

LOCALLY ISSUED DATESTAMPS

In addition to datestamps brought to WA by incoming troops, some datestamps were issued locally to various units in WA.

No. 4 ARMY BASE PO

In October 1942 No. 4 Army Base Post Office took over from the WA L of C Field Postal Unit and remained operational until the end of 1945. Datestamps were requisitioned in November 1942 but the earliest recorded use is July 1943.

No. 4 Base P.O. A [27/2/44 – 28/4/44]

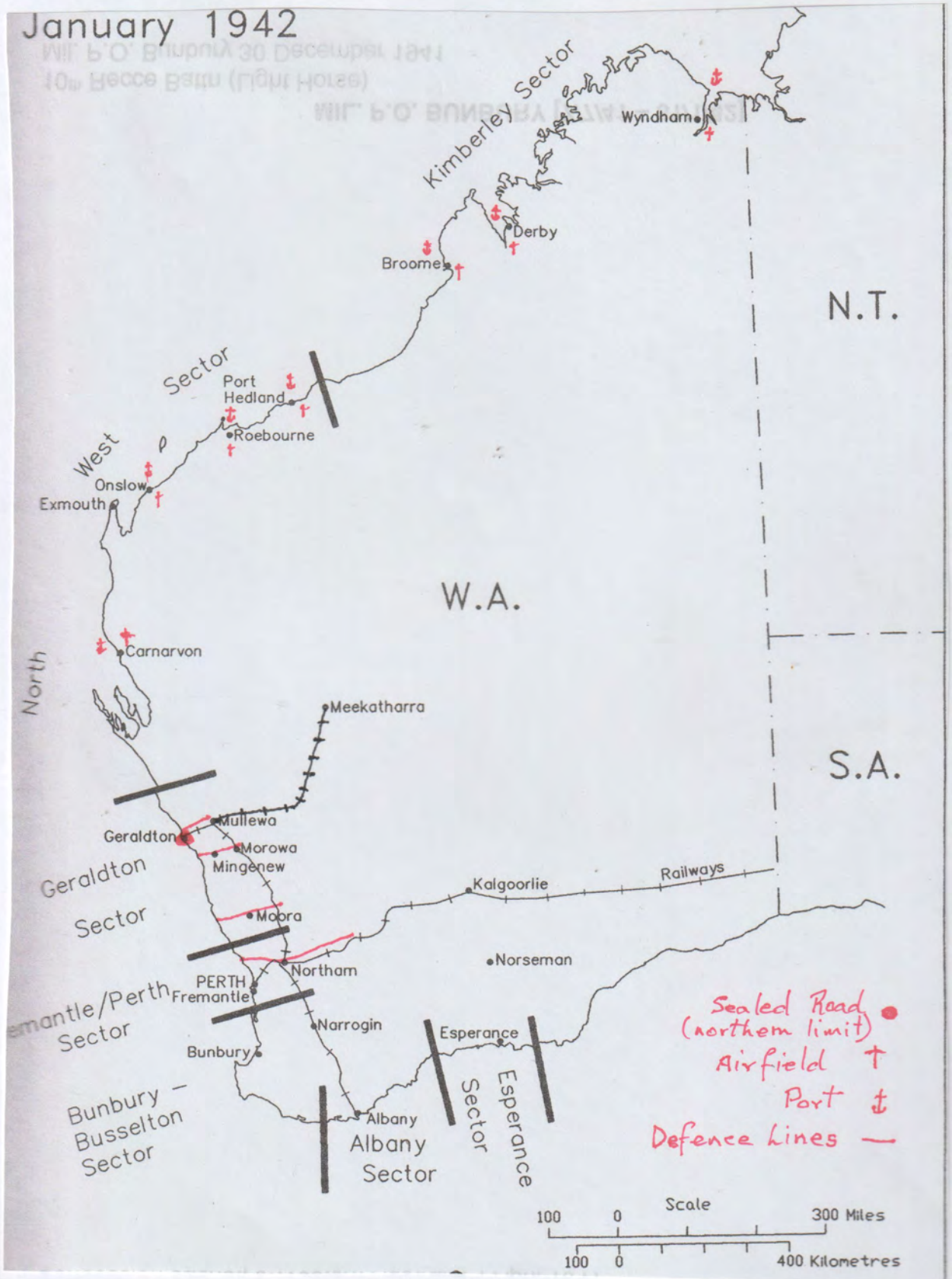
AMF censor cachet
(Mosman Park)
No. 4 Base P.O. A
11 March 1944



- Replaced
- Base P.O. 5MD 013
- Perth
- 19 October 1943
- Mount Lawley
- 20 October
- Perth
- 20 October
- Northam
- 23 October
- Unit Postal Station W 28
- 25 October
- Unit Postal Station W 40
- 26 October
- No. 4 Base P.O. C
- 26 October
- Dead Letter Office Perth
- 5 November

No. 4 Base P.O. C [31/7/43 – 28/10/45]

DEFENCE SECTORS 1942



Reference: McKenzie-Smith, G.R. (1994). *Australia's Forgotten Army: Volume 1. The ebb and flow of the Australian Army in Western Australia 1941 to 1945*, Grimwade Publications

III Army Corps

MILITARY DEFENCES

The immediate military defensive response to Japanese advances was to relocate 10th Recce Battalion to Wanneroo and 25th MG Regiment, initially to Baldivis, by May 1942 to Gingin. By about April 1942 unit postal station datestamps came into use in WA.

UNIT POSTAL STATION W 2 [8/6/42 – 27/8/43]

10th Light Horse Regiment cachet, Unit Postal Station W 13 8 June 1942 (ERD)



Army P.O. 0120 [14/4/42 – 8/7/43]

Issued 27 February 1942 together with 0121, 0122, 0123 and 0124 (not recorded used)
25 M.G. Regiment cachet, Army P.O. 2 May 1942

MOBILE COVERING FORCE

A Mobile Covering Force (13th Brigade: 11th, 16th, 28th Battalions) for the Fremantle/Northam Sector (Lancelin to the Murray River) was based at Melville until April 1942. 44th Battalion under WA L of C was also based at Melville.

Concession cachet, Mil. P.O. Melville 3 January 1941



Concession cachet in blue, mss registered, Mil. P.O. Melville 31 December 1941

III Army Corps

11th (NW) Battalion VDC

The Volunteer Defence Corps was an initiative of the Returned Services League, formed in 1940 with WA HQ in Anzac House. By March 1942 about 150 units with a strength of 12,000, often WW 1 veterans, were responsible for observation and guarding. 11th Battalion VDC was responsible for Kimberley Sector and North-West Sector. Based at Broome (60 men), detachments at Derby (20 men), Wyndham (20 men), Port Hedland (40 men), Roebourne 23 men), Onslow (18 men), and Carnarvon (60 men). Main northern defences were 1. No sealed roads (impassable in the Wet), 2. no railway north of Meekatharra, 3. no surface water between Derby and Geraldton in the Dry.

No. 11 North West
Battalion VDC cachet
Base PO 5MD 014
8 February 1943

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



The Manager,
Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia,
William Street,
PERTH.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 7 DAYS, RETURN TO

NO. 11 NORTH WEST BATTALION VDC

Written Carnarvon?
HQ C Coy
19 Aust Gsn Bn
8 March 1943
AMF censor cachet
Base PO 5MD 014
10 March

BY AIR MAIL AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

McBowers

8423

Ms K. V. Bowers,
23 Marlborough St,
Perth
W.A.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES PASSED BY CENSOR 579

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN.

19th Australian Garrison Battalion

III Aust. Corps Guerilla Warfare Group was at Broome from October 1942 to December 1943 to train VDC units.

AIF CENSOR CACHETS

Despite Churchill's personal opposition and interference, in January 1942 the 6th and 7th Divisions left the Middle East for Australia and the 8th Division to Malaya. These AIF Divisions brought with them their distinctive circular censor cachets. Transports SS Strathallan and SS Nigerstroom arrived at Fremantle on 11 March 1942. AIF censor cachet, Base P.O. 014 11 March 1942 (ERD)



AIF 6th Division was dispersed and its censor cachet and Field Post Office 052 arrived at Melville Camp in May 1942. AIF censor cachet, Field P.O. 052 7 May 1942

III Army Corps : Field PO

III ARMY CORPS

Field Post Office 055, 056, and 057 were issued to III Army Corps in February 1942

Field Post Office 055 [19/3/42 - 22/12/42]

Northam

AMF censor cachet

Registration cachet

Field Post Office 055

25 August 1942

Perth

30 August

Hobart

31 August



Northam
 AMF censor cachet
 Field Post Office 055
 26 May 1942
 Field censor cachet
 (lawyer's address?)
 Censor cachet

III Army Corps : Field PO

REPLACEMENTS

On 29 November 1942 datestamps Aust FPO 154, 155, and 156 were issued to replace 2nd Division's Field Post Office 035, 036, and 037.

Aust. F.P.O. 154 [8/12/42 - 6/8/44]

Chidlow
Registration label
AMF censor cachet
Aust. F.P.O. 154
23 January 1944
Perth
24 January
Melbourne
Hobart
25 January



Moora
Registration label
AMF cachet
Aust., F.P.O. 156
1 May 1943
Perth
3 May
Melbourne
5 May
Hobart
5 May

Aust. F.P.O. 156 [12/12/42 - 30/9/43]

III Army Corps : Field PO

4TH (VICTORIA) INFANTRY DIVISION

April 1942 initially into Melville Camp and then progressively to forward defence lines from (1) Geraldton to Mullewa, (2) Irwin to Morawa, (3) Dandaragan to Moora.

4TH Division Postal Unit brought datestamps FPO 051, 052, 053, 054, 085.

Field Post Office 051 [23/4/42 – 26/11/42]

Moora

Registration label (typed)

AMF censor cachet

Field Post Office 051

26 September 1942

Perth

28 September

Melbourne

29 September

Carlton

29 September



Geraldton

AMF censor cachet

Field Post Office 052

25 August 1942

Field Post Office 052 [25/4/42 – 20/11/42]

III Army Corps : Field PO

REPLACEMENTS

On 30 November 1942 datestamps Aust FPO 162, 163, 164, and 165 were issued to replace 4th Division's Field Post Office 051, 052, 053 and 054.

Aust. F.P.O. 162 [11/12/42 - 18/4/43]

Guildford
AMF censor cachet
Aust. F.P.O. 162
7 February 1943



Chidlow
AMF censor cachet
Aust. F.P.O. 165
? February 1943

Aust. F.P.O. 165 [10/2/43 - 5/3/43]

III Army Corps : Field PO

2nd (NSW) INFANTRY DIVISION

The 2nd Infantry Division arrived in WA during July 1942 into camps at Melville, Guildford, Bellevue and Chidlow. From there they moved to forward positions, relieving units previously posted there. 2nd Division Postal Unit brought datestamps Field Post Office 035, 036, 037, 045 and Field PO 076, 085.

Field Post Office 035 [3/10/42 – 8/11/42]



Guildford
AMF censor cachet
Field Post Office 035
3 October 1942 ERD



Strawberry
Rubber registration cachet
AMF censor cachet
Field Post Office 036
6 November 1942
Base PO 5MD 013
8 November
Sydney 12 November

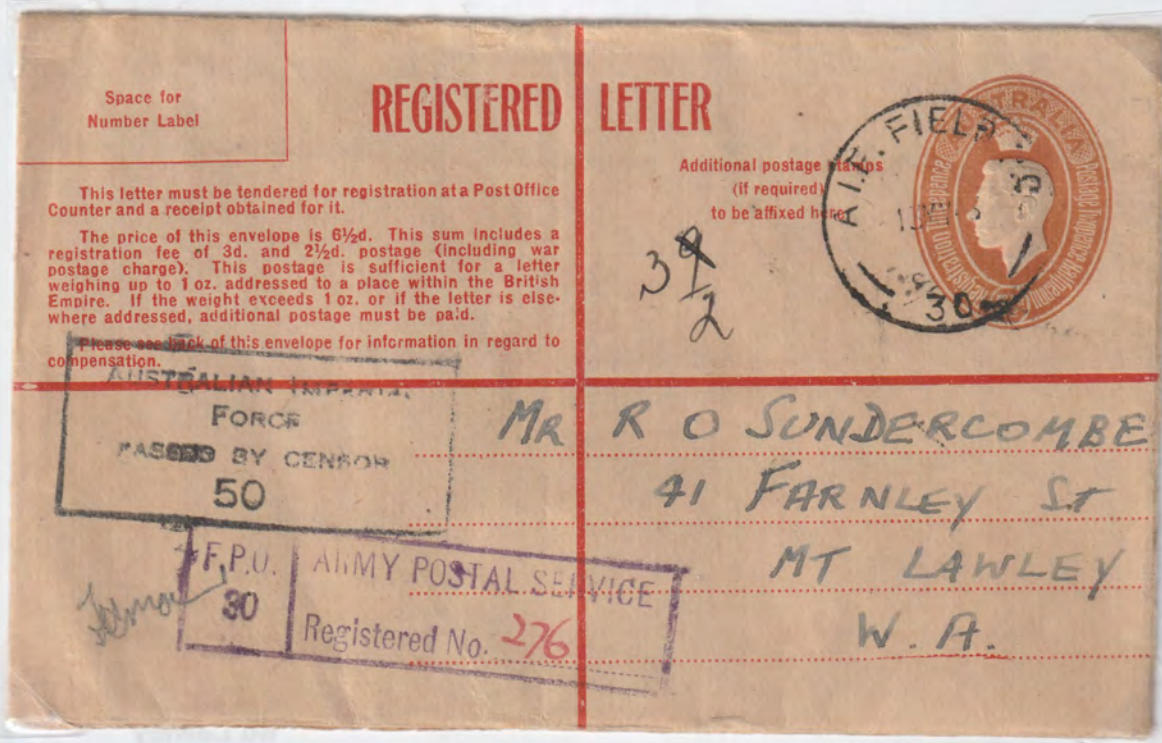
Field Post Office 036 [29/6/42 – 26/11/42]

1st ARMoured DIVISION

1st Armoured Division arrived between October 1942 (Mullewa) and March 1943 (Morawa and Mingenew) to protect the eastern flank of the infantry divisions. 1st Armoured Division Postal Unit brought datestamps AIF Field PO 29, 30, 31, 32, 51.

A.I.F. Field P.O. 29 [2/2/43 - 5/8/44]

Northam
HQ Sqn 1 Aust Armd
Registration label 30
29 inserted
AIF Field PO 29
2 August 1944
Perth
3 August



Mullewa
Registered
FPO 30 cachet
AIF censor cachet
AIF Field PO 30
13 May 1943
Mt Lawley
17 May

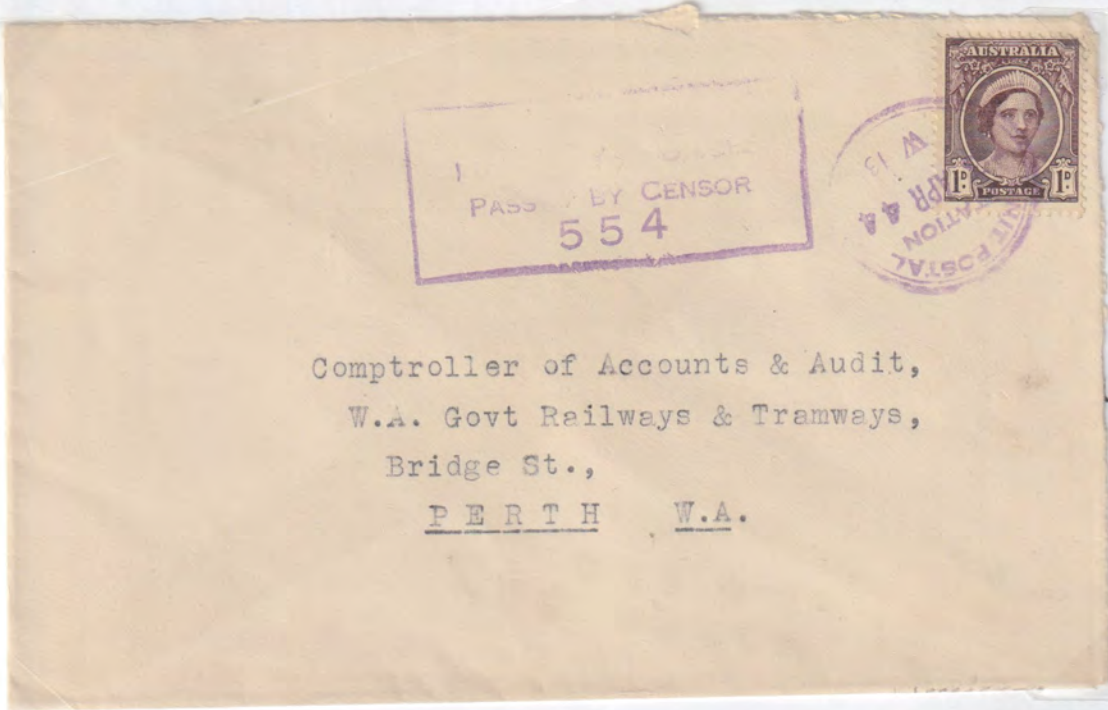
III Army Corps

COASTWATCH

By August 1942, the arrival of two infantry divisions meant 25 MG Regiment (renamed 25 Cavalry Regiment and fully motorised) was posted to Northampton to watch the coast between Port Gregory and Oakajee River. 10th Light Horse (now wholly horse) at Mundijong with a company at Mandurah provided coast watch south of Fremantle.

25 Cavalry Regiment

AMF censor cachet
Army P.O. 0120
1 May 1943



AMF censor cachet
Unit Postal Station W 13
3 April 1944 LRD
10th LH disbanded
April 1944

10th Light Horse Regiment

III Army Corps : Field PO

III ARMY CORPS

Aust. F.P.O. 186, 187, and 188 were issued to III Army Corps on 29 November 1942

Aust. F.P.O. 186 [3/12/42 - 6/5/44]

Mingenew, AIF censor cachet, registration cachet, Aust. F.P.O. 186 19 June 1943, Perth
21 June, Sydney 24 June

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

BY AIR MAIL



F.P.O. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
51 Registered No. 772

772

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL
FORCE
PASSED BY CENSOR
89

The Secretary,
The Army Education Secretariat,
The University of Sydney,
Sydney
N.S.W.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
IF NOT DELIVERED RETURN TO

R.5
Aust. F.P.O. No. 29
R N^o 327

REGISTERED LETTER

Additional postage stamps
(if required)
to be affixed here

15/1/43

AUST. F.P.O. 186

MRS RO SONDERCOMBE

41 FARNLEY ST
MT LAWLEY
PERTH
W.A.

13
7

50

PASSED BY CENSOR

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

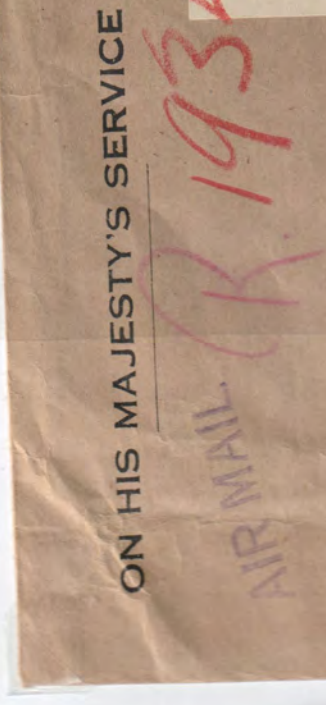
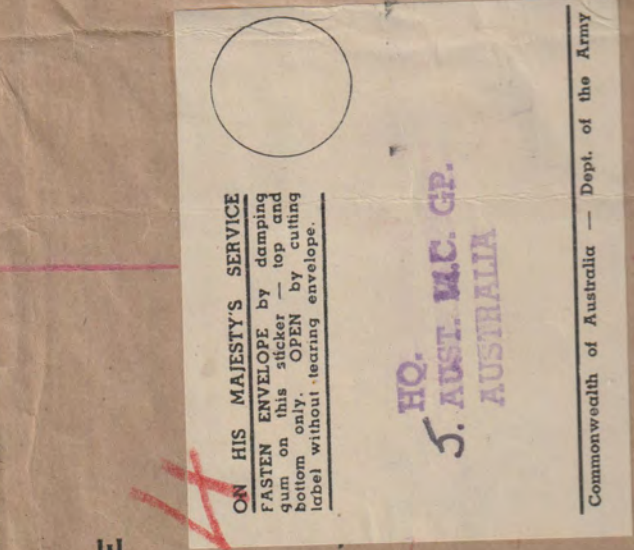
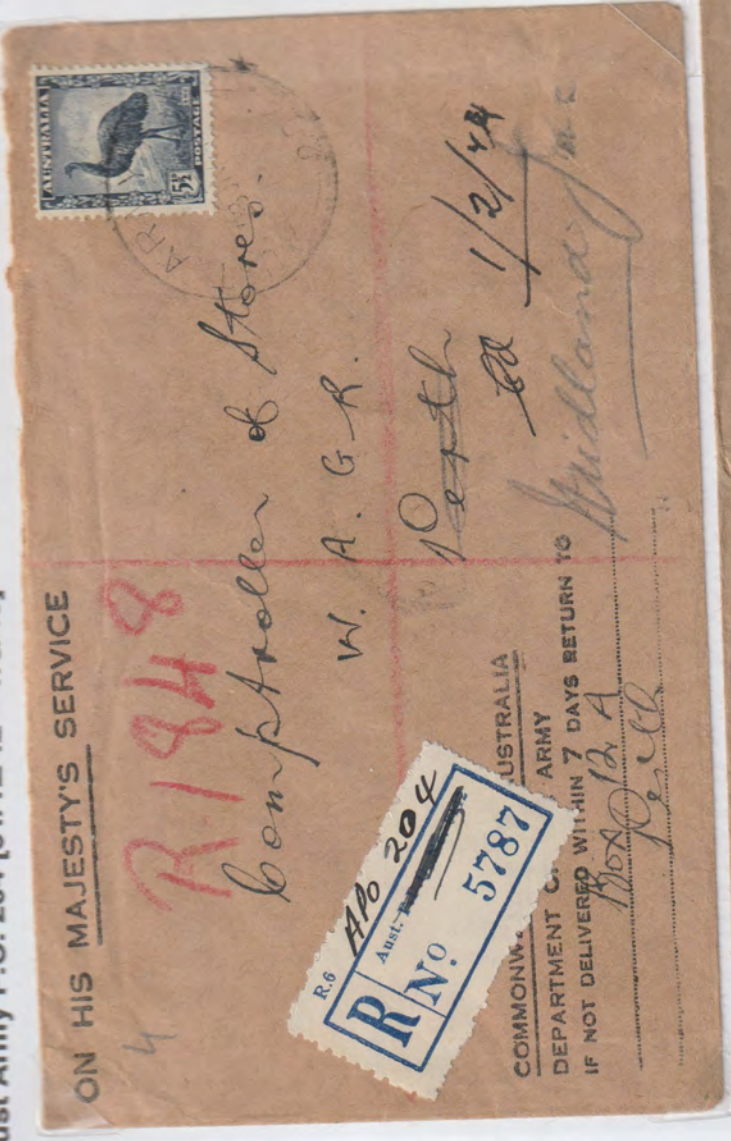
Dandaragan
AIF censor cachet
Registration label
Aust FPO 29
Aust. F.P.O. 186
15 August 1943
Perth
16 August
Mt Lawley
16 August

III Army Corps : Field PO

III ARMY CORPS

Aust Army P.O. 203, 204, and 205 were issued to III Army Corps on 7 November 1942
Aust Army P.O. 204 [31/12/42 - 7/8/45]

- Swan Barracks
- Aust Forces PO 0142
- APO 204 inserted
- 28 January 1944
- No 4 Base PO C
- 28 January
- Perth
- 29 January
- Midland junction
- 1 February



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

III Army Corps : Unit Postal Station

RUBBER BOXED UPS E and S

It appears some units brought rubber boxed Unit Postal Station datestamps prefix E or S with them when they came to Western Australia. Allocation to WA use is based on proving covers not official records. This is the scarcest group of WA WW 2 military datestamps with most having 3 or less strikes recorded. E = Eastern Command.

Unit Postal Station E 105 [2/8/42]

Gingin
35th Inf Battn
AMF censor cachet
UPS E 105
2 August 1942
(ORD)



4th Inf Battn ?
AMF censor cachet
UPS E 107
10 June 1942

Unit Postal Station E 107

Collas does not list UPS 105 – 8 but Proud lists 105 (NS), 107 and 108(NS) as used in WA. Proud lists UPS E 108 as with 30th Inf Battn in WA from July 1942 to August 1943.