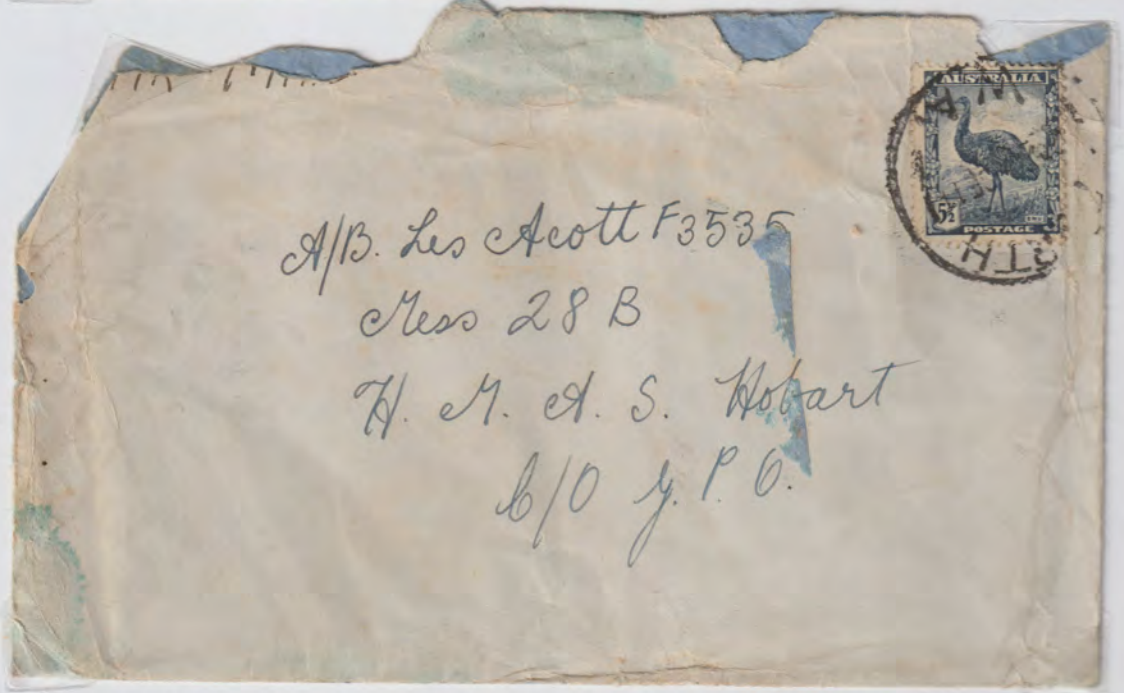


### HMAS PERTH

After service in the Mediterranean, light cruiser HMAS Perth departed Fremantle on 17 February 1942. As part of a 14 vessel American, British, Dutch, Australian fleet, Perth took part in the Battle of Java Sea on 27 February in which 5 Allied vessels were lost. At midnight 28 February, HMAS Perth and USS Houston ran into the Japanese invasion force and were sunk attempting to escape through the Sunda Strait.  
 Perth 20 November 1941, Perth censor label and cachet, readdressed, boxed Return to sender on Naval Board instructions cachet, Dead Letter Office Perth 25 August 1942



Light cruiser HMAS Hobart was refueling so missed the Battle of Java Sea. Was torpedoed on 20 July 1943 and put to sea in December 1944 after repairs in Sydney.  
 Perth ? December 1944

### HMAS HOBART

## ROYAL NAVY

In the initial battles of 1942 the Royal Navy lost 3 battleships, 1 aircraft carrier, 3 heavy cruisers and the naval base at Singapore while inflicting minimal damage on the Japanese fleet. The Eastern Fleet withdrew, initially to Gan, to Kilindini, Kenya from where it supported the invasion of Madagascar in July 1942. Apart from HMS Kanimbla (later handed over to the RAN) the RN had limited presence at Fremantle 1942/3.

3.515.

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

AERIAL SERVICE  
COMPLETED. SYDNEY

*The Senior Naval Officer  
Auckland  
New Zealand.*

ADMIRALTY SERVICE

If undelivered to  
be returned to :-

World War 1 battleship HMS Ramillies (with HRH Prince Phillip) was at Fremantle 20 to 21 December 1939 en route to Wellington to escort NZ troops to the Middle East. As there was no airmail service between Australia and New Zealand in 1939 this letter may have arrived about the same time as HMS Ramillies. On 30 May 1942 HMS Ramillies was torpedoed by a Japanese midget submarine at Madagascar and returned to UK for repairs.

1/1d rate for 1.5 oz airmail letter. Fremantle 20 December 1939, boxed Aerial service completed Sydney, Auckland 2 January 1940

**HMS RAMILLIES**

52  
**UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT 137**

In February/March 1942 51 USN ships and submarines arrived at Fremantle and USN Supply Depot 137 was established with HQ at Dalgety Buildings, Queen Victoria Street, Old Women's Home Finnerty Street barracks, accommodation in 4 requisitioned hotels, North Wharf sheds supply and maintenance workshops, and munitions depot at Northam. Typed Supply Depot address, defaced barred numeral 8 cancel

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

United States Naval Supply Depot,  
Fremantle, Australia.

Official Business.

Dalgety & Co. Ltd.,

15 William Street,

P E R T H. W.A.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT  
FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Australian Arm Hiring Board

Swan Barracks

Perth, W.A.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE

PAQUEBOT  
25

# USS BLACK HAWK

Destroyer Tender USS Black Hawk was one of 35 USN warships to arrive at Fremantle in the week beginning 3 March 1942 but was only in port from 6 to 10 March before heading east.

Perth 15 March 1943, Perth censor label and cachet



Despite a short stay in port, USS Black Hawk created continuing interest. It is not known why Miss Bowler thought a 1/- stamp was required.

Perth 27 July 1943, Perth censor label and cachet

# USN SUBMARINE TENDERS

USS Pelias was at Albany from 23 July 1942 until 23 October when she departed for Fremantle, remaining there until 15 May 1946. USN submarines were ineffective in 1942/3 until Washington finally accepted the results of unofficial torpedo tests in Princess Royal Harbour that proved US torpedoes ran deep and missed their target. USN censor cachet, barred defaced numeral 8 cancel

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Bing Taylor, SK1/c  
U.S.S. Pelias,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
Fremantle, W. A.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR P  
PAYMENT C



Mrs. Betty Roe,  
86-A First Avenue,  
Mt. Lawleigh,  
Perth, W. A.



A.N. Crow Suite 9  
U.S.S. Euryale A.S. 22  
To Fleet P.O.  
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.

181.



Mrs. Arnold W. Crow  
25 Martin Ave.  
Nedlands, W. A.  
Australia

USS Euryale was at Fremantle from 28 August 1944 to 11 April 1945.  
US Navy 8 October 1945

# USN SUBMARINE TENDERS

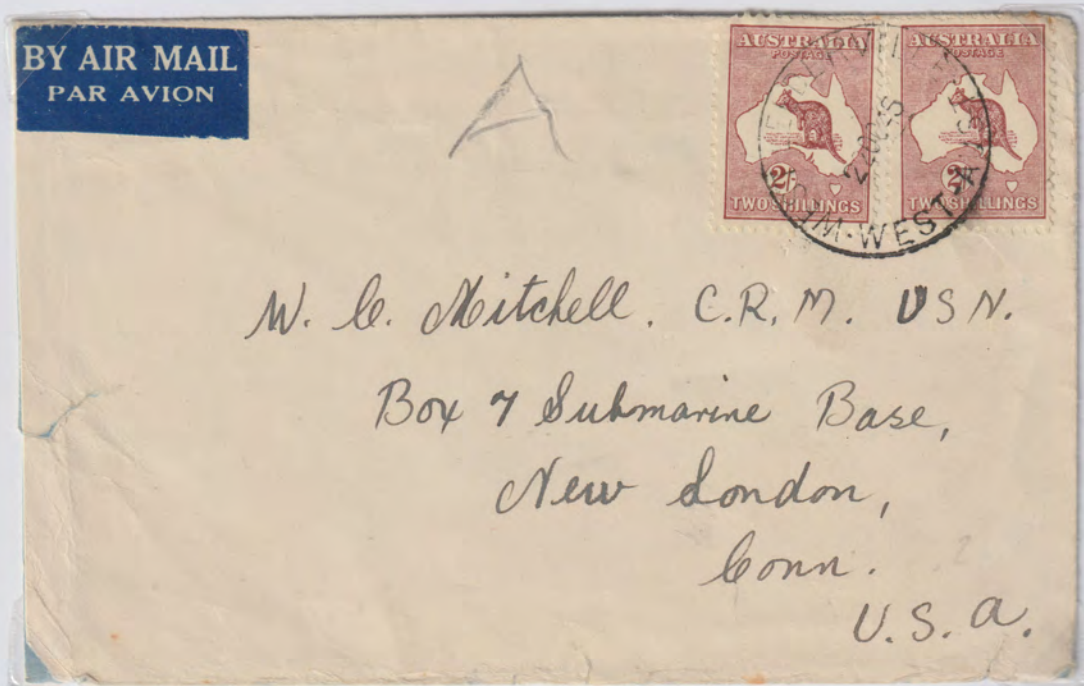
USS Orion was at Fremantle from 5 January 1944 to 6 August when it left for Advanced Sub Base A Mios Woendi to support the Philippines campaign.  
USN censor cachet, US Navy 7 September 1944



USS Clytie was at Fremantle from 4 April 1945 to 14 September when she left for the US.  
Perth 23 January 1946, Return to sender US Fleet records Office cachet

# UNKNOWN SUBMARINE

It has not yet been established what posting W.C. Mitchell CRM had in WA.  
USN censor cachet, US Navy 21 December 1944, inscribed Perth, West Australia



4/- trans-Pacific airmail rate, West Leederville 22 October 1945

UNKNOWN

While the sender did not seem to know in which ship O/S Doble served, the Fleet post office seems to have resolved the matter.

Perth 21 February 1944, Perth censor label and cachet



The back flap is missing so the sender's return address is gone.

Perth censor cachet, Fremantle 8 March 1945



**UNITED STATES NAVY PAROL WING TEN**

USN PatWing10 lost 3 Catalina at Darwin and 2 planes at Broome in their withdrawal from the Philippines. They also lost a tender USS Langley and 140 fighter aircraft off Java. PatWing10 arrived at USN Base Crawley 7 March 1942 and conducted long range reconnaissance and mine laying operations in Netherlands East Indies. Pat Wing Ten, Perth 23 April 1942, received 24 April

PAT WING TEN



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS  
BRIDGE STREET  
PERTH AUSTRALIA.

Supply Office  
Patrol Wing TEN  
UNITED STATES NAVY



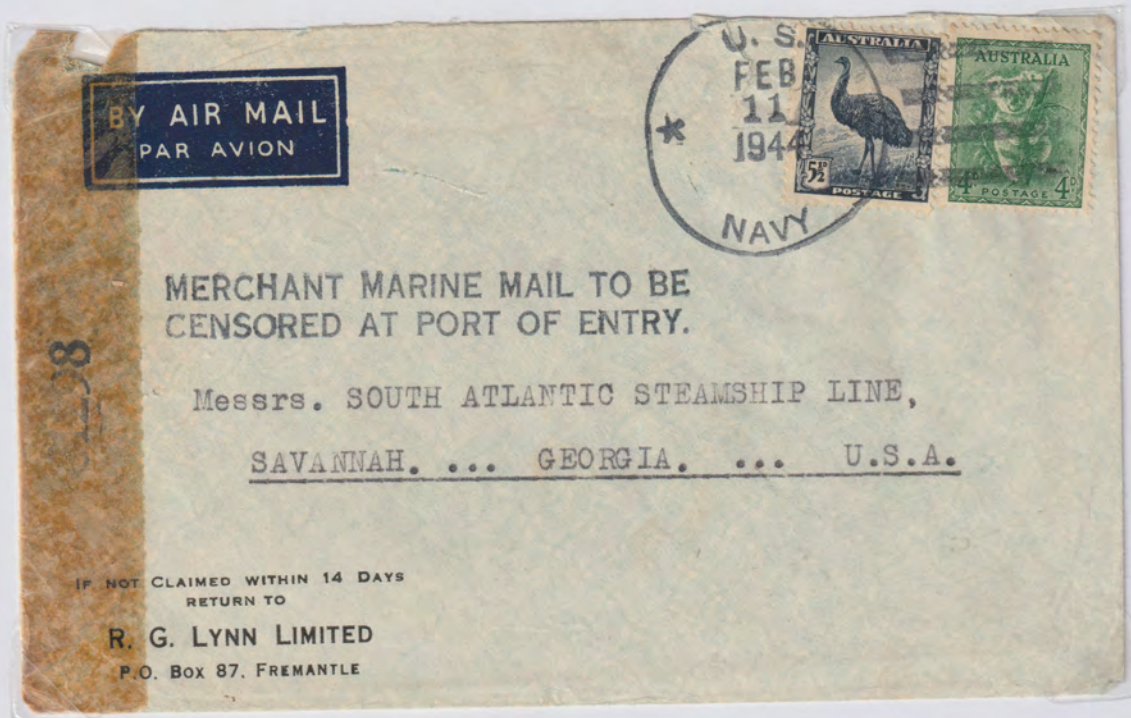
Commonwealth of Australia  
Hirings Service  
W.A. L of C Area  
Francis St., Perth

Supply Office Patrol Wing Ten United States Navy, boxed Fremantle Paquebot

# MERCHANT MARINE

R.G. Lynn Ltd were shipping agents at Fremantle. It is not known which Navy Post Office used this cancel with stars at sides.

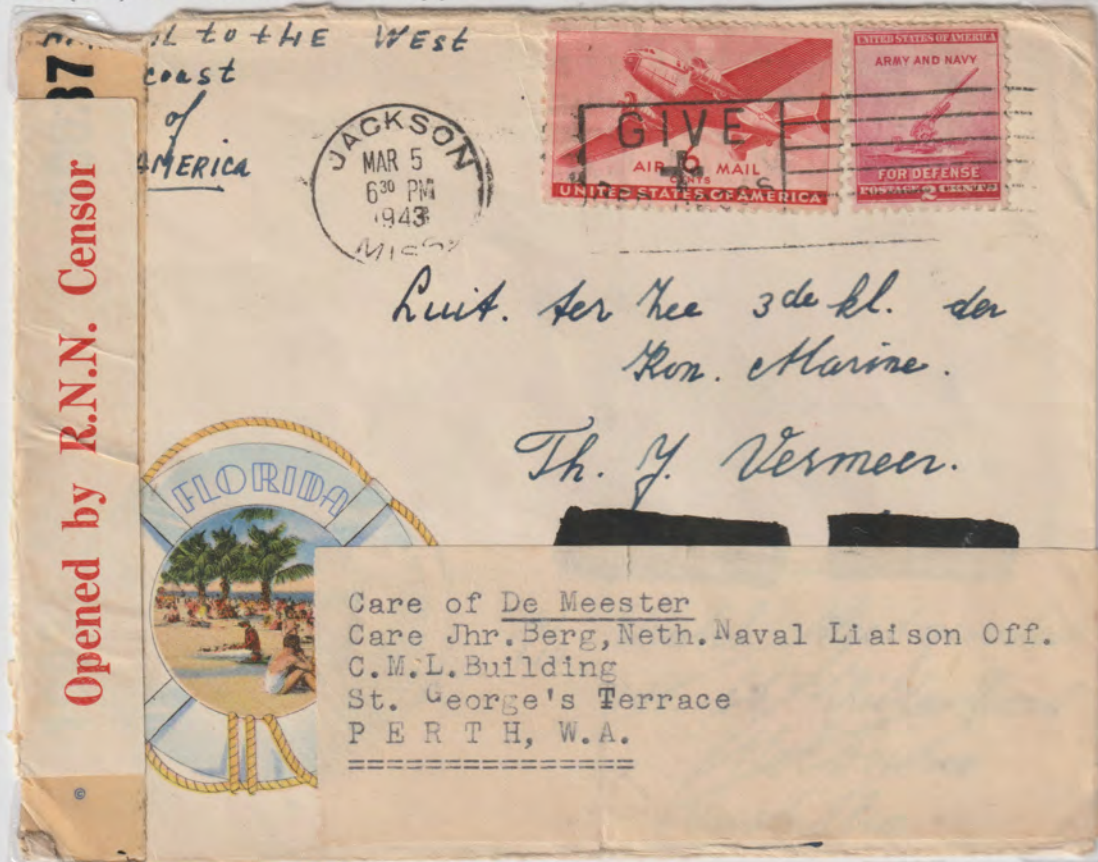
Merchant Marine mail to be censored at port of entry cachet, US Navy 11 February 1944, US censor label



ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY  
HNLMS TROMP

Light cruiser HLNMS Tromp arrived at Fremantle on 27 February 1942 after being damaged in the Battle of Badung Strait. After repairs she patrolled from Fremantle from 14 July 1942 until January 1944. On 15 April 1942 Dutch aviation training personnel were transferred from Parafield (SA) to Jackson, Mississippi USA as RAAF requirements grew.

Jackson, Miss.  
5 March 1943  
US censor label  
RNN (Melbourne)  
censor label  
and cachet  
5 April



Jackson, Miss. 2 April 1943, US censor label, RNN (Melbourne) censor label and cachet 20 May

ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY  
OFFICIAL OVAL RUBBER STAMPS

TYPE 1  
Perth 11 February 1943

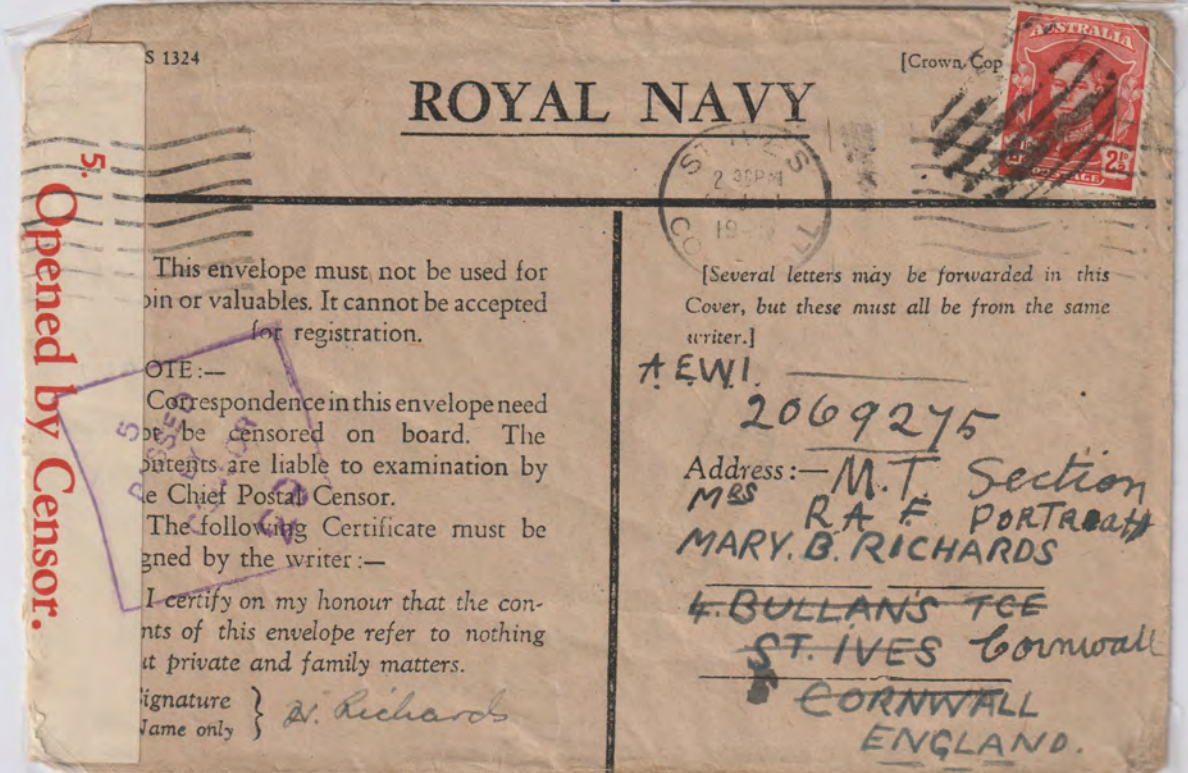
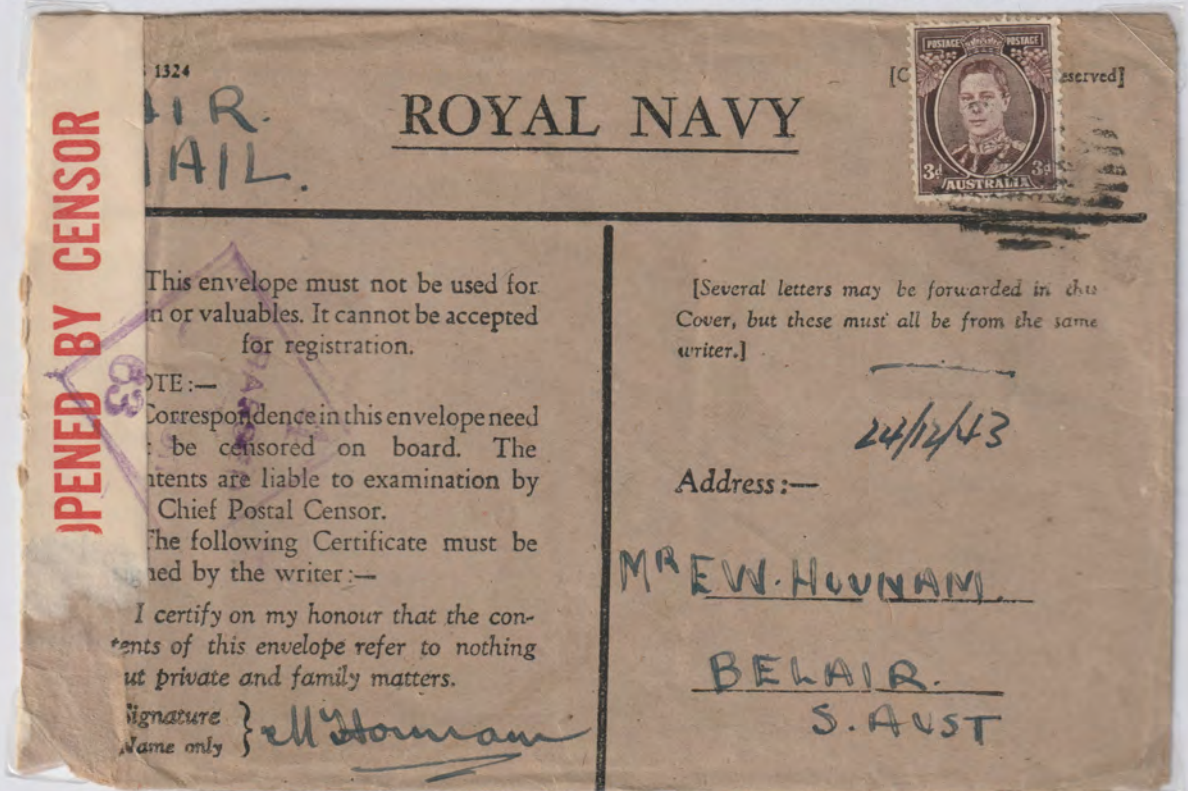


TYPE 2  
Registration label, St. George's Terrace 20 January 1944, Perth 21 January, received 21 January.  
From July 1942 Commander Gustaaf Berg was senior Dutch Officer with HQ in CML  
Buildings St. George's Terrace Perth.

# ROYAL NAVY

In January 1944 the newer Eastern Fleet battleships and aircraft carriers arrived at Ceylon from UK to supplement the existing ships. HMS Porpoise was the first British submarine to operate from Fremantle on 10 August 1944 and submarine tender HMS Maidstone arrived on 5 September.

Mss 24/12/43, Fremantle 10 bar dumb cancel, South Australia censor label and cachet

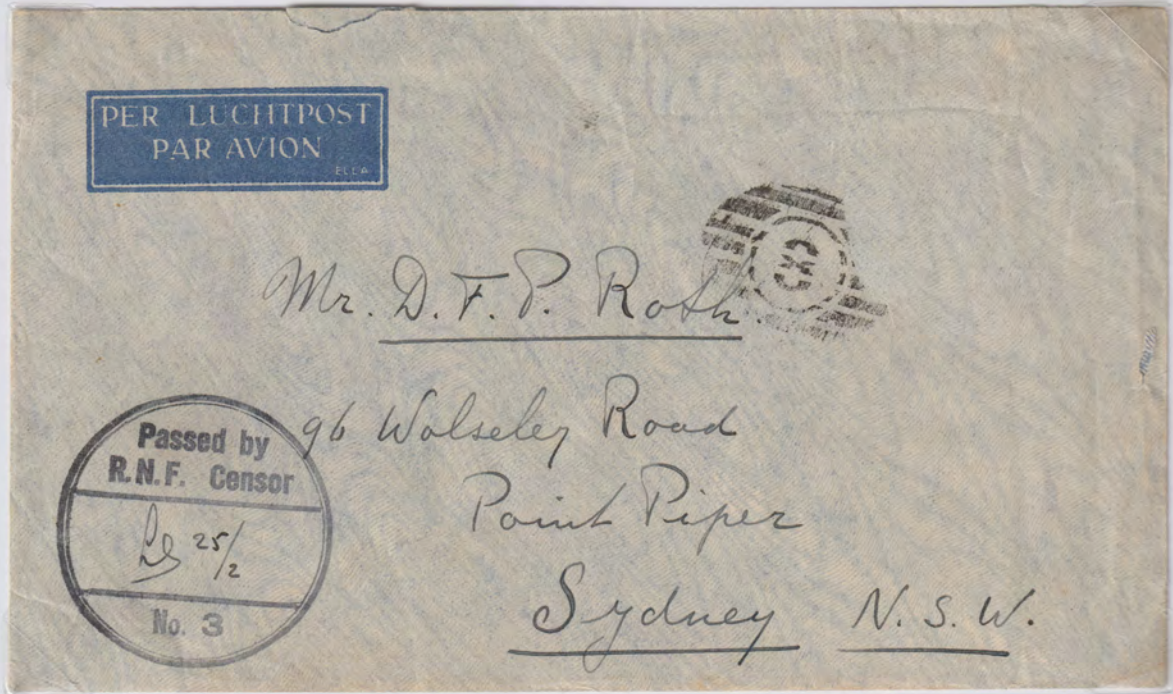


Fremantle 8 bar dumb cancel, Perth censor label and cachet, St Ives 21 January 1945

**ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY**

In March 1943 three minesweepers and three submarines (worn out but used for training) arrived at Fremantle. In October 1942 the light anti-aircraft cruiser Jacob van Heemskerck and two destroyers arrived at Fremantle. Later in the war other Dutch submarines transferred to Fremantle.

RNF Censor No 3 cachet dated 25/2 (possibly on board HNLMS Tromp arrived Fremantle 27 February 1942), defaced BN 8 Fremantle, stamp missing



Type 2 RNN cachet, Perth 3 October 1945, received 4 October

## ROYAL NAVY: PACIFIC FLEET

The British Pacific Fleet was formed on November 1944 and grew to over 200 ships and submarines based at Sydney and Manus. Battleship Howe and destroyers Quality, Quadrant and Quilliam passed through Fremantle on 11 December 1944. Lt Copeland established British Fleet Mail Office # 5 at Fremantle on 28 February 1945. Fremantle 10 bar dumb obliterator



Fleet Mail office # 5 ORS  
16 March 1945  
(3 strikes recorded)

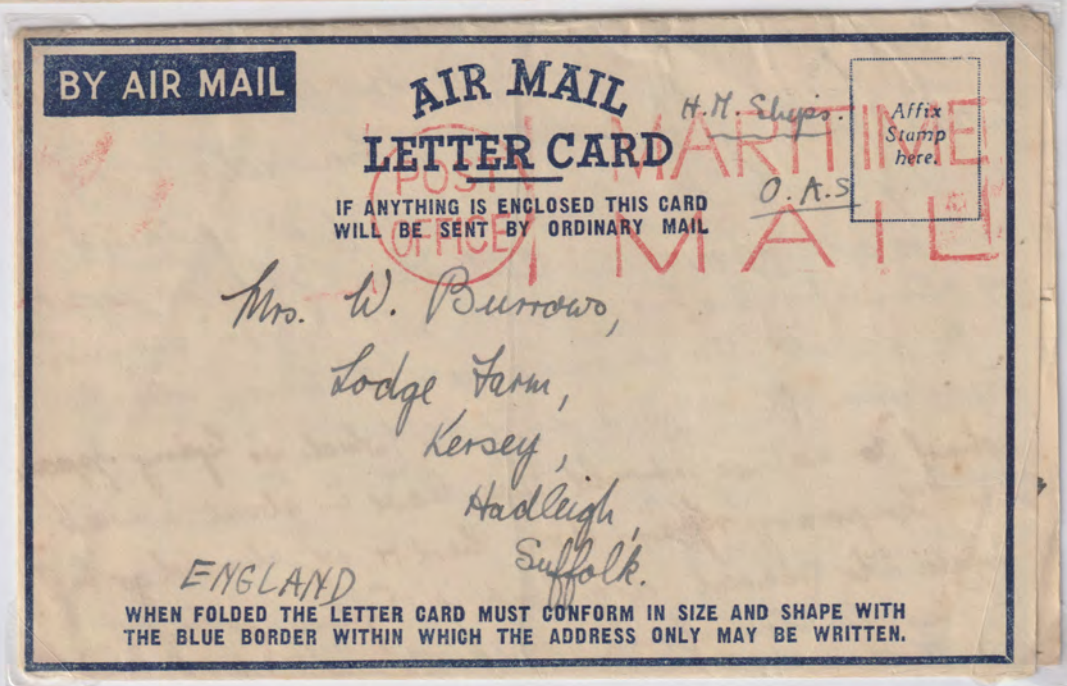
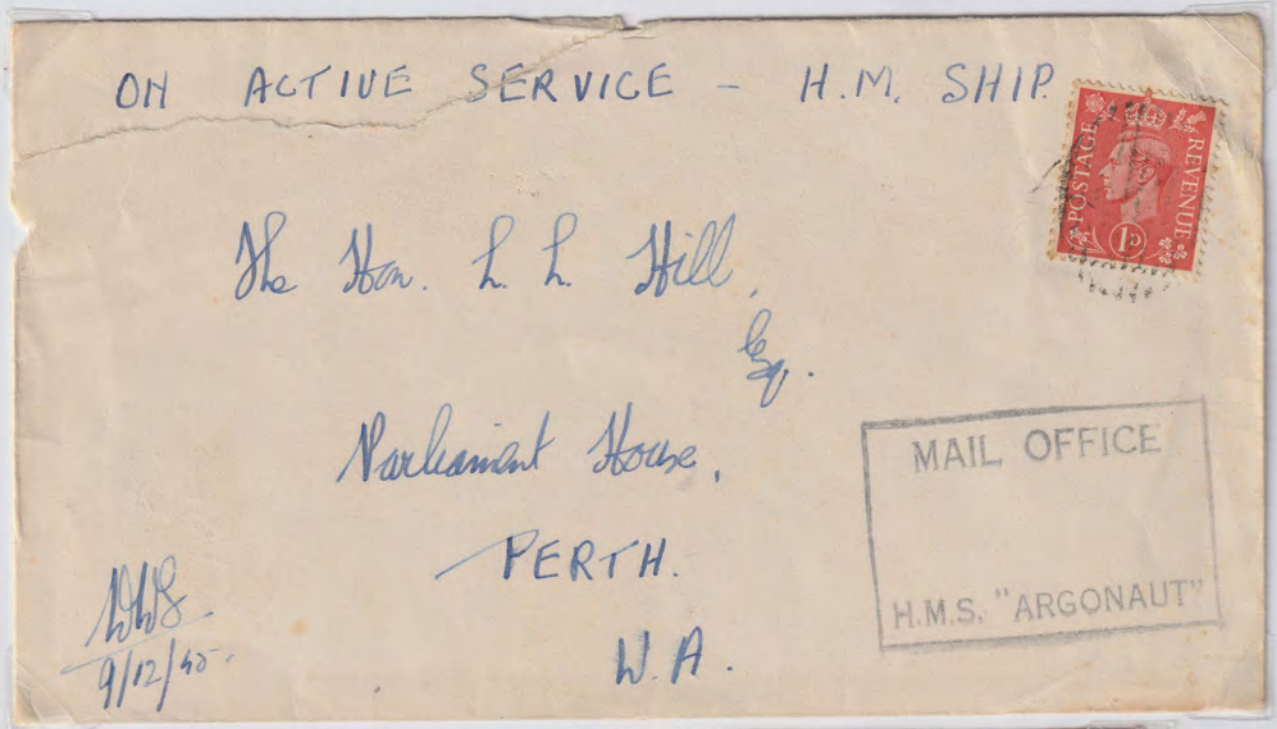


Battleship HMS Howe arrived Fremantle 13 June 1945 and S-class submarines HMS Sidon and HMS Stubborn arrived 14 June.  
4d Australian (airmail), 3d British (registration)  
Tombstone censor cachet 14/6/45, boxed Naval Service cancel, boxed Registered BFMO 5 15 June 1945 (only recorded strike), Fremantle 15 June, Perth 15 June, Brisbane 17 June

# SECTION F

## ROYAL NAVY : HOMEWARD BOUND

Light cruiser HMS Argonaut was at Fremantle between 5 to 10 December 1945.  
Initialed 9/12/45, boxed Mail Office HMS Argonaut, Fremantle 10 bar dumb cancel, Fremantle 10 December backstamp



Aircraft carriers HMS Victorious and HMS Indomitable made 3 voyages in 1946 carrying British service personnel and war brides to UK.

"At the moment we are sitting pretty in the harbor at Fremantle owing to damage to the "Victorious" which we sustained coming through the Australian Bight.... Your loving daughter Mary."

Dated 1 May 1946, HM Ships O.A.S., Post Office Maritime Mail

**HMS VICTORIOUS**