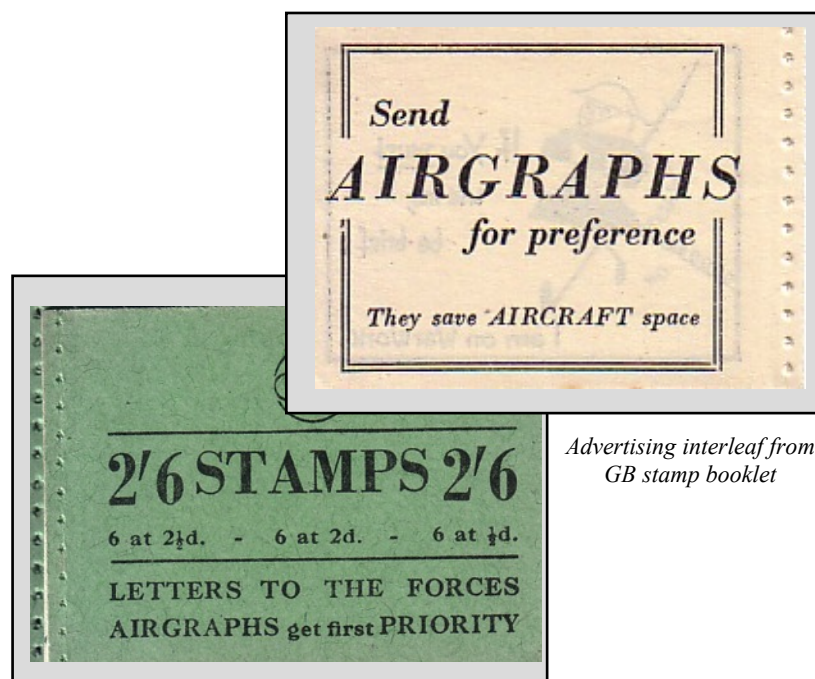


3.6 1941 — Christmas

Loneliness, and monotony

Wednesday 24 December 1941. Christmas Eve — "This Christmas is the worst so far... I am feeling very lonely and missing Ted. But at least I am getting news from him these days. I had one of those new Airgraph letters today, although it's not very private at least I know he's OK."

In the aftermath of the collapse of France and with the blitz raging in Britain, it was felt that the mail services to the British Forces in the Middle East was too slow and that this was having an adverse effect on the morale of the troops and their families, who were anxious to hear news of each other. In May 1941 the Airgraph service was started, the lightweight film saved aircraft space allowing more letters to be carried at one time.

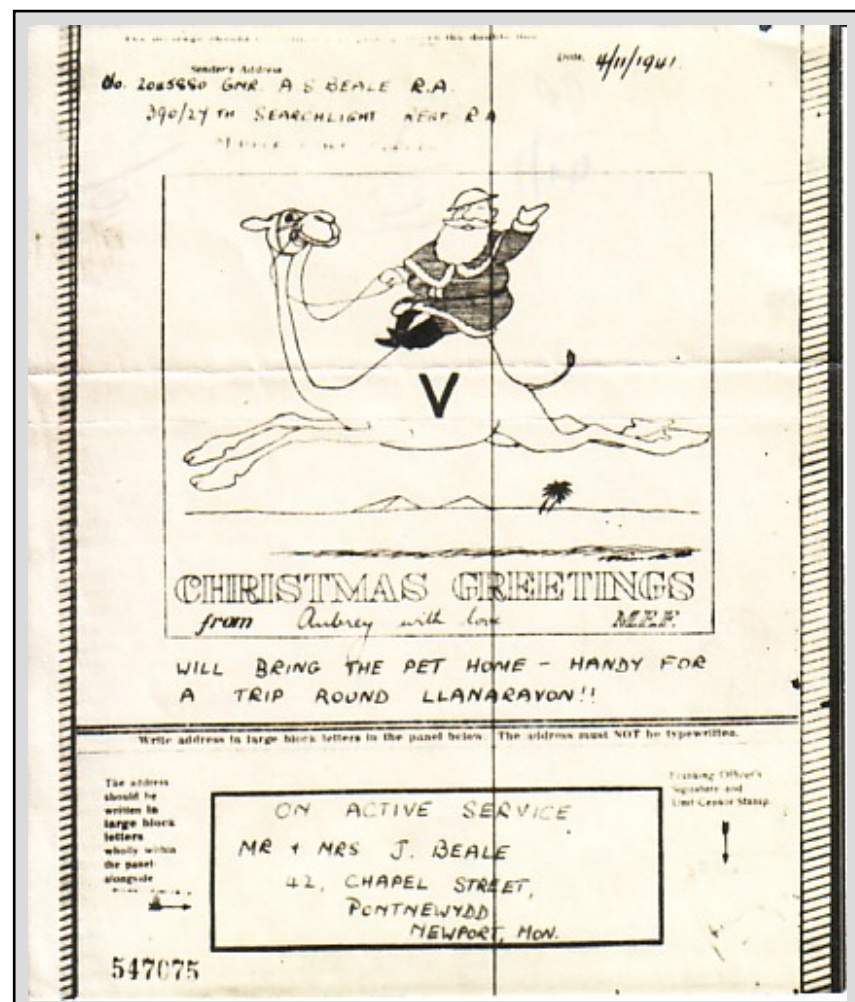
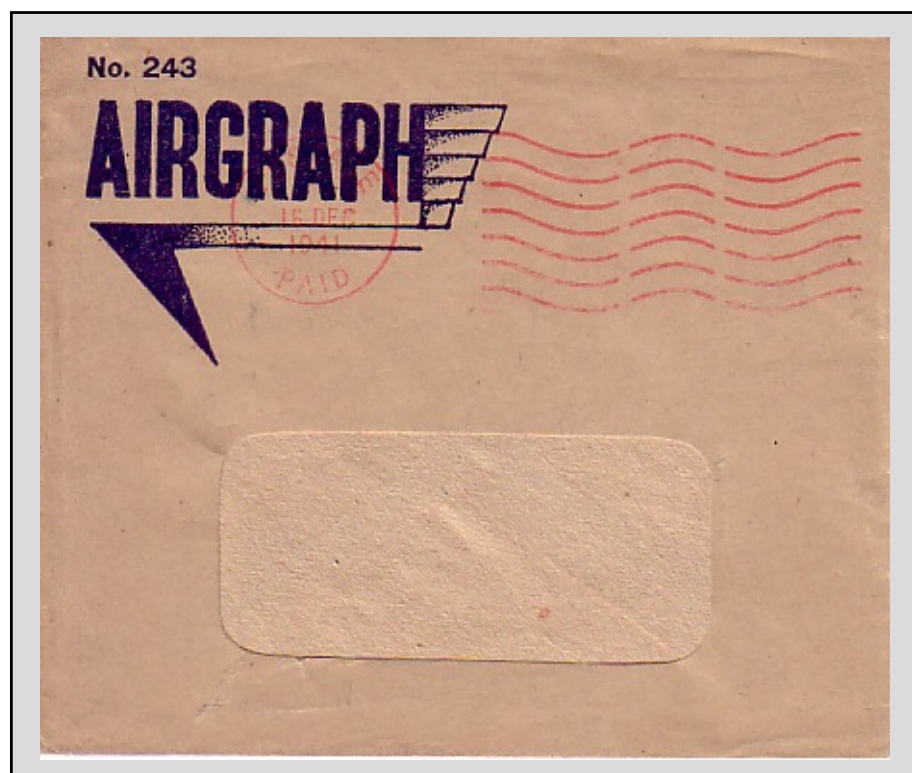


Advertising interleaf from
GB stamp booklet

An 'Airgraph' is three things: a large 8½ x 11 in form (a later version is shown on page 48) on which the sender writes the message. It then is filmed and becomes a ½ x ¾ inch negative. The roll of negatives is flown to its destination where it is processed, with the resulting photographed message delivered in the normal manner.



Film strip of seven airgraph negatives ready for processing



The 4 x 5½ in photographed message is folded and placed in a special envelope to be delivered by normal post.

4: 1942 — We Are Warriors All

4.1 A Woman's Place

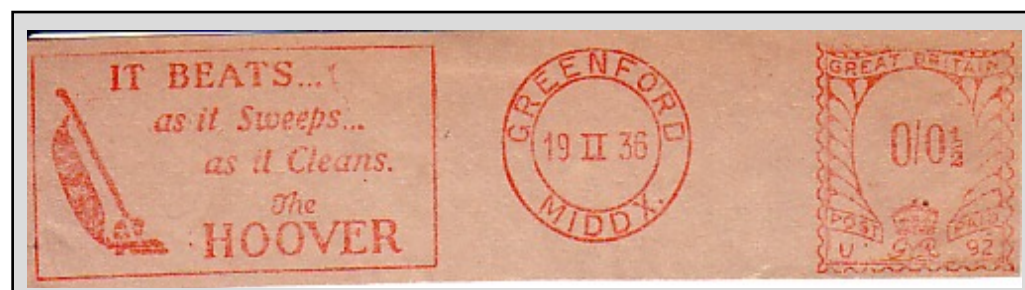
Sunday Jan 11 1942 — "Hooray! I've got a job at the local engineering works. Just a couple of hours a day whilst the children are at school. I start tomorrow, the pay is not very good but it will be the first money of my own. I am even hoping to make some new friends."



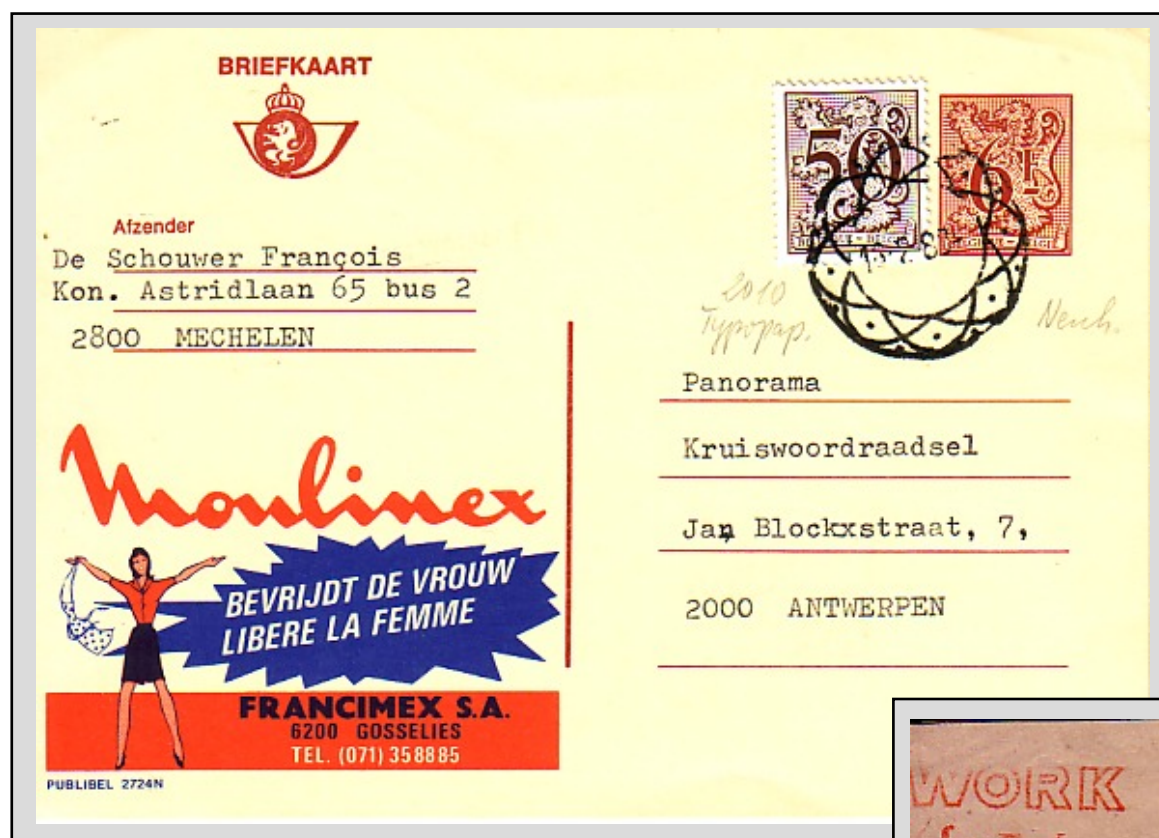
In the 1930s, social roles were clearly defined — A woman's place was in the home. Before the Second World War, women were expected to be housewives or perhaps to do certain women's jobs', such as nursing or a domestic service.



timbres-publicité



The war changed the world of women for ever. When men went to fight, women were called upon to fill their jobs, and this included many jobs that were previously thought of unsuitable for women.



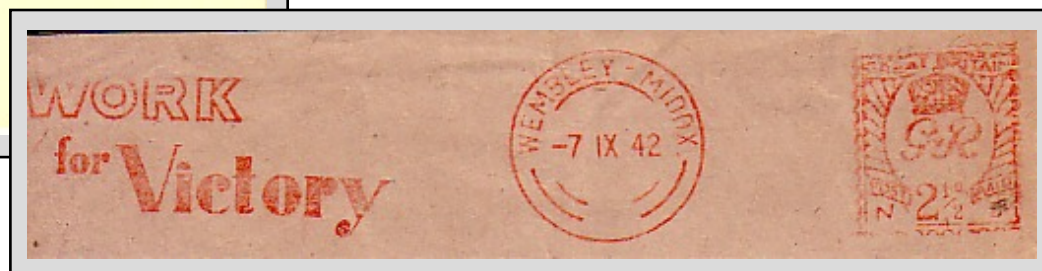
Publibel advertising card with a new design of stamp the 'Lion avec banderole' in brown, introduced in Dec, 1977. 1st Feb 1980 a postage rate increase resulted in an additional 50c adhesive being required.



NSW 1897 First ever Charity Stamp to be issued. Paying postage of 2½d but sold for 2/6d these stamps caused an outrage at the time.

Before the war, nursing was considered one of the few suitable occupations for women...

...by the end of 1942 40% of employees in the Aircraft industry; 35% in engineering, & 52% in factories making explosives and chemicals, were women.



Wartime work freed many women from the drudgery of housework.

4.1 A Woman's Place

Hitler's Noble Women

"Monday January 12 1942 — I really feel I'm doing something toward helping the war-effort, unlike the German women who think work is beneath them... They'll think different when we've shown them what we British women can do."

Women were idealized by Nazi ideology and work was not felt to be appropriate for them.

Hitler's male-dominated Third Reich had a clear idea of how the German woman should be viewed and behave. The male was the worker, provider and defender.



WHW (Winterhilfe) or Winter Aid was an enormous Nazi charity organisation designed to help poorer Germans and assist mothers to raise their children.

"The woman has her own battlefield... With every child she brings into the world she fights a battle for the nation".

Adolf Hitler



(Winterhilfe) or Winter Aid issues depicting the Mother as the 'Noble' woman, whereas in fact they were seen as nothing more than child-bearing machines, to be used in the service of the Master Race.



Women were given high rewards financially and socially for "bearing a child for the Führer".

The more children they bore the greater their reward.



6 + 19 pf postal card

4.2 The shortages continue

Petrol rationing cuts

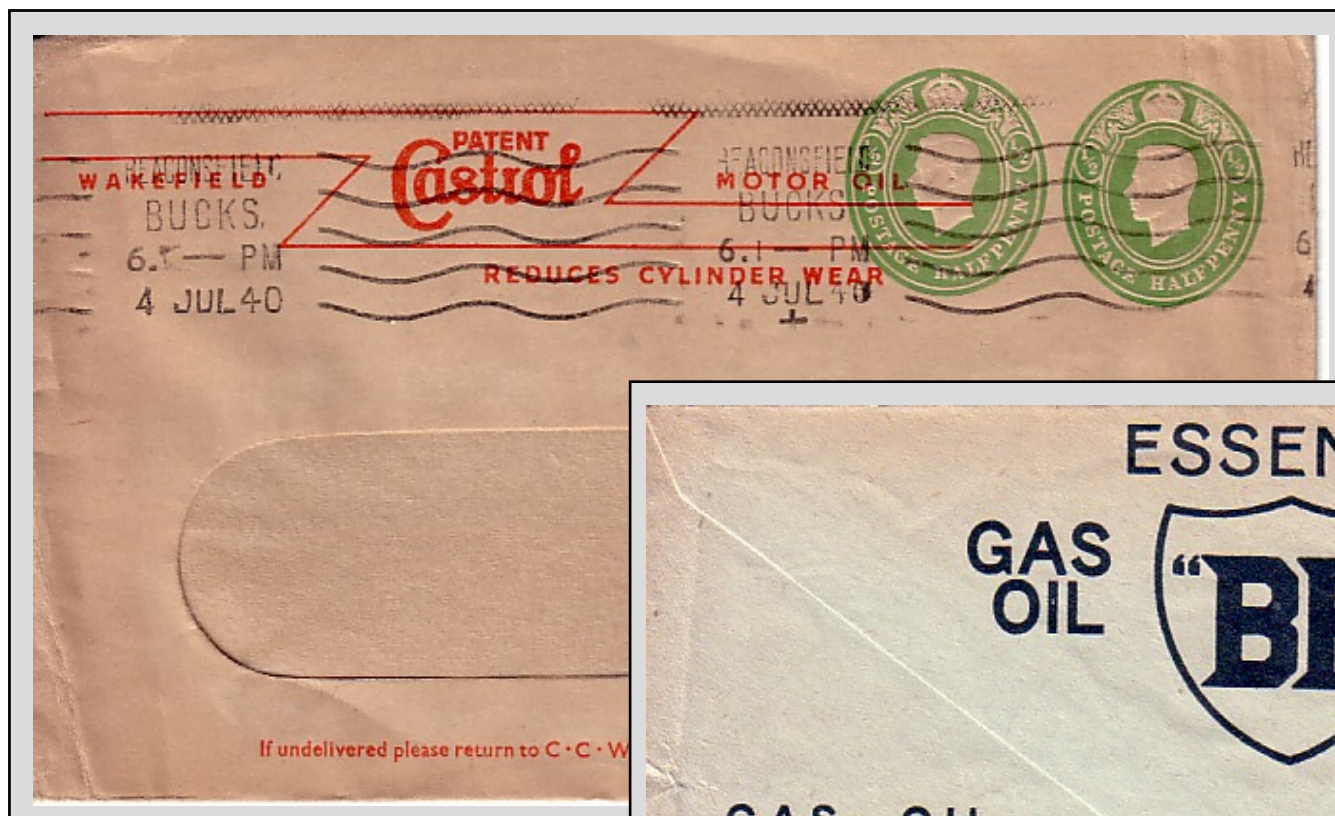
Tuesday March 24 1942 — "It is impossible to lead a normal life in war, I must admit it'd getting hard to keep our spirits up day after day. We're not allowed any petrol so we can't even go for a day out somewhere. Dad has locked the car away in the garage, he says for the 'duration'".

The Japanese Army occupation of Malaya, and the success of the U-boat attacks on the Atlantic convoys, meant that oil supplies to Britain were cut considerably. Petrol was severely rationed for the private motorist and was generally only available to licensed users whose essential needs were given priority.

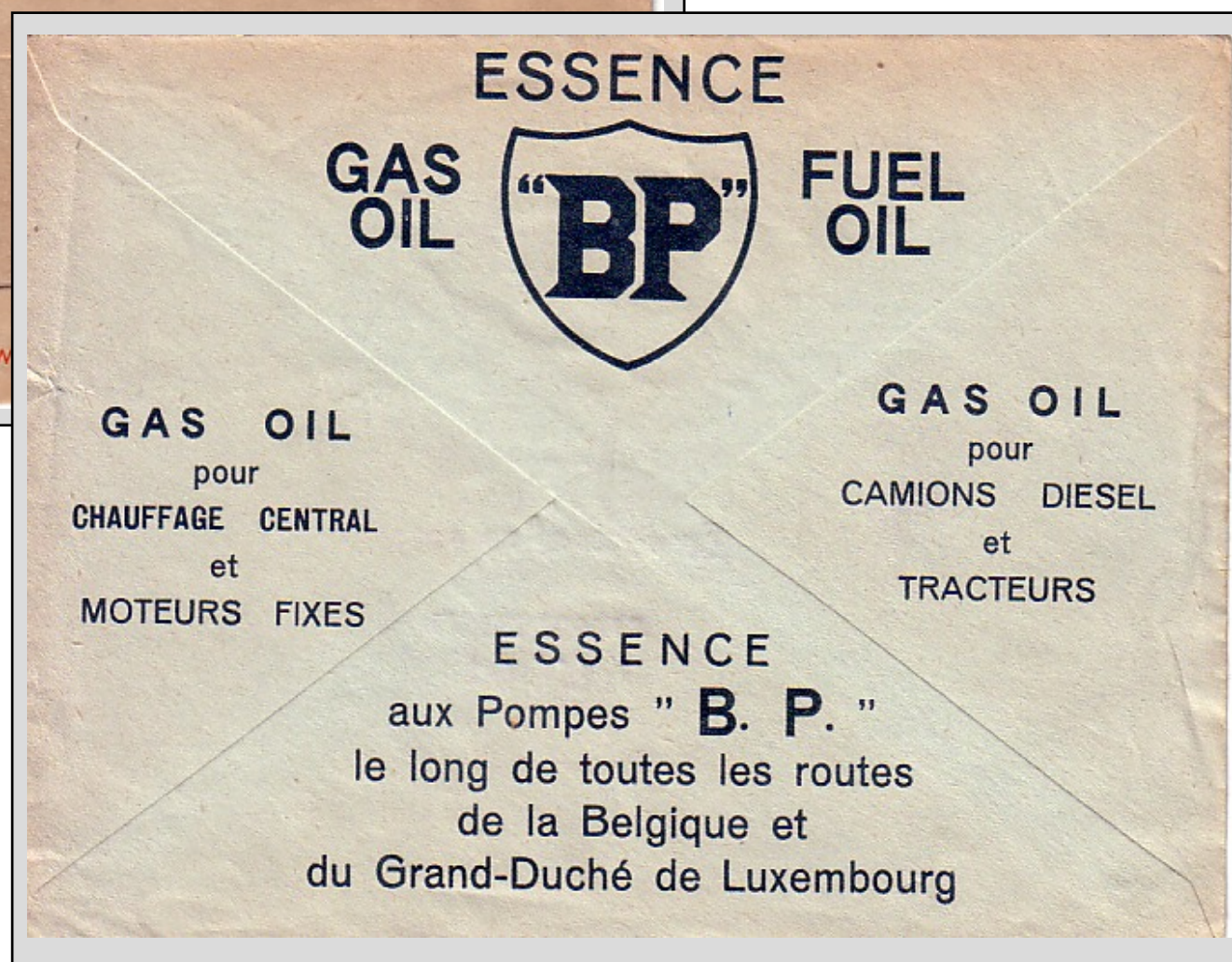


The Petroleum Board controlled all supply & distribution of petrol.

Petrol cost on average 2/2d a gallon. (coupons were also needed to buy petrol) Many private luxury cars lay unused throughout the war.



Upgraded postal stationery envelope to meet the 1940 increased rate for printed matter



Official letter from the Belgian Giro organisation sent post free, the advertising paid for the postage.



British Petroleum, the largest supplier in the UK, still advertised its brand even though all fuel was mixed to form a 'Pool' brand.

4.2 The shortages continue

Save the Ships

Thursday April 16 1942 — “Lord Woolton [Britain's wartime Minister of Food] says we all have to pull together and dig in to save the ships. I think we should all try and do our bit, if we all pull together we can beat Hitler, but we must do it together. We must think of the ‘peril of our sailors’ and cut back.”

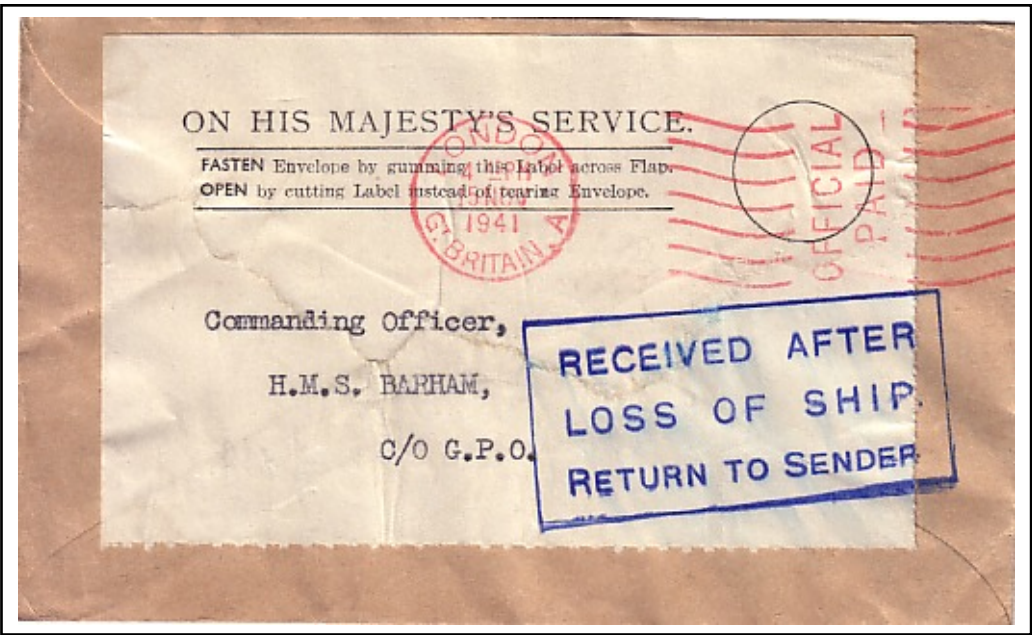
A Ministry of Agriculture slogan ‘Dig for Victory’ was a campaign that ran throughout much of the war. Earlier campaigns had seen many gardens turned into allotments. In 1942, the campaign was directed almost entirely to greater efficiency in home grown food production. People were urged to ‘dig the soil’ wherever they could and save shipping.



The benefits of growing one's own food to save on imports continued to be stressed throughout the war years.



The task of maintaining the sea routes fell to the Royal Navy with the support of various elements from the Allied Powers. To counter the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Fleet the German command ordered 10 additional U-boats to the area. These achieved quick and spectacular results.



Nov. 1941: A detachment from the Med. Fleet, known as Force 'B' were patrolling some 60 miles north of Sollum in the Ionian Sea. U-331, commanded by Lt.Commander von Tiesenhausen sighted the fleet, penetrated the destroyer screen and hit 'Barham' with three torpedoes. The ship was destroyed with all 868 of its crew lost.



German U-boats wreaked havoc



'Lady Nelson' torpedoed at dockside by German U-boat March 1942



The 'Lady Hawkins', seen here loading bananas, was sunk Jan 19 1942

4.2 The shortages continue

“Saturday April 18 1942 ... Nellie's daughter Victoria has been called up. Nellie says she has gone into the Land Army as she loves gardening. I told Nellie her Vicky's in for a shock, I think they will expect more than a bit of gardening from the Girls.”

To increase the amount of food grown within Britain, more help was needed on the farms, but with the country at war there was a shortage of male labour. To overcome the shortage the government established the ‘Women's Land Army’.



DIG FOR VICTORY and PLANT FOR PEACE
1942 GvR Neopost No.1 meter issued to Waltham Cross Borough Council



“Plant food not flowers”

Many types of women volunteered for the WLA. Although they were of different age groups, came from different areas and often from quite different social backgrounds, they soon became adept at ploughing, sowing, and harvesting.



ploughing



sowing



Cameo Sowers and lined Sowers were issued in profusion during the inter war years, at various times, and in different formats as sheets, booklets and coils. They appeared in an astonishing variety of colours, types and values, and were often overprinted, until the Vichy government ordered their replacement in 1941.



1912 1934

harvesting



Potato harvesting — Pane from prestige booklet:

Friday May 22 1942 — “I saw Nellie again today, she's had a letter from her Vicky and I was right, the work is hard and the hours are very long. Nellie was a bit worried because Vicky said that there are Italian POWs also working on the farm. I said she'll be OK, our boys will keep an eye on them.”



Letter from Italy to London, via Lisbon, opened by British & Italian censors (VERIFICATO PER CENSURA tape on reverse) — POW Camp 33 was at Shepherds Bush, London W12. Delays in communication was a problem for both sides, and so by 1941 a reciprocal agreement was reached whereby each side carried its own prisoners' mail by air to Lisbon, where it was exchanged for prisoners' mail going in the opposite direction.

The first batch of Italian Prisoners of War arrived in Britain in Aug 1941, many were put to work on the farms and in the fields alongside the Land Girls.



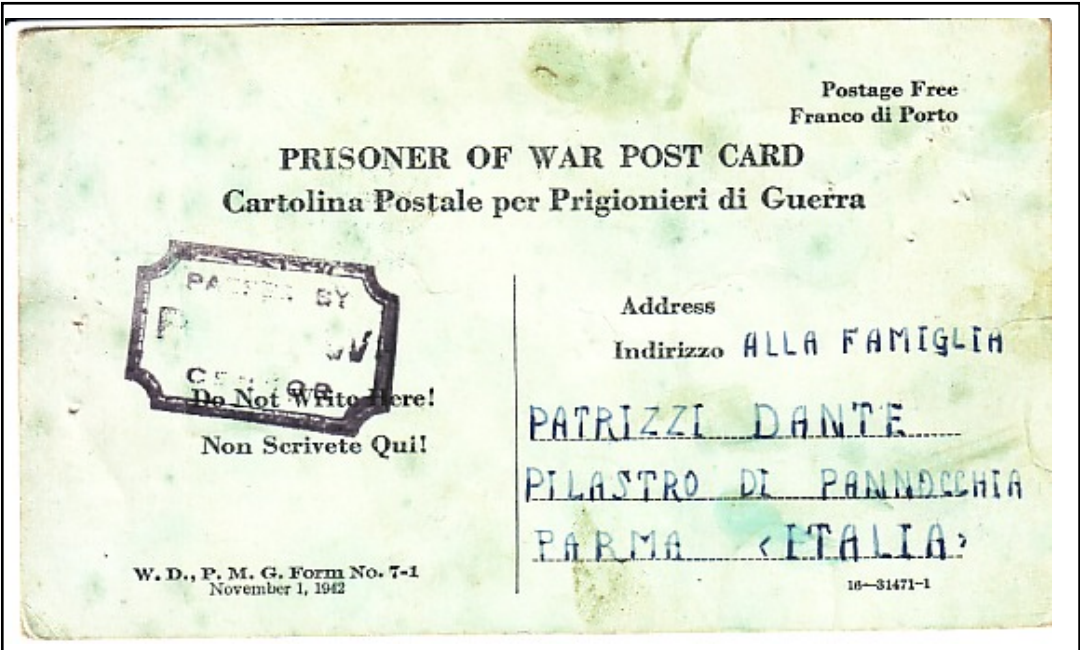
Guarded by British soldiers, the POWs helped with the work around the farms.



The Italians were often good and competent farmers and a welcome addition to the workforce.



With petrol for the tractors scarce, horses were brought back to work on the farms.



5 June 1943 card sent from Camp 127, High Green Sheffield, Yorkshire to Parma, Italy

4.2 The shortages continue

Harvesting the Hedgerows

Friday July 10 1942 — "I have Been feeling a bit down lately, so I went with the children for a cycle ride into the country. We picked loads of wild flowers for the pharmacy (they are asking people to collect them as there is a shortage of medicine.) "

Many things that were in short supply people could do without. The one thing that was a necessity rather than a luxury was medicine But drugs were in short supply.

Committees were set up around the country - known as 'Herb Committees' and women would go out into the country with their children to gather the much needed recourses for the chemists. Items such as nettles, Hawthorn, Colts-foot, Deadly nightshade and other herbs , known for centuries for their medicinal properties, were gathered and dried.

By 1943 medicinal imports were reduced by half.



1807 POSTA DI MEDICINA: The origins of its name (in Italian it means "medicine") are quite uncertain. Legend tells that the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, passing through Medicina from Milan fell ill and miraculously recovered from this illness because of a snake that accidentally came into the pot of his soup.



The Dog Violet: a powerful cathartic and emetic. At one time a medicine made from it was used in curing skin diseases.



In May 1946 postal charges were reduced and all stocks of stamps were overprinted -10% at the local post offices. A very small number of 'publibel' cards received the overprint.



Bramble: The bark of the root and the leaves contain tannin, a capital astringent and tonic, and a valuable remedy for dysentery and diarrhoea.

- Hawthorn:** Cardiac, diuretic, astringent, tonic. Cardiac tonic in organic and functional heart troubles.

Ox-Eye Daisy: successfully employed in whooping-cough, asthma and nervous excitability.
- Coltsfoot:** Demulcent, expectorant and tonic. One of the most popular of cough remedies.

Wood anemone: application of various parts of the plant for headaches, and rheumatic gout.

4.2 The shortages continue

The Post Office runs out of ink

Monday 30 November 1942 — “ They are changing the colour of the stamps. Not that it will bother me, I can't think why anyone should need a 10/- stamp anyway, it's almost quarter of my wages. My, I am getting grumpy ! I think all these changes and shortages are getting to me, I must try and cheer up.”

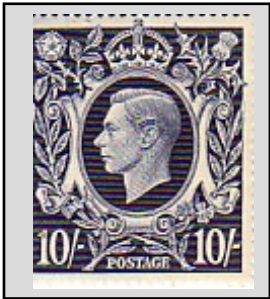
As was the case for the low values in 1941 the colour of two of the high value stamps was changed in 1942.



Due to the shortage of suitable coloured ink, the 2/6 brown was changed to yellow-green, and the 10/- dark blue to ultramarine



15.10.42 UK — Mexico Airmail Rate
2/- per ½oz. . Quadruple rate 8/-



Dark Blue



Ultramarine

London —
Argentina
airmail rate
(rate 3/6 per
½oz.)
10/6d Triple
rate cover
Undated Lon-
don cancel
Orange Press
Censor Label

4.3 — 1942 Christmas - A Gloomy Time

Little to buy in the shops

Monday 21 December 1942 — “With the extra money I am bringing home from working I thought I would be able to buy nice things for the home and the children this Christmas, but there is very little in the shops. How strange it seems having money in my purse and nothing to buy. I bought some wine.”

Traditional household goods such as cutlery, pianos, and radios had become almost unobtainable. For the children, there were very few toys in the shops and the rations of food, clothes and even fuel were meagre.



Luxury items such as ribbons and silk were very scarce.



July 1942 sweets and chocolate rationed

Above- Dual language Publibel card with stamp imprint “lion écusson” (1935-51)

First issued in 1933, the internal “Publibel” series of Belgian postcards were printed by l'Agence Belge de Publicité Postale with the objective of raising funds for various charities. The design of the card includes an advertisement in the bottom left hand corner. The advertisement, which may be sponsored by government or commercial enterprises, appears in single language variants, French, Flemish or German and multiple language variants depending on the area in which the sponsor required the cards to be distributed. The series reflects the changes in internal postcard rates seen in ordinary postcards, but is unique in employing only definitive stamps with the lion design current at the time of issue. The issue of ‘Publibel’ cards ended in 1984.

French language card shown on right with stamp imprint “chiffre sur lion avec banderole” in use 1977-84

Wines and spirits were plentiful, but French goods were scarce.



5: 1943 — We Still Have a Long Way to Go

5.1 Ships the life-blood of the Nation.

Monday 11 January 1943: "Mavis told me her George had been posted abroad. She got a letter this morning. He was supposed to get leave at the end of the month; she was very upset, especially as the baby is due soon."

Britain's food imports - particularly from Europe and the Empire - were seriously impeded by German u-boats.
By 1943, food imports were half their pre-war level.



RECEIVED FROM HM SHIPS
used in conjunction with town die
indicating port of entry, and date,
used from 1939 - March 1940.

RECEIVED FROM HM SHIPS with
town die removed for security
reasons, used from March 1940.



RECEIVED FROM HM SHIPS
undated single ring.
Naval 'tombstone' censor mark
signed & dated 30.9.42



Registered cover with RE-
CEIVED FROM HM SHIPS
undated double ring.

Reg. Label: H.M.SHIPS

M/s HMS Picotee

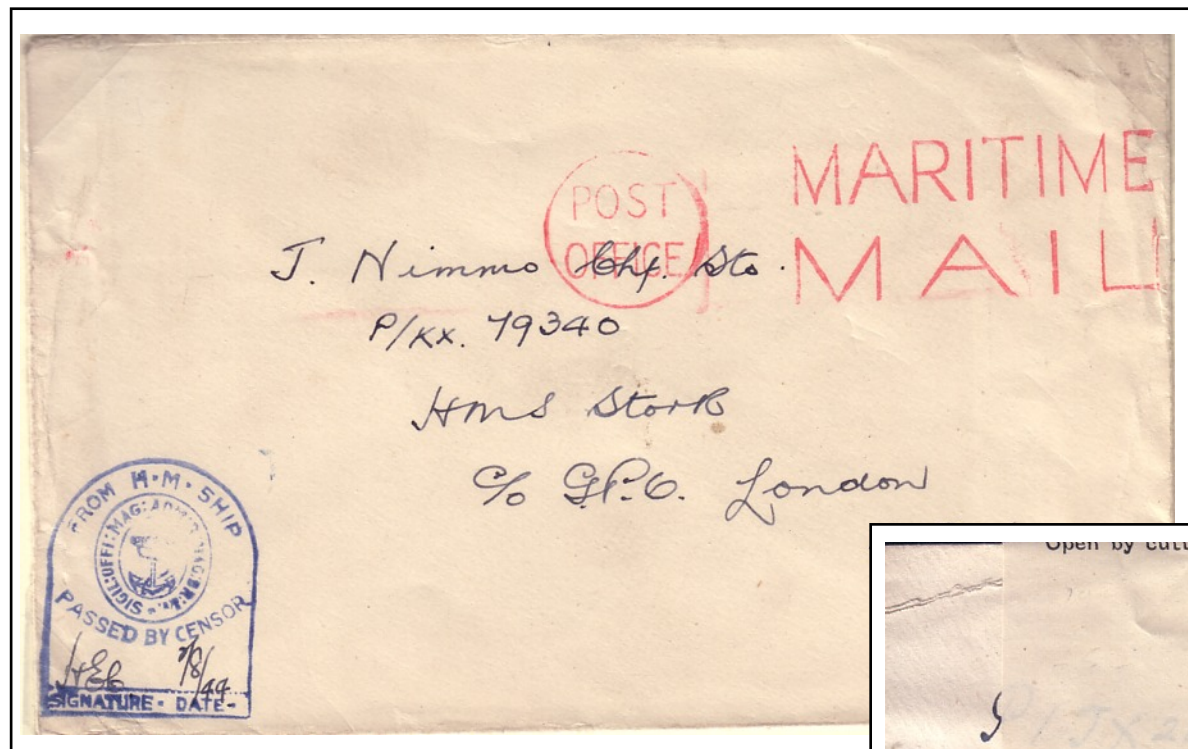


British freighter 'Umtata'
Torpedoed July 1942

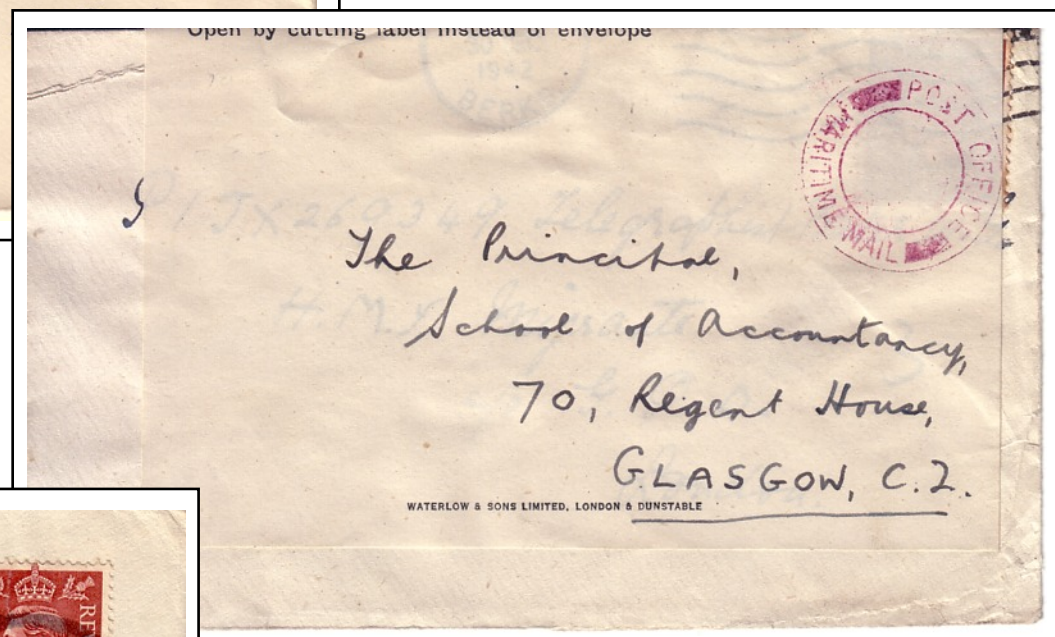
5.1 Ships the life-blood of the Nation.

Ships of the Allied Nations

Monday 18 January 1943: "I kept thinking about Mavis and her George all day yesterday. It must be hard for these young boys and their friends, going away to who knows where, and not even knowing when or if they will be coming back. Oh how tiresome this war is for everyone."



Blue Naval 'Tombstone' censor mark signed and dated 7/8/44. During this period HMS Stork was deployed on convoy defence and based at Gibraltar.

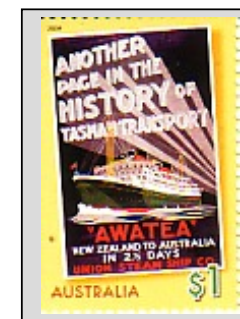


Red double circle POST OFFICE MARITIME MAIL handstamp used on mail free of postage.



Black single circle POST OFFICE MARITIME MAIL rubber handstamp used to cancel postage stamp.

Reverse has return address HMS Challenger c/o GPO London. Challenger served as a government Survey ship until 1942.



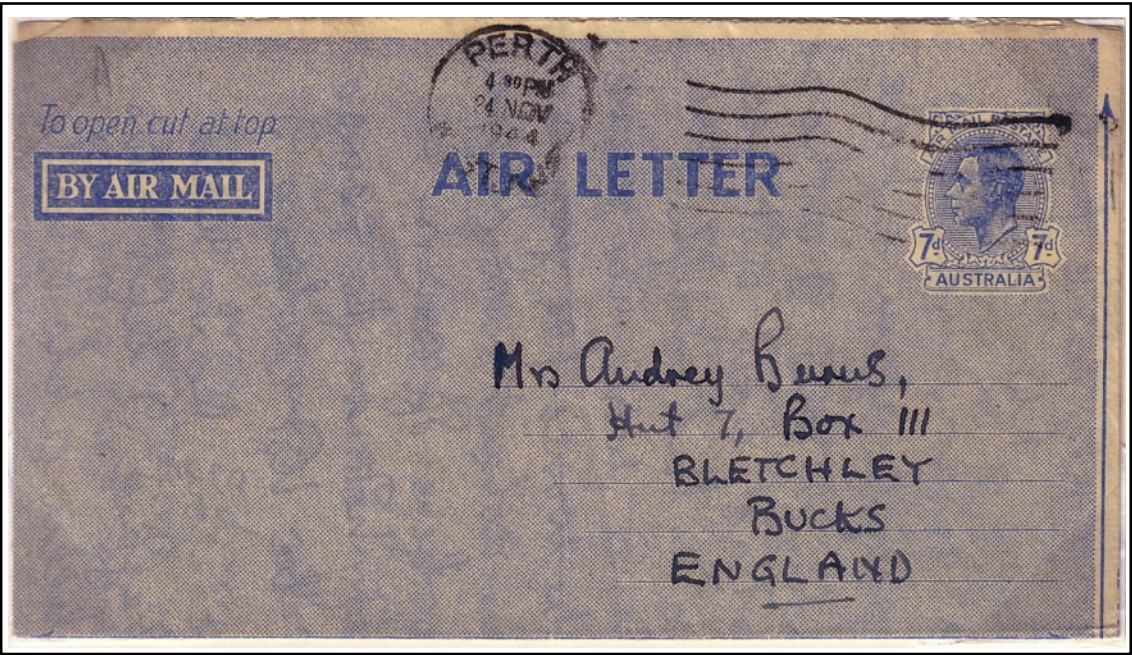
'Awatea' became a troop carrier; sunk in the Mediterranean, 1942

5.1 Ships the life-blood of the Nation.

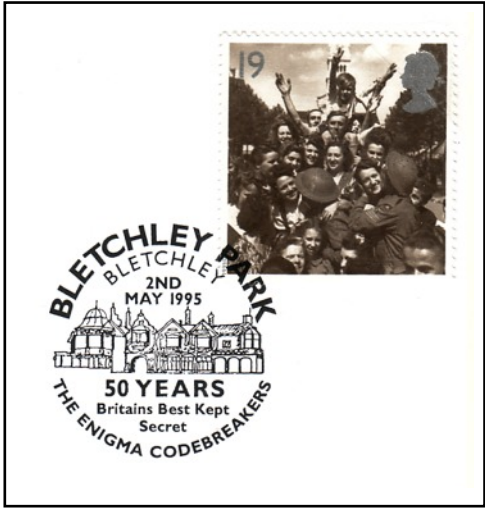
The Battle of the Atlantic

Saturday 23 January: Sheila's lad is a strange one... he's home on leave but he won't talk about his 'work'. Even Sheila doesn't know what he does... top secret is all he will say. Seems funny to me, fancy not telling your Mum what you do and where you're living. I think she's quite worried. Anyway... Good News at last! were winning the battle in the Atlantic; our lads are getting the better of them U-Boats ... And about time too!

Top secret and unbeknown to the public for nearly 50 years, the 'Battle of the Atlantic' was not actually won on the High-Seas but in a small Buckinghamshire village called Bletchley, home of the Government Code & Cipher School.

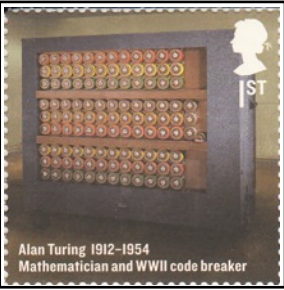


November 1944 PO Box 111 — The undercover address of the GCCS.
Hut 7 was part of the Naval Section handling the coded messages index.



Enigma was the machine used by the Germans to encipher their most secret messages. **Ultra** was the intelligence the British derived from breaking the ciphers; and **Bletchley Park** was where the breaking of German & Japanese codes took place.

The brilliant mathematician Alan Turing's leading role in breaking the German Enigma ciphers during World War II was critical to Allied victory in the Atlantic.



To speed up the code breaking process, Turing developed the **Bombe**, an electro-mechanical machine that greatly reduced the odds, and thereby the time required, to break the daily-changing Enigma keys.



Pane from 1999 GB booklet 'World Changers'

5.2 No More Bananas!

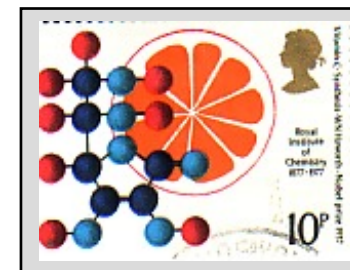
Berries & fruits to be gathered

Friday February 5 1943 — “Now we are told we are not going to receive any more fresh fruit, what am I to give the children? at least we have the blackberries and raspberries we picked and bottled last year; and we can go out and pick some rose-hips later, last autumn they paid 3d a pound.”

Although ‘exotic’ fruits had been banned from the shops, there were still some fruits obtainable from the allotments and hedgerows.



Foraging in hedgerows and fields was a significant way of supplementing wartime rations. Wild berries and fruits were made into preserves, blackberries and crab apples were bottled and added to pies in the winter, and rose-hips were converted into health-giving syrups



Youth squads picked 500 tons of rose-hips, enough to supply the juvenile population with rose-hip syrup throughout the war.



1996, Winterberries: (face value 35kr) shows rose-hips on booklet cover and has a “spine print”. The stamps inside show Juniper berries and rose-hips.

The black rectangular marking over the cover folding is called “Spine print” and is printed on every 50th booklet. It is made for easier counting of the booklets which often came to the Post Offices in a “100-bundle”.



1995, Berries : (face values 33.5kr) The “2” (to the left of the stamps) is a marking on the printing cylinder. 24 booklet panes after each other made up a whole lap of the printing cylinder. So it was at the cylinder “1” on the first half and “2” on the second half.

When there are two printing markings on the same booklet it is called a “double”. The one from 1995 shown here are a “double” with a “spine print” and (cyls) “2”.

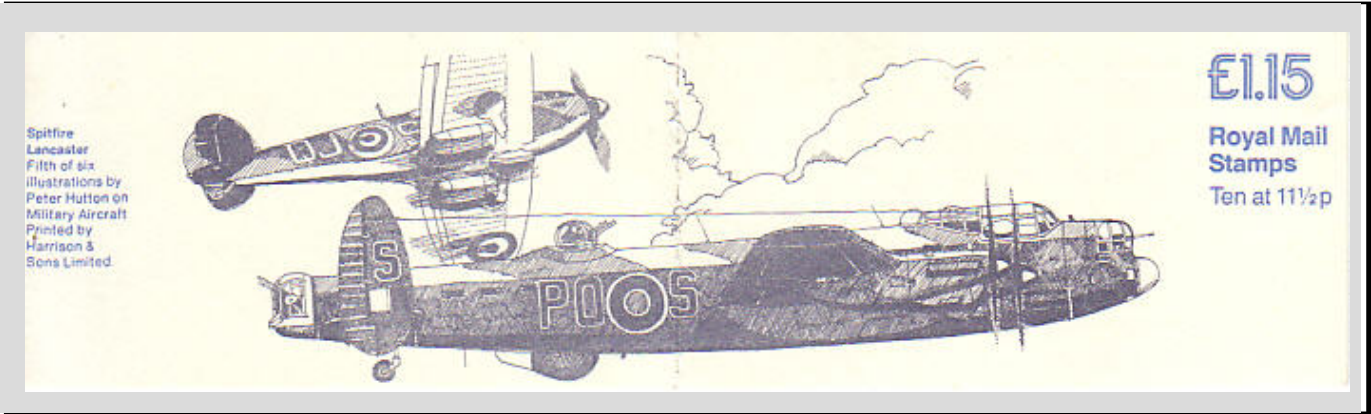
1995 Booklet: The cover is printed on two different machines, letterpress or offset. The one I show here is from the letterpress.

5.3 Comforts & Aid for the Allies

Nursing brings some relief

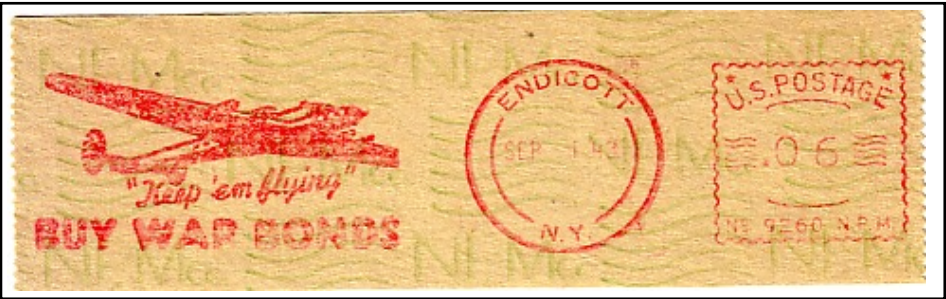
Sunday April 4 1943 — “I have just heard Mrs Hudson’s boy is in hospital, he was shot down couple of months ago and is in a bad way. They have transferred him to a hospital where they are doing new treatment. She was very upset this morning, her boy is the apple of her eye.”

Allied bombing began to bring devastation to German cities with the specific aim of breaking civilian morale, but at a cost. The high casualty rate suffered by RAF Bomber Command crews alone amounted to 55,573 dead, 4,000 wounded and 9,784 prisoners.



Allied Airman

The Avro Lancaster flew 156,000 sorties over Europe and dropped 600,000 tons of bombs. 7,377 were built, although thousands were lost in action.



“The Nazis entered this war under the rather childish delusion that they were going to bomb everyone else, and nobody was going to bomb them. At Rotterdam, London, Warsaw, and half a hundred other places, they put their rather naive theory into operation. They sowed the wind, and now they are going to reap the whirlwind.” Sir Arthur ‘Bomber’ Harris, London 1942.



Archibald McIndoe achieved international fame during the war, for his pioneering work with plastic surgery on Battle of Britain fighter pilots.



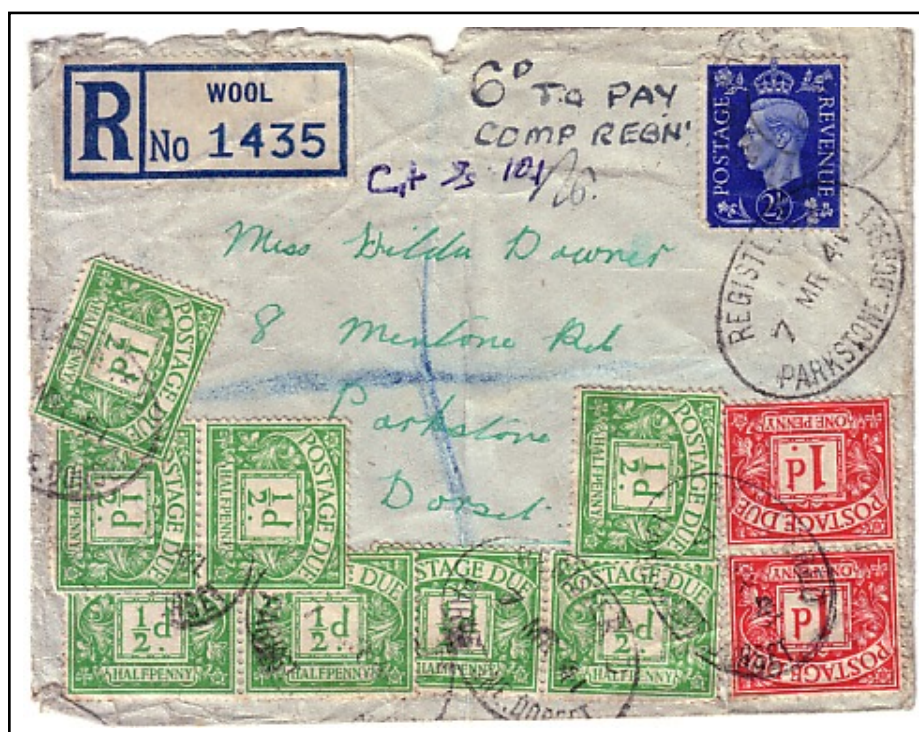
The skills developed by McIndoe and his team set standards used on burns victims throughout the rest of the war and in years after.

5.3 Comforts & Aid for the Allies

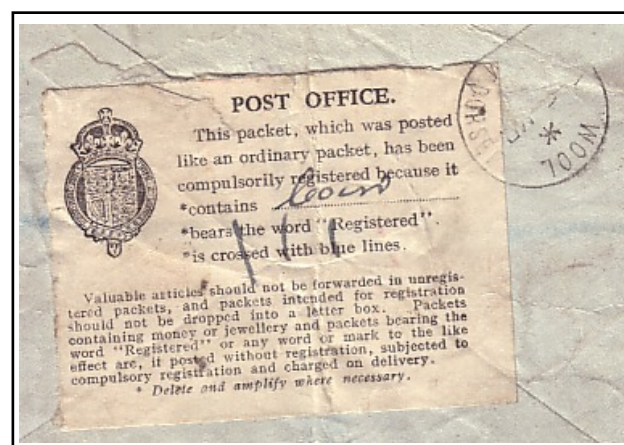
Knitting brings some comfort

Monday April 5 1943 — "I sent Mrs Hudson's boy a scarf I had knitted, he's such a lovely boy I hope it will bring him some comfort."

Women across the country took up their knitting needles in accordance with instructions from the Admiralty, who reported an unending supply of 'comforts' were needed.



This cover was compulsorily registered at WOOL, Dorset and charged 6d because it contained 3/10d in coins.



Reduced scan of POST OFFICE label on back explaining reason for the charge. Tied with a 'WOOL' postmark.



The world's finest wool is from the Australian Marino sheep, but with hostilities restricting imports the fibre had to be obtained closer to home.



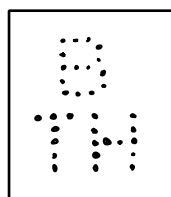
Long hours spent in air raid shelters gave women plenty of time to knit clothing for the soldiers, sailors, and airmen; also for the sick, wounded and POW.

5.4 There's Good and Bad News

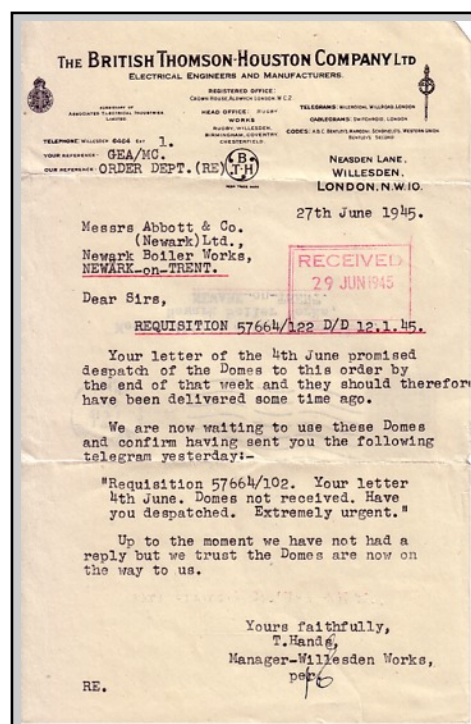
Britain continues to save paper

Saturday 17 April 1943 - "I don't know how we are supposed to write and send letters these days. Mrs Childs said at the W.I. last night that we should make our own envelopes... I am not sure I can, I'm not very good at those handcraft type things."

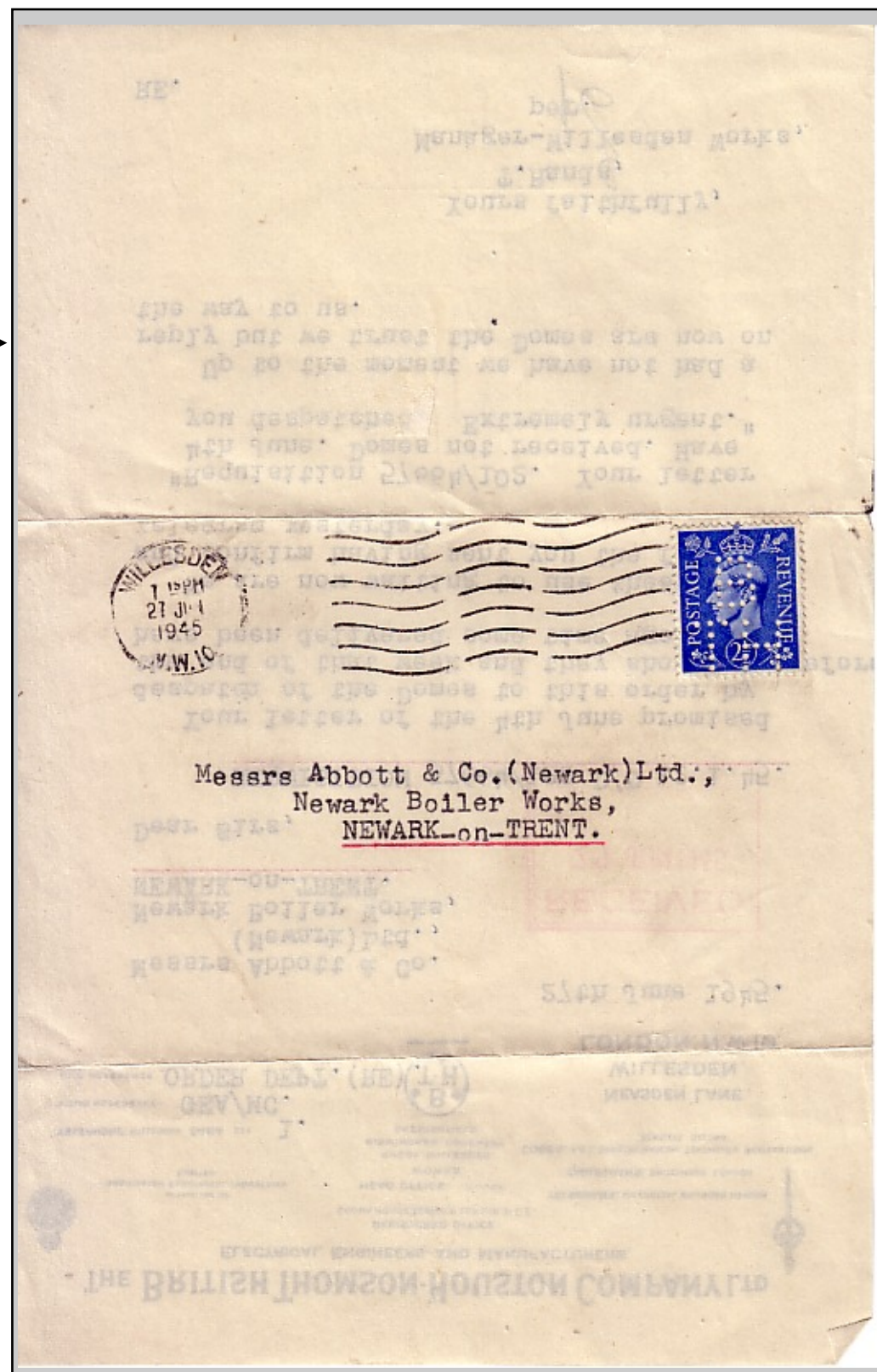
Paper economy and salvage schemes were to last throughout the war, causing some people to go to extraordinary lengths and ingenuity to overcome the shortages.



The British Thomson-Houston Co. Ltd. (see BTH perfin on stamp) resorted to not using envelopes and simply folding their correspondence, addressing and attaching a stamp.



Reduced scan

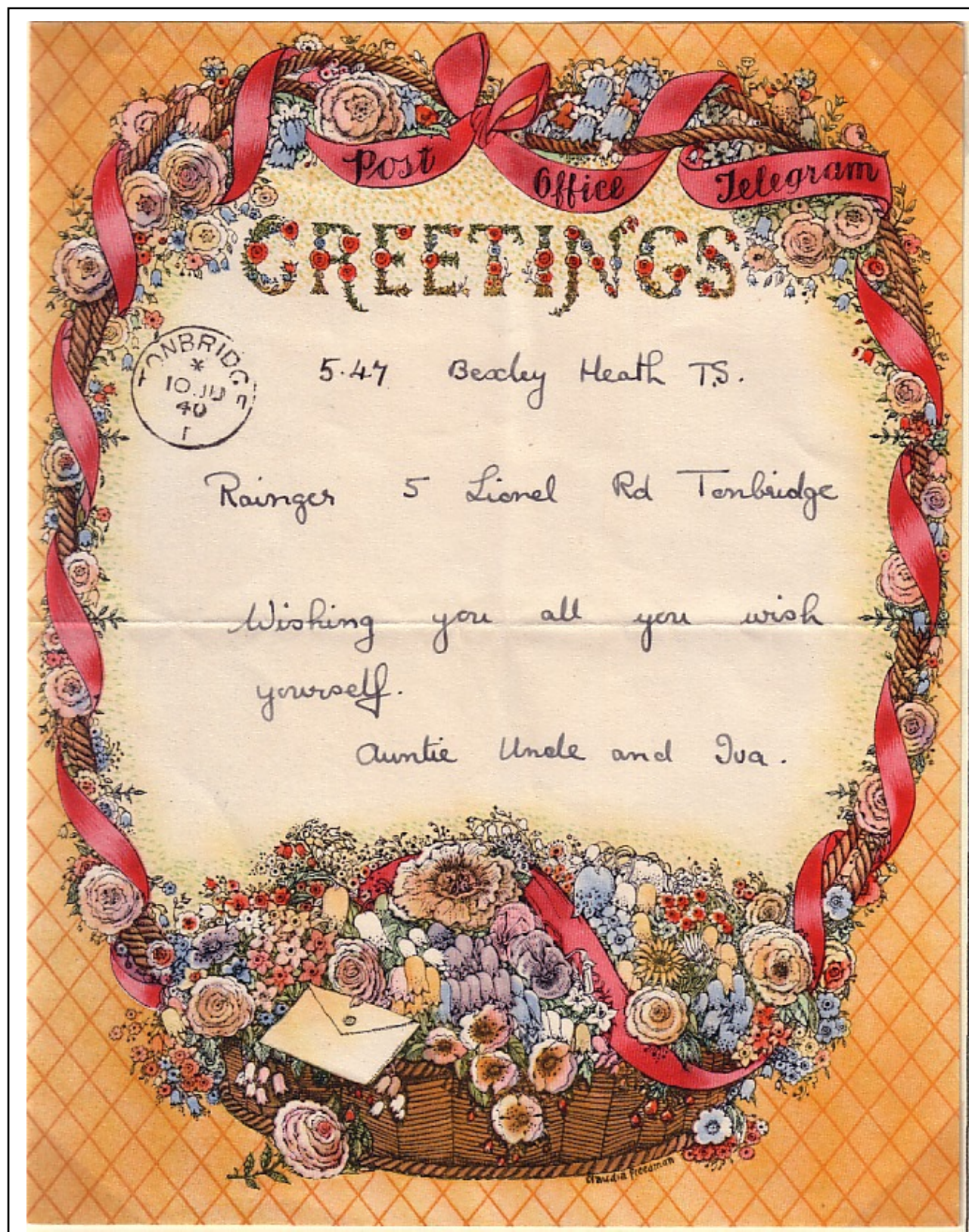


11 Dec 1941: Basingstoke, Hampshire to MALPAS, Cheshire : home-made envelope from an old gardening magazine

5.4 There's Good and Bad News

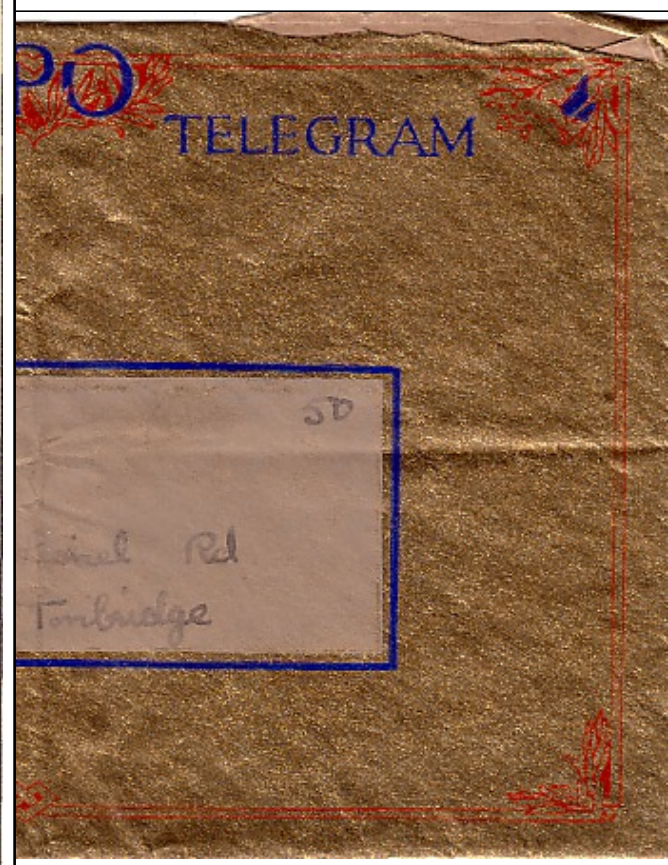
Greetings Telegrams bring cheer

Thursday April 8 1943: "Oh such joy, I received a telegram today from Ted's Mum wishing me a happy birthday; quite brought the tears to my eyes it was so kind of her. Made my heart jump though when I saw the telegram boy coming up the street..."



First introduced in 1935, the British Greetings Telegram forms were thought to be a way to revive the then flagging telegram service.

During the early years of the war, the Greetings telegram, delivered in a specially designed gold coloured envelope brought a little well-needed colour and joy into many lives.

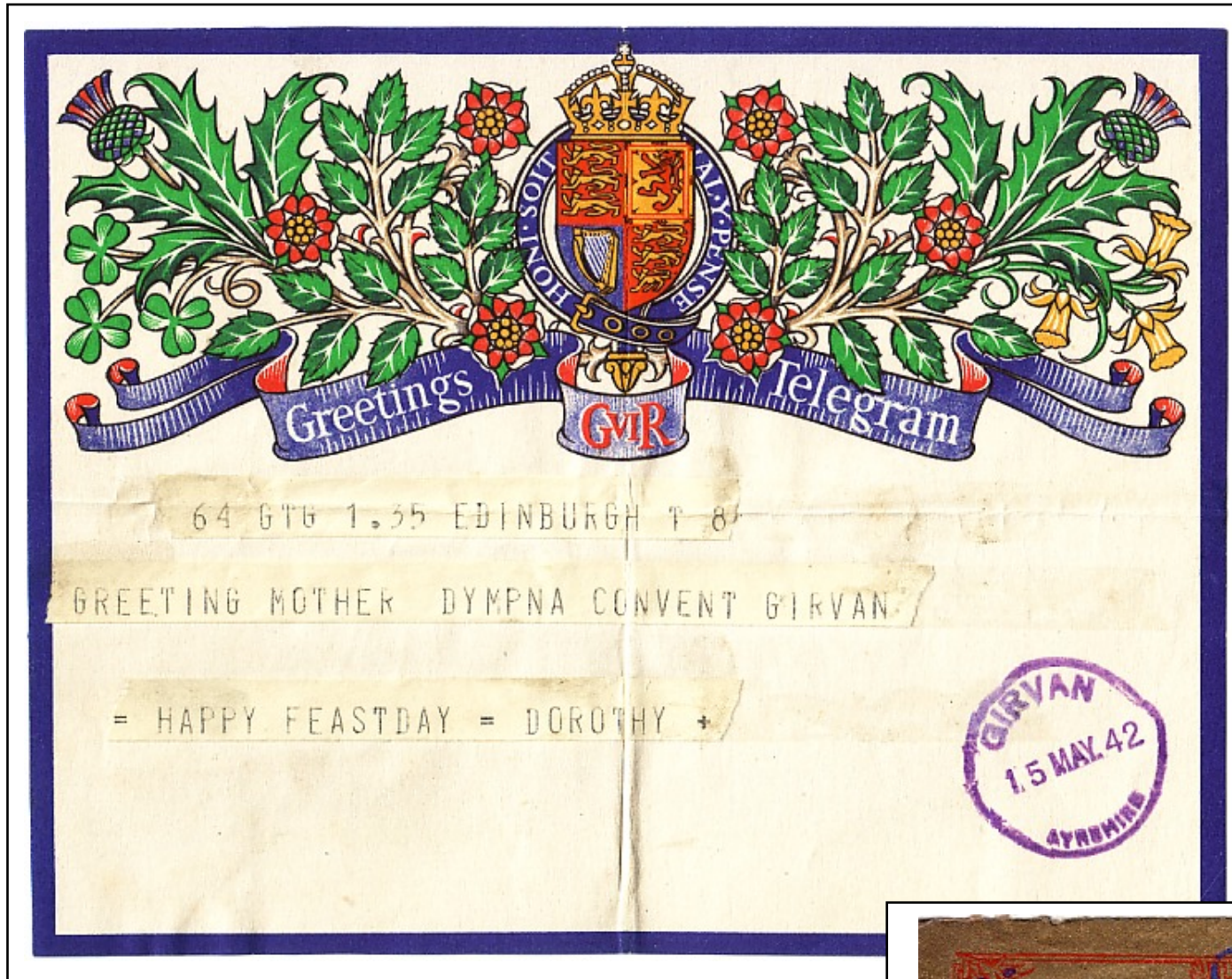


Artist Claudia Guerico
On sale 11 March — 4 December 1940

5.4 There's Good and Bad News

Greetings Telegrams bring cheer

"...such a kind thought to send a greetings telegram in times as these. Dad says it's frivolous, but I think it's lovely. I told him not to be such a misery - we need a little bit of cheering up these days."



The first wartime economy form appeared on 5th December 1940.

This was an adaptation of Macdonald Gill's 1937 Coronation form, in smaller format.

The forms were kept going for as long as possible although obtaining the colourful inks was becoming more and more difficult.

The form was accompanied by a small economy envelope, just big enough to take the form when folded in four.



5.4 There's Good and Bad News

Greetings Telegram Service suspended

Friday May 1 1943 — "The Bad news — the Greetings Telegram service was suspended yesterday, that does seem to be mean — for some it may have been the only good news they'd get."



Austerity Britain meant that once familiar things often became reduced in quality, or even discontinued.

The Greetings Telegram Service remained in operation in the early part of the war, with the last new design being introduced in June 1942.

Both form and envelope were reduced in size and were of an inferior quality. The original gay colours and designs were no more, being replaced by a simple design in sepia and cream. The colour of the envelope changing from gold to blue.

Finally, the service was suspended on 30 April 1943.



GB 2/6 booklet interleave advising the suspension of the Greetings Telegram service



5.5 A Message from Enemy Territory

The Red Cross act as intermediary

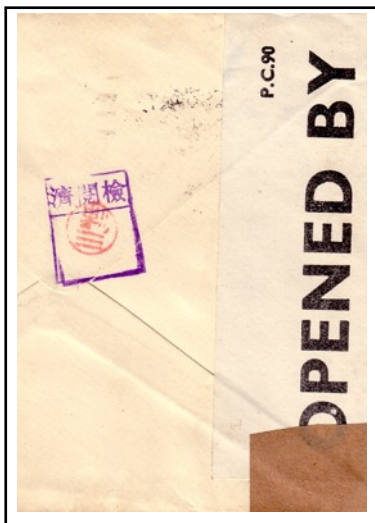
Thursday September 9 1943 — "I bumped into Mrs Wilson at the shops and asked how her boy was coping. Her face clouded and she said she hadn't heard from him. I could tell she was worried; she is such a kind hearted an good woman. it's a pity to see her so upset."

When Singapore fell on 15 February 1942. 52,000 British and Australian servicemen and 4,000 civilians found themselves prisoners of the Japanese.

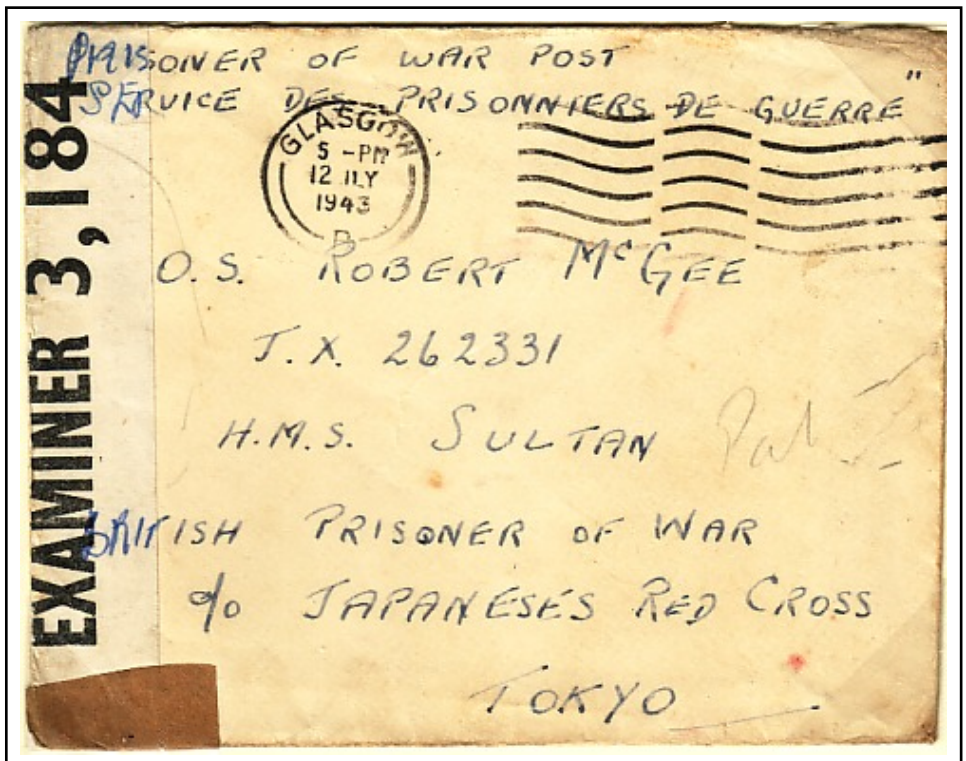
Under Article 36 of the 1929 Geneva Convention,

"...prisoners of war are to be allowed to send cards home. Within a period of not more than one week after his arrival at the camp and likewise in the case of sickness, every prisoner shall be enabled to write to his family a postal card informing it of his capture and of the state of his health. The said postal cards shall be forwarded as rapidly as possible and may not be delayed in any manner".

While the convention was not followed in strict detail, the Japanese did allow cards to be sent by the prisoners and mail to be received by them **on a very limited basis**.

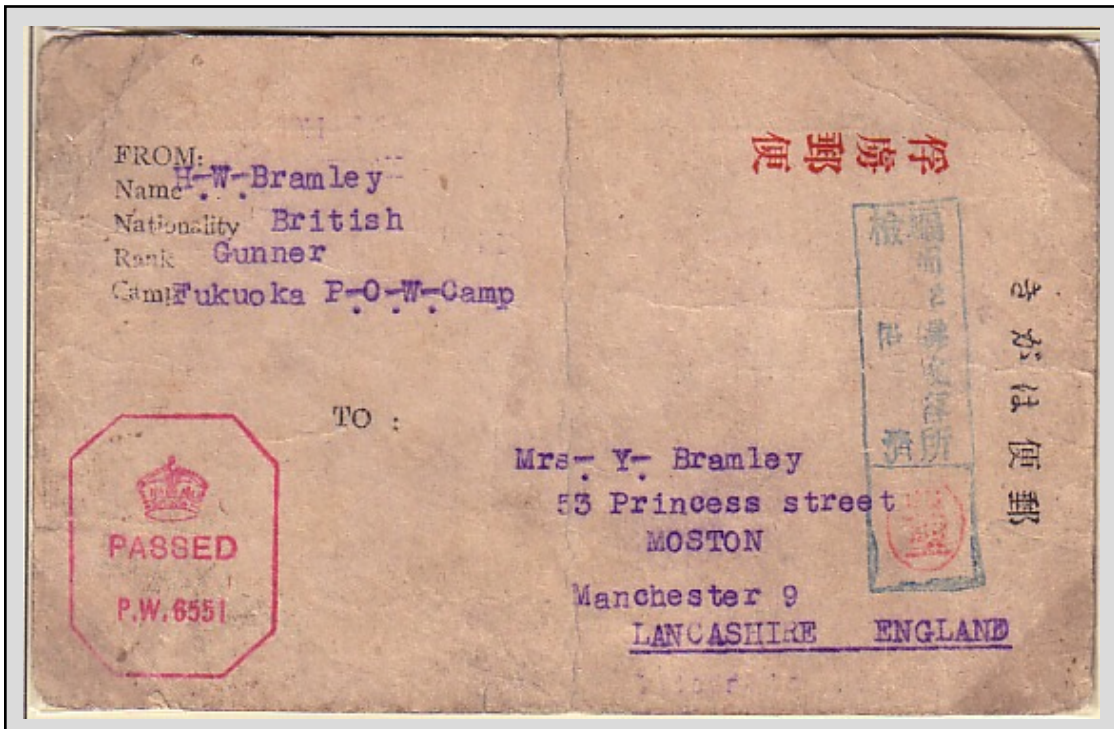


scanned copy of reverse
showing
Japanese camp arrival mark

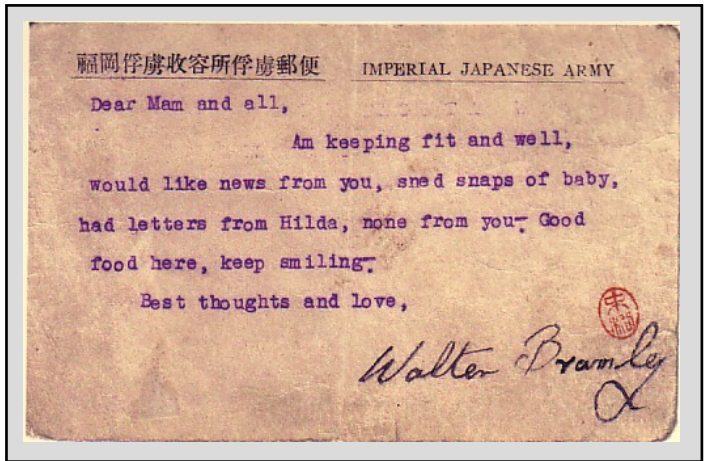


12 July 1943: Glasgow to P.O.W. c/o Japanese Red Cross.

The address H.M.S. Sultan was the name used from 1.1.40 to 16.2.41 for the Royal Navy Depot at Singapore. The letter has been endorsed 'Pal' in pencil, which refers to prison camp Palembang, Sumatra.



Occasionally a postcard, limited to 25 words only, was received from a prisoner in Japanese hands.



Reduced scan of reverse

On this occasion the message consists of more than the permitted 25 words, and it is obvious that 'Good food here, keep smiling' has been added by the guard who typed the card.

5.5 A Message from Enemy Territory

The Red Cross act as intermediary

Friday September 10 1943 — “ Mrs Waite popped in for a cup of tea this morning. She was so excited, she had received a letter telling her that she could be hearing from her Aunt in Jersey soon. What a difference from poor Mrs Wilson yesterday. ”

Following the declaration of War, the International Committee of the Red Cross obtained specific agreement from the British, French and German Governments for short messages to be exchanged between members of the same family living in occupied or belligerent countries, as un-interned civilians. Such messages were only to be exchanged via the offices of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva.

It was a strict requirement of the International Red Cross that all messages had to be sent via the National Red Cross Societies and under no circumstances were private individuals permitted to send civilian messages direct to the I.C.R.C.

Many forms display diagonal blue brush wash marks of a copper-sulphate solution, applied by the Germans as a test for secret writing.

Red German Red X (Paris) DEUTCHES ROTES KREUZ / BRIEFSTEMPEL / DER BEAUFRAGTE IN FRANKREICH

RESEKVE NO RED CROSS G 7542

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

ANTRAG
an die Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève
— Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE
de la Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Étranger
à l'Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève
— Comité International de la Croix-Rouge —
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender Mr. & Mrs. P. Galitch, Plaisance, Ryburn Avenue,
Expéditeur Jersey, Channel Islands.
bittet, an
prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à

2. Empfänger Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cornish, 120, Archery Grove,
Destinataire Woolston, SOUTHAMPTON, England.

folgendes zu übermitteln / ce qui suit :
(Höchstzahl 25 Worte !)
(25 mots au plus !)

Dear Molly, Jack. Hope all well. Thinking
you all Christmas. Hope will be last. Hope
you all have good time. God bless. Love.
Ena, Pierre, Natacha.

(Datum / Date) 18-12-43.

3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig
Destinataire répond au verso

On behalf of the Bailiff
of Jersey's Enquiry and News Service.
8 MARS 1944

MR & MRS P GALITCH

4. Antwort des Empfängers : PLAISANCE
Réponse du destinataire : RYBURN AVENUE
(Höchstzahl 25 Worte !)
(25 mots au plus !)

DEAR ENA PIERRE NATACHA

HOPE SOON ALL TOGETHER
AGAIN VALERIE MOLLIE
STILL WITH ME
THANK GOD CHINS UP
KEEP SWILING AND PRAYING
(Datum / Date) 12/4/44 (Unterschrift / Signature) LOVE JOHN

PASSED
P.233

18 MAI 1945

GENEVA red double circle COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX ROUGE GENEVE

Green boxed 'On behalf of the Bailiff of Jersey's Enquiry and News Service'

Crown over PASSED P.72 & P233 — UK blue censor marks

Reduced scan of reverse

5.5 A Message from Enemy Territory

An alternative arrangement could be made

Tuesday September 14 1943 — "I saw Mrs Waite again today - She was much happier. It appears she had received a Red Cross Message from her Aunt, and although it didn't say much [only 25 words permitted] at least Mrs Waite knows she is alive and well. I suppose that's something to be thankful

Letters could be sent to friends in enemy-occupied territory via the Red Cross Postal Message scheme (see previous page).



Communications with the enemy or friends in enemy-occupied territory required a special procedure involving the official exchange of mails via a neutral territory. This operation could take as long as six months to complete.



Nottingham to Switzerland for onward transmission.
Manuscript 'RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SCHEME'
Examined by British & German censors

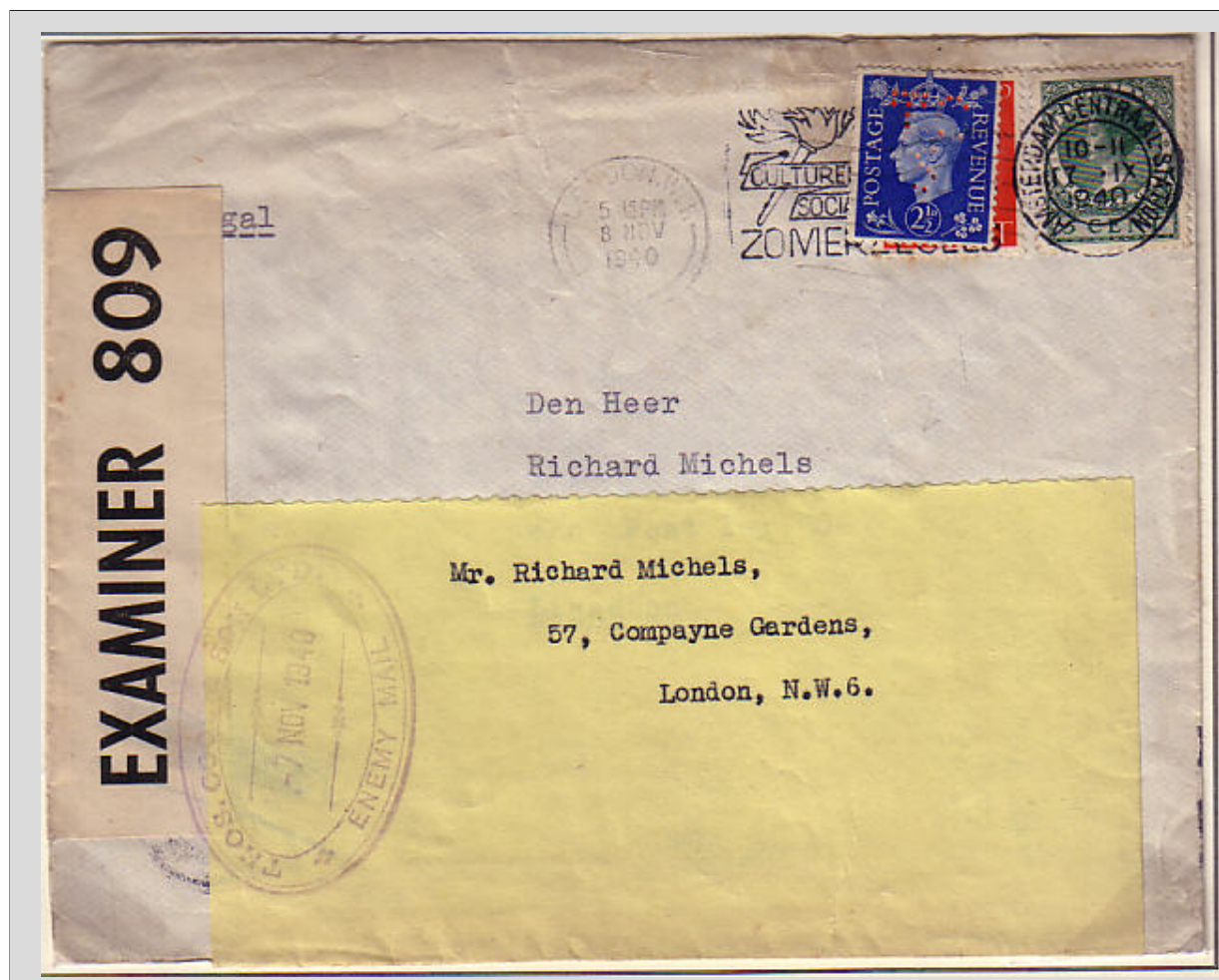
Alternative arrangements could be made via Thomas Cook & Son, London.

Along with the I.C.R.C., authority to act as intermediary was also granted to Thomas Cook & Son, London. This mail was routed through Portugal..

Letter from occupied Netherlands to London, posted 17 September 1940. Received in London 8 November. This was much faster than the Red Cross Scheme, which could take six months or more. Plus there was no restrictions on the number of words allowed.

In the case of incoming re-addressed mail, a British stamp was applied (these usually had a perfin 'TCS' i.e., Thomas Cook Service) over the original stamp(s), the cover was re-addressed and placed in the post. London W1 8 Nov 1940 postmark.

British censor resealing label, yellow TC readdressing label with 'ENEMY MAIL' violet handstamp applied.

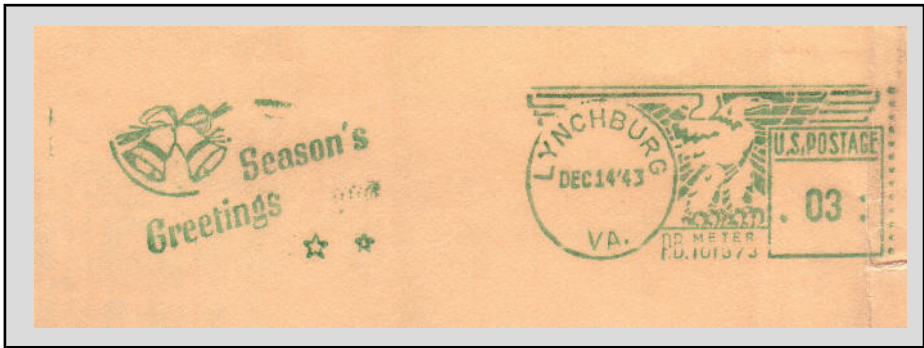


5.6 Christmas 1943

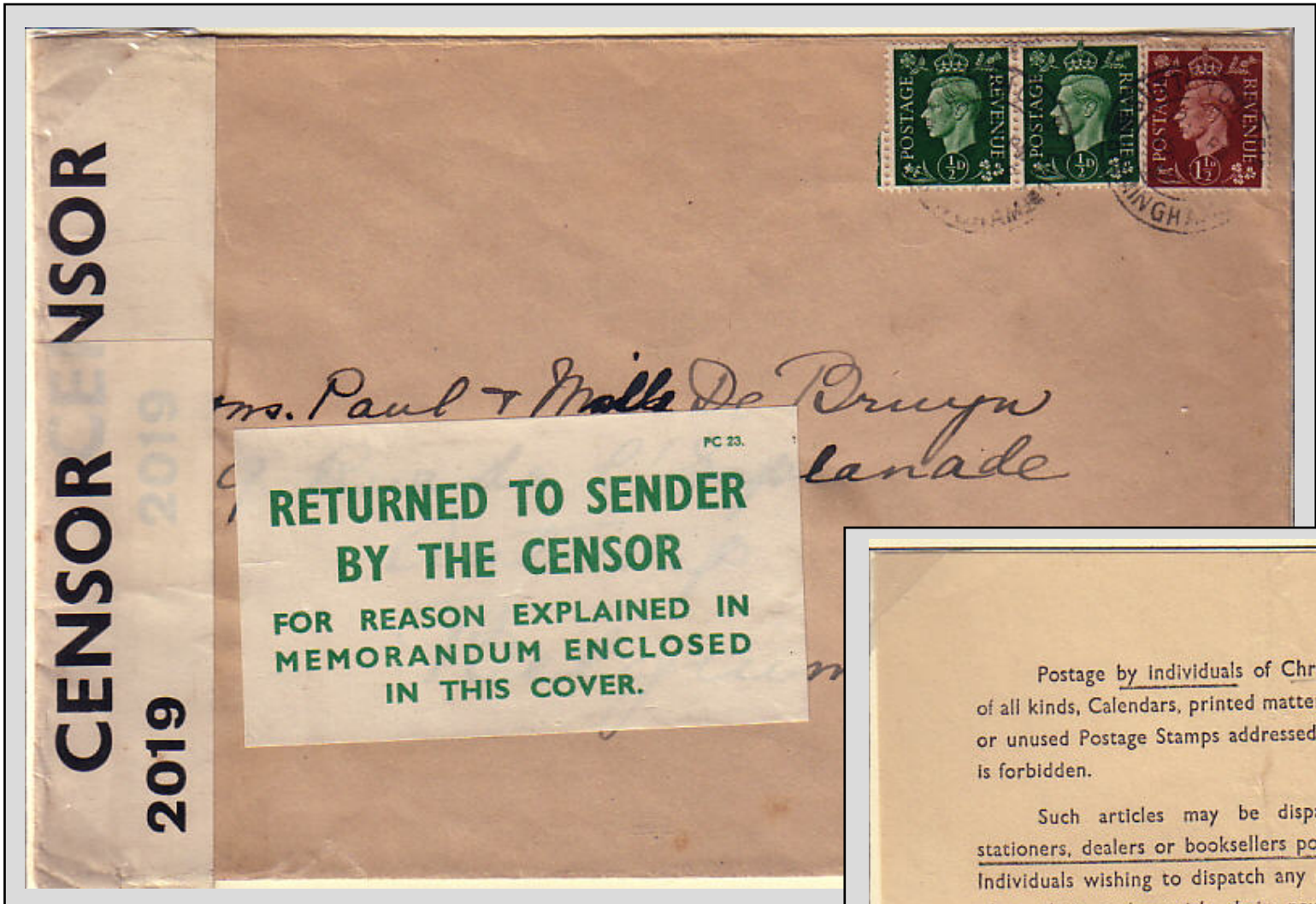
Many Restrictions still in Place

Tuesday December 14 1943 —“Saw the children in the school Nativity play. It was sad to hear them singing about Peace on earth and Goodwill to men when we are still suffering the bombs and killing; and there are still so many restrictions in place, you can’t even send a card abroad without permission.”

Despite the restrictions, most families tried to make the best of things and celebrate Christmas 1943 as normal.



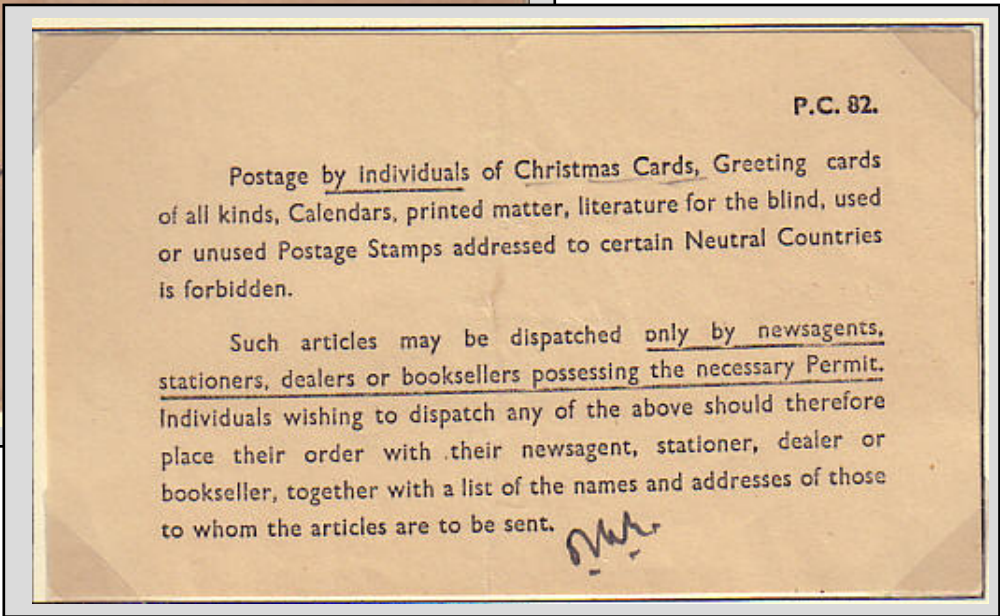
Many traditional Christmas celebrations took place, including the school Nativity play.



Restrictions were placed on sending Christmas cards.

From the onset of War, Christmas cards to some countries were among the items forbidden to be sent by individuals.

Such items were returned by the Censor with a memorandum reminding the sender of the regulations.

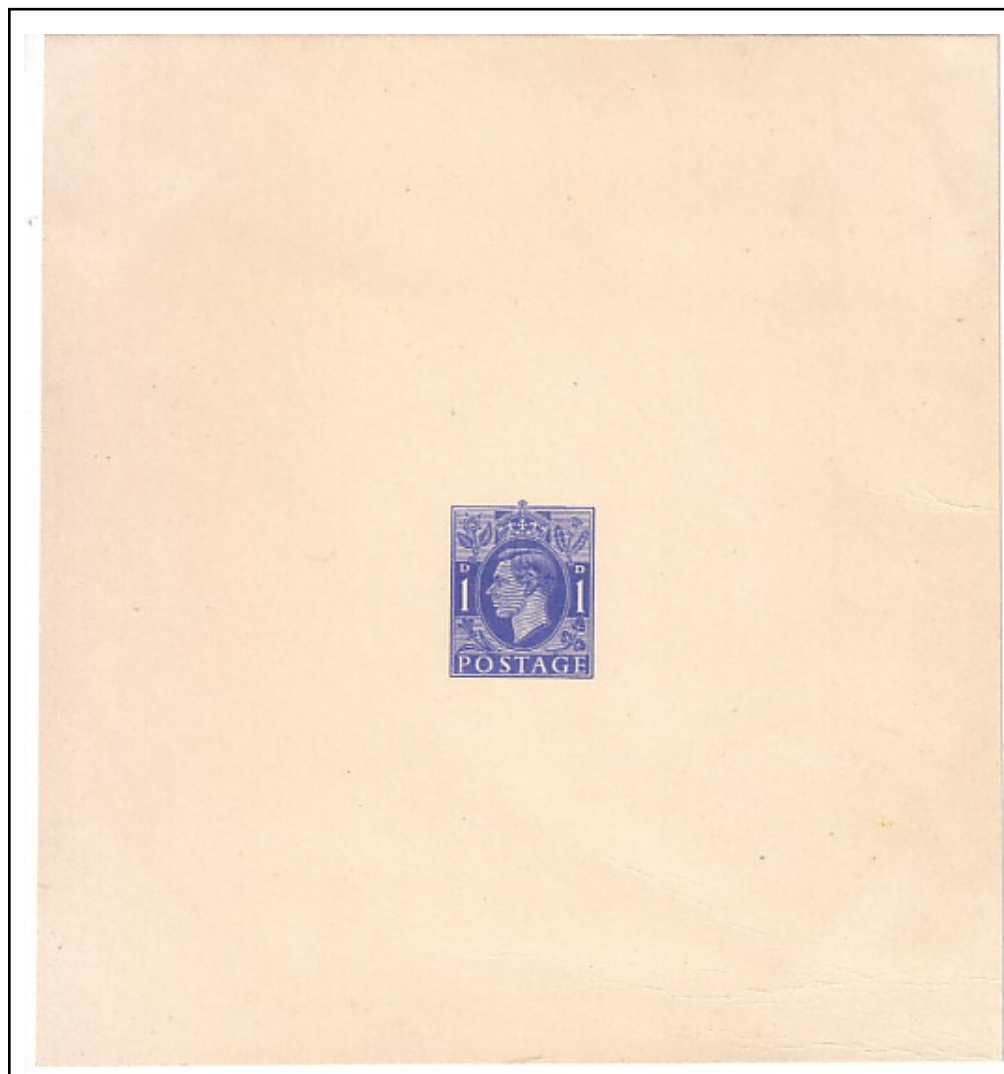


6: 1944 — Out of the Darkness

6.1 Conscientious objectors

Monday 30 Jan 1944 — “ Mrs Shore has taken in a lodger. Rumour has it he's a ‘Conchie’, I hope not - we don't want any of them in our street. Dad has met him and he said he seems quite nice... I dunno... they're all a lot of queers and cowards if you ask me, why won't they fight like our men have to!”

Conscientious objectors (Conchies) were men who, for moral or religious reasons felt unable to take part in the war. They were resented and reviled and were often treated quite badly by the people at home.



Peace News, the official paper of the Peace Pledge Union peaked during the so-called Phoney War between September 1939 and May 1940. In the face of demands in parliament for the banning of the paper, the printer and distributors stopped working with Peace News. However, with help from the typographer **Eric Gill**, and others, Peace News continued to be published and distributed around the UK.

In 1937, Gill designed the background of the first George VI definitive stamp series for the Post Office.



Miscut ½d from a malfunctioning stamp dispensing machine

(Gill's stamp design emblems were later adapted for WW2 postal stationery cards. How ironic that the staunch pacifist should have his design used on war correspondence. He died in November 1940 and so never knew the fate of his designs.)

Arnold Machin's work for 'Voluntary Service for Peace in London' led to his imprisonment in Wormwood Scrubs for twelve months (he served nine) as a conscientious objector. He went on to design one of the world's most famous and longest running stamps, the 'Machin' — first issued in June 1967 and still in use over 40 years later.

MACHIN FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Arnold Machin is remembered as the creator of the iconic image of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth that has, since 1967, appeared on more than 175 billion Royal Mail stamps. He was also a skilful sculptor, illustrator and ceramics designer.

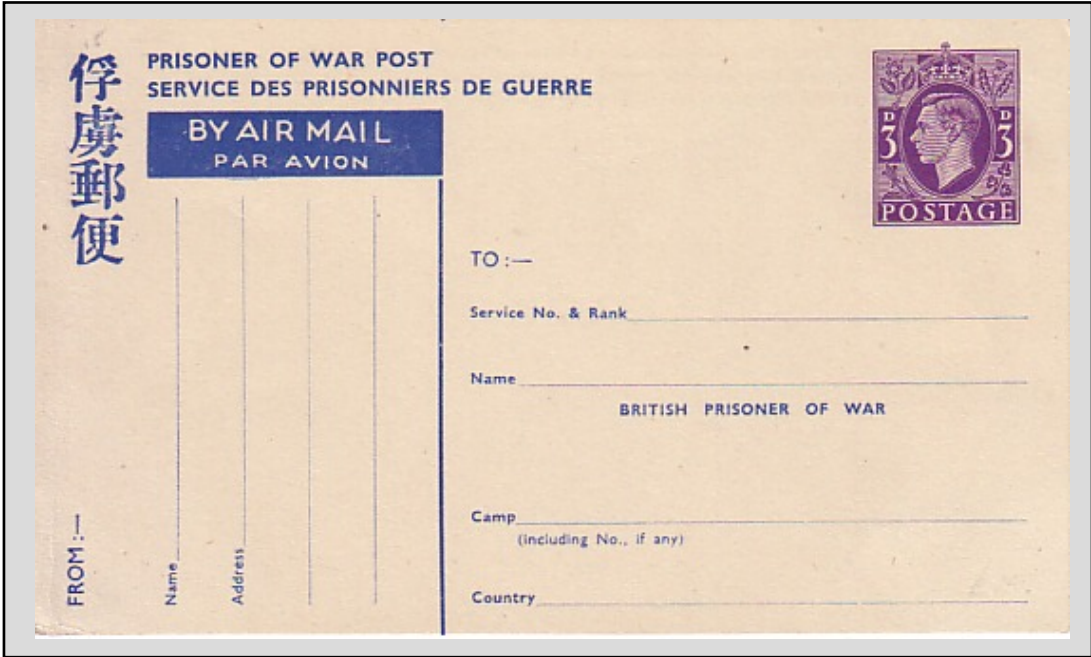
Discover more about Royal Mail Special Stamps at royalmail.com/stamps



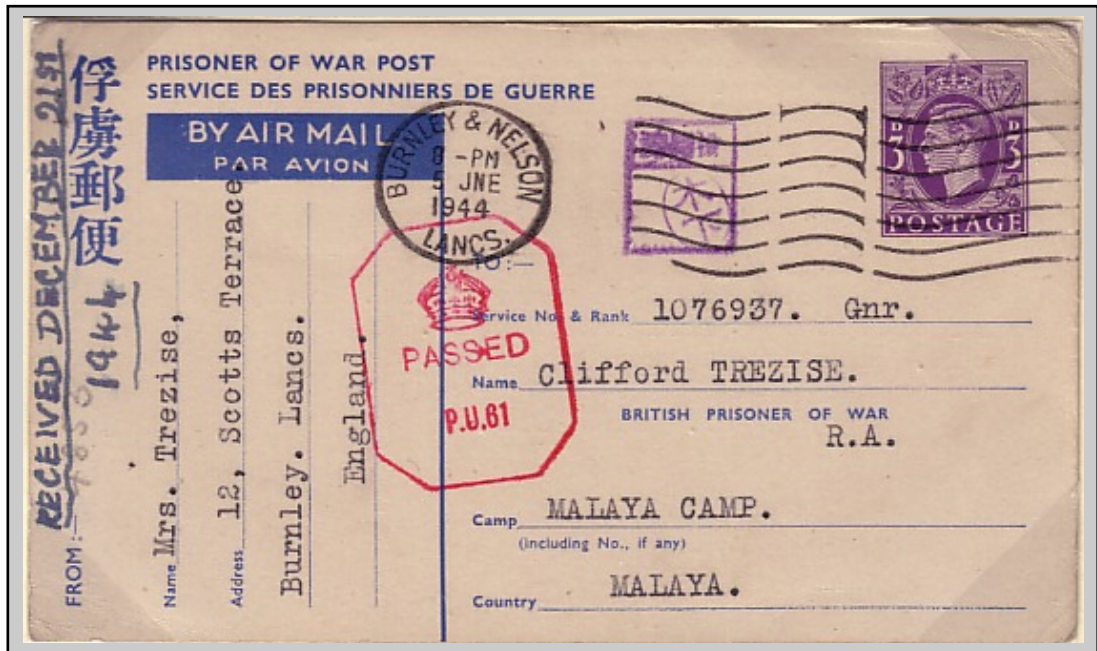
Arnold Machin

“ ...Instead of thinking of themselves and their silly ideals all the time, those Conchies should be thinking about our boys held in POW camps in Japan and doing their bit to help end this terrible war; then we can get them home. Makes my blood boil the way they carry on.”

Peace Pledge Union activist Eric Gill’s stamp design emblems were adapted for use on the WW2 postal stationery airmail cards.



Postcards, rather than airletters, were produced because of Japanese regulations, which only allowed a prisoner an occasional postcard on which the message must not exceed 25 words. This is thought to be mainly for the convenience of the Japanese censors.



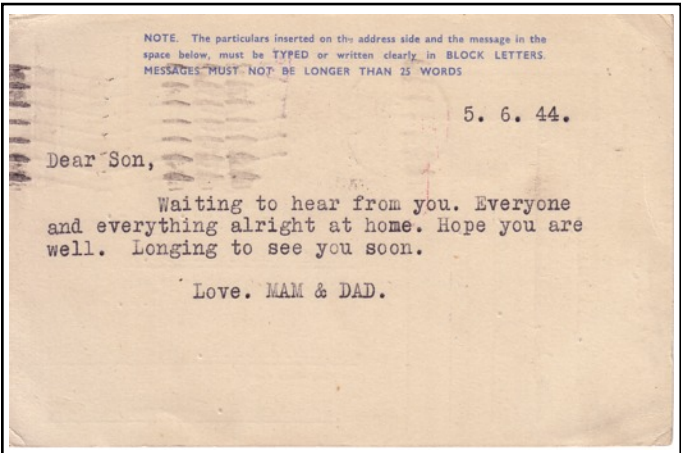
GPO NOTICE — AIR MAIL POSTCARDS

A special air mail postcard for writing to prisoners of war in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories is now on sale at principal Post Offices, price 3d (inclusive of postage).

The card will be conveyed by air as far as British air services are available and will be forwarded thence by the normal route for surface correspondence. The air mail service will give some acceleration over the ordinary service, but the total time of transmission will still be lengthy. The postcard as printed is in the form for writing to a prisoner of war whose camp address is known. It may, however, be used for writing to all prisoners in the Far East who are entitled to receive correspondence by the prisoners of war post (see section 1 of Post Office leaflet P.2327B); but the printed words in the address “To” panel should be amended to conform with the instructions for addressing correspondence given in Section 4 of leaflet P.2327B.

IMPORTANT.

The prisoner of war air letter-card used for writing to prisoners of war in Europe must NOT be used for writing to the Far East. Communications written on private stationery will not be forwarded by air mail. FE/PO/3/44.



Reduced scan of reverse

They were not delivered very speedily either, this card having taken over six months to reach the addressee.

6.2 The Salvage Drives continue

Saving & Salvage

Tuesday February 8 1944 — “Save! Save! Save! That's all you hear these days. I am just about sick of it. I ask you what can they possibly want with old meat bones & my old girdle! What do they do with it all...”

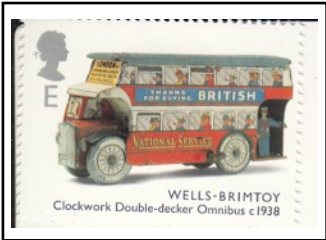
Without doubt the nation’s wartime obsession was saving paper, rags, glass, jam jars, old saucepans, bones, books, bottles, aluminium and tins,old rubber raincoats, garden hose, rubber shoes, bathing caps, rubber gloves, etc.



Bones were salvaged for manufacturing nitro-glycerine, glue, fertilizers and animal foodstuffs. Crushed bones added to chicken feed strengthen the eggshell.



Clothes were recycled to save wool, cotton, machinery and manpower

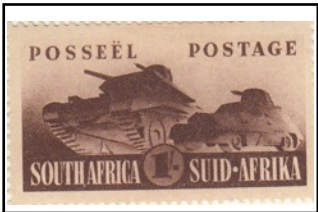


Tins and Metal...

Rubber
for tyres.



AVON INDIA
RUBBER
Co. Ltd



...for tanks ...



DUNLOP
RUBBER
Co Ltd



...& weapons

6.2 The Salvage Drives continue

Rubber supplies interrupted

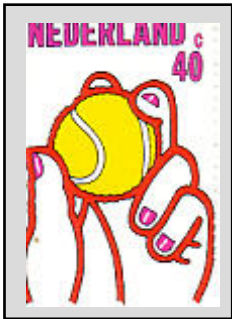
"...I am beginning to think this salvage business is just government propaganda to keep us going."



Tapping the rubber

World War II shortages weren't just home-front propaganda. Japanese conquests in Malaya and the Dutch East Indies cut off all Allied access to natural rubber supplies. The Government of Ceylon issued special Export Controls for Dry Rubber to stop the black market in the product.

Everything was needed for the war effort so ships concentrated on carrying oil, steel, rubber and other essential products from the Commonwealth.



Tapping rubber

Salvage helped fill the gap, housewives ransacked their houses for hot water bottles, bathing caps, tennis & golf balls, and even their old girdles. Although the rubber recycling industry produced a fair amount of material throughout the war, the rubber scrap drive didn't significantly boost its output.

Bradbury Wilkinson took over the printing of the 2c from De La Rue when the works of the latter were bombed during the 1941 raids



(Bradbury Wilkinson)



1933 South African booklet advertising pane

The Rubber Reserve Company (RRC), was formed in 1940 to stockpile natural rubber and regulate synthetic rubber production. **Firestone**, B.P. Goodrich, Goodyear, and U.S. Rubber agree to work together to solve the nation's wartime rubber needs.



6.3 The invasion of France

Britain prepares for the invasion

Saturday May 20 1944 — " Mrs Wentworth [neighbour] has been staying with friends near Gravesend; she says the roads down south are full of army traffic from all sections of the Allied forces. Dad recons that the invasion is not far off now, just a matter of getting the troops in place and ready to go."

In the build-up to D-Day, over 5 million Allied personnel...



16 May 1944 : New Zealand Air Force letter to USA. Anonymous postmark to hide unit location

...the world's largest force, congregated in the UK.



Australian Army PO 214



Inland letter sent from US APO 387 to US APO 472
Both Bases were used for Canadian regiments during the D-Day preparations.
(401st Glider Infantry Regiment part of 101st Airborne Division)



Canadian Military HQ — FPO 245



GB 2d postal card used by USA Army Postal Service
APO 403 used by 3rd Army

6.3 The Invasion of France

Operation Overlord

Wednesday June 7 1944 — “ We listened to the King at nine o'clock last night — Just the news we've been waiting for. Dad was so pleased, I have not seen him so happy for ages. Mrs Wentworth came in and invited us to a party on Friday night to celebrate the good news. At last we are on our way.”

Operation Overlord — The greatest armada and sea borne invasion in history took place at daybreak on 6th June 1944. Armed forces from Britain, the Dominions, United States of America, with the Free Forces of Europe carried out the most dramatic attack of WWII on the heavily fortified Normandy coast of France.



Jersey - Miniature sheet issued 6th June 2004;
Shown around the perimeter are the badges and military insignia of the major units of the Allied Forces that participated in Operation Overlord.



3½ million Allied Forces personnel passed through the port of Southampton in the liberation of Europe



F.P.O. CA 2 — the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade landed on Juno Beach.; during the course of Summer 1944 over 5,000 Canadian were killed in Normandy.



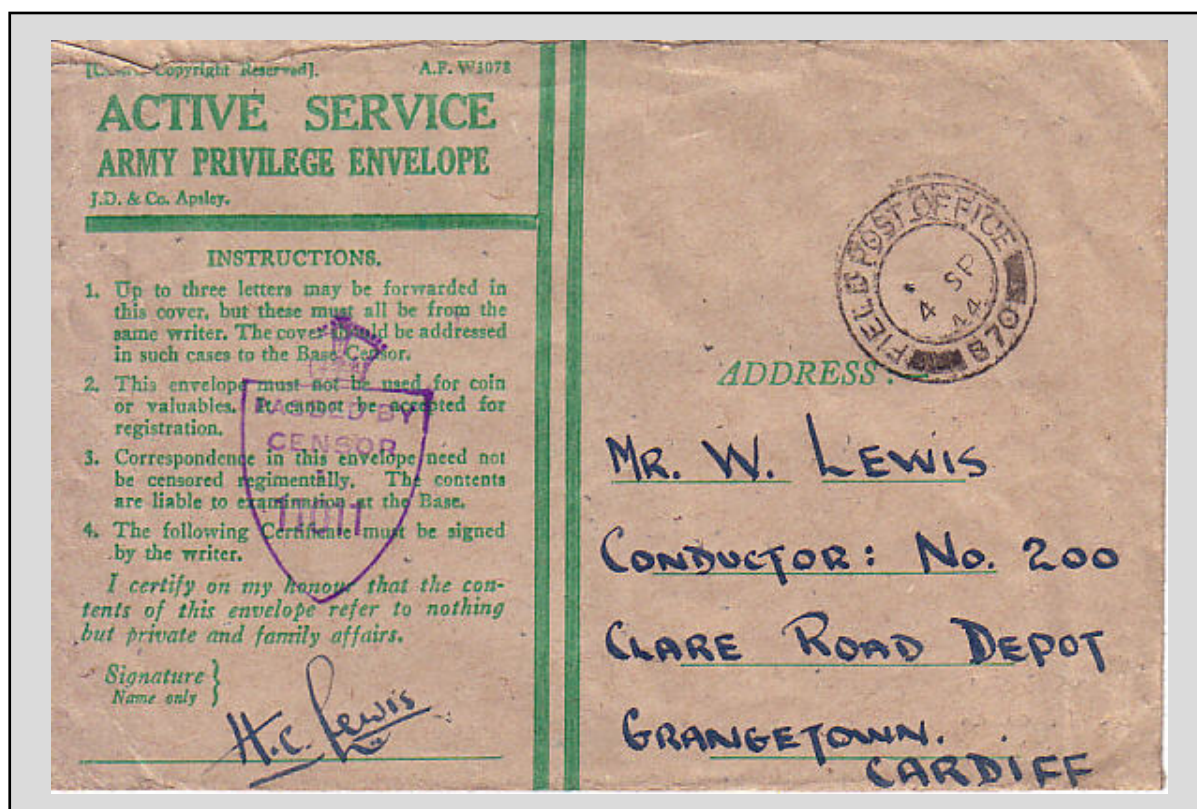
After a fierce and bloody battle the Allies broke through the defences securing a foothold that would ultimately turn the tide of the war.



6.3 The Invasion of France

Paris is Free

Friday September 1 1944 — "I spent a couple of hours with Mrs Head this morning. She was saying how strange it was to think of the battles raging in France just now. She has an Aunt in Paris, and used to visit her when she was a child. I told her she will soon be able to visit again now De Gaulle is back there."



4 September 1944: FPO 870 used by British Liberation Army



General De Gaulle makes a triumphant return to Paris



The Allied push through France



Paris was liberated on 25 August



1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade (Censor 11695 = Anti Tank Battery) lay siege to Dunkirk Sep 15 1944 - May 1945

6.4 The Blackout has been lifted

The V1 & V2 'baby blitz'

Friday 8 September 1944 — "We are being bombed again! This time by pilot-less planes called 'Doodle -Bugs', What a silly name for such a destructive beastly weapon. The only good thing is the blackout has been lifted. Hurrah! I am going to start taking those horrid blinds down this evening."

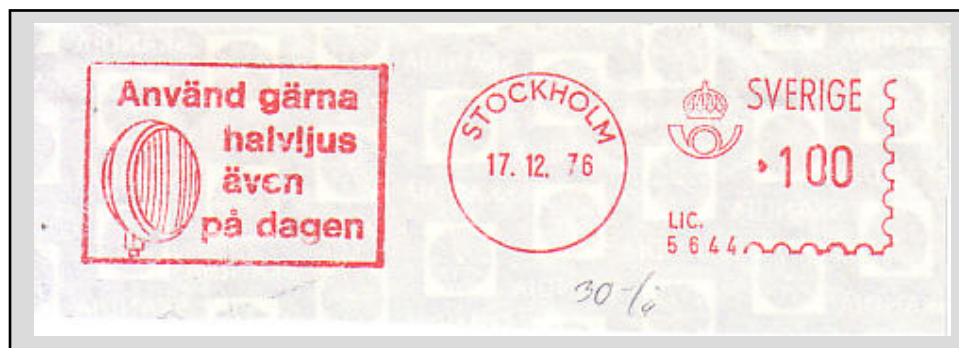
V-Is were used by the Germans between June 1944 and March 1945. They were pilot-less planes that carried a one-ton bomb. 'Doodle-bugs' were a continual threatening presence throughout this period.



Despite the failing German machine, Hitler still refused to capitulate. He authorized the deployment of the V1, and later V2, bombers in large numbers.



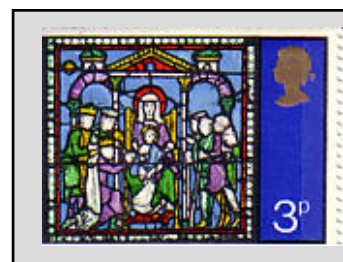
Despite the horror of the rockets, the threat from conventional aircraft was virtually past; and with it the need for the blackout.



Car headlight masks, previously used to dim the lights during the blackout, were abolished. Torches and flashlights were able to be freely used.



A survey found one in five had an accident in the blackout. Deaths in road accidents exceeded 2,000 in first 4 months of war. 1,7000 more than the same period in peacetime. Most of the casualties were pedestrians.



At Christmas the churches were allowed to light their stained-glass windows for the first time for four years.

Monday December 24 1944 — "Another Christmas under fire! We have come so far and yet still the war drags on! ..."

Many had desperately hoped the war would be over by Xmas. Unfortunately despite high hopes and brave faces, it was still to drag on into the New Year.

airgraph service

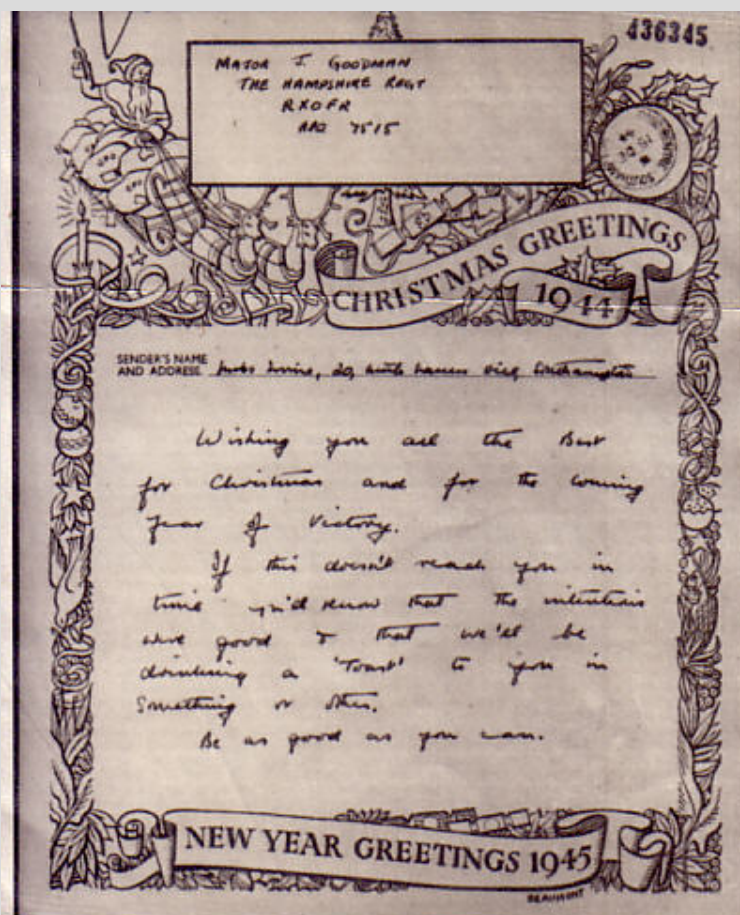
- The destinations to which the airgraph service is available may be ascertained at any Post Office.
- Nothing should be written on this side of the paper.
- The whole of the message should be written on the other side below the sender's name and address.
- The name and address to which the message is to be sent should be written in large BLOCK letters wholly within the panel provided. The address should be the same as for an ordinary letter except in the case of airgraphs for personnel of Merchant Navy ships, which should be addressed to the addressee and ship (by name) followed by "c/o G.P.O., London, E.C.1."
- A miniature photographic negative of the message and address will be made and sent by air mail. At the destination end a photographic print, measuring about 5 inches by 4 inches, will be made and delivered to the addressee. It is therefore important that the message should be written very plainly and that the address should be written as large as possible in block letters. Wherever possible, *black ink* should be used. Very small writing is not suitable.
- The completed form may be handed in at any Post Office, or if preferred, may be forwarded to London in an envelope addressed to: "Airgraphs"

Foreign Section
London

In that case it is desirable that a large envelope should be used and that the form should be folded as few times as possible, preferably in the same direction as the writing. As an exception to the general rule that postage is payable on letters addressed to Government Departments, Postmasters, etc., postage is not payable on covers containing completed Airgraph forms addressed to "Airgraphs," Foreign Section, London.

- If it is desired to send more than one sheet, a separate form must be completed, and the name and address of the sender and of the addressee must be inserted on each form in the usual way.
- The original will be retained by the Post Office and eventually destroyed.

please complete your message and post without delay



Christmas 1944 official airgraph postal stationery form printed by the GPO bearing 3d imprinted stamp.



"...We can only hope and pray that it really will end next year and all the men will come home at last "

The International Red Cross succeeded in persuading the Japanese to allow the exchange of telegrams at the end of 1944. Under this agreement, which started in early 1945, the prisoners were allowed to send and receive one message per year. The message was restricted to 10 words not including the address or signature.

Many telegrams were sent to prisoners of war in Japanese hands, but few were actually delivered — and probably even fewer were kept by the recipients because of shortages of everything (including paper) in the camps.

Telegram sent to Private John Gardner, Fukuoka camp, via International Red Cross (red OSK/GVE applied in Japan indicating the telegram was sent from Geneva to Osaka) Message sent from his Father; manuscript - received 21.5.45.

Fukuoka camp, located on the island of Kyushu, was in operation from Jan 42 - Sep 45, and housed over 10,000 POWs in 18 satellite camps throughout the area. Although some messages were forwarded to Tokyo during the few months the service was available, it is doubtful whether many telegrams were received by the prisoners. In addition to the problems of censorship and conveying the mail over large distances to so many camps, the Japanese often deliberately withheld prisoners' mail as a punishment.

7. 1945 — The Road to Victory

7.1 Gift parcels bring relief

Wednesday January 3 1945 — “After the excitement of the invasion and the Allies advance through France, we all hoped that the war would be finished by Christmas. Instead, we are into the new year with heavy hearts ... And now I can't even have a smoke... how much longer can this war last?”

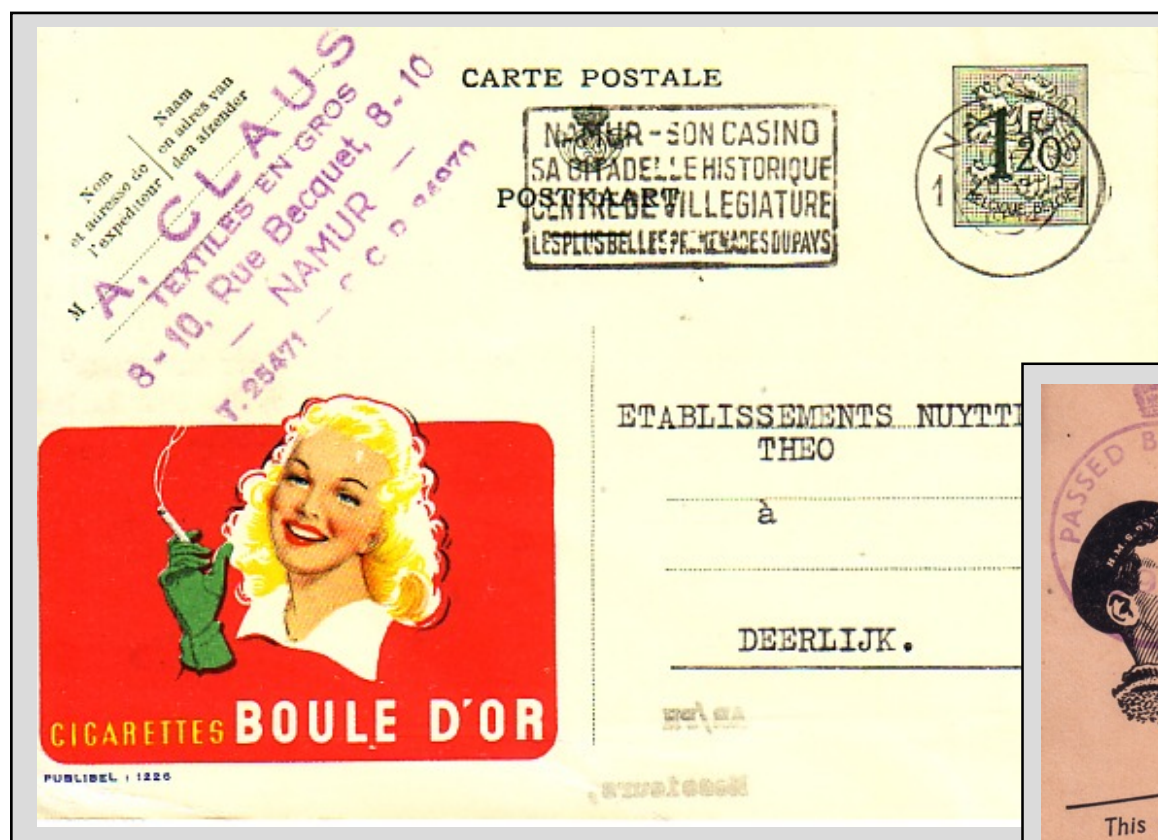
The Blackout may have been lifted but there was still severe food restrictions. For many it was a gloomy time, only relieved by the welcome gift of food parcels from abroad, or cigarettes from home.

A typical food parcel sent from relatives or friends abroad could contain:

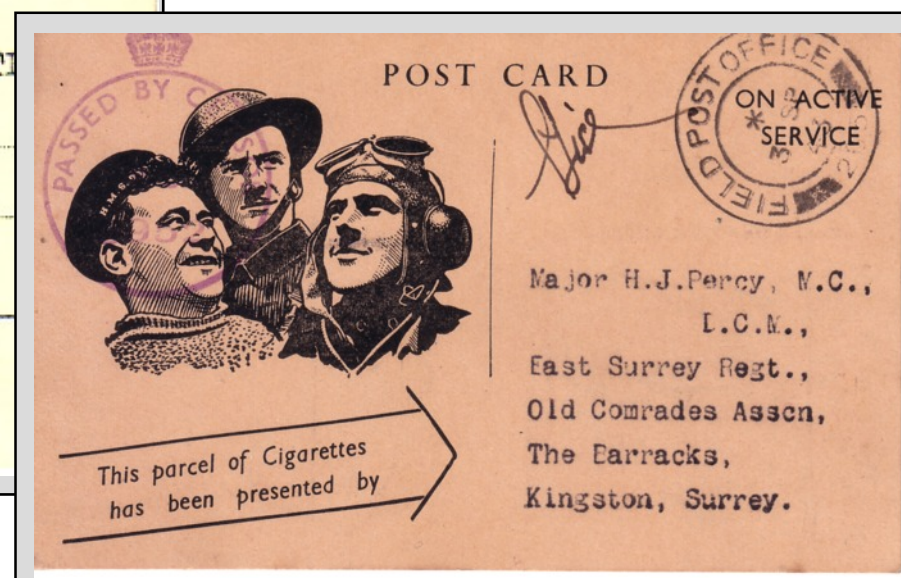
- tinned meat
- jam
- tinned milk
- jelly crystals.

A photograph of a brown cardboard parcel with a red and white 'POSTAL' label. The label contains the following information:

- Postage:** Three Australian 16-cent stamps.
- Place to which the parcel is addressed:** 8 Grosvenor Rd, Purley, Surrey, England.
- Gross Weight of Parcel:** 7-0 lbs.
- Contents:** 2 tins meat (12 oz each), 1 tin jam, 1 tin fruit, 1 tin milk, 1 packet jelly crystals.
- Net Weight of Contents:** 3 2 lbs, 2 2 oz.
- Value as Merchandise:** £ 2 6 d.
- Name and Address of Sender:** C.E. Wise, 81 Main Avenue, Winton, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- Sender's Signature:** C.E. Wise.
- Instructions given by sender:** * ABANDON, * RETURN.



Tobacco, like many other luxury items, was expensive and hard to come by.



Cigarette shortage — Women were told to give up smoking so the men could have their cigarettes. People clubbed together to send cigarettes to the Fighting Forces and the wounded.

A typical Forces cigarette 'thank you' card

7.2 Britain Struggles On

New Fish to Try

Saturday January 5 1945 — "The fish-man persuaded me to try whale meat today. I cooked it for lunch — Horrible! Repulsive! Revolting! It was like a solid lump of cod liver oil, or like 'fishy liver — even the dog wouldn't eat it! UGH! Give me nice bit of cod anyway."

Fish was never rationed, but it was in short supply because Britain's fishing grounds were infested with U-boats. The British people had to get used to some unfamiliar varieties, but whale meat was a novelty that even the hungriest Britons found hard to swallow.

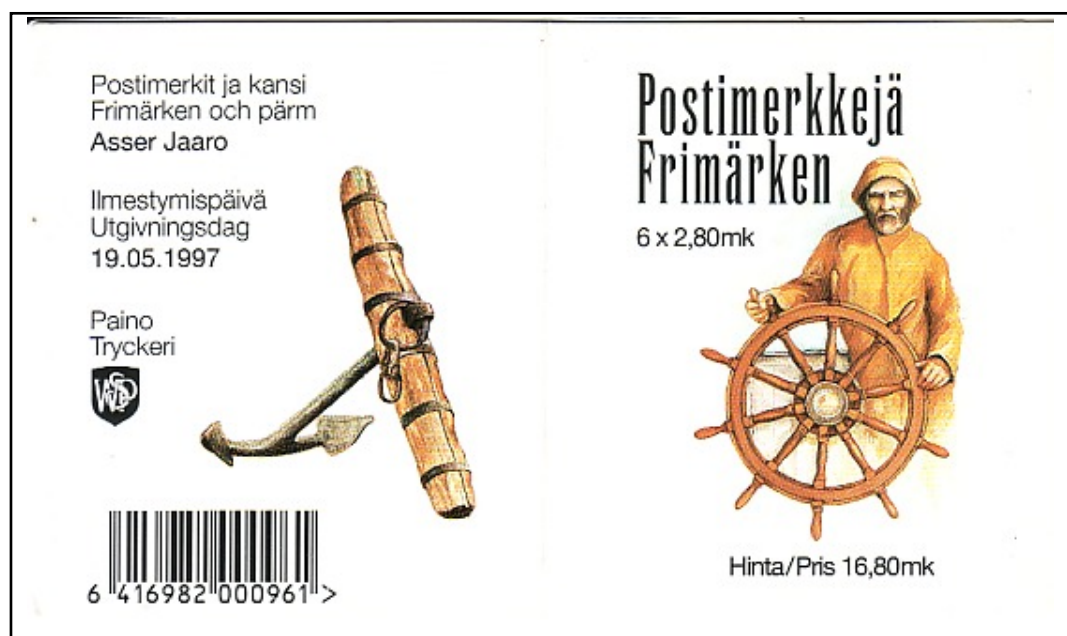


Fishing was a very dangerous occupation owing to mine infested waters and German U-boats



Tuna canning factory

Fresh salmon and tuna was occasionally available, but the more easily obtained canned salmon & tuna were very popular.



Finnish booklet issued 19.5.1997 — value 16,80 mk

Whale meat was available in the fish shops from January 1945, but proved very unpopular...



...Snoek or barracuda, introduced at the same time, was also rejected by the British public



7.3 The Allies advance through Europe

Roosevelt dies as the Allies win through

Saturday April 21 1945 — "The shock of loosing poor Mr. Roosevelt has quite upset me, he had such a lovely smile. I think Winston will miss him."

By the end of April, the enemy was being soundly defeated in Europe. British and American forces had thrust deep into Nazi occupied territory; but the Free World was saddened, and mourned the unexpected death of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



April 12: Roosevelt dies suddenly of cerebral haemorrhage.



The funeral cortège



The free world pays tribute...



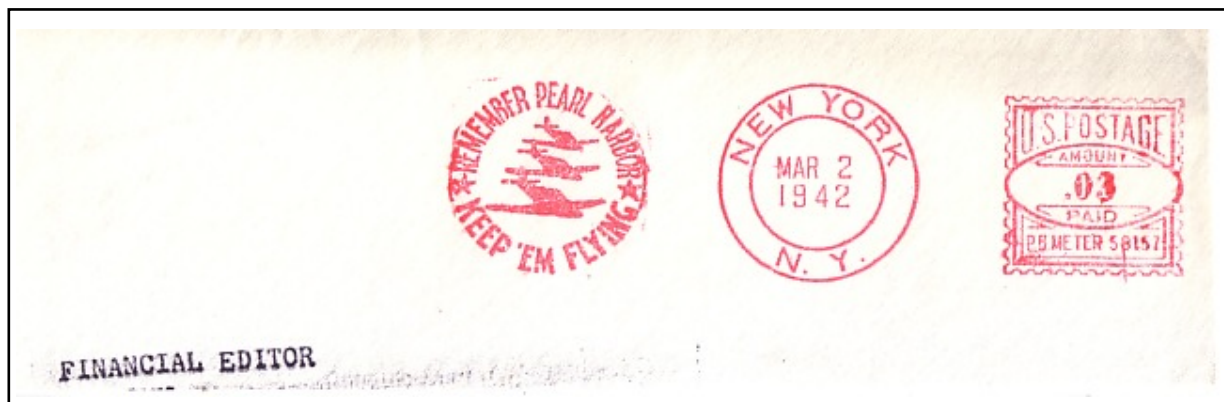
The President died whilst at his "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Georgia. It is said Churchill wept when he heard the news.



Stalin, FDR, Churchill
1945 overprint



As World War II loomed after 1938, with the Japanese invasion of China and the aggressions of Nazi Germany, FDR gave strong diplomatic and financial support to China and Britain, while remaining officially neutral. His goal was to make America the "Arsenal of Democracy" which would supply munitions to the Allies. In March 1941, Roosevelt, with Congressional approval, provided Lend-Lease aid to the countries fighting against Nazi Germany with Great Britain. He secured a near-unanimous declaration of war against Japan after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, calling it a "date which will live in infamy". He supervised the mobilization of the US economy to support the Allied war effort which saw unemployment evaporate and the industrial economy soar to heights no one ever expected.



V. President Truman
takes office

7.3 The Allies advance through Europe

The horrors of the Concentration Camps revealed

Sunday April 22 1945 — " My lighthearted mood of yesterday has gone — Last night I went to the pictures with my friend s from the factory. We saw a lovely film, but then they ran the Pathe News. It made me feel quite sick, how could one human being do that to another? Those Nazi's will have to pay!"

A national obsession was the cinema, with 20-30 million going regularly to the 'pictures' every week. With no Television, it was the place to go to watch the latest news from the Front, and forget your own troubles for a few hours.



Hollywood escapist films were popular, but so were the official films including the newsreels and propaganda 'shorts' which were conducted through the Ministry of Information. During the war the Ministry of Information produced 1,887 films as well as vetting 3,200 newsreels and 380 features.

As the Allied troops moved into Germany and Eastern Europe they found the Concentration Camps. Over six million people had been murdered in these camps. Their discovery and aftermath was shown on the Newsreels, bringing the full horror to the attention of the people at home.



While victims of the Holocaust were primarily Jews, the Nazis also persecuted and often killed millions of members of other groups they considered inferior, undesirable or dangerous.



Poles and some other Slavic peoples; Soviets (particularly prisoners of war); Roma (also known as Gypsies); some Africans, Asians and others who did not belong to the "Aryan race"; the mentally ill and the physically disabled; homosexuals; and political opponents and religious dissidents such as communists, trade unionists, and Jehovah's Witnesses; all victims of the 'Final Solution'.

7.3 The Allies advance through Europe

The POW camps are relieved

Tuesday May 1 1945 — “Listened to the news today. There was a man from the Ministry saying that they expect to recover 135,000 British prisoners, taken in Europe over the last five years, and repatriate them all by Christmas. What a wonderful present that will be for so many families. It must end soon”

During the Allied push through Italy in 1943, many POWs were moved to new camps in Germany. However, some prisoners were fortunate that the Allies reached them before they could be moved. Others had to sit it out in Germany and wait for the hostilities to end.



All POWs were desperate for news of home.

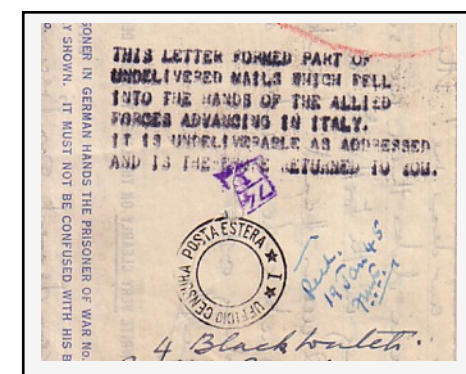
On 21 July 1941 air letter sheets specifically designed for prisoners of war were issued. Although the postage rate for the air letter was only 2½d, the letter sheets were sold at 3d each



This letter sheet is addressed to Warrant Officer Hickman, who had been a Gunner on HMS Zulu and been taken prisoner following the sinking of his ship at Tobruk. It was returned to the sender, as W.O. Hickman had been repatriated by Allied troops in their advance through Italy.



Aug 17 1943 2½d POW letter sheet to Major Tregear in Camp PG29 in Italy.



Reduced scan of reverse

January 1945: Returned to sender with six line instructional cachet on reverse:

THIS LETTER FORMED PART OF UNDELIVERED MAILS WHICH FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ALLIED FORCES ADVANCING IN ITALY. IT IS UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED AND IS THEREFORE RETURNED TO YOU.

7.3 The Allies advance through Europe

Europe is liberated

Sunday 6 May 1945 — "I feel quite gay today; the news from Europe is good. France; Denmark, Holland, and Luxembourg, all now free. There's still a long way to go, and it will be a long hard slog, but at least now we are getting rid of those rotten Nazis, and their terrible V -bombs."

The liberation of northern France and the Benelux countries was of special significance for the inhabitants of London and the south east of England, because it denied the Germans launch zones for their V-1 and V-2 Vergeltungswaffen (reprisal weapons).



Luxembourg liberated by
US 1st Army



5 May 1945: Front page of Kristeligt Dagblad (Newspaper) announces liberation of Denmark.



Field Marshall Montgomery, leading the British troops into Copenhagen.

May 1945: On the verge of starvation, the Dutch were finally liberated after 5 years of German occupation...



Baarn 11 May 1945 - Postcard describes the joy and freedom of liberation...
"It is marvellous that once again we can say and write anything..."
(Correspondence is free from censorship for first time in 5 years)

7.4 The Beginning of the End

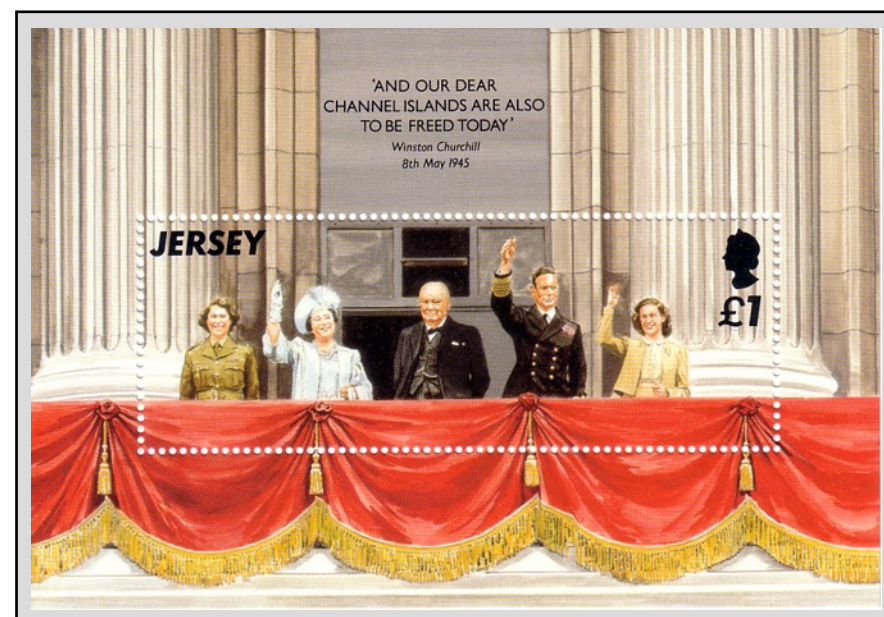
Britain celebrates Victory in Europe

Tuesday May 8 1945 : VE DAY — “It’s all over! After I heard the news on the wireless, I went outside and as I looked, fireworks began to erupt and the red glow of distant bonfires lit the sky — peaceful and joyous fires now, in place of the terrifying ones of the last years. Victory in Europe!”

When the war was won it was the victory that millions of people had worked and waited for. The armies had forced their way through Europe from east and west. It was known that the German surrender was near. When the day came, it meant the same thing to everybody: Victory in Europe.

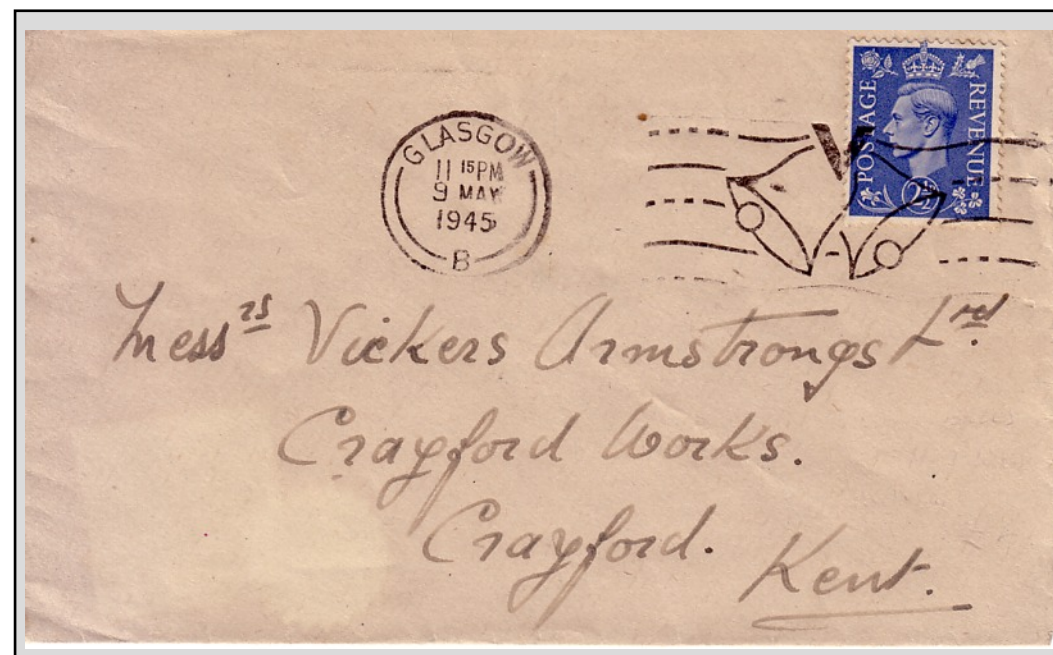
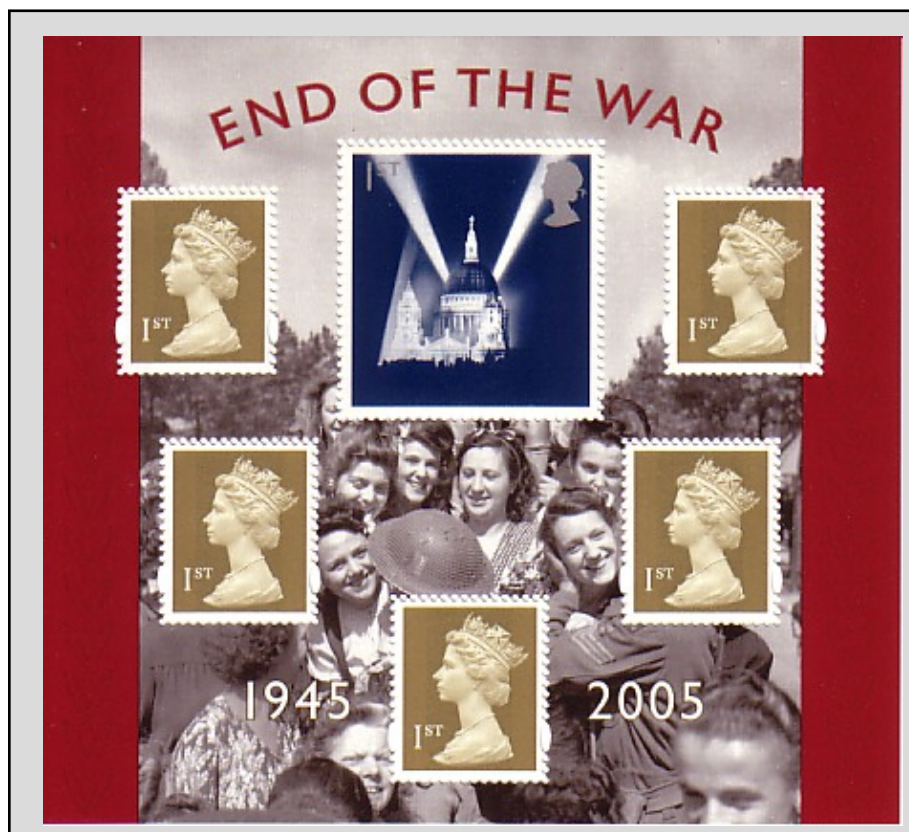


Peace and Victory in Europe



Eight times in ten hours, in response to the enthusiasm of the huge crowds that had gathered, the King and Queen, Princess Elizabeth and Margaret, stepped out onto the balcony of Buckingham Palace. On one occasion they were accompanied by Winston Churchill.

The celebrations were spontaneous and natural; The GPO responded with a ‘Victory Bells’ slogan...



The blocks for the above slogan were sent out to Postmasters in 1943, in sealed packets, to be opened when instructed. It was to be nearly two years before the slogan was bought into use two days after the official V-E Day, due to 8-9 May being Public Holidays (**rare usage of 9 May shown**). It was one of the few slogans that have been used at all towns and cities countrywide — approximately 500 dies of the slogan were used.

7.5 There’s Still Japan

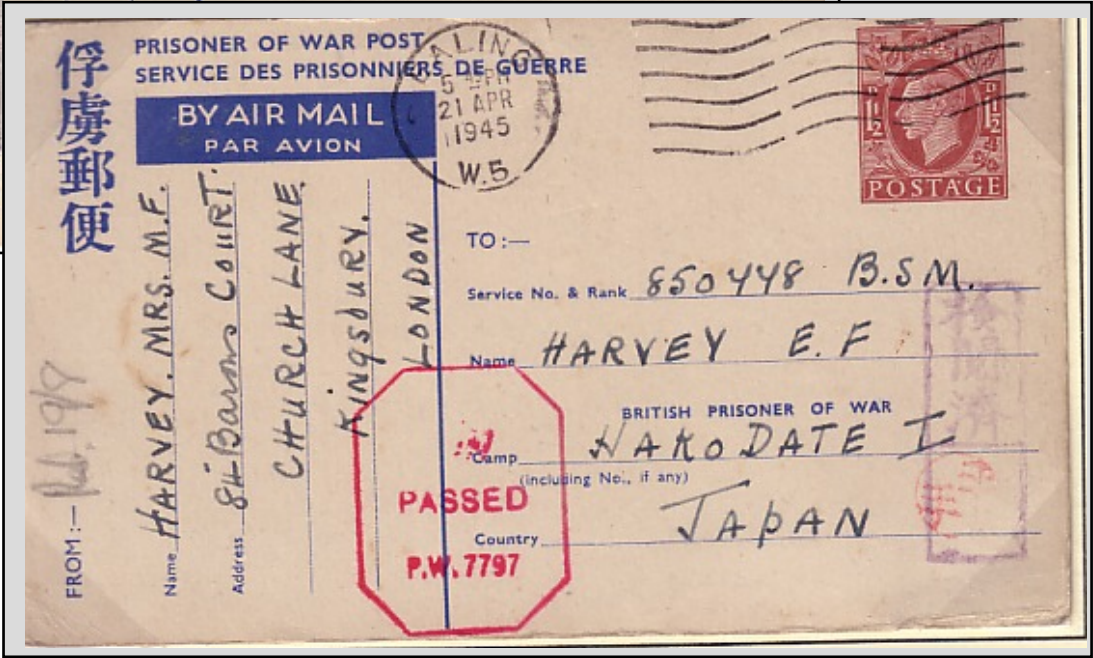
Japan holds fast

Saturday July 21 1945 — “One of the grand things about life these days is hearing of ex-POWs returning back home. Although the Japs are still holding Mrs Wilson’s boy, we all hope it won’t be long before he is home. Dad says some of the boys will be in a bad way when they do eventually get back.”



An airmail card for prisoners of the Japanese was issued in March 1944. On 2nd April 1945 the postage rate was reduced to 1½d
For one month only (April) the previously issued 3d card could be accepted for payment of 2 x 1½d cards.

The usual route of the special airmail postal cards was via air to Teheran, rail to Moscow, Trans-Siberian Railway across Russia probably to Vladivostok, and a boat to Japan; or to Chita, then on to the Trans Manchuria railway to Pusan, Korea, then by ship to Shimonoski and finally overland to Tokyo to where they were eventually sorted for the camps. This meant a journey of some 12,000 miles, and often a transit period of six months to a year.



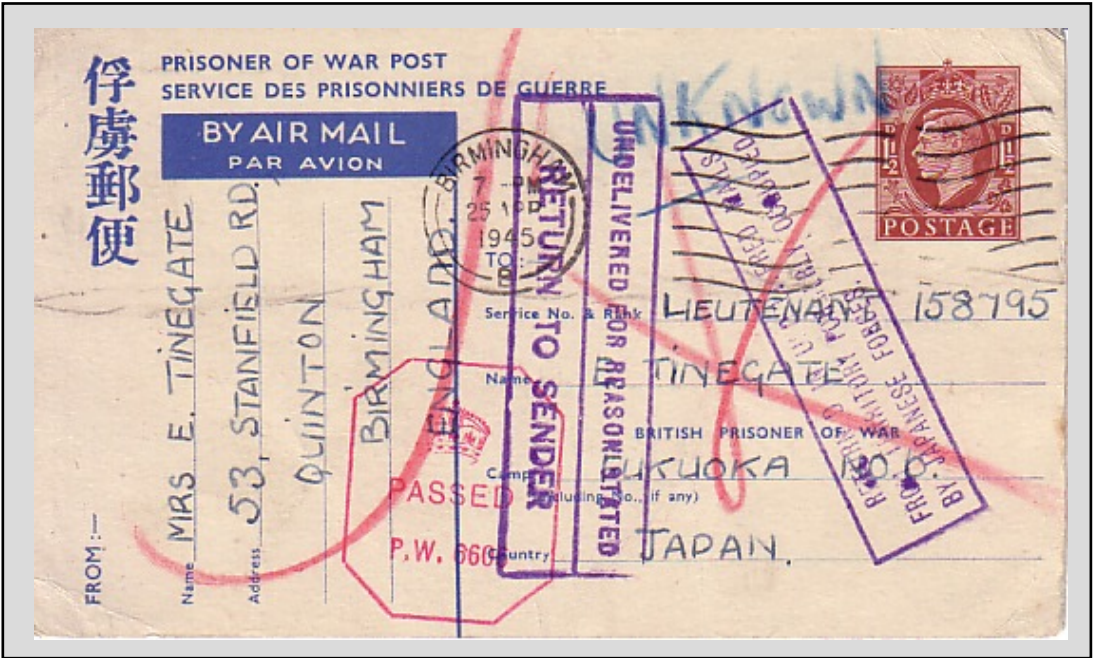
The issue date for these reduced rate cards is recorded as April 1945. This early used example (postmark 21 Apr) is one of the very few which reached their destination and received a Japanese censor mark. ← censor mark.

NOTE. The particulars inserted on the address side and the message in the space below, must be TYPED or written clearly in BLOCK LETTERS. MESSAGES MUST NOT BE LONGER THAN 25 WORDS

Reduced scan of reverse: NOTE. The particulars inserted on the address side and the message in the space below, must be TYPED or written clearly in BLOCK LETTERS. MESSAGES MUST NOT BE LONGER THAN 25 WORDS’

A large quantity of mail to prisoners of war was found in storage after liberation in 1945.
This card posted Birmingham 25 April 1945 was returned being among mail captured by the Allies toward the end of the war.

Violet boxed cachet:
RETURNED IN UNDELIVERED MAILS
FROM TERRITORY FORMERLY OCCUPIED
BY JAPANESE FORCES.



7.5 There's Still Japan

We win the War — but loose Churchill

Thursday July 26 1945 —“We have just heard the election news. I can't believe it, how ungrateful can a nation be? After leading us through such turmoil we have turned our back on poor Winnie. Mother just won't stop crying; Dad says we need a new beginning, and the Labour Party will give us it.”

Just months after VE Day, Britain held the first general election since 1935, as general elections had been suspended during World War II. It resulted in the shock election defeat of the Conservatives led by Winston Churchill, and the landslide victory of the Labour Party led by Clement Attlee, who won a majority of 145 seats.



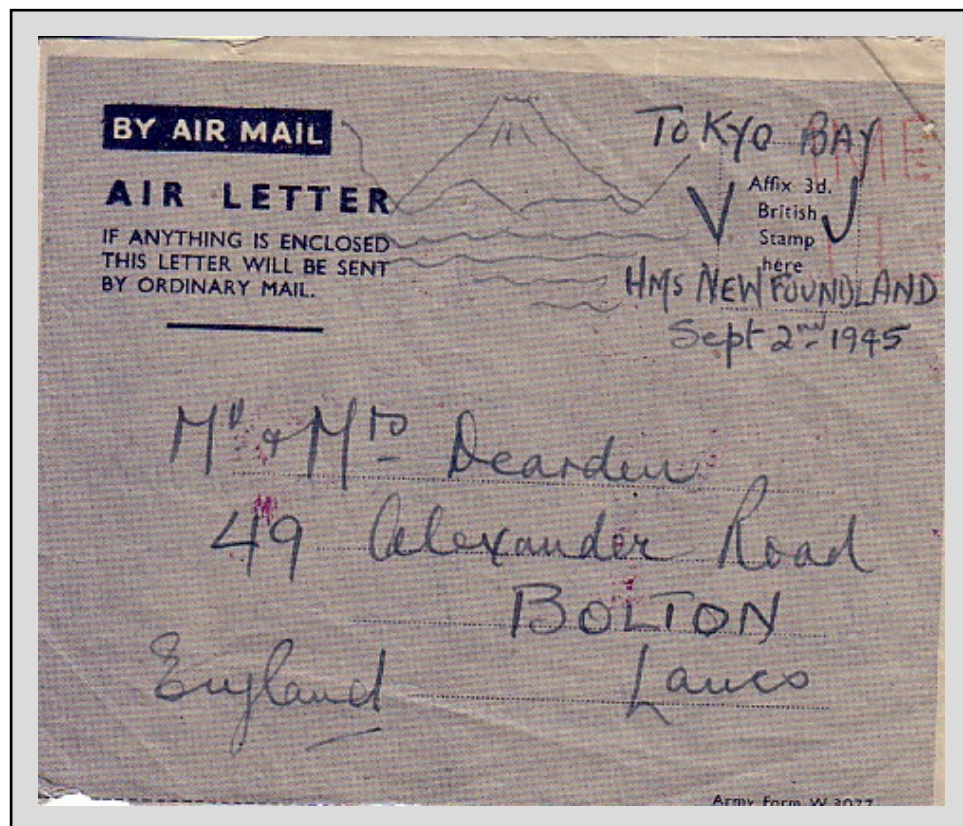
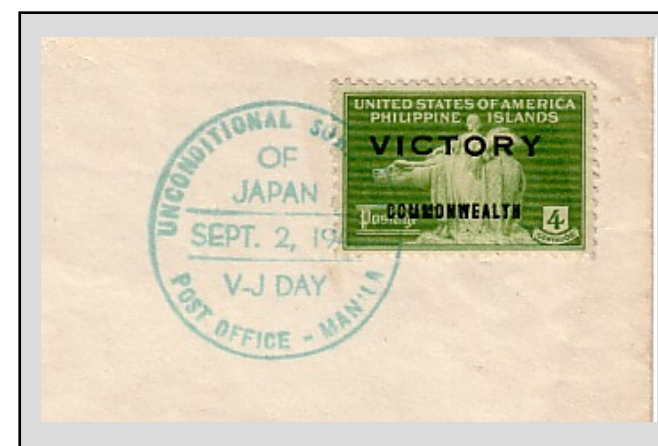
July 26: Clement Attlee elected as Britain's new prime minister after Labour won a sweeping victory in the general election.



The outgoing prime minister and great wartime leader Winston Churchill tendered his resignation immediately.

It was announced that a proclamation giving Japan an ultimatum to surrender had been signed by Mr Churchill before his departure.

On 15 August 1945 Emperor Hirohito broadcast to the Japanese people to announce the surrender of the Empire of Japan. On 30 August the first United States occupation troops landed in Yokosuka. On Sunday 2nd September the formal surrender documents were signed on board U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay, with General Douglas MacArthur presiding. Naval forces of the Allied navies were also present.



Part air letter posted to England from HMS Newfoundland stationed in Tokyo Bay VJ Day



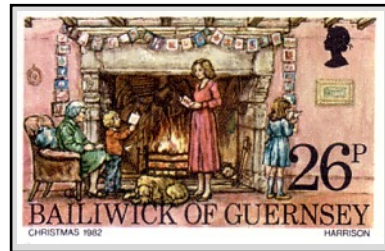
In 1943, V-Bells metal slogan dies were produced and sent secretly to Post Office sorting offices countrywide in sealed packages, with strict instructions that they were not to be used in stamp cancelling machines until further instructions. It was to be 2 years before they came in use, first in May 1945 and then again in August. The slogan is a combination of two bells signifying the Victory celebrations, along with the letter 'V' and the dot-dot-dot-dash Morse code representation.

7.6 Christmas - 1945

The Best of times... for some

Christmas Eve 1945 — "The 'Battle' carries on... It is the best of times and the worst of times, but we mustn't grumble. It's up to us now to do what we can, to do justice to the bravery of the fallen, by seeing that we can make the most of the peace and freedom they have bequeathed us."

The first Christmas of peace wasn't always the perfect one people had dreamed of. It was still a time of worry and 'Making Do'. At home, most faced the enormous task of rebuilding their shattered lives.



With loved ones still away, it often wasn't the Christmas many had hoped for; there were still private battles to be won.

Some Japanese POW's came home for Xmas, but sadly many never returned. Those who did, often had a long recuperation battle ahead of them. Special arrangements were made for mail to former prisoners in the process of being repatriated. Their mail was sent via a 'clearing house' in London using Box 164 for onward transmission.



6d Airletter sent from Croydon to Sergeant Victor Turner (P.O.Box 164) who had, until recently, been a Prisoner of War held by the Japanese in one of the six camps on the island of Taiwan, Formosa. From the letter, written 9th October 1945 by Victor's wife, it is clear that he had not received any of her letters or cables sent to him since his liberation. She expresses the hope that he would pick them up when his ship called at Gibraltar.

Violet 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASONS STATED / RETURN TO SENDER

4 line violet cachet:

IT IS REGRETTED THIS LETTER COULD
NOT BE FORWARDED IN TIME TO CONNECT
WITH THE SHIP OR AIRCRAFT ON WHICH
THE ADDRESSEE WAS REPATRIATED

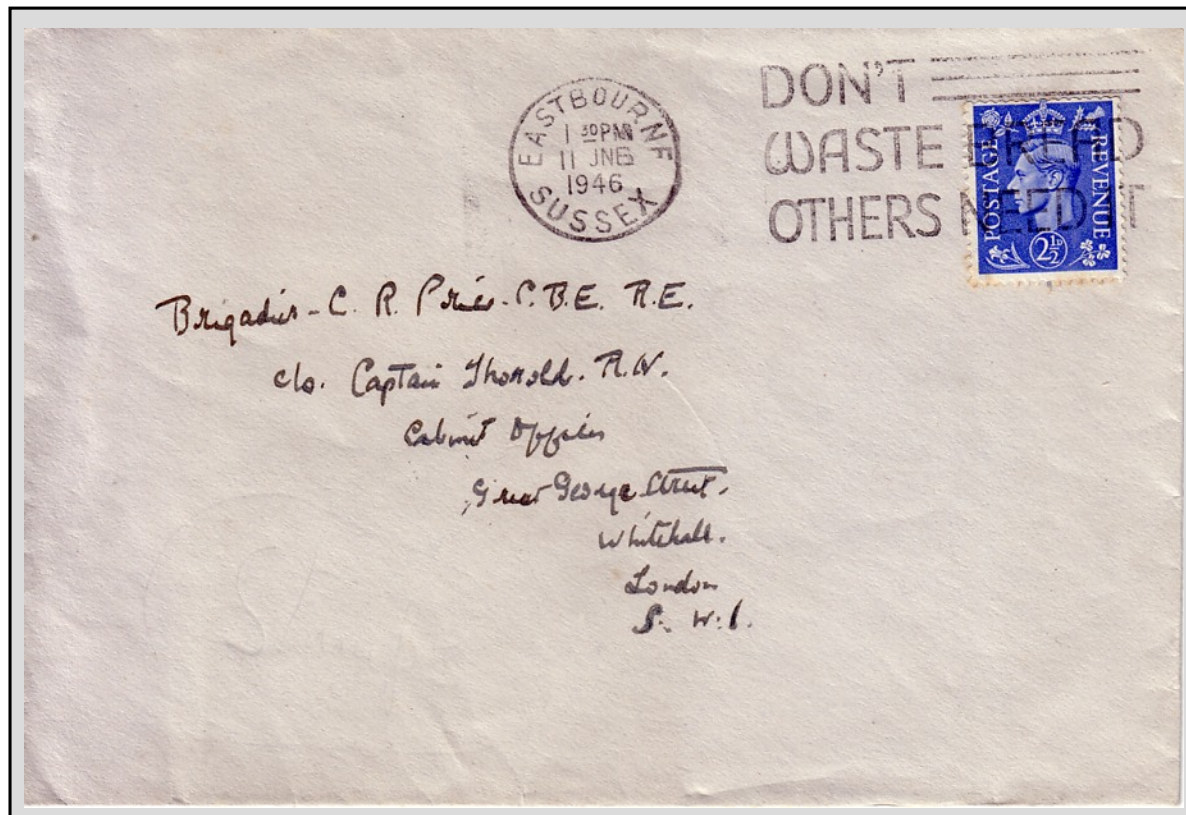
The use of the 6d civilian rate air letter was unnecessary, as correspondence to a returning prisoner of war was charged at the concessionary rate of 1½d.



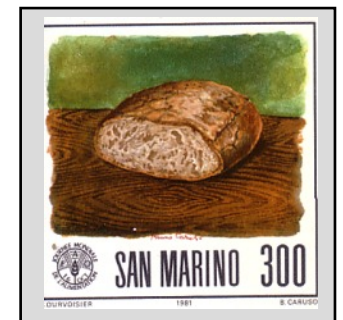
A forces 1½d air letter sent by the father of a soldier in the process of repatriation. His son had been a POW of the Japanese and was at the time the letter was sent, (19th September 1945), on board the repatriation ship Boissevain. P.O.Box 164, London was a central address from which mail was forwarded often via The War Organisation of the British Red Cross. In London the air letter was endorsed 'Boisse' for Boissevain and forwarded to the ship.

Postscript : Britain Prepares for Peace

Austerity and hardship did not finish with the end of the war, rationing was progressively removed from daily life, but it was 3 July, 1954, that the Government officially announced the end of rationing, when meat finally became 'off the ration', almost nine years after the war had ended.

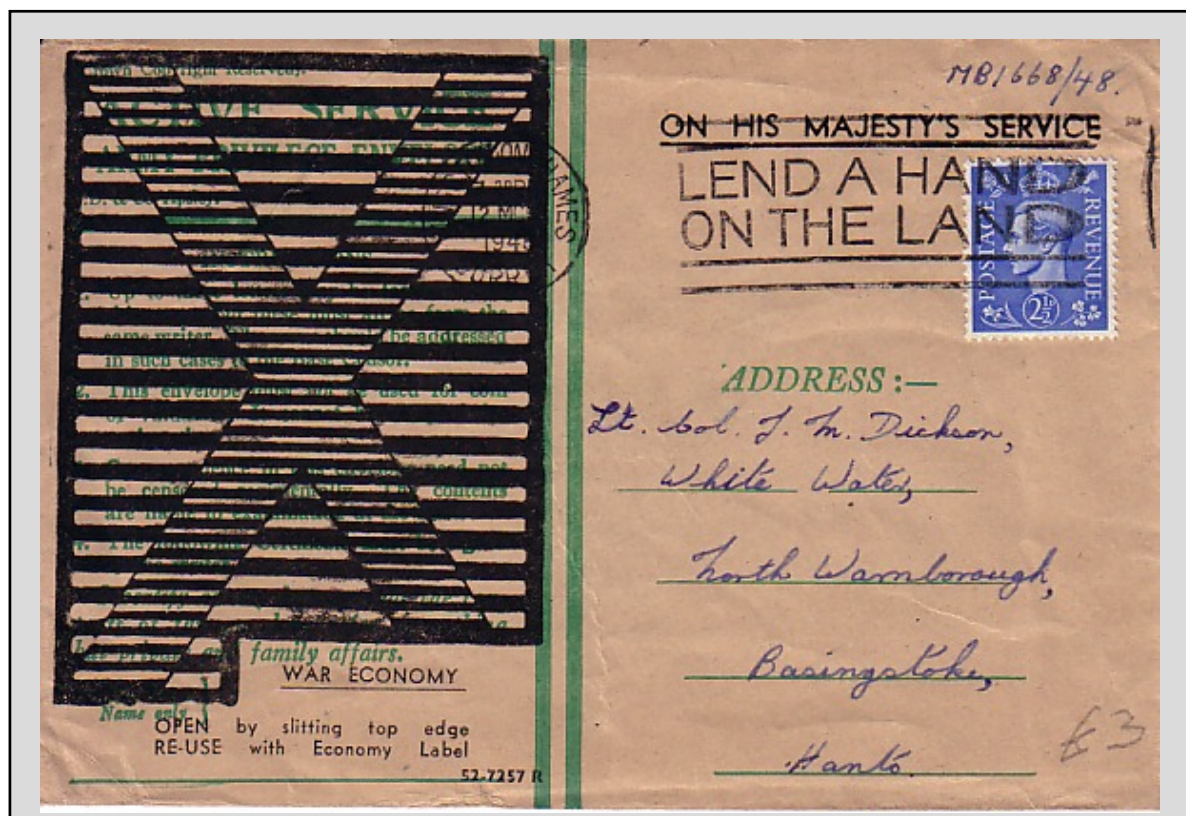


Tough Times Ahead — In the weeks following the armistice, scores of veterans who had been injured in body and spirit returned home to find life was not going to get better overnight.



Left: 'DON'T WASTE BREAD OTHERS NEED IT' slogan

Food and clothes rationing would continue, while bread, which had been available throughout the war years, was rationed for the first time on 21 July 1946.



SAVE WASTE PAPER FOR SALVAGE
was still being urged in 1948



'Lend a Hand' was the order of the day..

Post-war economy measures meant that, to save paper, unused service envelopes were overprinted and re-used for official business.

Britain Prepares for Peace

Homes for the People

"We have to bind up the wounds of war. We have to reconstruct our ruined homes... We have to build up this country" - Clement Atlee.
With 750,000 new homes to be built and 500,000 in need of repair, the Post-war British Government announced a 2 year building plan.



Peace and Reconstruction was reflected in the stamp issue of June 11 1946.

Post-War Reconstruction

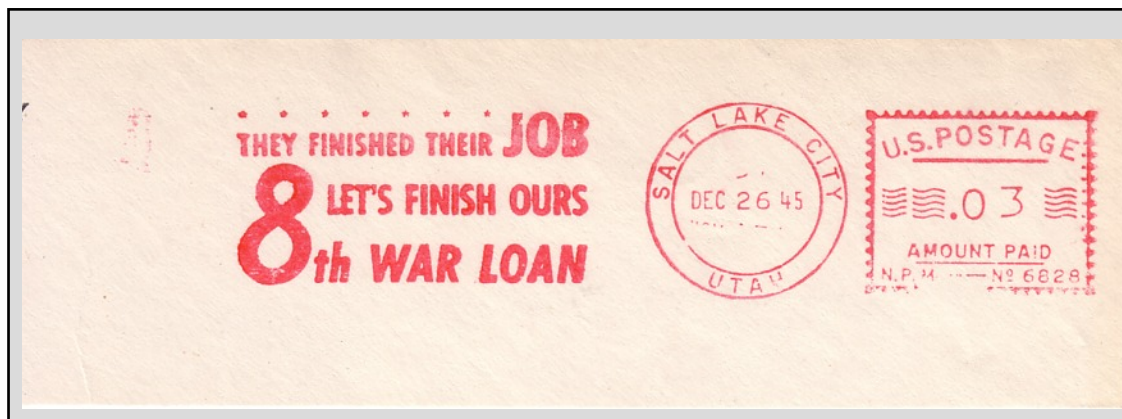
After the initial celebrations of VE and VJ day had passed, Britain continued to suffer many of the restrictions and difficulties of war-time, whilst attempting to re-build lives and homes.



Building workers were given priority release from the armed forces.



Billions of tons of concrete was required to re-construct buildings, bridges, dams, roads, and other structures.



The worldwide slaughter was accompanied by massive devastation; even in victorious Britain 6.5% of homes were destroyed, and the economy exhausted.
In December 1945, the British Government accepted £1,100 million loan from the USA.

Britain Prepares for Peace...

The signing of the United Nations Charter was the beginning of the international community's effort to establish an effective world peace organisation.

Out of the Ashes

The 'Charter of the United Nations' was agreed during a conference held in San Francisco 25 April 1945 — 26 June 1945

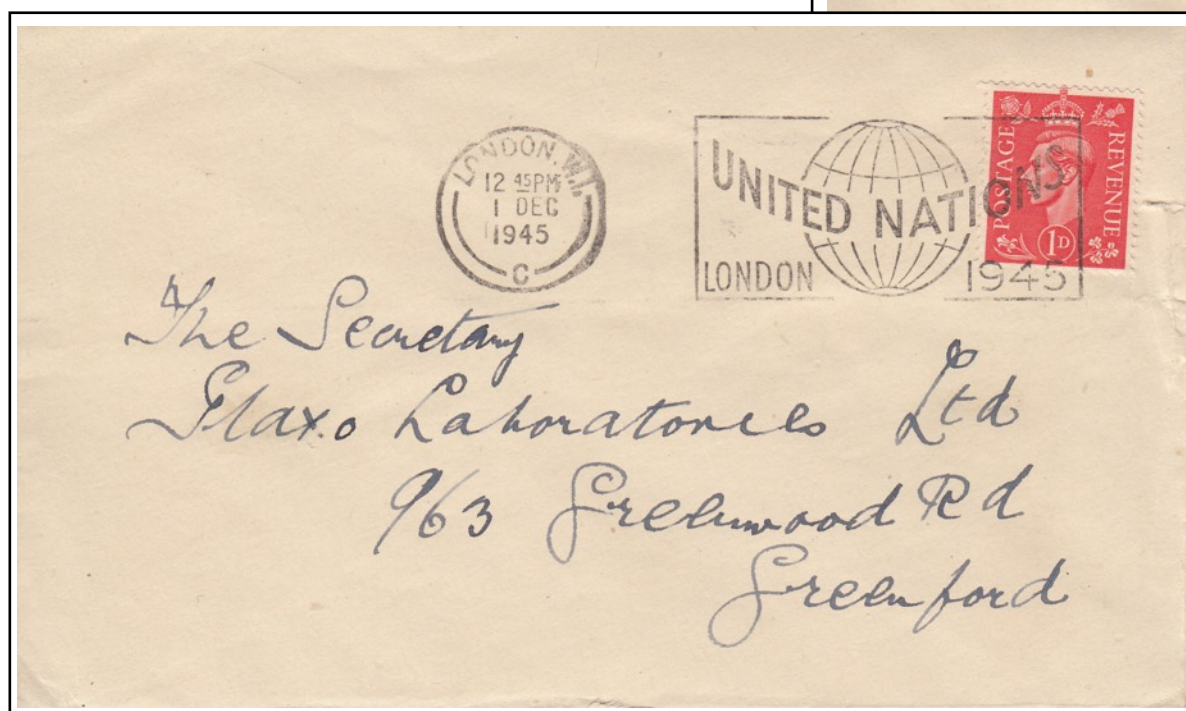
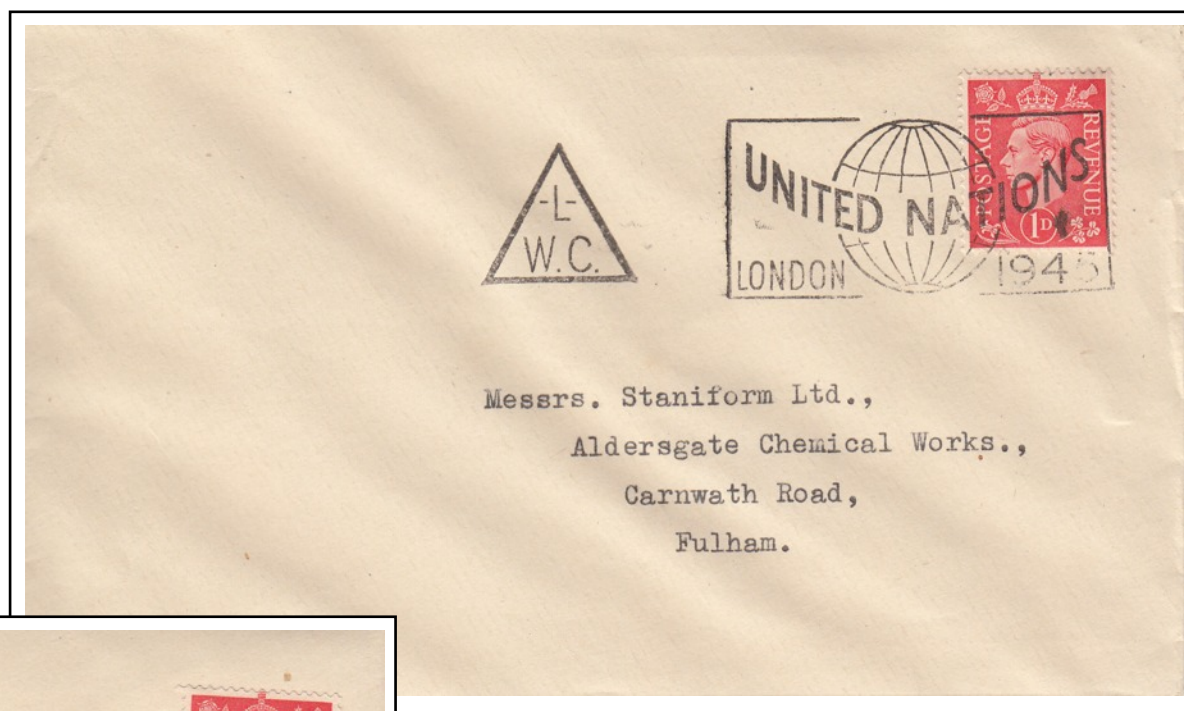


The US Postmaster General suggested an issue of stamps to commemorate and dedicate the conference to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The design included an olive branch and the words "TOWARD UNITED NATIONS" — per Roosevelt's recommendations and sketch — On his death his name was added to the final design in honour of his efforts and contributions to the founding of the UN.



The 1st session of the General Assembly
took place in London, England
December 1945.

(right) Bulk rate items were indicated by using a triangle with the type of posting and the city noted instead of a circular dater. Mail posted after 4pm received a 'L' marking (in this case London W.C.)



4 Dec 1945: 'OFFICIAL PAID' LONDON E.C. red machine mark

UNITED NATIONS LONDON 1945 slogan in
use 1 December 1945 — 24 January 1946.
First Day of Use shown (left)

The total estimated human loss of life caused by World War II, irrespective of political alignment, was roughly 72 million people. The civilian toll was around 47 million, including about 20 million due to war related famine and disease. The military toll was about 25 million, including about 5 million prisoners of war.



The Allies lost around 61 million people, and the Axis lost 11 million. There was a disproportionate loss of life and property; some nations had a higher casualty rate than others, due to a number of factors including military tactics and crimes against humanity.



“Let us hope that the children of this War will grow up in Peace.”