



# SIPA

## Bulletin

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QUARTERLY

C.E.F 20

CENSORED 29  
COVERS

Editorial.

### Why catch them 'Young' only Why not old also?

It is usually told to "catch them young", whenever one is selected to impart a good habit. It may be due to the idea that young minds once get into a thing will hold it long and strong. Yea, it may be right, it may be correct but my suggestion is when it is to spread the hobby of Stamp Collecting why not "catch them old" also.

In this world, in our society, in our homes, there are quite a few people, senior citizens, retired from active service or vocation having lot of time at their disposal and at the same time want to do something. Some of them are leading lonely life, without having a time passing hobby like reading, painting etc., and they can be effectively persuaded to come into the hobby and get the benefit of it by spending sometime enjoyably.

In this endeavor we have one advantage. Many people of this category may have a little financial freedom to bring out a small budget towards this exercise. Moreover, such people shall be in a position to take a decision by themselves rather when we try to 'catch them young' invariably we have to convince their parents and elders who are guiding them or in charge of their life and career.

A few of such seniors may have some ailment nagging them in their day to day life, like knee pain, back pain, mild headaches etc.,. Such pains can be easily tide over once they immerse them in stamp collecting. In real life, I know a person who was a cancer patient struggling with pain most part of the day, used to forget the pain whenever some of his philatelic friends visit him, sit with him and talk about stamps and philately. Later his son started to call those friends to come and be with him 'Chit chat' about philately and so his doctors included this activity also as part of palliative care. Such is the real power of this hobby.

So, senior members can include in their agenda of "creating awareness of the hobby and bringing people in its fold" catching the old also along with young ones.

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### TATA SONS FIRST FLIGHT -1932 ( Pioneering Airlines ) N. Kishore Agrawal, Patna.

As every-body knows that India has the unique distinction of being the first country in the world to carry an official air posts from Allahabad to Naini on 18th February, 1911 when a French pilot M. Pequet took up in his German aircraft, 6500 letters and cards.

Before 1936, several historical pioneer flights had taken place. The covers or cards which were carried on these early flights are considered to be the fore-runners of the modern Indian Flight covers.

With the help of Naville Vintcent, a Daredevil English man, Tata Airlines was launched in a single English Piper by Mr. J.R.D. Tata in October, 1932. This was the start of the commercial Internal Air Transport in India.

Tata Sons Ltd. began Karachi-Ahmedabad-Bombay-Bellary-Madras Mail Service to connect with Imperial Airways London-Karachi service. The First Service carried mail which had left London on 8th October, 1932.

For the first Flight a special cover was designed by Dr. Stephen H. Smith. 2000 of these covers were printed on 15th August, 1932 but their sale in India was stopped eleven days later as objections were raised to a Union Jack printed on the cover. A revised version of the cover without the Union Jack was put on sale.

A special cachet reading "KARACHI - MADRAS 15TH OCTOBER 1932 FIRST AIRMAIL" was used. The different special covers were used on each of the ten stages of the outward flight and also of the return flight. A special circular cancellation reading "MADRAS - KARACHI AIRMAIL" was used.



# STAMP NEWS

## 100 YEARS OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S RETURN

08.01.2015                      500,2500                      0.9 mill each

Mahatma Gandhi was a great man, a visionary, a person of extraordinary moral and physical-courage.

Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893 as a newly qualified lawyer, on a temporary assignment, to act on behalf of a local Indian trader in a commercial dispute. However, by the time he left South Africa for the last time in 1914, he had already earned the appellation, 'Mahatma' (or Great Soul) for his work in securing significant legal concessions for the local Indian population in south Africa.



During his time in South Africa, he also developed the strategy known as Satyagraha (truth - force), in which campaigners went on peaceful marches and presented themselves for arrest in protest against unjust laws. This passive resistance or Satyagraha was born and evolved in South Africa before coming to India and eventually, the world. This form of action became one of the greatest political tools of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Gandhiji's stay in South Africa proved to be an important phase in his path to becoming a leading political figure of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

On 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1915, Gandhiji returned to India, where he supported the Home Rule movement, and became leader of the Indian National Congress, advocating the policy of non - violence, non - cooperation to achieve independence. He was unique in his leadership style and his ability to draw the Indian masses into the freedom struggle.

Theme : Gandhiji, Leaders, Freedom Struggle.

## BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP)

22.01.2015                      500                      0.5 mill

Gender composition of the human population is one of the basic demographic characteristics, which is extremely vital for any meaningful demographic analysis.

Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population, is an important social

indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time.

The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), in India has been unabated since 1961. The CSR has alarmingly declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and to 918 in 2011. The issue of declining child sex Ratio is a major indicator of women disempowerment. Social construct discriminating against girls on the one hand, easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools on the other hand, have been critical in increasing gender - biased sex selection of girls leading to low Child Sex Ratio.



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative was announced by the Government for implementation through a national campaign and focused multi sectoral action in 100 selected districts low in CSR, covering all States and UTs.

This would involve multi - sectoral action, multi departmental action in the 100 identified districts to lay focus on strict enforcement of Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act), retention of girls in secondary schools, availability of functional toilets, capacity - building & sensitization of government officials concerned, grassroot functionaries and elected representatives, and promotion of early registration of pregnancy, institutional deliveries and registration of birth registration and creating gender champions at local level.

Theme : Children, Girls, Culture, Society.

## SWACHH BHARAT

30.01.15                      500 x 3                      0.5 mill

India is an emerging economic powerhouse and global leader and continues to be one of the largest economies in the world. The rapid growth and the accompanying increase in greenhouse gas emissions raise national concerns about climate change. Urban lifestyles have a huge impact on the environment. Every action has a carbon footprint associated with it. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that carbon emissions are assessed and measures to promote a greener low carbon lifestyle are devised and followed.





Beyond carbon concerns, other challenges including land use, transportation bottlenecks, and local air pollution are strong drivers for diversification of supply away from conventional sources of energy like coal, especially through renewable energy. While the regulatory authorities continue to play their role, programmes that are community based are required to be put in place to deal with the situation we find ourselves in. These will help the community as a whole to understand local issues and take necessary initiatives to improve the local environmental conditions and come - up with locale - specific initiatives to improve the surrounding environmental conditions.

Sanitation is now universally recognized as a major proximate determinant for health indicators. The impacts on human health of poor sanitation and unhygienic practices is significant. The challenge that India, with its large population, size & different hydro - geological regions faces in the area of sanitation, is enormous.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014 the Swachh Bharat Mission, a mass movement, that sought to create a Clean India was launched. While launching the Swachh Bharat Mission the Prime Minister on India urged everyone to devote at least hundred hours every year, that is two hours every week, towards cleanliness. The Mission seeks to achieve an Open Defecation Free India by 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019. The Swachh Bharat mission has two sub - missions - Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Theme : Environment, Health, Pollutions.

## PROJECT RUKMANI

14.02.2015                      500                      0.50 mill

Indian Navy's tryst with a dedicated Defence communication satellite began on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 with the successful launch of GSAT - 7 by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from French Guiana under the project christened "Project Rukmani". With this landmark event, Indian Navy joined the elite group of Navies that possess the capability to conduct operations using dedicated communication satellites.



The evolutionary journey of Project Rukmani began on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 when the Indian Navy and ISRO entered into a cooperation with each other to realise a comprehensive indigenous Satellite Communication (SATCOM) capability that is not only secure but also covers the Primary Area of Interest in the Maritime domain. The launch of the GSAT -7 Satellite (space segment) all eleven transponders underwent 'In Orbit Testing' (IOT) leading to successful migration of the naval units to the GSAT - 7 domain in December 2013. The reach of GSAT - 7 has had a profound impact on the tempo of naval operations which was amply visible in the theatre level exercise.

Rukmani provides a multi - band SATCOM

capability on UHF, S, C and Ku to surface, sub - surface and air assets of Indian Navy in various combinations. With this capability, near real time communication is feasible over voice, video and data applications.

Whilst Project Rukmani has heralded Indian Navy into a new era of indigenous SATCOM communications, When the full capability is realised, the impact will be that of a true force multiplier.

Theme : Satellites Technology, Astrophilately.

## INDIAN OCEAN AND RAJENDRA CHOLAI

20.03.2015                      500                      0.6 mill

The Indian Ocean is the third largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering approximately 20 per cent of the water on the Earth's surface.



The world's earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, and the Indian subcontinent developed around Indian Ocean. During the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries C.E. Intensive trade relations developed between Roman, Egyptian and the Tamil Kingdoms in southern India. In 1497 Portuguese navigator Vasco Da Gama was the first European to sail to India. European ships dominated trade which was reinforced in 1869 after the opening of Suez Canal. In 1971 the UN General Assembly declared Indian Ocean a zone of peace by resolution 2823.

The Coronation of Rajendra Chola I in 1014 C.E. was an epoch making event in the history of the Indian subcontinent, and an important and bright chapter in the glorious history of Indian Ocean. Son of the great Rajaraja Chola I, King Rajendra is credited with expanding the Chola Empire.

Cross cultural linkages between India and the erstwhile empires and contemporary nations of the South east Asia and Far East can be traced back to the vast Chola Empire which was at the pinnacle of its glory during the reign of Emperor Rajendra Chola I, whose writ and supreme dominance extended beyond India to empires which accepted his suzerainty consequent to his successful and heroic naval exploits.

Theme : History, Maritime, Kings & Queens, Leader's, Ships

## ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED

27.03.2015                      500                      0.65mill

Engineers India Limited (EIL) was incorporated as a private limited company under the name 'Engineers India Private Limited' in New Delhi on March 15, 1965 under the Companies Act in accordance with a formation agreement dated November 20, 1964 and a memorandum of



agreement dated June 27, 1964 between the Government of India (Go) and Bechtel International corporation (BIC). In May 1967, EIL became a wholly - owned Go enterprise. In 1996, the Government of India disinvested approximately 6.0% of its shareholding in EIL and EIL became a public listed company.



Engineers India Ltd (EIL) is one of the leading design and engineering organizations in South Asia and has been providing engineering consultancy and engineering procurement and construction (EPC) services principally focused on the oil & gas and petrochemical industries.

EIL has two Subsidiaries - Certification Engineers International Limited (CEIL), providing services in the field of certification, re-certification, third party inspection services, and EIL Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd. (EILAP), Malaysia, primarily engaged in the business of providing technical services for projects in oil and gas and other industrial sectors. EIL has a sophisticated research and development center at Gurgaon, Haryana.

The EIL has also established two strategic Joint Ventures;

- i) TEIL Projects Limited with Tata Projects Limited for pursuing projects in oil & gas, fertilizers, steel, railways, power, infrastructure etc., and,
- ii) Jabal ELIOT Co Ltd, with Jabal Dhahran of Saudi Arabia and IOTL to pursue business opportunities in hydrocarbon and infrastructure sector in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Among the milestone projects executed by EIL are the world's longest deck on single jacket for SHG Platform of ONGC, Jamnagar, Loni Pipeline of GAIL, and the recently completed 9 MMTPA Guru Gobind Singh Refinery of HMEL, which has also set various industry benchmarks in terms of project execution.

EIL has leveraged its strong track record to successfully expand its operations internationally and has earned recognition for jobs executed in several countries of Middle East, Africa and South East Asia. Most of the major oil & gas companies in these regions have utilized EIL's services for their projects.

In recognition of its stellar role in shaping the energy blueprint of the country, EIL has been conferred the prestigious "Navratna" status by the Government of India.

Theme : Engineering, Industry, Economy, Infrastructure.

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(Courtesy: India Post - Information Sheets)

## CHINA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

P. M. MEDHORA

The Indian Army and the Indian Army Postal Service have played a meritorious role and there lies a long and interesting history behind the brave army contingents and the Army Postal Service. The Indian Army and the Army Postal Service have served in far off places like Persia, China, Far East and the Middle East and in all such expeditions or campaigns they played a prominent part.

In the year 1900 the foreign legations at Peking experienced lot of difficulties and as such their life was in danger. In the month of June, 1900 a relief force was sent but it did not reach Peking as the secret societies operating in China were all powerful. A number of European missionaries were massacred but in spite of it the then Chinese Government did nothing to curb the rebels, it will be interesting to go through some of the extracts from the 1st Sikh Infantry on this episode.

Extracts from the 1st Sikh Infantry :

"On June 10th Admiral Sir E. Seymours Expedition left Tientsin by train to try and get through to Peking. This expedition consisted of 950 British and detachments of other nations. This force got no farther than Yangstun where it was employed for sometime repairing the Railway Line during which it was several times attacked by Boxers and by Imperial Troops. On June 16th the Dowager Empress issued orders for the destruction of the Legations and the murder of foreigners.

By June 15th Tientsin City was in the hands of the Boxers, the Railway was cut on both sides of admiral Seymours force, Which was forced to retire on Tientsin. After fighting an action at Peitsang on June 21st this force was met on the 25th by a Russian relief column and reached Tientsin on June 26th. For several weeks after this there were attacks on the European Settlement at Tientsin and intermittent snelling and snipping.

On June 18th the Taku forts were captured, and on the 24th the Legations in Peking were besieged.

On the 19th of June orders were received to mobilize (orders to Mobilize for Service in China) the regiment as part of the Force proceeding to China. The Principal object of the contingent in connection with that of contingents of other forces being the relief of the Ministers who were besieged in their residences in Peking.

The following countries sent contingents, Russia, Japan, United States, Germany, France, England, Austria and Italy.

On the 28th of June the regiment marched out. Strength : 8 British officers, 61 native officers, 31 havildars, 33 naiks, 647 sepoys, 1 hospital assistant. This included 1 native officer, 2 havildars, 2 naiks and 32 sepoys from the 3rd Sikhs in place of furlough men not returned.

On the 29th of June the regiment entrained in two



trains at Kushalgarh and arrived at Calcutta on the 6th of July having halted at Assansole for two days.

On the 6th of July 2nd Lieutenant J. L. Costello joined the regiment from the 5th Bengal Infantry.

On the 29th of June Major T. E. Scott, D.S.O. 3rd Sikhs, was attached to the regiment temporarily for the expedition.

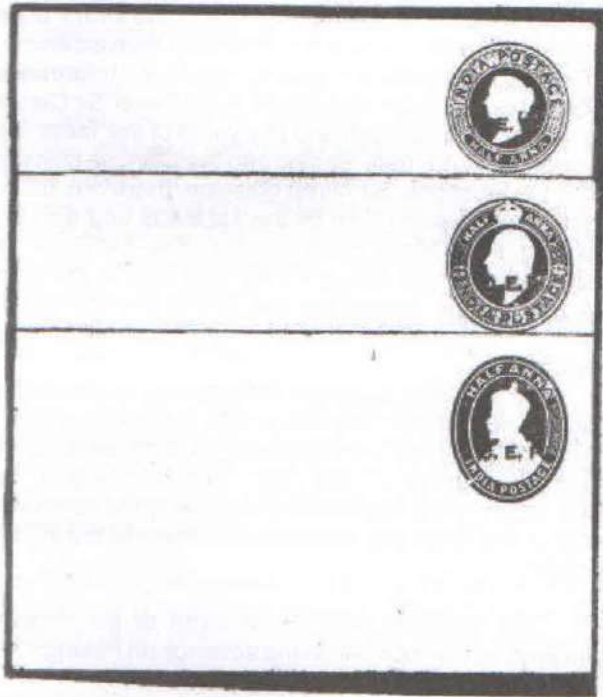
On the 22nd of June Captain W. H. Kenrick, I.M.S. joined the regiment as Medical Officer.

On the 19th of July Lieutenant A.T.S. Dickinson joined the regiment at Hong Kong from the 16th Madras Infantry.

On the 6th of July the Right Wing under command of Major Dobbin embarked on the Hired Transport Nawab, and sailed the same afternoon, arrived at Taku anchorage on the 26th of July, there it embarked on a river steamer in which it went to Hsin Ho, the English landing stage, and on the 28th sailed to Tientsin.

On the 7th of July the Headquarters and Left Wing embarked on the Hired Transport Warora and reached Tientsin on the 29th of July. The only casualties on the voyage were two mules.

The regiment halted at Tientsin till the 4th of August, whilst preparations were made for the advance on Peking. The great difficulty was carriage, and finally arrangements were made for most of the stores to be sent up the Pei Ho as far as Tangchow, from which place the final advance on Peking was made.



During this time troops were daily arriving. The Russian and Japanese contingents were complete. The English and United States' Contingents were nearly so,

'but few troops of the other contingents were present. The great want was cavalry and when it arrived, the horses were so soft from the voyage that they were of little use.

The position and numbers of the Chinese Army were fairly well known and the Japanese made two or three reconnaissances to verify the information received. Finally it was found that their position was at Peytsang, about ten miles west on the Pei Ho, strongly entrenched and owing to inundations hard to attack except from the south across the river which was bridged at Peytsang only.

The plan of attack adopted was that the Japanese, English and United States' forces should advance along the right bank of the Pei Ho, and the Russians and other small contingents along the railway line north of the river. The heavy artillery being posted near the Hsiku arsenal and shelling the position from there.

The English contingent marched on the 4th of August to Hsiku arsenal and bivouacked behind a high embankment that night.

The regiment was part of the 1st Bridge commanded by Major-General Sir N. R. Stewart. This consisted of the 7<sup>th</sup> Rajputs, 1<sup>st</sup> Sikhs and 24<sup>th</sup> Punjab Infantry (the fourth Regiment the 26th Baluchis not having yet arrived.)

The regiment marched out under Lieutenant Colonel Pollock, Strength : Eight British Officers Lieutenant-Colonel Pollock, Major Dobbin, Major Batrati D.S.O. Major Scott, D.S.O. Lieutenant Bainbridge, Lieutenant Knapp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Costello, Captain Kenrick, I.M.S. 12 native officers and five hundred rank and file.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August the Bridge fell in at 2 A.M. and after waiting two hours till the Japanese contingent had taken its place in advance, it moved off under cover of the embankment. At 5 A.M. it came under a heavy rifle and artillery fire. The original intention had been for the Japanese to move on and envelope the enemy's right, the English to attack the centre and the Americans the left. The brunt of the fighting would have fallen on the English troops, which were to have been led by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sikhs. But owing to the Chinese attacking the Japanese as they passed their left flank, the Japanese swung round to their right, and the English and United States troops became a second line. About 5-30 A.M. the regiment was ordered to advance and reinforce the Japanese. It was difficult to know what was going on as the advance was principally through millet crops fourteen feet high and the consequence was that the regiment was soon split up into detachments and got divided. At 10 A.M. the position was carried by the Japanese and the regiment having assembled marched through Peytsang and halted till 3 P.M. The casualties in the regiment were : 1 Naik killed, 1 Subadar and 1 Lance-naik slightly wounded, 1 Havildar, 1 Lance-naik and 1 Sepoy severely wounded. Not a shot had been fired by the regiment.

In the afternoon the regiment and two squadrons of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bengal Lancers moved out and bivouacked 3-½



miles north-west on the railway line. Here it was found that we were in touch with the Russians whose pickets dressed in white were visible to our front. The Chinese had been defeated at every point and had finally made a hasty retreat. The want of cavalry was now badly felt, a brigade now would have been invaluable. The general impression was that the Chinese would make a stand at Yangstan, but the information was not very reliable and it was thought that as they had lost heavily at Petyasang they might be too demoralized to stand again. The Japanese had lost 300 killed and wounded and the Chinese had probably lost the same.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August the regiment at 6 A.M. the two squadrons 1st Bengal Lancers moving on to reconnoitre. On the march to-day the Japanese advanced by the right bank of the river, the English and United States by the left bank; English nearest the river but in line with United States troops. A few French troops were also on this side, but they did not arrive in time for the fight. In advance were some Russian Cossacks and a few Japanese cavalry. About four miles from Yangstan information was received that it was held and on arriving on some hills 5,000 yards off, the position and troops could be clearly seen, also Russian, Japanese and 1st Bengal Cavalry picquets in front which were drawing the enemy's fire. The Russians had advanced to within 400 yards of the enemy's right but could go no further, and it was necessary to reinforce them quickly.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sikhs and 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S.A. formed the firing line and the 24<sup>th</sup> Punjab Infantry and Welsh Fusiliers formed the English second line. The day was a very hot one and no water was procurable, so the troops were tired and thirsty before they advanced. The leading companies extended to ten paced interval and the regiment advanced in five lines. Soon after starting the American regiment began to close to the left and the two regiments finally became mixed together all along the line.

The English battery No. 12 Royal Field Artillery took up a position on the left and was afterwards joined by two Russian batteries, the U.S.A. Battery taking up position on the right. The Chinese had about 18 guns in action, and under fire of these and of the Chinese troops lining the railway embankment and village the advance was made over a sandy, plain from three thousand to four thousand yards long with a few high crops interspersed about it. The advance was a rapid one and the Chinese did not wait to be charged but left their position and retired on Yangtsan through the high crops.

The 1st Sikhs and the 14th Regiment, U.S.A. charged together and cleared the whole position, the second line coming up about four hundred yards behind them. The British and American forces halted short of the Railway Bridge and the Russians took up the pursuit.

The total number of killed and wounded at Yangtsan in the British forces were : killed 6, wounded 42, of which the regiment lost 4 sepoy killed, 1 officer, 2nd Lieutenant Costello dangerously wounded, 3 sepoy dangerously wounded, 14 sepoy severely wounded, 3 sepoy slightly wounded. It will thus be seen that the brunt

of the fighting fell on the 1st Sikhs.

In Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Gaselee's despatch No. 36-S dated the 19th of August 1900, published in the London Gazette dated 6th of November 1900, the names of the following officers are mentioned for distinguishing themselves at Yangtsan :-

Major T. E. Scott, D.S.O., 1st Sikh Infantry.  
Lieutenant W. F. Bainbridge, 1st Sikh Infantry  
On the 7th the allies halted to bring up supplies and sent back the wounded by boat.

On the 8th the march was continued. The Japanese in advance, the Russians next then the United States' Army, and the English Army, brought up the rear. This order was maintained till the arrival of the forces at Tangchow on the 12th of August.

A conference was there held and it was decided to send forward strong reconnoitering forces on the 13th to concentrate on a line, about 5 miles from Peking on the 14th, and attack on the 15th. The positions of several forces were assigned, the Japanese on the right, then the Russians, Americans and on the extreme left the English. On the 14th, however, owing to the Russians moving ahead and attacking the city, sudden orders were issued to move at 1-30 A.M. and at 3-30 A.M. the force marched. The day was hot, the roads were bad, and led through high millet crops. As the attack of the Japanese and Russians had commenced before our arrival at the Shahua Gate of the Chinese City at 1 P.M. the Chinese troops had been drawn northwards to the wall of the Tartar City, consequently the English force led by the 7th Rajputs and the 24th Punjab Infantry with the 1st Sikhs in reserve entered the city without opposition. The 7th Rajputs were then ordered to cover the right flank and the 24th Punjab Infantry was ordered to take the Temple of Heaven and the 1st Sikhs thus became the leading regiment. Information had been previously received from our Minister Sir Claude Macdonald that a hundred and fifty yards of the Tartar City wall, over the sluice gate leading into the Chinese city, was held by the legations. Sir Alfred Gaselee, therefore, taking his escort which was given by the 1st Sikhs and also fifty more men under Major Scott, moved off and entered the legation by this gate about 3 P.M. The rest of the force marched on and turned up the street leading to the Chinmen, having a slight skirmish on the way with some of the enemy.

On the 16th Lieutenant Knapp and a hundred rifles joined a mixed force which was sent to Rescue the French garrison and Roman Catholic priests and convents at the Peytang Cathedral. ; On the 19th of August the Headquarters of the regiment was moved to the southwest quarter of the Tartar city and remained there till the 27th of April 1901.

The following was the strength of the different contingents which took part in the advance on Peking:-

10,000	Japanese with 24 guns
4,000	Russians with 16 guns
3,000	British with 12 guns
2,000	U.S.A. with 6 guns



2,000	U.S.A. with 6 guns
800	French with 12 guns
200	Germans
100	Austrians and Italians.
Total 20,100	with 70 guns

The time now was spent in housing the men and animals and preparing for the severe winter, also a very large amount of fatigue work was done in collecting stores, wood, etc., and numerous Boxer houses had to be visited and property had to be sent to the prize godown to prevent the Chinese looting them. The city was now divided up amongst the different contingents to allow of efficient policing.

On the 14th of September, an explosion of gunpowder took place at Tangchow whilst it was being destroyed, and ten men of the regiment lost their lives and another was also burned slightly.

On the same day (14th of September) Captain Cooper and a detachment of 150 rifles joined in a combined move on Pa-Ta-Chu, the place where the Corps Diplomatique had their summer residences, which had been destroyed by the Boxers. A concentrated attack was made on it by English, American, German and Japanese troops and the Boxers were quickly dispersed, a few being killed. The column returned on the 18th of September.

On the 27th of August detachments from all the contingents paraded at the five bridges south of the forbidden city, and then marched through it. The regiment sent a detachment of two British officers, two native officers and fifty rank and file.

On the 2nd of October the detachment from Tientsin joined headquarters.

On the 12th of October a detachment of four British officers and two hundred rank and file under Major Dobbin marched with an expedition at Paoting Fu. The force consisted of French, German, Italian and British troops, the Peking column being under the command of Sir Alfred Gaselee. The object of the expedition was to release some Europeans and punish the officials principally implicated in some murders. This was successfully done and the expedition returned to Peking on the 6th of November.

On the 15th of October a detachment of one British officer and sixty rank and file was sent to garrison the Summer Palace. On the 20th of November this was increased to ninety and on the 12th of December to a hundred and ten men.

On the 16th of November Captain C. H. Davies 3rd Sikhs, Lieutenant H. Campbell, Queen's Own Corps of Guides and a draft of two native officers and ninety-eight rank and file joined from India including one native officer, three non-commissioned officers of the 4th Sikhs and one native officer of the 3rd Sikhs.

On the 21st instant, Captain C. H. Davies, two native officers and eighty-eight rank and file left for Matao

and remained there till the 24th of May 1901.

Orders were received at the Depot in the end of November to raise a hundred extra recruits for the regiment.

The cold during the winter months was very intense, the thermometer at night being sometimes at zero. Fire-places and stoves were placed in all the barracks and cooking-ranges were built and washing-houses also, for the men. Coal was used instead of wood and in a short time the men preferred cooking with it. The cold months were from November to February; all this time snow lay on the ground.

The health of the men was excellent, much better than in India. They received extra food and extra clothing which may have accounted for this to a certain extent.

There was an absence of malarial fever and pneumonia and Northern China appears to be a healthy country.

On the 27th of April 1901 the headquarters of the regiment marched to the Summer Palace, No. 11 Double Company being left in Peking for duty. On the 13th of June the headquarters marched to Peking and encamped in the Temple of Heaven; the Peking detachment marched into camp on the 14th.

On the 13th of June Captain Kenrick, I.M.S. left to join his own regiment, the 4th Punjab infantry, and Lieutenant J. N. Walker, I.M.S. joined the regiment.

On the 15th of June the regiment proceeded by train to Hsinho and there embarked on three ships which reached Wei-Hai-Wei on the 17th, 18th and 21st of June. Here the regiment went into camp and although it was the month of June, it was quite cool and pleasant.

On the regiment leaving the 1st Brigade China Field Force the following order was published by Major-General Sir N. R. Stewar, Bart.

In wishing the 1st Sikhs farewell and a pleasant and safe voyage to India. Major General Sir. Norman Stewart cannot allow them to leave without thanking Colonel Pollock, the officer, British and native, and all ranks for the loyal manner in which they have always performed their duties both in the Field and Quarters. The conduct of the regiment has been excellent and every man can look back to his stay in China with pride; to have had the regiment under his command will always be referred to by General Stewart with similar pride.

On the 18th of July, Captain Cooper and 'F' company embarked on the Hired Transport Mathra for Calcutta, and reached Kohat on the 6th of August.

On the 16th of July the rest of the regiment embarked on the Hired Transport Hai Ching and arrived at Calcutta on the 4th of August and on the 16th of August arrived at Kohat.



In the London Gazette of May 14th, 1901, Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Gaselee's despatch No. 198-S dated the 17th of January 1901 was published. The following extracts are noted :-

"Lieutenant Bainbridge was the first to occupy this bridge (the one leading to the Chinmen) with a small party of the 1st Sikhs and he remained in an exposed position holding a Union Jack to attract the notice of the Legation defenders occupying a portion of the wall to the east who for a short time failed to recognize our men and were firing on them".

1st Sikhs

"Lieutenant - Colonel J. A. H. Pollock is an officer of high merit. His regiment under his leading distinguished itself at Yangtsun and at the taking of Peking.

"Captain and Brevet-Major W. C. Barratt D.S.O. Captain H. A. Cooper. Lieutenant W.F. Bainbridge. Subedar - Major Hira Singh" In the London rewards were given for the operations in China:-

To be Brevet-Colonel with effect from the 29th of November 1900, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. H. Pollock, Indian Staff Corps.

To be Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Lieutenant W. F. Bainbridge Indian Staff Corps.

To be a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Captain and Brevet - Major T. E. Scott, D. S. O. Indian Staff Corps.

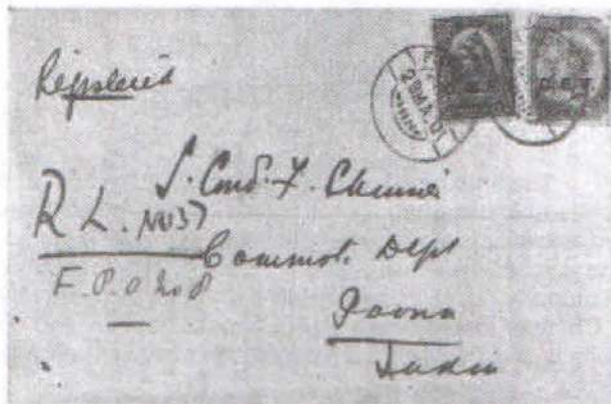
By G. G. O. No. 659 dated the 19th of July 1901 Subedar-Major Hira Singh was promoted to the First Class of the Order of British India" for his services in China.

The following were the total casualties during the campaign

Killed in action	..	..	5
Died of wounds	..	..	1
Killed accidentally (due to an explosion)	..	..	
Wounded severely	..	..	19
Wounded slightly	..	..	7
Wounded severely (1 British Officer)	..	..	1
Entries into hospital	..	..	296

Field Post Offices :

In the book on Indian Army Post Offices; written by Brig. D. S., Virk it is stated, "Our record of proper Field post offices begins with the Persian Expeditionary Force of 1856-58 soon after the Indian Post Office was organised as a separate national department, though post offices of sorts may have accompanied earlier British-Indian expeditions sent out from India. Up to the end of the first World War, FPOs were small self-contained units of the Posts and Telegraphs Department attached to the Army for the duration of their missions."



The expeditionary force sent to China was fairly large, it was decided to send a postal staff to operate in the various Field Post Offices. To begin with about twelve field post offices were opened but as further reinforcements were sent on this expedition to China further field post offices at other points were opened. For the field post offices to work efficiently the first Base Office was opened at Liu-kung-tao but after some time it was shifted to Hong Kong. A Base Office was also opened at Tientsin which used index letter 'B' and the other base office at Tongku with index letter 'C'. Nearly twenty field post offices operated as under:-

F.P.O.	Nos. 1, 2 and 7 at Pekin
"	No. 3 at Tungchoo
"	Nos. 4 and 18 at Tientsin of which
"	No. 4 was an advanced base.
"	Nos. 5, 6, 8 and 10 at Shanghai
"	No. 9 at Tyangtsun
"	No. 11 at Sinho
"	No. 12 at Hoshiwa
"	No. 13 at Liu-kung-tao
"	No. 14 and 15 at Shankaikwan
"	No. 16 at Chingwangtao
"	No. 17 at Weihaiwei

As conditions improved and the presence of too big a contingent was not required the number of field post offices were accordingly reduced.

Postal despatches and letters were carried by small steam lines and arrangements were also made requesting all merchant vessels to carry mails as far as Shanghai. At the outset a supply of British Indian stamps was sent with the field post offices but for some reasons it was not possible to use them. However, many Indian stamps are known to have been used without the overprint C.E.F. and the covers bearing Indian stamps without the C.E.F. overprint used from the above (any) field post offices are hard to obtain.

A via-media was arrived at and the Indian stamps from 3 pies to Re. 1 denominations were overprinted with the letters C.E.F., indicating China Expeditionary Force with an explicit order that these overprinted stamps must be sold to persons on expeditionary duty. The postage rates were the same as those prevailing in India and the postage to India was also reckoned in India and the



postage to India was also reckoned at the Indian inland rate. This simplified the work to a great extent.

It will be interesting to note the total number of stamps overprinted and also the number of Stamps sold. As per Robson Lowe's Encyclo-paedia Part III here is the list:-

#### Queen Victoria stamps -1900

Denomination	No. Overprinted	No. Sold
3 pies	331,520	247,659
½ anna	420,480	373,784
1 anna	221,640	219,310
1 anna	29,720	7,4711
2 annas	39,680	29,846
2 annas	27,040	20,909
3 annas	22,800	18,141
4 annas	24,800	20,679
8 annas	19,720	16,679
12 annas	14,666	13,719
1 Re	17,640	15,191

Note : 120 stamps of 1½ as. sepia were set to China but were not issued. Similar 2½ as on 4½ as though prepared but not issued and as such this is very rare stamp.

Denomination	No. Overprinted
pies	60,480
anna	179,040
anna	669,360
	(with 1909 1 an.)
annas	20,160
1 annas	12,480
annas	16,320
annas	17,280
annas	15,840
2 annas	15,600
Re.	5,568

The exact number of stamps sold of Ed. VII stamps is not known whereas for Geo. V stamps overprinted C.E.F. the exact particulars regarding the number of stamps overprinted and the number of stamps sold are so far not known. Some varieties in the overprint such as 'No stop' after letters 'E' and 'F' are known. Number of forgeries exist of the overprint as well as forged postmarks of the field post offices are also known. As stamps with the C.E.F. overprint used on covers are scarce attempts were made to use forged postmarks. Buy covers from reliable dealers.

From the above list of the number of stamps overprinted and the number of stamps sold, reader must not be under the impression that these stamps are easily available used on covers. One may come across covers bearing Qn. Victoria ½ anna C.E.F. sent by ordinary post but these stamps used on registered covers are few and far between. Very few covers or hardly at all with Ed. VII and Geo. V stamps are to be seen. By seeing the figures of number of stamps sold one must not be misguided that all which were sold were used in the field post offices. A huge quantity went as philatelic sales that is why we

come across mint examples but not genuinely used on covers. The higher denominations from 2 annas to Re. 1 were printed in very limited quantity and as very few registered letters were sent by the soldiers stationed at China, the registered covers are hard to obtain.

Not only stamps but postal stationery items such as post cards and envelopes were also overprinted C.E.F. for the use of our soldiers on China expedition

#### Various Cancellations

There were three main types with certain variations and these three types are described in Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia as under :-

- (a) Single circle with 'Base Office' or 'F.P.O. No.....' circumferentially, with date in one or two lines within.
- (b) Double circles between which are 'Base Office' or 'F.P.O. No.....' with a cross belt showing the date, above and below which the spaces are filled with vertical lines.
- (c) As (b) except a heavy killer arc fills the area between the circles unoccupied with the words BASE OFFICE or F.P.O. No. 1 (which appears to be the only field office which used this type).

My observations are, the Base Office cancellation (fig.1) and the F.P.O. cancellation (fig. 4) were used but a few examples are to be seen with these cancellations on stamps on covers. On examining a number of covers I find that the F.P.O. cancellation (fig. 5) seems to be very widely used on the mail. A cover posted from a F.P.O. used to go to the Base Office on the same day and on the reverse of the cover the Base Office cancellation (fig. 1 or 2) was applied. For example a cover posted from F.P.O. No. 3 (fig. 5) on 20th March, 1901 was forwarded to Base Office on the same day and on the reverse of the cover was applied the Base Office cancellation (fig. 1) as the cover was sent to Base Office 'B'.

Mention must be made of one more cancellation illustrated as type 5a. It is a double-line circular cancellation showing the full inscription Field Post Office on top, date in the centre and F.P.O. No. 12 at bottom. This seems to be a scare type.

I have come across a couple of registered covers, which are actually hard to come across. I have not seen a registration label on any registered cover. For example a letter was sent by registered post, it was written by hand R.L. No..... and the F.P.O. No..... in front and on the reverse of the cover there was the registration cancellation reading Base Office Reg./date and year as shown in figure 3. From the Base Office all letters, ordinary as well as registered had their onward journey as arranged.

There was one more scare cancellation which I have come across on a cover with Ed. VII ½ an. green stamp without the overprint C.E.F. and that scare cancellation is as shown in figure 6.



The mail was sent to India by cargo boats on a steamer at Tuticorin and from the covers that I have with me I see that the letters arrived at Tuticorin and from Tuticorin it was despatched to the place of destiny. I have come across three types of cancellations applied at Tuticorin as illustrated in figures 7, 8 and 9. On studying various cancellations I find that the letters or the mail used to come from the Base Office to Tuticorin in a period of three to four weeks and from Tuticorin to cities like Bombay or Poona further two to three days were taken.

The China expedition did not last long as the rebels were subdued within a year or so. By August, 1901 the number of soldiers was reduced and with it so many field post offices were closed down. With the result one is likely to come across a number of used examples of Queen Victoria stamps overprinted G.E.F. but it is difficult to obtain genuine used examples of Edward VII stamps and more so of George V stamps overprinted C.E.F.

This article is based on the information collected during a couple of years and it is published with a view to helping some beginners who are quite unaware of the background history of the China Expeditionary Force and the part played by the Indian Army and the Army Postal Service.

References:-

- (1) Extracts from the 1st Sikh Infantry.
- (2) Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia Part II

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## INDIAN ARMY FIELD POST OFFICES, 1939-1947

E. JAGGER

I trust that these notes, though far from complete, will prove to be of interest and assistance to collectors of these postmarks.

Not having access to official records, if any, the following has been gleaned from covers or from personal knowledge by the writer and other collectors.

At the outbreak of the 1939-1945 war the date stamps in use by the Indian Army Field Post Offices were the ones shown as (Fig. 1), which were the type, used throughout, the first World War and, writing from memory, were first brought into use about 1907.

Probably the first Indian F.P.O. covers which arrived in this country were from Egypt, as units of the Indian Army were landed there in 1939 and Indian F.P.O. postmarks are found cancelling the Egyptian 10 millimes Military Stamps as well as ordinary Egyptian stamps, it is also possible to find these date

stamps on postage stamps of Sudan, Ceylon, Palestine, Burma, Straits Settlements, Kelantan, Kedah, Johore, Pcrakj Great Britain, Iraq, Persia and South African.

In Malaya on the occasions when stamps had to be affixed to letters to prepay registration or air mail fees, it was necessary to utilise Malayan stamps which were cancelled by the F.P.O. datestamp and I have yet to see a cover from Malaya during the 1940-41 period bearing Indian stamps.

Probably some similar consideration also applied to the use of Sudanese stamps though in this instance the use of Indian stamps were quickly resorted to, whether the powers that be had realised that the use of local Stamps gave an indication of the location of the writer of such a letter.

From 1941 onwards the use of the Egyptian military stamps were dispensed with and ordinary British stamps utilised instead, so that any letters bearing British stamps may have emanated from anywhere in the Middle East Command, Central Mediterranean Force, or Greece after October, 1944.

The use of British stamps in Paiforce was frowned upon, though it is possible to come across British stamps used in Persia and Iraq, these stamps were probably in the possession of the soldier when he was posted or transferred from the Middle East or the United Kingdom. On one occasion I presented a British Registered envelope bearing the impressed threepenny registration fee stamp, but this was ignored and I had to affix an additional 3 anna Indian stamp to cover the registration fee.

The use of Iraqi and Persian stamps come into a different category; letters from soldiers in Paiforce intended for civilian addresses in Iraq or Persia had to be handed over to the respective Civil Post Offices for delivery as the Army Post Offices do not deliver mail; consequently the recipient had to pay postage due on delivery, as forces mail at that time up to a certain weight was carried free.

Representations were made on this subject, apparently even the franking by Indian stamps would not meet the case, and as it was forbidden for troops to utilise the civil post offices, arrangements were entered into by the Director of Army Postal Services with the Persian and Iraqi Postal Administrations making it possible to prepay local letters with Iraqi or Persian stamps, letters were subject to the usual censorship regulations and the stamps cancelled with F.P.O. date-stamp, every Field Post Office in Paiforce possessed a small stock of Persian and Iraqi stamps which could be purchased for the purpose of franking letters intended for delivery to civilians.







These covers

are very rarely seen as they would mainly be addressed to banks, shops and maybe the oil companies.

In some of the towns and cities of the Middle East, Indian Field Post Offices existed side by side with British Field Post Offices, so that any correspondence for India was forwarded by the Indian F.P.O., whether franked with Indian or British stamps.

Situated outside, the Dock Gates at Port Tewfik (Egypt) in the next hut to the Indian F.P.O. 93 was the British F.P.O. which used British F.P.O. datestamps No. 190.

On Kingsway Haifa (Palestine) was F.P.O. 116, which was only a few doors away from the British F.P.O., whilst situated on Julians Way in Jerusalem were again the twin post offices.

An Indian F.P.O. was located in Rue Georges Picot BEYROUTH until 1944, when it removed to the Transit Camp situated outside the town.

In the Wolsey Barracks Nicosia (Cyprus)-at one side was Indian F.P.O. R.7, whilst at the other was the inevitable British F.P.O. In Famagusta, or rather the new portion of the town named VOROSHA, existed Indian F.P.O. 12, which was the only F.P.O. there Prior to being located in Cyprus the Field Postmaster informed me that this F.P.O. had been in operation in Syria, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia during these campaigns, so that it is always a question of a particular date as to where a certain postmark was used.

At Rhodes in the Dodecanese, alongside the British F.P.O. was Indian F.P.O. 90, both of which closed down before the end of 1946.

In the British Commonwealth occupation Force in Japan, Indian Forces naturally took their place and seven F.P.O.s were in operation there, F.P.O. 56 officiated as Indian Base Post Office and was located at IWAK.UNI, the other offices used datestamps No. 77; 112, 148, 651, 652 and 653, which were closed down about October, 1947.

On Independence Day, August 15, 1947, a special cachet was applied to letters, this consisted of the crossed flags of the new Dominions of Pakistan and India, with date 15th August, 1947, between and JAPAN under date, it

may have been used at all F.P.O.s, but I have only seen it applied to mail which emanated from F.P.O. 77.

Any Indian F.P.O.s not closed down by August, 1947, would be closed down soon after, as the Indian Government requested the return to India of all Indian troops serving overseas.

The Datestamps with prefix R appear to have been brought into use in the Middle East, including Paiforce, as this Command, prior to September, 1942, was known as Middle East Force 10th Army, with the possible exception of F.P.O. R. 46, which was used in the Indian theatre of operations, though it may have been in use previously in the M.E.F.

After the invasion of Sicily and Italy in 1943 some of the R. datestamps are known to have been used there and also in Greece, it is likely that the prefix R. denoted Reserve, as most of these datestamps appeared to be of a provisional nature.

Most of the datestamps exist in two or even three varieties of the same type of datestamp, which were used concurrently and probably made slightly different for easy identification, or it may have been accidental.

For instance, No. 38 had an ornament at base, whilst the other was without; in No. 39 the main difference was the use of a slightly different figure 9; Nos. 40 and 51 had an asterisk at base, whilst the other was minus same; the main difference in No. 44 was the spacing from the outer circle to N.; the only difference in regard to No. 52 appeared to be in the slope of the figure 2. Generally speaking, the main differences are in the placing of the line under O in No., which sometimes is on a level with the foot of N, on other datestamps the line under O is raised up, sometimes immediately below; also exists with two dots below line.

The use of seal type cancellation by F.P.O. 9 inscribed FD POST OFFICE with large 9 in centre, and in conjunction with an improvised civil datestamp with two names erased in September, 1942, is inexplicable as the normal F.P.O. 9 datestamp is found cancelling letters in October, 1942, both the above were used in Assam.



Early in 1943 an improvised F.P.O. datestamp was utilised by F.P.O. 21 had box enclosing figure. (see illustration); also with No. omitted; this provisional datestamp was still used when this F.P.O. returned to India from Paiforce in July, 1943; however, an additional F.P.O. 21 datestamp was brought into use by August, 1943, which was slightly different from the original datestamp. Duplicate datestamps of F.P.O. No. 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 146 and 37 are somewhat easy to distinguish as the



letters No. are omitted, and in the four former are small figures, whilst No. 37, 146 and 107 are normal size.

In December, 1941, Field Post Offices No. 35 and 59, operating in Persia, both used a rectangular boxed marking.



These were used concurrently with the normal date-stamps, so it can only be assumed that these were pressed into service on account of the influx of additional mail by the troops who may have received their Christmas Cards and parcels up to time, as ordinary sea mail letters took roughly three months to arrive and parcels from three months upwards.

Provisional handstamps, were brought into use in Ceylon in 1943 and just bear letters A, B or C, and apparently were in use for a considerable time as 1944 dates are also found. A appears to have been located at Colombo, and B at Kandy.

I have never seen a normal 145 datestamp, though I have been shown an example of provisional hand-stamp 145B in small characters which was used in S.E.A.C., May, 1944, a similar item inscribed S.285 was used in Eritrea December, 1942.

Field Post Office 6 in September, 1942, used a British type- single. ring datestamp inscribed Field Post Office at top, with figure 6 at foot; this was the type that was first placed into use at Chanak in the Dardanelles in 1921/23, and as far as I am aware never used since 1923 until its reappearance in 1942.

An Additional type of F.P.O. 70 at top with bottom portion filled in, a similar type existed but lettered at top S.9. F.P.O.

F.P.O 29A and 29B, used in Malaya, 1941, as was F.P.O. S.16, which was in use at Kuala Lumpur after the end of hostilities in 1945.

F.P.O. 29A. 16th November, 1941  
PERAK. M. F.P.O. 29B. 27th January, 1942.  
JOHORE. M. F.P.O. S.16. October, 1946.  
KUALALUMPUR. M.

During June and July, 1942, letters emanating from the Headquarters of the 123rd Indian Infantry Brigade bore impression of a seal inscribed H.Q. 23rd IND. INF. BDE., no F.P.O. datestamp appears on the covers except the arrival postmarks of the towns in India and transit markings, the covers except the arrival postmarks of the towns in India and transit markings, the sender's address being shown as care of No. 6 Indian Section Base P.O., Manipur Road, Assam.

A rather unusual use for Camp Post Office date stamps was the use of these in Eritrea early in 1942, later used in Egypt and Cyprus.

Camp P.O. L. 80 and Camp P.O. 68 were both used in this Command and perhaps the first occasion of their use outside India proper.

I do not propose to enumerate the Camp P.O. date-stamps which existed in India itself and utilised these postmarks as well as those inscribed temporary P.O. and experimental P.O., both of which were used by reinforcement, transit and other military camps and installations as well as for civilian refugee camps in India.

I have been shown postmarks inscribed Base P.O. Burma and Indian F.P.O. type F.P.O. 2, but with Burma at foot; these were actually Burmese, as there existed an Indian F.P.O. 2.

In the summer of 1942 some letters which had emanated from Eritrea bore a seal type impression, white numbers on a coloured background, and the following numbers have been seen:-, 13, 21, 25 and 34.

It is possible that these numbers may have represented the F.P.O. of the same number as numbers 13, 21 and 25. were in the Middle East at the same period, but of F.P.O. No. 7 and 34 I have no knowledge of their movements from late 1941, when both F.P.O. operated in Malaya, until their reappearance in 1943 in Assam.

At the same period one finds a small single circle enclosing figure 22 which emanated from Egypt; as a matter of fact, F.P.O. 22 was in the Middle East at that period.

On some of the covers appear interesting cachets and markings which are sometimes helpful and of assistance in discovering the locality where used, from the Assam theatre in 1942 appears cachet in two lines, "On Active Service, not to be taxed," and from Burma, in 1942, appeared the triangular marking inscribed with number at apex followed on next line with F.S. and FREE below, the initials F.S. denote Field Service.

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## THE KING'S POST, MADRAS, 1815-1819

D. HAMMOND GILES, M.B.E.

In the "Handstruck Postage Stamps of India" Chapter 5 gives the story of the King's Post in India, and, on page 37, the Madras Ship Letter marks are illustrated, showing examples of the Madras Ship Letter mark of 1817, where the word "Letter" has only one "T". In the "Companion to the Handstruck Postage Stamps of India", in Chapter 5, on page 23, further information is given concerning this stamp, where it was mentioned that it was in use from 1816 up to April 1819, and a new stamp was introduced from May 1819 with the word "Letter" correctly spelt with two "T"s.



In the former volume, on page 37, there is also an illustration of the rare intaglio Madras Ship Letter stamp used in 1816 for mail carried by a Man of War, and this illustration showing the word "Letter" spelt with two "V's, is again reproduced here.

There are very few known specimens of this stamp, and the writer, not possessing a specimen himself, thought that he had correctly illustrated the mark, as this was how it had been sketched in Bobson Lowes Encyclopaedia. A rather similar sketch appeared recently in the India Study Circle's magazine, "India Post", in November 1967, and this illustration did not cause any particular excitement to the writer when he saw it.

The writer had seen one or two specimens of the actual stamp, both in Mr. Northey's collection, and in the covers possessed by Dr. F. P. N. Parsons and Mr. Gerald Sattin. Further, two illustrations had appeared in Auction catalogues, one in 1958, and one in 1967, but, unfortunately, neither illustration was studied very carefully by the writer. It was not, therefore, until the India Study Circle issued their July "India Post", that a further sketch appeared showing, in fact, that the word "Letter" had only one "T", and had previously been incorrectly sketched.

Immediately on receipt of this information, the writer examined the two earlier Auction catalogues, which he had still retained, and, sure enough, both cases clearly illustrated that there was only one "T" in the word "Letter". A photographic reproduction of the specimen that was illustrated in the 1958 Auction catalogue is shown here, and is, therefore, without question, entirely authentic.

Now this appears to be a very curious error, for, in the case of both the ordinary Ship Letter stamp and the Man of War Ship Letter stamp of Madras, only one T is included, yet, in the "Madras Packet Letter" stamp for the same period, the last word is correctly spelt.

The Man of War handstruck stamps have only been seen on letters dated 1816, but, as there are so few specimens so far known, it is not possible to say how long this stamp was in use, but since the ordinary Ship Letter stamp with only one "T" was used from 1816 to April, 1819, the intaglio Man of War Ship Letter stamp, similarly spelt, was probably correspondingly used throughout the same period. It was probably not, however, replaced by a new one with correct spelling from May, 1819, as was the ordinary Ship Letter stamp, because from that period onwards the English Ship Letter Act no longer applied, and there would have been no use for a special stamp for mail posted and carried on a Man of War was inserted in manuscript, but in the specimens seen on covers despatched in the following June and July, the date has been added by the use of rubber or wood stamps, and it is apparent, from the positioning of the impressions, that separate stamps were used for the day, the month and the last figure of the year, i.e. "6", which all appear in the white apron in the centre of the stamp. The use of separate stamps for the day, month and year follows the practice of the "Post Paid | Fort St. George" stamp used at Madras from 1788 to 1826 though in the latter case the day and month always appear separately outside and often remote from the main stamp.

Knowing how scarce this mark is, members of the Society are particularly requested to advise the Society of details of dates of use on any covers in their possession that bear this mark. One would expect that this rare stamp and other stamps of the King's Post would have been used continuously from the inception of the application of the English Ship Letter Act, until its repeal, but, so far, in the writer's two volumes on Handstruck Postage Stamps of India, dates have been recorded over a shorter period than the life of the English Ship Letter Act, these dates being those actually appearing on covers that have been seen so far. Again, if members have any further information to expand the length of period of use of the other King's -Post stamp too, this information would be particularly welcome.

The King's Post, of all the Handstruck Postage Stamps that have been used in India, provide the most fascinating subject, and the whole picture is gradually being put together, although, even now, there are obvious blanks that require to be filled up. We are also inclined to take things for granted, and not give the treasures in our possession sufficient study, and probably, if all our members were to re-examine the covers in their possession for this particularly interesting period, they would be able to contribute further information of vital importance, and a special appeal is made to all to carry out further research to complete this topic.

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## MILITARY CENSORSHIP

(Theme for a Postal History Collection)

### What is censorship

1. Censorship in the sense of supervision, control and regulation by the state of the work and conduct of its citizens has a long and odious history going back to antiquity. The word itself is derived from the ancient Roman office of 'Censor' which was responsible, among other things, for supervising public morals. In modern times it has come to stand for official examination, clearance suppression excision or change of books, plays, news, military intelligence and 'letters. In the Armed forces Philately we are concerned only with the censorship of private correspondence of soldiers and their correspondents passing through the post which may possibly have some impact on military operations.

### The Military Variety.

2. In the Army, censorship is not a dirty word. Censorship of soldiers' mail is not a clandestine, 'do it and deny it' affair that it usually is on the civil side. It is open and authorised and its purpose, guidelines and broad mechanics are published in advance for the information of personnel affected by it, Though irked by its intrusions, the soldiers understand the needs for security and accept,



ensorship of their mail as a part of military life and discipline. As a compensation for infringement of their privacy and some delay to their mail, the soldiers are granted various postal concessions and privileges.

#### Its Organization.

3. I don't know when exactly a separate censorship organization came into being in the modern Indian Army but it was certainly well-established in the First Great War and has undergone no radical change during the last 60-odd years. To begin with, military censorship is not automatic and perennial, it is imposed and withdrawn by special orders which are published in advance and specify whether it is applicable to outgoing or incoming mail or both. The orders give directions for self-censorship prohibiting the mentioning of locations, organizations, operations, casualties and such matters as may give aid and comfort to the enemy or cause gloom and despondency to the soldiers and their correspondents. Though security is the paramount purpose and justification for military censorship, an important by-product of this surveillance is the weekly report submitted by the Base Censor to the Army Commander giving a picture of the troops reactions to working and living conditions and the state of their morale.

4. Army censorship operates at three levels in the unit, in the field and at the base. Each unit in the Army has its own Unit Censor who holds the unit censor-stamp. Officers censor their own letters/sign them on the covers in token of having done so and hand them over to the Unit Censor for putting on the unit censor stamp. The lower ranks hand over their letters open to the Unit Censor who reads them, makes whatever excisions he considers necessary, closes them, franks the covers and impresses the unit censor stamp on them. The unit censored mail is then taken to the Field Post Office (FPO) by the unit post orderly who hands it over the counter to the postal staff. If a Field Censor is stationed locally all mail received at the FPO is placed before him. He stamps the articles with his distinctive stamp and closes the Setters actually read by him with a standard slip bearing the legend 'Opened by Censor'. Mail from stations and areas where there are no Field Censors is sent by the FPOs to the Base Post Office (BPO) where the Base Censor deals with it in the same way as the Field Censor. If he so desires, the Base Censor may open and examine the letters already cleared by the Field Censor. If subject to censorship, incoming mail is dealt with by the Base Censor and is then delivered to the addresses without any reference to the Field and Unit Censors.

#### How does Philately come into it ?

5. Postal History is that branch of Philately which deals with the study of postal communications and

organisations of all periods and their impact on personal, national and international events with the help primarily of used covers but also of relevant postage stamps and their precursors, maps, prints, sketches decrees and documents. Two of the themes for Postal History collections pertain to Military Mail and Mail Censorship. FPO covers are the basic material for both these themes though Military Mail also includes seige mail as well as prisoners of war and concentration camp mail. The theme of censorship covers both military and civil mail. In making these studies the philatelist is not concerned with the rights and wrongs of mail censorship but how it affects the passage of censorable and censored mail through the post.

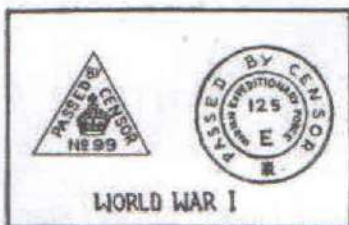
#### How to begin a collection?

6. As already stated the basic material for this theme is the censored cover. Go as far back as you can but certainly up to the First World War. Though the subject is worldwide, it is better to begin with the home country. Here again it is wise to limit the study to military censorship as the vast majority of identifiable censored items fit in with this theme. So look for the covers that have passed through Indian military censorship. Having got hold of a sufficient quantity of used covers, it would be necessary to decipher and link them with each other to extract a story out of them. For doing this you will need back-ground information about wars and campaigns in which the Indian Army has Taken part, the theatres of these wars, periods during which censorship was in force, the methods and organization of the Censors and the stamps and forms used by them. So in addition to the used covers you should collect documents, location and route maps, sketches, prints and photographs which help to expalin and elucidate the markings and inscriptions on the covers or otherwise carry forward your theme or story.

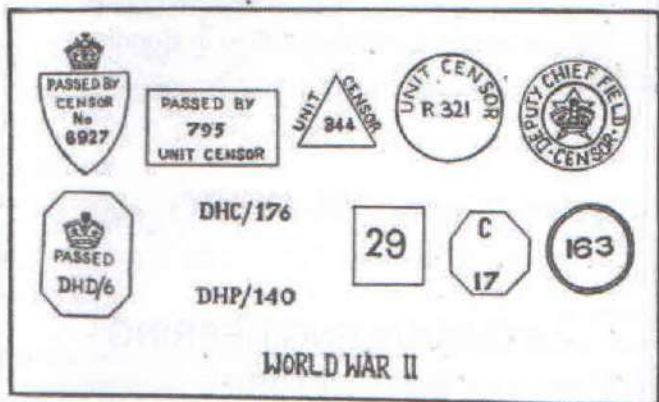
#### How to exhibit a censorship collection?

7. First, of course, choose a title which is precise and self-explanatory and makes no claim beyond the compass of the material at your disposal. Take for instance the title 'Military Censorship during World War II.' This would cover the censorship of ail the military (Army, Navy and Air Force) censorship organizations of the Allied (UK, USA, USSR, India and so on) and Axis (Germany, Italy, Japan, etc.) forces. Obviously, a project beyond the powers and resources of even a seasoned and affluent philatelist But a title such as 'Seme aspects of Indian Army Censorship during World War II' would not be wrong even for a small and incomplete collection.





WORLD WAR I

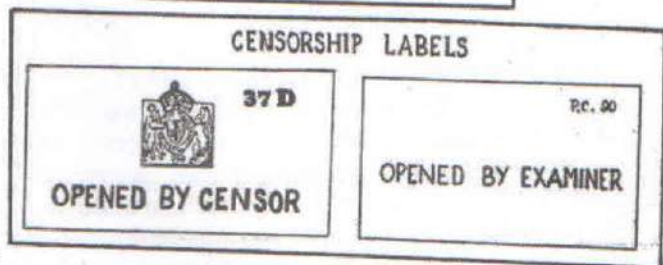


WORLD WAR II

Sketches Of Some Censorship Marks And Labels



POST INDEPENDENCE



CENSORSHIP LABELS

8. Next the introduction. A page of background information about the causes, course, and theatres of the war followed by a description of the postal and censorship set-up along with the arrangements for routing, sorting and examination of mails and the times taken in transit. At the end of the introduction you should state what you are planning to show and to what purpose. The following page may illustrate the theme with a map or a sketch.
9. Now the meat of your collection the covers in order of date and theatre of war. As a rule do not put more than one cover on one album sheet. The write-up should describe the significance of the cover, decipher the censorship (unit, field and base) stamp impressions, stating if possible, the military unit of the writer and the theatre of operations. It should also give the locations of the FPOs and

BPO, the progress of war operations and the postal links used at that time. If relevant to your story, reproduce as sketches postal and censorship markings on the reverse of the cover which cannot be seen by the viewer. If censorship is known to have stopped or relaxed at the end of hostilities, and with a cover which brings this out.

#### A new field for Indian Philatelists

10. Let me warn unsuspecting readers that I have been leading them up a path as yet untrodden in our country. Here the collection of Military Mail is in its infancy and collection of Censored Mail is hardly known. I can, however, assure them that both these lines are fully authorised and approved by the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (F.I.P.). So it behoves the progressive philatelists of India to make a beginning in this direction. I shall feel amply rewarded if during your visit to the next stamp exhibition you tarry before an FPO exhibit and make an effort to distinguish between the censorship marks used at different stages different times and different theatres of war.

(Courtesy : Shri D.S. Virk)

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