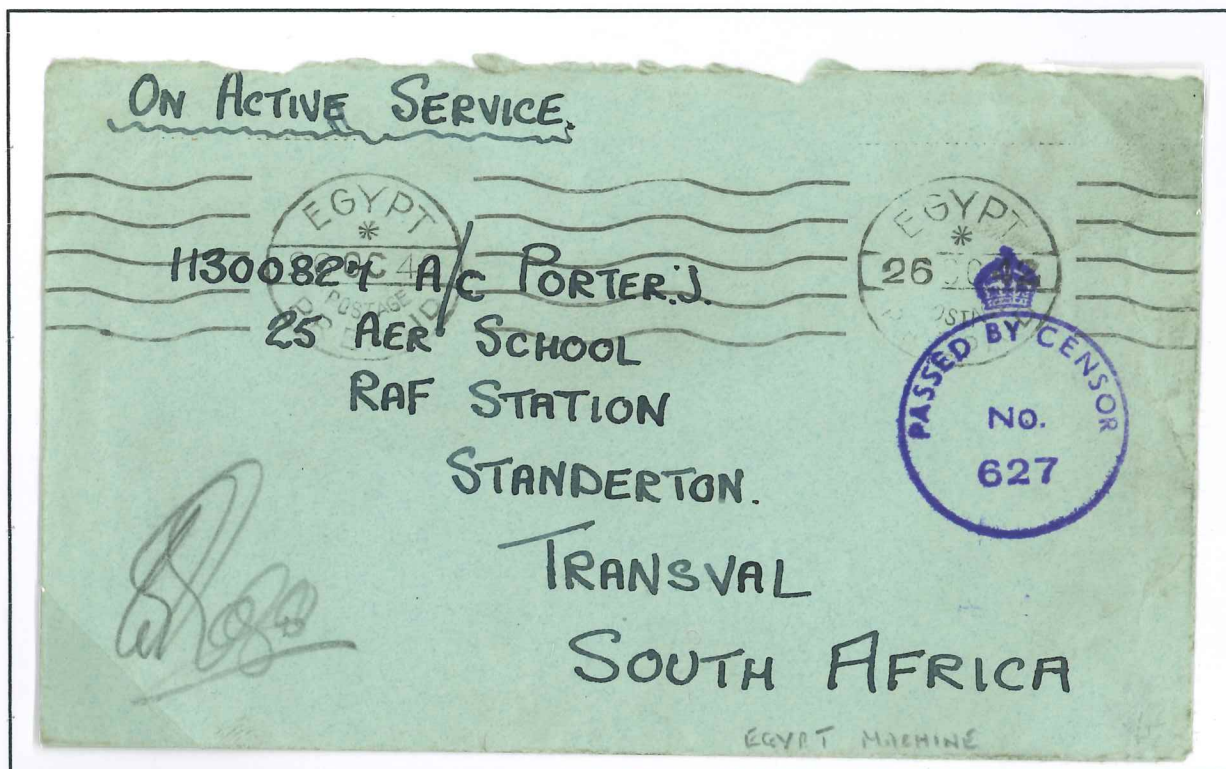
Censorship WWII



Two examples of censor handstamp type Daynes A300 which was used in Egypt from late 1939 to July 1942. The upper cover is cancelled with EPP.28 18.Ju.41 which was used in Cairo.

The lower cover is cancelled by 2nd. BDE.HQ.P.O M2 of the Australians.





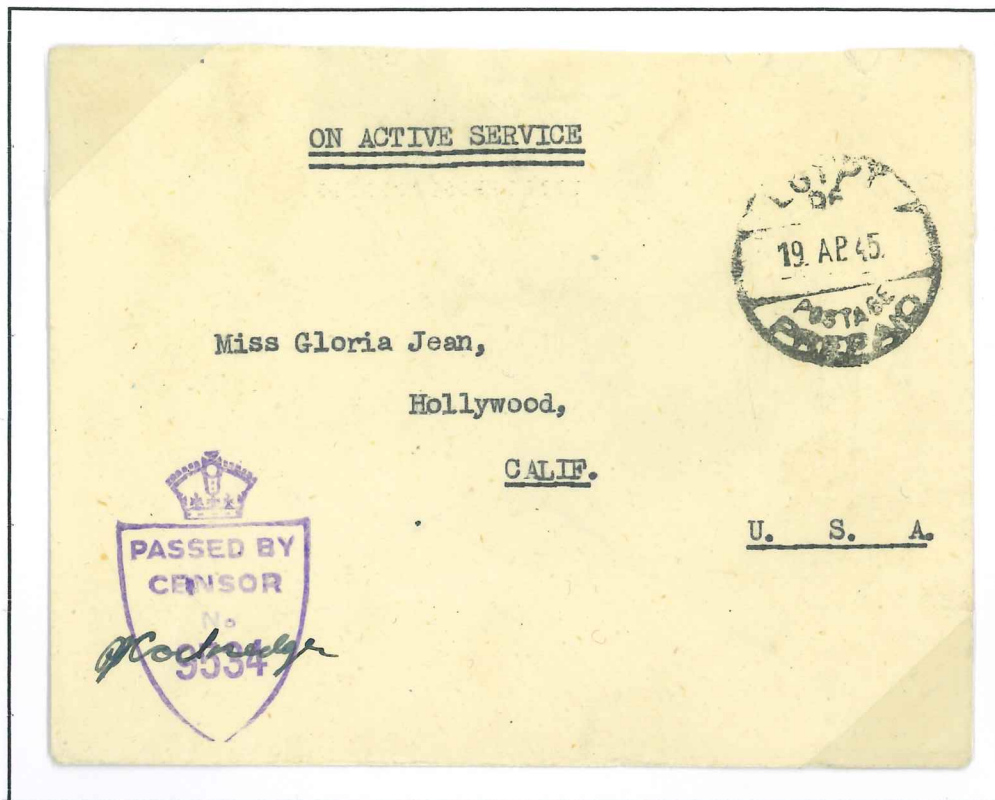
Two examples of censor handstamp type Daynes A500 one of the most widely used types of censor marks used though out WWII. It was introduced in January 1942.

The upper cover has a EPP machine cancel 26.OC.42

The lower cover cancelled with EPP.24 sent to the USA through the Egyptian post with the correct 10millièmes rate. EPP24 at this time was probably situated at Abbasia barracks Cairo

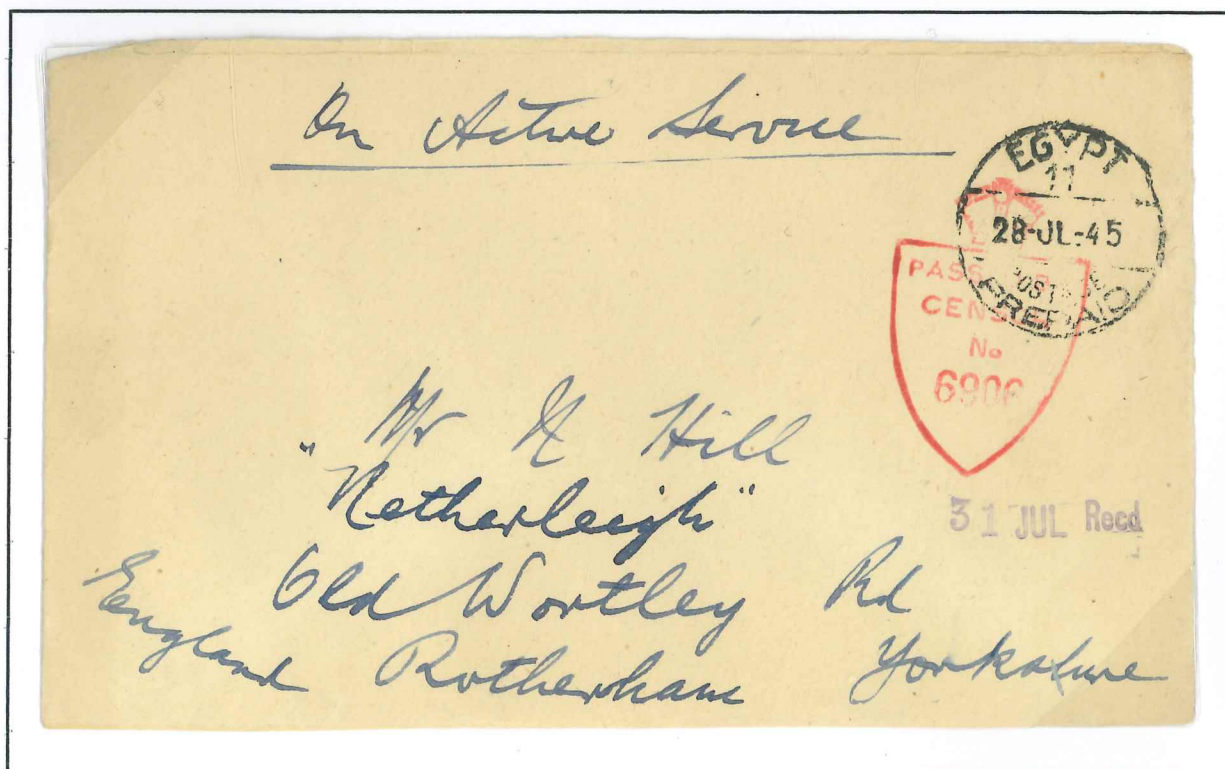


Censorship WWII



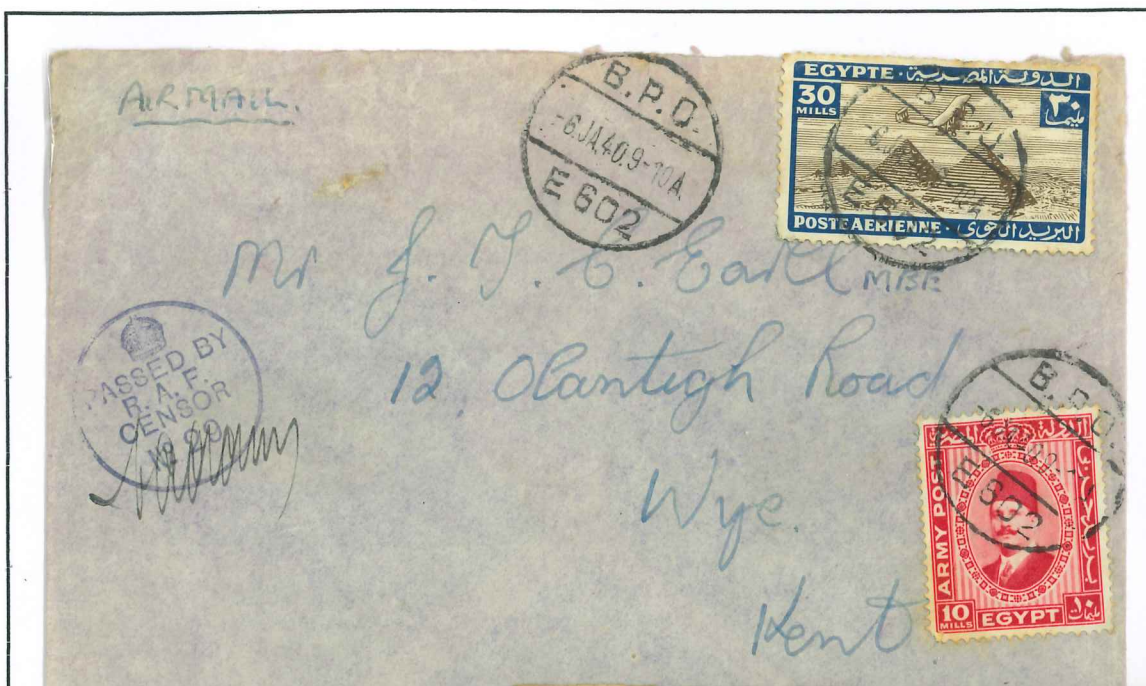
Two examples of censor handstamp type Daynes A600 introduced just before D-Day and into the Middle East in mid 1945. The top cover cancelled with EPP.96 attached to GHQ Cairo

The lower cover cancelled with EPP.11 which was used in the canal zone until 1947.



Egypt Military WWII

Censorship WWII Royal Air Force



The RAF used their own censor marks in Egypt Shown are types

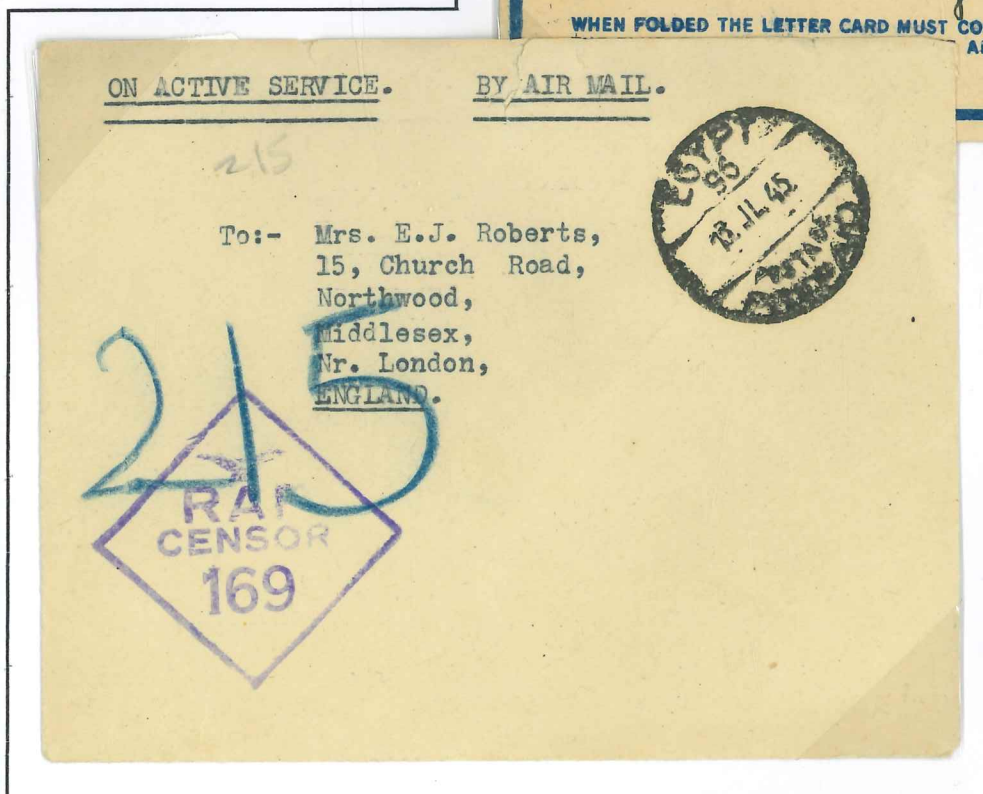
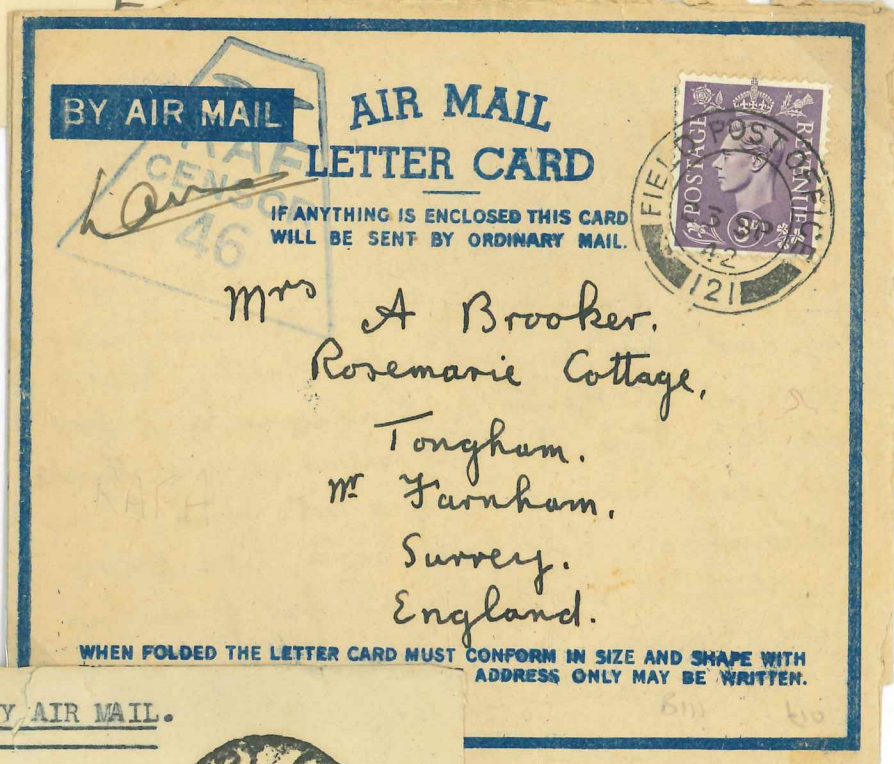
R1 used Sept.39-Sept.41

R2 used Jun.40-Mar.41

R4 used Oct.40-Sep.42

Egypt Military WWII

Censorship WWII Royal Air Force



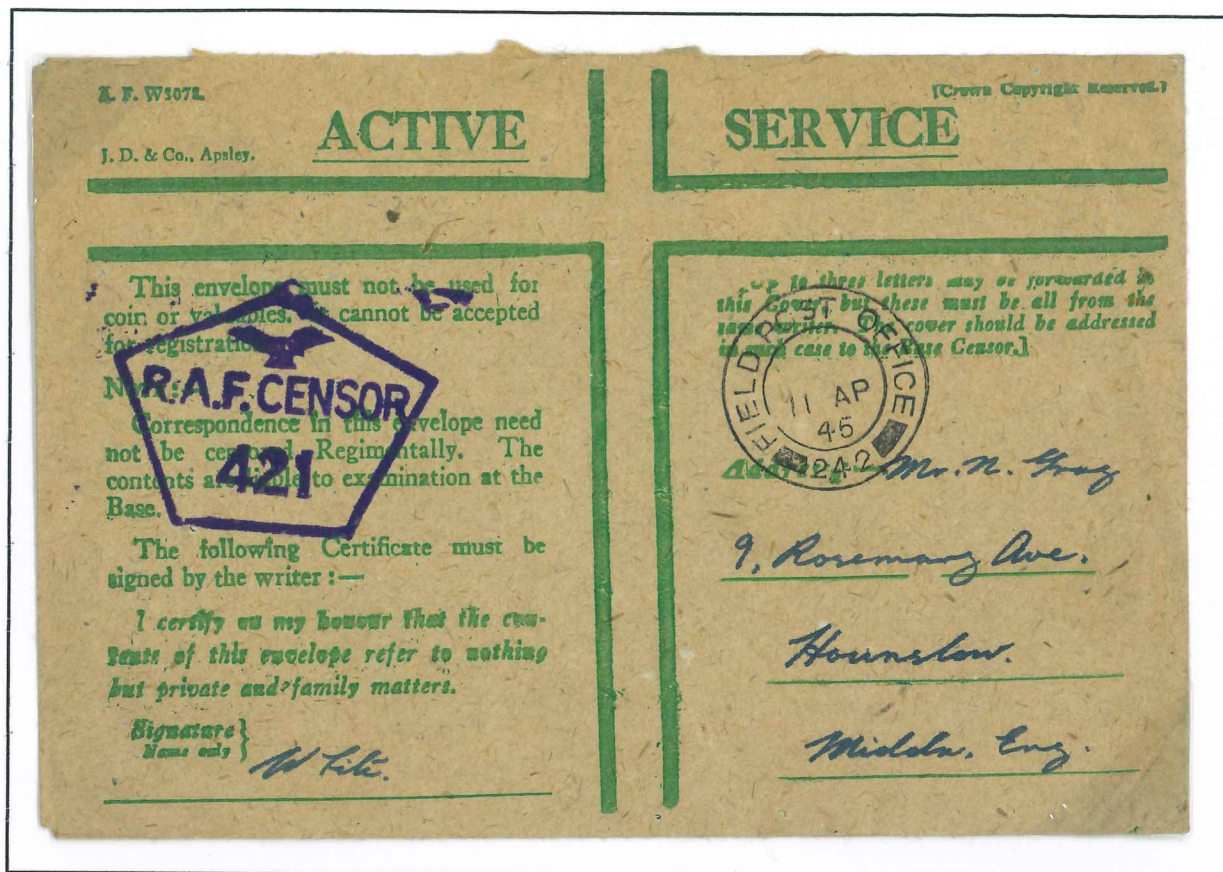
The RAF used their own censor marks in Egypt Shown are types

R9 used Dec.40-Aug.42

R10 used Sep.41-Dec.42

R12 used 44-Sep.45

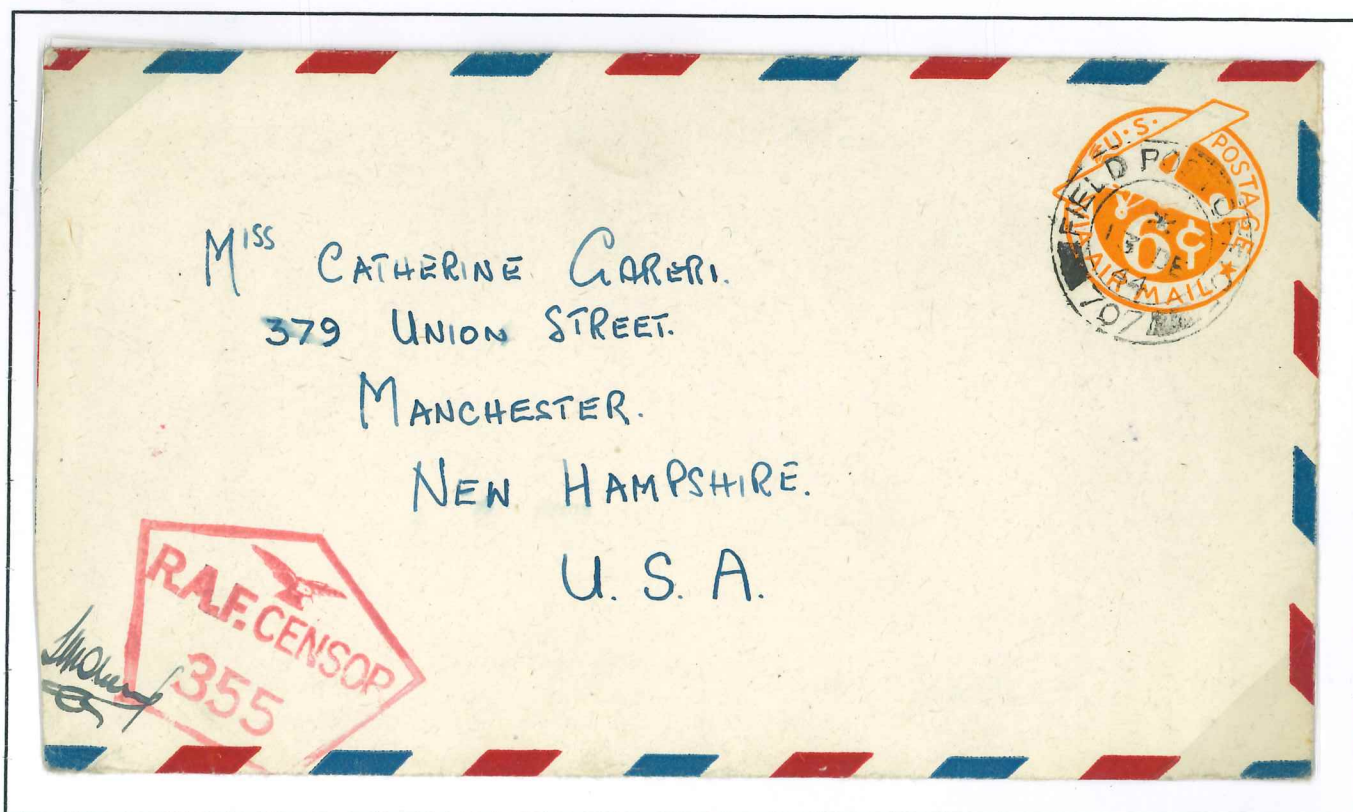
Censorship WWII Royal Air Force



RAF Garrard/Daynes type R15 was introduced into the Mediterranean area in 1944-45.

The upper cover cancelled FPO.242 11.AP.46 some six months after the Japanese surrender.
FPO.242 was assigned to the 7th. Armoured Div. in 1940 but transferred to
Central Mediterranean Force in May 1944.

The lower cover from FPO.707. 13.DE.44 on an American postal stationery as used by the
Americans for postage home. FPO.707 was used in Algeria from April 44 to August 48.
Its endorsed on the back as from a member of RAF BNAF.



Egypt Military WWII

Censorship WWII other Forces Censor markings

PER AIR MAIL



Miss M. F. Clarke,
 c/o Messrs Baker, King & Co.,
 Produce Department,
 P.O. Box 700,
 East London,
 Cape Province,
 South Africa.

PASSED BY CENSOR
 M.F.F. No. 244 U.D.F.
 GOEDGEKEUR DEUR SENSOR

EGYPT.



Some of the non
 British Forces
 had their own
 censor
 handstamps.

Mr. & Mrs. B. D. Petterman,
 31 Paternia Rd.,
 Abbotsford Point,
 Sydney,
 N.S.W.,
 Australia.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL
 FORCE
 PASSED BY CENSOR
 153

PRV. P. J. KELLNER
 R-1227151
 FROM 8th Base P.O.
 R.R.O. #616
 10 P.M. 7. 9. 24.



PASSED BY
 U 22049
 ARMY EXAMINER

SHIPS
 SINKS
 IDLE GOSSIP

Wm. Murray
 Postmaster
 Rockville Ctr. N. Y.

German Forces



In late 1940 the Italian 10th Army advanced into Egypt, only to be forced back into Tripolitania by the First Offensive from the British. Hitler decided to send a small expeditionary force to bolster Italian forces by blocking the Allied advance and prevent an Italian collapse in Libya. It was intended only as a holding force.



The first contingent disembarked at Tripoli on 14 February 1941 becoming the 5. Leichte Division (5th Mobile Division) amongst its forces were Panzerregiment 5 with 120 tanks with a reconnaissance unit, anti-tank artillery and motorised troops. Divisional support units included the 735th motorized Field Post Office.

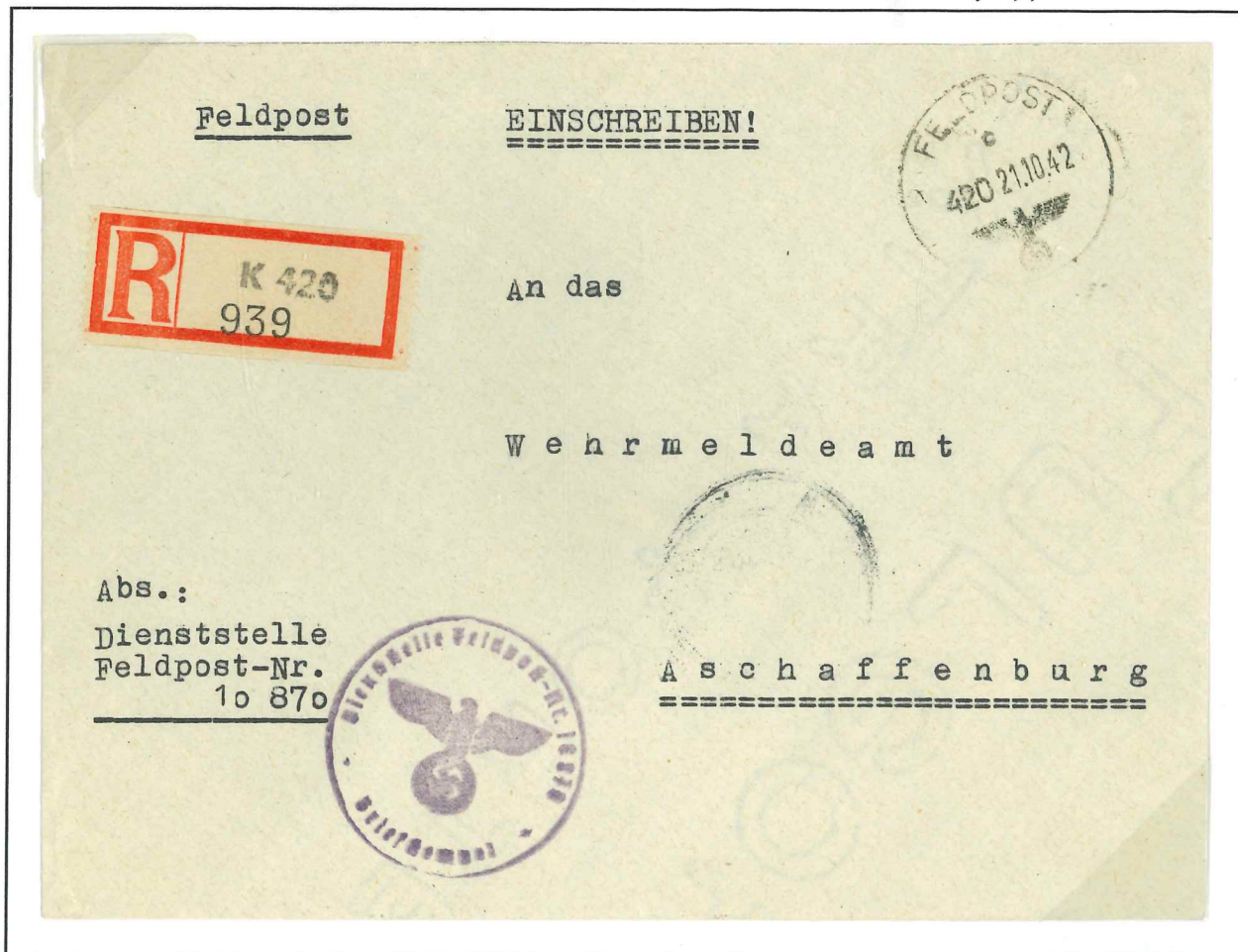
On 19 February 1941 they were designated as the Deutsches AfrikaKorps (DAK).

On 15 August 1941 Rommel's command was redesignated Panzergruppe Afrika; it comprised 15 and 21 Panzer-Division and Afrika Division zbV, collectively retaining the title DAK plus the Italian Ariete, Trieste, Pavia, Bologna, Brescia and Savona Divisions.

On 30 January 1942 the command was redesignated Panzerarmee Afrika, or alternatively deutsche-italienische Panzerarmee. Within this command DAK retained its identity.

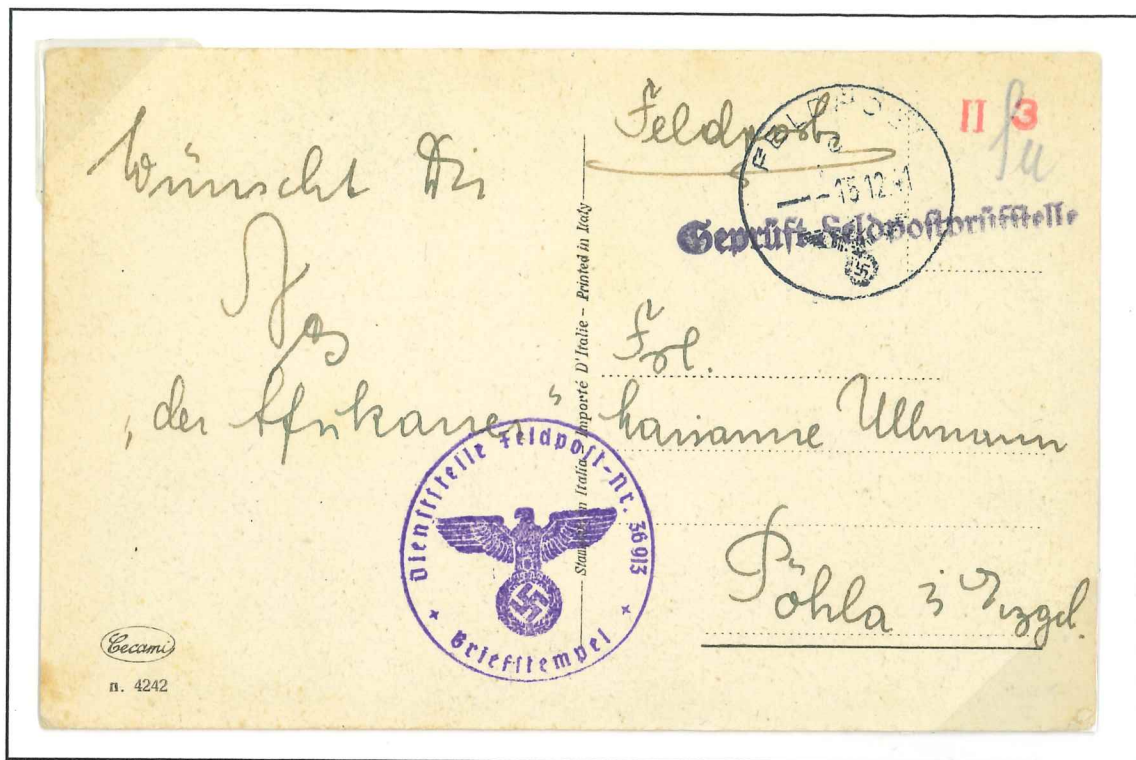
On 23 February 1943 the Panzerarmee was redesignated 1st Italienische Armee under the command of the Italian General Messe. Again, DAK retained its identity within this command, now comprising 15 and 21 Panzer-Division and 90 and 164 leichte Afrika-Divisions. Rommel was on the same day promoted to command Heeresgruppe Afrika, consisting of 1st Italienische Armee and von Arnim's Panzer-Armeeoberkommando 5 in northern Tunisia.

On 9 March 1943 von Arnim succeeded Rommel in command of the Heeresgruppe.



Oct. 21, 1942: From Fp-Nr 10 870 (Co. 3, Construc. Btln. 85). Posted via P.O. 639 branch at Derna, using blankfield registry label ("Feldpost" not imprinted) with Kenn 420

German Forces



Dec 12, 1941 Card with dumb Feldpost and Fp-Nr 34 909 Tagesstempel given to 2nd company of the Panzer Grenadier Regiment Africa.



Dienststempel
Official stamp

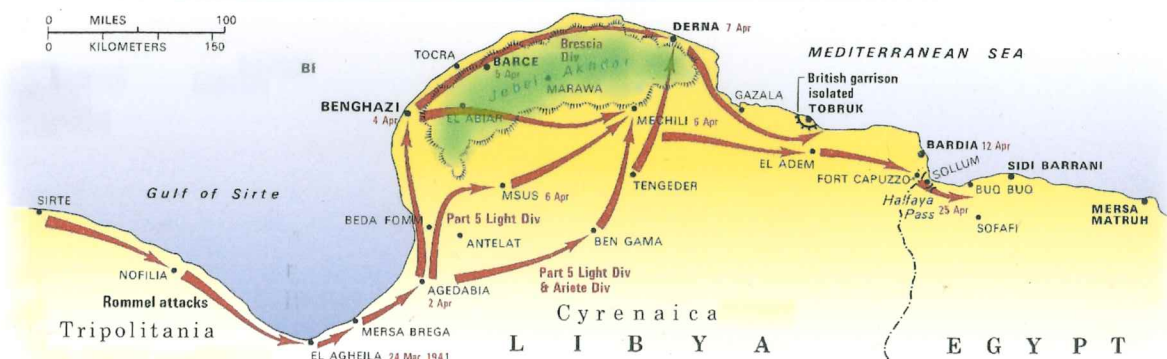


Dienststempel mit Fp-Nr Tagesstempel ohne K-Nr
with FPO Day stamp



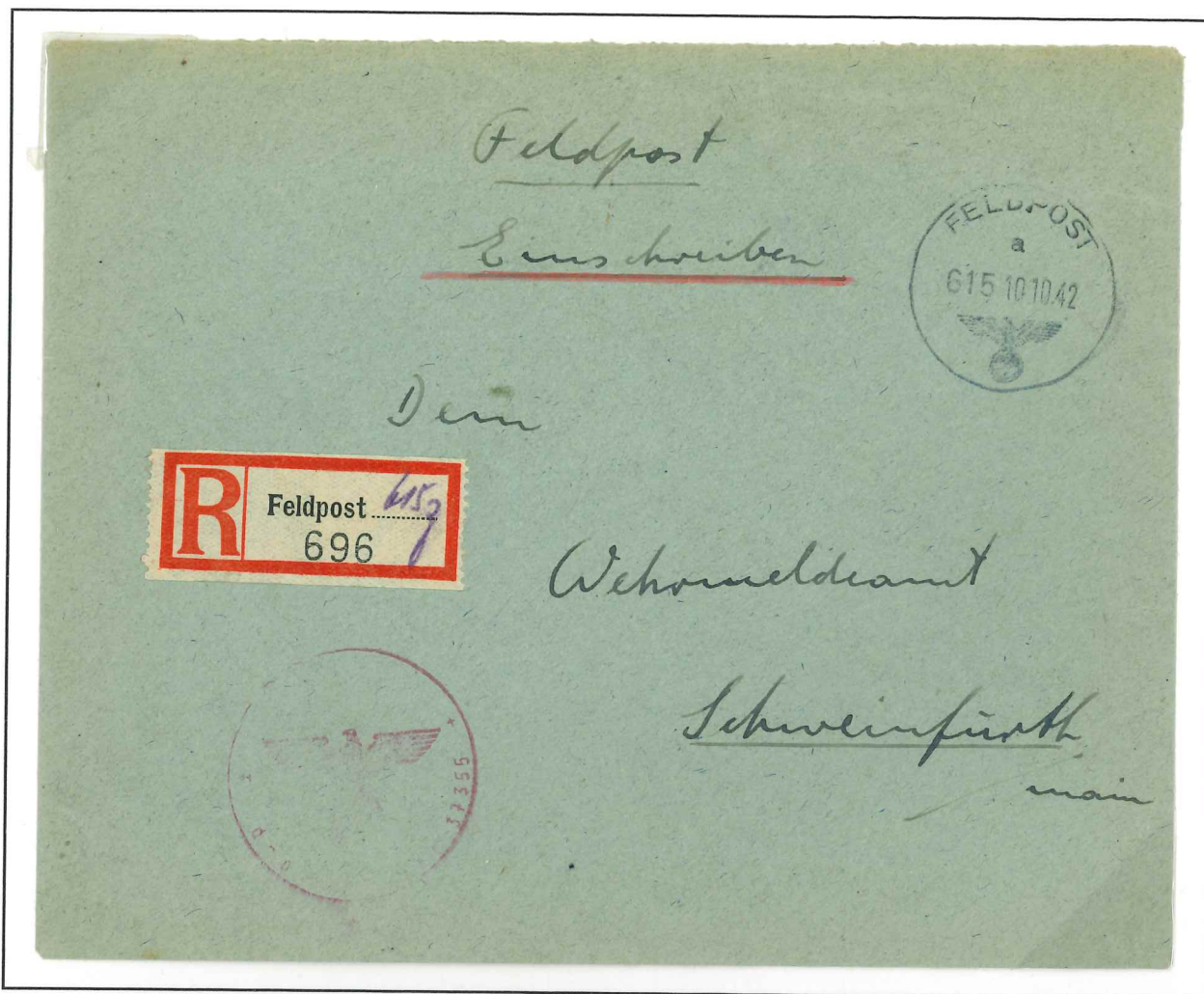
Tagesstempel mit K-Nr
with Kenn Number

Every unit down to the company level in the German Army had a unique Feldpost number (Fp-Nr). This functioned as an address for mail. As the various units were transferred, only the Reichspost had to update the address. The Feldpost number was a five digit code. A breakdown by military units was added by attaching letter suffixes "A" through "E" at the end of each Fp-Nr. Each one was assigned a three digit code number between 100 through 999, called Kenn. This code number was used for routing Official Registered Feldpost mail. The Kenn number was applied in the Feldpost stamp and on the Register Label.

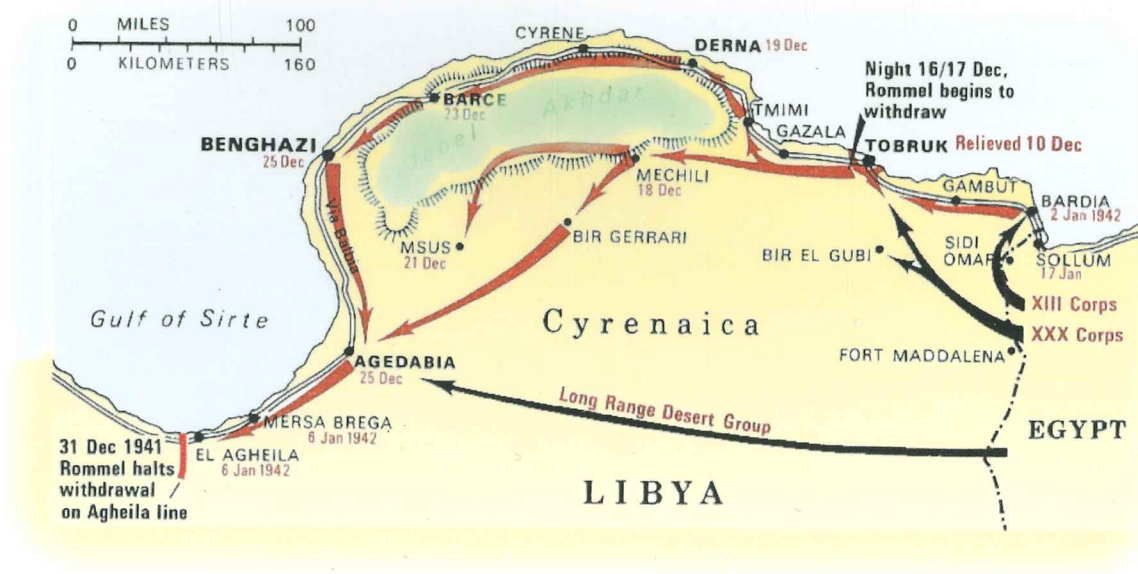


Rommel's first advance during April 1941 which crossed the Egyptian boarder.
Rommel failed to capture Tobruk

German Forces

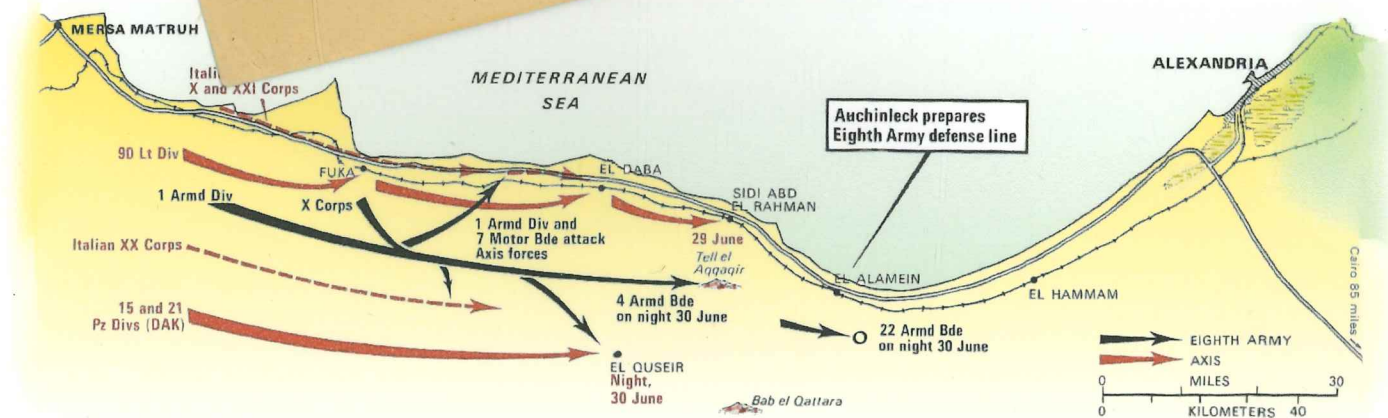


Oct. 10, 1942: From Fp-Nr 37 355 (Battery 8, Pz. Art. Rgt. 155 of 21st Pz. Div.)
via division's field P.O. 200, then on the El Alamein Line



Rommel's retreat at the end of 1941 to the Agheila line

German Forces



Rommel's second advance ending at El Alamein

7/05/1941 Having been reinforced by the 15th Panzer Division, Rommel retakes the Halfaya Pass on Egyptian border just west of Mersa Matruh. 21/06/1942 Tobruk falls to the Germans, who capture 32,000 prisoners, 2,000 tons of fuel, 5,000 tons of food and 2,000 vehicles. 02/07/1942 The British hold El Alamein despite heavy attacks, Rommel is now down to 26 tanks.

German Forces



A. F. W3078.

J. D. & Co., Apsley.

ACTIVE

SERVICE

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

feldpost 538 189 27

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—

Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:

I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature }
Name only }

[Up to three letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Address:—
Frau

Hanna Kosel

Hernauer Hauptstr.16/28

Wien 107.

Sept. 9, 1942: From Fp-Nr L 31 554 (Regimentsstab Flak-Rgt 102; Regimental Headquarter of 102 anti-aircraft regiment). The L before the number indicates Luftwaffe whose personnel manned the anti aircraft guns. Used on a "liberated" British Active Service 'Honour' envelope.

Obviously a philatelically contrived cover the Kenn Number 538 if found genuinely used in this area at the time of the date stamp. The 102 Flak. Rgt. Was also in theatre at this time.

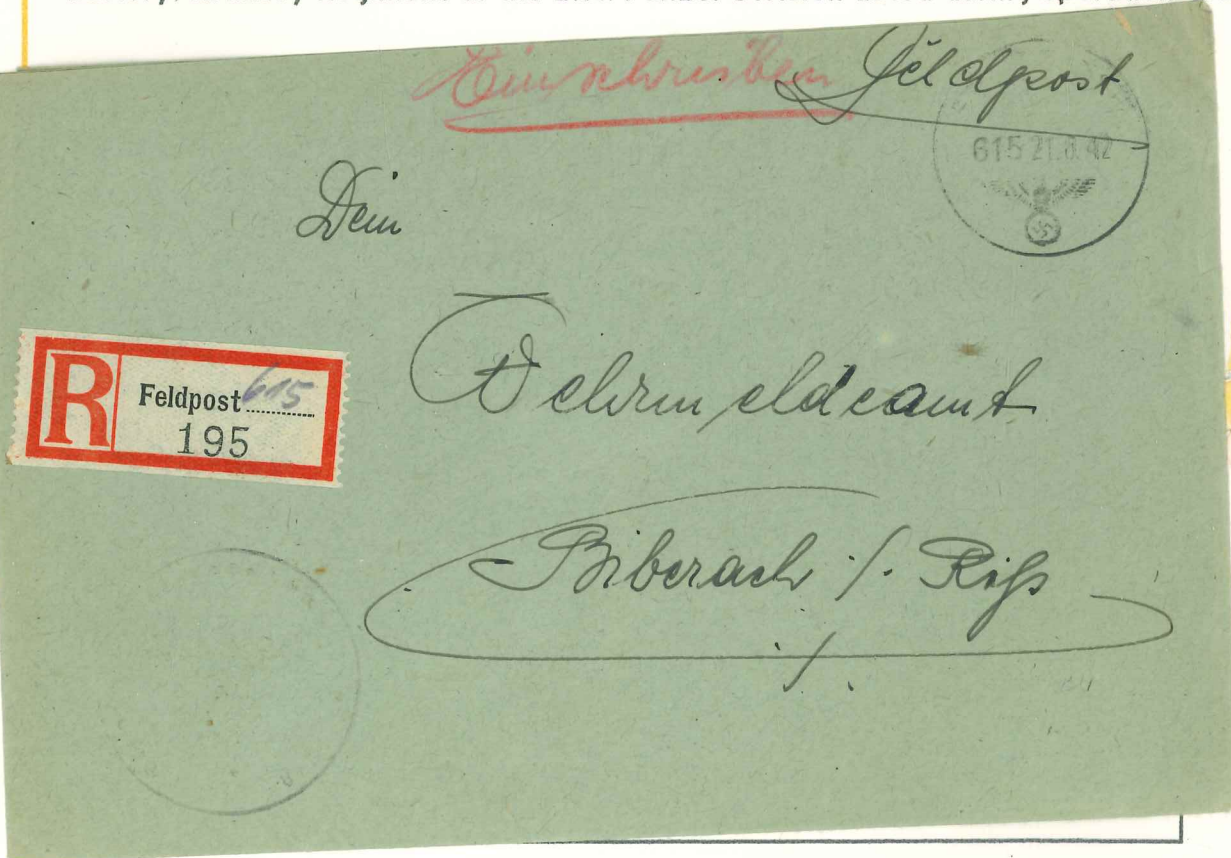
The cover is backstamped Stbw. Adolf Kosel and addressed to Frau Kosel in Vienna. Stbw.(Regimental Sergeant Major) Kosel would have been in a position of authority and probably had little trouble persuading the field post office to indulge his philatelic whims. One philatelic give away is the use of a Kenn Number on a none registered letter.

German Forces

Hitler decided to send a small expeditionary force to bolster Italian forces by blocking the Allied advance and prevent an Italian collapse in Libya. The contingent which disembarked at Tripoli on 14 February 1941 became the 5. Leichte Division and soon became the German Africa Corps - Deutsches Afrikakorps (DAK). Rommel's First Offensive On 23 March 1941 with the 5th Mobile Division and three Italian divisions, storming El Agheila and advancing through Cyrenaica, before halting on 27 May at Halfaya (Hellfire) Pass, just inside Egypt.



Upper cover with dumb Feldpost Tagesstempel and in green Dienstempel with Fp-Nr 34 909 given to 2nd company of the Panzer Grenadier Regiment Africa. The lower card Fp.-Nr. 36 913 of the 7th battery, Artillery Regiment of the 21st. Panzer Division dated during operation Crusader.



German Forces



Oct. 22, 1942: From Fp-Nr 04 417, with Kenn 805, (Co. 2, Anti-tank Btln. 190 of 90th Light Africa Div.). Posted via division's field P.O. 190 - one day prior to the battle of El Alamein.



Aug. 13, 1942
P.O. 38

German Forces



Aug. 21, 1942: From Fp-Nr 29 320 (Co. 9, Pz. Gren. Rgt. 200 of 90th Light Div.) posted via field P.O. 200. The unit had participated in the capture of Mersa Matruh on June 29th and suffered heavy losses at El Alamein and Alam Halfa Ridge.

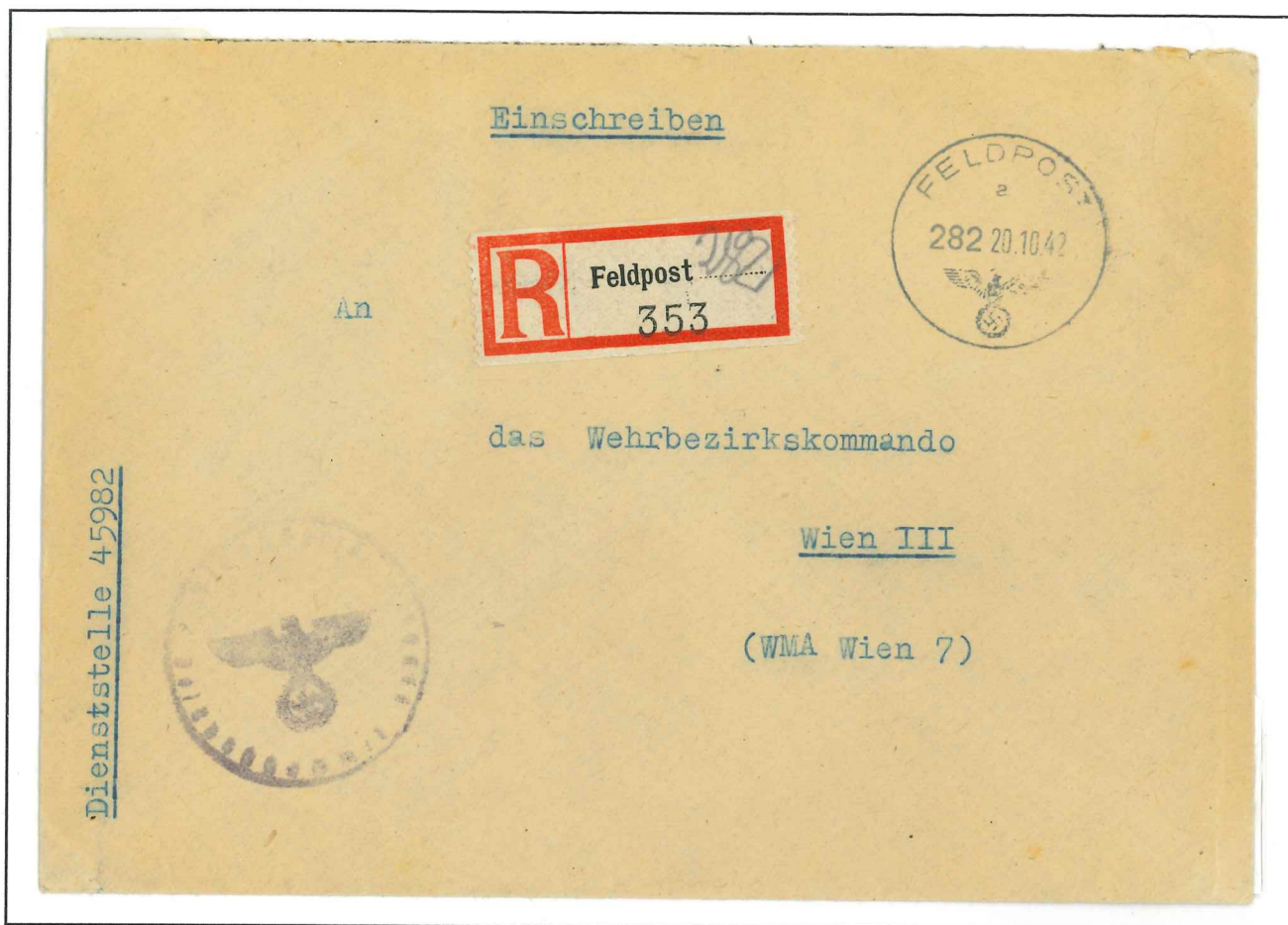
90th Light Afrika Division: Formed on 26 November 1941 from the Division z.b.V Afrika, being renamed the 90th light infantry division on 1 April 1942. Contained:

90th Light Afrika Division
 155th Infantry Regiment (8 cos)
 361st Afrika Regiment (5 cos)
 288th Sonderverband (Special Unit) (8 cos, no vehicles)
 361st Afrika Artillery Battalion
 255th Infantry Regiment (nearly totally destroyed)
 347th Infantry Regiment 2 (cos) 1/3rd Mixed Signals
 Company z.b.V. Afrika

Amongst the support units was the 190th motorized Field Post office



German Forces



Aug. 20 1942: From Fp-Nr 45 982 (4kp BH 21st Pz Div)
via division's field P.O. 200 then on the El Alamein Line

21st Panzer Division: Formed on 1 August 1941 in Africa from the 5th Light Division.

The division had:

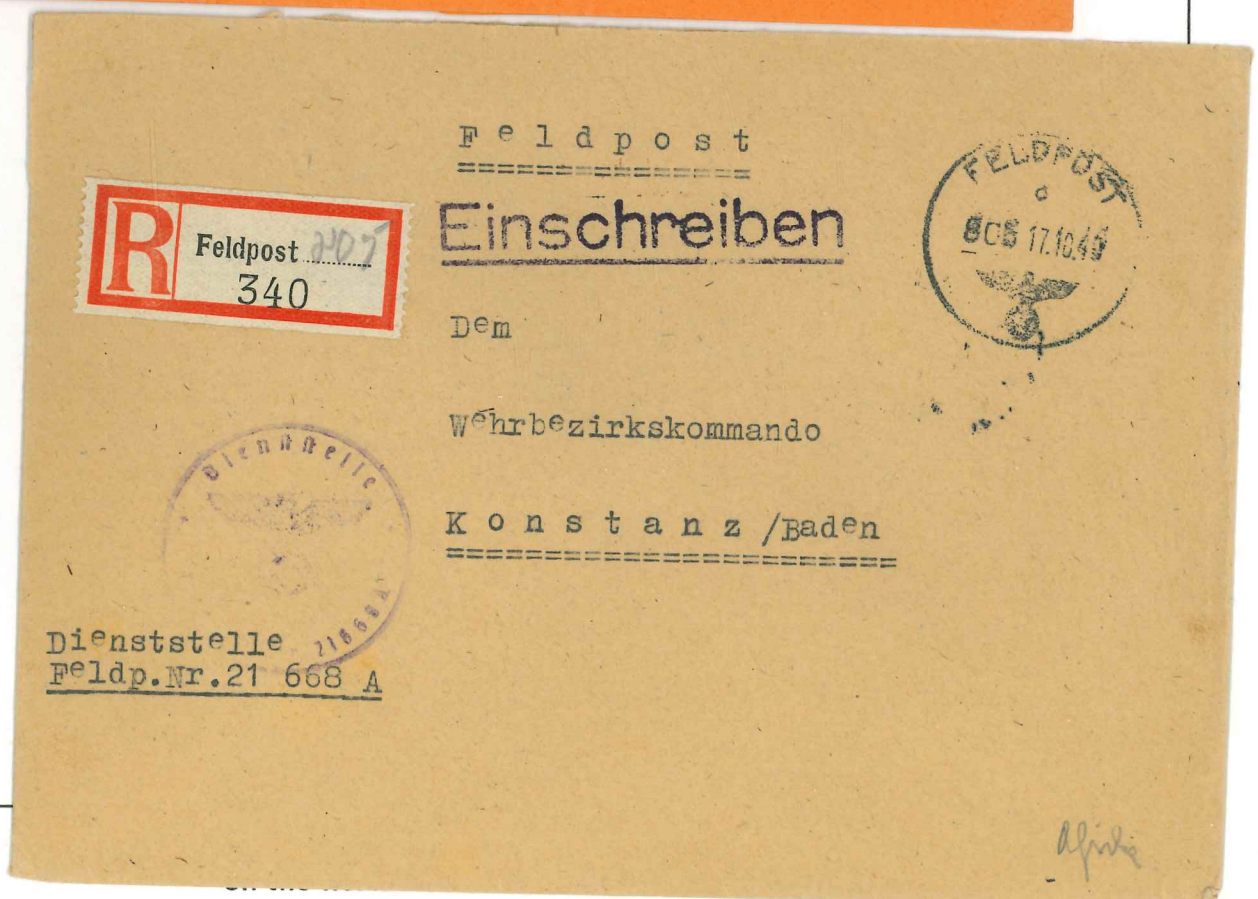
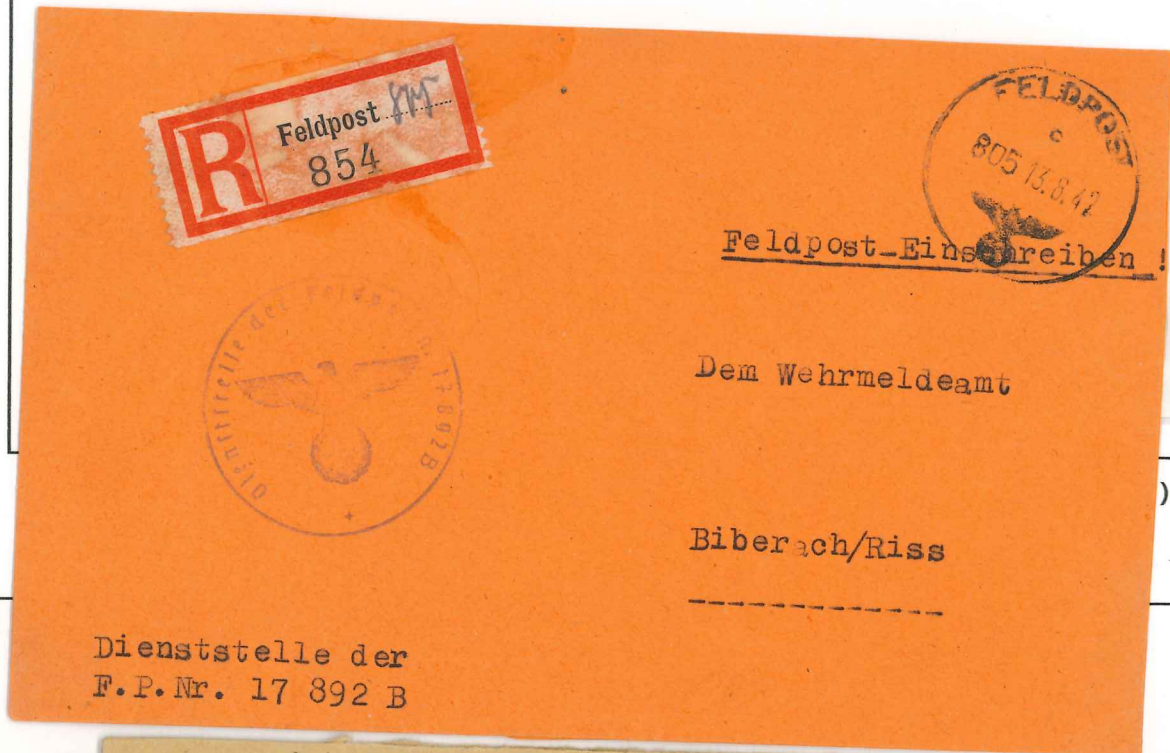
- 104th Schützen Regiment (from 15th Pz.Div)
- 15th Motorcycle Battalion (from 15th Pz.Div)
- 5th Panzer Regiment
- 155th Artillery Regiment (1st Bn from 864th Artillery Battalion, 2nd Bn from 1/75th Artillery Regiment and 3rd Battalion from 911th Heavy Artillery Battalion)
- 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion
- 39th Panzerjäger Battalion
- 200th Signals Battalion
- 200th Divisional Support Units
- 735th motorized Field Post Office manned by an NCO and 11 men.

On 17 January 1942 contained

- 29 Pz II
- 122 Pz III
- 19 Pz IV
- 4 command tanks.



German Forces



German Forces



Aug. 12, 1942: From Fp-Nr 27 868 (13th Heavy Motor Transport Col./Pz. Div. Col. 33 of 15th Pz Div) at Alam Halfa, on the El Alamein line.

15th Panzer Division: Formed on 11/1/40 from the 33rd Infantry Division. Organization was complete on 15 March 1941. It contained:

- 15th Schutzen Brigade
- 104th Schutzen Regiment
- 115th Schutzen Regiment
- 15th Motorcycle Battalion
- 8th Panzer Regiment
- 33rd Artillery Regiment
- 33rd Panzerjager Battalion
- 33rd Pioneer Battalion
- 33rd Signals Battalion
- 33rd Divisional Support units

amongst which was the 33rd motorized Field Post Office manned by an NCO and 11 men.

The division contained

- 45 Pz II,
- 71 Pz III
- 20 Pz IV
- 10 command tanks



62d MARMARICA Divisions (Infantry)



Post card cancelled with PM. 262 used by the Marmarica division which was one of the Metropolitan division permanently stationed in Libya. Raised 15-10-39 it was destroyed 5-1-1941 during Operation Compass, under the brilliant command of Lieutenant General O'Connor, who had by February 9 cleared the Italians from Cyrenaica in what became a rout.

The card is dated just before When Italy declared war on the Western Allies of France and Britain on June 10, 1940. There was a total of 167,000 men in Libya: the Fifth Army was deployed against French Tunisia, while the Tenth Army looked towards Egypt. With the rapid fall of France, the bulk of Italian Fifth Army was moved to reinforce the Tenth.



Italian Forces - Regio Esercito

Italian Army crossed the boarder on September 9, 1940 but only advanced 60 miles capturing Sidi Barrani and then halted. In early December they were driven back to Tripoli. Reinforced by fresh and better troops with the German forces they re-entered Egypt finally being expelled after the battle of El Alamein on November 11, 1942.



Supposedly other correspondence was meant to be paid for at 50 cents for a letter, however the troops were often unable to obtain stamps and endorsed their correspondence with "Zona sprovvista di francobolli" - zone without stamps. P.M. 133 of the Littorio division which at the date 18.9.42 was near Mersa Matruh. Below an issued army card with official cachet P.M. 34 being issued to 'dislocation post office' for general use which was also at Mersa Matruh.

L'avvenire è nostro, è nelle nostre mani sicure, poichè sarà il prodotto del nostro coraggio e della nostra inesauribile volontà di vita e di vittoria.

MUSSOLINI

at Tahrir
veep

Grado, Cognome e Nome del mittente:

art. C. P.
delegazione at Tahrir

Reparto

POSTA MILITARE 34

CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE

ESENTE DA TASSA PER L'ITALIA E SUE COLONIE

18-9/42-XX
N. 34

At. Tif.
Ernesto Benfumatli.
bonemerse
Cremone

Italian Forces - Regio Esercito

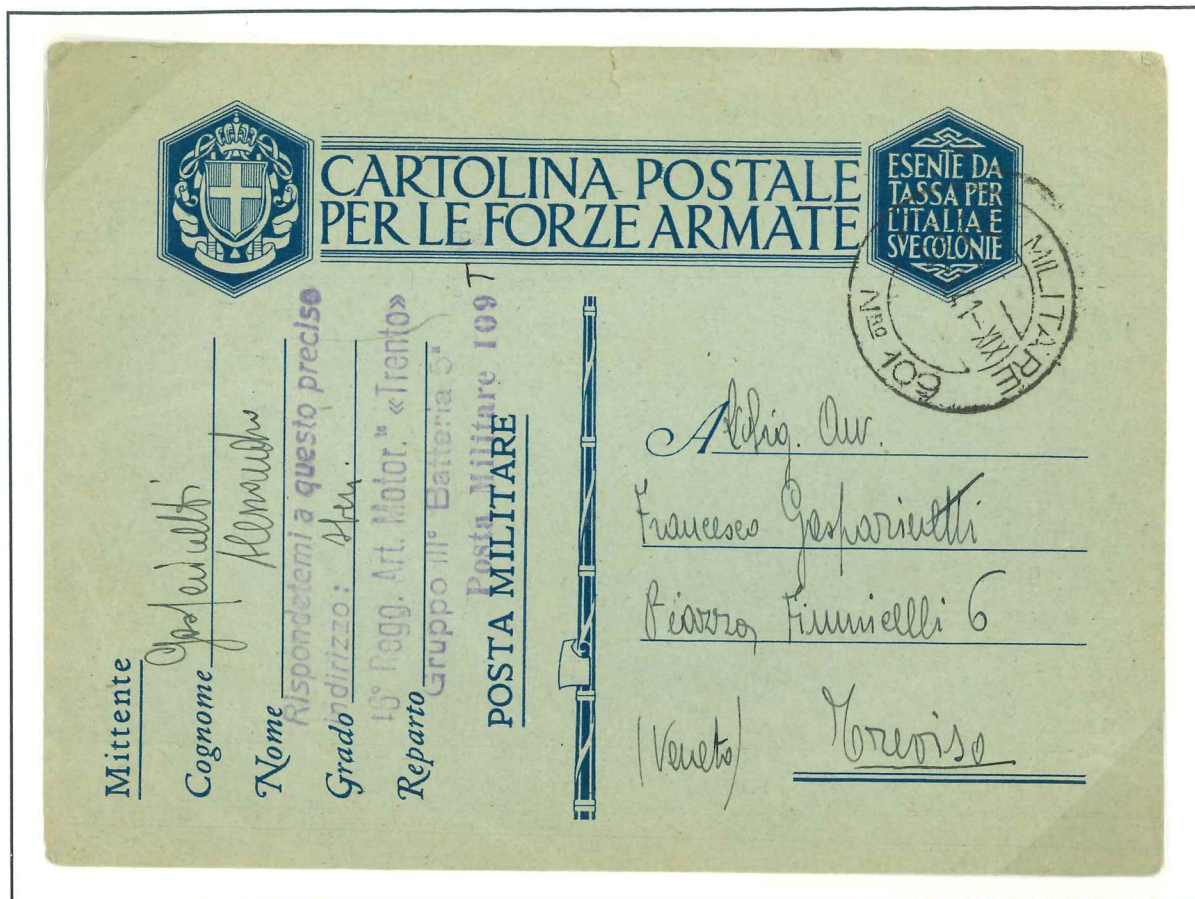
Letter with hand endorsement that no stamps were available but charged at the letter rate of 50c in Italy. Resealed with censor tape and the 31 censor marking. PM 56 was used by the Trieste division which at the date 1.11.42 was near Bir Achiem in Libya.



Of the other types of Italian military postmarks the only one encountered in Egypt is that with XIII UFFICIO POSTALE DI CONCENRAMENTO assigned to XIII Corps headquarters. Letter franked 100c the air mail rate and was at Mersa Matruh at the date franked



102d TRENTO Motorized Division

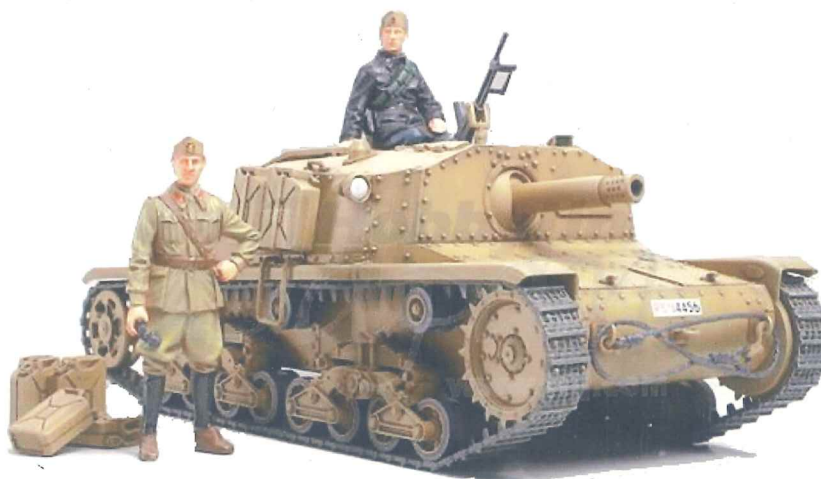


Army postcard with PM109 which was assigned to the 102nd Division «Trento» It has a purpose made hand stamp with the unit designation for the return address. At the date of the handstamp the division was in the El Gazala area.

The division arrived in North Africa in spring 1941. It took part in the campaigns of 1941 where it was besieged at Tobruk. It was routed in the winter 1941 being reformed in March 1942. It was finally destroyed at El Alamein in November 1942.

It was composed off:

61st. Sicilia Infantry regiment
62nd. Sicilia Infantry regiment
7th. Bersaglieri regiment
46 st. Sicilia Infantry regiment
Also signal, mining, motor transport
and other support companies



Catanzaro

The 64th. Infantry Division *Catanzaro* was formed May 1940 from the *21 Aprile* Libyan blackshirt Division. It formed part of the XXII Army Corps based at Gambut. Two examples of it's cachets the card has PM303 originally assigned to *21 Aprile* then to *Catanzaro*. The cover has PM96, at the time shown at El Daba in Egypt, was allocated to *Pistoria* and served the XXI Army Corps.

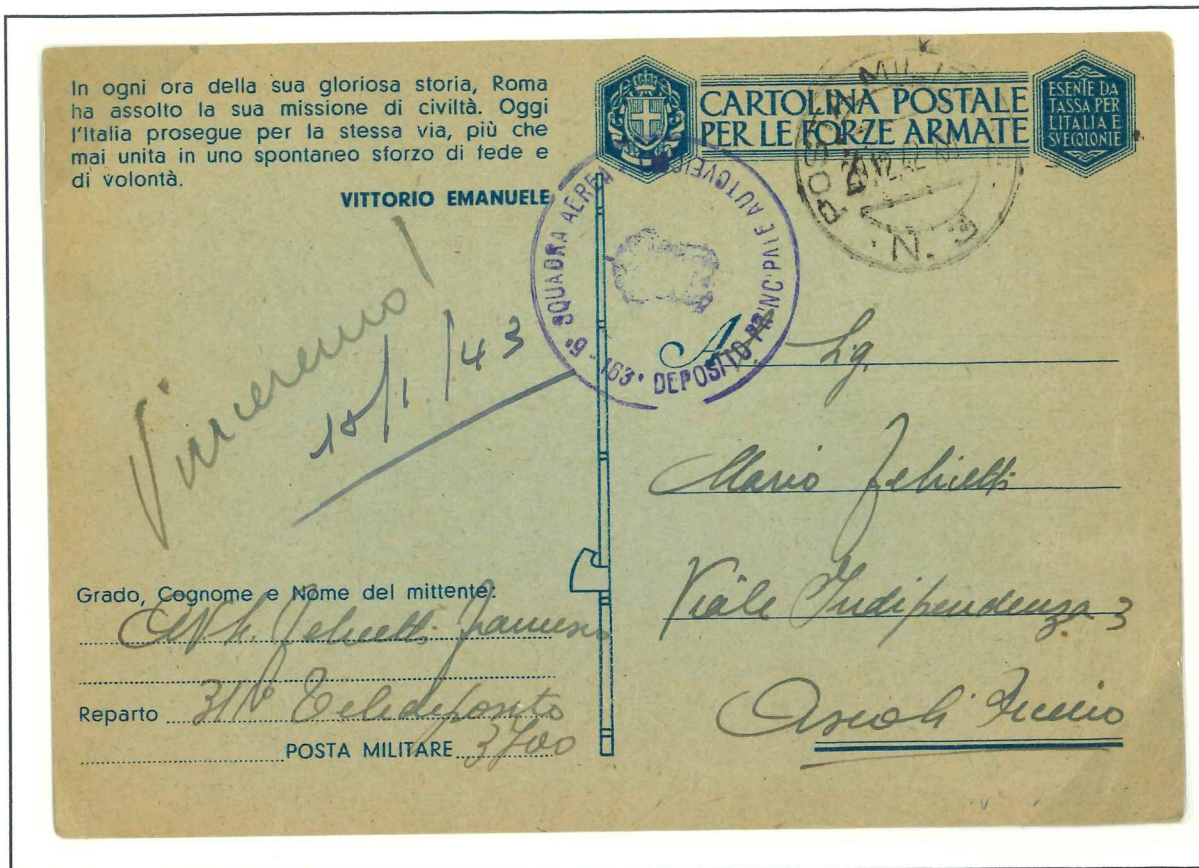




Army postcard with PM120 assigned to the 10th Army Group. Dated 15.9.40 when the army group was near Ain el Gazala. It saw action at Sollum Halfaya Pass, Bug Bug, Sidi Barrani and Tobruk. It's HQ was at Bardia under General Mario Berti. It was comprised of the 1st. and 2nd Tank Groups, a machinegun battalion of the Vittorio Emanuele II cavalry regiment and the 18th. Libyan battalion. It was destroyed in late 1942.



Regia Aeronautica



Card with cachet 6 SQUADRA AFREA with PM3 cancel.
Return address given as PM3700 both operated in Libya.

Initially, the Western Desert Campaign was a near equal struggle between the Regia Aeronautica and the RAF both equipped with outdated biplanes. The Italian pilots flew Fiat CR.32s and Fiat CR.42s while the British flew Gloster Gladiators. During Rommel's first offensive, the Italians managed to keep RAF fighters away from Rommel's forces. The Italians also covered Rommel's retreat during the British Operation Crusader while inflicting heavy losses on the RAF bombing airplanes. Later the Regia Aeronautica, suffered heavy losses in Egypt, was retired to Tobruk, Benghazi, Tripoli and, eventually, Tunisia.

Macchi M.C.200 Saetta: was probably the most used Italian monoplane fighter, and it proved effective against older fighters like the Hurricane.





Cover to PM303, senders not knowing the place of interment used the previous known address. Use of the red cross is unusual for mail to Italian POWs. The cover has two censor marks for Egypt, one being a South African one.

Notification of Capture card from POW camp 313, based in Libya. The card is dated 14.May.1943 two days after the Surrender of all German and Italian forces in Tunisia (130,000 German and 120,000 Italian prisoners).

Tunisia 1-6-43

A.F. W. 3054 (Substitute)

CARD TO BE USED FOR NOTIFICATION OF CAPTURE ONLY

PRISONER OF WAR

Nome *Francesco*

Cognome *Summa*

No. Matr. *126*

Grado *126*

Unità *126*

Data e luogo di nascita *17.5.1922 Erchi*

Nome padre *Giovanni*

Nome madre *Maria*

No. dell' internato *884600*

Indirizzo *Campo 813*

Al Lignone

Sancti Angeli N.19.

Erchi

Brindisi

aux soins du

COMITE INTERNATIONAL

de la CROIX ROUGE

Agence Centrale

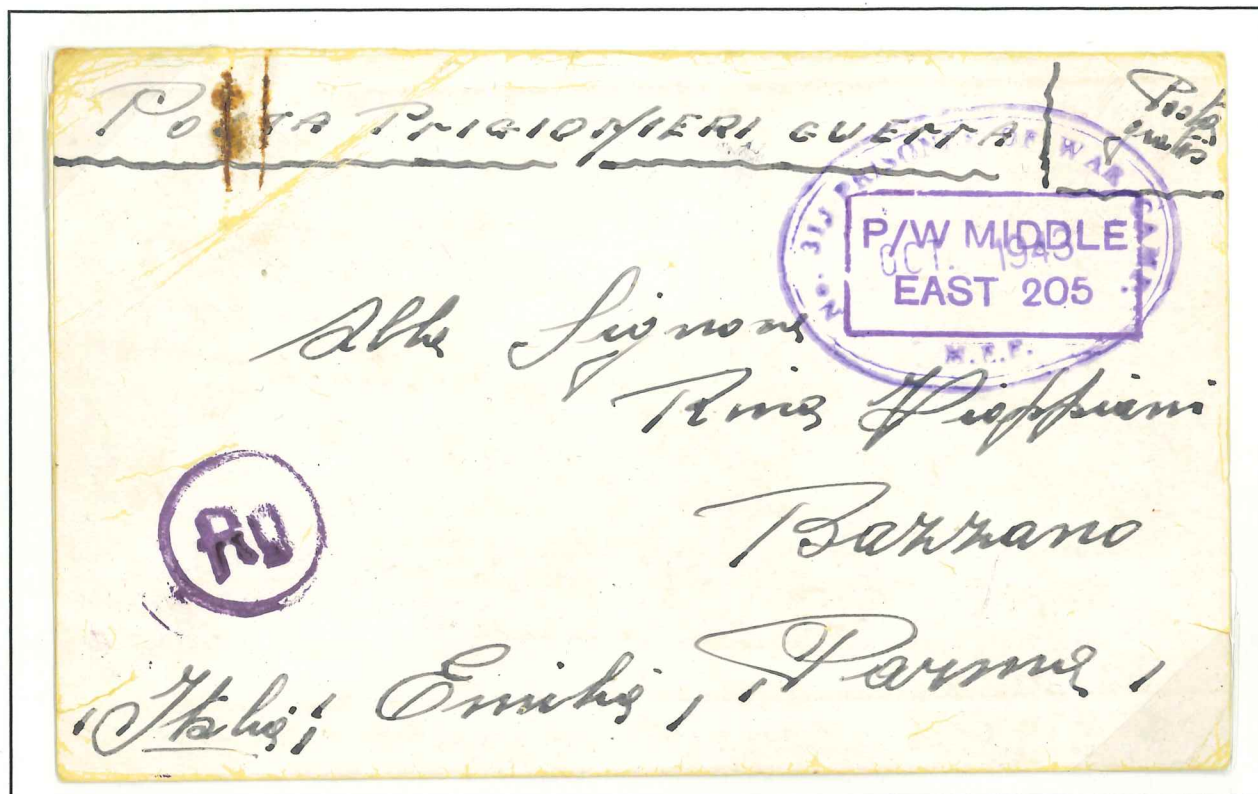
des prisonniers de Guerre

GENÈVE

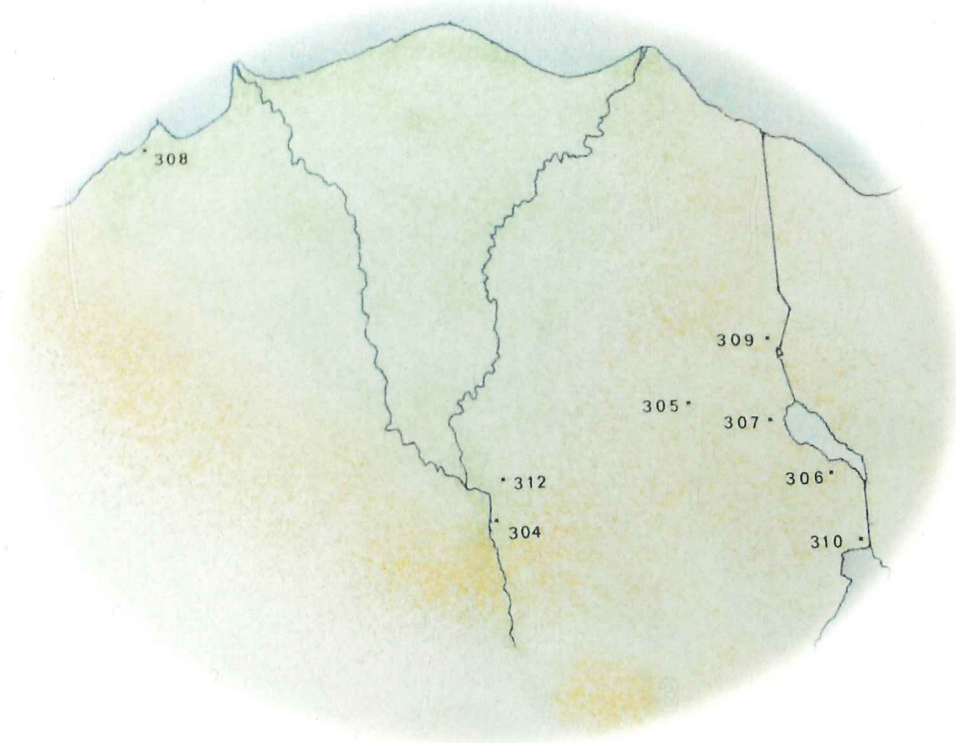
859/1/G.H.Q.P./50,000/4-42 Egypt.



POW Camps.



Several camps were set up for Italian POWs in 1940. Many POWs were subsequently distributed around the empire due to the number of prisoners taken. Several camps were used throughout the war. Cover from camp 313 at Tripoli.



304 Helwan
307 Fayed
310 Suez

305 El Kassasin
308 Mustafa barracks
312 Abbasiya

306 Geneifa
309 Ismailia
313 Tripoli

P/W POST POSTAGE
FREE
P/W MIDDLE
EAST 194
At the Signor
Cultural Convention



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

COMITATO PROVINCIALE - BOLOGNA
Via S. Petronio Vecchio N. 30 - Telefono 21-186

CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI-RICERCHE
E SERVIZI CONNESSI

Bologna 13 ottobre 1942 XX

21580

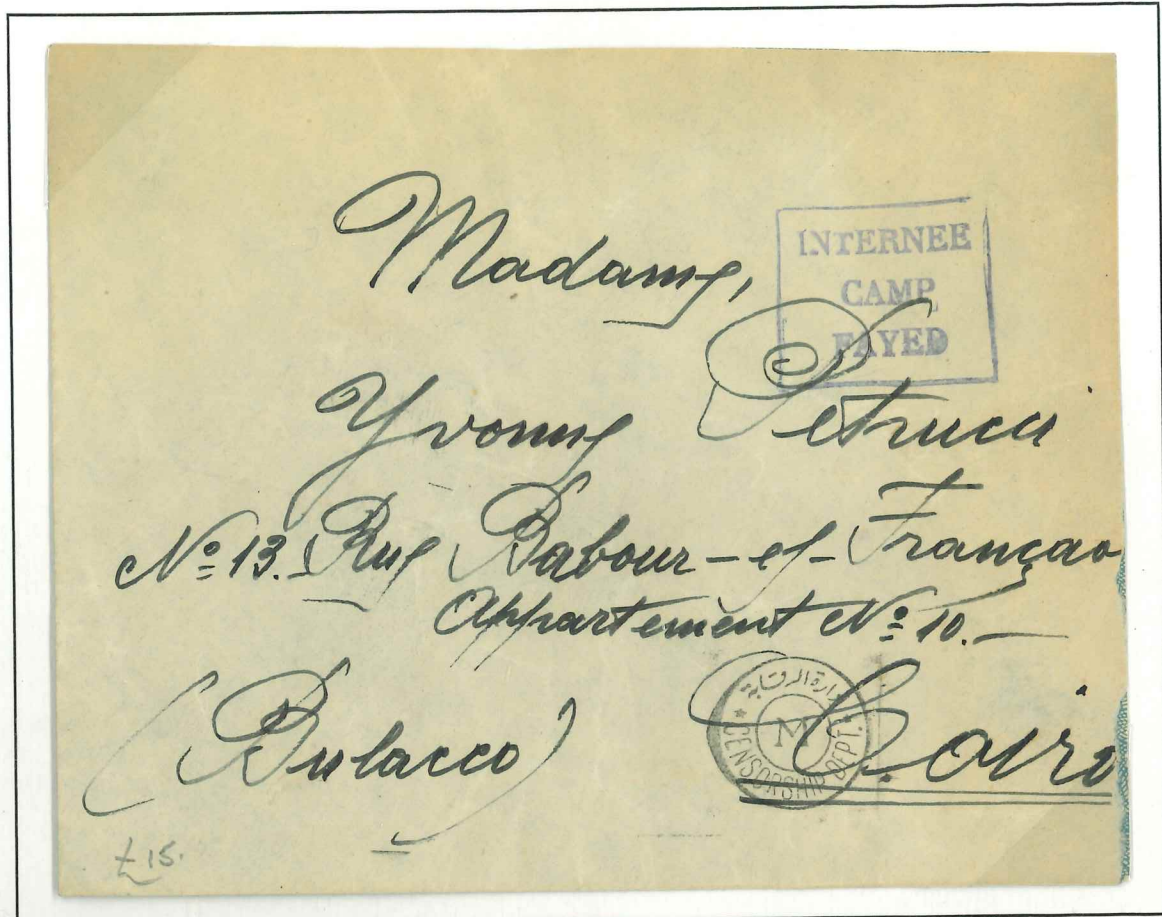
DICHIARAZIONE

Dagli atti esistenti presso il Comi-
tato Provinciale della Croce Rossa Italiana

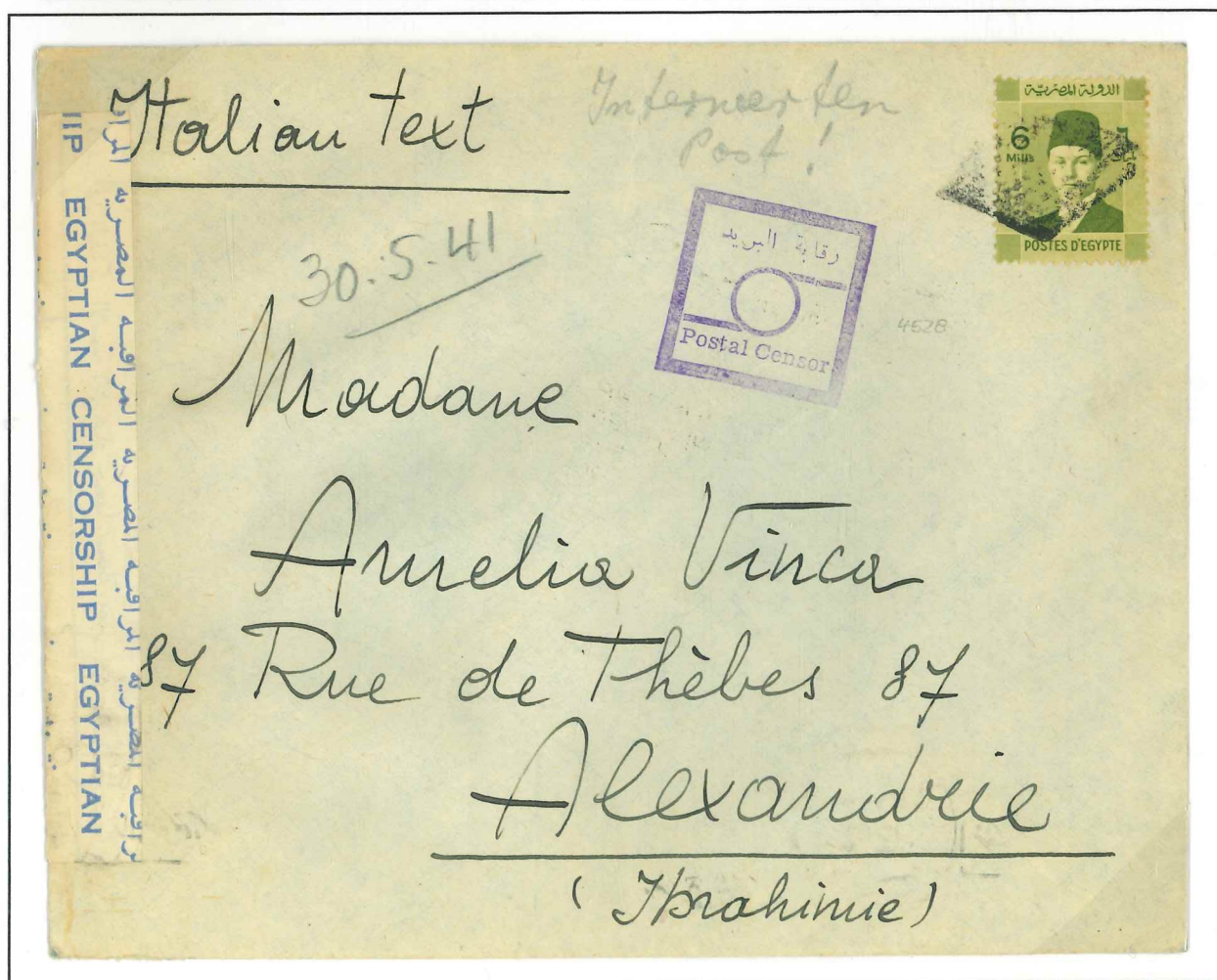
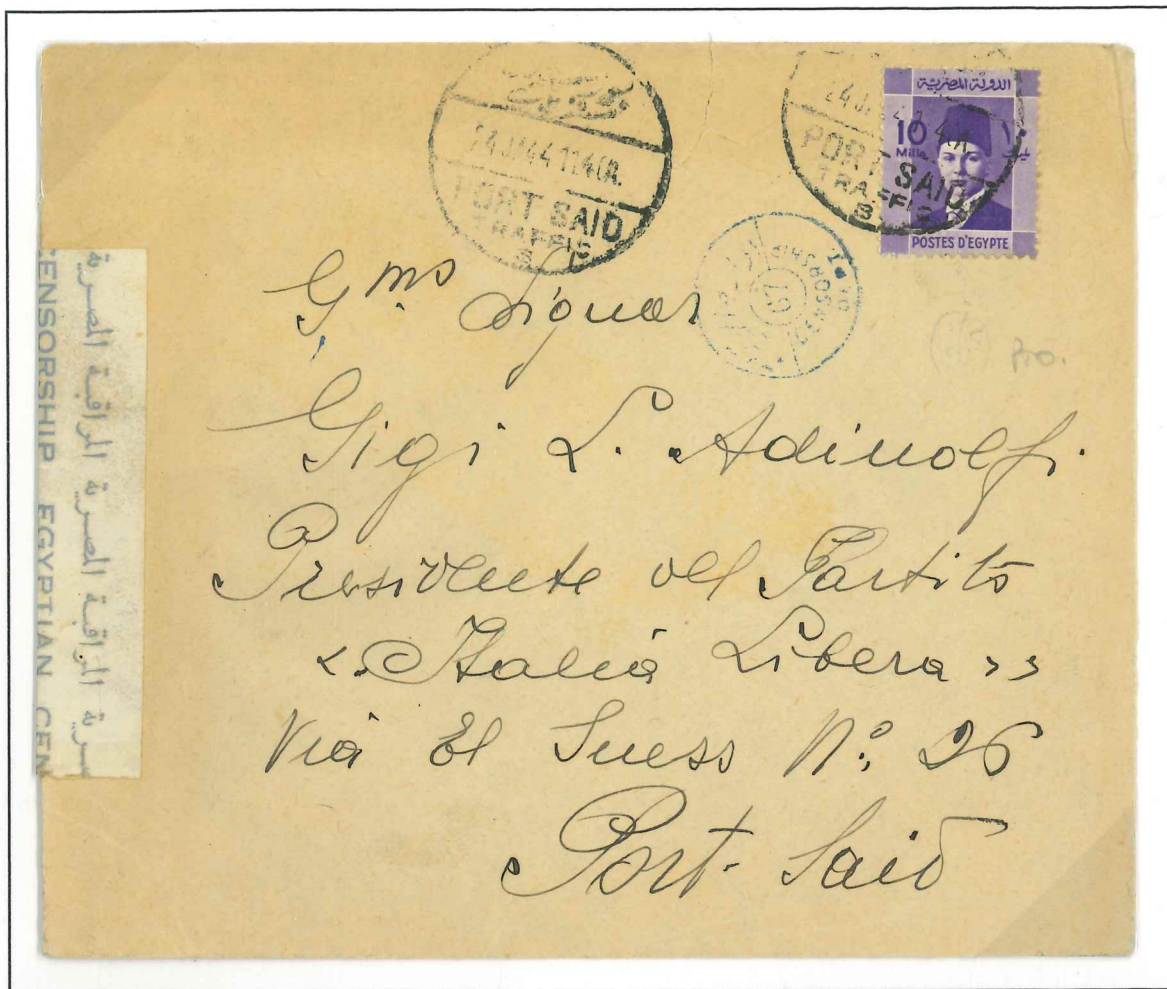
ania 26.6.44



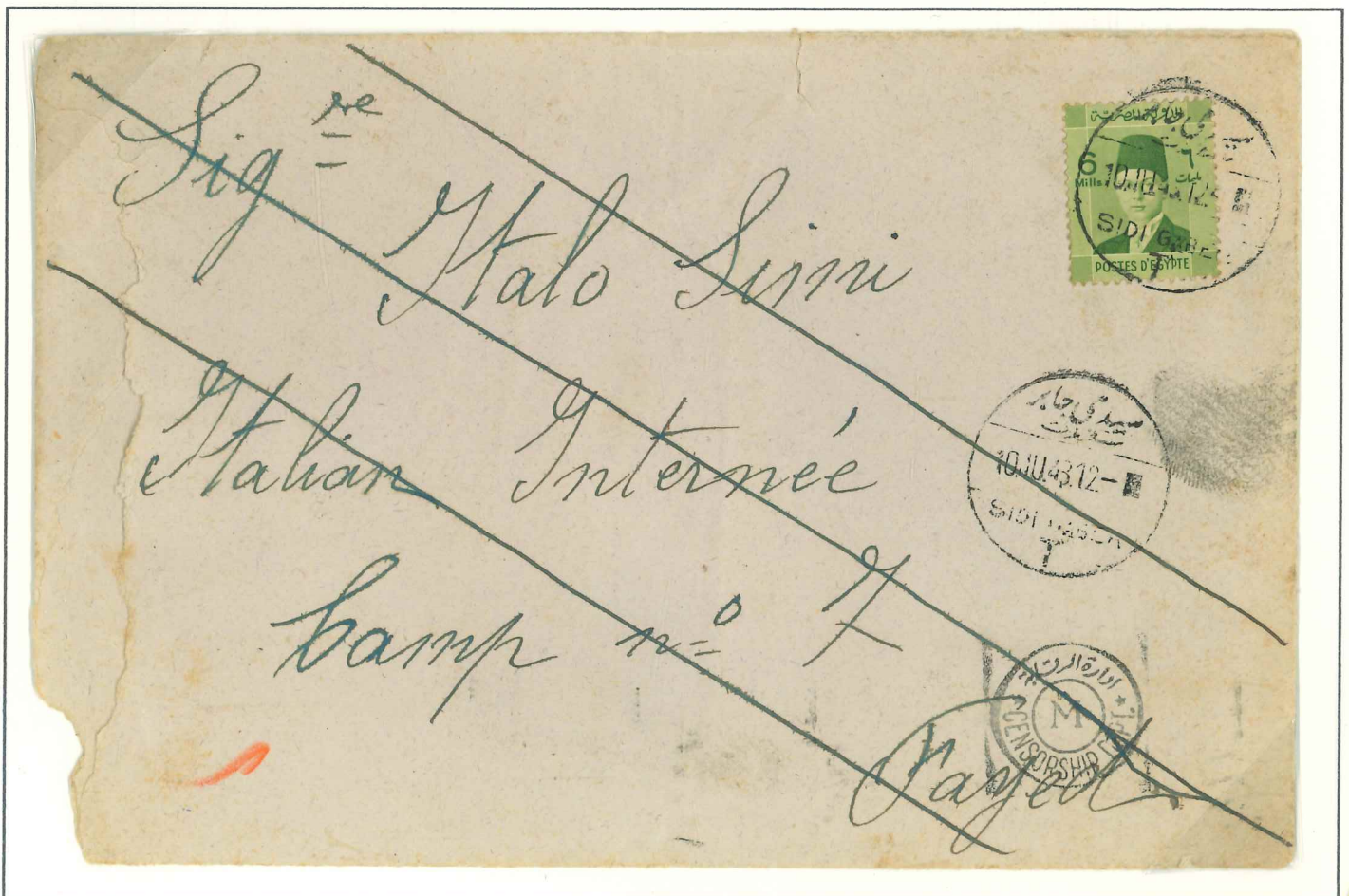
Internees.



Internees.



Internees Incoming Mail



South African Forces - Union Defence Force

"M.E.F." stands for "Middle East Forces"
RED SHIELD SERVICES



From: No. 1246
 Name 1st Lt. M. Mullins
 Unit "A" Coy: 1st (V.N.M.R.), M.E.F.
c/o A.P.O., Durban
 Date 19/6/1941

My dear Dad,

We can now make use of the regular Air-Mail service to the Union & although the next plane only leaves in 3 days time, I am writing this now to make sure of it getting in in time.

BY AIR MAIL

On Active Service



E. J. Mullins Esq.,
 Post Office,
Ladysmith
Natal
South Africa

to reach
 to 10d
 the
 weeks or
 thing on
 Mail

Letter franked with 10d the airmail rate. The letter dated 19.6.41. tells of the new twice weekly airmail service to Durban. This used Short Flying Boats.

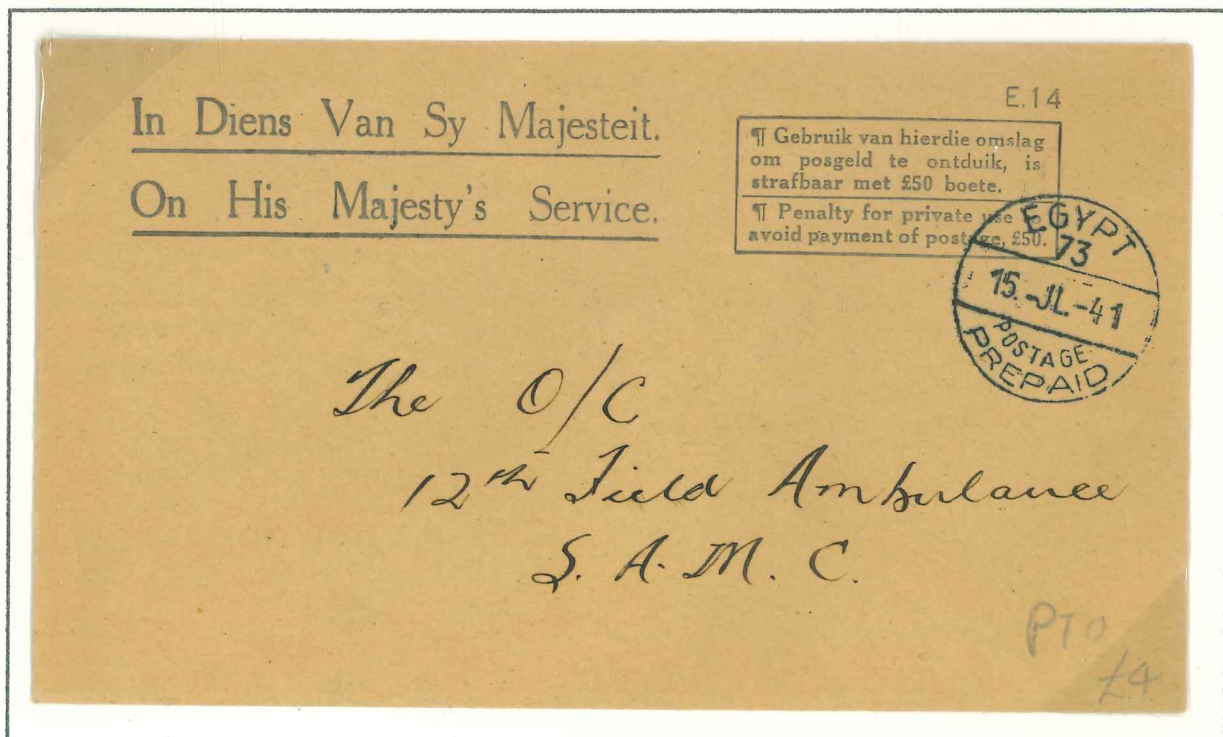
South African Forces - Union Defence Force

Two examples of South African postal stationery issued for use in Egypt and North Africa.



EPP 71 was used by A.P.O.-U-M.P.K. 29 situated at Port Tewfik 13.5.41 to 12.6.44

EPP 73 was used by A.P.O.-U-M.P.K. 13 situated at Mersa Matruh at the time shown.



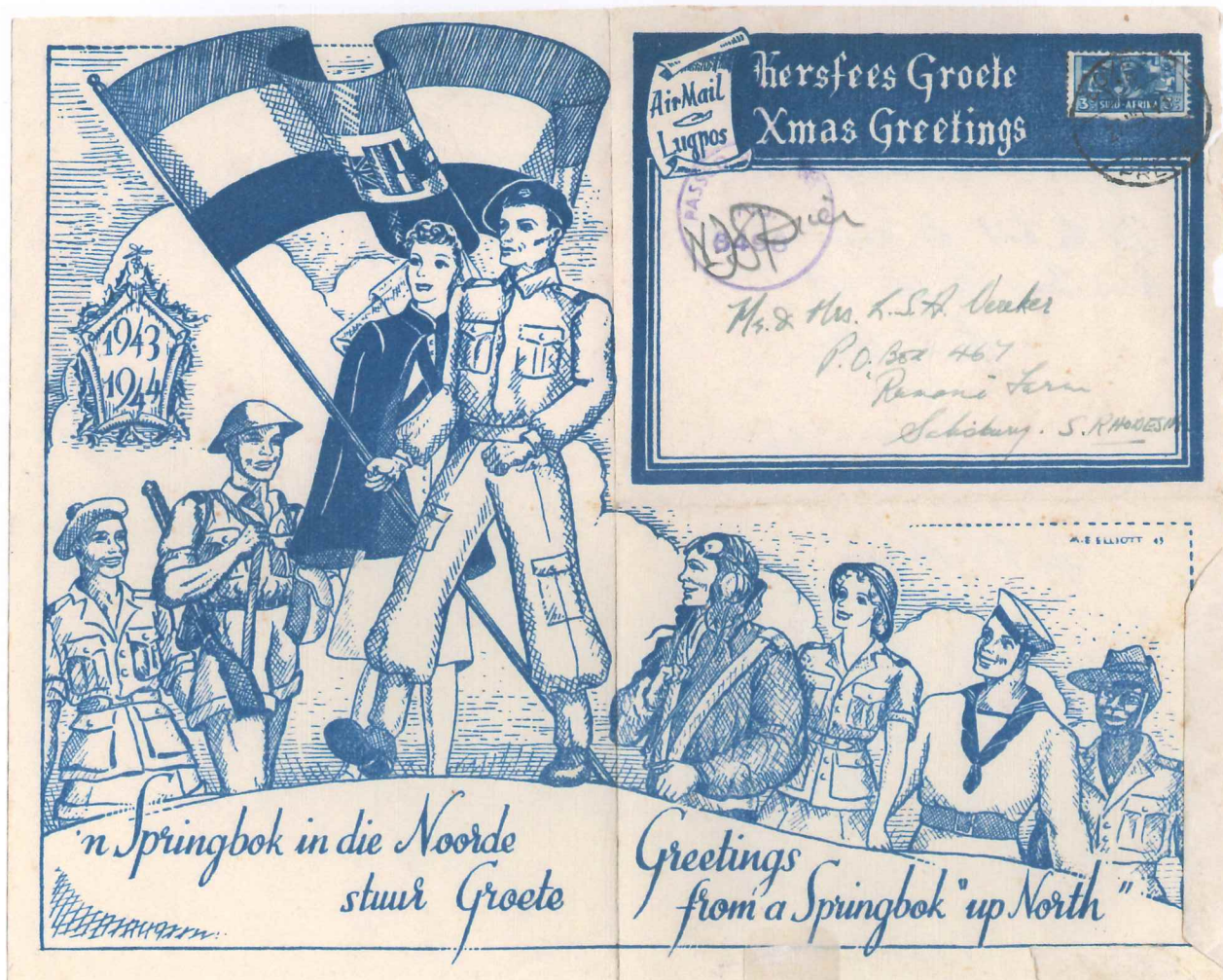
South African Forces - Union Defence Force

<p>REGISTERED LETTER.</p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE HANDED IN AT A POST OFFICE FOR REGISTRATION, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED THEREFOR.</p> <p>GEREGISTREER DE BRIEF.</p> <p>HIERDIE BRIEF MOET VIR REGISTRASIE INGELEWER WORD BY 'N POSKANTOOR. SORG DAT U DAARVOOR 'N KWITANSIE KRY.</p> <p>ON ACTIVE SERVICE</p> <p><i>24 Goddard</i> <i>209 U.D.F.</i> <i>KEUR DEUR</i></p>	<p>THE STAMP TO PAY THE POSTAGE MUST BE PLACED HERE</p> <p>STAMP TO PAY THE POSTAGE MUST BE PLACED HERE</p> <p>EGYPT 13-NOV-41</p>
<p>ARMY POSTAL SERVICES</p> <p>R <i>33/2/34</i></p>	<p><i>MISS D.W. GURR. C509</i></p> <p><i>Box 110</i></p> <p><i>GERMISTON</i></p> <p><i>TRANSVAAL</i></p>

Above a South African registration envelope which has a printed 4d stamp on the back to pay for registration. EPP 63 was by APO33 and was at El Alamein at the time

Below a South African Honour envelope with 10d worth of stamps to pay the airmail rate. EPP73 was at Hewan

<p>ON ACTIVE OP AKTIEWE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The contents of this envelope will not be censored at the unit, but are liable to censorship at the base. Briewe in hierdie koevert sal nie deur die eenheid-sensor gelees word nie, maar is aan sensuur deur die hoof-sensor onderworpe. No money, jewellery or photos may be enclosed. Geen geld, juwele of fotos mag ingesluit word nie. The sender must sign certificate below without rank or unit. Die afsender moet die verklaring hieronder sonder aanduiding van sy rang of eenheid teken. <p>I CERTIFY on my honour that the contents of this letter are of a private and family nature only. EK BEËDIG dat die inhoud van hierdie brief slegs van 'n privaat en familie-aard is.</p> <p><i>W. Willow. 2/Cpl.</i> Signature—Handtekening</p>	<p>SERVICE DIEN</p> <p>If more than one letter is placed in this cover, the cover must be marked to the Military Censor. Multiple letters may be enclosed. Tot hoogstens drie briewe mag in hierdie omslag geplaas word, maar in so 'n geval moet dit aan die Militêre Sensor gerig word.</p> <p>Address Adres</p> <p><i>Miss. C. Eagle</i> <i>G. Dr. Moggridge</i> <i>312. S.A. Mutual Bldg</i> <i>P. M. Burg</i> <i>Natal</i> <i>S. Africa</i></p>
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South African Forces - Union Defence Force



Registration cachet for APO.32. Backstamped EPP73 21.JL.43, APO-U-MPK 29 22.JUL.43, Alexandria 24.JL.43, Base Army Postoffice 4 22.JY.43. APO was at the S.S.A.F. HQ in Cairo. APO29 a sub B.P.O. at Port Tewfik. EPP 73 and at APO.32 at the time.

In North Africa, the SAAF fighter, bomber and reconnaissance squadrons played a major part in enabling the Allied "Desert Air Force" to attain total air superiority over the Axis air forces by the beginning of 1942.

The SAAF's single most memorable feat in North Africa was probably the "Boston Shuttle Service", during which eighteen aircraft of 12 and 24 Squadrons showered hundreds of tons of bombs on the Afrika Korps as it relentlessly pushed the Eighth Army back towards Egypt during the "Gazala Gallop" in the first half of 1942. After the Battle of Alamein, too, the SAAF's North African squadrons played a vital role in harassing the German forces retreating towards the Tunisian border.

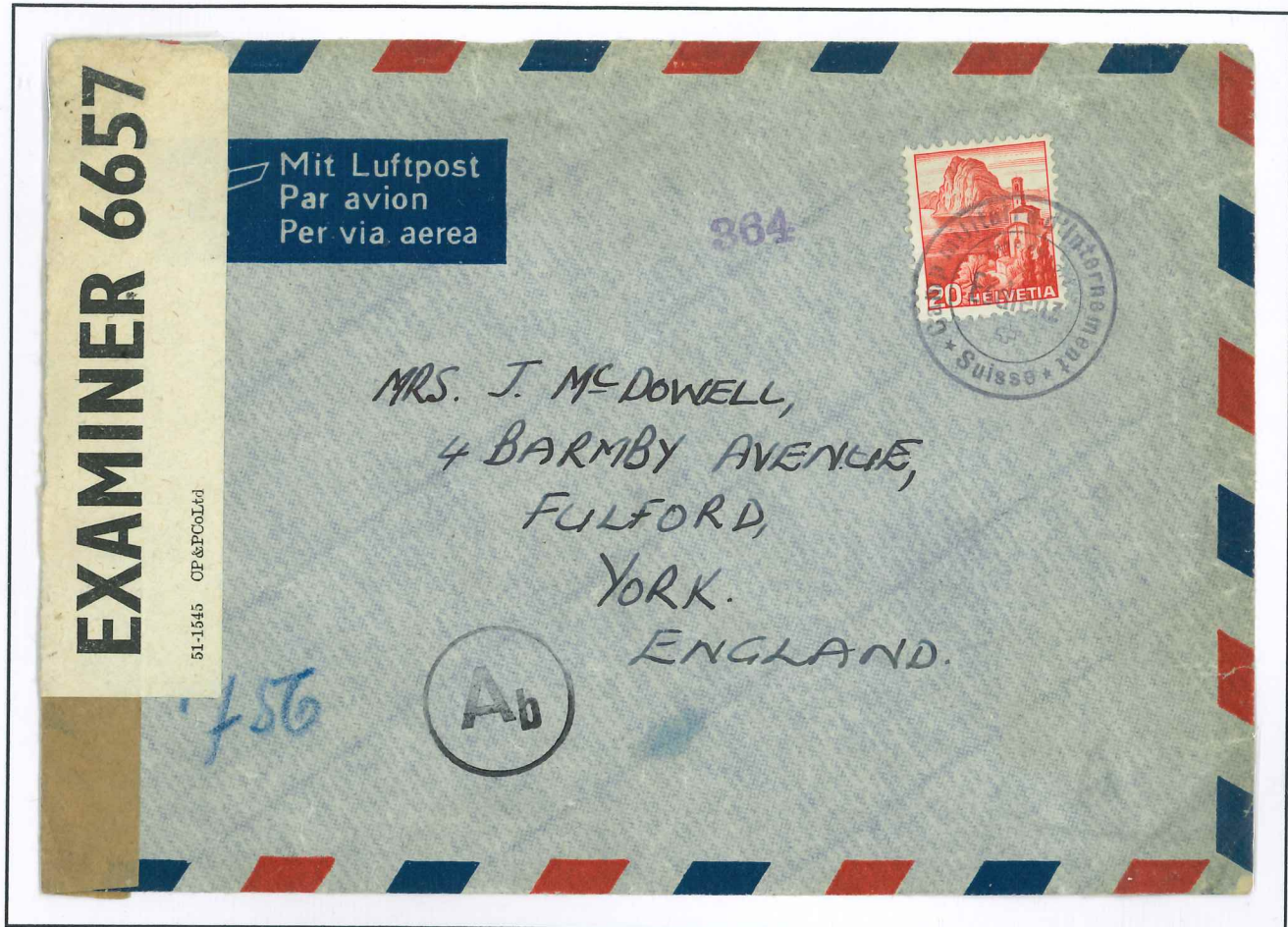
Between 3 and 20 September 1942 the "Desert Air Force" supported the 8th Army's advance up the Adriatic. No3 Wing and 15 Sqn attacked strong points at Rimini and harassed the retreating enemy. During the same month No 3 Wing completed its 20 000 sortie.

Between April 1941 and May 1943, the SAAF, with a maximum of eleven squadrons operational flew 33 991 sorties and destroyed 342 enemy aircraft.



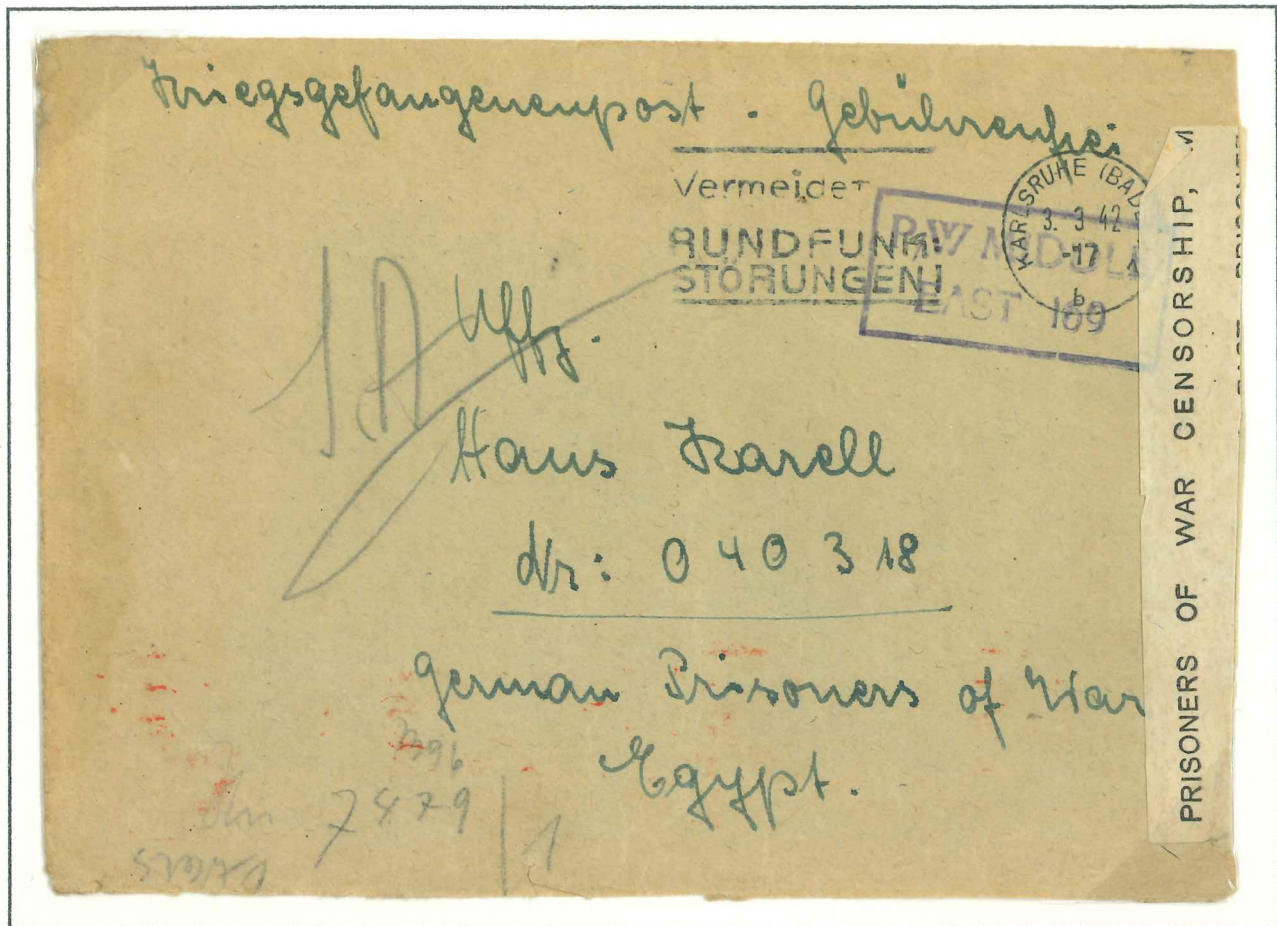
South African Escapee

Lieutenant F.W. Wagner was captured at Tobruk and sent to Germany as a POW. He escaped and crossed over into Switzerland. The Swizz had a strict policy of neutrality and as required under the Geneva convention interned any of the belligerents, from either side, who ended up on Swizz soil. Wagner was interned at camp Esdienz at Bornhausen not far from the German border. At Bornhausen and most of the other working camps the men lived in comfortable, specially built barrack huts and often work on land projects. The camp also contained Australian and New Zealanders.

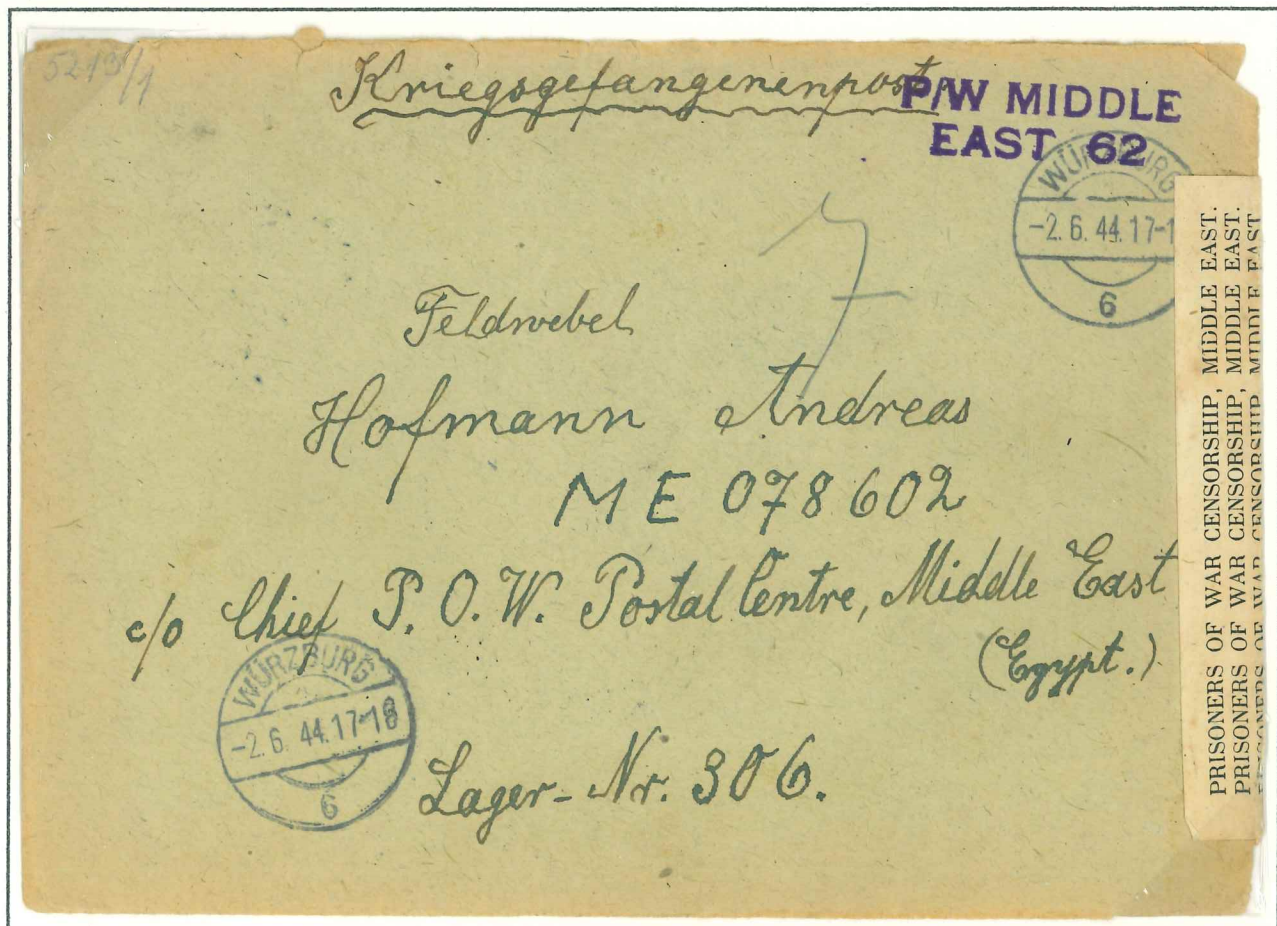


The camps had their own named cancel.
The cover also has a Swizz censor mark





Two incoming POW letters sealed with PRISONERS OF WAR CENSORSHIP, MIDDLE EAST. The upper one has two lines 112x3mm the lower five lines 77x2mm



German Independent Working Companies

At the close of war the middle east, Egypt in particular, had a large number of troops and German prisoners of war, everyone was looking forward to demob or repatriation. The magic words were being uttered 'Demob by Christmas'. In November 1946 there were stoppages in Tel-el-Kebir followed by Port Said, Suez, Abbasia and Cairo a series of strikes by the lower ranks bordering on what was mutiny. Egyptian labour was suspect due to the agitators for independence this resulted in the greater use of the POWs in labour companies.

In September/October 1946 there were 26 German Independent Working Companies, often controlled by the Pioneer Corps, of 48,000 men with an addition 4,000 men in 10 German POW Artisan Working Companies. They mainly worked for the British Army (construction of quarters in the canal zone, motor vehicle workshops, drivers, orderlies etc.); including the defusing, blowing-up and shipment of ammunition. For expert work a prisoner got the paid 10 Piaster daily.

Even more than the British soldiers they longed for repatriation, but they felt hardly in a position to go on strike, and they had no orders as to what to do if nobody turned up to guard them. So their own NCOs took command and they carried on their duties, even driving trucks through the town in a disciplined manner that won the admiration of the officer class. As a result, it was more than ever determined not to part with them a moment too soon. Many of these companies operated independently of any British personal being controlled by German officers or senior NCOs

The prisoners were very relieved when finally in 1946 the first 6,000 men were shipped home but on September 30, 1947, the British Government announced that it would be necessary for it to reduce the repatriation to a fraction of the planned quota, because of shortages of ships. The last finally left in 1948.

FROM	
MITTENTE	
ABSENDER	
NOME	
VOR-UND ZUNAME	
PRIG. DI GUERRA No.	
GEFANGENENNUMMER	

49119

Gefr. Peter Vergeitz 217 492 1279 A.W. Coy.
(German P.W.) P.W. Postal Section M.E.L.F.
Egypt

Fayid, 26.9.47

Dear Mr. Lessing

I was very lucky to receive your answer so quickly. Many thanks for your kindness.

Yours truly, Peter Vergeitz

Standard flimsy POW letter sheet from a POW at Fayid dated 26.9.47. Written in English and by the tone to someone recently known to him leading to the suspicion the recipient is some kind of befriender for POWs. Manuscript 1279A.W.Coy. (German P.W.). The A may stand for Artisan.

German Independent Working Companies

Prisoner of War Mail *Postage free*

KRIEGSGEFANGENER

DIESE SEITE NUR FÜR ANSCHRIFT
ZU BENUTZEN

PORTOFREI

Familie

2765 INDEPENDANT
GERMAN P.W.

4 DEC. 1946

10a

GörCtz, Gabbinstr. 15
Bundesland Sachsen
Russische Zone

8028m/GHQF/3,000,000/4-46

M.E. Form 62, flimsy type with straight line cachet of

2765 INDEPENDENT
GERMAN P.W.
4 DEC. 1946
WORKING COY.

Similar but dated 31 JULY 1946

Germany
-Russische Zone-

KRIEGSGEFANGENER

DIESE SEITE NUR FÜR ANSCHRIFT
ZU BENUTZEN

PORTOFREI

An Familie

Otto Schmidt

Fena/Thür.

Camburger Strasse 6^{III}

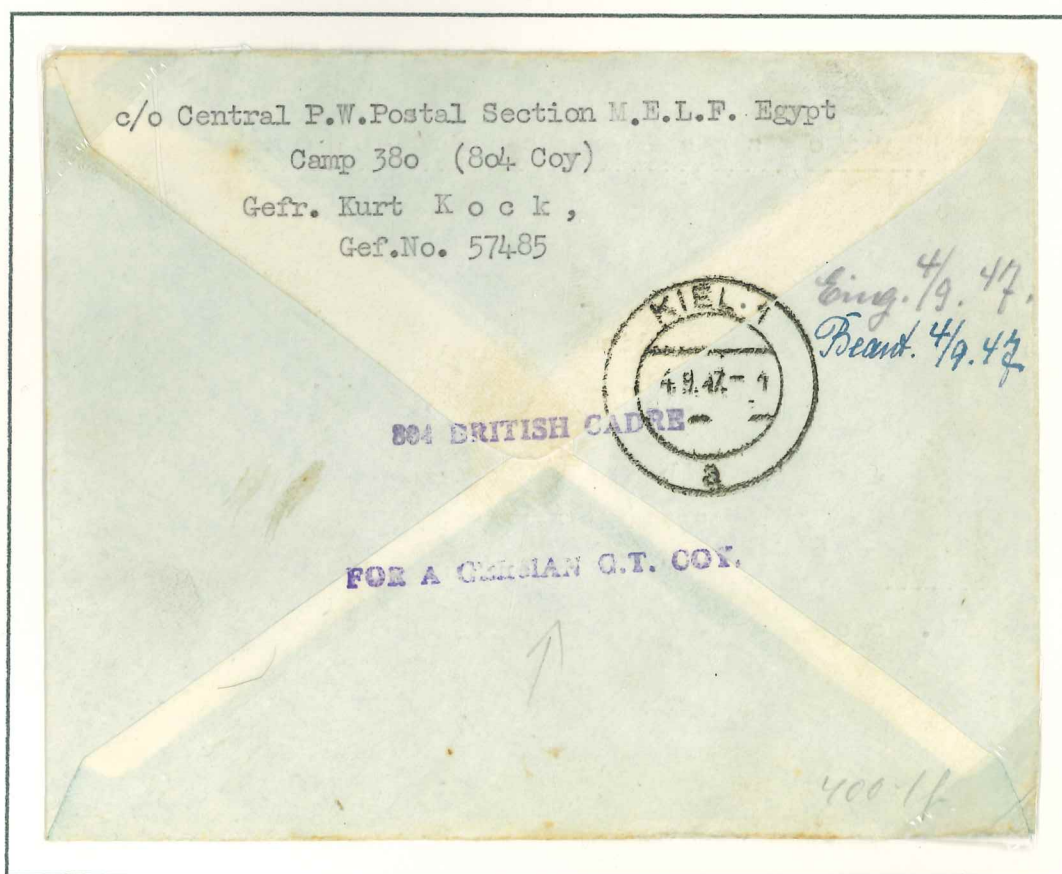
8028m/GHQF/3,000,000/4-46

German Independent Working Companies



Letter to 2719 Indep German P.W Coy. Address to one of the British personnel from a fellow officer in the Pioneer Corps of the 2633 Italian Coy.

Letter from Camp 308 (804 Coy) written by Kurt Kock, a large amount of correspondence is known from him associated with the working companies. Cachet of
804 BRITISH CADRE
FOR A GERMAN G.T. COY



German Independent Working Companies

3101/Indep. German P.W. Wkg. Coy.
British Forces Iraq

M.E. Form 62

Lager Nr. _____

c/o CHIEF P.O.W. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST

Von Kriegsgefangenem Nr. 47153

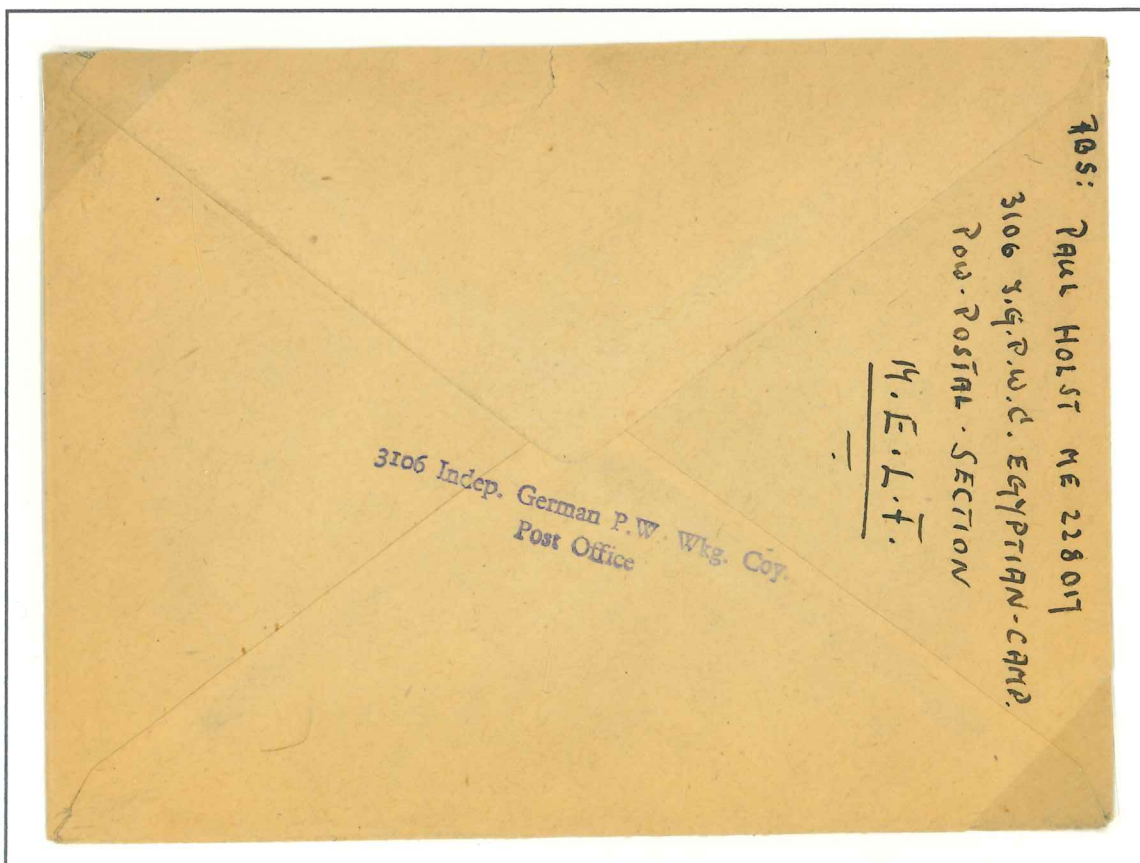
Name Werner Helmke Dienstgrad Ge. reuter

Am 2.2.1947 Lieber Opa! Wenn Du diese Zeilen von mir liest,
bedeutet, dass Du mich in die Gefangenschaft nicht
verschickst. Am Montag den 1. März verlasse ich mich
auf Dich u. werde wohl noch läng in Ägypten sein. Die Länge
der Aufenthalt dort ist nicht, wie ich es mir wünsche, ich
hoffe, dass ich bald heim kommen werde. Sonst bin ich gesund u. hoffe
mit Dir zusammen zu kommen. Auf Wiedersehen, Dein Bruder G. Helmke.

DEUTLICH SCHREIBEN

M.E. Form 62, postcard type with single straight line cachet of
3101 Indep. Ger. P.W

Plain envelope with two line cachet Wkg. Coy.
Post Office



German Independent Working Companies

FROM POW HOLST, PAUL ME228017
 MITTENTE 3106 IND. GERM. POW. Wkg. COY
 ABSENDER
 NOME
 VOR-UND ZUNAME POW. POSTEL-SECTION.
 PRIG. DI GUERRA No. M.E.L.F. EGYPT
 GEFANGENENNUMMER

3106 Indep. German P.W.
 Wkg. Coy.]
 Date.....

Standard flimsy POW letter sheets both showing the straight line cachet of
 3106 Indep. German P.W.
 Wkg. Coy.
 Date.....

FROM
 MITTENTE
 ABSENDER
 NOME
 VOR UND ZUNAME PAUL, HOLST 228017 3106 I.G.P.W.COY.
 PRIG. DI GUERRA NO.
 GEFANGENENNUMMER - "EGYPTIAN-CAMP" - POW. POSTAL-SECTION
M-E-L-F-

3106 Indep. German P.W.
 Wkg. Coy.
 Date.....

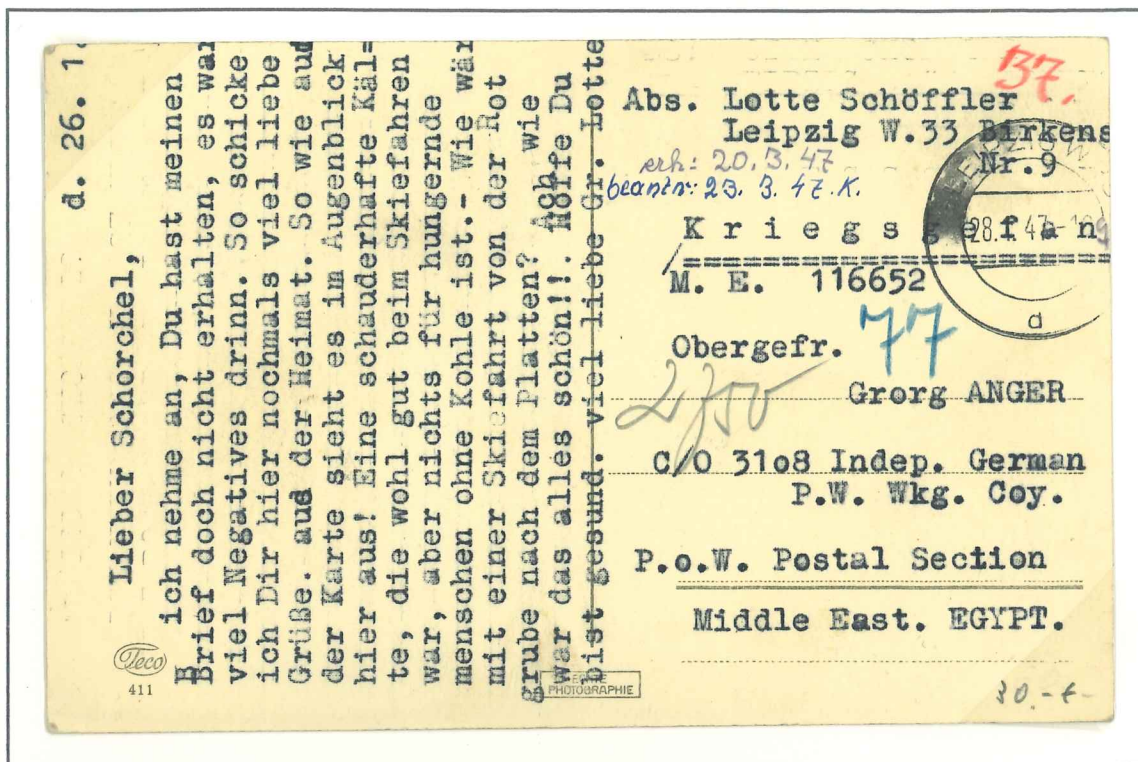
German Independent Working Companies

FROM *Ind. Germ. P.W. Wkg. Coy 2719*
 MITTENTE
 ABSENDER *c/o P.W. Postal Centre ME Egypt* *E7*
 NOME
 VOR-UND ZUNAME *Max Lehn Gefr.*
 PRIG. DI GUERRA No.
 GEFANGENENNUMMER *ME 232 948*

Indep. Germ. P.W. Wkg. Coy 2719 c/o P.W. Postal Centre ME *E7*
 FROM
 MITTENTE
 ABSENDER
 NOME
 VOR UND ZUNAME *Max Lehn*
 PRIG. DI GUERRA NO.
 GEFANGENENNUMMER *ME 232 948*

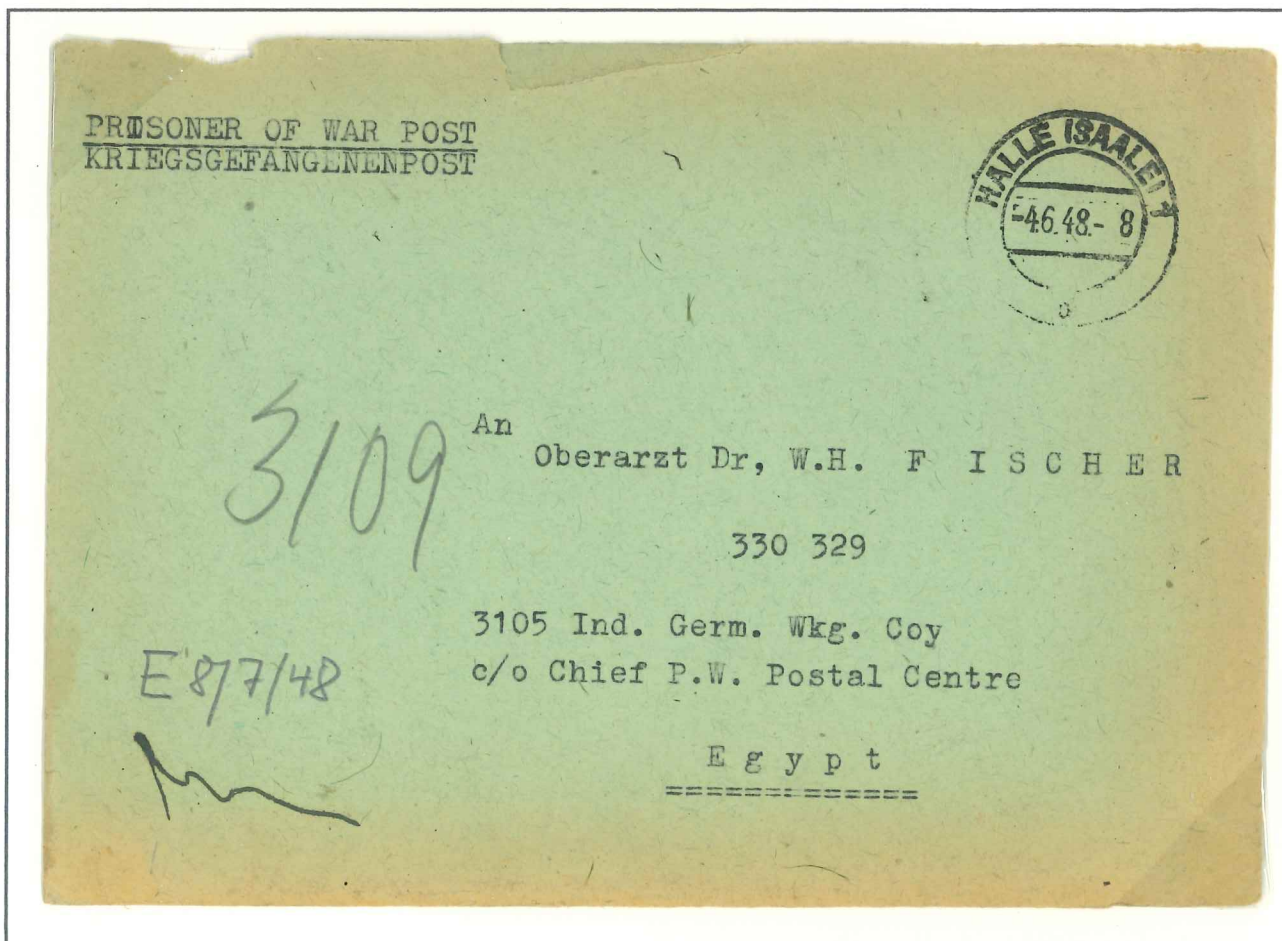
FROM
 MITTENTE
 ABSENDER
 NOME
 VOR-UND ZUNAME *Weinz Gerstenberg, HP Gefr. ME 319055*
 PRIG. DI GUERRA No.
 GEFANGENENNUMMER *2752 Indep. German P.W. Working Coy*
P.W. Postal Section M.E.L.F.
Egypt

German Independent Working Companies



Incoming postcard to 3108 Indep. German P.W. Wkg. Coy.

Incoming letter to 3105 Ind. Germ. Wkg. Coy.



German Independent Working Companies

8. Juni 1947

3113 Ind. Ger. P.W. Wkg. M.E. Form 62
c/o Central P.O.W. Postal

Lager Nr.

c/o CHIEF P.O.W. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST
M. E. L. F.

Von Kriegsgefangenem Nr. 191601

Name ALFRED LUEDTKE Dienstgrad STABSWACHTMSTR.

*Lieber Heinz u. liebe Frau! Meinem schönen Sonntagsbrief aus der
Küche sendet sich ein gründer und Schwager Alfred. Hoffentlich
geht es euch, der Zeit entsprechend gut. Gesundheitlich geht
es mir sehr gut. Mein Wunsch, ich würde auf einem neuen Platz
in der nächsten Zeit bei euch vorstellen. Mein Wunsch ist
wohl inzwischen von Robert Götting über unser Gefangen
Leben unterrichtet sein. Hochachtungsvoll die herzlichsten
Grüße einer gründer u. Schwager Alfred. Grüßen alle Zukunft.*

DEUTLICH SCHREIBEN

M.E. Form 62, card type with boxed cachet of

3113 Ind. Ger. P.W. Wkg. Coy.
c/o Central P.O.W. Postal
Section
M. E. L. F.

M.E. Form 62, flimsy type with curved cachet of
ORDELEY ROOM
24 JUN 1946
2773 IND. G.P.W. WKG. COY

Ägypten Germany

KRIEGSGEFANGENER

DIESE SEITE NUR FÜR ANSCHRIFT
ZU BENUTZEN

PORTOFREI

Faml. Werner Meyer

Hamburg 19

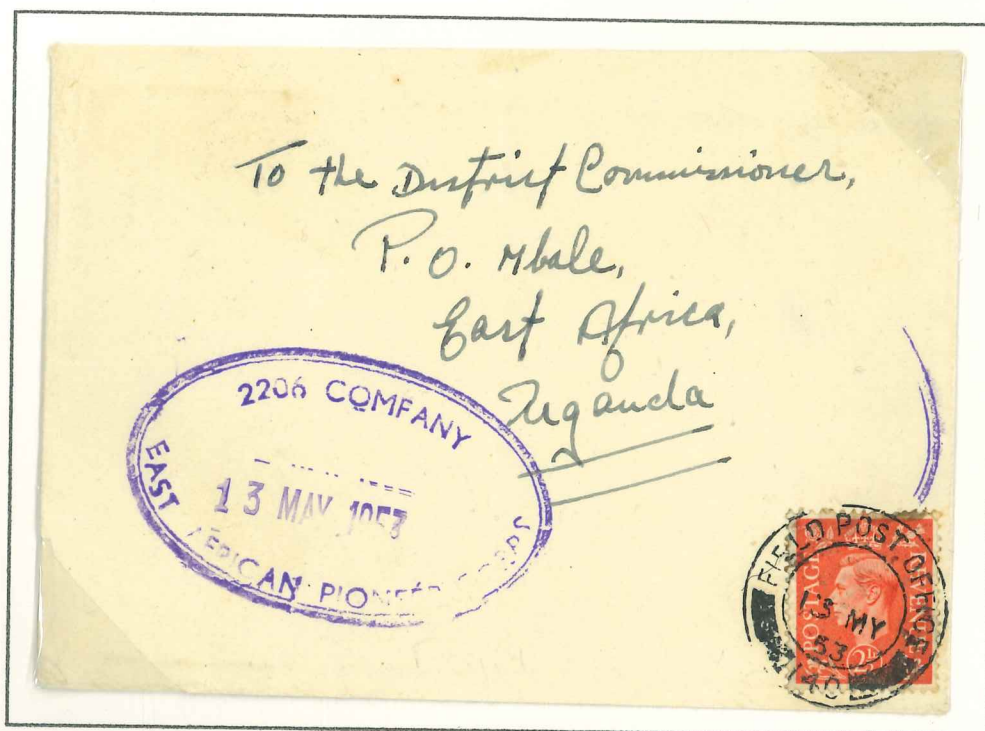
Tresekowstraße 51 III

24 JUN 1946

8028m/GHQF/3,000,000/2-46

German Independent Working Companies

As the German POWs were repatriated the labour shortage became acute especially as Egyptian nationalists made it almost impossible to hire local labour. Recruitment in East Africa particularly Mauritius overcame this problem pioneer companies being set up for guard and maintenance



Upper cover with cachet of 2206 COMPANY EAST AFRICAN PIONEER CORPS.

Lower cover with cachet H.Q. 321 GROUP



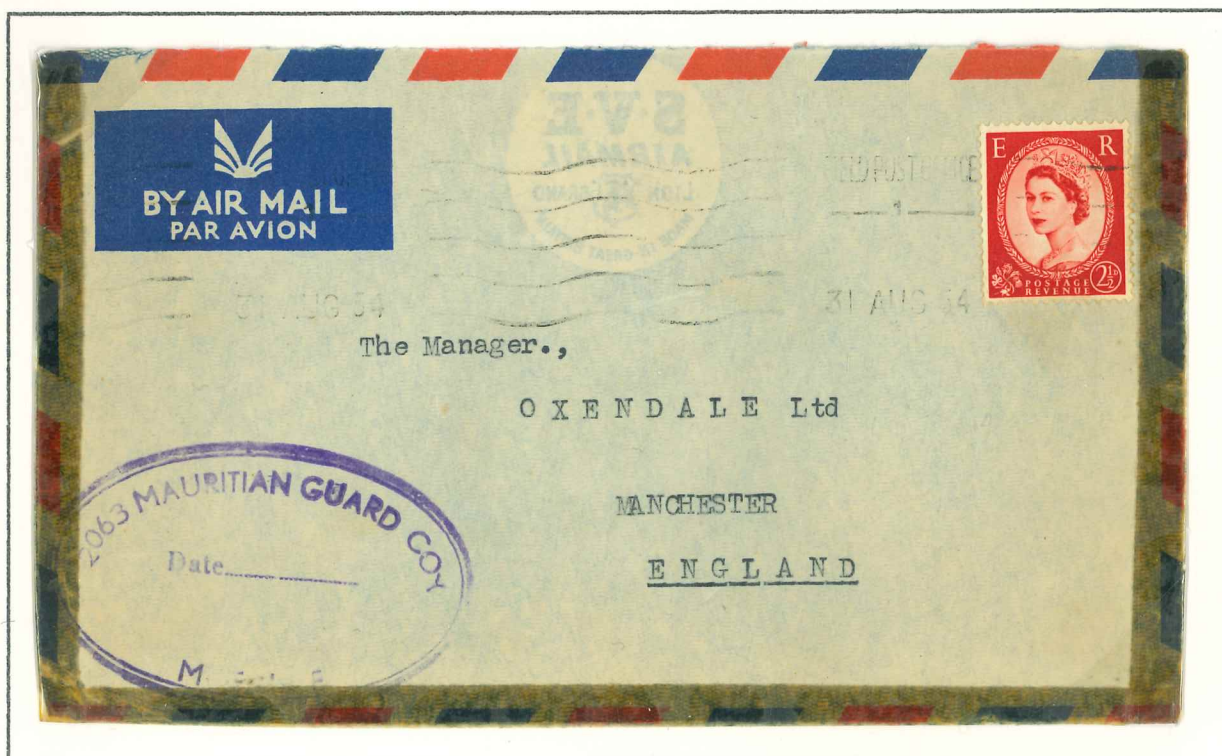
Pioneer Working Companies

There was a major recruitment from British Colonies in the Indian Ocean



Upper cover with cachet of 2208 MAURITIAN COY. ROYAL PIONEER CORPS. M.E.L.F.
Based at Tel-el-Kabir

Lower cover with cachet 2063 MAURITIAN GUARD COY. M.E.L.F.





Upper cover with cachet of the RECRUITING OFFICE based in Mauritius

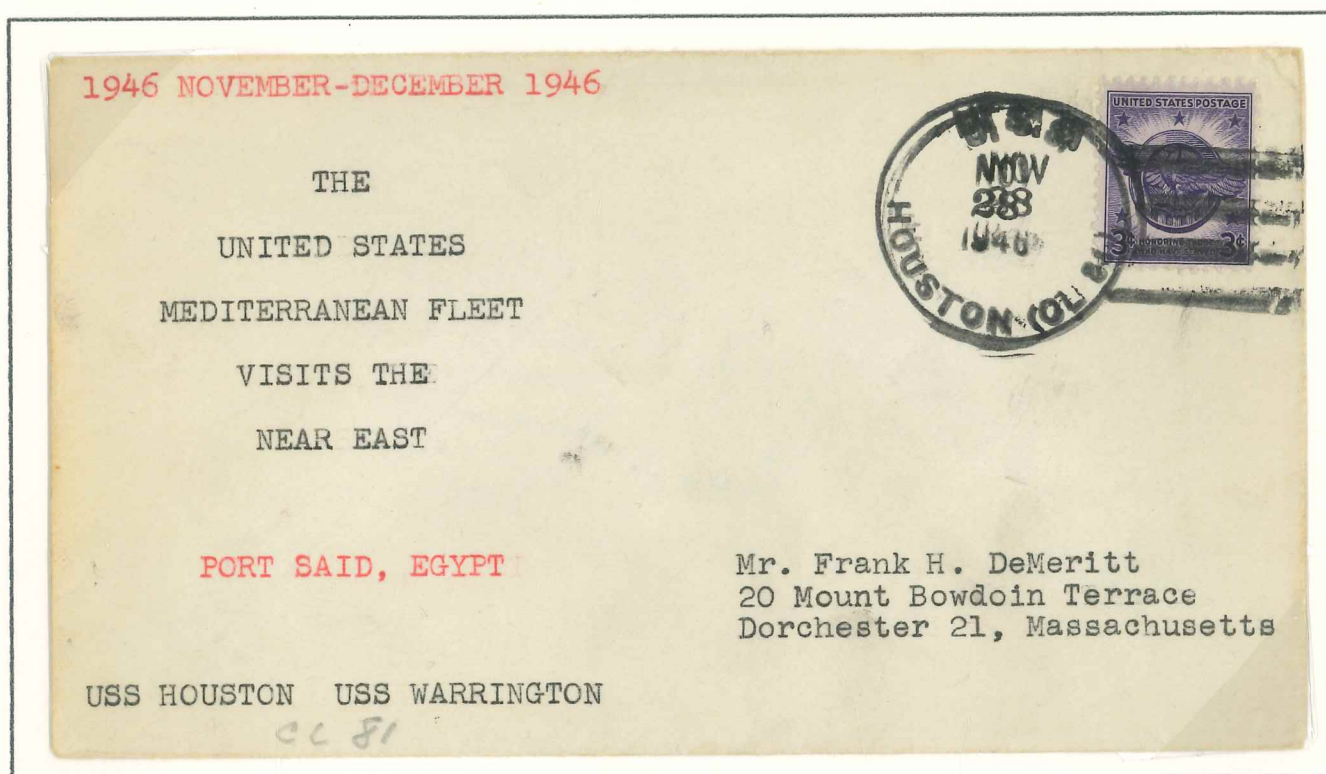
Lower cover endorsed on the back Major GA. Easton R.P.C. Depot M.E.L.F.
It would seem the Mauritius stamps were excepted in Egypt



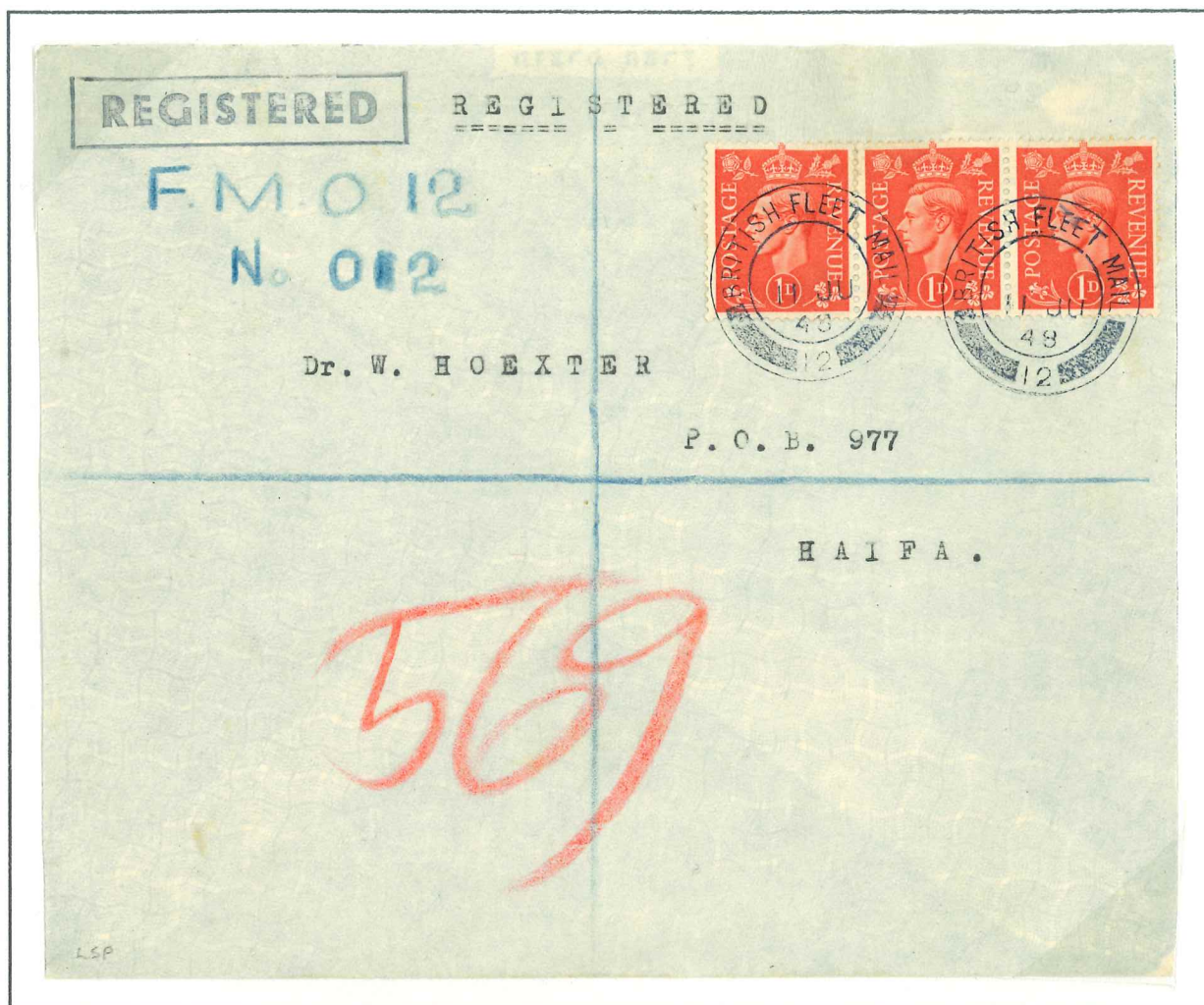
U.S. Mediterranean Fleet

USS Houston (CL-81), a Cleveland-class light cruiser which saw action in the Pacific. After extensive work in New York she took part in several training exercises from Newport, Rhode Island. She steamed on 16 April 1946 for an extended goodwill tour of European and African ports, visiting cities in Scandinavia, Portugal, Italy, and Egypt. Houston returned to the US on 14 December 1946 and engaged in training and readiness operations until 17 May 1947, when she steamed with Cruiser Division 12 (Cru.Div 12) for a Mediterranean Sea voyage.

Returning to Philadelphia on 16 August 1947, Houston was decommissioned on 15 December 1947, and then was placed in reserve for over a decade, and then finally stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 March 1959 and scrapped.



British Fleet Haifa



British Fleet Mail 11 June 1948 Haifa. Although Israeli independence was declared on 14th. May the British still maintained a base at Haifa for some time after the last of the British troops had been evacuated.

Shows BRITISH FLEET MAIL 12, boxed REGISTERED and on the back straight line H. M. NAVAL



The Canal Zone

After the war Britain was slow to honour its agreement to restrict its forces within the canal zone taking 1947 to do so. On October 15, 1951 Nahas abrogated the treaty demanding Britain leave Egypt completely. A guerrilla war ensued until Eden and Nasser agreed for the withdrawal of troops the last to leave being the Grenadier Guards in March 1956.



Upper cover franked with EPP 16, 25-JU-47. Some of the EPP cancels continued in use up to the middle of 1947.

From then on the major cancels are of the FPO type.
Lower cover franked FPO 266 based at HQ Canal South District.



Post WWII

The Canal Zone

Jones Air Mail.



J.P.A. Pater. Esq.

64, Widdowere Ave
Wembley.

Willesden
England.

FPO 187, 2-AU-48.
Kantara.



The Editor,

"Stamp Collecting" Ltd.

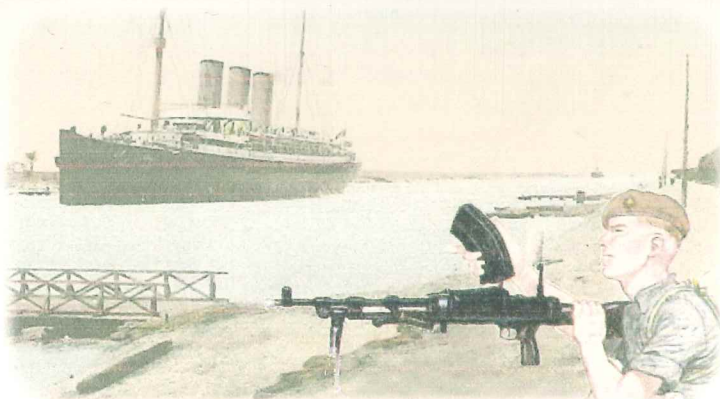
27 Maiden Lane,

Strand,

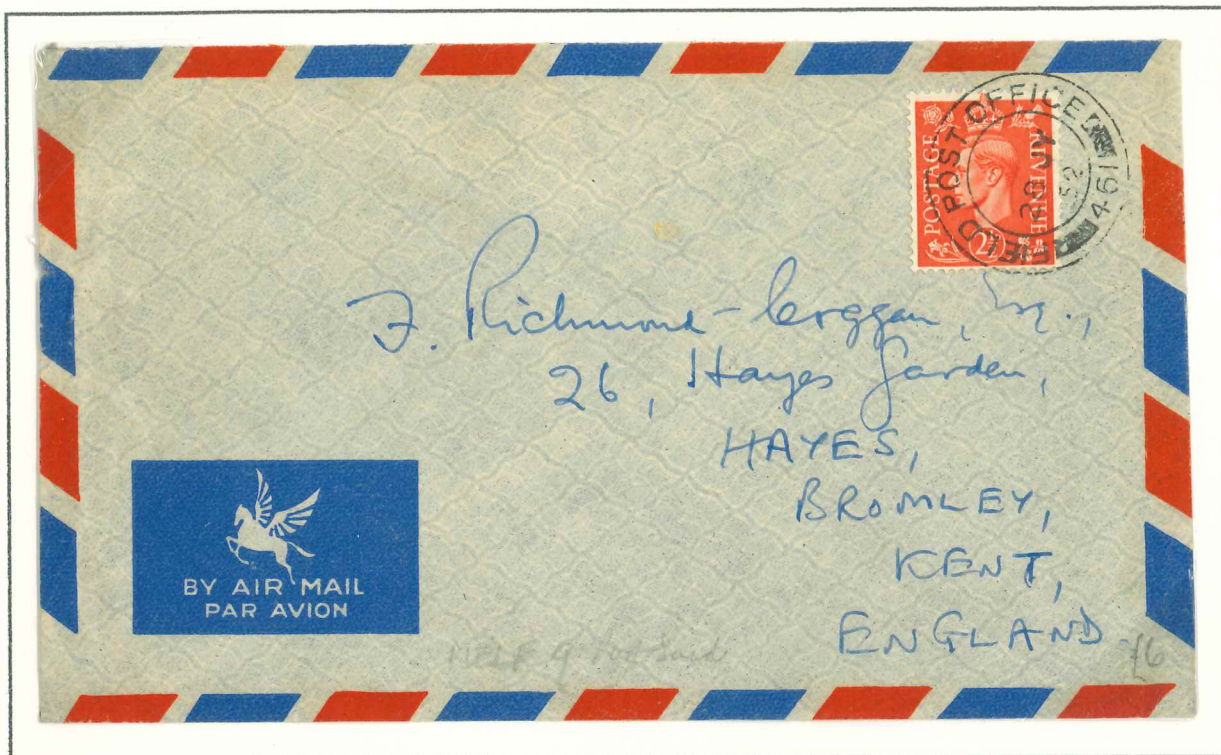
ENGLAND.

London W.C.2.

FPO 551 12-OC-49
Moascar

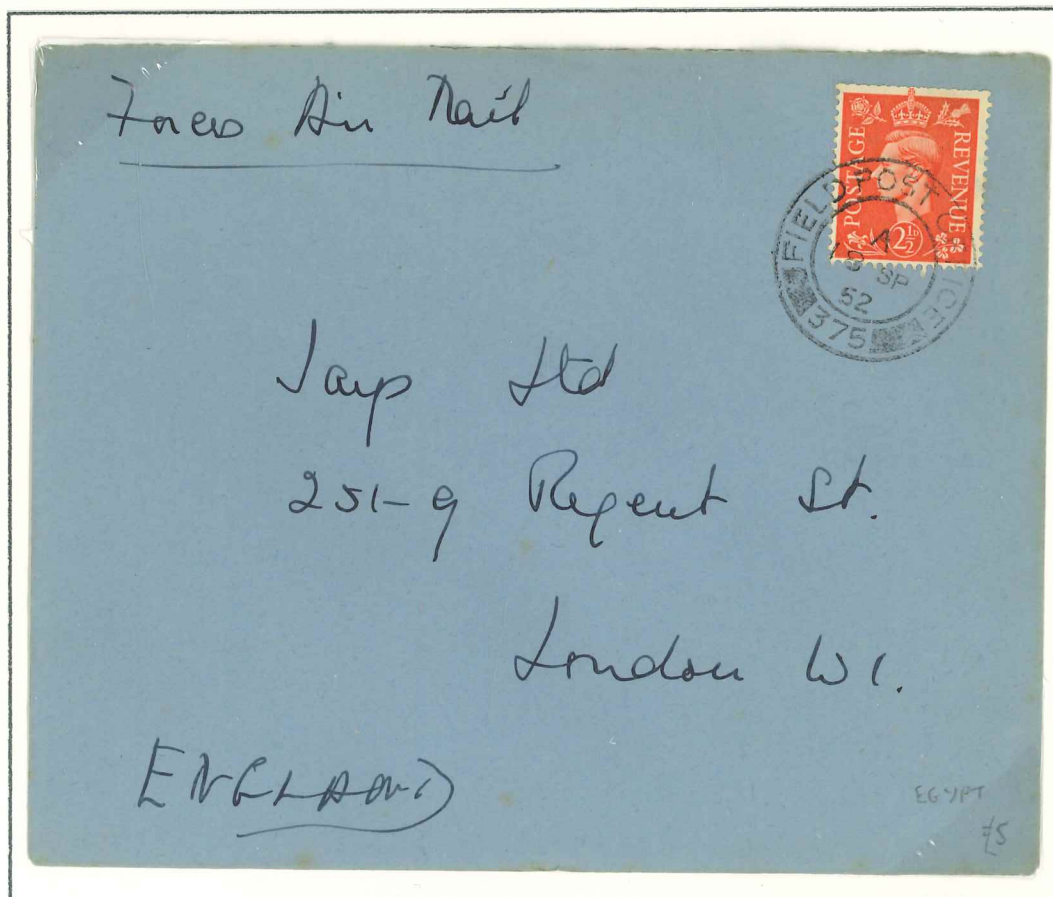


The Canal Zone



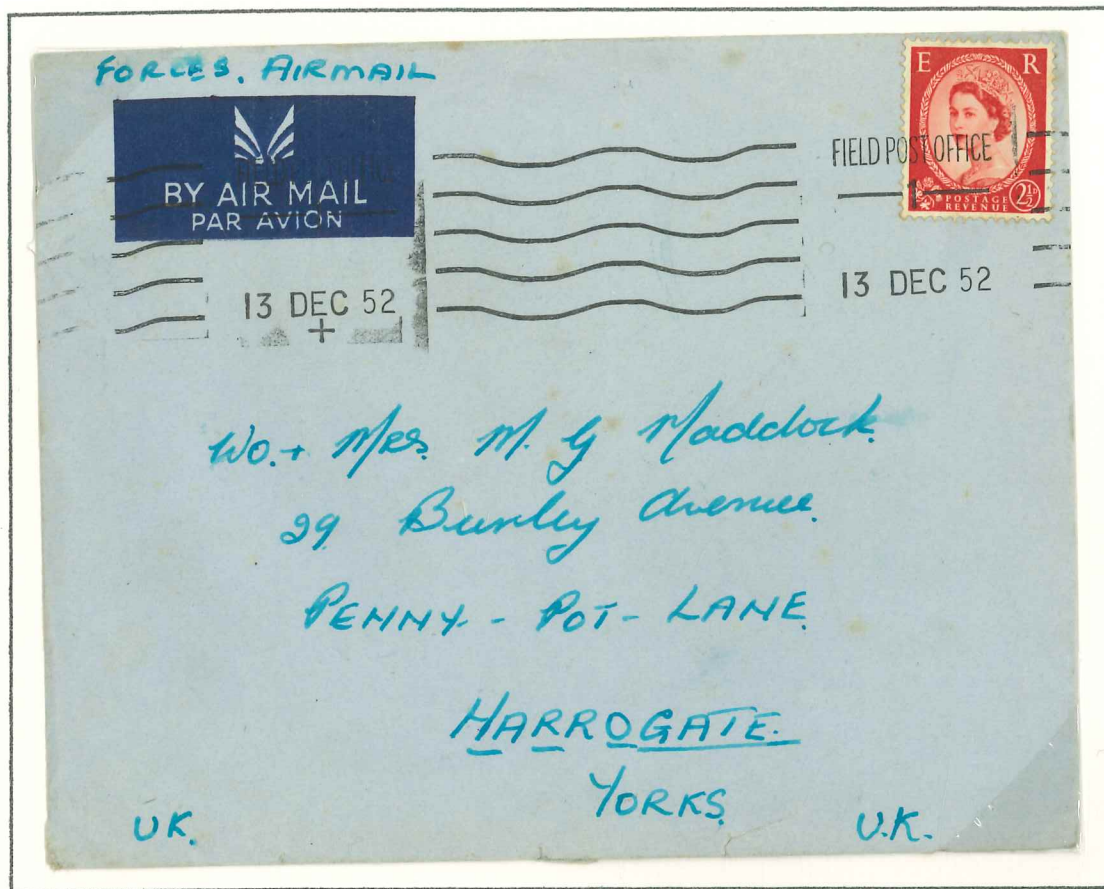
Upper cover franked with FPO 461 28-JY-52 based at Port Said

Lower cover franked FPO 375, 19-SP-52. GHQ Moascar.



The Canal Zone

At the end of 1952 two Krag postal machines, from KRAG MASKIN FABRIK (Norway), were introduced to help the flow of outgoing mail. They were ideally suited for large villages where the larger faster machines would have been too expensive. These machines had been used by the Post Office in Britain peaking at over 350 units in the 1950s. From then on their use declined



FPO 1, possibly situated at Fayid the main postal point in Egypt after the move from Cairo in October 1951



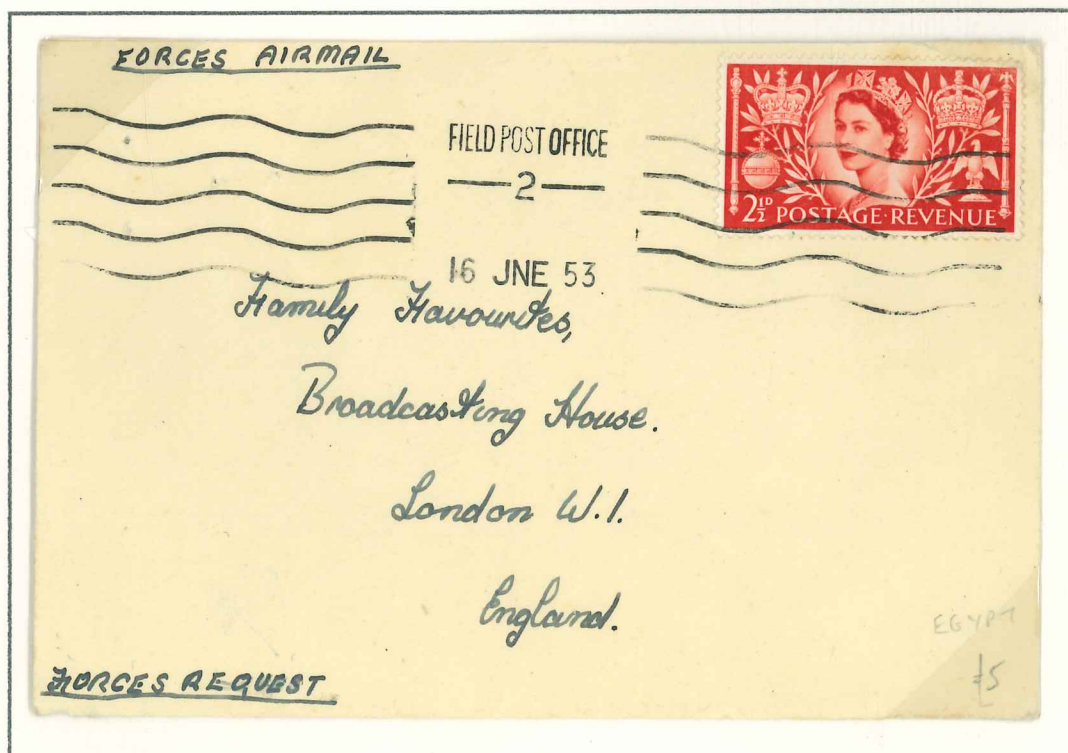
Some where along the line the lower part of the number 1 seems to have been broken off



The Canal Zone

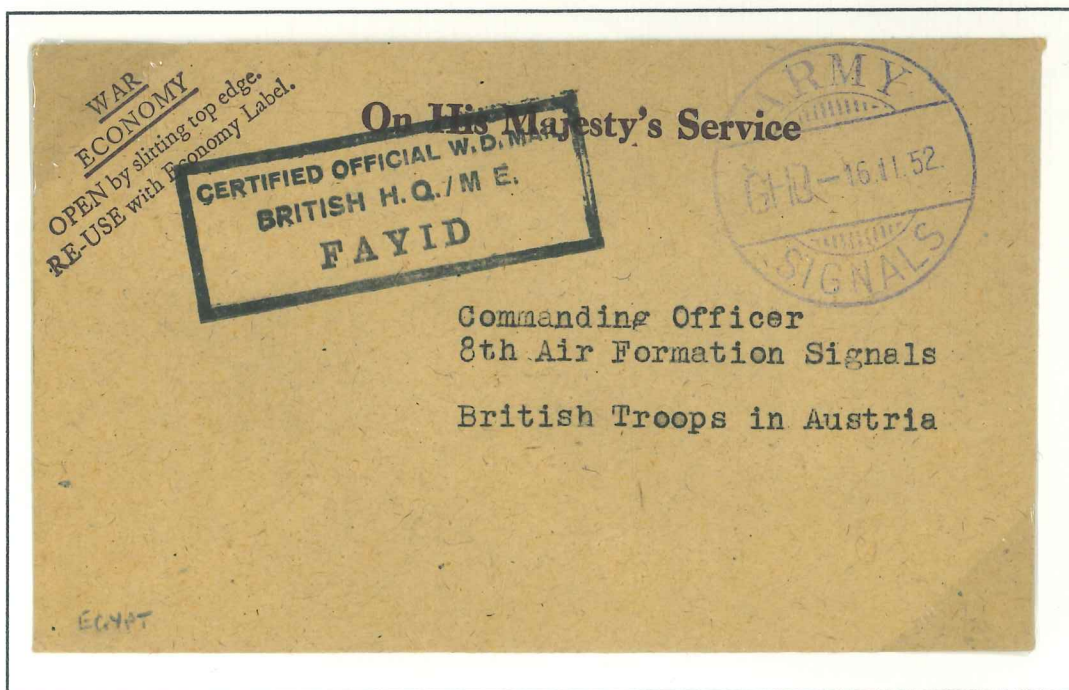


FPO 2 situated at Fanfara



The Canal Zone

Non FPO datestamps



The Canal Zone

Under the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936 Britain reserved rights for the protection of the canal, but after World War II, Egypt pressed for evacuation of British troops from the area. Egypt in 1951 repudiated the 1936 treaty, and anti-British rioting and clashes on the border of the zone erupted. In 1954, Britain agreed to withdraw by June, 1956. At the end of 1955 only the 1st Guards Brigade were in occupation of Moascar and Port Said, and the R.A.F. had handed over all but one of their nine aerodromes. The last fighting troops to leave were the 2nd Grenadier Guards. The main body slipped away by ship on the night of March 24th 1956.

The final act was took place at sunrise on Wednesday June 13th 1956. Brigadier Lacey handed over Navy House Port Said to an Egyptian colonel, and after a cheerful farewell stepped onto a launch. The ship sailed away quietly, as the green flag of Egypt went up over the imposing Navy House to announce the fall of the last Bastion of a army that had been in occupation for seventy-four years.



Upper cover franked with FPO 255, 19-JA-56. TeK.
Lower cover franked FPO 443 4-FE-56 Fayid Both are last day of usage.

