

America's Victory Mail

World War II V-Mail 1942-1945



This is a military postal history exhibit of V-Mail.

V-Mail used microphotography to reduce military letters to film.

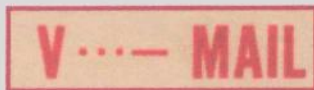
Rolls of film were sent by air, developed, printed, and delivered worldwide. V-Mail worked as a morale booster for the troops, and saved air cargo space.

It has been 70 years since WWII. Today's simplified Email makes the complexity of providing those wartime V-Mail service something of great historic significance.

Scope: How V-Mail worked, and an in depth display of V-Mail delivered around the globe.

Format: Military locations and key text are bolded. Quotes from V-Mail text highlighting wartime life and perspective are angled in bolded *italics*. Page headings and subheadings are colored.

Highlights & Rarity: Significant items have Blue Box indicators. Items of rarity include a red underscore in their description.



Distributed
First V-Mail
copy: to
Franklin D.
Roosevelt →

Significant Event V-Mails:

- ◇ Manhattan Project V-Mail Greeting
- ◇ Mail from a Tuskegee Airman
- ◇ Normandy Invasion Details
- ◇ Nisei Soldier to Relocation Camp
- ◇ Submarine V-Mail - USS Squalus
- ◇ Merrill's Marauders in Burma
- ◇ Combat troops on: Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- ◇ A V-Mail from Refueling Post in Russia

Plan of Exhibit:

How V-Mail Worked

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Introduction & Forerunner | Fr 1 P1 |
| 2. Starting V-Mail | Fr 1 P9 |
| 3. Supporting the War Effort | Fr 2 P15 |
| 4. V-Mail Processing | Fr 3 P9 |

V-Mail Use Around the World

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery | Fr 4 P4 |
| 6. Realities of War in V-Mail | Fr 5 P4 |
| 7. V-Mail Use - Military Branches | Fr 6 P1 |
| 8. Use of V-Mail Around the World | Fr 6 P7 |
| 9. The War Ends | Fr 8 P11 |



PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS IN THE LABEL BELOW AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PEN INK. WRITE PLAINLY. VERY SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.

No. 1	THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.	MAJ. GEN. J. E. CHENEY, USA SENDERS NAME HQ, U.S. Army Forces in SENDERS ADDRESS The British Isles. 4 June, 1942. DATE
CENSOR STAMP		
<p>Dear Mr. President:</p> <p style="text-align: justify;">It is most fitting, upon the advent of the V-Mail service for the benefit of American troops in this theatre, that the first message be sent to you to express the appreciation of the troops for this new service, as well as to renew our pledge of service until victory is achieved.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;">No other single factor ties in our soldiers with the people at home so much as prompt and adequate mail service. The advent of this service is a distinct contribution towards victory.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sincerely yours, J. E. CHENEY, Major General, U.S. Army, Commanding.</p>		
V...-MAIL		

Selection Criteria: This exhibit uses select V-Mails that emphasize the far reaching aspects of the war, and the complexity of V-Mail processing. The exhibit is formed from collections of George Cosentini, E.H. Keeton and more.

1. V-Mail Forerunner

British Microfilmed Mail

Airgraph Introduction

More than a year earlier than V-Mail, British Airgraph service began in April, 1941. Service terminated on July 31, 1945, before the discontinuance of V-Mail. By service end well over 350 million Airgraphs were sent.

Forerunner: Airgraph used same Kodak system, starting before V-Mail

**Early Airgraph from Cyprus July, 1941.
Sent uncensored.**

The message should be written very plainly above the double line.

Receiver's Address
Cpt MILNE, A.J.
ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS.
c/o DISTRICT PAYMASTER.
CYPRUS.
Date
14th JULY 1941.

DEAR MR BRUTON,

I HOPE THAT YOU ARE STILL KEEPING WELL AND HAPPY AND THAT THE JERRY'S HAVE NOT HIT NORFOLK HOUSE YET, AS YOU WILL SEE BY THE NEW ADDRESS I HAVE HAD ANOTHER MOVE, I DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF LEAVING PALESTINE VERY MUCH BUT NEVER MIND THAT, WE HAVE GOT TO GO WHERE WE ARE TOLD THESE DAYS, I SUPPOSE I WILL BE ABLE TO GET BACK THERE ONE DAY OR AT LEAST I HOPE SO, MARY WAS A BIT CUT UP AT ME LEAVING BUT NEVER MIND ONE DAY THE BELL'S WILL RING OUT AND EVERY-BODY WILL BE HAPPY AGAIN (AND SHE IS NOT A BLACK WOMAN IETHER BUT AS WHITE AS YOU OR ME,) THERE IS ONE SAD PIECE OF NEWS MRS MOTHER DIED LAST MONTH SHE HAD BEEN ILL FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS WITH RHEUMATISM SHE WAS IN BED ALL THAT WHILE TO ILL TO MOVE OR DO ANYTHING FOR HERSELF.

WE ARE ABOUT SIX THOUSAND FEET UP AMONGST THE PINE TREES AND THERE IS NOT VERY MUCH TO DO BUT WORK, EAT AND SLEEP. SOME TIMES WE GO FOR A DECENT WALK OVER THE HILLS BUT MOST NIGHTS WE ARE IN BED BEFORE HALF-PAST NINE SO WE ARE GETTING PLENTY OF REST AND GOOD FOOD THAT IS SOME THING TO BE THANKFUL FOR. WE ARE GOING FOR A WALK DOWN TO THE NEXT VILLAGE DOWN THE HILL TO MORROW (SUNDAY) WHICH IS ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF AN HOUR'S WALK IT IS ALL RIGHT GOING DOWN THE HILL BUT COMING BACK IS NOT SO EASY BUT IT IS GOOD EXERCISE I WILL SEND YOU A FEW SNAPS WHEN I GET THEM PRINTED.

THE ITALIANS GAVE US A WARM WELCOME WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE WE WERE JUST PULLING INTO THE QUAY WHEN THE AIR RAID SIRENS WENT AND THE NEXT THING I HEARD WAS A YELLOW ON DECK NEXT TO ME SAYING THIS MUST BE THEM AND LOOKING UP I SAW THREE PLANES FLYING IN FORMATION ABOVE THE SHIP I NEVER WAITED FOR ANY MORE BUT JUST TOOK THE NEAREST COVER I COULD FIND THE NEXT MINUTE WE HEARD THE BOMBS DROPPING BUT THEY MISSED US BY A HUNDRED YARDS IF NOT MORE, ABOUT THREE DAYS AFTERWARDS THERE WAS BROADCAST FROM THE ITALIAN RADIO THAT THEY HAD SUNK A SHIP OF ABOUT SEVEN THOUSAND TONS OF CYPRUS (OUR OWN SHIP) IF THEY HAD SUNK AS MUCH AS THEY SAY WE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY SHIPPING LEFT AT ALL, WELL THERE ISN'T MUCH MORE TO SAY NOW SO I WILL SAY CHEERIO FOR THE PRESENT WILL BE WRITING AGAIN SOON,

JIM,

Write address in large block letters in the panel below. Nothing else should be written below this line.

The address should be written in large block letters wholly within the panel alongside.

MR M.S. BRUTON,
NORFOLK HOUSE,
AYLSHAM,
NORFOLK,
ENGLAND.

The address should be the same as is appropriate in the case of an ordinary letter.

16501

*"On Italian Radio
Broadcast they said
they sunk our ship."*

*"The Italians sent us three planes
in formation. I ran for cover, next
minute bombs were dropping, but
they missed the ship."*

1. V-Mail Forerunner

British Microfilmed Mail

British Airgraph Form
Franked

airgraph service

Franked 3d on instruction side.

The reverse is a blank form.

This Holiday Greeting form was used through war.

Instructions emphasize:

- Form will be photographed and reduced in size
- Write in large, block letters
- Original will be destroyed

In contrast, V-Mail Service was free.

- The destinations to which the airgraph service is available may be ascertained at any Post Office.

• *Nothing should be written on this side of the paper.*

• The whole of the message should be written on the other side below the sender's name and address.

• The name and address to which the message is to be sent should be written in large BLOCK letters wholly within the panel provided. The address should be the same as for an ordinary letter except in the case of airgraphs for personnel of Merchant Navy ships, which should be addressed to the addressee and ship (by name) followed by "c/o G.P.O., London, E.C.1."

• A miniature photographic negative of the message and address will be made and sent by air mail. At the destination end a photographic print, measuring about 5 inches by 4 inches, will be made and delivered to the addressee. It is therefore important that the message should be written very plainly and that the address should be written as large as possible in block letters. Wherever possible, *black ink should be used.* Very small writing is not suitable.

• The completed form may be handed in at any Post Office, or if preferred, may be forwarded to London in an envelope addressed to:

Foreign Section
London

In that case it is desirable that a large envelope should be used and that the form should be folded as few times as possible, preferably in the same direction as the writing. As an exception to the general rule that postage is payable on letters addressed to Government Departments, Postmasters, etc., postage is not payable on covers containing completed Airgraph forms addressed to "Airgraphs," Foreign Section, London.

• If it is desired to send more than one sheet, a separate form must be completed, and the name and address of the sender and of the addressee must be inserted on each form in the usual way.

• The original will be retained by the Post Office and eventually destroyed.



please complete your message and post without delay

NEW YEAR GREETINGS 1945

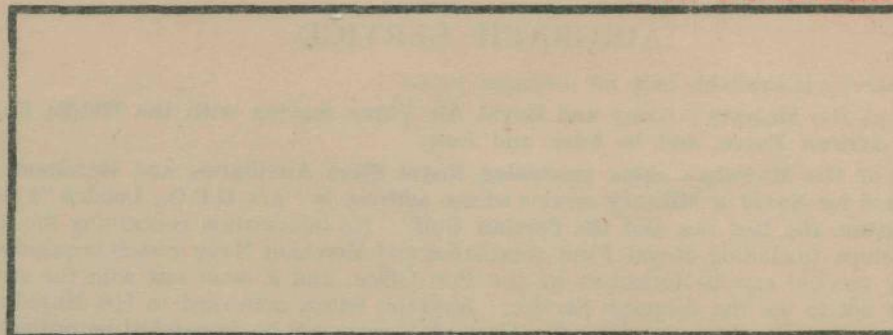
1. V-Mail Forerunner
British Microfilmed Mail

British Airgraph Forms
New Form Standard & Envelopes

Write
address in large
BLOCK letters
wholly within
this panel →

The address
must NOT
be typewritten.

For method
of address
see paragraph
(4) overleaf.



Write the message very plainly below this line.

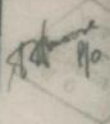
Sender's Address :

Date.

The address
should be
written as
large as
possible in
BLOCK letters
wholly within
this panel
The address must
NOT
be typewritten.

MRS. E. EVANS.
89. CORPORATION RD.
NEWPORT. MON.
SOUTH WALES.
GREAT BRITAIN.

323548



Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Name and Address, L.A.C. EVANS E.A. 1008370.
R.A.F. CEYLON.

14th NOVEMBER 1942

Dearest Mam,
Received a very welcome airgraph dated
Oct 6th from you. Glad to hear that you and all
at home are well, I am also in the pink, I am
paying one of my very rare visits to town this evening
to see the Ceylon Boxing Championships - one of our
lads is in the final so naturally the camp will be
represented in full force to cheer him on. You say
mam dear, that you were taking it for granted that
I had gone to India, because you hadn't heard from
me for so long - but I am still here in the same
camp as when I first landed on the island - I am
still waiting for news about this course but up to
the present nothing has turned up. I am really
sorry mam dear that I mentioned it because I know
it has put you on edge wondering where I am - I
really should have waited until I knew I was about
to proceed - but anyway mam dear don't worry, you
can rely that I shall let you know as soon as
possible - in the mean time you can take it for
granted that I shall still be here until you hear
differently from me. Lots well love & kisses
Edgar
XXXXX

This space should not be used.

AIRGRAPH

This space should not be used.

**1. V-Mail Forerunner
British Microfilmed Mail**

**British Airgraph Use
Civilian and Military**

The address must be written in LARGE BLOCK LETTERS wholly within the panel alongside. The address must NOT be typewritten.

MRS. ELIZABETH C. SAUNDERS
C/O MR ALEC MUNKO,
BONNYRIGG,
MARDLEY HILL,
ENGLAND WELWYN. HERTS.

P. 1122
132004

Read instructions overleaf. Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address: **Mr. S. C. MUNKO,** 6, Woodwell Mansions, 56, Plain Street, JOHANNESBURG, S.A.
 Date: **27th May, 1942.**

My dear Bessie,
 We have been very distressed and worried and keep on wondering and wondering how it is we have not heard from you for such a long time. I may mention that it is over 15 or 16 months since we heard from you last.
 Alec advised me of poor mother's death, since then I have had no further news from him. However, we are most worried now about yourself. You must be having a severe time financially. Are you receiving any assistance from mother's estate, but I am sure Alec would do all that is possible to have funds sent to you. I wrote and told you mother remembered my birthday - 11th March last year. She sent me a cable wishing me happiness. I was at the time in Hospital and when I came out I had the shock of receiving Alec's letter informing me of dear mother's passing away. I do regret that I did not write more often to mother, as she always seemed so pleased to hear from us, but I am glad to say Marie and Clarice were better at corresponding than I was.
 As I look back, I cannot understand not receiving your acknowledgment of at least three lots of stamps sent to you, one lot included full set of Rhodes stamps which you asked for, in addition to various other stamps sent in other letters. I do not know if there is any truth in it that foreign stamps sent abroad are confiscated by the Government.
 Marie is still with the Military - expects to be made Sergeant soon - typist to the doctors. Clarice has been in Berlin nearly a year. She seems happy and contented. Also, in her spare time she assists in Navy League Unteen and belongs to the Women's Fire Fighting Service. You can imagine how we miss her. I am taking things particularly quietly as I cannot move about much and we can just about come out comfortably and, as you know, we are particularly well off in South Africa - an abundance of everything.
 Now, my dear Bessie, I do hope things are not too hard for you at your end but can imagine you are having a very trying time. Trust you hear from your son, Percy, frequently and that he is O.K. We shall not expect a long letter from you, but please answer at once as you know American mail is very round-about these days and it is difficult to know what length of time it will take to reach us. Very possibly Alec will let us know that you are alright.
 Much love and best wishes from us all,
 Your affectionate brother,
STEWART.

This space should not be used.

← Civilian Use - May 27, 1942
 Still prior to V-Mail Service

From: **Johannesburg, South Africa**
 To: **Mardley Hills, England**

"It has been 15 or 16 months since we have heard from you."

"As you know, American mail is very roundabout these days."

Military Use - November 10, 1942 →
 Censor marked Airgraph Holiday Greeting

From: **Persia and Iraq Forces - P.A.I.**
 To: **Royal Air Forces - R.A.F.**
Edmonton, England

Mail service delays were expected, this Christmas greeting sent November 10th.

Write address in large BLOCK letters wholly within this panel. THE ADDRESS MUST NOT BE TYPED/WRITTEN.

MR R.M. ELLIS
16 SUNNYDENK GOND.,
BURY STREET,
EDMONTON, N.9.
ENGLAND.

Posting Officer's Signature and Unit (Government Inspection):
R.A.F. CENSOR
893

History Airgraph Service authorized by Egyptian Postal Administration. Write the message very plainly below this line.

1400076 ACI BURROWS L. Date: **10th Nov. 1942.**
 Sender's Address: **119 MU. R.A.F.,**
PERSIAN + IRAQ FORCES
Reg + Jeff.

CHRISTMAS
GREETING
 From Jim
 From Overseas

This space should not be used.

1. V-Mail Forerunner
British Microfilmed Mail

British Airgraph Forms
Simplified Instruction



(1) The Airgraph service is available from Canada to members of the Armed Forces in the United Kingdom.

(2) The whole of the message must be written on the other side below the double line.

(3) The name and address of the addressee must be written in the panel provided above the double line.

The same address as in the case of ordinary letters is to be used.

(4) Nothing is to be written on this side of the paper.

(5) A miniature photographic negative of the message and address will be made and sent by air. A photographic print measuring about 5 inches by 4 inches will then be made and delivered to the addressee. **It is therefore important that the message and address should be written very plainly.** Wherever possible **black ink** should be used. Very small writing is not suitable.

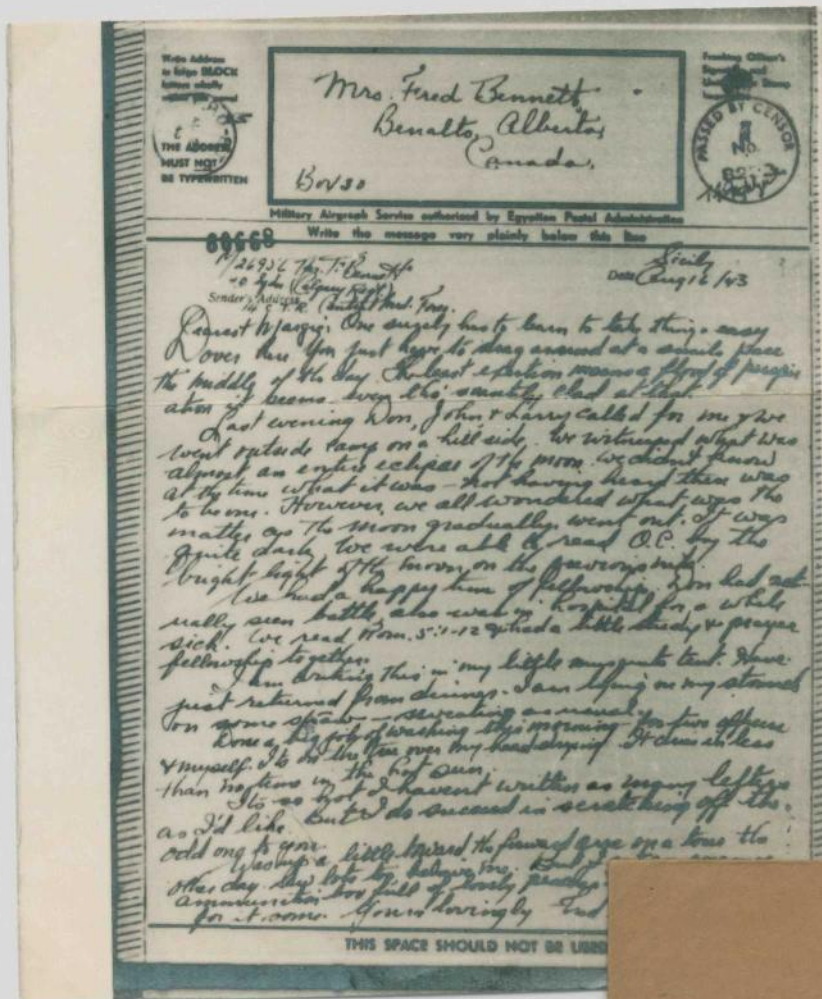
(6) A postage stamp or stamps to the value of the fee (10 cents) must be affixed in the space provided above. The completed form is to be handed in at the Post Office wicket in order that the stamp or stamps may be cancelled and the message forwarded.

(7) If it is desired to send more than one sheet a separate form must be completed and a postage stamp or stamps to the value of the fee must be affixed to each form.

(8) The original will be retained and destroyed after the corresponding film has arrived Overseas.

1. V-Mail Forerunner
British Microfilmed Mail

British Airgraph
Canada



← Canadian Calgary Regiment -
 Airgraph service extension to Canada

From: Sicily, Italy
 To: Benalto, Alberta, Canada

Censoring War Correspondence:
 F.P.O Censor marking and "Passed by
 Censor"



Airgraph Envelopes:
 Symbol on Right and Left
 Canadian use only

2. Starting V-Mail

The V-Mail Process

V-Mail used the same Kodak system as the British Airgraph but was sent Free

V-Mail Benefits:

Space savings: 37 mail sacks of 150,000 letters reduced from 2, 575 pounds to one 45 pound bag

Delivery speed: given specialty processing and expedited air transport

Functionality: the stationery functioned both as a letter and as an envelope in one

Cost: sent free for the military, encouraging communications to boost morale

Safety: was reproduced near the addressees' location, out of harm's way and lightened war zone work

Actual V-Mail Film

V-Mail's Simple Process:


Forms given out, letters written on forms

Form letters then censored and filmed

Film sent, letters reprinted upon receipt

Mail sorted, put in envelope to deliver

PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS ON THE FRONT BELOW AND THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE REVERSE.

No.	PRINT ADDRESS IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS	TO: NICK J. BEYS (Circle or Mark and Name) (Army Serial Number) D-685761
	D.C. BRANDENBURG JR. U.S.A. SHIPS CO. CAMP ROUSSEAU, Whose CALIFORNIA.	711 500-447 HOME GROUP APO 559 4th POSTMASTER. NEW YORK, NEW YORK
CENSORS STAMP	10 JUL 1944	July 12, 1944

Dear Latch -

Sorry, ol' man, I haven't written soon. I received your last letter & paper O.K. and it burst me up to know you let a war decision on you. It's like nothing better about now than to get into good boxing shape again and although I've been playing quite a bit of golf I'm not in any too good a shape. I've been playing too much pinocle or sleeping too much & letting good exercise go to hell. And a little drinking don't help matters out any - does it? I finally went up to see Percy (Capt. Elkins) and we really had a swell time. He's as fat as ever & still likes his booze. He's a crew chief on a B-17 base nearby.

My Bud is still missing in action since May 19th & J. G. Helen's husband, was killed over one of the New Guinea Islands May 21st. I sure feel sorry for Helen & the folks at home say she's taking it rather good. I sure hope George turns up O.K.!

I've & finished my tour about a month & a half ago. I've been doing odd jobs around the base. Hope they like of me & find me home. Regards to all & keep your nuts up.

HAETA 1A VISA
NICK

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

2. Starting V-Mail

Postal Announcement & The Military's Process Diagram

Published Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except legal holidays, by direction of the Postmaster General

The Postal Bulletin

For the information and guidance of officers and employees of the Postal Service

VOL. LXIV

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1943—Two pages

No. 18539

ORDER OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON OVERSEAS SHIPMENTS TO ARMY PERSONNEL

ORDER NO. 19687; DATED JANUARY 7, 1943.

The War Department has informed the Post Office Department that in view of the heavy demands being made on cargo space for military ship-

of the postmaster at New York, N. Y., San Francisco, Calif., Seattle, Wash., New Orleans, La., Miami, Fla., or Presque Isle, Maine.

Mail of any character originally addressed to individuals at Army posts, camps or stations in the continental United States and received at such places after departure of the addressees for an overseas destination will be forwarded.

ALL V-MAIL STATIONS PERFORM BOTH FUNCTIONS

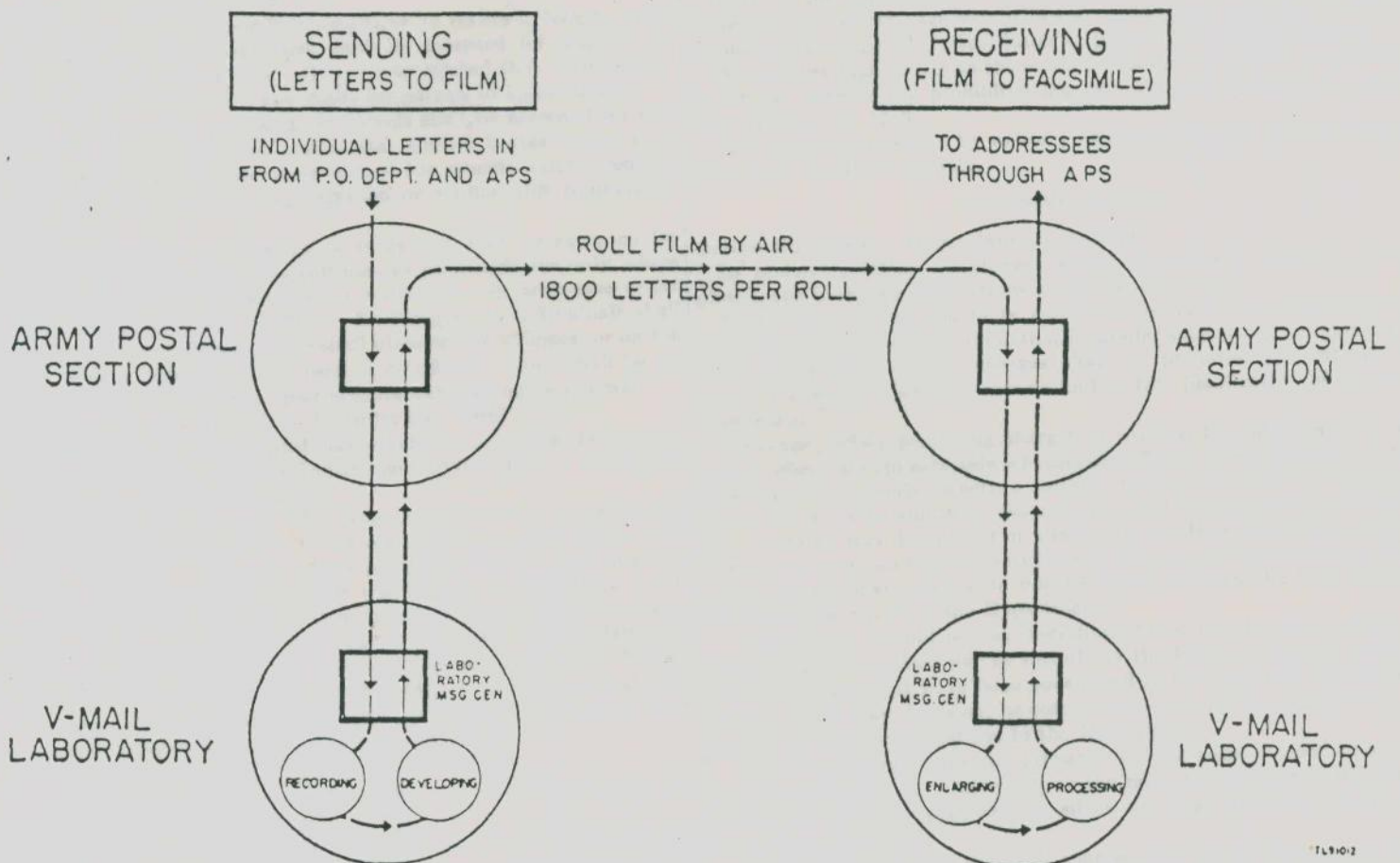


Figure 1. General V-mail flow chart.

installation concerned.

Parcels addressed to individuals at A. P. O.'s overseas must be accompanied with the approved written request from the addressee as above set forth when presented for mailing. The request shall be postmarked by the accepting employee in such manner as to prevent its reuse and then be returned to the sender.

Civil Service rules; that the reports of the postmaster or other postal official be complete as to the pertinent facts and contain information necessary to permit the Department to make a judicial determination and defend its action in the event of appeal.

Letters of charges should consist of three parts:

Citation Section 42 Postal Law and Regulations

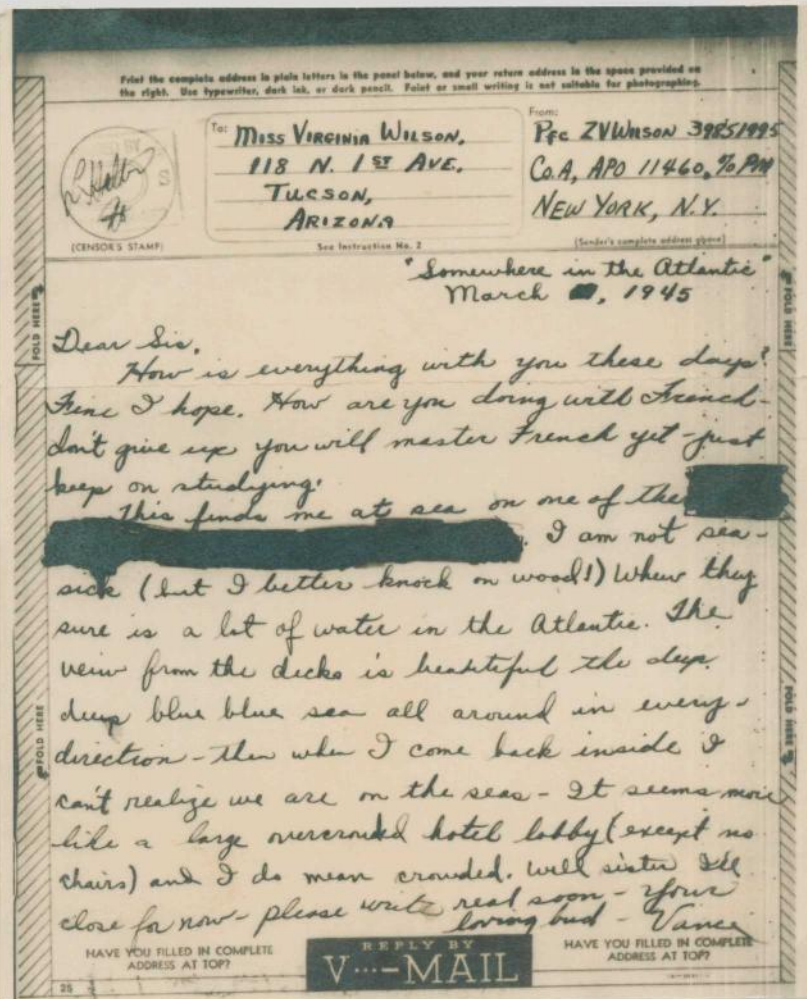
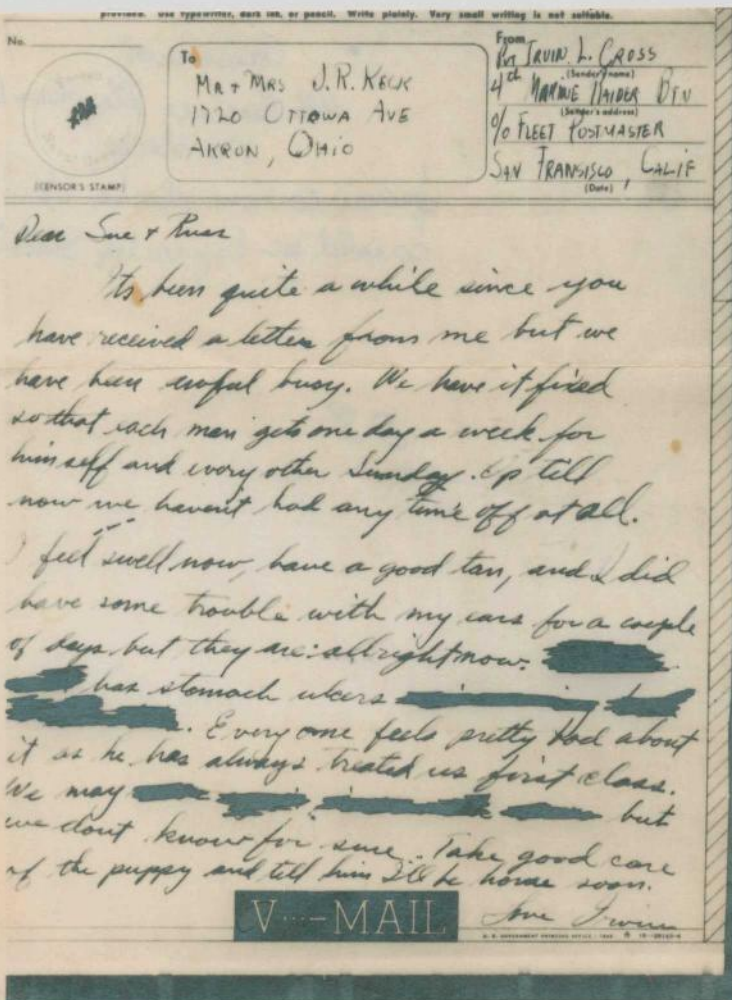
2. Starting V-Mail

A. Censorship

4th Marine Raider Battalion, stationed →
**Guadalcanal or New Georgia,
 Solomon Islands area.**

V-Mail Censor stamped and initialed in box left.
“Offending” information, as stipulated in V-Mail
 instruction, was found and obliterated, with heavy
 black pen. **Effectively, after photographing,
 blacked out text cannot be read.**

Censor Stamp & Censor Blacken Text Guadalcanal, New Georgia Solomon Islands



← Using Temporary APO 11460
The censor removes the name of the ship.
 This V-Mail from an Atlantic ocean crossing.
 Replacement troops were being sent to
 Europe on one of the two “Queen” ships
 given over to the war effort.

**“It looks more like a large
 overcrowded hotel lobby”**

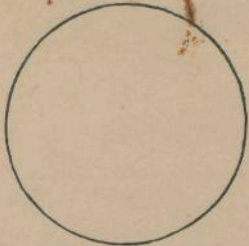
**Censorship Warning
 Reminder** →

Next Page: Greetings provide iconic examples of V-Mail. In his most successful design, Lt. Dave Breger, noted cachet artist, used a **combination Holiday Greeting Card and Censorship Warning**. Military sensitive information, especially troop location, would be censored. While not technically correct, this graphic sends a forceful message in a friendly fashion. **Nothing could be physically excised from V-Mail.**

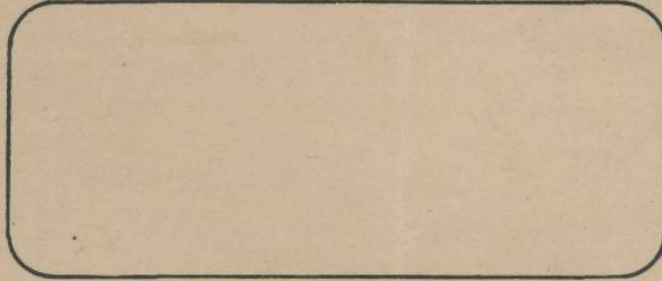
Artwork drawn on early design black V-Mail forms, Lt. Dave Breger is artist for at least five other cachet designs known.

PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL BELOW, AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PENCIL. WRITE PLAINLY. VERY SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.

No. _____



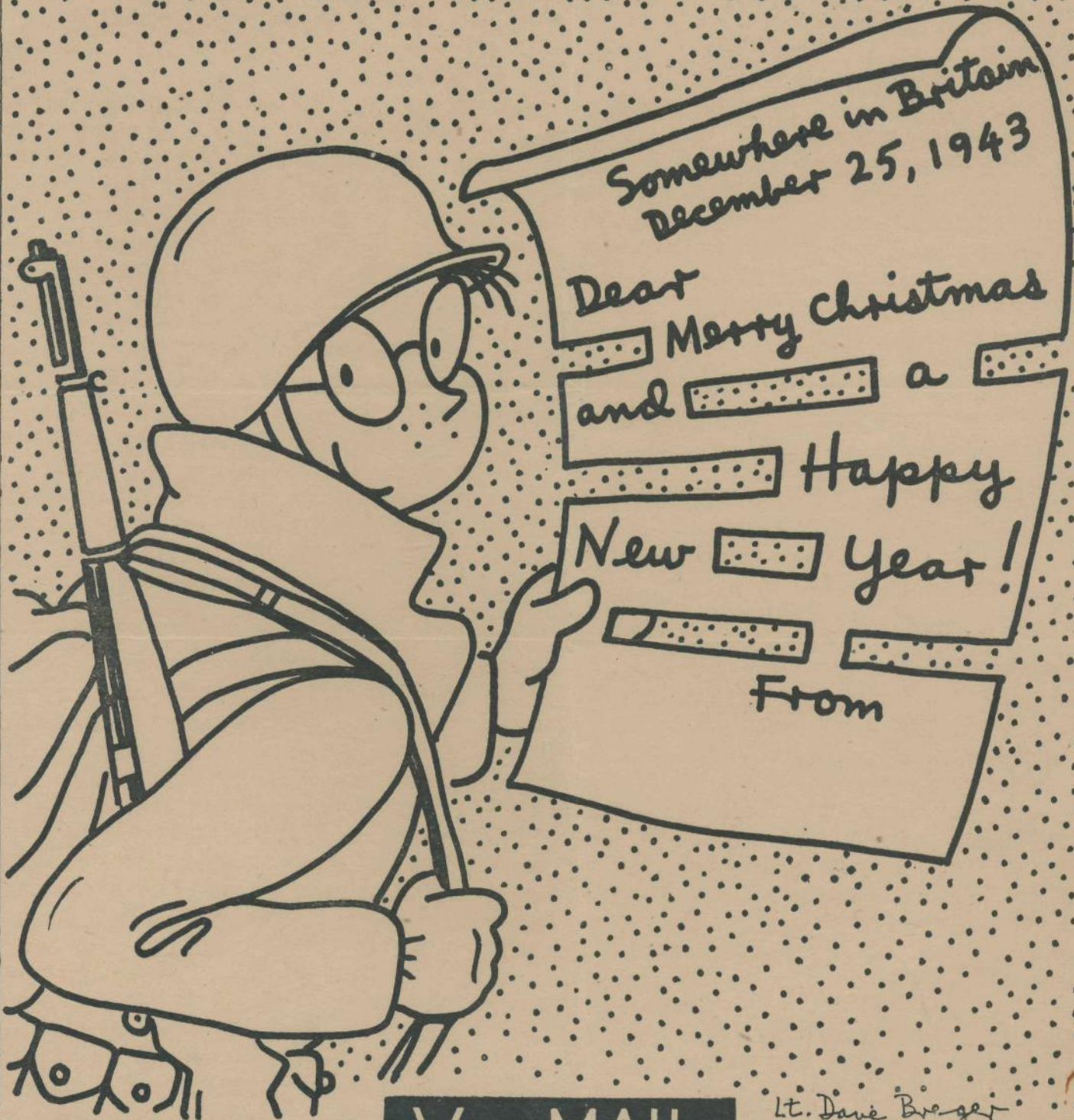
CENSORS STAMP



SENDERS NAME

SENDERS ADDRESS

DATE



V...-MAIL

Lt. Dave Breger

2. Starting V-Mail
B. Filming - Start & End Pages

From: **Start Page** February 11, 1945
 V-Mail Station YK, Kwajalein Islands
 V-Mail Station ZP, San Francisco
 Role #18: Mixed States

Start Pages and Blank Form Buffer Sheets guide in printing of V-Mail letters. **End Pages** carry counts: 925 X-Mas, 1319 Total.

The Buffer Sheets were discarded as the V-Mail messages were inserted into envelopes.

Few Buffer Sheets remain.

START

CODE DESIGNATIONS AND ROLL NUMBER

YK - 18 - ZP

SENDING STATION CODE DESIGNATION	ROLL NUMBER	RECEIVING STATION CODE DESIGNATION
-------------------------------------	----------------	---------------------------------------

DATE PHOTOGRAPHED

2/11/45

V-MAIL

END

925

RL — 74-ZP

ARMY —

NAVY —

TOTAL 1319

MILPO-32-1000P-36-9-45-765 USA/PH/44-11-6-46-700

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)	TO:	FROM:
	SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2	(Sender's complete address above)

Mixed States
ZP

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? **V-MAIL** HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1945 O-32-1000P-3

2. Starting V-Mail

B. Filming - Light Target

From: V-Mail Station JB, London to
V-Mail Station ZP, San Francisco
September 2, 1945

Processing: 1,800 V-Mail Letters

Processing the film was not always without its own problems. A **light target** was needed to set the printing. In this roll there are some variations in between light and dark print.

Note remarks: "Many ZP's, Pencil, Typed, Light Stock." Rolls like these needed TLC.

V-Mail instructions stated to write in pen, and use large clear print. For filming and printing, it mattered.

Start & Finish Target, and Density Test Targets.
Tools to make the prints clear as possible.

V-MAIL. START and FINISH TARGET.

From STATION JB. to STATION ZP

FILM No. 703

LETTERS Nos. To INCL.

TOTAL 1800

NUMBERING CLEAR CON

DATE 9-2-45

Remarks.

MIXED ZP'S +
PENCIL —
— TYPED
LIGHT STOCK

This space for KODAK.

Machine No. H.

Emulsion 204128-0474

Date Filmed 9-2-45

Operator's Sign-

MUGENT

PH 800 12-65/125/1-2001

DENSITY TEST TARGET

K H

LEFT

CENTER

RIGHT



1



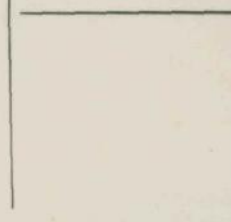
1



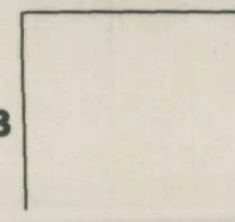
2



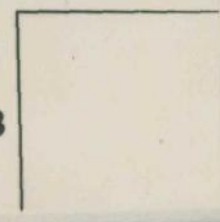
2



3



3



2. Starting V-Mail

B. Filming

From: APO 32-SF 32nd Infantry Division,
Anabat, Luzon, Philippine Islands

Counting V-Mails on the film reel was done on machine by the Veeder Company, an adaption of a commercial machine to a military use.

Processed buck slip, "Veeder Count 1300."

Counting Filmed V-Mails on the Film Reel

VEEDER COUNT
1300
5-4

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. Mr Raymond W. Ward 32018227 Mr Ray F. Ward
(Sender's name)
A 729th FA Bn. 1275 Hendrix Ave
(Sender's address)
APO 32. Post Master San Diego 2, Calif
San Francisco. July 31 1946
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Raymond.
To day being the last day of July
all mail 42. month since you left home.
and all mail 41 month over sea.
I hope these either boys that talk about wanting
to go over. get to go -
a letter come from Mrs. Dallas. I just send it
on to you.
all so a nice letter from Mrs. Nelson from Merrill
was she is the Mother of your Nelson in the
some Division you are in
until you package 22. in it were 2 films.
will be able to send you 2 more. 2 of Aug.
that will be all we can get. until the
last of Aug - begin with package 18 we have on
the way to you 9 films up to July.
Take good care of your self. our Raymond
Love Mother

V-MAIL

For: APO 427-NY 427th Bob Squadron,
303rd Bomb Group,
Molesworth, England

← The "GT Target" Buffer Slip indicated breaks between destinations groupings.

GT TARGET

DATE 17 MAY 1946 PREPARED BY 1931

ALL LETTERS FOLLOWING ARE FOR:

427 BOMB SQ,

546

RECEIVING STATION RED

B. Filming

In the Holiday Spirit:

This Finish Blank to ZP—London
From QT—Port Moresby, New Guinea

Roll #388 contained 1715 V-Mails, 2 retakes
removed for final count of 1713.

Cut, Fold, Insert finished V-Mails into Envelopes

Dispatch tracking ticket:

“Dispatched to PO 127- 0750” and date stamped:

“Received from E.K. Co” (Eastman Kodak Co.)

- bottom right

GROSS COUNT 1715
 RETAKES 2
 NET COUNT 1713
 DESTINATION ZP
 SENDING STA. & ROLL NO. 388
 - *Finis* -

0555
 GROSS COUNT 1587
 RETAKES _____
 NET COUNT 15
 DESTINATION AND ROLL NUMBER _____
 SENDING STATION AND ROLL NUMBER _____



TIME REC'D FR E.K. CO. _____
 PLSG. EACH OPERATOR 212
 TIME FOLDED 0600-0605
 INSERTS EACH OPERATOR 222
 TIME INSERTED 0628-0646
 DISPATCHED TO PO 127-0750

FINISH

17/10/44

← **Finish Page**

October 17, 1944

Christmas Mail Roll with 1,587 V-Mail

Note Handwritten “Xmas Roll” sent

2 1/2 months before the holiday.

2. Starting V-Mail

C. Sending the Film

Reusable Mailing Boxes

Protecting the Film in Shipment:

An early V-Mail film box labeled "Kodak Airgraph Film"

This has British Airgraph branding and & "V...- Mail Station" on the same box. "Post Office Department" which became War and Navy Departments. "Air Mail" priority given to ship V-Mail by air.

These Sturdy little boxes were relabeled and reused.

Early V-Mail Film Box



2. Starting V-Mail

C. Sending the Film

Reusable Mailing Boxes - RUSH

A Definitive Reusable Box:

This design, once established, was used through the end of the war:

Simplified text and RUSH labeling improved the design.

War & Navy Departments had replaced Post Office Departments.

Kodak and Airgraph branding removed.

Adhesive labels were added, easing repeated usage.



2. Starting V-Mail

C. Sending the Film

Tagging V-Mail Pouches & Rolls

V-Mail was a high priority in air cargo, clear tags and labels to direct the V-Mail to where it need to go.



2. Starting V-Mail

Destination Aids

C. Sending the Film

Destination Tags for Essential Air Mail

V-Mail film roles are small compared to other wartime cargo. Film needed to be clearly identified and carefully controlled. These Special Handling labels and pouch tags were developed for the film's safe travel.

To: V-Mail Station, San Francisco, CA

Tag from Air Transport Command at the Hamilton Air Force Base

For: S.F.P.E. is San Francisco Port of Embarkation

"Do Not Enclose in Another Pouch"



To: V-Mail Station in Chicago, IL



Army V-Mail Station Pouch Tag:

"ARMY" is expressly stated as the Army and Navy each had different location codes.



2. Starting V-Mail

D. Creating Standard Forms

Fold Up, Addressable Design

The V-Mail form needed an addressable envelope style exterior for conventional mailing. Multiple design, many printing variations were created by the Government Printing Office and private companies as V-Mail began. Forms "GPO 16-28143-3" government issue, and "Post Office Permit No. 1" held by Wessel Company, Chicago.

FROM:

SEE
INSTRUCTION
NO. 5

V...— MAIL

TO:

ious dispatch and reduces the weight
med Forces outside the continental
its where micro-film equipment is
e of the message will be made and
on available for reproduction and
oyed after the reproduction has been
points where micro-film equipment
original form by the most expeditious

IONS

he other side within marginal lines.
panels provided. Addresses to members
rk or rating of the addressee, unit to
dress.

ffice letter drop or street letter box.
velope and a separate V-Mail letter
than one sheet.

ge by members of the Armed Forces.
repaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary

☆ GPO 16-28143-3

V-Mail service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a place where photographing service is not available the original letter will be dispatched by the most expeditious means.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) Print the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addresses of members of the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or naval address, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned or attached and army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster or appropriate fleet post office.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if domestic air mail service is desired when mailed in the U. S.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

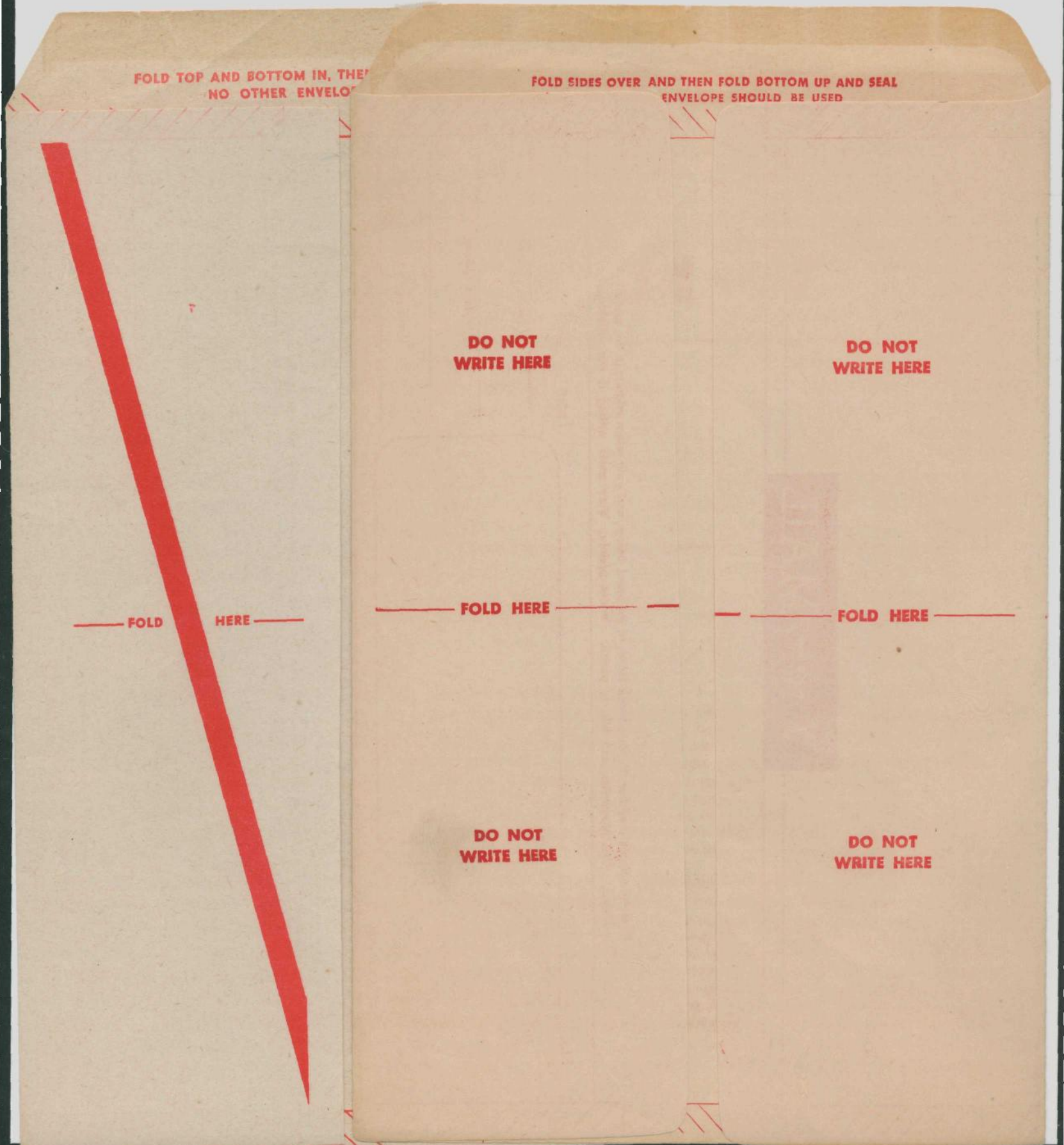
2. Starting V-Mail

Flap Design

D. Creating Standard Forms

The Varieties of Flap Design on Unprocessed V-Mail:

Red lines incorporated into the design, and "Do Not Write Here" on this side nothing would be photographed.



2. Starting V-Mail

V-Mail Delivery Envelopes

D. Envelopes

Arriving at a Standard Format:

On the left: US V-Mail Service, depending on the civilian Postal Service. No penalty indicia, an early type.
On the right: War & Navy Departments with penalty indicia.

A large number envelope types were used because of wartime paper shortages, different manufacturers, and materials available by location. Some V-Mail were delivered without envelopes, and reuse of envelopes for servicemen abroad was common.

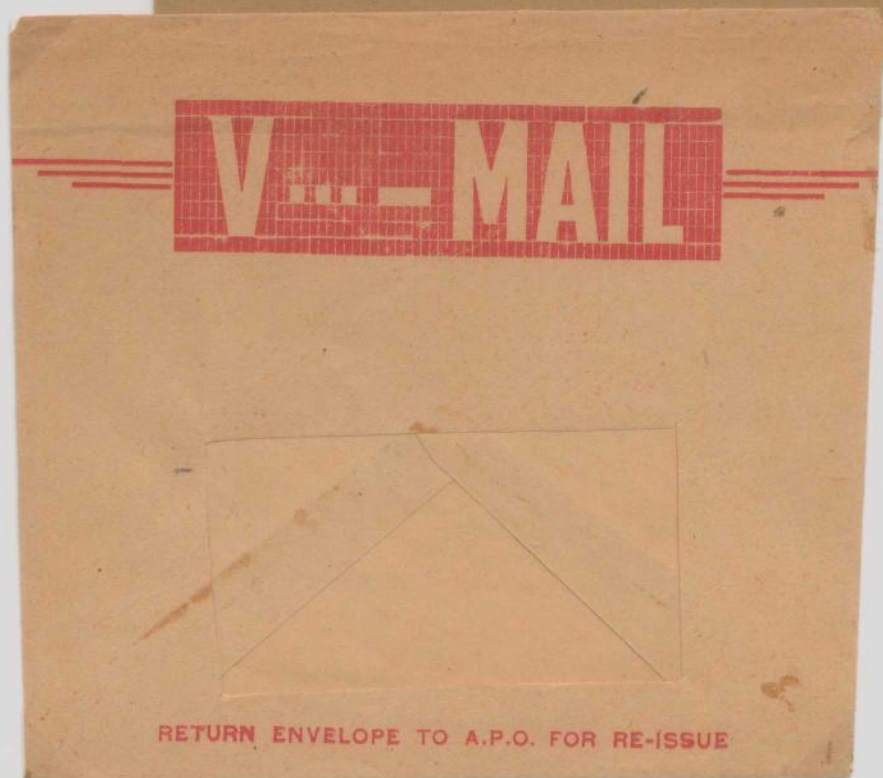


Envelope variations occur in:

- Paper Used
- Window Sizes
- Printing & Ink
- Window Cuts
- Envelope Knife Cuts
- Wording on the Envelopes

“Return envelope to APO for reissue” →

A scarce early envelope type.



2. Starting V-Mail

D. Envelopes

The Standard Envelope Cancelled at Each Processing Center:

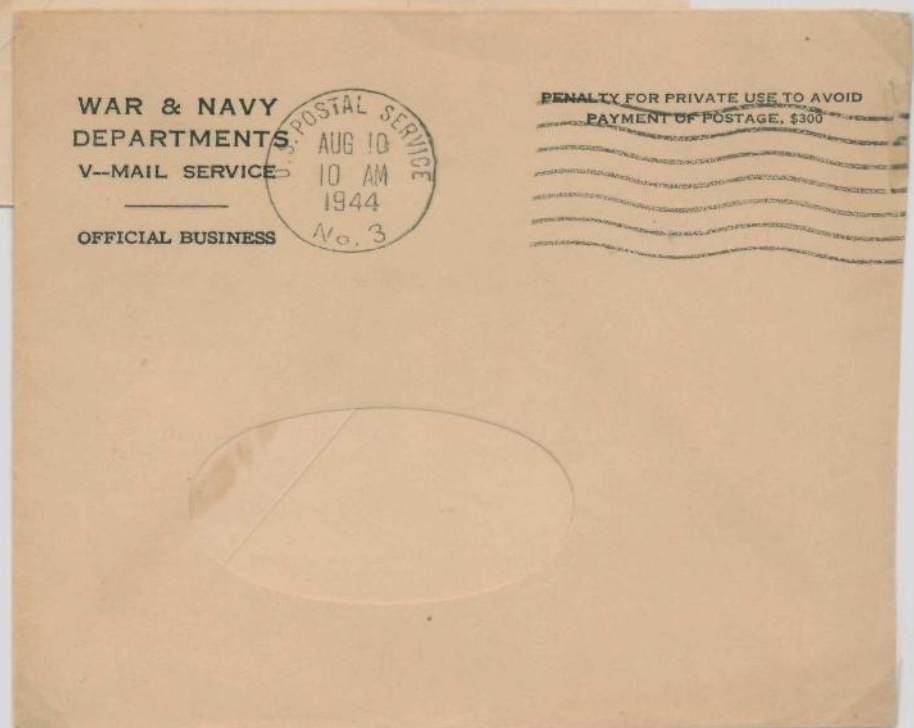
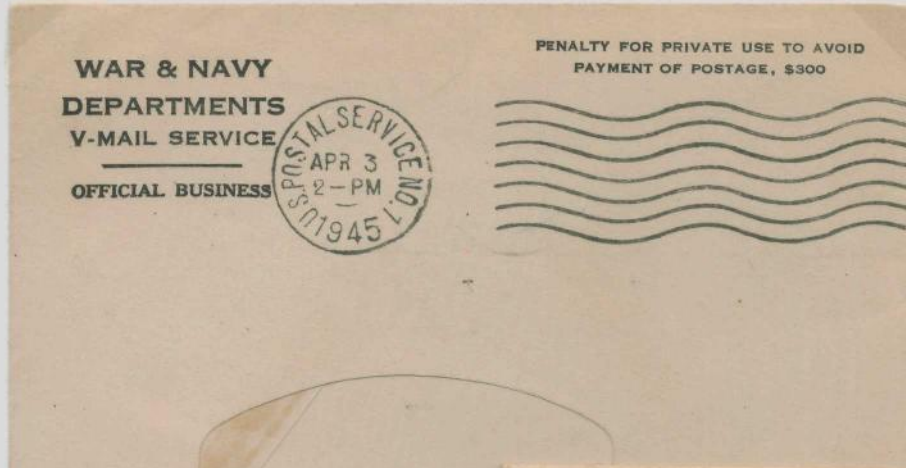
V-Mail received from troops abroad one printed were folded and placed in envelopes. The cancellations serve as date stamps, and V-Mail from troops were sent free.

V-Mail Delivery Envelopes

U.S. Postal Service #1 – New York City

U.S. Postal Service #2 – San Francisco

U.S. Postal Service #3 – Chicago



Location No. 3, Chicago →
was added as volume of V-Mail
expanded. The format of its cancel
reflects a new design.

2. Starting V-Mail
E. Early Forms

Original Black V-Mail

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

Mr and Mrs Louis Korotun
325 Wall Street
Meriden , Connecticut

From

Cpl John Kowchak
(Sender's name)
USA # 31041177
(Sender's address)
Finance Office, 45th Inf Div
APO 45, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

(Date) August 14, 1943

Sicily

Dear Sis, Lou and Lorraine,

Just received your July 24th letter to-day which had that change of address. However, I have gotten from you a July 25th letter several days ago so we didn't gain any time. Nevertheless it isn't bad time.

It is good to hear from you again and to learn that all is well with you all and in addition, some home town news. Glad to know that you visit the old folks as I feel sure that they enjoy having you do that. I also received a letter from them a few days ago.

Sis, you know what I have always told you. Anytime you want to take the typewriter, you can. I have told Catherine that that was my desire. As far as the car is concerned, Pop is the one to say what would be the best plan. I am also glad to hear that you are taking care of our cemetery, as we have always kept it in good shape.

Are you receiving my letters regularly? Have you gotten the fifty dollars I sent you to give to Pop? You have never mentioned whether Lorraine is getting the post-cards I sent her. I hope she has. I bet Lorraine is kept quite busy this summer helping about the home.

As for myself, there isn't much to say. I am still in good condition, working as usually and going swimming as often as possible. Don't know just how long we will be staying here, it all depends how fast our boys ahead of us keep moving. But it isn't bad here. Of all surprises, we are starting to get bread with our meals. So I know things are on the up-swing when our bakery can get to us. However, if ever you have the desire to send me some of your home-made cookies or something that will keep, don't hesitate to send it. But it isn't a rush call -- anytime will do.

I went to the dental clinic this morning to have a cavity on the side of one of my teeth filled. I had just noticed it and decided to have it taken care of before I had trouble with it. They had a pretty good set-up for the clinic. It is a few miles in back of us and I was able to bum a ride both ways. I was also able to go swimming to-day. I know that I will miss this place whenever we move.

I just got another letter from Nick Harchenko and he is now located somewhere in Africa. Well, folks, I'll be signing off for now, hoping that all in good health. Write--- Johnny

V...-MAIL



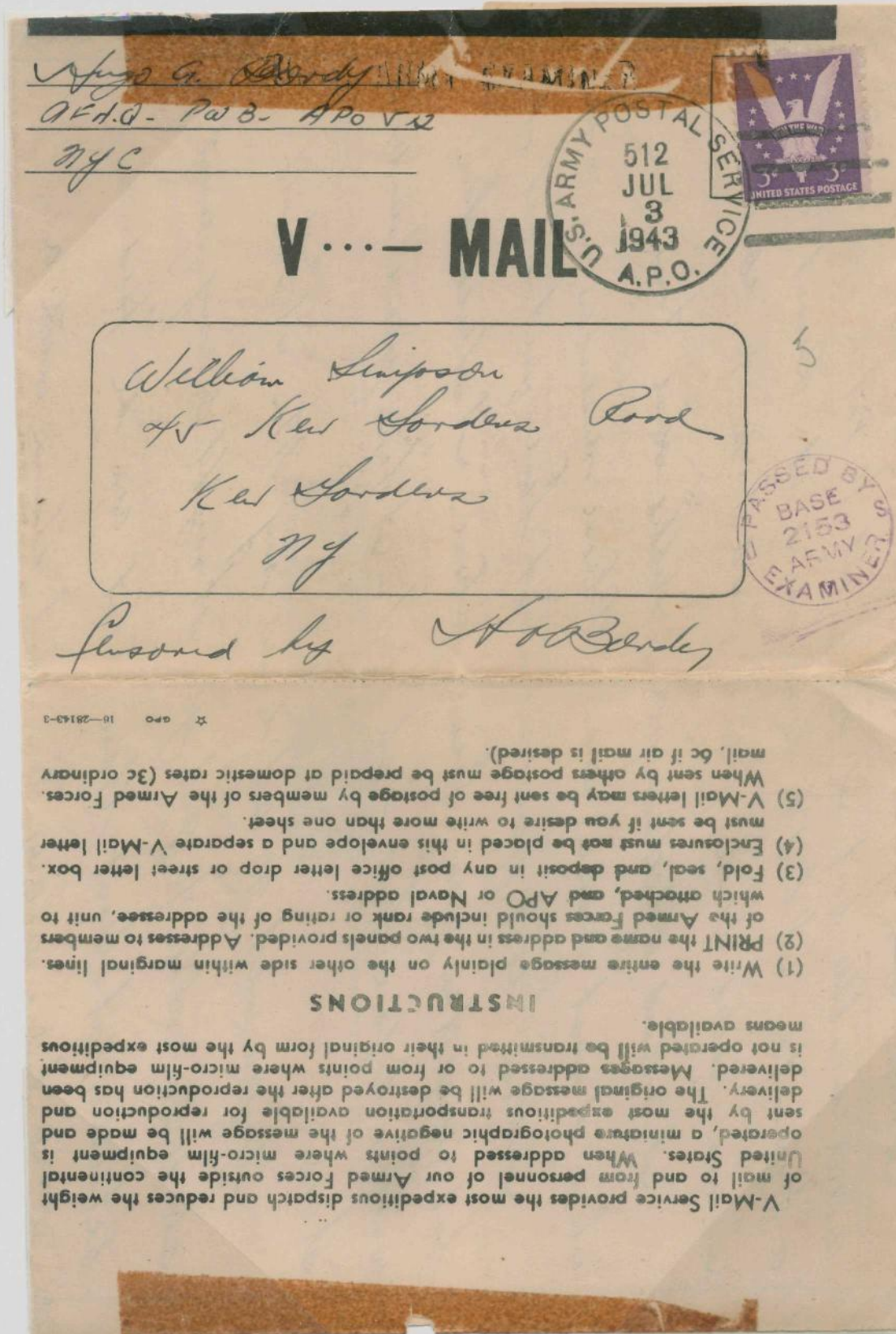
2. Starting V-Mail

E. Early Forms

Improving Black Format

An improved format for V-Mail, this July, 1943 V-Mail has **simplified instructions** and an **address block on the reverse**. Like an Aerogram, a V-Mail letter could be mailed on its own, with an added envelope.

From APO 521-NY- The Allied Forces Prisoner of War Board, Algiers, Algeria. Writer a civilian, franking required.



2. Starting V-Mail
E. Early Forms

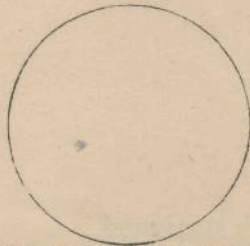
Original Black Unprocessed V-Mail

This is the original: Mailed from Army Post Office 887, Sutton - Coldfield, England, V-Mail station #1.

Early V-Mails were often sent without microfilming as equipment, when supplies and staff were not yet set up. This letter mentions a visit to the troops by **Bob Hope**, and \$20. to \$40. to pay for whores, "Piccadilly Commandos."

PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL BELOW, AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PENCIL. WRITE PLAINLY. VERY SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.

No. _____



CENSORS STAMP

Mr. Ehester Wysinski
644 Garfield Ave.
Jersey City, New Jersey

Cpl. John S. Romanowski
32467781

SENDERS NAME
Hq. Sq. EW, ATC, APO 887

SENDERS ADDRESS
% Postmaster, New York

23 Aug., 1943
DATE

Well here I am vis iting Jolly Ole London and having a heck of time,
So much to do one wonder whether he will be able to see it all. We had Bob Hope and
his gang out here and they certainly put on a good show, It made you feel homesick for
the minute but you soon got over that as this place has a lot of action and you always
can do something.

Th
they had no knowl
want anything you
a Piccadilly Comm
she want 10 and n
How about that in
you need not bothe
Th
expecting to hear

Cpl. John S. Romanowski
Hq. Sq. EW. ATC, APO 887
% Postmaster , New York



Free

Mr Chester Wysinski
644 Garfield Ave.
Jersey City, New Jersey

PASSED BY
JUL 16 S
ARMY EXAMINER

2. Starting V-Mail

E. Early Forms

Branding V-Mail

From APO 639-NY
"Some where in England"

"V-Mail" Logo Black

Not all V-Mail forms were microfilmed. In this case, the sender notes (at bottom in cursive):

"Just found out this form is no longer acceptable, so will send by air mail."

Damaged and illegible forms could not pass through the microfilming machinery. Sometimes processing stations were not working or simply forwarding full-sized sheets was the fastest option.

This is an early design, introducing boxed "Reply by V-Mail" in red color. Contrasting early letters with early branding concepts in black.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

16-28143-5 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1 1943

MAIL

See
Instruction
No. 5

... ..
rapid means of communication. If
graphing service is not available
by the most expeditious means.
ACTIONS
ily on the other side within marginal
in the two spaces provided. Ad-
med Forces should show full name,
dress, including grade or rank, serial
d or attached, and Army post office
ostmaster or appropriate fleet post
post office letter drop or street letter
in this envelope.
ree of postage by members of the
others, postage must be prepaid at
mail, bc if domestic air-mail service
(.S.)

PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL BELOW, AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE DARK INK OR DARK PENCIL. WRITE VERY PLAINLY. SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.

SENDER'S RETURN ADDRESS:

No. _____

PRINT ADDRESS IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS

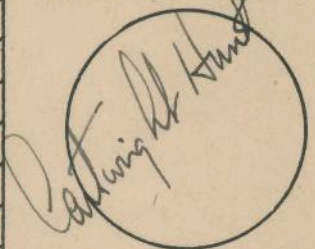
Major Cartwright Hunter
(Grade or Rank and Name)

(Army Serial Number): 0-291058

Hq. & Hq. Sq. 4th CCRC
(Complete Organisational)

Group _____
(address)

APO: 639 c/o POSTMASTER,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



CENSORS STAMP

Dr. and Mrs. George W. Hunter
466 West 10th Street
Claremont, California U.S.A.

L. A. County

Dearest Mother and Dad, Somewhere in England 16 Aug
This is being written on an entirely different typewriter, but the one that I expect I'll be using in the future. In case I make a few extra mistakes don't mind me. Well, here I am at a new station, and in a new job, the same one in fact that I first had over here in England, 'nuf said. Don't worry tho for this will not be as rough as the other was by any matter of means. Strangely enuf, I'm serving with the same CO that I had over in Ireland (one of them at least) and there are plenty of rumors of things to come, and I may be wrong, but I think that if there is something else that I can do in some other line when these develope, if they do, I may be given a chance to at least try for them. For the moment, I've had it. Otherwise things remain about as before, except that since I was stuck anyway, I really hated to leave that last outfit with which I was, for their work was interesting and I liked the boys. Also I had the feeling that I was participating a bit more than this will be, but once again, I've just told myself that in the Army we do as we're told, not as we like, and so it goes. I'm taking over from a lad, who should have been darn good at this work, hence I'll have to really knuckle down and bone. I don't know whether or not I'm going to be able to make it, but I spoke to the CO requesting a pass in the next few weeks to take my long hoped for visit to Ireland. Much to my surprise, he pointed out that things were a bit upset at the moment and that he thot that this would be a fine time to go, so if I think that he is really serious, I may do just that very thing the end of this week, or the first part of next. I'd really like to go over for a little trip, and he no doubt figures that if he sent me over, I might feel a little bit better about things and so do a better job. Well, I'll try to do the job, no matter how I feel, but I still would like to go over, and it would make me feel a little happier about everything. No don't go and get all excited and upset, for this job will no doubt be performed by me or not I really en things that we liked be done, I might as Mother, but none from st you get a lot and anything like it. Be last letter, 'twas at, but seemed to be weather lately, I did nether or not it is ful blue sky, balmy ng? According to the the combined effort by the end of the year it never hurt to do taken my trip when that Mary Alice Jac le. Thanx for the dose far havn't had a chan one of these days!

Major Cartwright Hunter 0-291058
Hq. Hq. Sq. 4th CCRC Group
APO 639 90 PM New York, N.Y.



Cartwright Hunter

Dr and Mrs George W Hunter
612 Via Lido Nord
Lido Isle
Newport Beach, Calif. U.S.A

Much love to you

R.S. Just found out that this form is no longer acceptable so will send Air Mail.

3. Supporting the War Effort

V-Mail Pack

A. Promoting the Use of V-Mail

Wessel & Company, Chicago, was the largest commercial printer of V-Mail, offering different sized packs of blanks, they called "Envo-Letters." The package drawings explain the V-Mail process especially well.



3. Supporting the War Effort
A. Promoting the Use of V-Mail

V-Mail Pack

Wessel & Company, Chicago, was the largest commercial printer of V-Mail, offering different sized packs of blanks, they called "Envo-Letters." The package drawings explain the V-Mail process especially well.

UNITED STATES OFFICIAL

MAILED PHOTOGRAPHED FLOWN ENLARGED DELIVERED

FOR RUSH PHOTOGRAPHIC MAIL TO OUR ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS

V-MAIL

*Envo-Letters** *ce*/
25

COMBINATION SHEETS AND ENVELOPES

*COPYRIGHT REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

PRODUCT OF THE WESSEL COMPANY · CHICAGO

3. Supporting the War Effort
A. Promoting the Use of V-Mail

V-Mail Messages

Communicating with our troops was positioned as our **patriotic duty**. Here V-Mail itself is used to promote the use of V-Mail to stay in touch with our servicemen.

←“V-Mail is speed mail”

“V-Mail saves vital cargo space...more than 98% of the space required for other types of letter mail.”

TO: PVT. WILLARD J. ROE, 32000000
 COMPANY F, 187th INFANTRY,
 APO 801, c/o POSTMASTER,
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

John R. Roe,
 705 - 18th Street, N.W.,
 Washington, D. C.

SENDER'S STAMP SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address above)

HERE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD USE V-MAIL:

V-mail is speed mail.....It is given the most expeditious handling and has priority over all other classes of personal mail.

V-mail is safe.....Safe because if your letter is on a film which is lost or destroyed the original letter is again photographed and dispatched by air.

V-mail is popular.....More than 40,000,000 individual pieces are handled monthly.

V-mail saves vital cargo space.....It saves more than 98 per cent of the space required for other types of letter mail.

To assure that your V-mail will be handled and delivered promptly overseas, complete military address is essential. The above address may be used as a guide. It will be noted that the rank or grade, full name, serial number, and complete organization address are shown.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? **REPLY BY V-MAIL** HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Women's Committee
 14 Nov. 1944
 139 Chestnut St.
 8 P.M.

Passed
 Mrs. J. R. Forbes
 136 Lorimer St.
 Salinas, Calif.

Have you a son, husband, sweetheart, friend overseas? Then tell us about him when we meet if you please. Bring Souvenirs or interesting letters to share. Let's salute our brave service men by all being there.

Call 3315 or 7621

V-MAIL

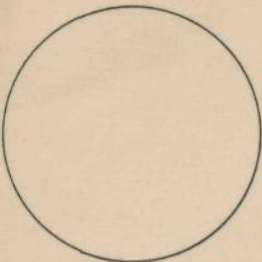
↑ Spelling out the benefits. Promoting the notion that **V-Mail is popular**. Initially, it took some convincing to adopt V-Mail.

“I am well and happy and my morale is 100%. The biggest single item it that way...is mail from home. The V-Mail personnel are working hard to give us good service...” Next Page→

↑The Women's Committee of Salinas, California sent this simple and small printed powerful **reminder to use V-Mail**. Salinas, California is home to the **Salinas Airdrome**, quite busy during wartime.

War Artist
 V-Mail Form

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



TO:

FROM

7 (CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

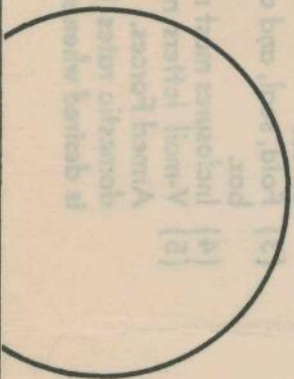
DEAR

I AM WELL AND HAPPY AND MY MORALE IS 100%. THE BIGGEST SINGLE ITEM TO INSURE KEEPING IT THAT WAY IS MAIL FROM HOME. THE NAVY MAIL CLERKS AND V-MAIL PERSONNEL ARE WORKING HARD TO GIVE US GOOD MAIL SERVICE. YOU CAN HELP THEM BY USING V-MAIL AND BY ADDRESSING ALL MAIL COMPLETELY AND CORRECTLY. MY MAIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:



DSC
USNR

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.



TO.

FULL NAME (SPELLED OUT) RANK OR RATE

NAME OF ACTIVITY

NAVY NUMBER IF APPLICABLE (SPELL OUT ALL NUMBERS)
%

APPROPRIATE FLEET POST OFFICE

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

NOTE
→

PRINT On first line your full name and rank or rate. On second line complete name of activity. On third line your navy number if applicable. On fourth line your appropriate fleet post office.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

3. Supporting the War Effort

B. Boosting Morale

V-Mail Messages

Reminders to stay in touch, and easy and light communications were sent easily by V-Mail. Sitting down to write a letter took more time, and took longer to deliver.

← For this Writer:
 "Doing lots of nothing.
 Wish I had more ambition."
 and,
 "Yours till the cows come home"

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FILED BY NAVAL MAIL (CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. CLINTON F. ANG
 1221 KESWICK BLVD
 LOUISVILLE,
 KENTUCKY

FROM: Carl F. Reichel SA7C
 U.S.N. - A.G.
 55 W. Mulholland
 % Fleet P.O., N.Y., N.Y.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address shown)

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

DEAR	X	ARE YOU	X
Mother	—	Going out with a girl or	—
Dad	—	Spending my allowance	—
Wife	—	money	—
Sweetheart	—	Staying out late at night	—
Sis	—	Missing me	—
Brother	—	Happy	X
Friend	X	THINGS ARE	X
HOW ARE YOU?	X	Fine	—
I AM	X	Rough	X
Missing you	—	Slow	—
Lonesome	—	Exciting	—
Well	X	WILL BE	X
Happy	—	Going to work	—
WISH I HAD	X	Thinking of you	—
You	—	Writing you again	—
More sleep	—	Going to bed	X
Someone to love me	—	I HAVE SEEN	X
Some kisses	—	U. S. O. Shows	—
More ambition	X	Fights	—
DOING LOTS OF	X	Baseball Games	X
Sight-seeing	—	Lots of good looking	—
Thinking of you	—	girls	—
Work	—	YOURS	X
Loafing	—	Till the cows come home	X
Sleeping	—	With love	—
Nothing	X	Sincerely	—
Movies	—	Forever	—
Everything	—	NAME	Carl
Traveling	—		

HOPE YOU HAVE

Everything you want	X
Behaved yourself	—
Been having fun	X
Kept well	—
Been true to me	—
Not forgotten how to write	—

ITALY IS

Sunny	X
Beautiful	—
Hot	—
Smelly	X
Picturesque	—

THE FOOD IS

Fair	X
Lousy	X
Good	—
Dehydrated	—

AMERICAN RED CROSS - ITALY -

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

provided Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly.

No. FILED BY NAVAL MAIL (CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. E. L. KUEHN
 503 CASTLEMAN T.
 PITTSBURGH 6 PA.

LEE C. EILS, MITIC, USNR
 20th U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION
 REGIMENT (Sender's name)
 "SECOND BRIGADE STAFF"
 (Sender's address)
 c/o Fleet Post Office
 San Francisco, Calif.
 SEP 5 1944
 (Date)

HOW ABOUT SOME Letters

YEAH, BUT EVEN HE GOT ONE FROM SOME MISSIONARY IN SALT LAKE CITY!

SEABEES

2nd BRIGADE

↑ Sponsored by the American Red Cross of Italy, this light spirited V-Mail form provides a quick way for a serviceman to send out a hello.

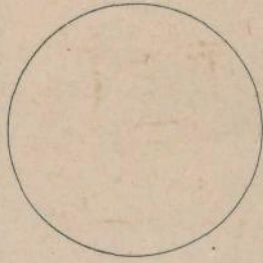
↑ From the Seabees, 1944 artist greeting send letters. Note the 2nd Brigade marking replaces the well established V-Mail branding at the bottom.

"We're Proud of You, G.I. Joe"
 Birthday Greeting. Next Pages →

Morale Booster
 Artist Greetings →

Next Pages: It was common during the WW II for community groups, like this from the Saucon Valley Defenders Committee, to personalize a V-Mail Greetings.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



TO

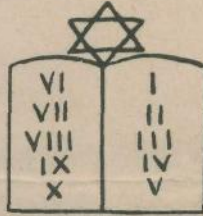
From

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

5706



1945

לשנה טובה תכתבו

May it be God's will that
the New Year bring you much
happiness - and to the world a
just and enduring peace



Have You Filled In Complete
Address At Top?

SHARE AIR MAIL BY
USING V-MAIL

Early format V-Mail form
in black without logo.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FROM

SAUCON VALLEY DEFENDERS

COMMITTEE

Hellertown, Pennsylvania

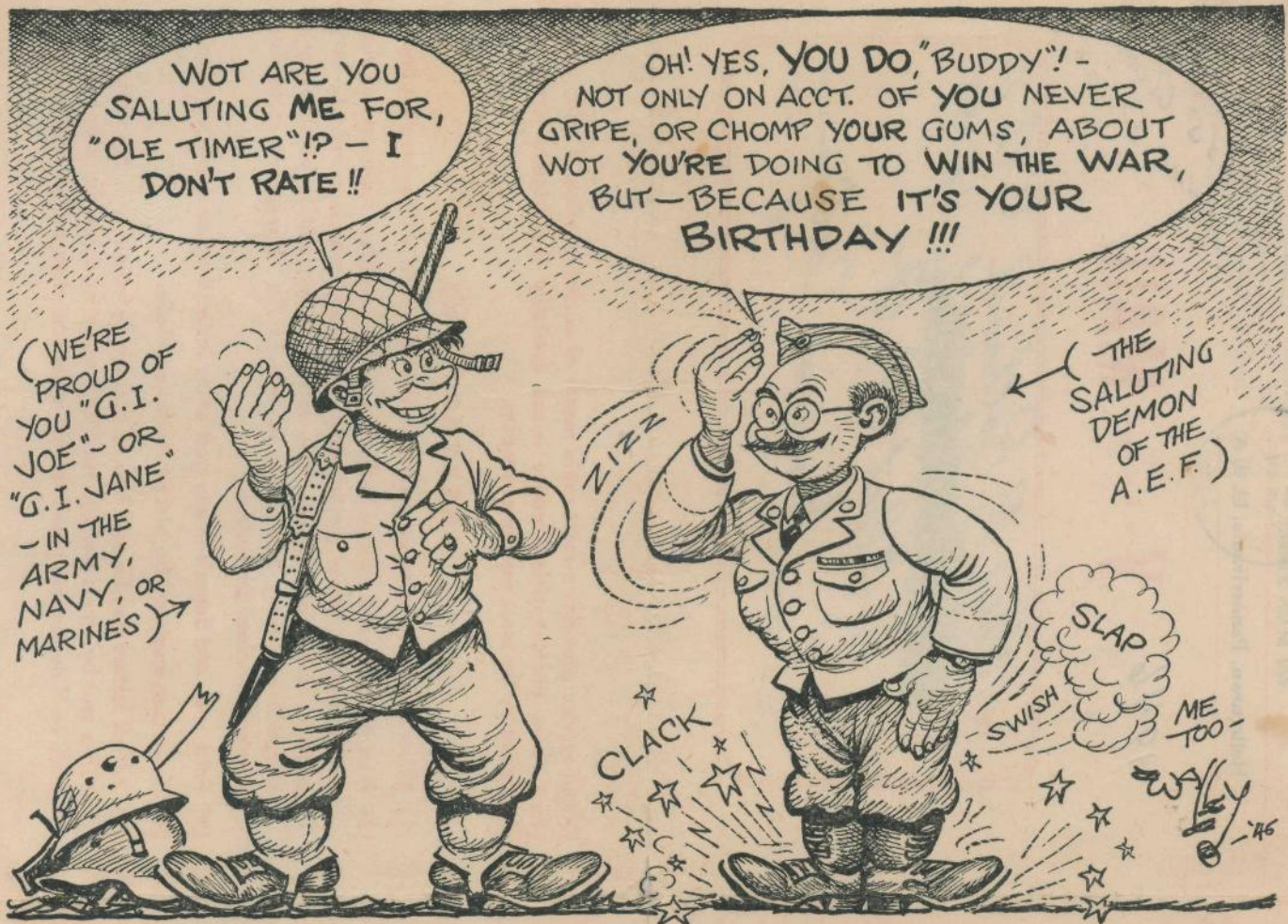
TO:

Four horizontal lines for recipient address.

(Sender's complete address above)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON January 30th

And Many Happy Returns from the Saucon Valley Defenders.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V...-MAIL

Pre-printed sender's address and graphic art, needing just the birthday date.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

From:

To:



Address lines for 'To:'

Address lines for 'From:'

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

(See Instruction No. 2)

(Sender's complete address above)

FATHERS DAY 1945
BEST WISHES DAD...
ON THIS SPECIAL DAY



תש"ה
הערצלכםטע
גרום...
בער פאטער



להתראות!



NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V...-MAIL

Father's Day limited printing war artist greeting V-Mail

Leon Berman

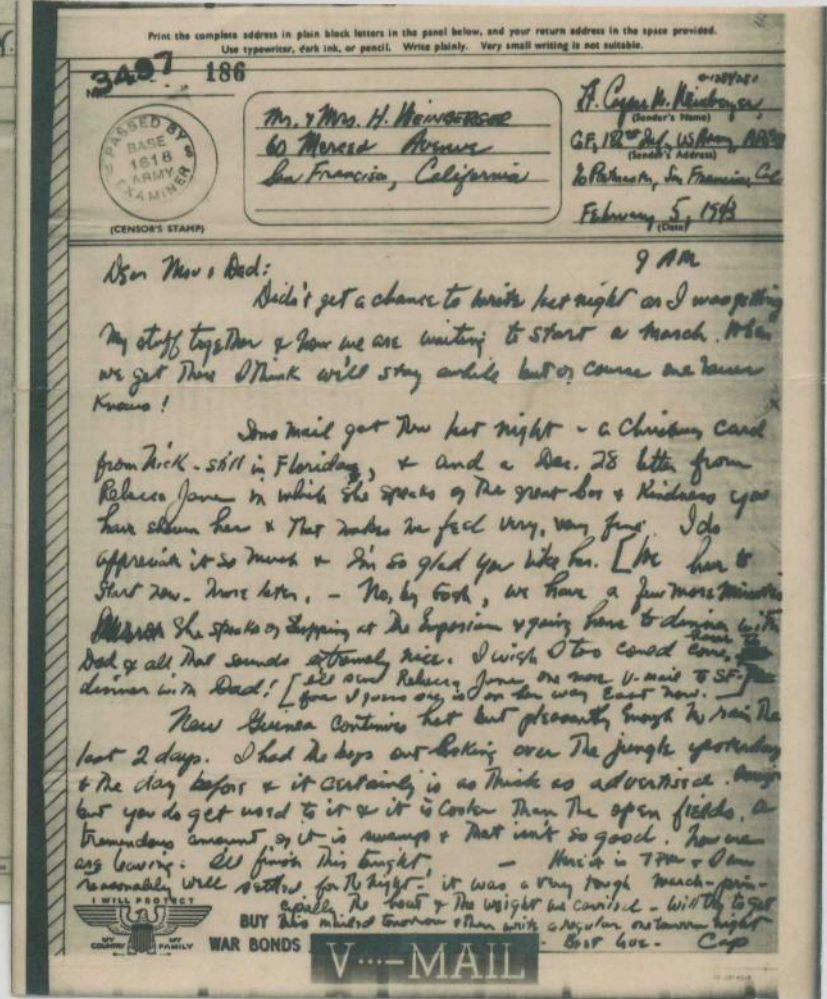
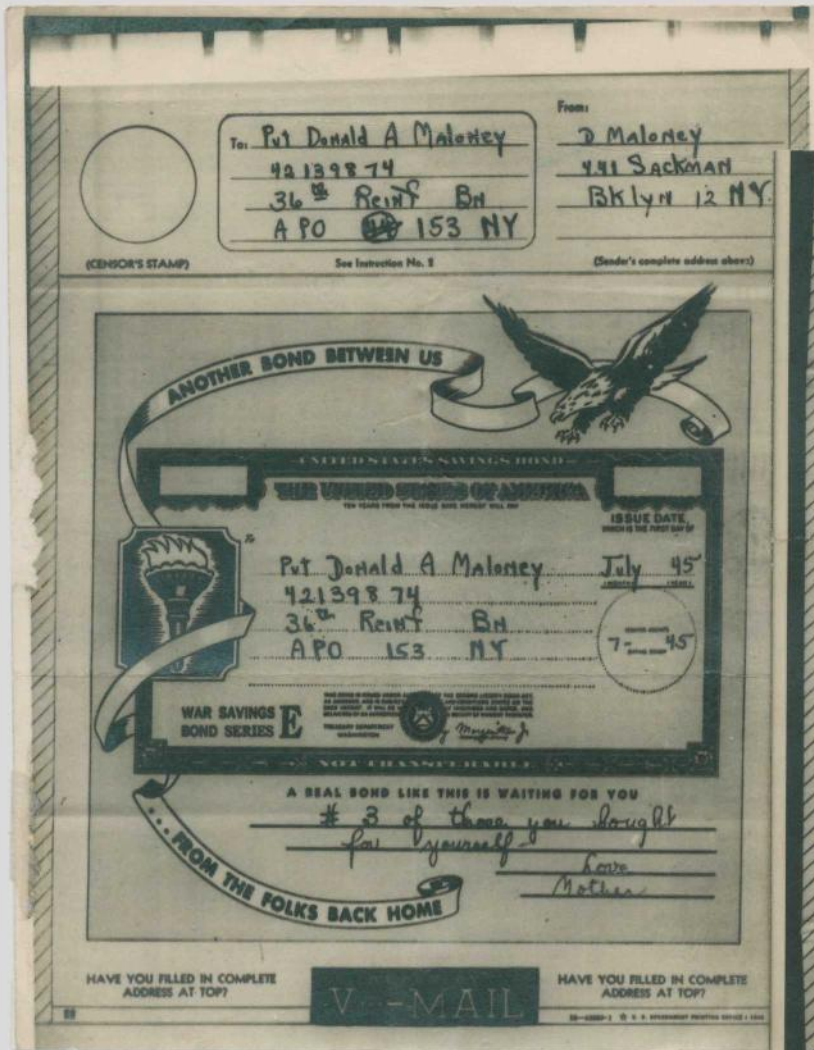
3. Supporting the War Effort C. Funding the War

Buy War Bonds

“Another Bond Between Us... From The Folks Back Home” Artist Greeting Text

Private Maloney at APO 153-NY, 36th Reinforcement Battalion in Marburg, Germany and Lieutenant Weinberger at APO 41-SF of the 186th Infantry Battalion, 41st Division in Rockhampton, Australia both send home the message to Buy War Bonds. The Greeting promotes Series E War Bonds.

“Three of these you bought yourself.” From Australia, a logo added at the bottom, “Buy War Bonds”. ↓



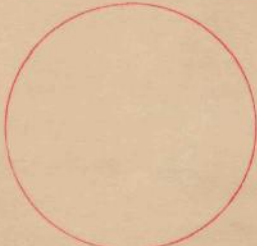
“I Will Protect My Country, My Family - Buy War Bonds” V-Mail Insignia, Above and Next Page →

V-Mail insignia, scarce usage at the bottom of this V-Mail. Sergeant Bjorklund, APO 921-1 380th Bomber Group at Adelaide River Air Base, Australia.

This V-Mail handstamped, “This V-Mail Could Not be Photographed, Message Sheet Mutilated” Water damaged V-Mail sent with early American Base Forces four bar cancel on reverse.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided.
Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Mr. and Mrs. L.S. Bjorklund
2229 Johnson St. N.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sgt. C.L. Bjorklund
(Sender's name)
380th Bomb Group
530th Bomb Squadron
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. 921 Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

November 14, 1943
(Date)

THIS V MAIL COULD NOT BE PHOTOGRAPHED
MESSAGE SHEET MUTILATED

Dear Folks,
I'm still in Australia and I'm
having a good time. I just came from
our swimming hole - it looks just like
one of those pools in a "Tarzan"
movie.

We have a sw
of bamboo, and
furniture for it.
swell camp here,
treat each other
good, and we get
cigarettes per mo
two quarts of bee
pretty classy here.

Yesterday I went hunting in the
jungle, and I really saw a lot of new
animals. I saw Kangaroo, wild turkey,
parrotts, and many other animals I'd
never seen running wild before.

I can't write much on this, but I'll
do for a starter, I'll finish later. Love Charles

AFTER _____ DAYS RETURN TO—

Sgt. C.L. Bjorklund 17155981
380th Bomb Group 530th Sq.
A.P.O. 921 Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

Free



V...-MAIL

Mr. and Mrs. L.S. Bjorklund
2229 Johnson St. N.E.
Minneapolis
Minnesota

PASSED BY
24661 S
EXAMINER



BUY WAR BONDS

V...-MAIL

4. V-Mail Processing

Domestic & Foreign Censor

A. Censorship

After a V-Mail letter is written, it is censored before film processing. Censorship and filming while straightforward in nature can still have some unusual situation and outcomes, examples shown here.

From APO 658-NY Civil Affairs Unit #1, **Rochefort, France**

Censored with German Feldpost handstamp

As an officer, Major Heffernon could self censor his mail. In this case, he did censored with his Base Examiner #1047 Censor marking, but as a collector, he chose to leave a philatelic artifact behind. He substituted a real German Feldpost handstamp where the censor marking should have been placed.

“Just a note to send you this V-Mail letter, which, if you ever receive it, will be of considerable philatelic interest.”

V-Mail with German Feldpost Censor

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.	Mr. & Mrs. John Heffernon 3247 Bach Avenue, Cincinnati, 9, Ohio.	Maj. Geo. A. Heffernon <small>[Sender's name]</small> ROAD Civ. Aff. Unit #1 <small>[Sender's address]</small> APO #658 c/o FM. NY. NY. 9 October 44. <small>[Date]</small>
-----	--	---

**DEUTSCHE
POST
REICH
5**
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

**BASE
EXAMINER
1047
ARMY**

Dear Folks:

Just a note to send you this V mail letter -- which if you ever receive it will be of considerable philatelic interest.

Is raining here again today as usual. There is little else to write about here other than the weather. If the war goes on for two more months I will have served overseas just 18 months since war was declared or a total of 29 months. I'm ready for it to end any day now.

Love to you both,

Geo

V-MAIL 64

4. V-Mail Processing

A. Censorship

Censored for Language

Esquadron 201 Mexican Air Force

Written in Spanish, this V-Mail handstamped "Referred to the District Censor", who had foreign language specialists and this V-Mail was "civilian censored" in San Francisco. The Mexican Air Force, as their contribution to the war effort, formed Fighter Squadron, "Esquadron 201" deployed to Philippines using Temporary APO 18888. This V-Mail, correspondence by foreign nationals using V-Mail, is scarce. V-Mail franked 25 centavos for Airmail to San Francisco, to enter the military mail stream.

FROM: Socorro Nde Ramos
San Antonio Abad #144
México D.F. México

V...— MAIL



TO: 1st Sgt. Daniel Ramos Méndez 285120
201st Fighter Sqdn A.P.O. 18888
c/o Postmaster.
San Francisco, California
U.S.A.

FOLD HERE

V-Mail service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a place where photographing service is not available the original letter will be dispatched by the most expeditious means.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) Print the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addresses of members of the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or naval address, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned or attached and army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster or appropriate fleet post office.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if domestic air mail service is desired when mailed in the U.S.)

THIS COMMUNICATION REFERRED TO DISTRICT CENSOR BY U. S. AUTHORITIES

4. V-Mail Processing Complexity

A. Censorship

To: **Trinidad**, APO-688 6th Hospital
 Forwarded To: **New York** processing
 Forwarded To: **Hot Springs, AK**,
 Army-Navy Hospital

Multiple Censoring & Forwarding Morocco to Trinidad

Tracking the **Four Censor Markings** and Forwarding of this V-Mail:
From: APO 252-NY, 2nd Armored Division in Rabat, Morocco.

- #1 Censoring: Captain Souza Self Censors at time of writing
- #2 Opened, Censor marked inside
- #3 Censor marked outside front with Base Examiner #0618
- #4 Taped and again Censor marked Base Examiner #0618

Sent to: APO 688-NY, 6th Station Hospital, Greenhill, Trinidad



- (1) V-Mail Station message in open ditto
- (2) When the message is opened, the message is opened in open ditto
- (3) Write the entire message on the other side below the double line.
- (4) Address exactly as you would an ordinary letter, PRINTING the address in the two panels provided.
- (5) Fold according to instructions, seal, and drop in any post office letter drop or street letter box as ordinary letter mail.
- (6) If it is desired to send more than one sheet a separate form must be completed. Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope.
- (7) The original will be destroyed after the corresponding film has been delivered at the destination.



Processing Complexity: Highly manual work taking place in a time before computers. The keeping track of millions of servicemen was done using card files. Considering the volume, complexity of military moves, chaos of war, importance of censoring, the lack of technology, and limited resources available, it is impressive to see the effort made to put the mail in the right hands.

4. V-Mail Processing

B. Filming

Retake and Destruction Order

The importance and priority of V-Mail:

If a processed V-Mail form was damaged, that V-Mails would have a new negative made from retained original, and added to new role, with its send to, location and contents noted on this summary report. Few of these completed forms remain. Careful tracking and quality processing for V-Mail was a clear priority.

TO: Officer in Charge V-Mail Station AFO 772, a/c Postmaster New York, N. Y.		V-MAIL RETAKE AND DESTRUCTION ORDER <small>(Number each sheet an individual order number)</small>		FROM: S.F.P.O., Army Post Office V-Mail Section 9th & Polson Streets San Francisco, Calif.	
<small>(Acknowledging Station)</small>		NUMBER 50	DATE 25 January 1945	<small>(Originating Station)</small>	
IT IS REQUESTED THAT RETAKES BE MADE OF THE LETTERS LISTED BELOW, WHEN THESE LETTERS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN AND IF ALL PRIOR RETAKE AND DESTRUCTION ORDERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN SEQUENCE AND SATISFACTORILY COMPLIED WITH, AUTHORIZATION IS GRANTED TO DESTROY ALL ORIGINAL V-MAIL LETTER ROLLS UP TO AND INCLUDING:					
From MX-47ZP to MX-52ZP inclusive, MX-RR6-ZP, MX-RR9-ZP, MX-RR11-ZP, MX-RR12-ZP, MX-RR10-ZP					
INCLUDED 17 FACSIMILES					
ROLL NUMBER	IDENTIFICATION OF LETTER <small>(Under Count - Address - Last ten words of first line - etc.)</small>			REASON FOR REQUEST	DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL
MX-47ZP	#3-400 Pvt. A.Cohen (haven't written)			Loose paper over message	Retake
MX-49ZP	#0-100 Laurier Seguere (last year)			Punched out not read	Retake
	#0-100 Pfc Sam Niro (and was)			" "	Retake
	#0-100 Pvt. Stanley Boodanowicz (some haven't)			" "	"
	#1-200 Ens. Carl Newmon (Yesterday)			" "	"
	#1-200 Emma Luna (very glad)			" "	"
	#1-200 Miss Vivian Stevens (hope OK)			" "	"
	#3-400 Cpl. Lou Borchini (letter to)			" "	"
	#3-400 ending "Sid", following Borchini			" "	"
	#9-1000 Thomas Guin (wrote you)			" "	"
	#9-1000 signed "Don", following Thomas Guin			" "	"
	#9-1000 Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Allen (my bed-)			" "	"
	#10-1100 Cpl. Murray J. Dructar (I suppose)			" "	"
	488 from end Raymond Parent (letter very)			" "	"
	#10-1100 W.H. Helmstedler (you all)			" "	"
MX-51ZP	#8-300 Mrs. Robert Washburn (a long)			Send orig.	14
MX-52ZP	#0-100 Frank Harris (hear from)			J. E. D.	14
INSTRUCTIONS: Originating office will dispatch signed copies in duplicate and retain one copy. Orders will be sent confirming radio communications transmitted requesting retakes of full rolls. Acknowledging office will complete forms, file duplicate copy upon which record of destruction will be entered, and file original at end of V-Mail roll destined for station of origin. When retakes are involved the original will be used as a target and the roll number on which retake is filmed or other disposition made will be indicated in the last column. All facsimiles received by originator will be compared with retained copies of orders and filed therewith.				DATE: <u>25 Jan 5, 1945</u>	
LETTERS DESTROYED				DESTRUCTION AUTHORITY: THIS IS ACKNOWLEDGED AND RETAKES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.	
DATE	METHOD	DESTRUCTION WITNESSED BY		SIGNATURE	
				T/S For J.E.D. B.P.O.	
U.S. A.R.O. Form 40, 50B 1 August 1944					

4. V-Mail Processing

B. Filming

From: APO447-NY 100th Infantry
Division, Ft. Bragg, NC training
for deployment to Europe.

Enlarging and processing V-Mail:
A process with complexities. Note
the differences in writing from
heavy to faint in just one V-Mail.

Lighting & Text

V-Mail Processing

Source: Photomail Operations, War Department
1943, Field Operations Manual FM 11-150

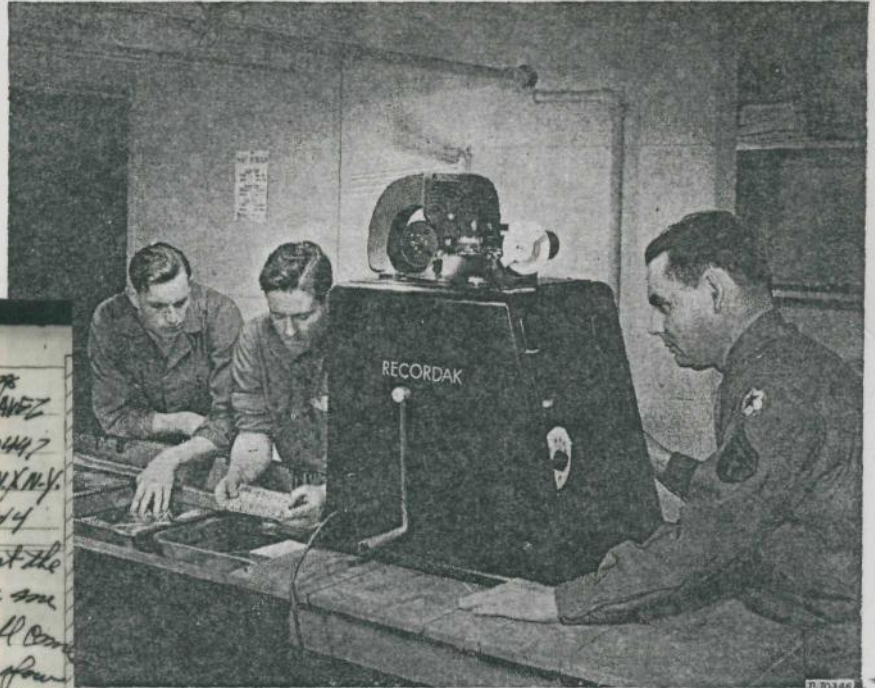
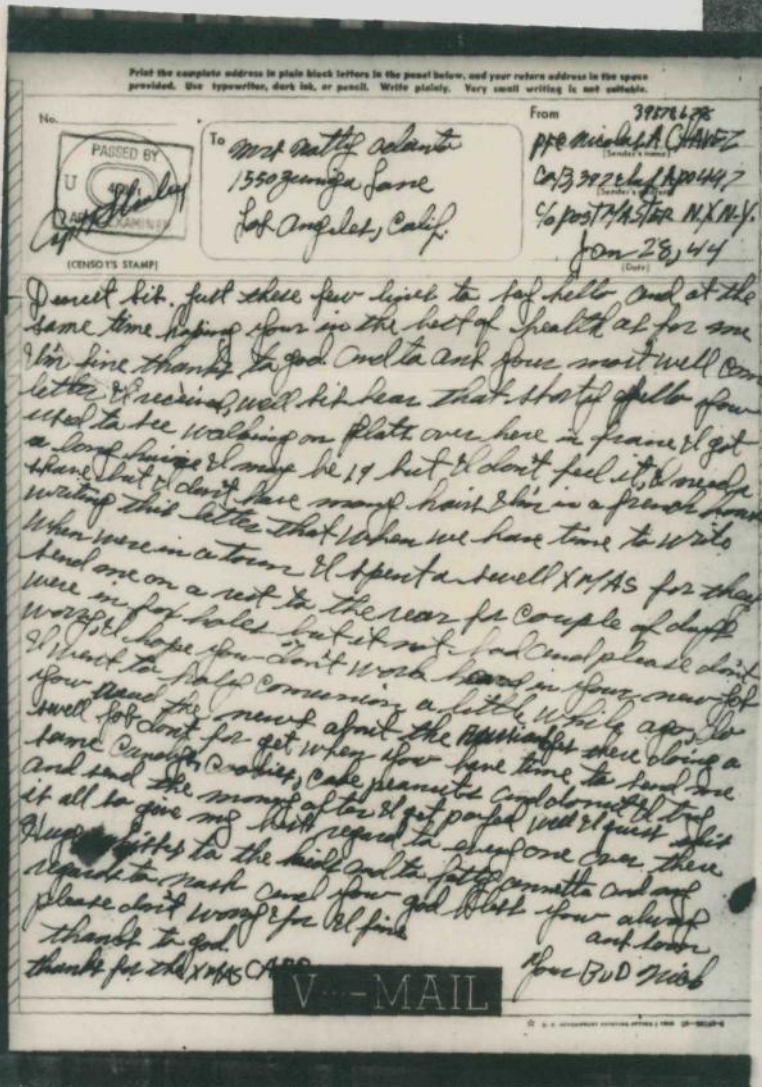


Figure 15. Enlarging and processing V-mail facsimile reprints.



Figure 16. Message center clerk checking an incoming microfilm roll.



4. V-Mail Processing

Enclosures

C. Filming Problems

This V-Mail was sent without filming because of an enclosure. This press release was inserted onto the V-Mail form. This was an unauthorized usage as it was expressly prohibited by V-Mail regulations, and was missed at all checkpoints. It is the only recorded item of its kind.

From the U.S.S. Nevada BB-36, this very large vessel was severely damaged during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was repaired and played a large role in the Normandy landings and the Okinawa operations.

HOW NEVADA BLASTED FOE MILES INLAND

(BY B. J. McQUAID SPECIAL CABLE TO THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS)

With U.S. naval amphibious forces, ashore in France, June 10, delayed.

When paratroopers team up with battleships - especially old battleships - you have a combination of ancient and modern war-making instruments which is bound to cause trouble for somebody.

It caused plenty of trouble for "Jerry" on D-day when our paratroopers and the imperishable old U.S.S. Nevada joined forces.

I learned about one particular action from two paratroopers who took part. They were Lieut. Richard C. Nash, 26, Saginaw, Mich., and Pvt. (fc.) Vernon Stanley, 28, Pengilly, Minn.

SPOTTING MISSION

These two were
after H-hour in
mission of spott

"Our pilot
us from about 1,
to be, and our r

"There was
found him. We fi

"We worked
down. A column
Englise from the
and were holding
not join up until
the beaches.

"Those tanks
had the good old N
gunnery) on the ot
had given her the

FROM:

~~Robert H. Ethridge~~
~~USS NEVADA Div 2~~
~~70 FLEET P.O. NEW YORK N.Y.~~

SEE
INSTRUCTION
NO. 5

V...- MAIL

TO:

Mrs J. W. Ethridge
306 CARMEL AVE.
PACIFIC GROVE
CALIFORNIA

4. V-Mail Processing
C. Filming Problems

Written In Pencil, Faint

From: APO 413-NY Headquarters U.K. Base, London, England

Handwritten in pencil, this V-Mail too faint to be filmed, therefore it was sent as a regular letter. Sent by Cpl. Smith, with tracking indication: 91st MRU (Machine Record Units), a government computer type system.



4. V-Mail Processing

C. Filming Problems

Damaged Forms

From: APO 887-NY Headquarters European Theater, Paris, France
Handstamped, "Regular Mail / from V-Mail Station" and "Damaged"

Track marks on opposite ends of the form were made by the machinery feeding blanks to be photographed. Here the blanks swerved while inside the Recordak machine and split at the upper left fold line. Unsuitable non-standard paper used.

From: SGT. FRANK E. WILLIAMSON 22695209
147 ORDNANCE MVA COMPANY
APO 772 c/o PM, N.Y., N.Y.

V... MAIL
REGULAR MAIL
FROM V-MAIL STATION

To:
EULA B. DUFFEE
4TH SUC RECLAMATION CENTER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

See Instruction No. 5

MAY 12 1945
887
U.S. ARMY POSTAL

INSTRUCTIONS

V-Mail service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a place where photographing service is not available the original letter will be dispatched by the most expeditious means:

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addresses of members of the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or naval address, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned or attached, and Army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster or appropriate fleet post office.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Inclosures must not be placed in this envelope.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others, postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if domestic air-mail service is desired when mailed in the U.S.)

HERE
FOLD

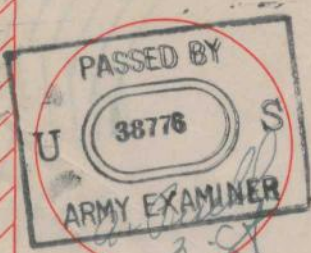
4. V-Mail Processing
C. Filming Problems

Damaged Forms

From: APO 502-SF 540th Ord HM Company stationed in Noumea, New Caledonia

This V-Mail was mailed as a letter sheet. A locally made enclosure explains: "damaged by cutting machine."

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. Herbert Treney
Five Oak
Sutter Co.
California

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Pfc. Herbert Treney 394234
540th Ord (HM) Co. APO 502
9 1/2 P.M. San Francisco Calif.
Feb. 9 1945
(Sender's complete address above)

My Dearest Boots

Received to nice v-mail
today dear, was happy
well at home, as for
almost over my
day were dat
our mail
more

there from you
you were all
some better
& I got to
be getting
to all

This message could not be photographed on micro-film for the reason checked:
The writing was too faint.
Grease or ink spots on message sheet.
The message was not kept within the specified limits of the sheet.
The address or return address on the message side of the sheet was omitted, incomplete, or incorrect.
An inclosure was made in the envelope.
The message sheet was defaced or mutilated.
The message sheet was damaged by cutting machine.
Unless V-Mail can be micro-filmed, the purpose of the service is defeated. Please advise your correspondent that this letter was not properly prepared.
(WD, AGO Form No. 967, June 30, 1942.)
V-MAIL STATION, APO 502

for a
of whis
Was g
this year
I tasted good
have a good shot
you rented the place for
ill be better off, as wout

4. V-Mail Processing
C. Filming Problems

Damaged Forms

From: APO 77-SF 77th Infantry Division at Fort Hase, Oahu, Hawaii

This V-Mail was returned with a handstamp "Unsuitable for Filming" and an explanatory form enclosed indicating the V-Mail was defaced or mutilated. This V-Mail was sliced down the middle, then repaired. Few of these explanatory forms were saved and have survived.

This message could NOT be photographed on micro film for the reason checked:

-The writing was too faint.
-The writing was too small.
-The message was not kept within the specified limits on the sheet.
-The address or return address on the message side of the sheet was omitted or incomplete.
-An inclosure was made in the envelope.
-The message sheet was defaced or mutilated.

Unless V-mail can be micro-filmed, the purpose of the service is defeated. Please advise your correspondent that this letter was not properly prepared.

W.D., A.C.O. Form No. 967
 June 30, 1942
 6180 16E

.....V-mail Station

DO NOT WRITE HERE

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by address outside the continental United States...

Cal Chapman 08630
306 1/2 APO 77
San Francisco Calif

MAIL
V

50

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE A.P.O. MAY 23 1944

UNUSABLE FOR FILMING

PASSED BY EXAMINER BASE BY 0876 ARMY

Chapman
Box 74
Pacific Grove Calif

V-Mail Use Around the World

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

Correct Address Notification

A. Addressing Mail

The remaining sections 5 through 8 of this exhibit show how the established V-Mail system effectively delivered V-Mail everywhere the troop went. The following sections show V-Mail use through the realities of war, from soldier in camps to casualties. While established as an army post office operation, the next section shows V-Mail use by branches of military, and finally the extension of service around the world shows a comprehensive view of V-Mail service organized geographically by the theaters of war.

Wartime V-Mail Delivery: Delivery of V-Mail is simple in concept, but has complexities as shown in this section. Wartime addressing of mail to troops on the move, forwarding of mail, returning mail are all complicated by the changes of circumstances of war across the globe. This section highlights these complexities.

Military troops were on the move, so address changes were frequent. **Keeping mail properly addressed** called for specific forms. By the end of the war, over 4,000 form types had been used.

Mr. C. Lee Wolf
307 Fairview Hotel
Mansfield, Ohio
U.S.A.

Pfc. Kenneth H. Bricker
SENDER'S NAME
395th Serv. Sqdn.
SENDER'S ADDRESS
A.P.O. 637 P.M.
New York, N.Y.
DATE 1943

10 12 43

HERE IS THE CORRECT WAY TO ADDRESS MY MAIL SO THAT IT'LL BE GIVEN DIRECT SERVICE

COMPLETE ADDRESS IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL BELOW. AN-
DED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PENCIL. WRITE PLAINLY. VERY

Pfc. Kenneth H. Bricker
GRADE NAME SERIAL NUMBER
395th Service Sqdn.
COMPLETE UNIT DESIGNATION
APO 637 P.M.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

NOTE: PRINT ON FIRST LINE YOUR GRADE, NAME, SERIAL NUMBER. ON SECOND LINE YOUR COMPLETE UNIT DESIGNATION. IF YOUR SQUADRON IS IN a group, do not show both the squadron and the group—only your unit.

Keep 'Em Flying
CAPT. PAUL S. CLOWES

V-MAIL

← From: APO 637-NY Headquarters 8th Fighter Command, Watford, England.
Form by known War Artist Captain Clowes.

DO NOT PREPARE COPIES IN CARBON

TO: THE KENNEBUNK STAR
KENNEBUNK,
MAINE

FROM: (Sender's new permanent address)
Pvt. S. P. Simpson 31219875
et. Med. Dept. 242nd Gen. Hosp.
N. P. O. # 204
% Postmaster; New York

PLEASE ADDRESS ME AS SHOWN BELOW UNTIL OTHERWISE ADVISED

NO.	FIRST NAME—INITIAL—LAST NAME (CAPITAL LETTERS)	ARMY SERIAL NUMBER
	Pvt. SAMUEL P. SIMPSON	31219875
NAME OF BARRACKS UNIT	REGIMENT, GROUP, OR REGULAR ORGANIZATION	
et. Med. Dept.	242 nd GEN. HOSP.	
NUMBER	POSTMASTER	NAME OF POST OFFICE
204	% Postmaster	% Postmaster; New York, N.Y.

THE ABOVE COMPLETE ADDRESS SHOULD BE PLACED ON ALL MAIL SENT TO ME

CODE CABLE ADDRESS (Six Letter Word) IS: AMJHRT

21 Dec. 1944 NORMAL SIGNATURE: Samuel P. Simpson

OLD ADDRESS WAS: 242nd GENERAL HOSPITAL
P.O. # 17321 % Postmaster; New York, N.Y.

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) W. D. A. G. O. Form No. 971 (V-Mail change of address) will be prepared by troops alerted for overseas movement, at home station or staging area. Do not complete on its overseas APO address until arrival outside continental United States. There, insert permanent APO number, Postmaster through which mail will be received, date, and cable address. MAIL PROMPTLY to the following:

- Emergency Address shown on W. D. A. G. O. Form No. 43.
- The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
- Postal officer of last home station (not staging area) in United States.
- One form may cover all personnel of a permanent organization.
- Each individual with whom you correspond.
- Publisher of each newspaper or magazine received.

This form supersedes W. D. A. G. O. Form No. 971, 1 January 1943, which may be used.

From: APO 204-NY Oxford, England →

Private Simpson was sent to 242nd General Hospital and assigned Temporary APO #17321.

Form show his Permanent Address as APO #204.

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

Temporary APO Notification

A. Addressing Mail

The **Temporary Army Post Office** addresses, as on this V-Mail below, were given to individuals or units for accounting purposes while moving. Once at a planned destination, the Unit would be assigned an APO address.

Corporal Davis wrote this V-Mail **while headed to North Africa**, with his Unit assigned Temporary APO 9180. This V-Mail cancelled and **censored and taped closed a few days later at APO 759-NY**, Headquarters for Atlantic Base Section in **Casablanca, Morocco**. Sent unfiled.

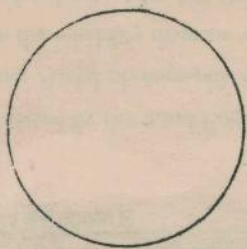


Next Page: The Army Post Office got out in front of problems, including **keeping mail out of the system that was avoidable**. This Hold Holiday Mail notification was an effort to **get out ahead of a problem**.

**Hold Holiday
Mail Notification** →

The back of this form is a **map, paper was scarce** during the war.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To :

From :

(Date)

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear

I am scheduled to return to the United States sometime before the end of December, so please hold any Christmas parcels you have for me.

Until I advise you otherwise, continue to send my letters, but DO NOT SEND ANY MORE PACKAGES.

(Signature)

V-Mail form printed on reverse of a map

REPLY BY
-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

H. F. 4000, M., Mod. 78 828

Barsfeld.

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

Forms Damaged in Transit

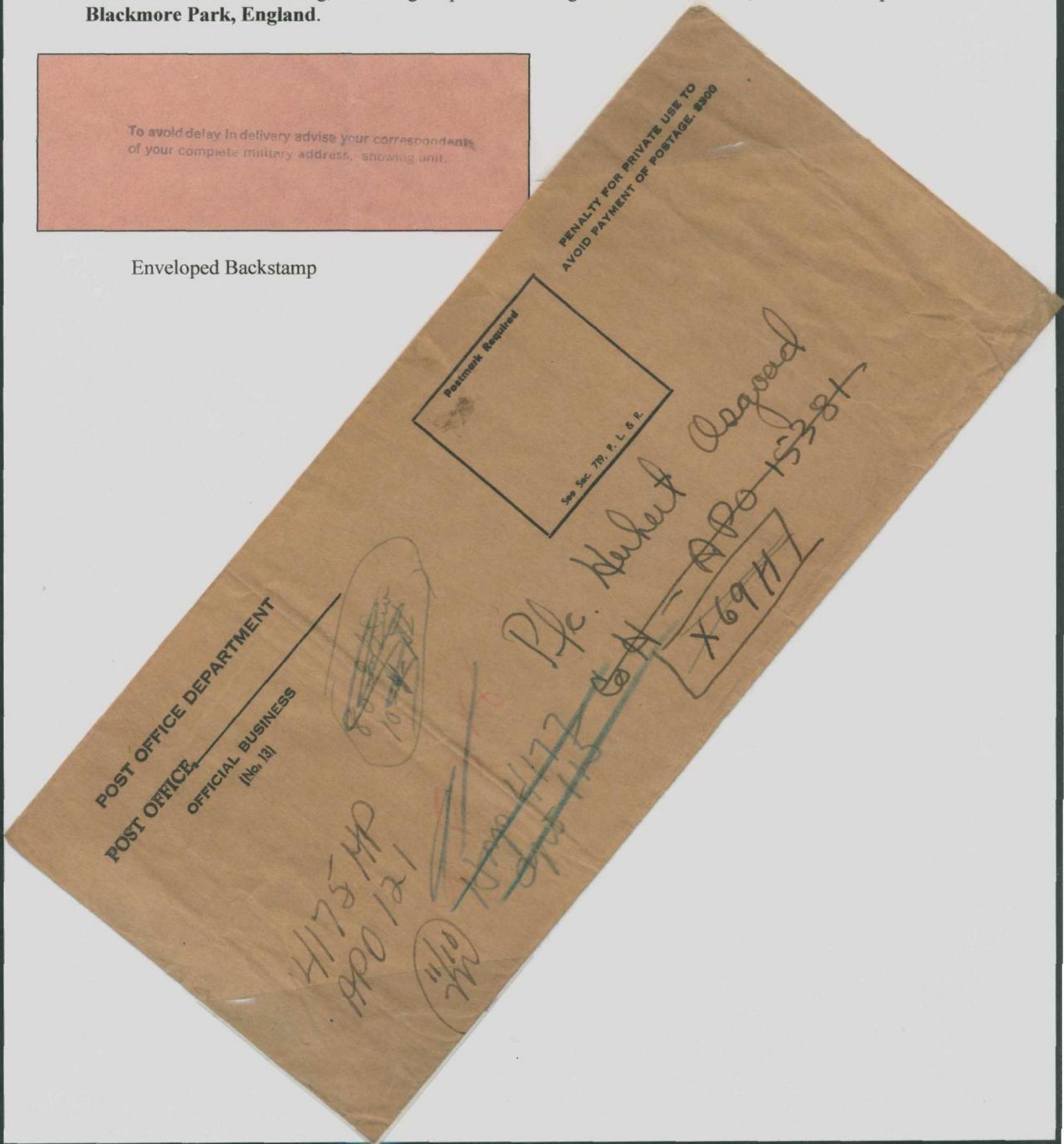
B. Mail Forwarding

To a Serviceman Pvt. Osgood in England:

This envelope, is called a "coffin cover" which is term used for an **outer envelope** used to deliver damaged mail. After some forwarding, mail caught up with Pvt. Osgood at APO 121-NY, used for a Hospital in **Blackmore Park, England.**

To avoid delay in delivery advise your correspondents of your complete military address, showing unit.

Enveloped Backstamp



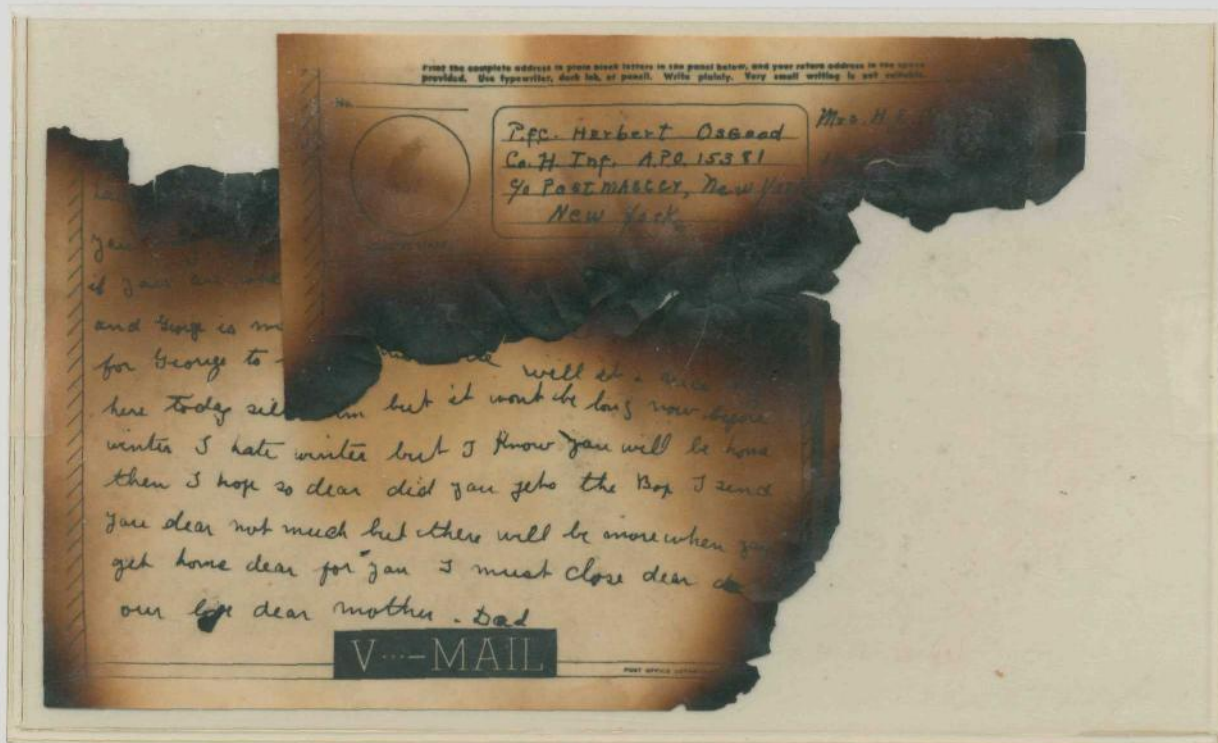
5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

B. Mail Forwarding

Fire Damaged in Transit

To a Serviceman in England

Fire Damaged V-Mail to Pvt. Osgood using Temporary APO 15381, going overseas as part of a Ground Forces replacement unit Co. H, Infantry. Only explanation is in the envelope, indicating processing for delivery to England.

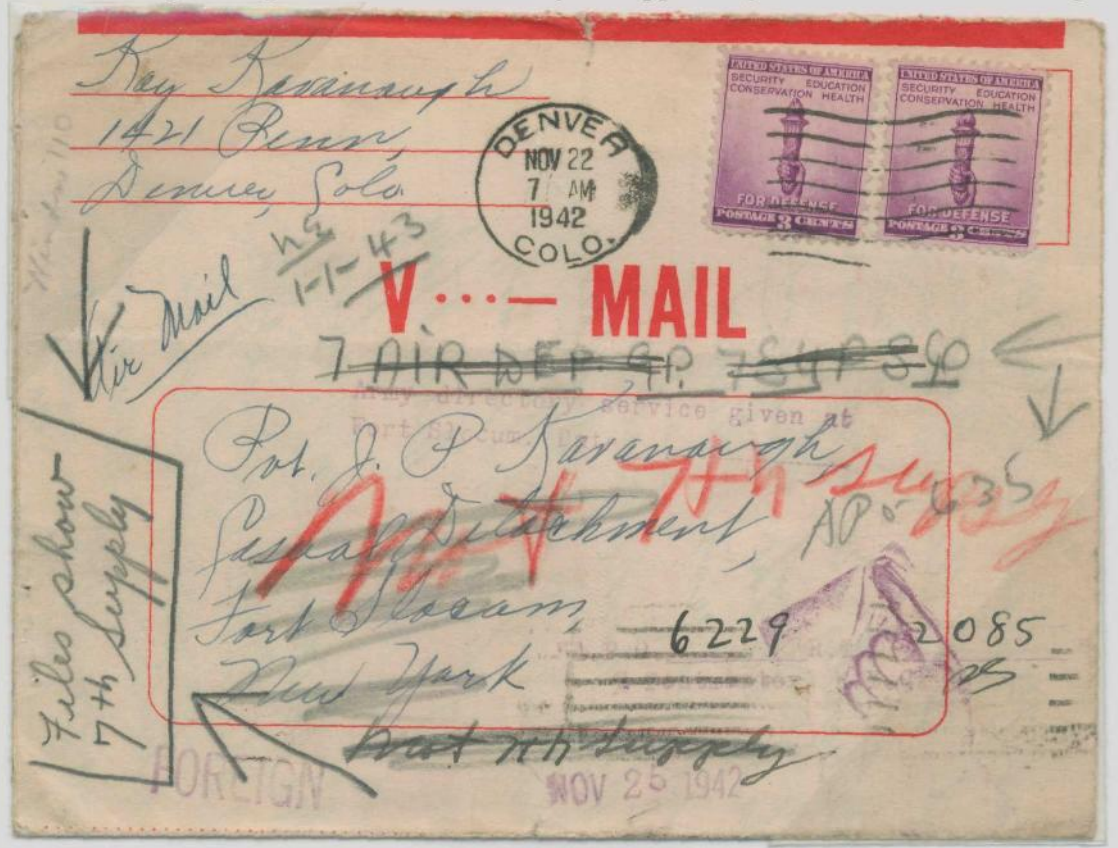


5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
B. Mail Forwarding

Multiple Forwarding
Military and Civilian Post

To: Private Kavanaugh at APO 635-NY, Base Area Depot in **Burtonwood, England**. Sent **November 21, 1942**. Early V-Mail sent by a civilian in **Denver, Co** through traditional civilian mail, franked 6 cents. Once in the Army Postal Service, **three forwarding attempts** were made and they did apparently locate Private Kavanaugh.

"Will complete this on another page."



To: **Auckland, New Zealand**. Posted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on **May 23, 1943** with a 6 cent air mail franking. Returned two days later marked, "Returned for Additional Postage". **Civilian rate for US to New Zealand was the Clipper rate of 50 cents**. Letter sent between military wives.



"I've numbered the letters because on this sort of mail you have to write on another letter."

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

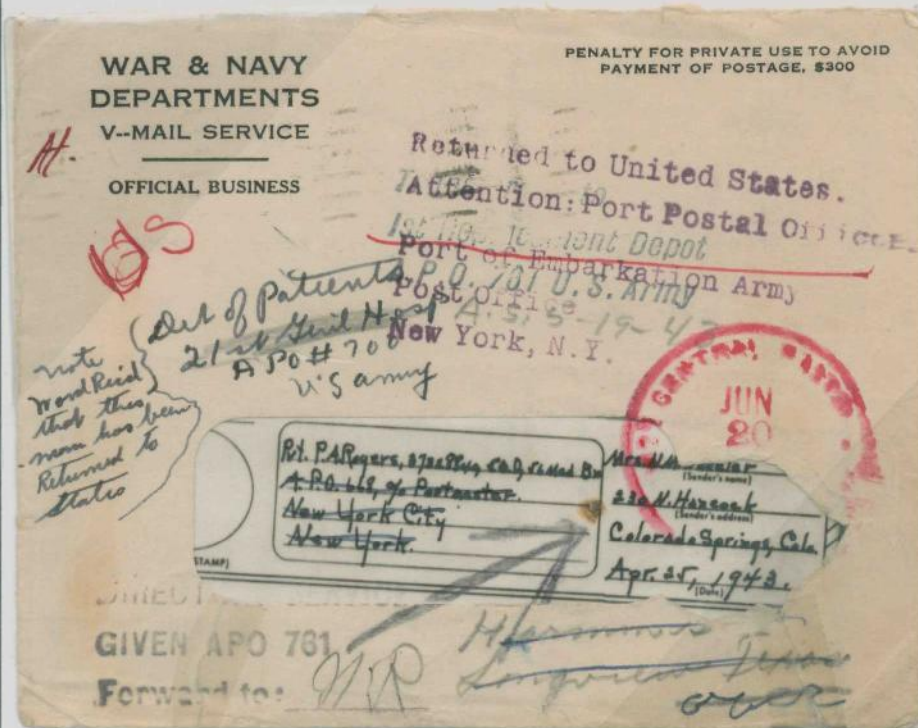
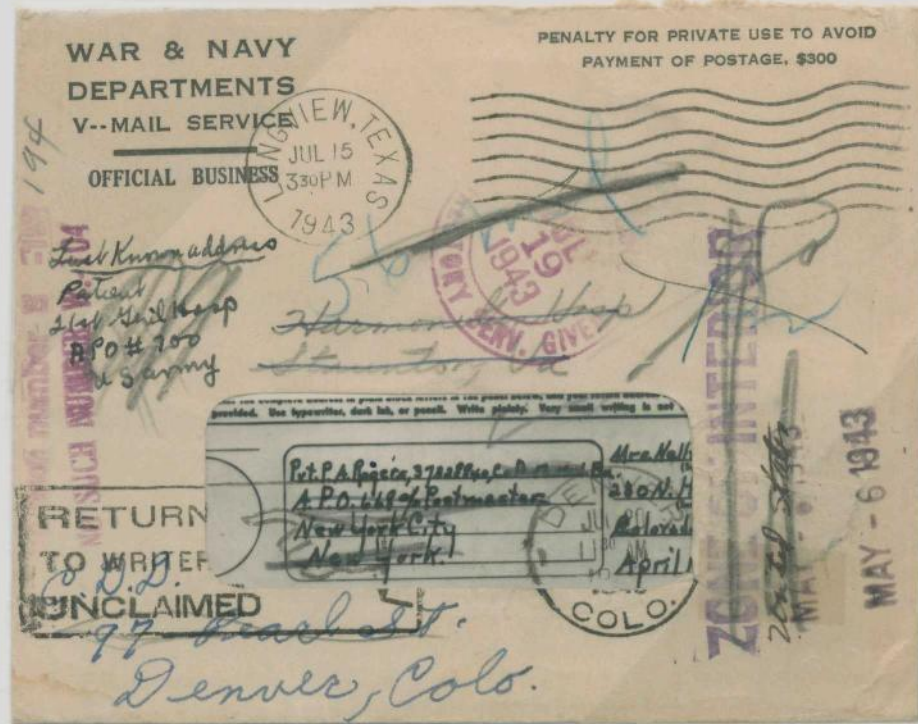
B. Mail Forwarding

These two V-Mails showcase **the effort made to deliver the mail to the serviceman**. Interestingly, in this correspondence between two brothers, the **sender and the receiver both changed addresses** during the course of the mail delivery.

To: Private Rogers at APO 668-NY, 86th Medical Battalion, **Casablanca, Morocco**.
The 86th Battalion had shifted to the fighting underway, **moving to Tunisia**.

Private Rogers was wounded, and sent to the 21st General Hospital in **Oran, Algeria**.
He was transferred to Harmon General Hospital, **Longview Texas**. From Algeria to Texas, the mail was sent to Port of Embarkation, **New York**, and into the civilian postal system.

Mail "**Return to Writer, Unclaimed**" and sent to sender in **Denver, Colorado**.



← "I do hope to hear from you soon"



Note how **envelope is pulled open** on the ↑ right to expose the sender's address. This was the APO's common practice for Returned Mail.

Reverse of envelope on the left reduced to 80%

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

B. Mail Forwarding

To keep mail cubic volume to a minimum, strict restrictions were set for packages: no more than 5 pounds and no more than 36" girth. Validator strikes were not normally found on V-Mail, were used to caution against making shipments requested in V-Mail, as restrictions applied to overseas shipments.

Restrictions on Overseas Shipments

NO. 2 S. N. 37607164 Cpl. Robert Lickert

MISS PHYLLIS LICKERT
To F. W. C. A.
5 POINTS
MOBILE, ALA
ZONE 17 U.S.A.

SENDER'S NAME
C. B. 51782 Co. T. C.

SENDER'S ADDRESS
A. P. O. 516a
% Palmetto
New York N.Y.

DATE
Nov. 29 1943

1 DEC 1943

Dear Phil,

seems ages since I last wrote to you but his been busy and just don't take time to write anyone but he do better from news on. On Thanksgiving Day I was promoted to a 1st Lt. which I'm very proud of. Didn't rec'd much mail the past few days. Some letter from Susan which was a month old. Guess they will come at one time. Bet's will have another birthday wish I would be with her. I'm sure she's outside her with some stuff + some sweet home. Only thing I'm asking for from everybody is more fruit cakes. Yours was the best but too good for the way we eat it. but get one a progers if you can, I hate to see you spend \$1.50 for it. Had a sweet Thanksgiving dinner here a lot that of you all back home wishing I could spend just the day with you. But somehow I think won't be long. Well honey take care of yourself, and when you can, tell all hello. Love + kisses Cpl

V-MAIL

← "The thing I'm asking for from everyone is fruitcakes, yours was the best."

"I'd like a large bottle of Listerine." ↓

A second type of Validator strike, a modification to P.O.D. order #19687. Underlining and restricting the request.

NO. 38207755

MAILED IN CONFORMITY WITH P. O. D. ORDER #19687 MODIFIED MAY 27, 1943

Post. Jennie J. Clark
W.A.C Det. 1798 SV
Ft. Des Moines,
Iowa.

Post. Floyd L. Clark
[Sender's name]
465th Engr. Depot G.
[Sender's address]
124 B. PM, N.Y.C.
June 20 - 1944
[Date]

Dear Sis +

your package of the Peanut, Salted Peanuts, chocolate and thanks a million. The peanuts are not bad, but I had been able to freshen them up by Listerine. I would have been glad to see you. Well, I'll be able to do this, so you can send more of them, anytime you are making up a box for me. Don't know if you can send it by mail or not, but I'd like a large bottle of Listerine for my face after shaving + my hair also.

Since I've had no mail from you recently, I have wondered if you finally received a check and are on your way, as you have written rather regularly. I hope this is the case, for then I would feel a lot more at ease. No word from Hazel just lately either, to know how she is coming along since my affixing letter, but hope it does the work, for I'm still insistent on the final outcome, in my own mind, as I wrote you before. It looks as if that would have to be my plan. Will write again soon.

Love + kisses
Jennie

V-MAIL

Post Office Department Form 71a 11

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery

B. Mail Forwarding

Forwarding Complexities

From Lebanon, this V-Mail between relatives is sent with Lebanese franking from a Charitable Mission in **Beirut, Lebanon**. Written to Corporal Freidinger, APO 73-SF, in **Batangas, Philippines**. By the time the V-Mail got to him, he had returned to his home in Kentucky, and the V-Mail forwarded. This V-Mail made **Three Ocean Crossings**.



Rate: Airmail rated two 12½ p surcharged on 7 ½p issues, and an overprinted 5p on 30c as Postal Tax.

Wartime Delivery Complexity:

1st Ocean Crossing - From Lebanon to New York APO, forwarded to San Francisco.

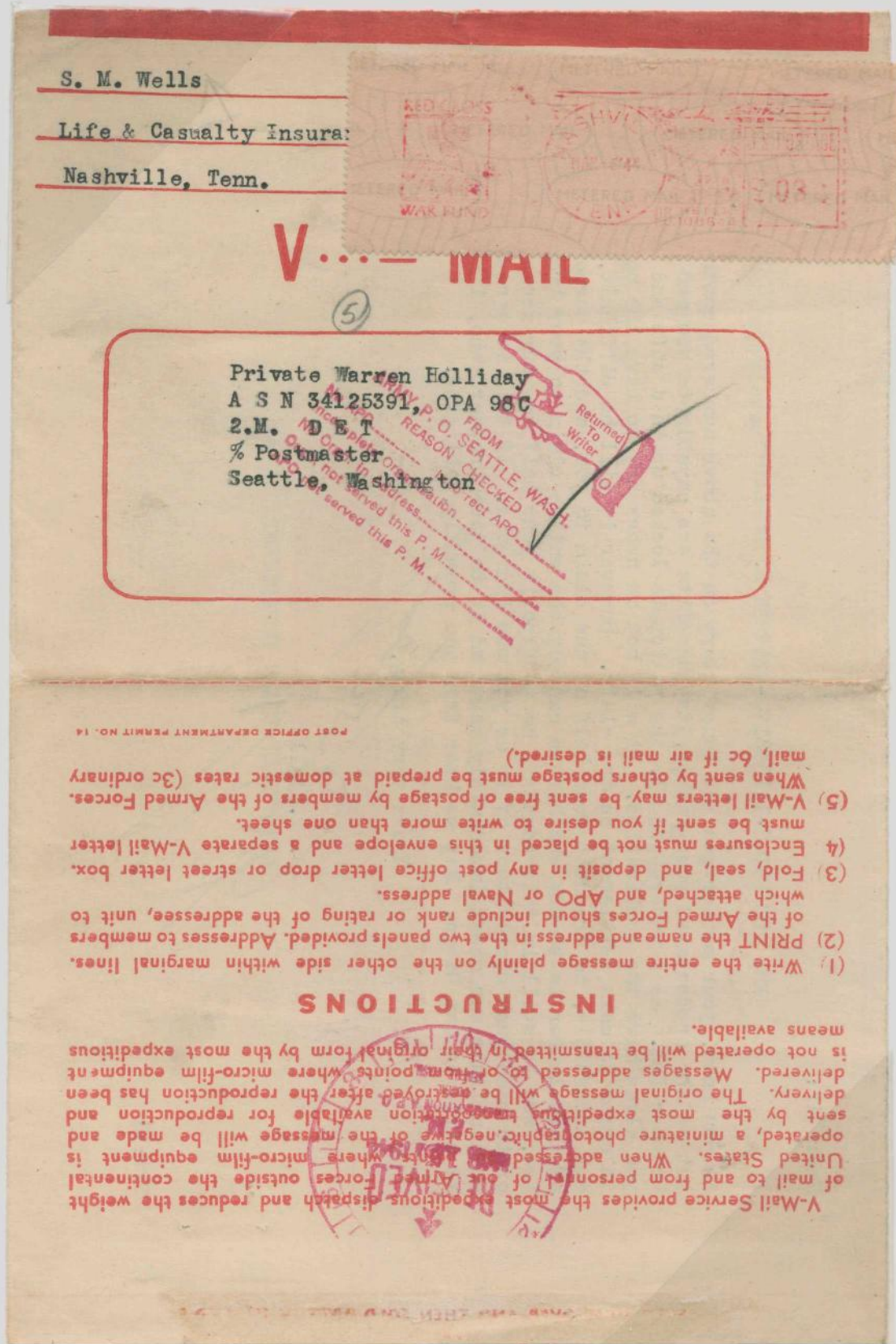
2nd Ocean Crossing - From San Francisco to the Philippines, where marked for forwarding to Kentucky.

3rd Ocean Crossing - Returned from the Philippines to Kentucky.

5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
C. Returned Mail

Incorrect APO

Limited mail sent to a serviceman survived, this V-Mail is an unusual one. **Civilian commercial mail** sent with a most unusual franking of 3 cents by **pictorial meter tape**. To Private Holliday with an not much of an address to go on. **Incorrect APO addressing to Seattle** for soldier likely in **Alaska**, handstamped with "Incorrect APO"



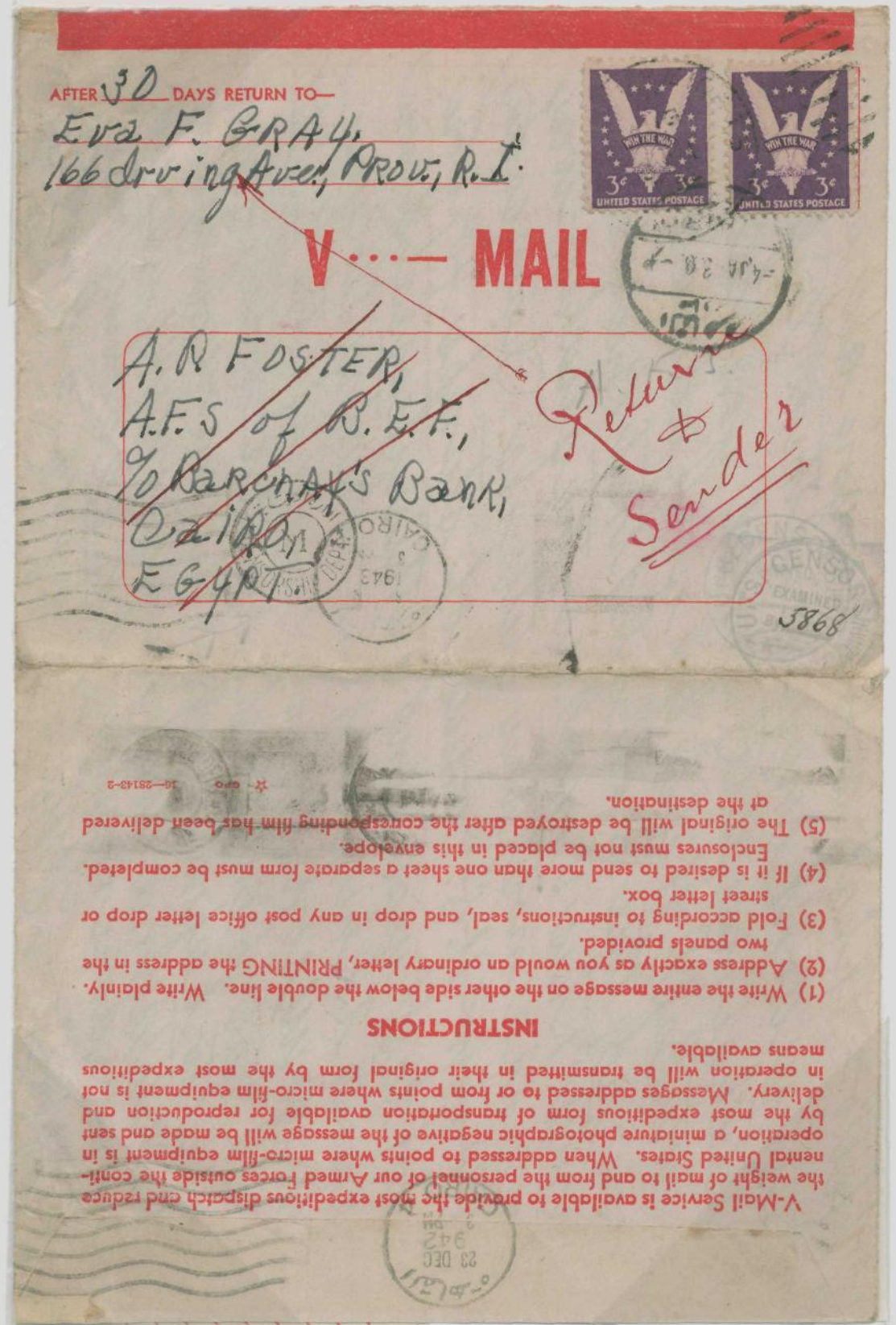
5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
C. Returned Mail

Forwarding & Returned
Military and Civilian Post Offices

Sent to the Army Financial Services of the **British Expeditionary Forces in Cairo, Egypt**. Civilian Cairo machine and handstamp arrival markings, and Egyptian Civilian censor, circled M.

Marked "Return to Sender", returned via airmail, re-censored in US by examiner #5868. **13 months transit.**

"they say this V-Mail is the quickest way"

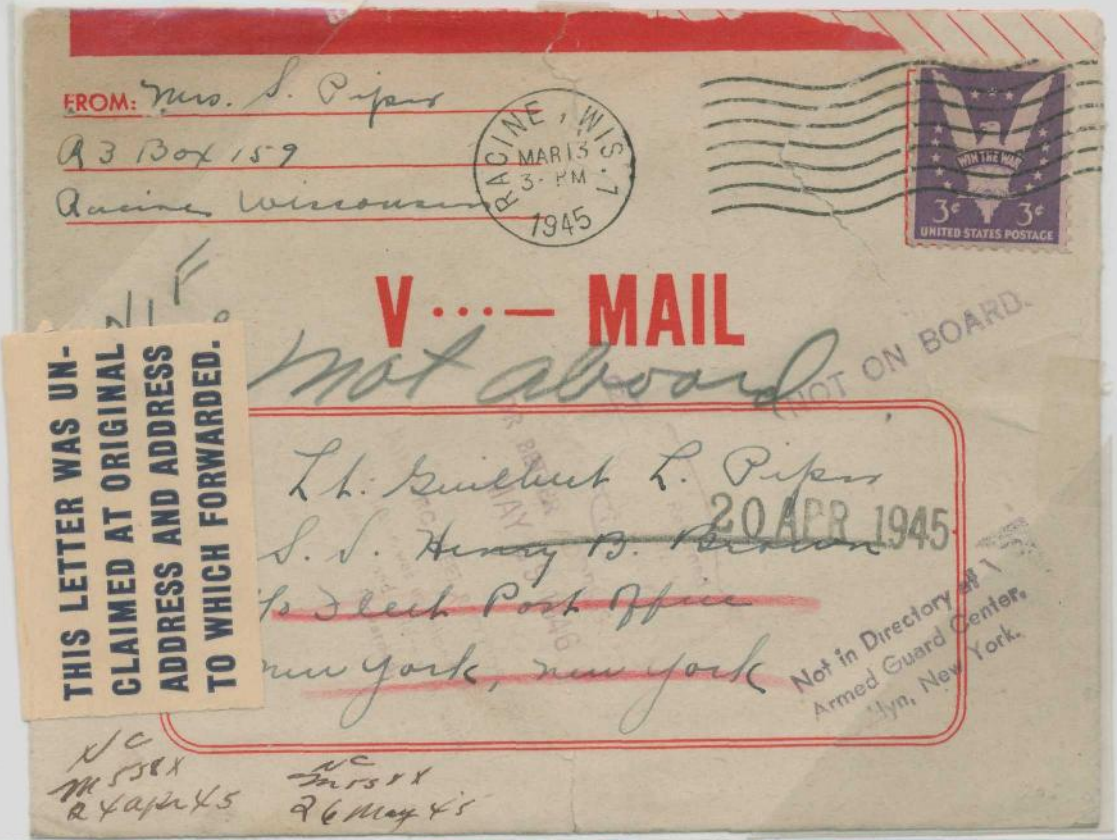


5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
C. Returned Mail

Returned, Not on Board
Military and Civilian Post Offices

These two V-Mails received endorsements from unsuccessful delivery attempts and were returned to the senders. Each V-Mail were directed to servicemen on civilian cargo ships, and the endorsements state, "Not on Board War Emergency Tanker" and "Not in Directory at Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, New York."

As this was civilian to civilian mail, there was a fee of 3c mailing. The top V-Mail has an additional 6c for airmail service from sender to the New York military gateway postal facilities.



5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
C. Returned Mail

Hospitalized, No Record

From APO 218-NY, Myitkyna, Burma. Unique form, printing on one side omitted. To APO 298-NY, Tidworth, England hospital, marked "Hospitalized" "Not Found" and then Returned to Sender.

Myitkyna, Burma
Unique Form

"Somewhere in Northern Burma on the Ledo Road"

— Text left on the V-Mail, not blackened by the censor.



7/49.9 Lycans - 31177136
 1575 Eng. Hwy Shop Co.
 A.P.O. 218
 c/o Postmaster, N.Y.N.Y.

V-Mail

31376151
 Pvt. Walter S. Radwan
 Hosp. Plant 4161 Co.E.
 A.P.O. 298
 c/o Postmaster
 N.Y.N.Y.

NO RECORD
 HOSP. DIRECTORY

RECEIVED
 JUN 6 1945
 TIDWORTH
 ENGLAND
 RETURNED TO SENDER
 JUN 6 1945

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 31376151

From 7/49.9 Lycans
 (Sender's name)
1575 Eng. Hwy Shop Co.
 (Sender's address)
A.P.O. 218
c/o Postmaster, N.Y.N.Y.
 (City) 5

To Pvt. Walter S. Radwan
Hosp. Plant 4161 Co.E.
A.P.O. 298
c/o Postmaster, N.Y.N.Y.

PASSED BY
 U 410187
 ARMY EXAMINER

ICENSOR'S STAMP

Somewhere in Northern Burma
 on the Ledo Road

Hi:
 Didn't hear from you for a while so wonder if you're still in England. Let me know. It's been nice and cool here today and this afternoon it rained cats and dogs. It was like a cloud burst and after a half hour of that it stopped and there was plenty of water everywhere. No wonder the jungle grows so nice here! We done a little work on our tent this afternoon and after we get some lumber we'll put a wooden floor in it. Will look alright then. Do you stay in a tent too or have you barracks? I like a tent better than a barrack. When I get back home I'll probably sleep out in the back yard in a tent, I'll be so used to it! Well, more later so

cheer's Frank

V - MAIL

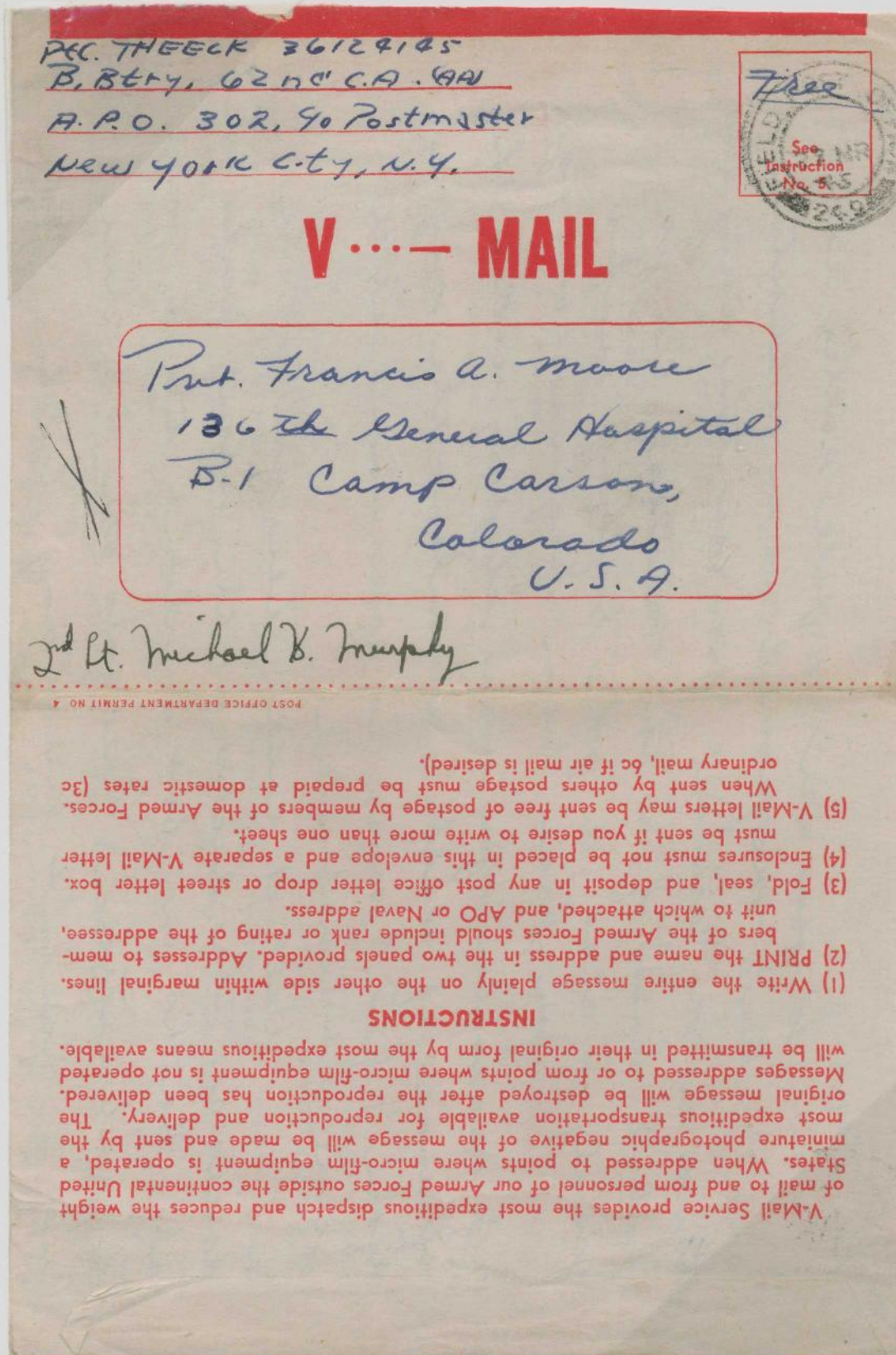
5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
D. Allied Forces Mail Processing

U.S. & British Mail Handling
Tebessa, Algeria

From: APO 302-NY U.S. Army Coastal Artillery Unit

Sent from an Army unit, this V-Mail was censored by an American Officer, but received a British handstamp cancel, from British Field Post Office Unit 289, part of the British 50th Infantry Division in Algeria.

To expedite mail, cross-cancelling between British F.P.O.s and American A.P.O.s was done quite often.



Pfc. THEECK 36129145
B. Btry, 62nd C.A. (AA)
A.P.O. 302, 90 Postmaster
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.



**British
Handstamp
Cancel**

V...-MAIL

Pvt. Francis A. Moore
136th General Hospital
B-1 Camp Carson,
Colorado
U.S.A.

2nd Lt. Michael B. Murphy

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
(2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
(3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
(4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
(5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

INSTRUCTIONS

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

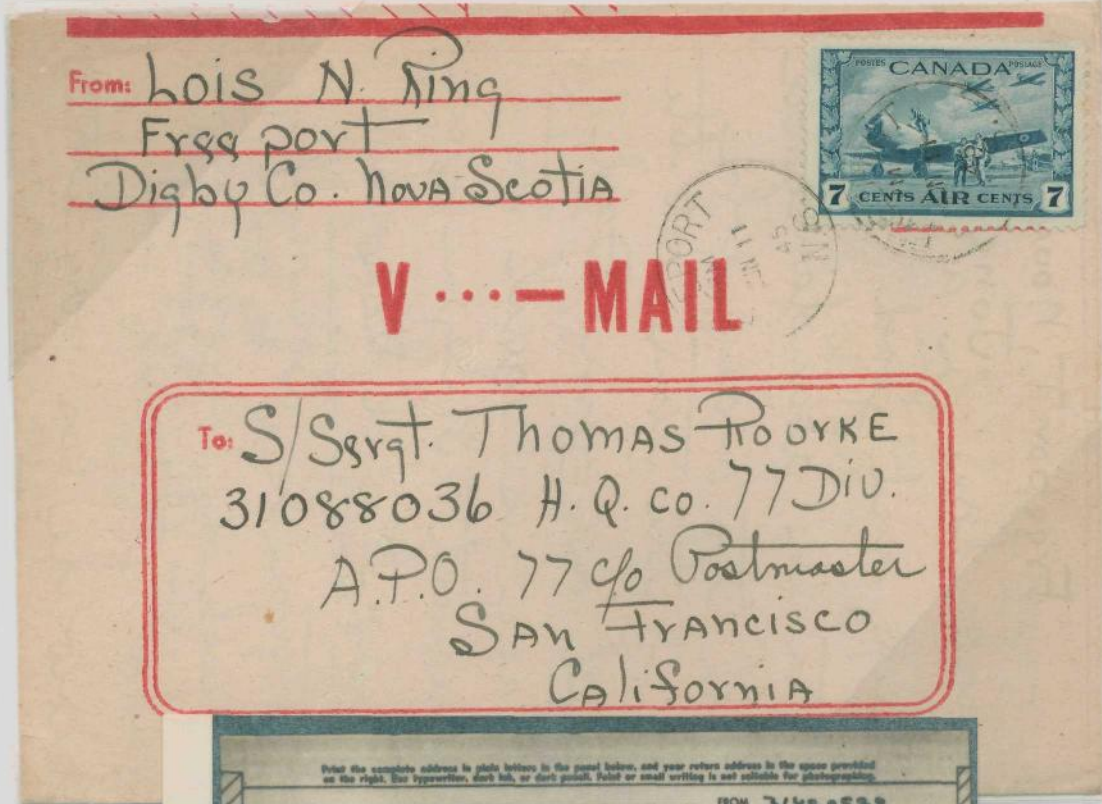
5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
D. Allied Forces Mail Processing

U.S. & Canadian Mail Handling

From: Digby Company, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia to Okinawa

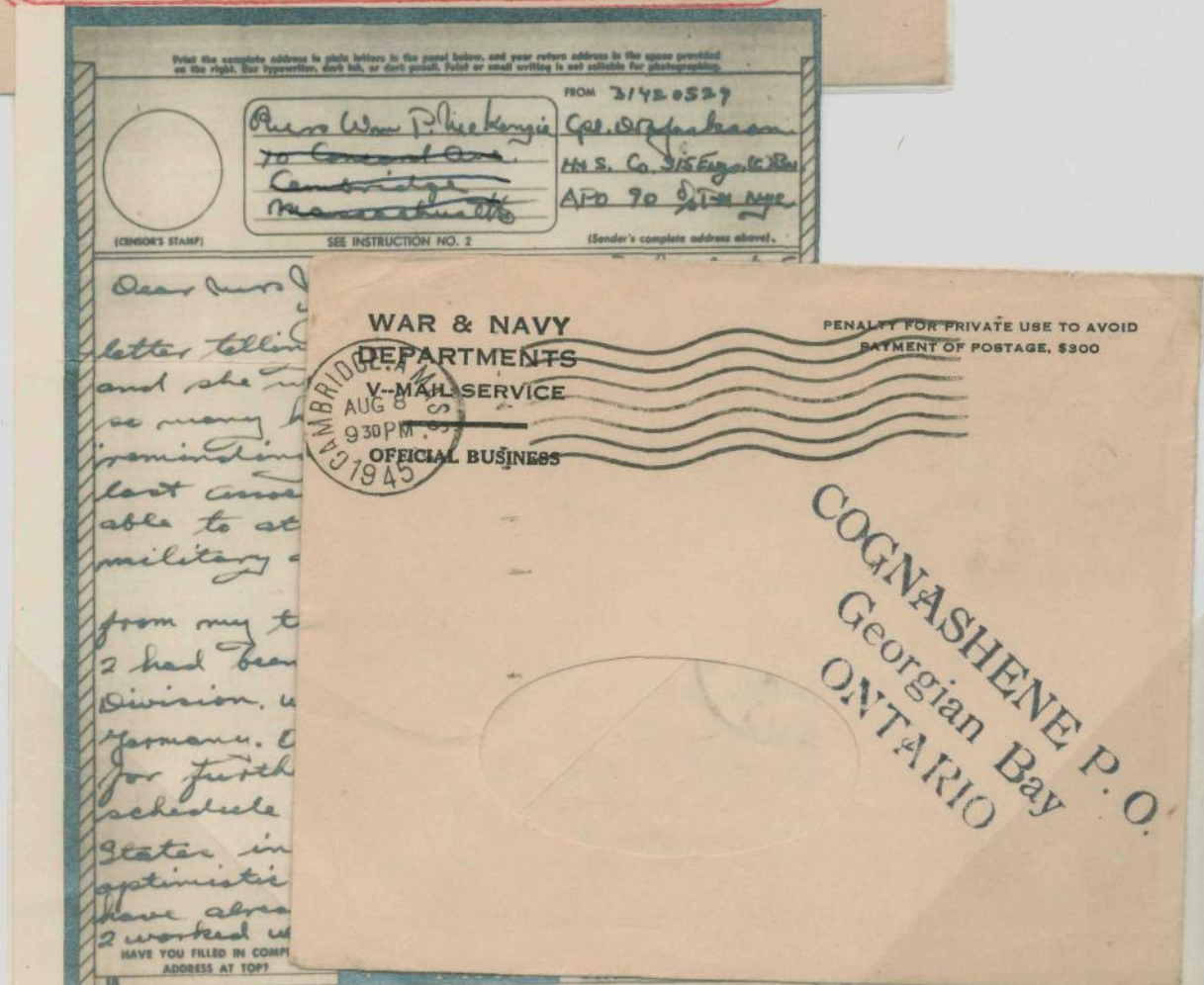
To APO 77-SF, on **Okinawa, Ryukyus Islands**. This V-Mail was franked for Canadian Air Mail to San Francisco, to then use V-Mail service to Okinawa. The V-Mail was sent prior to U.S. V-Mail service authorized to and from Canada. V-Mail service was later approved for U.S. servicemen and Canadian soldiers attached to U.S.



From: APO 90-NY, 90th Infantry Division, at the time in **Weiden, Germany to Canada**

Arrival cancel August 8, 1945, Cambridge, Mass. With the war is over in Europe, this V-Mail is **forwarded without franking to Canada.**

Unusual forwarding to another country of Army mail.



5. Wartime V-Mail Delivery
D. Allied Forces Mail Processing

Canadian Mail Handling

From: Royal Air Force, 93rd Squadron, Algiers

RAF Algeria to Canada

At onset, the V-Mail system was reserved only for U.S. Forces. Later extended to Allied Nations service personnel. This V-Mail is an example of the extended service. Sent by Canadian Pilot Officer Hunt, from Canadian Field Post Office 583. The V-Mail bears a Canadian Censor, likely by Office Hunt himself, with receiving in Byron, Ontario.



From: APO 360-NY, 71st Infantry Division, France

France to Canada

Captain Monachino, U.S. Army, just arrived in France, writing to his father-in-law in Canada.

V-Mail processed by the Canadian Forces, using a scarce Canadian Overseas S.C. 2 P.D. cancel, and received South Mountain, Ontario, Canada, March 17, 1945.

This usage is a **Canadian postal unit handling what is U.S. Army mail.**



6. Realities of War in V-Mail

**P.O.W. - Declared Missing
Belgium**

V-Mail to Servicemen, Returned:

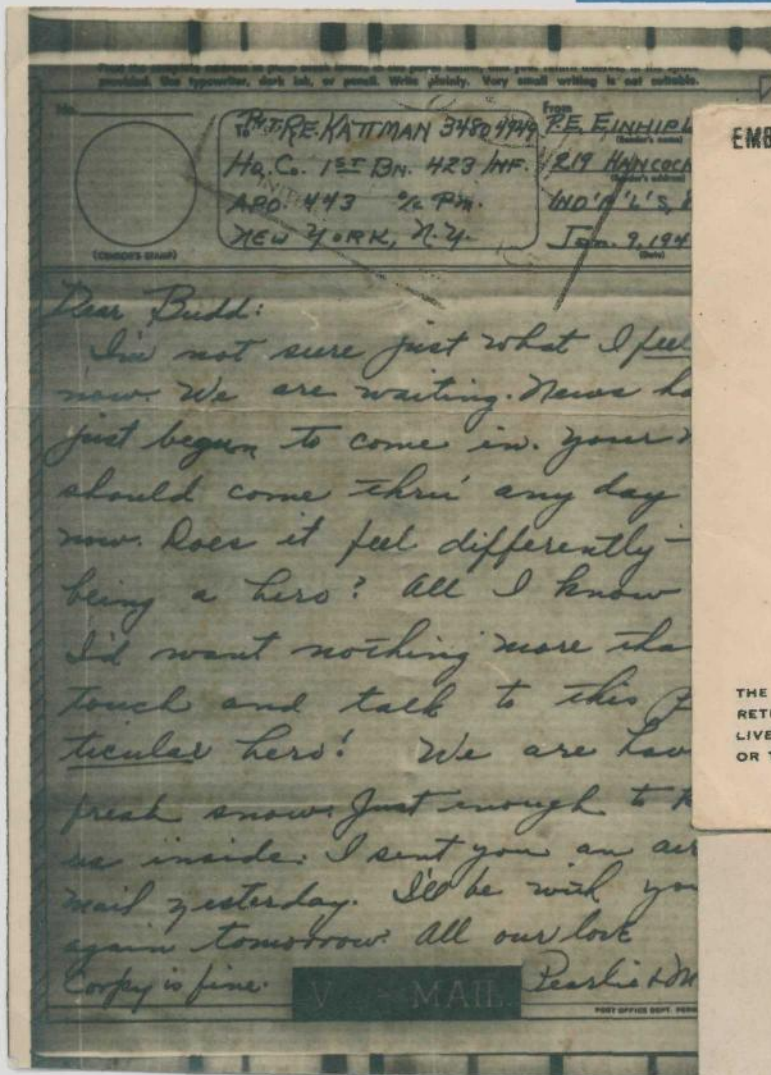
To: APO 443-NY. The 106th Infantry Division, shortly after arriving in the European Theater of Operations. These inexperienced troops, located in quiet section of **Belgium**, were routed by the German offensive in the **Battle of the Bulge on December 16th, 1944**, the 422nd and 423rd Regiments were forced to surrender. Private Kattman was in the 423rd, **part of approximately 6,500 US troops captured in the Schnee Eifel salient.**

Declared Missing February 7, 1945. This V-Mail to his last known address.

"The enclosed V-Mail letter is returned because it was undeliverable at the address shown..."

upper envelope text

Battle of the Bulge

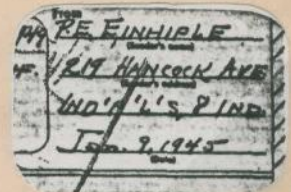


EMBARKATION ARMY POST OFFICE

V-MAIL SECTION
NEW YORK, N. Y.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$500 (PMGC)



THE INCLOSED V-MAIL LETTER IS RETURNED BECAUSE IT WAS UNDELIVERABLE AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN OR TO WHICH FORWARDED.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private use to avoid payment of postage, \$300.



V-Mail returned in an Oversized Envelope developed just for this purpose (top).

Original envelope handstamped "Return to Sender" and noted "Missing 2-7-45" signed "Gilbert Maisus, Capt." (lower).

6. Realities of War in V-Mail

Refugee Camp Mail

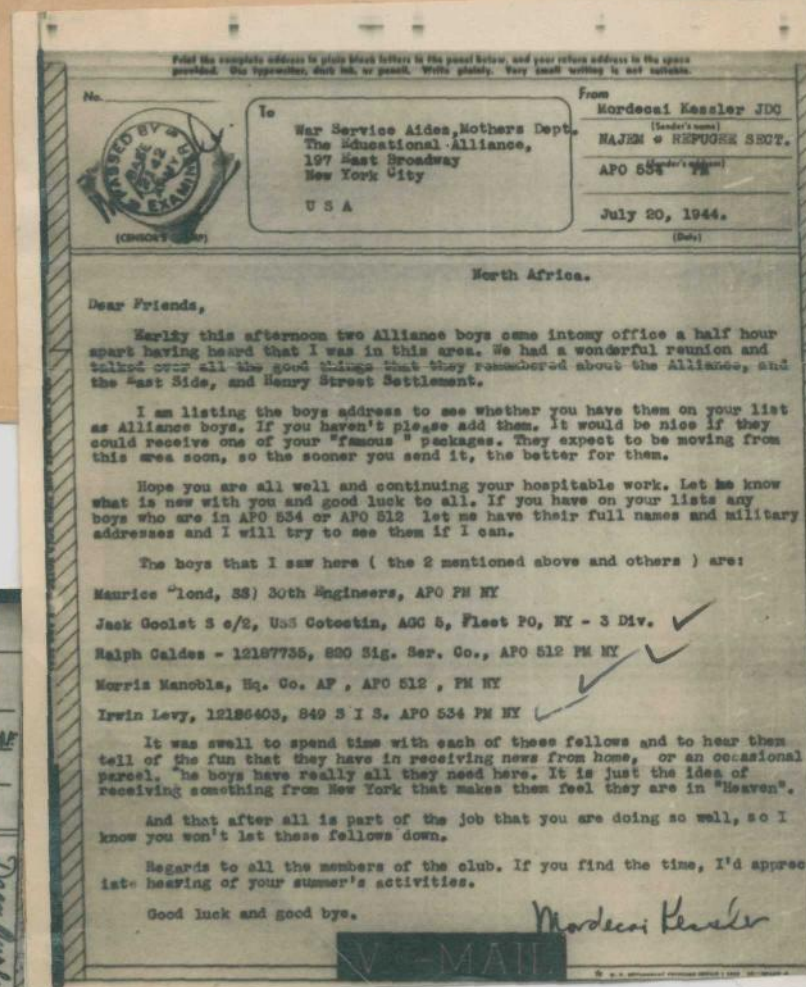
Extricated Jewish & Algerian Camp

Camp for Extricated Jewish Refugees

"It is just the idea of receiving something from New York that makes them feel like they are in heaven."

APO 554, North Africa NAJEM Refugees →

This group took care of Jewish refugees that had been "extricated" from many European and African countries or Displaced Persons Camps.



Refugee Camp for Yugoslavian Nationals

← Algerian Refugee Camp

From: Col. Emge, a U.S. Public Health doctor, APO 399-NY located at Maison Blanche Airport, Oran, Algeria.

Before being admitted to the U.S., refugees had to pass strict physical examinations. This explains the presence of a US officer at the "Yugoslav Refugee Camp BNAF" December 1944.

6. Realities of War in V-Mail

**P.O.W. Mail
North Africa**

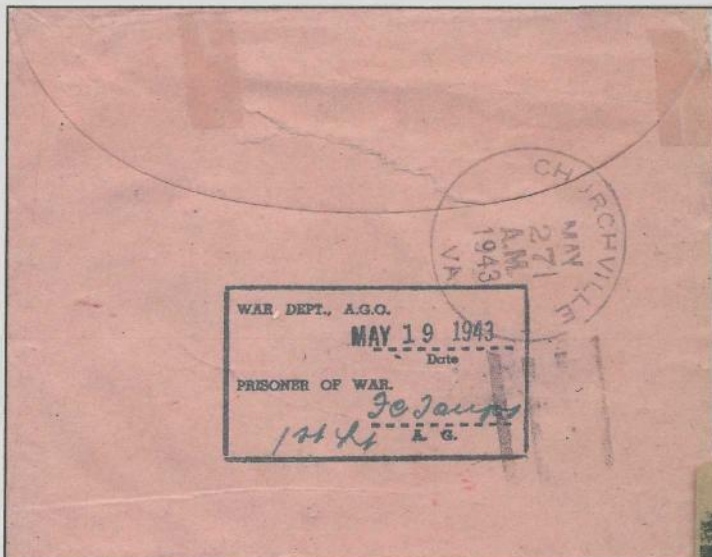
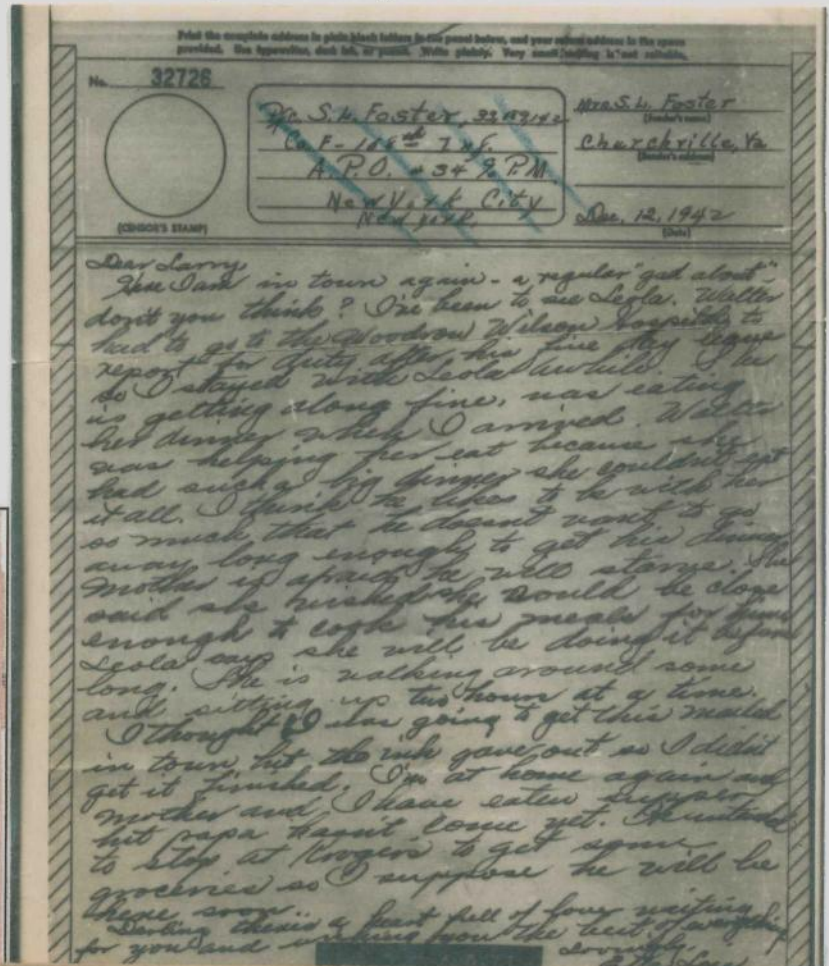
V-Mail to Servicemen:

Redirected V-Mail written to Private Foster, 34th Infantry Division, which at the time was located in Omagh, North Ireland. V-Mail envelope indicates Air Mail service requested for air delivery within United Kingdom.

By the time the V. Mail caught up with the unit, now in North Africa, Private Foster had been declared P.O.W. at the hands of the Axis troops, and the V-Mail returned, with 166 day transit time.

Timeline of V-Mail transit:

- ◆ Sent from Churchville, VA December 12, 1942
- ◆ United Kingdom Cancel December 24, 1942
- ◆ Redirected in Africa April 6, 1943
- ◆ Handstamped P.O.W. **May 19th, 1943**
- ◆ Returned to Sender May 27th 1943



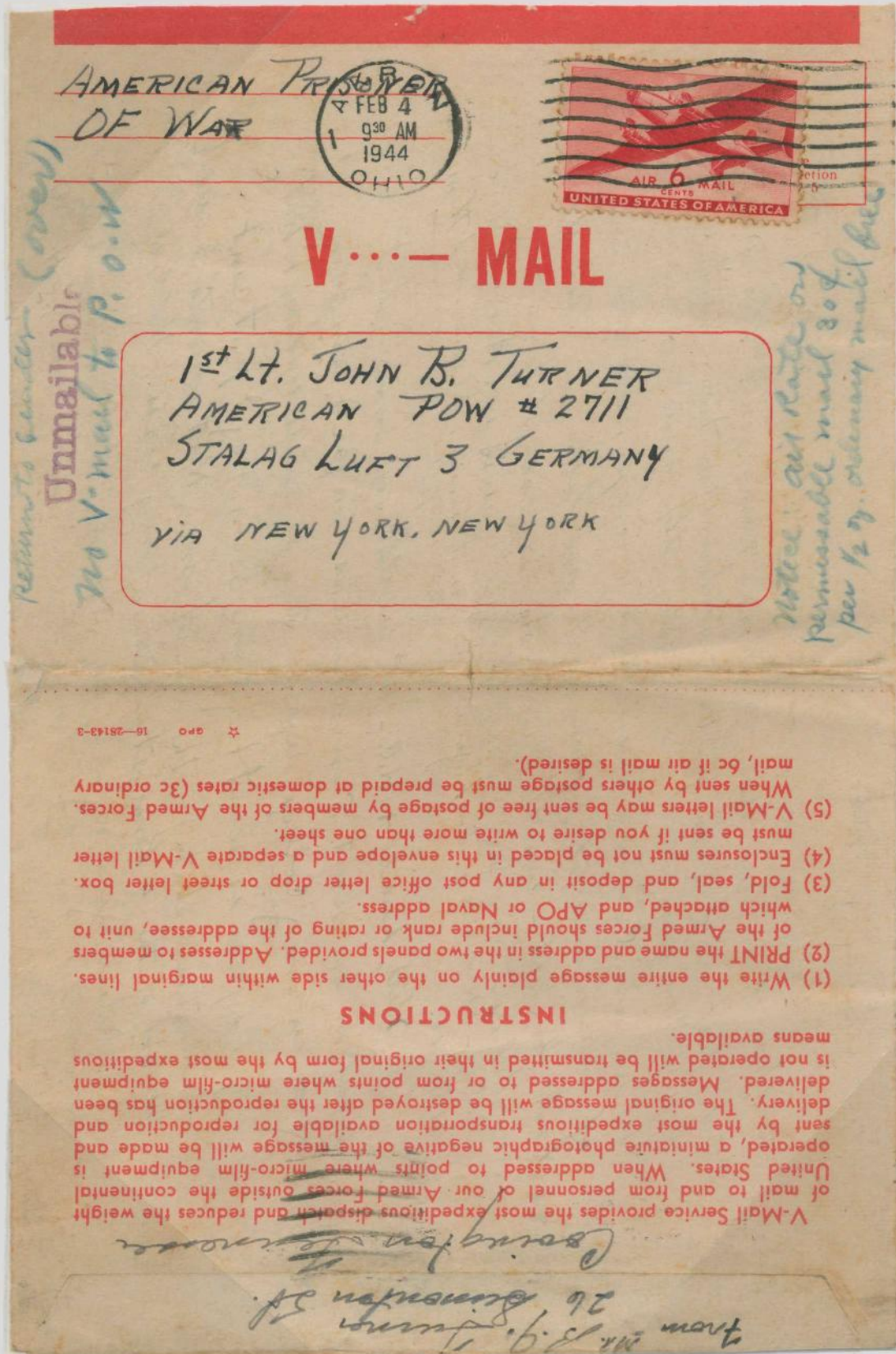
Handstamp on Envelope Front:

"...Regretted this item could not be delivered as the addressee has been reported..." this portion blackened.

6. Realities of War in V-Mail

P.O.W. Mail
German Camp Silesia, Poland

To P.O.W. camp for Allied Air Forces Officers, **Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Oberschlesien. Sagan (now Zagan, in Silesia, Poland)** is located about 100 miles from Berlin. **Handstamped "Unmailable"** and Returned with manuscript, "No V-Mail to P.O.W." There was no such regulation in place.



6. Realities of War in V-Mail

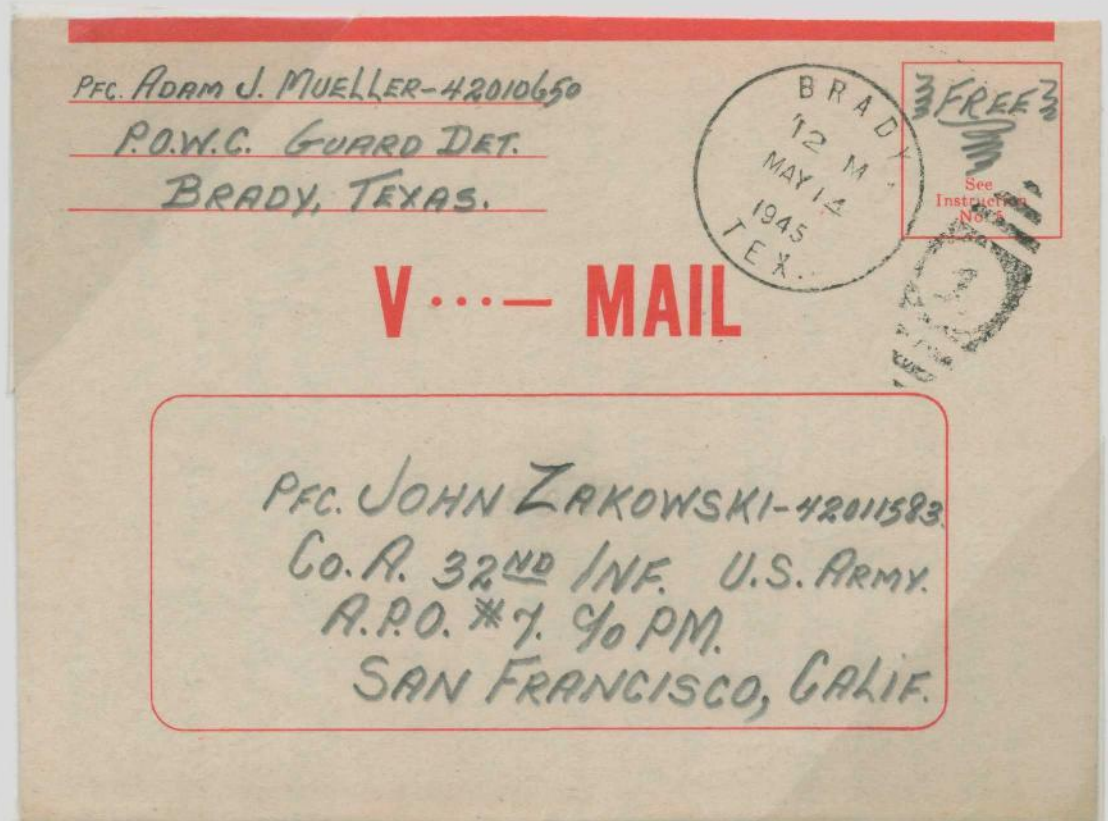
P.O.W. Camp Mail
Texas & California

This section provides a stark look at the Realities of War, detailing those realities, locations and some quotes.

V-Mail to Servicemen:

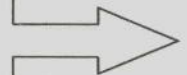
To: APO 7-SF, 32nd Infantry Regiment, **at this time on Okinawa, about six weeks after landing.** From a Guard Detachment at a P.O.W. Camp housing German Soldiers in Brady, Texas. Sent May 14, 1945.

“Now that the mess in Europe is over, I hope it won't be long before Japan is out of the way so we can get back to where we left off, drinking in a Gin Mill. How about it?”



Japanese Internment
California

To Nesei Son
in Philippines



Next Page: To a **Nesei Serviceman from his mother in a Japanese Internment Camp**, written in Japanese → Mrs. N. Tsuchida, interned in the **Relocation Center at Tule Lake, California** writes this V-Mail in Japanese to her son Jack Tsuchida in the **Philippines Military Intelligence (XY Section)**. This was an **extremely dangerous assignment** for a Nisei, an American born of Japanese ancestry. It was also a most unusual assignment for a Nisei to be sent to the Pacific area, as most Nisei had been sent to Europe with the famed 442 Infantry Battalion. Censor, “Referred to District Censor by US Military Authorities” for language, examined and sent.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

T/3 JACK Tsuchida
XY Sec. APO 75
c/o P.M. SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIF.

From

N. Tsuchida
(Sender's name)

3915-A
(Sender's address)

Newell, Calif

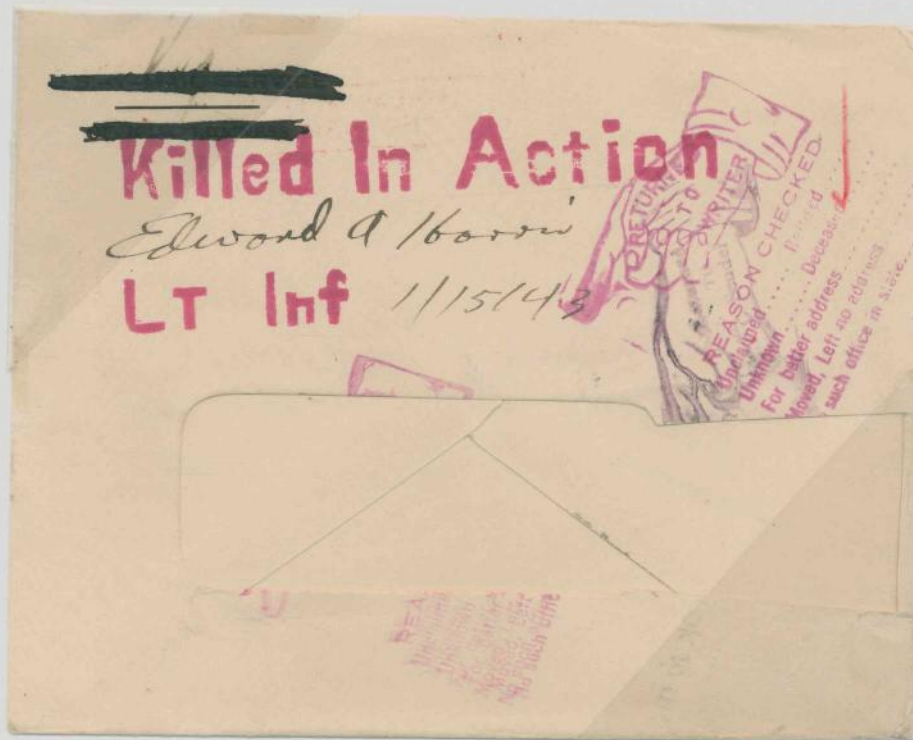
July 21, 1945
(Date)

毎日 百歩近々の暑まで眞里にそまり相着るが又氣にその百
 歩ともしやまず 七月二十日のお兄之り一生を通じて忘れずの
 出来の日でもね。今日その二十一日です。
 今朝の三ツウの中を出干した。お兄之りの着物バツを出さな
 ば昔を思ふし何処で買った何時買ったと一枚くはいて語り
 合ふ着物語は花を咲かせ歸るも着らななだらんと。これ又
 ツウウの中にあはれまは お兄之りのブルーのスーツをサレが着て
 下な...と...でも せんもお兄之の想像が何程大ききな
 るぞや。五呎四吋と云ふ。ちよと思ひます。私と丈と云ふと肩が
 二寸ほども違ふぞや。体重は百三十きもちよと思ひます
 今日形ボカりの即馬走を三ツウり陰着をもなへて二十六回り
 誕生日をお祝ひした。二十六年か出た時の話をきいて皆
 実のながら稲荷おしも大きき口を明けながら食べてやう。
 平生の胃袋の三倍にも三倍にも大ききふと云へるなせう無意識に
 数知ふな食べてベルトもゆるめたりして大さうどうでして。
 お兄之が兵隊生活に入ると九四年半月日ク立つも早。もうお
 月日ク立つを指おり數へてお兄之のおかへりを侍るぞや。今毎
 来年一軍服をつけて如違を見らばはお兄之のウアを空想し
 想像しんふさしやう。目でも早とおかへりにる杯にお祈りした
 します。

御身大印

信。

V...-MAIL



Wartime death of soldier Edward Alboroni

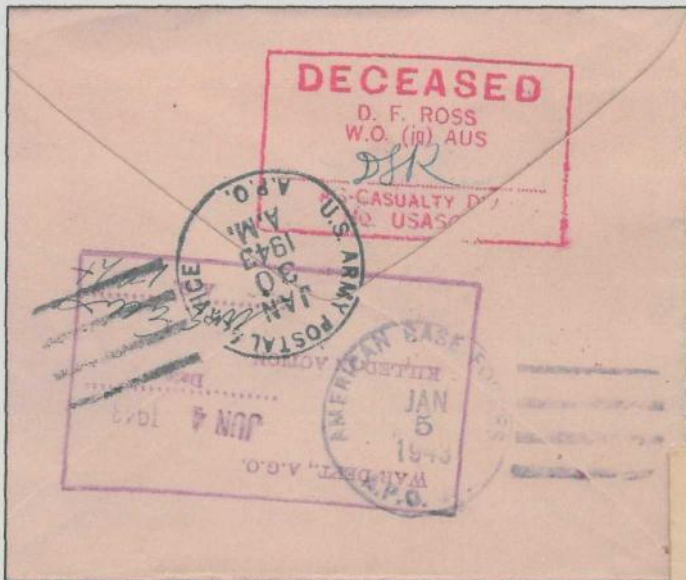
6. Realities of War in V-Mail

Casualties Okinawa & More

Careful Communications:

On a single V-Mail envelope, eight handstamps trace the communication related to the wartime death of soldier Edward Alboroni; most notably the **Killed in Action**.

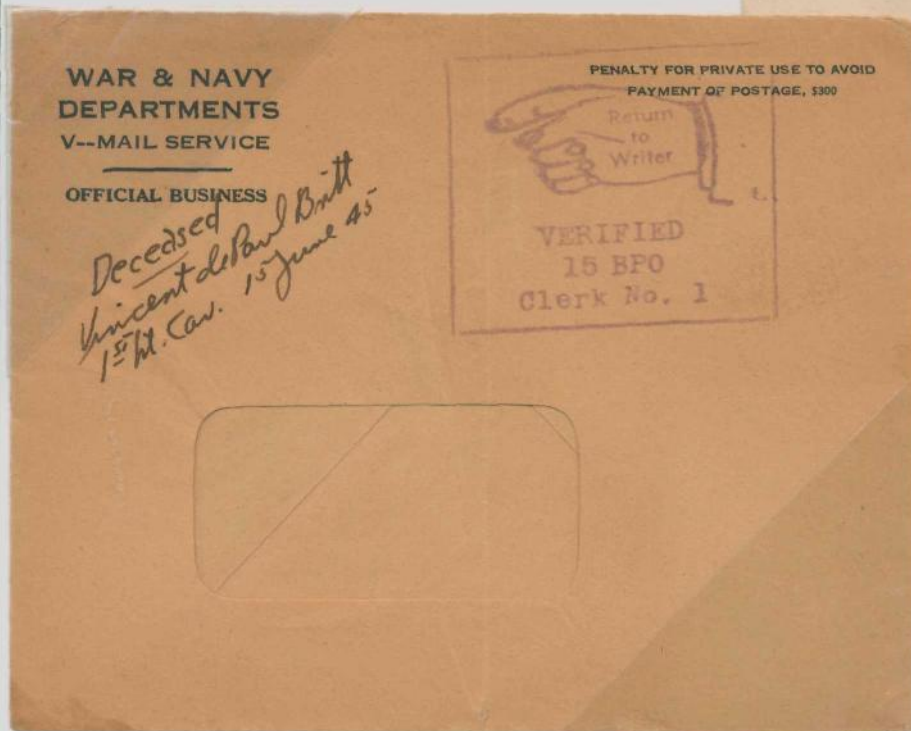
Note the long time, from **January to June 1943**, to return the V-Mail with the official notice on scanned envelope.



Scan of Reverse of Envelope, prior page at 80%.
Death Edward Alboroni acknowledged by D.F. Ross.

Dated October 29, 1944
**V-Mail Delivery Envelope
used in the United Kingdom.**

“Deceased” Signed
↓ Wilbur V. Duffel, Captain
APO 655, France



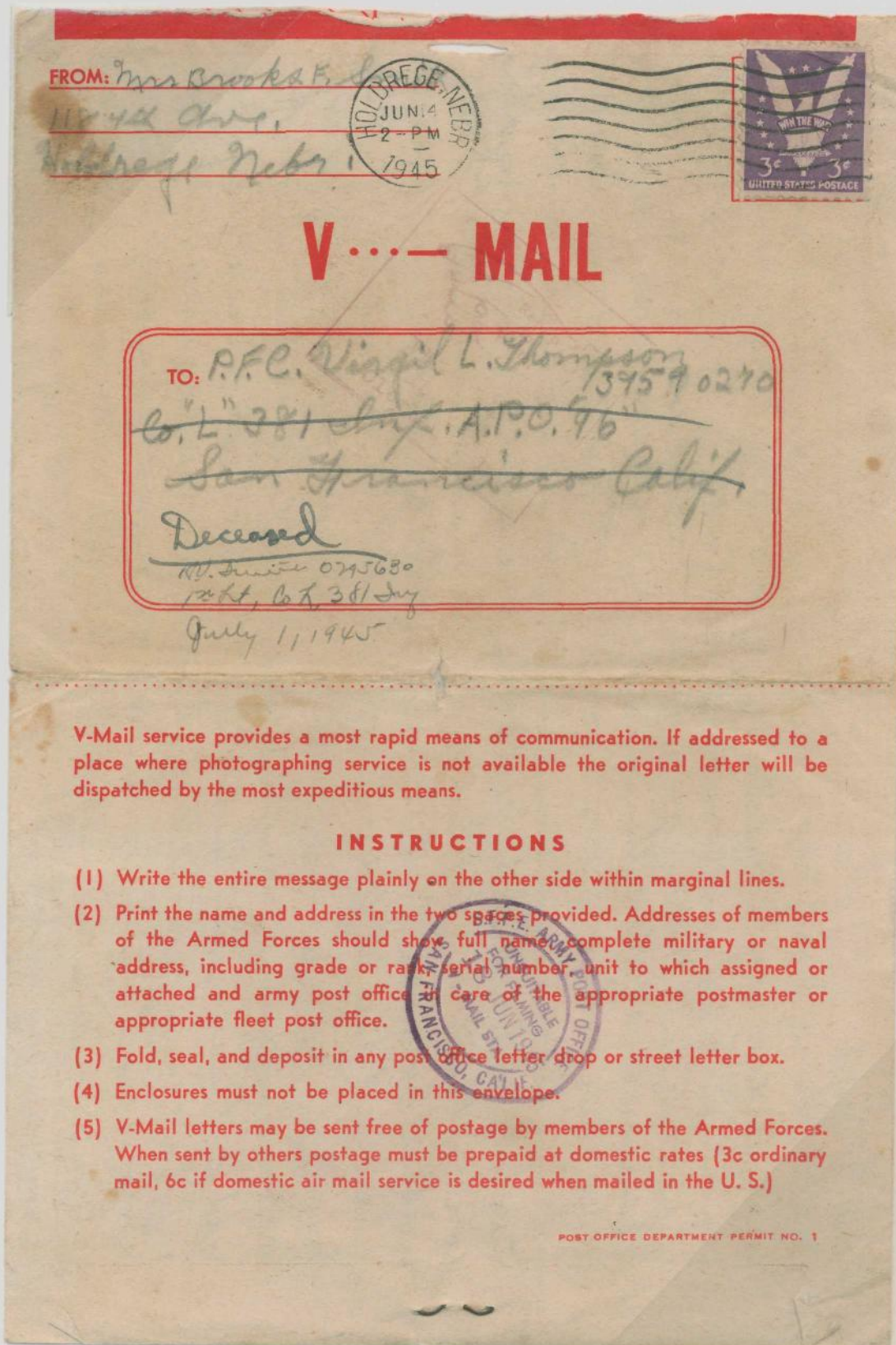
← Dated June 15, 1945
**Hawaii 15 BPO
relays another
Okinawa casualty.**

“Deceased” Signed
Vincent de Paul Britt

6. Realities of War in V-Mail

Casualties
Okinawa

To: APO 96-SF, 381st Infantry, 96th Infantry Division, Private Virgil L. Thompson, on Okinawa. July 1, 1945.
This V-Mail reached his unit, where Lieutenant Smith had to apply the endorsement, "Deceased."

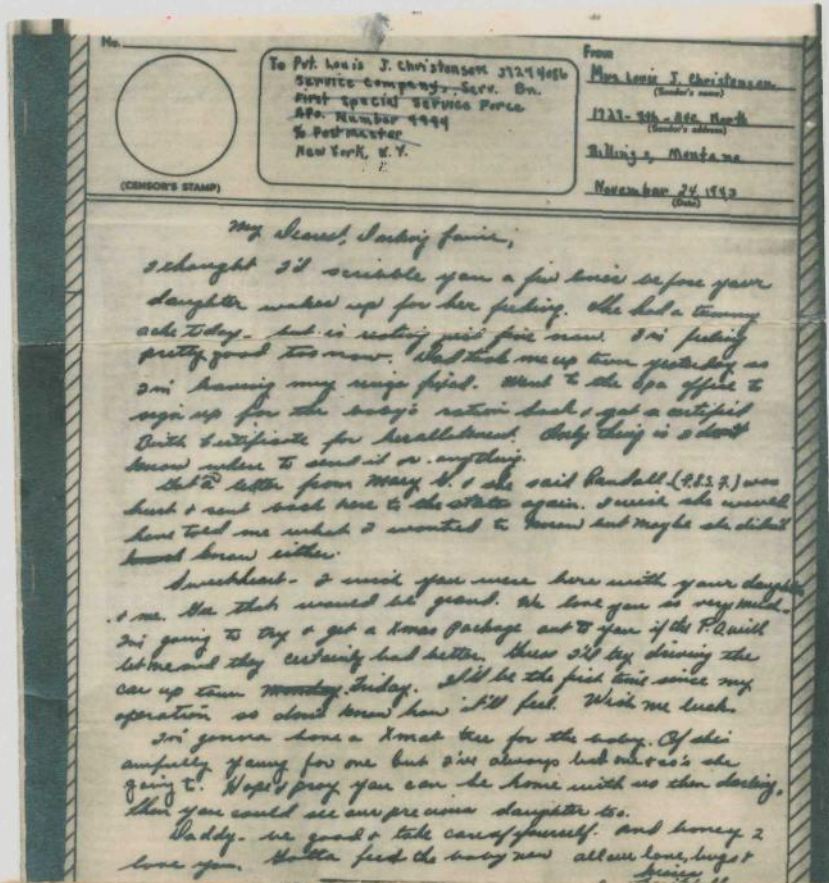


6. Realities of War in V-Mail

War Casualties Italy

APO-4994 NY First Special Service Force, Italy

Private Lewis J. Christiansen, part of the First Special Service Force, attached to the US VI Army Group. In late 1943 the unit was clearing **Mount La Defense on Highway 6, on the way to Rome**. Heavy fighting was recorded in this area. Under the blackout you can see **"Missing"** later changed to **"Deceased"**.



WAR & NAVY DEPARTMENT
V-MAIL SERVICE

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



← Under Black Marking, "Missing"

Signed Off →
"Deceased" by
unit Captain

*Deceased
S.G.
Capt A.G.B.*

X

6. Realities of War in V-Mail

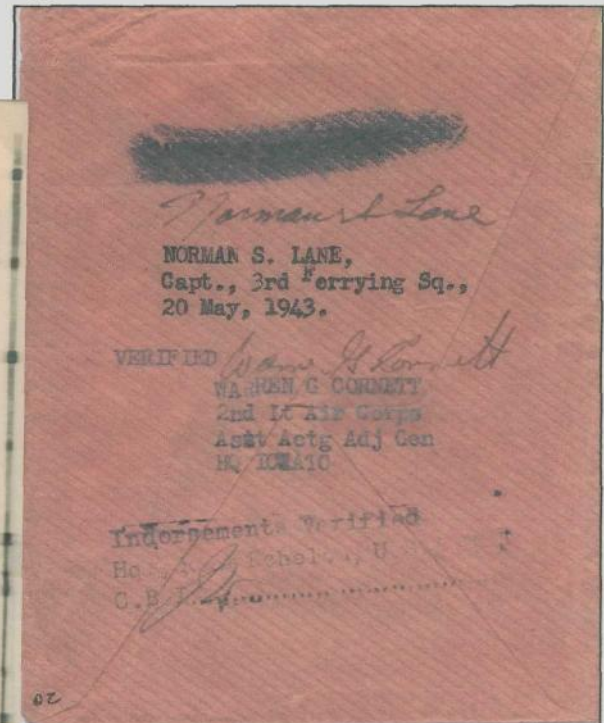
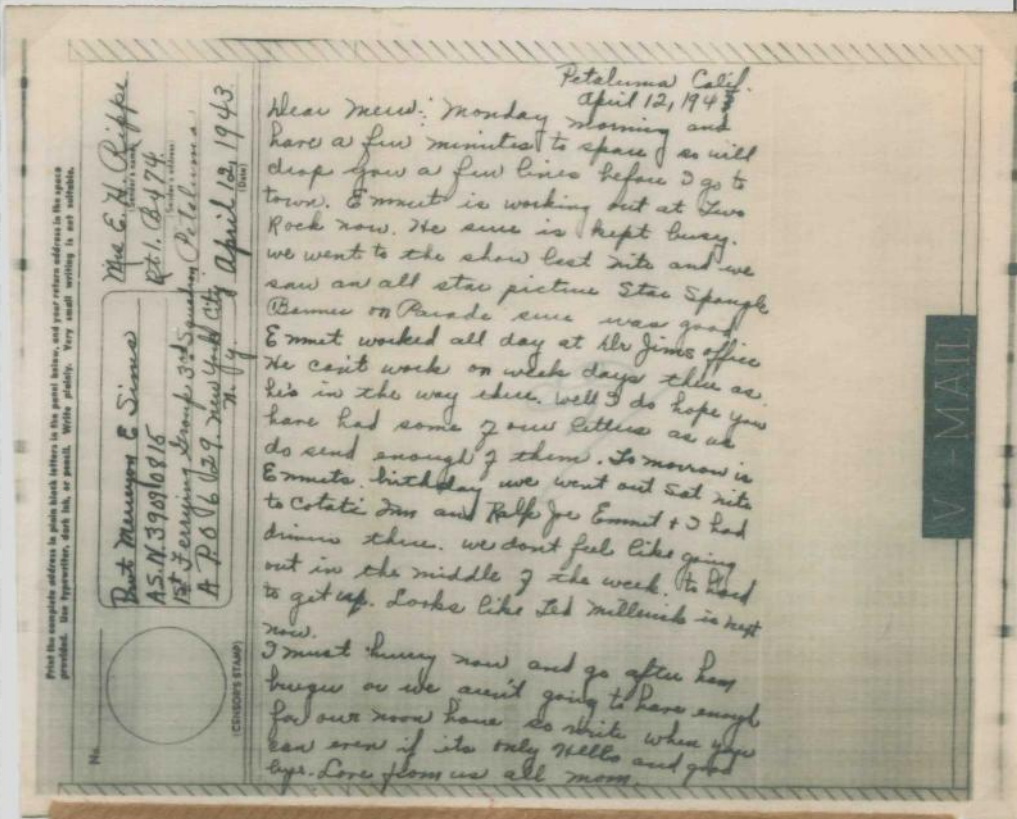
War Casualties
India

APO-629 NY **Chabua, India**, 1st Ferrying Group, 3rd Squadron—CBI.

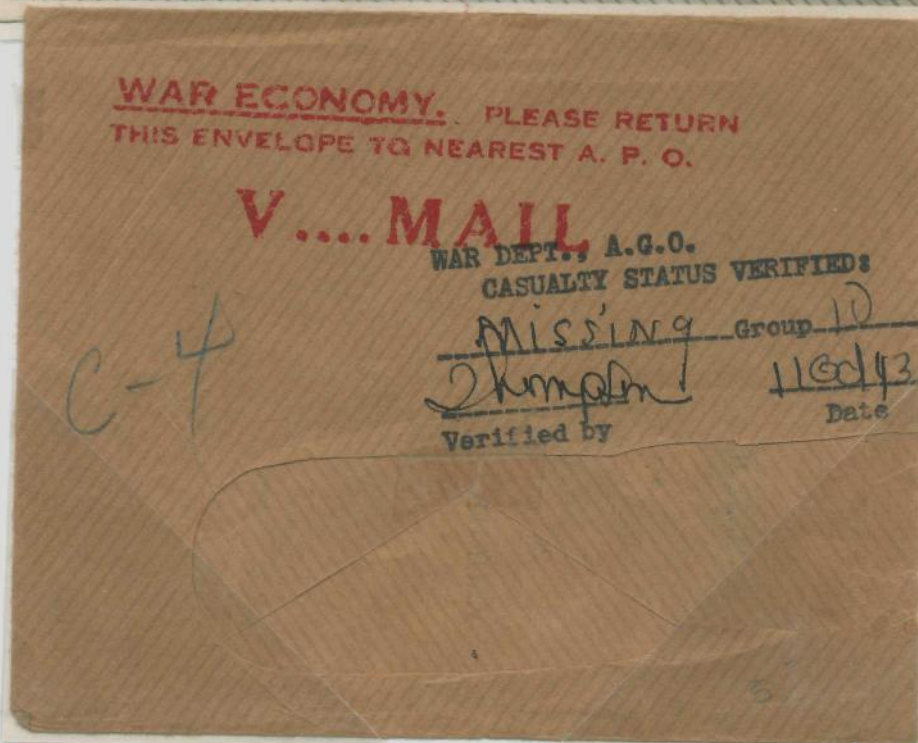
Private Sims, possibly involved in the “**Over the Hump**” resupply operations has correspondence initially marked “**Missing**”. The erasure on reverse and flap missing by the envelope window indicate status changed to “**Deceased**”. Correspondence marked with four separate handstamps.

Sent in **unique envelope** with no printed indicia, handstamped: “**War Economy. Please Return this Envelope to Nearest APO. V....Mail**”. This is the only known envelope of this type.

V-Mail written with unusual sideways orientation.



Envelope Reverse at 80%



Careful verification of Status Provided
As shown on envelope.

On Reverse: Three signed verifications
Typewritten marking under black may say
“**Missing**”. May, 1943.

On Front: Casualty Status verified as
Missing. November, 1943.

7. V-Mail Use - Military Branches

A. Army, Army Air Corps, Americal Division

Celebrating a Promotion
Army in Iceland

Greetings from Military Branches:

Army APO 777-NY 15th in Florence, Italy
Easter

Army APO 860-NY in Reykjavik, Iceland
Promotion

Air Force APO 634-NY (Army Air Corps)
US 8th in Wellingborough, England
Valentine's Day

Army Americal Division APO 715-SF
Bougainville, New Caledonia
Christmas

Easter
Army in Italy

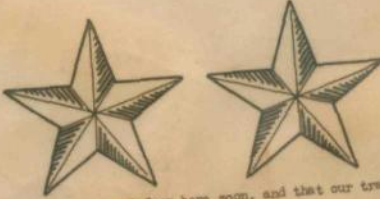
Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Vary small writing is not suitable.

No. **MAILED BY BASE 0002 ARMY HAWAII** (CENSOR'S STAMP)

Maj. Gen. Albert H. Kenner, 04067
c/o The Adjutant General, U.S. Army
Washington, D. C.
(PLEASE FORWARD)

Brig. Gen. G.J. Forster
(Sender's name) 01014
Mt. Iceland Base Command
(Sender's address)
APO 860, c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.
5 November, 1945.
(Date)

Dear Doc Kenner:-
You will recall that when you were promoted while in North Africa, I awarded you two stars instead of just one. I'm glad to make my estimate.



I hope to get away from here soon, and that our trails will cross again.

Sincerely yours,
George F. Forster
GEORGE F. FORSTER.

V-MAIL

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Print or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

From: **M. General Mark E. Clark**
Headquarters 15th Army G
A. P. O. #777, U. S. Ar
(Sender's complete address)

To: **M. General Walter Krueger**
Commanding General
Headquarters Sixth Army
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.
(See Instruction No. 2)

Mark E. Clark
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

 **5th Army**

 **8th Army**

EASTER GREETINGS
from the
15th ARMY GROUP
IN ITALY

1945

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V-MAIL

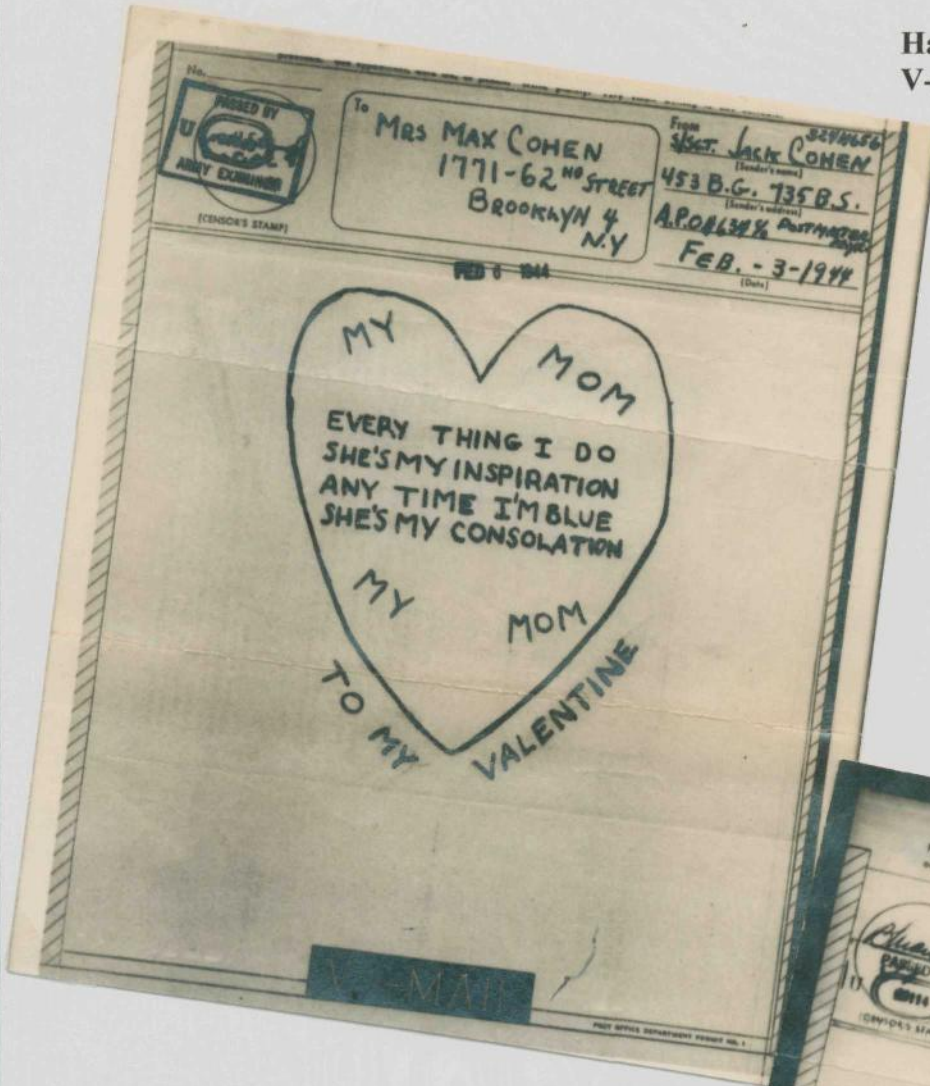
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Valentine's Day
Air Force in England

Army, Army Air Corps, Americal Division

**Handwritten to Artistic,
V-Mail Greeting Popular Benefits:**

- ◆ Reduced Censor Concerns
- ◆ Quickly Processed
- ◆ Boosted Morale
- ◆ Celebrated War Artist Talent



Christmas
Army Americal in
New Caledonia



From: APO 716 - SF →
From the Americal Division
Bougainville, New Caledonia

The **Americal Division** of the United States Army was formed in the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack.

The *Americal Division*—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division".

7. V-Mail Use - Military Branches

B. Navy, Navy Construction Battalions (Seabees), Coast Guard

Greetings from Military Branches:

Navy USS Reuben James DE 153, A Destroyer Escort
On convoy escort to the Mediterranean

Navy Construction Battalions—Seabees

US Navy 128 Advanced Base Construction Depot
Pearl Harbor, The Hawaii Territory

Christmas Greeting

Navy Construction Battalions—Seabees

US Navy 128 Advanced Base Construction Depot
Pearl Harbor, The Hawaii Territory

Mail Greeting: Keep 'Em Flowing

Coast Guard USS Tanney—WPG 37

U.S.C.G. Patrol Gunboat #37

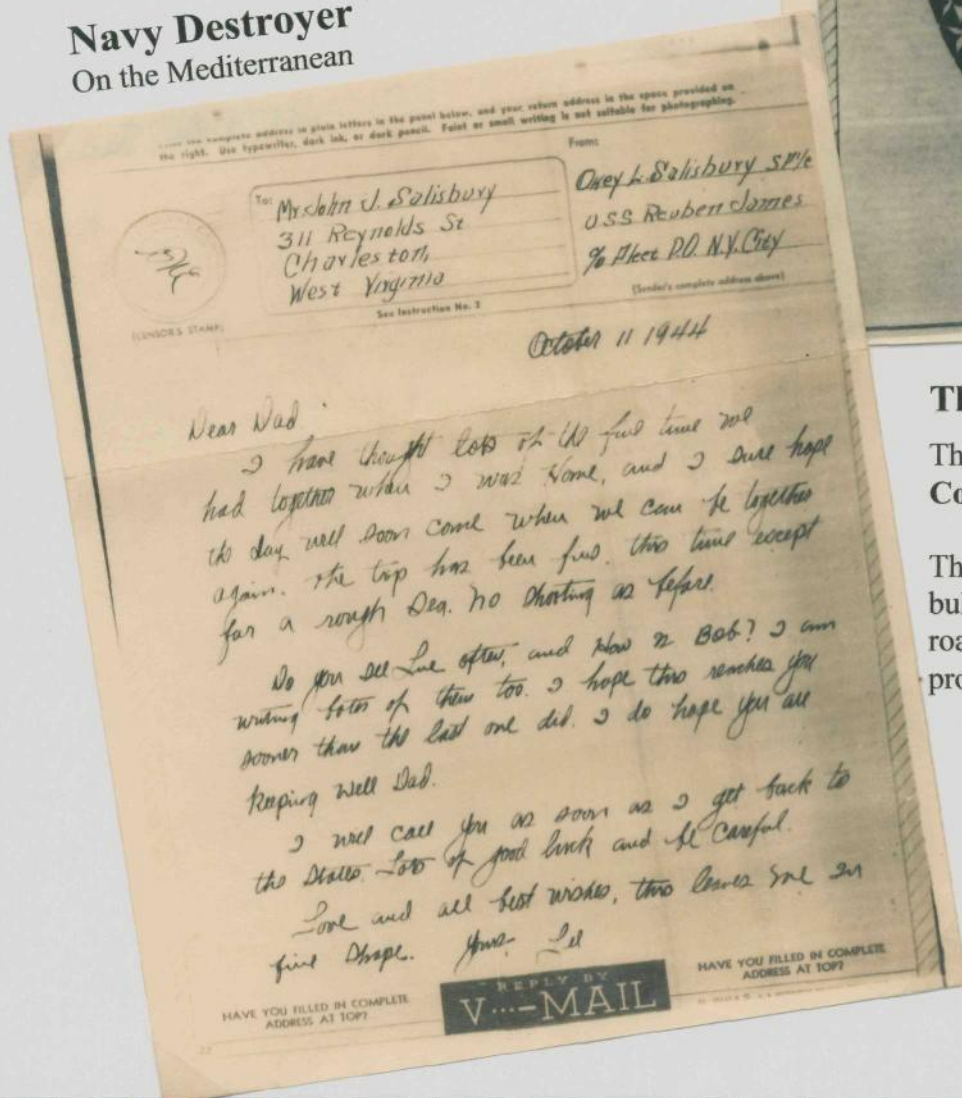
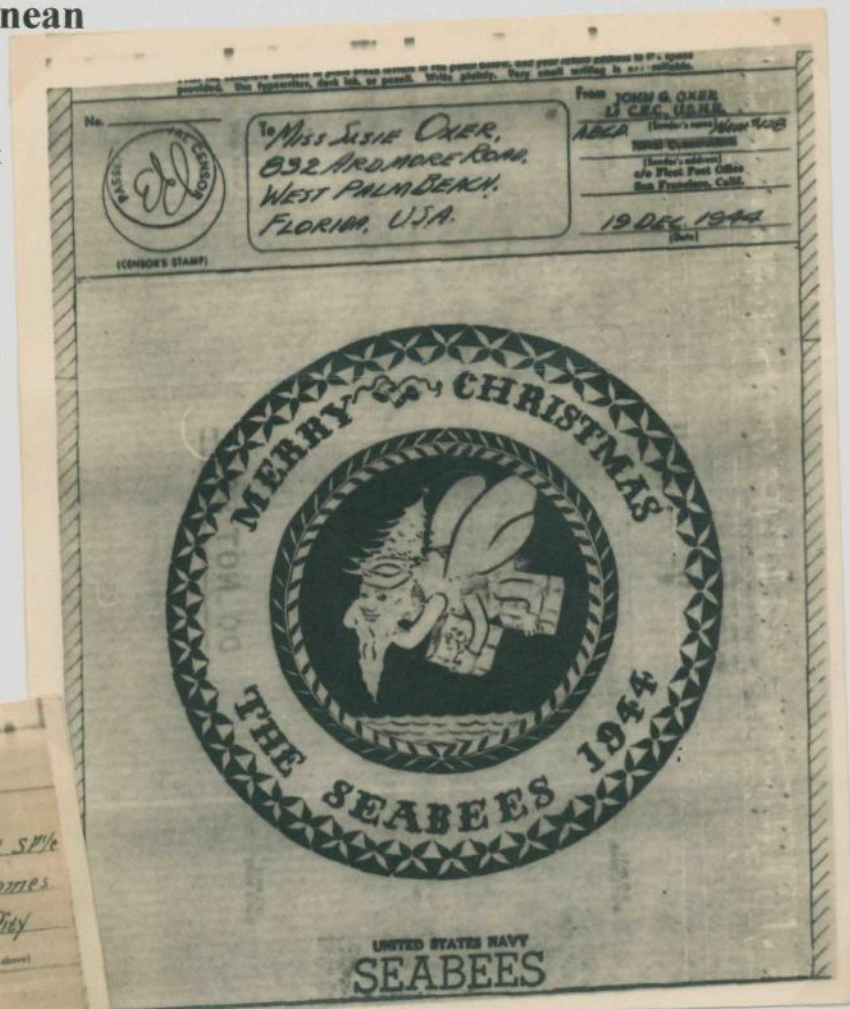
On patrol duty, Honolulu area

Navy Destroyer

On the Mediterranean

U.S. Navy Seabees

Seabee—C.B.—Construction Battalion
On Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory



The Seabees - What is in a Name:

The word **Seabee** comes from the initials of **Construction Battalion**, (C.B.), of the U.S. Navy.

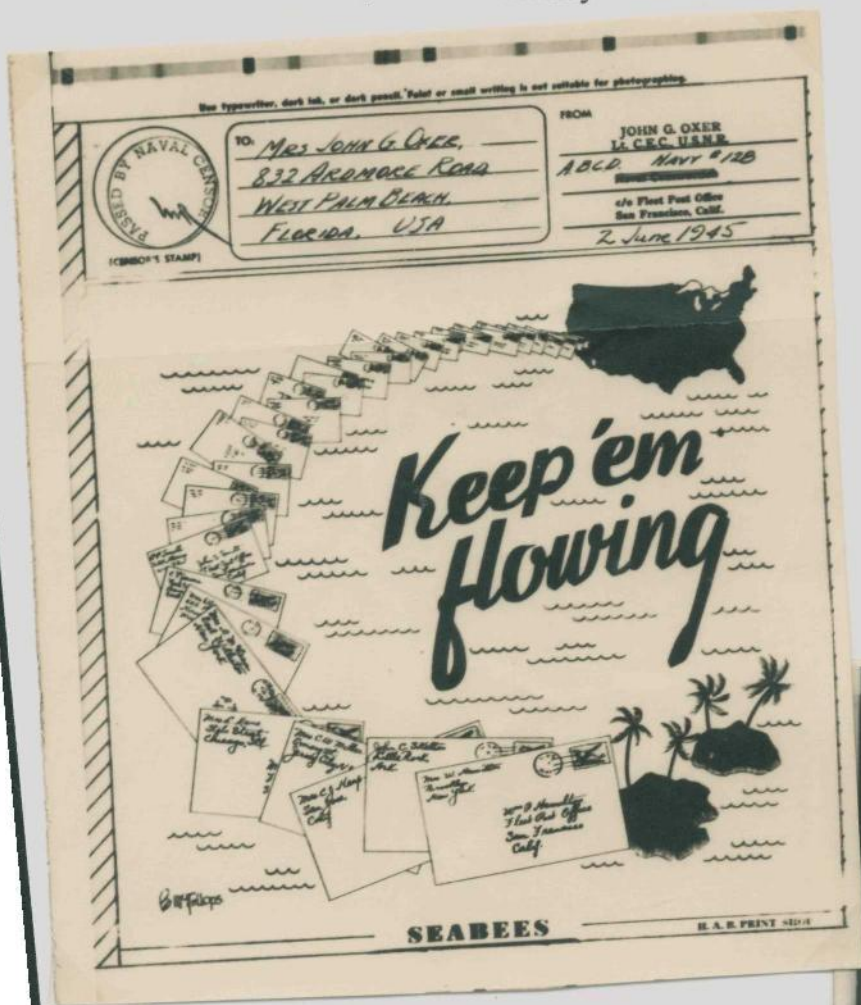
The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and other construction projects beginning with World War II.

Navy, Navy Construction Battalions (Seabees), Coast Guard

Seabee's Mail Greeting On Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory

This War Artist Greeting Mail Request is another morale booster for at home and abroad. From H.A.B. (Hawaii Advanced Base) at Pearl Harbor for use all.

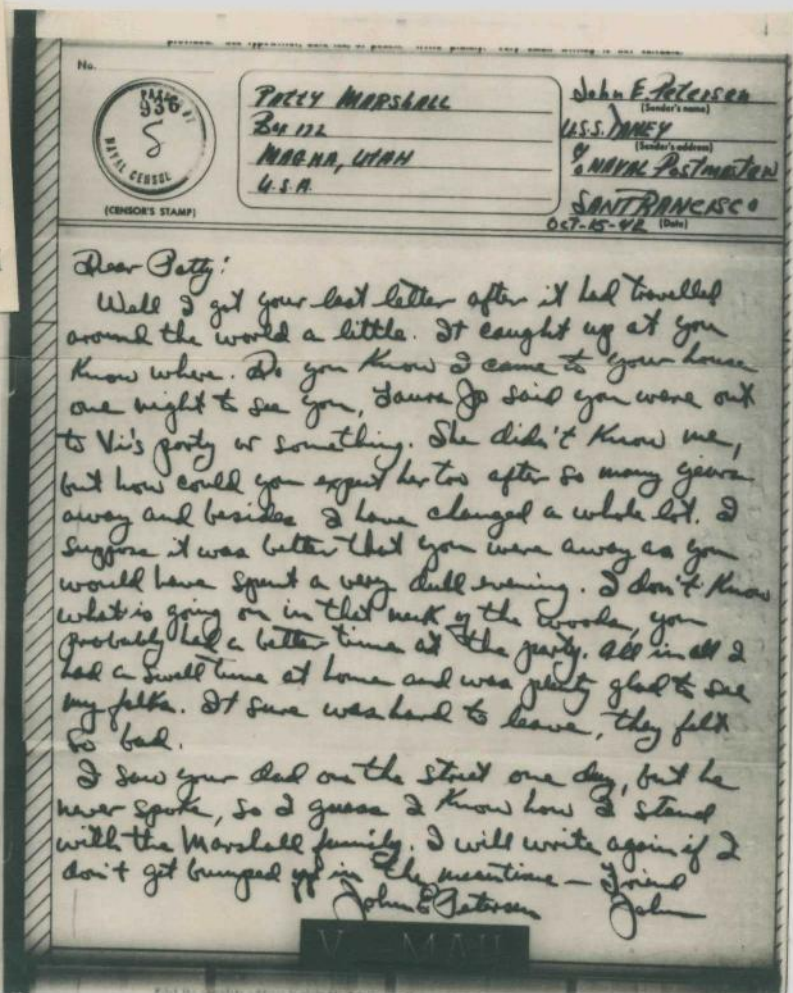
The V-mail service encourage rather than discourage mail.



Coast Guard in Honolulu

From: U.S.S. Taney - WPG 37 →
U.S.C.G. Patrol Gunboat # 37
On patrol duty, Honolulu area.

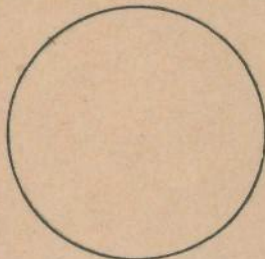
A former Navy ship, U.S.S. Taney was moored at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The ship was transferred to the Coast Guard in early 1942. V-Mail from the Coast Guard is difficult to locate.



7. V-Mail Use - Military Branches
B. US Navy

Seabees
War Artist Brouwer Greeting

Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



10 (CENSOR'S STAMP)

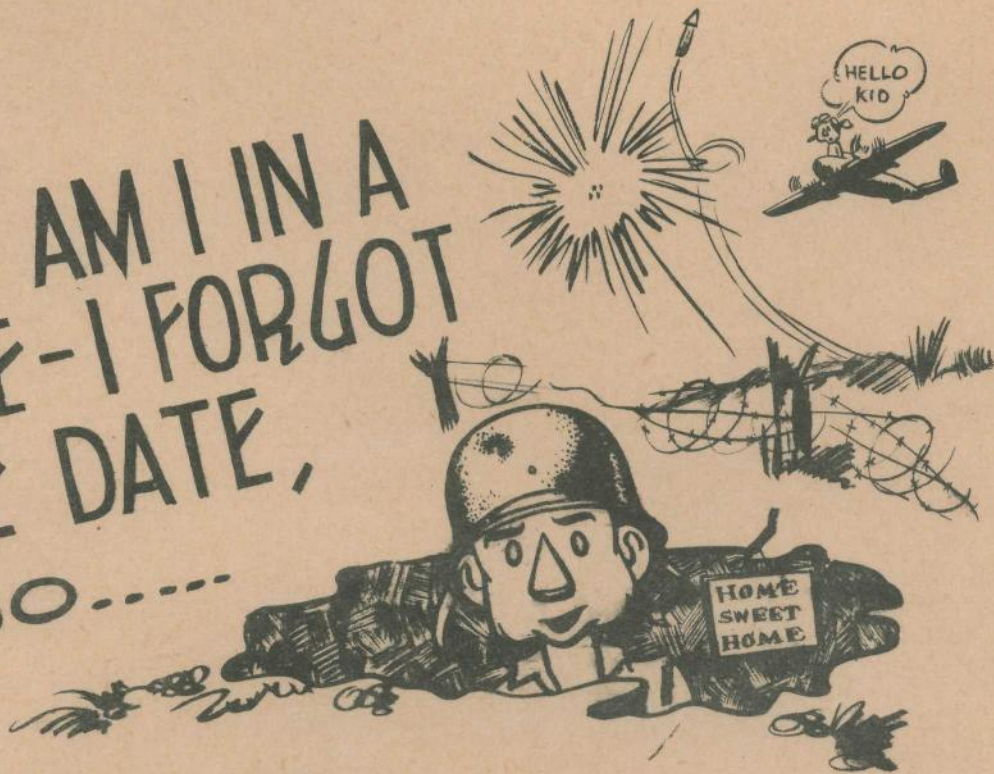
TO:

FROM

Naval Construction

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

BOY! AM I IN A
HOLE - I FORGOT
THE DATE,
SO.....



Happy Birthday!

BROUWER

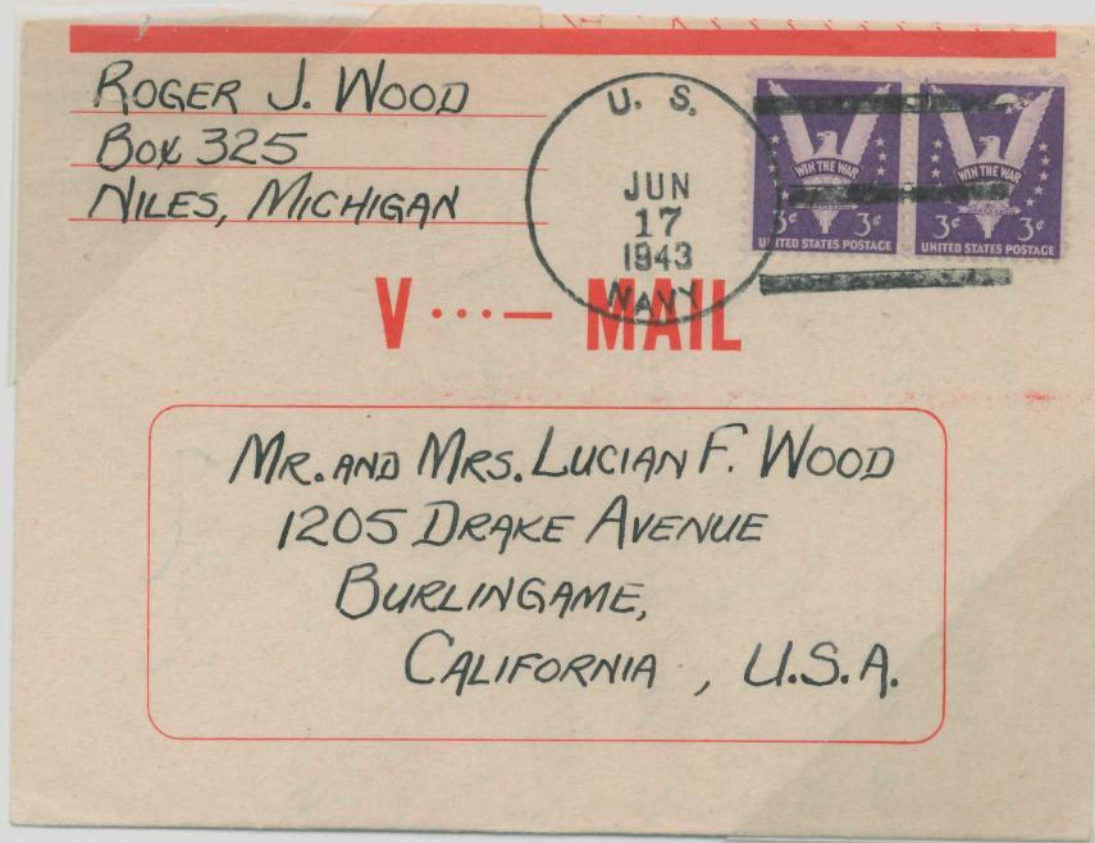
SEABEES

7. V-Mail Use by Military Branches

C. US Navy, Civilian Use

CONUS Usage
Cargo Ship Mail

V-Mail generated from Civilian use would generally run through the Army Post Office with franking. These were not. Civilian to Civilian, with Airmail franking and a U.S. Navy Z-Type cancel and British franking example.



Niles, Michigan:
Naval Installation

Sent Civilian to Civilian
with US Navy cancel
within Continental U.S.
(CONUS).

Used like a letter sheet, and
not filmed, sent by a crew
member on a cargo ship.
Posted with 2 ½d in
Southampton, England.



8. V-Mail Use Around the World

A. European Theater of Operation

World War it truly was! In this section, V-Mails and mailed V-Mail forms are organized to showcase the **immense geographic footprint of the war**. Covering specific geography, the V-Mails here were selected to show the extensive geography of troop locations served by V-Mail. These V-Mails are organized by the military theaters of operation.



Selection of V-Mail shows used the criteria of showing worldwide coverage, but allowing the more elusive locations, where mail service was challenging, to be highlighted.

Iceland V-Mail Letter & Christmas Greeting

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

To MR. & MRS. J.R. FORBES
136 LORIMER ST.
SALINAS,
CALIF.

From **Pvt. R. MIKKELSEN**
PLT. CO. (Leader's name) APO
856 SIG.A.W.B.V.
50 POSTMASTER-NI
AUG. 17, 1944
(Date)

PASSSED BY
 U 00696
 ARMY EXAMINER
(CROSS'S STAMP)

Dear Folks:
 I'm writing to thank you for the papers you have been sending me every week. I enjoy reading them very much. What should I say I sent you some time ago, that is the Iceland Base Command. I didn't know if you had one in your collection. Well nothing much has happened around here the weather has been pretty nice but you can tell that winter will be here in a couple of more months, it gets a little dark now at night. Notice my new A.R.D. number, the rest of the address is the same. Well this is about all I have to say this time and thanks for sending the papers.

Bob Mikkelsen

PASSSED BY
 U 00696
 ARMY EXAMINER
(CROSS'S STAMP)

To **Mrs. F.F. Rhoda**
103 City Street
San Antonio
TEXAS
U.S.A.

From **1st Lt. James A. Davis (Rank)**
449 5th St - APO 966
(Leader's name)
Postmaster - M. G. R. G. P.
4. 3. 1944
(Date)

ICELAND
 U.S. ARMY
 1943

Merry Christmas
 Happy
 New Year

GLEDILEG JOL
OF PARSALT NIJAR
Love to all - Jim

V-MAIL

Incoming Mail:

How long can you carry all the letters and V-Mails from home in your duffel bag?

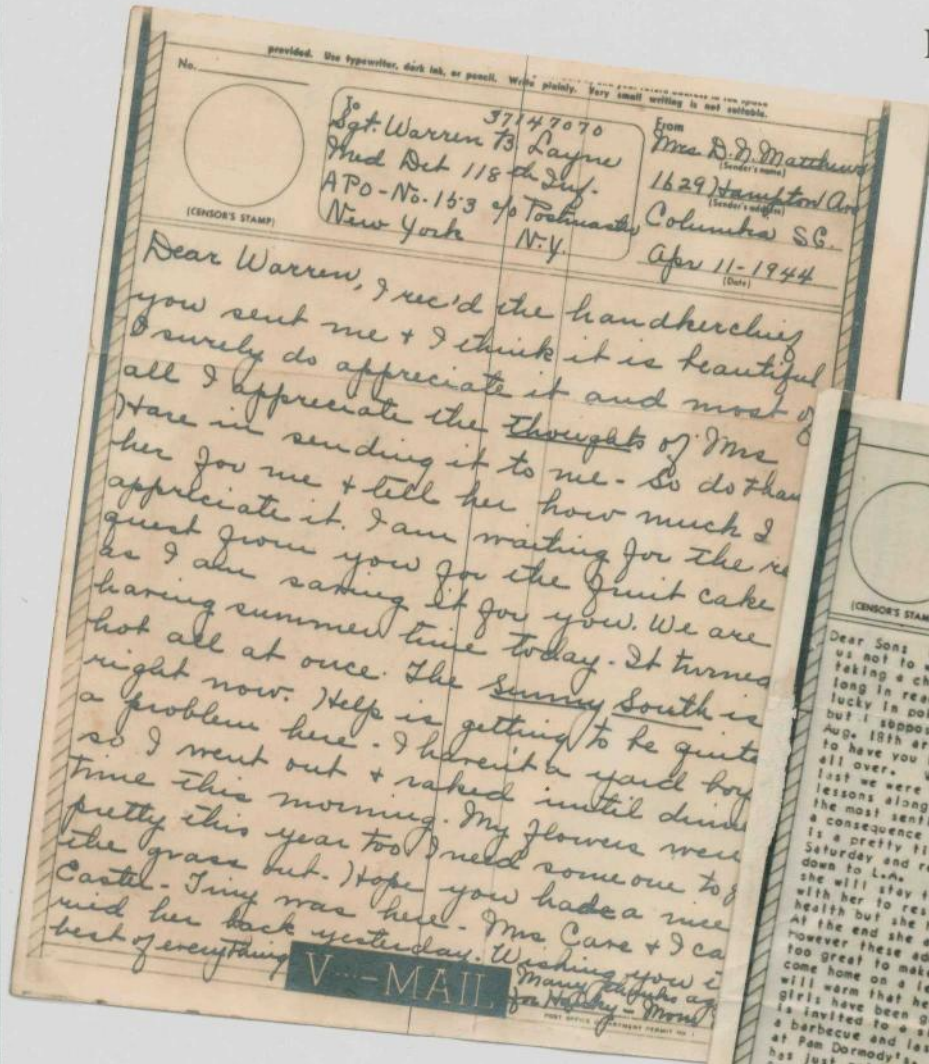
Few V-Mails to Servicemen have survived.
These two sent without censoring.

Iceland APO 860-NY Reykjavik - Greeting
APO 610-NY Meck Army Base

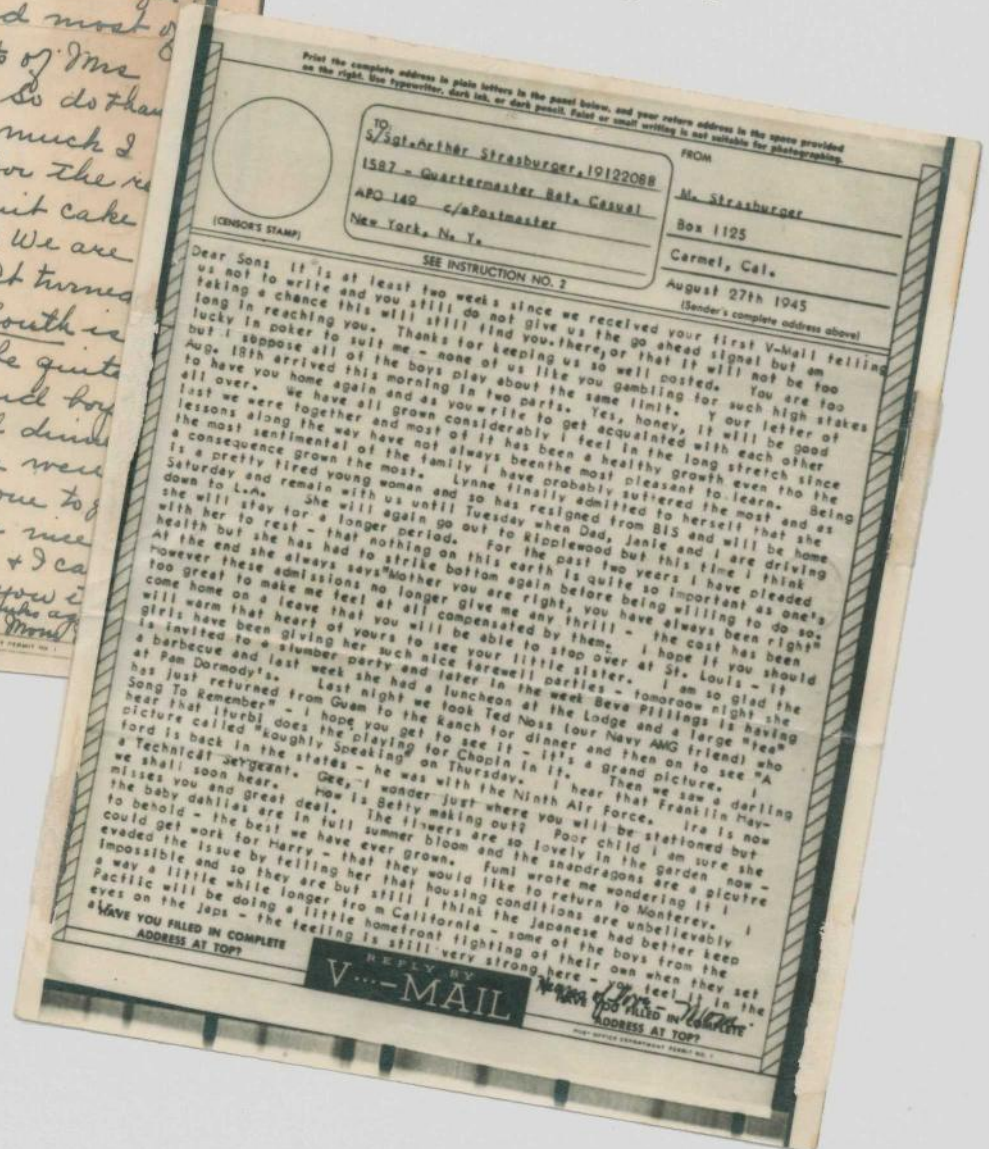
England APO 149-NY in Sunninghill

Northern Ireland APO 153-NY Bangor

Northern Ireland



England



Typed correspondence
a challenge to read
without magnification.

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

France

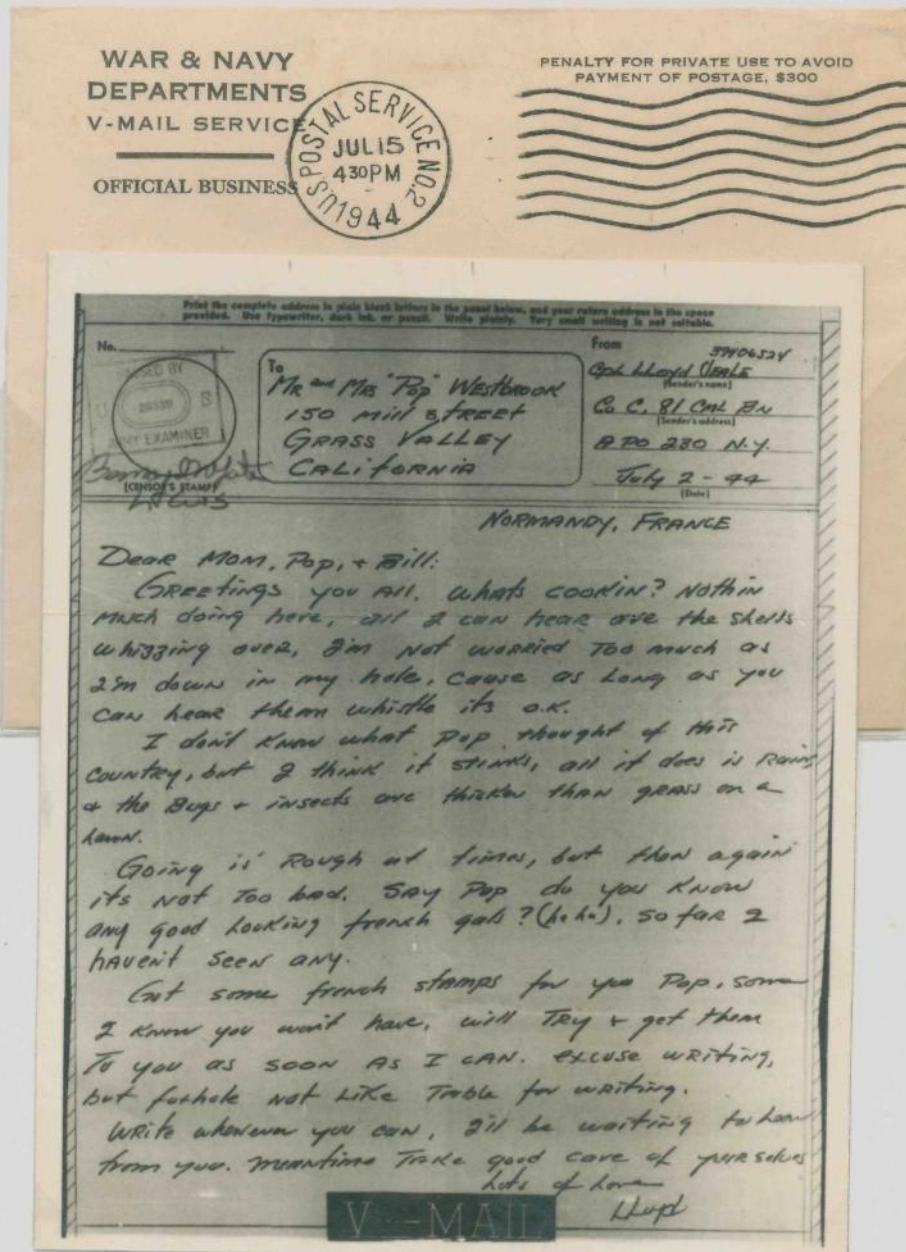
A. European Theater of Operation

From APO 230-NY, HQ 1st US Army, sent from Normandy, France.

Cpl. Veale is under fire, 81st Chemical Battalion was one of the D-Day invasion units, HQ-Rear of the 1st Army, from Bristol, England where the mail was processed.

Normandy Invasion D-Day Invasion Unit Omaha Beach

"All I can hear is shells whizzing over...I am down in my hole, 'cause as long as you can hear them whistle it's OK...Going is rough at times."



Sent within days of the Omaha Beach invasion.

"I'm a little late answering your letter...but we really have been kept busy..."

From: APO 10-NY, 184th Port Company, sent from Normandy, France. Next Page →

Cpl. Cole was in Normandy, on Omaha, one of the invasion beaches. **This V-Mail censored and mailed with out filming is significant as it confirms that mail indeed was moving in and out of the landing zones within a few days after Festung Europa was invaded.** Outgoing mail was taken to London and processed through Base Post Office 11.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



TO: MR. WILLIAM PAETOW
131-30 22ND STREET
SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
LONG ISLAND N. Y.

FROM
CPL. E. COLE # 32637293
184 PORT CO APO 10
C/O POSTMASTER NEW YORK

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

FRANCE

Dear Willie:- I'm a little late with my answer to your letter, which I received shortly after our landing, here but we have really been kept busy and I haven't been writing very much. Glad to hear all the gang at "Twenty-two" are doing well, you say hello to them for me. Things are moving along fine here right now, the weather is warm with frequent rain and not to forget the mud. Well, Willie my hopes go right along with yours about a fast end to this. Thanks for writing Eddie.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

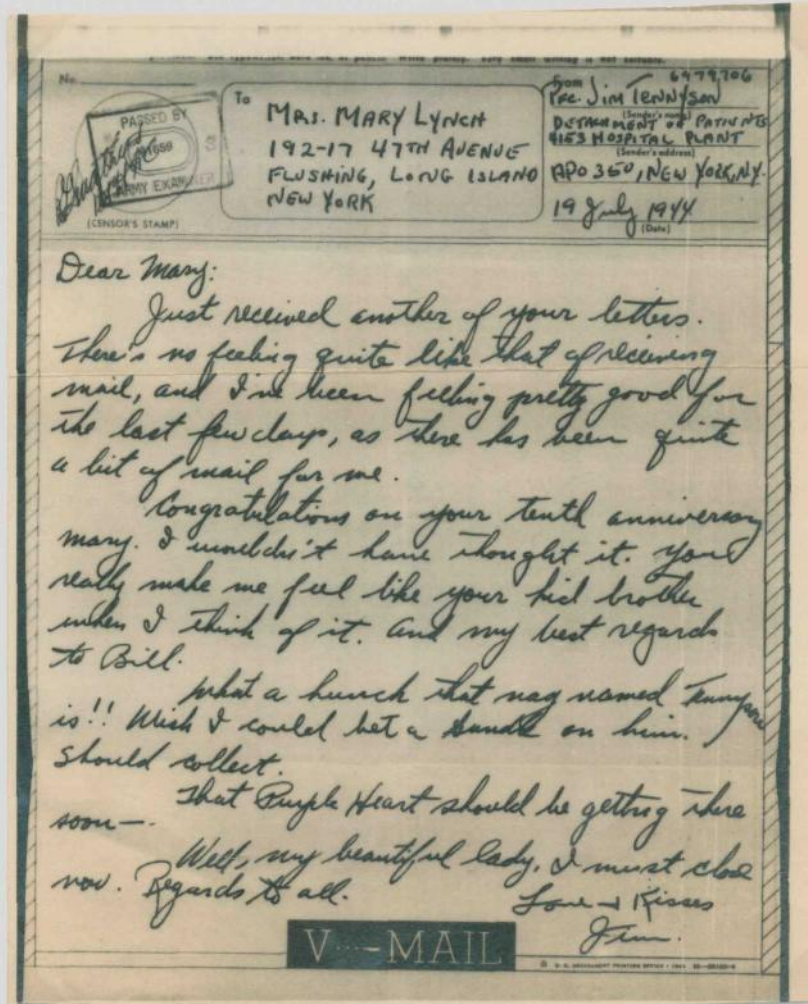
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
A. European Theater of Operation

France

Normandy
D-Day



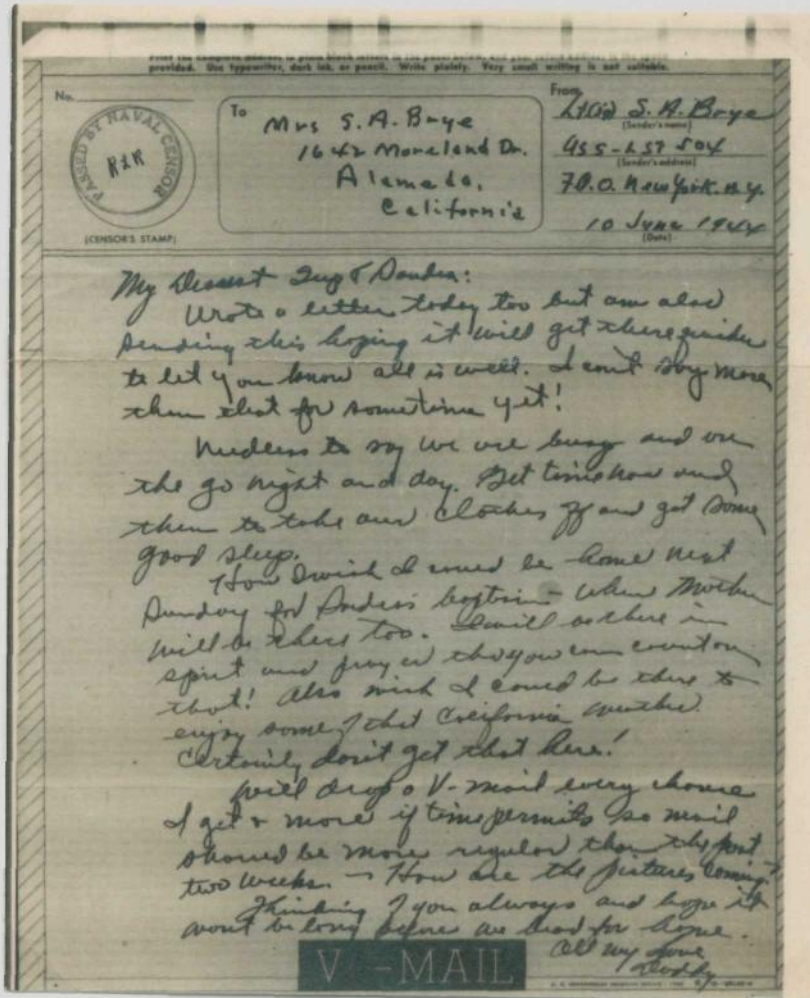
Evacuated to a hospital in England.
Private Tennyson is very likely a casualty
of the early fighting on the continent,

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
A. European Theater of Operation

France

Normandy
D-Day

"We are on the go night and day, can't say more..."



LST 504, Normandy
(LST = Landing Ship, Tank)

V-Mail sent just six days after D-Day.
The ship is still ferrying supplies into the invasion beaches.

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

France

A. European Theater of Operation

APO 758-NY, HQ US 7th Army. Pfc. Sammy Kurano, from the now famed Nesei 442nd Infantry Battalion, a unit composed of mostly of **Japanese-American born enlisted men**, in Luneville, Southern France. **The unit became the most highly-decorated regiment in the history of the United States armed forces**, the motto of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was **"Go for Broke."**

Private Kurano writes to Kim Ozawa in **Poston, Arizona Japanese Relocation Camp**, Area 35, Barrack 10, Space A. Japanese-American men in relocation camps, after much trying, were allowed to join the US Army. For a battalion of 300 to 1000 men, over 10,000 applied.

Nesei 442nd Battalion

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and y or return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Pencil or small letters in red - liable for photographing.

TO	FROM
Miss Kim Ozawa 35-10-A Poston Arizona U.S.A.	Pfc. Sammy Kurano APO 758-NY New York N.Y.

SENDER'S STAMP SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address above)

Dear Kim:
How are you?
I was at a party and I went to
Luneville in some big town, France. You
should see what they built the building
I am in a biggest hotel in a town now (right
and play every day. This is nice vacation.
It's a party thing to say, but everything come time
and so quick. Anyway would where town is
really pretty. I tell you about after go back
state this means if I come back
pretty soon I have to go back front, so
some other soldiers could get past too. So far
I been doing all right. So.

Yours by now, and take care of your
self.

If you have time, always Sammy
write to me.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? **REPLY BY V-MAIL** HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
 A. European Theater of Operation

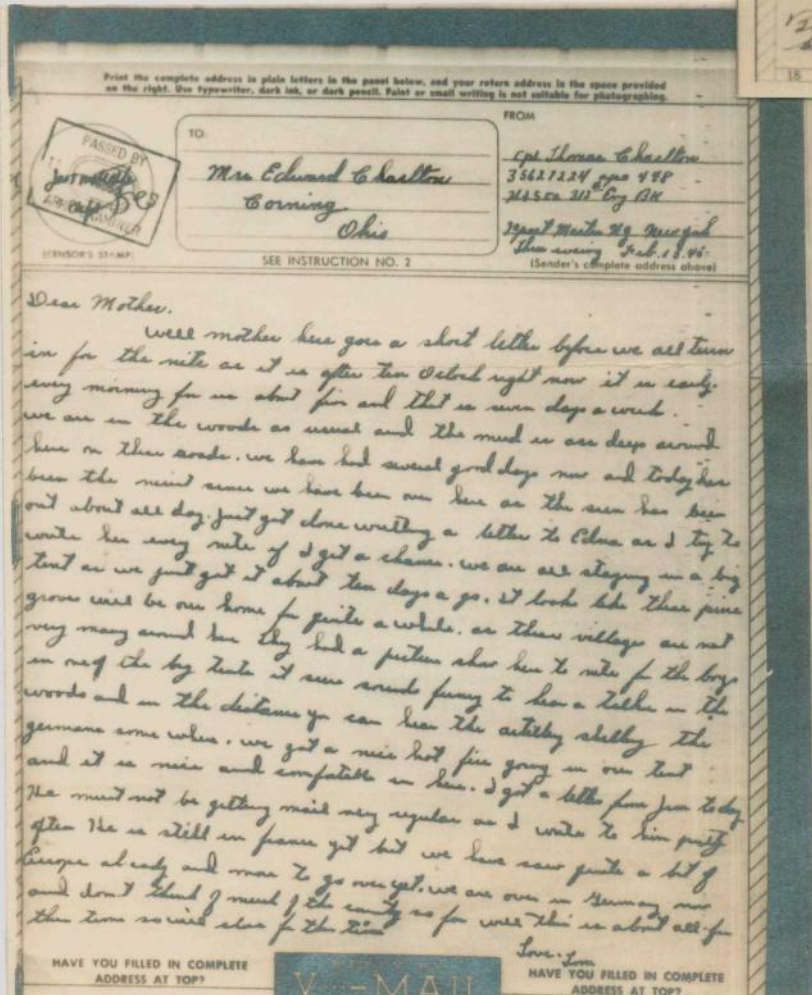
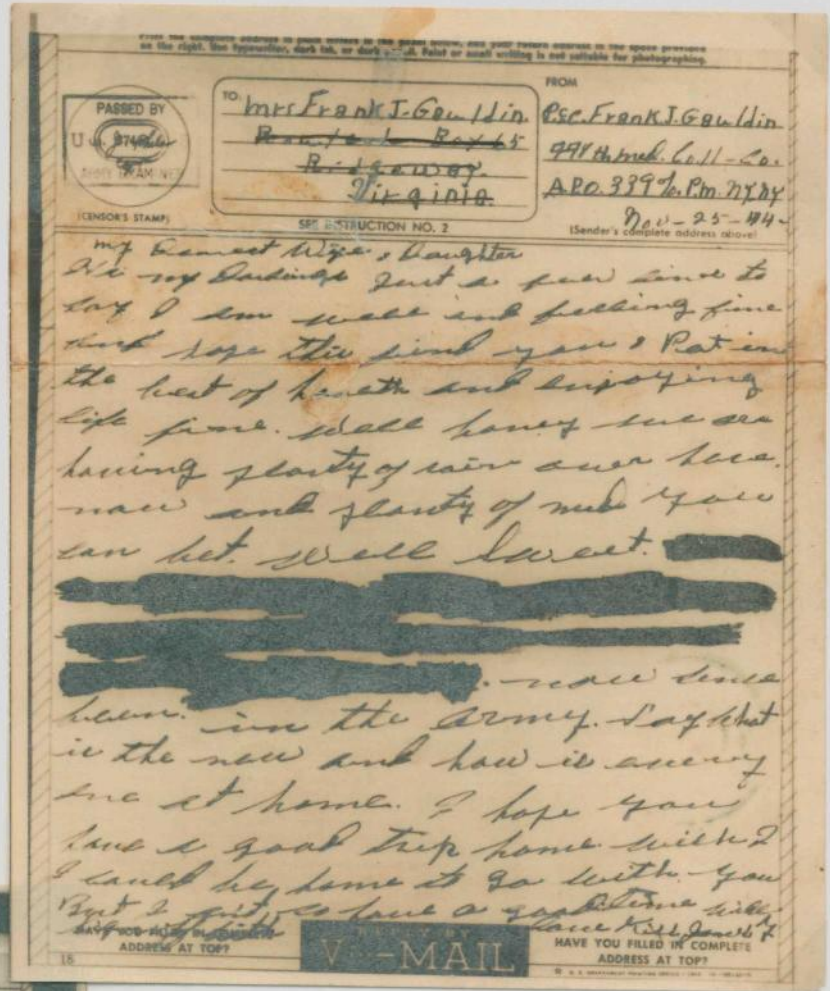
Netherlands and Belgium

From: APO 399-NY Hq 9 US Army →
 Maastricht, Holland
 998th Medical Collection Company
 Not a choice assignment in the military.

This V-Mail heavily censored.

Censors mark out:

- Specific troop locations
- Operations details
- Anything they want to



"We are in the woods as usual and the mud is ass deep..."

← From: APO 448-NY 87th Infantry Division
 Andier, Belgium

VIII Corps is trying to breach the West Wall.

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
A. European Theater of Operation

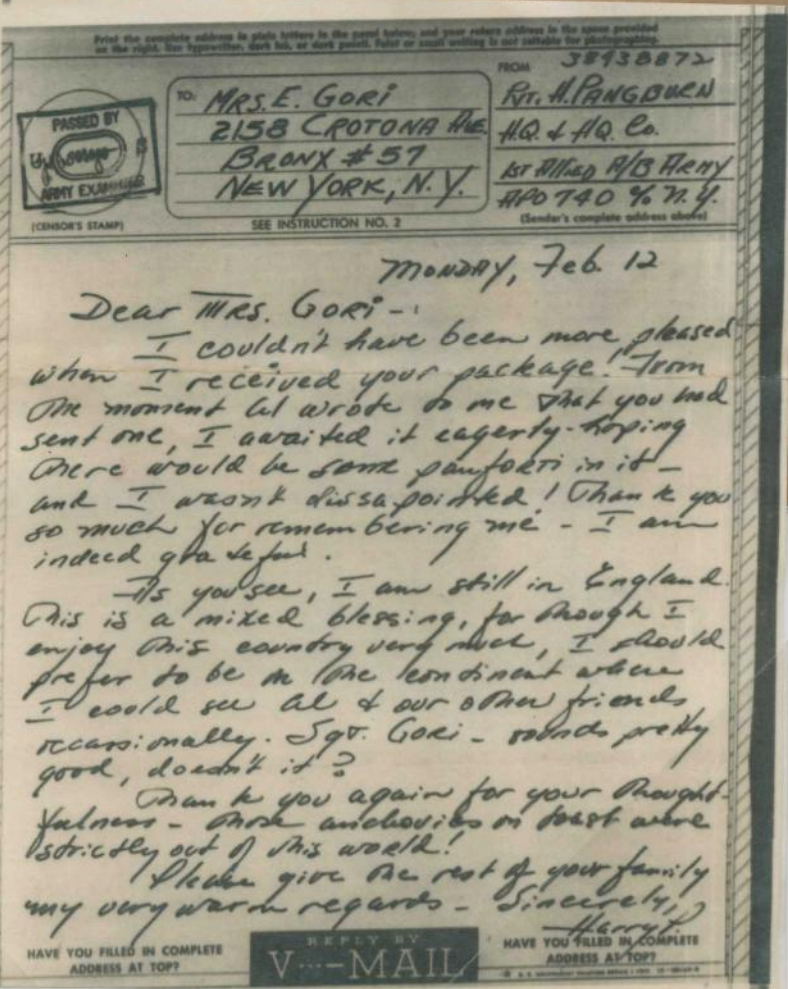
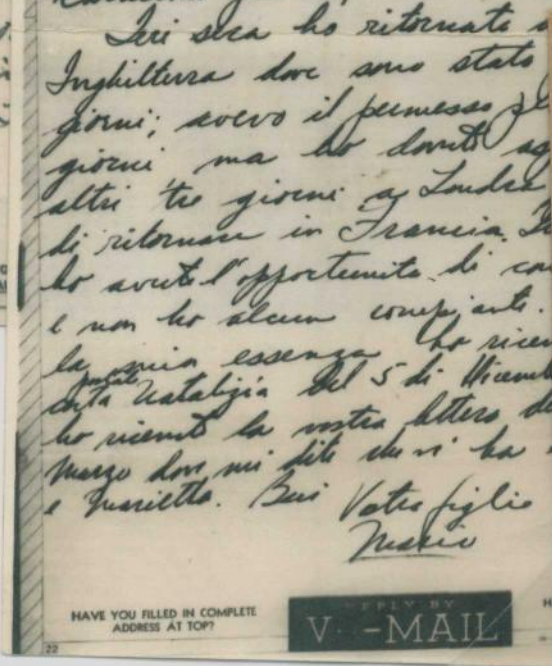
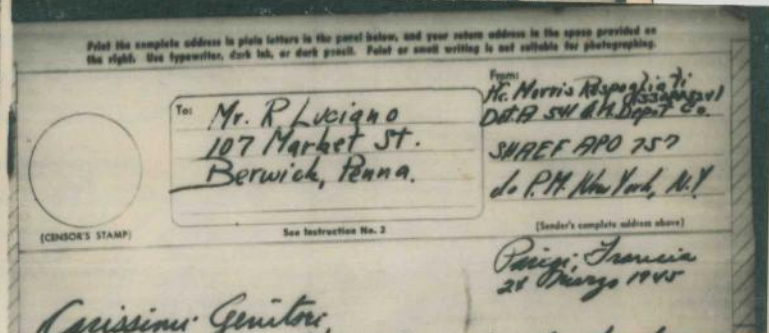
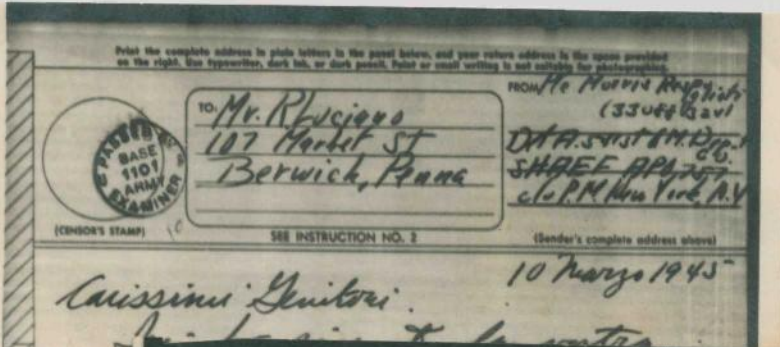
France
Netherlands

From: APO 757-NY SHAEF- Supreme HQ
 Allied Expeditionary Force **Paris, France**

V-Mail Written in Italian.

As long as specified, a V-Mail written in a foreign language could be sent.

Irregularities in Censoring: Two similar V-Mails, one censor marked, one not, both from PFC Norris (Mario) Rospigliati.



From the 1st Allied Airborne Army →
 APO-740 NY, Holland; February 12, 1945

Established by the British 1st Airborne, the Polish Parachute Brigade and the US 82nd and 101st Airborne, this unit was involved in "Operation Marketgarden" in Holland. The unit was also used as infantry during the "Battle of the Bulge", the German counteroffensive in the Ardeenes.

Monday, Feb. 12
 Dear MRS. GORI -
 I couldn't have been more pleased when I received your package. From the moment it wrote to me that you had sent one, I awaited it eagerly - hoping there would be some painkillers in it - and I wasn't disappointed! Thank you so much for remembering me - I am indeed grateful.
 As you see, I am still in England. This is a mixed blessing, for though I enjoy this country very much, I should prefer to be in the continent where I could see all of our other friends occasionally. Sgt. Gori - sounds pretty good, doesn't it?
 Thank you again for your thoughtfulness - and anchovies or best wine strictly out of this world!
 Please give the rest of your family my very warm regards - Sincerely,
 Harry

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
 A. European Theater of Operation

Italy

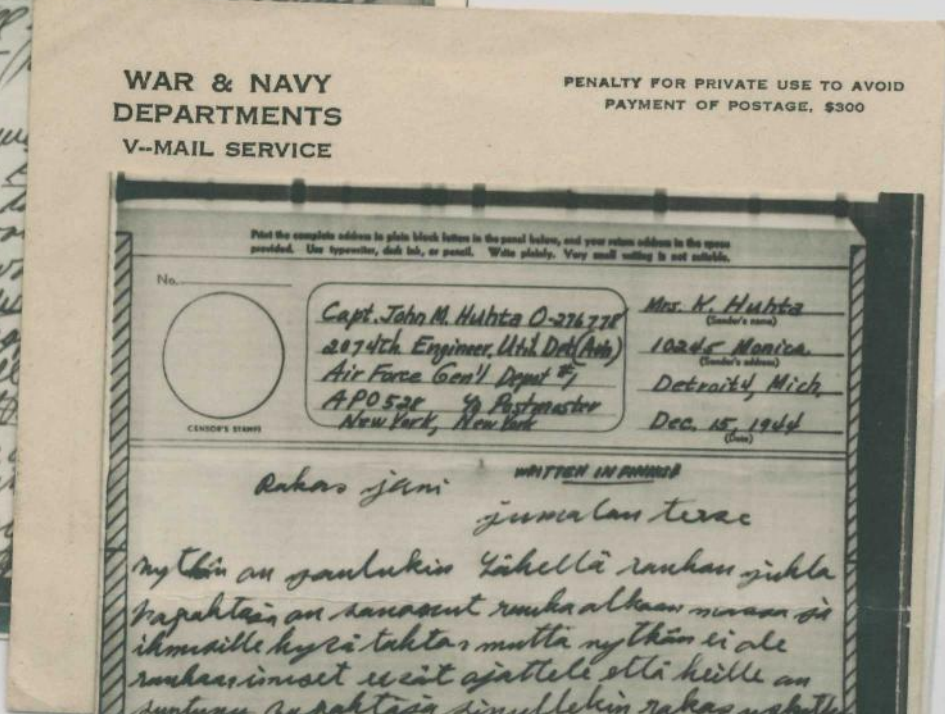
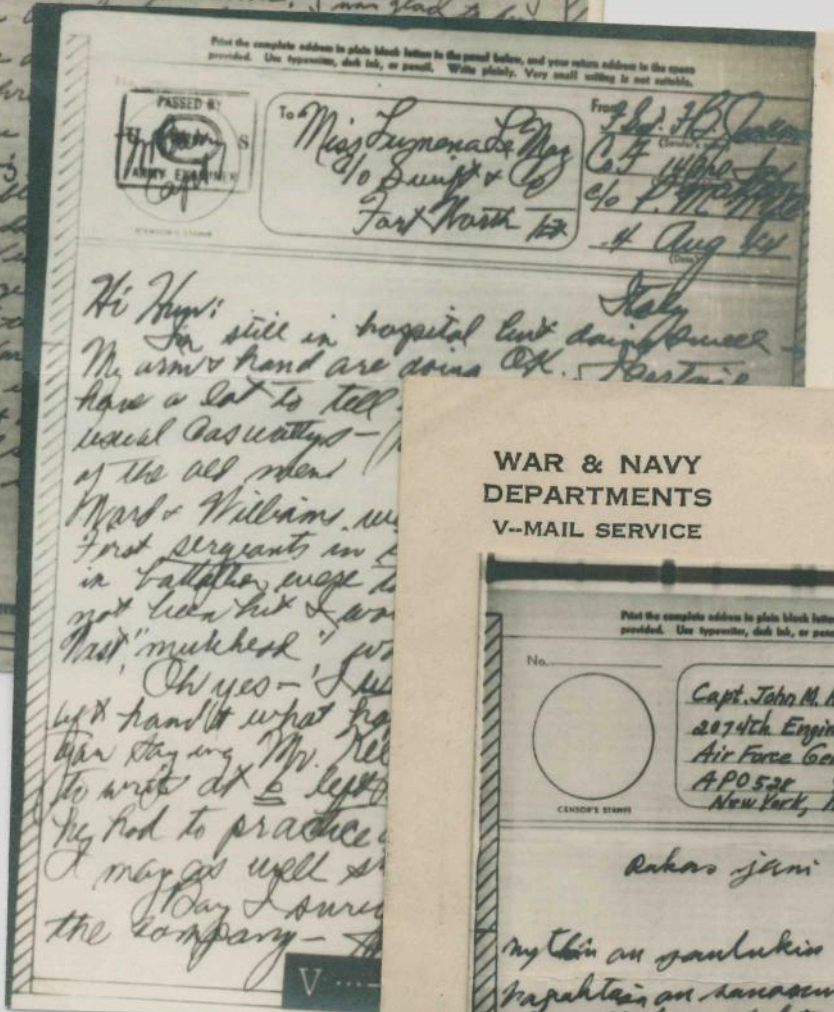
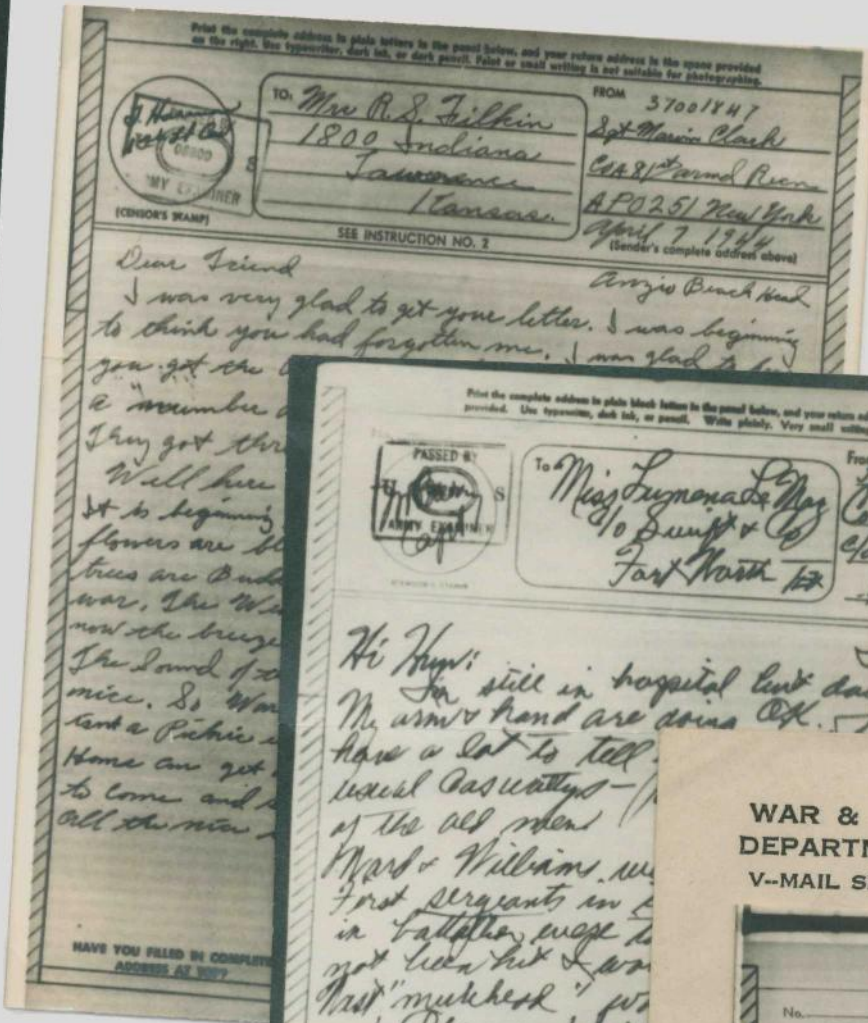
From: APO 251-NY 1st Armored
 Division Anzio, Italy

Anzio Beach Head after invasion.

Mail originating in Anzio would
 held until for Naples processing.

↓ From: APO 36-NY
 136th Infantry Division
 Rome, Italy

Hospitalized Soldier.



Incoming mail to Servicemen: →
 To: APO 528-NY 12th A.F. Service
 Command, Rome, Italy

V-Mail Written in Finnish, clearly identified.
 Sent from Michigan, home to many immigrants
 from Finland who came to work in ore mines.
 Absence of censor marking of any kind.

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

A. European Theater of Operation

Russia

From: APO 798-NY, HQ US Strategic Air Force, Eastern Command, in Erivan, Ukraine, Russia.

Only Recorded Example: V-Mail from Russia and "Operation Frantic Joe".

"Operation Frantic Joe" established bases inside Russia. This enabled American heavy bombers stationed in Britain and Italy to strike deep into the heart of Nazi territory and occupied Eastern Europe. By landing on **secret American air bases located inside Soviet Russia to re-arm and re-fuel**, they could then attack a second target on the way home.

V-Mail from Russia

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided by the typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

APR 8 1945

BASE 2515 ARMY EXAMINER

To: Cpl. — BURGESS
427. Bomb Sq
303 Bomb GRP
A.P.O. 798
New York, N.Y.

From: Sgt. LEO H. FLANNERY
Det. 5. A.S.C. USAF
A.P.O. 798
New York, N.Y.

Dear BURGESS, April 7

My correct mail address is:

Sgt.	LEO H. FLANNERY	6291069
RANK	NAME	SERIAL NUMBER
Det. 5.	A.S.C.	USAF
ORGANIZATION	UNIT	

SEND APO 798 % POSTMASTER
~~State all the other fellows~~
To same address NEW YORK, N.Y.

My code cable address is:

HELP REDUCE THE MAIL LOAD
USE V---MAIL
V---MAIL

Only Recorded Example: V-Mail from Russia

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

A. European Theater of Operation

Czechoslovakia

To a Serviceman abroad:

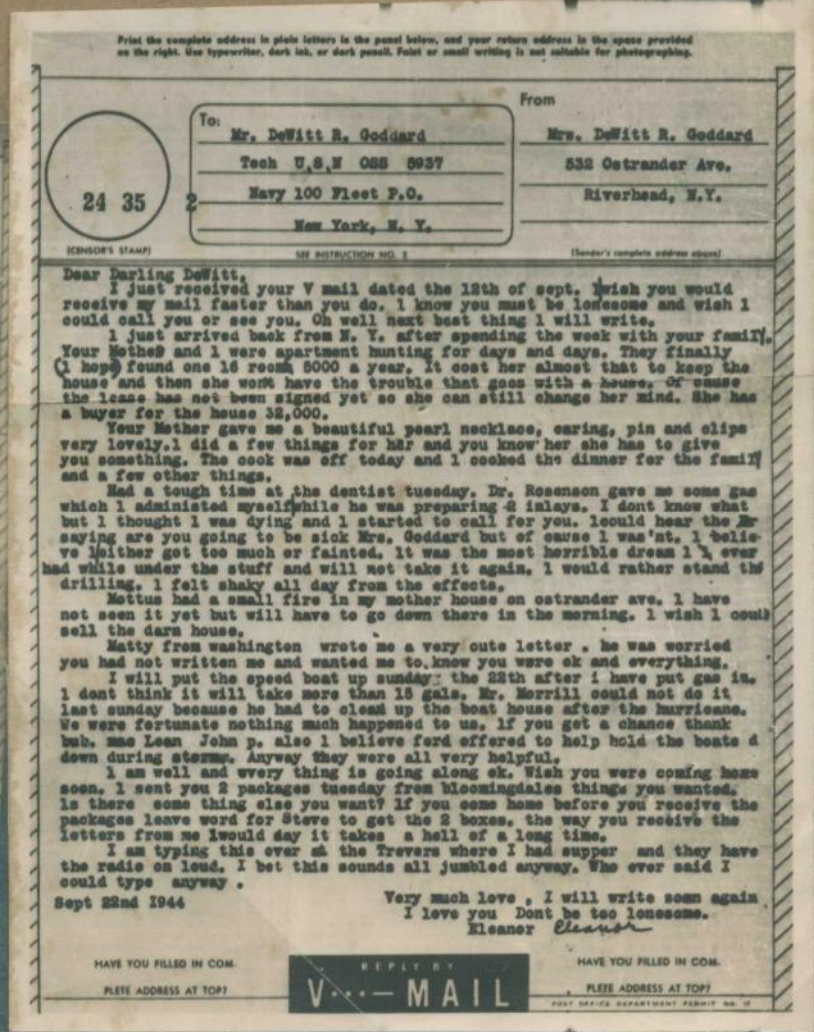
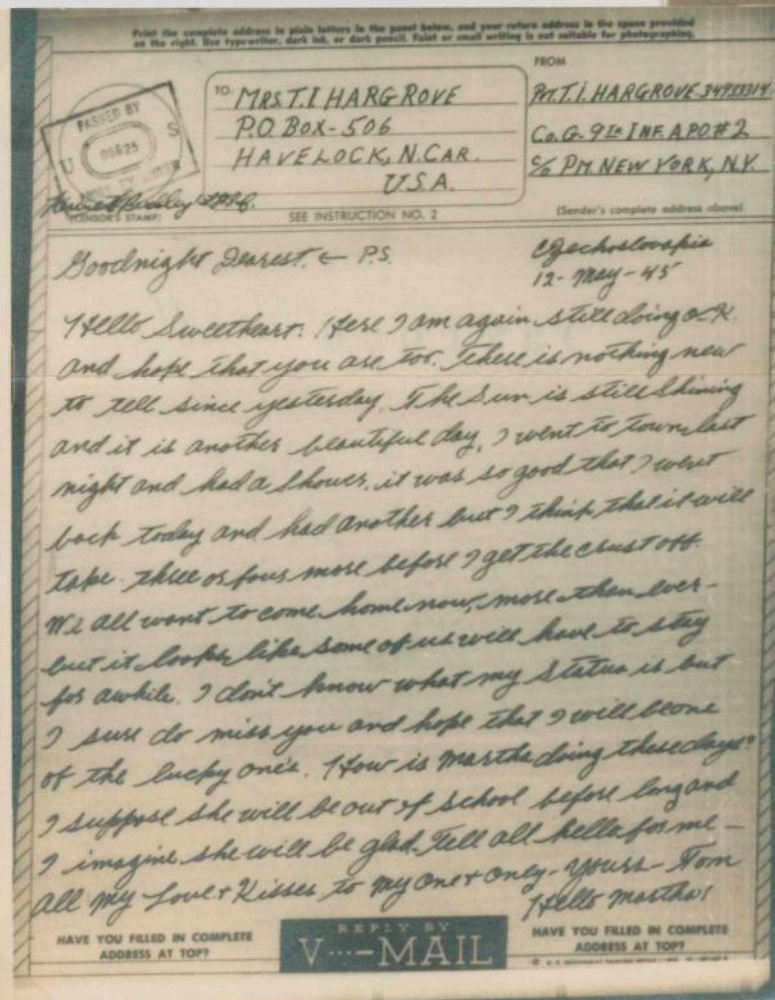
OSS Detachment 5937, Navy 100 Fleet Post Office

Office of Strategic Services operatives were natives of the countries they were sent to. Most of the time they **parachuted in to gather information or conduct sabotage**. This V-Mail traveled: Sent from Riverhead, NY to its NY V-Mail station, onto London's V-Mail station as film, reprinted and delivery to Navy 100, in London, and onto addressee's undisclosed location.

Undisclosed Location



↓ From: APO2-NY 2nd Infantry Division Located in **Pilsen, Czechoslovakia**, the center of Europe during war campaigns. This V-Mail dated May 12, 1945, fighting continued in Czechoslovakia until May 14, 1945.



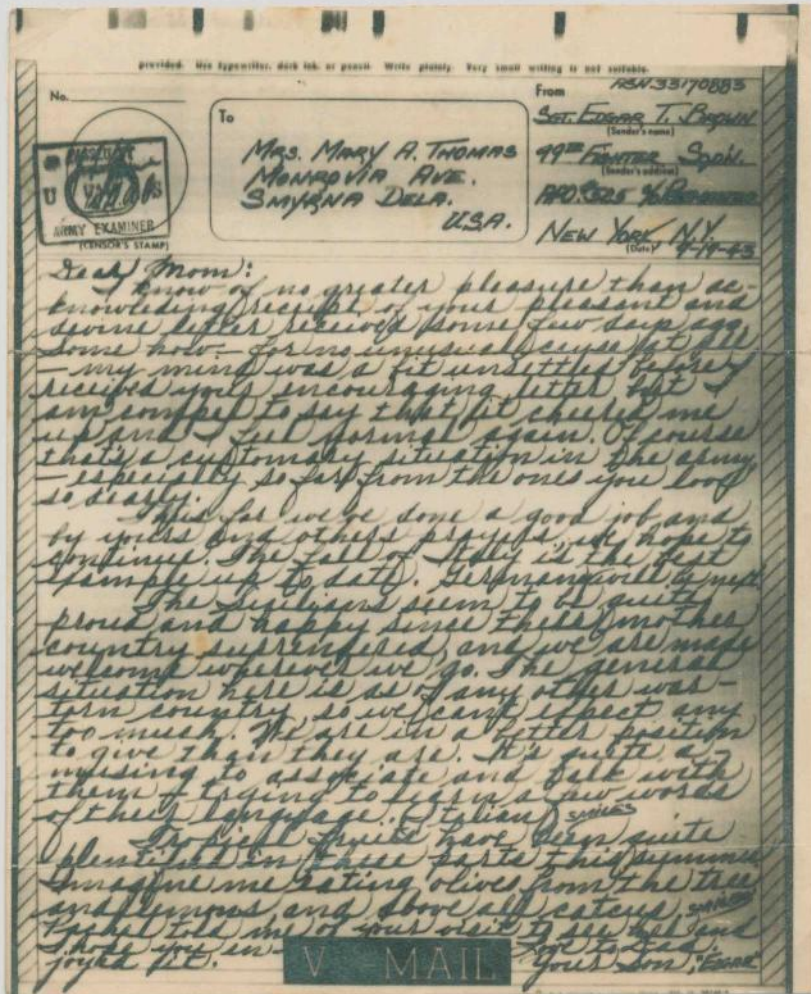
8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Italy

A. European Theater of Operation

Sgt. Edgar T. Brown was a member of the **99th Fighter Squadron, 332 Fighter Group** located APO 525, Ponte Olivo, Sicily Island, Italy with its airfield at Barcellona, Sicily. Sgt. Brown was a part of **first flying unit of African Americans**, escorting US bombers from the 12th and 15th Air Forces.

Tuskegee Airmen 99th Fighter Squadron



Locally-made V-Mail
form, all blank on
reverse, sent unfilmed.
Sicily Island, Italy.

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Sicily Island, Italy

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

From.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO

Mr and Mrs Louis Korotun
325 Wall Street
Meriden, Connecticut

Cpl John Kowchak USA #31041177
(Sender's name)Finance Office, 45th Inf Div
(Sender's address)APO 45, c/o Postmaster
New York, New YorkAugust 25, 1943
(Date)

Sicily

Dear Sis, Louie and Lorraine,

Just a few lines to say "hello" and to let you know that all is going well with me and that I am in the best of health. For some unknown reason we are not getting any letters for some time now and it seems so strange to be continuously writing to ones who never answer. But I know that some of your letters have been delayed and I surely will get them maybe to-morrow or within the next few days.

I hope that all is going OK at your home and I bet Lorraine is already thinking of school. Before we will realize it will be fall and summer will be just a memory. With all those rationing etc, I imagine that you couldn't do much in enjoyments the past few months. Here 's hoping that next summer will be different. Now that we are in control of Sicily, I wonder where we will be going next? I do not suppose that we would be here any length of time, now.

The first night we were here in the new bivouac area, we had a bombing raid for about an hour. The next day we all made sure that we dug our fox-holes. But we haven't had any more raids since then.

To-day proved quite an eventful day for us as we had none other than the commander of the United States 7th Army, Lt Gen. George S. Patton, Jr speak to us. He gave a great speech. He told us that we were now seasoned troops and have proven ourselves to be among the best fighting men in the world. He praised the division for the splendid work we did here. Of course that is great for the moral of the soldiers to get such praise from their commander.

We are quite busy at the office as pay day is just around the corner, and we are still paying on time. Now that the fighting is over, we will be getting a little liberty and I am expecting to go to one of the towns for a half a day. I am hoping to be able to take in a movie, to sit at a table and eat a meal to be finished with some real ice cream. Will close for now.

V...-M A I L

Johnny

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

A. European Theater of Operation

Iran

APO 523-NY Persian Gulf Command Tehran
 Celebrating the opening of the first V-Mail station in the Persian Gulf, October 1943. ↓


Gibraltar

From: APO 512-NY
 HQ Mediterranean Theater of Operations.
 From England to North Africa and Italy with a stop "On the Rock" Gibraltar. (lower right)

"It is getting increasingly difficult to write letters, the restrictions on what we can say, you know."

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter or dark ink write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 1811	Mr. Aaron May 1/2 Penn. Dept. of Highways Clearfield Penn. U.S.A.	Mrs. J. D. Fick (Sender's name) Co. E. 363rd Eng. Co. (Sender's address) APO 523 N.Y. New York, N.Y. Oct. 24, 1943 (Date)
-----------------	--	--



Persian Gulf Service Command Insignia

This Medallion is the official insignia of the Persian Gulf Service Command, the U. S. Army supply line to Russia. It consists of a seven-pointed white star and a red sword on a green background. The star is from the flag of Iran (Mesopotamia), the sword from the government flag of Iran (Persia). Red stands for Sacrifice, white for Purity, and green for Agriculture. The last color also signifies Islam, the state religion of these countries. All three colors are common to the flags of both countries.

No. 704253	MR. & MRS. A. C. SCHWAB JR. 1210 HOLLY ST. N.W. WASHINGTON, D. C. U.S.A.	H. C. F. Hutter (Sender's name) Co. B. 28th Am. Rec. Co. (Sender's address) APO 512 2d Postmaster New York, N.Y. 18 Nov. 1943 (Date)
-------------------	---	---

Dear AL & AL,

Boy have you guys forgotten about this little kid over here in merry old England? It has been a mighty long time since I have heard from you. But our mail service is getting pretty poor, I think our mail is going some where else. On the average of two thirds of all the letters that we get are for fellows in some other outfit at other places, so it would seem that other outfits are getting our mail. It is a very disgusting situation any way you look at it.

Don't know whether you have heard yet or not, the baby was born Nov. 2 and died three days later. It was quite a shock to me and being so far away makes it that much worse. I imagine Gimmy feels a lot worse about it than I. Haven't heard yet how she is getting along. Wish my folks would send me a cable to let me know, I have been doing a heck of a lot of worrying.

Well, Al, I hope you have fully recovered from your operation by now. But then, it is hard to keep a hard and rugged man down, isn't it? By now you ought to be practically running that department. How do you stand in the draft now?

I haven't heard from Dave since he was married. Guess he has been too busy to write. If you hear from him or see him, remind him that he owes me a letter.

How is the weather back in Washington by now? It shouldn't be so bad yet. In fact, it is probably good golfing yet. Boy, I would sure like to go out and shoot nine holes now, I really miss the game. But there will be plenty of time for that after we finish up in this league. And I think that Hitler will be buying the drinks at the nineteenth hole.

Goob, Thanksgiving is nearly here and then Xmas. Don't know yet where I will be spending Xmas but it won't be where I would like to be.

Promotions are flying thick and fast around here in certain select groups. But we aren't in any of those groups so we don't expect anything. Our Company Commander is a let. Lt. It calls for a Capt. but he can't seem to get it. So just don't stand in with the right people.

This seems like a short letter but I just can't think of anything more to say. It is getting increasingly difficult for me to write letters, the restriction on what we can say, you know. A lot of this stuff I'll just have to wait and tell you when I see you next. And believe me I'll have plenty to tell you.

Take a little time out and drop me a line, even if it is only a short letter. I am very anxious to hear all the news, if any, about the little old city. Be good.

Sincerely,
Hutter

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pen. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.	To: MRS. LINDA BARKER 3005 20th St. S.W. SOUTH SEASIDE, WASHINGTON U.S.A.	From: P.F.O. N.A. 2522 2549-2511 (Sender's camp) 2ND ARMED DIVISION (Sender's address) A.P.O. 252 2d POSTMASTER NEW YORK, N.Y. (Date)
-----	--	---

PAID BY [Stamp] (CENSOR'S STAMP)

X MRS. KITCHEN

July 13, 1943

Dear Lee & Bill:

I received your letter today and was glad to hear from you. I wasn't too surprised to hear from you all the way out in Wash. as I got a few letters from home telling me that you were.

I hope you have a nice time while you are there and try to have as much fun as you can. You must be planning to stay out there for quite awhile considering that you expect to go to work out there. It is up to you what you want to do. I was only worrying if Mom & Dad could manage by themselves. But I guess you talked it over and thought that everything would be okay.

I also heard today that Dorothy was down in Florida visiting Perry & Stella. Boy, you people back home are certainly getting around. Will take all you can get while you can get it as there is a great need for happiness in the world today.

Take care of yourself sister and Bill make sure that she does as you know that she never has been one that could be alone.

Lots of luck, happiness and the best of everything.

Love - Ed.

North Africa for Sicily Invasion

From: APO 252-NY 2nd Armored Division
 Mail Facility: North Africa.

← Sicily invaded one week before.
 This division stationed in Sicily.

Timing of this V-Mail is July 1943, the beginning of the Invasion of Europe.

Morocco
Algeria

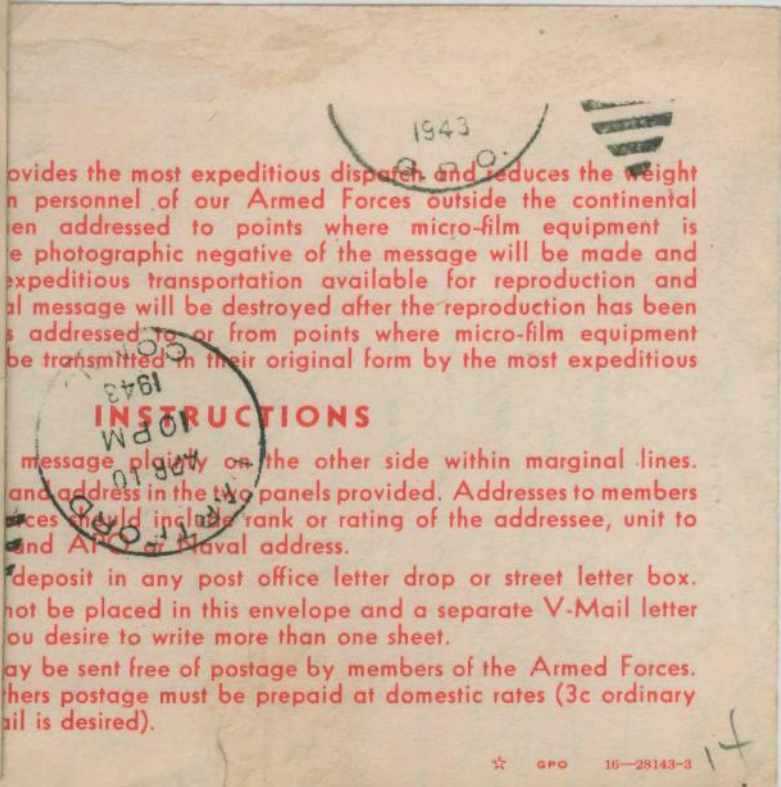
French Morocco

Port Lyautay, French Morocco
From: Navy #214
Airmail Special Delivery

A combination rarely seen on
V-Mail, mailed from French
Morocco bearing Naval censor
and cancellation, then cancelled
in Hartford, Connecticut on arrival.

"You have been asking me
if there was anything I
needed...some Scotch?"

Algeria,
Algiers,
Algeria



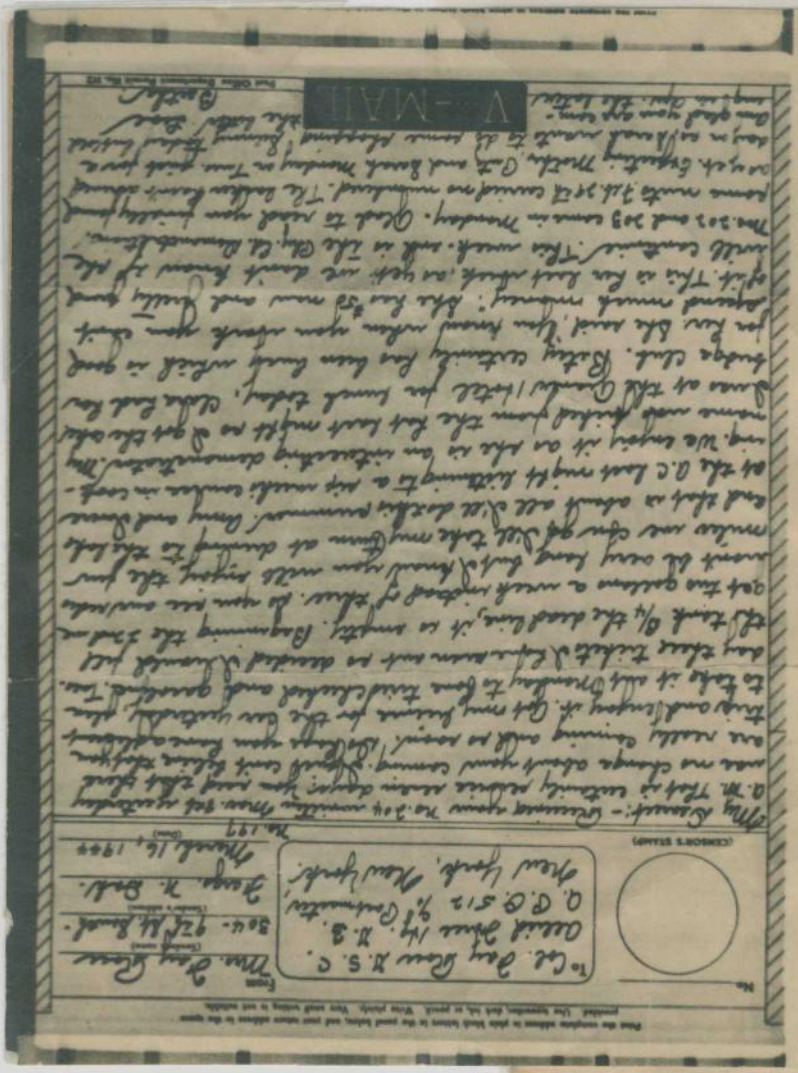
provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight
in personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental
then addressed to points where micro-film equipment is
the photographic negative of the message will be made and
expeditious transportation available for reproduction and
each message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been
is addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment
be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious

INSTRUCTIONS

- message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members
of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to
which assigned, and AFM or Naval address.
- may be deposited in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- may not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter
or you may desire to write more than one sheet.
- may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces.
If others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary
air mail is desired).

Incoming mail to Servicemen: →

To: Col. Ross, G-3 Operations and Planning
APO 512-NY HQ Allied Forces in North
Africa. Mail Facility: Algiers, Algeria.

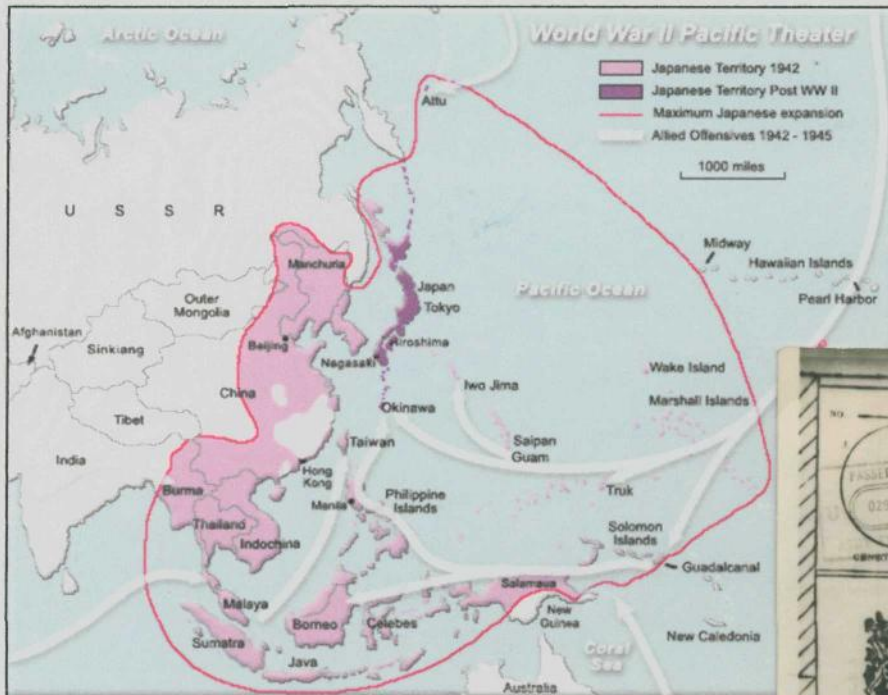


8. V-Mail Use Around the World

B. Pacific Theater of Operation

China, Burma, India

World War in the Pacific Theater. Select and significant V-Mails and mailed V-Mail forms are organized in this second section of V-Mail Around the World showcase the **immense geographic footprint of the war**, and the extensive geography served by the mail. These V-Mails are organized geographically and as the war unfolded.



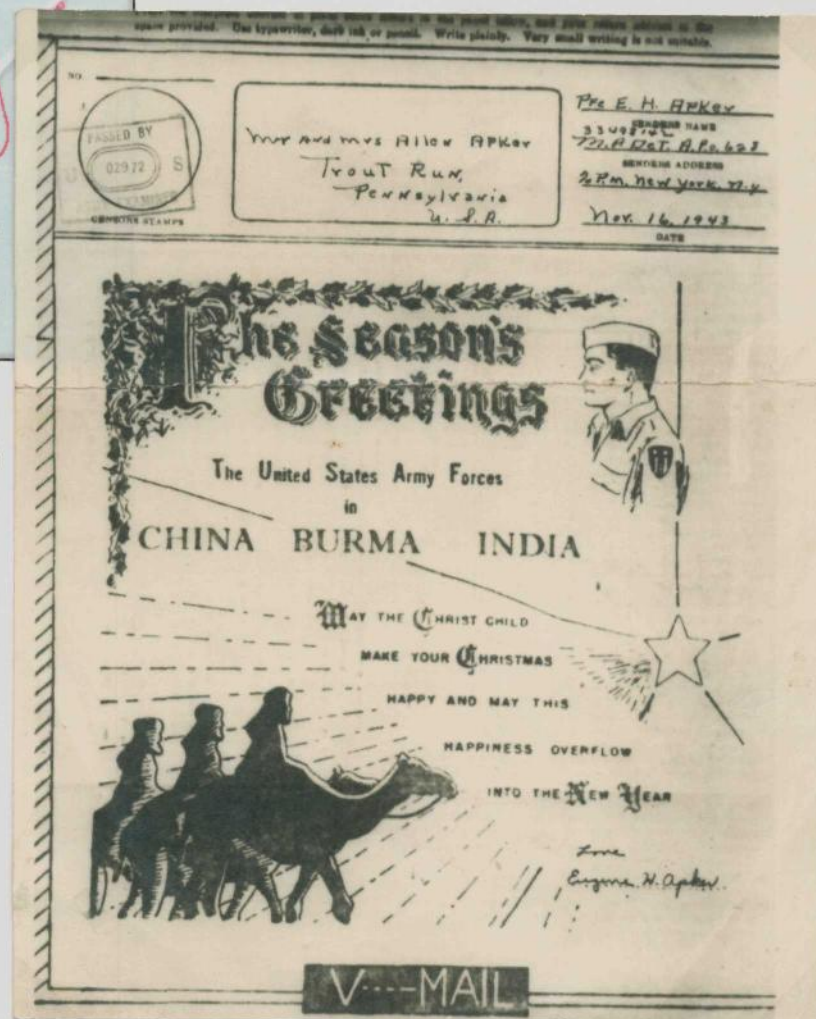
**Merrill's Marauders
Myiktyna, Burma**

From on the Ledo Road →

China Burma India Combination Christmas Greeting 1943

From: APO 628-NY at the time
stationed in **Ramgarh, India** →

US Army Christmas Greeting
covering a very large geography.



Merrill's Marauders Description

Next Page: APO 487-NY, Dinjan, India. **Merrill's Marauders V-Mail**, a US Army Special Operations Force → In pencil, handstamped "Not Suitable for Photographing" **Indian form, printed in available yellow ink.** Shown at 80%. This V-Mail is from the 5307 Composite Unit, where each soldier was awarded the Bronze Star.

Famous for its deep-penetration missions behind Japanese lines, this unit of Merrill's Marauders was extremely depleted by casualties and disease, working in Burma, along the Ledo Road, to capture Myitkyna territory.

"Well, Mom, I finally arrived here on the Burma front, and we have taken a taste of Jap artillery fire...at least they can't call this a picnic...If anything happens to me just remember that this is the way I wanted it."

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Mrs Leona Harris
255-6th ST.
Seal Beach, Calif.
U.S.A.

11024630
Armond Dufresne
(Sender's name)
Hq. Co. 2nd B
487th Comp (United Prov)
(Sender's address)
APO. 487th Postmaster
New York, NY
(Date)

Dear Mom & Perry:

Well mom I finally arrived here on the Burma front and have touched a taste of Jap artillery fire. This certainly is different than I expected, at least they can't call this a picnic. Say mom I don't want you worrying about me, if anything happens to me just remember that is the way I wanted it. Boy it certainly is hard to write a letter with censorship and they probably will be far apart but

spare if you want to boy if there is the boys over here write you a book hed out so will close

Love
Your Son
Armond

DATE RETURN TO:
Armond Dufresne 11024630
Hq. Co. 2nd B
487th Comp (United Prov)
APO. 487th Postmaster
New York, N.Y.



NOT SUITABLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHING

Mrs. Leona Harris
255-6th ST
Seal Beach, Calif.
U.S.A.

MAIL

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

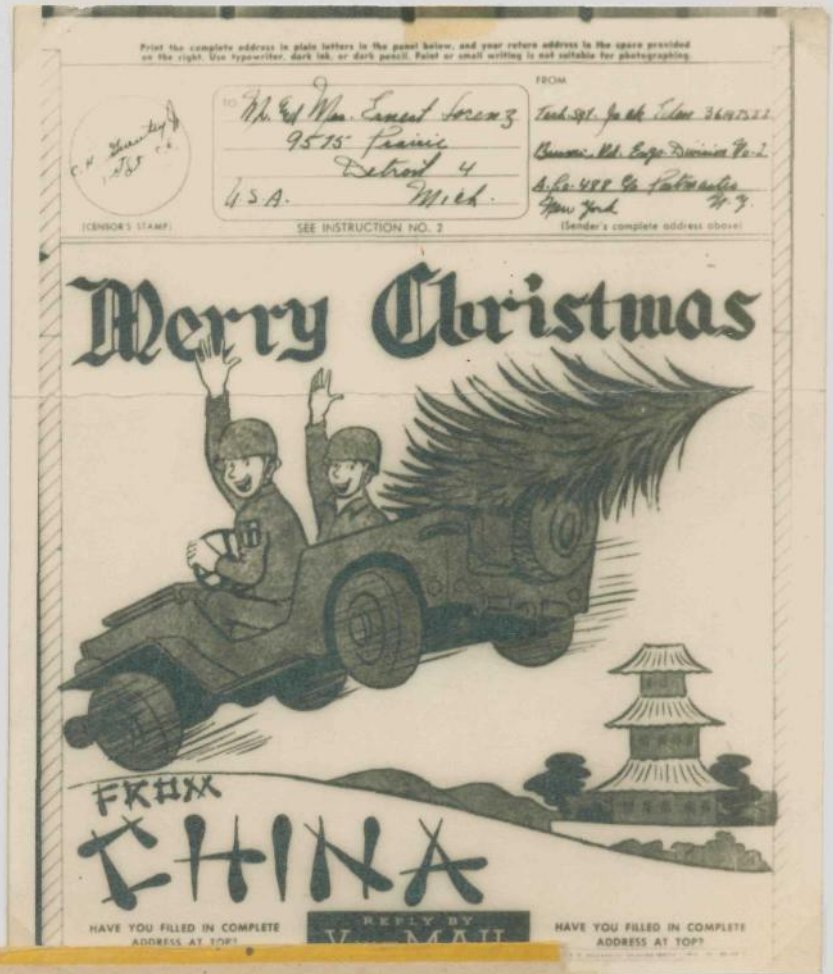
China
India & Ceylon

APO 488-NY in Yunnanyi, China →
 Christmas Greeting from the
 Headquarters of the "Y Force".

APO 885-NY HQ India-Burma Theater
 New Delhi, India.

Unusual yellow printing of this V-Mail form. By mid 1942 the now familiar red V-Mail form was just put in use; a shipment was sent to India with sheets printed in red color, on one side only. Instead of destroying the forms, the U.S. Military Postal Authorities in India instead were told to **finish printing them with what ink they had.**

Yellow Form ↓

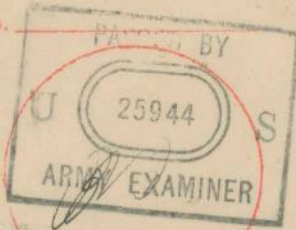


APO 432-NY Kandy, Ceylon
 Serving the Southeast Asia Command.
 Printed on local, primitive Rice Paper.

Ceylon Greeting →

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.



Rev. Joseph W Jansen
Route 2
Green Bay
Wisconsin

Pfc. P.J. Rentmeesters
(Sender's name) 36 826 843

5322 Hqs. & Hqs. Co., SEAC
(Sender's address)

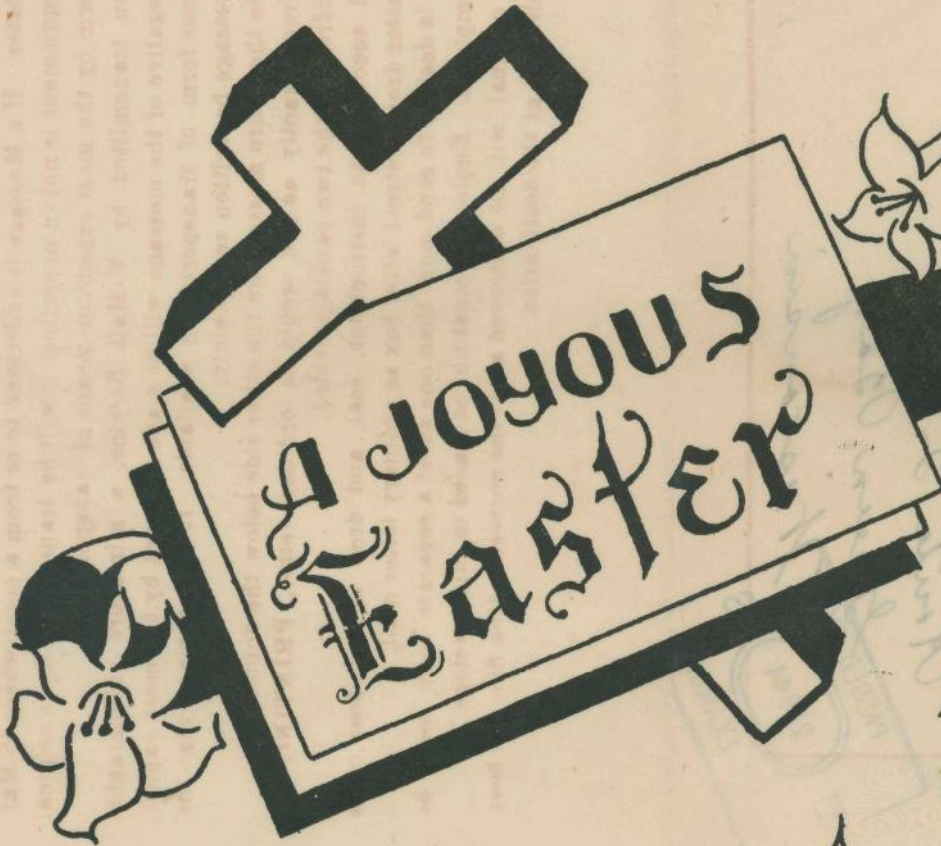
APO #432, 4th Pm. N.Y., N.Y.

Easter-45
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO

Father



from Don SOMEWHERE IN INDIA
and CEYLON

80th Air Depot — Chaplain Williams — Artist — Sgt. Andreko.

V - MAIL

NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Philippine Islands

B. Pacific Theater of Operation

APO 74-SF Esquadron de Pelea 201 serving in Clark Field, Manila, Philippines.

The **Mexican Air Force**, as one of their contributions to WW II formed a **Fighter Squadron, "Esquadron 201"** that after training in the US, was deployed to the Philippines.

This V-Mail, **written in Spanish**, was censored on exit from Mexico, sealed with the 'Examinado' gummed paper tape, with no further censor. Franking is the letter rate from San Luis Potosi, Mexico to San Francisco, where it then entered the US Military Postal System.



From a P.O.W. Camp,
in Chinese. To Manila,
Philippine Islands

Next Page: To: APO 38-SF Manila, Philippine Islands. →

From a P.O.W. Camp Guard, at Dept. 1849, **Camp Swift, Texas.**

Written in Chinese, censored and handstamped, "This Communication/Referred to District Postal/Censor by US Military Authorities." and with civilian censor at exit mailing in San Francisco.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: P.C. WILBUR F. JEW 39042512
MED. DET. 151ST INFANTRY
A. P. O. 38 % POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

P.C. LAW S. KAY 39562339
GUARD DET. 1849 S.C.U.
P.W.C. CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS.

(Sender's complete address above)

敬愛的富林兄：

未有通信許久，希諒。同所日所屢接，由你處贈來健康佳音，一封，謝謝。底殊相之藉，其指導之愛意。逃國難條件投降後，想繼其後者，是扶桑之島之“日本”，希望本年內使其屈服。屆時，我倆在“三藩市”之凱旋之相，握手重聚相見。現在“三藩市”吡叻社徵求華商軍人相片，編印華商軍人紀念冊，希望一將玉照轉交，完成此美舉。將末印子，後另贈以留紀念。不佞珍重，祝福。

軍安

義弟
兆祺

五月十日

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Milne Bay, New Guinea

B. Pacific Theater of Operation

V-Mail to the Canal Zone

From: PFC Kimball in Co. A, 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion attached to the First Marine Division in Milne Bay. The **Battle of Milne Bay** is considered the first battle in the Pacific campaign in which the Allied forces soundly defeated Japanese land forces, forcing them to withdraw. After winning the battle, Milne Bay became a major Allied base. This V-Mail addressed to Ancon, Canal Zone, V-Mail to the Canal Zone is not often found.

V-Mail Routing:

Sent to Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, forwarded. New York APO and onto Ancon, Canal Zone.



← Receiving Mark on Reverse



8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

New Guinea

752612 (30136497)

MR. & MRS. RALPH MARTIN
 Shelton Terrace
 New Haven, Conn.
 U. S. A.

Sgt Colin C. Keeles
 (Sender's name)
 Battery D-745th C.A. Bn
 (Sender's address)
 A.P.O. # 503 SF Post Office
 San Francisco, California
 July 26 (Date) 1952

Dear Mr & Mrs. Martin -
 Received your most welcome letter yesterday and enjoyed reading it immensely. I sure like to hear from you as I am interested in anything that takes place in good old New Haven.
 As you probably know, we are now stationed in New Guinea and see very little of the civilized world. We are deprived of a few things, such as, ice cream and Beer but outside of that, lacking very little. Most of my time, outside of work is spent playing sports and attending movies, with occasionally a game of chance. (What an Army without a good dice game). Naturally, we are bothered a little with all sorts of bugs and Mosquitoes and of course the rain and sun, but it isn't half bad after you accustom yourself to conditions. We all take it in stride, but of course waiting for the day to return home.
 Well, that's about all I have room for on this form. Please excuse me for such a short letter but there is a grave shortage of paper. I will write again soon.
 Sincerely Colin

I WILL PROTECT BUY WAR BONDS

From: APO 503-SF Oro Bay, New Guinea A

"We are deprived of a few things, like Ice Cream and Beer..."

Note V-Mail lower right form marking, 'Buy War Bonds' and insignia, found on some V-Mail stationery.

Incoming mail to Servicemen:

To: APO 565-SF Hollandia, New Guinea A
 New Guinea Netherlands Administration.
 Located opposite Wake Island.

"... in this you wrote that you have not heard from me for 2 weeks - have written every day."

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FROM
 PFC ALBERT G. MANSFIELD, 39132174-34 R.T.F.S. TEAM 717A
 SIG SQ, APO 565-70 PM SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

M.E. MANSFIELD, 56 OWEN ST, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

(Sender's complete address above)

Santa Cruz, Calif., 2-6-45-

Dear Albert:
 Wrote you an air mail letter this A.M. These should both go out in the same mail - Got a letter from you dated 28th. Got the 29th a few days ago - In this you wrote had not heard from me for 2 weeks - Have written every day - Must be held up some where - All the same as usual except colder + lots of rain - Got a letter from Henry - He wants your address - Will send letter to you - He is getting a cd for cutting wood - Am glad you will have the Literary Digest - I hear a lot about the Malaria fever there - Be Careful - Hope your teeth are O.K. Take care of my boy for me - Lots of love + 88 - Mother -

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
New Guinea

WAR & NAVY
 DEPARTMENTS
 V-MAIL SERVICE
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$500

BUY
 WAR SAVINGS
 BONDS AND STAMPS

From: APO 25-SF, 25th Infantry Division
 "The Rainbow Division"
 Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
 V-Mail sent April 22, 1943

First major land offensive operation in
 the Pacific area from the start of the war.

Wishing a Happy Easter ↓

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 140

20934286
 S/Sgt. Kenneth Daise
 Ser. Co. 186th Infantry
 A.F.O. #41 c/o Postmaster
 San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Loretta J. Daiser
 5229 S.E. Boise St.
 Portland, Oregon
 U.S.A.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

32234246
 Cpl. Edward Macadlo
 24th Signal Co.
 APO-24 40-P.M.
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Jerome Zygar
 Sig. Co. APO-25-90
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

APRIL - 22 - 1943

MOTHER'S DAY
 1943
 V-MAIL

Hoping that you are
 in the best health.

1943

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 32234246

Cpl. Edward Macadlo
 24th Signal Co.
 APO-24 40-P.M.
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Jerome Zygar
 Sig. Co. APO-25-90
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

APRIL - 22 - 1943

Hello Ed:
 Received your letter this afternoon. Thanks for writing and with it came a letter from Tony Zygar. He just got back from special training in radio from being the Ky. He stayed there for 3 months and lived in a hotel. He also sends me a picture of himself. He looks a little heavier than in civilian life.
 Now about us. We have a company softball team in the division league. We won one but of three games so far. We won 21 to 7 and lost 3 to 2 and 2 to 1. We should have won all three games. See that your made corporal. Photo OK and move back to you. The next time I see Poych I will tell him about it. Agalanski made corporal here and so did John Moya and Poych is P.F.C.
 Give my best regards to Duded and Mommy or you I almost forgot Mr. Kirby. I heard he made sergeant. Tell Mommy about Tony that I got a letter from him. I don't want to forget to write
HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND EVERYBODY
 from Ed
 Jerry

From: APO 41-SF, 186th Infantry Division
 New Guinea
 V-Mail sent 1943

Unusual to see a Mother's Day Greeting.

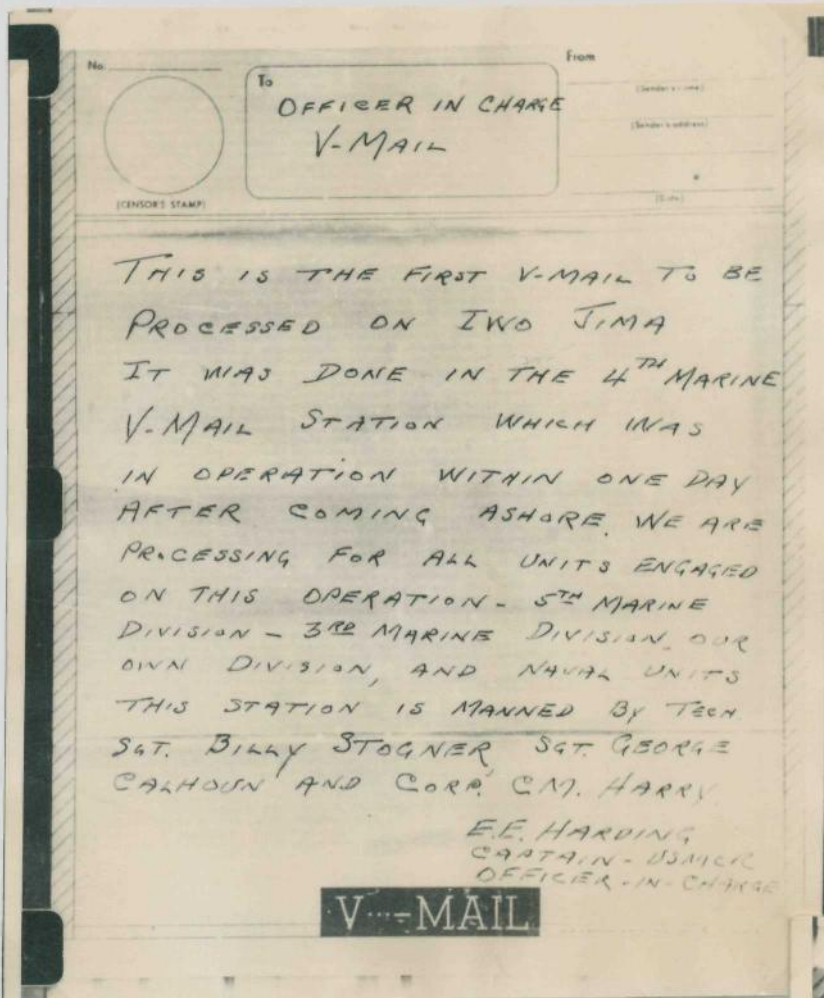
8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

Iwo Jima
Saipan

← **First V-Mail Processed on Iwo Jima**
 One day after coming ashore

Sent by the 4th Marine V-Mail station.

V. Amphibious Corps landed on Iwo Jima February 19, 1945. Within a few days the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions had a Command Post opened on beachhead by February 23rd, 1945.



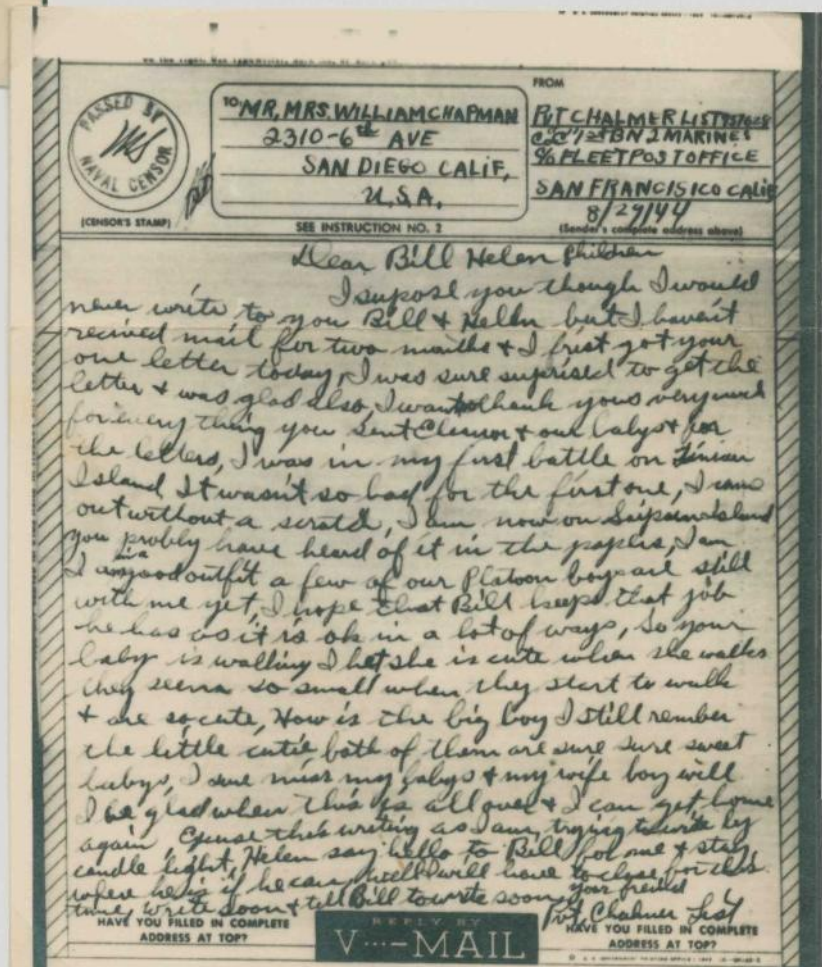
Battle of Saipan, Mariana Islands →

From: 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Saipan, Mariana Islands.

V-Mail, passed by Naval Censor, and likely carried by the Army Air Force. A mix of forces at work.

Following the Battle of Saipan, Mariana Islands, July 1944, Pacific Campaign.

“Excuse the writing, as am trying to write by candle light.”



8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

Okinawa

From: APO 27-SF, 106th Infantry,
 27th Infantry Division

V-Mail sent May 8, 1945.

*"I am now on Island Okinawa.
 Getting closer to Tokyo all the
 time."*

*"I got your letter today and read
 it in a fox hole on the front
 lines."*

Find the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FROM: *Mr. C. W. FitzPatrick*
 376 Kalmia
 San Diego
 Calif.

TO: *Mr. C. W. FitzPatrick*
 376 Kalmia
 San Diego
 Calif.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address above)

May 8th 1945

Hi Fitz,
 Well Fitz I am back at it again. I am now on the Island of Okinawa so you see we are getting closer to Tokyo all the time.
 I got your letter the other day and read it in a fox hole on the front lines. Boy it sure does make you feel better to hear from the guys back home. It takes your mind off of the Japs and the war for a few minutes at least.
 So far I have been very lucky and sure do hope I stay that way. I have had a lot of close calls but that just comes every day.
 We got the news today about Germany. Boy I see but there is a mild type back in the states. I sure do wish I was back there to help you guys celebrate but guess I will have to wait until those little devils out here decide to quit.
 I haven't had a chance to play my poker for quite a long time now but maybe one of these days we will get paid again so then we will have some big games. I sure would like to make a good bet when we all get that big pay day. Oh well I guess I will just have to wait at all.
 Tell all of the gang hello for me and write when you can. I sure do enjoy those letters.
 Ralph

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? **V-MAIL** HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Find the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

FROM: *Pfc. A. Whalley*
 117 Eycamore St.
 New Bedford,
 Massachusetts
 U. S. A.

TO: *Mrs. Max Whalley*
 117 Eycamore St.
 New Bedford,
 Massachusetts
 U. S. A.

3 hrs. with 5 P.M. better get on the ball.

Well Fitz howler:
 Didn't get my mail tonite, but I expected that, cause it would be a hard time to write to me two days in a row. Just had early class cause Jim on guard tonite. Don't know what shift yet. May go on at 6 P.M. so I will be able to see the movie, "Delightfully Dangerous", with Ralph Bellomy and Connie Mack. Hope Connie doesn't do Ralph the way you're doing me, or I'll walk out on it!
 Been reading a book, "The Spirit in My Mind". Rather change your mind about going to Myra with your sugar Daddy. It sounds pretty rough. You may not be able to weather what they throw at you, and that would be disastrous. You wouldn't it? No!! Guess you're a pretty tough kid at that. You won't be so tough when I hit that bug the remember that won't you? No!! Okay if you want it the way you'll get it. Tonite is 3 hrs. guess you write me a few lines this morn. Wonder if you'll write me again Sat? Don't put yourself out too.
 Loving Rubyly also

↑ "It sure makes you feel better (the mail) to get you mind off the Japs and the war for a few minutes."

I've had a lot of close calls."

Nagasaki Bombing

← From: APO 201-SF 1st Cavalry Division, Okinawa, Ryukyu Island

Sent: August 9, 1945. On this date the 2nd atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

WWII ended shortly thereafter.

8. V-Mail Around the World

B. Pacific Theater of Operation

From: APO 331-SF 170th Engineering Combat Battalion, Schofield Barracks Oahu, Hawaii

On the importance of V-Mail to the troops:

"It is just impossible to try to explain how much I enjoy and appreciate hearing from you."

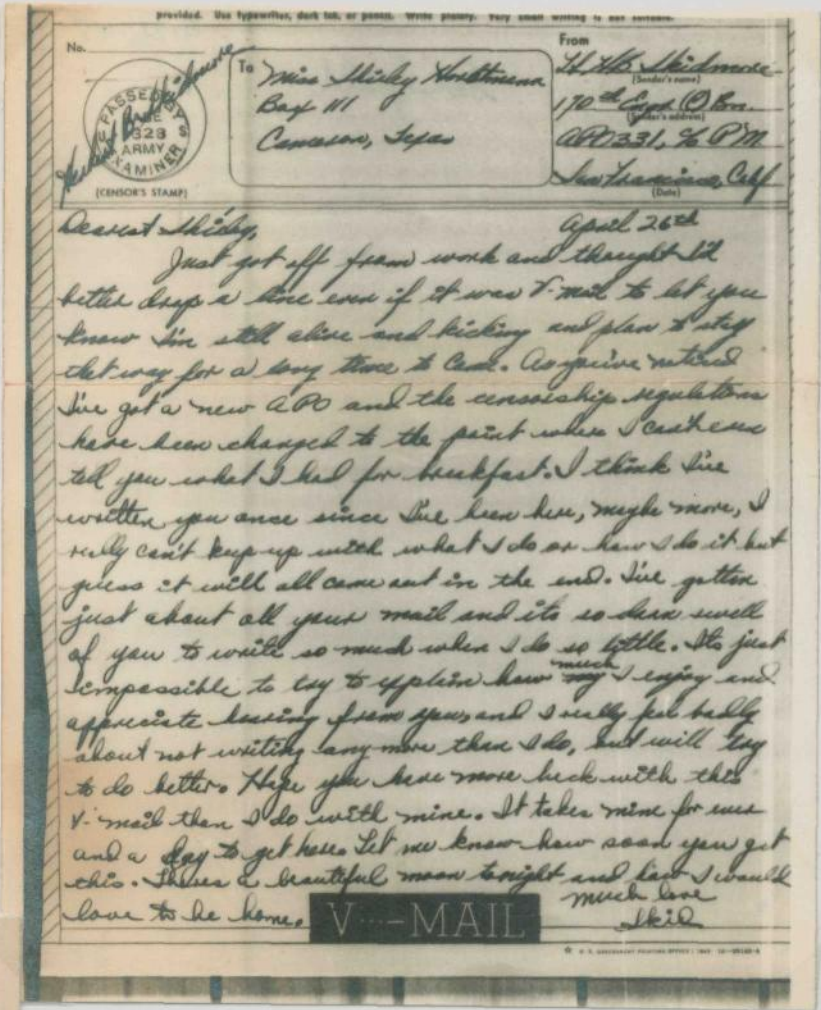
"Hope you have more luck with this V-Mail than I have with mine."

Holiday Greeting

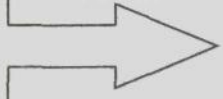
APO 965-SF

Kaunakakai, Hawaii

Hawaii

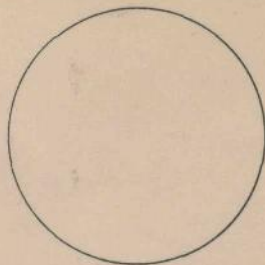


Rosh Hashanah Greeting
 APO 958-SF Fort Shafer
 From Oahu, Hawaii



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Four horizontal lines for the sender's address.

Chaplain Norman Siegel

(Sender's name)

Headquarters, APO-958

(Sender's address)

½ P.M. San Francisco, Calif.

October 3, 1943

(Date)



Dear friend:

You will be pleased to learn that your loved one worshipped at our ROSH HASHONOH SERVICES, and then he enjoyed a luncheon sponsored by the JEWISH WELFARE BOARD. With fervent wishes for a HAPPY NEW YEAR, We are

Faithfully yours

Joseph H. Lief
CHAPLAIN JOSEPH H. LIEF

Jacob Philip Rudin
CHAPLAIN JACOB RUDIN

Norman Siegel
CHAPLAIN NORMAN SIEGEL

V...-MAIL

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Guam

B. Pacific Theater of Operation

From L.S.M. 441 (Landing Ship Medium) a small vessel.

Military Vessel to Military Unit Mail. Few military vessel to military unit V-Mail known.

V-Mail written on May 4, 1945 to APO 246-Unit 2 on Guam. The writer mentions that hopefully the war will end soon. Between his writing and posting on May 9, 1945, President Truman declared **Victory in Europe Day**, now known as **V-E Day, May 8th, 1945.**

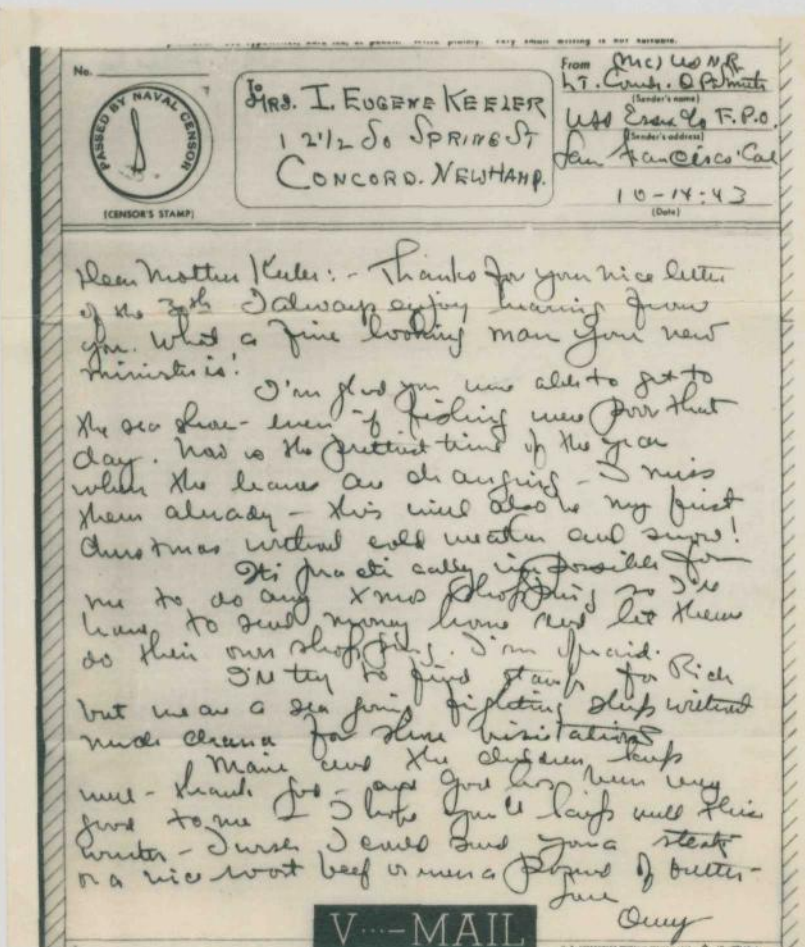
*"I guess it won't be long before
we'll get to meet somewhere in
the Pacific."*

*"We have been working
exceptionally hard on the ship,
getting it in tip top shape."*



8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

Wake Island
Admiralty Islands



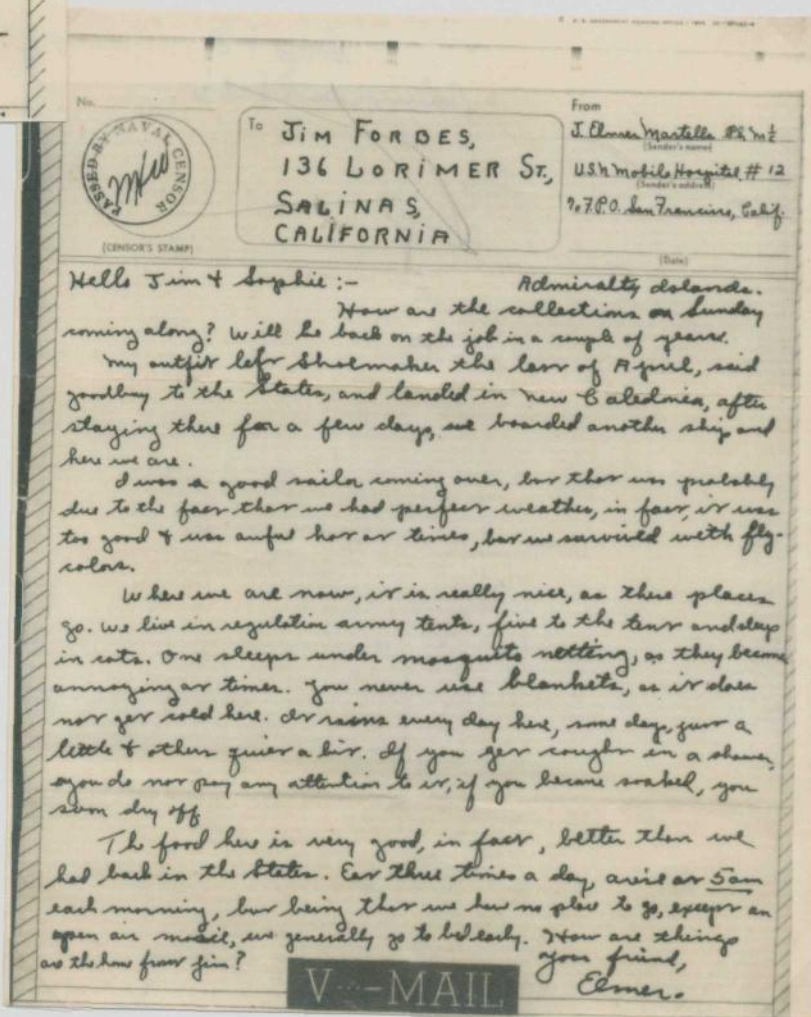
←From: U.S.S. Essex - CV-9
 Aircraft Carrier flagship of T/F 14

Sent October 14, 1943, after completing raids on Wake Island.

Wake Island served as a key military position in the war.

From: Navy Hospital #12 on →
 Manus Island, the Admiralty Islands

“Where we are now is really nice, we sleep in Army regulation tents, five men to a tent...”



8. V-Mail Use Around the World
B. Pacific Theater of Operation

New Zealand
New Hebrides

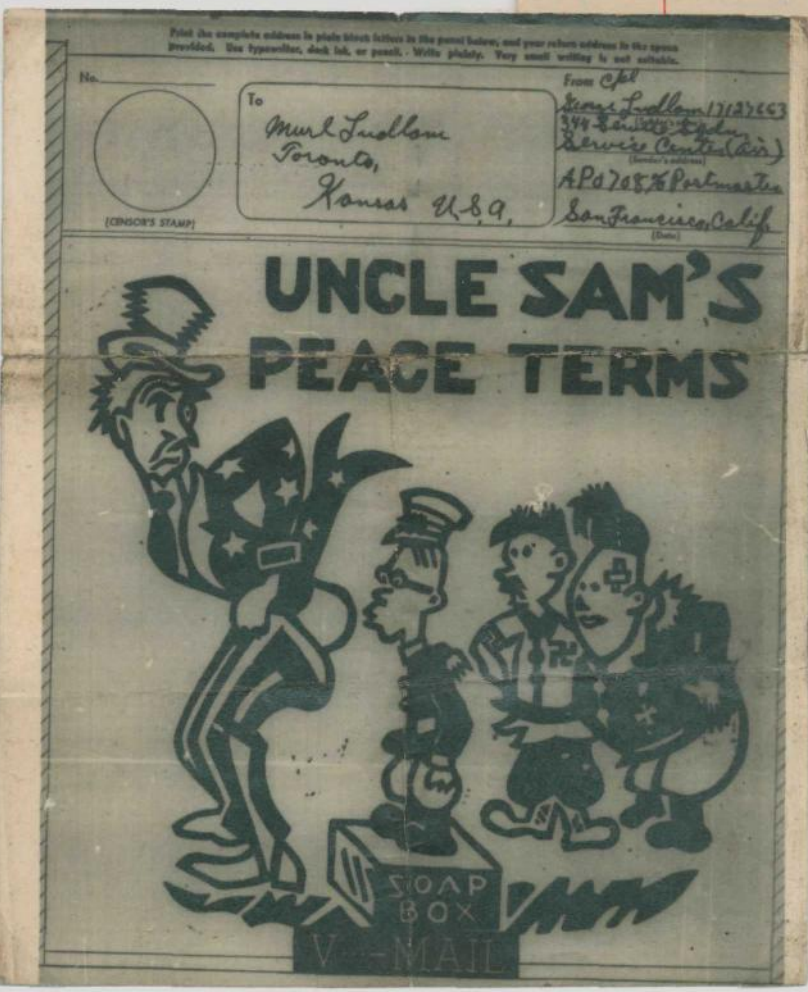
Sent Chaplain to Chaplain

From: Lt. Col. P.W. Huntington, Chaplain APO 453 SF, **Bougainville, Solomon Islands.**
 To: Captain A.H.Voyce attached to the **2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force on Vella Lavella.**
 V-Mail forwarded to F.M.C. (Forward Maintenance Center) on **Guadalcanal.**
 Then forwarded to **Remuera, "Evac. N.Z."** as marked and handstamped.
 Finally to P.O. Box 931, **Christchurch, New Zealand.** Self Censored and not photographed.

To 810500
 Capt. A.H. Voyce C.F.
 16 M.T. A.S.C.
 2nd N.Z. E.F. - I.P.
 N.Z. APO 150

Addressing V-Mail, complex →

2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force APO 150.



←From: APO 708-SF
Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides
 IV Island Command Base

Today it is a **"Politically Incorrect"** message.
 Artist Greeting sent without censor.

8. V-Mail Use Around the World

B. Pacific Theater of Operation

Australia

From: APO 923-SF Brisbane, Australia, 80th Pursuit Squadron (later Fighter Squadron)

July, 1942. This V-Mail was handled within a week of V-Mail service starting from the US to Australia. The **delivery envelope is non-standard**, imprinted inside "Invitca Registered, Made in Australia." These were used before regular V-Mail delivery envelopes arrived. The V-Mail, a scarce example, delivered to Brisbane, Australia, forwarded to Melbourne (APO-501), then to Petric, a field where the 80th Pursuit Squadron was located. Sent uncensored.



Marking
on Reverse



Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or penball. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 2333	Pvt. T. J. BRADEN, A.S.N. 1905912	GEORGE M. MARTIN <small>(Sender's name)</small>
[CENSOR'S STAMP]	80th Pursuit Sqd. 8th Pursuit Gp	230 North 35th Ave. <small>(Sender's address)</small>
	A.P.O. 923 c/o Postmaster	Yakima, Washington
	San Francisco, Calif.	July 31, 1942 <small>(Date)</small>

Dear Tillman:

I was talking to your mother the other day and she decided that perhaps you could stand a few more letters from home.

She tells me that your brother ~~gets~~ gets his commission this week and is expected home for a few days before being assigned to duty. If it keeps up, your entire family will soon be in the air corps. But then it is going to take a great many fliers and planes to properly control the outlaws of Europe and Asia.

So many Yakima Valley boys seem to be in your neck of the woods, that you must run into quite a few of them would seem quite natural. However, this is a big army of ours.

Here at home things are really getting very busy, with harvest being carried on short handed. However, it looks as if we would have a bumper harvest which will be good for the nation this year. Crop prices are very good and most of the ranchers will be able to see more daylight than they have seen for years.

Law business has been slowed down locally, at least, for the duration and I am thinking myself of attempting to get into the Naval reserve or some branch of the service if they will take me with my bum eye.

Your family all seem to be well and doing C. K. It is really remarkable the way your mother carries on the ranch. If all of us worked as hard as she does there would be ample supplies and materials to carry on this war in the most proficient manner.

Incidentally I am a collector of censored envelopes. I wonder if you could return this letter to me sometime for my collection? and, if you have "V" mail available, I would like to hear from you that way also sometime. I know that you are busy, so do not go to too much trouble.

At home I am directing the USO drive, which takes a lot of time - also am Asst Chief County Air Raid Warden, so I also keep a little busy at times. Incidentally, does the USO reach you there?

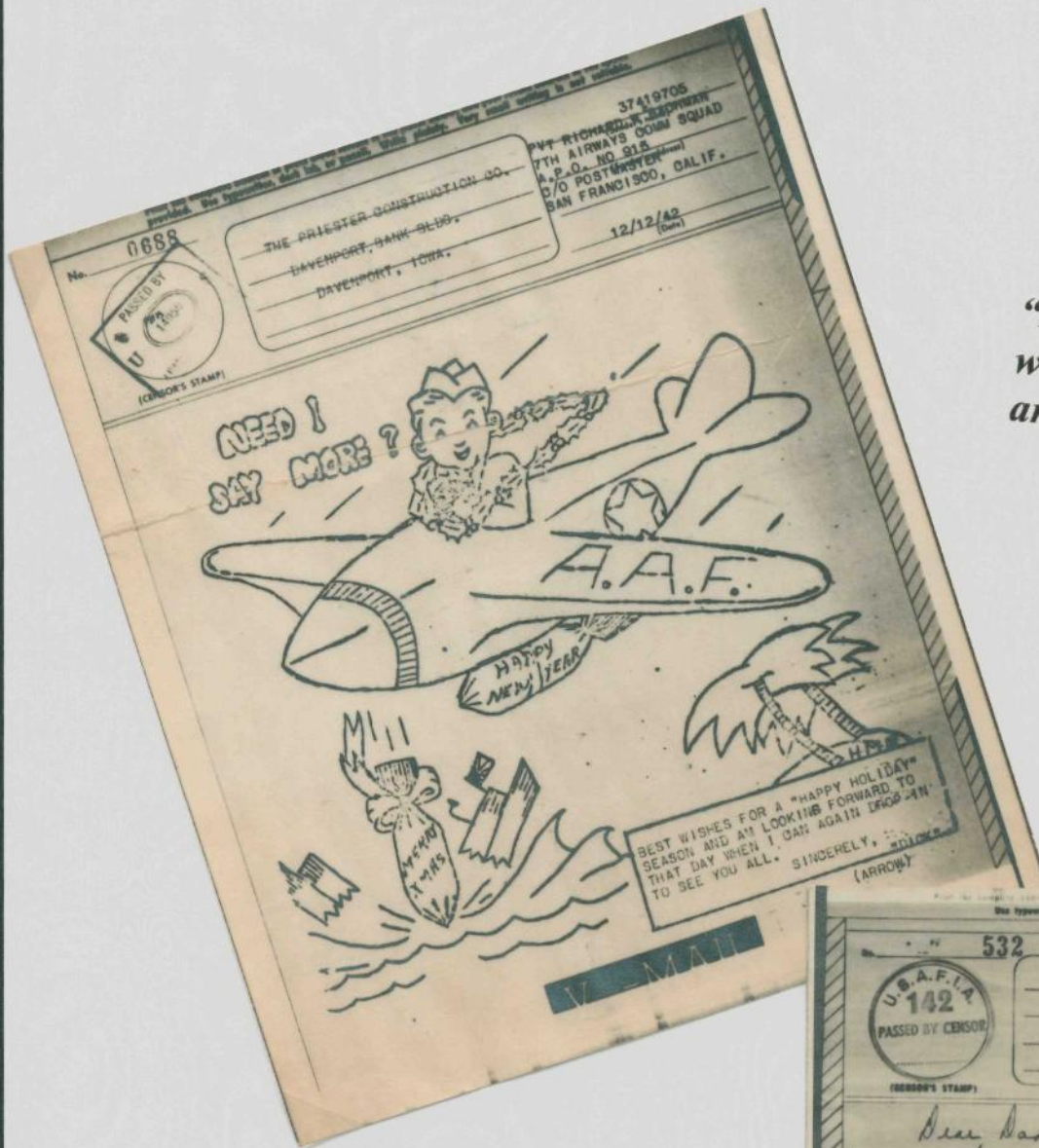
Write if you have time.

George M. Martin
Sincerely

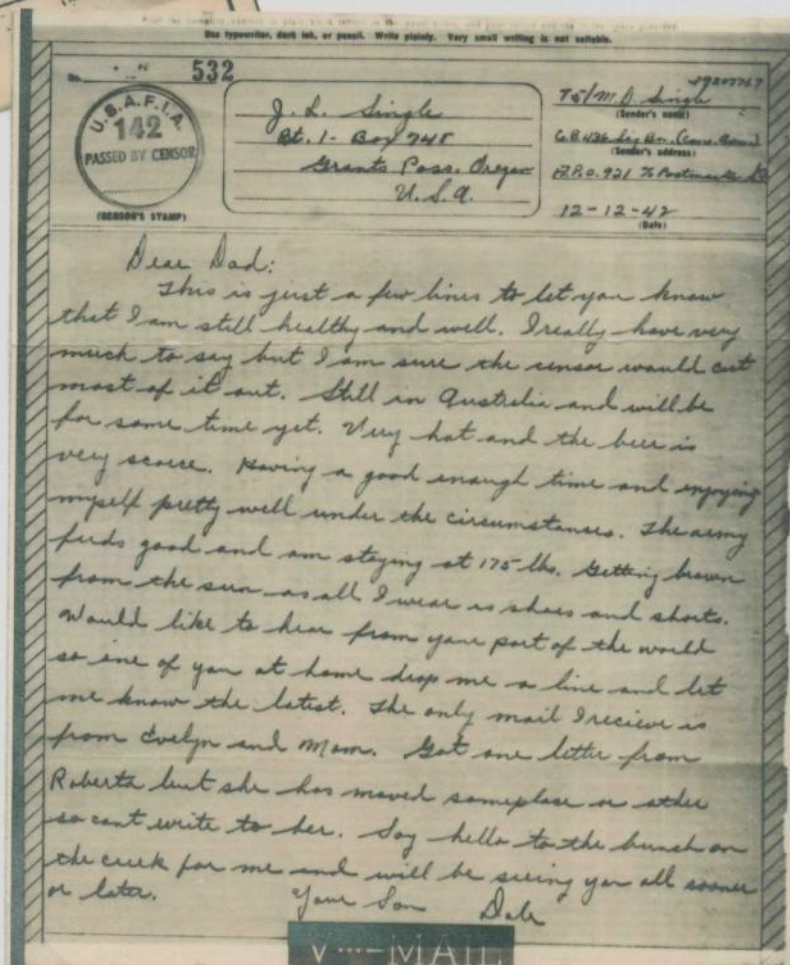
8. V-Mail Use Around the World
 B. Pacific Theater of Operation

Australia

APO 915-SF 7th Airway Command Squad. December 1942, Early RAF Greeting use in Australia.



"Looking forward to when I can again drop in and see you all."



From: APO 201-SF US Armed Forces →
 Mount Isa, Australia

December 12, 1942

This location used during early presence
 of U.S. troops in Australia.

U.S.A.F.I.A. Censor:
 U.S. Armed Forces in Australia.

V-MAIL

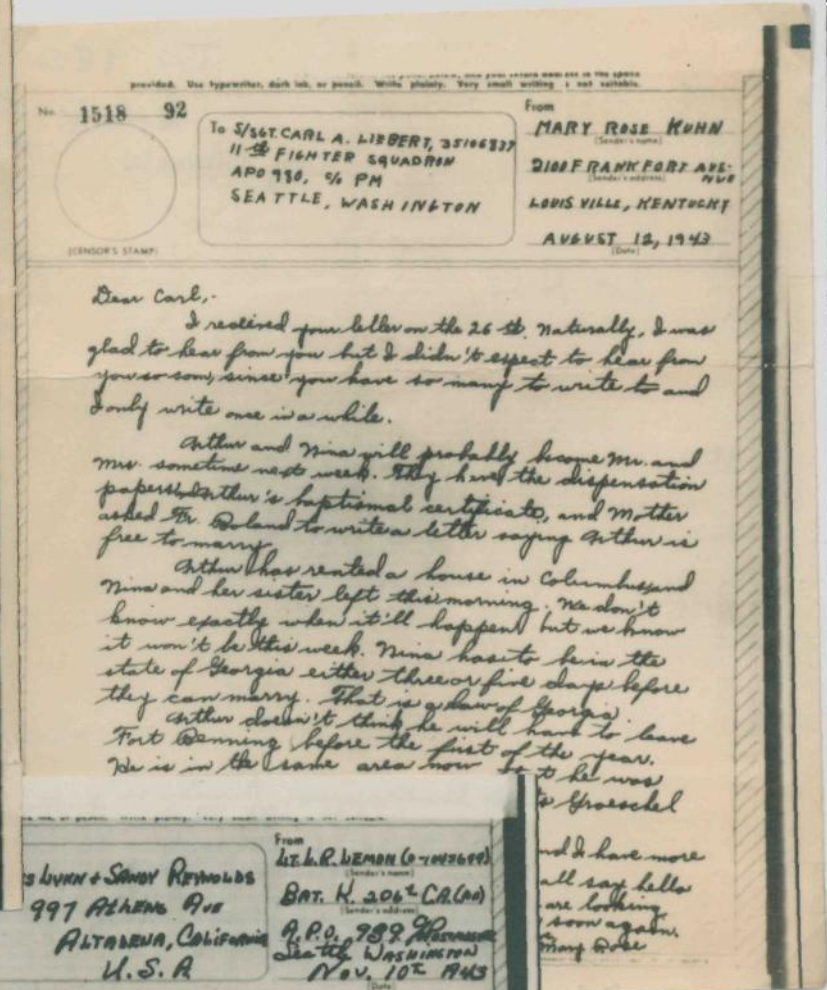
8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Alaska

Holiday Greeting written on December 7, 1943, two year to the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Incoming mail to Servicemen:
Adak Island, Alaska

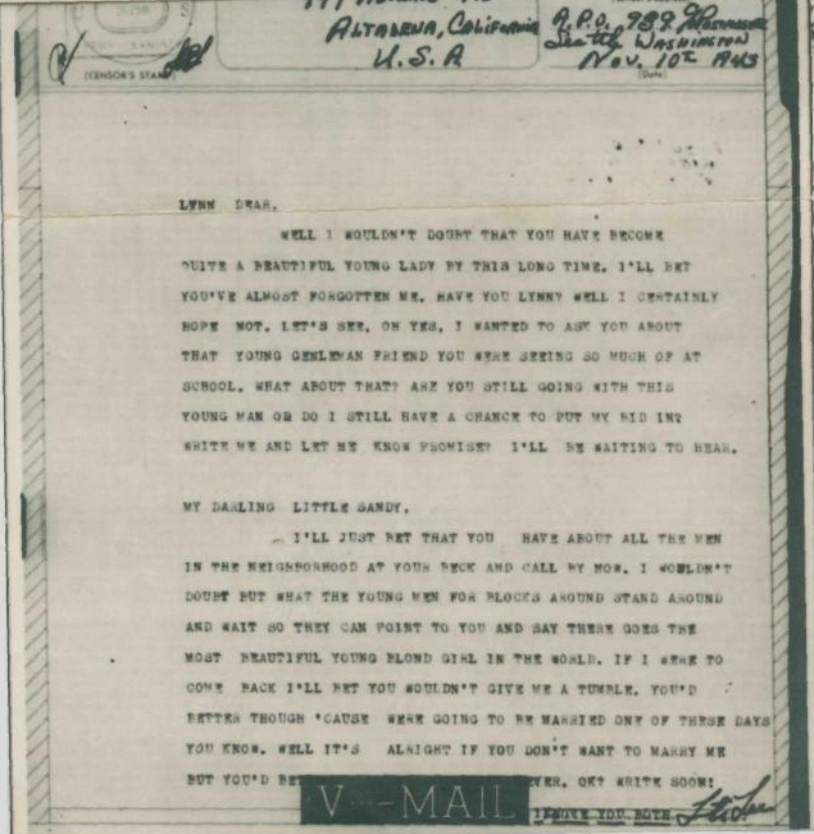
↓To: 11th Fighter Squadron APO 980-SE
Headquarters of 11th Air Force.



From: APO 939-SE 206th →
Coastal Artillery Regiment
(AA) Alaska Artillery
Fort Mears, Dutch Harbor,
Unalaska Island, Alaska

November 10, 1943

SE notation for Seattle,
Washington processing.



8. V-Mail Use Around the World

Santa Fe, New Mexico

From a famous address with very limited usage of V-Mail: P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sender Robert Sackheim was a civilian employee in the engineering section of the Manhattan project, the codename known for the operations of **A-Bomb development at Los Alamos.**

This V-Mail handstamped "Unsuitable for Micro-Filming" and because of the added Christmas Seals. V-Mail then mailed to Lt. Sherman Stackheim, Chaplains, APO-758, HQ of US 7th Army in Epinal France.

The Manhattan Project

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

* POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

Lt. Sherman P. Sackheim 0513786
 64th Ord. Amn. Co.
 A.P.O. No. 758
 c/o Postmaster
 New York, N.Y.



MAIL

AIRMAIL

V...-MAIL

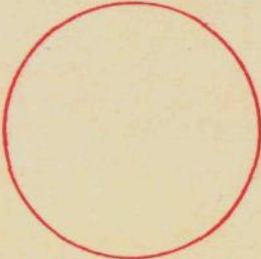
AIRMAIL

12/16

Robert B. Sackheim
 P. O. Box 1663
 Santa Fe, N.M.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To LT. SHERMAN P. SACKHEIM 0513786
 64TH ORD. AMN. CO.
 A.P.O. NO. 758
 C/O POSTMASTER
 NEW YORK, N.Y.



From

ROBERT B. SACKHEIM
 (Sender's name)

P. O. BOX 1663
 (Sender's address)

SANTA FE, N.M.

NOV. 22, 1944
 (Date)

9. The War Ends

V-Mail Censoring Stops

A. V-Mail Service Ending

As the war draws to a close, V-Mail censoring stops and V-Mail announcements go out to say service is ending. After a huge effort to run the V-Mail system around the globe, recognition V-Mails in "last roll" and "last letter" were processed and shown here. Final V-Mail and announcements of peace. The War Ends.

Berlin, Germany APO 252-NY

V-Mail no longer censored

Nuremberg, Germany APO 403-NY

Location selected for War Crimes Trials

Leyte, Philippine Islands APO 72-SF

San Joaquin, Leyte (next page)

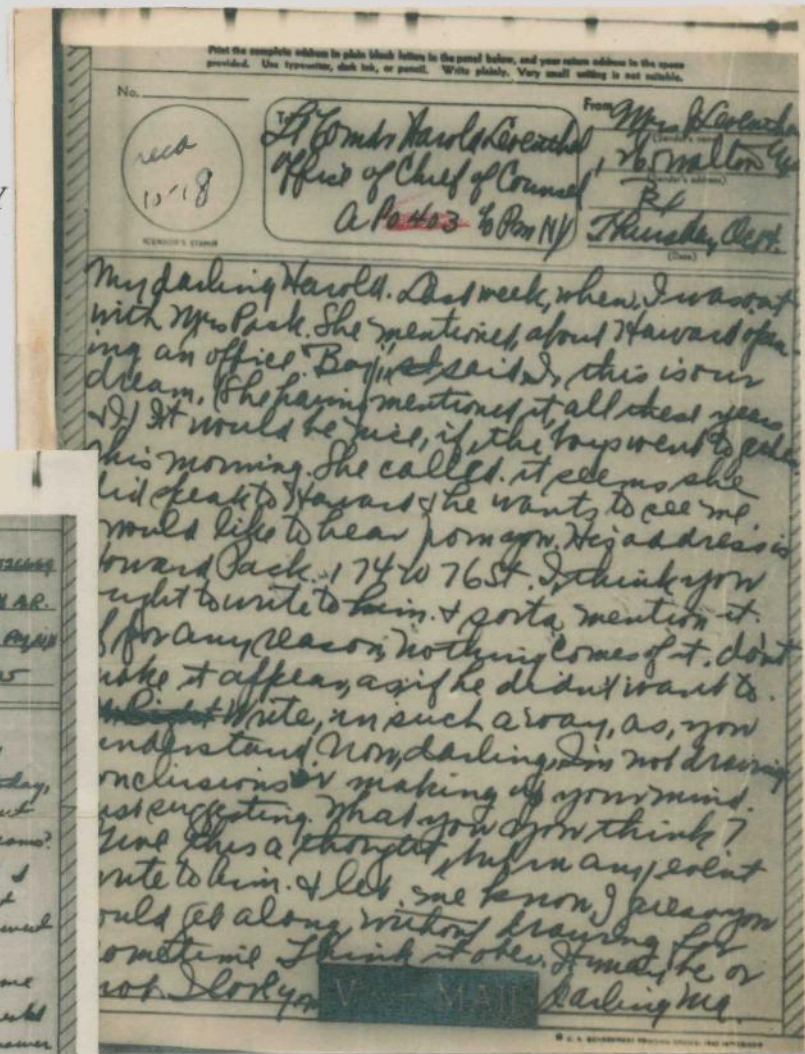
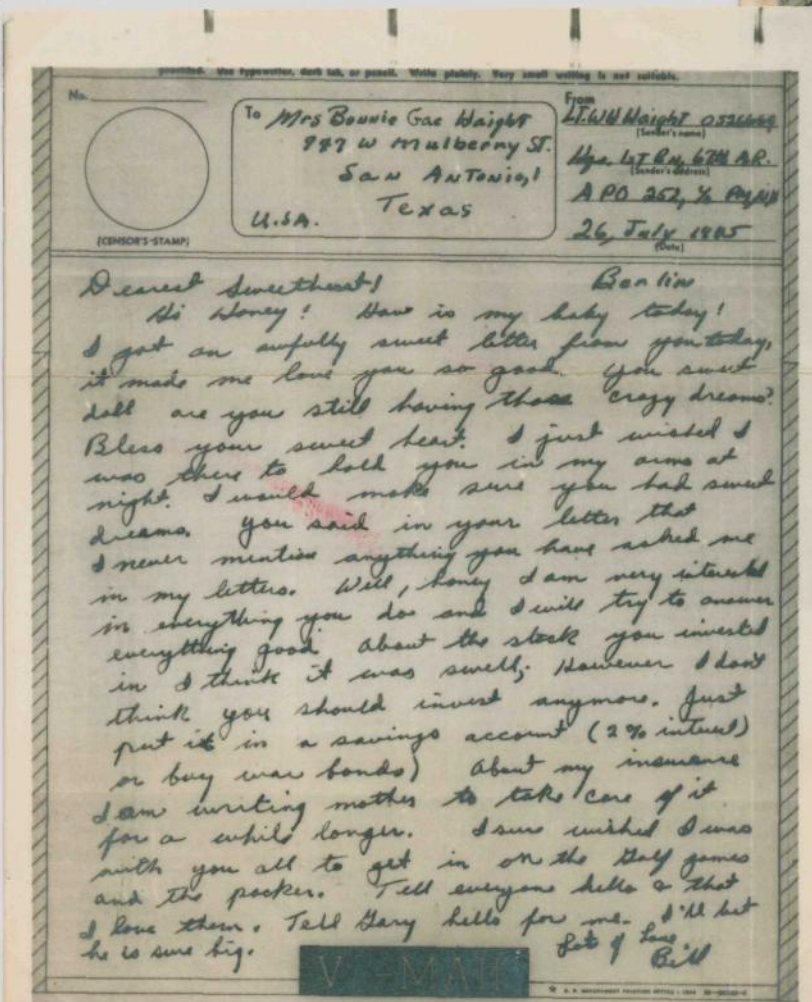
Tacloban, Philippine Islands APO 500-NY

Berlin, Germany

Late July, 1945

Nuremberg, Germany

**Nuremberg
War Crimes Trials**



↑ To: Lieutenant Commander Harold Leventhal, Office of the Chief of Counsel

Nuremberg War Crimes Trials

Sent to a member of the American staff of the International Military Tribunal (IMT) that conducted the trials from November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946.

9. The End of War Effort
A. V-Mail Service Ending

Last V-Mails

Philippine Islands
Last Roll

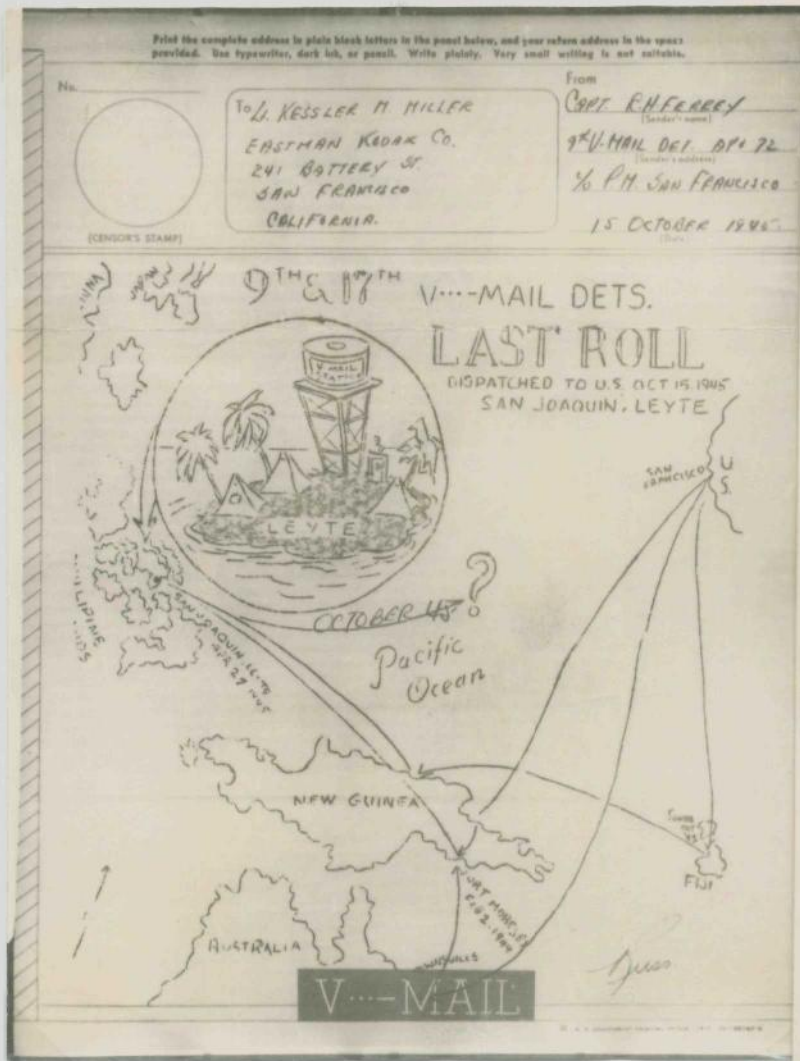
From: 9th V-Mail Detachment APO 72-SF
San Joaquin, Leyte, Philippine Islands

Graphic details the air route for the V-Mail.

From: SF V-Mail Processing Lab.
**“This is the last Army V-Mail dispatched
 from San Francisco to Tacloban.”**

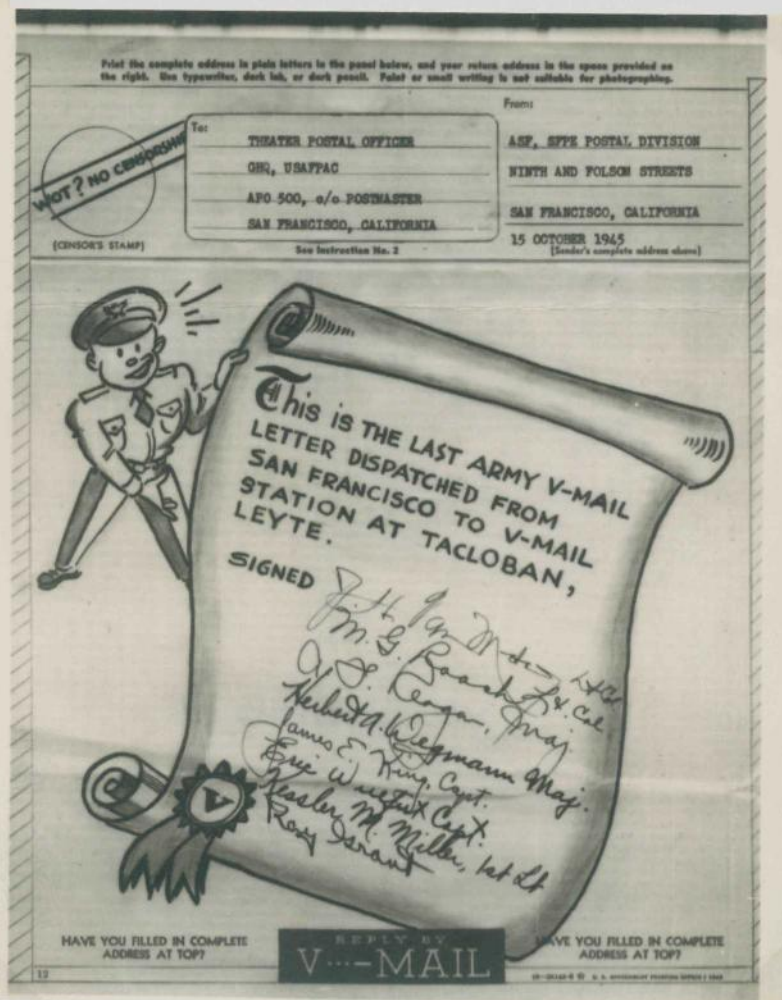
San Francisco

“Wot? No Censorship?”
noted across censor box.



From: APO 500-SF October 15, 1945
Tacloban, Leyte, Philippine Islands

V-Mail had become such a foundational and iconic aspect of wartime that at its end the war artists joined for a final send off.



9. The End of the War Effort

Internal Use in China - Kunming to Shanghai

Left behind after the war this V-Mail was used as a letter sheet and processed in the Chinese mail system. Sent by Mr. L.L. Huang, owner to two stamp shops. This V-Mail sent to the China Stamp Co. at No. 318 Chungcheng Road in Shanghai asking if stamp stocks are still available. Reduced letter form shows the V-Mail form used in appropriate fashion.

謝
路
六
六

FROM: 黃汝霖
昆明郵政信箱 48 號

空 V 航 MAIL
PAR AVION



TO: 上海 中正南二路 318 號
中國郵票公司 台收

service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a ere photographing service is not available the original letter will be d by the most expeditious means.

INSTRUCTIONS

the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addresses of membe
the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or navy
ess, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned
hed and army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster
ropriate fleet post office.
seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
asures must not be placed in this envelope.
il letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces.
n sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary
6c if domestic air mail service is desired when mailed in the U. S.)

☆ GPO 16-28143-4

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Paint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

TO: _____
FROM: 黃汝霖
June 25 1946
(Sender's complete address above)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

貴公司徵求特約經理廣告一則，案
此品設有門市選購處二處，并有現成
郵箱可供通訊函購之用。此間郵友日
眾，收來書函有供不應求之勢，人以此大
型雙包書函為甚，亦願代
貴公司經售書品，以互為原，則未
能詳情如何，乞印身于物，受此荷
且信之誠寄書亦可。尚此致
中國郵票公司

黃汝霖 啟

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?
REPLY BY V-MAIL
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

9. The End of War Effort

V-Mails & The Press

B. V-Mail Announce The War's End

Many newspaper and even magazines published reduced sized editions, termed "Servicemen Editions" in V-Mail format. These example for V-E Day and a Proclamation of Peace.



9. The End of War Effort
A. V-Mail Service Ending

Last V-Mails

**Saipan,
 Mariana Islands**

From APO 244-SF Saipan

**"I wonder what will
 happen to all of us?... You
 can have the last two letters
 from this station." ↓**

From: SF V-Mail Processing Lab.

**"This is the last letter photographed in
 the San Francisco V-Mail laboratory."**

San Francisco

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

Page Two FROM

TO: 1st Lt Kessler M. Miller
 Signal Corps Liaison Officer
 SFPB APO, 9th and Polson Sts.
 San Francisco, California

11th V-Mail Detachment
 APO 244, c/o Postmaster,
 San Francisco, Calif.

(CENSOR'S STAMP) SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address above)

The old-timers were then relieved and returned to their own unit in Oahu. The new men took over and a larger and much more complete laboratory went into construction. This time the station was to be completely equipped for both sending and receiving operations, air-conditioned dark-rooms, large chemical mixing facilities, film and paper storage vaults, adequate water supply, and all the other comforts of a large photographic laboratory. In February 1945 the remainder of the 11th Detachment arrived and shortly thereafter full-scale production went into effect.

Hope that the above meets with your approval and am sorry that it ran into two pages. Now, however, you can have two last letters from this station.

I am very sorry to see the end of V-Mail because I have been associated with it for nearly three years, but I suppose it is the best thing now that there is little more need for its space-saving advantages.

I wonder what will happen to all of us now?

Gary
 GEORGE M. CHAPMAN
 1st Lt, Signal Corps
 Commanding

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? **V---MAIL** HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. To FROM

*Reader M. Miller
 White, Sgt. Major*

v-mail proc lab
 241 battery st
 san francisco
 oct. 15, 1945

THIS IS THE LAST LETTER PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO V-MAIL LABORATORY.....

*Leon Grand, Marion Scott, Russ Barlowe
 C. K. ... Daniel Carpenter, Sgt TC-2064
 Ray ... James Hamilton, Sgt FW Wright
 Harry ... Vivian Roberts, Sgt. Bill Kynch
 R. Eddie ... Jim Sulley, Sgt. ...
 Paul ... Irene Datti, Vada Webb
 Ralph ... Edith Rolfe, Gertrude Monahan
 Fran ... Ruth Doman, Frances Dixon
 Alfred ... Shirley Stahr, Emma Bell Heider
 Norton ... Marie Melvin, Gladys Federlin
 Stella ... Jean O'Neil, Robert ...
 Beatrice ... Lialitumburina, Benita Little
 Helen Edwards, Verna Garrison, Mary Boyd
 Jeanne Venton, Blanch Frederick, William E. ...
 Violet Myers, Joseph Elguiza, Katherine Miller
 Jessie Rague, ... Elsie ...
 June Holder
 Bessie Thomas
 Lee Johnson*

V---MAIL

From: SF V-Mail Processing Lab.

On a specially made vertical handstamp:

"The 174,806,973rd letter processed."

9. The End of War Effort
A. V-Mail Service Ending

Last V-Mails

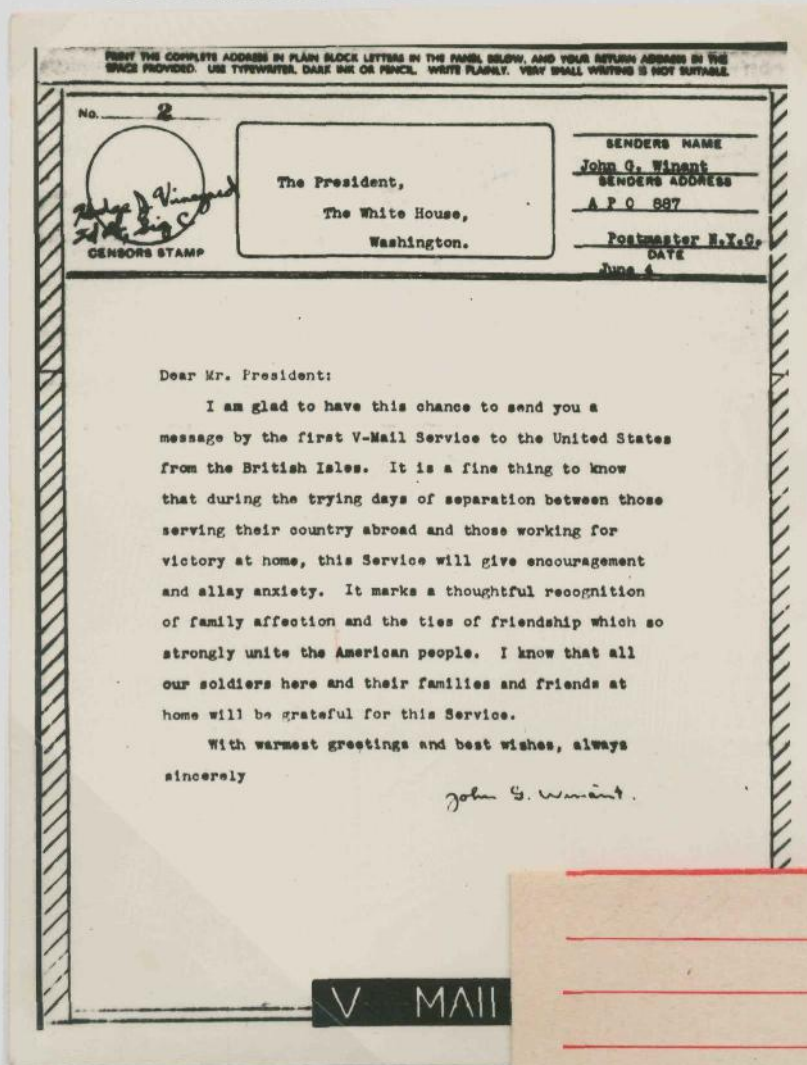
From the Beginning to the End

V-Mail had become such a foundational and iconic aspect of wartime that at its end there was a specific beginning and ending pageantry to its use.

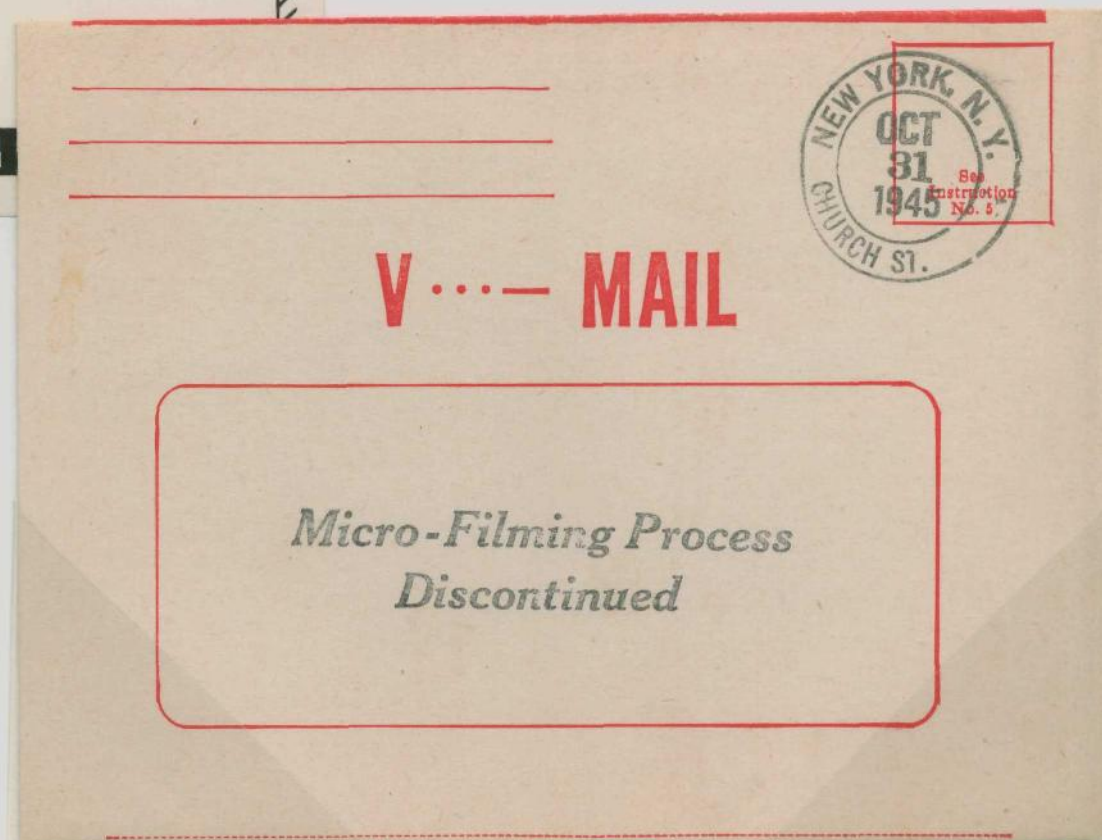
To President Franklin D. Roosevelt

"It is a fine thing to know that during the trying days of separation between those serving their country abroad and those working for victory at home, this Service will give encouragement and allay anxiety."

"It marks a thoughtful recognition of family affection and the ties of friendship which so strongly unite the American people."



Authorized Reproduction
 First day V-Mail, June 4, 1942.



V-Mail Station #1 New York →
 Cancel on Final Day.