

UNITED STATES ARMY POST OFFICES IN EGYPT — WORLD WAR II —



Richard S Wilson

U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt during World War II

Richard S. Wilson, ESC 230

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2014 I decided to look into U.S. Army post offices (APOs) in Egypt during World War II. I hadn't bothered with this interesting area before but covers were mostly modestly priced and were available from several Internet dealers and on eBay. In addition, a number of dealers at the stamp shows carried these covers while few had Egyptian material. The Carter publication *Numbered Army & Air Force Post Office Locations, 7th Edition* is essential for the locations of the APOs but it had very little about the postmarks. Engel's *A.P.O. Cover Catalogue*, issued in 1947, made a connection between some of the datestamps and the APOs but it was not a satisfactory, up-to-date source. However, it gave me a start as it illustrated a few of the cancels along with the APOs that used them.

I would appreciate receiving any corrections, additional data, and scans of covers confirming the use of the postmarks at particular locations and, in turn, I will provide you updated tables and any other new information I come across. Please send it to dadul@verizon.net.

WW2 NOTES

As early as November 1940 the United States had a military presence in Egypt. Prior to Pearl Harbor the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) had advisers, representatives and observers attached to the U. S. legation in Cairo. In late 1941 a military mission headquarters was established in Cairo to coordinate lend-lease and other aid with Great Britain and the Soviet Union. On 13 June 1942 the U.S. North African Mission in Cairo and the Iranian Mission in Baghdad were absorbed by the newly created U.S. Army Forces in the Middle East (USAFIME), a stronger command and control organization. Late June saw the creation of USAMEAF (U.S. Army Middle East Air Force). On 12 November USAMEAF was redesignated the 9th Air Force in recognition of the fact that U.S. ground combat troops would not be taking part in operations in Egypt and Libya. By that time Operation Torch, the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa, had commenced on 8 November. The 9th Air Force was transferred to England on 25 November 1943 to prepare for the coming invasion of France.

The first USAAF unit to arrive in Egypt and the Middle East was the Halverson Provisional Detachment (HALPRO) Bombardment Squadron. Consisting of twenty-four B-24 heavy bombers HALPRO arrived on 2 June 1942 at Fayid, Egypt. Its first bombing raid on Axis targets took off on June 12, 1942 against the oil refinery at Ploesti, Romania. On June 15 another mission was carried out against the Italian fleet 220 miles east of Malta. Following these raids and as additional air and its ground support arrived the USAAF cooperated closely with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the British 8th Army in bombing and strafing missions against the Italo-German forces, supply lines, and ships in the Mediterranean Sea and the Western Desert in Egypt and Libya. However, the total contribution of the Americans accounted for only about ten percent of the assets and sorties flown by the combined Allied air forces. By year's end the 9th Air Force was attacking targets in Tunisia, Italy and Crete from bases in Egypt and Libya and by 12 February 1943 the Axis powers were cleared out of Libya thus ending Mussolini's dream of an Italian African empire. The Axis forces surrendered in Tunisia on 13 May 1943.

ARMY POST OFFICE (APO) LOCATIONS

Table 1, APO Locations of US Forces in Egypt WW II, lists details of the various post offices including the type of cancellation, location, and opening and closing dates of operations in Egypt. More details about these APOs may be found in Carter.

Seventeen U.S. Army Post Offices have been identified as having operated in Egypt as well as one Base Post Office (no cancels reported). They are APO 485, 486, 498, 616, 626, 678, 681, 683, 684, 685, 686, 696, 785, 786, 787, 788, and American Base Forces APO 814. I don't have information about the datestamps used at three of these APOs. They are listed as being in operation from two weeks to less than six months. Cancels are not known from the 8th Base Post Office but there is at least one informational handstamp (see figure 1). Eight APOs were reassigned to Cairo from Iran and Bahrain in the December 1945 to April 1946 period but are believed to have been inactive and held in reserve pending discontinuance.

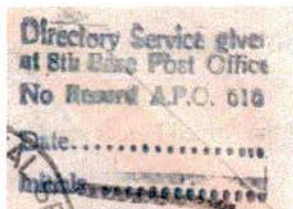


Figure 1

They are APOs 523, 535, 680, 795, 797, 799, 816, and 824.

The first APO to arrive in Egypt was American Base Forces APO 814 on 25 June 1942 but it closed less than two months later on 12 August and was replaced by APO 616 that opened 27 July. Additional APOs were established over the ensuing year as more American aircraft and support troops arrived from the United States, Eritrea and Libya. In addition, a number of APOs ceased operations in Egypt as they were relocated to Libya, Palestine, and England making some of their stays in Egypt only a matter of months.

Four temporary or transit Army post offices have been identified with the forces in Egypt. These numbers were assigned to individuals or units in transit from the United States to their permanent stations. Once the troops arrived they would use the APO number assigned. The TPOs used datestamps without an Army post office number or, in the case of a machine cancel, just the killer wave lines. Thus the only way to identify a cover from a TPO is through the return address.

DATESTAMPS

I have recorded and numbered twenty-five different variations of the handstamps used by the APOs in Egypt as shown in Table 2. APO numbers in boldface have been confirmed as being used in that specific APO. The unconfirmed APOs are believed to have used that particular datestamp but have yet to be verified. All are single circles except HS-1, which is a double circle or ring and no killer bars. This is found on the back of registered mail. The others measure between 30mm and 34mm in diameter with a four bar killer or obliterator. There are six groupings of these duplex cancels:

- 1) Double-ring, no killer bars (HS-1),
- 2) Single-ring with station and APO number (HS-5),
- 3) No APO number (HS-10 to 19),
- 4) APO number within the date and time slugs (HS-20-25),
- 5) APO number at ring bottom and within the date and time slugs (HS-27) and,
- 6) APO number at ring bottom with 3 or 4 line date and time (HS-30-39).

Some of the differences between the various postmarks are minor as illustrated in Group 2 where the spacing on the sides of the APO is different (HS-14 - HS-15). In other cases there may be different arrangements of the three- or four-line date slugs, perhaps caused by the failure of the postal clerk to insert the time of day slugs in the appropriate place (or leaving it out completely making a gap or blank space). While some of these may be the same physical CDS, in any case I consider each one to be a different cancel. Black ink was used for all of the cancels although HS-37 is also known in blue (HS-37A).

Group 2 datestamps do not include any APO number. The numbers were ordered removed by a directive from the War Department beginning July 1, 1942, supposedly as a security measure. However, this doesn't make a whole lot of sense, as the APO number is included in the sender's return address. On 15 March 1943 (I have also seen 9 and 10 March) the order was reversed with Postal Circular 16, Headquarters, Services of Supply, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army. Carter states that the first number to reappear was that of APO 887 on 17 March.

There were two hand-operated cancelling machines used by the APOs in Egypt that were issued to postal units serving at least 7,500 personnel. The first (PMC-1), Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K, had a postmark die measuring 20mm. in diameter with seven wavy lines for the killer. This postmark is found from APOs 616, 678, and 788. The other machine is the International Postal Supply Company Model Hey Dolphin 2 (PMC-2) used at APO 616. The postmark die measures 22mm.

RATES

Military Personnel

Surface Mail: Postal cards and first class letter mail was *FREE* effective 1 April 1942. Prior to that date postage was at the domestic rate of 1¢ and 3¢ (per ounce), respectively.

Air Mail: 6¢ per half-ounce effective 25 December 1941 to and from members of the Armed Forces serving outside the continental United States.

Other services: Domestic rates applied.

Registered mail: minimum fee 15¢ to 25 March 1944, then 20¢, not eligible for free franking.

Insured mail: minimum fee 5¢ to 25 March 1944, then 10¢ to 31 October 1944, then 3¢, not eligible for free franking.

Special delivery: 10¢ to 1 November 1944, then 13¢, eligible for free franking for surface mail.

Civilians served by military post offices

Surface Mail: Domestic rates applied, 3¢ per ounce for first class mail and 1¢ for postal cards.

Air Mail: 6¢ per half-ounce effective 23 October 1942.

Other services: Domestic rates applied (see above).

Table 1

APO CDS	CDS TYPE (HS-) OR MACHINE CANCELLATION (bold face = confirmed)	APO LOCATION	BEGAN OPERATIONS IN EGYPT	CLOSED, SUSPENDED, INACTIVATED, DISCONTINUED	COMMENT
485	19, 30, 35	9th Air Service Group, Kabrit	12-Jan-43	1-Jun-43	TO: Castel Benito, Libya
486	5, 19, 35, 37, 37A (blue)	Deversoir Air Base	12-Jan-43	28-Feb-45	TO: Heliopolis
		Heliopolis	1-Mar-45	31-Oct-45	
498	17	Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis	14-Oct-43	30-Apr-44	FROM: Benghazi, Libya TO: Tripoli, Libya
616 See also: 814, (T) 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224	13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31 PMC-1, PMC- 2	Cairo	27-Jul-42	30-Sep-43	TO: Camp Huckstep
	18,21	Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis	1-Oct-43	1-Nov-46	TO: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
626	None Reported	Heliopolis	19-Jan-43	1-May-43	FROM: Nairobi, Kenya TO: Benghazi, Libya
678	1, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 33 PMC-1	HQ, Middle East Service Command, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis	7-Nov-42	31-Oct-45	
681	14, 17, 23	376th Bomber Group, Abu Sueir	20-Nov-42	1-Apr-43	FROM: Lydda, Palestine TO: Soluck Main, Libya
683	14, 20, 27	USAAF Bomber	20-Nov-42	31-Jan-43	Moved to Gambut,

		Command, Fayid, Egypt			Cyrenaica, Libya
684	21	Mobile Unit, USAFIME, Egypt (Alexandria?)	17-May-43	2-Oct-43	FROM: Eritrea
		Camp Ataka (Near Ismailia)	3-Oct-43	15-Jan-44	
		Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis (mobile)	16-Jan-44	1-Apr-44	
		Alexandria	1-Apr-44	1-Jul-46	
685	None Reported	1081st Engineer Utility Detachment; Cairo	13-Mar-43	26-Mar-43	FROM: Eritrea TO: Palestine and back to Cairo.
		Cairo	16-Jan-44	31-Jul-44	TO: Benghazi, Libya
686	14	Headquarters, Suez Canal Ports, Suez	3-Oct-43	26-Oct-43	FROM: Eritrea
		Port Tewfik	27-Oct-43	15-Jan-44	
		Camp Ataka	16-Jan-44	1-Nov-44	
		Cairo, Mobile	1-Nov-44	6-Dec-44	
		Cairo	1-Mar-45	15-May-46	
696	12, 14, 20, 21, 23, 27	HQ, 9th Air Force HQ, 9th AF Defense Command, Cairo	23-Dec-42	24-Nov-43	TO: England
785	16	12th Bomber Group: Alexandria	30-Nov-42	3-Jan-43	TO: Gambut, Libya
786	None Reported	Alexandria	5-Dec-42	23-Jan-43	TO: Gambut, Libya
787	12, 20, 21, 23, 25	HQ, USArmy Forces in the Middle East, HQ, Africa-Middle East Theater, Cairo	21-Jan-43	1-Jul-46	
788	12A, 20, 21, 23, 25 PMC-1 (only known cover 4-11-46.)	HQ, North Africa Division Air Transport Command, Egypt Division, Heliopolis (John Payne Field)	1-Oct-43	1-Jul-46	
ABF 814	10, 39	Cairo	6/25/1942 HS-39	12-Aug-42	Established as an Army Base Forces (ABF) Post Office. Replaced by APO 616. Listed as never operational.
8th BPO	No cancels reported	Activated at Heliopolis, Egypt	1-May-43	19-Dec-43	Informational marking known

	(Carter)				
		Camp Huckstep, Cairo	20-Dec-43	15-Mar-46	
Temporary or Transit Post Offices (TPOS did not have numbered postmarks))					
(T) 1221		Egypt	12-Jun-42	24-Jul-42	assigned to 616
(T) 1222		Egypt	10-Nov-42	30-Jan-43	343rd Bomber Squadron; assigned to 616; 12 Jun-24 Jul 42 (?)
(T) 1223		Egypt	1-Feb-43	10-Feb-43	24th Station Hospital; Assigned to 616 9 Nov 45
(T) 1224		Camp Huckstep, Cairo	1-Nov-42	1-Nov-43	Assigned to APO 616 12 Jun - 24 JUL 42; assigned to APO 678 23 Oct 42; cancelled about Mar 45.
The Following APOS are Believed to Have Been Inactive While in Egypt and Held In Reserve Pending Discontinuance.					
523		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr-46	FROM: Iran
535		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr-46	FROM: Iran
680		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr-46	FROM: Iran
795		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr 46	FROM: Iran
797		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr 46	FROM: Iran
799		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr 46	FROM: Iran
816		Cairo	Jan 46	Mar 46	FROM: Bahrain MAO Mailing Address Only
824		Cairo	Dec 45	Mar 46	FROM: Iran

Table 2

A.P.O. Cancellations Used in Egypt during World War II

CANCELLATION NUMBER HS-	CANCELLATION (image may not be to scale)	COMMENTS	ASSIGNED TO APO*
Double Ring – No Killer			
HS-1 Diameter: 29mm		Double ring used on registered mail	APO 678, 788
Single Ring with Station and A.P.O. Number			
HS-5		A.P.O. number on right rim and above date. STA. A at bottom m of rim.	APO 486
No A.P.O. Number July 1942 – March 15, 1943			
HS-10		AMERICAN BASE FORCES No A.P.O. number	APO 814, 816
HS-11 Diameter: 32mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. Gap above month and no A.M./P.M.	APO 678

HS-12 Diameter: 32mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. Gap below year and no A.M./P.M.	APO 787, 12
HS-12A Diameter: 34mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. Gap below year and no A.M./P.M. Narrow spacing left & right of A.P.O.	APO 788
HS-13 Diameter: 31mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. Year on first line.	APO 616
HS-14 Diameter: 31mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. A.M./P.M. on third date line. Note spacing both sides of A.P.O.	APO 616, 678, 681, 683, 686, 696, 787
HS-15 Diameter: 31mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. A.M./P.M. on third date line. Wider spacing between the letters A.P.O.	APO 678
HS-16 Diameter: 31mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. A.M./P.M. on fourth date line. Note wide spacing both sides of A.P.O.	APO 616, 785, 787

HS-17 Diameter: 31mm		No A.P.O. number at bottom. A.M./P.M. on fourth date line. Close spacing both sides of A.P.O.	APO 498, 678, 681
HS-18 Diameter: 31mm		No A.P.O. number. A.P.O. left of center. A.M./P.M. on fourth date line.	APO 616
HS-19 Diameter: 32mm		No A.P.O. number. NO A.M./P.M. Gap between day and year.	APO 485, 486

A.P.O. Number Within Date and Time Slugs – Not at Ring Bottom

HS-20		A.P.O. left of center A.P.O. number on fourth date line	APO 485, 616, 678, 683, 696, 787, 788
HS-21 Diameter: 31mm		A.P.O. centered at bottom. A.P.O. number on fourth date line.	APO 616, 678, 684, 696, 787, 788

HS-22 Diameter: 33 mm		A.P.O. centered at bottom. A.P.O. number on fourth date line. Larger letters than HS-21	APO 616
HS-23 Diameter: 32mm		A.P.O. number on first date line.	APO 678, 681, 696, 788
HS-25 Diameter: 31mm		A.P.O number between day and year.	APO 788

A.P.O. Number at Ring Bottom and with Date and A.P.O. Number

HS-27		Month, day, year, A.P.O. number. A.P.O. number at bottom of rim	APO 683, 696
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A.P.O. Number at Ring Bottom

HS-30		A.P.O. number centered at bottom. A.M./P.M. on third date line.	APO 485, 616, 678,
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HS-31 Diameter: 31mm		A.P.O. number centered at bottom. A.M./P.M. on fourth date line	APO 616
HS-33 Diameter: 31mm		A.P.O. number centered at bottom. GAP between year and APO number.	APO 678
HS-35 Diameter: 32mm		A.P.O. number centered at bottom. GAP between month and day.	APO 485, 486
HS-37 (black) HS-37A (blue) Diameter: 31mm		A.P.O. number centered at bottom. GAP between day and year.	HS-37: APO 485, 486 HS-37A (blue): APO 485, 486
HS-39 Diameter: 31mm		AMERICAN BASE FORCES	814
Postal Machine Cancellations			
PMC-1 Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K Diameter: 20mm		U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE Only one cover is known from APO 788.	APO 616, 678, 788

PMC-2 International Postal Supply Company Model Hey Dolphin 2		AMERICAN BASE FORCES A.P.O. No APO number.	APO 616
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* APO numbers in boldface have been confirmed as being used in that specific APO. The unconfirmed APOs are believed to have used that particular datestamp. Additional APOs will be added when reported.

References:

- Billings, Bart, *U S Postal Machines of the Army Post Offices – World War II, Volume I and Volume II*, North Las Vegas, NV: 2006.
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- Rein, Christopher M., *The North African Air Campaign, U.S. Army Air Forces from El Alamein to Salerno*, Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2012.
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- Sherman, Lawrence M.D., *The United States Post Office in World War II*, Chicago: The Collectors Club of Chicago, 2002.



We had a meeting at the Washington show of 2006, see *QC* 237, and hope to repeat its success in New York next year. The free entry show runs over eight days, May 28-June 4, 2016, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001.

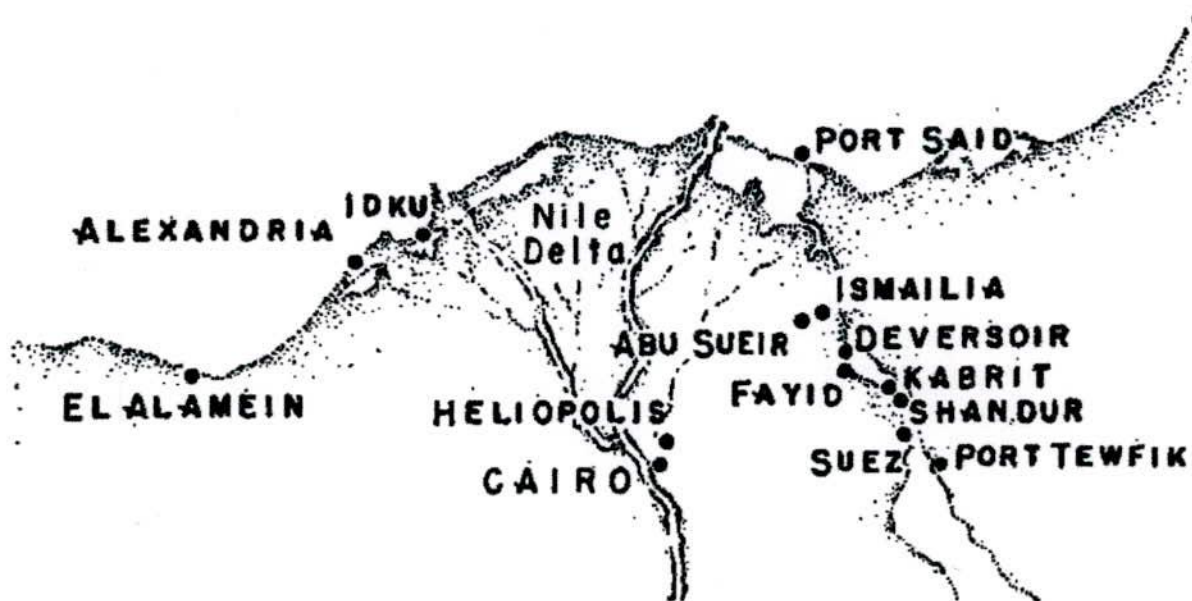
The show will take up 294,000 square feet with over 200 dealers, 4,000 exhibit frames and an expected 200,000+ visitors. So don't miss this once-a-decade event. See <http://www.ny2016.org/>

Room 1E10 is reserved for an Egypt Study Circle meeting for 2½ hours beginning at 11am, **Sunday, May 29, 2016.**

An expression of interest would be helpful.



**MAJOR UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE AIR BASES IN EGYPT
DURING WORLD WAR II**



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 485 MAR 9 1943, Kabrit, Egypt
Type HS-19 No A.P.O. number, 3 lines, gap between day and year.

Free – surface rate



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 485 MAY 4 1943, Kabrit, Egypt
Type HS-35 A.P.O. number centered at bottom, 3 lines, gap between month and day.

A.P.O. 485 opened at the RAF Station at Kabrit, Egypt on 12 January 1943. Kabrit was in the Suez Canal Zone some 20 miles north of Suez. In June 1943 it moved to Castel Benito, Libya. All 9th Air Force fighter groups in the eastern desert were detached to the RAF.

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APS # 9360-043173

9th FIGHTER WING

Constituted as 9th Pursuit Wing on 19 Oct 1940. Activated on 18 Dec 1940. Inactivated on 1 Oct 1941.

Redesignated 9th Fighter Wing. Activated on 24 Jul 1942. Moved to the Middle East, Dec 1, 42-Feb 1943. Assigned to Ninth AF. Apparently no combat groups were assigned to the wing during 1942-1943.

Inactivated on 31 Mar 1943.

GROUPS. 14th: 1941. 51st: 1941.

STATIONS. March Field, Calif, 18 Dec 1940-1 Oct 1941. Drew Field, Fla, 24 Jul- 13 Dec 1942; El Kabrit, Egypt, 1 Feb-31 Mar 1943.

COMMANDERS. Unknown.

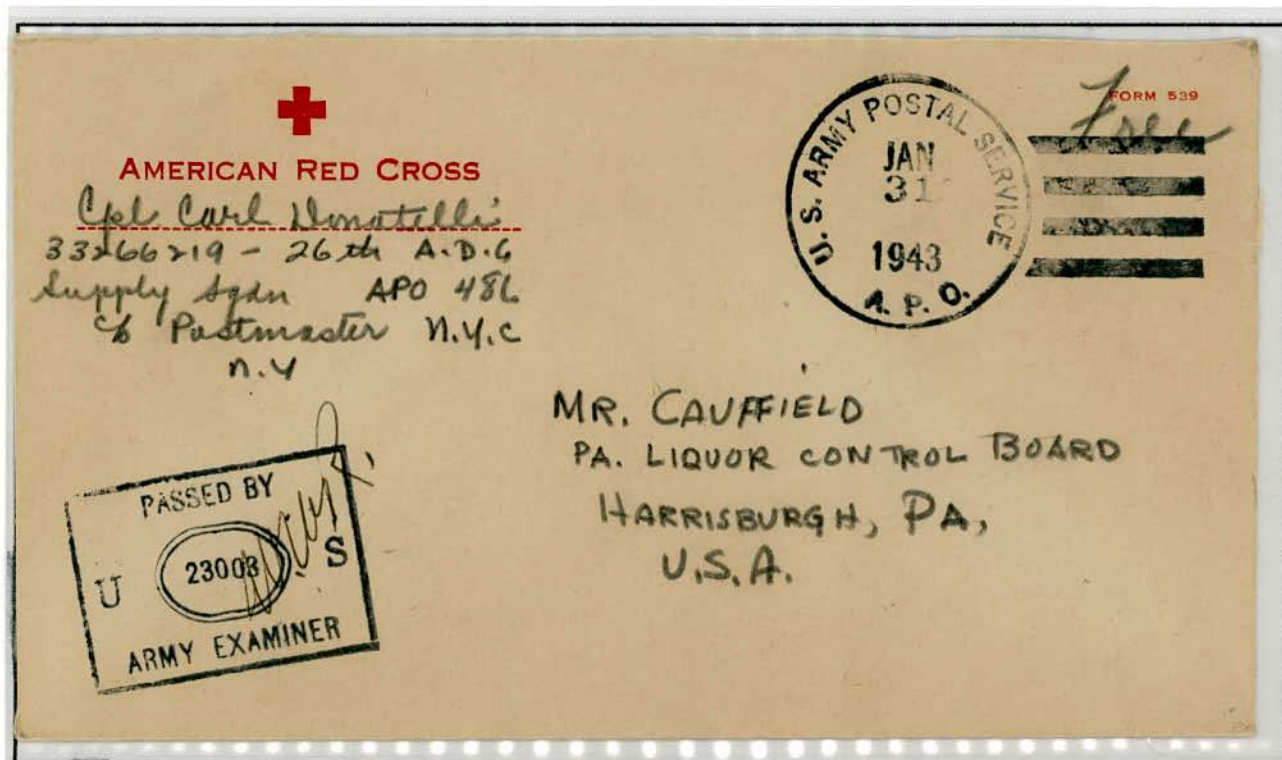
CAMPAIGNS. European-African-Middle Eastern Theater

DECORATION. None.

INSIGNE. None.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 486 JAN 31 1943, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt
Type HS-19 No A.P.O. number, 3 lines, gap between day and year.

Free – surface rate



A note concerning A.P.O. datestamps without numbers: The A.P.O. numbers were ordered removed by a directive from the War Department beginning July 1, 1942, supposedly as a security measure. However, this doesn't make a whole lot of sense, as the APO number is included in the sender's return address. On 15 March 1943 the order was reversed with Postal Circular 16, Headquarters, Services of Supply, European Theater of Operations U.S. Army. The first number to reappear was that of APO 887 on 17 March.

The 26th Air Depot Group arrived at Deversoir Air Base on 31 October – 1 November 1942 and was transferred to Karachi, India in March 1944.

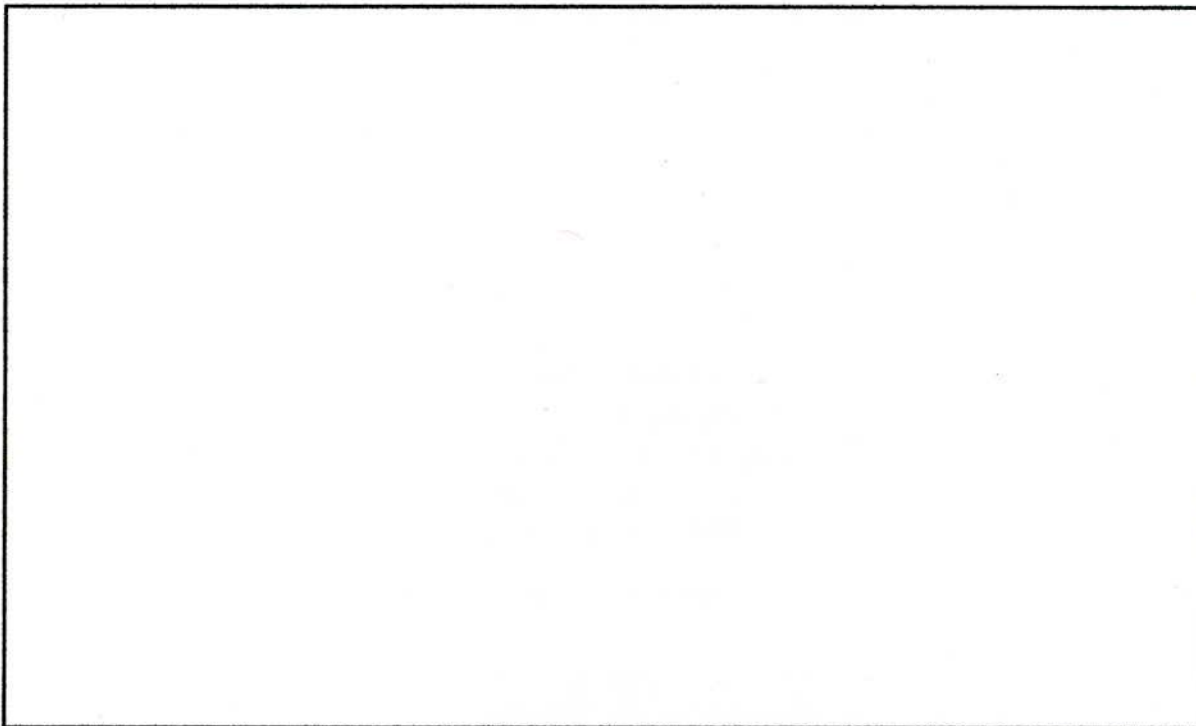
Deversoir Air Base (LG-209) is a former military airfield in Egypt, located approximately 19 km south-southeast of Ismailia and 116 km northeast of Cairo. It was a major Royal Air Force airfield known as RAF Deversoir built before World War II. The RAF and the **United States Army Air Force** (USAAF) used it during the North African Campaign against the German and Italian forces.

USAAF Ninth Air Force units that used the airfield were:

- 12th Bombardment Group, 31 July–October 1942, and the 316th Troop Carrier Group, 23 November–December 1942.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 486 JAN 31 1943, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt
Type HS-19 No A.P.O. number, 3 lines, gap between day and year.

Free – surface rate



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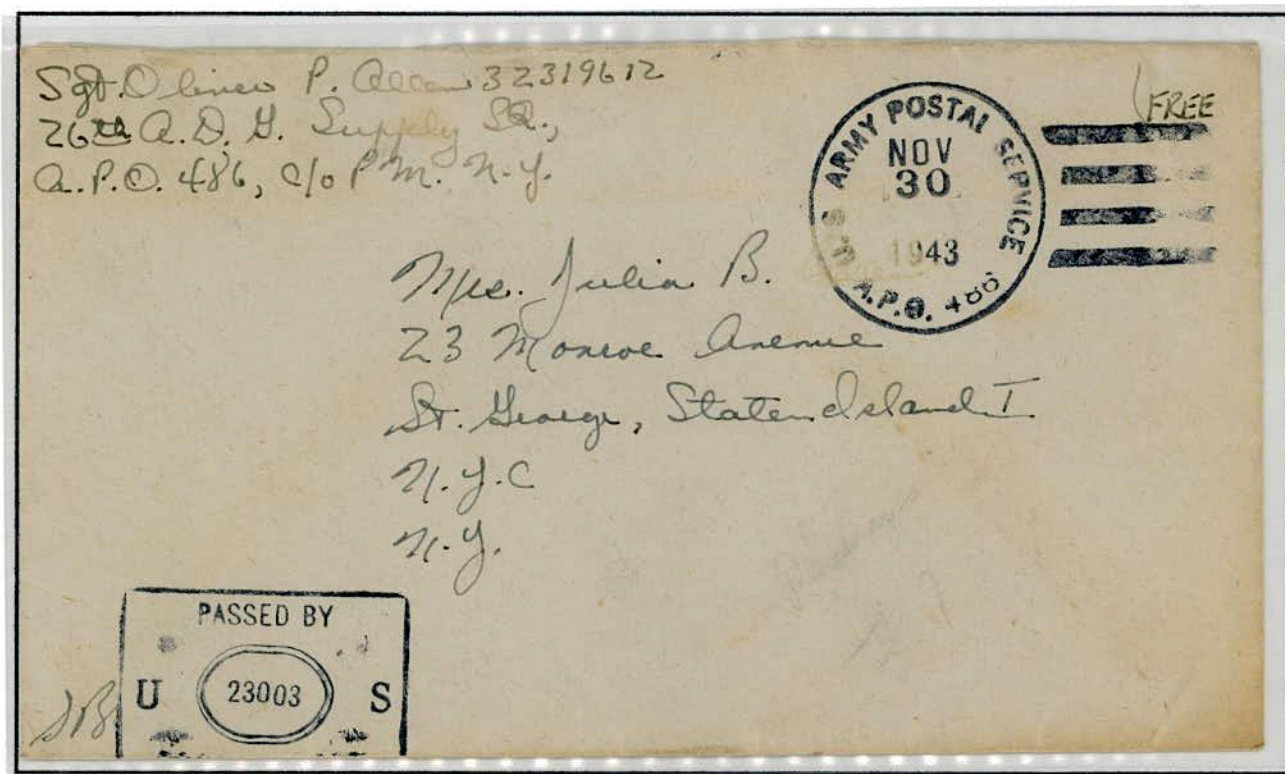
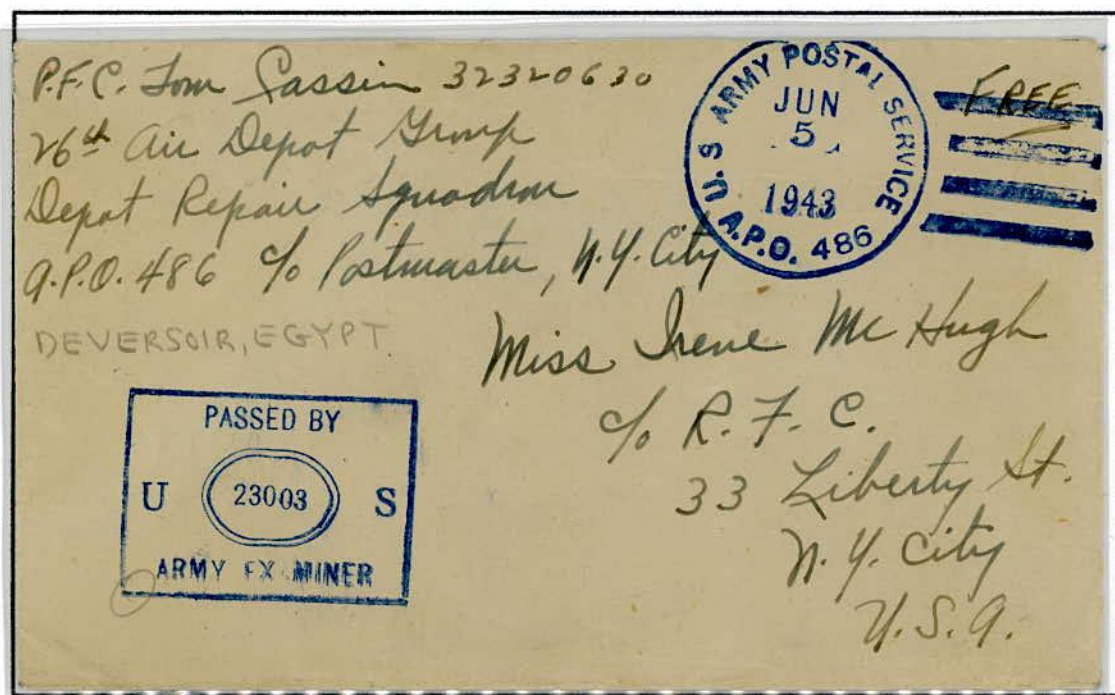
USAAF Ninth Air Force units that used the airfield were:

- 12th Bombardment Group, 31 July–October 1942, and the 316th Troop Carrier Group, 23 November–December 1942.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 486 JUN 5 1943, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt

Type HS-37A (blue) A.P.O. number centered at bottom, 3 lines, gap between day and year.

Free – surface rate



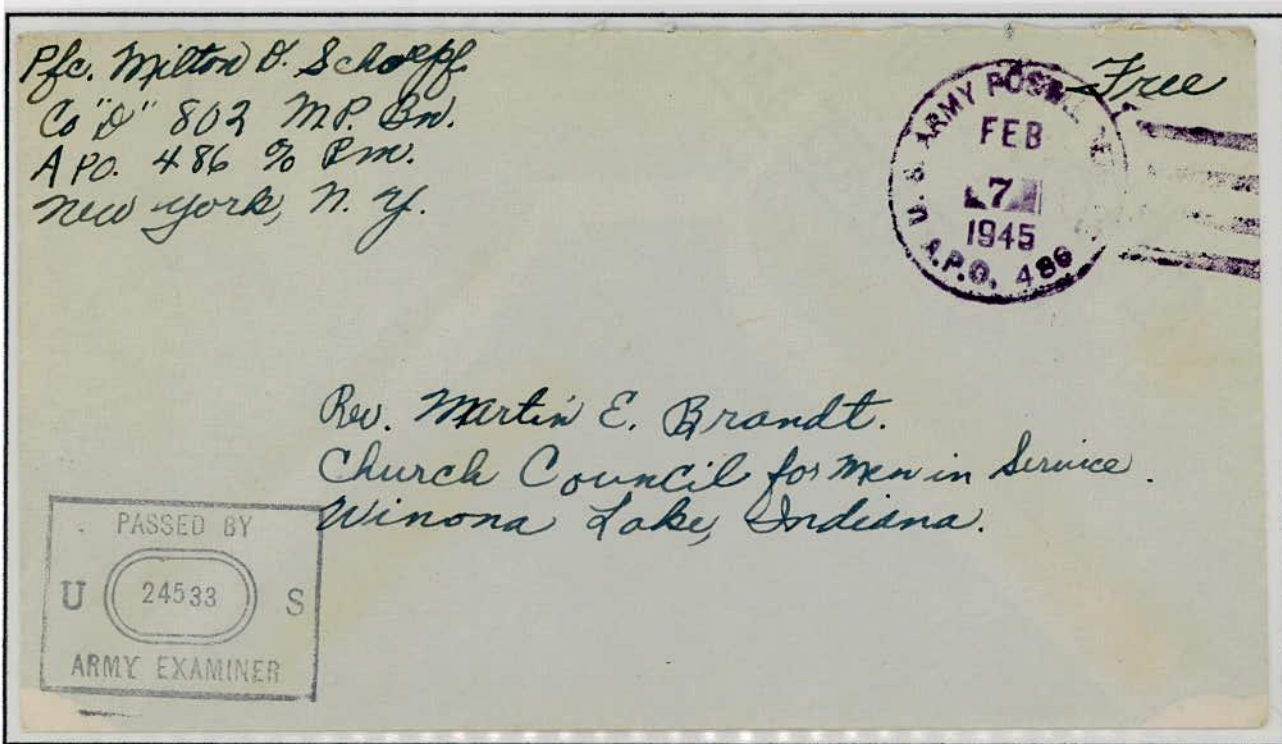
A.P.O. POSTMARK: 486 NOV 30 1943, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt

Type HS-37 (black) A.P.O. number centered at bottom, 3 lines, gap between day and year.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 486 FEB 7 1945, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt

Type HS-35 A.P.O. number centered at bottom of ring, 3 lines, gap between month and day.

Free – surface rate



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 486 AUG 16 1945, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt

Type HS-35 A.P.O. number centered at bottom of ring, 3 lines, gap between month and day.

Concession air mail rate – 6¢ per ½ ounce



The increase in the local letter rate from 2¢ to 3¢ in March 1944 left many millions of the 2¢ embossed envelope without a practical use. One year later the remainders were overprinted AIR 6¢ MAIL for use by the overseas armed forces.

INCOMING COVER TO APO 616

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 512

JUL 9 1943 (type HS-23)

Headquarters, Allied Forces in North Africa

Located in Algiers, Algeria. The cover

Is postmarked the date of the

Allied invasion of Sicily.

Sent to APO 616 in Cairo and forwarded

to the American Legation in

Baghdad, Iraq.

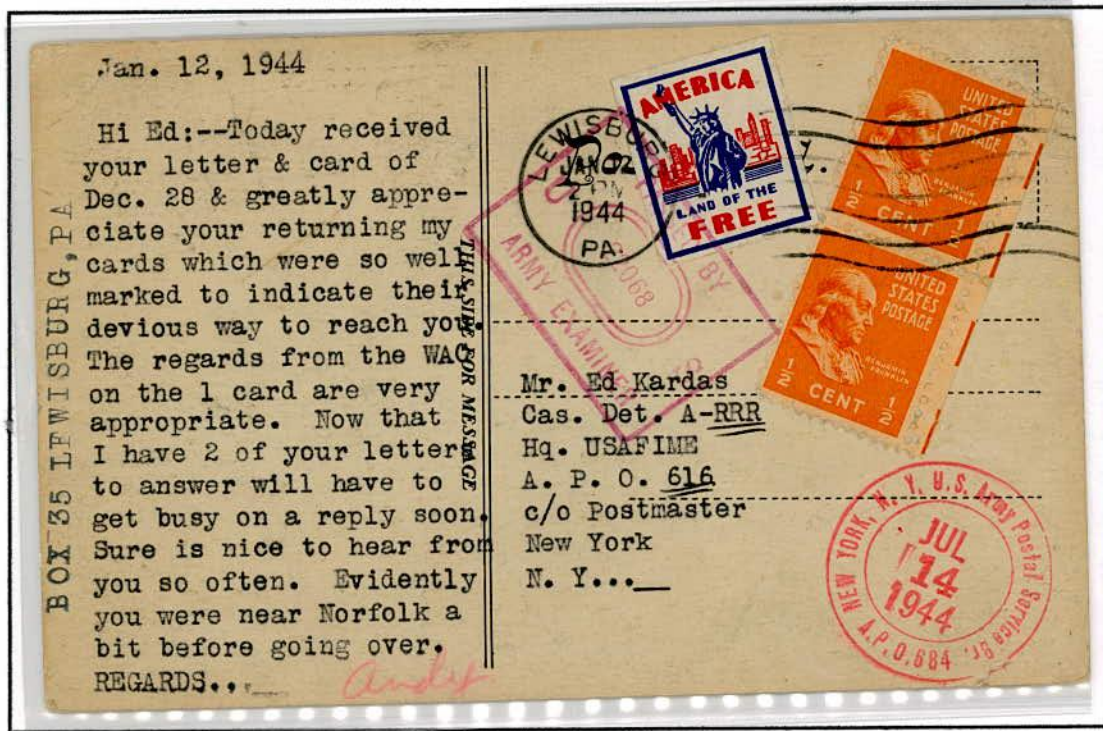
Air mail sent by civilian working with
American propaganda activities.



The letter reads in part:
"You ain't seen a liquor shortage
until you've seen this joint."

INCOMING COVER TO APO 616 via APO 684

Postcard sent from Lewisburg, Pennsylvania postmarked Jan 12, 1944 to a civilian at APO 616 located at Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt.



It was delayed and not received at APO 684 until Jul 14, 1944 where the double circle datestamp was applied as a transit marking. This c.d.s. is normally used on registered mail. On 1 April 1944 APO 684 moved from Camp Huckstep to Alexandria.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 616, OCT 7 1944,
Cairo, Egypt
Type HS-18, No A.P.O. number,
A.P.O. left of center, P.M. on 4th date line.

A.P.O. 6161 started operations in Cairo om
27 July 1942 and moved on to Camp
Huckstep, Heliopolis on
30 September 1943.

Three cent surface letter from a civilian
with Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc.,
a civilian construction firm working
in the Middle East for the Army
Corps of Engineers.



Mr. E. J. Gifford
Vice President
First National Bank
St. Paul, Minnesota

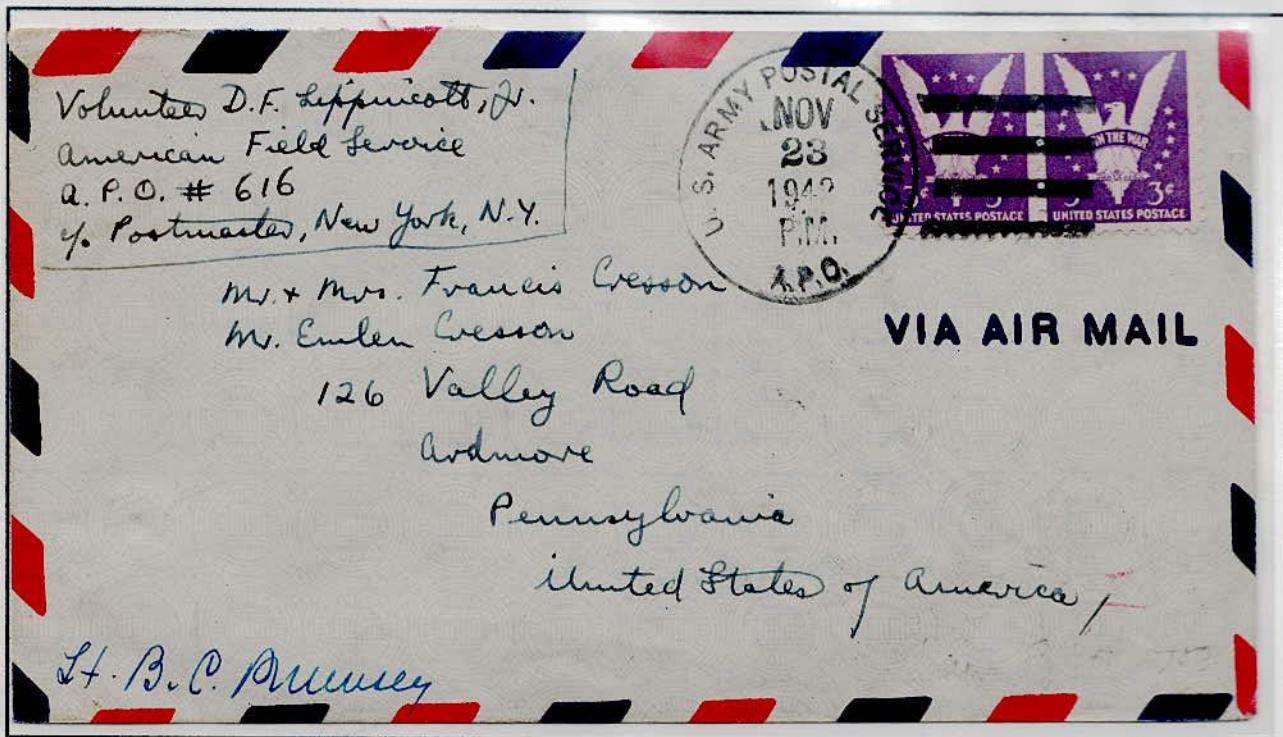
Mr. A.P. Johnson
% Johnson, Drake & Piper
A.P.O. #616
% Postmaster, New York



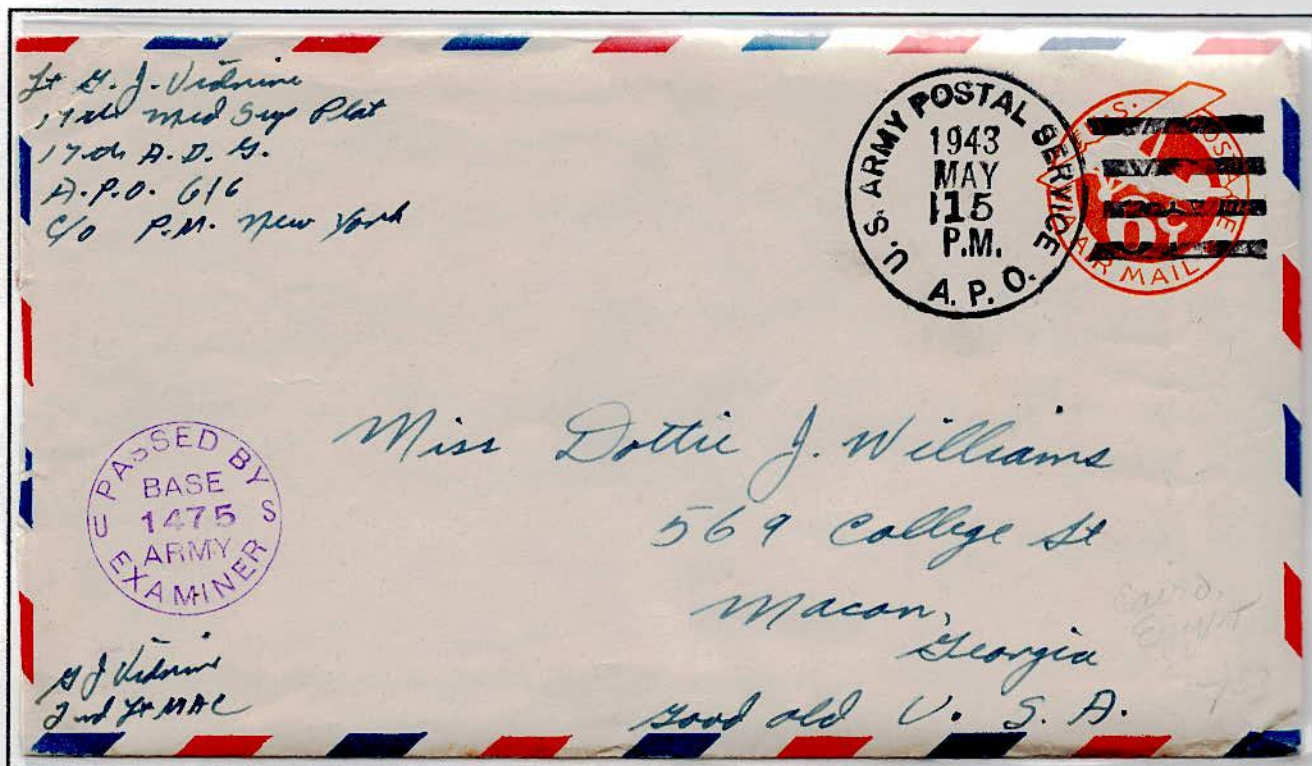
A.P.O. POSTMARK: 616, NOV 23 1942, Cairo, Egypt

Type HS-16, No A.P.O. number, P.M. on 4th date line, wide spacing both sides of A.P.O.

Approved civilian concession air mail rate - 6¢ per half ounce



Concession air mail rate - 6¢ per half ounce



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 616, 1943 May 15, Cairo, Egypt

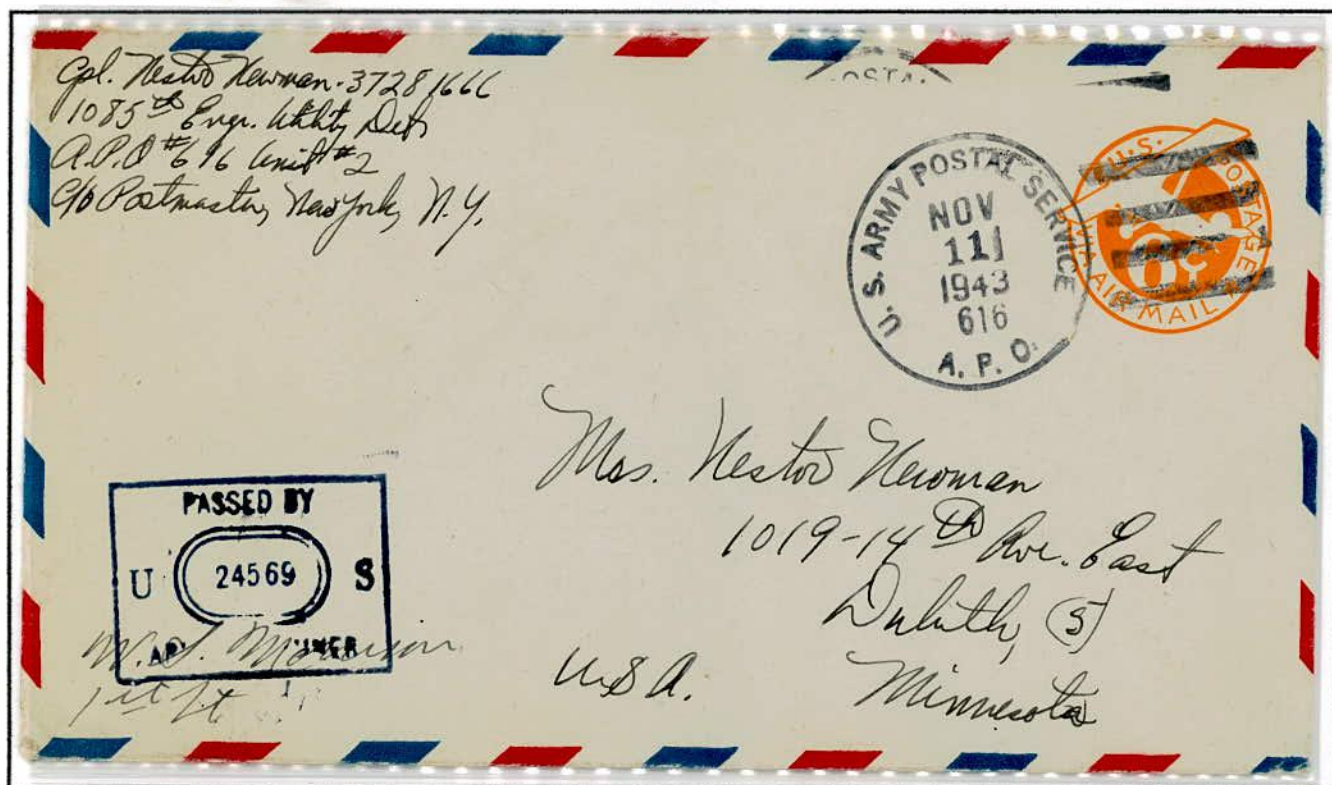
Type HS-13, No A.P.O. number, year on first date line and P.M. on 4th date line

Note the late use of a numberless datestamp.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 616, SEP 13 1943, Cairo, Egypt

Type HS-31, A.P.O. and number at bottom of ring, P.M. on 4th date line.

Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



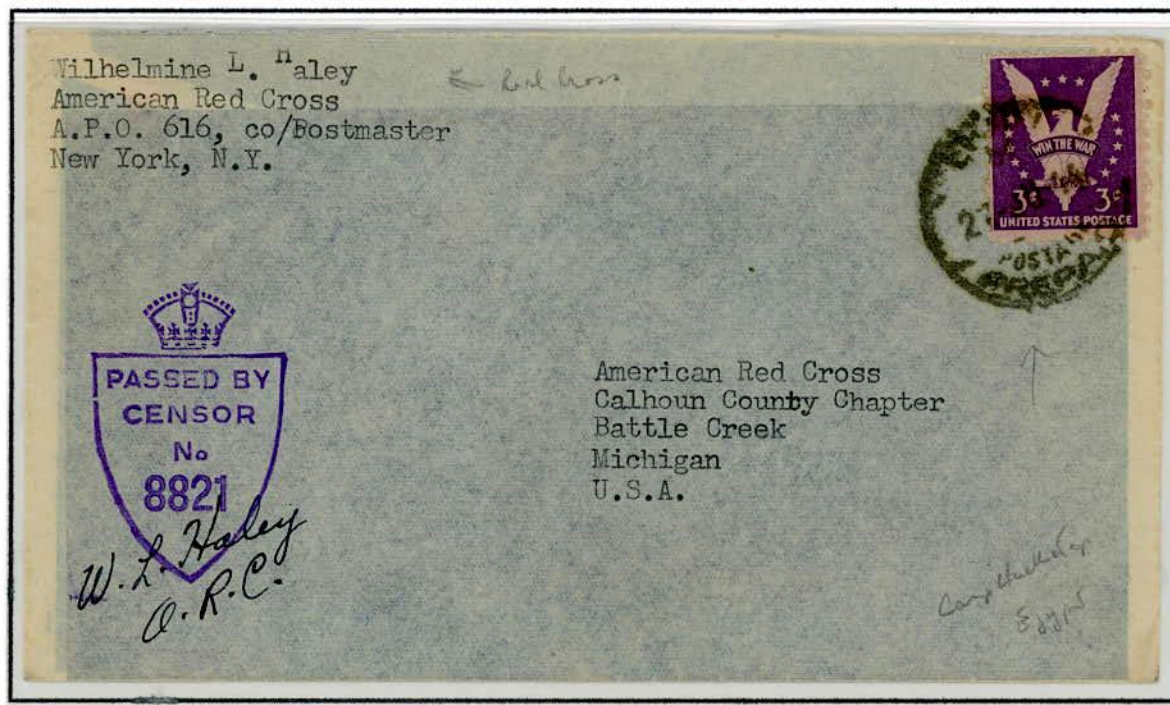
A.P.O. POSTMARK: 616, NOV 11 1943, Camp Huckstep

Type HS-21, No A.P.O. number at bottom of ring but on 4th date line.

A.P.O. 616 transferred to Camp Huckstep, Egypt on 1 October 1943 and to Saudi Arabia in November 1946. The sender's address block shows Unit #2. APO units sold stamps, money orders and similar services but did not sort or distribute mail.

A.P.O. 616, 23 JU 44, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt, Posted at British Army Postal Facility

Cover from an American Red Cross member at Camp Huckstep, a large service depot, mailed at a British Army postal facility. Postmarked with an unclear EGYPT POSTAGE PREPAID datestamp (type I) it bears a British Army censor marking No. 8821. Without a clear indicator number under EGYPT, the location of the army postal facility cannot be determined. This is an unusual posting of an American piece of correspondence.



Another cover with this censor marking is noted in *Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-1947* by F. W. Benians (1978), posted at EPP 64 (type II) on 11 October 1944. This was located with a South African Unit at an airfield near Alamein and from 1936 Company, Royal Army Service Corps/



Type 1 EPP Circular Date Stamp
Dashes separate the day/month/year.

INCOMING TO A.P.O. 498 AND FORWARDED TO 8th BASE POST OFFICE WITH 8th B.P.O. instructional handstamp and backstamp of A.P.O. 616, FEB 28 1946, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt. Type HS-21, No A.P.O. number at bottom of ring but on 4th date line.

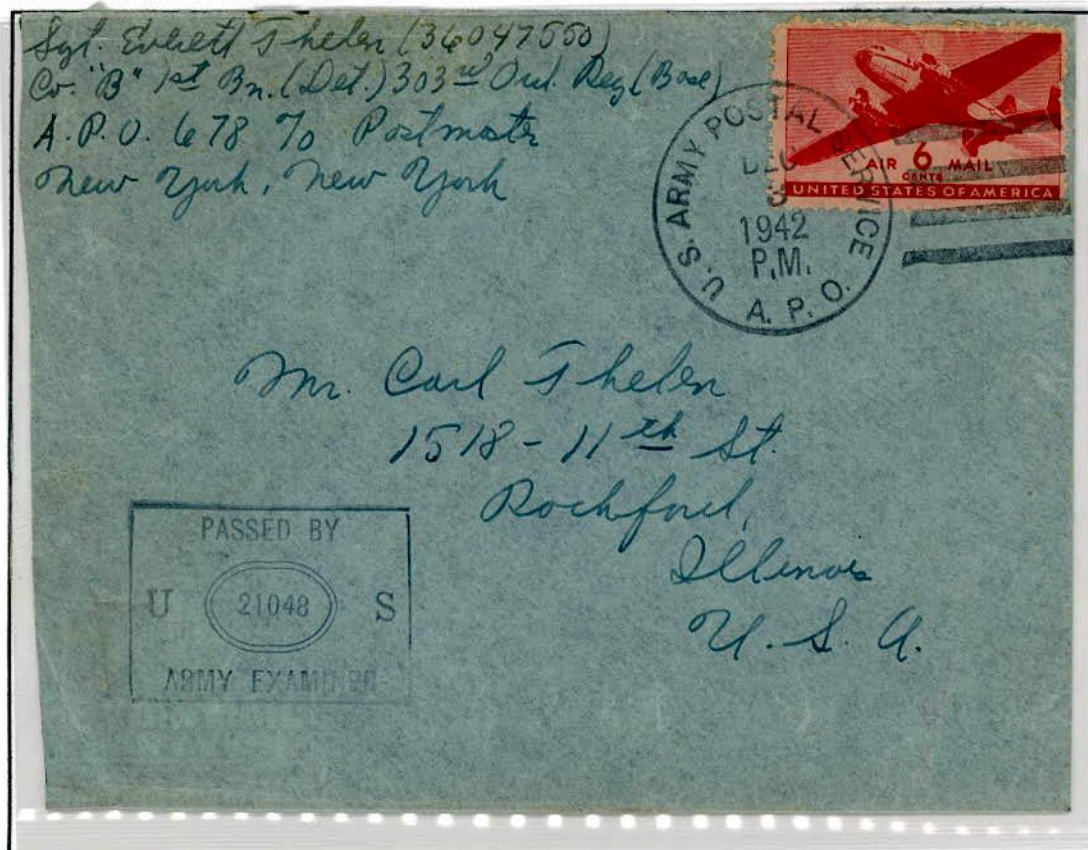
Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



A.P.O. 498 was transferred from Benghazi, Libya to Camp Huckstep on 14 October 1943 and thence to Tripoli, Libya on 1 May 1944 before ceasing operations on 28 October 1945. Apparently Private Malmquist did not notify his correspondents of a new address so the letter was sent to the 8th Base Post Office Directory Service to see if he could be located through the Directory Service. The covers were backstamped with its associated A.P.O. 616 datestamp and returned to the sender. The 8th Base Post Office was activated at Heliopolis on 1 May 1943 and moved to Camp Huckstep on 20n December 1943. It was inactivated on 15 March 1946.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, DEC 3 1942, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-17, No A.P.O. number, P.M. on 4th date line, close spacing both sides of A,P,O,

Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce

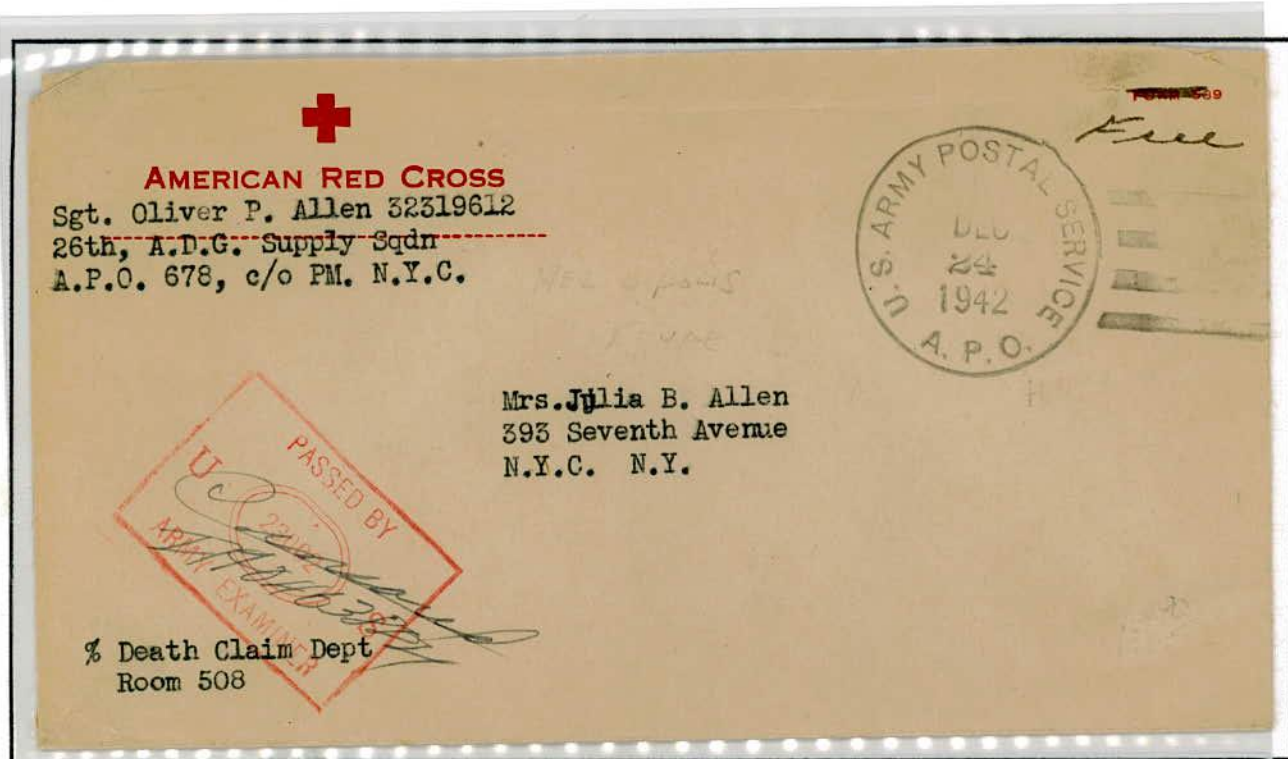


A.P.O. 678, HQ, Middle East Service Command, was established on or about 2 March 1942 in Egypt (possibly Cairo) and opened at Camp Huckstep in Heliopolis on 7 November 1942. It ceased operation on 31 October 1945.

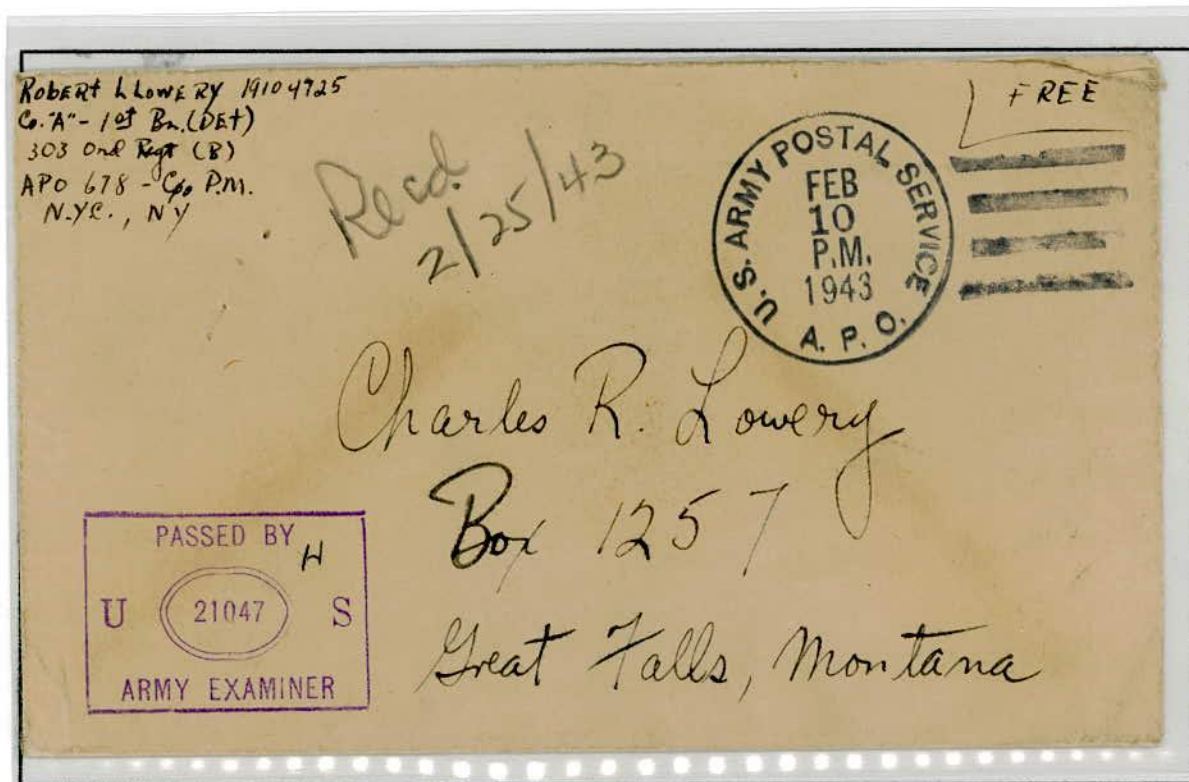
The service supply depot located near Cairo, Egypt, at the time the largest depot in the Middle East (with an 1100 bed hospital), was named Camp Huckstep in honor of Russell B. Huckstep (1905 - 1943). Huckstep joined the United States Military Mission to North Africa, Eritrea Service Command, on November 16th, 1941. During a trip to Cairo, Egypt, Huckstep's plane encountered a storm and crashed into a mountain on 23 February 1943.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, DEC 24 1942, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-11, No A.P.O. number, 3 lines with gap above month, no A.M./P.M. line.

Free – surface rate

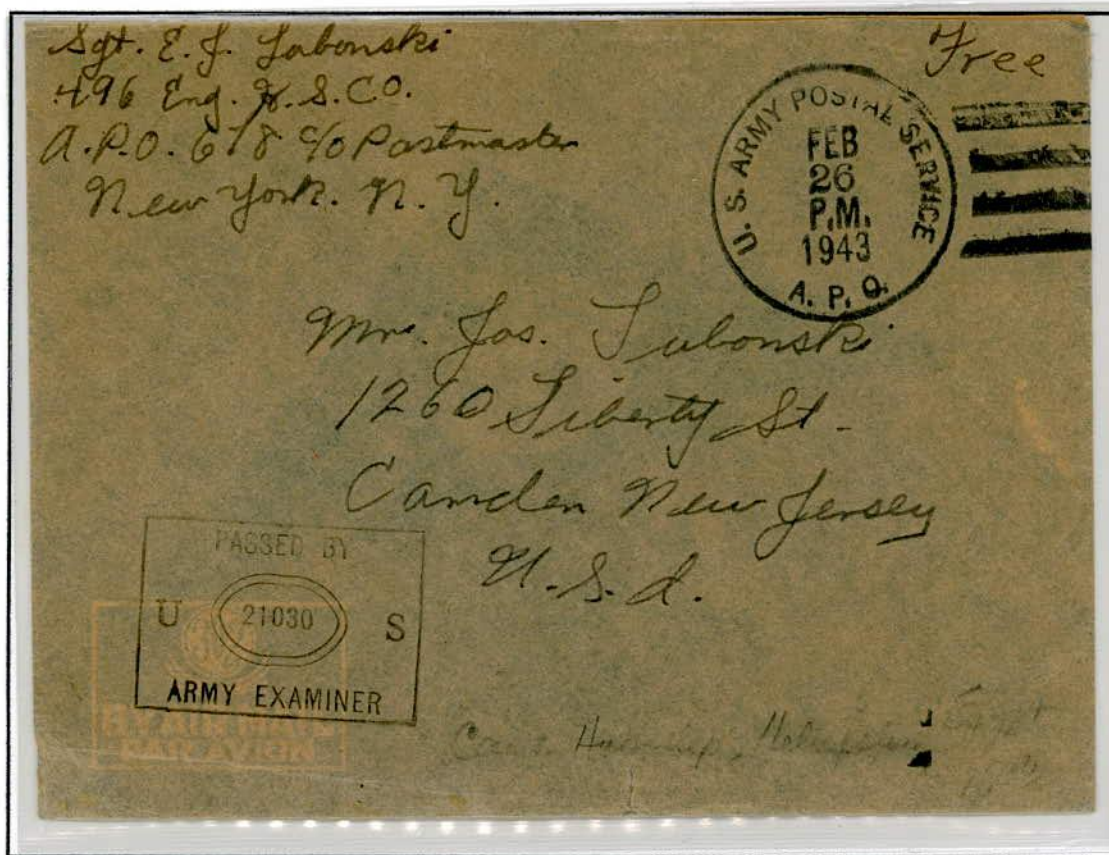


A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, DEC 24 1942, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-15, No A.P.O. number, P.M. on 3rd date line, wider spacing between the letters A. P. O.

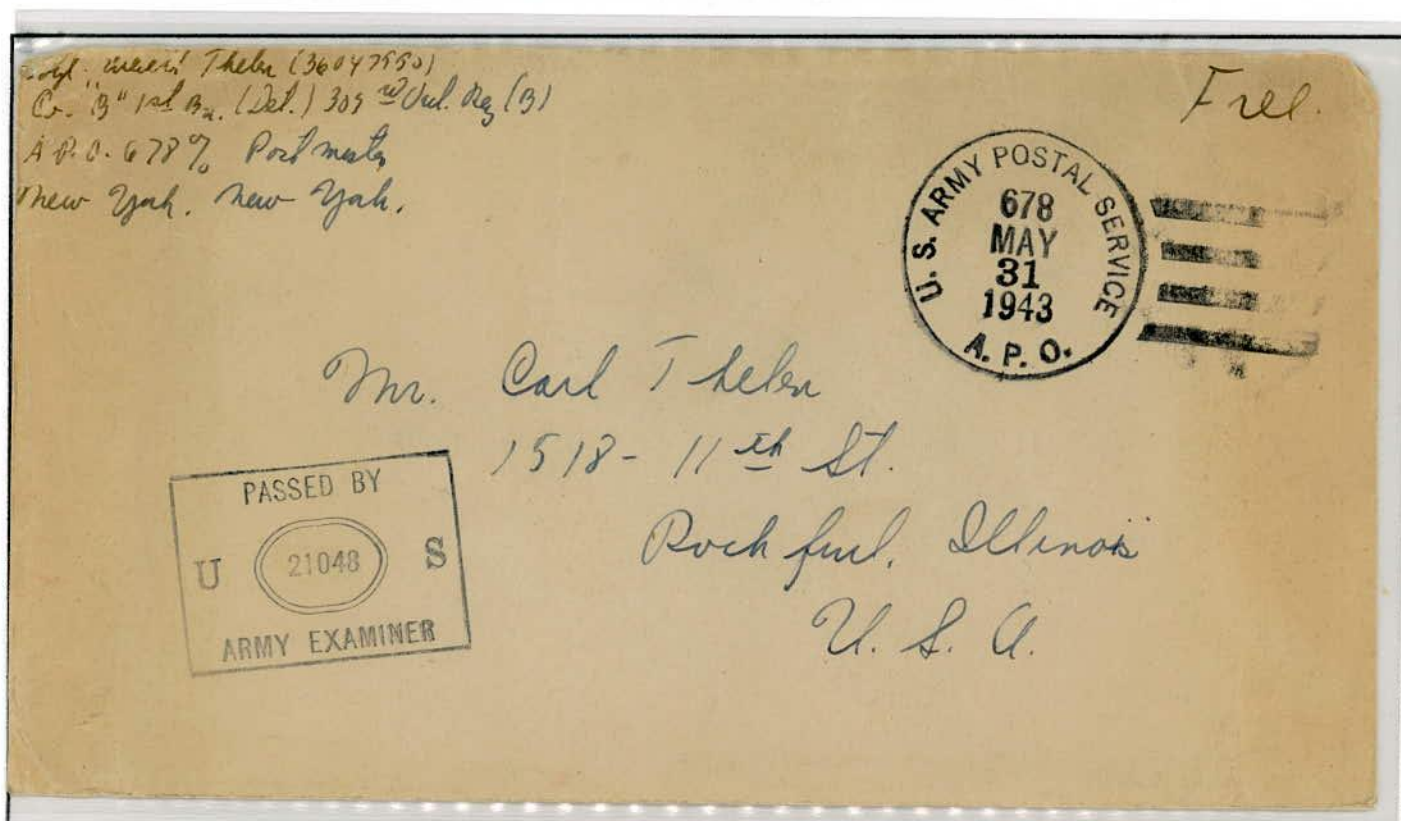


A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, FEB 26 1943, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-14, No A.P.O. number, 4 lines with P.M. on 3rd line, wider spacing on both sides of A.P.O..

Free - surface rate

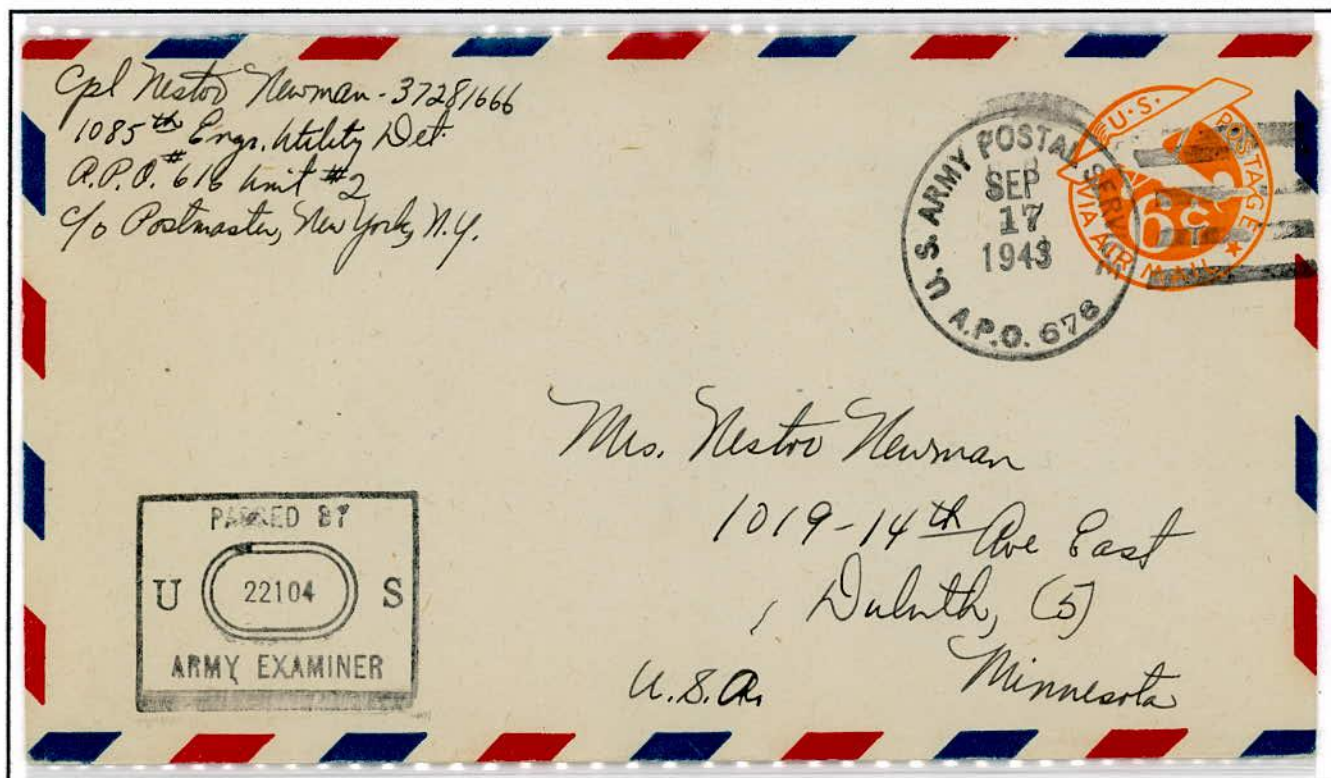


A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, MAY 31 1943, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-23, A.P.O. number on first date line.



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, SEP 17 1943, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-33, A.P.O. and number centered at bottom of ring, 3 lines, 4th line blank.

Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



A.P.O. 616, Unit #2, 1085th Engineer Utility Detachment. Unit #2 was activated 21 October 1942. APO units provided stamps, money orders, and similar services but did not sort or distribute mail.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, DEC 21 1943, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type PMC-1, Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K

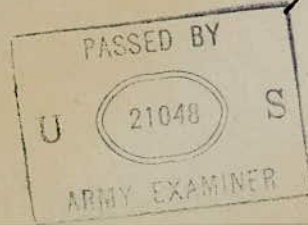
FREE - surface rate

Sgt. Ernest T. Heber (36047920)
3107 2d Inf. B. Amer. Inf. Cn.
607 2d Inf. B. G. M. Bn.
A.P.O. 678 72 Postmark
New York, New York.



Free

Mr. Carl L. T. Heber
1518-11th St.
Rockford, Illinois
U.S.A.

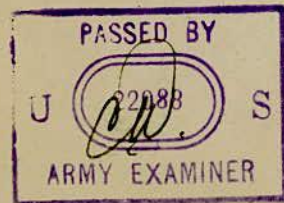


Sgt. Chet Westerlund 37274023, AGD
Clerk in Charge, APO 684, c/o Pm,
New York, N.Y.



Camp Russell B. Huckstep,
Heliopolis, Egypt.

MISS GRACE BORG
c/o MINNEAPOLIS CIVIC COUNCIL
610 MCKNIGHT BUILDING,
MINNEAPOLIS, (1) MINNESOTA



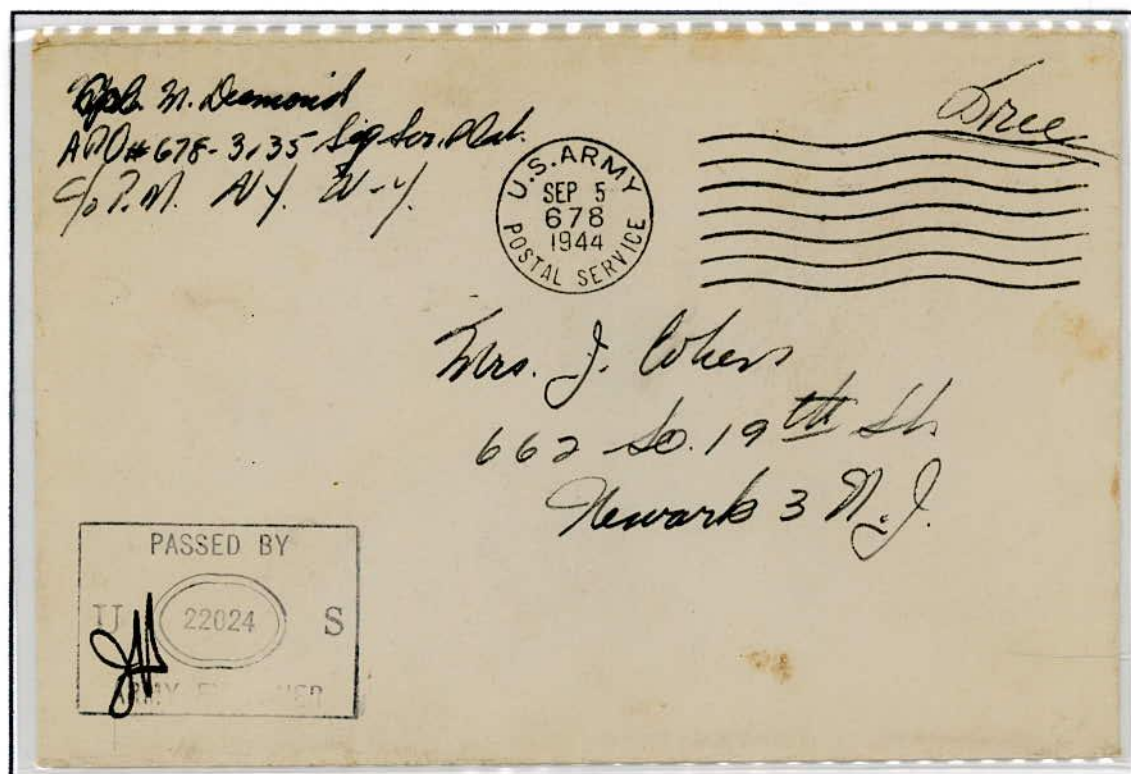
Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, May 23, 1944, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type PMC-1, Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K

A.P.O. 684 was a mobile unit of U.S. Army Forces in the Middle East (USAFIME) arriving in Egypt from Asmara, Eritrea on 17 May 1942. On 3 October it was moved to Camp Ataka, Egypt (a section in the city of Suez) and to Camp Huckstep, on 16 January 1944. In April it was assigned to Alexandria and was discontinued on 1 July 1946.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, SEP 5 1944, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type PMC-1B, Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K (A.P.O. number on second line).

FREE – surface rate

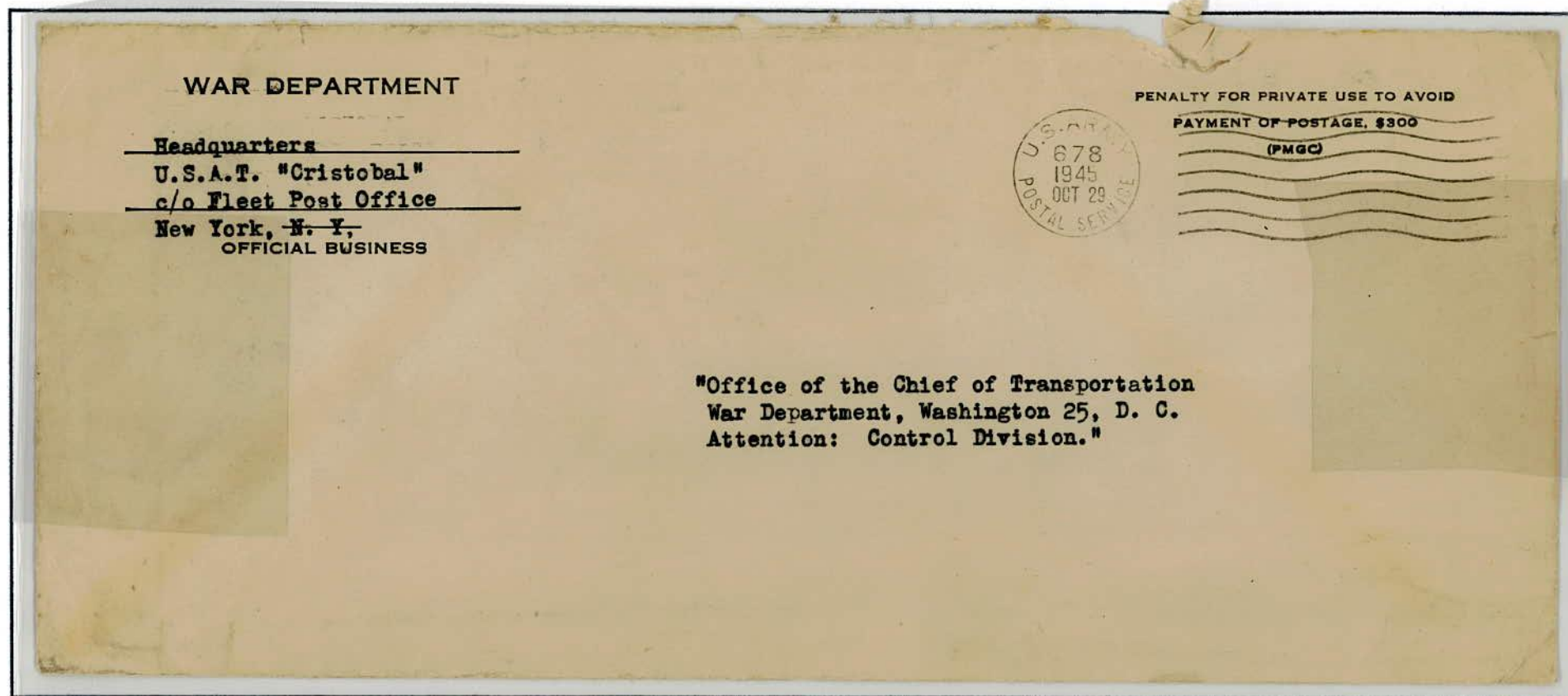


The cover is from a soldier in the 3135 Signal Service Platoon.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, OCT 29 1945, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt

Type PMC-1C, Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K (A.P.O. number on first line and year on the second).

FREE – surface rate



This is a very late use of the postmark as the A.P.O. 678 ceased operating on 31 October 1945.

The S.S. Cristobal was requisitioned from the Panama Railroad Company by the U.S. Army on January 11, 1942 and was redesignated the US Army Transport Cristobal (USAT Cristobal). She transported troops and supplies world wide ranging from Australia, Europe and the Meditterean. After completing 4 years and 5 months service with the Army, on 14 June 1946, the Cristobal was returned to the Panama Line, where she continued passenger/cargo service between New York and Panama until April 1961. In June of that year the Cristobal made her first voyage between New Orleans and Panama, a route she was to ply until her last voyage on September 19, 1981.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, JAN 10 1944, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
(Type HS-1 – double-ring circular datestamp used on registered mail.)

Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce
Registration Fee - 15¢



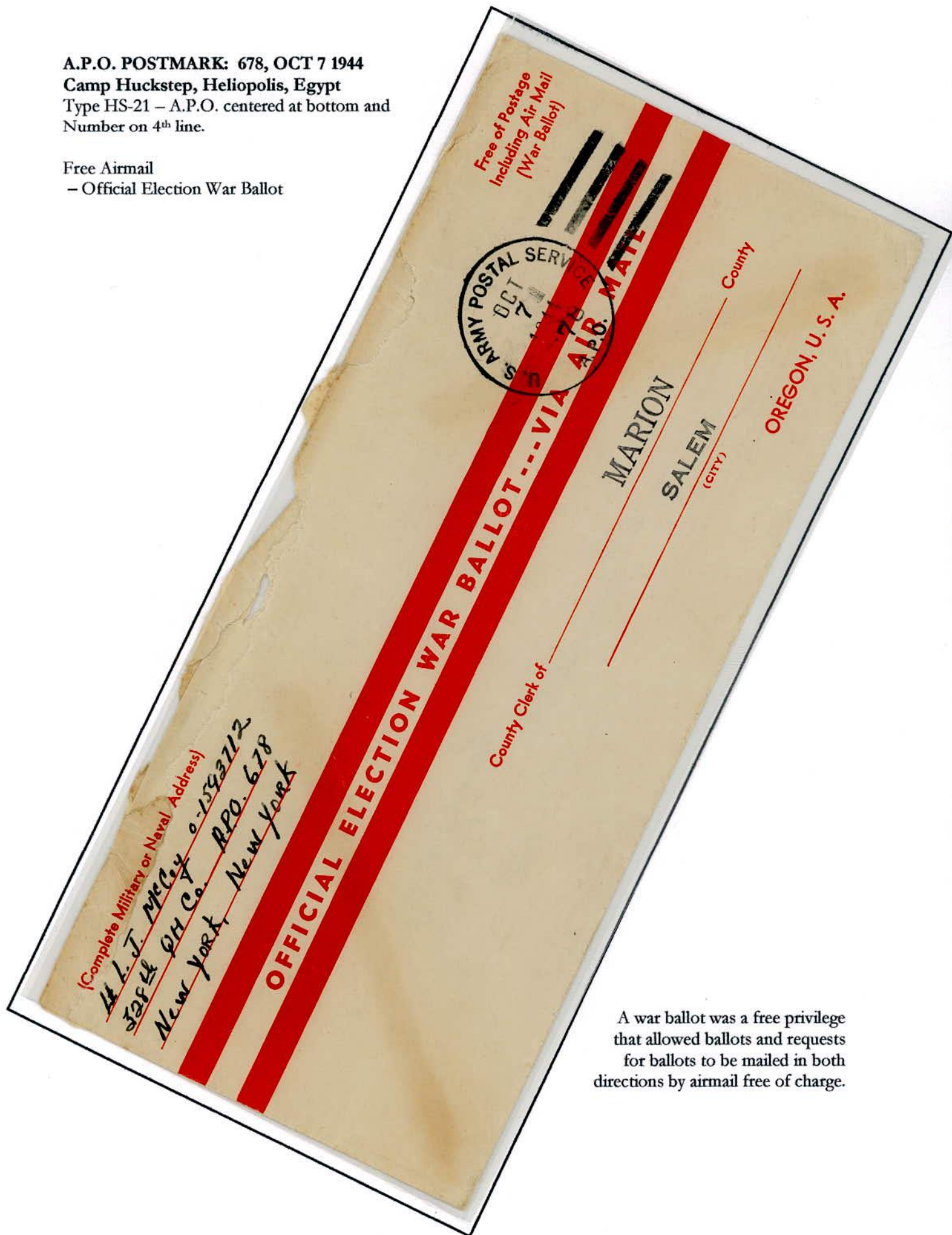
The sender of this registered cover was with the Headquarters Detachment, United States Army Forces in the Middle East (USAFIME), Africa-Middle East Theater. A.P.O. 787 opened at RAF Deversoir airfield on 21 January 1943 and discontinued operations 1 July 1946. The airbase was located about 115 kilometers northeast of Cairo, not far from Ismailia. USAFIME was a unified United States Army command established in August 1942 to oversee the Egypt-Libya Campaign. The route of the cover was likely Cairo to Khartoum, Sudan, to West Africa, over the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil and then up to Miami where it is backstamped 19 January 1944. It was received in Southington, Connecticut on the 19th.



Reverse side of cover - reduced

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 678, OCT 7 1944
Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-21 – A.P.O. centered at bottom and
Number on 4th line.

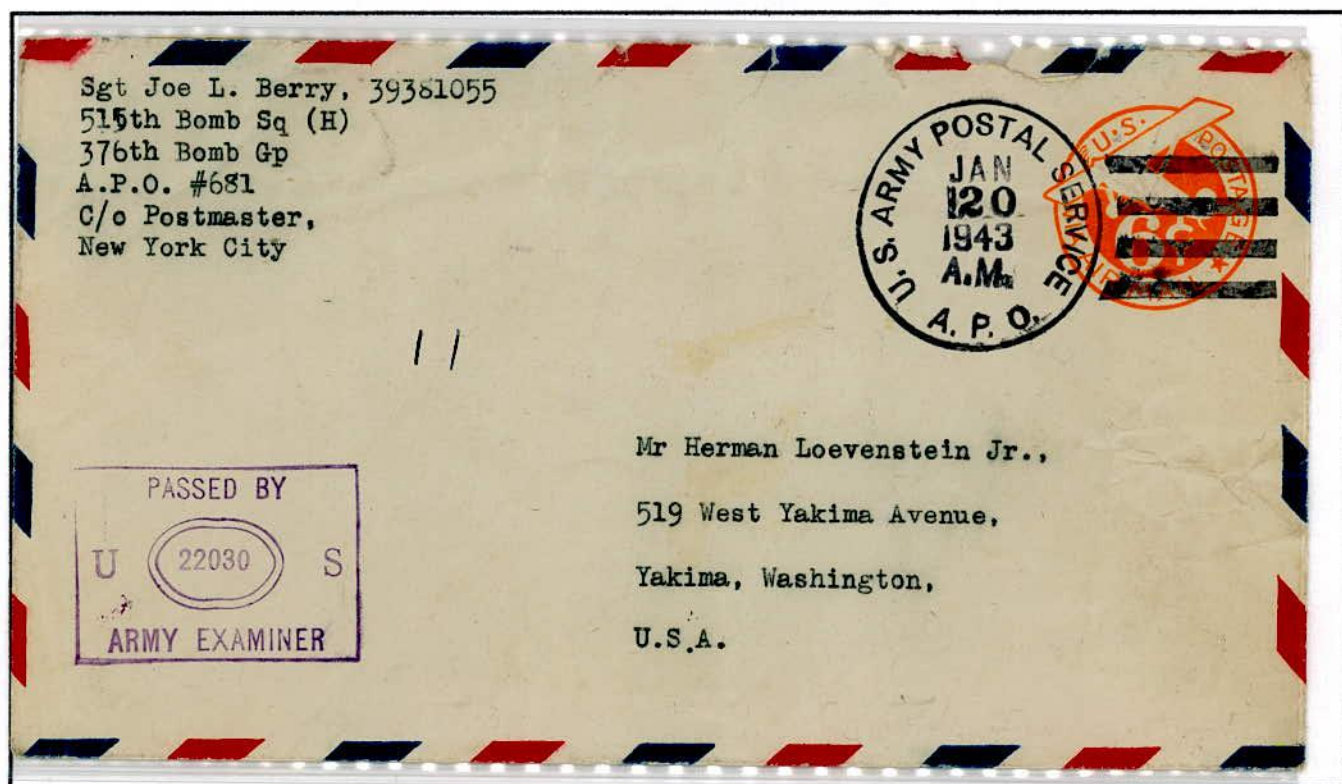
Free Airmail
– Official Election War Ballot



A war ballot was a free privilege
that allowed ballots and requests
for ballots to be mailed in both
directions by airmail free of charge.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 681, NO A.P.O. NUMBER, JAN 20 1943, Abu Sueir, Egypt
Type HS-17, No A.P.O. number, A.M. on 4th date line, close spacing on both sides of A.P.O.

Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



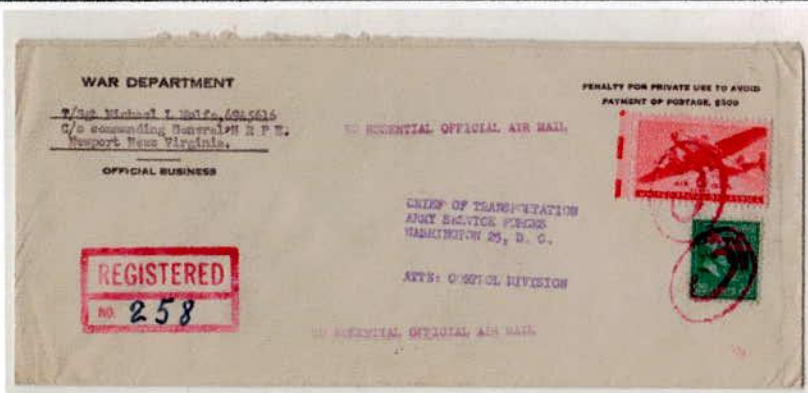
A.P.O. 681, 376th Bomber Group was established effective 28 August 1942. It opened at Lydda Airport in Palestine on 28 October and moved to Abu Sueir on 20 November. In April 1943 it went to Libya and then on to Tunisia and Italy. The APO was discontinued 1 July 1945.

The 376th Bomber Group was made up of a Headquarters Squadron and four tactical squadrons designated 512 to 515. It was composed of B-24 "Liberator" heavy bombers and arrived at RAF Lydda in Palestine on its way to China to launch raids on Japan. The Japanese captured the Chinese base and so the group was given a new mission: interdiction raids from airfields in Egypt (moved to Abu Sueir on 8 November 1942 and to Libya 22 February 1943) against shipping and North African ports supporting Axis operations as part of United States Middle East Air Forces (USMEAF)

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 684, DEC 16 1944, Alexandria, Egypt

Type HS-1 registered postmark of A.P.O. 684 and type HS-3 registered mail postmark used at A.P.O. 616 in Cairo on DEC 20 1944. Other backstamps include registry markings from Washington, D.C. and a WAR REGISTERED PENTAGON, both dated DEC 23 1944.

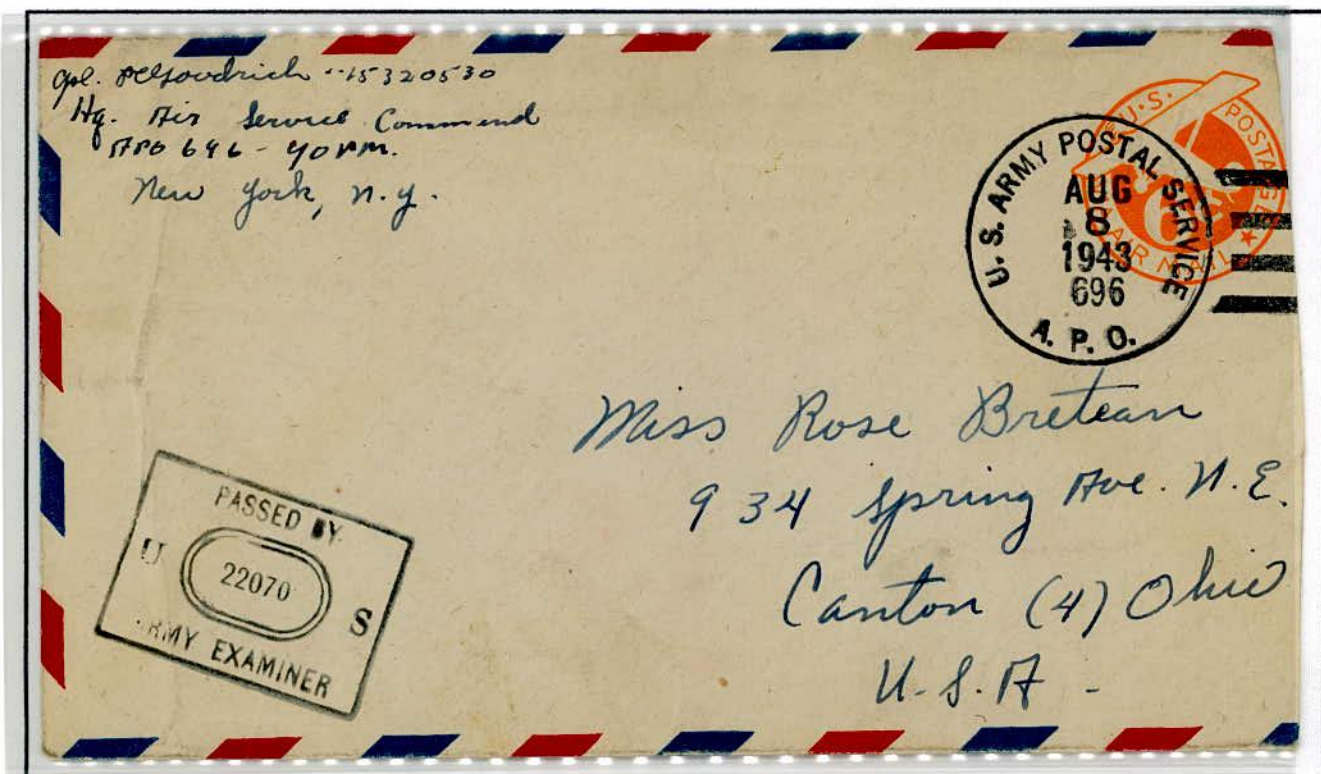
REGISTERED AIR MAIL (Airmail postage of 6¢ and registration fee of 20)¢



Reduced image of the front side of the cover.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 696, AUG 8 1943, Cairo, Egypt
Type HS-21, A.P.O. number on 4th date line, not at ring bottom.

Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



A.P.O. 696, Headquarters, 9th Air Force, Air Service Command, began operations in Egypt on 22 December 1942 and transferred to England on 24 November 1943. The ASC took care of the repair and maintenance of the Air Force's overseas aircraft combat elements.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 787, FEB 8 1943, Cairo, Egypt
Type HS-12, No A.P.O., 3 lines with gap below year and no A.M./P.M.

FREE - surface rate



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 787, FEB 8 1943, Cairo, Egypt
Type HS-21, A.P.O. centered at bottom of circle and A.P.O. number on 4th date line.

FREE - post card surface rate

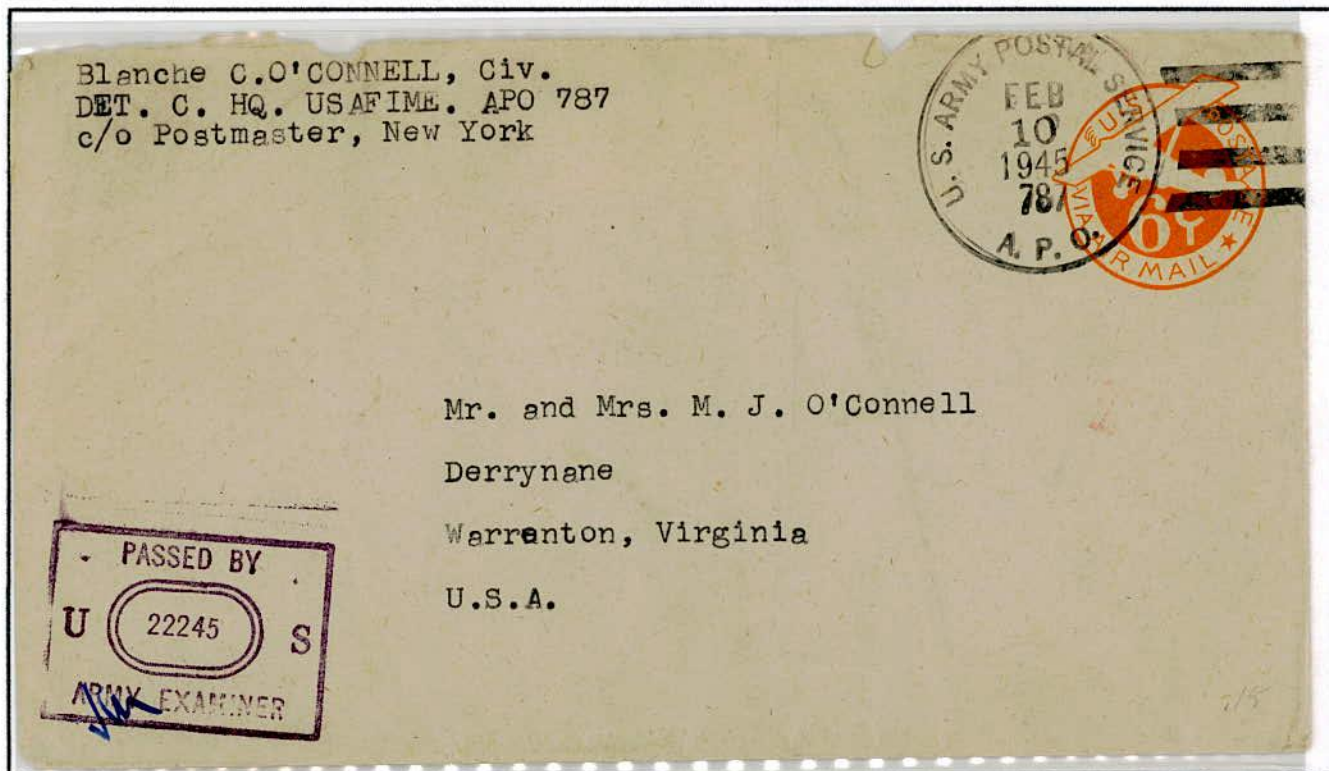


A.P.O. 787, Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the Middle East, Headquarters, Africa-Middle East Theater (USAFIME), opened 21 January 1943 and discontinued operations 1 July 1946..

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 787, FEB 10 1945, Cairo, Egypt

Type HS-21, A.P.O. centered at bottom of circle and A.P.O. number on 4th date line.

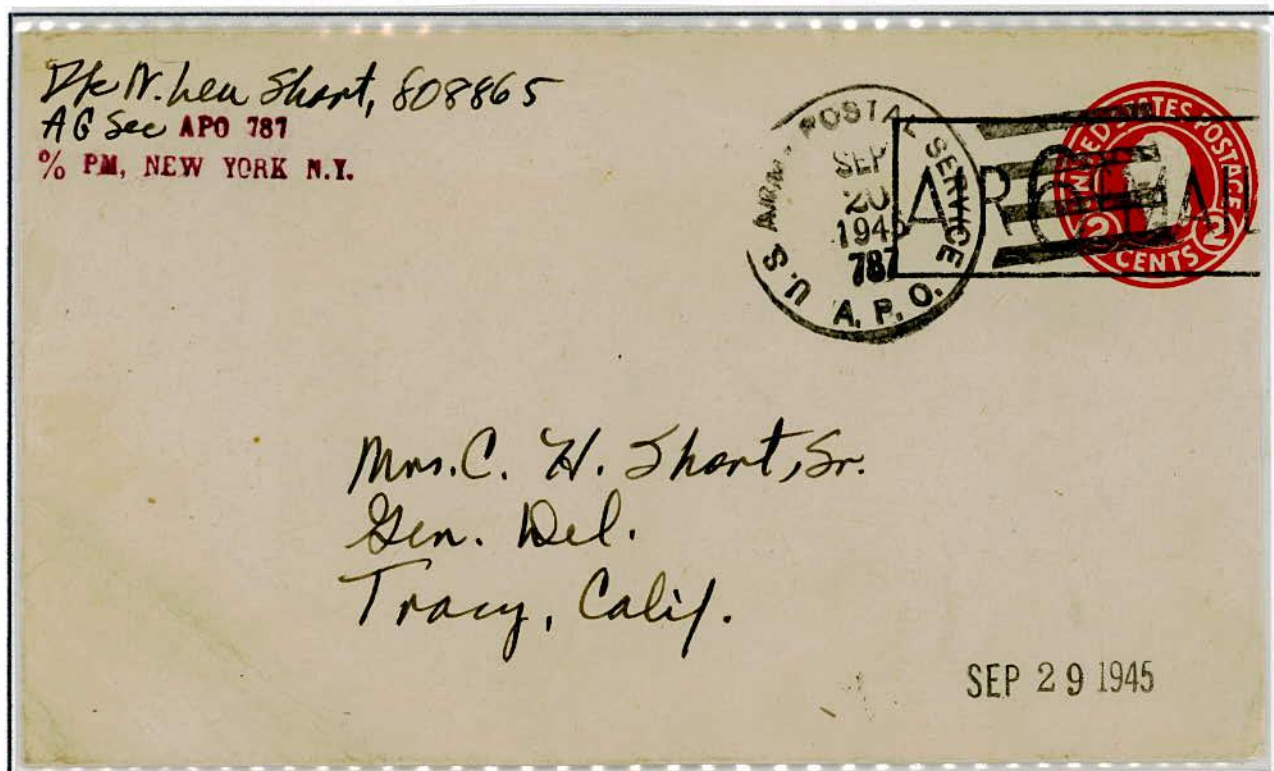
**Civilian Used of the Army Postal Service
Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce**



Borderless embossed airmail envelopes were first used in July 1944.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 787, FEB 10 1945, Cairo, Egypt

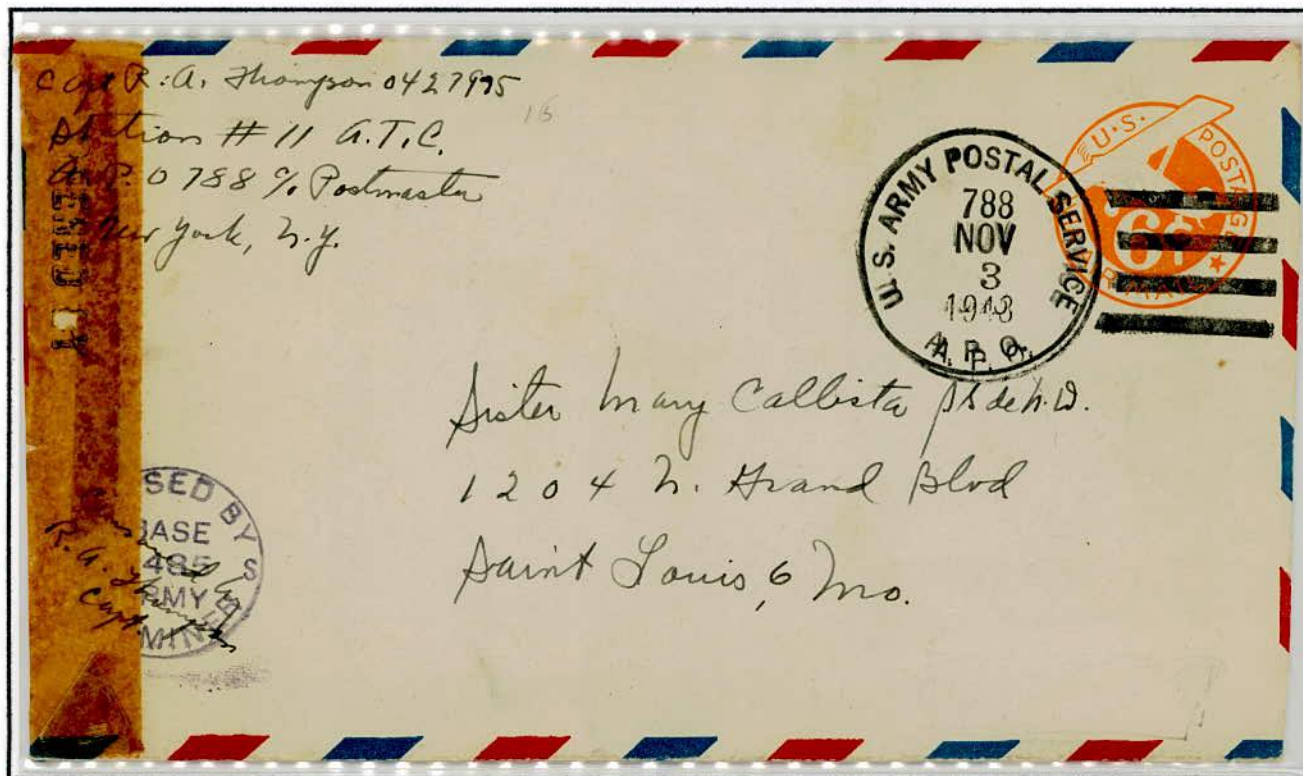
Type HS-21, A.P.O. centered at bottom of circle and A.P.O. number on 4th date line.



6¢ AIR surcharge on 2¢ stamped envelope for exclusive use of overseas members of the armed forces.

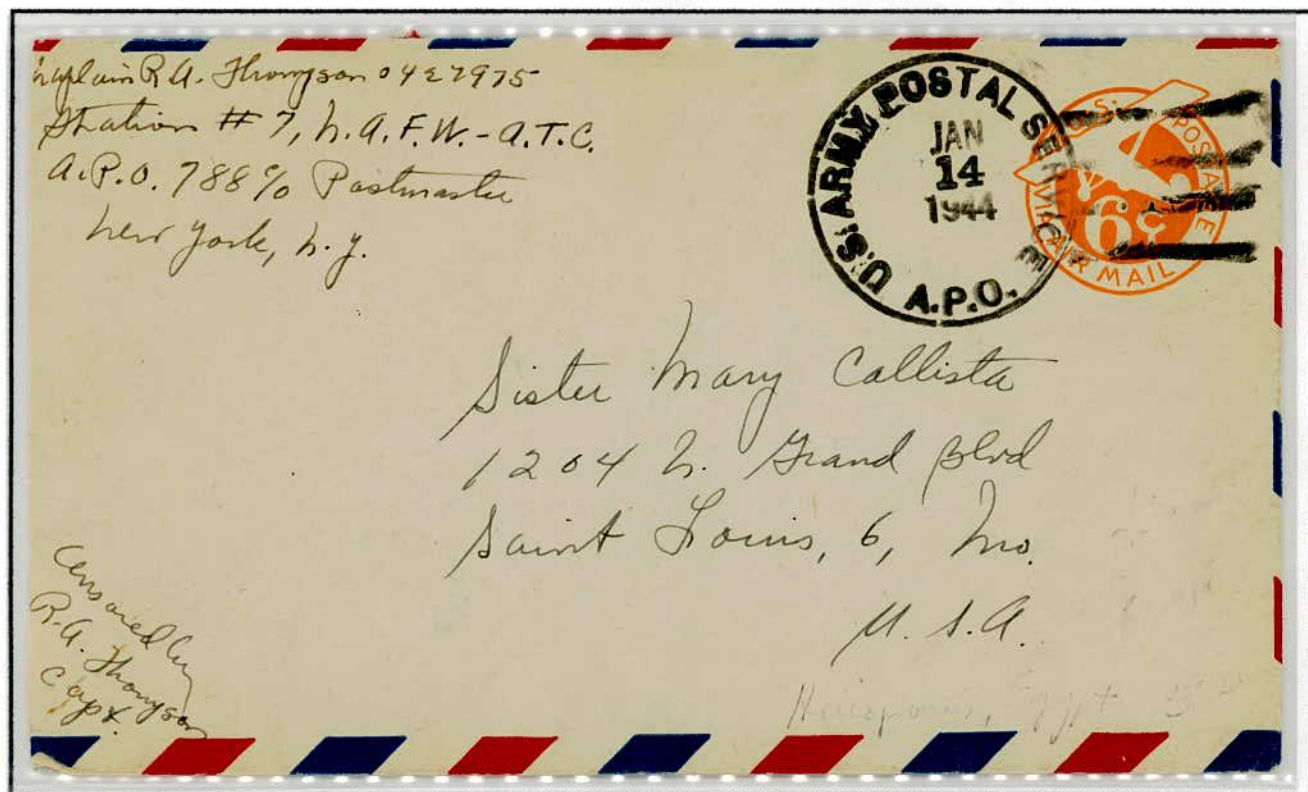
A.P.O. POSTMARK: 788, NOV 3 1943, John Payne Field, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-23, A.P.O. number on first date line

Concessionary Air Mail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 788, JAN 14 1944, John Payne Field, Heliopolis, Egypt
Type HS-12A, No A.P.O. number, three lines for date. And narrow spacing left and right of A.P.O.

Concessionary Air Mail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 788, OCT 2 1944, John Payne Field, Heliopolis, Egypt

Type HS-25, A.P.O. number between day and year.

FREE – surface rate

A.P.O. 788, Headquarters, North Africa Division, Air Transport Command, Egypt Division, opened at John H. Payne Field, Heliopolis, Egypt on 1 October 1943. The APO was discontinued on 1 July 1946. John Payne Field, an American Air Base, built from the desert up, was activated mid October 1943. Prior to the completion of the air base the American Army Air Force shared the use of the Heliopolis Air Field with the British.



A.P.O. POSTMARK: 788, JUL 2 1945, JOHN PAYNE FIELD, HELIOPOLIS, EGYPT

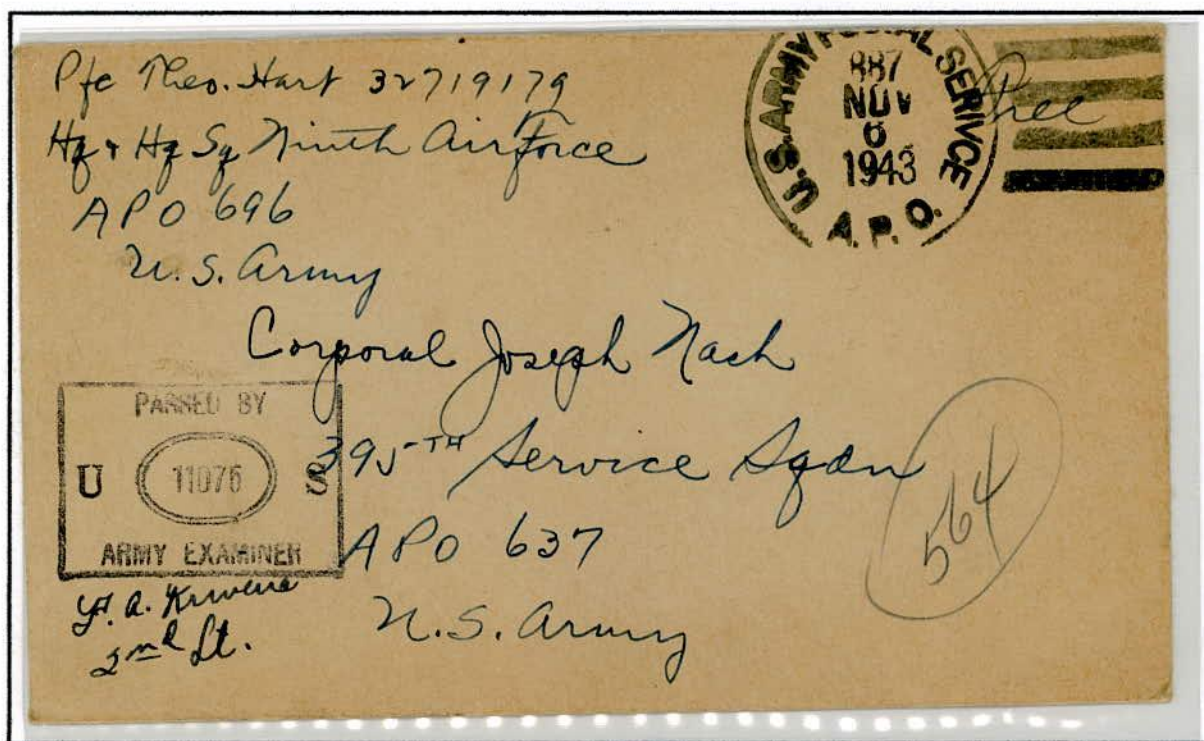
Type HS-21, A.P.O. centered at bottom and A.P.O. number on 4th line.

FREE – surface rate

A.P.O. 678 served the Headquarters of the Middle East Service Command, was established on or about 2 March 1942 in Cairo, Egypt and opened at Camp Huckstep in Heliopolis on 7 November 1942. It ceased operation on 31 October 1945.

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 887, NOV 6 1943, London, England
Type HS-23, A.P.O. number on first date line.

FREE – surface rate



From a serviceman in one A.P.O. still located in Egypt, posted at a different A.P.O. in London, to another at a third A.P.O. in England

A.P.O. 887, Headquarters, European Theater, U.S. Army; Headquarters, U.S. Forces, European Theater of Operations, Headquarters, European Wing, Air Transport Command, was based in London, England on 10 April 1942 and transferred to France in September 1944. It was the first Army post office to be established in England during World War II.

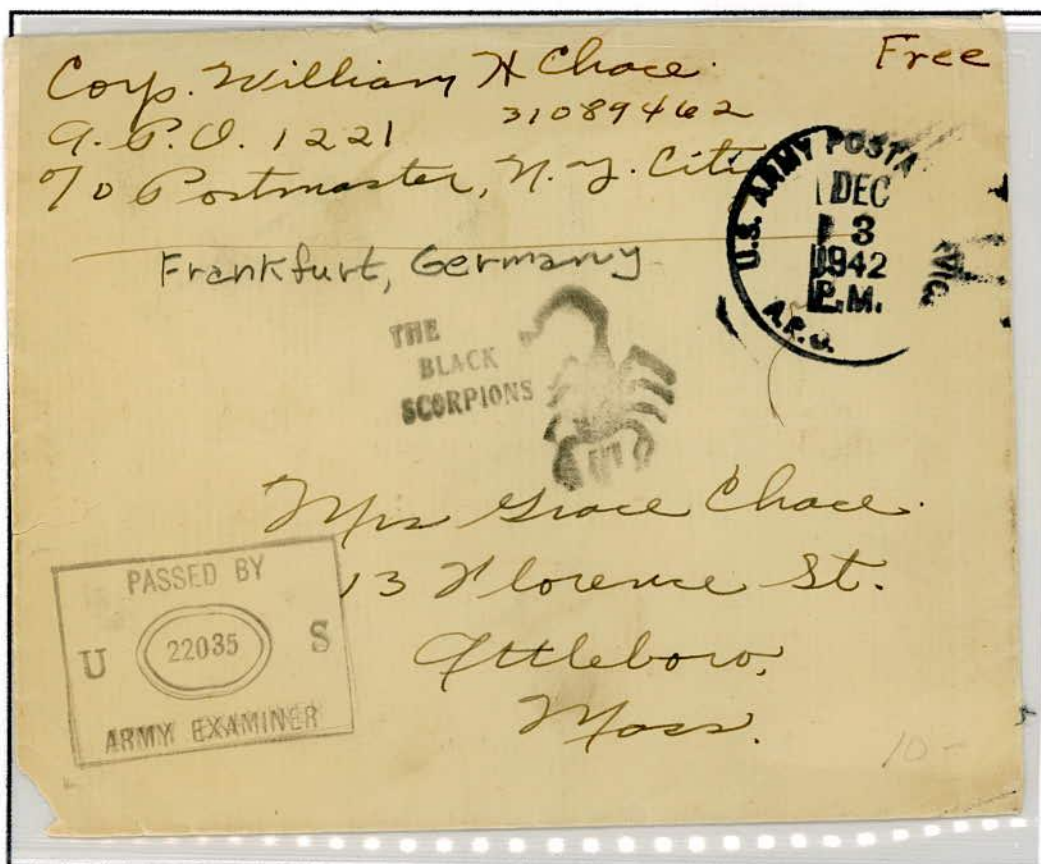
A.P.O. 696, Headquarters, 9th Air Force, was located in Cairo, Egypt from 23 December 1942 until moving to England on 25 November 1943. It relocated to France in October 1944. The 9th Air Force was officially named on 12 November 1942 and provided support to British Forces in the Western Desert Campaign. It later flew missions for the invasion of Sicily and raided the Ploesti oil refinery in Romania. In England it supported the D-Day invasion.

A.P.O. 637, Headquarters, 8th Fighter Command opened in Bushey Hall, England on 10 September 1942 and was relocated to Watford on 1 November 1942. The 8th Fighter Command was the fighter arm of Eighth Air Force in the World War II European Theater.

TEMPORARY A.P.O. 1221 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 between 12 June and 24 July 1942.

The cover is postmarked DEC 3 1942 with Type HS-18, no A.P.O. number, A.P.O. left of center, and P.M. on 4th date line.

FREE – surface rate



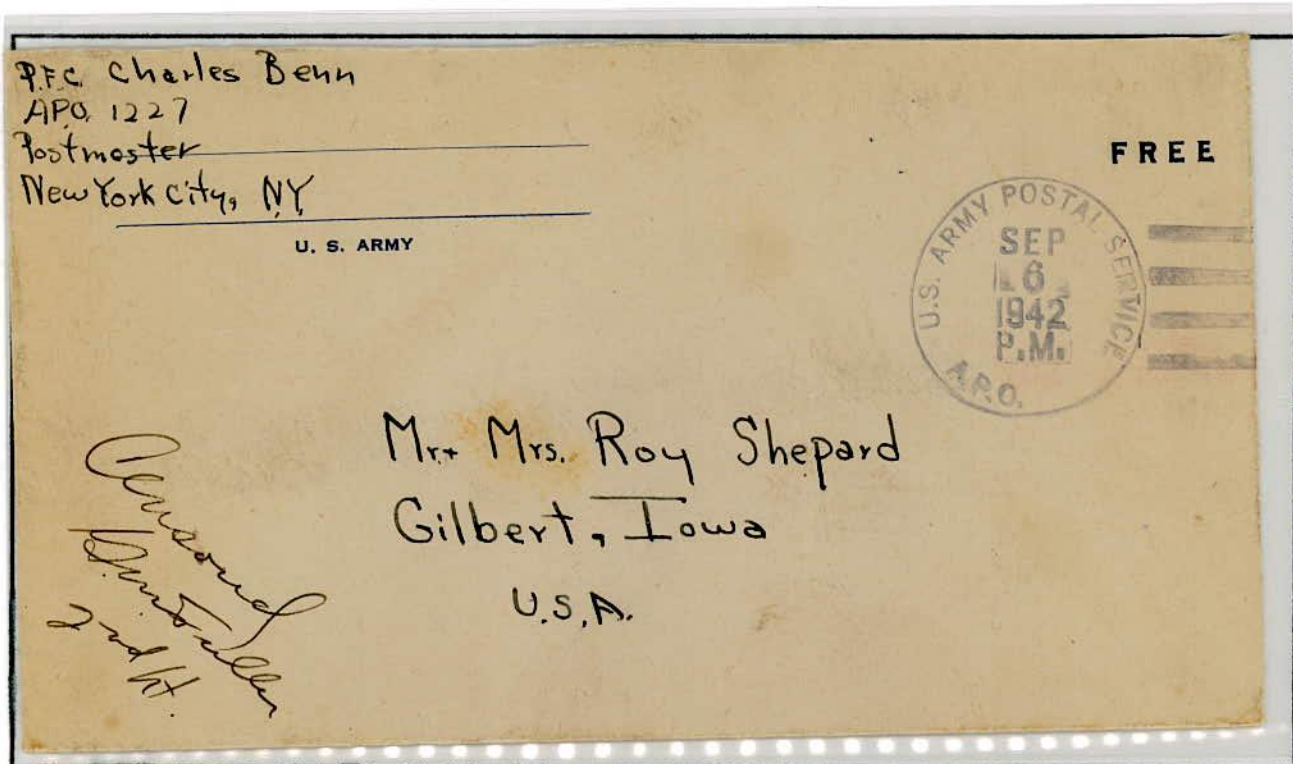
The cover is from a member of the 64th Fighter Squadron (known as The Black Scorpions), part of the 57th Fighter Group. It was based at various landing grounds in the Western Desert from 16 September to 13 November 1942 before going on to Libya.

The ground echelon of the 64th embarked from New York on 15 July 1942 and arrived in Palestine on 19 August.

TEMPORARY A.P.O. 1227 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 (Cairo) by 17 July 1942.

The cover is postmarked SEP 6 1942 with Type HS-18A (blue) no A.P.O. number, A.P.O. left of center, and P.M. on 4th date line.

FREE – surface rate

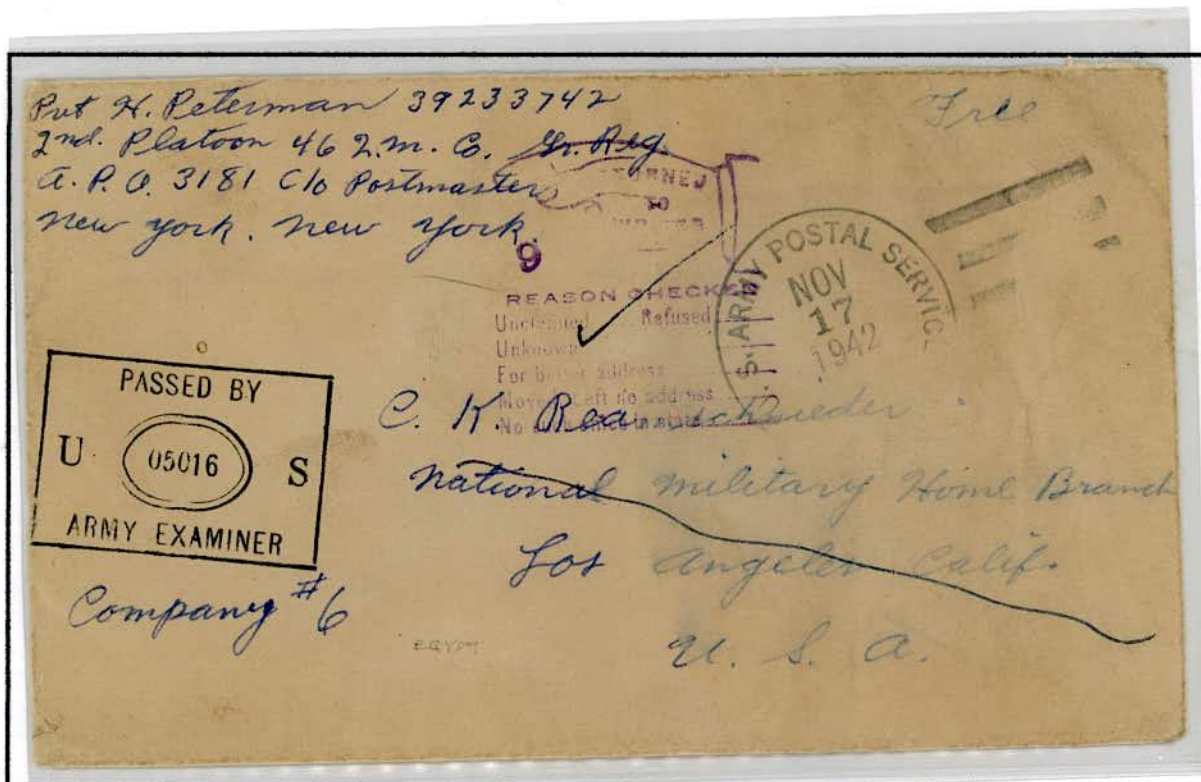


Note the printed U.S. Army envelope with printed FREE in the upper right corner.

TEMPORARY A.P.O. 3181 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 (Cairo) between 17 August and 15 September 1942.

The cover is postmarked NOV 17 1942 with what appears to be Type HS-12, no A.P.O. number, three-line date and measuring 32mm in diameter.

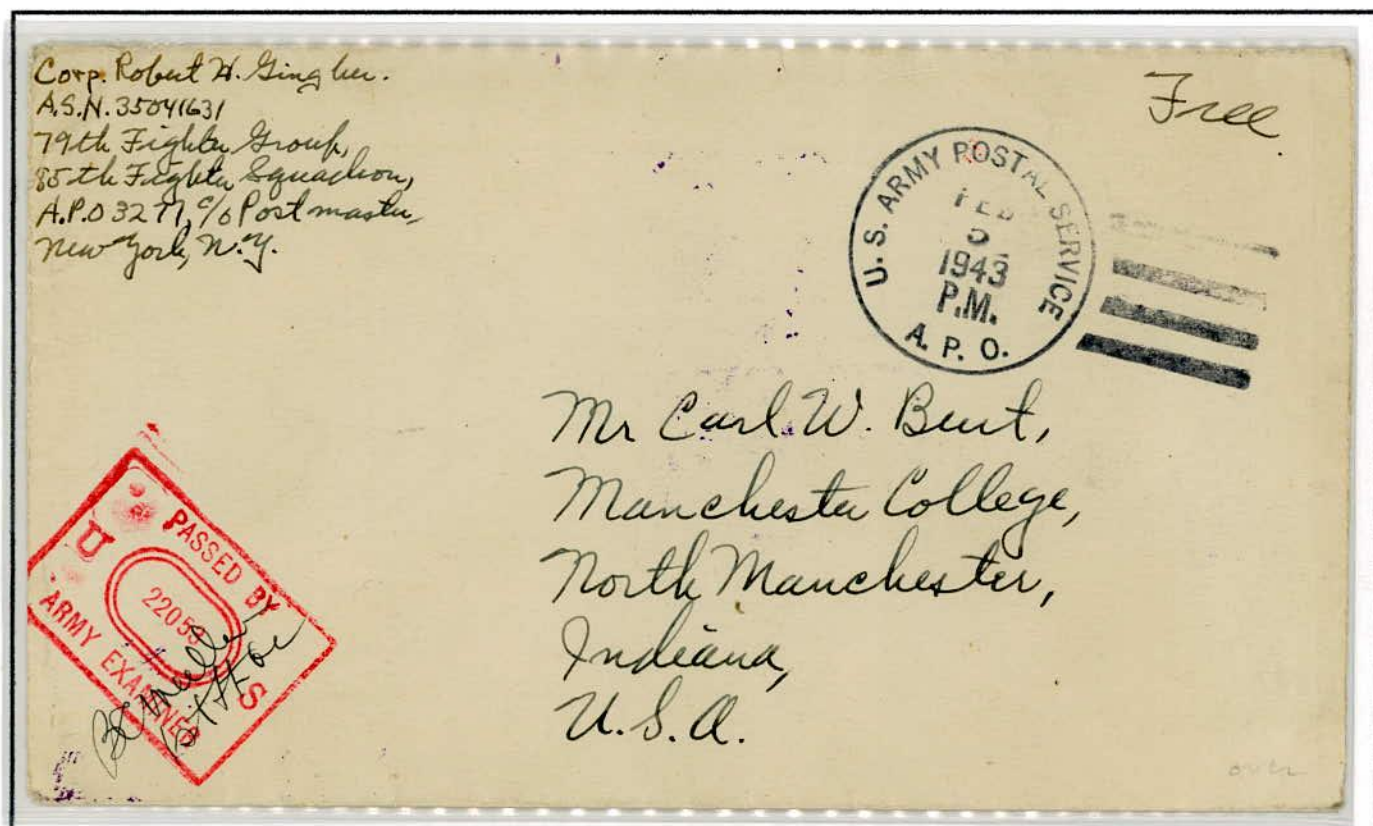
FREE - surface rate



TEMPORARY A.P.O. 3277 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 (Cairo) on 4 October 1942.

The cover is postmarked FEB 5 1943 with Type HS-16, no A.P.O. number, P.M. on 4th date line.

FREE – surface rate



The cover is from a member of the 85th Fighter Squadron (known as The Flying Skull Squadron), part of the 79th Fighter Group. The ground echelon of the 85th embarked from the United States by troop transport in mid-October arriving in Egypt a month later by way of Brazil and South Africa. It was based at a landing ground in the Western Desert before going on to Libya at the end of January 1943.

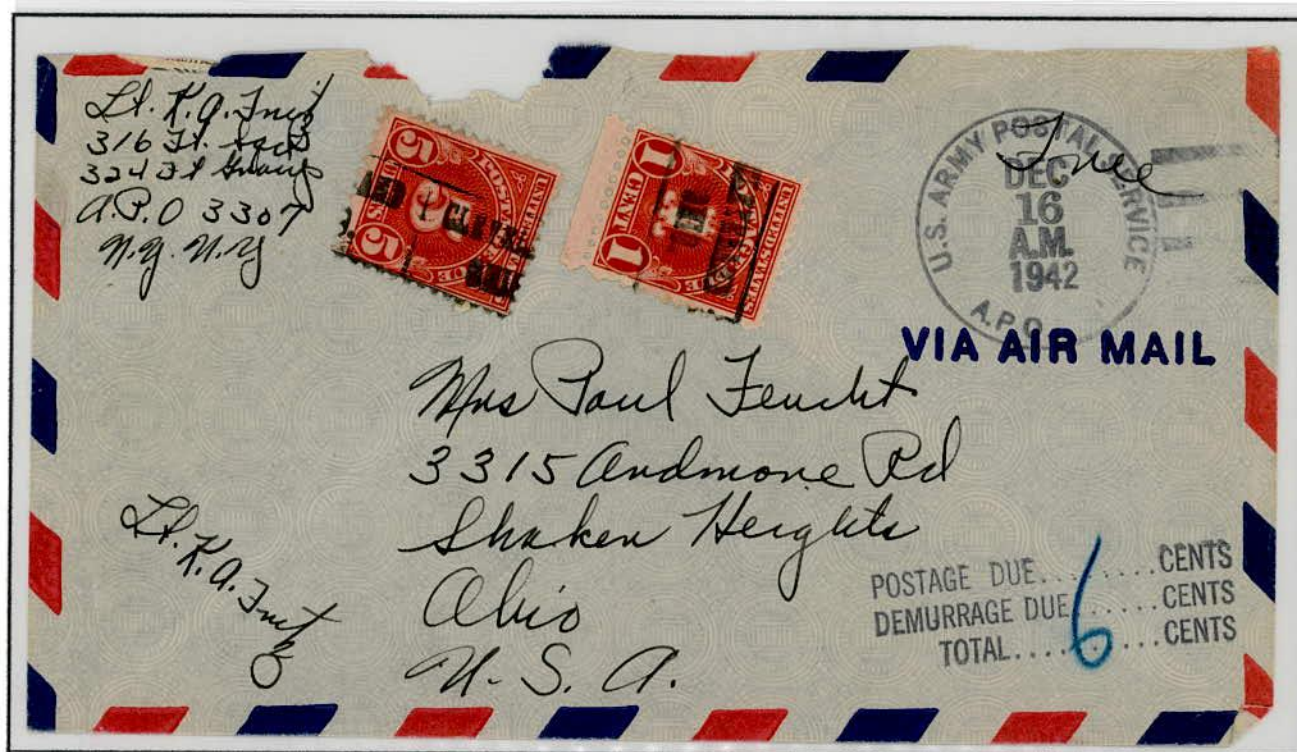


Insignia of The Flying Skull Squadron from the reverse of the envelope.

TEMPORARY A.P.O. 3307 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 (Cairo) on 15 October 1942.

The cover is postmarked DEC 16 1942 with Type HS-14A, no A.P.O. number, A.M. on 3rd date line.

Concessionary Air Mail Rate – NOT PAID – POSTAGE DUE 6¢



Constituted as 324th Fighter Group on 24 Jun 1942 it was activated on 6 Jul 1942. It was deployed to the Middle East between October and December 1942, for operations with Ninth Air Force. Based at El Amiriya in December 1942 and at El Kabrit, Egypt in February 1943, it moved to Tunisia in June 1943.

TEMPORARY A.P.O. 3367 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 (Cairo) between 15 October and 15 November 1942..

The cover is postmarked DEC 7 1942 with Type HS-18, no A.P.O. number, A.P.O. left of center, P.M. on 4th date line.

FREE – surface rate



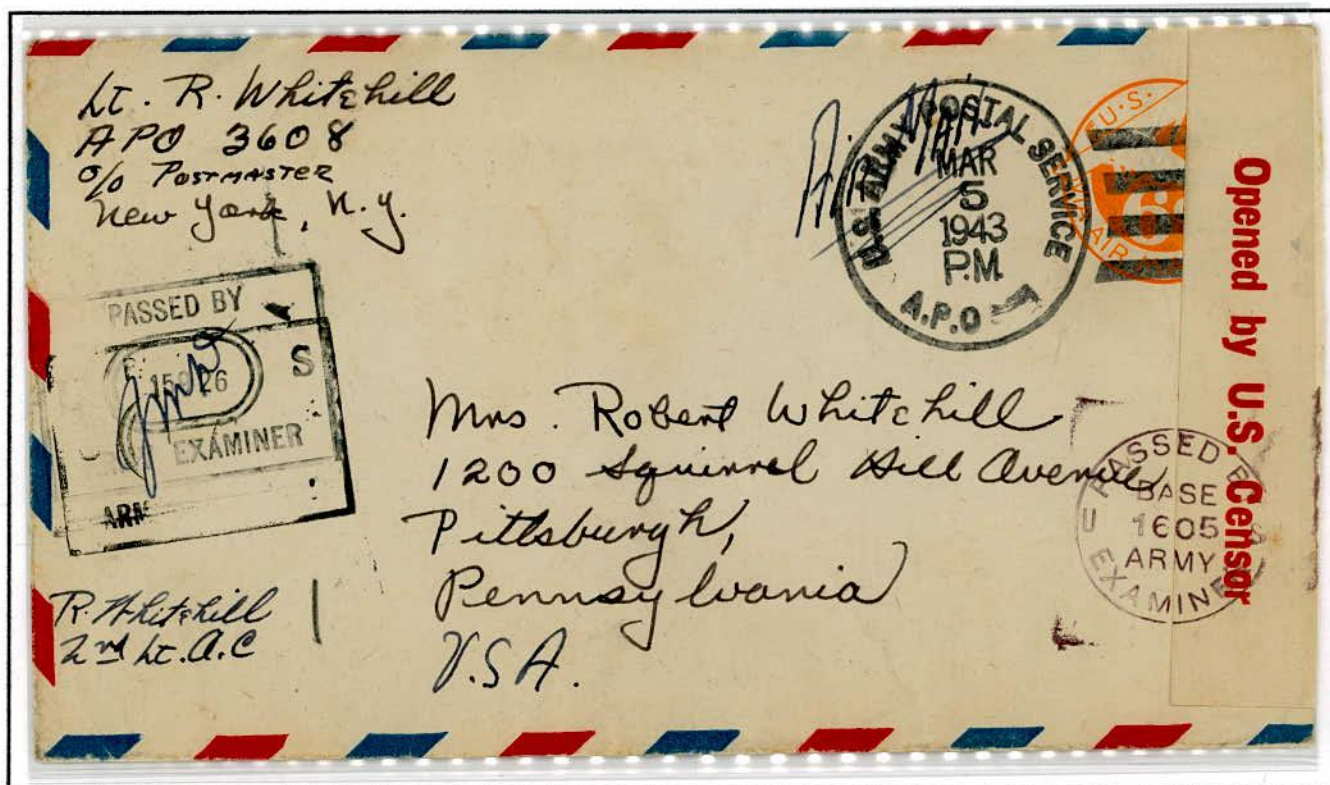
Postmarked FEB 10 1943 with Type HS-16, no A.P.O. number and wider spacing on sides of A.P.O.

The letter writer was a radioman with the 44th Troop Carrier Squadron, part of the 316th Troop Carrier Group. The crewmembers of the 44th arrived at Ismailia on 4 December 1942 and were later based in Libya. Promoted to corporal, Felix Pientka was killed in action on the early morning of 10 July 1943 when his damaged plane landed in Sicily after a paratrooper drop. He and another crewman left the plane and unfortunately stumbled onto a German pillbox

TEMPORARY A.P.O. 3608 was assigned to A.P.O. 616 (Cairo) on 20 January 1943.

The cover is postmarked MAR 5 1943 with Type HS-18, no A.P.O. number, A.P.O. off center, and P.M. on 4th date line.

Concessionary Air Mail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce



WHEREVER THEY GO—THEY'LL WRITE!
BE SURE THEY TAKE ALONG A
COMPLETE V...-MAIL WRITING KIT—THE

VOYAGER*

JUST ADDRESS, STAMP
AND MAIL IT!



V...-MAIL SPEEDS THEIR THOUGHTS TO YOU!

Those who serve speak their thoughts in letters. They know that the more letters they send, the more they get back! The Voyager will help speed their precious words to you.

A convenient, compact and complete writing kit that fits snugly in the duffel bag or sea bag, the Voyager contains all the materials necessary for writing V-Mail letters. Each necessary item is carefully packed in the ready-to-mail kit—so you can send it quickly, easily and safely. The Voyager will be useful to men and women in service. Send a Voyager today to a service man or woman stationed in the United States. They'll use it now for writing V-Mail letters to their friends who are already overseas. And—when they are sent to fighting fronts themselves, they'll take it along and use it for speeding V-Mail letters to you! Don't wait until a service man or woman is sent out of the country—send them the Voyager now. (The Voyager can not be mailed overseas to Army men unless requested, and the request approved by a Commanding Officer. It can be sent to men in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard anywhere without any request.) Wherever they go—they'll want to write as well as fight! Get a Voyager for yourself! . . . a convenient V-Mail writing kit for the home!

Use V-Mail . . . the safe Speed-Mail! V-Mail letters are photographed in strictest privacy on 16 mm. film—flown overseas by plane—reproduced and delivered in a fraction of the time ship mail takes!

V-Black Skrip is the writing fluid for V-Mail use. Black photographs best. V-Black Skrip writes black—stays black! Insures legibility when your letter is delivered! Quick-drying, free-flowing, keeps pens clean by not allowing them to get dirty! W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co., Fort Madison, Iowa; Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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Contents: V-Black Skrip, Fineline leads—Black for V-Mail, 50 V-Mail letter forms, pen wiper, calendar, ruler and pen care instruction card—in sturdy fiber container.

SHEAFFER'S

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V---MAIL

Christmas greeting sent from the 38th General Hospital, A.P.O. 616,
Cairo, Egypt, dated 12 November 1942.

A.P.O. 616 started operations in Cairo on 27 July 1942 and moved on to
Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis on 30 September 1943.

The V-Mail was processed in New York, 29 NOV 1942 with the machine GRAND CENTRAL ANNEX
postmark. The earliest known use is 31 August 1942 and the latest 10 November 1943.



V---MAIL

V-Mail sent from A.P.O. 787 from a sailor with JICA (Joint Intelligence Collection Agency),
dated 5 May 1944, Cairo, Egypt

A.P.O. 787, Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the Middle East, Headquarters, Africa-Middle East Theater (USAFIME), opened 21 January 1943 and discontinued operations 1 July 1946.

The V-Mail does not have a postmark but most likely was processed in New York. The letter states that
“ ... V-Mail letters are arriving so much faster ... about ten days before regular mail.”

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter or dark ink. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

55163
RK

MRS. PAUL F. STAMER
1620 MASS. AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

P.F. Stamer CSE USN 3371067
JICA SEC., HQS. USAFIME
APO 787, S/P. POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
5 MAY 1944

DARLING HELEN:

HOW ARE YOU THIS BRIGHT MORNING? I'M FINE THANK YOU. ITS A BEAUTIFUL MORNING, COOLER THAN IT WAS LAST WEEK, MUCH LIKE OUR SPRING WEATHER.

THERE ISN'T MUCH TO SAY THIS MORNING ITS STILL VERY EARLY AND I'M STILL SLEEPY. YOUR V MAIL LETTERS ARE ARRIVING SO MUCH FASTER THEN REGULAR MAIL I THOUGHT IT WOULD EVEN BE BETTER IF I TRIED WRITING A FEW. YOU CAN LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE. YOUR V MAIL LETTERS ARRIVE ABOUT TEN DAYS BEFORE REGULAR MAIL.

I HAD A LETTER FROM BLANCHY YESTERDAY, HER BIRTHDAY IS NEXT MONDAY, I SHOULD HAVE WRITTEN HER TO HER, A LETTER WON'T ARRIVE ANY WHERE NEAR HER BIRTHDAY SO OUES I HAD BETTER SEND A CABLE.

HOW ARE THE HAWKWOODS? TELL THEM HELLO FOR ME. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEET-ING THEM, HOPE THEY DON'T GO BACK TO ENGLAND BEFORE I GET BACK.

PAUL FOLKES AND HIS WIFE ARE HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME NOW THAT SHE IS SETTLED HERE. IT SURE MAKES ME HOMESICK TO WATCH THEM, BUT OUR DAY WILL COME TOO.

ALL MY LOVE TO YOU DARLING, MUST GET TO WORK NOW.

PAUL

THE LAST V MAIL LETTER TO ARRIVE WAS WRITTEN ON 4/22, IT ARRIVED HERE ON 5/22, IN TEN DAYS TIME.

V---MAIL

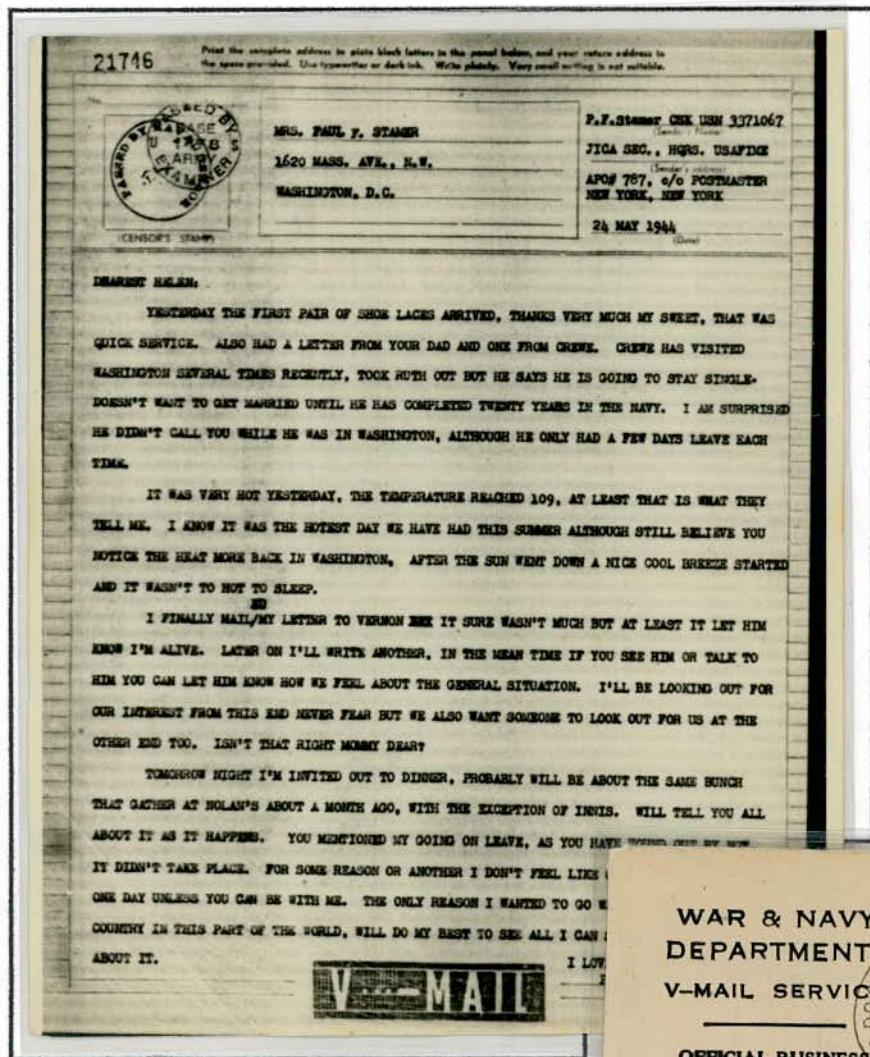
WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

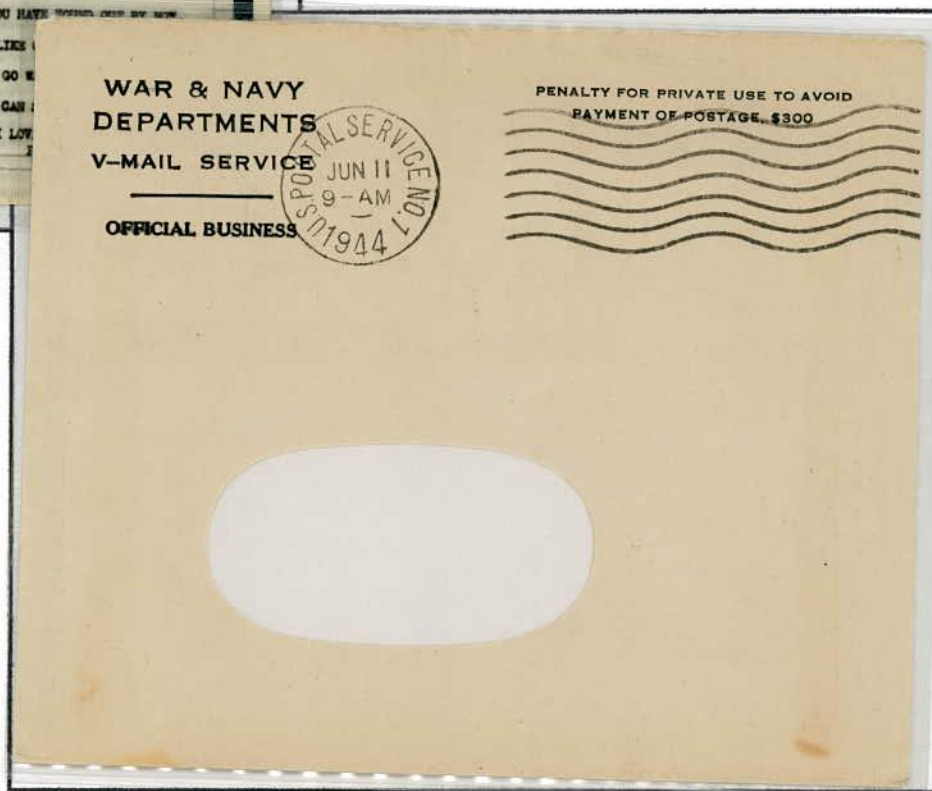
V... - MAIL

V-Mail sent from A.P.O. 787 from a sailor with JICA (Joint Intelligence Collection Agency), dated 24 May 1944, Cairo, Egypt

More than 40 companies manufactured V-Mail envelopes under contract with the Post Office Department. They are found with various typefaces, colors, windows, and knives (flaps). This cover bears the New York post office U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NO. 1 machine postmark dated June 11, 1944. It was used from 16 November 1943 through 20 October 1945.



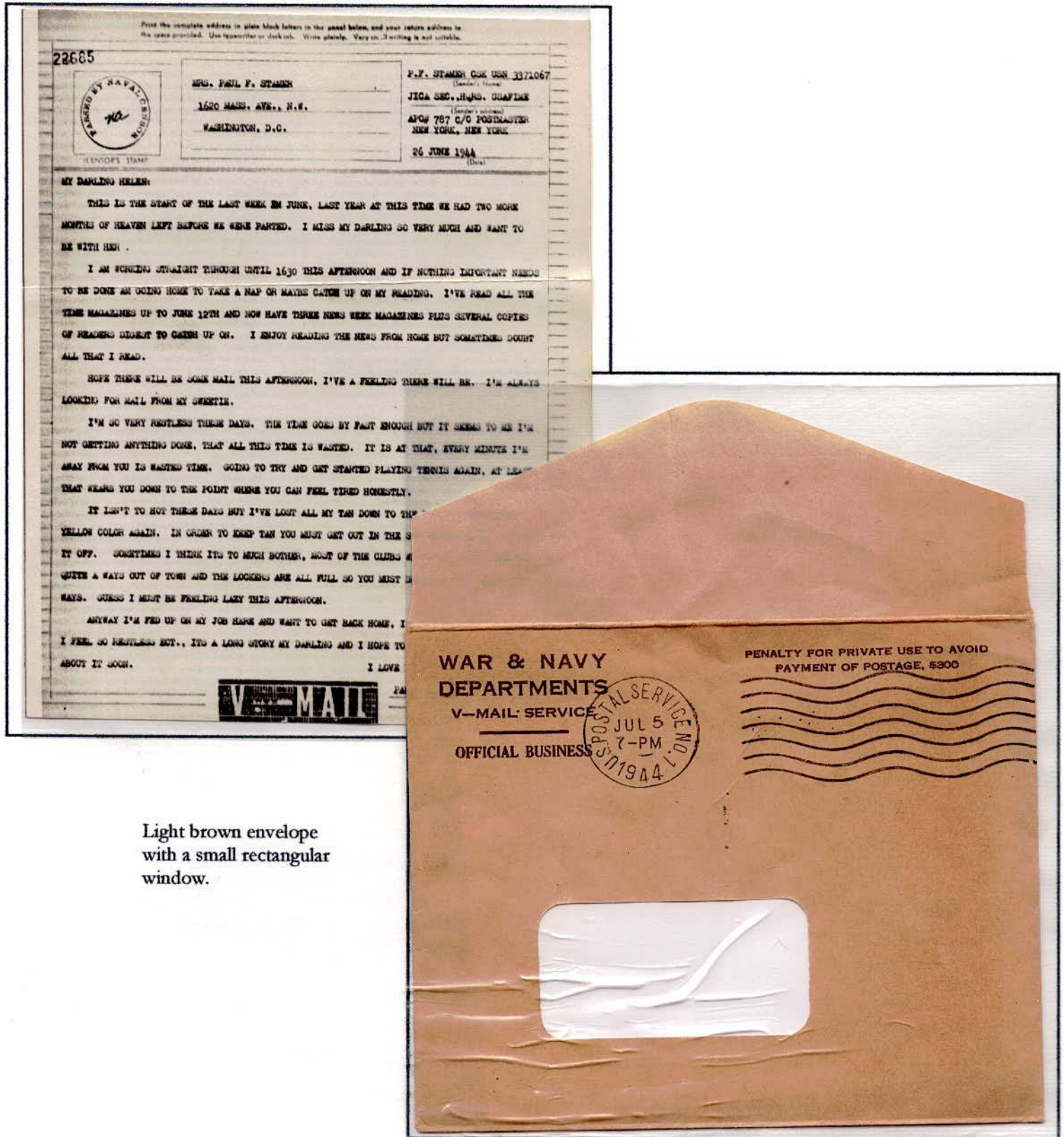
Off-white envelope with an oval window and rectangular flap



V... - MAIL

V-Mail sent from A.P.O. 787 from a sailor with JICA (Joint Intelligence Collection Agency), dated 26 June 1944, Cairo, Egypt

This cover bears the New York post office U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NO. 1 machine postmark dated July 5, 1944. The writer laments, "...I'm fed up with my job here and want to get back home."

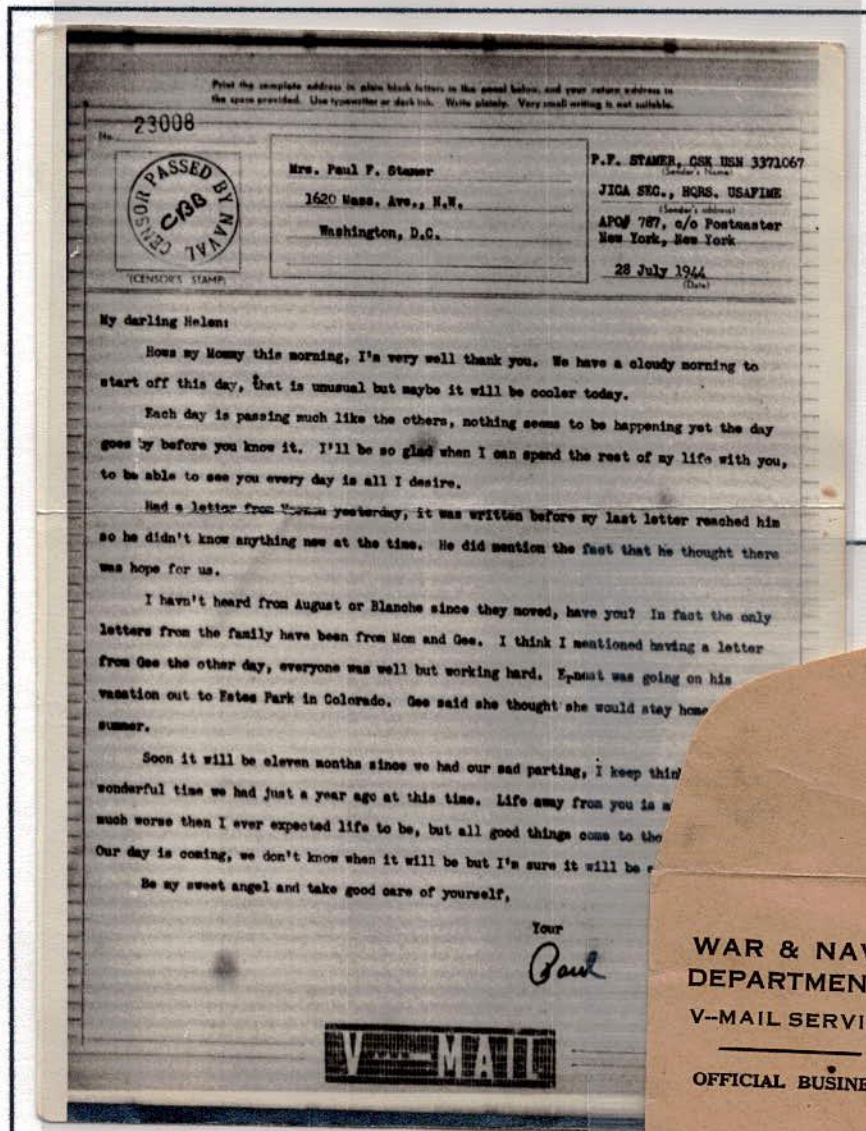


Light brown envelope with a small rectangular window.

V...- MAIL

**V-Mail sent from A.P.O. 787 from a sailor with JICA (Joint Intelligence Collection Agency),
dated 28 Juky 1944, Cairo, Egypt**

This cover bears the San Francisco post office U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NO. 2 machine postmark dated Aug 1, 1944. Besides serving V-Mail stations in the Pacific theater it also handled mail from the Middle East (Cairo) and Persian Gulf theaters (Abadan). The letter states: "Each day is passing much like the others, nothing seems to be happening yet the day goes by before you know it."

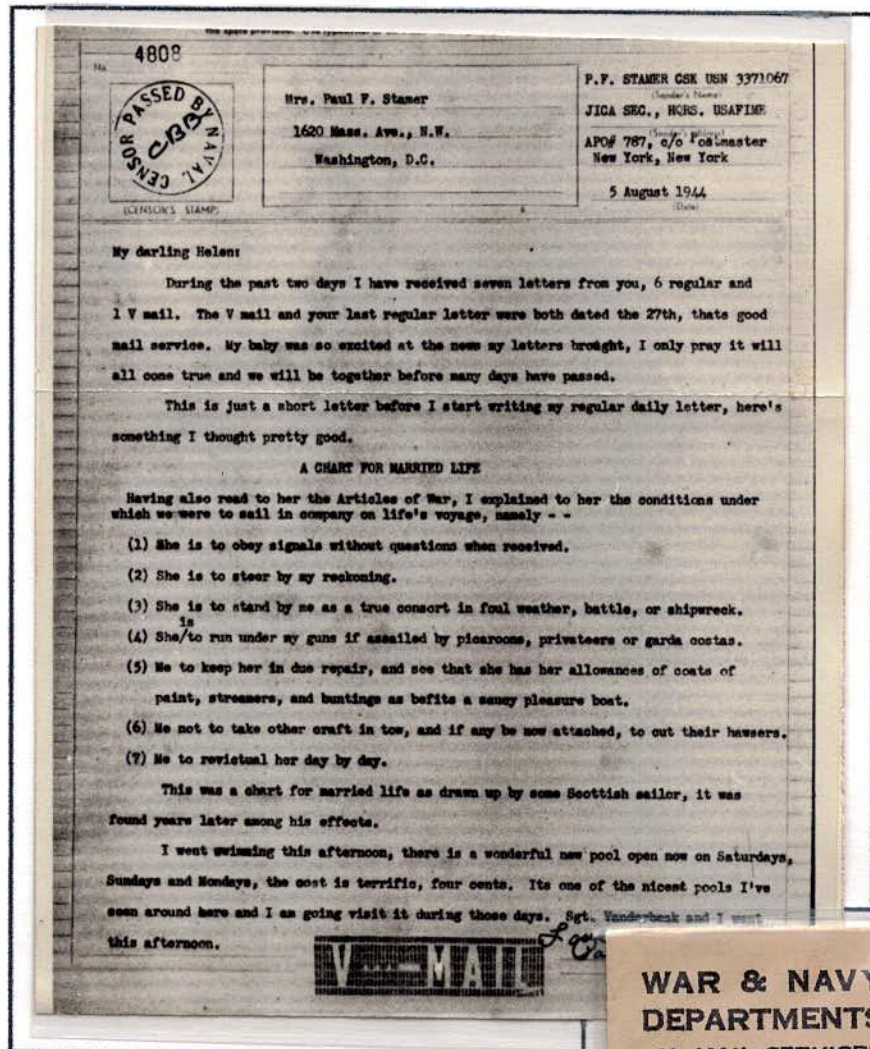


Lighter brown envelope
with a small rectangular
window and a flatter flap..

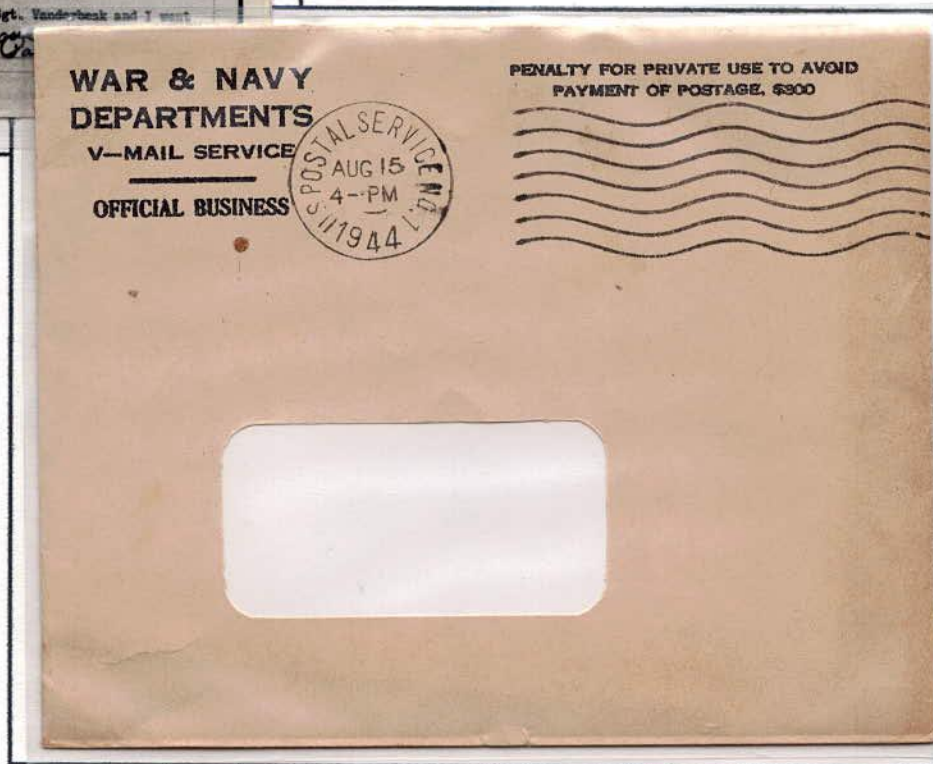
V...- MAIL

V-Mail sent from A.P.O. 787 from a sailor with JICA (Joint Intelligence Collection Agency),
dated 5 August, 1944, Cairo, Egypt

This cover bears the New York post office U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NO. 1 machine postmark dated August 15, 1944. It was used from 16 November 1943 through 20 October 1945.



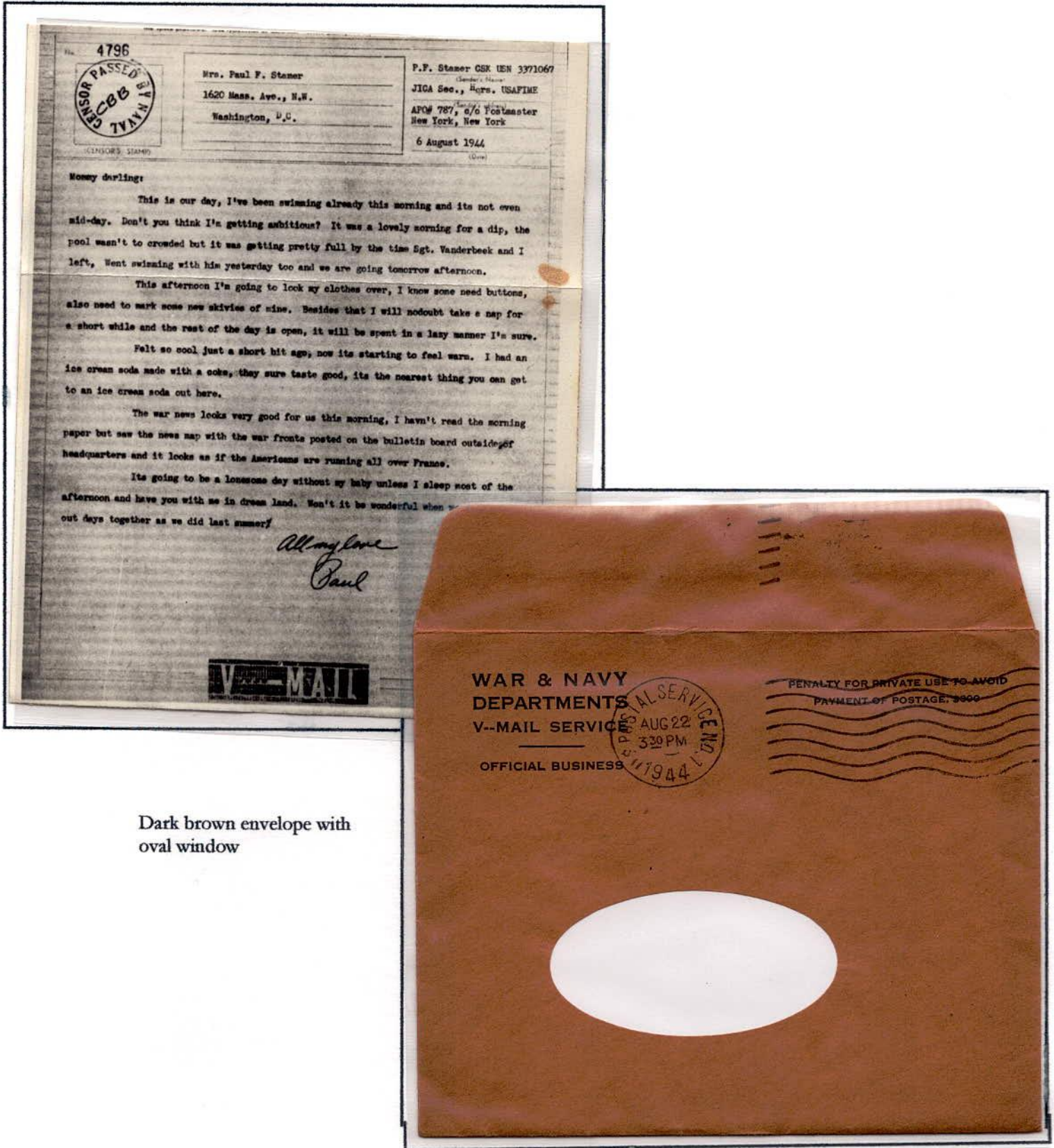
Off-white envelope with
small rectangular window
and bold font.



V-- MAIL

V-Mail sent from A.P.O. 787 from a sailor with JICA (Joint Intelligence Collection Agency),
dated 6 August 1944, Cairo, Egypt

This cover bears the New York post office U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NO. 1 machine postmark dated August 22, 1944. It was used from 16 November 1943 through 20 October 1945.



Dark brown envelope with
oval window

V...- MAIL

A.P.O. POSTMARK: 787, SEP 24 1945, Cairo, Egypt

Type HS-21, A.P.O. centered at bottom of circle and A.P.O. number on 4th date line.

A.P.O. 787, Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the Middle East, Headquarters, Africa-Middle East Theater (USAFIME), opened 21 January 1943 and discontinued operations 1 July 1946.

FREE - Airmail



This is a completed V-Mail form that could not be processed in the normal fashion but was sent through regular channels for the following reasons:

- 1) The spaces provided on the message side of the form for the names and addresses of the recipient and the sender were not completed, and
- 2) The message was not written within the marginal lines.