

Philatelic[®]
titbits

Philatelic Elements Linked to Armed Forces

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This presentation
gives an idea and
range of
Communication
modes used by the
members of
Armed Forces, and
how exactly the
mail moved
amongst them and
their families.

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FPO – need for it / organisation structure

Over the years in the history of mankind, in the process evolution of the present social system, Man has been greedy to acquire more and more – land, money, wealth etc. So Army units have been established as a necessity for the powerful Kings / Rulers to take control over the people. This continuing today with terminologies and names changing.

Indian citizens have also been part of the British Armed Forces in Uniform or not. To cater to such people, communication network was necessary and in 1856, the First Indian Army Post Office was established in Bushire in South Persia. This was model similar to the British Army & Postal Services.

To provide support facilities and fight for the British, there were over two and a half million Indian citizens in uniform during the war. Indian Sub-continent residents have played a vital role during the two world wars :

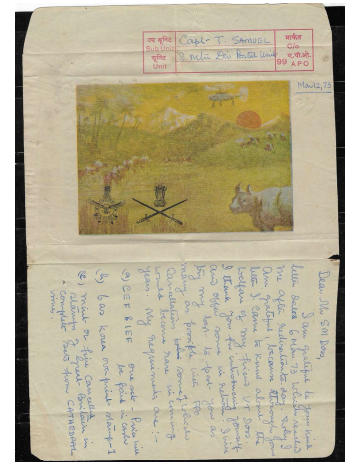
1st World war - 28th July 1914 to 11th Nov 1918

2nd World War - 1st Sept 1939 to 2nd Sept 1945

From this evolved the Army Postal System.

- Central Base Post office (CBPO) at Karachi was control point to cater to inward and outward mails from / to the western area of Africa, & Europe.
- Base Postal Depot at Bombay was control point to cater to inward and outward parcels.
- CBPO at Calcutta control point to cater to inward and outward mails to SCA Base PO at Singapore and 9 Base PO Colombo

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Philatelic Titbits for the day 18-Jun-2017

APS - Army Postal Service Corps



The Army Postal Service (APS), functions as a government-operated military mail system in India. Initially the organisation was affiliated to the ASC. In Mar 1972, APS was formed into a separate Corps.

The Philatelic Bureau started functioning in APS from 18 Jul 1970. These are functioning at 1 CBPO and 2 CBPO to cater to the needs of Armed Forces personal and their families. This Bureau is the special cancellation of special cover is done by "56 APO" and "99 APO" respectively.

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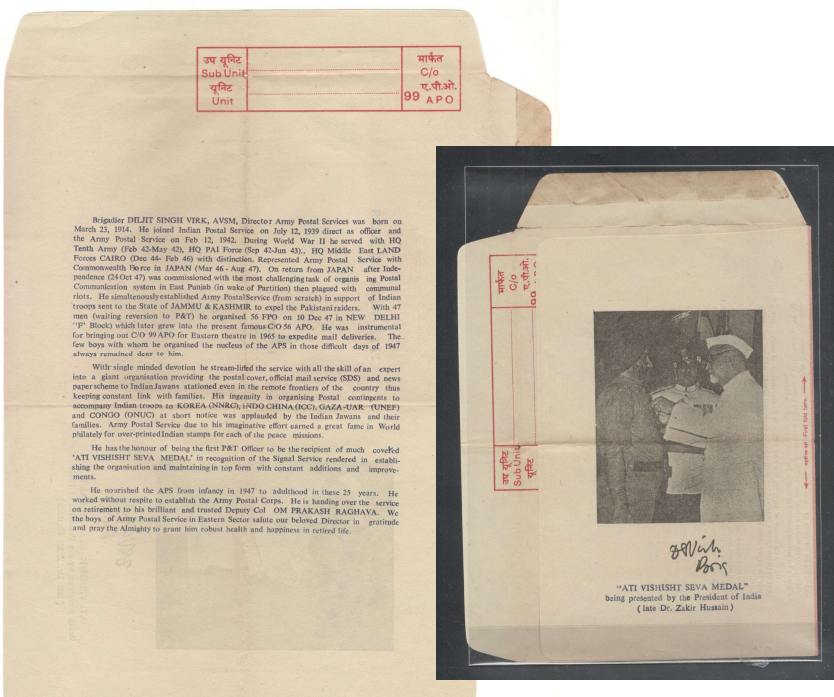
What items can be collected related to APS / FPO

Postmarks: FPO, Field Censor, Unit Censor, Base Censor, Opened by Censor Label, Base Post Office, C BASE Post Office, Pack Post ?, Library Post ?, Express Parcel ?, FPO numbers, Slogan Cancellations

Stationery / Postal Articles : Covers, Post Card, Envelops, Speed Post cover, First Day Cover, Special Covers, Overprints, Surcharges, My Stamps, MO forms, Greetings, War fund vignets, Brochures,

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Brigadier DILJIT SINGH VIRK, AVSM, Director Army Postal Services was born on March 25, 1914. He joined Indian Postal Service on July 12, 1939 direct as officer and the Army Postal Service on Feb 12, 1942. During World War II he served with HQ Tenth Army (Feb 42-May 43), HQ PAI Force (Sep 43-Jun 43), HQ Middle East LAND Forces CAIRO (Dec 44- Feb 46) with distinction. Represented Army Postal Service with Commonwealth Force in JAPAN (Mar 46- Aug 47). On return from JAPAN after Independence (1947) was commissioned with the most challenging task of organising Postal Communication system in East Punjab (in wake of Partition) then plagued with communal riots. He simultaneously established Army Postal Service (from scratch) in support of Indian troops sent to the State of JAMMU & KASHMIR to expel the Pakistani raiders. With 47 men (awaiting reversion to PRT) he organised 56 PPO on 10 Dec 47 in NEW DELHI "P" Block which later grew into the present famous C/O 96 APO. He was instrumental for bringing out C/O 99 APO for Eastern theatre in 1965 to expedite mail deliveries. The few boys with whom he organised the nucleus of the APS in those difficult days of 1947 always remained dear to him.

With single minded devotion he streamlined the service with all the skill of an expert into a giant organisation providing the postal cover, official mail service (SES) and news paper scheme to Indian Jawans stationed even in the remote frontiers of the country thus keeping constant link with families. His ingenuity in organising Postal contingents to accompany Indian troops to KOREA (UNK), INDO-CHINA (FOC), GAKA-TOK (UNEF) and CONGO (ONUC) at short notice was applauded by the Indian Jawans and their families. Army Postal Service due to his imaginative effort earned a great fame in World philately for over-printed Indian stamps for each of the peace missions.

He has the honour of being the first PRT Officer to be the recipient of much coveted "ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL" in recognition of the Signal Service rendered in establishing the organisation and maintaining in top form with constant additions and improvements.

He nourished the APS from infancy in 1947 to adulthood in these 25 years. He worked without respite to establish the Army Postal Corps. He is handing over the service on retirement to his brilliant and trusted Deputy Col OM PRAKASH RAGHAVA. We the boys of Army Postal Service in Eastern Sector salute our beloved Director in gratitude and pray the Almighty to grant him robust health and happiness in retired life.



Brigadier Diljit Singh Virk

laid the foundation for the present Army Postal Service Corps


- A special wing to cater to postal services needs of all army personnel
- His Photo shown here being awarded the
- ATI VISHT SEVA MEDAL
- By President
- Dr Zakir Hussain

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Philatelic Titibit for the day - 10-Apr-2017

Soilder's Letter

Mani M Krishnan tweet @manimk647
http://fb.me/philatelicTitbits_manimkrishnan.blogspot.in



A Soilders letter no postage need to be paid at the place of posting. This bears letter despatch mark oval BELLARY / 1852 JUN 18 / FREE, Oval INDIA, Due Mark 2 of UK and MOUNTBELLEW BRIDGE / AUG 23 / 1852 / 8 delivery postmark.

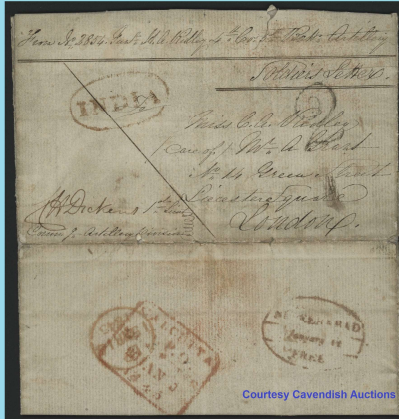


Pre Stamp ERA

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Soldier's Letter NUSSERABAD FREE



Jan 1845 Prestamp letter to London headed & countersigned for Artillery gunners and endorsed "Soldier's Letter"; red oval "NUSSERABAD/FREE" ds (unrecorded by Hammond Giles) on the flap, and both have been charged the Concession Rate of "2"(d) on arrival.

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Pre Stamp ERA

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Philatelic Titbit for the day - 12-Aug-2017

White Feather Soldier's letter

1834 Swedish White Feather Soldier's letter



It is a feather letter with a white feather attached using a wax seal, meaning the postman had to deliver the letter urgently, i.e., as an express letter. Sent 14 December 1834 and is marked "Special Regimental Orders." It bears a "meander" which is a transformation of the original depiction of three crowns, indicating Crown Post. The Crown Post operated in Sweden from the 18th century until 1873. It bears delivery instructions, which read: "Forward without delay by 3rd Major Company postman to No. 33 Dahl at 2nd Major Company whom it will be incumbent upon to forward speedily further. Leaving 1 o'clock p.m. 14 December 1834" [18 14/12 34].

The cover is addressed to Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Major Company in Uppsala.

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Pre Stamp ERA

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**Manual
of
Military Intelligence
in the Field**

Defines entire postal articles,
the handling of the same,
Censors, etc fully in detail.
Printed in India in 1942 at
Simla

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How the Letters moved in FPO to Regular Civilian Postal System`

`Source	Next point	Action
Soldier writes a private letter	Approved by an officer	Each officer is allotted a unique Unit censor Mark is and he affixes the same on the letter
Unit Censoring officer	Hands it over to FPO	FPO Mark is affixed
FPO	Base Censor	Base censor Mark is affixed
Base Censor	Base Post Office / Central Base Post Office	Letters are Opened by Examiner and "Opened by examiner " label is affixed
BPO / CBPO	Letter handed over to Civilian Postal Systems for movement to final destination	

Post marks available on these letters are

ABPO – Advance Base Post Office	APO – Army Post Office
BPO – Base Post Office	CBPO- Central Base Post Office
FC – Field Censor	FPO – Field Post Office
PO – Post Office	UC – Unit Censor

Passed by Censor with crown
10 Field post offices are controlled by one Base Post Office. Base Post office is the linking point to the Civilian Postal system.

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Flow Of
Communication
Between
FPO
And
Civilian
Postal
System

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Field Post Office

This is World War I Example of Field Post office postmark.

FPO moves along with a battalion of soliders into war field and helps keeping communication alive with the base camp and family members.



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FPO No – This is a number allotted to a post office. This is usually active for a short period. This Post Office moves along with the unit of army formation. It is usually active only during war period and later disbanded.

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FIELD CENSOR

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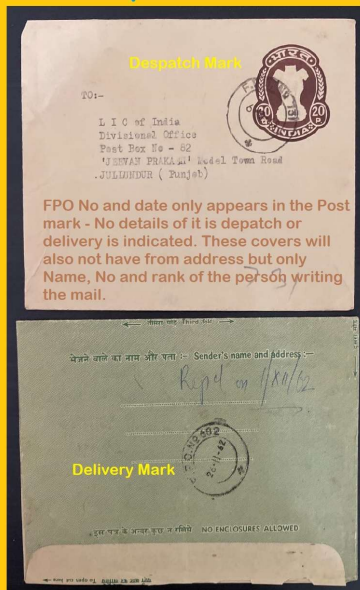


Censor Marks

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By Mani Muthu Krishnan 20220620
FPO Despatch & Delivery

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Despatch Mark



Delivery Mark

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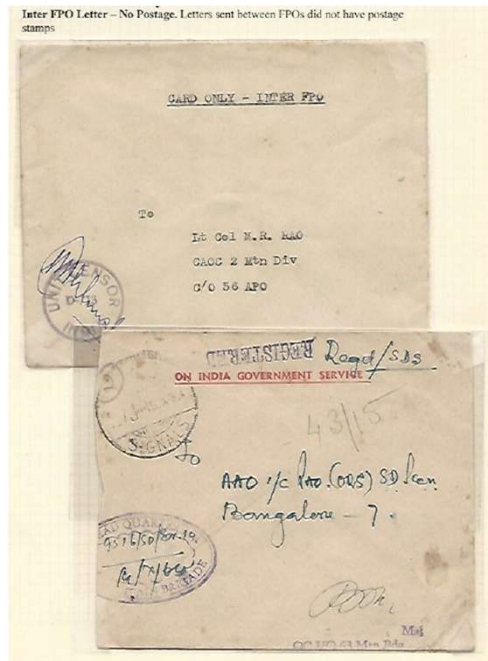
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Some examples of
letters being opened
and resealed with
Special Label
by Censorship
Authorities

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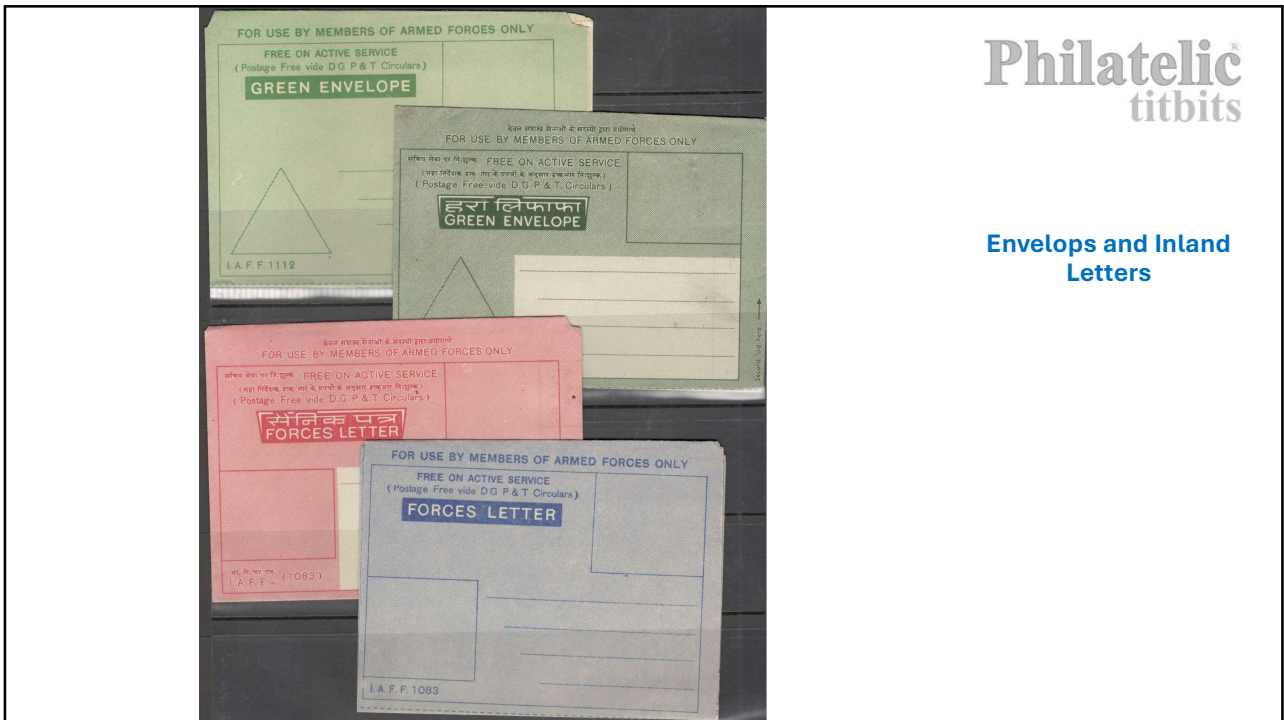
Envelopes and Inland Letters



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Envelopes and Inland Letters



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Field Service Card



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Post Card

Field Service Card with Reply card



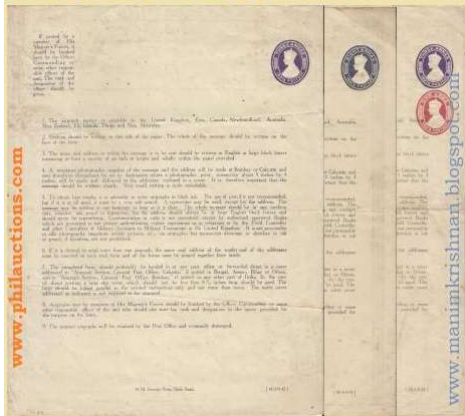
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By Mani Muthu Krishnan
Stamped Airgraph FORM



Indian Postal Stationery Stamped AIRGRAPH FORM
King George VI - OS.02.1945 4 As only in BLACK
on 8a Purple on cream paper - size 213 x 250 mm
QV# AG4, H&G# G5, LANG# AGF4 JAIN# AF4

Philatelic Titbits # 1082
AIRGRAPH FORMS

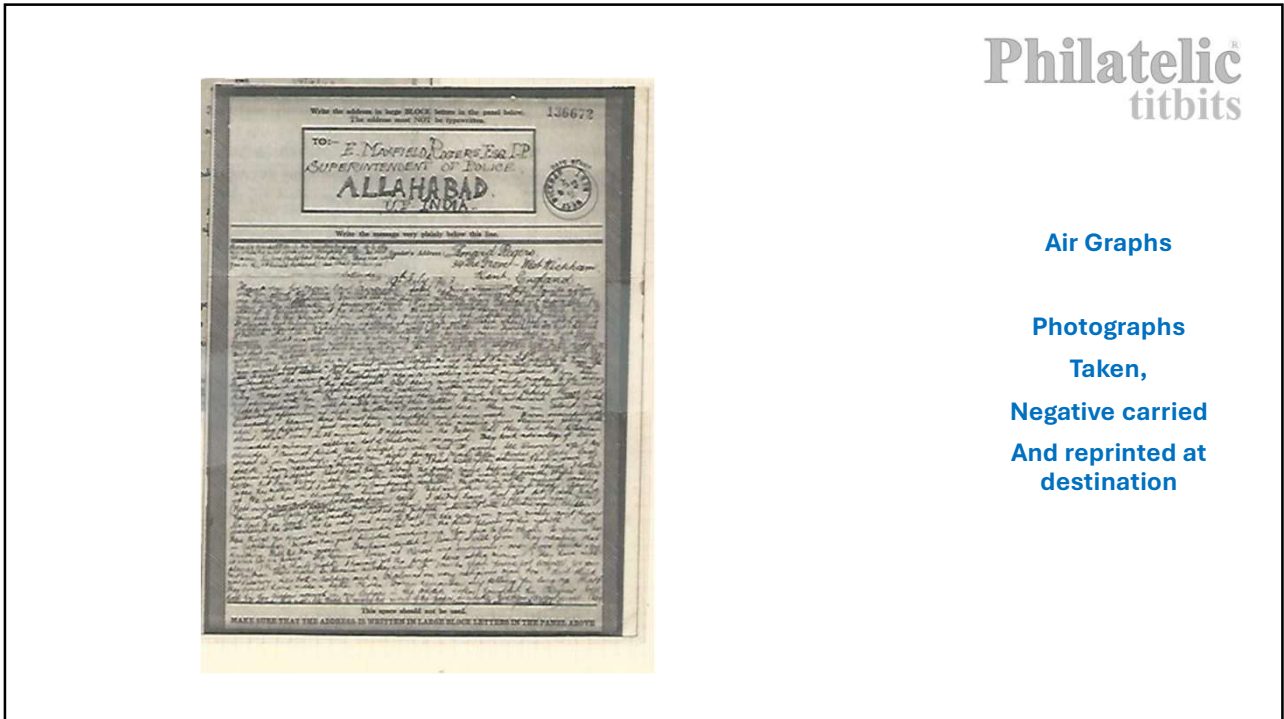


Airgraph Forms is a stationery item - Mint
Examples - 3 As, 8 As and 3 As + 1 As

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Airgraph Forms

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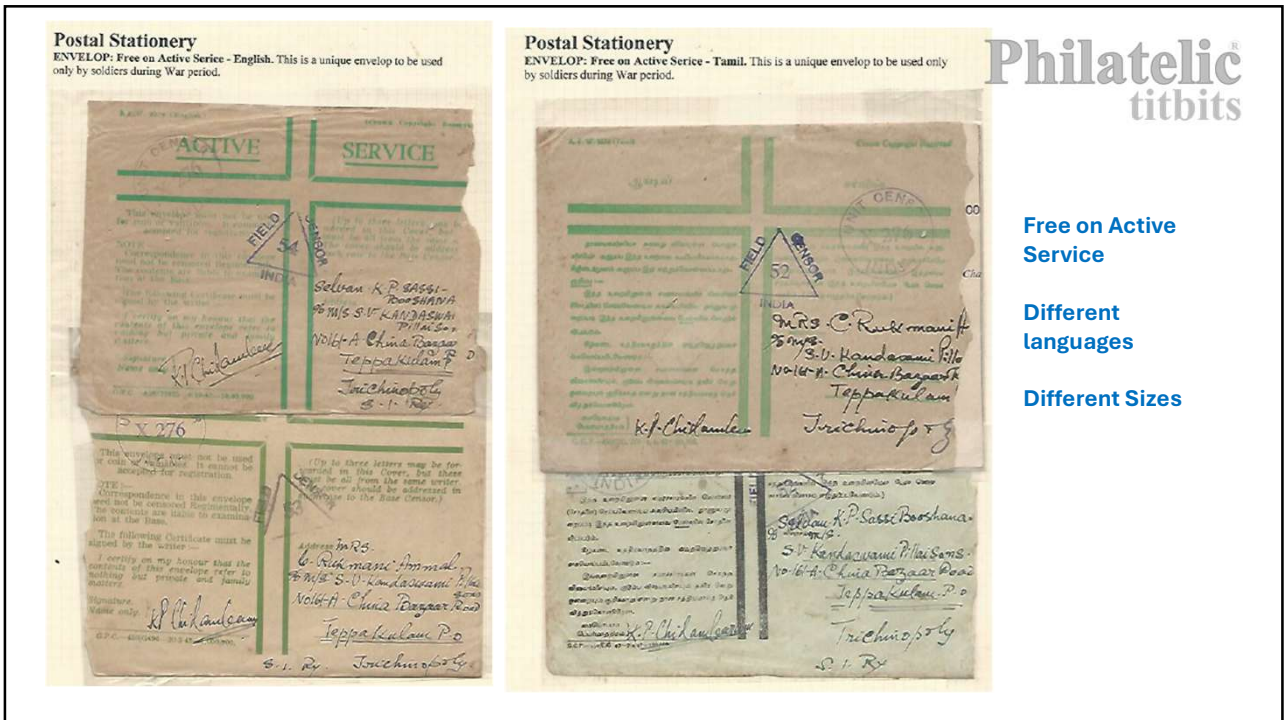


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Air Graphs

Photographs
Taken,
Negative carried
And reprinted at
destination

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Postal Stationery

ENVELOP: Free on Active Service - English. This is a unique envelope to be used only by soldiers during War period.

Postal Stationery

ENVELOP: Free on Active Service - Tamil. This is a unique envelope to be used only by soldiers during War period.

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Free on Active
Service

Different
languages

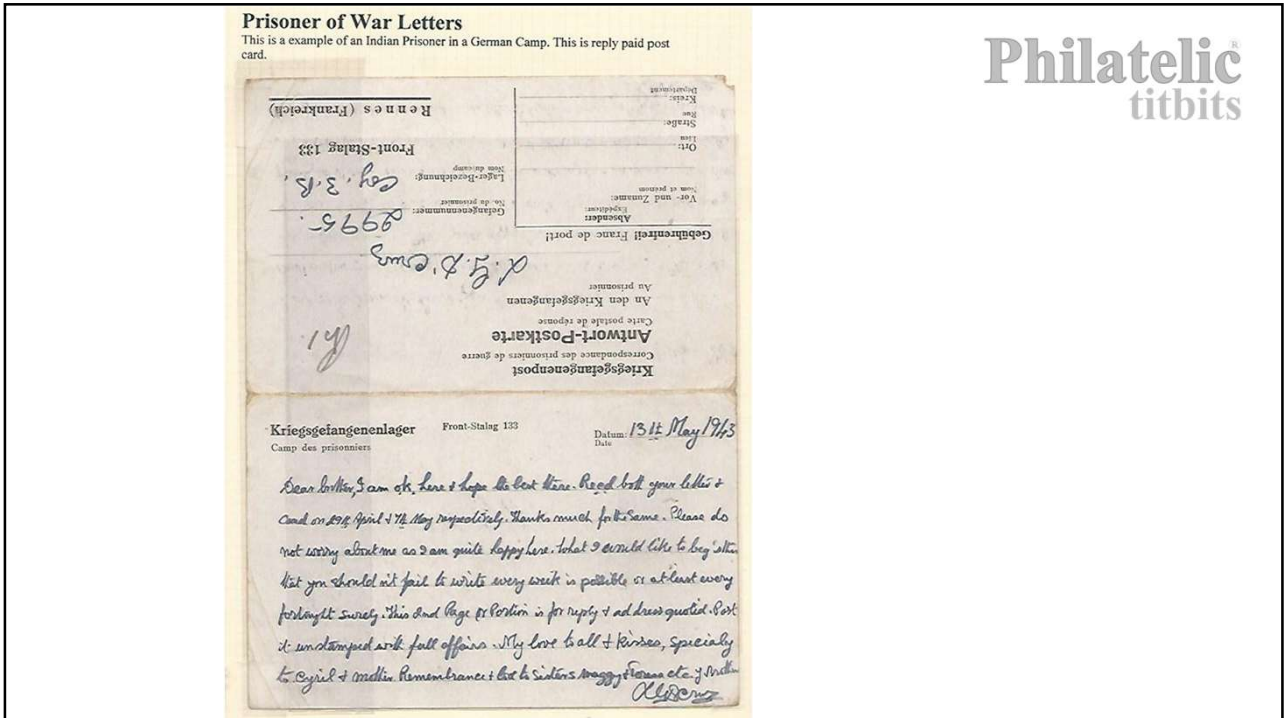
Different Sizes

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FIRST DAY COVER , PRESENTATION PACK, FOLDER all with FPO Marks

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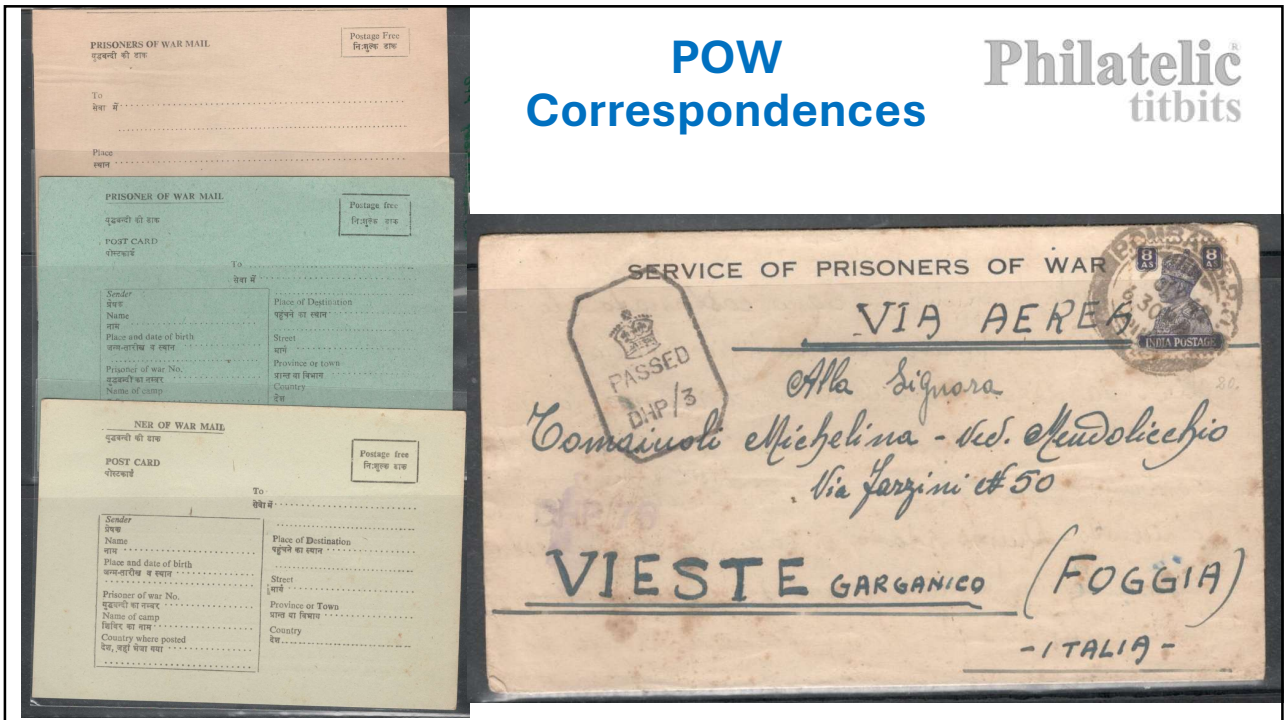
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Field Service Post Cards were used with minimum sentences to communicate with family

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POW Correspondences

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Philatelic Titbits for the day 31-Aug-2017
French Expeditionary Force in China



**BOXER REVOLUTION
 IN CHINA**

Japanese Stamps posted from French FPO
TRESOR ET POSTE AUX ARMEES 1 Chine
 1 - 17 Jan 01 - Counter signed by French Commanding Officer.
 On Reverse - YOKOHOMA A MARSELLES LN NO 1
 DT 4 FEVR 01 Mail boat mark and PEBROS GUIREO delivery mark.

Cover : Gupta



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Boxer Revolution North China in 1900 created a need for creating a special expeditionary force by combination of many countries including India from 1900 to 1923

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China Expeditionary Force



C. E. F.
OVERPRINT
 Seen across
 Three reigns

Queen Victoria

King Edward VII

King George V

1900 to 1922

28



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FPO on CEF Error Card

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION - UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
 BRITISH INDIA INDE BRITANNIQUE
 POST CARD CARTE POSTALE
 THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

India. Postal stationery 1½ a blue on cream with overprint error O.E.F. instead of C.E.F. Listed in Dr.Jal Coop's specialized catalogue of India. Not addressed, but cancelled by FPO No 14, 6 JA 01 (Shauhaikwan)

Courtesy AB Philea

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Chinese Expedition Force

Indian Stamps & Stationery

were overprinted for CEF

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CEF Stationery with FPO CTO pmk

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British India QV 1900 Reply Postcard with ovpt
C.E.F for FORCES use with CTO Pmk F.P.O.
No.6 dt 11 FE 01

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Indian Expedition Forces – IEF

Post mark of FPO No 34 dated 28 FE 15 with PASSED BY CENSOR / INDIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE / 17. Also one Envelop OVPT IEF for use.



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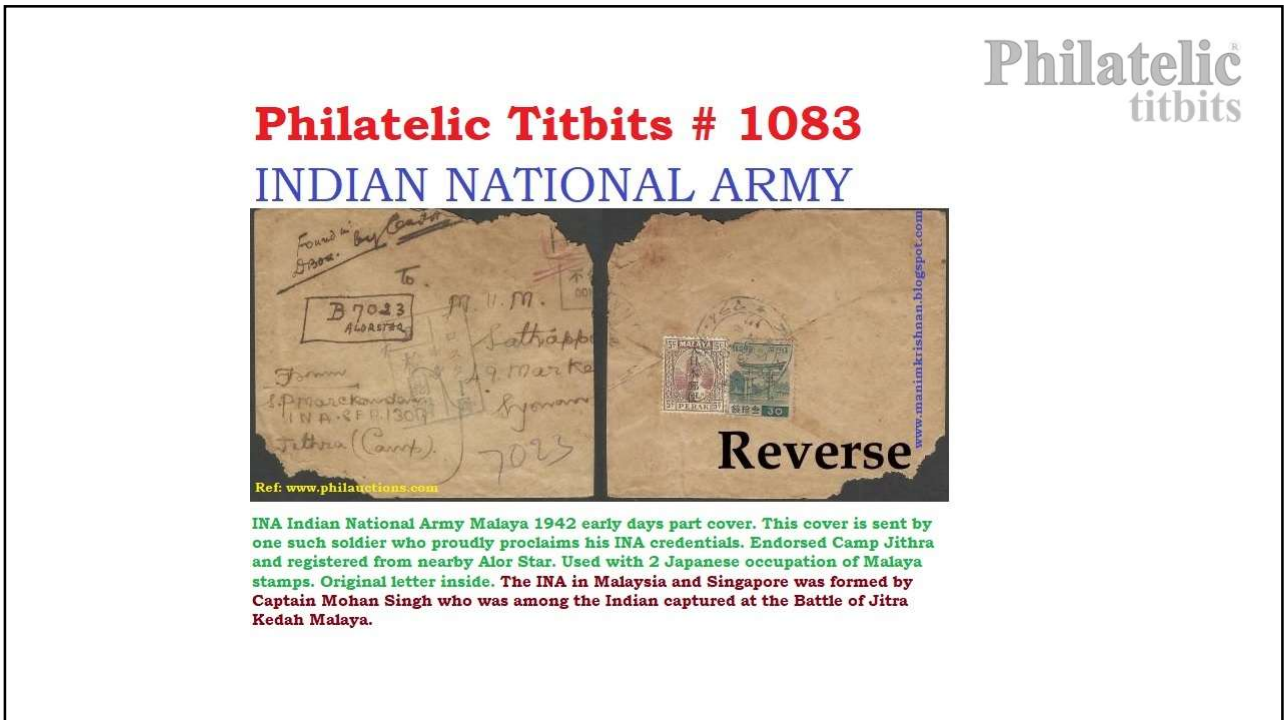
32



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IEF
Overprinted
on
Mesopotamia
stamps

33



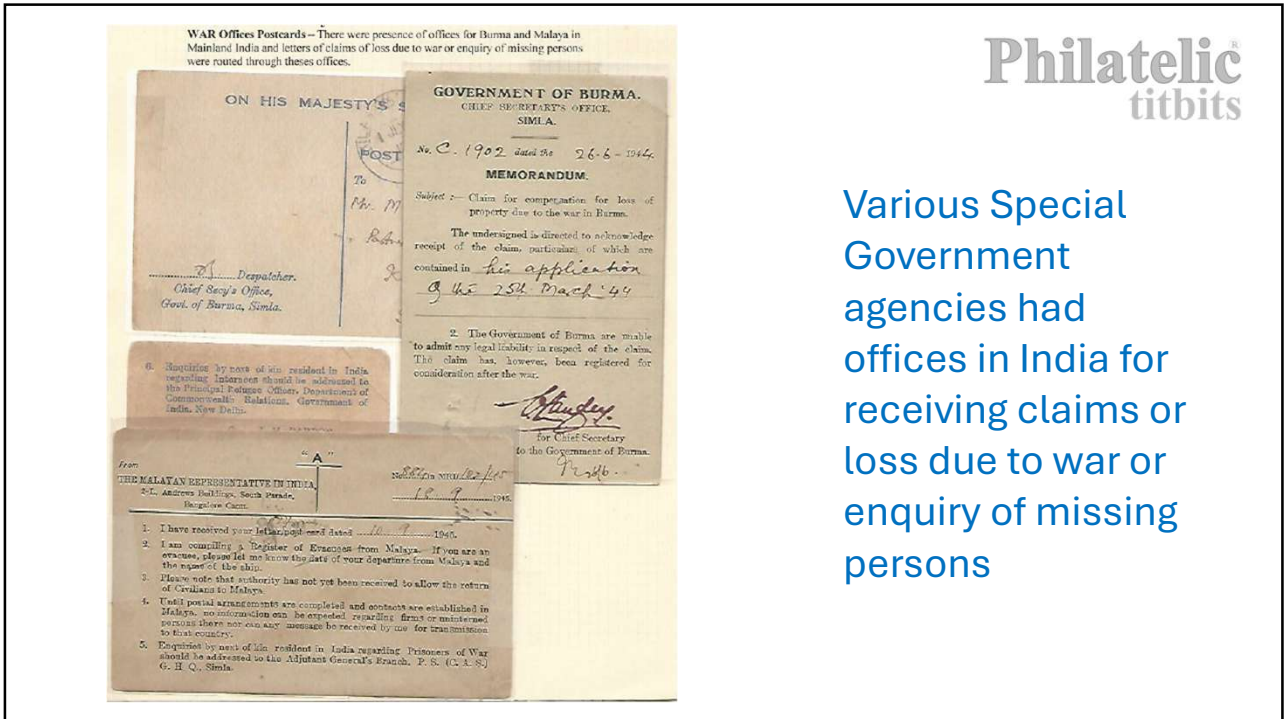
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Philatelic Titbits # 1083
INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY



INA Indian National Army Malaya 1942 early days part cover. This cover is sent by one such soldier who proudly proclaims his INA credentials. Endorsed Camp Jithra and registered from nearby Alor Star. Used with 2 Japanese occupation of Malaya stamps. Original letter inside. The INA in Malaysia and Singapore was formed by Captain Mohan Singh who was among the Indian captured at the Battle of Jitra Kedah Malaya.

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Various Special Government agencies had offices in India for receiving claims or loss due to war or enquiry of missing persons

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A Rare Registered letter from Chairman, International Supervisory Commission for Cambodia to Bombay 1954

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Movements of Indian Medical Officer:

This section of the exhibit traces the movements of a medical officer. Mr K P Chidambaram, member of the Indian Armed Medical Corps. He was an Assistant Surgeon with registration No MC 178. He held the rank of 2nd Lieutenant at the start of the war and was later promoted as Captain. He was an avid writer to his family and about 120 letters have been collected from the correspondences he made from various parts of the world. He has traveled widely, as can be seen from the envelopes bearing various FPO marks and censor marks.

No. 12 Advance Base Post Office

Date of Establishment: 8th April 1942 at Calcutta as 12 Sec BPO

Name changed to 12 ABPO 25th May 1946

Disbanded on: 30th Nov 1946 at Kemptee

Posted on	Posted at	Unit Censor	Field Censor
18.09.1943	Calcutta	X 276	No



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FPO No 123

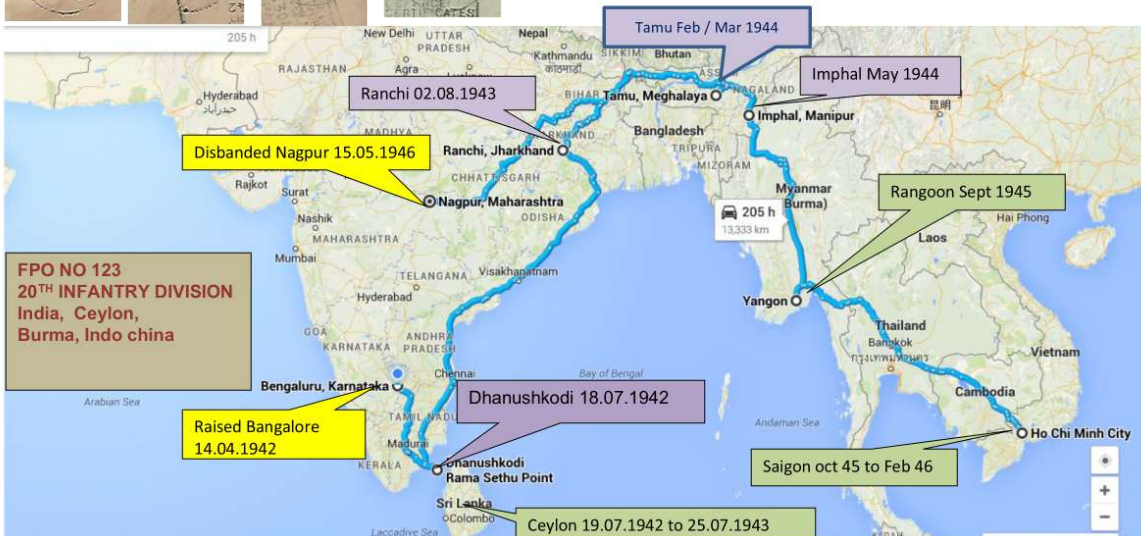
Date of establishment: 14th April 1942 at Bangalore
Formation Served: 20th Infantry Division
Locations in moved: India, Ceylon, Burma, Indo- China

India	14.04.1942	Raised in Bangalore	
	14.04.1942 to 18.07.1942	Bangalore	
Ceylon	18.07.1942	Dhanushkodi embarked for Ceylon	
	19-07-1942	arrived in Ceylon	
India	25.07.1943	Left for India	
	26.07.1943	Arrived in India	
BURMA	02.08.1943	reached Ranchi	
	30.09.1943	Left Ranchi	
	03.10.1943	Impal	
	05.11.1943	Shenam	
	31-12-1943 to 02.02.1944	Sibong	
	03.02.1944 to 19.03.1944	Tamu area	
	India	20.03.1944	Sibong
		May 1944	Impal area
	Burma	July 1944 to Nov 1944	Thoubal
		Nov 1944	Kampat
Jan 1945		Budalm	
Feb 1945		Algappa	
March 1945		Kyankse Area	
April 1945		Meiktila - Prom Road	
May 1945		Prome Area	
May 1945		Tharawady	
21.09.1945 to 29.09.1945		Rangoon	
Indo-China		Oct 1945 to 09.02.1946	Saigon
India	March 1946	Arrived in India	
	15.05.1946	Disbanded at Nagpur	



Source: Brigadier D S Virk AVSM – Indian Army Post Office : Locations and Movements 1939-1947 -

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Thank You

**Open for
Discussions**