Secretary:	**Australian Journal of Philately**	**HHDS Notes**
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	georgedwv@optusnet.com.au

OFFICE BEARERS 2012 - 2013

President	:	**John Young**	
Immediate Past president	:		
Vice President	:	**Vacant**	
Secretary	:	**Irene Kerry**	
Treasurer	:	**John Steward**	
Librarian	:	**John Young**	
Committee	:	**Michael Barden**	:
		Tony Lyon	
Editor, AJPH	:	**Tony Lyon**	

Advertising in the Journal:

Half Page $A30.00   Please send copy to the Editor
Full Page $A50.00

Disclaimers:

Articles in this issue of The Australian Journal of Philately do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Australian Philatelic Society Inc. or of the Editorial Committee.

Date	2012 Programme	Display
October 15 2012	Michael Barden	Belgian Exhibitions 1930's
December 17 2012	Members	Competition up to 10 pages.
February 18 2013	TBA	TBA

Contents

Editorial   *Tony Lyon*

Trusting that you will find something of interest in this current journal. Once again we have managed with the help of various contributors, to complete another one almost on time. This is in a great part due to the wonderful assistance of Michael Barden who has helped reformat some of the articles as well as write one himself.

The usual suspects have also contributed and we are also thankful to Maurice Mishkel's website that enables the occasional publishing of an article that may be of interest to our readers. We acknowledge Maurice in this way.

We unfortunately were informed by our printers that they would no longer be taking outside printing jobs. BHI Digital Print Services, which is the in-house print provider for Box Hill Institute, has given us an excellent service for many years and we are sorry that we must move on. To Barry and John we say thank you for meeting our print needs, we appreciate it.

With the help of BHI Michael has found a new printer and this issue will be the first issue they print for the Australian Philatelic Society.

We have again reached the bottom of the barrel with regard to articles for December so please consider a cover story, article, item of interest. My mother used to tell me the story of how her mother during the war would, when the coal run out, go to where the coal was usually stored and with the shovel, scrap the bottom of the barrel and pray, 'Lord, you hear me scrapping.' Mother said inevitably the coal would be delivered that day.

I am scrapping!

Till next time, ciao.

From the President

At the members' meeting on 18 June the Australian Philatelic Society presented its highest award, the John Webster medal, to George Vearing. It was a fitting award in more ways than one.

George has edited the journal's notes on hand-held date stamps since September 1999, taking over from the late Bob Tobin. The date-stamps column was the genesis of the society's journal, and the collecting and recording of date-stamps was pioneered by John Webster. To round matters off, it was John Webster who introduced George to the subject: John was working at the Tatura agricultural research station and George lived nearby at Mooroopna. The award is shown below.
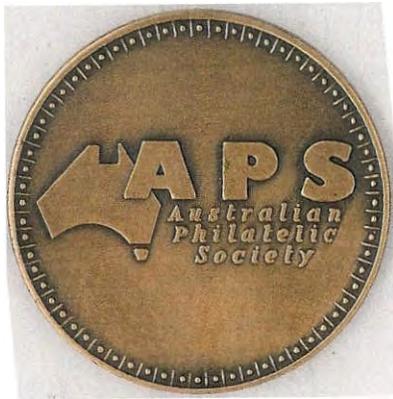
While still on the journal, we have reached issue number 121. There's a wealth of information in the back issues, covering a vast range of topics. The absence of a cumulative index has been a long-felt need. One of our founding members, Harold Sheath, is working through his journal archive and compiling just such an index. When I spoke to him he had got to issue 60. Thank you Harold.

Syllabus for 2013

The syllabus for next year will likely be arranged in early November. Assuming the format will be similar to 2012, we are looking for three full displays (each about 60 pages) and two and a half displays (each about 30 pages). Alternatively, there could be two full displays and four half displays. Either way they total four meetings. The other two meetings for 2013 would be works in progress and the end-of-year competition.

Do you have a display planned or ready for 2013, in either the 30 or 60 page format? Please mention it to any of our committee members or let me know on 9889 1385.

Cover Story

Australian airmail cover sent to New Zealand soldier at Trentham Camp. Manuscript OCTU (Officer Cadet Training Unit).

Postage 5 pence Merino SG 171 which paid the airmail rate.

Postmarked G.P.O. Sydney the addressee was H Pearson C/- PO Coffs Harbour.

John Richard Pearson of Wellington is shown on Roll 3 of New Zealand Army WWII Nominal Rolls, 1939-1948 as a Lance Sergeant with 20th Field Company and served with that unit in the Pacific. 20th Field Company was involved Fiji, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Vella Lavella and Nissan.

From Village Postmaster to Wireless: The Rise of the Post-Office

[Melbourne Argus Tuesday 16 October 1934 – Centenary Issue p32]

Hugh Sharp

John Batman was Melbourne's first postmaster. In 1836, the year after he had sailed from Launceston in the little 30-ton schooner Rebecca as agent for the Port Phillip Association, the handful of settlers that had followed him to try their fortunes in the Port Phillip district asked him to take charge of their correspondence. Batman consented, and for an amateur postmaster he performed his duties well. But the growing business soon got out of hand. In 1838 Sir Phillip Gibbs, who had just been made Governor of New South Wales, appointed Captain Baxter in the dual capacity of clerk of the Petty Sessions and postmaster of Port Phillip district. Baxter's salary was £200.

The first post-office was opened in a cottage in Flinders Street. But Baxter soon decided that, rather than be an official he would go on the land. Mr Skene Craig, who had a grocery business in Collins Street, consented to act as postmaster at a salary of £50. The population of the village of Melbourne and of the surrounding country was growing rapidly, and Mr. Craig's business was growing also. It soon became clear to him that he could not be both a postmaster and a grocer. In 1839 he decided to devote himself exclusively to the grocery business.

By that time the population of Melbourne was 3,000 and 7,000 settlers had taken up land in the surrounding country. The postal business of this busy community needed the services of a trained official, and Mr Kelch, who had been on the staff of the general post-office at Sydney for some years, was appointed. A new post-office was built in Chancery-lane, where Selborne Chambers now stand.

Meanwhile there had been considerable extensions of postal services, for there were letter deliveries both in town and country. Hawdon, a pastoralist who had a holding in the Dandenong country, had obtained a contract from the Government of New South Wales for an overland fort- nightly postal service between Melbourne and Sydney. The mail bag was carried on horseback. The postal charge was 1/3 a letter, which was very moderate. Hawdon was a man of enterprise. It was not long before he established a second service between Melbourne and Adelaide. In 1839, accompanied by his friend Mundy, he set out with the first mail himself. This was carried in a gig drawn by two horses harnessed in tandem. Journeying through country almost wholly unexplored, he travelled an average of 20 miles a day, and delivered the mail at Adelaide 27 days after he had set out from Melbourne.

Aborigines Attack Mail: The travellers had one perilous experience. A party of aborigines, who had never seen a white man, or a gig, or a horse, and who did not like the look of the party, made a rush for Her Majesty's mail. It was only by whipping up his tandem team to a racing gallop that Hawdon was able to shake off his pursuers.

EL dated 8 July 1841 Melbourne Port Phillip from daughter to mother writing "… this letter on my knee as we depart for Wellington Port Nicholson New Zealand".

Charges: Small boxed red "MELBOURNE PAID" on reverse oval "MELBOURNE/crown/JY8/NEW S WALES" to England via Sydney endorsed "7" prepayment being 4d ship rate to Sydney plus 3d general ship letter rate - straight line "SHIP LETTER" and circular "SHIP LETTER/crown/JY 15/1841/SYDNEY" datestamp.

Transit London circular red datestamp, endorsed "8" being inwards ship letter charge due.
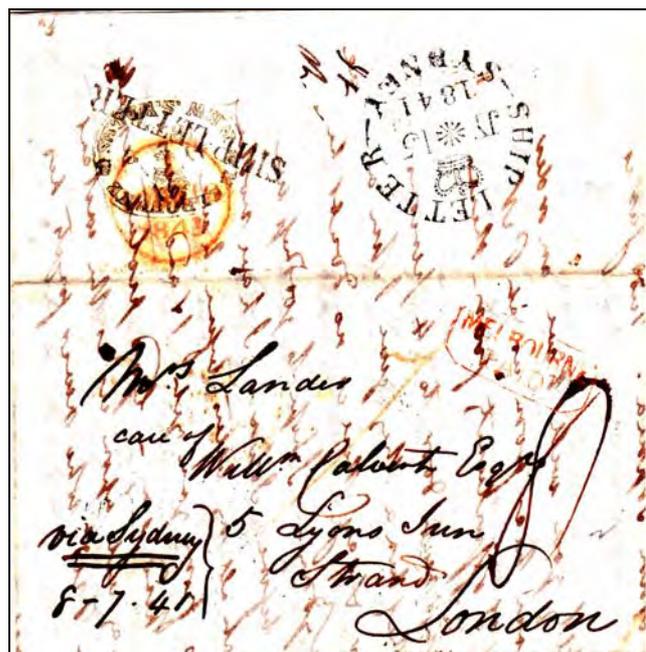
After waiting some three months in Melbourne, she comments upon economic conditions as "The dead state of the money markets. There is no circulation of money. Merchants & others of capital having sunk all their money in the purchase of land has brought about this state of affairs. British Manufacturers are selling full from 50 to 100% under invoice prices. There are a large number of persons out of employ."

About this time mall services were organised between Melbourne, Portland, and Geelong. The Geelong mail, which was carried in a smart passenger coach, left Nordine's store in Lonsdale-street every Wednesday morning, arriving in Geelong the same evening. The Geelong mail was brought to Melbourne on Fridays.

EL from I and P Manifold of Purrumbete dated 19 May and addressed to Messrs Bear & Son, of Queen Street Melbourne.

The letter advises of the disposal of fat bullocks, but that 2-300 fat cows could be available during winter *'should we not previously dispose of them'*.

Charges: Endorsed "4" being coastal letter rate of 4d per ½ oz Geelong to Melbourne
Markings: Oval "GEELONG / MY 19 / 1847 / NEW S WALES" crowned datestamp

By 1841 the post-office in Chancery-lane was no longer large enough for the rapidly growing business. In 1843 Melbourne had its first pillar boxes, one being set up at each end of the town.

A new post office was built in Elizabeth-street on the site now occupied by the general post-office.

By 1849, or just before the gold rush, there were 39 post-offices in the Port Phillip district. Citizens were proud of the fact that at the head office their postmaster required a staff of five clerks, and that to collect and deliver the "voluminous town correspondence" the services of four letter carriers were necessary! In spite of its "voluminous correspondence" Melbourne was still a restful, leisurely little town, prosperous and solid, and so free from disorderly characters that people never thought of locking up their houses when they went out. But there was one man in this contented community who had his troubles. He was the postmaster. His trouble was the ever-widening gap between expenditure and revenue. Postal business was increasing fast, but postal expenditure was increasing faster, and

that year the postmaster was faced with a deficiency of £591. Nor did the situation improve. In 1851, the year of "Glorious Separation," as the posters described it, when Port Phillip district, which had been a mere appanage of New South Wales, became the independent colony of Victoria, with its own Legislature, the postal deficiency had grown alarmingly. Victorians were paying too little for their postal privileges. The obvious remedy was to make them pay more. The Victorian Legislature passed its first Postal Act the following year. This provided that "letters up to half an ounce be carried within the colony for 2d.; above half an ounce, but not exceeding 1 ounce, 4d,; and thereafter 4d per ounce or fraction thereof." The stimulant, however, did not prove strong enough for revenue that still lagged languidly in the rear of the expenditure.

EL from Thos Towle, Geelong dated 13 August 1852 addressed to Messrs Richardson Bros & Co at London.

Letter advises that consignor has shipped a box of gold weighing 51oz 13dwt, drawing a 30 days after sight draft on Bank of Australasia for £102. He gives instructions for disposal of the gold, with a 21oz nugget going to his wife in Derby; marine insurance has been effected to value of £204

Charges: Prepaid "5" in red, being 2d inland rate to Melbourne and 3d ship letter rate. Upon arrival endorsed "8" in black being the British packet charge payable by addressee for incoming ship letter

Markings: Crown Geelong 16 Aug 1852, transit Melbourne

arriving in Melbourne 24 December 1851, carrying passengers and general cargo. It obviously had difficulty in getting a return cargo, for it was not until 2 Sept 1852 that it departed with 10 first class and 26 intermediate and steerage passengers plus a cargo of gold for Gravesend, arriving 20 Nov 1852

Changing Postal Charges: So in 1853 when the revenue of the department was £25,933, but the expenditure had soared to £72,000 - a difference of more than £47,000 - a second act was passed. Town letters were still carried for 2d, but for country letters the charge was 4d, and for ship letters 1/. Country letters fell off in numbers, and Victorians wrote far less frequently to friends and relatives overseas now that the pleasure cost them a shilling. The charges were reduced to 4d and 6d respectively in 1855.

More than 30 years later the Postal department of Victoria gave the public the benefit of penny postage. The rate remained so long as the colony administered its own postal service. But Victorians were not to enjoy penny postage long. In 1911[1], or ten years after the Commonwealth had taken over the postal services of the newly constituted States, a uniform rate of 1d was established for all letters carried within Australia, for until then the rates in all the States except Victoria had been 2d, although letters had been carried for 1d in some of the larger towns and cities. But a change was coming. Since that date the Commonwealth department has twice increased the postal rates - first to 1½d, and more recently to 2d. These increases - especially the increase to 2d - have caused many firms to have their business communications delivered in the city by hand, because this is often cheaper than paying the 2d postage fee. The collection and distribution of mail matter will always be the chief business of the Postal department, but supplementary services are becoming of increasing importance.

Rush hour at the first telephone exchange in Melbourne. A drawing from life in "The Australasian Sketcher.

Of these the telephone ranks first. In Melbourne telephones were introduced in 1880. In that year a company was formed, with Messrs. H. Byron Moore (chairman), W. H. Masters, and T.T. Draper as directors. It was not without considerable difficulty that the company obtained permission to operate the service, for the postmaster considered that the rates which it was proposed to charge the public were too high. When they were reduced to £12 for the annual rental of a telephone within a radius of a mile of the exchange for each additional mile, permission was given to open the exchange. All calls were free. The exchange was opened in the old Exchange Building, which was on the south side of Collins-street before it was moved afterward to a'Beckett-street.

In 1907 the Commonwealth Government bought the company's rights. A total of £75,000 was asked, but ultimately the Company consented to accept £40,000.

The first automatic exchange In Australia was installed at Geelong in 1912. An automatic exchange at Brighton followed in the next year. Long-distant telephone communication was established in 1905, and now all the capitals on the mainland are connected by trunk lines. The operation of these trunk lines has been much Improved, for whereas only a few years ago it required on an average 20 minutes to get a trunk line call. The time has been reduced to two minutes. Tasmania will be connected to the mainland by telephone when the laying of the telephone cable across Bass Strait has been completed. This will probably be toward the end of 1935.

2½d. a Word for Telegrams: It was Victoria that installed the first telegraph service in Australia. This was the line between Melbourne and William's Town, which was opened in 1854, that charge was 2d a word. In 1856 the Melbourne-Adelaide line was completed, and in 1877 all the capitals were connected by telegraph.

Telegram from Secretary for Agriculture postmarked locally 10 February 1898 to the tobacco expert in Wangaratta with delivery envelope
(see next page)
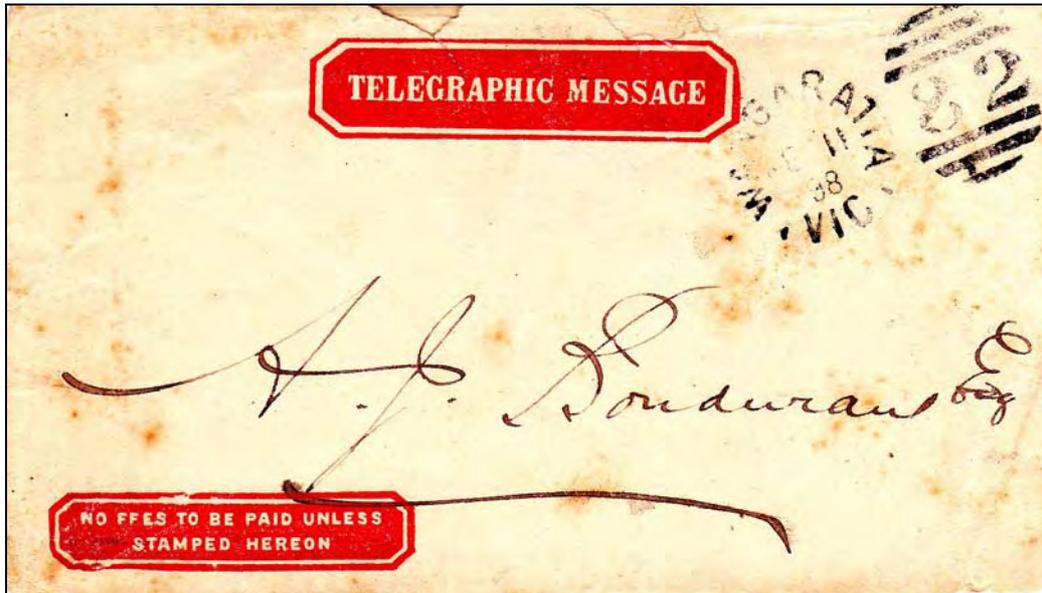
Reuter collar cover used 1912 from Melbourne

The most recent extension of the Post department's activities is in wireless communications. The department undertakes to supply the technical services required by the stations of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the organisation controlled by the Government, and it gives similar services to the chain of radio stations which maintain wireless communications with ships at sea. In 1901 the revenue of the post office was £2,372.8.11; for the financial year ended June 1933, It had risen to £ 12,021,265. The profit of the whole department for 1932-33, after charging interest on capital Investment, was £1,103,168.

1. Incidentally, the writer got the wrong year for One Penny Postage in Australia; this being 01.05.1911 (not 1910). (Richard Breckon) (This has been corrected in the text)

2. **Whilst researching the All-Australian Centenary Exhibition of 1934, the attached article from the Melbourne Argus was part of the commemorative 20-page centenary supplement on Tuesday 16 October 1934. The two rather dark images are from the article. The suggested inserts are from my Genesis collection. (JML)**

3. My thanks to John Lancaster for his article and scans. Latter made by me and I paginated the whole - MB

Adelaide to Kinshasa via London, Lisbon, Banana and Boma

Maurice Mishkel

This is one of the most extravagant advertising covers, about which I have written, and it is also the third cover to the Congo I have recorded. I seem to have a fascination for this chaotic region which has had so much strife in its pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods. The Australian Stamp Company, Adelaide, South Australia has resisted my many research attempts, but there is enough advertising matter to obtain an idea of its purpose: "Collections and stamps of all kinds, Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. Large Consignments of old Australians purchased for Cash...... Approval Sheets forwarded to Collectors upon Application..... 1,000,000 – COMMON PENNY AND TWOPENNY AUSTRALIAN STAMPS WANTED –1,000,000". A strip of five brown bantam Halfpenny South Australian stamps are cancelled with 2 duplex G.P.O. ADELAIDE/ 2/ JY 7/ 96/ S.A postmarks, and the cover is addressed to The Postmaster, Kinshassa (*sic*), Congo Free State, Africa. There is a faint blue transit postmark of BANANA (Congo) on the front (recto).

The reverse (verso) is even more informative: "Dealers in Australian and British and Foreign Postage Stamps. Reliable Agents wanted in every City on Earth......Schoolboys can make splendid pocket money by Selling Stamps on Commission......Foreign Collectors should apply for our systematically arranged selections of Australians.....,Australian Stamps purchased in any quantity up to a million...... Advanced Collectors may forward rarities for exchange against good Australians". The only address given is a G.P.O. BOX number in Adelaide. There is a very poor London routing postmark, a black 'diamond' LISBOA CENTRAL/ 14-8-96/ QUARTA SECAO postmark of Lisbon and a blue BOMA (Congo) transit postmark dated September (1896). There is no visible Kinshasa arrival date. The vendor gave additional information as follows: Per P&O ship 'Oruba' to Naples, via England and Portugal (verso).

The 'Oruba' is listed as leaving Sydney on 6 July 1896 (it would have stopped in Melbourne before Adelaide, so would it have had time to receive the Adelaide postmark of 7 July?). The ship was listed as having arrived on 10 August in the UK, and the first visible date after this is in Lisbon 4 days later (by another ship?). The first point of call in the Free State of Congo was Banana, which had an indistinct date in September 1896. Banana, was and is, a seaport and a township in the Bas-Congo province of the now Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Atlantic coast. A rail line connects the port to Boma and Kinshasa, but this was not necessarily the route to Kinshasa, for rail travel was always very irregular and the roads were also generally in poor repair. The inland waterways are used extensively, and the Congo River is navigable from its mouth at Banana to Matadi, a distance of 134 km (83 miles), with the next stretch of the river to Kinshasa, unnavigable from Matadi to Kinshasa, a distance of 401 km (249 miles). Thus road and or rail would have had to be used for the final journey (Figure 3).

Banana was developed as a port in the nineteenth Century, largely as a part of the slave trade. Henry Morton Stanley arrived in Banana in 1879 at the start of an exploratory expedition funded by Léopold II of Belgium. Following the Conference of Berlin (1884-85) the European powers recognised Léopold's claim to the Congo Basin, and in a ceremony (1885) at Banana, the King announced the establishment of the Congo Free State, headed by himself, beginning the period of European colonization. Banana was the main Belgian naval base of the Congo until independence in 1960.

With thanks to Maurice Mishkel for the use of this article.
Paginated and edited by Michael Barden.

Note – The Congo Free State was established by Leopold II in 1858 as his personal fiefdom. It was to revert to Belgium upon his death (December 1909), but it was so chaotic and corrupt that the Government took it over in 1908, when it became the Belgian Congo. This lasted until Independence in 1960.   MEB.

Are We There Yet ?

George Speirs

The steamship S.S. Aeon was built in England in 1905 and was owned by the Australian Company, Howard Smith & Co. of Melbourne. It was one of two vessels employed on the Australian - San Francisco route. She was said to be a fine steamer of some 4,220 tons.

At this time (July 1908) the powerful U.S. Navy Fleet, commanded by Rear Admiral C.S. Perry, was visiting ports in the South Pacific. When the Aeon set sail for Australia, on board were some wives of US Officers planning to meet their husbands in Sydney. The Aeon carried also a general cargo, which included a considerable amount of redwood timber and some 300 bags of mail, much of it destined for the US fleet.

The voyage proceeded on course until nearing Christmas Island, when a thick mist descended and strong currents carried the vessel off course. On 18 July at approx. 9.30pm the vessel struck a reef, but was in no immediate danger. Christmas Island at the time of the grounding was uninhabited. The vessel was well stocked with provisions for some months, tins of food being abundant. At daylight the situation was surveyed, and all on board were able to land on the island. Five tents were erected on shore as well as some items to alleviate boredom were salvaged. These included books, beds, carpets and wine. At first fresh water had to be carried from the wreck but within days two wells had been dug providing good quality water.
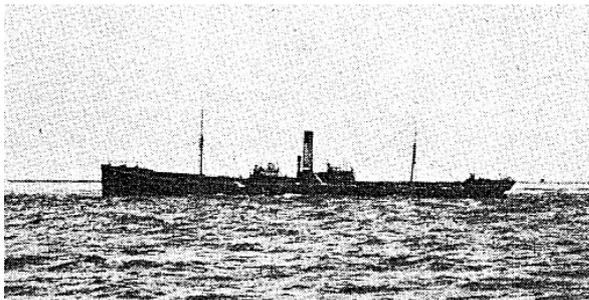
The wrecked steamer Aeon at Christmas Island

Passengers from the wrecked Aeon returning to SS Manuka

A number of the men were employed in fitting a motor to one of the ship's lifeboats with the intention of reaching Fanning Island. The Aeon had been scheduled to arrive at Apia on 26 July, and by mid-August authorities in Auckland were worried about its non arrival. On I7 August an attempt was made by some of the crew to reach Fanning Island, some 150 odd miles away. This proved unsatisfactory and those on board had to row back to Christmas Island for repairs and modifications. A second and successful attempt was made on 15 September, reaching Fanning Island 3 days later.

During the absence of the rescue boat en route to Fanning Island, Mrs Patrick, one of the passengers, had given birth to a baby girl, who was fed on milk from the ship's goat.

When the Union Steamship Co. of N.Z. steamer Manuka arrived at Honolulu early on 19 September, it brought news of the shipwreck of the Aeon from the Fanning Island Cable Station. The Manuka therefore was directed to proceed to Christmas Island, first picking up the crew that had landed on Fanning Island. The Manuka arrived at Christmas Island on 23 Sept, picking up all the stranded personnel, including one extra - Mrs. Patrick's baby girl. Finally with great fanfare the complement arrived in Sydney, via Suva on 8 October 1908, quite a journey that had begun on 6 July 1908.

The wreck of the Aeon, together with its cargo was sold to an American and his Australian partner. They in turn sold a part interest to a N.Z. syndicate on condition that they remove from the wreck whatever could be salvaged, including the cargo. By April 1909, the syndicate discovered that the wreck had been plundered. A man called Eben Lowe, said to be a character of dubious means from

Honolulu was suspected, but evidence was too indirect to warrant a prosecution. Bags of mail were also unaccounted for, most of which were for members of the US Fleet.

Mail surviving from the wreck is seldom seen, as very little seems to have survived. There have been reports of two different cachets having been applied to known mail. One cover to Tasmania has the cachet reading:- **Damaged in the Shipwreck Aeon** in one line. The other cachet has the following:- **Damaged in the Wreck of the S.S. Aeon** , in two lines applied in a rose/pink colour (see below). The illustrated cover also has a resealing label applied in NZ,:- **Officially Sealed,** with a circular date stamp of Wellington, Oc 08 7 pm.
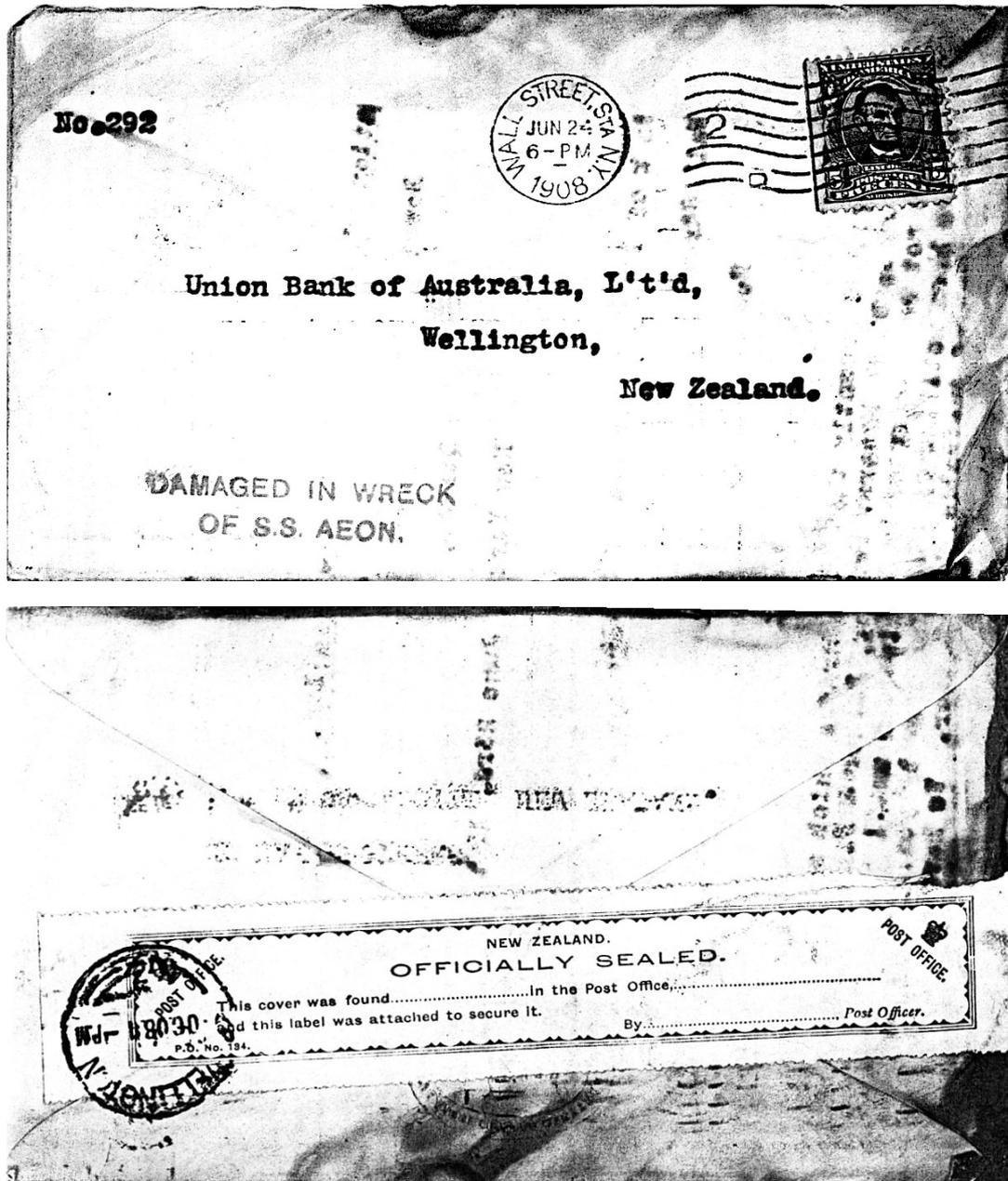
Bibliography.

Disaster at Christmas Island, Phil. Mag. (UK) June 1981.
Christmas Island Story - Eric Bailey (Bailey International l977).
Assistance of the Pacific Islands Study Group (UK) and the Tuvalu and Kiribati Phil. Society in supplying information is gratefully acknowledged.

Australian Military Concession Postage, 1956-59

John Young

Australian military personnel had a concessional one penny letter rate from World War 2 until 1961. Thousands of these envelopes survive, usually endorsed with an army, navy or airforce concession marking. One penny paid for surface-mail one-ounce letters to anywhere. Registration, airmail and express-mail fees were extra, at the ruling civilian rates. The airmail fee in Australia was three pence, and added to surface mail the total postage was four pence.

In 1956 the Australian civilian letter rate was increased from 3½ to 4 pence, starting with the Olympic Games stamp. The four pence rate went from 1 October 1956 until 30 September 1959. During those three years there were two definitive and seven commemorative four-pence stamps issued. (There was also a reprint of the old four-pence koala stamp on unwatermarked paper (18.8.56) in anticipation of the new rate.)

Four pence neatly rounded off the concessional one penny plus three pence airmail fee for servicemen and women in Australia. Some typical envelopes are shown below. All these covers have been acquired by happenstance.

Two of them are franked 1 shilling and 4 pence, one penny for surface mail and 1 shilling and 3 pence for registration.

It would be an interesting challenge to collect all ten four-pence stamps used concessionally. So far only five have turned up by combing through dealers' boxes, and I suspect that finding the other five will take a determined effort.

Stamp issued 31 Oct 1956.

One penny concessional postage and 1 shilling and 3 pence registration. Army concession.

Stamp issued 17 April 1957.

One penny concessional postage and 3 pence airmail fee. Army concession.

Stamp issued 13 March 1957.

One penny concessional postage, 3 pence airmail fee. Airforce concession.

One penny concessional postage and 1 shilling and 3 pence registration fee.

Stamp issued 10 September 1958.

One penny concessional postage and 3 pence airmail. Army concession.

Front cover:

Airmail Letter from Nairobi to San Francisco

Nairobi / Kenya cds of 21 Mar 1945

Red (recto) and blue (verso) m/s **Airmail via England**

Censored in Nairobi and closed with a Mayo type IIIc closure tape.

Tied with blue censor's number **N/194**

All up airmail to UK   1sh 30c (≤1 oz applied from 1943)

Red OAT type IV cachet applied in London

Probable route.   From Nairobi 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 from Foynes with BOAC to New York via Gander and Shediac. All flights were by land planes.

The all up Commonwealth rate of 1.30 shillings was probably available to Americans on business for the UK government. The all up rate to USA was considerably more. It was sent from London to San Francisco by air courtesy of the UK government or more likely by Air Transport Command (USA), who operated regular trans Atlantic mail services.

Tony Lyon

This article continues the Italian campaign showing covers from Italy stage IV: 17 June 1944 to 24 August 1944—Mount Ligano, advance to Florence, and the south bank of the river Arno. Then Italy stage V: 25 August 1944 to 26 October 1944 — return to the Adriatic Coast near Rimini and advance to the Savio River and ending with stage Italy VI: 27 October 1944 — 31 March 1945 — Faenza Area and the Senio River as the 2nd NZ Division battles its way through Italy.

Bari - San Basilio
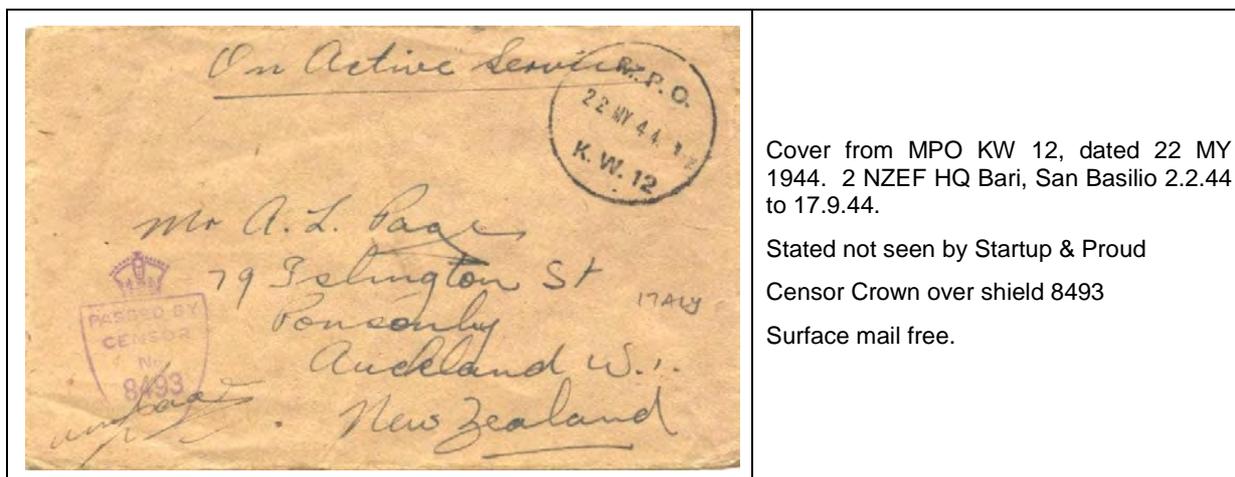
Cover from MPO KW 12, dated 22 MY 1944. 2 NZEF HQ Bari, San Basilio 2.2.44 to 17.9.44.

Stated not seen by Startup & Proud

Censor Crown over shield 8493

Surface mail free.

Italy IV - 17 June 1944 to 24 August 1944—Mount Ligano, advance to Florence, and the south bank of the river Arno

Airgraph dated 1 July 1944 from Corporal with 1st Ammunition Company. Censored by crown over Shield 8497.

The 1st Ammunition Company started carting ammunition to the Narni roadhead from the 21st Advanced Ammunition Depot of July 1st 1944. Narni was 43 miles due north of Rome.[1]

Also illustrated is the Post Office envelope that contained the airgraph for delivery.

---
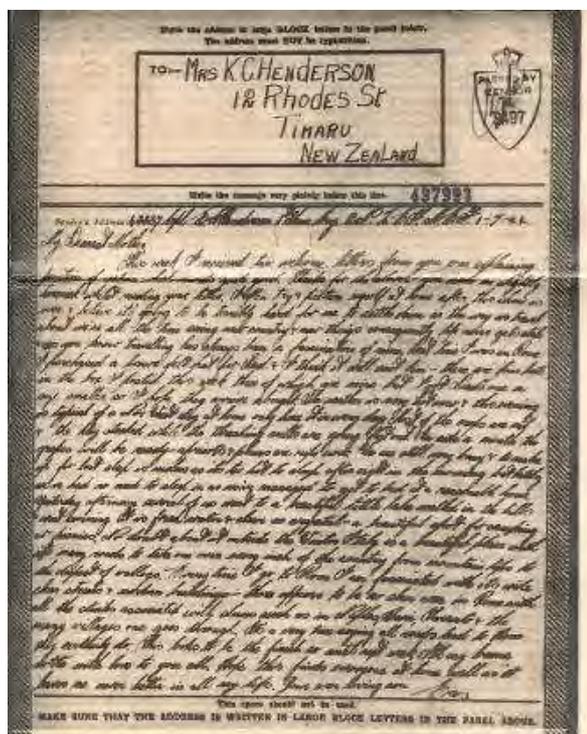
[1] Llewellyn, S. P. 1949. *Journey Towards Christmas.* Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Altina Area
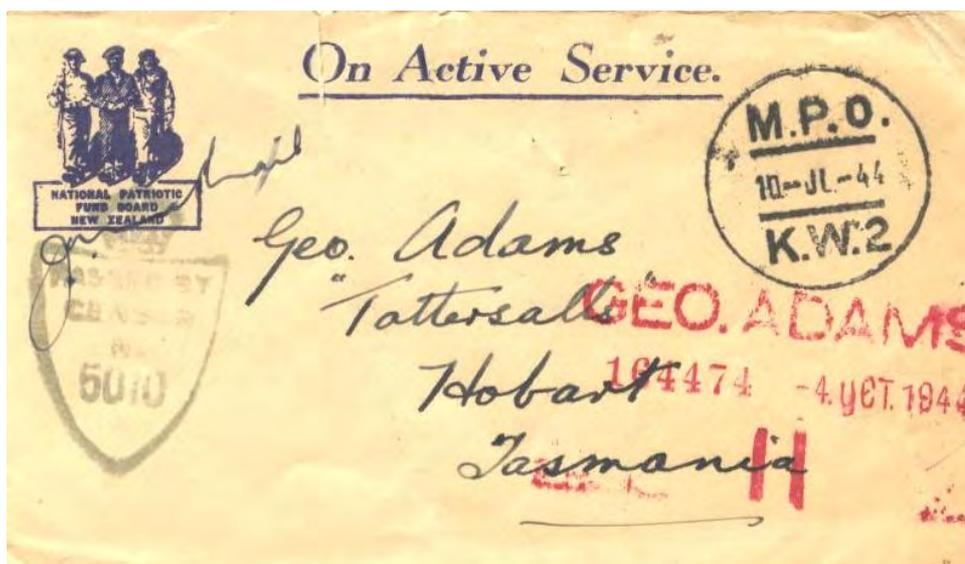
Cover from MPO KW 2 dated 10.7.44, located Atina Area, 4 6 44 to 10 7 44. This extends Startup & Proud date by 5 days. Crown over Shield 5010. The type of envelope is the type that is usually associated with mail from the 2 NZEF IP (Pacific). After the Pacific threat eased, many military personnel transferred to units in Italy. Assume this was brought to Italy by one of these transferees. **Surface mail free**

Near Florence
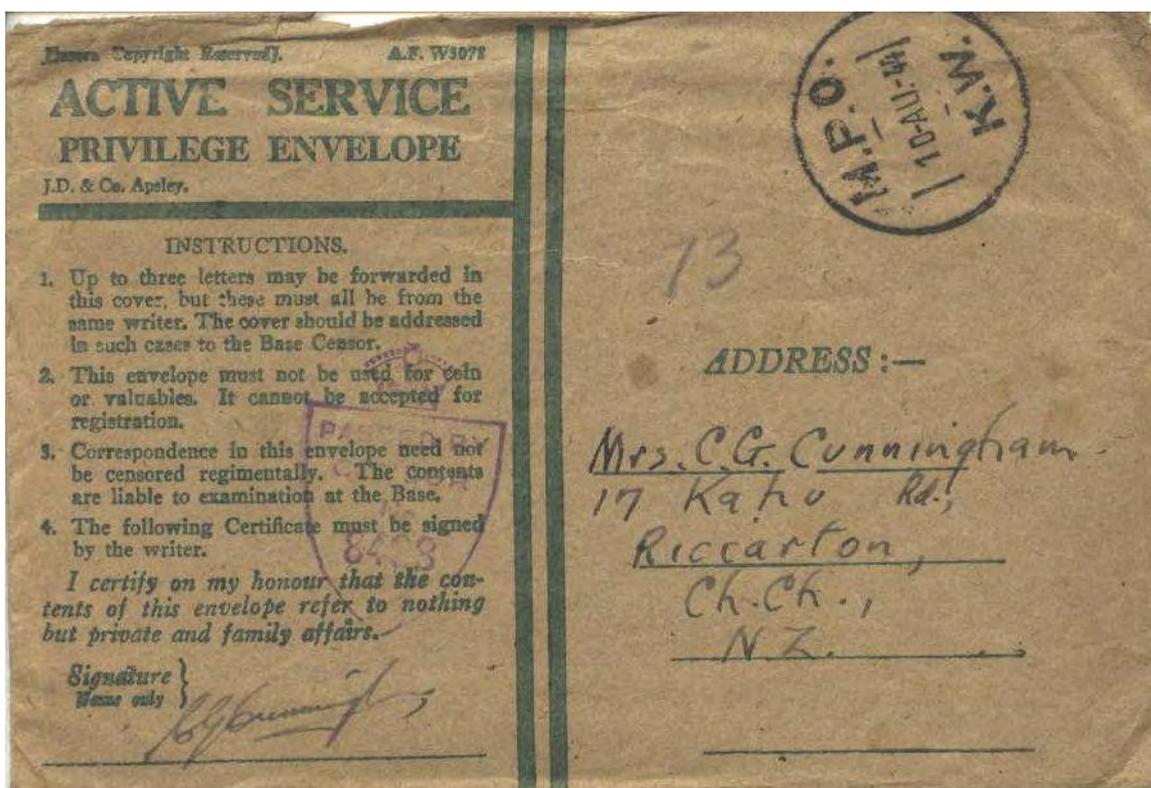
Cover (with enclosure) from MPO KW dated 10.8.44. The sender is Driver Clifford George Cunningham, 3 Platoon, 1 NZ Supply Company, 2 Division, Army Service Corp. According to the unit history he company moved to an area near Florence on the 4th August 1944.[2]   Surface mail free.

---

[2] Bates, P. W. 1955. *Supply Company.* Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Air Letter from **MPO KW 2** dated 10.8.44 which was located near Florence. The sender was Trooper Clement Lloyd Derrett, A Squadron, 18th Armoured Regiment. Florence had fallen to the allies on the 4.8.44, therefore 18th Armoured Brigade sidestepped left of Florence, and A Squadron was not far from the Pesa River between 6-15. 8.44.

Censor **Crown over Shield 3203.**

A 3d blue Geo VI New Zealand stamp paid the airmail rate.

Airmail Letter from **MPO KW 2** dated 23 SE 1944 which extends the date for the location near Florence. The sender Norman John Grant was a Captain with 38 Light Aid Detachment (LAD) which was permanently attached to 18 Armoured Regiment. 18th Armoured Regiment had rejoined 4th Armoured Brigade in August 1944. **[3]**

A LAD was a small mobile workshop to overhaul and make minor repairs to tanks and trucks and guns.

Censor cachet **Crown over Shield 3203.**

A 3d blue Geo VI NZ stamp paid the airmail rate.

Italy V: 25 August 1944 to 26 October 1944 — return to the Adriatic Coast near Rimini and advance to the Savio River

Jessi Area

Cover from MPO KW dated 28.9.44 located in the Jessi area from 25.8.44 to about 14.10.44. The sender Private James Stanley Rodger, D Company 26 Battalion which was taking part in the advance on the Fiumicino River and by the 28 September were about 8 miles north-west of Rimini.[4]

Censor crown over shield 6205 used by 26th Battalion.

A 3d blue Geo VI New Zealand stamp paid the airmail rate.

---

[3] Dawson, W. D. 1961. *18 Battalion and Armoured Regiment.* Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

[4] Norton, F. D. 1952. *26 Battalion.* Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Virserba

Cover from MPO KW 5 dated 11.10.44, located at Virserba 4.10.44 to about 23.10.44.

Crown over shield 1664.

Surface mail free
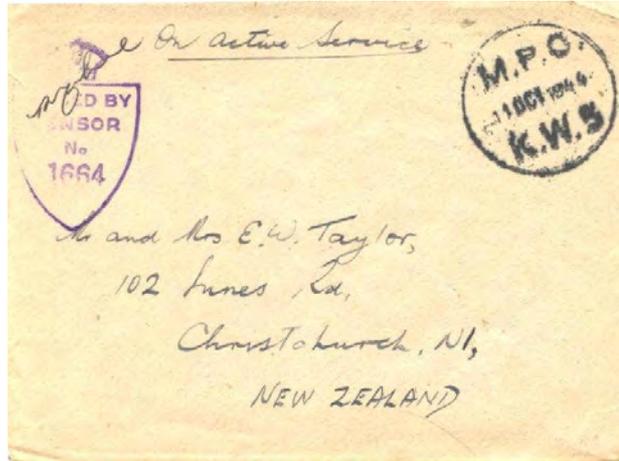
Italy VI: 27 October 1944 — 31 March 1945 — Faenza Area and the Senio River

Castelraimondo

Air Letter from MPO KW 5 located at Castelraimondo and dated 8.11.44.

KW 5 was located here from 29 10 44 to about 15. 11. 44. The NZ Division had withdrawn to a rest area in October 1944. The sender Private James Stanley Rodger D Company 26 Battalion.

Crown over shield 6205 censor cachet.

Lettercard rate 3d.

Inwards cover sent from New York dated 31.10.44 commemorating the First Day of Issue of the 3 cent 50th Anniversary of Motion Pictures with additional 2 x 1 cent Prexies to make up 5 cent standard rate. US censor strip.
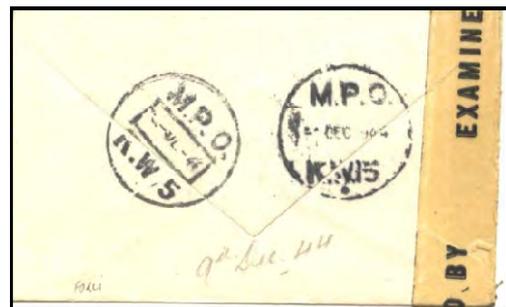
Backstamps: MPO KW 5 and MPO KW 15

Addressed to a Private with 3 Company 22 NZ Motor Battalion which, as part of the 2 NZ Division had been brought back into the offensive, after a period of rest, to help capture Faenza which was part of the drive to the Senio River. It was received at MPO KW 15, NZ Advanced Chief Post Office December 1944, and on-forwarded to MPO KW 5 at Forli which was located there 27.11.44 to 8.3.45. By this time 22 Battalion had reverted to an infantry Battalion.

Forli

Illustrated Christmas 1944 Airgraph (with envelope) from Private Harry Laughton, A Company, 25th Battalion. During December 1944, 25 Battalion of the 2nd NZ Division, a battalion in 5 Corps, took part in the advance to the Senio River. Probably posted through MPO KW 2, Forli Area 29.10.44 –1.3.45.

Airgraph rate 3d. This was applied to the back of the form on which the message was written prior to being photographed
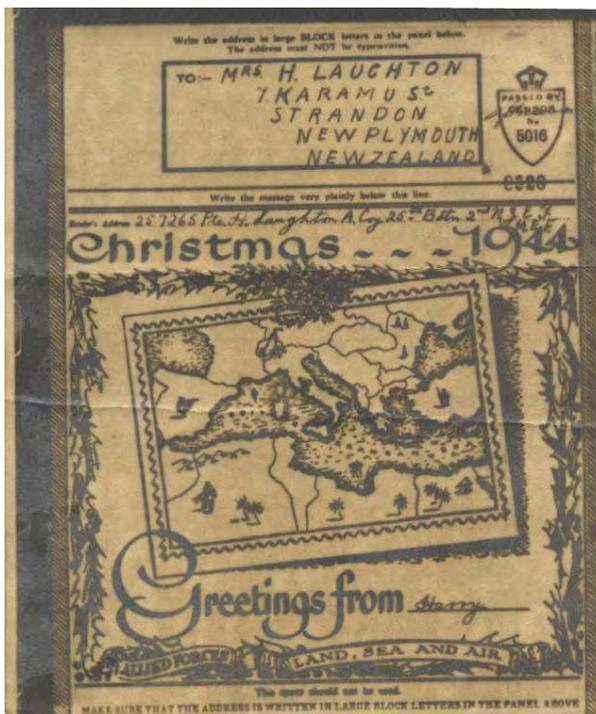
Air Letter from Captain Norman John Grant of 38th Light Aid Detachment (LAD) attached to 18th Armoured Regiment. A LAD was a small mobile workshop to overhaul and make minor repairs to tanks and trucks and guns.

Dated 14.12.44 posted through MPO KW 5 at Forli.

Crown over Shield 3203 used by 18th Regiment and its attachments.

Air Letter rate 3d.

Air Letter from MPO KW 5 dated 11.12.44, KW 5 located at Forli, 27.11.44 to 8.3.45.

Sender Corporal Clement Lloyd Derrett, A Squadron 18th Armoured Regiment. Attack on Faenza

Crown over Shield 3203.

Airletter rate 3d.

Hospital Ship

Air Letter from MPO KW 15 (stamp removed) dated early January 1945, (letter dated 1 January 1945), KW 15 was the NZ Advanced Chief Post Office located at Bari 4.10.44 to 28.11.45. Posted on board the No 1 Netherlands Hospital Ship 'Orange.'

Private Frederick George Edgecombe was with New Zealand Medical Corp (NZMC). He served on this vessel.

Air Letter postal address NZCPO 2 NZEF. The censor No 47 was the Orange Censor cachet. This is quite scarce

Ancona

Inwards cover from Northern Rhodesia to Private with 22 Battalion. Received at Army Base Post Office at Cairo 20.1.45. Here it has been readdressed in manuscript to 1GH (1 NZ General Hospital).

Received at MPO KW 8 (1 NZGH) at Ancona, Senigala 23.1.45, MPO KW 15, Advanced Chief PO, Bari 25.1.45, MPO KW 12, 2 NZ HQ, Ancona, Senigala, 30.1.45, back to MPO KW 15, 5.2.45 and finally MPO KW 5 February 1945.

Airmail rate 4d.
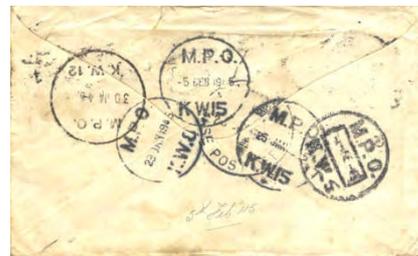
Various backstamps in an attempt to locate Gibbs.

Bari, San Basilio

Air Letter from Sergeant George Arthur Spooner with C Depot Advance Base 2 NZEF and posted through MPO KW 14, the NZ Advanced Base Camp, Bari, San Basilio where it was located from 1.10.43 to 10.2.46.

Dated 13.1.45 and censored by Crown over Shield censor 8601. This censor was held by Div. Engineers C Depot Advanced Base 2NZEF.

Spooner first sailed for the Middle East in 1941 as a sergeant with Light Anti Aircraft Regiment. He returned to NZ probably in one of the furlough drafts. He returned in 1944 as part of NZ 2nd Div Artillery.

Air Letter rate 3d.

To be continued

The Booker Correspondence Legacy

Michael Barden

Recently I purchased from John & Jan Fitzpatrick in Auckland two interesting covers, which had emanated from Labuan in North Borneo in 1948 (see back cover of this AJP). Both had gone to Bermuda in the BWI, as had three other unsold envelopes without any instructional markings, the scans of which John kindly sent me for this article. My interest was the AV2 markings, one of which was manuscript and the other Heifetz type 4. These had both been applied in Singapore. The type 4 only existed for 1948 with 32 (of 38 total sighted) being identified as belonging to that year. The ERD and LRD respectively were 5 August and 4 December 1948.

While I do not collect and study AV2 markings as I do with OAT, I needed a good manuscript marking as an illustration to go hand in glove with other instructional markings for airmails. Moreover, as both letters had Singapore backstamps, the type 4 (only used in Singapore) acted as a proving mark for the manuscript one and where it was applied.

These letters had been posted to Mrs Viola Booker, who lived in St Georges, Bermuda. The sender was Chin Yin Fah, who worked for the English conglomerate tea and coffee merchants, Harrisons and Crossfield, in Victoria on Labuan Island. John Fitzpatrick told me that these two corresponded both before and after WW2, their common interest being stamps, in which she traded apparently. The five letters sighted are all registered and correctly franked.   John continued, "I have also read some of the enclosures and formed the impression that that the covers were not the product of a rabid creation in themselves but carried content reflecting a page or two of dialogue about this and that. In other words, it was an adult 'pen pal' association with stamps as the common thread".

Let us examine first the three letters without AV2 markings:-

19 May 1948 registered letter from Victoria, Labuan, $1.05 franking
[postage 10c, registration 15c and airmail 80c (Singapore to BWI)]
Backstamped **Singapore D 29 May 1948**. Note registration rubber stamp.

The three stamps have been overprinted with Crown over GR (1947) and "*The State of*" and "*British Protectorate*" obliterated using red ink. North Borneo became a British Crown Colony in July 1946, later becoming part of Malaysia. Japanese occupation damage had been so great that the Protectorate Company was effectively bankrupted.

17 January 1949 registered letter with $1.05 franking as before
Backstamped **Singapore D 20 Jan 1949**
A nice block of five Silver Wedding newly issued stamps used for the stamp dealer.
Note the return of printed registration labels

16 May 1951 registered airmail letter with $1.20 franking

Backstamped **Singapore E 17 May 1951**
1950 issue stamps with SG366 "Jesselton" 50c red.
Postage = 10c
Registration = 20c
Airmail from Labuan to BWI = 90c
New double circle **Registration/Labuan** cds for Victoria

For the two letters shown on the back page, both had the red ink rubber handstamp applied, as did the first one in this article. Franking was $1.05 from 1947 to 1949, when letters went by boat to Singapore and air thereafter. Due to the distance between Singapore and Labuan being around 1200 km, the top letter on the back cover must have gone there per favour by air. By 1951 there would have been a regular airmail. No ship could have covered that distance in 24 hours.

The two stamps were overprinted with BMA in 1945 when the British Military Administration took over North Borneo and Malaya after liberation. They do not carry the red obliteration at the top as do the other stamps on the envelope.

Singapore backstamps for the two back page covers.

Top is 1 Aug 48 and the bottom is 15 Dec 48

The number of Manuscript AV2s for Singapore is unknown but very small.

Overall, five interesting covers from the Booker Correspondence, which have survived a turbulent post war period. That two received AV2 marks to denote quantities and destinations carried in an open bag is serendipitous. (E Proud books on North Borneo and Malaya were used for rates).

Colin Salt

Found loose in the system/posting box

Copied from the cover shown below.

The cover has been slightly cropped right and left.

Inside the envelope was a letter of explanation/apology. The letter is copied on the next page.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Mail missorted and opened in error/Delayed

I am writing to let you know that the enclosed mail was recently returned to Australia Post by a customer who had received your mail in error.

Our investigations of the situation suggests that your mail was inadvertently missorted into another recipient's GPO Box where some were opened by the company's automatic opening machine. While instances, such as this, do occasionally occur it is usual for the unintended recipient to return the mail to us promptly. . Unfortunately, this did not occur on this occasion and the recipient took some time to return the mail to us.

I am sure you will understand that the integrity and reliability of the mail is paramount, and we are embarrassed to discover that a situation like this has occurred.

Please accept my personal apology for any inconvenience you have experienced as a result of your mail not being delivered on time. You can be assured that processes are now in place to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me on 03 - 9293 6806 between 11am – 6pm Monday to Friday.

Yours faithfully,

Customer Service
Dandenong Letters Centre

Hand Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Information from Richard Peck stated that the Priority Paid from SYDNEY GPO 2000 COLONNADE was just one of the many datestamps used at the Sydney Post Office.

I received a disc from Colin Salt stating that he had purchased an accumulation of Queensland covers. He sent me a disc of all postmarks not listed in the latest edition of Cowan & Dell Queensland datestamp book. As I do not have the time to time to research all the datestamps, as they appear to be from 1992 to 2000 which was when Bob Tobin was co-ordinating HHDS, I can forward them on via 5 or 6 emails as it runs to 67 pages .

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

N.S.W.:- BATHURST UNIVERSITY has dateline in red


TAS.:-Earlier datestamp-PROSPECT (103/31)

QLD:-Earlier datestamps—LABRADOR (107/26) MANSFIELD (120/25), NORTH IPSWICH (120/26) ROCKHAMPTON (102/26) TOWNSVILLE (98/23)


26

QLD:-(cont)

TOWNSVILLE / 2 JUN 2011 / QLD. AUST. 4810

ROCKHAMPTON MAIL CENTRE / 19 OCT 2011 / QLD. AUST. 4702

SPRING HILL / 2 / 2 2 JUN 2011 / QLD. 4004

STAFFORD HEIGHTS / 15 SEP 2011 / 4 / QLD 4053

S.A:-RELIEF 3 was used at JAMESTOWN

ARDROSSAN / 1 8 JUN 2012 / SA 5571

BEACHPORT / 1 5 JUN 2012 / SA 5280

CRYSTAL BROOK / 2 1 JUN 2012 / SA 5523

EUDUNDA / 1 2 NOV 2010 / SA 5374

GLADSTONE / 2 1 JUN 2012 / SA 5473

IRON KNOB / 0 6 SEP 2010 / SA 5601

KAPUNDA / 2 0 JUN 2012 / SA 5373

KAPUNDA PAID / 2 1 JUN 2012 / S-AUST-5373

LAMEROO / 2 1 JUN 2012 / SA 5302

PINNAROO / 2 2 JUN 2012 / SA 5304

PROSPECT EAST POST SHOP / 2 1 JUN 2012 / SA 5082

RELIEF / 2 0 JUN 2012
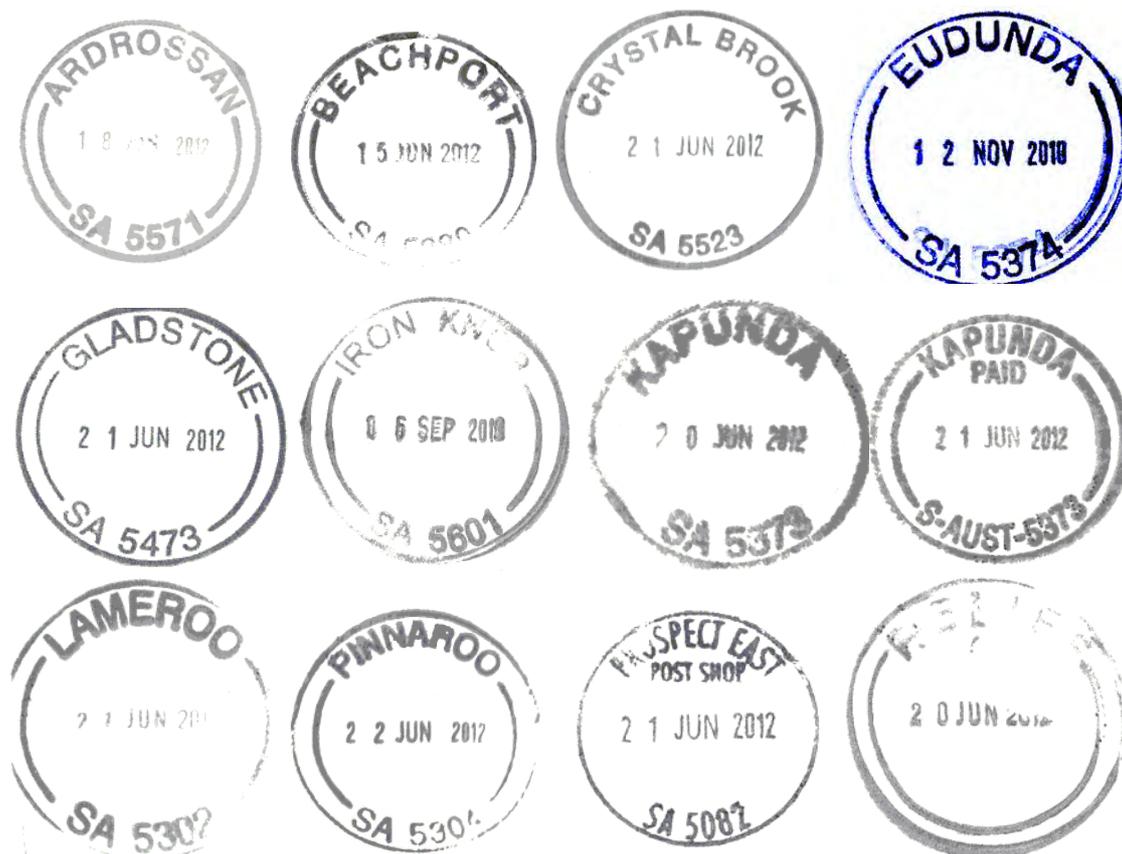
VIC.:-Earlier datestamps-BALACLAVA (111/29) CROYDON NORTH (101/29) CROYDON SOUTH (116/26), FOREST HILL(101/29), HEATHMONT (107/28)

POST SHOP / 1 / - 7 APR 2011 / BALACLAVA VIC - 3183 AUST

BALWYN NORTH PAID / 0 / VIC

BEDFORD ROAD / - 9 MAR 2012 / VIC 3135

BENNETTSWOOD / 2 3 MAR 2012 / VIC 3125

BURNT BRIDGE / 2 4 FEB 2012 / VIC 3136

BURNT BRIDGE / 2 4 FEB 2012 / VIC 3136

BURNT BRIDGE PAID / 2 4 FEB 2012 / VIC 3136

CAMBERWELL EAST / 2 3 MAR 2012 / VIC 3126

27

VIC:-Earlier datestamps-MONT ALBERT (120/280), POWELLTOWN (in violet)(118/29)
TEMPLESTOWE HEIGHTS (102/29) UNDERBOOL (117/29)

CAULFIELD JUNCTION
2 1 ...
VIC 3161

CHIRNSIDE PARK
9 MAR 2012
VIC 3116

CROYDON
1
- 9 MAR 2012
VIC 3136

CROYDON
2
- 9 MAR 2012
VIC 3135

CROYDON
5
- 9 MAR 2012
VIC 3136

CROYDON SOUTH POST OFFICE
9 MAR 2012
VIC 3136

FOREST HILL
- 9 MAY 2012
1
VIC. - 3131

FOREST HILL
- 9 MAY 2012
3
VIC - 3131

TERM...
1
1 ...
Geelong Post Office
3220

HEATHMONT
0 9 MAR 2011
VIC 3135

HOLMESGLEN
2 3 MAR 2012
VIC 3148

LETHBRIDGE
1 2 JUL 2012
VIC 3332

LILYDALE
1
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC. - 3140

LILYDALE
2
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC. - 3140

LILYDALE
4
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC. - 3140

RETAIL POST SHOP
1 8 JUN 2002
1
MILDURA VIC 3500

RETAIL POST SHOP
1 8 JUN 2002
3
MILDURA VIC 3500

RETAIL POST SHOP
2 3 JUN 1998
C
MILDURA VIC 3500

RETAIL POST SHOP
2 3 JUN 1998
E
MILDURA VIC 3500

MILDURA
- 2 JUL 1997
K
VIC 3500

MONT ALBERT
1 9 MAR 2012
VIC 3127

MOUNT WAVERLEY
AUSTRALIA POST
7 JUN 2012
BUSINESS HUB
VIC 3149

NORTH ROAD
1 5 AUG 2011
VIC 3187

PARK ORCHARDS
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC 3114

VIC:-(cont)

POWELLTOWN
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC 3797

POST SHOP RINGWOOD
A
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC. 3134

POST SHOP RINGWOOD
C
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC. 3134

POST SHOP RINGWOOD
D
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC. 3134

RINGWOOD EAST
0-9 MAR 2012
VIC 3135

SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET ST P.O
2 3 JUN 2011
3

SURREY HILLS
2 3 MAR 2012
VIC 3127

TEMPLESTOWE HEIGHTS
1 5 DEC 2010
VIC 3107

TEMPY
2 3 JUN 2000
VIC AUST 3489

UNDERBOOL
2 8 OCT 2002
VIC 3509

WANDIN NORTH
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC 3139

WARBURTON
PAID
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC 3799

LICENSED POST OFFICE
2 3 MAR 2012
WATTLE PARK 3128

WILLIAMSTOWN POST SHOP
(4)
- 9 FEB 2010
VIC 3016

WONGA PARK
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC 3115

WONGA PARK
PAID
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC 3115

WONGA PARK
2 4 FEB 2012
VIC 3115

WOORI YALLOCK
1 1 MAY 2012
VIC 3139

WYCHEPROOF
1 8 NOV 2010
VIC 3527

WYCHEPROOF
PAID
1 8 NOV 2010
VIC 3527

W.A.:-Earlier datestamp-FALCON (108/29)

SWANBOURNE
0 2 OCT 2010
WA 6010

CALINGIRI
- 5 JUL 2011
WA 6569

COOLBELLUP
2 0 JUL 2012

FALCON
0 3 OCT 2011
WA 6210

What YOU can do to help
the Australian Philatelic Society

♦   Sign up a new member

♦   Write an article for the Journal (Better still, write two!)

♦   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

Two Registered Airmail Letters sent in 1948 from Victoria, Labuan Island, North Borneo to Bermuda, BWI

Earliest known Heifetz AV2 type 4 (ERD is 5 Aug 48) having 1 Aug 48 Singapore backstamp

These two letters form part of the Booker Correspondence
See "The Booker Correspondence Legacy" article inside