

GREAT BRITAIN
British Liberation Army

Field Post Office 251
16 September 1944
8 October 1944

[Crown Copyright Reserved]. A.F. W3078

**ACTIVE SERVICE
ARMY PRIVILEGE ENVELOPE**

J.D. & Co. Apr 44

FIELD POST OFFICE
A
16 9
44
251

1. Up to three letters may be forwarded in this cover, but these must all be from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such cases to the Base Censor.
2. This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.
3. Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.
4. 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 affairs.

Signature }
Name only } *Brusko*

**PASSED BY
CENSOR
No. 3837**

ADDRESS:—

R.S.M.

Marszalek Stanislaw
P/107
Polish Forces

British Liberation Army.

FIELD  SERVICE

POST CARD.

FIELD POST OFFICE
A
8 7
44
251

The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

*Por. A. Stocki
P/170
Polish Forces
London E.C.1*

FIELD POST OFFICE
No. 12 OCT 1944

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

Poles in the British Liberation Army used the British fieldpost. Upper example of an Active Service Envelope was sent between members of the BLA from near Caen, France. Lower example of a Field Service Card was sent from the same FPO to a member of the Polish forces in Britain.

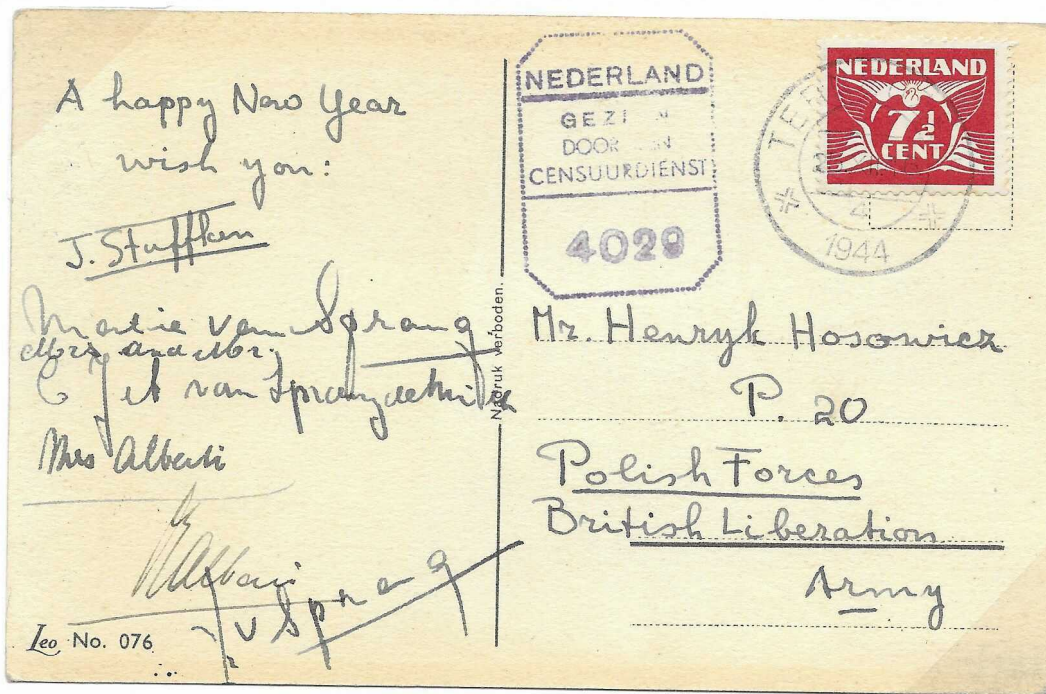
GREAT BRITAIN
British Liberation Army



Upper cover mailed by a member of the First Polish Armored Division of the BLA via FPO 406, which was assigned to the Polish Army. Lower cover from the HQ of the Polish Recruiting Mission in Paris was mailed through FPO 801, which was assigned to the British Liberation Army.

GREAT BRITAIN
British Liberation Army -- Inbound Mail

Termunten
25 December 1944



Inbound New Year's greeting card mailed from The Netherlands to a member of the Polish Forces serving in the British Liberation Army. A very unusual usage not seen otherwise by exhibitor.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

At the time of the German invasion, Polish naval and merchant marine vessels that were at sea or could escape headed for Allied or neutral posts, especially those in Great Britain. Although there was no communication with the homeland, official and other letters sent by Polish sailors were allowed free postage just like members of the Royal Navy. However, for political and propaganda reasons, the Government in Exile decided to establish a postal service and issue stamps to be used on the ships, which were considered Polish territory. This service was inaugurated on 15 December 1941, with post offices being established on the various vessels.

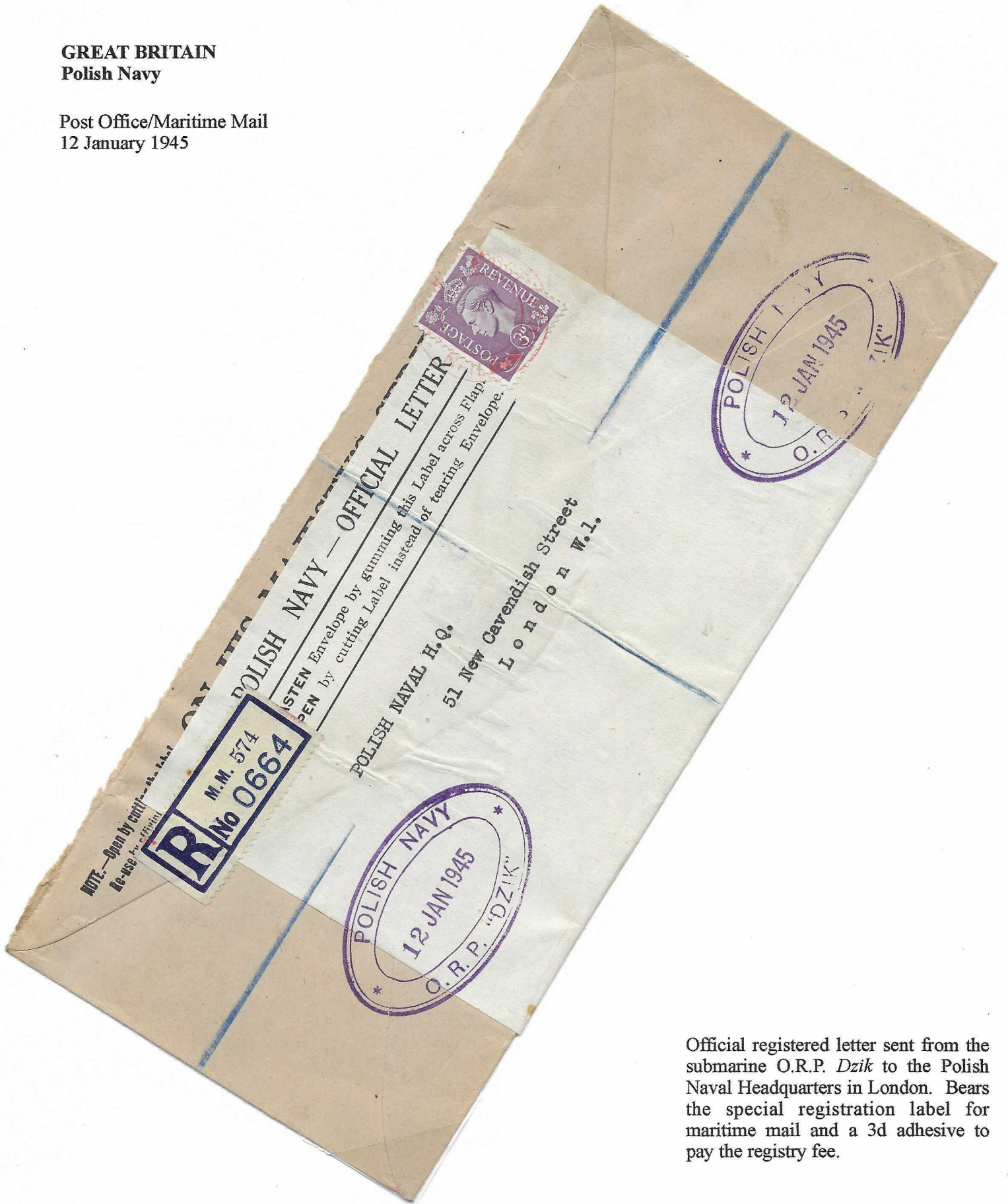
Post Office/Maritime Mail
2 October 1944



Official Navy Letter from a crew member of the submarine O.R.P. *Dzik* (Republic of Poland Ship *Boar*) to the Chief of the Planning Bureau of the Navy % G.P.O. London. Postage for mail sent through the British naval postal system was free if bearing imprints or cachets of units attesting to their military status. In this case, the cachet was of the "Senior Officer/Polish Submarines." However, special services, such as registry or special delivery, required payment of the appropriate fee -- 3d in the case of registration shown above.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Post Office/Maritime Mail
12 January 1945



Official registered letter sent from the submarine O.R.P. *Dzik* to the Polish Naval Headquarters in London. Bears the special registration label for maritime mail and a 3d adhesive to pay the registry fee.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 1
15 December 1941

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 27
11 August 1943



On 15 December 1941, eight pictorial stamps were issued, with the lower denominations depicting scenes of destruction in Warsaw while the higher values showed Polish military forces in Great Britain. Pictorial postmarks were provided in two types, one for naval vessels and the other for ships of the merchant marine, with each being assigned its own number (except for Polish Naval HQ in London, which was No. 15). Upper cover mailed on the first day of issue from destroyer O.R.P. *Piorun* (*Thunderbolt*) to a Polish soldier in Scotland. Lower cover franked with the complete set was mailed from the sub O.R.P. *Wilk* (*Wolf*) to the Bank of Poland in London.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

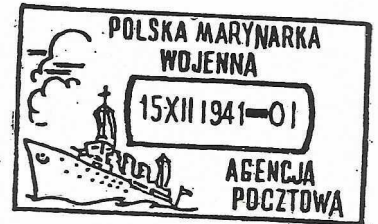


Miss Elisabeth Hutchinson

*1. Western College Road
Plymouth*

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 1
15 December 1941

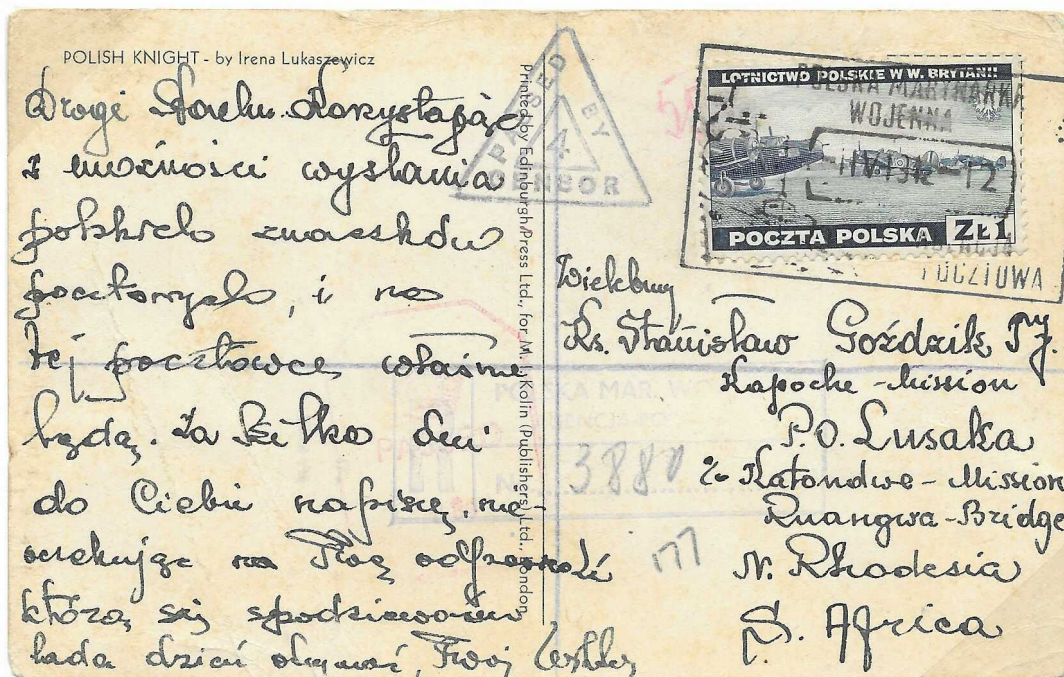
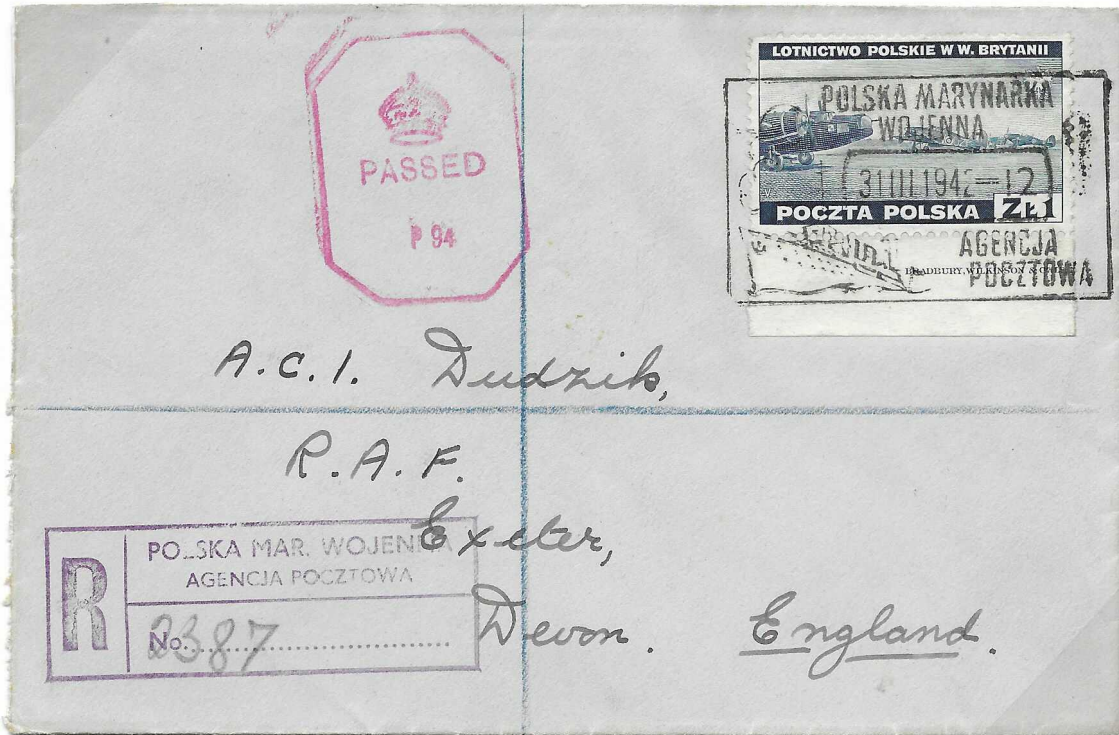
Polska Marynarka Wojenna 27
29 September 1943



Polish citizens and organizations in Great Britain were not entitled to free franking but could use the Exile Naval Post if they had their mail taken by hand or courier to whatever ship was in port and paid the appropriate postage, which was 55 groszy for letters sent to foreign addresses. Upper example is a first day cover from a Polish Lt. Colonel in London to Plymouth via ship No.1 (O.R.P. *Piorun*). Lower example sent from the World League of Poles Abroad to the U.S. via ship No.27 (O.R.P. *Wilk*).

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

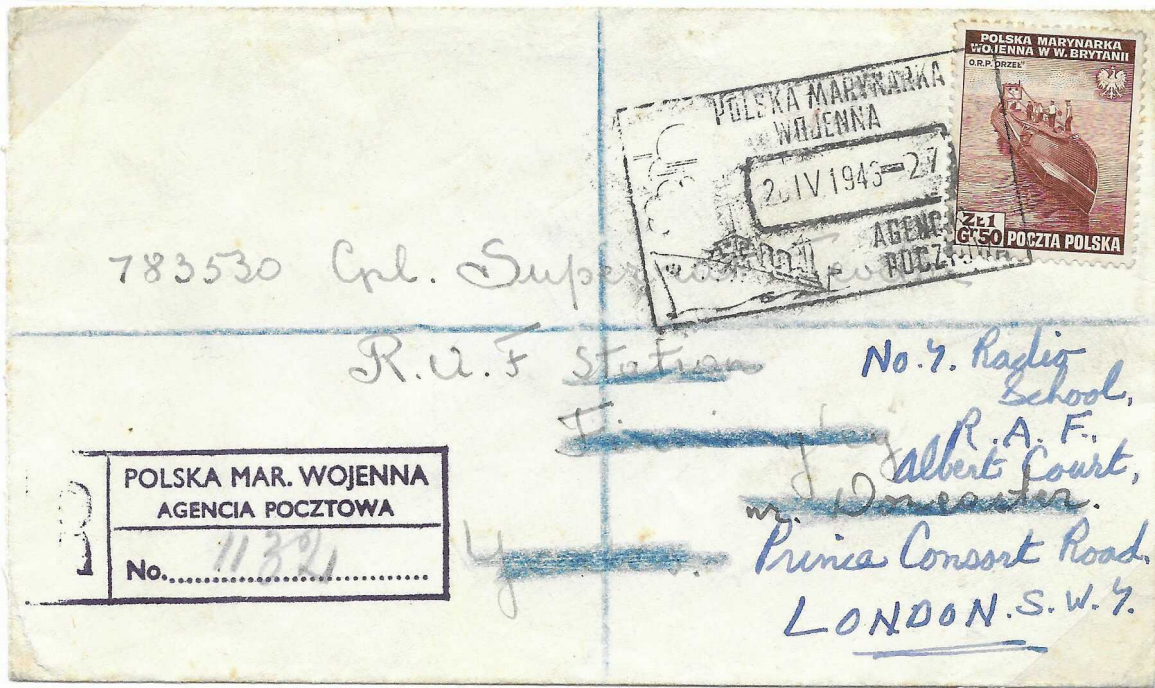
Polska Marynarka Wojenna 12
31 March 1942
11 May 1942



Commercial use of the higher denomination stamps is seldom seen. These registered examples were mailed from ship No. 12, the destroyer O.R.P. *Burza* (*Storm*). They are a letter to a Pole serving with the RAF in Exeter and a postcard to a Polish Jesuit missionary at the unusual destination of Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia. Postage of 1 zloty was proper for a registered letter (55 gr. plus 45 gr.) but overpaid for the postcard.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 27
26 April 1943



Registered cover franked with the highest denomination of the first exile government stamps, the 1.50 zloty value. This example sent to a Polish corporal serving with the RAF in Finningsley, Yorkshire and forwarded to the Radio School in London. Sent via ship No.27, O.R.P. *Wilk*.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Polska Marynarka Handlowa
15 December 1942



This philatelic postcard commemorates the first anniversary of the Polish Naval Postal Service in Exile. It was cancelled on the appropriate date with the version of the postmark issued to the merchant marine, but without a ship number to the right. Sent to a member of the Polish Army (designated by serial number) with receiving mark of Polish FPO No.1 applied.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 3
5 August 1943



In mid-1943, a second type of naval cancel was introduced on some ships, possibly to replace lost or damaged postmarks. In this case, the number of the ship was placed to the right outside the enclosed area for the date. This example mailed from the cruiser O.R.P. *Dragon* (ship No. 3) and passed through the civil post office in Glasgow en route to the Chief Administrator of the Polish Navy in London. Note reused envelope with added label inscribed "Polish Navy -- Official Letter."

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 3
5 August 1945



Cover from the Senior Polish Naval Officer in the Clyde District to Naval HQ in London. Sent registered and special delivery from Greenock, Renfrewshire via O.R.P. *Dragon*. Postage paid for the special services by British adhesives. The lowest value Polish stamp was affixed, most likely to obtain the ship's postmark.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

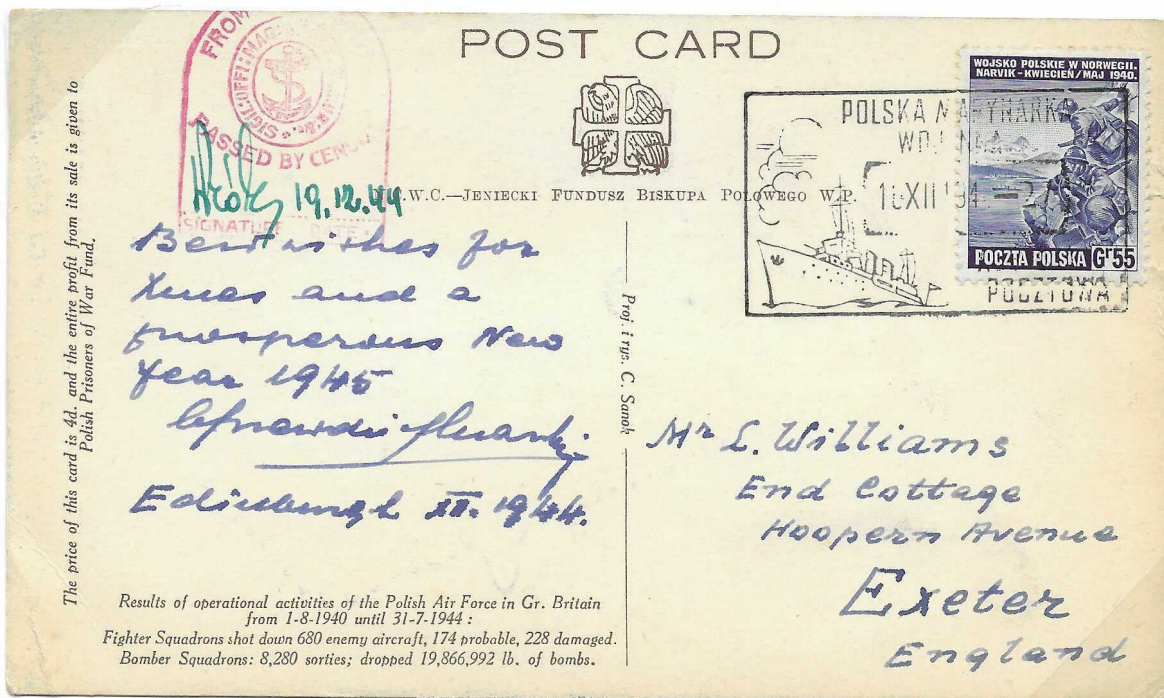
Polska Marynarka Wojenna 27
 3 May 1945



On 1 November 1943, the Exile Government issued 200,000 sets of a second group of pictorials showing various aspects of the war effort. These were valid for postage on the ships until 11 July 1945. This philatelicly-prepared cover with the complete set was mailed from ship no. 27, O.R.P. *Wilk*, to a Polish civilian in Edinburgh. The addressee was no longer there (see “gone away” in manuscript) so the letter was returned to the sender, a Polish officer in Falkirk, Scotland.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

Polska Marynarka Wojenna 27
 16 December 1943
 16 December 1944



These postcards show commercial use of the second pictorial stamps. Both are mailed from ship no. 27, O.R.P. *Wilk*. Upper card sent from London to Mexico City, an extraordinary destination for Polish exile mail. The rate of 30 groszy was proper for a postcard. Lower card sent from Edinburgh to Exeter is overpaid with 55 groszy applied, which was the letter rate.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy

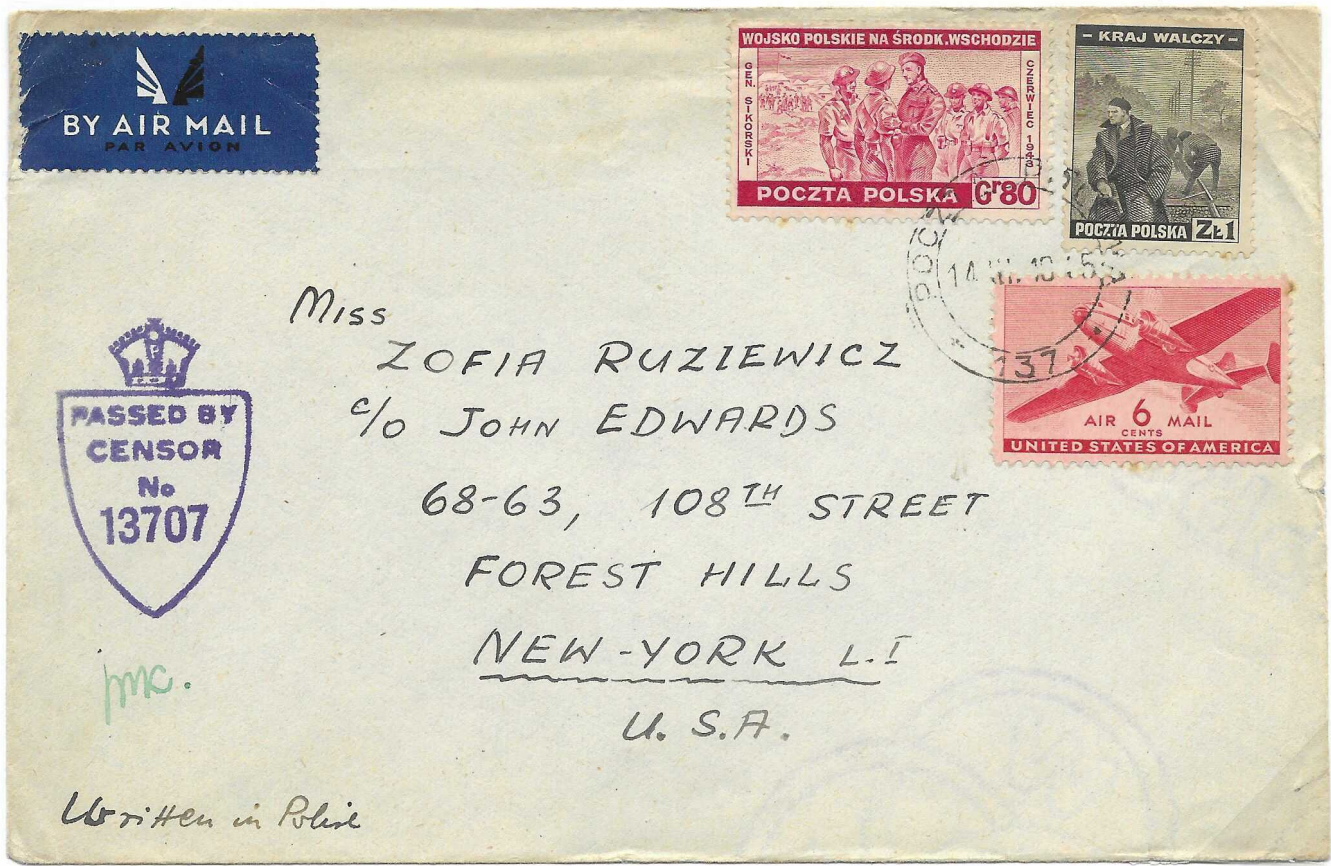
Proof



Proof of unadopted design of 80 groszy stamp depicting Polish troops in the U.S.S.R. in 1941/1942. The design was by A. Horowicz, and it was printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson in 1943 on gummed paper with serial number 66. A very elusive item.

GREAT BRITAIN
Polish Navy -- Posted Out of Course

Poczta Polowa 137
14 March 1946



The London issues were intended for use on Polish naval and merchant marine vessels but were occasionally used at Polish army training bases in Great Britain. However, they were not valid for postage elsewhere. The examples here were affixed (presumably as souvenirs) to an airmail letter sent from Polish fieldpost office 137, which was located at Forli, Italy from 26 October 1945 to 28 March 1946. However, the actual postage was paid by the 6 cent U.S. airmail stamp. This is the only such example of this franking seen by exhibitor.