

# American Post Offices in Egypt WWII

## APO Cancellation Date-stamps


**Purpose of Exhibit:** This exhibit explores the American Forces' Cancellation Date-stamps in Egypt during World War II; until now, these are confirmed and founded CDS for APO in Egypt 1942-1943.

**Background:** As early as November 1940, the United States established a military presence in Egypt. 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. By June 1942, the newly created USAFIME absorbed the U.S. North African Mission in Cairo and the Iranian Mission in Baghdad, creating a more vital command and control organization. Late June saw the creation of USAMEAF (U.S. Army Middle East Air Force). On November 12, USAMEAF redesigned the 9th Air Force, recognizing that U.S. ground combat troops would not participate in operations in Egypt and Libya. By then, Operation Torch, the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa, had commenced on November 8. The 9th Air Force was transferred to England on November 25, 1943, to prepare for the coming invasion of France.

Following table shows, APO Locations of U.S. Forces in Egypt WW II, lists of U.S. Army Post Offices. The table includes details such as the type of cancellation, location, and operations opening and closing dates.

APO CDS	CDS TYPE (HS-) OR MACHINE CANCELLATION	APO LOCATION	BEGAN OPERATION IN EGYPT	CLOSED, SUSPENDED INACTIVATED
485	19, 45	9 <sup>TH</sup> Air Service Group, Kabrit	12 Jan 1943	01 Jun 1943
486	19, 37, 37A (Blue, *Purple)	Deversoir Air Base	12 Jan 1943	28 Feb 1945
498	17	Huckstep, Heliopolis	14 Oct 1943	30 Apr 1944
616 Temp. 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224	13, 16, 18, 21, 22, 31, PMC-2 18, 21	Cairo Huckstep, Heliopolis	27 Jul 1942 01 Oct 1943	30 Sep 1943 01 Nov 1946
678	1, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21, 23, 33, PMC-1	HQ ME Service Command, Huckstep, Heliopolis	07 Nov 1942	31 Oct 1945
681	17	376 <sup>th</sup> Bomber Group, Abu Sueir	20 Nov 1942	01 Apr 1943
684	21	Mobile Unit, USAFIME, Egypt (Alexandria)	17 May 1943	02 Oct 1943
696	12, 20, 21	HQ 9 <sup>th</sup> Air Force HQ, 9 <sup>th</sup> AF Defense Command, Cairo	23 Dec 1942	24 Nov 1943
787	12, 21	HQ US Army Forces in MENA Theater, Cairo	21 Jan 1943	1 Jul 1946
887	*HS-23	HQ US Army Forces in European Theater	?	?

\*NEW FOUND.

**What is Presented:** Items of interest are highlighted with  Red Circle. New finds and scarce to seen CDS.

**Exhibit Plan:** This exhibit is arranged in Numerical of camps numbers starts with temporary camps.

- APOs Temporary and Transit Post Offices CDS
- APOs CDS According to Camps Numbers

**Knowledge of Subject:** The exhibitor has accumulated and researched this material to get latest updates from researches, books, articles and making a study group with whom interested in APOs in Egypt.

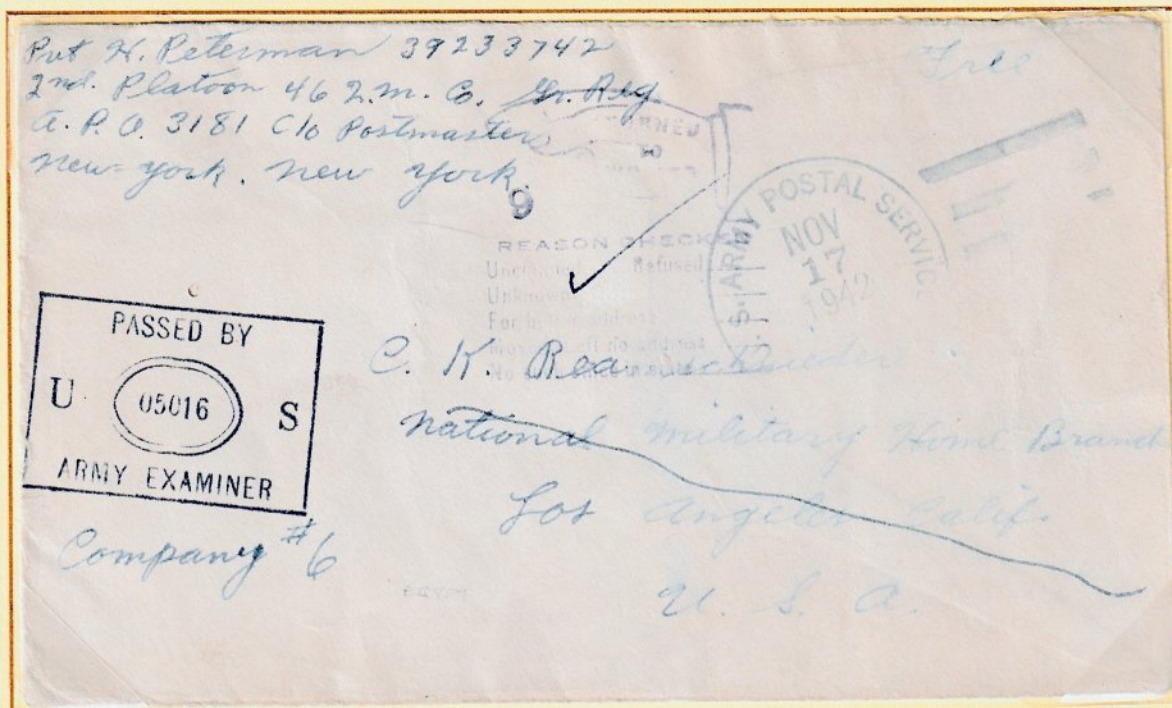
### References:

- Davis, John. Egypt, The Postal Concession to Suez, 1932-1952, Chapter 25, Other Allied Forces, 2014.
- Lawrence, Ken. U.S. Armed Forces Airmail Stamped Envelopes, 1943-1947, Linn's Stamp News, 21 July 2014, Pages 26-46.
- Smith, Peter A. S. Egypt, Stamps and Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise, Chapter XXXI, Cyprus: James Bendon 1999.
- Smith, Peter A. S. United States Army Post Offices in Egypt, The QC of Egypt Study Circle, Vol 11., No. 3., September 1981, Pages 66-77.

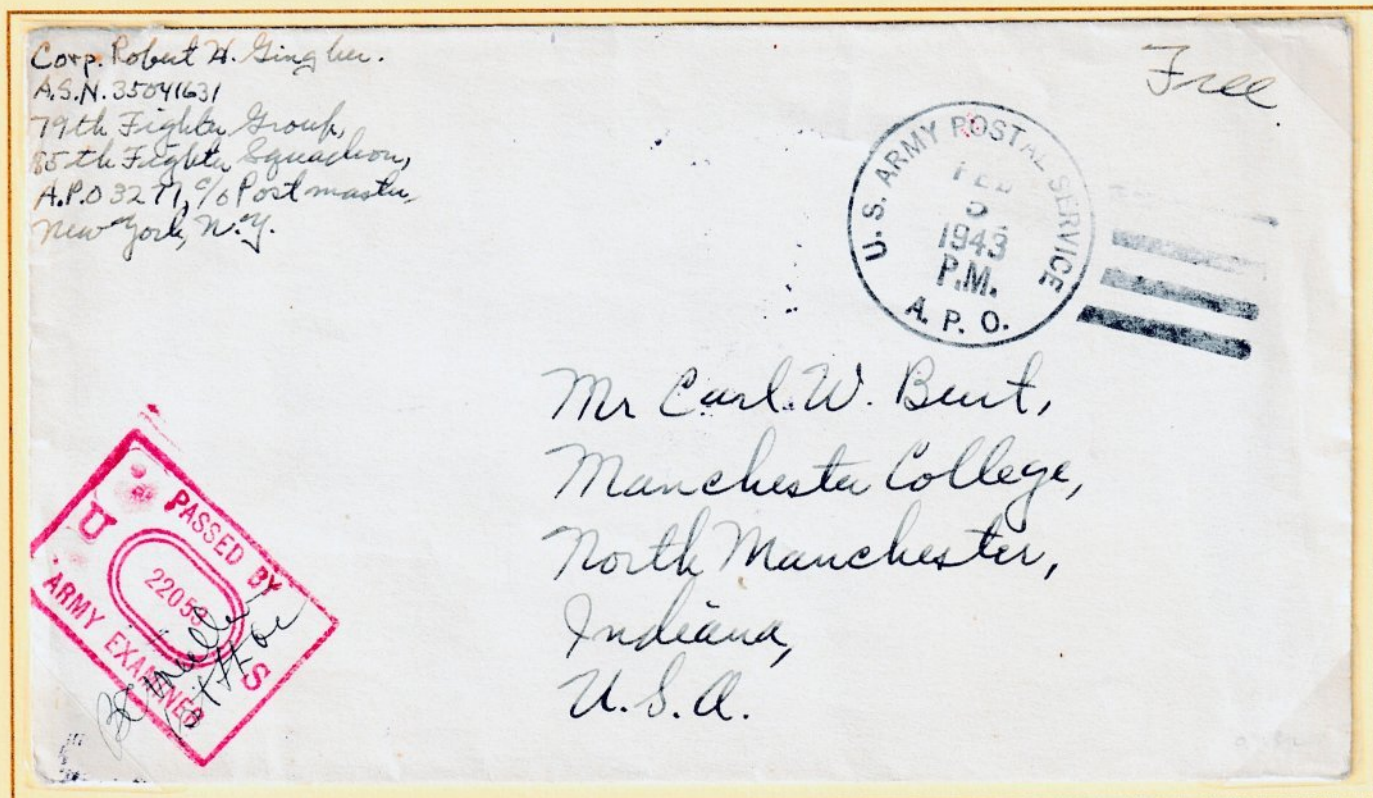
# APO TEMPORARY AND TRANSIT

## Temporary A.P.O 3181 & 3277

APO 3181 was assigned to APO 616 between 17 August and 15 September 1942.



17 Nov 1942 with Type HS-12, no APO number, three-lines date and measuring 32mm  
FREE surface rate. Passed by US EXAMINER 05016



Postmarked 5 Feb 1942 with Type HS-16, no APO number, P.M on 4th date line. **Free Surface Rate**  
APO 3277 was assigned to APO 616 (Cairo) on 4 Oct 1942. Cover from a member of 85th Fighter Squadron (The Flying Skull Squadron), part of the 79th Fighter Group. The ground echelon of the 85th embarked from US by troop transport in mid-October arriving in Egypt.

# APO TEMPORARY AND TRANSIT

## Temporary A.P.O 1221 & 1227

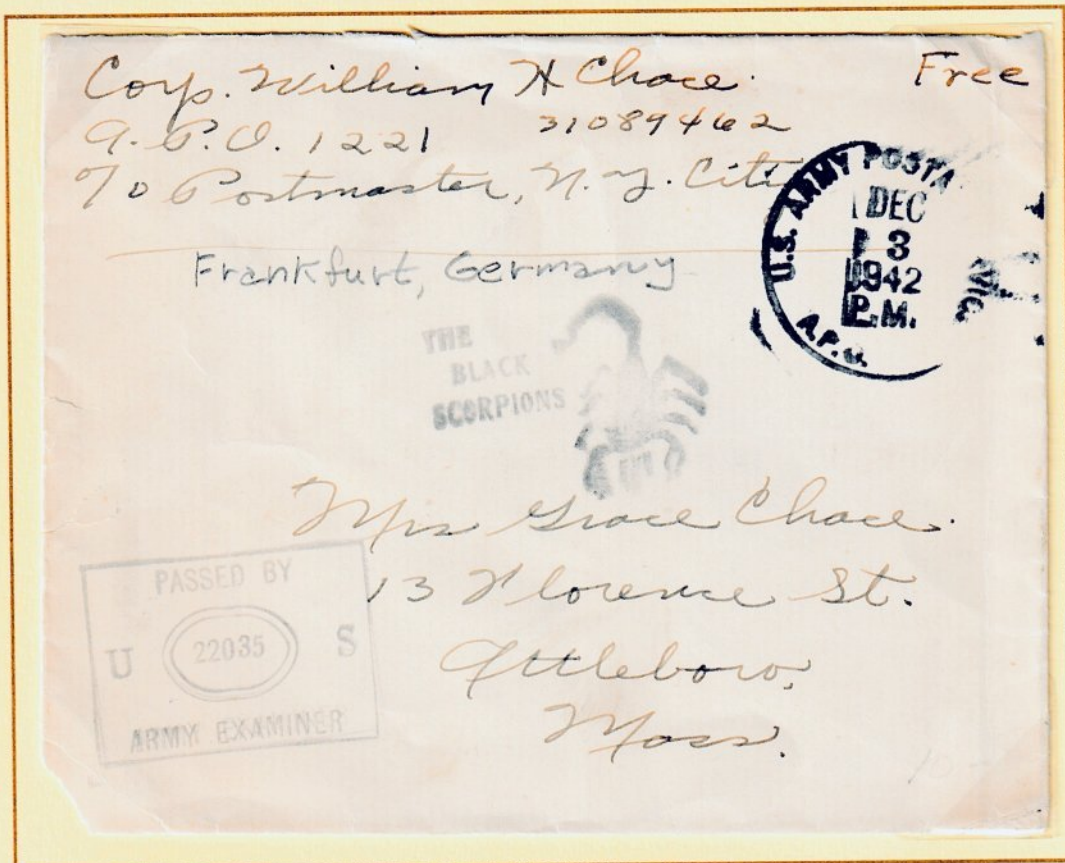
APO 1221 was assigned to APO 616 between 12 June and 24 July 1942.



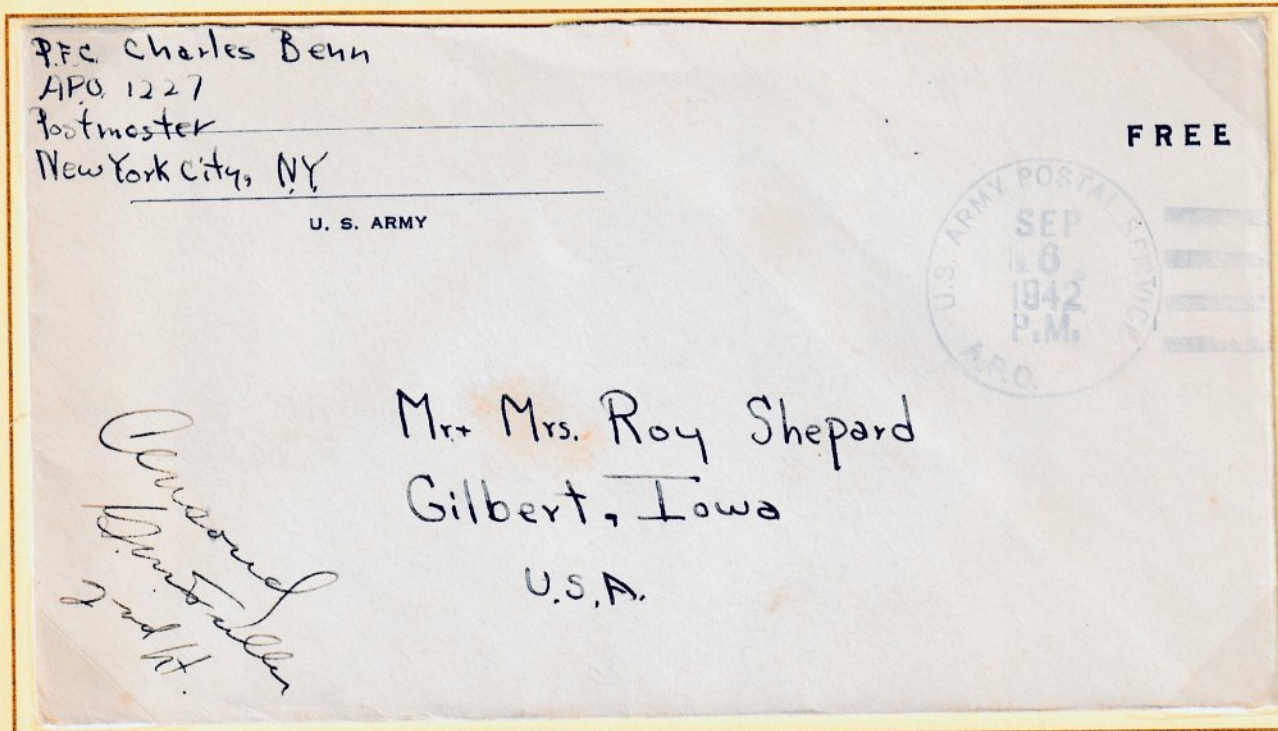
Black Scorpion postmark for 64th Fighter Squadron, Part of the 57th Fighter Group. It was based at various landing grounds in the Western Desert from 16 Sep to 13 Nov 1942 then moved to Libya.

Free Surface rate

Most probably latest date for Black Scorpion postmark in 1221.



3 Dec 1942 with Type HS-18, no APO number, APO left of center and P.M on 4th date line. Cover from a member of 64th Fighter Squadron (Black Scorpions)



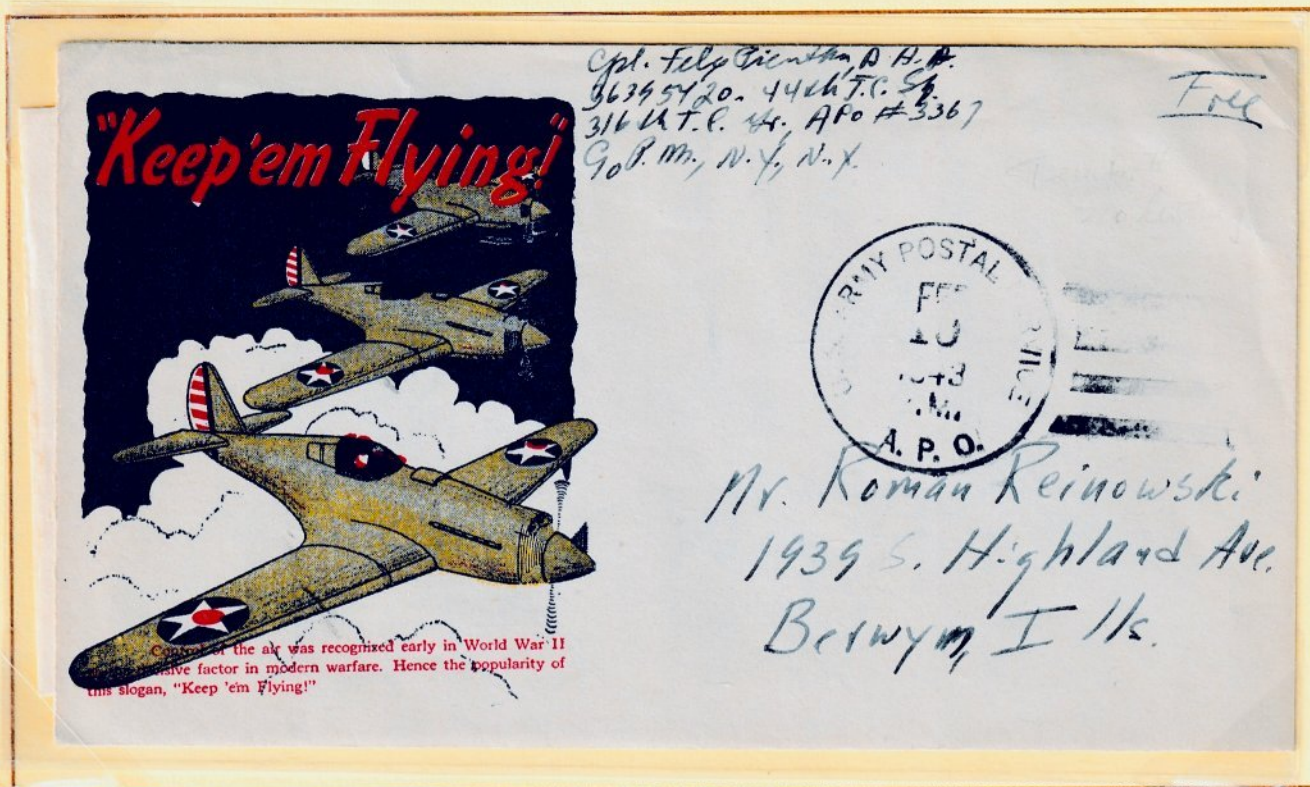
A.P.O 1227 was assigned to APO 616 by 17 July 1942.

6 Sep 1942 with Type HS-18A (Blue) no APO number, APO left of center, and P.M on 4th date line. Free Surface rate. The **Free** printed in the upper right corner.

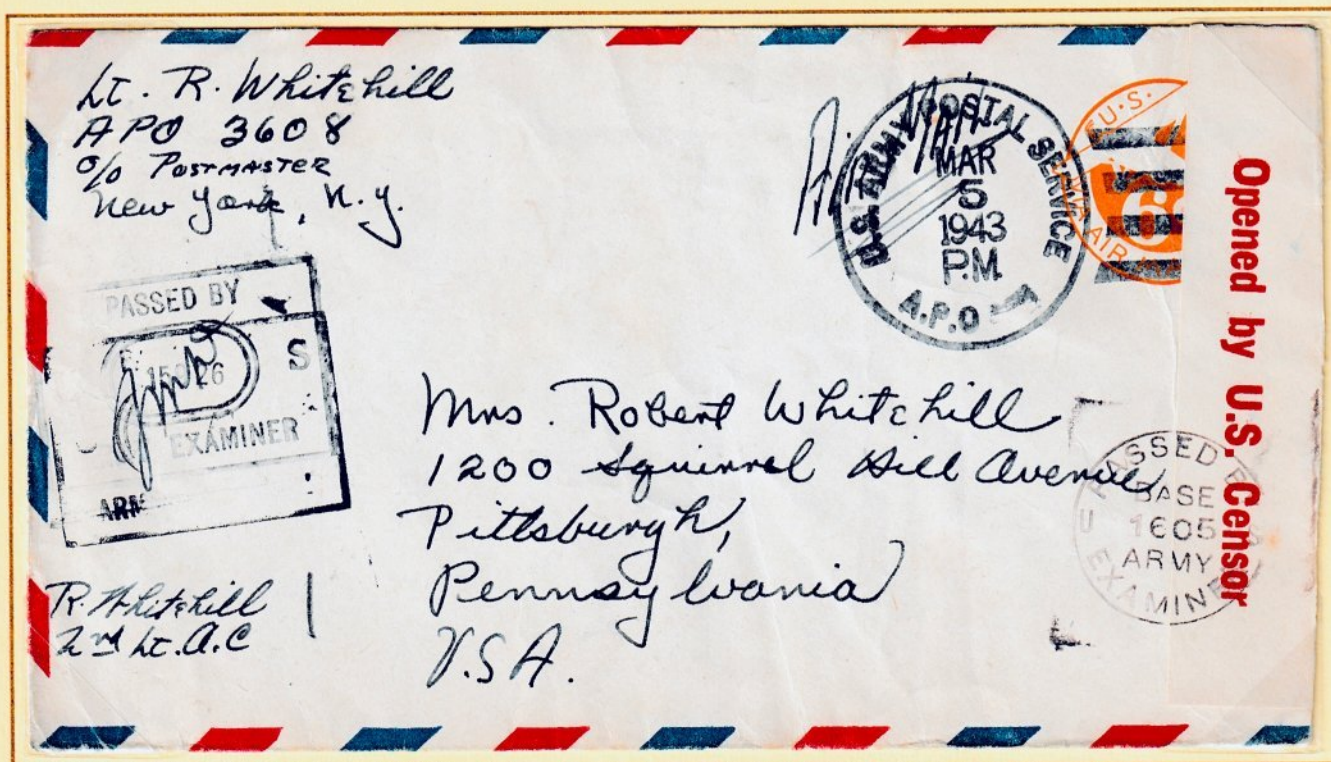
**APO TEMPORARY AND TRANSIT**

**Temporary A.P.O 3367 & 3608**

APO 3367 was assigned to APO 616 (Cairo) between 15 October and 15 November 1942.



10 Feb 1943 with Type HS-16, no APO number and wider spacing on side of APO. **FREE** Surface Rate



**3608** was assigned to APO 616 (Cairo) on 20 January 1943.

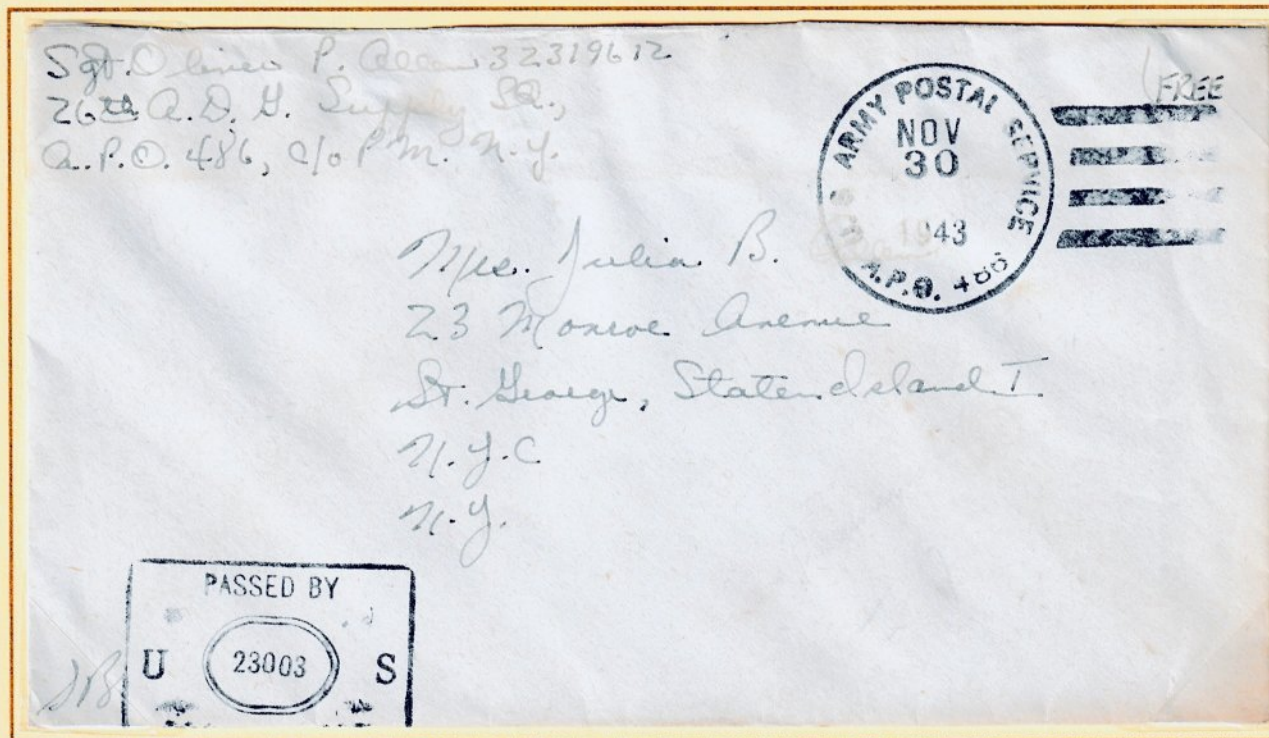
5 Mar 1943 with Type HS-18, no APO number, APO off center, and P.M. on 4th date line. Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce.

# A.P.O POSTMARK 486

Deversoir Air Base of US in EGYPT. There was 4 different postmarks HS-37, HS-37A, HS-35 and HS-35A.



5 Jun 1943, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt. Type HS-37A (Blue), APO number centered at bottom, 3 lines, gap between day and year. Free surface rate, with postmark censorship 23003. sent to New York, USA.



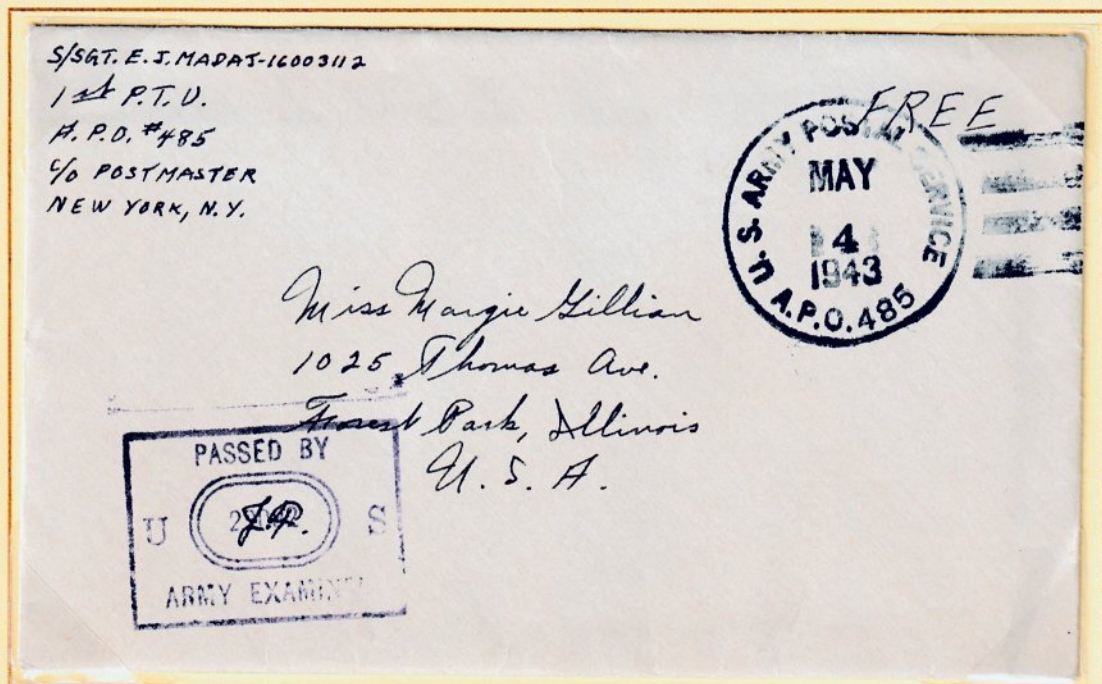
30 November 1943, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt. Type HS-37 (Black), APO number centered at bottom, 3 lines, gap between day and year. Free surface rate, with postmark censorship 23003. sent to New York, USA.

## A.P.O POSTMARK 485

On January 12, 1943, APO 485 was established at the ARF station in Kabrit, Egypt, located about 20 miles north of Suez in the Suez Canal Zone. Later, in June 1943, it was relocated to Castel Benito, Libya. During this time, all 9th Force Fighter group in the eastern desert were detached to the RAF.



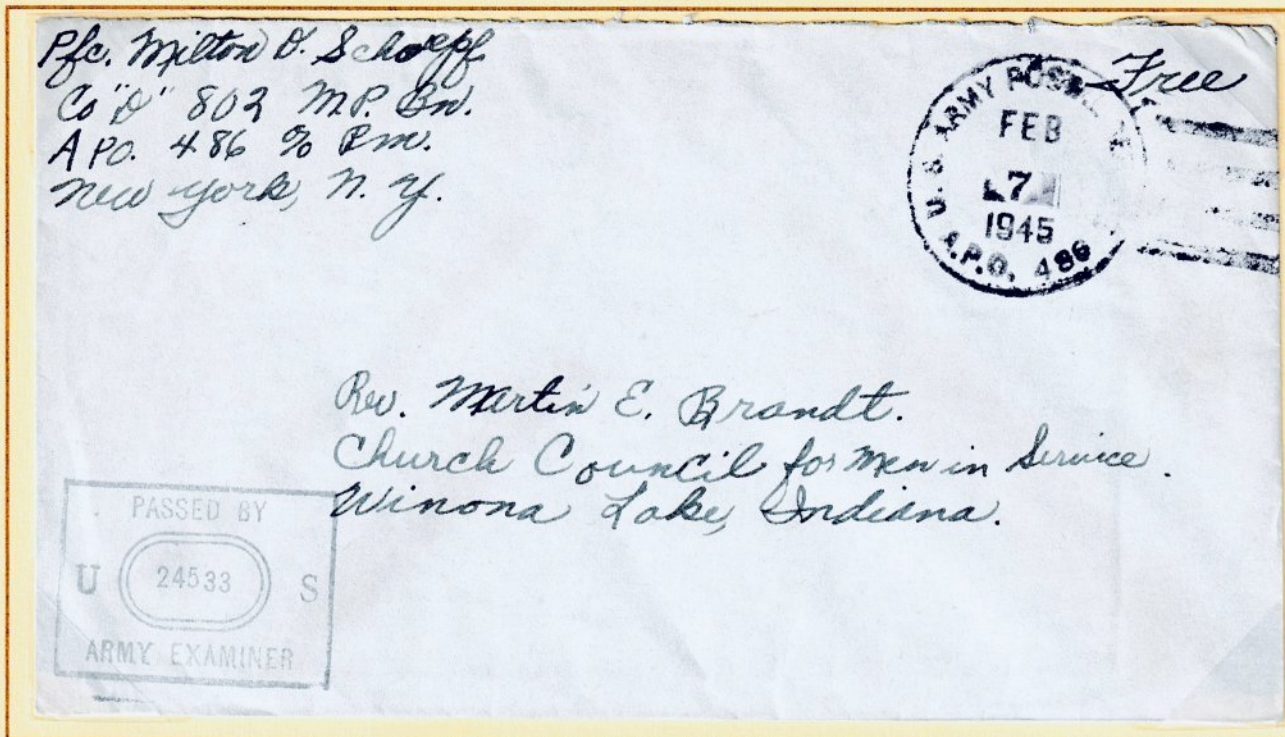
9 March 1943, Kabrit Egypt. Type HS-19, no APO number, 3 lines, gap between day and year. Free surface rate, with postmark censorship 23003. sent to New York, USA.



4 May 1943, Kabrit Egypt. Type HS-35, APO number centered at bottom, 3 lines, gap between day and year. Free surface rate, with postmark censorship 22004 (Hand correction). sent to New York, USA.

## A.P.O POSTMARK 486

Deversoir Air Base of US in EGYPT. There was 4 different postmarks HS-37, HS-37A, HS-35 and HS-35A.



Unusual use in purple

7 February 1945, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt. Type HS-35 (Purple), APO number centered at bottom of ring, 3 lines, gap between month and day. **FREE** surface rate.

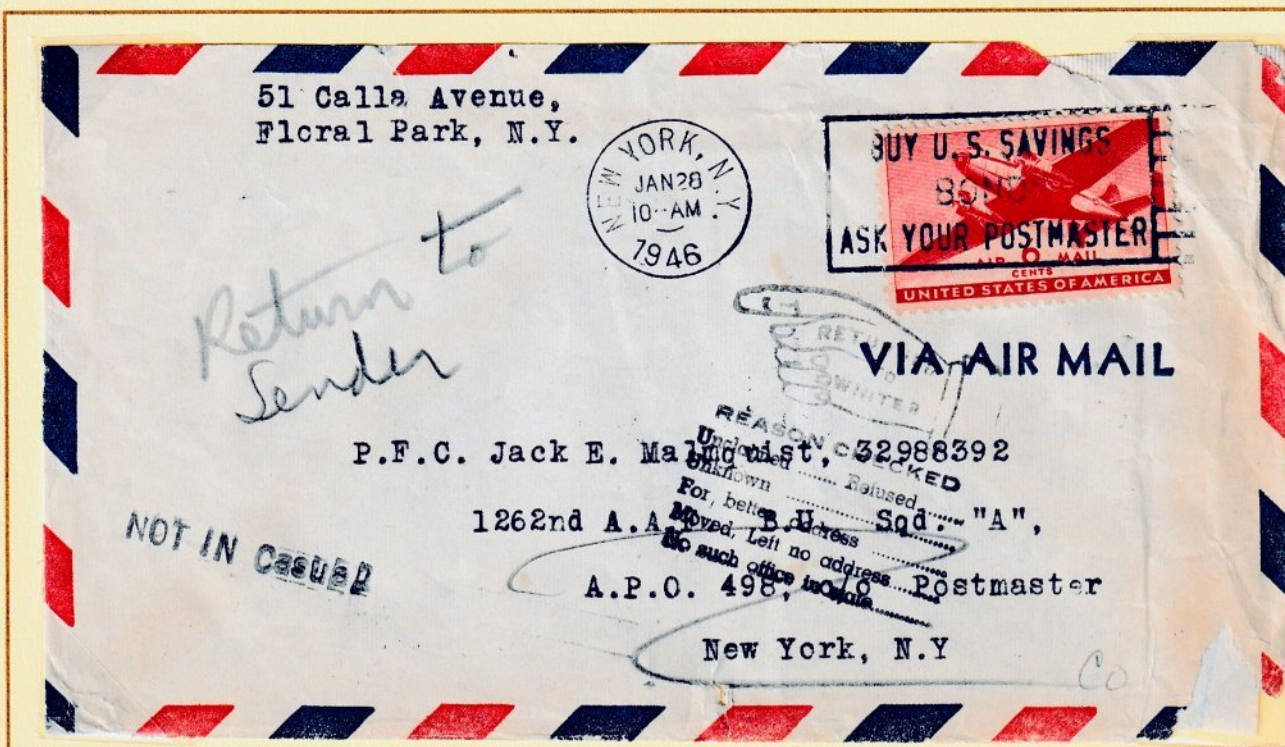


16 August 1945, Deversoir Air Base, Egypt. Type HS-35A, APO number centered at bottom of ring, 3 lines, gap between month and day. **Concession airmail rate 6c per 1/2 ounce.**

In March 1944, the local letter rate increased from 2c to 3c, rendering many millions of 2c embossed envelopes practically useless. A year later, these leftover envelopes were revamped with an **AIR 6c MAIL** overprint, intended for use by the overseas armed forces.

## A.P.O POSTMARK 498

A.P.O 498 was transferred from Benghazi, Libya to Camp Huckstep on 14 October 1943, the back to Tripoli, Libya on 1 May 1944 before ceasing operation on 28 October 1945.



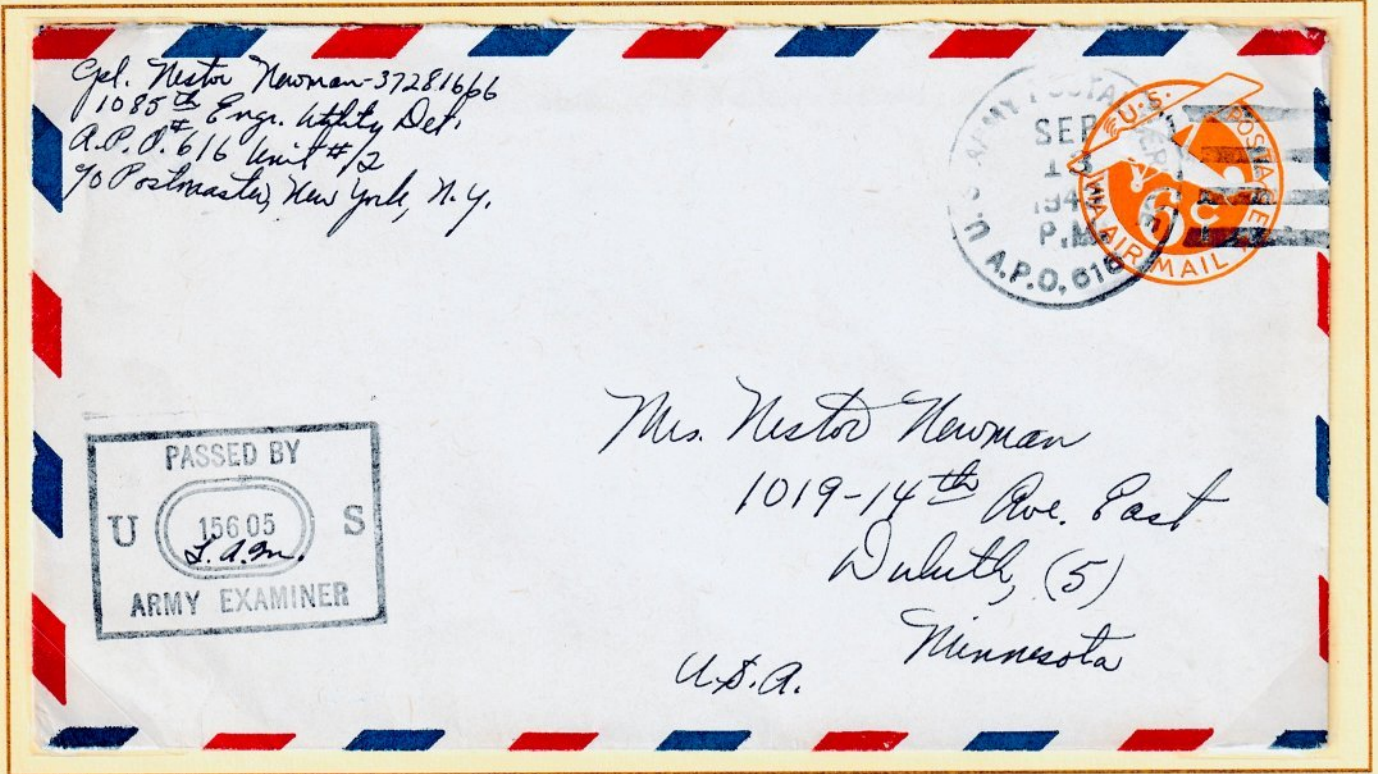
28 January 1946 forwarded cover to 8th Base Post Office with 8th B.P.O instructional handstamp and backstamp of A.P.O. 616, February 28, 1946, Camp Huckstep. Type HS-21, no APO number at bottom of the ring but on 4th date line.



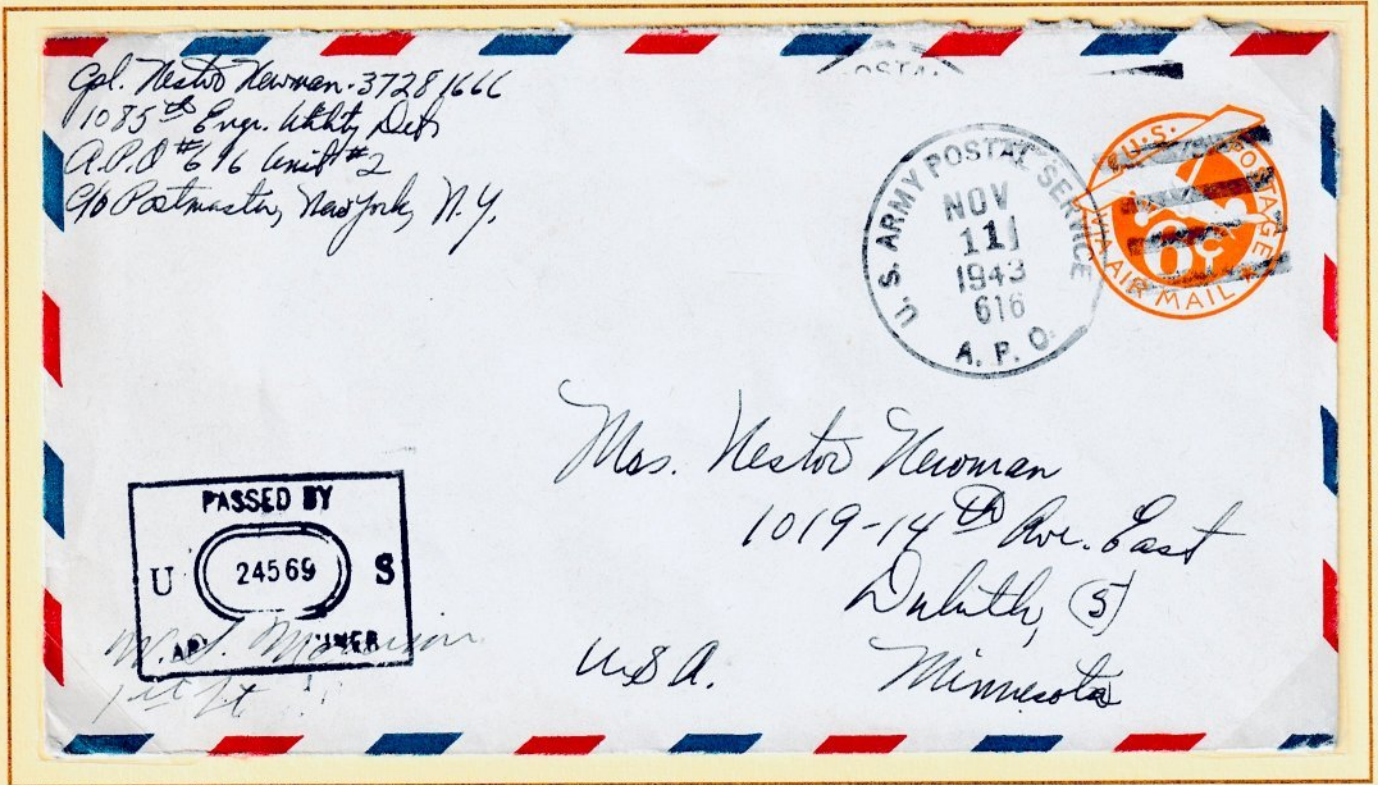
8 February 1945, Returned to the sender and backstamped with associated APO 616 data-stamp. the 8th Base Post Office was activated at Heliopolis on 1 May 1943, and inactivated on 15 March 1946.

# A.P.O POSTMARK 616

A.P.O 616 was transferred to Camp Huckstep, Egypt on 1 October 1943, and to Saudi Arabia in November 1946.



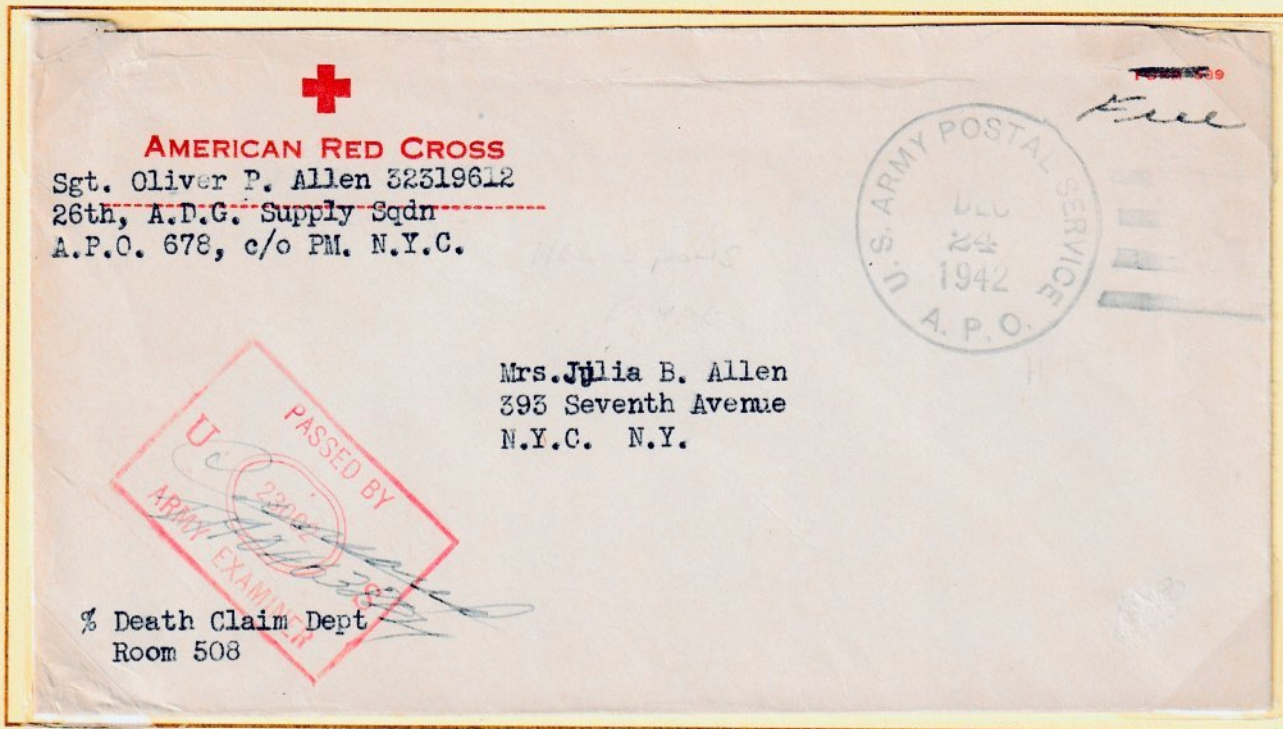
13 September 1943, Cairo, Egypt cover sent to USA. Cancellation: Type HS-31, A.P.O. and number at bottom of ring, P.M. on 4th date line Airmail rate 6c for half ounce.



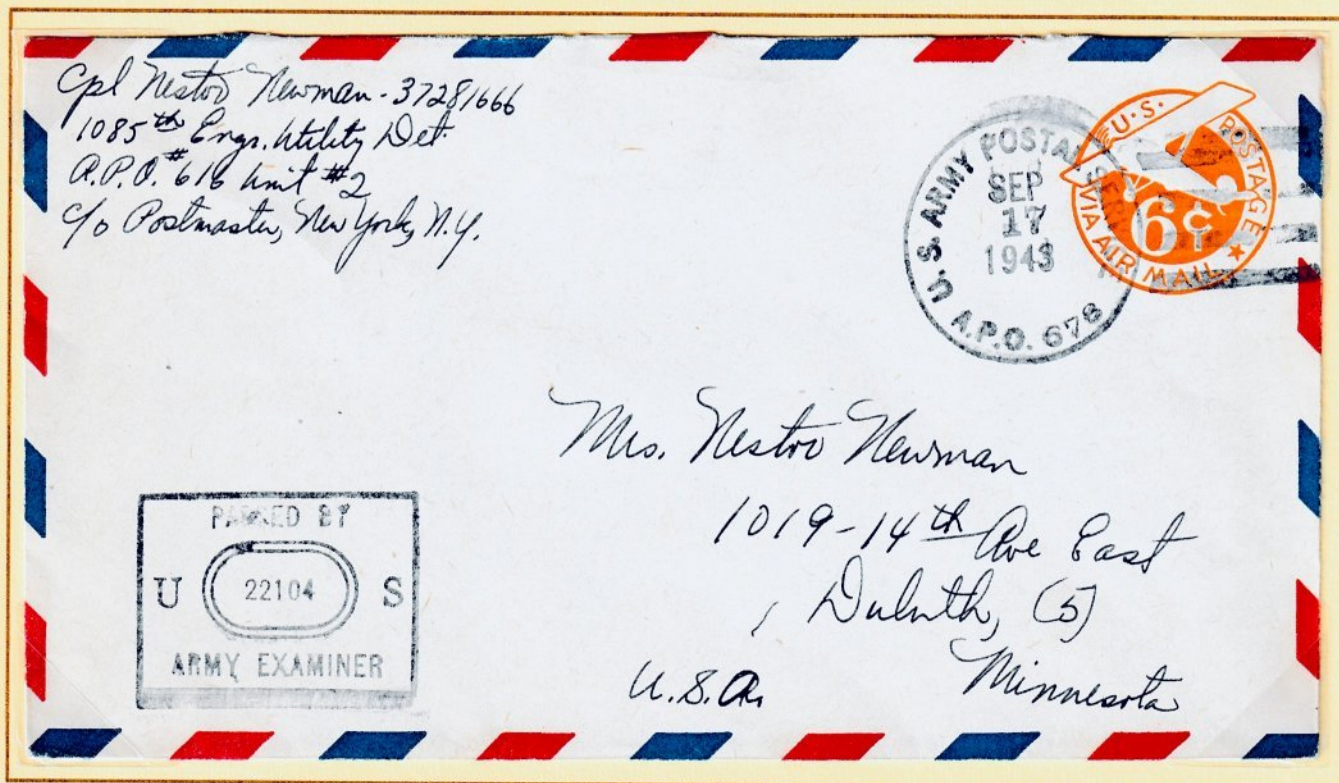
11 November 1943, Cairo, Egypt cover sent to USA. Cancellation: Type HS-21, A.P.O. number 616 at 4th date line. Airmail rate 6c for half ounce.

# A.P.O POSTMARK 678

Activated on October 21, 1942, Unit #2 of the 1085th Engineer Utility Detachment was assigned to A.P.O 678. While APO units offered services such as selling stamps and money orders, they did not handle mail distribution.



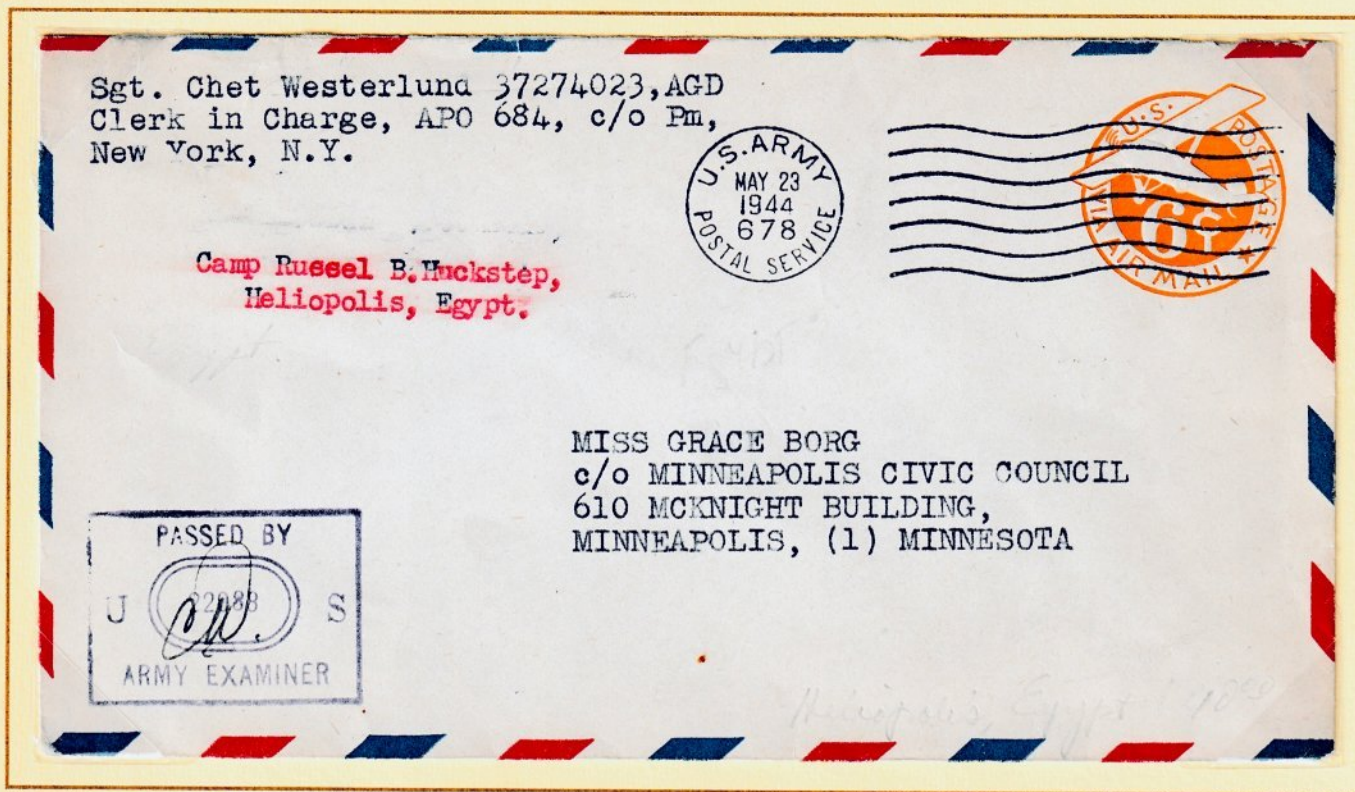
24 December 1942, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt cover sent to USA. CDS Type HS-11, no A.P.O. number, 3 lines with gap above the month, no A.M/P.M. line. Censorship 23002



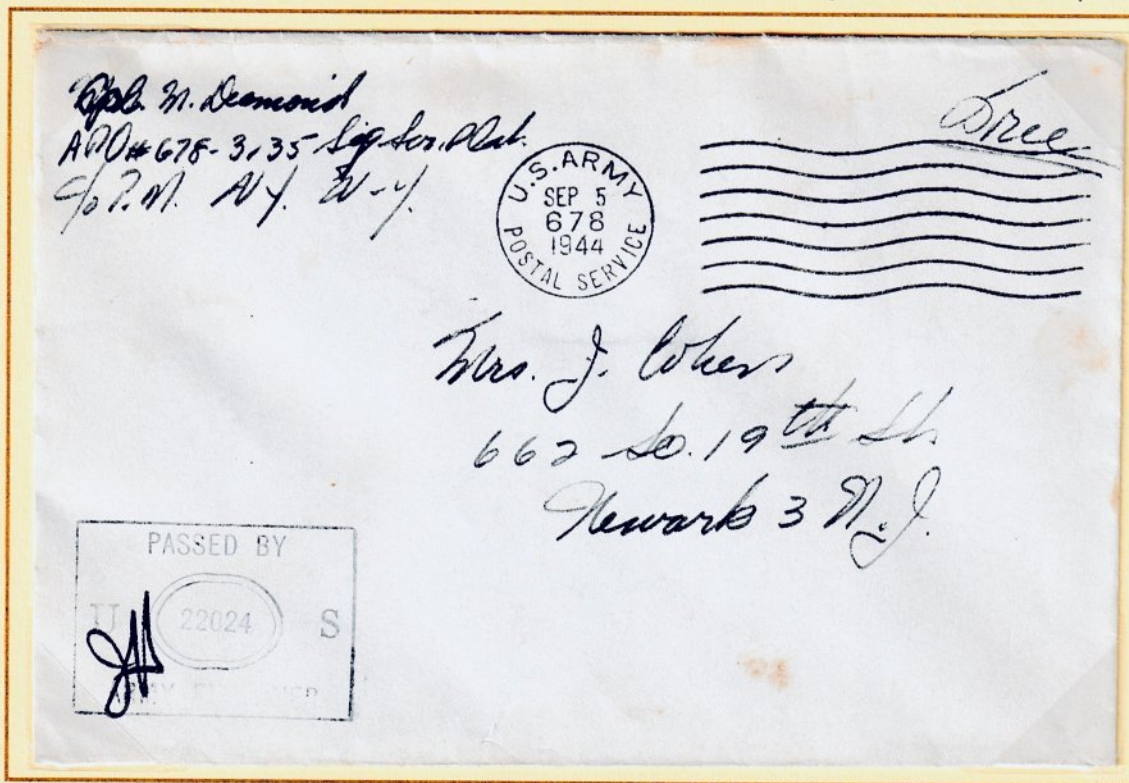
17 September 1943, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt cover sent to USA. CDS Type HS-33, A.P.O. and number centered at bottom of ring, 3 lines, 4th line blank. Censorship 22104 Concessionary Airmail rate 6c per half ounce.

## A.P.O POSTMARK 678 (Handling 684 Huckstep Postal Service)

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



23 May 1944, Camp Huckstep (684) - (USAFIME), Heliopolis, Egypt. Canceled by (678) Type PMC-1, Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K, Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6c per half



5 September 1944, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt. Canceled (678) 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 (REGISTERED)**



Very Interested Journey of the cover.

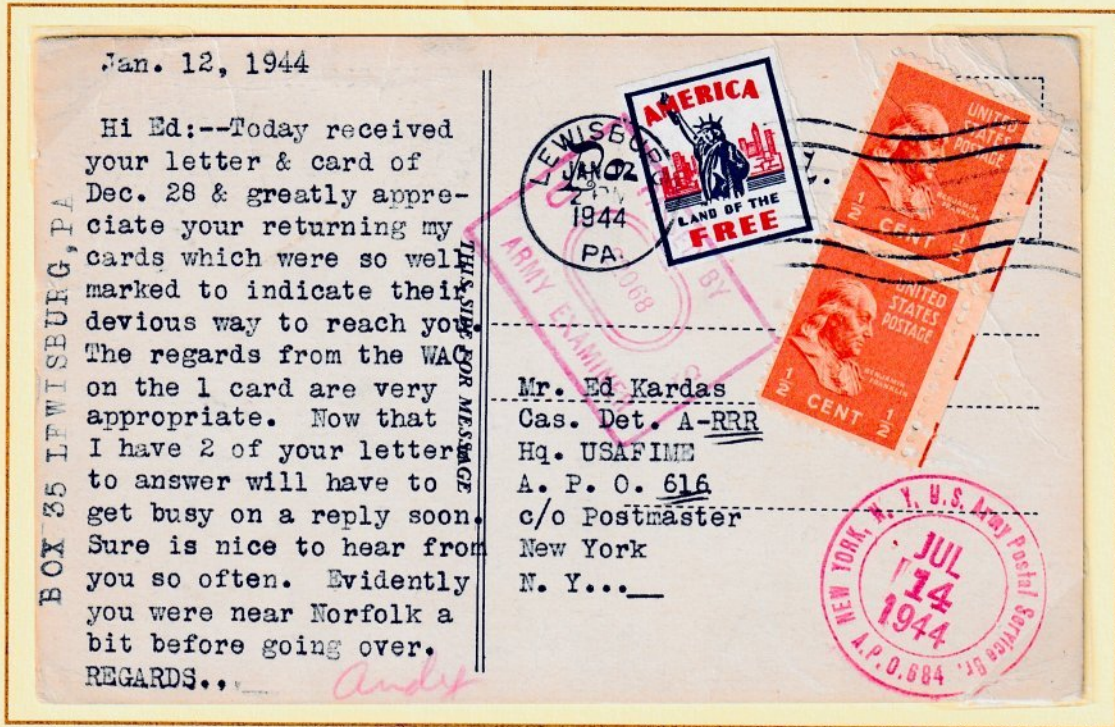
10 January 1944, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt. Canceled 678 (Type HS-1 Double-ring circular date-stamp used on registered mail. Airmail rate 6¢ per half ounce + Reg. Fee 15¢



Back of cover - reduced.

This registered cover was sent by a member of the Headquarters Detachment, United States Army Forces in the Middle East (USAFIME), Africa-Middle East Theater. The cover traveled through A.P.O. 787, which was located at RAF Deversoir airfield from January 21, 1943, to July 1, 1946. The cover's likely route was from Cairo to Khartoum, Sudan, then to West Africa, across the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil, up to Miami, and finally backstamped on January 19, 1944, before reaching Southington, Connecticut.

**A.P.O POSTMARK 684 & 696**



Properly unique delayed postcard in this camp.

Postcard sent from Lewisburg, Pennsylvania postmark A.P.O. 616, 376th Bomber Group, was established on August 28, 1942. It opened at Lydda Airport in

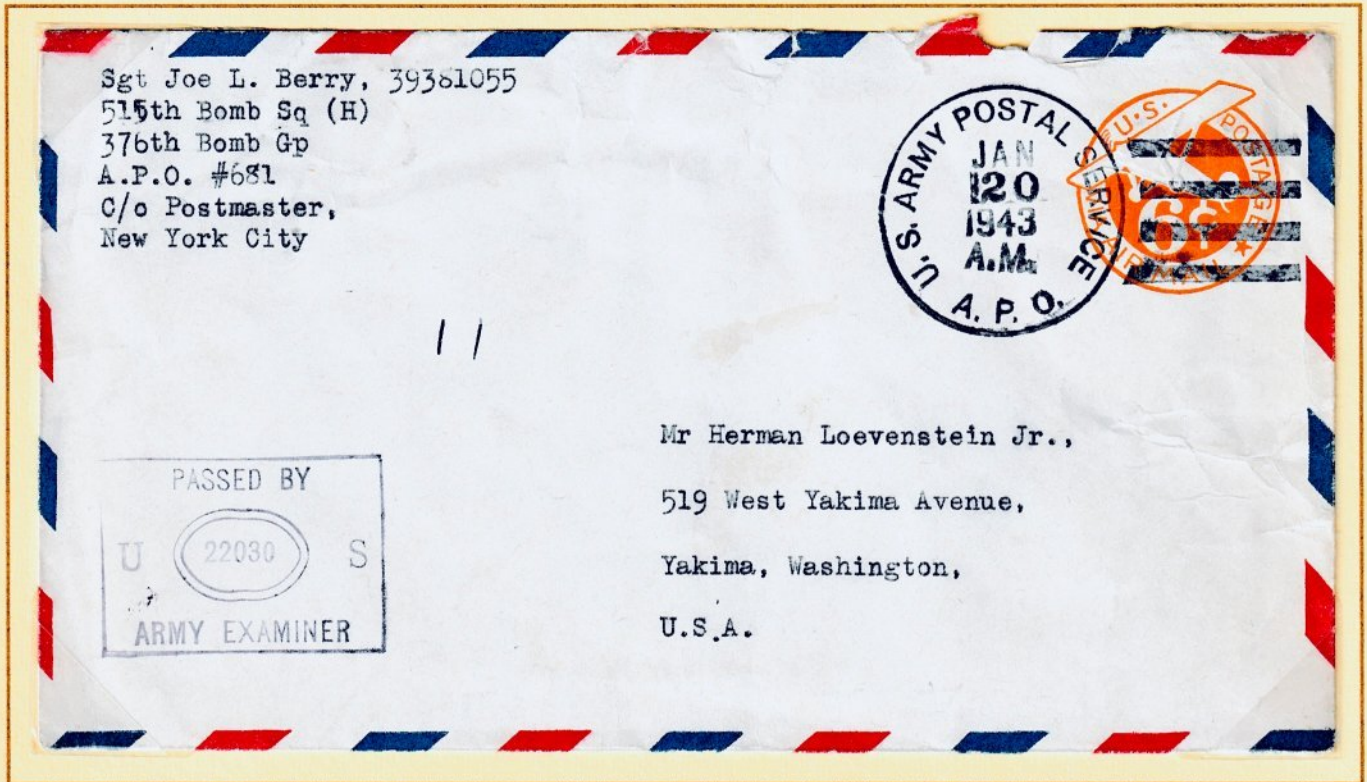
The cover was delayed and received at **APO 684** on July 14, 1944, where the double circle date-stamp was applied as a transit marking. This CDS is typically used on registered mail. On April 1, 1944, **APO 684** relocated from Camp Huckstep to Alexandria.



8 August 1943, Cairo, Egypt. Canceled 696 Type HS-21, A.P.O number centered on 4<sup>th</sup> date line, not at ring bottom.

## A.P.O POSTMARK 681

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



20 January 1943, **Camp Abu Sueir, Egypt**. Canceled by (681) Type HS-17, no APO number, A.M. on 4<sup>th</sup> date line, close spacing on both Concessionary Airmail Rate - 6¢ per half ounce.



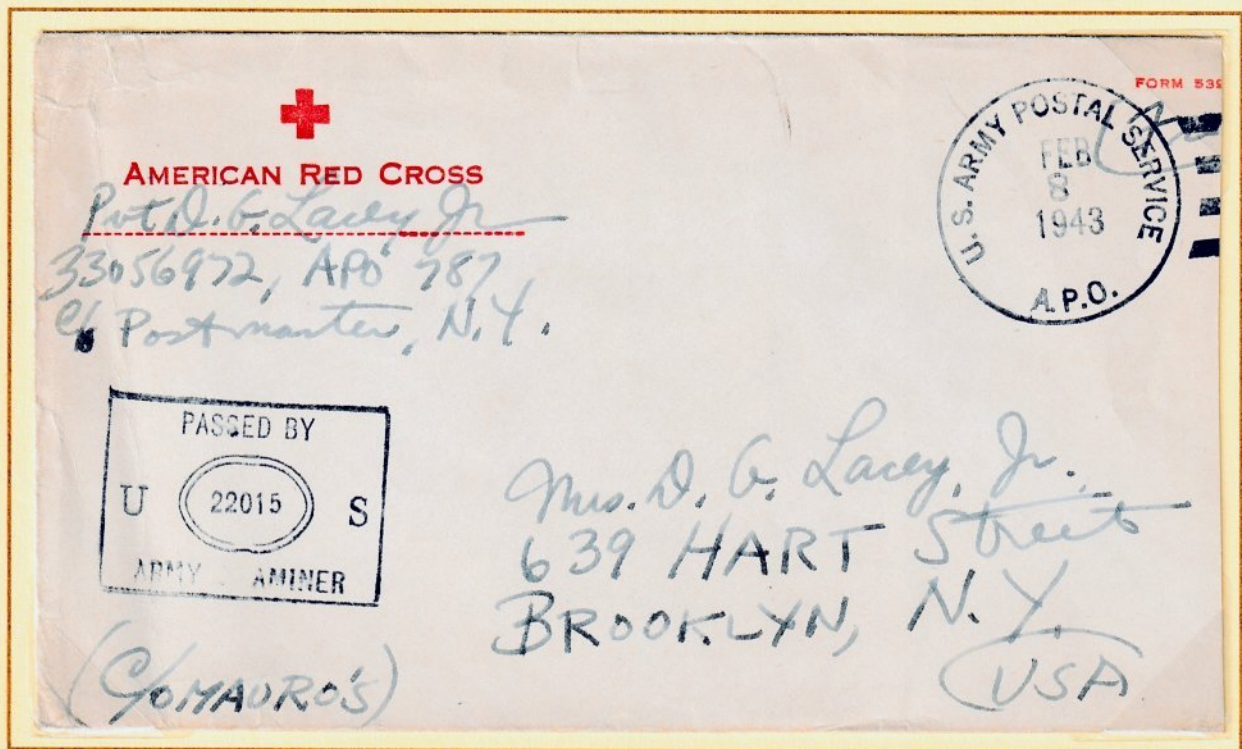
Back of the cover - reduced, Passed by censorship 22030.

The 376th Bomber Group consisted of a Headquarters Squadron and four tactical squadrons (512 to 515) with B-24 "Liberator" heavy bombers. Originally headed to China to launch raids on Japan, the group was given a new mission after the Japanese captured the Chinese base.

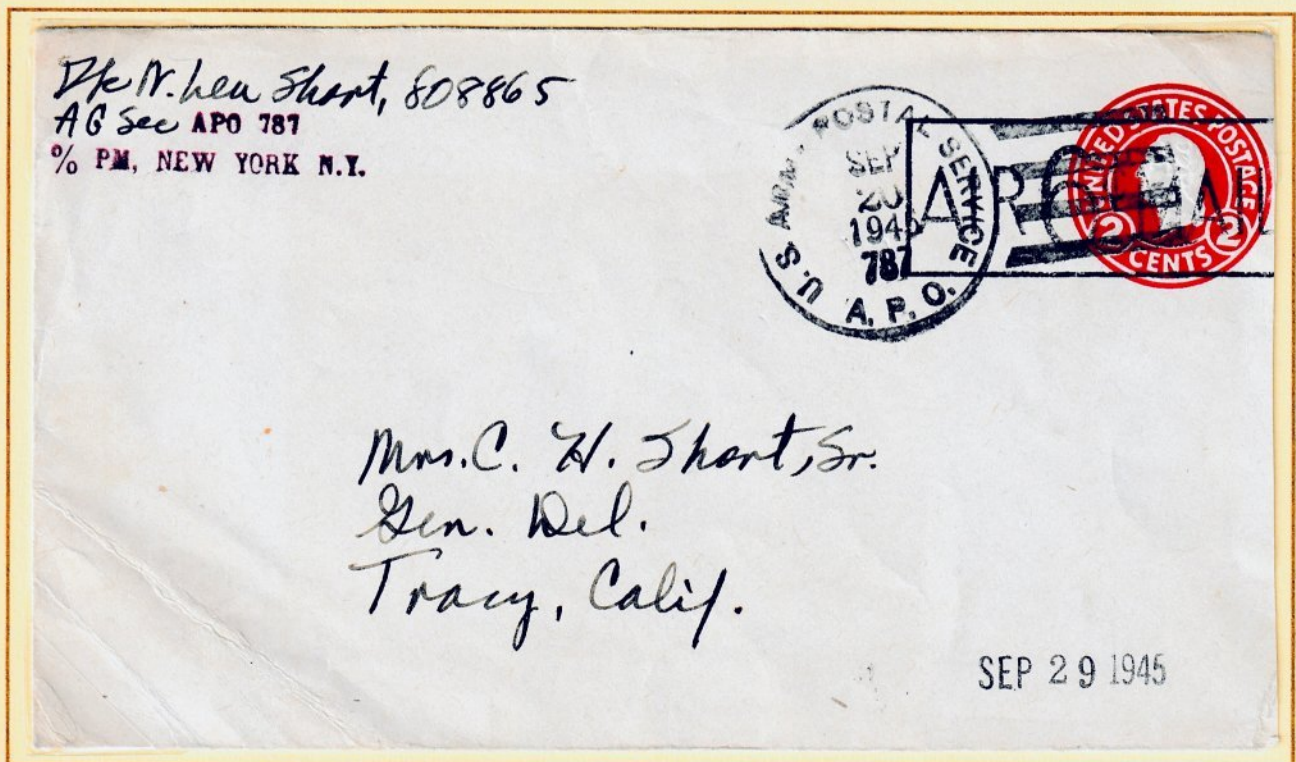
It carried out interdiction raids from airfields in Egypt, moving to Abu Sueir on November 8, 1942, and to Libya on February 22, 1943. These raids targeted shipping and North African ports that supported Axis operations under the United States Middle East Air Forces (USMEAF).

## A.P.O POSTMARK 787

From January 21, 1943, to July 1, 1946, A.P.O. 787 was active as the headquarters of the United States Army Forces in the Middle East, Headquarters of the Africa-Middle East Theater (USAFIME).

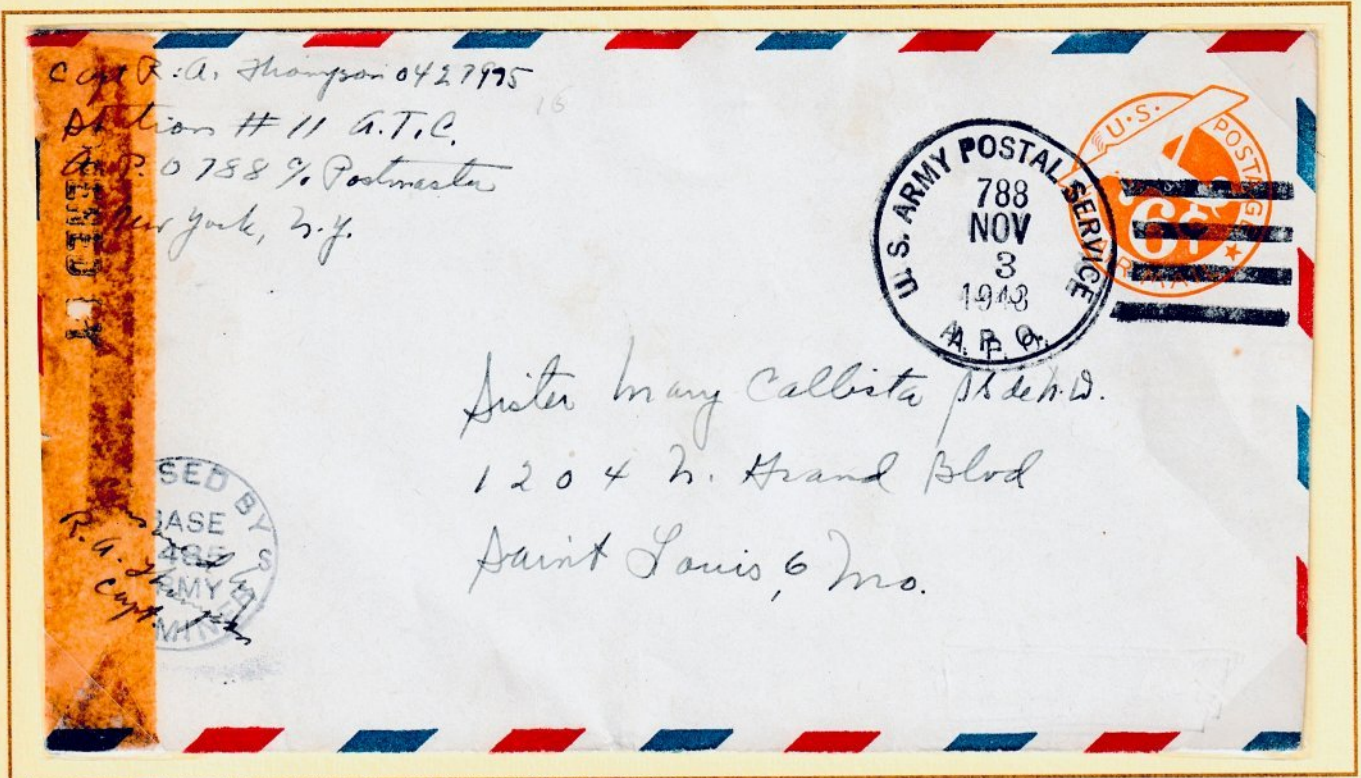


8 February 1943, Cairo, Egypt. Canceled by Type HS-12, A.P.O. in line 3 with gap below year and no A.M./P.M. or A.P.O. number. Free surface rate.

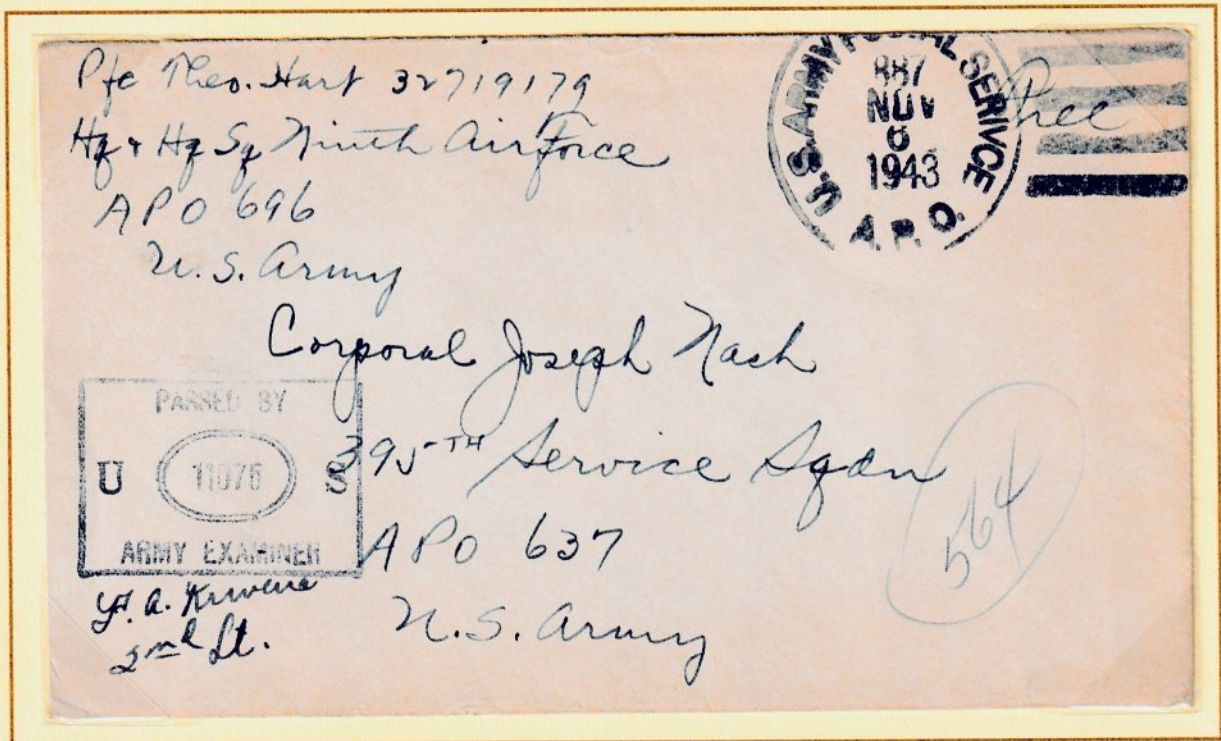


29 September 1945, Cairo, Egypt. Canceled by 787 Type HS-21, A.P.O. centered at bottom of circle and A.P.O. number on 4th date line. 6¢ Airmail surcharge on 2¢ stamped envelope for exclusive use of overseas members of the armed forces.

**A.P.O POSTMARK 788 & 887**



3 November 1943, John Payne Field, Heliopolis, Egypt. Canceled by **A.P.O 788** Type HS-23, A.P.O. number on first date line. Airmail rate 6c per half ounce.



6 November 1943, London, England. Canceled by **A.P.O 887** Type HS-23, A.P.O. number on first date line. Free surface rate and passed by 11076 US Army Examiner.

This cover from the serviceman in one **A.P.O. still located in Egypt** at different A.P.O in London, to another 3rd A.P.O in England. A.P.O 887, Headquarters, European Theater, U.S Army; HQ U.S. Forces, European Theater of Operations was based in London on 10 April 1942, it was the first Army post office to be established in England during World War II.