

# *The World at war*

## *(from one peace: Versailles 1919 to another: Reims/Tokyo 1945)*

The largest armed conflict in the history of mankind, which caused about 63 million military and civilian casualties involving Nations from all continents, goes from September 1, 1939 to September 2, 1945. Born from the harsh Treaty of Versailles, drafted at the end of the great war, the second world war marks the pinnacle of the sacrifice of human lives on earth, in the skies and on the seas with, at the same time, the largest military operations, as for men and means employed, never before completed successfully. It also defined the supremacy of airpower and carrier vessels on traditional battleships.

### **COLLECTION PLAN**

#### **A FROM VERSAILLES TO THE TRIPARTITE**

1. The rise of national socialism
2. Italy and fascism
3. Japanese imperialism

#### **B THE BEGINNING OF TRAGEDY**

1. The attack on Poland
2. A strange war
3. Denmark and Norway fall
4. Blitzkrieg in the West
5. Italy enters the war
6. The battle of Britain
7. Eastern Europe in flames

#### **C DUEL ON THE SEAS AND THE AFRICAN SCENE**

1. Duel on the seas
2. The African scene
3. The Mediterranean sea and Malta

#### **D JAPAN SPREADS OUT**

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2. Southeast Asia
3. Midway

#### **E THE COUNTERATTACK OF THE ALLIES**

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2. From Stalingrad to Leningrad
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4. From Provence to Germany
5. The Red Army in Berlin
6. The victory, the peace and the division of Germany

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2. Back into the Philippines
3. Attack to the Japanese ground
4. The atomic bomb, Japan's surrender, peace

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1. The Resistance
2. Heroes and heroic actions
3. Secret codes and spies
4. The prisoners' mail
5. The horrors of war

#### **H END OF THE STORY . . . WE DO HOPE SO**

1. The Nuremberg and Tokyo trials

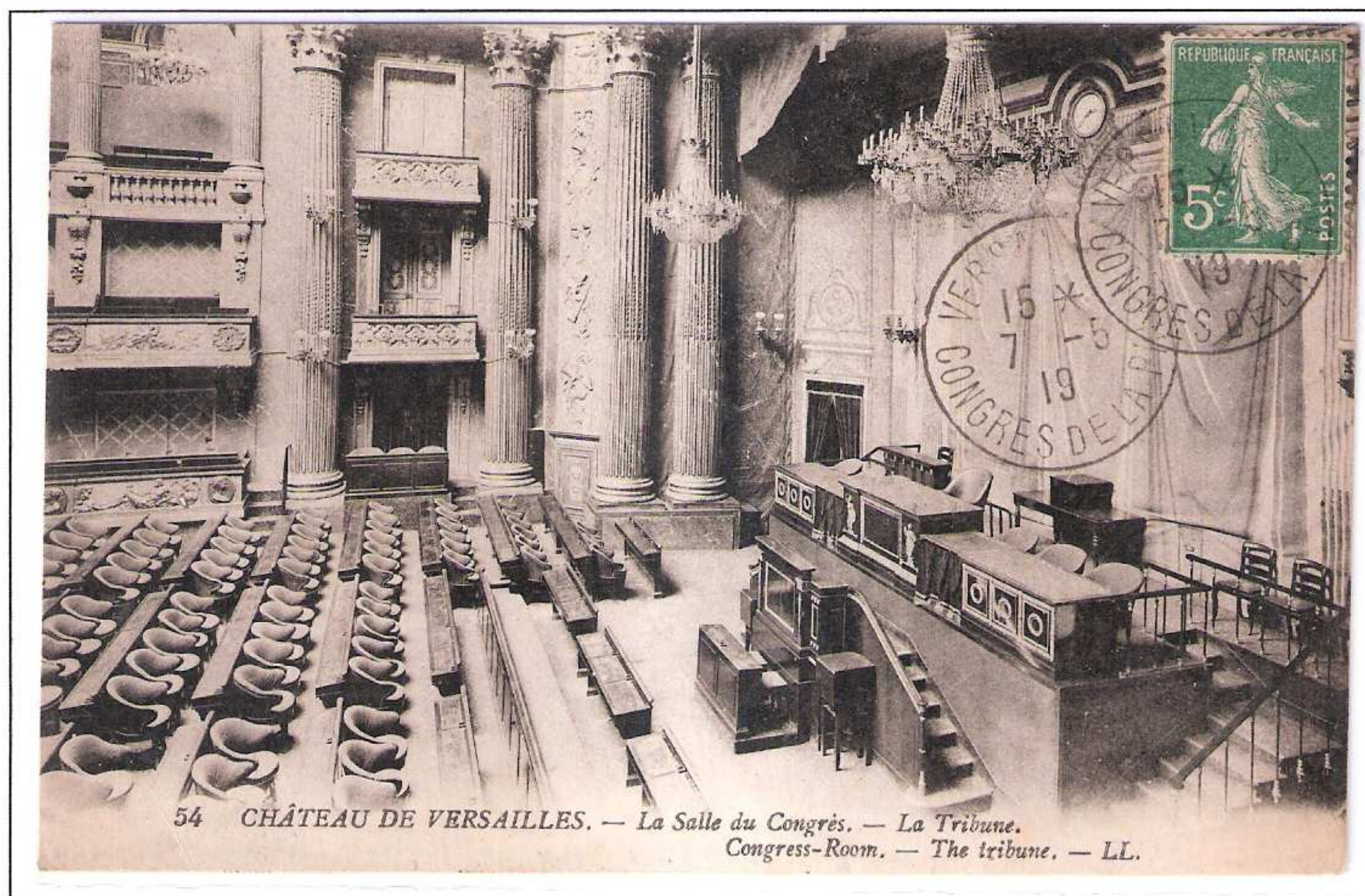


After the 1<sup>st</sup> world war, a Peace Conference was held in Paris, on January 18, 1919. On February 9, Marshal Foch, Supreme Commander of France, presented the following final proposals about the conditions of the Armistice. On May 7, 1919 Germany was given the peace plan drafted by the victorious Nations. In May 1919, on the 28th the Treaty of Versailles was signed. It put an end to the war. At least everyone hoped it would, but . . .

Artist proof



*Marshal Foch is supposed to have said the following prophetic sentence: "this is not peace, it is an armistice for 20 years"*



*May 7, 1919: greetings from the Peace Congress on the very day the Germans were delivered the peace project*



## 1.2 THE RISE OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

Historians now recognize that the harsh conditions imposed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, together with the great depression of 1929, caused a deep discontent in the German people, and favoured the spreading of the National Socialist ideas of Adolf Hitler and his movement.

Inflation in Germany  
reaches its peak in  
1923



The fight to get the power in Germany ends in 1933 when Hindenburg appoints Hitler Chancellor of the Reich.



Postal stationery praising Hitler's rise to power



### 1.3 THE RISE OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

A "Referendum", held in the Saar on January 13, 1935, decides the return to the German Reich with 90,73 of votes.



January 13, 1935: registered card from Saarbrücken to Bern franked with the values "Volksabstimmung 1935"



The Saar returns to "Mother Germany"



1935: From Saarbrücken into town with the cancellation "German is the Saar" with the stamp of 6 pf, symbol of the re-arming



#### 1.4 THE RISE OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

National Socialism organised excellently the youth of the country, involving them in huge meetings exalting the national pride. In 1937, the party had already prepared the Germans to think about a future war.

*The gathering  
of Kuhlmuhle*



*Letter from Herdorf for U.S.A. franked with propaganda stamps for air defence*



*April 5, 1937, the first stamp with the image of Hitler is issued*



## 1. 5 THE RISE OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

The popular consensus encourages Hitler who, dreaming of a great Germany, conquers Austria first of all. Without striking a blow, the invasion is welcomed by jubilant people on February 3, 1938. The plebiscite of October 4, 1938, ratifies the annexation of Austria to Germany, with 99.60% of votes.



On September 29, 1938, the Munich agreement gave the Sudetenland to Germany, yet victorious with its aggressive policy, opening the way to Hitler for the conquest of the whole Czechoslovakia.

*The annexation of the Sudetenland*





## 1. 6 THE RISE OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

The last German annexation that Hitler carries out with no consequences concerns Prague, which was conquered on March 15, 1939 and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was established.



*Stamps for sending postal newspapers and postal stationery under the protectorate of Bohmen and Mahren*



The delta of the River Vistula and the town of Danzig itself; it was declared "free city" by the allies in 1919 but it became the pretext to carry out a new acquisition, which will lead to the war.



*Airmail values of 1921-23 issued by the "free city of Danzig" under the protection of the League of Nations*



*September 14, 1940, Poland: registered mail. from Krakow to Lorch (Germany), franked with overprinted "General Government" after the conquest of Poland*



## 2. 1 ITALY AND FASCISM

Even before Hitler in Germany, in Italy Mussolini, riding, after the great war, the discontent of the "mutilated victory" as Gabriele D'Annunzio called it, rises to power on October, 31, 1922 in the context of strong political and social instability, with the help of the "blackshirts" and "the March on Rome".



Emission in remembrance of the 3rd anniversary of victory in the great war



Organized by the F.N.P., the "March on Rome", on October 31, 1922 resulted in the rise to power of the same party. The event ended on October, the 30th when the King decided to appoint Mussolini to form a new Government.



Stamps issued for the anniversary of the "March on Rome"



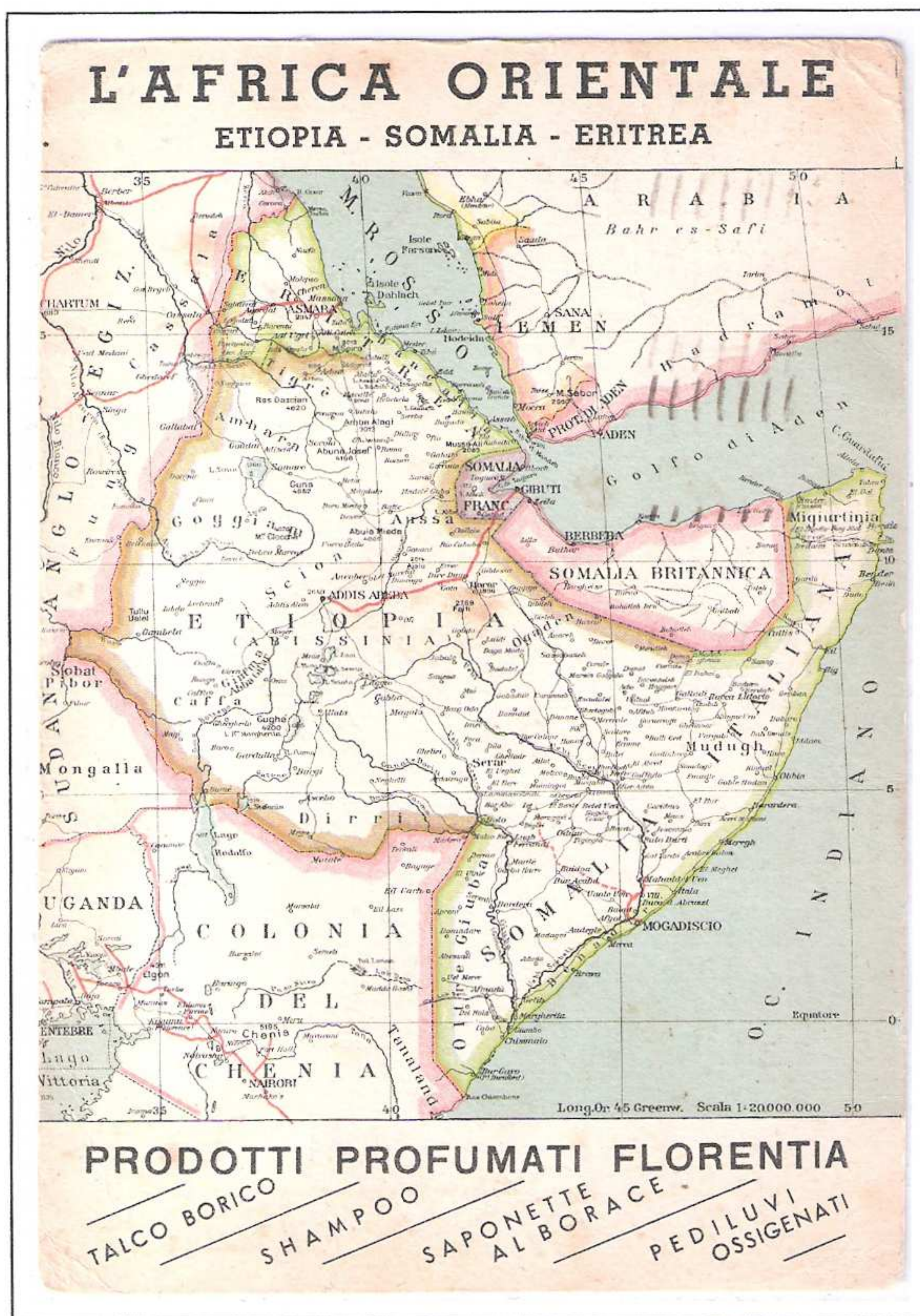


## 2.2 ITALY AND FASCISM

Eager to create a colonial empire, Mussolini begins the campaign in Ethiopia on October 2, 1935. The League of Nations, of which Italy, too, is not surprisingly part, imposes its "sanctions" on Italy on October 7, 1935. The campaign ends on May 9, 1936 and the "sanctions" are repealed on July 4, 1936. At last Italy has its colony in Eastern Africa.



1936, Italy: the only series issued by the mail service for the new colony



Postcard: "East Africa", from Naples to Viggiano in tariff



1936: Ethiopia, pair of 75 cent., on airmail fragment with Adis Ababa's cancellation of March 15, 1938



## 2. 4 ITALY AND FASCISM

Mussolini was still not satisfied and on April 7, 1939, to counterbalance the annexation of Austria to Germany he invades the small Albania. In five days the conquest is achieved and the crown of the small state is offered to King Vittorio Emanuele III. On April 12, the constituent Assembly approves a new Constitution that turned the Italian Protectorate of Albania into the Kingdom of Albania and on the 16 of the same month the throne is hired by the King of Italy. The same as in Germany, it is the last Italian conquest before the two dictators are united by the Pact of Steel (May 22, 1939) and later in the madness of war.



*December 4, 1939, Albania :the three overprinted stamps for the constituent Assembly*

*Vittorio Emanuele III, King of Italy, now of Albania and Emperor of Ethiopia.*



*April 8, 1939, Albania:  
stamp with the effigy of  
king Vittorio Emanuele III*

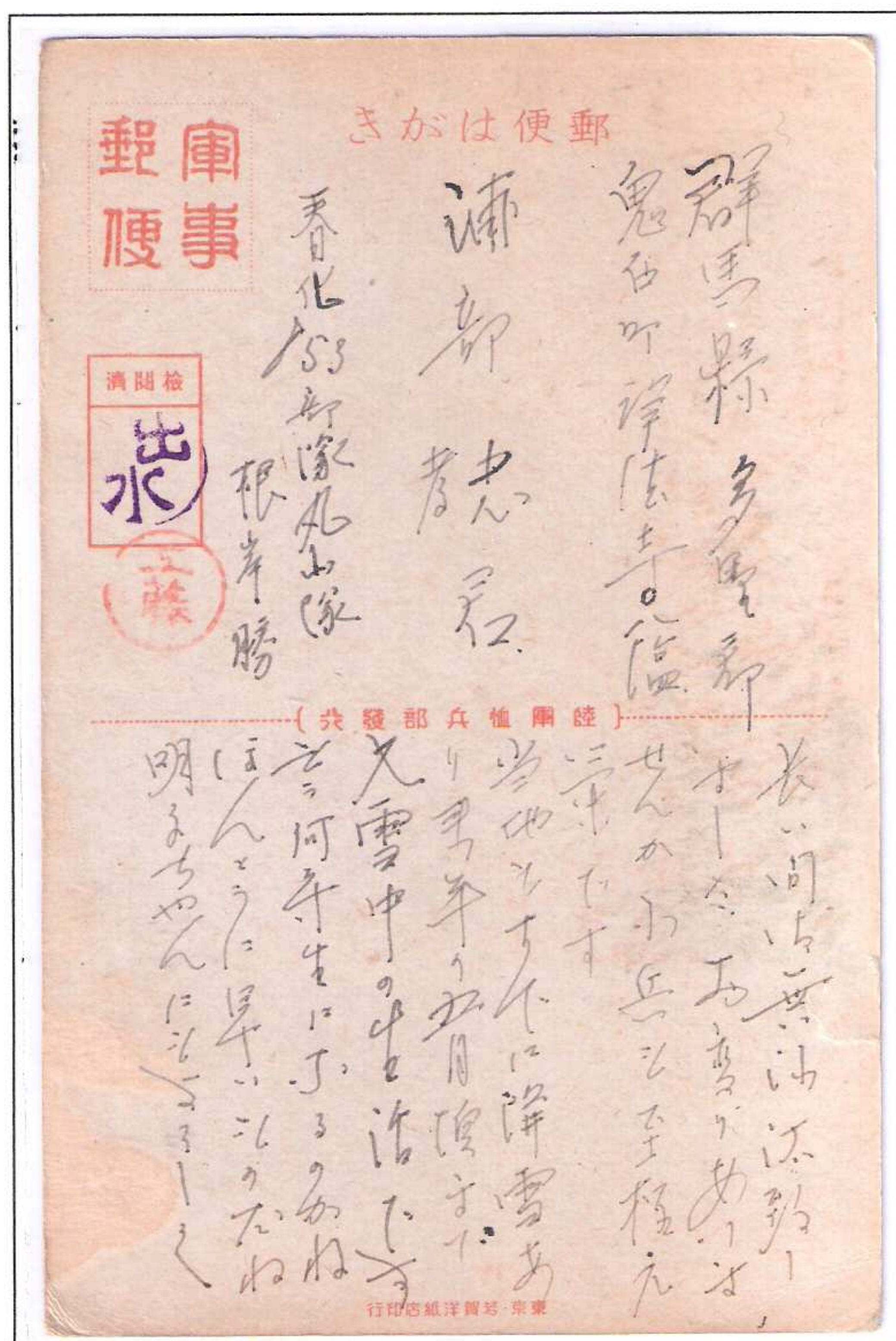


*M.P. free card with greetings praising victory*



### 3.1 JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

Emperor Hiro-Hito came to power on December 25, 1926. Inside the Government he had to face the caste of the military power, led by gen. Tojo, determined to subdue with arms most of the Asian countries in order to strengthen the Empire.



Japan, 1928: commemorative values for the coronation of Emperor Hiro-Hito

The Japanese militarists had already forced the Emperor's hand in 1931 with the conquest of Manchuria.

Manciukuò, Jiandao : M.P. free postcard sent to Gumna, Japan, seen for censorship

With the Emperor's approval, Prince Asaka Yasuhiko, the Emperor's uncle, is appointed chief of the Japanese Army. Using as a pretext "The Marco Polo's Bridge Incident" (when Japanese soldiers disguised in Chinese uniforms attack the Japanese troops) Japan starts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sino-Japanese war. On July 7, 1937 it occupies Shanghai, Nanking and the Xhanxi defended by the army of the Kuomintang (Chinese nationalist party) led by Chiang Kai-shek



Chinese overprinted stamps for the Japanese occupation of Nanking and Shanghai

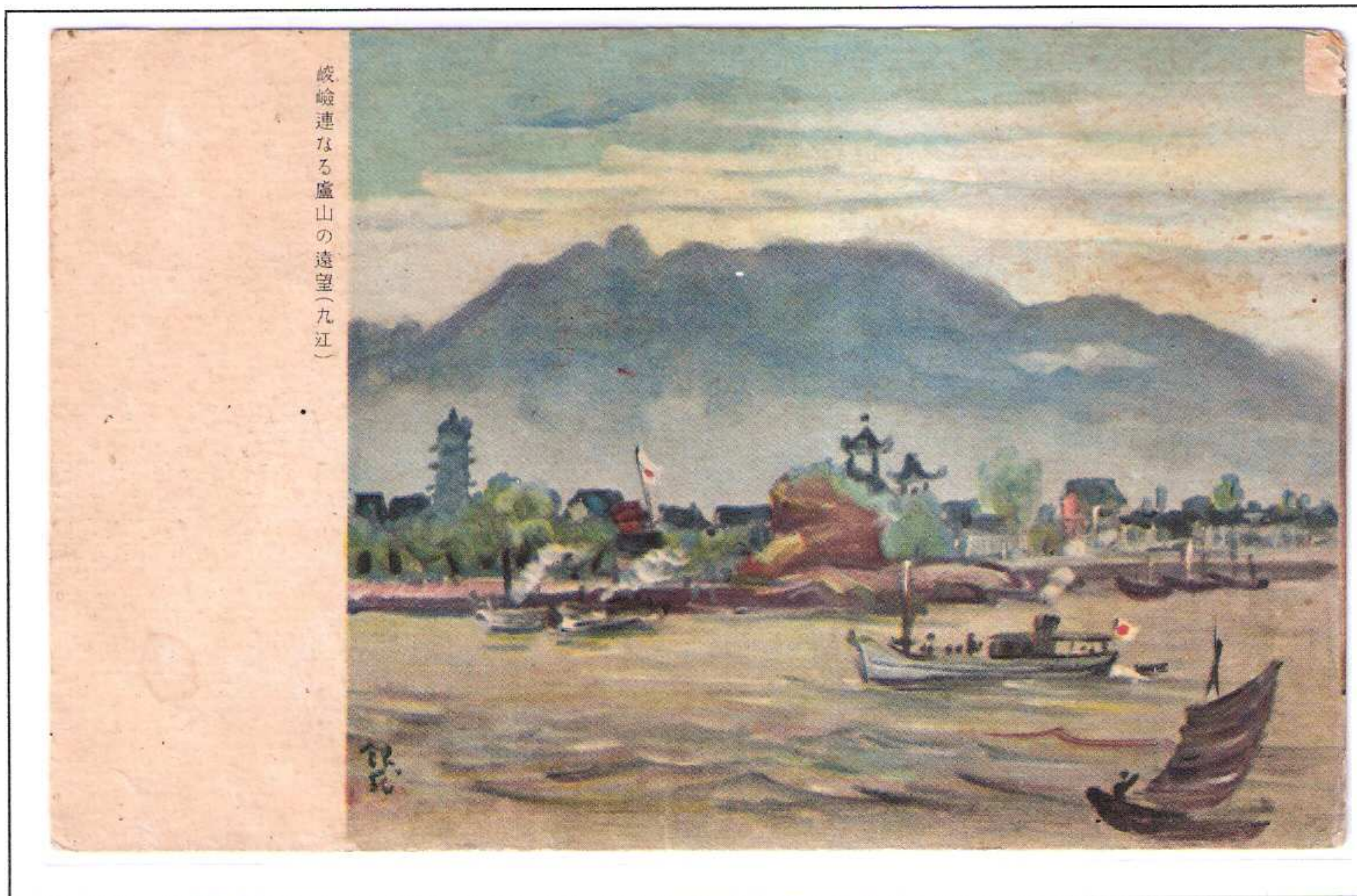


Chiang Kai-shek



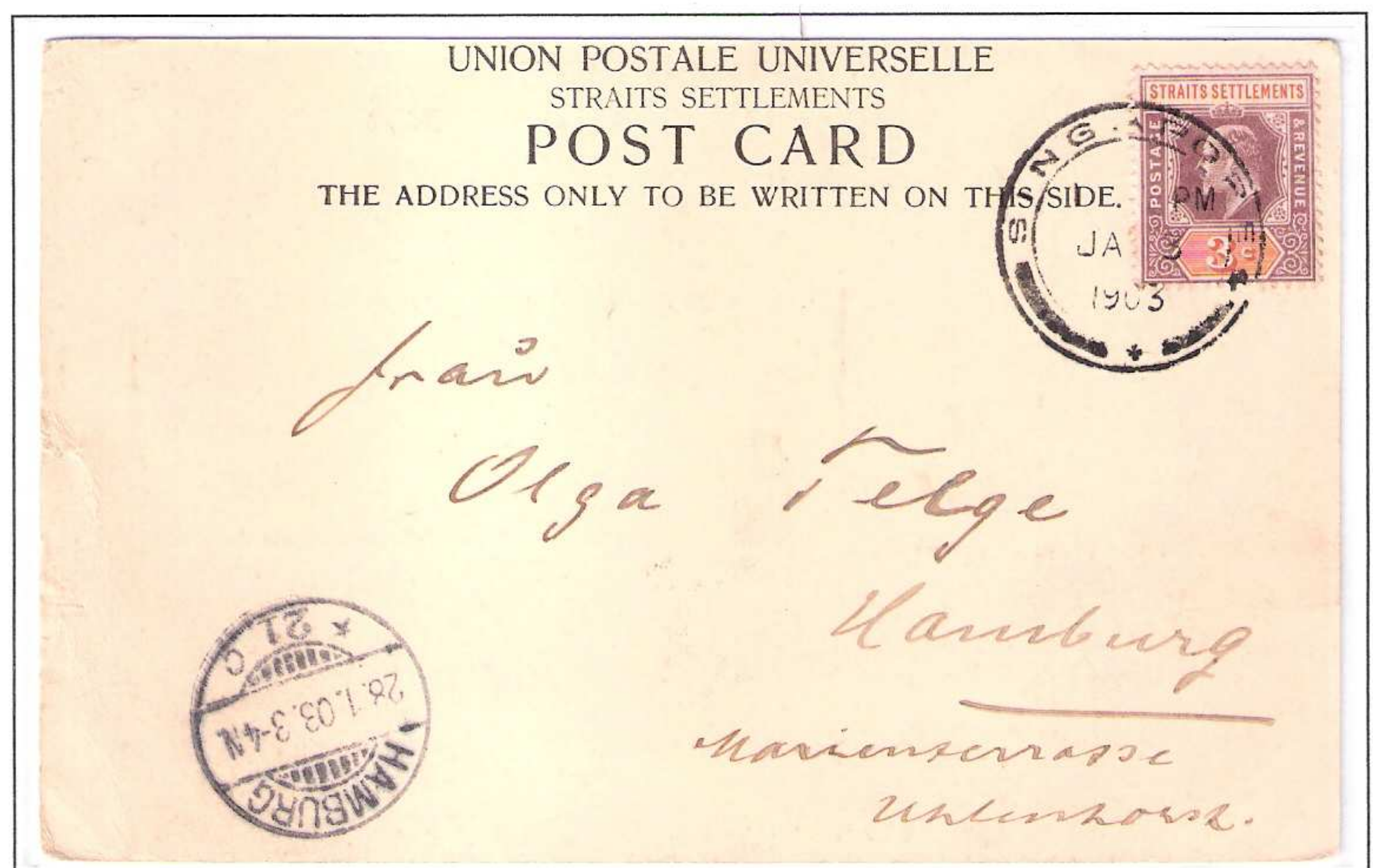
### 3.2 JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

At the end of July 1941, Japan managed to get the permission from the Vichy Government to settle military bases in Indochina. For the United States, Britain and the Netherlands that was a strong signal of the will to conquer the rich Japanese possessions in Southeast Asia. Sanctions were immediately taken against Japan. The embargo was made on oil and iron supplies.



*M.P. free postcard sent from central China to Japan (Shitsuoka)*

*Stamps, on place at that time, of colonies threatened by Japan*







At dawn, on September 1, 1939, at 4.45 a.m., Hitler's Wehrmacht invaded Poland and that was the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War tragedy. It will come to an end only on September 2, 1945.



Invaded also on the Eastern front by the Soviet Union, Poland will surrender on September 27, 1939, after a strenuous defence of Warsaw.

*Propaganda Postal stationery: "Danzig is German"*

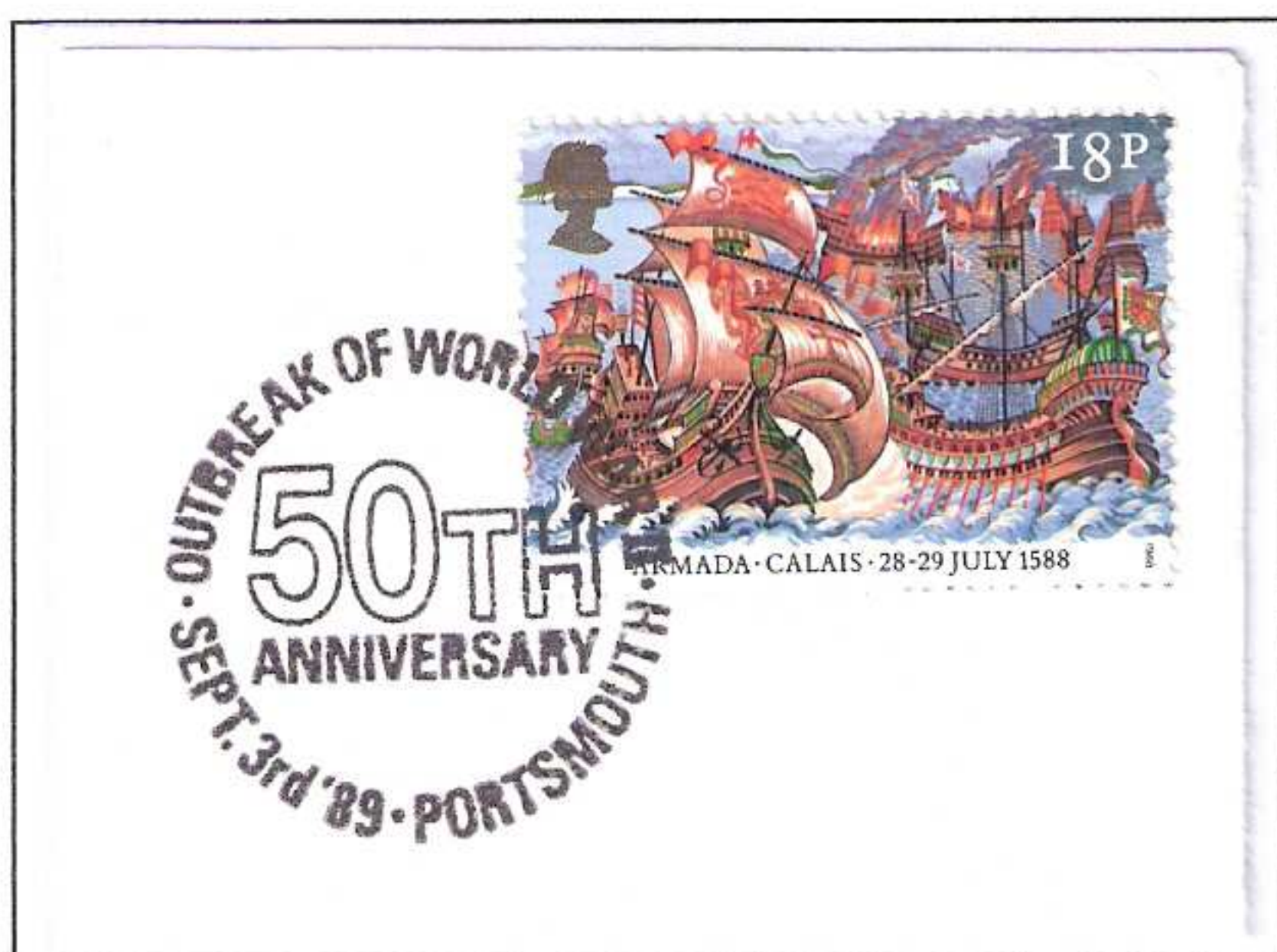


*The battles of*

*Westerplatte*



*Warsaw*



*England and France declare war to Germany  
on September 3, 1939*





## 2.1 A STRANGE WAR

After the conquest of Poland a new period starts: it is called "Period of the strange war" because none of the opposite armies moved. The battlefield was only on the sea.



On October 14, at 10,30 a.m. the u-boat 47, Commander Gunther Prien, enters the Scapa Flow Bay: the battleship Royal Ark sinks

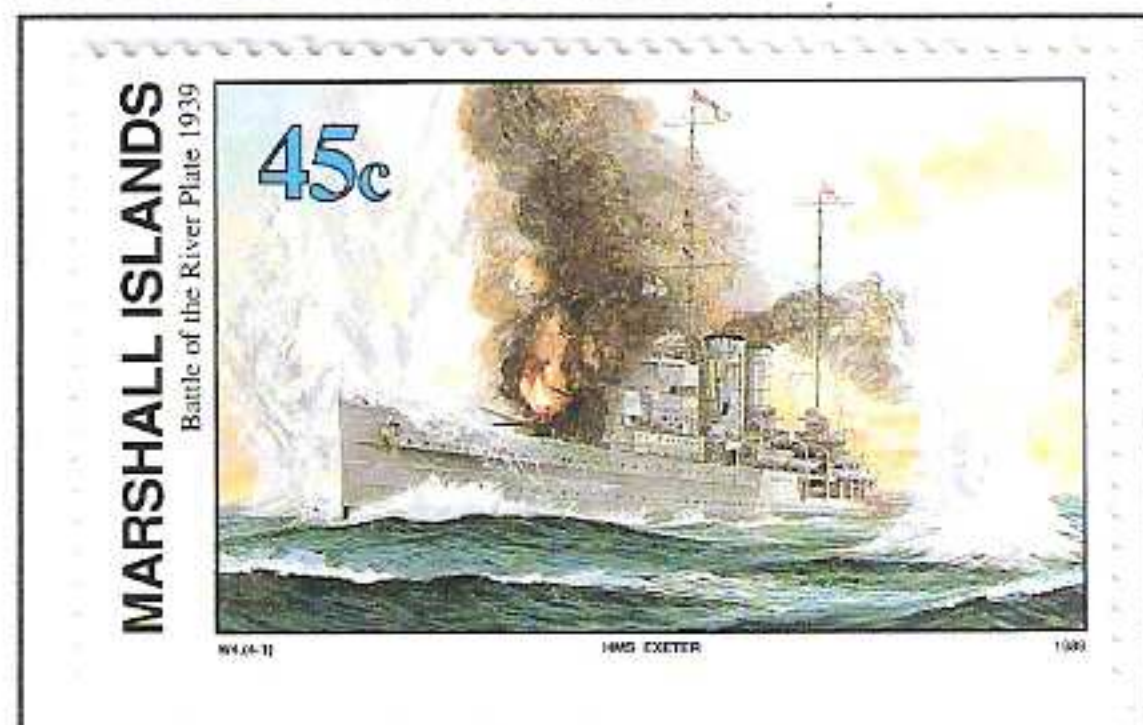
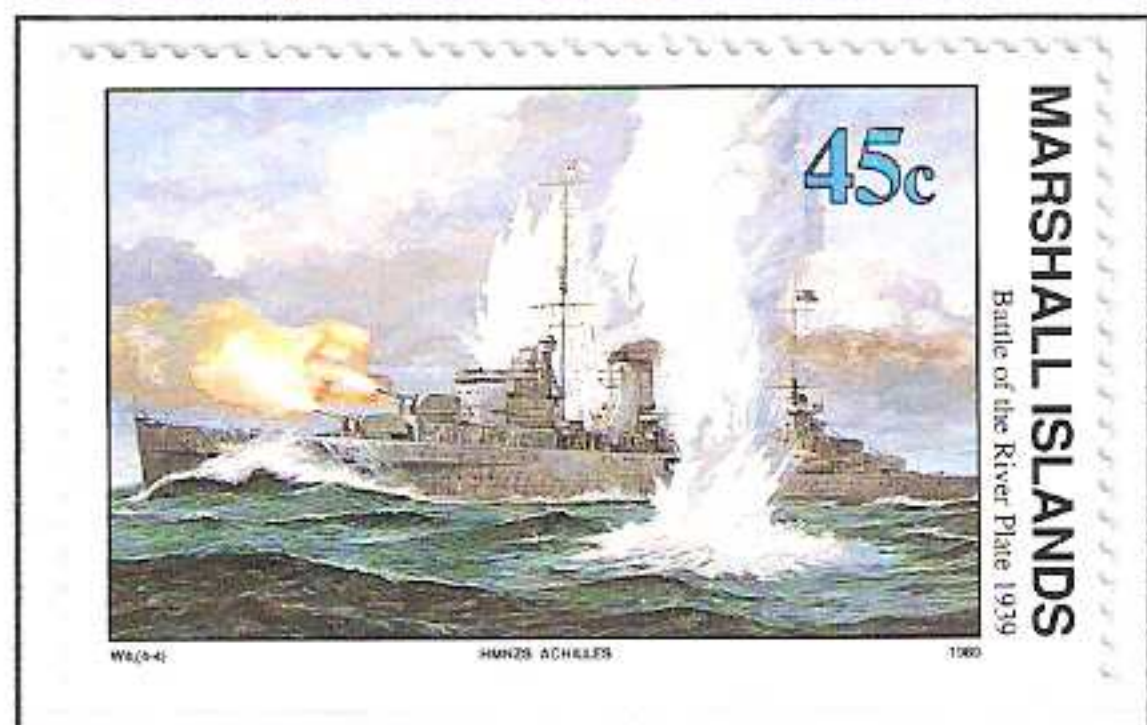
The Home fleet recovers and on December 14 of the same year, by the cruisers Ajax, Exeter and Achilles, commanded by Commodore Harwood, it forces the heavy butle cruiser Admiral Graf Spee, to find a shelter in Montevideo harbour. The cruiser will find self-sinking in the estuary of the Rio de la Plata on the 17th. The German com. Langsdorff commits suicide 3 days later.



Private postal stationery  
on commission by collectors  
of Siemens, Berlin,  
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 1940



Commodore  
Harwood and  
his team of cruisers



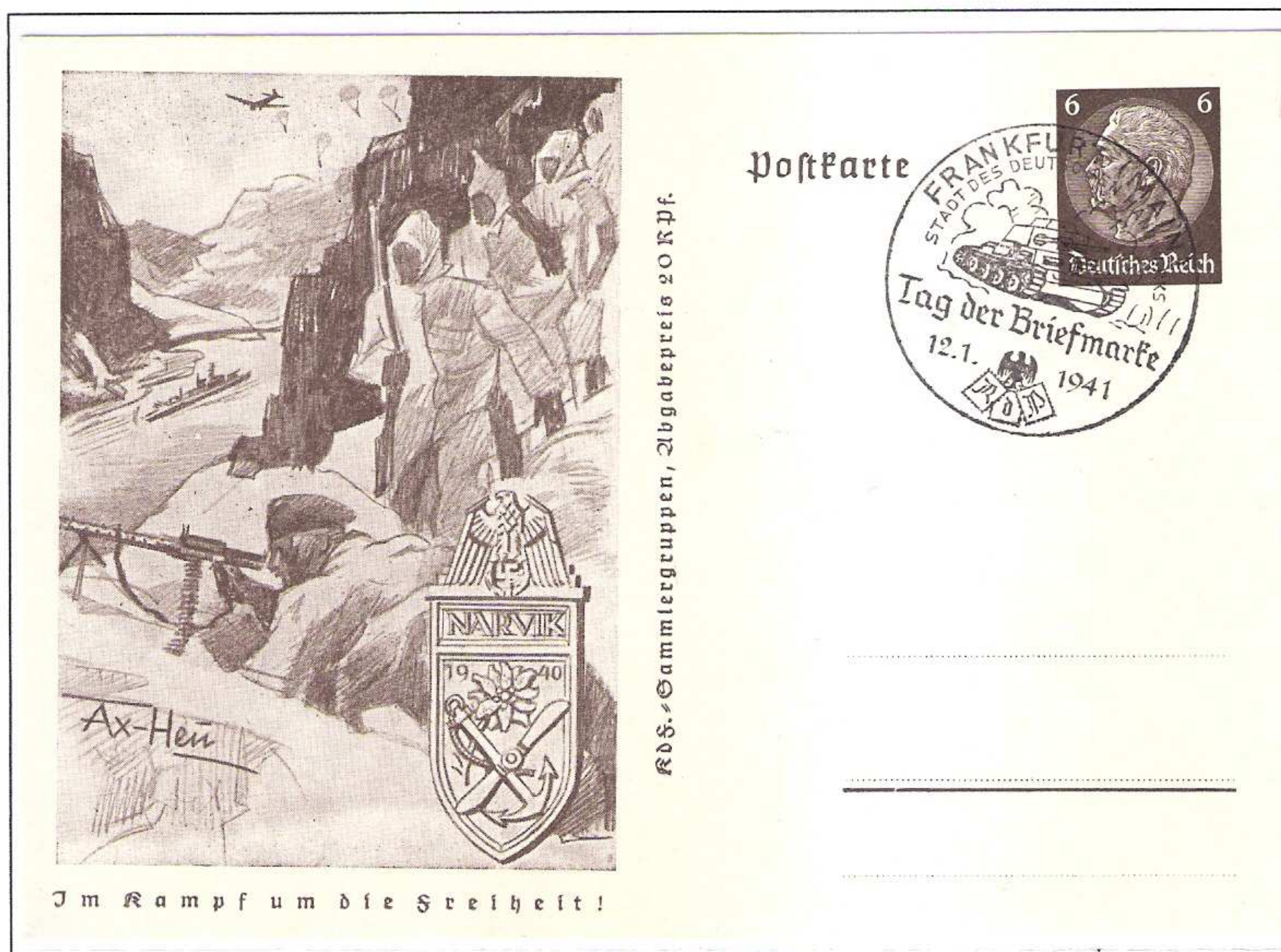


### 3. 1 DENMARK AND NORWAY FALL

Anticipating the moves of the English troops, in order to ensure the passage of his ships in the North Sea, Hitler, on April 9, 1940 decides to invade Denmark and Norway. The latter, attacked from the sea, land and air, aided by British and the French, resists until until 10 June.



December 9, 1940, Copenhagen: letter to Hamburg for censorship



The fjord of Narvik, where the battle was extremely bloody, and the memorial for the allies dead in battle



#### 4. 1 BLIETZKRIEG IN THE WEST

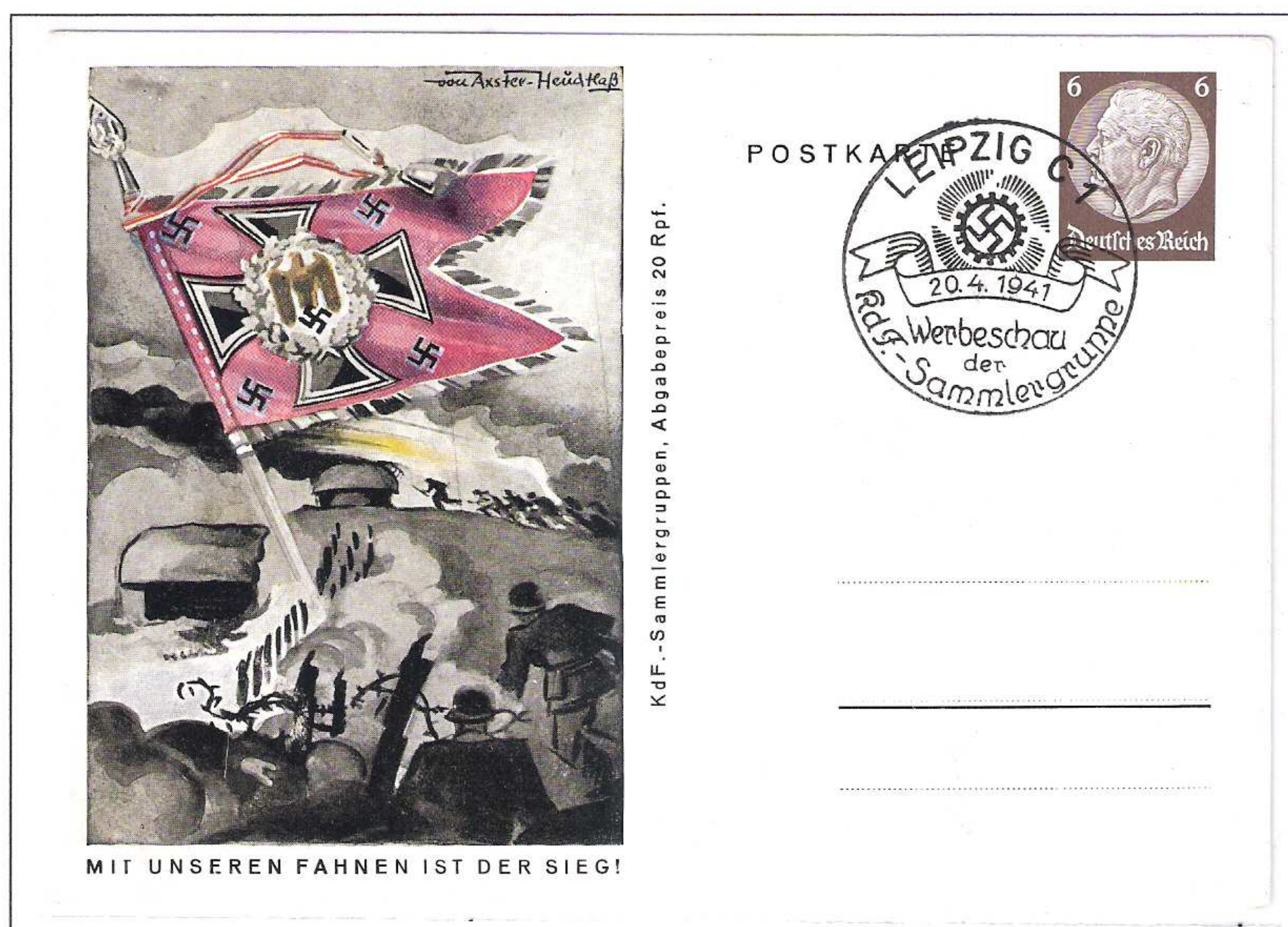
Begun in 1928 and finished in early 1940, the Maginot line, named to commemorate the Minister André Maginot, who had worked for the approval to the construction of the work, aimed at defending the borders of France. The German invasion plan (Fall Gelb) often also referred to as Sishelschnitt, provides the steps for the invasion of France through the Ardennes and the occupation of Belgium and Holland.



*The Minister of war André Maginot*



*The entries to the Maginot line at Markolsheime and Bermont-Longuyon*



*1941, the attack on the Maginot line*



#### 4. 2 BLIETZKRIEG IN THE WEST

The German Panzer and Luftwaffe attack at dawn on May 10, 1940.



August 20, 1940, Belgium: the first prisoners sent to camps

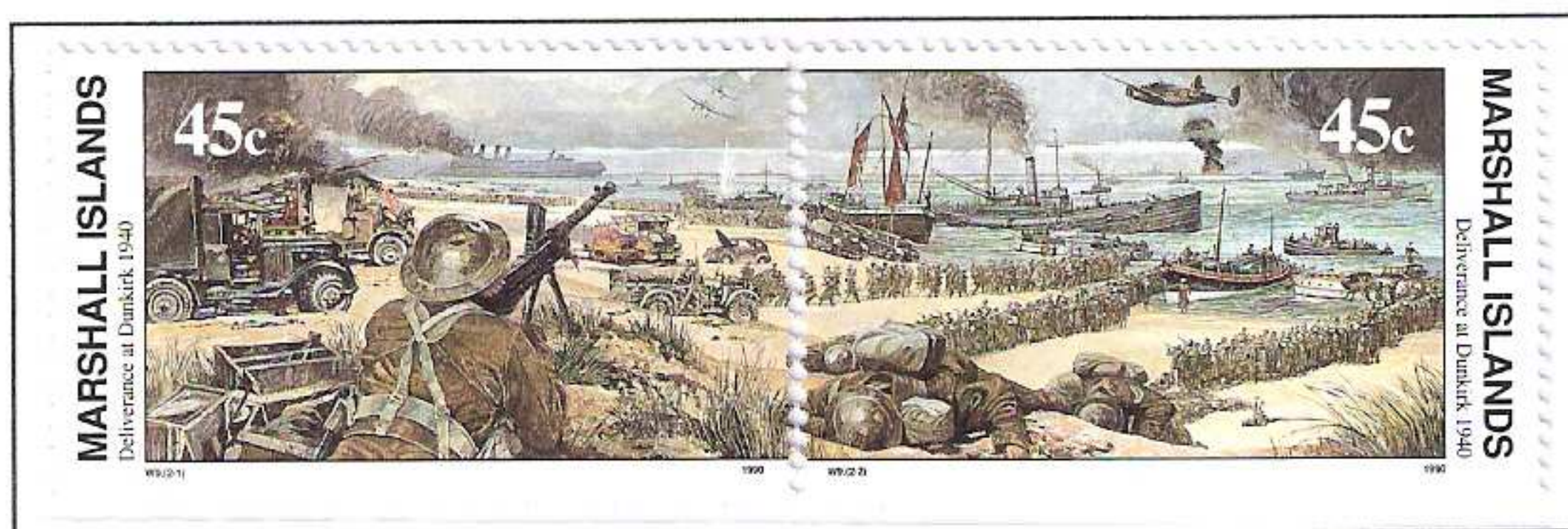


June 18, 1940, Holland: postcard from Wassenaar to Switzerland seen for censorship



#### 4. 3 BLIETZKRIEG IN THE WEST

After the surrender of Holland on May 15, the German troops continued to advance, and after the fall of Belgium, on May 28, they moved towards Paris and surrounded the French and English forces at Dunkirk. Despite the loss of all equipment, nearly 330,000 allied soldiers managed to re-embark for England.



*Anglo-French troops waiting for re-embarking on the beach of a half destroyed Dunkirk.*



*The different phases of the re-embarking of the allied troops. Each step is carried out by any available means*

*Gen. De Gaulle's  
appeal to the French,  
June 18, 1940  
"Rien n'est perdu"*



*A mention is given to  
the small boats helping  
the evacuation  
of the Anglo-French  
troops from Dunkirk.*



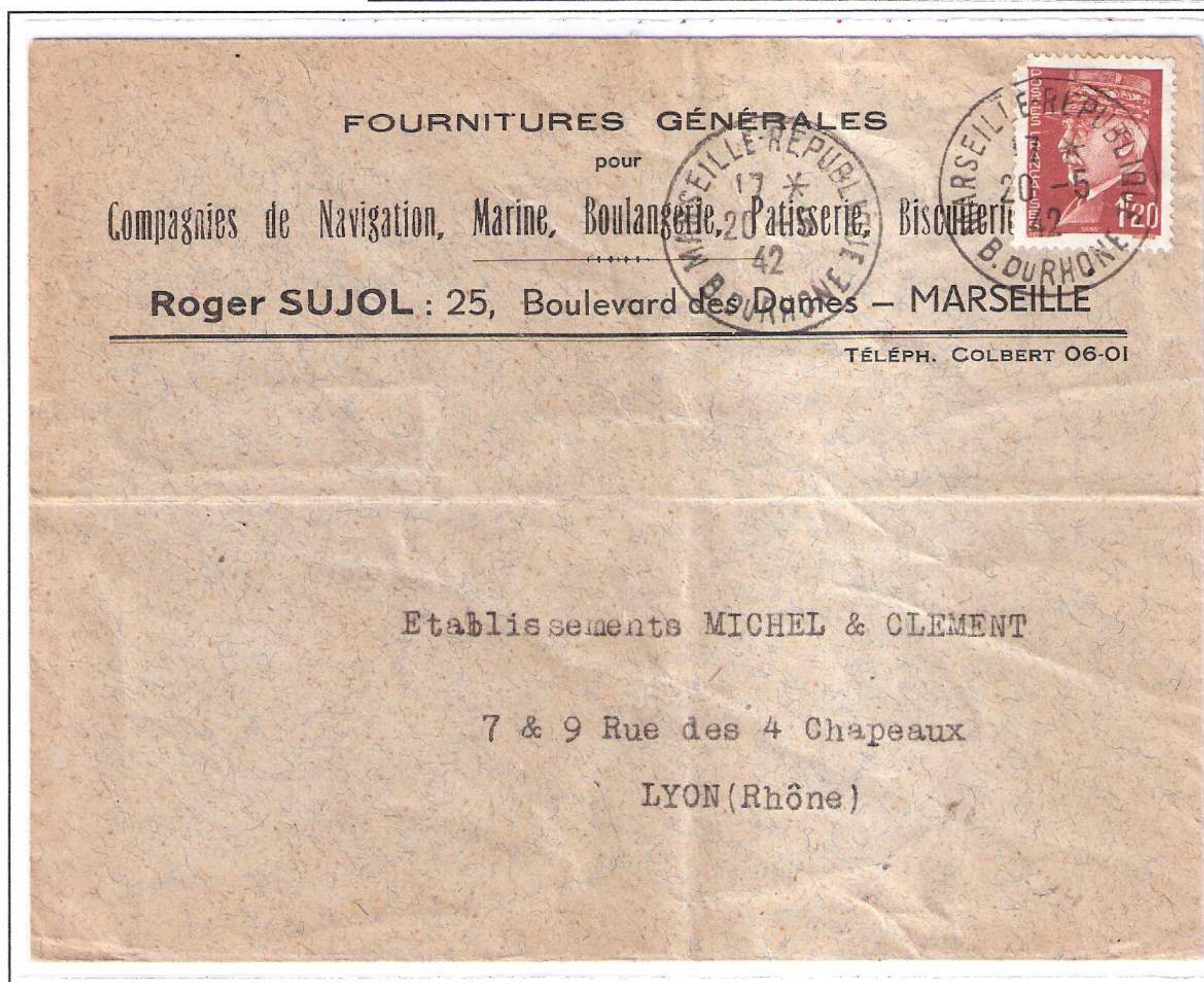
#### 4. 4 BLIETZKRIEG IN THE WEST

When Paris is occupied, on June 14, 1940, France signs the armistice on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and its territory is divided into two parts: the northern part, including the whole Atlantic zone is occupied by the German army, the southern part, called free France, relies on the French Government settled in Vichy and led by Marshal Phillippe Pétain

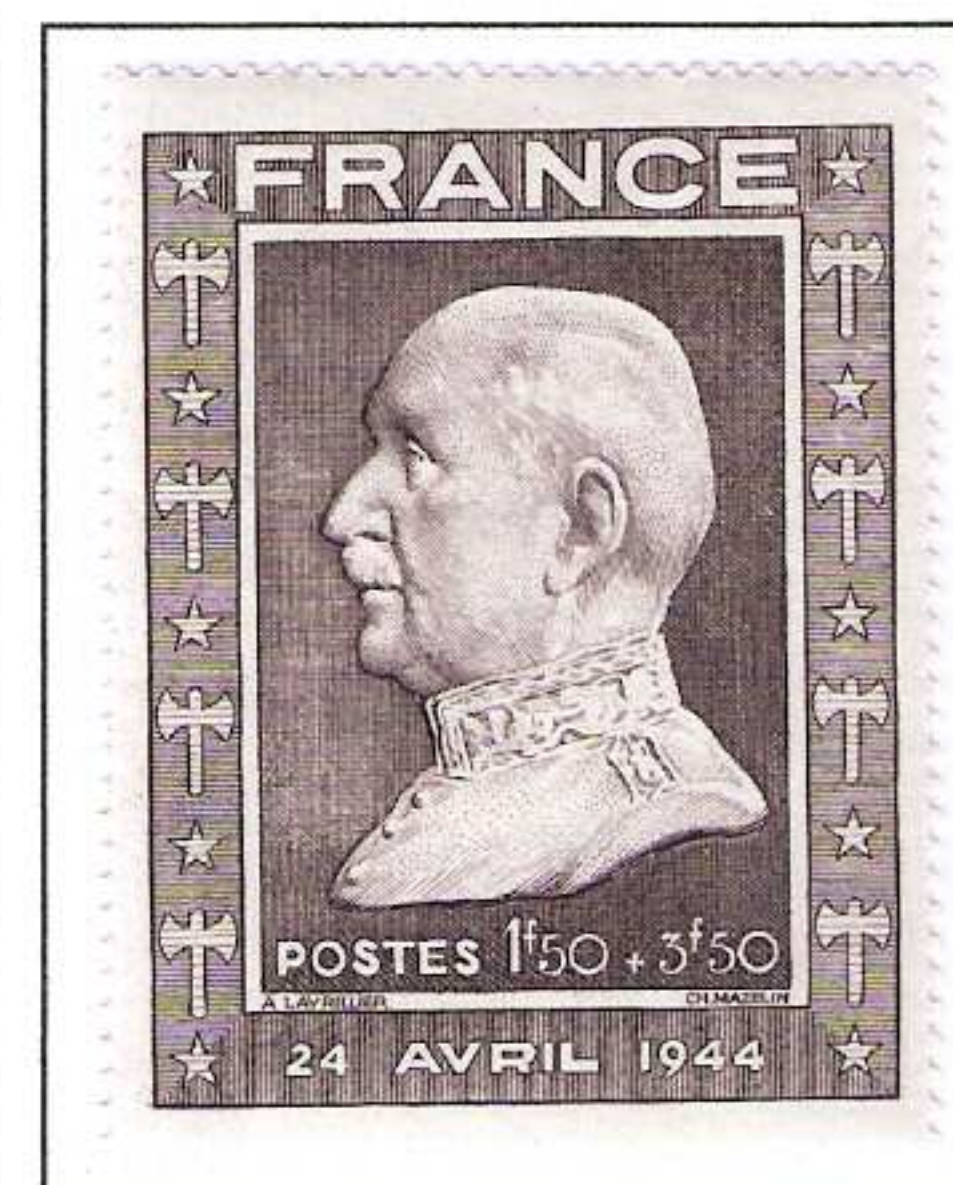


*The Wehrmacht march  
along the Champs  
Élysées*

*Letter from Vichy, free  
France, to Zurich,  
October, 23, 1940*



*Cancellation letter "Marseille République", May 20, 1942, to Lyon (France)*



*The last value dedicated  
to Mar. Pétain,*



## 5.1 ITALY ENTERS THE WAR

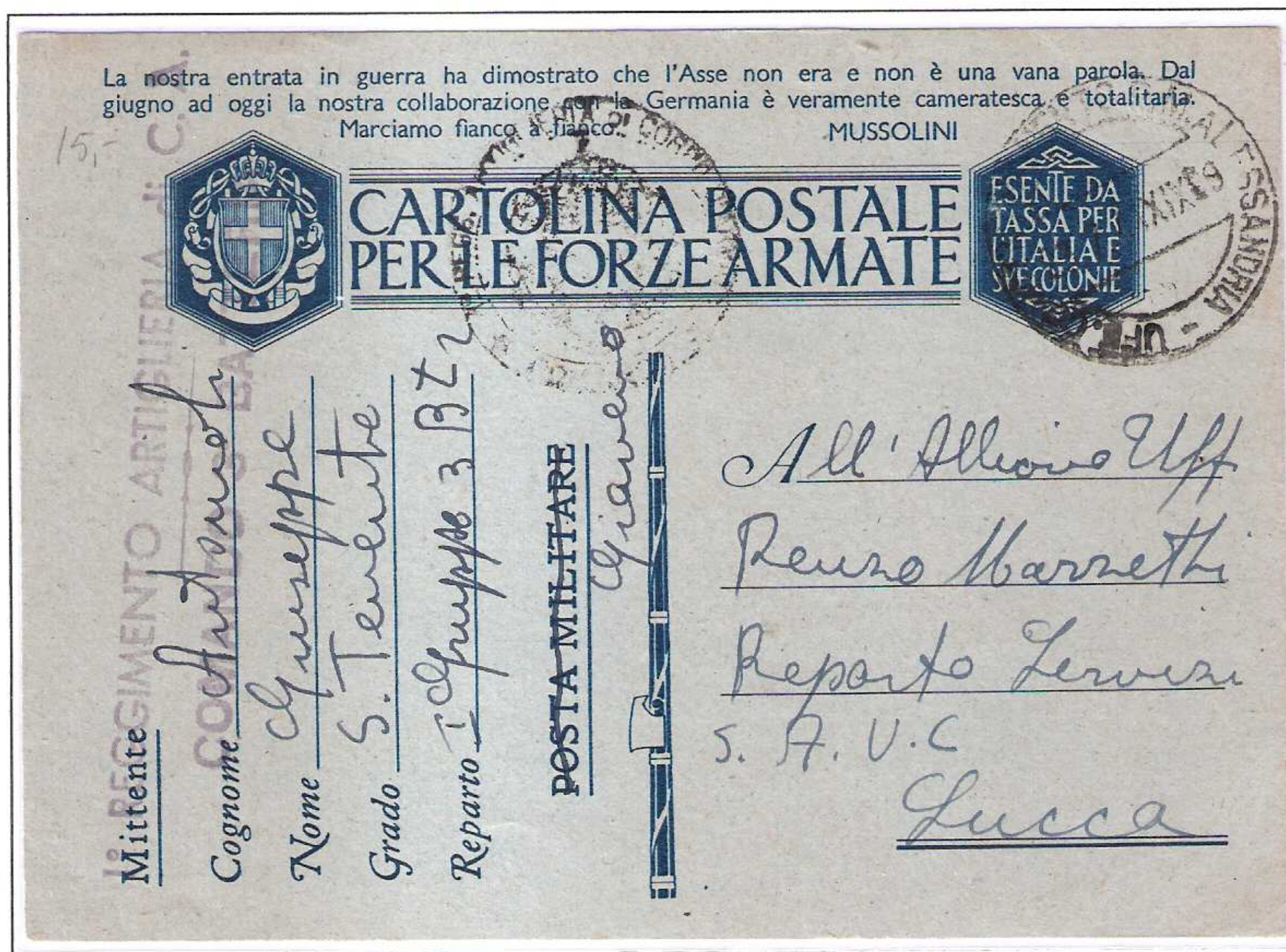
On October 6, 1940 Italy declares war on Britain and France. The troops enter France through the Western Alps without conquering any special territories. The position of the "Tripartite" is thus consolidated.



The "Tripartite"



and the victory will be. ...



A motto by Mussolini: our entry into the war. ...

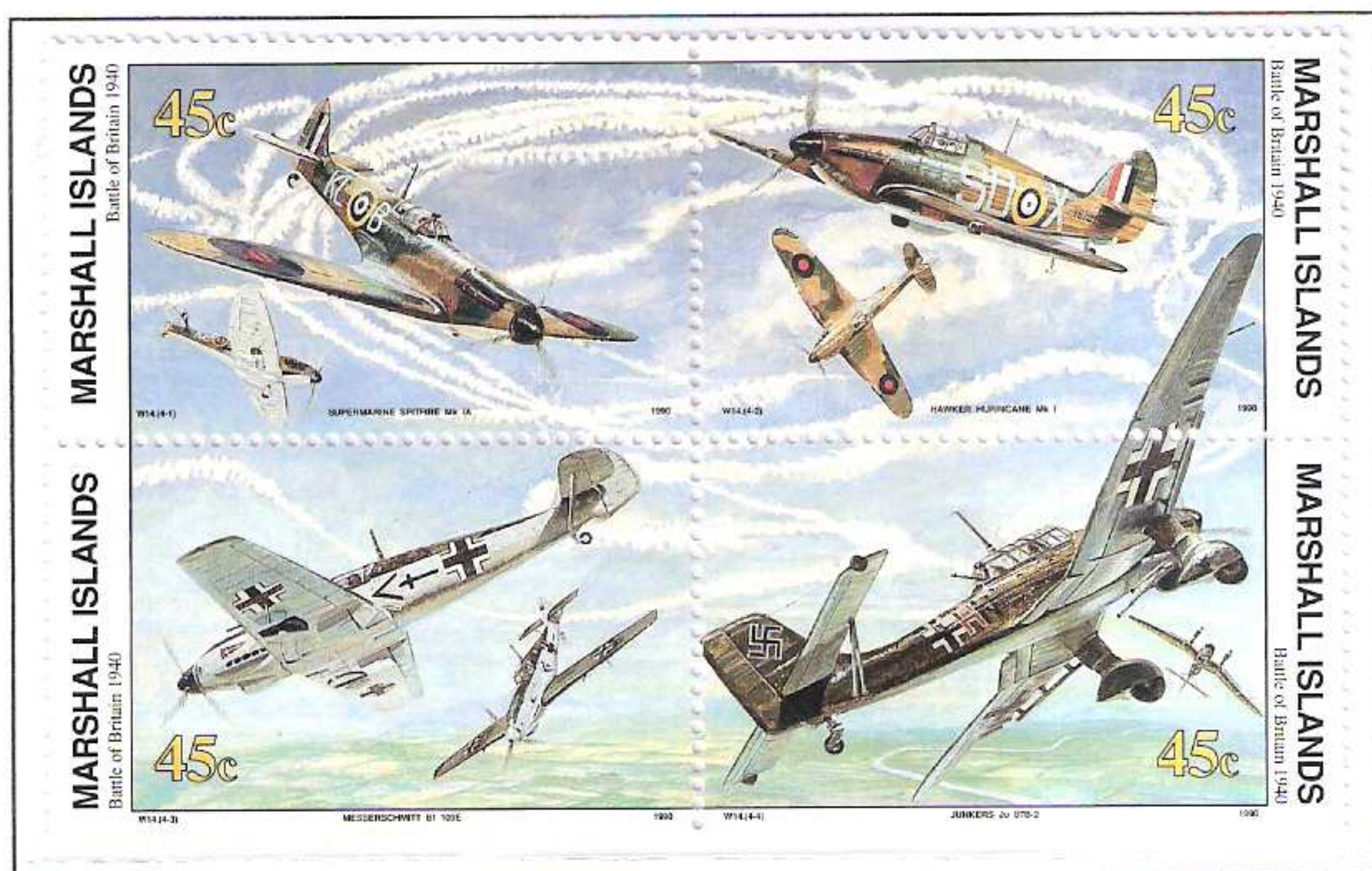


Postcard from Turin to Pola, June 12, 1940, two days after Italy's entry into the war



## 6. 1 THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

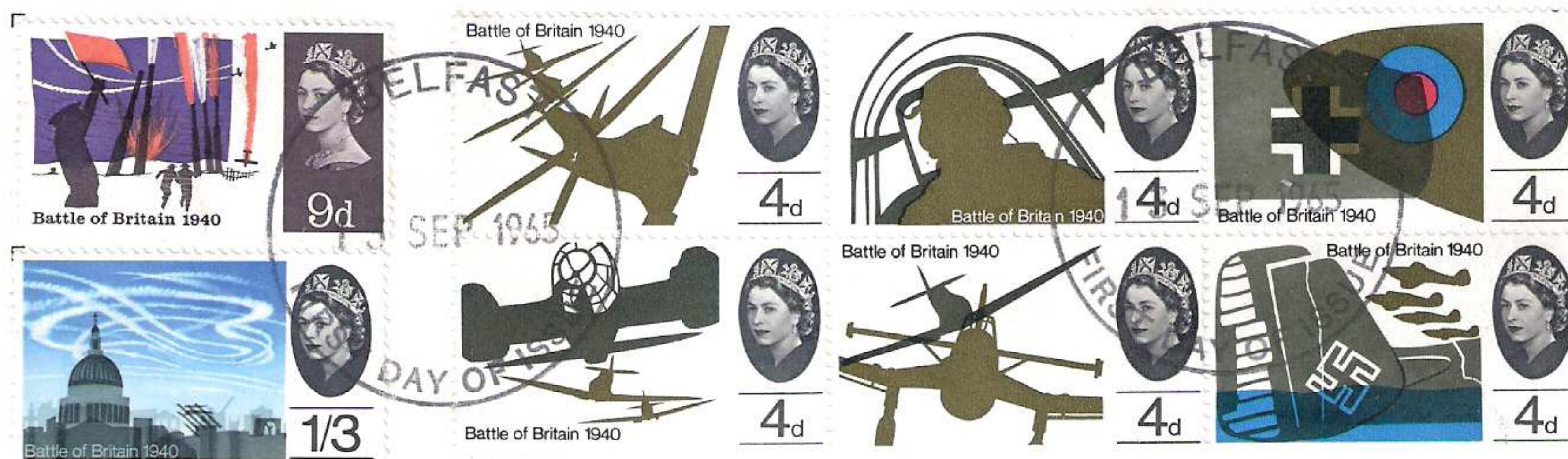
Hitler, who knew the superiority of the English fleet, before invading Britain leaves to Goring and his Luftwaffe the task to destroy London and the Royal Air Force. For Germany that will mean a great loss of planes and pilots.



RAF and Luftwaffe, duels



Rescuers and anti-aircraft defence



Mrs. Abernethy  
 % The Butler's Home,  
 Bluebell Pike  
 Bluebell  
 Montgomery Co. PA,  
 USA 19472



## 7. 1 EASTERN EUROPE IN FLAMES

Without consulting Hitler, Mussolini orders to invade Greece on October 28, 1940, perhaps hoping for a bright and quick success. It won't be quince: the difficult mountainous ground, the lack of preparation, and the shortage of means will force Hitler to rush to the aid of Italy to avoid Mussolini a fool.



Free postcard with Mussolini's famous phrase "We shall break the kidneys to Greece", August 15, 1941



Letter from M.P. 204, Greek front to Florence, May 5, 1942 with Mussolini's motto "with Germany side by side, until the end"



## 7.2 EASTERN EUROPE IN FLAMES

By declaring war on Greece and Yugoslavia, Hitler also rescues his ally Mussolini. The operation in the Balkans, called "Marita", will however cause a two months' delay before attacking Russia, with inevitable negative consequences.



October 29, 1941, Croatia:  
after the German occupa-  
tion postcard from  
Dakovo for the Interior



Serbia, 1943: stamps issued during  
the German occupation

**Kriegsgefangenenpost**  
Correspondance des prisonnier de guerre

**Postkarte** Carte postale

An **A**

*Vera Milic*

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

**Absender:**  
Expéditeur:

**Vor- und Zuname:**  
Nom et prénom  
*Milic Miodrag*

**Gefangenenummer:**  
No. du prisonnier  
*920*

**Lager-Bezeichnung:** Oflag VI C  
Nom du camp Osnabrück - Eversheide

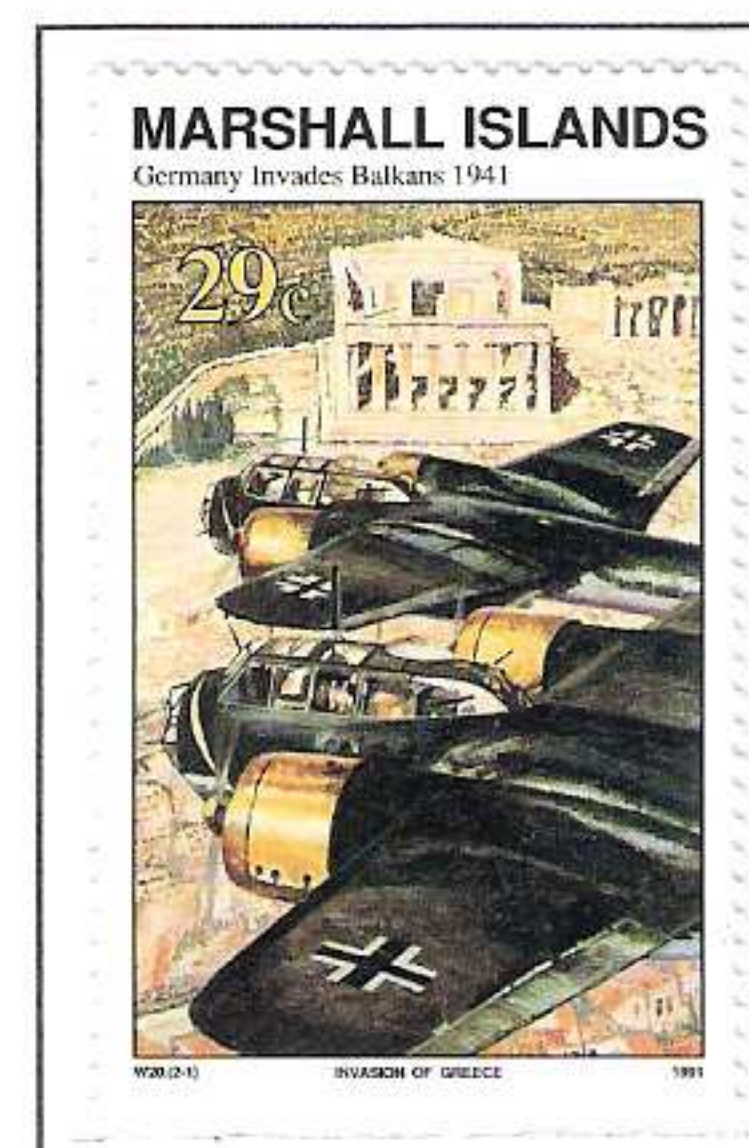
Deutschland (Allemagne)

**Empfangsort:**  
Lieu de destination  
*Beograd*

**Straße:**  
Rue *Zlatiborska 75 prachu-*  
*zenje Mileševske ul.*

**Land:**  
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)  
*Serbien*  
Département

*-21041-12-15*



Letter of prisoner n. 920, October 2, 1941 from Osnabrück to his family in Belgrade



### 7.3 EASTERN EUROPE IN FLAMES

After the conquest of the Balkans and Greece, the German forces could not allow Crete to remain in the hands of the allies. Therefore, with an action of airborne troops (operation Merkur ), the Wehrmacht began the attack on May 20, 1941 and in June the island was completely conquered. The allies managed to re-embark and load about 18,000 men out of 32,000 stationed on the Island.



Crete attacked by paratroopers

The conquest of the island is not painless for Germany; in fact the Germans lose 3,700 men and 2,500 are injured, most of them are paratroopers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division . The allied troops recovering from the island were composed of Greek, British, New Zealander and Australian soldiers. In the clash of the naval fight to defend the island, the battleship Warspite, too, was damaged.



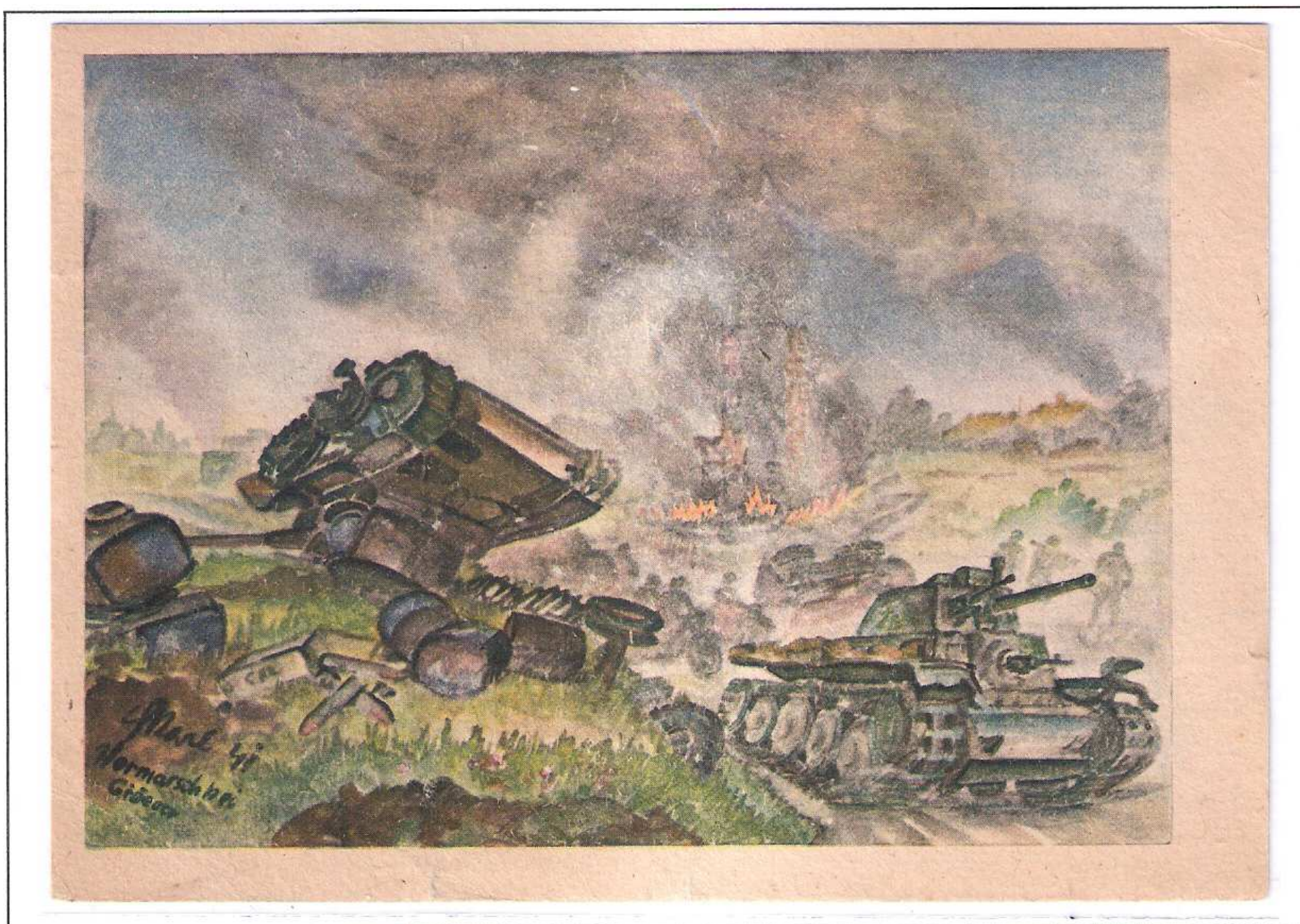
Allied forces and Warspite





## 7. 4 EASTERN EUROPE IN FLAMES

On June 22nd, 1941, with a six weeks' delay because of the invasion of the Balkans, Greece and Crete, Hitler attacks Russia. The operation is called "Barbarossa"; thousands of guns, tanks and planes launch a massive attack to the Soviet forces.



*Military  
Mail*



In the attack the Soviet forces, led by the Supreme Leader J. Stalin, are helped by Romanian, Bulgarian, and Hungarian troops, as well as by legions of Dutch, French Croatian, Norwegian volunteers and by Slovak Divisions.



To defend their homeland there is a general mobilitation.

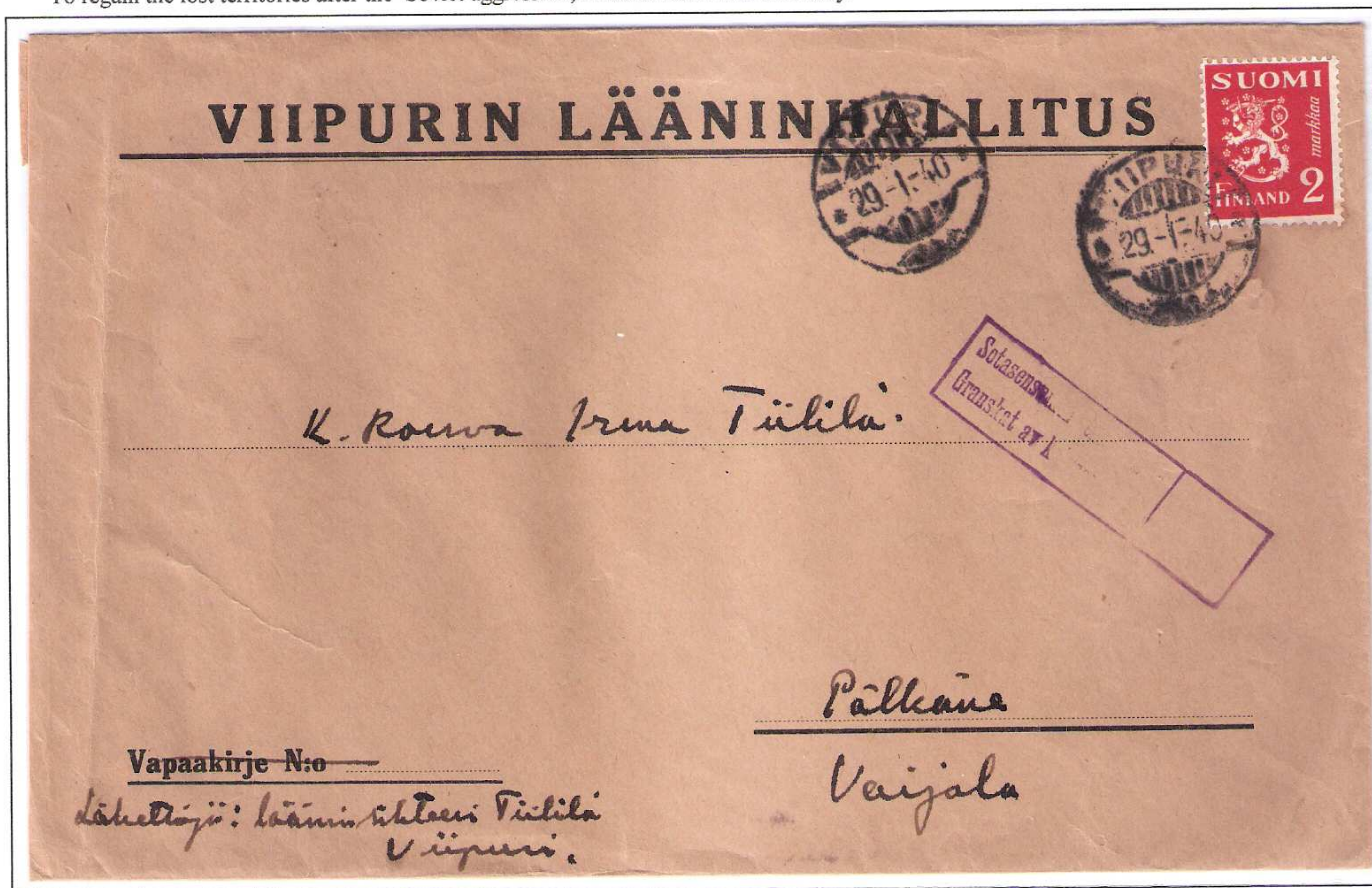
*Colour proof*





## 7.5 EASTERN EUROPE IN FLAMES

To regain the lost territories after the Soviet aggression, Finland allies with Germany.



January 29, 1940 letter: from Vipurin to Palkane during the war with Russia



Mar. Mannerheim  
Chief of the Finnish troops

In July 1941 Italy is on the side of Germany with the C.S.I.R. (Italian Corps of Expedition in Russia)



Italy, March 3, 1942: letter from M.P. 40, Russian front, to Milan, seen for censorship



## 7. 6 EASTERN EUROPE IN FLAMES

The arrival of "General Winter" and the help of Siberian fresh divisions, led by Gen. Zukov and called back from Leningrad, cause the victory in the battle of Moscow. The Germans, who were at about 50 miles from Moscow, can only see it in photos.



M.P. 20616 sector C to Moscow (August 18, 1943)



Part of the population of Leningrad, evacuated before the encirclement, is sent beyond the Urals. Their mail is sent to the soldiers left behind to defend the town, while on the southern front the battle for the conquest of Stalingrad continues.



The defence of Moscow

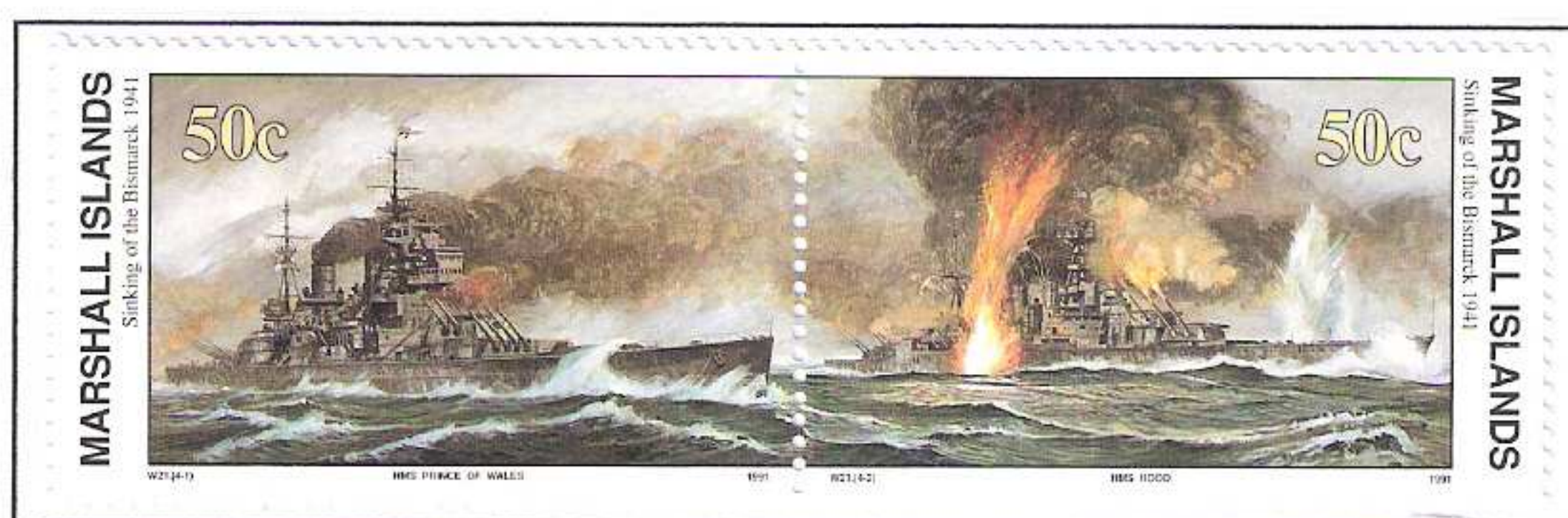


Postcard from the front in Leningrad to Moscow (August 21, 1943)



The "battle of the Atlantic", as W. Churchill called it, is the longest of the whole conflict. It began in 1939 and ended only at the end of the war. The first great victory on the sea was reached by the Home Fleet when it sank the Bismarck on May 27, 1941, after the German ship had sunk the battle cruiser Hood and seriously damaged the Prince of Wales.

*The Bismarck  
opens fire*



*The Hood is sinking  
while the battleship  
Prince of Wales  
withdraws after being hit.*

The chase of the German damaged battleship is accomplished by the battleship King George V, the aircraft carrier Ark Royal, cruisers and destroyers, including the Polish Piorun. After being hit by torpedoes and the gunfire, the ship sinks at 9.30 on May 27.

*The torpedo planes  
of the Ark Royal*



*The Piorun and the  
route of the Bismarck*



*The sinking of  
the Bismarck*





## 1.2 DUEL ON THE SEAS

In order to hinder the flow of aids that the United States and Canada, the latter not yet at war, sent to Britain and Russia, Germany carried out a real chase against the convoys, by using its pirate ships and U-boats in formations called "pack of wolves".



*The aids to the allies from USA and Canada and the formation of convoys along the Atlantic route*

To contrast the attacks of the German U-boats, convoys were escorted by British, Canadian and American destroyers and corvettes, following the route passing South of Iceland and arriving even at the ports of Murmansk and Archangel in Russia.



*U-Boot in surface navigation*



*German propaganda about the ship foundering*

*Destruction of Atlantic convoy "PQ 17";  
25 out of 36 ships for the convoys were sunk.*



The first American destroyer escorting the convoys is sunk on October 31, 1942.



*The Rouben James sunk by U-boats*



*The rescue of surviving sailors*



### 1.3 DUEL ON THE SEAS

The United States built 2,710 ships "Liberty" during the war. Each of them, 14,200 tons of gross tonnage, could carry 300 rail cars of aid or 440 tanks or 2,840 jeeps. About 200 of these ships were sunk.



PK-Kriegsbericht Schimpke

Bombenabwurf auf britisches Handelsschiff

November 18, 1942: Military Mail from Bremen  
with German aircraft Junkers JU 88 bombing  
merchant ships



50<sup>th</sup> launch of the first "Liberty" in the  
yard of Evansville



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

William E. Hill  
2924 Benninghofen  
Hamilton  
Ohio



# 1. 4 DUEL ON THE SEAS

The Soviet Union repeatedly recalled with postal value of emissions the sacrifice of sailors engaged on Arctic convoys.



50<sup>th</sup> end of the conflict and tribute to allied sailors



70<sup>th</sup> in the first convoy arrived in the port of Murmansk



Honouring the sacrifice of sailors



Всемирная благотворительная акция, посвященная 50-летию первого союзнического конвоя в годы Великой Отечественной войны

Куда \_\_\_\_\_

Кому \_\_\_\_\_

Индекс предприятия связи \_\_\_\_\_ и адрес отправителя \_\_\_\_\_

Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения

50<sup>th</sup> of the first convoy arrived in Arkhangelsk



## 2. 1 THE AFRICAN SCENE

The I.E.A war lasted from March 17, 1941 to November 29, 1941 with the surrender of Gondar by Gen. Nasi. Earlier, on May 17, 1941, Amedeo Duke of Aosta had surrendered in Amba Alagi obtaining from the British "the honour of arms" for the bravery and the valour of the Italian soldiers.



*M.P. free postcard with the Duke of Aosta and his soldiers*



*April 6, 1940, Eritrea: letter from Dessie Amara to Cormons, Capriva arrived before Italy entered the war*



## 2.2 THE AFRICAN SCENE

The war on the "Libyan front" was a series of advances and retreats from September 13, 1940 until January 23, 1943 when Montgomery's troops arrived in Tripoli.



*M.P. postcard with the Mediterranean and North Africa*



*M.P. postcard with propaganda of American aid to England*



## 2.3 THE AFRICAN SCENE

The first move on the Libyan front is operated by Graziani who occupies Sidi-el-Barrani in the Egyptian territory. The British counterattack, take the Italians by surprise and reoccupy the town. In January 1941 the British conquer Bardia and on the 22nd they arrive in Tobruk. Graziani orders the retreat. On February 6, 1941 the British invade the Cyrenaica.



Italy, 1941: stamp of Cyrenaica airmail, 1929 overprinted "Lybia", last issue

Cyrenaica, Benghazi: letter for Salerno, January 30, 1941 before the British occupation



Considering the Italian defeat, Hitler runs to the aid of Mussolini and sends Gen. Rommel with his "Afrikakorps" to Tripoli.

Units of the Afrikakorps in the Libyan desert





## 2.4 THE AFRICAN SCENE

On March 24, 1941, after replacing Graziani with Gen. Gariboldi, Rommel begins his offensive on April 10<sup>th</sup> and surrounds Tobruk. Although constantly attacked, the British troops resist.

*The Polish contingent in Tobruk*



On November 28, '41 the 8<sup>th</sup> British Army breaks the siege of Tobruk and occupies Bengasi on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Tobruk front: May 7, 1941: 96 M.P. greetings from a gunner to his family in Codogno*





## 2. 5 THE AFRICAN SCENE



On January ,1942 a convoy of supplies arrive at last for the Axis' troops. Rommel attacks immediately and on January 29 Bengasi is reoccupied.

*Erwin Rommel  
"the desert 's fox "*

On February 7,1942 Rommel makes his troops stop along the Derna- Bir Hakeim line. In May he advances again and regains Bir Acheim, after capturing 7,000 soldiers and 150 tanks.



**11. PĚŠÍ PRAPOR 10.12.1941**

Česká pošta



ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA



On June 21, 1942  
Tobruk is reconquered

*Postal stationery of 70<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of Tobruk's  
defence by  
Czechoslovakian troops*



## 2.6 THE AFRICAN SCENE



*August 13, 1942, Libya, by M.P. 210, 10<sup>th</sup> Division G.G.F.F. for Naples*

Rommel stops his advance in El Alamein, waiting for reinforcements, which are not as many as expected. The British replace their commanders. Gen. Montgomery and Gen. Alexander are in action. On October 23, 1942, they attack with forces much higher than Rommel's ones.



*The Commanders*



*The allies advance*

Allies can also rely on troops coming from the Commonwealth and the territories occupied by Germany.



*Australians and Greeks at El Alamein*

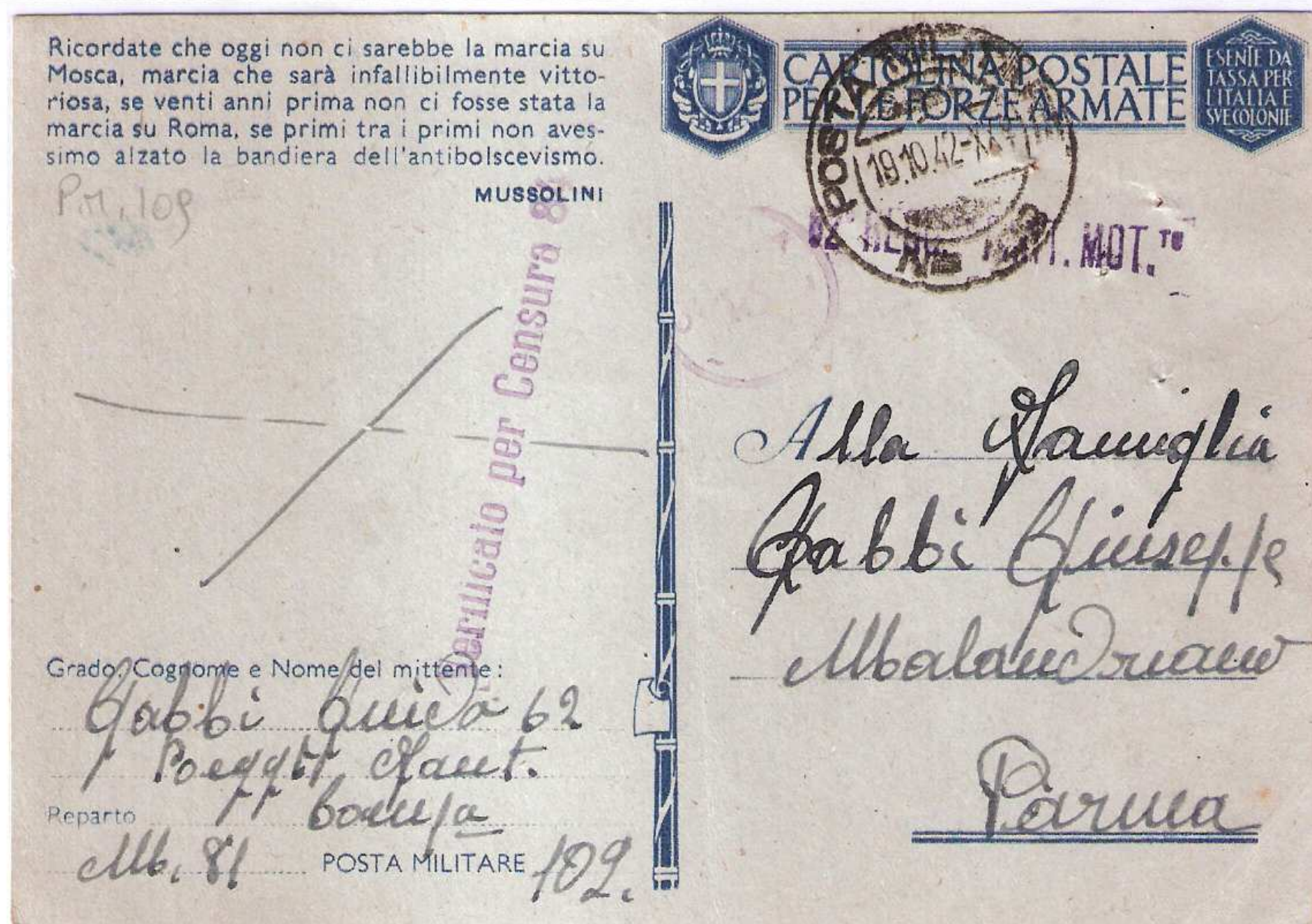


## 2. 7 THE AFRICAN SCENE



*Italian cemetery of El Alamein*

*October 19, 1942, Italy: front of El Alamein, a few days before Montgomery's offensive, started on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the same month*



Memories of a defeat despite the valour and courage of the Italians soldiers on the battlefield.

*Propaganda postcard for the Army in tariff: foot soldier with grenade*





### 3. 1 THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND MALTA

The Mediterranean Sea was the grave of countless ships, aircrafts and soldiers. The "mare nostrum" was actually dominated by the English Navy thanks to the radar and the bases of Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria, as well as to the huge amount of aircraft, ships and fuel, of which there was a big shortage in our fleet.

*M.P. free postcard with the isle of Malta, repeatedly bombed by the Axis' aircrafts, but never captured*



*M.P. free postcard with Gibraltar and its fortress*



### 3. 2 THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND MALTA

On November 11, 1941, at 11 p.m. the torpedo bombers Swordfish, taken from the aircraft carrier Illustrious, attack the naval base in Taranto. The battleships Cavour, Littorio and Caio Duilio, and the Cruiser Trento and smaller vessels are hit.



*The development of the action and the battleships Andrea Doria, miraculously unscathed, and Cavour*

June 18, 1941: Italy  
correspondence from  
Littorio



May 31, 1941, Italy:  
M.P. card from the  
cruiser Trento



### 3.3 THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND MALTA

The battle of Cape Matapandel, March 28, 1941 in the Peloponnese, between the Italian team, formed by battleship Vittorio Veneto, cruisers and normal ships, and the British fleet, formed by three battleships, including the Warspite and the aircraft carrier Formidable, marks a clear defeat of the Italian fleet.

The Vittorio Veneto is hit but it can survive; the cruisers Pola, Zara and Rijeka are sunk.



Admiral Cunningham  
and the battleship Warspite



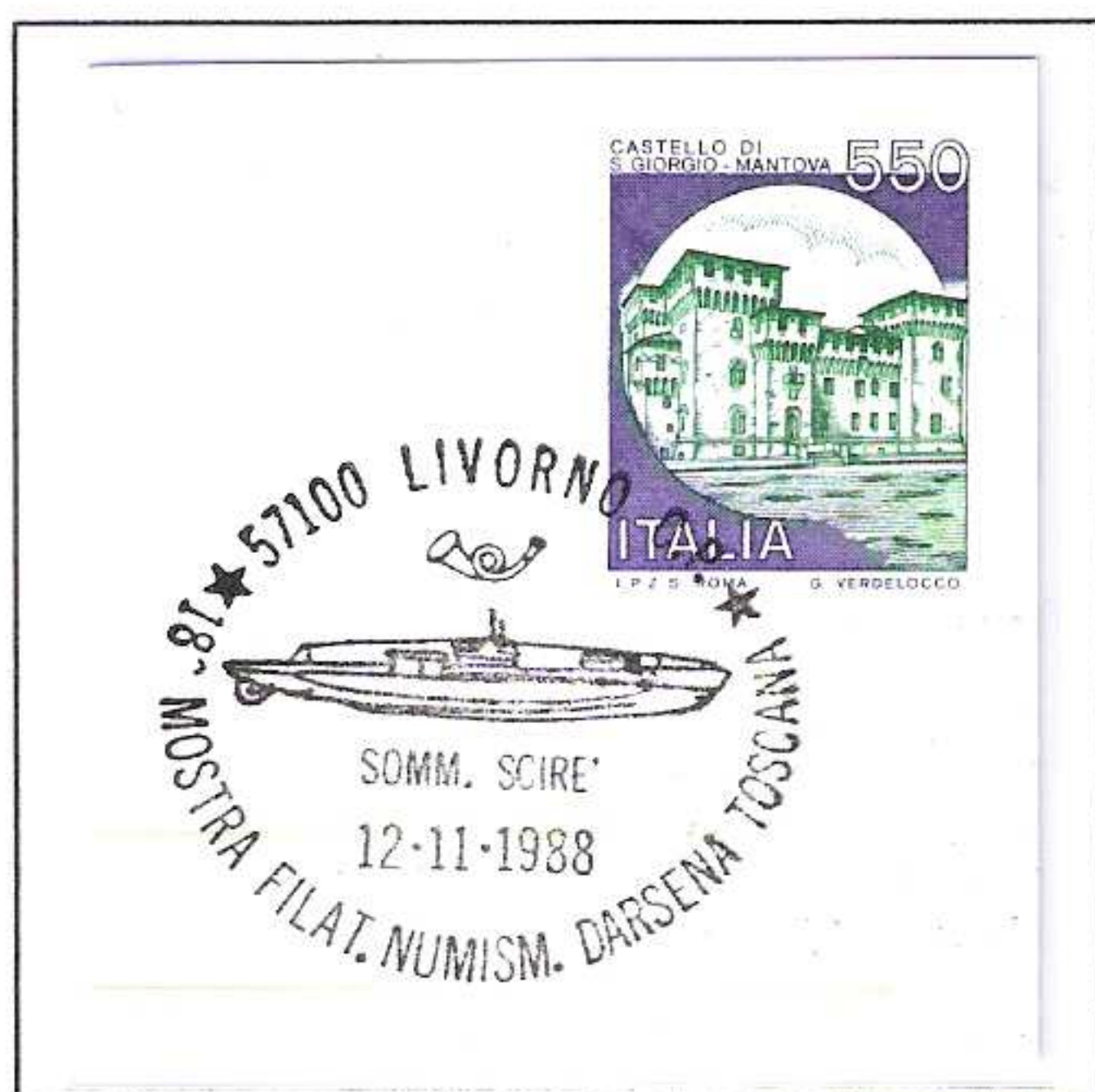


### 3.4 THE MEITERRANEAN SEA AND MALTA

The counterattack of the Italian Navy takes place on September 12, 1941. The most successful action is achieved by the raiders of the 10<sup>th</sup> Flotilla Mas who attack the battleships Valiant and Queen Elizabeth in the harbour of Alexandria in Egypt with the LSC (slow-Running Torpedoes), commonly referred to as "pigs". The crew of the Durand de la Penne-Bianchi, Martellotta-Marino and Marceglia-Schergat, driven near the port by the submarine Scirè, seriously damage two battleships, one destroyer and one tanker.



*Alexandria, Egypt*

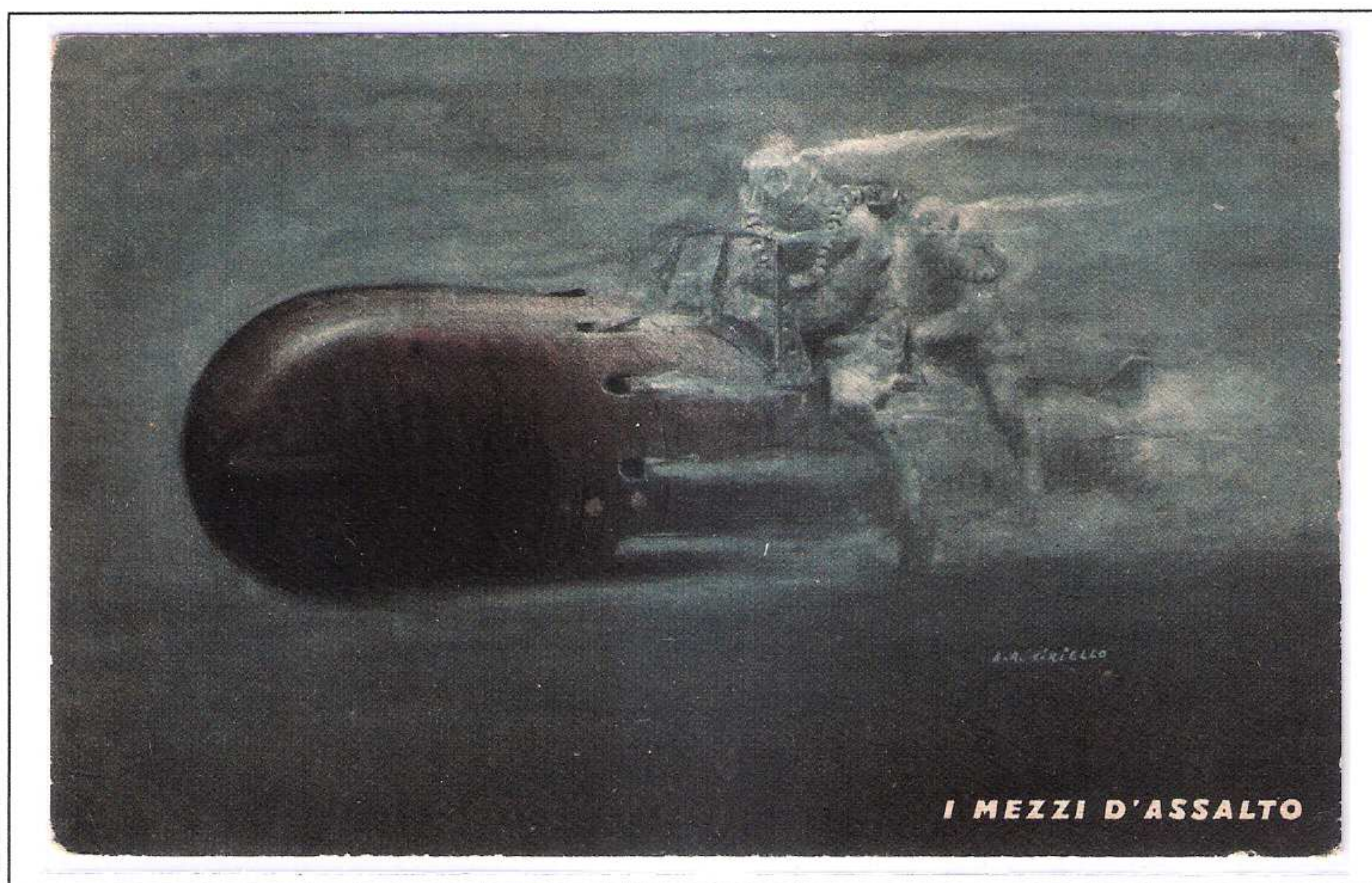


*The Scirè*



*HMS Valiant*

They were all decorated with a gold medal after their return from captivity. In Taranto, in March 1945, Commodore Sir Charles Morgan, Commander of the Valiant when attacked by the SLC, decorates with gold medal Durand de la Penne who, before the explosion of the charge placed under the ship, had warned the Commander to save the crew. Actually only eight people died.



*Italy-M.P. free postcard with the Raiders of the Royal Navy on LSC-pigs*



### 3. 5 THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND MALTA

The battle "Harpoon" took place from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 1942 to prevent the allies from supplying food to the isle of Malta. England had sent two convoys of supplies, one leaving from Gibraltar (operation Harpoon), escorted by the aircraft carrier "Eagle" sailing South of Pantelleria, and one from Alexandria (operation Vigorous) sailing South of Malta. The Italian-German forces engaged MAS, submarines, naval and air units and sank one cruiser, 5 destroyers, minesweepers, 1 tanker and 6 merchant ships. Italy lost the cruiser "Trento" and one destroyer.



30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Pantelleria



The destroyer Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, renamed "Premuda" was one of the means used.



Correspondence sent to soldiers on force on the cruiser Trento, sunk during the operation "Vigorous"



### 3. 6 THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND MALTA

Italy lost the opportunity to conquer Malta when undefended. Later the island had to resist the Italian-German bombing while the population had to endure a chronic shortage of supplies.



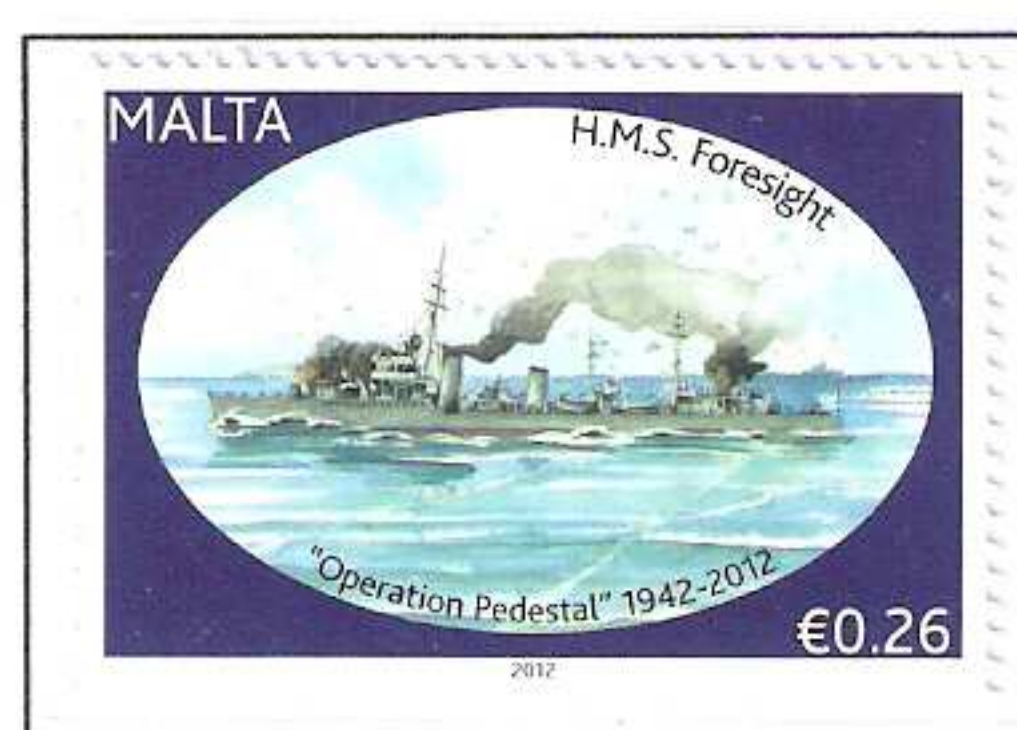
Because of the precarious situation of Malta, the British organized the operation "Pedestal": the most important rescue mission. A convoy of 13 merchant ships and a tanker, accompanied by an impressive group of ships, left Gibraltar for Malta. From August 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> the axis forces attacked the convoy sinking an aircraft carrier, some cruisers, 2 destroyers and 10 out of 15 ships. From the strategic point of view it was half a victory for the British. Malta was ready to overcome its worst period, waiting for further events.



*The tanker Ohio, though damaged, reaches Malta*



*The route of the British convoy*



*A SM. 79 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Torpedo Group sinks the destroyer Foresight*

*The Italian MS 16 and MS 22 sink the cruiser Manchester*



*The Empire Hope, one of the ten transport ships which were sunk*

*The aircraft carrier Eagle, sunk by the "U73" of Commander Rosenbaun*





On a Sunday of December, on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, at 7,55 a.m. without any declaration of war, the Japanese attack the U.S. territory of Hawaii. The II World War starts on a large scale in the Pacific and South-East Asia. The Japanese strategist of the naval operations is Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander of the Japanese combined fleet.



Thanks to the second in command, Adm. Nagumo, the powerful Japanese fleet, formed by the aircraft carriers Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, Hiryu, Shōkaku and Zuikaku and escorted by battleships, cruisers and submarines, start to launch the first wave of 183 planes at 06,00 a.m.; the second wave of 167 aircraft carriers is launched at 07,00 a.m..



*Aircraft taking off from Japanese carriers*

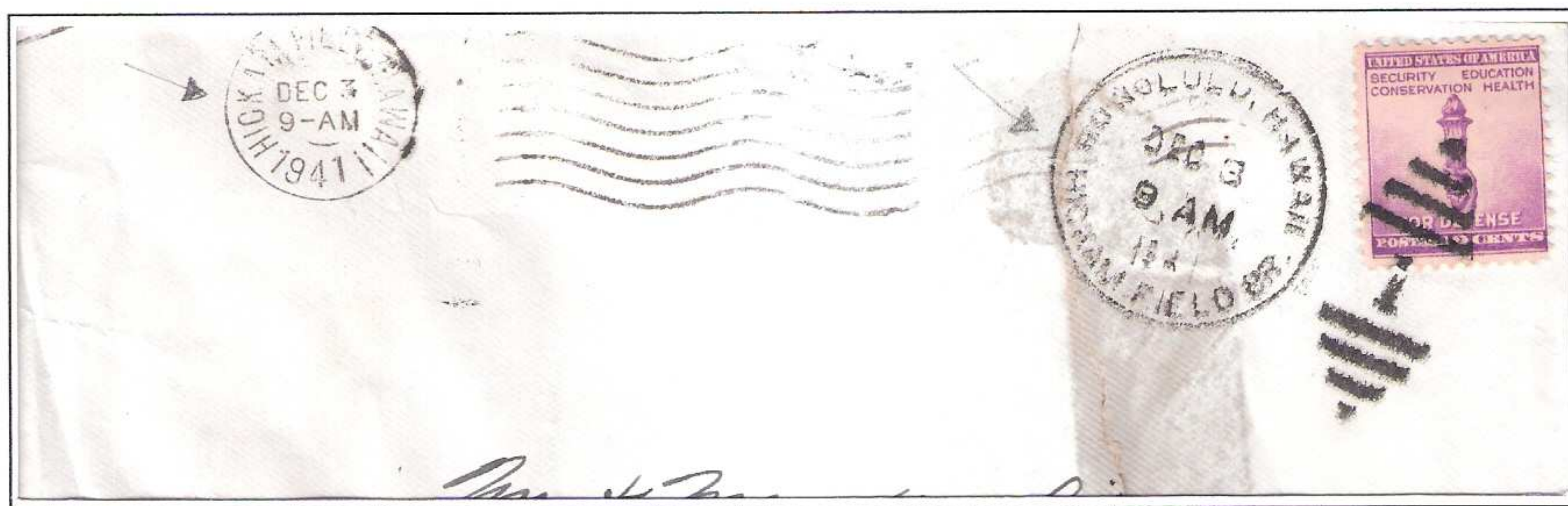


While the Japanese planes are about to reach the island of Oahu and Pearl Harbor Bay, the destroyer Word and a patrol of the Navy sink a Japanese submarine.

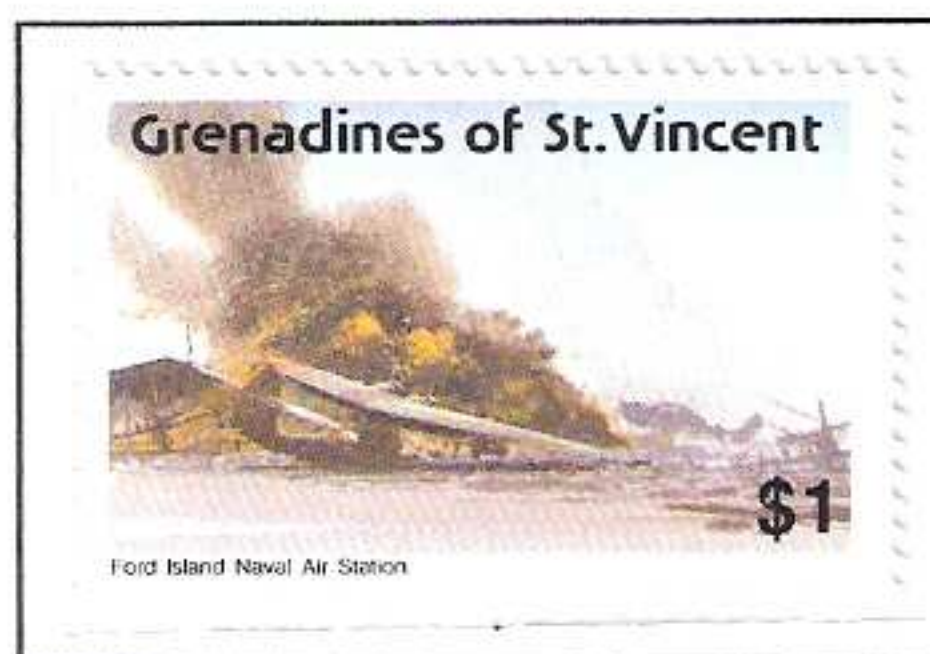




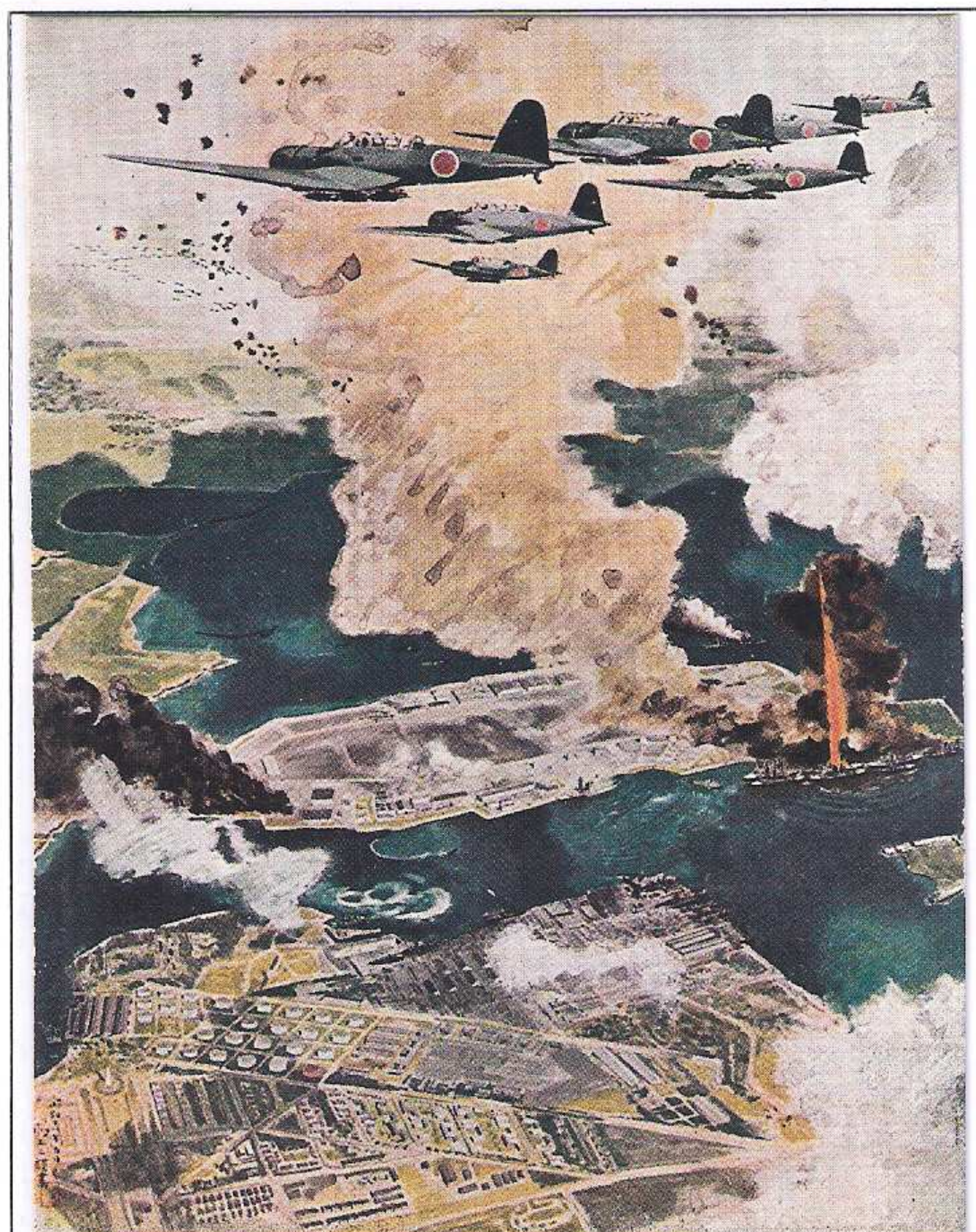
## 1.2 PEARL HARBOR



At 7,45 a.m. the island's airports are attacked including Hicham Field. Cap. Fuchida communicates "Tora, Tora, Tora", the surprise attack was successful.



The Japanese planes reach the naval base at 7,55 a.m. and begin to torpedo and bomb the U.S. battleships. They sink the Oklahoma and Arizona and seriously damage the remaining six battleships, causing a hell of fire.



吉岡堅二

ハ イ マ 真 珠 湾 強 襲



*The first explosions*



*Arizona sinks*

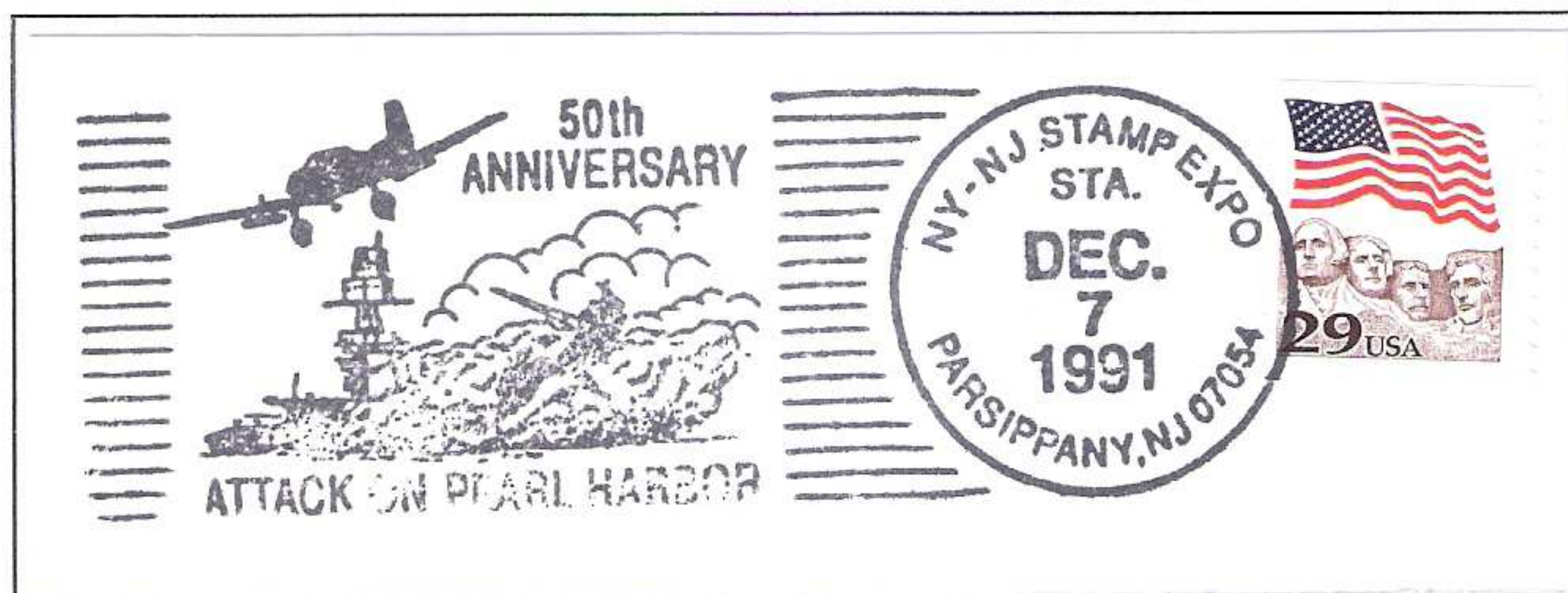


*The base of Pearl Harbor under attack in a Japanese postcard, 1943*



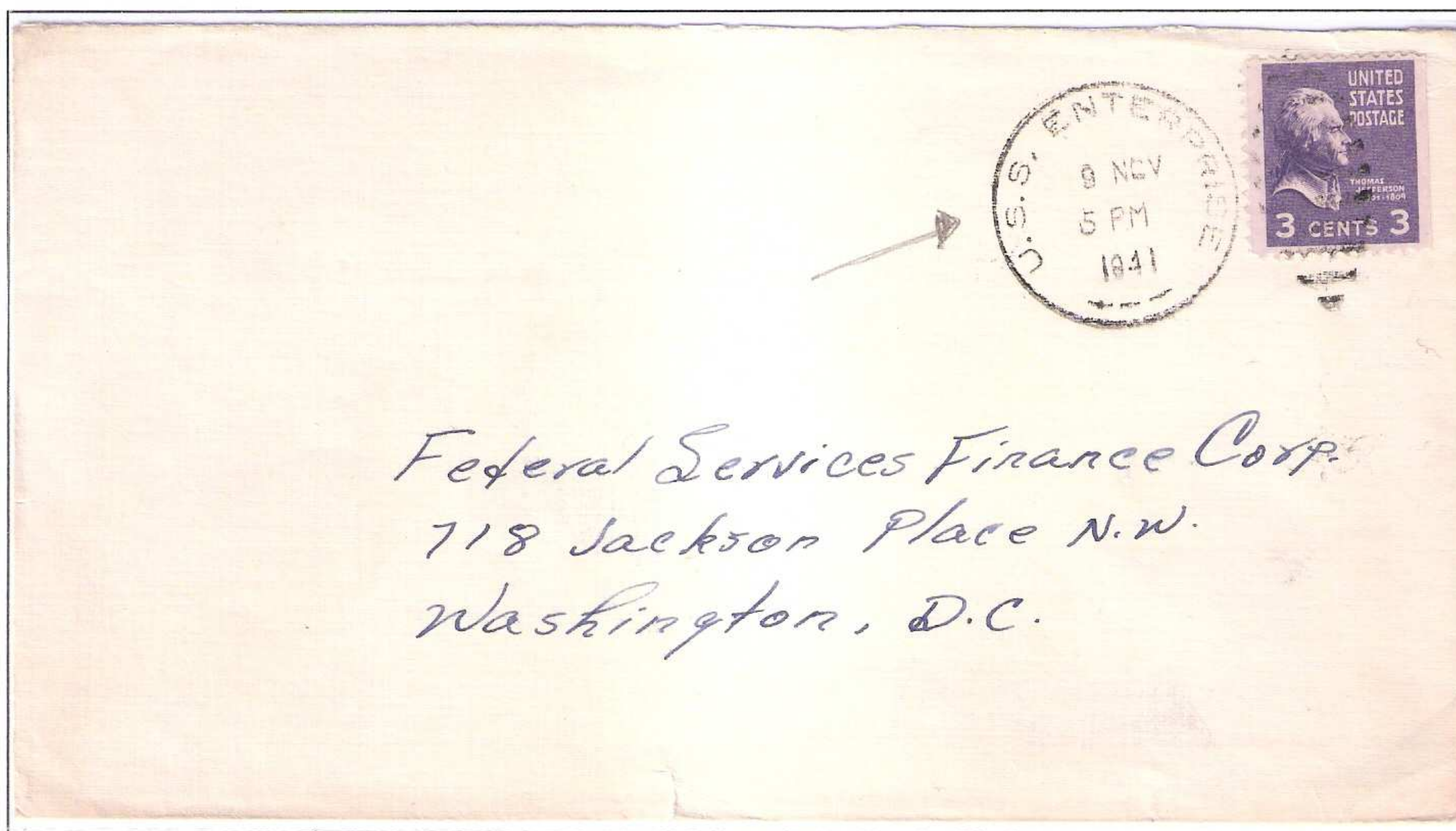
### 1. 3 PEARL HARBOR

The treacherous Japanese attack on the USA has a high price: 2,402 dead, 1,247 injured and the temporary loss of almost the complete surface fleet with the exception of the aircraft carriers not there on the day of the enemy's raid; the "day of infamy".



*The destroyer Shaw and the battleship Tennessee sink.*

*The Nevada tries to leave the base, but it is hit by torpedoes and bombs. It lies on shallow water with its dead soldiers*

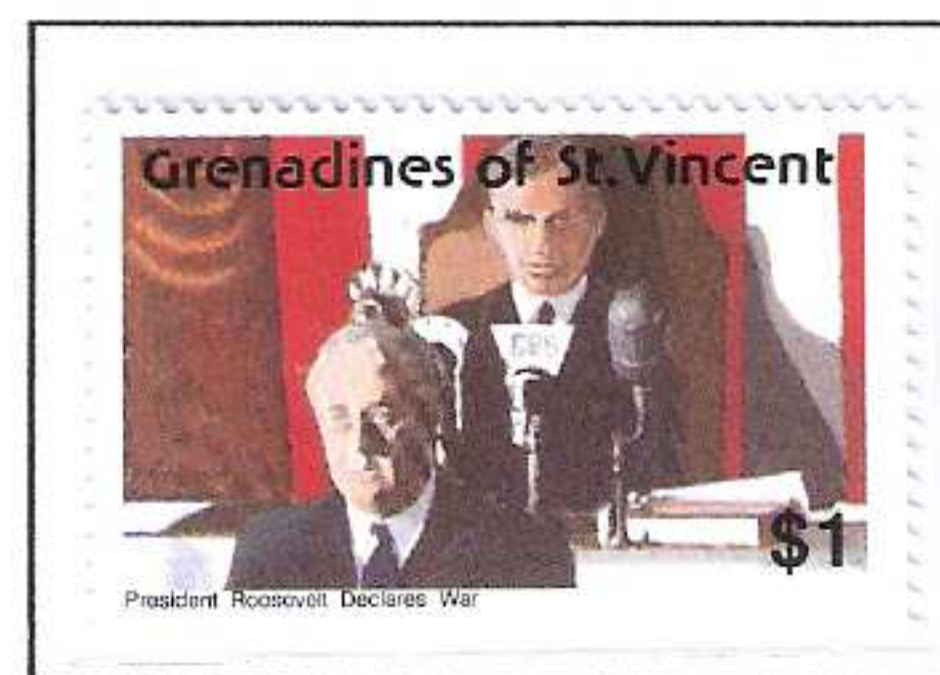


*The aircraft carriers Enterprise, Hornet and Yorktown, are safe because out in the sea on a mission*



## 1. 4 PEARL HARBOR

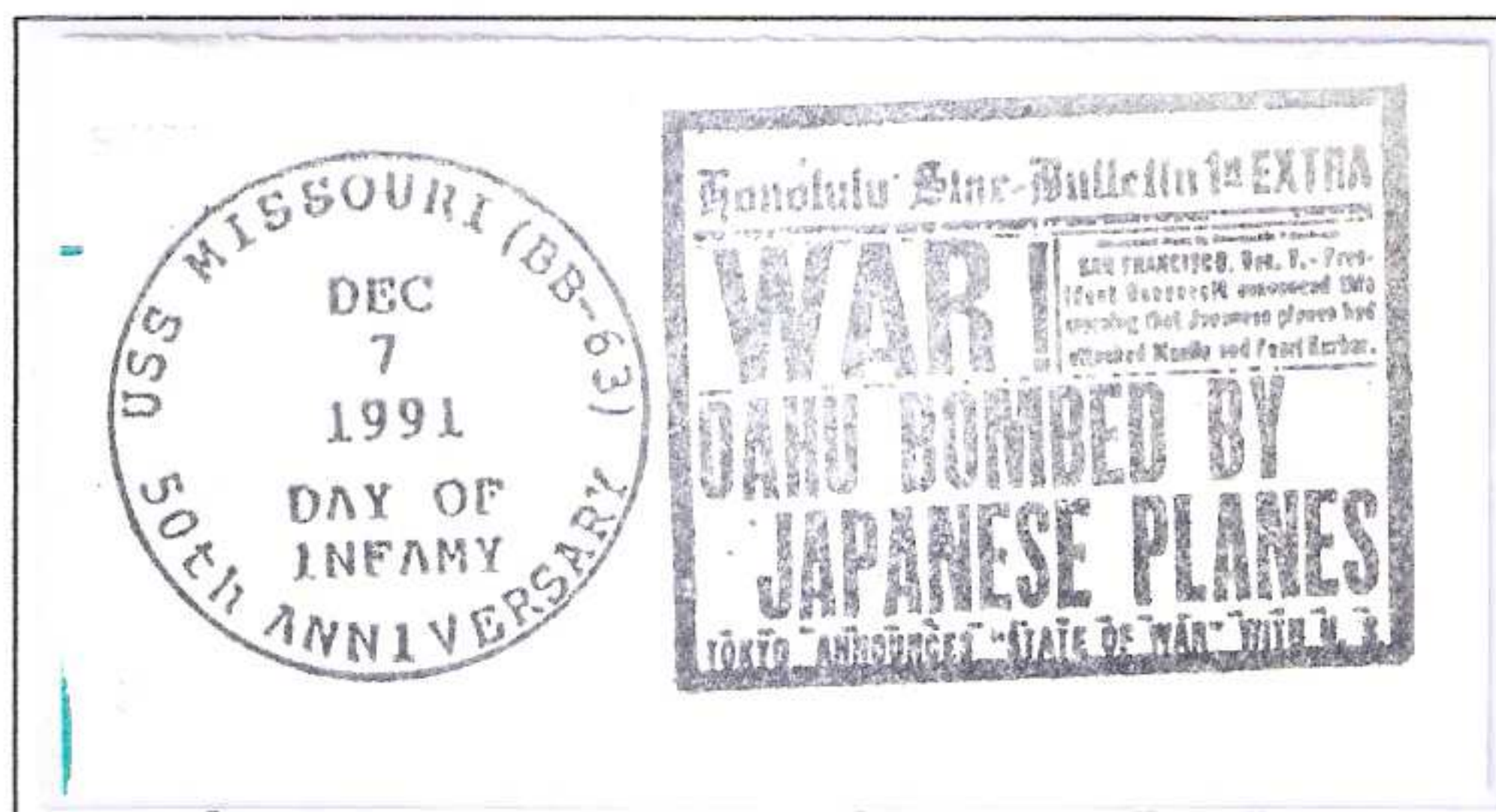
The "day of infamy" will never be forgotten.  
It can only be followed by the entrance of  
the United States into the war.



*December 8, 1941: in front of the Congress Roosevelt declares war on Japan*



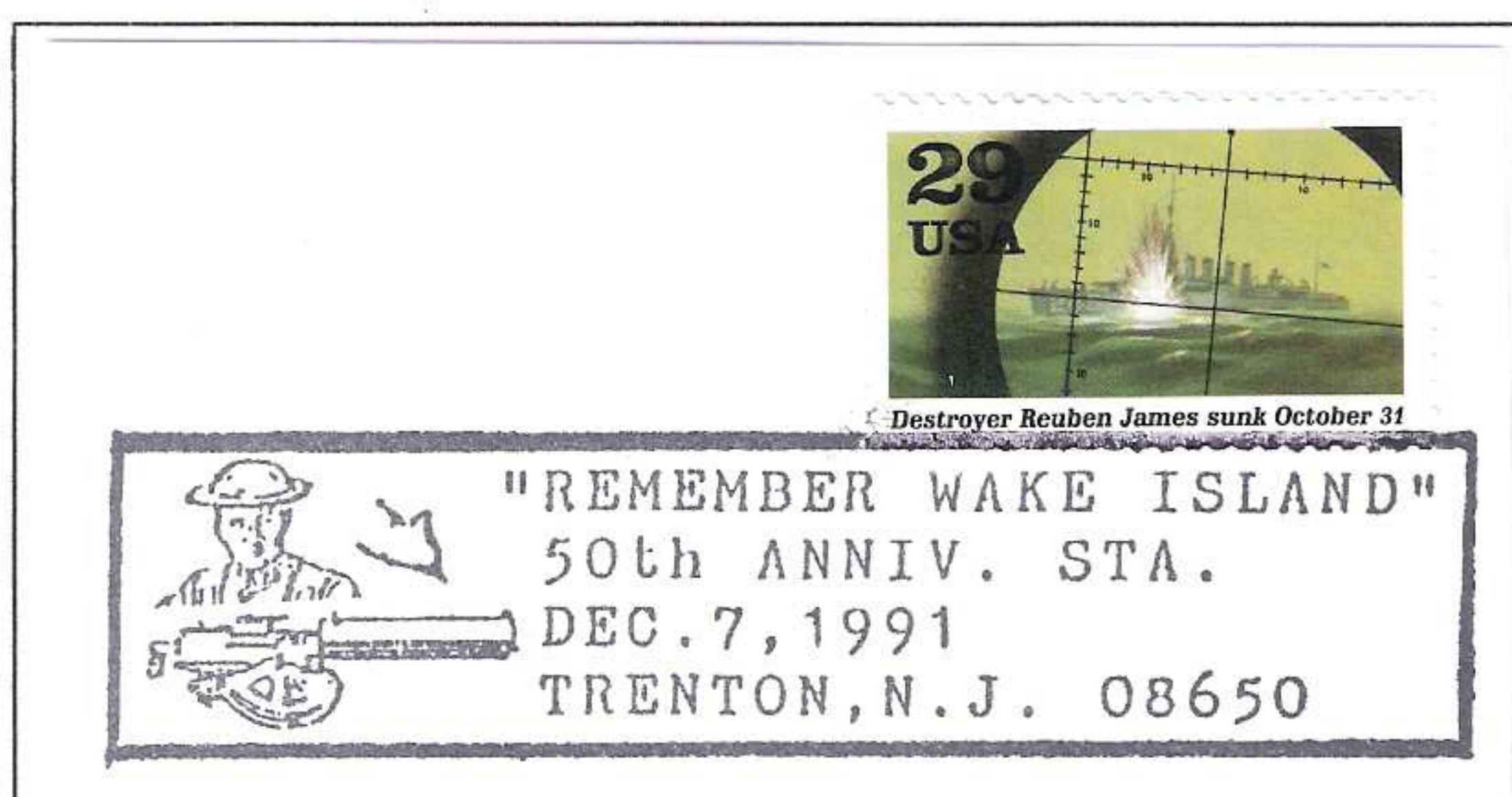
*Newspaper reports about the attack on the Hawaii with Roosevelt signing the declaration of war*



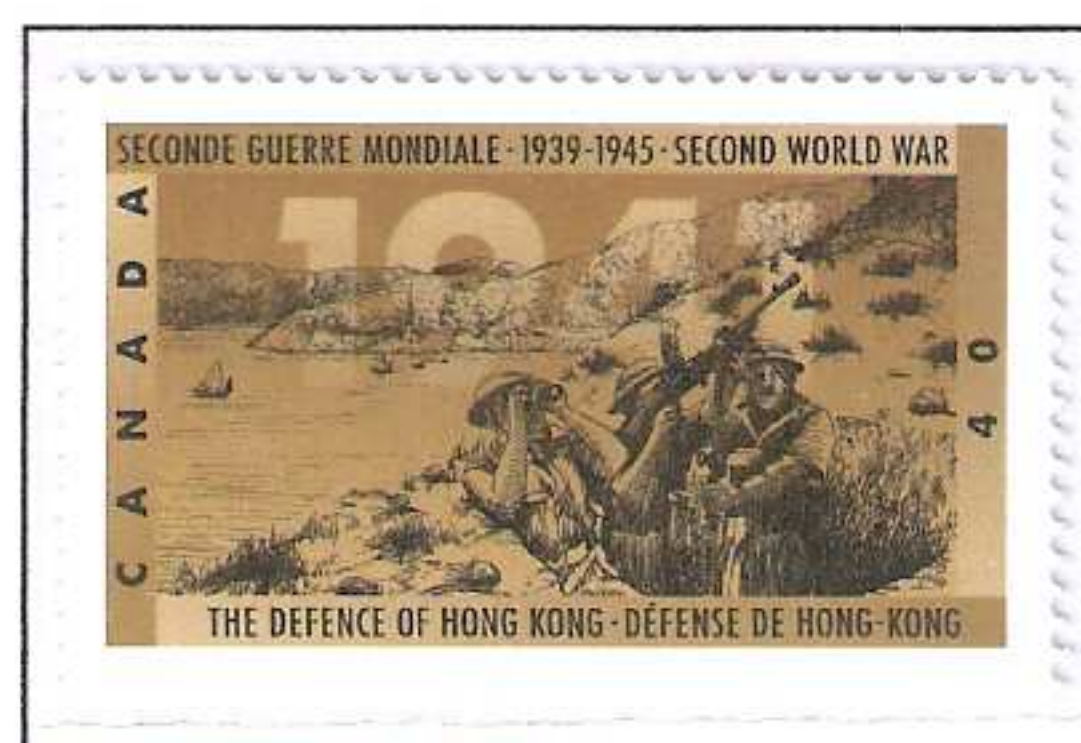


## 1.5 PEARL HARBOR

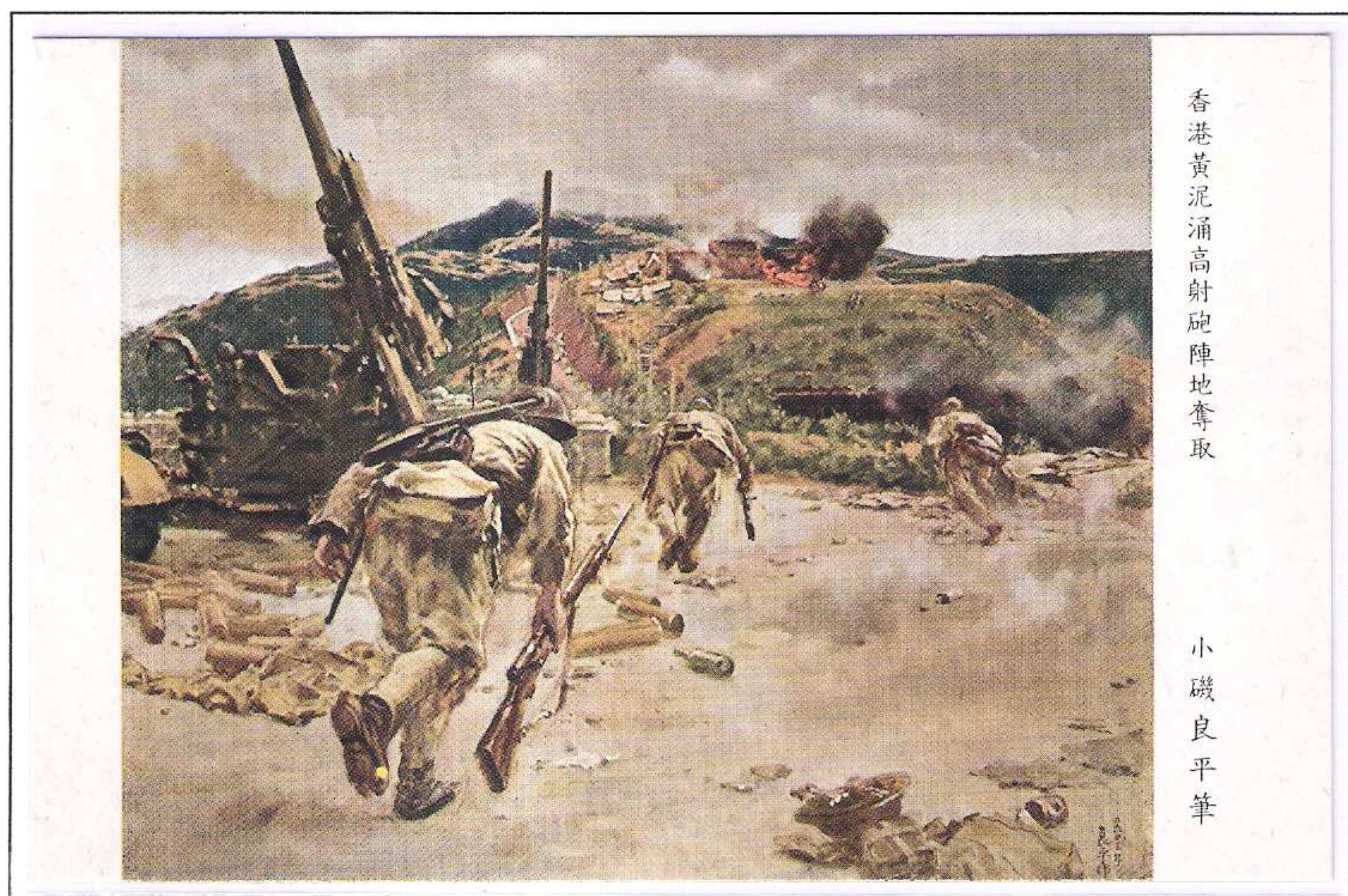
Besides Pearl Harbor, in anticipation of a future attack on the Midway, the Japanese attack and conquer the isles of Wake and Guam on December 8 and 10, 1941.



In the same month of December the Japanese forces occupy the British possession of Hong Kong, defended by Canadian troops, and are ready to invade Malaya.



Japan, 1943: a 2 s. postcard



香港黃泥涌高射砲陣地奪取

小磯良平筆



## 2. 1 SOUTHEAST ASIA

In six months the Japanese conquer the Philippines, Malaysia, Burma, Thailand, Borneo, Indonesia and much of China. On September 12, 1941 the Japanese deal a blow to the British Navy sinking the only two battleships present in those seas.



*The Repulse and Prince of Wales*



1942, Italy: allegorical M.P. card, free of import duties, with the Japanese samurai sinking the British ships



To celebrate the conquest of Singapore the Japanese Post Office overprinted two stamps depicting the heroes of the Russian-Japanese war of 1905: Gen. Nogi and Adm. Togo. They also mention Gen. Percival's surrender.



シンガポール英軍の降伏

宮本三郎筆

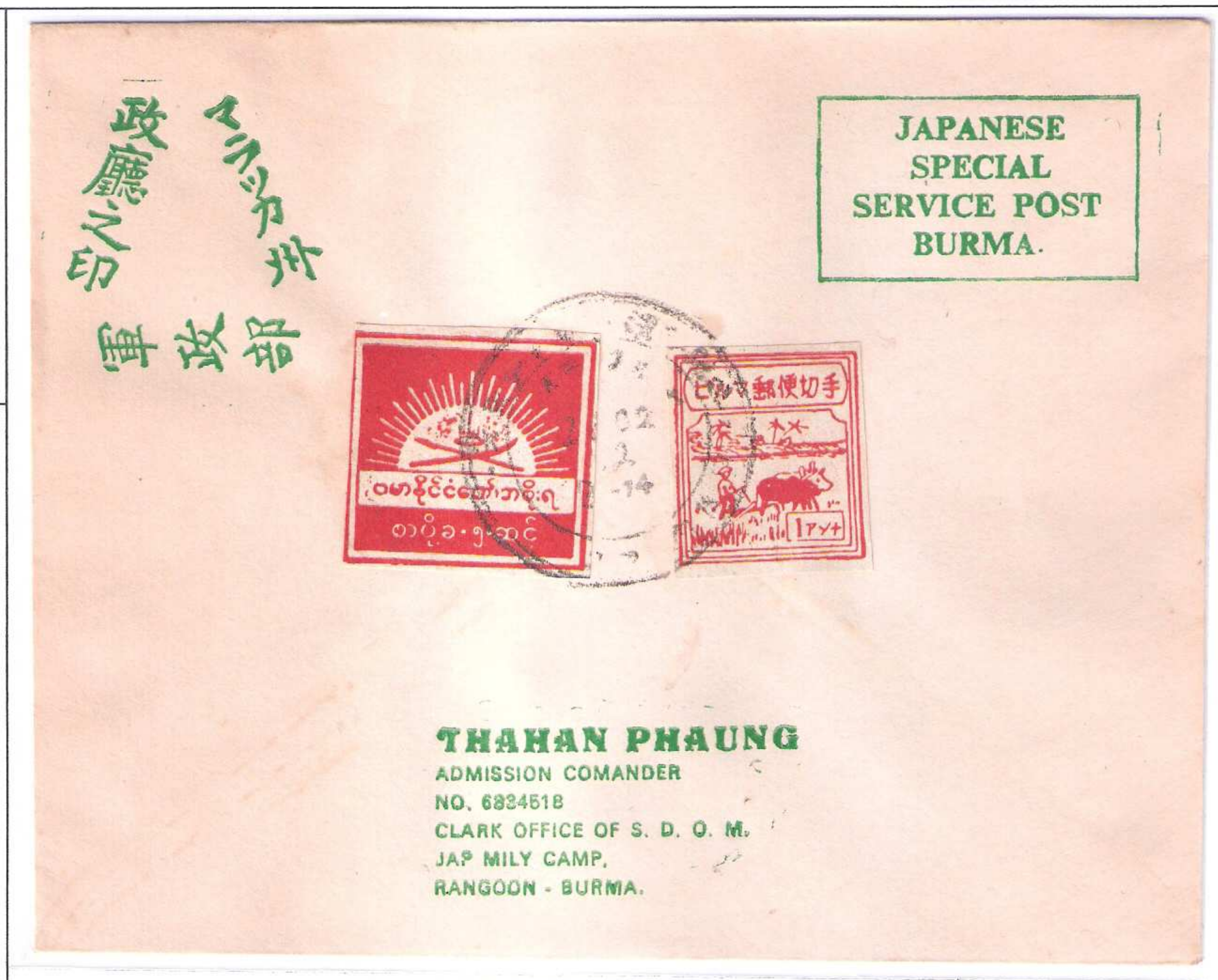


*Japan, 1943: a 2 s. postcard*



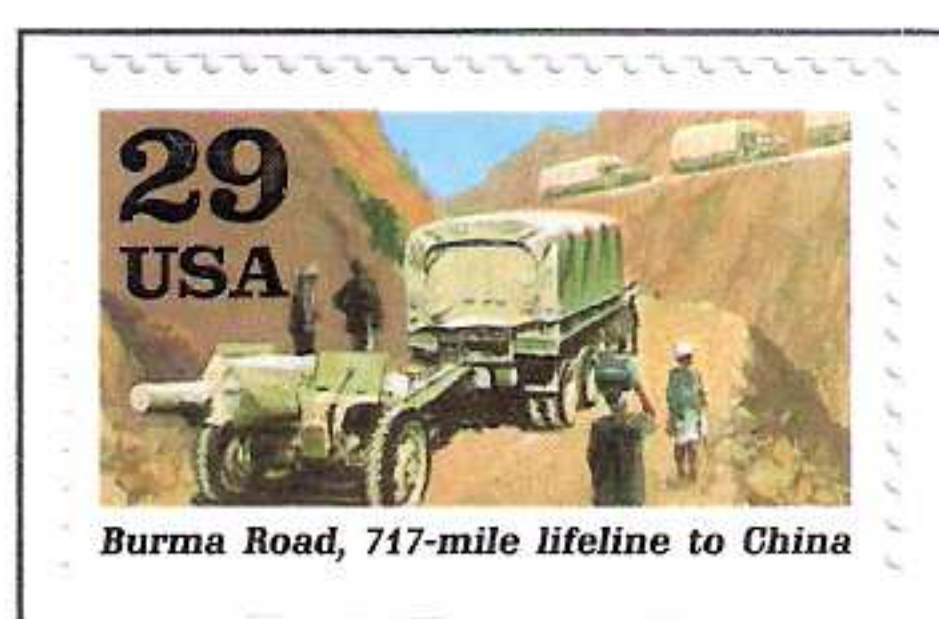
## 2. 2 SOUTHEAST ASIA

After the conquest of the capital Rangoon in May the whole Burma is occupied by the Japanese.



*Japanese stamps issued for the conquest of the Dutch Indies and Burma*

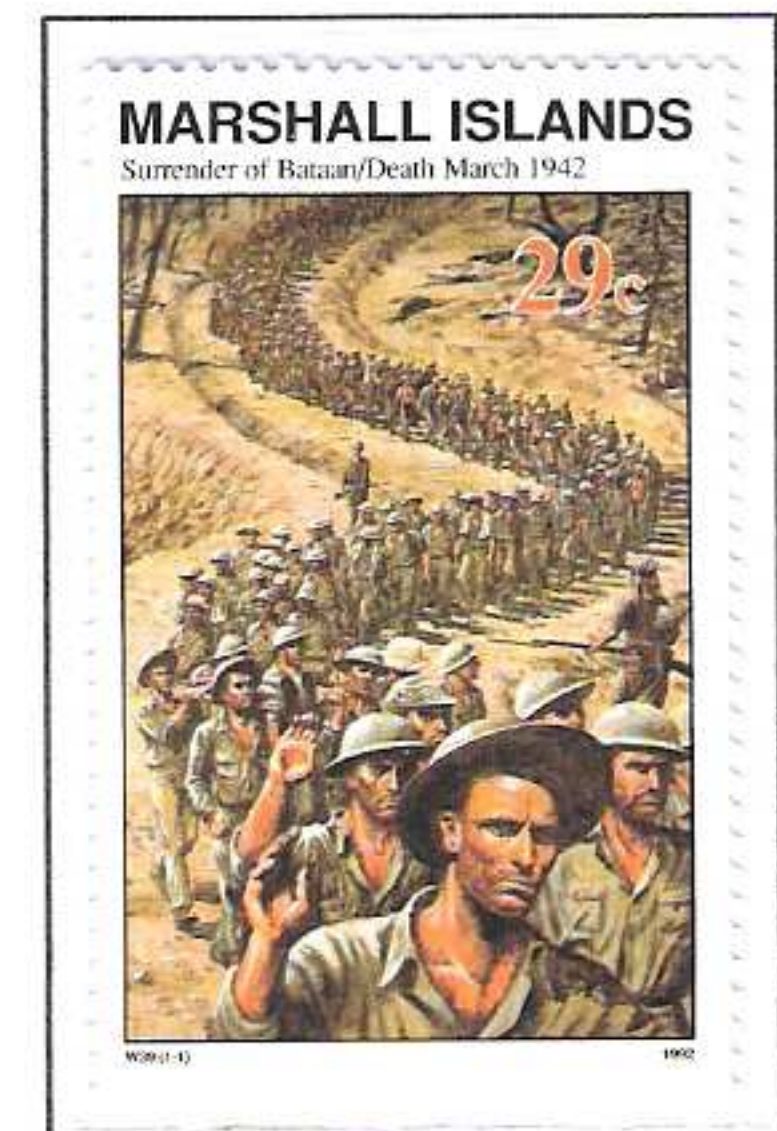
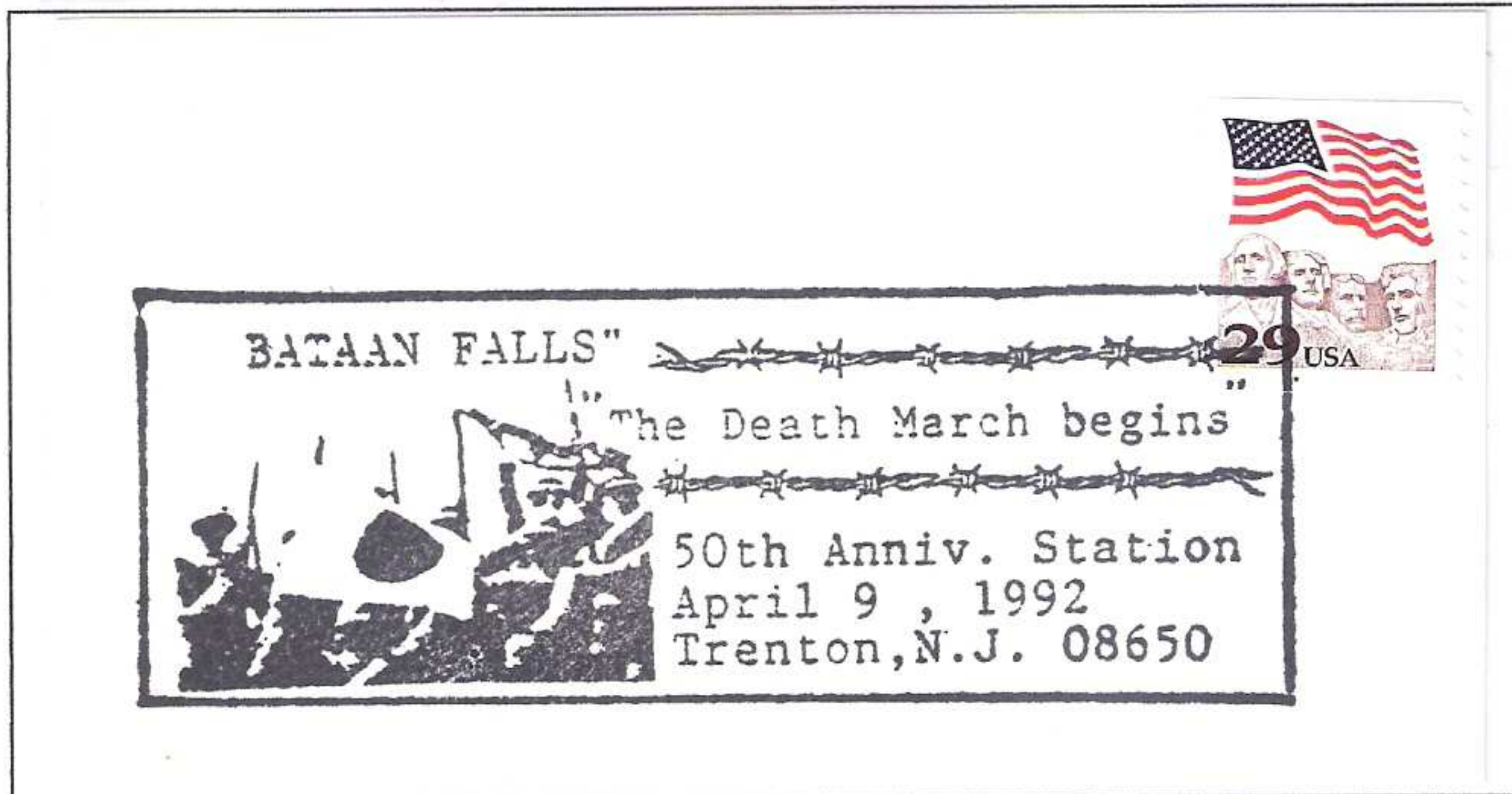
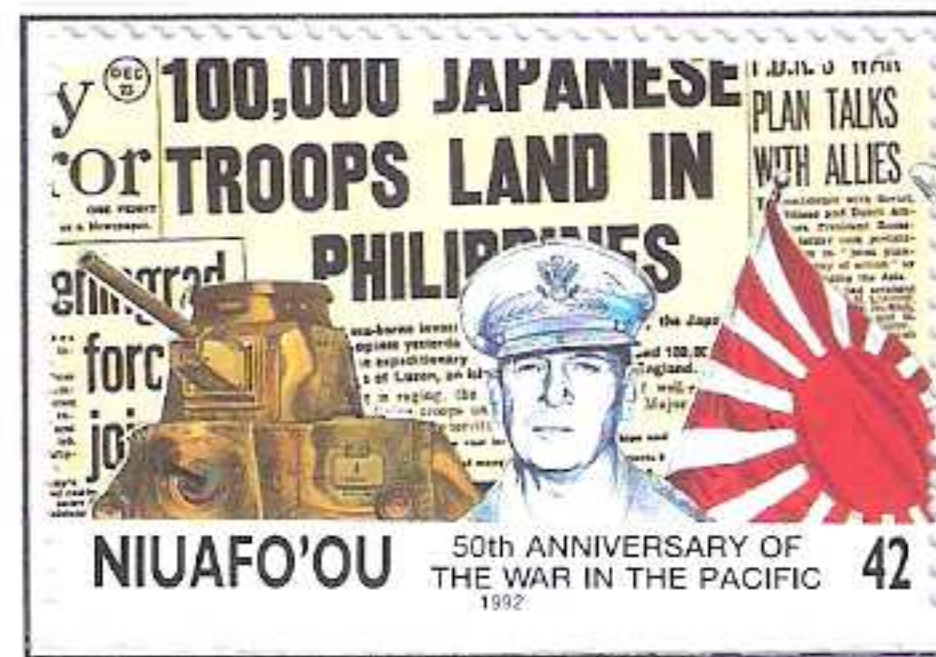
The "Burma Road", joining India to China, was the only way to provide supplies to Chiang Kai-Shek's troops opposing to the Japanese forces. It was interrupted by the Japanese troops on April 29, 1942 despite the efforts of the British and American soldiers commanded by the American General, Stilwell.





## 2.3 SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Philippines, too, are a Japanese target.  
Landed on the isle of Luzon on October 12, 1941  
they occupy the capital Manila on January 2, 1942.



The American and Philippine troops retreat into the Bataan

peninsula but after fighting for months they surrender on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The prisoners' start the "long death march" which decimates them through diseases, food and water shortage and the hardness of the march.



On May 6, 1942 even Gen. Wainwright's troops, sheltered in the isle of Corregidor, are obliged to surrender to Japanese forces.



On March 16, 1942 Gen. MacArthur left the Philippines uttering the famous sentence "I shall return"

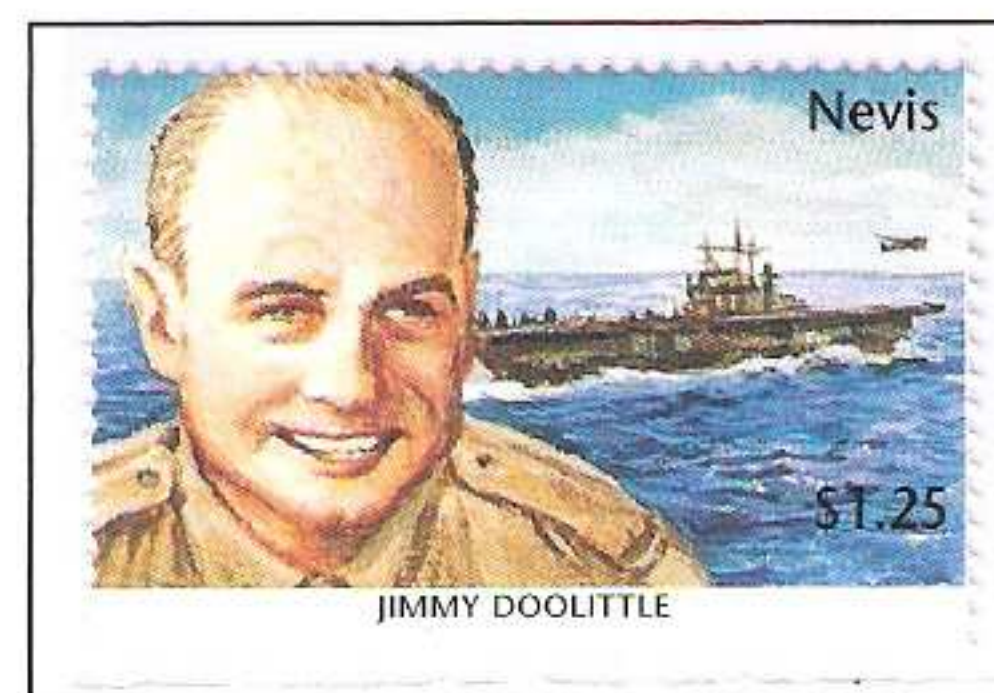


## 2. 4 SOUTHEAST ASIA

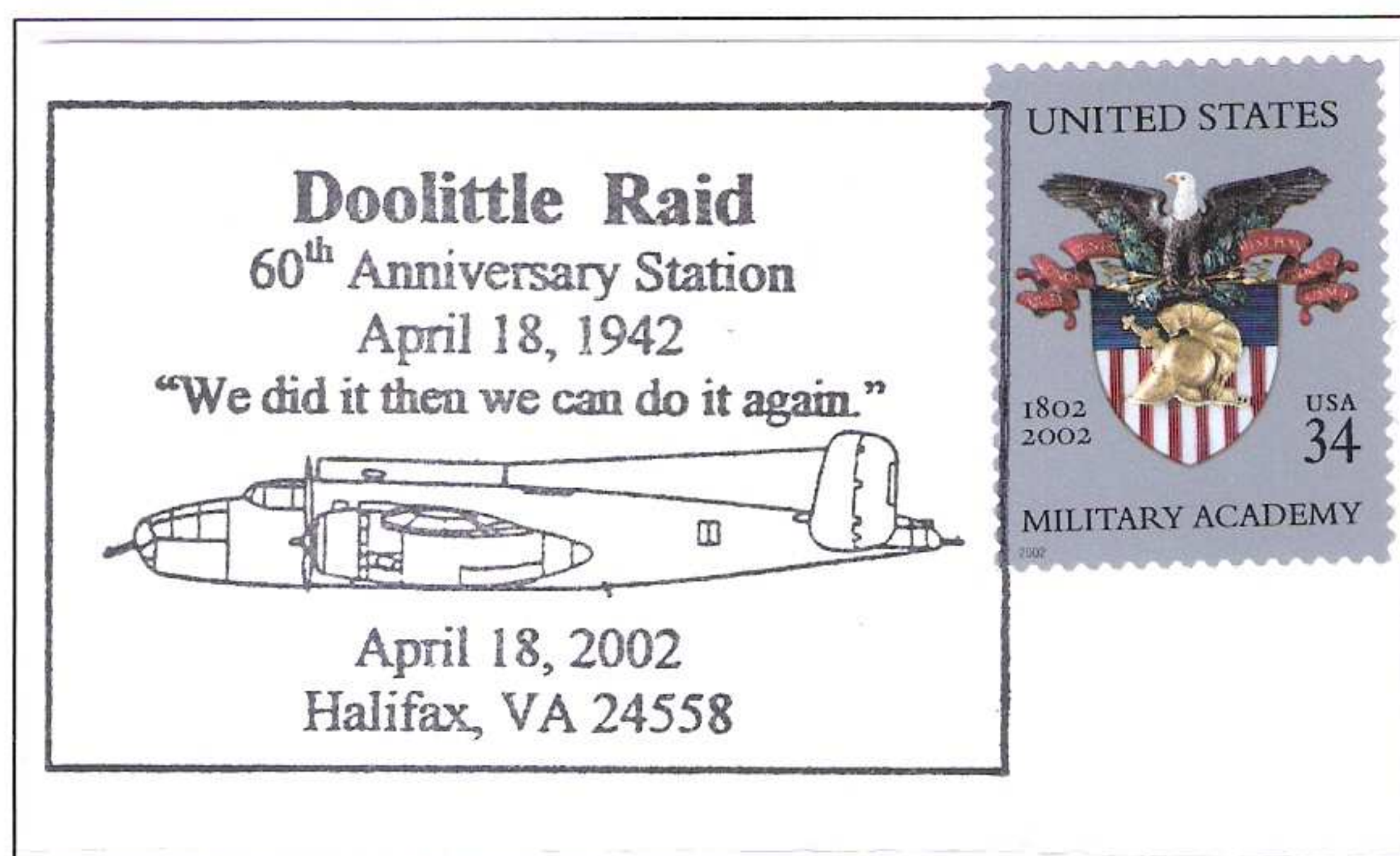
After the loss of the Philippines, Gen. MacArthur and Adm. Nimitz coordinate the strategies for the allies' comeback..



The decision is taken for an air attack to show the allies' ability to hit Japan on its heart. Col. Doolittle is charged with the mission. He takes off from the aircraft carrier Hornet with 16 B-25, arrives over Tokyo on April 18, 1942 and bombards it.



*The "raid" of Doolittle and bombing by B-25*





## 2. 5 SOUTHEAST ASIA

In about six months, Japan conquers many Pacific Islands, the Aleutians, Borneo and the Philippines. It also aims to conquer the New Guinea and Australia.



The battles of the Coral Sea and of the Midway above all had a double purpose: the conquest of New Guinea to attack Australia and the conquest of the Midway Islands, before setting off for the Hawaii. The battle of the Coral Sea – the first to be fought exclusively by airplanes without direct contact among the ships – took place from 4 to May 8, 1942.



Adm. Fletcher for the USA and Adm. Inoue for Japan are the two chief commanders. The Japanese victory is tactical while the American one is strategic. In fact it prevents the Japanese occupation of Port Moresby, a springboard for the conquest of New Guinea first and of Australia later.

The scene of the clash.



Phases of the air battle in the Coral Sea,





### 3.1 MIDWAY

The battle of the Midway Islands marks the end of the Japanese supremacy in the Pacific. The unexpected American victory, coordinated by Adm. Nimitz, Commander of the naval forces in the Pacific, lasts from 4 to 7 June, 1942, at about 200 miles north of Midway. In case of victory, the conquest of the Islands would have allowed Japan to eliminate the American carriers and to attack the Hawaii successfully.

*Midway island*



*The reconnaissance  
"Catalina"*

But luck helps the Americans. In fact the last "Catalina" sent in a reconnaissance mission, finds the Japanese fleet and immediately informs the American command. The Japanese cannot rely on surprise.



*The aircraft carrier Hiryu and Enterprise*



*Nagumo  
in Akagi*



*Fletcher  
in Yorktown*





### 3.2 MIDWAY

At the end of the battle, the Imperial fleet commanded by the Adm. Nagumo records the sinking of all its four aircraft carriers, Akagi, Kaga, Soryu and Hiryu.



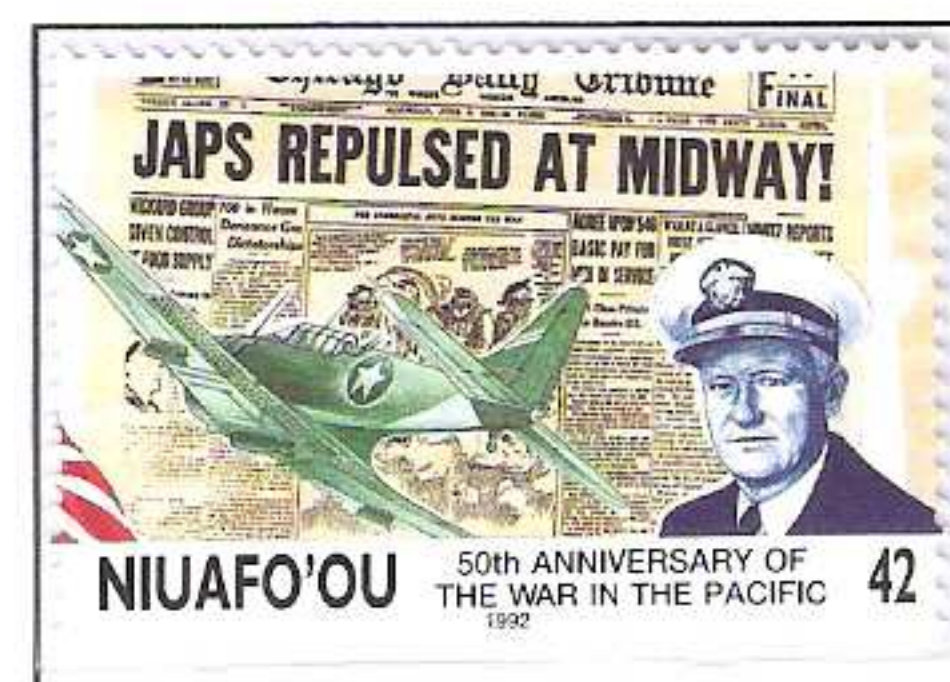
*The battle*



The United States recorded the loss of Yorktown.



The unexpected American victory marks the turning point in Southern Asia and in the Pacific.





April 1, 1943: from  
Castelfranco to the  
M.P. 221, Tunisia,  
during the Italian  
retreat



After the last operations in Tunisia, the allies begin the "Hasky" operation, the invasion of Sicily on July 10, 1943. In one month Sicily is released.



**CARTOLINA POSTALE**

MITTENTE.....

VIA.....

C.A.P. LOCALITÀ (SIGLA PROV.)

MANIFESTAZIONE FILATELICA NAZIONALE  
PALERMO 24-26 SETTEMBRE 1993

1943 - SBARCO IN SICILIA

OPERAZIONE  
**HUSKY**

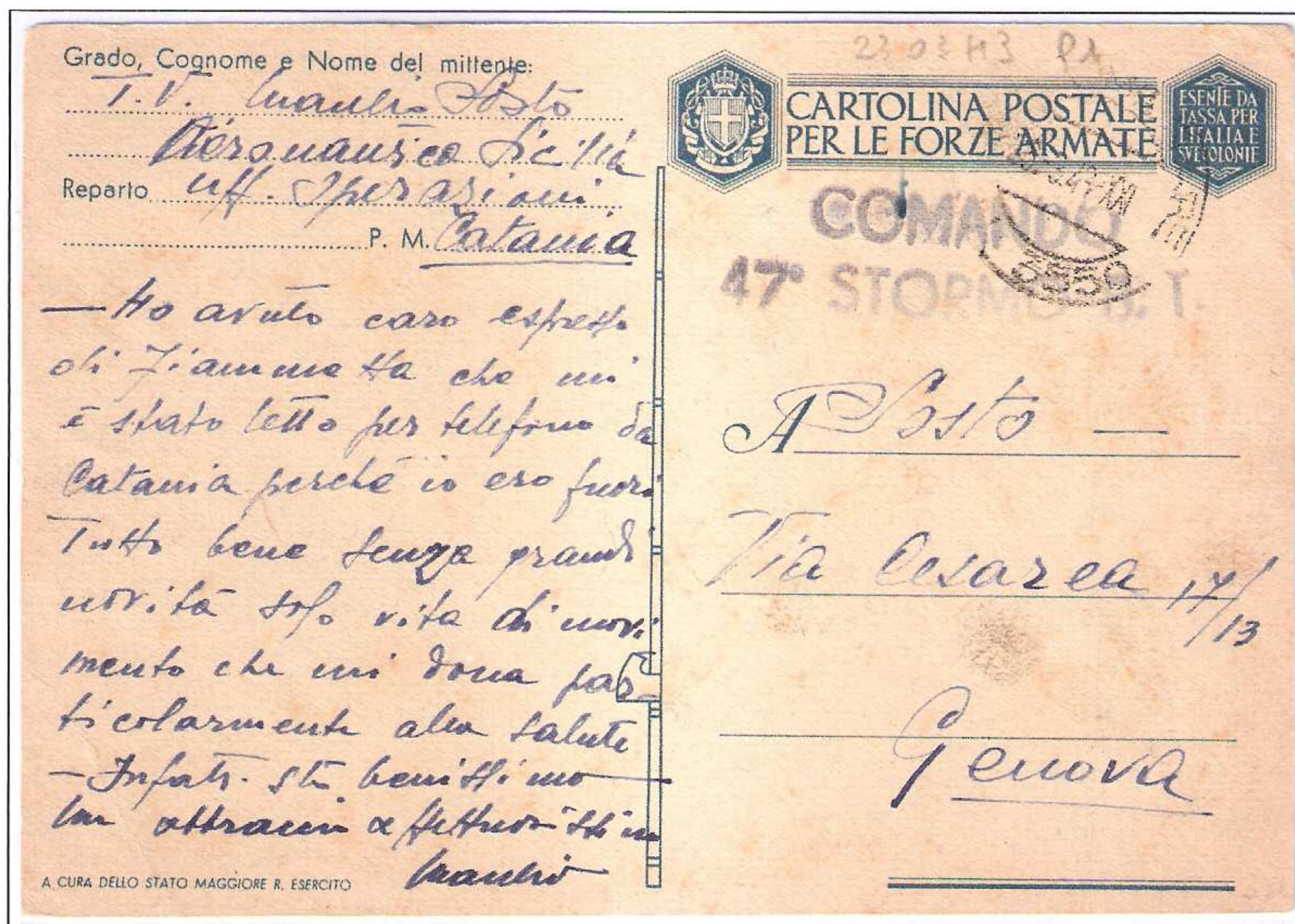
PALEMO 24.9.1993  
MANIFESTAZIONE FILATELICA NAZIONALE  
GIORNO DI EMISSIONE  
OPERAZIONE HUSKY

POSTE ITALIANE  
ITALIA  
700  
LIRE

C.A.P. LOCALITÀ SIGLA PROV.



## 1. 2 THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY



March 20, 1943 : free postcard from Sicily, P.M. 3550 to Genoa, before the allies' landing

With the arrival of the allies and the partial occupation of Italy new stamps for the administration of the correspondence are printed.

August 24, 1943, Italy: emission for Sicily with words "Allied Military Postage and Italy", validity of use September 30, 1944



March 8, 1944, Italy: letter from Alimena to Enna, Sicily, franked with 50 cent. "Allied Military Postage"





### 1.3 THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

In the years '43/44, when Italy is virtually split into two, the new stamps are used initially only in areas occupied by the Anglo-Americans with default purpose.

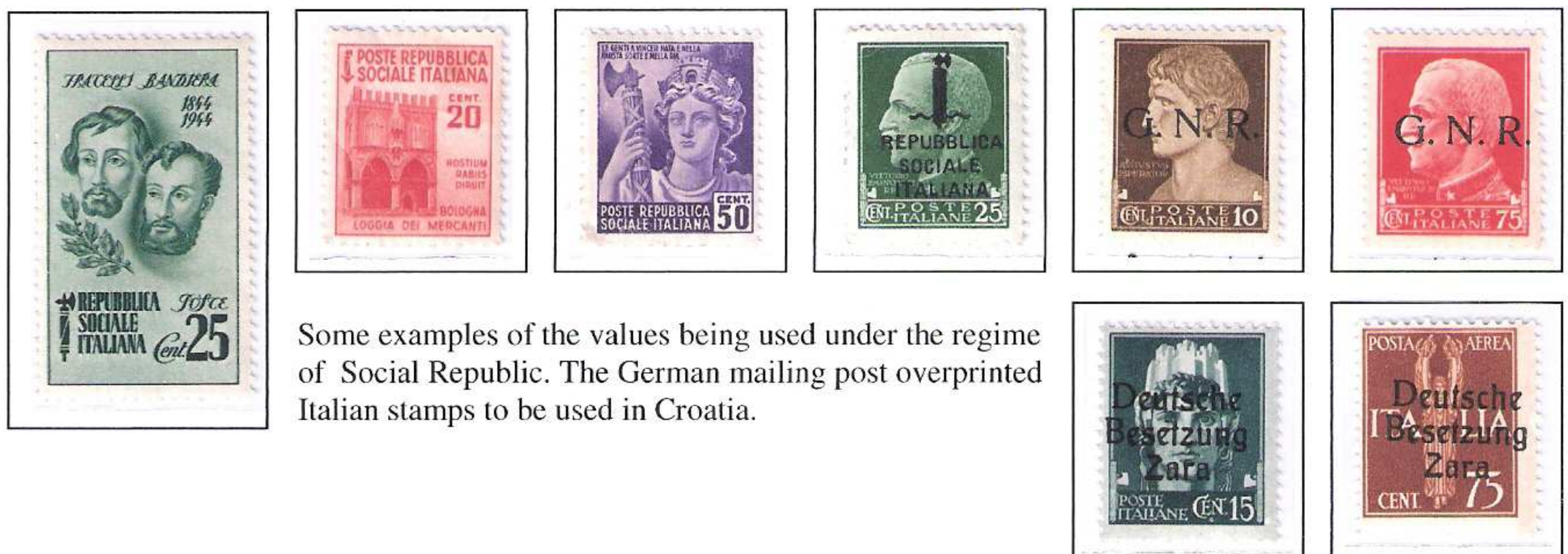


December 10, 1943: the stamps of series "Imperial", overprinted "Allied Military Government" with validity of use November 7, 1946



January 24, 1945: letter from San Giorgio Morgeto to Rome franked with two stamps "Lupa Capitolina" validity December 31, 1948

In the German-occupied part of Italy, the Italian Social Republic provides the emission of new values partially overprinting the ones of the Kingdom.



Some examples of the values being used under the regime of Social Republic. The German mailing post overprinted Italian stamps to be used in Croatia.



#### 1.4 THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

On July 25, 1943, during the conquest of Sicily by the allies, King Vittorio Emanuele III removes Mussolini from head of Government and imprisons him at the Gran Sasso. Secretly, on September 3 in Cassibile, Gen. Castellano signs the Armistice with the allies. The Act is made public only on the evening of September the 8<sup>th</sup>.



July 24, 1943, Italy: letter sent from Arezzo on the last day of Mussolini's Government, arrived in Anghiera on July 25, the day of his arrest

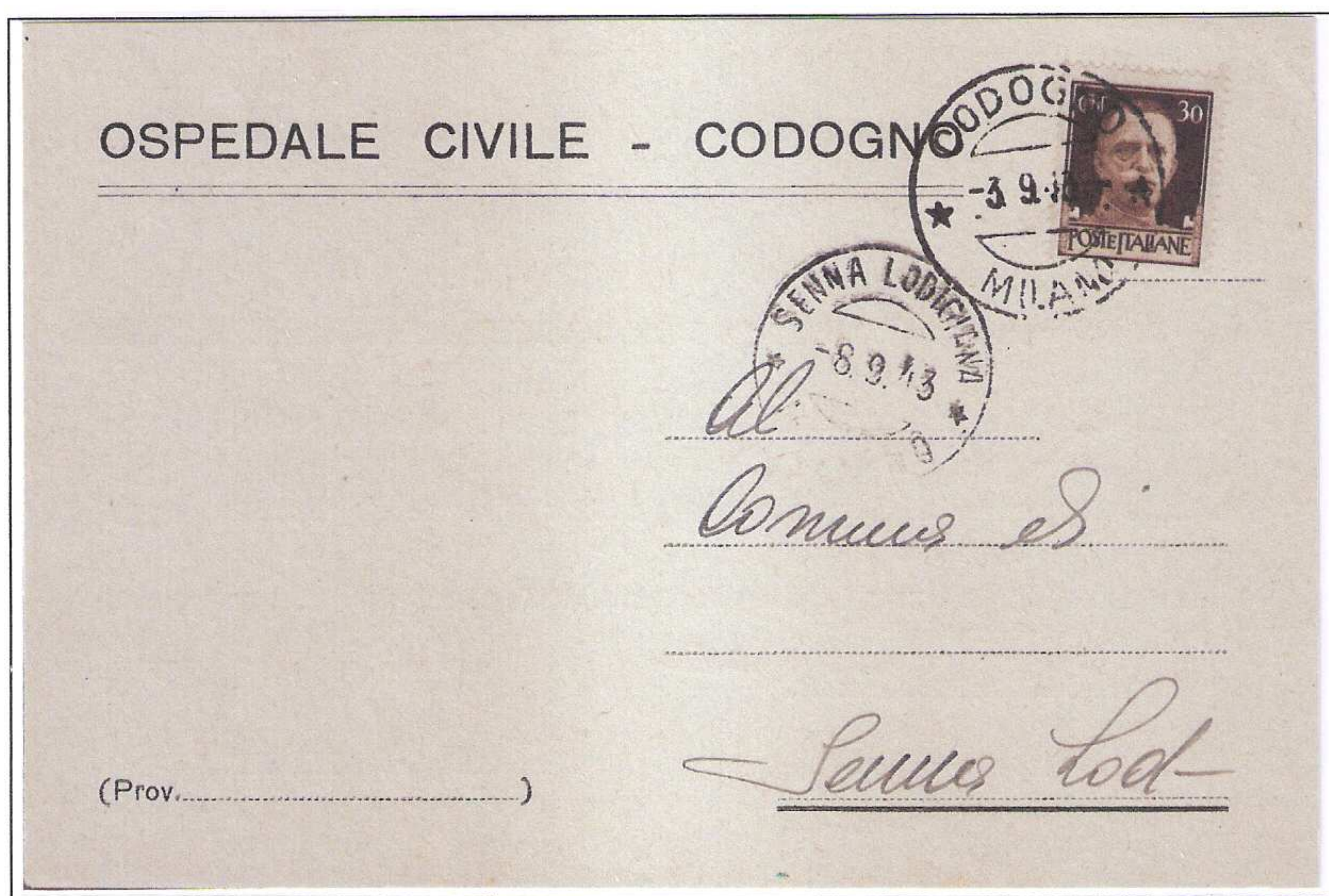
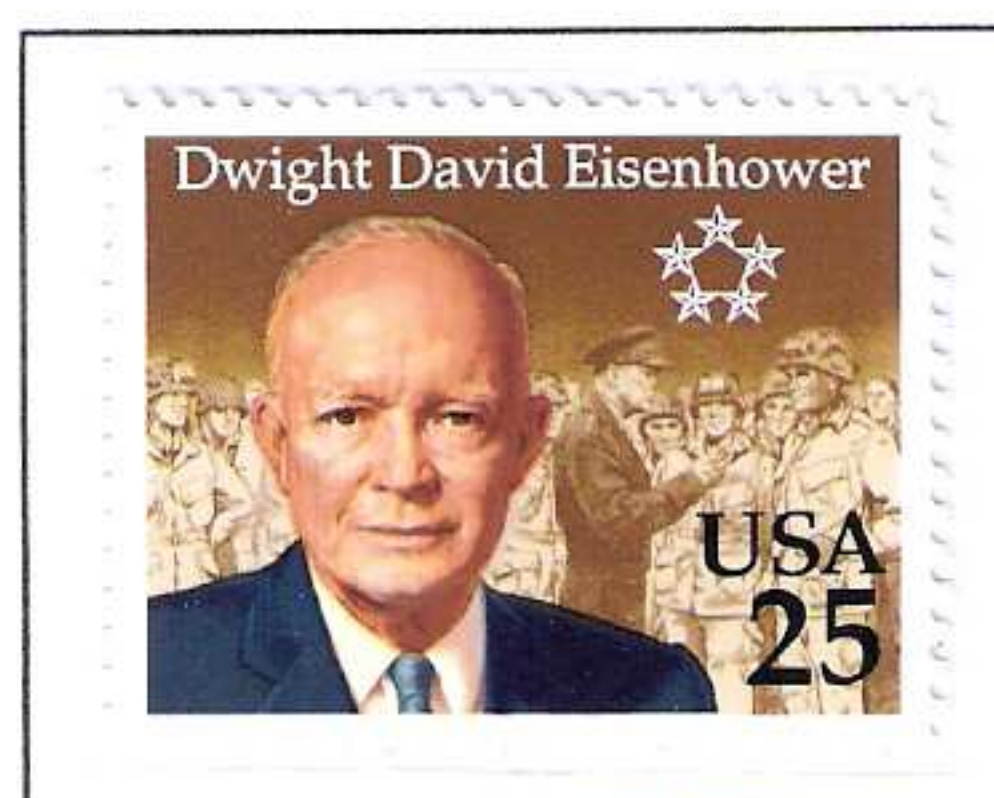


September 3, 1943, Italy: postcard from Florence on the day of the signature of the Armistice, checked for censorship and made at the Post Office for forwarding to Milan on 6 September, when the Armistice is signed but not yet made public



## 1.5 THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

On September 3, 1943, the Armistice signed in Italy, also known as the "short" Armistice, is made public. Aboard the British battleship Nelson, on September 29, "the long Armistice" is signed between Gen. Eisenhower and Marshal Badoglio.



September 9, 1943, Italy: private postcard from Codogno's Civil Hospital on the day of the signing of the Armistice, arrived in Senna Lodigiana on September 8, 1943, day on which the Armistice is made public



## 1. 6 THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY



With the Armistice Italy must deliver its ships to the allies. The battleship "Rome" is however intercepted and sunk off Sardinia's sea on September 9, 1943.



Meanwhile the allies, now friends, land at Salerno on September 9, 1943. The strong German resistance forces the allied troops to stop at Cassino along the Gustav line.



January 22, 1944, to get the Germans from behind allies land at Anzio and Nettuno with the support of marine forces including the cruiser "Penelope".



LST (Ship Landing Tanks) used for landings in Sicily and Salerno



## 1. 7 THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

The approach to Cassino's front implies significant losses for the allies. Wounded soldiers are cared for in military facilities located close to the front.

*V... Mail of 58th American Medical Battalion, A.P.O n. 464 based in Caserta*



Started on January 12, 1944, the battle of Cassino lasts until May 19, when the Polish unit of Gen. Anders manages to raise its flag on the ruins of the Abbey.



Along the Garigliano river on the "Gustav Line" fierce fighting took place. Free France forces led by Gen Juin helped the allies.





## 2. 1 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINNGRAD

On the East front, from Leningrad to the Caucasus, in the autumn of 1942 the response of the Soviet Union is hard. On November 19 the Russians crush the German-Romanian defence on the Don in five days and reach Kalac encircling Stalingrad. For Von Paulus's 6<sup>th</sup> Army there is no hope of salvation. Though in ruins the city named after Stalin is safe.



Prague, December 21, 1949: letter to the town with the stamps and the cancellation for the 70<sup>th</sup> of "J. Stalin"

### Attack and defense of Stalingrad



The work of women in factories and in the military aid to the front was very important



## 2.2 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINGRAD

The battles on the Don and the encirclement of Stalingrad also involve the Italian troops. Part of the ARMIR (8<sup>th</sup> Army) must withdraw to avoid encirclement. In particular the 35<sup>th</sup> Army Corps fight at Serafimovic's bridgehead.



*M.P. 88, letter from the Don front, Serafimovic, August 14, 1942, for Mantua, August 23, 1942*



*M.P. free card propagandising the valour of our soldiers in Russia*



## 2. 3 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINGRAD

The German troops' attempt to break the encirclement of Stalingrad, in order to free the 6<sup>th</sup> Army, fails on Dec. 12, 1942. Von Paulus surrenders on February 2, 1943. The Russian offensive on the Don opens the Italians' retreat. A long odyssey on foot starts across the freezing Russian plains.

*M.P. 88, free card  
of October 15, 1942  
from the Russian  
front to Levico  
(Trento)*



*The terrible rocket launcher  
"Katyusha" and the long  
row of prisoners*



*Winners, losers and the victory of Stalingrad*



## 2. 4 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINGRAD

The town of Kursk, railway junction between Moscow and Harkov, is known because of the biggest battle with armed vehicles in history which took place there from July 4 to August 1, 1943.



*Stalin's inducements on postcards*



*The battle and the Tiger tanks and T 34*



Russian losses were huge and much higher than the German ones, but they gave the Soviet Union the victory and especially the initiative of operations, on the eastern front, which ended only in Berlin.



*The victory at Kursk, Mar. Rokossovsky and the crucial contribution of "Katjusha" (Stalin's organs)*



## 2. 5 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINGRAD

After the battle of Kursk, despite engaging any resource, Germany was no longer able to replace its tanks, planes and especially men; the initiative in the conduct of the war was left to the Red Army and it led to the final victory.

Soviet Postcard written  
by a German soldier,  
lager 7280/3 to family  
in Chemnitz



*Soj. Besatzungszone.*

СОЮЗ ОБЩЕСТВ КРАСНОГО КРЕСТА И КРАСНОГО ПОЛУМЕСЯЦА  
СССР

Почтовая карточка военнопленного  
Carte postale du prisonnier de guerre

Бесплатно  
Franc de port

Кому (Destinataire) *Семье Киселевич*

Куда (Adresse) *(106) Chemnitz (Sachsen) Deutschland 57 I.*  
(страна, город, улица, № дома, округ, село, деревня)

Отправитель (Expéditeur)  
Фамилия и имя военнопленного  
Nom du prisonnier de guerre *Вильгельм Киселевич*

Почтовый адрес военнопленного  
Adresse du prisonnier de guerre *К. д. Л. С. Р.  
Лager 7280/3*

16-я тип. Зак. 395

Families receive news from prisoners in Siberian Lagers, while the advance of the Red Army does not stop.



*XXV - WELKE*

ВЕЙГРИЯ

СОЮЗ ОБЩЕСТВ КРАСНОГО КРЕСТА И КРАСНОГО ПОЛУМЕСЯЦА  
СССР

Почтовая карточка военнопленного  
Carte postale du prisonnier de guerre

Бесплатно  
Franc de port

Кому (Destinataire) *Колонии Велане*

Куда (Adresse) *Budapest II. ker. Bányat u. 26. II. 4.*  
(страна, город, улица, № дома, округ, село, деревня)

Отправитель (Expéditeur)  
Фамилия и имя военнопленного  
Nom du prisonnier de guerre *гг. Флавиусу Касову*

Почтовый адрес военнопленного  
Adresse du prisonnier de guerre *СССР. Lager № 7241/8.*

16-я тип. Зак. 395

Hungarian prisoner  
writes to his family  
in Budapest from  
lager n. 7241/8



## 2. 6 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINGRAD

The German divisions, now tired and overruled by the Soviet troops, withdraw progressively abandoning the Russian territory.



*Romanian artillery in retreat*



*The liberation of Ukraine and Belarus*

The Red Army, supported by fresh troops and by thousands of Siberian tanks, realizes that victory is near and fights with increasing energy and courage.



*Towards victory*



*U.R.S.S., 1944: postal ticket seen for censorship*



## 2. 7 FROM STALINGRAD TO LENINGRAD

After a 900 days' siege, during which the population receives supplies through the "road of life", along the southern side of the Lake Ladoga, frozen most of the year, Leningrad is liberated by the troops of Gen. Merezkov, on January 27, 1944.



*The "road of life"*

*The liberation of Leningrad*



Ладокское озеро. "Дорога жизни"

**40**-ЛЕТИЕ ПОБЕДЫ СОВЕТСКОГО НАРОДА  
В ВЕЛИКОЙ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ВОЙНЕ

Куда \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Кому \_\_\_\_\_

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Индекс предприятия связи и адрес отправителя

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения



*The defenders of the town and the liberator, gen. Merezkov*



### 3. 1 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

In order to alleviate the German pressure on the Russian front, the Soviet Union had long insisted on opening a second front: the invasion of France. After a very long preparation the operation, called "Overlord", took off on June 6, 1944 with the Allies landing in Normandy, and ended on August 26 with the liberation of Paris.

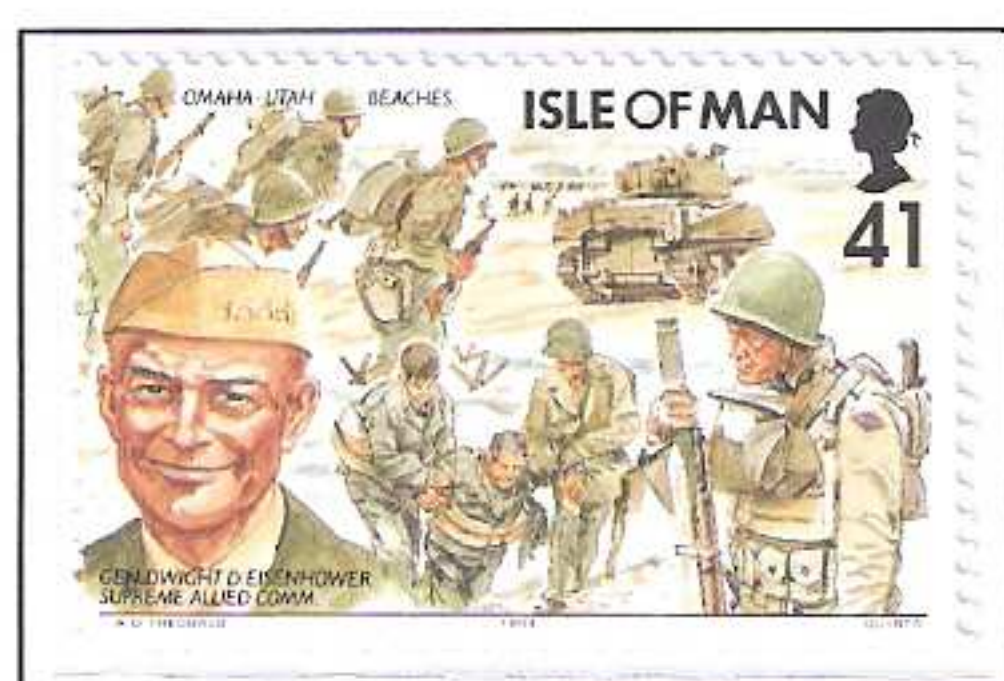


*The failed "raid" of Dieppe*

The purpose of the operation was twofold: helping the Russian front fearing its collapse and testing amphibious operations for a future landing in Normandy.



*The rescue of survivors*



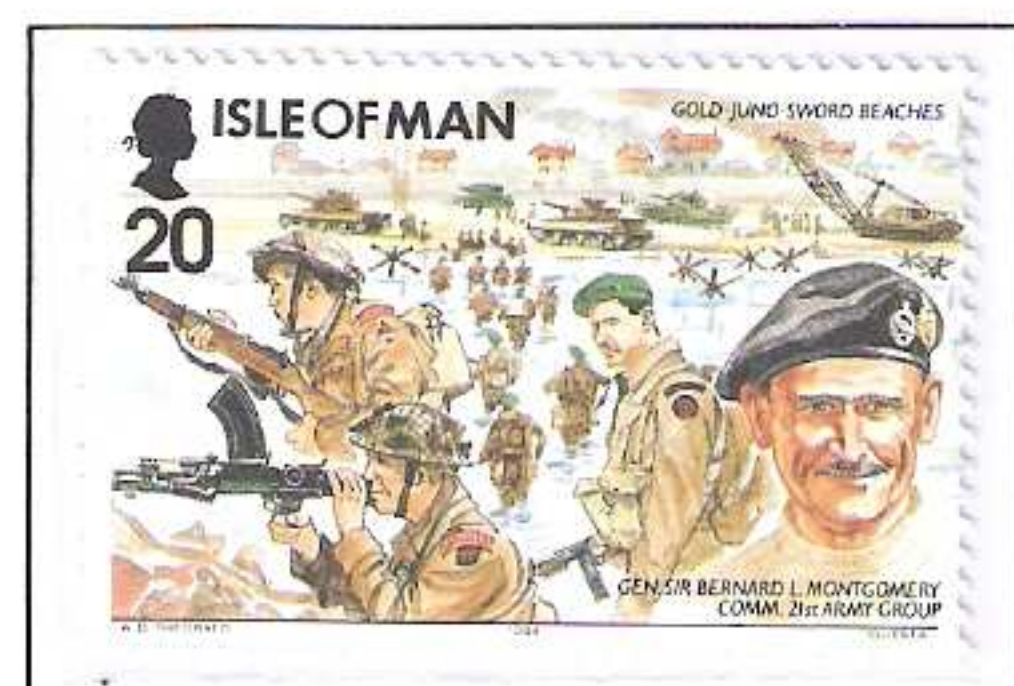
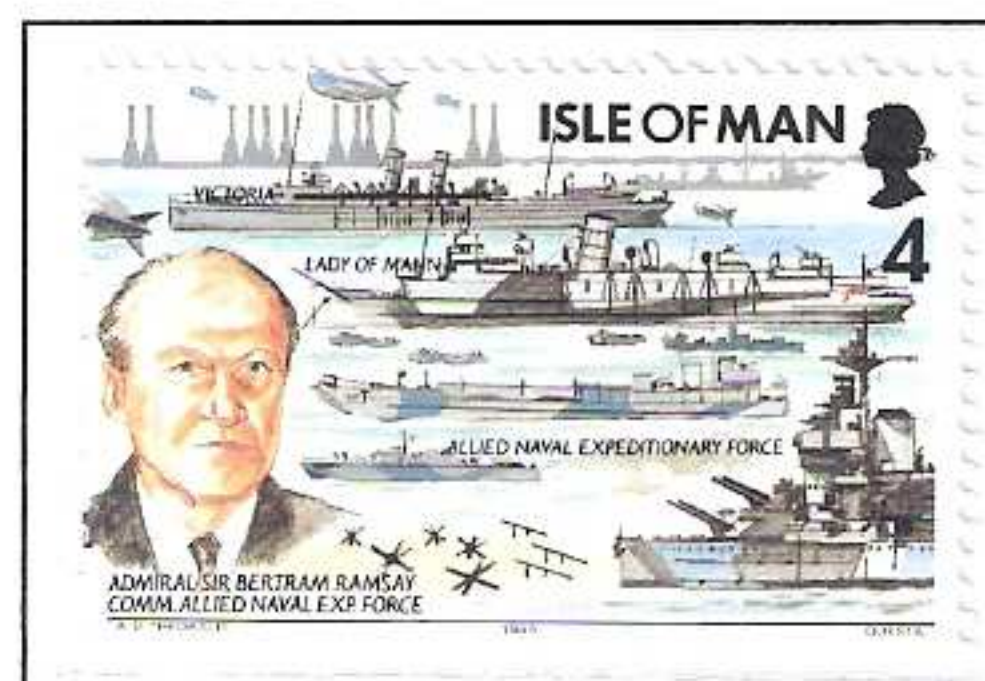
*Supreme Commander*



*Chief of staff*



*Fleet commander*



*Army Commander*



*First Army Commander*



*Second Army Commander*

*General commanders of the operation "Overlord"*

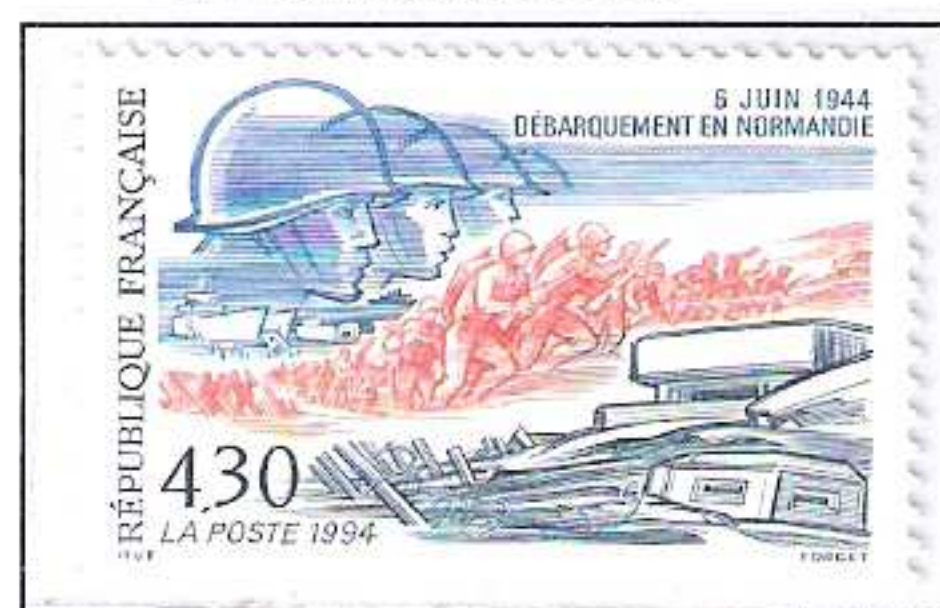


### 3. 2 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

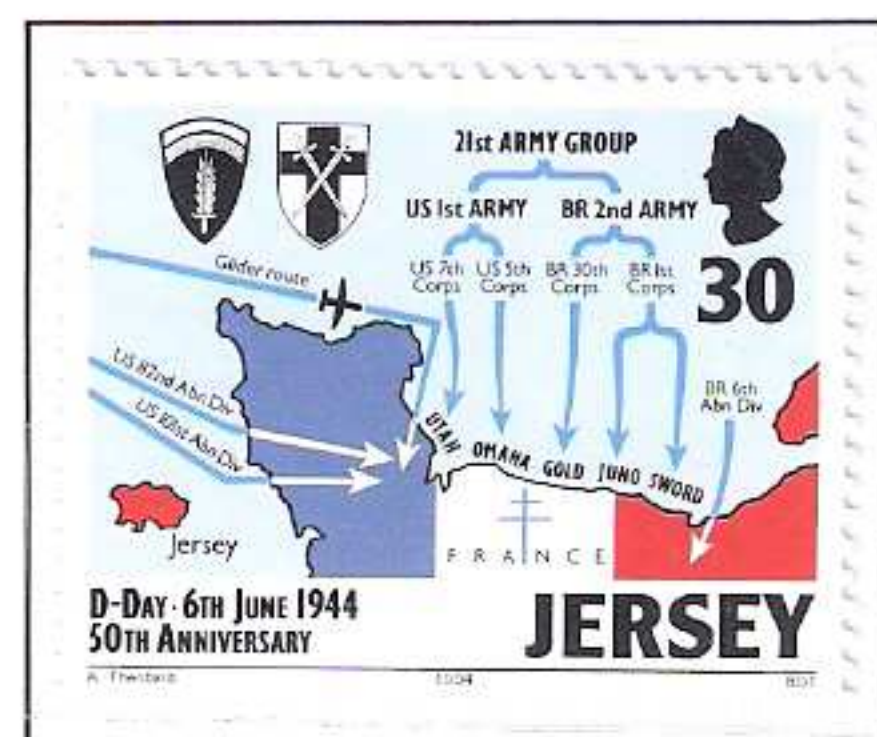
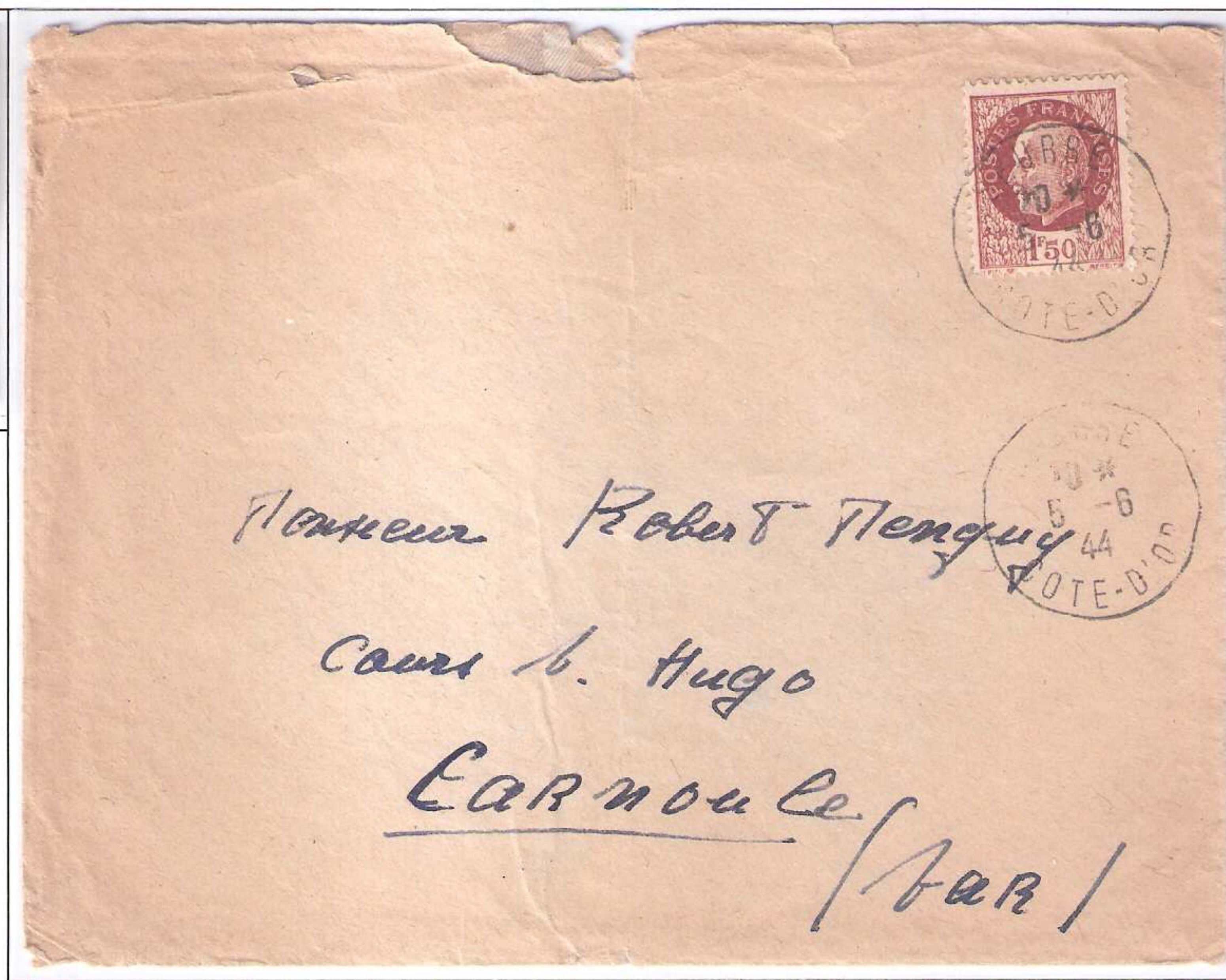
Of the 7,000 ships of the invasion fleet, more than 4,000 were for the transport of men and equipment to the designated beaches.



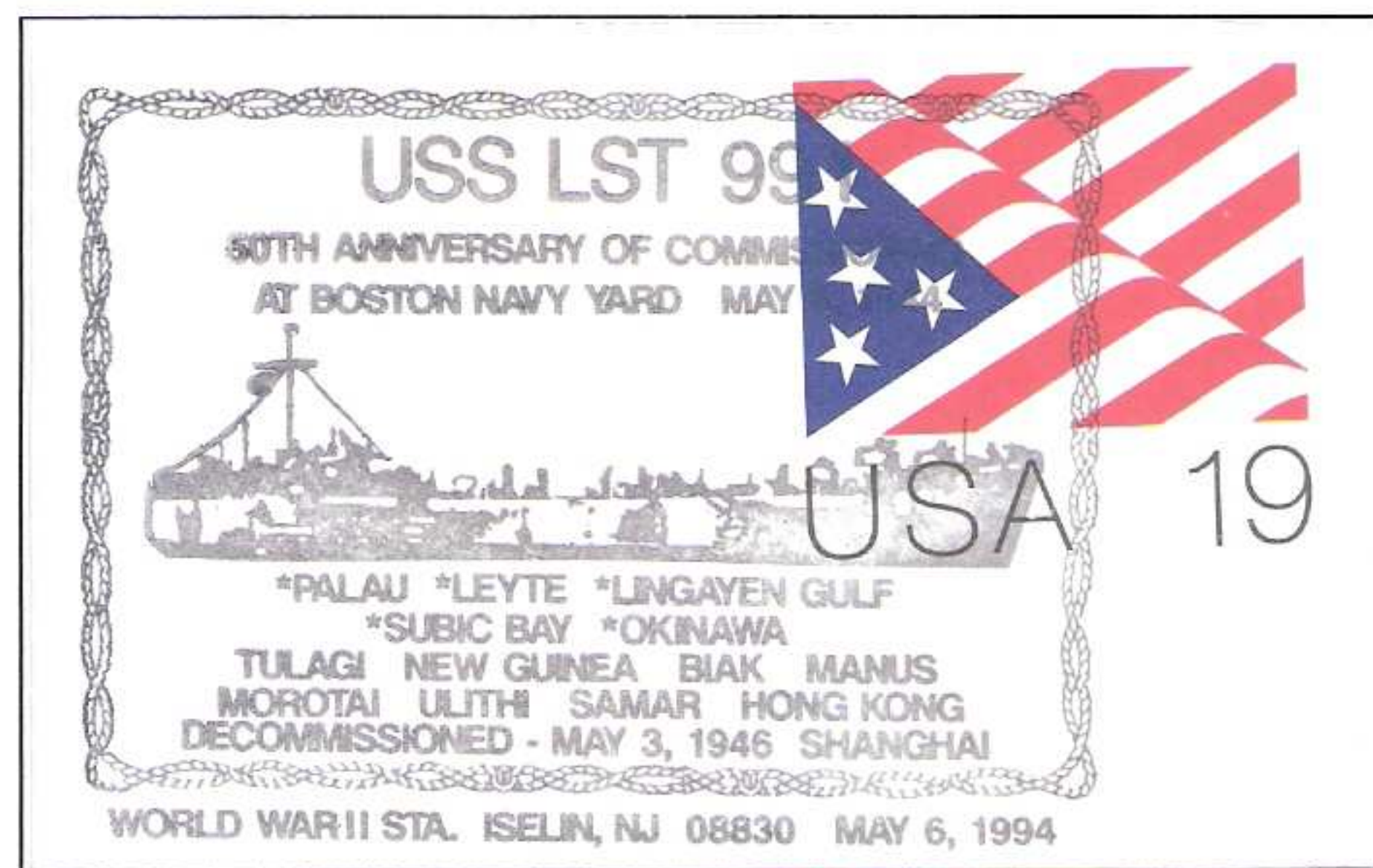
The "Atlantic wall"



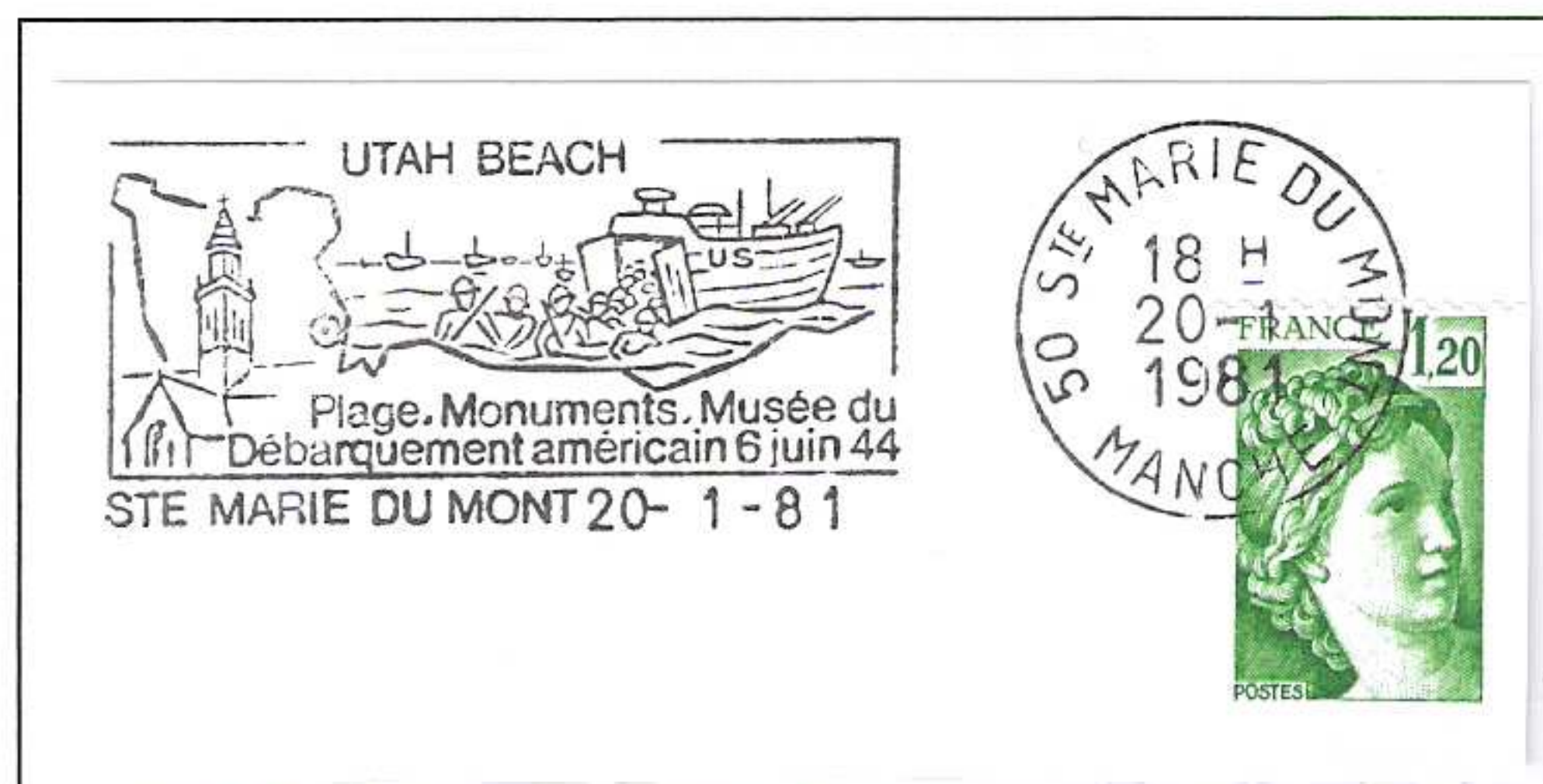
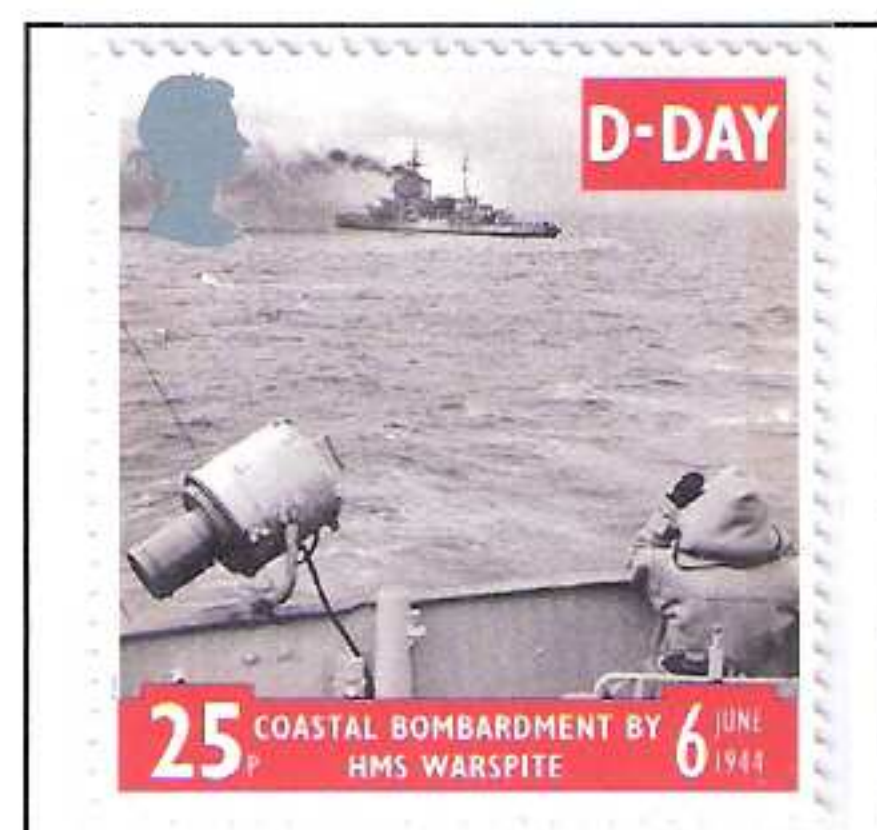
Letter from Bousselange to Carnoule sent on the day before the landing



The "theatre" of the landing and the support given by battleships including the Warspite



LST transport (landing materials ship)



The landing and the transports, Jun 6, 1944  
LCA (landing craft assault troops)



### 3. 3 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

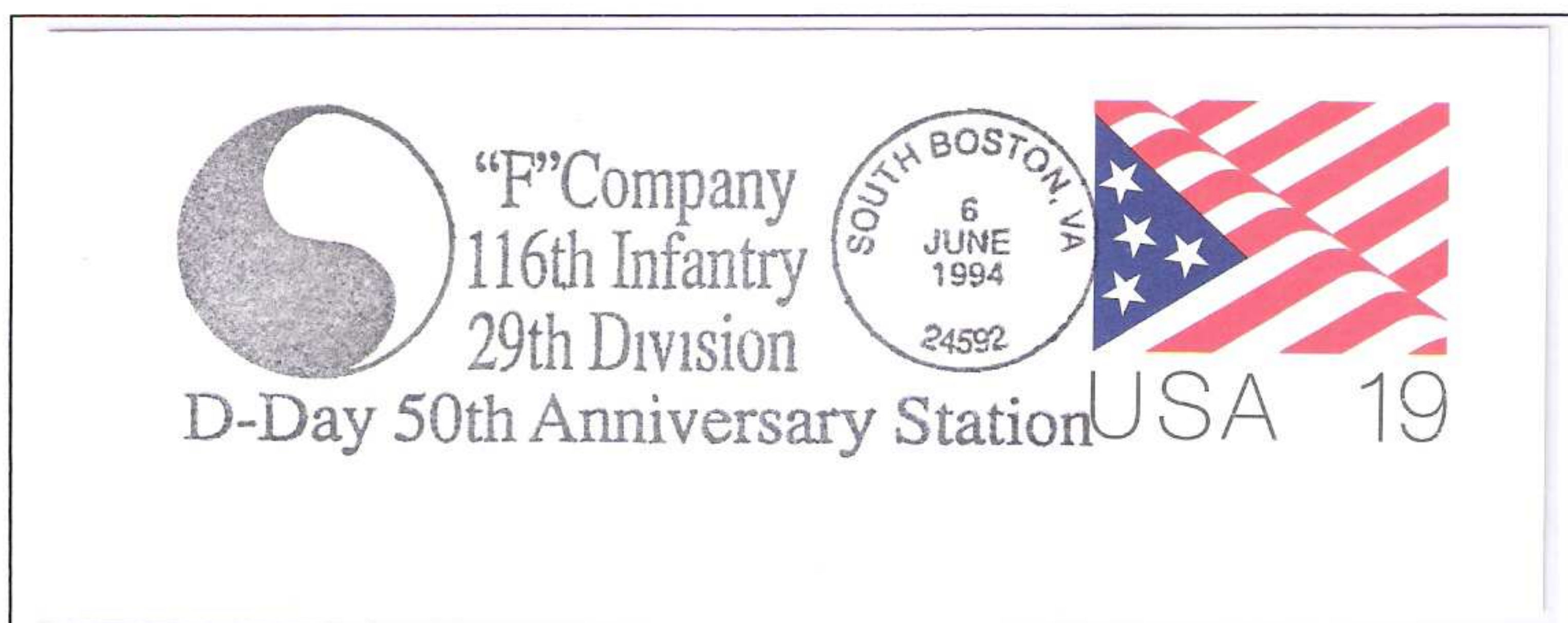
Once chosen the beaches where to land the allies start their "longest day". With the massive support of the air force bombarding the beaches and the surrounding hinterland, the allies, transported by thousands of ships, are ready to land.



The air support



Some of the divisions used





3. 4 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

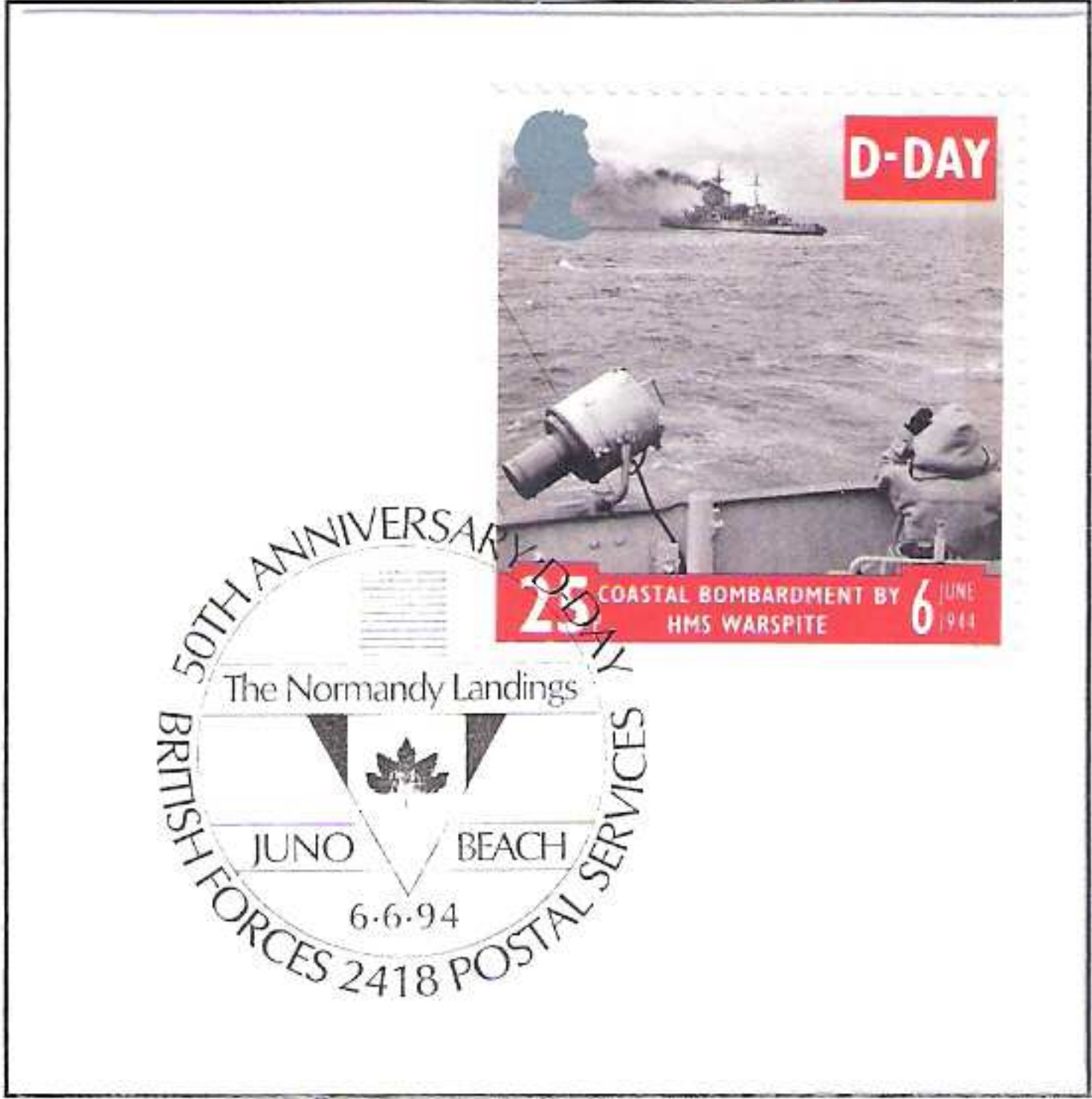
At dawn, on June 6, 1944, after fierce bombardments, the American, British and Canadian troops began to land on the Normandy coast contrasted by the the German forces sheltered in forts and cubicles for machine guns.



The invasion forces.



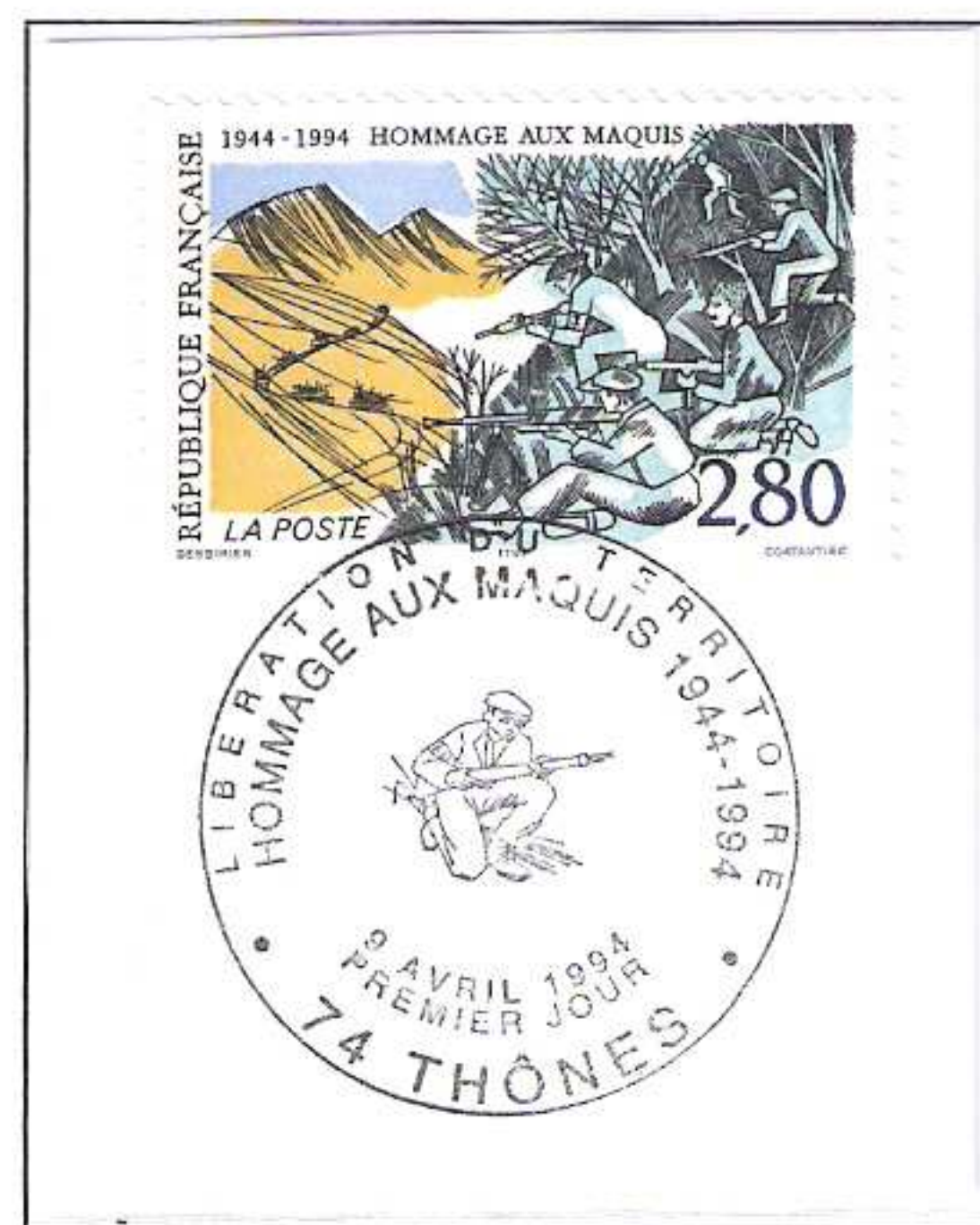
The beaches.





### 3. 5 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

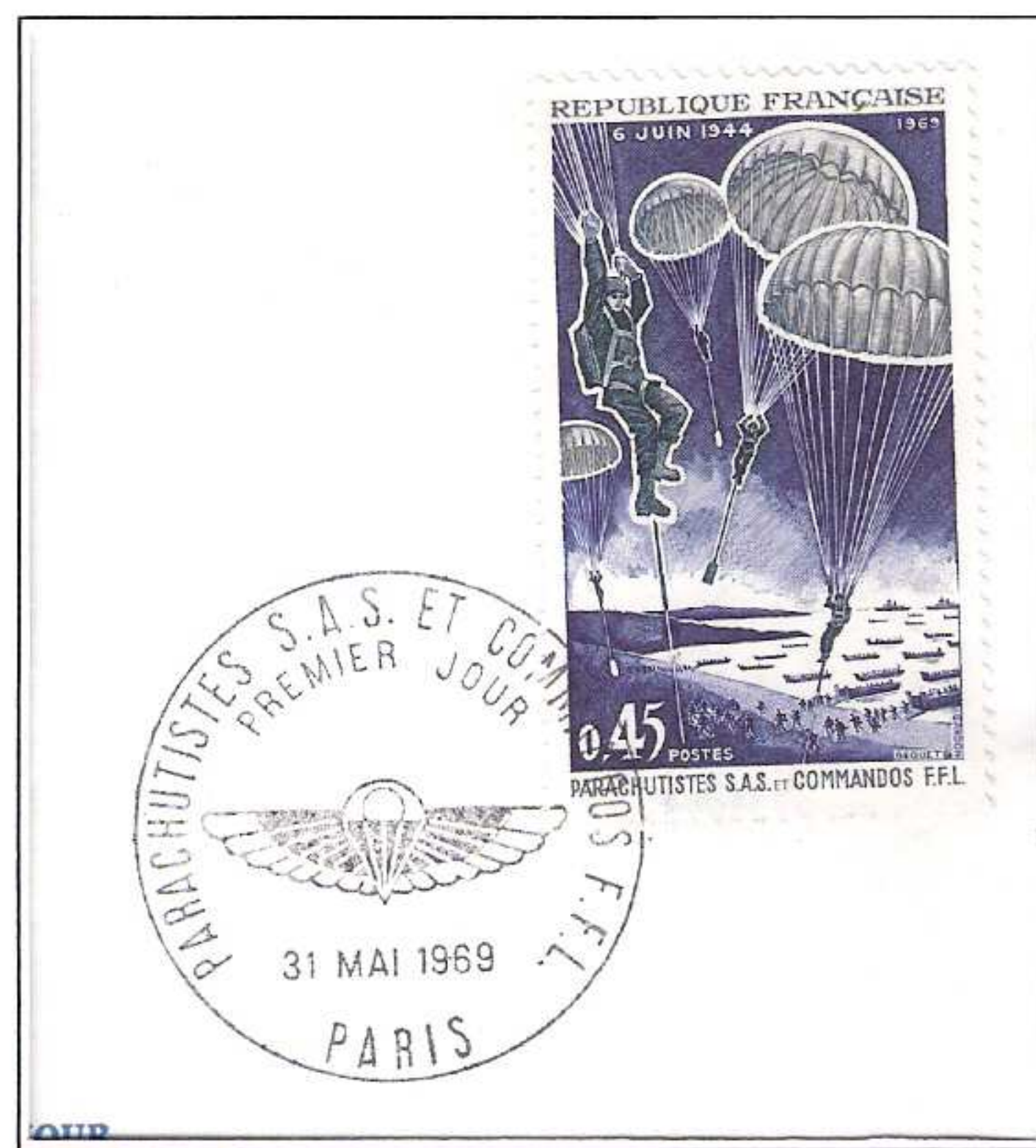
The favourable outcome of the landing is also due to two factors. The sabotage in the rear guard by the French Resistance which went into action after being informed by Radio London about the imminence of the landings through the verses of a poem by Paul Verlaine (les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne blessent mon cœur d'une langueur monotone).



The important work carried out by paratroopers, starting at night and aiming at the conquest of bridges, roads and strategic points that were to be kept until the arrival of the landing troops.



*Air-transported troops and paratroopers in action*



*The landing of men and means*



### 3. 6 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

The human toll paid by the allies in the early days of landing was very high. The Americans had the most difficult points to conquer.

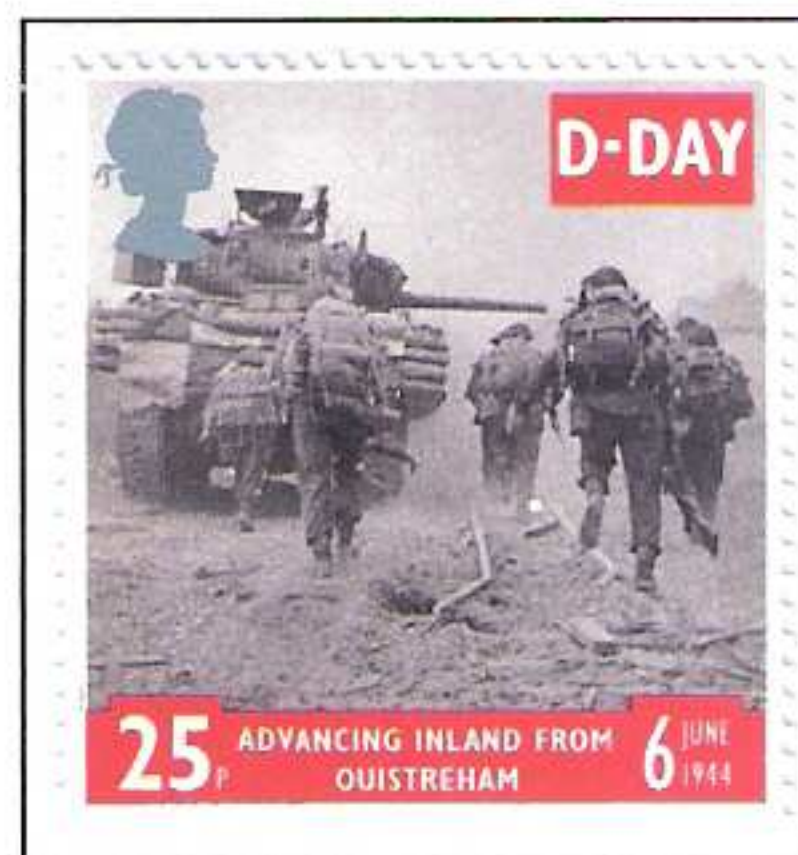


*Omaha Beach*

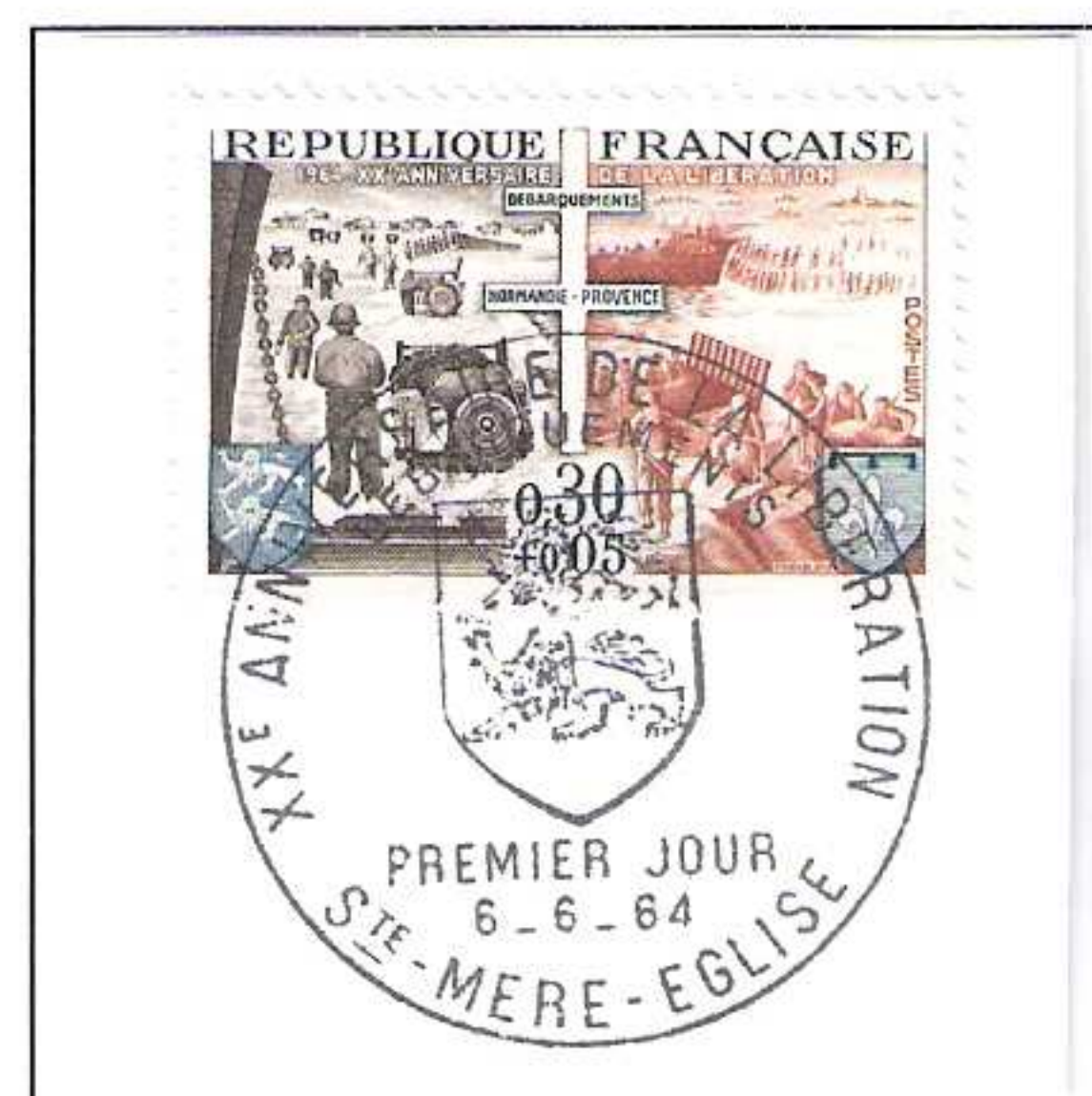


*The Point du Hoc*

Once the bridgeheads were formed along the points of landing, the allies advanced into France, freeing villages and towns, festively welcomed by the population.



In Ste Mère Eglise, after the liberation, a stele was placed named "the road to Freedom", signifying that the path started there by the allies would end only in Berlin.





### 3. 7 THE LANDING IN NORMANDY

The complex operation that in two weeks brought on the French coast nearly two million men and a huge number of means was made possible partly because at Arromanches the allies had set up an artificial port, waiting to use the ports of Norman towns. The artificial harbour was named " Port Winston " in honour of W. Churchill.



France , July 12, 1944: registered mail from Paris to Saintes sent after the landing, but before the liberation of the capital



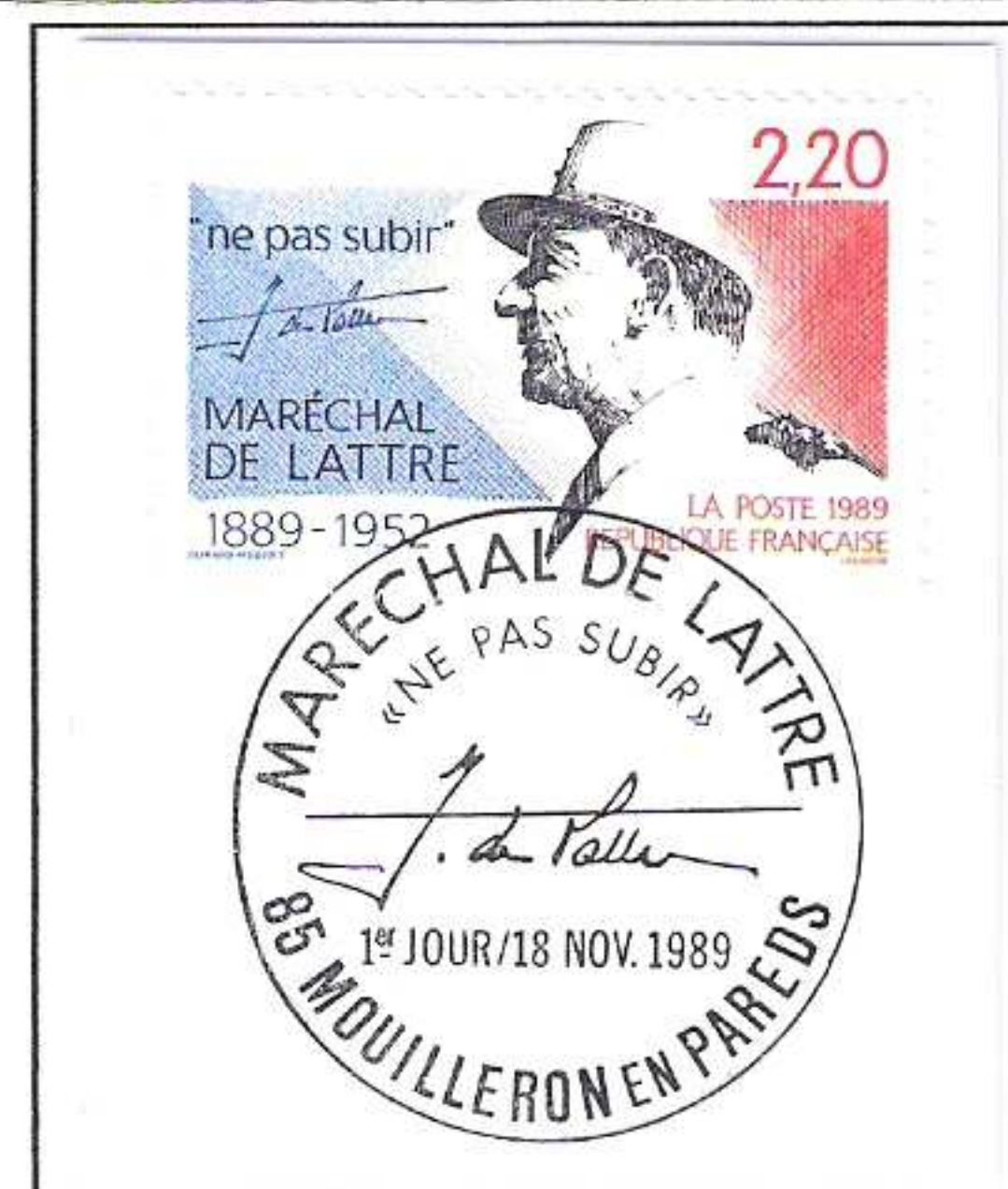
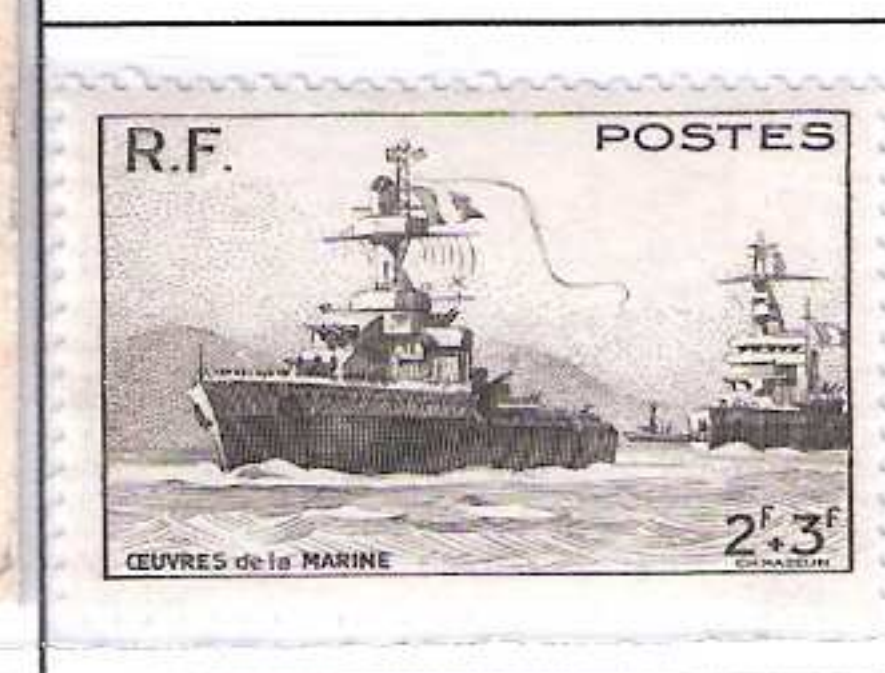
#### 4. 1 FROM PROVENCE TO GERMANY

#### 1 THE LANDING IN PROVENCE

The operation "Dragoon", landing in Provence, enabled the allies to capture two ports, important even for the supplies to troops in Normandy: Marseille and Toulon. Started on August 15, 1944 with the air support provided by seven carriers and battleships, cruisers and other ships, it allowed the troops to join in Dijon with the forces coming from Normandy at mid-September.



The battleship Lorraine and cruiser Gloire and Bertine waiting for the d-day support



De Lattre de Tassigny commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> French Army during the landing in Provence, and his phrase "ne pas subir"

Airgraph, 1944, from C.M.F. to Yorkshire, England.  
The Mediterranean Sea now belongs only to the Allies

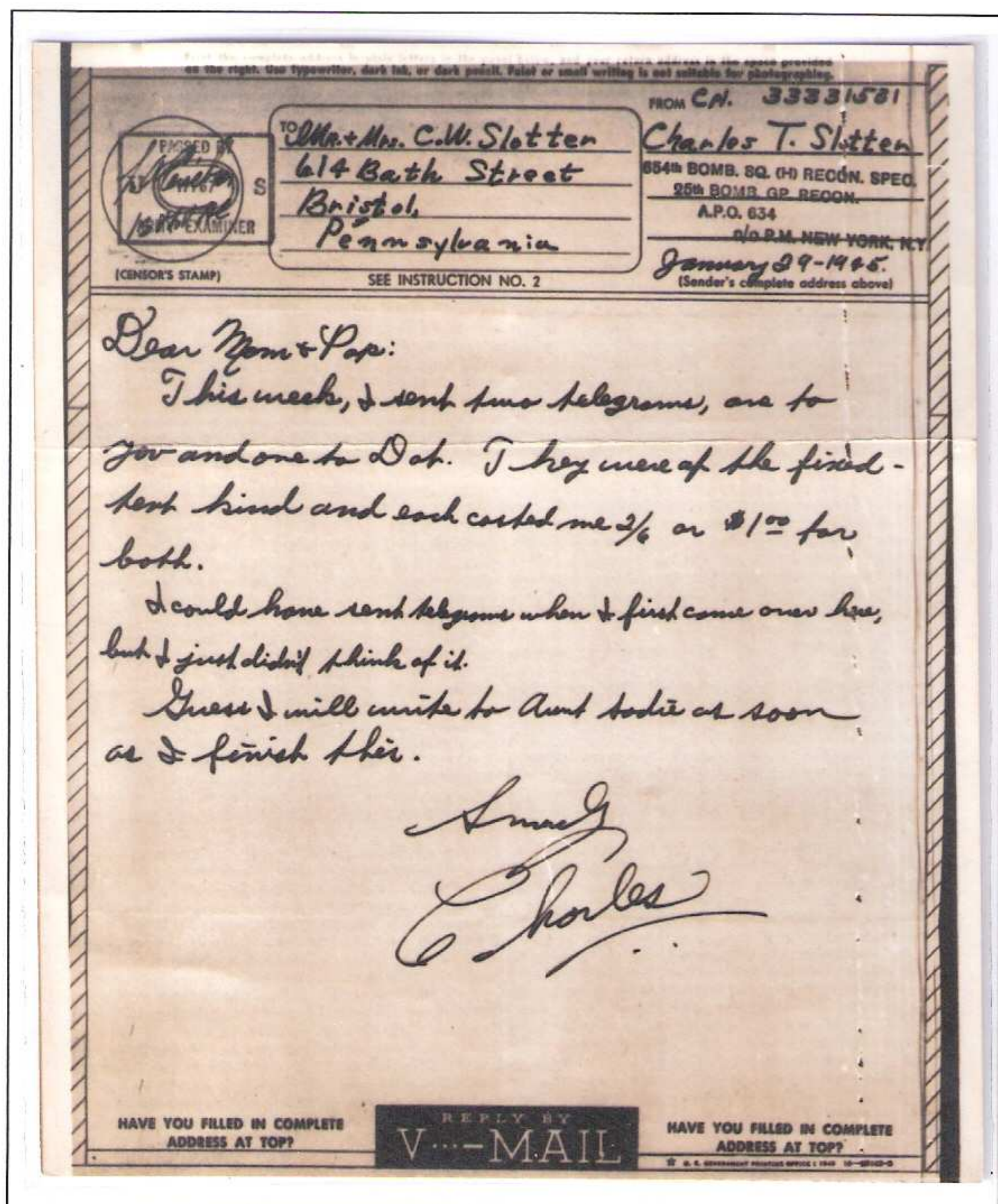


## 4.2 THE OPERATION MARKET GARDEN

Before the decisive battle of the Ardennes, the allies suffered a setback in the operation, combining army and airborne troops, called "Market Garden". The operation which took place in the Netherlands from 17 to 26 September 1944, aimed at arriving straight at the Rhine in order to end the war by Christmas '44. The attack was preceded by bombings on German anti-aircraft posts and Dutch ports.



*V. ...mail from A.P.O. 634 of 8<sup>th</sup> US Air Force stationed in England to Bristol, in Pennsylvania*



*A Brigade of Polish paratroopers participates in the operation*



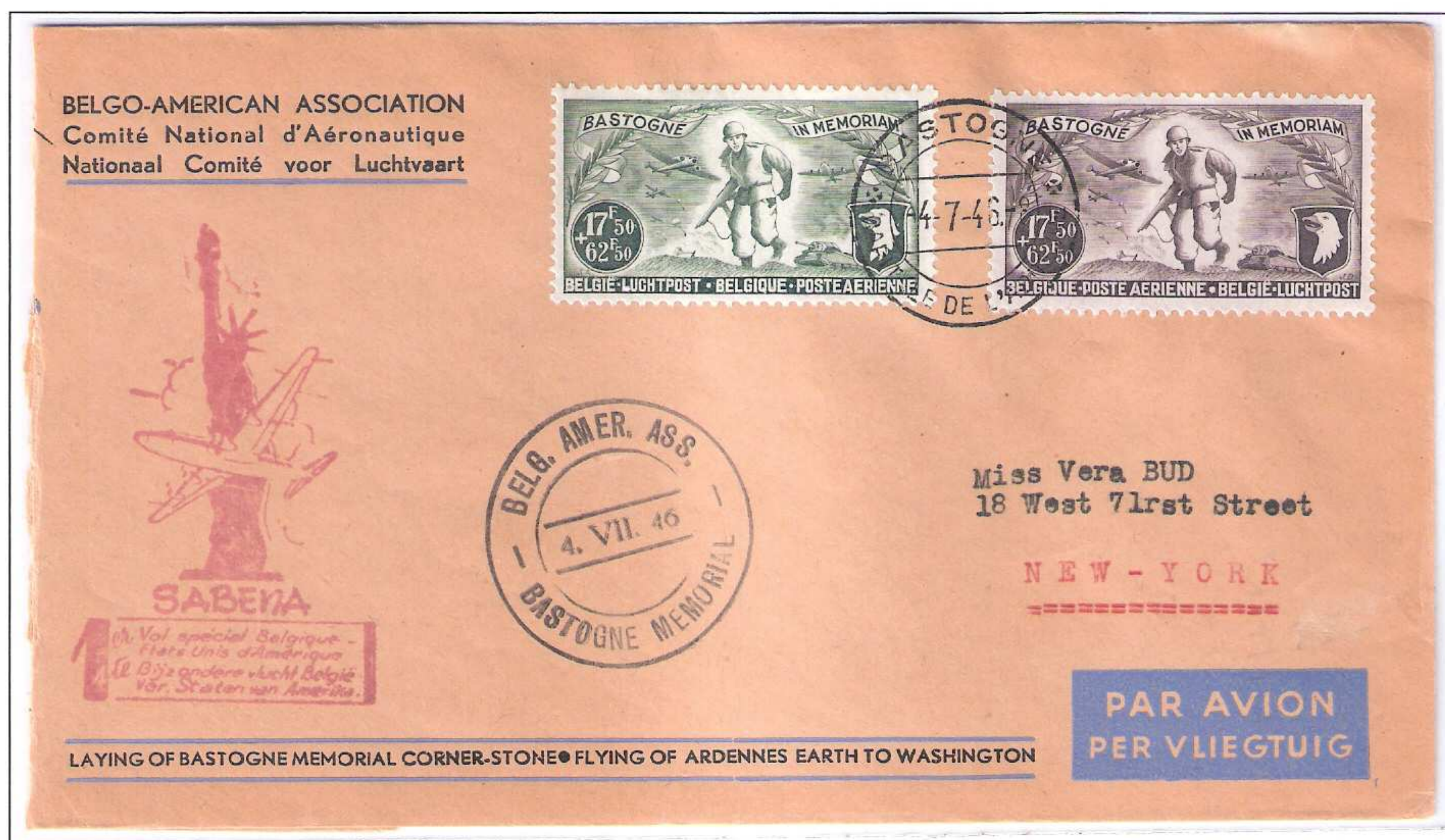
The battle of Arnhem was lucky for the Germans who inflicted heavy losses to the allies preventing the crossing of the Rhine and halting the advance for some time.





#### 4.3 THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The last great and strategic German offensive on the Western front was the battle of the Ardennes. Hitler's aim was to repeat the allies' debacle of Dunkirk, but this time focusing on Antwerp.



Despite the heavy losses – approximately 90,000 people, killed, taken prisoner or missing – the allies manage to stop the German advance and to push the enemy back to the starting lines. The town of Bastogne is the symbol of the battle of the Ardennes.



*Infantrymen in the snow of the Ardennes and Commanders Bradley and Patton*

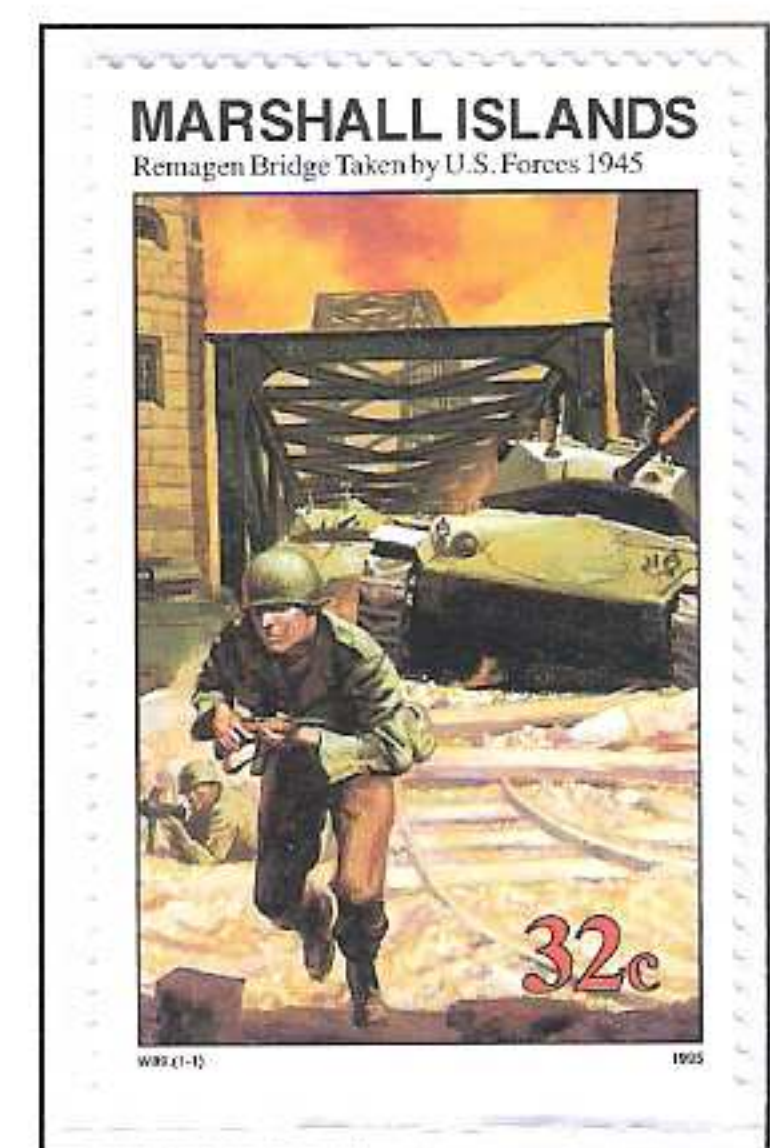


*25<sup>th</sup> of the battle of Bastogne with the mausoleum dedicated to the Americans died in war*



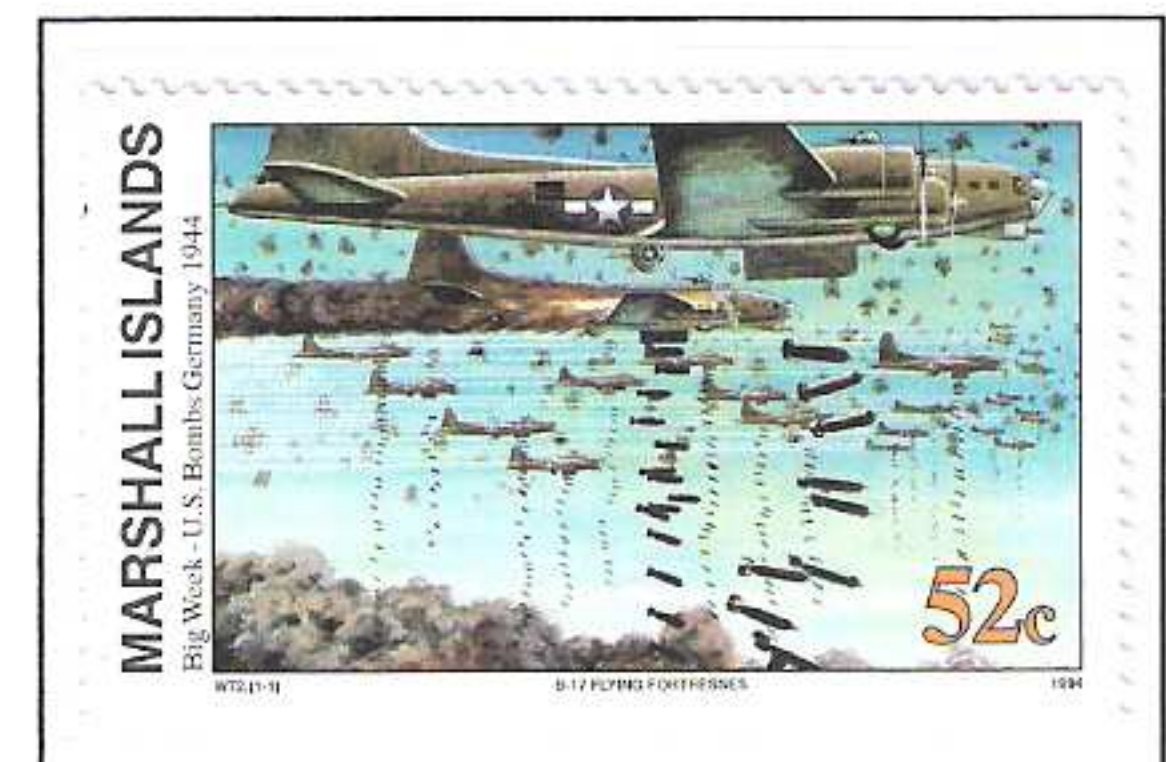
#### 4. 4 THE COLLAPSE OF THE WESTERN FRONT

After the collapse of the line of the Vistula on the eastern front, and the battle of the Ardennes, in order to face the Russian advance Germany is forced to transfer its last reserve divisions to this front. The allies, after the liberation of Paris and France, favoured by their enormous superiority of men and means, move to conquer the Rhineland.



The passage on the Rhine

The bombing raids on Germany intensify and German anti-aircraft forces have no truce while Hitler's secret weapons hit London from June 1944 in the vain hope to change the war's result.





#### 4.5 THE COLLAPSE OF THE WESTERN FRONT

After crossing the Rhine on the bridge at Remagen on March 7, 1945, the allies broke into the Rhineland, found weak resistance and occupied a large part of Western Germany in two months' time.

**Meldebestätigung**

Herr - Frau - Fräulein Paul Minkmann geborene  
(bei Frauen)

geboren am 11. 3. 93 in Glunze  
um 9. 10. 43

hat sich heute mit den umseitig verzeichneten Familienangehörigen als hier  
Hannover, Kunostr. 36 Straße Nr. 36  
(Ort) Platz

- in eigener Wohnung - bei Friedrich wohnhaft angemeldet.

**Hannover** den 10. 2. 1945  
**4. Polizei-Bezirk**  
(Bezeichnung der polizeilichen Meldebehörde)

Friedrich  
(Unterschrift)  
**Meister der Schutzpolizei**

(Stempel)  
Der Deutsche Reichsbahn-Verkehr  
4. Polizei-Bezirk

DIN A 6 Bordruck d. II/M 43 F/1169

Hannover, February 10, 1945: registration certificate of the police before the arrival of the allies on April 10, 1945

Absender: Levin  
20 Braunschweig  
Wohnort, auch Zustell- oder Leitpostamt  
Braunersb. 74  
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk oder Postschließfachnummer

**Postkarte**  
**Vermeidet**  
**RUNDFUNK**  
**STÖRUNGEN**

BRAUNSCHEIG  
10. 2. 45  
ab  
6  
DEUTSCHES REICH

Herrn u. Frau Dr.  
Bruno Seeliger  
13<sup>a</sup> Regensburg  
Straubingerstr. 33  
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk oder Postschließfachnummer

Es ist alles in Ordnung.  
Ich habe mir sehr herzlich  
bedankt von allen Briefen und  
grüßen. Hoffentlich sind Sie alle  
gesund. Größte Liebe  
Mutter u. Jörg u. sind sehr auf  
das herzlichste begrüßt von  
ihrem alten Onkel Martha

Braunschweig, February 10, 1945: postcard to Regensburg without censorship; the last days of the Reich



## 5. 1 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

Following the agreements taken by the “three big leaders”, Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, the British, French and American troops are due to remain along the River Elbe waiting for the Soviet forces. The Red Army, now unstoppable, recaptures Odessa and Crimea, Kiev and the whole Ukraine.



*Romanian artillery in action*



*Attack by  
the Soviets*



*The liberation*





## 5. 2 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

The coordinated action of the Red Army on the three fronts finds weak resistance and the liberation of the occupied lands is persistent. The propaganda encourages the Soviet soldiers.



A Russian tank crushes a German "Tiger"

1943 :postal ticket from the Russian front seen for censorship



With the boost of 4,000 tanks, the German resistance is won on the Berezina and Belarus and its capital Minsk are freed.





### 5.3 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

The last Russian town to be freed is Brest-Litovsk, now called Brest. On March 3, 1918, in this town, Germany and Lenin's Soviet Union had signed the peace treaty which ended the 1<sup>st</sup> World War on the Eastern front.



*Brest-Litovsk, February 27, 1916: M.P 191, free postcard for Germany with the ruins of war*

On July 3, 1944 the Soviet troops recapture the whole Belarus.



*30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory: the town of Brest, "heroine" of World War II*



## 5. 4 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

After crossing the Vistula, the Soviet troops of Rokossovskji and the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Army approach Warsaw. The remaining German forces are defeated in the battle of Studzianki which begins on the 9<sup>th</sup> and ends on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1944.



*The crossing of the Vistula*



*The battle*





## 5. 5 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

With the aim to free Warsaw before the arrival of the Soviets, the army "Krajowa" of gen. Komorowski rouses the population of the town on August 1, 1944. The repression of the Germans is violent and after nearly two months all resistance is broken. The Soviet troops enter Warsaw only in January 1945.



The sacrifice of the insurgents



Following Hitler's order, Warsaw is razed.





## 5. 6 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

Abandoning Warsaw to its tragic fate, the Red Army continues its advance Southwards to the conquest of Romania. The loss of the big refinery in Ploesti in 1943 helped to further limit the mobility of the Germans. Romania leaves its German Ally and on August 23, 1944 it joins the Red Army which arrives in Bucharest on August 31.



Romania, May 29, 1944:  
postcard censured three  
months before Romania  
joins the Red Army



Anniversaries  
of liberation  
of Romania





## 5. 7 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

After Romania, Bulgaria, too, joins the allies and on September 9, 1944 it opens the door to the Red Army. On October 1, 1944 Bulgarian partisans and the troops of gen. Tolbuchin arrive in Sofia.



Gabrovo, (Bulg.)  
letter to USA  
with stamps of  
1945-46 series  
"liberation"

The collapse of the whole Eastern front forces the Germans to the progressive disengagement of troops from Greece and Yugoslavia. The Red Army, together with the troops of Marshal Tito, benefits and conquers Belgrade on October 20, 1944.



1944, Democr. Fed. Jug.  
overprinted series,  
the 1<sup>st</sup> after liberation

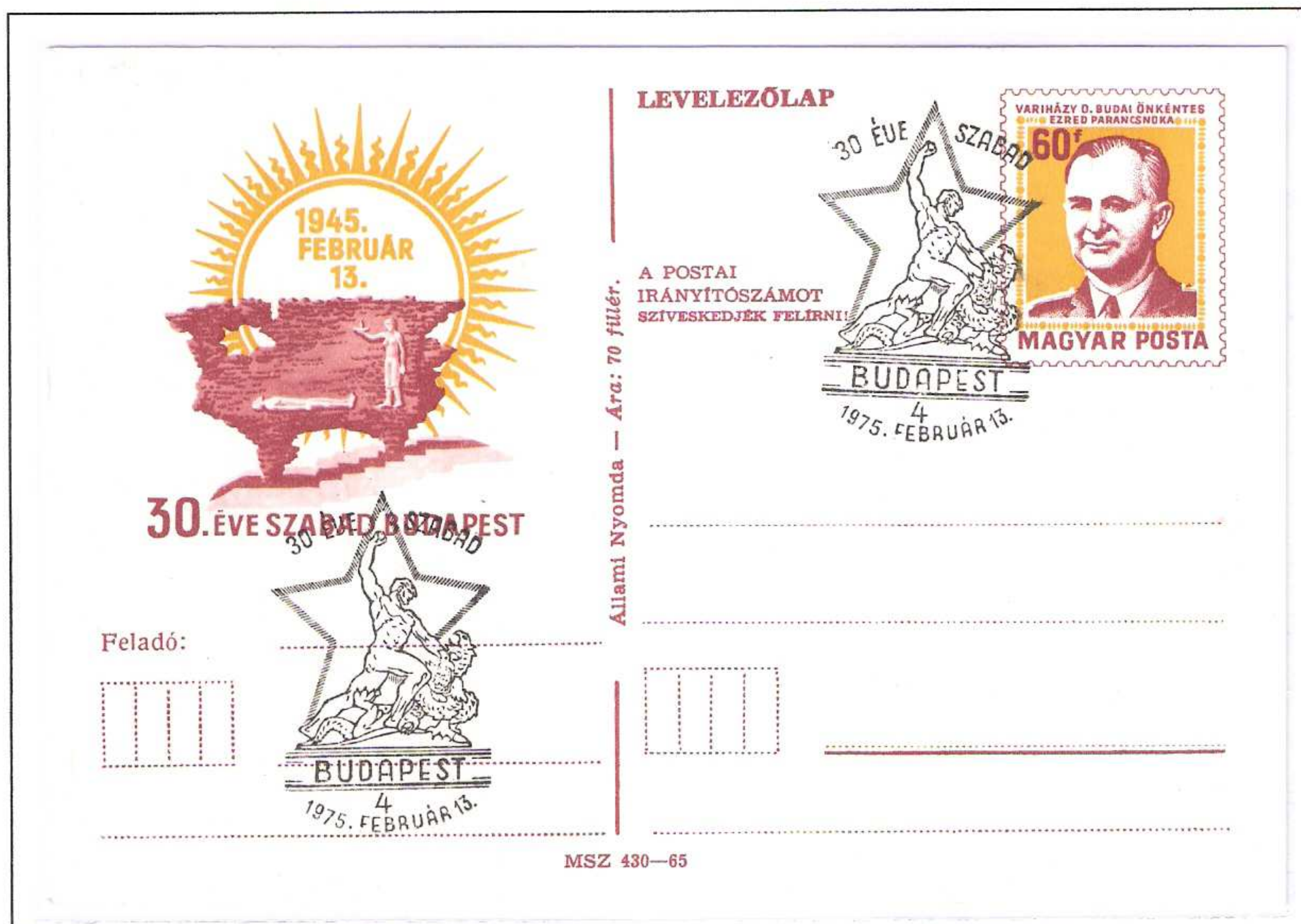




## 5. 8 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

The conquest of Budapest, helped by the Regiment of Hungarian Volunteers, "Budaisky", engages the Red Army for 45 days. The Germans fight fiercely and the town suffers from considerable devastation. Pest surrenders on January 18, 1945 and Buda only on February 13. Two Russian members of Parliament, sent by Gen. Malinovsky to ask for surrender, are treacherously killed by the Germans. One of them is cap. Ostapenko.

*The stamp for Cap. Ostapenko*



*Postal stationery dedicated to Col. Oszkár Várihazy, Com.der of the Volunteer Reg. and cancellation of the Liberation of Budapest*



After the liberation of Hungary the Russian troops face the conquest of Austria, birthplace of A. Hitler. The conquest takes ten day, but finally, on April 13, 1945, the Red Army liberates the country.





## 5.9 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN

The last European capital to be freed is Prague. The town revolted against the Germans on May 5, 1945. The Red Army enters the capital on May 9. Berlin had already been captured on May 2 while Hitler had committed suicide on April 30, 1945.



*Correspondence from Prague, February 7, 1945, a few months before the liberation*



*German overprinted stamps with the popular uprising, May 5, 1945*



*People celebrating for the liberation and the historical date of May 9, 1945*



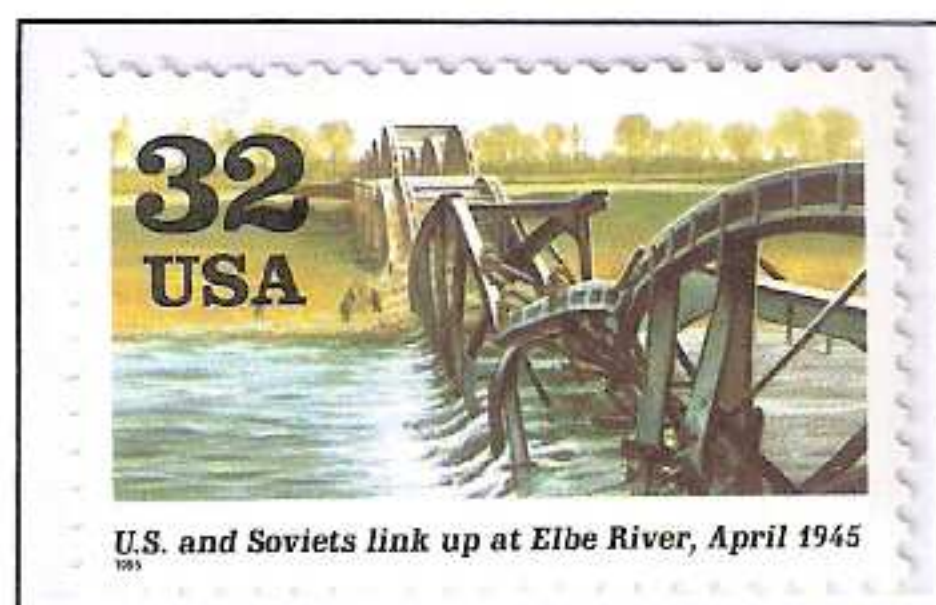
*Cancellation of June 16, 1945 during the temporary presidency of Eduarda Benese*



## 5. 10 THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN




Before the last battle for the conquest of Berlin, the allies meet in Turgau, on river Elbe.



Berlin is a heap of rubble. The Reichstag is taken on April 30, 1945 and on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Red Army's flag is raised on the Palace of the Nazi power by Sergeant Egerov and soldier Kantarija. On May 7, in Reims, in the American headquarter, Germany signs its surrender. The same operation is repeated in Berlin in the headquarters of the Red Army on May 7<sup>th</sup>.





40 ЛЕТ ПОБЕДЫ СОВЕТСКОГО НАРОДА В ВЕЛИКОЙ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ВОЙНЕ

150 лет Ордена Кутузова 1-й степени

79 ск Звезда

ПОБЕДЫ СОВЕТСКОГО НАРОДА В ВЕЛИКОЙ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ВОЙНЕ

ГОРОД-ГЕРОЙ

40 ЛЕТ

09.05.1985

НОВОРОССИЙСК-УЗЕЛ СВЯЗИ

Куда \_\_\_\_\_

Кому \_\_\_\_\_

Индекс предприятия связи и адрес отправителя \_\_\_\_\_

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Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения

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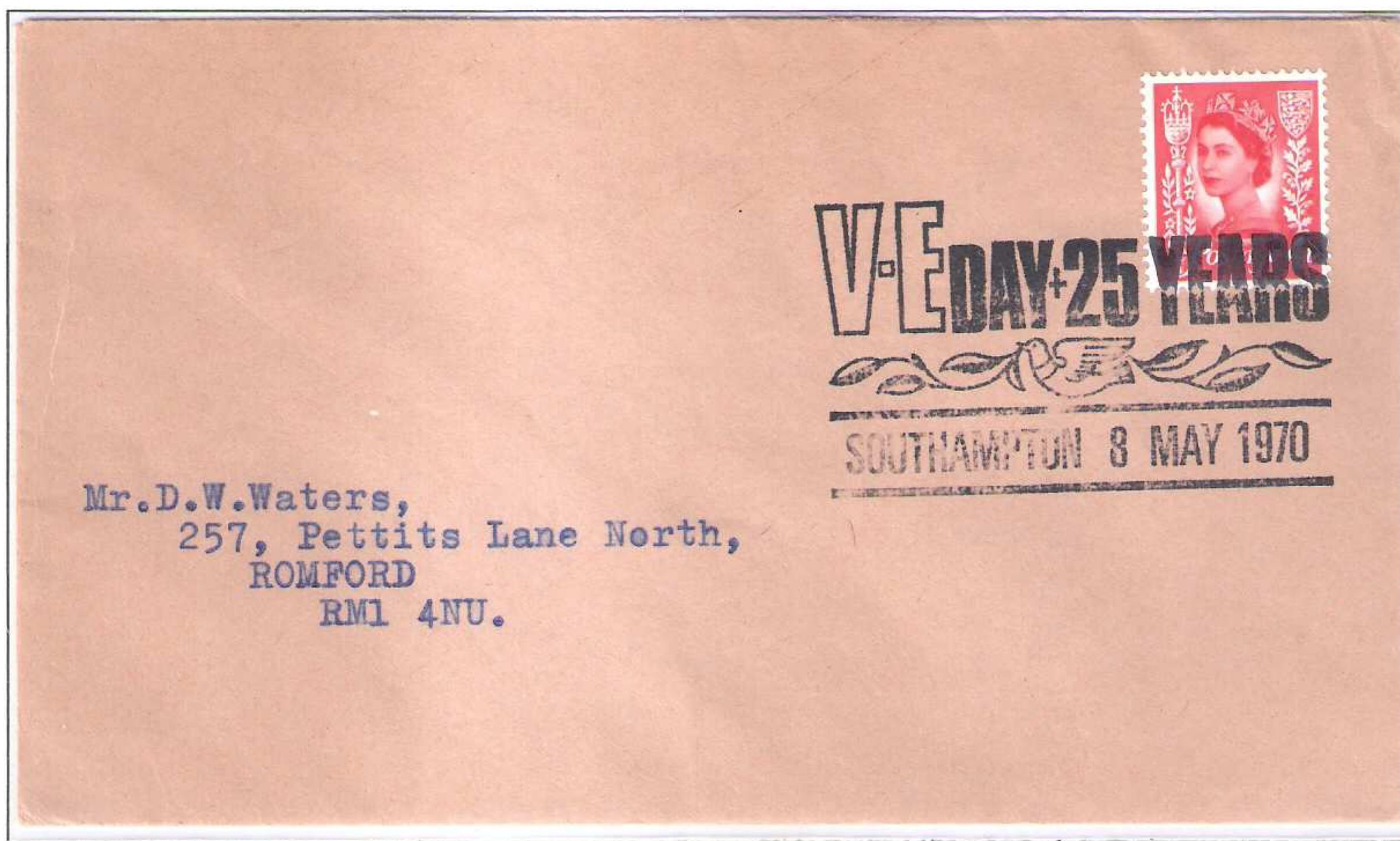
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# 6. 1 THE VICTORY, THE PEACE AND THE DIVISION OF GERMANY



While the allies celebrate the victory after the defeat of Germany. . . .



. . . for millions of civilians the exodus in search of a home begins.





## 6. 2 THE VICTORY, THE PEACE, AND THE DIVISION OF GERMANY

Victory and peace are commemorated in many countries and in different ways.



The war in Europe is over but, as we shall see, the division of Germany among the winners begins, even in philately.



U.S.S.R., 1985: 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day of victory

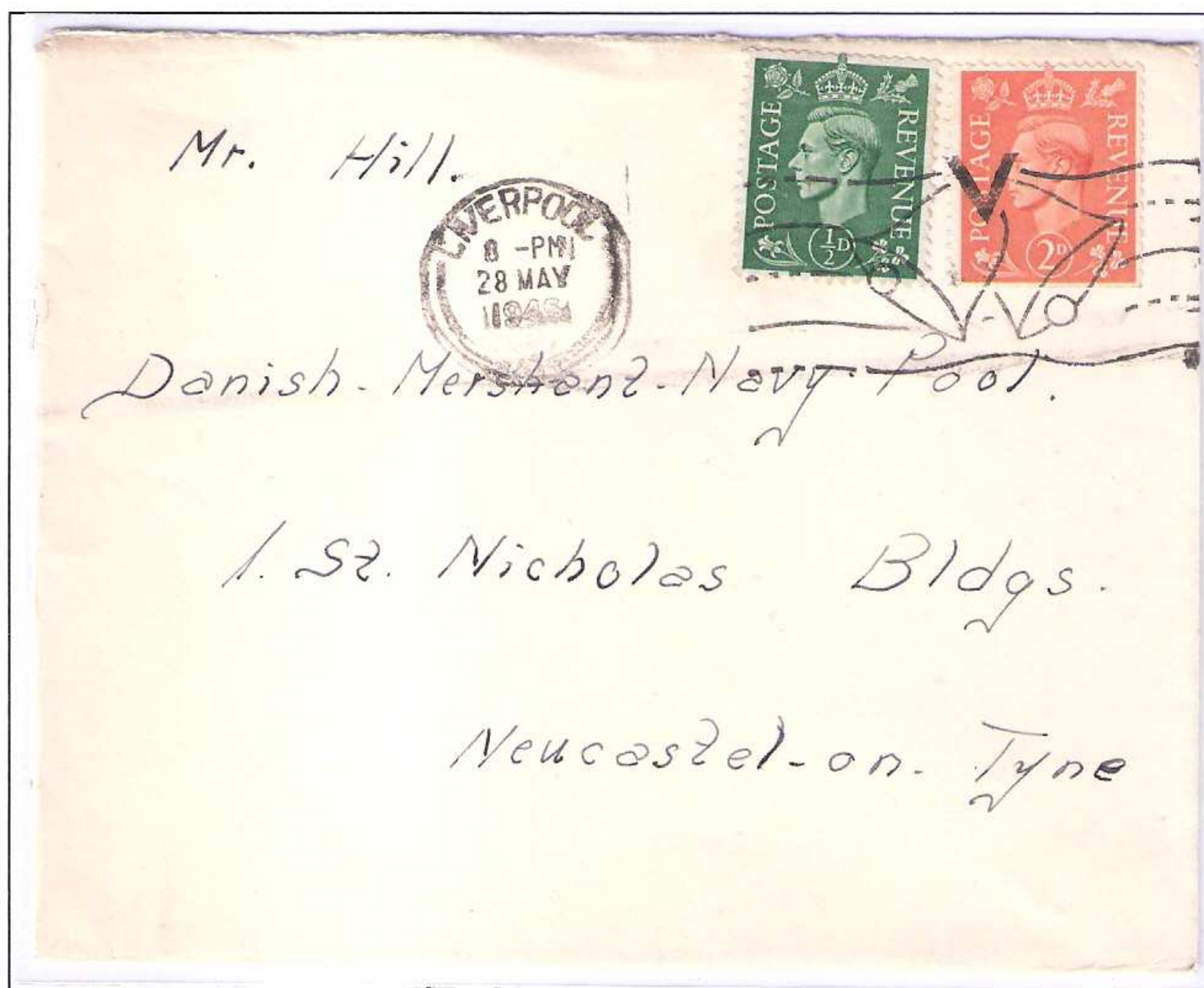


## 6. 3 THE VICTORY, THE PEACE, AND THE DIVISION OF GERMANY

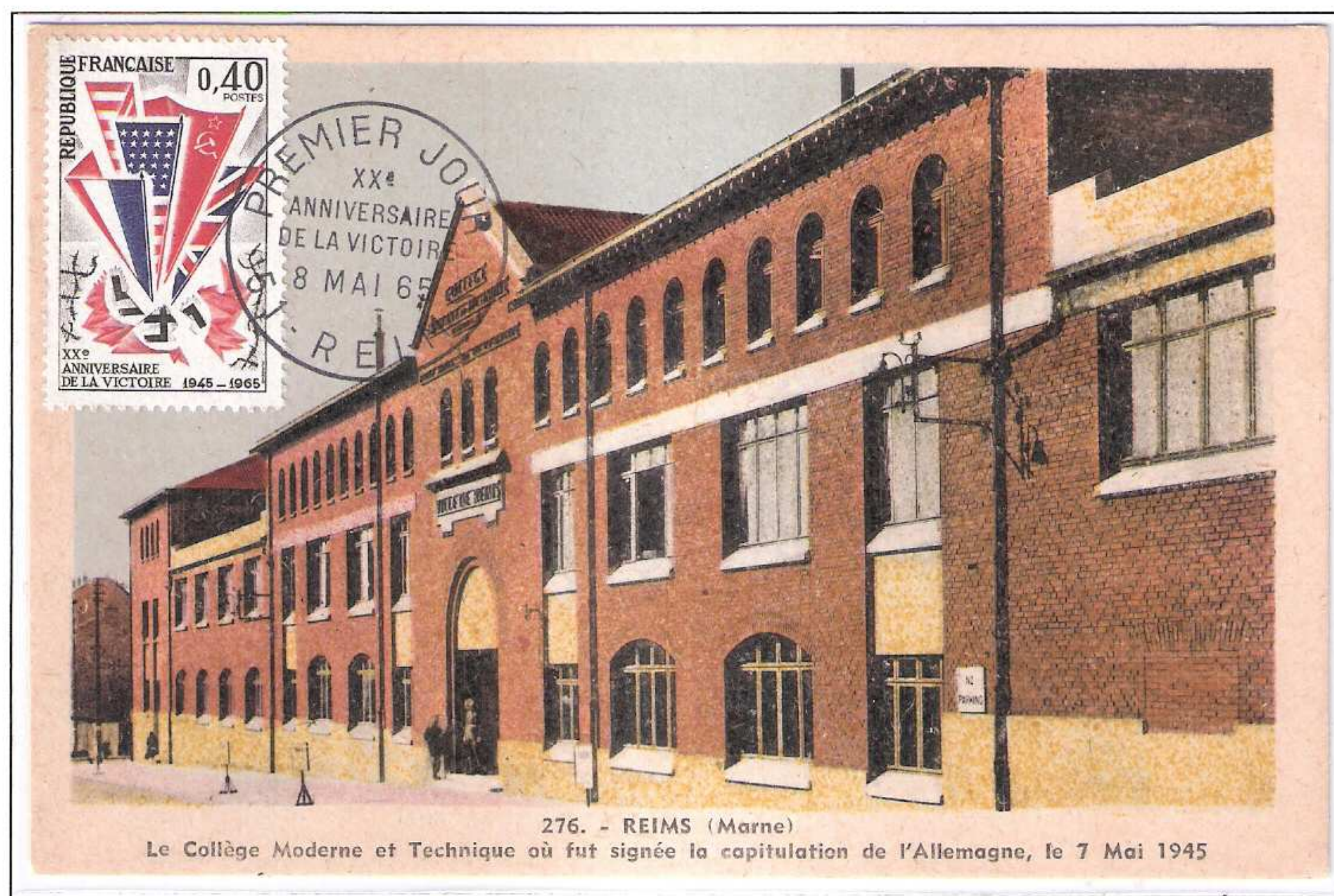


1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the victory

The bells and the "V" of victory



The different celebrations of victory.





## 6. 4 THE VICTORY, THE PEACE, AND THE DIVISION OF GERMANY

Germany and Berlin are divided into sections committed to the administration of the winners. The mail service, too, adapt.



Soviet zone, 1945: district emission for Berlin and Brandenburg



French occupation, 1945: issues for every area



Inter-allied area April 16, 1946: letter from Frankfurt to Furth franked with valid stamps for the Russian, English and American area

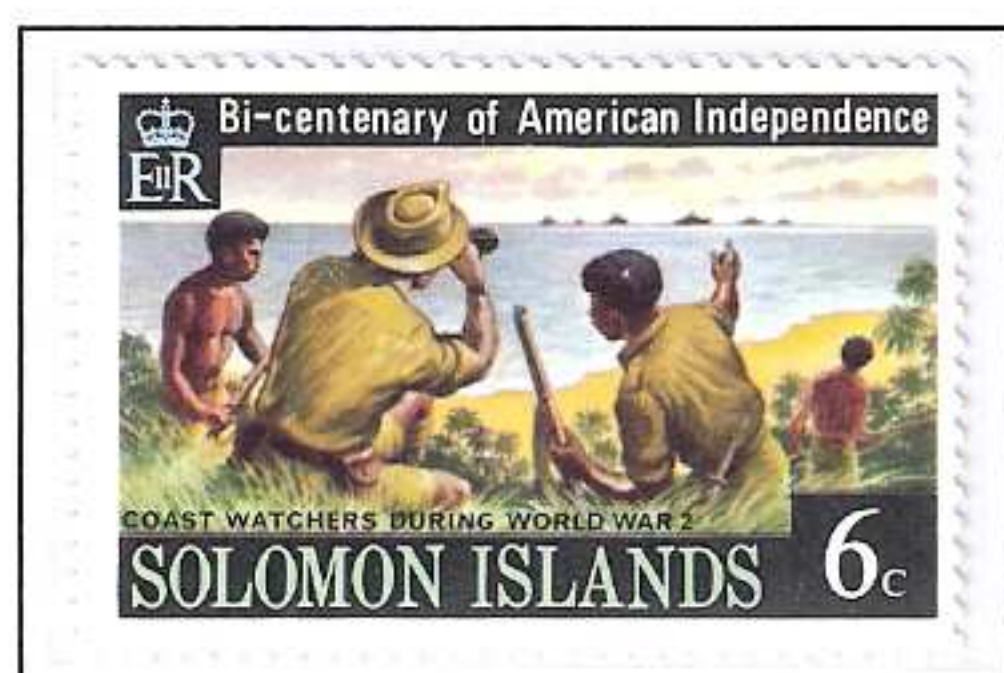
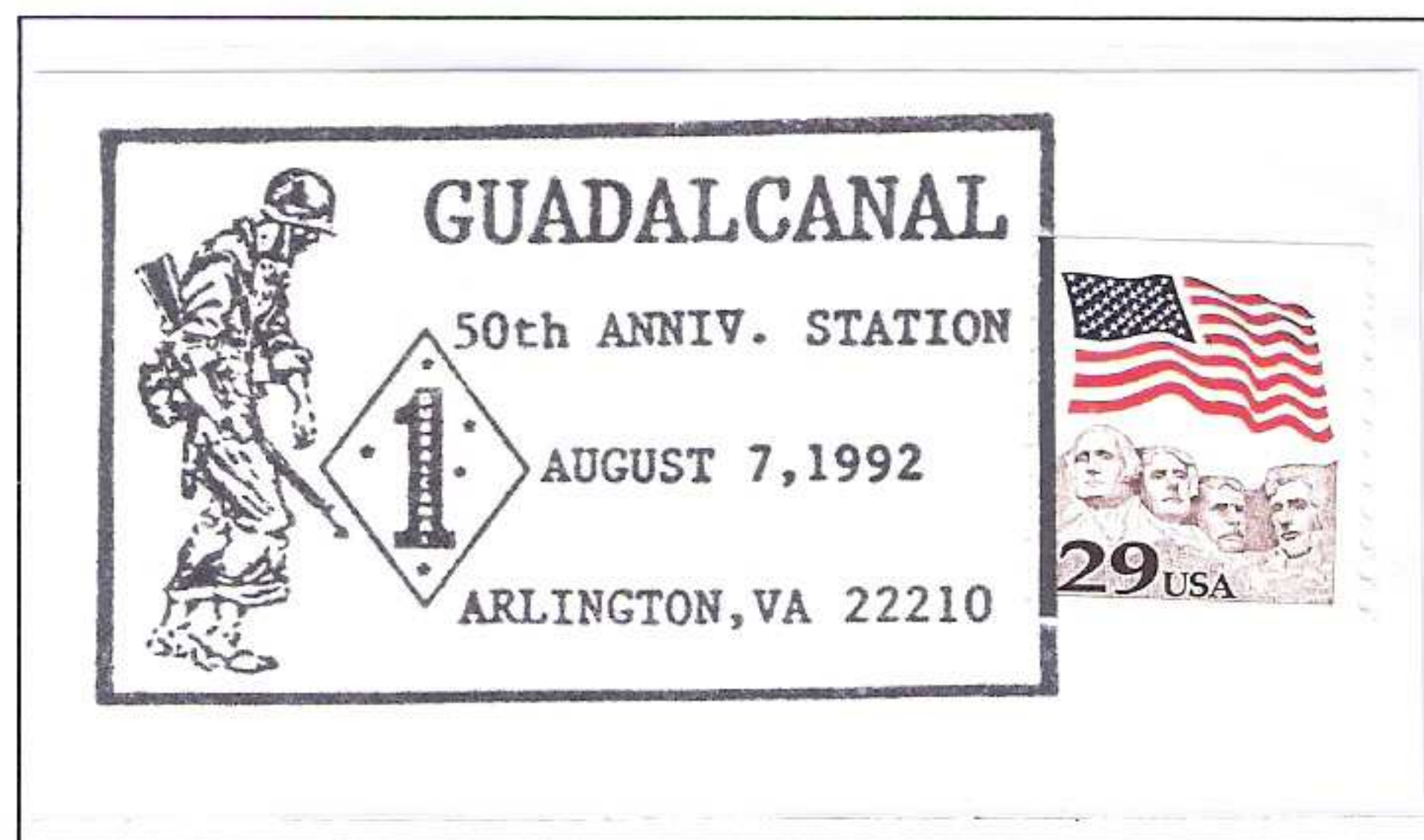
Soviet zone, 1946 value of A.I.S areas overprinted and valid only for the Soviet zone



The Anglo-American area: postcard from Rietberg to Dortmund, November 23, 1945



The allies' recapture of lost territories in South Pacific began with the Guadalcanal campaign that lasted from August 7, 1942 to February 9, 1943.



Control of the coastline, the fighting and Japanese landings at Tulagi and Guadalcanal.



Aircraft carrier Wasp and the cruiser Canberra with other ships protecting the recapture of Guadalcanal



Letter from Guadalcanal (A.P.O. 719) to Philadelphia seen for censorship

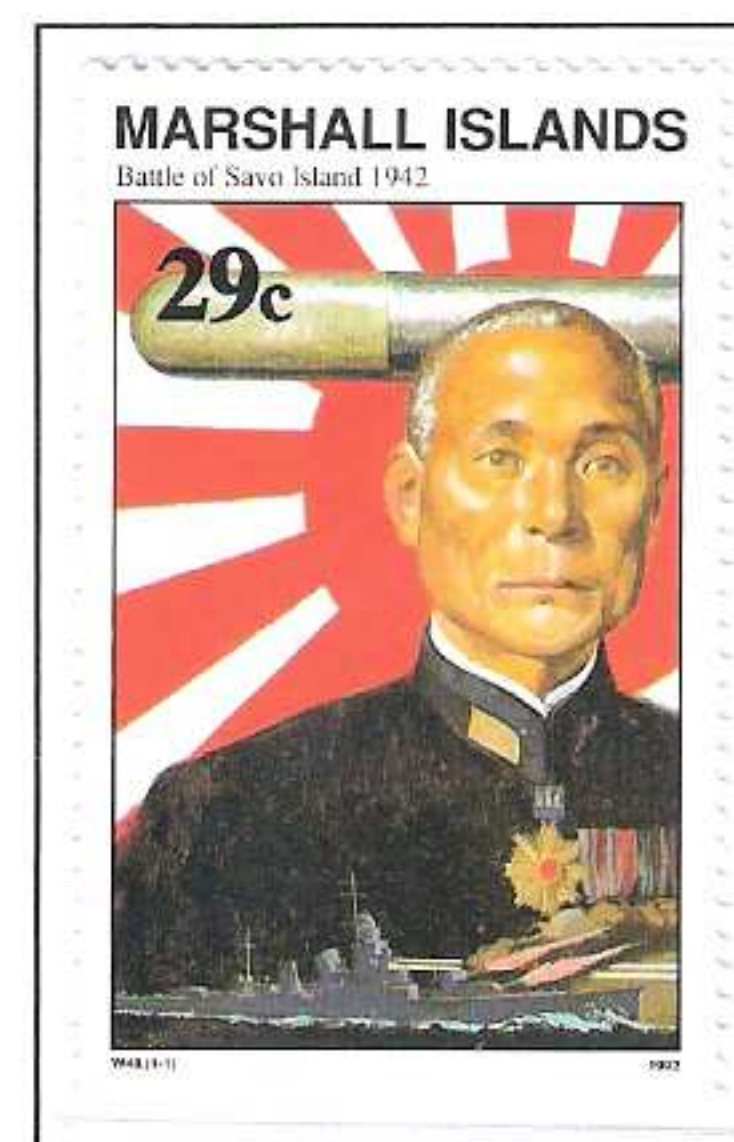
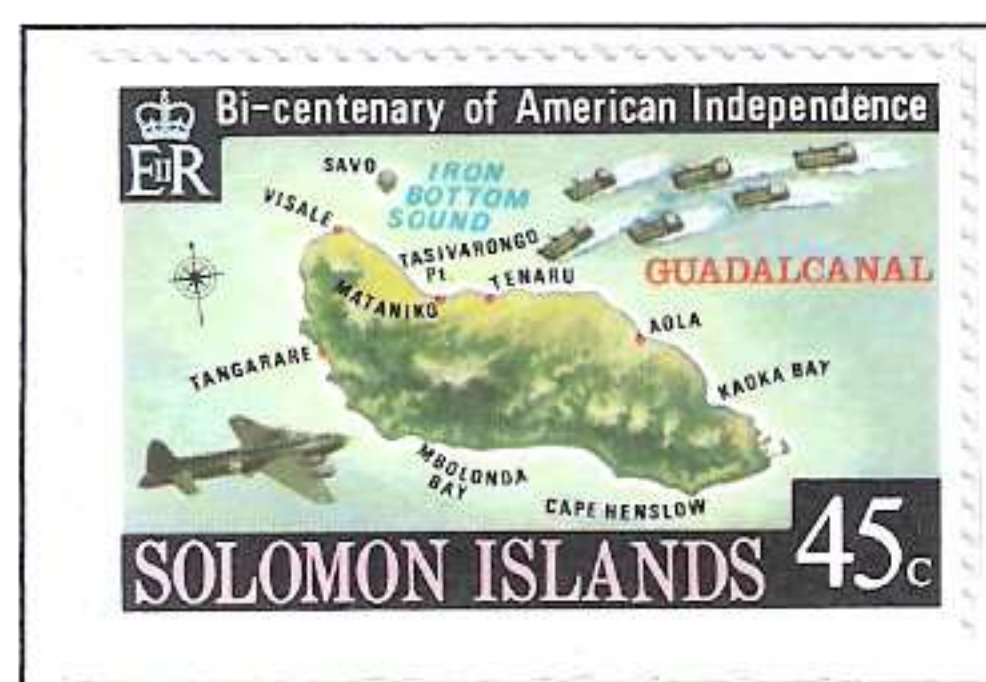
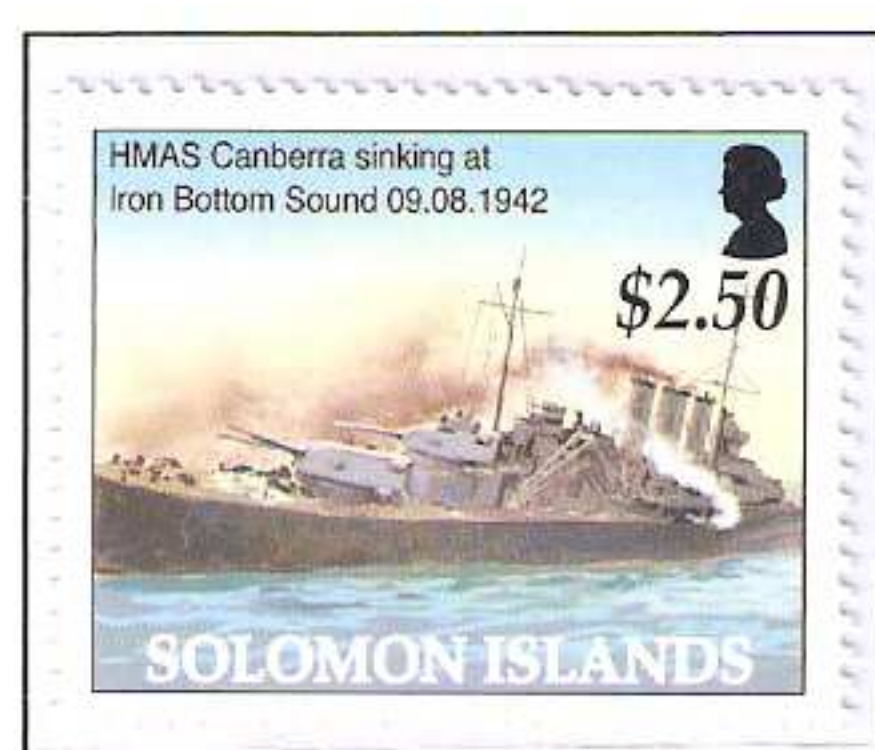


## 1. 2 THE RE-CONQUEST OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

After vainly trying to capture Port Moresby in New Guinea and bombarding Darwin in the far north of Australia, the Japanese land on the north side of New Guinea but suffer heavy losses in the battles of Milne Bay and KoKoda.

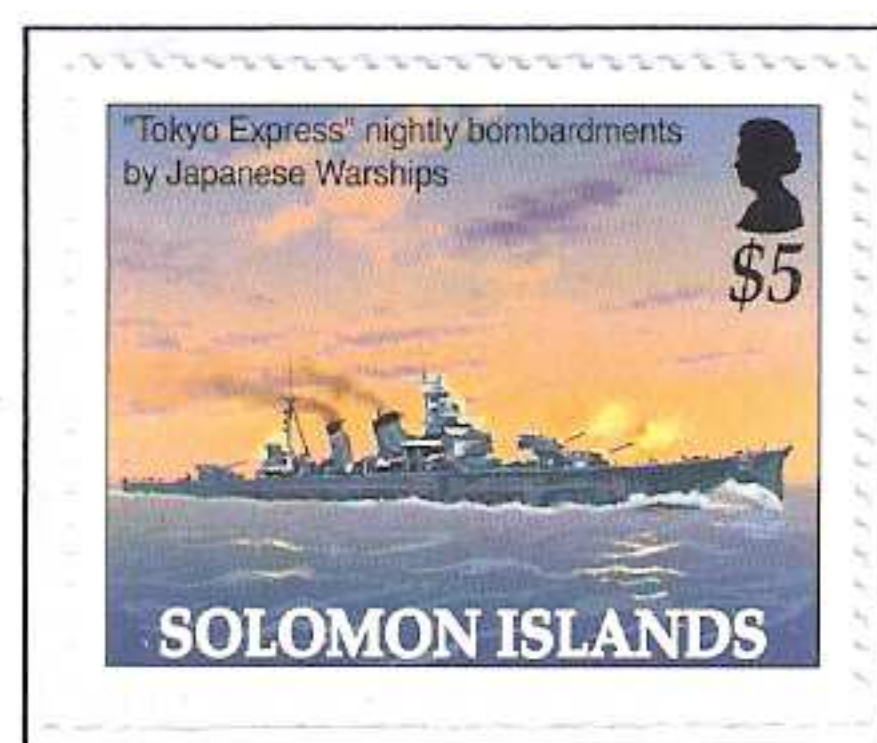


The Japanese supply the divisions of Guadalcanal and New Guinea with food, troops and weapons, exclusively by sea from the base of Rabaul, in the Bismark Islands. Naval clashes follow with victories both for the Japanese and the allied fleets. Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1942 the battle of Savo, an islet North of Guadalcanal, takes place. It causes a serious defeat to the allied fleet. 4 heavy cruisers are sunk, while the Japanese have only light damage.



*The Australian cruiser Canberra and the American Quincy, sunk in the battle of Savo, won by Japanese V. Adm. Mikawa*

The "naval battles of Guadalcanal" take place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 1942. The Japanese try to reinforce the existing quotas on the island to regain it. During the night they carry troops and cargos with destroyers. The Americans label the operation "Tokyo Express".



*The destroyers of the "Tokyo Express"*

In the naval clashes in the waters around Guadalcanal the Japanese lose the battleship Kirishima while the Americans register the sinking of the aircraft carrier Wasp.





### 1.3 THE RECONQUEST OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

The losses in men and equipment, ships and aircrafts, during the long battle to recapture Guadalcanal and New Guinea force Admiral Nimitz and Gen. MacArthur to adopt the "frog's jump" strategy. They conquer an island, they skip the next one and attack the farthest, isolating the previous one, depriving it with supplies and then forcing it to surrender with no fight.



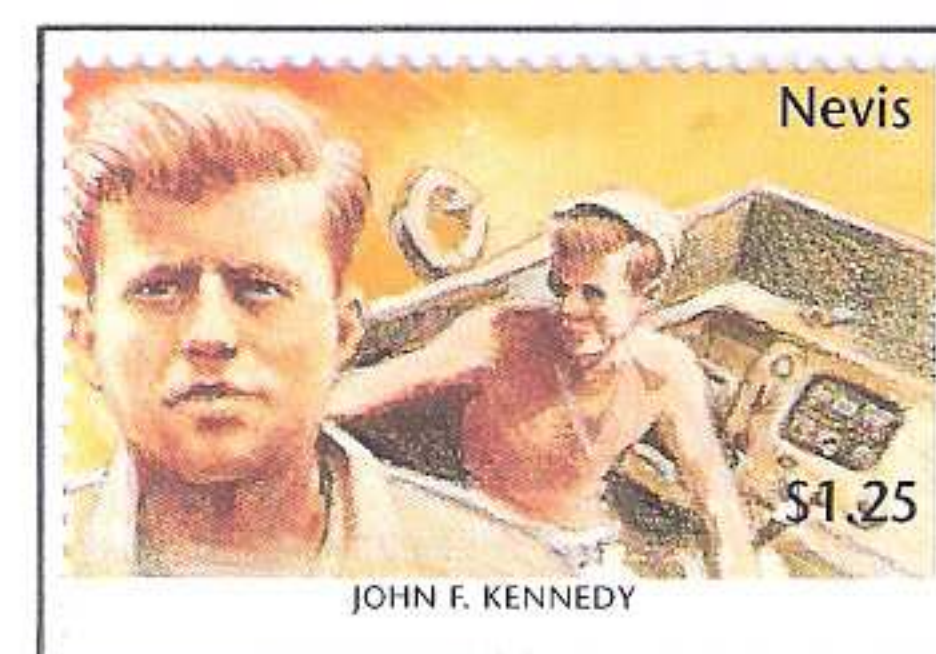
*The headlines for the first victories in the Pacific*

Adm. Yamamoto flies over Boungaiville to coordinate the defensive strategies of the Japanese naval forces, he is shot down on April 18, 1943 by a P-38 Lightnings left from Henderson Field of Guadalcanal.



*Henderson Field Airport on Guadalcanal, the destruction of Yamamoto's aircraft and the recapture of New Guinea*

On August 2, 1943 the motor torpedo boat PT-109 led by J.F.Kennedy is rammed by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri. Kennedy, swimming for three miles, succeeds in rescuing the wounded sailor Patrick McMahon on a small island. Later he leads the rest of his crew onto an island saving them. He will be decorated with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.



*The occupation of Guam by the Japanese*



*American attacks to the island in preparation for landing*



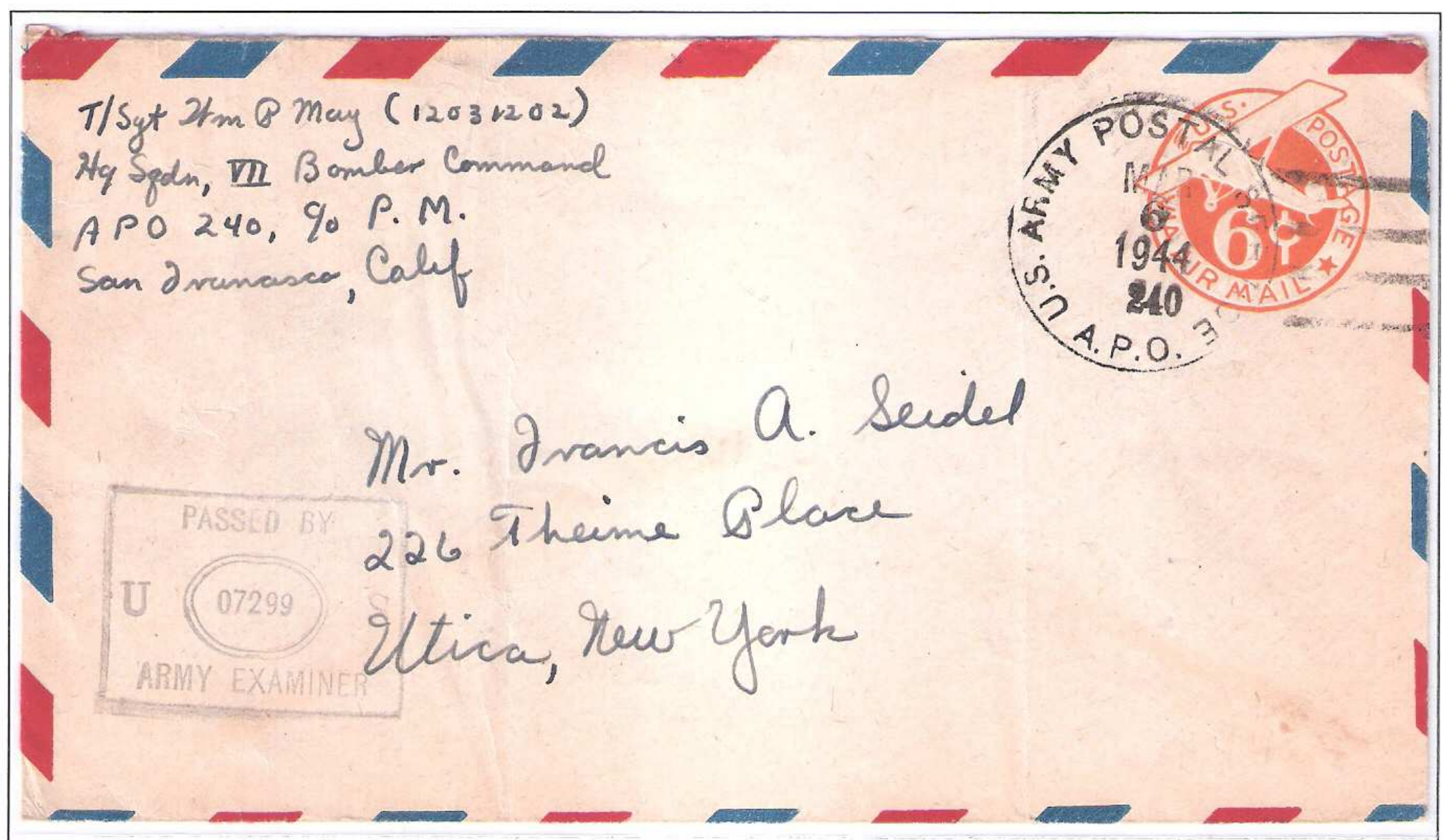


## 1. 4 THE RE-CONQUEST OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

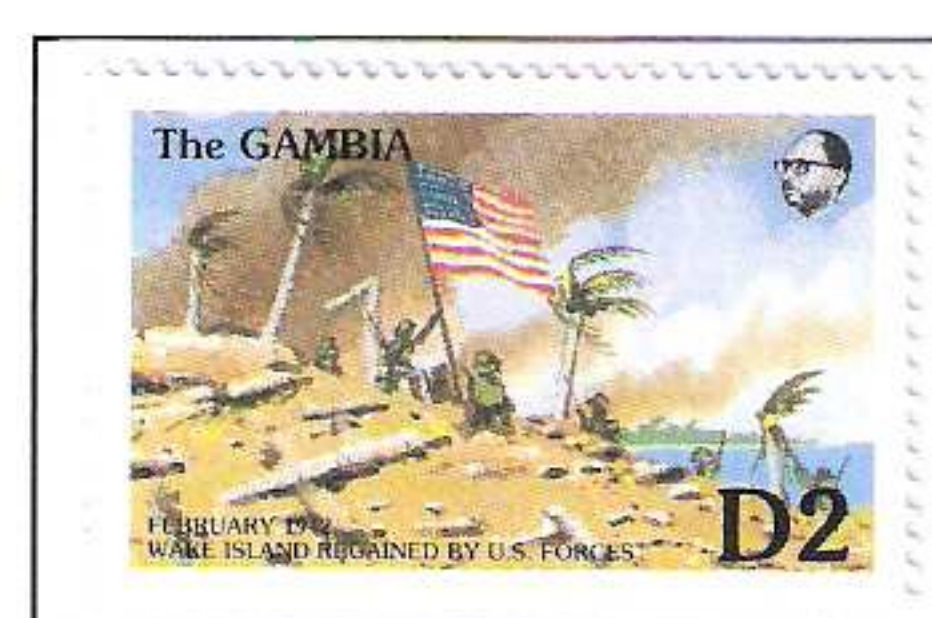
Air-naval battles and American landings take place throughout the Pacific to re-conquer the atolls. With the protection of submarines, on June 15, 1944 the Americans land and recapture the island of Saipan.



From 20 to November 23, 1944 a battle takes place to re-conquer Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands.



*Letter from A.P.O. 240, Tarawa, Gilbert Island, March 6, 1944, to Utica, New York*



*The Isle of Wake remained in Japanese hands until the end of the war when the Americans landed without fighting.*



## 2. 1 BACK INTO THE PHILIPPINES

As promised on the day of the retreat, Gen. MacArthur, backed by an imposing fleet, supervises the landing in the Philippines.

*The Japanese forces oppose to the Americans using the "Kamikaze"*



From October 17 to December 31, 1944 the Americans start the campaign to re-conquer the Philippines. The aircraft carrier Intrepid participates and is hit by a "Kamikaze". After being repaired it will participate in the Korea war. Transformed into a Museum of the Navy, it has been parked in New York harbour since 1957.



*The return of gen. MacArthur to the Philippines*

*V...Mail from A.P.O n. 72  
Tacloban, Leyte, to Sisterville,  
West Virginia, seen for censorship*

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. Pencil or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

From: 35375585  
Sgt. H.H. Henderson  
12th Repair Sq., 15th ADG.  
APO 72, Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.  
8/27/45

To: Mrs. Mae B. Henderson  
319 Stocking Ave.,  
Sistersville, West Va.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

See Instruction No. 2

Dear Mother:  
I hate to use this paper but due to circumstances there will no airmail to the states for about 20 days.  
Yes VJ day is about here. But I have quit believing anything I hear about getting back to the states. You can't believe a d-thing.  
That card you received is for a book about Australia + New Guinea.  
The growth on my finger was caused by a ruptured tendon sheath. Proper name, ganglion.  
Boy, is that some joke about this outfit being absolut wiped out. We been so far back all the time that we've never heard a shot fired or saw a Jap outside of P.O.Ws.  
Don't know anything more. I'm o.k., hope you are the same.  
Love  
Harry

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY  
V...-MAIL

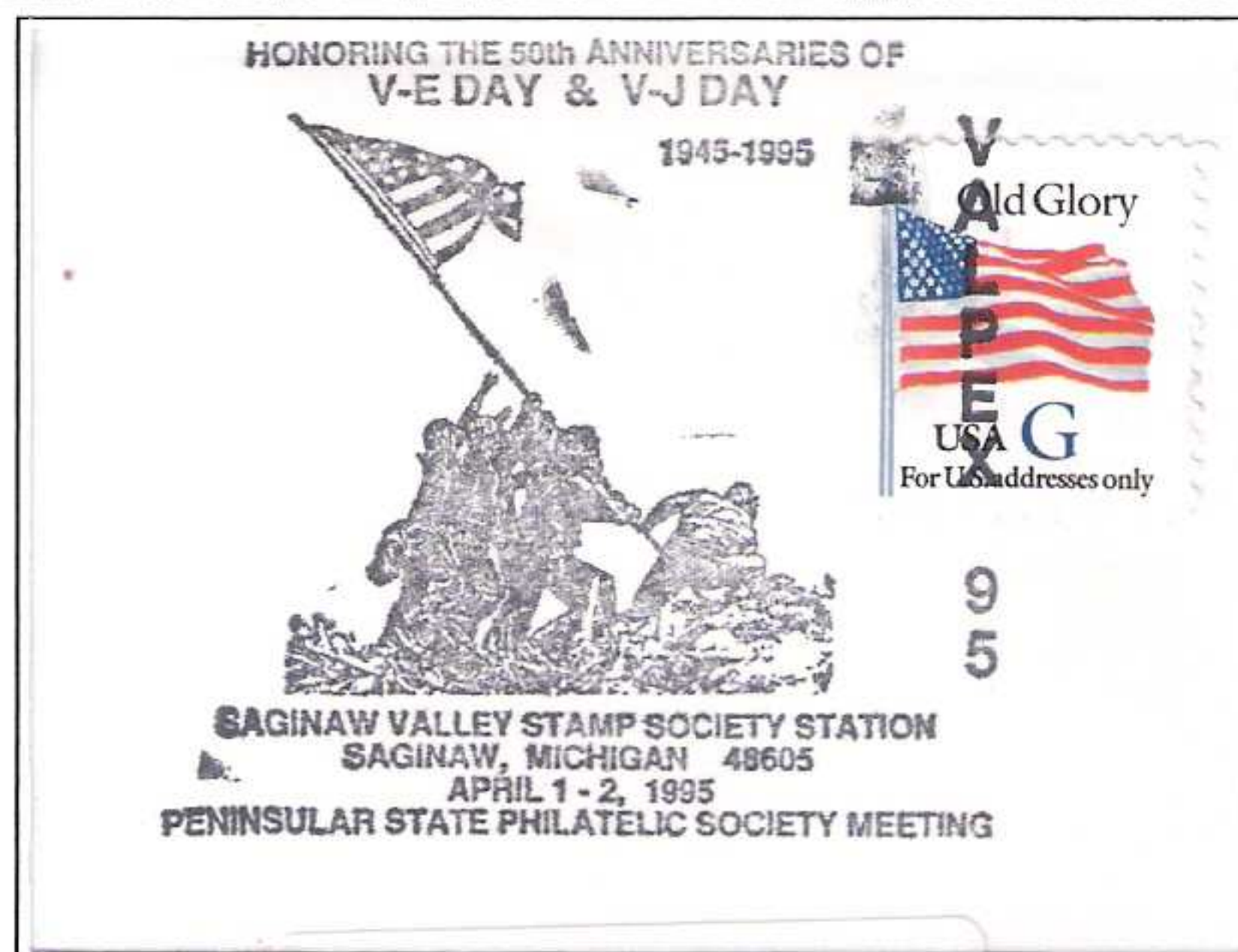
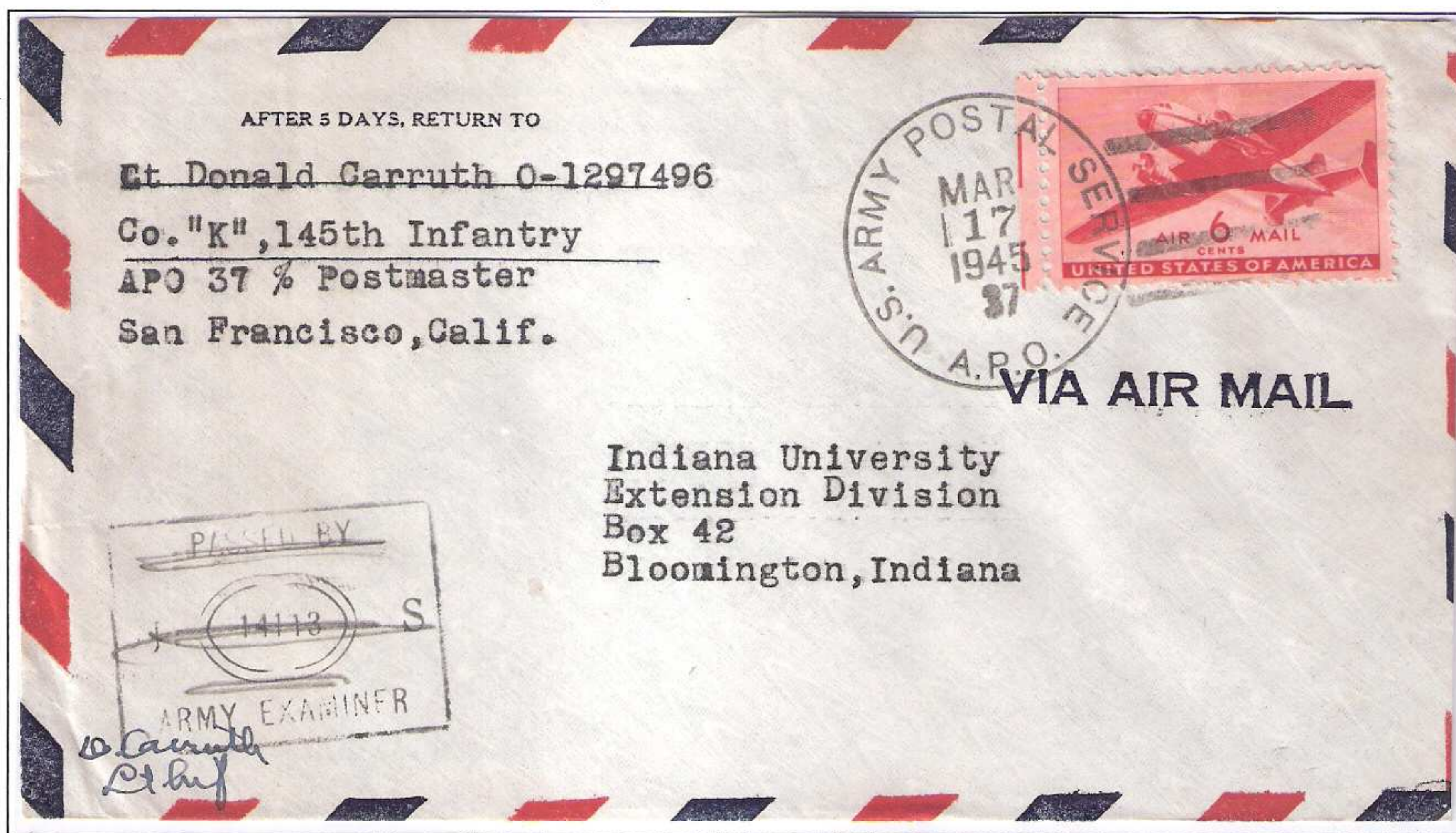
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?



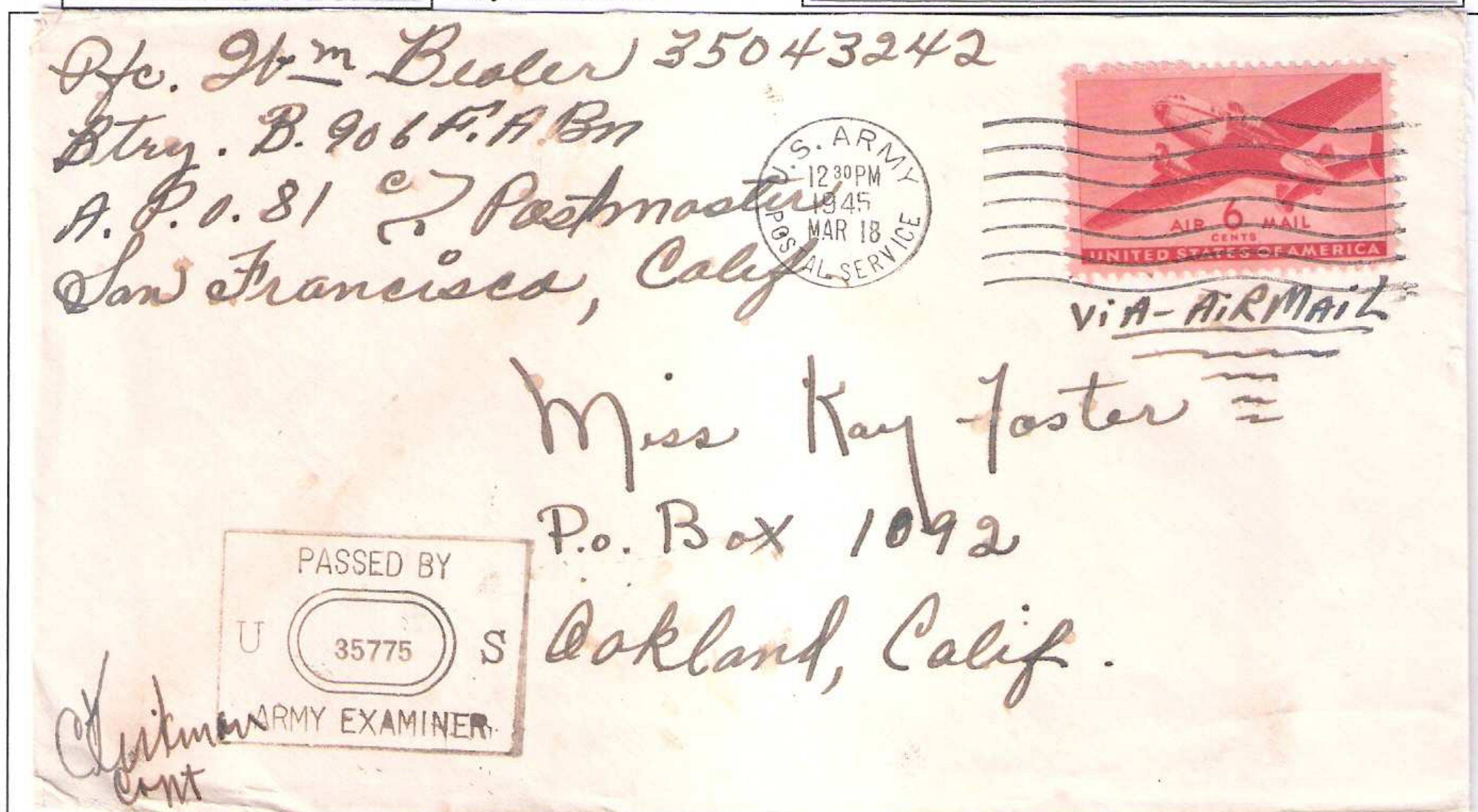
### 3.1 ATTACK TO THE JAPANESE GROUND

After the occupation of the Philippines, the Americans prepare their ground attack to the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Letter from  
A.P.O. 37,  
Manila, March  
17, 1945, seen  
for censorship,  
to Bloomington,  
Indiana  
(USA)



On February 19, 1945 the Americans attack Iwo Jima; the whole island is taken only on March 27.



Letter from A.P.O. 81, Iwo Jima, March 18, 1945, seen for censorship, for Oakland, California

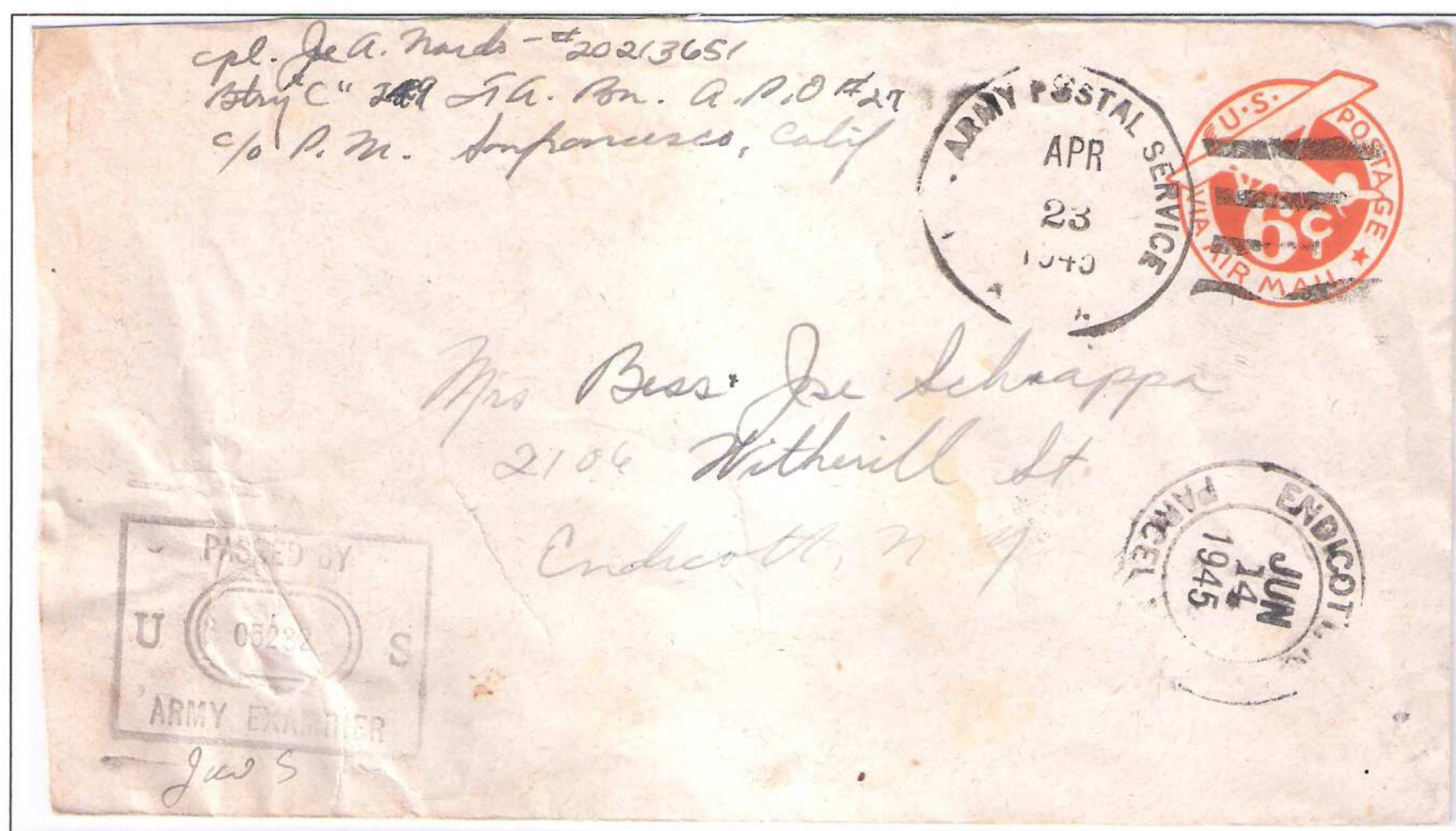


### 3.2 ATTACK TO THE JAPANESE GROUND

On April 7, 1945, the largest battleship in history, Yamato, is sunk by U.S. aircrafts while it was about to reach the island of Okinawa to defend it from the allied landings.



*The last major battle of the war*



*Japan, the Ryukyu Islands, April 23, 1945: letter from Okinawa to Endicott (New York-USA)*



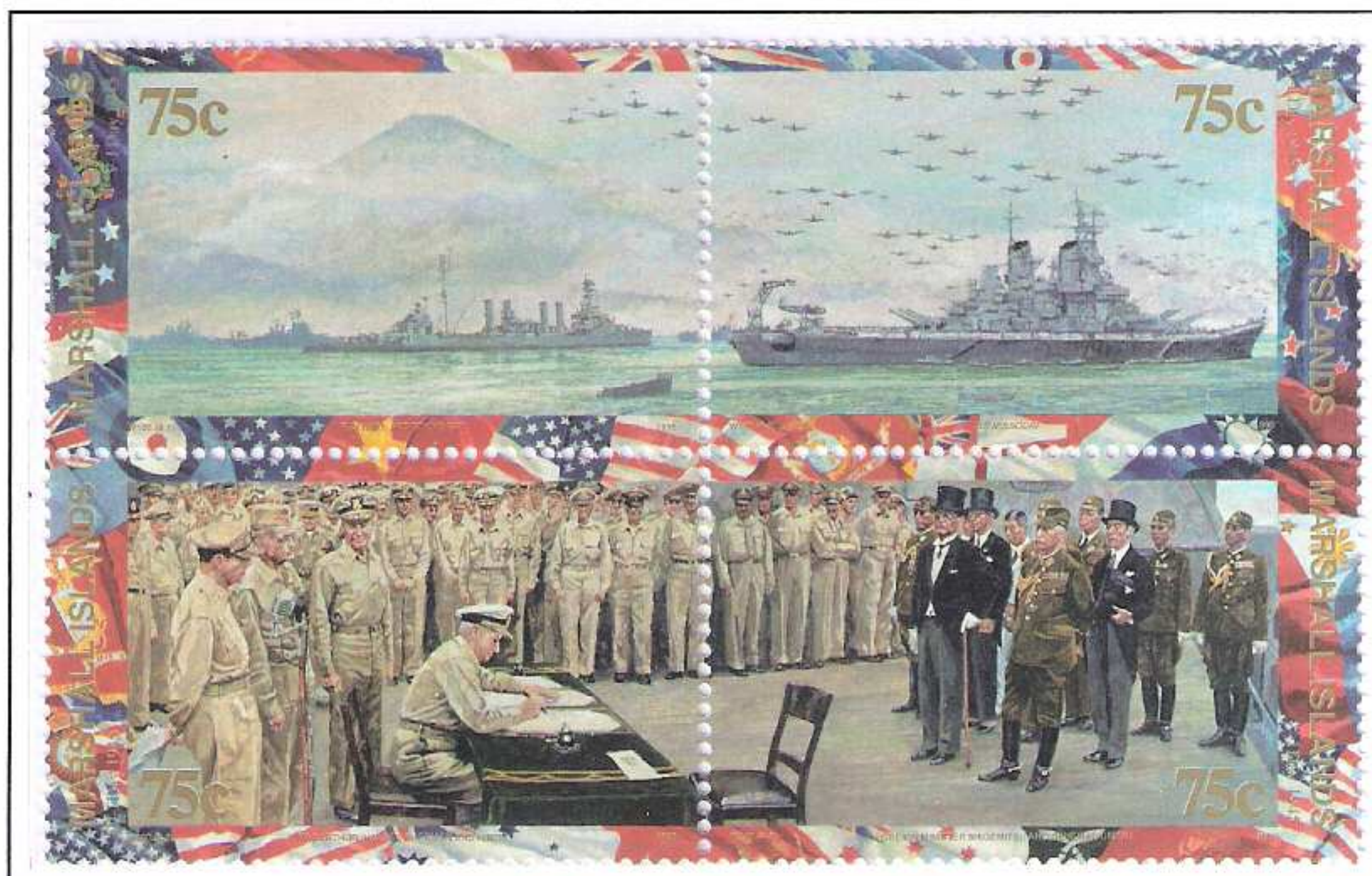
#### 4. 1 THE ATOMIC BOMB, JAPAN'S SURRENDER, PEACE



The use of the atomic bomb persuades Japan to ask for an unconditional surrender.



*President Truman announces the surrender of Japan. The signing took place aboard the battleship Missouri in the Harbour of Tokyo*



Pvt Ray Little 46001402  
HQ & HQ DET. 95QM.BN.  
APO. 317. Postmaster  
San Francisco Calif.



Judge Robert E. Curran  
13 B. Hayes Court  
Superior  
Wisconsin

*Letter from  
A.P.O. 317  
Kure, Japan,  
to Superior,  
Wisconsin  
(USA)*

KURE, JAPAN



## 4.2 ATOMIC BOMB, JAPAN'S SURRENDER, PEACE



The "peace"



With the surrender of Japan peace is restored in every continent.



Tribute to Tsutomu Yamaguchi, who was involved in both the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



The going back home of all the soldiers



During the months of the war in Europe partisan groups form to fight the oppressors. If in the occupied countries the resistance to the enemy is a normal consequence, in the conquerors' countries, too, the yearning for freedom and justice find fertile ground in the mind of brave men and women.

On February, 22, 1943 three students belonging to the " White Rose ", the most famous group opposing to National Socialism, are beheaded. Two of them, Hans and Sophie Scholl, are brother and sister. A military attempt to kill Hitler and to end the war is carried out by a group of 20 officers in July 1944, but it fails.



West Germany, 1964: sheet dedicated to Sophie Scholl of the "white rose" and to the suicide of the bombers of the Furier

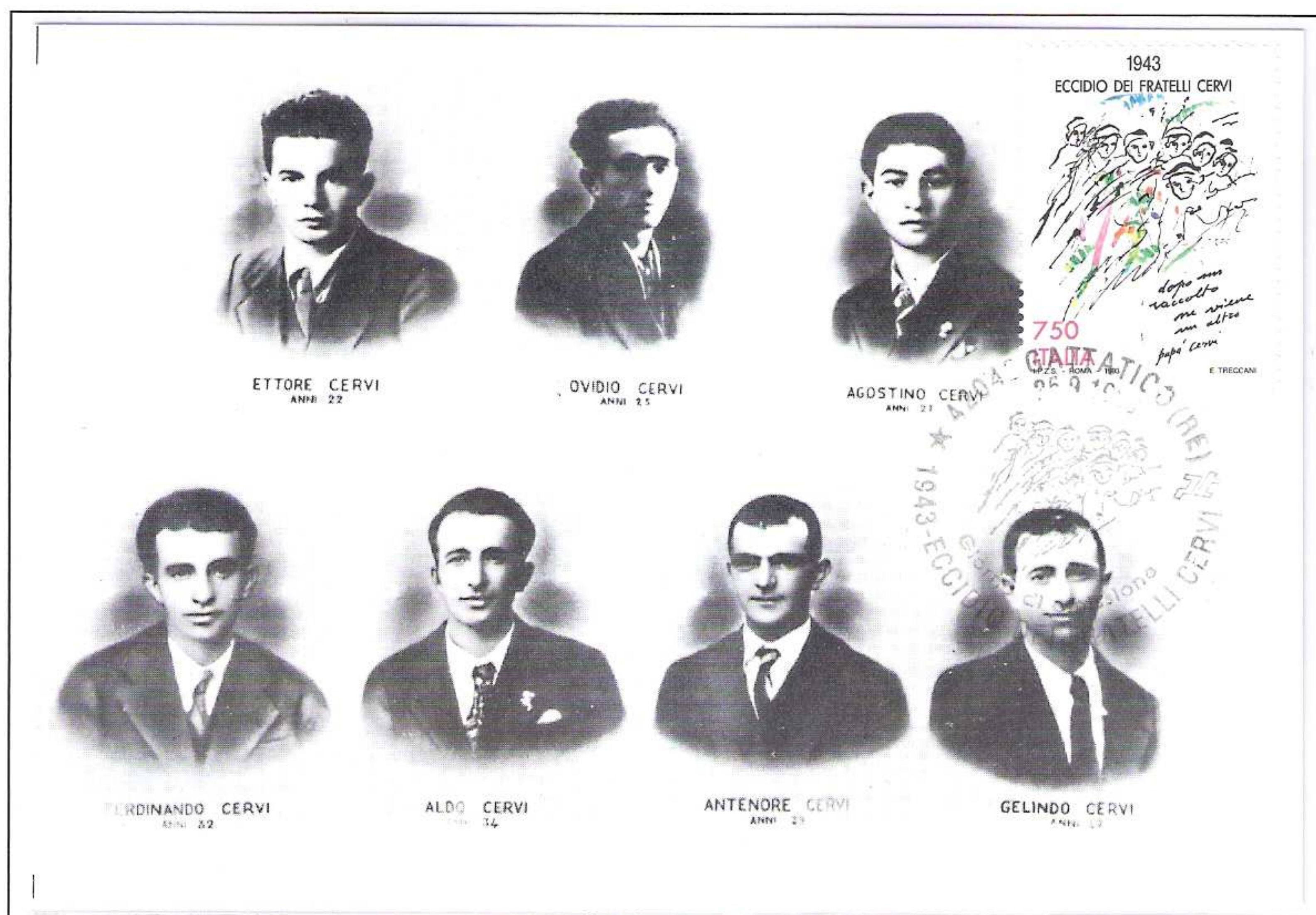


Registered mail for Genoa with three of the stamps issued for the Resistance on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war

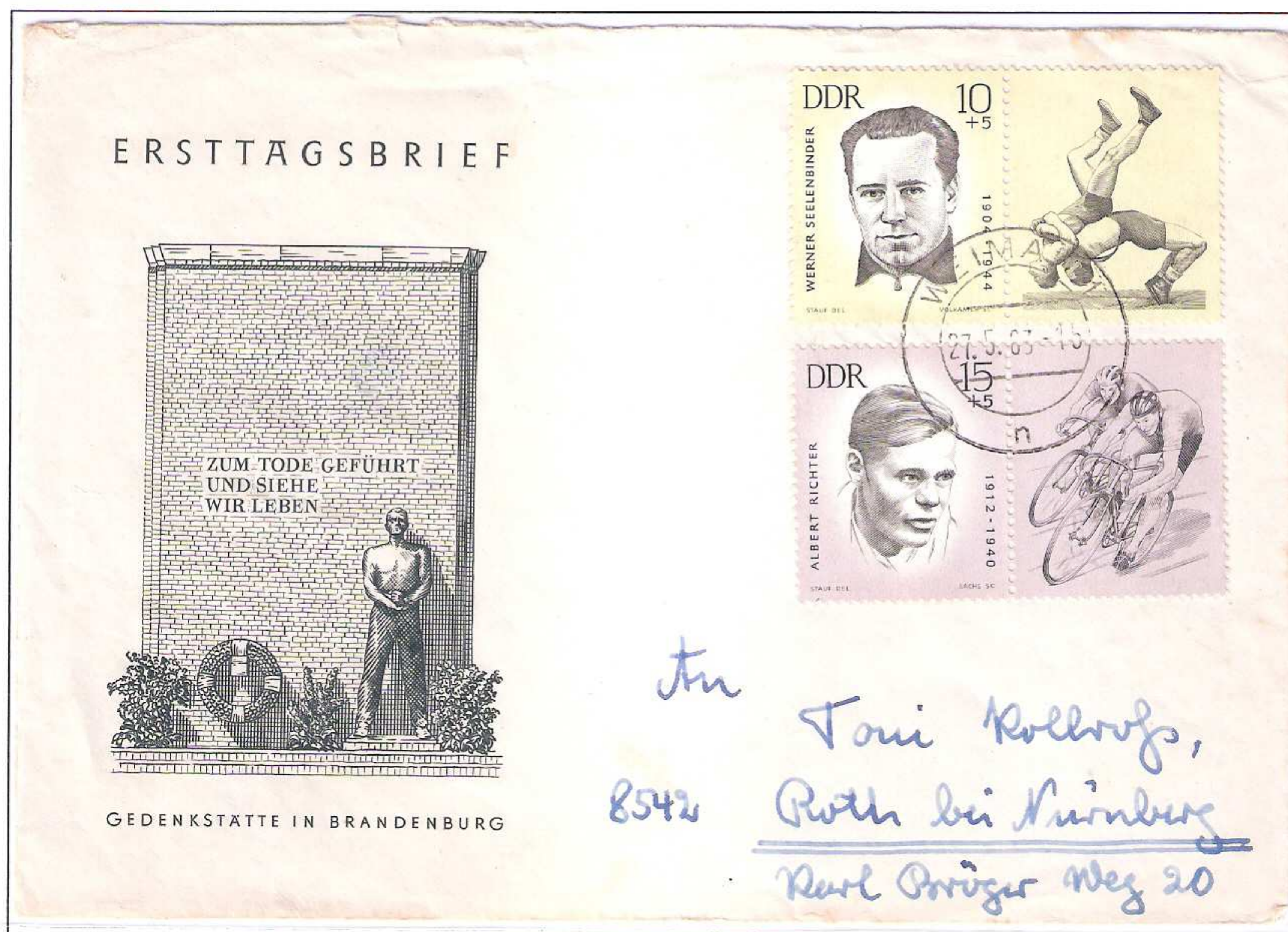


## 1. 2 THE RESISTANCE

In Italy the shooting of the seven brothers Cervi, occurred in Reggio Emilia, on December 28, 1943, represents perhaps the most severe event in individual families.



In Germany, any resistance to the Nazi ideology, even though it doesn't turn into armed resistance, is considered a crime and is punished with the death sentence. No respect is used even for world champion athletes such as cyclist Albert Richter.



East Germany, May 27, 1983: letter to Roll franked with stamps dedicated to A. Richter and W. Seelenbinder

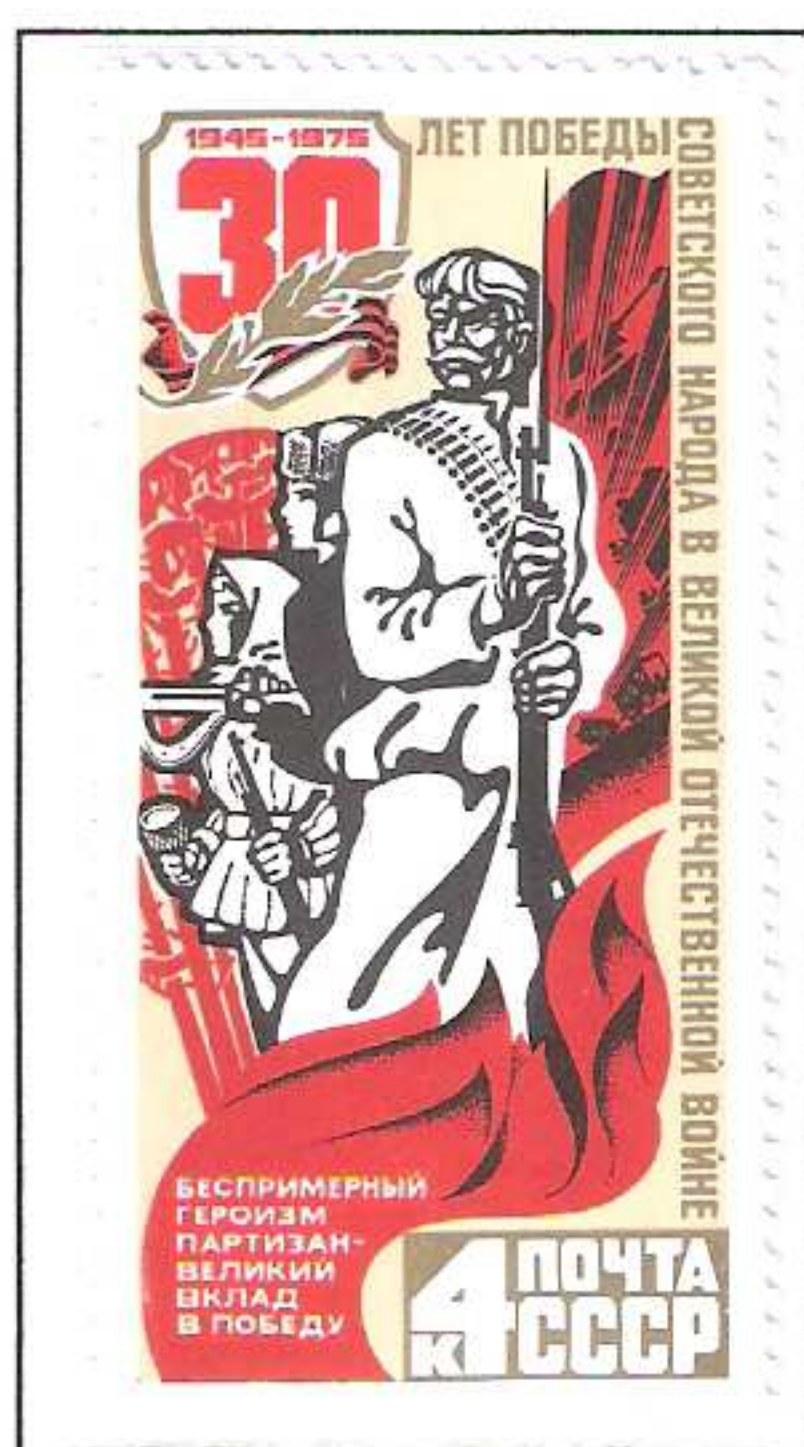


### 1.3 THE RESISTANCE

Josef Gabcik deserves a particular mention. Together with his fellow soldiers, he risked his life, as it happened, making an attack against the " Hangman of Prague ", Reinardh Heydrich, appointed by Hitler to oversee the final solution of the Jews.



*Czechoslovakia, emission  
in London, stamps dedicated to  
Josef Gabcik*



*The Commanders Karchenko and Popudrenko two of the leaders of she strong partisan movement in U.S.S.R,*



*U.S.S.R., 1942: free post ticket with partisans in action*



## 1.4 THE RESISTANCE

Greece and Yugoslavia were very active in the partisan fight against the common enemy. The arms and munitions provided by the allies helped particularly in the attacks to German troops. After September 9, 1944 partisan groups were very active in Bulgaria.

*Greek partisans*



*Tito's partisans*

*Bulgarian partisans in action*



In France the resistance has volunteers all over the country; men, women, priests and nuns are involved. As many other people they sacrificed their lives to save other lives and to fight against the enemy.



*Abbot Renè Bonpain  
Superior of Rosendaël, North*



*Jacques Renouvin, leader of the  
French Movement "Combat"*

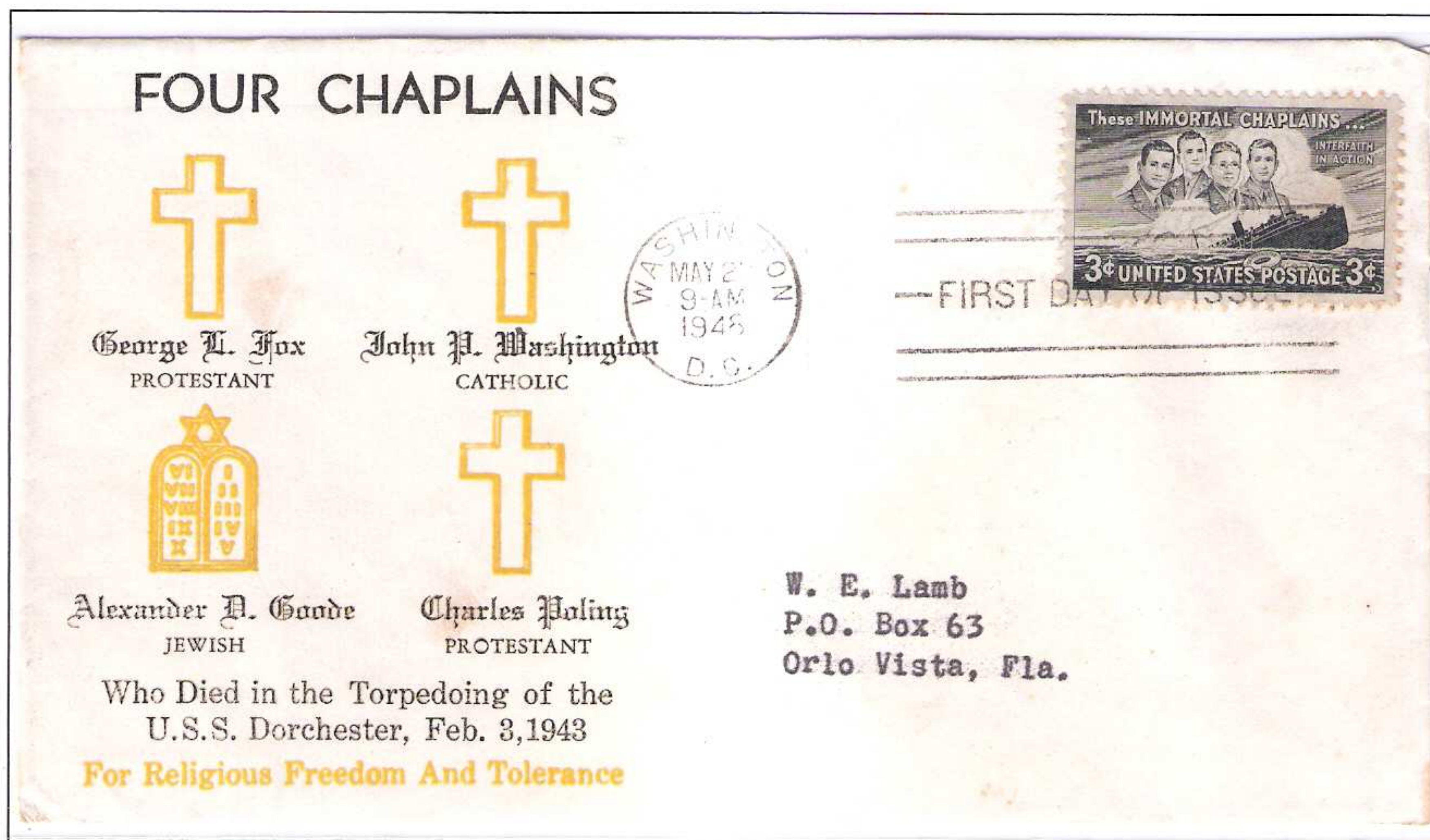


*Elise Rivet, Superior of Convent  
of Compassion Lyon*

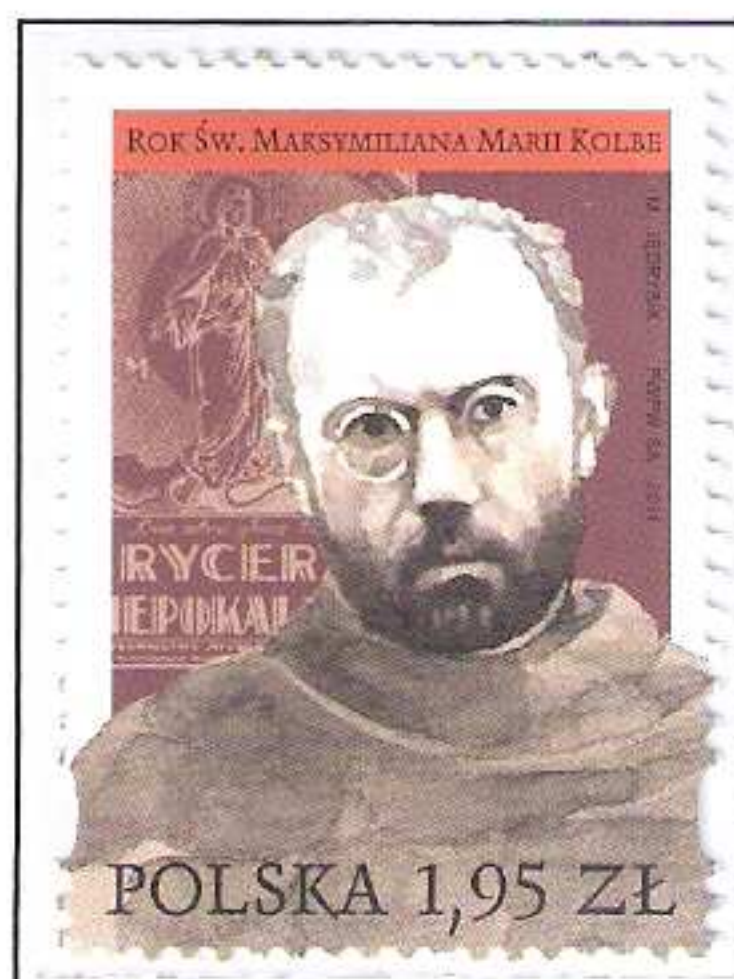


## 2. 1 HEROES AND HEROIC ACTIONS

Several are the people, fighters and not, who should be remembered for their heroism. We simply report some of them who most deserve our gratitude. To assist the wounded soldiers on the troop transport ship *Dorchester*, torpedoed by a u-boat, four military chaplains sink with them.



Father Maximilian Kolbe sacrifices himself taking the place of a prisoner, in the bunker of hunger in Auschwitz concentration camp. After 15 days of agony he was killed by an injection of carbolic acid.



Raoul Wallenberg saved thousands of Hungarian Jews by "Passport Wallenberg". Taken by the Soviet troops in 1945, he died in 1947.



Salvo d'Acquisto is another shining example of heroism. He saved 22 innocent civilians.

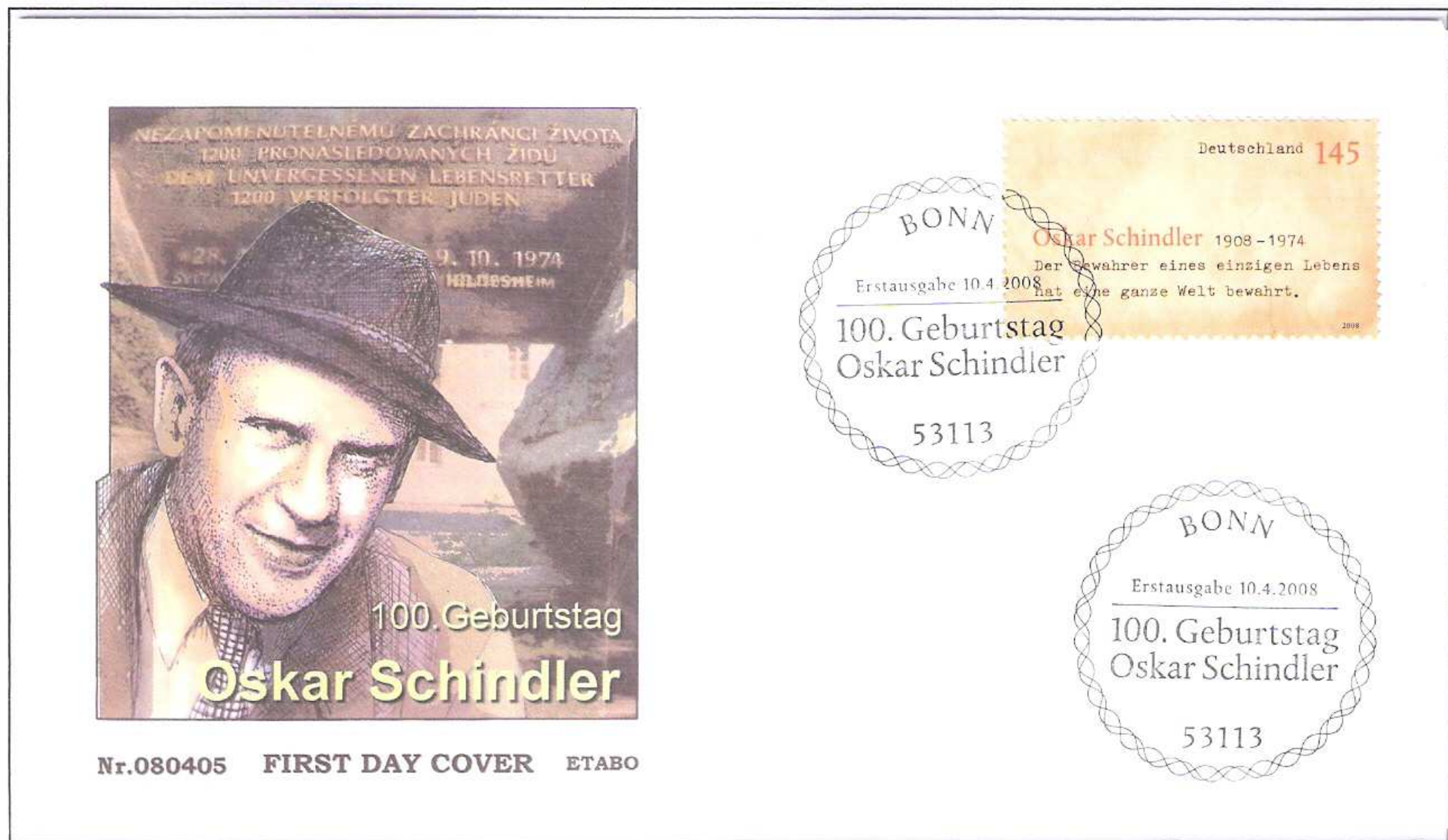




## 2. 2 HEROES AND HEROIC ACTIONS

Heroes are those who fight and risk their lives to save other lives. Heroines are the mothers who lose five children to defend their homeland.

*Oscar Schindler saved about 1,100 Jews letting them work in his company in Krakow as staff useful in the war effort.*



*Audie Murphy, the most decorated American soldier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war for heroic actions*



*Embarked on the cruiser Juneau, the five Sullivan brothers are killed on November 13, 1942 when the ship is sunk in the battle of Guadalcanal.*



*G. Perlasca saved thousands of Hungarians. He used to pass off as a Spanish diplomat.*



### 3. 1 SECRET CODES AND SPIES

Deciphering the "Enigma" Code adopted by Germany was possible thanks to a Pole, Marian Rejewski, and to the Englishman Alan Turing, both mathematicians. They worked with other mathematicians in Bletchley Park located Northwest of London.



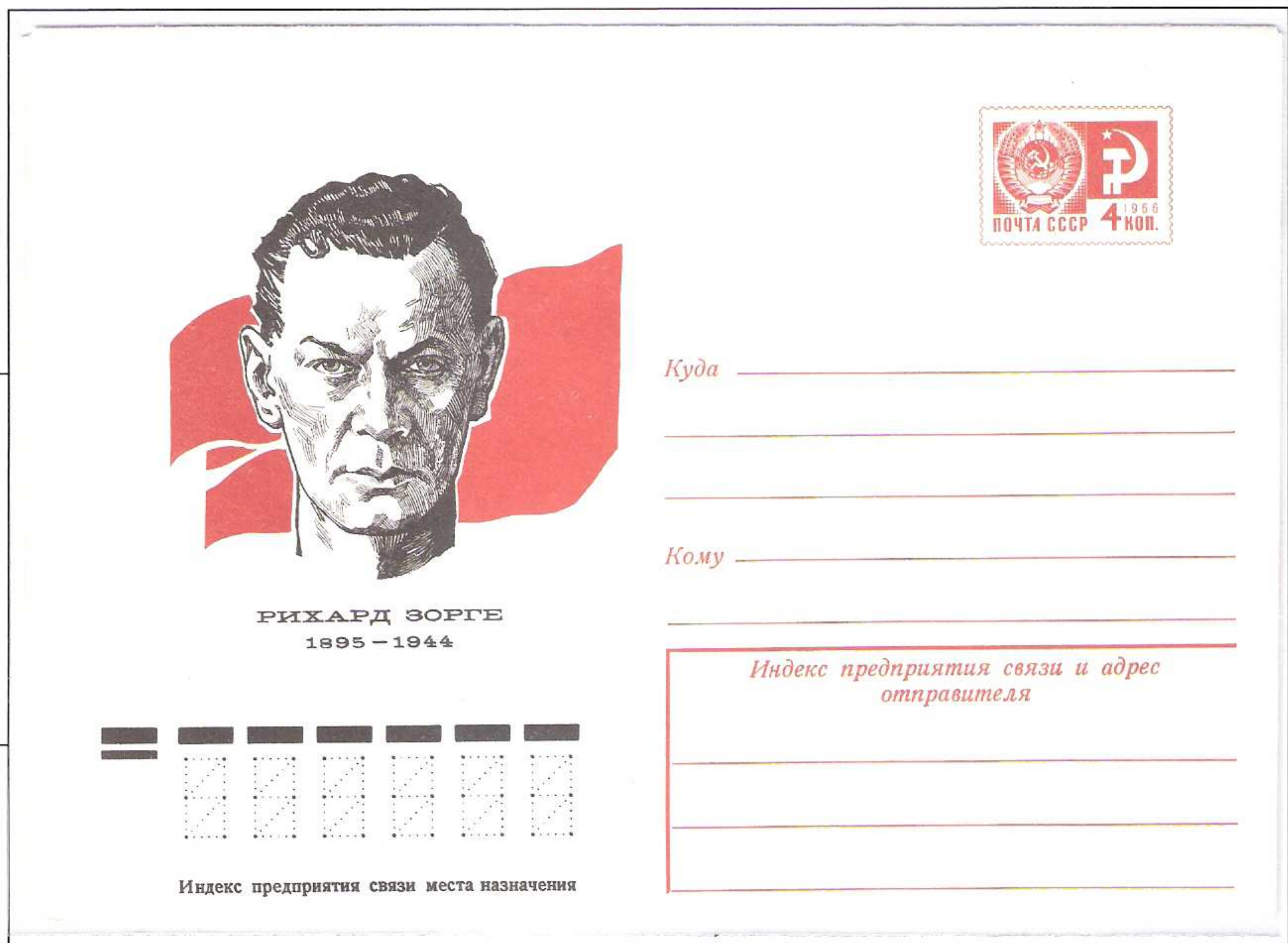
"E" Enigma



Sorge is the only case of a "spy" recognised and decorated by his Government; he is also remembered in philately.



Richard Sorge





#### 4. 1 THE PRISONERS' MAIL

For prisoners in the concentration camps receiving the correspondence from their family represented a moment of relief from the pains of everyday life. For many of them the detention continued well after the end of World War II, for some others the captivity put an end to their lives.

**Kriegsgefangenenpost**  
Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre

**Antwort-Postkarte**  
Carte postale de réponse

An den Kriegsgefangenen  
Au prisonnier

*22005*  
*12*

*Stalag VB 16*

*Foerster Albert*

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

Absender:  
Expéditeur:

Vor- und Zuname:  
Nom et prénom

*Laurin Langeant*

Ort:  
Lieu

*Joenf*

Straße:  
Rue

*12 Rue Pécam 12*

Kreis:  
Département

*Meurthe Moselle*  
*France*

Gefangenenummer:  
No. du prisonnier

*46*

Lager-Bezeichnung:  
Nom du camp

**M.-Stammlager V B**

**Deutschland (Allemagne)**

France, January 7, 1944: postcard for the correspondence of prisoners in German camps, censorship Stalag VB 16

*Luigi Reguzzi Gino*

*9* *N° 8564-IT* *24*

*M.-Stammlager IB.*

*Deutschland (Allemagne)*

*9* *Stablack*

ITALIA POSTA AEREA 50

ITALIA POSTA AEREA 50

COMMISSIONE PROVINCIALE DI CENSURA

TRIFOLIO PER CENSURA

Turin, April 24, 1944: letter to prisoner n. 8564-It. in the Stammlager IB, with censorship



## 4.2 THE PRISONERS' MAIL

The International and National Red Cross has always worked hard to assist prisoners also favouring the delivery of mail.

Soviet Union, November  
27, 1947: from Lager  
7270/15 to the family  
in Germany on postal  
paper with the emblem  
of the Red Cross

12.12.47

**СОЮЗ ОБЩЕСТВ  
КРАСНОГО КРЕСТА и КРАСНОГО ПОЛУМЕСЯЦА  
СССР**

**ПОЧТОВАЯ КАРТОЧКА ВОЕННОПЛЕННОГО** Бесплатно  
Carte postale du prisonnier de guerre Franc de port

Кому (Destinataire) Frau  
Gertrud Hadelers

Куда (Adresse) (24a) Hamburg-Bergedorf  
Gojen Bergs Weg 35 I.  
(страна, город, улица, № дома, округ, село, деревня)

Отправитель (Expéditeur) Hgf  
Фамилия и имя военнопленного Hadelers Erich Diederich  
Nom du prisonnier de guerre 1916

Почтовый адрес военнопленного U. d. S. S. R.  
Adresse du prisonnier de guerre Lager 7270/15

T-3, 6. IX—1946 r.

### FIELD SERVICE POST CARD FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

#### ITALIANO.

Non é permesso di scrivere su questa cartolina  
altre che la data e il nome del spediteore.

E permesso di cancellare quelle frasi o parole  
che non servono.

Se si aggiungono altre parole questa cartolina  
sara distrutta.

Sto bene

~~Sono stato all'ospedale~~

~~Malato~~

~~Sono in via di guarigione~~

~~Spero presto di potere uscire.~~

~~Ho ricevuto~~

Tua  
Sua  
Tuo  
Suo

Lettera

Telegramma

pacco

Ti

Vi

scrivero una lettera alla prima occasione.

Non ho ricevuto

una lettera da

te  
lei  
voi

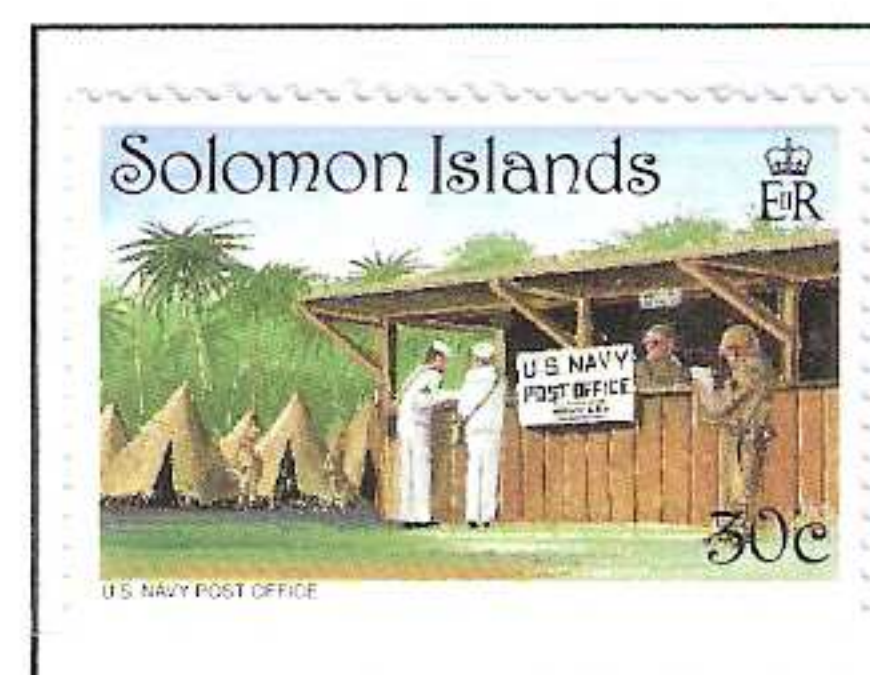
ultimamente

da molto tempo

Data 27-11-1941.

Firma.

Gen. Monti-Elia



Delivering the mail is as important  
as receiving it

It very often happens that a prisoner is only allowed  
to use pre-printed forms deleting phrases or words  
that do not serve or destroying the postcard.



#### 4.3 THE PRISONERS' MAIL

The Red Cross has always worked hard to inform families in which camp their relatives were. Enquiries were often negative, but the search would continue all the same.

**CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA**  
**UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI RICERCHE E SERVIZI CONNESSI**  
ROMA - Via Puglia, 6 - Tel. 41.530 - 48.876 - Telegr.: CROCIROSSA PRIGIONIERI ROMA

N. 648485

Notizia di VITALI  
Carare  
Soldato

Sig. Parrico Giuseppe  
Via Vittorio Emanuele 58  
(Milano) Codogno

ISTITUTO POLIGRAFICO DELLO STATO

*R.C.I., Rome: a reply to a family seeking for their relative's news*



*Algeria, Oran, January 15, 1943: censored letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva*



### 3. 1 THE HORRORS OF WAR

Over the centuries man has accomplished any sort of bad actions. What happened during the second world war represents a limit hardly surmountable because of the number of human beings involved.

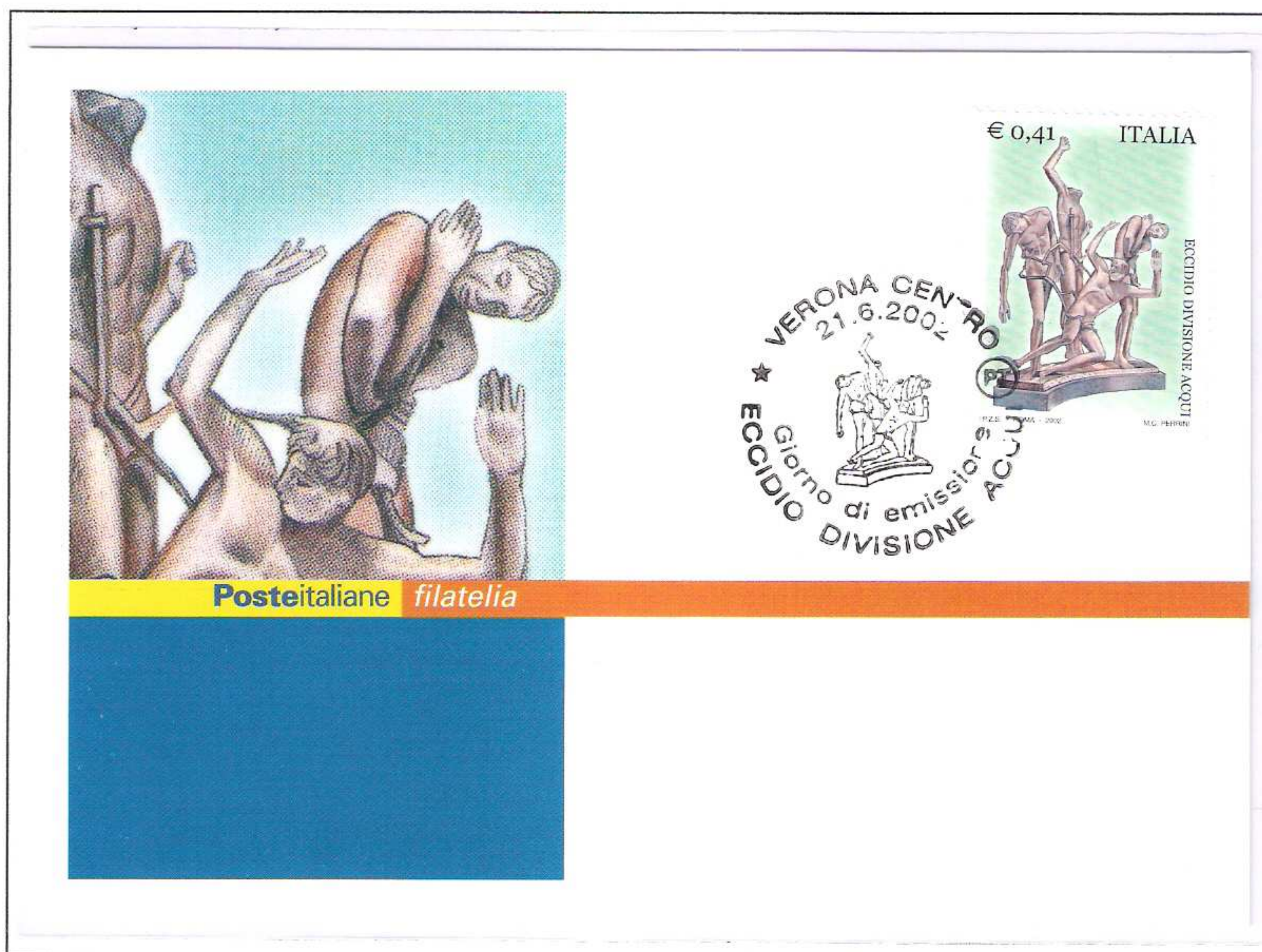


*50<sup>th</sup> of the massacre of Polish soldiers and civilians in Katyn*



*Italy: in memory of the deportation of the Jews of Rome, of the Fosse Ardeatine, of massacres of Sant'Anna di Stazzema and Marzabotto*

Even in the Army there was a mass shooting involving the troops of the Acqui Division stationed in Kefalonia. The estimated figures are of 5,000 soldiers and 400 officers shot in retaliation on the island from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1943.





### 3.2 THE HORRORS OF WAR

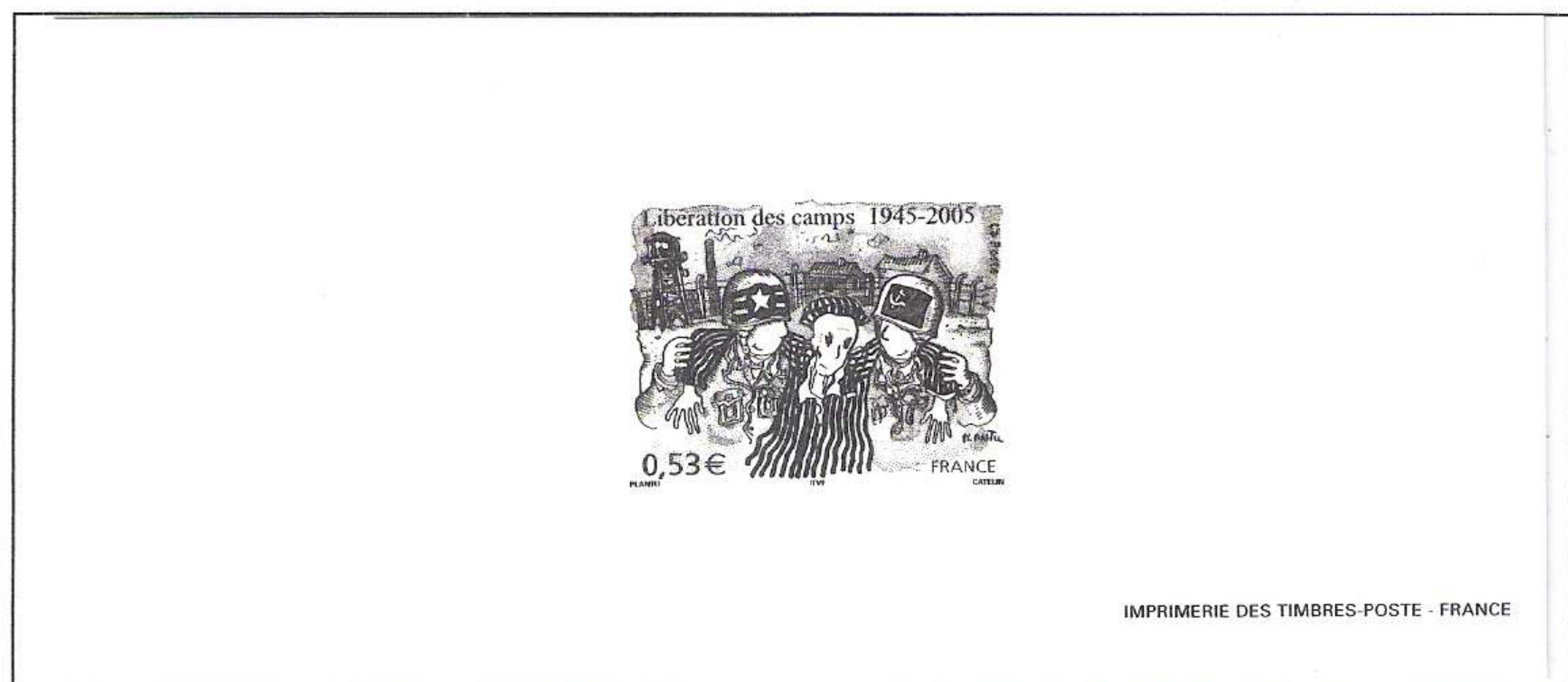
When the allies begin to occupy the Polish and the German territories they bump into the concentration camps. The sight is beyond imagination and the recovery of survivors will be long. Many of them will die because of their hard physical suffering. About 15,000 people were saved from the infamy of the camps by the Swedish Count Bernadotte, of the International Red Cross.



*In remembrance of the camps*



*Proof*



IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE - FRANCE



### 3.3 THE HORRORS OF WAR

The death camps in Poland were able to absorb the largest number of Jewish prisoners. The gas chambers and crematories were operating 24 hours a day, especially in the run-up to the arrival of the Soviet troops.



35<sup>th</sup> of liberation from Auschwitz-Birkenau camp



East Germany, January 30, 1964: registered mail from Leipzig to Lorrach franked with the stamps in memory of Treblinka



### 3.4 THE HORRORS OF WAR



50<sup>th</sup> of the liberation from the camps by the allies



Remembrance of Sachsenhausen camp

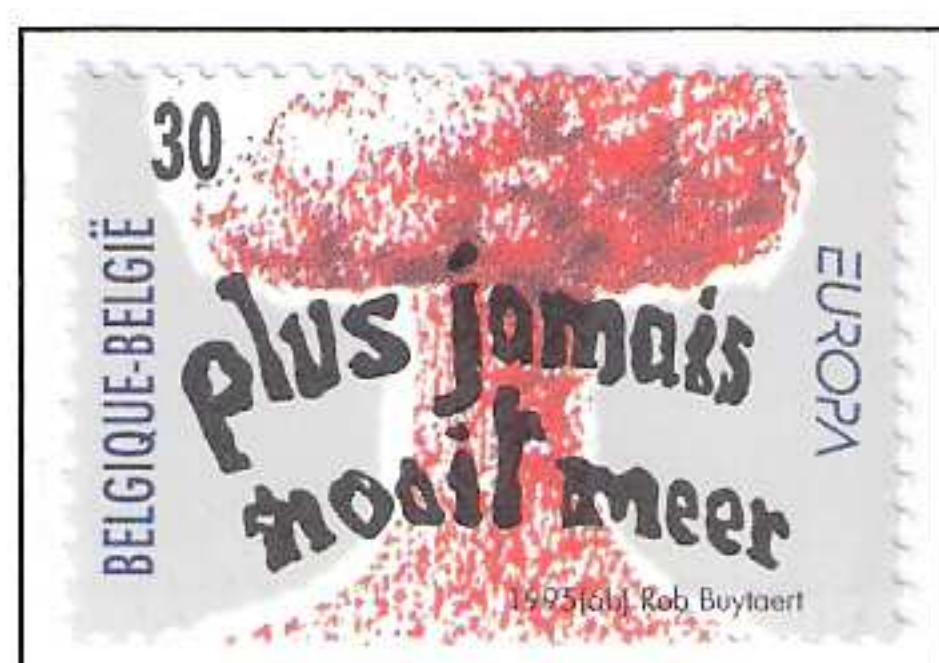


The visit of Pope John Paul II in Lublin and the Majdanek camp

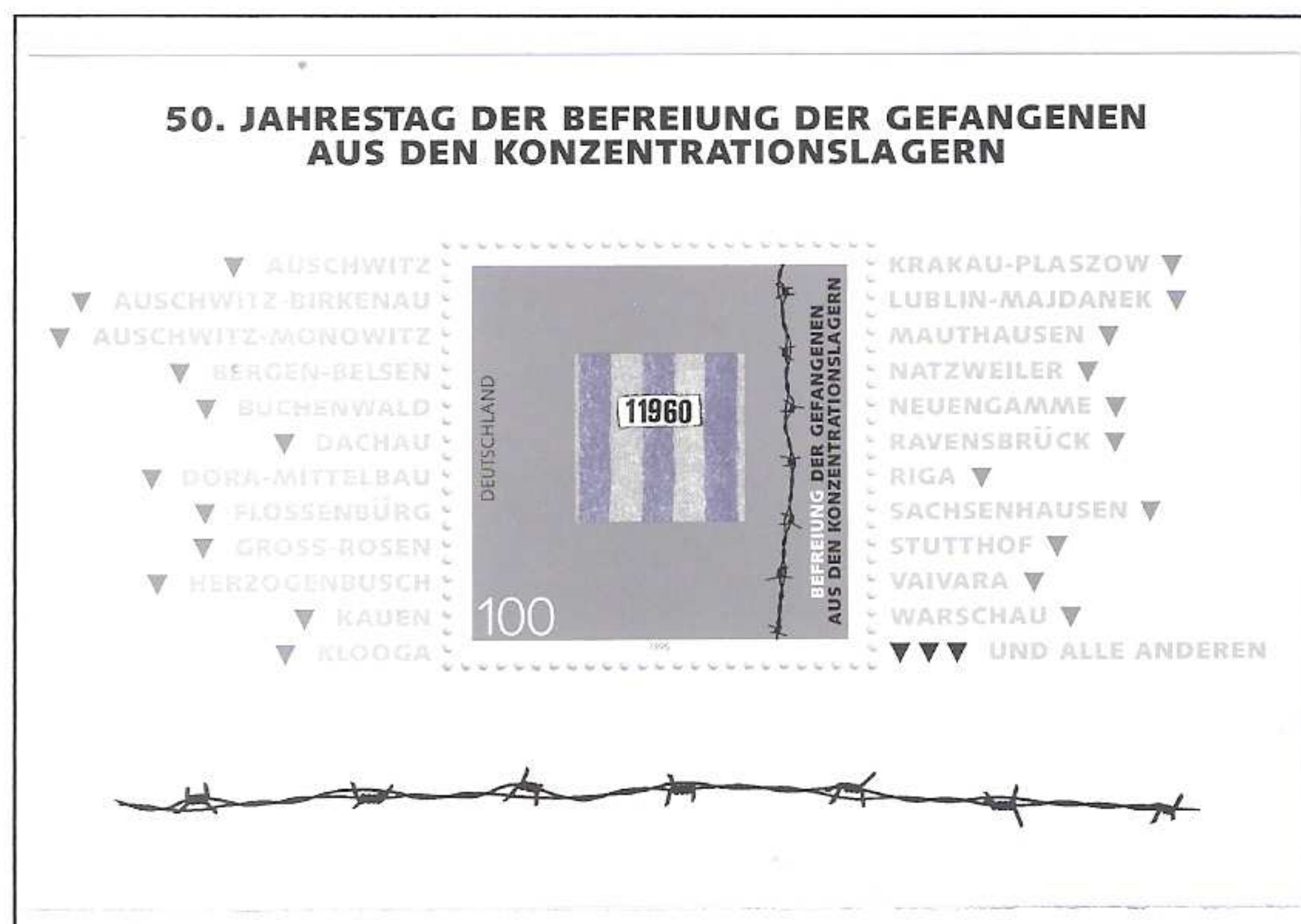


### 3.5 THE HORRORS OF WAR

The Germans, aware of the crimes committed by the Nazis, have repeatedly acknowledged their sins and on every recurring event they recognize the sacrifices inflicted on politicians, Jews, soldiers, ethnic minorities and so forth in the prisoner-of-war camps and extermination camps.



*The motto 'never again'*



Even a German personality who is seldom remembered died in a camp: Georg Elser, who first attempted on Hitler's life on the evening of November 8, 1939 in the Bürgerbraukeller beer-house in Munich, where the Führer used to go to hold his speeches or to meet the members of the Nazi party. Because of the bad weather conditions Hitler could not get the plane to Berlin, left the Hall seven minutes earlier to catch a train and survived. 8 people died, 63 were wounded, 16 of them very seriously.



*Germany, Chemnitz, December 24, 2012: letter to Italy, stamped with the value remembering Georg Elser died in Dachau*



After World War II the trials of Nuremberg and Tokyo against "war criminals" start. The Potsdam Conference is the last meeting of the winners. There the new borders between Poland and Germany are defined. Germany is divided into four occupation zones.



Индекс места отправления  
**65 ЛЕТ НЮРНБЕРГСКОМУ ПРОЦЕССУ,**  
ОСУДИВШЕМУ ГЛАВНЫХ НАЦИСТСКИХ ВОЕННЫХ ПРЕСТУПНИКОВ



Hideki Tojo, the biggest Com.der responsible for the war in Japan