

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

From the outset of the war, censor marks were allocated to Field and Base Stations throughout the areas of conflict and applied to outgoing mail from serving military personnel.

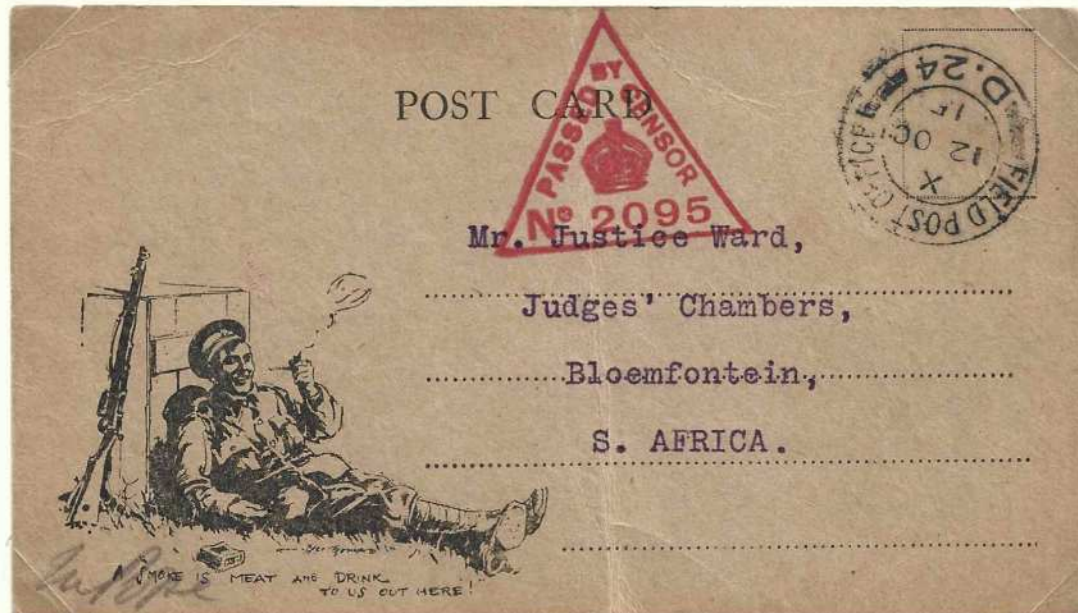
This is a display of postcards and covers, sent from battle sites in Europe and North African locations, illustrating the combination of post office marks and censor handstamps, plus one envelope sent from London to Berlin that was stopped by the censor.

On some of the postcards an attempt at deleting/obliterating the actual location of the photographs has been made, whilst others show no signs of such censoring.

A recurring feature of the messages from the writers is their determination to portray a positive perspective, despite what we now know were truly horrific conditions on the ground.

Sources:

The Postal History of the British Army in World War I - Kennedy & Crab
The Great War Forum (1914 - 1918)



Addressed reply card from a grateful soldier to Mr. Justice Ward for the pack of tobacco and cigarettes provided through his support of the Overseas Club's "comfort packs"

1

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Postcard sent on the 14th November 1914 to Master Ray Legg in London from Army Post Office number 11 located in the Armentieres area. Passed by Censor 289 with single circle with crown handstamp. Postage paid in London and cancelled by C. Morgan.

The reverse of the card features a colour photograph of a young girl in typical dress holding pots of flowers.



2

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postale sent by A.M. Dyers A.S.C.M.T 09237 from No. 2 Base, Rouen on the 25th November 1914 to Mrs. M. Dyers in Bristol. Passed by Censor No. 673 using a red single circle with crown handstamp.

The black and white photograph on the reverse is of the Cathedral at Rouen



3

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Envelope posted to Mr. Field of Royal Arcade, Bond Street, London on the 24th February 1915 and passed by Censor No. 5 using a red square with crown handstamp.

Stamped on the reverse 5.15pm on the 25th February 1915



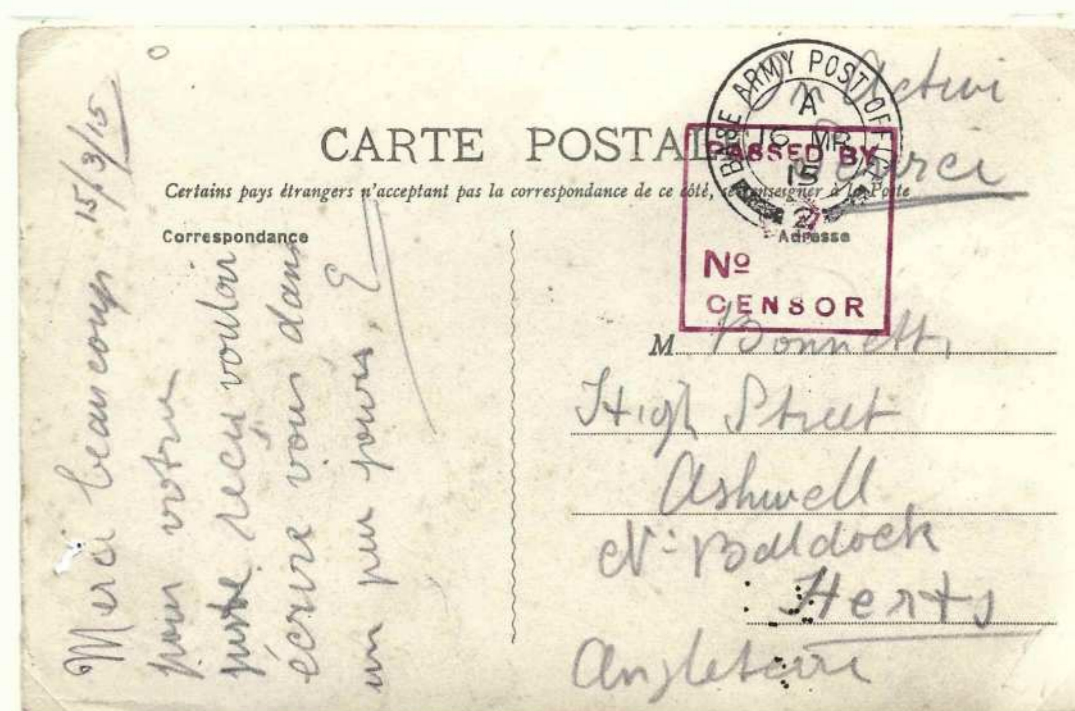
4

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postal written in French on the 15th March 1915 posted to M Bonnett in Baldock, Hertfordshire, stamped at Base Army Post Office No. 2, Rouen the following day. It carries an un-numbered red square with crown censor handstamp.

A colour photograph of a Flower and Butterfly garden is on the reverse.



5

George V

INTERRUPTED MAIL

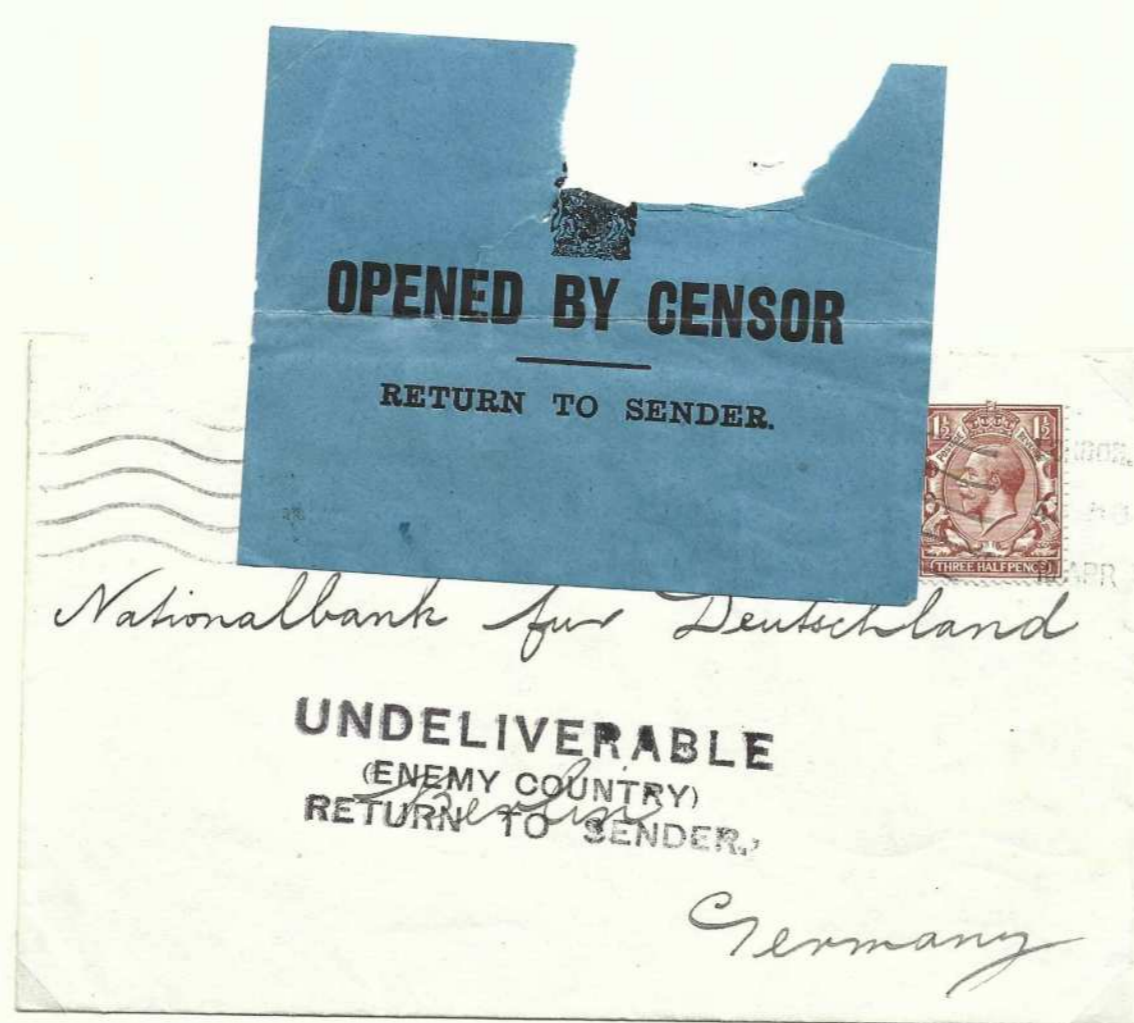
On the 29th March 1915 the 750 personnel handling Censorship, were transferred from Salisbury House to Imperial House, Kingsway, where more accommodation was available. 100 Censors dealing with PoW mail remained at Salisbury House.

Several different hand stamps giving specific instructions and adhesive labels for re-sealing envelopes, were utilised in various combinations; the cover below illustrates just one such combination.

Cover addressed to Nationalbank fur Deutschland, Berlin, Germany

Postage of 3d paid by 2 x 1 1/2d stamps and cancelled on the 10th April 1915 by the Type 262 three line/5 wavy bars machine canceller from LONDON EC.

A deep blue, Type 31A Censor label has been affixed and completely covers one of the stamps



"Berlin" in the address has been over stamped with a Type H25 Hand stamp

6

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Postcard written by Tommy Byers to Master Frank Byers in Belfast, Ireland, sending him birthday greetings for the following day on the 30th May 1915 but only date stamped in July at Field Post Office 153.

Passed by W.P. Campbell using purple triangle with crown Censor No. 1587 handstamp.

Semi colour greetings photograph of two servicemen on the reverse.



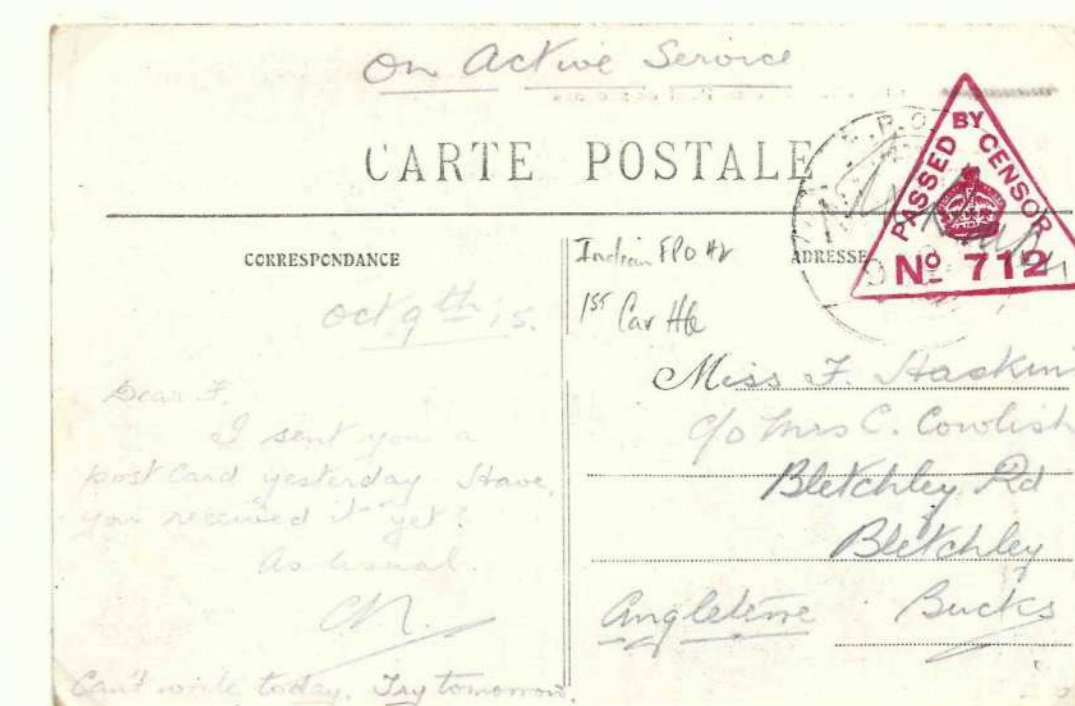
7

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postale posted by C.N. Haskins to Miss F Haskins, c/o Mrs. C. Cowlishan in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. Posted on the 9th October 1915 from Indian Field Post Office 42 and passed by Censor No. 712 using the red triangle with crown handstamp.

The black and white photograph shows portions of the Citadel at Doullens in the Somme region of Picardy, built on the ancient frontier between France and the Spanish Netherlands.



8

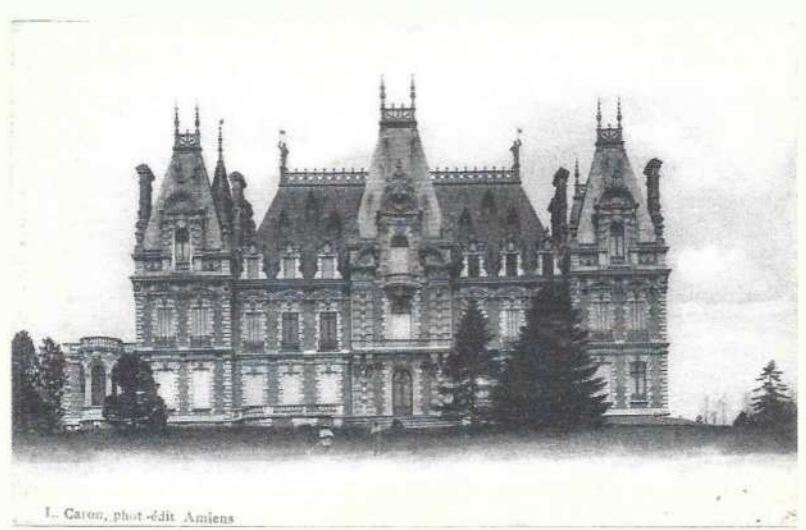
WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

CARTE POSTALE again posted by C.N. Haskins to Miss F.M. Haskin this time to an address in Cardiff "Angleterre", possibly 23rd Nov 1915 from Indian Field Post Office 42, France (1st Cavalry HQ?).

Red Triangle with Crown Censor No. 712 handstamp has been applied.

Black and white photograph of a Chateau on the reverse.



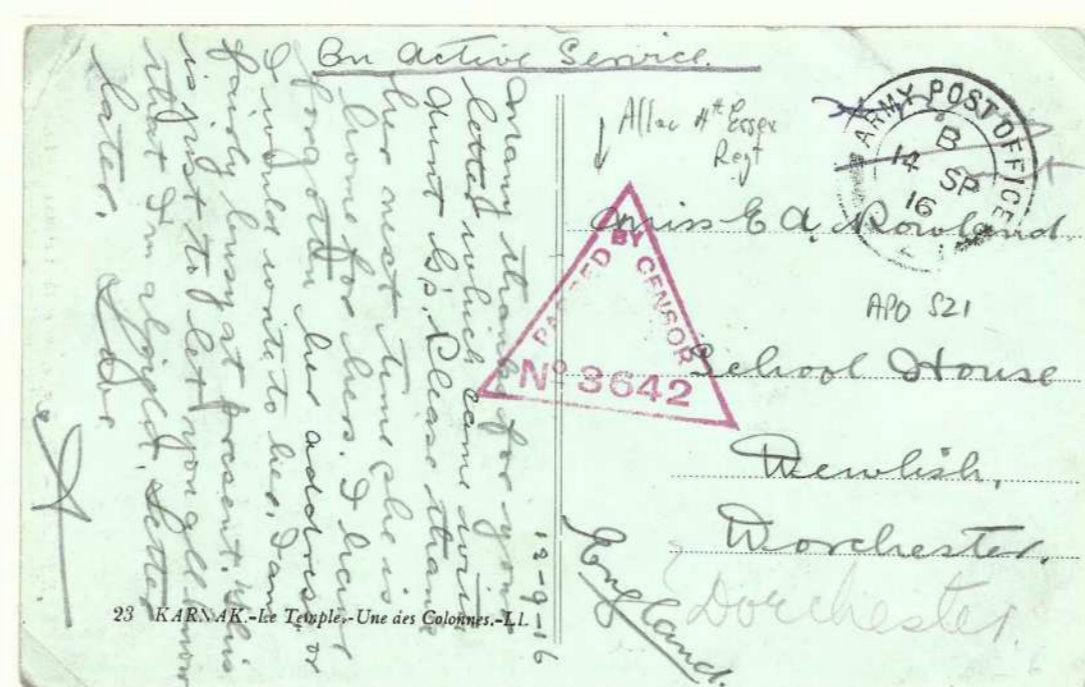
9

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Postcard sent to Miss E.A. Rowland, School House, Dewlish, Dorchester, stamped at Army Post Office 5.21 on the 14th September 1916 and passed by Censor No. 3642, which was allocated to the 4th Essex Regiment, using a red triangle handstamp.

Photograph of a Temple Column at Karnak in Luxor, Egypt

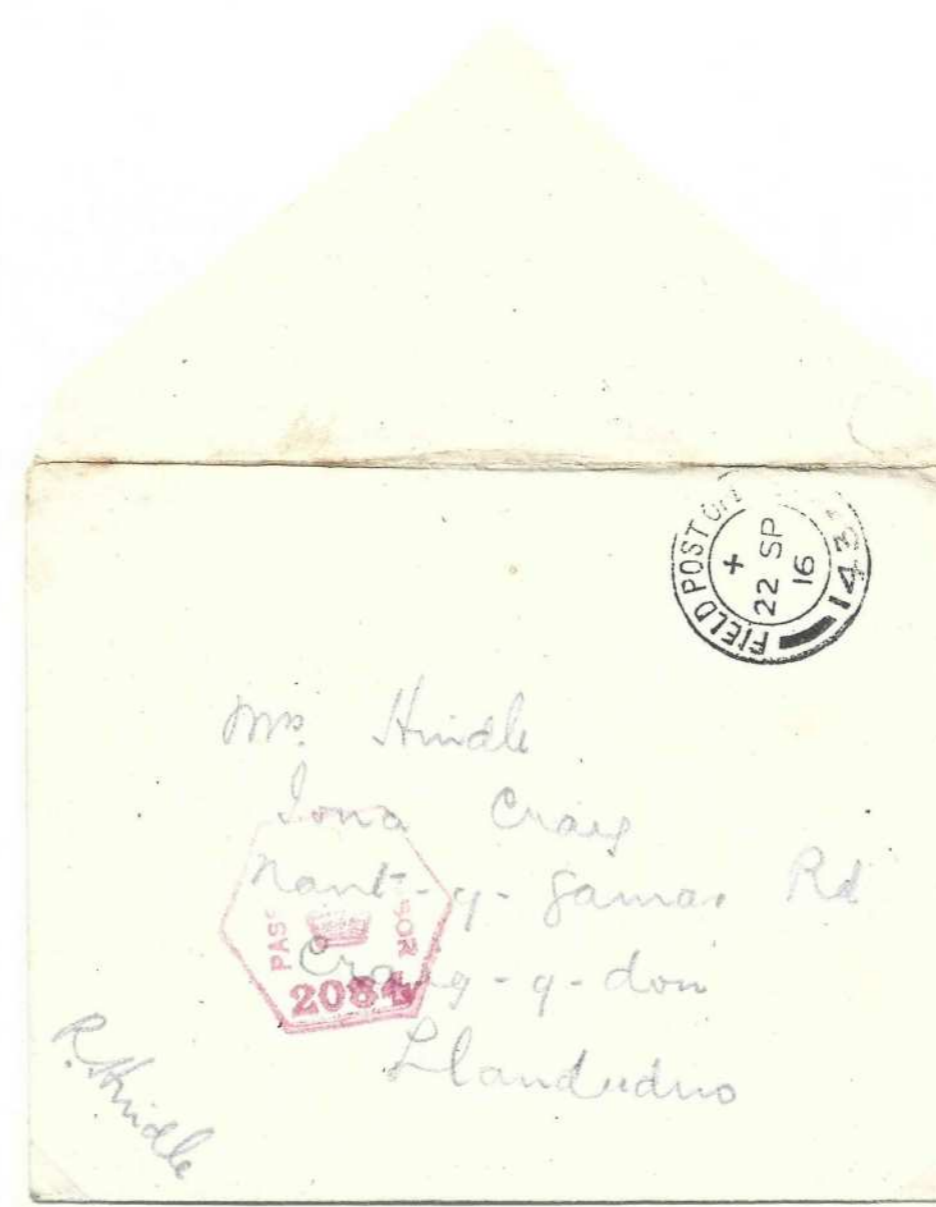


10

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Envelope posted to Mrs. Hindle in Craig-y-don, Llandudno, Wales from Field Post Office number 143 on the 22nd September 1916 and passed by Censor 2084 using a red hexagonal with crown handstamp. Sender R. Hindle is on the front.



11

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postale posted to Mrs. T. Martin in Minehead, Somerset from Army Post Office 559 on the 10th June 1917.

Passed by Censor 5137 using Red Oval handstamp.

Black and white photograph on the reverse is a view of St. Valery sur Somme

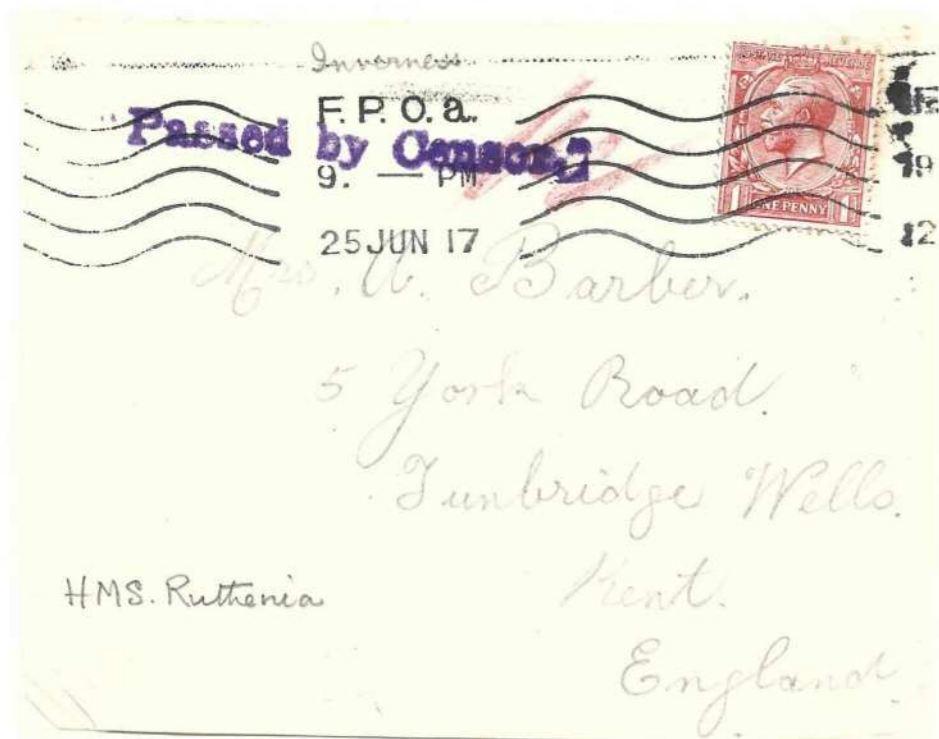


12

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Cover only, posted to Mrs. A. Barber in Tunbridge Wells, Kent from someone onboard HMS Ruthenia on the 25th June 1917. Red 1d George V profile head stamp was franked at 9pm from Field Post Office 8, Inverness. Purple "Passed by Censor" handstamp was applied.



13

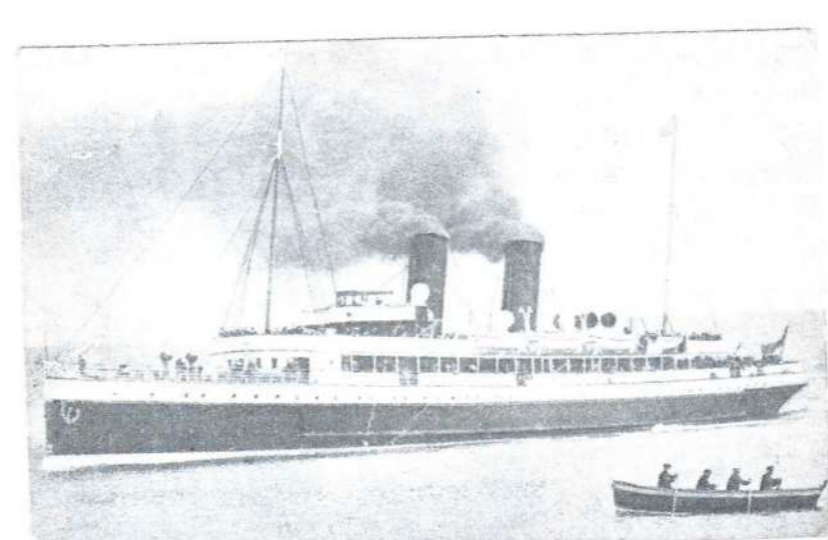
WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Post card sent to Mrs. F. Farthing in Hendon, London from Army Post Office number S.50 (Cherbourg) on the 1st July 1917. Passed by Censor 5168 using a red oval, with crown handstamp.

The writer instructs Mrs. Farthing to "Keep this card".

Black and white photograph of a two funnel steamship on the reverse.



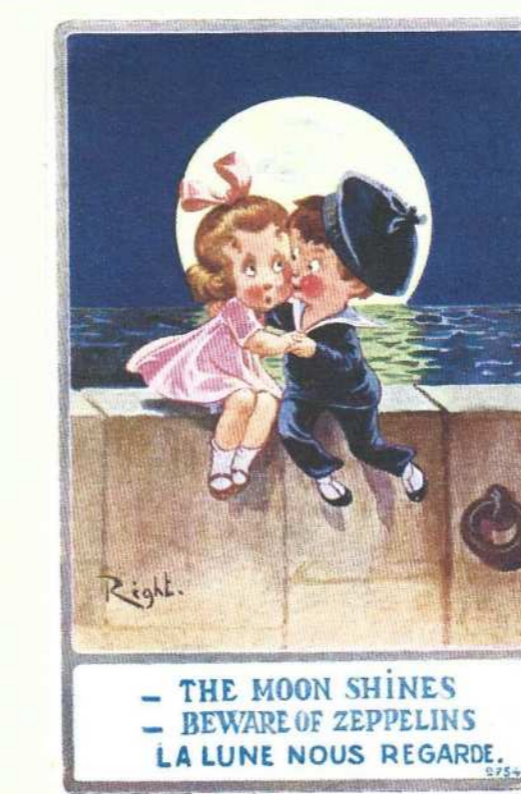
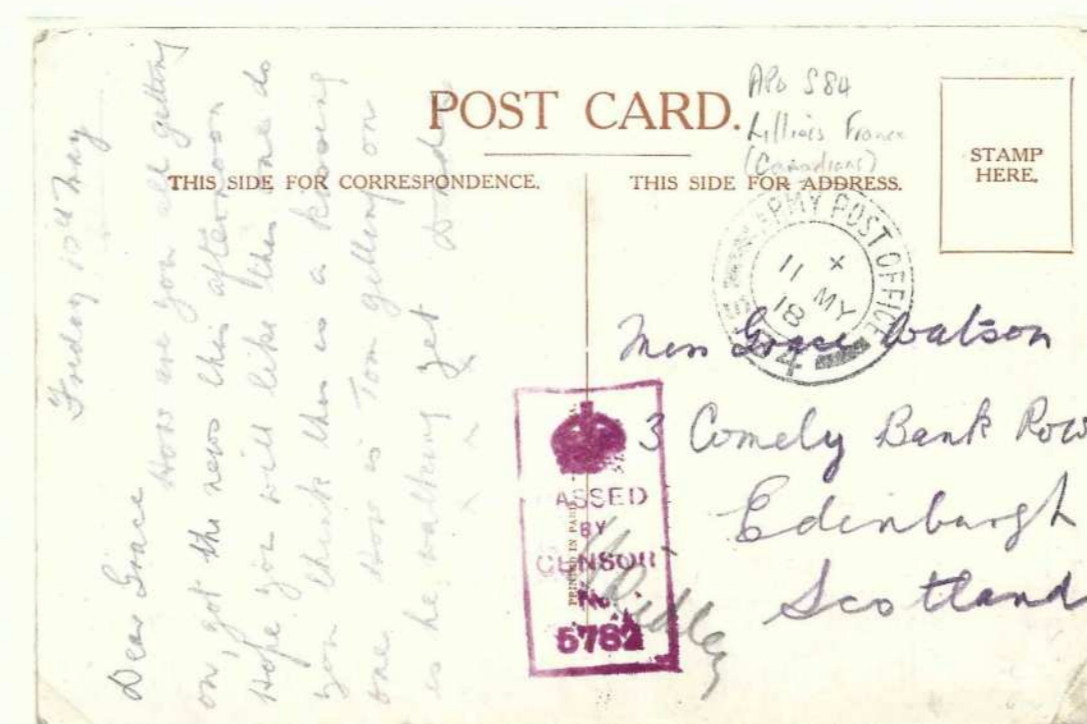
14

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Post Card sent from Army Post Office S.84 at Lilliers on the 11th May 1918 to Miss Grace Watson in Edinburgh, passed by Censor 5782 using a vertical with crown, purple handstamp. Lilliers was the location of a large Casualty Clearing Station/Hospital for injured servicemen.

A coloured "warning" cartoon is depicted on the reverse in English and French.



15

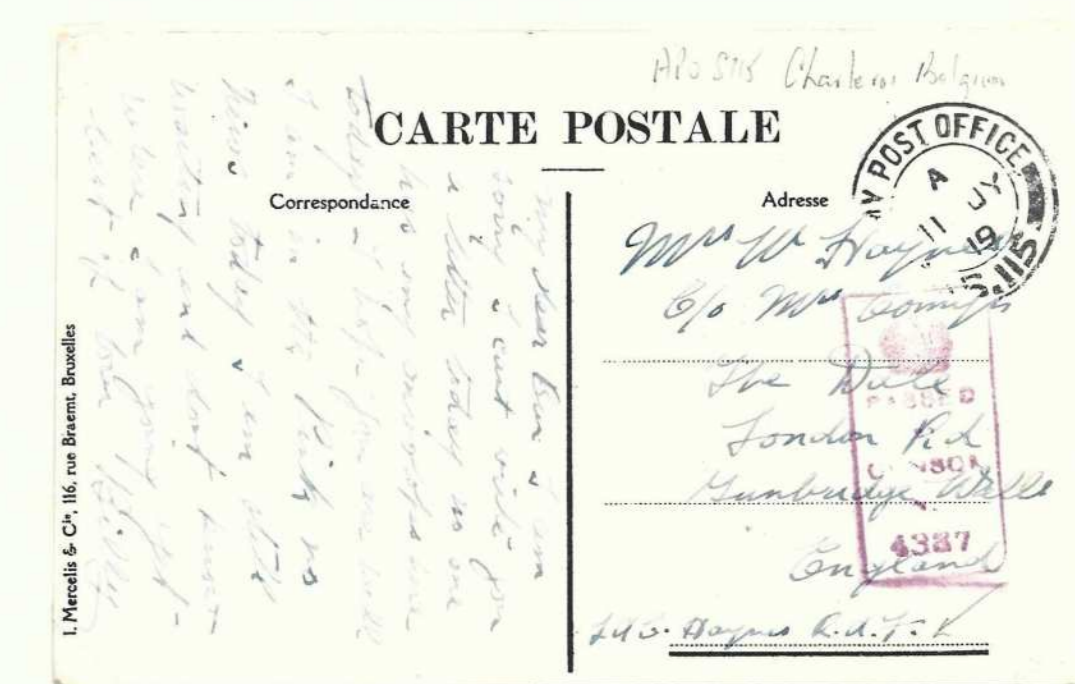
WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

CARTE POSTALE posted to Mrs. W. Haynes in Tunbridge Wells, England on the 11th July 1919 from Army Post Office number 5115 based at Charleroi, Belgium.

Passed by Censor number 4387 within a red vertical rectangle with crown handstamp, was used on this card.

The photograph on the reverse shows a view of the Citadel at Namur taken from the bank of an offshoot of the River Meuse.



16

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

From the outset of the war, censor marks were allocated to Field and Base stations throughout the areas of conflict and applied to outgoing mail from serving military personnel.

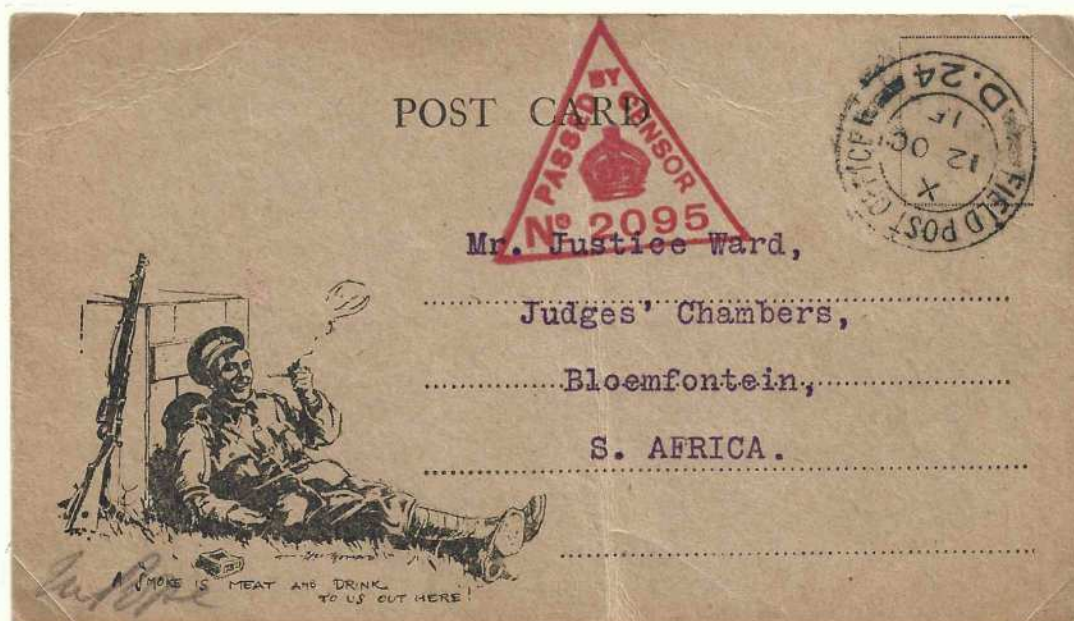
This is a display of postcards and covers, sent from battle sites in Europe and North African locations, illustrating the combination of post office marks and censor handstamps, plus one envelope sent from London to Berlin that was stopped by the censor.

On some of the postcards an attempt at deleting/obliterating the actual location of the photographs has been made, whilst others show no signs of such censoring.

A recurring feature of the messages from the writers is their determination to portray a positive perspective, despite what we now know were truly horrific conditions on the ground.

Sources:

The Postal History of the British Army in World War I – Kennedy & Crabb
The Great War Forum (1914 – 1918)



Addressed reply card from a grateful soldier to Mr. Justice Ward for the pack of tobacco and cigarettes provided through his support of the Overseas Club's "comfort packs"

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Postcard sent on the 14th November 1914 to Master Ray Legg in London from Army Post Office number 11 located in the Armentieres area. Passed by Censor 289 with single circle with crown handstamp. Postage paid in London and cancelled by C. Morgan.

The reverse of the card features a colour photograph of a young girl in typical dress holding pots of flowers.



WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Envelope posted to Mr. Field of Royal Arcade, Bond Street, London on the 24th February 1915 and passed by Censor No. 5 using a red square with crown handstamp.

Stamped on the reverse 5.15pm on the 25th February 1915

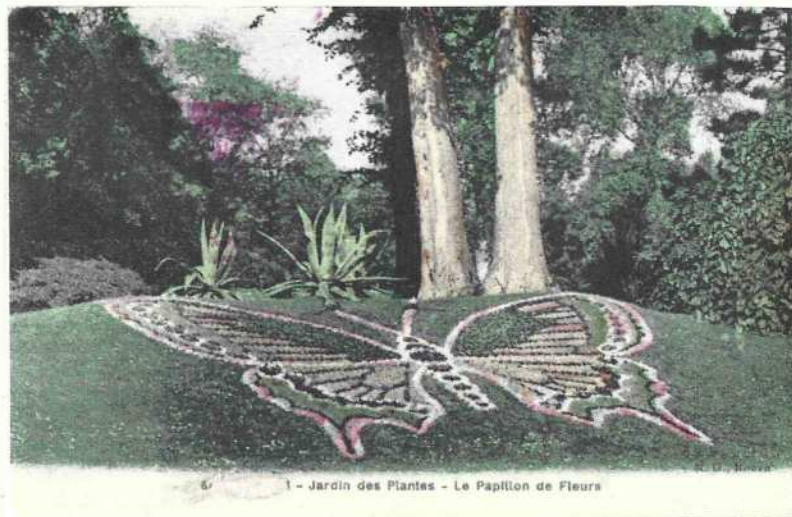
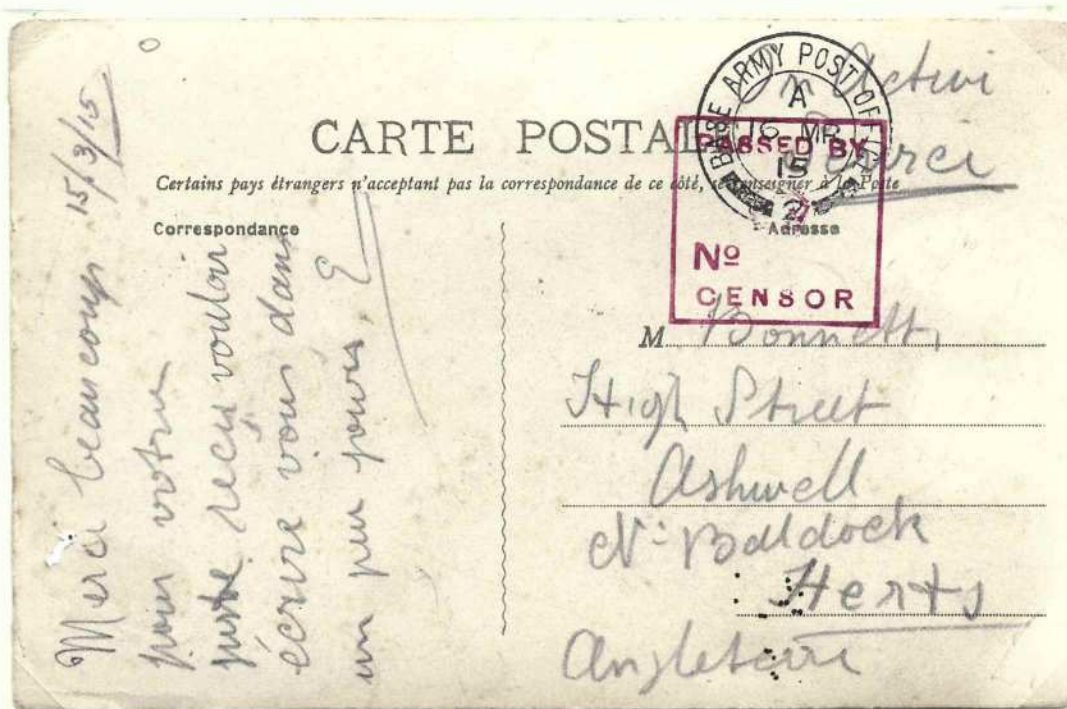


WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postal written in French on the 15th March 1915 posted to M Bonnett in Baldock, Hertfordshire, stamped at **Base Army Post Office No. 2, Rouen** the following day. It carries an **un-numbered red square with crown censor handstamp**.

A colour photograph of a Flower and Butterfly garden is on the reverse.



George V

INTERRUPTED MAIL

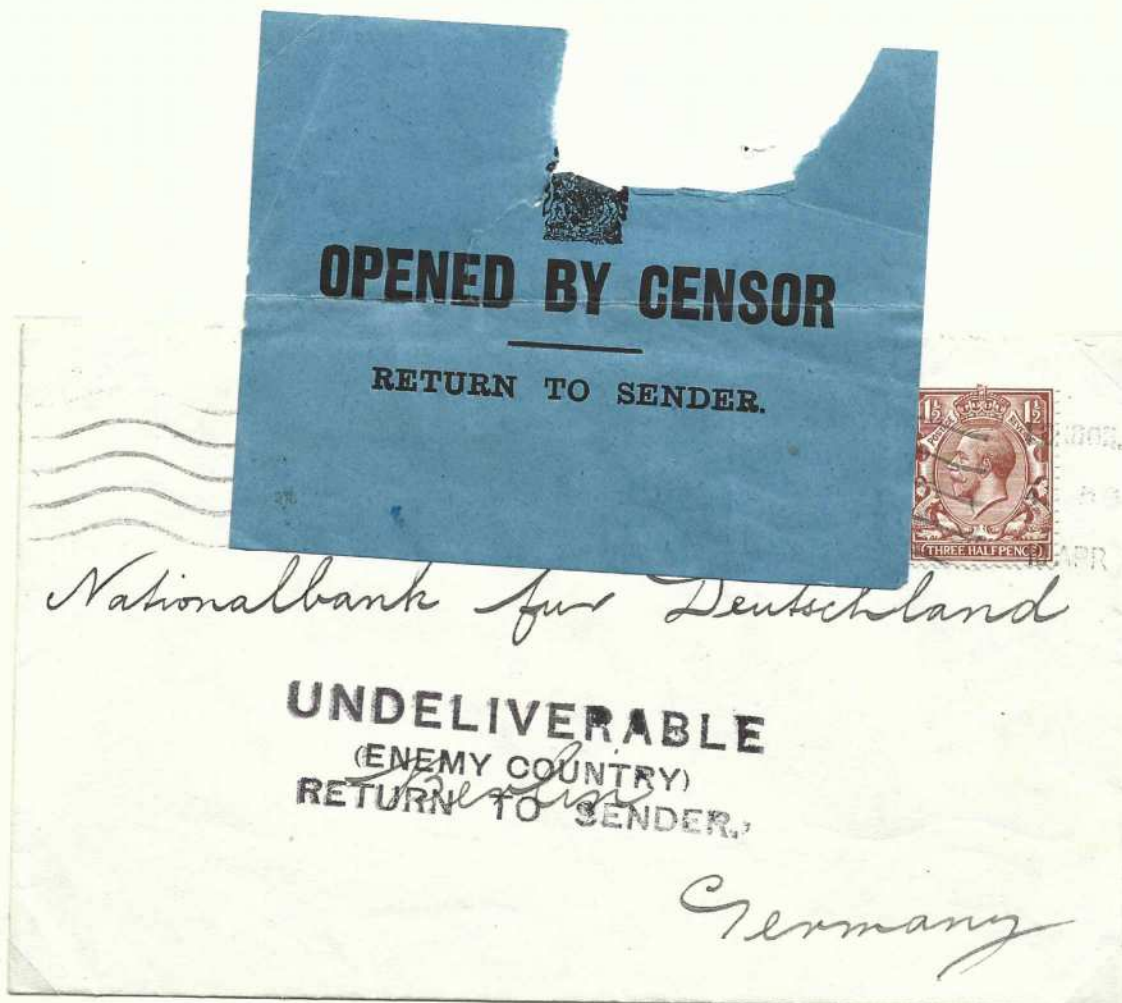
On the 29th March 1915 the 750 personnel handling Censorship, were transferred from Salisbury House to Imperial House, Kingsway, where more accommodation was available. 100 Censors dealing with PoW mail remained at Salisbury House.

Several different hand stamps giving specific instructions and adhesive labels for re-sealing envelopes, were utilised in various combinations; the cover below illustrates just one such combination.

Cover addressed to Nationalbank fur Deutschland, Berlin, Germany

Postage of 3d paid by 2 x 1½d stamps and cancelled on the 10th April 1915 by the Type 262 three line/5 wavy bars machine canceller from LONDON EC.

A deep blue, Type 31A Censor label has been affixed and completely covers one of the stamps



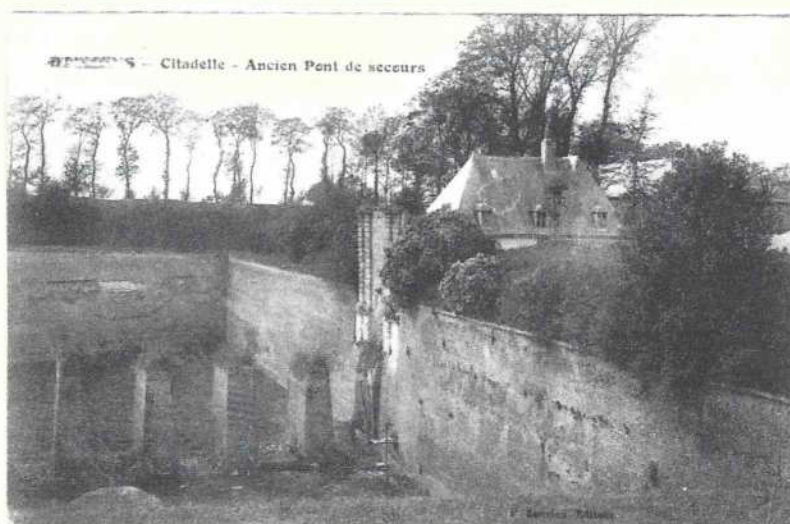
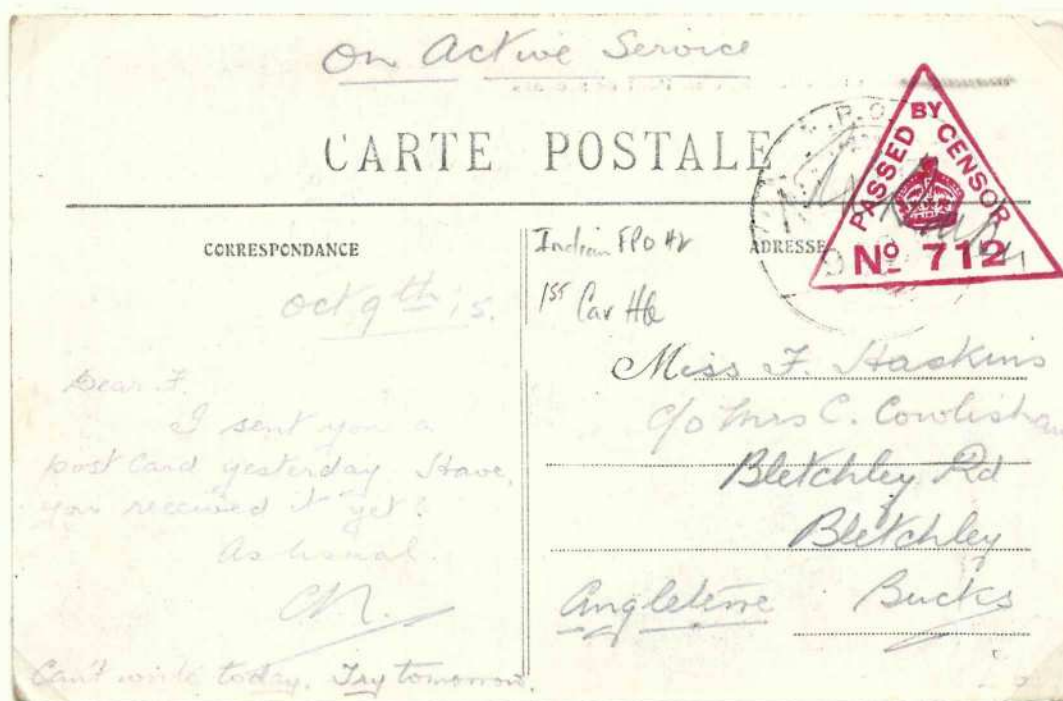
"Berlin" in the address has been over stamped with a Type H25 Hand stamp

WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postale posted by C.N. Haskins to Miss F Haskins, c/o Mrs. C. Cowlshan in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. Posted on the **9th October 1915** from **Indian Field Post Office 42** and passed by **Censor No. 712** using the red triangle with crown handstamp.

The black and white photograph shows portions of the Citadel at Doullens in the Somme region of Picardy, built on the ancient frontier between France and the Spanish Netherlands.



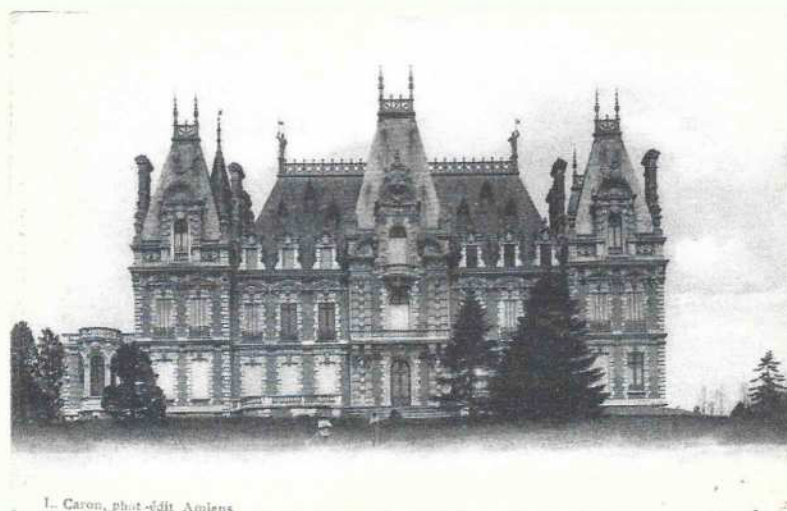
WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

CARTE POSTALE again posted by C.N. Haskins to Miss F.M. Haskin this time to an address in Cardiff "Angleterre", possibly 23rd Nov 1915 from Indian Field Post Office 42, France (1st Cavalry HQ?).

Red Triangle with Crown Censor No. 712 handstamp has been applied.

Black and white photograph of a Chateau on the reverse.

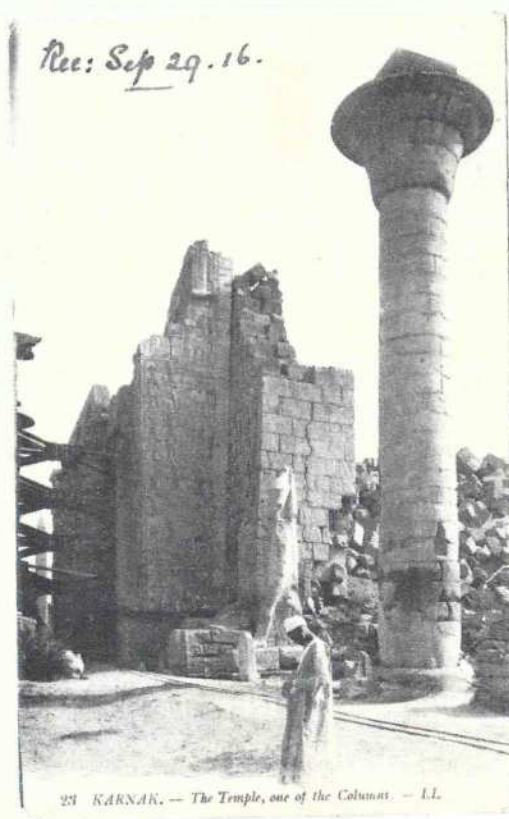
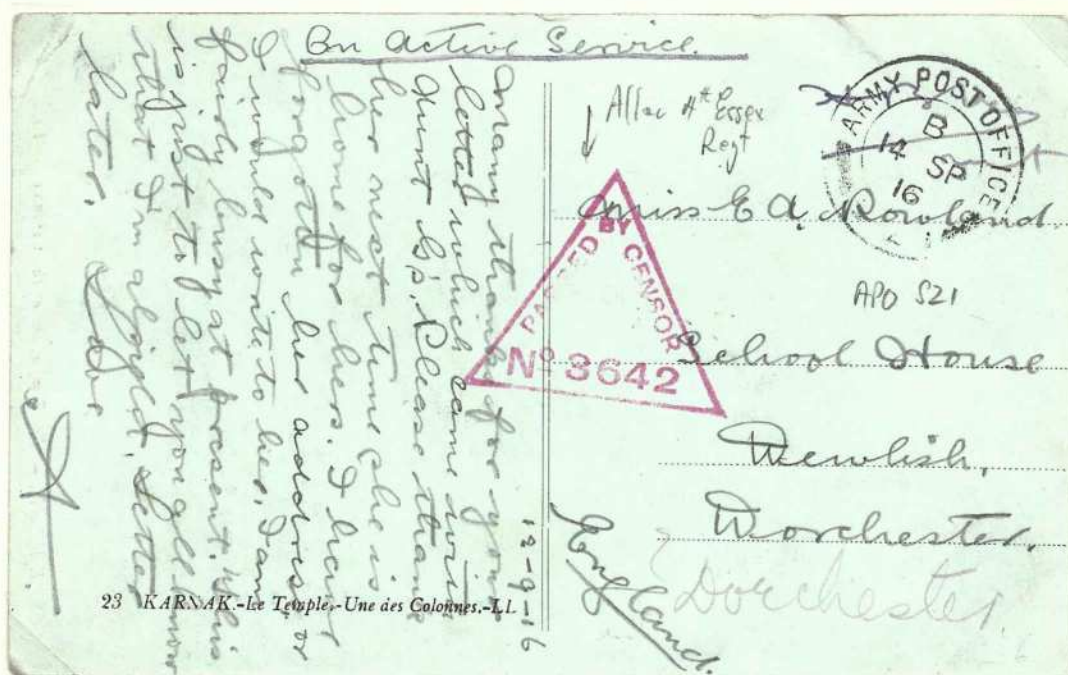


WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Postcard sent to Miss E.A. Rowland, School House, Dewlish, Dorchester, stamped at Army Post Office S.21 on the 14th September 1916 and passed by Censor No. 3642, which was allocated to the 4th Essex Regiment, using a red triangle handstamp.

Photograph of a Temple Column at Karnak in Luxor, Egypt



WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Envelope posted to Mrs. Hindle in Craig-y-don, Llandudno, Wales from **Field Post Office number 143** on the **22nd September 1916** and passed by **Censor 2084** using a red hexagonal with crown handstamp. Sender R. Hindle is on the front.



WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Carte Postale posted to Mrs. T. Martin in Minehead, Somerset from **Army Post Office 559** on the 10th June 1917.

Passed by **Censor 5137** using **Red Oval handstamp**.

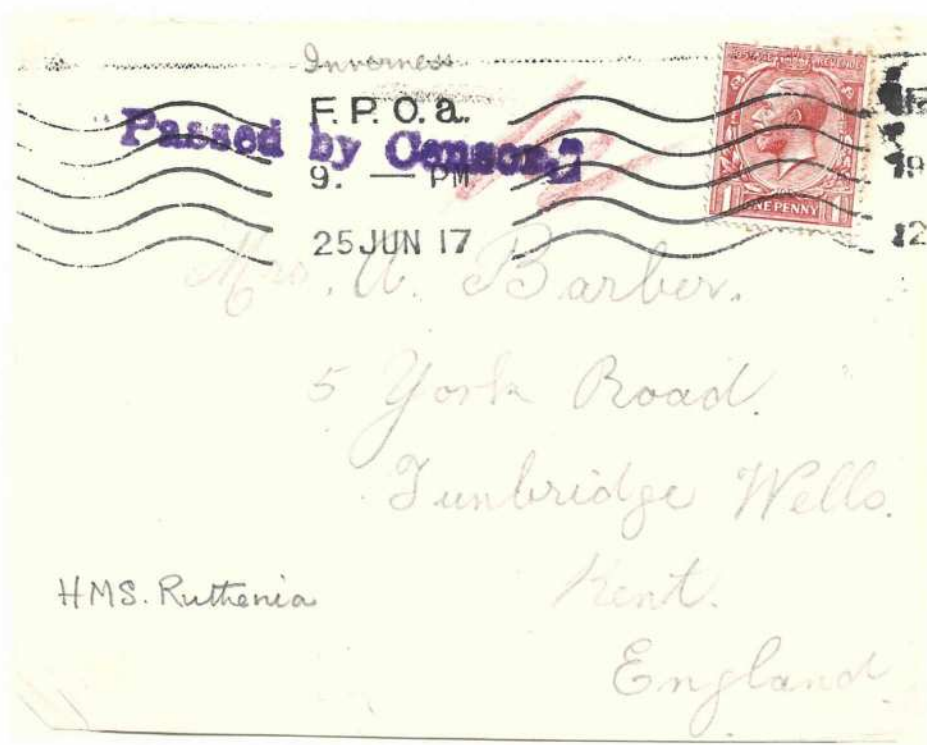
Black and white photograph on the reverse is a view of St. Valery sur Somme



WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Cover only, posted to Mrs. A. Barber in Tunbridge Wells, Kent from someone onboard **HMS Ruthenia** on the **25th June 1917**. Red 1d George V profile head stamp was franked at 9pm from **Field Post Office a**, Inverness. **Purple** "Passed by Censor" handstamp was applied.



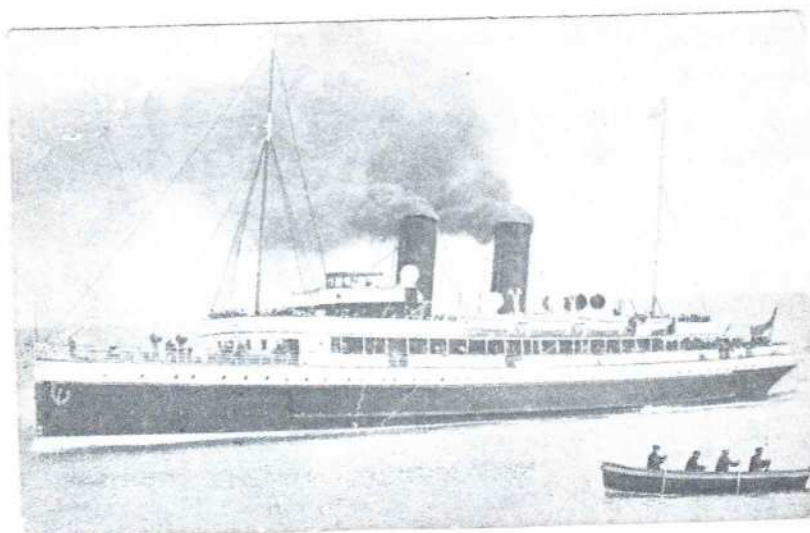
WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Post card sent to Mrs. F. Farthing in Hendon, London from Army Post Office number S.50 (Cherbourg) on the 1st July 1917. Passed by Censor 5168 using a red oval, with crown handstamp.

The writer instructs Mrs. Farthing to "Keep this card".

Black and white photograph of a two funnel steamship on the reverse.

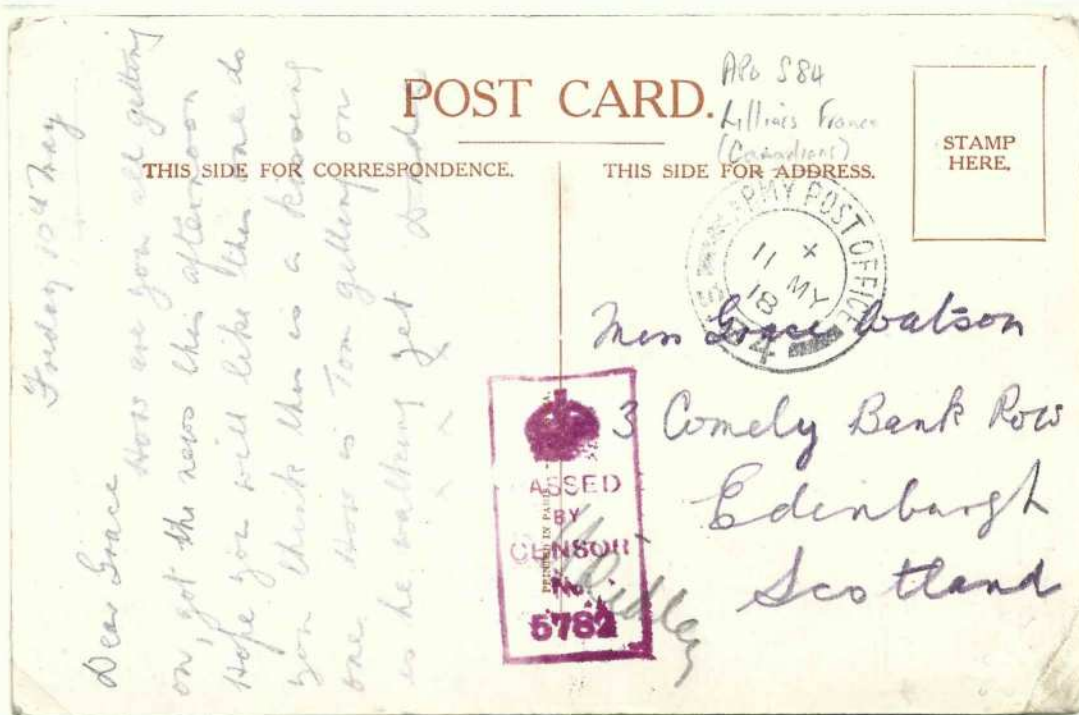


WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

Post Card sent from Army Post Office S.84 at Lilliers on the 11th May 1918 to Miss Grace Watson in Edinburgh, passed by Censor 5782 using a vertical with crown, purple handstamp. Lilliers was the location of a large Casualty Clearing Station/Hospital for injured servicemen.

A coloured "warning" cartoon is depicted on the reverse in English and French.



WORLD WAR I

ARMY / FIELD POST OFFICE MAIL PASSED BY CENSORS

CARTE POSTALE posted to Mrs. W. Haynes in Tunbridge Wells, England on the 11th July 1919 from Army Post Office number S115 based at Charleroi, Belgium.

Passed by Censor number 4387 within a red vertical rectangle with crown handstamp, was used on this card.

The photograph on the reverse shows a view of the Citadel at Namur taken from the bank of an offshoot of the River Meuse.

