

The **Runner Post**

THE BECHUANALANDS AND BOTSWANA SOCIETY



Issue 87 Contents

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ISSN No 0953-3354

Winter 2013

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DIARY OF EVENTS – 2014

22nd February

Stampex, London Design Centre, Islington, London 14:30 to 16:30 Room B

Stellaland Stamp Cancellations

by Hennie Taljaard

I have been accumulating data relating to the used stamps of Stellaland from items in my own collection and from others described in the literature and auctions catalogues. Up till now I have been able to list 90 stamps of which the result (sorted in order of date) is shown in tabular form (p.2152-3). Whereas one might perhaps draw some conclusions from the data on its own, it becomes more significant when related to the historical facts available. The list is of course not only interesting in terms of cancellations, but also sheds light on dispatch dates and postal rates. At the outset it should be mentioned that the recurrence of the same date is obvious but is by no means duplication of data. I have personally seen at least an image or proper description of every stamp listed. Also included in the list are the covers recorded and described by Drysdall.

Stellaland never had a device for cancelling their stamps. According to Jurgens there were instructions to the postmaster "to cancel all stamps on letters with pen and ink". Vryburg is found first listed on 8th August 1883 as the post office of the Stellaland Republic (Putzel). Stamps were delivered to Stellaland during February 1884 and during the first few months stamps are found manuscript cancelled with the date only. The earliest date recorded is 29th February 1884. The postal route during the period of the Stellaland rule was by way of Christiana and hence the ZAR target canceller with numeral 6 seen on stamps (applied in transit).



Figure 1: 3d manuscript cancelled with date on 29/2/84. The earliest recorded date (Ref. 3)



Figure 2: 3d manuscript cancelled with date on 7/3/84 and ZAR target type 6 (Ref. 6)

From August 1884 onwards stamps are seen for most part with both the date and initials (of the postmaster). Initials seen are: "F.H.", "C.G.D" and "F.C.L". With the aid of old Stellaland documents lodged at the Cape Archives it is possible to positively identify "F.H." as belonging to Ferdinand Hartzenberg and "F.C.L" as that of Frans Coenraad Dekker.

Referring to Dekker's full signature (see figure 4) it reveals that the letter "L" of the initials signifies a "D").

Figure 3: Signature of Ferdinand Hartzenberg

Figure 4: Signature of Frans Coenraad Dekker

The initials "C.G.D" belonged to a Dennison but only one stamp (Ref. 67) is attributed to him. There is also a single stamp with as yet unidentified initials (which looks like "KA" – see Ref. 32).

The bulk of the stamps are found with Hartzenberg's initials and only three stamps are seen with those of his predecessor, namely that of Dekker, who was the first postmaster (see Ref. 13 to 15). Dekker was already postmaster during the pre-stamp period and the earliest stamps cancelled with the date only would probably have been his work.

Sir Charles Warren's expedition reached Vryburg on 7th February 1885 with the aim to place the area under British control. According to Putzel the Vryburg post office was listed under British Bechuanaland from 23rd March 1885.

The practice of the postmaster to cancel the stamp with his initials is not seen later than May 1885. During these last months that the Stellaland stamps were in use it was cancelled only with the stroke of a pen or not cancelled at all. This practice coincides more or less with the takeover by the British and was probably employed by Francis Alexander Eaton whom replaced Ferdinand Hartzenberg as postmaster of Vryburg on 11th June 1885. The fact that stamps were not cancelled could suggest that they were not officially recognized by the British occupiers. The only example of Eaton actually cancelling stamps with his name is a cover dated 26th June 1885 (Ref. 61), from the early part of his officiate.

A relation is thus found between the means of cancellation and the postmaster of the day. It becomes clear that Hartzenberg, Dekker and Eaton each had a distinctly different way of cancelling their stamps. The first stamps were cancelled with the date only (probably by Dekker), Hartzenberg applied the date and his initials and Eaton either did not cancel the stamp or applied a pen or blue pencil stroke. This coupled with the transit or arrival postmarks of outside offices gives us an interesting array of stamps.

With the British takeover the postal route also changed with all mail now passing through Barkly West and Kimberley. Hence stamps are found



Figure 5: 3d cancelled
"FH 29/5/85" latest date
for Hartzenberg (Ref. 59)



Figure 6: 4d cancelled
"FH 12/2/85"
(Ref. 48)



Figure 7: 6d cancelled
"FH 1/2/85"
(Ref. 41)



Figure 8: 3d cancelled
"FCL 17/8/84"
(Ref. 13)



Figure 9: 3d cancelled
"CGD pm"
(Ref. 67)



Figure 10: 6d cancelled
"KA 14/12/84"
(Ref. 32)



Figure 11: 1d pen
cancelled
(Ref. 70)



Figure 12: 3d cancelled
with blue pencil stroke
(Ref. 74)

cancelled at these two towns in transit with the dates corresponding with the period of British involvement. (see stamps listed under Ref. 76 – 81).

Other postmarks found on stamps also cancelled in transit or by receiving offices are Zeerust ZAR (target 8), Rustenberg ZAR (target 3), Hoopstad OFS (numeral 27) and Barkly West CC (BONC 232).

Stellaland was incorporated into the crown colony of the British Bechuanaland on 30 September 1885 with the stamps being replaced on 2 December 1885. The first date stamp to be received by Vryburg arrived on 30 December 1885.

References and further reading:

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Acknowledgement:

Special thanks to Brian Fenemore for providing copies of the documents lodged at the Cape Archives allowing me to verify the initials of the postmasters.



Figure 13: 1d cancelled
with Barkley West cds
dated 7/9/85 (Ref. 79)



Figure 14: 1d with barred
oval numeral canceller no
27 (Ref. 87)



Figure 15: 1d with target
type canceller no 8
(Ref. 89)

Date	Day	Initials / canceller	Value	Remarks	Source	Ref
Cancelled in Stellaland						
29/2/84	Friday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d		Christie's 1986	1
29/2/84	Friday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d		Kas Erne files	2
29/2/84	Friday	date only	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	3
7/3/84	Friday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d	David Brandon opinion	Brian Fenemore	4
7/3/84	Friday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d		Fernando Torres	5
7/3/84	Friday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d		Taljaard	6
17/3/84	Monday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d		Neville Midwood	7
17/3/84	Monday	date/ZAR target 3 (Rustenburg)	3d		Jonkers book (1999)	8
4/4/84	Friday	"FH"	1d	Initials of F Hartzenberg. On piece. RPS certificate	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	9
19/4/84	Saturday	date/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	1/-		Neville Midwood	10
12/5/84	Monday	date only	3d		Neville Midwood	11
21/5/84	Wednesday	date only	3d		Spink 2013	12
5/6/84	Thursday	date only	1d x3	Drysdall cover 1	Drysdall 1992 article	13
11/6/84	Wednesday	date only	1d		Taljaard	14
23/7/84	Wednesday	date only	3d		eBay	15
5/8/84	Tuesday	"FH"	1d	year digit off stamp. but probably 84.	Alan MacGregor	16
17/8/84	Sunday	"FCL"	3d	Initials of FC Dekker. Shown in Holmes. RPS certificate	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	17
17/8/84	Sunday	"FCL"	3d		Alan MacGregor	18
25/8/84	Monday	"FCL"	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	19
23/9/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d		Kas Erne files	20
30/9/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d		Spink 2013	21
30/9/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d	Drysdall cover 2	Drysdall 1992 article	22
7/10/84	Tuesday	date only	1d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	23
21/10/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	24
28/10/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d		Neville Midwood	25
30/10/84	Thursday	"FH"	1d		Brian Fenemore	26
18/11/84	Tuesday	"FH"	1d		eBay	27
25/11/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d	Groenewald cover 14	Groenewald 2002 article	28
2/12/84	Tuesday	"FH"	4d	Drysdall cover 3	Drysdall 1992 article	29
2/12/84	Tuesday	"FH"	1d	Drysdall cover 12	Drysdall 1992 article	30
2/12/84	Tuesday	"FH"	3d	On piece, 3 ring cancel touching top right	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	31
2/12/?		"FH"	1d	Date (year) not clear but probably 84	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	32
7/12/84	Sunday	"FH"	3d	Initials upside down, 3 ring cancel touching	Kas Erne files	33
8/12/84	Monday	"FH"	4d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	34
9/12/84	Tuesday	"FH"	3d	On piece, part 3 ring cancel tying the stamp	Kas Erne files	35
9/12/84	Tuesday	"FH"	6d	On piece tied by part 3 ring target type cancel	Spink 2013	36
9/12/84	Tuesday	"FH"	6d, 3d, 4d	Mixed franking on piece	Stanley Gibbons auction	37
9/12/(84)	Tuesday	"FH"	1d	year digit off stamp. but probably 84.	Neville Midwood	38
14/12/84	Sunday	"KA"	6d	Initials not identified. RPS certificate	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	39
?/84		"FH"	6d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	40
28/?/85		"FH"	1d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	41
11/1/85	Sunday	"FH"	3d	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	42
11/1/85	Sunday	"FH"	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	43
11/1/85	Sunday	"FH"	1/-		Kas Erne files	44

Date	Day	Initials / canceller	Value	Remarks	Source	Ref
11/1/85	Sunday	"FH"	1/-	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	45
11/1/85	Sunday	"FH"	1/-	last digit of year off stamp. but probably 85.	Alan MacGregor	46
1/2/85	Sunday	"FH"	4d	On piece	Kas Erne files	47
1/2/85	Sunday	"FH"	6d	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	48
1/2/85	Sunday	"FH"	6d		Alan MacGregor	49
11/2/85	Wednesday	"FH"	1d x3	Strip of 3	Cherrystone auctions	50
11/2/85	Wednesday	"FH"	1d	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	51
11/2/85	Wednesday	"FH"	3d	On piece	Kas Erne files	52
12/2/85	Thursday	"FH"	6d	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	53
12/2/85	Thursday	"FH"	4d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	54
12/2/85	Thursday	"FH"	4d	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	55
12/2/85	Thursday	"FH"	4d	On piece	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	56
3/3/85	Tuesday	"FH"	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	57
6/3/85	Friday	"FH"	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	58
12/3/85	Thursday	"FH"	3d	Drysdall cover 4	Drysdall 1992 article	59
19/3/85	Thursday	"FH"	3d	RPS certificate	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	60
20/3/85	Friday	"FH"	4d		Alan MacGregor	61
2/4/85	Thursday	"FH"	4d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	62
16/4/85	Thursday	"FH"	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	63
1/5/85	Friday	"FH"/ZAR target 6 (Christiana)	3d		eBay	64
15/5/85	Friday	"FH"	3d	RPS certificate	Status Int. auction	65
29/5/85	Friday	"FH"	3d		eBay	66
19/6/85	Friday	date only	1d pair	Drysdall cover 5	Drysdall 1992 article	67
26/6/85	Friday	"F A Eaton" in blue pencil	1d x3	Drysdall cover 6	Drysdall 1992 article	68
?/6/85		blue pencil stroke	1d pair	Drysdall cover 7	Drysdall 1992 article	69
?/7/85		black pen stroke	4d	Drysdall cover 8	Drysdall 1992 article	70
?/9/85		not cancelled	1d pair	Drysdall cover 9	Drysdall 1992 article	71
?/10/85		not cancelled	"Twee"	Drysdall cover 10	Drysdall 1992 article	72
?/10/85		not cancelled	"Twee"	Drysdall Cover 11	Drysdall 1992 article	73
no date		"CGD pm"	3d	C.G. Dennison. Shown in Holmes. RPS certificate	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	74
no date		black pen stroke	1d	on piece in combination with Cape 2d cancelled BONC 232	Christie's 1986	75
no date		black pen stroke	1d		Taljaard	76
no date		black pen stroke	1d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	77
no date		black pen stroke	1d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	78
no date		black pen stroke	4d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	79
no date		blue pencil stroke	1d pair		Taljaard	80
no date		blue pencil stroke	3d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	81
Cancelled outside Stellaland (i.e. transit or receiving offices)						
2/3/85	Monday	cds Kimberley	6d	On piece	John Taylor	82
6/4/85	Monday	cds Barkly G.W.	3d	Cancel struck twice	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	83
12/4/85	Sunday	not cancelled	1d	Drysdall cover 13. Barkly West cds alongside.	Drysdall 1992 article	84
7/9/85	Monday	cds Barkly G.W.	1d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	85
21/9/85	Monday	cds Kimberley	1d pair		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	86
24/10/85	Saturday	not cancelled	"Twee"	On piece in combination with Cape 6d. Barkly West cds alongside.	Royal Collection	87
2/7/86	Monday	cds Ladismith C.C.	1d	Late usage, probably by favour.	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	88
not clear		cds Kimberley	1d		Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	89
no date		BONC 232	4d	Barkly West	Brian Fenemore	90
no date		BONC 232	6d	Barkly West	Brian Fenemore	91
no date		BONC 232	1/-	Barkly West	Michael Hamilton	92
no date		BONC 536	4d	Pudimoe	Bram Leeftang	93
no date		OFS numeral 27	1d	Hoopstad	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	94
no date		OFS numeral 27	1d	Hoopstad	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	95
no date		OFS numeral 27	3d	Hoopstad	Bram Leeftang	96
no date		ZAR target 8	1d	Zeerust	Taljaard (ex Jonkers)	97
no date		ZAR target 8	1d	Zeerust	Fernando Torres	98

OFS to Stellaland/Bechuanaland

by Michael Smith

I met Mike at Leamington 2013 and he offered to send me scans of a few Orange Free State postcards to the Bechuanalands region he had that might interest our Society members. Here they are [at 95%] - the Stellaland card is also on the front cover of this issue. *Editor*

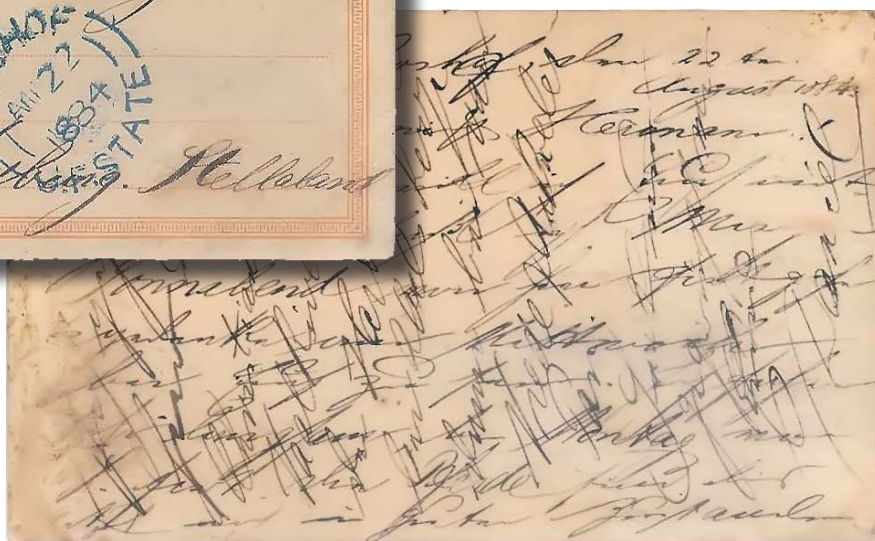


The first card was sent from Boshof via Kimberley to Vryburg in August 1884, during the period that Stellaland was an independent republic.

The OFS introduced stationery cards at the end of February 1884. At this time, the OFS had a convention with

the COGH to exchange postcards at a 1d rate. Similar arrangements with the ZAR and Natal did not come into effect until 1885. I am not aware of any agreements between the OFS and Stellaland!

I have read Alan Drysdall's article 'A Postal History of Stellaland' for the LP in 1992 and can find no mention of incoming mail outside of that associated with the Warren Expedition, which this clearly is not.



The second card is to Bechuanaland Protectorate at the three halfpence rate (the OFS rate to foreign countries).





The third card is a card from Bloemfontein to the Station Master at Palapye Siding sent Dec 1900 - a Oranje Vrij State Half-penny Brief Kaart with a V.R.I. ½d surcharge bearing an Orange River Colony ½d green. It is handstamped "H.P.Y." which is the Boer War censor handstamp of Captain H. P. Young.

I'm not aware of any other incoming postal items to Stellaland. Alan MacGregor likewise.

Does an member have one hidden away in their collection? Or remember reports of, or an auction of, such an item? If so please send details and, if possible, a scan. *Editor*



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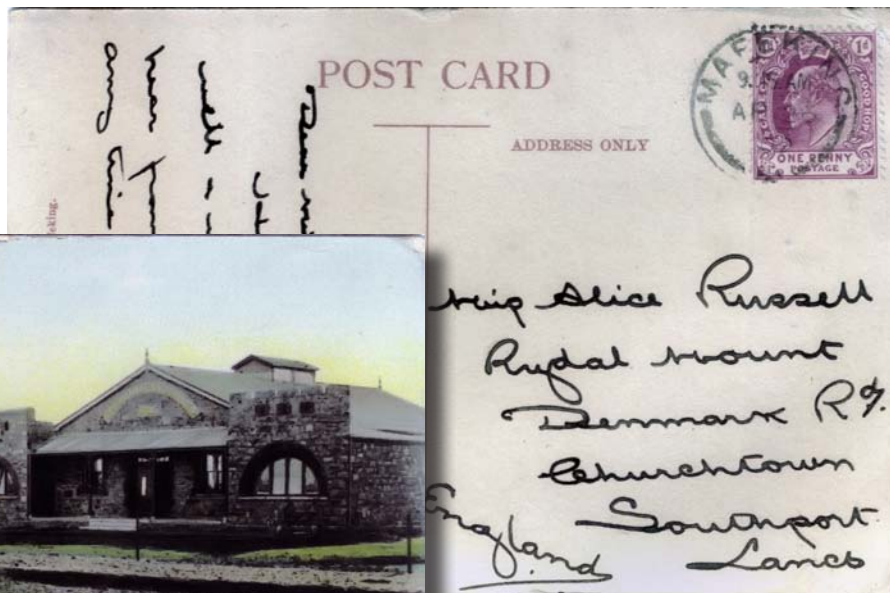
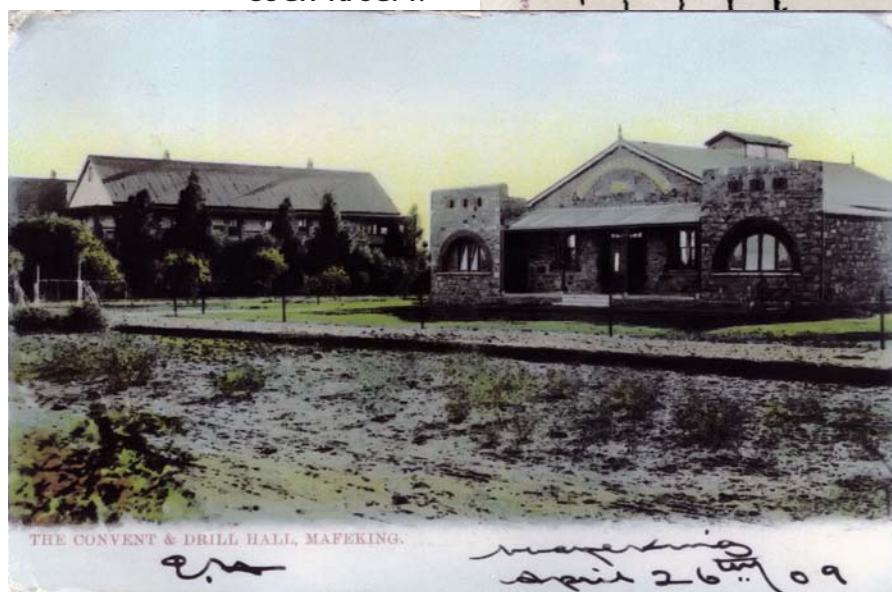
Bechuanaland Postcards – Part 6

by Steve Wallace/Neville Midwood

Sixth part of the series started in Runner Post #82 Townshend's Vignettes. #83 H.E.Sargent and T.D.Ravenscroft whilst #84/85/86, like this part, showed mainly a general assortment of pre-1920 cards. Part 5 has some of the A.T. Woolnough cards and here are a few more.

A.T. Woolnough, Mafeking

[below] Card ATW-5 Front and Back.
"The Convent & Drill Hall, Mafeking".
Written on date and CDS are both
26 April 1909. Sent from Mafeking
to Southport England bearing a
COGH 1d SG71.



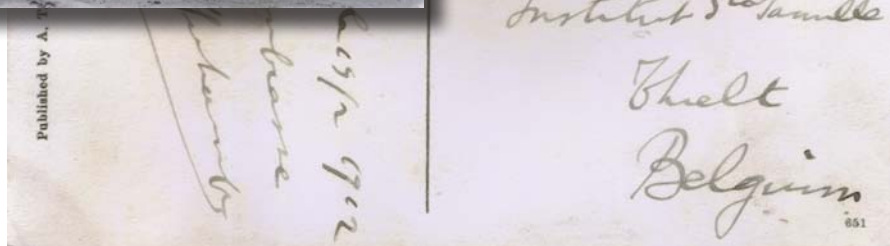
Further to the table in RP#86

Card No.	Name of Card
ATW-7	Serowe. Bech: Protec:
ATW-8	South Side, Market Square, Mafeking
ATW-9	The Wondergat, large Waterhole, near Mafeking.



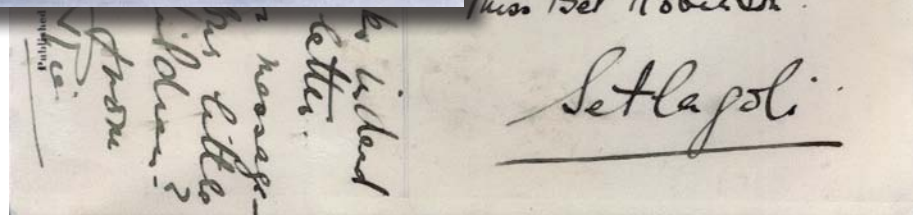
[left] Card ATW-7 Front and Back.

"Serowe, Bech: Protec:"
Date written and CDS are both "FE 15 12". Sent from Mafeking to Thielt, Belgium (arrival date unreadable) bearing a Transvaal 1d SG274.

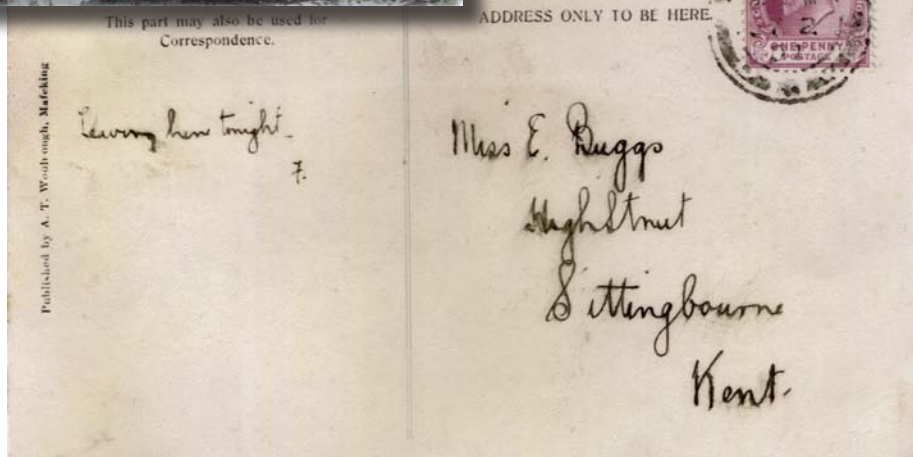




[left] Card ATW-8 Front and Back.
 "South Side, Market Square, Mafeking". Mafeking CDS appears to be OC 17 07. Sent from Mafeking to Setlapol bearing a COGH 1d SG71. Arrival CDS is smudged - OC 28 07.



[left] Card ATW-9 Front and Back.
 "The Wondergat, large Waterhole, near Mafeking." Mafeking CDS appears to be JY 2 07. Sent from Mafeking to Sittingbourne, Kent bearing a COGH 1d SG71. The message says simply "Leaving here tonight. F"





NHP-1

"Native Huts, Palapye, Bechuanaland"
Card sent from Bulawayo to Port Elizabeth. On the back two CDS "Bulawayo Station 11 May 1908", BSA SG101(?) and arrival CDS "Port Elizabeth MY 15 08".



P.O. BOX.93 Bulawayo

On the back vertical on the left is stamped "P.O. Box.93, Bulawayo".

When I did a web search this came up as "Browns Books & Stationery" so maybe back then it was the place the card was bought.

NHP-2

Whilst there's no identification on NHP-1 a web search turned up the same design - with different fonts used for the card name and "POST CARD". This one is clearly marked "John G. Bain, Cape Town"

Both cards have G.W.W between "POST and "CARD".

Native Huts, Palapye, Bechuanaland,

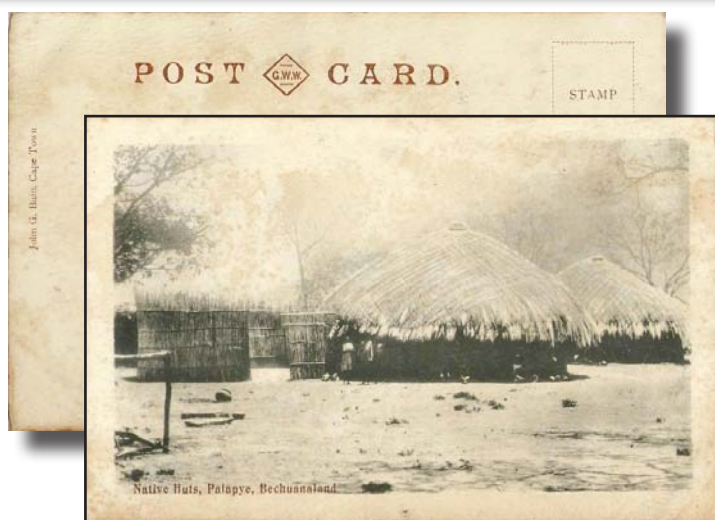
Native Huts, Palapye, Bechuanaland

POST CARD

POST CARD.

Further research found first an entry on the UK National Archives Reference: COPY 1/484/470 - "Photograph of Native Huts, Palapye, Bechuanaland, No 40878". Copyright owner of work: G W Wilson & Co, 2 St Swithin Street, Aberdeen. Copyright author of work: William Ellerton Fry, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa. Form completed 25 April 1905. Registration stamp: 26 April 1905.

George Washington Wilson took over 35,000 images, mostly glass plate negatives, between 1853 and 1908. This one was 22cm by 17cm and a small thumbnail is shown right courtesy of University of Aberdeen. For more info see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/news/3984/>



Checklist of Botswana Postmarks (Second Series)

2013 Annual Review

The Botswana Postmark Project Team set out to extend the earlier work done on Botswana Postmarks (First Series) by Brian Trotter.

Botswana Postmarks (Second Series) followed the same Postal Marking Classification System (Typology) as the First series and continued the numbering from the First series. The earliest date included in the Botswana Postmarks (Second Series) was 01-Jun-1995 i.e. only new postmarks and markings appearing after this date, which had not been previously recorded, were included.



Between RP#60 (June 2004) and RP#76 (Nov. 2009) there were sixteen installments of the study published


followed by a further five "late arrivals" updates between RP#77 (March 2010) and RP#81 (Summer 2011). The 2012 Review was in RP#85 (Winter/Spring 2013). This 2013 Review adds on new postmarks (updates to date and/or count changes for "Second Series" postmarks are not included in this update).


Further information on recorded postmarks, copies of better illustrations, and, of course, information on unrecorded markings is welcome and should be sent to Bruce Warrender (post) or e-mailed to the Editor.


As always Bruce wishes to thank all those who sent in postmarks.

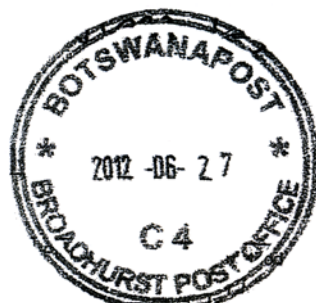
2013 Annual Review - Offices A-Z


BLUE JACKET	New Office	
BLUE JACKET	No 1 Type 23 M 63(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Nov-2012
	Latest recorded date	20-Nov-2012
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 63. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "COUNTER" followed by a number (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) (2 lines) at base.		
BOBONONG	No 18 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Struck in blue	
	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Oct-2012
	Latest recorded date	09-Oct-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


BONTLENG	No 35 Type 23 M 53(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	28-Jun-2012
	Latest recorded date	28-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


BOSEJA	No 11 Type 23 M 50	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Jul-2012
	Latest recorded date	30-Jul-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


BOSEJA	No 12 Type 23 M 46(2) Struck in purple	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	17-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


BROADHURST	No 42 Type 23 M 46(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	27-Jun-2012
	Latest recorded date	27-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


FRANCISTOWN	No 86 Type 23 M 46(8)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-May-2012
	Latest recorded date	15-May-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 310 Type 23 M 60(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	17-Oct-2012
	Latest recorded date	17-Oct-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 311 Type 23 M 60(2)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Sep-2012
	Latest recorded date	05-Sep-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 312 Type 23 M 60(3)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	30-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	30-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 313 Type 23 M 60(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	09-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 314 Type 23 M 60(5)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	20-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 315 Type 23 M 60(7)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	01-Nov-2012
	Latest recorded date	01-Nov-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 316 Type 23 M 60(8)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Nov-2012
	Latest recorded date	08-Nov-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE	No 317 Type 23 M 64	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Jul-2012
	Latest recorded date	05-Jul-2102
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 64. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "ASSISTANT POSTMASTER" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) (2 lines) at base with star separators.		


GABORONE	No 318 Type 23 M 65 Struck in red	
	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	20-Aug-2102
	Latest recorded date	05-Sep-2012
	Number so far recorded	2
New sub-variant 65. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "PRIVATE BAG CAGE" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) (2 lines) at base with star separators.		


GABORONE STATION	No 19 Type 23 M 19(9) Struck in purple	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	12-Oct-2012
	Latest recorded date	12-Oct-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GABORONE VILLAGE	No 17 Type 61 M 24(2) Struck in blue	
	Outer oval dimensions	30mm by 50mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-Jun-2102
	Latest recorded date	14-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GHANZI	No 24 Type 23 M 46(2)	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Jun-2012
	Latest recorded date	08-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


GHANZI	No 25 Type 23 M 50	
	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Jul-2012
	Latest recorded date	03-Jul-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


JWANENG	No 42 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	16-Apr-2012
	Latest recorded date	16-Apr-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


JWANENG	No 43 Type 23 M 46(4) Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-May-2012
	Latest recorded date	08-May-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


JWANENG	No 44 Type 23 M 46(5) Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-May-2012
	Latest recorded date	09-May-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


JWANENG	No 45 Type 23 M 50 One struck in purple	
 <p>Similar to No.36 See RP#78 p.1963 except has larger lettering</p>	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-May-2012
	Latest recorded date	02-Nov-2012
	Number so far recorded	3


LERALA	No 9 Type 23 M 68 Struck in red	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	27-Sep-2012
	Latest recorded date	27-Sep-2012
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 68. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "PMR" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) (2 lines) at base with star separators.		


LOBATSE	No 61 Type 23 M 24(8)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	09-May-2012
	Latest recorded date	09-May-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


MAUN	No 63 Type 23 M 50	
 <p>Similar to No.57 See RP#79 p.1980 except has a different font</p>	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	18-Apr-2012
	Latest recorded date	18-Apr-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


MAUN	No 64 Type 23 M 67	
	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	21-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	21-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant 67. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "CB SUPERVISOR" (horizontal) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) (2 lines) at base with star separators.		


MAUN	No 65 Type 23 M 46(4)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	15-Jun-2012
	Latest recorded date	15-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


MMASEKOU	No 18 Type 23 M 46(2)	
 <p>Similar to No.15 See RP#79 p.1983 except has a narrower font</p>	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	14-May-2012
	Latest recorded date	14-May-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


MOCHUDI	No 30 Type MISC 3 z 10	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	27-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	27-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 10. "BOTSWANAPOST" at top with "PAYING OFFICER" above "PENSIONS" (horizontal) (2 lines) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) at base with star separators.		


MOSHUPA	No 8 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	13-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	13-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


POTA	No 13 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	21-Aug-2012
	Latest recorded date	21-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


POTA	No 14 Type MISC 11	
	"Polo Batho 2011" star separated from "Census Botswana 2011" at top with "Central Statistics" over "Office-Pota. 9-18 Aug" (2 lines) at base.	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	<i>unknown</i>
	Latest recorded date	<i>unknown</i>
	Number so far recorded	1


SHAKAWE	No 10 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	19-Sep-2012
	Latest recorded date	19-Sep-2012
	Number so far recorded	1


SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 21 Type 23 M 66 Struck in red	
	Outer circle diameter	38mm
	Earliest recorded date	31-Jan-2012
	Latest recorded date	22-Aug-2012
	Number so far recorded	3
New sub-variant 66. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "Shift Leader" above "Inward" (horizontal) (2 lines) above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) at base with star separators.		

SOUTHERN SORTING CENTRE	No 22 Type MISC 3 z 11	
	Outer circle diameter	39mm
	Earliest recorded date	03-Feb-2012
	Latest recorded date	03-Feb-2012
	Number so far recorded	1
New sub-variant z 11. "BOTSWANA POST" at top with "POSTAGE PAID" above [OFFICE NAME] (curved) (2 lines) at base with star separators.		

TATITOWN	No 24 Type 23 M 43 Struck in brown	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	02-Feb-2012
	Latest recorded date	11-Sep-2012
	Number so far recorded	2

TATITOWN	No 25 Type 23 M 61	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	08-Mar-2012
	Latest recorded date	08-Mar-2012
	Number so far recorded	1

TAUNG	No 5 Type 23 M 46(1)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	25-Jun-2012
	Latest recorded date	25-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	No 10 Type 23 M 46(2)	
	Outer circle diameter	40mm
	Earliest recorded date	05-Jun-2012
	Latest recorded date	05-Jun-2012
	Number so far recorded	1

Southern African Pioneers in World War II**An Exhibit by Peter Thy**

About 35,000 men from the High Commission Territories (Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Swaziland) volunteered to serve as labour for the British Army during World War II.

They served in the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (or later simply African Pioneer Corps) as part of the Pioneer Corps of the British Army. The soldiers were recruited in 1941-42 and were from the beginning deployed as labour companies in the Middle East Forces against German aggression in North Africa. They took part in the advance of the Eighth Army that eventually expelled the enemy from Africa. From 1943, some labour companies were diluted into British units in Sicily and Italy. Here they saw active combat mostly in Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery units and indirectly released better trained British soldiers for the North European invasion. They were belatedly repatriated in 1946. Some pioneers were after the war re-enlisted in the High Commission Territories Corps that was formed to serve in Palestine and to guard the Suez Canal.

Because the African pioneer companies were deployed when and where needed, there is no evident link between their deployment and the general war events and theatres. As a consequence, this exhibit is organized according to home country of the pioneers, postal history and mail types, and the story told by the letters and messages. The origin of a correspondence can often only be identified as originating from the Pioneer Corps by information given as part of message.

The native recruits were formed into companies of about 350 each. The commanding officer (Major) was British. The local District Commissioners often joined companies as second-in-commands (Captains). Other commissioned officers were typically British (Lieutenants). Company Sergeant-Majors were mostly Africans. Local African royalty were enlisted as Regimental Sergeant-Majors.

- Basutoland: 21,500 soldiers formed 50 companies (Coys 1901-1951). Service number prefixed AS.
- Bechuanaland: 10,000 soldiers formed 24 companies (Coys 1966-1990). Service number prefixed EC.
- Swaziland: 3,500 soldiers formed 10 companies (Coys 1991-2000). Service number prefixed SW.

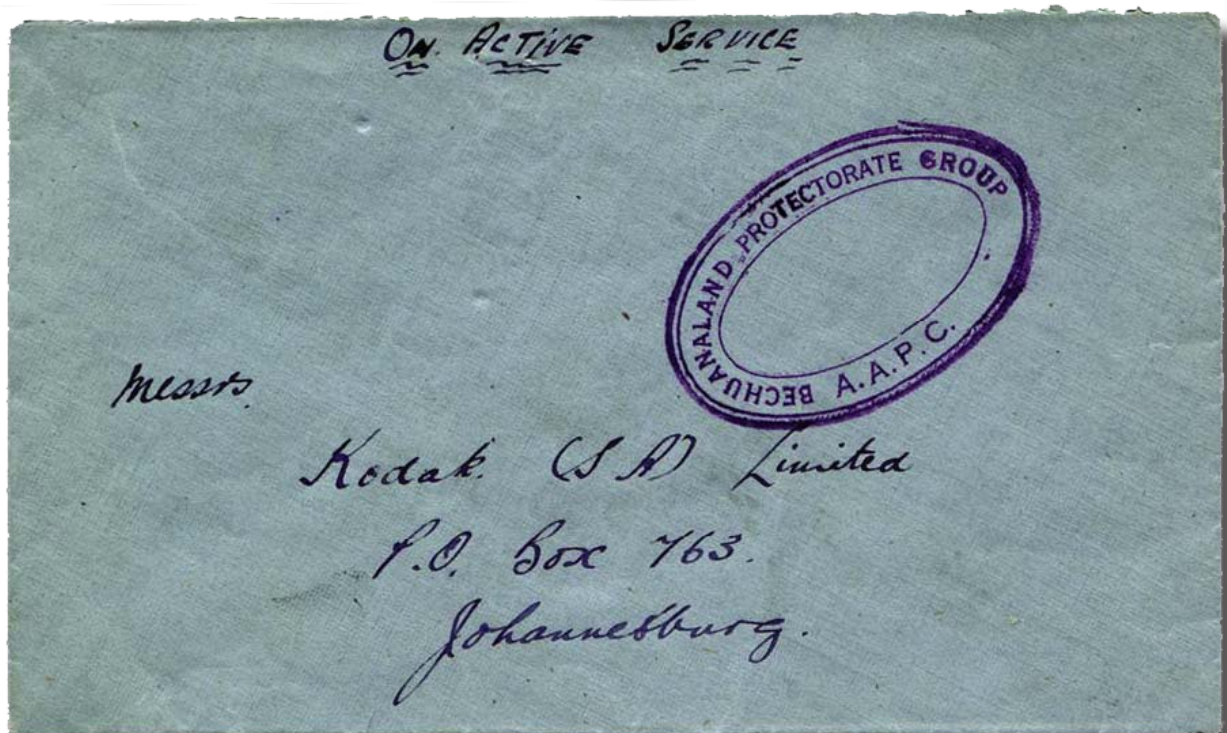
This exhibit outlines the Postal History of the African Pioneer Corps of southern Africa. The majority of material is mail to the home front. Correspondence from the home front to the soldiers are very rare. Mail types illustrated are forces airletter sheets (British and South African), regular and airmail letter envelopes, registration envelopes, and airgraphs.



Book photo used in 1966 for commemorative stamp issued by Bechuanaland Protectorate.
From R.A.R. Bent, *Ten Thousand Men of Africa*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1952.

African Pioneers
BechuanalandOfficial Mail from
Lobatsi Training Camp

The first Bechuanaland volunteers congregated in July 1941 at a former cold-storage facility in Lobatsi for minimal training and outfitting. Later when the Lobatsi camp overflowed, an additional facility in Palapye came into use. After basic training, the first Bechuana companies (1971-1977) were transferred to the pioneer depot at Qasassin in Egypt for continued training and outfitting, including a gun.



A free frank is used on this official envelope addressed to Kodak Ltd. in Johannesburg. The frank is inscribed 'BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE GROUP/A.A.P.C.' The Lobatsi location was likely removed for security reasons.

The content of the correspondence is not known. Although several of this type of covers is known to exist, none of them has been postally marked. It is, therefore, possible that the letter was transmitted via army channels, despite that the 'On Active Service' endorsement suggests a postal correspondence.

A.A.P.C. stands for African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps,
later changed to A.P.C for African Pioneer Corps.

In Runner Post #86 p.2138/Front Cover

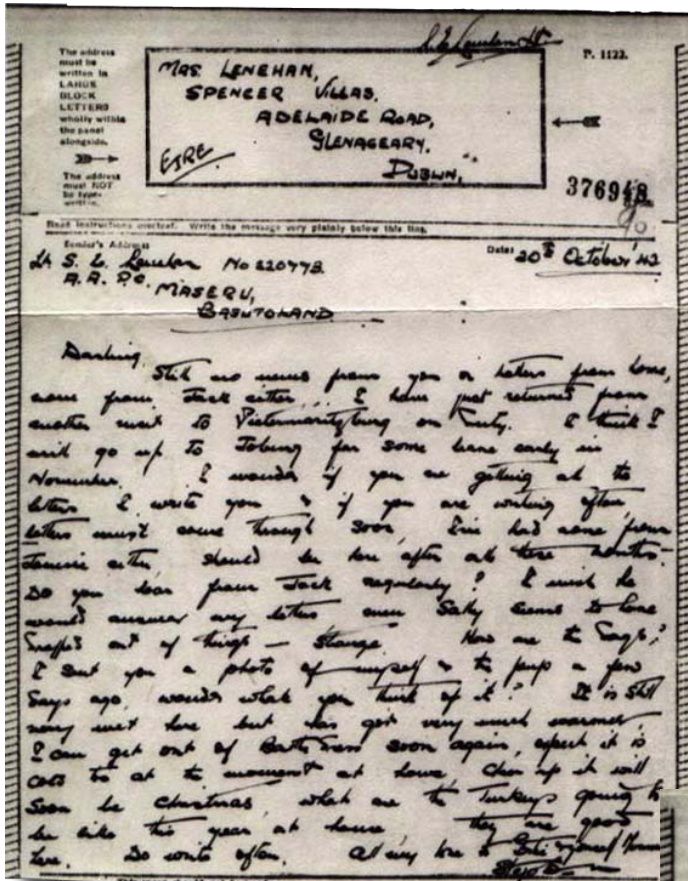
Brian Fenemore showed a couple of covers in the short article "New Zealand Air Letters

As a result this 16 page Exhibit was supplied by Peter Thy
and is displayed "as is" - allowing for slight changes in layout and images.

Exhibit

African Pioneers
Basutoland

Airgraphs from Maseru and Qasassin Training Camps



Airgraph sent to his mother in Ireland by a British officer attached to the Basuto A.A.P.C. at the Maseru training camp.

The sender was Lt. S.L. Lenehan who as an officer was entitled to censor his own message.

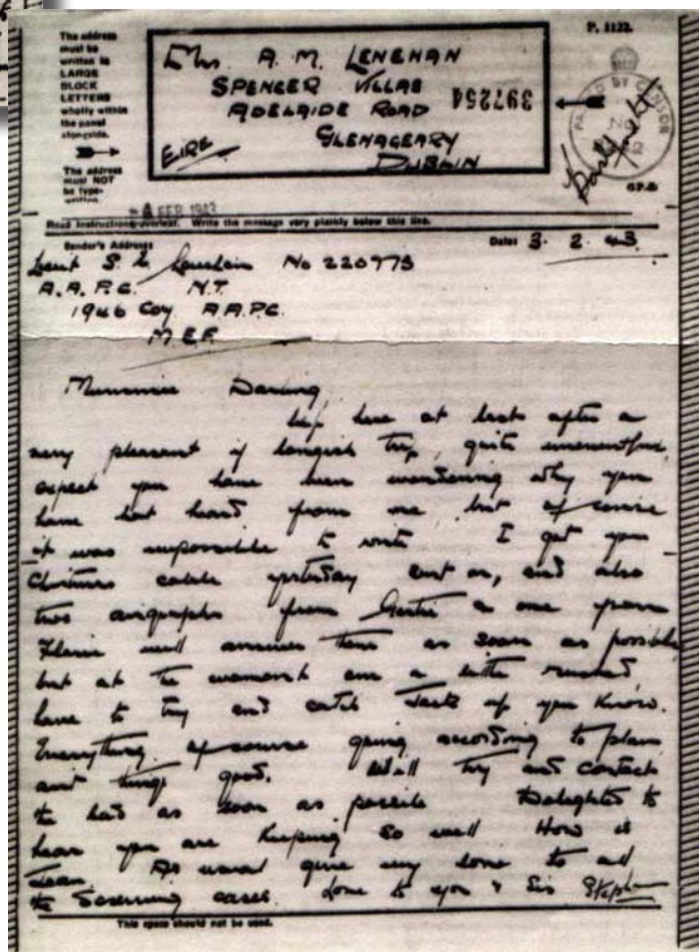
The airgraph is dated 20 October, 1942, during the last wave of recruitments. At this date, significant coercion was used to convince the Basutos to volunteer for army service.

Both airgraph forms are of South African origin. The Lieutenant probably brought a supply of airgraphs with him to the Middle East. There is no indication that the African Pioneers were serviced by South African Field Post Offices and were thus not issued South African airgraph forms in the field.

The Lieutenant writes early next year (3 Feb. 1943) from the Middle East using the return address "1946 Coy A.A.P.C., M.E.F."

Basuto Coy 1946 took part in the victory of the Eighth Army in North Africa. In Feb. 1943, Coy 1946 was probably at the Qasassin Camp in Egypt. In March, the company came up with train to Tobruk and by sea further to Tripoli, where it was engaged in rebuilding the harbour after the Italian defeat.

On 21 June, 1943, King George VI inspected an honour guard in celebration of destruction of the Axis forces in North Africa. This guard included Coy 1946.



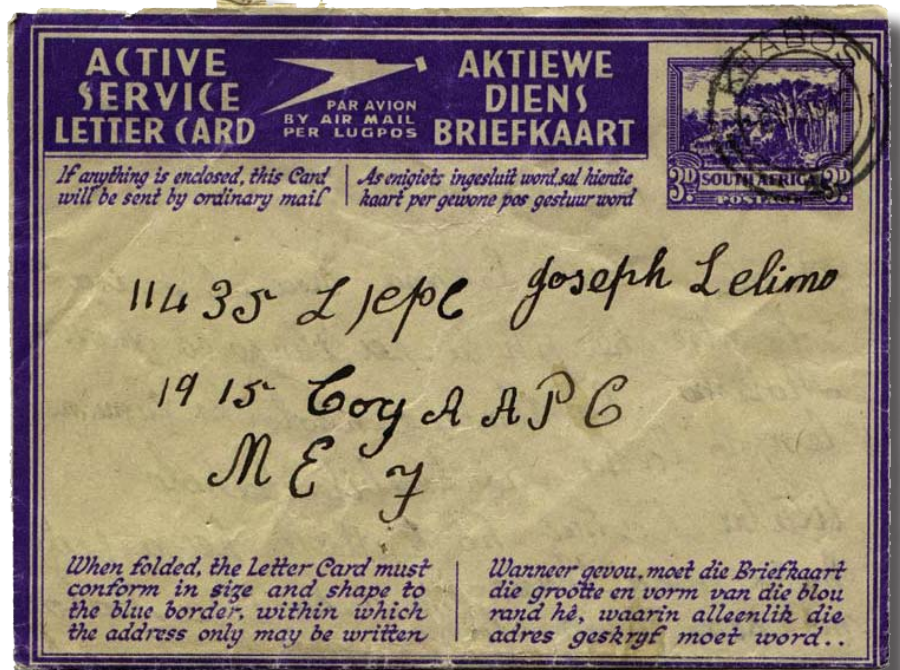
African Pioneers
Basutoland

Active Service Letter Sheets from the Home Front

In 1942, Basuto Coy 1915 were on guard duty around Alexandria in Egypt.

Early in 1943, the company was diluted into a British Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such they saw combat fighting in Italy.

South African active service letter cards were authorized without overprinting for use in the High Commission Territories in 1941 for transmission to members of the armed forces. Because the Pioneers were not serviced by South African field post office, the letter cards were not available to the Pioneers. They were only available on the home front.



From Khabos (8 VIII 42) to 1915 Basuto Coy of the Middle East Forces.

From Jonathang (21 DEC 43) to 1918 Basuto Coy of the Central
Mediterranean Forces.



From the beginning, Basuto 1918 Coy was engaged in rail construction in Syria, like other Basuto companies. They subsequently participated in the invasion of Sicily. In Sept. 1943, they landed in Reggio of southern Italy, where this letter probably reached the soldier.

African Pioneers
Basutoland

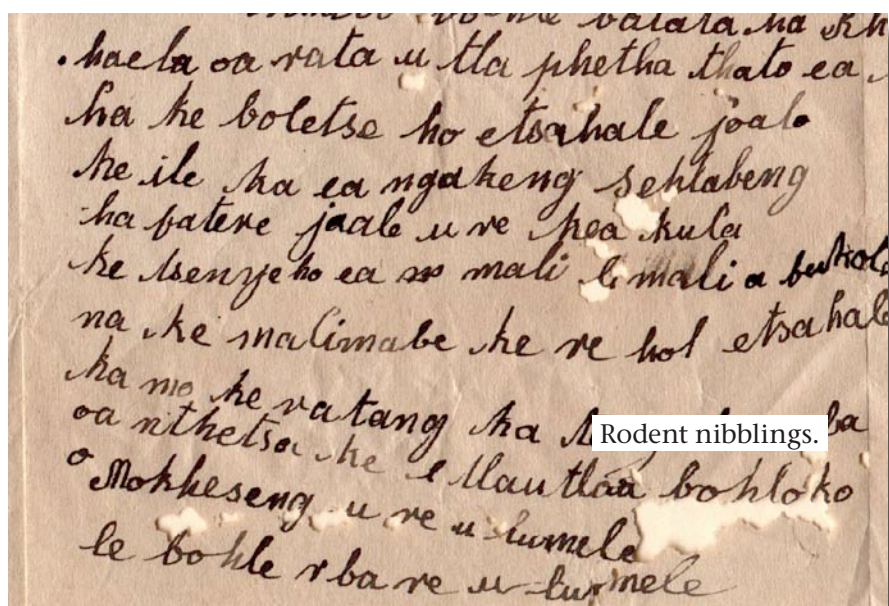
Air Mail Letter Sheets from the Home Front

The air mail letter sheets were issued in 1943 to replace the active service sheets. Like these, they paid the military 3d rate and not the civilian air mail rate that required an additional 3d. They were also only available to the home front.



From Bokong (12 JAN 45) to 1949 Basuto Coy of the Middle Eastern Forces.

Not much is known about Basuto Coy 1949. The company was one of the last to arrive in the Middle East. We know that the company was assigned garrison duty at Beirut, probably when this letter reached the soldier.



The preservation of the sheets is generally poor. The reason is clear. They survived the war in a combat uniform pocket or backpack as treasured messages from loved ones and were read often. They then survived repatriation and the return to village life in Basutoland. At a later point in history, they end up in collector hands probably after the death of the Pioneer. We can finally assume that only a few sheets were recognized for what they really were. Many must have been discharged as of too poor quality.

African Pioneers
Bechuanaland

Forces to Forces: Bechuana and New Zealand Soldier

no 6.6.8187
J. J. Damba.
1981 Bech. boy.
A.P.C. b.M.F.
9/3/45

Dear friend

I have been congratulated to receive your letter yesterday and was good to hear from you again glad to hear that you are as well as ever I am doing the same but am sorry as I have no stamps to send you friend and if I should get any I will pleased to send them to you friend and I am very well as ever and I expect that if this letter should find you in good for health as it left me the same but now we are happy as to the good weather and hope to hear from you soon

Kind regards

Letter from Bechuana Pioneer to friend in the Transport Section of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces. Addressed to Central Mediterranean Forces, probably somewhere in Italy.

No dispatching postal marking. New Zealand M.P.O. receiving cancel dated 17 MAR 1945 is on reverse.

The letter writer belongs to Coy 1981 that served as a labour company in Syria, Egypt, and finally were part of the Italian offensive during which the letter must have been written, just before the final German surrender.



On active service OAS

WRITTEN IN SECHUANA

192829
Pte E.R. Gibbs
Transport Section
H.Q. 2nd N.Z. E.F.
b.M.F.

Deputy Chief
Field Censor.



WRITTEN IN SECHUANA

Letter endorsed 'WRITTEN IN SECHUANA' for censoring purposes despite written in English.

Exhibit

African Pioneers
Bechuanaland

Second Wave of Bechuana Companies

The last wave of Bechuana companies reached the Qasassin Camp in Egypt in early 1943. After a short training and outfitting they were assigned duty in the area in preparation for the Sicilian offensive.

There is no return address on these envelopes and thus no direct proof that they originated from the African Pioneer Corps. However, evidence supports this like the receiving address, 'written in Sechuana' marking, and censoring officer, if recognizable.



The officer censoring this letter is known to have censored letters from Bechuana 1986 company. Coy 1986 arrived at the Qasassin Camp for basic training and outfitting in Jan. 1943. Shortly thereafter, they were assigned guard duty along the coast near Beirut. In March, they moved up along the coast on further guard duty and airfield construction. Coy 1986 later participated in the invasion of Sicily and later Italy.

British FPO 80
was in Syria
with the 9th
Army in April
1943.



WRITTEN IN SECHUANA

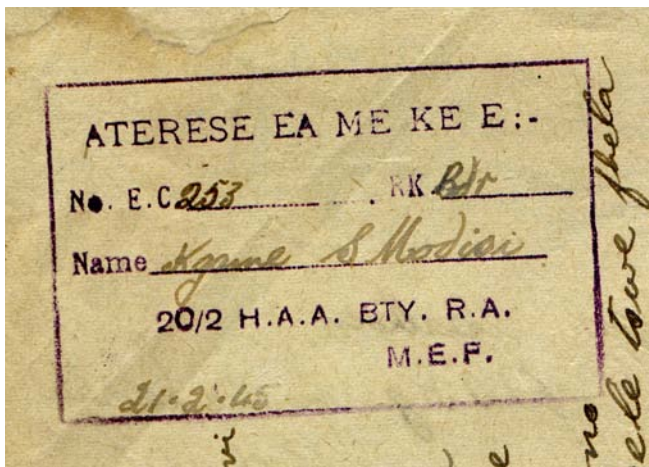


British FPO 552
was in Syria in
Feb. 1943.

African Pioneers
Bechuanaland

Bechuana Pioneer Diluted into British Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery

Coy 1971 was the first Bechuanaland company to be recruited in July 1941 (note very low service number [EC 253]). The company was first attached to an Australian Field Engineer Company in Syria building anti-tank ditches. Later, they moved to Tripoli for guard duty. In the beginning of 1943, the company arrived at Royal Artillery Base Depot near Cairo for training as gunners. Coy 1971 went after training with the 2nd HAA Regiment. The company remained in the Middle East in Damascus, Cyrenaica, and Haifna. When this letter was written (21.2.45), they were probably in Palestine. Coy 1971 was the only Bechuana dilution company that did not take part in the Italian offensive.



Locally made company cachet giving name, rank, and affiliation of writer. This type is not seen for other companies.

The letter is written to Kgosi (King) Bathoen II at Kanye. Probably a plea for help with problems at home. Bathoen II was Kgosi of the baNgwaketse from 1928 to 1969, when he abdicated to become a highly influential opposition politician and leader of the National Front.



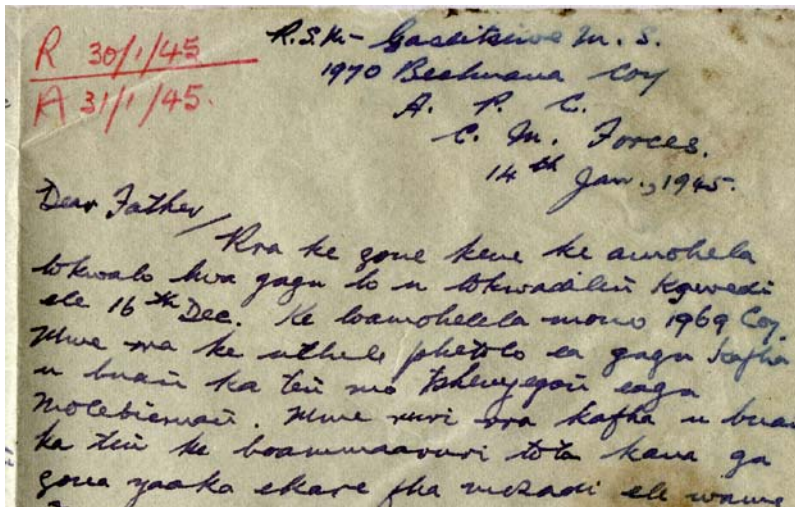
Cancelled by a roller with JOHANNESBURG/A dated 5 III 45. Most likely the letter went with military transport and entered the mail to Bechuanaland in Johannesburg.

African Pioneers
Bechuanaland

Regimental Sergeant-Major Writes Home

Letter from Mookami S. Gaseitsiwe of Bechuana Coy 1970 of the Central Mediterranean Forces written on Jan. 14, 1945 to his father. Regimental Sergeant-Majors were recruited among the tribal royalty. This sergeant was son of Kgosi Bathoen II.

The biggest concern of the local administration was what would happen when the pioneers came into contact with other cultures and views. What would happen when they returned home to the tribal society where reforms certainly would not easily be forthcoming? There is no doubt that the presence of the local District Commissioners and the tribal royalty were to secure allegiance to the traditional tribal society.



Bechuana Coy 1970 was part of the second wave of recruitment in 1942. They arrived in Syria in early 1943 and took part in the invasion of Sicily doing dock work in Syracuse. Later, they moved north with the Eight Army, first to Beri for dock work and then to Rimini on the Adriatic Sea during January, 1945, where the letter was written. In July, they were back in Egypt and the Qasassin camp.

B. S. Gaseitsiwe, Kanye, was Bathoen II, Kgosi of the baNgwaketse. Mookgami Gaseitsiwe, his son, was acting Kgosi in the mid-70s.



British FPO 605 was located in Italy in early 1945. At German surrender, it was in Northern Italy or Austria.

African Pioneers
Basutoland

Order Home for Reading Material

Letter from Basuto pioneer of Coy 1917 to the Sesuto Book Depot in Morija. The airletter must have contained a postal order against regulations to pay for books to be mailed back to the Middle East.

Airletter mailed 23 MR 45
from FPO 731. Received 3
APR 1945 in Morja.

The books ordered were
'Practical Methods to Learn
Sesuto By' and 'Common
Mistakes.' Preparation for
returning home!

NL 506
22.3.45. 1917 Basuto Coy
Morija Sesuto Book Depot.
Yumana laka kele. Kalona e Sale ke
lebe lla buka ea ka ho na mono ha
ke e bone hofehla. hake tsebe hore
lato kama hobane ke nese ke eke

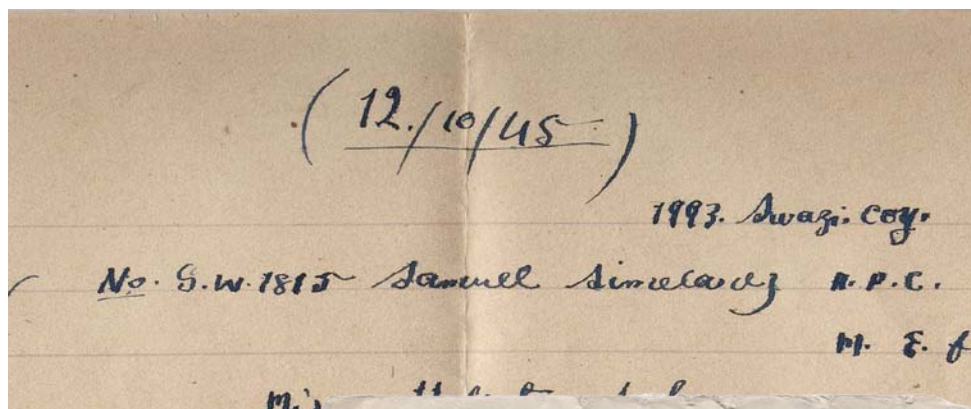


British FPO 731
was located in
Hafia, Palestine
1945-1948.

Coy 1917 arrived during late 1941 in Syria in the middle of a bitter cold winter. The company transferred in early October, 1942, to shell hauling near El Alamein. In early 1943, they moved up with the Eighth Army to Tripoli and witnessed the defeat of the Axis forces in Africa. The company remained in Egypt and later transferred to Palestine, where the letter was written.

African Pioneers
Swaziland

Concessional Mail from Swazi Pioneers



Cancelled by military Egyptian Postage Prepaid cancels. The Post Office number is indistinct. Endorsed by handstamp inscribed 'CONCESSIONAL POSTAGE/ PERSONNEL FROM AFRICA'.



Airmail letters written home toward the end of the war by Swazi pioneers of Coy 1993. Coy 1993 was among the first six companies formed in Swaziland in 1942.

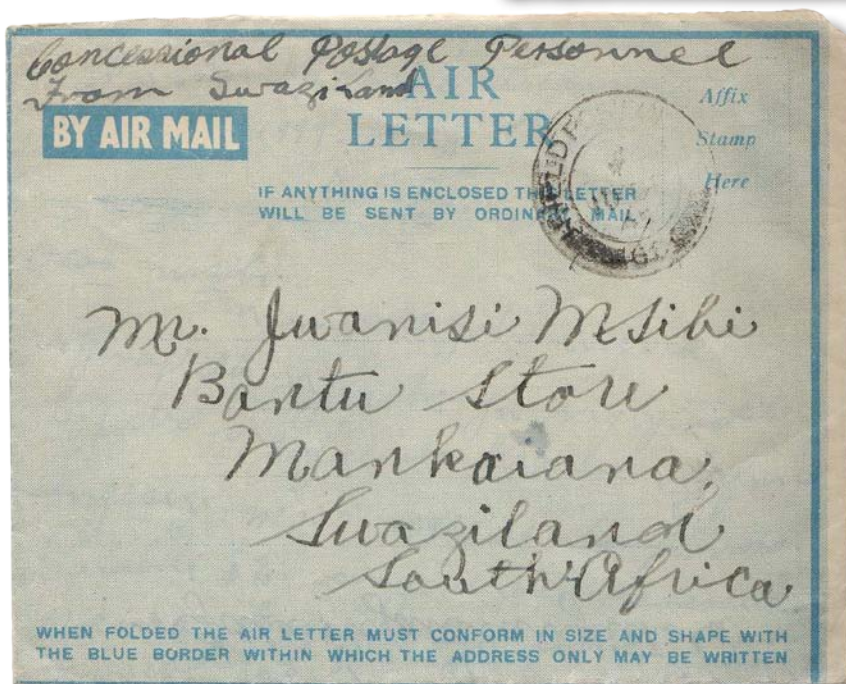
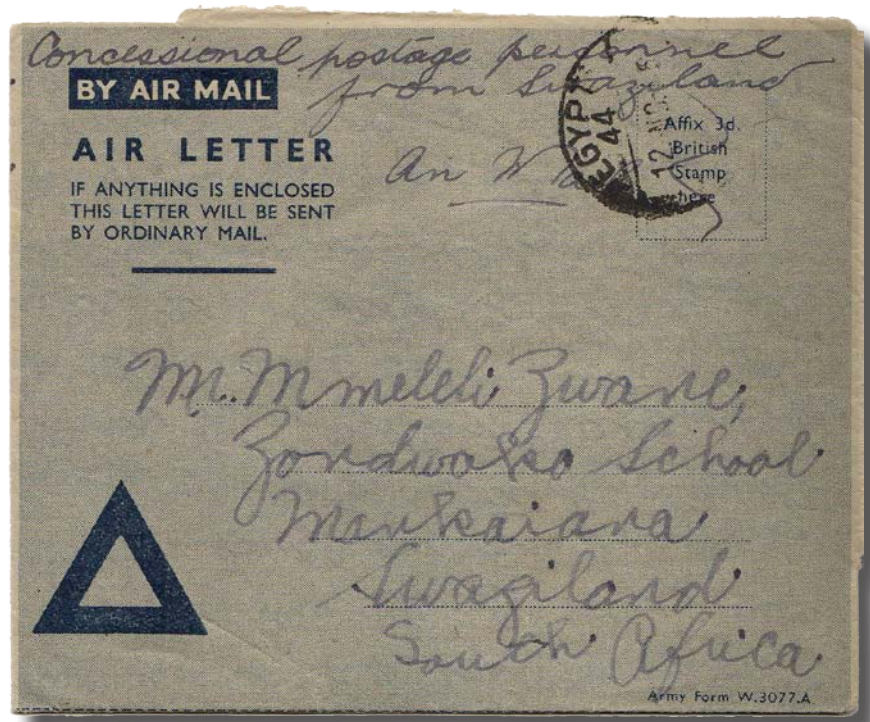
It was the official policy at the request of Swazi King Sobhuza that Swazi companies should be kept together and not be diluted into British units. The Swazi pioneers, thus, had limited contact with other soldiers. The result was an easy demobilization and repatriation to tribal life in Swaziland. The Swazi pioneers did not return home with new radical demands of the monarchy and British administration.

African Pioneers
Swaziland

Help With Letter Writing

Letters home from Swazi pioneers of 1997 Coy of the Middle East Forces. The two letters written two days apart by two different pioneers were both addressed by the first letter writer. The literacy rate was low among the pioneers and help with letter writing must have been common. Often it was the company chaplain that assisted.

Sw. No. 28/2
Sgt.
Lipungu Delama
1997 Swazi Coy H.C.
M.P. H.
12/12/45.
Mankaiana
Swaziland
South Africa



As 3561. 1/4/45. Veli Dlamini
1997. Swazi Coy H.C.
M.E.F.
10 = 12.5.45
Dean msihi
ngempilo yako mina

Cancelled by Egyptian Postage Prepaid. No. 44 appears to have been assigned to Post Office at the Qasassin Pioneer Camp.



African Pioneers
Bechuanaland

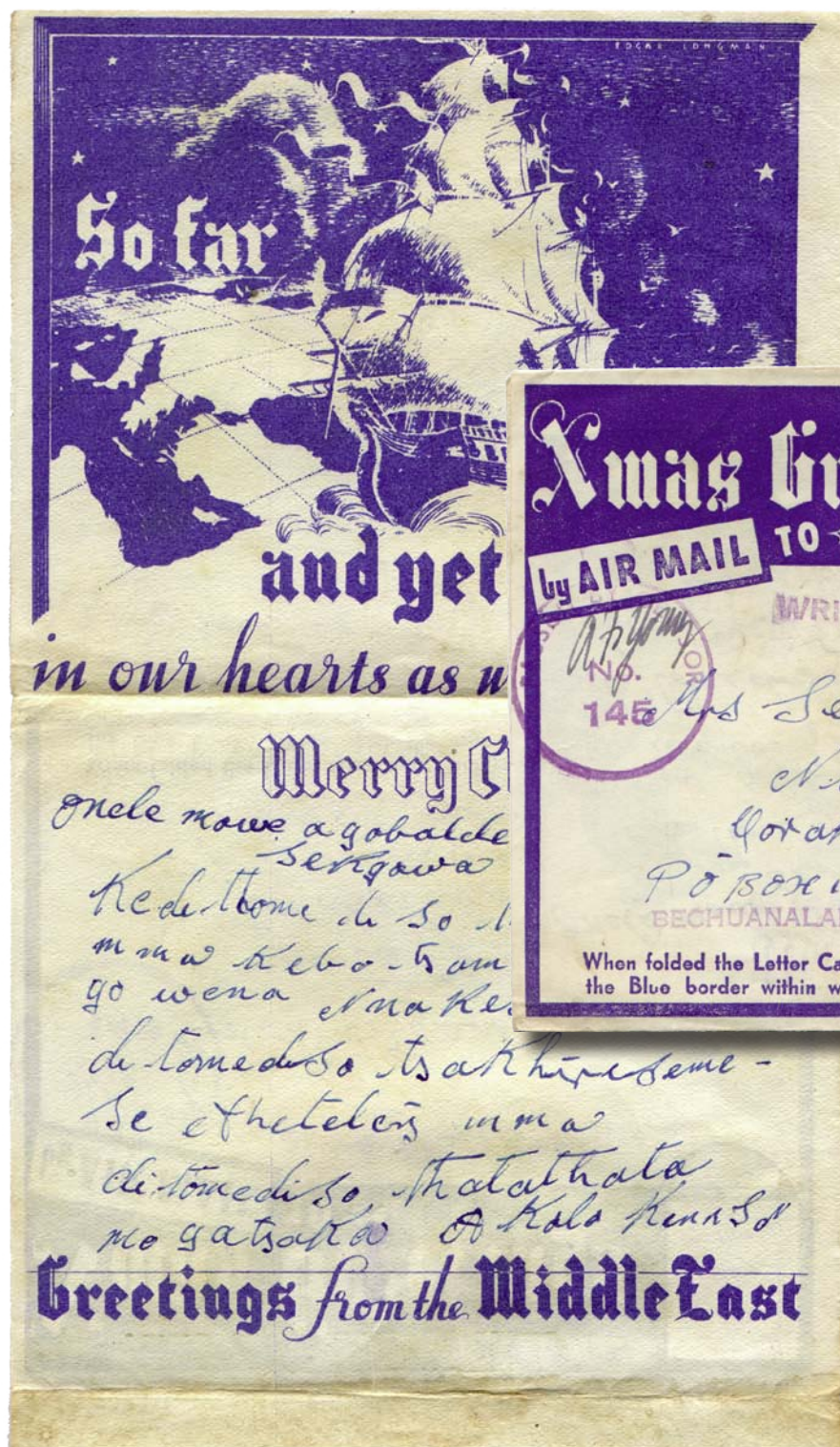
Xmas Greetings from Middle East Forces

These illustrated Airmail Letter Cards were produced for the Middle East Forces in 1942. There is no return address on the card. However, the card is censored by Lt. A.F. Young. The lieutenant was attached to Bechuana Coy 1981. The card was mailed on November 6, 1942, to a Mrs. Sekgarametso and received at Kgosi Tshekedi Khama's office in Serowe on 19 December 1942. P.O. Box 1, Serowe, was obviously Tshekedi Khama's box.

Coy 1981 served as a labour company in Syria and Egypt during 1942-43.



British FPO 187
was located
in Alexandria,
Egypt, between
1940 and 1946



BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

Company made handstamp. Only
found on Coy 1981 correspondence.



Kgosi Tshekedi Khama's cachet
on reverse.

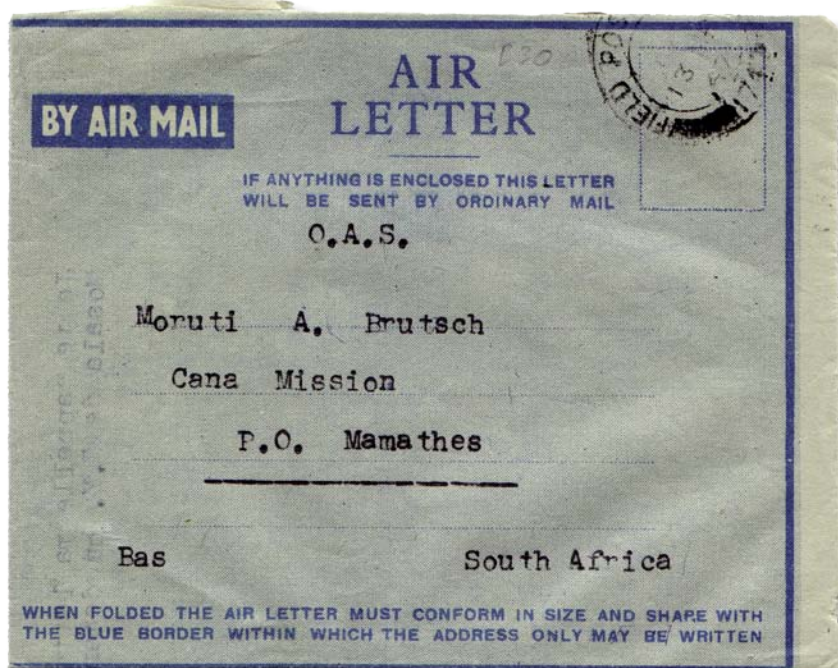
African Pioneers
Basutoland

High Commission Territories Peace Corps

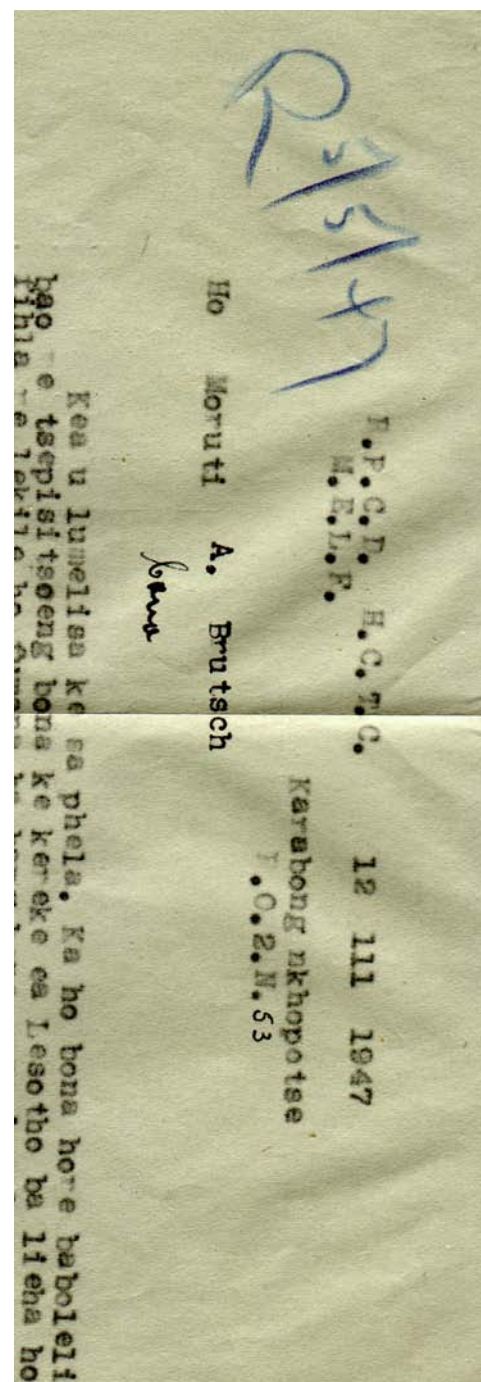
The High Commission Territories Corps (H.C.T.C.) was formed after German capitulation. Many pioneers reenlisted. The corps was part of the Royal Pioneer Corps and was mostly engaged in guarding and construction in Palestine and the Suez Canal. The corps was in southern Africa known as the Peace Corps.

Airletter from Palestine to Cana Mission, Mamathes, Basutoland.
Cancelled by FPO 172 on 13 III 1947. The letter was received in
Basutoland on May 5, 1947, nearly two months later.

Endorsed On Active Service.



British FPO 174 was in Jerusalem, Palestine, during 1945-48.



R.P.C.D. Royal Pioneer Corps Division

H.C.T.C. High Commission Territories Corps

M.E.L.F. Middle East Land Forces

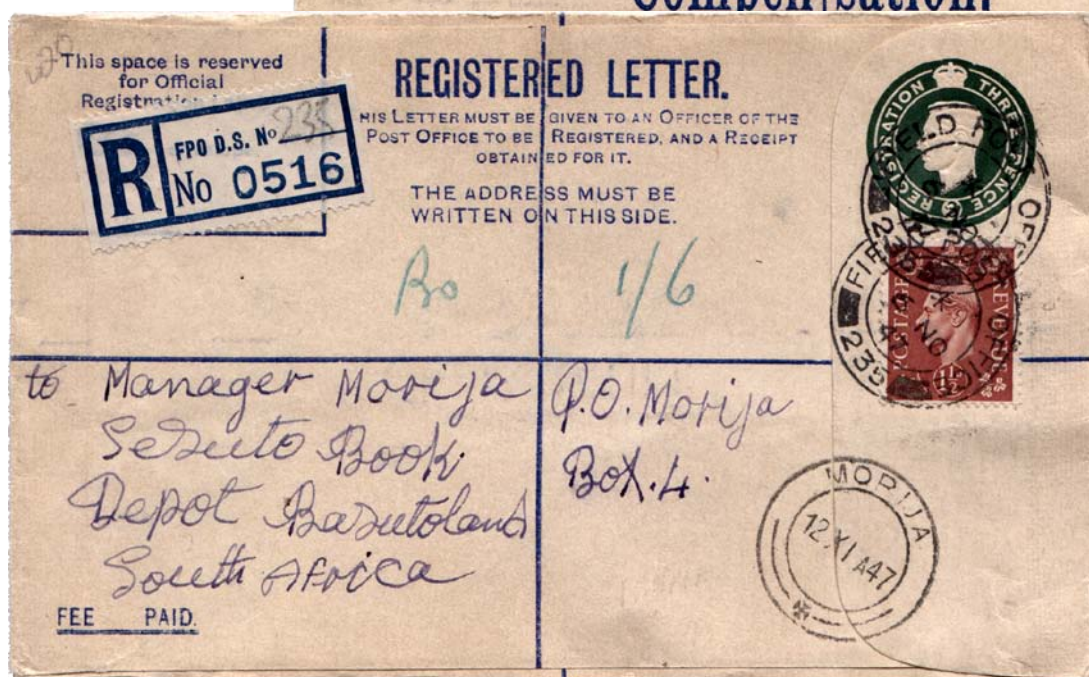
African Pioneers
Basutoland

Education for Repatriation

Registered letters from Basuto pioneers to Basutoland bookstore specialising in educational Sesuto literature.

From Pioneer of 2303
Coy of H.C.T.C (FPO
235).
Coy 2303 was formed
from several A.P.C.
companies for guarding
the Suez Canal.

from. AS/4281 Moleko. M.
2313 Bad Coy
H.C.T. Corp
M. E. L. F.



in the Post
on up to £5
p to £2 for
oad.



Base Army Post
Office 4.

Mailed from British FPO
293 to Morija in 1944.
FPO 293 was at Qasassin
Pioneer Camp in 1943
and possibly also in late
1944 when the letter
was written.



African Pioneers
Bechuanaland

The Legacy

In September 1947, a repatriated sergeant, Molwa Sekgoma, writes to a friend that he had met during the war in Italy. He tells about life in Bechuanaland, being married, resistance against South African take over of Bechuanaland, stamps he had collected, and other subjects that one would expect to be telling a good friend.

Such contacts were unheard of before the war. The war and the experiences abroad was an important factor in changing colonial life and shaping the future particularly after independence in 1966.

Everything that the colonial administrations had feared the most had become reality.



Bechuanaland issued a set of stamps in 1966 to commemorate the Royal Pioneer Corps. The African Pioneer Corps was part of the Royal Pioneer Corps that constituted the labour force of the British Army.



The '5c Last Day in the Desert' stamp used to uprate postal order in 1966 in Bobonong.
The photograph used for this stamp was shown on the exhibit front page.



General Service Medal presented to AS 2585 Cpl. M. Tsilo, A.P.C. for services in Palestine 1945-48.

BECHUANALAND

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Over 800 items of Stellaland and the Bechuanalands are listed and illustrated on the website