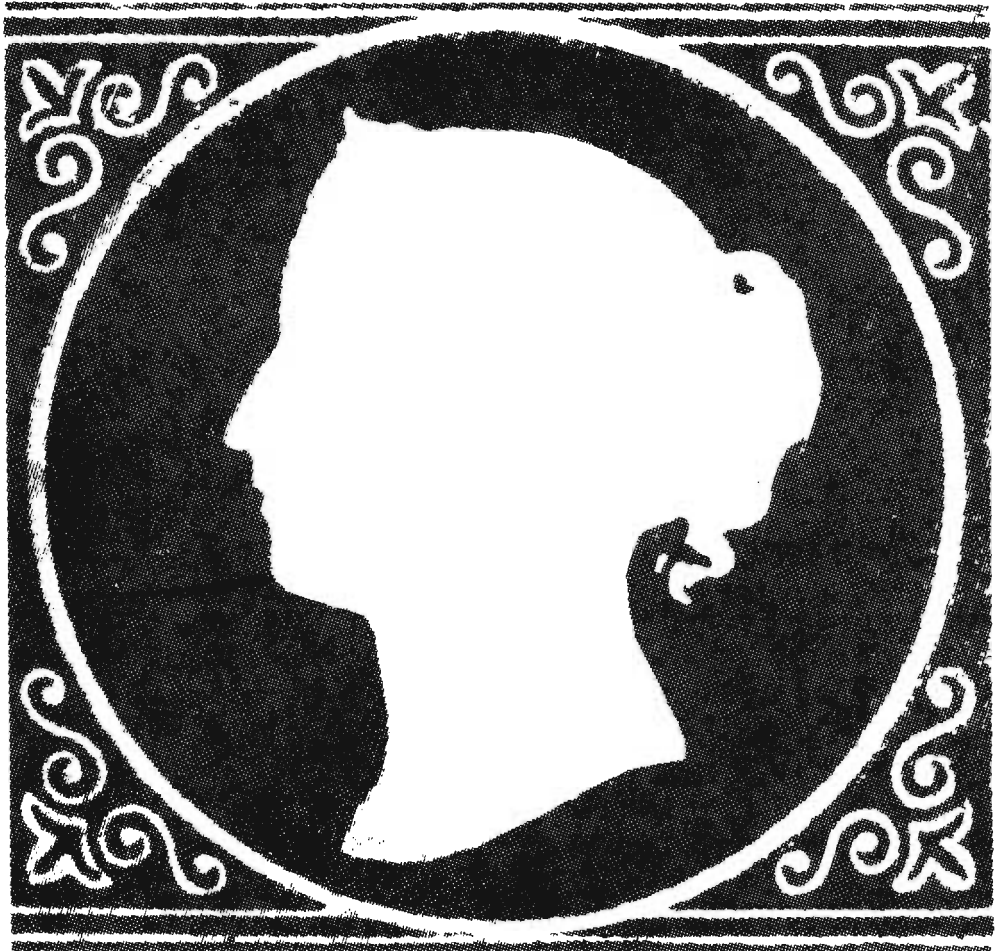


# C A M E O



JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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EDITORIAL

This issue of "CAMEO" is dominated by the Gold Coast. I can only include articles received and, at the moment, it seems that there is more research and interest in the Gold Coast than in other areas.

However, other research is being carried out and it seemed a good idea to list areas that have been drawn to my attention.

Mr. Attwood, a new member, is looking into Ascension World War II censor devices. The Cameroons study by Mr. Wright is fairly well advanced.

A study of "The Postage Stamps of the Gold Coast", which is being co-ordinated by Mr. Macrae, is well under way. The first part should cover the 1875 - 83 issues.

The Lagos study on stamps is well advanced as are Mr. Beale's studies on Sierra Leone.

Mr. Harris still working on Southern Nigeria. The bulletin is nearly ready.

Your Editor has completed a rough draft on the stamps of Togo and has up-dated the previous postal history bulletin. There are some problems to be solved before publication can be considered.

One of our members, Mr. L.D. Mayo, has recently published a loose-leaf catalogue of W.W.II censorship devices. This is titled "British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War Two. Section 1: African Colonies and Occupied Territories". (This does not include Egypt or South Africa).

The catalogue can be obtained from Mr. A.R. Torrance, Secretary of the Civil Censorship Study Group, whose address is - Rozel Cottage, Back Road, Dollar, Scotland. The price is £4.00 post paid in the U.K. Cheques should be made payable to the Civil Censorship Study Group. The sheets are punched for standard U.S. 3-ring binders which may be difficult to find in the U.K. For an extra £2.50, Mr. Torrance can also supply a good-quality binder.

If anyone would like more information on the contents, which include the Circle's area, they are welcome to contact me.

A Harmers of London sale on February, 7th, 1978 included lot 398 "1938 - 46 1d purple and brown (of Gambia), nineteen copies on separate covers with "FIELD POST OFFICE/22 SP 41/109" Pmks". This was estimated at £25 and realised £35. All the covers were unaddressed and philatelic.

Finally, the Gambia P.O. notice has been submitted by Mr. R.I. Johnson (see also CAMEO 7).

UNPAID MAIL FROM WEST AFRICA

Mr. Beale writes concerning the two covers shown by Mr. R.I. Johnson in CAMEO 7.

Page 139. 1889 cover with handstruck 6d. At this time, postage rates from the West African colonies to Britain were in multiples of 4d and so this cover could not have come from one of them. The last of the British agencies on the offshore islands had been closed in 1859 and, if this cover had been posted there, it would have had a Spanish or Portugese tax marking on it. However, mail is known from the Niger territories and Oil Rivers at this time at a 6d rate and, as stamps were not obtainable, a double rate was not applied in the United Kingdom. I have an almost identical cover in the same handwriting.

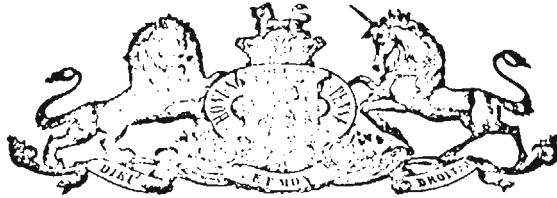
Page 153. 1874 cover to Sierra Leone. I would agree with Mr. Johnson's interpretation of the markings. It is curious that none of the surviving Instructions to West African Postmasters before 1879 deal with insufficiently paid (that is partly paid) mail. The 1878 Instructions sent by the U.P.U. impose a fine of 9d on unpaid letters and, similarly, for insufficiently paid letters "allowance being made for the value of the postage stamps affixed".

Mr. Osborne also writes concerning the 1889 cover with the handstruck 6d. I plumb for Oil River area (Niger Coast) for the following reasons:- I have a cover posted at Bonny in late 1890, "no stamps available" per S.S. "Ambiry". I also have two covers to Miss Rook, one dated November 1888 per S.S. "Volta" the other dated July 1889 per S.S. "Kiusembo".

For four covers to travel on known ships operating between the West Coast of Africa and Liverpool, all unstamped, this fact must assume that there were no stamps available. This rules out the other West African colonies which, by these dates, had a postal service. It also eliminates Niger Territories as, at least, one would have had the Royal Niger Coy. handstamp. Also, we have one cover from Bonny - Oil Rivers which suggests the sender of these letters to Miss Rook could not obtain stamps nor did he state so on the cover. I still believe that the writer lived near a port of call and, most likely, posted the letters on board or handed them over to a member of the crew as none of these covers are creased. They all carry the "LIVERPOOL UNPAID" and "6d to collect" strikes.

One point I would like to make is that the sender must have lived near a port, that is, he knew the names of the ships that would call and carry his letters. You can take it from me that in the late 1920's when I was there, if you were stationed more than 20 miles inland, we knew the day the boats would call but never knew which boat it would be.

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# LETTERS FOR GAMBIA.

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ON the 1st July next, and thenceforward, Letters addressed to Gambia, posted unpaid, will be charged with an additional rate of sixpence each Letter, besides the usual postage; and Letters posted insufficiently pre-paid, will also be charged with the amount deficient, and with sixpence additional.

A similar fine, in addition to the postage, will be levied in this Country upon all Letters received from Gambia, which may have been posted unpaid, or insufficiently paid.

**By Command of the Postmaster-General.**

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
12th June, 1865.

GAMBIA: STAMPS DESTROYEDJ.O. ANDREW

The following numbers of the 1912 - 22 issue were burnt on January 2nd, 1923:

½d	12,781	4d	20,098	1/6d	2,819
1d	51,785	5d	5,778	2/-	2,051
1½d	NIL	6d	836	2/6d	3,729
2d	752	7½d	2,509	3/-	3,032
2½d	10,250	10d	3,541	4/-	8,318
3d	19,064	1/-	8,496	5/-	8,599

In view of the numbers issued, I don't think most of these are of other than academic interest, but the numbers for the 4/- and 5/- should be.

Dalwick shows the total issue for the 4/- as 12,500 and the 5/- as 12,378. This means that the actual numbers issued become 4,182 for the 4/- value and 3,779 for the 5/-.

(See also CAMEO 7).

BATHURSTJ.O. ANDREW

In CAMEO 7, I mentioned that I had two stamps with an unexplained straight-line framed BATHURST. Mr. Eric Lewis has written to suggest that this is the top right-hand side of the registration cachet, similar to that shown in Dalwick\* (Page 51) but with BATHURST in place of T.P.O. N<sup>o</sup>2. I believe this explanation to be correct and it raises interesting questions: why should the cachet be struck on the stamp and not by the side? Has any member a cover showing this to be so?

\* "THE GAMBIA" by R.E.R. Dalwick published 1953 by Robson Lowe Ltd.

G A M B I A

Collectors will be interested to know that a Royal Philatelic Society Certificate has been issued for S.G. 208 used with a double overprint. This is the 1/- value of the 1963 (7th November) New Constitution set.

Only one copy of this variety has been recorded so far.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CIRCUIT - MAY 1839 - CAPE COAST.      K.J. MACRAE

The following is a copy of the Methodist Circuit in 1839 which I found during my searching at the Methodist Missionary Society archives.

Cape Cost	Morie
Annamaboe	Annician
Winnebah	Agoh
Accra	Little Cormantine
Domonassie	Great Cormantine
Yancoomasie	Manquadduie
Ablassang	Doonqua
Edgemahcoon	Mumford by Tantum
Government Gardens	Tantum
Parsons Groom	Lagoe
Mumford	Salt Pond

(Mr. Macrae provided your editor with photostat copies of a War Office 1935 map, revised 1943 and a 1953 map of the Gold Coast).

The missionary area we deal with was a comparatively narrow coastal strip. There is a Dominasi inland of Saltpond on the 1953 map but not on the 1936/43 one. I am interested in Akra - between Saltpond and Winneba which is not Accra by Christiansborg. I think Doonqua in the list may be the Dunkwa inland from Cape Coast on the 1936/43 map since the Dunkwa we are used to is a good way further inland, north of Takoradi.

Of course, spelling changes, even on these maps. For example, Kormantin on the 1953, is not on the 1936/43 at all and is Cormantine on the list. Anamabu (1936/43), Anomabu (1953) near Saltpond which was presumably Annamaboe on the list.

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DUTCH MAIL TRAFFIC PER CAMEL FROM NORTH - TO WEST-AFRICA

Mr. Whitfield has obtained permission for the following article to be re-printed in "CAMEO". This has been translated from the article "Nederlandse post per kameel van Noord - naar West-Afrika" by A.M. Benders in "Nederlansch Maandblad voor Philatelie" Vol 50 Nr 12 Whole Nr 591 December 1973 p 590.

.....

To refresh the memory, besides the colonies in the East and West Indies, the Netherlands had, in former times, another on the Guinea Coast, the "Nederlandse Goudkust" on the coast of West-Africa in what is now Ghana. The colony was taken from the Portuguese in 1673 and was run by the West-Indische Compagnie until 1791, thence by the state, and then made over to Great Britain in 1871 in exchange for Atjeh. (Further historical details were published in the "Maandblad" for April 1933 p 57 ff).

The slave trade naturally formed the basis of the economy, for the slaves were transported direct from the Guinea Coast to Suriname and Curacao. There was little else worthwhile in the colony after the abolition of slavery. During the whole year of 1850, the main settlement St. George d'Elmina was visited by just three Dutch ships.

Mail transport to the Netherlands took place until about August 1860, mostly on board English ships from the neighbouring Gold Coast Colony via London. Official mail from the Governor of the colony to the Netherlands was forwarded by our Consul-General in London, J.W. May. About August 1860 there existed for a short time a direct mail connection between the Guinea Coast and the Netherlands; from May 1870 onwards, British packet boats for Accra also called at Elmina for the delivery and taking on of mails, but this was only a temporary arrangement.

Another way of delivering the mail was tried, using the trans-Sahara caravan routes. In Tripoli in Barbary, in what is now Libya, there was an apparently somewhat enterprising Netherlands' Consul, one Emil Festa, who made attempts to set up this direct overland mail connection. The first trips must have been made before 1850, but there is little evidence in support of this. The first news dates from 1850, for in June of that year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that for the Colonies "a communication had been received from the Netherlands' Consul in Tripoli, in Barbary, in which consideration was given to a new route to the interior lands of Africa, which is to be operated by Mr. J. Richardson and his fellow operators, and by this means the said Consul proved this new route by transmitting a letter to the Governor of the Guinea Coast".

The Colonial Ministry thanked the Foreign Ministry for this information and reported to the effect that with the forwarding of the communication to the Colonial Ministry relating to the intervention of the aforementioned Consul in the transmittal of the letter to the Governor on the Guinea Coast, perhaps Mr. Festa might, at his earliest opportunity, forward further particulars concerning his method of transporting the mails and the frequency thereof.

A copy of this letter was forwarded to the Governor "with the renewed insistence that he prove the viability of the sending of letters via the

land route, with the invitation of this Department, mindful of the necessity that this remarkable method of transmittal and eventual receipt of mails be brought into being".

The reply from the Governor ran "...that the letters which he, on the 10th August and the 22nd October respectively, directed via Mr. J. Richardson of Commassie\* to the Netherlands' Consul in Tripoli in Barbary, on which day were in turn received by him, whilst the aforementioned gentleman had not yet heard and that absolutely no caravans had appeared at that place, Ashanti".

In the second half of 1851 Mr. Festa made further attempts and again sent a letter to the Governor "requesting the same party (the Ministry for the Colonies) to come to a decision regarding the sum of fl. 100 - requested by the said Consul to make good the matter at hand, coupled with the attendant expenses".

The Colonial Ministry informed the Foreign Ministry that, whilst they were mindful of the so far unfortunate results, they were aware that further trials were to be attempted with the fixed expenses to be borne by the Department upon receipt of a relevant declaration by the Consul.

But it is apparent that the attempts were in the end to be crowned with success. In the "Koloniaal Verslag van de Nederlandsche Bezittingen ter Kuste van Guinea over het jaar 1854" it was stated that the "attempts of the Netherlands' Consul at Tripoli, Mr. Emil Festa to send, by means of caravans via Tambuctoe and Saccatoe, letters to Elmina, have in this year, been met with success, and a second attempt from thence to Tripoli, via Albeoctua, was undertaken with the intervention of the missionary Samuel Crouthe". (Details from Algemeen Rijksarchief; Kolonien).

\* Commassie (the present day Kumasi), 200 km inland from the Guinea Coast, was the first large staging post for caravans from Tripoli. A Netherlands' Agent was based here, contracted to purchase slaves from the King of Ashanti. The route from Tripoli to Kumasi is still extant, but nowadays the camels have been replaced by lorries running day and night over the 2500 km route at a maximum speed of 3-35 kph.

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THE DE LA RUE ARCHIVES continuedP.O. BEALETWENTIETH CENTURY GOLD COASTPage 12

10 September 1901. "This 3d plate was used to show the 2d 'open' tablet we were requested to supply, against the shaded tablet we suggested for this new value, because there were 8 shaded already and only 2 open. The CA however felt it might conflict in the colours with the 6d. It was agreed that a colour scheme should be submitted when the plate was complete, and this will be found on the next page". A 3d imperforate plate proof is shown with open tablet, the country and value in black.

Page 13

11 October 01. 5 plate proofs of a 2d value, the 2d in five different colours, all with open tablets. The one chosen marked October 16.

Page 14

19 December 1905. 3 plate proofs for a 2/6 value, showing different shades of orange and yellow. All with doubly fugitive green. De la Rue recommended the orange but a yellow shade was selected on 22.12.05.

Page 15

The 1902 set mint plus the 2/6d dated March 1906.

Page 16

A page of Specimens. 1902 set (Type D 12). 2/6 (Type D9).  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green February 07, 1d red January 07, 2d grey January 09,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  blue January 07, 3d on yellow January 09, 6d purple November 08, 1/- on green June, 2/- on blue August 10, 2/6 May 11, 5/- December 11, 10/- unissued December 11, £1 December 11 (small size Specimen), a 2nd £1, 2/- December 11 (deeper shade with small size Specimen). The first 2/- dated August 10 is single fugitive, the second darker 2/- dated December 11 is doubly fugitive. 1d March 08 (new design), 2/6 May 11.

Page 17

1907 - 13 stamps  $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5/-, the 5/- showing Plate number 2 in circle.

Page 18

November 1908. "A requisition on November 22 07 included an order for a single colour plate for the 1d value. We submitted our suggested

design on December 23, approved December 27". A coloured die proof in red dated December 23 07 and another one in black are shown. A further one marked "Approved for hardening" is dated February 21 07. Also shown is the issued stamp.

Page 19

The George 5th Keyplate issue overprinted Specimen. "The Dies and plates were destroyed on 15 January 1929". Examples of two sizes of War Tax overprints - one penny in black on white paper - are shown: one was approved 15.1.18. 1½d red dated May 22, 2½d orange-yellow May 22, 3d blue March 22, £2 January 21, 15/- January 21.

Page 20

1913 - 23. G5 1d Die Proof in black mared "Passed for hardening to Mr. Hayes 21 April 1913". Then the mint stamps to £1 and the War Tax stamp overprinted Specimen marked "Sent to colony 10.3.21". Above the latter stamp is 'March 1918'.

Page 21

1914. Exploded booklet of ½d and 1d stamps handstamped Specimen in blue diagonally (Type D18). The advertisements are shown.

Page 22

Plate proof Specimens of the issued 1d in blocks of four but in green and in blue. Then 1921 - 25 set to £2: the 3d shows Plate No. 10, the 2½d and 2/- values Plate 11.

Page 23

Postage Due stamps 1923 marked "60 set in 2 workings". ½d 1d 2d 3d chalk surfaced paper. Then 13 December 51 2d and 3d: 8 October 52 6d, 1/- and 3d overprinted Specimen in red (small size), the 3d dated October 22. The 1/- stamp is shown in a block of four from the bottom righthand corner: the two righthand stamps show the diagonal stroke sloping, the two lefthand stamps show it upright.

Page 24

Ghana Postage Due 1 December 58. 1d 2d 3d 6d 1/- each shown in a block of four. Then two Registration Envelope essays both for 1d postage and 2d registration. "These are taken from established dies struck in black in die proof form with country and value hand painted. The designs were not used in the colony".

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Many of the above items were sold by Messrs. Robson Lowe in their sale of November 24 1976. Stamp material not described was also sold. It was not in the Albums and so presumably came from the Correspondence Books or from the volumes of Die Proofs. If a member wished to find out further details of such material, it is probable that those items that came from the Correspondence Books were photostated and placed in pockets alongside the correspondence to which they relate. The writer could help in the location of the items.

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THE GOLD COAST EDWARD VII £1

K.J. MACRAE

The only Edward VII £1 stamp known to have been issued was in the 1902 series (S.G.48), Single Crown CA, perforated 14.

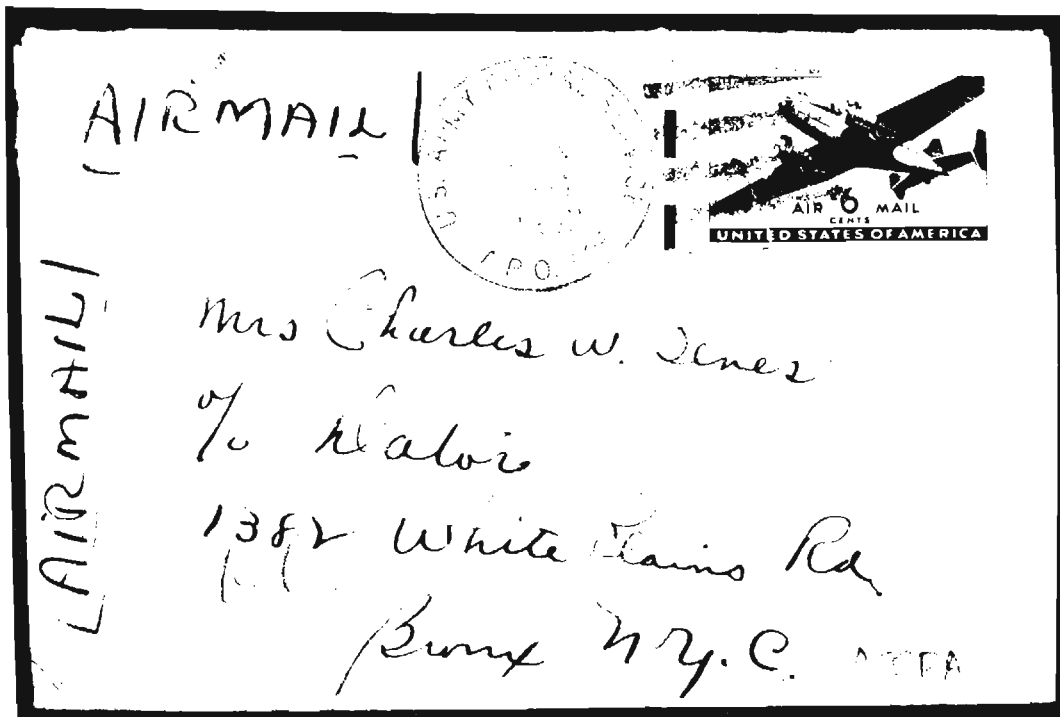
Mrs. Whitfield has recently obtained a £1 stamp ex De La Rue but on paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA and overprinted SPECIMEN. It was affixed to a piece of paper on which De La Rue had simply inscribed "Dec 11".

Query: was it a one-off and thus unique or was it from a sheet?  
Has anyone any information or opinions to offer?

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U.S. ARMY POST OFFICES IN THE GOLD COAST

"Locations and Assignments U.S. Army Post Offices World War II and later" Third Edition - 1973 published by the War Cover Club shows that A.P.O. 606, Miami, located in Accra, opened 25 MY 42 and closed in MR 46. It had a Unit A which opened 12 SP 44 and, presumably, closed with the main A.P.O. 606. Also located in Accra was A.P.O. 625 which opened in JLY 42 and closed 22 MY 45.



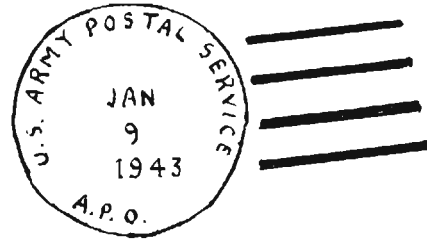
Type 1

Dann Mayo and the editor have been carrying out research into these A.P.O.'s so that types of cancels employed can be noted and first and last dates recorded. Varying censor devices were employed but it is not intended to record them in this article.

It should be noted that only A.P.O. 606 has been seen as a postmark. A.P.O. 625 seems to exist only as an endorsement on the envelope.



Type 1



Type 2

Type 1 is a single circle, 31 mm in diameter. It has a three-line date with A.P.O. 606 at the bottom.

E.R.D. MY 42

L.R.D. 17 AUG 42

Type 1a is similar but has a four-line date with P.M. added. Examples seen are not clear so need checking. Both written from A.P.O. 606.

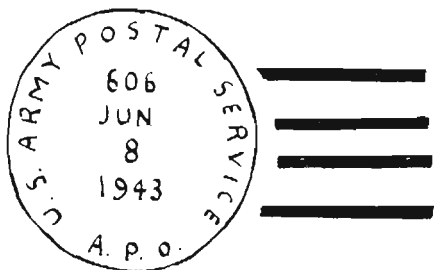
E.R.D. 14 AUG 42

L.R.D. 18 AUG 42

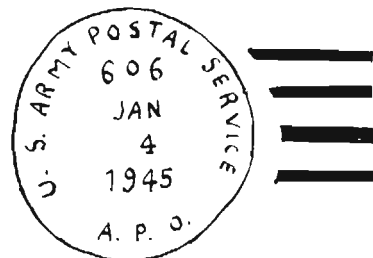
Type 2 is the same as Type 1 but "606" is missing. This type can only be recognised from the endorsement on the envelope.

E.R.D. 16 DEC 42

L.R.D. 30 APR 43



Type 3



Type 3b

Type 3 measures 33 mm diameter with 606 above a three-line date.

E.R.D. 10 MY 43

L.R.D. 19 MY 44

Type 3a is 31.5 mm in diameter. "A.P.O." at the bottom is slightly left of centre.

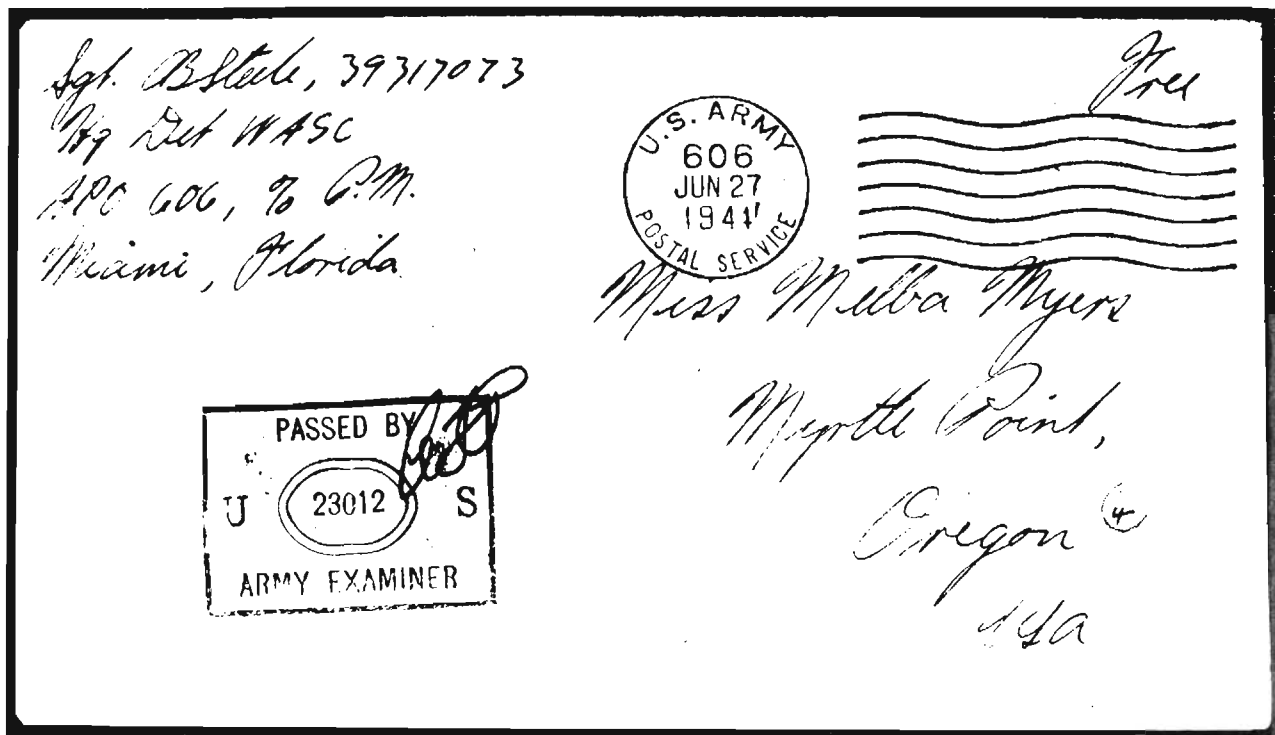
E.R.D. 27 JLY 43

L.R.D.

Type 3b has a slightly oval date-stamp 34 x 31.5 mm.

E.R.D. 4 JAN 45

L.R.D.



#### Type 4

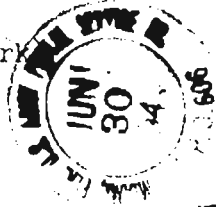
Type 4. Possibly the most common, this is a machine cancellation, the single circle date-stamp being 24 mm in diameter.

E.R.D. 25 AUG 43

L.R.D. 7 JLY 45



Finally, the editor has a printed postcard illustrated below.

APO <u>606</u>	Date of Dispatch _____	194_	Fr. No _____
Please postmark and return this card indicating date and hour received at your office.			
M.E.A.P.O.			
-----			
Date received	<u>6-30-44</u>		
Hour	<u>0800 AM</u>		
A P O	<u>606</u>		
<u>C.P.M.</u>	 <u>B.S.F.</u>		

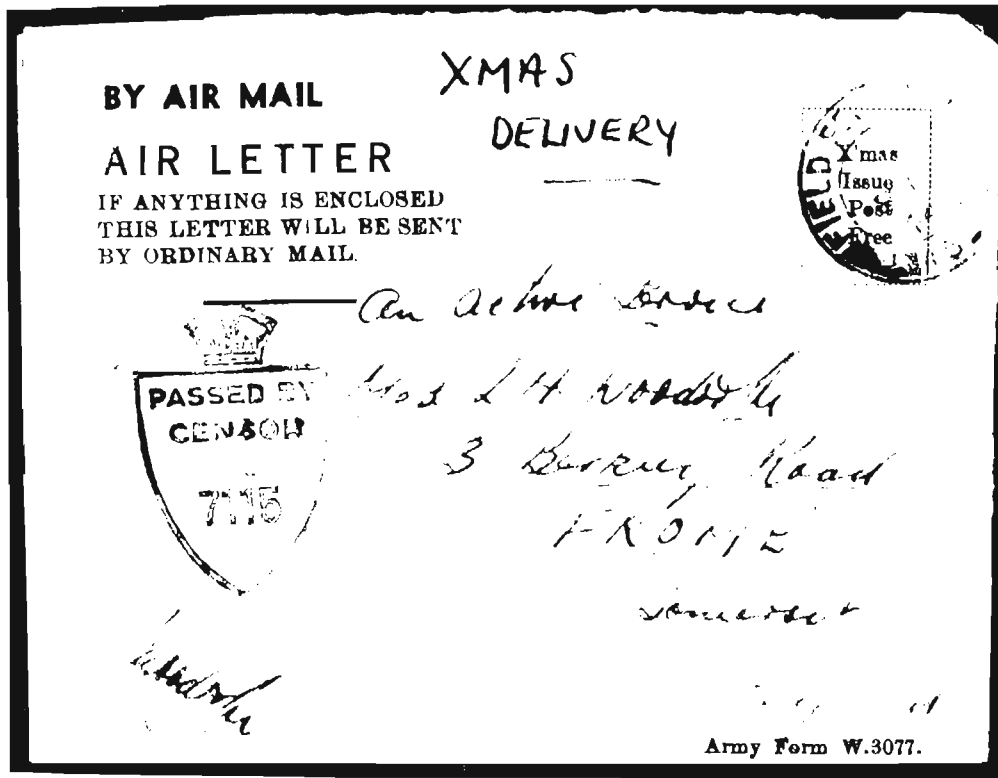
This seems to have been sent to A.P.O. 606 to check the transit time. It has a purple double circle date-stamp "MIAMI, FLA. U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE A.P.O. 606" dated JUN 30 1944. The card was returned to the Miami Embarkation Army Post Office.

GOLD COAST - XMAS ISSUE AIR LETTER

Mr. Jones has shown your Editor this Air Letter with the wording "Xmas Issue Post Free".

Written at Elmina, it has been postmarked F.P.O. 45 on November 8th, 1944.

This was part of the Woodroffe correspondence and writer states that "This is a special issue for Xmas".



Presumably this issue was available in the other West African colonies. Have members seen any other examples?

THE LAGOS POST OFFICE, 1876.

Mr. Ince has come across the following notice in Payne's Lagos & West African Almanack & Diary of 1882.

P O S T A L   N O T I C E

Much inconvenience having been experienced at the Post Office by the sale of Postage Stamps on Mail-days, it is hereby notified that stamps will not be issued at the time of closing the Mails and that all letters etc., should be presented stamped (excepting those intended to be forwarded unpaid).

Letters can be Posted at the Office window (doors open or not) a letter box being placed there for the convenience of the Public with the words "Letter Box" in bold characters.

By Order

W.E. Cole    Postmaster

Post Office, Lago. 10th May, 1876.

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SIERRA LEONE PRE-CANCELSJ.J. MARTIN

Page 154 of "CAMEO 7" refers. Illustrated is part of a local cover from Sherbro to Freetown franked with  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d stamps of the 1884 issue, the stamps overprinted SHERBRO.

Unfortunately, the top right of the cover is missing and this almost certainly included additional stamps.

