

Middle East : Camps

MIL. P.O. NAVAL BASE [14/11/39 – 9/3/42]

Naval Base is a suburb of Fremantle, not a naval facility. The office closed on 13 December 1939, reopened on 18 January 1940 and had two datestamps.

Datestamp
T through V

Registration label with mss office name, Mil. P.O. Naval Base 15 November 1939 (ERD), Fremantle 15 November, Melbourne 19 November, Williamstown 20 November



Registration label with office cachet, Mil. P.O. Naval Base 19 February 1940, Fremantle 19 February, Sydney 24 February, Strathfield 26 February

MIL. P.O. NAVAL BASE

Datestamp

T between A and V)

Printed registration label with office name error, Mil. P.O. Naval Base 10 August 1940,
Fremantle 10 August, Melbourne 16 August, Geelong 16 August



For some reason, Mil. P.O. Naval Base had two concession cachets each with its own
strangely worded message Naval Base Camp Defence Half Rate
Datestamp T through V
Mil. P.O. Naval Base 5 June 1940

Middle East: Camps

MIL. P.O. FORT SWANBOURNE [22/1/40 – 6/8/40]

The Fort Forrest Examination Battery was moved to Swanbourne before the war and the post office opened as an Allowance Office. This registered letter was posted 2km away at the local civilian post office. The Army transported mail from military post offices to the point where it entered the civilian postal system.

Registration label, Claremont 28 March 1940, Sydney 3 April



MIL. P.O. SWANBOURNE [6 August 1940 – 21 August 1943]

Concession cachet, Mil. P.O. Swanbourne 21 December 1940

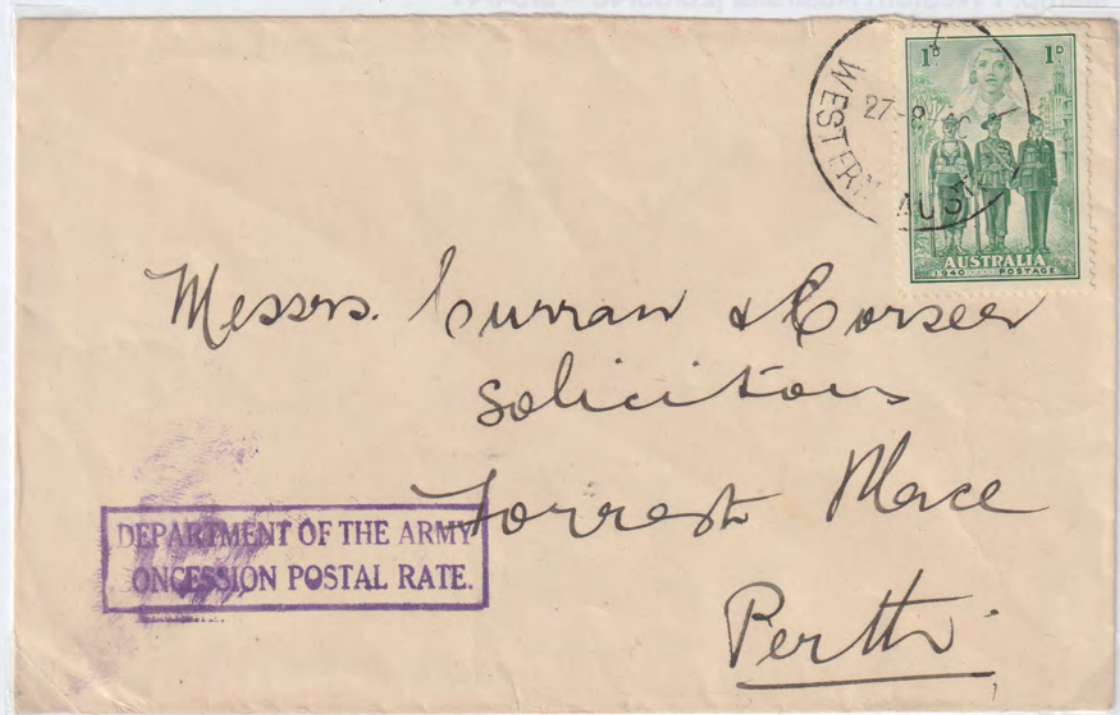
Middle East: Camps

MIL. P.O. SHOWGROUNDS [26/3/40 – 16/12/44]

RAS Showgrounds Claremont. Two datestamps used in this period.

Relief stamp: I Western Australia [26/03/40 – 9/04/41]

Concession cachet, I Western Australia 27 August 1940



Large letters: Mil. P.O. Showgrounds [22/07/41 – 14/11/44]

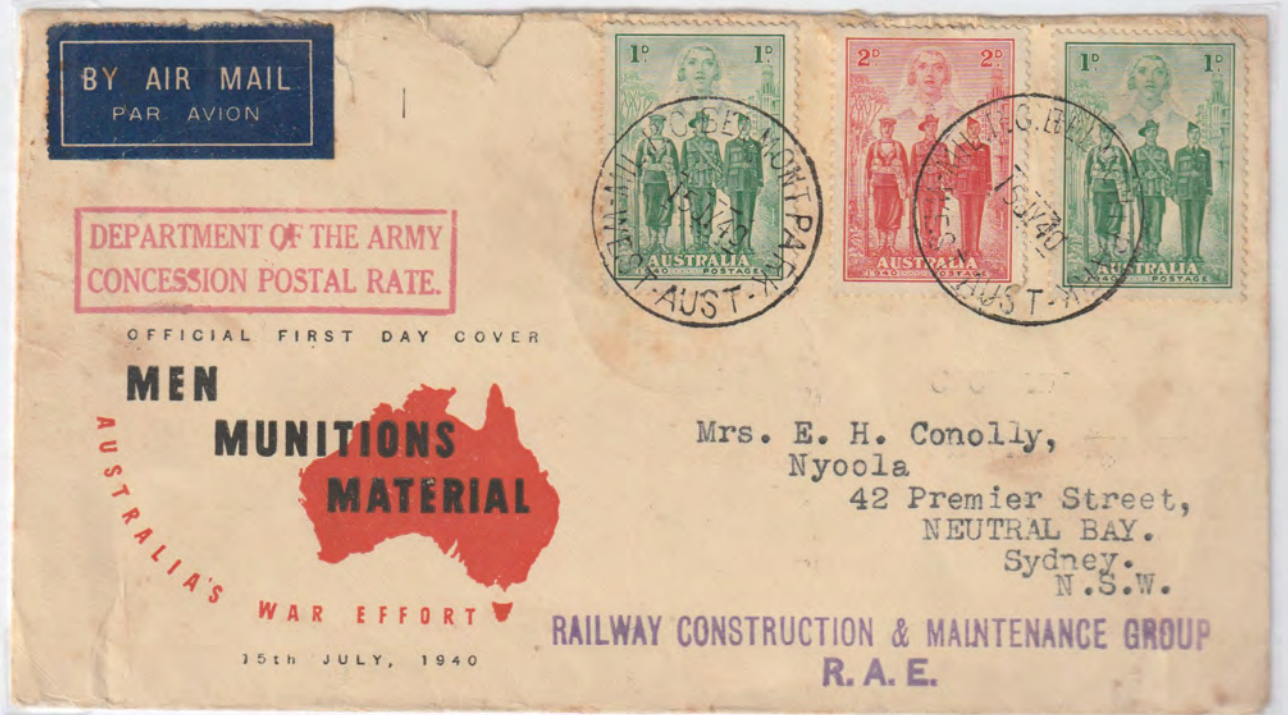
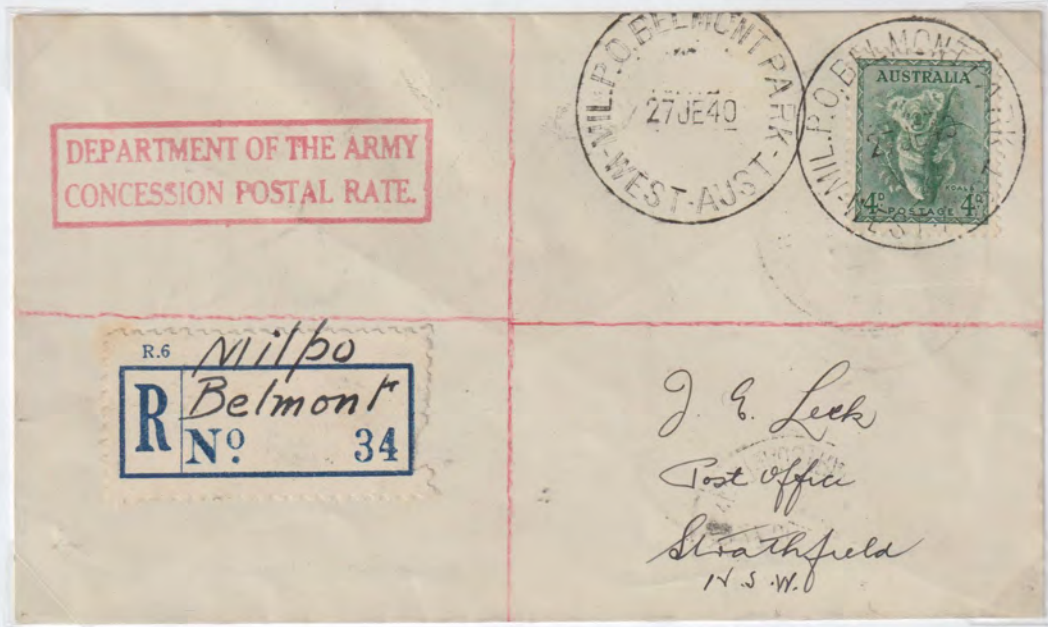
Concession cachet, Mil. P.O. Showgrounds 26 November 1941, Albany 27 November

Middle East: Camps

MIL. P.O. BELMONT [4/6/40 - 6/6/41]

Ascot Racecourse Belmont Park.

Registration mss name, concession cachet in red, Mil. P.O. Belmont Park 27 June 1940,
Sydney 1 July, Strathfield 1 July



Railway Construction and Maintenance Group R.A.E. cachet, Mil. P.O. Belmont Park
15 July 1940

Middle East: Camps

MIL. P.O. CANNING WEIR [14/10/40 - 23/12/40]

Civilian datestamp
from previous post office
used 14 to 17 October 1940

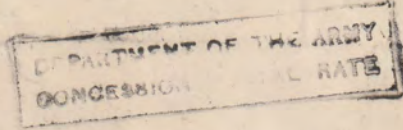


Military datestamp
used from
23 October 1940

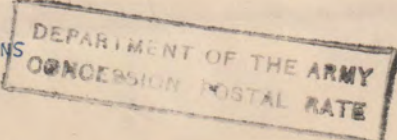


Manufacturer's
Proof strike
6 December 1949

Concession cachet
Mil. P.O. Canning Weir
23 October 1940



*Comptroller of Accounts & Audits
Railway Dept.
Perth*



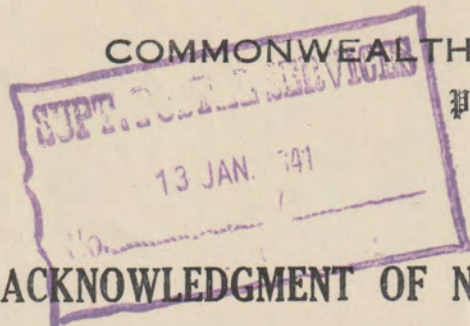
*The Manager
West Australian Newspapers
St Georges Terrace
Perth
WA*

25th LH (MG) Regt was encamped at Canning Weir in 1940 before moving to Northam
Concession cachet, Mil. P.O. Canning Weir 14 November 1940

Bunbury Showgrounds. Bunbury and Northam were the only named military post offices opened outside the metropolitan area in this period.

J Western Australia 10 January 1941

0.40/365.
N.O.O. 5.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Postmaster-General's Department,

X Post Office MIL. P.O. Bunbury.

..... 19.....

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT.

SIR,

I, Gordon Andrew STERRITT , beg to acknowledge
(Insert full Christian and Surname.)

the receipt of your communication of the 8th January, 19 41,

notifying my appointment as Non-official Postmaster at

..... Mil. Post Office, Bunbury, and, in reply thereto, to state that I am willing to accept such appointment upon the terms therein specified, and subject to the Regulations of the Postmaster-General's Department as therein mentioned.

I took charge of the office on the 6th January 1941

Yours faithfully,

G.A. Sterritt
.....
(Ordinary Signature.)



THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS,

..... PERTH

Middle East: Camps

MIL. P.O. KARRAKATTA [1/4/41 -]

Karrakatta had been a Details Camp in WW 1 and base for 3rd Field Artillery BDE in the 1930s but did not have a named Mil. PO until 1941. Other important WW 1 camps like Blackboy Hill did not get a named Mil. PO in WW 2. Karrakatta continued after the war as Irwin Barracks.

Registration label with office cachet, Mil. P.O. Karrakatta 5 June 1941, Perth 5 June, Sydney 9 June, Strathfield 9 June



Concession cachet, registration label, Mil. P.O. Karrakatta 20 November 1947, Perth 21 November, Nedlands 21 November

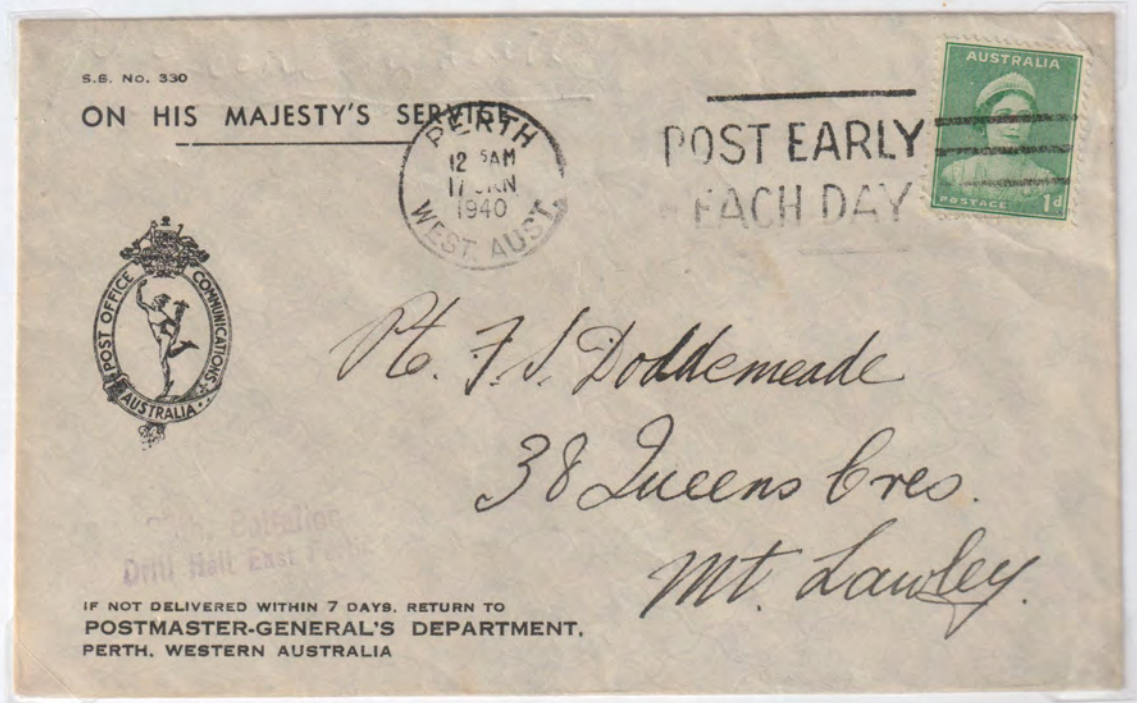
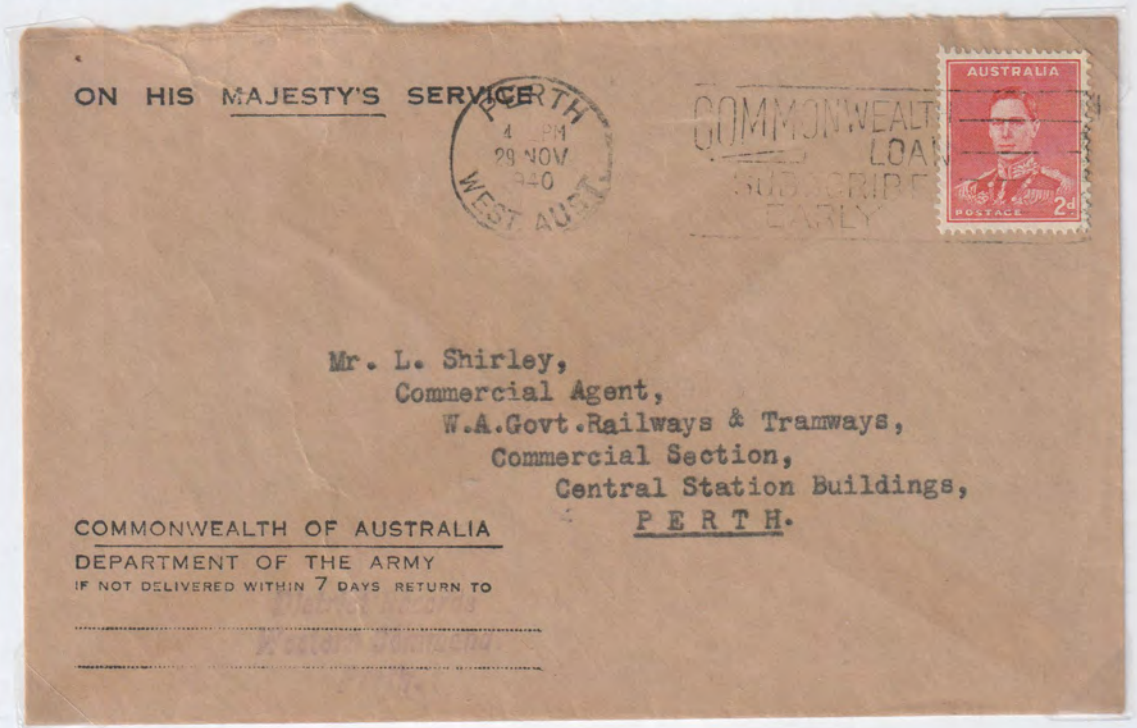
Given the limited military postal service in Western Australia 1939 – 1941, much of the military correspondence of the time was lodged at civilian post office.

Middle East : Civilian post offices

PERTH

In 1939 5th Military District was renamed Western Command with HQ in Swan Barracks, Francis St Perth but did not have a named military post office.

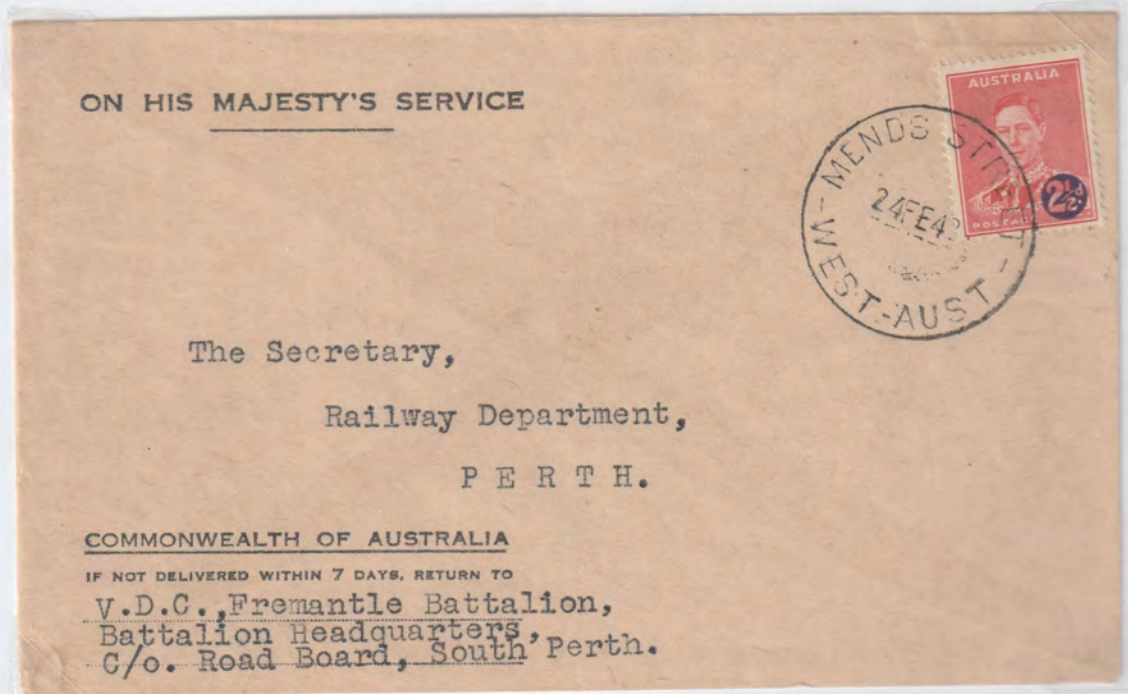
District Records Western Command Perth cachet, Perth 29 November 1940



28th Battalion Drill Hall East Perth cachet, Perth 11 June 1940

DONGARA

Dongara was part of the Geraldton Defence Sector (No 2 Rabbit Proof Fence to Lancelin) guarded by D Coy 19th Garrison Battalion and 7th VDC Battalion. From Geraldton to the NT border was guarded by 7 units with a total of 240 men.
Concession cachet, Dongara 30 August 1940



War Postage charge of halfpenny per postal item was levied from 10 December 1941 and was payable by the military but mail to and from forces personnel was exempt. 2d stamp surcharged to include the War Postage charge.

V.D.C., Fremantle Battalion, Battalion Headquarters, c/o. Road Board, South Perth
Mends Street 24 February 1942

GUILDFORD

Concession cachet, Guildford 12 August 1940



MIDLAND JUNCTION

Midland Junction WAGR railway workshops serviced requirements for military trains but also produced artillery shell casings.

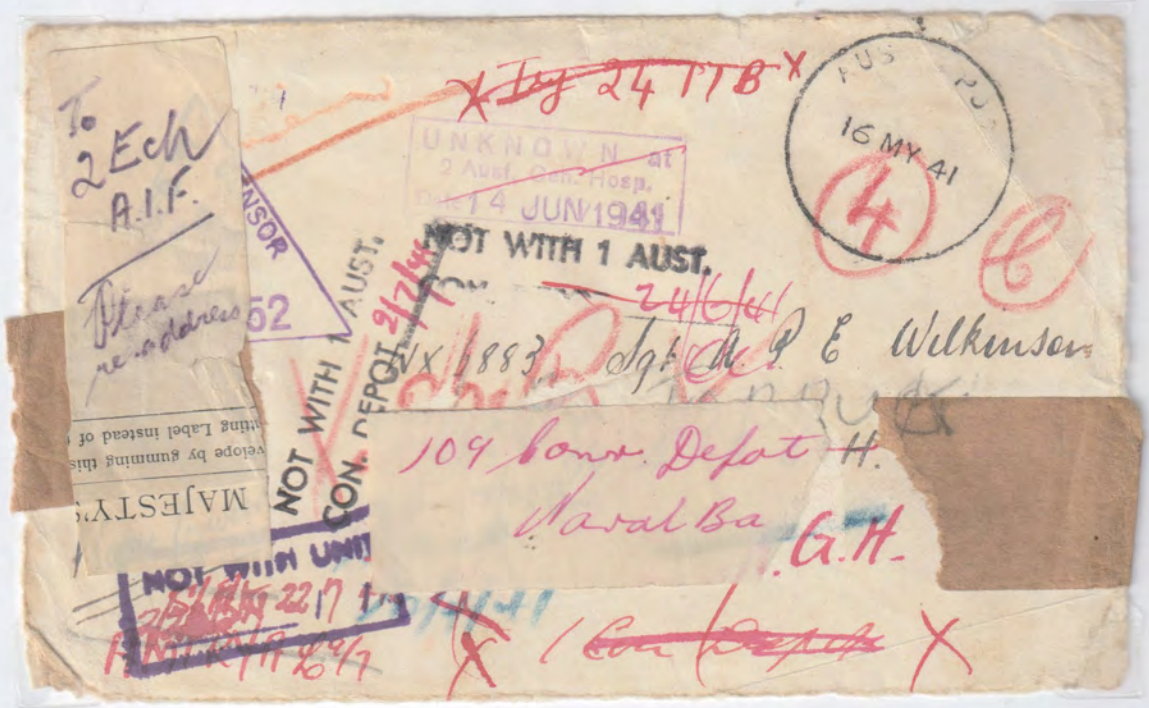
AIF censor cachet, Base P.O. 7MD 23 December 1941 (Darwin), Mil. P.O. Northam 29 December

Reference: Rogers, P. (1999). *Troops, Trains and Trades, The wartime role of the railways of Western Australia 1939 - 1945*, Bassendean, Author

Middle East : Civilian post offices

NAVAL BASE

AUS PO ? 16 May 1941 (Middle East), variously redirected, 109th Convalescent Depot Naval Base



RELIEF H UNKNOWN

Concession cachet, H Western Australia 15 August 1941

The only recorded military use of relief H in this period

GERALDTON

The civil legal system continued to engage with military personnel through the post. Geraldton ? April 1941, Mil. P.O. Swanbourne 7 April

499/100

Administration de
Post Office of

AVIS DE RECEPTION d'un objet recommandé expédié par
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT of a registered article sent by

.....
M.....

Addressé à } M. W. 26360. Pte C.R. Thomas, Support Company, 5th
Addressed to }
Garrison Battalion, SWANBOURNE sous le numero }
and numbered }

Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé a l'adresse susmentionnée et
The undersigned acknowledges that a registered article addressed as above and

.....
M.....

.....
193.....

Signature } C.R. Thomas } Signature } M. Blain }

du destinataire } de Chef du Bureau Distributeur }
of the addressee. } of the Chief of the Delivering Office. }

† Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou siles
règlements du pays de destination le comportent par l'Agent
du Bureau distributeur et renvoyé en suite par le premier
courrier Dièdement à l'adresse indiquée.

An "A.R." article posted within the
Combined with for delivery
to the address
under no circumstances to any
other person.

destination p.....
Office and sent b.....
at mail direct to the address indicated
on the card.

P 4 4 10.34. - 4965

Miss Peggy Long, Dalgety Rd. Rd.

RETURNED TO SENDER:

Ref. P.O. Box 94
Perth

FROM
DEAD LETTER OFFICE,
PERTH.

~~Commercial Bank~~
~~Mid Junction~~

Undelivered letters will be returned to the sender unopened if
the covers thereof are endorsed "If not delivered in (7 or more)
days return to (name and address of sender)."
Sch. C.2669.—2/1940.—893.

RETURN TO SENDER
ON MILITARY BOARD INSTRUCTION

OFFICER IIC. DISTRICT RECORDS OFFICE,
WESTERN COMMAND.

PERTH

Addressed to Trooper Leaver, Special Tank Group AIF, Perth 18 March 1941, mss boxed MISSING, Aust. Army Base P.O. Reported Missing Confirmed cachet, Dead Letter Office Perth 26 November, Return to Sender on Military Board Instructions cachet, RTS label

Middle East : Civilian post offices

ROTTNEST

With fixed defences, radar, and 10th Garrison Battalion, Rottnest had a significant military presence but used the civilian post office of Fremantle.

6 Hvy Bty cachet
Rottnest
10 February 1940



6 Hvy Bty cachet
Registration label
Rottnest
27 February 1940
Fremantle
28 February
Perth
29 February

Middle East: Navy

H M A S CERBERUS V

The Royal Australian Navy did not adopt a Two Oceans Policy until long after the war so its activity in WA was not as noticeable as the Army. On 1 August 1940 HMAS Cerberus V naval offices were recommissioned as HMAS Leeuwin. The boxed Naval Service cachet used at Naval Staff Office, Cliff Street, Fremantle authorising concession rate postage. Fremantle 22 February 1940, Concession cachet front and back



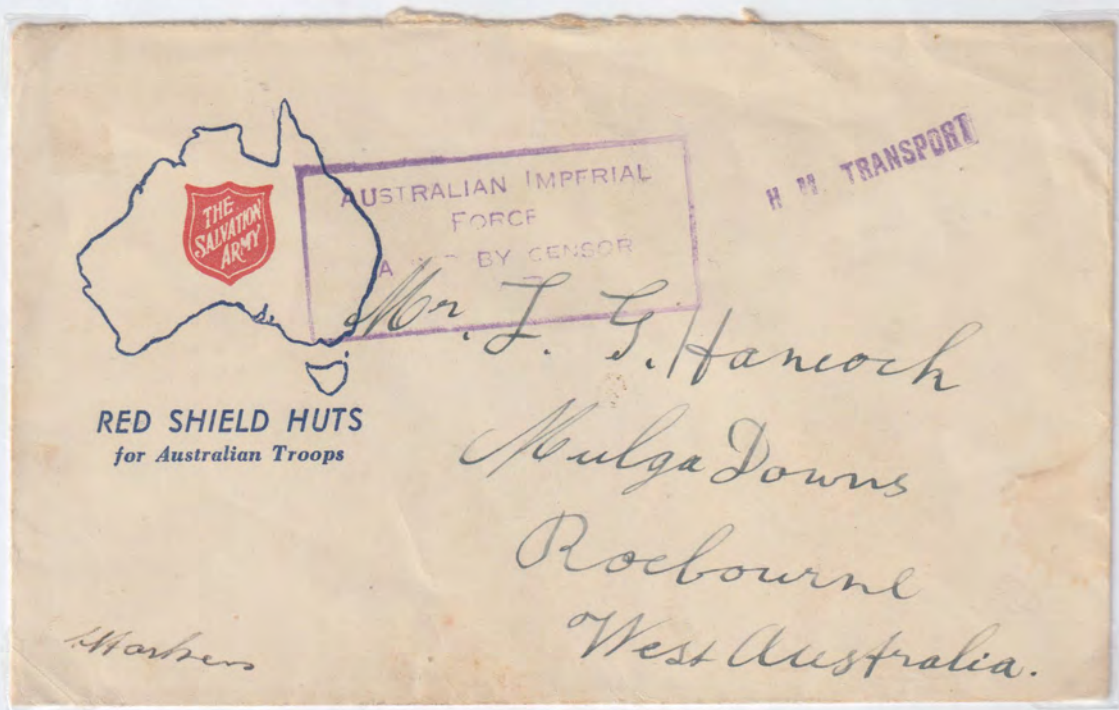
H M A S LEEUWIN

On 1 August 1940 HMAS Leeuwin moved to Preston Point, East Fremantle. Fremantle 1 November 1940, concession cachet

Middle East: Transports

FIRST CONVOY 1940

The first troop convoy (US1) with Australian troops for the Middle East left Fremantle for Colombo on 20 January 1940. SS Otranto (U4) had a distinctive censor cachet.



SUBSEQUENT CONVOYS

A generic censor cachet H.M. TRANSPORT was used on subsequent convoys on the Fremantle to Colombo route. AIF censor cachet