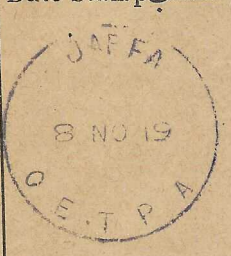



## BRITISH EMPIRE INTERVENTION IN THE CENTRAL POWERS DURING WORLD WAR I & ITS AFTERMATH

This exhibit is a special study that examines postal activity during the British military intervention in the enemy countries from 1915 to 1935. It is divided into two distinct sections: the Ottoman Empire and the other enemy countries. Only in the former were territories actually occupied during the war, starting with an expedition into Lower Mesopotamia. This was followed by a push up the Tigris River and eventually into Kurdistan, thus completing the British possession of what is Iraq today. The other activities covered here include the unsuccessful invasion of the Dardanelles in 1915-1916 as well as the successful move from Egypt into Southern Palestine in 1917. This campaign led to occupation of that entire province, as well as an advance into Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Cilicia at the end of the war. British troops also occupied Constantinople and other strategic areas along the straits between Europe and Asia at the end of 1918.

The other Central Powers -- Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Germany -- were not occupied during the war but only afterward pursuant to the terms of the respective Armistices and Peace Treaties and are shown in a second section of the exhibit. All of this activity had considerable philatelic consequences. In addition to military mail during the fighting and garrison periods, civil postal services had to be developed for some of the political entities that were created. Moreover, mail from the occupation forces in Germany included that from teams administering the terms of the Treaty, including those in charge of rail and river traffic, enforcing disarmament provisions and other functions.

B. & C.

	Date Stamp ختم المكتب	T. 3	<b>OCCUPIED ENEMY TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION PALESTINE- TELEGRAPHS</b>
10		To	الى
			بابا يدانية 
	ملاحظات		
Date تاريخ	Time وقت		
7	9		نحب يدع بالحكمة لذلك حال ال

A telegram written in Arabic on a form specially printed for the OETA (Occupied Enemy Territory Administration) in Palestine. Sent in November 1919, it has a postmark inscribed "JAFFA/OETPA (Occupied Enemy Territory Postal Administration)" that is unlisted in the literature, thus providing an unusual piece of history from the period.

As shown on the Plan Page that follows, the Ottoman part of the exhibit is presented in chronological order as the various portions of the Empire were invaded, followed by the occupation of Turkey proper. Then, the occupation of the other Central Powers is covered. There is a clear imbalance of material from some of these areas, especially the Rhineland, which reflects the much longer period of occupation and large number of troops involved. The final act was the force sent to supervise the plebiscite in the Saar in 1935, bringing an end to the interventions 16 years after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.



# BRITISH EMPIRE INTERVENTION IN THE CENTRAL POWERS

## PLAN OF EXHIBIT

Material in this exhibit will be shown chronologically for the parts of the Ottoman Empire, followed by the other enemy home territories:

Iraq -- 1915-1923  
Dardanelles -- 1915  
Hedjaz -- 1916-1919  
Long Island -- 1916  
Palestine -- 1917-1922  
Transjordan -- 1918-1921  
Lebanon -- 1918-1919  
Syria -- 1918-1919  
Cilicia -- 1919  
Yemen -- 1919-1920  
Turkey Proper -- 1918-1923  
Austria -- 1918-1920  
Hungary -- 1918-1922  
Bulgaria -- 1918-1921  
Germany -- 1918-1929  
German Plebiscites -- 1920-1935



Inbound cover addressed to Lt. Pearson, who was attached to the 93rd Burma Infantry serving as part of Force D in Mesopotamia (Iraq). Arrival backstamp of Indian F.P.O. 54 of 16 June 1917, located at Baghdad. Note marking inscribed "Reported Missing/Return to Sender." Lt. Pearson was later reported killed in action by the Turks in the Hamrin Hills on 25 March 1917. Identified mail related to the Burmese Contingent in this campaign is very unusual.

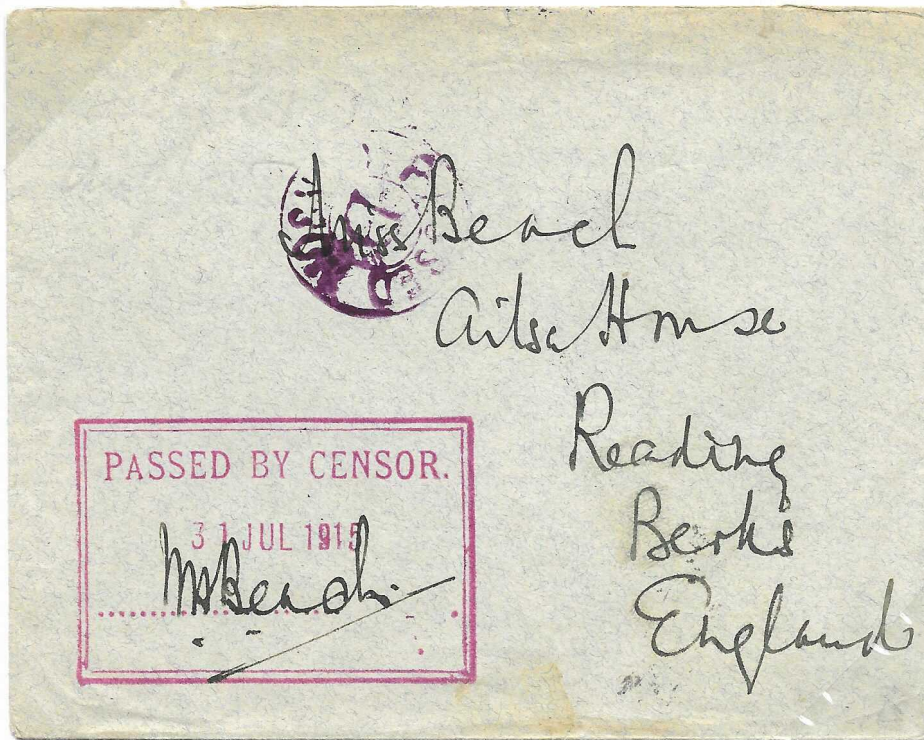
# PART I -- THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

## IRAQ

With the need to protect the oil refinery at Abadan, Persia from a possible attack by Ottoman forces, the first aggressive British action against the Central Powers in World War I was a landing by Indian troops at the port of Fao at the head of the Persian Gulf on 6 November 1914 and capture of Basra on the 22nd. The rest of Lower Mesopotamia was occupied during 1915, then Upper Mesopotamia in 1917 and Kurdistan in late 1918. These areas were joined together as Iraq, which was administered as a British mandate under the League of Nations.



I.E.F. Force D  
31 July 1915



Fieldpost covers from Iraq are very elusive until mid-1915 because the number of men deployed was small and most of the Indian troops were illiterate. Thus, the above cover is considered to be quite early for this campaign and is attributable to Iraq based on the circular "Passed Censor/D" marking. The red rectangular censor marking is a type seldom seen. Cover was backstamped in transit in Bombay on 28 August 1915.



**IRAQ  
Military Mail**

The British did not establish their own field post offices in Mesopotamia but utilized the Indian facilities. Thus, the military covers would normally have markings that would include "I.E.F.(Indian Expeditionary Force)" or "Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force."

Base Office/I.E.F.  
26 April 1916

F.P.O. No. 329  
13 April 1918



Upper cover has extremely elusive (only two examples recorded) intaglio seal inscribed "L. of C. (Line of Communications)/I.E.F." Lower cover has oval marking of the "Base Supply Office." It was sent from FPO 329 at Magil, near Basra.



IRAQ  
Military Mail

F.P.O. No. 34  
17 January 1917

CORRESPONDENCE TABLES.

**ARMY Y. M. C. A. OF INDIA.**

HEADQUARTERS: 9, RUSSELL ST., CALCUTTA.

MESOPOTAMIA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

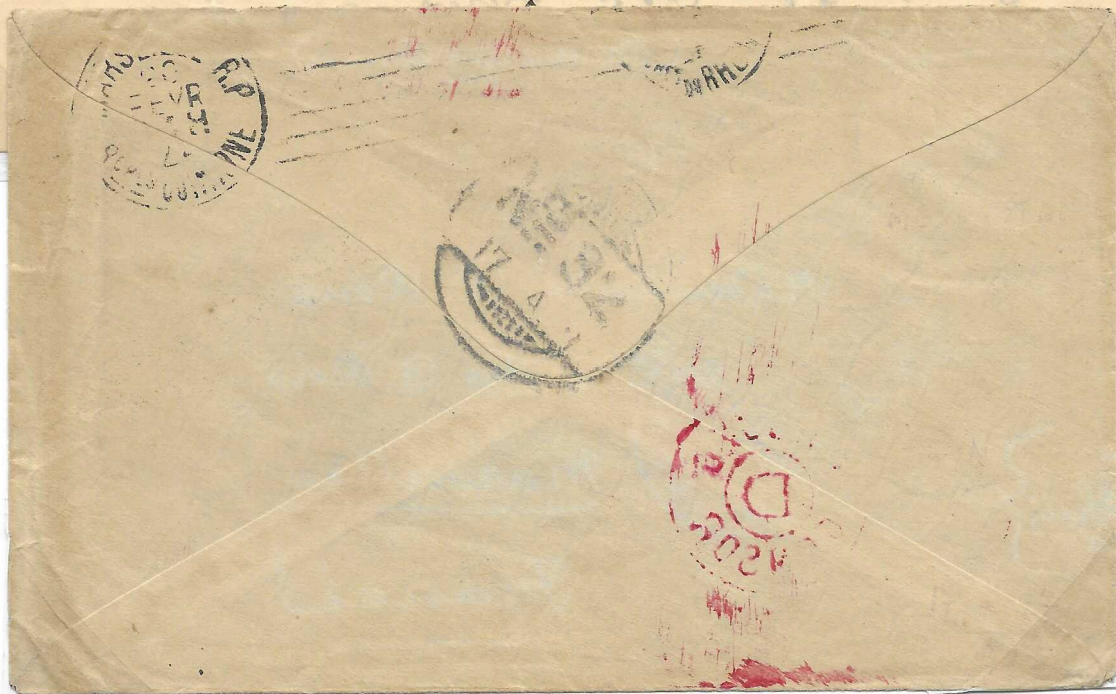


*Ymca  
Base P.O. Basra  
C/o P. O. Bombay -  
17<sup>th</sup> Jan 17.*

*My Dear Friend Roe,*

*Received your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov  
many thanks for it indeed. I have come further up from  
Basra about 71 miles - they say that this is the best  
place in the whole of Mesopotamia.*

*pleasant  
ascent*



Cover from YMCA official sent through Indian FPO 34 at Amara to Marseille, France. Enclosed letter written on special stationery supplied to the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.

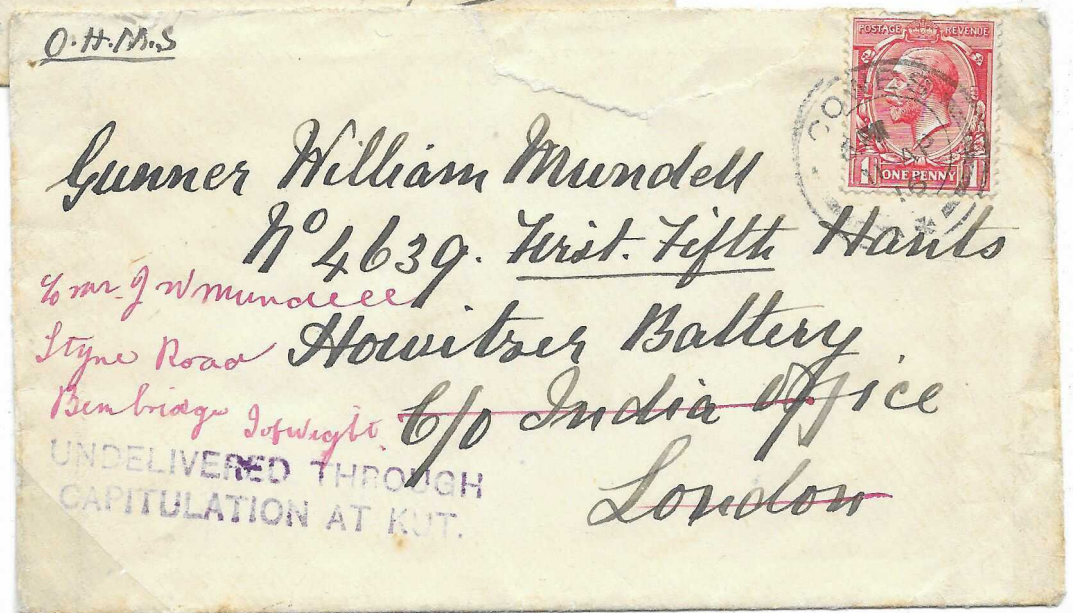
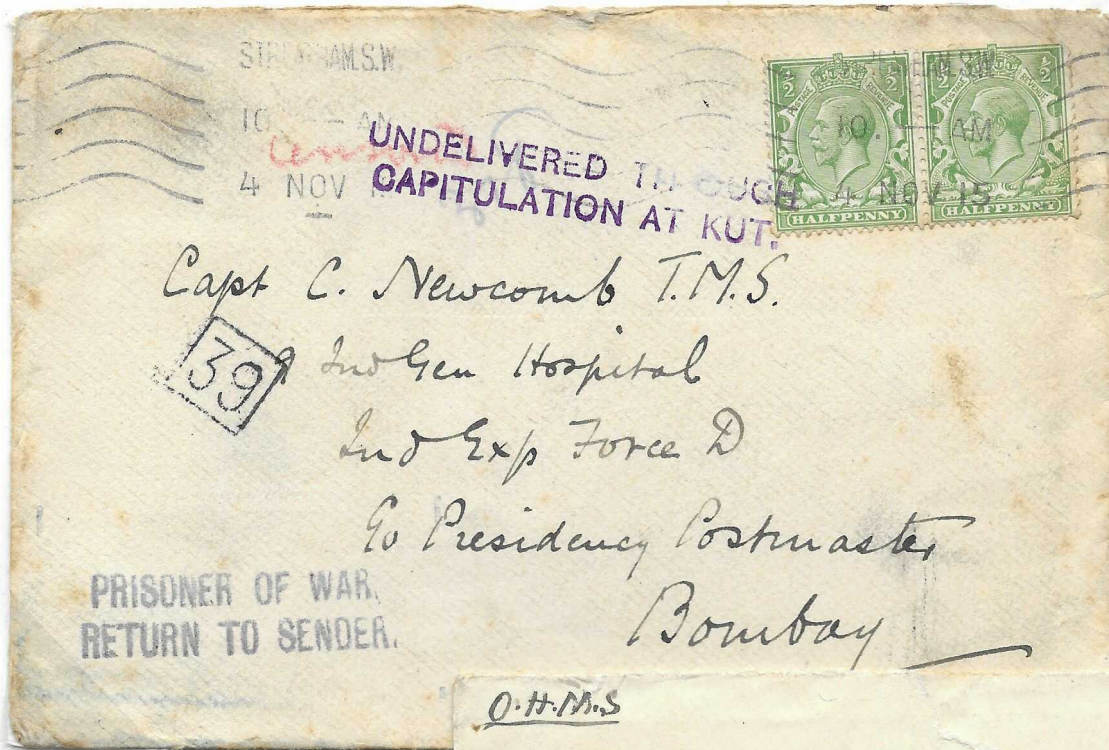


IRAQ  
Kut al-Amara Siege Mail

Streatham  
4 November 1915

Cowes  
11 April 1916

Letters to British soldiers captured at Kut. Marking of "Undelivered through Capitulation at Kut" was applied and the letters returned to sender.



Covers addressed to Captain Newcomb at the 2nd General Hospital and Gunner Mundell of the Hampshire Howitzer Battery sent to Kut al-Amara after its capture by the British on 28 September 1915. However, the Turks successfully counterattacked, laying siege to the city on 7 December. After 143 days, the garrison ran out of food and was forced to surrender on 29 April 1916. Accumulated mail was marked with the cachet noted above and returned. Upper cover is the only recorded example bearing both the "Kut" and "Prisoner of War" cachets.



IRAQ  
Civil Mail

Busrah  
16 April 1915

Busra  
30 June 1916



Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co.,  
P.O. Box 203,  
Bombay.

**HESKEL MOUALLYM SALEH & Co.**

**BUSRAH.**



*Bernese Alps Milk Co.*



*Stalden, Emmenthal*  
*Switzerland*

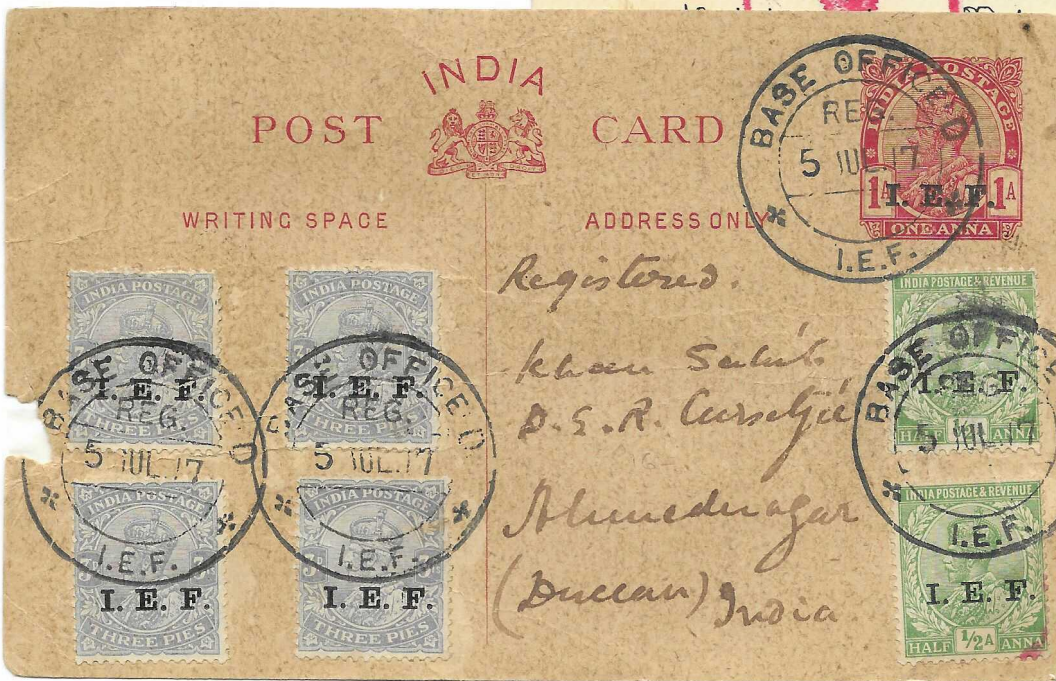
Civil mail service was quickly restored in Basra following the British occupation. Most of such mail was franked with ordinary Indian postage stamps. The squared circle postmark shown on the upper cover was in use for only three months.



**IRAQ**  
**I.E.F. Overprints**

The Indian Postal Service overprinted ten denominations of the current George V definitives with "I.E.F." to pay postal charges for the troops sent from India to fight on the various fronts, including France, East Africa and Mesopotamia. In addition, these stamps were used on civil mail in the occupied areas.

Base Office D  
6 September 1915  
5 July 1917



The Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force was known as I.E.F. 'D' and its headquarters was established at Basra after that city had been occupied. The higher values of the I.E.F. stamps are practically never seen commercially used, so these philatelic covers and postal card are included to show what was issued for this area .



IRAQ  
Civil Mail

Busrah  
27 July 1917

Bagdad  
1 September 1917



Special postmarks were provided for registered mail, with "Reg." under the town names. Postage could be paid with either normal Indian stamps or those overprinted "I.E.F." Examples above from Basra and Baghdad to Paris and Lucknow, respectively.



IRAQ

Although the Turks removed or destroyed most of the stamp supplies in the major post offices as they retreated, after the capture of Baghdad the British gathered up the remaining small quantities and overprinted them "Baghdad/In British Occupation." These were issued on 1 September 1917.

Baghdad  
5 September 1917  
7 September 1917

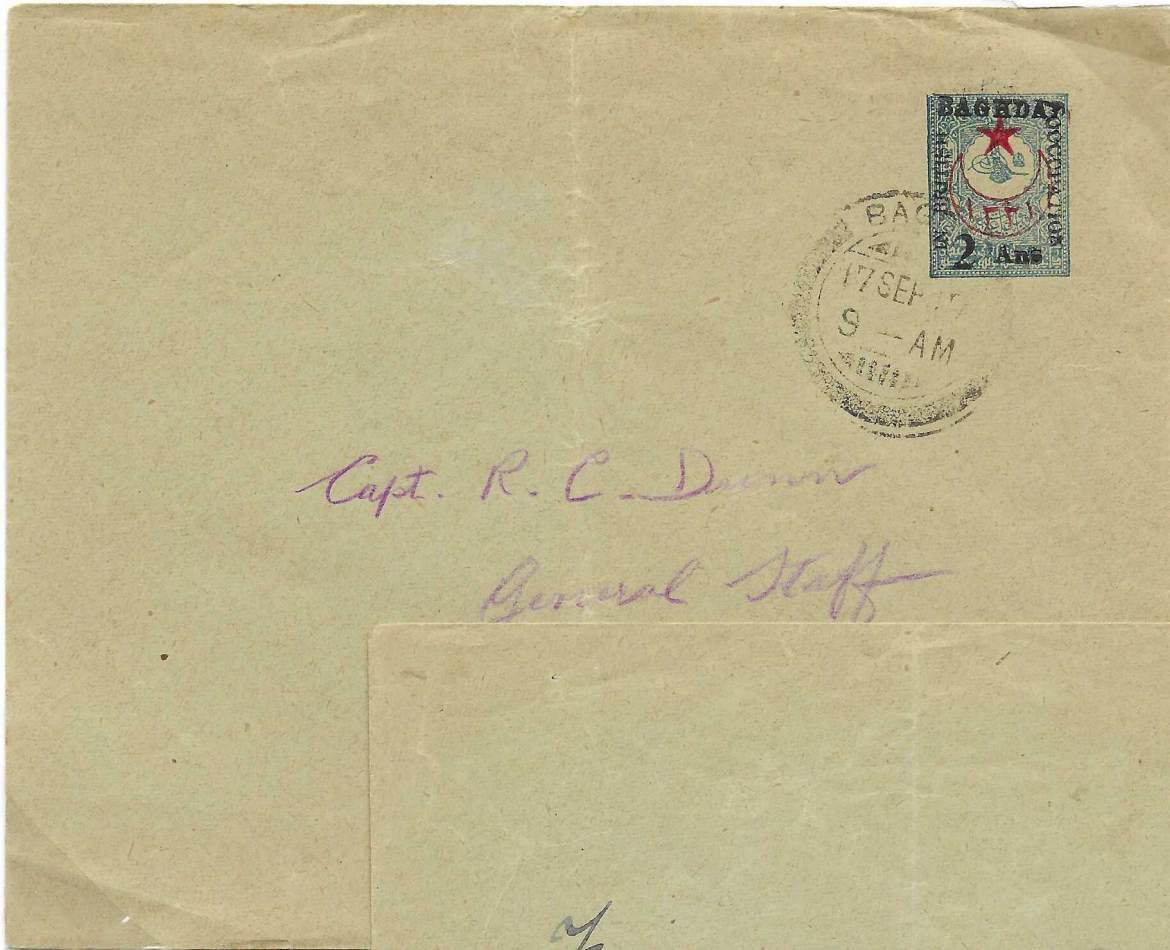


Twenty-five different stamps overprinted "Baghdad" were issued, some in quantities as low as 60 copies. Some of the stamps were Turkish semi-postals that had the wording "Tax for the relief of children of martyrs," which was considered inappropriate by the occupation authorities and blacked out with a handstamp.

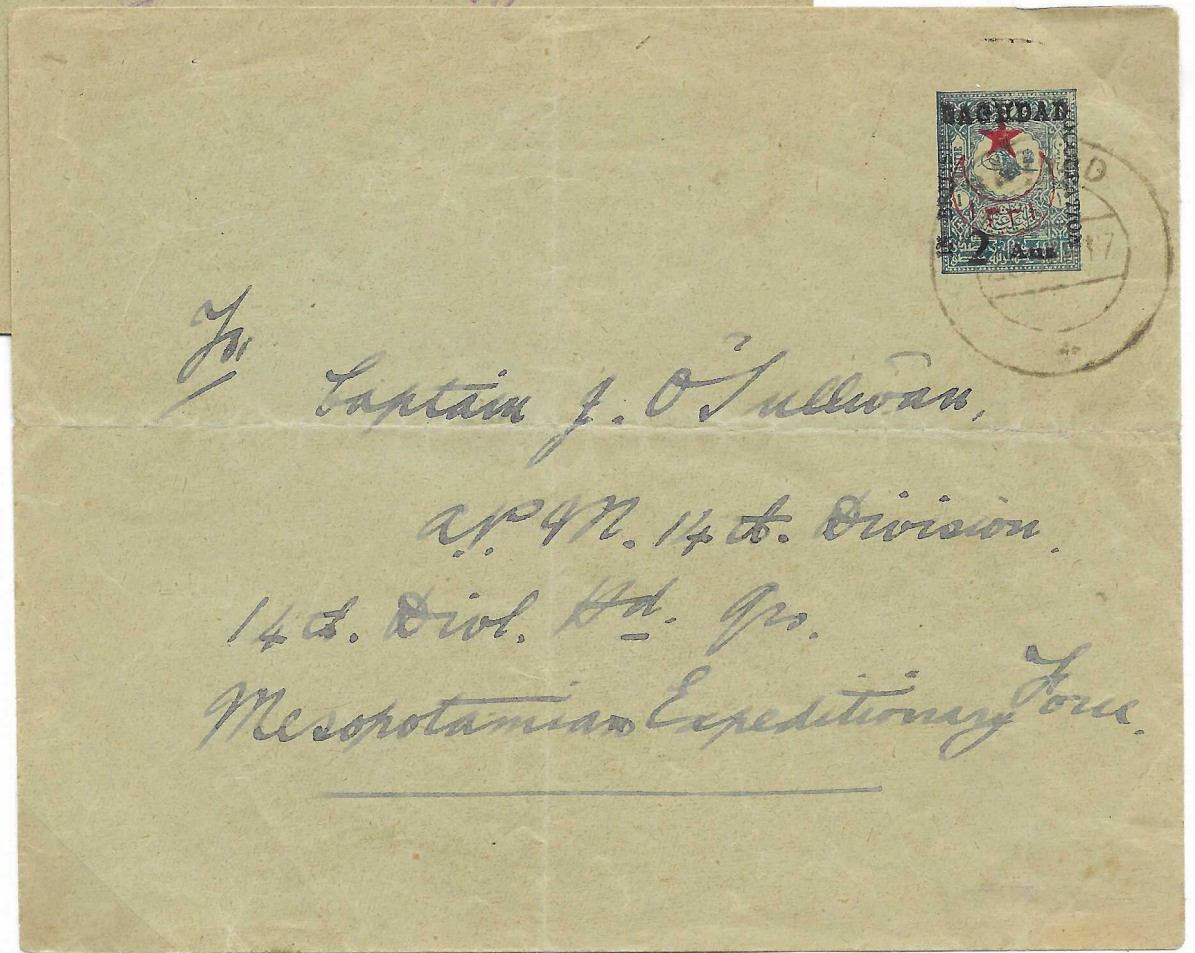


IRAQ

In addition to stamps, a small quantity of Ottoman postal stationery envelopes exists with "Baghdad" overprint.



Baghdad  
17 September 1917  
20 September 1917



Examples of the 2 annas envelopes have the imprinted stamp in both pale blue and blue, as shown above, both sent to local military addresses. Such envelopes are rated as "rare" in the *Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia*.



**IRAQ**  
**Prepared but Unissued Values**

Eight additional stamps were overprinted. However, when it was discovered that fewer than 60 copies of each existed, the decision was made not to issue them at all. As a result, eight copies of each value were kept intact for distribution to high officials and the rest "disfigured" by cutting them in half diagonally or cutting off the perforations. Thus, these prepared but unissued stamps are highly treasured by specialists in Iraqi philately.





IRAQ

The "Baghdad" overprints were quickly sold out, forcing the postal authorities to revert to the use of Indian stamps. These were postmarked by civil or military cancels as conveniently available.

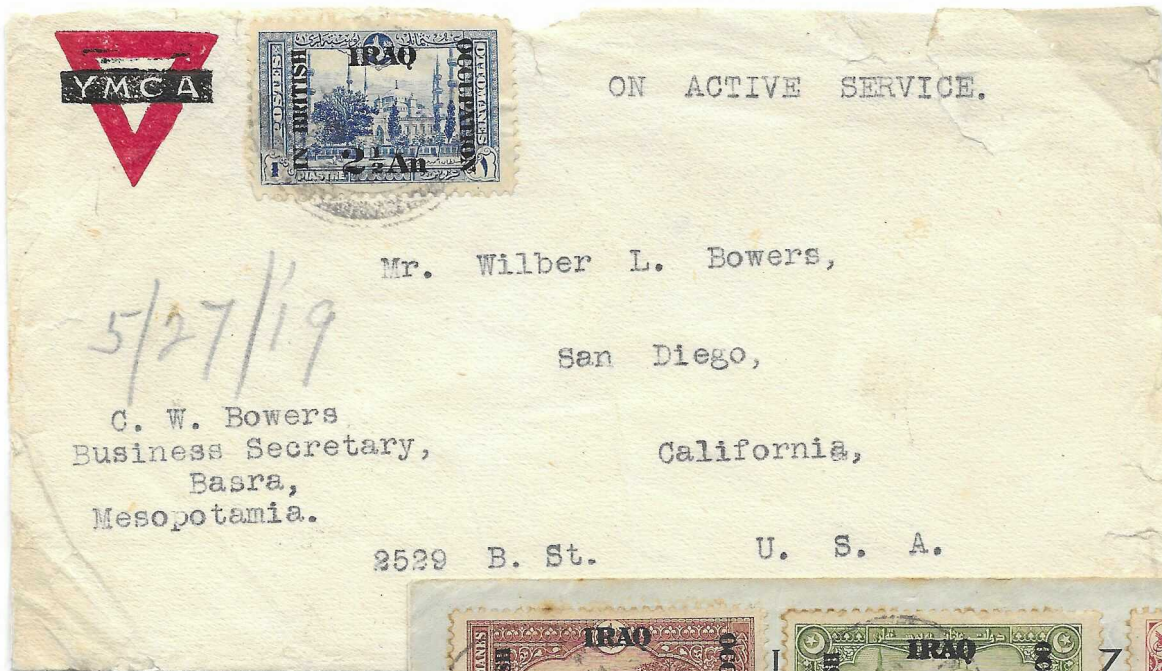


Examples showing Indian franking on civil mail in Mesopotamia in the period between the use of "Baghdad" and "Iraq" overprinted issues.



IRAQ

A second series of stamps consisted of Turkish stamps overprinted "Iraq/In British Occupation" which were issued on 1 September 1918. By this time, the British had occupied southern and central Iraq, up to Kirkuk.



Basrah  
27 May 1919

Baghdad  
30 October 1920

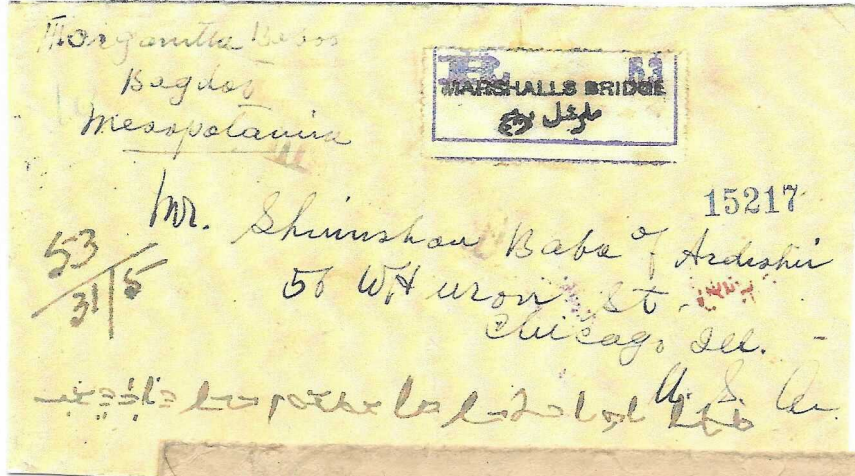


Lower cover shows the high values of the "Iraq" overprints registered to Switzerland. Philatelically prepared but a highly unusual franking.



IRAQ

Marshalls Bridge  
31 May 1919

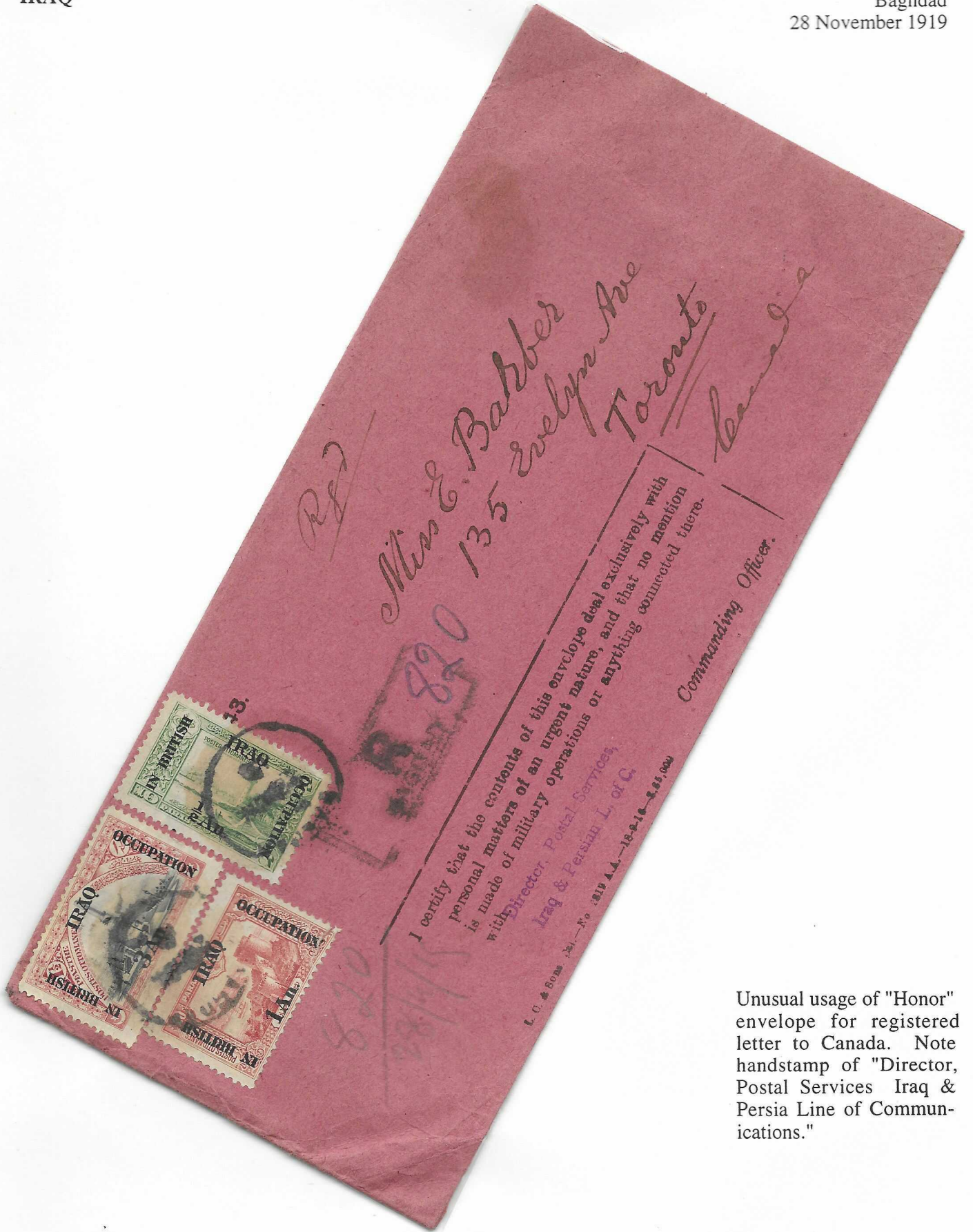


Registered cover from the Marshalls Bridge branch of the Baghdad post office to Chicago, properly franked with 4 1/2 annas postage. A seldom seen postmark.



IRAQ

Baghdad  
28 November 1919



*Rf7*  
 Miss E. Barber  
 135 Evelyn Ave  
 Toronto  
 Canada

I certify that the contents of this envelope deal exclusively with personal matters of an urgent nature, and that no mention is made of military operations or anything connected therewith.  
 Director, Postal Services,  
 Iraq & Persian L. of C.

Commanding Officer.

Unusual usage of "Honor" envelope for registered letter to Canada. Note handstamp of "Director, Postal Services Iraq & Persia Line of Communications."



No. 7969

*B. P. A. Expertising Limited*  
*London-England*  
EXPERT COMMITTEE

31 MAY 1981

The Committee is of the opinion that the

BAGHDAD 1917 Cover bearing  $\frac{1}{4}$ a. on 2pa

claret.  $\frac{1}{4}$ a on 5pa dull purple and  $\frac{1}{2}$ a on

10pa grey-green of Turkey, overprinted in black

(S.G. 1.2.19) is genuine. Back-stamped

\* Baghdad 5.9.17, Advance Base 6.9.17 \*



Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed



I. 264

B. P. A. Expertising Limited  
London-England

EXPERT COMMITTEE

19 DEC 1982

The Committee is of the opinion that tl

BAGHDAD 1917 Postal Stationery Card of  
Turkey (1 p. blue on green paper, overprinted Star  
and Crescent 1331 in red), overprinted and surcharged  
'2 Ans' in black (RL EP 2), cancelled at  
Baghdad, is genuine



*J. M. [unclear]*  
*center*  
*J. M. [unclear]*



No. 5861

*B. P. A. Expertising Limited*  
*London-England*  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

31 AUG 1940

The Committee is of the opinion that the

BAGHDAD 1917 Postal Stationery Card (1 pi.  
dull blue, overprinted Star and Crescent 1331 in  
red), overprinted in black (year 3) is  
genuine



*W. M. Colver*  
*W. M. Colver*

Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed



No. 52696

The British Philatelic Association, Limited  
EXPERT COMMITTEE

3 BERNERS STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. 12 MAY 1965 19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 ½a. on 10pa.  
green, unused without gum, an unissued variety,  
is genuine.

*Rosamund*  
*A. F. Martin*  
*Secretary*



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*



No. 52695

**The British Philatelic Association, Limited**  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

3 BERNERS STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. 12 MAY 1965 19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 ¼a. on 6pa.  
deep blue, unused without gum, an unissued  
variety, is genuine.

*Reverend*  
*A. S. Entartim*  
*Received*



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*



No. 52698

**The British Philatelic Association, Limited**  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

3 BERNERS STREET  
LONDON, W.1 12 MAY 1965 19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 ½a. on 10pa

green, unused without gum, an unissued  
variety, is genuine.

*Rosenhow*  
*A. F. ...*  
*...*



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*



No. 52697

**The British Philatelic Association, Limited**  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

3 BERNERS STREET,  
LONDON, W.1 12 MAY 1965 19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 2a on 40pa.  
blue, unused without gum, an unissued variety  
is genuine.

*Roermond*

*A. E. E. E. E. E. E.*

*seeeeeee*

52697



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*



No. 52700

**The British Philatelic Association, Limited**  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

3 BERNERS STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. 112 MAY 1965.19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 1a. on 20pa.  
red, unused without gum, an unissued variety,  
is genuine.

*Robertson*  
*Atkinson*  
*Chesley*



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*



The British Philatelic Association, Limited  
EXPERT COMMITTEE

3 BERNERS STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. 12 MAY 1965 19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 ½a. on 10pa  
green, unused without gum, an unissued variety  
is genuine.

*Roermond*  
*Al. B. ...*  
*.....*



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*

F. E. C.

---

# FRIEDL EXPERT COMMITTEE

FOUNDED BY OTTO W. FRIEDL

HERBERT J. BLOCH  
EDWIN MUELLER, DECEASED

10 EAST 40TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

May 28, 1975

CERTIFICATE NO. 10166

---

MESOPOTAMIA, British Occupation, BAGHDAD Issue  
1/4a on 5pa purple as Scott #N13 but with addi-  
tional overprint as Scott #N20, unissued, pic-  
tured below, is in my opinion genuine.

*Herbert J. Bloch*



---

Expertizing Terms, Par. 13: "The work of the experts is performed according to their best knowledge and with the greatest possible care but neither the experts nor the Friedl Expert Committee accept any responsibility for losses resulting from errors of any kind which nevertheless may occur."



No.

52694

Tabel

**The British Philatelic Association, Limited**  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

3 BERNERS STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. 172 MAY 1965 19

*The Committee is of the opinion that the*  
Baghdad (British Occupation) 1917 ¼a on 4pa  
sepia, unused without gum, an unissued variety,  
is genuine.

*Robertson*  
*Albanus*  
*Reed*



*This opinion is given subject to the conditions  
printed on the back thereof.*