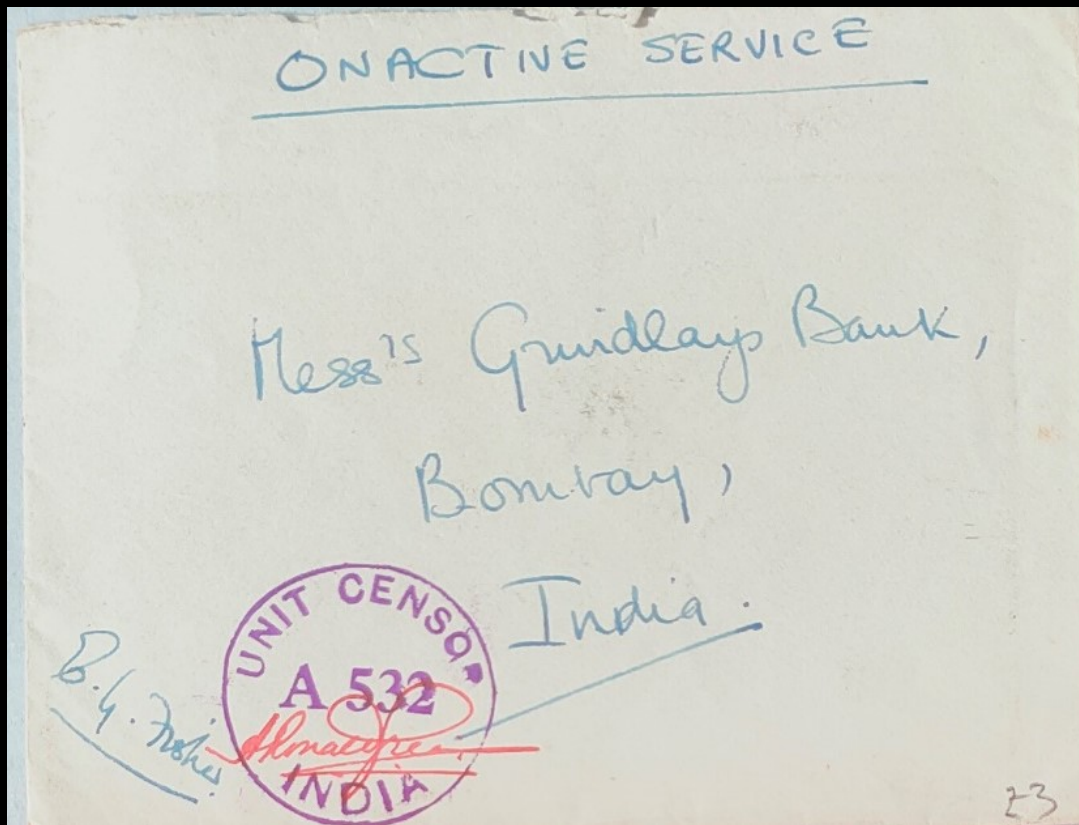


## FPO 127

The stamp less Honour Envelope with a beautiful example of printing error was posted from **FPO 127** at **Bethamangala, India** on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1944 to **Bombay, India**.

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



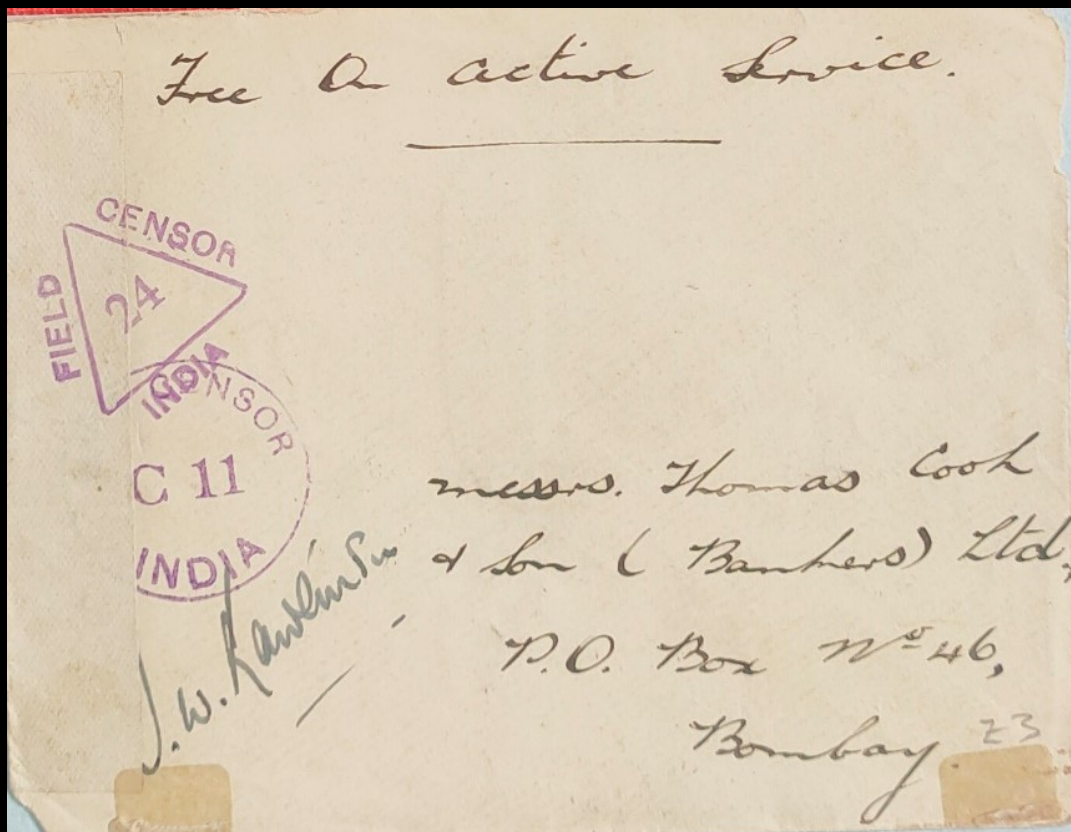
## FPO 130

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 130** at **Ranchi Area, India** on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1943 via **Advance Base Post Office No 10, Ranchi, India** on 16<sup>th</sup> July 194 . It reached its destination, **Bombay, India** on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1943

It bears the circular “Unit Censor India A 532”

FPO 130 travelled within India and was disbanded at Nagpur on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1946 (E.B. Proud)



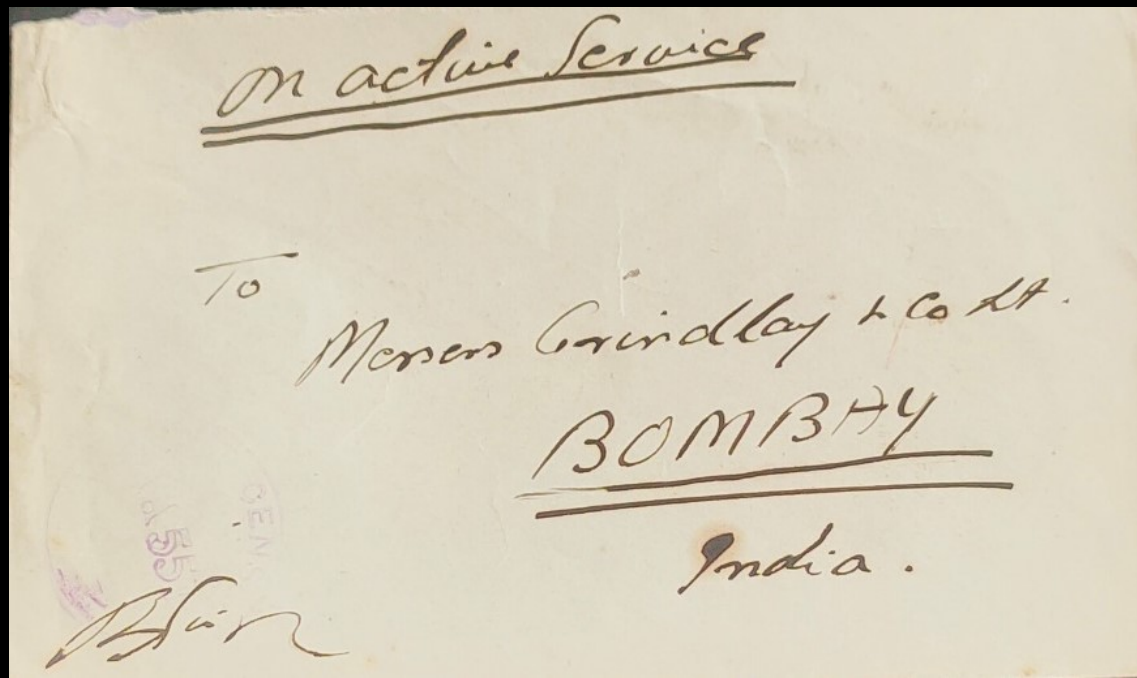


## FPO 131

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 131** at **Calcutta, India** on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1943 via **Advance Base Post Office No 12, Calcutta, India** on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1943

It bears the censor strip, P.C.90 Opened By Examiner the triangle , the Field Censor India 24 is seen twice on the cover

FPO 131 travelled within India, Burma and arrived at Sumatra but no record of opening. The FPO was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1947 (E.B. Proud)



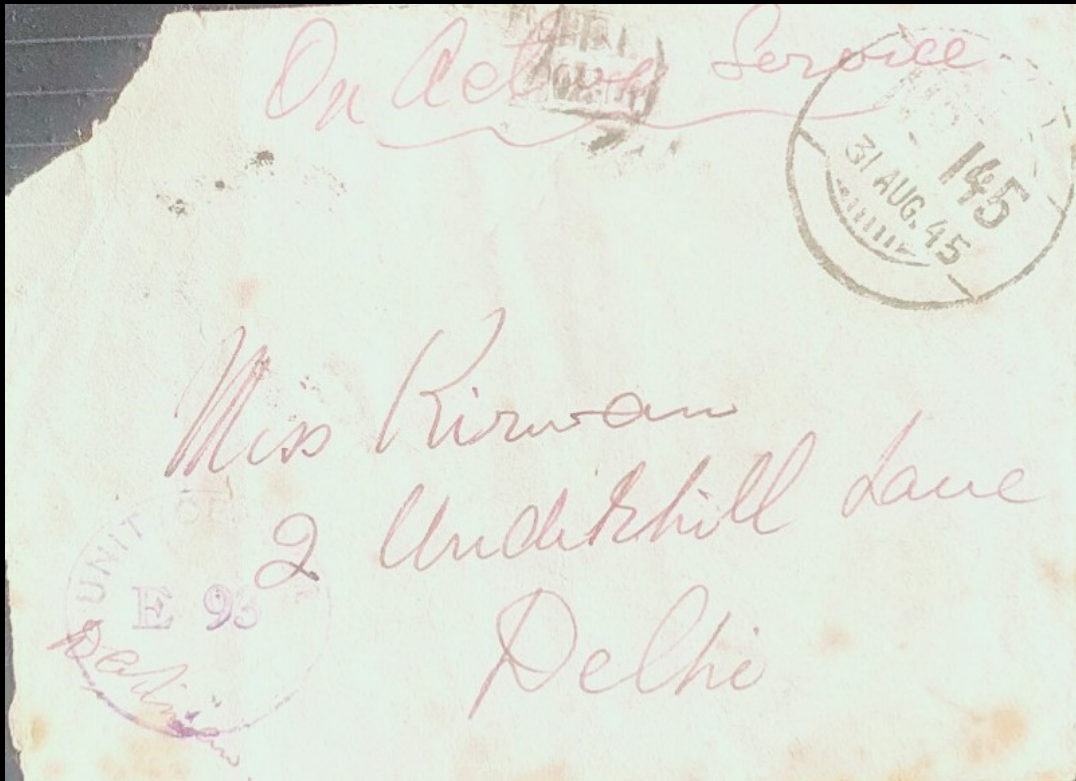
## FPO 133

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 133** at **Akyab, Burma** on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1945 to **Bombay**. It reached its destination on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945

The FPO was attached to APO Akyab after April 1945 when XV Corps was disbanded. It embarked from Akyab on 19 September 1945 to Chittagong, from where it left to Siam on 28 October 1945

FPO 133 travelled within India, Burma and Siam. The FPO was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1947 (E.B. Proud)



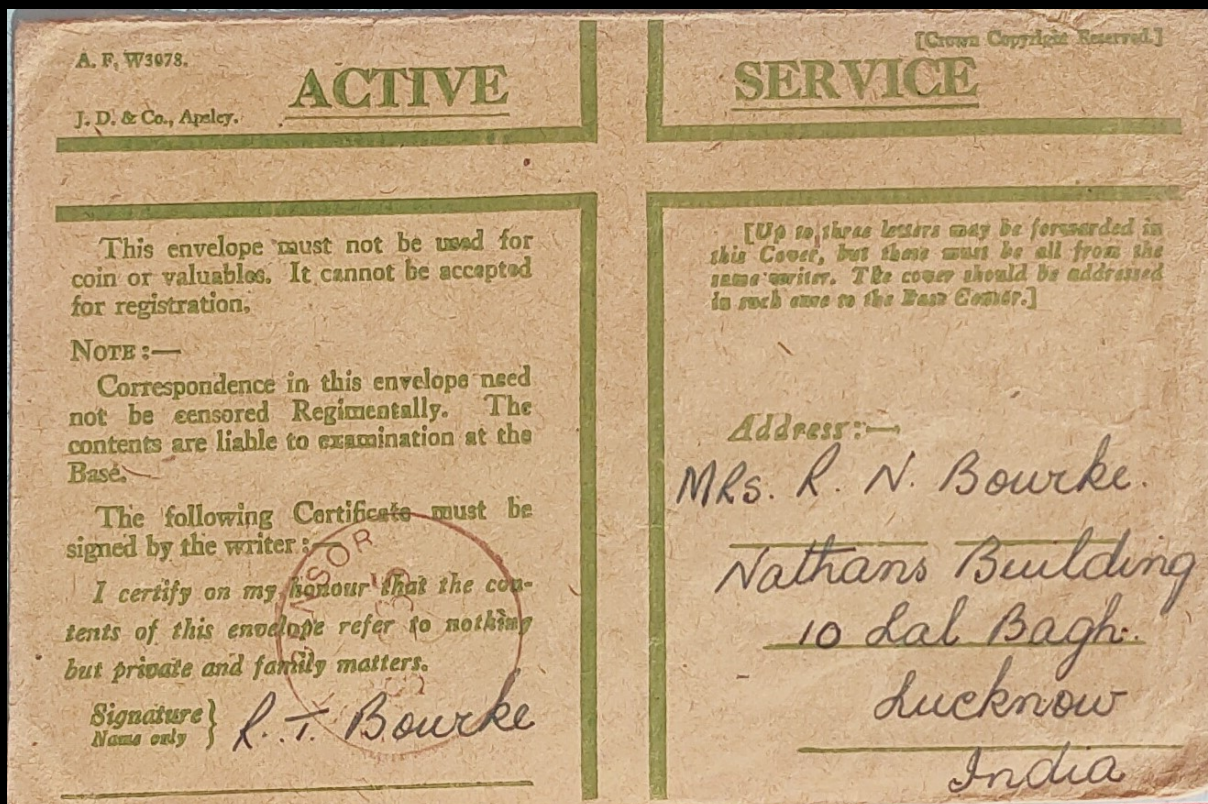


**FPO 145**

The stampless cover was posted on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1945 to Delhi, India (not seen by E.B. Proud) from **FPO 145**, its location is not sure as it was last seen at Burma Command HQ, Rangoon on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1945. (E.B. Proud) It reached its destination on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1945 (E.B. Proud)

FPO 145 travelled within India and Burma and was disbanded at Nagpur on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1946. (E.B. Proud)



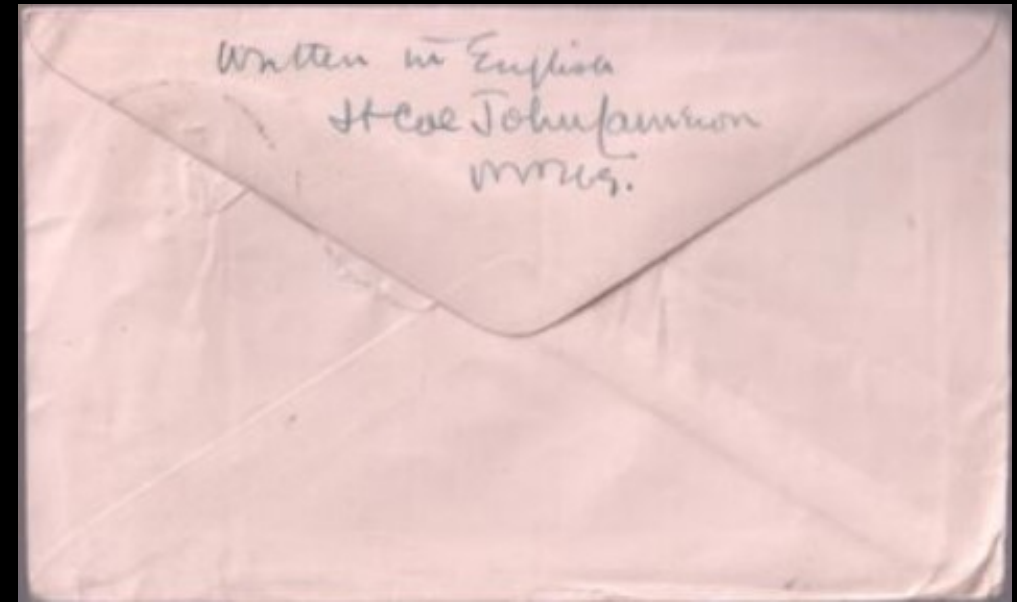
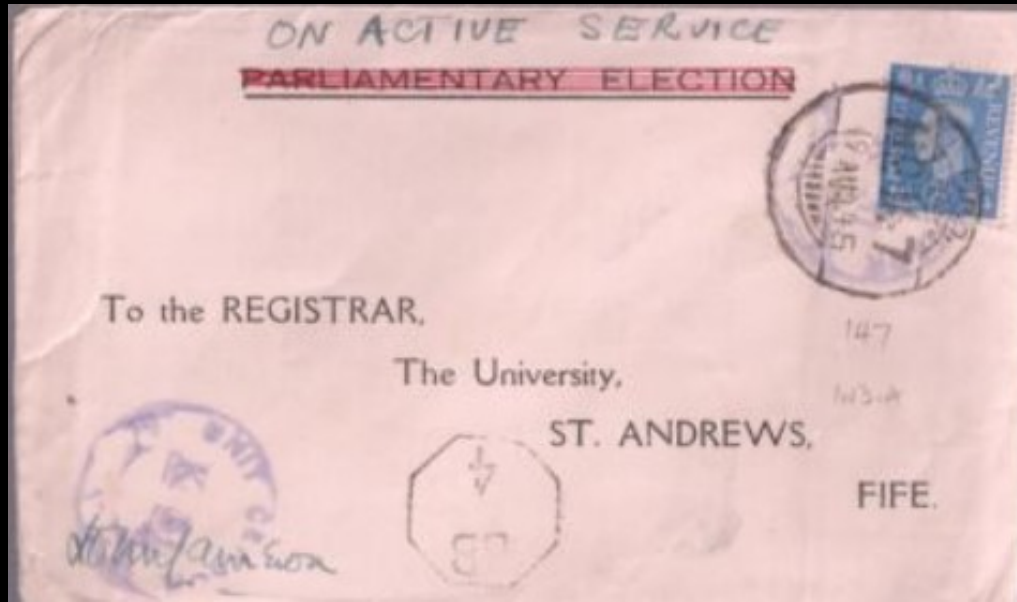


## FPO 145

The stampless Honour Envelope was posted from **FPO 145 at Zazagyo, Burma** on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1944 to **Lucknow, India**. It reached its destination on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1944

FPO 145 travelled within India and Burma and Siam. Thereafter it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1946. (E.B. Proud)





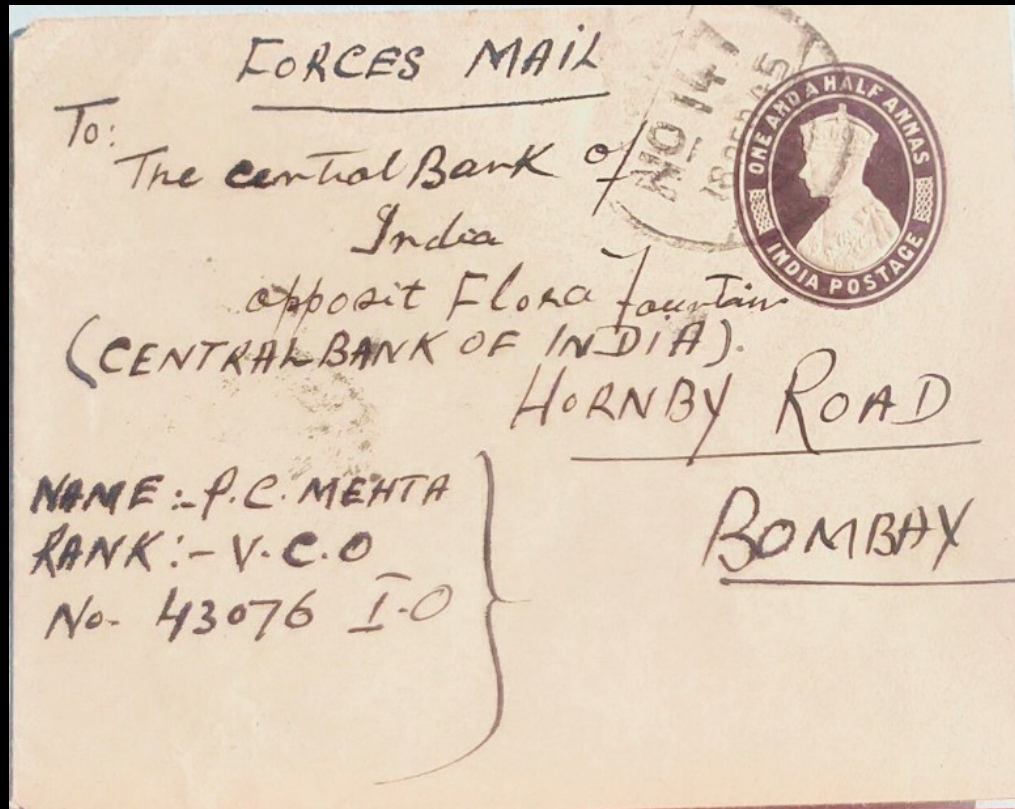
## FPO 147

The cover was posted from **FPO 147 at Bangalore, India** on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1945 to **St Andrews, Scotland**. This is a pre printed self addressed envelope to The Registrar, The University, St Andrews, Fife. Parliamentary Election has been struck with pen and On Active Service has been written. 2 ½ D King George VI GB has been affixed.

The **1945 United Kingdom general election** was a national election held on 5 July 1945, but polling in some constituencies was delayed by some days, and the counting of votes was delayed until 26 July to provide time for overseas votes to be brought to Britain. The final result of the election showed Labour to have won a landslide victory. Thus allowing Clement Attlee to be appointed Prime Minister

It bears the circular Unit Censor in violet and a smaller octagonal steel stamp with BB 4 suggests that it was unopened mail

FPO 147 was stationed at Bangalore (HQ Southern Army). Thereafter it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1946. (E.B. Proud)

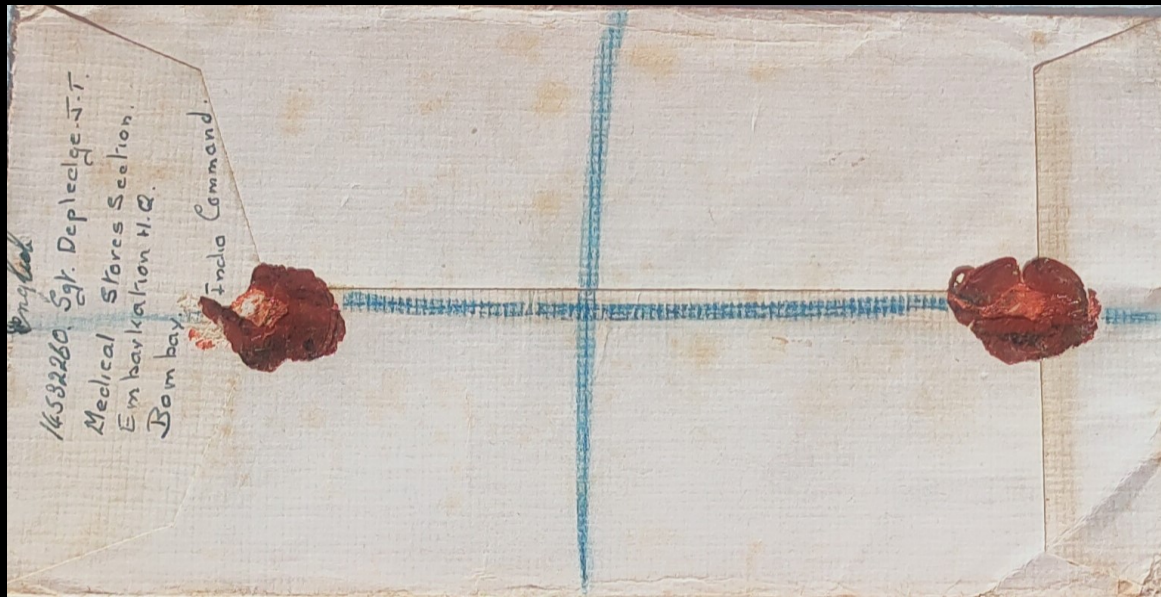


## FPO 147

The 1½ a embossed KG VI cover was posted from **FPO 147 at Bangalore, India** on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1945 to **Bombay, India**. There is an error on the date stamp as it shows D instead of C (DECEMBER) The cover reached its destination on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1945

FPO 147 was stationed at Bangalore (HQ Southern Army). Thereafter it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1946. (E.B. Proud)





FPO 149 travelled within **India**, Burma and Siam. Thereafter it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1946. (E.B. Proud)

## FPO 149

A registered cloth lined cover posted from **FPO 149 at Alexandria Docks, Bombay, India** on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1946 to **England**. The letter has been sent by **Sgt. J.T. Depledge, Medical Stores Section, Embarkation HQ, India Command, Bombay**. 1\*1 ½, 2\*3 ½ India Victory Stamps, ½ as India KGV stamps affixed. It bears the Registered sticker R178, hand written R 149

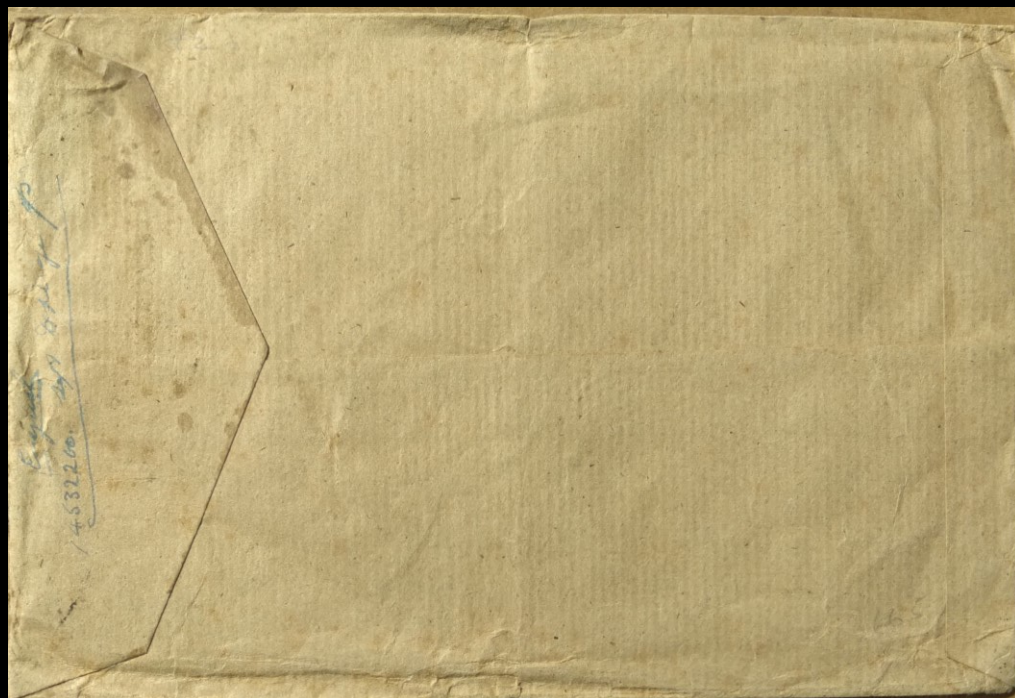
The cover was posted shortly after the Royal Indian Navy Mutiny which started from Bombay on 18<sup>th</sup> February till 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1946. At its height 78 ships, 20 shore establishments and 20,000 ratings were involved in the mutiny. The revolt was co ordinated by signal communication equipment on board HMIS Talwar .Similar strikes occurred in Karachi and Madras on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. Smaller strikes took place in other parts too.

They protested against the poor quality off food and racial discrimination by British officers. They wanted immediate release of INA Personnel and other political prisoners and withdrawal of Indian troops from Indonesia. Further they only wanted to accept Indian officers as their superiors.

The revolt was called off following a meeting between the President of the Naval Central Strike Committee (NCSC), M. S. Khan, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel of the Congress, who had been sent to Bombay to settle the crisis.

(**India's War-The Making of Modern South Asia, 1939-1945**; Srinath Raghavan; Penguin books 2016)





## FPO 149

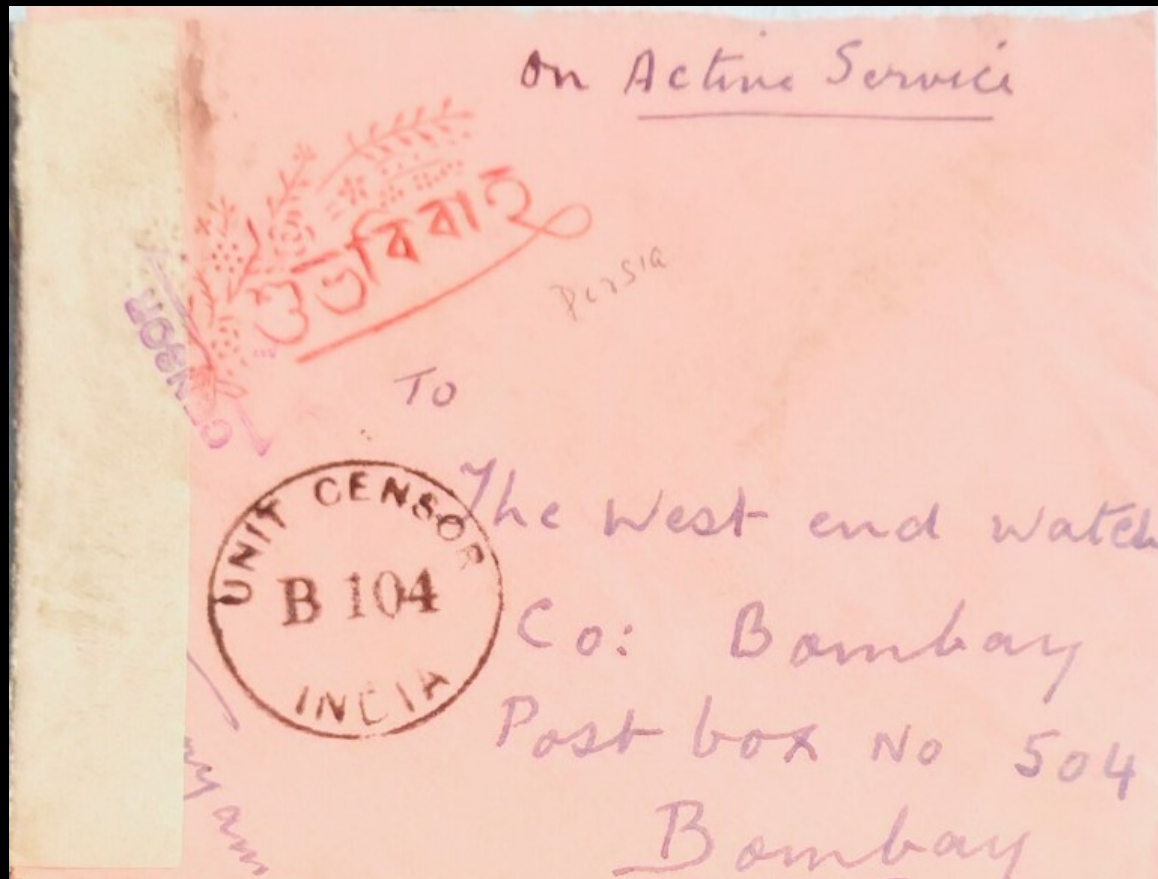
A cover posted from **FPO 149** at **Alexandria Docks, Bombay, India** in June 1946 to **England**.

The letter has been sent by **Sgt. J.T. Depledge, Medical Stores Section, Embarkation HQ, India Command, Bombay**. 1 ½ as, 3 ½ ,9 ps,12 as, 1946 India Victory full series Stamps KGVI, 3ps India KGVI stamps affixed. It bears the By Air Mail sticker in blue.

India Post issued these 4 stamps between 2nd January and 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1946 to commemorate the victory of Allied Forces in the Second World War.

FPO 149 travelled within **India**, Burma and Siam. Thereafter it was disbanded at Nagpur, India on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1946. (E.B. Proud)



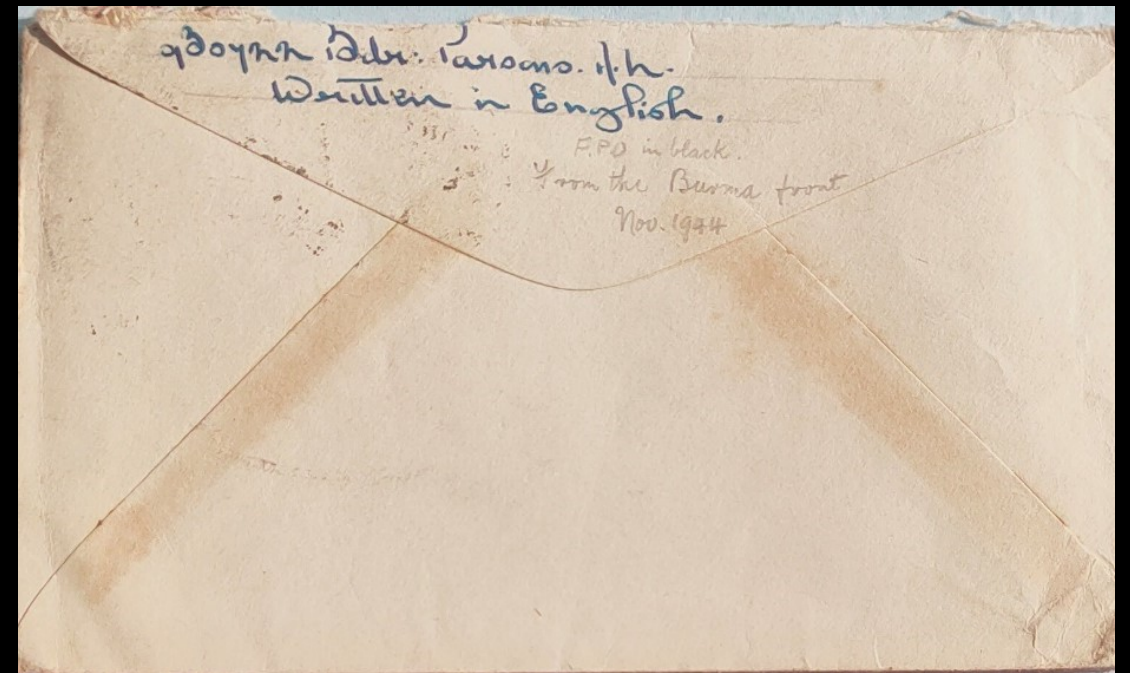
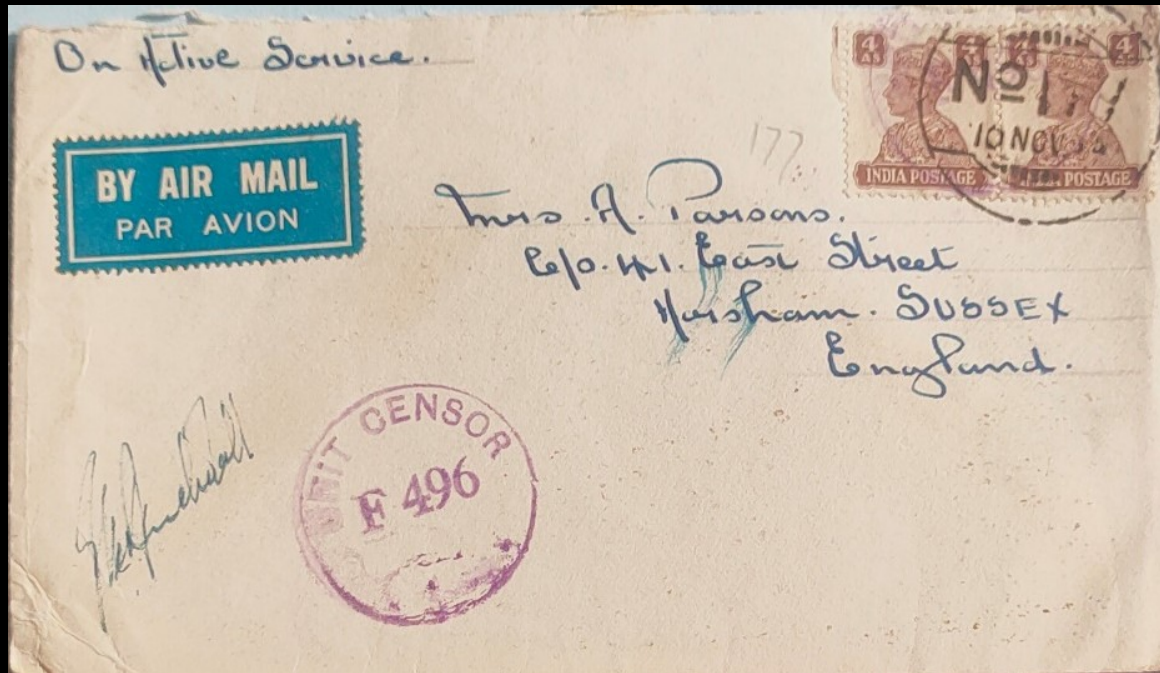


## FPO 169

The stampless cover has an embossed Shubho bibaho written in Bengali, translated in English meaning happy wedding posted from **FPO 169** at **Ranchi , India** on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1943 to **Bombay, India**. Datestamps from Ranchi have been observed by E B Proud as marked from 7<sup>th</sup> May 1943 onwards It reached its destination on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1943

It bears the circular Unit Censor India B104.

FPO 169 travelled thru India, Burma, Malaya and DEI. It was disbanded at Nagpur on 15<sup>h</sup> August 1946 (E.B. Proud)



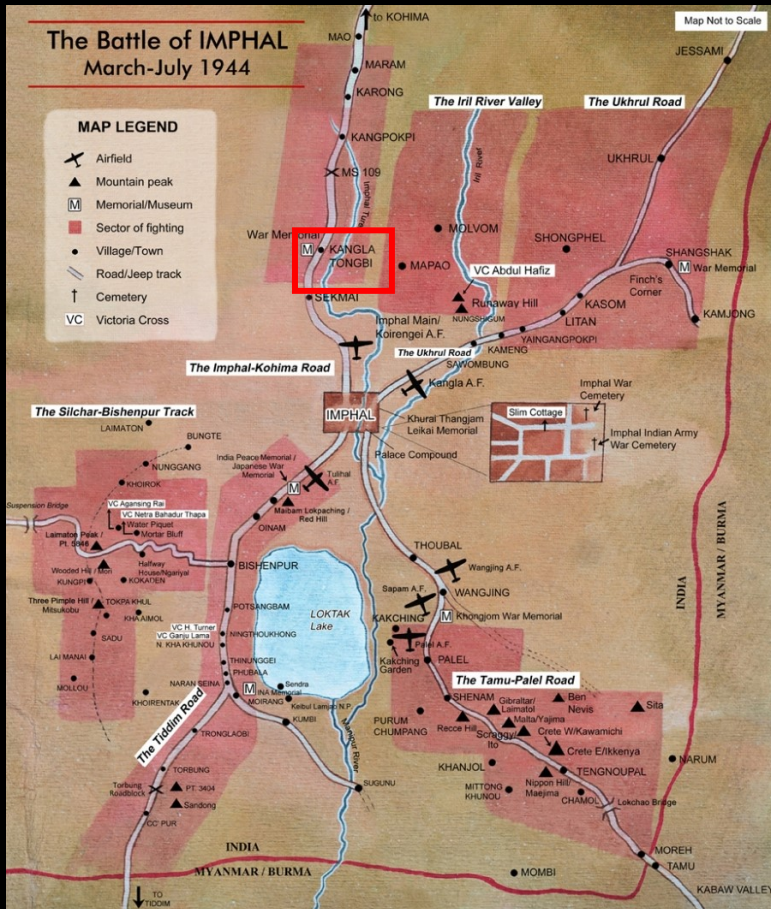
## FPO 177

The cover was posted from **FPO 177** at **Kanglatongbi at Imphal, India** on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1944 to **England**. 4as India, King George VI stamp affixed. It bears the circular Unit Censor F496

The fierce Battle of Imphal took place between 8<sup>th</sup> March until 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1944 around the city of Imphal, Kanglatongbi. The Japanese and the Indian National Army attempted to destroy the Allied forces at Imphal and invade India, but were driven back into Burma with heavy losses. During the battle the FPO was closed and the staff were attached to Imphal APO

FPO 177 was stationed at Kanglatongbi, Imphal (E.B. Proud)





The Battle of Kangla Tongbi, considered one of the fiercest battles of World War II, was fought by Ordnance personnel of 221 Advance Ordnance Depot (AOD) on the night of 6/7 April 1944. Japanese forces had planned a three pronged offensive to capture Imphal and the surrounding areas. In their attempt to extend their line of communication to Imphal, the 33rd Japanese Division cut in behind the 17th Indian Division at Tiddim (Mynmar) and establishing themselves firmly on the main Kohima – Manipur highway, started advancing towards Kangla Tongbi. Here at Kangla Tongbi, a small but determined detachment of 221 AOD put up stiff resistance against the advancing Japanese forces.

The position of 221 AOD was not at all sound from a tactical point of view. It was exposed to the enemy from all sides and had to rely on its own combatant manpower for its defence. Major Boyd, the Deputy Chief of Ordnance Officer (DCOO) was made in charge of the operations for defence of the Depot. A Suicide squad comprising of Major Boyd, Havildar/ Clerk Store Basant Singh, Conductor Panken and other personnel from the Depot was created.

On 06 Apr 1944, orders were received to evacuate 4,000 tons of ammunition, armaments and other warlike stores. On the night of 6/7 Apr 1944, the Japanese mounted a heavy attack on the Depot, rushing downhill into a deep nallah which was used as a covered approach to the Depot. A very well camouflaged bunker had been sited by the Depot on this approach. The Bren Gun Section in this bunker having spotted an enemy section within range, opened fire. This shook the enemy and forced the Japanese to withdraw leaving many dead. The Bren Gun was manned by none other than Hav/ Clerk Store Basant Singh.

For this act of gallantry, Major Boyd was awarded the Military Cross (MC), Conductor Panken, the Military Medal (MM) and Hav/ Clerk Store Basant Singh, the Indian Distinguished Service Medal (IDSM).

The Kangla Tongbi War Memorial is a mute testimony to this battle and the unflinching devotion to duty of the Ordnance personnel of 221 AOD, 19 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. It conveys to the world at large that Ordnance personnel, apart from being professional logisticians, are second to none in combat, being equally proficient soldiers, should the occasion demand.

## FPO 192

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 192 at Lashio, Burma** on **11<sup>th</sup> April 1946** to **Great Britain**. Interestingly it has a transit postmark of the location **Lashio** too.

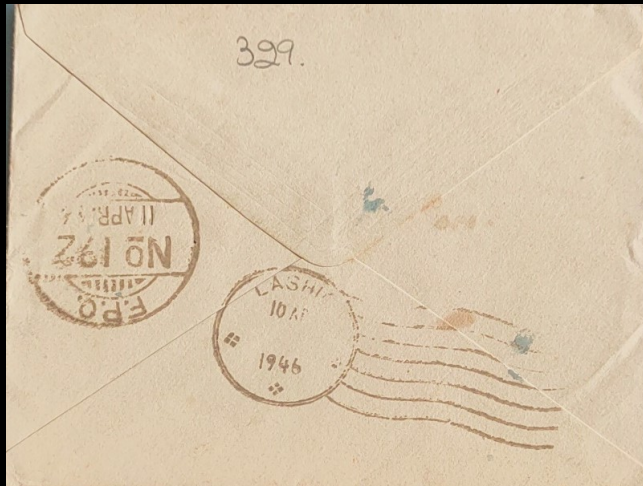
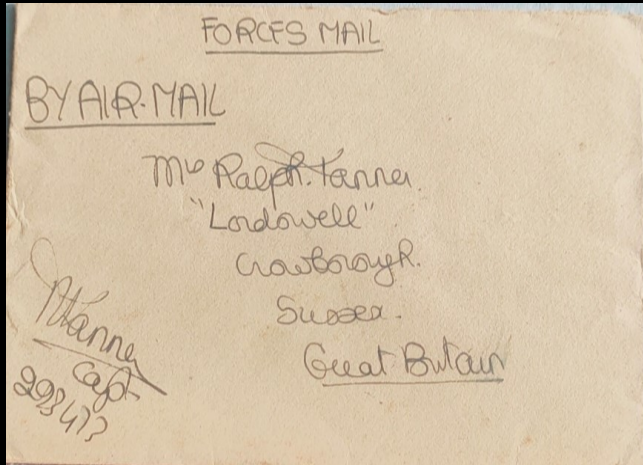
FPO 192 travelled thru India and Burma. It was disbanded at Burma due to staff being on loan from Burmese Government on 15<sup>h</sup> August 1946 (E.B. Proud)

Lashio played a strategic role during the Second World War, as once the supplies landed at Rangoon, it moved by rail to Lashio. The Burma Road originated from Lashio, the material was transported to China from here. This was before Japan was at war with the British. China had lost sea-access following the loss of Kunming to Japan in the Battle of South Guaxi

In July 1940, the British government yielded for a period of three months to Japanese diplomatic pressure to close down the Burma Road. After the Japanese overran Burma in 1942, the Allies were forced to supply the Chinese by air. The United States Air Force cargo planes, mainly Curtiss C-46, flew these supplies from airfields in Assam over the eastern end of the Himalayas.

Under British command Indian, British, Chinese, and American forces, the latter led by General Joseph Stilwell, defeated a Japanese attempt to capture Assam and the Allied Forces recaptured Northern Burma. In this area they built a new road, the Ledo Road which ran from Ledo, Assam, through Myitkyina and connected to the old Burma Road at Wandingzhen, Yunnan, China. The first trucks reached the Chinese frontier by this route on January 28, 1945.

From 1942–1944, 98 percent of all US lend lease to China went directly to US Army units in China, not the Chinese military.

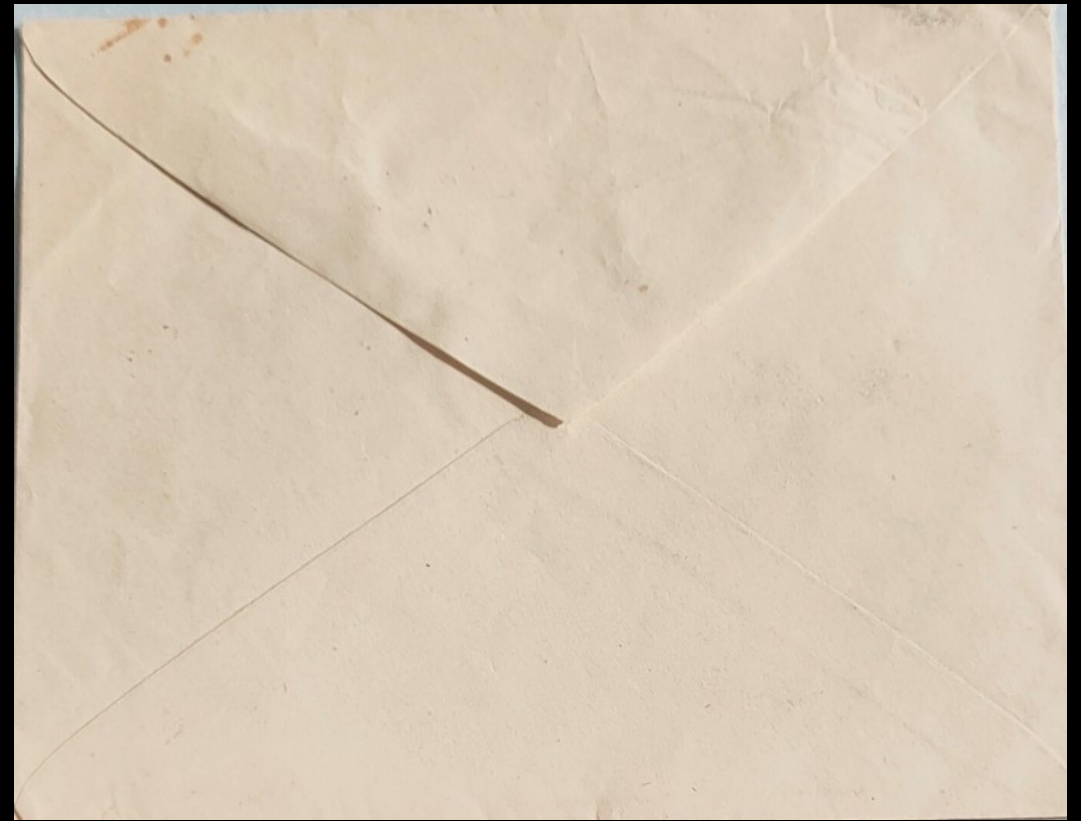
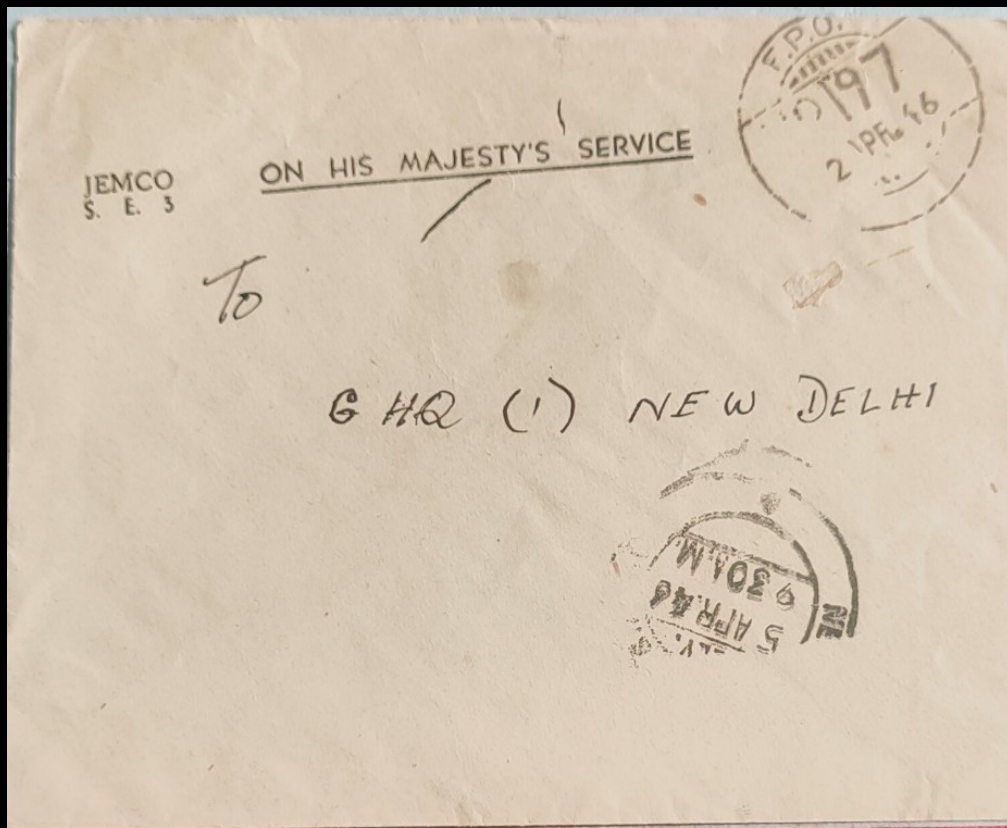




# Burma Road in the 1940 s



Burmese and Chinese laborers using hand tools to reopen the Burma Road around 1942

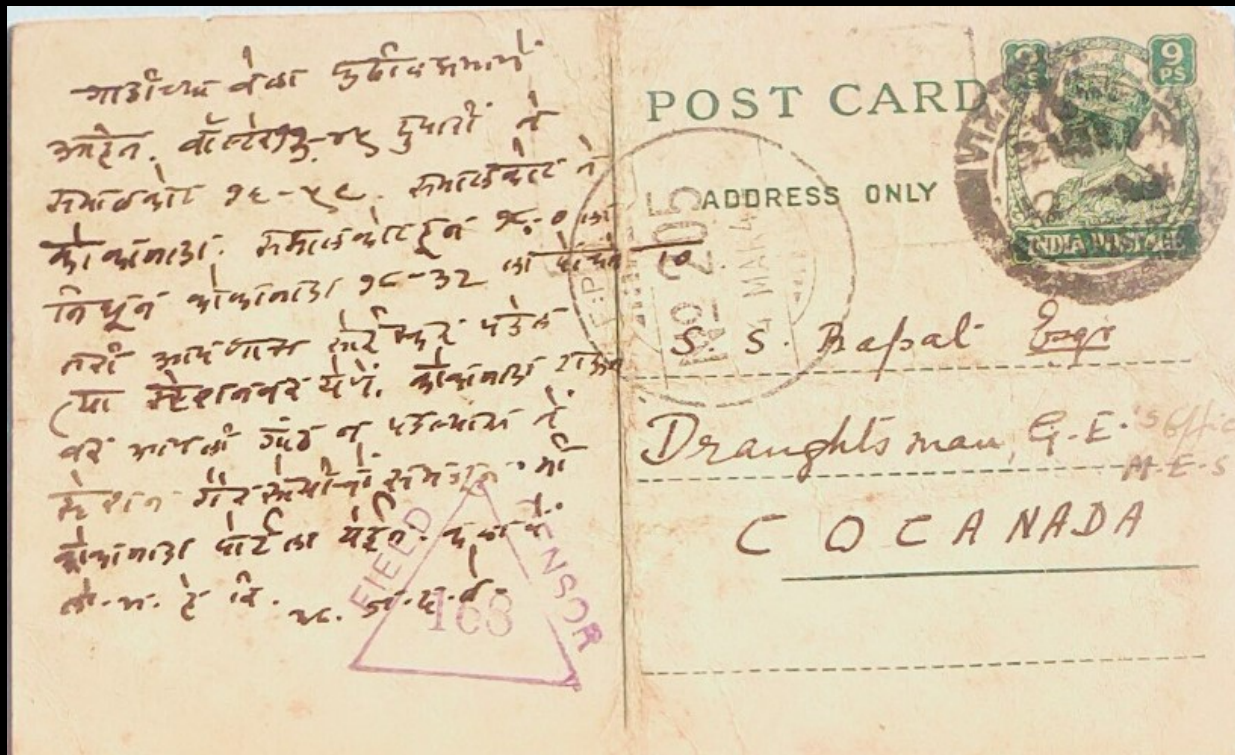


## FPO 197

The stampless cover JEMCO SE3 has a printed On His Majesty's Service, was posted from **FPO 197 at Rangoon, Burma** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1946 to **GHQ (I), New Delhi**. It reached its destination on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1946

FPO 197 travelled thru Burma. It was disbanded at Burma due to staff being on loan from Burmese Government in 1947 (E.B. Proud)



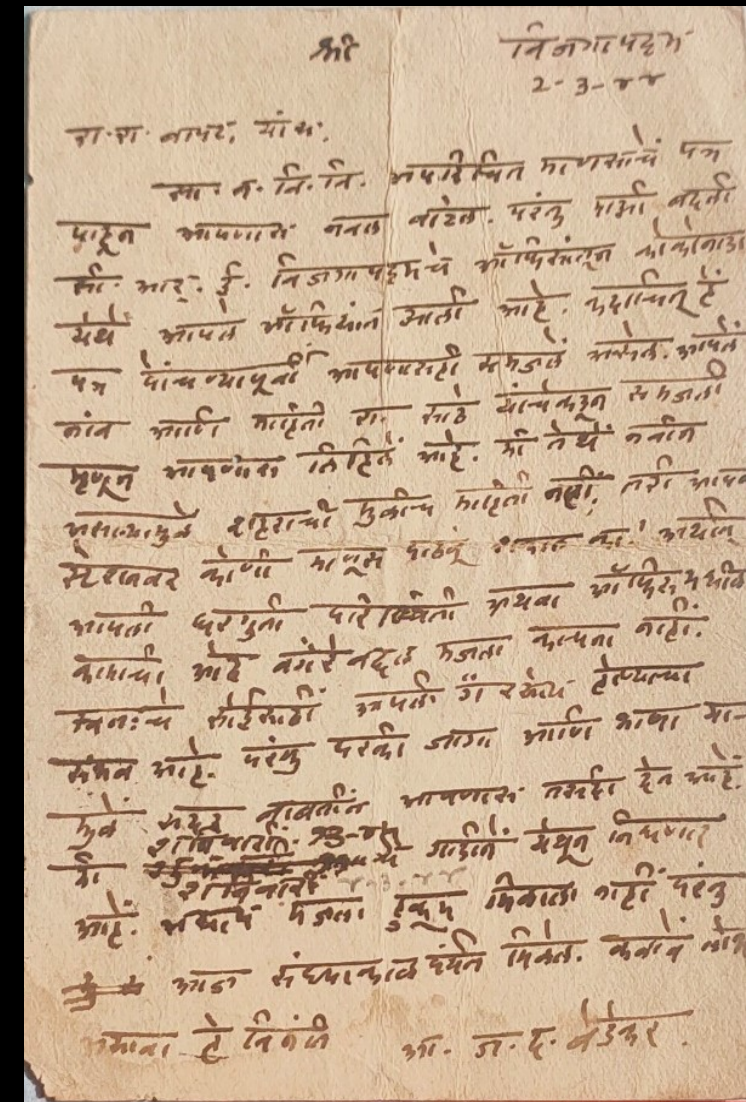


# FPO 205

The prestamped 9ps India KGVII postcard posted from a civil post office on 2<sup>nd</sup> **March 1944**. It has been addressed to S S Bapat who was posted as a draughtsman at GE's office with MES at Coconada. It arrives at its destination recorded with **FPO 205 at Coconada, India** on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1944. **FPO 205 has not been seen by E B Proud**

It bears a triangle FIELD CENSOR 168

FPO 205 stayed at Coconada from Jan 1944 to June 1944. It functioned as 30 Sec BPO with FPO 206 then absorbed in 30 Sec BPO in June 1944 (E.B. Proud)









A. F. W. 3078 (ENGLISH). **GREEN ENVELOPE** (CROWN COPYRIGHT 1939)

**ACTIVE SERVICE**

**AIR MAIL**

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.

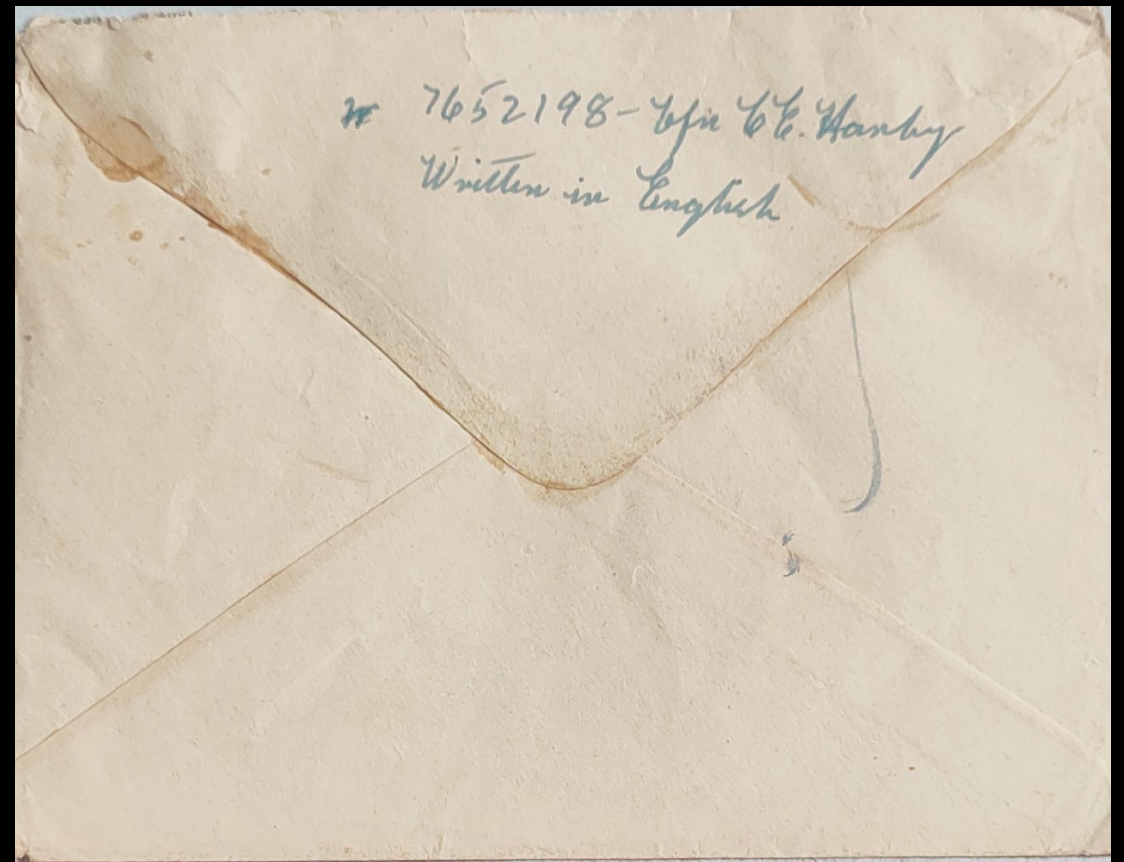
Signature } *T. G. Hanby*  
Name only }

S.S.P.Ltd. Pt. Order No. 450/G1530  
Dt. 14-3-44—10,00,000.

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. T. G. Hanby*  
*18, Elizabeth St*  
*BLACKPOOL*  
*LANCS.*  
*ENGLAND.*

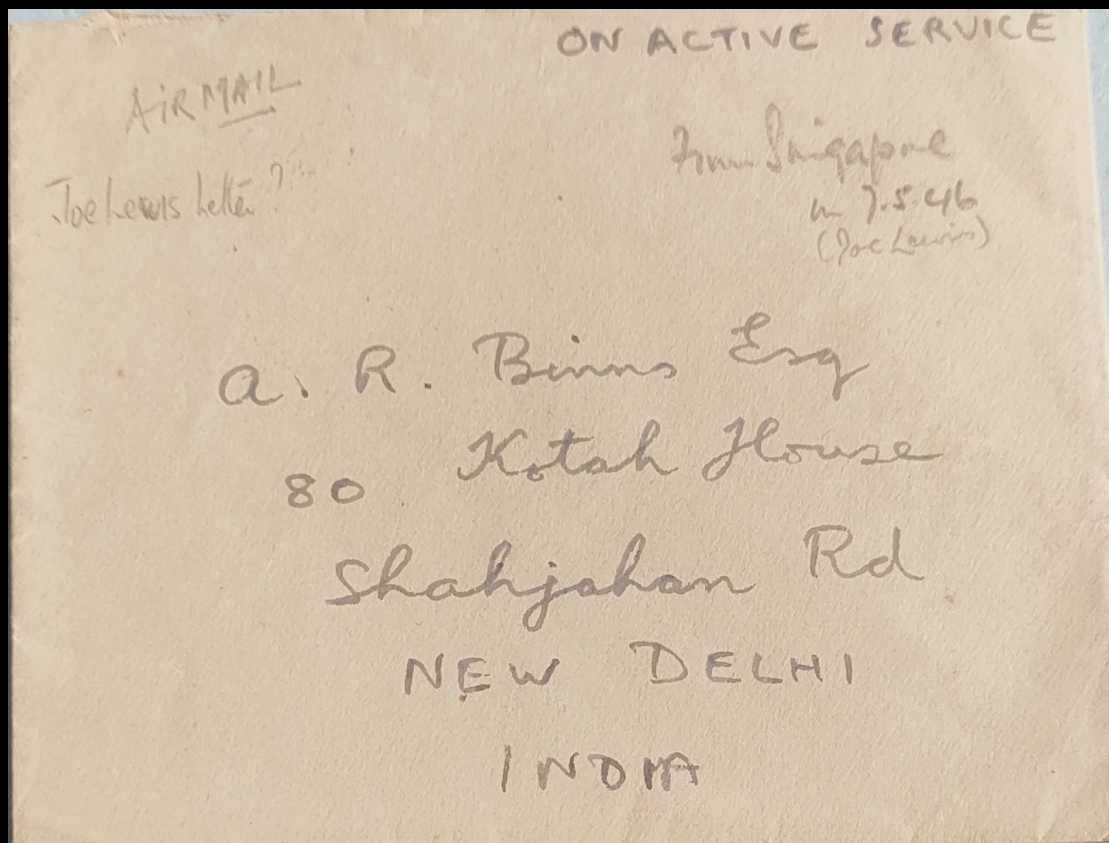


## FPO 592

The Honour Envelope was posted from Reserve **FPO 592** at **Pegu, Burma** on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945 to **England**.

It bears 2 faint circular Unit Censor handstamp

FPO (R)592 was attached to IV Corps, main FPO of Corps Postal Unit between 1945 to April 1946 (E.B. Proud)

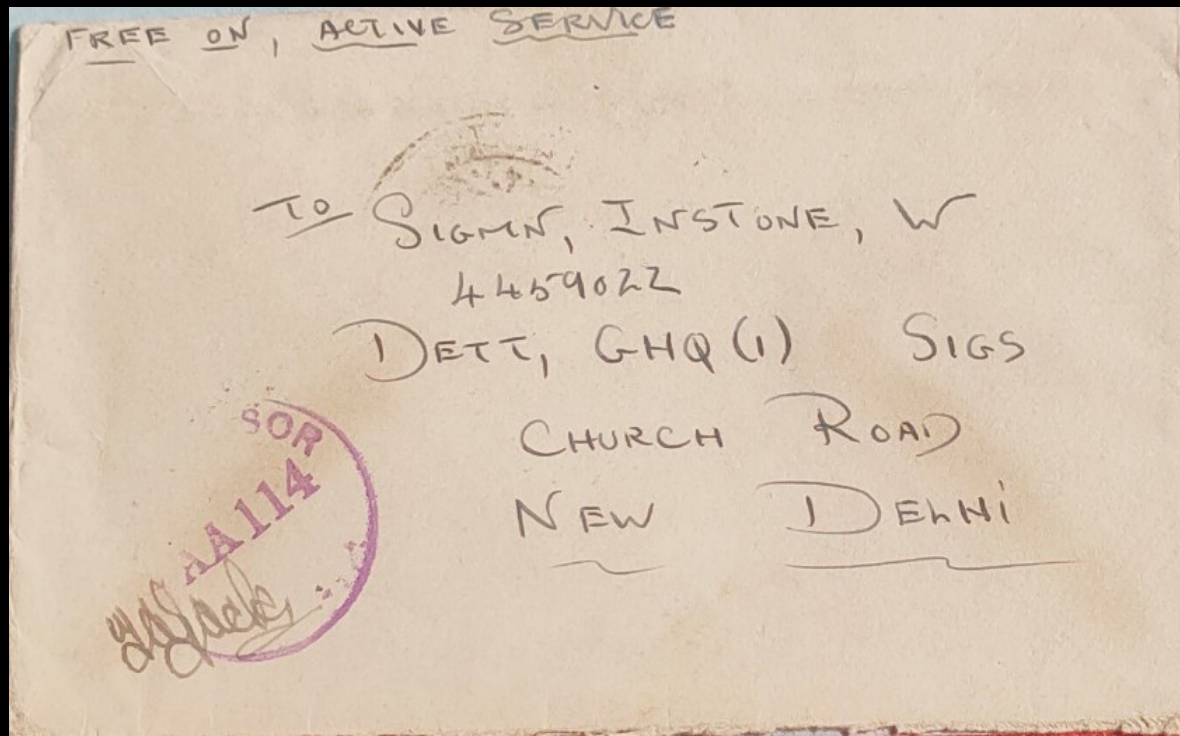


## FPO 594

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 594** at **Tanglin (HQ ALSEA) Singapore, Malaya** in May 1946 to **New delhi, India**. It reached its destination on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1946

FPO 594 was part of 660 L of C Postal (E.B. Proud)



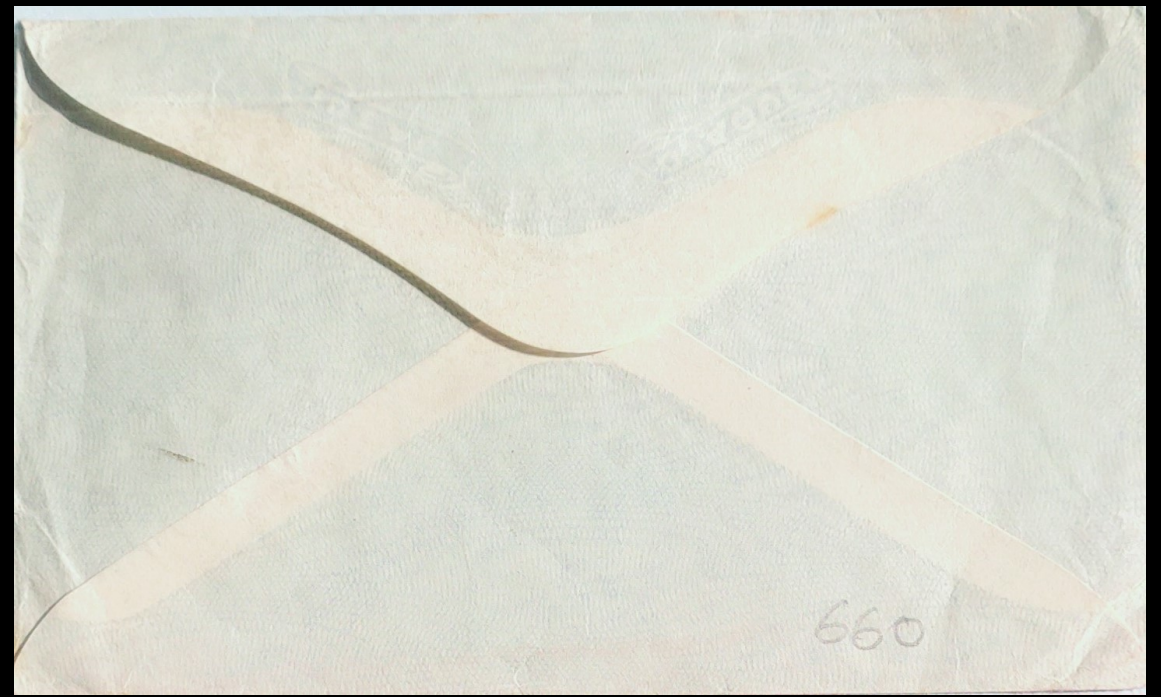
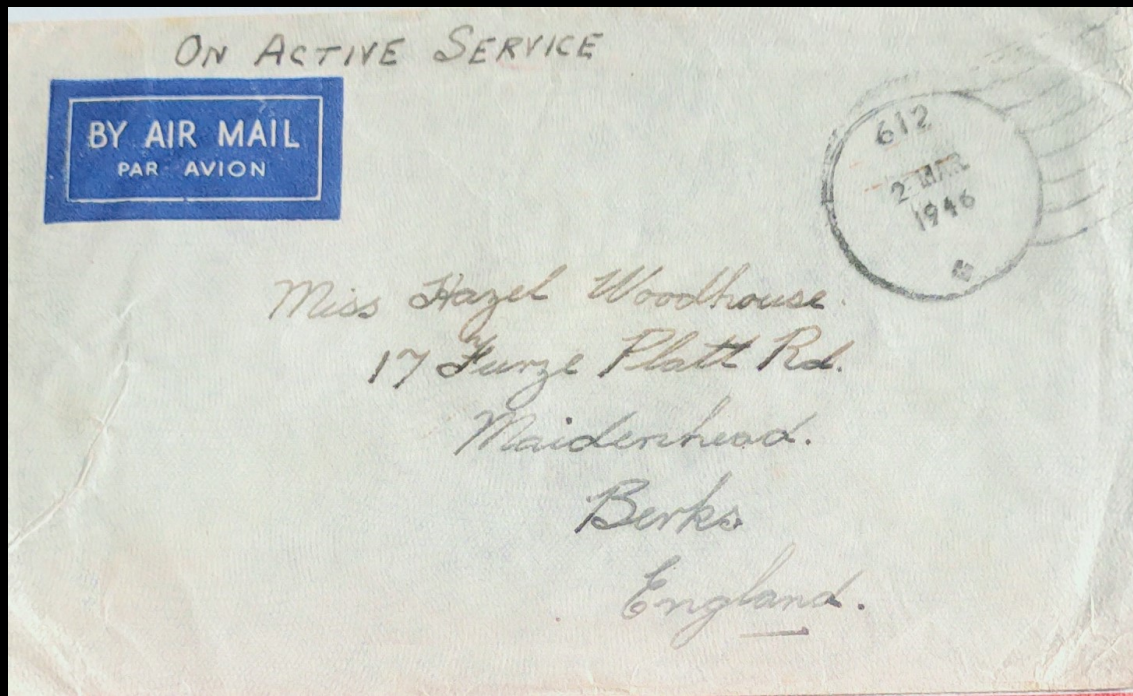


## FPO 605

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 605 most probably at Monywa, Burma** on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1945 to Signalman Instone who was on detachment to GHQ(I) Signals which was at Church Road, **New Delhi, India**. E B Proud observed datemarks from 18 January 1945 from **Monywa**. It reached its destination on 31<sup>th</sup> January 1945

The town was a Japanese communications center during the Second World War and was captured by the British in 1945.

FPO 605 was part of 14<sup>TH</sup> Army Postal Unit. It functioned in various places in Burma from January 1945 until May 1945. Mostly at Forward airstrips. This FPO travelled thru India, Burma and Malaya (E.B. Proud)



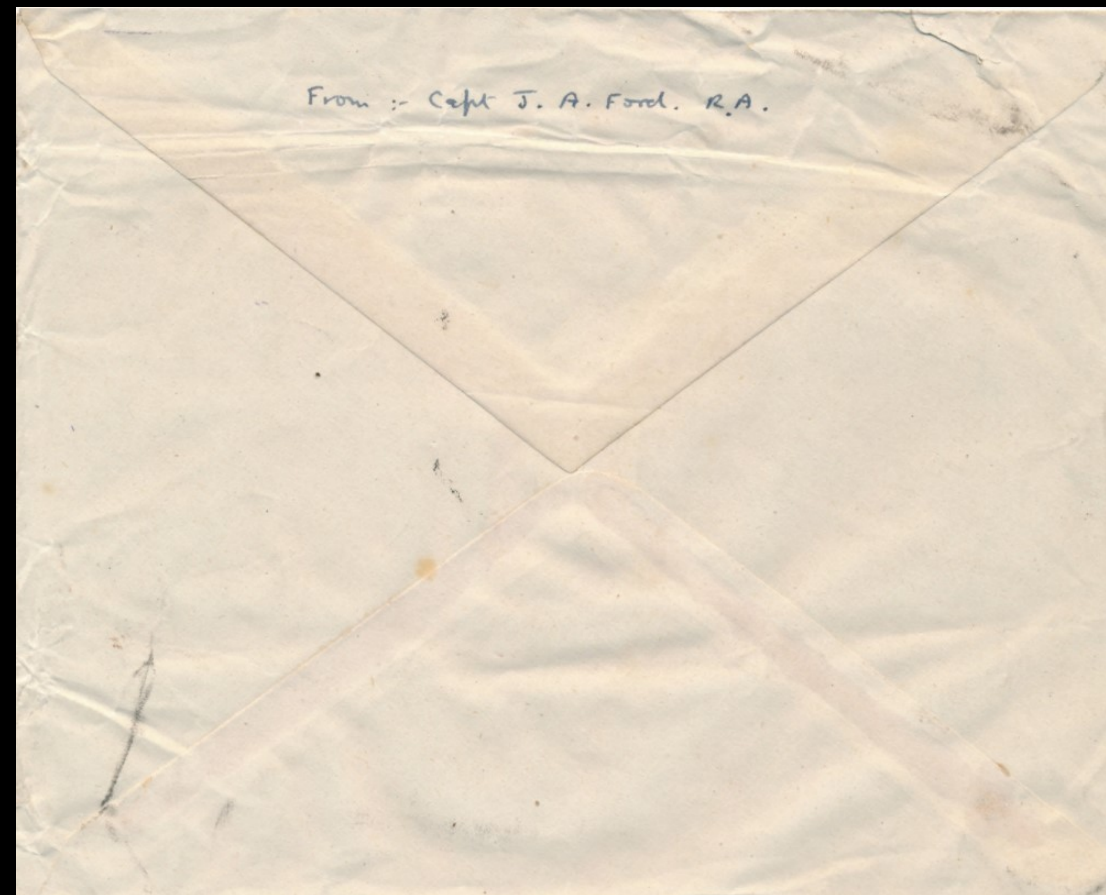
## FPO 612

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 612 at Batavia, DEI, Java** on **2<sup>nd</sup> March 1946** to **England**.

The toughest occupation job faced by SEAC was on the island of Java. This was the heartland of Indonesian nationalists who had proclaimed the Republic of Indonesia on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1945 and were determined to resist by force of arms the return of Dutch colonial rule.

The Corps FPO 612 functioned there for one whole year with 5 Div of XV Corps (renamed Allied Forces NEI). Things did not go smoothly in East Java, the troops faced armed resistance and was made to retire to the docks. The 49<sup>th</sup> Brigade had heavy casualties including their Brigade Commander. There were ambushes, road blocks and sniping in and around Batavia. Post the truce in November 1946, the British Indian Forces left Java



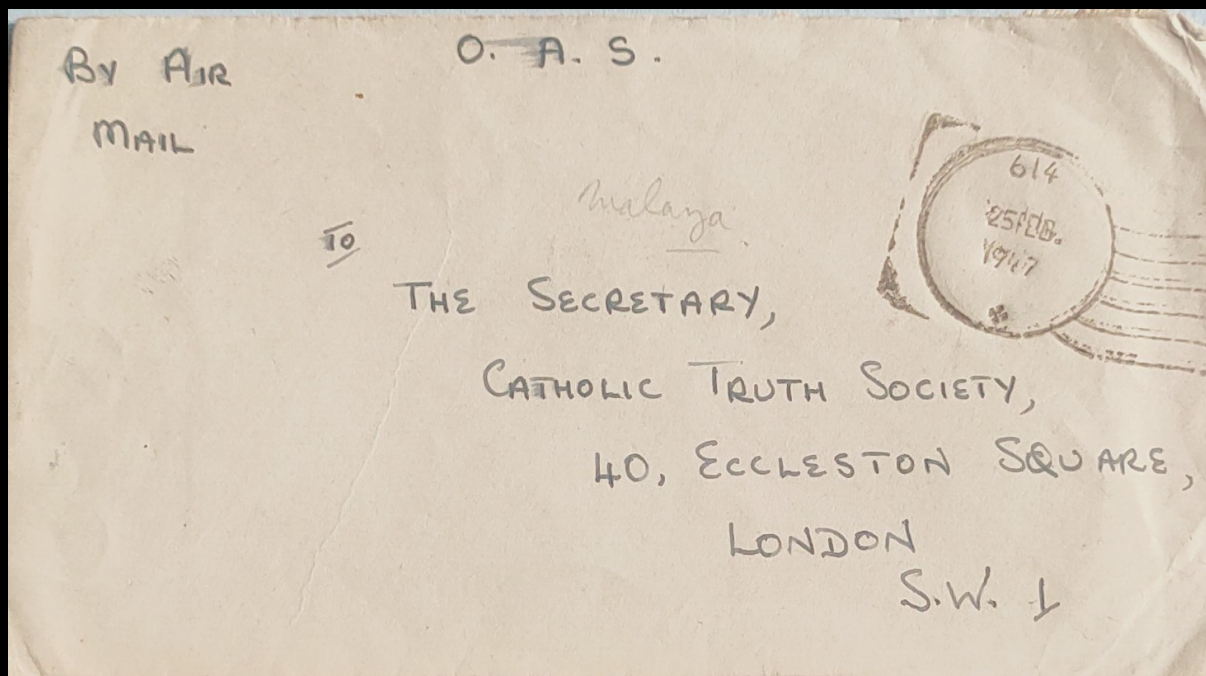


**FPO 612**

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 612 at Batavia, DEI, Java** on **15<sup>th</sup> April 1946** to **England**.

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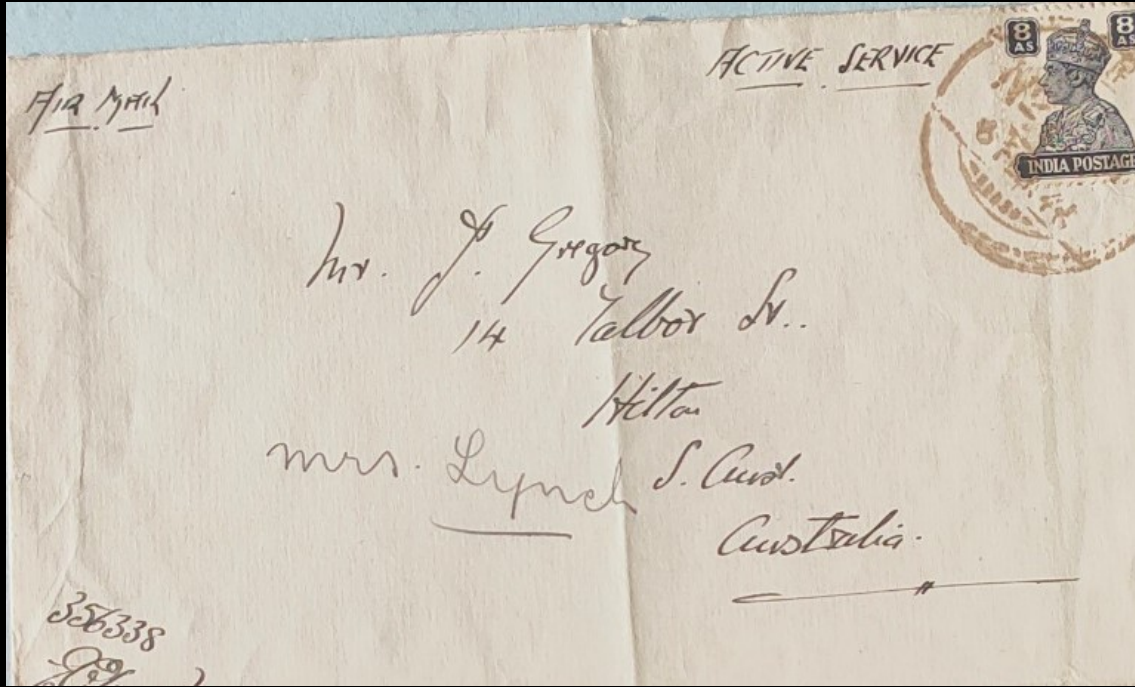


## FPO 614

The stampless cover was posted from the stationery **FPO 614** at **Singapore, Malaya** on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1947 to **England**.

FPO 594 was disbanded at Kamptee, India on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1947 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 639

The cover was posted on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1946 to (not seen by EB Proud) **Australia** from **FPO 639** around Moulmein and an unknown location, **Burma**. The **FPO 639** was seen at Moulmein between 9 December 1945 to 18 January 1946 and seen at an unknown location between 16<sup>th</sup> May 1946 to 6<sup>th</sup> July 1946 (E. B. Proud), 8 as India, KG VI stamps affixed.

FPO 639 was the reserve FPO of 17<sup>th</sup> Division Postal unit (E.B. Proud)

ACTIVE SERVICE.

Messrs. Grindlay & Co.Ltd.,  
Mint Street,  
BOMBAY, INDIA.



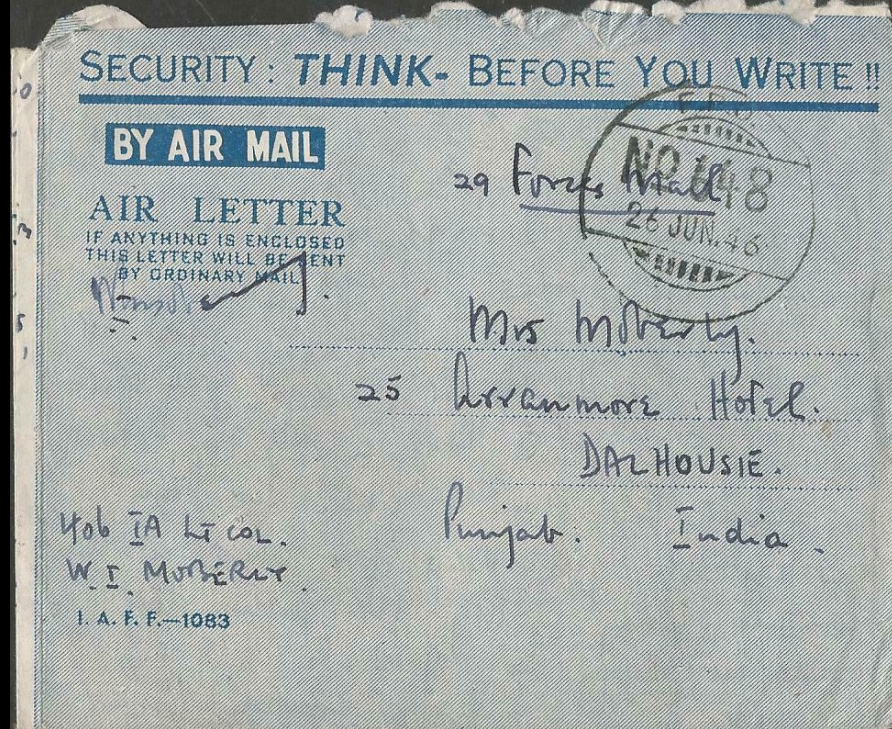
## FPO 648

The Air Letter was posted from **FPO 648 at Medan, DEI, Sumatra** on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1946 to **Bombay, India**. The datestamp recorded at its destination is on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1946

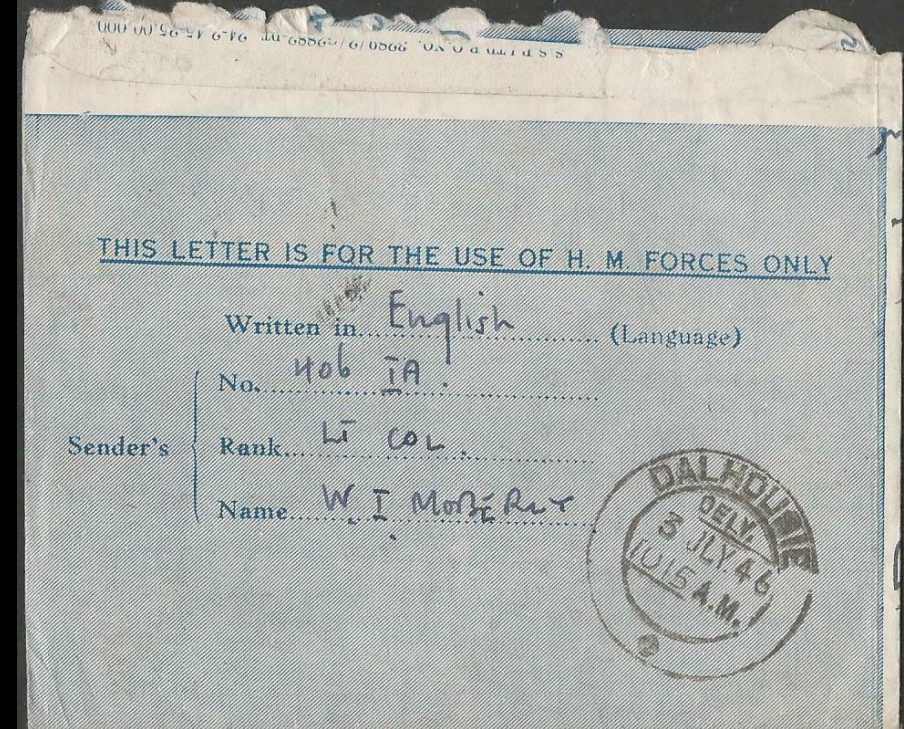
Compared to Java there was much less trouble as the writ of the new Indonesian Republic did not run there. This was attached to, 4 Brigade HQ of 26 Division

FPO 648 was the Reserve FPO OF 26 Division Postal Unit (E.B. Proud)





FPO 648



The Air Letter was posted from **FPO 648 at Medan, DEI, Sumatra** on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1946 to **Dalhousie, India**. It reached its destination on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1946. It was written by Lt Col W I Moberly

Compared to Java there was much less trouble as the writ of the new Indonesian Republic did not run there. This was attached to, 4 Brigade HQ of 26 Division

Captain (later Colonel) William Innes Moberly C.B.E served within the Indian Army - 3/12th FFR which was part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division during the East African and Western Desert Campaigns. The 3/12th FFR was all but destroyed at El Adem on 15 June 1942., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sikhs, Frontier Force, Frontier Scouts and post 1947 was transferred to the British Army-War office, Far eastern Land Forces, General HQ and the Royal Artillery, 569<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft, Search Light Regiment

FPO 648 was the Reserve FPO OF 26 Division Postal Unit (E.B. Proud)



various self - pleasure  
I was a  
very wife -  
quite totally  
irresponsible  
I was only  
your happen  
less chest  
cheat that  
Kiss took  
handcuffs  
25/1/46  
Mr. R.R.  
SEAC  
wonderfully happy to hear about it like  
that, remember I want all your moods  
I've just got to share your life even when  
it's not our life together. I can't be  
happy any other way. And I owe to you  
like a whipped boy with all my troubles  
two - but you wouldn't worry that they  
last any time. But I do feel  
lonelier and more easily discouraged, or  
rather thwarted, just now. The latter  
chiefly because it's so futile not being  
able to plan ahead for permanency. The  
future is still secret but the new MG  
organ for India has been published in the  
troops' own paper 'Tavara'; & the fact that  
the IA is to revert to post war size is  
also known, so  $2+2=4$ . The unsettled  
future is having its usual effect on the  
efficiency and keenness of the making  
this not really noticeably so. It'll be very  
difficult if it does, because the usual  
poor discipline in Adm units over losses  
of Govt property has produced a crop of  
threatening letters from the General, and  
Co's are faced with a court martial if

Excerpts from the letter

“the future of the battalion is still a secret. The fact that the Indian Army is to revert to post war size is unknown. The future is having its usual effect on the efficiency and keenness. The commanding officers would face court martial if any losses are found due to neglect or loopholes of orders”

(Continued)

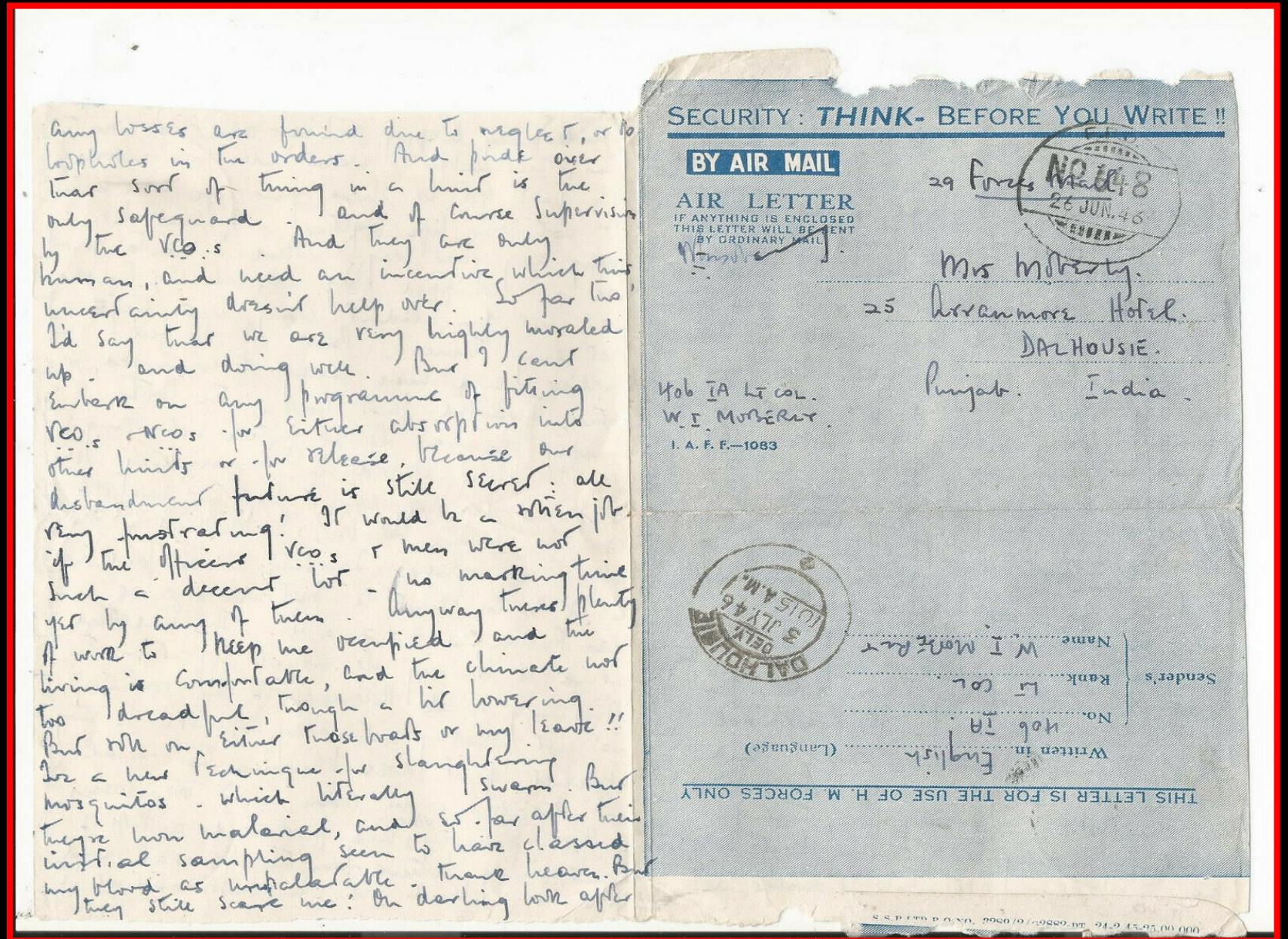


Excerpts from the letter (continued)

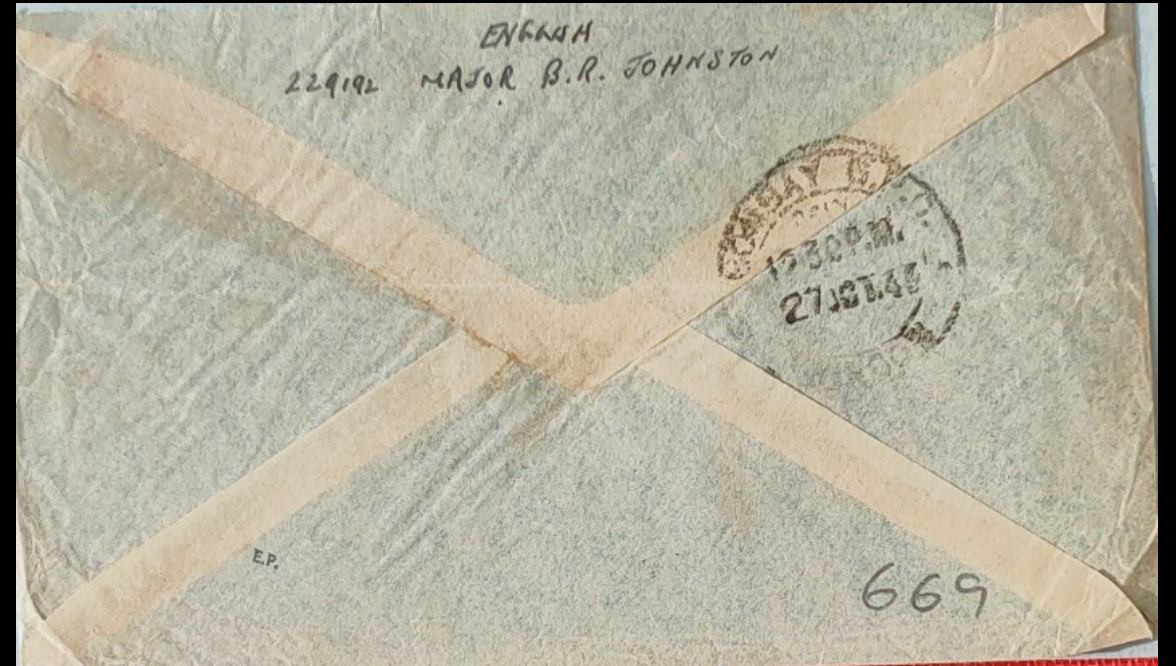
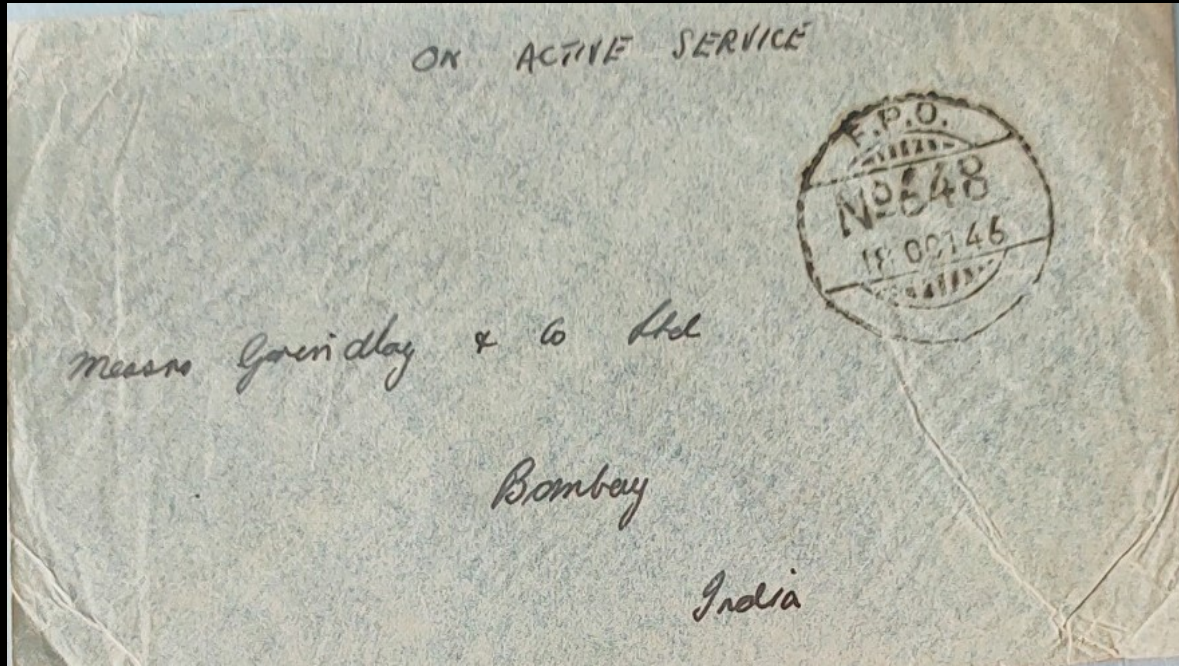
“Supervision by the VCO ‘s. And they are only human and need an incentive which this uncertainty doesn't help over. I d say we are highly moraled up and doing well.

On any programme of fitting VCO s and NCO s for either absorption into other units or for release because our disbandment future is still secret.”

The officer is frustrated on not knowing the future of the Indians in his regiment as they are all a “decent lot”.







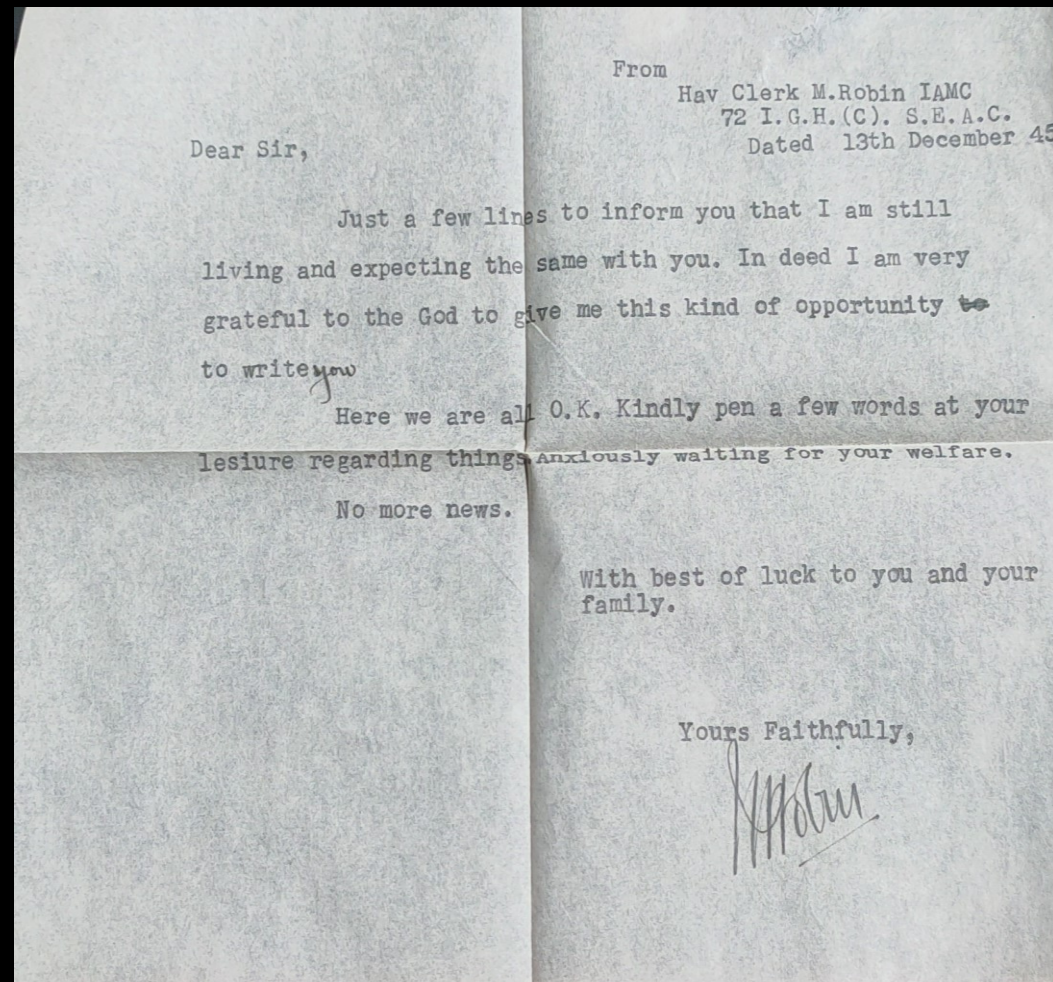
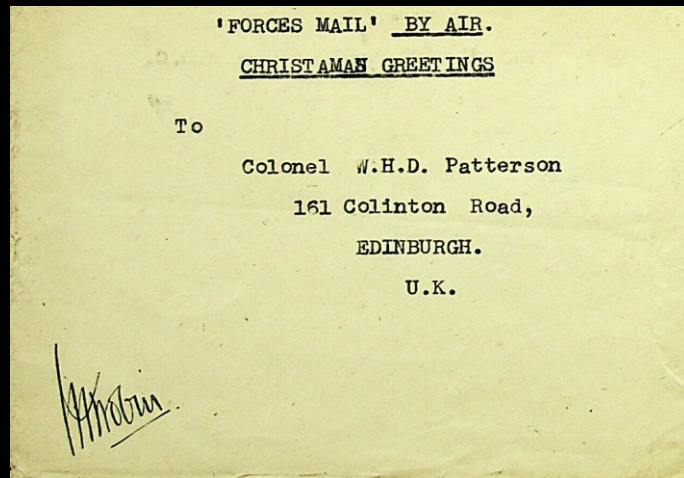
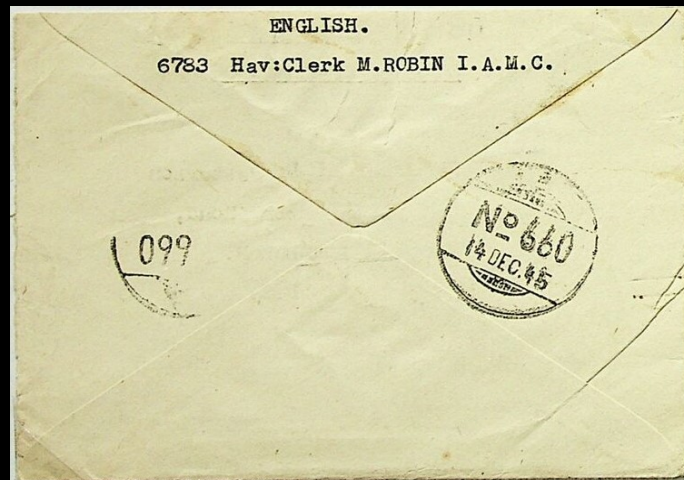
## FPO 648

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 648 at Medan, DEI, Sumatra on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1946 to Bombay, India.** It reached its destination on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1946

There was a strong disapproval in Urban India of the use of the Indian Army in Vietnam and Indonesia post war. The British deemed it in their interest to restore French and Dutch rule. In the Indonesian city of Surabaya, the 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Div fought its largest set of battles since the end of second world war. Large part of the city was reduced to rubble, some 15000 were killed

FPO 648 was the Reserve FPO OF 26 Division Postal Unit (E.B. Proud)





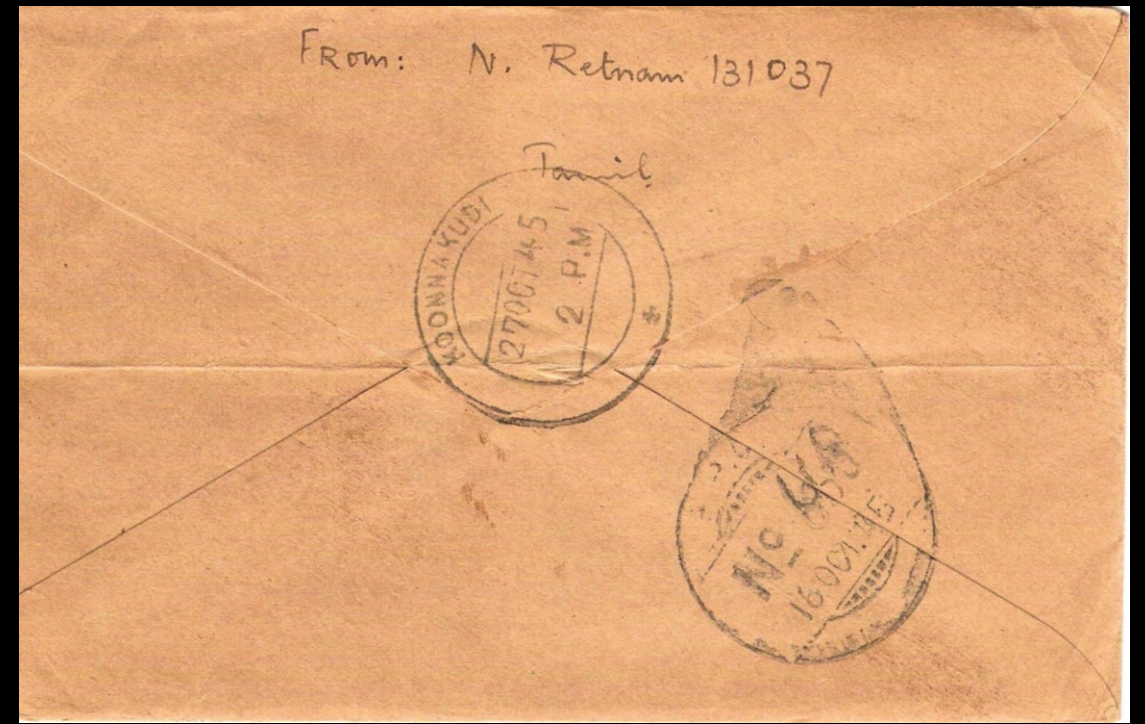
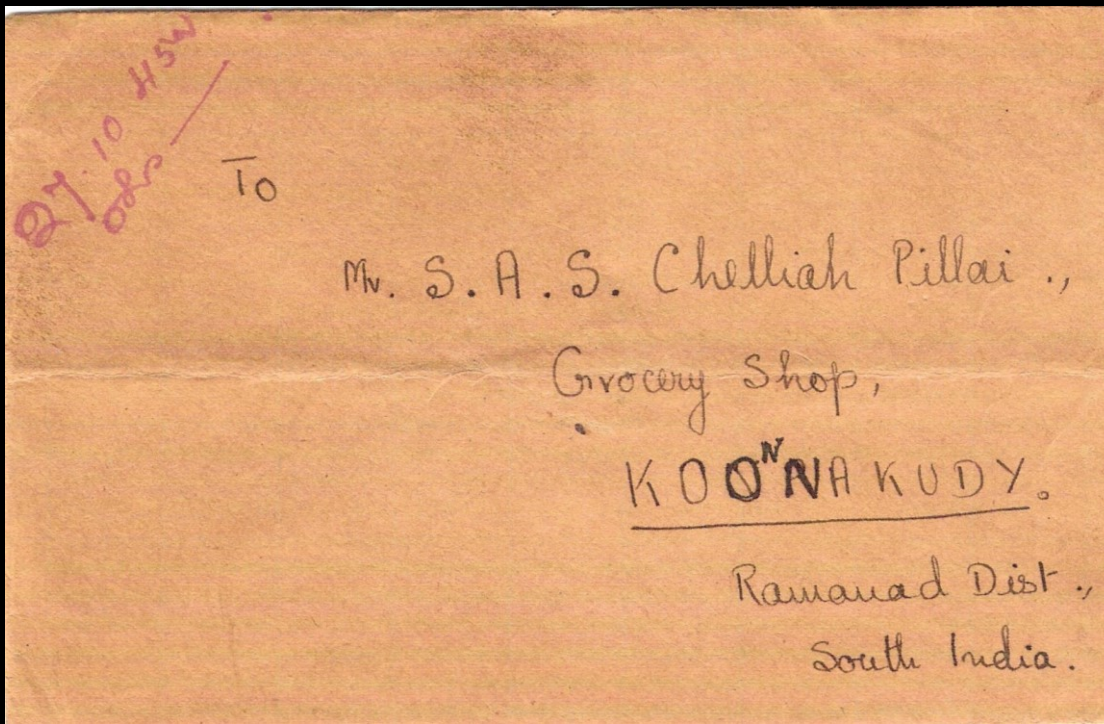
## FPO 660

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 660** at **Kuala Lumpur, Malaya** on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1945 to **England**. A typed letter written by **Hav Clerk M Robin** from **IAMC, 72 IGH (C)** to **Col WHD Patterson**

Few words from his short letter which are striking “Just few lines to inform that I am still living and expecting the same with you”

FPO 660 also used an error date stamp with No 099 (E.B. Proud)





## FPO 668

The stampless cover was posted from **FPO 668** on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1945 and reached **Koonakudy, India** on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1945.

The distance from Arkonam from Koonakudy is 76 Kms.

FPO 668 was a reserve FPO of 26 Division Postal Unit for Air trooping APO Arkonam, India. There is no record of use of FPO 668  
(E B Proud)





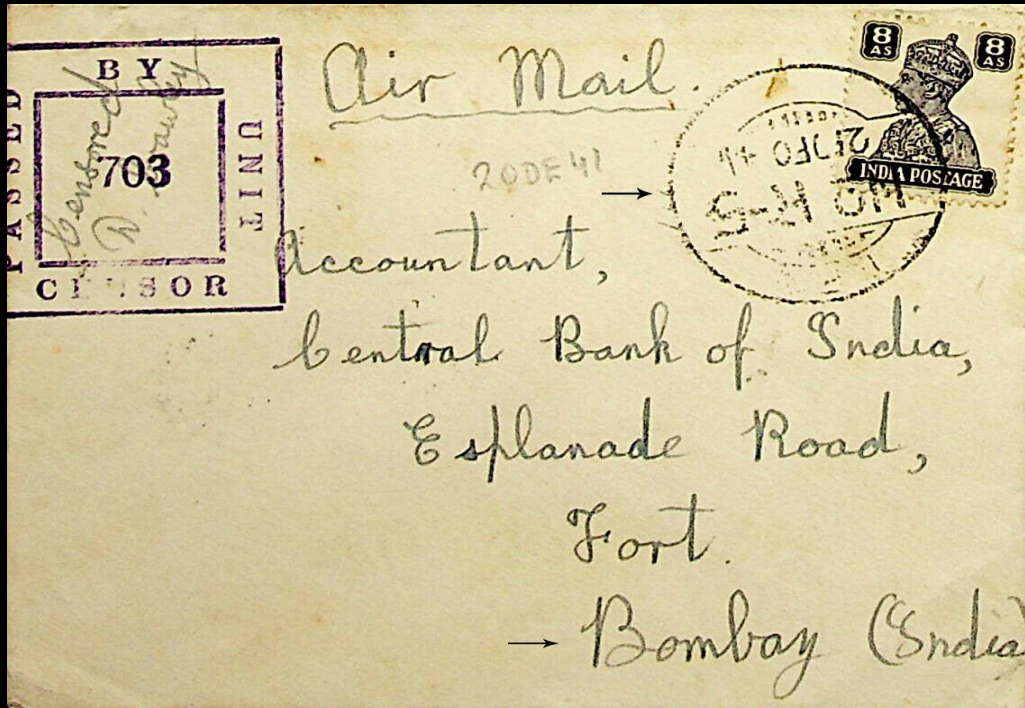
## FPO B

The stampless cover has been posted from an improvised **FPO B** at **Command HQ, Colombo, Ceylon** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1945 to Bombay, India.

It bears triangle Field Censor 66 and Unit Censor X97 all in violet.

Early in 1943 when the higher establishment of Base 9 had been filled up the ADAPS borrowed some of the Base Personnel to put up a number of improvised FPOs. These FPOs were given lettered designations A B C D E and were stationed at points where postal facilities were inadequate or wanting in Ceylon.

FPO B was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> May with Rear HQ 80<sup>th</sup> Brigade for a short period. It was reopened on 30<sup>th</sup> July with Command HQ at Colombo where it served up to 17<sup>th</sup> April 1946



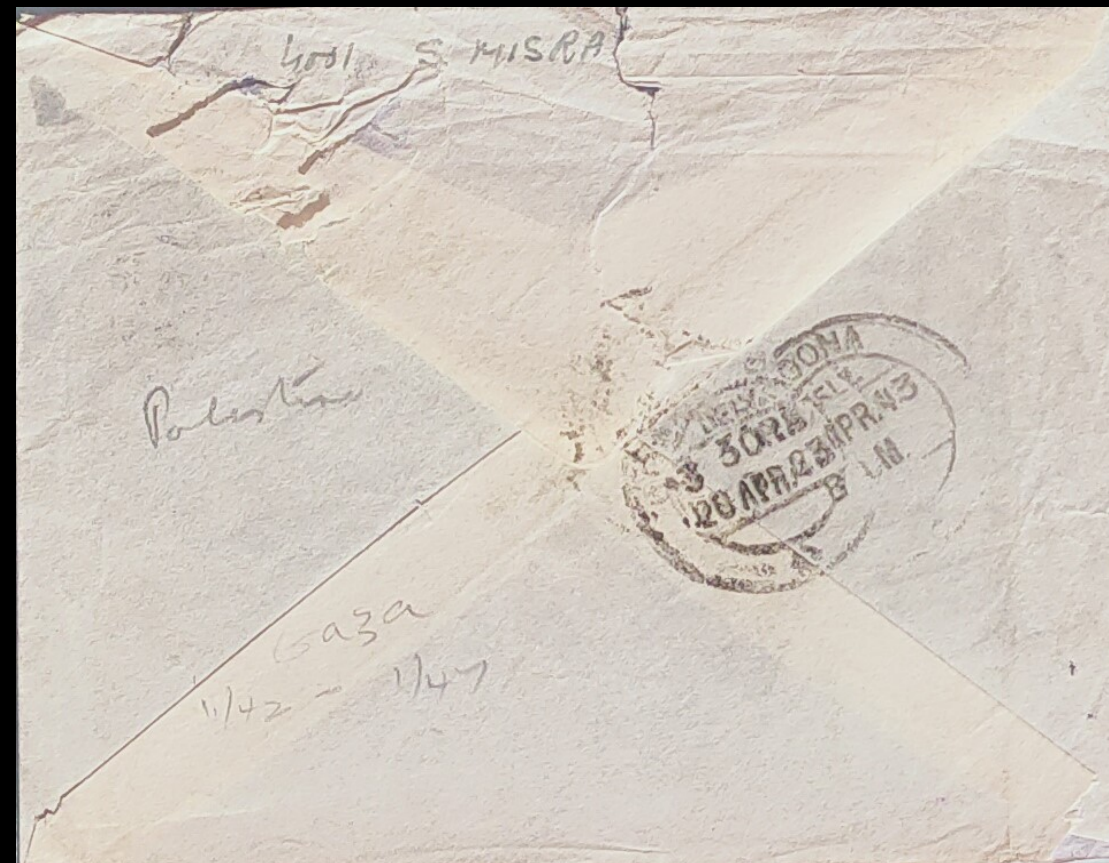
## FPO R5

The envelope posted from **FPO R5 at Moascar, Egypt** on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1941 to **Bombay, India**. It reached its destination on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 1939 India KGV 8as stamp affixed

It bears the square Passed By Censor 703 in violet

R5 was a reserve FPO and travelled between **Egypt** and Syria



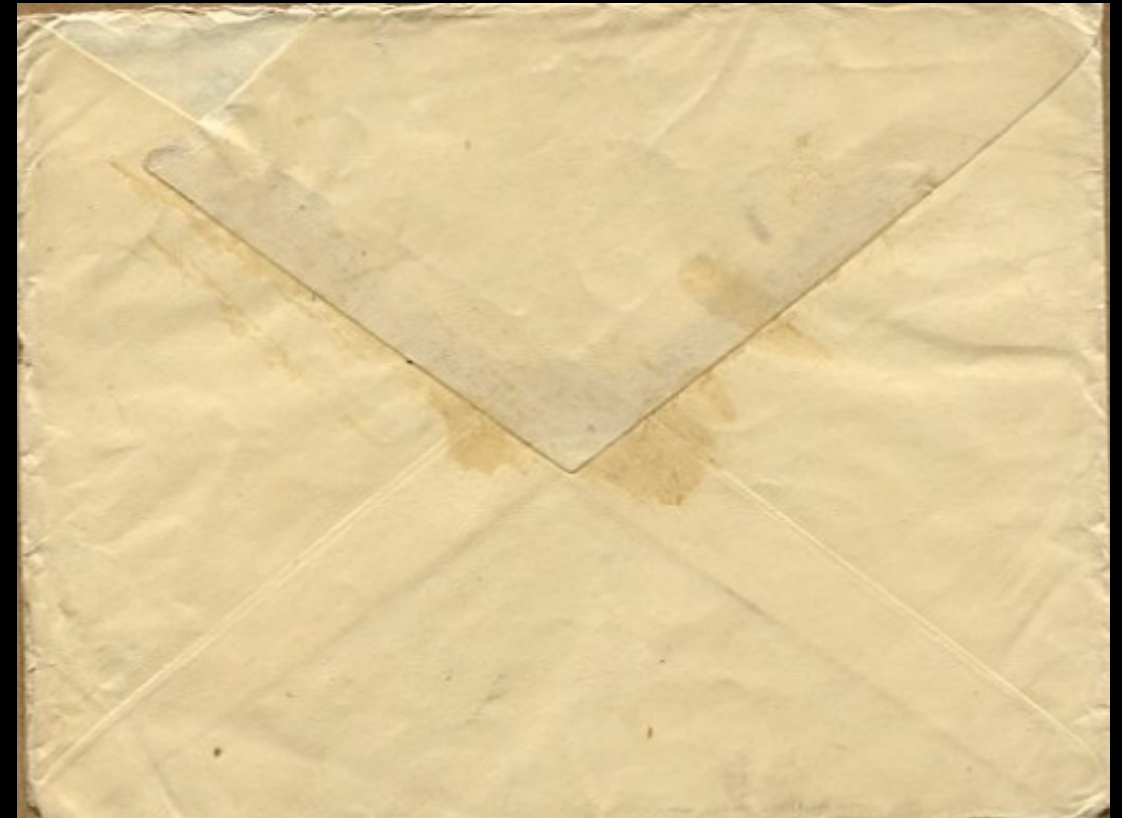


## FPO R9

The cover is posted from **FPO R9 at Gaza, Palestine** on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1943 to **New Delhi, re directed to Poona, India** (received 23rd April 1943) and to **Bombay, India** (received 20th April 1943), India KGV 8as stamp affixed. The letter has been posted by S MISRA (4001) to General F Gwatkin (retired as Lt Gen), Indian Army

It bears the circular Passed By Censor with a crown No 4955 in violet

R9 was a reserve FPO and travelled between Lebanon and Palestine

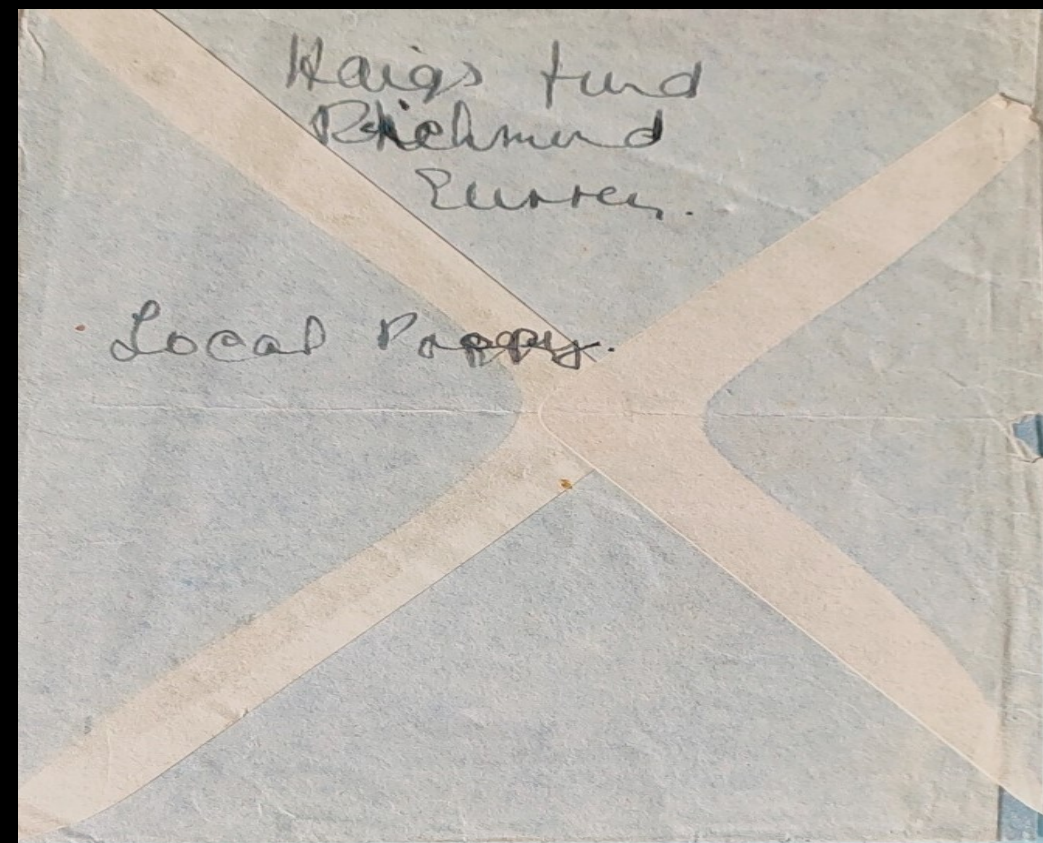


## FPO R19

The Honour Envelope posted from **FPO R19** at **Andimishk, Persia** on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1943 to **England**. India KGVI 8as stamp affixed  
It bears the circular Passed By Censor No 2229 in violet

R19 travelled between **Persia** and Iraq. It continued to use FPO R19 until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1946 and then used FPO 107 from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1946 to 5<sup>th</sup> September 1947

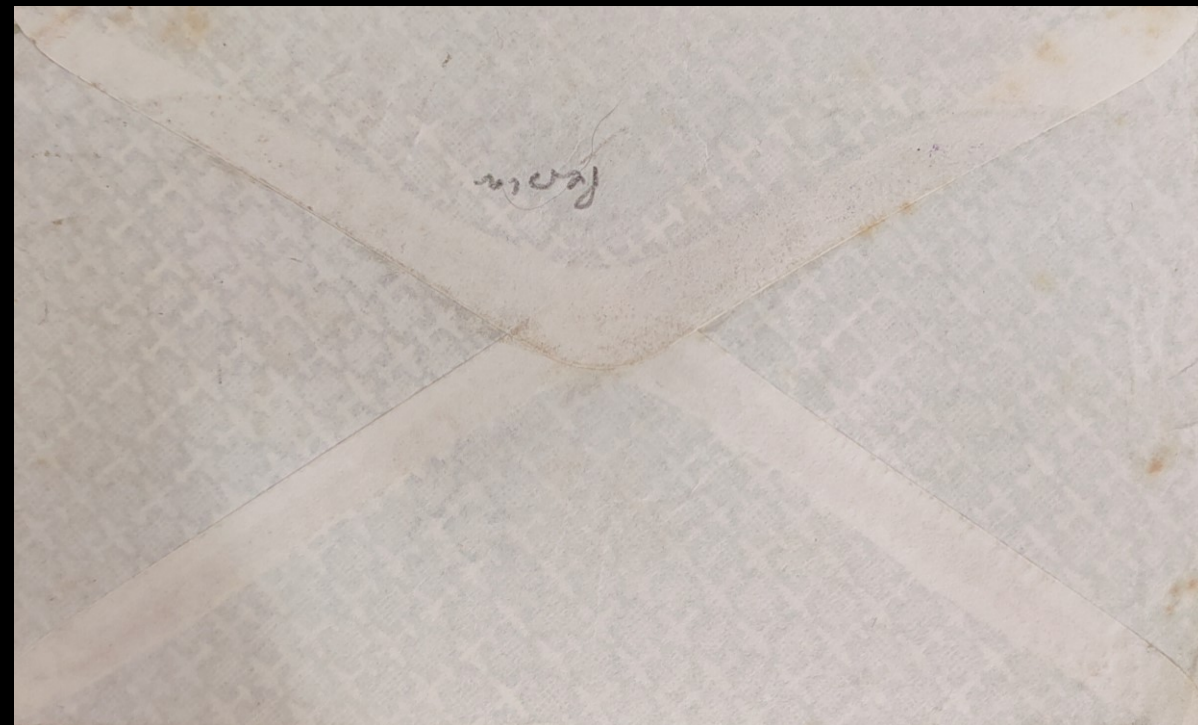




## FPO R19

The cover posted from **FPO R19 at Andimishk, Persia on September, 1942** to **England**. India KGVII 8as stamp affixed. It bears the circular Passed By Censor with a crown No 2229 in violet and the Deputy Chief Censor in black.

R19 travelled between **Persia** and Iraq. It continued to use FPO R19 until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1946 and then used FPO107 from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1946 to 5<sup>th</sup> September 1947.

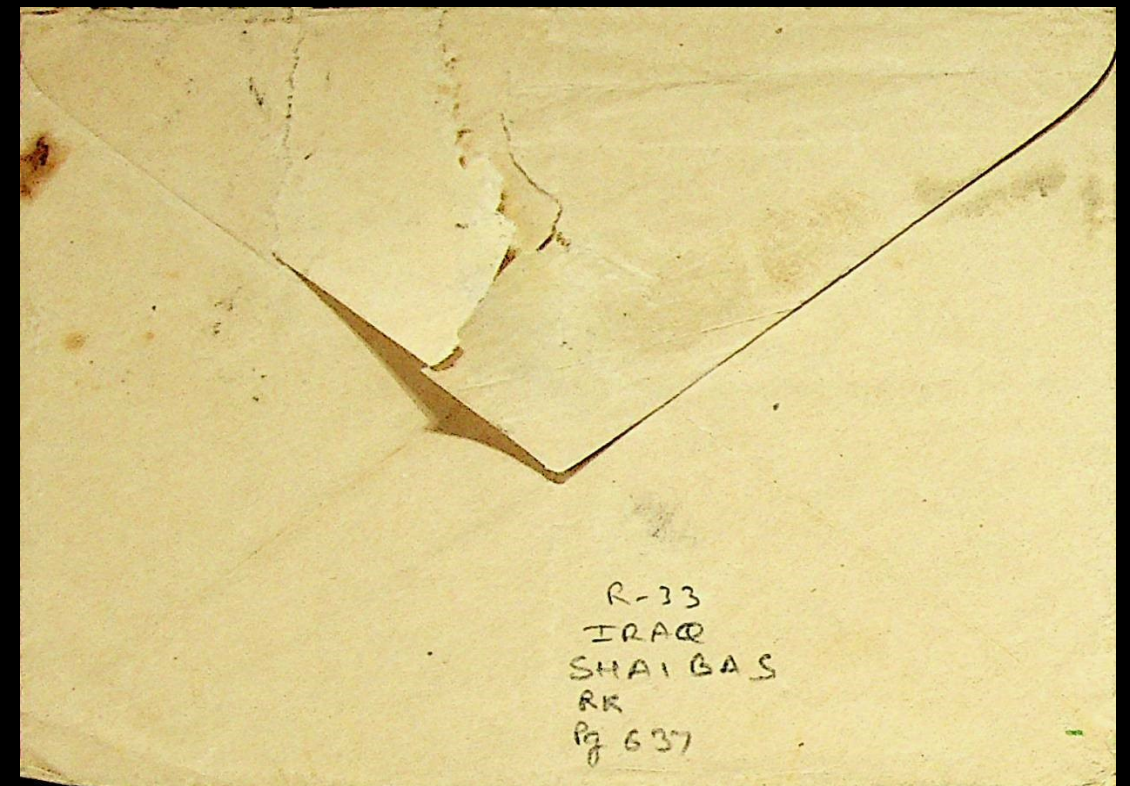
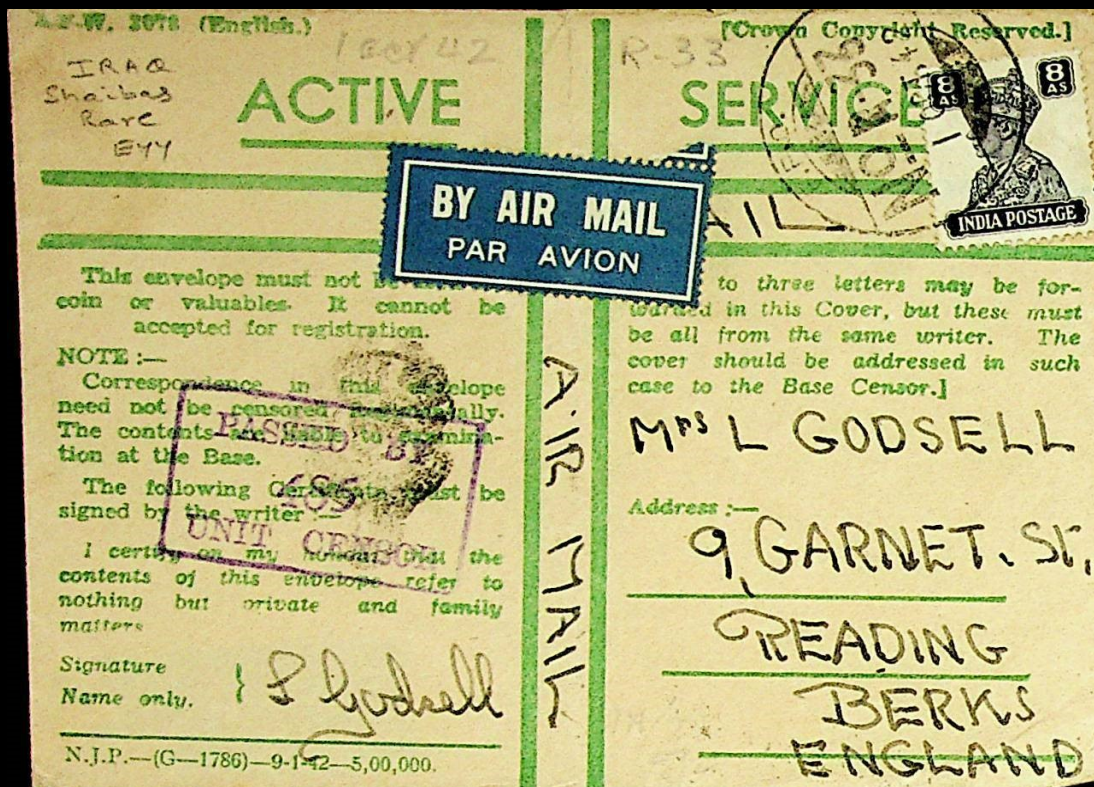


## FPO R19

The cover posted from **FPO R19** at **Andimishk, Persia** on **8<sup>th</sup> April, 1943** to **England**. India KGVI 8as stamp affixed. It bears the circular Passed By Censor No 2229 in violet and the handstamp of the Deputy Chief Censor in black.

R19 travelled between Persia and Iraq. It continued to use FPO R19 until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1946 and then used FPO107 from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1946 to 5<sup>th</sup> September 1947.





## FPO R33

The Honour Envelope posted from **FPO R33 at Shaibah, Iraq** on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1942 to **England**. India KGV 8as stamp affixed. It bears the boxed Passed By Unit Censor 485 in violet.

R33 was a reserve FPO which travelled within Iraq.



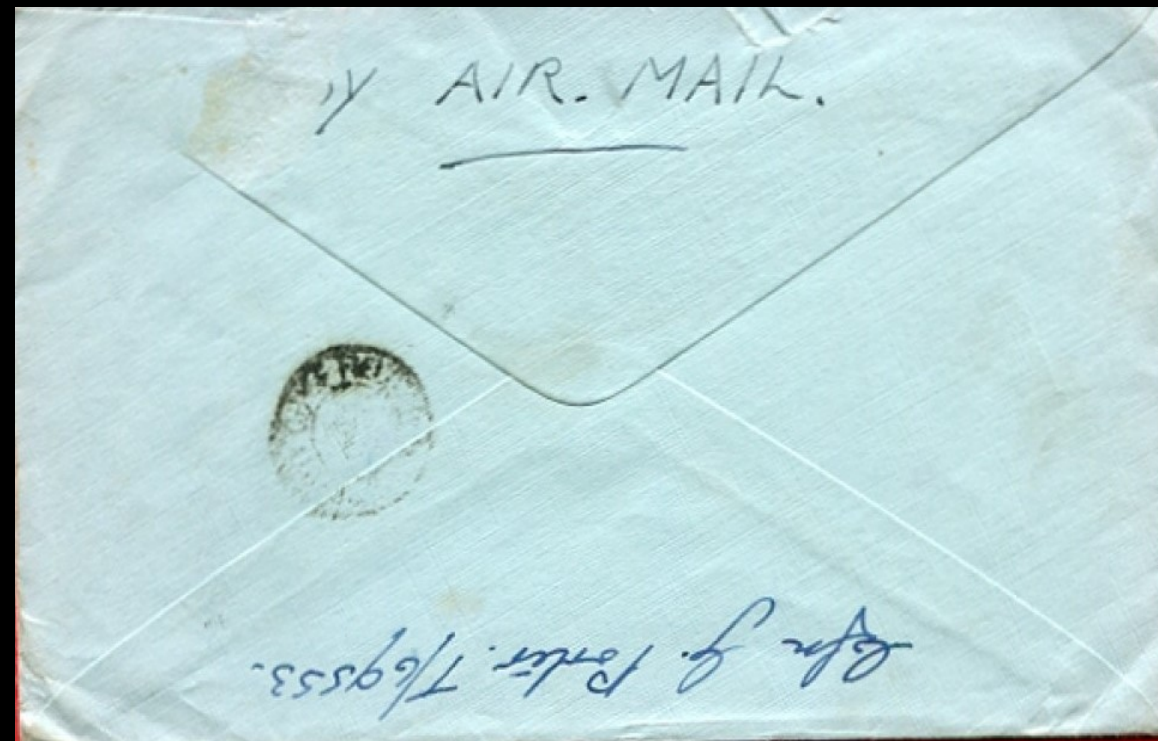
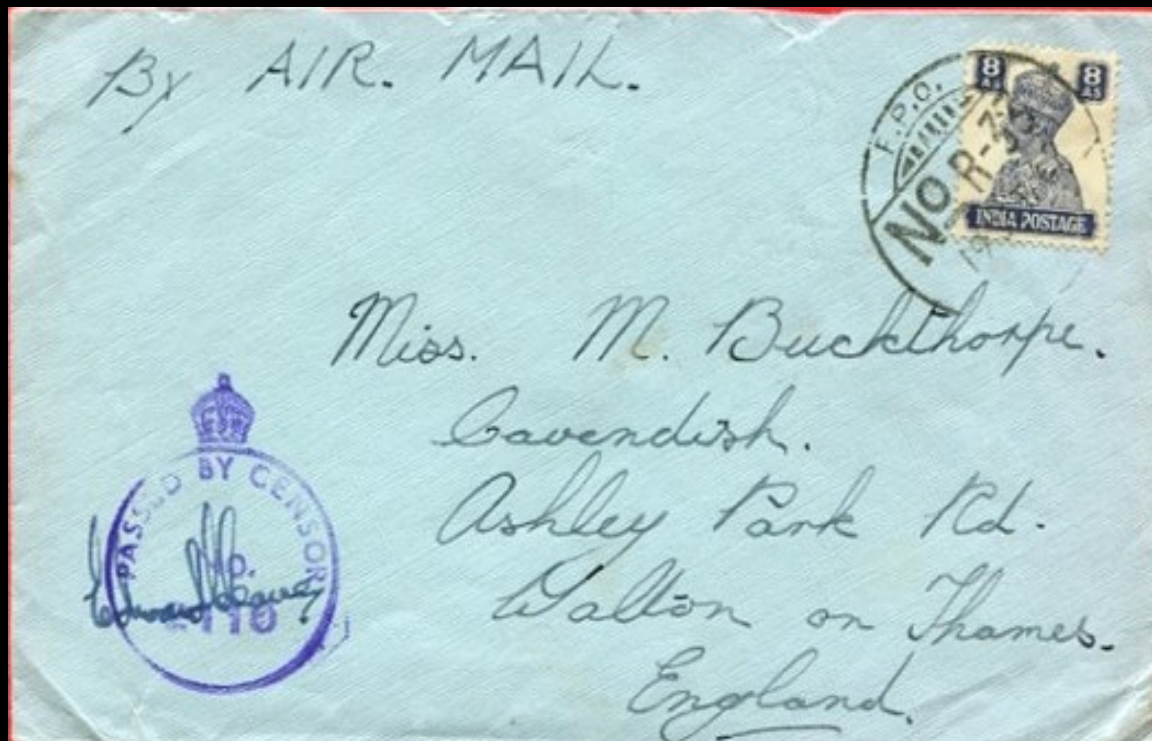


### FPO R33

The cover posted from **FPO R33 at Shaibah, Iraq** on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1943 to **England**. India KGVI 8as stamp affixed. It bears the circular Passed By Censor with the crown on top 4713 in violet.

R33 was a reserve FPO which travelled within **Iraq**.



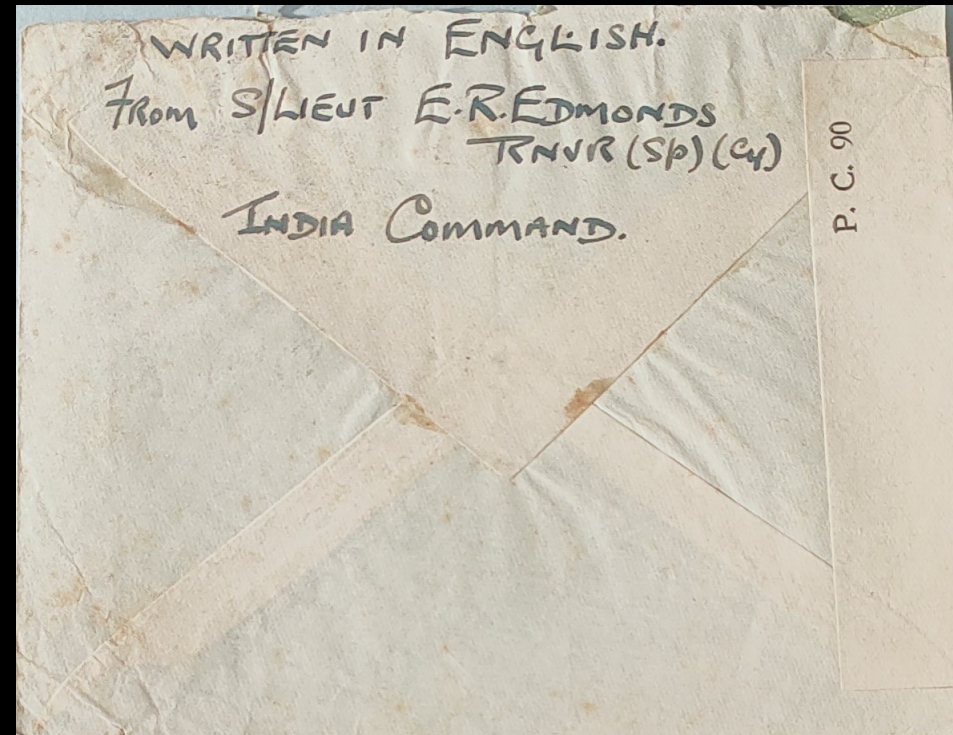


### FPO R33

The cover was posted from **FPO R33 at Shaibah, Iraq** on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1942 to **England**. India KGVI 8as stamp affixed

It bears the circular Passed By Unit Censor with a crown No 2110 in violet and a black Deputy Chief censor

R33 was a reserve FPO which travelled within Iraq.



The datestamp on the cover is **CAMP P.O. L-75**. These were improvised field post offices, result of emergency conditions which could not be satisfied by the provision of regular field post offices. L75 is not identified either by Brig D S Virk or E R Proud. The other date stamps being L68,69,71,75-76,80,81and L102, these were supplied by the Indian P&T Dept to various FPO s in Middle East. L71 was used to FPO16 to replace lost datestamp in transit (Brig D S Virk)

This cover has been posted to England, the writer is a S/Lieutenant E R Edmonds from **Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR)** which was created in 1903. The S/Lieutenant is serving under India Command; 3\*3as India KGV stamps are affixed

It bears a censor strip OPENED BY EXAMINER PC90 and the triangle Field Censor India 120

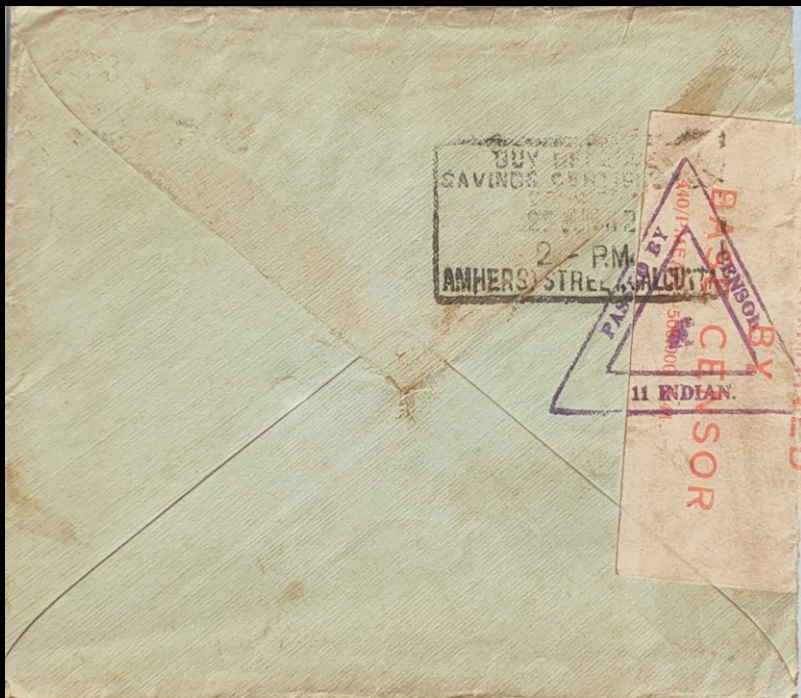




## FPO S-285

The cover was posted from **FPO S-285** at **Sudan** on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1942 to **Calcutta**, India KGV1 8as stamp affixed. It was received at the destination with the delivery cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificate on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1942

It bears the censor strip Examined By Censor, the circular Passed By Unit Censor with a crown on top no 565 in violet, the triangle Passed By Censor 11 Indian and the purple chop mark used at Iraq in transit.



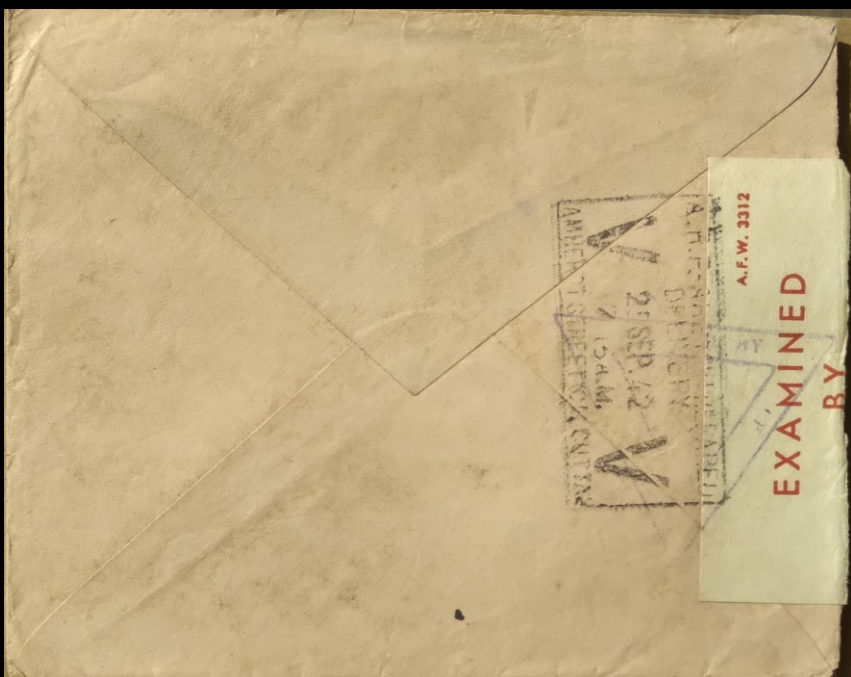




## FPO S-285

The Forces Air Mail Envelope (pink colour)-pre printed India KG VI 8as, 8as India KGV cover was posted from **FPO S-285** at **Sudan** in September, 1942 to **Calcutta**, India . It was received at the destination with the delivery cachet ARP are you prepared with 2 V on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1942

It bears the censor strip Examined By Censor, the circular Passed By Unit Censor with a crown on top no 565 in violet, the triangle Passed By Censor 11 Indian and the purple chop mark used at Iraq in transit.

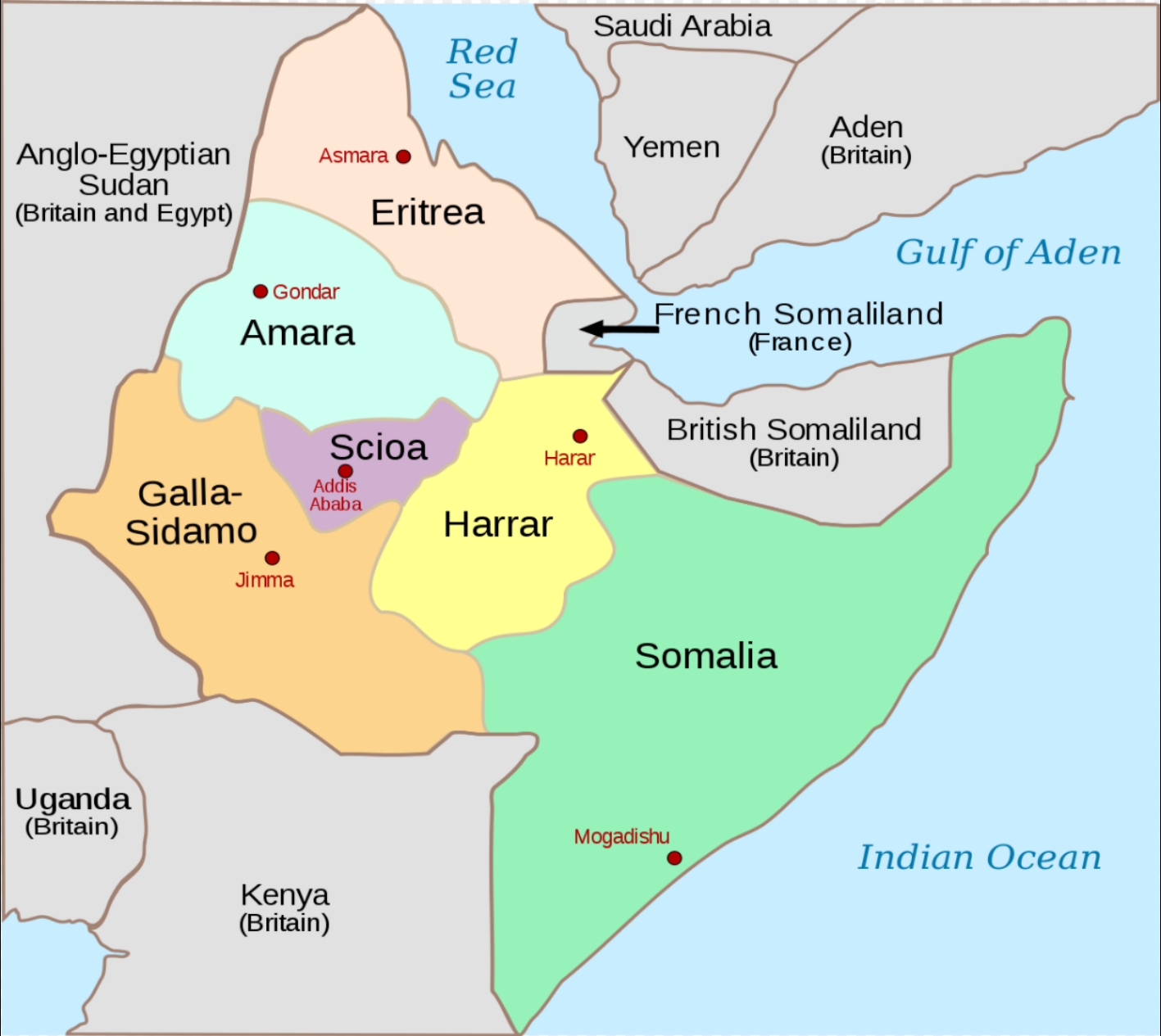
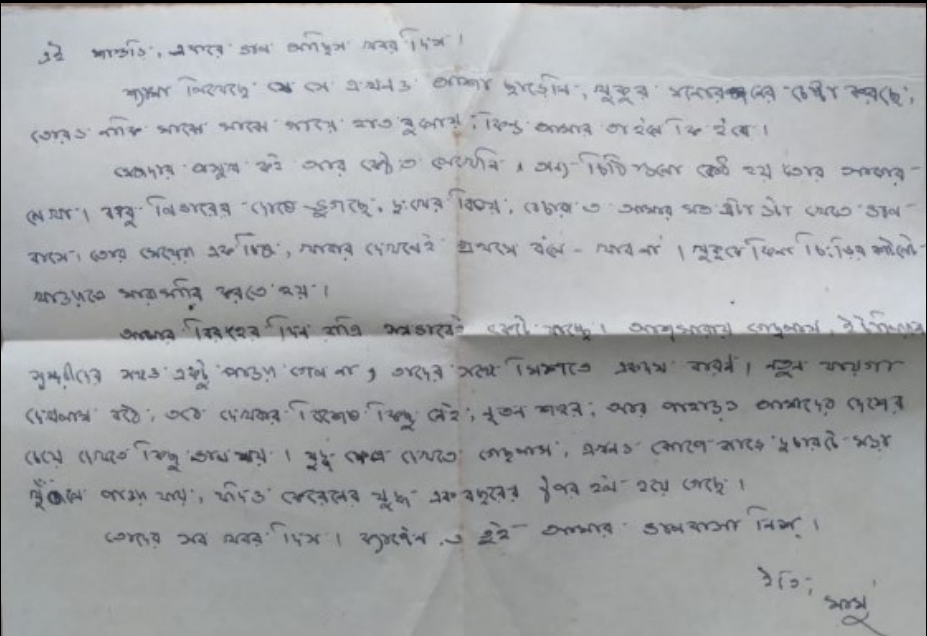




# Italian East Africa map, May 1940

FPO S-285 (continued)

Excerpts from the letter written in Bengali “My days of mourning are going on.....visited Asmara, Eritrea. Went and saw the war field and still would be able to find dead soldiers in the bushes”



## 7. Soldiers Of The Second World War



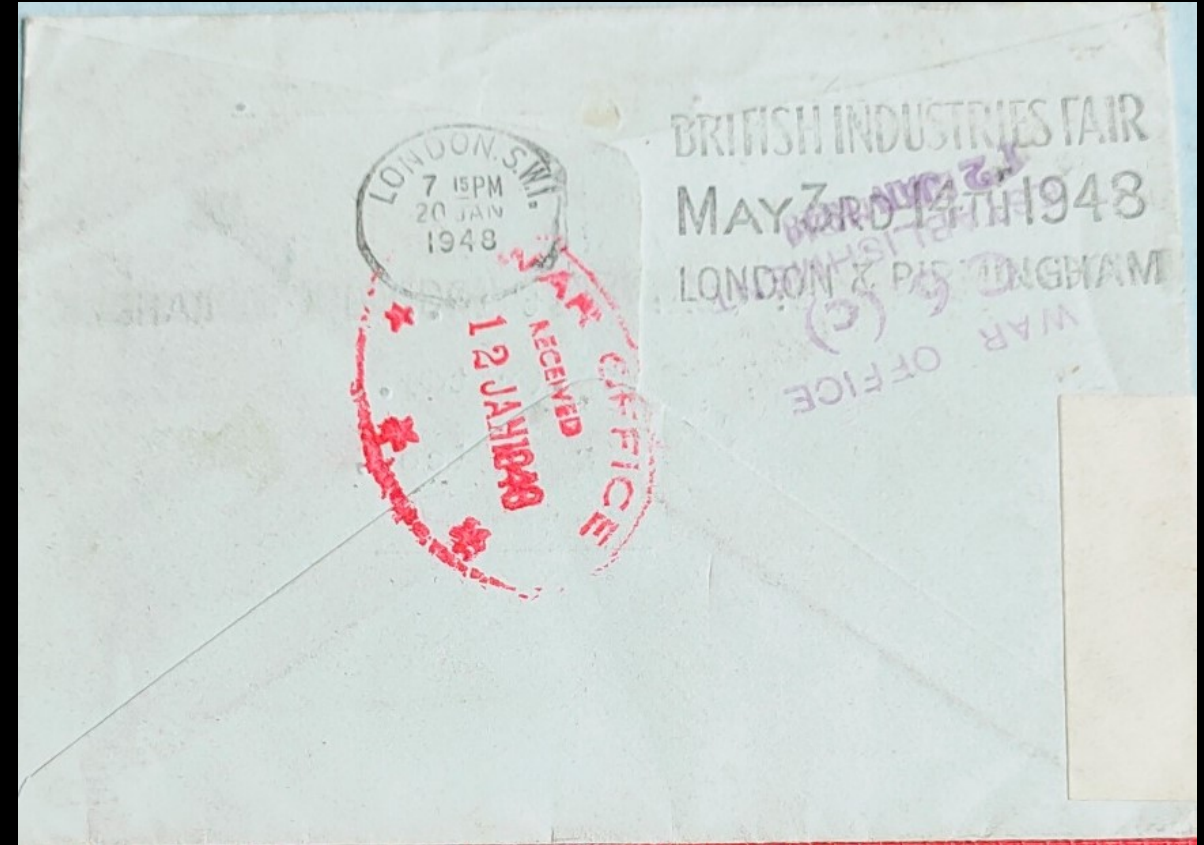


## Lt Gen F Gwatkin

This cover has been posted on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1947, written to **Lt Gen F Gwatkin**, Indian Army (retired). It mentions Greetings and Pack Postage on the cover. It seems to have been redirected twice below the sticker and final destination address is handwritten on the sticker. 3as and 2\*3ps India KGV is affixed

It bears the Oval War Office received on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1948 in red, along with another handstamp War Office C6 (c) Establishment 12 Jn 1948 in violet. The circular postmark, London SW1 7.15 PM 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1948 is in black. It also bears the cachet British Industries Fair May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1948 London & Birmingham

This cover demonstrates how a letter from India was delivered to a senior ex Indian Army Officer who shifted to England post 1947. (continued)



## **Lt Gen F Gwatkin** (continued)

He was born on 12.4.1885 at Murree.

He was commissioned in 18<sup>th</sup> Lancers in 1904. On completed Staff College on 14.1.1930 and assumed the command of the Royal Deccan Horse. He remained the Regiment's commanding officer until 4.8.1934, when he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. On the same date, he was appointed to command the 2nd (Sialkot) Indian Cavalry Brigade and granted the rank of Temporary Brigadier.

In 1938 he attended the Imperial Defence College and was promoted to the rank of Major General, one of only 21 Officers of that rank in the Indian Army, on July 1938 he was transferred to the Semi-Effective List.

His next post was on 14th April 1939, he came off the Semi-Effective List and appointed as the Military Advisor-in-Chief to the Indian State Forces. This role involved him working with these private armies that were under the control of the Princes that ruled the many independent states within British India. On the 2nd August 1939 he was appointed Colonel of Royal Deccan Horse. He was Knighted at the Viceroy's House in New Delhi on 21st February 1942, and six days later, on the 27th February, he was promoted to Local Lieutenant General.

He retired from the Indian Army on the 12th April 1943, having completed forty years service in 1947.

He had two sons killed on the same day in Burma on the 14th March 1945. Lieutenant A.W.Gwatkin, 19th Lancers and Captain F.C.N.Gwatkin, Royal Deccan Horse. They are both buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery in Burma. He relinquished the role of Colonel of the Royal Deccan Horse on the 1st September 1950, he died in 1969. (continued)





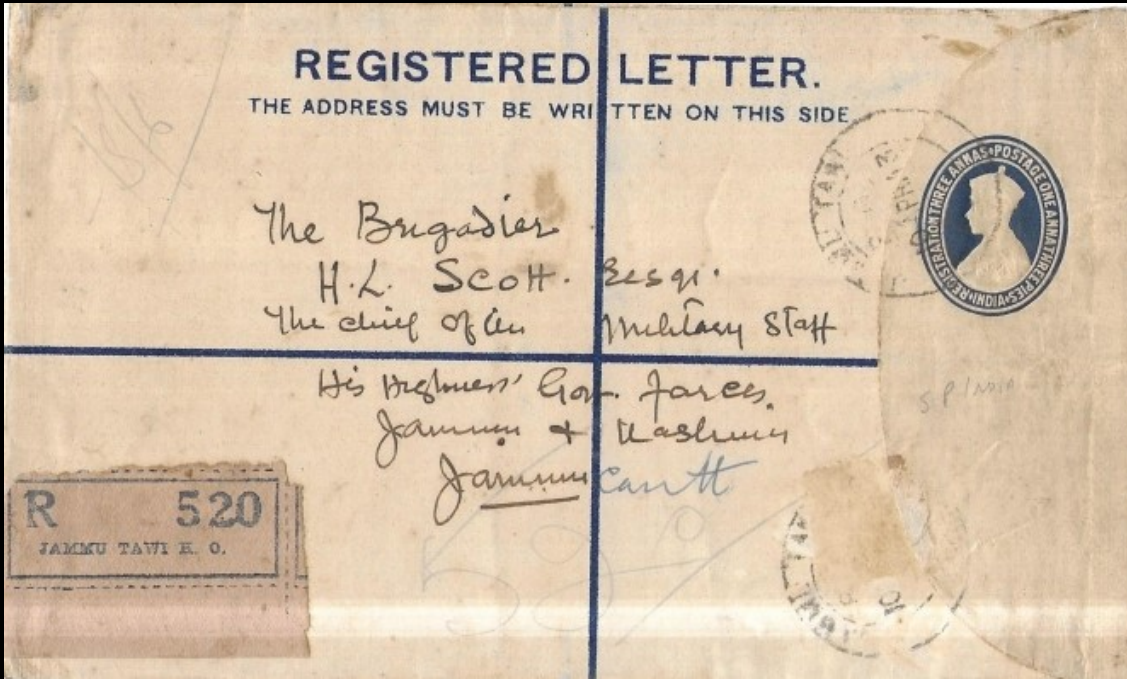
## Lt Gen F Gwatkin (continued)

The C.B., Great War 'Egyptian Expeditionary Force' D.S.O., M.C. group of fifteen awarded to Major-General Sir Frederick Gwatkin, 18th (King George's Own) Lancers, Indian Army, later Colonel of the Royal Deccan Horse

Knight Bachelor's Badge, 2nd type breast badge, silver-gilt and enamel, hallmarks for London 1940, in Royal Mint case of issue; The Most Honourable Order of the Bath, C.B. (Military) Companion's neck badge, silver-gilt and enamel, with neck riband; Distinguished by Service Order, G.V.R., silver-gilt and enamel, with integral top riband bar; Military Cross, G.V.R., unnamed as issued; 1914-15 Star (Capt. F. Gwatkin, 18/Lncrs.); British War and Victory Medals, with M.I.D. oak leaves (Maj. F. Gwatkin.); General Service 1918-42, 1 clasp, Kurdistan (Major. F. Gwatkin.); Africa Star; War Medal 1939-45; India Service Medal; Delhi Durbar 1911, silver; Jubilee 1935; Coronation 1937; Belgium, Kingdom, Croix de Guerre, A.I.R., bronze.

All mounted court-style for display





## Brigadier HL Scott

This Registered Cover bears R520 Jammu Tawi HO sticker, embossed prepaid stamp of 1a3p India KGVII posted on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1943. It is addressed to Brigadier HL Scott who was the Chief of the Military Staff, Jammu and Kashmir Force.

Brig HL Scott was under criticism for deploying the State Forces in small penny pockets to counter the armed invaders in Rajouri and Poonch sectors, himself handing over command to Brigadier Rajinder Singh on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1947. By 27<sup>th</sup> October 1947 Maharaja Hari Singh acceded to India, the Indian army was airlifted into the valley

(The long road to Siachen The question Why; Kunal Verma & Rajiv Williams, Rupa & Co)

“General Scott had connived with Major Brown, Commander of Gilgit Scouts, to take over Gilgit and accede it to Pakistan if the Maharaja acceded J&K to India. It was the conspiracy that was accomplished when Hari Singh acceded J&K to India. Major Brown arrested Ghansara Singh and imprisoned him in Pakistan’s Attock Fort Jail”.

Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (retired); last General of Maharaja Hari Singh (last Dogra ruler of erstwhile J&K State)

<https://thewire.in/diplomacy/how-and-why-gilgit-baltistan-defied-maharaja-hari-singh-and-joined-pakistan>

