

SECURITY CANCELS

The boxed paquebot marking was introduced at Fremantle in 1928 and used as a security cancel on various naval mail.

HMA Ships cachet authorizing free postage, boxed Paquebot

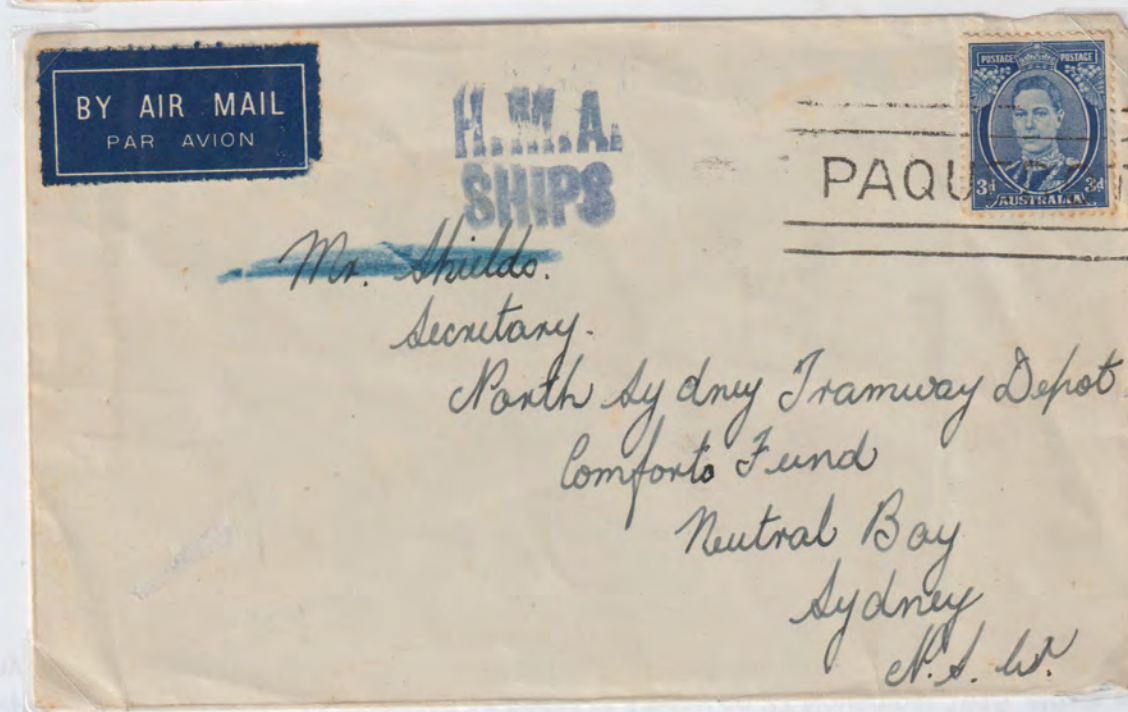


Boxed HMA Sip cachet, boxed Paquebot

SECURITY CANCELS

The Fremantle Paquebot without datecase is recorded used between 1942 and 1944. Minesweeper HMAS Launceston arrived Fremantle on 18 August 1942 en route to Colombo.

Tombstone censor cachet dated 20 August 1942, HMA Ships cachet, Passed free of postage cachet (unknown location), readdressed 2 Garrison battalion Fremantle, readdressed 5<sup>th</sup> Gar Btn Swanbourne, Mil. P.O. Swanbourne 1 September received



HMA Ships cachet, Paquebot without datecase.

SECURITY CANCELS

The Fremantle 6 line machine cancel without datecase is recorded used in 1944.  
HMA Ships cachet, Perth censor label and cachet



It is not known whether this is a Western Australian postmark.  
HMA Ships cachet, tombstone censor cachet, 6 straight line cancel

UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT 137

USN P.O. 137 had an office in the Finnerty Street Barracks and a Fleet P.O. in Fremantle.  
Supply Depot cachet (red), Fremantle 23 October 1942 cancel

NAVY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT  
FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Millars Timber & Trading Co. Ltd.,  
St. George's House,  
PERTH. W.A.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE



NAVY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT  
FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Messrs. Dalgety & Co. Ltd.,  
15 William Street,  
PERTH.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE



Supply Depot cachet (red), Fremantle 16 December 1942 cancel

**UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT 137**

This is the only time foreign stamps have been accepted for postage on mail posted at a post office in Western Australia.

Supply Depot cachet (purple), US Navy 4 bar cancel 21 October 1944

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$30

U.S. NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT  
NAVY 137  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



W.A. Government Railways,  
Bridge Street,  
PERTH. W.A.

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
NAVY 137 (ONE-THREE-SEVEN)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$30



MR. H. S. HYDE,  
Master Builder,  
2, James Street,  
Bassendean W.A.

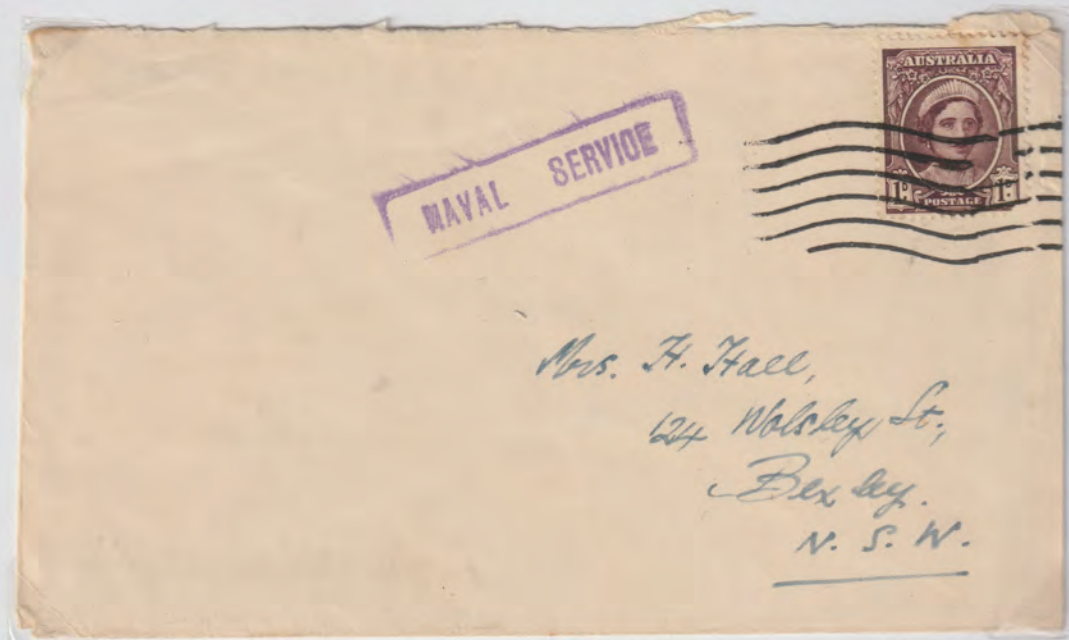
Supply Depot cachet black), US Navy 4 bar cancel 29 November 1944

## SECTION E

### CONVOY

As in World War 1, convoys of transports and naval escorts in 1940/42 carried troops to and from the Middle East campaign and naval mail from them is likewise difficult to identify. Signaller Alan Hall was in HMAS Canberra on some or all of the 22 occasions she called in to Fremantle on patrol or convoy escort duties between January 1940 and February 1942.

Boxed Naval Service concession cachet, Fremantle 6 wavy line with broken bottom line cancel without datecase



Armed Merchant Cruiser Kanimbla was requisitioned by the Royal Navy in 1939 and was at Fremantle on 2 February 1942 on convoy duties.

Tombstone censor cachet 2 February 1942, defaced barred 8 numeral cancel

## MEDITERRANEAN

Unlike World War 1, the Royal Australian Navy was involved in a number of actions and suffered significant losses in the course of World War 2. The Mediterranean was the scene of much activity and action for the RAN in 1940/42.

## HMAS VENDETTA

HMAS Vendetta was acquired by the RAN in 1933 as part of the Scrap Iron Flotilla of destroyers. This cover was sent. As Vendetta was leaving Malta after refit to join the war against Italy. She was broken down in Singapore when the Japanese attacked and was towed to Fremantle arriving 4 March 1942 before another tow to Melbourne.

Perth  
15 July 1940  
Perth censor  
label and cachet



Perth  
4 September 1941  
Ceylon censor label

Fleet Auxilliary Hong Siang was a Victualing Store Issuing ship based in Colombo before being withdrawn to Kilindini in 1943.

MFA HONG SIANG

## HMAS CANBERRA

In June 1940 heavy cruiser HMAS Canberra was on convoy duty between Fremantle and Colombo.

HMA Ships concession cachet, ship's censor cachet, Paquebot Sydney 8 July 1940, censor cachet



HMA Ships concession cachet, ship's censor cachet, Fremantle 8 bar dumb obliterator  
This cover is paid for airmail but carried to Fremantle before posting. HMAS Canberra was sunk on 9 August 1942 by Japanese torpedoes and American 'friendly fire' in the Battle of Savo Island.



MEDITERRANEAN

Sender's name and address erased by censor.  
Tombstone censor cachet, Sydney 9 October 1940



Tombstone censor cachet, Sydney 31 October 1940

## HMAS PLATYPUS

Recommissioned, in May 1941 HMAS Platypus became Base Ship, Darwin and remained there until January 1943.

HM Australian Ships concession cachet, tombstone censor cachet, Fremantle 10 bar dumb cancel



Built in Fremantle and requisitioned in 1940 as Examination Lugger. In Fremantle 2 May 1942.

HM Australian Ships concession cachet, tombstone censor cachet dated 2 May 1942, Perth 2 May

**HMAS KING BAY**

**NZHS MAUNGANUI**

Requisitioned from and manned by Union Steamship Co, the medical staff were NZ military. Departed Suez 10 June 1941 with NZ casualties from Greece and Crete. Arrived Fremantle 30 June.

Dunedin 16 June 1941, mss Disembarked at Fremantle for discharge return to DRO Sydney LW 1/7/41, Egypt Prepaid 19 August, boxed Aust. Army Base P.O. Cannot be traced from address given cachet x 2 (Melbourne), RTS cachet

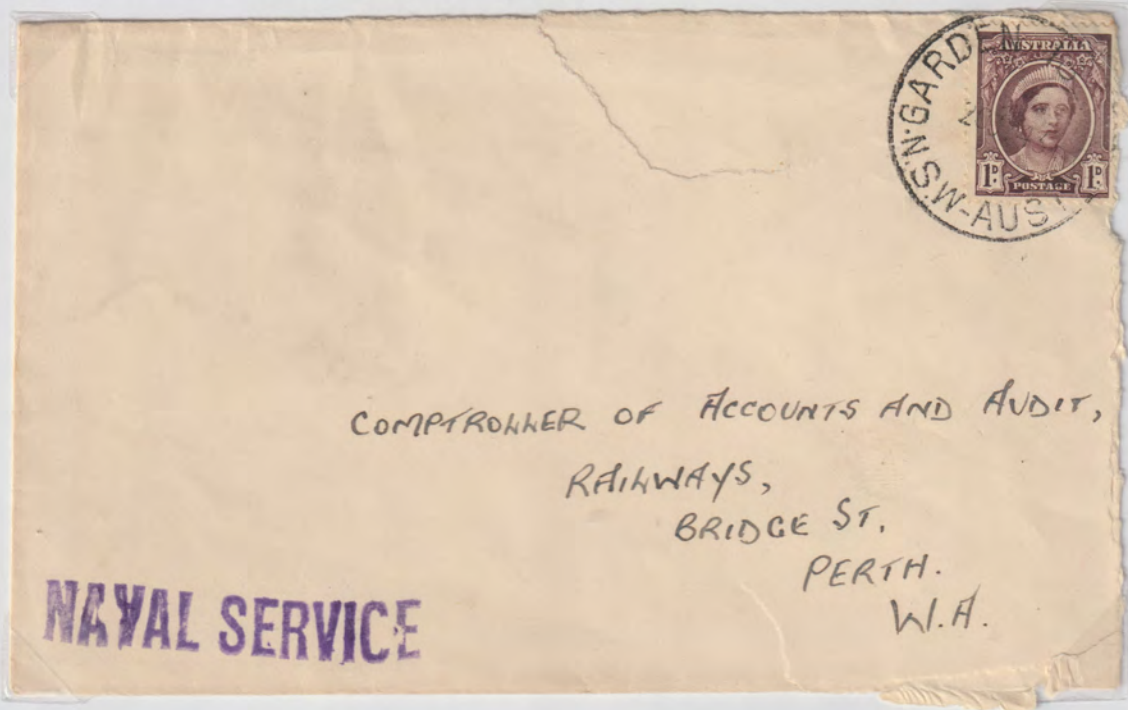


NZHS Maunganui was at Fremantle 26/27 April 1942.  
Boxed censor cachet Sister Fletcher NZANS, Perth 27 April 1942

## SHORE ESTABLISHMENTS

Incoming mail from RAN shore establishments in Australia is identifiable as they continued to use distinctive datestamps to cancel mail.

Garden Island, NSW 20 July 1943, received 26 July



INWARDS MAIL : SURFACE

Naval security procedures were sufficient to ensure that identification and location of ships from which mail was sent home could not be identified.

HMA Ship concession cachet, tombstone censor cachet 18 August 1942, Sydney dumb Defence Force Mail cancel



HMA Ships concession cachet, tombstone censor cachet 9 July 1943, Sydney dumb Passed Free cancel

INWARDS MAIL : AIR

HMA Ships concession cachet, tombstone censor cachet, New Zealand stamp cancelled  
Fremantle dumb 6 wavy lines.



Tombstone censor cachet, stamp cancelled 30 May 1943

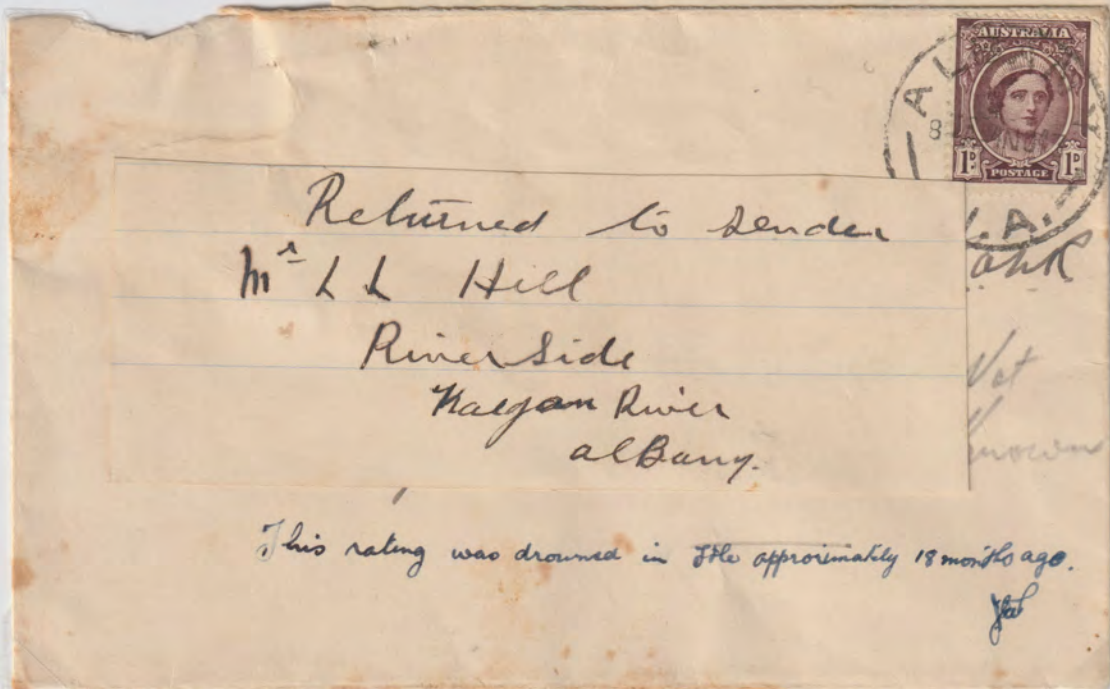
## JAPAN

Australia declared war on Japan on 8 December 1941 but naval preparations with Britain, USA, Netherlands and New Zealand had already commenced. The decision by Washington to withdraw naval units from the Philippines to Java and Australia rather than to Singapore, as previously agreed, compromised the defence of Singapore. It led to Fremantle becoming the second largest submarine base in the world.

### HMAS WOOLONGONG

Corvette HMAS Woolongong was the last Australian warship to leave Singapore and the only surviving vessel of its convoy to reach Fremantle on 20 March 1942 from where it carried out escort duties until September 1942.

HMA Ships  
concession cachet  
Fremantle  
boxed Paquebot



Boom defence vessel HMAS Bonthorpe was based at Fremantle. Mss "This rating was drowned in Ftle approximately 18 months ago."

Albany 4 November 1943

HMAS BONTHORPE