

Middle East : Transports

SECURITY POSTMARKS

HM Transport cachet
AIF censor cachet
Fremantle Paquebot
with datecase removed
Fremantle
13 bar dumb obliterator



HM Transport cachet
AIF censor cachet
Fremantle
8 bar dumb obliterator

NEW ZEALAND

Due to sensitivity in countries handling mail to Australian POW, PMG ceased using slogan cancels at the end of 1941. SS Warwick castle departed Fremantle 11 February 1941. NZ Field Post Office cachet, NZ boxed censor cachet, Perth Paid 3d 11 February 1941

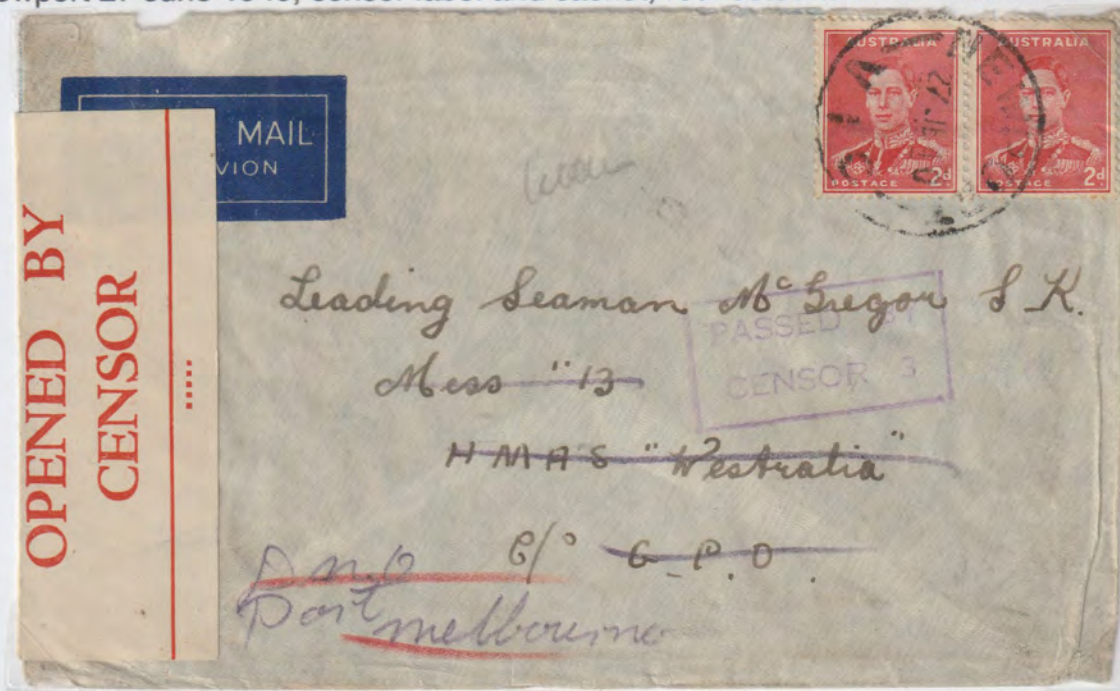


Convoy US 10 (Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Ile de France, Mauritania, Nieuw Amsterdam), arrived Fremantle 16 April 1941
Boxed NZ censor cachet, Paid Perth 16 April 1941

TRANSPORT ESCORTS

Armed Cruiser HMAS Westralia was in Fremantle between 29 May and 25 June 1940 on patrol and escort duties. The District Censor intercepted this letter and redirected it as the ship had departed.

Newport 27 June 1940, censor label and cachet, redirected to DNO Melbourne



"Letters for HMA Ships posted at any place within the Commonwealth of Australia to be forwarded, in the first instance, to the General Post Office of the Capital of the State in which the letter is posted." PMG Circular Memorandum 62, 7 February 1913

HMAS Perth was in Fremantle from 7 to 8 October 1940 so airmail was unnecessary
Perth 1 October 1940, censor label and cachet, Lady Gowrie Red Cross label

H M A S CANBERRA 1940

HMAS Canberra was in Fremantle between 18 to 20 January 1940 escorting 11 transports of Convoy US 1. The boxed censor cachet was a generic naval censor cachet struck on board and listed by Daynes as N950. The HMA Ships cachet authorised concession free postage and the 3d stamp paid the domestic airmail rate.

Fremantle 19 January 1940, HMA Ships cachet, boxed censor cachet, Lane Cove 22 January



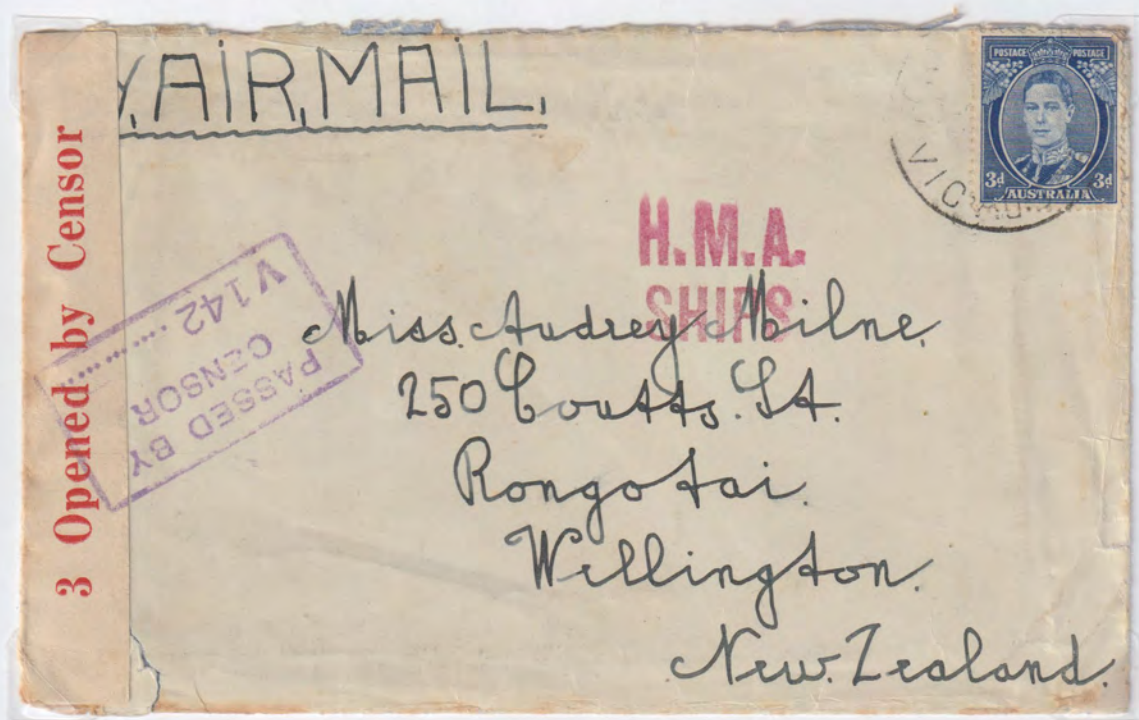
SECURITY POSTMARKS

Fremantle Paquebot with datecase removed, boxed paquebot used at Fremantle.

H M A S SYDNEY 1941

HMAS Sydney was in Fremantle on patrol duties between 15 and 17 March 1941 at the same time as the transports Nieuw Amsterdam and Mauritania who were en route to Melbourne. It is thought this cover originated from HMAS Sydney and was forwarded on one of the transports for posting in Melbourne.

HMA Ships cachet, Port Melbourne ?, Melbourne censor cachet and label



On 19 November 1941 HMAS Sydney was sunk with all hands by Auxilliary Cruiser Kormoran in an action off Dirk Hartog Island. This was the only major naval engagement in Western Australian waters.

Middle east : Air Force

5 EMBARKATION DEPOT

The Depot was listed as Subiaco but this address indicates it was at Crawley. 10 Sqn flew Short Sunderland antisubmarine patrols in Britain for the RAF throughout the war. Melbourne 31 January 1941, redirection cachet, RAAF Base PO London 8 March, RAAF Overseas Headquarters cachet, 10 Sqn (RAAF) mss



NO. 4 R.A.A.F. RECRUITING CENTRE, PERTH, W.A.

This Centre recruited personnel for the RAAF and, through, Empire Air Training Scheme, for the RAF.

Paid at Perth 18 September 1941

Middle East : Air Force

R.A.A.F. STATION, PEARCE AERODROME

A Free Bag postal service was provide at Pearce in July 1940 and upgraded to an Allowance Office in September 1940.

Only recorded strike of relief postmark

RAAF Station Pearce Aerodrome cachet, Postal E? Department ?? 1940



The Comptroller of Accounts & Audit,
Western Australian Government Railways.
Bridge Street,
PERTH.

R.A.A.F. Station, Pearce Aerodrome.



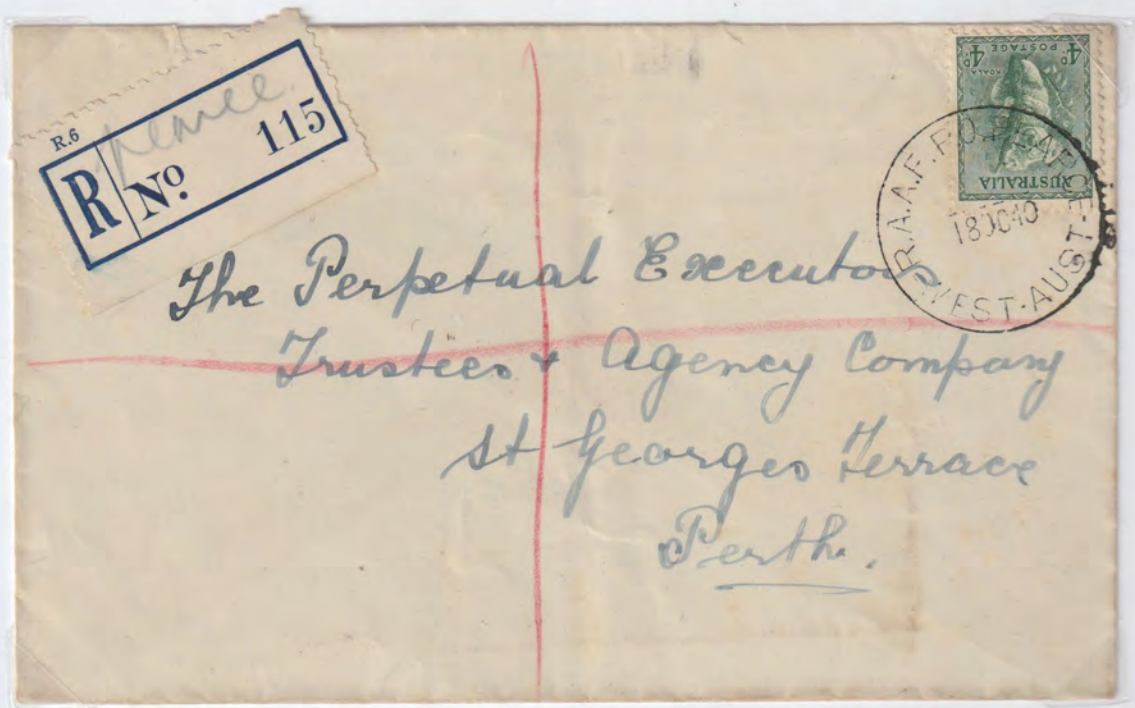
Prior to postal facilities being established, mail from Pearce was posted elsewhere.
Perth 9 May 1940

Only recorded example of Pearce concession cachet used to cancel stamp

RAAF PEARCE CONCESSION CACHET

On 18 December 1939 the concession rate for mail posted within Australia "by a member of the Forces and addressed to any person within the Commonwealth (of Australia) was changed from one penny per half ounce to one penny per ounce." (Haynes and Pope, 1997, p. 123) Official mail was not entitled to postal concession.

Pearce concession rate cachet (in blue), RAAF P.O. Perth 5 April 1940, received 10 April
6 Pearce concession rate cachets recorded (all in this collection)



Blank registration label mss Pearce, RAAF P.O. Pearce 18 October 1940, Perth 19 October

SECTION C : III Army Corps

WAR WITH JAPAN

Australia declared war on Japan on 9 December 1941, Singapore fell on 15 February 1942 and, on 3 March, Broome and Wyndham were bombed. Churchill described the fall of Singapore as "the worst disaster and greatest capitulation in British history."

Australian Army Postal Service commenced mail handling on 9 March 1942

Censor label and cachet, Perth 12 February 1942, boxed Army Postal Service / Delivery Impracticable / Return to Sender



Perth 19 February 1942, censor cachet, boxed Undeliverable Return to Sender

III ARMY CORPS HQ

Timor fell on 23 February 1942 and Java 12 March, although it was known the Japanese did not plan to invade Australia, a change of Japanese plans was always possible if WA lacked credible defences. HQ III Army Corps located at Mt Lawley school, replaced Western Command on 15 April 1942. III Army Corps was responsible for the defence of WA commanding WA Militia 13th Brigade (11th, 16th, 28th Battalions), in May 1942 Victoria Militia 4th Division (2nd, 6th Brigades), and in August 1942 NSW 2nd Division (5th, 8th Brigades) arrived under Lt General Bennett. This was about 30% of the Australian Army.

Field P.O. 0142 [31/5/42 - 18/1/44]

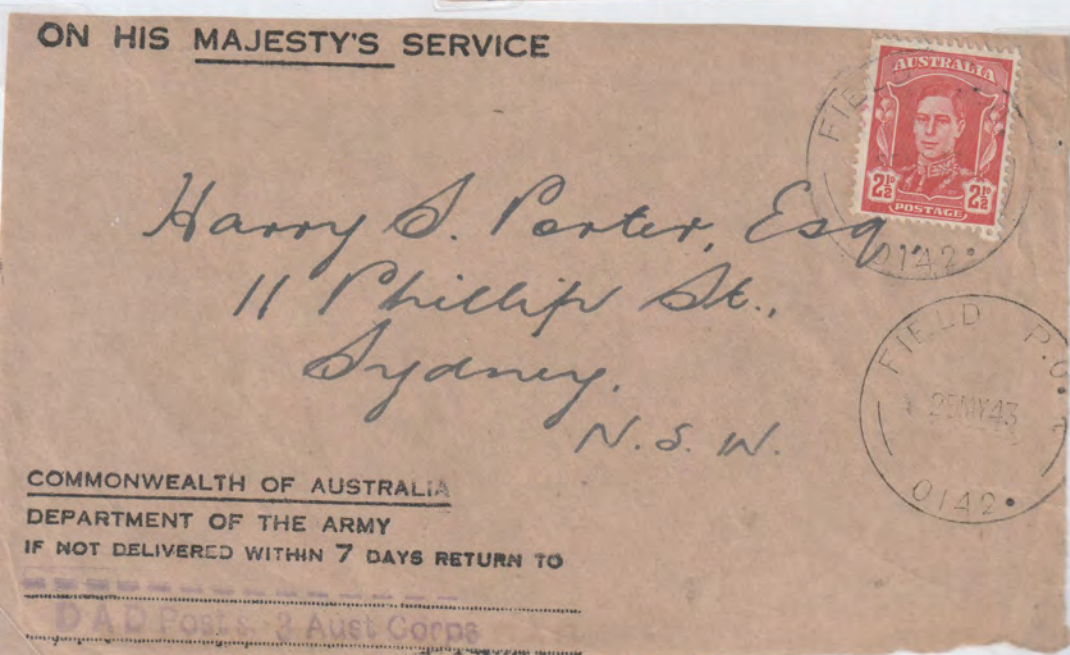
Four datestamps were issued to HQ III Army Corps but only 0142 was used immediately. The others were issued to other elements in 1943.

HQ RAE

3 Aust. Corps cachet

Field P.O. 0142

31 January 1943



D.A.D. Posts
3 Aust Corps cachet
Field P.O. 0142
25 May 1943

WAR WITH JAPAN

The Manpower Directorate was established in January 1942 with the authority to exempt persons from military service and compel civilian registration. Identity cards were issued by the Electoral Department through the civilian Post Office. All persons born in Australia were British Subjects.

Fremantle 24 March 1942

Form C.R. 3.
Civilian Registration (British Subjects.)

Keep this Identity Card in a cover.
It will fit into an ordinary envelope.
Carry it with you when away from home.

O.H.M.S. POST FREE.

FREMANTLE
7 PM
24 MCH
1942
W. A.

IDENTITY CARD.

NUMBER.		
W 2	F 91	1115

Notify any change of place of living on Form C.R. 4 (obtainable at Post Offices.)

If not delivered within 14 days return to Divisional Returning Officer at **FREMANTLE**

1855...

Flourence Zillah Pearce
59. Shenton Rd.
Claremont

W.A. M.1

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYER THAT AN EMPLOYEE IS LIABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

Capt. Norman Ralph Arnold, who reports that he is employed by you, has been medically examined and classified fit for service. He will be called up in due course and must be prepared to report for service at short notice. *has been called for Sunday 5/1/43*

If it is considered that grounds exist which would justify his exemption by the Man Power Authorities application must be submitted **immediately.**

Date *23. DEC. 1942*

Place *11A Area Redcliffe*

J. Johnston Capt.
Area Officer, Recruiting Area. 11A-
Signature.

III Army Corps : Field PO

HQ WA L of C AREA

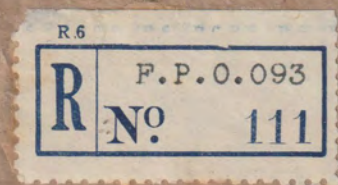
HQ Western Command Lines of Communication remained at Swan Barracks in command of all fixed units, anti-aircraft units, garrison units and VDC.

Field P.O. 093 was issued to Western Command on 23 April 1942 and returned on 11 February 1943. FPO 092 was issued at the same time but no strikes recorded.

Field P.O. 093 [4/8/42]

Registration label typed office name, Field P.O. 093 4 August 1942 (ORD),
Army P.O. 0130 6 August

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



D.O.S.

Headquarters

Allied Land Forces

Melbourne

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

If not delivered within 7 days, return to

H.Q. W.A. Lof C. Area
Swan Barracks Perth W.A.

PTO

WA L of C

Army P.O. 0120 [15/4/42 - 8/7/43]

Issued to WA L of C on 27/2/42. Army PO 0121, 0122, 0123, and 0124 were issued on the same date but they are not recorded used.

Although signed, this cover was not struck with the unit censor cachet. Intercepted by the Post Office, it was sent to the District Censor who passed it unopened and struck it with a Passed cachet.

25 MG Regt, Northam, Army P.O. 0120 22 April 1942, District Censor cachet



Why this cover from 25 Cavalry Regt should have been Certified Official and sent unpaid is unknown.

Northampton, Army P.O. 0120 12 April 1943

III Army Corps : Field PO

BASE POST OFFICE 5 MD

In 1941 the Army Postal Service decided to establish Base Post Offices to relieve the PMG Department that was overloaded with military mail in Australia. The PMG delivered unsorted military mail to Base Post Offices for distribution to addressees. In March 1942 Base PO 5 MD was established in Murray Street, Perth but replaced in May 1942 by WA L of C Field Postal Unit.

013 [28/4/42 – 12/6/43]

Used as a backstamp on registered or redirected mail

Field Post Office 052
15 September 1942
Registered cachet
AMF censor cachet
Base PO 5MD 013
18 September
Perth
18 September
Melbourne
23 September
Hobart
25 September



014 [11/3/42 – 19/6/43]

Base PO 5MD 014 22 August 1942
Not known why this cover was sent unstamped

III Army Corps

Postal F Department

This relief stamp was again brought into forces service at unknown locations in 1942.

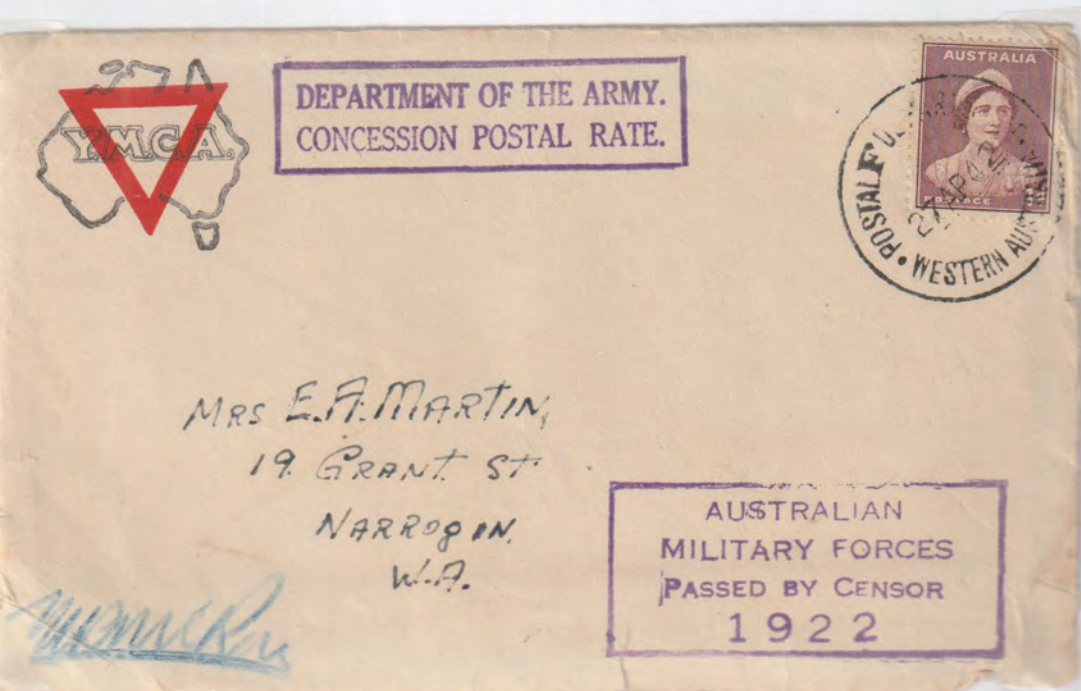
FPO 1 label (only recorded use)

Postal F Department

10 March 1942

AMF censor cachet

Perth 11 March



Written 24 April 1942
Postal F Department
27 April