

Australian Journal of Philately

(Incorporating: The Date Stamp and Australian Journal of Postal History)

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Correspondence: All to the Secretary except as noted. Journal articles to be with the Editor by 15 February, May, August and November respectively.

<u>Secretary:</u>	<u>Australian Journal of Philately</u>	<u>HHDS Notes</u>
Irene Kerry	Tony Lyon	George Vearing
PO Box 7014	6 Allaware Ave	Box 426
Hawthorn	Croydon, Victoria 3136	Mooroopna, Victoria 3629
Vic 3122	Australia	Australia
Australia	Phone: 03 9779 9285	Ph: 03 5825 3194
	E-mail: lyonaj@optushome.com.au	E-mail: georgeev@optusnet.com.au

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2012 Programme

20 February	Brian Fuller	Weird Philately
16 April	John Young & Tony Lyon	Caribbean Airmails '28-46' / NZ WW2 Inwards Mail to NZ Forces.
18 June	John Steward	Snowy Mountains Postal History

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Editorial

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close and another Journal is completed. The only problem with another year passing is the fact that we all grow another year older. But of course, hopefully we also grow wiser.

The usual suspects have provided the bulk of the articles and we do thank them for their continued support. I have spent a few weeks working my way through all the filing cabinets trying to find new space. In the process I happened upon a couple of enquiries that do not appear to have made the light of day. I have included these in this issue. My apologies to those who sent them in, but sometimes things end up in strange places. What I can say is, the cupboard is now bare. We have no articles for the March 2012 Journal.

Please consider writing an article, cover story or item of interest, because it is your journal and we all need to pull together. Although it is preferable for the articles to be typed, it is not everyone who has that skill, so a neatly hand written piece will work. That's just to remind those older folk that they are not off the hook. I say this kindly.

There are requests for information in this issue; if you have an answer, please let the editor know by email, letter or phone call, to enable the answer to be published.

On another note, one of the sad realities of philately is the diminishing number of store front stamp dealers around. Everyone has opted for the World Wide Web to run their businesses; and although it obviously makes sense, it is still sad that there is far less face to face contact. I was in New Zealand's North Island in October and found it very hard to find a dealer anywhere. The Rugby was good though!

The upside of course, is that the world is your stamp shop, on line and one can find items for your collection or display anywhere. Not good if one is not connected of course.

Have a great and blessed Christmas and a excellent New Year.

Ciao! Till next time.

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From the President

'Tis the time to be thinking of Santa sacks, and the piece shown here is nearly that. It was sent by a member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces from Kure, Japan. He addressed it to Corporal M.J. Smith and it contained table cloths, doyleys and stockings. Were the stockings nylon or silk? Was Corporal Smith a cross-dresser?

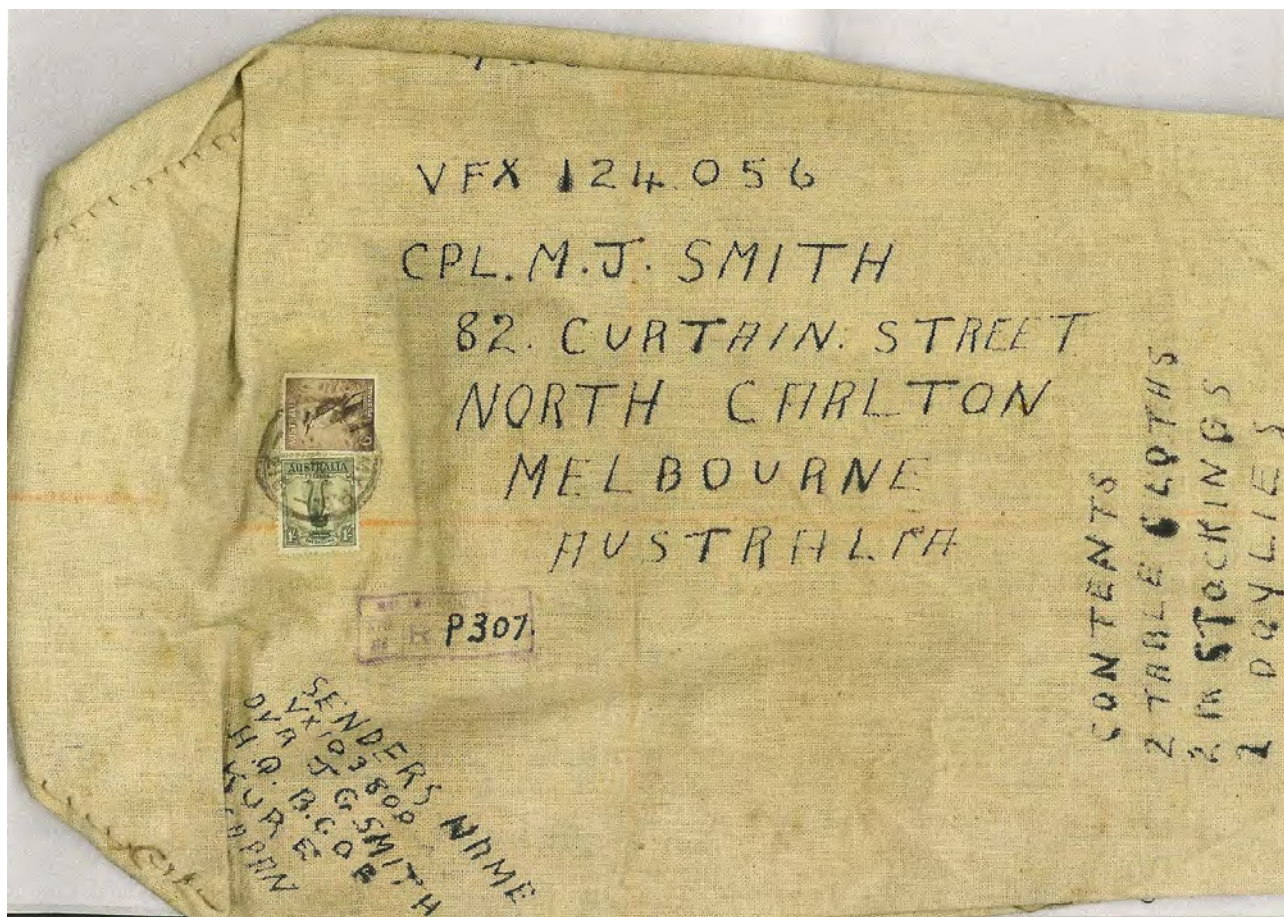
Corporal M.J. Smith it turns out was Joyce Smith, so all was in order.

The sack was made of sturdy cotton and measures 40cm x 23cm at its widest points. As it is a challenge to satisfactorily mount it on an album page a pictorial representation in this journal is all that it will get.

The franking is 1 shilling and 6 pence. The year of posting is unclear, but if it was 1948 or early 1949 the postage was 3 pence for registration and the balance was for a parcel weight of 3 to 5 pounds. There are nice clear Aust. Army PO-215 backstamps, but the dates are blurred.

I hope that Joyce appreciated the stockings, whether or not for Christmas. Turning to the present I also trust that your Christmas stocking is filled with nice, thoughtful things.

John Young



Mail from Eastern Europe Pre World War 2

Pt 3 – Letters to Eugen Szabadi / Eugene Stanley

Judy Kennett

For Eugen Szabadi (or Eugene Stanley as he became) information was more easily found. His arrival in Australia is documented, and recorded in the National Archives of Australia (NAA) Canberra. NAA provided a certified copy of the naturalisation certificate for himself and his sons. A surviving daughter-in-law, Judith Stanley, provided personal information about his European origins and his early days in Melbourne. He became a stamp dealer, and there are people alive who recall visiting his home in Elwood on stamp-related business. A short outline of his life follows.

Personal life. He was born Eugen Schwartz in Pecs (Fuenkirchen in German), Western Hungary, on 4 October 1893. When he was 10 years old, his father died, and his mother, Irma, later remarried Leopold Szabadi. Eugen adopted this surname. The family moved to Vienna in 1919, and Eugen worked at Nockit Apparatebaugesellschaft, a large technical equipment company, as an accountant. He married Hildegard in 1924; their elder son Peter was born in 1926, and younger son Paul in 1930. Two business letters and a postal stationery card sent to him from Hungary are shown below:



Letter from Budapest to Vienna

Budapest 72A decorative slogan cancel dated 30 Jun 1930



Letter from Budapest to Vienna

Budapest 62 BC cds dated 23 Aug 1934



Postal card from Budapest to Vienna (written in German)

62A Budapest cds dated 18 Oct 1935.
Internal card updated for use abroad.

With the Anschluss, the Nazi German takeover of Austria on 12 March 1938, the members of the Szabadi family were no longer safe. Eugen was jailed for a time. When released, he and his family quickly left Austria, fleeing first to Pecs, then, with virtually nothing, they crossed into Italy by train. Luckily, they met a friend, who gave Eugen enough money to buy a meal for the four of them. They travelled, probably to Brindisi via Trieste, where they boarded the Strathaird for Australia. On 15 January 1939 the family disembarked in Melbourne.

Form No. 40.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
Immigration Act 1901-1935.

Application for Admission of Relatives or Friends to Australia.

THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
CANBERRA.

I, **Samuel Sydney COHEN**
(Insert full name; surname in BLOCK letters.)
of **11-13 Bond St., SYDNEY**
(Full postal address.)
desire permission to introduce to Australia the following person or persons (**four** in number),
who are of **Foreign** **Austrian** nationality:—

NAME. State whether "Mr.", "Mrs.", "Miss," or "Master." (Write surname in BLOCK letters.)	Age. (Years.)	Birthplace. (Town and Country.)	Present Address.	(a) Present Occupation. (b) Intended Occupation in Australia.	Relationship to Applicant. (State whether "brother," "sister," "son," "daughter," "nephew," "niece," "uncle," "aunt," "cousin," "friend," "other.")
Mr. Eugen SZABADI	48	Austria	Garlgasse 6/13 Vienna III.	(a) Commercial (b) Work will study for Australian degree.	None
Mrs. Helga Szabadi	37				
Master Peter Szabadi	13				
Master ...	8				

The following are particulars regarding myself, viz. —Native of **AUSTRALIA**
nationality (if naturalized, state "British by naturalization")
length of residence in Australia **68** years; occupation **MERCHANT**
I am married* (If married, give ages of dependent children **NO DEPENDENT CHILDREN**)
*I own (if applicable, here give acreage of land, or number of premises, or class of business)
**Director, David Cohen & Co. Ltd. - Tooth & Co. Ltd., Australian
Gas Light Co., other COMPANIES.**
and estimate the value of my interest therein at approximately £ **at least 10,000**
*I am employed by (state name of employer)
as a (class of employment) and my wages are
per week. I have deposits in the Bank at
amounting to £
I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief the abovementioned particulars are correct, and that the
person or person on whose behalf this application is made is/are in sound health and of good repute.
I undertake that, if permission is granted for the said person or persons to enter Australia, I will be responsible for her
his
their
good behaviour in the Commonwealth, and will see that, for a period of at least five years from the date of her
his
their
arrival in Australia,
he is
she is
they are
not allowed to become a charge upon State funds or upon any public or charitable institution through unemployment,
illness, or any other cause.
I attach a certificate as to my character, &c. (See other side of this form.)
Signature of Applicant **Samuel Cohen**
Date **17. 8. 1939**
† Witness **Paul Cohen**
Title **Justice of the Peace.**
Address **3-14 Bond St.**

Notes.—*Strike out if not applicable.
†The witness to applicant's signature should be one of the following persons, viz.—A Justice of the Peace, a member of the Police Force, Postmaster or Postmistress, School Teacher, Minister of Religion, Bank Manager, or person holding some responsible Government or Municipal position.
[SEE OVER]

NAA A261 , 1938/399 Application form (front only)

Sir Samuel Sydney Cohen, a wealthy Sydney businessman, sponsored Eugen Szabadi. Sir Samuel's son Paul witnessed the application form. Both men were stalwarts of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (AJWS). It was Melbourne members of the AJWS, who met the Szabadi family on arrival, and helped them to settle.

Also in this early period, Eugen changed his name to Eugene Stanley. Family history relates that he adopted this name because 'Szabadi' was causing problems for his son, Peter, at Melbourne High school after November 1940. An August 1939 Romanian illustrated postal card, sent by a close Jewish friend from Vienna days, who was then living in the city of Timisoara, indicates that a change in name may have been taking place already. (See page 7)

Image courtesy of NAA



Postal card from Timisoara to Melbourne (poste restante)

Timisoara cds dated 16 Jan 39.
Received at **GDB ELIZABETH STREET / MELBOURNE** 24 Feb 1939.

Internal card was uprated for use abroad.

Card was enquiring about their trip and how they found Melbourne. The sender requested all details & if he received a reply, he would write more fully.

The family first lived at 33 Greeves St, St Kilda, and Eugene started working for the AJWS and Zionist Federation as their accountant. The letter below was sent to that address.



Letter from Timisoara to Greeves Street, Melbourne

Timisoara 2 cds dated 9 Aug 1939

Circular or oval transit cancel (verso under censor's tape) **PO (RT)** ?

Censored Melbourne (old type without dots) and violet cachet of censor **V20** (pt back shown)

Note name Stanley used

They moved from St Kilda to Elwood in late 1939, where they rented 29 Clarke Street from Arthur Knight (Port Phillip Council records). A registered airmail letter posted in Budapest on 26 November 1939, and received in Melbourne on 11 December 1939, was redirected to 29 Clarke St, Elwood. Council records show that Hildegard and Eugene purchased both 29 and 31 Clarke St, Elwood from Knight on 23 June 1945. The naturalisation certificate for Eugene and the boys, Peter and Paul, is dated 22 June 1944, and that for Hildegard 10 July 1944. Both certificates were in the name of Stanley – see later in article.

Professional life. Eugene apparently started his stamp dealings while still employed at the AJWS, where he stayed from 1939 - 1947. Initially, he was their accountant and became office manager and CEO of AJWS in 1943. He was working towards having his own business. Just when he started in the stamp business is unclear, but an advertisement for Stanley Stamp Service at 62 Swanston St, Melbourne appeared in **Australian Stamp Monthly** (ASM) for April 1950, and advertisements continued to appear regularly thereafter. These advertisements in ASM enable the researcher to follow Eugene's career in Melbourne. In May 1952, the logo of the Australian Stamp Dealers' Association (ASDA) appeared at the head of an advertisement, and Eugene Stanley was described as 'a Charter Member' of the Association.



Registered airmail letter from Budapest to 33 Groves St, St Kilda, Melbourne and sent on to Clark St, Elwood

Budapest 12 G cds dated 26 November 1939. Registered cachet also **Budapest 12**.

Backstamps

Registered / Melbourne cds dated 11 Dec 39

St Kilda / Vic redirection cds dated 11 Dec 39

Elwood / Vic arrival cds dated 11 Dec 39

Violet cachet of censor V32 (recto) and flap closing tape of early censor's type (verso)

It is difficult to say definitely which airline carried the envelope, IA/QEA or KLM /KNILM. It seems likely that it flew Ala Littoria from Budapest to Naples and then KLM/KNILM from there, where the flight dates give a better fit with its passage once in Australia.



A change in business arrangements was documented in ASM July 1954, which stated that Stanley Stamp Service was 'under new management of Mr & Mrs A Macdonald'. Then in August 1954, an advertisement appeared for Eugene Stanley at 29 Clarke St (PO Box 20) Elwood. An advertisement for November 1954 described him as dealing in 'classics, specialised issues of Switzerland, Israel and Austria' and inviting wants lists.

Advertisements from 1957 onwards indicated that as well as providing a new issue service, he stocked a good range of philatelic accessories, was an agent for philatelic insurance, and arranged subscriptions for English and European journals. He also stocked catalogues from European countries. For the next 12 years these advertisements continued, but in the year 1969 they stated 'visits by appointment', and 'office closed on Wednesdays'. That was as far as I followed his career, and I have no idea when the business from home ceased operations.

In conversation with Michael Barden, Rod Perry stated that he had been to Eugene's house, from which he worked, several times. He described Eugene as 'a true old European gentleman, who always shook hands after any sale and was scrupulously honest'. Max Stern confirmed this

description. Judith Stanley spoke of his 'huge' number of contacts. Eugene Stanley died on 30 March 1981 in Melbourne, pre-deceased by Hildegard (final 'e' now dropped) on 5 July 1972 and his elder son Peter, who had become a medical researcher, in 1975. Paul Stanley lived until 2005, returning to Melbourne from Sydney with his family after Hildegard's death to look after his father.

A (2) No. 1510

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION.

PARTICULARS RELATING TO APPLICANT.

Full name..... Eugene STANLEY
 Address..... 29 Clarke St., ELWOOD, VIC.
 Age..... 50 years
 Occupation..... accountant
 Place and date of birth..... Puenfaluvas, Hungary, 19 October, 1935.
 Nationality..... Stateless
 Single, married, &c..... Married
 Name of wife or husband..... Hildegard STANLEY
 Height..... 5 feet, 7 inches
 Colour of eyes..... Brown
 Colour of hair..... Brown going grey.
 Any special marks or peculiarities..... Nil

Specimen signature of applicant—

(Signed) E. Stanley

CHILDREN INCLUDED IN CERTIFICATE.

The names of the following minor children of the said Eugene STANLEY have been included in this Certificate of Naturalization in pursuance of Section ten of the Nationality Act 1920-1956.—

NAME OF CHILD.	DATE OF BIRTH.
Peter George STANLEY	26.5.1926.
Paul Otto	19.9.1930.

Dated this twenty-second day of June
 One thousand nine hundred and forty-four.

WHEREAS Eugene STANLEY has applied for a Certificate of Naturalization, alleging with respect to himself the particulars set out in the margin hereof, and has satisfied me that he has fulfilled the conditions laid down in the Nationality Act 1920-1956 for the grant of a Certificate of Naturalization:

AND WHEREAS the said Eugene STANLEY is a stateless person

and has sworn allegiance to His Majesty King George VI., his heirs and successors: **NOW THEREFORE I**, the Minister of State for the Interior, hereby grant, in pursuance of the said Nationality Act and the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts, 1914 and 1918, of the United Kingdom to the said Eugene STANLEY

this Certificate of Naturalization whereby, subject to the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts, and of any other law affecting the rights of naturalized persons, the said Eugene STANLEY becomes entitled to all political and other rights, powers and privileges and becomes subject to all obligations, duties and liabilities to which a natural-born British subject is entitled or subject and, as from the date of these presents, has to all intents and purposes the status of a natural-born British subject.

DATED this twenty-second day of June

One thousand nine hundred and forty-four.

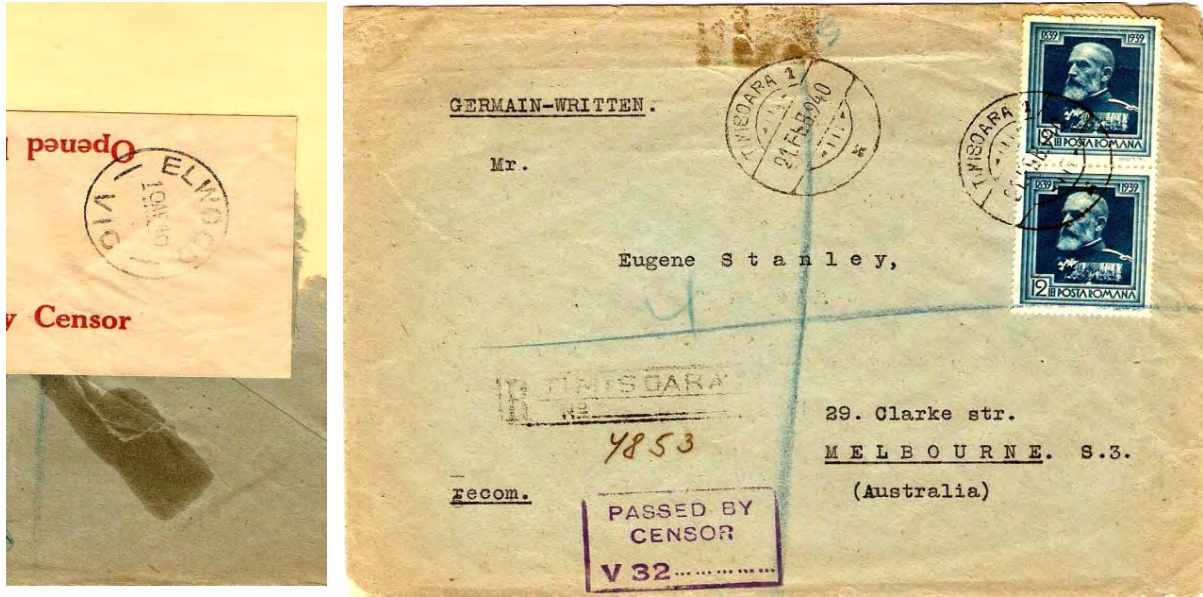
Enrolled as of Record by filing of duplicate in Register of Naturalization Certificates, Vol. A (2), Page 1510

(Sd.) B. R. PATSON

for Secretary,
 Department of the Interior

1944 Australian Naturalisation certificate for Eugene, Peter & Paul Stanley

(NAA A715, item A (2) 1510) courtesy of the NAA



Registered letter from Timisoara to Melbourne Posted 21 Feb 1940. Backstamps: Elwood 10 Apr 1940. Violet Melbourne censor V32. Back damage & flap missing. Blue crosses front & back (part shown only) added in Melbourne. Endorsed 'Germain-written'



Registered letter from Timisoara to Melbourne Posted 8 Oct 1940. Censored in UK with PC66 tape of Examiner 713. Backstamps Registered / Melbourne 26 FE 41, Elwood Vic 27 FE 41. Endorsed 'Written in Germain'.



Reverse of registered letter from Timisoara on p 10

It would be interesting to work out the actual routing to UK for this letter. I presume it went to the UK from Alexandria by sea (note that one envelope to Irvin Tullin was treated in the same way). However, the Tullin cover, posted in March 1940, reached Melbourne in May; that was a quick trip for surface mail at that time. The Mediterranean was closed to air traffic after Italy entered the war on 10 June 1940. This cover, posted in Timisoara in Oct 1940, did not reach Melbourne until Feb 1941. Paid as surface mail, it must have gone via Cape Town from the UK by sea, the Med now being closed via the Red Sea.



Registered letter from Bucharest to Stanley at AJWS, Melbourne. Posted 14 Nov 1946. Back-Stamps: **Cairo/Delivery** 27 Nov 46, **Registered / Melbourne** (poor) DE 46. (Part back shown) M/S comment (front) Closed till 6-1-47. Initials 2-1-47

Conclusion. The starting point for this article was the group of four items of mail from Romania addressed to Eugen Szabadi and Eugene Stanley in Melbourne. It was not until later that the four Hungarian items addressed to him in Vienna during the 1930s emerged from a box of postal stationery and a few commercial envelopes. It was fun uncovering information about Eugene's professional activities from the ancient, stained copies of ASM; so much information about the state of

the stamp industry in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s came to light. Michael Barden was encouraging and indefatigable in finding information about Eugene's personal life from local sources.

Reference. For more information about the arrival of Jewish migrants in the years leading up to World War 2, see Benjamin, R, *A serious influx of Jews: a history of Jewish welfare in Victoria*, Melbourne, Allen & Unwin, 1998.

Acknowledgements: My sincere thanks go to:-

- Michael Barden for liaison with Judith Stanley, Rod Perry and Max Stern, and for his editing skills, which add greatly to the visual appeal of the article.'
- Judith Stanley for providing information from the Stanley family records.
- Brendan Fenton from National Australian Archives – Canberra for arranging the certified copy of the Stanley family naturalisation certificate, and for help with searching online records.
- The German Department at the University of Melbourne for arranging translations of postal cards with messages in German.
- Lionel Sharpe from the Jewish Welfare Society of Victoria for his advice and for providing information from his genealogical records.
- David Collyer for his advice re the flights from Europe to Australia

Creating and Maintaining an Index for AJP

Michael Barden

An attempt to set up an index occurred after 20 issues of **The Date Stamp**. Nothing has happened since, nor was the initial index preserved electronically. Thus, we must restart from scratch. Your Committee has endorsed the idea. The journals contain a wealth of material – finding it in real time is always the problem. So, let us begin.....

This is a call to all computer literate members to assist in this large project. Having a greater quantity of volunteers to assist, will make all our endeavours faster and less onerous. Thus, this is a call for volunteers. We have nearly 90 issues to analyse and record. The last 30 or so issues, Tony Lyon has in electronic form, making life much easier.

Please would prospective volunteers advise me by email (nedrabm@bigpond.com) **before 1 January 2012** of their earliest issue, so that I can work out some roster. I suggest we record the following data in MS Word or Excel. I will collate it, so we can search in future. The finished index will be kept on our website. That way we can also update it regularly. Maybe we can make CDs for sale.

Information required	Author
	Title of article
	Issue number and pages
	Subject matter &/or period covered

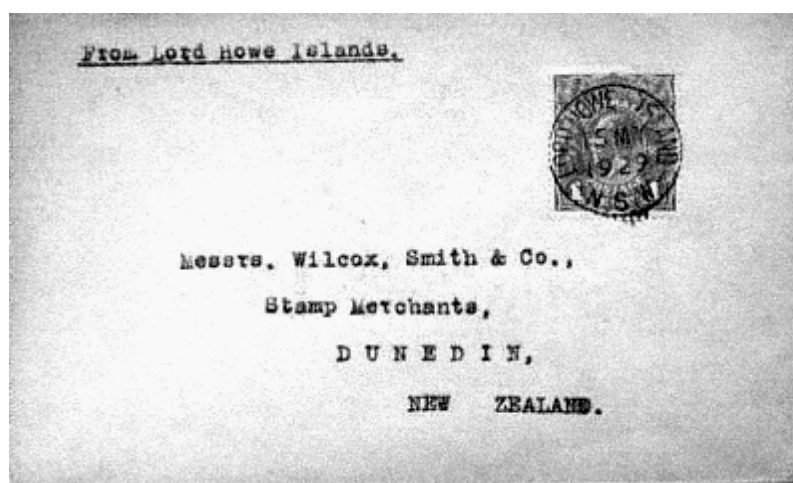
I am open to suggestions and recommendations as to how we can do this job better to achieve our objectives. The main thing is we make a start. Please help, if you can – we will all benefit.

'Unique' Lord Howe Island Postmark

Maurice Mishkel

This Lord Howe Island cover was offered on Ebay auctions, and at the time, I considered it possibly unique. It was addressed to **Messrs. Wilcox, Smith & Co., Stamp Merchants, DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND**. The stamp was the 1^d KGV red, with the N.S.W. Type 1D(i) 2-line postmark, dated 15 MY/1929/ N.S.W . The sender had typed in the top left-hand corner: From Lord Howe Islands (sic)

Hopson & Tobin's N.S.W. and A.C.T. Post, Receiving, Telegraph & Telephone Offices, Volume 2, October 1995 lists the Type 1D(i) postmark for the Island as being used from 1902-32. The same authors' Volume 4 of November 1999, Appendix 1 does not list any corrections or additions to the Island's postmarks.



The 'unique' feature about the postmark was the spacing between 'HOWE' and 'ISLAND'. It had been described previously by David Wood of Premier Postal Auctions No. 44, 15 December 2002, Lot 267 on piece, as follows: "framed LORD HOWE ISLAND/ SP 23/ 1921/N.S.W ('S' removed) on KGV 2^d orange." Again, I learnt it is unwise to say that a postmark is unique; once having been described, other examples 'come out of the woodwork'.

This uncommon postmark will be listed in Part 5 of my submitted article to the A.C.C.C. of N.S.W.

Bulletin "N.S.W. & A.C.T. ERD's/LRD's Additions" (Jan. 2004 submission) as follows:

LORD HOWE () ISLAND 1D(i) 1921-29, 'S' removed from 'HOWES', not previously listed (2 copies)

There is further interest in this postmark, for within the variety of the Type 1 D(i) postmark, the day precedes the 2-letter month on the cover, whereas the 'on piece' shows the month precedes the day. For all Type 1 postmarks [1, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D(i) & 1D(ii)], the common format is for the 2-letter month to precede the day. Because of wrong insertion of the date plugs, many different formats of this type of date stamp are seen, including partial and complete inversions, and a spectacular year of 2019 on a KGV Head. The late use (1929) of the KGV Redhead as a single stamp is found rarely on intact covers, whereas covers with multiple stamps are seen not infrequently in the late 1930's with KGV 1^d reds used as 'make-up' values. Perhaps to belabour the points of interest, the author is unaware that Lord Howe Islands (as typed on the cover), is correct. What is the chance that this cover was philatelically inspired as it was sent to a Stamp Merchant?

Lord Howe Island was named after Admiral Lord Richard Howe (1726-99) aka 'Black Dick', the dubious nickname earned because his sailors said he never smiled unless a battle was to begin. Admiral Lord Nelson called Howe "our great master in tactics and bravery". The Island was discovered in 1778 by Lt Henry Lidgbird Ball of HMS Supply. The resident population of the Island is c. 300 and tourism is the major component of the Island economy

Addendum: David Wood on 23 Jan/04 wrote that he has sold some. 6 copies of this postmark with the gap, and it is only his assumption that the 'S' has been removed from 'HOWES'.

Article from www.auspostalhistory.com (revision date of internet site, January 2001) with the author's kind permission.

Can You Help?

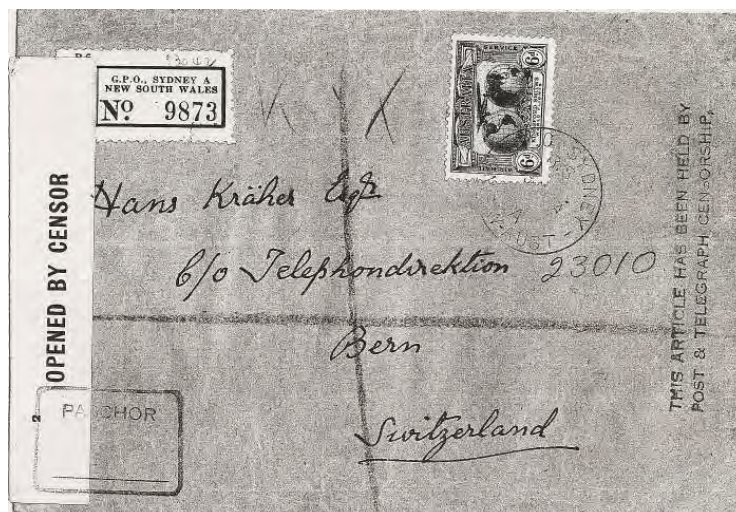
The following to items are part of a clean out of my files and these came to light. Regarding the first request I have no idea who sent it and I apologies for that. I have checked back to 2007 issues and neither seems to have been published. Ed.

Can you help?

Civil censored mail can be an intriguing subject. I know of only two publications on this matter regarding mail to or from Australia in World War 11. The first reference was released around 1977 called "In Search of Secrecy" by Derek Whitmarsh, published by Oceania Philatelic Society of Seattle, W A98155 and dealt with the years 1939 - 1945. The second reference is called "Civil Censorship in Australia and Dependences" 1939 -1945 by J. C. Smith, and was published by Charles Entwistle of Perth, Scotland. On contacting Charles regarding obtaining Mr. Smith's opinion on my cover I was informed that he had passed away some years previous. Charles couldn't offer an opinion except to say that it was of interest.

I have asked a number of people and nobody could say for certain that they had knowledge of such mail being held in Australia for the duration of the war. To begin with we look at the front. The cover is registered at the correct rate of 6d (3d postage plus 3d registration) and is cancelled in Sydney on 9 MR/41. Above the registration label is the pencilled number 33042 .The postage has been paid by a (6d Kingsford Smith stamp which was issued some 10 years earlier. The cover was opened by censor in Sydney BUT does not carry a censor's identification number (possibly an oversight). There is a PASCHOR cachet applied in the bottom left hand corner - who knows from where? And what does it mean. There is a two line cachet appearing on the front and the back of the cover stating "This Article Has Been Held by Post & Telegraph Censorship ". There is another pencilled number 23010 on the front and the cover is addressed to Switzerland. A rough guess that it was held was the fact that it was to a person with a German sounding name c/o a communications company, but why for the duration of the war, as can be ascertained by the backstamps on the reverse. There was a return address that surely could have been contacted, like I've said, backstamps prove it was on the move in 1946. The cover was sent to Melbourne where it was acknowledge on 11/JA/46 over a second PASCHOR cachet as well as an arrival cancel of BERN 6 111 46 - 22, proving that it had in fact been received in Switzerland, some 5 years after it had been handed in at Sydney.

Between the registration label and the stamp is a coloured letter K (in red) as well as a letter X (in black) which I'm told is sometimes seen on wartime registered mail -- yet again another unanswered question.



What puzzles me is why wasn't the cover returned to the sender by the censor? Can anyone throw any light on mail held in Australia during the war and on forwarded at a later convenient time?



A Postmark Puzzle

Ian Cutter

The postmark illustrated reads ALICE SPRINGS / 21 AU 57 / NORTH AUST.

"NORTH AUST" is explained by *The Modern Encyclopaedia of Australia and New Zealand* published by Horowitz-Grahame, where the entry under North Australia reads in part ...

"Territories of North Australia and Central Australia created 1926; consisted respectively of areas above and below Lat 20 deg S in present NT and reverted to Northern Territory 1931".

I also have to hand a postmark reading KA THERINE /21 DE 34/ NORTH AUST.

The easy explanation is that the datestamps were issued at the time the separate Territories were created, and remained in use after they reverted to the Northern Territory.

There are two questions:

One is "Why was a datestamp still in use 26 years after becoming obsolete?"

The bigger one is "Who thought Alice Springs was in North Australia?"



Malta Gratitude Label & Relief Fund Stamp

George Speirs

When World War 2 was declared in September 1939, Malta became a strategic island dependent on keeping the sea lanes open to the Suez Canal. Much of Britain's food supplies from Commonwealth countries passed through the canal.

By June 1940, Italy entered the war, France capitulated and Malta was open to attack from 3 directions, France, Italy and North Africa. The siege of Malta began on June 11, 1940 and concluded on June 30, 1943. As such, the keeping of moral was of paramount importance, the authorities going to extraordinary measures to ensure that mail and supplies got through. A case and point was H.M.S. Rorqual, a submarine minelayer, on one voyage from Alexandria carried 24 personnel, 147 bags of mail, 2 tons of medical stores, 62 tons of aviation spirit in external fuel tanks and 45 tons of kerosene. Carrying aviation spirit in external fuel tanks posed special problems. The smell of petrol on the bridge was so strong that pyrotechnic recognition signals had to be forbidden.

Gratitude labels were issued by a number of nations, mainly commonwealth, recognizing the part played by the armed forces in keeping supply lines open. The gratitude label from Malta is the only label which has both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force flags flying together.



A small number of senior boy scouts were engaged to work in the censor's office. Their duty was to reseal the envelopes after they were released by the censor and apply individually numbered handstamps that tied the seals.

The illustrated cover carries the ½ d Malta Relief Fund stamp together with the elusive Passed by Censor / Office of Vice - Admiral.



New Zealand Musings: New Zealand at War 1939-45

Tony Lyon

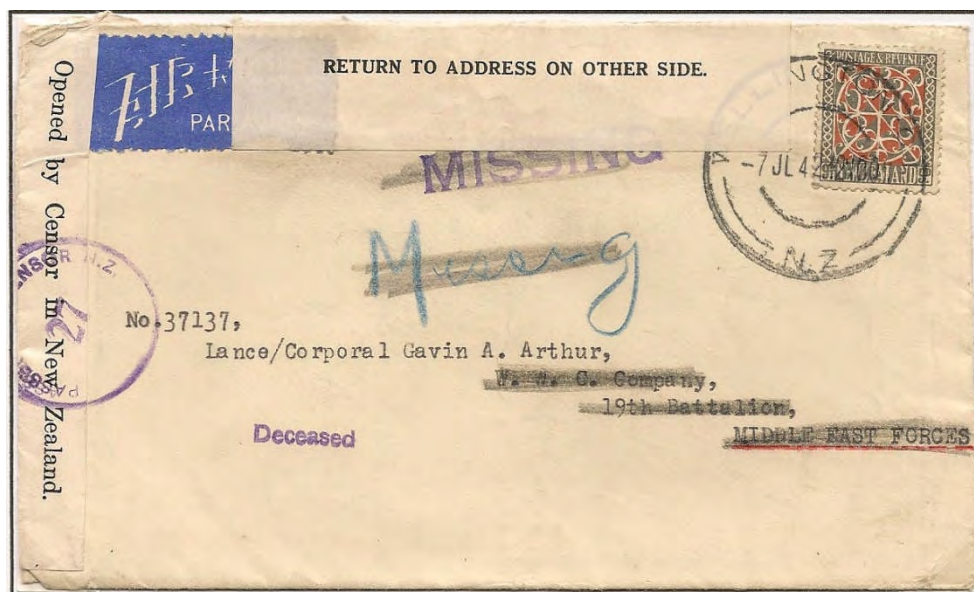
Continuing the series looking at mail to and from New Zealand Forces during World War II, two inward covers, demonstrating, firstly the 1 shilling and six pence airmail rate, followed by the nine pence airmail rate:

Inward Mail to 1st Echelon 2 NZEF



Up-rated two pence postal stationery envelope to 1/6d, the airmail rate and posted at Wellington 5 SP 40. Sent by the Horseshoe Route to a sergeant with NZ Divisional Signals. The censor in NZ opened and re-sealed with tape applying a rubber censor cachet No 17 used at Gisborne.

Inward Mail to 2 NZEF – Infantry Reinforcements assigned to 19th Battalion



Posted at Wellington 7 MY 42. Postage 9d the airmail rate. It is addressed to a member of 19th Battalion MEF. Opened by the censor in NZ and resealed with tape. A rubber censor cachet No 27 was applied at Wellington. Upon arrival in Cairo it is noted that the person is MISSING (Proud/Startup Type 19) both manuscript and by rubber stamp. Subsequently a rubber stamp stating Deceased (Not shown in Startup/Proud) is applied and the letter is returned to sender via the dead letter office in Wellington.

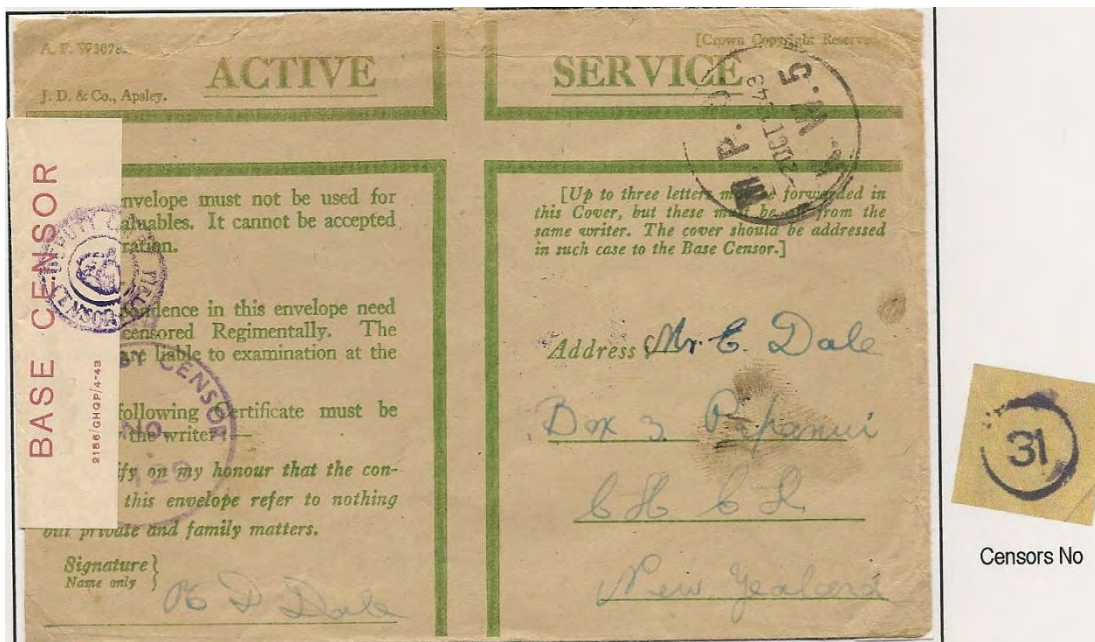
The Italy Campaign - the Precursor (September 1943)

The first flight of the New Zealand Division arrived at Taranto, Italy on the 9th October 1943. The second flight in five vessels arrived on the 18th and the 22nd of October 1943. It was part of the Eighth Army. The 2nd NZ Division was to be employed as a mobile striking force. The last Divisional exercises were carried out at Burg el Arab on the coast west of Alexandria about 100 miles from Maadi. To commence this frame some covers from this exercise.

Burg el Arab



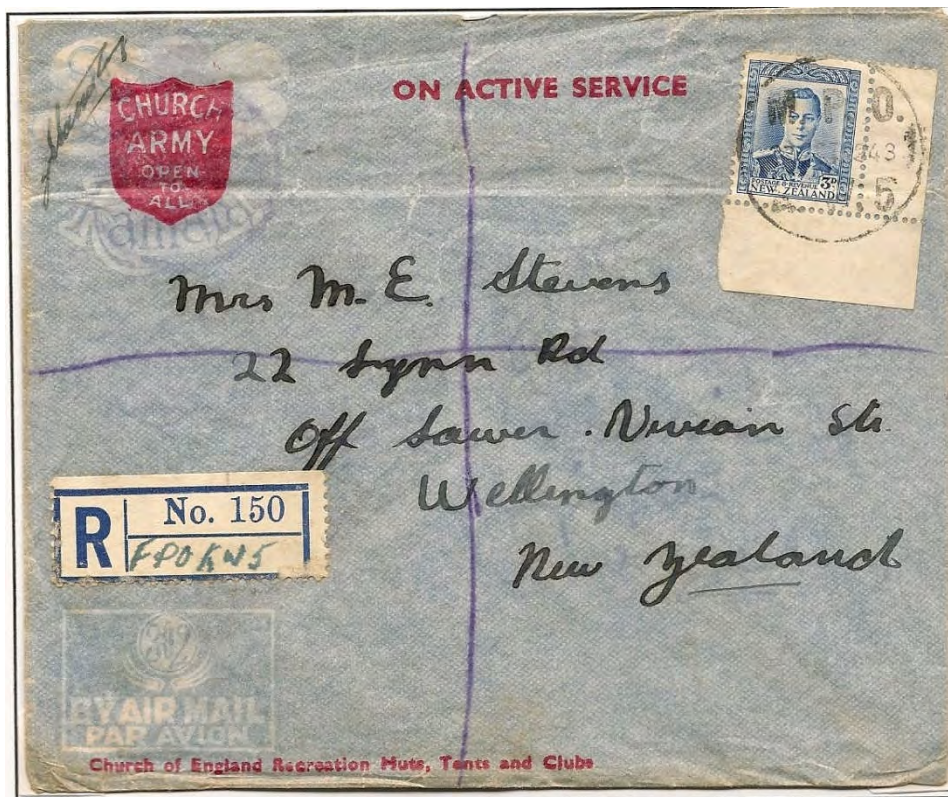
Censored cover (Crowned circle 6662) from MPO KW, dated 1 OCT 1943. This PO was located at Burg el Arab 22.9.43-18.10.43. Examined by Base Censor No 184 (in double ring Circle) in Cairo and received a Deputy Field censor marking. It was sealed by Base Censor tape. Security was very tight during this time. On the 4 October the Divisional Commander issued a Special Order of the Day forbidding mention of the news that the troops were bound for Italy. (Italy Vol. 1, page 36). **Free Postage for surface mail.** Cover sent by Driver W P A Gill 2nd Div Army Service Corp (ASC).



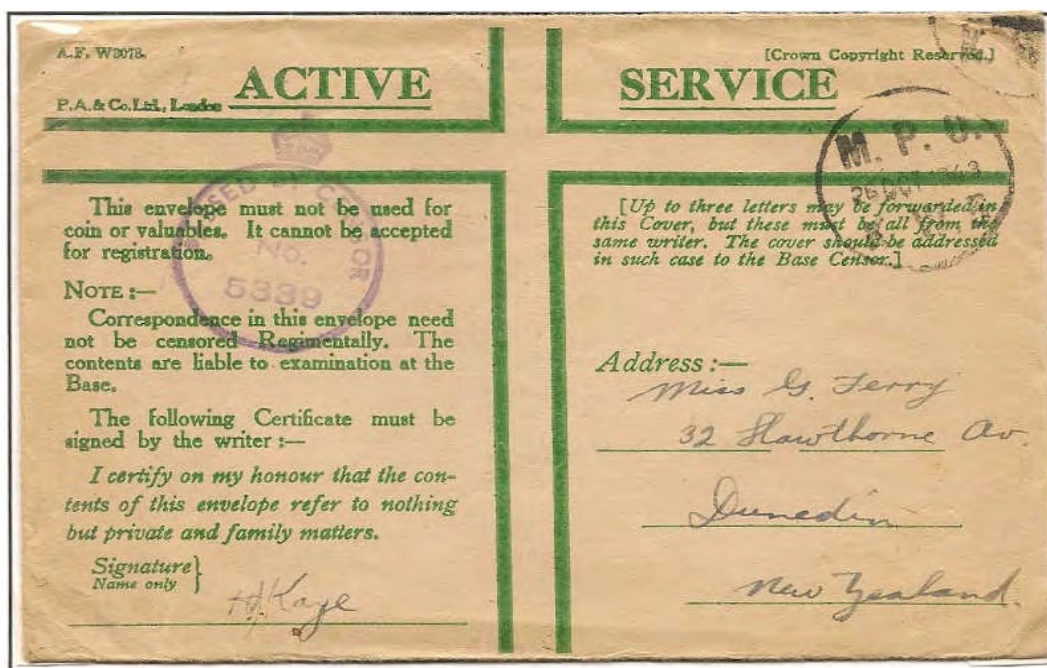
Censored cover from MPO KW 5 dated 2 OCT 1943 (last day at Burg el Arab). Unit censor crown over circle 1129 which was held by HQ 2 NZ Divisional Intelligence. Base censor no 31 on reverse and sealed by Base Censor tape and struck with Deputy Field Censor cachet. **Free Postage for surface mail.**

Divisional Cavalry remained at Taranto until moving up to Altamura on the 1 November 1943. On the 4th November, Divisional Cavalry moved forward to Lucera, where they formed the army reserve. They also provided protection for the airfield at Foggia.

Taranto - Italy (October 1943)



Registered cover from MPO KW 5 dated 27 OCT 1943. Posted at Taranto, Italy. KW 5 located at Taranto 10.10.43 - 28.10.43. The airmail rate for up to ½ oz, after 12 July 1943, was 3d. No registration fee?



Cover with enclosure, from Corporal with NZ Div Cavalry Regiment and posted through MPO KW 5 at Taranto, dated 26 OCT 1943. Unit censor crown over circle 5339. **Surface mail free.**

Items of Interest

Colin Salt

Colin sent this interesting label. It is printed centrally on a clear plastic envelope enclosing a damaged envelope measuring 32cm x 23.5cm. The cover itself is not badly damaged but is torn at top and bottom.



SYDNEY WEST LETTERS FACILITY

The enclosed was found to be either loose in the mail or damaged whilst being processed at the Sydney West Letters Facility.

Employees at the facility make every effort to correctly handle the millions of mail articles posted each day to ensure they are delivered on time and in good condition.

However, as the facility uses mechanised equipment to process most of this mail, occasional damage may occur. This may be due to a machine malfunction or because an article was not properly sealed or contained bulky material.

We appreciate your concern and offer our apologies for any inconvenience you may have experienced.

Brian Fuller

What was the Postal Officer thinking when he used an admin stamp on top of a CDS! Anyone care to surmise?



A 1909 Letter to Bombardier H. Wells at Nowshera, N.W.F. Province

Maurice Mishkel

This rare destination cover to a long-time troublesome area, now in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region, is related to a series of conflicts starting with the Anglo-Afghan wars during the imperialist Great Game between the United Kingdom and Russia, which led to the dismemberment of Afghanistan.

The front, which is not shown, is a real photo, b/w postcard of 'The Blow Hole, near Flinders'. The reverse shows it is an Australian card made by The Standard Post Card Co. sent from Janowe Street, Sebastopol to Bombardier H. Wells, 62nd Bty (Battery), N.F.A., Nowshera, N. West Frontier, India.

The brown-red on yellow paper 1½d stamp of Victoria is cancelled with a duplex BALLARAT/ AM/ 9 (N)O/ (--)6-09 with a barred numeral '5'. There is a fine arrival postmark of NOWSHERA/ 7.-A.M./ 22 JL 09. The legible portion of the message reads: Mr. Wells, I shall be pleased to exchange P.Cards with you, instead of Miss Hay. Miss Sadie [illegible]. In addition there is a partial transit postmark of (TU)TICORIN/ 16 JY/ 09/ --.20 PM (Figure 1).



Tuticorin is a port city in the south-east of India in the State of Tamil Nadu, and is known now as Toothukudi, and it is shown by the arrow in the next figure.

What follows is my simplified account of an entry about the region in Wikipedia, and any errors are mine. After fighting 2 wars against the Afghans, the British succeeded in 1893 in imposing the Durand Line (named after Sir Mortimer Durand, the Foreign Secretary of the British Colonial Government), dividing Afghanistan and what was then India. This line is now a poorly marked 2,445 km border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. While the Afghan side resented the border and viewed it as a temporary development, the British viewed it as a permanent settlement. The British, who had captured most of South Asia without significant problems, faced a number of difficulties here.

The first war with the Pushtuns resulted in a devastating defeat, with just one soldier coming back alive, out of a total of 14,800 people. Unable to enforce their writ in the region, the British changed tactics and played a game of divide-and-rule, installing puppet Pushtun rulers, dividing the Pushtuns through artificially created regions, and ruling indirectly so as to reduce the chance of confrontation.

Despite this, occasional Pustun attacks did take place, including the siege of Malakand, well documented by Winston Churchill who was a war correspondent at that time.



The Province known as North West Frontier (NWFP) was formed on November 9, 1901 as a Chief Commissioner Province. The formal inauguration took place on April 26, 1902 and at that time NWFP comprised 5 Districts, brought about by Lord Curzon, with the Harold Deane as the first Commissioner, who was a strong administrator. He was followed by Ross-Keppel in 1908, whose contribution as a political officer was widely known amongst the tribal/frontier people. This postcard was received during his administration, and Bombardier H. Wells must have been one of the British troops stationed in NWFP at the town of Nowshera in July 1909. A map of the region below shows the town of Nowshera with a red arrow (just above the word **Punjab**)

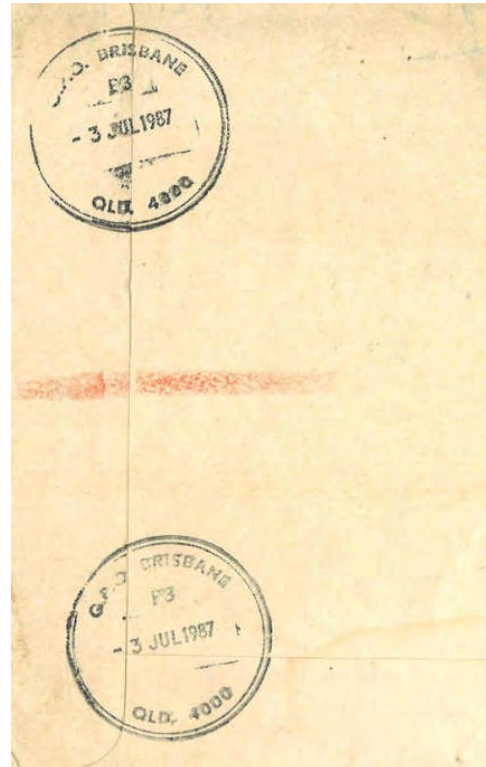
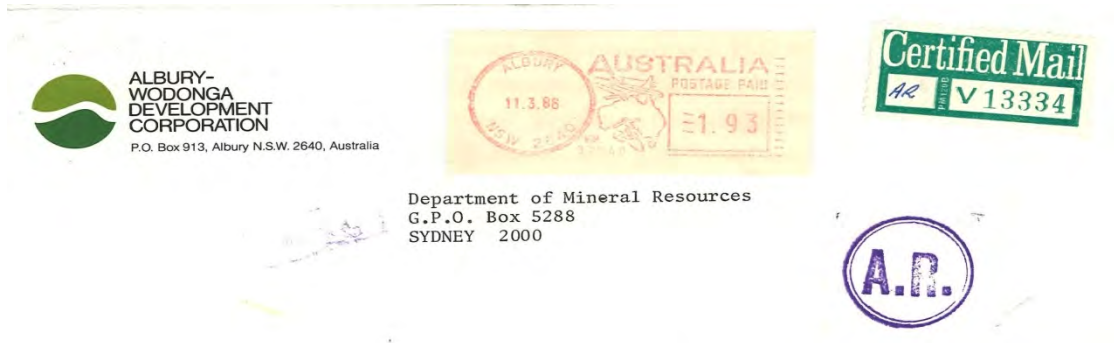
Our thanks to Maurice Mishkel for his continuing permission to use his articles. Changes to text and layout by Michael Barden



AR Markings

Nina Dowden

Here are 2 scans of AR markings. The envelope is the only cover I have ever seen with 2 x 'AR' markings - although the one to the left of the address block, which is a small rectangle, is barely visible in the scan. The huge AR Mark was salvaged from a wrecked security post letter, and is about 54mm long if I remember correctly.



Front Cover

Photo of Long Range Desert Group R2 Patrol from Left to right: Captain Peter McIntyre, NZ War Artist, Lieut J R Talbot and Captain Chevalier. *Photo Copyright held by B O'Carroll NZ.*

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

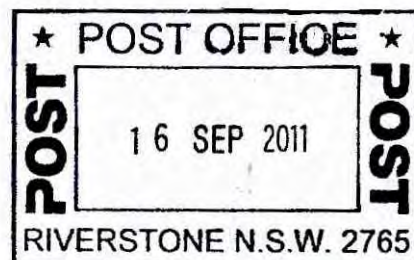
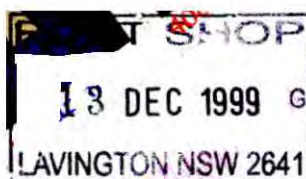
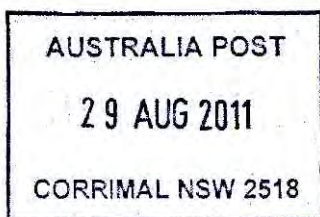
While in Melbourne in September I was walking past the Post Office at 45 Collins Street and noticed that it was empty. On the door was a notice that it would be opening at new premises and I thought that I could remember it for this article. All I can remember that it was close to where the old post office was and it most possibly will have a new set of datestamps.

Many thanks to Richard Peck, John Treacy, Ian Cutter, Simon Alsop and Frank Adamik for material for this edition and thank you to all the other members over the past year who have sent in postmark material to keep this column going

A.C.T.:—Higgins- minor differences with the stars



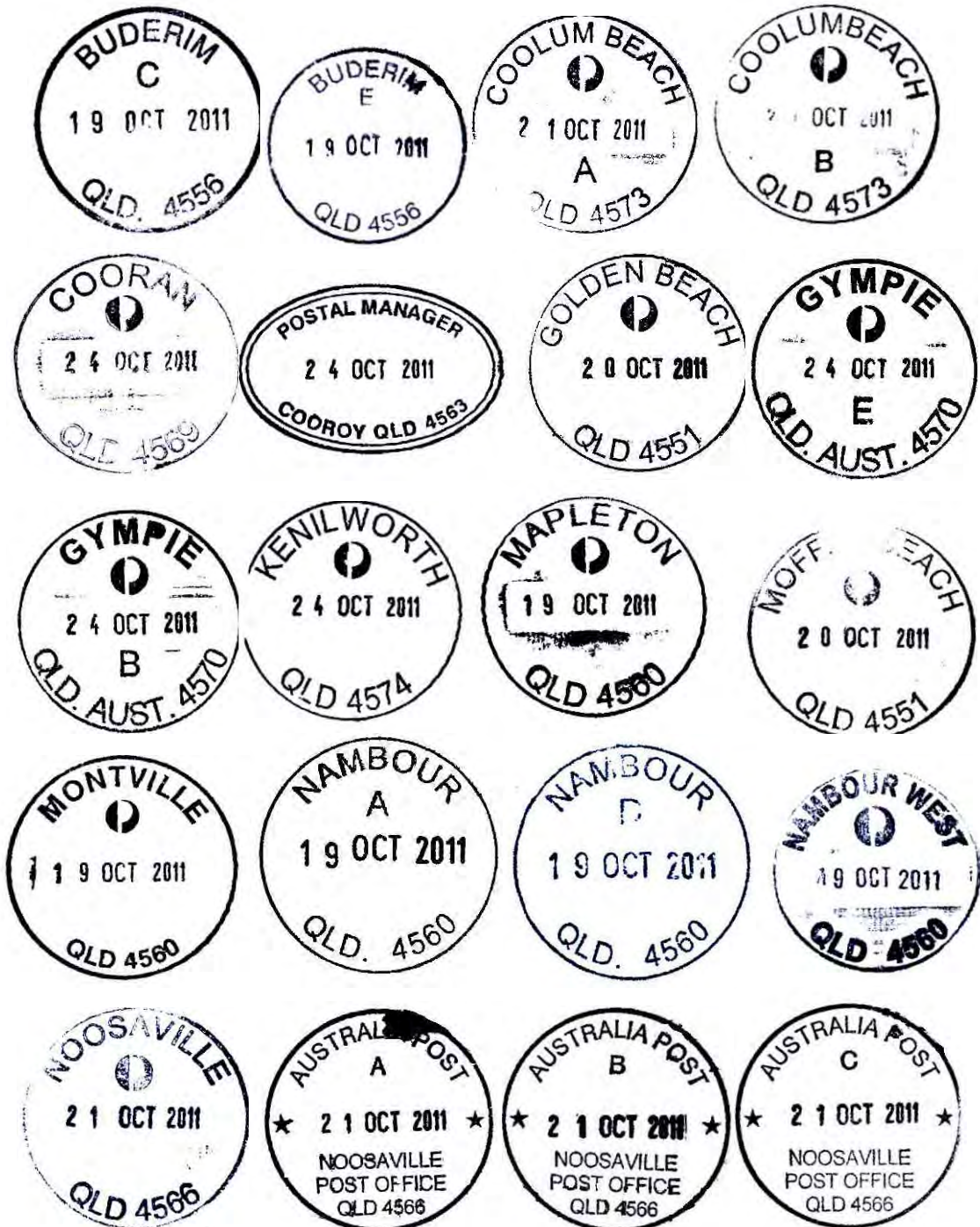
N.S.W.:—Earlier datestamp—CARLINGFORD COURT (104/26)



N.S.W.:- (Cont)



QLD:- Earlier datestamps:- NAMBOUR (A)(96/31), PALMWOODS (102/26), PEREGIAN BEACH (102/26),



QLD:-(Cont.)



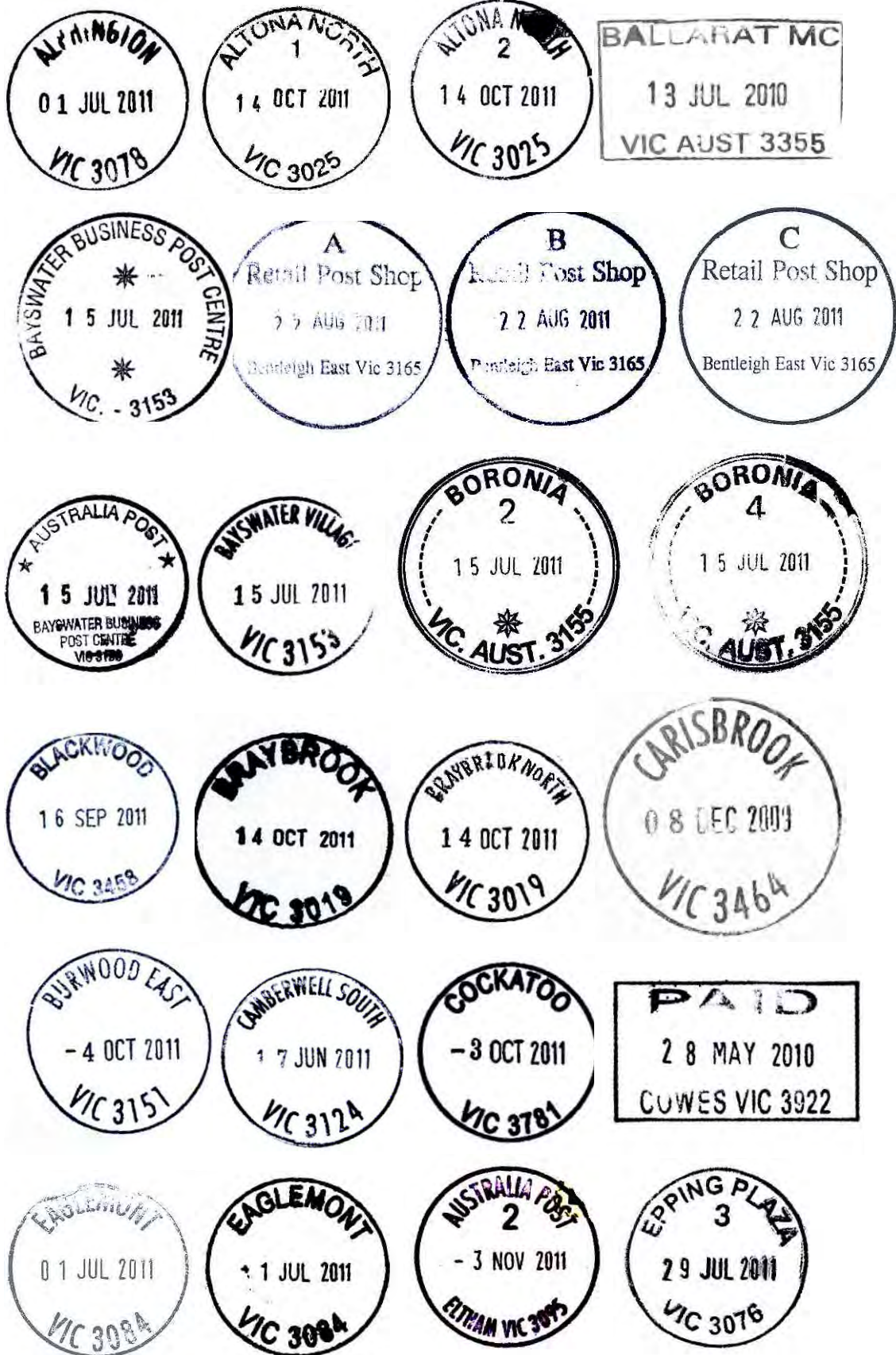
TAS:-Earlier datestamp—BATHURST STREET(Single circle)(103/31)



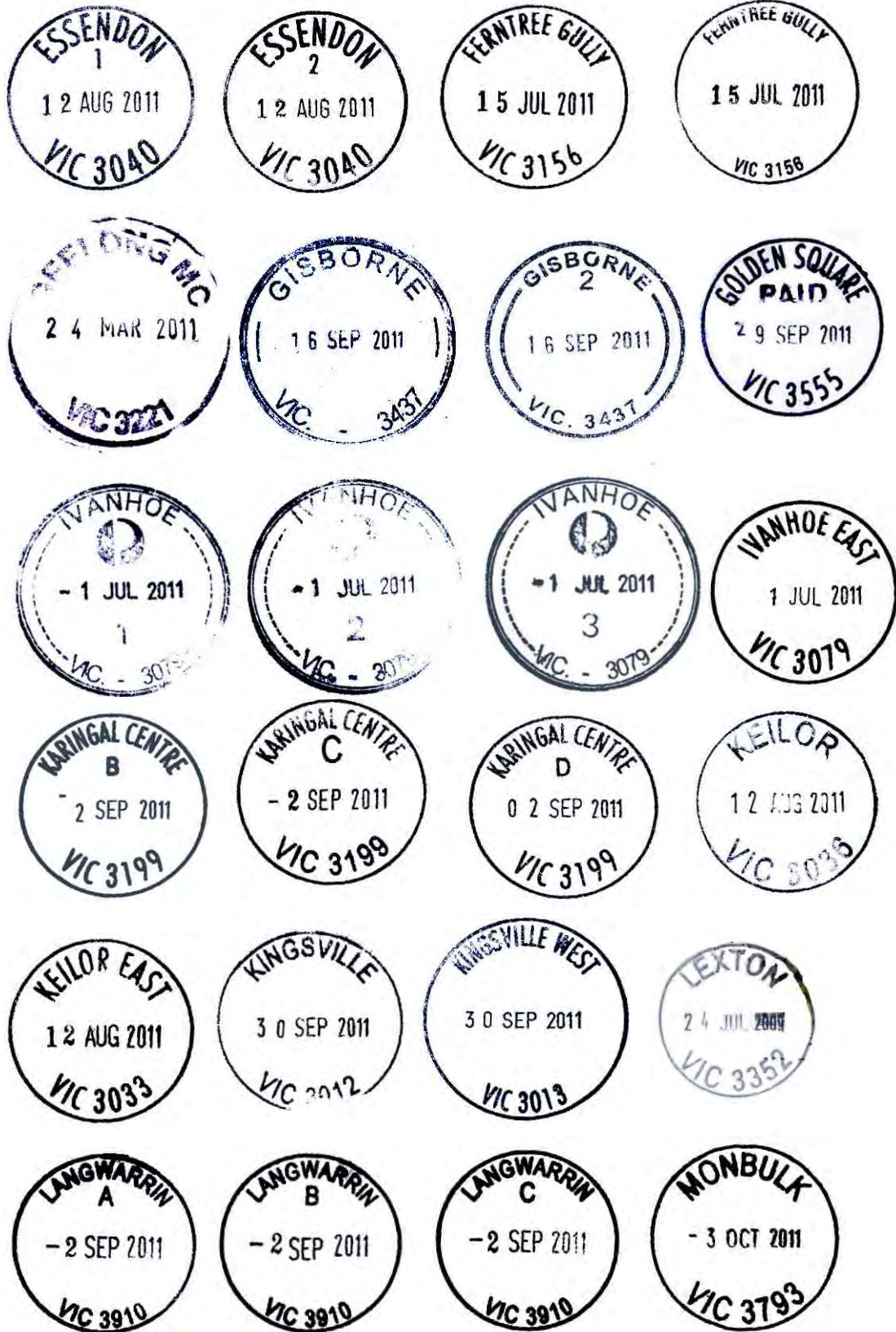
VIC.: -Earlier datestamp—ALTONA MEADOWS (104/30)



VIC:(cont) :-More Earlier datestamps:--CARISBROOK (115/27), GOLDEN SQUARE PAID (98/25), LANGWARRIN (A) (114/29), MONBULK (101/30), NEWPORT WEST (112/30), STUDFIELD (111/30)



VIC. :-(Cont)



VIC:- Cont:-



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- ◆ Sign up a new member
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- ◆ Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- ◆ Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- ◆ Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- ◆ Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- ◆ Enter the Society Competitions
- ◆ Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- ◆ Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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To all at HQ
with best wishes
from Sam.



Christmas greetings to all our readers, as the troops, where're ye may be.