

Major (later Brig) DD Vohra

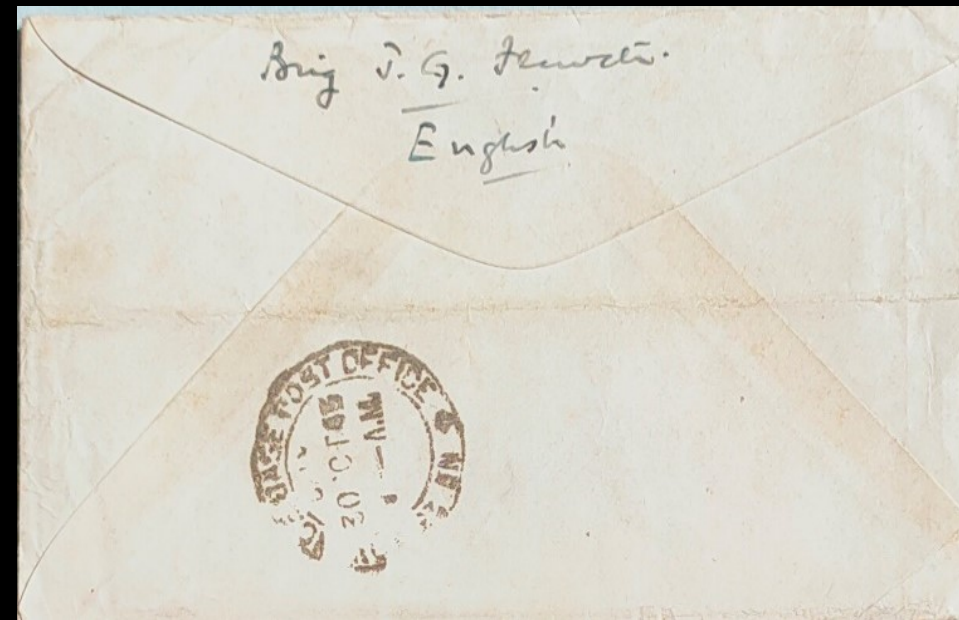
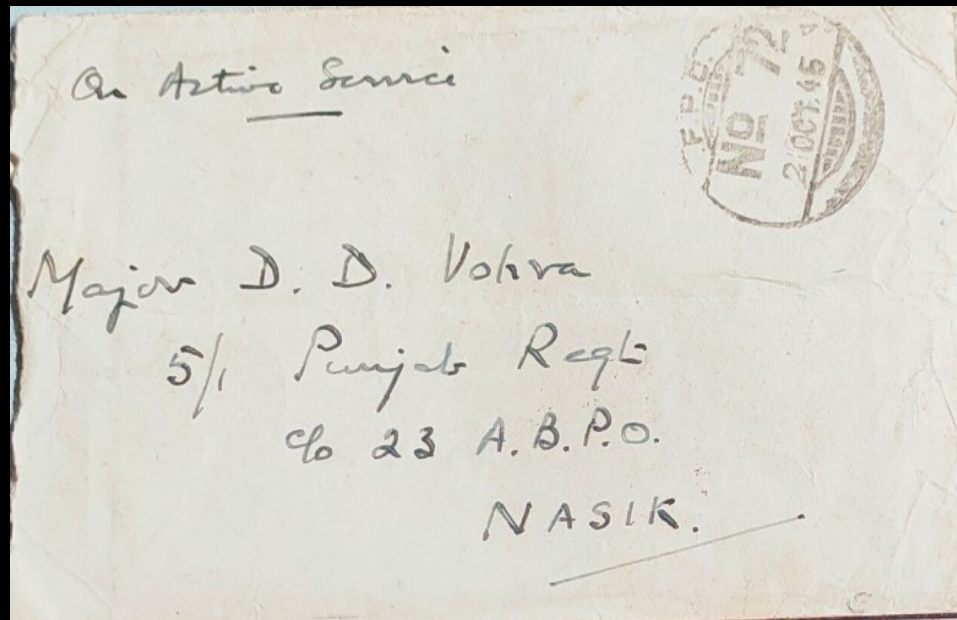
He was commissioned in 5th battalion 1st Punjab Regiment in Mar/Apr 1943 saw action in Burma, post war, he was part of BCOF, Japan. 1947 onwards after India's Independence, he served with The Dogra Regiment as 1st Punjab was assigned to Pakistan. Post 1947, He commanded the Army Intelligence School, 2 Dogra, 16 Dogra, Dogra Regimental Centre and was the Indian Military Attaché in Pakistan from 1969 to 1971.

In 1943 after completing OTS, Bangalore, he joined 5/1 Punjab at Jaintiapur near Silchar, then they moved to Ranchi. In Aug 1943 he moved with the regiment to Chittagong. On 5th February 1944 they were in defensive position guarding the Mountbatten Bridge. They faced the enemy in Razabil area. The battalion cleared Japanese occupied Point 144 which stood in the way of the 114th Brigade's advance to Buthidaung. They crossed Kalapanzin river to rejoin 71st Indian Infantry Brigade. There they fought the enemy around Sinohbyin. The regiment then secured the Buthidaung-Maungdaw road in order to establish a defensive line for the approaching monsoon. On 5th May the Japanese raided the 71st Indian infantry Brigade. The Brigade withdrew northwards towards 26 Indian Div monsoon location. In Nov they moved to Coconada on the east coast of India to commence training for assault landing in combined ops at Ramree Island in January 1945.

He was Mentioned in Despatches for the Burma Campaign.

(Source 5/1st Punjab war diary) (continued)



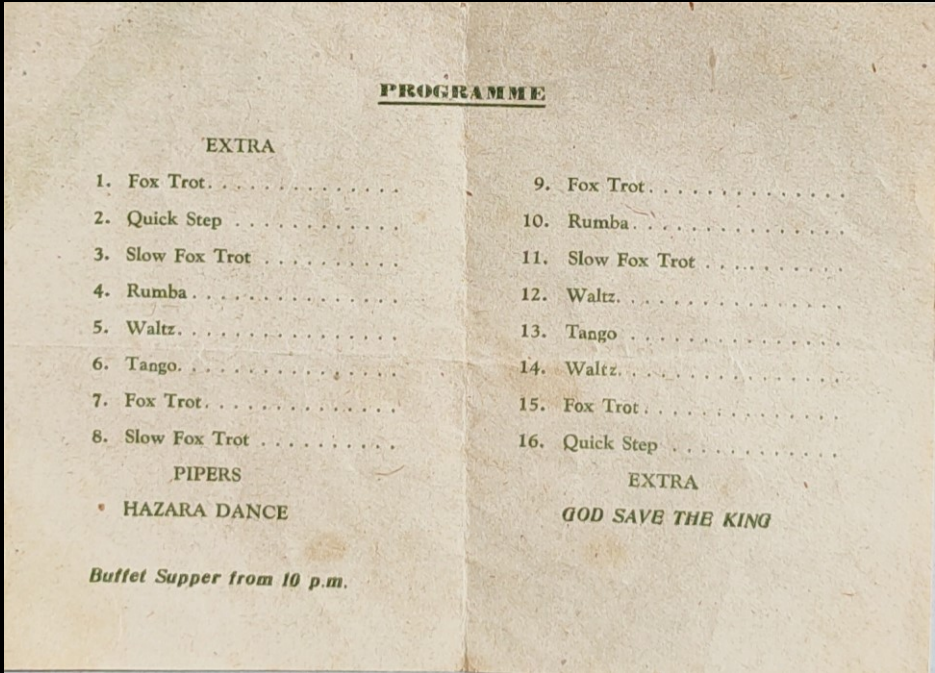
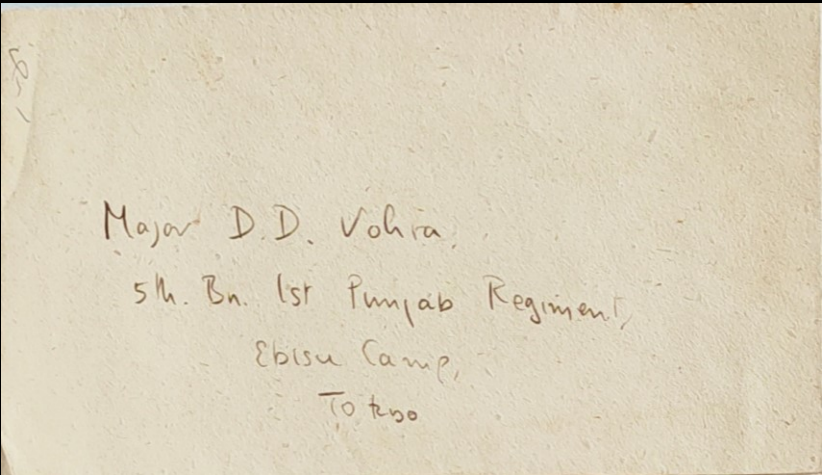


Major (later Brig) DD Vohra (continued)

The stampless letter was posted from **FPO 72** at **Pyinmana, Burma** on 2nd October 1945 to **Maj (later Brig) D. D. Vohra, 5/1 Punjab Regiment c/o 23 ABPO, Nasik, India**. It arrived at its destination on 30th October 1943. (Genuine error)

5/1 Punjab was based around Nasik and were preparing to leave for BCOF duties in Japan. The letter was written by Brig J G Flewett (IA 500) who was the Brigade Commander of 64th Indian Infantry Brigade which was part of 19th Infantry Division. He was awarded Bar to DSO on 6th June 1946 (London Gazette) for his Brigade's successful operation in forcing the Japanese out of the Pegu Yomas forests in May and June 1945. He had commanded the 5/1 Punjab from June 1943 to January 1945. Maj DD Vohra was commissioned into 5/1st Punjab in March/April 1943, Brig JG Flewett was his first commanding officer

Major (later Brig) DD Vohra (continued)



Capt. (later Brig.) D D Vohra

Major (later Brig) DD Vohra (continued)

Major D. D. Vohra



From -
Lall Khan Sub. Major

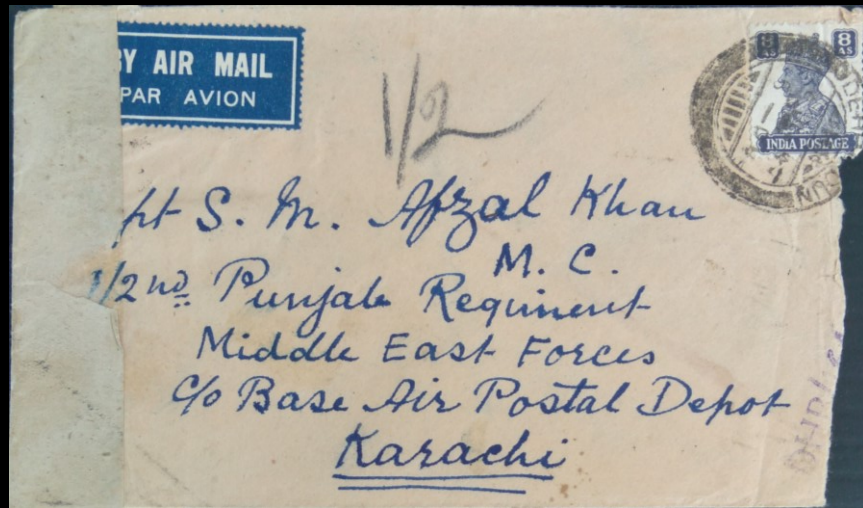
Major D. D. Vohra.

With Best Wishes
for
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year



Sub-Maj Lall Khan
5/1st Punjab Regiment

Sub-Maj. Lall Khan, Bahadur, O.B.E., M.B.E.,
5/1st Punjab Regiment.



Rank, Name, Unit, India Force

c/o Air Postal Depot

Lieutenant S.M. Khan, Military Cross

An outgoing cover posted from Dehradun, India to **Lieutenant S.M. Khan, Military Cross** from 1/2 Punjab Regiment located in the Middle East. Partial Post Depot datestamp is seen on the reverse with 1943. **This bears a censor strip Opened By Examiner P.C.90** and the black octagonal “Passed” steel stamp which was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942 . It also bears a violet DHB/64 (Karachi).

This cover bears the correct address panel to be used by correspondents to the personnel of the Middle East Forces . The focal centre of air communication from India to West was Karachi surprisingly it also serviced the mail of troops in Malaya and Burma, thus the Air Postal Depot, Karachi was established in July 1941. An exception was in 1944 when SEAC opened at Calcutta to deal with their mail. An The new address for the Forces airmail was c/o Base Air Post Depot. The Middle East Command had issued orders for the promulgation of its famous Middle East Force address. Once it reaches the Base Air Postal Depot it would accordingly direct it to the location of the address. (<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/from-maiwand-to-el-alamein/>)

Military Cross citation

On 22 July 1942, In the **Battle of El Alamein** (Ruweisat Ridge) this officer led his company through heavy artillery and machine gun fire, with the enemy tanks in the vicinity and cleared a passage through the minefield for Allied armoured forces to pass through. He led the assault on the ridge with the utmost dash and determination, secured the position, and captured over a hundred and fifty prisoners. He displayed throughout courage and leadership of the highest order and a complete disregard of personal danger and was awarded Military Cross.

The 1/2 Punjab Regiment served in India, Aden, Somaliland, Italian East Africa, Egypt and Italy, during the Second World War. Post Partition the Regiment remained in India and is presently the 1 Bn Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)

(continued)

Lieutenant S.M. Khan, Military Cross (continued)

In 1880 a military legend was born on the dusty plains east of Helmand by the rear guard of the 66 Foot and the stand at Maiwand of its last eleven soldiers who perished in a final charge. The architect of the British defeat was Sardar Ayub, the Emir of Afghanistan, who was subsequently deposed and travelled to India in exile with his eleven wives, fifteen sons and ten daughters.

Whereas General 'Bob' Roberts (later C-in-C India) had defeated his ancestor at the Battle of Kandahar, Afzal Khan, Sardar Ayub's grandson fought bravely with the Commonwealth Troops and General Auchinleck, the last C-in-C India, awarded Colonel Sardar Afzal Khan of the 1/2nd Punjabis and the Guides Infantry with the Military Cross.

Sardar Afzal was a late entry into the army. Born in 1911 in Dehradun, where some members of Sardar Ayub's family had been settled, he obtained an Emergency Commission in 1941 at the age of 30 years. He was posted to 1/2nd Punjabis which is the senior-most battalion of the Indian Army. Its predecessors were raised during the Carnatic Wars and the regiment was awarded the insignia of a galley, because by 1824 it had fought in eight overseas campaigns. At the early stages of the Second World War, it was part of the 5 Indian Division, the first formation of the Indian Army to sail for Africa. It battled the Italians during the Eritrean Campaign before being thrust into North Africa against the German Afrika Corps. In April 1942, the 1/2nd with its parent 161st Infantry Brigade had returned to Egypt from Cyprus where it had been garrisoned against a German invasion and was reorganized as a motor brigade for the First Battle of Alamein.

At the end of the war he was a temporary Major. At Independence his family migrated to Pakistan from Dehradun and Sardar Afzal opted for the Pakistan Army along with his brother Sardar Ismail, who was transferred to the Army Service Corps and retired as a Brigadier.

On promotion, Sardar Afzal commanded the Guides Infantry and moved with the battalion to serve in East Pakistan. He served as an instructor at the Command & Staff College in Quetta. Thereafter he commanded Zhob Militia and following his retirement in 1958, he was the director of administration of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in Ankara, Turkey. He eventually emigrated to the UK in his sixties and passed away in April 1991 at the age of 79.

(continued)

Lieutenant S.M. Khan, Military Cross (continued)

875/123/27000/4/41

Date recommendation passed forward: Army Form 1000

1 Indian Motor Brigade, 3 Indian Division, 30 Corps.

Serial No. (to be filled in)	Regt.	Rank & Name (Christian names must be stated)	Service for which recommendation must be stated	Recommended by	Approved or Rejected	Remarks
1/2 Punjab Regt.	1st Indian Motor Brigade	Lieut. Sirdar Mohd. Afzal Khan	On 22 July during the attack on point 63, at the WEST end of the EC HAWKINS RIDGE, this Officer led his Coy through heavy artillery and machine gun fire, with enemy tanks in the vicinity, to secure an important ridge to the west of point 63. Realising that speed was an essential feature of the operation, so that a passage could be cleared through the minefield for our armoured forces to pass through, he led the assault on the ridge with the utmost dash and determination, secured the position and captured over a hundred and fifty prisoners. He displayed throughout courage and leadership of the highest order and a complete disregard of personal danger.	R.E.C. HUGHES Comd. 1st Indian Motor Bde Op	Military Cross (posthumous)	<p>Recommended and Recommended</p> <p>(Sgd) R.E.C. HUGHES.</p> <p>Comd 1st Indian Motor Bde Op.</p> <p>Strongly recommended.</p> <p>Comd 5 Ind Div.</p> <p>4331</p>



Lt. Sirdar Afzal Khan and his citation for the MC signed by some of the famous commanders in the theatre

Gen Alexander, C-in-C Middle East, Lt. Gen B.L. Montgomery, GOC Eighth Army, and Lt Gen Horrocks, Commander 30 Corps

Sardar Ayub, Emir of Afghanistan, the grandfather of Sardar Afzal

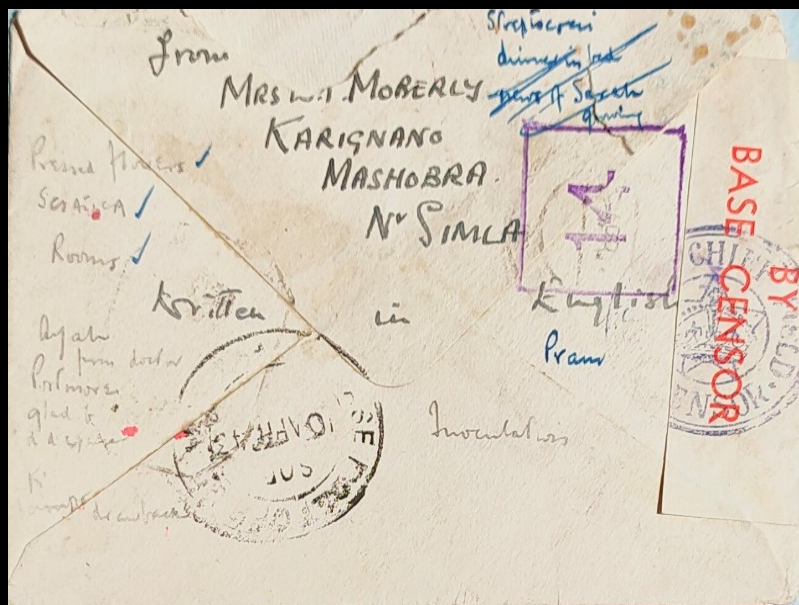
The last stand of eleven men from 66 foot at Battle of Maiwand



Captain (later Colonel) William Innes Moberly C.B.E

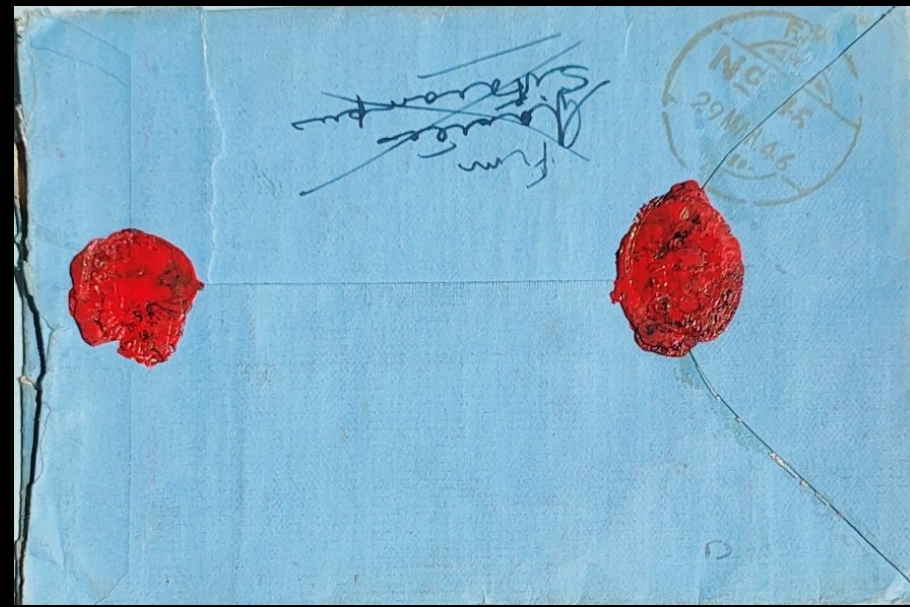
An outgoing cover posted from Mashobra, India on 2 April 1943 to **Captain W.I. Moberly** from **3/12 Frontier Force Regiment** located in the Middle East. 8as India KGV stamp affixed. It bears a censor strip Examined by Base Censor, large deputy chief censor stamp in blue and a boxed 14. Partial Base Post Office postmark is visible

Airmail to the soldiers was sent from Air Base Postal Depot, Karachi from there it was sent to its destination. Initially from India, it went to Egyptian postal administration who passed it to Base Postal Depot after custom clearance. In 1941 the DADAPS arrived, then direct vouching of mail was started between India and BPO. The air mail centre was in Cairo where landing facility was available for flying boats as well as to land planes. At the beginning there was only weekly service between Karachi and Cairo. transit time ranged between 7 to 12 days, frequency was stepped up to two services in May 1941. In August 1943, three flights a week, then daily flights in 1945. Air Postal Depot, Karachi was established in July 1941 to process forces air mail in Iraq, Persia and further West (Brig D S Virk)



The **3/12th FFR** was part of the **5th 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**. It was reformed in Egypt before transferring to the **4th Indian Infantry Division**. It took part in the **Salerno landings** in Italy. On Partition it was allocated to Pakistan

Captain (later Colonel) William Innes Moberly C.B.E went on to serve within the Indian Army, 3rd 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, 569th Light Anti-Aircraft, Search Light Regiment. Colonel WI Moberly authored a book in 1985; **RAJ AND POST RAJ : LOW LEVEL REMINISCENCE OF LIFE IN TWO ARMIES 1985; THE PENTLAND PRESS, EDINBURGH**



Sgt. (Miss) P Castles

The Women Auxiliary Service (Burma) WAS(B) also known as the Chinthe Women because of the mythological creature that formed their badge. The unit was formed on 16 January 1942 and disbanded in 1946.

They were a 250 strong group of British and Australian women who manned Mobile Canteens for the troops of Burma Command in World War II. They were founded and led by Mrs Ninian Taylor, who was granted the rank of Major and received an OBE for her services.

The unit moved through Burma with the British Fourteenth Army running mobile canteens. They reached Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. Many were mentioned in dispatches. General Slim later 1st Viscount Slim, Commander of the 14th Army known as the "Forgotten Army", said of them "They showed the highest standard of devotion and courage."

(<http://www.tenterbooks.com/chinthe.html>)

(continued)

From 24 December to 1st January we were at a party every single night and, as the party is always turned into a dance, they were all late nights. I can't give you the names of the Units but we were entertained by Army Navy and Airforce, some Officers Parties, and some equally enjoyable ones with BORs. Needless to say there are not nearly so many women as men so dances are most exhausting as we are never given a chance to sit.

11th March 1944 By the way, Mrs Taylor thanked me for all I was doing and told me that I am going to be a Serjeant straight away. I am to have a canteen of my own. On Thursday, instead of functioning in our canteen we took over goods in boxes and went up the river in a motor launch to lonely gun sites on the far side. It was a very pleasant change from dusty, bumpy roads.

May 1944 There have been a good many parties recently – in fact too many! It's difficult to keep going night and day! Last Sunday eight of us went down to the sea and had a glorious picnic and bathe. We have also had several moonlight parties at the same place, which were lovely.

HONOURS TO SOUTH AREA

5th July 1944 We have just had a visit from Major Taylor. She spent a day here on her way to Dohazari and then three more on her return. I think she was quite satisfied with all she saw! She said that for hard work she handed the honours to 'South Area' that is us and Dohazari. 'North Area' applies to all the canteens in Assam – where there are many more than down here...when Mrs Taylor came down, she gave me very nice 14th Army badges to wear on my sleeves. We officers are entitled to wear them now. They certainly brighten up the uniform a lot. We are very proud of belonging to the South East Asia Command, in other words, SEAC.

7th July 1944 We're out somewhere nearly every night. Tomorrow, Monday, I am going to Signals' Mess (dance) – Tuesday – cocktail dance at the Club with Vernon Scopes – Wed. cinema at 6pm with Brigid Wheelan then on to B.O.R.'s dance given by Army Fire Service. Thursday – Red Cross Dance. Friday party at Ordnance Mess – Saturday dance at club. This all on top of a hard day's work!

Received 19th August 1944 We want lots more recruits but they are very hard to get out here as long as we insist on their being pure European.

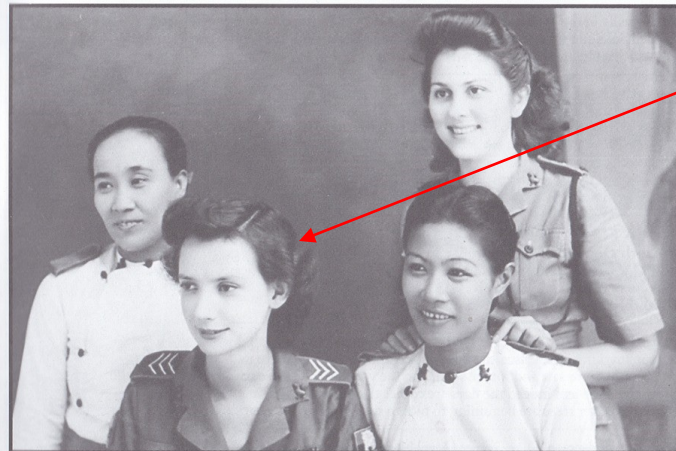
28th August 1944 One of my chief jobs here is dealing with girls passing through. All the Arakan ones come here first. It is a pouring wet day. Before then it was very trying – so very hot and sticky, the kind of atmosphere you would have in a greenhouse at home.

TINNED PEAS

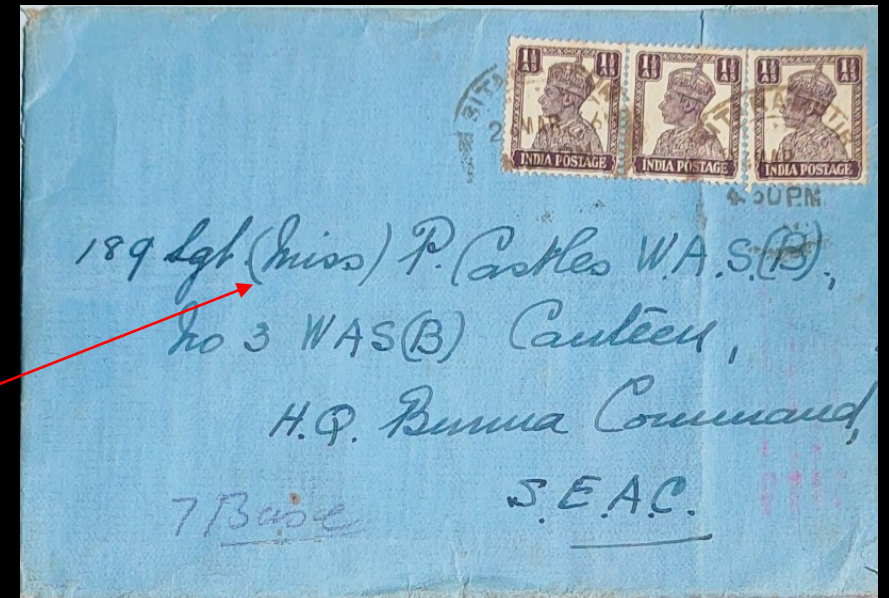
20th September 1944 We have been very busy for the last few days as we expected Mrs Taylor on the 18th. I have been out to the aerodrome twice to meet her but still no sign of her. I wish to goodness she would come quickly and get her visit over! Longing for fresh vegetables etc. We never get any – at present we are living on tinned peas and occasionally tomatoes – we used to think the former were a great treat but we're getting rather tired of them. However, we can't grumble about our rations, we're doing very much better than we used to due to the fact that we go down for them ourselves. The personal touch works wonders! One of the things I shall enjoy most when I get home is butter. Good fresh butter. For a while we were able to get some tinned stuff but now we can't even get that!



A cheer would go up when the mobile canteens visited isolated gun sites. Women worked close to the frontline

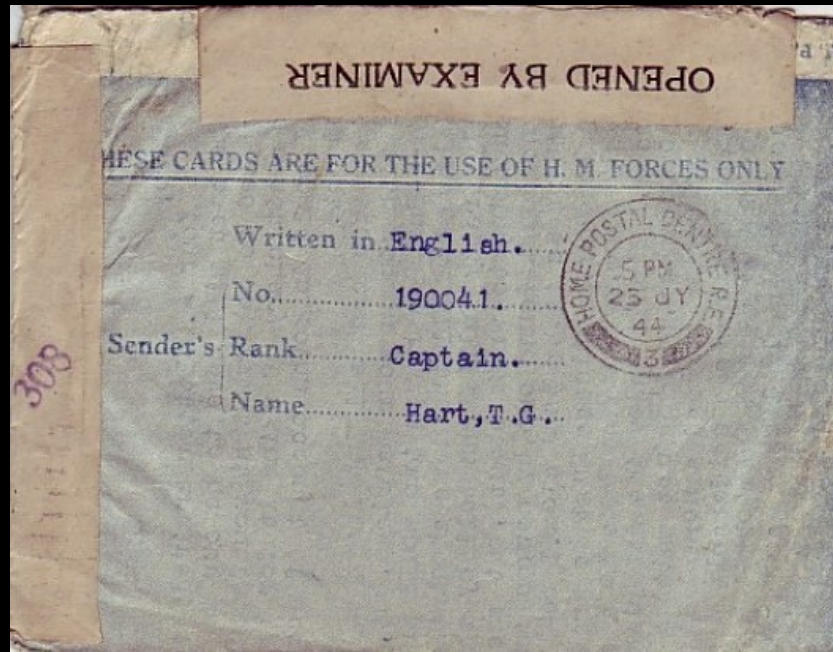


In the final two years increasing numbers of Burmese women were recruited, Na Than Thwe, Patsy Castles, Ma Ei and Dorothy Heytman





Army Postal Services operation was the Home Postal Depot (HPD) RE, first established in London in the late summer of 1939, but was moved to GPO Reading shortly after the outbreak of war. It was then relocated to GPO premises in Boumemouth to be nearer to the Continent and therefore provide a more efficient service to the troops of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) serving in France and Belgium.



Captain TG Hart and Captain Herbert Weltchek Letter movement within the Allied Forces-Indian Army to US Army

Captain TG Hart, Battery Commander 'No. 9 Battery, Madras Wing, AATC, MEHGAON, India Command' typed the letter dated 14 July 1944 on Air Mail Letter Card and posted it to 'Capt. Herbert WELTCHEK MC, US Army ETO, APO It bears the Home Postal Centre RE 3 (Leeds) date stamp on 25th July 1944; 4 as India KGVI affixed. It bears the strip PC 90 Opened By Examiner and the circular Unit Censor 414 and triangle Field Censor 102 all in violet.

Captain TG Hart's sister Mary Married Captain Weltchek during the war years and the Captain could not attend their wedding

Dr. Herbert Weltchek, 71, died on 19th April 19, 1986. He was an ear, nose and throat doctor in Elizabeth until he retired in 1984. He was a senior attending physician at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elizabeth, New York Poly Clinic and Hospital in New York City, and Jackson Clinic in Philadelphia.

Dr. Weltchek was a 1935 Rutgers University graduate and a 1939 graduate of the Marquette University School of Medicine. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Union County Medical Society, the International College of Surgeons and the Royal Society of Health. Dr. Weltchek was a World War II Army veteran and was a member of the Elizabeth chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. Surviving are his wife, Mary Alice Weltchek; a daughter, Linda of Warren; two sons, Andrew of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Thomas of Berkeley Heights; a brother. Robert of Springfield; and his mother. Susan Weltchek of Elizabeth.

(obituary in The Courier-News in Bridgewater, New Jersey)

(continued) 213

Dear Herb, Your A.M. Letter arrived yesterday for which very many thanks--As I say, the post will have to be our medium of meeting for some time to come-- I was glad to observe that you favour a typewriter as I, too, prefer to use one. I was a bit chary of using it for letters home at first, but I got an edict that I would do so (on account of economy of space and legibility), so that got sorted out. I can well imagine that I was very disappointed at not being able to

You can well imagine that I was very disappointed at not being able to be with you on your marriage, but, there it is, the war does all sorts of things --- But for it you two would probably have never met, so it's an ill wind etc. I have had all the news about the wedding from Mother, Mary's letters are usually pretty full (I can tell by the size of her writing whether she really has anything to write about), but she manages to omit quite a lot. As you will have no doubt found out by now, on some occasions she can be most informative -- and others as tight as a clam. I really am glad that you both are so happy -- In these days, happiness must be grabbed whenever it presents itself as you probably know, my romance came to a sticky end, no doubt fortunately, but all the same, I didn't enjoy the experience. I'm afraid that romance and India do not go together, so I'm just waiting until the end of the war before I even think of trying to lead a normal life once again. Out here, even in pre-war days, the female was considerably outnumbered by the male, so you have some idea of the situation that obtains now with the tremendous increase of the Forces. It is simply like a market-place with the elusive slip of femininity going to the highest bidder, and I'm just not interested under those conditions. Still, provided life on the Plains or in India has not sapped too much of my strength, the unattached female of Birmingham had better be warned of my approach, to say nothing of my intentions!!

--- about Maria's case She told me some

I am most concerned to hear about Mary's eyes. She told me some time ago that she had to wear glasses (she was supposed to do so as a kid, but never did so), but I thought that her trouble was short sight and that she would only need them for her work and cinema (similar to myself). This is just an example of her clam-like nature referred to above--I suppose she thought that it might worry me so she has said nothing about it. She has, of course, mentioned that she wanted to get out of the WAAF, saying that the one obvious way did not appeal at the moment. However, I sincerely hope that your efforts in this direction are successful, as I can well imagine that you must be very worried, particularly with your professional knowledge.

You ask about my vicious habits--Well, having been "modified for India", I really have none (see observations on shortage of woman-power noted above). As Mary will no doubt have indicated to you I did have some of the aforesaid vhs in England. She has never mentioned them to me, but I have quite a high opinion of her powers of observation..... We live 90 miles from our nearest European Bazaar (Jubbulpore), our railway station is 7 miles away and we are just about equidistant between Bombay and Calcutta each being some 600 miles away. We live in tents, have a beer ration of 3 (figures thrreerree) bottles a month and get one bottle of Canadian Whisky per month. Being part of India's Peace Army, we have the privilege of having to pay for our food, not being on rations as are the War Army--This is an anomaly that is appreciated by all, but it costs me a good £10 a month just the same. My job is Battery Commander of a Basic Training Battery and we initiate Madrassies (i.e. from South India) into something of the ways of the Army. It's interesting and I like it, but as I have been here for rather a long time, I may be shifted out to an operational unit, although it does not

[illegible]

Interesting excerpts from the letter

“...you may well be in France...we live 90 miles from our nearest European Bazaar (Jubbolpore), our railway station is 7 miles...

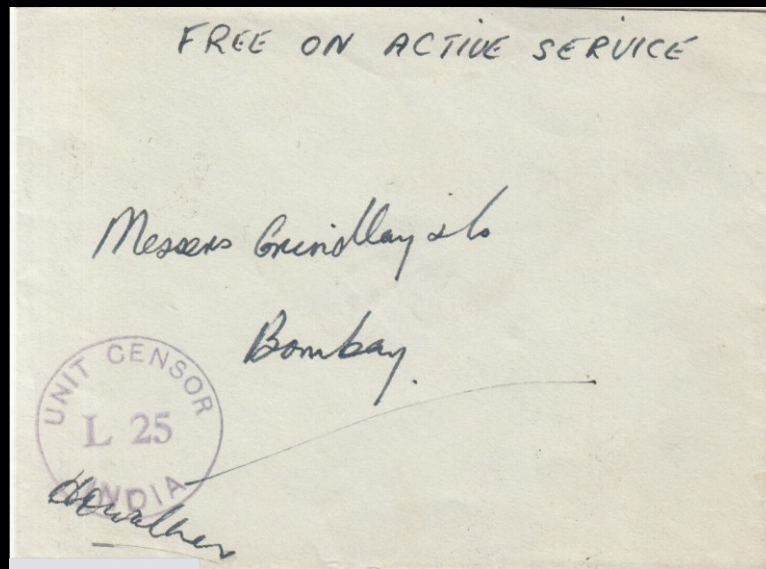
...Being part of India's peace army we live in tents and have beer ration of 3 bottles, one Canadian whisky a month,

...we have the privilege of having to pay for our food, not being on rations as are the War Army...it costs me a good 10 GBP a month...

....My job, we initiate Madrassis(i.e. from South India) into something of the ways of the army...flying bombs keep me worried, its concentration on South coast and London

.....we have awarded the 1939/43 Star
to people who have faced total war in
an air conditioned office in Calcutta.”

Mary Alice Weltchek (nee Hart), 86 of Berkeley Heights, passed away on 16th July 2008. She was born in Bournemouth, England, and came to the U.S.A. in 1946, settling in Elizabeth. She lived there until 1974, when she and her late husband, Dr. Herbert Weltchek, moved to Berkeley Heights. During World War II, she was a member of the Women's Royal Air Force.



Mandapam camp is a beautiful spot off the southern tip of India with only a bridge separating it from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. It has sea on both its side



CAPTAIN F. J. G. WALKER and MAJOR H. D. WALKER

This cover bears the badge of 1st Punjab Regiment and has the datestamp of Mandapam on 31st March 1943 addressed to Bombay, India.

Major David Walker was with the 9th Bn. The Devonshire Regiment, while his elder brother Capt John Walker was undergoing his training in India with 2/1st Punjab

The Battle of Donbaik

The plan was for the 55th Indian Brigade to attack from its concentration area to the north of the Chaung to capture the Japanese positions along the Chaung and in the village area. The attack was to be undertaken at night, preceded by an artillery concentration. The 1st Bn. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were to attack on the right, with the 2nd Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment on the left to capture the enemy positions between M16 and Sugar (S) 5, and then push on to the village area. At 04.00 am on Thursday 18 February 1943, the 2nd Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment launched their attack. 'D' Company under Captain BUDH SINGH was on the right, with 'B' Company under Captain WALKER on the left. 'A' Company (Captain Ujagar SINGH DHILLON) was to follow up 'B' Company.

As Captain JOHN WALKER and Jemadar MIR AFZAL were discussing the situation, they were cut down by a burst of machine gun fire and both were killed. Captain EC/1298 Francis John WALKER was aged twenty-five years when he died

Captain (later Maj Gen) BUDH SINGH was awarded the Military Cross for the gallantry displayed by him at Donbaik Front Burma on 18 Feb 1943

on 1 June 1943, Captain Budh SINGH was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross for the gallantry displayed at Htizwe Front, Burma

CAPTAIN F. J. G. WALKER and MAJOR H. D. WALKER (continued)

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Punjab Regiment was withdrawn to rest and refit with the rest of the division. David Walker got himself transferred to this battalion during this period. In a letter to his parents dated 30/4/43, he explains 'I have been posted to John's old battalion actually I asked to go there quite a long time ago, and as we all had to leave our present battalion I got this posting. I know you will not like it much but still I am very satisfied with it. Maj H D Walker was awarded the Military Cross.

The citation for a Military Cross written for Maj H D Walker by his commanding officer Lt Col Sarbjit SINGH KALHA reads:
MAYU RANGE FRONT ON FEB 44

On 16 Feb 44, Major Walker was commanding C Company in position at 407492. Observing enemy movement on feature CUDGEL 416491, he sent out a fighting patrol to capture or annihilate the enemy. The fighting patrol attacked and drove the enemy off the feature inflicting many casualties and capturing vast quantities of valuable documents. Suddenly another party of enemy 20/25 strong appeared and got in behind the fighting patrol.

Major Walker observing this cut off attempt of the enemy brought 3" mortar fire to bear on them immediately with excellent effect and put out his only reserve of two sections to annihilate them as they tried to escape from this mortar fire.

While this successful fight was being waged in the nala below three Japs infiltrated on to the Coy position itself, but they were expeditiously dealt with by Major Walker himself and a handful of men left with him after a hectic engagement.

In this very successful action, 15/20 casualties were inflicted on the enemy and most valuable documents including forty diaries and seven mule loads of equipment were brought back. The success of this operation was entirely due to the coolness, initiative and offensive spirit of Major Walker in making full use of the gallant men and weapons under his command.

Again on 22-2-44 when the company commanded by this officer was leading the Bn's advance on SUGAR LOAF his dogged determination, courage and confidence contributed very considerably to the success of the operation at 396543 and in the final advance on to SUGAR LOAF

(continued)

CAPTAIN F. J. G. WALKER and MAJOR H. D. WALKER (continued)

The award of the Military Cross was published in the London Gazette on 26 June 1944, by which time its recipient Major H D Walker was killed in action.

The family received notification that David had been wounded, as a notice appeared in the Western Morning News in March 1944 stating: Tuesday 08 February 1944. Dr. and Mrs. E. H. WALKER have received notification second son, Maj David WALKER wounded last month in Burma. Eldest son was killed in action last year

At about 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 26 April 1944, the Japanese launched a sustained assault on the 2nd/1st Punjab. 'C' Company, commanded by Major H D WALKER, was situated on a small hill about five hundred yards from the battalion headquarters. A Japanese battalion attacked 'C' Company relentlessly all night. The Punjabis resisted stoutly, with fierce and brutal hand-to-hand fighting at various times during the night. Major David WALKER met his death shortly after midnight in the early hours of 27 April 1944 whilst organizing the precarious defense of the hill. He was twenty-three years' of age. No-one who survived that attack witnessed David WALKER's final moments, as they were lost within the melee in the dark on that isolated hill in North-East India.

The death of two of their three sons hit Doctor WALKER and his wife hard. By this time, their third son Kenneth was training to be a pilot in the Royal Air Force. He was stationed in Southern Rhodesia undergoing his basic flying training. Unbeknown to Kenneth, Doctor WALKER made representations to the Air Ministry for Kenneth not to serve on operations during the war. The Air Ministry sent a reply to Doctor WALKER stating that they understood the situation, and whilst there were no guarantees, they would take this into consideration when deciding on a posting.

Lt. Colonel Sarabjit Singh Kalha CO of 2/1 Punjab (now 2 Punjab of Pakistan army) was one of the most decorated officer of Indian army winning DSO, MC and Bar. He was killed in Indonesia after the Second World War.

8. Interesting Stationery of Second World War

8.1 Air Mail Letter



Initially the Air Letter was known as the Air Mail Letter Card and was thought up by an officer serving in the Middle East. It was officially introduced between MEF and UK in March 1941 and was extended from MEF to India in August 1941: from PAI Force to India in October 1941; Malaya to India in October 1941 and from UK to India in December 1942. India troops could send the Air Mail Letter to UK from 26th October 1942; by January 1944 it was available to most places in British Empire and beyond. British officers and soldiers in India were permitted to send one per week. The postage was fixed at 4 as

Air Letter became popular and the number of permissible destinations and categories of entitled users was increased as was the ration. The form was standardised as IAFF 1083 and a variety distinguished by a Blue triangle alongside the address panel had the same censorship privilege as a Green/ Honour Envelope.

The ration ceased in January 1945 the users could use as many Air letters but Blue Triangle remained restricted. Postage was made free in February 1945 to UK, empire countries, allied forces and USA while charges for other permissible destinations were fixed at 3 as for eastern hemisphere and 9 as for western hemisphere

Air mail service was air cum sea service, mails travelled by sea as far as Durban and then by air to India via Cairo, Baghdad, Basra to Karachi. Thus the air mail sometimes took more time than surface mail. In 1943 the Mediterranean opened, mail aircraft could fly direct. End of 1944 RAF established direct flights from UK to Karachi six days a week and letter of all categories surface and air were reaching India in 3 to 5 days. Within India APS was given priority on all train services and from 1944 it was given airlift wherever possible. This was one of the reasons for retain FPO s in India after the war (Brig DS Virk)

8.2 Captain P Phelps Letters

5th Battalion (QVO Corps of Guides) 12th Frontier Force Regiment



Studied 14 letters sent by Captain P Phelps to his mother between **18 May 1943** and **30 Sept 1945**. His Tour of Duty took him to **Sialkot, Peshawar, Bombay, Karachi, Bangalore, Meerut** managed a course at **Saugor**. At the HQ Eastern Command, **Calcutta** he was assigned as Letter Censor Officer. He further mentions that he has travelled to the **Arakan, Burma Front** and was at **Ngacedanyek Pass Battle** which was a fierce battle covered extensively by the press. The **Battle of the Admin Box** (sometimes referred to as the **Battle of Ngakyedauk** or the **Battle of Sinzweya**) took place on the southern front of the Burma Campaign from 5 to 23 February 1944

The postal datemarks on his letters show that his tour of duty took him to **locations in Iraq, Persia, Syria and Lebanon**. The Postal address mentioned on all letters by Capt P Phelps reiterates how extensively he has moved with his Regiment and other formations during the Second World War. He also mentions that one day he travelled by air more than half the country and back in the same day!!

On 10/5/1945 he writes that VDAY is yet to come for them and they are still getting to know about known people being killed thus it wont be easy to celebrate. The Official celebrations were on and everyone had been given 2 days holiday. A formal Regimental Mess Night and the silly gymkhana was planned. He further mentions that on 14th May 1945 there is terrific parade at their location. Capt Phelps mentions on 5/6/45 that he has been out of his regiment for 2.5 years and is about to rejoin, wondering how many people he would still know. On 12/5/1945, he writes about the Guides Centenary approaching which would be a big celebration. On the same note he mentions that he needs to check on his permanent commission from The War Office as its not done locally.

Captain P Phelps proudly writes on 30/9/45 that his regiment gets 1 medal but he gets to acquire 3.

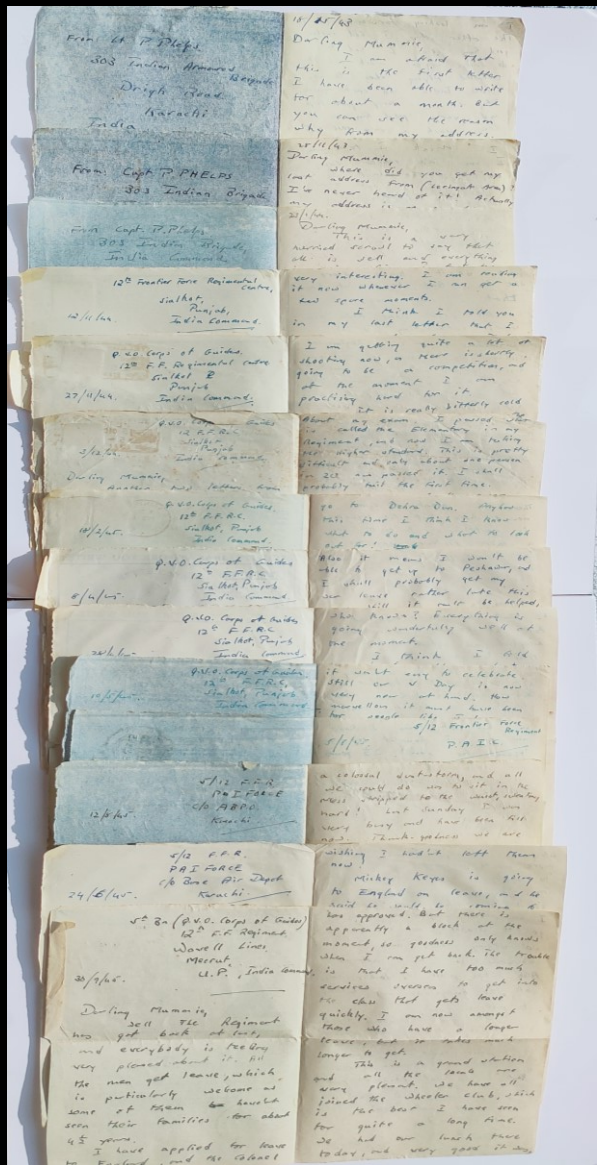
Captain P Phelps Letters

Date	Location
18 May 1943	Drigh Road Karachi
28 Nov 1943	FPO 26 Qatana, Syria
23 Jan 1944	FPO 18 HQ Eastern Command Calcutta
27 Apr 1944	Sialkot
3 Dec 1944	Sialkot
12 Nov 1944	Sialkot
8 Apr 1945	Sialkot



Date	Location
28 Apr 1945 *	Peshawar
13 Feb 1945 *	Saugor Infantry School
10 May 1945 *	Sialkot
5 June 1945 *	FPO R36 Beirut, Lebanon
25 June 1945 *	Karachi BPO Somewhere in Middle East
15 Aug 1945 *	FPO 35 Khanaqin, Iraq
30 Sept 1945 *	Meerut, India

* Postage was made free in February 1945 to UK, empire countries thus no postage stamps post 28th April 1945 on the Air Letters



Captain P Phelps prominently writes his address in the prescribed format in all his letters

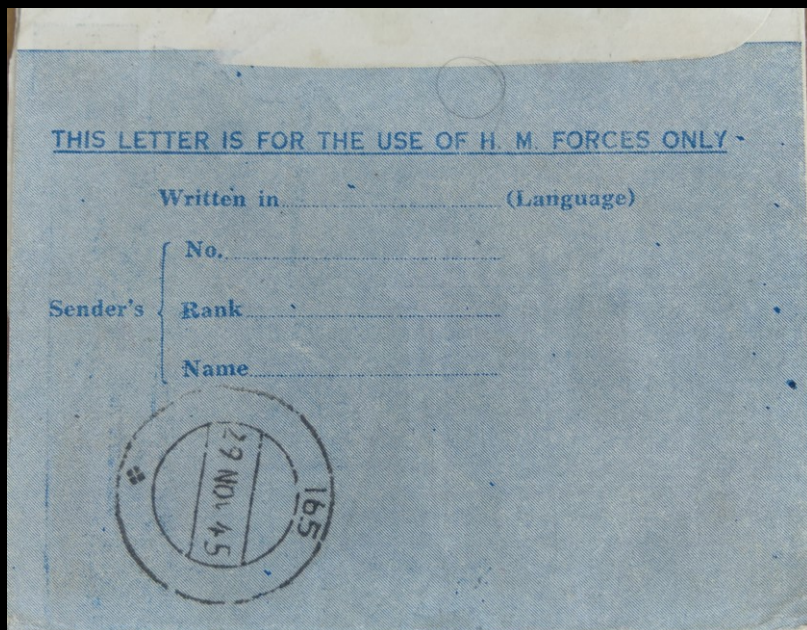


In the early Letter Cards the paper was thin thus it had a dark blue overlay so that it could not be read from the other side.



It has been interesting to note how diligently and lovingly the mother has marked the no. of the letter received. Such markings have been found on letters of other individuals too. In every letter, Capt Phelps draws his mother's attention to the address on which she should reply. The responsibility for notifying his postal address to his correspondents rested on the soldier himself

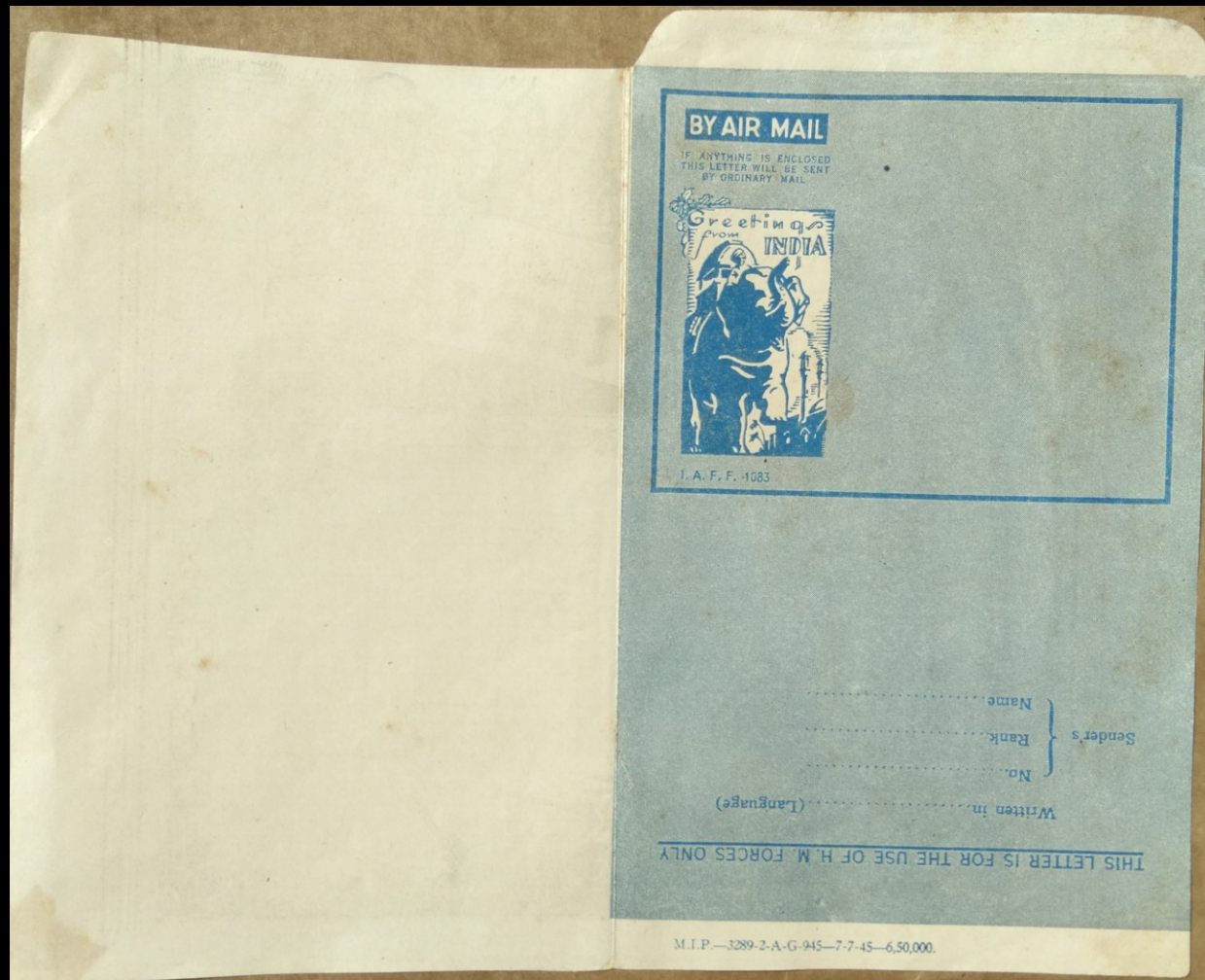
letter writing was the only way to be in connect with the folks back home and likewise for the families to be in touch with their loved ones on various war fronts !!



Pictorial Greetings Air Letter forms were issued centrally in two designs for 1944 and in three designs for 1945. As the form was a rationed item, units were seldom permitted to print forms of their own pictorial design.

Date stamps showing only a number was intended for use at civil post offices in India for segregating troops mail for purposes of censorship, concessions and circulation.

They were issued to Army Commands for distribution to the affected civil post offices through their Circle offices. Numbers are known running from 1 up to the 700's. A few of these numbered in the 500's and 600's were issued to FPO's. apparently in error.



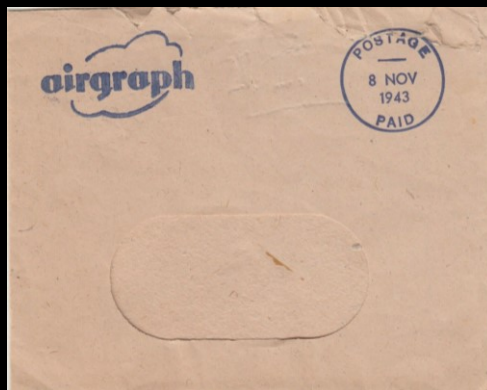
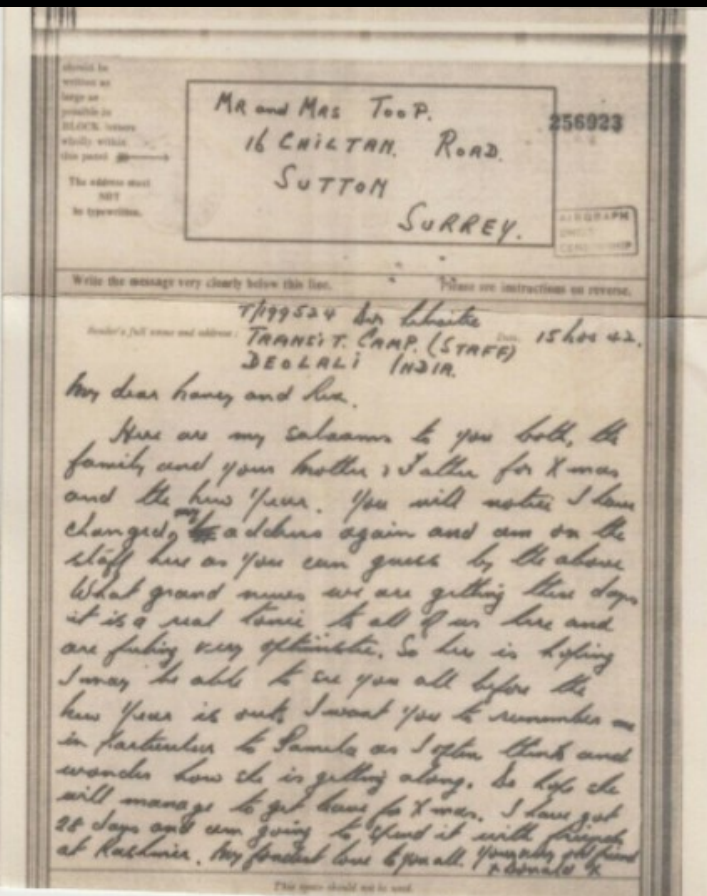
Pictorial Greetings Air Letter forms were issued centrally in two designs for 1944 and in three designs for 1945. As the form was a rationed item, units were seldom permitted to print forms of their own pictorial design

8.3 Airgraphs

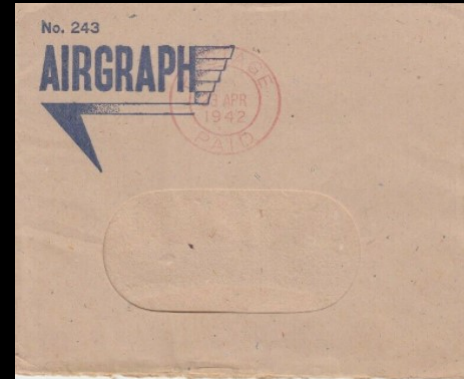
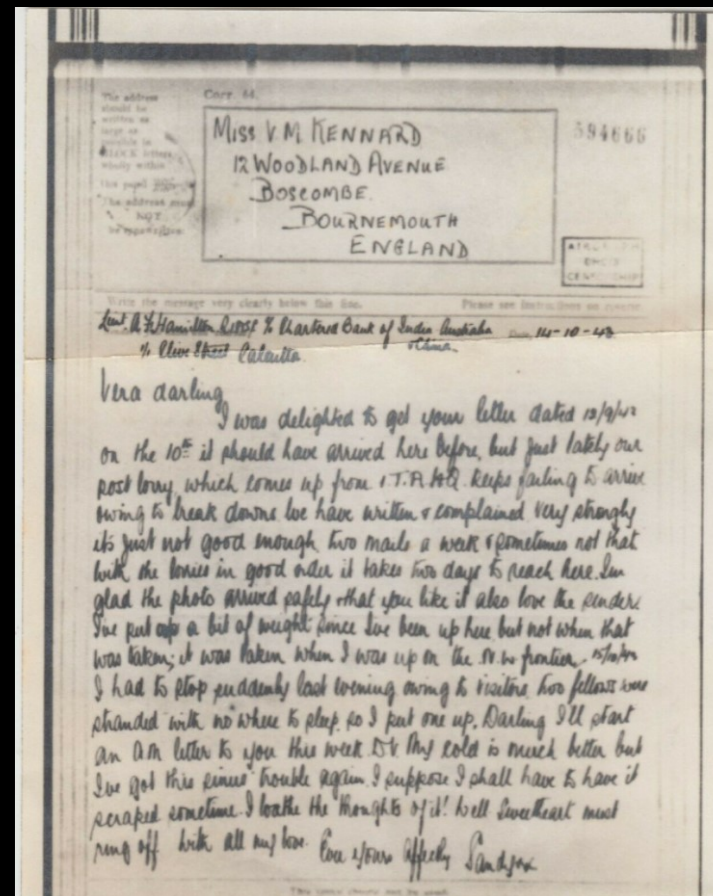
One of the two big postal innovations of Second World War was the Airgraph. It reached India when the Kodak filming plant was installed at Bombay in December 1941.

The outgoing airgraph service to UK was introduced as an experimental measure on 2nd February 1942. The concessional postage for the troops was 3 as. The incoming graphs from UK were at first printed in Cairo and photo copies sent to Karachi on 11th June 1942 where the airgraphs were censored and put into envelopes.

Though an enlarging plant began working at Bombay in October 1942, a portion of incoming airgraphs continued to be processed in Cairo till March 1943. A new airgraph filming and enlarging plant was opened at Calcutta on 1st September 1943 for the Eastern region of India and the troops on the Burma front. Subsequently this service was extended to various other countries besides the UK and Forces overseas. Early in 1945 a scheme for sending portraits by airgraphs was introduced. This venture was short lived as the airgraph service was abolished in August 1945.



Deolali, India to UK

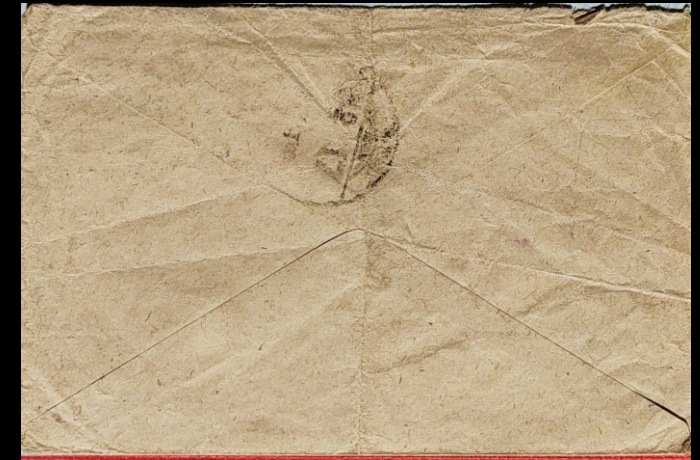
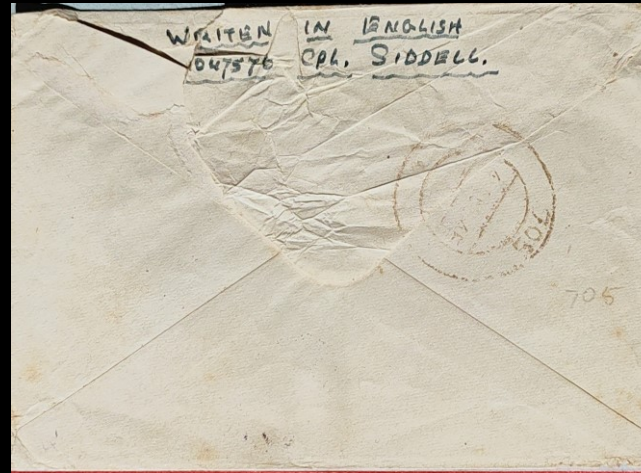
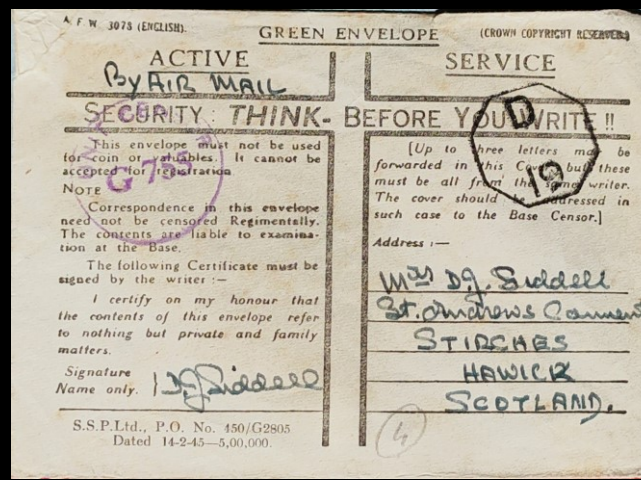


Calcutta, India to UK



This Christmas Greetings airgraph was sent on 30th October 1944 from Saugor, India to Great Britain.

Pictorial Christmas Greetings Airgraphs forms are known to have been used in 1942 and 1943. In 1944 three designs chosen from a competition conducted by the Postal Directorate were printed and distributed centrally. Some units preferred to design their own airgraph forms and were permitted to do so



Letters from soldiers on active service were subjected to censorship by their junior officers from the same unit to ensure that details such as location and military objectives were not disclosed. However, as a privilege, soldiers were given one Honour Envelope per month in which they could send self censored personal and private letters to loved ones.

227

Army Form W-5192.
(Modified for India)**H. M. FORCES OVERSEAS**
DUTY-FREE CONCESSION FOR GIFTS SENT
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following declaration must be completed and signed by the sender of the package:—
I declare that the contents of this parcel are as shown below, and are sent as a gift.

Goods	Quantity	Value
Dress material Indian made.	15 yards	75/-
Signature of sender	[Signature] ABR 638	
Date	15/7/44. SEAC	

This label must not be affixed to any package which weighs more than 5 lbs. (including packing), or which exceeds 80s. in value, or which contains:—

1. Any drinkable spirits.
2. More than 1 lb. total weight of tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes (200 cigarettes or 50 cigars = 1 lb.), or any tobacco goods marked "H. M. Ships only."
3. More than 1 pint scent.
4. More than 2 lbs. of any one foodstuff.
5. Any communication other than the name and address of the sender.
6. Any imported article.

Warning: If the above restrictions are not observed the full duty will be charged on the whole contents of the package.

Label issued to: ABR 638 CAPT A E FURZE

Signature of Issuing Officer: [Signature]

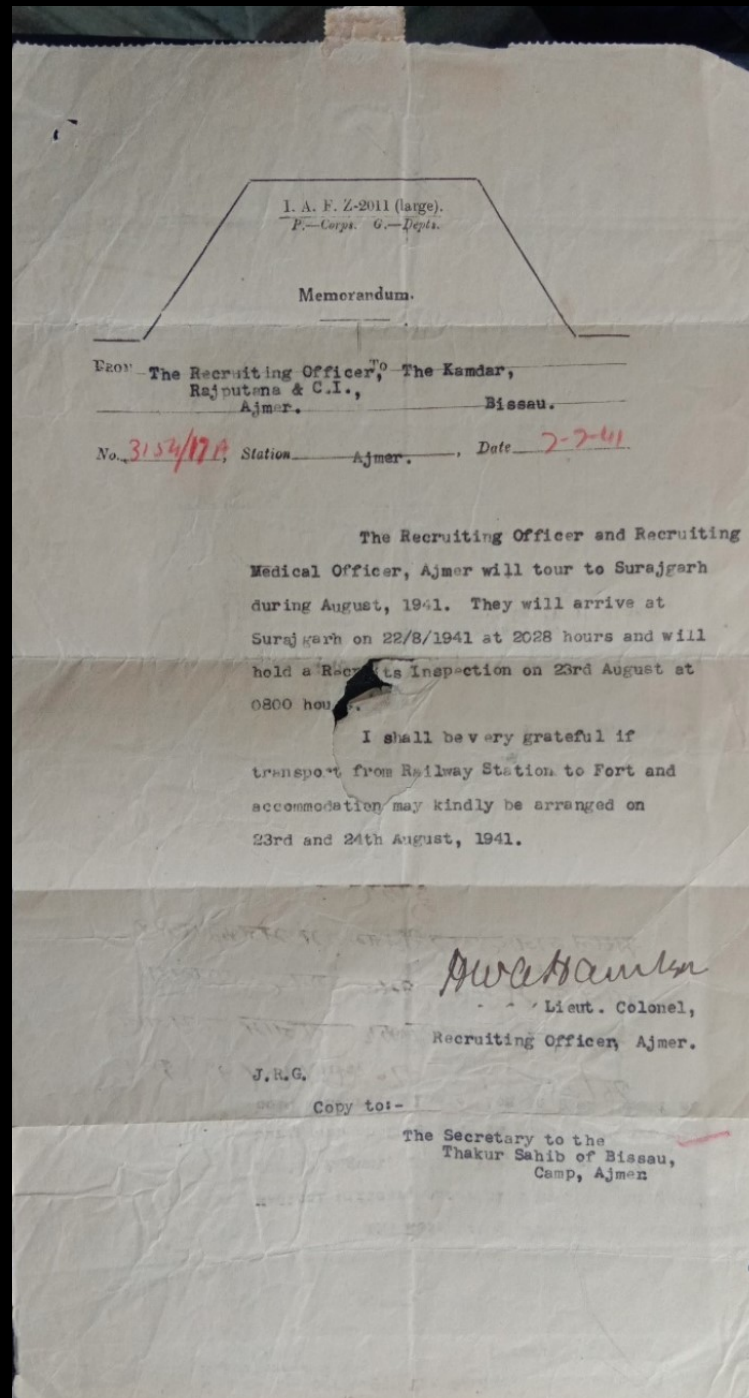
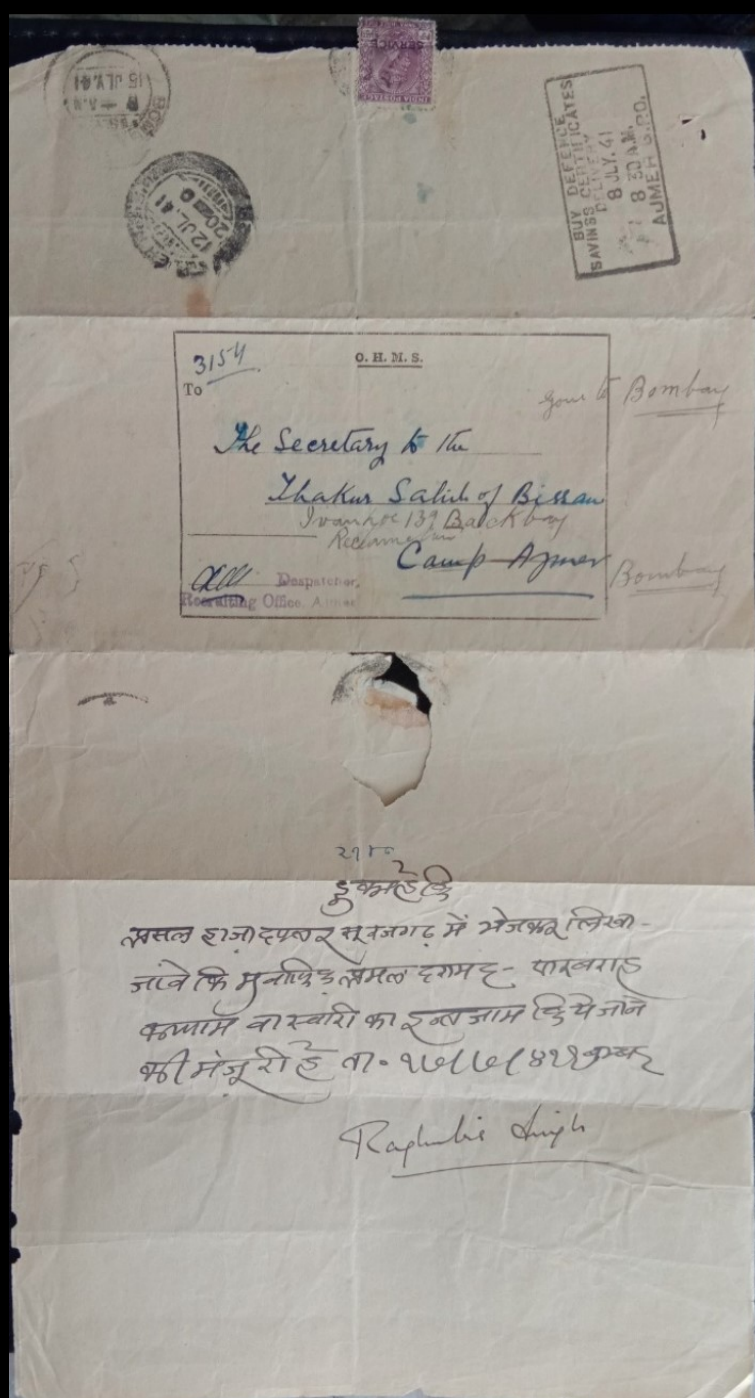
**(H.M FORCES OVERSEAS**

Duty-Free Concession for gifts sent to UK
Army Form W-5192 (modified for India)

This Army Form has been used to send dress material (Indian made) as a parcel on 15th July 1944 by Capt AE Furze. It bears the circular Unit Censor in violet. The issuing officer of the form has also censored the parcel. 2*1rs KG VI ,8as, 4as stamps affixed.

From 1943 onwards sending parcels home seemed to become the most popular pastime of the British soldiers in India

This label was to be affixed to any package which weighed more than 5lbs



Stationery used by the Recruiting Officer in 1941

IAFZ-2011 (large) P-Corps G-Depts form stationery used by the Recruiting Officer, Rajputana & C.I.

The letter has been signed by the Recruiting Officer, Ajmer whose rank is of a Lieutenant Colonel on 7th July 1941. It bears the datestamp cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificates, Ajmer 8 July 1941. India King George V stamp affixed. It has been addressed to the Secretary to the Thakur Sahib of Bissau

The letter has been redirected to Bombay.

Interesting excerpts from the letter

“The Recruiting Officer and the Recruiting Medical Officer, Ajmer will tour SurajGarh. They would hold a Recruitment Inspection on 23rd August 1941.

.....I shall be very grateful if transport from Railway Station to Fort and accommodation may kindly be arranged on 23rd and 24th August 1941.” (continued)

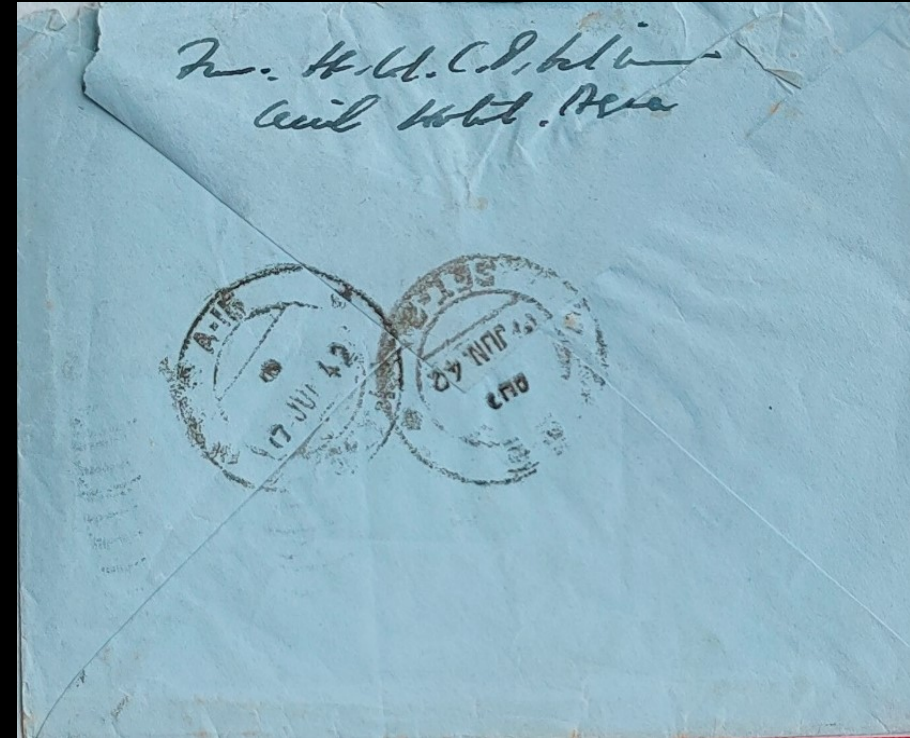
**Stationery used by the Recruiting Officer
in 1941 (continued)**

In March 1941, the General Staff came up with the 1941 'Defence Of India' Plan

In 1941 the General Staff calculated India would need to raise fifty new infantry battalions and an armoured division-apart from other arms and services.

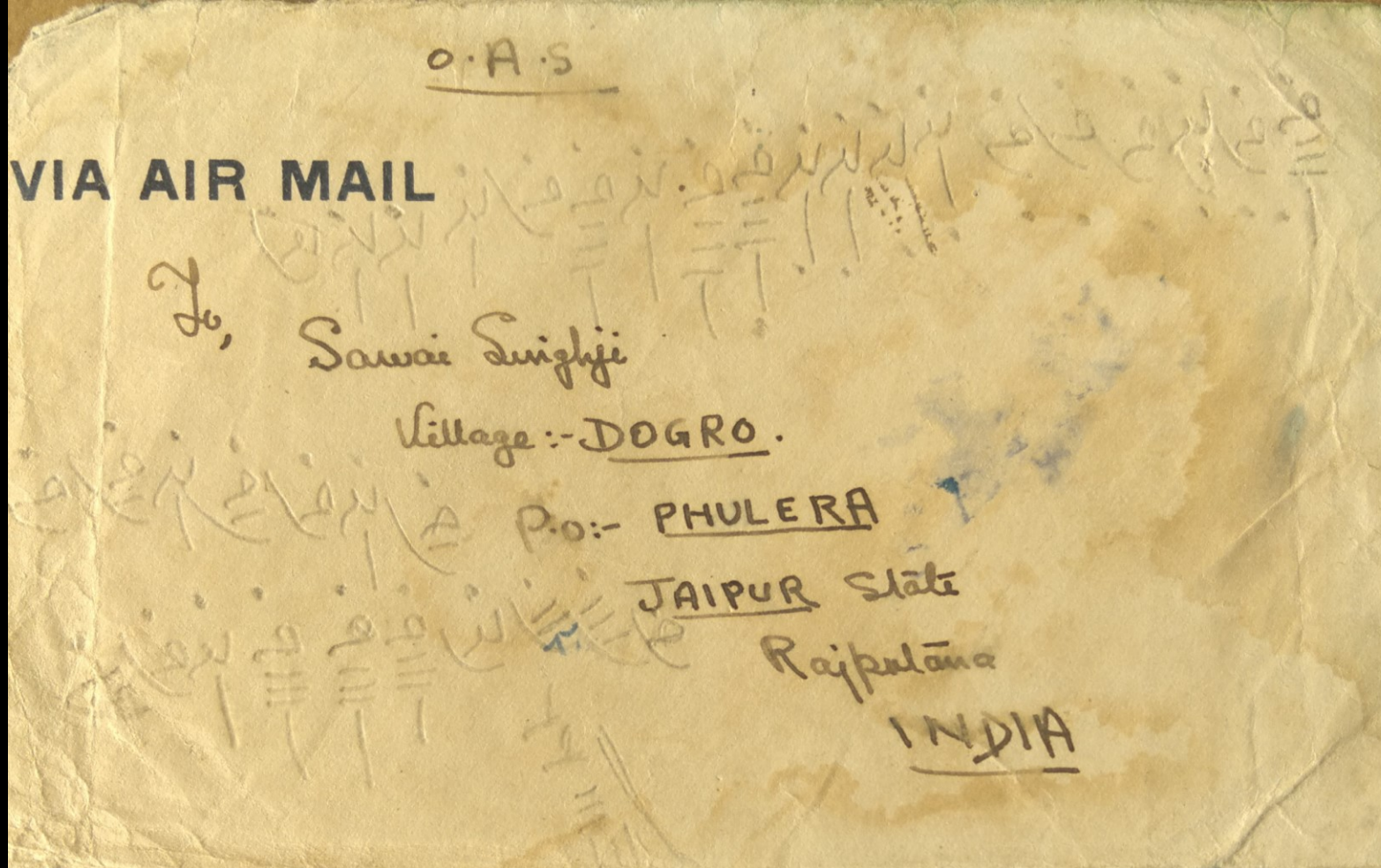
Between April 1940 and December 1941, the Indian Army swelled to almost 900,000 troops. At its peak, monthly recruitment exceeded 50,000 in India.

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



The “all –up” Empire Airmail scheme was abolished at the beginning of the war, the airmail rates for letter and postcards from India to UK were fixed at 14 and 6 as respectively

8.4 Interesting Cancellations of Second World War



Indian FPO in Hong Kong

The stampless cover may have been posted from **FPO 127** at (Gáulùhn) **Kowloon, Hong Kong** to **Phalera, India**. The datestamp at Phalera, India (the destination) is 22 June 1946.

Sepoy Nathu Singh was part of 'A' company Sardar Jodhpur Infantry Battalion who sent this letter to Phulera, India. (name mentioned on the letter and the reverse, on the flap of the cover)

This FPO was serving 150 Indian Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong.

(continued)

Indian FPO Hong Kong (continued)

The stampless cover may have been posted from **FPO 127** at (Gáuluhn) **Kowloon, Hong Kong** to **Phalera, India**. The cover has been posted around 11th June 1946 as written on the letter, datestamp at the destination is 22 June 1946.

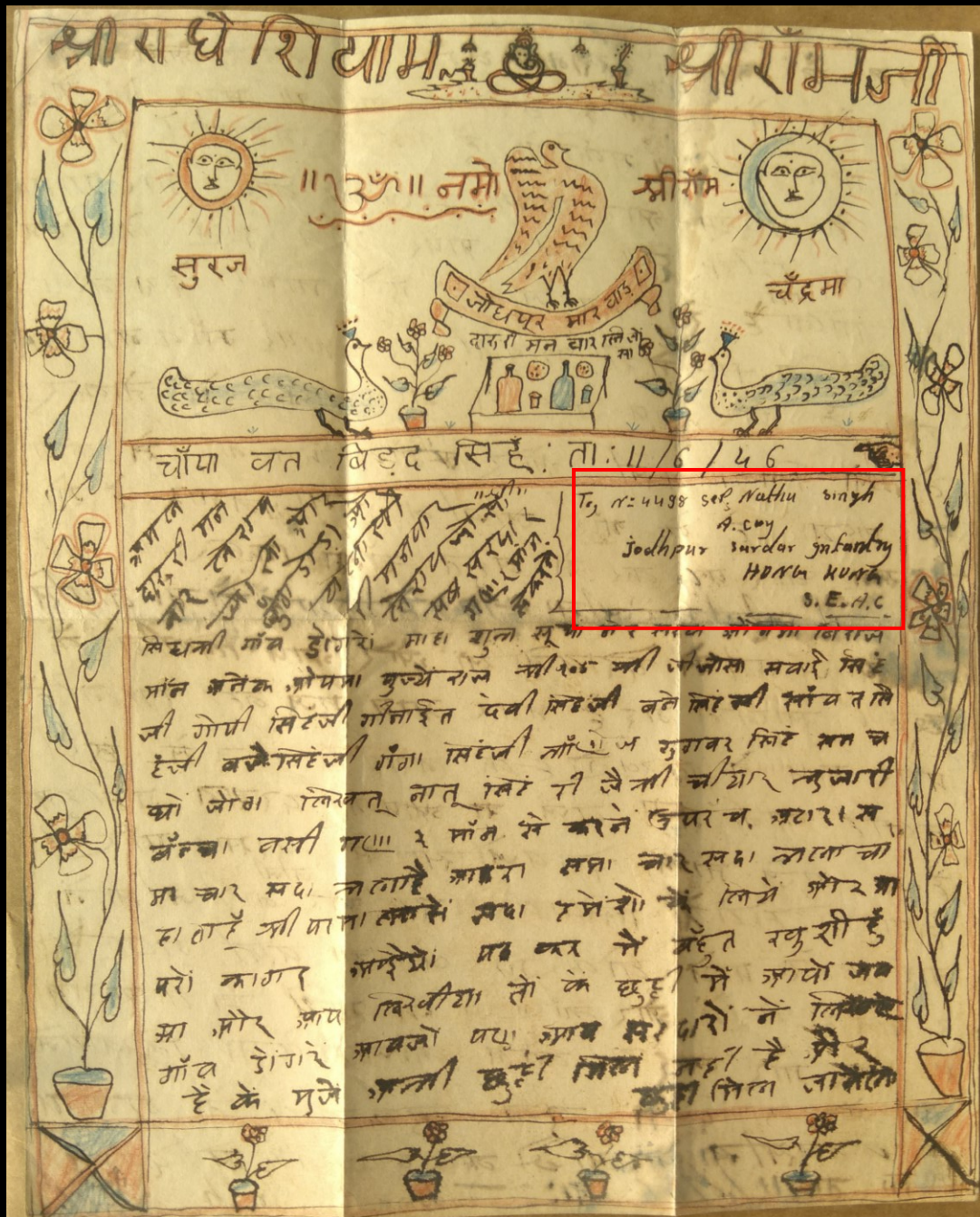
The indistinct postmark at the left is Proud type D2 negative datestamp (recorded used 30th April–29th December, 1946).

The clear illustration of this scarce postmark



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





Indian FPO Hong Kong (continued)

Jodhpur Sardar Infantry Battalion had returned home (Jodhpur) on 2nd August 1945. It had seen many countries during the War— Eritrea, Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy. It had fought along side British, Canadian, American, Polish, and Italian troops.

Wherever it had been, the officers and men had made friends and were liked, and respected. It had seen the beautiful cities of Rome, Elorenc, and Naples. They enjoyed the lovely countryside of Italy, Sicily and Algeria. It had experienced the bitter cold of Italy in the winter and the intense heat of Massawa in the summer.

On arrival home to Jodhpur, it had gained a splendid name for itself and worthily upheld the great military traditions of Jodhpur State

(source :History of the Jodhpur Sate Forces in the war, 1939-45;
Major General R. C. Duncan, C.r.E., M.V.O.. O.B.E., Commandant, Jodhpur State Forces,
later 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles F- F- Jodhpur: Printed at Jodhpur Government Press, 1946)

(continued)

जब मैं आगरा दरशन करने के जरूर आया था
 तो और मैं पहला छुट्टी में आया था मगर मैं
 परों गोंव नहीं आ सकी थीं हूँ किडिके पहलवाते मैं
 मार हो गईया और नीक होए के बाद मारे माता
 चालता रहोया इस वजसे आपरें गोंव आणे के टेम
 नहीं मिलता है सो आप सरदार मुजे माफी देरा वजा
 सो किडिके मैं तेरा मालती हुई आपरें गोंव नहीं आ
 रिया हूँ और आप गोंव हा या वीकहा में नोकर
 हो सो निरवावसी और गोंव केवलाह से काग
 द माइया हो के मारे जीजी बाईजीसा निमार है सो
 यह सभा चार पक्ष कर में बहुत चँता निकर कर ताहें
 सो जमीनी जमीनी करे जीसा हीक होमयाहें चें तो कागसि
 कागद जमादि से देरावजो सा और आप लिखाया के
 छह 6 सात हो गई है मगर आप मुजे नहीं मिलते है
 मगर आप में निरवते है के तराई के केज से छुट्टी
 मिलते कोनी इस वजे से आपका दरशन नही हुआ
 है सो मुजे माफी देरावजो सा और वरसा पाँचाने
 होगईयो होवें तो लिखावजो दस और बाईजीसा ने
 नाशु सहें सो माये धीक तो बँचा वसा माल
 र मान ले करने और ताँपेज के माये हाथे कराय
 सी और मारे लाईके कोन काजहाँ वें तो लिखावजो
 सो और कागद में जुता नुकरावें तो गुनामा
 का करायसा और पाछे कागद जमादि से देराव
 जीसा ता. 11/6/46 दा: — Bisadhi Singh

Indian FPO Hong Kong (continued)

The whole battalion was entertained by His Highness to a meal at Chhittar Palace on two nights — half the battalion coming each night.

The battalion had been selected to join the 150th Infantry Brigade in the South of India.

The Jodhpur Sardar Infantry Battalion, under the command of Lt.-Colonel G.A.C. Maunseu, left Jodhpur by special train on the night of 15th October, 1945.

After a 5 days train journey, it detrained at Bowringpet, near Bangalore, and joined the 150th Infantry Brigade. Training was taken in hand almost at once, and a large part of the battalion proceeded to Cuddalore for jungle warfare training.

On 2nd December, 1945, the battalion with the 150th Infantry Brigade left Bowringpet for overseas. It embarked at Madras, and sailed via Singapore, for Hongkong, China.

(source :History of the Jodhpur Sate Forces in the war, 1939-45; Major General R. C. Duncan, C.r.E., M.V.O.. O.B.E., Commandant, Jodhpur State Forces, late 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles F- F- Jodhpur: Printed at Jodhpur Government Press, 1946)



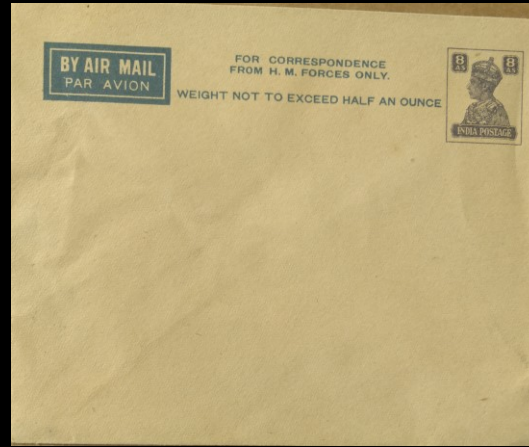
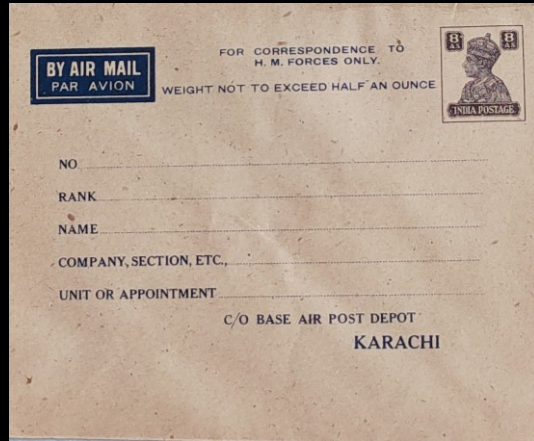
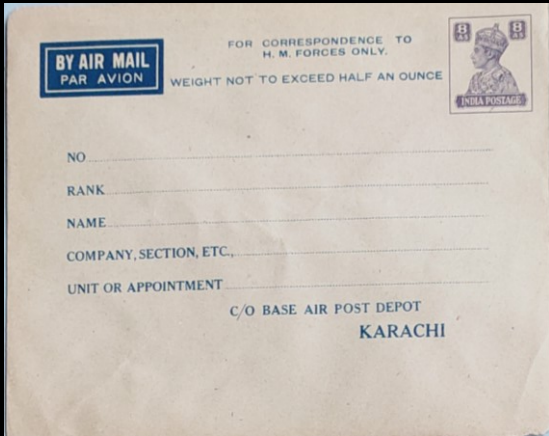
Indian Army Postal Service and the Polish Forces

This uprated Forces Air Mail Envelope (pink colour)-pre printed India KG VI 8as, 8as India KGV and 2*3as India King George VI affixed was posted from Indian FPO to United States Of America

The Forces Air Mail Envelope was issued to the Forces in March 1942.

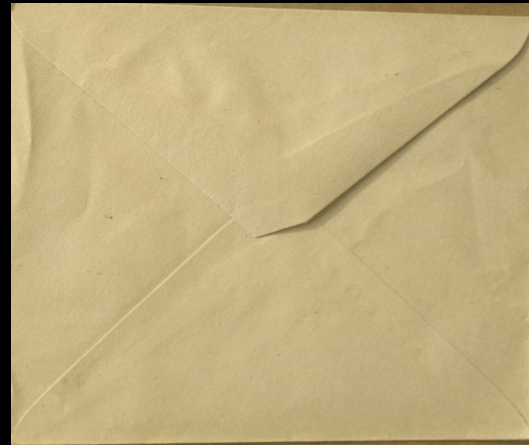
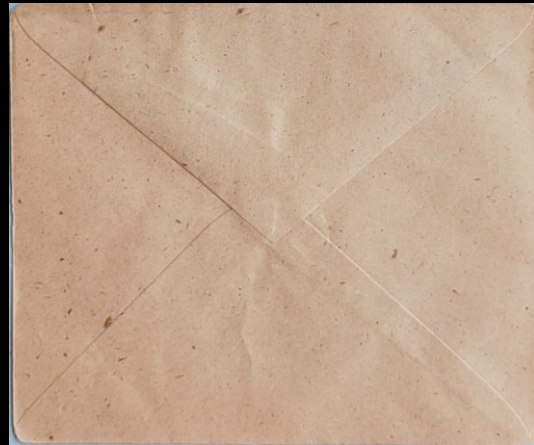
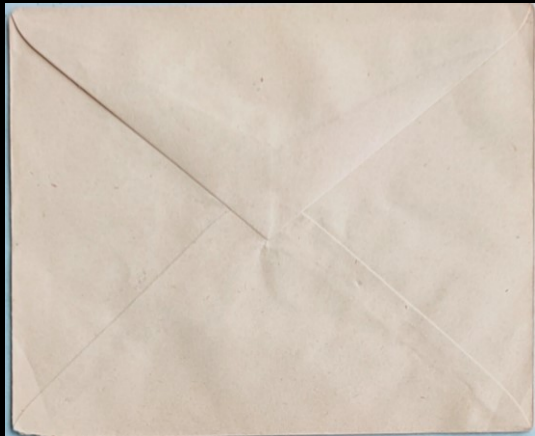
This particular Air Mail Envelope is an example wherein all postal facilities and concessions granted to British and Indian troops were extended to the Polish soldiers. This Cover highlights that when the operational Polish FPO left in the first half and their BPO in December 1943 for the Middle East, the PAI FORCES continued to look after the Polish units which remained behind in Persia and Iraq.

This Air Mail Envelope has been sent to United States Of America. It bears lower left Polish censor with Examined by Censor both in English and Polish. An octagonal British stamp with a crown and KK/48. Alphas KK denotes this octagonal stamp was put in Palestine. At the reverse there is a Polish datestamp which one translated means Main Field Mail dt 27th April 1945



In December 1940, due to the morale factor, correspondents in India were permitted to send to soldiers on field service overseas Air Mail Letters and Postcards at the reduced 8 as and 4 as rates.

In May 1941, reciprocity was granted by giving similar concession to soldiers on field service for writing to their homes.



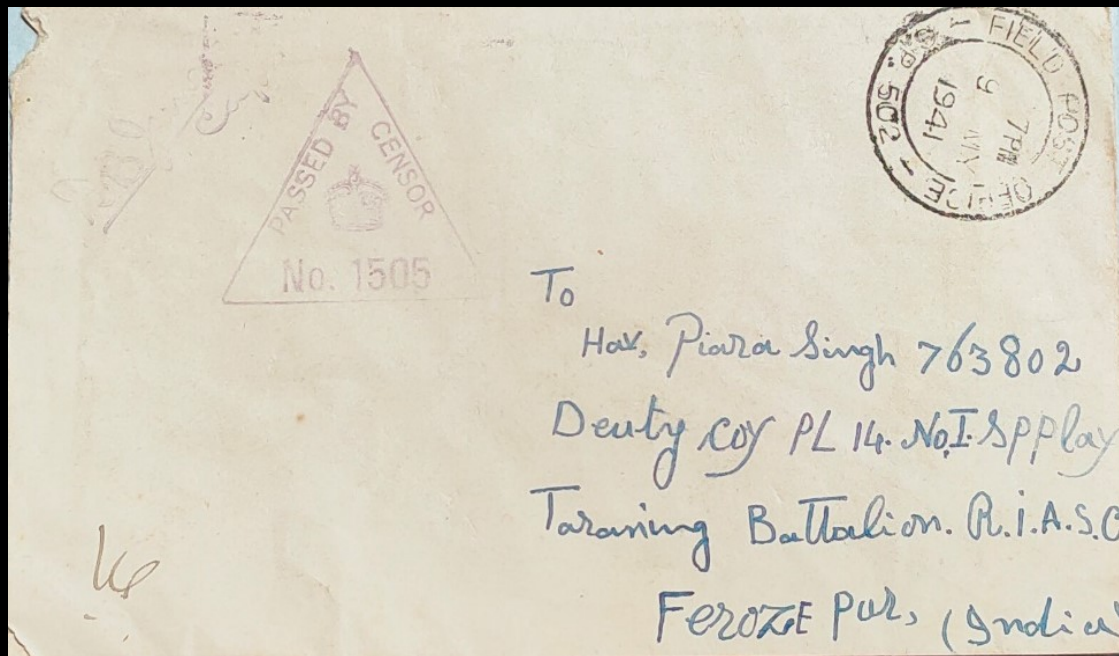
To facilitate the use of this concession 8 as Forces Air Mail Envelops-pink and later buff coloured were issued by the P&T department for correspondence to and from the soldiers overseas.

This was the 8 as (Buff colour) Forces Airmail Envelope which was to be used for correspondence to HM Forces only

To HM Forces Only

To HM Forces Only

From HM Forces Only



British FPO SP502 at Singapore used by an Indian soldier to send a mail to India

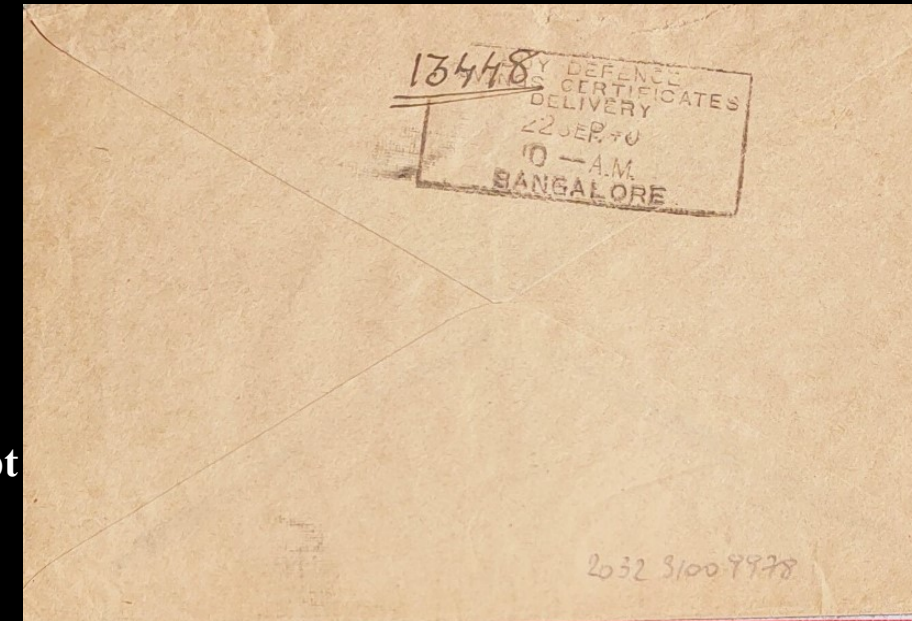
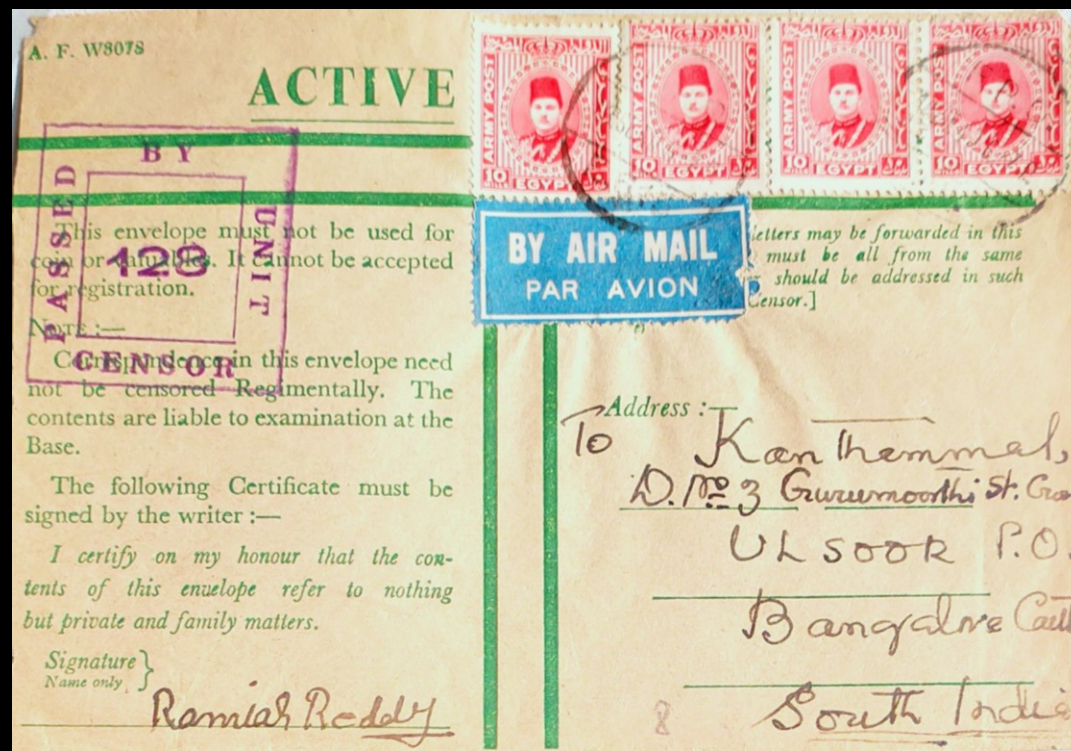
The cover has been posted by **Sep Ajaib Singh** **5th Battalion 14th Punjab Regiment**, B Company, Malaya from the **British FPO SP502 at Singapore** on **9th May 1941** to **Hav Piara Singh, Training Battalion, RIASC, Ferozepur, India**. It reached its destination on **22 May 1941**

March 1940 onwards, the concession of free surface postage from overseas to empire countries was allowed



The **5th Battalion, 14 Punjab** under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Livesy Lawrence Stokes, performed relatively well against the Japanese both in Thailand and Malaya in early December 1941.

However, Stokes died in Japanese captivity on 15 February 1942, following the Battle of Slim River, Burma. The 5/14th Punjabis was forced to surrender along with the rest of the British Commonwealth forces after the fall of Singapore to Japan on 15 February 1942. A number of the Indian troops from this battalions later joined the Japanese-
backed Indian National Army



Improved FPO using Anglo Egyptian Datestamps : FPO E615

The Honour Envelope posted on 13th September 1940 at **FPO E615** around **Baqush, Egypt** (seen between 19 May 1940 - August 1940) or **Abd-El-Qadir, Egypt** (seen in December 1940 and maybe later) (Brig D S Virk)

It was received at destination with a delivery cachet Buy Defence Savings Certificates on 22 September 1940 Egyptian 4*10 mil "Army seal" affixed. It bears the square Passed By Unit Censor 129 in violet

In 1939-1940 the "E" series of datestamps were issued to the British Army in Egypt but were lent to various Commonwealth units at various periods. Those used by Indian FPOs were employed in East Africa or Egypt. (Brig D S Virk)

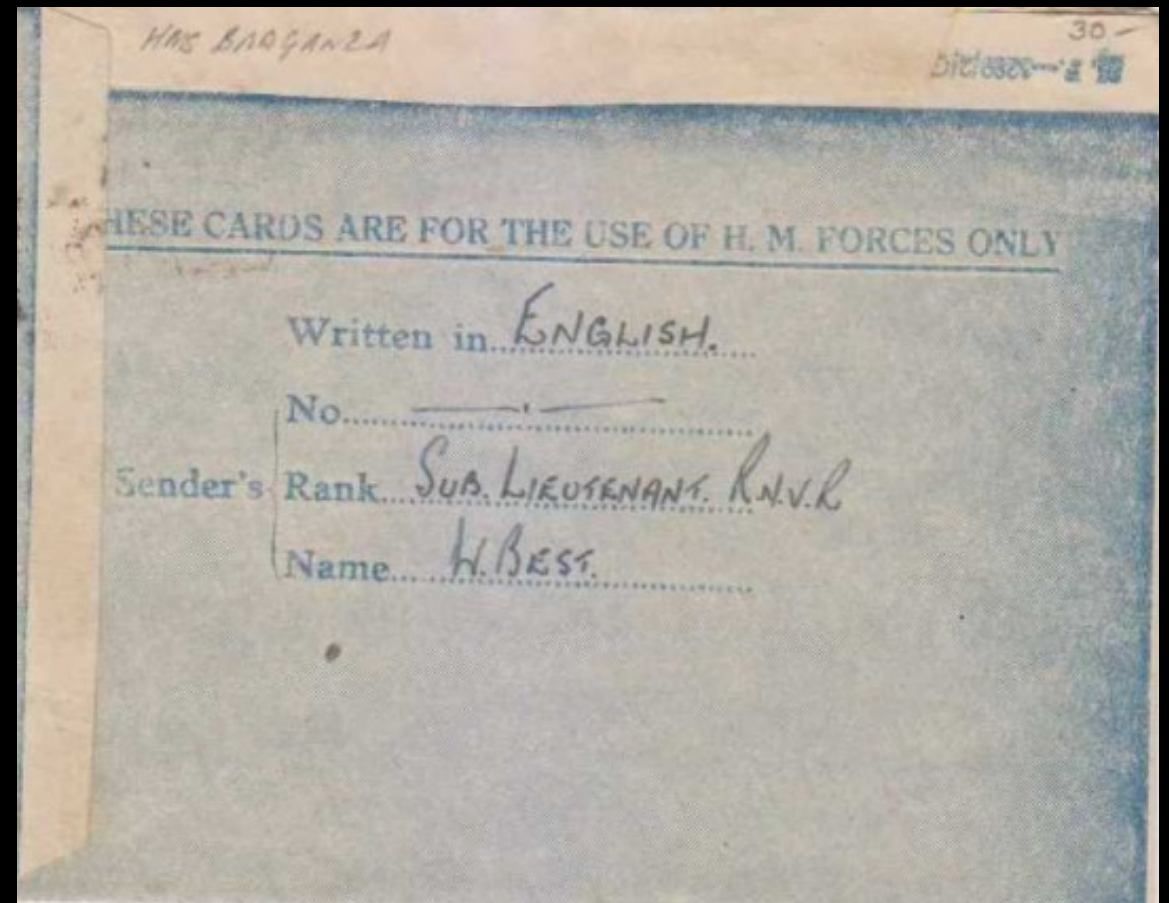
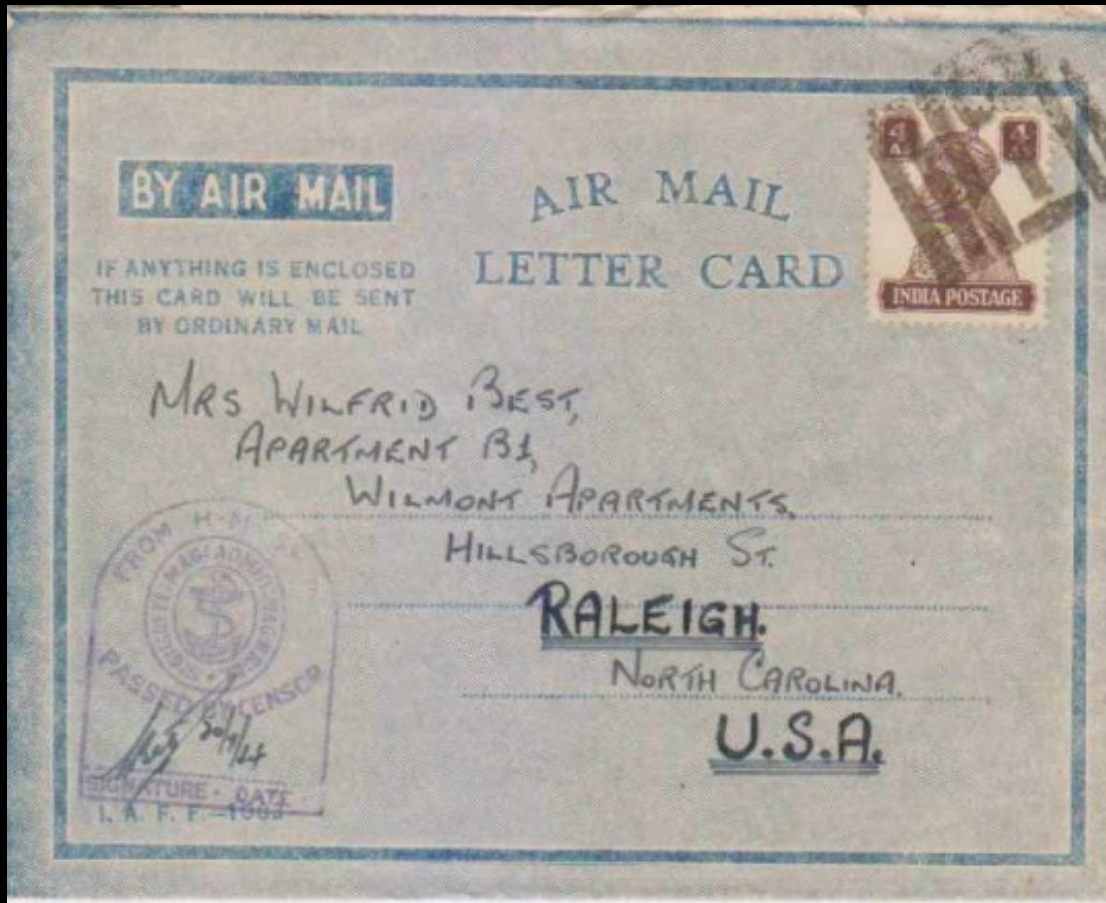


Egypt Postage Prepaid datestamp

The cover has the Egypt Postage Prepaid datestamp, posted on **3rd July 1942** bearing a **10p GB KGVI postage stamp** to Bombay, India. It was received at the destination on **11th July 1942** with a faint delivery cachet. The cover has been posted by Lieutenant Cassad. It bears the circular Passed By Censor with a crown on top 1657

Lt Dhunjisha Pestonji Ratanji Cassad was born on 16th September 1907, commissioned in Indian Army on 7th May 1941. He was a temporary Lieutenant on 12th August 1941. He was an Assistant Garrison Engineer around July 1942.

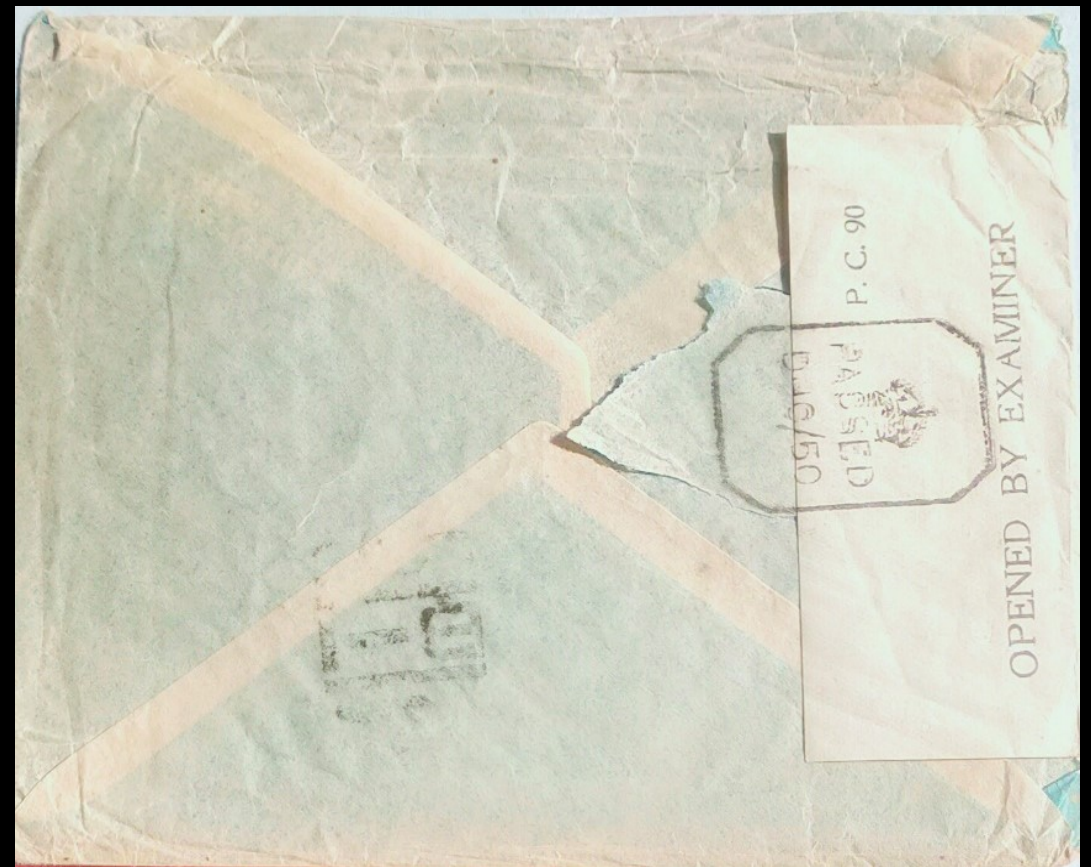
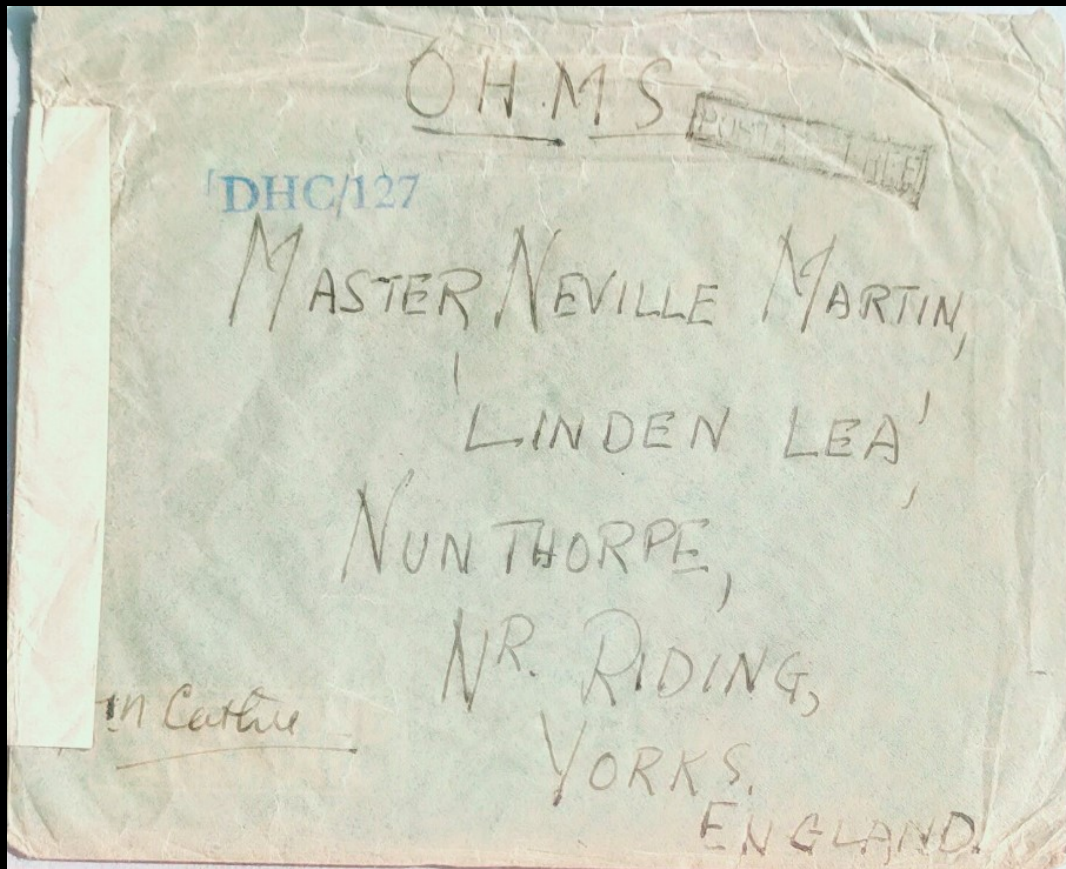
The Egyptian government sanctioned a free postage concession for the British controlled troops in consideration for a token payment. All letter mail cancelled at the FPOs with a special postage prepaid stamp was delivered free by the civil post offices (Brig D S Virk)



B- 1 obliterator

This Airmail Lettercard, was posted from Bombay, India to USA. The writer inside mentions his address as HMS Braganza C/O GPO London. 4 as KG VI stamp affixed. Correspondence from personnel in His Majesty's Navy, including the Royal Indian Navy serving on ships afloat will generally be recognized by the stamp impression 'Received from HM Ships' Director General's Special Circular No 93 of March 6, 1940

Square boxed B- 1 obliterator which is partially seen was solely used during Second World War as a maritime mark, carrying mails to and from ships to shore. This continued till 1949

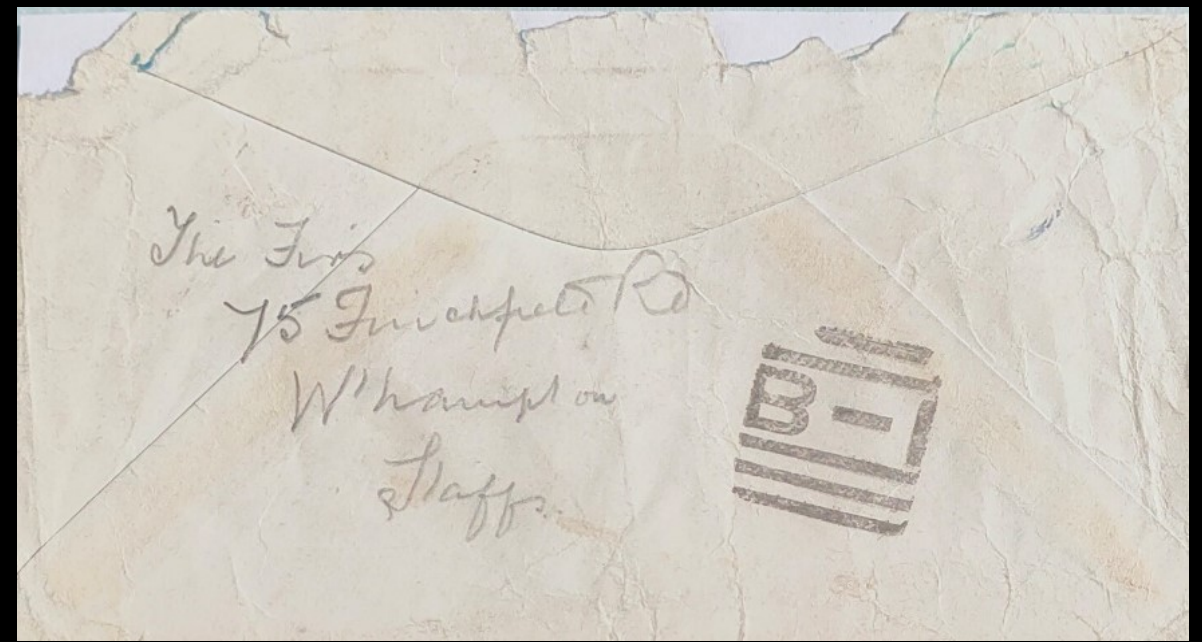
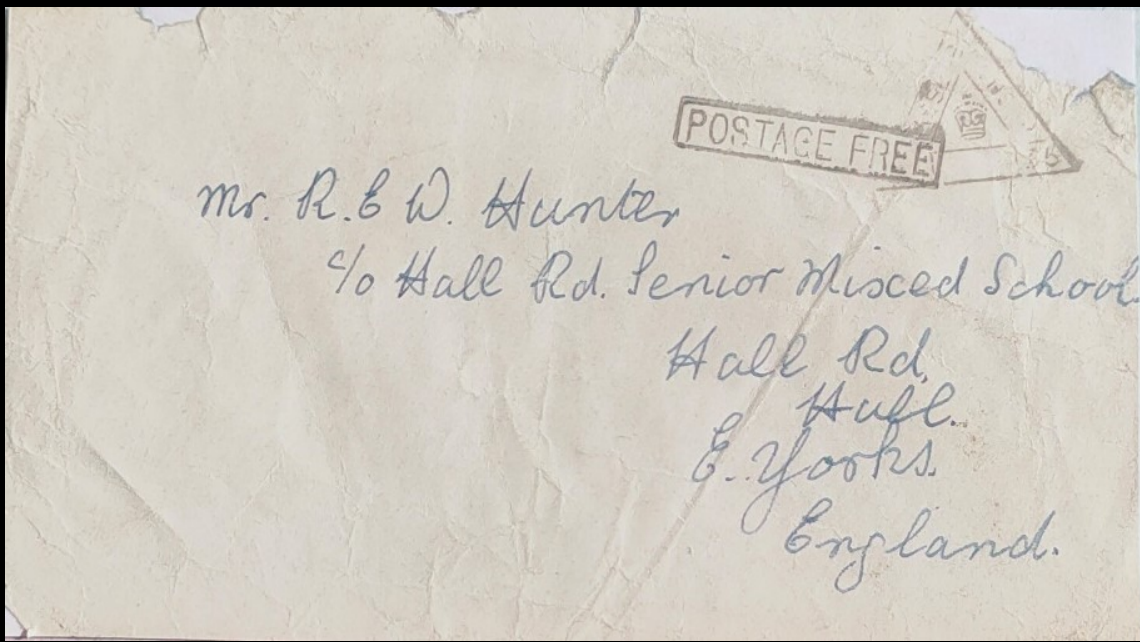


B- 1 obliterator

This stampless cover, posted from Bombay, India to England.

The cover bears Opened By Examiner PC90 with the black octagonal “Passed” steel stamp with DHC/50 (Bombay) which was supplied to the stations in India in March 1942 and DHC/127 in Blue. Boxed Postage is Free is also seen

Square boxed B- obliterator which is partially seen was solely used during Second World War as a maritime mark, carrying mails to and from ships to shore. This continued till 1949



B- 1 obliterator

This stampless cover is posted to England.

The cover bears a black triangle Passed By Censor. Boxed Postage is Free is also seen

Square boxed B- obliterator which is seen was solely used during ww2 as a maritime mark, carrying mails to and from ships to shore. This continued till 1949, late examples do surface sometimes. It has also has been used as a paquebot mark from Madras and Madurai on incoming Naval mail from Ceylon

SECURITY: **THINK- BEFORE YOU WRITE !!**

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL

MRS FOSTER,

c/o F.S. SEAGO

52, COLLEIGH RD

ENGLAND WEST HAMPSHIRE

LONDON
N.W.6.

I. A. F. F.—1083

THIS LETTER IS FOR THE USE OF H. M. FORCES ONLY

Written in English (Language)

No. C/OX 454535

Sender's

Rank... AB.

Name C. Seago

This Air Letter bears a Maritime Mail Post Office; The address mentioned inside is c/o DEMS Calcutta written by A/B C Seago ;Service number :C/JX454535

Correspondence posted by the personnel of His Majesty s Navy serving in ships afloat will now be receiving bearing the stamp impression' Post Office-Maritime Mail"

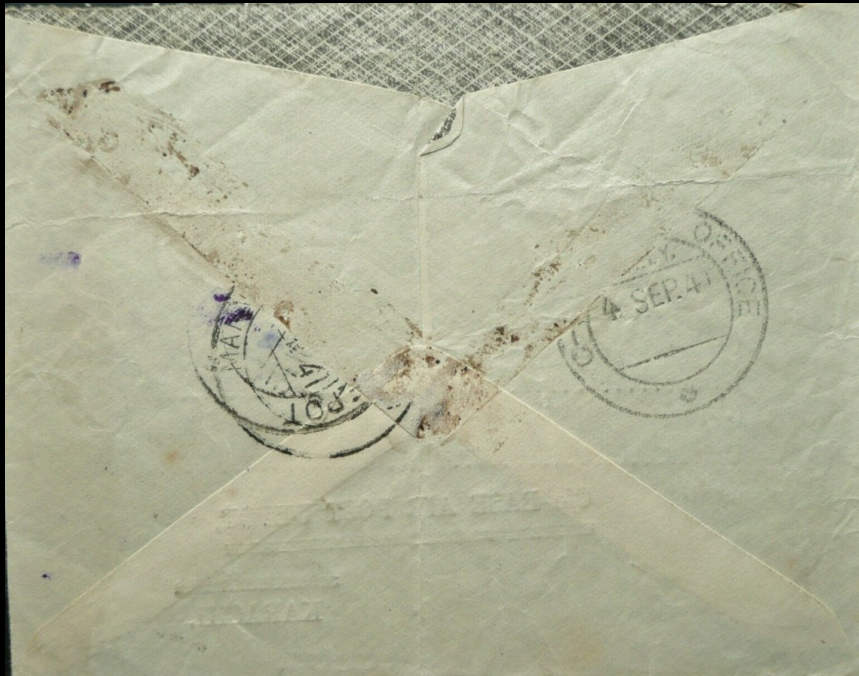
Director General's Post Office Circular No 36 of March 15,1943



This pre printed Air mail cover bears the **C-Base Post Office** datestamp of **4th September 1941**. It bears 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.

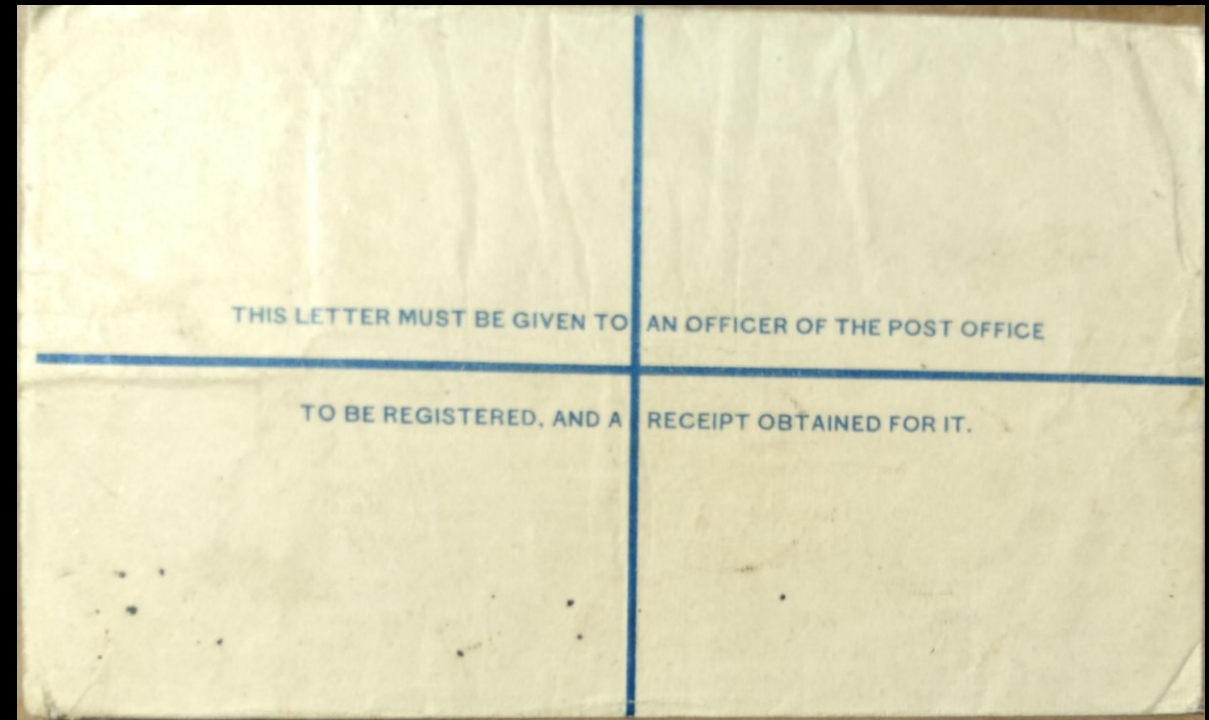
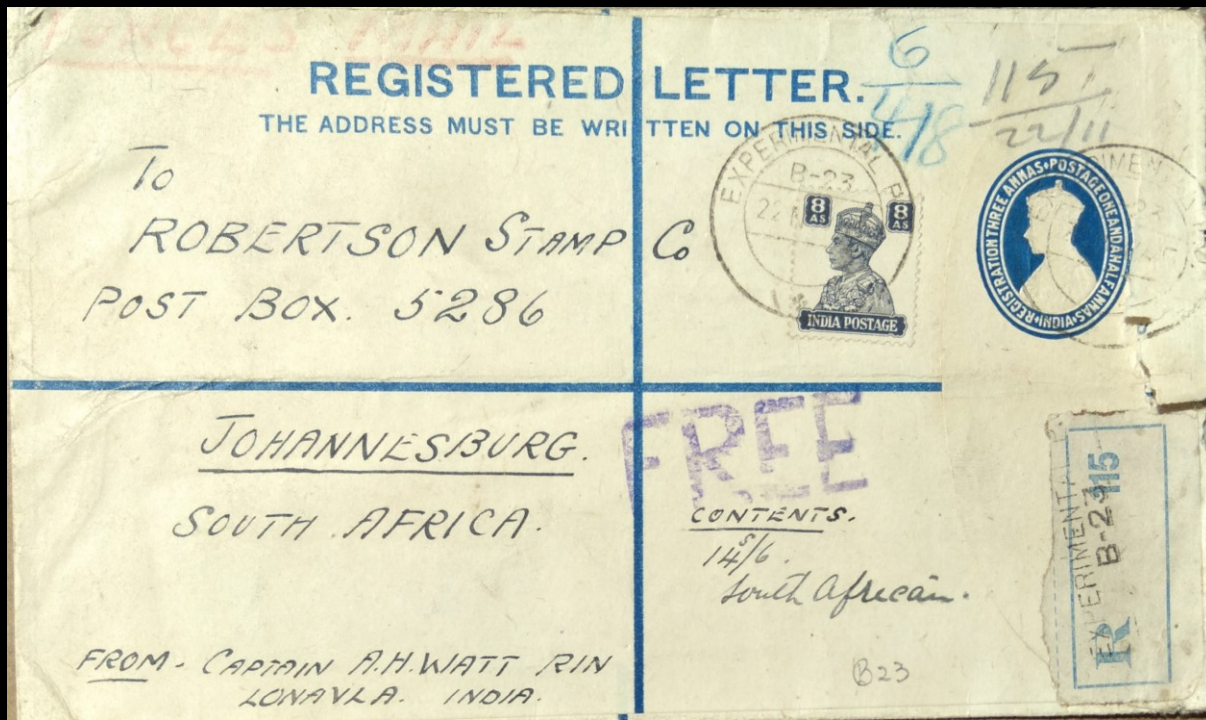
It bears the handstamp **FULL POSTAGE REALISED BASE AIR POST DEPOT**. This was recorded at Base Air Post Depot, Karachi on 17th September 1941. (EB Proud)

c/o Base Postal Depot Bombay has been struck out twice, once by two blue horizontal line and 2 boxed black lines



32 British Combined General Hospital was located at Asmara (East Africa) 8/41 to 9/41 and then on to Mai Habar; (Eritrea) 9/41 to 6/42

This hospital travelled thru Pembroke Dock 7/40 to 8/40 then overseas; Geneifa 9/40 to 10/40 then to Wadi Seidna; Wadi Seidna 10/40 to 8/41 then to Asmara; Asmara (East Africa) 8/41 to 9/41 and then on to Mai Habar; Mai Habar (Eritrea) 9/41 to 6/42 then to Quassassin; Quassassin 6/42 to 7/42 then to Nazareth; Nazareth 7/42 to 3/44 then to U.K.; Birmingham 3/44 to 5/44 then to Watford; Watford 5/44 to 6/44 then to Bayeux; Bayeux 6/44 to 10/44; Wavre Notre Dame 10/44 to 3/45 then to Tildonak; Rothenburg 1/46 to 22/7/46 then disbanded.

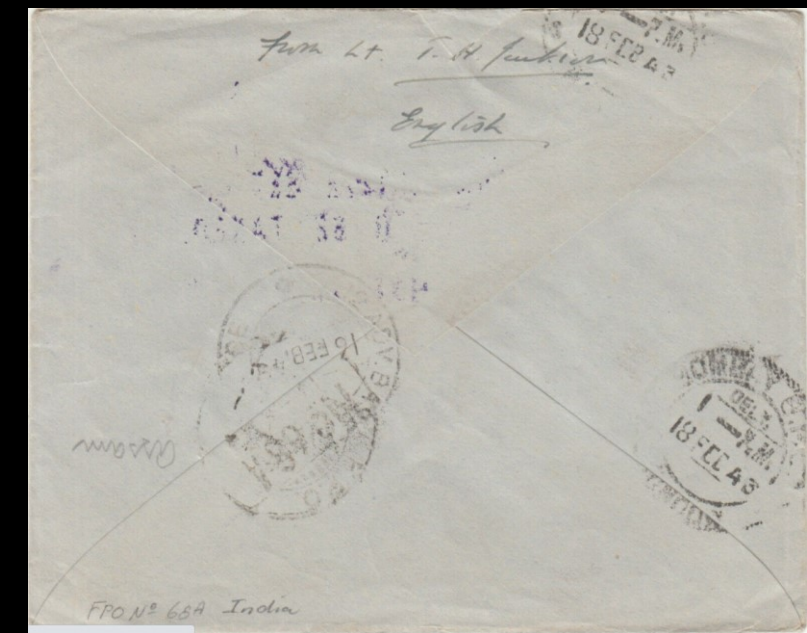


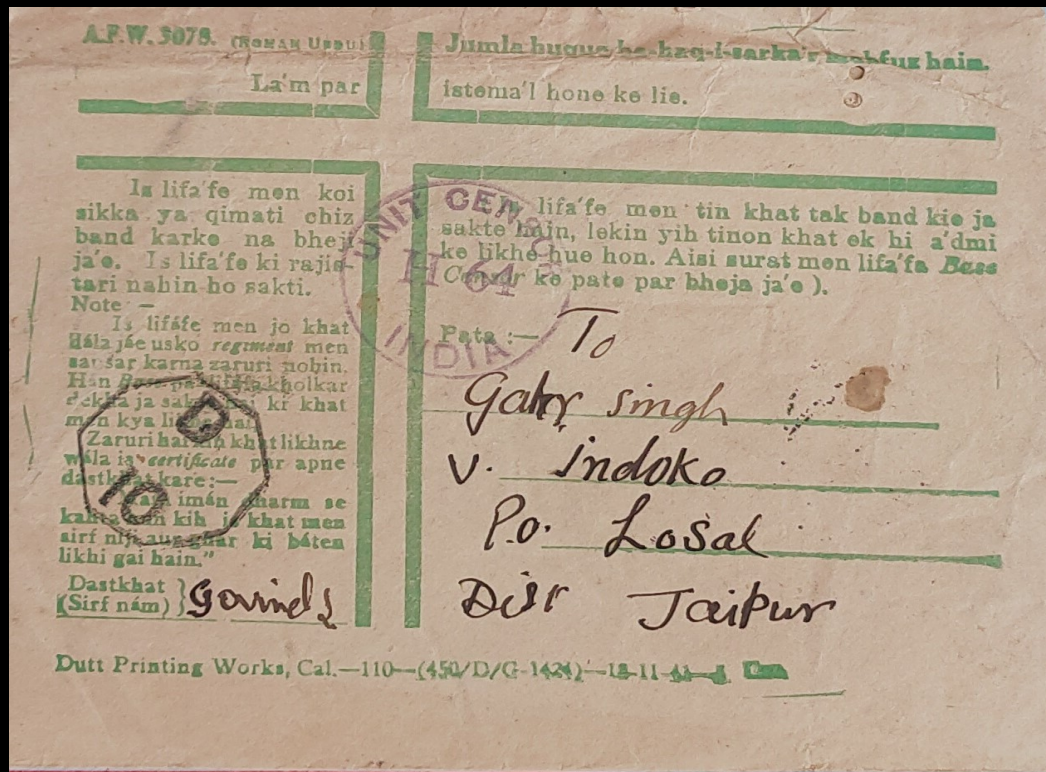
Capt A H Watt posted a registered letter to South Africa bears the Experimental PO B 23 (B=Bombay Postal Circle) datestamp of 22nd November 1945 in India .The Royal Indian Naval officer was located at Lonavala, India as is mentioned on the cover.

An Experimental Post Office was a temporary post office with all postal facilities like a normal permanent post office, opened primarily to make an assessment to determine the financial feasibility to establish and run a permanent post office at that place.

The Experimental POs were often shifted to new locations or closed down or in some instances, made permanent.

All Experimental POs were allotted an alphanumeric number begining with the Circle initial followed by the number of the PO. The use of alphanumeric characters to denote the locations of Experimental POs was first mentioned in Post Office Circular No. 40 dt. July 16,1883 issued by Frederick Rogers Hogg, Director General of Post Offices in India but, no subsequent circulars ever described the numbers corroborating the locations of Experimental POs.





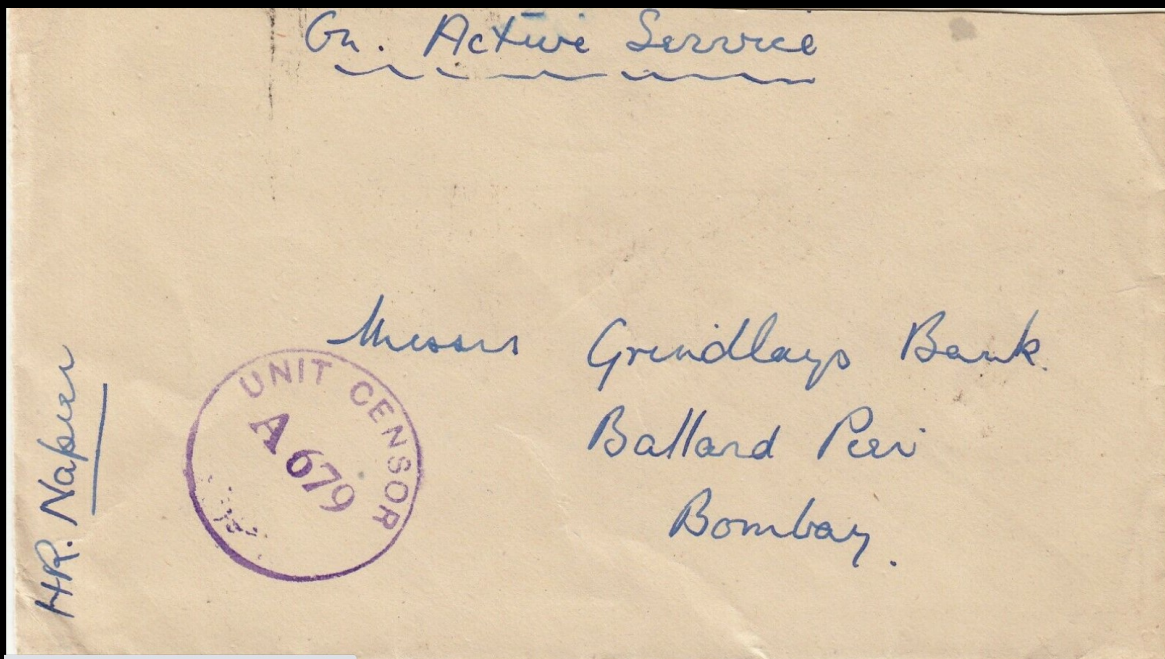
Datestamps only showing the number and the date/month/year

This Honour Envelope (**Roman Urdu**) bears the datestamp 289 on 20th December 1943 it reached its destination Losal, Jaipur via 14 ABPO, Madras, India. It bears the black octagonal D10 (Madras)

Datestamps only showing the number were intended for use at civil post offices in India for segregating troops mail for purpose of censorship, concessions and circulation. These were issued to Army Commands for distribution to the affected civil post offices through their circle offices. Numbers are known running from 1 upto 700s. A few of these, numbered in the 500s and 600s were issued to FPO s apparently in error

1 to 200 allotted through HQ Eastern Command- Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, assam

201 to 500 were allotted through HQ Southern Command covered Bombay and the whole South



No. 6 ABPO;

This stampless cover seems to have originated from 6ABPO, handwritten on the flap of the cover. Though no datestamp of 6ABPO. It bears the Temporary PO C-110 datestamp; addressed to Grindlays Bank, Bombay, India

8.5 Interesting Examples Of Insufficiently Paid Mail From

Signalman C E Starley, Royal Signals
attached with
99th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, India

(5) Interesting examples of insufficiently paid mail from Signaller C E Starley, Royal Signals attached with 99th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, India

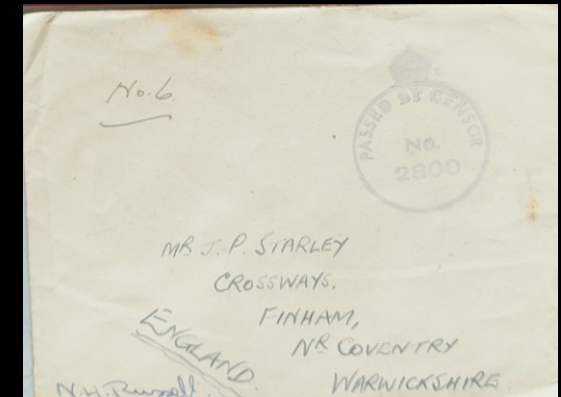
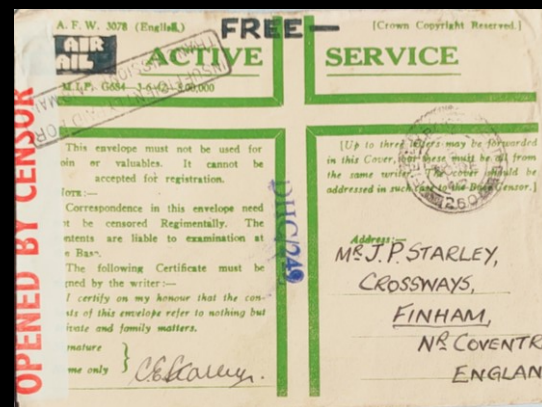
1st September 1941, British troops serving in India were permitted to send 4 sea mail letters in a month to UK and Empire countries at the concessional rate of 2 1/5 anna. The deficient postage of 1 anna per letter was paid from Defence Fund as letters were arriving from troops overseas without postage, their correspondents in India also began sending their letters with insufficient postage or no postage at all.

In 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 their addressee. The cost was borne by the Defence Fund but all concerned were warned not to give any publicity to this practise (Brig D S Virk)



India to UK the surface rate was 2 1/2 annas for 1 ounce and for an Airmail 8 annas for 1/2 ounce. In November 1940 the rates were revised from 2 1/2 annas to 3 1/2 annas. This hit the British soldiers in India as they were treated on peacetime duty



Insufficiently paid for Transmission by Air Mail boxed in black Bombay Airmail datestamp used at reverse 7th January 1043. It bears 85C Opened By Censor Strip and a black octagonal DHC (Bombay)