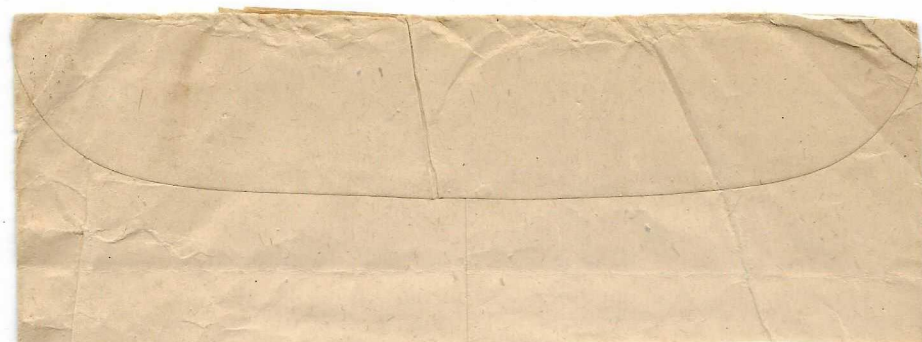


GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

Field Post Office V.5
16 March 1917
13 April 1917



Another rare postmark used during the occupation of GEA came with a small party of British Postal Corps members that arrived in January 1917. Apparently a set of cds cancels reading FPO V.1 to 6 was provided. However, the Indian service was functioning so they were not placed in service at the time. Later, V.5 was used as an auxiliary postmark by the Indians in March and April 1917. Only three examples are recorded, of which those shown are the earliest and latest dates, with 18 March also recorded. Proof strikes of V.4 and V.6 also shown.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

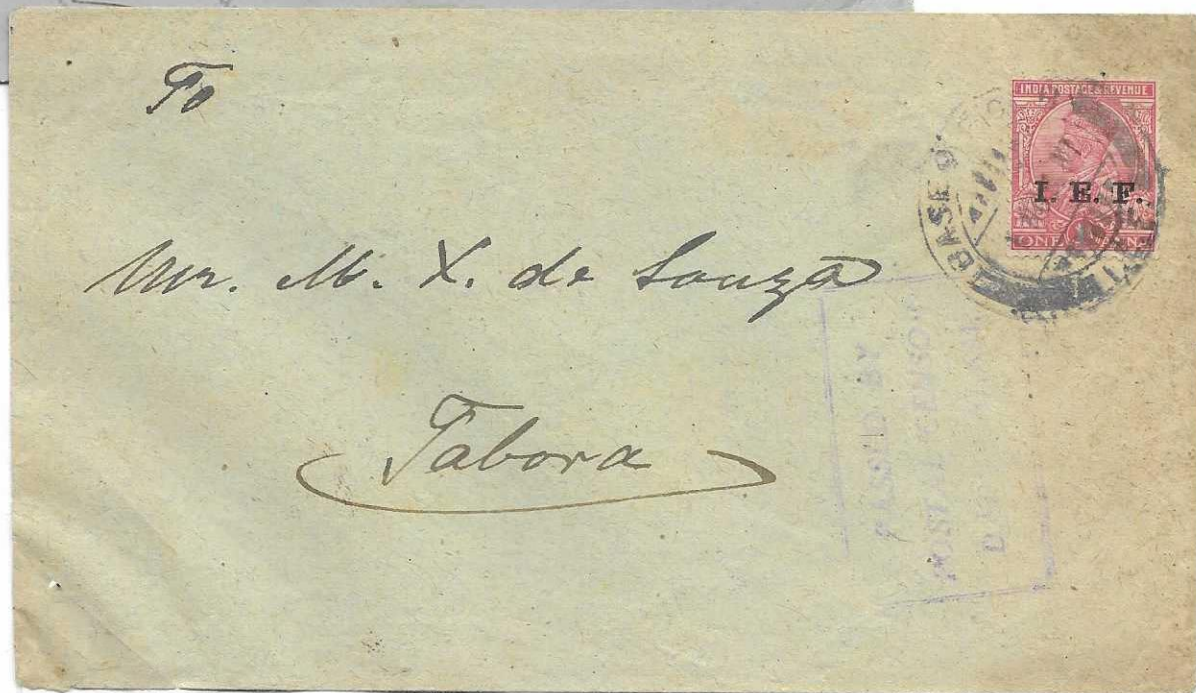
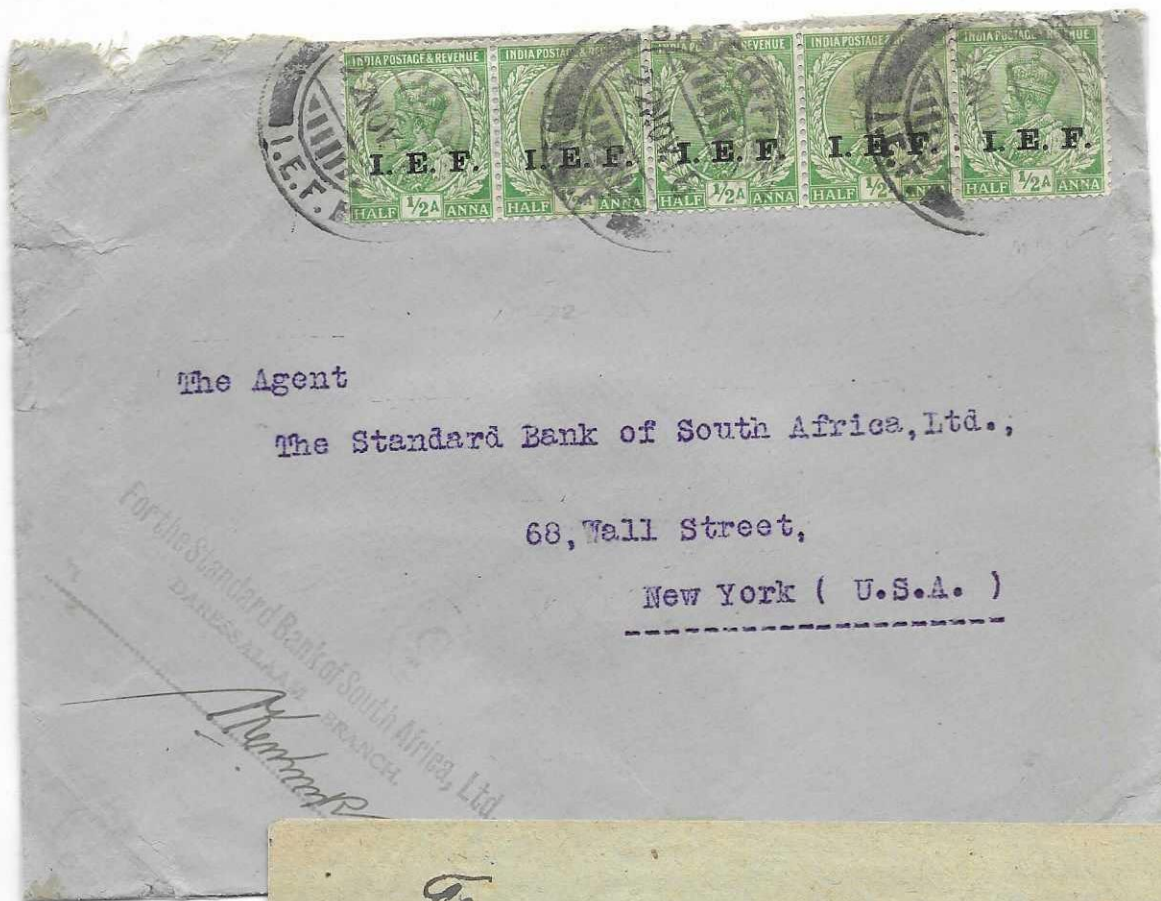
FPO No. 24
30 December 1914



To provide postage for civilian mail from the war zone and to pay additional fees on military mail, a set of Indian definitives to the 1 rupee denomination was overprinted "I. E. F." and placed on sale. The above example is philatelic but was mailed from Nairobi on 30 December 1914, reportedly the earliest recorded use of these stamps from the East African campaign.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

Base Office B
22 November 1916
1 November 1917



Commercial use of I.E.F. overprints from Base Office B at Dar-es-Salaam on an international letter to New York and on a domestic letter to Tabora. Receiving mark of FPO 320 dated 5 November 1917 on reverse of the latter.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

Dar-es-Salaam
20 June 1921
18 November 1920



Once the occupation of GEA was essentially completed, the use of "I.E.F." overprints on civil mail no longer seemed appropriate. As a result, a long series of stamps of East Africa & Uganda Protectorates was overprinted "G. E. A." and placed in service in 1917. Use of the denominations through 5 rupees shown above on a registered cover to England and a cover front to South Africa.. Although obviously philatelic, high values are seldom seen.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

Wilhemsthal
23 April 1919

Muanza
12 April 1918

Tanga
6 January 1919



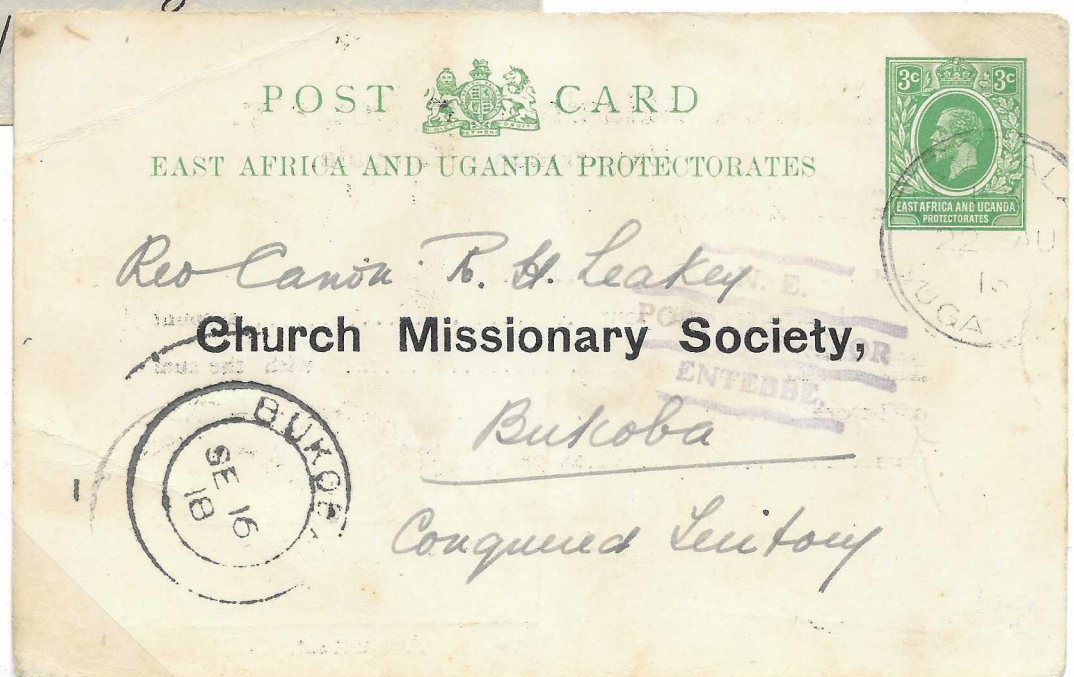
In addition to the stamps, postal stationery of the East Africa & Uganda Protectorates was overprinted G. E. A. Shown above are domestic (uprated for use to South Africa) and international (used to Rhodesia) postal cards and a front from a registration envelope sent to Germany.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

Tanga
December 1916

Bukoba
16 September 1918

Inbound Mail

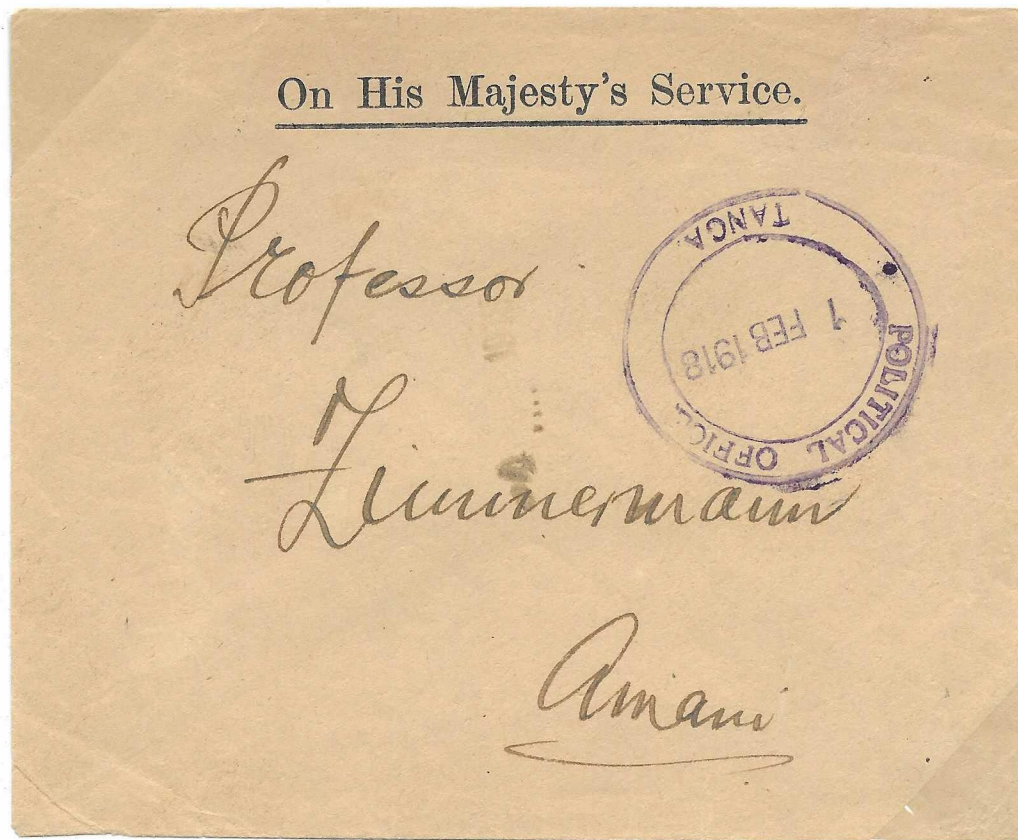


Inbound mail to the troops in GEA is distinctly uncommon as it appears not to have generally been saved. Above cover to a Captain in the South African Supply Service was sent from England to the Base Post Office in Kilindini and forwarded to FPO 304 in Tanga. The postal card was sent from a Missionary Society in Kampala, Uganda to one of its members in Bukoba.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation

Tanga
2 February 1918

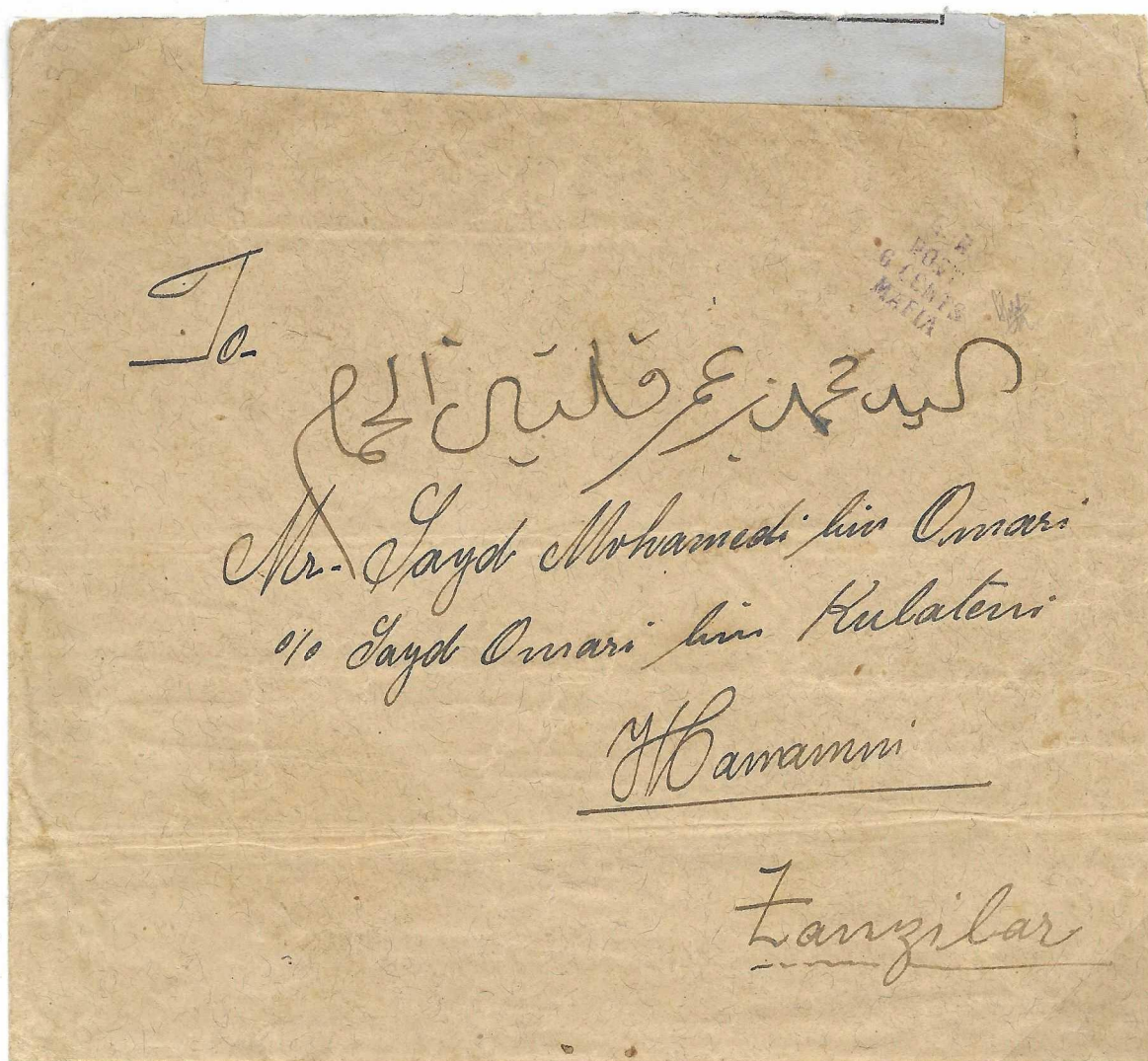
Official Mail



As with military mail, official letters could be sent postage free with the proper endorsement. This example has the cachet of the Political Office in Tanga. It is postmarked on the reverse in Tanga on the following day.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Mafia Island

Mafia
May 1915



The first German territory to be occupied was the small island of Mafia to the south of Zanzibar, which was taken over in December 1914 by a naval contingent. Although the Germans had not felt that the mail volume justified a post office there, the British authorities decided to do open one, and a handful of German stamps was overprinted "G.R./Post/6 cents/Mafia" and placed on sale in January 1915. As only 40 copies of each heller value was available, supplies quickly ran out. By May, it was required that mail be handed in at the post office and postage paid in cash. At that point, the handstamp was applied directly to the envelope. This usage is described by Holcombe as "extremely rare" with only three such covers having been recorded. The above example was sent to Zanzibar, where it was backstamped for receipt on 27 May 1915.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Mafia Island

Mafia
19 November 1916
18 April 1917



In September 1915, supplies of the "I.E.F." overprinted stamps arrived and were duly reoverprinted with the "Mafia" handstamp (but without the "six cents" in the middle). There were 10 denominations as shown on the philatelic envelope above, which has the stamps from the second printing of 142 sets made in October 1916 in green ink. Below is an Indian postal card with the Mafia overprint in black sent to Zanzibar.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Mafia Island

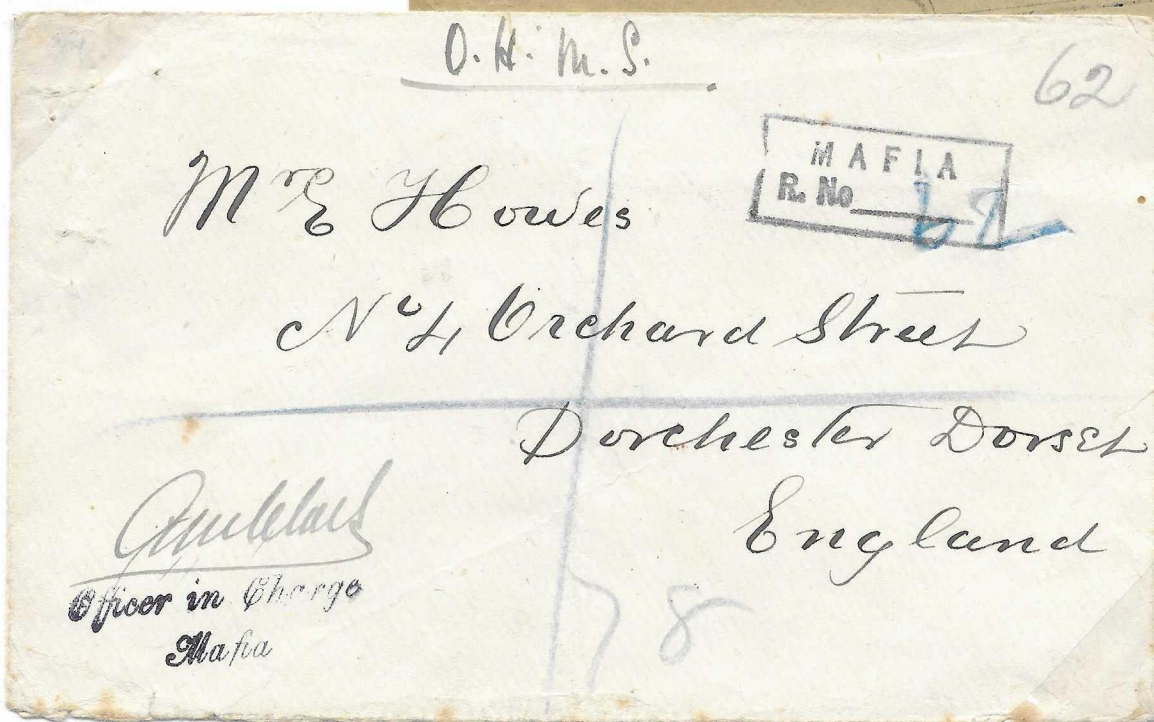
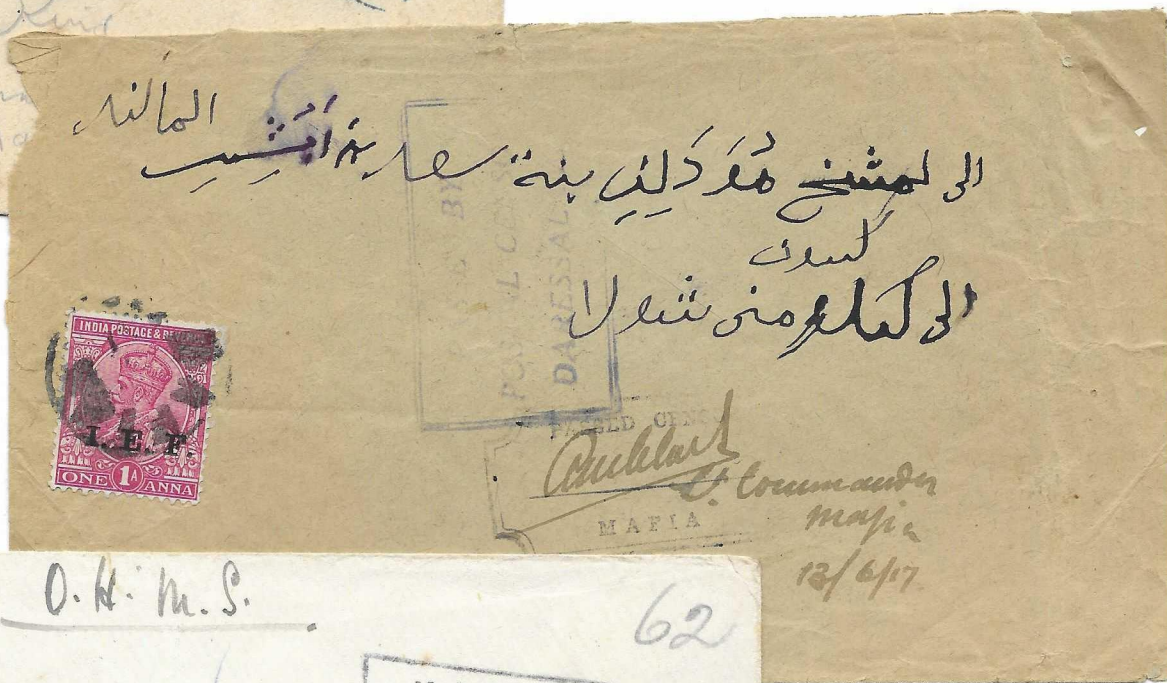
Mafia
June 1916
26 July 1916



The "Mafia" overprints occurred in various colors depending on which stamp pads were available. These commercial uses show violet and blue overprints. Above is an official envelope with "Zanzibar Government" embossed on the reverse and sent to the audit office, where it was received on 1 July 1916. Below is a postcard sent to Egypt via Mombasa.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Mafia Island

Mafia
16 October 1916
13 June 1917
June 1917



Other uses from Mafia include I.E.F. stamps and postal stationery without the Mafia handstamp as well as unfranked official mail. Examples of these are shown above, including a very elusive registered cover from the Officer in Charge on Mafia to England; it has transit markings of Zanzibar on 21 June and London on 2 August.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

Nyasaland FF
30 October 1915

Nyasaland FF2
31 August 1917



The Nyasaland Field Force was assembled in British Central Africa to defend Nyasaland against German attacks and prepare to invade GEA from the southwest in conjunction with the main invasion from the north. The first base office was at Karonga and used a cds inscribed "Nyasaland FF" and is recorded as used from 4 September 1914 to 16 December 1915. Once the force moved into GEA, a second base office was operated at Likuyu from 19 May to 23 November 1917. Examples of registered letters from the bases shown above, with that from FF2 being one of only two such recorded, this being from a member of the South African Motor Cycle Corps. .

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

FPO No. 1
7 August 1916

FPO/1
22 April 1917

FPO 1
13 March 1917

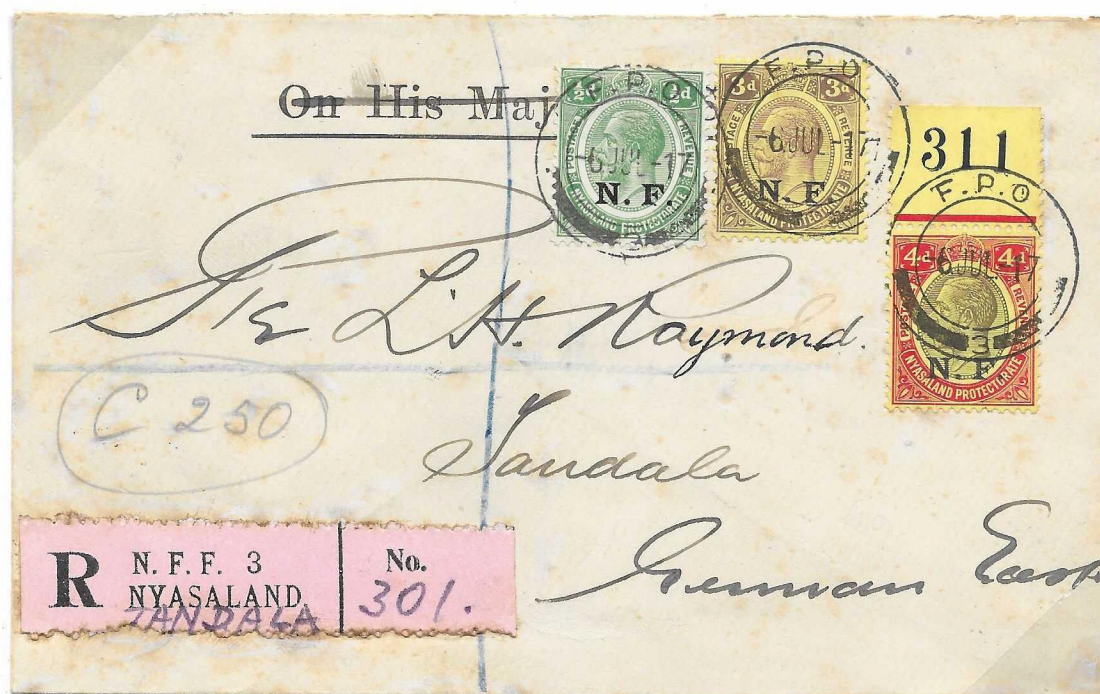


As the NFF moved into GEA, numbered field post offices were opened in various towns. Three different types of cancels are recorded. The first two are used on registered covers sent by Brig. Gen. Northey, Commander of the NFF, to his wife in London. First type, with "No. 1" at the top, is reportedly the first day of issue of the "N.F." overprints, used from New Langenburg in mixed franking with an unoverprinted 2d value. Middle cover has cds with "1" at the bottom of the dial and was used from Old Njombe. Note 1/- "N.F." overprinted stamp and elusive registry label. The third type reads "F.P.O. 1"; this is the only recorded example.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

FPO 2
27 September 1916

FPO 3
6 July 1917



The only stamps issued for the expedition were "N.F." overprints on five denominations of Nyasaland Protectorate definitives in 1916; all of them are shown on this and the preceding page. The FPO 2 postmark struck in violet was used at Rungwe from 20 September to 15 November 1916. FPO 3 was at Tandala from 30 November 1916 until early 1918. It is shown here on a locally run registered cover; the N.F.F. 3 registry label is unusual and rarely seen.

FPO
20 January 1917



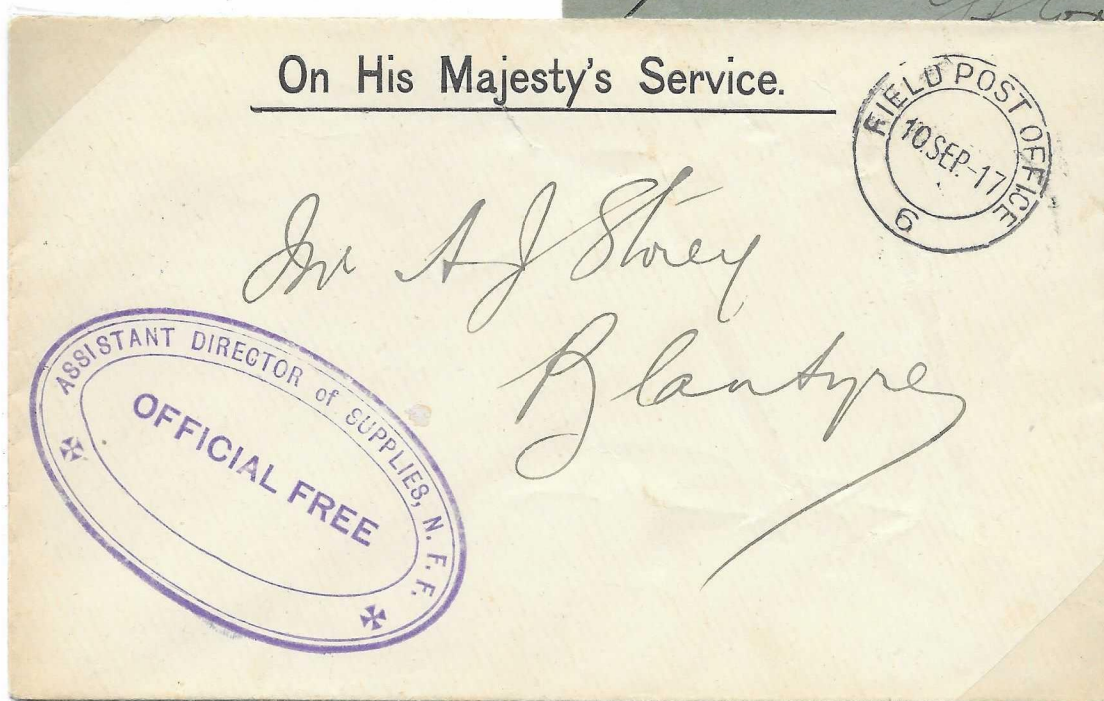
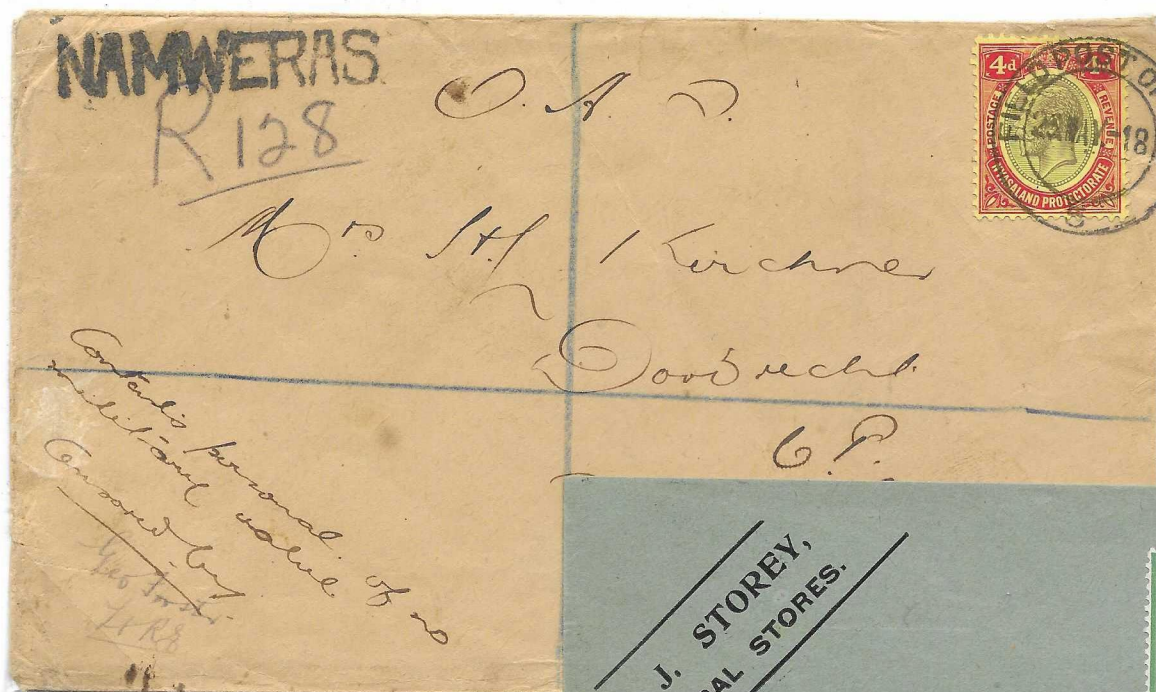
FPO 4 was located at Mwaya when the upper registered cover was mailed to Fort Johnson, Nyasaland. It moved to Old Langenburg in December 1916, from which the lower cover was sent. Note that in this case, the cds of FPO 1 was used with the "1" blacked out; however, the manuscript indication clearly shows FPO 4 on this cover from an officer in the South African Rifles. The only example of this provisional marking seen by exhibitor.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

Field Post Office 5
23 May 1918

FPO No. 6
25 May 1917

Field Post Office 6
10 September 1917



Upper registered cover sent from FPO 5 at Namweras to South Africa. There were two different postmarks used at FPO 6. The first, inscribed "No. 6" at the top, is very elusive being used at Mwaya only from 12 March to 10 June 1917. The later version with "6" at the bottom of the dial, was used at Limbe, Nyasaland from 10 September 1917 to February 1918 and is shown here used on an official cover of the NFF.

KUGEL

5/8

PETER HOLCOMBE

PHILATELIC EXPERT

LUZERN, SWITZERLAND.

Certificate No. 4644/89

June, 6th 1989

TANGANYIKA (Mafia Island) 1915 (May).

A stampless letter bearing on the front a handstamp "G.R. Post 6 cents Mafia" in four lines in violet, denoting prepayment of the letter to Zanzibar where it arrived and received their cds. of May, 27. 1915, the letter was opened and re-sealed by the addition of a label stating "opened by censor under Marshall Law". It is in my opinion genuine.

An extremely rare cover, very few of this handstamp are recorded struck directly onto the cover, less than 10 are known of which three are in violet.

1915, violetter Handstempel-Aufdruck "G.R. POST 6 CENTS MAFIA" äußerst klar als Barfrankierung auf Brief nach Zanzibar. Militärischerseits geöffnet und mit großem weißen Zensurverschluß "Opened by censor under martial law" versehen. Nach Aufbrauch der 1. DOA-Ausgabe vom Januar 1915 wurden einige wenige Barfrankierungen in der hier gezeigten Art im Mai 1915 vorgenommen. Bedeutende Kolonial-Rarität, wovon nur 3 Belege bekannt geworden sind. Laut

No. 9557

B. P. A. Expertising Limited
London-England
EXPERT COMMITTEE

13 JUN 1982

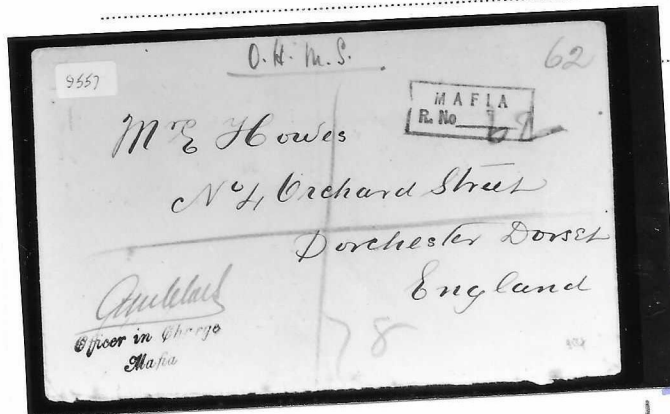
The Committee is of the opinion that the

MAFIA ISLAND 1917 Unstamped O.H.M.S.

Registered Card is genuine. Back-stamped Zanzibar

21.6.17, London 2.8.17 (in black and in red)

and Dorchester 2.8.17



Amelaid
Mr E Howes

Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept
any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed