

Fig.125: 12.11.1943. Air Mail Letter Card, posted at EA APO 77, is the 'Postage Free' Christmas issue, Daynes & Colley Type EA72.03, rarely seen. EA censor probably No. V/18 (Type EA. 4C).



Fig.126: 18.07.1944. EA APO 77. British Army censor No. 9191 (Type A 600).



Fig.127: 09.08.1944. Cover and letter, posted at EA APO 77, sent by air mail, British adhesives paying one shilling air mail fee. Censored in Egypt. See contents of letter below.

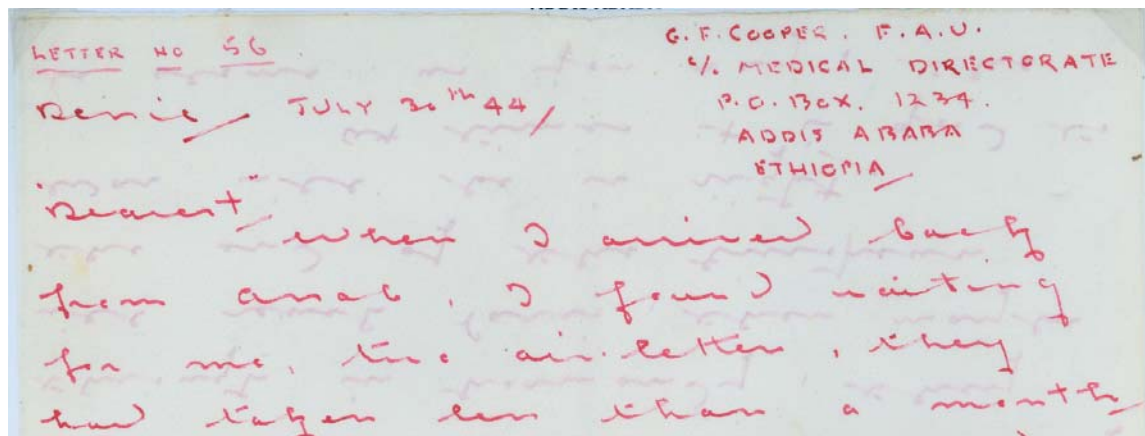


Fig.128: Pte Cooper says, "When I arrived back from Assab, I found waiting for me two air letters, they had taken less than a month".



Fig.129: Incoming Air Letter, from Capt Taylor, HQ 34 Tank Brigade, B.W.E.F. [British Western European Front], manuscript dated 6 July 1944, to Lt Bond, British Military Mission, Ethiopia. Received at EA APO 65, Hargeisa, British Somaliland in August 1944, and forwarded to Addis Ababa, where it arrived at EA APO 77 on 12 September 1944. Censor No. 11216 (Type A 600).

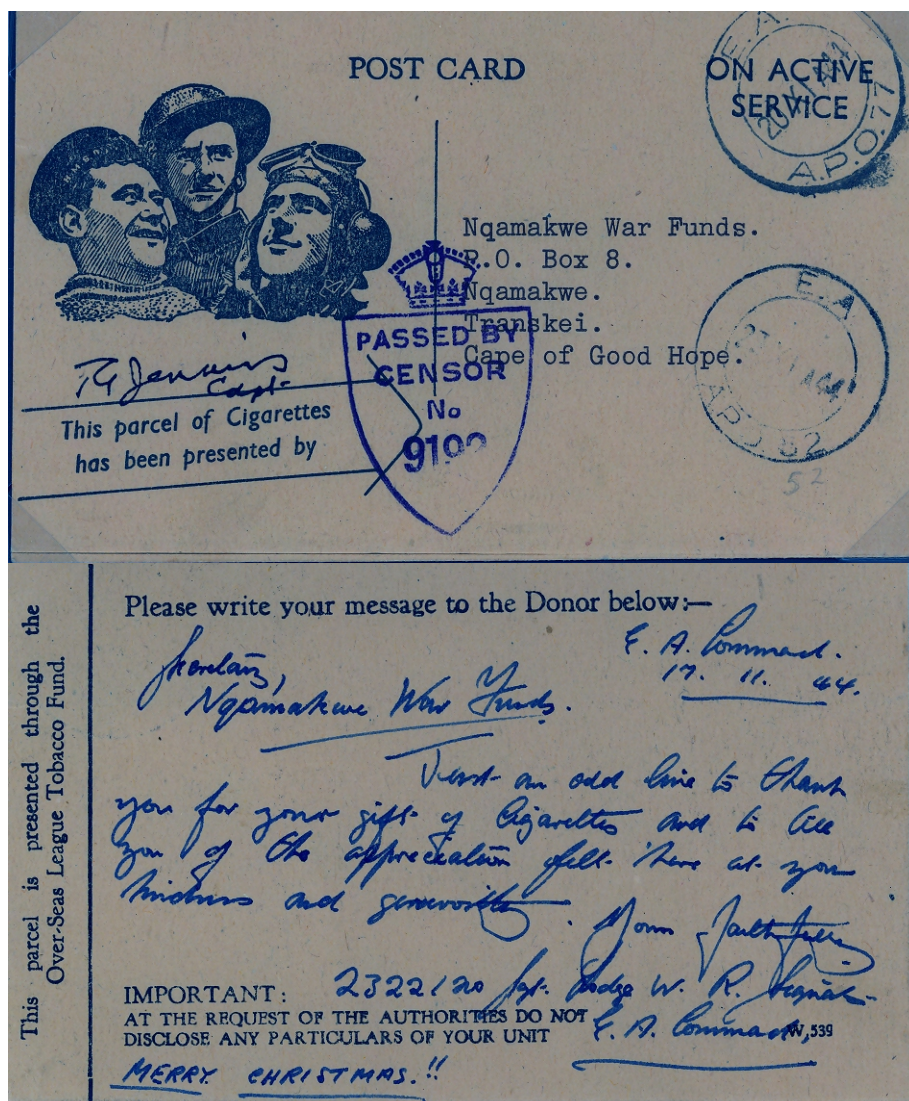


Fig.130: 20.11.1944. Preprinted postcard issued with parcels of cigarettes to servicemen. Sgt W.R. Dodge, Signals, writes a "thank you" note on the reverse. The card went from EA APO 77 overland to Lusaka, where it received the EA APO 52 strike on 23 November 1944. British censor No. 9192 (Type A 600).

Summary of censor marks used at EA APO 77

East African Censor Marks			British Censor Marks		
Type	Number	Date	Type	Number	Date
4C	V/18	12.11.1943	A 600	9191	18.07.1944
			A 600	9192	20.11.1944
			A 600	11216	? .08.1944

Other Related Postal Items

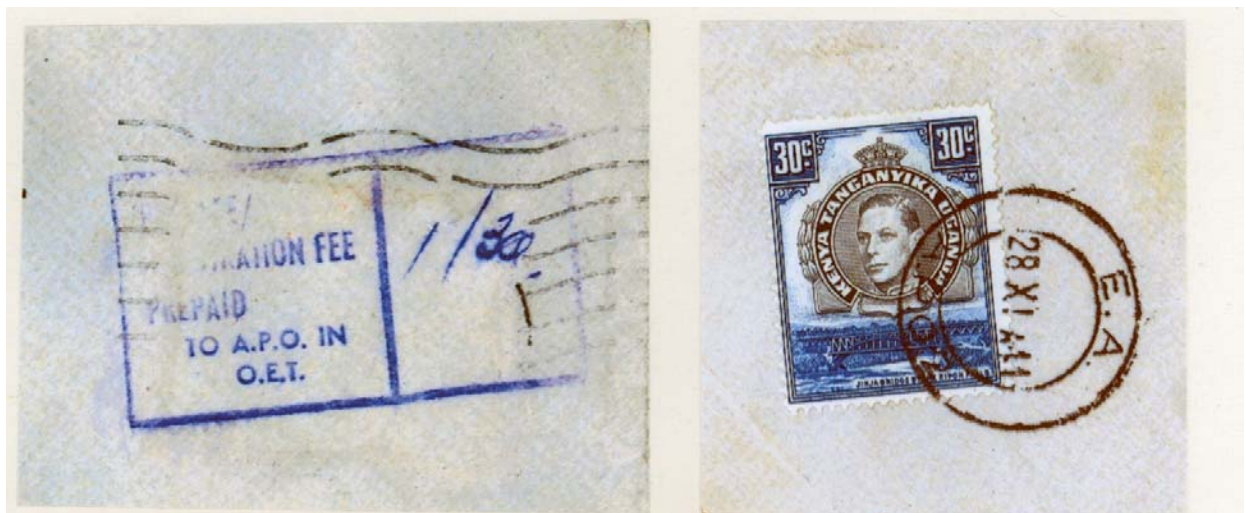


Fig.131: On Active Service Air Mail cover with the rectangular 'Postage/Registration Fee Prepaid to APO in O.E.T.A' [Occupied Enemy Territory Administration], and manuscript '1/30', indicating the air mail fee of one shilling and thirty East African cents had been paid. On reverse, the KUT 30 cents adhesive was cancelled at EA APO 2, in Nairobi, on 28 November 1941. This cover clearly originated in the operational area, where there was no APO. Covers from Italian Somaliland, by this date, would all have been routed through Mogadishu, receiving the EA APO 74 date stamp. Thus, this cover

is from Abyssinia, probably west of Addis Ababa, as it did not pass through Addis Ababa. EA censor type EA.5A, No.659.



Fig.132: Bilingual 'On His Majesty's Service/In Diens van Sy Majesteit' (English/Afrikaans) overprint on Italian air mail stationery. This seldom seen overprint probably originated on the printing press in Addis Ababa, during the latter half of 1941. Addressed to the Senior Political Officer, Neghelli, and bearing the double circle 'D.C.P.O.[Deputy Chief Political Officer, Headquarters, Ethiopia]', with manuscript 'by D.R.L.S.' [Despatch Rider Letter Service], and the Army Signals date stamp of 22 January 1942.

R.A.F. STATION ADDIS ABABA 12 JAN 1941 CYPHER OFFICE		SECRET CYPHER MESSAGE		82A E. A. F. (A. F.) 3 R. A. F. Form 683 Originator's No. 0 259													
To— 203 Group (R) Addis			Date Jan 11th														
From— HQ ME			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time of</td> <td>10.00/12</td> <td>Receipt</td> <td>11.29/11</td> <td>Origin</td> <td>GMT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">System</td> <td colspan="3">W/T</td> </tr> </table>			Time of	10.00/12	Receipt	11.29/11	Origin	GMT	System			W/T		
Time of	10.00/12	Receipt	11.29/11	Origin	GMT												
System			W/T														
<p>SECRET</p> <p>— 81A refers.</p> <p>Second addressee's 2/9 dated January 9th referring</p> <p>our O 208 January 6th. — 57A refers</p> <p>Personnel indicated in our O 359 November 22nd</p> <p>to be returned to 117 M U forthwith.</p>																	
D.P. & S.S. Addis Ababa - 1803 - 10,000.																	

Fig.133: 'Secret Cipher Message' form, printed by D.P&S.S. [Department of Printing & Stationery] Addis Ababa, with a print run of 10,000. Received by the R.A.F. Cipher Office in Addis Ababa on 12 January 1941. Either the month slug or the year slug must be incorrect, as there could not have been an R.A.F. Station in Addis Ababa in January 1941!

ARMY FORM C.2130 (E.A.)				MESSAGE FORM				Serial No.			
CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS		IN <i>communications Aircraft</i>						No. of Groups		OFFICE DATE Stamp	
		OUT						<i>22</i>			
TO <i>S.A. Addis</i>											
(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)											
FROM <i>26 Bole</i>				Originator's Number		Date		In Reply to Number			
				<i>X351</i>		<i>22</i>		<i>A242</i>			
For		Air		STATION		0		AIRCRAFT		can	
signal		at		DIRE DAWA		satellite		July		26	
and		27		0 0		Aircraft		must		cancel	
our		town		acronym		as		indication			
before		landing		satellite							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.</p> <p>IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER.</p> <p>SIGNED</p> </div> <div> <p>ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>DEGREE OF PRIORITY</p> <p><i>Important</i></p> </div> <div> <p>TIME OF ORIGIN</p> <p><i>1730</i></p> <p>T.H.I.</p> <p><i>1738</i></p> <p>T.O.R.</p> </div> </div>											
BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY											
SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
	<i>0725</i>										

HEADQUARTERS
1st (AFRICAN) DIVISION

Fig.134: Message Form, sent by 26 Brigade, and received by the Cipher Office, Headquarters, 1st (African) Division, in Addis Ababa, on 23 July 1941.

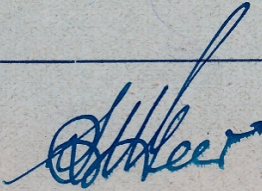
POSTAGRAM.	
Date :-- 20th. August, 1941.	
To: Addis Abeba.	
From: Asmara.	
Reference your signal D.460., dated 18th. August, 1941, Steering column addressed "C" Squadron K.C.A.R., not received this Station.	
Originator's Signature Amalgamated Press, Cairo. - 12830	 F/Lt. Time of Origin 0825/20 G.M.T.

Fig.135: Postagram form, printed in Cairo, sent to Addis Ababa on 20 August 1941.

M.F.F. (A.F.) 5

POSTAGRAMPostal Arrangement
2701

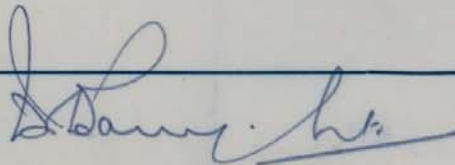
Originator's Reference Number :-

To :- O.C. Air Station, Addis Ababa

8549
Date :- 23.6.44

From : A.H.Q. F.O.

Return all mail addressed
 W/Cdr. R.A. Sprague to this H.Q.
 Advise O.C. W.Z. being similar
 instructions

Originator's
Signature

Time of
Origin

14.30

Fig.136: South African type 'Postagram', printed by D.A.P.S.S.—M.F.F.,U.D.F. [Department of Army Printing and Stationery Services, Mobile Field Force, Union Defence Force] with a print run of only 500 forms, in 1940. Sent to the Officer Commanding, Air Station, Addis Ababa, on 23 June 1941.

2701

ARMY FORM C 2128

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

TO

26 Bde: Copy to: A/Q: ST: DCFD: APS ADDIS: ADST Eth: DCE North: M: ADOS Nth: SIGS: CSO Nth: O.C.ADDIS AIR STN:

FROM

12 DIV

Originator's Number

2/15

Date

15

In Reply to number

From G Ops (.) A fast mail service between NANYUKI and ADDIS has now been arranged (.) CEAASC 12 Div is making all necessary arrangements and will ~~issue~~ issue orders accordingly (.) 26 Bde will provide four 15 cwt trucks each with two drivers from first line tpt and a rifle section to act as ~~escort~~ escort (.) CEAASC will provide European in charge of convoy (.) First convoy leaves ADDIS nineteen Feb Southbound (.) Same convoy leaves NANYUKI Northbound twentysix Feb

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means.

Capt. J. T. RODGER

Signed

G.3(O)

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent in cipher.

Signed

Below this line is for signals use only

Originator's instructions

Degree of priority

D.R.L.S.

Time of origin

1040

T.H.L.

T.O.R.

System in Time in Reader Sender System out Time out Reader Sender System out Time out Reader Sender

D.P. & S.S., Addis Ababa. 1810—6000 pads 50.

Fig.137: Message Form (Army Form C 2128) printed in Addis Ababa, in a print run of 6000 pads of 50. Sent from 12 (African) Division HQ, in Addis Ababa, to 26 Brigade, with copies to the Army Postal Service in Addis, and the Air Station in Addis, on 15 November 1942.

Works Cited

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Henning, H.F. 1996. **East Africa World War II: An Assessment of Date Stamps, Cancellations, Censor Marks and Tapes Relating to East Africa and East African Forces during World War II.** ISBN 0-9515865-2-1.

Proud, E.B. 1989. **The Postal History of the South African Army Postal Service.** Heathfield, East Sussex: Proud-Bailey Co.

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Ryan, Rory and Findlay, Jim. 'South African Army Post Offices in Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland, 1940-1941'. **Menelik's Journal** (Ethiopian Philatelic Society), 23:4(Oct-Dec 2007), 10-28.

We would be delighted to receive scans of pertinent covers, to include in an updated version of this paper.

Rory Ryan to
roryryan@protonmail.com
Jim Findlay agrecon@telkomsa.net