

BRITISH FORCES
France

Army Post Office S.20
9 December 1918

Army Post Office S.87
12 March 1919

Army Post Office S.48
7 October 1919

Carte Postale.



Private T.D.



ON ACTIVE SERVICE.



Mrs. L. Linwood
"Verdun"

Gloucester Road

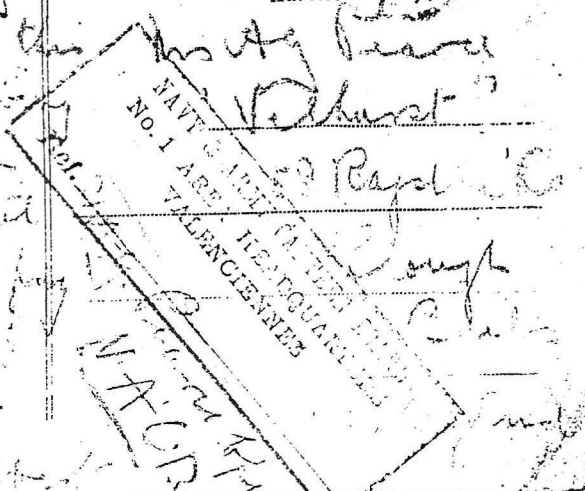


Monday Oct 7 1919

My dear Bill
Just a card to say I
am still on the move this
time to Boulogne leaving
this afternoon at 4.15
don't write for long
for fear from me
I am quite well
and fine but feel a bit
tired - love
F. Hugh Vallancey

CARTE POSTALE

Adresse



Middleton

At the time of the Armistice in November 1918, there were more than a million British soldiers in France. Even though demobilization began quickly, the forces continued to require postal service for some time thereafter. Message on upper card states that "This souvenir card was posted from French soil. It was conveyed across the Channel in an aeroplane by me on the date shown on the Postmark" and is signed by F. Hugh Vallancey.

BRITISH FORCES
France

Army Post Office S.38
16 May 1919

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

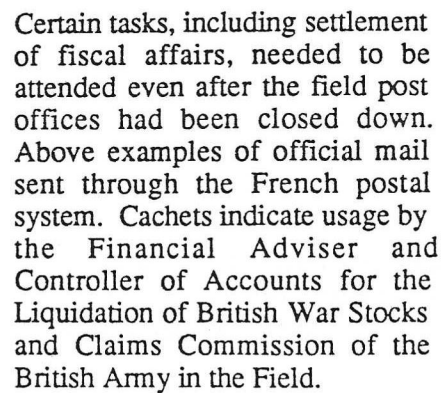
Blanchisserie Industrielle
de l'Oise
Bauffry

B. 07544553



APO S.38 operated at Wimereaux until August 1920. Its datestamp is used above on an official cover with the cachet of the General Headquarters of the British Troops in France and Belgium.

Paris
10 September 1920
24 December 1920



BRITISH FORCES
France

Army Post Office 4
24 October 1919
4 December 1919
30 September 1920

HEADQUARTERS,
TRUCK KITCHEN
BATTALION,
CALAIS DUNES.

No.

ARMY POST OFFICE

Dear Margory,

Calais. 30th Sept.

go up to Belgium of
orders. Am expecting
as I have a drum on answer train
is bringing them down for me. I will
write you a letter tonight. I am also
sending your present by reg. post, as
I find it will go straight to you here.
Tendest love from Percy

Mrs Percy Haugham

O.A.S.

Calais.

Carte Postale

Correspondance

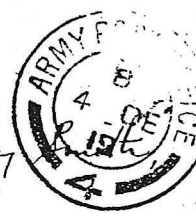
Adresse

ANCIENS ETATS, NEUCHÂTEAU ET CIE. — IMP. CHÉLÉ, SUCC. CORBIEL-PARIS,
52, AV. DE BRUTTEUIL. — PARIS. — 13

Dear Margory

So sorry I told you
I was coming home.
No such luck! Remobbed
from Base Stores but
Remobbed by Salvage,
so I am now a fixture
till March or April.
Awfully fed up - No write.
much love. Ethel.

Miss Margory
Healey,
Madresfield R.
Great Malvern,
England



Major J. R. Chambers

Gen. Headquarters, France and Flanders.

Maple Leaf St

Grosvenor Gardens

London.

S.W.1.

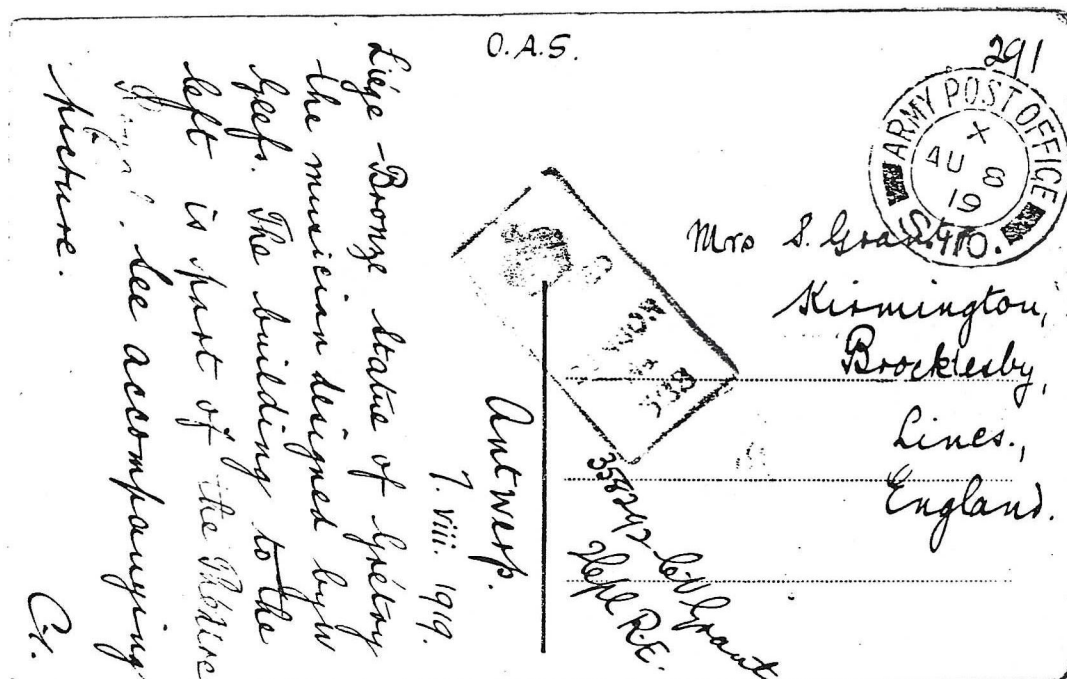
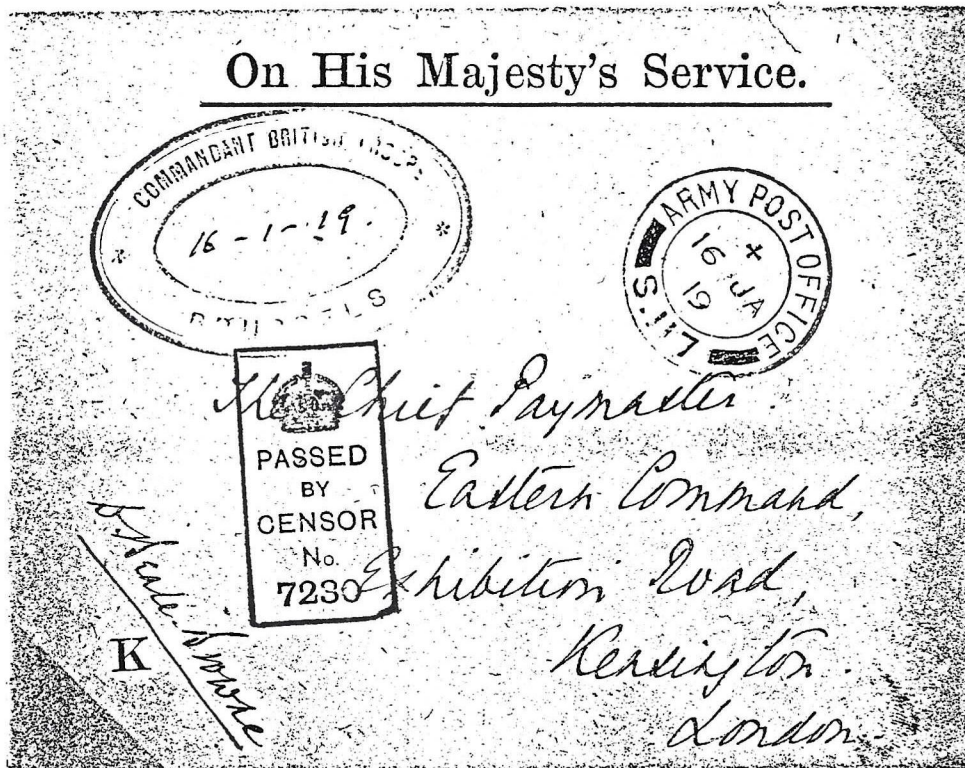
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.
BRITISH TROOPS IN FRANCE
AND BELGIUM.
30 SEP 1920

British Army Post Offices operated in France and Flanders (Belgium) until the end of September 1920. Much of the preparations for the final evacuation took place at Calais, which was serviced by APO 4. Cover above shows cachet of the General Headquarters of the British Troops in France and Belgium on its last day in operation.

BRITISH FORCES
Belgium

Army Post Office S.117
16 January 1919

Army Post Office S.110
8 August 1919



Under the terms of the armistice agreement, the Germans withdrew from the occupied territories and the Allied forces advanced. British forces were participants in the parade celebrating the return of King Albert to Brussels on 22 November 1918. Above examples show postmarks of the APOs at Brussels and Antwerp after liberation. Cover shows cachet of the "Commandant of British Troops/Brussels."

BRITISH FORCES
Belgium

Brussels
20 March 1919
10 April 1919
17 April 1919

BRITISH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION.

Rue Stevin 42
Bruxelles



Monsieur Rodolphe GOVAERTS

commis des Postes

bureau de

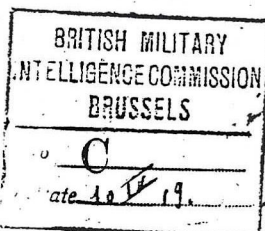
On His Majesty's Service.



Monsieur GOVAERT.



Poste.



H A M M E .

On His Majesty's Service.



Rodolphe Govaert
Poste



Hamme

The British military apparently established a significant intelligence operation in Belgium, as indicated by the use of three different types of cachets by this unit within a month's time.

BRITISH FORCES
Luxembourg

Army Post Office S.40
26 February 1919

Vielsalm
23 July 1919

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

Monsieur Alphonse Van
Luxembourg
24 Feb 1919

My dear Mr. & Mrs.
I am following
yesterday's trusting all
enjoy excellent health.
The staff are here we are
fairly busy. We are having
a decent time & are enjoying
fine health. The weather
is great. Hottest love deep
of kisses to all at home.
Over Luxembourg
Maison de Gros P. Houstraat Luxembourg 1919

On active Service

PASSED
BY
CENSOR
No. 10085



Mrs H. B. Lever

14 Olive Mount

Mr. Franmer

Birkenhead
Cheshire
ENGLAND

A.D.O.
LUXEMBOURG
SUB-AREA

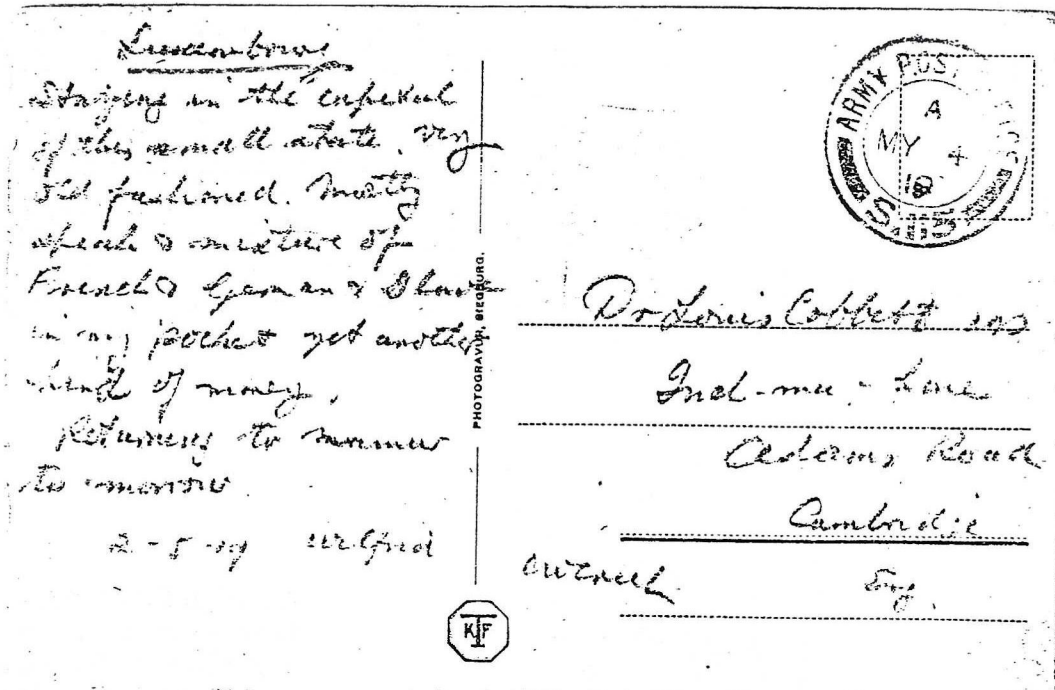
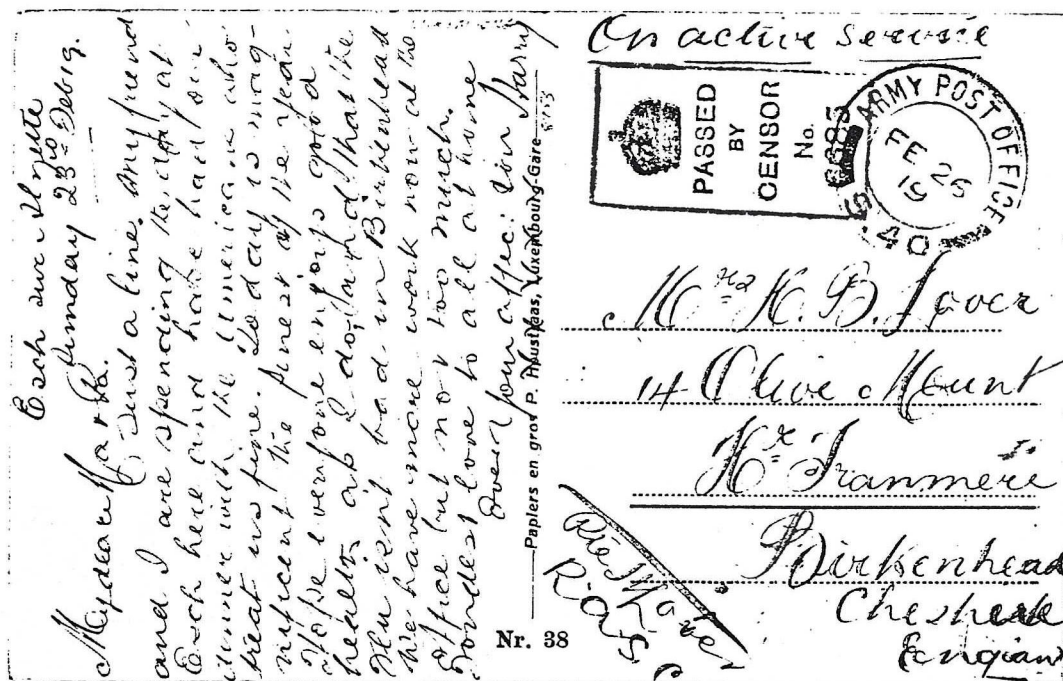
No. B 22278
Date 23/7/19

Although British troops were in Luxembourg there were no field post offices available there. As a result, mail from this area was taken to nearby facilities in Belgium or Germany for postmarking..

BRITISH FORCES Luxembourg

Army Post Office S.40
26 February 1919

Army Post Office S.115
4 May 1919



Picture post cards mailed from Asch and Luxembourg City but forwarded for postmarking to Charleroi, Belgium and Cologne, Germany. The writer of the lower card notes that he is "Staying in the capital of this small state."

BRITISH FORCES
Netherlands

Army Post Office S.105
29 July 1919

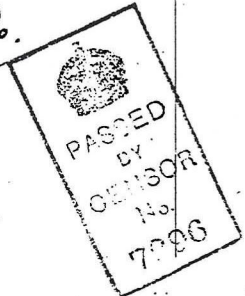
28-7-19
Dear F loss
just arrived Rotterdam.

BRIEFKAART

leaving here 1-30 am
tomorrow, and arriving
some time at night
Love to all
G.

Wireglater





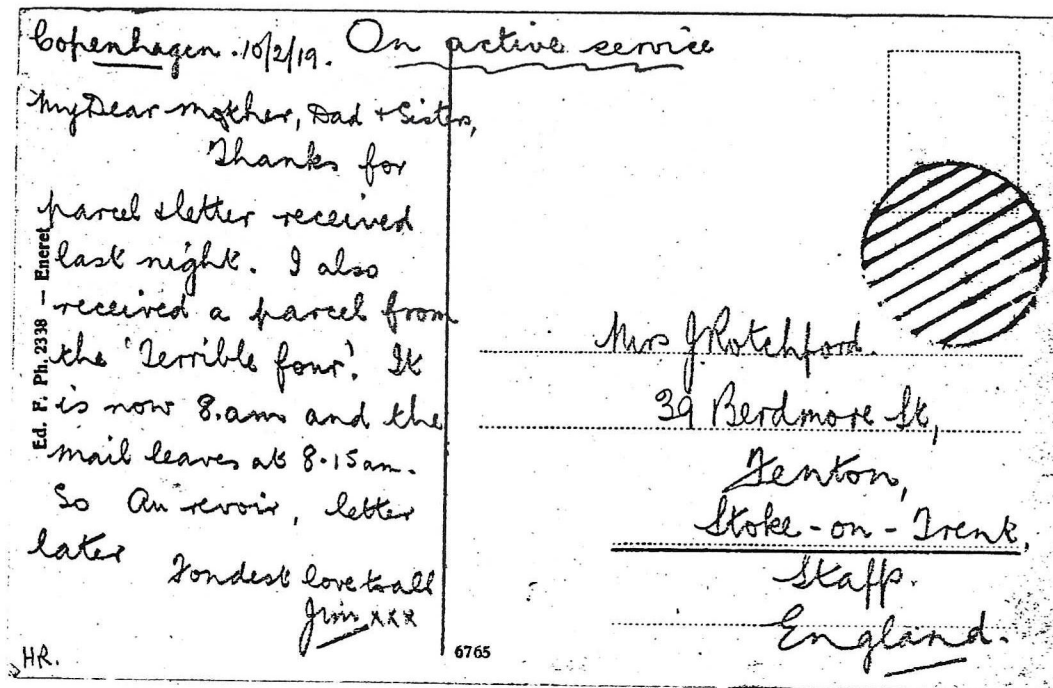
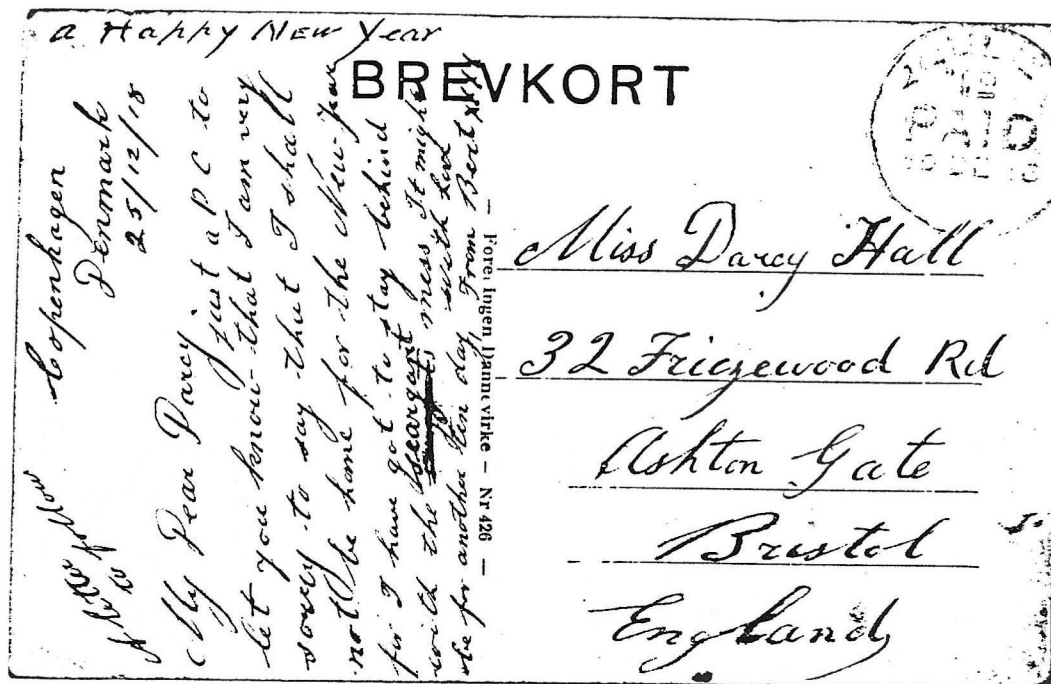
20798 Gltg. F. B. d B, M.

Mrs F. G.
102 Derby Rd
Loughborough
Leicestershire
England

In order to speed the delivery of relief supplies into western Germany, the Dutch authorities allowed the British to open a military post office in Rotterdam. Examples of mail showing this postmark are elusive.

BRITISH FORCES
Denmark

Copenhagen
25 December 1918
10 February 1919



At the end of the hostilities, one of the key priorities of the authorities was to liberate and repatriate the British prisoners of war in Germany. A small contingent of men was sent to assist in the evacuation of freed POWs from the camps in northern Germany via Danish ports. Examples of mail from this force are very elusive.

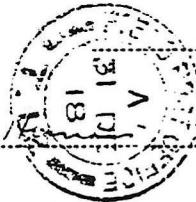
BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Field Post Office T.12
31 December 1918

Field Post Office 165
13 January 1919

Field Post Office H.C.1
14 January 1919

220
wig Bremer, Stadburg i. E.



100. 8. 12. 1918
39 Pannuier Rd.,
Cottentham Park.

Sunday 12.1.19 On Active Service

Dear Mother & Sons POSTKARTE.

Thanks for letter
received yesterday (93)

Also received one from
Tom Fay after he
had returned from
will be writing you



B. Smith

London Grove

No. 2.

On His Majesty's Service



A. Owen, Eng.

Surveyor, Wm. F.D.

Cologne



Post Office

The first elements of the British Army of Occupation entered Germany on 1 December 1918. In the initial period extending through January or February, mail was postmarked with the field postmarks brought along from Belgium and France. FPO T.12 was used by the 6th Division stationed near Bonn and 165 was used by the Guards Division at Cologne. Cachets of military units are unusual; cover with H.C.1 has marking of the Deputy Assistant Director of Postal Services for the V Corps in Cologne.

Field Post Office H.6
22 December 1919

23/6/19.
Dear Mr. W. H. Sankey, 2056910.
2/13 Battalion, H. A. C.
126 Brigade R. F.
Southern Division
British Army of China.
Postkarte.
O. D. S.
Dearest Auntie.
Just a short note.
Had a most interesting journey Mrs E. Robinson
coming over. We are camping
here at present - ready for
action in case ferry services
fail.
13, Maplestead Road.

Briston Hill
London, S.W.
England.
e home.

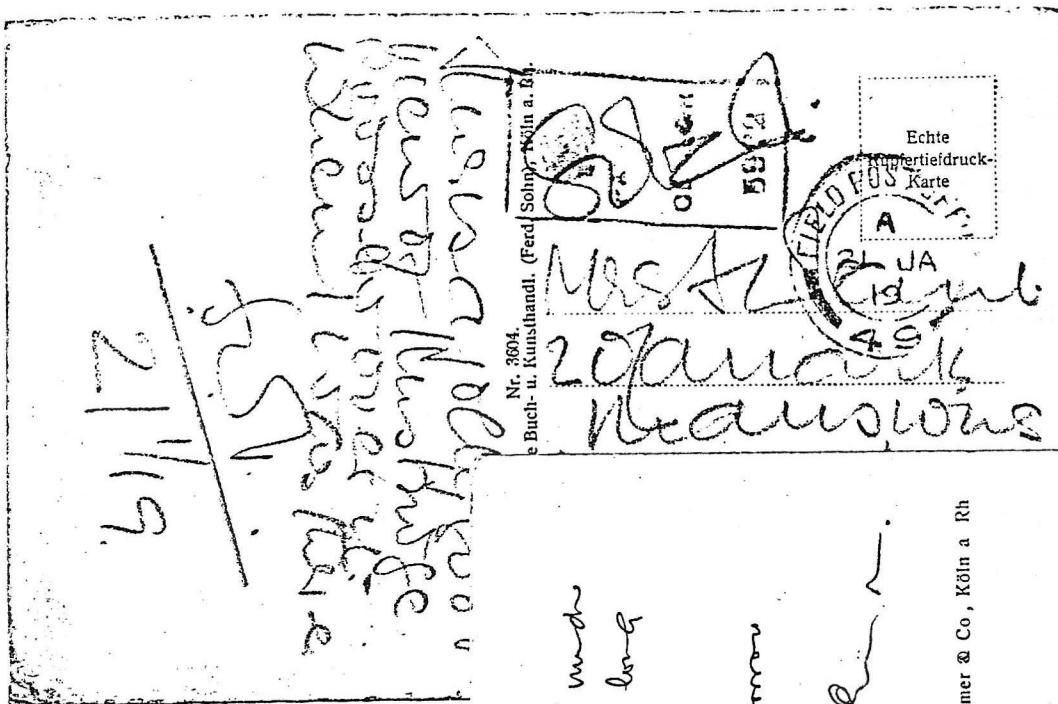
In preparation for the demobilization of a substantial portion of the forces, on 2 April 1919 the occupation troops were renamed the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), and this designation soon showed up in return addresses. FPO 88 was used by the Southern Division at Coblenz. #H.6 was at the HQ of VI Corps at Düren and H.9 at HQ of the IX Corps at Euskirchen.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

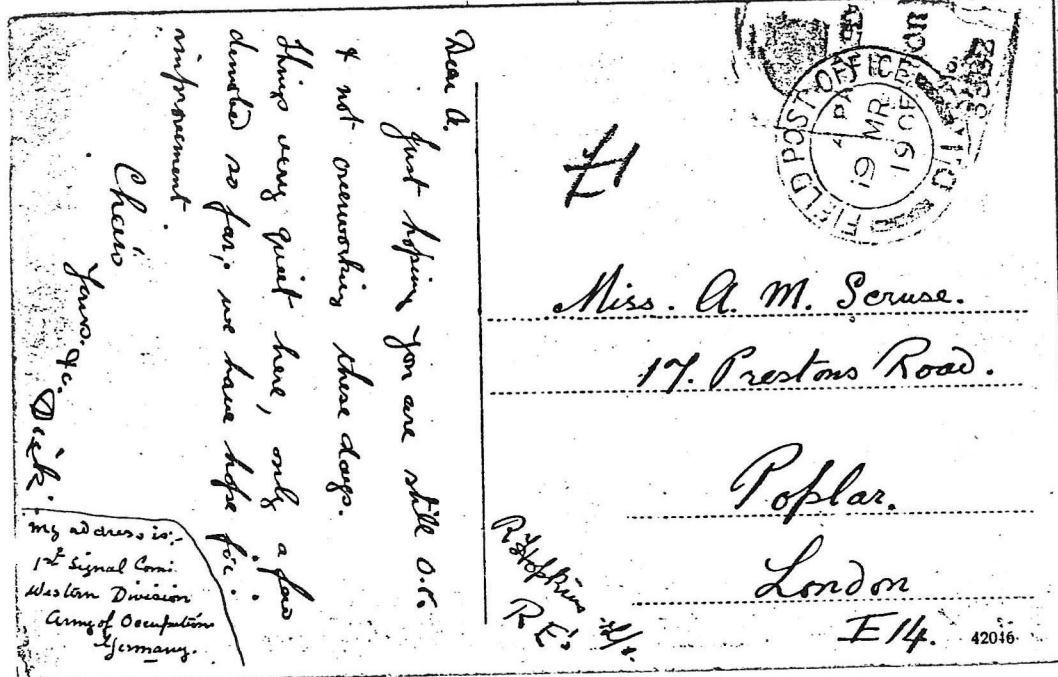
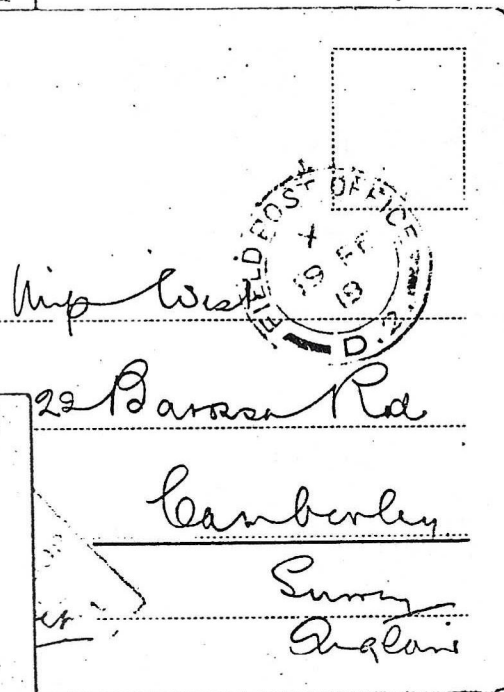
Field Post Office 49
21 January 1919

Field Post Office D.2.
19 February 1919

Field Post Office D.1.
19 March 1919



Karl Rud Bremer & Co, Köln a Rh



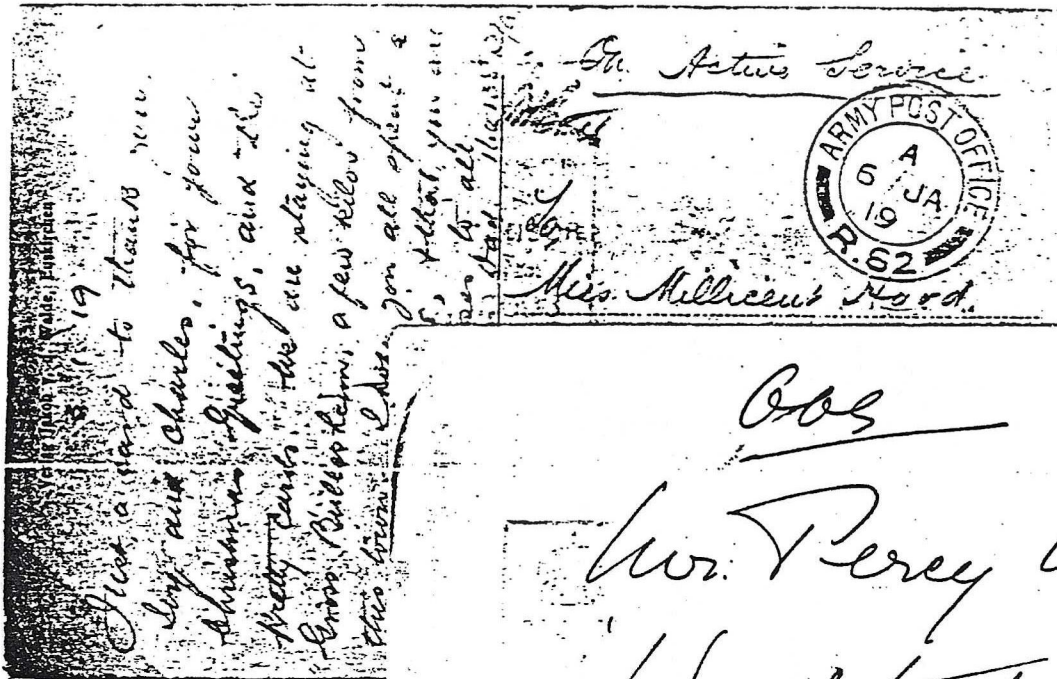
In total, over 200 different postmarks are recorded as being used by the British Army of Occupation, some for very brief periods. FPO 49 was used by the 2nd Division during January, but a new D.2. postmark was issued in the following month. #D.1. was used by the 1st Division at Bonn during February and March.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

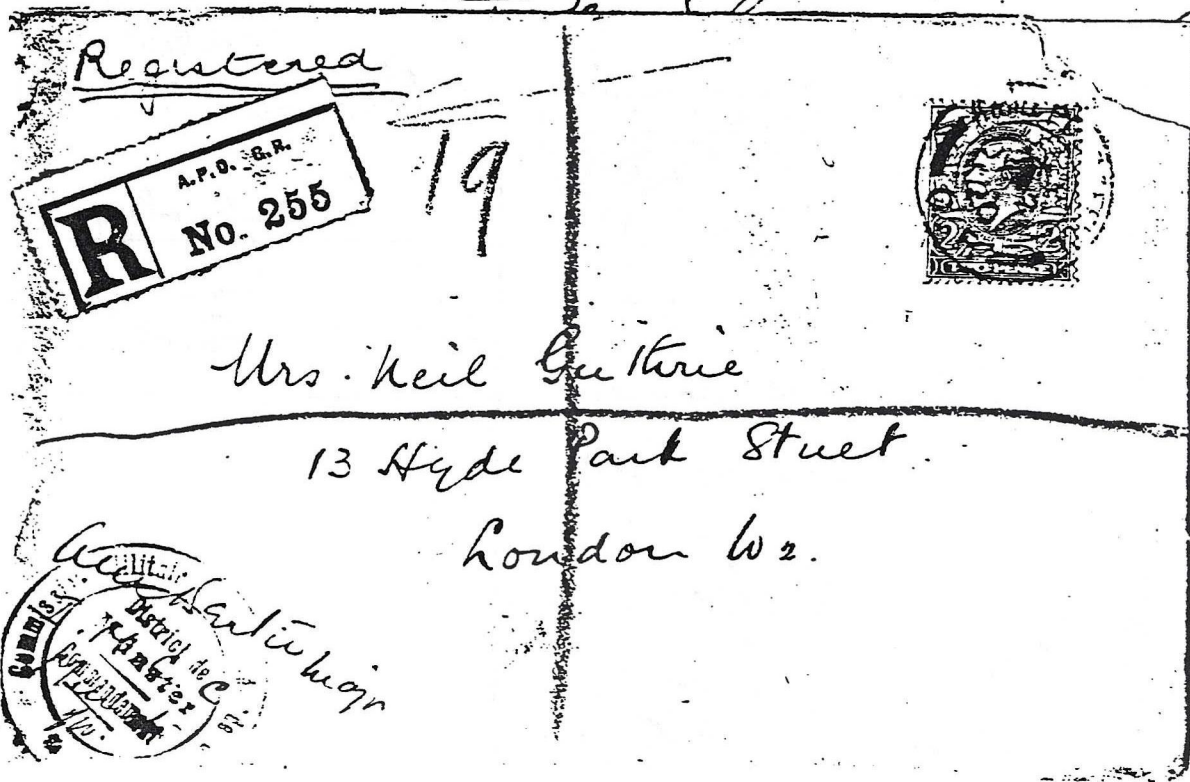
Army Post Office R.62
6 January 1919

Army Post Office S.120
21 May 1919

Army Post Office G.R.
2 July 1920



Cos
Mr. Percy Webb
Woodstock



In addition to the Field Post Offices, which often moved from place to place, there were stationary offices called Army Post Offices. APO R.62 (62nd Division) was stationed at Schleiden and S.120 in Düren. G.R (German Railhead) was located in the main railway station in Cologne; it processed the above registered cover which originated with the Interallied Control Commission at Münster.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

BEF Main Line TPO
10 January 1919
26 January 1919

A.F.W. 3073.
W299/M1960 417.
M. & S. LTD.

ACTIVE

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—
Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—
I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature *[Signature]*
Name only *[Name]*

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

SERVICE

MA IN LINE
X
10 JA 19

[Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Miss V Fox
Address
10 Hamilton St
Stenmore Road
Long sight
Manchester

A.F.W. 3073.
W299-M1960 917.
C. & Co., Grange Mills, S.W.

ACTIVE

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—
Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

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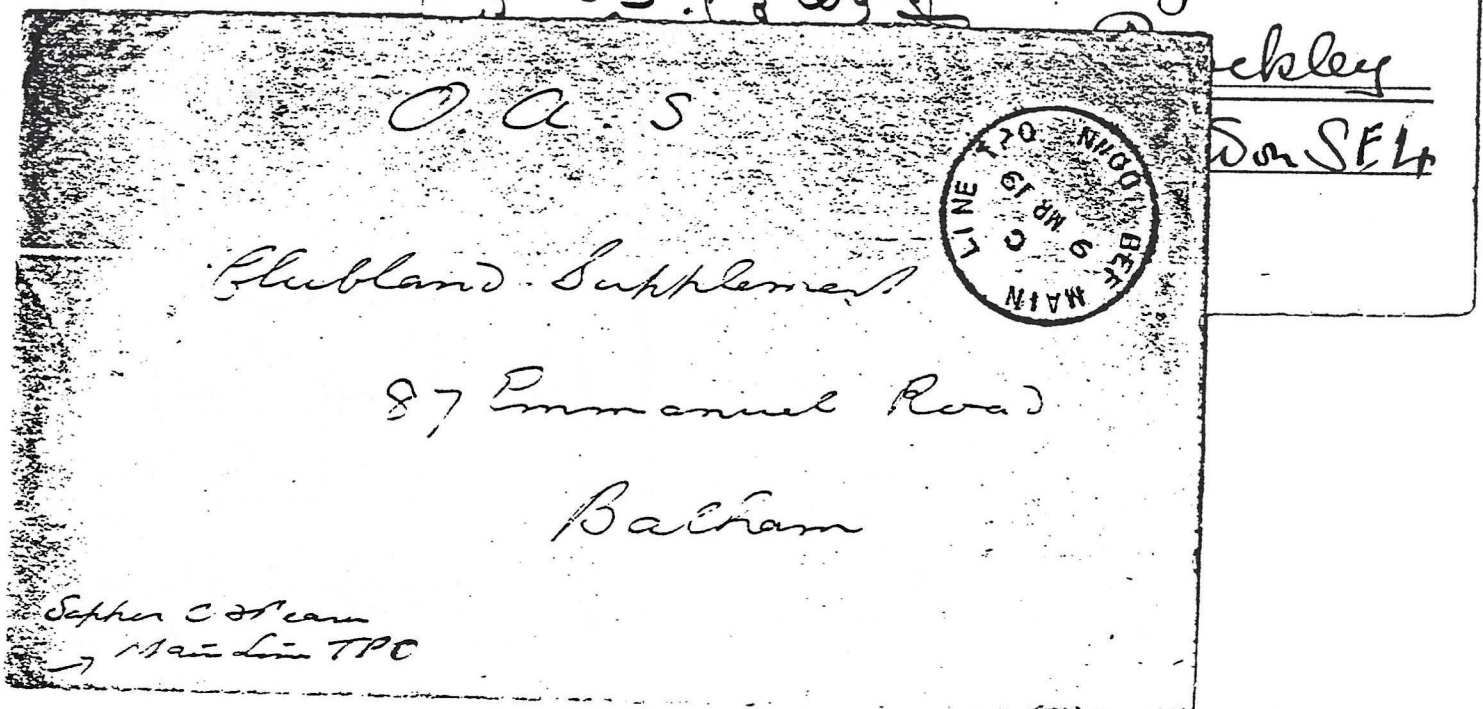
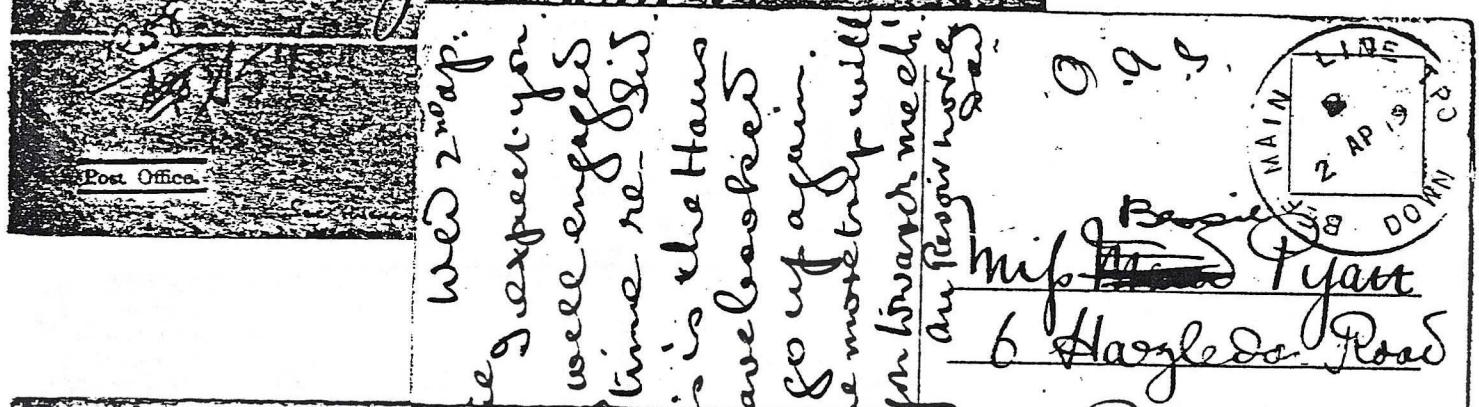
Address:—
Mr Ernest Knapp
234 Curley Road
Leeds
England

24 JA 19
DOWN

In order to speed the transportation of mail to and from the troops, ten railway mail cars were sent over from England and placed in service between Boulogne and Cologne. Clerks sorted mail en route and applied special TPO markings. The inaugural trip occurred on 9 January 1919. Above examples of mail postmarked on the "up" (eastbound) and "down" (westbound) legs, the former on the second day of service.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

BEF Main Line TPO
4 February 1919
9 March 1919
2 April 1919



Each of the sorting teams had their own postmarks. Above markings are coded "A," "B" and "C." Others that have been recorded are "X" and "+." A very high proportion of all the mail postmarked on the trains was on the down leg coming from Germany. (Mail to the troops would normally have been postmarked in England.)