

THE INDIAN POST OFFICE DURING THE WORLD WAR 1 ERA 1914-1924



THE INDIAN POST OFFICE BEFORE THE WAR

ADEN SEA POST

POSTAL AGENCIES & OFFICES
IN IRAN, OMAN, DUBAI, KUWAIT,
& BAHRAIN



SIR WILLIAM
MAXWELL:
DIRECTOR
GENERAL INDIA
POSTS &
TELEGRAPHS



PAKISTAN

INTERNATIONAL MAIL FOR NON-UPU
NEIGHBORS: TIBET, NEPAL, BHUTAN, &
AFGHANISTAN

INDIA



BANGLADESH

MYANMAR

POSTAL SERVICES

- 300 MILLION RESIDENTS
- 19,000 POST OFFICES
- 95,000 EMPLOYEES
- ONE BILLION ARTICLES
- 14 PRINCELY STATES PO'S
- 5 CONVENTION STATES PO's
- TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE

PASSED BY CENSOR

- FPO SYSTEM
- HOSPITAL & POW MAIL
- WAR ZONE CIVILIAN MAIL
- STAFFING ISSUES
- POST WAR CONFLICTS
- SUPPORTING THE TROOPS



INTERNATIONAL MAIL FOR NON-UPU
NEIGHBORS: TIBET, NEPAL, BHUTAN, &
AFGHANISTAN

- ✓ LOSS OF ADEN SEA POST
- ✓ PERSIAN GULF MAIL SHIPS

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EXHIBIT OUTLINE

- **FIELD POST OFFICE OPERATIONS**
- **POSTAGE REQUIREMENTS**
- **CIVILIAN CENSORSHIP**
- **POW AND HOSPITAL MAIL**
- **SMALLER CAMPAIGNS**
- **POST WAR CONSEQUENCES**
- **FINANCIAL IMPACT**
- **EPHEMERA**

KEY DATES AND TIMELINE

POST OFFICE

POSTAL CENSORSHIP

FIRST FPO OPENS IN FRANCE

CIVILIAN POSTAL
SERVICES IN IRAQ

WAR BOND PROGRAM 1917

CENSORSHIP ENDS &
LAST POW MAIL
FROM INDIA

POSTAL RATES
INCREASE 100%

LAST FPO TO CLOSE:
ZEHADAN, IRAN

8/1914

9/1914

1915-18

11-11-1918

11-30-1919

24-4-1922

20-2-1924

THE GREAT WAR

BRITISH EMPIRE ENTERS WAR

1st BATTLE OF YPRES
EGYPT & EAST AFRICA,
MESOPOTAMIA

ADEN; GALLIPOLI; MIDDLE
EAST; IRAN

OTTOMAN & CENTRAL
POWERS ARMISTICE

MIDDLE EAST IN REVOLT,
IRAN, AFGHANISTAN,
TRANSCAUCASIA

INDIAN TROOPS EXIT EGYPT
& IRAQ. REMAIN IN TURKEY

WAZIRISTAN-NWFP
CAMPAIGNS
1915-1925

INDIANS SERVING IN WORLD WAR I

POST OFFICE 12,300

- ✓ 3500 – FIELD POST OFFICE SYSTEM
- ✓ 500 – CENSORSHIP DUTIES
- ✓ 1200 – TELEGRAPHISTS
- ✓ 7100 – OVERSEAS SERVICE

INDIAN ARMY 1,302,394

- 132,496 WESTERN FRONT
- 588,717 MESOPOTAMIA
- 116,159 EGYPT
- 49,700 ADEN & PERSIA
- 46,906 EAST AFRICA
- 9633 GALLIPOLI
- 359,050 NON COMBATANTS

POSTAL NOTICE.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE INDIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MODE OF ADDRESSING CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence for members of the Indian Expeditionary Force should be addressed as follows:—

Number, Rank, Name.

Regiment, Corps or Department.

Indian Expeditionary Force,

C/o Presidency Postmaster,

Bombay.

WHAT MAY BE SENT.

Unregistered letters, postcards, newspapers, book-packets and registered and unregistered parcels (private and service) may be posted in India for delivery in the field.

WHAT MAY NOT BE SENT.

No insured or value-payable article is allowed to be sent to the field. No money orders or registered letters are accepted for delivery in the field.

PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE COMPULSORY.

Full prepayment of postage at Indian rates is compulsory on all articles.

CALCUTTA:

The 10th September, 1914

W. MAXWELL,

Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

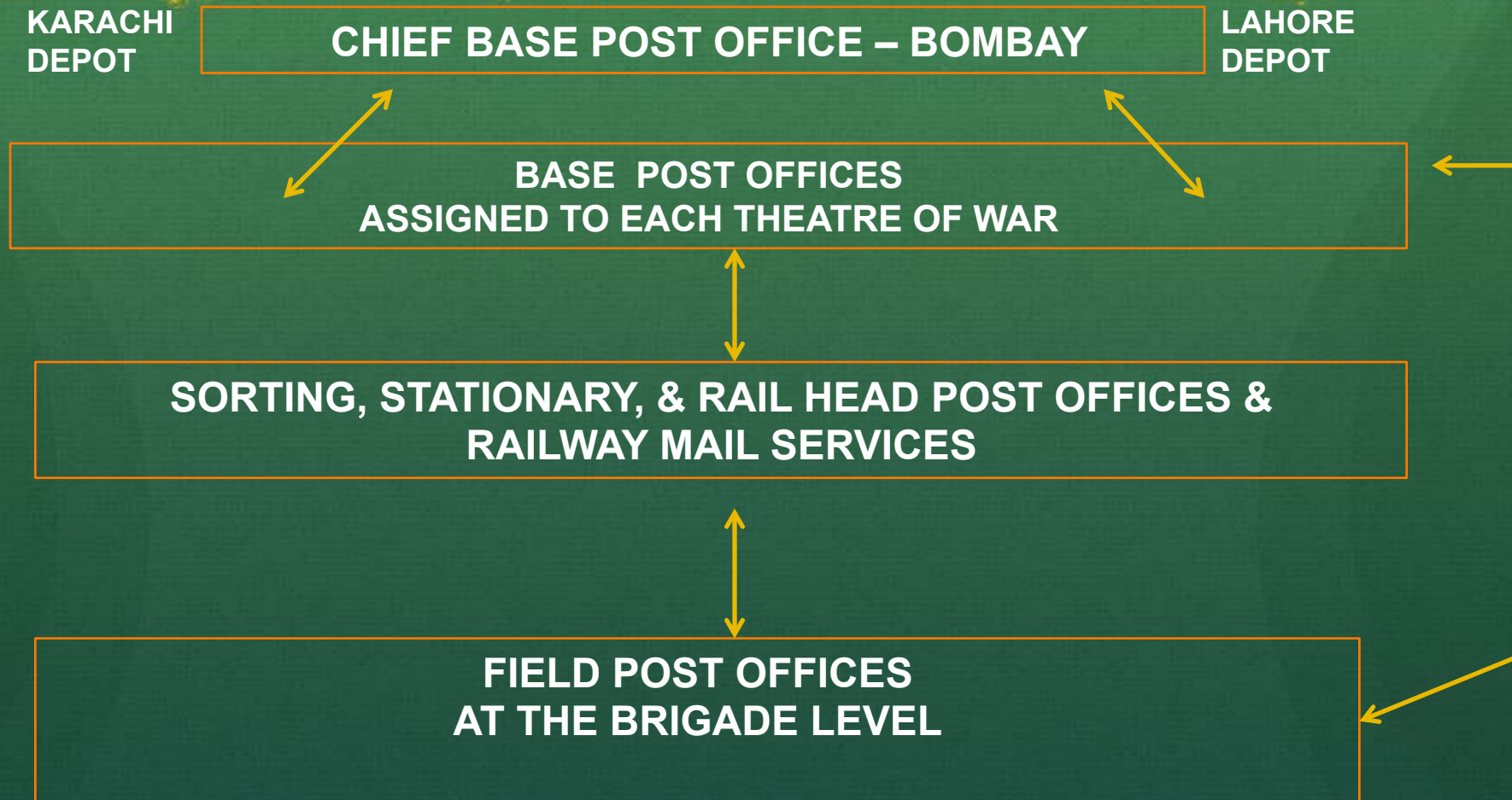
ARTICLES TO TROOPS AT
DOMESTIC RATES INCLUDING
LETTERS POST CARDS, BOOK
PACKETS & PARCELS

INSURED, VALUE PAYABLE,
MONEY ORDERS, REGISTERED
LETTERS CANNOT BE SENT

FULL PREPAYMENT REQUIRED

LETTERS FROM TROOPS TO UK OR
INDIA ARE POSTAGE FREE

FIELD POST OFFICE SYSTEM 1914-1924



INDIAN CHIEF BASE POST OFFICE BOMBAY

- **ENQUIRY**
 - **RETURNED & INVALIDED MAIL**
- **SORTING**
 - **BY UNITS WITH SEPARATE BAGS FOR OFFICERS & TROOPS**
- **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - **COMPLAINTS**
- **MOBILIZATION**
 - **RECRUTIMENT & SUPPORT OF POSTAL WORKERS IN THE
WAR ZONES**

KEY BASE POST OFFICES 1914-1918

1 – BOMBAY, INDIA – CHIEF BASE OFFICE

**2 – BOULONGE, FRANCE
BASE OFFICE IEF FORCE A
WESTERN FRONT**

**3 – PORT SAID, EGYPT
BASE OFFICE IEF FORCE E
DEFENSE OF THE SUEZ**

**4 – KILINDINI, KENYA & DAR ES SALAM
BASE OFFICE IEF FORCE B/C
EAST AFRICA CAMPAIGN**

**5 – BASRA, IRAQ
BASE OFFICE IEF FORCE D
MESOPOTAMIA**

**6 – ADEN, YEMEN
BASE OFFICE ADEN BRIGADE**



BASE POST OFFICES

- **HEAD OFFICE FOR THEATRE OF WAR**
 - ACCOUNTING, INSPECTIONS, RETURNED LETTER OFFICE
- **CONDUIT BETWEEN FPOs AND POST OFFICE IN BRITAIN & INDIA**
- **MAINTAINS LOCATION LISTS FOR OFFICERS & UNITS**
- **ADVANCED POSTAL SERVICES**
 - REGISTRATION & REGISTRATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 - INSURANCE & MONEY ORDERS
- **POSTAL SERVICES FOR CIVILIANS: IRAQ, EAST AFRICA, & ADEN**

THE FIELD POST OFFICE

- **PRIMARY “CUSTOMER” CONTACT AT DUSK**
- **BRIGADE PICKS UP AND DROPS OFF MAIL**
- **FPO PROVIDES ONLY BASIC MAIL SERVICES**
- **FORWARDS MAIL TO A BASE OR SORTING OFFICE**
- **GENERALLY MOVES WITH THE BRIGADE**

REGIMENTAL POST OFFICE LINGHEM, FRANCE

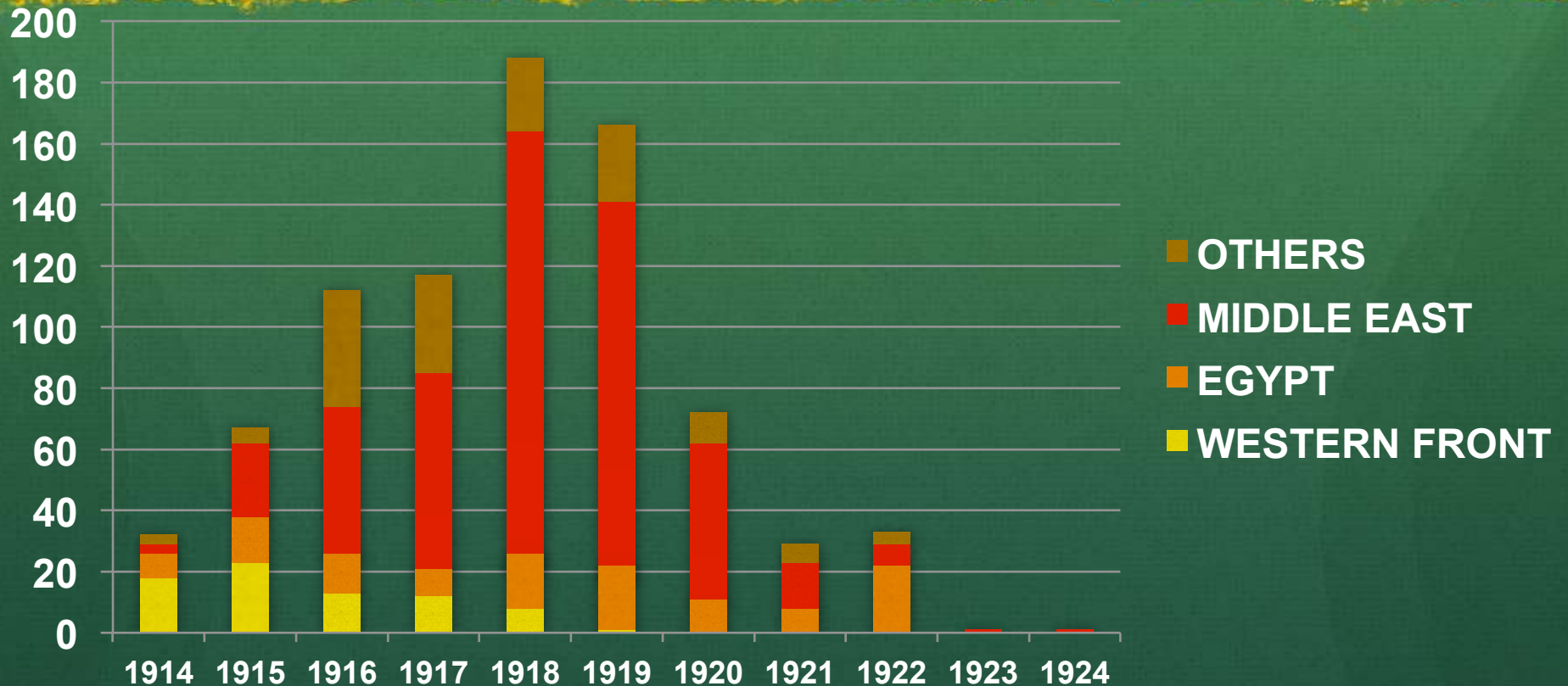


FIELD POST OFFICES IN 25 COUNTRIES

FORCE A WESTERN FRONT	FORCE B/C EAST AFRICA	FORCE D MESOPOTAMIA MIDDLE EAST	FORCE E MIDDLE EAST	GALLIPOLI	SMALLER CAMPAIGNS
FRANCE	KENYA	IRAQ	EGYPT	GREECE	YEMEN (ADEN)
BELGIUM	UGANDA		ISRAEL	TURKEY	AFGHANISTAN
	TANZANIA		JORDAN		AJZERBIJAN
	MOZAMBIQUE		LEBANON		IRAN
			PALESTINE		GEORGIA
			SYRIA		TURKMENISTAN
					RUSSIA

+ INDIA & PAKISTAN
CHINA (CEF)

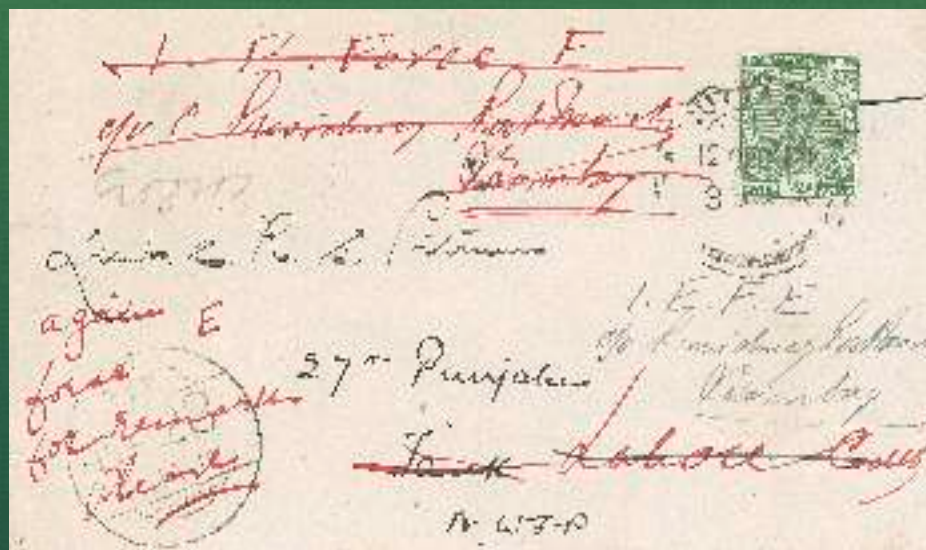
OPERATIONAL FIELD POST OFFICES BY YEAR AND LOCATION



Others include: Greece, Turkey, Russia, Afghanistan. Middle East includes Persia and former Ottoman provinces.

IN-BOUND MAIL TO AN IEF SOLDIER FORWARDED FROM INDIA TO EGYPT

MAIL TO FIELD BASED TROOPS WAS AT THE DOMESTIC RATE



Addressed to Tank, NWFP; MS: "I.E.F. Force E c/o Presidency Postmaster Bombay; Again force E for remarks please"

IN BOUND MAIL TO AN FPO IN EGYPT

LAHORE CANTONMENT

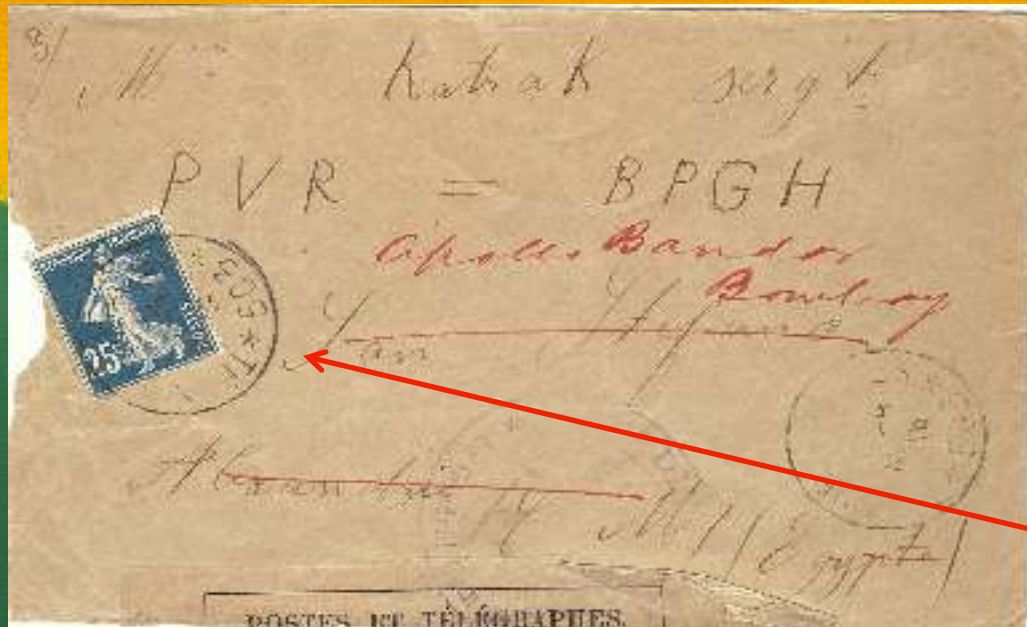
FPO 30
MOASCAR

CHIEF BASE OFFICE
BOMBAY

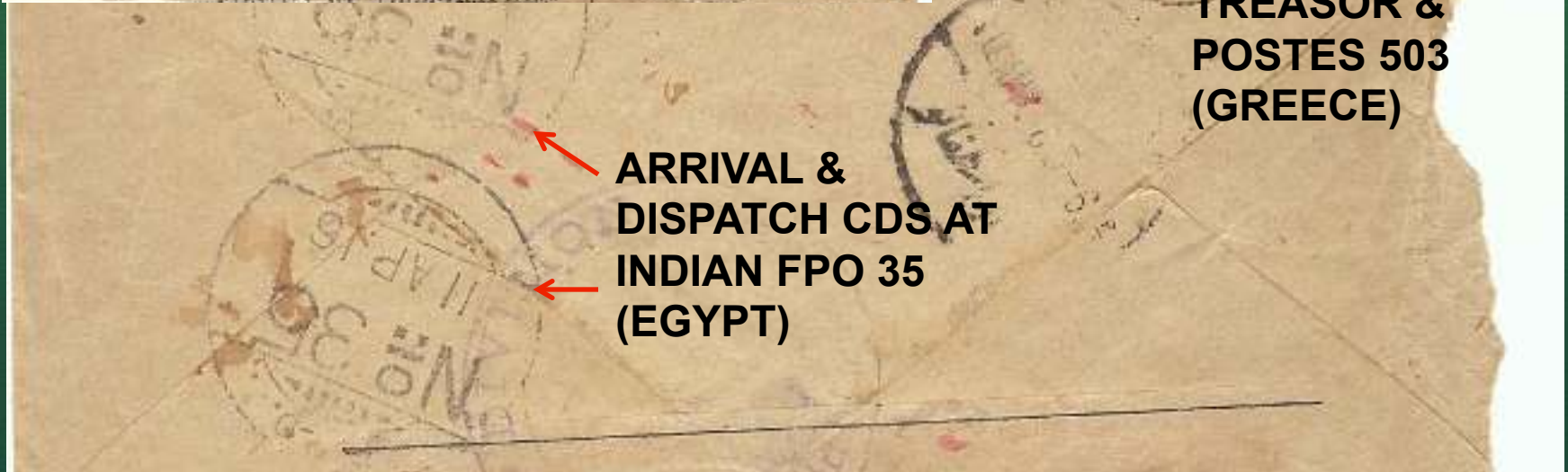


FPO 28 ISMALIA

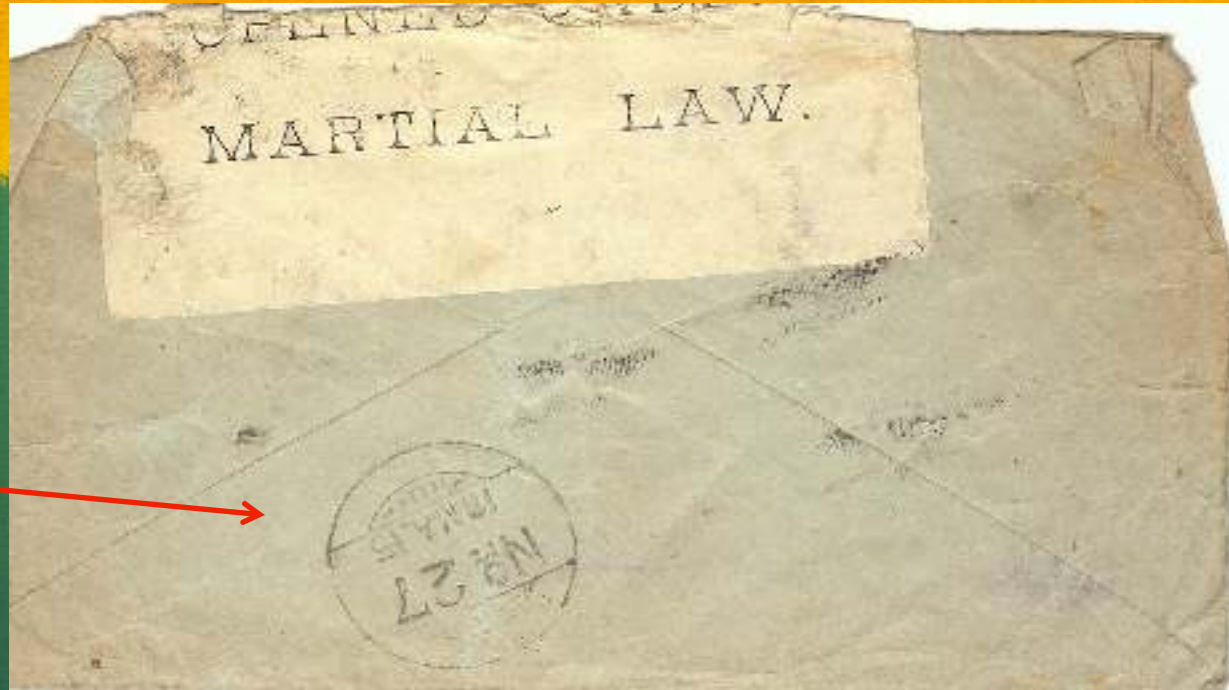
MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN ALLIED ARMIES



**FRENCH
TREASOR &
POSTES 503
(GREECE)**



INDIAN FPO IN IRAQ TO BRITISH ARMY FRANCE



FPO 27
QURNAH,
IRAQ

ADDRESSED TO
SOLDIER IN THE
BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE -WESTERN
FRONT



UNFRANKED MILITARY & POW STATIONERY

MILITARY – FREE POSTAGE TO UK & INDIA

- **ON ACTIVE SERVICE ENVELOPES**
- **INDIAN AND OTHER ALLIED FIELD SERVICE POST CARDS**
- **TELEGRAM ENVELOPES**
- **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA POST CARDS & ENVELOPES**

POW – HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLIANT

- **INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ENVELOPES**
- **POST CARDS WITH AND WITHOUT TEXT**
- **ON POSTAL SERVICE POST CARDS & ENVELOPES**

ENGLISH, HINDI, AND URDU VERSIONS FOR FIELD SERVICE POST CARDS

ENGLISH TEXT ONLY ON OHMS CARDS

GERMAN, ENGLISH & TURKISH TEXT ON POW POST CARDS



PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

ON POSTAL SERVICE
ENVELOPE USED AT A
POW CAMP FOR
TURKISH PRISONERS.

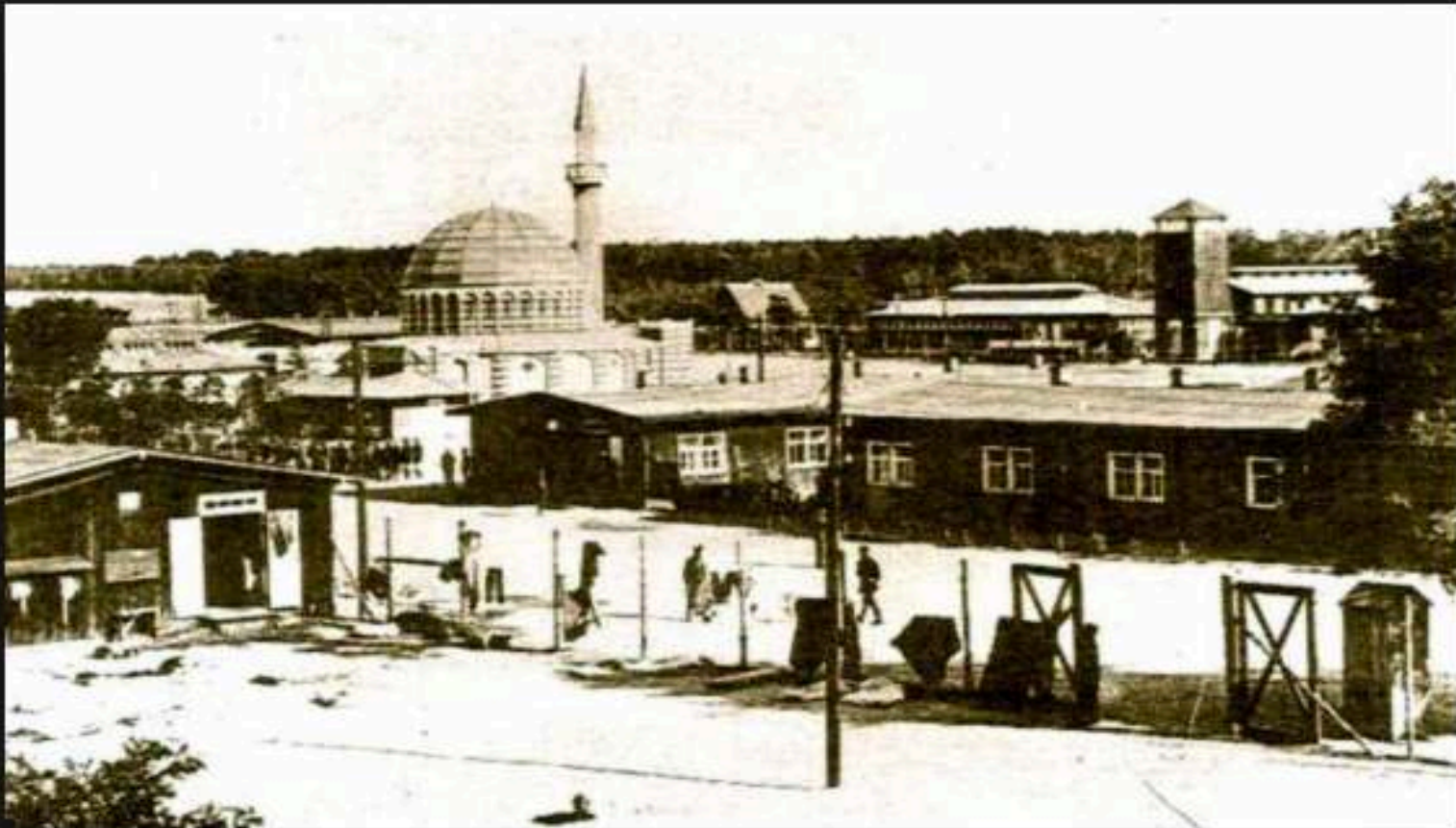
POW MAIL CARRIED
FREE TO ANY
LOCATION BUT WITH
LIMITS ON FREQUENCY



THAYETMYO, BURMA

PRISONER OF WAR MAIL REQUIRED DOMESTIC RATE FRANKING

HALBMONDLAGER CAMP- GERMANY



POSTAGE REQUIRED

- OTHER THAN UK OR INDIA AT UPU RATE
- OVERWEIGHT LETTERS – GREATER THAN 2/5TH OUNCES
- PARCELS
- REGISTRATION FEE OF 2 ANNAS
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FEE 1 ANNA
- INSURANCE FEES
- ANY ARTICLE SENT BY CIVILIANS



I.E.F. OVERPRINTED POSTAL STATIONERY



POSTAGE REQUIRED



POSTAL SERVICES FOR BRITISH TROOPS IN TURKEY PROVIDED BY INDIA POST OFFICE



ROYAL INDIAN MARINE POSTAL PRIVILEGES?

MINE SWEEPERS IN BOMBAY AND ADEN HARBOURS
LARGER SHIPS CONSCRIPTED INTO BRITISH ROYAL NAVY



IEF 1 ANNA STAMP
& REEXPEDIE



VERSO
ROYAL INDIAN MARINE CREST &
BOMBAY G.P.O. CDS

INDIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP POST OFFICE ACT 1898/1912

GRANTED CENSORSHIP POWERS WITHOUT JUDICIAL OR
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY AS
DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT

*“Power to intercept postal articles for public good. –(1)
On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the
interest of the public safety or tranquility, the Central
Government or a State Government, or any officer
specially authorized in this behalf by the Central or the
State Government may, by order in writing, direct that
any postal article or class or description of postal
articles in course of transmission by post shall be
intercepted or detained or shall be disposed of in such
manner as the authority issuing this order may direct”*



CIVILIAN CENSORSHIP OFFICES ESTABLISHED AT ALL PORTS OF ENTRY



CIVILIAN CENSORSHIP

4 AUGUST 1914 – 30 NOVEMBER 1919

- **MOST CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS DESTROYED AFTER WW1;
EXCEPT ADEN**
- **EACH HAD IDENTIFIABLE HAND STAMPS**
- **BOMBAY HANDLED OVERFLOW FROM OTHER CENSOR
OFFICES**
- **CENSOR #'S NOT RELATED TO COUNTRY OR LANGUAGE**
- **ALL INTERNATIONAL MAIL EXCEPT MOST UK AND MOST
BRITISH EMPIRE**
- **DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL OF LISTED PERSONS**

INDIA & BRITISH EMPIRE CENSORSHIP

LISTED INDIVIDUALS

PERSIAN GULF OIL

BAHRAIN
KUWAIT
PERSIAN GULF POSTAL AGENCIES

INDIAN NATIONALISTS

BRITISH EAST AFRICA
CANADA
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
HONG KONG
MAURITIUS
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

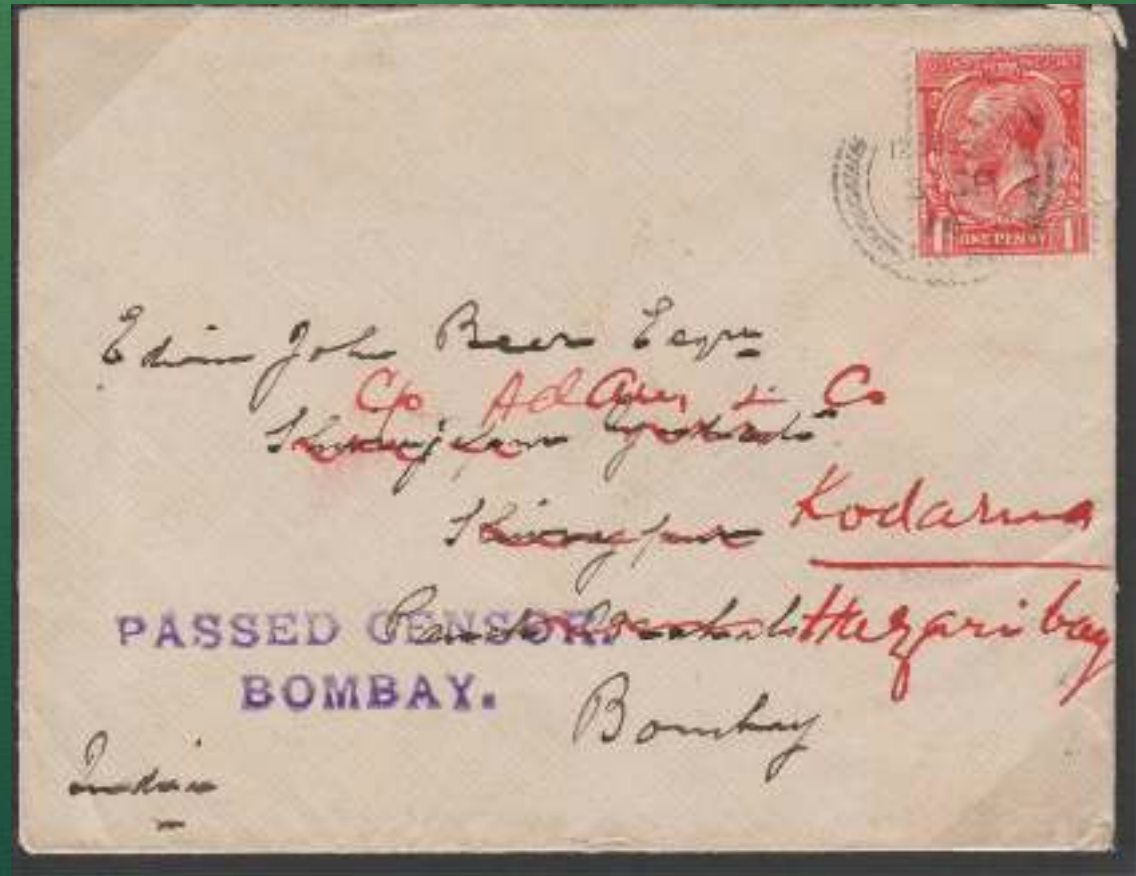
CIVIL UNREST

CEYLON
EGYPT

ENTREPOT

ADEN
GIBRALTAR (TO INDIA)

Collectors Club January 20, 2016



CENSORS' OBJECTIVES

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



- **TRADING WITH THE ENEMY**
- **FOREIGN EXCHANGE**
- **ILLEGAL MONEY MOVEMENT**

PROTECTION OF THE MILITARY MISSION

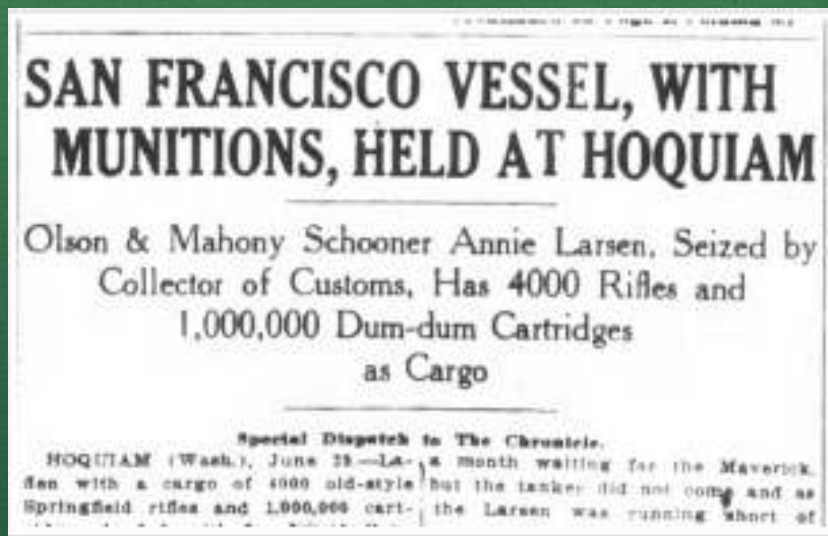


- ANYTHING DISPARAGING MILITARY OPERATIONS
- ANYTHING IMPACTING ADVERSELY TROOP MORALE
- MILITARY AND ESPIONAGE RELATED INTELLIGENCE

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST SEEKING INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

*"Wanted: Brave soldiers to stir up Ghadar (Revolution) in India.
Pay: Death. Prize: Martyrdom.
Pension: Liberty. Field of Battle: India.*

GHADAR PARTY



SILK LETTER MOVEMENT



CENSORED COVER TO GHADAR MEMBER



POSTAGE
DUE 2
CENTS

CENSORED COVER TO GHADAR MEMBER

THE COVER WAS OPENED AND RESEALED WITH CENSOR TAPE
SHOWN HERE IN THE MOST COMMON POSITION OVER THE
ENVELOPE FLAP



PERSIA – A FAILED STATE

ROLE OF INDIAN POST OFFICES

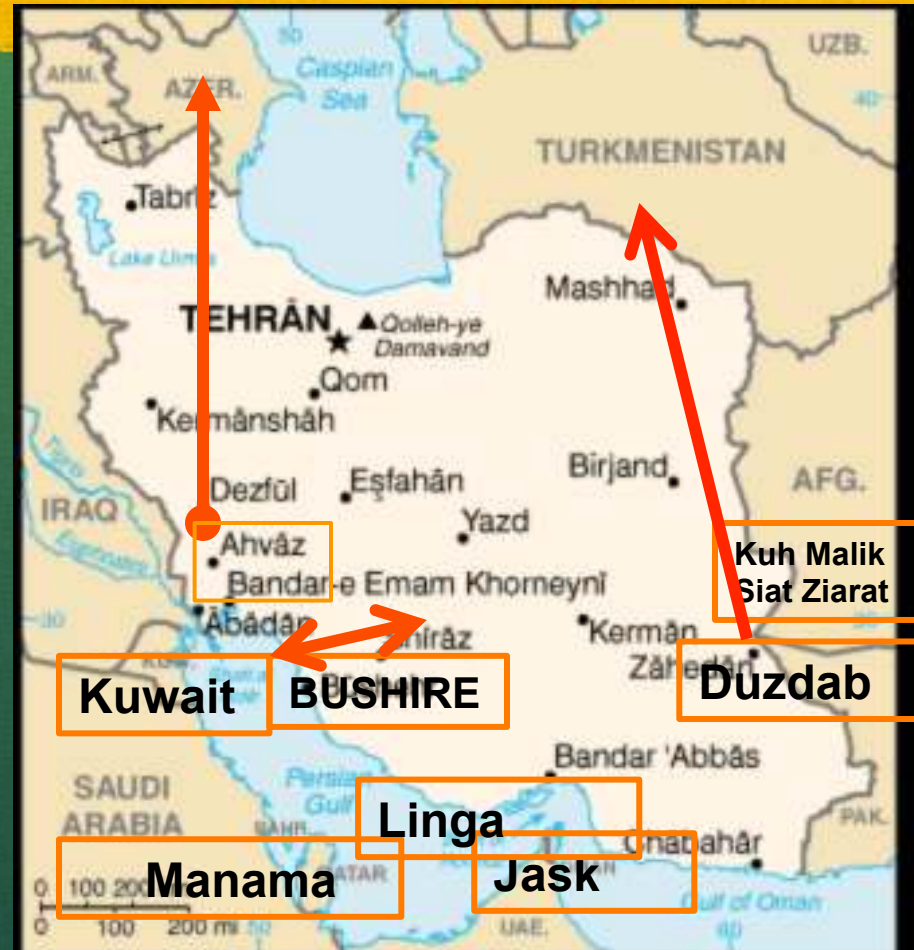
**DUNSTERFORCE/
NORTH PERSIAN
FORCE 1918-1920
HAMADAN TO THE
TRANSCAUCAS**

**EASTERN CORDON
FIELD FORCE/
SIESTAN FIELD
FORCE 1914-1920
BLOCK ATTACKS
LAUNCHED FROM
AFGHANISTAN**

WILHEM WASSMUSS

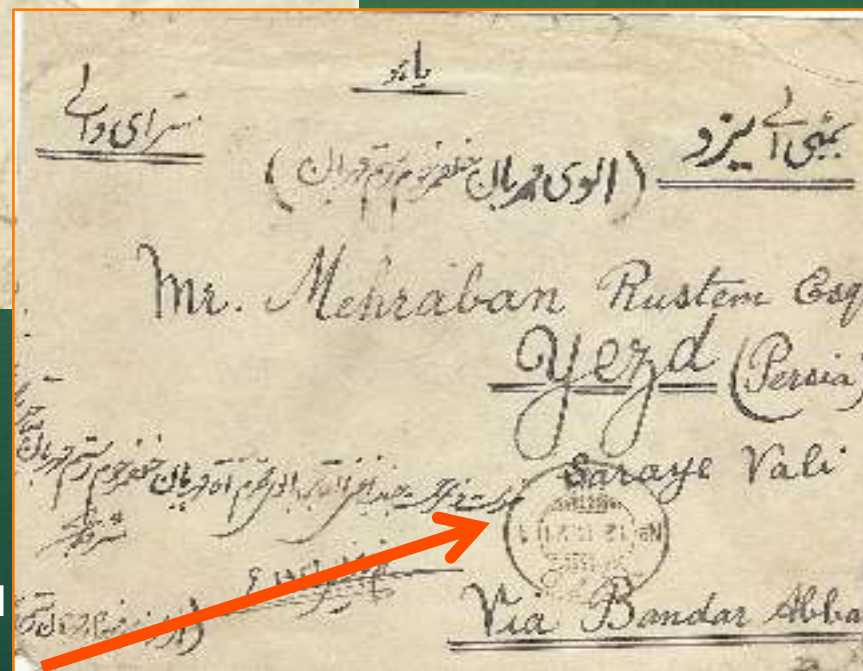
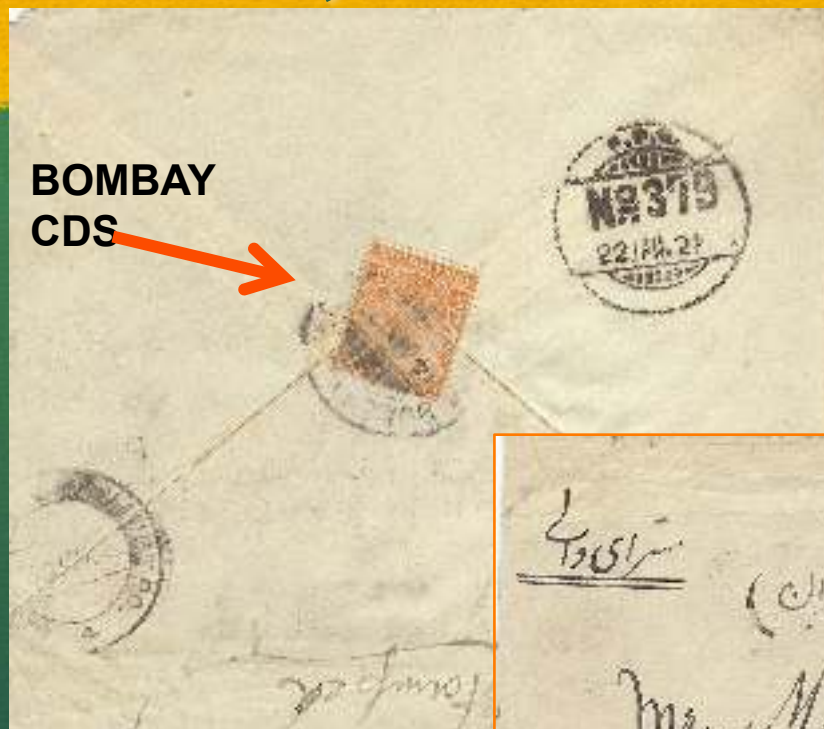
**BUSHIRE FIELD
FORCE - SOUTH
PERSIA
1915-1919**

**MALLISON
EXPEDITION
1918-1919 PERSIA
TO TURKMENISTAN**



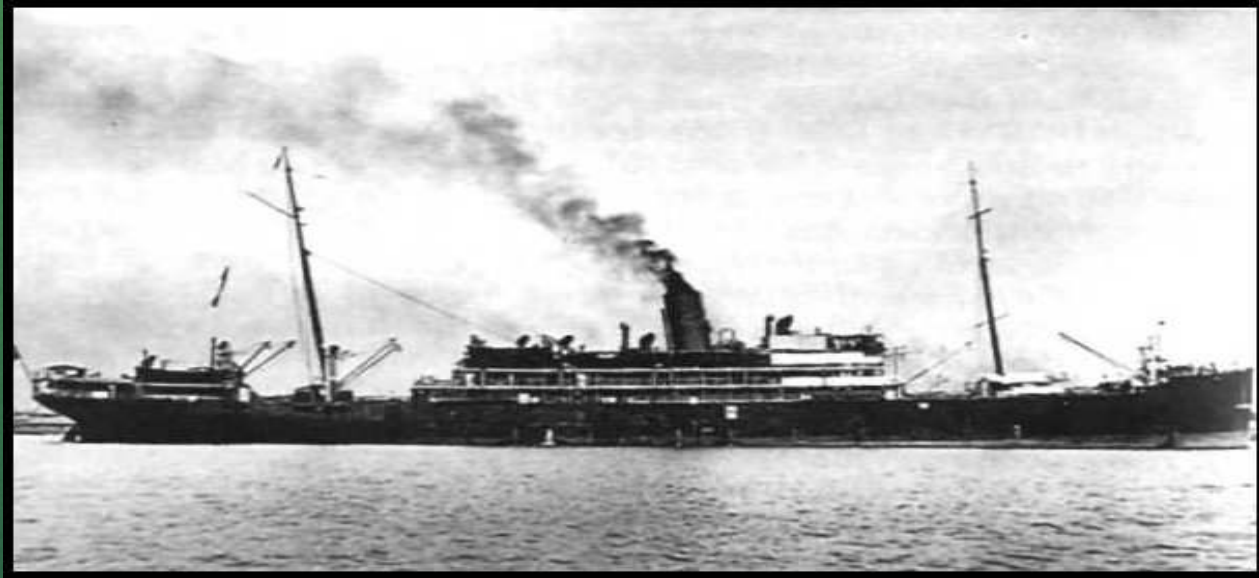
OVERLAND ROUTE FROM BOMBAY TO YEZD, CENTRAL IRAN, IN 11 MONTHS

REQUEST FOR
"VIA BANDAR ABBAS"
WAS NOT FOLLOWED



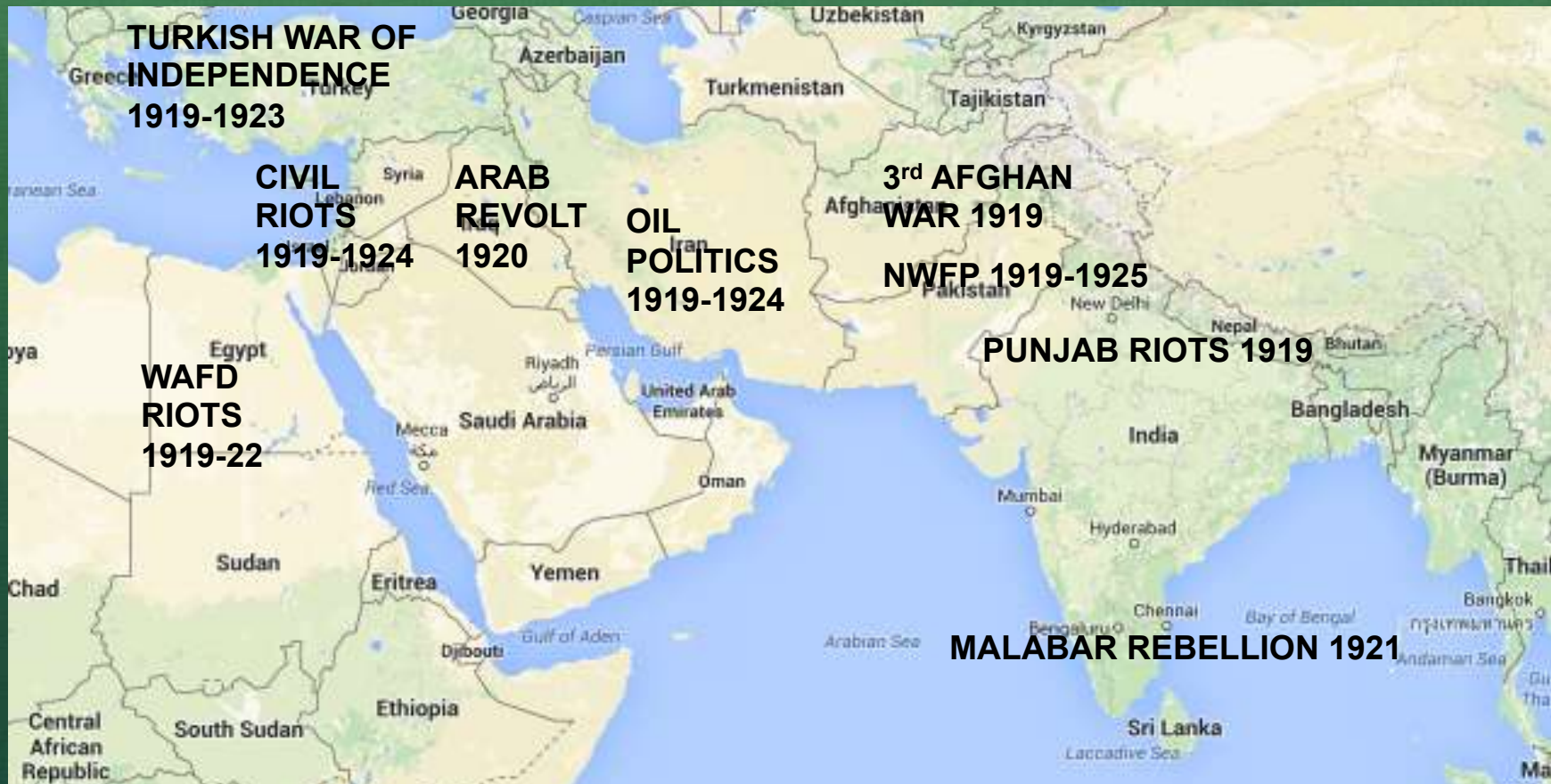
CDS BOMBAY: 14 JANUARY 1921 FRANKED
WITH 3 ANNA INDIA.
TRANSIT MARK 22 JANUARY 1921 AT FPO 379
NEAR BORDER OF PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN
& IRAN.
YEDZ BILINGUAL ARRIVAL MARK 12 NOVEMBER 1921

PERSIAN GULF MAIL

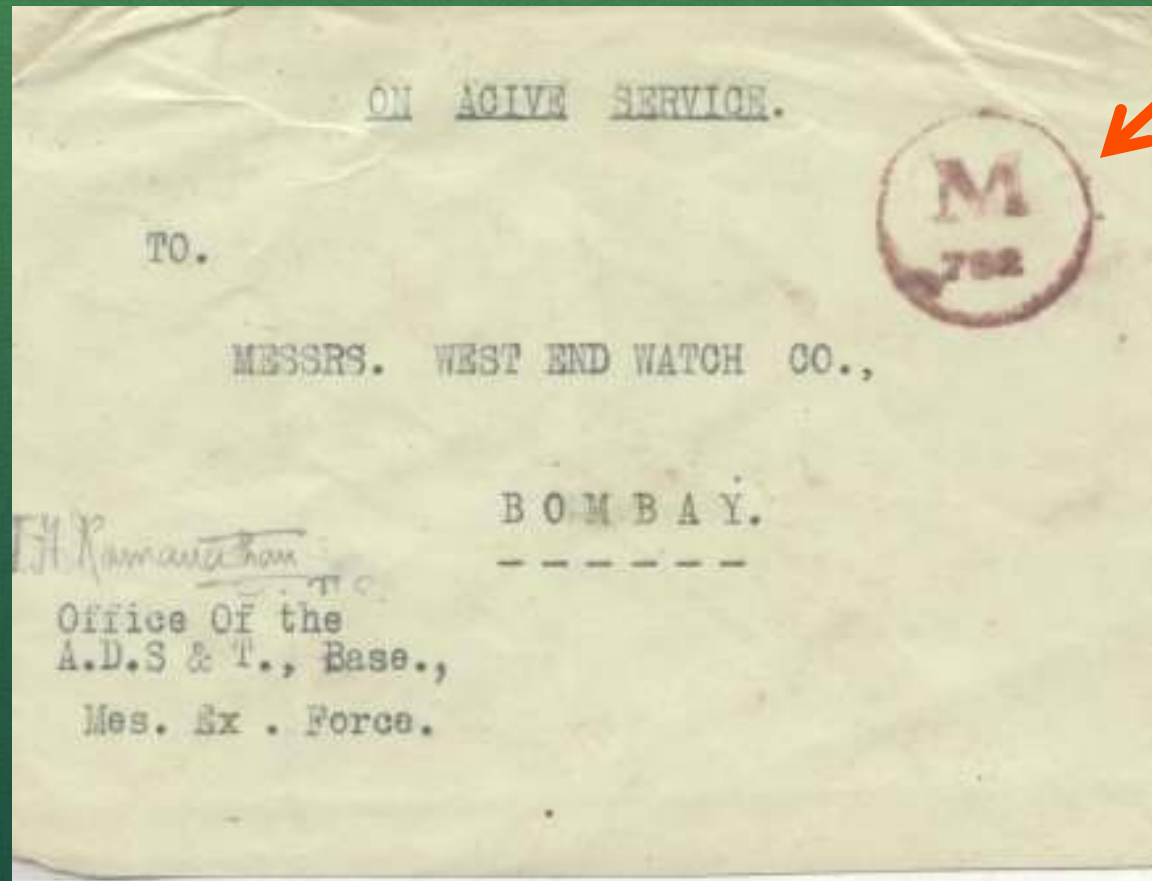


- ❑ ALL OF BRITISH INDIA MAIL SHIPS WERE CONSCRIPTED BY THE ROYAL NAVY AT THE START OF THE WAR INCLUDING THE BRAND NEW “VARELA”
- ❑ PERSIAN GULF MAIL WAS DISRUPTED
- ❑ MAIL WAS TRANSPORTED BY MILITARY SUPPLY SHIPS TO GULF PORTS ON AN IRREGULAR SCHEDULE

INDIAN POST OFFICE POST WAR CONSEQUENCES



ARAB REVOLT: SUNNI & SHIITE UNITED AGAINST BRITISH OCCUPATION



THIRD AFGHAN WAR

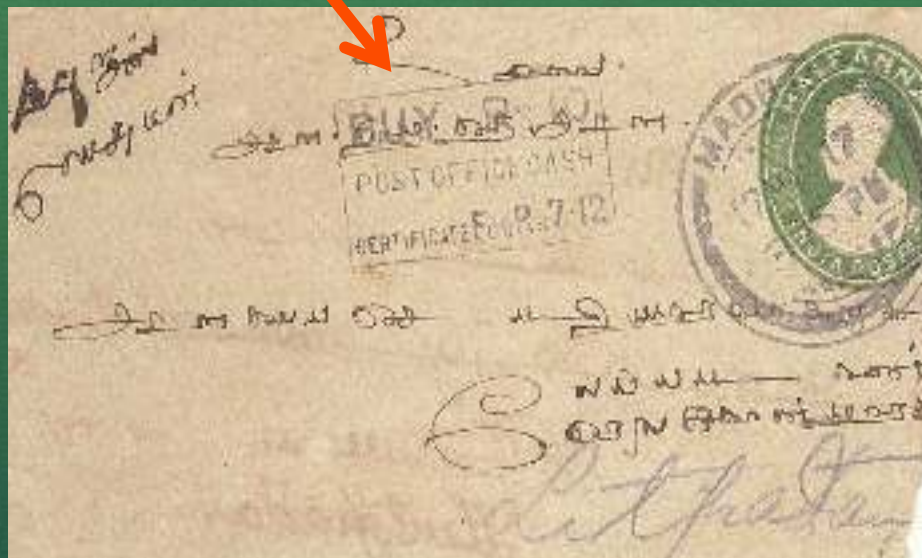


FPO 154 WAS THE ONLY FPO IN AFGHANISTAN TERRITORY DURING THIS WAR
POSTCARD SENT ONE DAY AFTER THE CEASE FIRE WAS SIGNED

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE WAR

BUY Rs 10 P.O. CASH CERTIFICATE FOR 7Rs 12

LONG STANDING
CONTRACT WITH
DE LA RUE FOR
POSTAL PRINTING
WINDS DOWN &
ENDS 1925



INDIAN POST OFFICE FIRST SLOGAN HAND STAMP

THIS COVER IS DATED 17 MAY 1917 TWO DAYS AFTER THE HAND STAMP WAS AUTHORIZED
LATER VERSIONS HAVE DIFFERENT FONTS AND SIZES

WAR & RELIEF FUNDS LETTER SEALS



MADRAS WAR FUND

**BOMBAY WAR &
RELIEF FUND
WOMEN'S
BRANCH**

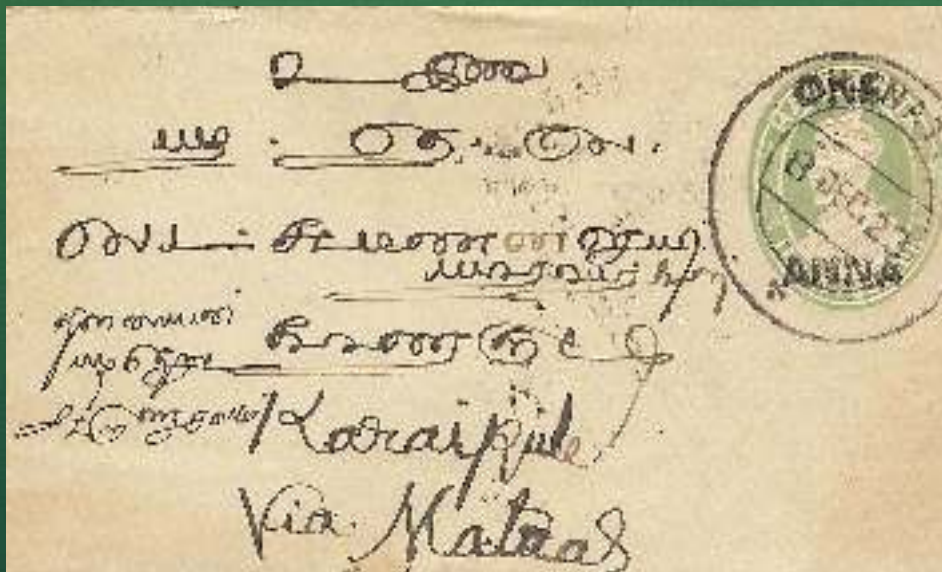


**CENTRAL
PROVINCES WAR
SEAL**



POSTAL RATES INCREASE FIRST TO NINE PIES THEN TO ONE ANNA

1 ANNA RATE 24 APRIL 1922



IMPACT ON THE INDIAN POST OFFICE

- **POSTAL RATES INCREASED 100%**
- **POST OFFICE CASH CERTIFICATES & BONDS**
- **ADVERTISING CANCELLATIONS**
- **MACHINE CANCELLATIONS VERSUS MANUAL**
- **END OF THE DE LA RUE POSTAL PRINTING CONTRACT**
- **ADEN SEA POST WAS NOT RENEWED**
- **ARMY POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED**

1924 – PEACE AND POSTAL PROGRESS



1 ½ ANNA STAMP
UPU INTERNATIONAL
POST CARD RATE

MACHINE
CANCELLATION

ADVERTISEMENT
CANCELLATION

ADVERTISING SEAL AND
“CANCELLATION”

1924 EVEREST
EXPEDITION RONGBUK
CAMP

DISPATCHED BY POSTAL
RUNNER TO INDIA

DIRECTOR OF INDIA POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

SIR WILLIAM MAXWELL
1913-1919



SIR GEOFFREY CLARKE
1919-1925



H.A. SAMS-DIR. POSTAL SERVICES M.E.F
EDITOR : The India Post Office in the Great War