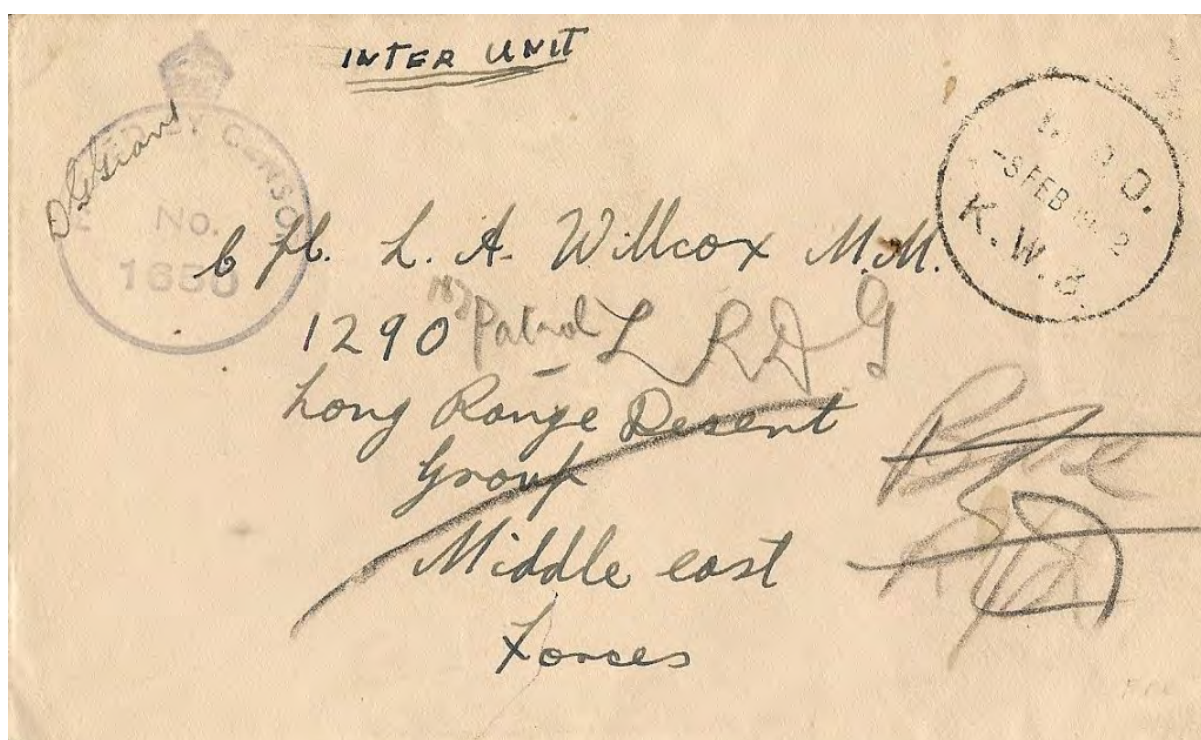


# Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 120 June 2012



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<b>Date</b>	<b>2012 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
August 20 2012	A.G.M	Works in Progress
October 15 2012	Michael Barden	Belgian Exhibitions 1930's
December 17 2012	Members	Competition up to 10 pages.

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## Front Cover:

Inter-unit cover to member of Long Range Desert Group, Cpl Leslie Athol Wilcox 1290. Wilcox was with the Long Range Desert Patrol Unit before it became the LRDG.

He won a Military Medal at Ain Dua, Libya. He was a member of W patrol. MPO KW3 Maadi Camp.

Censor 2 Lt Donald Grant of 23 Batt. Inter-unit covers or covers showing the LRDG address are very scarce.



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Welcome to The Australian Journal of Philately which has reached the milestone of its one hundred and twentieth issue. To me that represents something we can celebrate. We continue to publish on time which is worthy of note in itself. With philatelic societies and stamps clubs falling by the wayside, some that have been around for many years, it is pleasing to realise that the Australia Philatelic Society is still alive and well.

Certainly we need new members and in particular younger members. If you are able to encourage someone to join, please consider it as a service to our society.

What is particularly encouraging as an editor, is the continuing response of members in supplying articles and cover stories. Ian Cutter once again has provided an interesting postcard story for your enjoyment. These kind of one pagers are invaluable in ensuring we have a complete journal.

I would contend that most of us have interesting covers, postcards or other philatelic items sitting in our collections and with a little help from the internet, one can produce a very interesting story. Please do, as it will be appreciated.

Congratulations to George Vearing, who will be honoured at the June meeting of the society for his ten years of co-ordination of the Hand-Held Datestamps section of the Journal. George is an editor's dream, as even when he thinks he is late with his column, he is still well within the publishing deadline.

Congratulations George you deserve the accolades. And as usual, Michael Barden has provided every help with both an article and always ensuring that the journal is at the printers on time. Not an easy feat when one considers that I had to write a 5000 word essay and submit it by the 16th, as well a couple of minor papers.

Thanks also to John Young, who is always willing to provide articles which are always interesting and is useful for those needing information on air mail. Also thanks to professor John K Courtis who has provided articles for this and the previous issue.

Till next time, ciao.

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
3. publish details of members, with their consent, in the AJPH or other Society publications.

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## From the President

The Saturday morning began with “Scottish drizzle” said one collector. It should have been a good day to bring stamp collectors to an indoor stamp fair. No barbeques or fun runs to keep them away. For those who could remember past fairs, the stamp club ladies did tasty morning teas, not skimping the jam and cream on the scones. But by ten o’clock it seemed a lot of lazy collectors were still in bed.

There were no empty dealers’ stalls, so they played their part. Some club members and a visitor or two put up good one-frame displays. Since competitive judging ended displays seemed to be more forthcoming. The displays ranged widely, from traditional stamp presentations to esoteric postal history: the New Zealand military covers, from unexpected places like the Seychelles and Iraq, were quite out of the ordinary. So the exhibitors played their part.

Attendance picked up by midday, when the sun fitfully came through the clouds. Unfortunately spending was sometimes like the weather: fitful, small change. People were being careful with their money. The hobby was needing an injection of stimulatory spending: not spending on Australia Post products but on part and full-time dealers. One of the problems seems to be that collectors are risk adverse, keen on buying things that *seem* to be sure of resale value and not venturing into exotic waters. The trouble is that too many have opted for the apparent safety of resale value, thereby saturating the market and ensuring that the material is overstocked and saleable only at a discount.

It might be safer not to play things so safely, and to collect for enjoyment. One recipe is pick a theme that is interesting and enjoyable, buy sensibly, and let the future take care of itself. The kids will still get some inheritance.

Our journal welcomes contributions from collectors who venture into exotic waters. The more exotic the better. If the exotic journey is uncompleted and remains a work in progress, most of us like reading about places we’ve not been before. The editor likes to hear from you.

## Cover Story

**Tony Lyon**

**81st COY., A.S.C.**  
HEADQUARTERS. - - TE KUITI  
Parades will be held at Aria P.O.  
**ALL PARADES ARE COMPULSORY.**

DAY	DATE	TIME
Tuesday	Oct 30th	1.30 PM
Wed	13.27	"
Dec	11	"

All applications for leave MUST BE IN WRITING.  
NOTE: - On leaving Company, new address must be handed or posted to Sergt-Major, and rifle and hat band returned.

*R. M. Mackenzie*  
For O.C. 81st COY. AUCKLAND SENIOR CADETS



On His Majesty's Service postcard sent to cadet living at Aria, Waikato. Aria is 31km from Te Kuiti. It is advising the cadet of parades that would be held at the Aria parade ground and that it was compulsory for him to attend on these dates. It was posted at Te Kuiti which was the HQ of the 81<sup>st</sup> Coy., A.S.C., 19 OC 1917. Just a little piece from WW1.



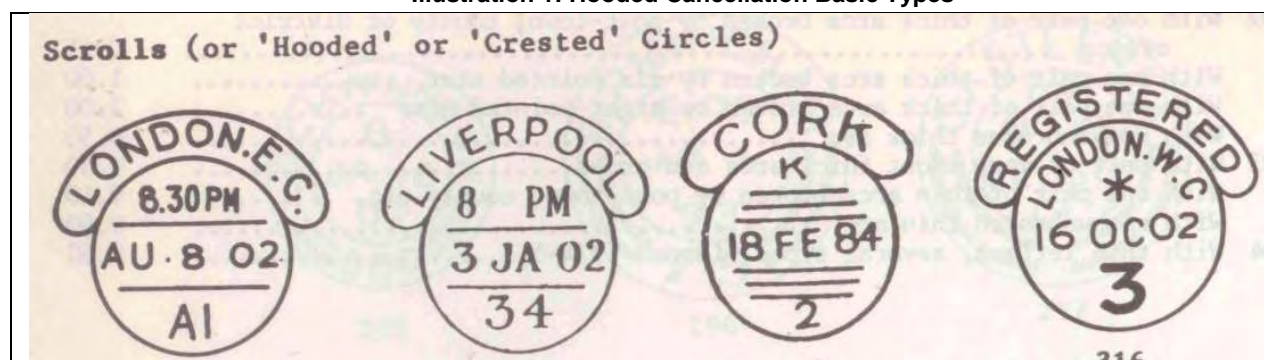
## Hooded Cancellations on Great Britain Postal Stationery Wrappers

Dr John K. Courtis, [acapiajc@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:acapiajc@cityu.edu.hk)

There is no known reason for the introduction of the hooded circle postmarks in 1882. Possibly the hood provided extra space for the name of the post town (for example, London) or purpose of use (for example, registered) to be added (Fernau, 2002). Another explanation is that the London Chief Office enjoyed a tacit policy of introducing distinctive experimental postmarks from time-to-time. While these hooded cancels were issued initially for the London Chief Office, they are not represented as one of the cancellers issued to the Newspaper Branch (Stitt Dibden, 1971). Newspaper Branch cancellations were in use together with contemporary postmarks. The application of hooded cancels to newspaper wrappers was therefore fortuitous.

Hooded cancels are sometimes referred to as crested or scrolled circles. Examples of the basic types are shown in Illustration 1 and reproduced from Whitney, 1990, p.124. There are four parts to these cancellations. The hood above the circle shows the post town such as London, Liverpool, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry and Waterford or usage such as Registered, Late Fee and Parcel Post. The circle beneath the hood is subdivided into upper, central and lower portions. The upper portion usually shows a code letter, time of collection, three digit post office number or late fee. The central portion shows the date, while the lower portion normally shows a code letter or number. The specialist can examine the width of the hood and the diameter of the circle for varieties.

Illustration 1: Hooded Cancellation Basic Types











The purpose of this paper is to examine the incidences of extant copies of the hooded cancellation on the post office postal stationery wrappers of Great Britain. A search of the author's extensive database of eBay images collected over more than eight years reveals 35 examples of hooded cancellations on wrappers out of a sample of approximately 3,500 GB wrappers. This low frequency of appearance is equal to a rate of 1:100. The appearance of hooded cancels on wrappers is therefore uncommon. Only two Main offices are represented: the London and Liverpool Offices with 14 and 21 marks respectively.

### London Marks

The illustration numbers used in Fernau (1998) have been adopted as the basis for classifying these hooded cancels and a summary of the eight types seen on the 14 London examples together with their incidence of appearance are shown in Illustration 2. Of the 14 examples, ten were sent overseas: Germany (7), Belgium (2) and Finland.

**Illustration 2: London Chief Office Hooded Circle Postmarks**

			
Fig 6 3	Fig 7 1	Fig 8 5	Fig 11 1
			
Fig 13 1	Fig 24 1	Fig 40 1	Fig 74 1

The up-rated E9 wrapper shown in Illustration 3 with LONDON - E. C. within the hood is the commonest hooded circle postmark used at the London East Central Office. This is type 24 with a dash between N and E and the month before the date: B/ DE 7 92/ I. This wrapper to Germany would have been within the 5<sup>th</sup> rate 8-10 ounces with *Commercial Papers* (note plural) in manuscript.

**Illustration 3: London East Central Office, 7 December 1892**

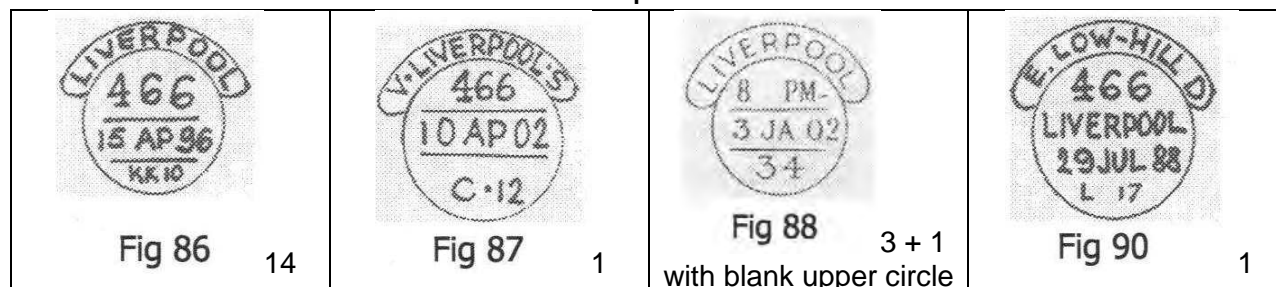


### **Liverpool Office**

Liverpool was the leading seaport of GB and so it is no surprise that 19 hooded cancel wrappers were addressed to overseas destinations: Germany (8), USA (5), Holland (2), and Australia, Austria, India and Switzerland. Two were local – Manchester and Yorks. In other words 91% of these cancels appeared on wrappers that entered the foreign section mails. None showed any auxiliary marking and only two were up-rated. The different types with extant examples are shown in Illustration 4.

This experimental hooded hand-stamp was introduced 10 July 1882 as “a special type for cancellation of Late Fee mail at the station” (Clark 1971). Fernau offers no information about the code numbers appearing beneath the date in the circle. Moreover, Newport (1922) shows no examples of hooded cancels in his *The Post in Liverpool*.

Illustration 4: Liverpool Hooded Cancels



The first type used at the Liverpool main office shows the post office number 466. All cancels have LIVERPOOL in the hood except E. Lowe-Hill, which is shown in Illustration 5. There is one example with a void top section of the circle, which might suggest it was a relief canceller. Although Fernau has no illustration of Liverpool LATE BOX it does appear in Clark (1971) and the single up-rated example is included in Illustration 5.

Illustration 5: E. LOW-HILL. D; LATE BOX Hooded Cancels



### Early/Late Usage Dates

Reading dates from Internet images contains an element of uncertainty because inking can be unclear, but given this caveat the information summarized in Table 1 shows the dates when the hooded cancels were used as well as the type of wrapper. Higgins & Gage "E" catalogue numbers have been used to identify wrapper types except for one instance when Huggins and Baker was used to identify a Somerset House stamped-to-order wrapper. The earliest observed usage date is 19 JA 83 and the latest 13 JY 05, a spread of 23 years.

Table 1: Early/Late Usages on Wrapper Types

LONDON Figure	"E" type	No.	Earliest	Latest	Other Dates
6	E9	3	MR 21 96	24 NO 97	29 JY 96
7	E9	1	MR 20 96	MR 20 96	
8	E9	3	5 AP 92	4 AU 92	24 MY 92
8	E7	2	8 MR 87	26 JA 88	
11	E9	1	2 JY 91	2 JY 91	
13	KE4	1	2 NO 99	1 NO 99	
24	E9	1	7 DE 92	7 DE 92	
40	E9	1	JY 20 91	JY 20 91	
74	ES48	1			Unreadable; marked EXPRESS
		<b>14</b>			
<b>LIVERPOOL</b>					
86	E9	11	26 MR 89	19 JY 92	8 AP 89; 2 MY 89; 13 JY 89; 9 JY 90; 15 AP 91; 16 OC 91; 22 DE 91; 11 FE 92; 3 JY 92
86	E7	3	19 JA 83	6 MY 97	1 MY 85
87	E7	1	16 AP 87	16 AP 87	
88	E9	2	5 OC 92	25 MY 96	
88	E14	1	13 JY 05	13 JY 05	
88 void upper	E9	1	30 SE 90	30 SE 90	
LATE BOX	E12	1	JY 23 02	JT 23 02	
90	E9	1	30 MR 93	30 MR 93	
		<b>21</b>			

## Conclusion

Hooded cancellations were not introduced nor intended for use as newspaper cancellers and hence their appearance on newspapers is uncommon. The evidence from the author's library of Internet images shows 35 cases out of a sample of about 3500 GB wrappers. Of these 35, 14 are from the London Chief Office or East Central Office while 21 cases are from the Liverpool Office. The database found no evidence of hooded cancellations used on wrappers from other towns and research is needed to find out why this might be the case. There may be some implicit connection between hooded cancels and overseas destination as 29 of the 35 cases were addressed to foreign countries of which 22 were sent to Europe. There is much research potential awaiting the postal historian to unravel code numbers and dates of issue of the various cancellers.

## References

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- Parmenter John (2002), *London LATE FEE and TOO LATE Mail 1840 to 1930*, Rossiter Trust & British Trust for the London Postal History Group, pp. 53-64.
- Stitt Dibden W. G. (1971), *Newspaper Branch Cancellations*, Postal History Society, Surrey, pp.50.
- Whitney J. T. (1989), *Collect British Postmarks*, Essex, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, p.124.

My thanks to Allan Gory for his comments on an earlier draft.

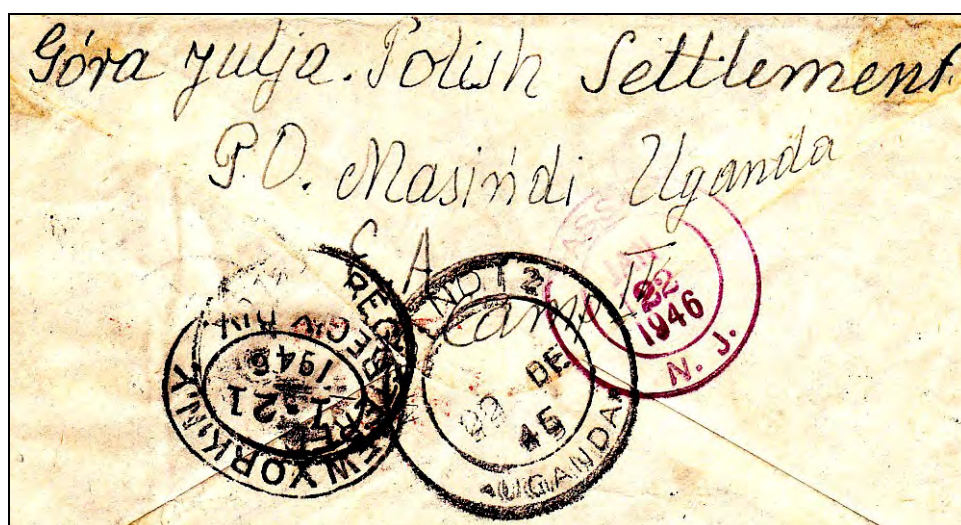


## Polish Refugee Camps in Uganda during WW2

Michael Barden

For over a year, I looked at the cover shown below. It contains an OAT cachet, which is what sparked my interest. However, it is a Heifetz type XI, which is the commonest of the rectangular types, and of which I really had sufficient to illustrate this cachet over its working life. (All such cachets of types II to XI exhibit swell due to solvent attack on the polymer from which they were made).

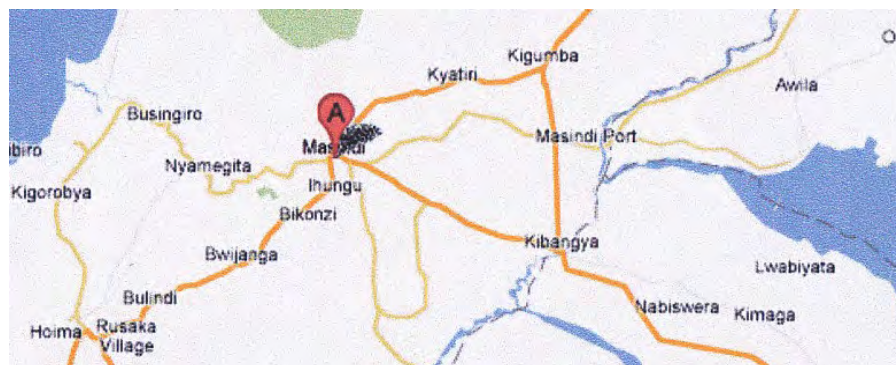
The fact that it originated from a Polish refugee camp nagged at me, but did not really get me fired up. Most OAT cachets were applied at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in the City of London during the war. By 1944 or 1945, the Mediterranean air routes, which had been closed from 1940, had been restored, so that routes had now lost some of the glamour and diversions of earlier war years. It was almost as if a smidgin of peacetime ennui was returning to these routes.



Note verso address, Masindi, Uganda, E.A. Camp II

There are two main things of interest with respect to this story on the letter: **Masindi 2 / Uganda** double circle cds of 22 Dec 1945 (state 2 cds had ERD 18 Nov 45 – *Uganda by E Proud*) told me this was the special cds for Camp 2 and the handstamping on the registration label stated in violet ink **Polish Refugee Camp / Masindi 2**. (This latter is hard to read)

As far as the rate is concerned, the letter was paid at the existing Commonwealth all-up airmail rate of 1 shilling and 30 cents ( $\leq \frac{1}{2}$  oz, this rate applied from 1943) with a 30c registration fee (from 1925). This took it to the UK, but did not pay the postage to the USA. The OAT cachet took care of that, more so as no deficiency payment was added. Some kind official saw who sent the letter.



Map of Uganda showing Masindi with Lake Albert to the West and Lake Kwanja to the East. Lake Victoria, which was where the N° 1 camp was situated on the north shore, is off to the south of Lake Kwanja.

N° 2 camp was west of Masindi, near Nyamegita

Probable route for the letter was by road to Kampala, then train to Nairobi, Kenya. Along the Nile Valley to Cairo with BOAC. From Cairo by BOAC landplanes via Djerba (Tunisia) & Gibraltar to UK. Red OAT XI cachet added in London, and then across the North Atlantic with BOAC to New York via Gander and Shediac. All flights were by land planes. This was eight months after VE Day.

I found the rest of this story in an article on the internet. I have used it nearly verbatim.

## UGANDA: A SAFE HAVEN FOR POLISH REFUGEES: 1942 – 1951

### D. Kiyaga-Mulindwa

“When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, millions fled Eastern Poland in the wake of the invasions. On 17 September, exactly three weeks after the German invasion, Soviet troops marched into Poland from the East, occupying almost half of the pre-war country. At the time of the Russian invasion, eastern Poland was inhabited not by ethnic Poles but mostly by Byelorussians. Many Polish soldiers joined the French and British forces to help liberate their country. Families of these soldiers were promptly arrested and exiled to Siberia

“When Germany attacked Russia, the Russians offered amnesty to the Poles held in forced exile in their territory. Men of military age were allowed to join Polish forces in the Middle East, while their families, especially women, children and men over military age were allowed to leave Russia and seek refuge in Allied countries. Some 17,000 Polish citizens, mostly women and children, were given asylum in the three East Africa colonies and in Northern and Southern Rhodesia. The Nairobi-based East African Refugee Administration, headed by a Commissioner for Refugees, made arrangements for their settlement in East Africa. The Polish Government took financial responsibility for transporting the refugees, establishing settlement camps, and overseeing the refugees final settlement and upkeep. The refugees had first fled to Eastern Poland, then to Russia where they were interned for at least two years, moved to East Africa via Iraq, Iran, India and finally to Mombasa, Kenya.

“The first group of 492 Polish refugees arrived in Uganda by train from Kenya on 8 September 1942, three years after they fled Poland. They disembarked at Namasagali where they were received by three housewives of Jinja District Administration officers. From Namasagali, the refugees boarded barges which took them down the Nile to Masindi Port. Trucks transported them from Masindi Port to their “new home”: a settlement camp established at Nabyeya, some 35 kms from Lake Albert and Masindi town.

“Another camp had also been established at Kojja, about 35 kms from Mukono railway station on the shore of Lake Victoria. The Kojja settlement covered an area measuring over 700 acres and was

located on several hills overlooking the lake. Care had been taken in planning the settlement to avoid giving it the look of a military camp or barracks. The settlement was composed of several villages of mud and wattle houses thatched in Polish fashion, which had been constructed around a central square. The square contained a village well, and later, other communal services points, such as tapped water points and communal shower baths. The houses consisted of three rooms and a kitchen with a porch, and prettily arranged flower gardens. All the separate village units focussed on the centre of the settlement, where Kojja Cathedral was located. This church was built of local materials with a thatched roof, but from the front, stately pillars of wooden poles covered in *kiganda* style woven reeds, gave the church an appearance of a real Gothic church. The church was the focal point of the refugees' lives. The centre also contained a Camp Commandant's office, an officers' mess and two flag masts flying the Union Jack and the Polish national flag.

"Within two years of the refugees' arrival, both Masindi (Nabyeya) and Kojja settlements had primary schools, secondary schools and a secondary economic school. The Polish Examination Board established examinations for students. Both settlements had hospital facilities run by Polish doctors and nurses. The Kojja hospital subsequently grew in size and by 1943 was able to admit up to 250 patients. It had electricity as well as a waterborne sanitation system. The Kojja hospital had a Polish referral section at the Kampala European hospital in Nakasero (currently Uganda Television headquarters) which was also run by Polish doctors and nurses. Quite a number of the Polish medics had been trained in tropical diseases at Masaka. Trainee nurses normally took Nurses Examinations set by the Polish Ministry of Welfare and supervised by a local Examination Board. Since many of the Masindi Polish refugees were orphans, there were several orphanages in the Masindi settlement. At the end of 1943, the orphanages' were re-grouped into a Children's village.

"Each settlement had a Recreation Hall (15x150 feet) where concerts were performed and films shown. Artisans among the refugees eventually set up shops and workshops, and by 1946 a very well run Co-operative Society had taken over some of the major trading activities in the Kojja settlement. It is said that the contents of this Co-operative's store would "excite the envy among Kampala shoppers". The Kojja settlement also managed a Polish Rest House in Kampala where Polish visitors to Kampala could get rest and refreshments.

"Masindi was the larger of the two settlements, although Kojja appears to have been better organised. Uganda had offered refuge to at least 6,200 Polish refugees by 1944. Of these, 2,645 were school age children. By March 1943, Masindi settlement had 3,200 refugees of whom 1,528 were children and only 267 men, most of whom were either old or unwell.

"Each settlement was under the command of a British Camp Commandant and a Polish Camp leader. The Camp Commandant reported to the Director of Refugees, who in turn reported to the Commissioner of Refugees (East Africa). Each settlement had a democratically elected Settlement Committee. The Settlement Committee appointed other subordinate bodies to manage or organise various activities. It was very similar to a modern Municipal Council.

"Once settled, it seems that there was enough for everyone to do within each of the two settlements. From the start, the objective was to make these settlements as self-sufficient as possible. There are limited reports of refugees being employed outside the settlement apart from those working at the Kampala European Hospital. Women made up the majority of teachers, orphanage matrons, and nurses. The head of the Kojja hospital was a woman, Dr. Kaluska. Women generally were engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. Starting with kitchen gardens for each home, the settlements, especially Kojja, had agricultural farms and large-scale poultry and piggery projects. Kojja settlement was able to produce seasoned meat such as ham and sausages on a permanent basis and these products were always available at the Co-operative Society's canteen. Women also did a lot of weaving, making "Scotch" homespun from Kenyan wool for which they were using local dyes. They also made a rare linen cloth from Ugandan cotton which was reported "to wear forever". The majority of men were artisans such as locksmiths, carpenters and joiners, shoemakers and brick makers. There were two brick kilns at Masindi and one at Kojja.

"The Polish refugees were generally well behaved and caused no concern to the host government. Africans who lived near the camp confirm that they remember no misdemeanours committed by their refugee neighbours. Mr. Musambansiko, who worked as an *asrkari* at the Kojja camp, agrees. He notes that access to the camp was restricted and could only be granted by the Camp Commandant's

permission. Also, permission to leave the settlement for a day's trip to Kampala was normally handled by the village Settlement Committee. There was a bus to Kampala once a week for those who wished to visit the town on a day's pass. The majority of disciplinary cases handled by the Settlement Committee involved fighting by the youth. Research has revealed only one case (a Josef Komarshi of Kojja settlement) of breaching the Price Control Regulations in 1945. Socially and economically therefore, these settlements, having remained completely self-sufficient, appear to have existed for over nine years without being overtly felt by those who lived around them. Unconfirmed reports indicate that there were only two cases when men (an Indian and a white man) from outside the settlement married Polish women from the camps. A few elderly men, such as F. Ziobrowski and a Mr. Jalowiecki, themselves refugees, are reported to have married younger Polish women from the settlement at Kojja.

"Although the war ended in 1945, as late as June 1951, there were still Polish refugees in Uganda. They had originally arrived in groups and they also eventually left in groups and at different times. For example, in December 1943 a contingent of young Polish girls and women, trained in Uganda, left the country to join Polish Section of WAAF under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Welfare. When the war ended, the majority of Polish refugees were resettled in 1948 in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The Refugee Office in Nairobi handled the resettlement arrangements as well as transport from Uganda to the country of resettlement. A few remaining refugees took up temporary employment in Uganda.

"In December 1951, the Kojja settlement was finally closed and the two blocks in the centre of the settlement were turned into a Polish Memorial School. By mid 1952 the entire settlement had been dismantled and all the assets sold to bidders. These included Kibuli Muslim Association, NAC, Namirembe, Government Chemist, Provincial Engineer/ Buganda, Government Printer and the Police Department. One headmaster of the New Approved School at Mpunge had been granted unlimited access to the Kojja camp. He dismantled as many as 130,000 bricks and other house items such as iron sheets. The Education Officer issued vouchers for payment. All the proceeds from sales were collected by the Accountant General and deposited into the Polish Refugee Disposal Account. The proceeds were finally divided between the Uganda Colonial Administration and the Polish Civic Committee.

"From the foregoing, the Masindi (Nabyeya) and Kojja settlements were vital communities bustling with human activity. This author has recently visited the site of Kojja settlement but, apart from the 80 graves on one of the hill slopes (where three of Pope John Paul's relatives are interred <sup>13</sup>), there is absolutely nothing to show for what was once a settlement for over 3,000 people. The entire area is overgrown with vegetation and there is neither ruin nor brick to stand witness to this one-time massive refugee settlement. Historical archaeologists would find this an exciting site. They would expose tangible evidence, now covered in sediment, of this extensive settlement site which, to a casual observer, sounds like a fairly tale.

"Lastly, it is interesting that nearly 7,000 Poles lived almost ten years in Uganda, at the time outnumbering the European population in the Protectorate three fold. In spite of this, there appears to be little trace or legacy left behind by the Polish refugees in Uganda. Through the colonial period, Uganda's immigration policy had remained open, but favoured African immigrants and/or refugees. It purposely discouraged white immigration and settlement. It is probably this deliberate policy by the British colonial government that was invoked in planning the organisation and control of the Polish refugees' asylum in Uganda. The government ensured that the Polish people had minimum or no social interaction with Ugandans. While African refugees such as the Banyarwanda and the Sudanese have integrated well among Ugandan communities, the British policy against white settlement in Uganda must account for the apparent lack of impact or impression of ten years of Polish presence in Uganda."

Thus, what at first appeared to be 'just another cover', led me to a fascinating and, hitherto to me, unknown story from WW2. A 'plain-Jane' cover has become another fascinating lesson in history and geography. Isn't this one of the joys of philately - apart from staving off Alzheimer's disease?

- Bibliography.**
1. Uganda, E Proud
  2. **Airmail Operations During WW2**, Thomas Boyle Jnr
  3. [www.ajol.info/index.php/uj/article/viewFile/23031/19795](http://www.ajol.info/index.php/uj/article/viewFile/23031/19795)



## A Metal Postcard

Ian Cutter

### A metal postcard

This card is made of aluminium.. Aluminium is an abundant element, but was not produced in metallic form until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and for a while was considered a precious metal. However improvements in technology reduced its cost, which was down to 18c a pound by 1914. At the time this card was produced the metal would no longer have been precious – not a bad thing if you wanted to be sure that it didn't get lost in transit.

This particular card seems to have travelled well. The passage of time (over 100 years) has led to a bit of corrosion, and somebody has wondered whether it could be cut with a pair of scissors – fortunately they had satisfied their curiosity while the card remained in one piece.

The card shows the M[ ] Hotel in Manchester. Corrosion of the underlying metal has destroyed a small section of the image. A blank area along the bottom for correspondence has not been used. Given the apparent difficulty in writing the bare essentials on the “card”, one can understand why there is nothing on this side.

The other side shows the card to be addressed to: A H Trueman, 114 Luton Rd, Chatham.

The compliment/communication reads: Sent from / Manchester by / A Billingham Esq / 26.05.04.

The last lines of the message and address require a magnifier to reveal the scratches of the pen – whether there was any ink there originally is hard to say.

At first sight the stamp appears to have been added later to enhance the value of the card after the original was removed by a stamp-collector, but it is in fact contemporary with the writing. Apparently date-stamp ink didn't adhere well either.

On the right hand side “The address to be written here” is straightforward. On the left hand side “This space may be used for complimentary terms.” needs some thought. Could such terms include phrases like “You are the most interesting correspondent that I have? I did like your outfit when we last met? You have been looking well lately?” Perhaps the meaning of the instruction was more obvious in those days.

The next statement offers some clarification.”Communication chargeable at letter rate” seems to be saying that to be eligible for postcard rate this message must not convey any useful information.

However the big challenge lies with the instruction at the very top, which reads “This card must be sent under cover only”. If that is so, why should Mr Billingham Esq. have to write the address on the right side of the card itself?



## New Zealand Musings: New Zealand at War 1939-45

**Tony Lyon**

In AJP issue No. 118, December 2011; covers from the New Zealand Division's campaign in Italy commenced (18-19). This article continues with this campaign. This section is broken up into six stages. For an understanding as to why the allies decided to invade Italy we turn to the Official History for insight.

The war in the Mediterranean fell into three phases of unequal duration. First, for twenty-eight months, there was a struggle to survive, to protect the means to ultimate victory – the base area of Egypt and the Canal, behind it the oil wells of the Middle East, and eventually the southern supply route to Russia – and to prohibit the dreaded junction of the Axis Powers with their Japanese ally.

Opened by the battle of El Alamein in late October 1942 and the Allied landings in French North Africa, the second phase had for its grand achievement the clearance of the inland seaway for the unhindered passage of friendly shipping. In less than ten months advances from El Alamein in the east and Casablanca in the west converged in a northward thrust that carried the Allied armies across the Mediterranean and through Sicily to the Straits of Messina. Yet, though the German tyrant's folly in trying to save Tunisia yielded unexpected profits, the Mediterranean war was still in its main strategic aims a work of rehabilitation.

The invasion of the Italian mainland in early September 1943 brought it to a final, openly offensive phase of about twenty months, from the surrender of Italy to the German collapse. The slow amputation of the Italian leg was for the Reich a grievous, if not mortal, letting of blood, and for the Allies one of the most toilsome campaigns of the war. It engaged 2 New Zealand Division for nearly a year and a half in circumstances very dissimilar from those related in the earlier volumes of this series. For if this last phase resembled the first in its duration and the second in its triumphant issue, it was like neither in the severity of its climate and terrain, in the complexity of the problems it presented to the high command, and in the strategic hesitancy that brooded over its beginning and shadowed its course. (Phillips, N. C. 1957. *Italy: The Sango to Cassino*. Vol.1. p 1. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs. Available Internet: <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2-1Ita-c1-1.html> Accessed 16 May 2012).

As can be seen, as one reads the History, the decision was a strategic one, to take Italy out of the war, and to tie up as many German resources as possible, in order to draw forces away from the Russian front and the projected offensive in France (Ibid.: 18-19). The first objective was achieved in rapid time with the Italian Government signing an armistice agreement at Alexander's headquarters on the 3 September 1943 near the village of Cassibile, Sicily. 'Early that morning....the Eighth Army had made an easy landing and was already advancing through Calabria.' (Ibid.: 16).

The covers shown are from the 2 NZ Division as they advanced through various stages of battle and rest.

### **Italy 1: 12 November 1943 to 31 January 1944: The Sango River to Orsogna**

MPO KW 4 was the 'Temporary NZ Advanced Base PO, housed in a tent, at 2 NZEF camp pending the opening of the 'permanent' Advanced Base PO (KW 15) in nearby Bari. Mails were handled through British Base APO 6 in Bari. The office was without postal datestamps as none were available!?' (Startup & Proud. 1992: 290). It would seem that they didn't believe this datestamp was used here. The office was only open for three days 12 Nov 43 - 16 Nov 1943.

## San Basilio



Cover posted through MPO KW 4 located as San Basilio, Bari, dated 14 Nov 1943, Unit censor Crown over circle 1615 signed by J. D Todd? Deputy Field Censor cachet. Said to contain a Christmas card. Surface rate free.

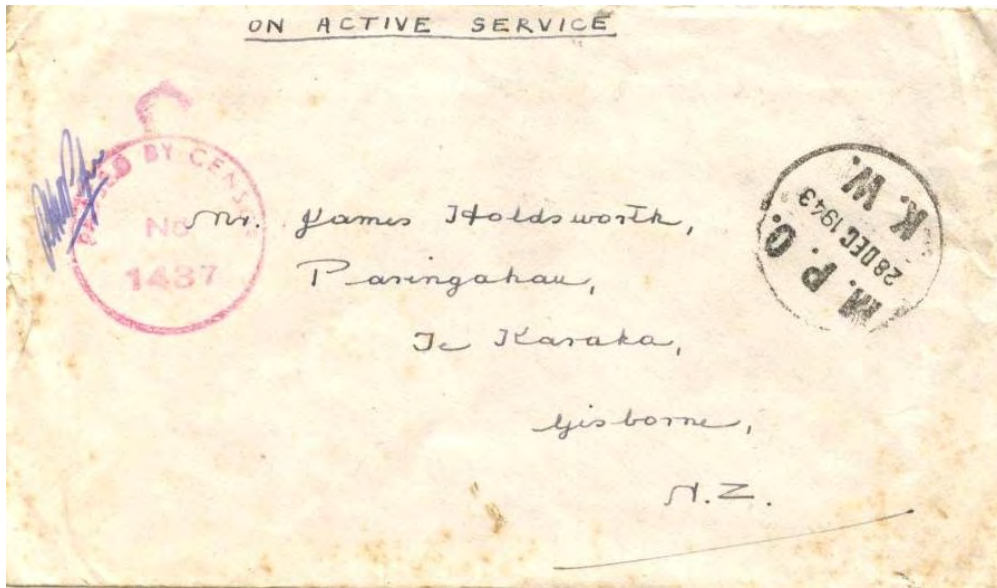
## Gissi



Cover from MPO KW 5, ( Startup & Proud 1992 D3; page 291 ), dated 9 DEC 1943, located at Gissi from 21 Nov 43 - 13 Dec 43. Crown over circle 4875 was held by 36th NZ Survey Battery and the sender Kenneth William Baird was writing to his parents. He was a gunner with 36<sup>th</sup> NZ Survey Battery. Surface rate free.



## Archi



Cover from MPO KW dated 28 Dec 1943 whilst located at Archi. This office was situated at Archi from 4 Dec 43 - 4 Feb 44. Crown over circle censor 1437 held by unit with 4 NZ Armoured Brigade. Surface rate free.

## Italy II: 1 February 1944 to 10 April 1944: Cassino

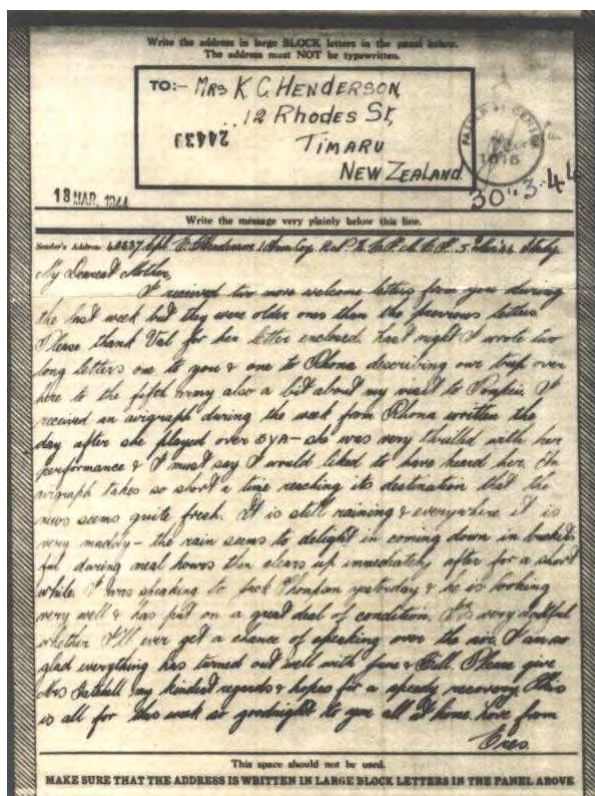
### Alifi (Alife)

This is where the NZ Division rested. It was joining the 5th Army for an assault on Cassino.



Cover from MPO KW 5 dated 1 Feb 1944. This was located at Alifi from 14 Jan 1944 to about 3 Feb 1944. Censor 4875. This example is from a member of 36th Survey Battery. Surface rate free



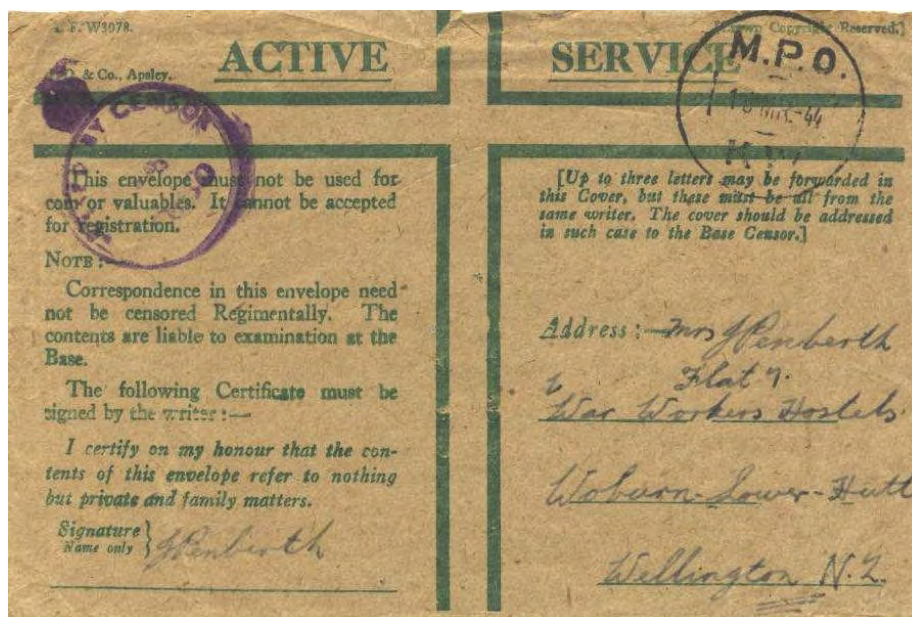


Airgraph from member of HQ Squadron Divisional Cavalry written 2 Feb 44 and processed 9 Feb 44. Divisional Cavalry located at Alife prior to relieving 21st Battalion at the Rapido River on the 11 February 1944. Crown over circle censor 1615. The airgraph rate was 3d.



Airgraph from Corporal with 1st Ammunition Company. It was processed 18 3 44. This company was involved in supplying ammunition for the guns pounding Cassino. Crown over circle censor 1615. The airgraph rate was 3d.

## Presenzano / Monteraduni



An honour envelope James Penberth a driver with NZASC, from location between Presenzano and Monteraduni. MPO KW dated 10 MR 44. Located at Presenzano 7 Feb 44 to 17 Mar 44. Surface mail free.



### Bari, San Basilio

Letter from private Melville St Cyr Jordan of D Company, 23 Battalion (NZ 5 Brigade) to his wife. Posted while on leave in Bari. He has recently been at the Convalescent Depot, so may have been wounded in action because by the 15 MR 44, D Company, 25 Battalion was part of Operation Dickens to take Cassino. 25 Battalion took many casualties.



Cancelled at MPO KW 14, 27 MR 44. KW 14 was the stationary post office at the NZ Advanced Base Camp Bari, San Basilio from 1 October 1943 to 10 February 1946. Letter received at Dunedin 24 MY 44 and redirected to Timaru. Surface mail free.

**Italy III: 11 April 1944 to 16 June 1944—Occupation of the Apennine position near Cassino and advance to Sera and Avezzano**

### Roccearavindola



Cover from MPO KW located at Roccearavindola from 18 April 1944 to 15 May 1944. Dated 5 MA 1944. A Crown over circle 1238 held by the 6 NZ Field Regiment. Surface mail free.



Cover from MPO KW located at Rocearavindola. This cover extends date to 17 MA 1944. Censor crown over shield 5011. This type of censor cachet began to replace the crown over circle censor in April 1944. GB Geo VI 3d mauve pays the airmail rate.

#### Pietravairano

From an officer of 38 NZ LAD (Light Aid Detachment). Censor crown over shield 3203 was held by A Squadron 18 Armoured Regiment. Captain Grant was the LAD officer with HQ Squadron of the 18 Armoured regiment. He was appointed LAD officer 19 November 1943 until reappointed to Regimental HQ as LAD officer in early June 1944 (Official History of 18 Battalion and Armoured Regiment pg 359, 491).



Cover from MPO KW2 located at Pietravairano from 14 Feb 1944 to 16 April 1944. Dated 18 MA 1944. Surface mail free.



## Caribbean Airmails 1927-46: Part 2

### John Young

In the previous issue of the journal I described some of the early airmail routes in and around the Caribbean. At the end of the article I showed an airmail cover from Haiti to Cuba, flown in 1928, and wondered who flew it. It was famous Charles Lindbergh. The cover looked like commercial mail, but it was a first flight cover. Lindbergh was later taken on as a technical advisor to PAA, on an annual salary of \$10,000 plus PAA shares. They wanted only the best.

In the middle of 1928 PAA got the contract for the USA foreign airmail route 5 (FAM 5), and in a short time an extension of the route along the southern Caribbean to Suriname. Illustration 1 shows a cover mailed from Suriname to USA in 1930. FAM5 included Canal Zone, and illustrations 2 and 3 show covers flown from there to USA (20 cents) and from USA seamailed to New Zealand with an additional 5 cents stamp, the standard rate for foreign surface-mail letters.



Fig 1 - Franked 1 gulden 15cents



Fig 2



Fig 3

There are hundreds of combinations of origins and destinations for airmail by the 1940s, and a few unusual ones are shown in illustrations 4 to 7. Some airmail covers were flown only a couple of hundred kilometres.





Fig 4 – Franked 20 cents



Fig 5 – Transmission 8-10 June 1942



Fig 6 – Transmission. 14-22 Dec 1943  
Franked 4 pence

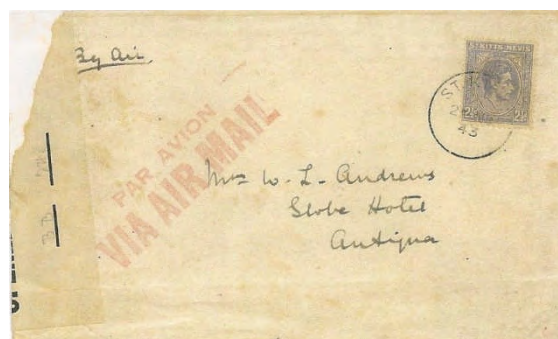


Fig 7 – Franked 2½ pence

### Trans-ocean Airmails

PAA's main aim was to run regular trans-ocean air services, and they began in the Pacific in 1935. The USA has numerous Pacific island possessions for touch-downs and refuelling and FAM 14 via Honolulu and Guam to Manila began. It was linked to USA and Caribbean networks. Illustrations 8 and 9 show trans-Pacific covers of Caribbean origin. These are scarce; the usual origins are USA and Canada.



Fig 8 – Franked 90 cents



Fig 9 – Franked 4shillings & 4 pence

Scheduled trans-Atlantic flights started in 1939. The dearth of islands for touch-downs and the Atlantic's notorious bad weather required the development of more robust and longer-range "Clipper" sea planes.

Whereas the trans-Pacific flights ended with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the trans-Atlantic service continued throughout the war, flying from New York to Lisbon (FAM 18) and from Miami to West Africa via Brazil (FAM 22) from 1941. Both routes were linked to USA and Caribbean networks. Trans-Atlantic airmail covers of Caribbean origin are relatively easy to find and examples are shown in illustrations 10-13.



Fig 10 – Franked 3 Bol.  
Transmission: 13-24 Aug 1941

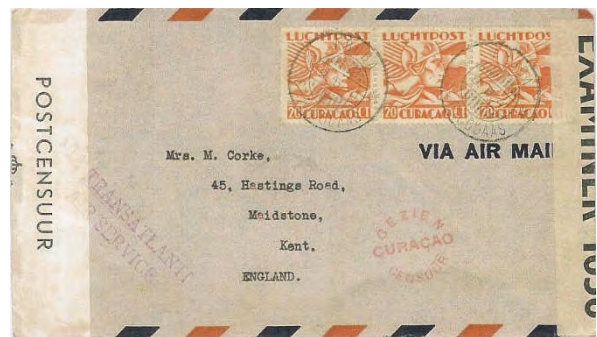


Fig 11 – Franked 60 cents



Fig 12 – Franked 2 shillings & 6½ pence



Fig 13

The last of these, from Turks and Caicos Islands, was re-addressed upon delivery in England. Assuming re-addressing and the associated date-stamping happened fairly promptly, transmission took from 19 November 1943 to 19 January 1944, not exactly quick. This was not an isolated case in war time.

## Help wanted

Dear Sir, I am an advanced collector of Australian stamps and looking for such collectors in Australia, maybe you can help. I collect mostly used stamps especially Kangaroos and King George V issues in single and also in blocks/strips and on cover. Further I collect France, Italy, DDR, Poland, Motive: Aeroplanes. All this collections in advanced stage. I like to change against Australian stamps, further I can give also very good items from Switzerland and very few stamps from Germany/Berlin.

It would be nice to get from you a positive answer.

With kind regards

Franz Sommerfeld

Email: [sommerfeld.franz@t-online.de](mailto:sommerfeld.franz@t-online.de)

Website: <http://www.briefmarken-exklusiv.de/>



## PROFILE OF GEORGE VEARING: EDITOR OF HAND HELD DATESTAMPS

Born in Melbourne in 1942, I grew up on a farm at Epping Victoria, educated at Epping Primary school and Melbourne Grammar, I left School in 1958 to work on dads farm. Married in 1965 and moved to a farm at Coomboona just near Mooroopna and then to Mooroopna in 1985 where I presently live .

Like all youngsters was interested in collecting stamp from a young age but waned a little after I left school and got married. Started going to Kyabram Stamp Club about 1988 with Graeme Millar as President who was also Postmaster of Kyabram and the driving influence behind the Club. Sadly the Club closed a few years after he left to go to another post office. When at Kyabram I met John Webster who was working at the Tatura Research Station at the time and he started me on collecting Victorian registration labels and later Victorian datestamps which is what my collection is now based on. In 1970 was at a meeting in Shepparton when the Shepparton Philatelic Society was formed and at I am the current secretary.



Through John Webster I joined the Postal History Society to keep up with the latest issues of postmarks and was always submitting information to Brian Tobin. As such, after Brian passed away, I was asked to take over his editorial position. Presentation was not the best in the early days, but has improved a lot, after I purchased a computer. I am still enjoying my hobby and contributing to the Journal every 3 months although I thought I would have more time to enjoy my hobby in my retirement, but I seem busier than ever.

One thing that has helped is a very tolerant wife, since one room of the house has been taken over with boxes containers and albums in pursuit of my hobby, and also our 2 children have left home which led to the vacant room for me to move everything into.

## Cover Story



Sent from Wellington FDI 26 July 1938 addressed to:

Philatelic Dept  
The Myer Emporium Ltd  
Melbourne  
Victoria

In 1938 a definitive set featuring the image of King George VI, based upon a Dorothy Wilding photo, commenced. The ½d Green was issued 1 March 1938, 1d Scarlet 1 July 1938, and this value, a 1½d Chocolate. Further values up to 3/- were issued between 1938—53. there were also colour changes, various papers and provisionals.

The 1½d, when it was issued, was in response to the *Empire Air Mail Scheme*, which commenced 26 July 1938. Under this scheme all mail to/from the United Kingdom (and nearer Commonwealth countries) went by airmail. A low flat rate of 1½d per ½ oz was struck. Initially mail went by surface mail from New Zealand to Sydney where the first airmail to which this rate applied left Sydney for London on the 9 August 1938. However, the outbreak of war in 1939 brought a speedy end to this admirable scheme. By war's end, it was deemed too expensive to return to this rate.

## Hand-Held Date Stamps

*Co-ordinated by George Vearing*

This edition contains some interesting information from New South Wales and Victoria and thanks go to Ian Cutter for supplying the information.

Firstly in the N.S.W. section is a Priority Paid from SYDNEY GPO 2000 COLONNADE with the definition of a colonnade being a series of columns. Although it dates from 1987 it still would be interesting to find out more about this postmark i.e. usage and location.

In the Victorian section 2 postmarks are only shown as dates as apparently that was all that visible when the date stamps were applied and these are HUGHESDALE (12 NOV 2011) and TOTTENHAM CENTRAL LPO (20 JAN 2012).

A Post Office was opened in the Delahey IGA Supermarket in Delahey 3037, reference Melways Melbourne Page 13 F8 on 5.12.2011. It occupied the space normally taken up by 2 check out stations. Closure was planned for 2.03.2012 by which time more permanent arrangements were intended to be in place. It would now be interesting to know what has happened and if and where it is still going.

Many thanks to Richard Peck, Ian Cutter, Frank Adamik, Tony Lyon, Simon Alsop and John Treacy for their contributions to this column.

A.C.T.

N.S.W.:—Earlier date stamps—BATEMANS  
BAY (102/25) WALLENDEN (97/27)





N.S.W.:- (cont)



QLD:-CAIRNS ORCHID PLAZA also 4, Earlier datestamps:-BOWEN (107/25) DALBY (106/23) MANSFIELD (108/27).





QLD.:- (cont)



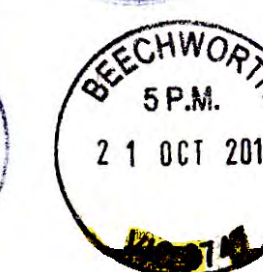
S.A.



TAS.



VIC:-111 BOURKE STREET also 4,5 Earlier datestamps-AVENEL (107/28) BAIRNSDALE (101/29), BEECHWORTH (99/27), BENALLA WEST (107/28), BENDIGO CENTRAL (PAID) (102/27), BOORT (113/29), COHUNA (105/26) ECHUCA 4 (105/26)





VIC:- (cont) . More earlier datestamps- LOCKINGTON (96/34), MORWELL (109/28), MURCHISON (98/25) RANGEVIEW (102/29) ST. ARNAUD (90/34), TONGALA (115/29) WARRANDYTE (93/36), WEDDERBURN (98/27), YACKANDANDAH (115/29)



VIC. :- (Cont) Date on head of Mooroopna Datestamp is 19 DEC 2011 and was in use in early January 2012



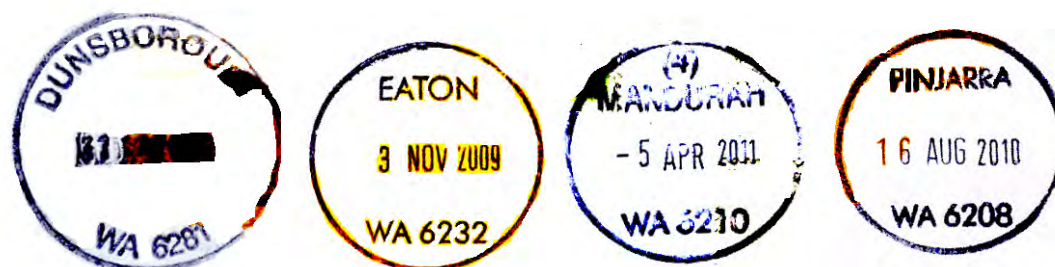
HUGHESDALE TOTTENHAM CENTRAL



VIC:- Cont:-



W.A.



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AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc ABN # 85 081 158 36

COUNCIL for the YEAR 2011-2012

**President:** John Young **Past President:** vacant **Vice-President** vacant **Honorary Secretary:** Irene Kerry

**Honorary Treasurer:** John Steward **Honorary Librarian:** John Young

**"Australian Journal of Philately" Editor:** Tony Lyon **Committee:** Michael Barden, Tony Lyon

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and REPORT and STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 June 2012**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the RSL Homes, 152 Canterbury Road, Canterbury on Monday 20 August 2012 at 8pm, for the transaction of the following business:

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 15 August 2011
- 3 The President (or his nominee) will report on the year's work of the Society
- 4 The Honorary Librarian's Report and other reports will be presented
- 5 The report of the Honorary Treasurer on the Accounts will be read
- 6 To receive and adopt Accounts of the Society for year to 30 June 2013
- 7 **Elections:**
  - a) The following nominations for Officers of the Society have been received:  
**President:** John Young; **Vice President** no nomination; **Secretary** Irene Kerry  
There being no other nominations, the above-named will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected.
  - b) The under mentioned Officers being eligible have offered themselves for re-election and there being no further nominations, will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected:  
**Honorary Treasurer** - John Steward **Honorary Librarian** John Young
  - c) Following nominations for **Members of Council** have been received: Michael Barden, Tony Lyon, and since no other nominations were received, said will be deemed to be elected as Members of Council.
- 8 To appoint an **Auditor** in accordance with the Constitution.
- 9 Any other business that may arise.

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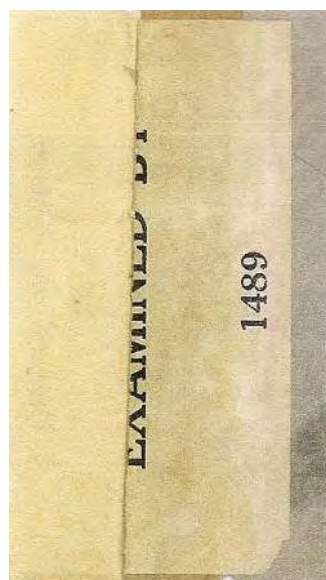
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## Back Cover - USA to Australia



The airmail cover shown is a plain and shabby envelope correctly franked 70 cents (two stamps faulty) from USA to Australia. It is postmarked 11 May 1942. Its only intriguing aspect is an English censor tape, revealed by steaming off the Australian censor tape on the back of the envelope. Why English?

The explanation is that the cover did not travel the direct way across the Pacific, but the other way around. Just five months after the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the end of PAA's trans-Pacific air service, there was apparently no way of getting mail west of Hawaii, even by ship. Shipping was needed for the US military scramble to reinforce the western Pacific. Hence the route taken was:

- Trans Atlantic, New York to Lisbon
- BOAC to London, where censored
- Sea mail to Cape Town, South Africa
- Horseshoe air route from Durban, via Cairo, Calcutta, Singapore (BOAC) and Darwin Qantas.

Thank you to Ron Lee, who most likely steamed off the back censor tape.