

SAUDI ARABIA 1934 - 1950

AN EXTENSIVE POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTION OF ARAMCO THE ARABIAN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

ARAMCO THE MOST VALUABLE COMPANY IN THE WORLD HAS AN ESTIMATED VALUE BY THE FINANCIAL TIMES IN EXCESS OF \$10 TRILLION IN HARD ASSETS 40 TIMES THE SIZE OF CHINA'S ALIBABA PRESENT IPO.

THE COLLECTION CONSISTS OF 140 COVERS THE LARGEST ACCUMULATION OF COVER CORRESPONDENCE DURING THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF THE COMPANY. IT INCLUDES A SPECIALIZED GOLD MEDAL WORTHY SECTION NEVER BEFORE EXHIBITED OF THE OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY COVER CORRESPONDENCE DURING WORLD WAR II.

A PORTION OF THE COLLECTION CONSISTING OF 37 COVERS WAS ORIGINALLY PREPARED FOR THE CONSIGNOR OF THIS LOT FOR EXHIBITION BY A PHILATELIC CONSULTANT AND UPDATED JUST RECENTLY WHEN CONSIGNED TO [jenezirish35](#) AUCTIONS. THE FAMILY CONSIGNORS OF THIS ESTATE ARE NOW OFFERING THE WHOLE COLLECTION OF 140 COVERS INCLUDING THE WARTIME CORRESPONDENCE.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY THE 37 COVERS, A PORTION OF THE COLLECTION INITIALLY INTENDED FOR INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION ARE SHOWN HERE. PERSONS EXPRESSING SERIOUS INTEREST TO BID ON THIS COLLECTION CAN OBTAIN SCANS OF THE REMAINING 140 COVERS UPON REQUEST.

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A PHILATELIC HISTORY OF ARAMCO
CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY
POSTAL HISTORY
IN WORLD WAR II 1939-1945:

By Dr Elias Akram Kawar

ON MAY 23, 1933 KING ABDUL AZIZ HAD GRANTED STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA (SOCAL) A CONCESSION FOR EXPLORATION RIGHTS TO 930,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF LAND IN THE EASTERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY FOR A PERIOD OF 60 YEARS.

SOCAL SET UP A SUBSIDIARY COMPANY "CASOC" CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY FOR THE VENTURE.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DRILLING THE COMPANY FINALLY DISCOVERED THEIR FIRST OIL WELL IN VAST COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES IN DAMMAM 7 NAMED AFTER A SMALL VILLAGE NEAR THE CASOC CAMP.

CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY PRE WAR MAIL:

THERE WAS NO SAUDI POST OFFICE AVAILABLE NEAR THE CASOC DAMMAM CAMP AND THERE WERE NO ROADS THROUGH THE DESERT. CASOC MAIL WAS CARRIED BY COMPANY TRUCK TO AL KHOBAR PIER ON THE PERSIAN GULF. IT WAS LOADED ON THE COMPANY CASOC LAUNCH TO BAHRAIN WHERE BAHRAINI STAMPS WERE APPLIED AT THE POST OFFICE AND THEN FLOWN ON IMPERIAL AIRWAYS FLYING BOATS VIA BAGDAD, BASRA, HABBANIYA ,LYDDA, CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, ATHENS, BRINDISI, ROME, MARSEILLES AND PARIS.

THERE WAS NO REGULAR TRANSATLANTIC AIR MAIL SERVICE AT THAT TIME, SO MOST MAIL CROSSED THE ATLANTIC BY SEA AND CONTINUED ON TO ITS FINAL DESTINATIONS. THE RATE WAS 9 ANNAS 6 PIES FOR ½ OUNCE LETTER.



FIG.1 : 1935 JAN. 2 COVER FROM JUBAIL R.P. KERR C/O R. P. MILLER BY COMPANY BOAT TO BAHRAIN. DOUBLE CIRCLE "BY AIR" CACHET IS APPLIED FLOWN ON IMPERIAL AIRWAYS FROM BAHRAIN.

TO BAGDAD BASRA & CAIRO TO PARIS. CANCEL DATED JAN 7, 1935. BY SHIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO ITS FINAL DESTINATION LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA. FRANKED 19 ANNAS, LETTER RATE FOR 1 OUNCE. BAHRAIN CANCELS DONALDSON TYPE 6.



FIG. 2 : 1935 SEP. 29 COVER FROM AL KHOBAR RETURN ADDRESS "CASOC AL KHOBAR SAUDI ARABIA" FRANKED 9 ANNAS 6 PIES FRONT AND BACK ROUTED VIA ALEXANDRIA EGYPT EUROPE ON IMPERIAL AIRWAYS . BY SHIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO ITS DESTINATION IN US.BAHRAIN CANCELS DONALDSON TYPE 5B RARELY USED ON OVERPRINTED STAMPS OF INDIA.

ON OCCASION RED PARALLEL HANDSTAMPS \ \ WERE APPLIED ON SOME COVERS TO SHOW THAT TRANSPORT BY AIR WAS ONLY FOR A PORTION OF THE TRIP.



FIG. 3 : 1938 PREPRINTED COVER "CASOC BAHREIN ISLAND PERSIAN GULF" FROM DAMMAM CAMP FRANKED IN BAHRAIN 9 ANNAS 6 PIES WITH PART AIR TRANSPORT THROUGH EUROPE BY AIR ON IMPERIAL AIRWAYS ROUTE VIA BASRA, HABBANIYAH, LYDDA, CAIRO, ATHENS, BRINDISI, ROME, MARSEILLE, PARIS TO BRITAIN AS MARKED WITH THE RED PARALLEL LINES AND BY SHIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC . BAHRAIN CANCELS DONALDSON "SHORT LIVED" TYPE 7.

THE RED LINES DENOTE THAT A PORTION OF THE TRIP BY AIR BUT SOMETIMES THESE LINES ARE MARKED IN SIMILAR FASHION IN BLACK //.

CASOC MAIL FROM THIS PERIOD ON IS EASILY IDENTIFIED BY THE CASOC BAHREIN ISLAND, PERSIAN GULF RETURN ADDRESS, PREPRINTED BY THE COMPANY FOR USE BY ITS EMPLOYEES.

THE WAR YEARS 1939-1945

AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1939 THE CASOC WORK FORCE OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEES HAVE GROWN TO 435 BY EARLY 1940.

DURING THE WAR AND SINCE THE BOMBING OF DHAHRAN BY AN ITALIAN PLANE IN OCTOBER 19, 1940 A DECISION WAS MADE BY CASOC TO REDUCE THEIR WORKFORCE SUBSTANTIALLY AND SUSPEND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OIL CONCESSION IN THE DAMMAM FIELD TILL THE END OF THE WAR.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS AND BRITISH AIRWAYS MERGED TO FORM BOAC BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRLINES CORPORATION. BOAC CHANGED ITS MEDITERRANEAN ROUTES AND RAISED THE POSTAGE RATE FOR CASOC MAIL TO 1 RUPEE 5 ANNAS 6 PIES FOR ½ OZ. LETTER.

BY APRIL OF 1940 MAIL WAS TRANSPORTED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC BY PAN AM TRANSLANTIC CLIPPER SERVICE. COVERS OF THIS PERIOD ARE MARKED "BY AIR IN ASIA, EUROPE AND USA".



FIG 4: 1940 AUG. 6 COVER MARKED "BY AIR ASIA,EUROPE,USA" TO US VIA IMPERIAL AIRWAYS ROUTE, BAGDAD BASRA CAIRO TO LONDON .PART AIR TRANSPORT DENOTED WITH RED LINES FRANKED 21 ANNAS 6 PIES FOR ½ OZ RATE AND CANCELLED BAHRAIN DONALDSON TYPE 7.

MAIL FROM CASOC IN 1940

TO AVOID THE WAR RAGING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATER CASOC MAIL DURING THIS PERIOD TOOK SEVERAL ROUTES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC VIA IRAQ, EGYPT, NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AMERICA TO US.



FIG 5: 1940 APRIL 13, COVER MARKED "VIA TRANSATLANTIC CLIPPER" (PAN AM AIRLINES) TRANSPORTED PARTLY BY BOAC VIA AFRICA ROUTE TO ENGLAND AND ON TO US AND SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA. FRANKED IN BAHRAIN 2 RUPEES 7 ANNAS 6 PIES POSTAGE RATE FOR 1 OZ. CANCELS DONALDSON TYPE 7.

BOAC PAN AM NEW ROUTES ACROSS THE PACIFIC AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

IN MAY- JUNE 1940 THE INVASION OF FRANCE AND WITH ITALY JOINING THE WAR TRANSPORT OF MAIL ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN HAD BECOME IMPOSSIBLE.

BOAC, BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRLINES CORPORATION, STARTED FLYING MAIL ACROSS INDIA TO BANGKOK AND HONG KONG. FROM HONG KONG PAN AMERICAN CLIPPERS THEN CARRIED THE MAIL TO SAN FRANCISCO VIA MANILA, GUAM, WAKE ISLAND, MIDWAY AND HAWAII TO SAN FRANCISCO.



FIG 6: 1940 JULY 7, CASOC COVER VIA BAHRAIN INDIA HONG KONG ON BOAC WITH RECEIVING CANCEL DATED 11 JY.40 AND CENSORED HONG KONG LABEL. ON TO US BY AIR ON PAN AM CLIPPER SERVICE. FRANKED IN BAHRAIN 2 RUPEES 11 ANNAS 6 PIES. LETTER FROM H.S. SCRIBNER TO MICHIGAN. BAHRAIN CANCELLOR DONALDSON TYPE 7.

NOTE THAT DONALDSON STATES THAT THIS WARTIME CANCELLOR TYPE 7 WAS "SHORTLIVED". THIS EXHIBIT SHOWS THAT IT WAS USED ON OCCASION ALTHOUGH SCANTILY UP TO OCTOBER 1941.

IN DECEMBER OF 1941 PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES HAD ESTABLISHED A NEW ROUTE ACROSS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FROM BRAZIL TO BATHURST IN GAMBIA EXTENDING TO LAGOS IN NIGERIA AND KHARTOUM IN THE SUDAN FOR TRANSPORTING WAR MATERIALS TO THE ALLIES.

CASOC MAIL TRANSPORTED FROM THE GULF ON BOAC FROM BAHRAIN, BASRA AND CAIRO MANAGED TO CONNECT WITH THE PAN AM RETURN FLIGHTS THROUGH CAIRO OR KHARTOUM AND LAGOS.



FIG 7: 1941 CASOC COVER MARKED "TRANSATLANTIC AIR MAIL VIA LAGOS" NIGERIA TO US FRANKED IN BAHRAIN 2 RUPEES 11 ANNAS 6 PIES (43½ ANNAS) TO COVER A 1 OZ RATE .HANDWRITTEN RETURN "P.C. Mc CONNELL CASOC BAHREIN ISLAND" BAHRAIN CANCELLOR DONALDSON **TYPE 8** WITHOUT THE TIME IN CENTER. THIS APPEARS AS A MACHINE CANCEL BUT IT IS A HANDSTAMP INTENDED TO OBLITERATE SEVERAL STAMPS IN ONE STRIKE. THIS WARTIME CANCEL CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE SIMILAR POST WAR CANCEL BY ITS **27 MM DIAMETER** AS OPPOSED TO THE **25 MM** USED AFTER THE WAR.

IN AUGUST OF 1942 THE U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE TOOK OVER THE TRANS AFRICA ROUTE FROM PAN AM, FLYING FROM NATAL BRAZIL TO KHARTOUM VIA ASCENSION ISLAND AND LAGOS. ALSO IN AUGUST 1942, AN ARRANGEMENT WAS CONCLUDED TO CARRY CASOC MAIL ON THE TRANSAFRICA ROUTE, BOAC TURNED THE MAIL OVER TO THE US AIR FORCE AT KHARTOUM AND THE US AIR FORCE GAVE IT TO PAN AM AT LAGOS.



FIG 8: 1942 CASOC COVER FRANKED WITH SAUDI STAMPS VIA BAHRAIN ON BOAC TO KHARTOUM CARRIED BY US AIR FORCE FROM KHARTOUM TO LAGOS AND HANDED OVER TO PAN AM FOR THE TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT.

TRANS PACIFIC AIR MAIL ROUTES CHANGED

IN THE PACIFIC THEATER WITH THE ENTRY OF THE JAPANESE IN THE WAR AND LATER THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR ON NOVEMBER 26, 1941 ALL MAIL DESTINED TO THE US VIA HONG KONG CEASED.

BY EARLY FEBRUARY 1941 AND FOR A SHORT TIME IT WAS REROUTED VIA SINGAPORE THEN SOUTH VIA SIDNEY, AUSTRALIA THEN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND AND ON TO THE US ON PAN-AM CLIPPER SERVICE WITH VARIOUS STOPS ALONG THE WAY.



FIG 9: 1941 FEBRUARY CASOC AIR MAIL COVER MARKED "VIA BOAC TO AUCKLAND" NEW ZEALAND AND "PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS TO SAN FRANCISCO" WITH NEW ZEALAND CENSOR MARK AND LABEL. THE 72 BOXED CANCEL COULD BE THE NUMBER OF THAT ITEM CARRIED ON THAT FLIGHT. FRANKED IN BAHRAIN 2 RUPEES 15 ANNAS AND 6 PIES. BAHRAIN CANCELLOR DONALDSON TYPE 7.



FIG 10: 1941 OCTOBER CASOC AIR MAIL COVER MARKED "VIA BOAC TO SINGAPORE PACIFIC CLIPPER TO SAN FRANCISCO" WITH BRITISH HANDSTAMPED CENSOR AND LABEL TRANSPORTED BY PAN AMERICAN PACIFIC CLIPPER TO SAN FRANCISCO. FRANKED THE STANDARDIZED RATE OF 2 RUPEES 15 ANNAS AND 6 PIES. BAHRAIN WARTIME CANCELLOR DONALDSON TYPE 8.

AL KHOBAR POST OFFICE OPENS SEPTEMBER 1941

THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT SET UP ITS FIRST POST OFFICE IN AL KHOBAR AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 1941 AND THE COMPANY BEGAN USING SOME OF THE MAILING THROUGH THAT OFFICE BY OCTOBER. THE ROUTING WAS STILL THE SAME, MAIL WAS CARRIED VIA CASOC LAUNCH TO BAHRAIN.

BOAC THEN REROUTED THE MAIL VIA CAIRO TO DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA. FROM SOUTH AFRICA IT CROSSED THE SOUTH ATLANTIC BY SEA TO BRAZIL, WHERE PAN AMERICAN PICKED IT UP AND FLEW IT TO MIAMI VIA TRINIDAD AND PUERTO RICO. COVERS ON THIS ROUTE CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENSORSHIP TAPE.



FIG 11: 1942 JUNE AL KHOBAR CASOC AIR MAIL COVER PRESTAMPED AT CASOC'S CANTEEN WITH THE REQUIRED RATE OF 18¢ GUERCHE PLUS 1¢ OBLIGATORY HOSPITAL STAMP CARRIED BY BOAC VIA DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE CENSOR LABEL IS APPLIED. BY SHIP MAIL TO BRAZIL ACROSS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. PAN AM WOULD THEN TRANSPORT IT TO MIAMI VIA TRINIDAD AND PUERTO RICO TO US.



FIG 12: 1942 MAY AL KHOBAR CASOC AIRMAIL COVER AS ABOVE CARRIED BY BOAC THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA CENSORED IN DURBAN THEN BY SHIP TO BRAZIL AND PAN AM CLIPPER TO US.



FIG 13: 1942 JUNE AL KHOBAR CASOC COVER AS ABOVE INTENDED FOR THE TRANS AFRICA CAIRO LAGOS ROUTE BUT ACTUALLY CARRIED TO DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA BY SHIP TO BRAZIL AND PAN AM TO US.

OFFICIAL CASOC AND GOVERNMENT MAIL DURING THE WAR

BETWEEN 1939 AND 1943 SIXTY FOUR CASOC COVERS BEARING CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COMPANY IN CALIFORNIA AND OFFICIAL REPORTS ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS TO THE US GOVERNMENT WERE FIRST CARRIED BY DIPLOMATIC POUCH VIA THE US DELEGATION IN BAGDAD AND LATER IN BASRA WHERE AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICE WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED.

DIPLOMATIC POUCH MAILINGS WERE CARRIED THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS WITH CIVILIAN MAIL ON PAN AM CLIPPERS IMPERIAL AIRWAYS LATER BOAC AND ARMY POST OFFICES LOCATED IN BAHRAIN, IRAQ AND EGYPT.

US DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN SAUDI ARABIA

THE FIRST US ENVOY TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS MR BERT FISH WHO WAS RESIDENT IN CAIRO AND AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT. FISH MADE ONE TRIP TO JEDDA IN 1940 TO MEET KING ABDUL AZIZ, BUT AN OFFICIAL U.S. DELEGATION WAS NOT ESTABLISHED IN JEDDA TILL MAY 1,1942.

SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF OIL BY CASOC IN 1938 AND THE LOOMING THREAT OF THE WAR ESPECIALLY AFTER THE BOMBARDMENT OF BAHRAIN AND DHAHRAN IN 1940 IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THESE ENORMOUSLY STRATEGIC AREAS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. WITH CASOC'S PRESENCE IN THE EASTERN REGION IT WAS ONLY COMMON SENSE TO GET STEADY REPORTS FROM CASOC AND THE CLOSEST VENUE FOR THESE OFFICIAL REPORTS WAS THE US DELEGATION IN IRAQ.

THE COVERS CONTAINED REPORTS ON WAR TIME DEVELOPMENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA TO THE US GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO INCLUDED OFFICIAL TECHNICAL REPORTS TO THE COMPANY IN CALIFORNIA.

THE CASOC COVERS FRANKED WITH BAHRAIN STAMPS DEC. 1939 - DEC. 1941

TWENTY SIX OF THESE COVERS CARRIED ON THE COMPANY BOAT WERE FRANKED IN BAHRAIN AND ONLY FIVE WERE REGISTERED.

ALL 26 OFFICIAL CASOC MAILINGS WERE LARGE # 10 AIR MAIL COVERS AND MOST WERE HEAVIER THAN NORMAL RANGING ½ TO 3 OZS AND BEARING THE APPROPRIATE RATE 14 ANNAS PER ½ OZ. ALL WERE PREPRINTED "CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY BAHREIN ISLAND PERSIAN GULF" WITH THREE EXCEPTIONS, TWO WERE ON A PLAIN # 10 COVER ,THE OTHER A SMALLER # 8 AIR MAIL COVER.

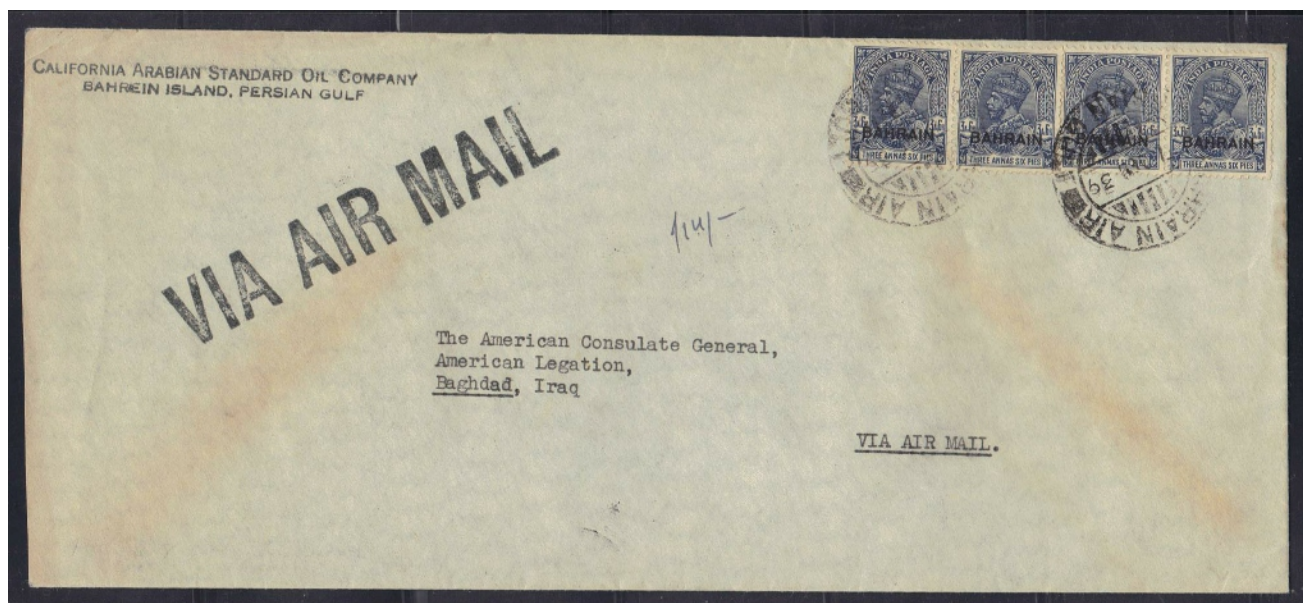


FIG 14: 1939 DECEMBER FIRST OFFICIAL PLAIN COVER SENT AIR MAIL FROM BAHRAIN TO THE AMERICAN LEGATION IN BAGDAD FRANKED 14 ANNAS TO COVER ½ OZ RATE. BAHRAIN CANCELS DONALDSON TYPE 7.



FIG 15: 1940 FEBRUARY, SECOND CASOC OFFICIAL COVER FRANKED 2 RUPEES 10 ANNAS TO COVER 1½ OZ WEIGHT. CANCELLED DONALDSON TYPE 7.

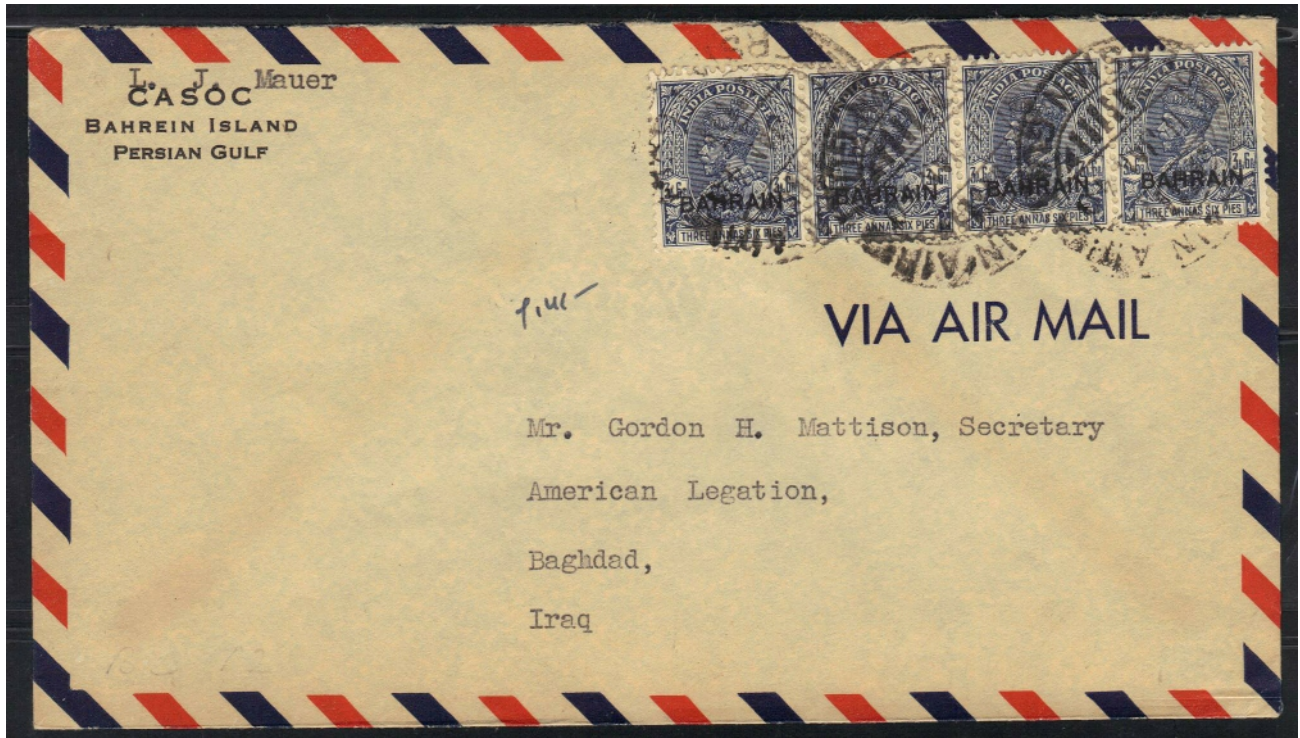


FIG 16: 1940 JAN. THE SMALL CASOC AIR MAIL COVER SENT TO THE AMERICAN LEGATION IN BAGDAD ADDRESSED TO MR GORDON MATTISON, SECRETARY. FRANKED 14 ANNAS AND CANCELLED DONADSON TYPE 7.



FIG 17: 1940 APRIL REGISTERED CASOC COVER TO THE AMERICAN LEGATION IN BAGDAD FRANKED 2 RUPEES 13 ANNAS TO PAY 1½ OZ WEIGHT + 3 ANNAS FOR REGISTRATION.

THREE CASOC WAX SEALS ON REVERSE TO DISCOURAGE TAMPERING. THE AIR MAIL AND REGISTERED HANDSTAMPS WERE APPLIED AT CASOC CAMP WHEREAS REGISTRATION LABEL DONALDSON TYPE 17 WAS APPLIED IN BAHRAIN. THE # IN THE REGISTRATION LABEL DENOTES THE VERY LOW NUMBERS OF REGISTERED LETTERS GOING THROUGH THE BAHRAIN POST OFFICE IN 1940. BAHRAIN REGISTRATION CANCELS DONALDSON **TYPE 9**.



FIG 18: 1940 MAY CASOC AIR MAIL COVER FRANKED BAHRAIN 14 ANNAS TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BAGDAD. CANCELLED DONALDSON TYPE 7.

NOTE THAT NONE OF THE PREVIOUS 4 COVERS ABOVE SENT TO THE US DELEGATION IN IRAQ WERE MARKED WITH ANY CENSOR MARKS IN BAHRAIN OR IRAQ WHEREAS ALL THE REMAINING 60 COVERS BORE CENSOR MARKINGS BEGINNING IN MAY 1940.



FIG 19: 1940 MAY CASOC REGISTERED AIR MAIL COVER FRANKED 4 RUPEES 6 ANNAS TO PAY FOR 2½ OZ WEIGHT AND 3 ANNAS FOR REGISTRATION. REGISTRATION LABEL DONALDSON TYPE 17 IS USED ONLY FOR WEST BOUND MAIL. CENSORED MARK IN BAHRAIN BAGHDAD RECEIVING MARK 10 MAY 1940. BAHRAIN CANCELS DONALDSON TYPE 9.



FIG 20: 1940 AUG. REGISTERED BAHRAIN CENSORED CASOC COVER FRANKED 2 RUPEES 13 ANNAS REGISTRATION LABEL TYPE 17 AND CANCELS TYPE 9.



FIG 21: 1941 SEP. REGISTERED CENSORED CASOC COVER FRANKED 4 RUPEES 9 ANNAS TO PAY POSTAGE RATE FOR 2½ OZ AND REGISTRATION LABEL DONALDSON TYPE 17 & BAHRAIN CANCELS TYPE 9. ON REVERSE BAGDAD RECEIVING MARK AND SEAL OF THE LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SEP. 8 1941.



FIG 22: 1940 DEC. REGISTERED CENSORED CASOC COVER TO BAGDAD FRANKED 4 RUPEES 9 ANNAS WITH 5 COLOR FRANKINGS REGISTRATION LABEL TYPE 17 AND CANCELS TYPE 9.

THE CASOC COVERS FRANKED WITH SAUDI STAMPS NOV. 1941 - DEC. 1942

DURING THIS PERIOD 38 COVERS BEARING SAUDI STAMPS WERE HANDED OVER TO THE ALKHOBAR POST OFFICE CANCELLED AND THEN HANDED BACK TO THE COMPANY AGENT TO BE TRANSFERED ON COMPANY LAUNCH TO BAHRAIN. THE SAUDI FRANKED COVERS ALMOST ALL HAD THE SAME FRANKING OF 14 GUERCHE AND $\frac{1}{8}$ HOSPITAL STAMP PER $\frac{1}{2}$ OZ TO COVER BOAC'S AIR MAIL RATE TO IRAQ. ALMOST ALL WERE ADDRESSED TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BASRA . ONLY FOUR WERE ADDRESSED TO THE CONSULATE IN BAGDAD. TWO OF THE 38 AL KHOBAR SAUDI STAMPED COVERS WERE REGISTERED. TEN WERE ADDRESSED TO GORDON MATTISON THE VICE CONSUL IN BAGDAD. PRESUMABLY THE HEAVIER COVERS CONTAINED ONE TO SEVERAL LETTERS AND ONLY ONE HAD THE OFFICIAL CASOC WAX SEALS ON REVERSE.

THE CENSOR MARKINGS

ALL 38 COVERS HAD A BAHRAIN AND IRAQ CENSOR BOXED MARKS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE COVERS WERE EXAMINED IN BAHRAIN OR IN IRAQ. THE BAHRAIN CENSOR MARKS ARE ALL DONALDSON TYPES OF 1940 AS THE PREVIOUS BAHRAIN FRANKED COVERS.

THERE WERE TWO TYPES OF IRAQ CENSOR MARKS. THE **FIRST** IS ALL ARABIC READING "**THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP OF THE MAIL ALLOWED TO PASS WITHOUT EXAMINATION**" THIS TYPE WAS DISCONTINUED BY JANUARY OF 1942. THE **SECOND** BOXED MARKING WAS BILINGUAL READING "**IRAQI CENSORSHIP NOT EXAMINED**"



FIG 23: 1941 NOV. CASOC AIR MAIL COVER CANCELLED IN AL KHOBAR FRANKED 13 GUERCHE FOR ½ OZ AND ¼ HOSPITAL STAMP TO PAY BOAC AIR MAIL RATE FROM BAHRAIN TO IRAQ. ALL ARABIC BOXED IRAQI CENSOR TYPE 1 ON FRONT AND ALL ENGLISH BAHRAIN CENSOR. ON REVERSE BAGDAD CIRCULAR DATED STAMP 23 NOV. 41.



FIG 24: 1942 REGISTERED CASOC AIR MAIL COVER AL KHOBAR TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BASRAH FRANKED 69¾ GUERCHE + ⅛ G. HOSPITAL STAMP TO PAY FOR 2 OZ WEIGHT + REGISTRATION FEE. ON REVERSE BAHRAIN CENSORSHIP DONALDSON OF 1940 AND IRAQ CENSORSHIP BILINGUAL **TYPE 2**. BASRAH RECEIPT CIRCULAR DATED STAMP 6 FEB. 42.



FIG 25 : CASOC AIRMAIL AL KHOBAR TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BASRAH FRANKED $12\frac{5}{8}$ + $\frac{1}{8}$ HOSPITAL STAMP WITH BOTH BAHRAIN AND IRAQ CENSORS AS ABOVE; BASRAH RECEIVING CDS 15 FEB. 42.



FIG 26: 1942 MARCH CASOC AIR MAIL COVER ALKHOBAR TO GORDON MATTISON VICE CONSUL AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BASRAH FRANKED 12½g GUERCHE AND ⅛g. HOSPITAL STAMP. BAHRAIN AND IRAQ CENSORS MARKS AND BASRAH RECEIVING CDS 13 MAR. 42.



FIG 27: 1942 MAY CASOC REGISTERED AIR MAIL AL KHOBAR TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BASRAH FRANKED 65 GUERCHE TO PAY 2 OZ POSTAGE AND REGISTRATION. FEE. BAHRAIN AND IRAQ CENSOR MARKS AS ABOVE. ON REVERSE CASOC WAX SEAL AND BASRAH CDS 12 MAY. 42.



FIG 28: 1942 SEP. CASOC AIRMAIL ALKHOBAR TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BASRAH FRANKED 14 GUERCHE AND 1/8 G. HOSPITAL STAMP. BOTH IRAQ AND BAHRAIN CENSOR MARKS ON FRONT. BASRAH RECEIVING MARK 13 SEP. 42 ON REVERSE.

ARMY POST OFFICES APO 816 IN IRAQ BAHRAIN AND 678 IN EGYPT

IN APRIL 1943 THE US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY OFFERED ARMY POST OFFICE SERVICES TO CASOC AND BAPCO THE BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY ALSO A SUBSIDIARY OF SOCAL, FOR BOTH COMPANY AND CIVILIAN MAIL. THE SERVICE STARTED FOR INCOMING MAIL FROM THE USA IN MAY 1943, BUT SAUDI GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO USE APO SERVICES FOR OUTGOING MAIL WAS NOT OBTAINED. WHEN IN MAY 1944 THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT DID ALLOW CASOC TO USE APO SERVICES FOR OUTGOING MAIL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WERE WORKED OUT. ENVELOPES WERE SOLD AT THE AMERICAN CANTEEN AT THE EQUIVALENT OF 15 US CENTS EACH TO COVER BOTH THE US AND SAUDI POSTAGE. THIS WAS A LARGE SAVINGS OVER THE COST OF SENDING MAIL BY BOAC WHICH WAS ABOUT 91 CENTS. LETTERS WITH **USA STAMPS** AT THE RATE OF 5 CENTS PER ½ OUNCE WERE PUT IN A LARGE OUTER ENVELOPE AND TAKEN TO THE AL KHOBAR POST OFFICE. THERE THE OUTER ENVELOPE WAS WEIGHED AND STAMPS WERE APPLIED AT THE RATE OF 3 GUERCHE PER ½ OUNCE TOTAL WEIGHT. THE LARGE ENVELOPE WITH **SAUDI STAMPS** WAS THEN CANCELLED WITH AL KHOBAR CDS AND THE ENVELOPE WAS HANDED BACK TO THE AGENT. THE COMPANY AGENT CARRIED IT TO THE PIER TO LOAD ON THE CASOC LAUNCH TO BAHRAIN.

A US ARMY POST OFFICE **APO 816** WAS OPERATING IN BASRA BETWEEN 22.5.42 AND 15.10.43 THIS SAME A.P.O. WAS MOVED TO AL MUHARRAQ IN BAHRAIN 6.15.1944 TO SERVICE THE US AIR FORCE UNIT STATIONED AT THE BAHRAIN AIRPORT AND THE U.S. NAVAL SHIPS OPERATING IN THE GULF.

DONALSON REPORTS **APO 816** WAS ALSO OPERATING IN EGYPT AS OF JANUARY 1946 AND HE STATES THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF THE 816 CANCELLOR USED IN THE BASRA AND AL MUHARRAQ APO BUT ACTUALLY THERE WERE FOUR TYPES USED DURING WORL WAR II.

TYPE 1 WAS USED IN BASRA INSCRIBED **AMERICAN BASE FORCES APO 816** WITH 816 ALONGSIDE APO.

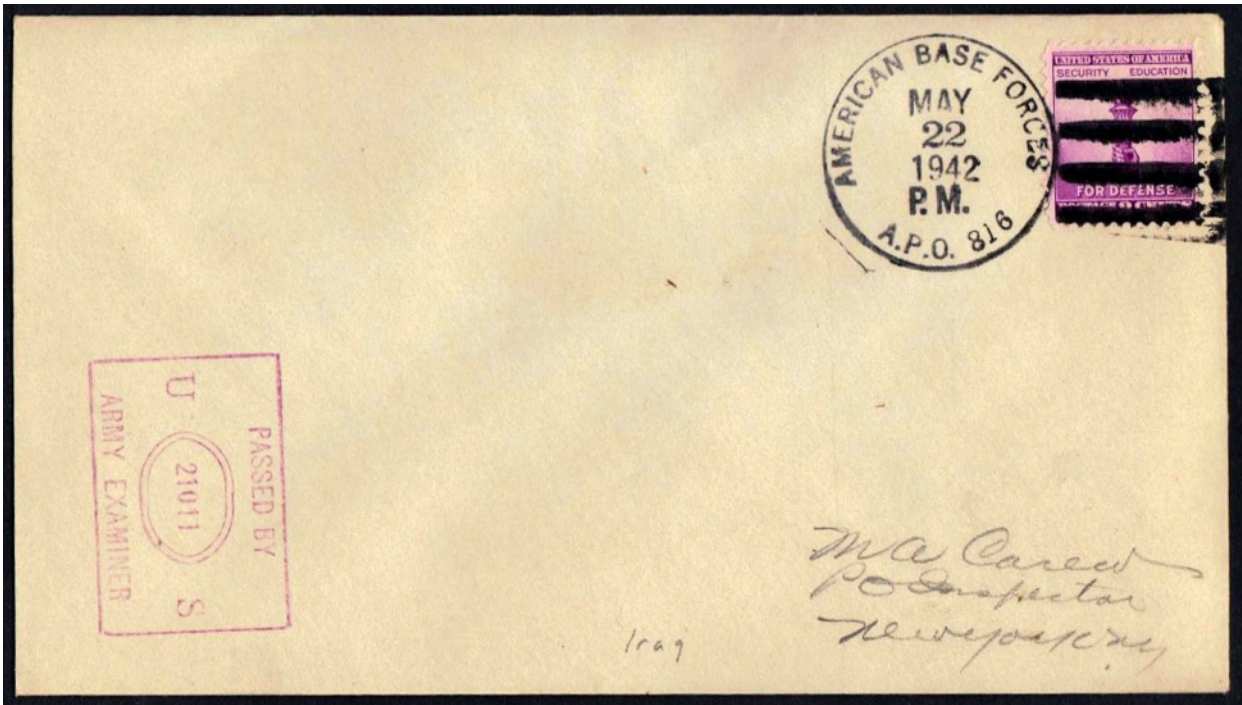


FIG 29: 1942 MAY 22. FIRST DAY OF SERVICE COVER FOR **AMERICAN BASE FORCES APO 816** IN BASRAH CANCELLOR TYPE 1.

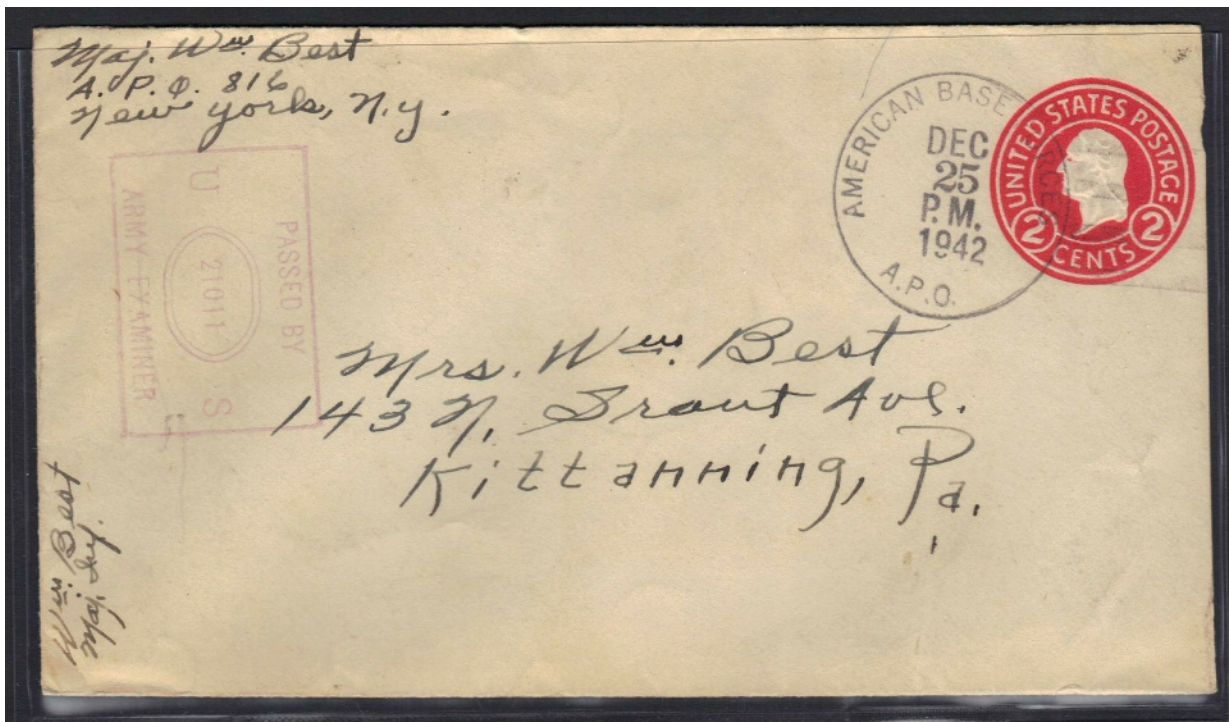


FIG 30: 1942 DEC 25 MILITARY FROM MAJOR WM BEST MAILED IN **BASRA. AMERICAN BASE FORCES APO 816** CANCELLOR TYPE 2 BUT **MISSING 816** AND HANDWRITTEN IN RETURN ADDRESS.



FIG 31: 1944 SEP 26 **US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE APO 816 CANCELLOR TYPE 3** WITH 816 ABOVE APO FROM CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE AT BECHTEL CORP TO OKLAHOMA. NOTE THAT BESIDES CASOC AND BAPCO MAIL APO SERVICES WERE ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO BECHTEL CORP. OPERATING IN THE GULF. EMPLOYEES WERE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE COMPANY NAME AND "CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE" IN THE RETURN ADDRESS.

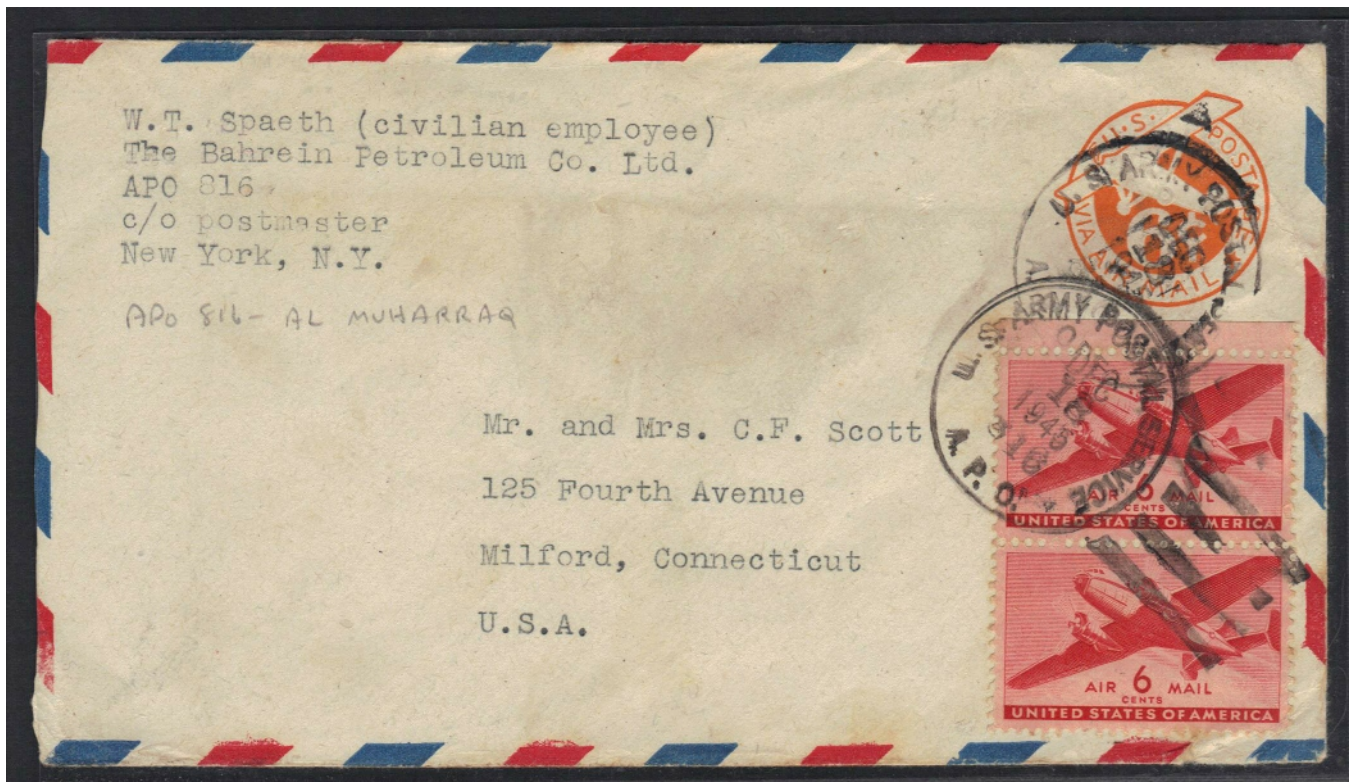


FIG 32: 1945 DEC 18 FROM **BAPCO** BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY CIVILIAN EMLPLOYEE **APO 816 TYPE 3**.

IN JANUARY 1944 CASOC CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY CHANGED ITS NAME TO ARAMCO "ARABIAN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY".

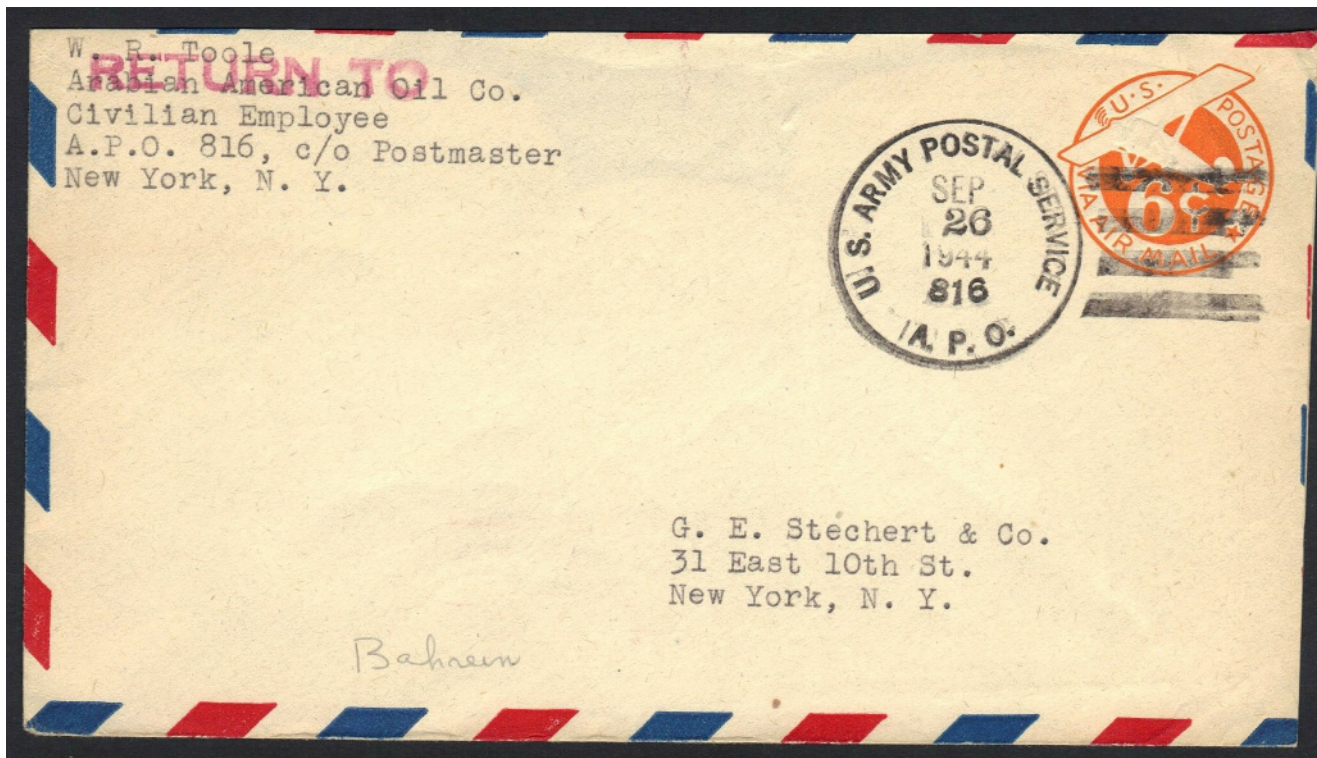


FIG 33: ARABIAN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY COVER FROM W.R. TOOLE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE APO 816 TYPE 3.

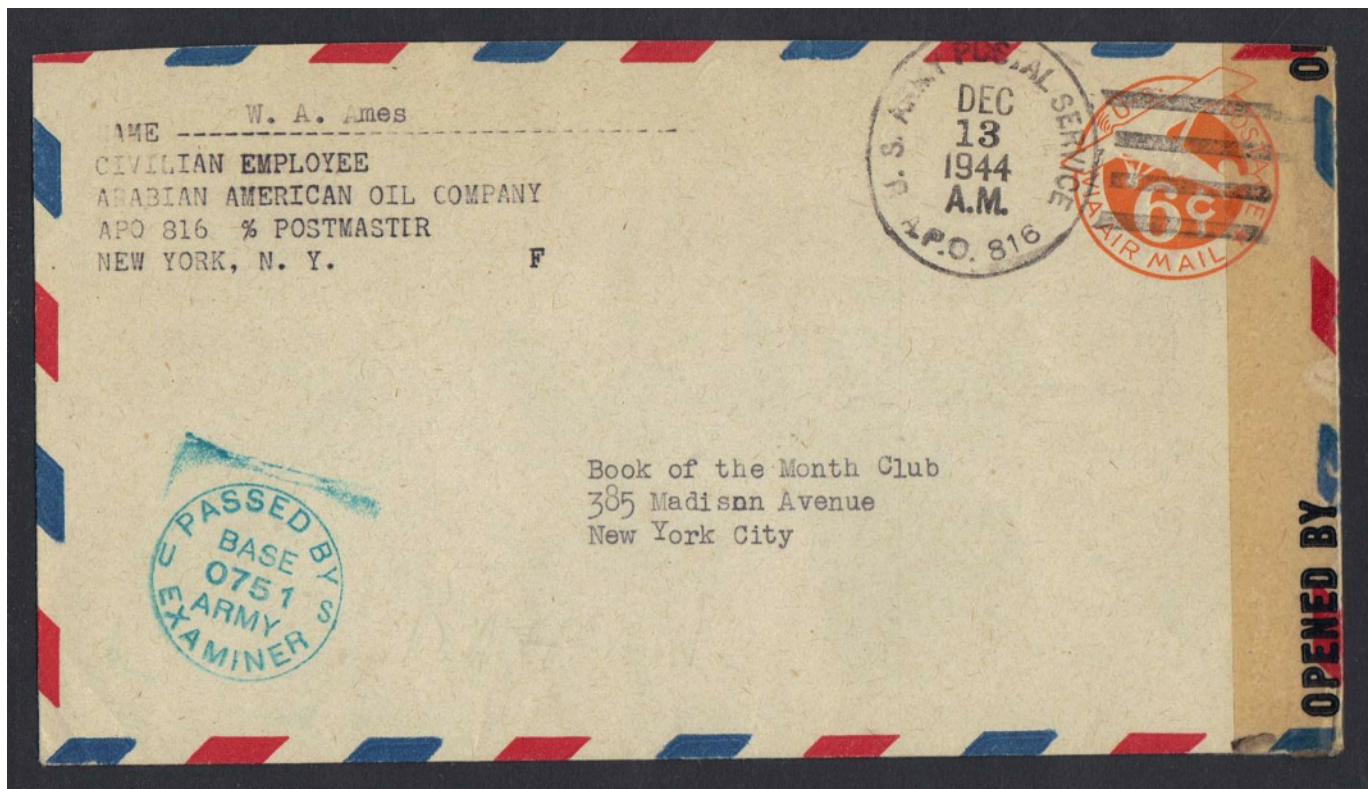


FIG 34: 1944 DEC 13 ARAMCO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE COVER US APO 816 TYPE 4 WITH APO 816 IN ONE LINE ARMY CENSOR IN BLUE FROM AL MUHAHARRAQ IN BAHRAIN TO NEW YORK.

ANOTHER **APO 678** IN EGYPT WAS OPERATING IN HELIOPOLIS SINCE FEB, 1943 AND SOME OF THE CASOC MAIL FOUND ITS WAY TO THAT APO . THIS WAS A BIT CONFUSING TO POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTORS OF APO AND CASOC MAILINGS.



FIG 35: 1944 NOV 22 FROM ARAMCO CASOC (CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE) **APO 678** HELIOPOLIS EGYPT.

THERE WAS CONFUSION ABOUT WHY AN ARAMCO EMPLOYEE COVER WAS MAILED OUTSIDE SAUDI ARABIA AND NOT VIA THE BAHRAIN ROUTE. IT WAS COMMON FOR EMPLOYEES WHO WERE TRAVELING ALONG THE SAME WAR TIME ROUTES WITH STOPOVER IN EGYPT LEBANON SINGAPORE HONG KONG AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND MAILED THEIR HOMEBOUND LETTERS FROM THESE STOP OVER CITIES; AND WHEN AN APO WAS AVAILABLE AS IN HELIOPOLIS EGYPT IT WAS NATURAL TO USE IT.



FIG 36: 1940 AUGUST 8 CASOC COVER FROM BEIRUT LEBANON ARTHUR BROWN TO WILLIAM S. KEW IN LOS ANGELES THE PREVIOUS HEADQUARTERS OF CASOC REGISTERED AIR MAIL LETTER TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT MADE ABOVE.



FIG 37: 1943 FEB 25 MILITARY COVER FROM SGT JOHN MULLAN MAILED IN HELIOPOLIS EGYPT APO 678 HANDWRITTEN IN RETURN ADDRESS.

WHEN APO SERVICE ENDED ON MARCH 20 1945 MAIL SERVICE FOR ARAMCO REVERTED TO THE PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS WITH BOAC SERVICE FROM BAHRAIN.

DURING THE WAR PERIOD AND AFTER THE OPENING OF THE AL KHOBAR POST OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER 1941 CASOC OUTGOING MAIL BORE SAUDI STAMPS AND OCCASIONALLY WAS LOADED ON THE COMPANY BOAT WITHOUT SAUDI STAMPS AND FRANKED WITH BAHRAINI STAMPS. THIS PROCEDURE PERSISTED UP TO AUGUST 15, 1945 AND THE END OF WORLD WAR II.