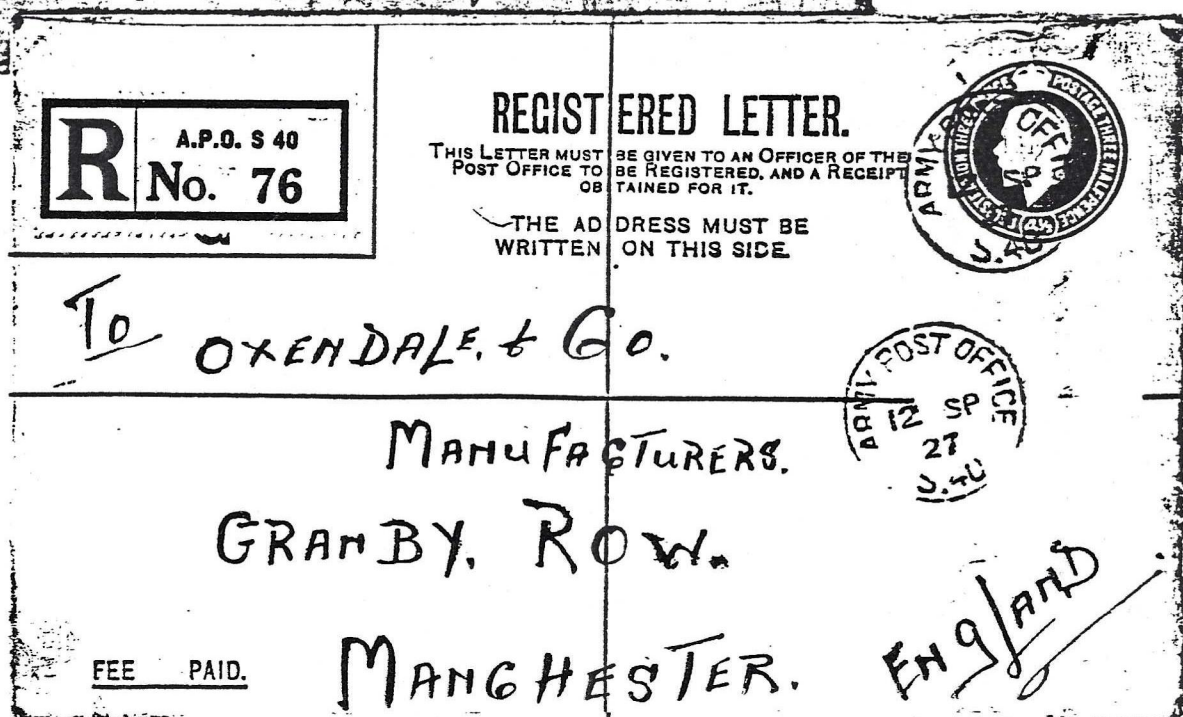
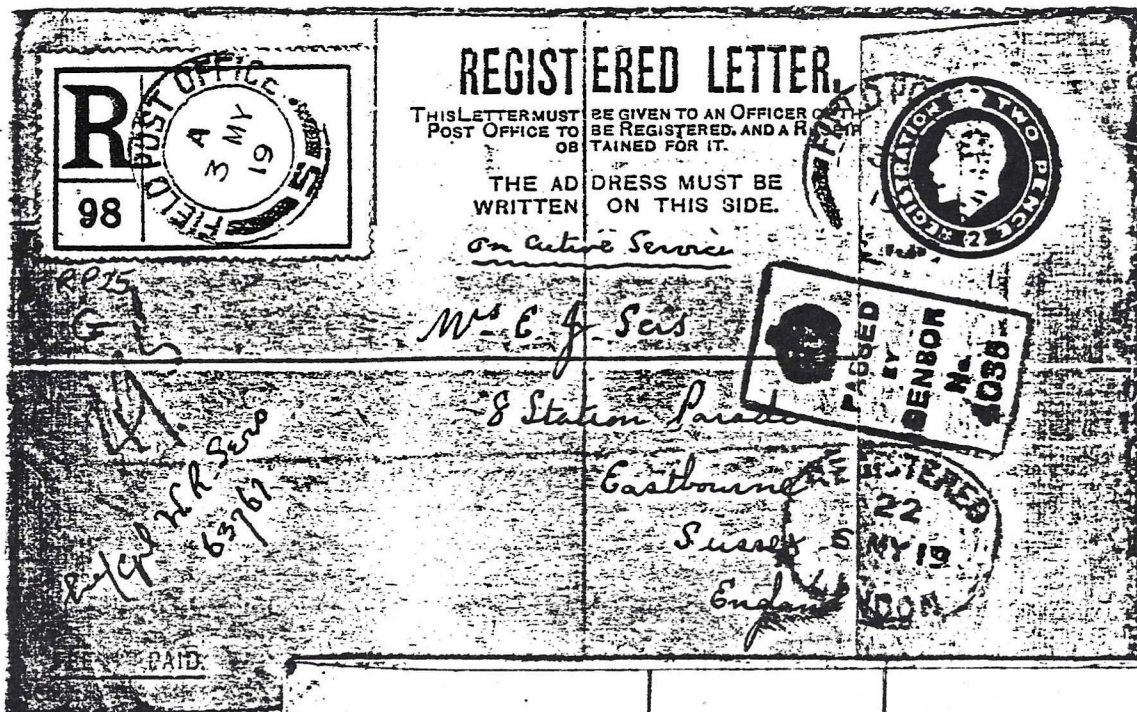


BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Field Post Office 5
3 May 1919

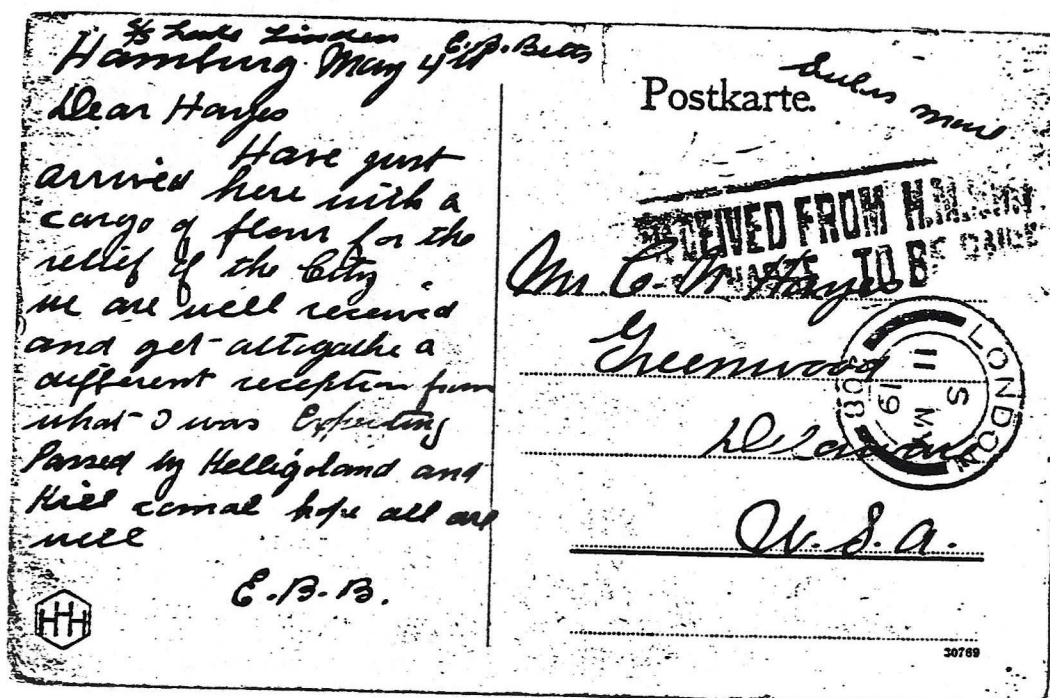
Army Post Office S.40
12 September 1927



Use of registration postal stationery by the BAOR. FPO 5 was used by the 5th Brigade of the Light Division from December 1918 to November 1919.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Hamburg
4 May 1919



In addition to enforcing the terms of the Versailles Treaty, British personnel also engaged in humanitarian activities. Picture post card of Hamburg endorsed "Sailors Mail" was carried by pouch to London where it was marked "Received from H.M.Ship/No charge to be raised" and placed in the mail stream. Message indicates that the *S.S. Lake Linden* had "just arrived with a cargo of flour for the relief of the City."

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

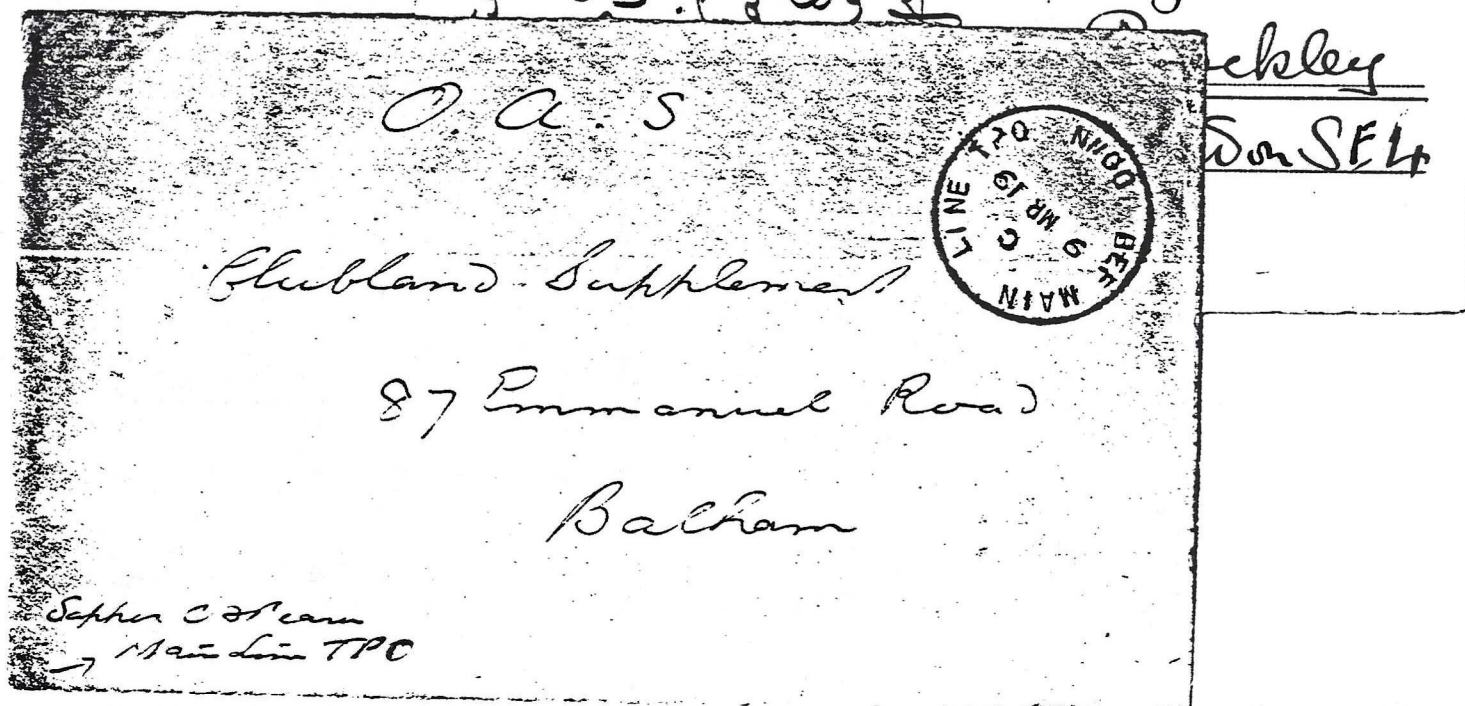
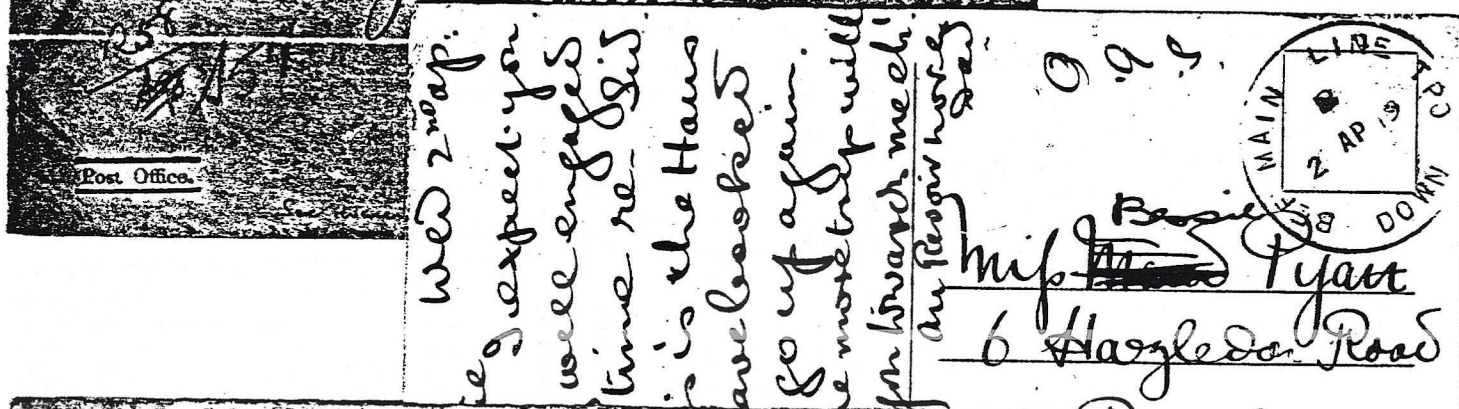
BEF Main Line TPO
10 January 1919
26 January 1919

A.F.W. 3073. W289/M1960 4/17. M. & S. LTD. ACTIVE This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration. NOTE:— Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base. 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 matters. Signature Name only <i>[Signature]</i>	[Crown Copyright Reserved.] SERVICE MAIN LINE X 10 JA 19 [Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.] <i>Miss H Fox</i> Address <i>10 Hamilton St</i> <i>Stammore Road</i> <i>Long sight</i> <i>Manchester</i>
A. F. W. 3073. W289-M1960. 917. C. & Co., Grange Mills, S.W. ACTIVE This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration. NOTE:— Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base. 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 matters. Signature Name only <i>[Signature]</i>	[Crown Copyright Reserved.] SERVICE BEF DOWN 24 JA 19 [Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.] Address:— <i>Mr Ernest Knapp</i> <i>234 Curley Road</i> <i>Leeds</i> <i>England</i>

In order to speed the transportation of mail to and from the troops, ten railway mail cars were sent over from England and placed in service between Boulogne and Cologne. Clerks sorted mail en route and applied special TPO markings. The inaugural trip occurred on 9 January 1919. Above examples of mail postmarked on the "up" (eastbound) and "down" (westbound) legs, the former on the second day of service.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

BEF Main Line TPO
4 February 1919
9 March 1919
2 April 1919



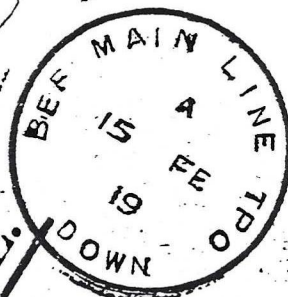
Each of the sorting teams had their own postmarks. Above markings are coded "A," "B" and "C." Others that have been recorded are "X" and "+." A very high proportion of all the mail postmarked on the trains was on the down leg coming from Germany. (Mail to the troops would normally have been postmarked in England.)

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

BEF Main Line TPO
15 February 1919
12 March 1919

The initial "skeleton" type datestamp was introduced for temporary service until permanent postmarks could be delivered. Noted dates of usage range from January to April 1919. Some of the sorting teams were issued devices with a larger diameter, which are easily recognizable. These appear to have been used concurrently with normal smaller ones.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



210 T58
210 T58
210 T58

A.F.W. 200

ACTIVE

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

SERVICE

No. 4

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—

Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—

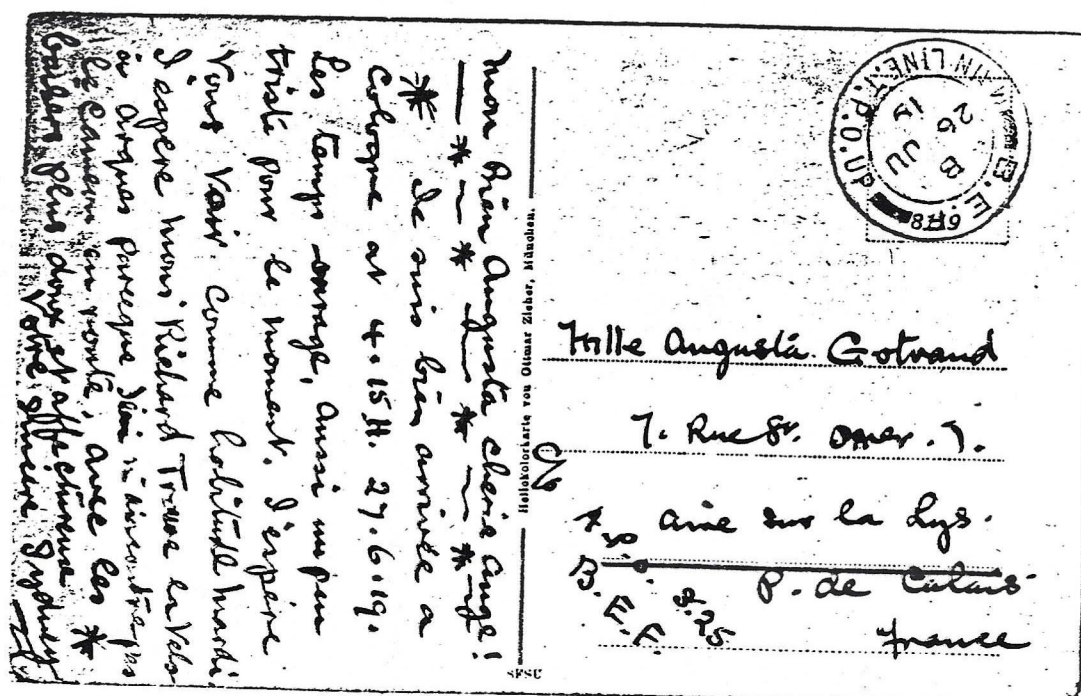
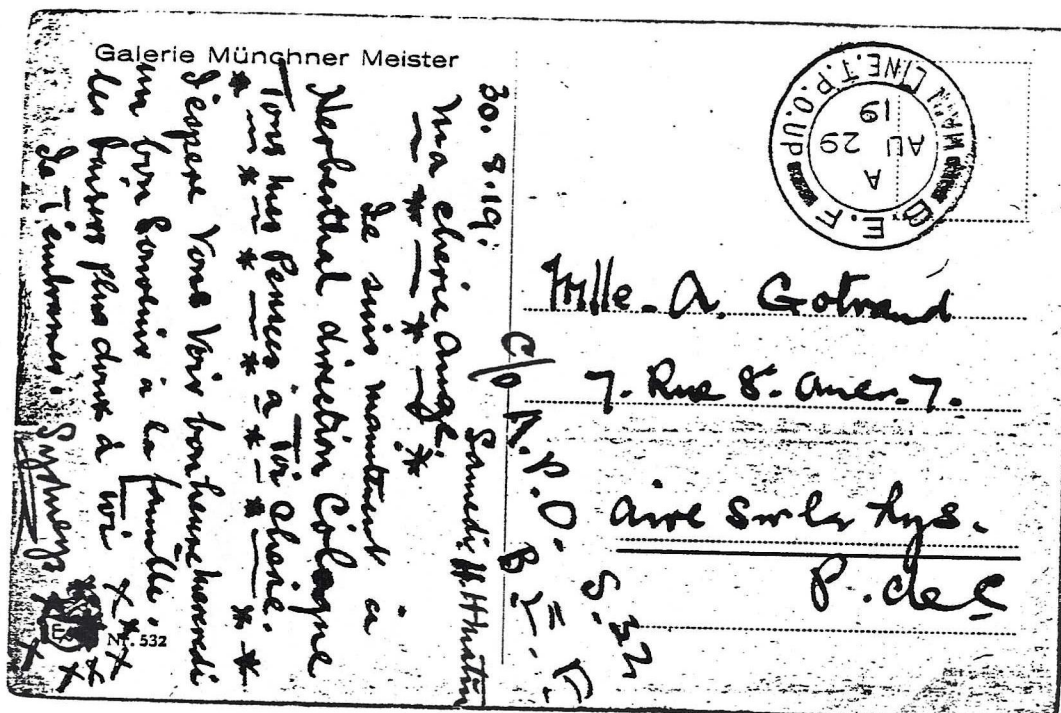
I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters

Signature
Name only

[Several letters may be forwarded on this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Address

210 T58
210 T58
210 T58

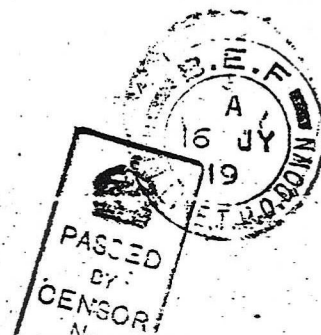


Proud states that the new permanent datestamps were sent out on 21 March for the "Up" version and 4 April for the "Down" type. "Up" markings, shown above with codes "A" and "B," are scarce.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

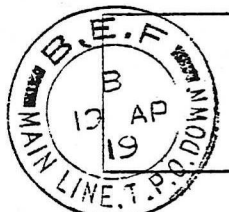
BEF Main Line TPO
9 April 1919
19 April 1919
16 July 1919

Mrs Keigwin
White Lyables
HAILSHAM



Toujours
les vœux
chers

Ernest
L.



Miss Augusta Gorman

On His Majesty's Service.

The Regimental Paymaster,
The Essex Regiment,
The Huttments,

WARLEY.

ENGLAND.

ESSEX.



The use of the permanent TPO Down marking is recorded as used from April to September 1919. The above examples show devices with codes "A," "B" and "C," the latter being a very early usage.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

BEF Main Line TPO
3 May 1919

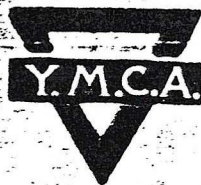
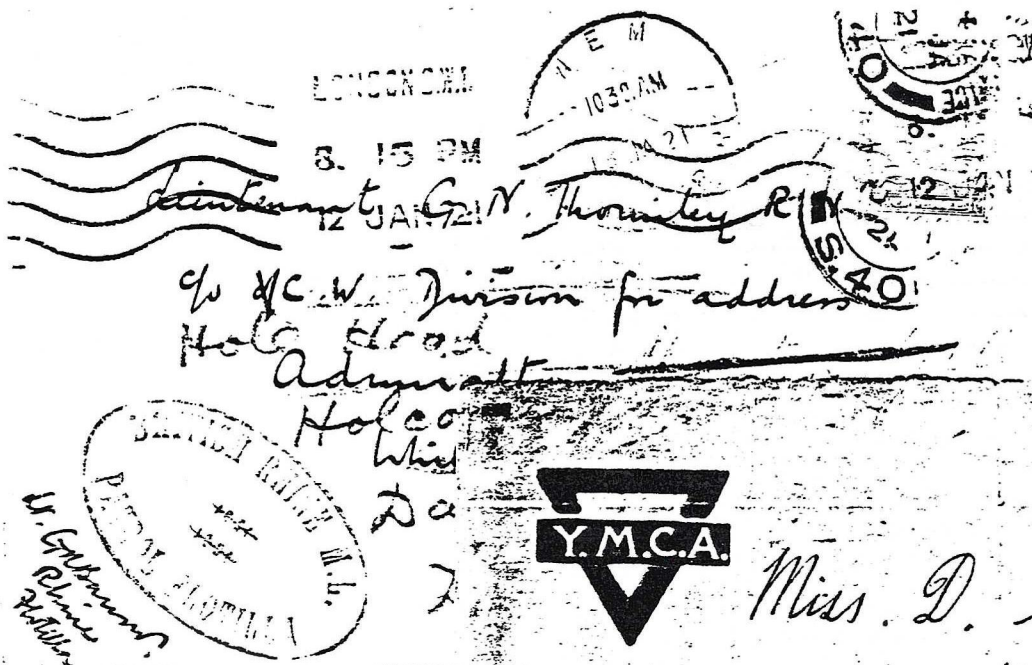
Official cover sent to a Sergeant in the Royal Engineers Postal Service. Postmarked TPO Down on 3 May and struck five times on the reverse with the TPO Up datestamp as a transit marking two days later. An extraordinary usage of the TPO service.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



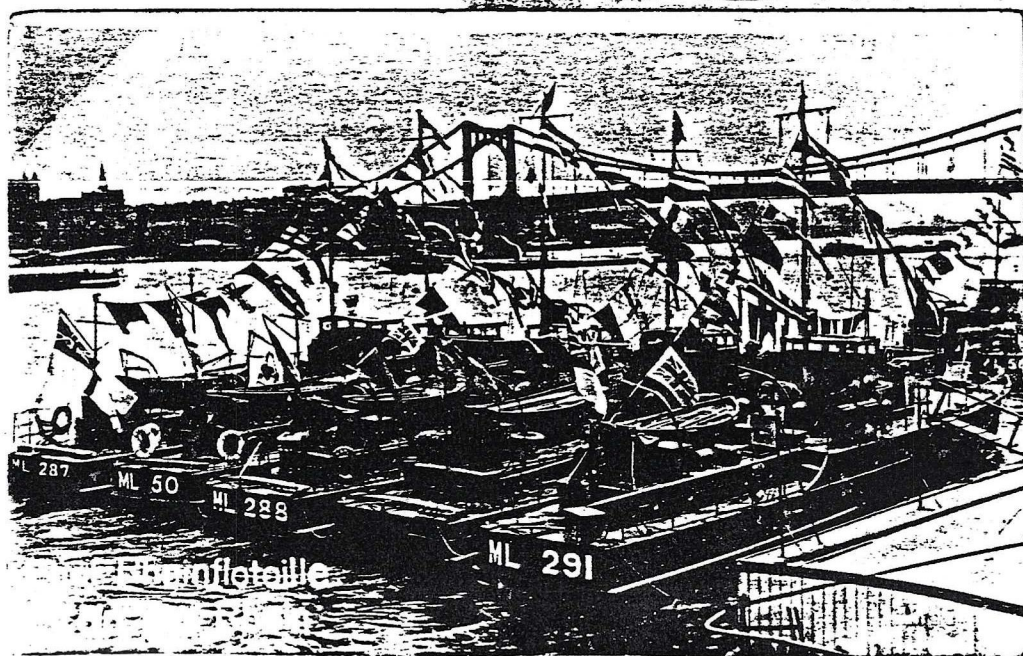
BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Rhine Flotilla
10 January 1919
17 July 1922



Miss. D. Shaw

42 Bengeworth Road
Cambridge
London
S. E. 5
England

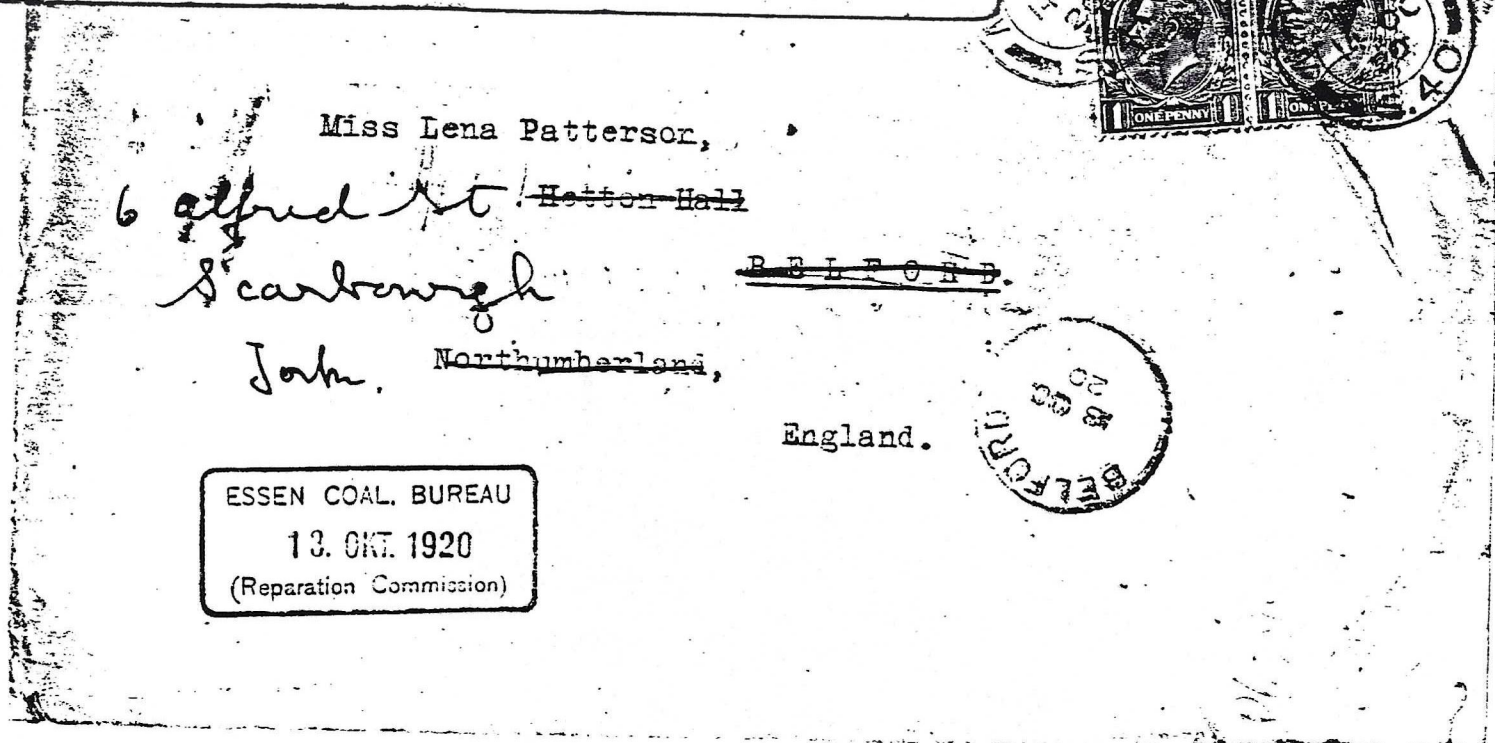
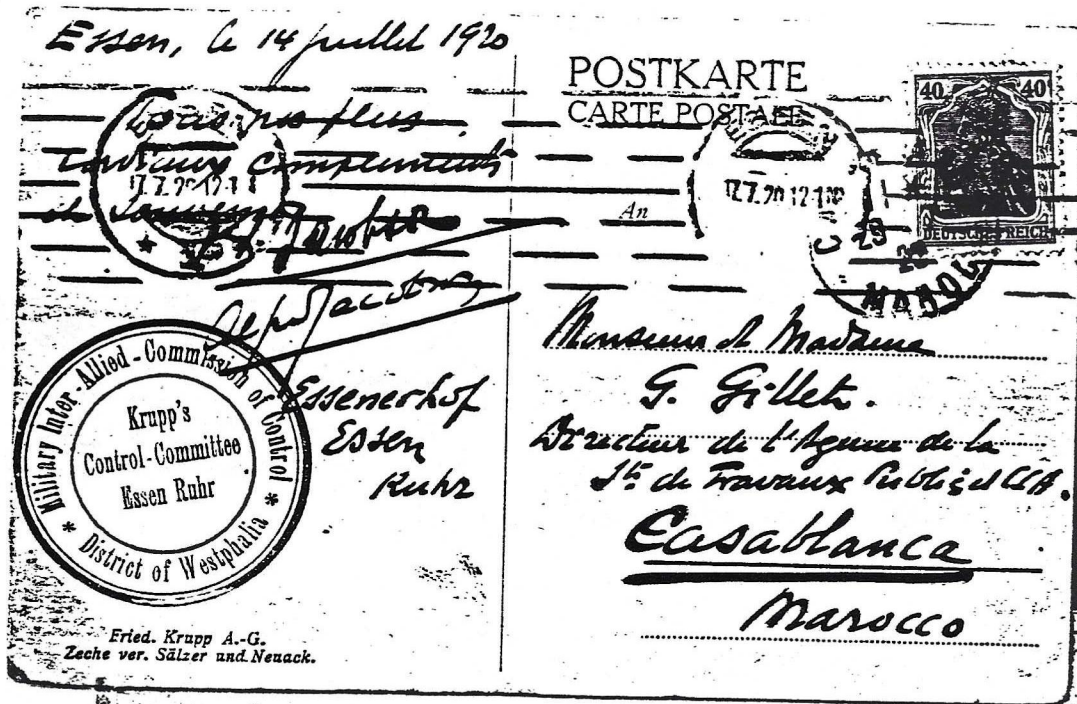


The occupation forces included a flotilla of motor launches which patrolled the Rhine from their base at Cologne. Mail from the Rhine Flotilla received a special oval cachet. Covers with this marking are especially prized by collectors of naval mail.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Essen
17 July 1920

Army Post Office S.40
14 October 1920



During the occupation of the Ruhr, the British did not open additional field post facilities. Thus, mail was either sent through the German post office or sent to APO S.40 at Cologne for processing. Examples of such handling are shown, with appropriate cachets of the occupying authorities.

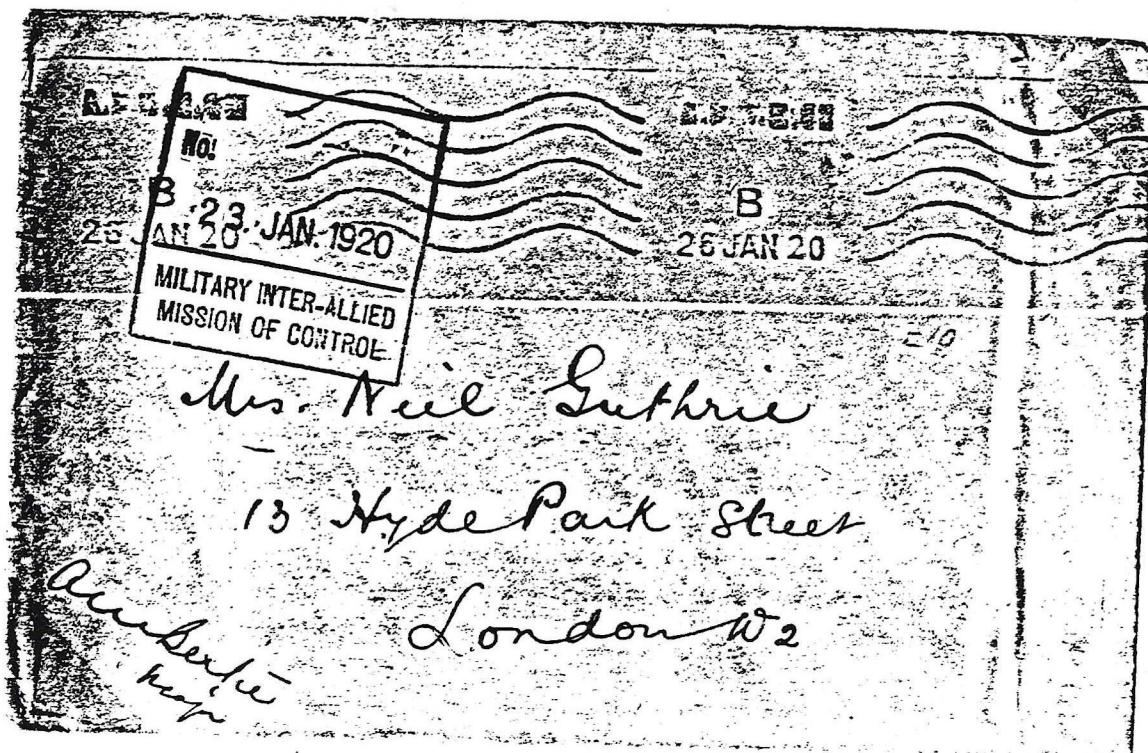
BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Helgoland
3 March 1921



An Allied delegation was sent to Heligoland to supervise the destruction of fortifications on that strategic island in the North Sea. Cachet of the Heligoland Sub-Commission on a cover sent by a Captain in the Royal Navy.

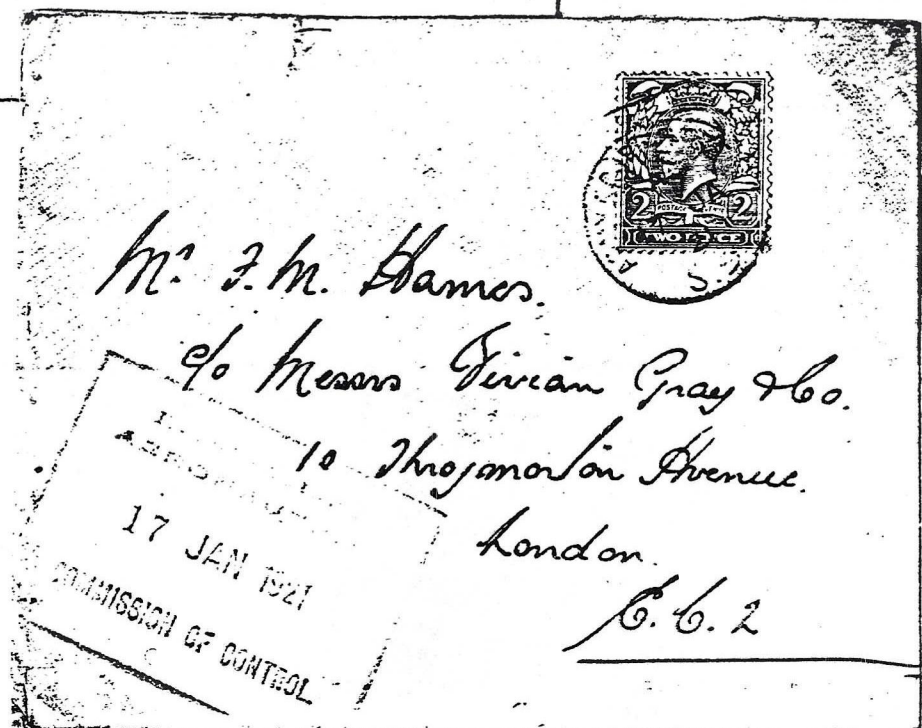
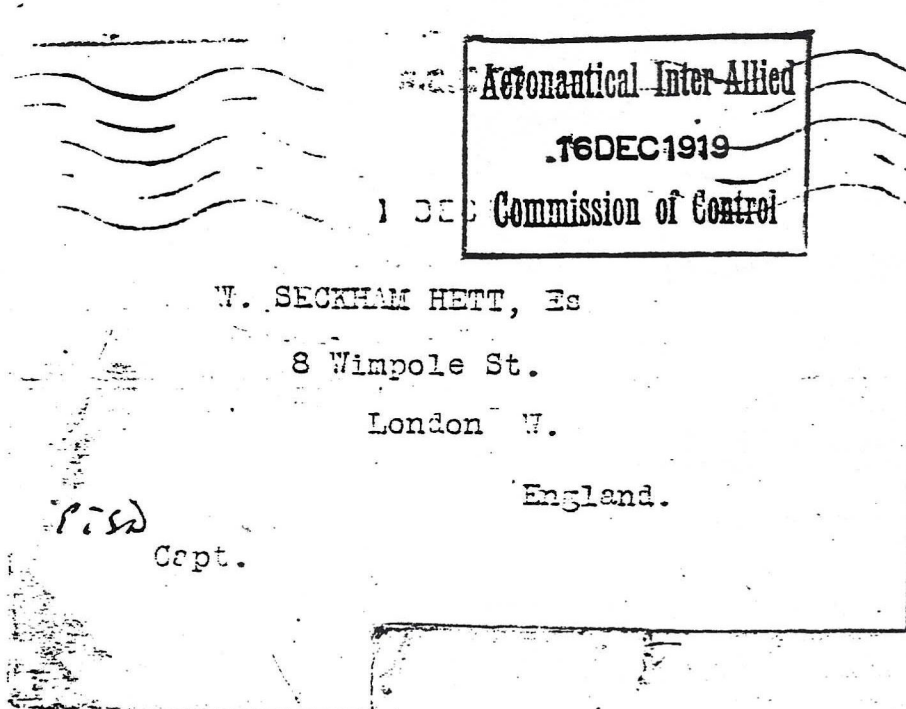
Inter-Allied Control Commission
26 January 1920
9 February 1920



Initially, mail from the members of the I.A.C.C. in Berlin was carried by military pouch to Cologne, where it was turned over to APO S.40. Due to heavy volume, machine cancels were used at the base post office from May 1919 to March 1920, with "A" and "B" codes as shown above.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

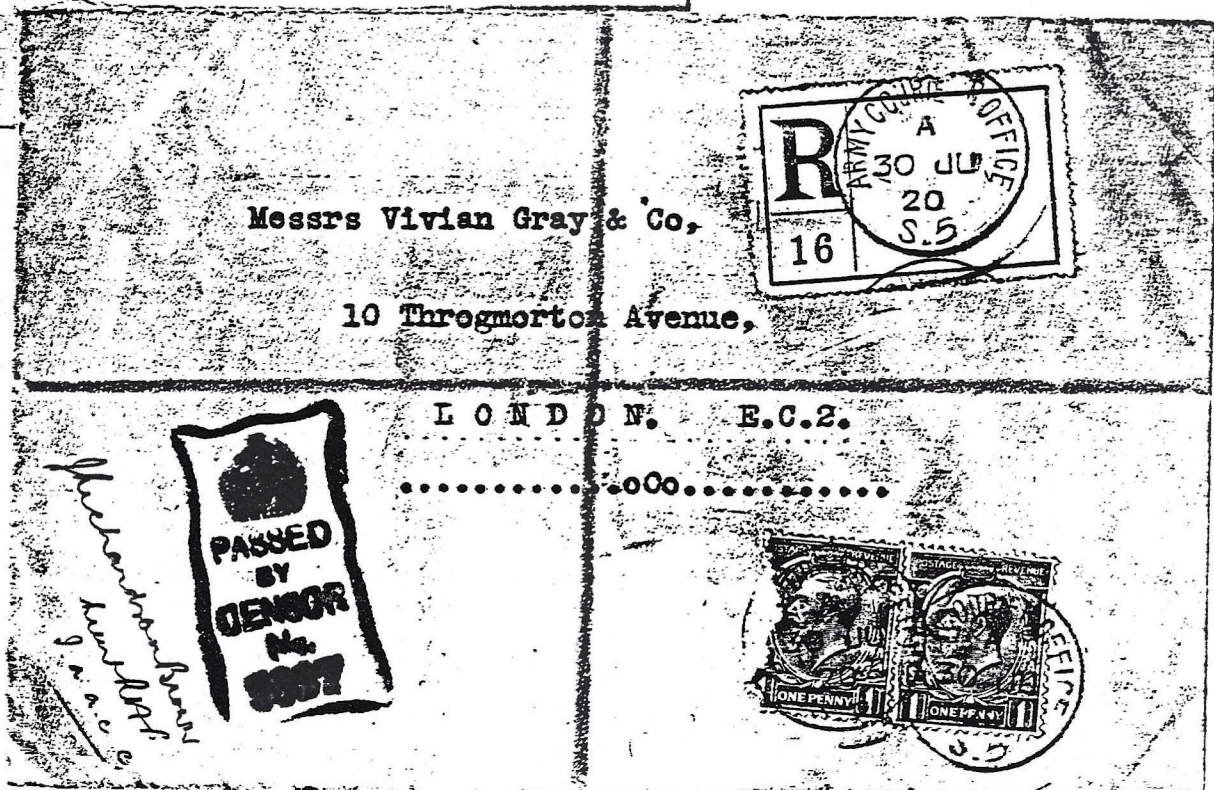
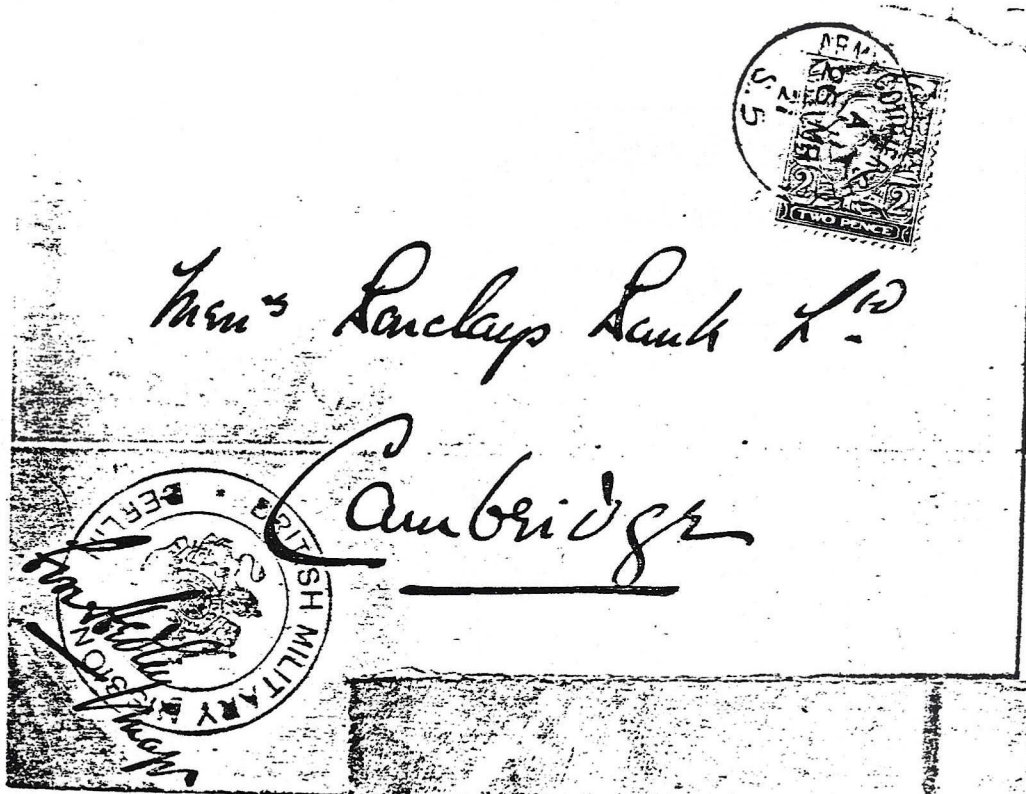
Inter-Allied Aeronautical Commission
16 December 1919
17 January 1921



A small aeronautical section of the Control Commission operated out of Berlin, using the facilities of the Courier Office. Mail from this organization is very elusive and highly sought after by aerophilatelists.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Army Courier Office S.5
30 June 1920
26 March 1921



Later, the Courier Office in Berlin was issued its own distinctive postmark and began to cancel mail. This marking is recorded as used between May 1920 and May 1921. Its use on registered letters is especially elusive.

BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Berlin Courier
26 July 1922

BERLIN

COURIER

N° 81 / S.

S E C R E T -



Monsieur le Commandant B O U D O T,

Commission Interalliée des Chemins de Fer de Campagne

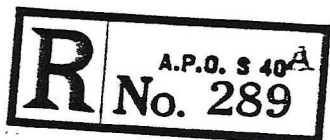
Délégation de B E R L I N

à la main au bureau de la Commission Interalliée

Use of the Berlin Courier for Eastward (Inbound) mail is unusual. This cover was sent by the Armaments Sub-Commission in Cologne to a French delegate of the Interallied Commission for Military Railways in Berlin.

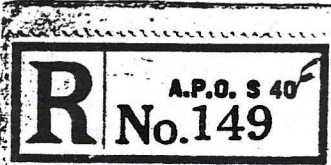
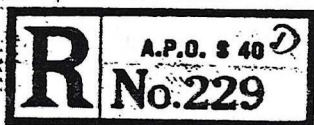
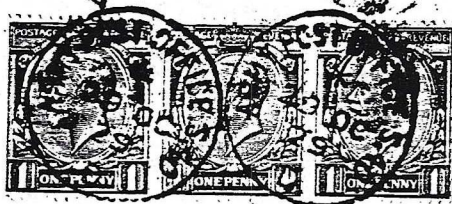
BRITISH FORCES
Germany

Army Post Office S.40/A
31 October 1929



Army Post Office S.40/D
29 October 1929

Army Post Office S.40/F
26 September 1929



6851
Steel
near Woz
phua, Pa
SA

39568

G. S. HILL, ESQ.,
627 Fairmount Ave.,
Philadelphia Pa.,
U. S. A.

In 1922, all other APOs in Germany became branches of S.40. Branch A was located at the Military GHQ in Wiesbaden, while Branch D was at Bingen and Branch F at Konigstein. Registered covers from branches are very elusive, even philatelic ones. British postal activities in Germany came to an end when APO S.40 closed on 12 December 1929.