

MARSHALL ISLANDS
British Occupation

Pleasant Island
5 June 1918
15 June 1918



In October 1916, the first stamps of Nauru were issued, being overprints of the name of the island on the definitive set of Great Britain. Examples shown above on registered covers to Switzerland and the U.S.

MARSHALL ISLANDS
British Occupation

Pleasant Island
23 October 1918



Registered and censored but clearly philatelic cover franked with nine overprinted stamps and sent to Switzerland.

MARSHALL ISLANDS
British Occupation

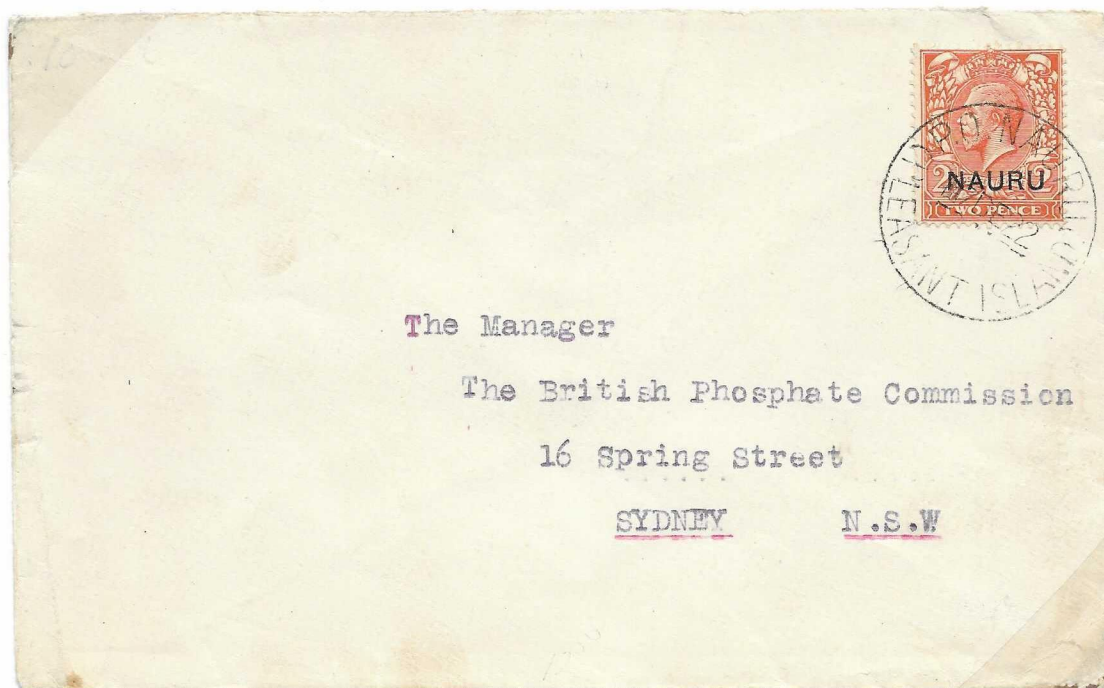
Pleasant Island
23 August 1917
15 June 1918



Registered covers franked with the three highest denomination overprinted stamps and sent to Switzerland. As there was no possible commercial need for these denominations, only philatelic usages exist.

MARSHALL ISLANDS
British Occupation

Pleasant Island
7 December 1922

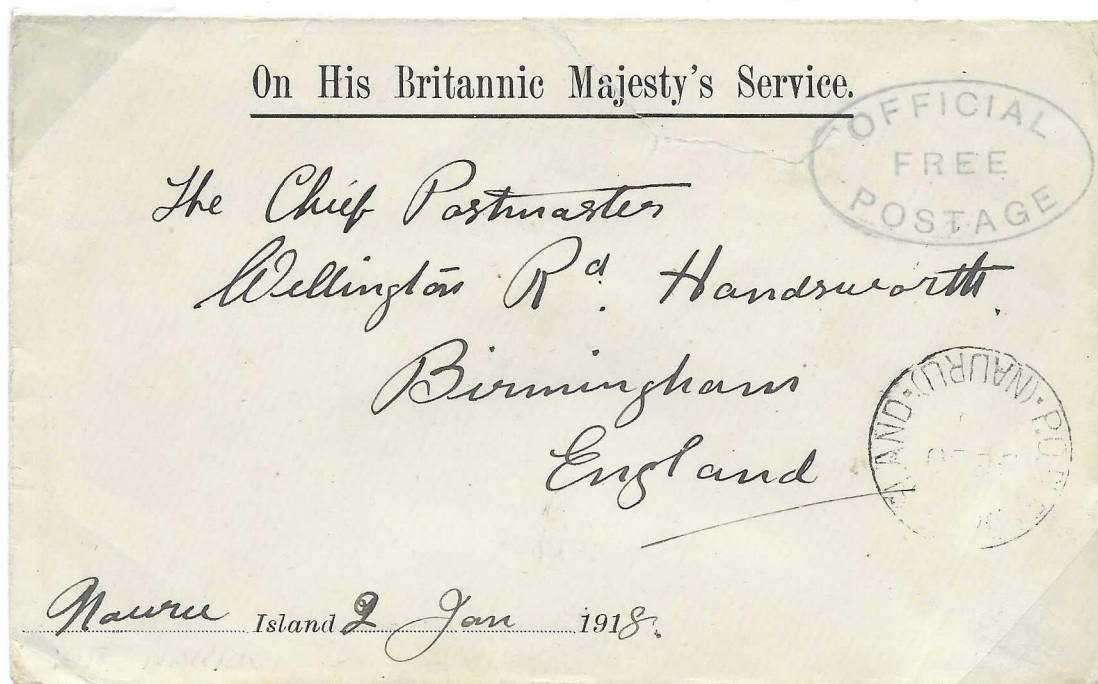


Although it is scarce, commercial mail does exist from Nauru. This cover was sent from the British Phosphate Commission on the island to its office in Australia. Note that in 1921, the nomenclature used in the postmark was changed, so that it read "P.O. Nauru/(Pleasant Island)" thus giving emphasis to the local name.

MARSHALL ISLANDS
British Occupation

Pleasant Island
30 December 1917

Official Mail

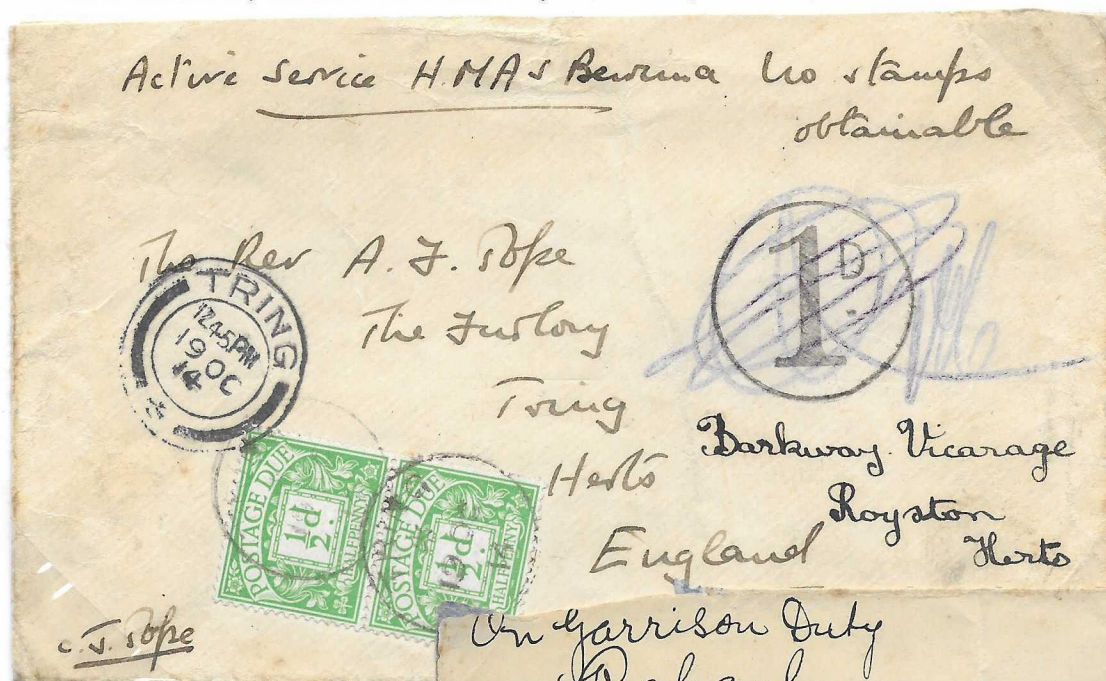


Also scarce is official mail, which could be sent free of postage with the proper endorsement. The oval handstamp inscribed "Official/Free/Postage" is recorded as used on Nauru from 1916 to 1922.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA

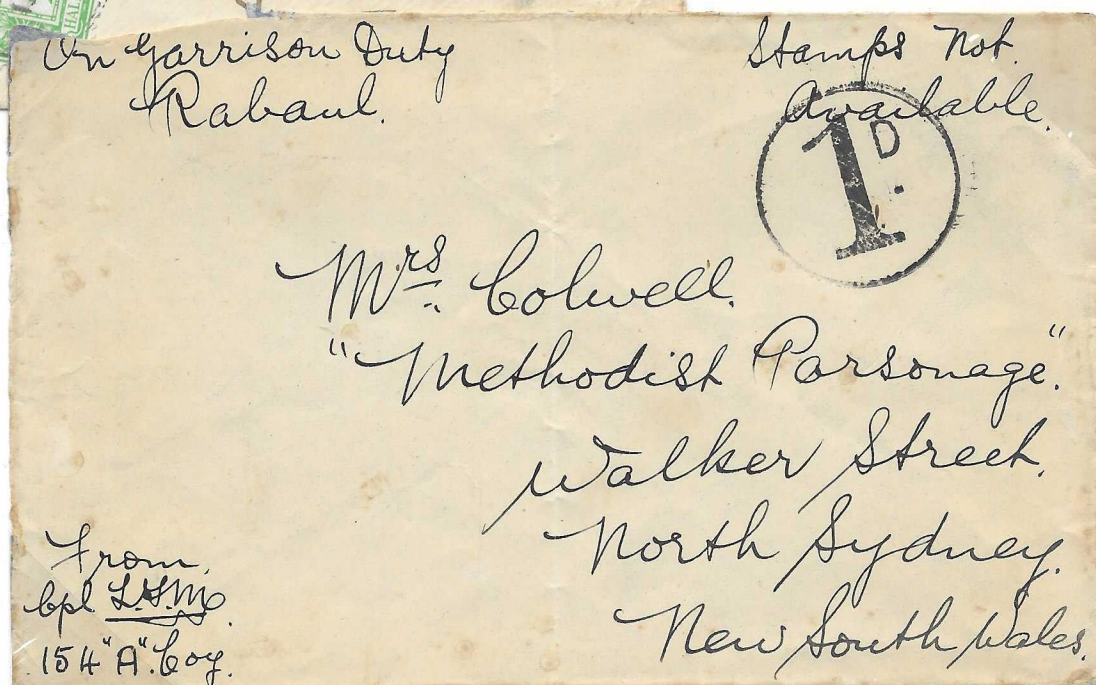
AUSTRALIAN OCCUPATION

The Allies were anxious to destroy or capture the German wireless stations, which were giving instructions to the German naval raiders cruising the Pacific. Thus, the invasion of German New Guinea was assigned to the Australians. The 1st Australian Expeditionary Force commanded by Col. Holmes sailed from Sydney aboard the *HMAS Berrima* on 19 August 1914 and landed at Rabaul, the capital of the colony, on 11 September. There was no actual resistance, and the invasion activity was over by 14 October.



HMAS Berrima
August 1914

Rabaul
September 1914



Fieldpost mail from New Guinea is quite elusive. As there was no resistance from the Germans, most of the troops were superfluous to any military requirement and were soon shipped out to Egypt where there was a need. These covers are very early, with the upper example being written from the ship en route (backstamped Sydney on 4 September). The example endorsed "On Garrison Duty Rabaul" was backstamped in Sydney on 13 October. In theory, postage for military personnel was free. However, even with the endorsement "no stamps available," one of these covers, and possibly both, was charged 1d postage due.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

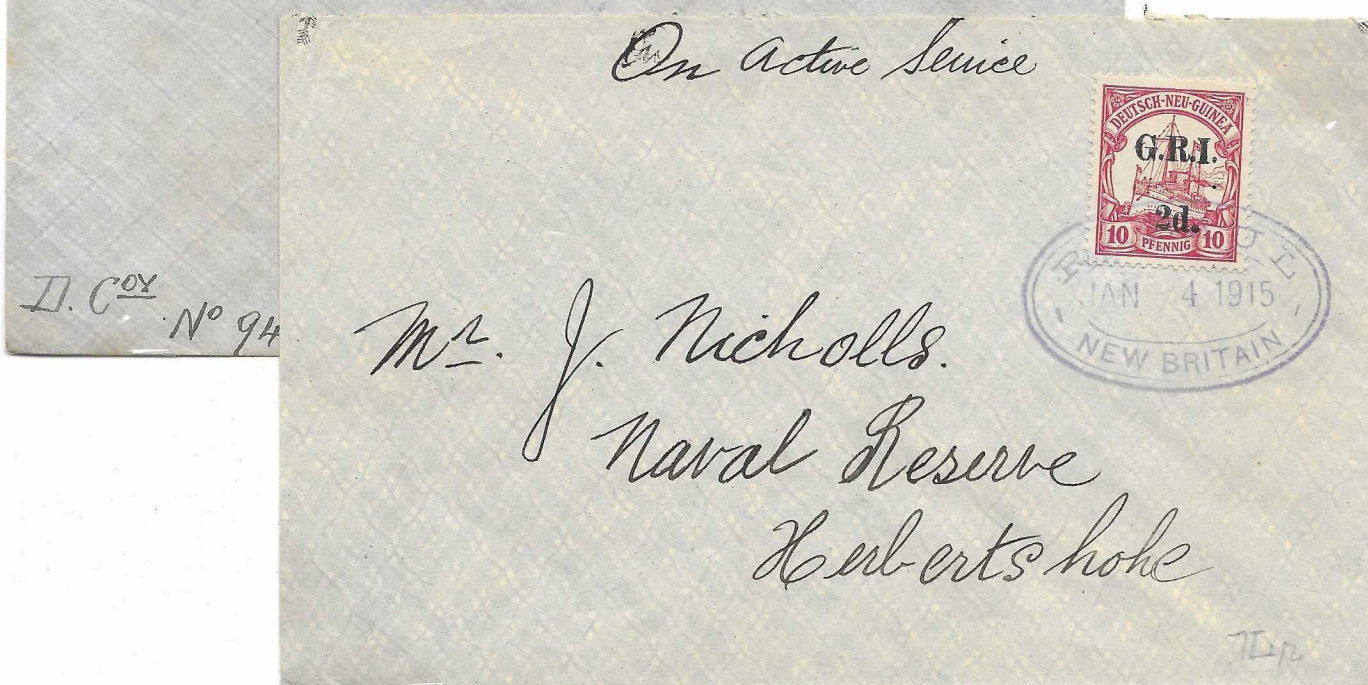
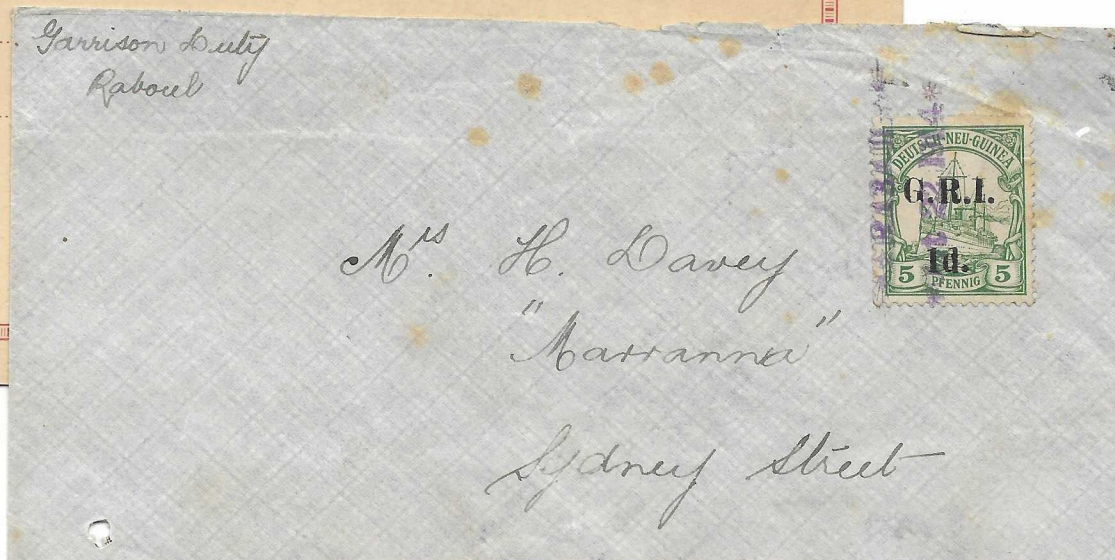
Rabaul
1 May 1915
18 June 1915



The 1st Australian Expeditionary Force was replaced by a small garrison group with an extraordinarily long name, the 3rd Battery Naval & Military Forces, Tropical Unit, led by Brigadier Pethebridge in February 1915. This unit had its own cachet which was applied to mail. Examples shown are an inbound postal card from the Dutch Indies, which arrived after the trooper had departed to Brisbane, and an outbound cover to England.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

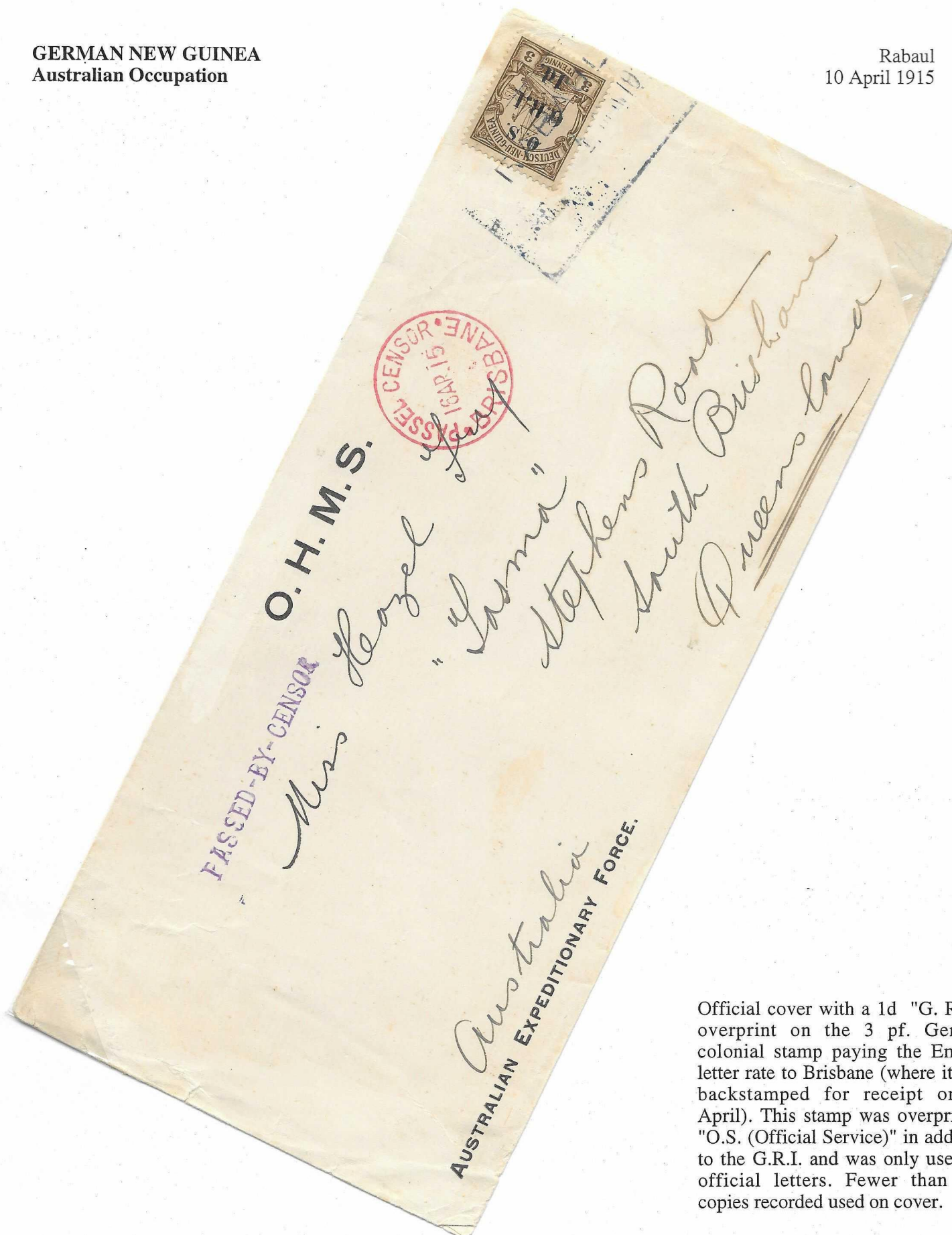
Rabaul
22 October 1914
4 January 1915



The first issue for New Guinea consisted of overprints reading "G. R. I. (George King Emperor)" on German colonial stamps and postal cards, placed on sale on 17 October 1914. Supplies were extremely limited, with only 35 complete sets being issued. The high values served no postal purpose, although a few were postmarked by favor. Above are examples of three provisional cancellations, with the two-line device being used very briefly so that copies are extremely elusive.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Rabaul
10 April 1915



Official cover with a 1d "G. R. I." overprint on the 3 pf. German colonial stamp paying the Empire letter rate to Brisbane (where it was backstamped for receipt on 16 April). This stamp was overprinted "O.S. (Official Service)" in addition to the G.R.I. and was only used on official letters. Fewer than five copies recorded used on cover.

Mixed Franking



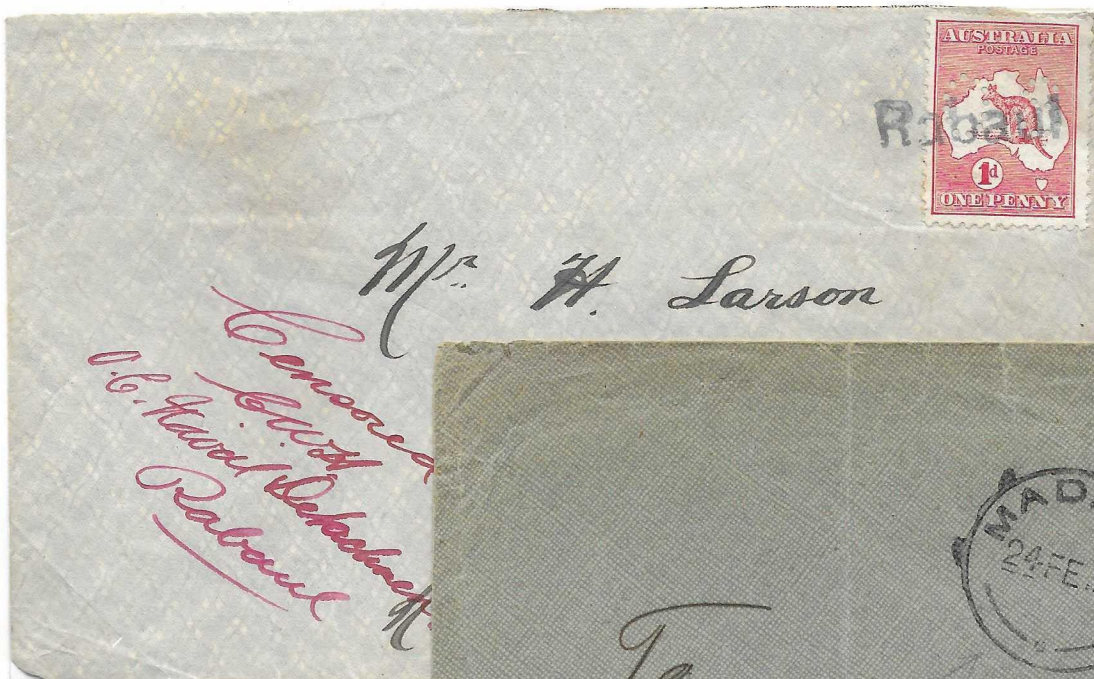
As supplies of the overprinted German issues ran short, unoverprinted Australian stamps were introduced. These were perforated with the initials "O S (Official Service)" although they were used on ordinary civilian mail. Although the German overprints remained valid, mixed franking of the two series is unusual -- as shown above on a cover addressed locally.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Rabaul

Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen
February 1916

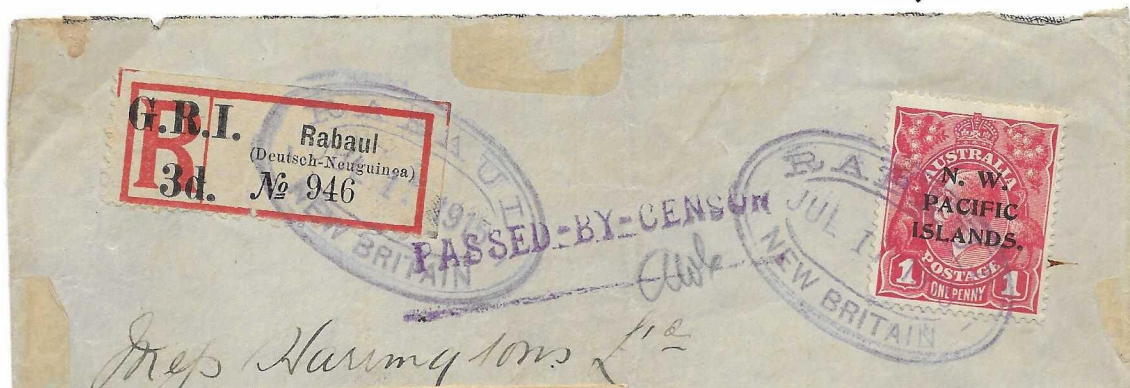
Kawieng
21 June 1916



Examples of Australian definitives with "O S" perfin. Note provisional cancels of Rabaul and Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen on commercial covers to Australia.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Rabaul
17 July 1915
16 March 1916
31 January 1918



Mrp Harringtons

Mr E Fredricks

610 Coles Book Arcade



Happy New Year

passed censor
Rabaul

PASSED BY CENSOR

O. H. M. S.



The Secretary.

*International Bureau of Peace
Bern.*

Switzerland

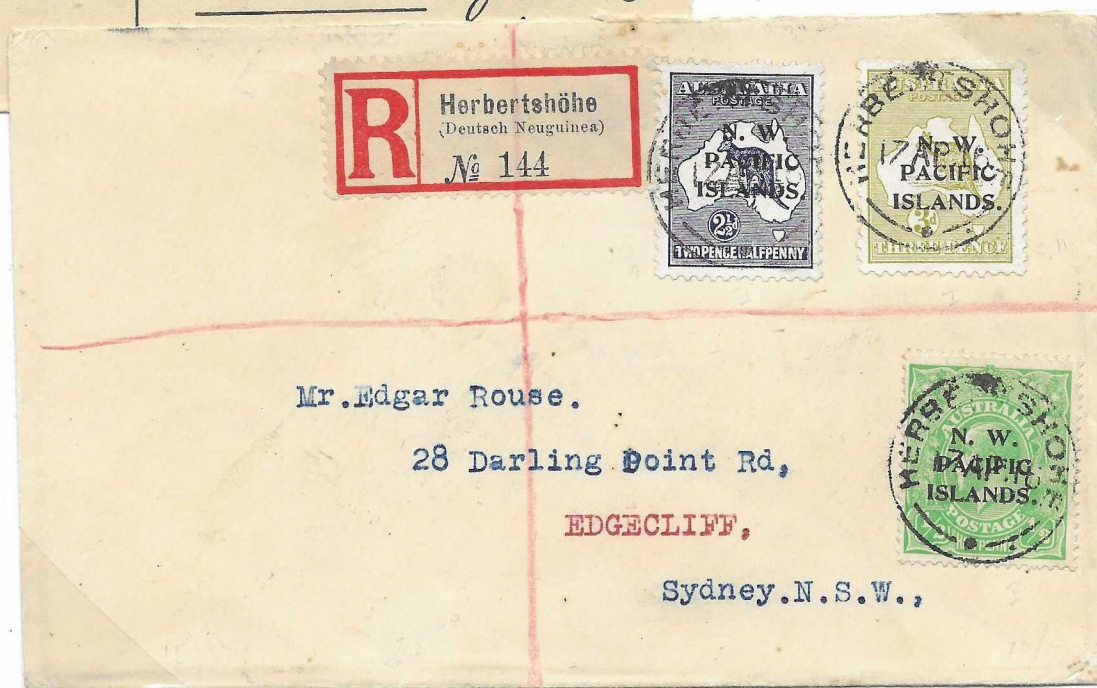


The primary stamps for New Guinea consisted of Australian definitives overprinted "N. W. Pacific Islands." These were first issued on 15 March 1915 and continued in use for the entire occupation period. Examples shown here are two paying the Empire rate of 1d to Australia -- one uprated using a left-over German registration label overprinted to pay the registry fee -- and the 2-1/2d UPU rate to Switzerland. Note three different Rabaul censor markings, of which the two-line versions are highly elusive.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Eitape
7 June 1920

Herbertshöhe
17 April 1916

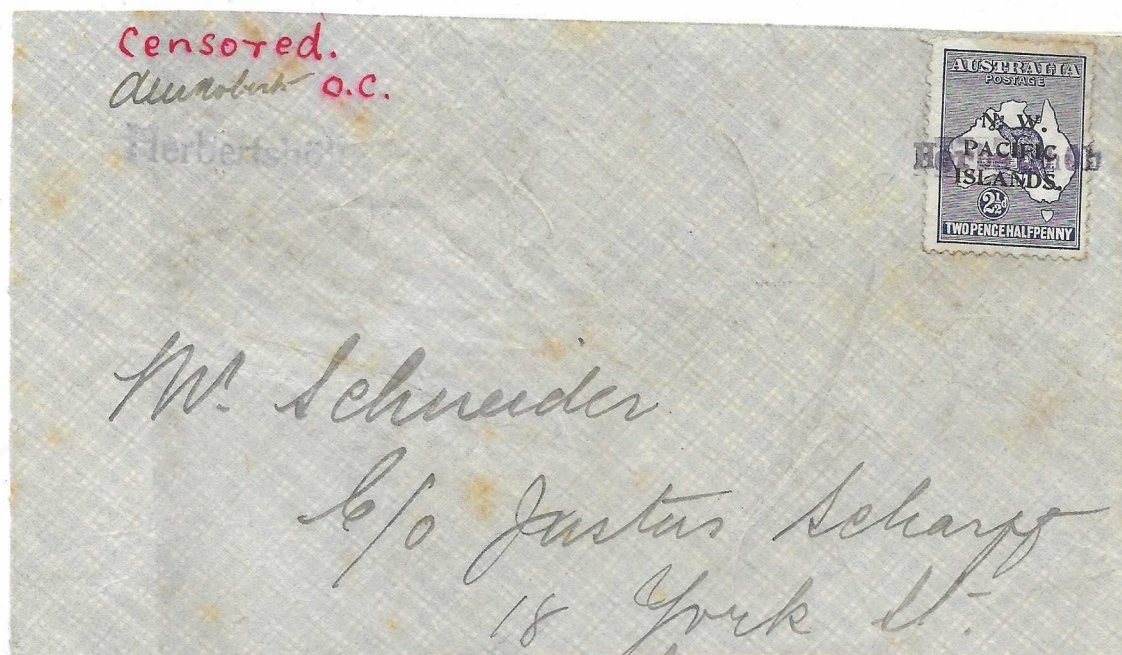


Mail from the outer offices is distinctly uncommon. Upper registered cover sent from Eitape to Switzerland is franked with the 2/- and 5/- high values, with philatelic usage being the only way to find these stamps on cover. Lower example shows that the old German registration labels were still in use in 1916.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Herbertshoh

Station Kieta
June 1915

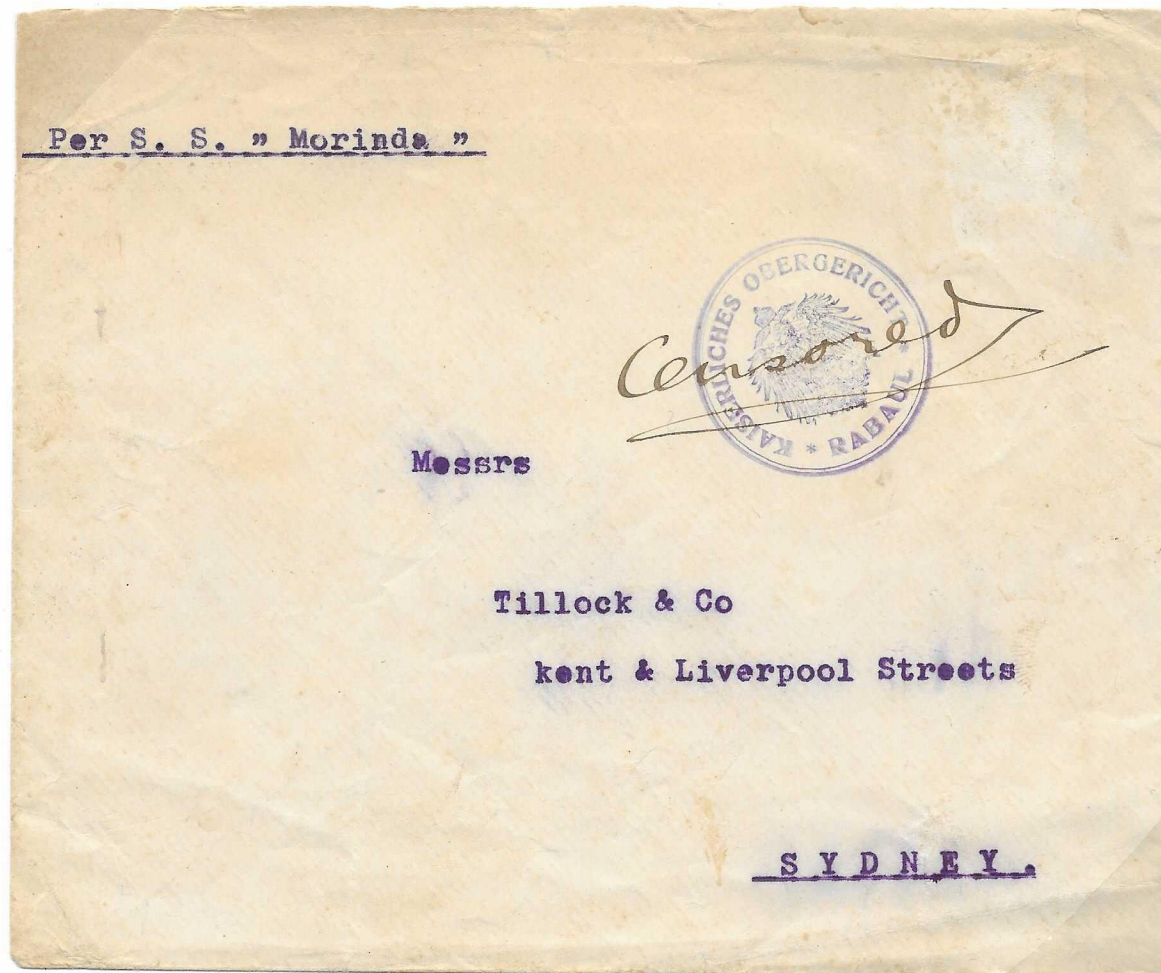


Mail from the post offices other than Rabaul is scarce, especially with provisional cancels. These examples have N. W. Pacific Islands stamps used from Herbertshoh and Kieta, the latter being located on the former German island of Bougainville in the Solomons -- an extremely unusual usage and the only example seen by exhibitor.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Rabaul
1914-1915

Official Mail



Official mail from New Guinea is distinctly uncommon, with this example being the only one seen by exhibitor. No postal markings applied, so it may have been sent by official pouch via *S. S. Morinda* to Sydney. It is likely from the early part of the occupation since it shows use of the German cachet from the High Court in Rabaul.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA
Australian Occupation

Rabaul
9 November 1916

Official Mail



This cover was official mail as indicated by the manuscript marking "O.H.M.S." However, the UPU rate of 2-1/2d was required to be paid since the letter was being sent abroad to the U.S.