

Letter mail via Petsamo, Finland, 1940

This is a research exhibit about the importance of Petsamo, the only neutral mail transit port in Europe during the summer of 1940.

General:
Preparations for transportation from and to Petsamo.

When the Winter war between Finland and Soviet Union ended in March, 1940, a possibility opened for Finland to use Linaahamari port in Petsamo for importing and exporting goods. The connection to the ocean via the Baltic Sea had already then become uncertain. When Germany invaded Denmark and Norway in April, 1940, the service via this route was suspended.

While Russian troops were still in Petsamo, General Walden held a meeting in the Ministry of Defence concerning transportation via Petsamo. It was decided that the transportation would begin as soon as the Russians had left the area. Traffic from and to Petsamo was first handled with cars and lorries of the Finnish army units located in Lapland. However, the Secretary of Defence, General Walden, wanted to hand out the responsibility to civilians.

The Finnish government nominated a committee for sea transportation of Linaahamari port on April 25, 1940, and Paavo Talvela as its chairman. The role of the committee was to take care of transportation via Linaahamari port between Finland and foreign countries.

In this way during the summer of 1940 the Petsamo port of Linaahamari became the only neutral port with access to the high seas in Northern Europe.

As commercial traffic opened from Petsamo, shipments consisting of mail from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, and Latvia was delivered on one occasion on June 1st to England and four times to New York between June 20th and August 1st. Ships from England to Petsamo delivered mail between June 1st and September 24th including mail to Finland, Sweden, the Baltic countries, Soviet Union and beyond.

The data used in this research has been collected mostly from the archives of the Committee for sea transportation of Linaahamari port, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Post Office of the GPO.

- Outline of the exhibit:
 - page 2 Mail from Petsamo via England on June 1, 1940
 - pages 3 - 7 Airmail and surface mail from Petsamo to Americas via New York from July 9 to August 1, 1940
 - pages 8 - 13 Airmail and surface mail from and via England to Petsamo and onwards to other countries from June 1 to September 24, 1940
 - page 14 "Consignees mail" on November 28, 1940
 - page 15 Mail addressed to the International Red Cross on July 22, 1940
 - page 16 Diplomatic mail sent via Petsamo

All postal items via Petsamo are interesting and rare.

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The Post Office and Suomen Höyrylaiva Osakeyhtiö (Finnish Steam Ship Company) signed a contract concerning mail transportation between Petsamo and the UK already in May, 1940.

1st mail transported on s/s Regulus from Petsamo to the UK on 1.6.1940

Route of the letter below: from Helsinki on 23.5.1940 by train to Rovaniemi and by car to Petsamo, on 1.6.1940 by s/s Regulus to Manchester, to censoring office in Liverpool, and by s/s Scotia to New York and from there on 8.7.1940 by train to Buenos Aires.

Business letter from Helsinki 4.5.1940 to Buenos Aires
Rate: 1.11.1936 - 30.9.1942 - 20 g 3.50 mk. Censored in Liverpool (No 5040), and Argentina.



s/s Ruhnu sailed with 500 bags of letter mail addressed to foreign countries from Tallinn to Helsinki on 17.5.1940. Mail carried on board the s/s Regulus is extremely rare. 30 s. letter Tallinn: 13.5.1940 - Buenos Aires 13.7.1940 Censored in Liverpool (No 4353)

Transatlantic mail transportation between Petsamo and New York was based on a contract signed by the Post Office and Osakeyhtiö Suomen Pohjois-Amerikan Linja (Finnish North American Line Ltd). Due to limited capacity mail was accepted only from special agreement countries, namely Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, and Latvia.

s/s "Marisa Thorden" was the 2nd ship carrying mail on route Petsamo - New York

Transatlantic airmail on board s/s Marisa Thorden via Liverpool
The journey started well. However, the British captured the ship between Iceland and Canada. Mail (about 10,000 kg) was moved to the coast guard vessel s/s Wolf which took it to Liverpool for censoring. From there mail was transported on board s/s Ville Auvers to New York together with British mail on 13.8.1940.



AIRMAIL letter: Helsinki AVION 21.6.1940 - New York
Rate: letter 1.11.1936 - 30.9.1942 - 20 g 3.50 mk
airmail by ship to New York 21.9.1929 - 22.7.1940 - 20 g 2.00 mk (refer to kk 143-1940)
Censored in Liverpool (No 5317)

Telegram from London answering the inquiry of the Finnish Post Office concerning the destiny of mail on board the "Marisa".



Also Latvian mail authorities started to send mail via Petsamo to the Americas in June, 1940. **Latvian mail confiscated from s/s "Marisa Thorden"**



Registered letter: Riga 19.6.1940 - New York 12.8.1940 Rate: letter - 20 g 35 s. registering fee 40 s. Route: Riga - Stockholm - Tornio - Petsamo - Liverpool censoring 4320 - New York

Cessation of transatlantic mail transportation from Petsamo
United Kingdom and Germany disagreed about traffic from Petsamo. This led to the situation where all transatlantic transportation was suspended. After lengthy negotiations a new agreement was obtained with Germany on 6.9.1940 and the UK on 13.9.1940. However, the British wanted to take mail ships to Reykjavik for censoring measures. Germany did not accept, that any ship would go to an enemy port and therefore threatened to sink all such vessels.

Foreign Ministry letter concerning transatlantic mail dated 17.9.1940

(b) That no mails are carried and no passengers not previously approved by His Majesty's Government. If it is desired to carry mails, the vessel concerned must call and drop them at Reykjavik.

Both countries set a consul in Petsamo to make sure that cargo of ships leaving the port followed the agreement. These consuls were Karl Türk from Germany and Manicus Nielsen from the UK. Mail waiting for transportation in Petsamo was returned in Helsinki from where it was routed via Siberia to the Americas.

3rd mail ship s/s Karin Thorden

The ship commanded by captain Erik Eriksson left Petsamo Linaahamari harbor on 20.7.1940 and arrived after some exciting episodes to New York on 19.8.1940. The ship carried 1475 kg of Finnish mail.



Letter: Helsinki 27.7.1940 > Caracas
Rate: 1.11.1936-30.9.1942 - 20g 3.50 mk

4th and the last mail ship s/s "Ester Thorden" 1.8.1940

The ship left in a morning fog. However, it was captured by Germans, who had tightened their traffic control, and taken in Tromsø. All mail onboard was confiscated and taken to Berlin for censoring. Later on the postal items were sent via Siberia to the addresses in America where they arrived in October, 1940.

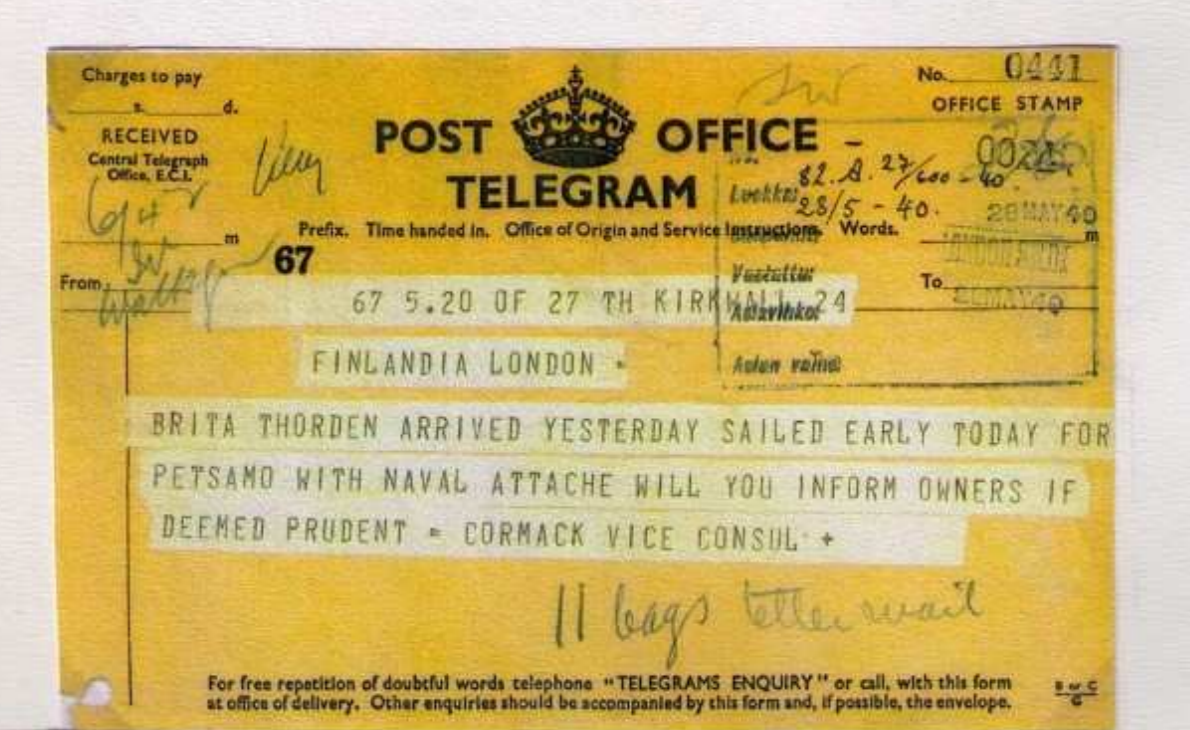


Letter: Tampere 18.7.1940 > USA
Rate: 1.11.36-30.9.42 - 20g 3.50 mk

Censored in Turku (78)
Censored in Berlin (152)

The first ship s/s "Brita Thorden" from the UK to Petsamo on 1.6.1940

A telegram from the Finnish embassy in London to Helsinki concerning the mail being carried on board s/s Brita Thorden.



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Foreign Ministry letter concerning transatlantic mail dated 17.9.1940

Both countries set a consul in Petsamo to make sure that cargo of ships leaving the port followed the agreement. These consuls were Karl Türk from Germany and Manicus Nielsen from the UK. Mail waiting for transportation in Petsamo was returned in Helsinki from where it was routed via Siberia to the Americas.

Swedish mail confiscated from s/s "Marisa Thorden"

Negotiations for transporting Swedish mail via Petsamo to the Americas began in the beginning of June, and the first mail was sent from Sweden via Tornio to Petsamo on 14.6.1940. The mail was taken onboard s/s "Marisa Thorden" in Linaahamari port, and the ship left for New York on 9.7.1940.

All mail from different countries onboard s/s "Marisa Thorden" was censored in Liverpool.



Postcard: Helsingborg 21.6.1940 - New York Rate: 20 öre Censored in Liverpool (P.49)

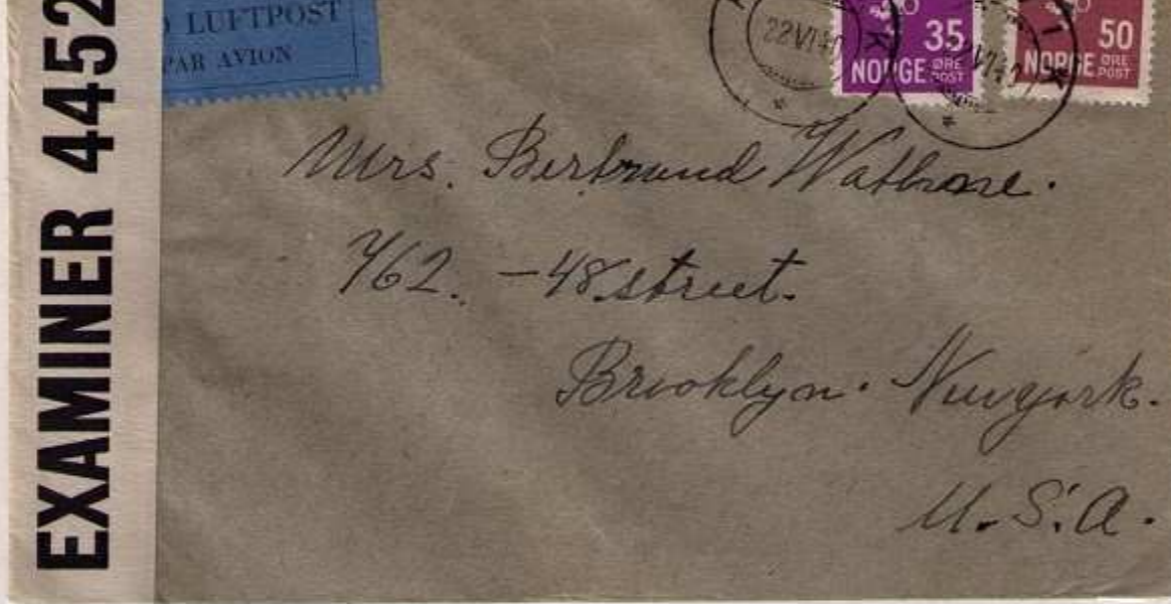


A notable registered letter where censorship and other markings reveal the route. Stockholm 26.6.1940 - New York 12.8.1940 - Detroit 13.8.1940 Rate: letter - 20g 30 öre registering fee 40 öre Censored in Liverpool (5441)

Norwegian airmail confiscated from s/s "Marisa Thorden"

Mail to the Americas (excluding British colonies and Canada) was routed in Oslo main post office on Wednesdays and Saturdays as of June 18, 1940. Mail was directed via Stockholm and Tornio to Petsamo. Due to difficulties in postal conditions in Europe also some Norwegian airmail was directed to ships leaving Petsamo.

German censoring cachet APNET VED TYSK CENSUR and Liverpool censor (4452)



Airmail letter: Fevik 22.6.1940 - New York Rate: letter - 20g 30 öre airmail fee - 5g 55 öre Route: Fevik - Oslo - Stockholm - Tornio - Petsamo - Liverpool censorship - New York 12.8.1940

4th and the last mail ship s/s "Ester Thorden" 1.8.1940
Germans captured the ship to Tromsø and also Norwegian mail was taken to Berlin for censoring measures. Mail was sent via Siberia and Japan to the USA where it arrived on October, 1940.



Letter censored twice by Germans: SANDEFJORD 15.7.1940 - USA Rate: 30 öre Oslo censoring cachet GEPRÜFT DEUTSCHE ZENSUR and Berlin censoring markings

Transit mail captured on board the s/s Carolus

Most of the mail routed from the UK to Petsamo was transit letter mail from the British Empire.



Postcard from Freetown (Sierra Leone) 24.7.1940 shipped from Cape Town to London. Rate: 2 p Censored in Sierra Leone, Liverpool, Berlin (No 64) and Turku (No 107)

Also transit air mail addressed to Finland was shipped to Petsamo.



Air mail letter Montreal - NY - Lisbon - Poole: Isle Maligne 25.7.1940 - Helsinki 14.11.1940. Rate: ½ ounce 30 c Censored in Canada, Köln, Berlin (No 58) and Helsinki (No 61)

Due to war in Holland and Belgium French postal authorities routed mail to Finland via England as of May 15, 1940. This route was suspended from the German occupied France in June, 1940.

French letter mail sent on board s/s "Immo Ragnar" to Petsamo 6.6 - 18.6.1940
The embassy in London sent a coded telegram to Helsinki on 6.6.1940 announcing that s/s "Immo" would bring 96 bags of letter mail to Petsamo.

Route: The ship left Liverpool on 6.6.1940 and arrived Linaahamari on 18.6.1940. Mail was transported to Rovaniemi by car and from there by train to Helsinki. Known arrival dates are from June 23 to 29, 1940.



Sailor postcard: Bordeaux 22.5.1940 - Tervo 24.6.1940 Censored in Turku.

Letter mail sent from the neutral countries and Great Britain and its territories to Finland, Sweden, the Baltic countries and Soviet Union as well as countries beyond that were routed via England to Petsamo routinely before difficulties in transportation commenced.

Letter mail onboard s/s "Caponus" via Petsamo 15.7 - 22.7.1940



Rare letter, from Kisaran-SUMATRA 14.3.1940 to Helsinki 25.7.1940 Rate: -20g 15 c Censored by Brits in India and Liverpool (No 789) and by Finns in Helsinki

The Swedish mail on board the s/s Carolus was confiscated and taken to Berlin. The mail arrived in Sweden in October, 1940.

The delay was notified in the Swedish press.

Onsdag 13 november 1940



Letter from Wimbledon 7.8.1940 to Gothenburg Rate: -1 ounce 3 p Censored in Liverpool (No 394) and Berlin (No 69)

Transit mail on board s/s "Hammarland" from Greenoch to Petsamo 24.9.1940.
Telegram sent to the Foreign Mail Office concerning mail which had arrived to Petsamo.

NEGOTIATIONS ON CARRYING "CONSIGNEES MAIL" ONBOARD SHIPS WITHOUT INTERVENTION OF CENSORING PERSONNEL WERE CARRIED OUT IN THE FALL OF 1940.

This was agreed on the condition that no private mail was placed in envelopes. Consignees mail traveling with cargo were not considered as regular mail. It was crucial for import companies to get them along with cargo when a ship arrived to port.

Consignees mail was not sent via regular mail. Instead, the consular authorities closed them into a big envelope and handed them over to the captain of the ship. After arrival, the British consul in Petsamo checked the papers and they were then mailed from Linaahamari to the addressees in closed envelopes.

5 c s/s "Washington" letter: New York 3.5.1940 - Lwow U.S.S.R. 20.10.1940. Letter returned on 6.11.1940 Censored in Liverpool (6093) and U.S.S.R. censored in LVOV



½ d printed matter: London 23.8.1940 - Puhjaj 15.10.1940 Returned 19.10.1940 It was common not to seal open printed matter covers with a sealing slip. Kurt Mattson Rederi AB got 8125 mk from an accounting office for mail transportation to Petsamo on 21.2.1941.

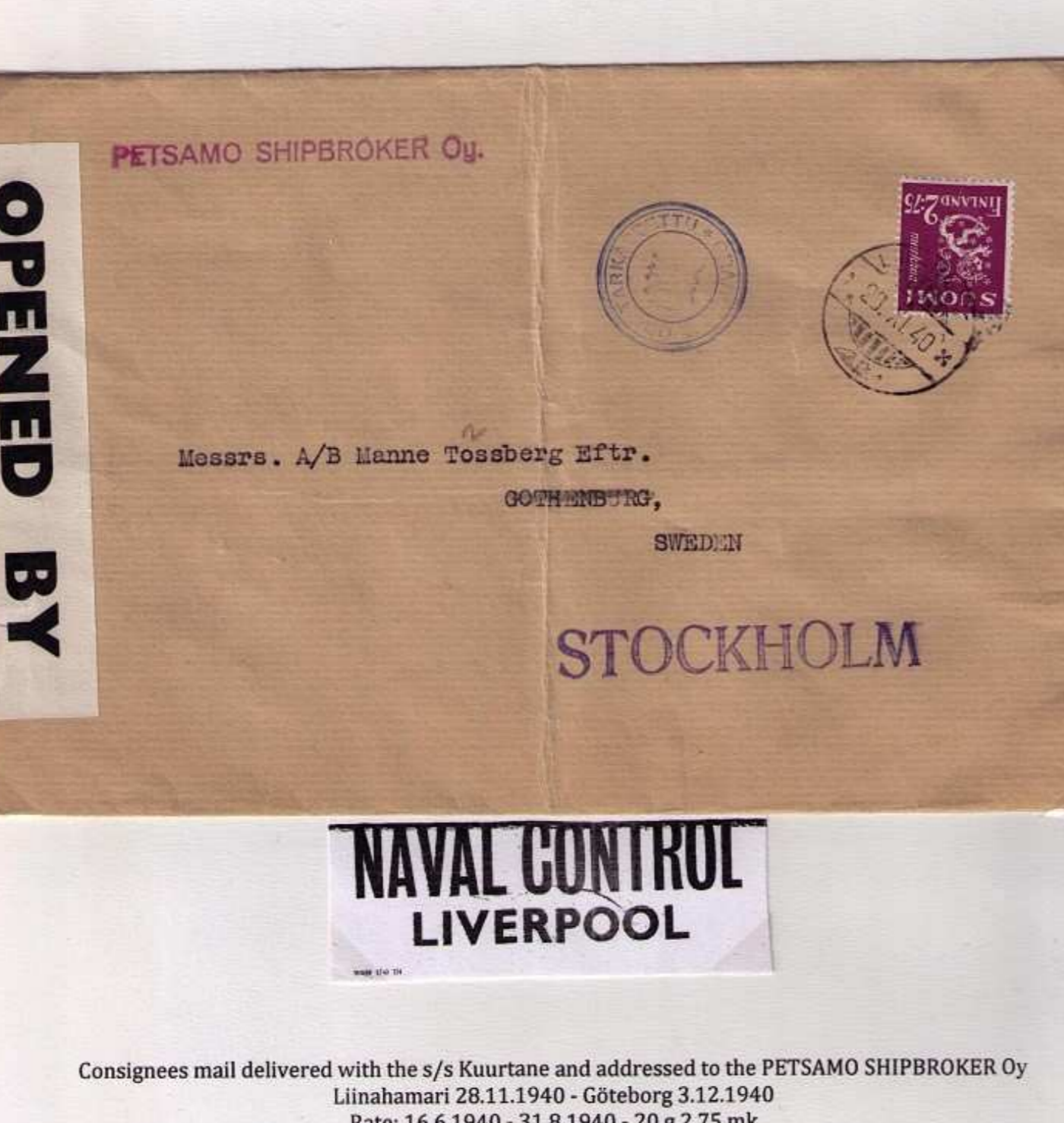
"Consignees mail"

Negotiations on carrying "consignees mail" onboard ships without intervention of censoring personnel were carried out in the fall of 1940.

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Consignees mail delivered with the s/s Kuortane and addressed to the PETSAMO SHIPBROKER Oy Linaahamari 28.11.1940 - Göteborg 3.12.1940 Rate: 16.6.1940 - 31.8.1940 - 20 g 2.75 mk Naval Control censoring slip and Turku censoring stamp No 80

Mail connection to Switzerland was suspended due to hostilities in France and therefore it became impossible to send mail to the Red Cross in Geneva. The representative of the Red Cross in London, Mr. Hactius, negotiated successfully with the Finnish Red Cross on sending some 20 tons of mail via Petsamo and Sweden to Geneva.

The International Red Cross sent car patrol needed to transport the mail from Petsamo to Rovaniemi.

Mail of the International Red Cross onboard "Caponus" via Petsamo 15-22.7.1940

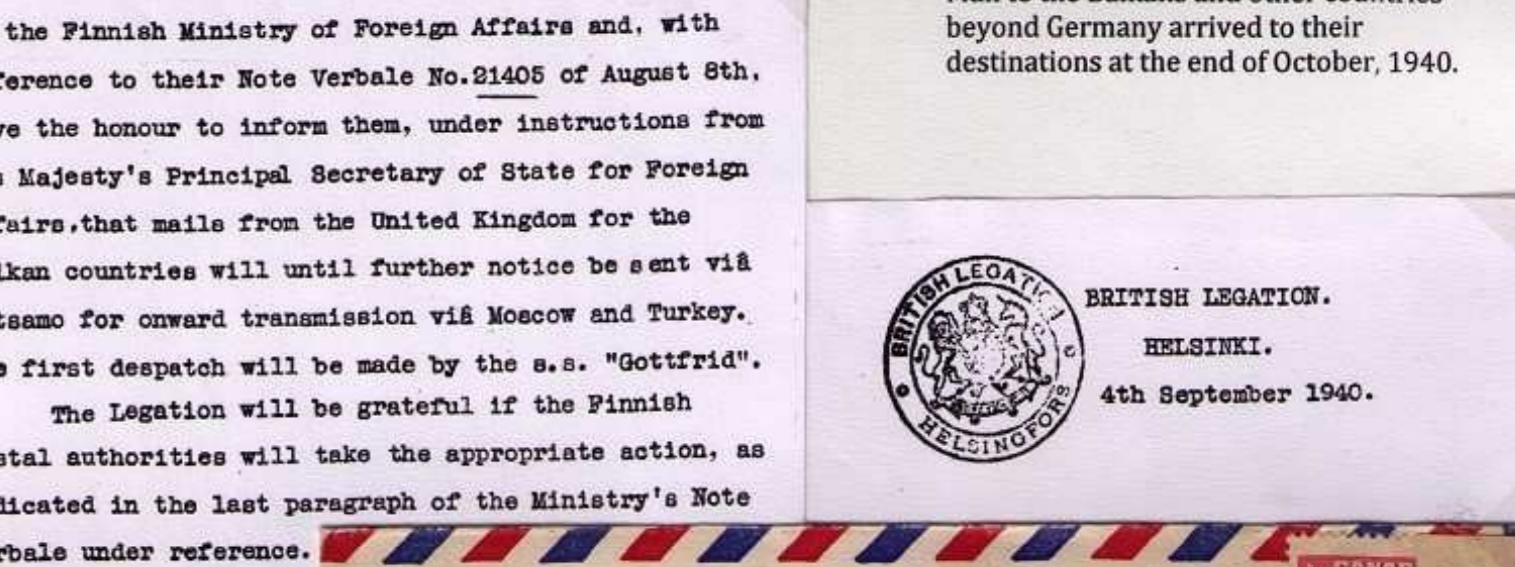


Letters from free France, Marseille 21.6, and from London 31.5.40 addressed to Geneva which have not been returned. Censored in UK (476 and 970) Route: England - Petsamo - Tornio - Stockholm - Geneva.

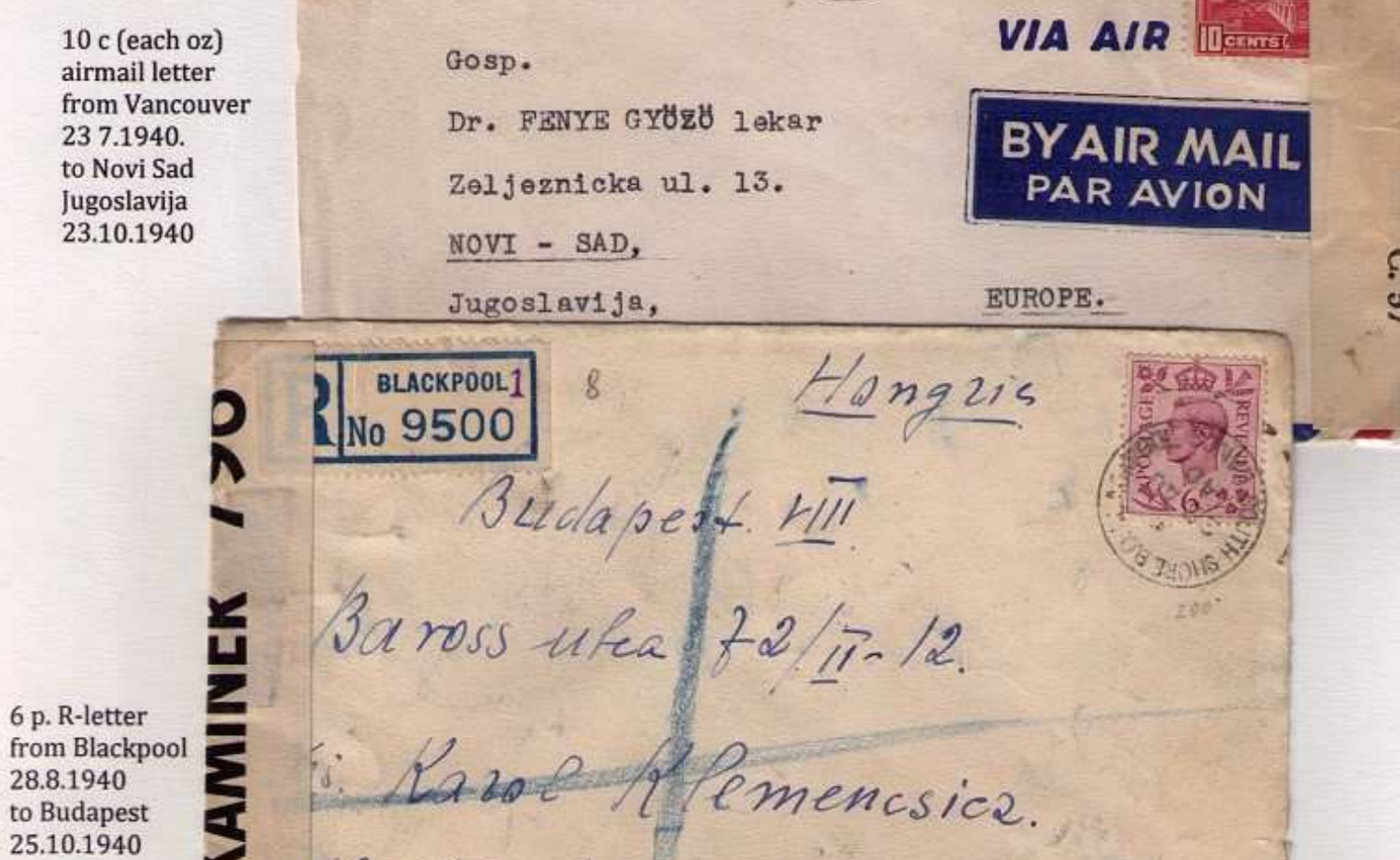
Mail to the Balkans on board s/s Cottfrid 31.8 - 22.9.1940 via Petsamo.

Transportation of mail which arrived to Petsamo in the fall of 1940 was slowed down due to heavy traffic between Petsamo and Rovaniemi.

In order to speed up the transportation mail was flown from Petsamo to Rovaniemi from 20.8 to 28.9.1940. The British Embassy in Helsinki informed the Foreign Ministry on 4.9.1940 that mail from the UK to the Balkans was routed to Petsamo and from there via Moscow and Turkey to the Balkan countries.



10 c (each oz) airmail letter from Vancouver 23.7.1940 to Novi Sad Jugoslavija 23.10.1940



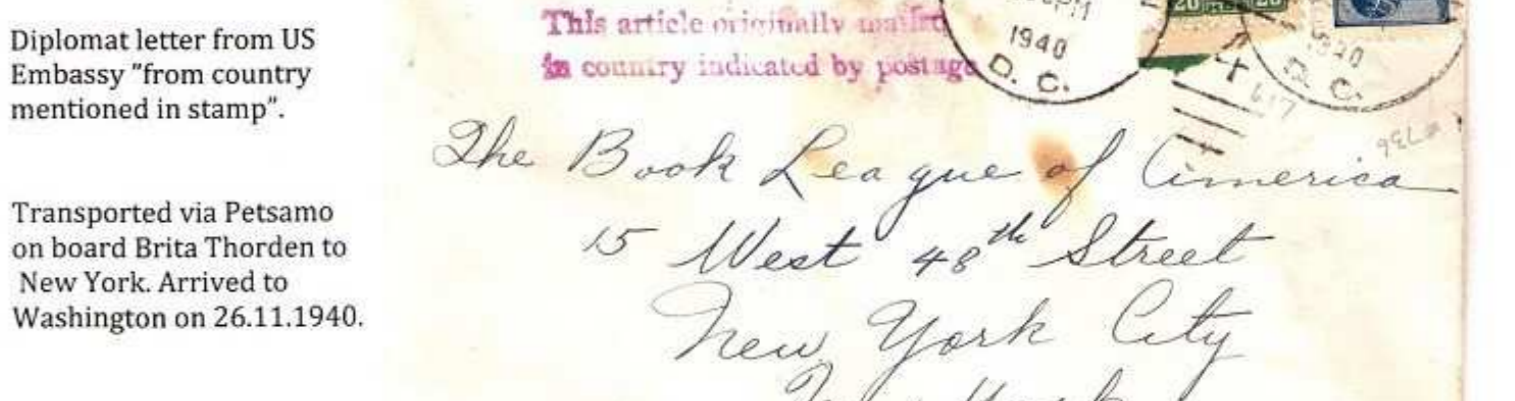
6 p. R-letter from Blackpool 28.8.1940 to Budapest 25.10.1940 Censored in Liverpool (796) John Nurminen Ltd got 1970 mk from an accounting office for mail transportation from Liverpool to Petsamo.

Diplomat mail via Petsamo, May 1940 - June 1941.

Sea transportation via Petsamo offered the fastest and most reliable way of sending diplomat mail from and to Finland and its neighboring countries. The agreement offered by the US Government to Finland included also mail between the USA and its embassy in Moscow.

In this connection, it may be stated that an arrangement for the payment of transit charges similar to the arrangement herein proposed is in operation with respect to the diplomatic pouches dispatched from the American Embassy at Moscow to the Department of State in this city.

The Pk early reply



Private diplomatic mail from Washington Embassy on board Mathilda Thorden to Petsamo on 24.8.1940 and from there to the Embassy in Finland on 29.8.1940. 2 mk letter rate for carrying the letter from Helsinki to Lahti on 30.8.1940.

Letter mail via Petsamo, Finland, 1940

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General:

Preparations for transportation from and to Petsamo.

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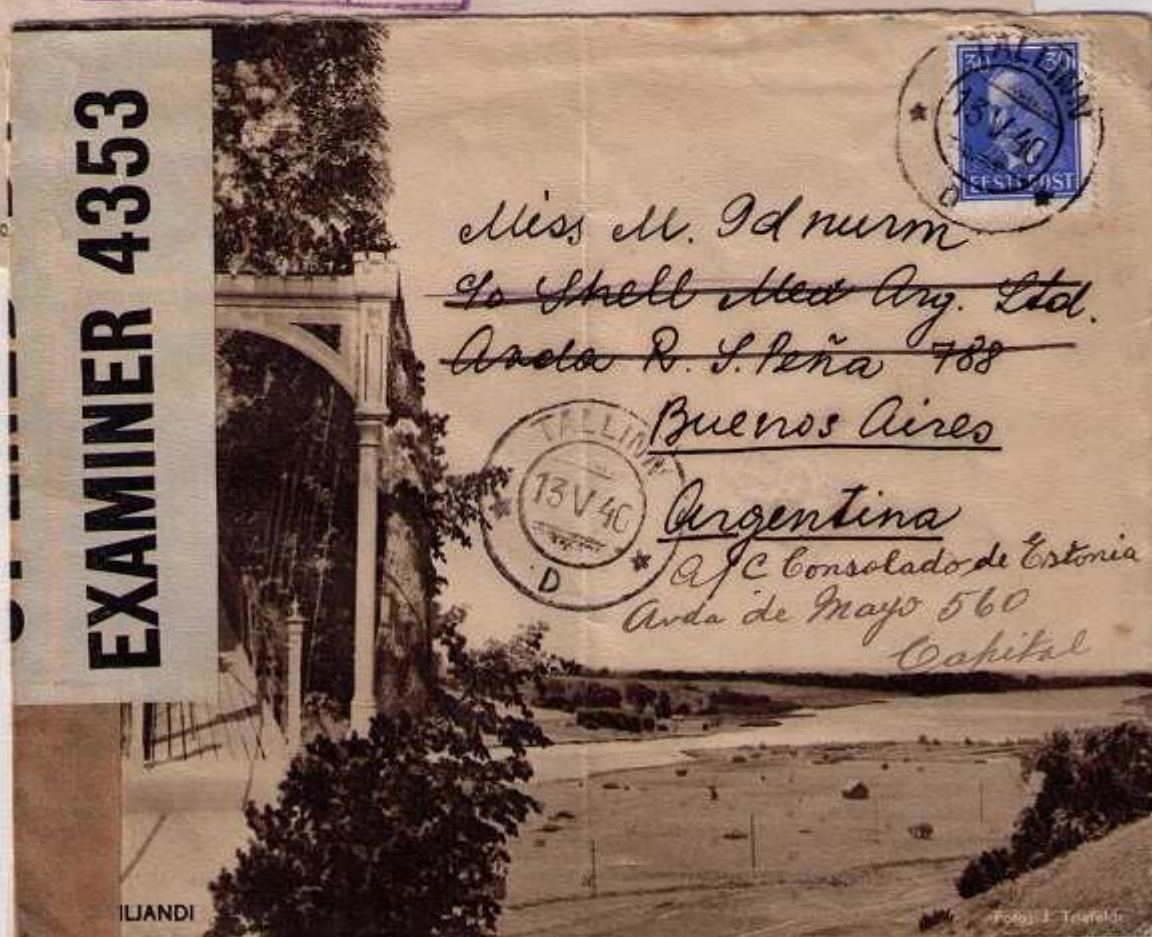
The Post Office and Suomen Höyrylaiva Osakeyhtiö (Finnish Steam Ship Company) signed a contract concerning mail transportation between Petsamo and the UK already in May, 1940.

1st mail transported on s/s Regulus from Petsamo to the UK on 1.6.1940

Route of the letter below: from Helsinki on 23.5 1940 by train to Rovaniemi and by car to Petsamo, on 1.6.1940 by s/s Regulus to Manchester, to censoring office in Liverpool, and by s/s Scynthia to New York and from there on 8.7.1940 by train to Buenos Aires.

Business letter from Helsinki 4.5.1940 to Buenos Aires

Rate: 1.11.1936 - 30.9.1942 -20 g 3. 50 mk. Censored in Liverpool (No 5040), and Argentina.



Only one ship sailed from Petsamo to England.

s/s Ruhnu sailed with 500 bags of letter mail addressed to foreign countries from Tallinn to Helsinki on 17.5.1940.

Mail carried on board the s/s Regulus is extremely rare.

30 s. letter Tallinn: 13.5.1940 - Buenos Aires 13.7.1940 Censored in Liverpool (No 4353)

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Transatlantic airmail on board s/s Marisa Thorden via Liverpool

The journey started well. However, the British captured the ship between Iceland and Canada. Mail (about 10,000 kg) was moved to the coast guard vessel s/s Wolf which took it to Liverpool for censoring. From there mail was transported on board s/s Ville Auvers to New York together with British mail on 13.8.1940.



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airmail by ship to New York 21.9.1929 - 22.7.1940 - 20 g 2.00 mk (refer to kk 143-1940)
Censored in Liverpool (No 5317)

Telegram from London answering the inquiry of the Finnish Post Office concerning the destiny of mail on board the "Marisa".

YOUR TELEGRAM 21/8 MAILED REMOVED FROM MARISA THORDEN BY BRITISH
AUTHORITIES ALL LC AND MOST AQ BAGS ALREADY SENT ON TO DESTINATION
BY SHIPS USED FOR BRITISH MAILED ON VARIOUS DATES FROM 29/7 FEW
BAGS AQ AND PARCELS ON HAND WILL BE
FORWARDED FIRST OPPORTUNITY = POSTGEN +

3rd mail ship s/s Karin Thorden

The ship commanded by captain Erik Eriksson left Petsamo Liinahamari harbor on 20.7.1940 and arrived after some exciting episodes to New York on 19.8.1940. The ship carried 1475 kg of Finnish mail.

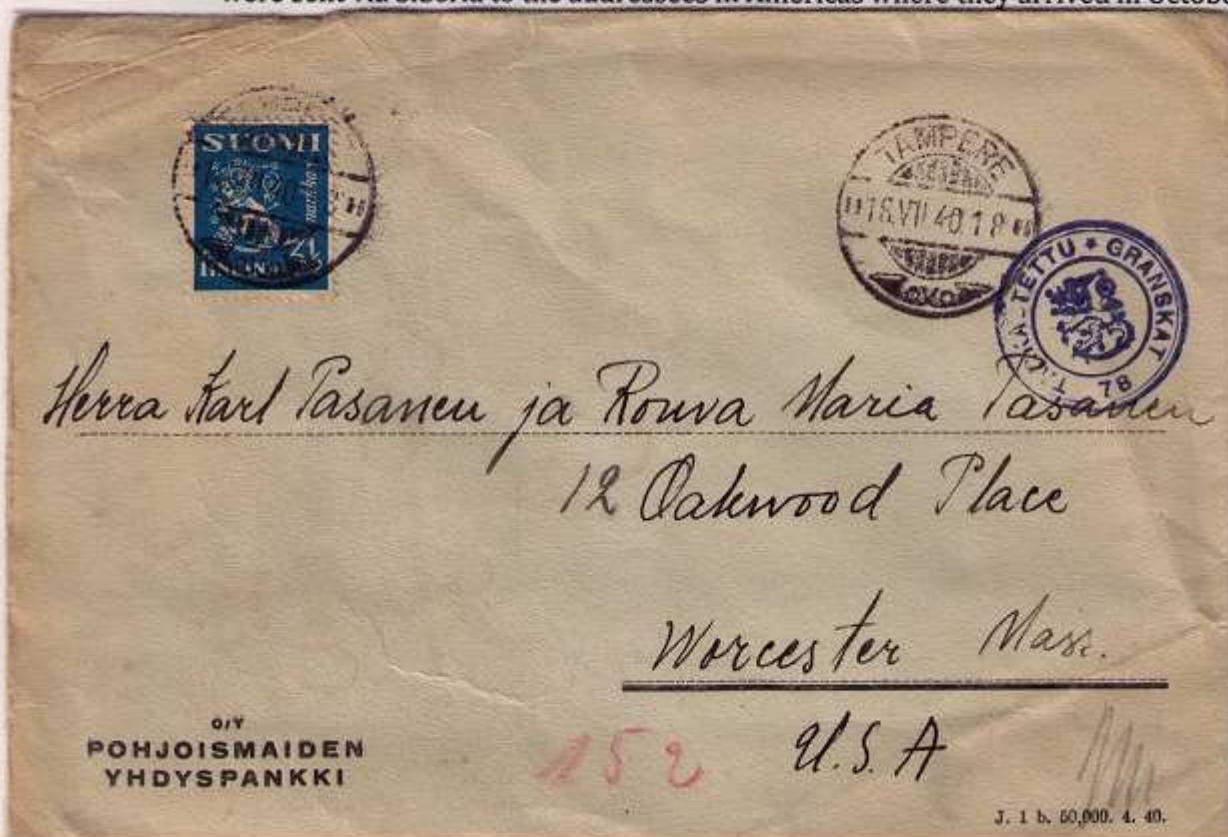
Letter:
Helsinki 2.7.1940
> Caracas

Rate:
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-20g 3.50 mk



4th and the last mail ship s/s "Ester Thorden" 1.8.1940

The ship left in a morning fog. However, it was captured by Germans, who had tightened their traffic control, and taken in Tromsø. All mail onboard was confiscated and taken to Berlin for censoring. Later on the postal items were sent via Siberia to the addressees in Americas where they arrived in October, 1940.



Letter: Tampere
18.7.1940 > USA

Rate:
1.11.36-30.9.42
-20g 3.50 mk

Censored in Turku
(78)

Censored in
Berlin (152)

Swedish mail confiscated from s/s "Marisa Thorden"

Negotiations for transporting Swedish mail via Petsamo to the Americas began in the beginning of June, and the first mail was sent from Sweden via Tornio to Petsamo on 14.6.1940. The mail was taken onboard s/s "Marisa Thorden" in Liinahamari port, and the ship left for New York on 9.7.1940.

All mail from different countries onboard s/s "Marisa Thorden" was censored in Liverpool.



Postcard: Hälsingborg 21.6.1940 - New York Rate: 20 öre
Censored in Liverpool (P.49)



A notable registered letter where censorship and other markings reveal the route.
Stockholm 26.6.1940 - New York 12.8.1940 - Detroit 13.8.1940
Rate: letter -20g 30 öre registering fee 40 öre
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Norwegian airmail confiscated from s/s "Marisa Thorden"

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Airmail letter: Fevik 22.6.1940 - New York Rate: letter -20g 30 öre airmail fee -5g 55 öre
Route: Fevik - Oslo - Stockholm - Tornio - Petsamo - Liverpool censorship - New York 12.8.1940

German censoring cachet ÄPNET VED TYSK CENSUR and Liverpool censor (4452)

4th and the last mail ship s/s "Ester Thorden" 1.8.1940

Germans captured the ship to Tromsø and also Norwegian mail was taken to Berlin for censoring measures. Mail was sent via Siberia and Japan to the USA where it arrived on October, 1940.



Letter censored twice by Germans: SANDEFJORD 15.7.1940 - USA Rate: 30 öre
Oslo censoring cachet GEPRÜFT DEUTSCHE ZENSUR and Berlin censoring markings

Also Latvian mail authorities started to send mail via Petsamo to the Americas in June, 1940.

Latvian mail confiscated from s/s "Marisa Thorden"



Registered letter: Riga 19.6.1940 - New York 12.8.1940 Rate: letter -20 g 35 s. registering fee 40 s.
Route: Riga - Stockholm - Tornio - Petsamo - Liverpool censoring 4320 - New York

Cessation of transatlantic mail transportation from Petsamo

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However, the British wanted to take mail ships to Reykjavik for censoring measures. Germany did not accept, that any ship would go to an enemy port and therefore threatened to sink all such vessels.

Foreign Ministry letter concerning transatlantic mail dated 17.9.1940

(b) That ~~no mails~~ are carried and no passengers not previously approved by His Majesty's Government. If it is desired to carry mails, the vessel concerned must call and drop them at Reykjavik.

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When ship traffic from Petsamo was opened, the embassies in London and Helsinki started immediately negotiations about mail connections between the UK and Finland.

The first ship bringing mail from the UK was s/s "Brita Thorden" which left Blyth on 25.5.1940. After stopping at Kirkwall it arrived to Liinahamari on 1.6.1940. It left 11 mail bags to the Post Office. Even though Germans did not allow any Finnish ship to enter ports controlled by the British, they had nothing against import from the UK.

The first ship s/s "Brita Thorden" from the UK to Petsamo on 1.6.1940

A telegram from the Finnish embassy in London to Helsinki concerning the mail being carried on board s/s Brita Thorden.

Charges to pay s. d.

RECEIVED
Central Telegraph
Office, E.C.L.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

No. 0441
OFFICE STAMP

67
Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From: 67 5.20 OF 27 TH KIRK
To: HELSINKI

FINLANDIA LONDON

BRITA THORDEN ARRIVED YESTERDAY SAILED EARLY TODAY FOR PETSAMO WITH NAVAL ATTACHE WILL YOU INFORM OWNERS IF DEEMED PRUDENT - CORMACK VICE CONSUL +

11 bags letter mail

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.



NO SERVICE
RETURN TO SENDER
In spite of the stamp
the letter was not
returned, but routed
to the Brita Thorden.

KLM airmail letter CAIRO-NAPELS-AMSTERDAM-LONDON: REHOVOT 7.4.1940 - Arrival cds Helsinki 7.6.1940.
Rate: -20g 20 m. Censored in Palestine PC 22. No 4 and Turku.

Due to war in Holland and Belgium French postal authorities routed mail to Finland via England as of May 15, 1940. This route was suspended from the German occupied France in June, 1940.

French letter mail sent on board s/s "Immo Ragnar" to Petsamo 6.6. - 18.6.1940

The embassy in London sent a coded telegram to Helsinki on 6.6.1940 announcing that s/s "Immo" would bring 96 bags of letter mail to Petsamo.

Route: The ship left Liverpool on 6.6.1940 and arrived Liinahamari on 18.6.1940. Mail was transported to Rovaniemi by car and from there by train to Helsinki. Known arrival dates are from June 23 to 29, 1940.



Sailor postcard: Bordeaux 22.5.1940 - Tervo 24.6.1940 Censored in Turku.

Letter mail sent from the neutral countries and Great Britain and its territories to Finland, Sweden, the Baltic countries and Soviet Union as well as countries beyond that were routed via England to Petsamo routinely before difficulties in transportation commenced.

Letter mail onboard s/s "Caponus" via Petsamo 15.7 - 22.7.1940



Rare letter, from Kisaran-SUMATRA 14.3.1940 to Helsinki 25.7.1940
Rate: -20g 15 c. Censored by Brits in India and Liverpool (No 789) and by Finns in Helsinki

Swedish mail captured on board s/s Carolus on 1.9.1940

The Swedish mail on board the s/s Carolus was confiscated and taken to Berlin.

The mail arrived in Sweden in October, 1940.

The delay was notified in the Swedish press.

Onsdag 13 november 1940

Dagens englandsbrev voro öppnade av tysk censur!

Sändningen kom från kapad båt tror posten

Engelsk post har i dag anlänt till Göteborg. Av befordringstiden att döma har den vandrat jorden runt. Samtliga tre brev, som tillställts HT som illustrationsmaterial ha nämligen avsänts 31 juli och sålunda haft tre och en halv månad på sig. Det intressanta är emellertid, att den engelska posten är censurerad av såväl den engelska censuren som av — den tyska!

Den tyska censuren har öppnat breven i motsatt ända mot den, där den engelska censuren öppnat dem. Breven se sålunda ganska genomlästa ut. Ett av dem innehöll ändå ett så kraftigt uttryck som följande, skrivet av en i England bosatt norsk fru:

— När vi segrat, skola vi...

Förste kontrollören meddelar, att en hel del brev förete precis likartad dubbelcensurering. Enligt hans förmenande beror det på, att posten fraktats med något fartyg, som tyskarna uppbringat. Förmodligen har posten i alla fall gått den långa vägen jorden runt.

Geprüft



FROM

The DUNHAM
HEATING SERVICE
REG. TRADE MARK

100 Road, Morden Road, Merton, London, S.W.19

502

CONTENTS - ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MESSRS A/B CALDARIA,

SKEPPSBROPLATSEN.1.

GOTHENBURG.

SWEDEN.



69

John

Letter from Wimbledon 7.8.1940 to Gothenburg

Rate: -1 ounce 3 p Censored in Liverpool (No 394) and Berlin (No 69)

EXAMINER 394

Transit mail captured on board the s/s Carolus

Most of the mail routed from the UK to Petsamo was transit letter mail from the British Empire.



Postcard from Freetown (Sierra Leone) 24.7.1940 shipped from Cape Town to London. Rate: 2 p
Censored in Sierra Leone, Liverpool, Berlin (No 64) and Turku (No 107)

Also transit air mail addressed to Finland was shipped to Petsamo.



Air mail letter Montreal - N Y - Lisbon - Poole: Isle Maligne 25.7.1940 - Helsinki 14.11.1940.
Rate: ½ ounce 30 c Censored in Canada, Köln, Berlin (No 58) and Helsinki (No 61)

Mail to the Balkans on board s/s Cottfrid 31.8. - 22.9.1940 via Petsamo.

Transportation of mail which arrived to Petsamo in the fall of 1940 was slowed down due to heavy traffic between Petsamo and Rovaniemi.

In order to speed up the transportation mail was flown from Petsamo to Rovaniemi from 20.8. to 28.9.1940.

The British Embassy in Helsinki informed the Foreign Ministry on 4.9.1940 that mail from the UK to the Balkans was routed to Petsamo and from thereon via Moscow and Turkey to the Balkan countries.

Me
His Majesty's Legation present its compliments to the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to their Note Verbale No. 21405 of August 8th, have the honour to inform them, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that mails from the United Kingdom for the Balkan countries will until further notice be sent via Petsamo for onward transmission via Moscow and Turkey. The first despatch will be made by the s.s. "Gottfrid". The Legation will be grateful if the Finnish postal authorities will take the appropriate action, as indicated in the last paragraph of the Ministry's Note Verbale under reference.

Mail to the Balkans and other countries beyond Germany arrived to their destinations at the end of October, 1940.



BRITISH LEGATION.
HELSINKI.
4th September 1940.

10 c (each oz)
airmail letter
from Vancouver
23.7.1940.
to Novi Sad
Jugoslavija
23.10.1940

WRITTEN IN HUNGARIAN.



CANADIAN
ARE OPEN
TO



VIA AIR

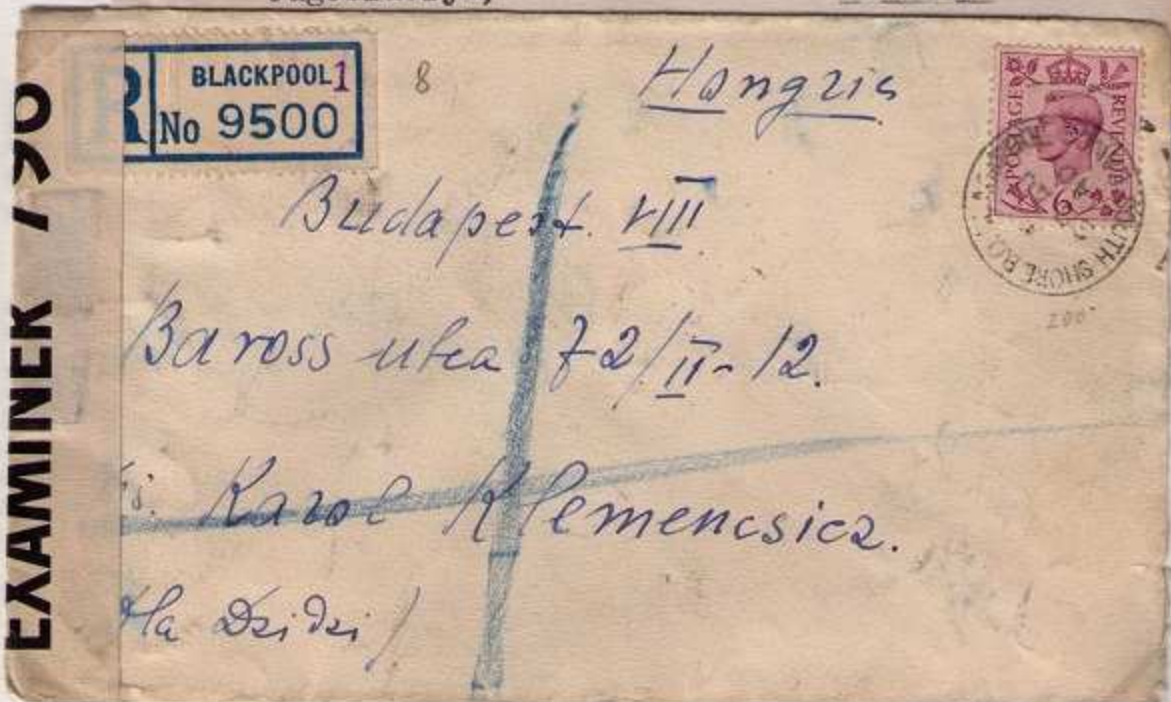
Gosp.
Dr. FENYE GYÖZÖ lekar
Zeljeznicka ul. 13.
NOVI - SAD,
Jugoslavija,

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

EUROPE.

6 p. R-letter
from Blackpool
28.8.1940
to Budapest
25.10.1940

Censored in
Liverpool (796)



John Nurminen Ltd got 1970 mk from an accounting office for mail transportation from Liverpool to Petsamo.

Transit mail on board s/s "Hammarland" from Greenoch to Petsamo 24.9.1940.

Telegram sent to the Foreign Mail Office concerning mail which had arrived to Petsamo:

HAMMARLANDISSA SAAPUI PETSAMOON 24/9-40 YHTEENSÄ 325 SÄKKIÄ
POSTIA PISTE MIKÄ OLI POSTIN PAINO JA OLIKO KAIKKI KIRJEPOSTIA
ULKOMAANTOIMISTO

Mail from s/s "Washington" (sailing between New York and Genova) confiscated in Gibraltar and censored in Liverpool was also sent onwards via Petsamo.

Gibraltar had a limited capacity for censoring and therefore some of the mail was directed to Liverpool censoring office.

5 c. s/s "Washington" letter: New York 3.5.1940 - Lwow U.S.S.R. 20.10.1940.

Letter returned on 6.11.1940

Censored in Liverpool (6093) and U.S.S.R. censored in LVOV



1/2 d printed matter: London 23.8.1940 - Punjab 15.10. 1940

Returned 19.10.1940

It was common not to seal open printed matter covers with a sealing slip.

Kurt Mattson Rederi AB got 8125 mk from an accounting office for mail transportation to Petsamo on 21.2.1941.

"Consignees mail"

Negotiations on carrying "consignees mail" onboard ships without intervention of censoring personnel were carried out in the fall of 1940.

This was agreed on the condition that no private mail was placed in envelopes. Consignment notes travelling with cargo were not considered as regular mail. It was crucial for import companies to get them along with cargo when a ship arrived to port.

Consignees mail was not sent via regular mail. Instead, the consular authorities closed them into a big envelope and handed them over to the captain of the ship.

After arrival, the British consul in Petsamo checked the papers and they were then mailed from Liinahamari to the addressees in closed envelopes.



Consignees mail delivered with the s/s Kuurtane and addressed to the PETSAMO SHIPBROKER Oy
Liinahamari 28.11.1940 - Göteborg 3.12.1940
Rate: 16.6.1940 - 31.8.1940 - 20 g 2.75 mk
Naval Control censoring slip and Turku censoring stamp No 80

Mail connection to Switzerland was suspended due to hostilities in France and therefore it became impossible to send mail to the Red Cross in Geneva. The representative of the Red Cross in London, Mr. Haccius, negotiated successfully with the Finnish Red Cross on sending some 20 tons of mail via Petsamo and Sweden to Geneva.

The International Red Cross sent car petrol needed to transport the mail from Petsamo to Rovaniemi.

Mail of the International Red Cross onboard "Caponus" via Petsamo 15.-22.7.1940



private letter:
Vevey 11.6.1940
to UK

"DETAINED IN
FRANCE
DURING GERMAN
OCCUPATION"



Letters from free France, Marseille 21.6. and from London 31.5.40 addressed to Geneva which have not been returned.
Censored in UK (476 and 970) Route: England - Petsamo - Tornio - Stockholm - Geneva.

Diplomat mail via Petsamo, May 1940 - June 1941.

Sea transportation via Petsamo offered the fastest and most reliable way of sending diplomat mail from and to Finland and its neighboring countries. The agreement offered by the US Government to Finland included also mail between the USA and its embassy in Moscow.

In this connection, it may be stated that an arrangement for the payment of transit charges similar to the arrangement herein proposed is in operation with respect to the diplomatic pouches dispatched from the American Embassy at Moscow to the Department of State in this city.

The Po
early reply

Diplomat letter from US Embassy "from country mentioned in stamp".

Transported via Petsamo on board Brita Thorden to New York. Arrived to Washington on 26.11.1940.



Mrs. Aino Sihvola,
Vesijärvenkatu 32,
Lahti,
Suomi - Finland

Private diplomatic mail from Washington Embassy on board Mathilda Thorden to Petsamo on 24.8.1940 and from there to the Embassy in Finland on 29.8.1940.

2 mk letter rate for carrying the letter from Helsinki to Lahti on 30.8.1940.

