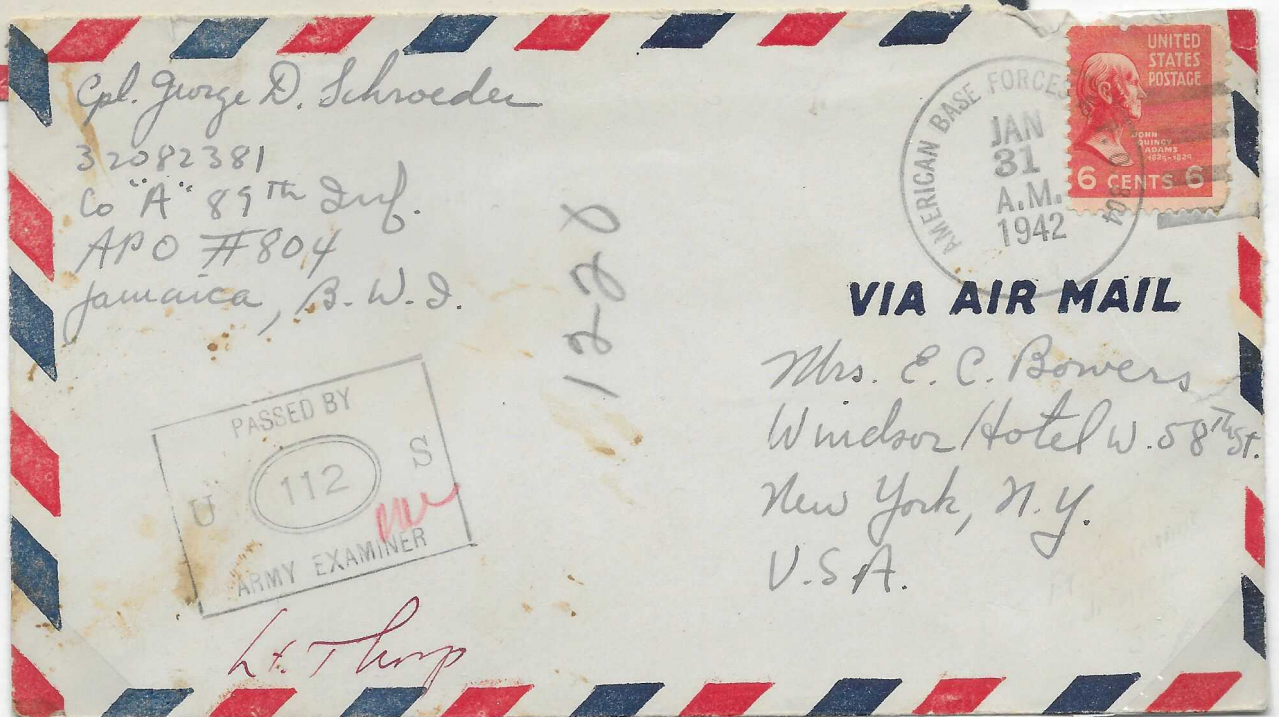


THE US ARMY AND ITS POSTAL SERVICE ABROAD DURING WORLD WAR II

This exhibit was created by, and is the property of the late Al Kugel, and is being supplied by his heirs as a courtesy to the Military Postal History Society. (See <http://militaryphs.org>) The Military Postal History Society (MPHS) is a non-profit organization for philatelists and stamp collectors interested in the collecting and studying of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all countries, including soldiers' campaign covers, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, patriotics, propaganda, V-mail, censorship and similar related material.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Air Mail



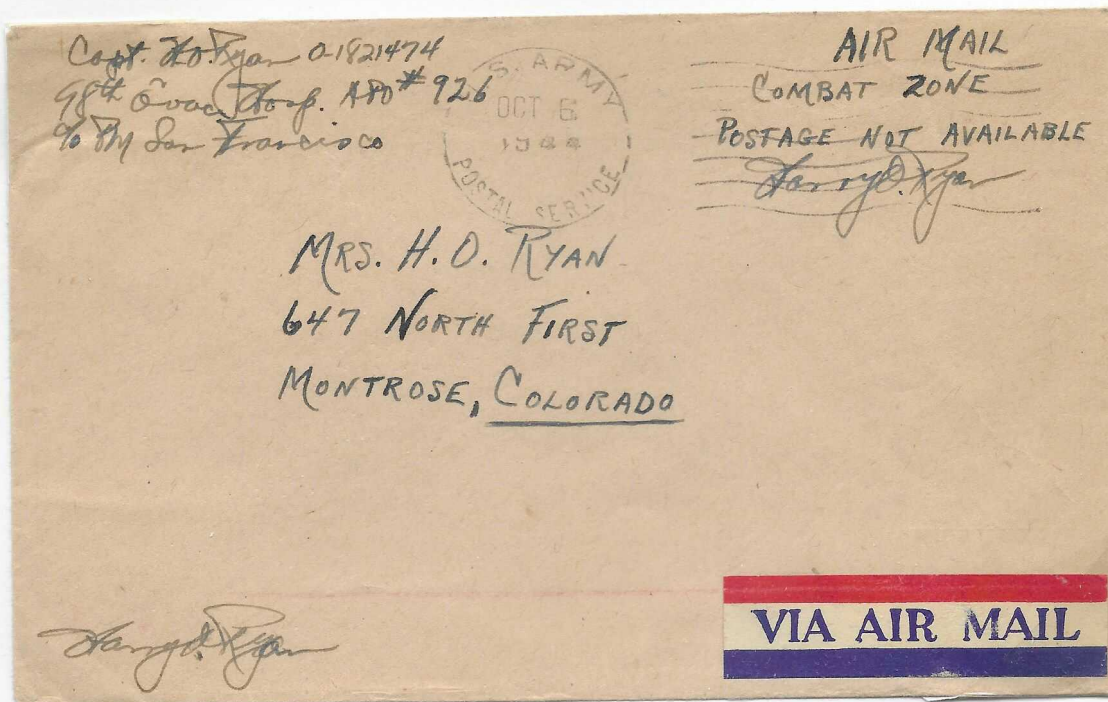
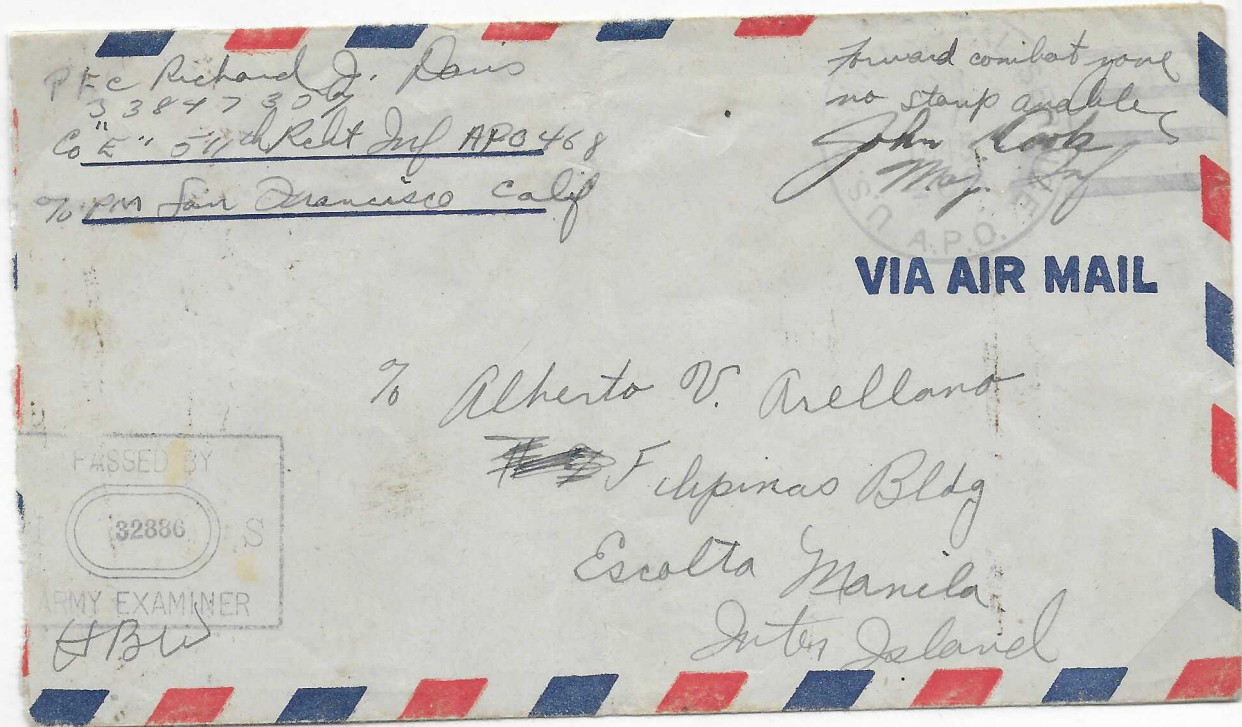
The issue of reducing airmail rates for US troops abroad had been debated within the Post Office Department for about 6 months prior to Pearl Harbor. With the outbreak of the war, it was decided that the morale benefits from the extension of US domestic airmail rates to troops abroad would be worthwhile. The rate reduction went into effect on 23 December 1941, but it appears that the news was a bit slow in being published overseas.

APO 803-A, Ft. Reed, Trinidad. APO 804, Ft. Simmonds, Jamaica.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Air Mail

APO 468, 27 April 1945, Manila, Philippines. From 17 - 26 April, 1945 the 11th Airborne Division, of which the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment was a part, surrounded Mt. Matassna, the last Japanese stronghold in southern Luzon. From 27 - 30 April the 511th Parachute Infantry was involved in the Battle of Mt. Matassna. Mail from units in combat is rare.



APO 926, Morotai, Moluccas, Netherlands East Indies. The invasion of Morotai and small islands nearby was accomplished by the 31st Infantry Division beginning 15 September 1944. Little opposition was encountered, and APO 926 was in operation three weeks before this cover was sent. The alleged lack of stamps in this relatively quiescent combat zone is suspect.

Non-payment of airmail postage is rare, and airmail envelopes that were inadvertently (or otherwise) submitted without proper postage were almost always denied the service. The rare exception is mail as marked above, indicating a lack of stamps due to origin in a combat zone.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Registration

APO 957, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; 6¢ airmail + 15¢ registry fee.

APO 9789, transit APO, location unidentified. 3¢ first class mail (not required) + 20¢ registry fee. Posted on 2nd day of new rate.



Sgt. Dean E. Plankenborn
615th QM Depot Co. 16176374
APO 9789 - c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

REGISTERED

PASSED BY
U 492
ARMY EXAMINER



APO 719, Noemfoor, Netherlands New Guinea, posted at APO 565 Unit 1 (backstamp 9 September 1944), Sarmi, Netherlands New Guinea; 6¢ airmail + 65¢ registry fee (\$200.01 - \$300 indemnity).

The minimum (indemnification of \$5 or less) registry fee in effect on 7 December 1941 was 15¢. This was raised to 20¢ on 26 March 1944. Covers paid for indemnification in excess of the minimum are scarce.

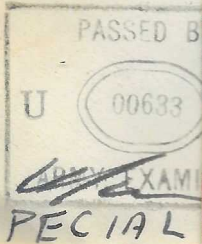
Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Special Delivery

Sgt. Amos Jackson 32062517
55th Q.M. Sales Co.
A.P.O. # 860 1/2 Postmaster
New York, New York.



Cpl. Roy Fanslau 32559645
Btry. A. 373rd. A.A.A. 1/2 Bn.
A.P.O. 706 Unit 1, 1/2 P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.



Special Delivery Airmail

Sgt Walter S Limbach
33267143 19th Bomb Grp
APO # 17084
c/o Postmaster San Francisco Calif



Air Mail
Special



Star Fanslau
Sussex Street
terson 3, N.Y.

Mrs Walter S Limbach

Box 465

Charleroi Pa



The Special Delivery fee for first class mail (to 2 pounds) was 10¢ at the beginning of the war, increasing to 13¢ on 1 November 1944. This fee could be paid with regular postage or special delivery stamps, or with airmail postage + special delivery stamps (the last being by far the least usual method).

APO 860, Reykjavik, Iceland. APO 706, Unit 1, Sterling Island, Solomon Islands. APO 17084, transit APO number unidentified by postmark (but the first elements of the 19th Bombardment Group moved from the US to Guam during December 1944).

Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Special Delivery

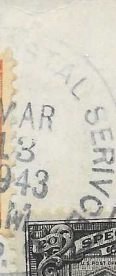
S/Lt. S.F. Perry 19124434
16th A.S. 51st Sp.
A.P.O. 211, 14th SHAF
% P.M. New York, N.Y.



Mrs. Lupe Perry
315 1/2 No. Paulina St.
Anaheim, Calif.

PASSED BY
Censored
by: [Signature]
EXAMINER

Herman A. Fehlmann
17th Armd Engr Med Det
17th Armd Engr Bn
APO 252
% Postmaster, NYC, NY
U S A



PASSED BY
EXAMINER
05369

Mrs Hazel Ann Fehlmann
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado
U S A

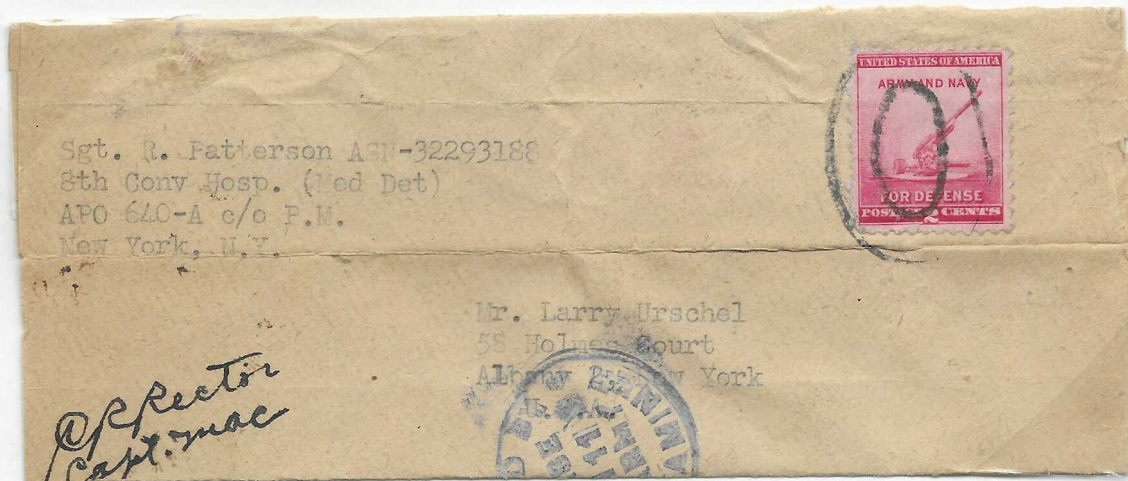
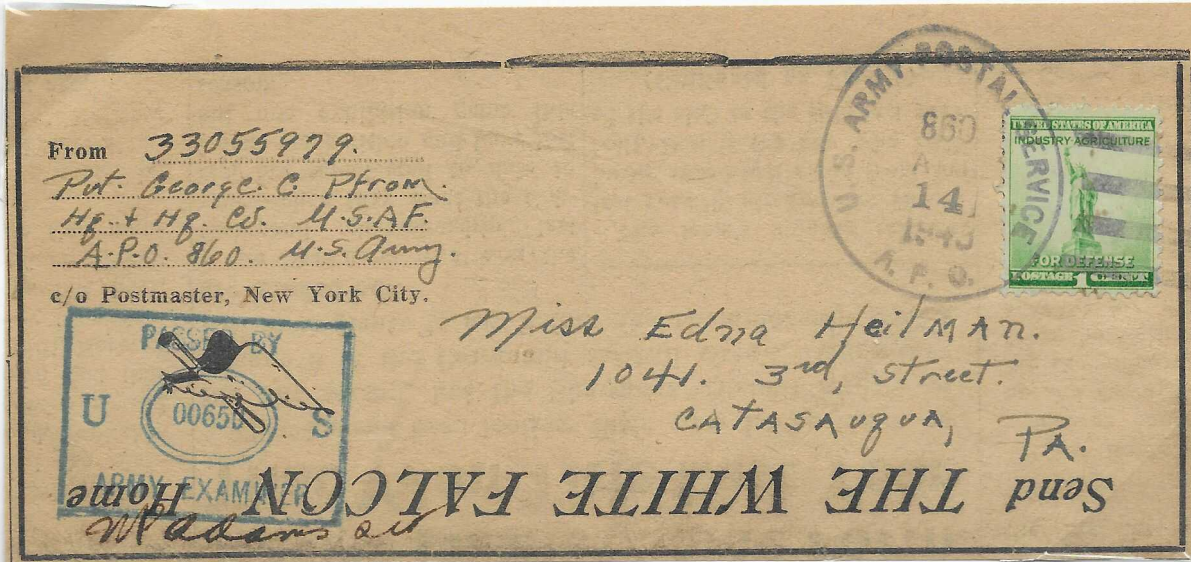
Claimed by Office
of First Address

Special delivery rates of 15¢, 17¢, 20¢, 25¢ and 35¢ were in effect during WWII, and Special Delivery stamps were available for some of these. However, these rates were for heavier first class packets and non-first-class mail, so that the use of such stamps on first class and airmail letters is almost certainly philatelic.

APO 211, Chengkung, China. APO 252, Rabat, Morocco.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Second Class Mail



Second Class mail (printed matter without additional writing, to a maximum of 8 ounces per piece) was required to be paid at domestic rates (which, throughout WWII was 1¢ per each 2 ounces or fraction thereof).

APO 860, Reykjavik, Iceland. APO 640-A, Sutton Coldfield, England.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to US
Parcels

OPL. A.W. STRATTON 39602871
STAT. HOSP. A.P.O. 832
P.M. NEW ORLEANS La.



PASSED BY
U 00062 S
ARMY EXAMINER



*Original Recd by
Mrs. Grace Stratton
Shelby, Mont
L. Mae*

MISS. GRACE STRATTON
SHELBY, MONTANA

This Package Contains:

- 1 Winter Flying Jacket
- 1 Winter Flying Helmet
- 1 Winter Flying Cap
- 1 Winter Snow Coat
- 1 Officers Blouse
- 1 Pair Pink Pants
- 1 Green Wool Shirt
- 1 Winter Flying Boots
- 1 Pair Gloves

*Lt. Lloyd D Spies
69 Bomb Squad.
A.P.O. 913 P.M.
San Francisco, Calif*

PASSED BY
U 14048 S
ARMY EXAMINER



To:
Mrs. George H. Spies
6 Askins Place
New Rochelle
New York
U.S.A.

THIS PACKAGE CONTAINS NO MILITARY INFORMATION

*F.W. Dunlap, 2nd St.
Censor 69th Bomb Sq.*

INSURED
(CONTENTS LISTED)
No. 3012

Air mail parcel post was not introduced until 1948, so soldiers in WWII wishing to send parcels home by air mail had to pay 6¢ per ounce. Surface parcel post was required to be paid at domestic rates, which varied by distance carried (starting from the post office that the APO was "Care of"). Packages sent by first class or airmail could be registered, whereas (4th class) parcel post could only be insured.

APO 832, Ft. Kobbe (Howard Field) Canal Zone. APO 913, Nadi Airbase, Fiji.

Parcel tag bears payment of \$3.45 postage for 31-pound parcel to Zone 8 (15¢ first pound + 30 pounds @ 11¢) + 35¢ for insurance of \$150.01 to \$200.00, which would be consistent with the contents list.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to Foreign Destinations

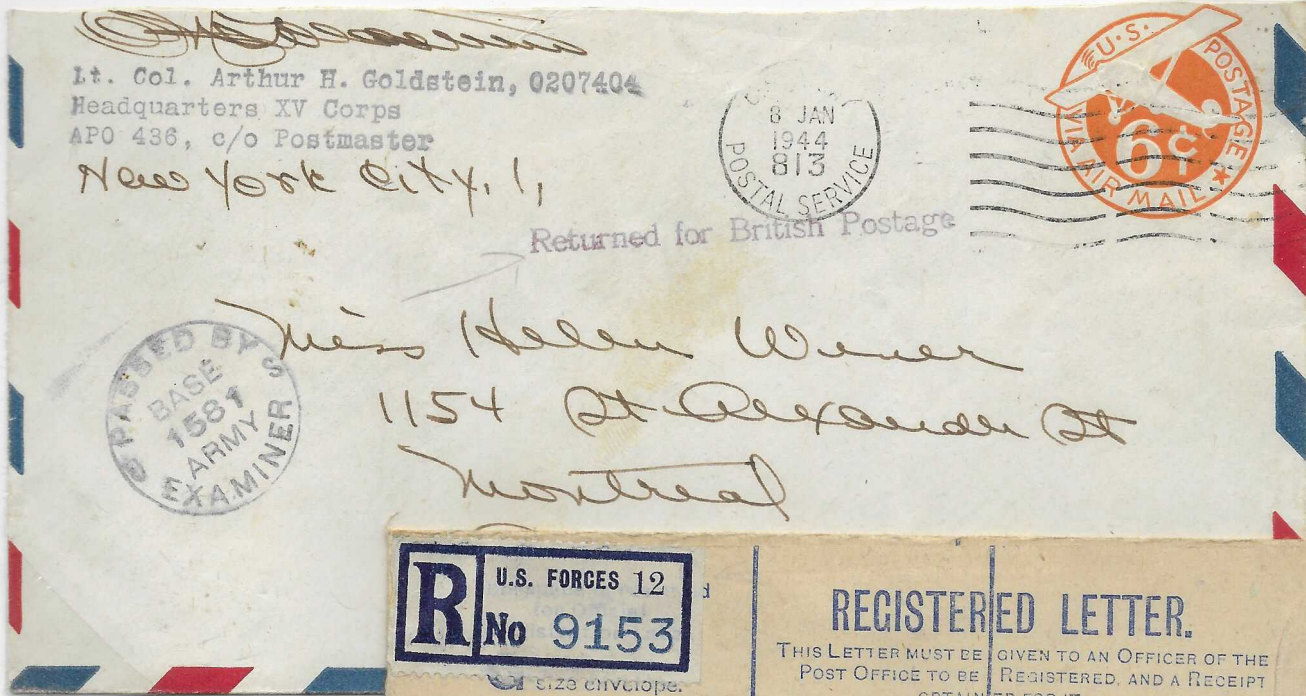


This regulation was, not surprisingly, often ignored.

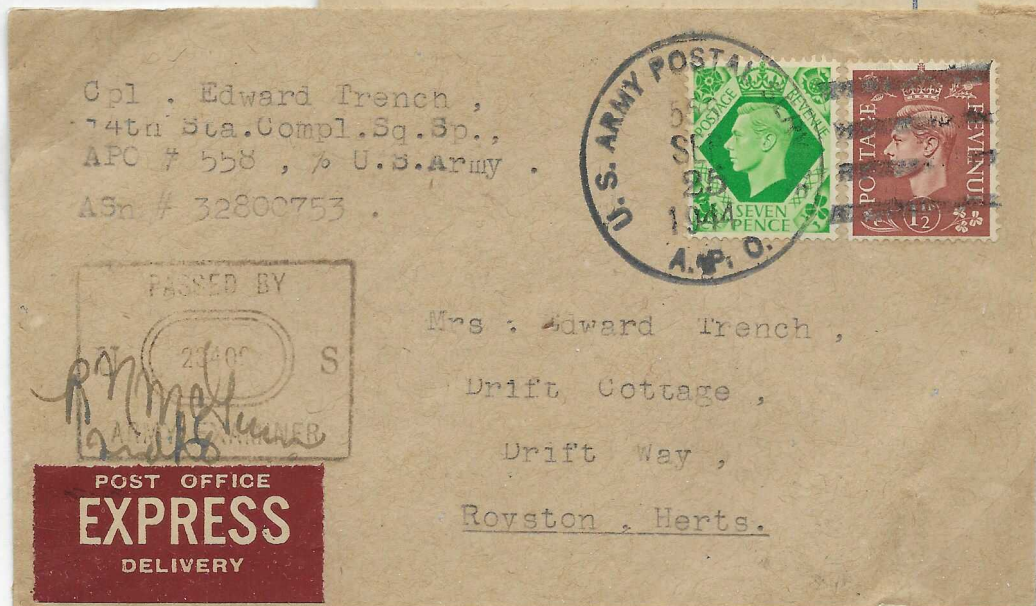
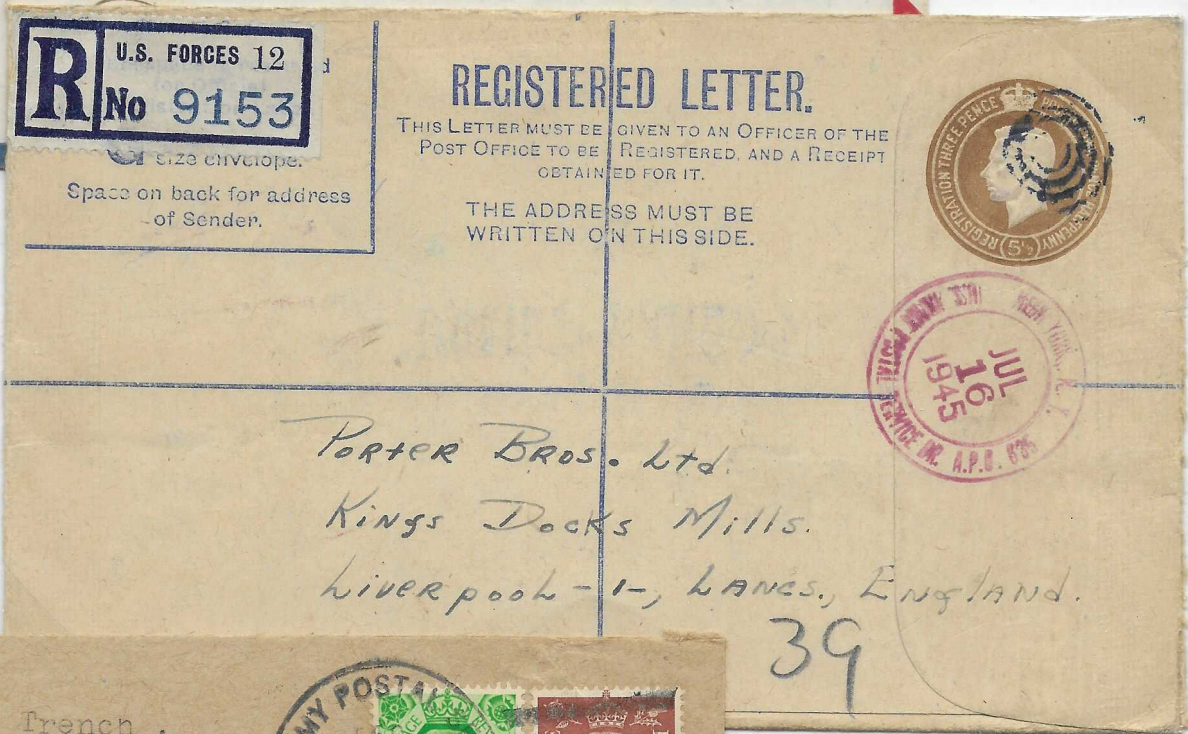
APO 472, Berchtesgaden, Germany. APO 700, Oran, Algeria. APO 681, Taranto, Italy.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to Foreign Destinations



Mail sent via US APOs in the British Empire to locations within the Empire was required to be paid with local stamps, apparently at local rates for the service desired. Mail sent from the United Kingdom is the most common -- though mail sent registered, special delivery and to addresses outside GB is unusual.



APO 813, Belfast, Northern Ireland. APO 635, Burton Wood, England. APO 558, Bungay, England.

Mail to Foreign Destinations

Rates
US Troops

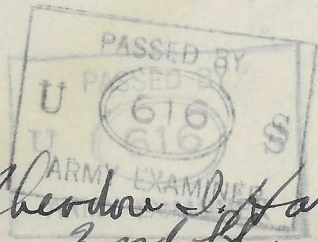
T/Sgt. John J. Lynes 6135104
Hq. Det. Base Command
APO. # 810 Iceland

U.S. ARMY



Mr. Thomas Lynes
Grand Seminary
Montreal Canada

69



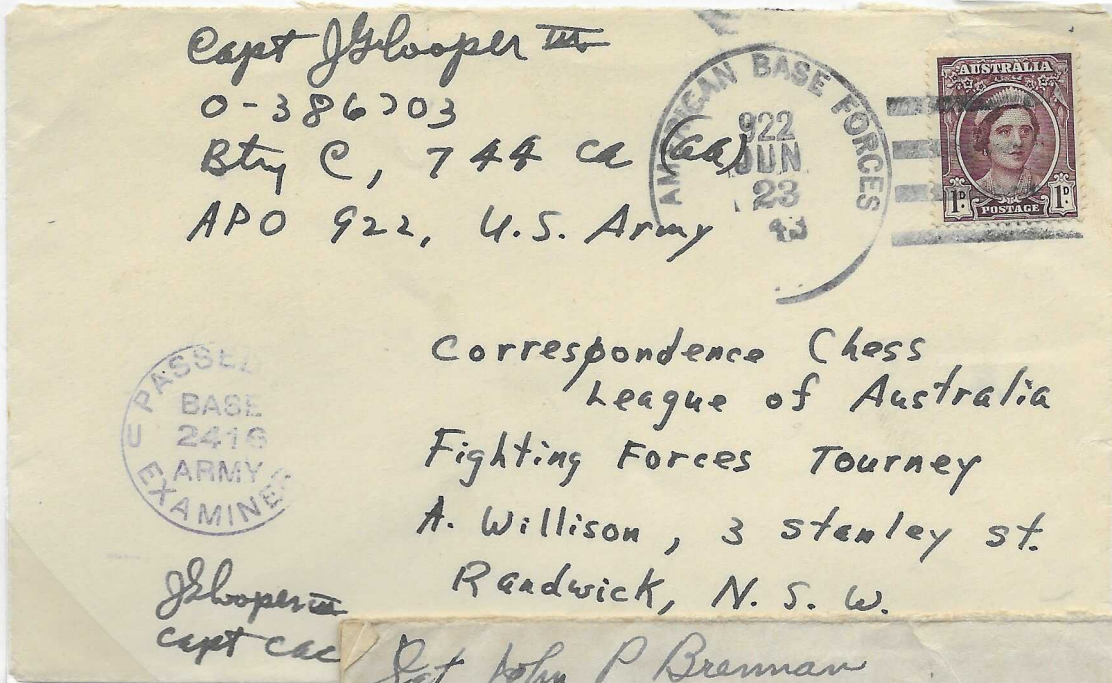
*Theodore J. Harman
2nd Lt.*

Certain mail to Great Britain and within the British Empire excepted, US troops using US APOs to send material to non-US addresses had to pay the appropriate rate for such mail had it been sent from an address in the continental United States

APO 810, Baldurshagi, Iceland. APO 787, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt. APO 661, Salinas, Ecuador.

Rates
US Troops

Mail to Foreign Destinations



Mail within Australia is the second most common example of US APO mail required to be franked with local postage. Mail between different parts of the British Empire is quite scarce.



APO 922, Townsville, Australia.
APO 433, Kurmitola, India. APO
584, Swansea, Wales

Rates
US Troops

Mail to Foreign Destinations



As with the registry fees for domestic mail, there was a rate increase from 15¢ to 20¢ for international registry service during the war, though the date of this change (1 February 1945) was later than the date of the domestic service change. Registered mail from US APOs to any foreign destination is rare.

(The 6¢ airmail postage paid on this cover is almost certainly incorrect, the rate from the US to GB being 30¢ per half ounce. However, Post Office directives of 4 May 1944 and 11 August 1944, extending free mail privileges for US servicemen's mail to British civilians, probably so confused the situation that a charge of only 6¢ for the airmail fee seemed like a good idea when this cover was mailed.)

APO 562, Brussels, Belgium, posted at APO 556 (backstamp, 28 July 1945), Liege, Belgium.

Rates
Official Mail

Surface Mail

Surface mail sent by the War Department and its subordinate offices and agencies was entitled to free postage throughout the war.

WAR DEPARTMENT

HQ. NORTH BURMA AIR TASK FORCE
APO 218

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

RADIO STATION KOMA 465
OKLA. CITY, OKLA.

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
1945
JUN 4
APO 218

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
U.S. ARMY PRESS CENTER

CHARLES H. HOLT
61211
CHINA-BURMA-INDIA

No.

B

No. 767

20 JULY, 1945

PHOTO SERVICE

APO 927

18 927 (2)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

S/SGT RAY M. MORYTKO 3109047
(Print name in full.) (ASN)

COOP "A", 5th Cavalry, 1st Cav Div
(Organization.)

APO 218 Film Size 110

FILL ONE FORM ONLY
FOR EACH FILM ROLL

N 47144

Opened by U.S. Censor

APO 218, Myitkina, Burma. APO 465, Calcutta, India. (Such return address-postmark inconsistencies are not unusual. APO 927, Sydney, Australia.

Rates
Official Mail

Additional Services

Fees for services, including airmail, registration, special delivery and insurance, were required to be paid with stamps.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



REGISTERED
NO. 205



THE COMMANDING GENERAL

The Chief of Engineers,
Real Estate Branch,
U. S. Army,
Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
~~HQ. U.S. ARMY FORCES~~
~~A.P.O. 919 c/o P.M.~~
~~San Francisco, Calif.~~
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
BERMUDA BASE COMMAND, U. S. ARMY
c/o POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WD ESSENTIAL OFFICIAL AIR MAIL

APO 919, Bora Bora,
French Polynesia.

APO 856, Fort Bell,
Bermuda. Unusual
6-ounce airmail rate.

Rates
Official Mail

Mail to Foreign Destinations



Penalty for Private Use to
avoid payment of Postage \$300

OFFICIAL PAID
U.S. ARMY

LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Thorpe Station
Norwich

UNITED STATES FORCES
40TH FINANCE DISBURSING SECTION
A.P.O. 304, U.S. ARMY.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED
U.S. FORCES 6
No 6303

REGISTERED
5
1943

Theoretically, official mail sent outside the US and its possessions had to be franked with stamps. However, our allies did not require this, as long as the mail was marked in the same manner as their official mail. The British even allowed free registration.

Rates
Official Mail

The US Army operated a system of officer couriers for the transportation of sensitive mail. While this mail clearly was taken in by APOs, delivery was to the addressee by the courier, and postage was not collected even for air mail to foreign countries.

APO 464, Capua, Italy (note D-Day postmark). APO 927, Sydney, Australia.

Army Courier Service.

