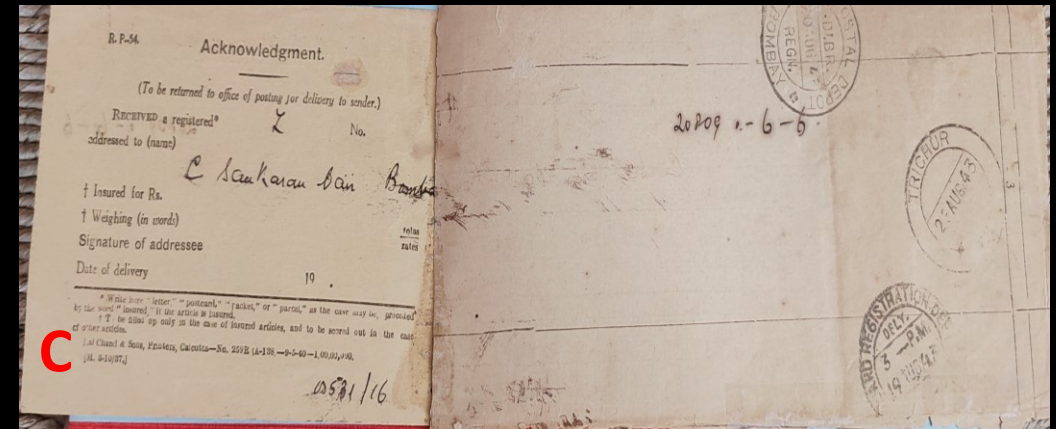
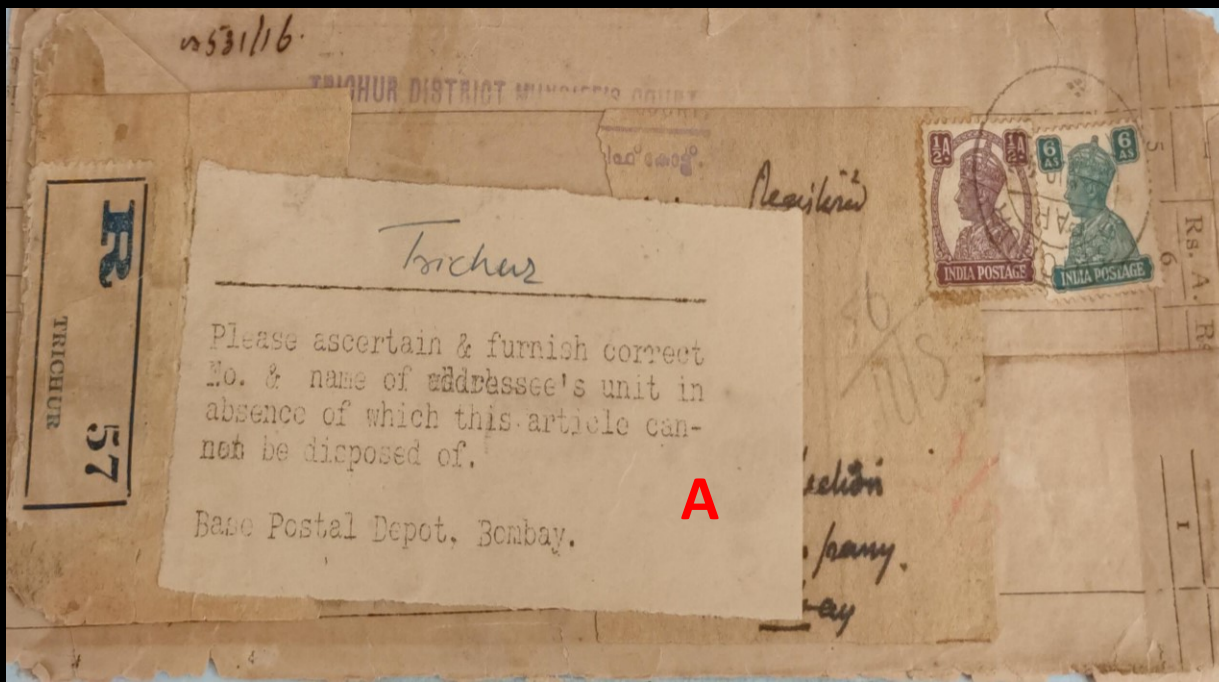


GHQ Army Post Office;

This Honour Envelope was posted from datestamp 181 on 26th November 1944 to **New Delhi, India**. It was delivered at the **GHQ APO NEW DELHI** on 29th November 1944 via **New Delhi datestamp** on 28th November 1944

181 was part of datestamp numbers which were type of security marks supplied through Army HQ to the commands for distribution to Civil Offices for use at Camp P.O.'s or on Forces mail received at larger P.O.'s. for purposes of censorship, concessions and circulation 1 to 700 were manufactured. 1 to 200 were allotted through HQ Eastern Command. 201 to 500 were allotted through HQ Southern Command (Brig D S Virk)

In January 1942 Postal directorate was setup in GHQ Initially the FPO s were under the control of PMG Bombay. This G.H.Q.A.P.O. NEW DELHI (DELY) postmark was seen on 6th March 1945 but this is dated **29th November 1944** (E B Proud)
It bears the triangle with Field Censor 235 and circular Unit Censor F336 all in violet colour

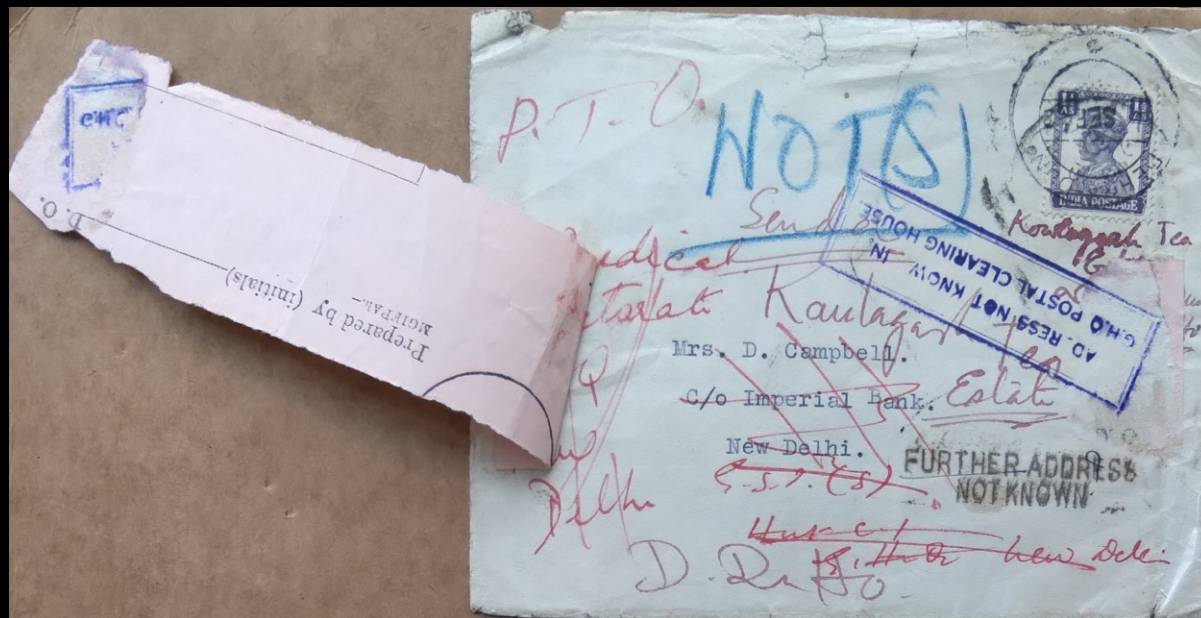


Base Postal Depot, Bombay

A registered letter cover from **Trichur**, India(R57) to a person serving in the Indian Forces. ½ as and 6as India KG VI affixed

The cover has been returned to the sender from **Base Postal Depot, Bombay** with a label as shown **A**
 At the reverse an acknowledgment card **B** (front side) **C** (reverse) has been stuck with the postmark
BASE POSTAL DEPOT BOMBAY / 'D'BR 20 AUG 43 /REGN

On 14th January 1941, the Base Postal Depot was transferred from Delhi to Bombay. Originally a Postal Clearing Section, Mail Tracing and Enquiry but shed its duties as Record Office when a purely military (not postal) unit was opened in 1941 to redirect forces mail. It moved to the Base Postal Depot in 1942 and became D Section later it was transferred to GHQ 2nd Echelon (Jhansi) (EB Proud)



Base Postal Depot D-RLO (continued)

This cover originated from Dehra Dun, India and is addressed to Mrs D Campbell c/o Imperial Bank, New Delhi on **September 1942**. It bears multiple redirected addresses, the most visible are - it has been redirected to Medical Directorate, GHQ New Delhi then redirected to another address within the GHQ, New Delhi and then finally to Kaulagarh Tea Estate, Dehra Dun. 1 ½ as India King George stamp affixed.

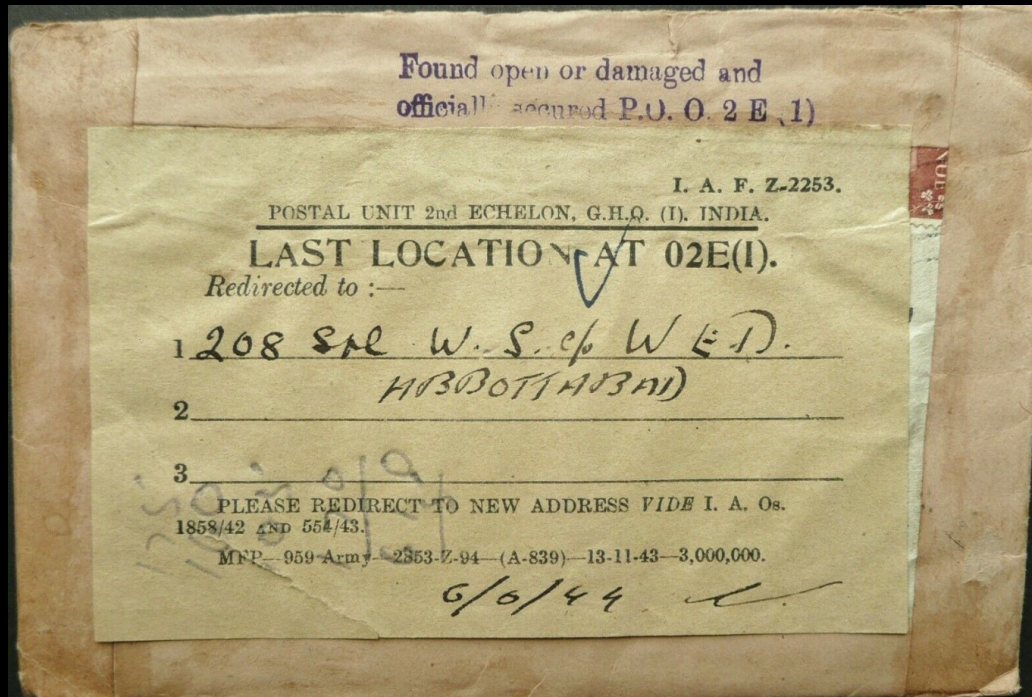
It bears a boxed **Address Not Known in GHQ Postal Clearing House** in violet and **Further Address not known** in black. Both are indicated with a handstamp.

A label has been stuck on which the handstamp **-RLO BASE POSTAL DEPOT BOMBAY** is boxed in black and with the datestamp of **RLO BASE POSTAL DEPOT BOMBAY 25th November 1942**. The prominent datestamp of Dehra Dun is **28th November 1942**

During the war, if the address was confidential then it could be addressed to the bank. This c/o bank address would have been shared by the sender in the earlier mail. The banks then would redirect accordingly as per the list with them.

Base Postal Depot which combined the vital tasks of an overseas mail and Sorting Centre, Returned Letter Office (RLO) and Record Office for the P&T personnel on field service, it was raised in New Delhi in November 1940 and opened in Bombay in January 1941. During the next six years the Depot was strengthened many times. **It acquired additional responsibilities such as mail tracing and enquiry** and shed its duties as Record Office.

It was decided in November 1942 to concentrate the main tracing work at the military record office called **GHQ 2nd Echelon (India)** which was raised at **Jhansi** in February 1943 and the tracing work was transferred to it by the old Postal Section.



2nd Echelon GHQ (I) India, Jhansi, India

Tracing record office, GHQ(I) for the undeliverable mail was located at Jhansi. During war, battlefield casualties and constant unplanned troop movement invariably produce large quantities of undeliverable mail.

The bulk of the untraced letters were addressed to British Personnel, it was decided in November 1942 to concentrate the main tracing work at the military record office called GHQ 2nd Echelon (India) which was raised at Jhansi in February 1943 and the tracing work was transferred to it by the old Postal Section. In addition to referring to military records, the Postal Unit built its own Card Index of Officers, This was used by the two (India and South East Asia) Echelons. Between 1942 and March 1946 the unit received nearly 7,000,000 items of undelivered mail and telegrams and was able to trace all but 50,000 pieces. This unit was dispersed in May 1947 and the outstanding mail tracing work was given back to the Postal Section of the O2ETracing record office, GHQ(I) for the undeliverable mail was located at Jhansi. During war, battlefield casualties and constant unplanned troop movement invariably produce large quantities of undeliverable mail.

(continued)



2nd Echelon GHQ (I) India, Jhansi, India (continued)

As per the rule, the Army Postal Service was to deliver mail to the unit to which it was addressed. If an addressee was not present with the unit and his address was not known, his mail was to be sent to Headquarters 2nd Echelon, where complete and upto date records were available of all units and individual movements. Mail which could not be traced even in the 2nd Echelon, was to be sent back to the Base Postal Depot for return to the senders

In the cases where the addressee had been 'killed in action' or was reported 'missing' extreme care was taken to ensure that returned mail did not arrive at the sender's address before the official notification had been issued.

This particular cover posted from England bears a handstamp - Found open or damaged and officially secured PO O2E (I) in violet and then it has been redirected to Abbottabad, undivided India. This has been done on the IAF z-2253 titled LAST LOCATION AT O2E(I)



Base Postal Depot, Bombay

A cover posted from Advance BPO No 15 at Manipur Road on 21st August 1944 to Switzerland. 2 *8 as, 2*1 a India KG VI affixed The cover has transited thru Base Postal Depot, Bombay on 31st August 1944 then onwards to Egypt with **EPP IT PAYS TO LEND** slogan cancel dated 6 September 1944 then the datestamp of Cairo 2 on 15th September 1944 then it bears two Lisboa Central datestamp of 26th February 1945.

It bears the Indian censor strip Opened By Examiner P C 90, the Indian Field Censor 20 in triangle and circular Unit Censor N 245. In Egypt the cover was affixed the Opened by the Censor strip with the circular 91 Censorship Dept handstamp

The octagonal Postal Censor in violet was recorded at Cairo

The Base Postal Depot combined the vital tasks of an overseas Mail and Sorting Centre, Returned Letter Office and Record Office for the P&T personnel on field service. On 14th January 1941, the Base Postal Depot was transferred from Delhi to Bombay. (EB Proud)

Capt. R.F. Kellaway
c/o Grindlays & Co. Ltd. (Bankers),
Bombay,
India
20th August 1944.

My dearest Emily,

Since I returned from my holiday, during the month of June, until this time, I have been living under conditions which have made it impossible for me to write to you. During this strange period I have sent a few brief messages home saying that I was still well and also several weeks ago, I sent you a telegram which I do hope you received.

My dearest, my hope is that you are still very well and happy. I must now thank you with all my heart for your dear letters of the 5th and 21st March which have reached me during the past weeks.

My darling, I realise very well how difficult it must be for you to visualise my life during these days. Sometimes it is hard for me to realise that the normal life which once we knew will be returning some day, but this afternoon conditions are peaceful, and I find it easy to recall to memory the pre-war days. Now I wonder when similar times will return. Today the temperature is very high, but under the large mango tree where I am writing it is pleasantly cool. Below the river swollen by the monsoon storms flows swiftly by, whilst on the other side of the valley dense jungle stretches as far as the eye can see. How different is the scenery compared with that surrounding the little Himalayan hotel from which I last wrote.

I do hope that some of the letters I wrote during the earlier months of the year have now reached you safely. I am so glad to know that during March you received my greetings telegram for your birthday.

I have been hoping so much that the lovely writing case which you sent would have reached me. I have now received news that it arrived in India during June. Unfortunately the parcel was insured and although it was despatched from Bombay it is not possible for the Post Office to send an insured parcel to this area. I am now endeavouring to trace which Post Office is holding the parcel and I hope to be able to arrange for it to be sent to me by another route. This is just another of those occasions on which I must be patient. I think we both know exactly what that word means after our five years of experience!!! However, the writing case still remains a delightful surprise to look forward to.

My dearest, I have been very interested to read of all your experiences during your military service. I realise how much your comrades must have appreciated all your hard work during the time you were with them and I would love to read the poem which you inspired them to write.

I am very sorry to read in your letter of Mrs. Napier's unhappiness. I, myself, did not know the family beyond meeting Mrs. Napier and, I believe, her daughter on one occasion.

My darling, I love to read of your sweet thoughts about me. I realise more than ever that you are the dearest girl in all the world without you, the future would seem little better than the times through which we are now passing. Often I think of the day when we shall be together again for the first time. I wonder when and where that will be. I believe that when our eyes meet again we shall know that there can never be another parting. Emphatically, dearest, it is very comforting to know that in so many ways our ideals are the same. I fully believe that we shall be able to plan the future ahead of us so that always there will be a wonderful comradeship between our two selves. I feel that we

understand each other so well that never would we allow any misunderstanding to arise between us. During these lonely days in far away areas, I try to imagine our own home of the future where, with our family, we shall find a perfect happiness. It is, as yet, only a dream, but with God's help, I know we can make this come true.

I am very with me the little case which you gave me a long time ago, and which now contains many of your dear photographs. I need hardly say that countless are the times I look at them. With me always, also, is your delightful photograph which I had framed in India two years ago.

I hope that during the summer months the weather has been good and that you have been able to enjoy swimming in the lake near your home.

I thank your dear parents and brothers for their kind wishes and I hope they all are very well.

I send my best wishes to Stuart Blair, and I am interested to know that by this time, perhaps, he has a little sister.

Good-bye, my darling, may God bless and protect you always. My thoughts are for ever with you, and I send you my fondest love and many kisses.

Your own Roy.

The soldier has mentioned his address as -Capt. R F Kellaway, c/o Grindlays & Co. Ltd (Bankers), Bombay, India dated 20th August 1944.

Excerpts from the letter “

“I have been living in conditions which have made it impossible for me to write to you earlier....I have received news that it (writing case as a parcel) arrived in India in June. Unfortunately the parcel was insured and although it was despatched from Bombay it is not possible for the Post Office to send an insured parcel to this area. I am now endeavouring to trace which Post Office is holding the parcel and I hope to be able to arrange for it to be sent to me by another route

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Miss S. Webb,

164, Wood Road

Suburban

Surrey,

England

J. Holman

16

TREAT AS PREPAID
AND DELIVER FREE.
CALCUTTA G. P. O.

ENGLISH

7348622

Cpl. N. B. Lewis



2461 104 90

Insufficiently paid letters and parcels

Interestingly this letter has been posted without a cover or a postage stamp, it bears the date stamp of Indian Section Base Office No. 10 at Ranchi, India on 5th September 1942 to England.

It bears the cachet TREAT AS PREPAID AND DELIVER FREE CALCUTTA GPO in black, the circular Passed By Censor No 3257 in violet and the black octagonal “Passed” steel stamp with DHA/30 (Calcutta) which was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942 and the

The Army Mail Section was located with Calcutta GPO and placed in charge of a senior P&T Officer Major KC Sen, a veteran of First World War. An APS liaison Officer was stationed in Calcutta in July 1942 to ensure speedy clearance of army mails through the existing P & T channels as it was the mail centre for the Assam and Arakan fronts.

On May 1941, the Defence Department agreed to pay the deficiency of insufficiently paid letters and parcels. Later on, it paid full postage on the unpaid letters as return of these letters to senders could give them a wrong impression about the well being and safety of the addressees. The cost was borne by the Defence Funds but all concerned were warned not to give any publicity to this practice.

In June 1942, the troops serving in the field service areas in India were granted the same free surface mail concession as the troops overseas. This concession was extended to some other specified areas in August. (Brig DS Virk)



Army Mail Exchange Office

The registered Printed cover with On His Majesty's Service was posted from CAMP PO A – 87 on 28th February 1947 to HQ Malaya Command, SEAC. 2*1 ½ as, 1 a India King George VI Service stamps affixed

In early 1946, 12 ABPO and SEABPO (opened in 1944 to deal exclusively with the SEAC mail) were disbanded, their remaining duties were taken over by a new mail office called the Army Mail Exchange Office which dealt with mails of FPO s serving in South East Asia and Japan.

On cessation of army postal facilities, The AMEO transferred its responsibilities for the FPO s in Japan to Calcutta GPO.

(Brig DS Virk)



6. Indian Field Post Office (FPO)

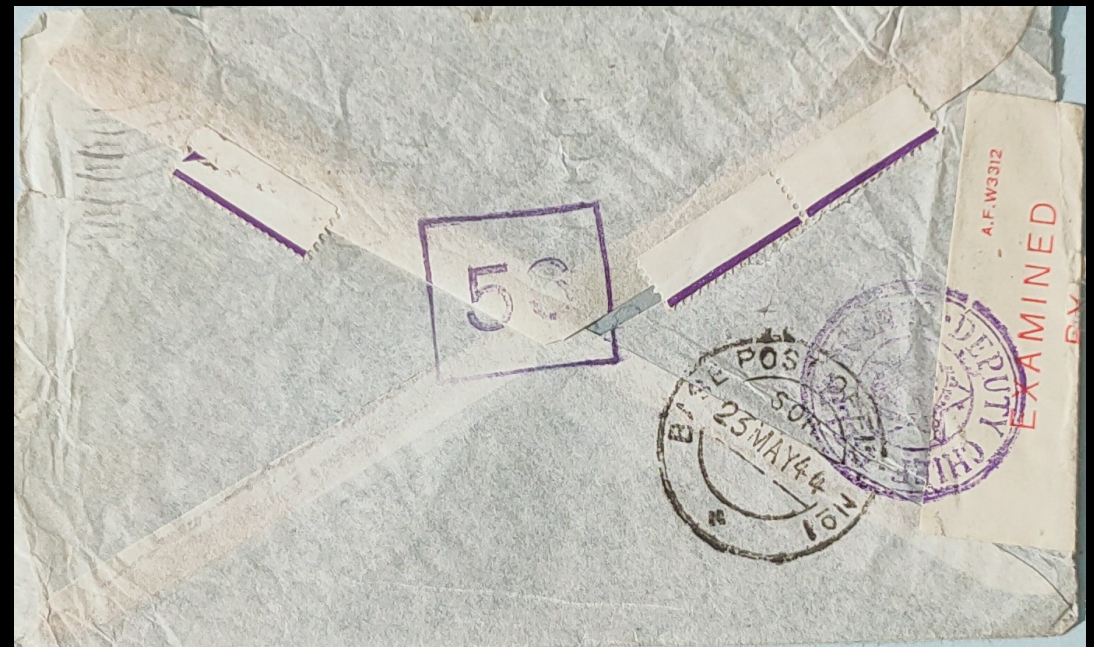


FPO 12

The envelope posted from **FPO 12** at **P. Sudan, Sudan** on **26th April 1941** to **Secunderabad, India**; 2* ½ a India KGV I and 8as India KG VI Mail Lorry stamp is affixed

It bears the censor strip, Triangle with a crown Passed By Censor No 2828 in violet, the Black triangle Passed By Censor at Karachi

FPO 12 was held in reserve in Egypt from July 1943 until October 1943. The FPO was stationed at Nicosia from November 1943 to 2nd December 1944, it then moved to Famagusta, **Cyprus** finally leaving for India via Egypt embarking at Port Tewfik, Egypt on 26th February 1946, disbanded at Nagpur on 15th May 1946 (E. B. Proud)



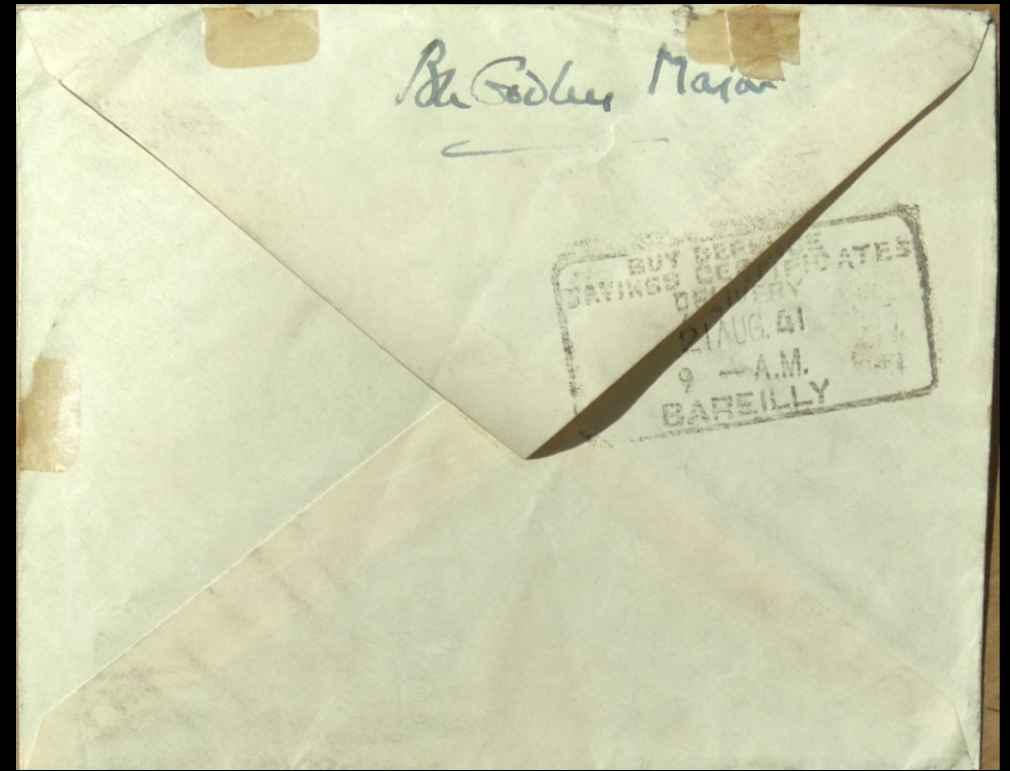
FPO 12

The envelope posted from **FPO 12** at **Nicosia, Cyprus** on **17th May 1944** via **Base Post Office No 1** at **Mena, Egypt** on **23rd May 1944** to **England**; redirected to another address; 8as India KG VI stamp is affixed

It bears the censor strip, A.F.W3312 Examined By Base Censor, the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor, boxed chop 53, the circular Unit Censor with a crown on top; all in violet colour

In Dec 1943 the Base PO 1 was shifted to Mena camp outside the town as a cruel punishment for the alleged misbehaviour in Cairo of some Indian soldiers. It moved back to Cairo in Jan 1946

FPO 12 was held in reserve in Egypt from July 1943 until October 1943. The FPO was stationed at Nicosia from November 1943 to 2nd December 1944, it then moved to Famagusta, **Cyprus** finally leaving for India via Egypt embarking at Port Tewfik, Egypt on 26th February 1946, disbanded at Nagpur on 15th May 1946 (E. B. Proud)

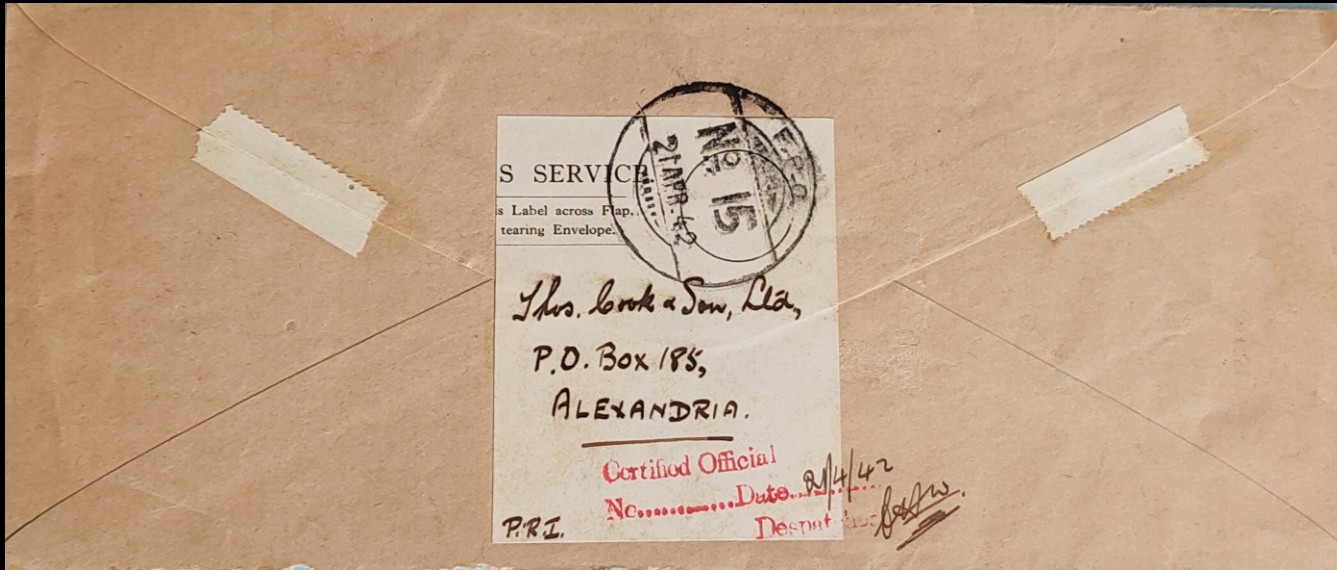


FPO 14

The envelope posted from **FPO 14** at **Baghdad, Iraq** in **August 1941** to **Bareilly, India**; 8 as mail lorry, 8as India KG VI Mail Lorry stamp is affixed. Received at its destination on 21st August 1941 with the delivery cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificates.

It bears the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor in black, Major Godley seems to have self censored the letter but no censor handstamp has been used. In 1942 Brian Richard Godley was the commanding officer for 1/9th Jt Regiment (IA 101) later was promoted to Brigadier (acting) as per the London Gazette dt 15th January 1945

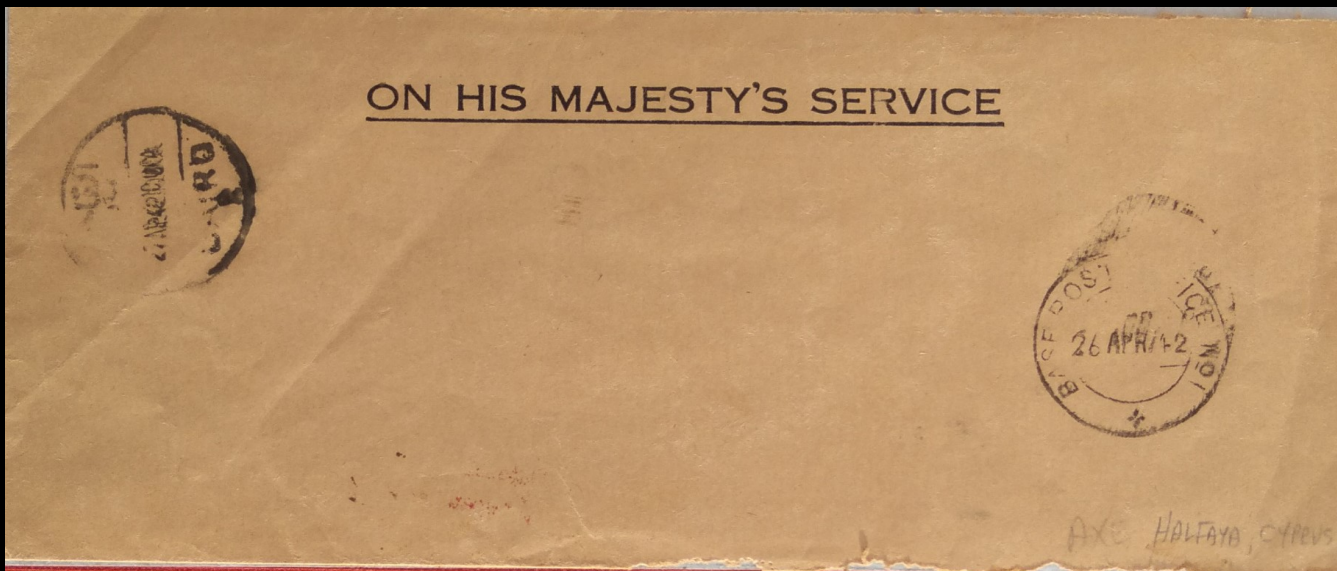
FPO 14 left Iraq on 20th November 1943 for Egypt and merged with BPO Cairo on 6th December 1943



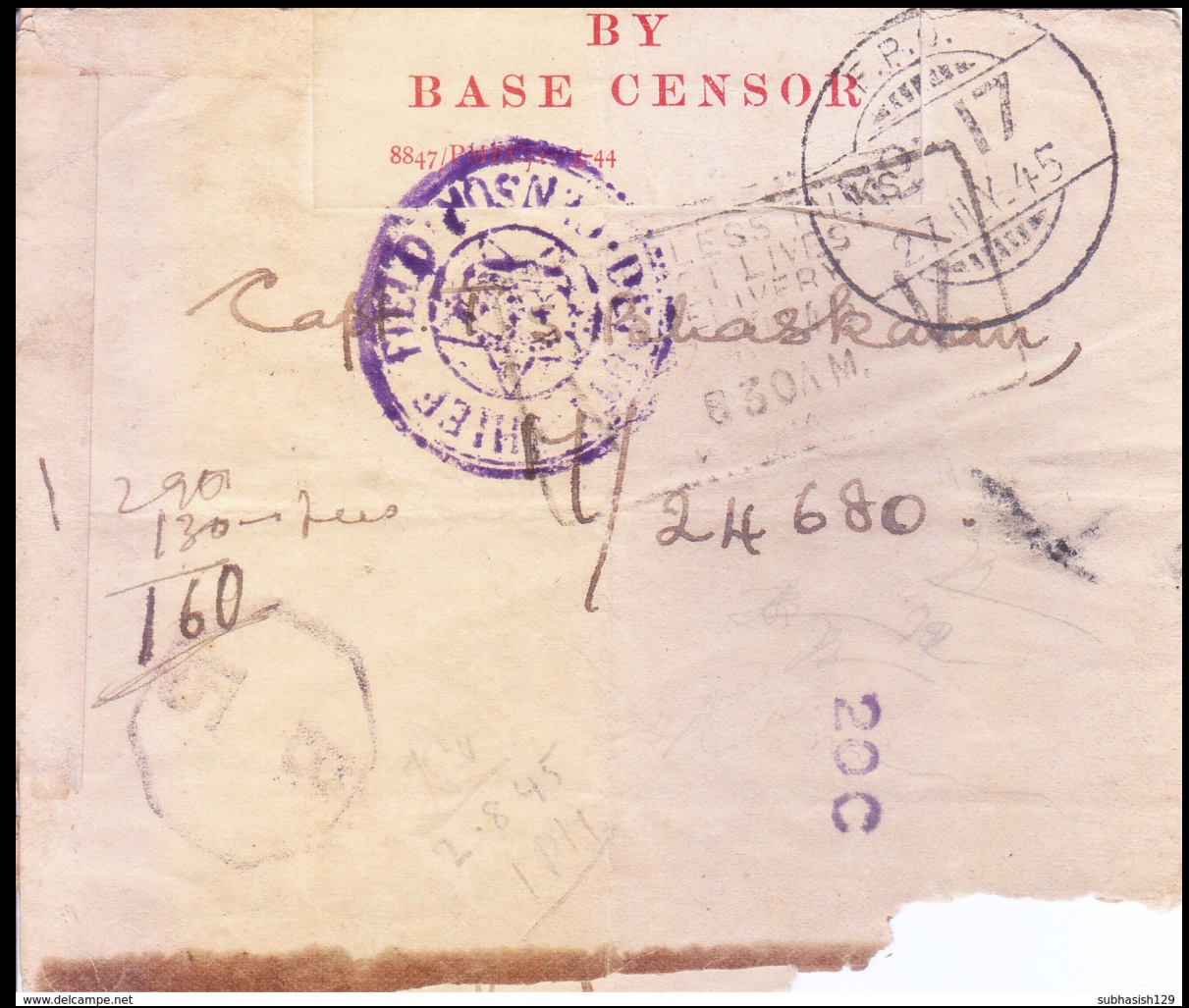
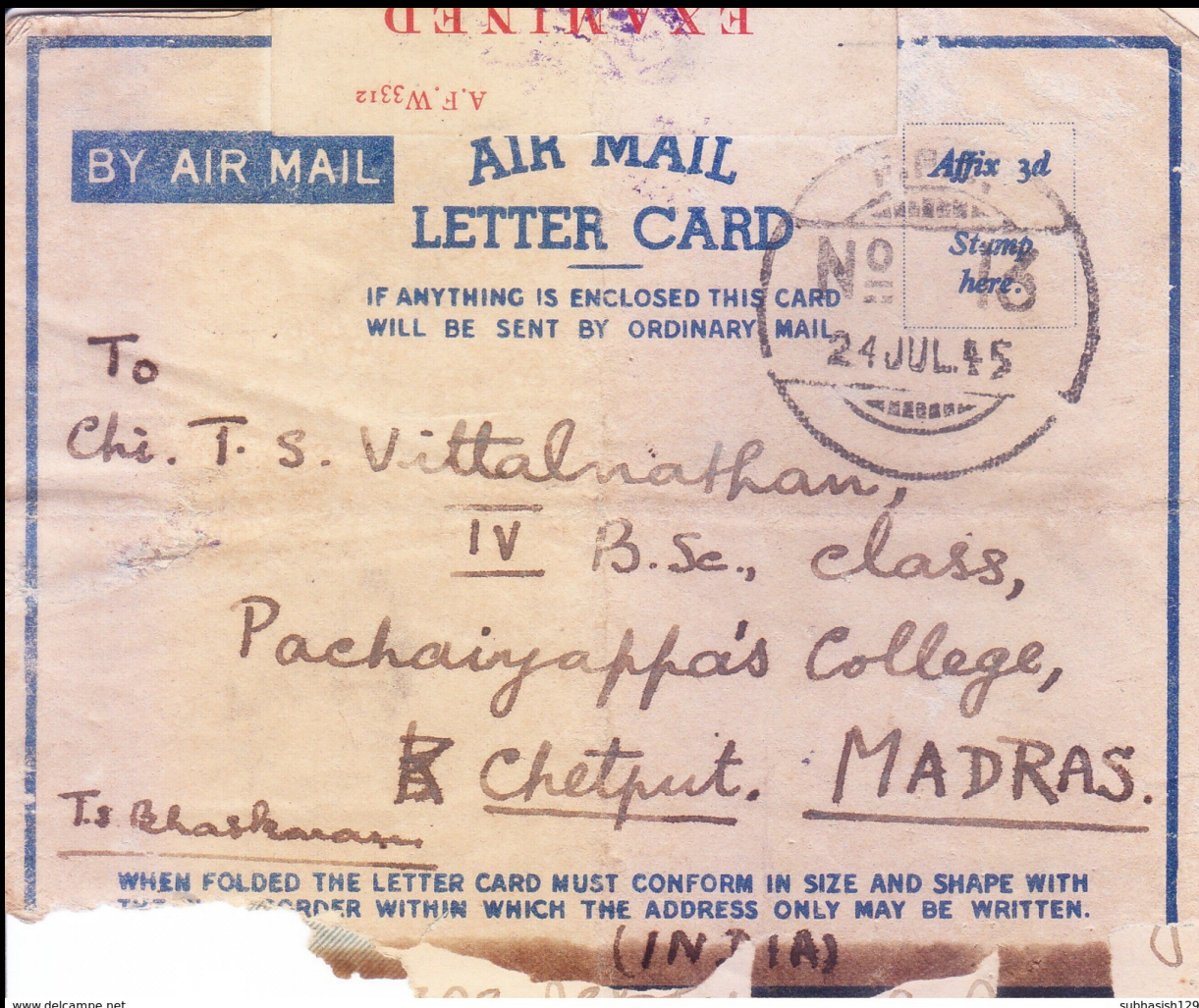
FPO 15

The stampless printed cover titled ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE was posted from **FPO 15** at **Halfaya, Egypt** on 21st April 1942 via **Base Post Office No 1** on 26th April 1942 to **Alexandria**; received at the destination on 27th April 1942 with the Egyptian Cairo datestamp Post 21st June 1942 during Battle of Cauldron against Rommels Forces it lost all its heavy equipment

The second half of the label is affixed on the letter flap. The destination address is mentioned on this label. Official red hand stamp certifies that it is official and bears the despatchers signature with 27th April 1942



FPO 15 at Halfaya was functioning in a 180 pounder tent. The mail for 15 FPO was collected from mashifa railway station at this location. It travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, **Egypt**, Iraq, Cyprus, Libya, Palestine, Italy finally leaving for India from Taranto, Italy on 23 November 1945 being disbanded at Nagpur on 15 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 16 (continued)

Thru the writer of this letter we get to know that FPO 16 was used and its location

FPO 16 (continued)

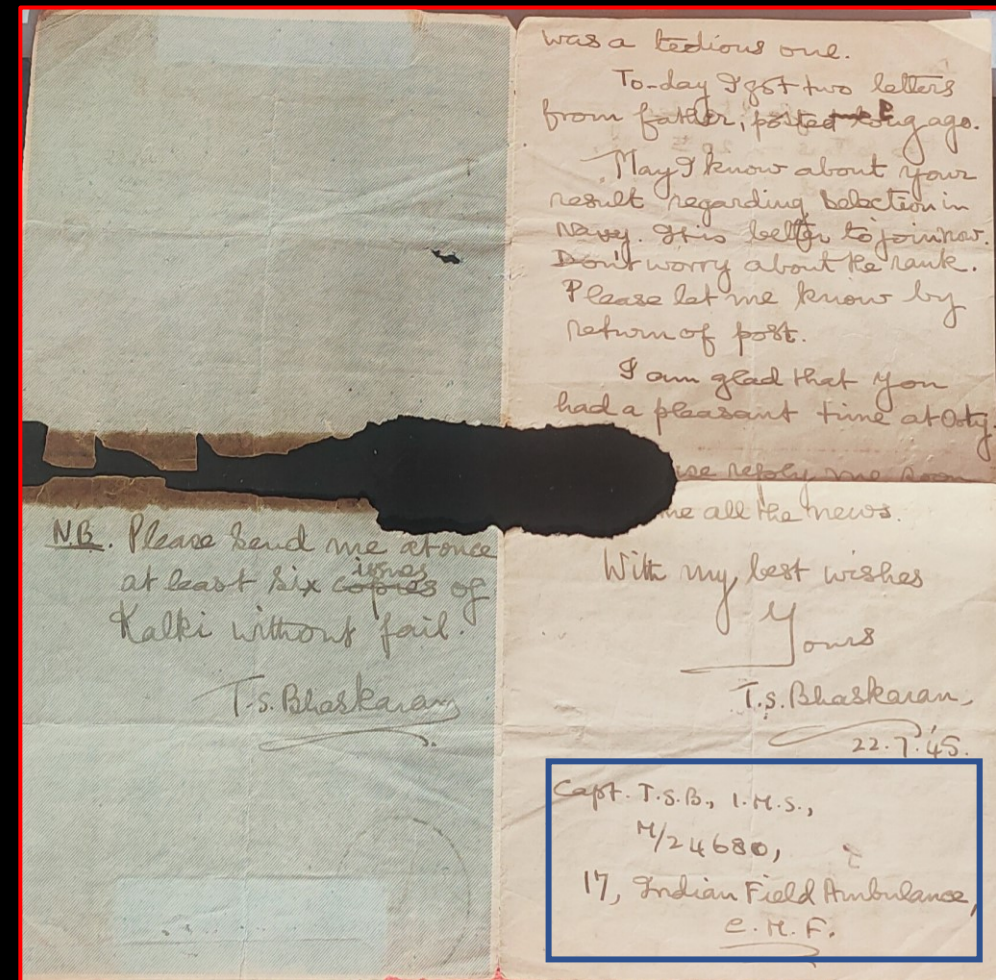
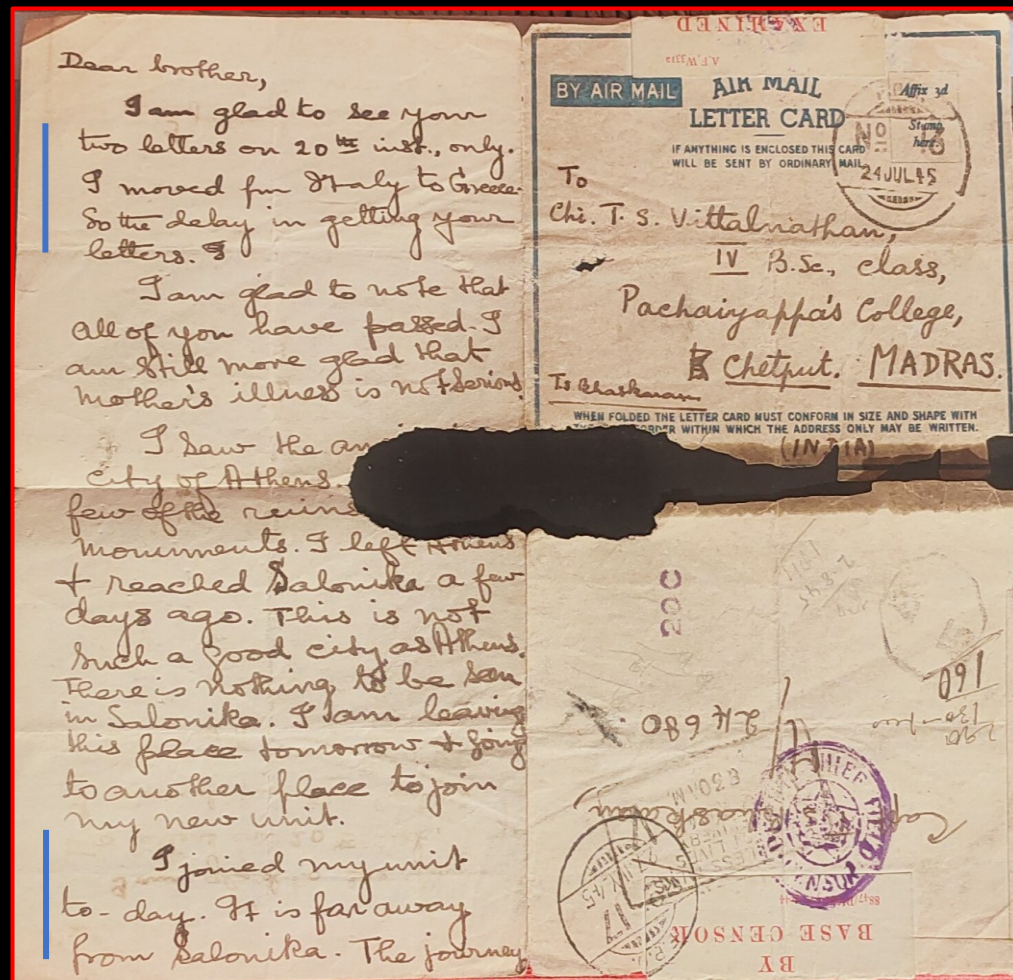
The stampless Air Mail Letter Card is posted from **FPO 16**, around **Salonika, Greece** on 24th July 1945 via **FPO No 17 at Athens (port), Greece** on 27th July 1945 to **Madras, India**; received at its destination with the delivery cachet **Careless Talks saves Lives**

It bears the censor strip, A.F.W3312 Examined By Base Censor, the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor, octagonal chop mark B5(Karachi) and 20 C; all in violet colour

FPO 16 was a stationary office which arrived in Sudan on 2nd December 1940 without its date stamps, used date stamp (R) L.71 until it was redesignated FPO R2, so it never functioned as FPO 16. **(not seen by E.B. Proud)** FPO R2 was seen in Sudan and Italy. It left Taranto, Italy on 15 January 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 14 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)

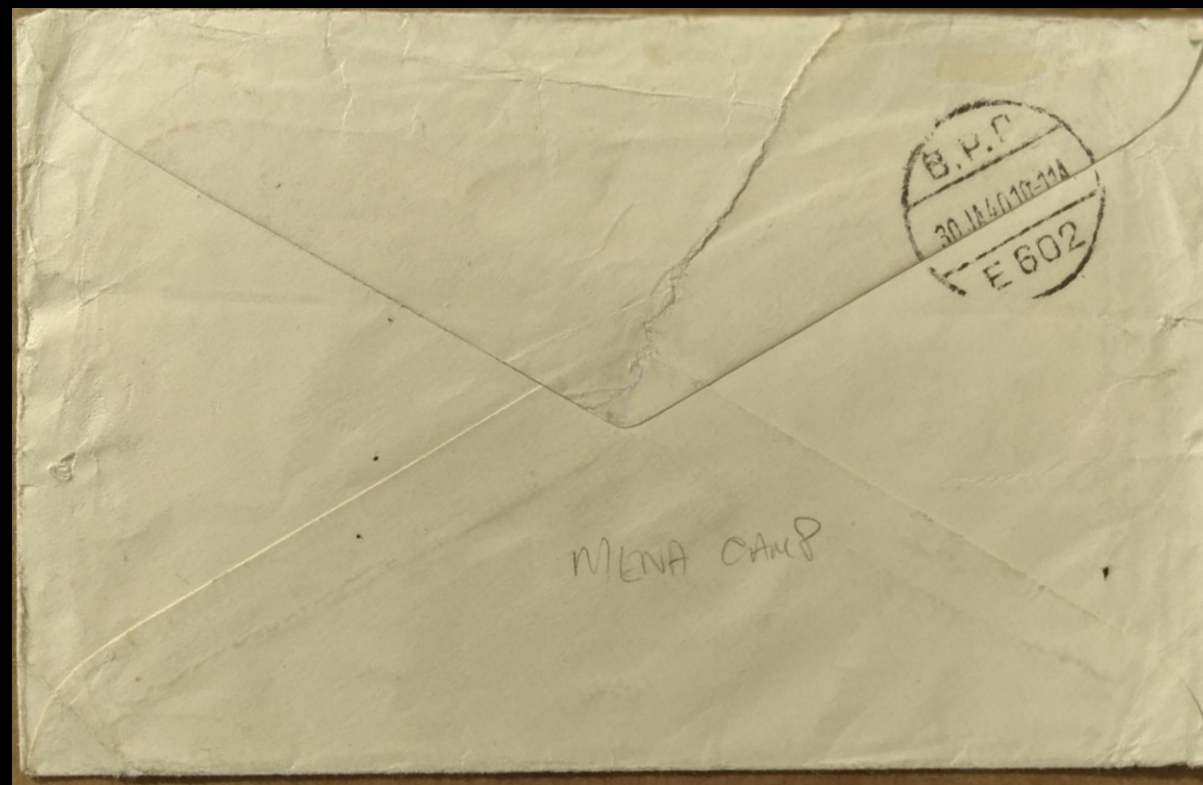
FPO 17 at Athens operated as a mail and sorting office doing the duties of a section Base Post Office. It was allowed to make direct air mail depatches to India, first one was made on 23rd May. Though direct dispatches from Karachi were not allowed as all mail travelled to Naples, Italy

Thru the writer of this letter we get to know that FPO 16 was used and its location



Capt. T S Bhaskaran , Indian Medical Service attached with 17, Indian Field Ambulance, CMF
He clearly writes that he has moved from Italy to Greece. He left Athens and reached Salonika and joined his unit far away from Salonika.

The censor has obliterated, thus parts of the letter are missing

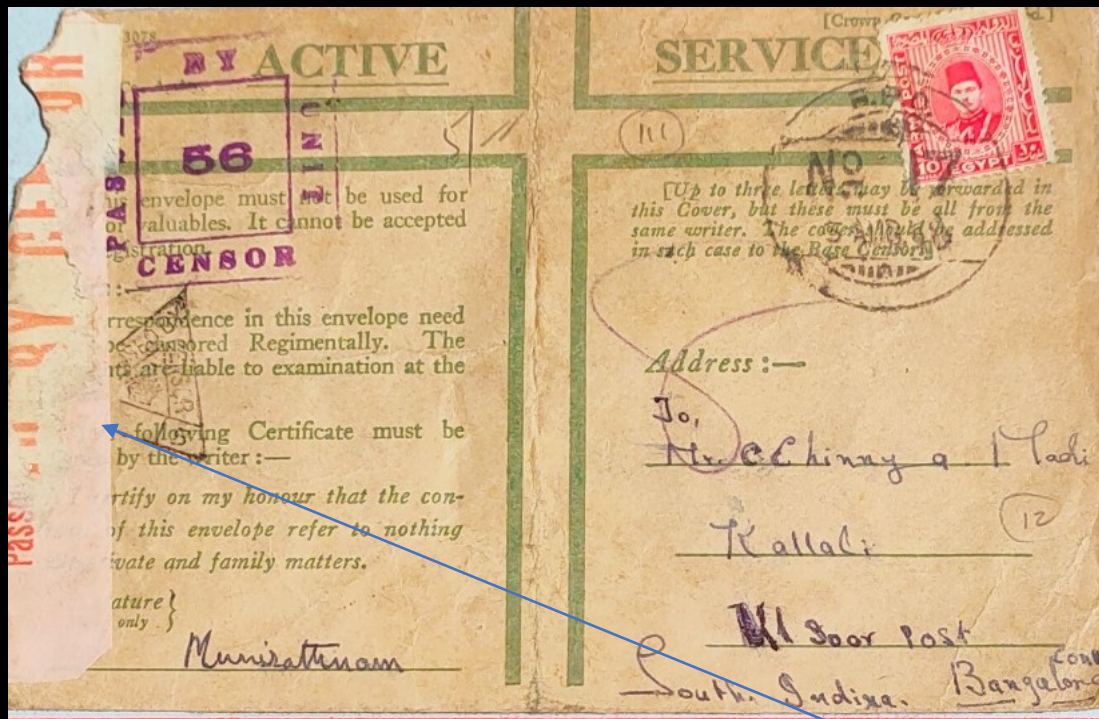


FPO 17

This cover was posted from **FPO 17 at Mena Camp, Egypt** on 29th January, 1940 to England. It also bears BPO E602 datestamp. 1 Egyptian 10 mil Army Post Egypt "Army seal" affixed.

BPO E602 was one of the datestamps issued to British Army in Egypt in 1939-1940, but were later lent to various Commonwealth units at various periods. Those used by Indian FPOs were employed in East Africa or Egypt. BPO E602 was recorded being used by Indian Army Postal Service at Keren, Eritrea between April 1941 and December 1941.

FPO 17 travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, **Egypt**, Cyprus, Libya, Palestine, Tunisia, Lebanon, finally leaving for India from Salonika, Greece on 18 February 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 15 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)

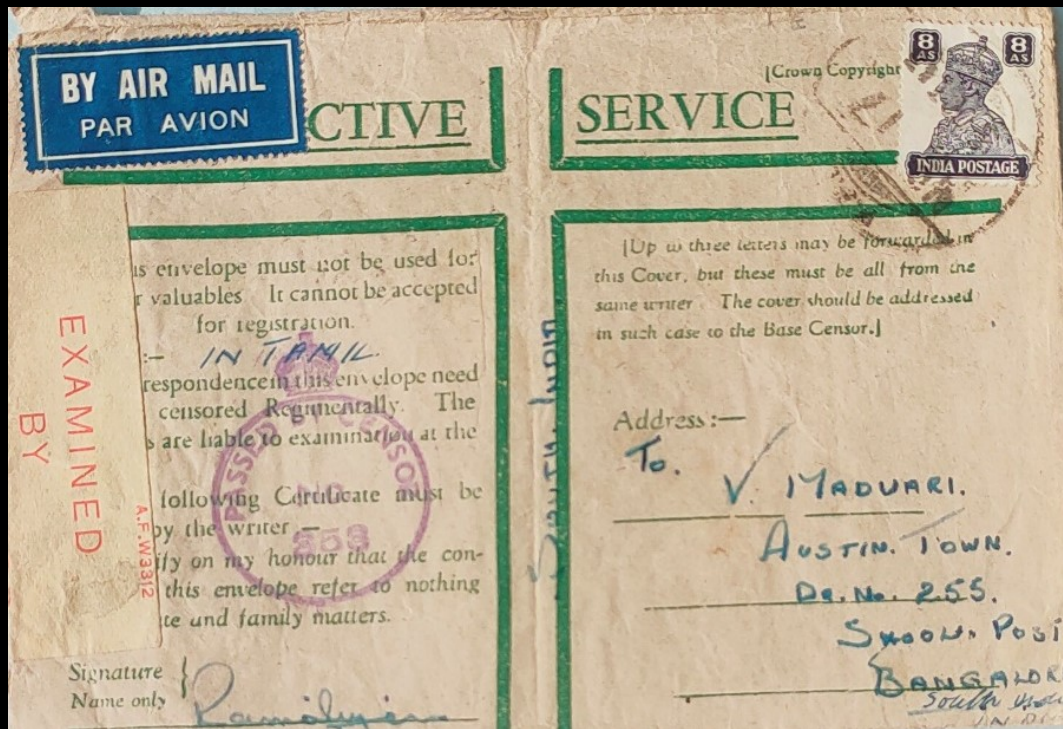


FPO 17

The Honour envelope posted from **FPO 17 at Mena Camp, Egypt** on 15th August, 1940 to Bangalore, India; Egyptian 10 mil "Army seal" affixed. It reached its destination on 15th Sept 1940 with the cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificate

It bears 2 different censor strips overlapping each other Opened but uncensored, Passed by censor, is visible. Square military unit censor mark in violet and the black Triangle Passed by Censor marked indicating to the postal authorities that it is already censored and should not be presented again at any point along the route.

FPO 17 travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, **Egypt**, Cyprus, Libya, Palestine, Tunisia, Lebanon, finally leaving for India from Salonika, Greece on 18 February 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 15 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)

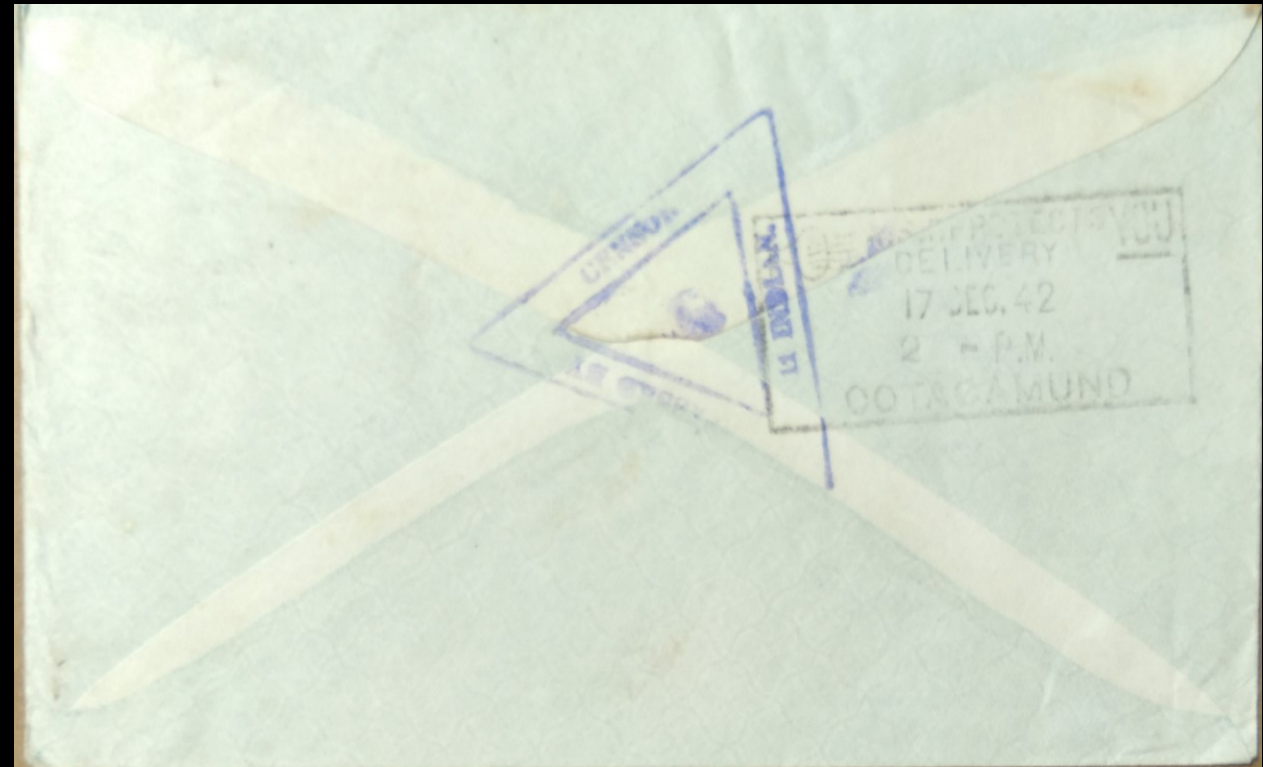


FPO 17

The Green Honour Envelope was posted from **FPO 17** at **Qastina, Palestine** on 5th Oct 1943 to **Bangalore, India**; 8as India KG VI stamp affixed

It bears the censor strip, A.F.W3312 "Examined By Base Censor", Deputy Chief Field Censor, boxed chop mark and the circular Passed By Censor with a crown all in violet colour

FPO 17 travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt, Cyprus, Libya, **Palestine**, Tunisia, Lebanon, finally leaving for India from Salonika, Greece on 18 February 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 15 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)

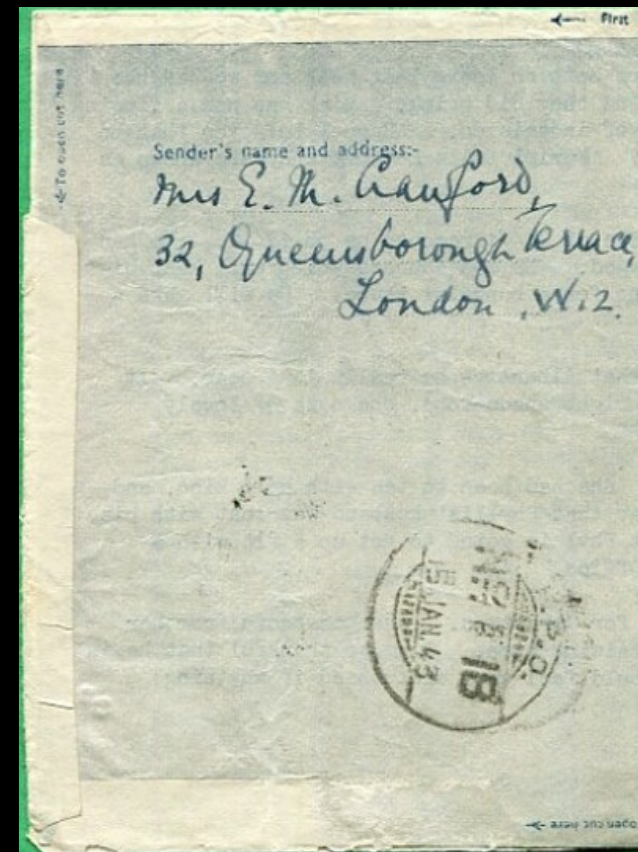
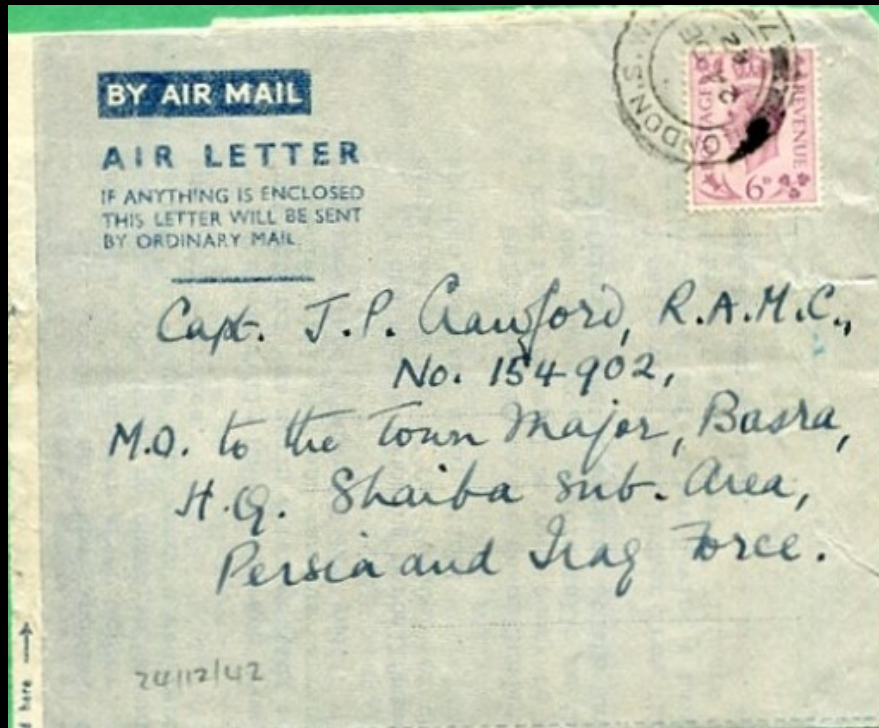


FPO 17

The cover was posted from **FPO 17** on 2nd December 1942 to **Ootacamund, India**; **FPO 17** was seen last at **El Alamein, Egypt** area on **28th November 1942** and then seen on **12th December 1942** at **El Adem, Libya** 2*1 a & 2*3 as India KG VI stamp affixed. It reached its destination on 17th December 1942 with the cachet ARP Protects You

It bears the circular Passed By Censor with a crown No 2164 and a triangle Passed By Censor all in violet colour. There is the black octagonal Passed steel stamp with DHD/6 (Madras) which was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942.

FPO 17 travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt, Cyprus, Libya, **Palestine**, Tunisia, Lebanon, finally leaving for India from Salonika, Greece on 18 February 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 15 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 18

The civilian Air Letter was posted from **London** on 24th December 1942 to **Capt. JP Crawford RAMC, HQ Shaiba Sub-Area, Persia & Iraq Force (Persia and Iraq Force)** ; 6d GB King George VI stamp is affixed. It was received at **FPO 18 at Basra-Margil** on 15 January 1943

Capt JP Crawford was the M.O. to the town Major, Basra.

The letter ends by saying “Heres hoping that next Christmas will see you eating turkey with us.I would even cook it myself for you”.....from a mother to her son serving the country.

FPO 18 travelled thru **Iraq** and Malaya finally leaving for India from Singapore, it was disbanded at Nagpur on 2 August 1947 (E. B. Proud)



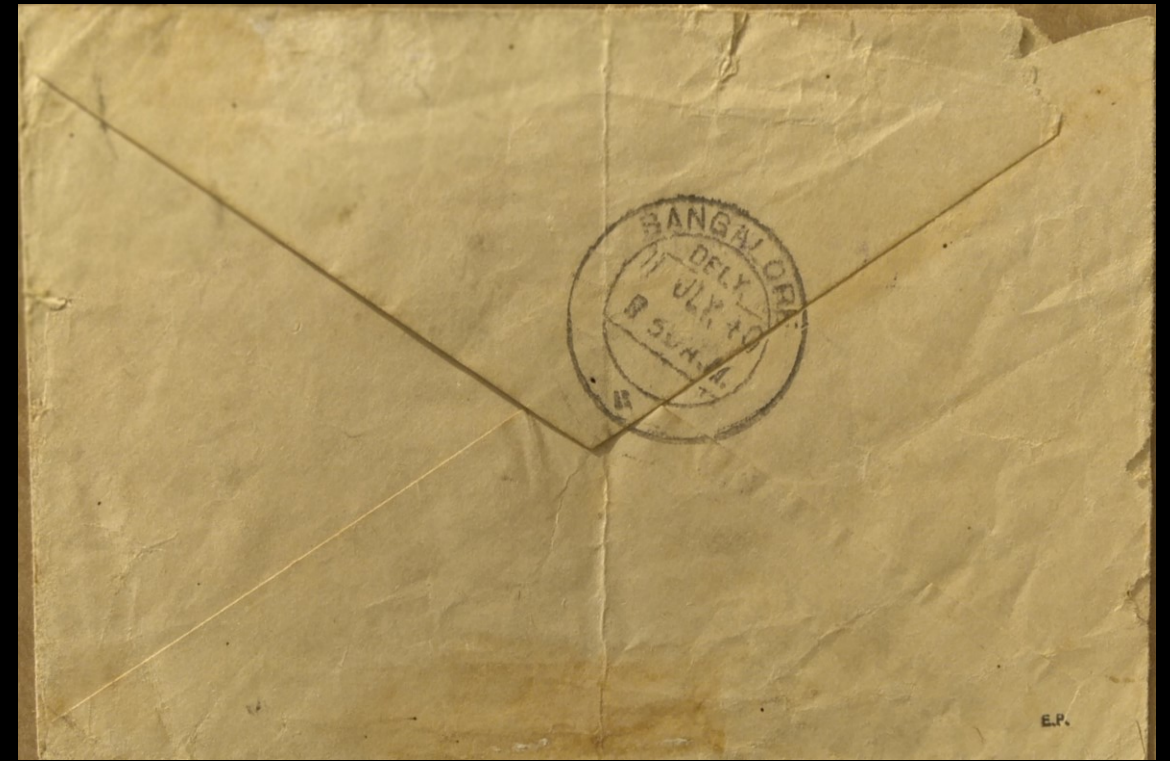
FPO 19; The first FPO to be established abroad during Second World War
(continued)

FPO 19; The first FPO to be established abroad during Second World War (continued)

The envelope posted from **FPO 19 at Fayid, Egypt on 18th September 1939** to **Ahmednagar, India**. The cover reached its destination on 8th Oct 1939; Egyptian 10 mil “Army seal” is affixed censored with square Military Unit Censor mark in violet

Orders were issued on 26th July 1939 to 11th Infantry Brigade at Ahmednagar to be ready to move overseas within four days. The personnel arrived on 28th July, the equipment on the 29th and the raising of 19 FPO was completed by 30th July 1939. It sailed with “FORCE HERON” with postage stamp stocks and postal orders but no direction regarding postal address, rates, facilities and postal control at destination. The DG P&T informed that accounts would be submitted to Bombay GPO.

In 1939-1940 Egypt ONLY allowed foreign post offices to act as agents of Egyptian Postal Office. They allowed reduced postage rates for surface letters posted by the troops to Empire countries provided they were paid for by special Egyptian postage stamps called “Army Seals”. After much persuasion in October 1941, the Egyptian authorities allowed the British controlled FPOs to function as per their own regulations (Brig D S Virk)



FPO 19;

The Honour Envelope was posted from **FPO 19 at Mena Camp nr Cairo, Egypt on 1st July 1940 to Bangalore, India.** The cover reached its destination on 11th July 1940; 4* Egyptian 10 mil Army Post“Army seal” is affixed censored with boxed Military Unit Censor 122 in violet

In 1939-1940 Egypt ONLY allowed foreign post offices to act as agents of Egyptian Postal Office. They allowed reduced postage rates for surface letters posted by the troops to Empire countries provided they were paid for by special Egyptian postage stamps called “Army Seals”. After much persuasion in October 1941, the Egyptian authorities allowed the British controlled FPOs to function as per their own regulations (Brig D S Virk)



FPO 19

This cover was posted from **Tobruk, Libya (Force Heron)** on 12th June 1942 to FCMA, **Poona, India**; 8a India King George VI stamp is affixed. It bears a circular Passed By Censor with a crown on top no 768.

The FPO has been recorded at **Tobruk** between 5th June and around 10th June 1942. The FPO was captured on 20th June 1942. The FPM must have escaped with the datestamp (or it was recovered) as it has been found used later.

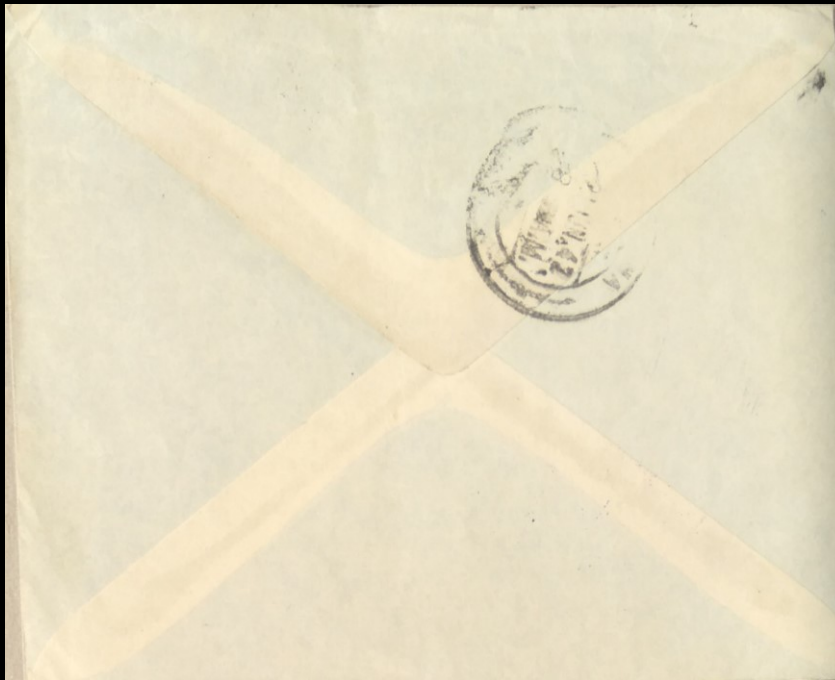
Rommel surrounded Tobruk and captured it within 24 hrs which began on the morning of the 20th June 1942. All the personnel of FPO 19 became POWs. One of them

Havildar R R Dave MID says

“The horror of that day will never fade from my memory. The great guns roared like endless thunder and death had a field day. As shells came over we held our breath and twitched our muscles, hoping for the best, Death, fire and confusion were everywhere and though I did not suffer any physical injury, my nerves were in a terrible state. My Postmaster, WO S F Saldhana, was hit by a shell splinter which ripped off one of his ears. We were taken as POWs on the 20th afternoon when the enemy tanks overran the Brigade HQ”. (Brig D S Virk)

FPO 19 was raised at Ahmednagar on 28th July 1939 and left Bombay on 2nd August 1939 (Force Heron), arriving in Suez on 15th August 1939. It was attached to 11 Brigade, 4 Div.

It travelled thru Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Libya. (E. B. Proud)





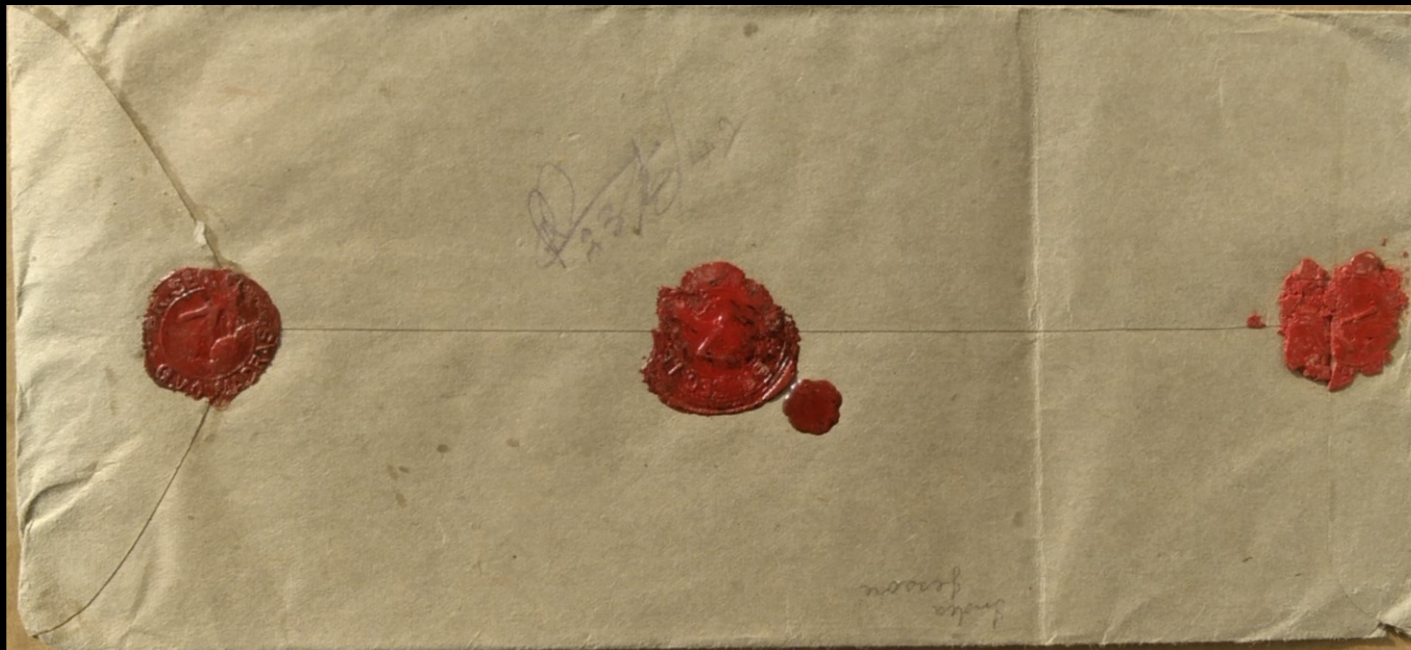
FPO 20

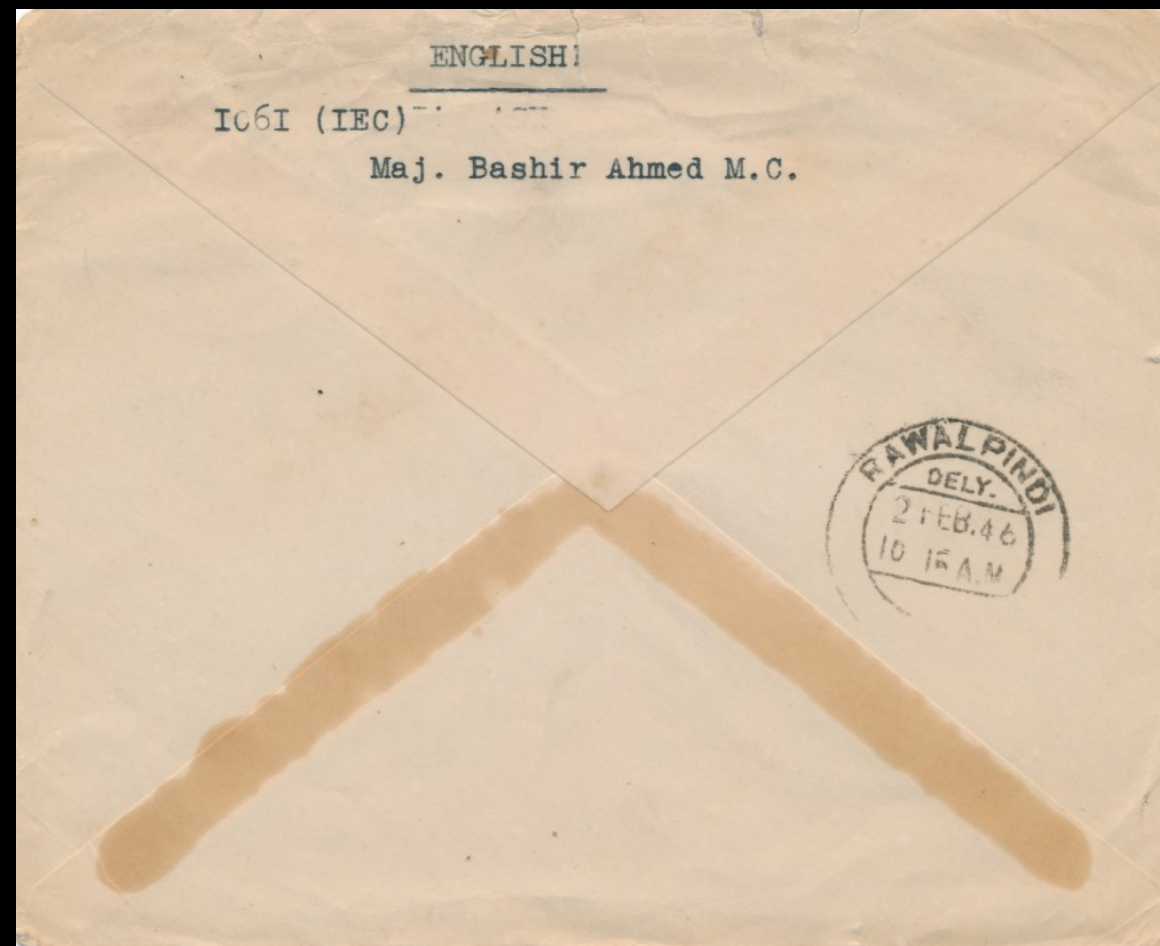
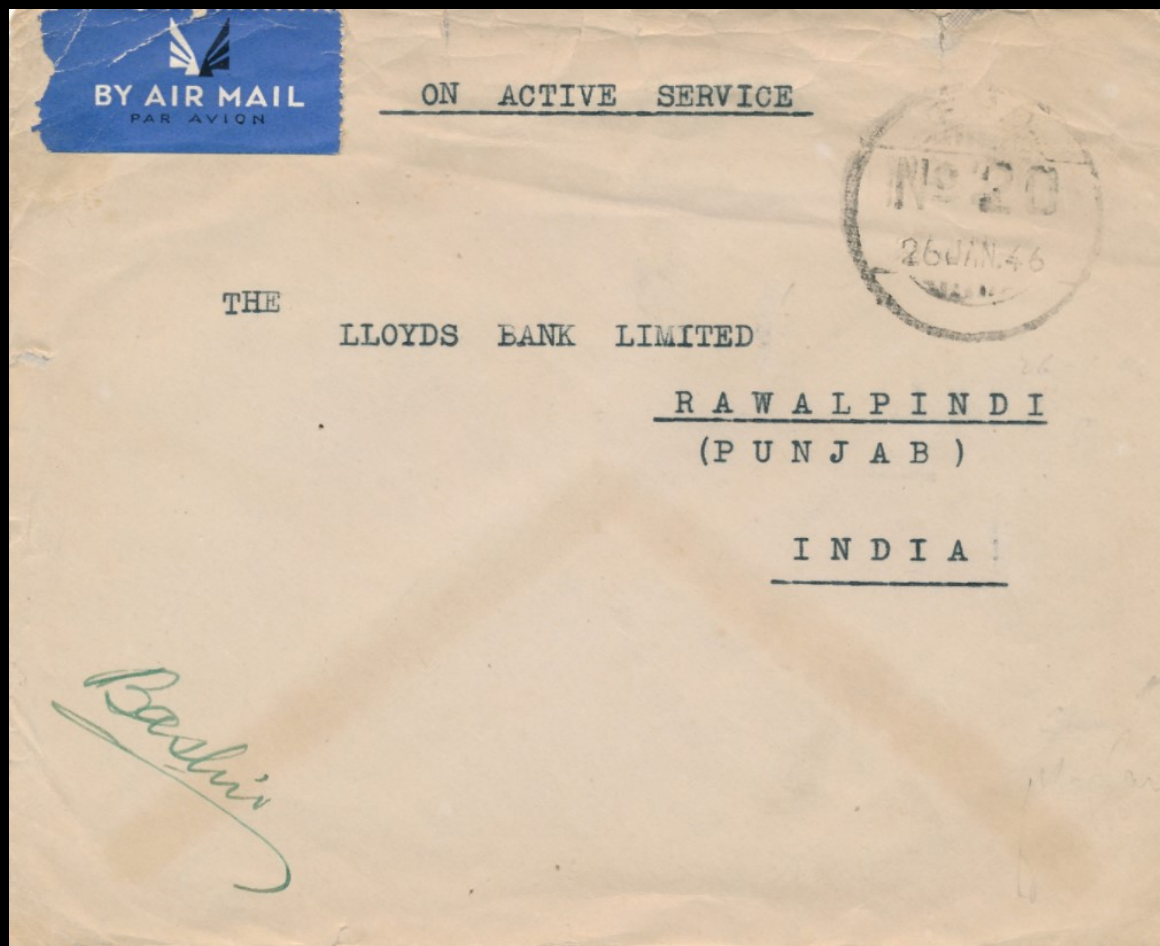
The printer On His Majesty's Service cover was posted from FPO 20 at **Jessore, India** on 19th May 1942 to Bangalore, India. 3*1/2 a KG VI India Service ,1*4 as KG VI India Service stamp affixed

The letter is written by the Officer Commanding 7th Queen Victoria s Own Madras Regiment, It bears the regimental oval seal documenting the serial number for the letter and the date it has been dispatched. It bears the Registered Letter sticker and at the reverse three regimental red seal bearing 7 QVO Madras is affixed,

FPO 20 travelled thru **India, Burma,DEI – Sumatra** (Brigade arrived end October 1945) arrived back in India in December 1946, it was disbanded at Kamptee on 10 January 1947

(E. B. Proud)





FPO 20

The unstamped cover was posted from FPO 20 at Medan, DEI (Sumatra) on 26th January 1946 to Rawalpindi, India. It reached its destination on 2nd February 1946 as shown on the destination datestamp. The letter is written by Maj Bashir Ahmed M.C. and he has signed it.

FPO 20 travelled thru India, Burma, DEI –Sumatra (Brigade arrived end October 1945) arrived back in India in December 1946, it was disbanded at Kamptee on 10 January 1947 (E. B. Proud)

(continued)

FPO 20 (Continued)

**‘Waziristan 1942’ Military Cross . group of eight medals awarded to Major Bashir Ahmed,
(IEC 1061) 6/6th Rajputana Rifles**



MILITARY CROSS, G.V.I.R. reverse officially dated ‘1942’, additionally inscribed, ‘2/Lt. Bashir Ahmed, 6th Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles, 7.3.42’; INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1908-35, 1 clasp, North West Frontier 1930-31 (8878 Rfm., 2-6 Raj. Rif.); INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1936-39, 1 clasp, North West Frontier 1936-37 (8878 Hav., 2-6 Raj. Rif.); 1939-45 STAR; BURMA STAR; WAR AND INDIA SERVICE MEDALS; PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE MEDAL 1948 (T/Maj., E.B.R.)

M.C. ‘In recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Waziristan, North West Frontier of India.’

‘This officer on reaching his forward platoon found that the V.C.O. and most of the senior N.C.O’s. had been killed or wounded. The enemy were in occupation of a strongly entrenched and loop holed position about 70 or 80 yards away. He immediately seized a rifle and fired at a hostile who had crawled up to the bodies of the casualties which were lying in the open some 60 yards in front of his position and within 10 yards of that of the enemy. He continued to fire and cover the casualties although twice wounded. His action set a fine example to his men and enabled the bodies of the casualties and their arms including one V.B. Gun to be retrieved later when a counter attack had dislodged the enemy.’

(London Gazette 16 June 1942.)

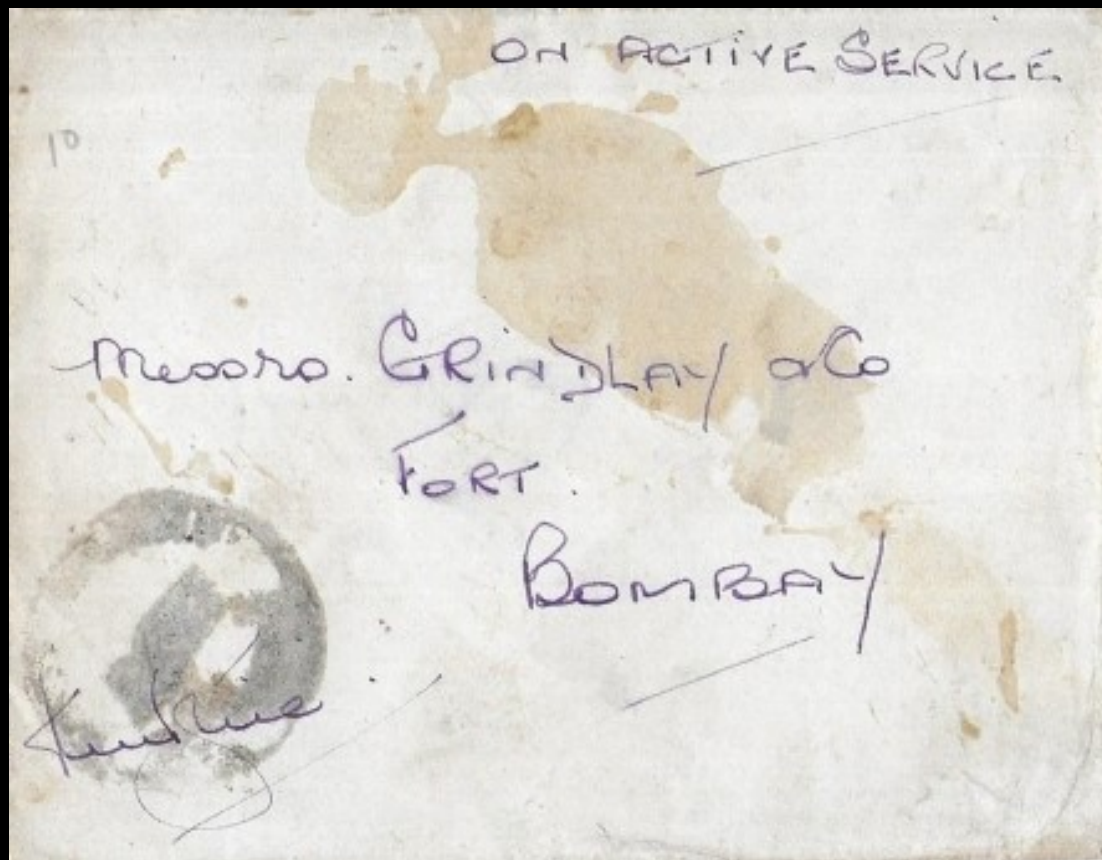


FPO 23

The envelope was posted from **FPO 23** at **Baghdad, Iraq** on 22nd February 1943 to **England**; 2*6 as, 1R India King George VI stamps affixed

It bears the Deputy Chief Field Censor in violet colour

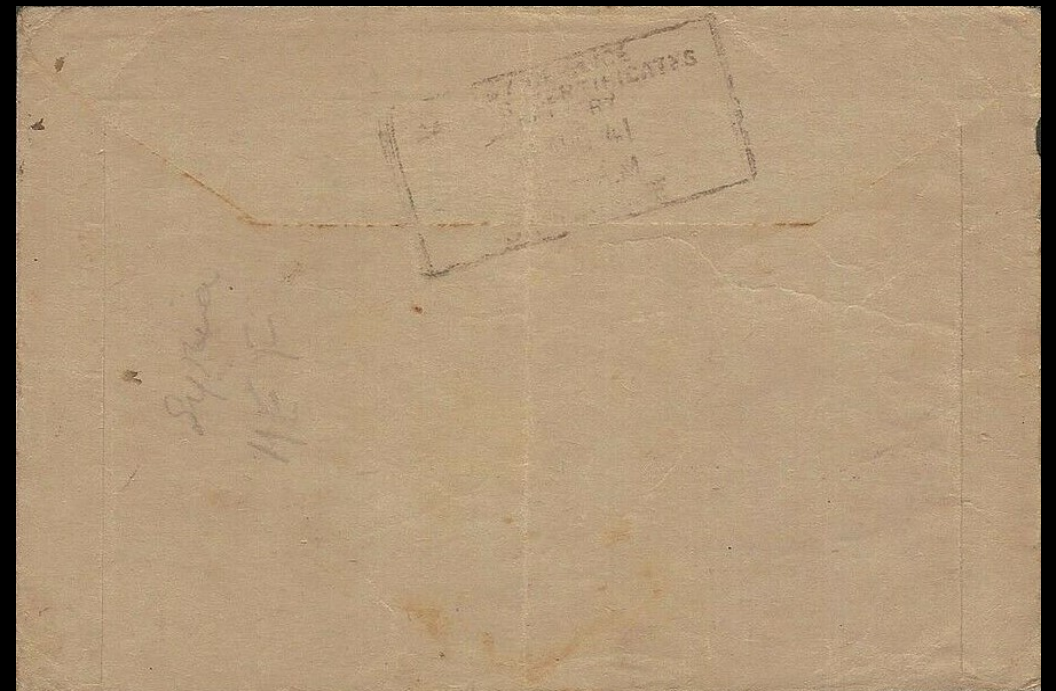
FPO 23 travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt, **Iraq**, Cyprus, Libya, Burma, Singapore and Dutch East Indies finally leaving for India from Sourabaya, D.E.I., being disbanded at Kamptee on 15 August 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 23

The unstamped envelope On Active Service bears the badge of Royal Artillery Corps was posted from **FPO 23** at **Meiktila, Burma** on 18th April 1945 to **Bombay, India**;

IPO 23 travelled thru Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt, Iraq, Cyprus, Libya, **Burma**, Singapore and Dutch East Indies finally leaving for India from Sourabaya, D.E.I., being disbanded at Kamptee on 15 August 1946 (E. B. Proud)



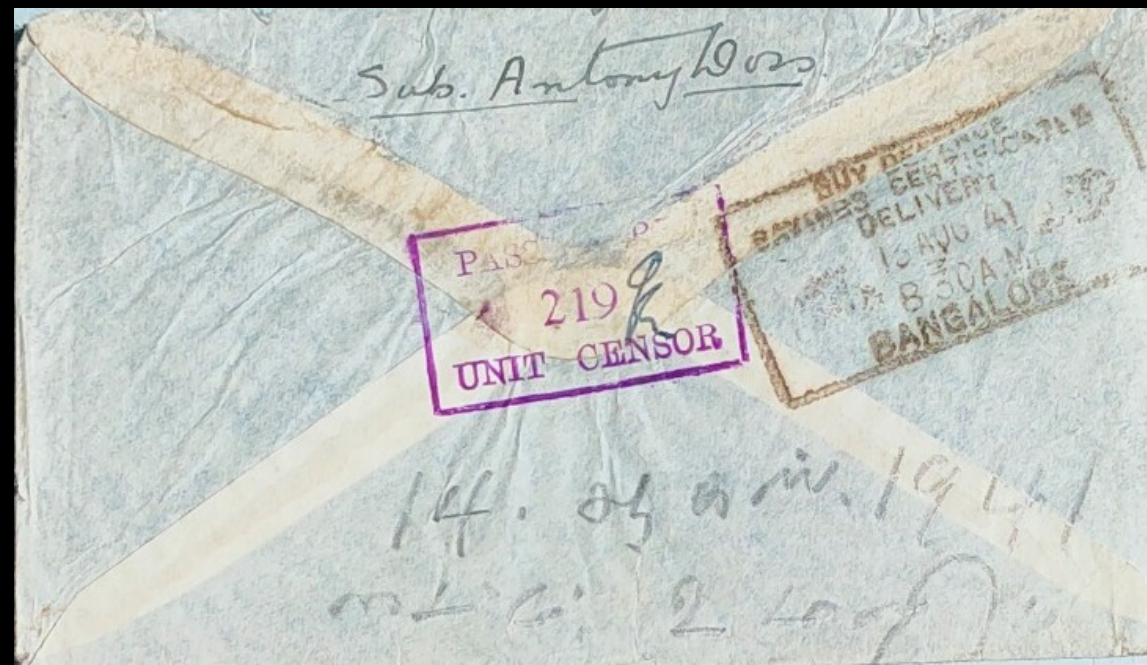
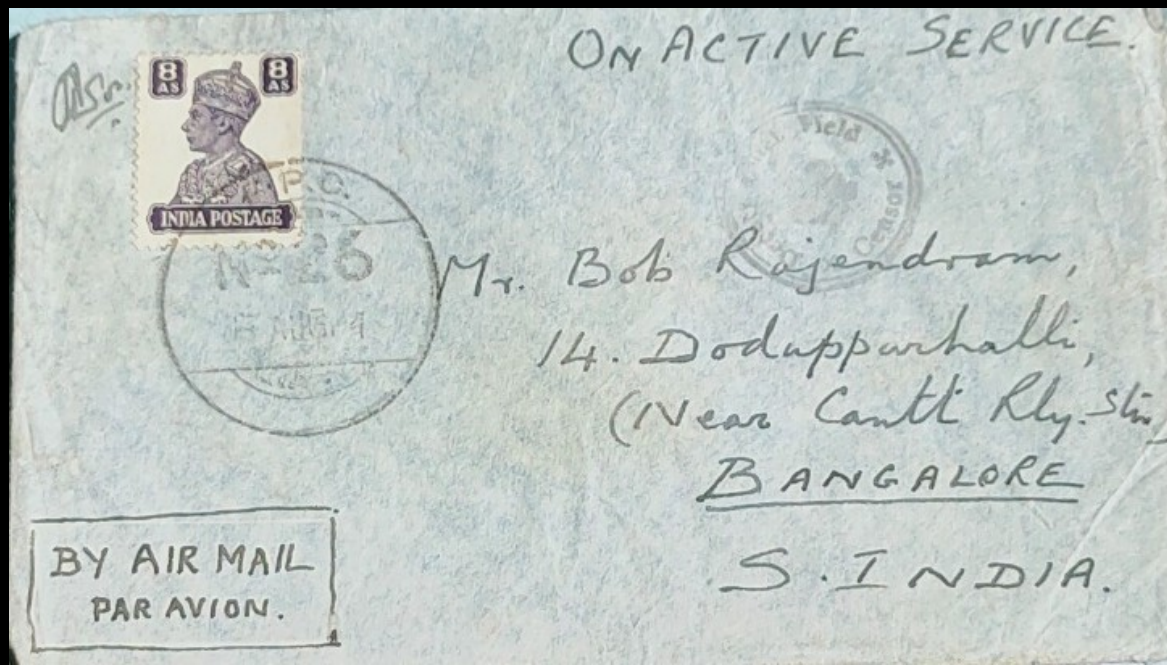
FPO 25

The Honour Envelope was posted on 24th July, 1941 (not seen by E.B. Proud) to Bangalore, India from FPO 25 around Katana, Syria (seen 29 June 1941) or Deir-ez-Zor, Syria (seen 5th August to 17th September 1941 (E. B. Proud)); affixed 8s India Mail Lorry stamp. Arrival recorded at destination on August 1941 with the cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificate

It bears square Passed By Unit Censor in violet. The Honour Envelope (English) has been signed in Urdu by the writer.

The FPO 25 was attached with 5 Brigade which suffered severe casualties in a campaign against Vichy Government. The Battle of Damascus (18–21 June 1941) was the final action of the Allied advance on Damascus in Syria during the Syria–Lebanon Campaign in Second World War. On 21 June the Vichy French garrison in Damascus surrendered to the Allied forces.

FPO 25 travelled thru India, Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Syria, Palestine. It was finally captured near Mersa Matruh, Egypt on 28 June 1942 (E. B. Proud)

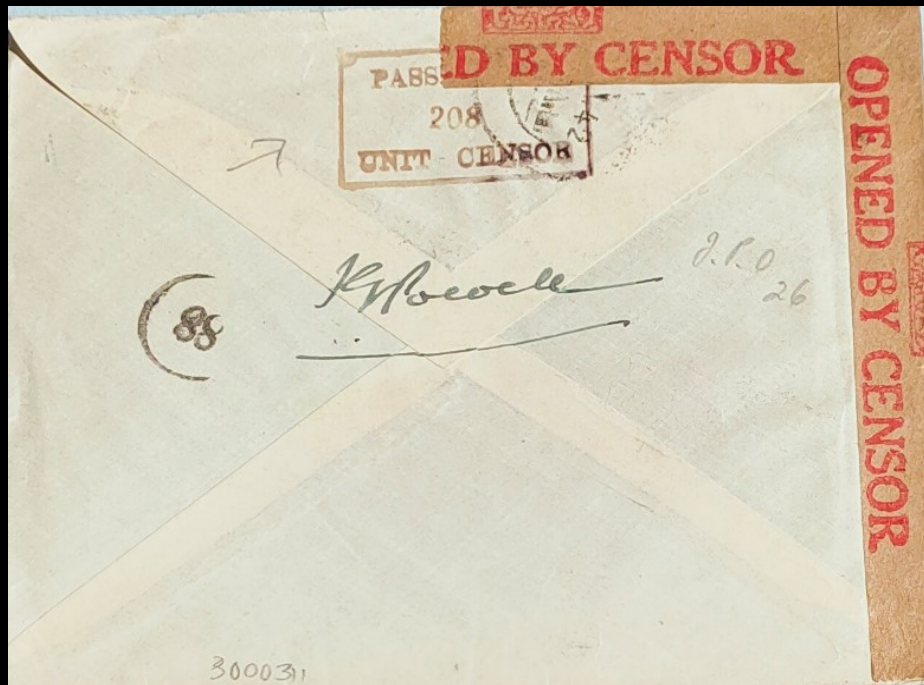


FPO 26

The cover was posted from **FPO 26** at **Kirkuk, Iraq** on 5th August 1941 to **Bangalore, India**; 8as India King George VI stamp is affixed. It reached its destination on 13th August 1941 with the cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificate

It bears boxed unit censor mark 219 and the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor both in violet colour.

FPO 26 was attached with 2 Armoured Brigade later redesignated 252 Armoured Brigade. This FPO travelled thru **Iraq**, Persia (Anglo-Russian occupation), Egypt, Lebanon, Syria. Finally leaving for India via Egypt embarking at Port Tewfik, Egypt on 31st January 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 30 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 26

This cover was posted from **FPO 26 at Quiyara, Iraq** on 21st December 1941 to **Lahore Cantonment, Undivided India**; as India King George VI stamp is affixed. Only legible part of the arrival date stamp is recorded as 1942.

It bears the censor strip, Opened By Censor, Deputy Chief Field Censor, boxed unit censor no 208 in violet, individual examiners circular chop 88, this type was seen at Karachi between May 1940 and March 1942. The Black Triangle Passed by Censor marked indicating to the postal authorities that it was already censored and should not be presented again at any point along the route. The station code on the Black Triangle B indicates as Karachi

The sender was Lt. Col, (later Brig.) J G Pocock of Armoured Corps (IA 72338), Indian Army and his residence address was well known indicated by the way he wrote it on this cover. He was granted an honorary rank of Brigadier on 13th April 1947 (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/37929/supplement/1663/data.pdf>)

FPO 26 was attached with 2 Armoured Brigade later redesignated 252 Armoured Brigade. This FPO travelled thru **Iraq**, Persia (Anglo-Russian occupation), Egypt, Lebanon, Syria. Finally leaving for India via Egypt embarking at Port Tewfik, Egypt on 31st January 1946 being disbanded at Nagpur on 30 May 1946

(E. B. Proud)

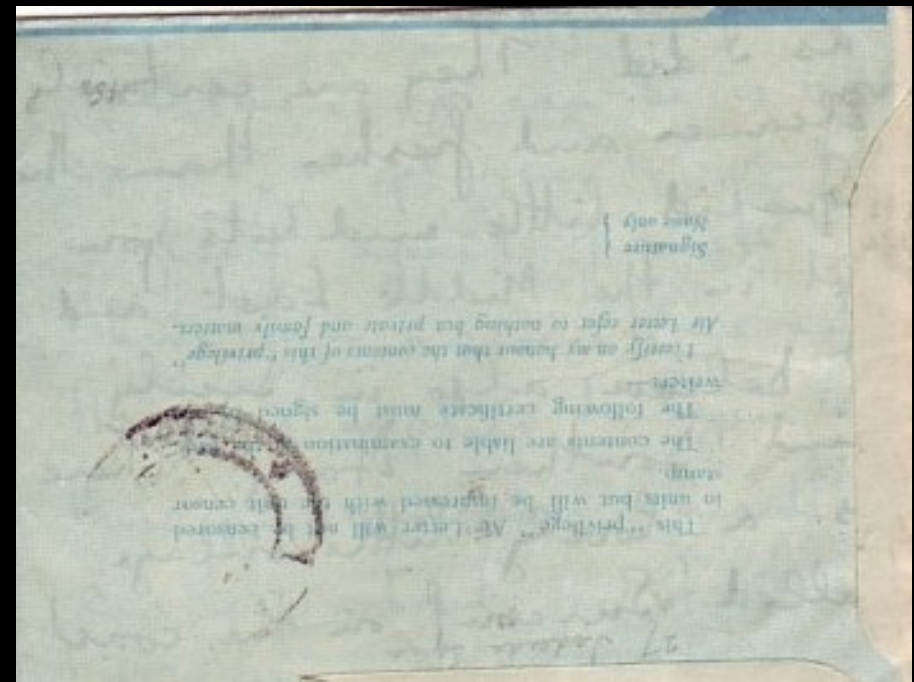


FPO 26

The Air Mail Letter Card “BLUE RIBBON” was posted from **FPO 26** at **Burg El Arab, Egypt** on 18th February 1944 to **Vizag Distt, India**; redirected to another address; 4*9 ps India King George VI stamps affixed

It bears the circular Passed By Censor in violet colour. The letter has been written in Telugu

FPO 26 travelled thru Egypt, **Iraq**, Syria, Lebanon, India finally being disbanded at Nagpur on 30 April 1946 (E. B. Proud)



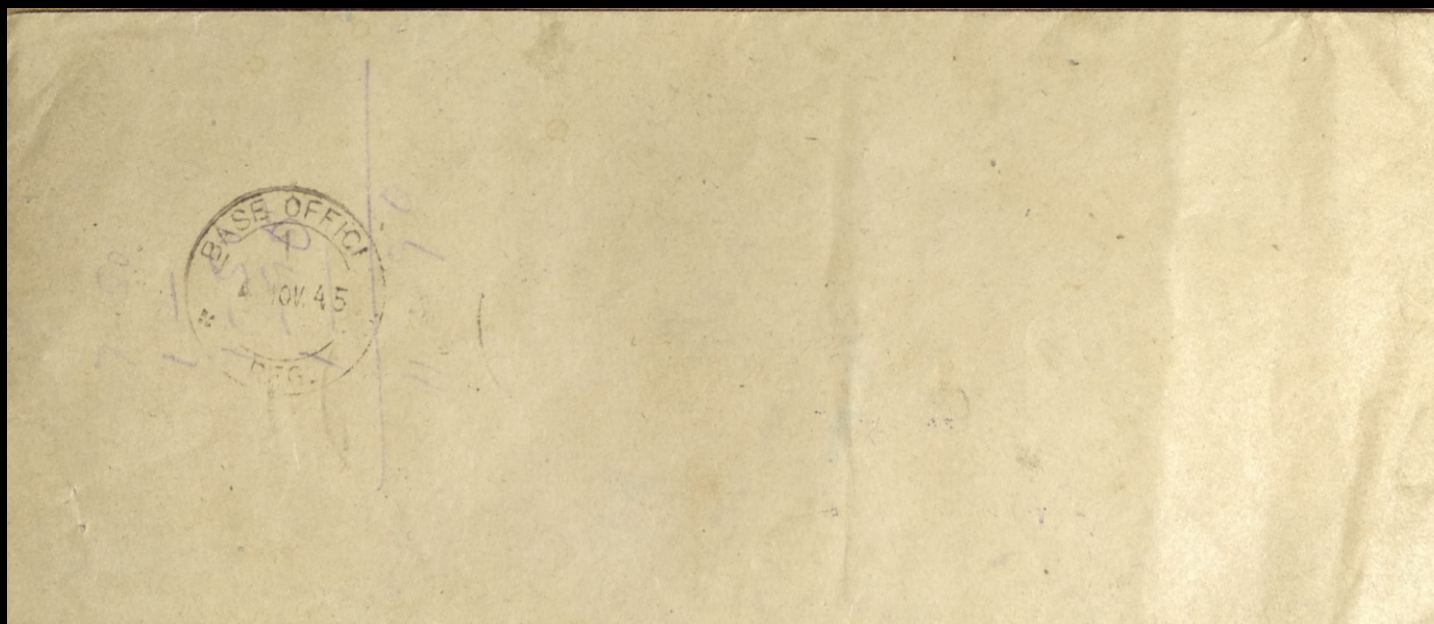
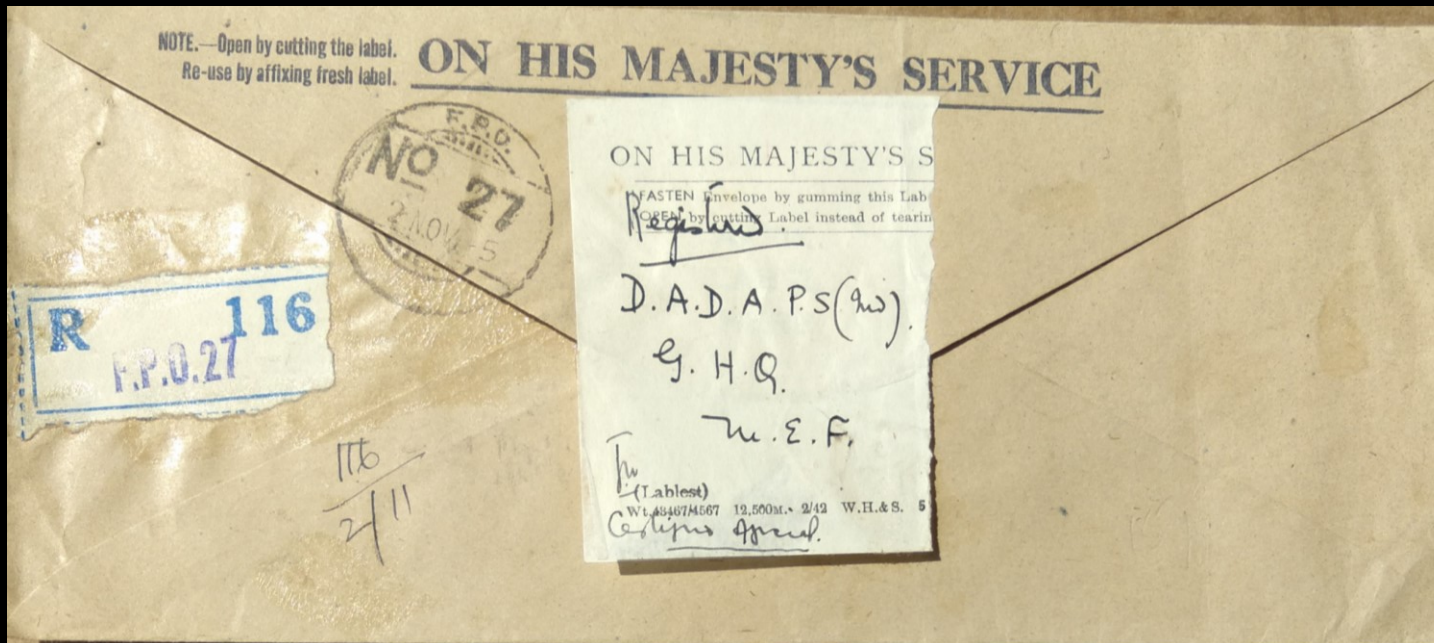
FPO 27

The Air Letter was posted on **29th May, 1945** (not seen by **E.B. Proud**) from **FPO 27 around Jedeide, Syria** (seen 1 May 1945) or **Ablah, Lebanon** (15th July to 18th January 1946 (**E.B. Proud**)). The letter was written by Lt J B Stanton from 31 Field Squadron, Indian Engineers, MEF to Sapper D Fletcher, 29 Railway Survey Company, Royal Engineers, CMF; 3d GB King George VI stamp is affixed.

It bears a shield Passed By Censor mark 8098 in violet colour.

The writer, Lt J B Stanton mentions “that he has recently arrived from Tunisia, Algeria in a cattle truck which were OK as an experience but liked being in Palestine and Syria. He managed 1 leave in 2 years and somewhere during a weekend off he managed skiing”.

FPO 27 travelled thru Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, **Syria**, Lebanon and India. The FPO disbanded at Nagpur on 31 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 27

The Registered stampless printed cover titled
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Note-Open by cutting the label Re-use by affixing
fresh label

posted from **FPO 27 Ablah, Lebanon** on **2nd November 1945.**

This was written on the first half of the economy
label addressed to DADAPS (Deputy Assistant
Director Army Postal Service) , GHQ, MEF

It bears the datestamp of Base Office 1, Mena Camp,
Egypt on 4th November 1945 and the registration
sticker bearing R116 FPO27

FPO 27 travelled thru Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, **Syria**,
Lebanon and India. The FPO disbanded at Nagpur on
31 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 29

The cover was posted from **FPO 29** at **Kuala Lumpur, Malaya Selangor** on 28th April 1941 to **Delhi, India** and redirected to **Coonoor, India**; **25 c Malaya stamp** affixed. It reached Delhi on 3rd May 1941 and Coonoor on 7th May 1941 both the cities recorded with the cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificate . The writer is Captain GC Bradbury who is attached with HQ 9 Indian Division.

Lt Col G C Bradbury served 6 years in ranks (1924-30) became a 2nd Lt in 1930. Joined the Indian Army in 1931. He was promoted to Lt in 1932, Capt in 1938, Major in 1946. He served in 10th Baluch Regt, 1938-1947. He was captured in Malaya on or before 14th February 1942.

He commanded the **17/10th Baluch** between 24 May 45 - 8 Aug 47

The DADAPS gave the curious reason that local stamps had to be used in view of the Malayan currency prevalent. The DG P&T confirmed the arrangement. Except for the Federated Malaya States and the Straits Settlement, the others had their own stamps and systems-Malaya being one of these

It bears triangle Passed By Censor No 3402.

FPO 29 was attached with 9 Div HQ at Kuala Lumpur from 15th February 1941 to 9th January 1942. this FPO was destroyed or captured on or before 14th February 1942 (E. B. Proud)

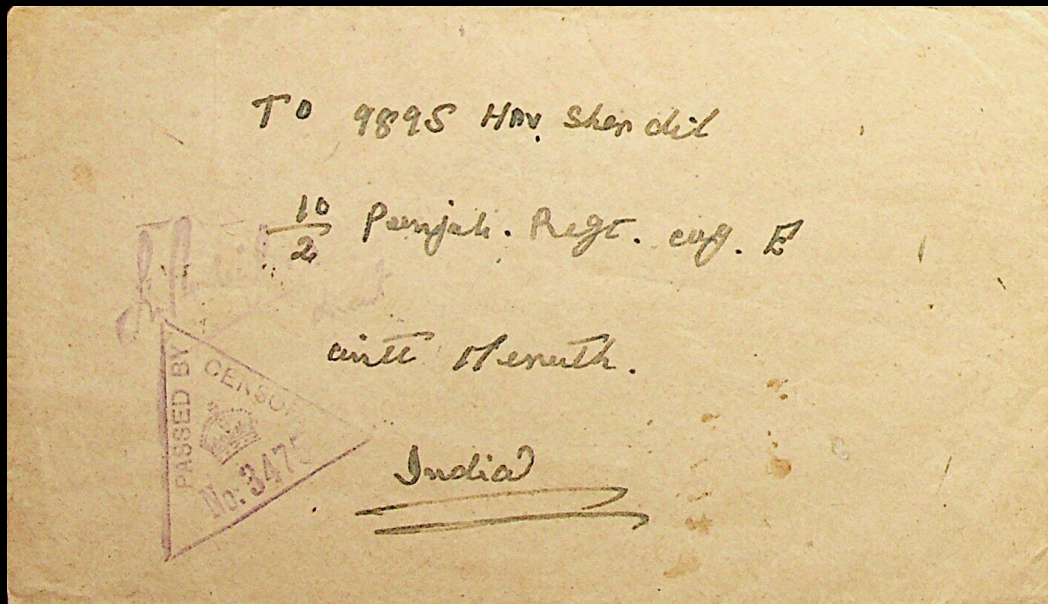




FPO 32

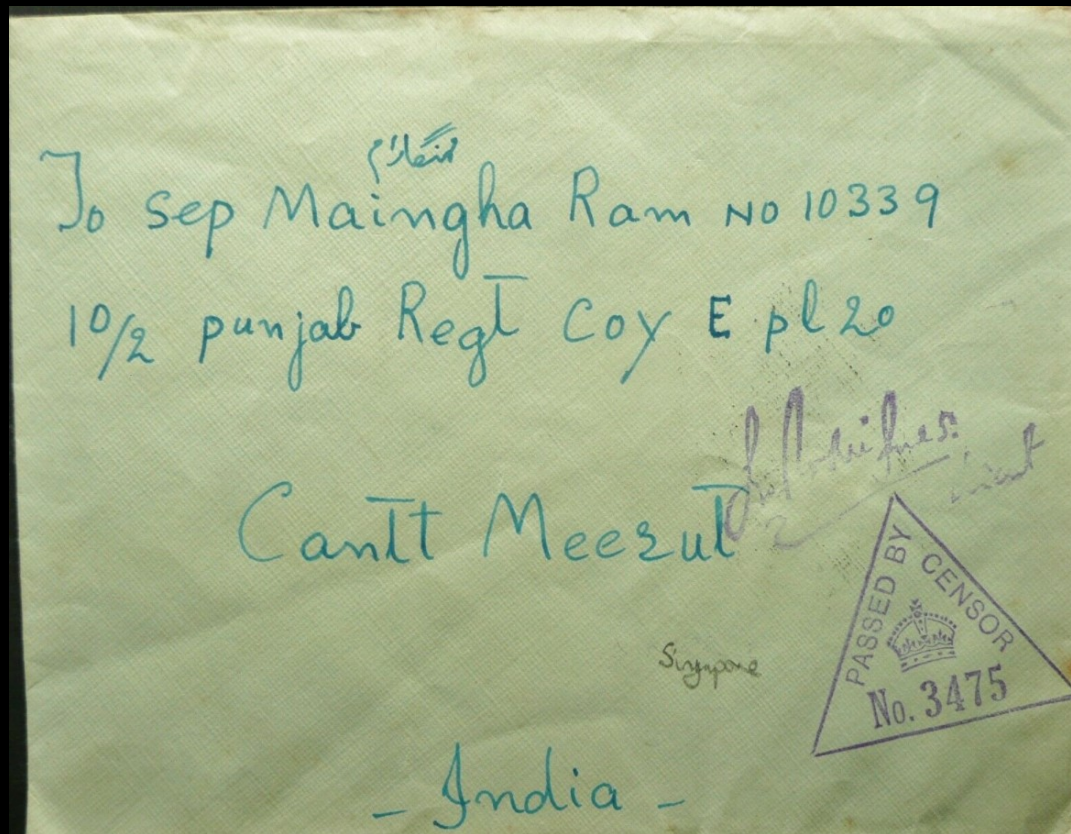
The unstamped envelope has been posted by the writer Sep Akhan Khan from 5/2 Punjab from **FPO 32** at **Tyersall Park, Singapore** on 27th June 1941 to Hav Sherdil, 10/2 Punjab Regiment, E Company, **Meerut, India** Arrival recorded on 15th July 1941 at Meerut.

It bears a triangle Passed By Censor No 3475 with a crown accompanied with a rubber stamp of a Lieutenant who censored the letter all in violet colour.



FPO 32 was at Tyersall Park, **Singapore** from 15 February 1941 to 6 February 1942.

On or before 14th February 1942 the FPO was either destroyed or captured and its personnel were killed by bombing (E. B. Proud)



FPO 32

The unstamped envelope has been posted by the writer Lance Naik Gian Chand from 5/2 Punjab from **FPO 32** at **Tyersall Park, Singapore** on 28th June 1941 to Sepoy Maingha Ram, 10/2 Punjab Regiment, E Company, **Meerut, India** Arrival recorded on 16th July 1941 at Meerut.

It bears a triangle Passed By Censor No 3475 with a crown accompanied with a rubber stamp of a Lieutenant who censored the letter all in violet colour.

FPO 32 was at Tyersall Park, **Singapore** from 15 February 1941 to 6 February 1942. On or before 14th February 1942 the FPO was either destroyed or captured and its personnel were killed by bombing
(E. B. Proud)



FPO 36

The cover was posted from **FPO 36 at Sungei Patani, Kedah, Malaya** on 24th July 1941. It was written by Lt Col WAG Douglas to his wife Mrs WAG Douglas at **Bangalore**. It reached its destination on 2nd August 1941 with the cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificate via **Calcutta GPO** 25th July 1941 ;25c Kedah stamp is affixed.

The DADAPS gave the curious reason that local stamps had to be used in view of the Malayan currency prevalent. The DG P&T confirmed the arrangement. Except for the Federated Malaya States and the Straits Settlement, the others had their own stamps and systems-Kedah being one of these

It bears a triangle Passed By Censor 3484 in violet colour.

The writer Lt. Col WAG Douglas from Indian Ordnance Corps was attached to 11th Indian Division at Malaya and managed to escape from Singapore on the launch 'Celia' and boarded the ship ROOSEBOOM. The Colonel was killed in action (4th March 1942 as per CWGC) when SS Rooseboom was sunk by a large class of Japanese Submarine (Sensuikan) under the command of Lt Yoshimatsu

FPO 36 travelled thru Selangor, **Kedah**, Perak, Johore and Singapore in Malaya. It was captured or destroyed by 14 December 1942 (E. B. Proud)



BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Lt Col. W.A.G. Douglas



Mrs. W.A.G. Douglas

5 B. ULSOOR ROAD



BANGALORE

S. INDIA



*From: Lt Col. W.A.G. Douglas
Hq. 11th Indian Division
Malaya*



In Memory Of
Lieutenant Colonel

WILLIAM ABBOTT GALE DOUGLAS

Service Number: 818/IA

Indian Army Ordnance Corps who died on 04 March 1942 Age 41

Son of Gustavus Gale Douglas and of Fanny Jane Elizabeth Douglas (nee Abbott); husband of Mary Evered Douglas, of Lilliput, Dorsetshire. A.M.I. Mech. E. Also served in The Devonshire Regt.

Remembered with Honour

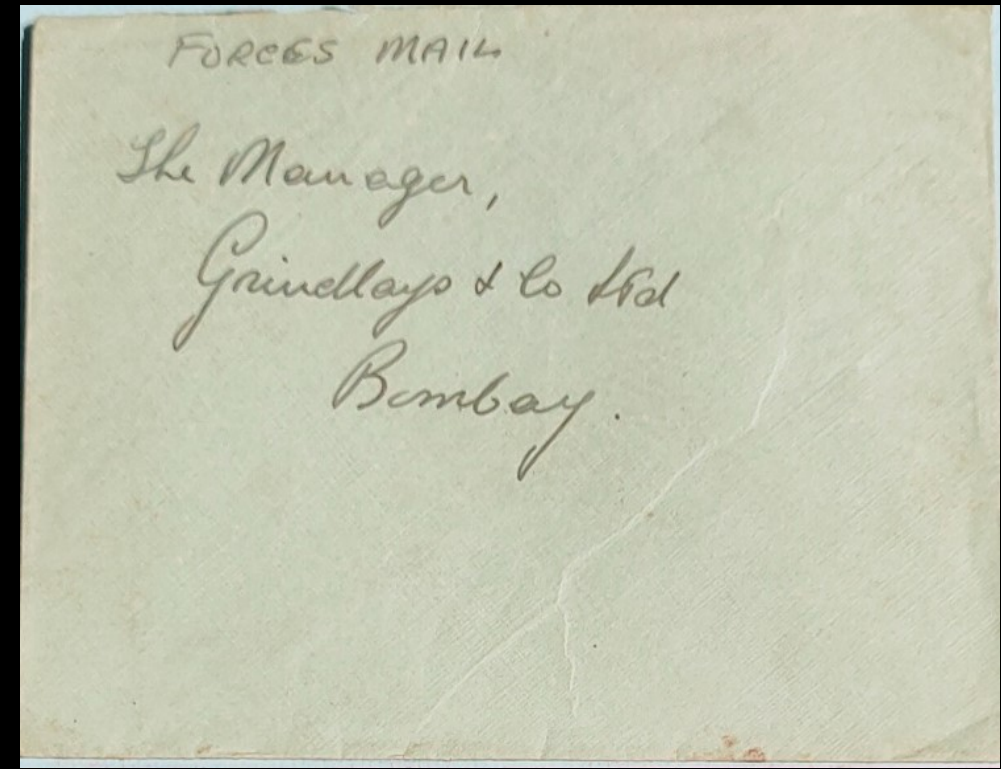
SINGAPORE MEMORIAL

Column 351.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

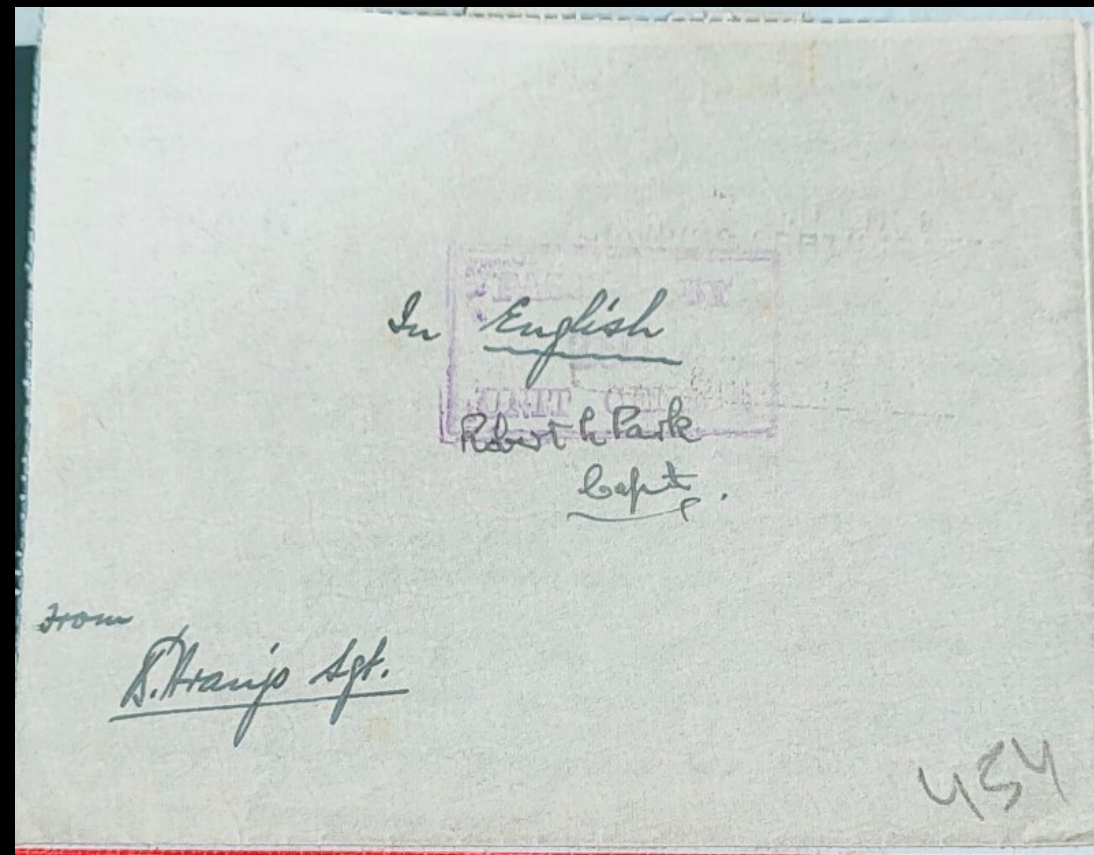


FPO 40

The unstamped envelope bears the badge of 2 Queen Victoria's Own Rajput Light Infantry posted from **FPO 40** at **Port Blair, Andaman Islands** on 12th December 1945 to **Bombay**. It reached its destination on 23rd December 1945.

Japanese Forces sailed to Andamans in 1942 post the conquest of Burma and occupied Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any opposition. Sometime in 1945, the control of the island was nominally handed over to the Azad Hind Government. It was reoccupied by the Allied Forces, 116 Brigade on 7th October 1945 when they landed at Port Blair. The FPO opened on 8th October 1945 and was placed in the jurisdiction of BAPO 7 at Rangoon

FPO 40 travelled between Burma and **India**, disbanded at Kamptee on 14 May 1946 (E. B. Proud)

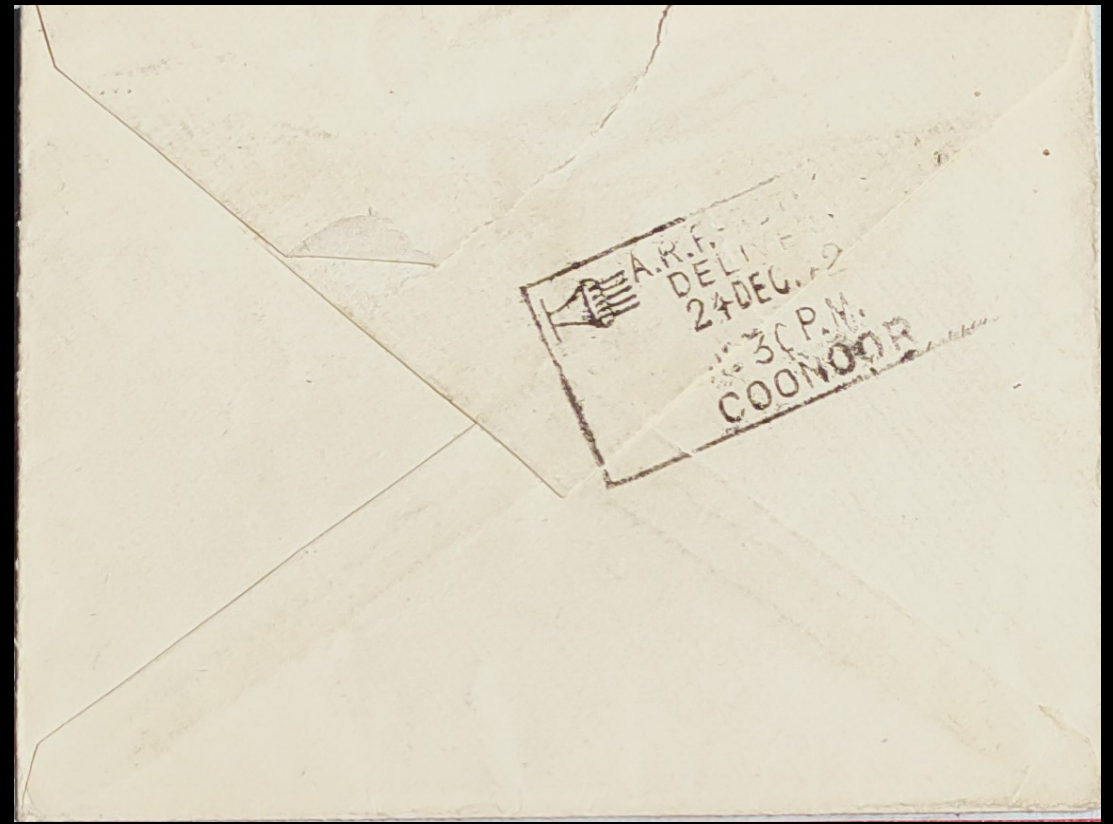


FPO 41

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 41** at **Mosul, Iraq** on 17th November 1941 to **Nainital, India**; 3as Dak Tonga, India KGV stamp

It bears a boxed Passed by Unit Censor.

FPO 41 travelled thru **Iraq**, Persia, Syria, Lebanon, Italy, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 41

The cover was posted from **FPO 41** at **Eski Kifri, Iraq** on **14th December 1942** to **Coonoor, India**. Arrival recorded on 27th October 1942 at Coonoor with the cachet ;8as India, King George VI stamp is affixed.

It bears a boxed Unit Censor 631 in violet colour, the black Deputy Chief Field Censor handstamp and the black octagonal Passed steel stamp with DHD/6 (Madras) which was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942.

FPO 41 travelled thru **Iraq**, Persia, Syria, Lebanon, Italy, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E. B. Proud)

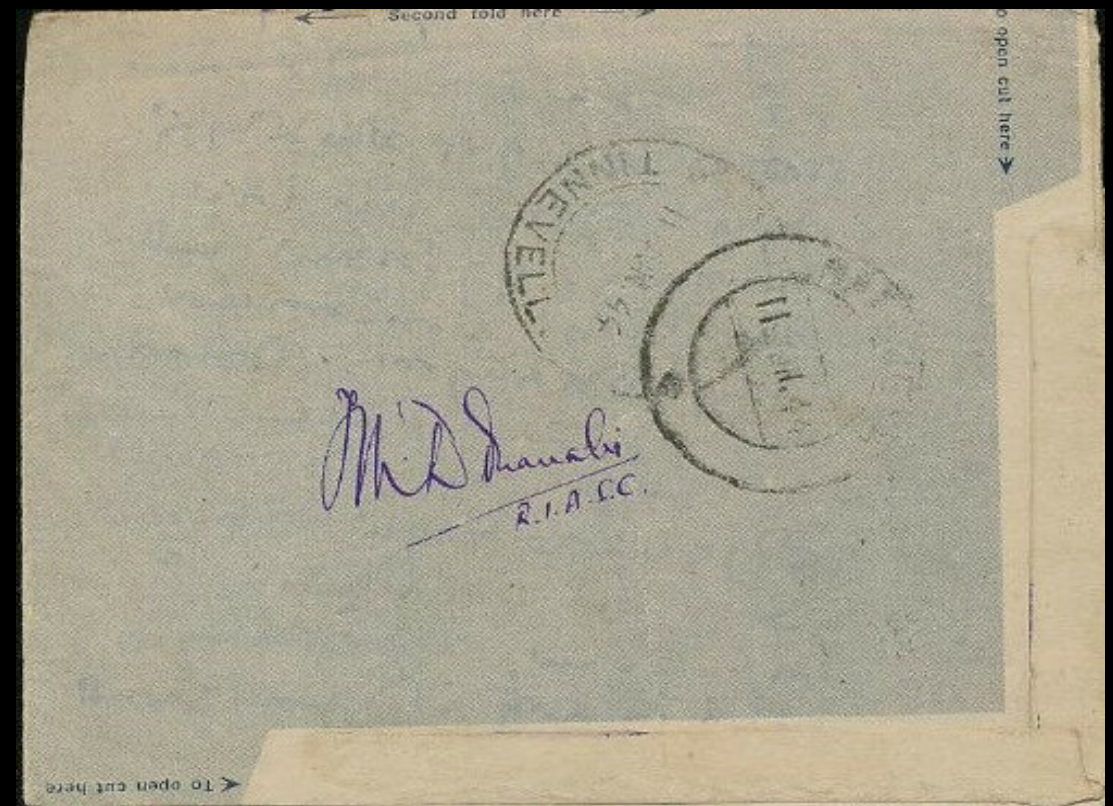
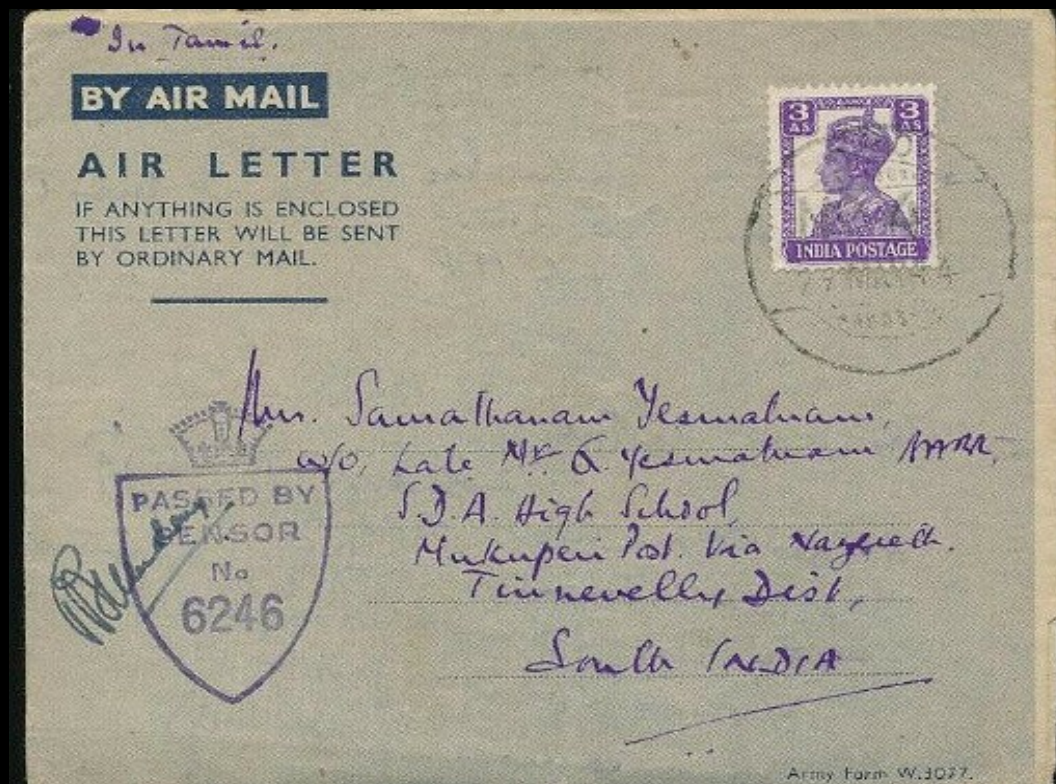


FPO 41

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 41** at **Lanciano, Italy** on **8th January 1944** to **Tinnevely district, India** Arrival recorded on **20th January 1944** via **Nazareth, India**. 3as India, King George VI stamp is affixed.

It bears circular Passed By Censor no 6347 and the Deputy Chief Field Censor all in violet colour. The letter was written in Tamil

FPO 41 travelled thru Iraq, Persia, Syria, Lebanon, **Italy**, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 41

The Air Letter was posted from **FPO 41** at **Lanciano, Italy** on **29th May 1944** to **Tinnevelly district, India**; 3 as India KGV1 affixed, It arrived at its destination on **11th June 1944** via **Nazareth, India**.

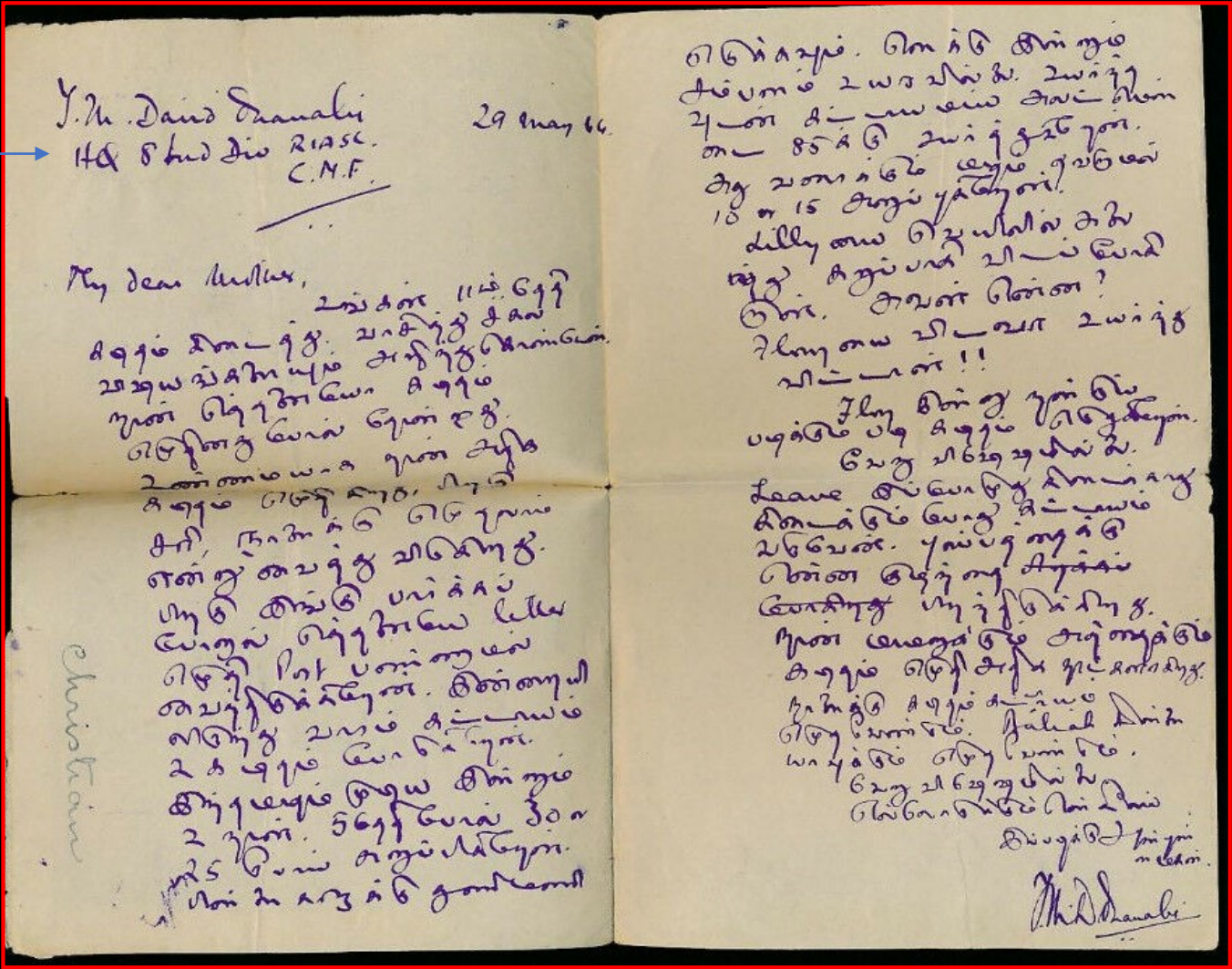
It bears British shield censor no 6246. The letter was written in tamil

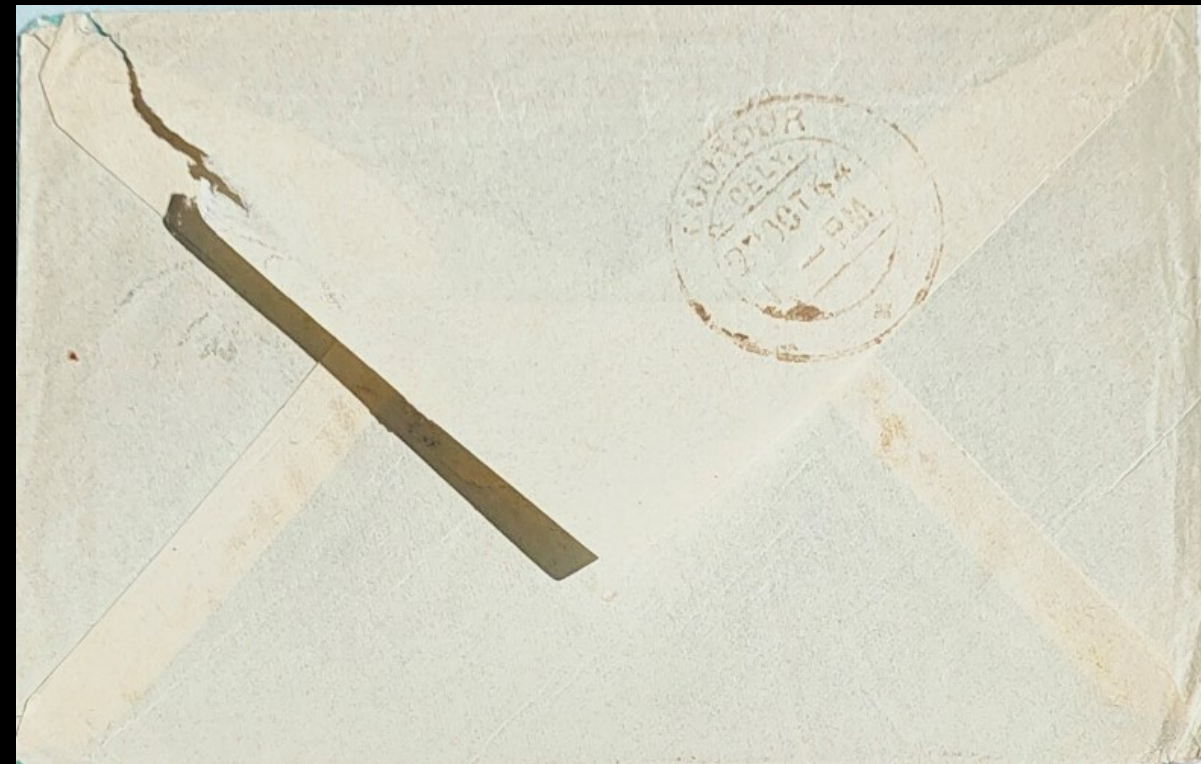
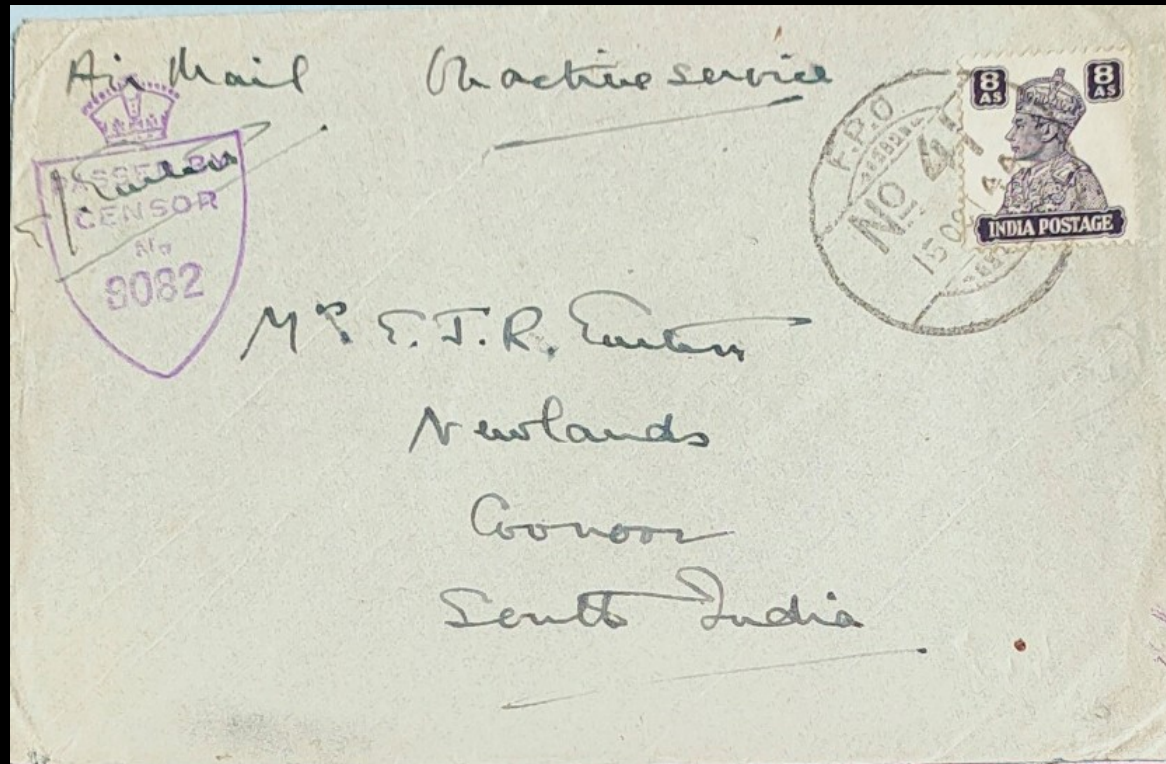
FPO 41 travelled thru Iraq, Persia, Syria, Lebanon, **Italy**, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E. B. Proud)

FPO41

The address panel is
HQ 8 Indian Division
Royal Indian Army
Service Corps

The language written
is Tamil, an Indian
dialect.





FPO 41

The cover on Active Service was posted from **FPO 41** at **Vicchio, Italy** on **15th October 1944** to **Coonoor, India**. It reached its destination on 27th October 1944. 8s India, KG VI stamp is affixed.

It bears a shield British censor no 8082 in violet colour

FPO 41 travelled thru Iraq, Persia, Syria, Lebanon, **Italy**, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E. B. Proud)



FPO 42

The Honour Envelope was posted on **15th October, 1943** (not seen by E.B. Proud) to **Bombay** from **FPO 42** around **Taranto, Italy** seen at Taranto on 24 September 1943 and left Alexandria, Egypt on 12 September 1943 and **Larino, Italy** seen 19 October -27 October 1945 (E. B. Proud), The date of arrival at its destination is recorded as October 1943; 5*3 as India, King George VI stamps are affixed.

It bears the censor strip, A.F.W3312 "Examined By Base Censor", the Deputy Chief Field Censor, boxed chop mark 21 and the black octagonal "Passed" steel stamp with DHC/43 (Bombay) which was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942.

FPO 42 travelled thru Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, **Italy**, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E. B. Proud)