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## New Zealand Musings

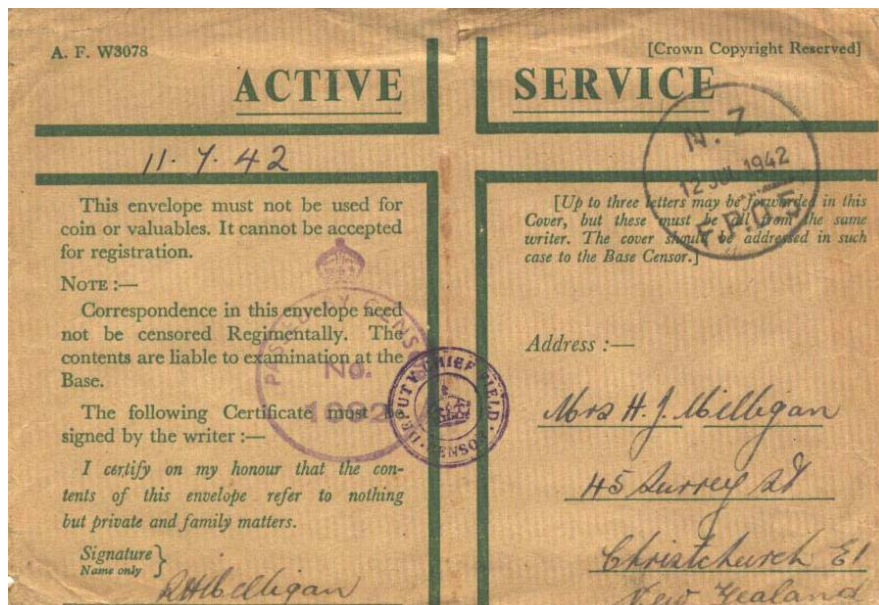
By Tony Lyon

This article will reflect one of my pet hates. No I don't mean software that should never have been inflicted upon the world, although that is another irritation. No I mean auction estimates that do not reflect reality. Covers described as rare and then show three such covers on the first page of the catalogue (estimate NZD250). I have been going to raise this for a while but after MS Publisher played up for the umpteenth time I thought right, it is time.

In that most essential publication for collectors of New Zealand Military covers edited by Startup and Proud, on page 282 there is an entry for NZ FPO 5. The period in question is when it was located at Kafar Vitken, being 10.4.42 — 20.5.43, a period of just over one year. They gave it a rating of 500 which places covers from this period from FPO 5 in the scare category. However, and I am not being critical of their assessment at all; their valuation would have been based upon the covers they had seen up to that time. My assessment is that this rating is wrong. This is based upon the number of covers I personally have and the many I have seen in Auction catalogues and on Ebay and Trademe. But the myth of rarity continues. Surely a dealer, who can spot a rarity at 100 paces, begins to think to him/herself that maybe these are not as rare as they are thought to be, after handling dozens of them?

### Kafar Vitken

Kafar Vitken is located on the coast between Haifa and Tel Aviv. 1 NZ Convalescent Depot moved to Kafar Vitken 30 April 1942 with postal facilities provided by NZ FPO 5. It was located there for just over 12 months. All of the covers I have seen have the same Censor marking Crown over circle 1092 which is known used on covers from Secretary YMCA 2 NZEF, 1 NZ Con Depot, HQ 6 NZ Division and 14th Light A/A Regiment (Collyer 1988:208).



FPO 5 dated 12 Jul 1942 with censor 1092 also Deputy Chief Censor (applied Cairo) to Christchurch NZ





FPO 5 dated 24 NOV1942 with censor 1092 also Deputy Chief Censor (applied Cairo) . On the reverse a FPO 550 receiving cancel dated 29 Nov 1942. FPO 550 was allocated GHQ M.E.F 24.2.42 and used in Palestine 29.6.42 -2.5.43. There is also a double circle censor mark 124 and the cover has been resealed with a Base Censor tape.



A. F. W3078. [Crown Copyright Reserved.]

J. D. & Co., Apsley.

**ACTIVE SERVICE**

N. Z.  
6 JUL 1942

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

NOTE:—

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

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—

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

Signature }  
Name only }  
M. Bradmore

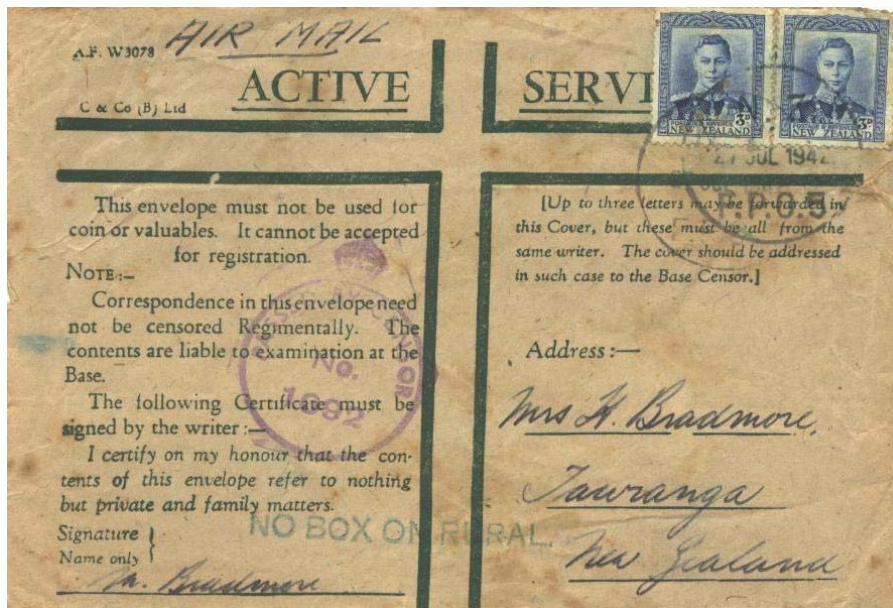
[Up to three letters may be put in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Address:—

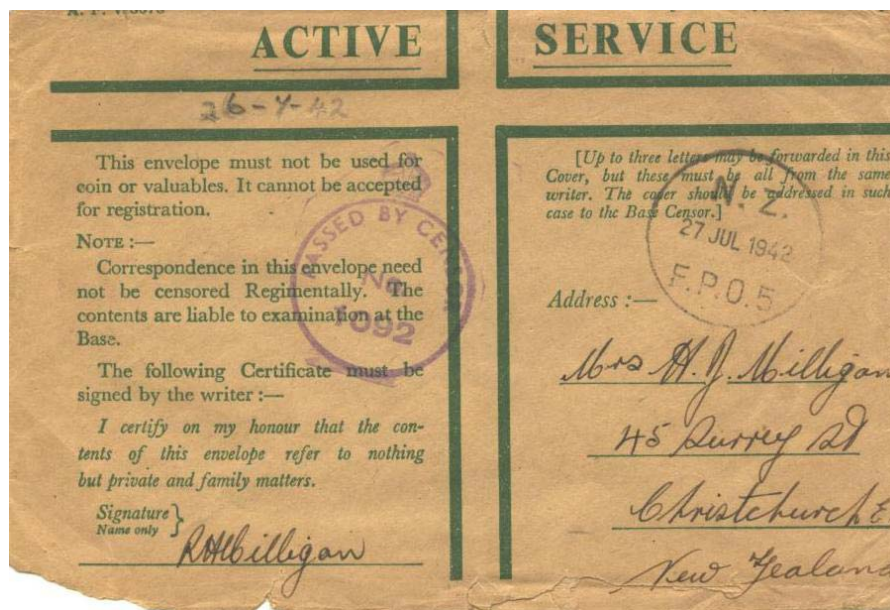
Mrs A. Bradmore  
Lauranga  
N. Zealand

FPO 5 dated 6 Jul 1942 with censor 1092 also Deputy Chief Censor (applied Cairo) .

My research has concluded that Bradmore ( NZ Service No 21140) was attached to the NZ 6 Brigade in some capacity. One cover I have from him shows R.H.Q. on the back. For some reason I think he may have been artillery (14 NZ LAA Regiment?).



Example dated 27 Jul 1942 sent at the airmail rate of 6d.



Example dated 27 Jul 1942 sent at the surface free.

No 1 Convalescent Depot had 2 NZ General Hospital in an adjoining area of Kafar Vitkin during June/July 1942 after the hospital left Nazareth. On the 26 July 1942 the Hospital transferred to El Ballah, Kantara West where it remained for 18 months. NZ FPO 4 served this hospital. Has anyone seen any covers from FPO 4 dated June or July 1942? (McKinney 1952:225-226). Soldiers were sent to No 1 Convalescent Depot from the hospitals and as such it is logical that covers from here could come from various units.

### Bibliography

- McKinney J B. 1952. *Medical units of 2 NZEF in Middle East and Italy*. Wellington: War History Branch, Dept of Internal Affairs.
- Startup R M and E B Proud. 1992. *History of the New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845 - 1991*. Heathfield East Sussex, UK: Postal History Publishing Co.
- Collyer D J. 1988. *Airgraphs and Australia*. Broadway, NSW: Kinko's.