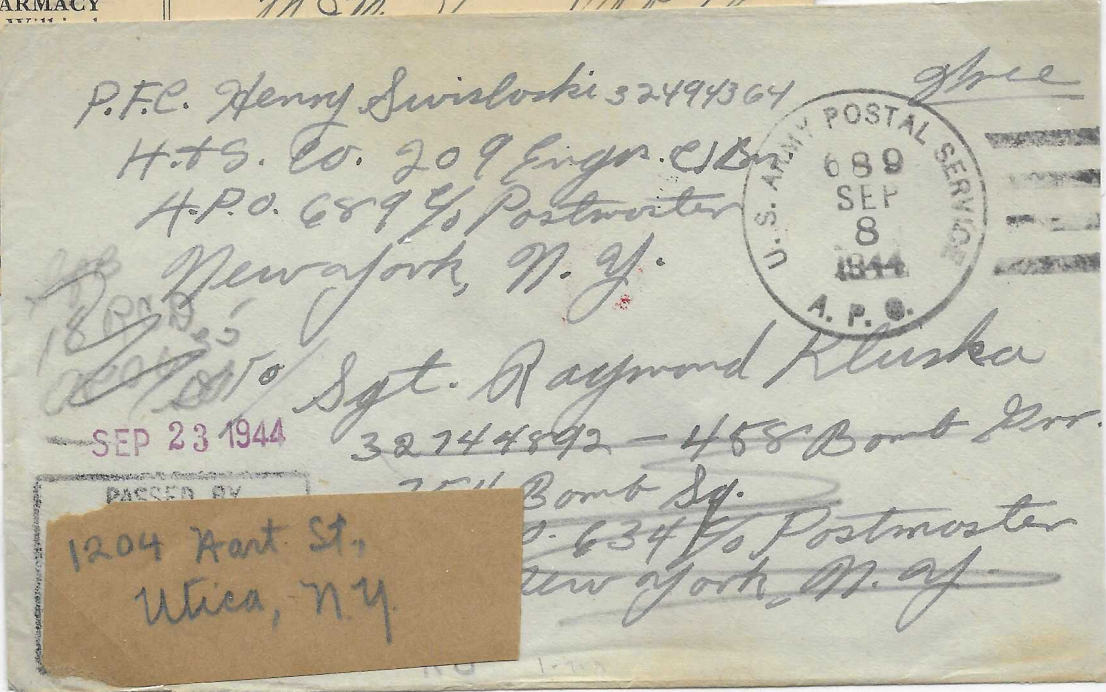
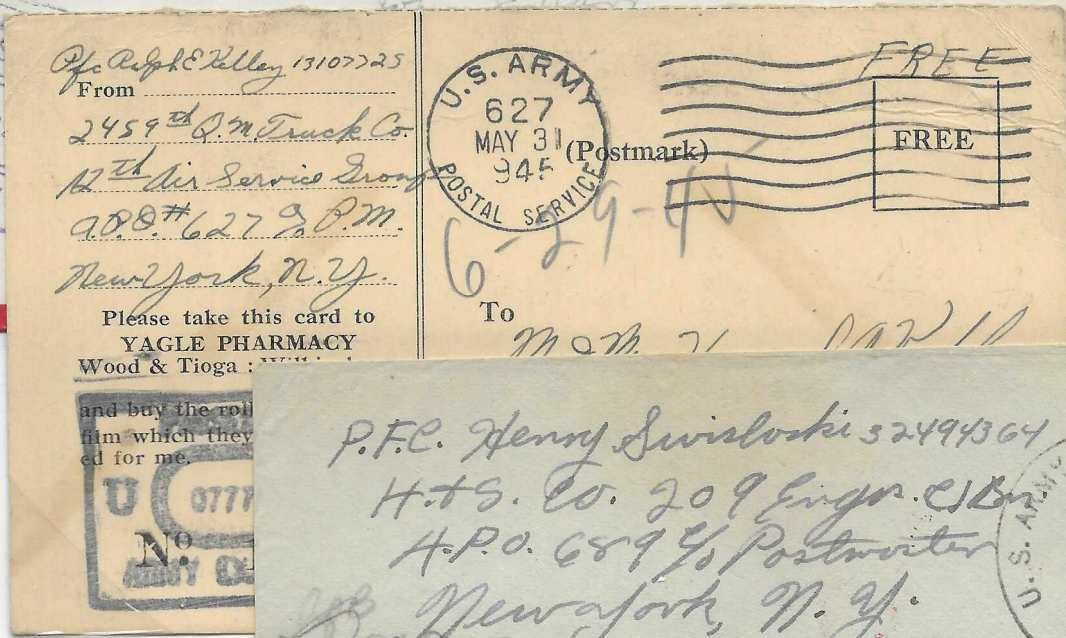


THE US ARMY AND ITS POSTAL SERVICE ABROAD DURING WORLD WAR II

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The US Army at War
Establishing Defense and Supply Systems

Atlantic Ocean Eastward
India, China



APO 466, Jorhad, India (India-China Wing, Air Transport Command; opened June 1943).
APO 627, Kunming, China. APO 689, Ledo, India.

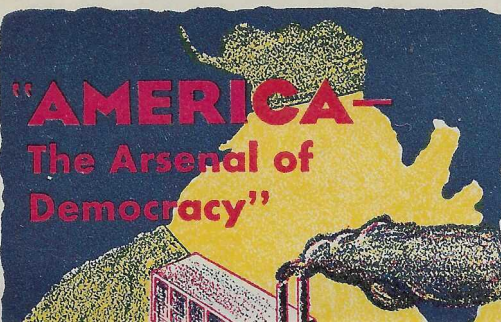
Initial plans had been to supply China across the Burma Road. However, Japanese advances in Burma had closed this option by early 1942. While a new land route from India (the Ledo Road) was being built, an air supply route was arranged using airfields in Assam Province, northeastern India, and Kunming, southwestern China. In between lay the infamous 15,000 foot "Hump" (the Satsung range, between the Salween and Mekong Rivers). In April 1942, the first month of operation, 700 tons of supplies were flown. By the last year of the war, planes flying over the hump averaged 45,000 tons per month.

The US Army at War
Establishing Defense and Supply Systems

Atlantic Ocean Eastward
United Kingdom

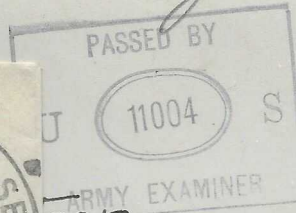
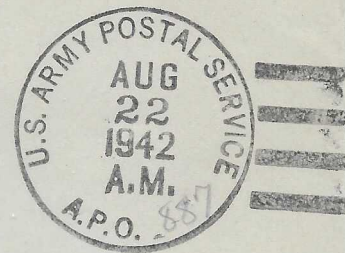
HQ ETOUSA, POSTAL DIVISION, AGO
APO 887, c/o PM. NYC.

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



From
Capt. V.L. Bartley
HQ 8th AF
APO # 887
New York City
J.L. Bartley

Free



Capt. J. V. Fleckenstein, O-885381,
1st Photo Intell. Det.,
8th Air Force, APO 634,
New York, N.Y.



D. C. Bartley
Green Lake Station
Seattle, Wash.

Mr. C. H. Holt,
3561 Monroe Ave.,
Pittsford,
New York,
U.S.A.

J.V. Fleckenstein
Capt., A.C.

APO 887 (HQ, ETOUSA); opened
10 April 1942, London, England.
APO 634 (HQ, 8th Air Force),
opened 15 September 1942,
Wellingsborough, England.

Army (and Army Air Force) troops in Great Britain were originally under a command known as US Army Forces in the British Isles, which on 8 June 1942 was renamed the European Theater of Operations, US Army (ETOUSA). From 24 June 1942 this command was headed by Dwight Eisenhower. US Army Air Forces in the UK were combined into the 8th Air Force, the first large detachment of which arrived in England on 12 May 1942.

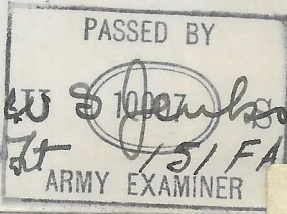
The US Army at War
Establishing Defense and Supply Systems

Atlantic Ocean Eastward
United Kingdom

Sgt J. E. Sandness
Hq Btry, 1st Bn, 151st FA
APO-813
c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

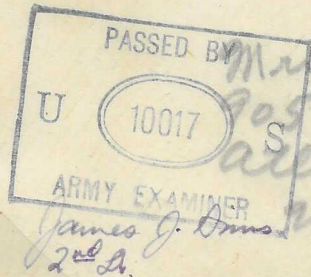


Northwestern National Bank & Trust Co.
Minneapolis, Minnesota



*Det. 1st. John E. Alliband
ante Bank Co. 168 St.
APO 34 90 P.M.
New York, N.Y.
U.S. Army*

VIA AIR MAIL



*Mrs. Geo. A. Alliband
205 Birch St.
Atlantic, Iowa
U.S.A.*



Throughout 1942 and, as it was decided, 1943, the Allies lacked the men and materiel necessary to mount an invasion of continental Europe through France. Consequently, the United Kingdom was first developed as a giant unsinkable aircraft carrier and as a staging and training area for US troops (who eventually became so numerous that the British were heard to opine that they were great fellows except that they were over-paid, over-sexed and over here).

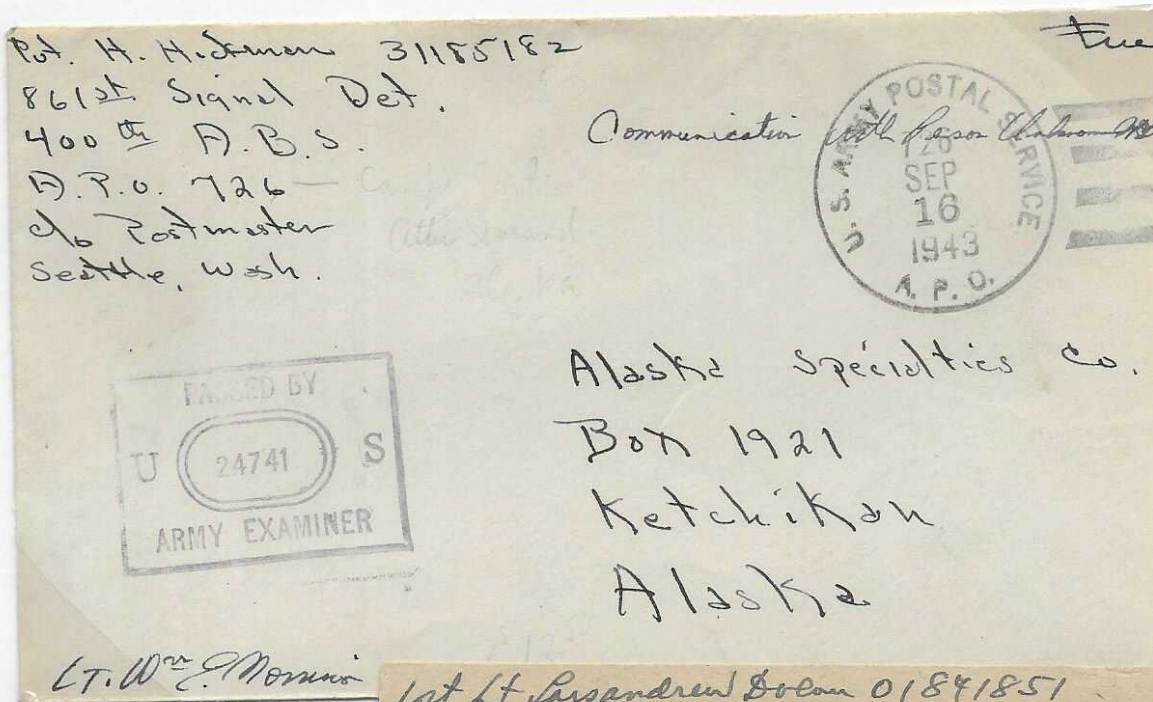
The first US Army troops arrived in the United Kingdom in Northern Ireland on 26 January 1942. British postage was used on mail to the US because US postage was not initially available.

APO 813, Belfast. APO 34 (34th Infantry Div., the first troops to land in the UK), Omagh, both in Northern Ireland.

OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS
WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The US Army at War

Alaska



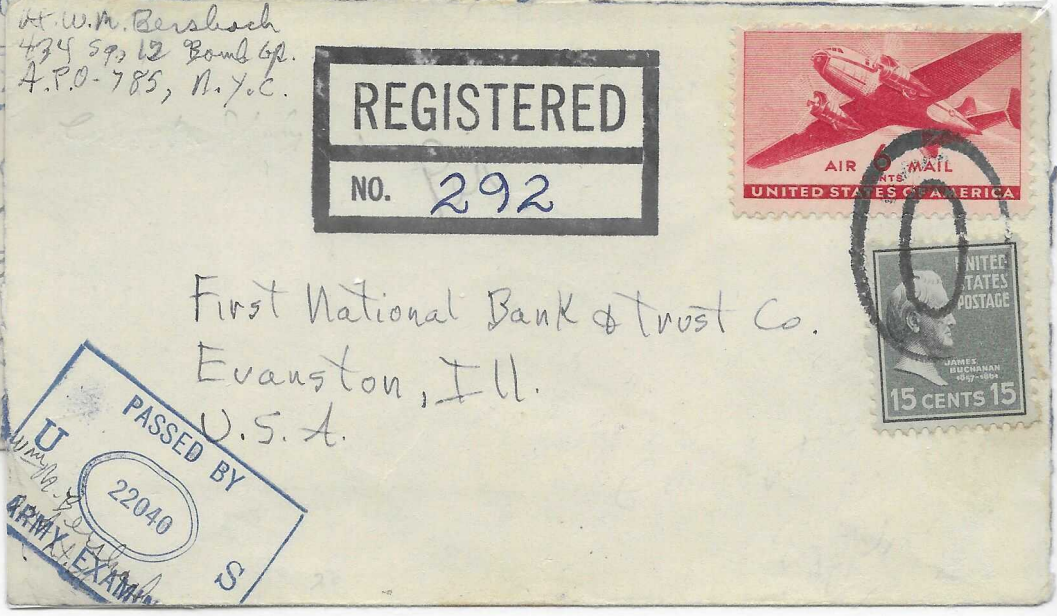
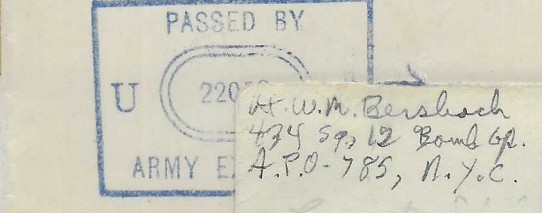
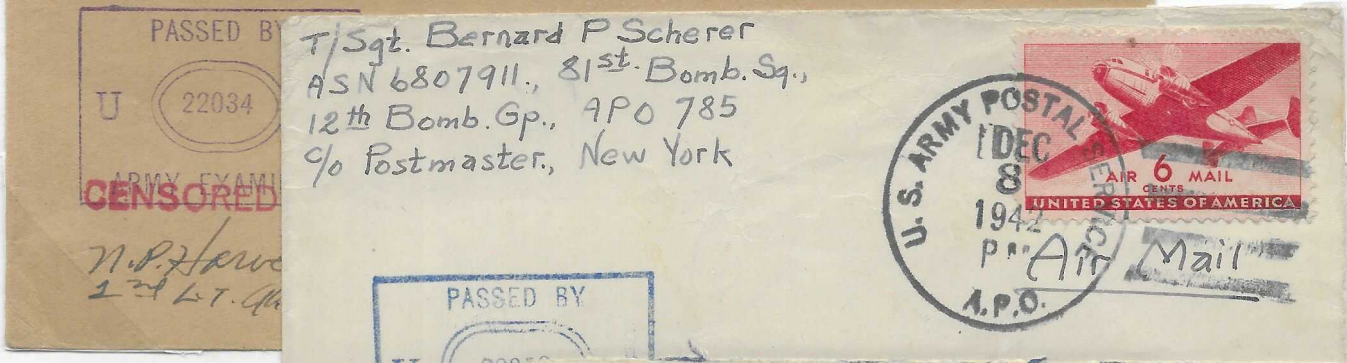
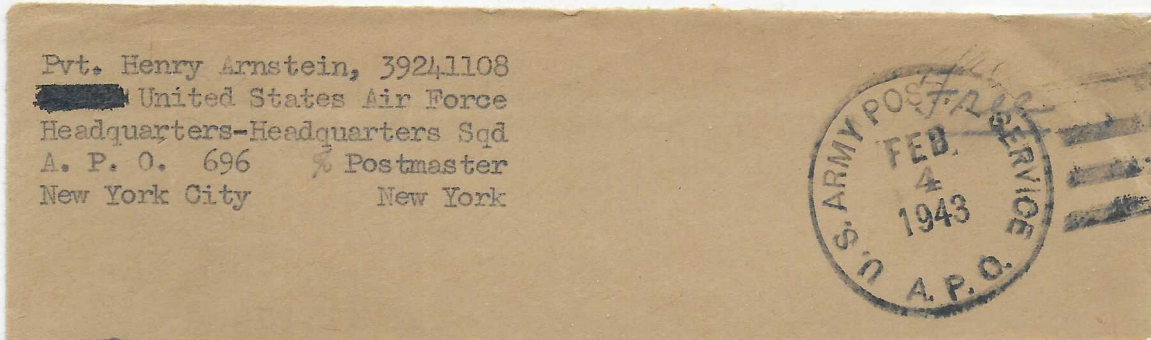
Attu and Kiska, in the western Aleutian Islands, were occupied by the Japanese on 7 June 1942, at the height of their conquests. From 11-29 May 1943 the US, at a cost of 550 killed in action, retook Attu from the 2400 Japanese defenders. On 15 Aug 1943 US forces landed on Kiska only to find that the 5000 Japanese troops had been evacuated by submarine.

APO 726, Attu (opened 23 May 1943). APO 730, Kiska (opened 17 September 1943).

**OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS
EUROPE AND AFRICA**

The US Army at War

Egypt, Libya

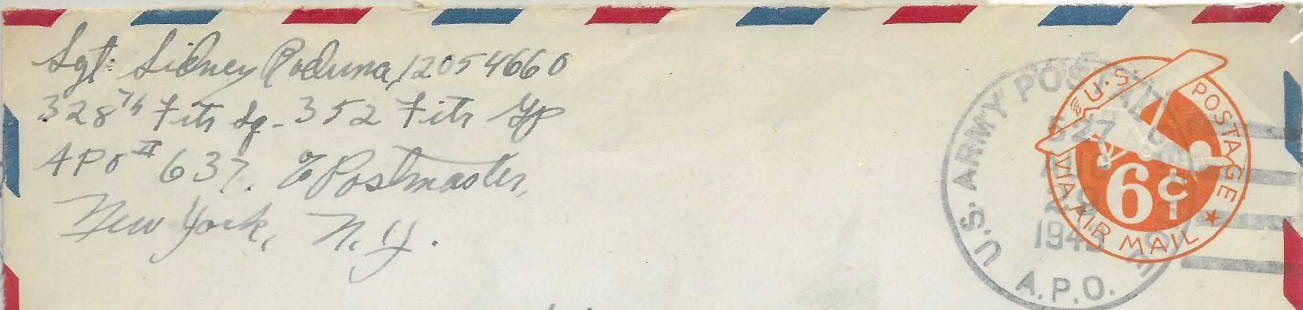
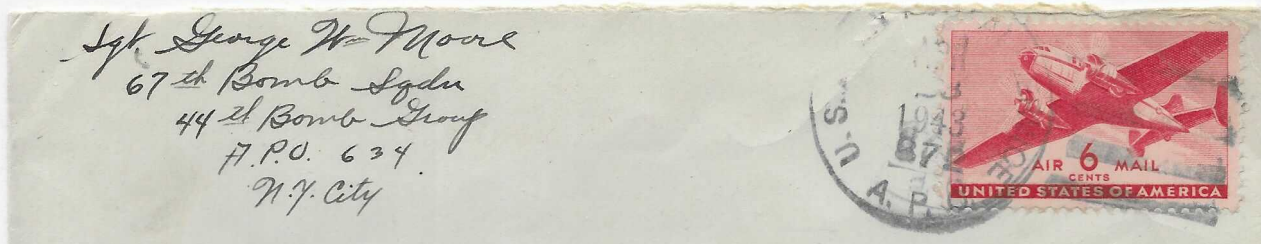


The first offensive actions by US Army forces in Europe and Africa during World War II consisted of air raids carried out from Egypt and, subsequently, Libya. On 12 June 1942 US bombers originally destined for China flew from Egypt for the first raid on the oil installations in Ploesti, Romania. With the fall of Tobruk on 21 June 1942 the defense situation in Egypt became critical and additional US bombers and fighters destined for China were diverted to the defense of Egypt. These and additional aircraft were used in the Allied offensives that began from El-Alamein on 23 October and from ports in Morocco and Algeria on 8 November 1942.

APO 696, Cairo, Egypt (HQ, 9th Air Force). APO 785, Alexandria, Egypt (opened 30 November 1942) and Gambut, Libya (from 4 January - 21 April 1942).

The US Army at War
Offensive Operations

Europe and Africa
England



PASSED BY
U 10141

SGT. JAMES RAS
8812th BOMB B. GP. (H)
534th BOMB B. SQ.
ASN 82142806
APO 634 TO POSTMASTER
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
644
19 JUL 1943
A.P.O.

Mr. C. H. Holt
Eastman Kodak Co.
Kodak Park Works
1669 Lake Avenue
Rochester,
New York

PASSED BY
Guy J. Gelbrist Jr.
1st Lt. AC

Except for the participation by 50 US commandos in the Dieppe raid of 19 August 1942, offensive action from the United Kingdom by US Army forces prior to 6 June 1944 was confined to air activity. While 6 US bombers participated in a British attack on the Netherlands on 4 July 1942, the first combat operation by an 8th Air Force bomber squadron did not occur until 17 August 1942. US air power in England rapidly escalated through 1944, as reflected in the increasingly high numbers assigned to the aviation Groups.

APO 634, Wellingborough. (Mailed from APO 872, Wymondham. The 44th Bomb Group arrived in England piecemeal in August-October 1942 and entered combat in November 1942. It participated in the famous 177-bomber low-level raid against Ploesti, Rumania on 1 August 1943.) APO 637, Walford (HQ, 8th Fighter Command; mailed from APO 527, Elveden). APO 644, Sudbury.

The US Army at War
Offensive Operations

Europe and Africa
Gibraltar, Morocco, Algeria

L. S. Lewis
Comm. Dir. Hq. Com. AFHQ
A.P.O. 512
Gibraltar N.Y.



R.F.C. David J. Cooper,
A.S.N. - 120 0711
Co. "H" 18th Inf.
A.P.O. #1 - c/o Postmaster,
N.Y.C.

FREE.

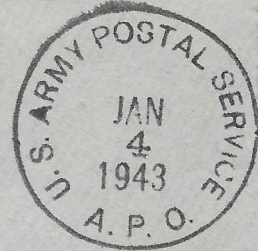


Dr. C.
233 C.

1st Lt. Lucius S. Lewis 0381599
10th - 7th Inf. APO #3
Care of Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

Via Air Mail

CLASSIFIED BY S
BASE BY S
1010
Approved
2/1/43
CD



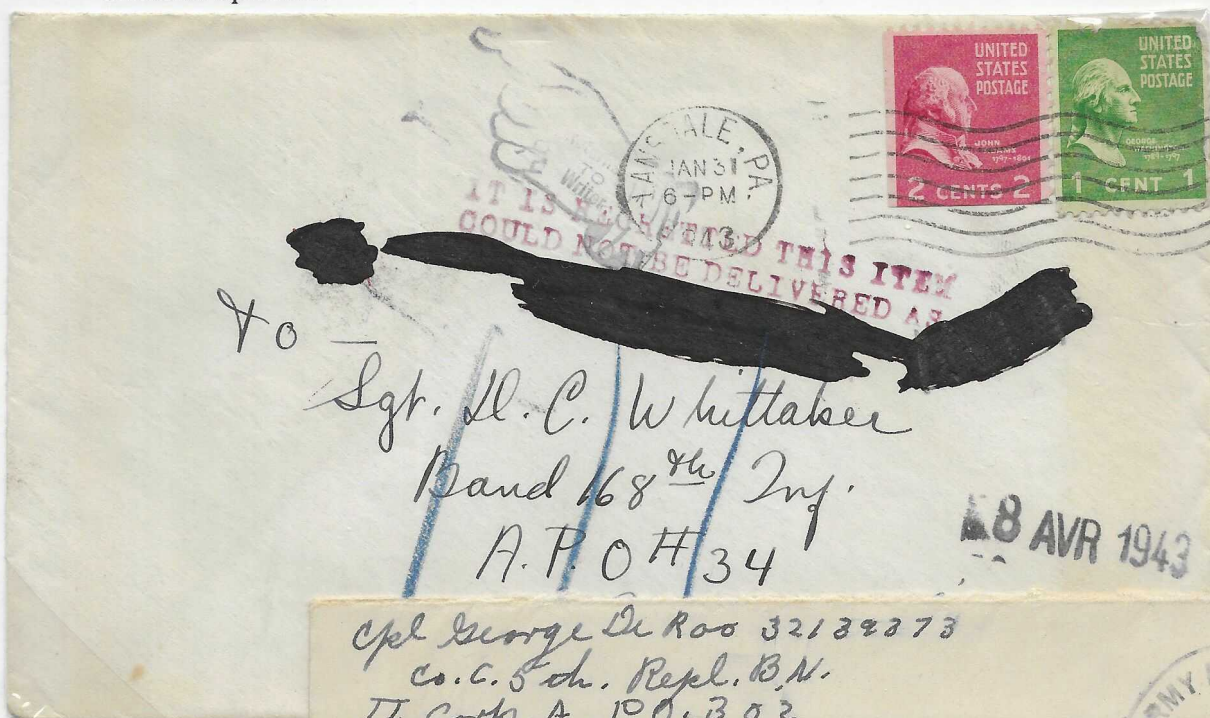
Officers Mail
Delivered by
1st Lt. L. S. Lewis
0381599

Mrs. L. S. Lewis
419 N. 48th
Seattle Wash
U.S.A.

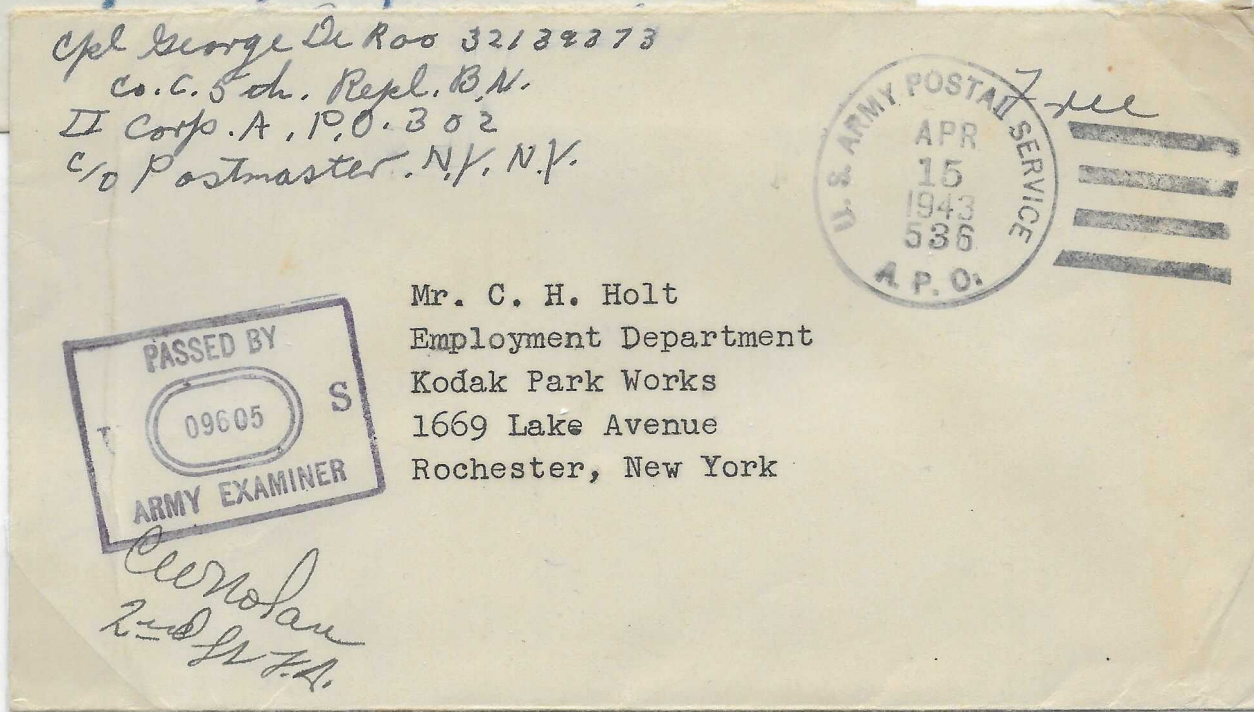
Convinced that they did not yet have the strength for a successful invasion of Europe, but needing to draw German forces from the Russian front, the Allies invaded North Africa in a combined Anglo-American effort under Gen. Eisenhower. Eisenhower moved his command from England to Gibraltar on 5 November, and the invasion began on 8 November 1942.

The principal ground combat units to invade North Africa were the 1st Armored Division, 1st, 3rd, 9th and 34th Infantry Divisions, and the 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The landings in Algiers and Oran, Algeria met light to moderate resistance, but the landing in Casablanca, Morocco was heavily opposed. On 11 November resistance ceased as French forces joined the Allies.

APO 512, Gibraltar. APO 1, Oran, Algeria. APO 3, Rabat Morocco (7th Inf. Rgt. landed at Casablanca 8 November 1942).



On 14 February the 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Division, was cut off by the German advance. Most of the regiment was able to exfiltrate to US lines on the night of 15-16 February. However, the non-walking wounded were not able to make it. In the US Army, during combat members of the regimental band served as stretcher-bearers, which accounts for Sgt. Whittaker's capture. (Army POW verification backstamp.)



APO 536, Tebessa
Algeria

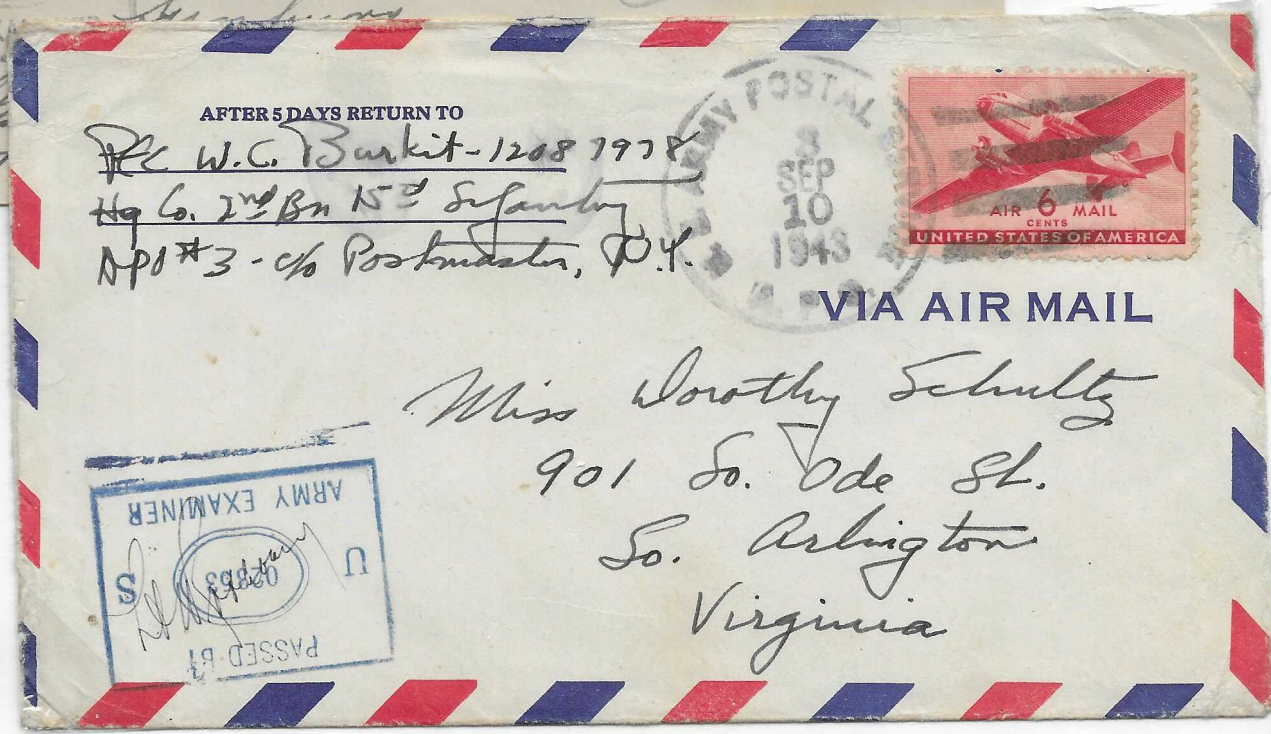
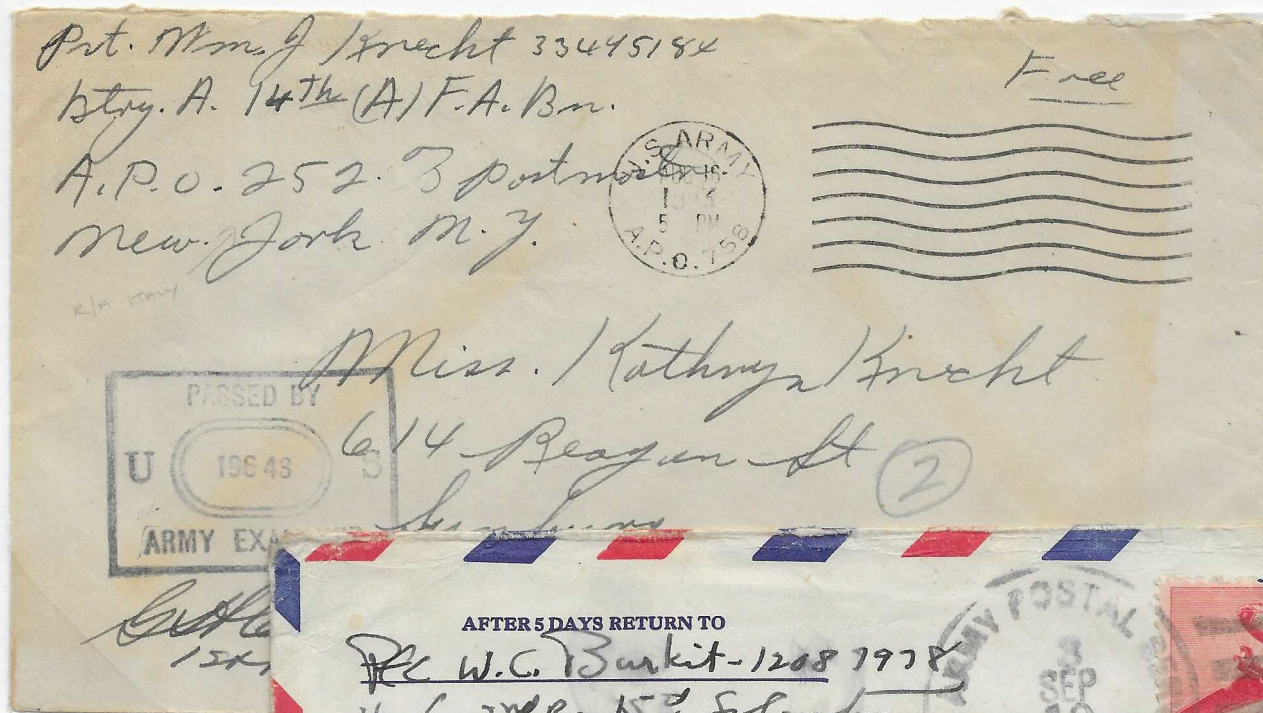
In November the Allies lost the race for the Tunisian ports of Bizerte and Tunis, and found themselves facing a German Army brought in from Sicily, and the battle for Northwest Africa slowed to a crawl in western Tunisia during the early winter of 1942-43. By late January 1943 Rommel's Afrika Korps had been pushed westward into contact with German forces in Tunisia, and the Germans decided to use this additional strength to cut off the Allied forces in northern Tunisia. The offensive, begun 14 February 1942, succeeded in overrunning parts of the inexperienced US II Corps before it was stopped at the mountain passes behind the town of Kasserine.

The Battle of the Kasserine Pass brought Americans face to face with the realities of large-scale mechanized warfare for the first time. In 5 days II Corps suffered over 6300 casualties (300 killed, 3000 wounded, 3000 missing in action). The replacement depot suddenly became an important part of rear-area operations.



The failure of the February offensive coupled with Hitler's refusal to allow a retreat (which in any event would have been difficult given Allied air superiority by this time) sealed the fate of the Axis forces in North Africa. Allied land and ground forces hammered the Germans in an increasingly small pocket in northern Tunisia until, on 11 November they began to surrender en masse. By the next day, over 240,000 Germans had surrendered and the campaign for North Africa was over.

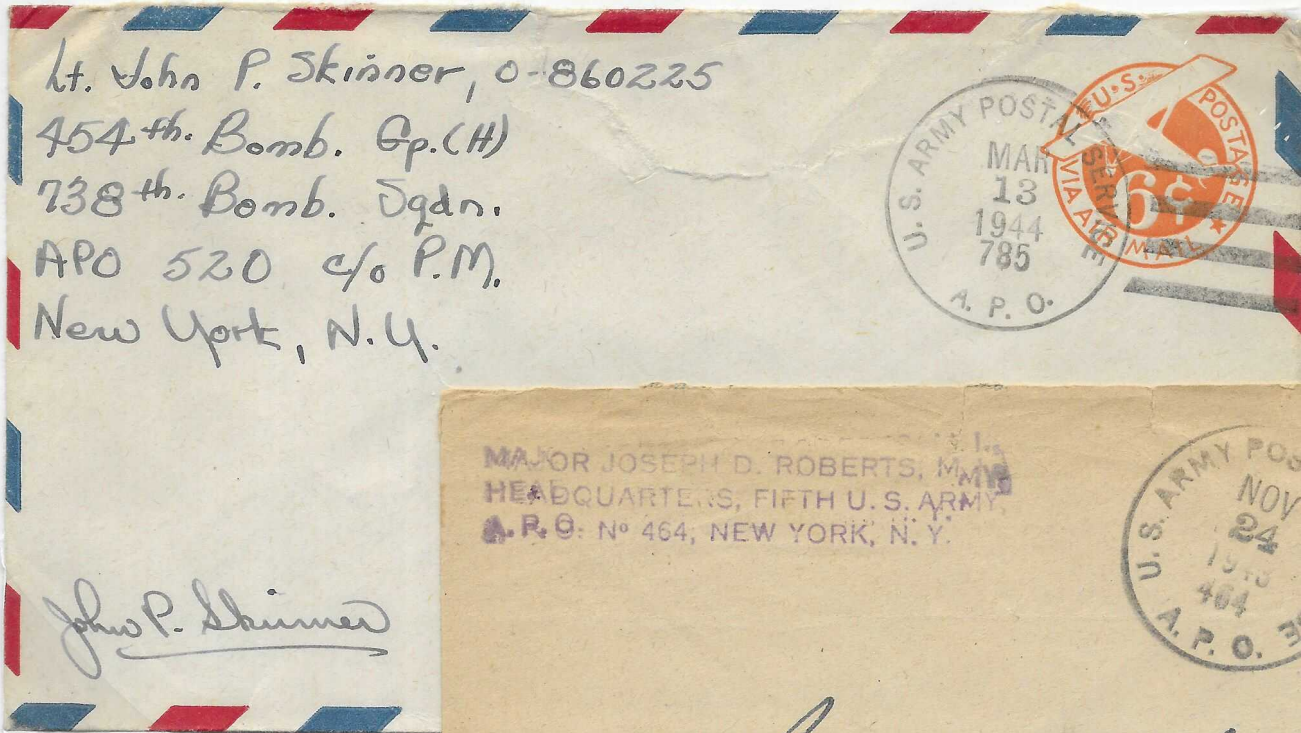
APO 34, Maktar, Tunisia. APO 520, Chateaudun du Rhumel, Algeria (HQ, XV Air Force).



The invasion of Sicily was carried out by the US 7th Army (Patton) and British 8th Army (Montgomery), under the overall command of Eisenhower. The principal US ground combat units involved were the 2nd Armored Division, 1st, 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions, 82nd Airborne Division, and the 1st, 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions.

US forces captured Palermo on 22 July 1943 (leading to the fall of Mussolini 3 days later) and were the first to enter Messina (to the intense chagrin of Montgomery, whose prize this was to have been) on 16 August 1943. However, by this time 75% of the Germans had been able to escape to the Italian mainland (a failure blamed largely on ineffective use of Allied air and naval power).

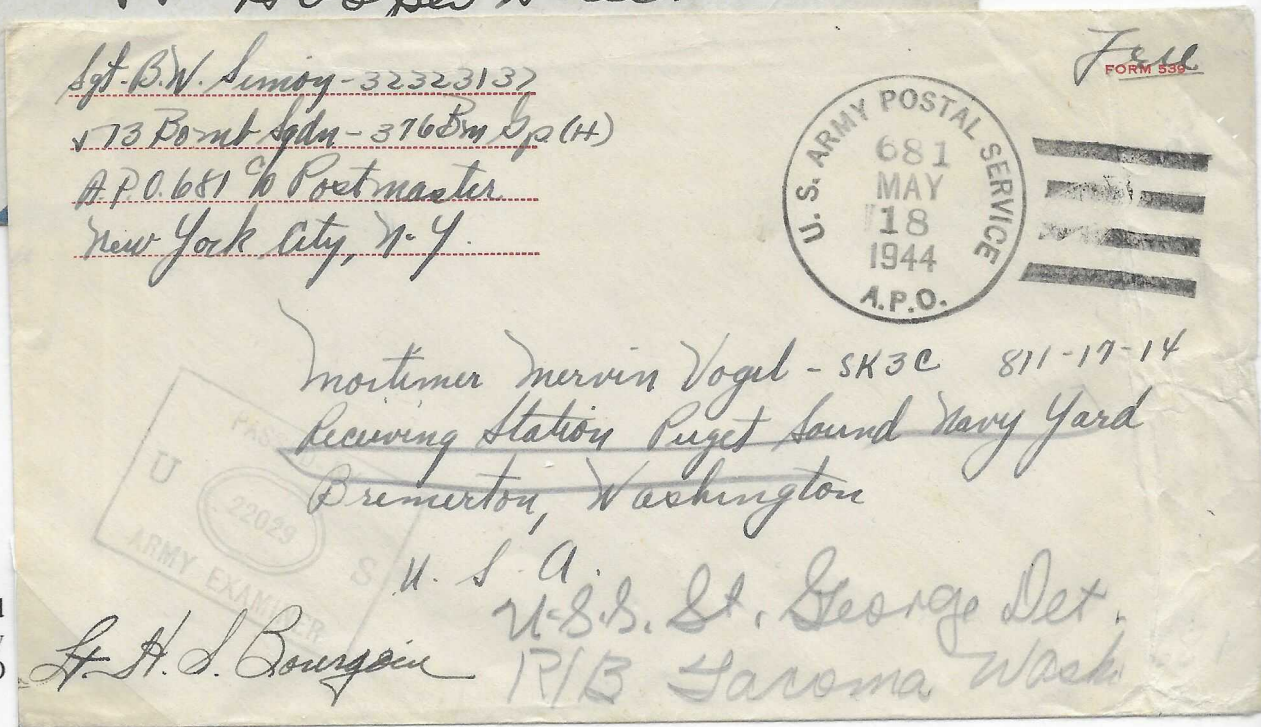
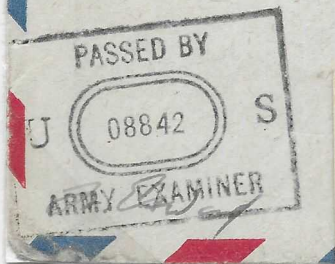
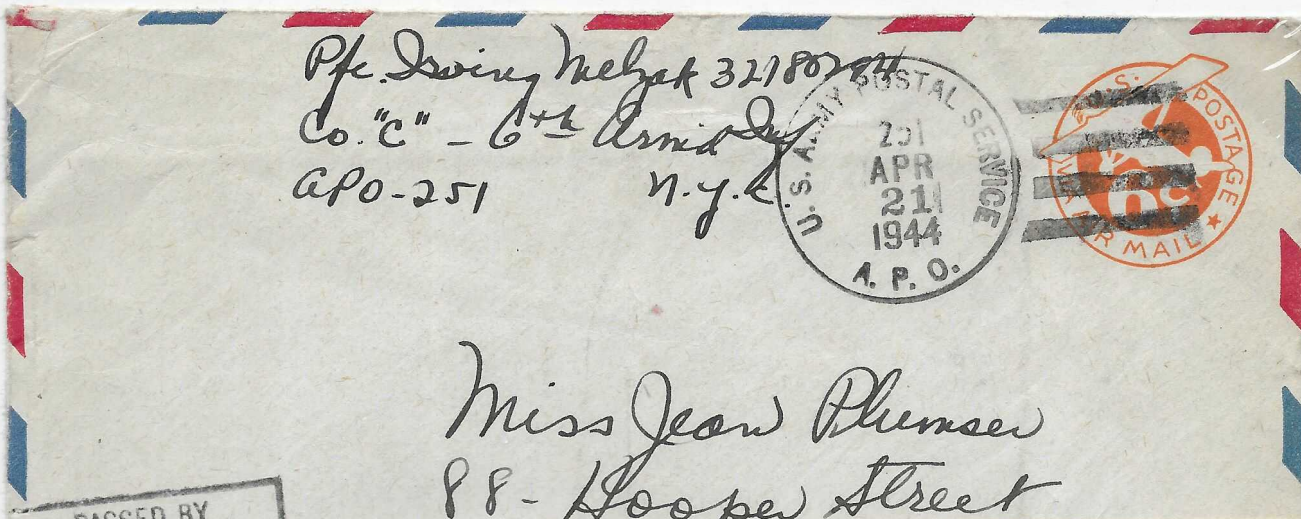
APO 758, Palermo. 14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was part of the 2nd Armored Division, which entered Palermo on 22 July. APO 3, Trapani. 3rd Inf. Div. troops were the first to enter both Palermo and Messina.



APO 464, Naples. APO 520,
Cerignola (mailed from APO
785, Foggia.)

Allied plans to invade mainland Italy were not firm as of mid-Summer, 1943. However, British intelligence analyses based on Ultra intercepts predicted (accurately) that an invasion would lead the Italians to surrender shortly and (inaccurately) that the Germans would withdraw to northern Italy. The strategic value of this move lay in securing the airfields around Foggia and the excellent port of Naples, plus tying down large numbers of Germans so that they could not be sent to other fronts.

On 3 September 1943 British forces landed, largely unopposed, at Reggio and Taranto. The Anglo-American corps that landed at Salerno on 9 September were not so lucky. At one point the pressure on the Salerno beachhead was so severe that serious consideration was given to withdrawing the Allied force. Only when the German forces south of Salerno had cleared the area did the German defenders pull back from the beachhead. At that point the Allies were able to advance fairly quickly to Naples, which was occupied on 1 October 1943.

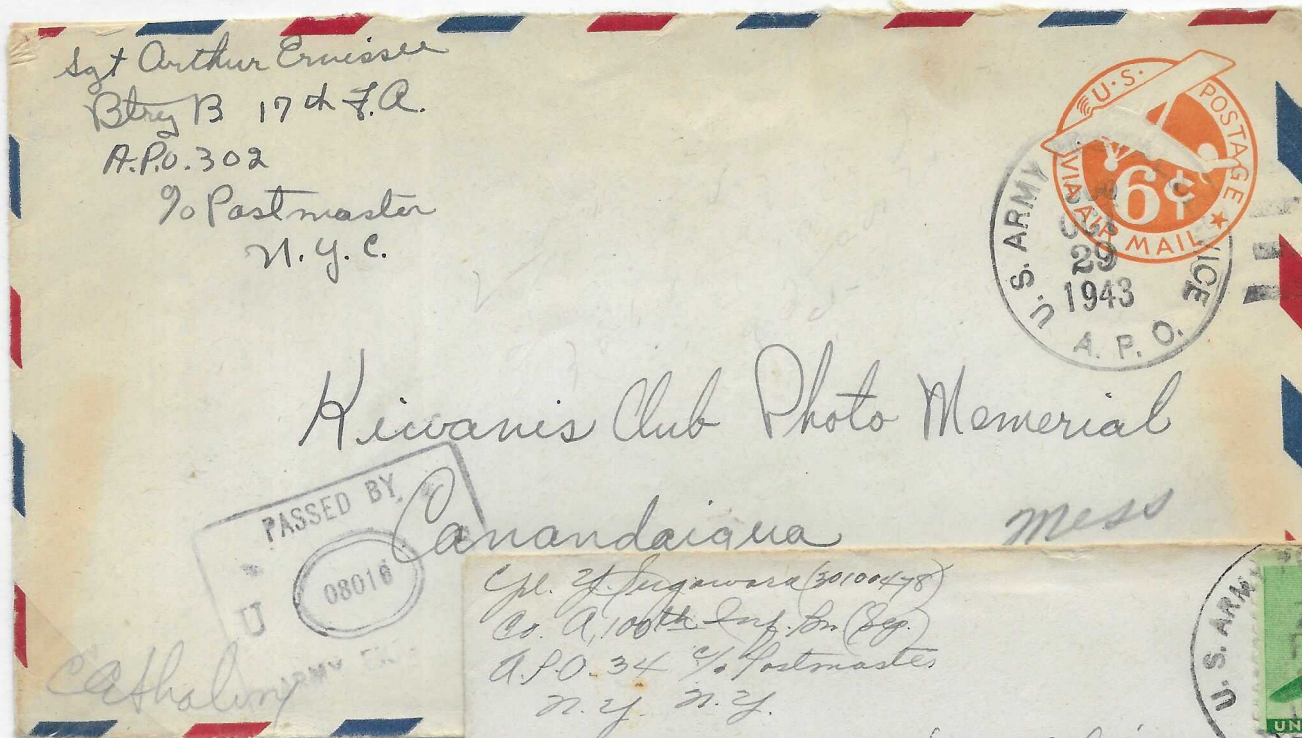


APO 251 (1st Armored Div.), and 1 (1st Infantry Div.), Naples. APO 681, Taranto

The landing at Anzio, a small port about 20 miles from Rome, was achieved with virtually no opposition on 22 January 1944. With little in the way of organized German units between him and Rome, the US commander has been severely criticized for not moving rapidly to seize the Alban hills, about 15 miles inland. His failure of initiative is blamed for keeping the Allies troops at the Anzio beachhead bottled up for the next 4 months under punishing German attack for much of this time.

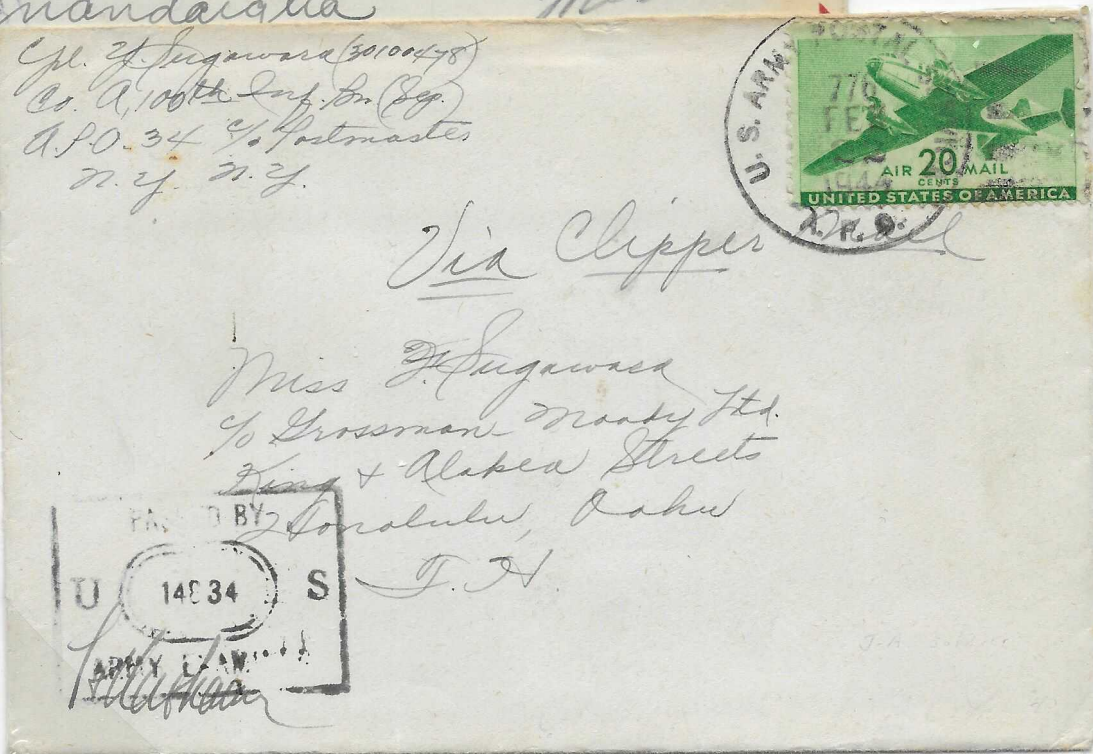
The principal US ground forces in the Anzio beachhead were the 1st Armored Division, 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions, the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 6615 Ranger Force (Provisional). It is unlikely that Allied forces would have been able to hold the beachhead without strong air support.

On 23 May 1944, the Gustav line in central Italy having been breached the previous week, Allied forces at Anzio began their breakout. On 25 May US forces coming from the south linked up with those from Anzio, and on 4 June they entered Rome.



The 100th Infantry Battalion consisted of 1306 officers and men of Japanese ancestry that were removed from the 298th and 299th Infantry Regiments, Hawaiian National Guard, on 5 June 1942. This unit arrived in Italy on 23 November 1943, 6 months before the 442nd Infantry Regiment (also formed of Japanese-American soldiers). In August 1944 it was made a part of the 442nd Infantry.

When this cover was sent, the 100th Inf. Bn. was in reserve following attacks on Monte Cassino from 5-13 February.



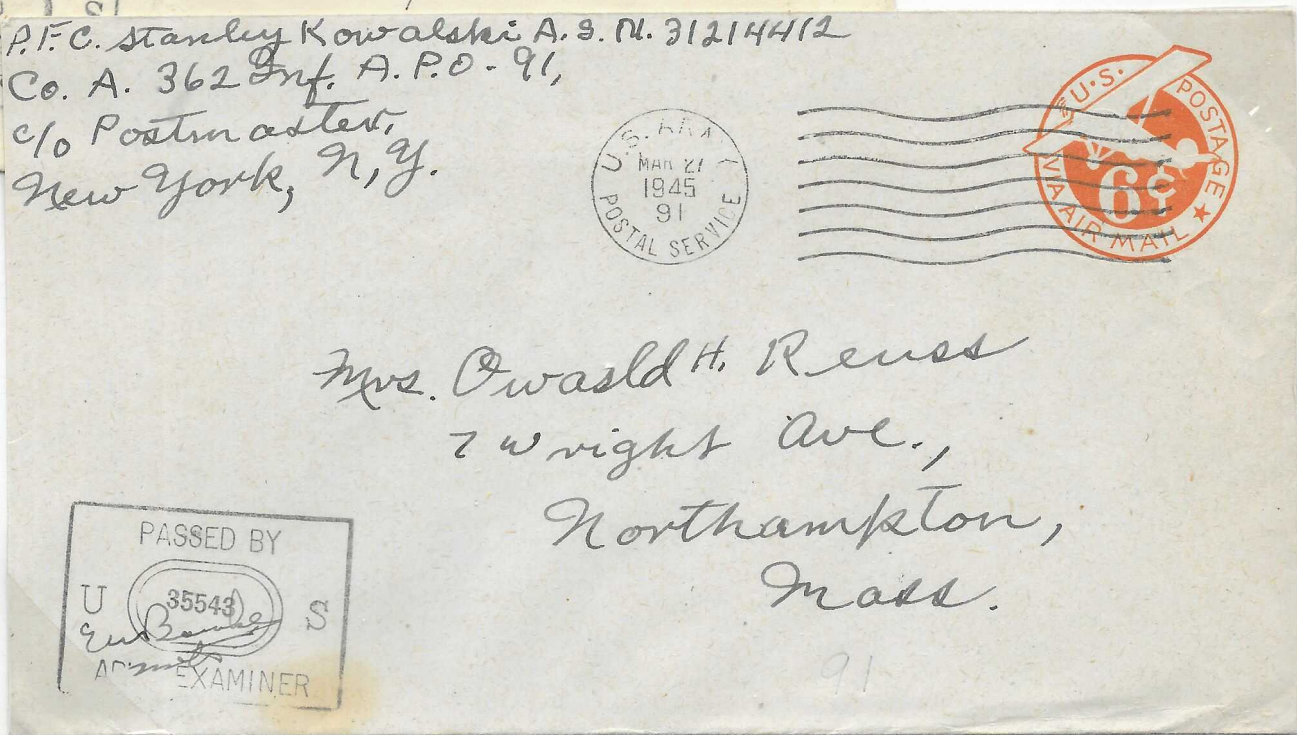
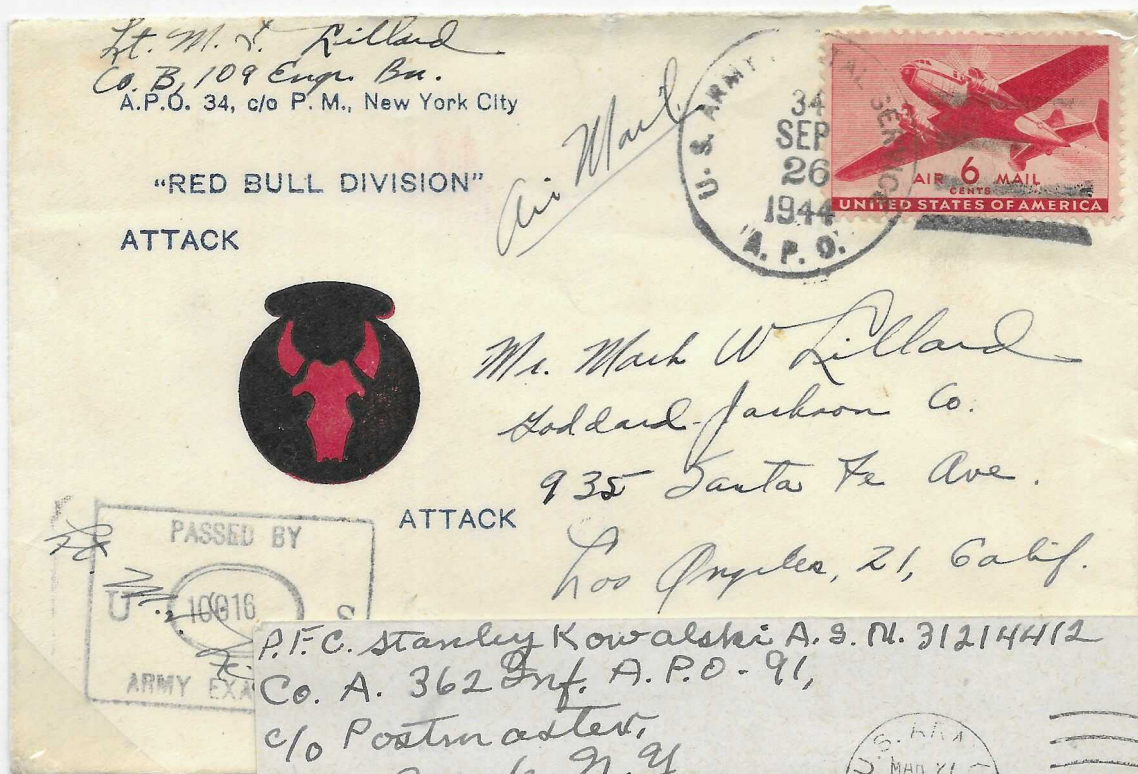
Having occupied southern Italy and having achieved the Italian surrender, the Allies realized that Rome was the only objective with strategic value: aside from the psychological benefits of taking an Axis capital, it had another complex of air fields 100 miles closer to Germany than the ones at Foggia.

The advance up the Italian peninsula continued through October and November 1943, US forces to the west of the Apennines, British to the east. Due to a combination of terrain, weather and strong German resistance, the advance had fallen far short of its objectives by the end of the year. The attack resumed on 17 January 1944, not with any real hope of breaking through, but in an effort to draw German troops away from Rome to increase the chances of success for the landing at Anzio.

APOs 302 and 306, Caserta, Italy. APO 776, Bagnoli (from 13 November 1943 to 12 March 1944)

The US Army at War
Offensive Operations

Europe and Africa
Italy



The decision of US 5th Army commander Mark Clark to send the bulk of his forces toward Rome rather than (as ordered) to cut off the German 10th Army's retreat arguably allowed the German forces to escape to northern Italy. The withdrawal of forces from Italy for the invasion of southern France in August 1944 left insufficient strength for the Allied forces in Italy to penetrate the Gothic line north of Florence that year. While small-scale actions continued to be fought throughout the Fall and Winter, the offensive was not resumed until 14 April 1945. Three weeks later German forces in Italy surrendered.

APO 34, Florence. (34th Infantry Div.; engaged north of Florence in late September 1944). APO 91, Florence. (91st. Infantry Div., then at Gagliano preparing for Po Valley offensive.)

Cpl Thomas L. Mathiam # 35476662.
346th Ftr Sqd, 350th Group.
A.P.O. 525 Postmaster, New York

Free

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509
NOV
13
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Post. David A. Brown - 34039528
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Cpl. John R. Schuyler 32734938
340th Bomb Group
486th Bomb Sqdn.
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New York City, N.Y.

Special Delivery

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
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1944
393
A.P.O.

U.S. AIR MAIL
69

Bill Whitely -
in service to

Eastman Kodak Co.
Camera Works
Plymouth Ave.
Rochester, New York

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U 1562 S
ARMY EXAM

Following the fall of Sicily, Axis forces were withdrawn from Sardinia to Corsica, so that the Allied "invasion" of that island, on 18 September 1943, was carried out by a force carried on 2 motor torpedo boats. A partisan uprising on Corsica, begun on 11 September 1943, was aided by French troops, with the only US participation ashore coming from a small OSS team.

Subsequently, airfields were developed on both islands for use against Axis targets in France, Italy and Austria.

APO 509, Cagliari, Sardinia. APO 485 (city unknown), Sardinia. APO 393, Bastia, Corsica.