



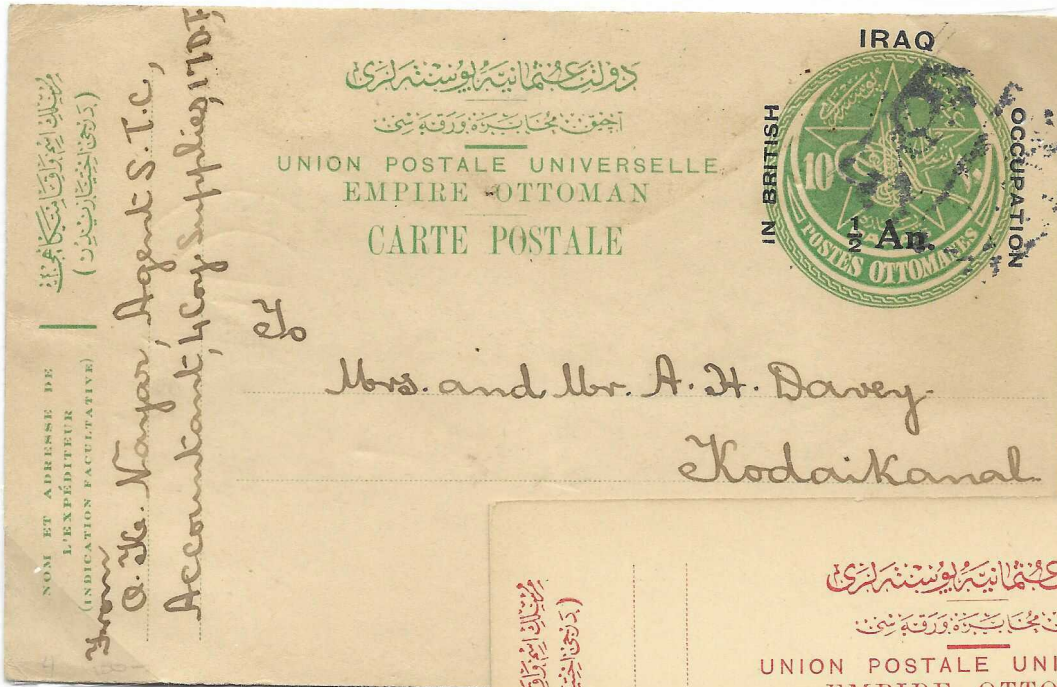
Due to an outbreak of cholera, a new supply of the normal "Iraq" overprints was delayed. As a result, the use of revenues to pay regular postage was authorized in Baghdad and its environs for a brief period in late 1922. A very elusive usage.

IRAQ

Kirkuk
31 December 1920

Lower Baghdad
12 January 1921

Baghdad
29 March 1922



Overprinted Turkish postal stationery was also used during the occupation period. Above are examples of the imprinted envelope as well as domestic and international postal cards.

IRAQ

Bagdad
2 April 1920

Basrah
19 February 1921



Examples of overprinted 2 1/2 annas registration envelopes in two different sizes. Such items are extremely elusive in postally used condition.

IRAQ
Diplomatic Mail

Busra City
25 July 1918



Registered cover franked with 3 annas I.E.F. overprint and sent from Basra City to Egypt by the "Consulat de France en Mesopotamie/Bassorah." Backstamped Cairo and Izbit el Zaiton.

IRAQ

The British strongly desired that Kurdistan in the north, especially the Kirkuk oilfields, come under their control as part of Iraq. To this end troops were moved into the area following the Turkish surrender.



ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Base Office D/I.E.F.
22 February 1919

Mosul
2 March 1919
31 July 1919



Lieut. W. M. Holman,
101, Ladbroke Grove,
London. W. 11.



Captain. A.W. Nightingale.

Attd:R.E.

Office,

Baghdad.



H. L. Ashford Esqr
19 Bownton av.
Streatham Hill
London S.W.
England.

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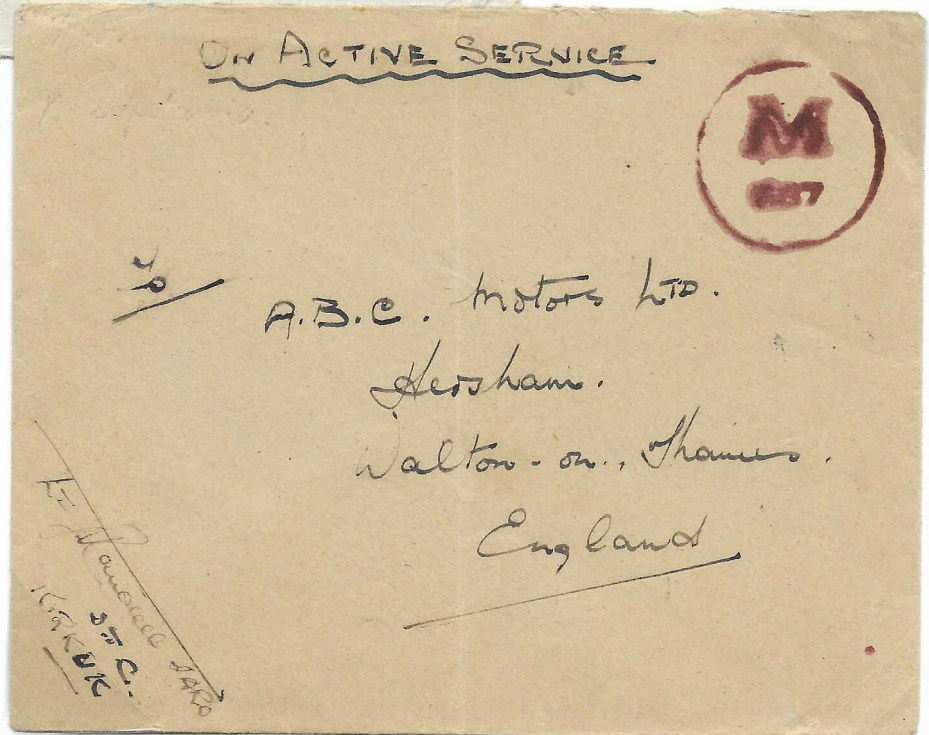
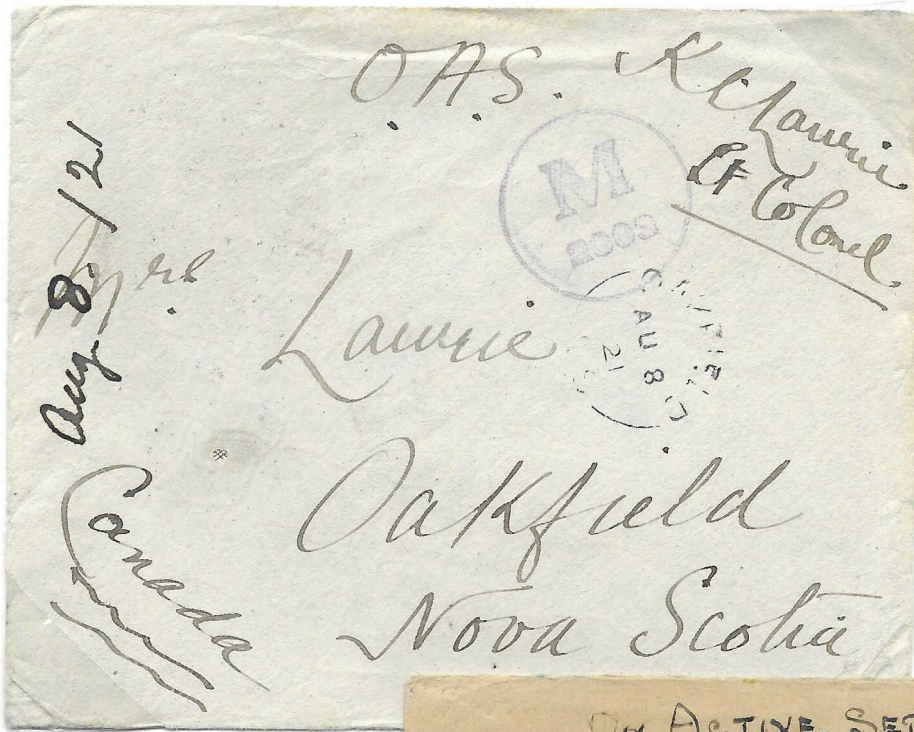
MO 91
Esqr

Because it was occupied later, Kurdistan had a separate postal system from that used in Mesopotamia. Turkish fiscal stamps were overprinted I.E.F. 'D' and cancelled with either Indian Army or civil postmarks.

IRAQ
Military Mail

Mosul
19 June 1921

Kirkuk
19 July 1921

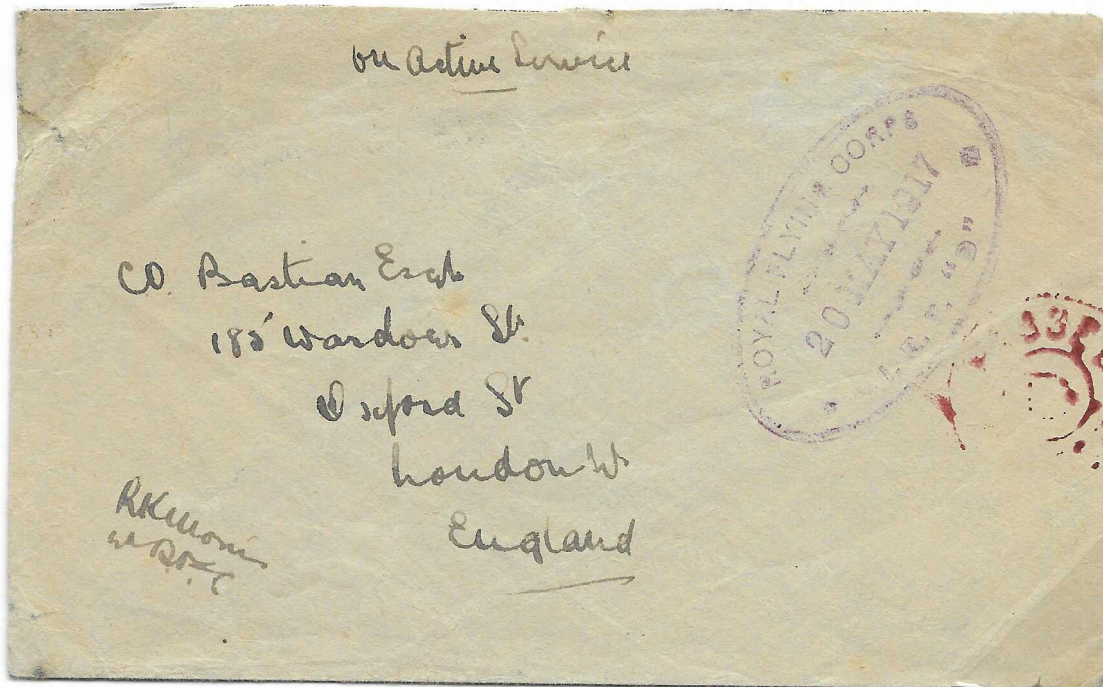


Although there were no British FPOs in Iraq, the military mail from British forces was processed without charge based on a manuscript endorsement "On Active Service." Each cover has "M" in circle censor mark of Mosul and (on the reverse) the cds of the town of origin.

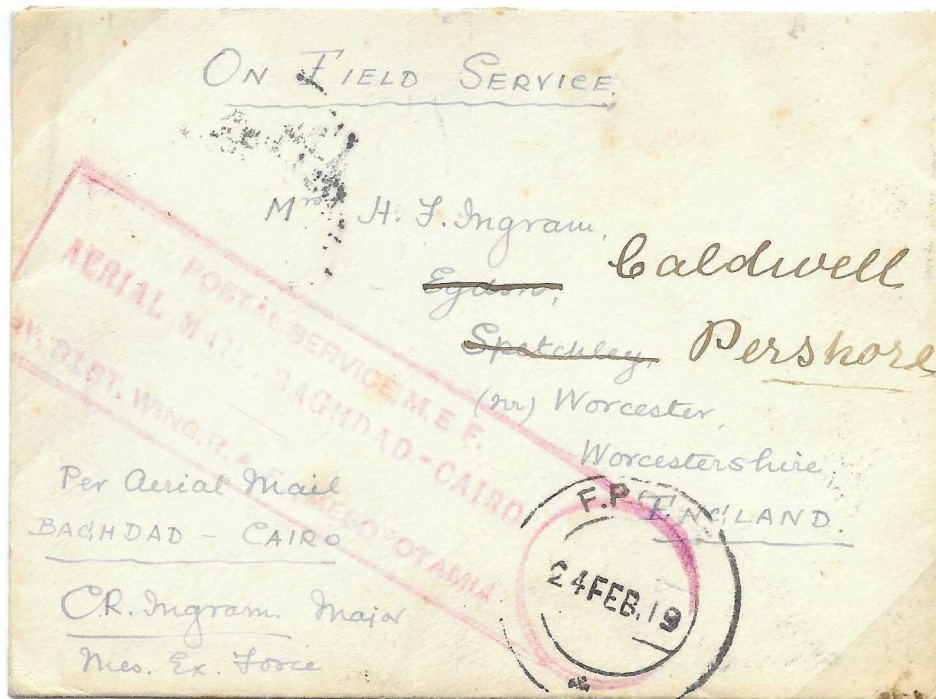
IRAQ
Royal Flying Corps

F.P.O. No. 55
20 May 1917

Base Office D/IEF
27 October 1917



A small number of aircraft and men of the Royal Flying Corps (the predecessor of the RAF) were assigned to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Corps, and mail from this group is very elusive. Upper example has oval RFC marking and was postmarked on the reverse at FPO 55 located at Baghdad. Lower cover has the RFC crest and was mailed at the Base Office in Basra. Printed registration label of "Basra Base" applied on reverse.

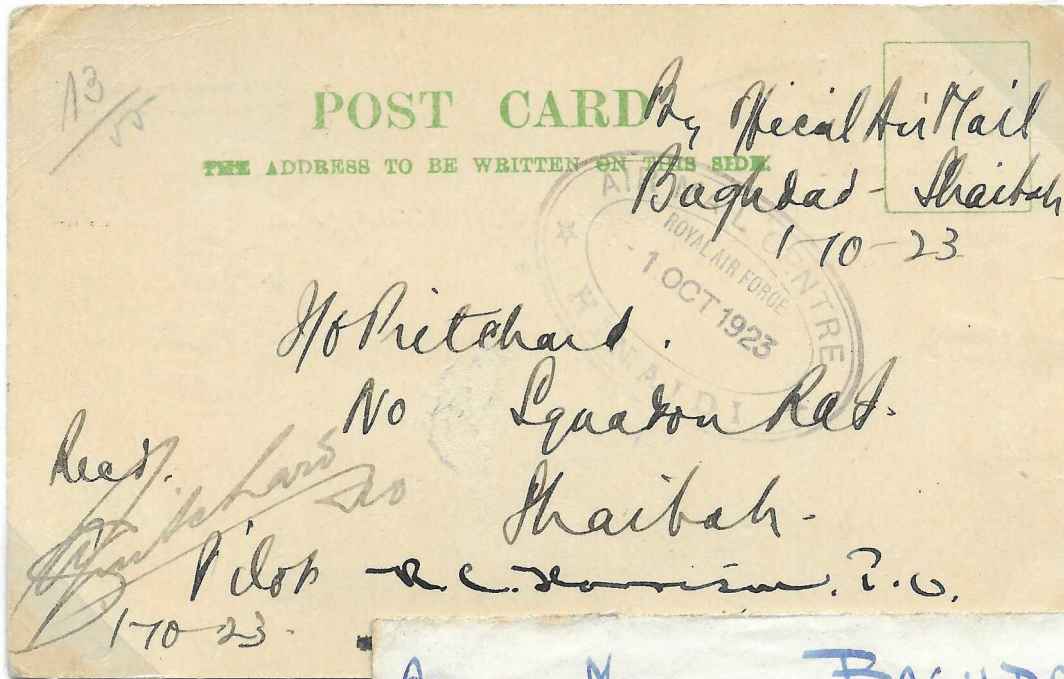


The Royal Air Force flew several pioneer flights via Baghdad. The first through eastbound flight from England to India was in a four-engine Handley-Page aircraft which left Baghdad on 9 January 1919. Firebrace states that six letters were boarded at Baghdad, marked with the special cachets shown. The first westbound flight left Baghdad for Cairo on 24 February with one passenger and "a quantity" of mail, again marked with a special cachet.

IRAQ
Military Airmail Flights

Airmail Centre/Hinai
1 October 1923

Baghdad
26 March 1923



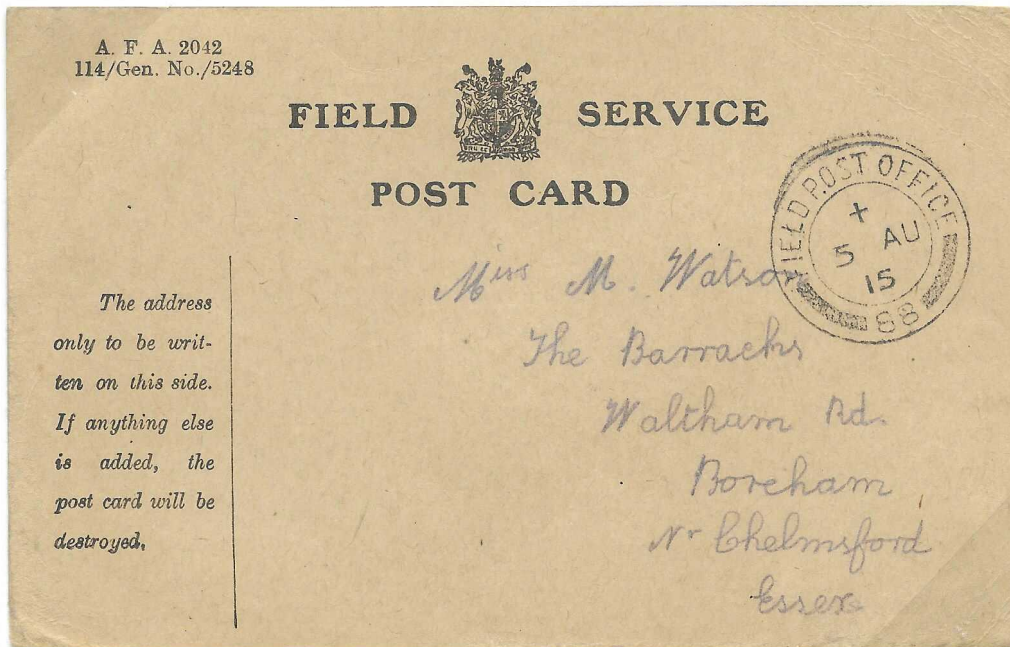
Post card carried by the Royal Air Force on a special Official Air Mail flight from Baghdad/Hinai to Shaibah and signed for by the pilot. Cover sent by General Lucas, Director of Stores & Transport at GHQ Baghdad. Illustration shows special cachet reserved for use by high-ranking personnel at Headquarters, applied on reverse of the envelope.

DARDANELLES

The first aggressive Allied thrust in Europe of World War I was an assault on the Turkish fortifications guarding the waterway from the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean. The ultimate goal was to capture Constantinople, divide Anatolia from European Turkey and open up a new warm water route for shipping war materiel to Russia. The initial landings on Gallipoli began on 25 April 1915. However, the operation was not a success and the forces were withdrawn on 9 January 1916.



Field Post Office 88
5 August 1915

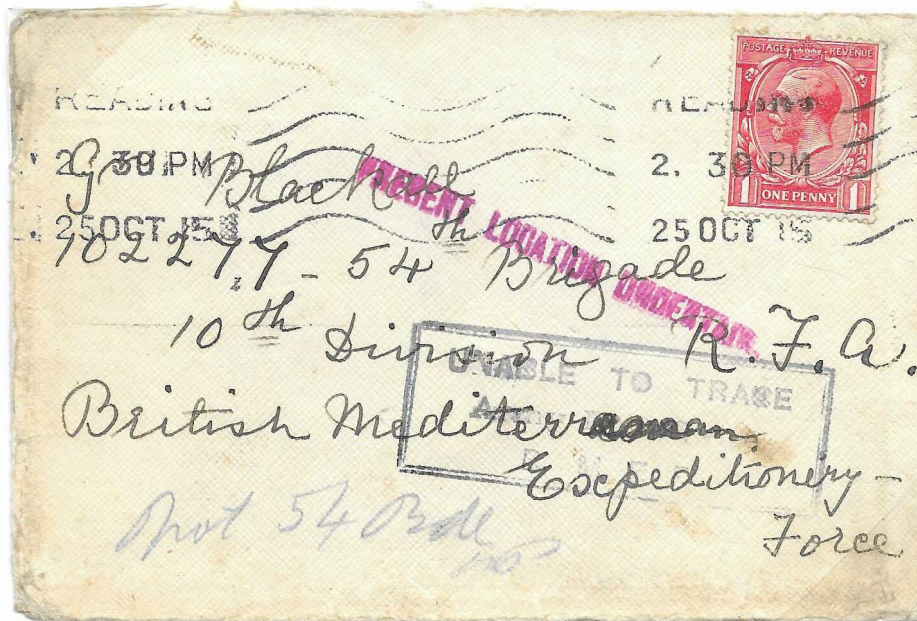


Extensive fieldpost operations were conducted in order to provide communications for the British forces on Gallipoli. FPO 88 was located at Cape Helles at the southern tip of the Peninsula, serving the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division until closing on 7 January 1916.

DARDANELLES
Inbound Mail

Croydon
12 August 1915

Reading
25 October 1915



Fighting was intense and casualties were heavy during this campaign. As a result, many men were KIA and MIA, of whom some of the latter turned up later as POWs of the Turks. Upper cover addressed to Capt. A. Denton who was killed in action at Sulva Bay on 16 August 1915. Lower cover sent to Gunner Blackall, who was missing. It received markings inscribed "Unable to Trace" and "Present Location Uncertain."

DARDANELLES
Australian Forces

The major supporting forces for the British were the Australian Divisions. They fought in their own units as well as in joint ones with New Zealanders and had their own postal facilities.



1st Aust. Div. Field P.O.
 14 August 1915

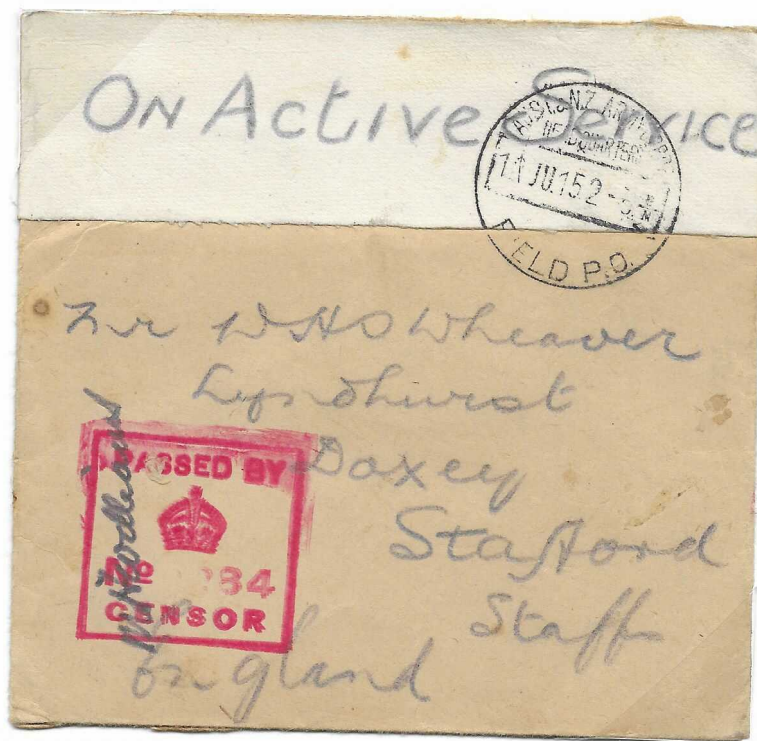
2nd Austr. Div. Field P.O.
 11 November 1915



Above is a formula field service post card sent from Gallipoli to South Australia. Below is an official cover front from the Officer in Charge of a field ambulance unit on Gallipoli to Egypt.

DARDANELLES
ANZAC Forces

Aust. a. N.Z. Army P.O.
12 June 1915



Due to a shortage of writing materials, letters were written on anything usable. This homemade envelope was sent from Gallipoli to Staffordshire by an ANZAC trooper.

DARDANELLES
1st Newfoundland Regiment

To support the British, Newfoundland raised an initial force of 600 men for overseas duty. Many of them were sent to fight on the Gallipoli Peninsula as part of the Dardanelles Campaign. They participated for less than four months in conjunction with the British 88th Brigade, 29th Division until the final evacuation in January 1916. The 1st Newfoundland sent its mail through Field Post Office 88 at Sulva Bay.

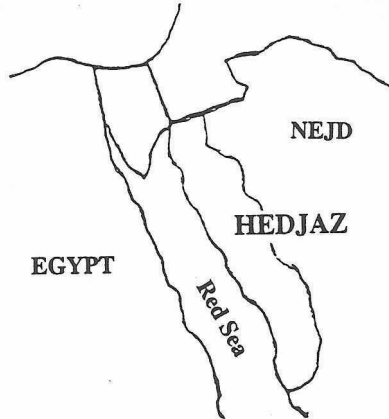
Field Post Office 88
29 October 1915
22 November 1915



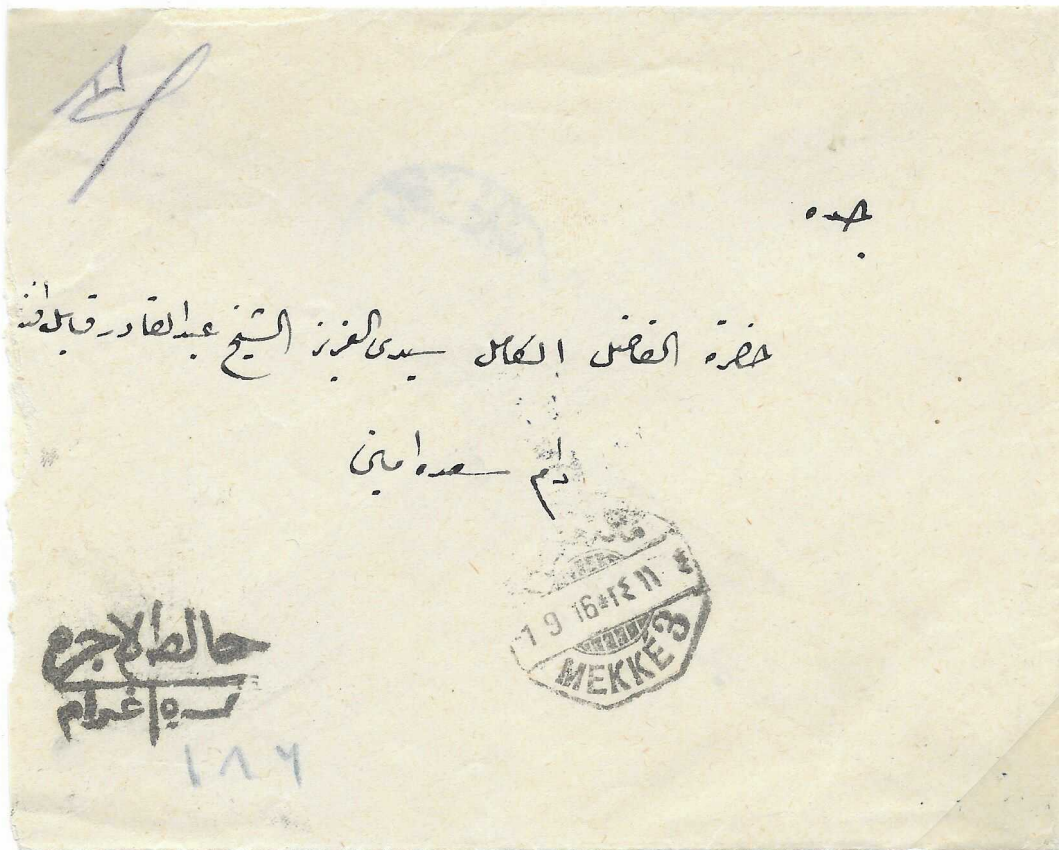
These two covers are out of the same correspondence from the Dardanelles. The lower example shows the crest of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment on the reverse, as well as a receiving postmark seven weeks after mailing.

HEDJAZ

Early in the war, the British developed a plan to foment an uprising among the Arab subjects of the Ottoman Empire. To bring this about, they entered into negotiations with Sharif Hussein of Mecca, who agreed to such action in return for British support for an independent Arab state after the war. The famous Col. T. E. Lawrence was sent to train and lead the Arab forces, which captured Mecca, Jeddah and Aqaba as well as cut the Turkish supply line between the main part of the empire and Hedjaz, the Ottoman province on the Red Sea Coast of Arabia. Hussein subsequently declared the independence of Hedjaz on 27 June 1916.



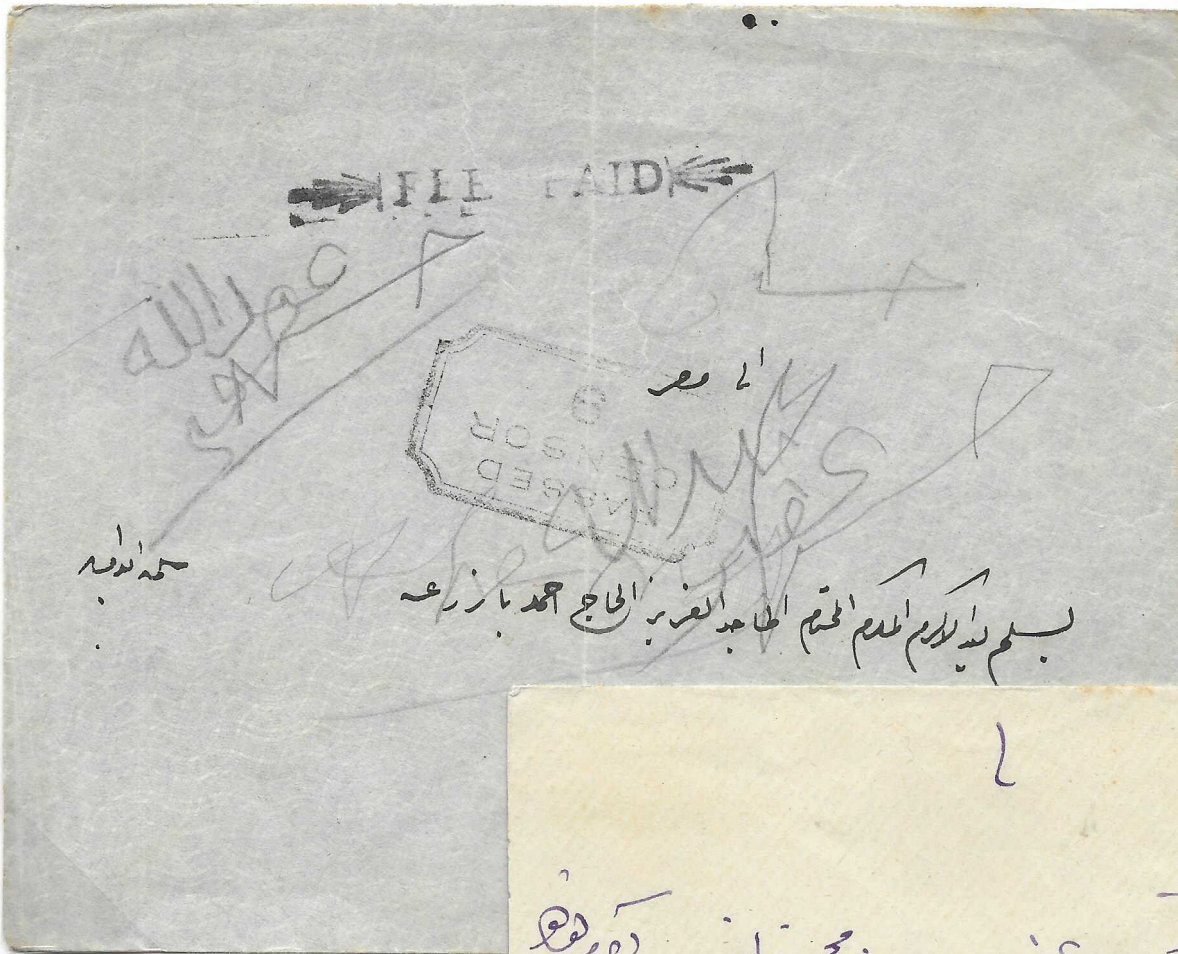
Mekke
1 September 1916



The British did not establish field post facilities in Hedjaz, and the Ottoman postal service ceased to function with the Arab uprising. Hussein declared the old Ottoman stamps invalid and ordered supplies burned. Thus, for an interim period -- from 24 June 1916 in Mecca -- letters were charged 1 piastre and marked with the wording "Fee Paid" (in Arabic in this case) until new stamps could be printed and distributed. Such covers are noted as "rare and valuable" in the Wilson handbook.

HEDJAZ
Fee Paid Markings

Mekke
September 1916
24 November 1916



Several different handstamps indicating "Fee Paid" were used during the forerunner period. Upper cover was sent to Egypt and has transit marking of Jeddah dated 21 September 1916. (Only one example of this marking was recorded by Hibbert.) Officially, the use of these markings in Mecca lasted until 14 October 1916. However, later examples exist as shown by the lower cover, which was backstamped for receipt in Jeddah on 25 November 1916.