

## FPO 44

The cover was posted from **FPO 44** at **Alton Kopru, Iraq** on **18<sup>th</sup> March 1942** to **Poona, India** Arrival recorded at the destination on **30<sup>th</sup> March 1942**. 8 as India, King George VI stamp is affixed

It bears twice the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor and a boxed Passed By Unit Censor at the rear. The sender L.N. Dhikane is part of the MES, no. 14, AW company, Indian Engineers.

FPO 44 travelled thru **Iraq**, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Italy, India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30 July 1946 (E.B. Proud)



**FPO 48**

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 48** at **Baiji, Iraq** on **27<sup>th</sup> April 1942** to **Jaipur, India**; 3as India, King George VI stamps are affixed

It bears the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor in maroon.

**These 2 letters have been written by the same sender to the same address, 24 days apart and the FPO 48 travelled from Baiji to Baghdad which is approximately 230 Kms within Iraq. It shows how fast both our troops and our FPO was adapting to the new normal!!!**

FPO 48 travelled thru **Iraq**, Libya, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and left for Italy, datestamps were lost in transit and were replaced by FPO R37 (E.B. Proud)

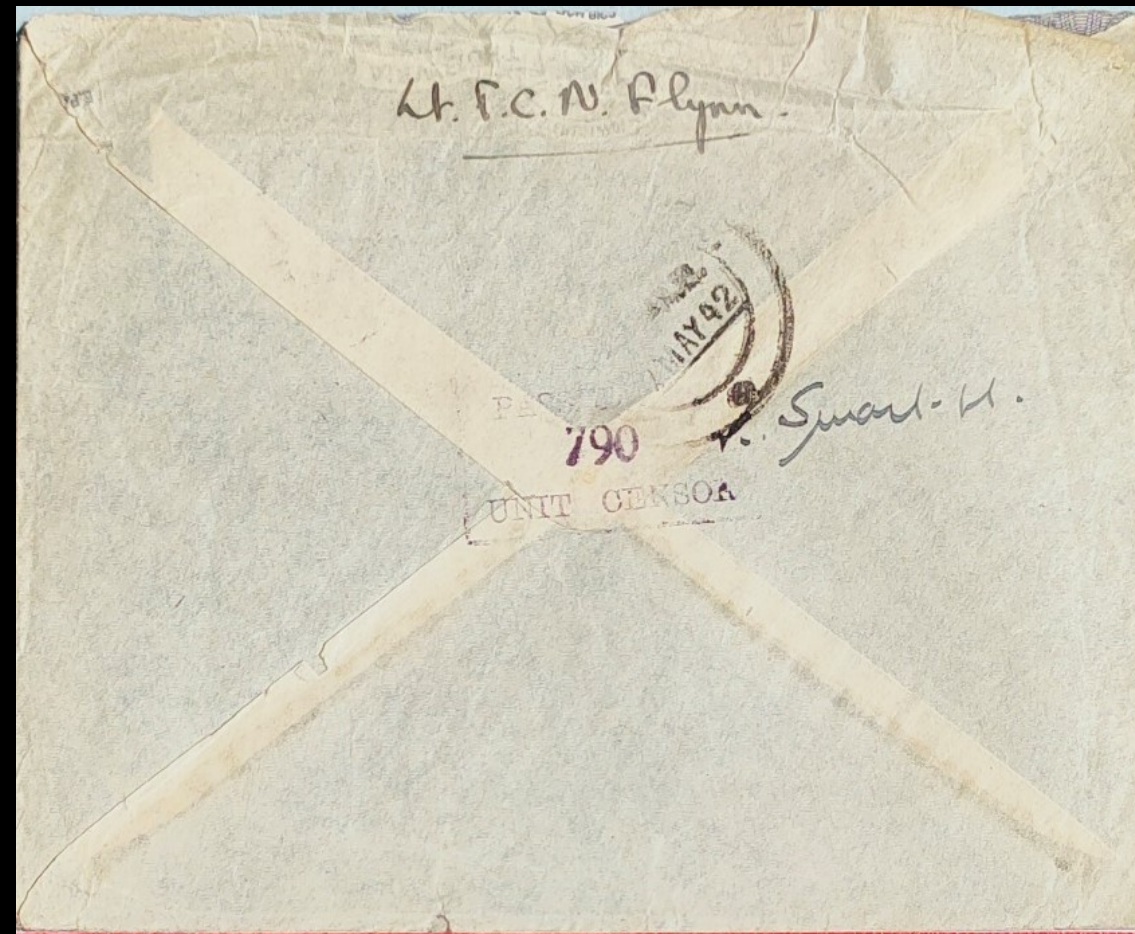


**FPO 48**

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 48** at **Baghdad, Iraq** on **20<sup>th</sup> May 1942** to **Jaipur, India**; 3as India, King George VI stamps are affixed

It bears the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor in black.





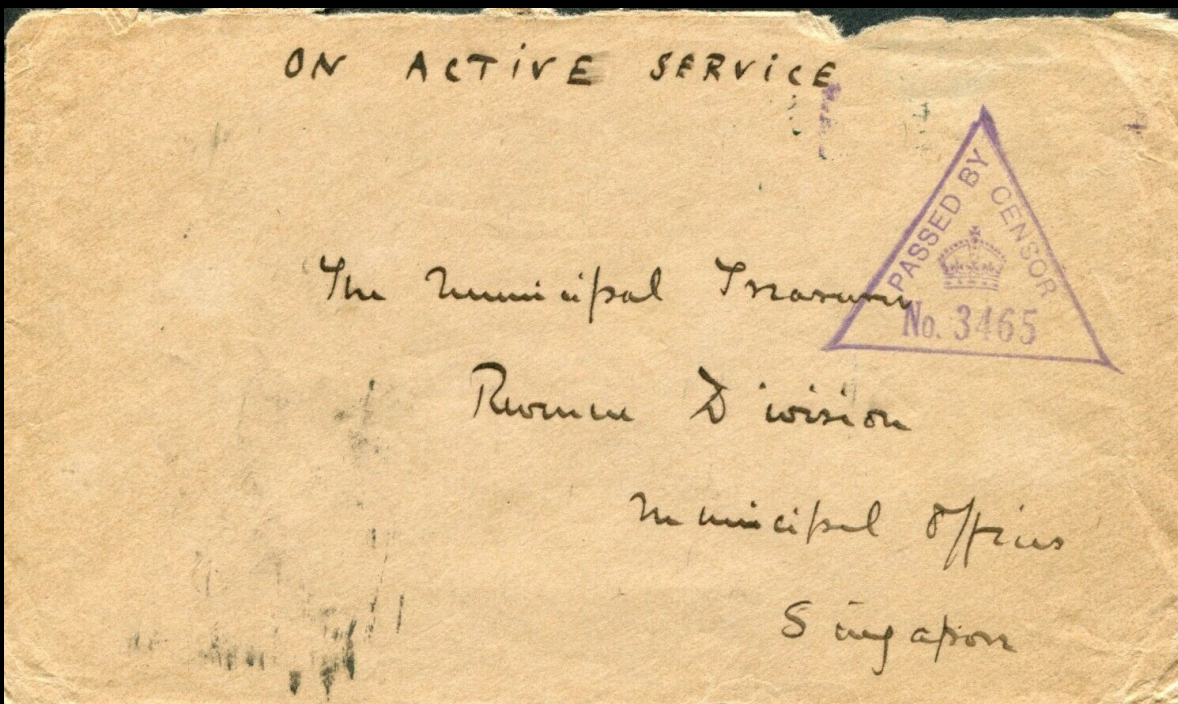
## FPO 48

The cover was posted from **FPO 48** at **Baiji, Iraq** on **May 1942** to **Bombay, India**; 8as India, King George VI stamps are affixed

It bears Deputy Chief Field Censor in violet and a boxed Passed By Unit Censor 790

FPO 48 travelled thru **Iraq**, Libya, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and left for Italy, date stamps were lost in transit and were replaced by FPO R37 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 50

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 50** at **Fort Canning, Singapore** in **July 1941** to **The Municipal Offices, Singapore**

It bears the Triangle Passed By Censor with a crown no 3465

FPO 50 was at Alexandria Barracks and Fort Canning at Singapore and were captured or destroyed on or before 14 February 1942  
(E.B. Proud)





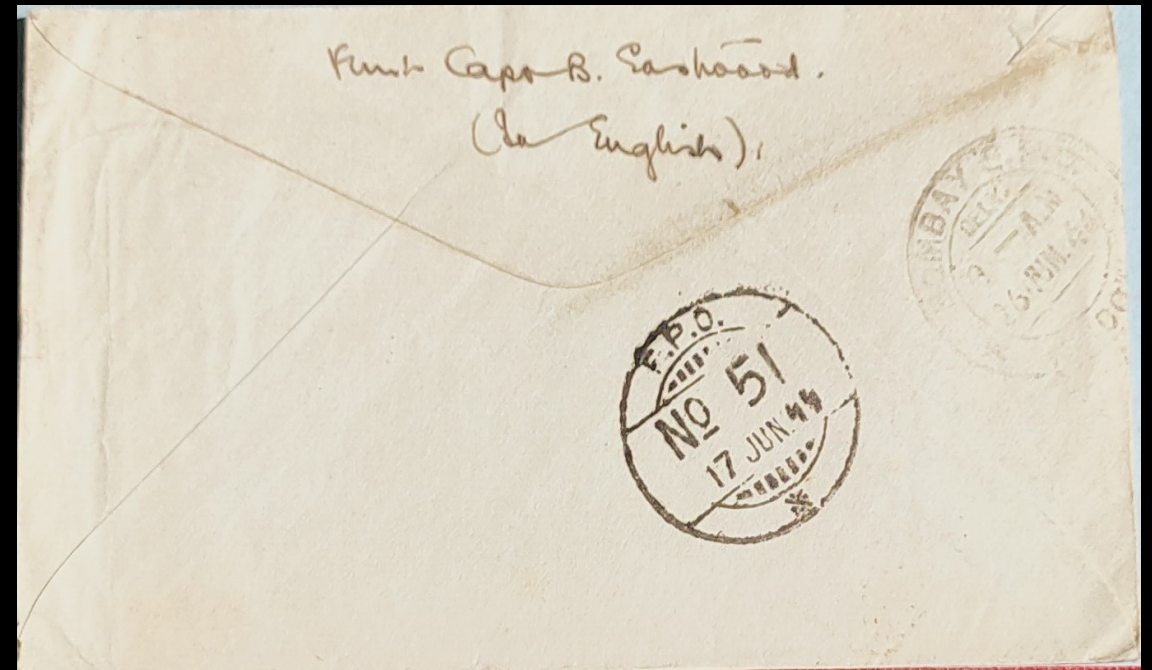
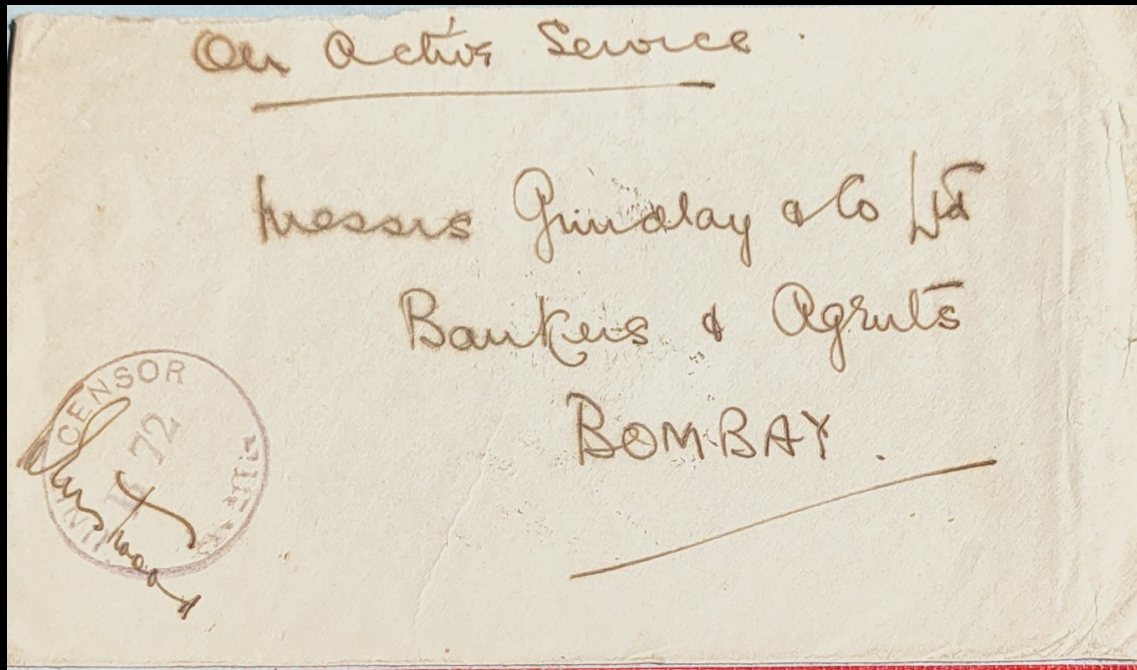
**FPO 50**

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 50** at Alexandria Barracks, **Singapore** on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1941 to **Glasgow, Scotland**.

It bears the Triangle Passed By Censor with a crown no 2579

FPO 50 was at Alexandria Barracks and Fort Canning at Singapore and were captured or destroyed on or before 14 February 1942  
(E.B. Proud)





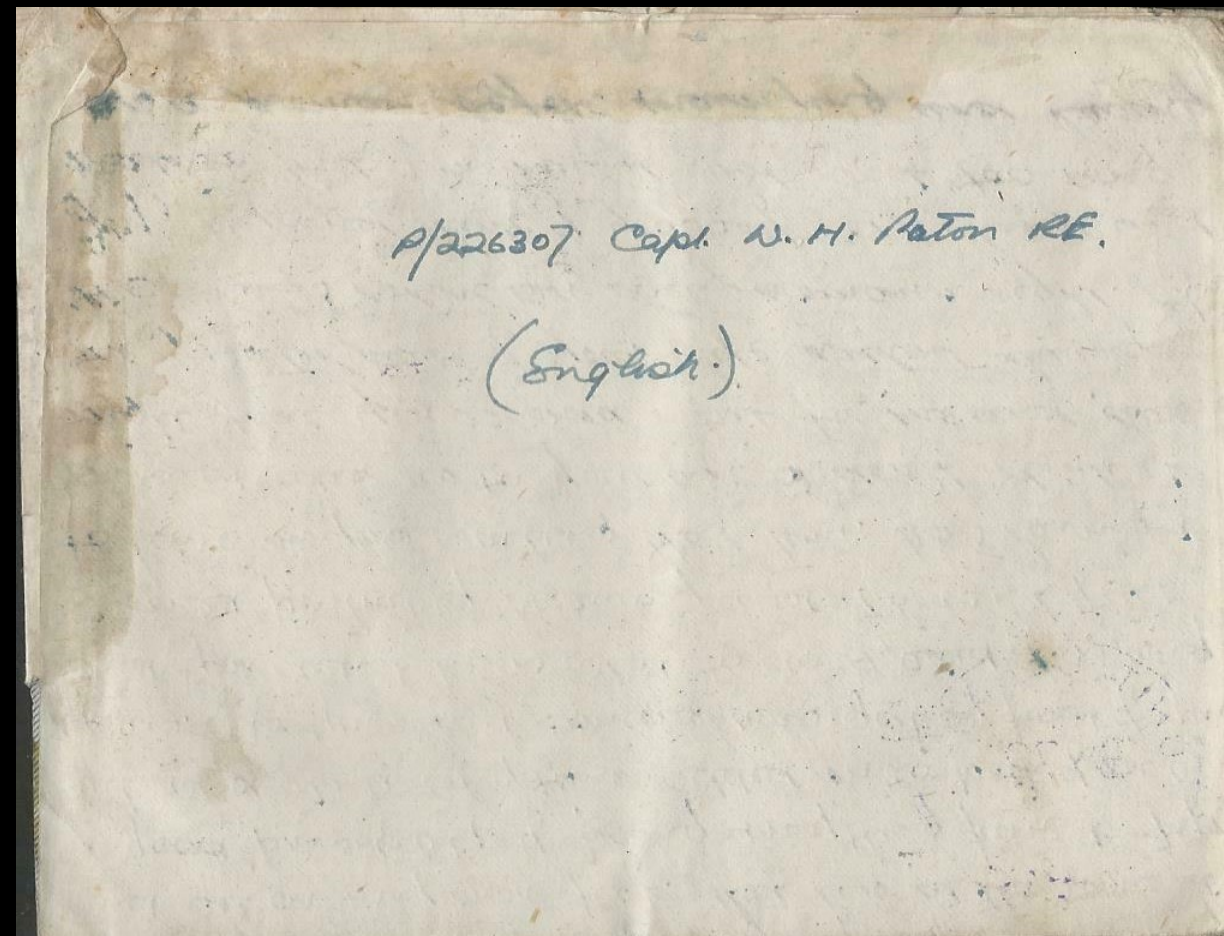
## FPO 51

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 51** at **Dechuapalong (Cox's Bazaar), India** on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1944 to **Bombay, India**. It arrived at its destination on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

It bears the Circular Indian Censor handstamp "Unit Censor India" B72

FPO 51 travelled thru **India**, Burma and Ceylon and was disbanded at Kamptee on 13 November 1946 (E.B. Proud)



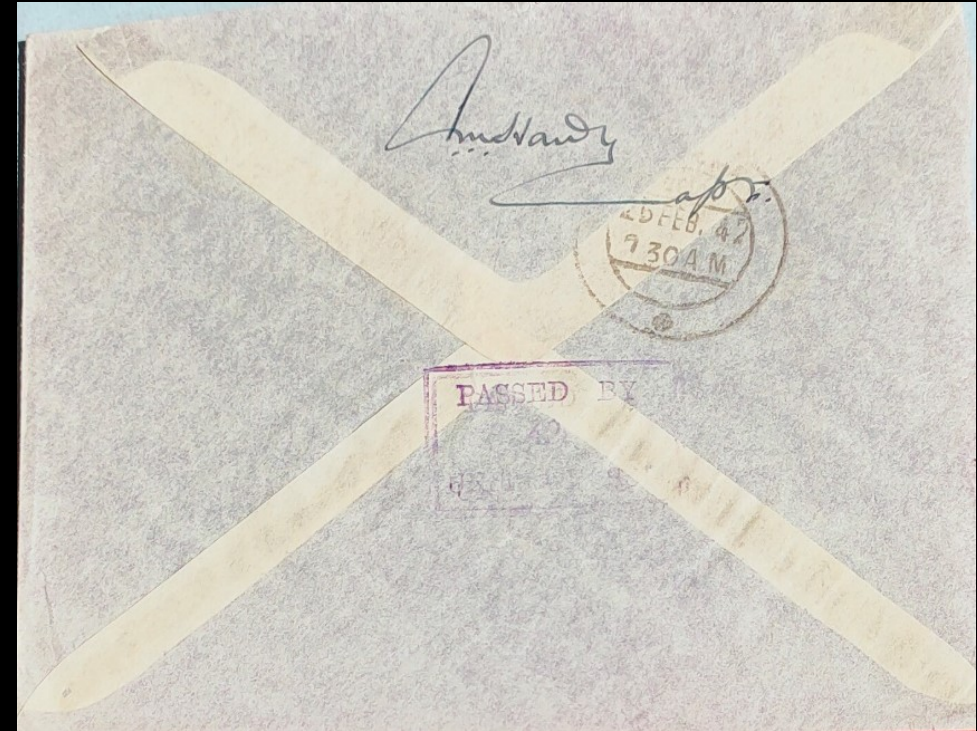
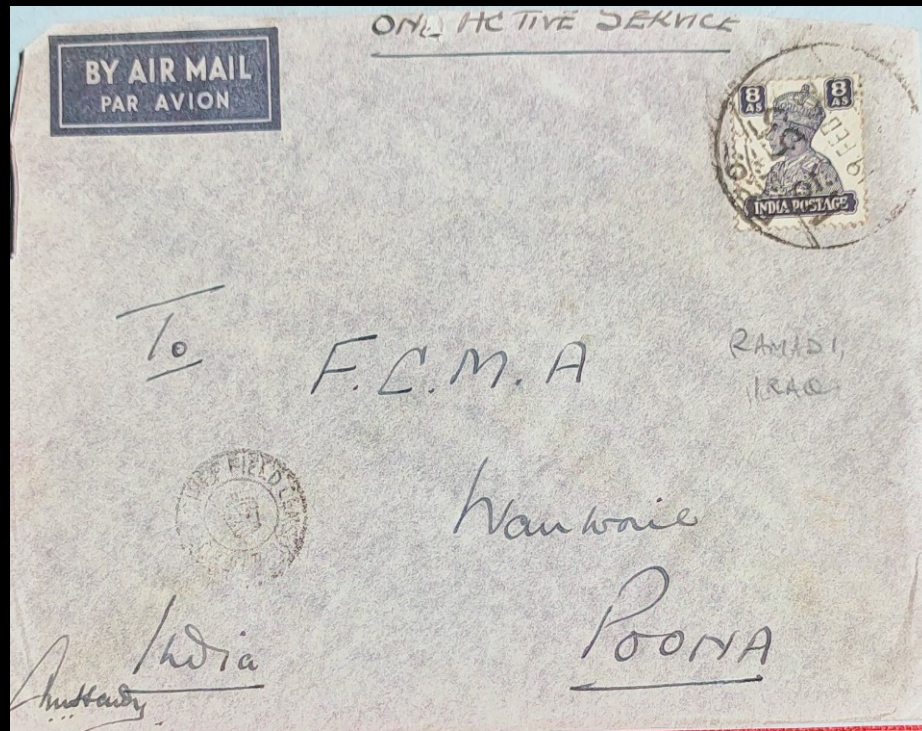


## FPO 51

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 51** at **Dechuapalong (Cox's Bazaar), India** on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1944 to **England**. Arrival recorded and redirected to a new destination on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1944. 4as India, KG VI stamp is affixed. It bears the Circular Indian Censor handstamp "Unit Censor India" B72.

FPO 51 travelled thru **India**, Burma and Ceylon and was disbanded at Kamptee on 13 November 1946  
(E.B. Proud)





## FPO 55

The Letter was posted from **FPO 55** at **Ramadi, Iraq** on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942 to **Poona, India**. It arrived at its destination on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1942; 8 as India, King George VI stamp is affixed

It bears the Deputy Chief Field Censor in black, the boxed Passed By Unit Censor 42 in violet

FPO 55 travelled thru **Iraq**, Syria, Persia, Libya, Egypt, Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine and Italy and was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15 May 1946

(E.B. Proud)





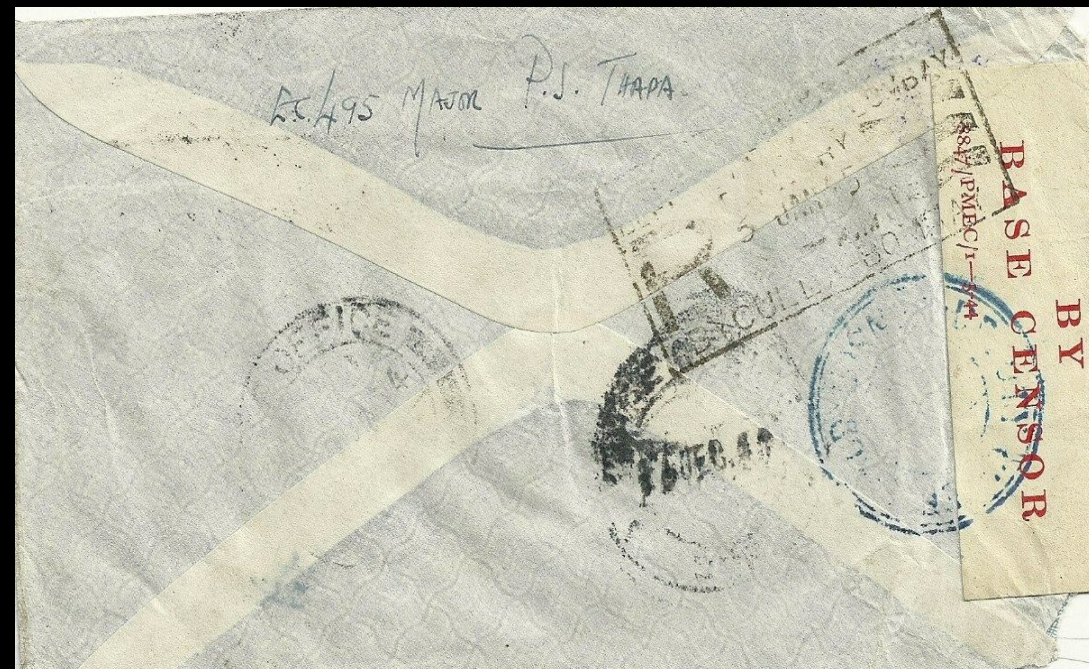
## FPO 55

The Letter was posted on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1944 to **Bombay, India** (not seen by E.B. Proud) from **FPO 55** around **Senigallia and Andrea, Italy**. The **FPO 55** seen at Senigallia on 20 September 1944 and left for Andrea seen between 7<sup>th</sup> November to 21 January 1945 (E. B. Proud), 8 as India, King George VI stamp affixed.

It bears the censor strip, P.C. 90 Opened by Examiner, the larger handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor in blue, the shield with a crown Passed By Censor in violet. The black octagonal "Passed" steel stamp is with DHC/205 (Bombay) is used, this was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942.

FPO 55 travelled thru Iraq, Syria, Persia, Libya, Egypt, Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine and **Italy** and was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15 May 1946 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 55

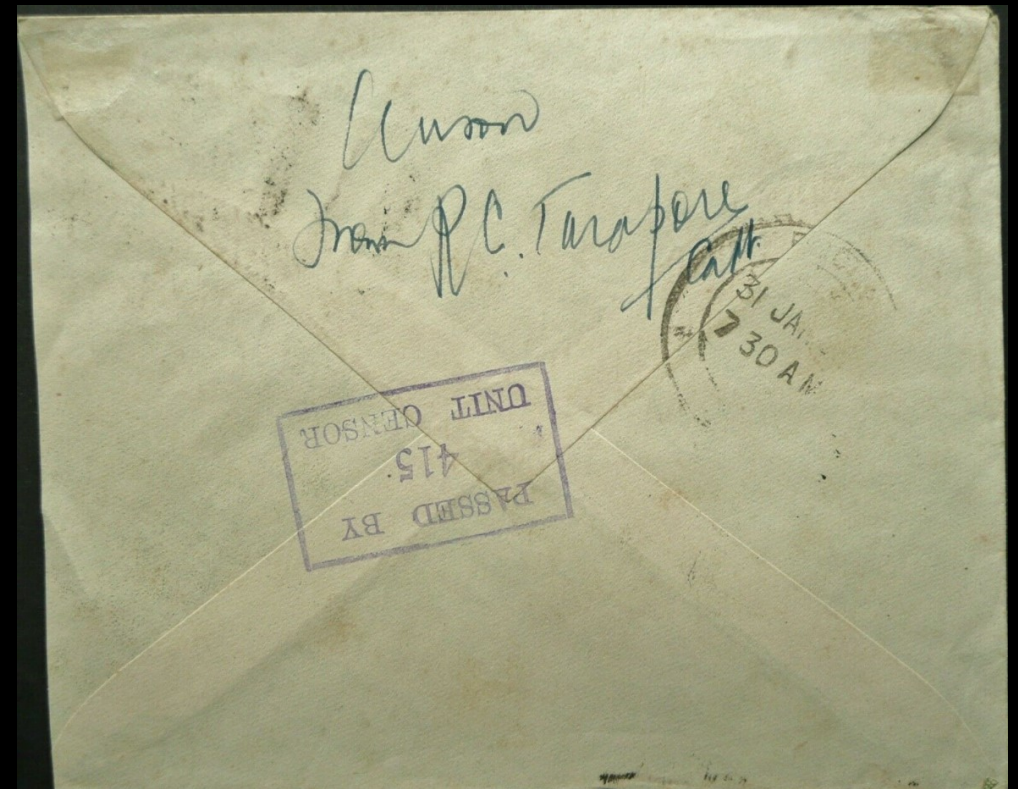
The Letter was posted from **FPO 55** at **Andrea, Italy** on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1945 to **Bombay, India**. It arrived at its destination on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1946. 8 as India, King George VI stamp is affixed

It bears the censor strip, A.F.W3312 Examined By Base Censor, the larger handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor in blue, the shield with a crown Passed By Censor no 5120 in violet

FPO 55 travelled thru Iraq, Syria, Persia, Libya, Egypt, Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine and **Italy** and was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15 May 1946

(E.B. Proud)





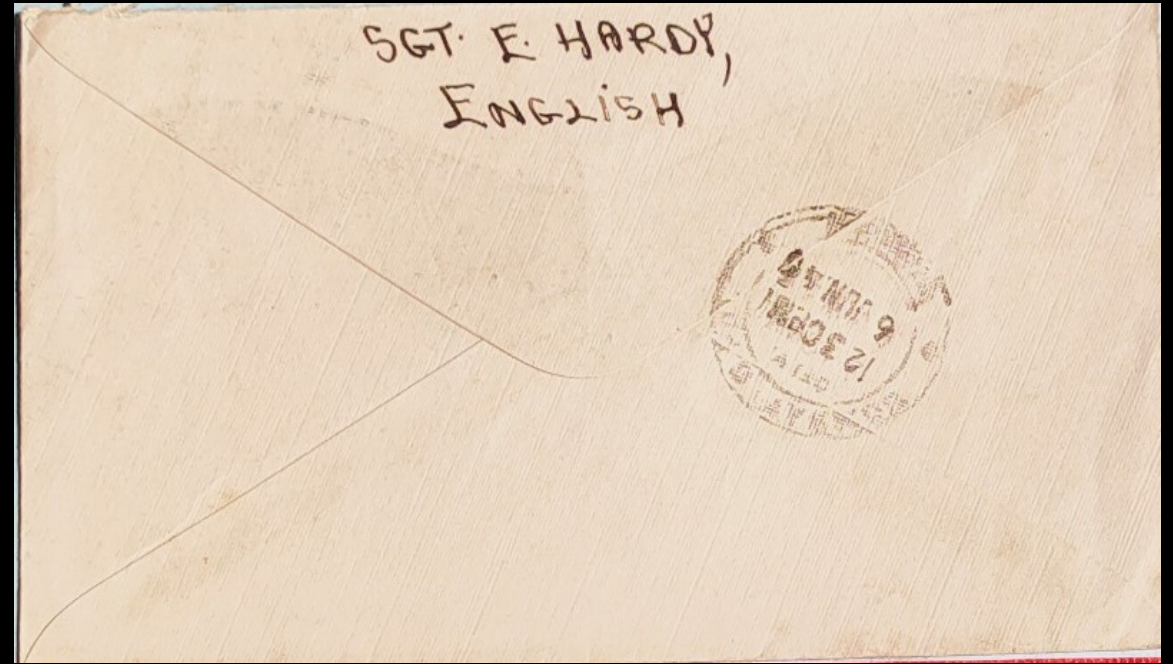
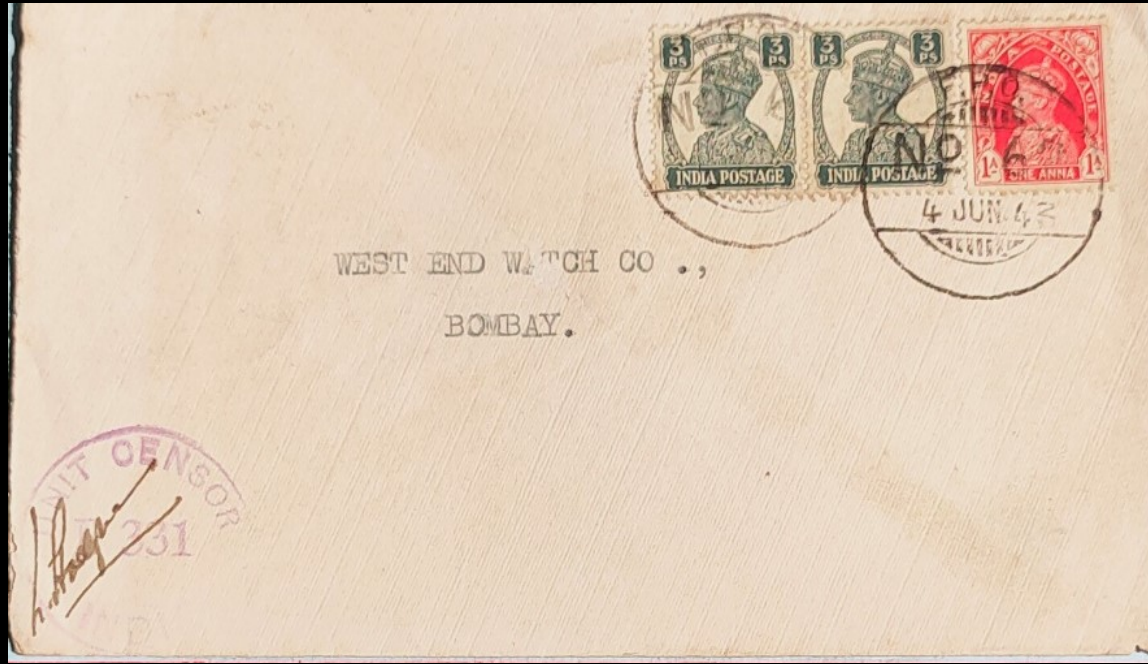
## FPO 59

The Letter was posted from **FPO 59** at **Paitak, Persia** on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1942 to Financial Controller Military Accounts (FCMA) **Poona, India**. It arrived at its destination on 31<sup>st</sup> January. 8 as India, King George VI stamp is affixed.

**The Money Order Stamp has been used here to cancel mail.** It bears the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor in black, Passed By 415 Unit Censor in violet

FPO 59 travelled thru Iraq, Persia and Lebanon and was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 15 May 1946  
(E.B. Proud)





## FPO 62

The Letter was posted from **FPO 62** at **Kumbhhatgaon, India** on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1943 to **Bombay, India**. It arrived at its destination on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1943; 1s, 2\*3ps India, KG VI stamp is affixed

During this time the FPO 62 was attached to 32 Armoured Division

FPO 62 travelled between **India** and Iraq and was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1947 (E.B. Proud)





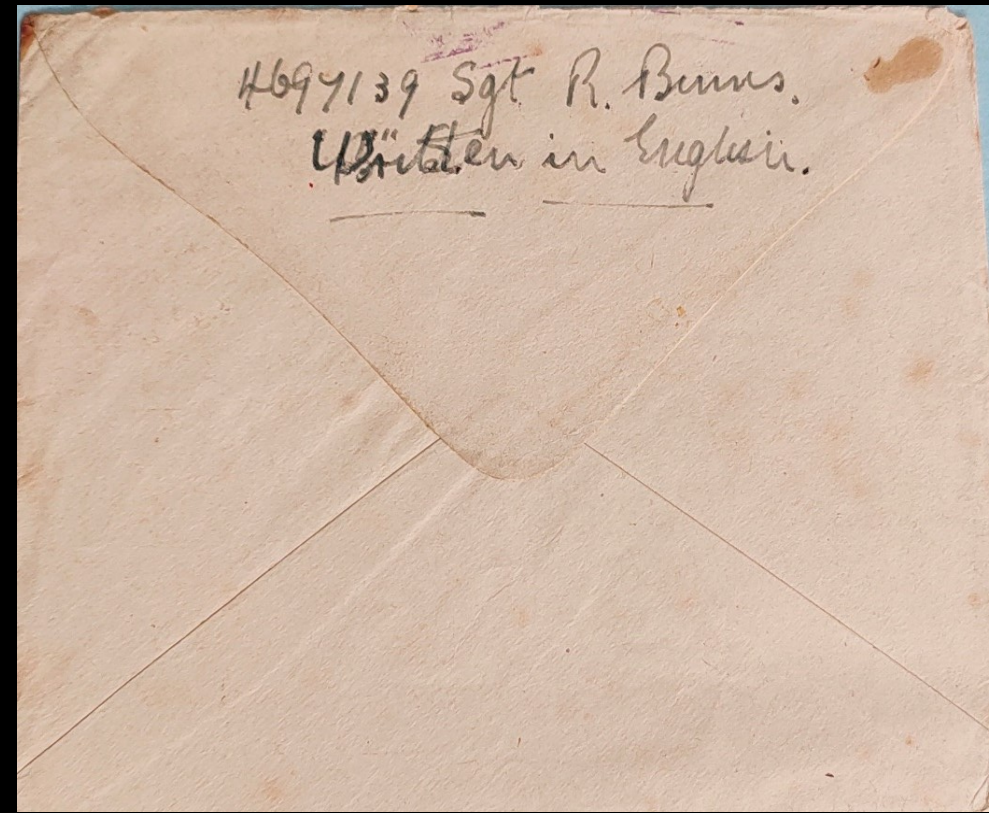
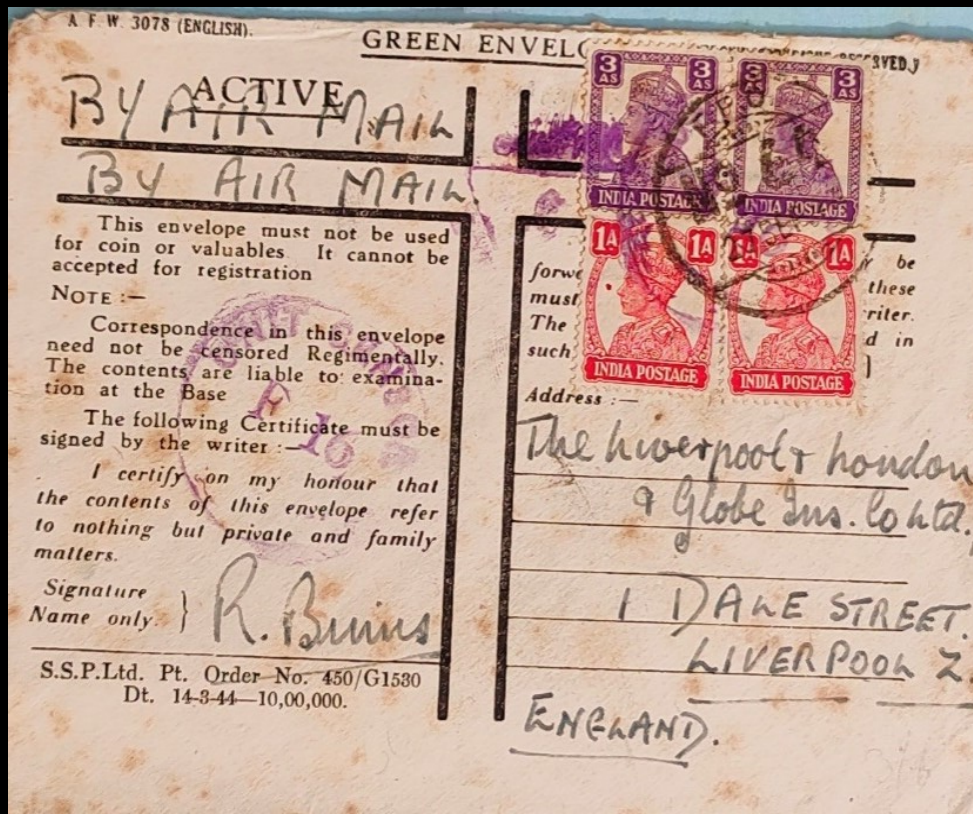
## FPO 63

The Letter has the badge of 7 Light Cavalry, posted from **FPO 63** at **Ranchi area, India** on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1943 to **Scotland**. 2\*4 as India, King George VI stamp affixed. Lt. Col C L Proudfoot was serving with 7 Light Cavalry during this time

It bears the censor strip, P.C. 90 Opened by Examiner, the circular Unit Censor India in violet and the back triangle Field Censor India 29. During this time FPO 63 and the 7 Light Cavalry were attached to 255 Armoured Brigade.

FPO 63 travelled between India and Burma, it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1946  
(E.B. Proud)





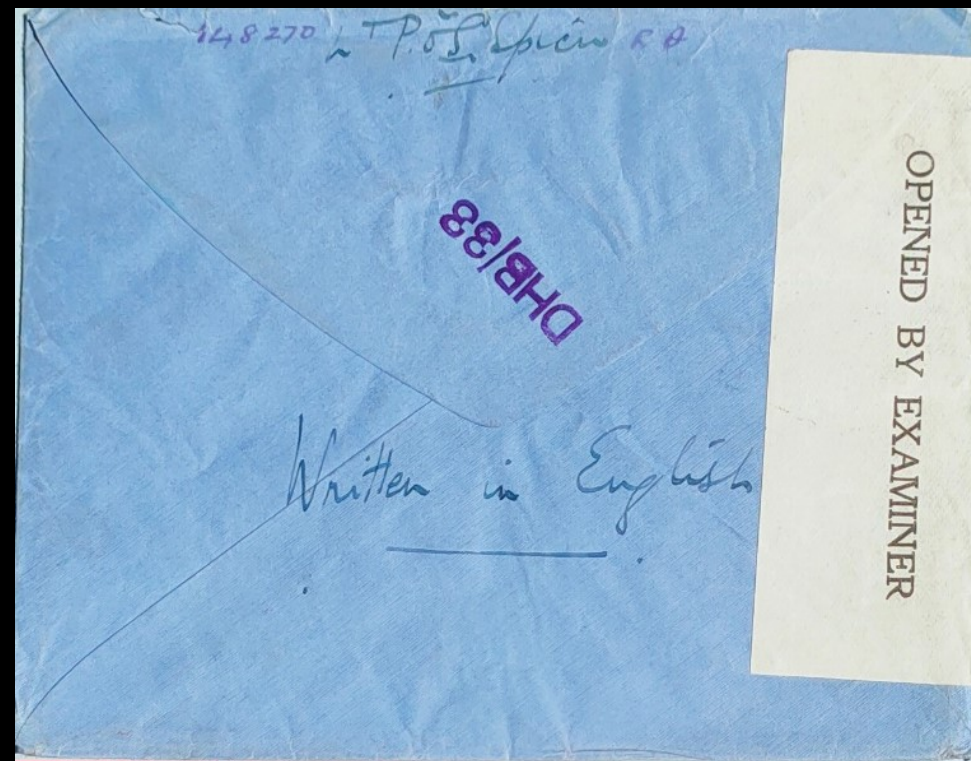
FPO 64

The Honour Envelope was posted from **FPO 64** at **Nira, India** on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1944 to **England**. 2\*3 as and 2\*1a India, King George VI stamp is affixed.

It bears the faint circular Unit Censor F16 handstamp in violet. During this time the FPO 64 was attached to 255 Armoured Brigade.

FPO 64 travelled between **India** and Burma, it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1946(E.B. Proud)





## FPO 68A

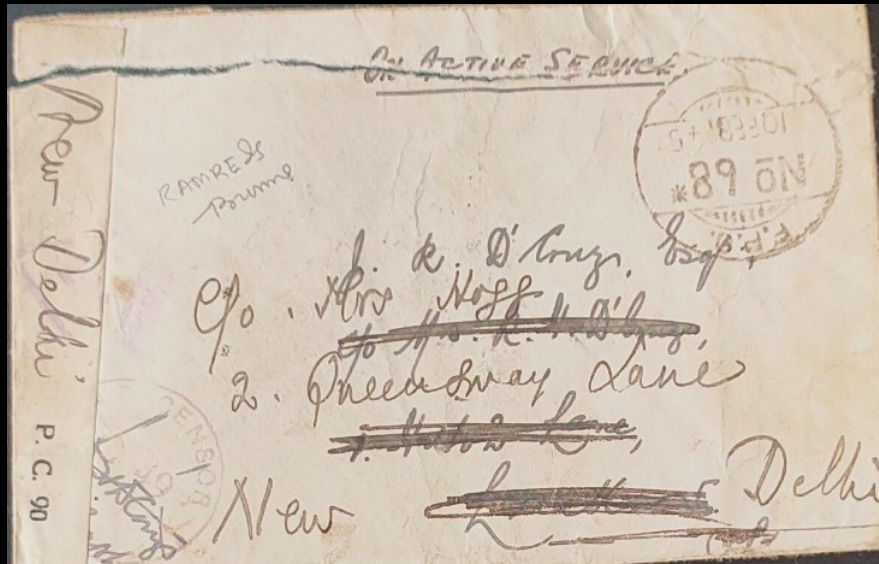
The cover was posted from **FPO 68A at Baraset, India** on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1942 to **California, USA**. 3\* 6 as India, King George VI and 2\*14 as Mail Plane stamps are affixed.

It bears the censor strip, P.C. 90 "Opened by Examiner". The black octagonal "Passed" steel stamp is with DHB/33 (Karachi), this was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942. This particular datestamp was recorded between 25<sup>th</sup> July 1943 and 8<sup>th</sup> March 1943

FPO 68 was attached to 36 Infantry Brigade part of 26 Infantry Division. It lost its equipment and **was supplied with FPO 68A datestamps in July 1942**. The FPO travelled thru **India**, Burma, DEI Java, DEI Sumatra and was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1947 (E.B. Proud)



FPO 68



The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 68\* at Ramree Island, Burma** on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1945 to **Lucknow, redirected to New Delhi, India**. It bears the censor strip, P.C. 90 Opened by Examiner. This particular datestamp was recorded between 8<sup>th</sup> July 1943 and 17<sup>th</sup> April 1946

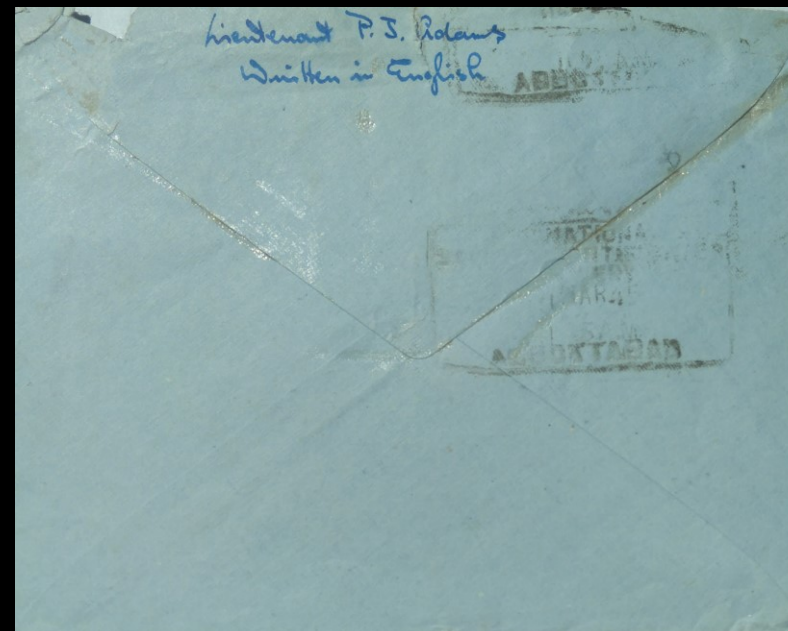
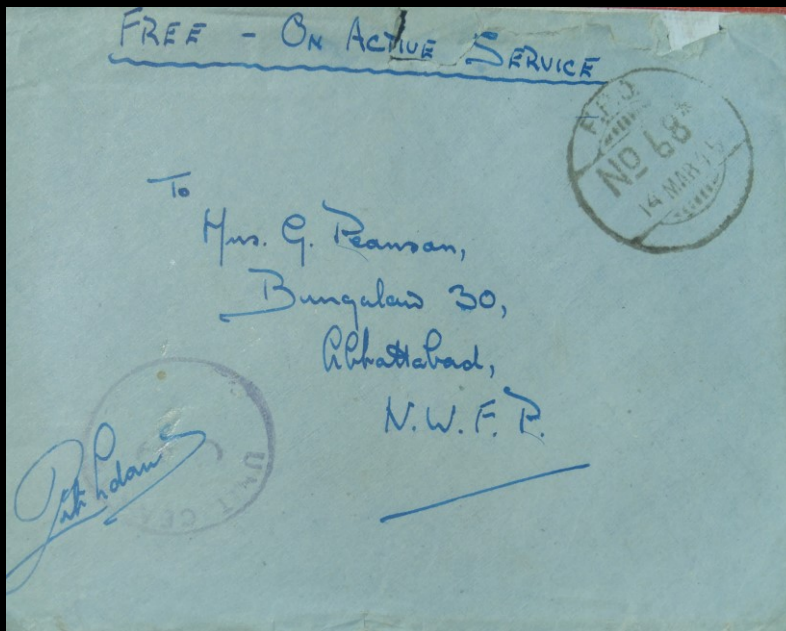
The **Battle of Ramree Island (also Operation Matador)** was fought in January and February 1945 as part of the XV Indian Corps offensive on the southern front in the Burma Campaign.

Ramree Island (Yangbye Kywan) lies off the Burma coast. The island had been captured by the Imperial Japanese Army in early 1942, along with the rest of Southern Burma. In January 1945, the Allies launched an attack to retake Ramree and its neighbour Cheduba Island, to establish airbases on the islands for the supply of the mainland campaign. There have been reports of Japanese soldiers being eaten by saltwater crocodiles living in the inland mangrove swamps

FPO 68 was attached to 36 Infantry Brigade part of 26 Infantry Division. It lost its equipment and **was supplied with FPO 68A datestamps in July 1942**. The FPO travelled thru India, Burma, DEI Java, DEI Sumatra and was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1947

(E.B. Proud)





## FPO 68

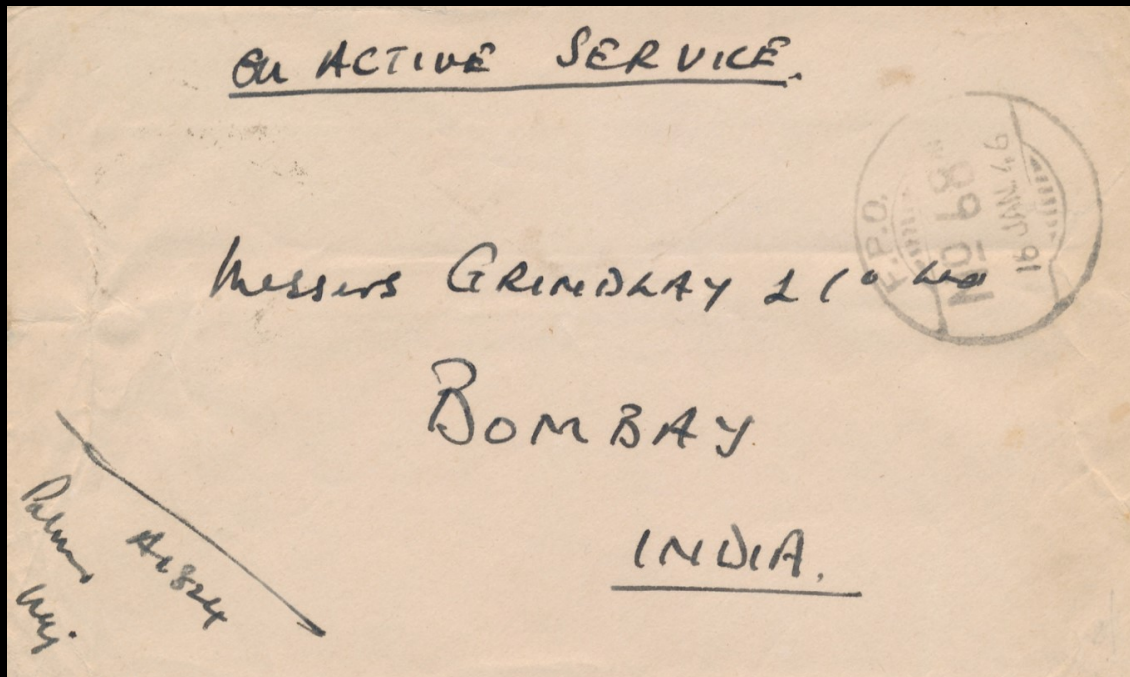
The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 68\* at Ramree Island, Burma** on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1945 to **Abbotabad, NWFP, Undivided India**

It bears the circular Unit Censor in violet

The **Battle of Ramree Island** (also **Operation Matador**) was fought in January and February 1945 as part of the XV Indian Corps offensive on the southern front in the Burma Campaign.

Ramree Island (Yangbye Kywan) lies off the Burma coast. The island had been captured by the Imperial Japanese Army in early 1942, along with the rest of Southern Burma. In January 1945, the Allies launched an attack to retake Ramree and its neighbour Cheduba Island, to establish airbases on the islands for the supply of the mainland campaign. There have been reports of Japanese soldiers being eaten by saltwater crocodiles living in the inland mangrove swamps

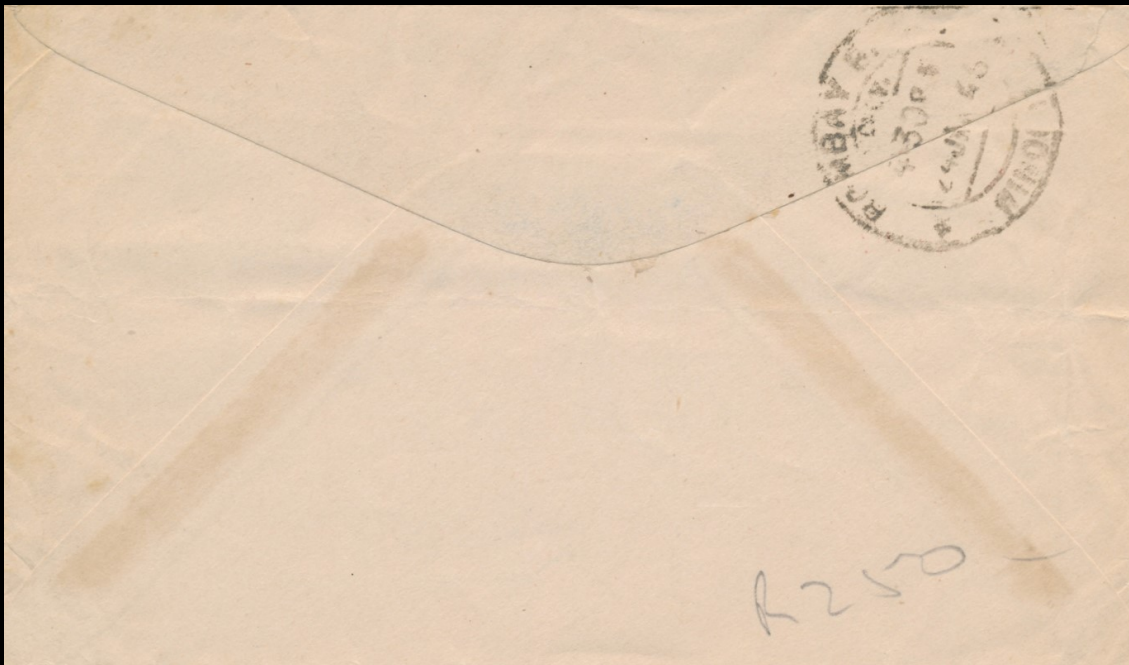




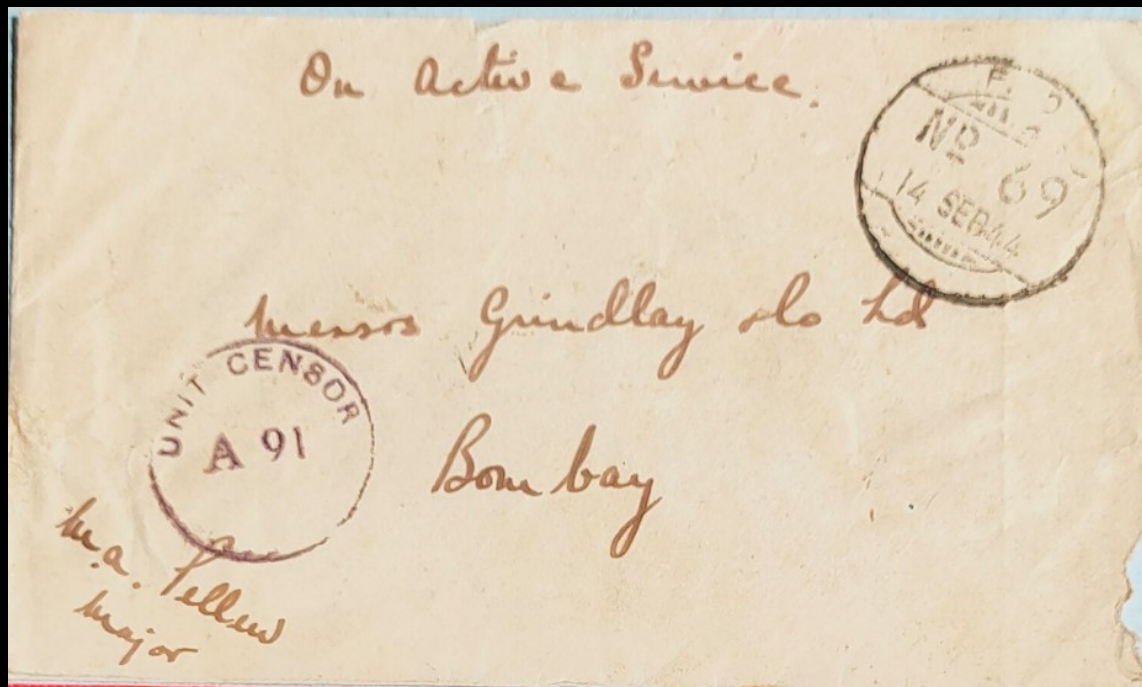
## FPO 68

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 68\*** at **Buitenzorg, DEI-Java** on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1946 to **Bombay, India**. The destination datestamps shows it reached on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1946.

FPO 68 The FPO travelled thru India, Burma, **DEI Java**, DEI Sumatra and was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1947 (E.B. Proud







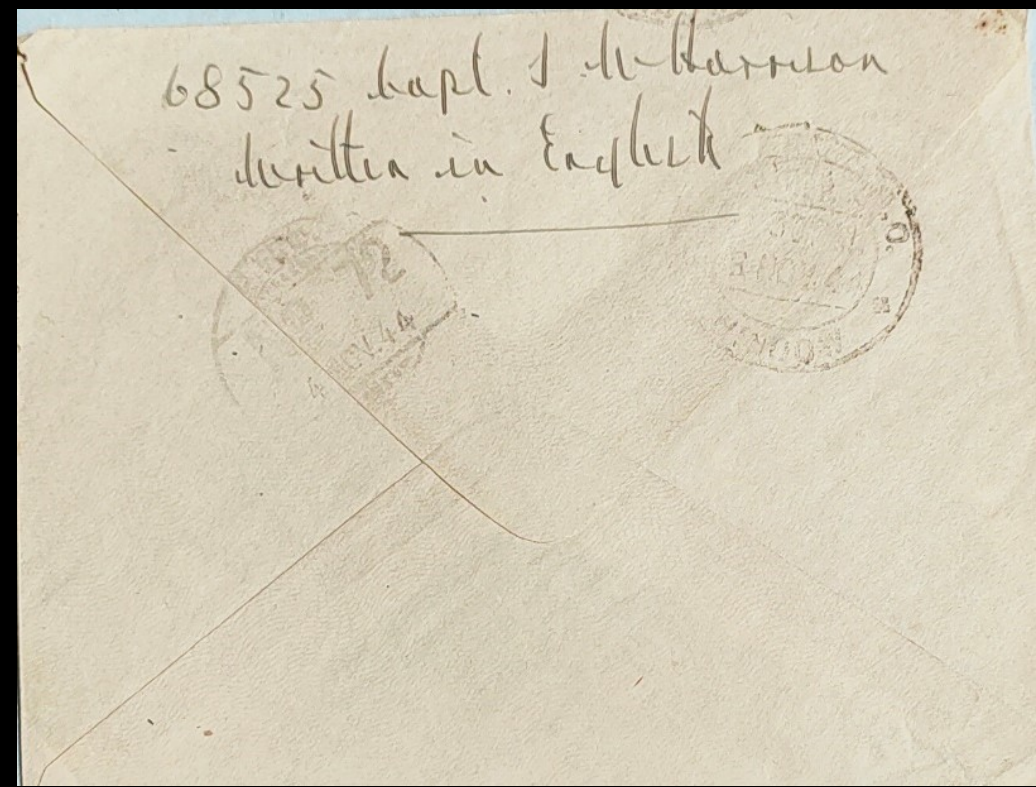
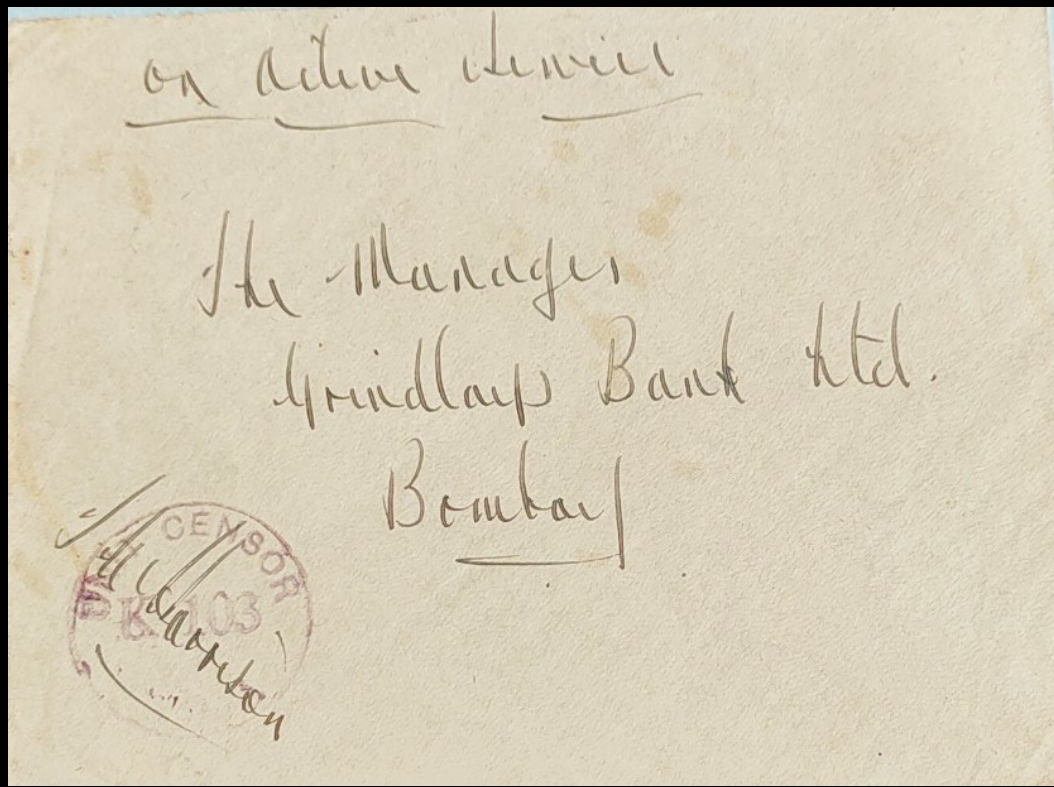
## FPO 69

The unstamped letter was posted from **FPO 69** at **Shillong, India** on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1944 to **Bombay, India**. It arrived at its destination on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1944.

It bears the circular Unit Censor in violet

FPO 69 travelled between **India**, Burma and Malaya and Dutch East Indies, it probably lost its equipment when the Brigade HQ was sacked by the Indonesians on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1945, the no was replaced by (R) 644 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 72

The stampless letter was posted from **FPO 72** at **Imphal area, India** on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1944 to **Bombay**. It arrived at its destination on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1944.

It bears the circular Unit Censor India handstamp in violet

FPO 72 travelled between **India** and Burma and Malaya. It was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1946 (E.B. Proud)





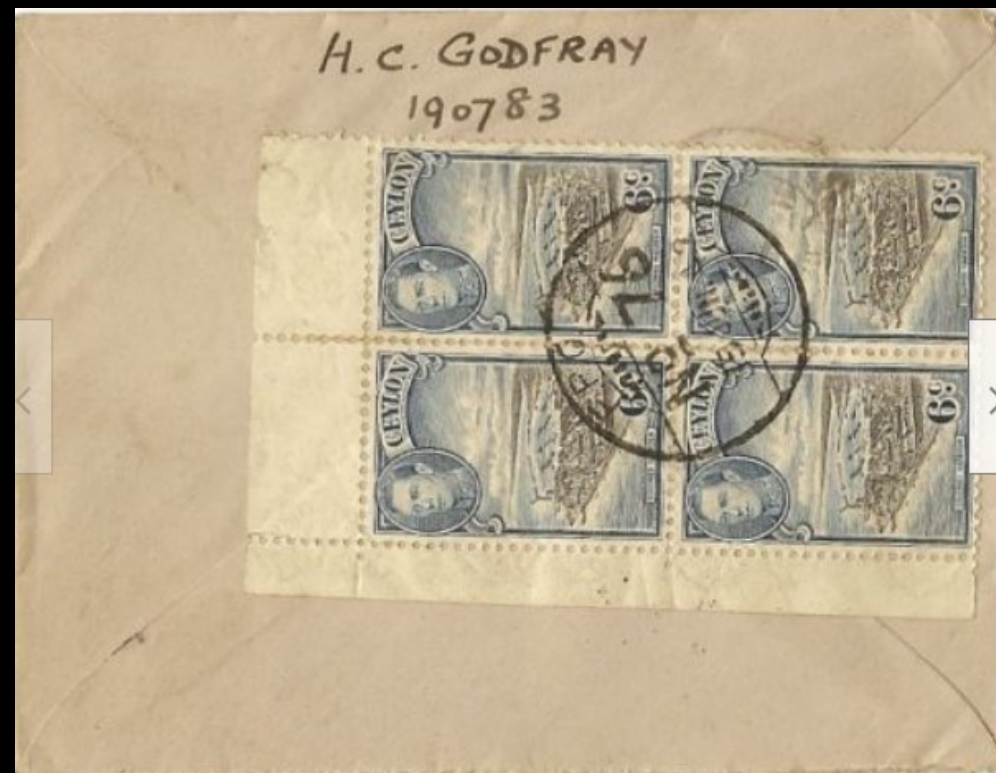
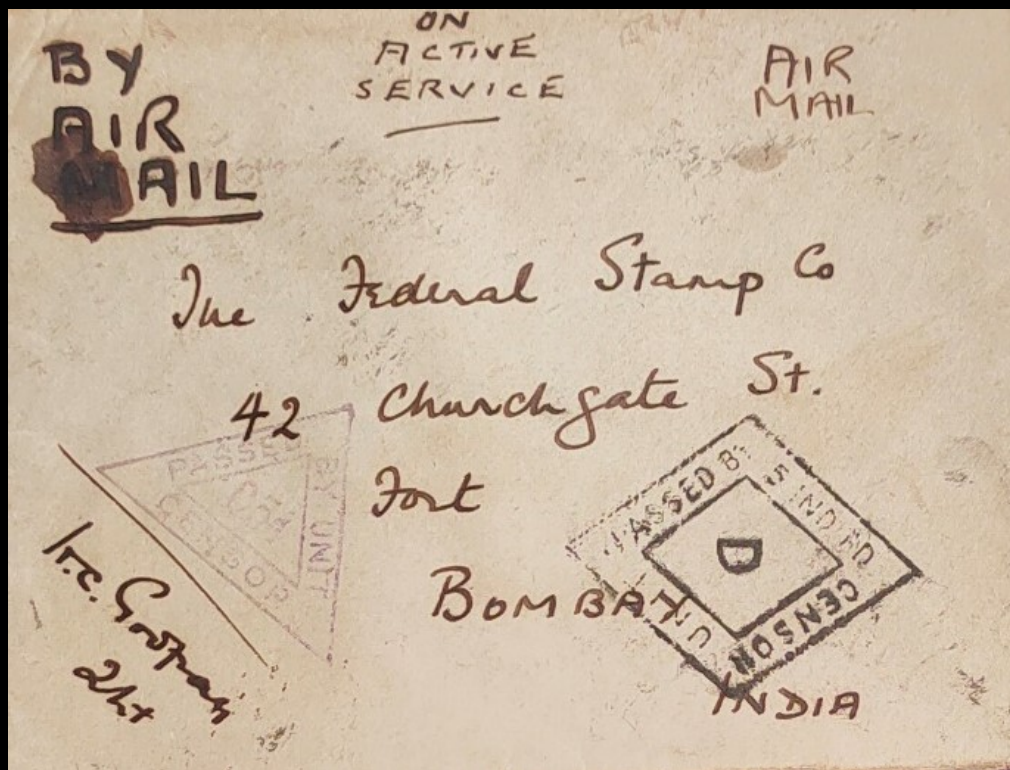
FPO 74

The letter was posted from **FPO 74** at **Colombo, Ceylon** to **England**. 2c KG VI Tapping Rubber, 3c Adam s Peak KG VI, 10 c Sigiriya Lion Rock KGVII Ceylon stamp affixed. The cover is reused with an Economy Slip to England. It is addressed to 483 Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

It bears the Oval No 5 Indian Field Censor in green. The writer of the letter Captain SJW Coles is attached with 99 Indian Infantry Brigade.

By agreement with the local administration FPOs started using Indian postage stamps once the Base Poste Office arrived in May 1942 and the senior postal officer arrived in June 1942. (Brig D S Virk)





FPO 76

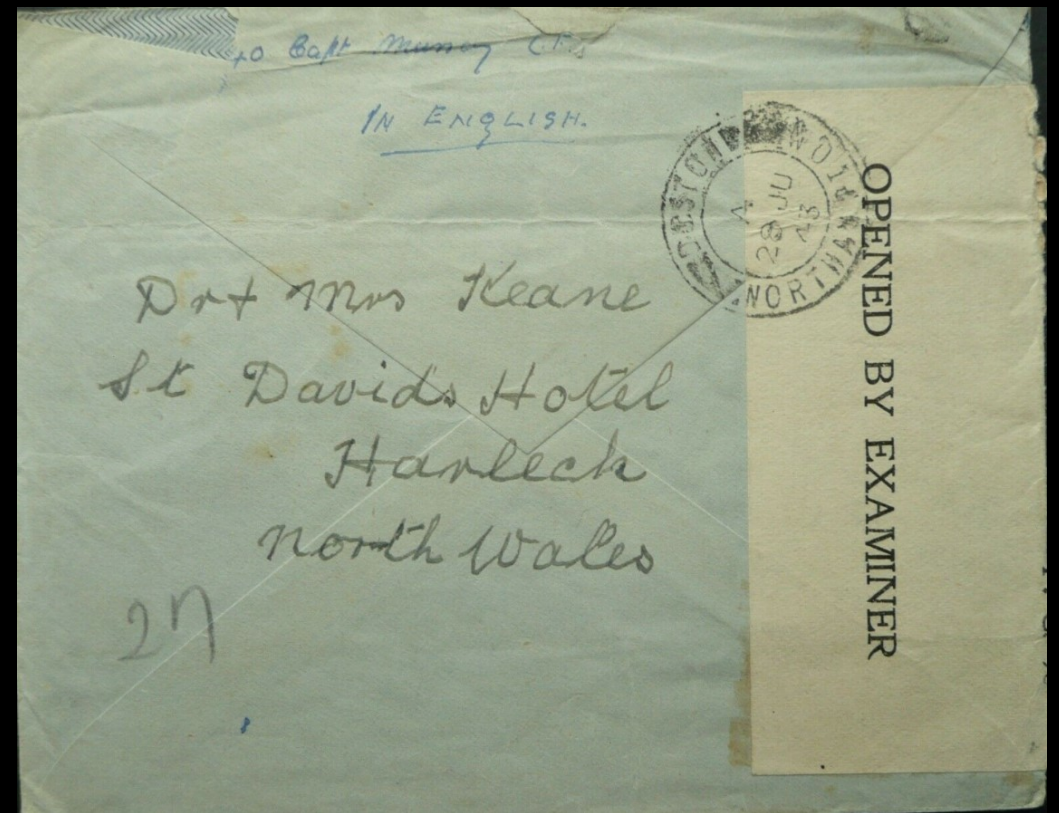
The letter was posted from **FPO 76** at **Trincomalee, Ceylon** on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1942 to **Bombay, India**. Block of 4\*6c Colombo Harbour Ceylon stamp affixed.

By agreement with the local administration FPOs started using Indian postage stamps once the Base Post Office arrived in May 1942 and the senior postal officer arrived in June 1942. (Brig D S Virk)

It bears the diamond Passed by 5 Ind Fd Censor Unit in black and triangle Censor handstamp Passed By Unit Censor C54

FPO 76 travelled between India, **Ceylon**, Burma and Indo China. It was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1946 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 76

The letter was posted from **FPO 76** on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1943 to **England**. Rs 1 KGVI Ceylon Trincomalee stamp affixed. **FPO 76 was recorded at Diyatalawa between 11<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> April 1943** and then at Ranchi area from 9<sup>th</sup> August to 29<sup>th</sup> October 1943.

By agreement with the local administration FPOs started using Indian postage stamps once the Base Poste Office arrived in May 1942 and the senior postal officer arrived in June 1942 but the Ceylon stamp is tied by the FPO 76 (Brig D S Virk)

It bears the strip Opened By Examiner PC90, triangle Field Censor India 60 and the circular Unit Censor India X 147 all in violet

FPO 76 travelled between India, **Ceylon**, Burma and Indo China. It was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1946 (E.B. Proud)



On Active Service.

23<sup>92</sup>/<sub>28</sub> Nov 44

To. C. Balthiwala.

Vaticha Sheer.

Malesar

Navsari

B.B. & C.I.

UNIT CENSOR  
B 35

B.B. Balthiwala

GUJARATI

B.B. Balthiwala

Capt.



## FPO 80\*

The stamp less letter was posted from **FPO 80\*** at **Ledo, India** on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1944 to **Navsari, India**. It arrived at its destination on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1944 with the cachet Buy National Saving Certificate

It bears the circular censor handstamp Unit Censor B35 in violet

The **Ledo Road** from Ledo, Assam, India to Kunming, Yunnan, China was an overland connection between India and China, built during Second World War to enable the Allied Forces to deliver supplies to China and aid the war effort against Japan. After the Japanese cut off the Burma Road in 1942 an alternative was required, hence the construction of the Ledo road. It was renamed the **Stilwell Road**, after General Joseph Stilwell of the U S Army in early 1945 at the suggestion of Chiang Kai Shek.

FPO 80 travelled between India and Burma and Indo China. It was disbanded at Ranchi, India on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1946 (E.B. Proud)



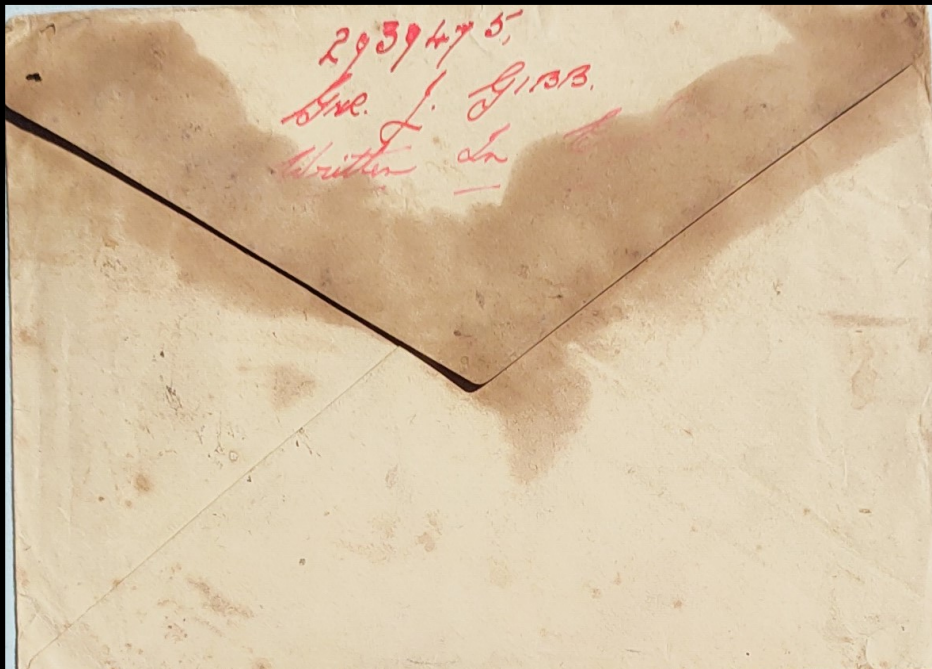


FPO 82

The Honour Envelope was posted from **FPO 82** at **Ledo, India** on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1944 to **Scotland**; 4\*2 as India, King George VI stamp is affixed.

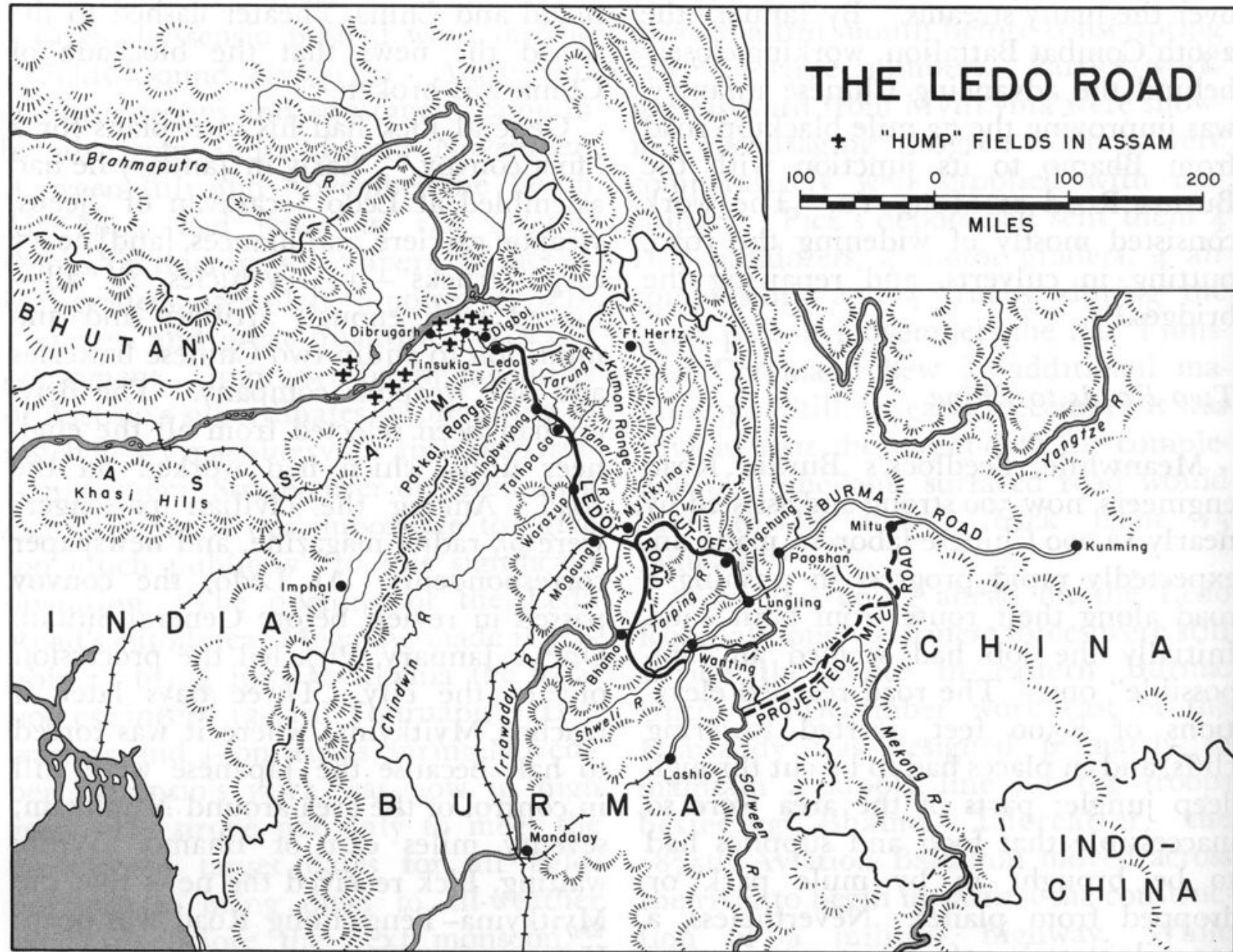
It bears the circular censor handstamp Unit Censor A 889 in and triangle Censor handstamp 189 both in violet colour

FPO 82 travelled between **India** and Burma. It was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1947  
(E.B. Proud)





## The LEDO ROAD







## FPO 82

The cover was posted from **FPO 82** at **Tiddim, Burma** on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1943 to **England**. It reached its destination on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1944 where it was redirected to another address; 2\*4 as India, KG VI stamp affixed. It bears the circular censor handstamp Unit Censor B126 India in violet colour

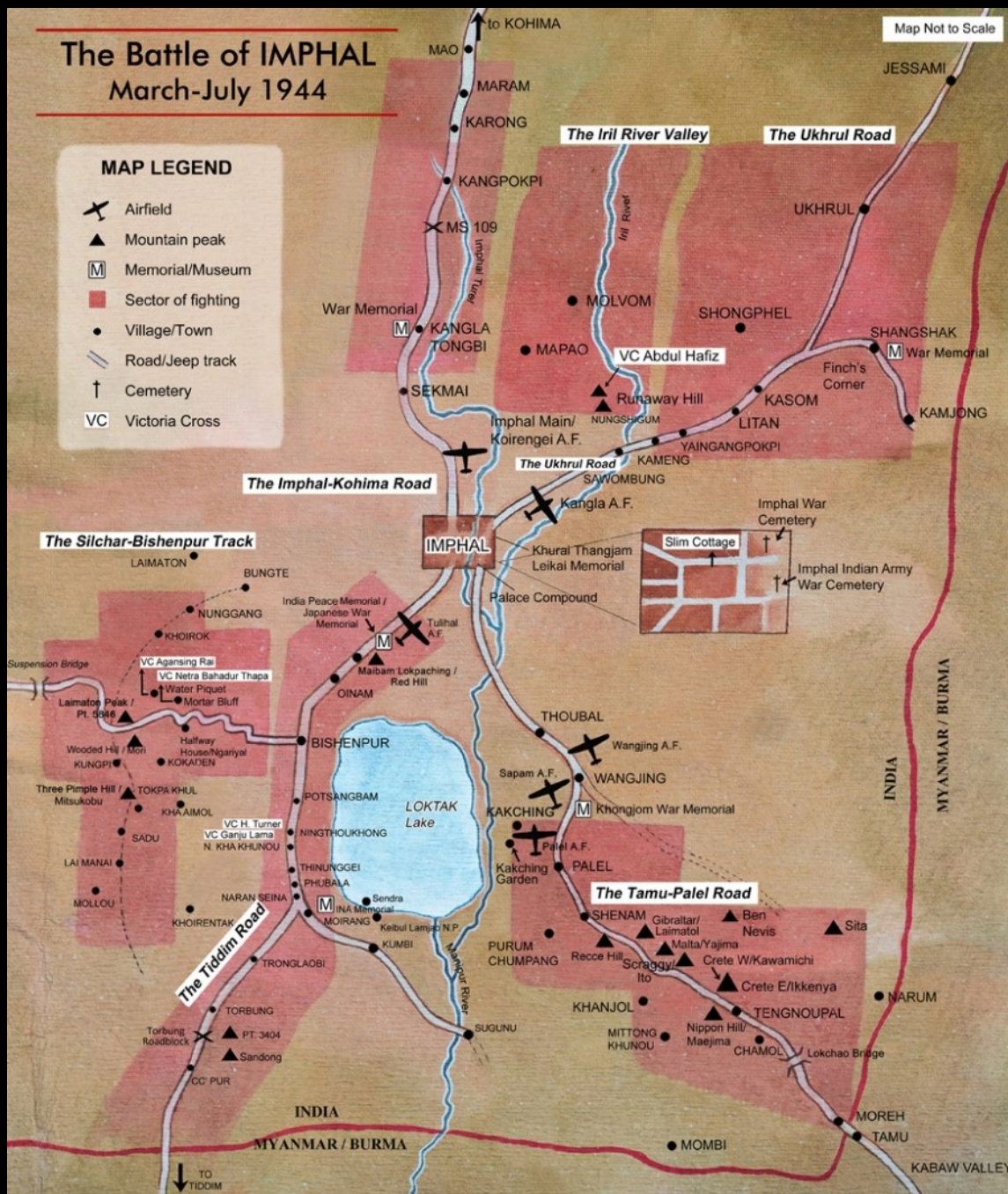
*“The battles...on the Tiddim Road were some of the fiercest of the whole Burma war and were to have a profound influence on its outcome” – Ian Lyall Grant, Burma – The Turning Point*

The Tiddim Road stretches northwards from Tiddim village in the Chin Hills of Myanmar right up to Imphal. Once the Japanese invasion began, it was the route through which the Tiddim-based 17th Indian Division made a fighting withdrawal. Most of the battles during the withdrawal – at Tonzang, Singgel, Sakawng – were fought on the Burma side of the Road. In April to July 1944 the Japanese clashed with the British Army on the Manipur part of the Tiddim Road in their drive towards Imphal.

For the majority of this period, the British forces here consisted of the 17th Indian Division, commanded by Major General DT ‘Punch’ Cowan, together with 32 Brigade of the 20th Indian Division. According to Slim, it was on the Tiddim Road and on the Silchar-Bishenpur Track that some of the heaviest fighting in the entire Battle of Imphal-Kohima took place. For, facing the British on the Tiddim Road was the Japanese 33rd Division, which Slim recognized as ‘living up to its reputation of being the toughest Division in Burma’. This Division was commanded by Lieutenant General Yanagida until May, after which Lieutenant General Tanaka Nobuo took over.

FPO 82 travelled between India and Burma. It was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1947 (E.B. Proud)





## The Battle of Imphal

The Victoria Cross, the highest British military decoration for bravery, was awarded to five people for their actions in Manipur during the Battle of Imphal.

They were:

Jemadar Abdul Hafiz of the 9th Jat Regiment on April 6, 1944, at Runaway Hill near the Iri River Valley. This was the first Victoria Cross awarded to a Muslim in the Second World War.

Sergeant Hanson Victor Turner of the West Yorkshire Regiment on June 7, 1944, at Ningthoukhong on the Tiddim Road.

Rifleman Ganju Lama of the 7th Gurkha Rifles on June 12, 1944, at Ningthoukhong .

Naik Agansing Rai of the 5th Gurkha Rifles on June 26, 1944, at Water Piquet on the Silchar-Bishenpur Track.

Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa of the 5th Gurkha Rifles on June 26, 1944, at Mortar Bluff on the Silchar-Bishenpur Track.





## FPO 82

The stampless envelope addressed to Brig C D Rawson CBE was posted from **FPO 82** at **Pyawbwe, Burma** on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1945 to **England** by **Major General David Tennant Cowan CB, CBE, DSO & Bar, MC**, also known as **"Punch" Cowan**.

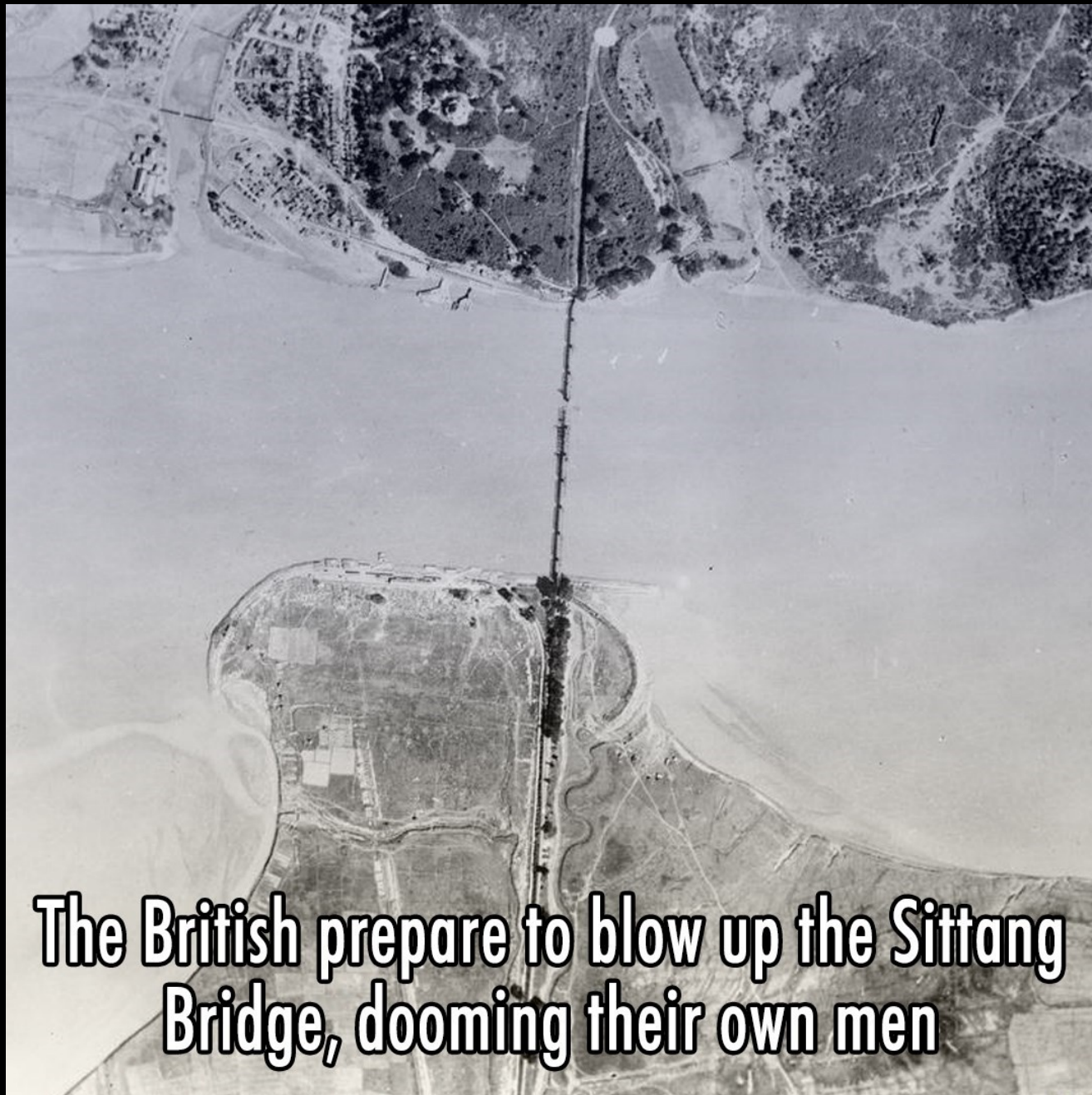
He was an officer in the British Army and British Indian Army in World War I and World War II and for his leadership in Burma was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Order. He remained in command of the 17<sup>th</sup> Division for the rest of the Burma Campaign: during the retreat into India, the fighting around Tiddim in 1943, the Battle of Imphal in 1944 and the drive into Central Burma in 1945. Early in 1945, his son was killed whilst serving as an officer in Cowan's old unit (1/6 Gurkha Rifles). He fought the decisive Battle of Meiktila, the result in favour of the Allied Forces, having suffered this loss

The cover bears the circular censor handstamp "Unit Censor AA1" It is self censored in violet colour. FPO 82 travelled between India and Burma. It was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1947 (E.B. Proud)

Controversy surrounds Major General Jackie Smyth, VC handling of 17th Indian Division on 22nd February 1942, during its retreat across Sittang River, Burma. It was said that he failed to expedite a strong bridgehead on the enemy's side of the river and was forced, when it came under threat from the Japanese, to order the blowing of the bridge while two-thirds of his division were still on the far side with no other means of crossing the river and therefore dooming them. Seventeen Division were the only formation standing between the Japanese and Rangoon, and this loss therefore led directly to the loss of Rangoon and Lower Burma.

The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Archibald Wavell was furious and sacked Gen Smyth on the spot and his deputy Major General David Punch Cowan was asked to take over the 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Division





**The British prepare to blow up the Sittang Bridge, dooming their own men**



The 17th Infantry Division badge, a formation of the Indian Army. During World War II, it had the distinction of being continually in combat during the three-year-long Burma Campaign.

The Sittang Bridge, 1942.  
Source: IWM, CB(OPS) 5008



## FPO 82

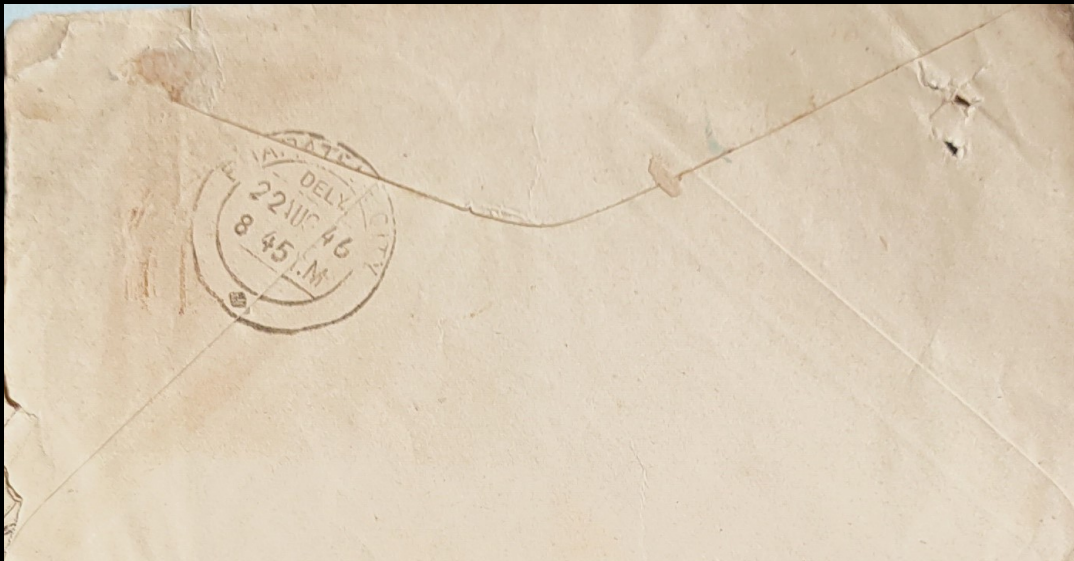
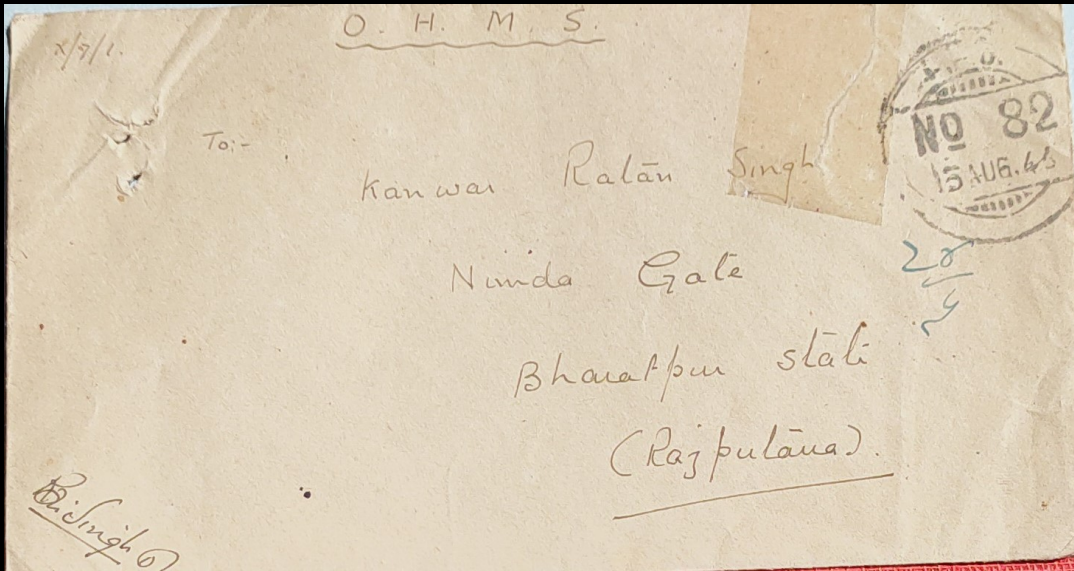
The stampless envelope was posted from **FPO 82** at **Meiktila, Burma** on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1946 to **Bharatpur, India**

In Dec 1944, William Slim of 14<sup>th</sup> British Army imagined that the Japanese would expect the Anglo-Indian troops to march for the historic city of Mandalay. He devised a plan to attack Meiktila instead. Located 150 kilometers to the south, Meiktila represented a main stop on the supply route for food and ammunition for Japanese troops in central and northern Burma, thus by capturing Meiktila, Slim believed that he would be able to isolate the entire northern Burma with ease for a quick victory.

On 29 Feb 1945, the attack on the Meiktila region began by the troops of Major General David Cowan's Indian 17th Division troops captured the city by 3rd March, and by 5th March all Japanese resistance in the region was eliminated. The Allies captured 47 Japanese prisoners; a majority of the remainder were killed or committed suicide.

The Japanese were not ready to give up on Meiktila, however. The Japanese mounted a counter attack at a strength of 12,000 men compared to 15,000-strong Indian 17th Division. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1945, Meiktila was fully secured by the Allied Forces

FPO 82 travelled between India and Burma. It was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1947 (E.B. Proud)







## FPO 88

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 88** at **Saida(Sidon), Lebanon** on **29<sup>th</sup> November 1943** to **England**. 3d GB, KG VI stamp affixed. The writer of the letter Pvr Kaylow is attached with '509 Infantry Brigade Coy, RASC, MEF

It bears the circular British Passed By Censor with No 4991 strip.

The British Post Office had raised a question that British troops served by Indian APO should be permitted to use British stamps at British rates. The Indian Post Office resisted this claim but it could not stop its FPO s overseas from accepting mail from troops prepaid with British stamps so long as it did not have to carry that mail to the destination under its oen arrangements and cost. This became acceptable in all theatres. Brig D S Virk

FPO 88 travelled thru Eritrea, **Lebanon**, Libya and left via Egypt and the FPO was disbanded at Kamptee on 3rd March 1947 (E.B. Proud)





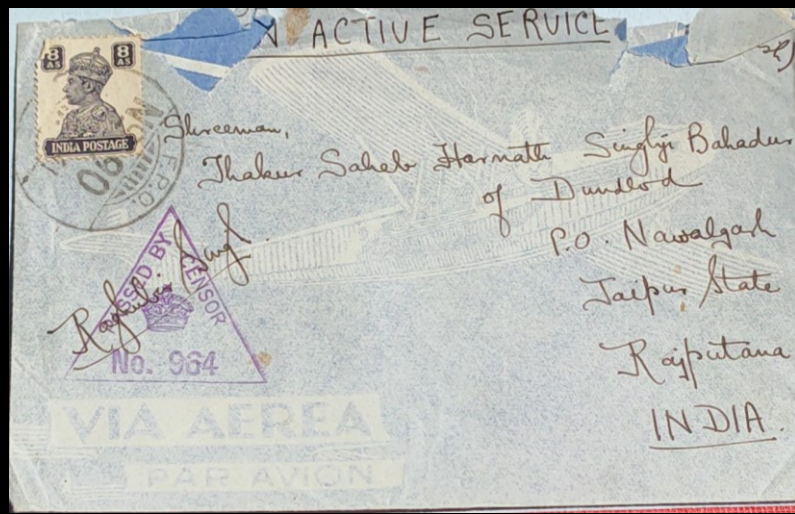
FPO 88

The Blue Ribbon Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 88** at **Saida(Sidon), Lebanon** on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1944 via the **Base Post Office** on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1944 to **Ahmadnagar, India**. It reached its destination on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1944. 3 as India, KG VI stamp is affixed

It bears the censor strip, A.F.W3312 Examined By Base Censor, large handstamp of the Deputy Chief Field Censor and a boxed 47 at the rear all in violet.

FPO 88 travelled thru Eritrea, **Lebanon**, Libya and left via Egypt and the FPO was disbanded at Kamptee on 3rd March 1947 (E.B. Proud)





On 27<sup>th</sup> march 1941, the mobile force from 29<sup>th</sup> brigade (5 Indian division) entered Keren (Eritria), Italians fought well but surrendered. Keren was captured by the Allied Forces at the cost of 500 killed and 3000 wounded. Though it was only 5 percent of the Italian casualties and the prisoners captured.

“The Italians fought well but could not stick to it as long as us” wrote

**2/Lt (Later Lt Gen) Prem Bhagat from Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners, Indian Army. He was awarded the Victoria Cross in this operation.** He further added that

**‘We had literal hell for a month but was worth it.’**

The road to Asmara beyond lay open, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1941, the Italian convoy streamed out of Asmara and surrendered to 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Div.

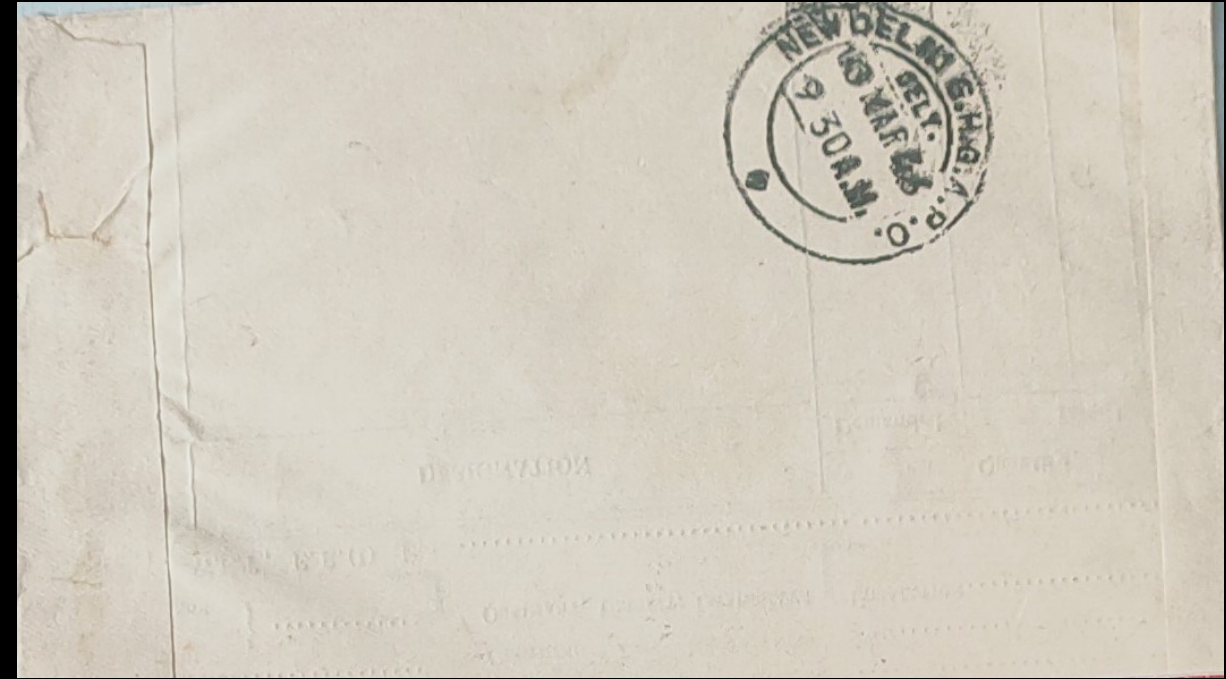
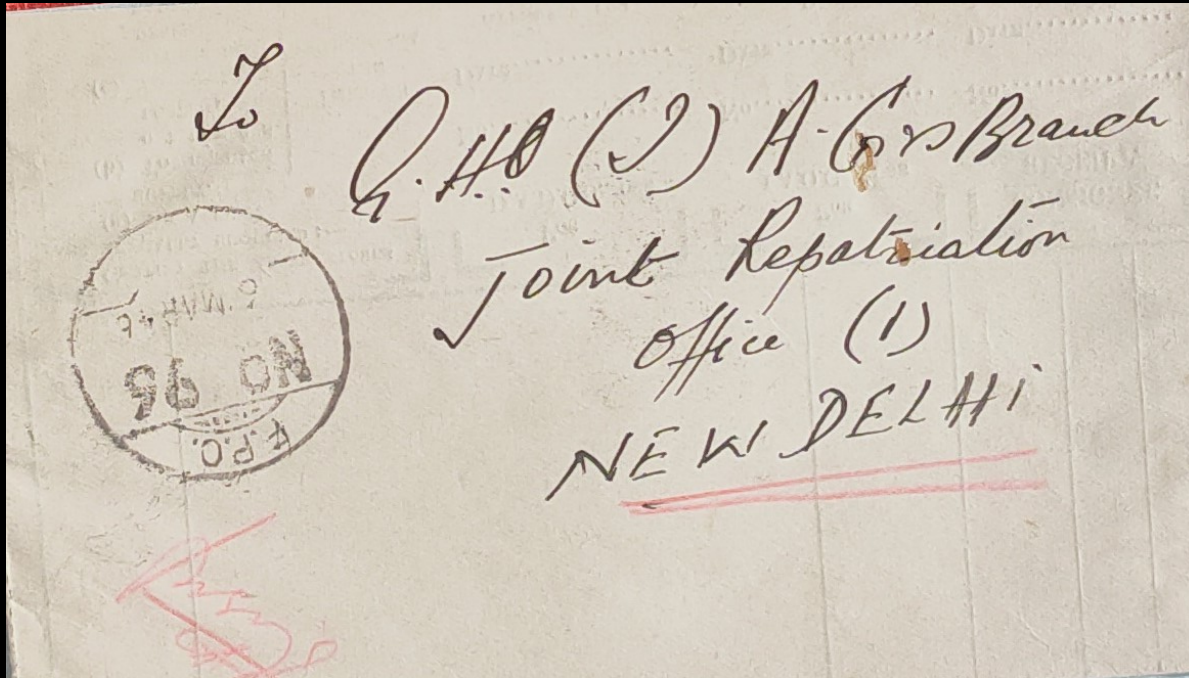
FPO 90



The captured Italian printed Ala Littoria printed airmail envelope was posted from **FPO 90 at Asmara (Fiat showroom), Eritrea-September 1941 to Nawalgarh.** It arrived at its destination on 6 October 1941; 8d India, KG VI stamp is affixed

It bears the Triangle Passed By Censor No 964 and a crown.

FPO 88 travelled thru Eritrea, Libya, Egypt and Greece, the FPO was disbanded at Kamptee on 28 February 1947 (E.B. Proud)



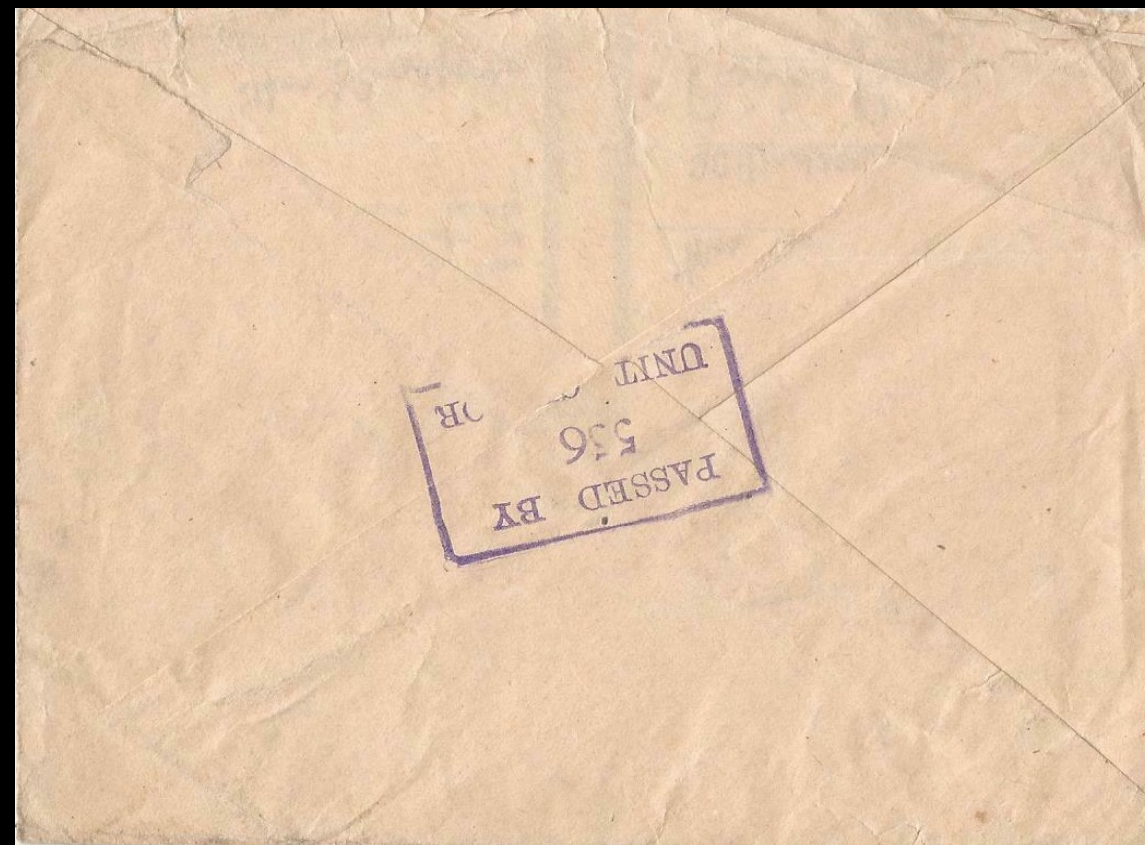
## FPO 96

This stampless cover was posted from **FPO 96** at **Quetta, undivided India** on **6<sup>th</sup> March 1946** to **New Delhi, India**.

It is addressed to General Head Quarters (India) the Joint repatriation office (India). This office was handling the repatriation of the Second World War -Prisoners Of War

FPO 101 travelled thru India and was disbanded at Kamptee on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1946 (E.B. Proud)





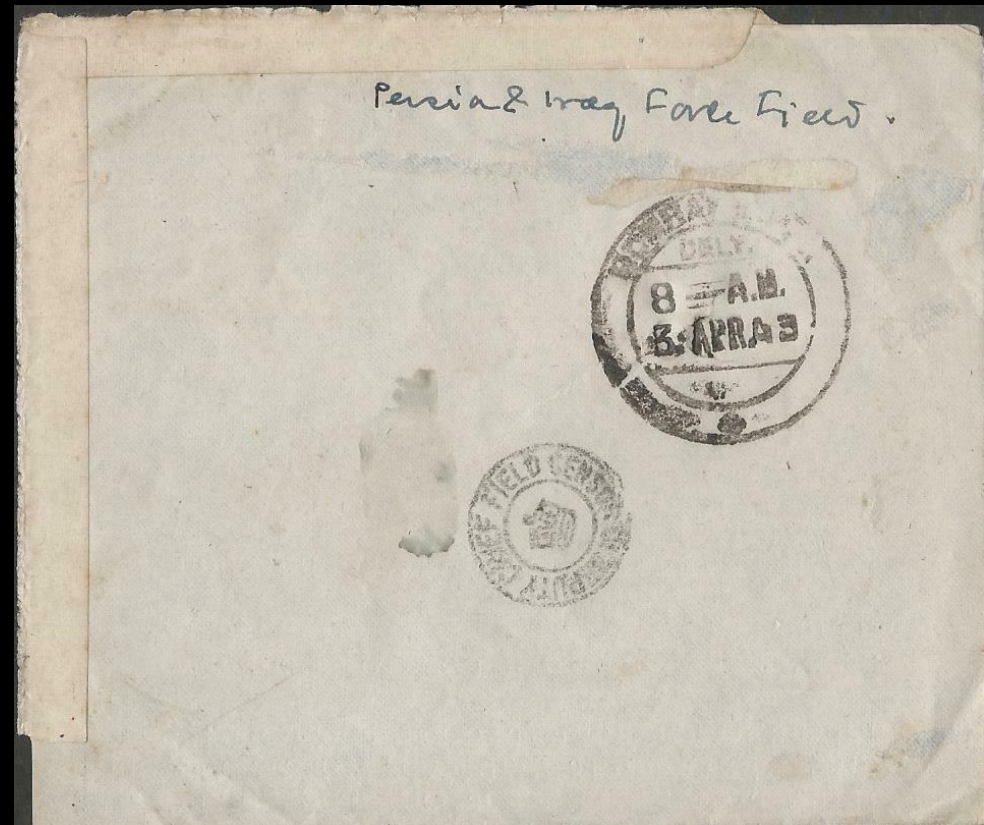
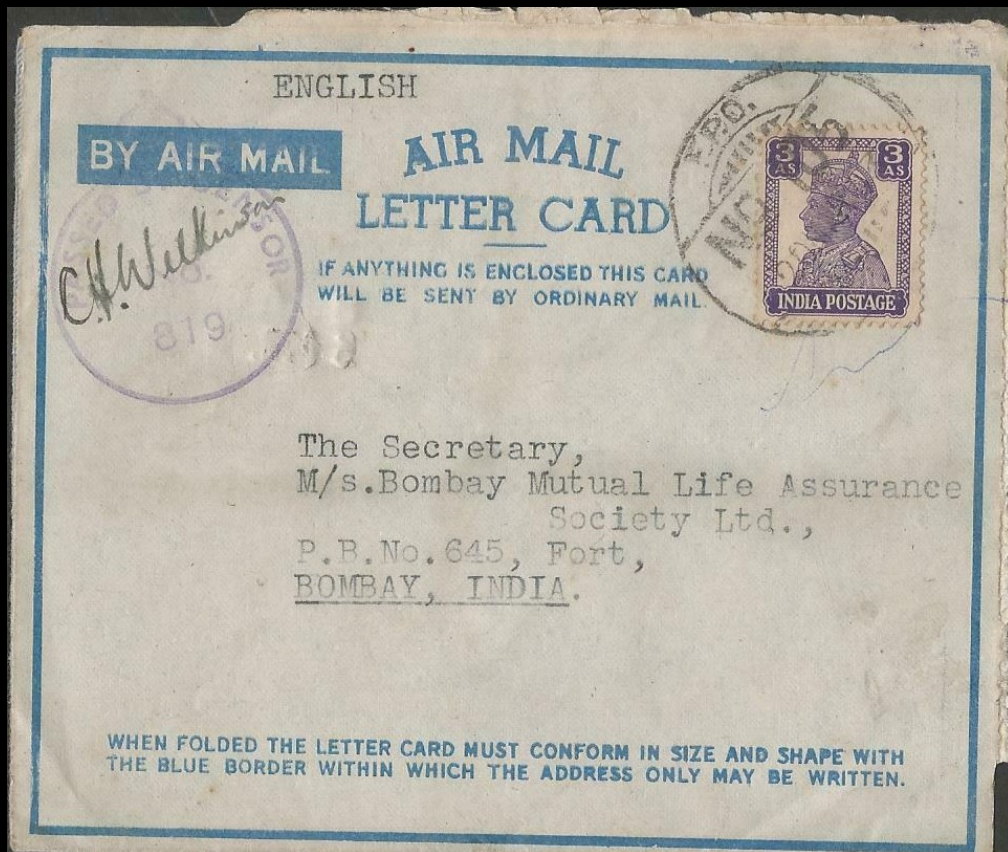
## FPO 101

The Honour Envelope was posted from **FPO 101** to **Scotland**. 8as India, King George VI stamp is affixed

It bears the boxed Passed By Unit Censor 556 in violet and the Deputy Chief Field Censor in black

FPO 101 travelled thru Persia and Bahrein and was disbanded at Nagpur on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1946 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 105

The Air Mail Letter Card was posted from **FPO 105** at **Sultanabad, Persia** on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1943 to **Bombay, India**; 3as India, KG VI stamp is affixed

It bears the circular Passed By Censor 819 in violet and the Deputy Chief Field Censor in black

FPO 105 travelled thru Iraq and **Persia** and was disbanded at Nagpur on 31<sup>th</sup> May 1946 (E.B. Proud)



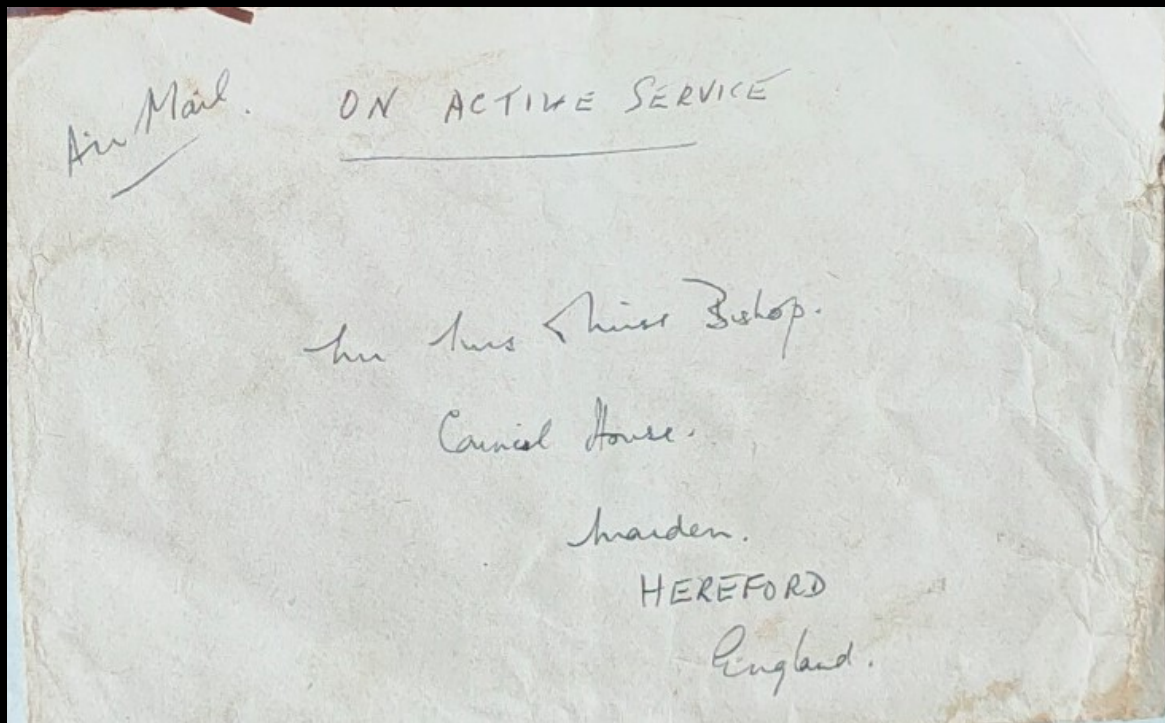


## FPO 106

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 106** at **Asansol, India** on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1943 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1943

It bears the censor strip, P.C.90 Opened By Examiner, circular Unit Censor India D87. It has 2 Triangle Field Censor India 20 in violet

FPO 106 travelled thru **India** and Burma, it was disbanded at Nagpur on 30th June 1947 (E.B. Proud)



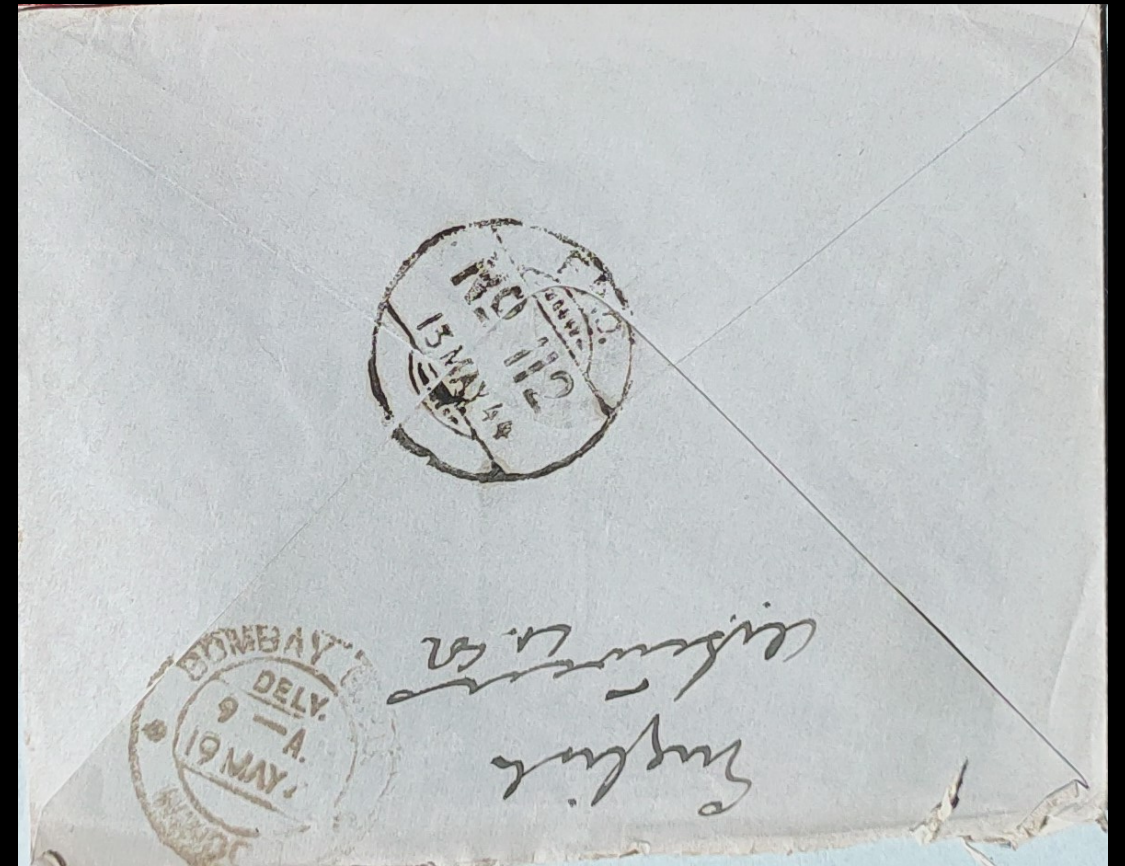
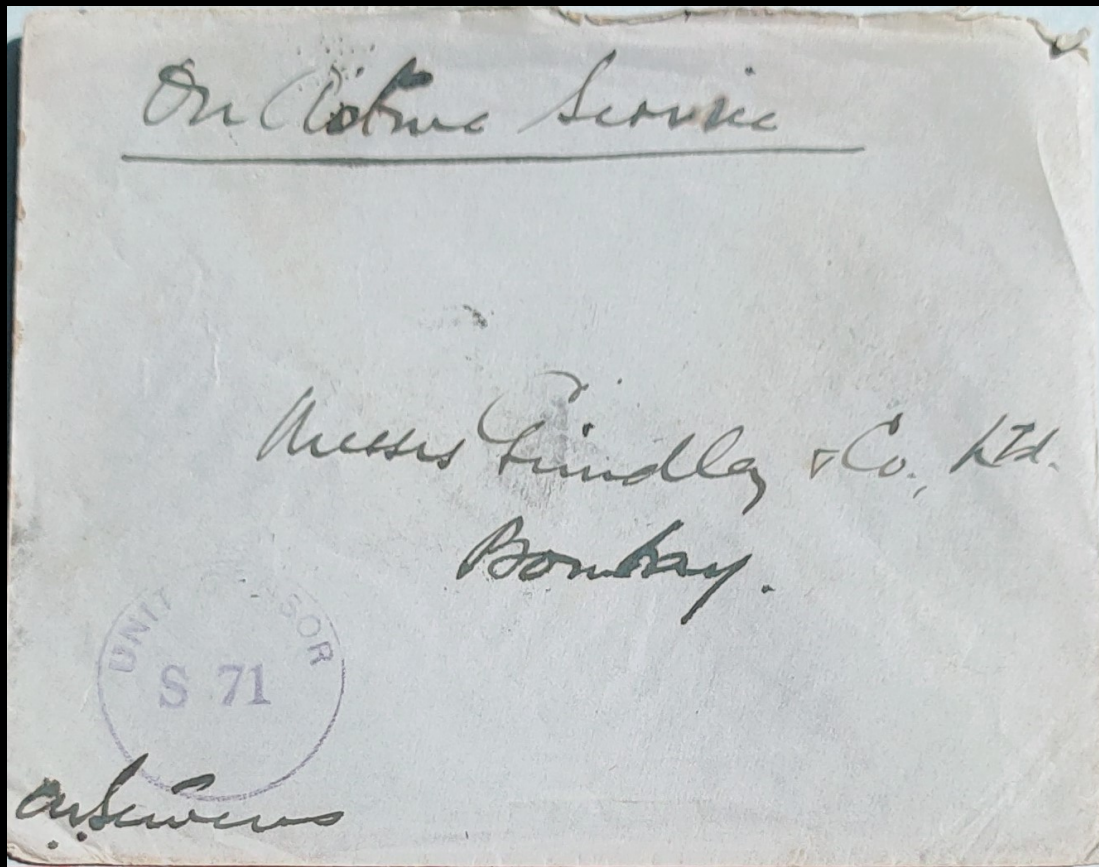
## FPO 107

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 107** at **Shaibah, Iraq** on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1946 to **England**.

This particular datestamp was recorded between 25<sup>th</sup> April 1944 and 30<sup>th</sup> May 1946

FPO 107 travelled thru Persia and **Iraq**, it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1946 (E.B. Proud)





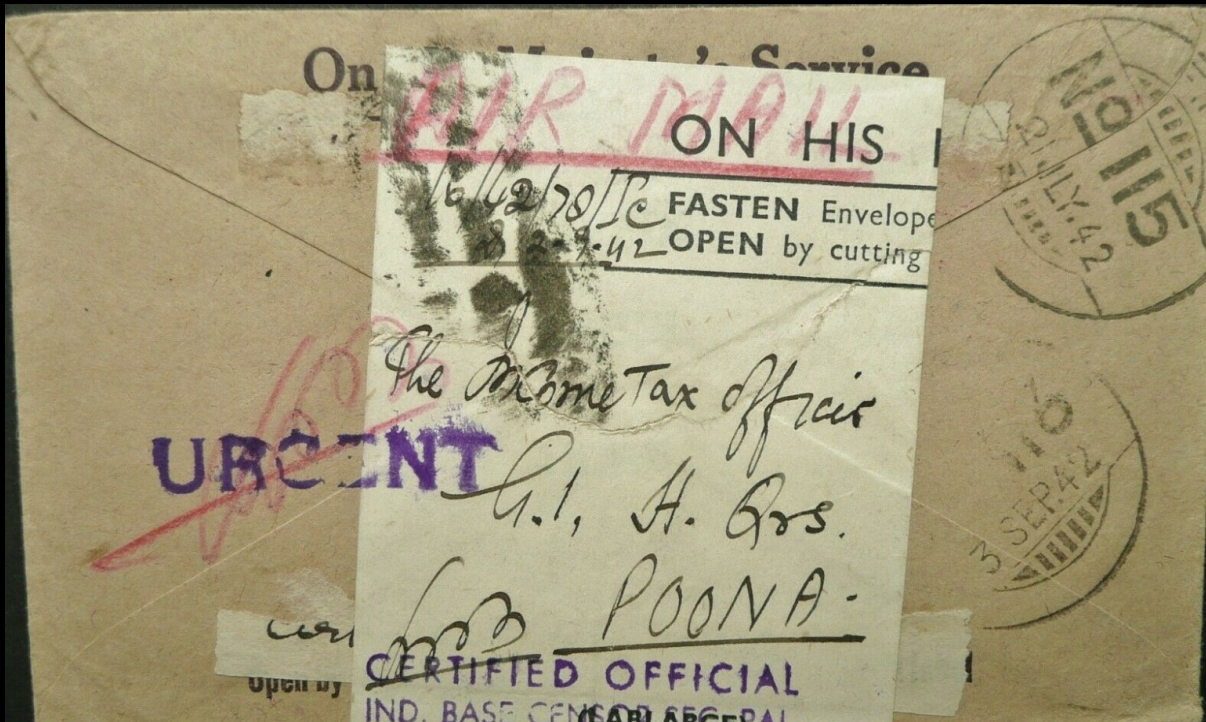
## FPO 112

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 112** at **Jorhat, India** on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1944 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1944

It bears the circular Unit Censor India S71

FPO 112 travelled thru **India**, Burma and Japan (E.B. Proud)



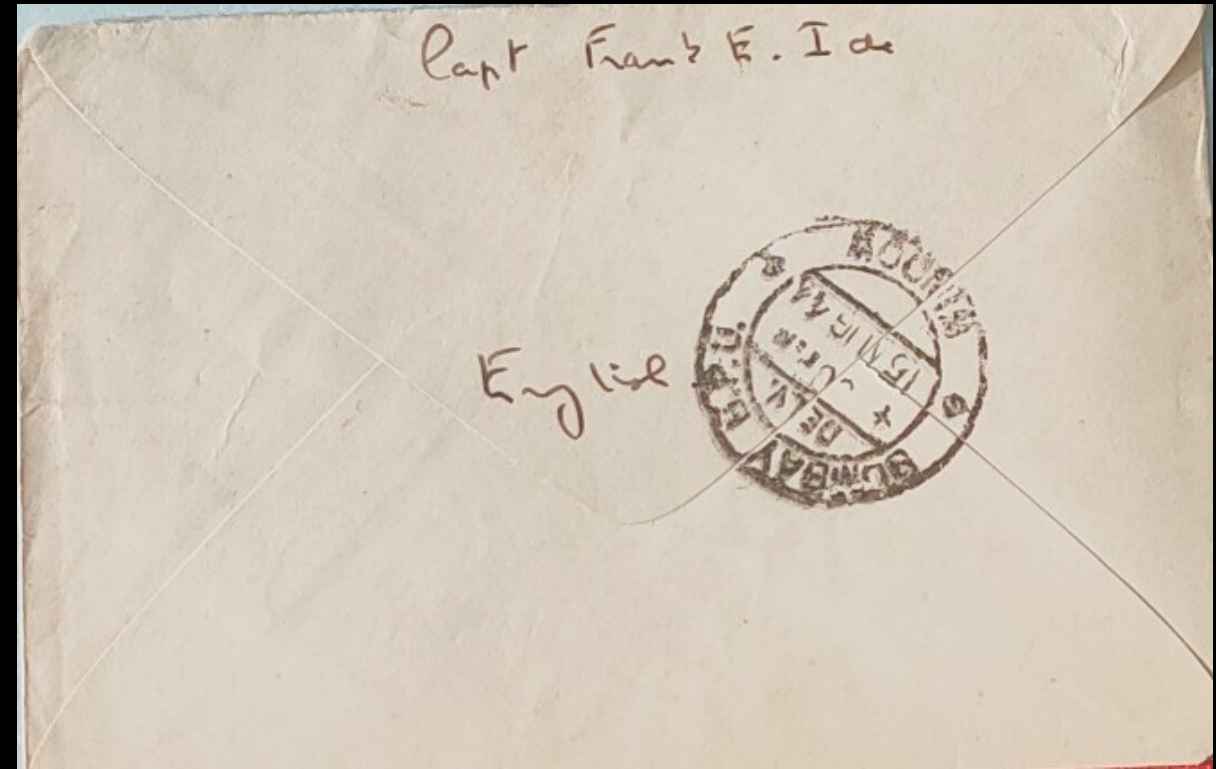
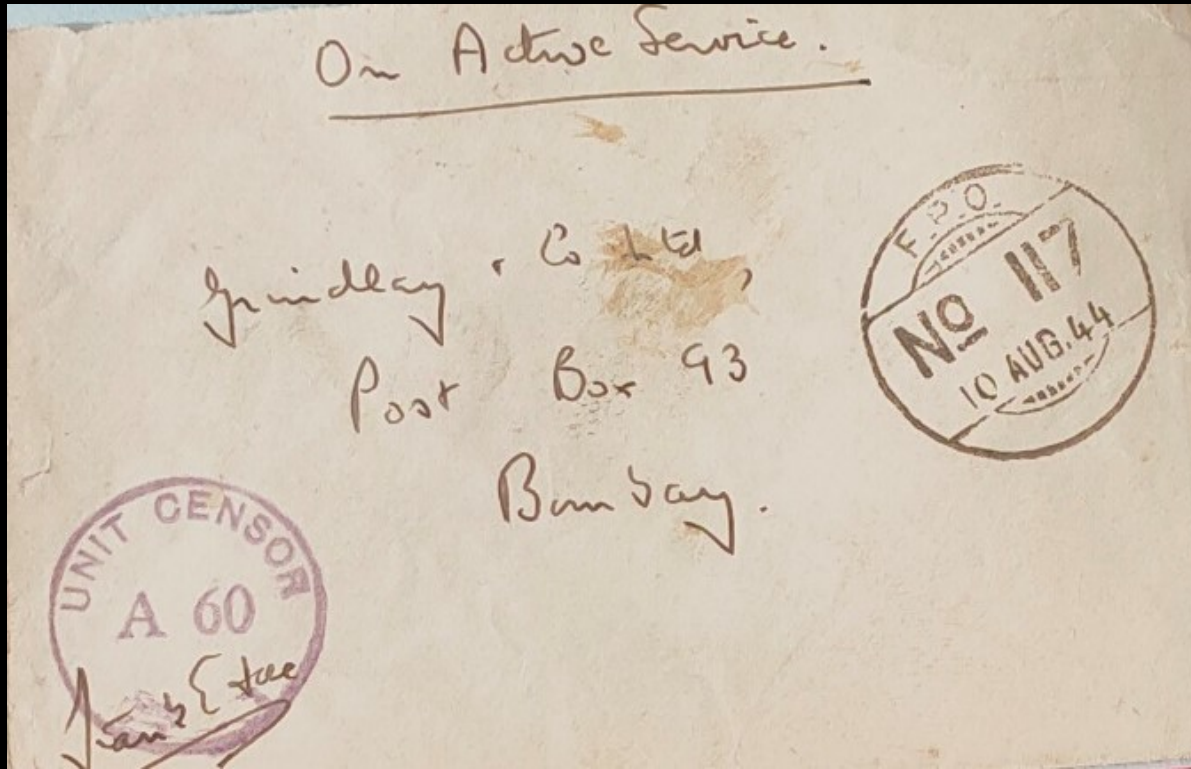


## FPO 115 & FPO 116

The printed reused cover titled ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE bears **FPO 115** at **Damascus** dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 1942 (**not seen by Proud**), **FPO 116** at **Haifa, Palestine** dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1942. The cover is reused with an Economy Slip addressed to The Income Tax Officer General Head Quarters, Poona.

It bears Urgent handstamp, Certified Official, IND. BASE CENSOR SEC PAI (Persia and Iraq) in violet.



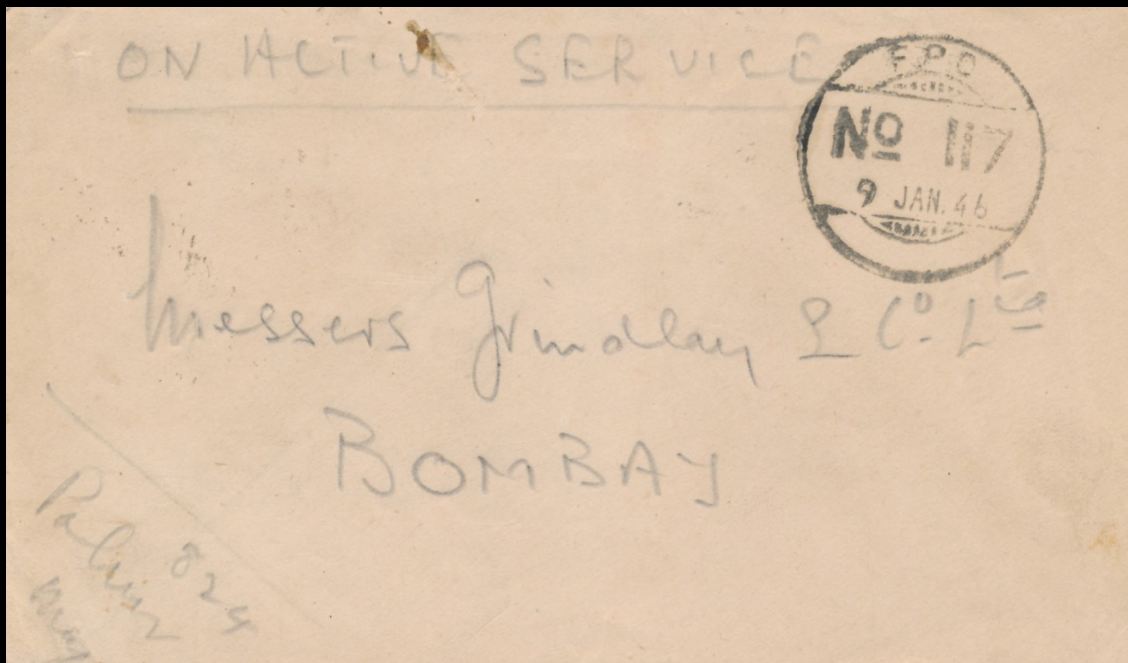


## FPO 117

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 117** at **Jorhat, India** on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1944 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1944

It bears the circular Unit Censor A60

FPO 117 travelled thru **India**, Malaya, NEI-Java It was disbanded at Kamptee on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (E.B. Proud)



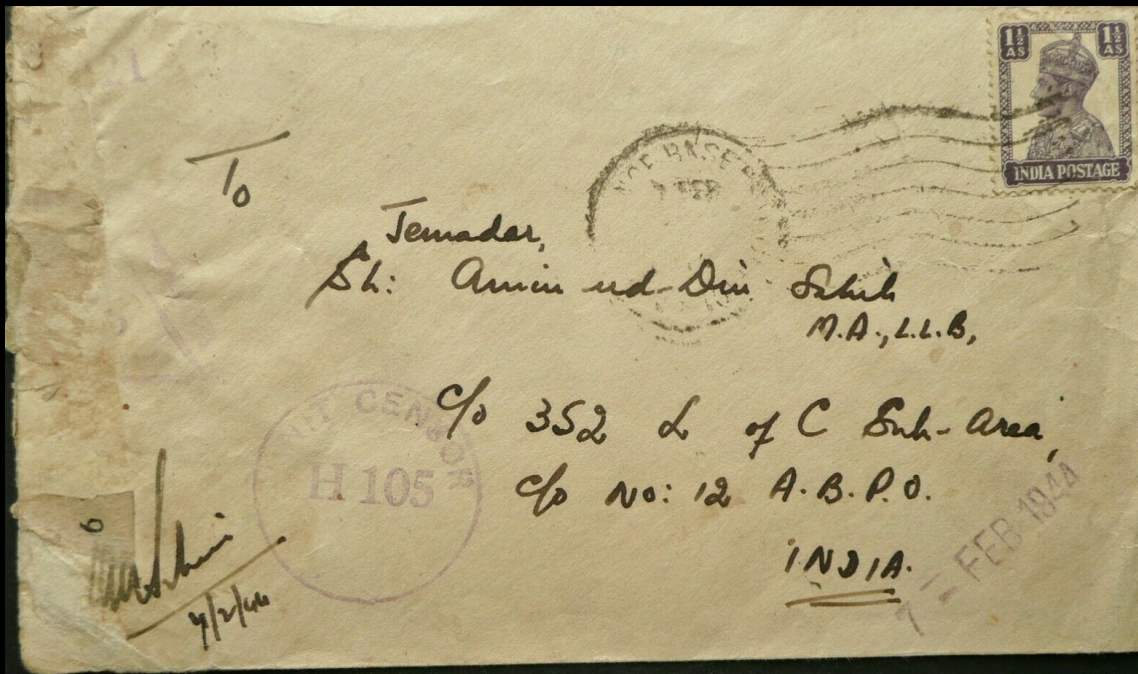
## FPO 117

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 117** at **Batavia, DEI-Java** on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1946 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1946 as shown on the destination datestamp.

FPO 117 travelled thru **India**, Malaya, DEI-Java It was disbanded at Kamptee on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (E.B. Proud)







## FPO 118

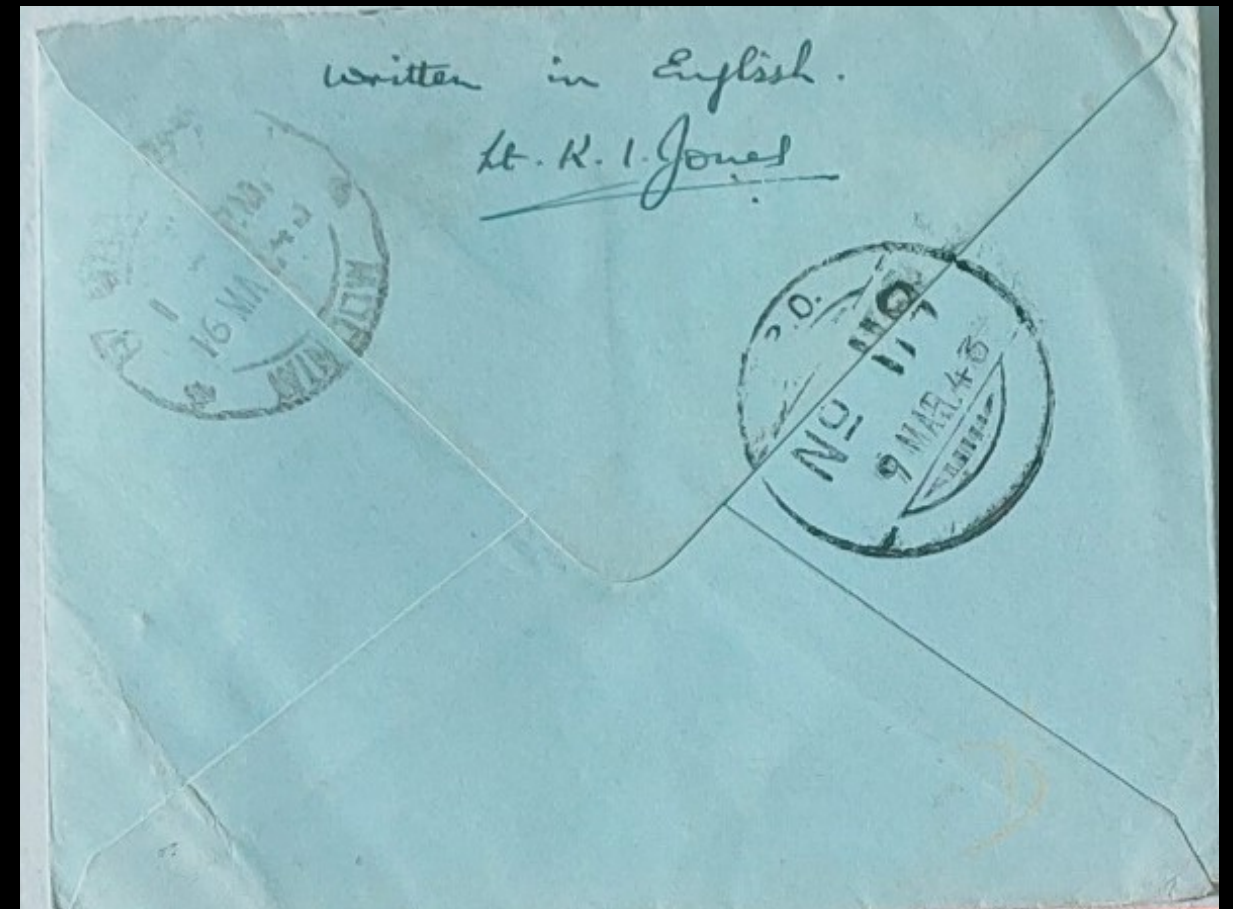
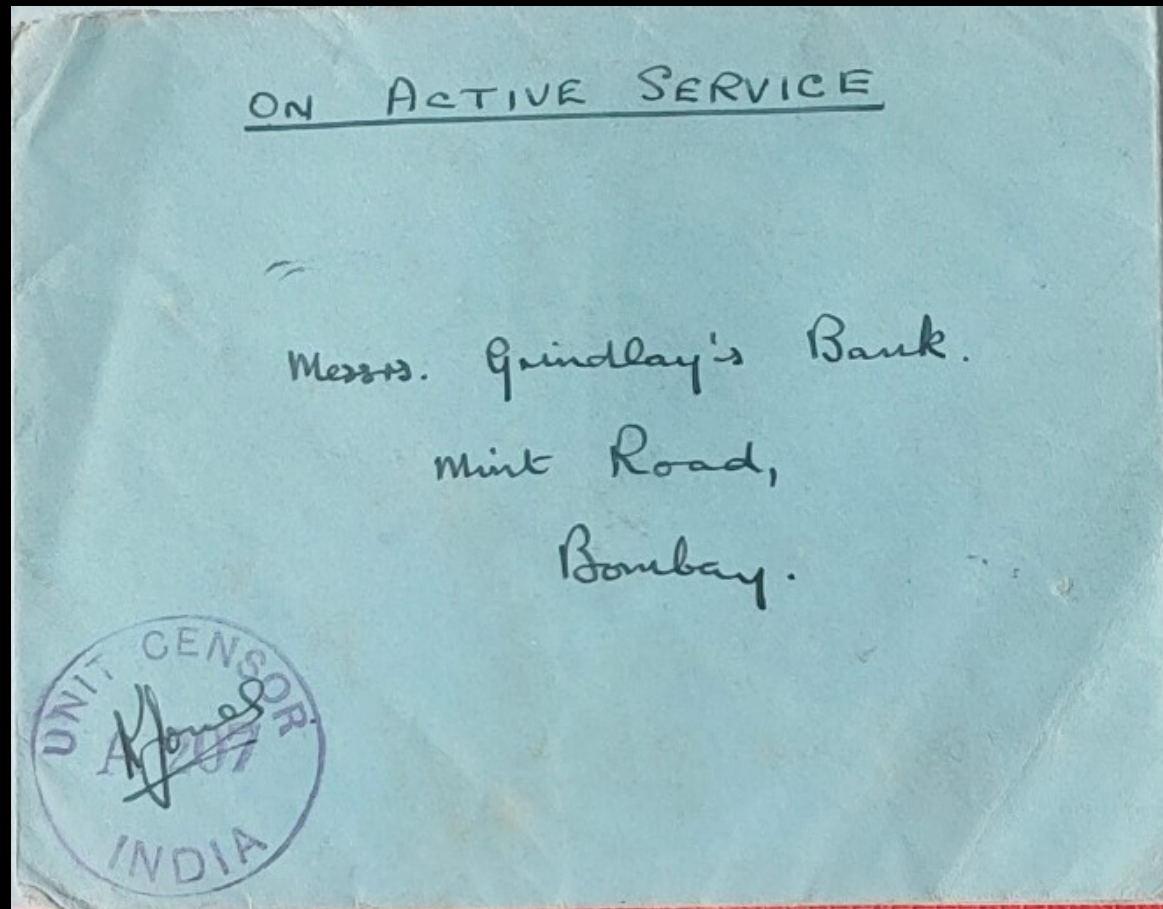
The cover has a few faint Base Post office datestamps; only visible is FPO 118 at **Fort William, India** on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1944 to c/o 12 ABPO. The addressee is **Jemadar** Amin-ud-din

Indian Army had Viceroy Commissioned Officers (V.C.Os.). These were experienced Indian soldiers who had served as Other Ranks and due to their ability and leadership, were granted a commission by the Viceroy of India. They served as platoon commanders (**Jemadars**) and second-in-command of companies (Subadars). Each battalion or regiment had one Subadar-Major, who was the most senior Indian officer in the unit and a key person for the British commanding officer to work with.

FPO 118 travelled thru **India and Burma** It was disbanded at Kamptee on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (E.B. Proud)







## FPO 119

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 119** at **Ukhia, India** on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1943 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1943

It bears the circular Unit Censor India A207

FPO 119 travelled within India (E.B. Proud)



On His Majesty's Service

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

FASTEN Envelope by gumming this Label across Flap.  
OPEN by cutting Label instead of tearing Envelope.



On Active Service.  
-----

D.A.D.O.S.,  
H.Q. Madras District,  
Wellington,  
INDIA.

*From  
HIS Fd Rgt RA  
Colombo*

(Lablest)

H.S.

(52-5158)

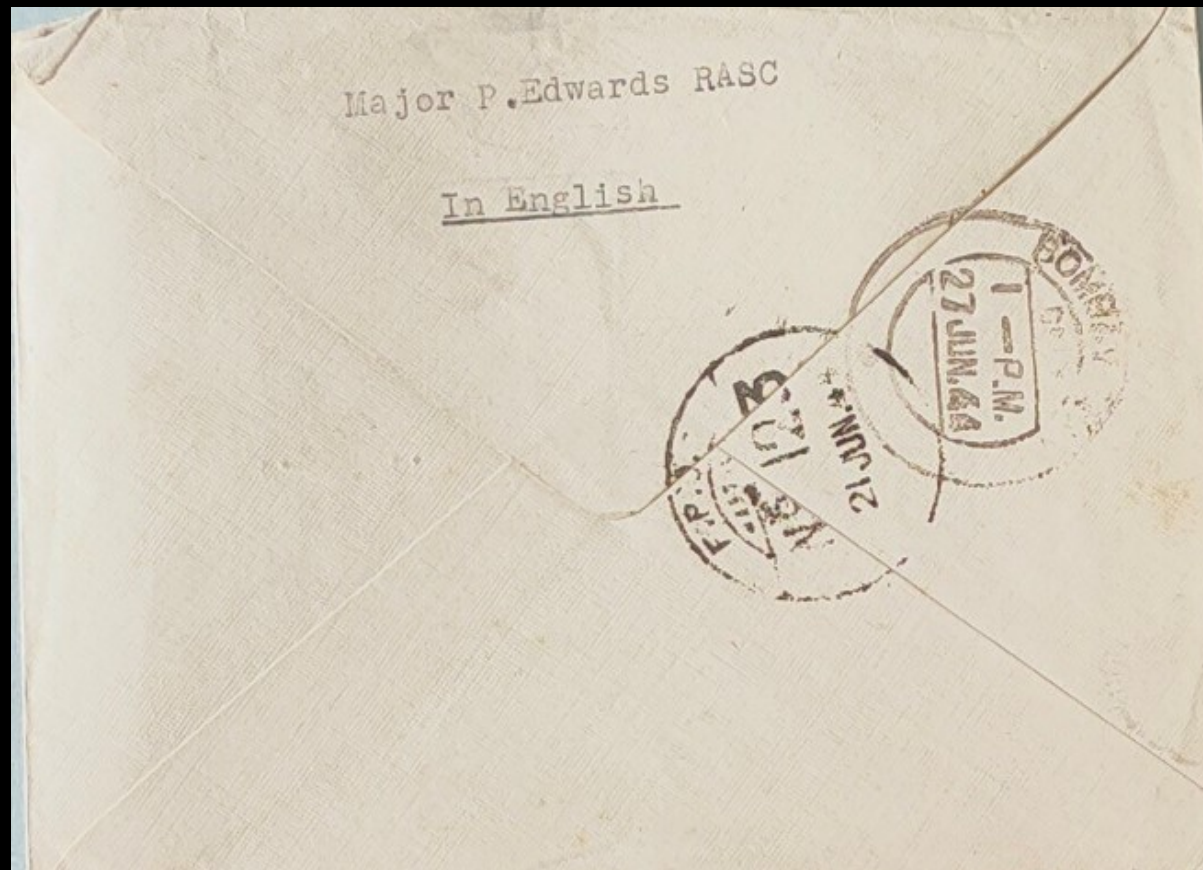
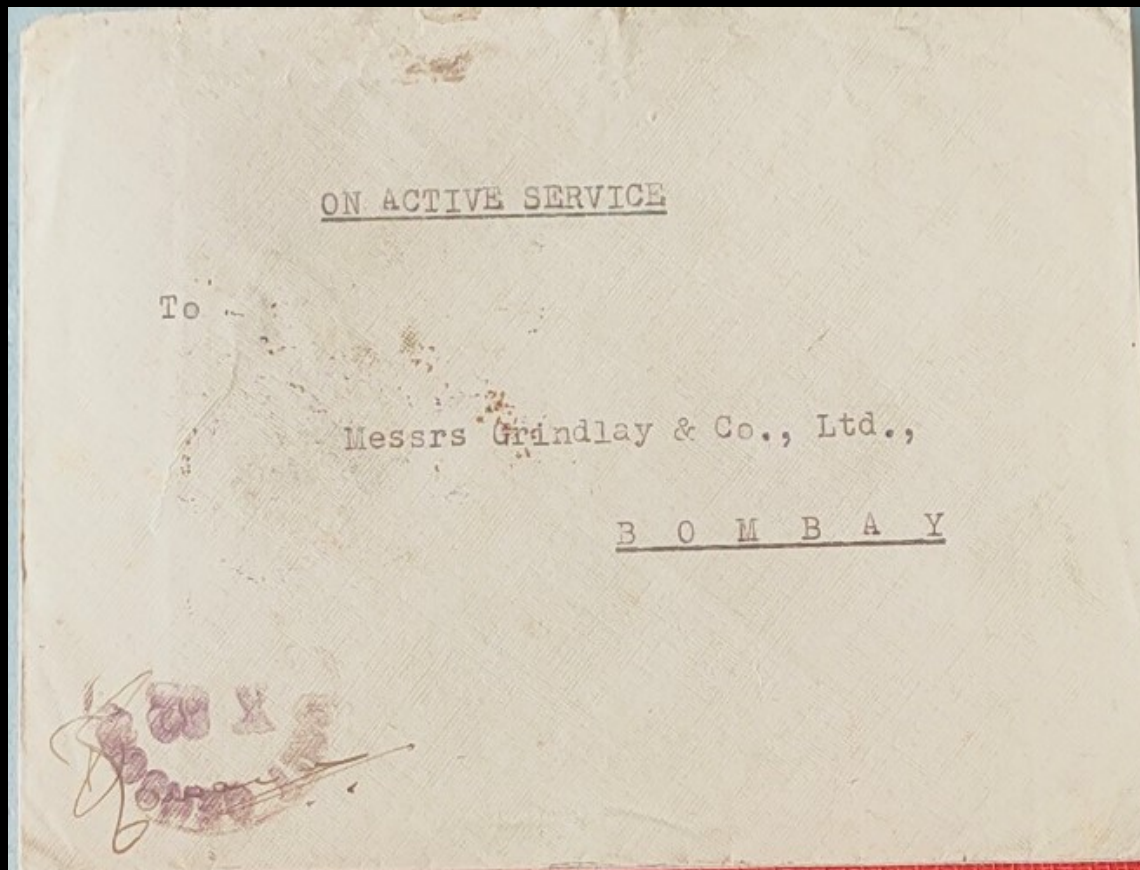


## FPO 123

The stampless OHMS cover was posted from **FPO 123** at **Colombo, Ceylon** on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1942 to **Wellington, India**. It is addressed to Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Services (DADOS), HQ Madras District, Wellington, India

It bears an Economy Label and a triangle Passed By Unit Censor

FPO 123 travelled thru **India**, Ceylon, Burma and Indo-China. It was disbanded at Nagpur on 15<sup>h</sup> May 1946 (E.B. Proud)

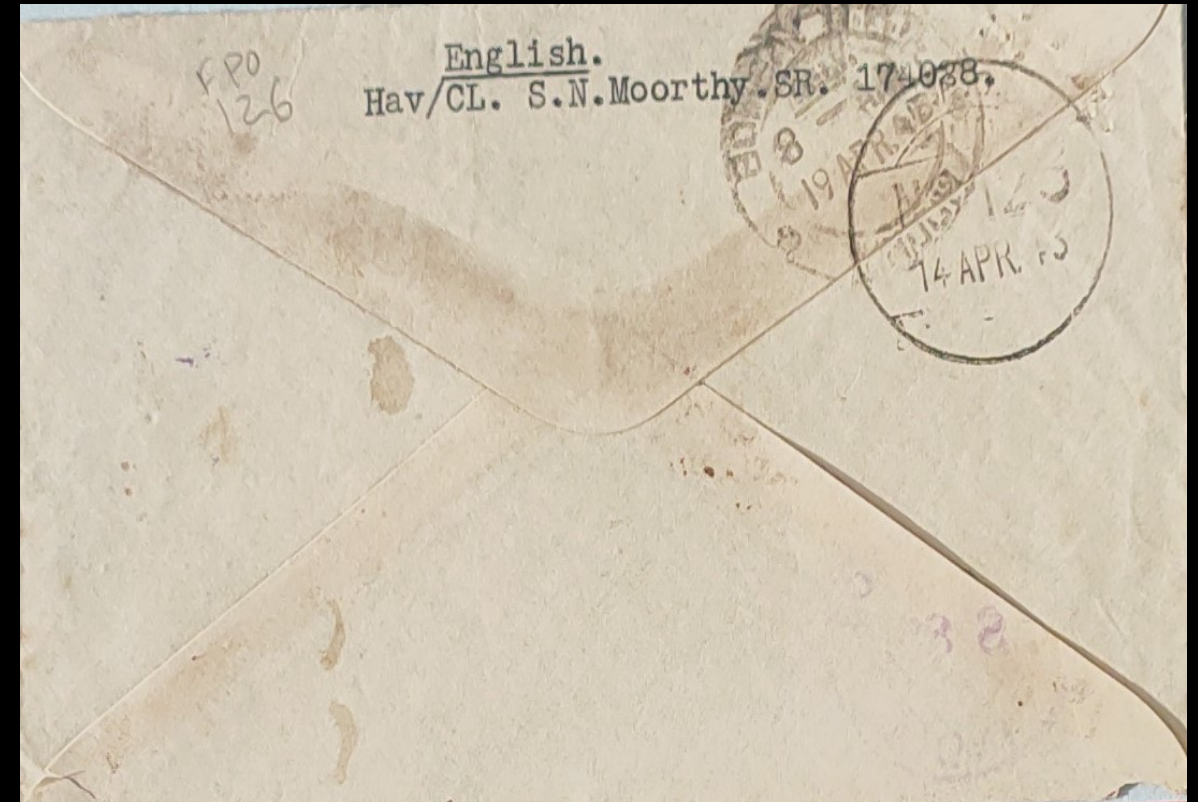
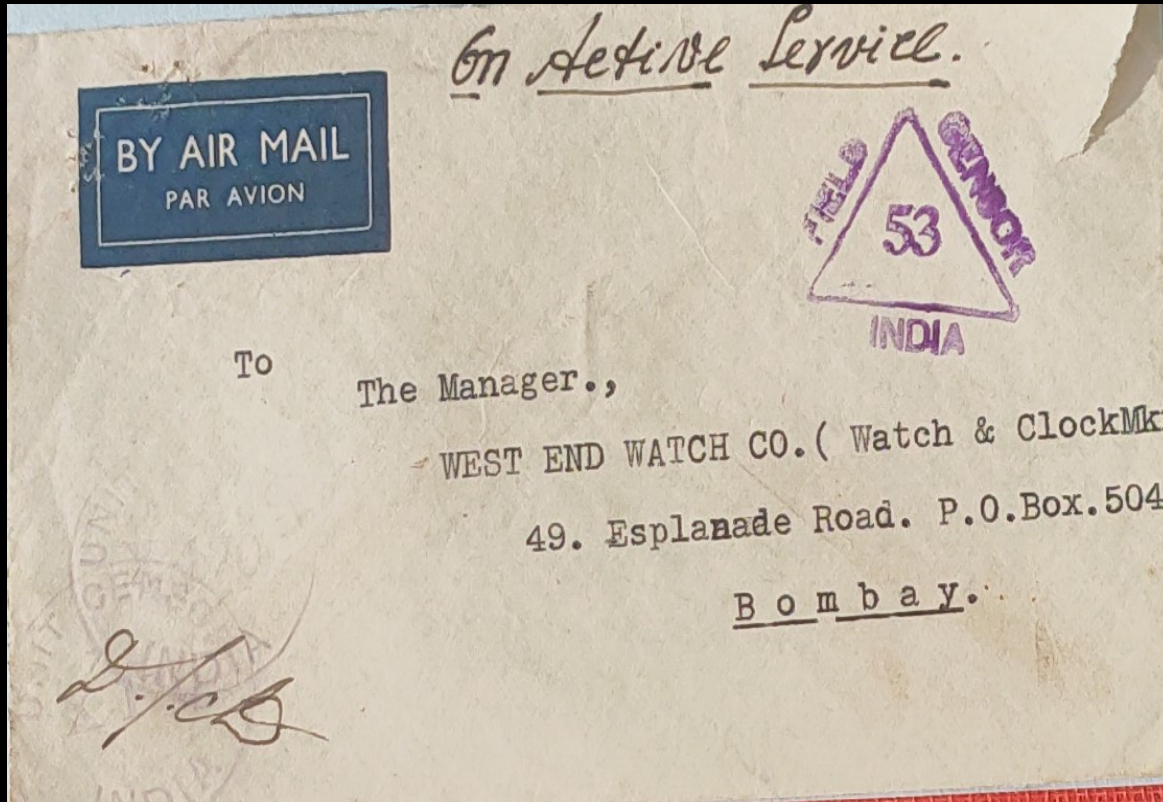


## FPO 123

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 123** at **Imphal, India** on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1944 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1944

FPO 123 travelled thru **India**, Ceylon, Burma and Indo-China. It was disbanded at Nagpur on 15<sup>h</sup> May 1946 (E.B. Proud)



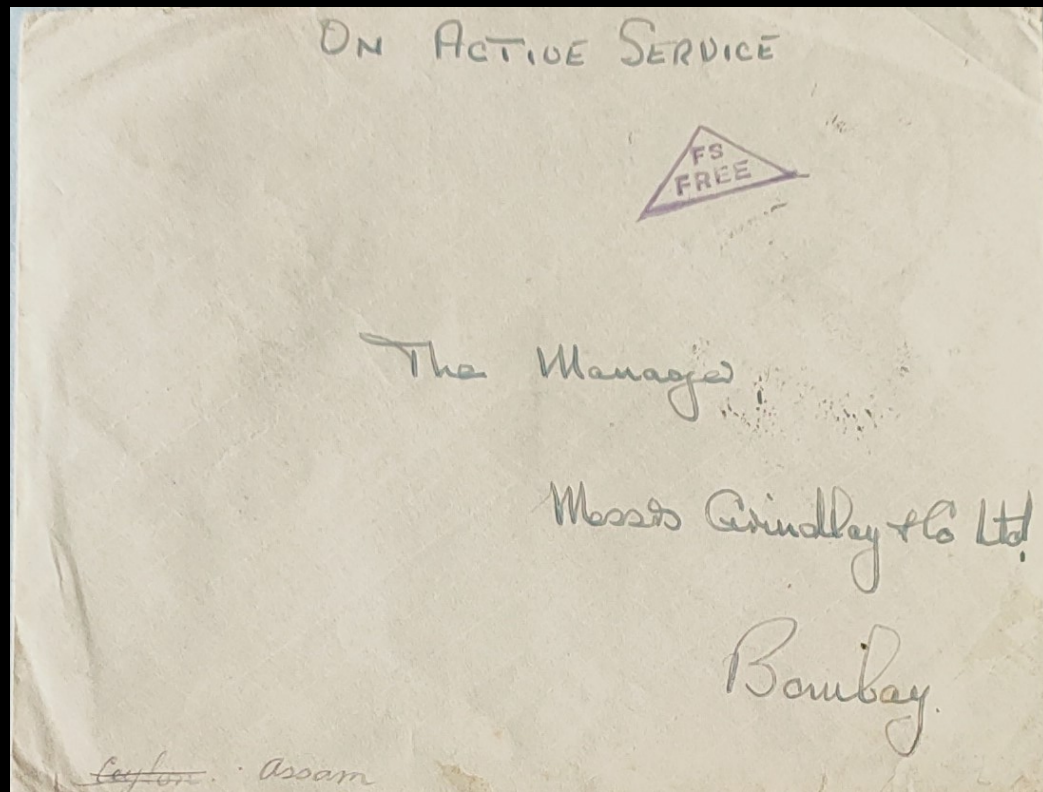


## FPO 125

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 125** at **Ranchi area, India** on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1943 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1943

It bears faintly the circular Unit Censor India

FPO 125 travelled within India and was disbanded at Nagpur on **15<sup>th</sup> April 1946** (E.B. Proud)



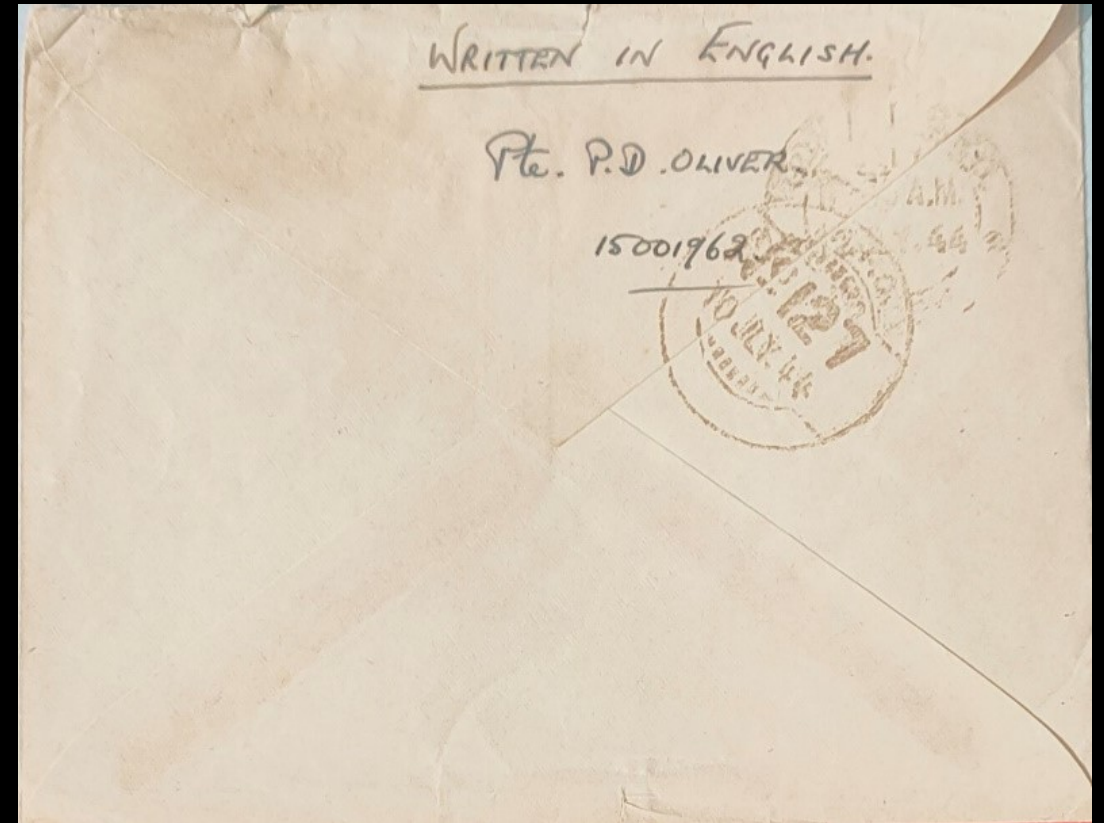
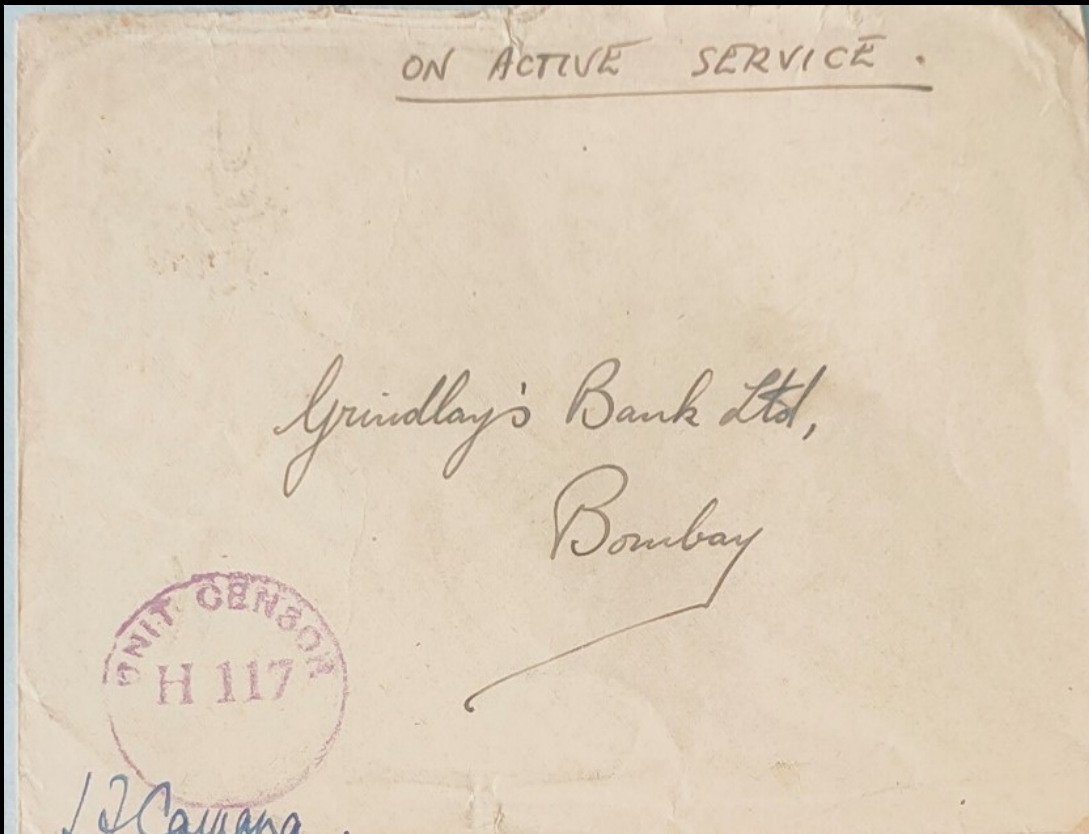
## FPO 125

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 125** at **Ranchi area, India** in **August 1943** to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on **17<sup>th</sup> August 1943**

It bears the triangle FS FREE, scarcely seen and the circular Unit Censor India

FPO 125 travelled within India and was disbanded at Nagpur on **15<sup>th</sup> April 1946** (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 127

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 127** at **Bethamangala, India** on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1944 to **Bombay, India**.

It bears the circular Unit Censor H117

FPO 127 travelled within **India** and Hong Kong and was disbanded at Nagpur on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1947 (E.B. Proud)