

WORLD WAR 1 TROOP CONVOYS

The first convoy of troop transports departed from Albany on 1 November 1914 escorted by 4 warships. A total of 44 'convoys' and 74 requisitioned transports carried troops to the conflict and a large number brought them home. Military mail from transports is relatively easy to identify as most had free postage concession and were censored. Naval mail from crew on warships and transports (recognized as 'ships of war' by the UPU) did not have the postage concession nor show censor markings. No mail has definitely been identified as naval mail from troop convoys as such mail has the appearance of mail posted ashore at the time a ship was in port.

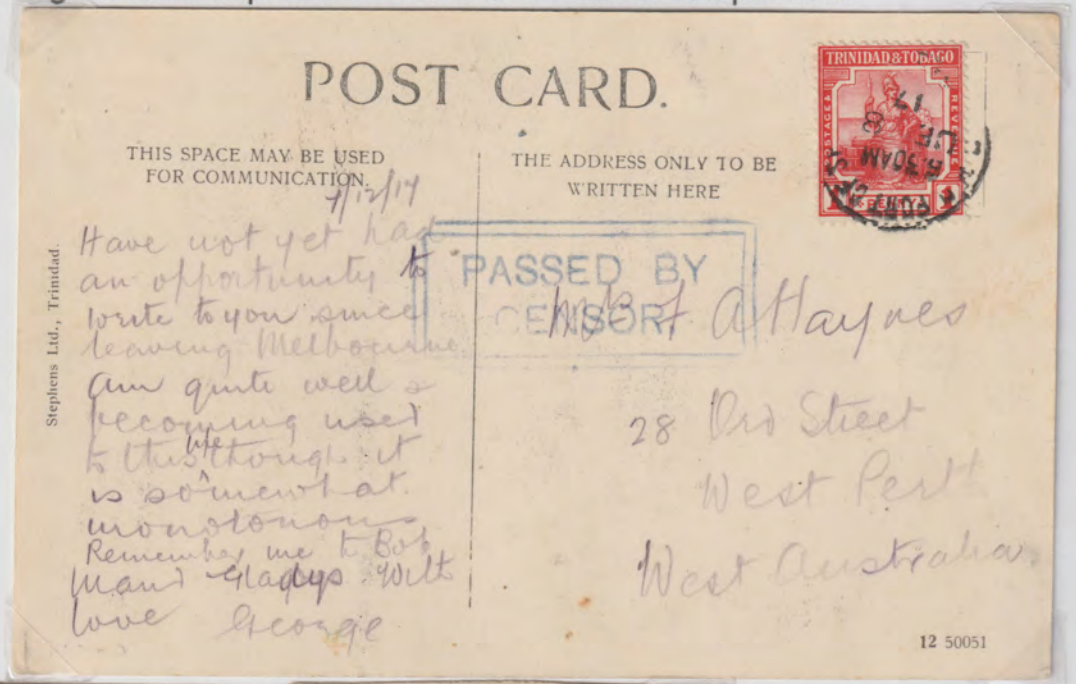
HMAT Kyarra A55 was at Fremantle from 14 to 15 January 1916.
 Fremantle 14 January 1916



HMAS MELBOURNE 1917

"Have not yet had an opportunity to write to you since leaving Melbourne. Am quite well and becoming used to this life though it is somewhat monotonous." It is assumed George was discharged from HMAS Melbourne as medically unfit; at least one sailor serving in HMAS Melbourne died of illness. HMAS Melbourne fired one shot during the war: a blank warning to an unidentified ship entering Albany harbor. After SMS Emden was sunk, HMAS Melbourne was ordered to Bermuda to search for the Karlsruhe. Remained in West Indies waters until August 1916 when deployed to 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron of the Grand Fleet at Scarpa Flow.

PPC Trinidad
Port of Spain
8 February 1917
Perth
censor cachet



Perth
23 January 1918
Censor label
and cachet
Berne 15 March
Geneva 17 March
Two covers recorded
1d rate for POW mail
was withdrawn
January 1918

HMAS AE2 1918

HMAS AE2 prompted General Hamilton to continue the Gallipoli campaign after the failure of the first assault. His 25 April order to the ANZACs "the Australian submarine has got up through the Narrows and has torpedoed a gun boat... you have got through the difficult business, now you have only to dig, dig, dig, until you are safe." Two of the 12 sailors captured were from WA.

HMAS AUSTRALIA 1915

The heavy cruiser HMAS Australia, flagship of the RAN, was based at Rosyth, Scotland from 28 January 1915. The dumb cross cancel is known used on HMAS Australia. Dumb cancel, ship's censor cachet, Subiaco 7 April 1915, Claremont 8 April, Cottesloe 9 April.



UNKNOWN

HMAS ENCOUNTER 1916

This is the only recorded example of naval mail censored in Western Australian waters in World War 1. Second class protected cruiser HMAS Encounter was detached on 11 February from Sandakan, North Borneo to patrol off the south western coast of WA. It was at Albany from 21 February 1916 to 9 March.

Albany
22 February 1916
Ship's censor cachet
Bute Docks Cardiff
31 March



HMS RENOWN 1920

Battlecruiser HMS Renown arrived at Albany on 30 June 1920 and departed Fremantle 7 July. It carried HRH Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David Windsor, Prince of Wales MC, C de G who rose from Lieutenant (1914) to Colonel (1919) with the British Army in France. He toured the Dominions to convey the King's appreciation of the contribution to the war effort.

Addressed to Rex Atkins not Tommy Atkins.
Envelope with Prince of Wales crest on flap
Perth 7 July 1920



Address to the Prince.

The address that will be presented to the Prince of Wales by the Fremantle Civic authorities to-day is the work of Mr. Claude Nicholas, and it is indeed a particularly fine example of decorative art and illuminating. It embraces an excellent display of color and design, while the decoration is far above the ordinary work of its class. The border is unique in conception, composed as it is of National Emblem scroll, embracing in each corner the Feather spray in crown. The Royal Arms appear in top centre, swans in panel at side, the municipal Coat-of-Arms at the bottom—the whole completing a most excellent effort. The body of the address contains a variety of lettering suitably picked out in color and gold, and the text is engrossed, and reads as follows:

“May it please Your Royal Highness,—We, on behalf of the Citizens of Fremantle in the State of Western Australia, beg respectfully to tender your Royal Highness a most hearty and loyal welcome to our Port and Town, and to express our intense gratification and a high sense of the honour you have conferred upon us by your presence. We desire to assure your Royal Highness of our unswerving devotion and attachment to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King, your father. We rejoice to contemplate the bond of personal friendship which has been created and stimulated by your Royal Highness's genial and unostentatious association with our Australian soldiers on the field of battle. We sincerely trust that your visit will be a source of gratification and enjoyment to you, as it will be of universal rejoicing to the subjects of His Majesty in this part of the Empire. Signed on behalf of the Municipality of Fremantle—F. E. GIBSON, Mayor; H. T. HAYNES, Town Clerk.”

The address proper is handsomely bound, and makes a most creditable objet d'art—the work of Fremantleites, produced in Fremantle, and delivered in Fremantle. It is worthy.

ROYAL NAVY SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON VISIT 1924

The Squadron of battlecruisers Hood, Repulse and cruisers Danae, Dauntless, Delhi, Dragon were on a world cruise to 'show the flag'. En route from Singapore to Adelaide, they were in Fremantle from 27 February 1924 to 1 March and Albany from 2 March to 6 March. No mail is recorded from this visit.

HMS Dauntless



HMS Hood and HMS Delhi
Inscribed on back "In Fremantle Harbour"

USN FLEET VISIT 1925

The largest naval fleet to visit Australia (57 vessels, 25,000 men) under Admiral Coontz split up to visit Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart between 26 July 1925 and 6 August before heading to New Zealand. No ships visited Western Australia although this card was produced with printed on the back "Issued by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Officers and Men of the American Fleet. July - August 1925."

View of Section of Perth, Western Australia (unused)

Printed for Commonwealth Immigration Office by Valentine Co. Vic.



OTHER VISITS 1922/1929

Two French warships visited Fremantle in 1922, three Japanese ships in early 1924 and another in 1926. In 1928 two Japanese, an Argentine and a German warship visited Fremantle and a French vessel visited in 1929. No mail is recorded from any of these visits.

HMS RENOWN, HMAS SYDNEY 1927

HRH Albert Frederick Arthur George Windsor, Duke of York and the Duchess visited Australia in HMS Renown to open Federal Parliament building in Canberra on 9 May 1927. They were in Fremantle from 18 May 1927 to 23 May.

Stamps CTO, Fremantle 9 May 1927

Visit of H.M.S. "RENOWN" and H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

Entertainment of Officers and Men.

Wednesday, 18th May, 1927.

3.0 p.m.—Garden Party, Government House Perth. Admission to this function is by invitation only.

3.0 p.m.—Australian Association Football Matches. All men invited.
South Fremantle v. West Perth ... Fremantle Oval.
East Perth v. East Fremantle ... Perth Oval.
Subiaco v. Perth ... Subiaco Oval.

3.0 p.m.—Hockey Match between Officers of H.M.S. "Renown" v. W.A. Hockey Association. Cars will call at ship at 2.15 to convey Officers to Ground, returning after the match.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:

Mr. A. C. Horn, c/o. Union Bank, High Street, Fremantle, Phone B24.

Evening.—Debutantes' Dances at residence of Mrs. Howe, "Mambray," Hillside Avenue, Swanbourne.

15 lieutenants, sub-lieutenants, and midshipmen—H.M.S. "Renown."

4 lieutenants, sub-lieutenants, and midshipmen—H.M.A.S. "Sydney."

Charabanc will attend at ships at 7.50 p.m. and return after the dance.

Hostesses: Mrs. J. Maxwell Clifton, Phone F985.

Mrs. John Anderson, Phone F772.

Mrs. A. Maxwell Howe, Phone F540.

8.0 p.m.—Dance, Naval Drill Hall, Fremantle. For 400 men.
H.M.S. "Renown," 300 ratings; H.M.A.S. "Sydney," 100 ratings.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:

Town Clerk, Fremantle, Phone B1.

8.0 p.m.—Boxing Tournament at White City, Esplanade, Perth. Contests between the ships and local exponents.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

A. F. Gourley, 91 Lord Street, Perth, Phone A1192.

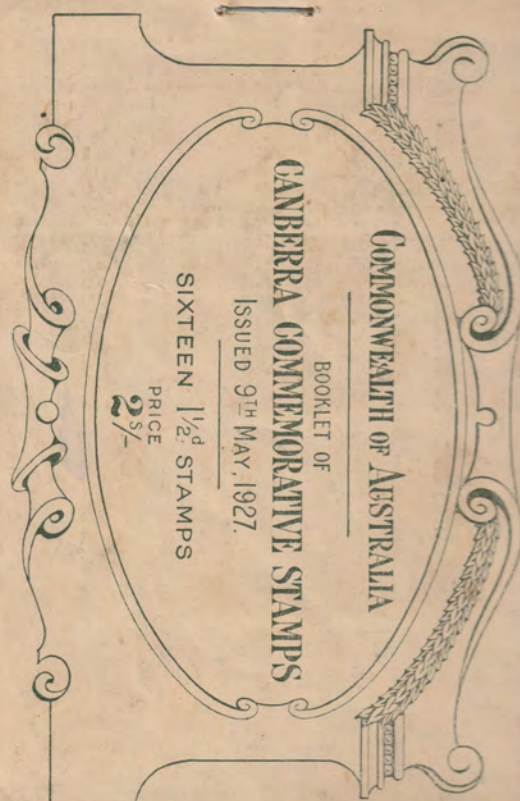
By courtesy of Sir Thomas Coombe, any number of officers and men will be admitted free, on their uniforms, to the following picture theatres:—

Princess Theatre, Market Street, Fremantle, Phone B525.

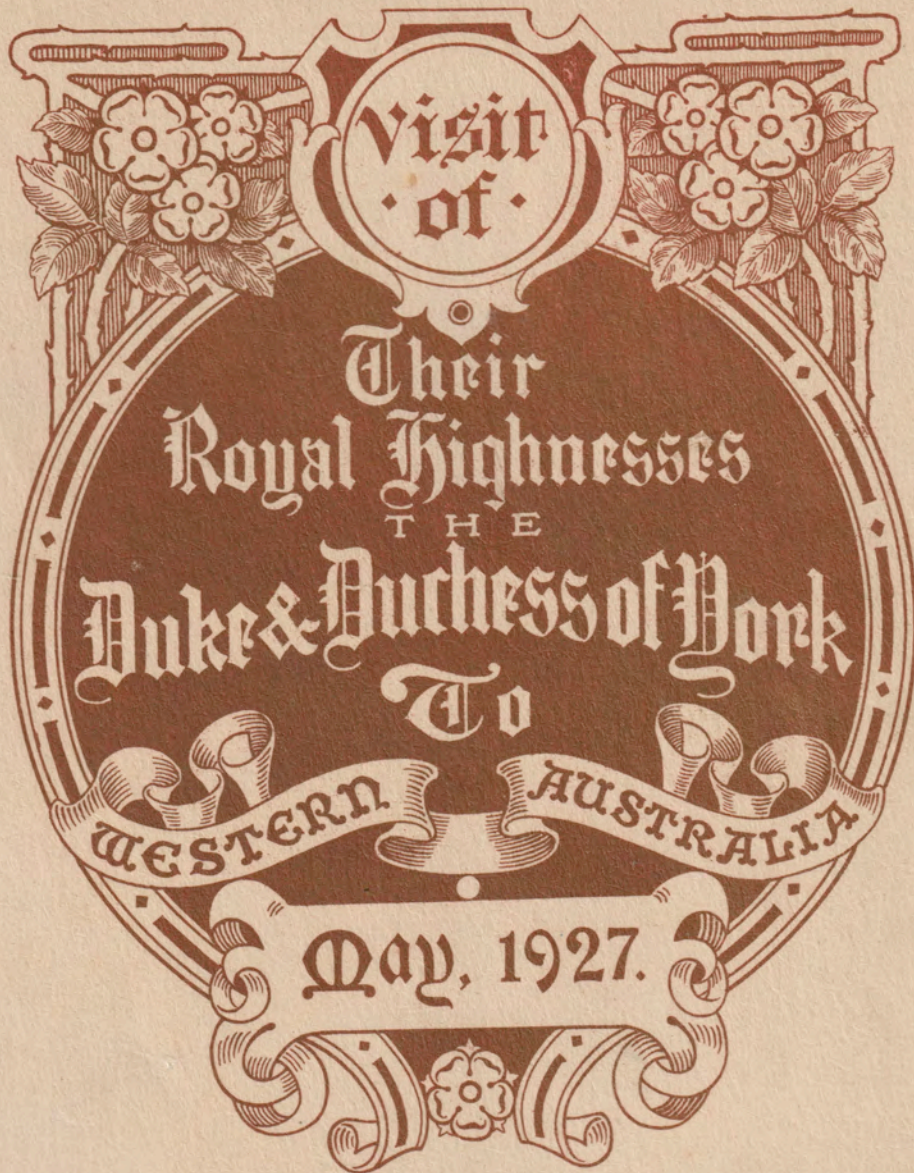
Prince of Wales Theatre, Murray Street, Perth, Phone A2222.

Grand Theatre, Murray Street, Perth, Phone A3321.

Pavilion Theatre, Hay Street, Perth, Phone A3369.

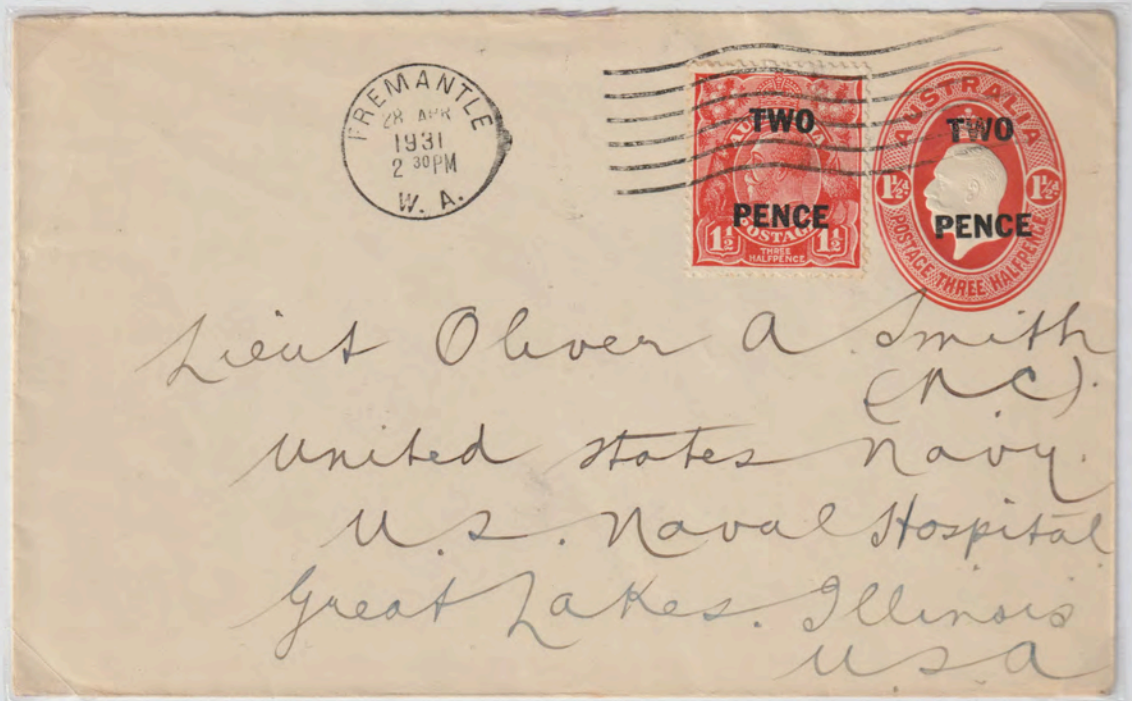


H.M.S. "RENOWN" LEAVING PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, WITH THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK ABOARD.



UNITED STATES NAVY 1930

No USN ship had ever visited Fremantle so it is not clear what connection Lieut. Smith USN had with the Fremantle Postmaster. While the top cover is clearly philatelic, use of Fremantle postmark 3b-g 20 years after it ceased normal use, this is not a FDC. Fremantle 4 June 1930, Fremantle Money order cachet, Fremantle Postmaster cachet, Pago Pago 4 July



Fremantle 28 April 1931

HMAS MORESBY 1934

HMAS Moresby was engaged in surveying Western Australian northern waters and was in Fremantle from 1 September 194 to 11 September.

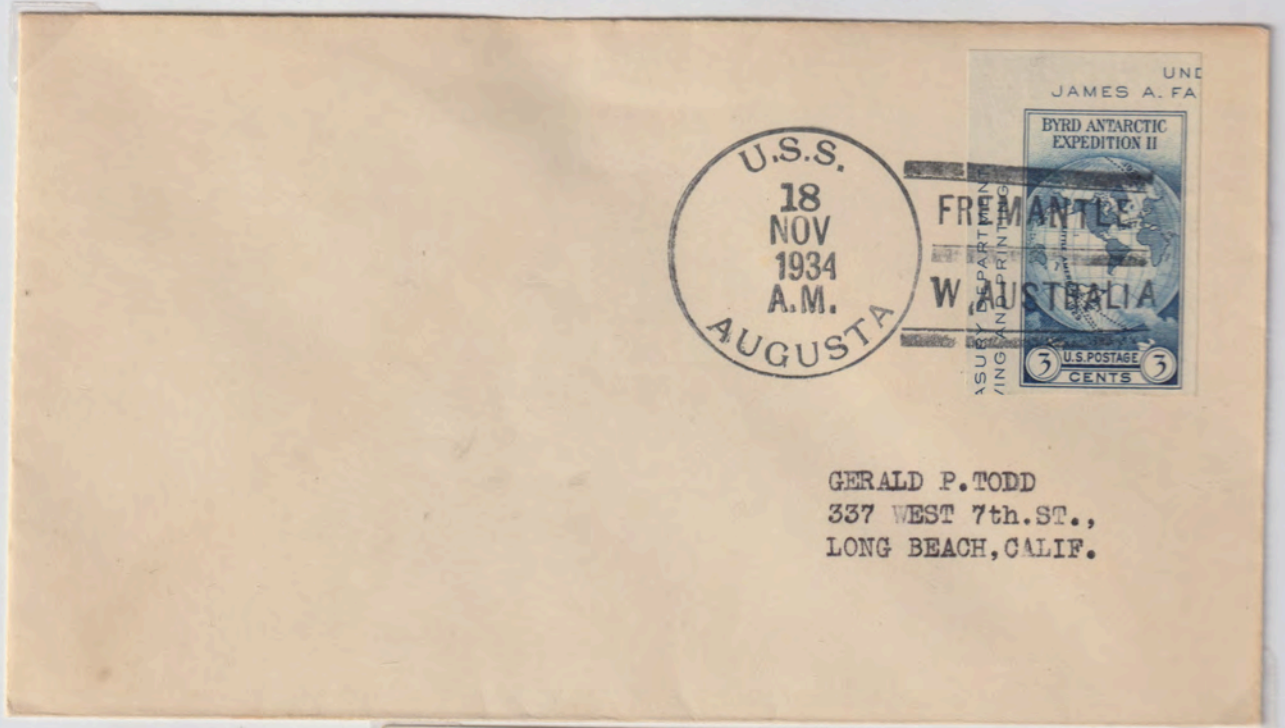
Inscribed HMAS Moresby, No. 4 North Wharf, Port of Fremantle, Western Australia 1 to 11 September 1934.



No mail has been recorded from warship visits to Fremantle from Netherlands 1930, Japan 1932, Germany 1933, India 1934, Britain 1934, Italy 1934, France 1934, Japan 1935, Britain 1936, Italy 1938 and France 1938. The lack of Royal Navy visits, outside Royal Visits, is notable.

UNITED STATES NAVY VISIT 1934

USS Augusta, flagship of the US Asiatic Fleet, ended her Australian tour at Fremantle (18 to 20 November 1934) before departing for Batavia. This visit produced the first foreign naval postmark used in Western Australia – one other strike is recorded. No Fremantle paquebot marking as cover may have entered US naval mail system. Postmarked USS Augusta 18 November 1934 Fremantle W. Australia



Inscribed
Warship "Augusta"
Fremantle
Nov 1934



NETHERLANDS SUBMARINE K XVIII 1935

Netherlands submarine K XVIII on its delivery voyage called at Cape Town and Mauritius. First Officer Wytema addressed this Government House Mauritius cover to Lady Jackson, Fremantle and the Mauritius stamp is cancelled with a Netherlands Marine cachet and endorsed 'per Sub K XVIII'. Submarine K XVIII was at Fremantle from 20 June 1935 to 2 July before proceeding to Soerabaya arriving 11 July.

Registered Soerabaya 2 August 1938, Perth 20 August, Fremantle 2 September, Fremantle 6 September, Not known by letter carrier cachet, Unclaimed cachet, Dead Letter Office Perth 6 September, Soerabaya 4 October, Dordrecht 30 October



The intended recipient may have been Mrs. H. Jackson of Peppermint Grove.

SECTION D

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE

As a result of the 1933 Secession Referendum, defence was upgraded in WA: the Army mounted two 6" guns from HMAS Sydney at Rottneest, the Air Force opened Pearce Station and the navy sent the sloop HMAS Yarra to Fremantle for two months a year in 1937, 1938 and 1939. This gave the Naval Staff Office located in Cliff Street Fremantle something to do. The adjoining depot was designated HMAS Cerberus V. No mail from Yarra, Naval Staff Office or Cerberus V for this period has been recorded.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**



Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Office
St. Kilda Road
Melbourne
Vic

Government departments (Royal Australian Navy) did not receive a postal concession so this one ounce cover (at civilian rates) paid 2d postage, 6d, airmail, 3d registration = 11d
Fremantle 14 August 1940, Perth 14 August, Melbourne 16 August

On the outbreak of war the District Naval Officer was upgraded to Senior Naval Officer, Naval Control of Shipping Service commenced, and HMAS Sydney, HMAS Voyager and HMAS Vampire were sent from Sydney to patrol Indian Ocean shipping routes. Sydney arrived at Fremantle on 27 August 1939 and the destroyers arrived on 14 September (having broken down en route). No mail recorded from these ships at this period. The RAN did not operate a post office at Fremantle but instead used the civilian Fremantle Post Office. Mail from the Naval Staff Office usually showed a return address and did not have a security cancel.

NAVAL OFFICE 1914

The Royal Australian Navy established a Naval Office in Western Australia in 1914 but no mail has been recorded. On 25 August 1916 the Naval Board approved the appointment of the OIC Broome Wireless Station to act as a censor. No specific censor markings are recorded for Broome. Given limited language capacity and other duties, it is possible the Broome censor checked outgoing mail and referred other items to Perth. The pencil mark may have indicated to local postal officials that the top cover was passed for transmission.

Broome 2 November 1916, Singapore 9 November



Broome
12 January 1917
Perth
Censor cachet