

# Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 140 June 2017



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<b>Date</b>	<b>2016 /17 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
19 June 2017	Michael Barden	Skymaster stamps on airmail letters 1946—1959
21 August 2017	AGM - David Kajewski	Postcards from Mac
16 October 2017	Tony Lyon	WW2 Pacific Forces

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<b>Front Cover</b>	
Overseas express delivery from St Kilda (3 May 1961) to Tel Aviv (7 May—Backstamp). Correctly franked 5 sh. And 3 pence for airmail (2 sh.), Registration (2 sh.) and special delivery (1 sh. 3 pence).	



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Did you have the opportunity to visit Melbourne 2017 and Royalpex 125 which was held in late March early April at the Caulfield Racecourse? It was a very good exhibition in spite of some of the issues that some raised. Lighting could have been better and some of the aisles were narrow. However in order to make the aisles wider would have resulted in a number of exhibits not being on show, which would have been very disappointing to those who missed out.

There was a good number of dealers with many opportunities to find something for a collection or future exhibit. Over all it seemed to me to be a successful show and congratulations to the organisers and volunteers. I was able to attend each day and it was good to meet other collectors. Achieving a vermeil for my WWII New Zealand postal history entry was the icing on the cake.

Congratulations for those members who exhibited. The problem with these great opportunities that a so few and far between, is being able to inspect exhibits of interest. There never seems to be enough time.

Keep the articles coming. The cupboard is looking a little bare. Thank you to those regular contributors for enabling a journal to be published.

Finally, it was sad to hear that Dr Maurice Alan Mishkel, a contributor to this journal, and many other journals, passed away October 2, 2016.

Ciao for now.

## Privacy Statement

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## From The President

Some of our members belong to the Melbourne Papua and New Guinea Study Circle. Its convenor is Max Bulley, one of our long-standing members. This year the Circle has published a really elegant syllabus for its meetings which are held at the premises of the Brighton Philatelic Society, corner of Gardenvale and Magnolia Roads, Gardenvale.

The Circle's remaining meetings for 2017 are;

7.30 pm 25 Aug, Australian Stamp usage in PNG, 1945-53

8.00 pm 24 Nov, Members' display [6 pages]

Visitors are very welcome.

Speaking of Papua New Guinea, those of us of a certain age may remember queuing at the Melbourne Philatelic Bureau to buy current mint PNG stamps. The Bureau was in the postal hall of the Russell Street post office, just to the right of the sales counter shown in the picture below.

The postal hall was on the ground floor of the multi-storey Russell Street telephone exchange, situated on a minor landmark known Russell Hill. If you stand at the street corner you can see that the land falls away in three directions.

In its day the building was a postwar spectacle. It was designed and built under the supervision of the Commonwealth Department of Works from 1948 to 1954; construction took five years. The design was a notable departure from pre-war buildings, with an interlocking cubic design and pink granite Doric columns. The interior echoed 1930s Italianate Modernism with a dashing striped floor and smart metal grill work.



Postal Hall – Russell Exchange



Former Russell Street Telephone Exchange (2017)

Of course the exchange was built for the old copper network. In 2002 the building was converted to apartments, and the postal hall was turned over to shops and a restaurant. The exterior of the building,



Hermes Sculpture, former Russell Street telephone exchange



## Letters using Skymaster Airmail Stamps of 1946 – Part 1

### Michael Barden

The four values of these Belgian stamps on tinted paper were printed on the Stickney press between February 1946 and 1950 only. After that the new Swiss Wifag press was installed in its place to do the general printing. Only 50 and 100 Fr values were printed on the Wifag press in 1954 and they were on white paper using the existing master dies.



Blue/blue



Brown-lilac/brown-lilac



Yellow-green/yellow-green



Grey-black/grey

1946-1950 Stickney  
printed stamps above  
Format 37 x 21.5 mm  
P 11½

1954 Wifag printed  
stamps on right  
Format 38 x 21 mm  
P 13¼ x 11½



Yellow-green/white



Grey-black/white

With the resurgence of SABENA (*Société Anonyme Belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation Aérienne*) after WW2 using current American planes, the Belgian government wished to issue a set of airmail stamps, the lowest two values of which were designed specifically for use on the Belgium – Belgian Congo route. 6 Fr (per 5 gm) was the airmail rate and the 8<sup>50</sup> Fr also contained 2<sup>50</sup> Fr for postage (issued 23 Feb 46). The 50 and 100 Fr values were for meatier parcels (issued 20 Jun 46). The sudden advent of the -10% regime on 20 May 1946 lowered the postage to 2<sup>25</sup> Fr, which meant the 8<sup>50</sup> Fr stamp lost its primary use. Even so, quantities printed were such that I possess covers up to 1960, ten years later using Stickney printed stamps.

On 24 February, Sabena inaugurated the 25 Hour flight to Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) with the letter shown below organised by the Royal Aero Club of Belgium. Only the 6 Fr stamp was used!





The next letter a month later shows the intended usage of 6 & 8 Fr stamps on a 10gm letter. Despite 23 February issue date, 8<sup>50</sup> Fr stamps were in insufficient supply for the 24 Feb Congo run's needs.



The three Ostend-Dover Ferry stamps, issued 14 June 46 to mark the centenary of that service, hurriedly had the new values inserted, and were the first stamps issued after 20 May 10% 'revaluation'. The 2<sup>25</sup> Fr replaced the 2<sup>50</sup> Fr component of the 8<sup>50</sup> Fr stamp as shown next.





On 15 December 48, postage and registration rose to 3 & 4 Fr respectively, but from 1 Jan 47 the airmail rate had halved to 3 Fr per 5 gm. The next letter is a 10gm 1949 example.



On other routes, postage did not fit neatly, and make up stamps were needed. To Buenos Aires I show two letters. Airmail to South America rose after 1946 without first decreasing like most other destinations. Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr, airmail 5 Fr/5gm (1 Mar 46 – 31 Mar 48)



The second letter below shows the airmail rate now 6<sup>50</sup> Fr / 5gm with 3<sup>15</sup> Fr postage. Paid 6 Fr airmail without penalty. (16 Sep 48). 1 Dec 49 the airmail rose to 8 Fr/5gm.





Next is a 1949 letter to Brazil with postage and registration 4 Fr each and airmail 6 Fr / 5 gm, but paid 6<sup>50</sup> as for Argentina. As the addressee did not have a current box (boxed cachet) in Sao Paulo, the letter was returned to Belgium by boat as address unknown. Verviers cds of 26 Sep 49 (back).



In Europe airmail cost, when it existed, was per 1 or 2 Fr per 20 gm. Later with free airmail, postage was the same whatever means was used to deliver the letter. There are no indications to help. To end part 1, I wish to show three European letters. They are letters to Austria, Switzerland and UK.

August 1959 airmail letter to Graz weighing 41 – 60 gm & paying 11 Fr postage (5 Fr ≤ 20 gm + 3 FR per 20 gm over. Registration 6 Fr. Back stamped Graz 5 days later suggests rail transport at least from Vienna. A pair of 8<sup>50</sup> Fr stamps was used for correct franking.





Mar 1946 Express letter to Geneva below, paying 3<sup>50</sup> Fr postage, 2 Fr airmail and 7 Fr express fee. Paid 1<sup>50</sup> Fr too much. My guess is 1<sup>50</sup> Fr stamp was already affixed when the letter was posted at the Plaza Hotel (envelope flap). 4 Fr added making the letter overpaid. Were the 2 Fr only stamps all that was available? What was 1<sup>50</sup> Fr in the overall express cost anyway?



This 1947 express letter to Scarborough was overpaid 5c, requiring 3<sup>15</sup> Fr postage, 6<sup>30</sup> Fr express fee and 1 Fr airmail. Both postage and express fee are 10% less than for the previous letter (20 May 46 was the advent of the -10% regime). Both boxed express fee paid and blue line (back & front) were added in London.



The second part will show letters to USA, Canada, Venezuela and South Africa.

The last part will show special flights made as new planes came along to open new distances without refuelling as well as special events that went with these changes.

The period after WW2 saw great strides being made compared with the 1930s. The need for better planes during WW2 was now manifesting itself commercially. 1960 saw the advent of the Sabena commercial jet age.

I trust readers have enjoyed this postal history foray into post WW2 flights using Belgium's Skymaster stamps from the old Stickney press. Postmasters and users obviously had great trouble mastering the frequent changes in postage and particularly airmail rates.

I wrote this article initially for Belgapost, the journal of the Belgian Philatelic Study Circle in UK. As the readership is entirely different, I have adapted the three articles for Australian readers.

#### References.

1. Les Tarifs Postaux Internationaux, vol 3, 1892-1988, E & M Deneumostier
2. La Poste Aérienne en Belgique, ses debuts – ses tarifs, E & M Deneumostier



## Write Your Own Article

### Ian Cutter

The two covers illustrated were found together at a Stamp Fair in Ballarat. They attract attention because of their differing “philatelic” status (see article in earlier AJP), as well as their remote places of origin.

The cover from CRAIG HARBOUR has been opened by slicing cleanly with a sharp blade across the top; it is empty. On the back, the return address reads “W. White, 20 Rusholme Road, Saskatoon, Sask.” There are three different date-stamps: CRAIG HARBOUR / SP 5 / 36 / N.W.T ; HALIFAX / OC 1 / 36 / CANADA; and VANCOUVER / OC 6 / 36 / B.C..



Craig Harbour



Pond's Inlet

There is nothing on the back of the one from PONDS INLET. It is empty and unsealed

When you look closely at the date-stamps, you can see the covers actually originated quite close together; both in space and time.

An article was prepared considering this fact further.

Then somebody stole the laptop, that contained the draft.

To reconstruct the story, one can proceed as follows.

- Use Google Earth to view the locations of Ponds Inlet and Craig Harbour, and the photographs showing their current appearance.
- Use Wikipedia to study the history of each site. In each case not extensive but interesting.
- Use Wikipedia to find out about the R.M.S. *Nascope*.
- Proving trials show its maximum speed, and there is at least one account of a voyage between the two locations of interest.
- Check some Canadian Postal history to see if postage was sufficient.
- Search for FYFE & Grey. There is at least one other cover similar to this one, and another design was prepared for the maiden voyage of the RMS *Queen Mary*.

Consider the question “could the two covers have travelled together?” [Answer –Probably for part of the journey.]

Also, could the unsealed cover have been inside the other one, taking into account that it would explain their being found together, the cover has not been folded, and the cover can, with care, be made to slide down inside the other, but when fully inserted the inside cover protrudes by about one millimetre.

[Answer –Ingenious theory, but probably not.]

Note the subsequent service of the *Nascope*, and think about a specialised facet of postal history “salvaged mail from travelling post offices”.

It has been said that, “When we explore the caves of history, each of us carries their own lantern”. I wish I could remember where it came from.

## Japanese Conquest and Defeat in World War II.

### 4. More Japanese Occupation plus Resistance in PNG

**Ian Sadler**

The first three articles covered Japanese conquest and occupation of Asian countries from the Philippines to Burma. This one continues Japan's occupation, but in Papua New Guinea, it is challenged by Australian troops.

#### Occupation of North Borneo

The Japanese invaded Borneo via the oil field on Tarakan Island in Dutch Borneo on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1942 and, by the end of the month, they had taken North Borneo.



Unusual philatelic cover with Japanese overprint of Brunei set showing canoe on Brunei River and Water Village. Cover posted in Kuching, North Borneo in August 1945. Handstamp says 'Imperial Japanese Government'.



Japanese propaganda postcard, unused, showing Japanese soldiers on beach near oil tanks in Borneo campaign.



### Attempted occupation of Papua New Guinea: ADF soldier writes home

Whilst Rabaul in New Britain had been occupied in January, it was only in July 1942 that the Japanese tried to conquer the PNG mainland. Contested landings on the north coast led to a protracted battle with the Australians.



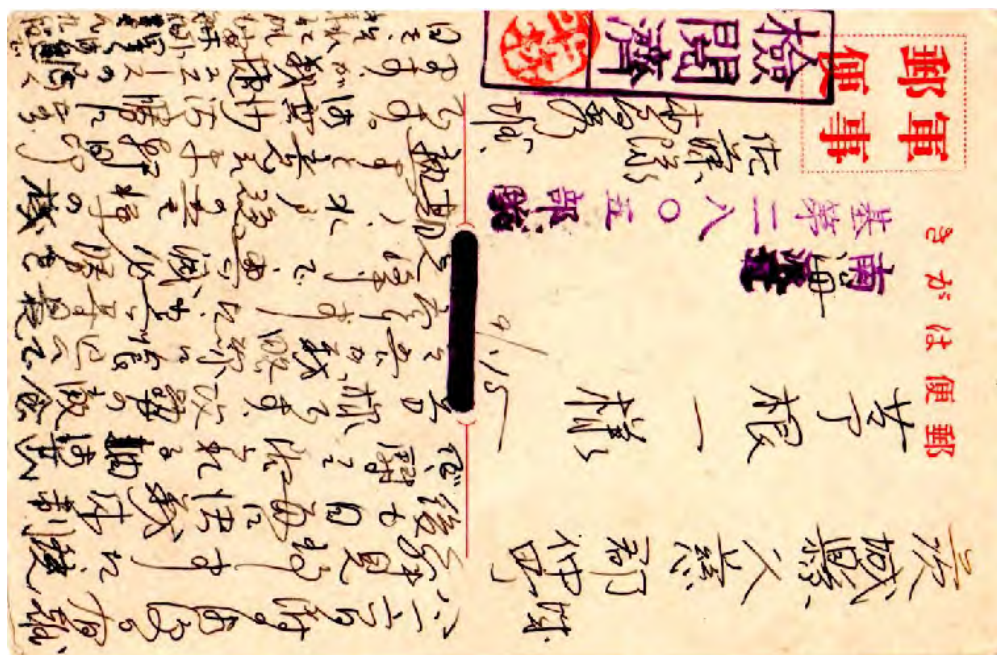
Censored airmail cover without stamps 'Unprocurable' sent from the Base Post Office at Koitaki, Port Moresby, PNG to Sydney in April 1942



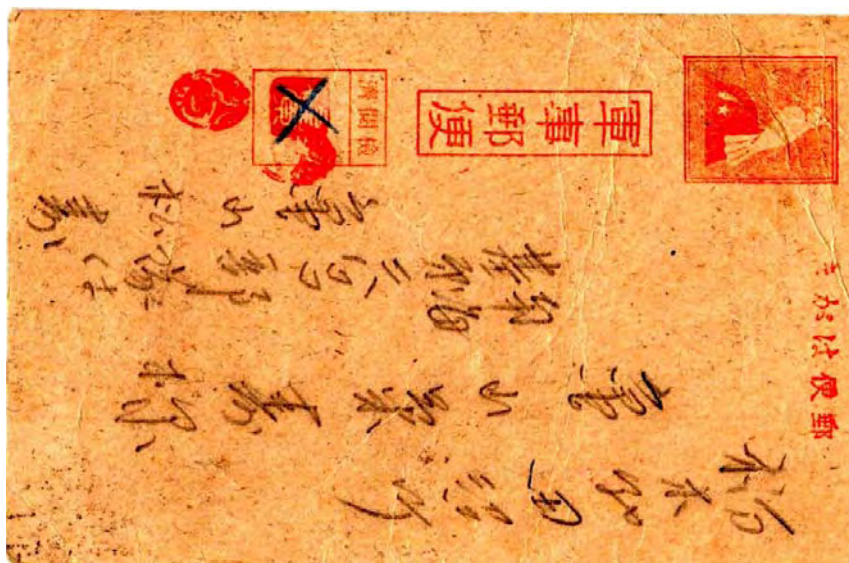
Censored RAAF cover with 3x 1d Australian stamps sent from New Guinea Force postal unit in Port Moresby to Walgett, NSW in December, 1942.



Japanese soldiers in New Guinea also wrote home



Soldier in logistics unit Moto 2805 in eastern New Guinea sent this postcard to a friend in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. Reverse, below, is a drawing of the palm trees he sees. Purple characters in rectangle indicate censored whilst pink is censor's chop. Date between March 1943 and August 1945.



Japanese soldier of the HQ 51<sup>st</sup> Division, South Sea, writes in pencil to a relative in Tochigi Prefecture.

The chop for censor 'Fukunaru' has been replaced by one for 'Ogiwara'. The date is between March 1943 and August 1945.



## The Fight for New Guinea and Papua

The Japanese held the Bismarck Archipelago and Lae but they were thwarted by the Australians in their attempt to conquer Port Moresby and southern Papua.



Censored air mail letter to Queensland from unknown AIF Field Post in Papua in October 1942, and bearing Papuan stamps.



Scarce cover from Noumea, New Caledonia, sent airmail for 7.50 francs to Sydney in October 1943 on a United States transport plane. Censored in New Caledonia with black script on pink tape plus circular violet cachet. Also censored on arrival in Sydney with white tape and a diamond cachet 'PASSED BY CENSOR 1657'.

# Allied Communications and Prisoners of War letters



'K.B.B. On Active Service' entire from Gunner Wright at FPO III in India to Sydney in September 1943. This interesting cover bears 3 censor marks, purple circle in India, triangle 'held censor India' and Tombstone (Australia). Meaning of K.B.B. is not known.



Censored, registered cover from Melbourne to Rochester, New York State. Back stamps of its reverse (part below) show that, leaving in August 1943, it took over a month to reach Rochester.





## Allied Prisoners of War held in Japan and Thailand

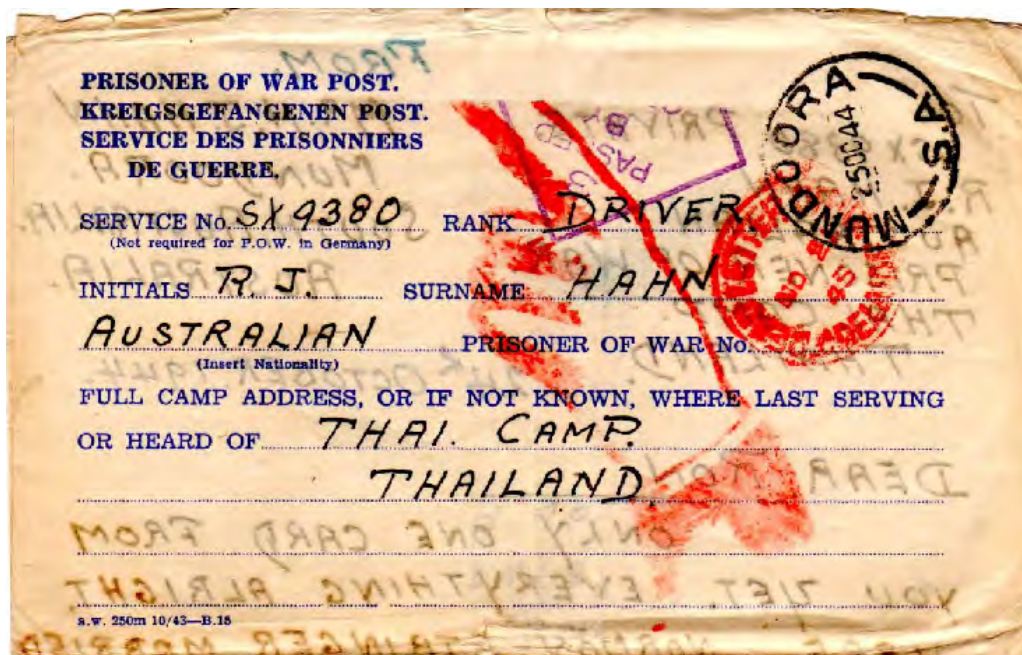
POWs were starved, bullied and made to work whilst sick by their Japanese captors, who regarded them as having lost their honour when they surrendered.



Australian Red Cross envelope sent from Mrs Mackinnon in Sydney to her husband. As a shipping employee, he was a civilian internee in Kyushu, Japan in August 1943.

*The censor uses a violet diamond cachet. The reverse has both Australian and Japanese censor marks and tape.*

Perhaps the worst treatment of POWs in the Pacific occurred to those sent from Singapore to build 300 km of railway from Thailand to Burma to support Japanese Armies aiming to capture British India.



This rare, censored Red Cross letter sheet was sent from Mandoora, South Australia, to Driver Ron Hahn by his father in October 1944.

Unfortunately Hahn had died in Burma a year earlier.

On the reverse is stamped 'Return to sender ... by Direction of the Minister for the Army...'

The fifth instalment of this series will look at the progressive Japanese withdrawal from all their occupied territories.

## Australian Non Post Office Wrappers

### John Young

In the journal of March 2017 Dr. John Courtis observed that among the thousands of Australian postal wrappers he has inspected, he has found only nine non-post office examples from New South Wales. I agree that they seem to be elusive. Whilst not actively searching for them, I've found only three, two from Victoria and one from NSW. Two of them ended up overseas, and how they came back to Australia is anyone's guess.

The Australian Stamp Monthly was well known to many of us. It was started in 1930 by Alec Rosenblum [1895 - 1973], an eminent philatelist who wrote extensively on Australian stamps. He was forced to sell the Monthly to another publisher, Horticultural Press in 1935, which issued the journal until its last number. Horticultural Press had its printery at Orr Street, South Carlton, and had a stable of agricultural and horticultural journals, beginning with the *Australasian Nurseryman and Seedsman* [1902]. Its best known journal was the *Garden Lover* [1925].



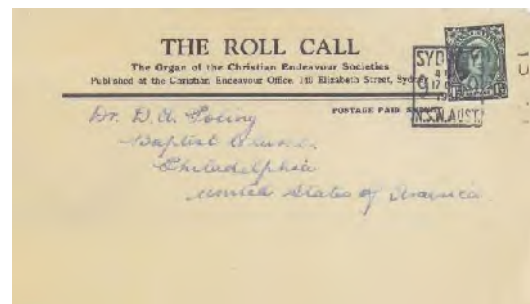
The Stamp Monthly wrapper shown below was recycled. Its first use was to Mr. S Marks of Unley, South Australia; the postage was denoted by 'Postage/Paid/Melbourne', now concealed under the two stamps. Mr. Marks re-mailed the Monthly to Mr. Hunwicks in Surrey, England, affixing stamps to the value of 2½ pence. The sender apparently thought that the postage to England would be the same as in Australia [as for surface mail letters], but the price to British Commonwealth countries was 3½ pence.



The Spectator and Methodist Chronicle [1875] was published by the Spectator Publishing Co. Ltd at 270 Post Office Place [Little Bourke Street], Melbourne. In 1953 the journal was renamed *The Spectator: Methodist Weekly for Victoria and Tasmania*, which probably explains why the wrapper was addressed to River Forth in Tasmania. The wrapper is printed to private order, with the correct franking of a halfpenny, printed in yellow. The design is the same as the halfpenny stamp first issued in 1886 with the colour lilac-grey. Several reprints were coloured pink, pale red and green. The wrapper is postmarked Melbourne, with the year either 1897 or 1907.

The Roll Call was published in Sydney from 1897 to 1961. It was the journal of the NSW Christian Endeavour Union [1890], an evangelical Christian youth movement that started in USA in 1881 among Protestant churches.

The Roll Call magazine wrapper is addressed to USA. It is inscribed 'Postage Paid Sydney' and has a 1½ penny stamp added. Assuming that 'Postage Paid' covered the basic 2 ounces rate to a foreign address, the extra 1½ pence would have been for the next weight step in 1950. Alternatively, the magazine got through the postal system underpaid.





## New Zealand Musings – New Zealand at War 1939-1945

### Tony Lyon

IN OCTOBER 1940 the main body of a force of brigade strength (B Force) went to Suva, Fiji, in the *Rangatira* and *HMS Monowai*. They made three voyages, carrying over 900 men each time.

First of the infantry to sail was the 29th Battalion, which disembarked at Suva. The 30th Battalion, in the second flight, was landed at Lautoka, on the western side of Viti Levu, the main island of the Fiji group. The third flight, which left on 19 November, 1940, contained the reinforcements. They travelled on the armed merchant cruiser *Monowai* and the inter-island ferry steamer *Rangatira*.

Immediately after arrival at Suva, Brigadier Cunningham came on board and told Major Voelcker that it had been decided not to send the reinforcements out to the battalions. They would be formed into a new unit, to be known as the Training Battalion, and commanded by Major Voelcker.

And so it began. There were many subsequent changes in personnel; its name was changed first from Training Battalion, to Reserve Battalion; then from Reserve to 34th Battalion.

With the base at Suva the force was divided into two defence areas, around Suva, and around Lautoka on the west coast of Viti Levu. In 1942 the "B" Force, by now of two infantry brigades, returned to New Zealand in July 1942. Quite a number of New Zealand officers and NCOs were, however, left in Fiji to organise the enlarged Fijian Military Force. A New Zealand Army Post Office was retained near Suva for these men, and became NZAPO 250 when offices were given a security number late 1942 - early 1943.

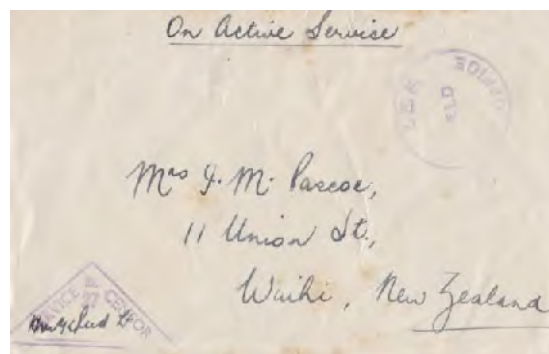
Back in New Zealand the Force was re-organised into the 3rd NZ Infantry Division to be sent to assist the Americans with defence tasks in New Caledonia and further north in the Solomon's, where the Japanese advance had become even more serious. Reinforcements reached Fiji in the *Rangatira*, *Matua*, *Wahine*, and *Monowai*.

### The Censor Markings

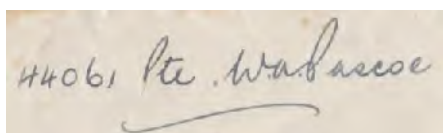
Sometime in 1941 the New Zealand Army Department issued a new style of censor stamps to units in the Pacific. This triangular shaped stamp is quite distinctive, and bearing a serial number, assists us firstly in identifying the unit of use, and then the place of use. If able to decipher the censor's signature, not always easy, sometimes impossible and by referring to the unit histories or the embarkation rolls, identifying the location becomes possible.

### Base Ordnance Fiji

The cover to the left was sent by **Private William Arthur Pascoe 44061** who sailed to Fiji with B Force. He was a member of Base Ordnance. He would have arrived there 23 May 1941 (Relief 1) when reinforcements for the various battalions and units came as replacements. Base Ordnance Depot received 12 additional men at this time. Pascoe was promoted to sergeant and was chief assistant of the accounting staff. As of the 30 June 1943 he was commissioned as a 2 Lieutenant and by the time the Base Ordnance relocated to Bourail in New Caledonia he was a Lieutenant with Returned Stores and Salvage.



Censor 27: sent from Samambula, Fiji



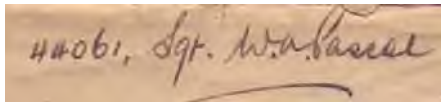
Reverse

The censor 27 was signed by Lieutenant (later Major) Henry McKenzie Reid 48415. He arrived in August 1941 (Relief 2), thus we can date this cover too shortly after this period. Also early covers from the Pacific were made from a better quality paper than covers after early 1943.

## Base Ordnance Depot – Samambula, Fiji

Now a Sergeant, William Arthur Pascoe 44061 sent this from Samambula, Fiji about April 1942. Here he served in the BOD in the area of administration and accounting.

Censor 21 has been signed by Major Harold Theodore Peat a Methodist chaplain at 3 Div. HQ in Fiji. Peat had served in both WWI and WW2.



Reverse



Censor 21: sent from Samambula, Fiji

## Base Ordnance Depot – Bourail, New Caledonia



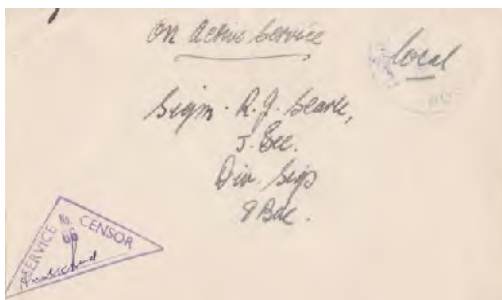
Censor 66: sent from Bourail, New Caledonia



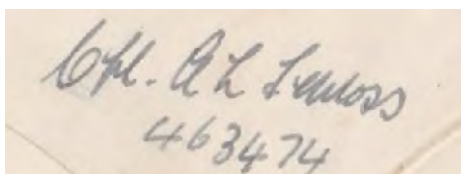
Reverse

which arrived in January 1943 at Noumea.

As of the 30 June 1943 he was commissioned as a 2 Lieutenant and he was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant where for a period he directed Returned Stores and Salvage.



Corporal Aubrey Lachman Schloss 463474 of BOD at Nepoui sent this letter to Signalman Ronald James Searle 46885 of J section, 3 Div. Signals which at this time was located at Thio, New Caledonia, (see map). It was censored by Lieutenant (later Major) Henry McKenzie Reid 48415. Local mail is very scarce. Searle was a philatelist and seemed to arrange for mail to be sent to him from many locations.



Reverse



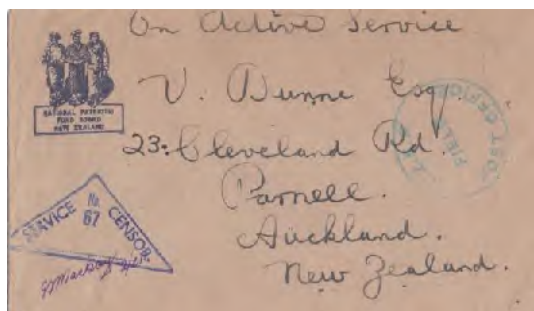
A second depot was established for receiving shipments at Népoui Valley, 120 miles north-west of the capital Noumea. Lieutenant Reid and about half of the men who had been working with him in Nouméa formed the party that moved on 29 November, 1942 to Népoui.



## HQ Works Service, NZE.

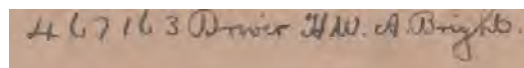
April, 1943, HQ Works Services was formed as a unit of the NZ Engineers. Other units were Works Construction Company, NZE, and Works Service Wharf Operating Company, NZE. The spot chosen for works services headquarters, Le Clere's Farm, lay some hundred odd miles north from Nouméa.

Driver Harry Walter Allan Bright 467163 sent this from New Caledonia after 22 May 1943 when the main draft of the Works Services units arrived in New Caledonia on *Tyron*.



Censor 67: Sent from HQ Works Services New Caledonia

Bright was a member of HQ NZ Army Service Corps (ASC) and either departed from Wellington on 22 November on board the Dutch ship *Brastagi*, or on the *West Point* which arrived in Dumbéa Bay, near Nouméa, on the last day of 1942. The Divisional Headquarters had been set up at Moindah, between Népoui and Bourail, and there among niaouli trees Headquarters Divisional ASC was established. The censor is 2 Lieutenant Gordon Stuart MacKay 49597 of HQ NZ ASC.



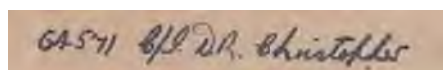
Reverse

## 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion of 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group

Corporal Denis Robert Christopher 64571 sent this through NZAPO 10 which was the advance Base PO which had arrived on Guadalcanal 3 September, 1943. Three ships of the President line with the 8th New Zealand Brigade aboard left Noumea harbour on 4 September. The 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion was aboard the PA 19 (*President Adams*). After a voyage of two days the convoy sailed into Vila, the chief port of Efate, in the New Hebrides group. After a week of amphibious training the 29<sup>th</sup> boarded the *President Adams* for the voyage to Guadalcanal where they arrived 14 September, 1943.



Censor 69, sent from Lunga Beach area



Reverse

29 Battalion boarded vessels again for their voyage to Falamai, Mono Island in the Solomons. Landing 27 October, 1943 this represented the first opposed landing by New Zealand troops since Gallipoli in WW1. By the 7 November, 1943 the Island was under allied control.

Received 27 OC, 1943 where it received a BBJ Upper Symonds Street cancel. It has been censored by 2 Lieutenant Desmond Hubert Thurston 74019 an officer with 29 Bn.

The allocation of 69 to 3 NZ Division HQ is challenged as none of the Division Field P.O. markings have been noted on covers. This cover would suggest that the challenge is warranted as both the sender and the censor were from 29 Bn. Three other covers in my collection with censor 69 are from members of 29 Bn.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade 3 NZ Division – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scottish Regiment

It was decided to raise a third brigade for the Pacific area. This was designated the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade. It only comprised two not three battalions, which was a normal brigade strength. When the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade was constituted it comprised the two territorial battalions; the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Ruahine and the 1<sup>st</sup> Wellington Scottish. However, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Ruahine Regiment was allotted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion coming into the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade. The Scots, 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the remainder of the nucleus brigade headquarters arrived in New Caledonia very early in January 1943 and the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade was allotted an area on the road from Bourail to Houailou—one of the most beautiful though rainiest areas on the islands.

The Ruahine's reverted to the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade in April 1943 after 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade received back 34 Battalion from Tonga (T Force) and 36 Battalion (N Force) returned from Norfolk Island where they had been performing garrison duty.



Censor 70: sent from Néméara area New Caledonia

OAS cover from Lance Corporal Charles Leonard Dadson 475022 sent this letter from the Néméara area, New Caledonia. He arrived with the 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish Battalion. According to the "New Zealand, World War II Appointments, Promotions, Transfers and Resignations, 1939-1945" he was commissioned as a Lieutenant (temporary) and posted to the Napier Battalion dated 1 August, 1941. However it appears that he relinquished his commission to become a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish Bn. The censor was 2 Lieutenant Robin Thayer Wood 436524.

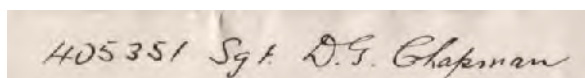
### 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade 3 NZ Division – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Ruahine Regiment

An O.A.S. letter with a NZEF NZAPO 150/No 4 cancel which, was sent by Sergeant Douglas Gordon Chapman 405351 from Bouloupari, New Caledonia, addressed to C M McNaught, (Colin McNaught was a well-known stamp dealer in Wellington).

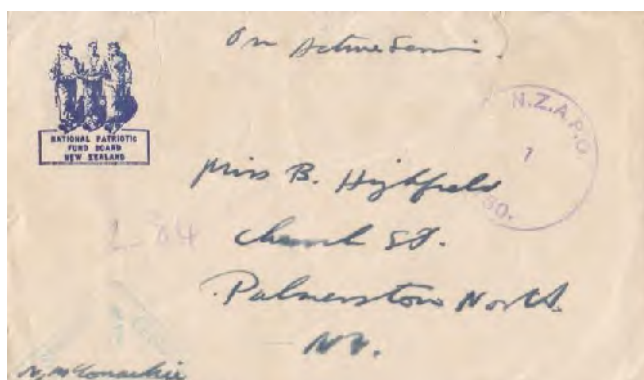
It has been censored by Captain John (Jack) Lawrence Clarkson 547904 who was the Quartermaster of the Ruahine Battalion throughout its existence. He later was posted to 37 Battalion.



Censor 71: sent from Bouloupari, New Caledonia

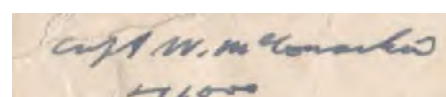


Reverse



Censor 71: sent from Bouloupari, New Caledonia

An OAS cover from Captain William Joseph McConachie 41000 an officer with 20<sup>th</sup> Field Company of the NZE. A detachment was stationed at Bouloupari while the rest of the unit were at Taom Valley. Bouloupari was the location of the Brigade HQ. The NZEF NZAPO 150/No 1 was the Base PO at Bourail.



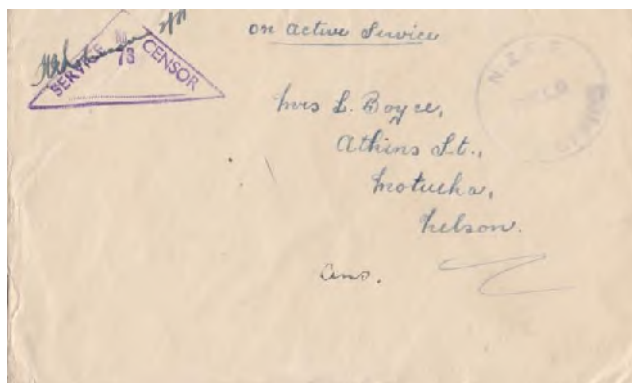
Reverse



## Company 30 Battalion of 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade

An OAS cover from by Private Charles Lewis Boyce 19137 of HQ Company, 30 Battalion from the Koumac area addressed to Motueka, near Nelson in NZ. NZEF NZAPO 150/No 7 located at Koumac from the 7 January, 1943 until about the 15 August, 1943 when it relocated to Guadalcanal. It was censored by 2 Lieutenant Howard Neville Robieson 40808

The 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion sailed from Wellington for Nouméa 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1942 arriving 6 December the troopship dropped anchor in the roadstead of Nouméa harbour amongst



Censor 73: sent from Koumac



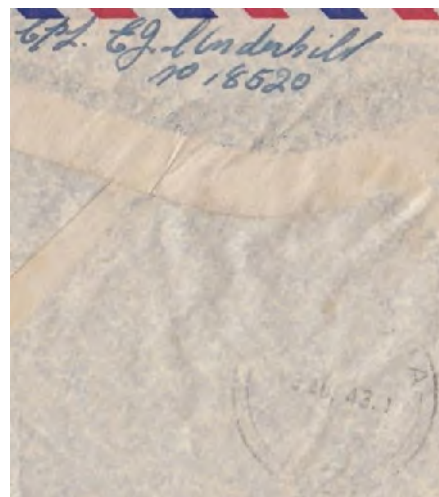
Reverse: received at Motueka 15 JA 43

the largest collection of shipping the New Zealanders had ever seen assembled. Berthing facilities were very limited and a beginning was made by discharging cargo into lighters. The troops remained aboard ship for the next six days until 12, December when half of the battalion disembarked and was taken to Dumbéa transit camp outside Nouméa. Having completed unloading of the ship at the wharf, the remainder of the battalion arrived next evening, Dumbéa became known to the boys as 'starvation camp' for no one had enough to eat and what there was usually consisted of the detested chili con carne—a highly seasoned mince-like mixture.

The 30th Battalion was directed by its brigade commander to the Koumac area, 250 miles north of Nouméa.



Censor 73: sent form Koumac

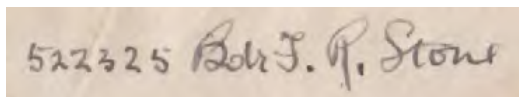


Reverse

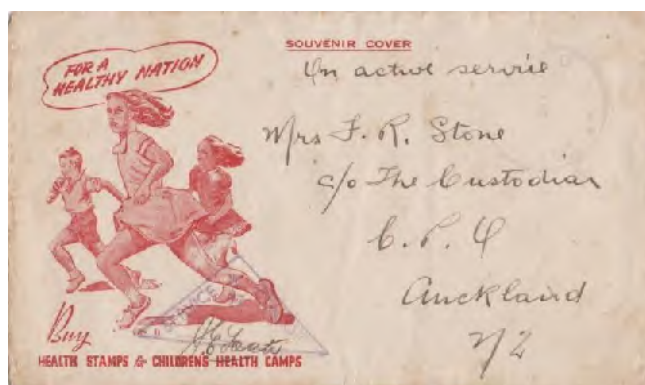
An OAS cover from Corporal Eric John Underhill 18520 of the HQ Company from Koumac prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion relocating to Guadalcanal. It has been posted through FPO NZEF NZAPO 150/No 7 and addressed to Pareora. There is a faint C Class Pareora receiving cancel on the reverse dated 13 AU 43. It has been censored by 2 Lieutenant (later Captain) Glen George Olsen 23848 of HQ Company, 30 Battalion.

## 29<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment – part of 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group

An OAS cover from Bombardier Francis Reginald Stone 522325 of the 29<sup>th</sup> LAA Regiment. It has been censored by 2 Lieutenant John Edmund Foote 452413. It has been posted through FPO NZEF NZAPO 150/8 which was located at Plaines des Gaiacs from 30 November 1942 until 20 May 1943. It is addressed to Auckland.



Reverse



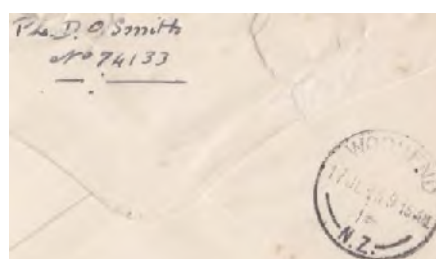
Censor 77: sent from Plaines des Gaiacs

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade



Censor 78: sent from Koumac

Startup records in *Censored in the Pacific* that censor 78 was issued to 22<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, which was part of 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade, as was 37 Battalion. It was posted through FPO NZEF NZAPO 150/No 7. It was addressed to Woodend and a C Class Woodend, NZ cancel dated 17 JL 43 is on the reverse. It has been censored by 2 Lieutenant Robert William Connell 68678 of 36 Battalion



reverse

## B Cable Section of No 1 Company, 3 Division Signals

An OAS cover Wallace Thomas Knowles 539701 from Moindah, New Caledonia. Addressed to Wellington it has been censored by Lieutenant (later Captain) James Adnah William Wilton 38776 of B Cable Section.



Reverse



Censor 81: sent from Moindah, New Caledonia



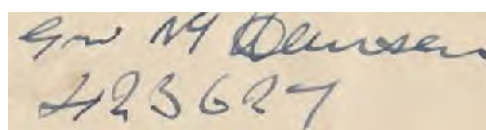
## 214<sup>th</sup> Field Battery of the 29th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment



Censor 82: sent from Nepoui – No 2 Port detachment

At the beginning of October one troop each from the 207th and 208th Batteries, was withdrawn to form the light anti-aircraft component of the 215th Composite Battery. The regiment sailed from Wellington on the USA transport *Maui* on the 4 November 1942. The *Maui* arrived at Nouméa on 11 November 1942. The 214th Battery was left in the Nouméa area, where it was fully occupied in unloading stores and equipment now arriving in increasing quantities from New Zealand. The 209th then took over its share of the working parties at Noumea while the 214th moved north to the Nepoui Valley, just below Plaine des Gaiacs, to find that another port in that district was busy taking cargo ashore with the assistance of soldier labour, so here again the 214th Battery did its share.

Gunner Norman Garfield Hansen 423627 is on the New Zealand Army WWII Nominal Rolls, 1939-1948 Roll 9 showing his unit as 29<sup>th</sup> LAA. The NZEF Field Post Office cachet was used by Army Base Post Office 150-FPO 6 at Nepoui serving No 2 Port Detachment.

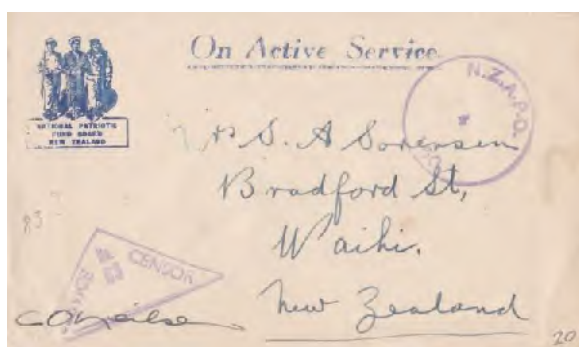


Reverse

## 34<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade

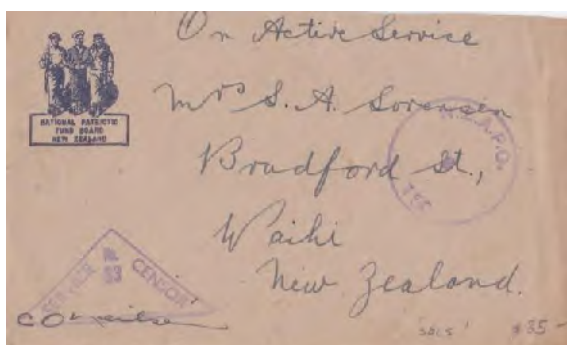
An OAS cover from Lance-Corporal William Frederick Sorensen 64916 who served with 34 Battalion at this time. It has been sent through NZAPO 150/4 which at this time was located at Bouloupori, New Caledonia.

It has been censored by Lieutenant Carl Omar Neilsen 200867 an officer with 34 Battalion.



Censor 83: sent from Bouloupori

The second cover with the same sender and censor was probably sent from Tontouta, New Caledonia as the NZAPO 150/8 would indicate. One of the methods of determining location, along with other clues is the size or colour of the logo. In this case the logo above is 25mm in height and the cover left is 26mm in height. Indicating the cover to the left has been sent later.



Censor 83: sent from Tontouta



Reverse

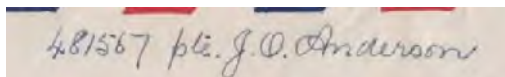
## Main Ordnance Workshop NZ Ordnance Corps

At Moindah, the divisional ordnance workshops were divided into a headquarters section of 22 men; the main workshop of 120 men under Lieutenant Patton, and an armament section of 41 under Second-Lieutenant Conlon.

An OAS cover from Private John Orriss Anderson 481567 with NZOC. It has been censored by Lieutenant Peter Gardener Patton 38145. Moindah was the location at this time of 3 NZ Division HQ and the Army Post Office 150-FPO3



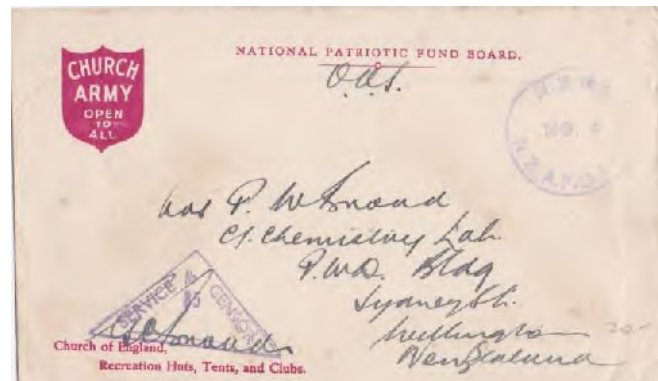
Censor 84: sent from Moindah



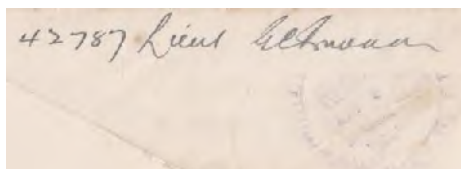
Reverse

## 36<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group

An OAS cover from Lieutenant (later Captain) Geoffrey Charles Broad 42787 of the 36<sup>th</sup> Battalion. From 4 November 1943 Stirling Island was the rest area, after the battle for Mono Island, for battalion headquarters, headquarters company and A company near Soala Lake, C company at Wilson's Point, alongside Lakemba Cove, and D company at Cummings' Point on the western end of the island. B Company remained on Mono Island.

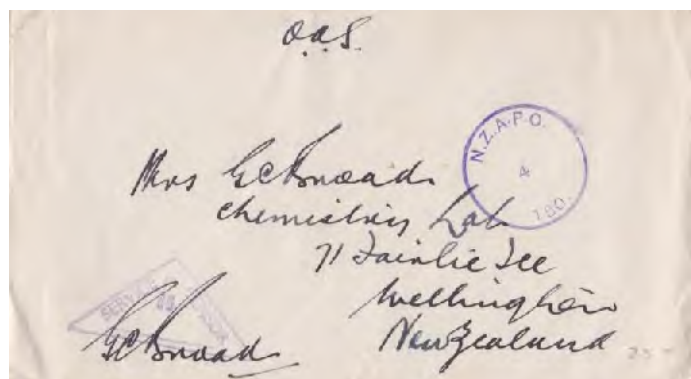


Censor 85: sent from Stirling Island, Treasury Group, BSI  
Posted through Army Post Office 150-FPO N0 4



Reverse showing clock type receiving cachet of Internal Affairs dated May 3 1944

Another OAS cover from Captain Geoffrey Charles Broad 42787 of the 36<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Again it has been posted through Army Post Office 150-FPO 4. This marking was issued later than the marking showing "No 4".



Censor 86: sent from either Stirling Island or Bouloupori?

On Anzac Day 1944, 8 Brigade was reduced when another 1700 departed from the Treasuries in USS *President Monroe*. Two more ships left Nissan on 27 April. By 15 May the last troops had left the Treasuries in USS *Tryon*. The 15 May was the last day of FPO 4 being located at Stirling Island. It relocated to Bouloupori, New Caledonia and first day of use is given as 25 May although Proud & Startup show it as Not Seen (Pg 307).



## Cover Story – 120 gm Brussels to Manhattan Airmail letter

Michael Barden



This is the heaviest commercial letter, which I discovered when assembling a collection of airmails, which had a Skymaster stamp affixed. A 6 Fr, as well as the three values on this letter, were issued in 1946, the two lower values for the Belgian Congo run; 6 Fr airmail per 5 gm and 2.50 Fr postage per 20 gm, making up the 8.50 Fr value. From 1946-1950 these stamps were printed on the Stickney press and the 1954 printings were made on the new Swiss Wifag press. That the two printings correctly differed in size is another story of how the two presses operated, using the same master die.

Postage was 3.15 Fr ( $\leq 20$ gm) + 6 x 1.75 Fr per 20 gm plus =	13.65 Fr.
Registration was	3.15 Fr.
Airmail at 7 Fr per 5 gm or 24 x 7 totalled	168.00 Fr.
Total payment required	184.80 Fr.
Stamps affixed (being 70c in excess of requirement)	185.50 Fr.

Postage was overcharged by 1.75 Fr as only 5 steps to make 100 gm in excess of 20 gm are needed.

Posted on 26 July 1946 at Brussels GPO, the letter is back stamped **New York NY Regy. Div 29 Jul 1946** and **Church St. NY Regy. Div 1 July 1946** (not August).

I have not deciphered the violet cachet on the front of the envelope, other than it is American.

Research showed the story of 140 Nassau Street, which is known as the Morse Building.

The building was designed by Benjamin Silliman and James Farnsworth and was completed in 1880 as an 8-story office building with two hydraulic elevators, gas lighting and fireplaces. It had been developed by G. Livingston Morse and Sidney E. Morse, nephews of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph and a prominent artist.



Left - original design      Above - as it is today

An early tenant was the American Vitagraph Company, an early motion picture concern.

In 1902, the top two floors were reconstructed and four more were added in a Neo-Classical style designed by William P. Bannister and Richard M. Schell. That alteration made the building 14 stories tall. The masonry façades of the upper floors show considerable wear and tear compared with the older, middle section of the building, which has an attractive black cornice.

In 1965, the lower two floors were remodelled in a renovation that also included the removal of a balcony on the 10th floor, but the commission's designation did not indicate who the owner or architect was at the time. In 1980, the building was converted to apartments and is now a cooperative.

In a 20 August 2006 article in The New York Times, Christopher Gray wrote that "One distinctive feature that has survived the decades is the alternating red and black brickwork above the windows." His article also indicated that in 1881, the Real Estate Record & Guide "praised the rounded Romanesque-style arches and the Victorian Gothic contrast of the red and black brick," but added that "that the lack of a separate tower or other feature 'is of course the misfortune of the building, and not the fault of the architects,' who had suggested a 'steep roof,' probably a mansard."

Now the building has 39 apartments, no doorman, no sidewalk landscaping, and no garage, but its handsome lobby has very attractive decorative mosaic murals. There are only 3 apartments per floor, a video intercom system, all complemented by a handsome landscaped roof garden.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously designated the Morse Building at 140 Nassau Street as an individual landmark 19 September 2006.

Lacking a sender's name and address, I have no idea of the contents of the envelope. Investigation shed no light on FJ Parker. Parker Pens but not Parker Hannifin? I know not. But at least the letter was commercial not philatelic. It is a rare genuine use of the 50 & 100 Fr stamps and a notable address – also a little piece of Manhattan, New York, history.



## Hand-Held Date Stamps

### *Co-ordinated by George Vearing*

Only thing I could find unusual this edition was that DUNEARN datestamp has an inverted dateline.

There must be a lot of post offices that have new datestamps so it would be very beneficial if some of those could be emailed to me at the email address on the inside cover.

Many thanks go to Simon Alsop, John Young, Richard Peck and John Tracey who help to keep this column going.

N.S.W.:- Earlier datestamp ABERDEEN (125/24)



N.S.W. - (cont)



VIC.





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## 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

## Polar puzzle

### Ian Cutter

While searching through a dealer's box of covers I came across an interesting one postmarked MAWSON A.N.A.R.E. [See Fig.1] It was a first day cover which carried the disclaimer that it wasn't really the first day of issue, but the first day of availability at that post office, which was 16 FE 55.

On the back was a bonus, a postmark of A.N.A.R.E. HEARD IS. [See Fig 2] This was dated 23 JA 55 - apparently the cover had been "posted" at Heard Island and travelled the first stage of its journey unfranked to Mawson. One would not expect this to be acceptable practice but perhaps there were no stamps available.

The date is significant. Scientific work had ceased on the island on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1954 and in January 1955 huts, dogs and other items were taken off on the MV Kista Dan. This may have been best the postal authority could do under the circumstances



Fig 1

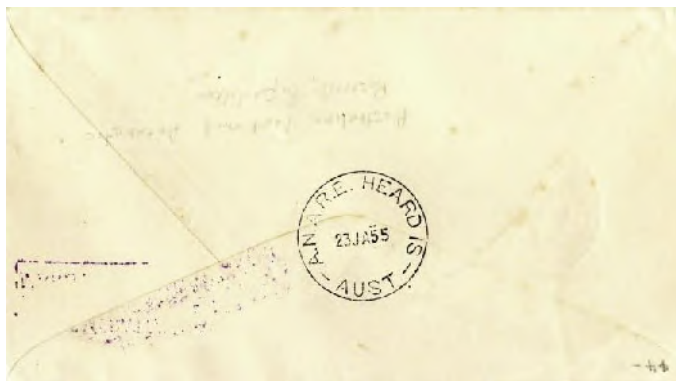


Fig 2



Fig 3

However, this is not the end of the story. I later found another Heard Id cover. This was actually postmarked on the same day as the previous one, and it was franked. In fact, it not only carried stamps but a statement confirming that stamps were available at Heard Id. on that particular date. [See Fig 3] it would be nice to know how this came about, even if it did place over 60 years ago.

**Note 1:** The message on each cover has been enhanced (on the copy only!) to help the reproduction.

**Note 2:** For background to this period see: *Exploration of Heard Island between 1947 and 1971*, by GM Budd, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Law and Policy (ASLOP) Occasional Paper 16: 1 - 45, 2006, School of Law, Tasmania