

# U.S. AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

## The Bi-color Issue of 1936

The United States reused the design of the 1934 air mail special delivery issue in 1936, when it issued the 16¢ airmail special delivery stamp this time in two colors, red for airmail and blue for special delivery. Numerous printings took place for this stamp for over five years.

The stamp provides a most interesting plate number study, even though eight plates were assigned to print the issue. The panes of 50 each bore one plate number in the top position. The left side plate block did not have plate maker Frank Marti's "F" in front of the numbers but the right side plates did. There are four main types of plate number layouts, with and without arrows, and with different guide line combinations.

Type I, the first printing, has five margin types, including the words "TOP" which were placed near the plate numbers to prevent another inverted air mail stamp (this word was eventually added to the 1918 24¢ airmail after the discovery of the inverted design). The first type has the word "TOP" fully printed; the second type has the word "TOP" scooped out (apparently the plate did not receive sufficient ink). Three other line varieties are known and illustrated.

The second printing is the rarest. This is distinguished by thick red and thin blue guidelines. The Ralph Sloat printing information is wrong as is shown by the research which appeared in the 1998 U.S. Specialist journal. The third printing, which has no arrows but a blue dotted line previously was thought to be the rarest design.

To the best of the author's knowledge, no collector has completed all type II and type III numbers in all positions (64 different of each). Type IV, the last printing, can be found with and without the complete word "TOP". In all, there are six possible matched sets of 64 plates each to collect, plus additional plates if one could obtain all of the types of the type IA, B and C plates, or a grand total of 330.

Covers to and from abroad are difficult to obtain. Interesting domestic usages are not easy either. One small die proof existss. No trial color proofs are known. The stamp has one great rarity, one sheet of 50 was found and eventually broken up in the 1940s by Henry E. Harris of Boston, after marking each of the stampns with the position number on the lower left hand corner.



First Day Cover

Backstamped San Francisco, Ca., February 11, 1936, 10p.m.  
4th Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps, Shanghai, China, March 3, 1936

Backstamp



# Issue of February 10, 1936

Two colors signified the stamp's dual purpose for both airmail and Special Delivery service.



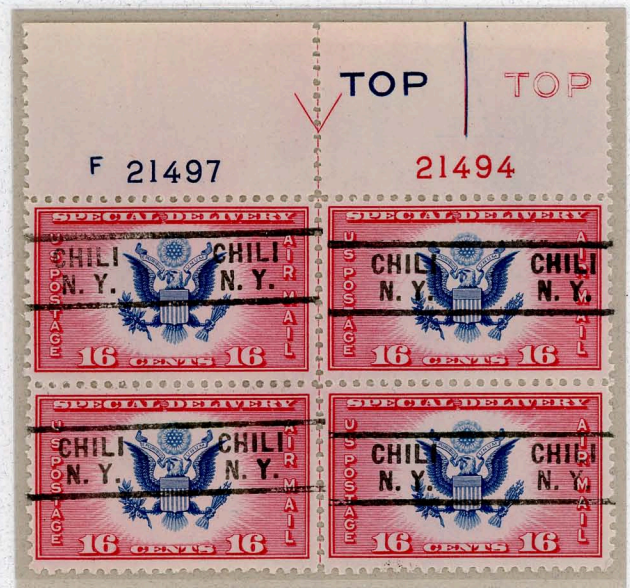
Small die proof  
red & blue on wove paper



Slogan indicia



Thin lines stacked (Type I) with precancel



Thin lines stacked (Type I) with Scooped 'TOP'



Thick red with thin blue lines (Type II)



Thin red and blue dotted line with blue dot (Type III)



# Varieties



Imperforate vertically  
16 pairs recorded



blue shifted down



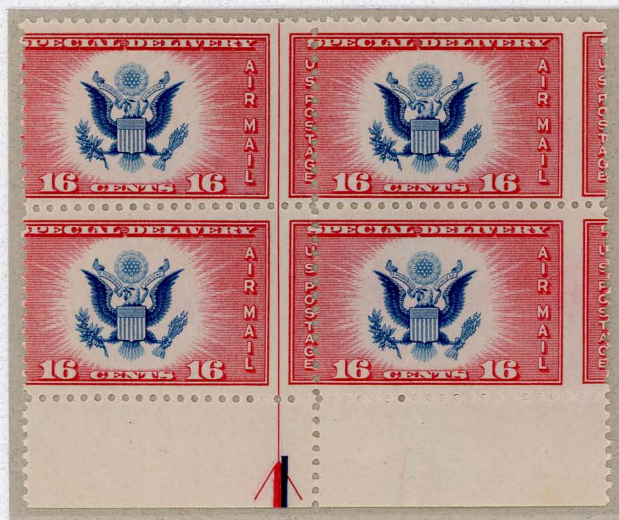
blue shifted right



Pre-printing paper fold



Misperforation



Misperforation



Pre-perforation paper fold



# Carrier Markings



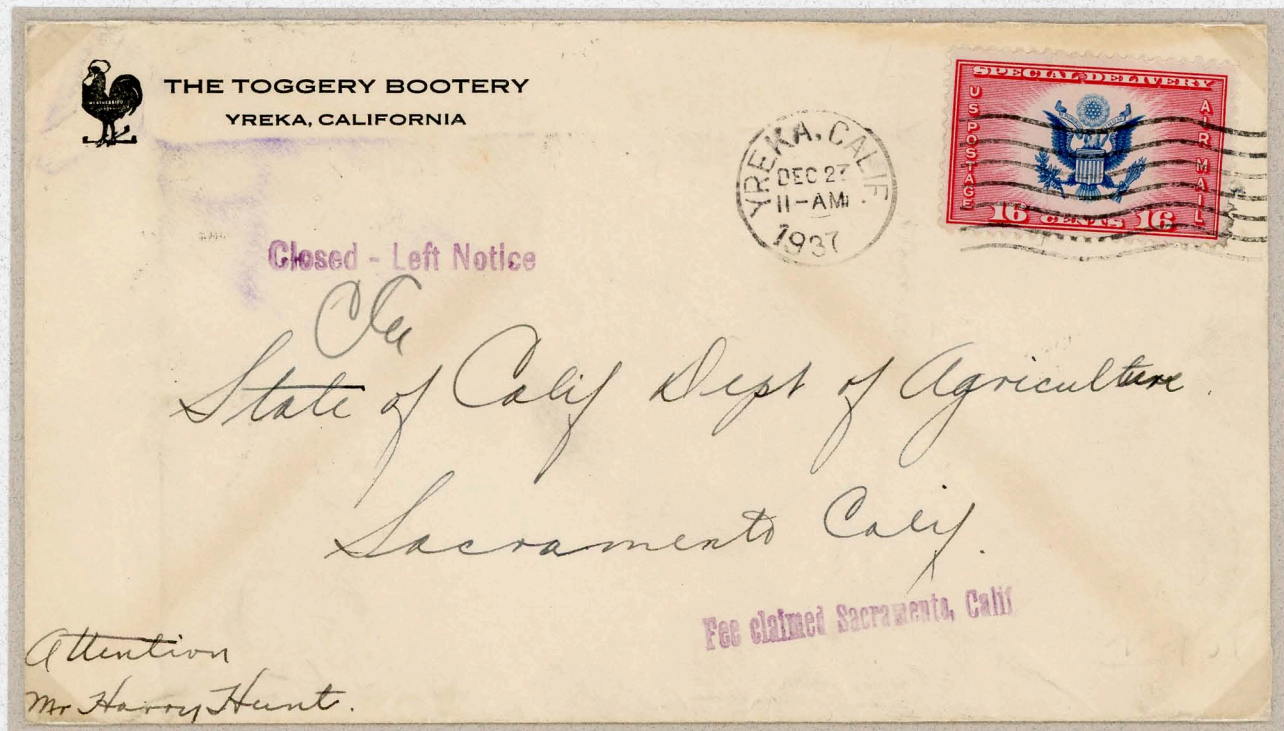
'Missent to and forwarded from Jersey City, N.J.'



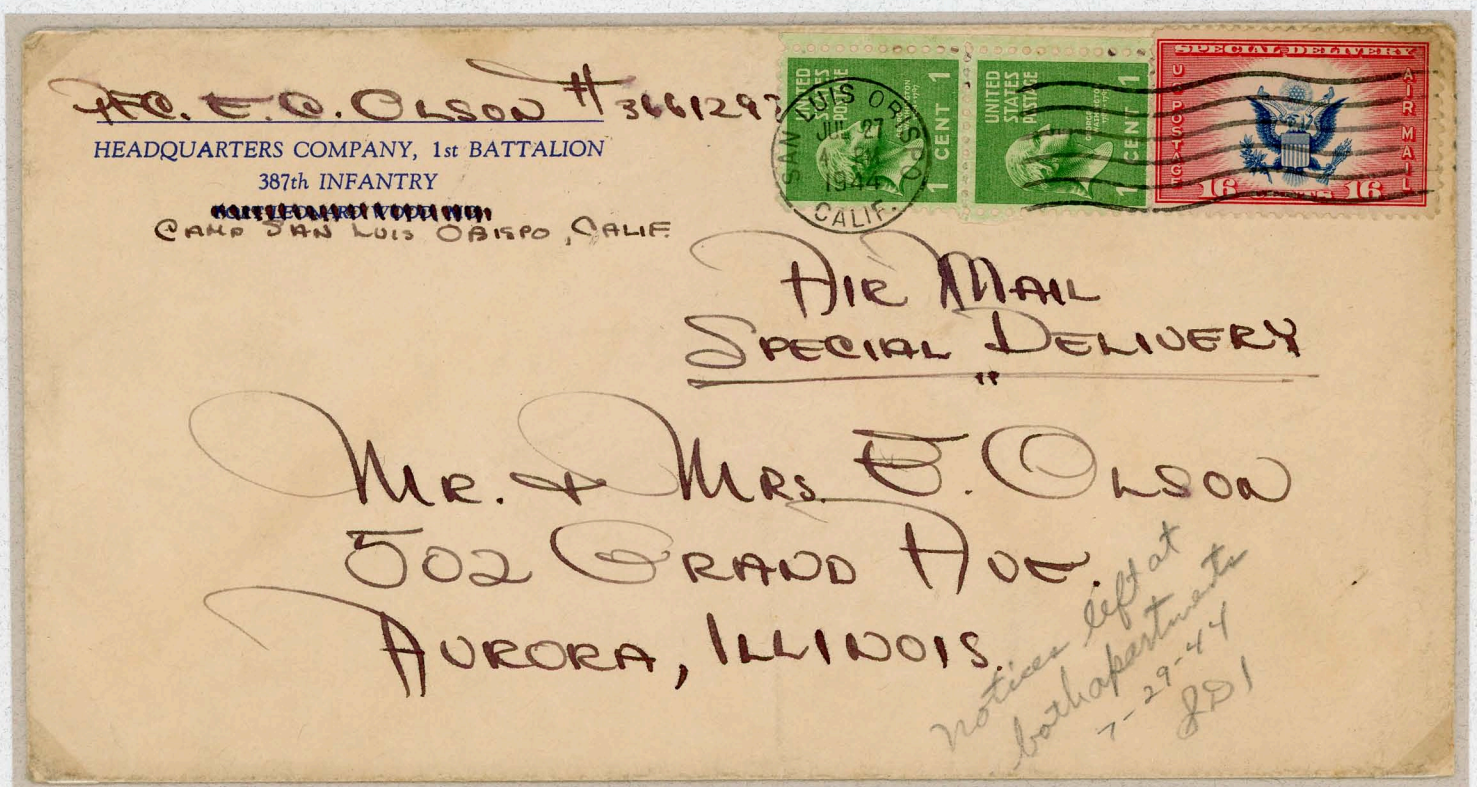
'Delayed - Special Delivery, Found in middle of letter pack'



## Non-delivery Carrier Markings



Non-delivery due to 'Closed - Left Notice'



Manuscript "Notices left at both apartments, 7/29/44, LDJ"  
8c Airmail rate March 26, 1944 through September 30, 1946



## Military Origin



Single stamp properly used for Airmail and Special Delivery service



Mailed November 5, 1944 and returned for postage due (incorrectly)  
6¢ airmail stamp added November 7, 1944 and remailed



## Train Wreck



Los Angeles, Ca. to Cincinnati, Oh., November 9, 1936  
 "Damaged in Wreck of Chicago and Cincinnati Train 34, November 11, '36"  
 Received in Indianapolis, In. November 11, 1936 and forwarded to addressee

## Territorial Destination



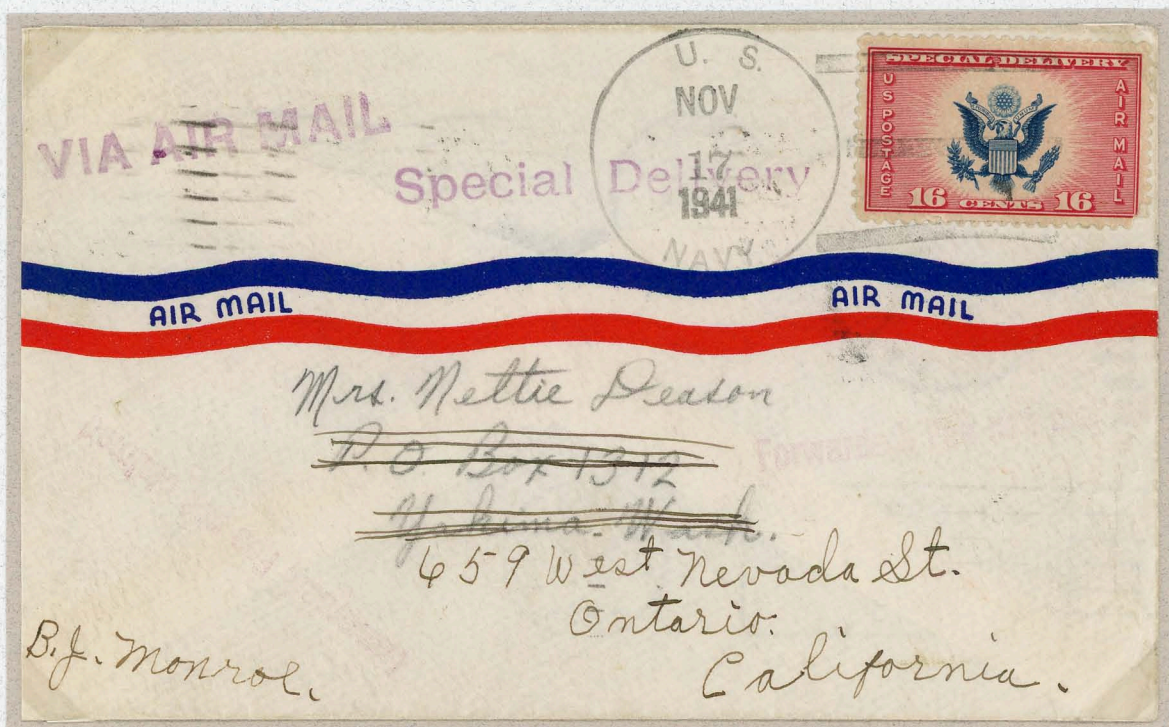
Washington, D.C. to Fort Clayton, Canal Zone, December 3, 1937  
 Airmail rate 15¢ (1/2 oz.), Special Delivery fee 10¢, overpaid 1¢



# Military Origin



No 'Free' postage for students at training facilities was authorized



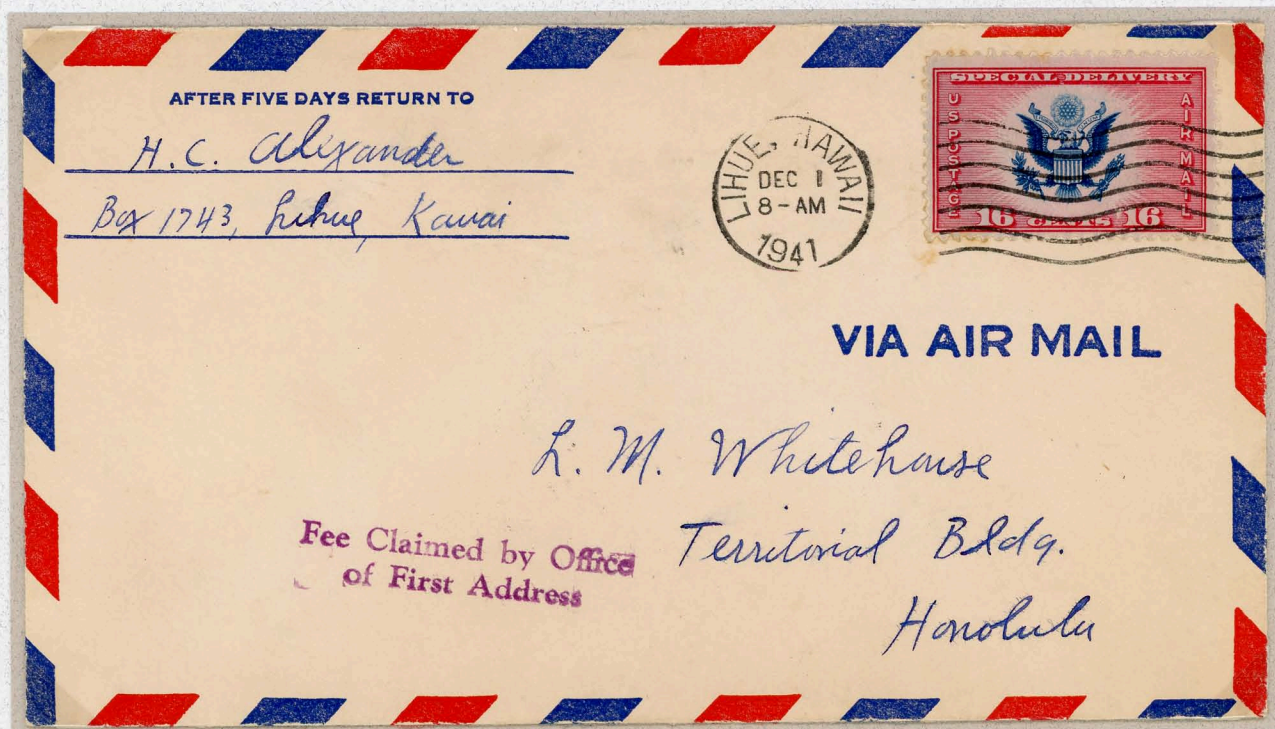
Mailed from U.S.S. Milwaukee and forwarded without additional fee



## Territorial Destination



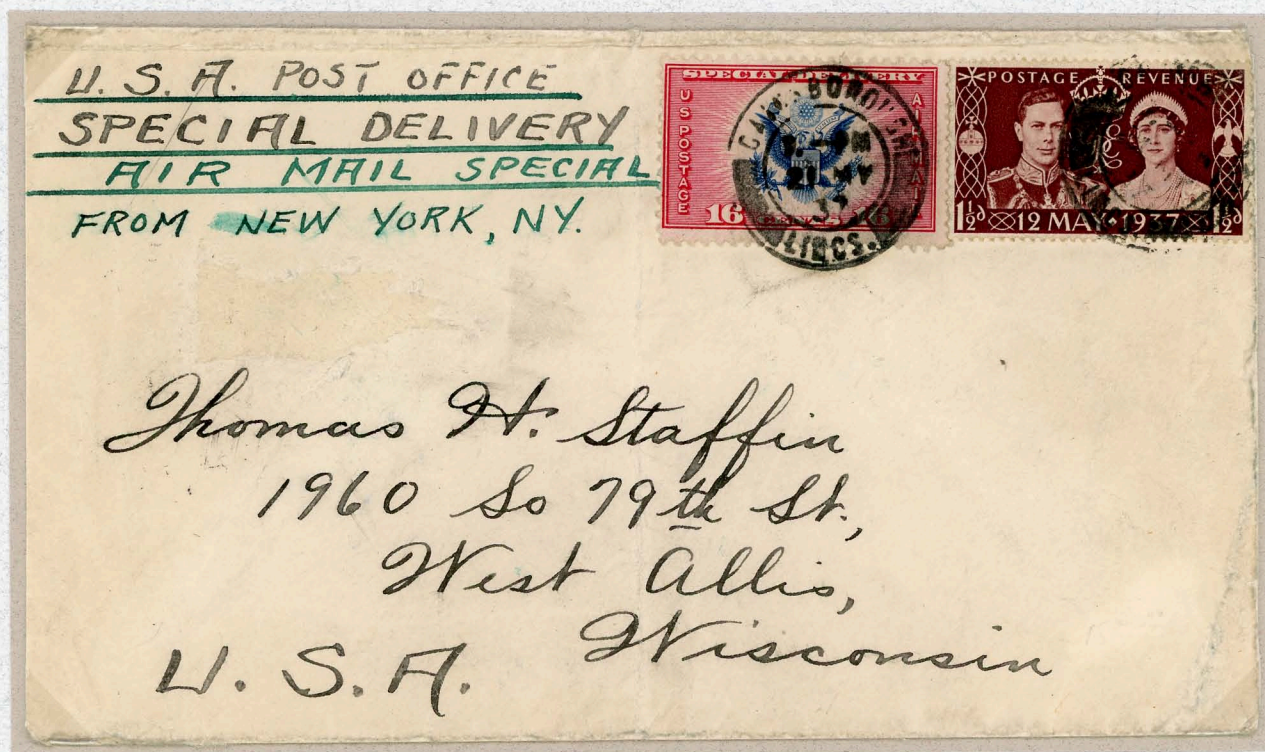
Censored, Marblehead, Ma., to Honolulu, Hawaii, May 11, 1942  
20¢ Clipper airmail rate, 10¢ Special Delivery



Lihue to Honolulu, Hawaii, December 1, 1941 (6 days before Pearl Harbor)



# Foreign Origin



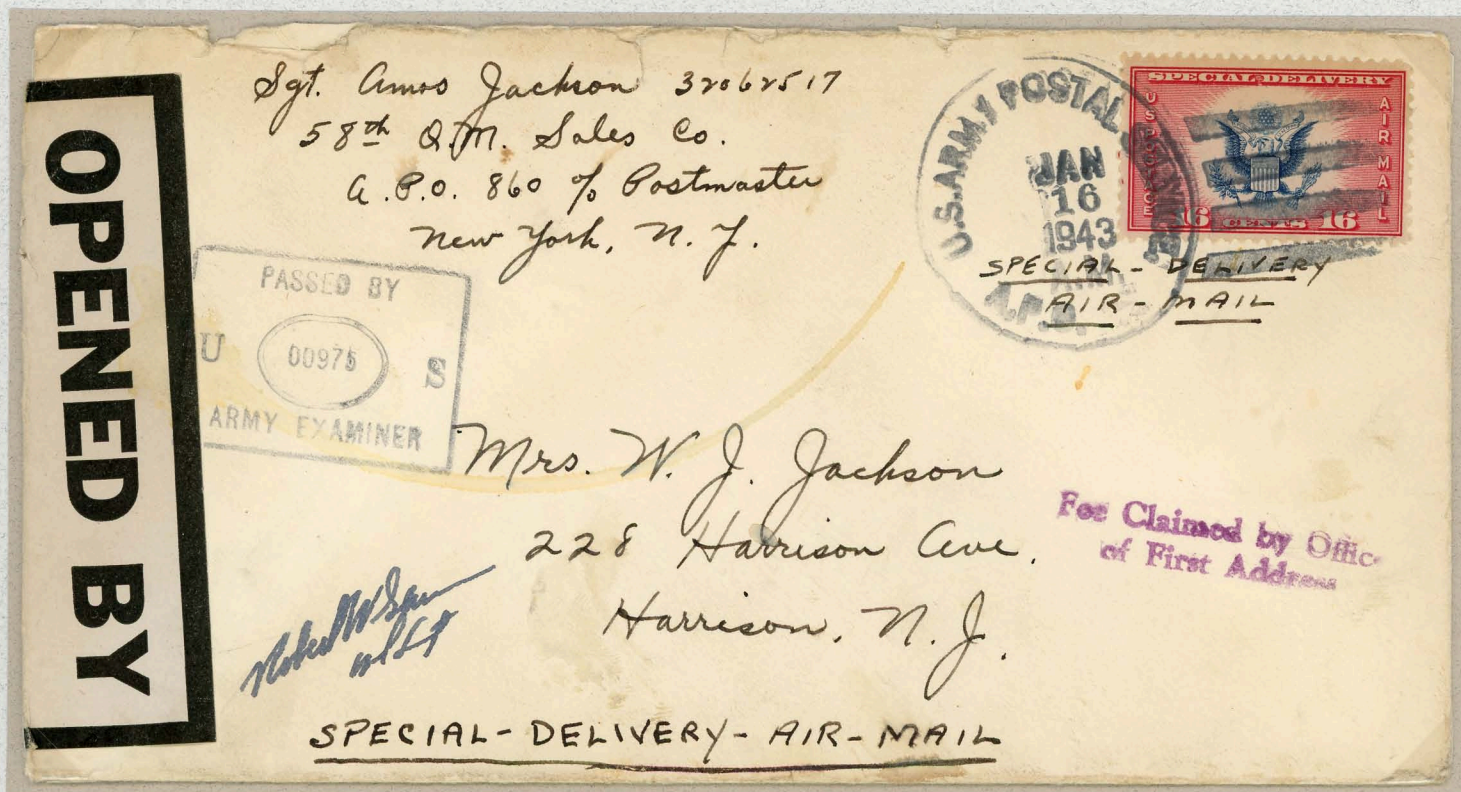
Gainesbourough, England to West Allis, Wi., May 21, 1937  
 Received in Milwaukee, Wi., June 3, 1937, 5 A.M.  
 Entered into Special Delivery service at 6 A.M.



Shoreham by Sea, Sussex, England to Harrisville, Mi., December 2, 1938  
 Receiving backstamp New York, N.Y., December 9, 1938  
 Arrival handstamp Harrisville, Mi., December 12, 1938  
 Forwarded to New York, N.Y., December 13, 1938



Foreign Origin  
U.S. Offices Abroad



U.S. Army Postal Service, A.P.O. 860 (Iceland), January 16, 1943 to Harrison, N.J.  
Censored with receiving backstamp Harrison, N.J., February 13, 1943

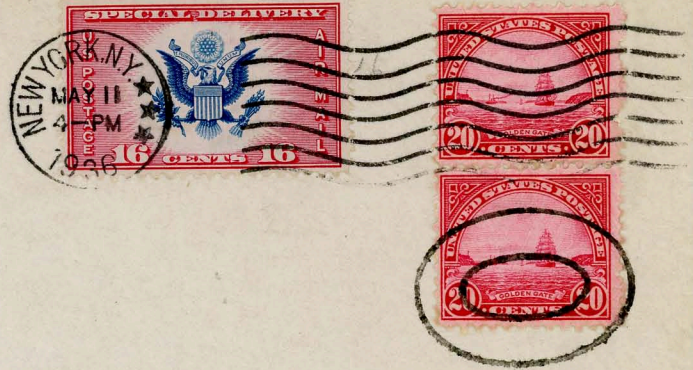


U.S. Army Postal Service, A.P.O. 515 (Chester, England), March 28, 1944 to Urbana, Oh.  
Censored with receiving backstamp Urbana, Oh., April 1, 1944



## Via Airship

BY FIRST EASTERN FLIGHT  
"HINDENBURG"  
VIA FRANKFURT, GERMANY  
AIR MAIL THROUGHOUT

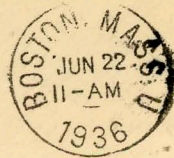


AUG. G. GUTMUELLER,  
1902 Richmond Road,  
TOLEDO, OHIO, U. S. A.

New York, N.Y. to Toledo, Oh. via the Hindenburg airship, May 11, 1936  
Backstamped Frankfurt (Main) 2, May 14, 1936

## Foreign Destination

E. R. Doane  
523 Statler Bldg.,  
Boston, Mass .



Mr. J. D. Cox,  
Upper Stewiacke,  
Nova Scotia.

Special Delivery - Air Mail

Boston, Ma. to Nova Scotia, Canada (rate same as U.S. domestic rate)



# Foreign Destination



Special Delivery manuscript instruction crossed out and postage due assessed



Special Delivery service not provided, 10¢ postage due assessed  
Canadian handstamps indicate short paid status of mail and 20¢ Canadian Special Delivery fee



[illegible]

Eventually returned to sender for better address



## Foreign Destination



Fee insufficient, 'Not in Special Delivery Mail' handstamp added  
Backstamped Wash. & Chi. W.D. R.P.O., February 29, 1936  
Air Mail Field, Cleveland, February 29, 1936  
Paris, France Distribution, March 10, 1936  
Service not provided in France



Fee insufficient, 'Not in Special Delivery Mail' handstamp added  
Backstamped Chicago & Atlanta N.D. R.P.O., March 10, 1936  
Montmorency, France, March 18, 1936  
Service not provided in France



# Foreign Destination



a i r m a i l

CATAPULT SERVICE FROM:

S.S. B R E M E N .



MR. ALBERT NEUHELLER  
14 PFLUGGASSE  
B A S E L .

S W I T Z E R L A N D .



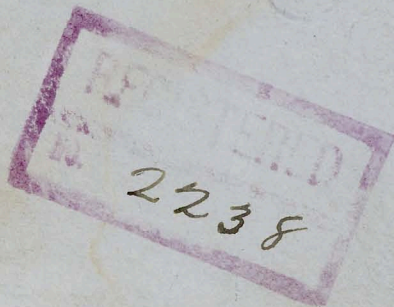
Backstamped Paris, France, Transit Air Transport (Avion), July 22, 1936  
Domestic airmail 6¢, 1 ounce airmail (catapult) 40¢, Special Delivery 20¢ = 66¢  
No indication Special Delivery service provided in Switzerland

Senate of Pennsylvania

XXVI DISTRICT  
RICHARD S. QUIGLEY  
LOCK HAVEN, PA.



The Rev. Walcott P. Furst,  
c/o The Consulate of the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
HONG KONG, CHINA.



Via Air Mail

Backstamped Lockhaven, Pa., January 5, 1938  
New York, N.Y., Registry & Foreign Mail sections, January 6, 1938  
San Francisco, Ca. Registry section, January 7, 1938  
American Consul General, Hong Kong, January 20, 1938  
Registration 15¢, Indemnity for \$1,000 13¢, Special Delivery 20¢, 2.5 ounces domestic 18¢, airmail 3.50 = \$4.16  
No indication Special Delivery service was provided



## Domestic Service



Postal card with Airmail Special Delivery services, backstamped Huntington, N.Y.



Proper usage of single stamp providing Airmail and Special Delivery services



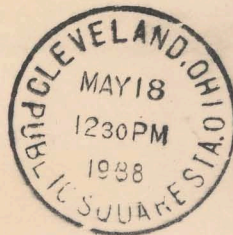
## Domestic Service



Forwarded without additional fee

## Official Mail Service

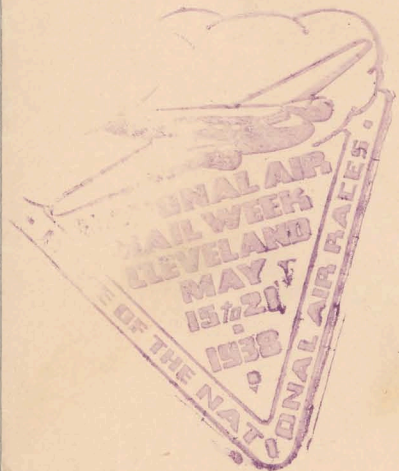
IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 5 DAYS RETURN TO  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CLEVELAND, OHIO



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Special Delivery - Air Mail

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Bureau of Passport Control  
Washington, D. C.



Penalty did not prepay airmail or Special Delivery fees, backstamped Washington, D.C., May 18, 1938, 8 P.M.



Domestic Service



Confirmation handstamp 'Special Delivery Fee Paid 10 Cents'



Combination services, Airmail, Registration and Special Delivery



# Domestic Service



Forwarded without additional fees



Forwarded with 'Nights - Sundays' handstamp notice, manuscript indicates "Will call"  
Second delivery attempt paid with postage due stamps