

LETTERS TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN JAPANESE HANDS

1. The arrangements described in this pamphlet apply to communication with:—

(i) British (including Dominion, Indian and Colonial) and Allied Service personnel whose names have appeared in official lists as prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

(ii) British (including Dominion, Indian and Colonial) and Allied Service personnel whose names have not yet appeared in official lists as prisoners of war, but who have been posted as missing from the Far East theatres of war.

(iii) British (including Dominion, Indian and Colonial) civilians already notified as interned in Japan or any Japanese occupied territory. (As a special arrangement letters and postcards for British (including Dominion, Indian and Colonial) civilians who have not yet been notified as being interned will also be accepted, provided they are addressed in accordance with the form indicated in Section 4 below.

(iv) Interned civilians of other than British nationality provided that a definite internment camp address is known. (Correspondence cannot be accepted for uninterned civilians).

(2) What can be sent, conditions, etc.

(1). Only letters and postcards addressed as shown in section 3 and 4 below may be sent. They should be posted in the ordinary way and should NOT be sent to the Indian Red Cross Society to be forwarded.

NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED.

Parcels and other packets and money orders cannot be forwarded.

In order to avoid delay in Japanese censorship, letters MUST NOT exceed 25 WORDS. They should be written in English but where the writer and the addressee understand Japanese the letters may be written in Japanese.

Letters written in Indian scripts by next-of-kin of Army Personnel should be forwarded to the regimental depot of the prisoner of war concerned where they will be translated into English prior to onward transmission to the prisoner of war concerned. The letter in-

tended for the prisoner of war should be enclosed in an outer cover addressed to the regimental depot in India, these covers being conveyed free of postage. The cover should be endorsed "Letter for Prisoner of War".

Letters should be typewritten where possible, otherwise they should be written in BLOCK CAPITALS.

NO ENCLOSURES WHATEVER ARE ALLOWED. Except Snapshot photographs (not exceeding 3.)

There is no AIR MAIL service and letters cannot be registered or insured.

(ii) Letters and postcards must deal only with purely personal matters and care must be taken that no references to naval, military, arial, economic or political matters are made.

(iii) The name and address of the sender should be shown on the back of the envelope in the case of members of the public. Instructions have issued to all concerned regarding method to be used by service personnel. Members of the Allied Forces who are in doubt about the address they may use should apply to their own Headquarters for guidance.

(iv) Telegrams cannot be accepted.

METHOD OF ADDRESS

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BELOW SHOULD BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO. A diagram of an addressed envelope is shown on page, 4.

3. IF THE INTERNMENT CAMP ADDRESS IS KNOWN ADDRESS YOUR LETTER THIS WAY:—

(i) Write in the top left-hand corner:—

"Prisoner of War Post,
Service des Prisonniers de Guerre",

(ii) Write personal particulars (see below)

(iii) Write "British (Indian) Prisoner of War" Or "British (Indian) Civilian Internee" and the camp address.

When the Japanese occupied Malaya they interned Allied Civilians, approximately 4,500 Civilians most were assembled at Changi jail in March 1942. They were moved to the Sime Road camp in May 1944.

Addressed to a Civilian Internee in Singapore, censored in India (DHP /9 and DHP/2), and later it acquired a Japanese Censor chop, in violet which reads Ken'etsuzumi, censored. Backstamped in Murnar Travancore India, 7 July 1942, which is probably the posting date rather than a transit mark as the return address is in Murnar Travancore.

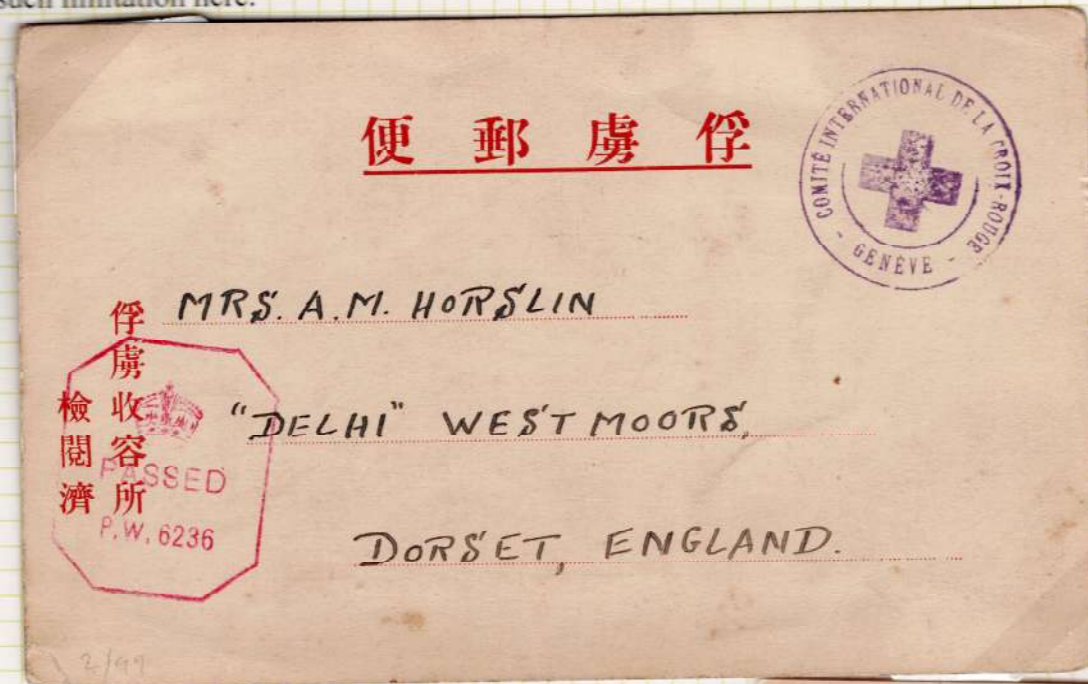
It would have been routed through Tokyo, there is no delivery date but inward bound mail often took a year.



The orange crayon manuscript D - 4 - 1 refers to Dr Tweedie's location in Changi, in Block D 4th level cell 1.

Undated card from an Internee to his Mother, it is a 2nd card as issued in November 1942. It has no handstamp nor 'Marai' kanji characters. Routed via Geneva where the Red Cross violet handstamp was added. Unlike PoW cards where the number of words was limited to 25, there was clearly no such limitation here.

Letters to an Interned Police officer, April and May 1943, annotated as received May 1944 and June 1944 respectively. In the April letter his mother wrote "Today I got official notice that I can write to you". She wrote a lot of family updates and gossip before slipping in "The Germans are getting an awful hammering in Africa" Both are routed to hut 102.



CHANGI INTERNMENT CAMP
(SYONAN/SINGAPORE) MALAYA
YOU MAY NOW WRITE TO ME
AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. I AM
VERY FIT INDEED AND THEREFOR
YOU HAVE NO NEED WHATSOEVER
TO WORRY ABOUT ME. HAVE HAD
MANY WORSE EXPERIENCES
THAN THIS AND AM QUITE ABLE
TO ENDURE A LITTLE THING LIKE
THIS. ON MANY OCCASIONS I THINK
OF YOU ALL AND ESPECIALLY DO
I THINK OF THE LOVELY MEALS
YOU USED TO PREPARE FOR ME
HAVE HAD MANY EXCITING EXP-
ERENCES BUT AM OF COURSE
UNABLE TO SPEAK OF THEM.
LOTS OF LOVE TO ALL
Fred
(FREDERICKS. HORSLIN)

Reduced scan of the message side of the card.

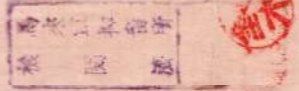
The sender was Frederick Stanley Horslin (1905 - 1981) He went to Malaya in the early 1930s and returned there in 1936 after home leave. He worked at the Government Printing Office. After the War he returned to Malaya as Superintendent of that office. In 1955 he was promoted to be 'Government Printer'. He retired in 1956, also retiring as Commandant of the Auxiliary Fire Service.




EXAMINER 5125

EXAMINER 4133

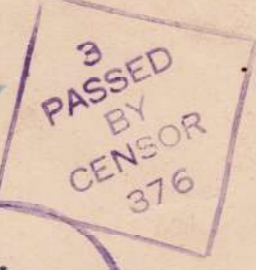
1944 Letter from his sister in London to an internee in Malaya. The envelope shows British censorship, the letter has Japanese censor mark.



 REGRET MUM DIED PEACEFULLY
 MINEHEAD HOSPITAL, OCTOBER 10th
 1944, AFTER THREE DAYS ILLNESS
 FROM ANGINA. DAD WELL WITH
 ME AT MANOR FIELDS. MISS
 HER TERRIBLY
 LOVINGLY


PRISONER OF WAR POST. 56
 SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.

 JOHN. H. RAIKES ESQRE.
 ENEMY CIVILIANS INTERNMENT
 CAMP. NO 1.
 MALAYA.

EXAMINER 3022

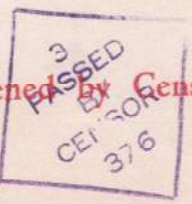
1943 to an Australian Internee. Addressed to his last known address. With a square Australian censor and a circular Japanese censor mark. The Australian Red Cross provided a service for typing and forwarding mail.

PRISONERS OF WAR POST.
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.
 112

 G.M.HARRAL,
 Chief Observer, Perak,
 Air Observer Corps,
 late of Geological Survey Department,
 Batu Gajah, Federated Malay States,
 Civilian Internee,
 MALAYA.



AUSTRALIAN

RED CROSS

C/O JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY
TOKYO, JAPAN

Mrs. W.H. Harral, 137 Swaine Ave, Toorak Gardens, S.A. Australia,
 3 Opened by Censor

 3 Opened by Censor

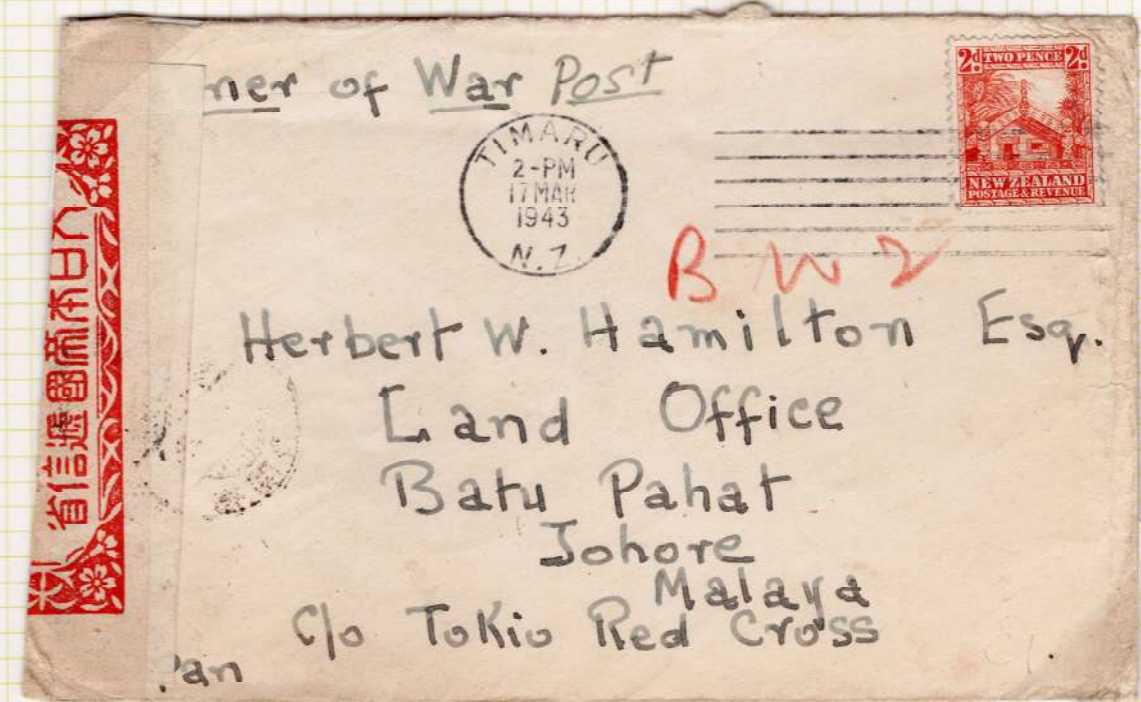
Reduced scan of the reverse.

1943 From New Zealand to a Civilian Internee at Changi. Double censored in New Zealand and Japan, Japanese resealing tape, and Red Cross chop. From Mother to Son, postmarked 30 December 1943



From the Son to his Mother, Japanese Issue card, undated. The Censor chop is faint but is Suzuki, whose chop is only recorded on Civilian cards.

1943 From New Zealand to Malaya, via Tokyo. Censored and resealed by the Japanese. The Red pencil "B W 2" shows that he was in Block B at Changi.



1945 Airletter from Melbourne to U.K. The sender is confirming a Radio message which was heard in Australia, probably in late 1944, originated from the recipient's husband. These message were sent by the Japanese and were short and only family news was permitted.

1944, Posted at Seremban to 'Malaya Army Internment camp, Singapore' The purple boxed censor is the postal censor mark. The red boxed censor mark is the Camp censorship and the circular red mark is Suzuki's chop, as Censor. The Scharenguivel family were known in Malaya pre-war and in the Dutch East Indies. The name is seen on Philatelic airmail covers. But why Mrs Scharenguivel is at an internment camp in Singapore while her family are in Seremban is unknown.

January 11th 1945
 C/- Bank of N.S.Wales,
 Melbourne.

My dear Mrs Raikes. I have at last got the full text of Johnnie's message which I am now sending you. "Thanks your letter. Please cable mother following: Over 40 letters received. I am well. Glad you all are. Very fondest love."

This was picked up in Perth & compared with various other texts which came in from other parts of the country, so I think you can be fairly sure that this is correct. I am so pleased he has got your letters & so many of them too. It is a long time since I have written him a letter as I was told there was more chance of post cards getting through, so the letter he refers to must be one of the ones I wrote through Thos. Cook & Son way back in 1942 or may be one I sent through

郵便はがき
 19
 名宛 ALAMAT
 差出人居所氏名
 NAMA DAN ALAMAT SIPENGIRIM
 Miss
 Zoë Scharenguivel
 c/o 95 Birch Road
 Seremban

Violet Scharenguivel (Mrs)
 Malai Gunyokuryusyo
 馬來軍抑留所

11 JAN 1945
 5 PM
 MELB

Sender's name and address:-
 MRS J.B. PICKERING
 C/- BANK OF N.S. WALES
 368 COLLINS STREET
 MELBOURNE

BY AIR MAIL
 AIR

10/12/45
 11 JAN 1945
 5 PM
 MELB

Ch Wynne Carey
 & Ballier House
 Wynne Shields
 1 Wily Hill
 London SW1

will be sent by ordinary mail
 THIRD F

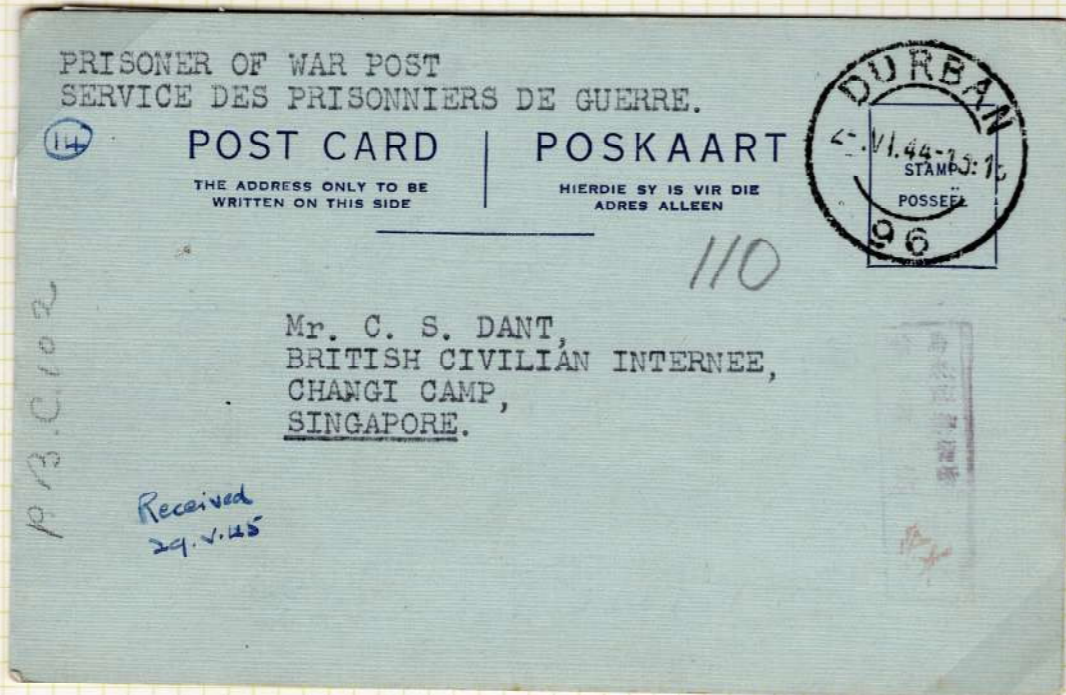
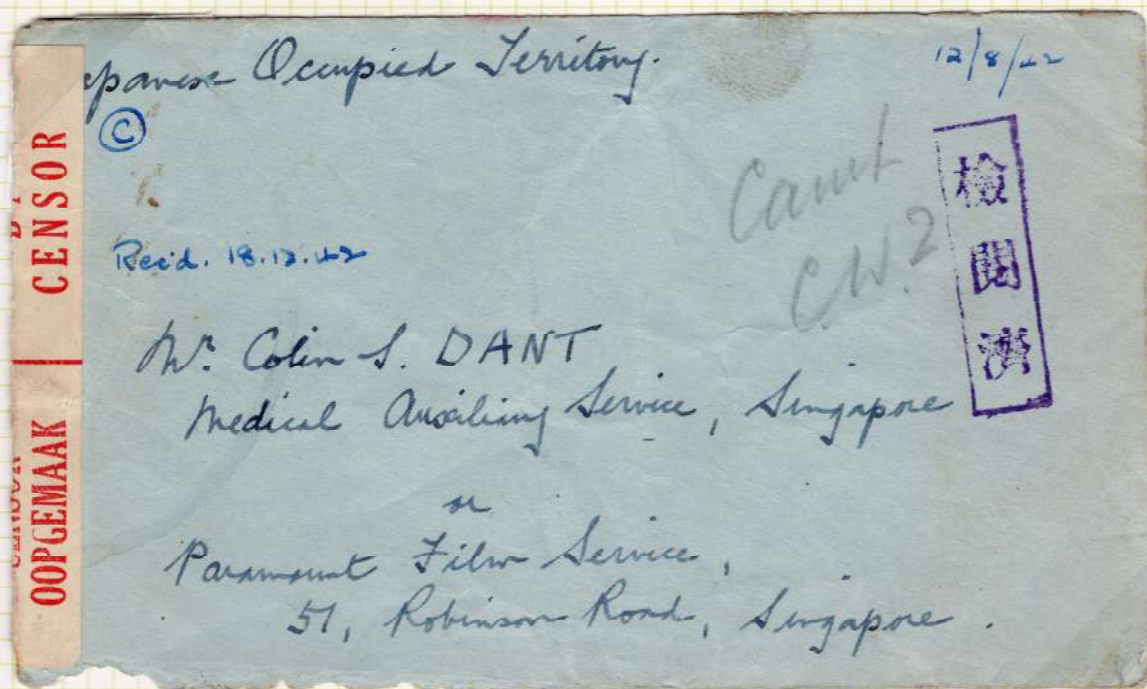
28 September.

Dearest Mama,
 We received your card on your birthday. We are all staying at Dr van Gezzel's & are all well. Vivienne & Terry are staying with Uncle Jimmy. Baby Jimmy is alright & is a perfect darling. Missing you a lot. Love & kisses to darling self & Nasty Lucy.

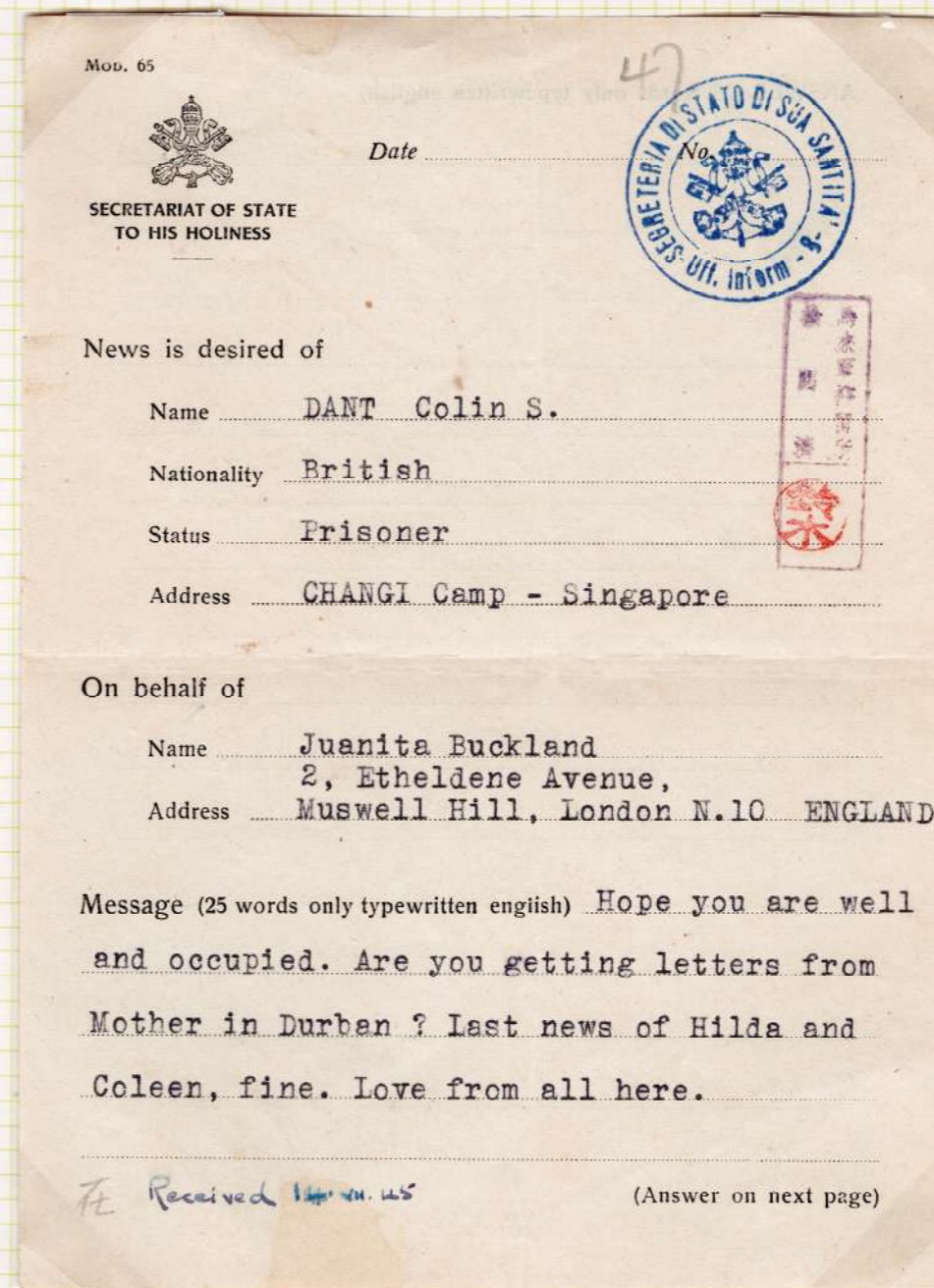
Zoë S.

Reduced scan of the reverse.

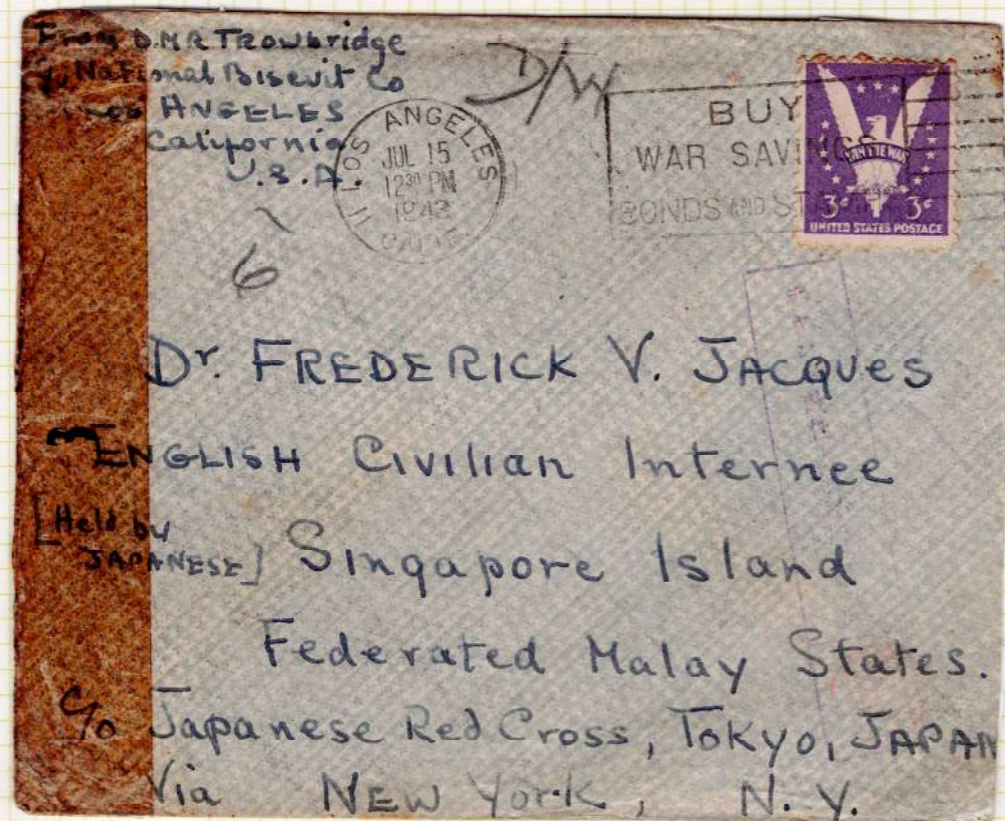
1942 to Colin Dant, internee in Singapore from his Mother in South Africa, only date is his note "Rec'd 18.12.42" Censored and resealed in Durban. The postcard is from his sister in South Africa sent 2nd June 1944, noted "Received 29.V. 45" Both have Japanese censor chops and are routed to 'Camp C W 2' and room 110 respectively.



1945 Vatican Enquiry form for Colin Dant, with a Vatican Seal and Japanese Censor marks. The sender Juanita Buckland was a relative on his Mother's side of the family. Noted "Received 14.vii.45" 14th July 1945.



1943 USA to British Civilian Internee in Singapore. Addressed via Japanese Red Cross Tokyo and routed 'Via New York' Posted in Los Angeles 15th July 1943, at surface rate. Japanese censor chop in the pale violet box.



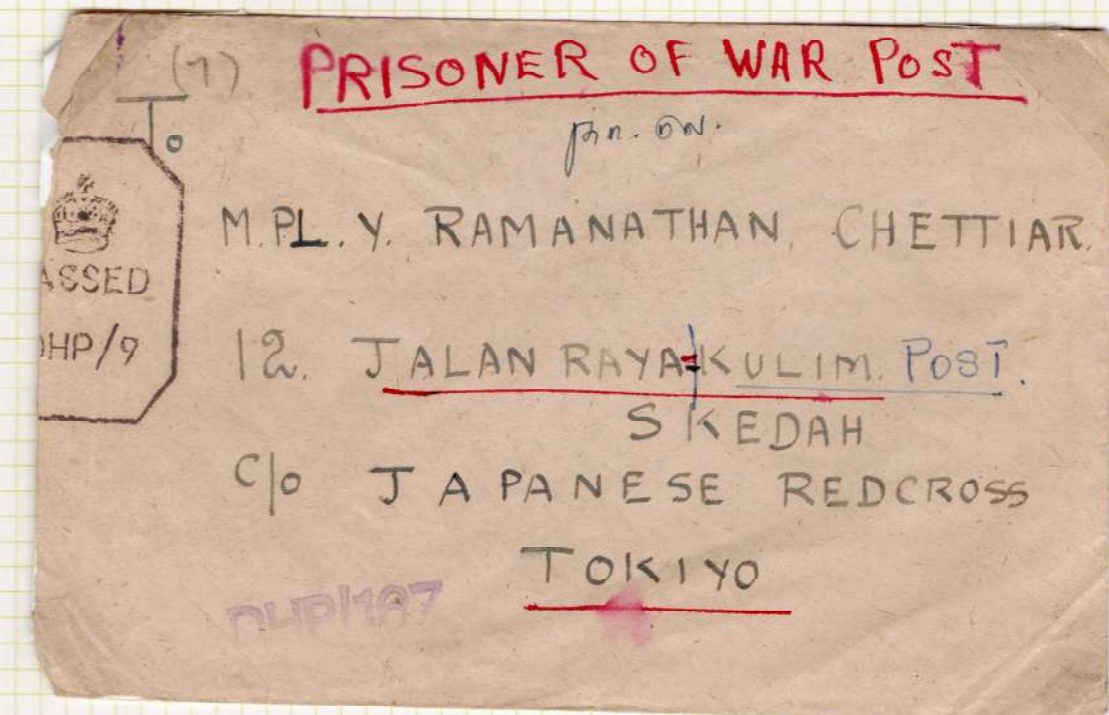
Fredrick Viel Jacques (1891 – 1954)

In WW1 he served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Malay States Volunteer Regiment. Also described as Surgeon Probationer. Later consistently recorded as Medical Doctor. Married in UK 1921, He returned to Malaya in March 1926. Wife + 3 daughters followed in May 1926. In 1937 Dr Jacques and his wife sailed to Malaya, without the children.

In March 1941 Dr Jacques returned to Malaya alone. In 1942 he was interned, but survived and died in Cumberland in 1954.

Not all Civilians were interned. Locals, Malays Chinese and Indians remained at liberty.

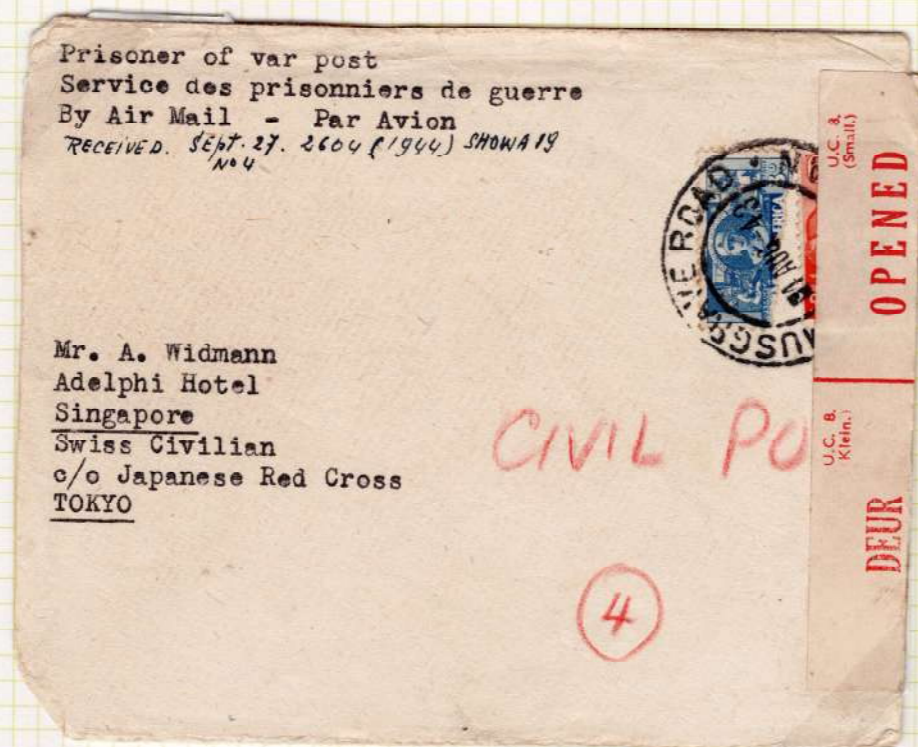
The message was given in India that to write to friends or family in Malaya the letter should have their last known address C/O the Japanese Red Cross Tokyo and be headed Prisoner of War Post. This example was posted 6th September 1942, (Indian backstamp) censored in India 'Passed DHP/9 and DHP/167. Not many examples are known and we presume this arrived in Malaya.



Not all Civilians were interned. Citizens of Neutral countries remained at liberty

1943 sent from South Africa to Singapore via Tokyo. The recipient was a Swiss citizen, the sender his wife was also Swiss and had been evacuated from Singapore and settled in South Africa.

Opened, censored and resealed in Durban, South Africa, and no sign of subsequent censorship this was posted in early August 1943 and is endorsed 'received 27th September 1944' 14 months in transit.



This timing is compatible with the 2 other covers from this correspondence illustrated in David Tett's PoW book 'Vol 1 - Changi'.

Endorsed 'Prisoner of War post' in English and French. Optimistically endorsed 'By Air Mail' Mr Albert Widmann had worked at the Adelphi hotel before the Occupation.

Not all Civilians were interned.

1943 This is from Ceylon to a Doctor, who from his name was presumably Ceylonese, working at the General Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

Endorsed 'POW Post Service des prisonniers de guerre' as PoW mail had to be, and annotated British Civilian.

Posted at Colombo Ceylon 10th September 1943. The 'PASSED L/4' censor mark was applied in Ceylon. There is a Japanese post mark confirming that it was routed via Tokyo.

