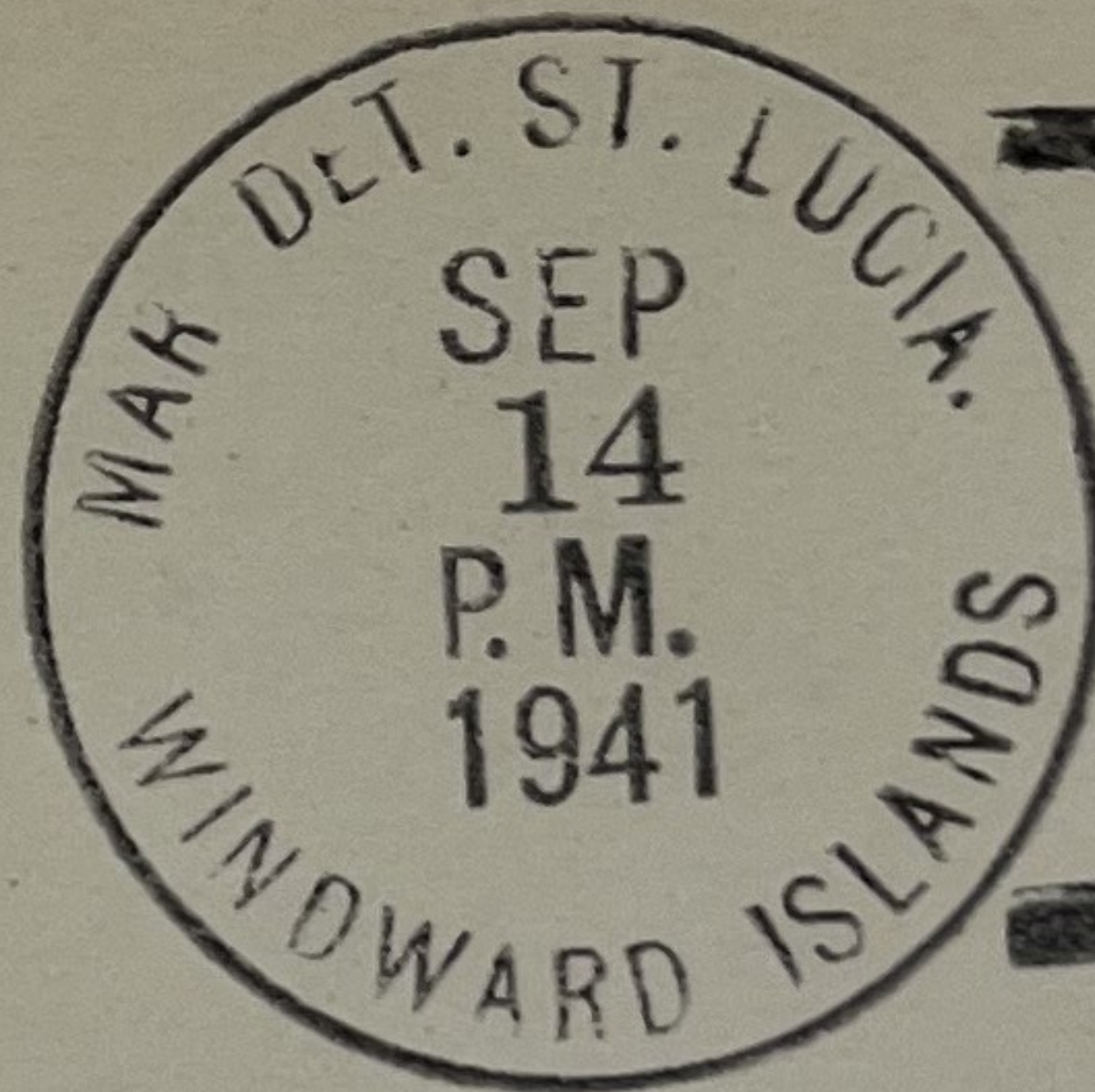


THE YANKS IN ST. LUCIA

In September 1940, one year after the start of the Second World War, the United States & Great Britain made a "Lend-Lease" Agreement under which 50 old American destroyers were transferred to Britain. In exchange the United States were given the right to establish bases on St. Lucia and other West Indian Islands to assist in the defence of the Western Hemisphere (and particularly the Panama Canal) from the Nazis. As a result, in 1941, 2 U.S. Post Offices were established on St. Lucia, originally at Gros Islet in the north west of the island and then at Vieux Fort on the southern tip of St. Lucia. Current U.S. stamps were sold at these Post Offices and could be used by members of the U.S. armed forces and other U.S. citizens entitled to use them.



ROBERT V. WALTON
P. O. BOX 354
MACON, GEORGIA

A postcard from the Marine Detachment at Gros Islet St. Lucia on September 14th, 1941 at the postcard surface rate of 1c with a Cachet detailing the bases leased to the U.S.A.

Gros Islet
The Marines

A Military Post Office was established at Gros Islet on 28th April 1941, after a Marine Detachment arrived and a Naval Air Base was under construction there. 2 types of cancellation were used. The first, introduced on 28th April, was only in use for 2 months and refers to the Marine Detachment on St. Lucia.



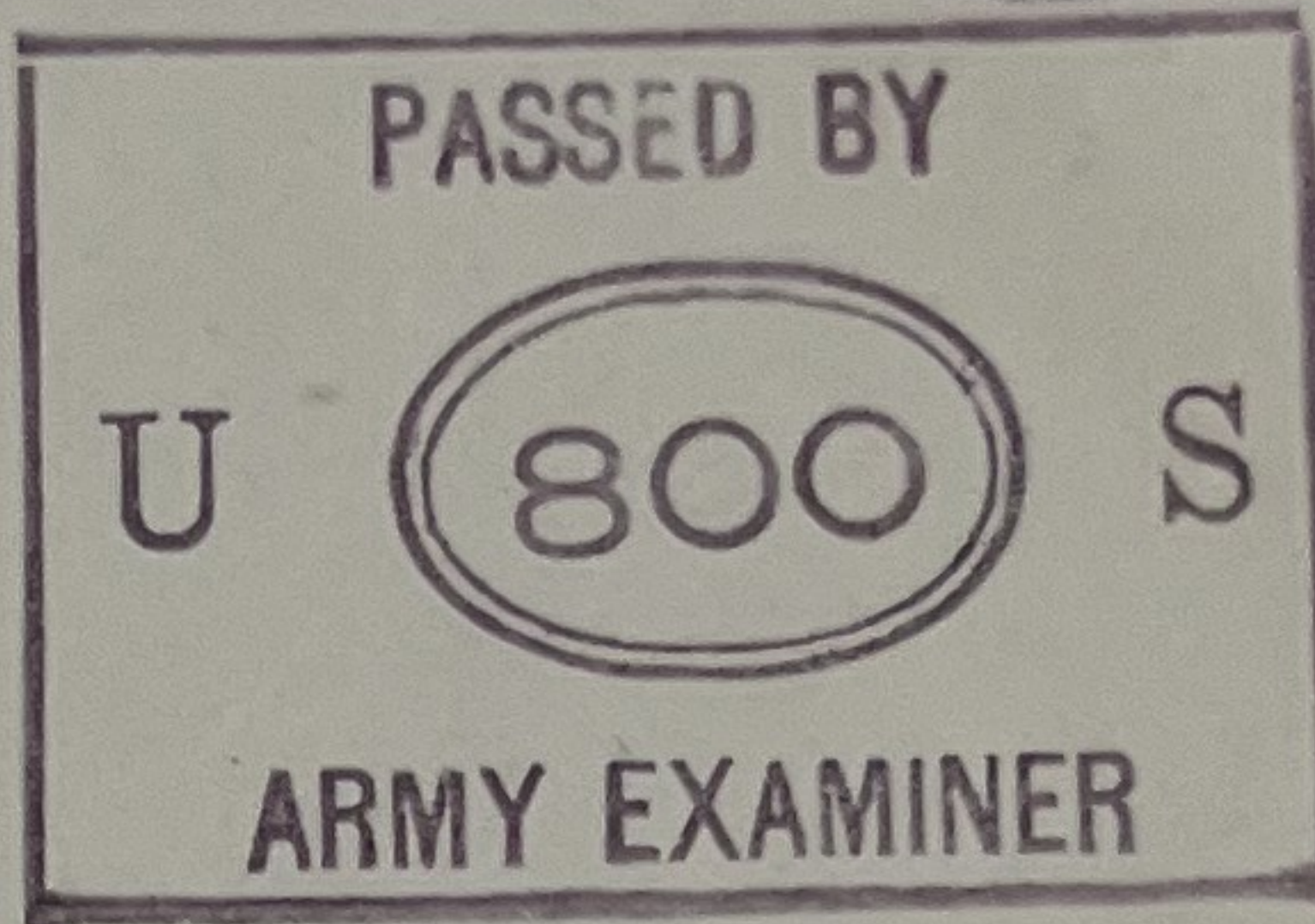
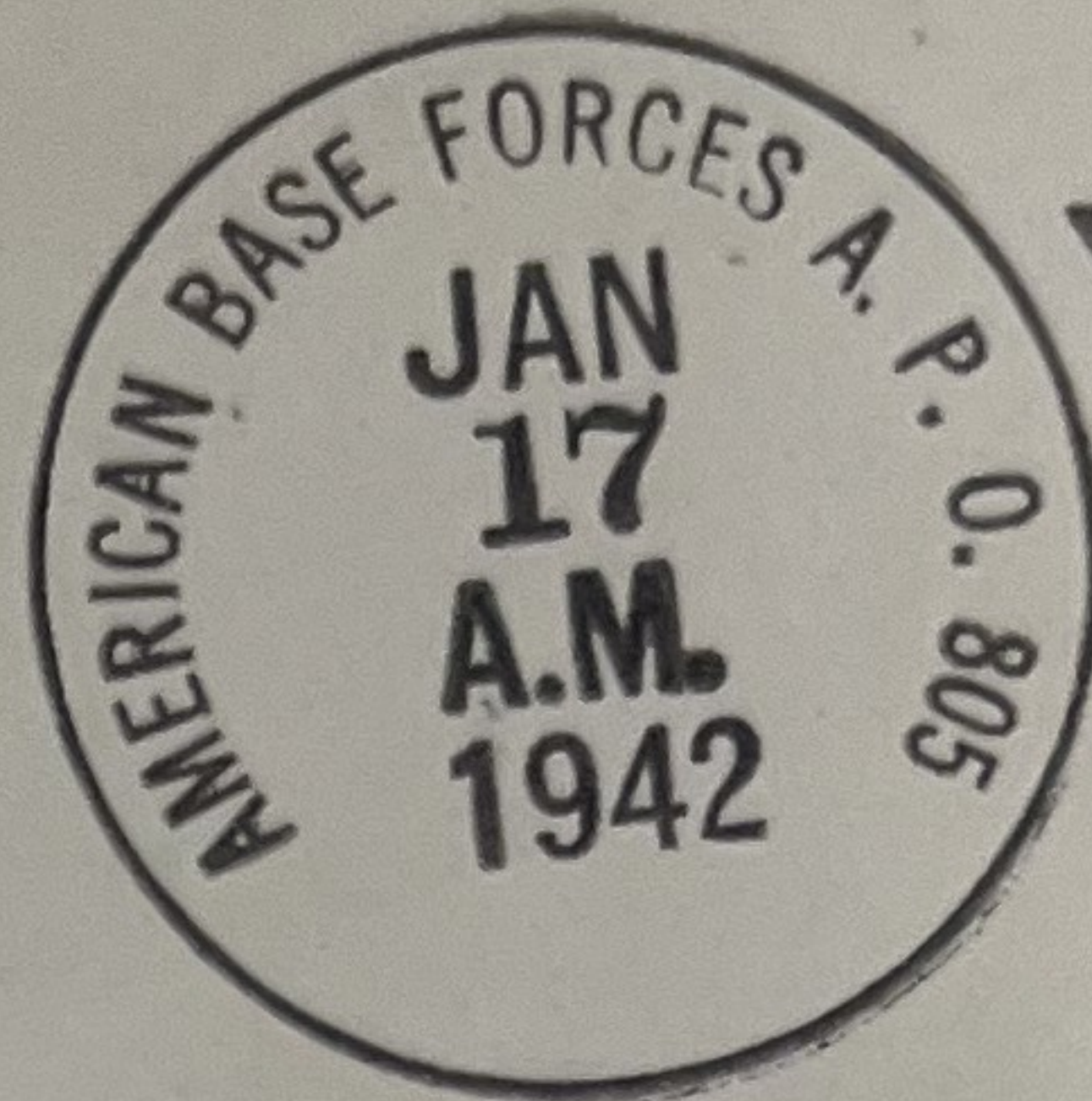
A cover posted at Gros Islet on 28th April 1941, the day the Post Office was opened and sent to New Jersey by air. The air mail rate was then only 10c per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz but this cover bears a 15c U.S. air stamp.

A patriotic cover sent to New York on 4th May 1941 at the 3c surface rate.



Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 805

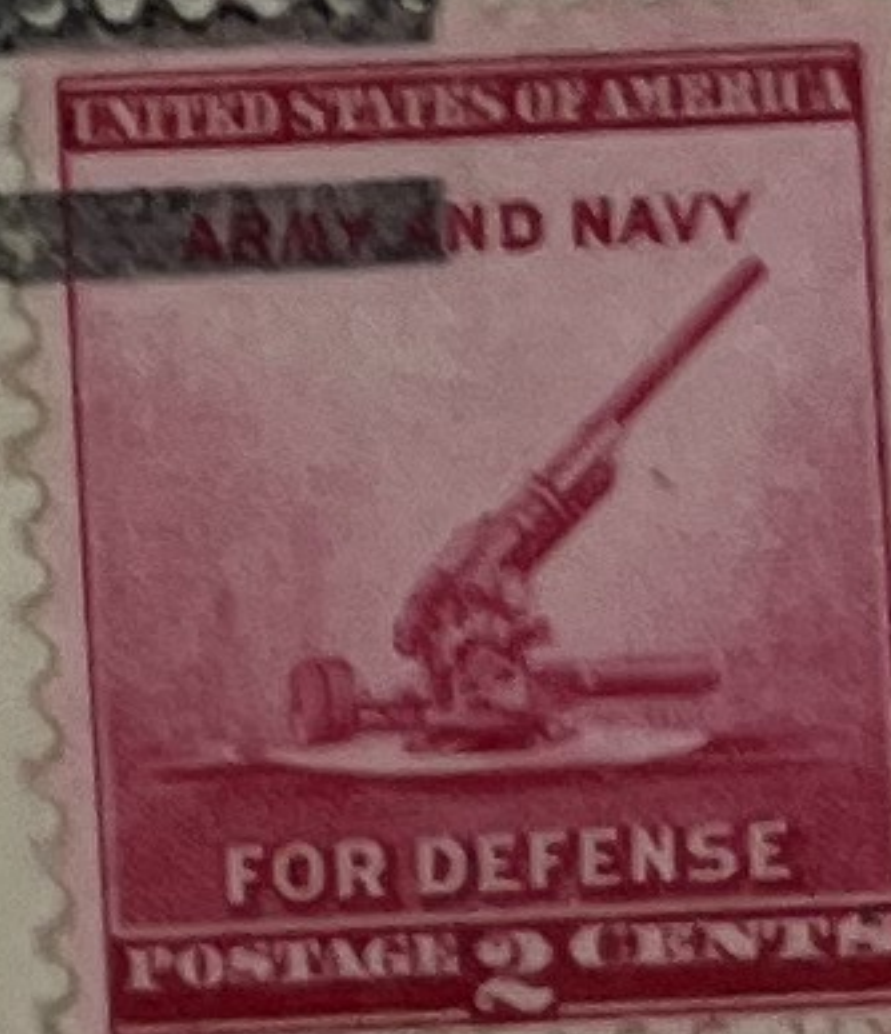
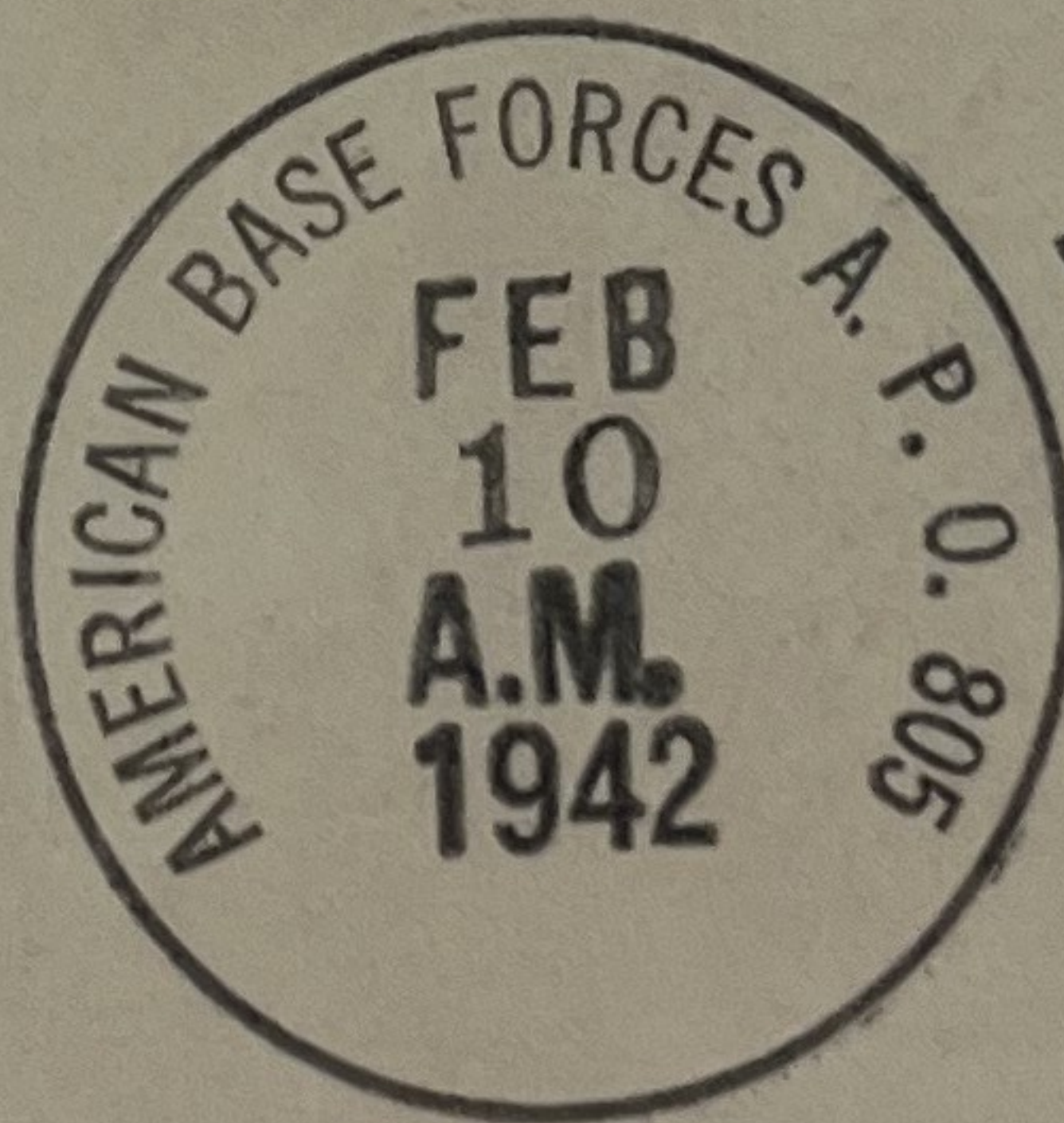
On 7th December 1941, the Japanese attacked the American Fleet at Pearl Harbour and the U.S.A. entered the war. From 8th December the U.S. Forces overseas rate was reduced for surface mail to 1½c, as on this censored cover sent from St. Lucia to Chicago on 17th January 1942. The cachet now includes the A.P.O. number and refers to "Pearl Harbour".



WILLIAM O. MILLING
U.S.N.
5710 N. Bernard St.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FROM

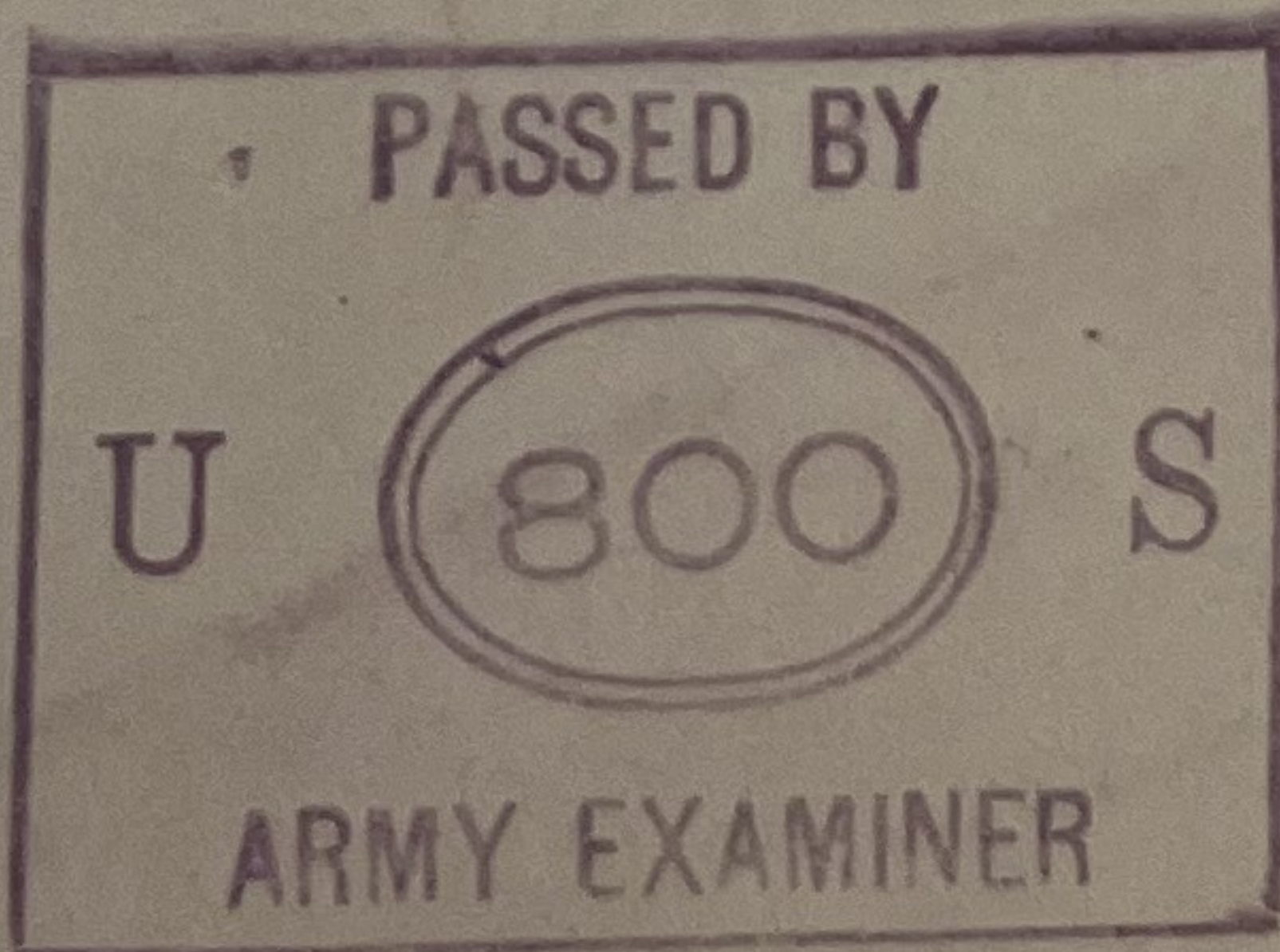
A. P. O. #805



Mr. Erik Heyl,

25 Virgil Avenue,

Buffalo, N. Y.



The U.S. Forces air mail rate was reduced on the same day from 15c to 6c as on this censored cover to Buffalo on 10th Feb 1942. On both these covers the cancellation was in black but the censor mark was purple.

Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 867

On 1st April 1942, the A.P.O. number on St. Lucia was changed from 805 to 867.

Wm. Byrd
H. E. Summers
New York, N.Y.
A.P.O. # 867



VIA AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO

Mr Alvin G. Johnson
1261 1/2 Jefferson St
Rockport, Ill

BASE
1261
ARMY
UNIVERSITY

OPENED BY

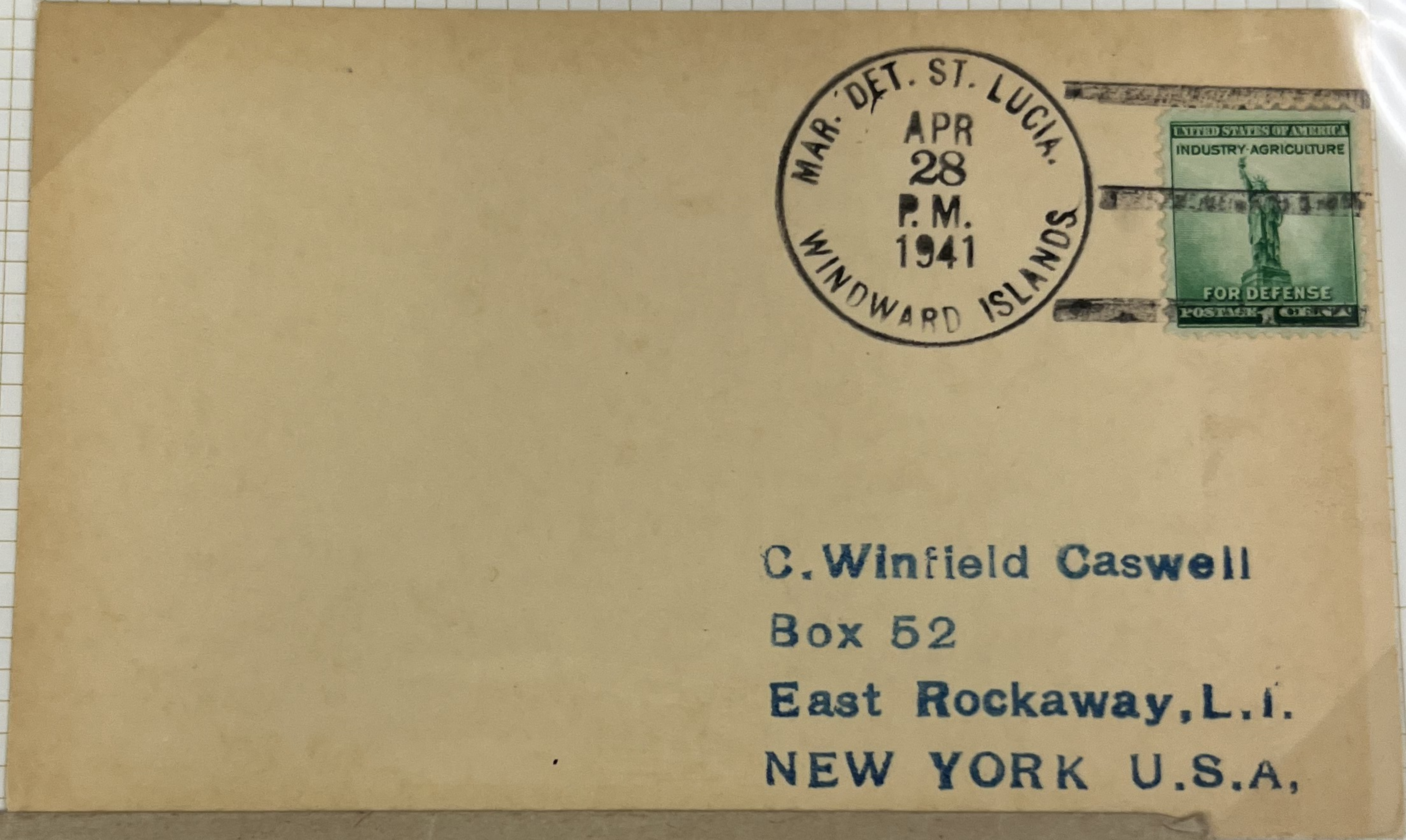
PAR
AVION

A censored cover sent on 23rd Dec. 1943 from A.P.O. 867 to Illinois at the 6c U.S. Forces air rate, bearing the mark "Passed by Base Army Examiner" and re-sealed at the left with tape inscribed "Opened by U.S. Army Examiner".

US Forces Postal Services

In 1941, under the "Lend-Lease" Agreement, 50 old US Destroyers were transferred to Britain in exchange for the US being given bases in British Colonies in the Caribbean including 1 on St. Lucia. 2 US Post Offices were established on St. Lucia:-

1) at Gros Islet, in the north of the Island, where a Marine Detachment was established in April 1941. Mail going via this Post Office bore 2 different types of cancellation as shown on these 2 Patriotic covers, the first with just cancellation bars on the right side and the 2nd with "British West Indies" between the bars. The Marine base closed at the end of January 1942, as did the Post Office.



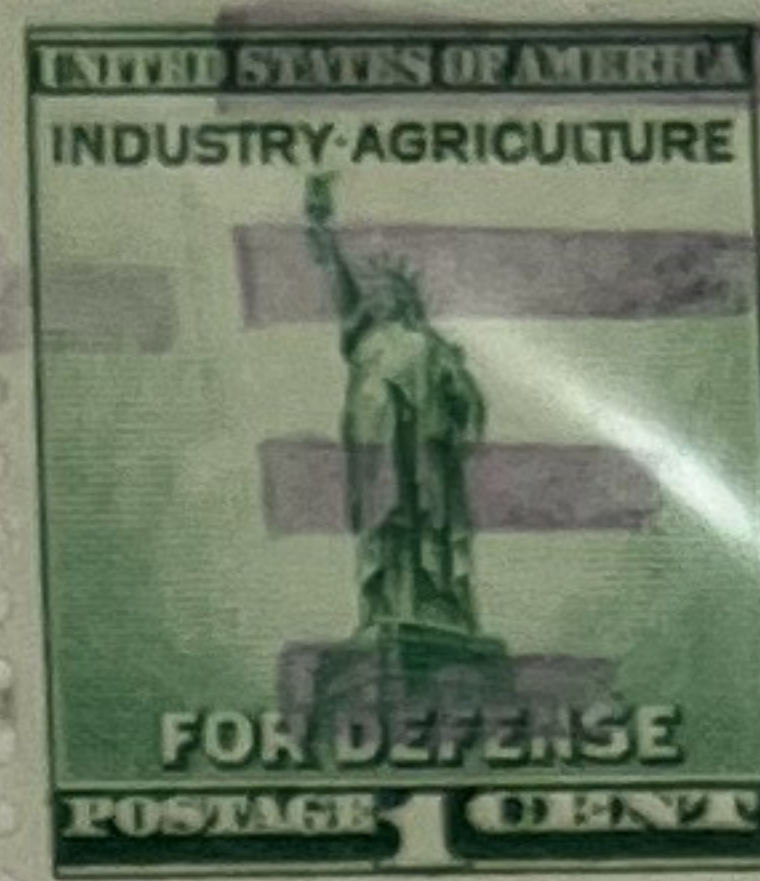
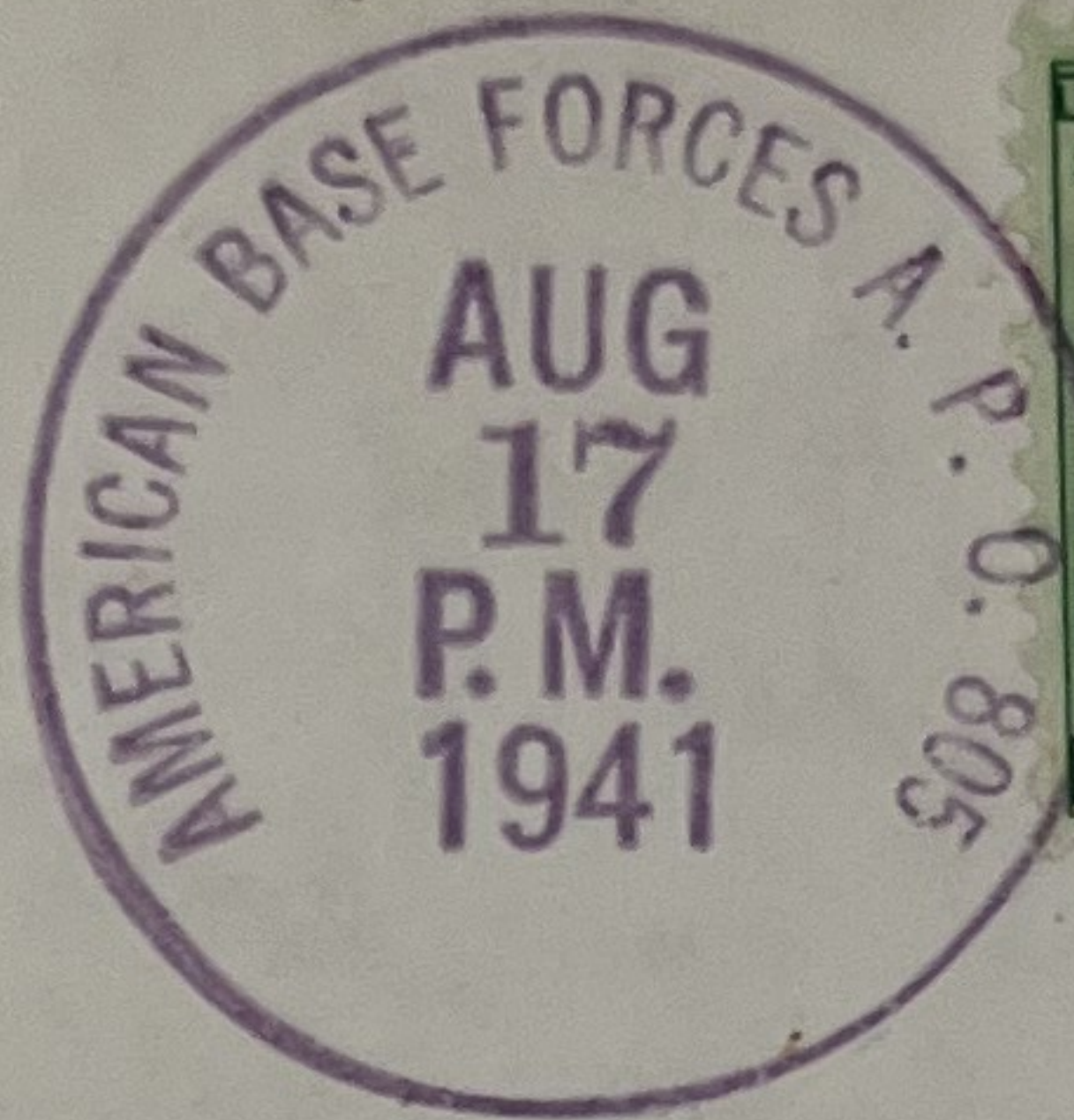
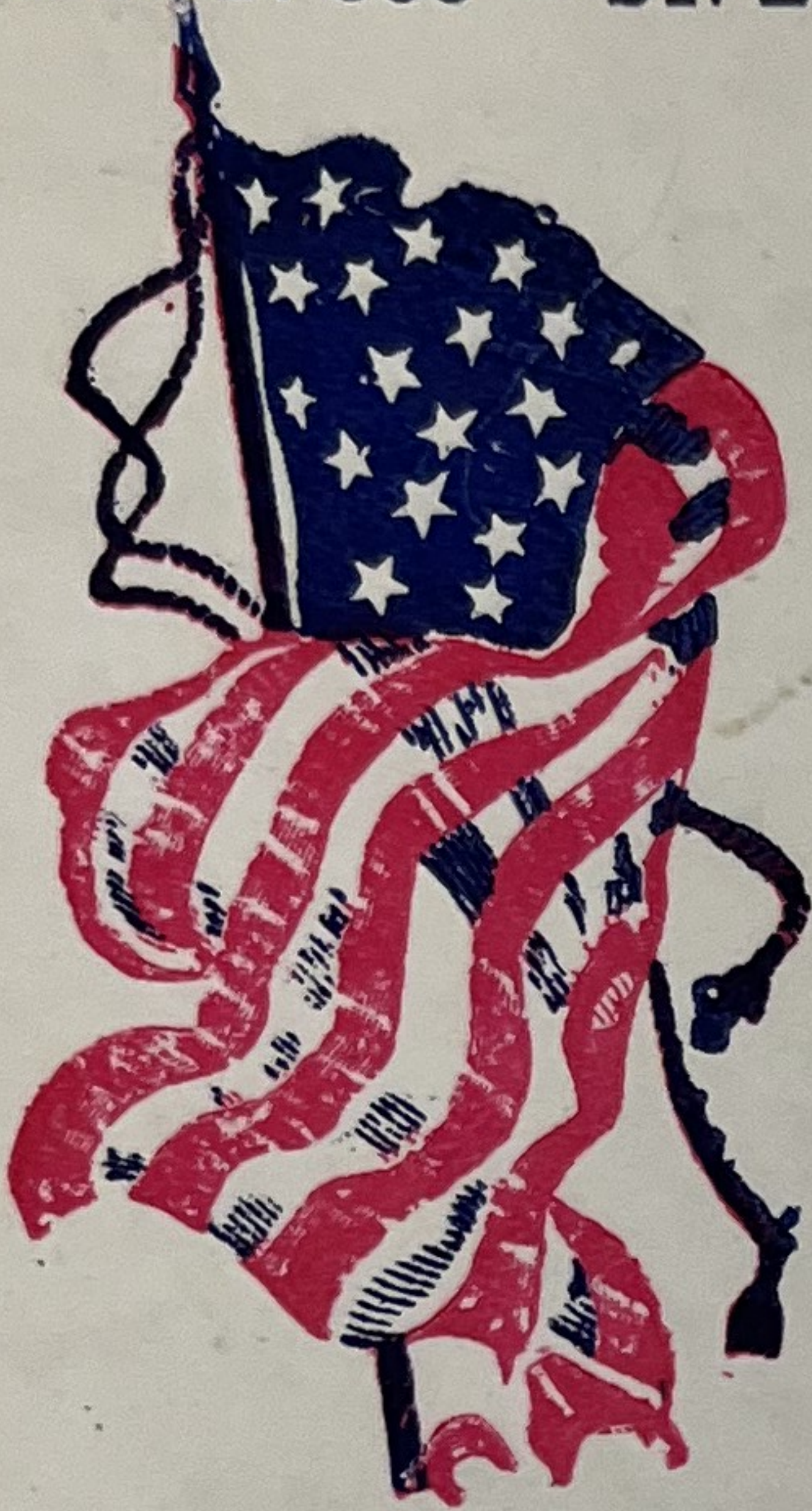
US Forces Postal Services

Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 805

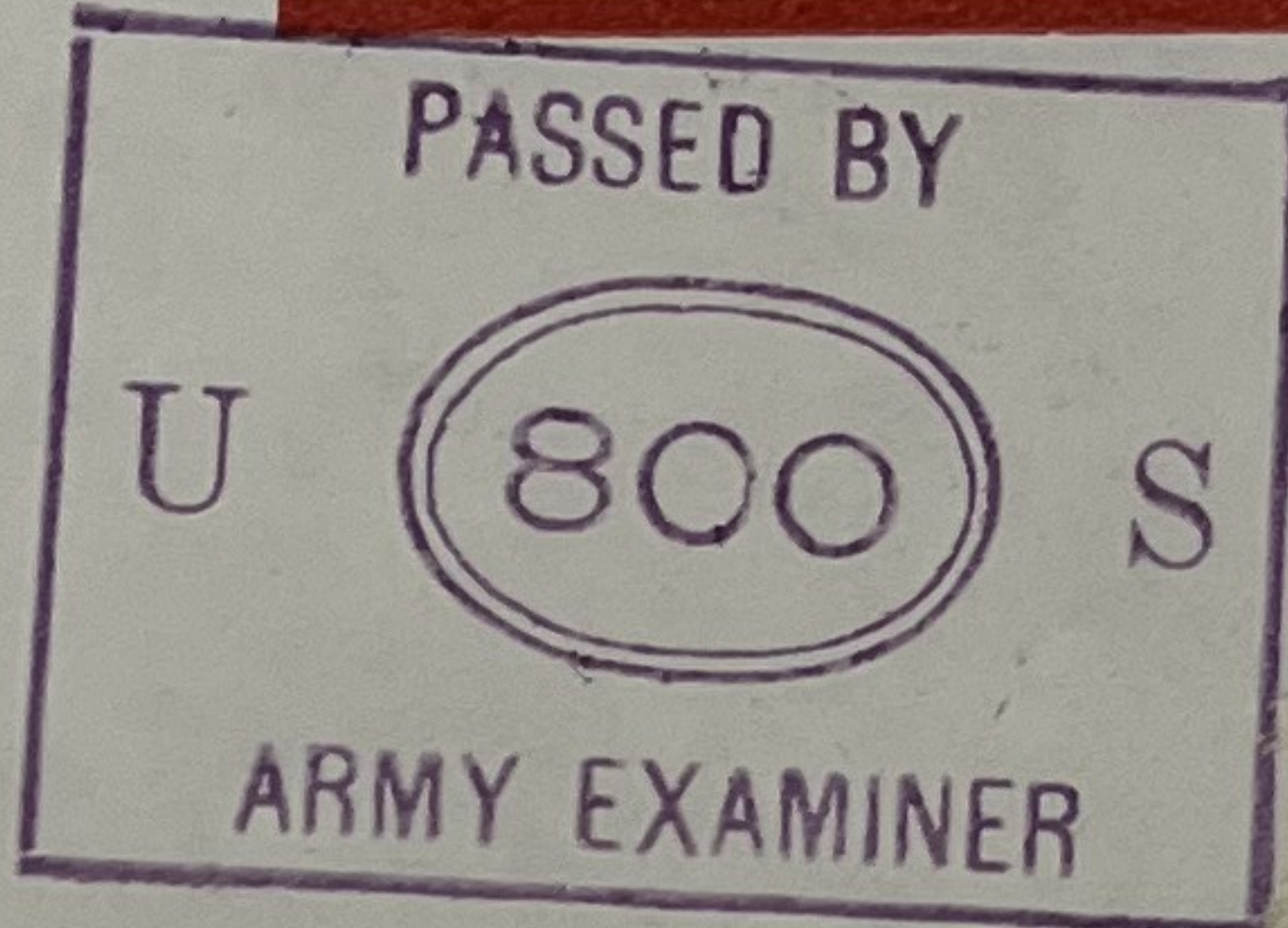
2) at Vieux Fort in the south of the island, where a runway was built which enabled army bombers to take off with mail. The army base established at Vieux Fort was given the Army Post Office (A.P.O.) Number 805 in August 1941. The cancellation was struck in either violet (to 23rd October 1941) or in black (from 24th October to 22nd December 1941). The US Army censor mark 800 was struck in similar colours.

A. P. O. 805 - ST. LUCIA

FIRST DAY CANCELATION

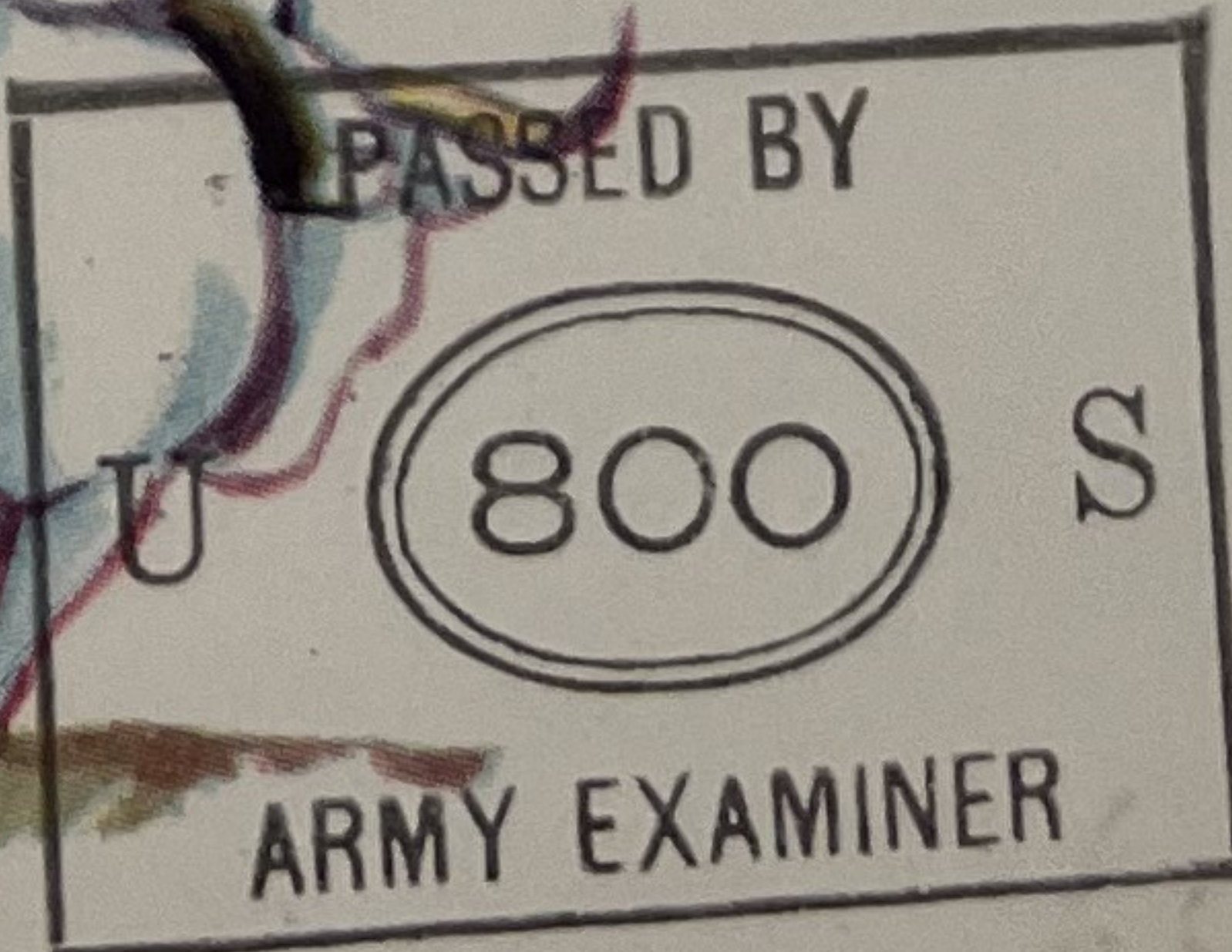
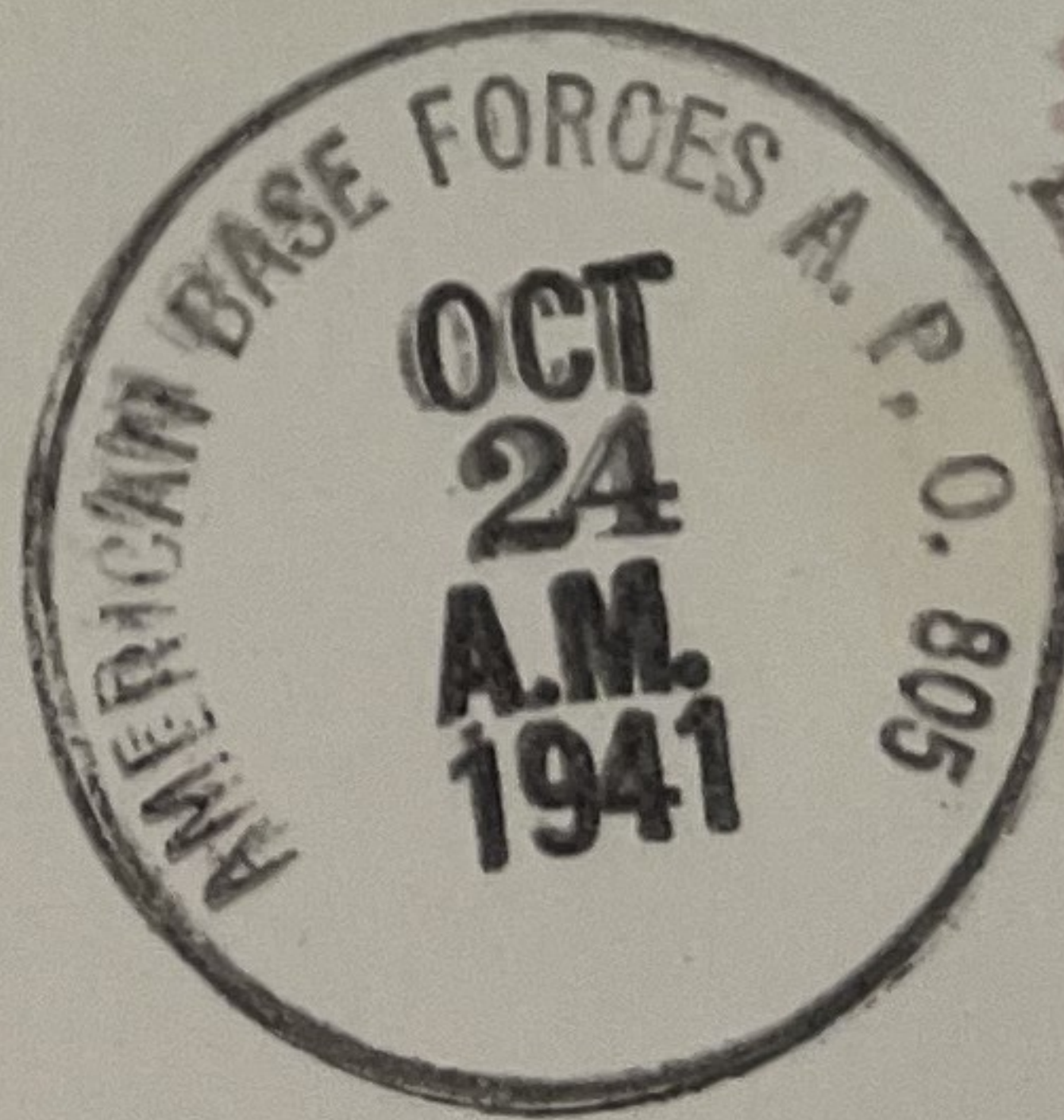


HEMISPHERE DEFENSE BASES



*Malchukov
1st Lt. Inf.*

LET'S PUT OUR HANDS
TO THE PLOW
PROTECT AMERICA

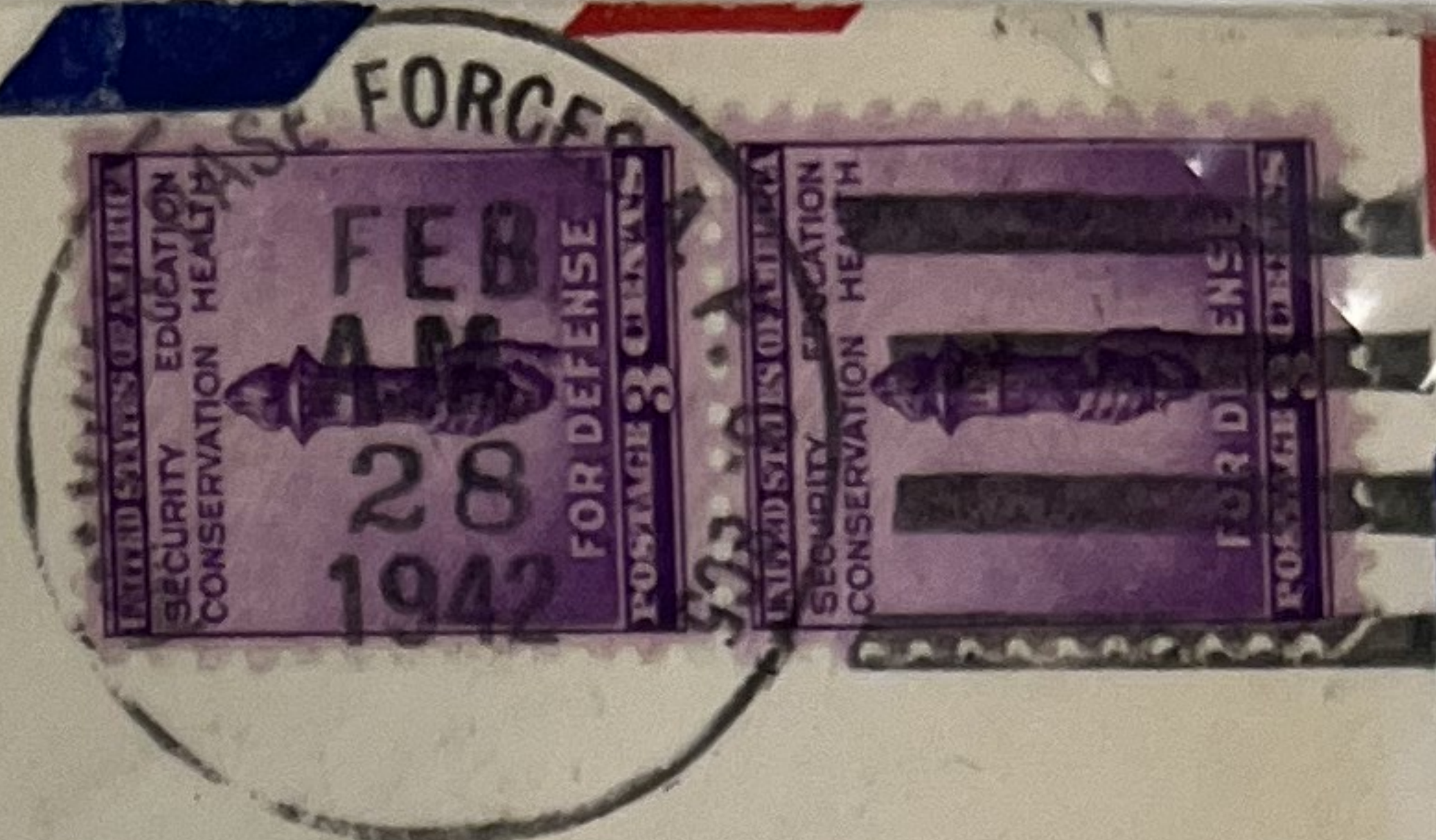


*Sharon C. Healy
9411-15th NE
Seattle Wash.*

US Forces Postal Services

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Capt E. B. Downing
St. Lucia, BWR



VIA AIR MAIL

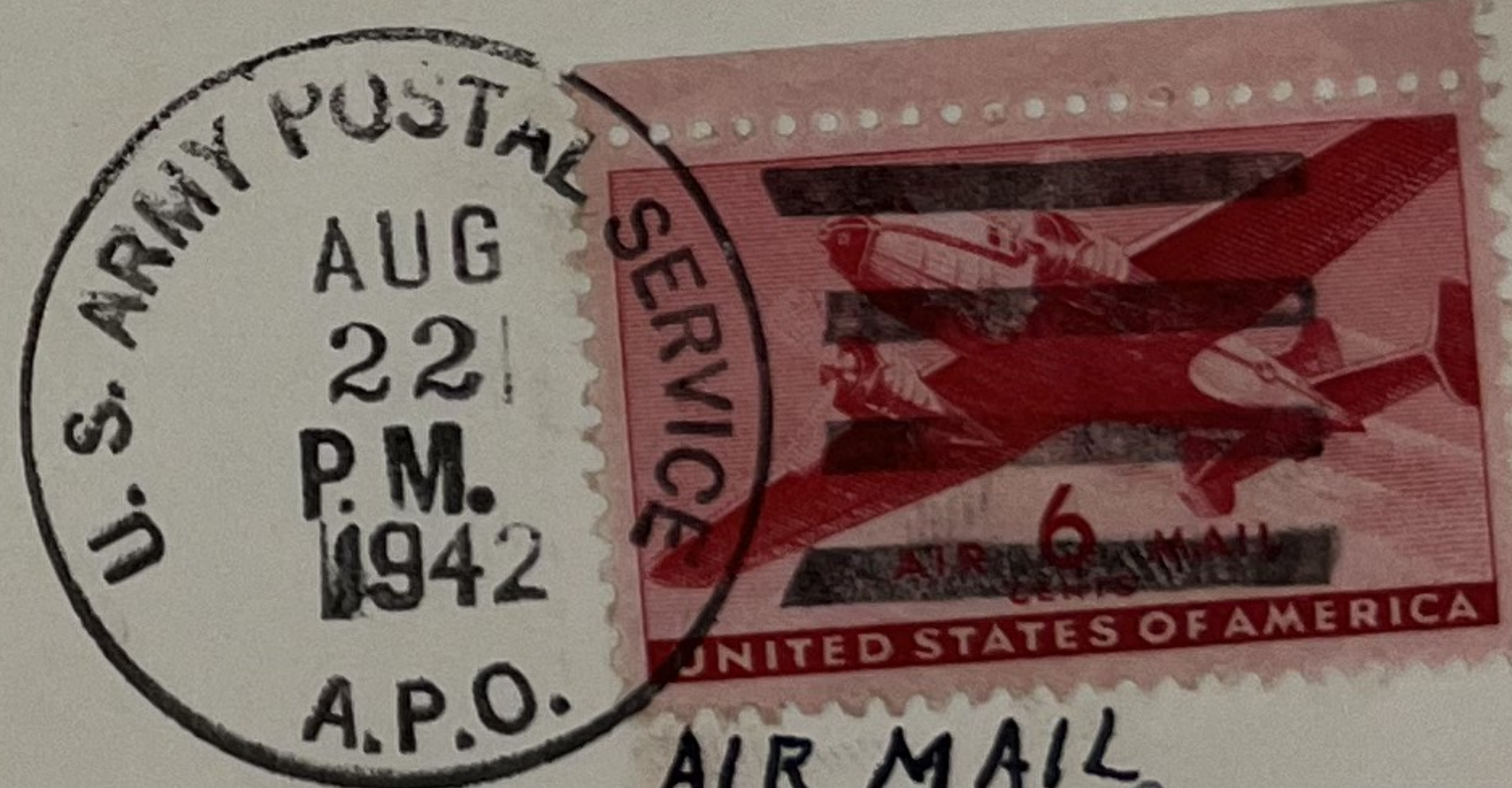
PASSED BY
804 S
Censored JP
ARMY EXAMINER
E. B. Downing
Capt. C 2

Publicity Director
Hotel New Yorker
34th Street at Eighth Avenue
New York, New York

The cancellation with A.P.O. 805 ceased to be used on 22nd Dec. 1941, but was reintroduced on 10th Jan. 1942 (again in black) & finally ceased on 31st March 1942. This cover has the Army Censor's mark in violet & a cachet showing the bases leased by the US from Britain in the Caribbean.

804
See Bw15C I and
Err 17 P43850

P.F.C. John M Boyle A.S. 11009039
Ord. Det. 5th Bomb Sq. d.
A.P.O. 867 % Postmaster
N.Y.: N.Y.



AIR MAIL

Stoeger Arms Corp.
507 Fifth ave
N.Y.: N.Y.
U.S.A.

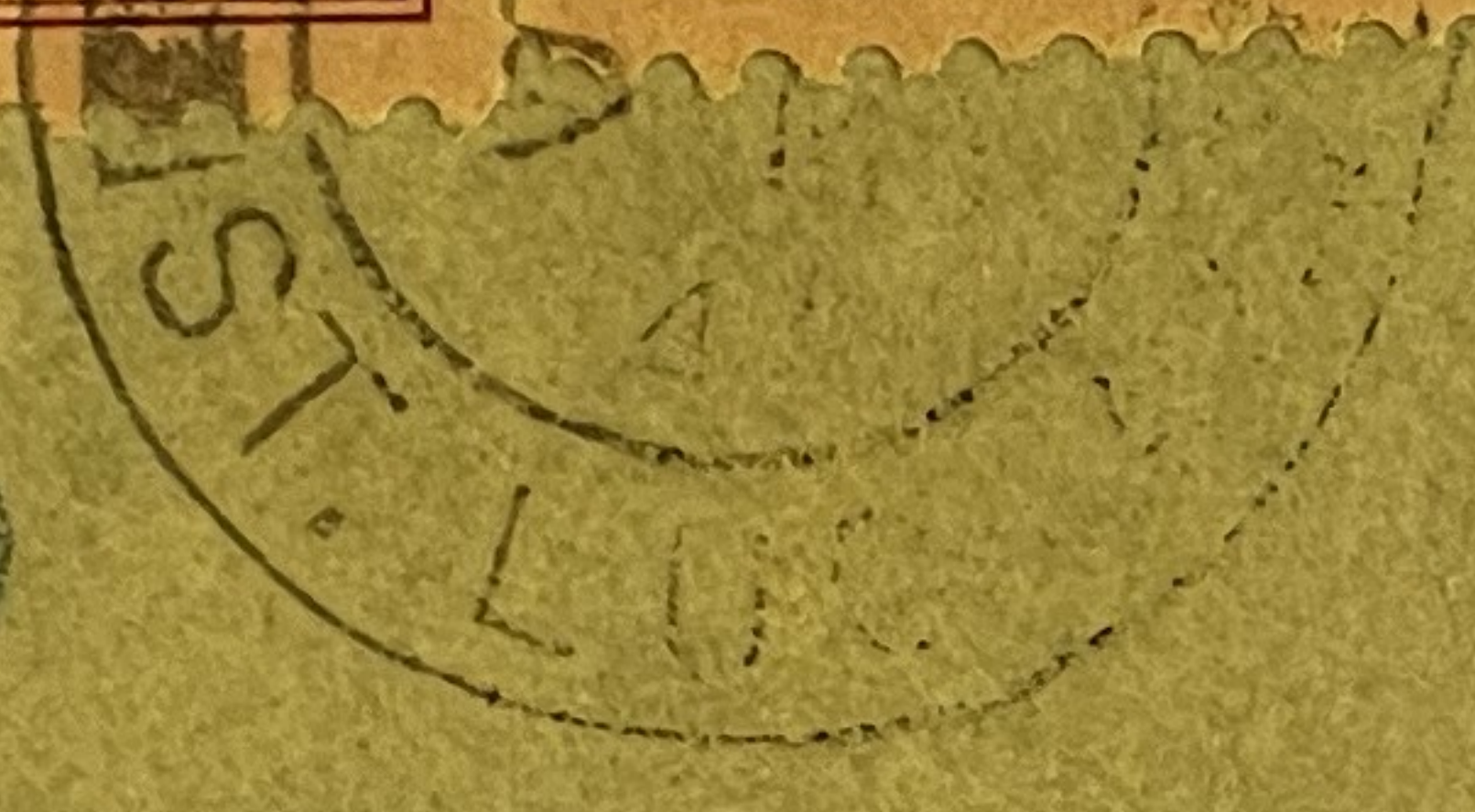
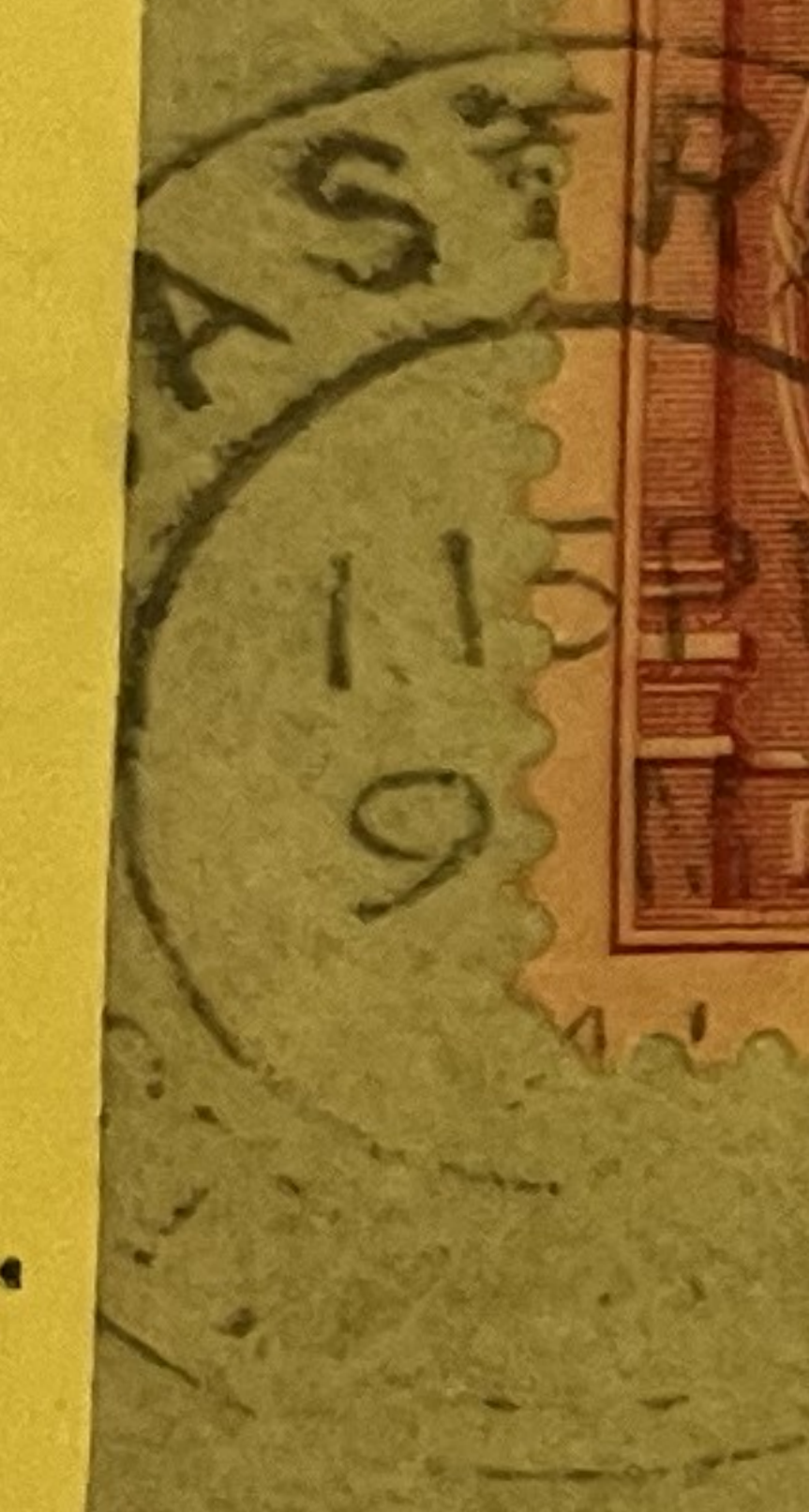
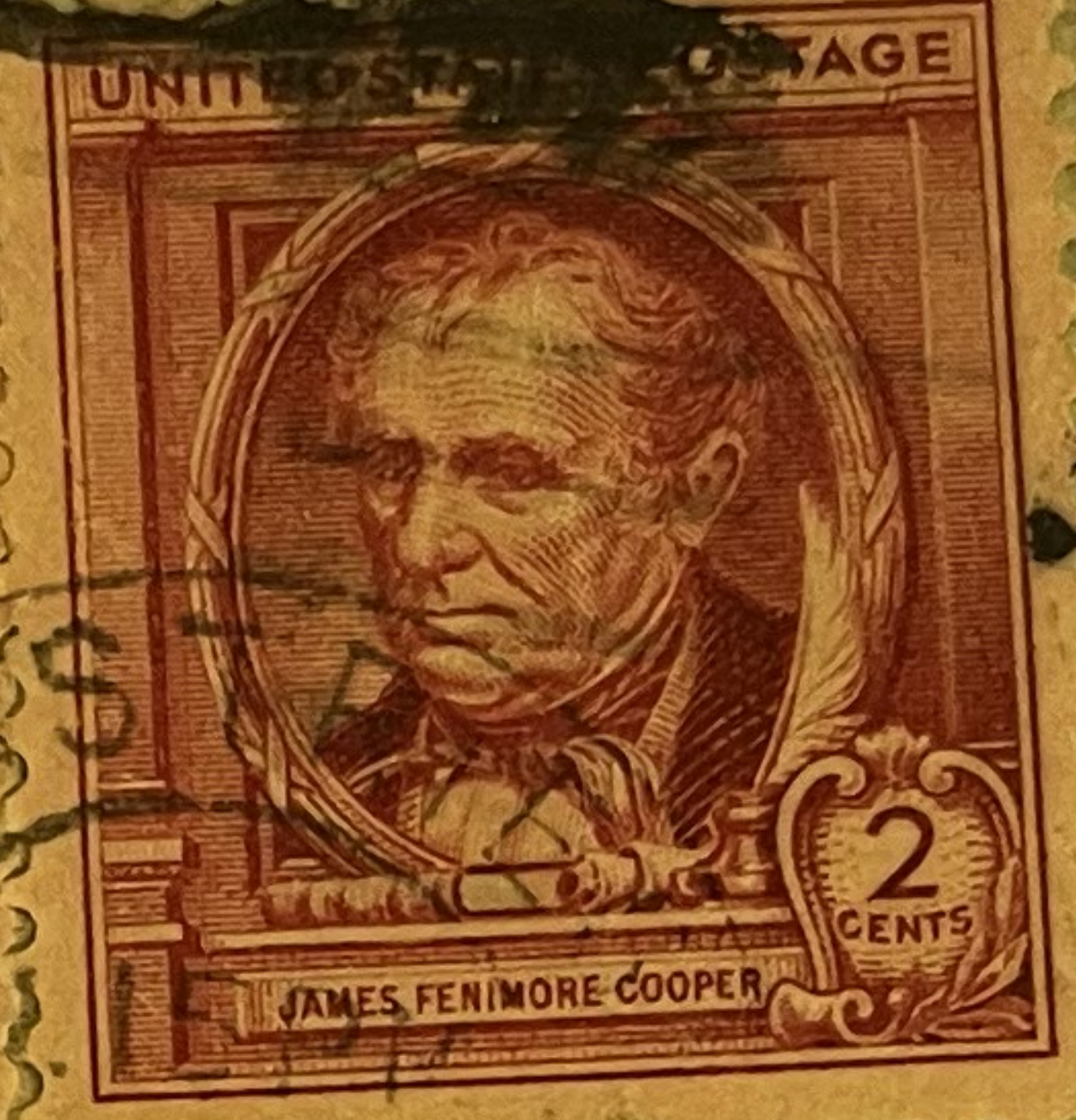
PASSED-BY
811 S
ARMY EXAMINER

From 1st April 1942 the A.P.O. Number was changed from 805 to 867, which was used until 8th August 1942 when the A.P.O. number was omitted from the cancellation for "security" reasons, but was re-established 2 months later, when it was placed after the date in the cancellation. This cover postmarked 23rd Dec 1942 however still has the number at the bottom of the cancellation & a mark showing it was "Released by Army Examiner".

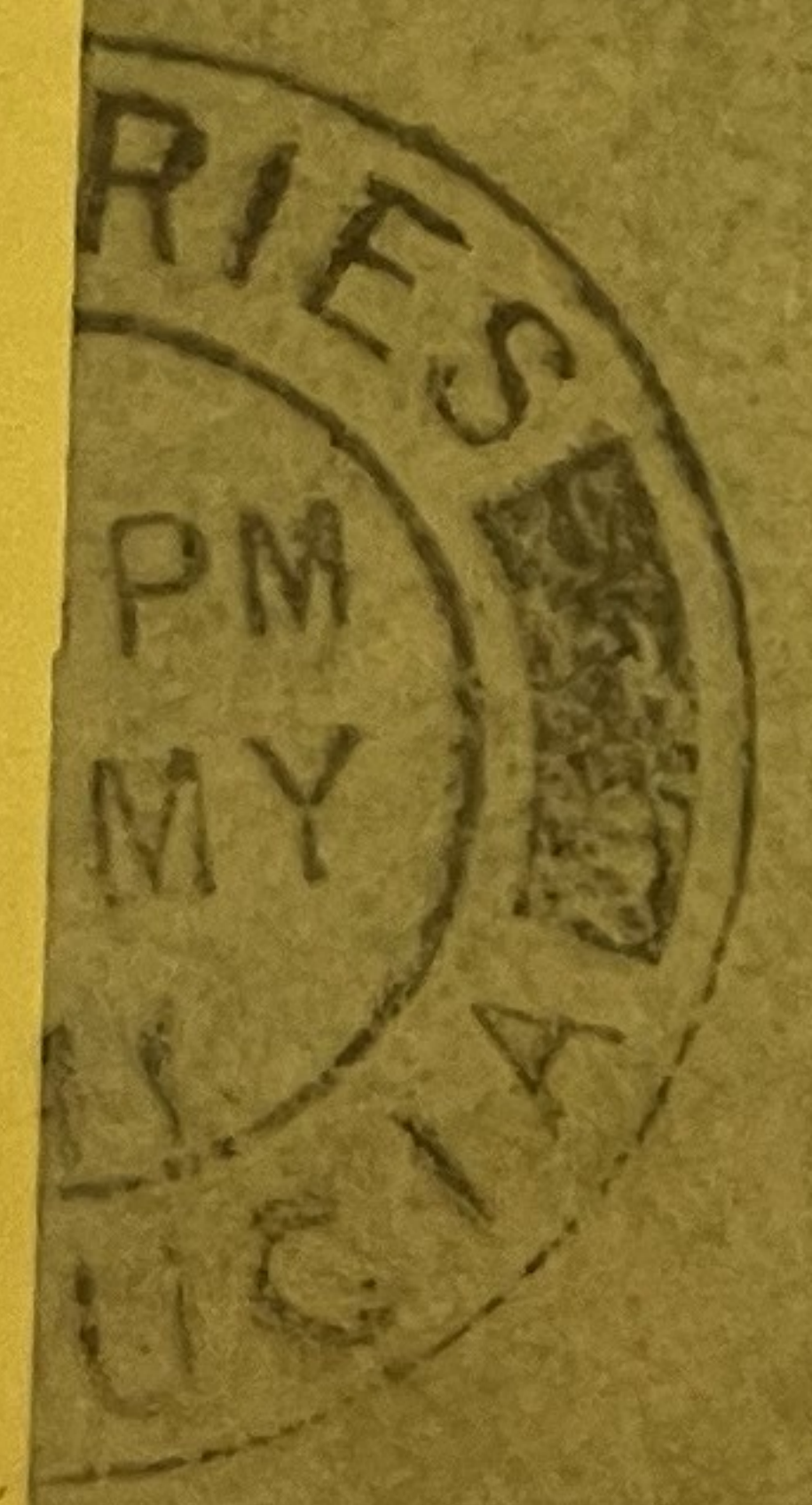
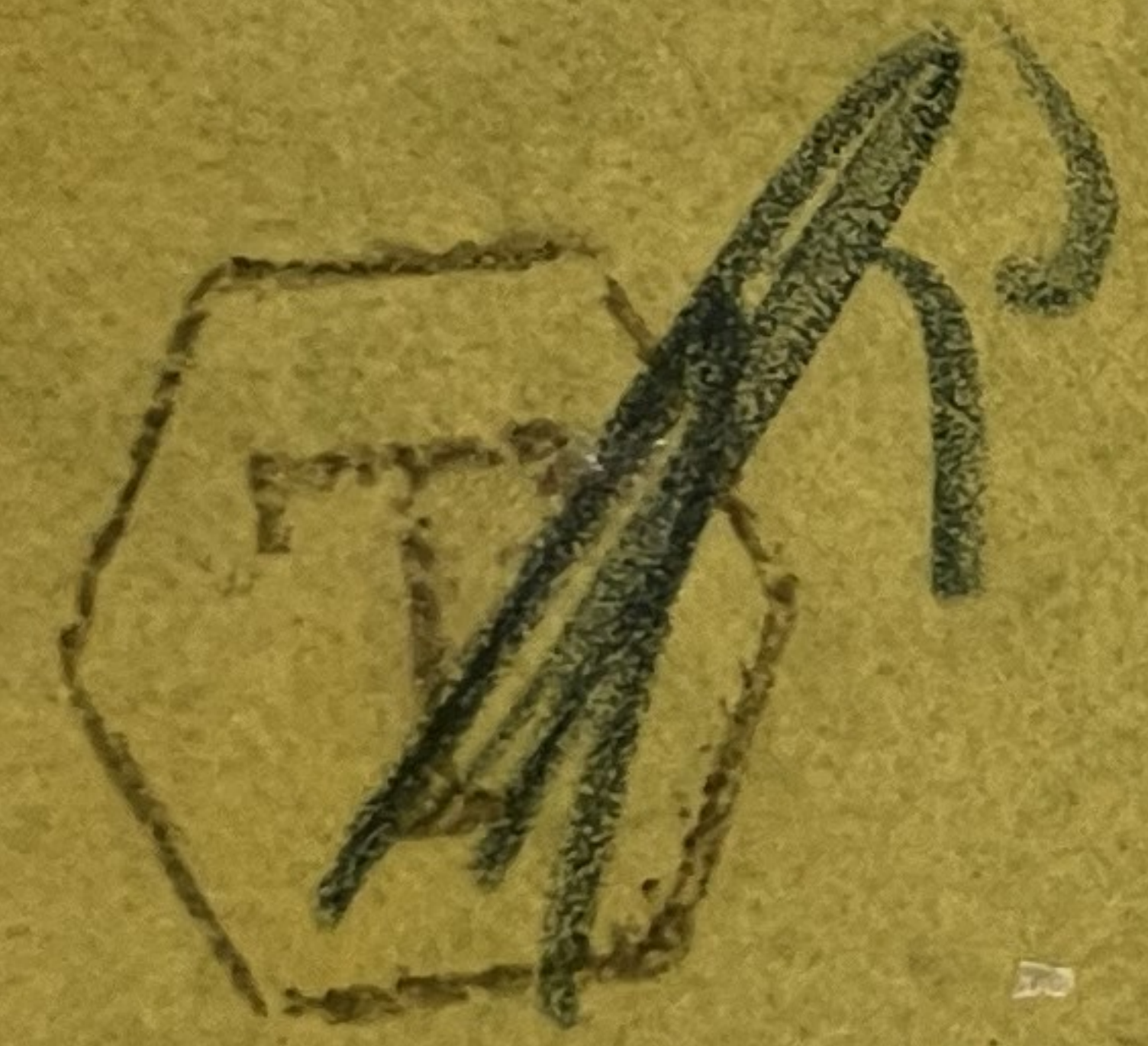
811 (See Bw1
I and Err 17
P43850)

9 May
1941

US Steps
106



VIA AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO



Mrs. Floyd D. Vermilya,
c/o Minder Construction Corp.,
19 Rector Street,
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A.

PAR
AVION

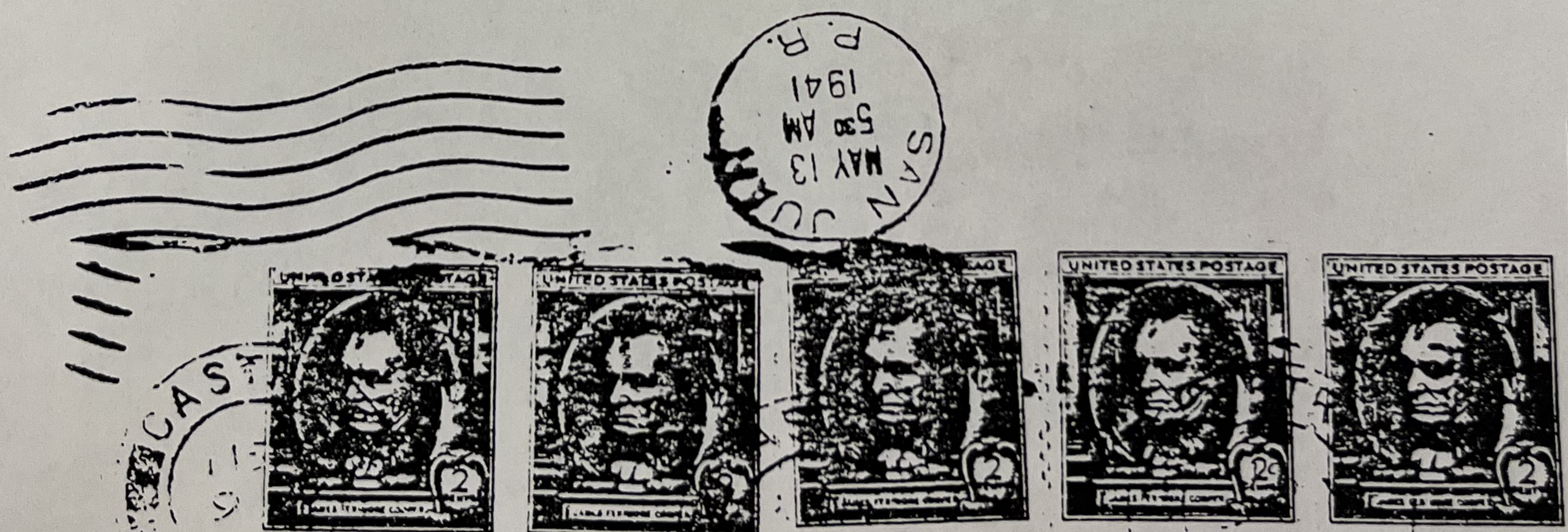
A ST. LUCIA A.P.O. FORERUNNER
by Col. Fred F. Seifert

Although the U.S. Army Post Office, A.P.O. 805, at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, did not open until 26 July 1941, construction of the U.S. Army Base and other military facilities began some months earlier. During this interim period, the civilian construction workers from the U.S. either sent their mail through the St. Lucia Post Office or entrusted it to someone travelling back to the States. When the St. Lucia mail facilities were employed, letters were normally franked with St. Lucia adhesives, but the cover illustrated here, has been franked with five U.S. 2¢ stamps, all of which are tied to the cover with the Castries, St. Lucia postmark of 9 May 1941.

It will be noted that the St. Lucia Post Office applied a Tax mark to the cover which was subsequently crossed out with a blue pencil, and that the letter was delivered without the New York Post Office collecting additional postage.

At the time this letter was sent, the U.S. Marine Detachment at Gros Islet Naval Base, near Castries, had a Temporary Post Office in operation. It is possible that the sender intended that his letter be posted at that office, but that his courier "goofed." A less kind explanation is that the sender just didn't understand that U.S. stamps are not valid for use in other countries.

They are
not
valid
for
use
in
other
countries
(P60)



VIA AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO

Mrs. Floyd D. Vermilya,
c/o Minder Construction Corp.,
19 Rector Street,
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A.



PAR 3

EXPEDITED TO YOU

VIA AIR MAIL

REPLY BY AIR MAIL

VF Gr 3
Aug 22

1941
APO
803
(T&T
USAH1)
Army
Examiner
705
(USAC 2)

(Brackets
rpt 5
BcPJ
Dec 90/Mar 91
VF 805

PASSED BY
U 705
ARMY EXAMINER

AMERICAN-BASE FORCES, A. P. O. 803
AUG 22 AM 1941



MRS G. L. PENNYPACKER
19 HIGH STREET
MORRISTOWN, N.J.
U.S.A.

MAR. DET. ST. LUCIA
APR 28 P.M. 1941
WINDWARD ISLAND



P. O. BOX 108
NORRISTOWN, PENNA.

AMERICAN BASE FORCES A.P.O.
AUG 17 P.M. 1941



PASSED BY
U 800 S
ARMY EXAMINER

*Malcolm S. ...
1st Lt. Sup.*

P. O. Box 108
NORRISTOWN, PENNA
USA

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO
James Hallinan
U.S. Engineers A.P.O. 805
Minder Construction Corp.
St. Lucia, British West Indies

AMERICAN BASE FORCES A.P.O.
DEC 17 A.M. 1941



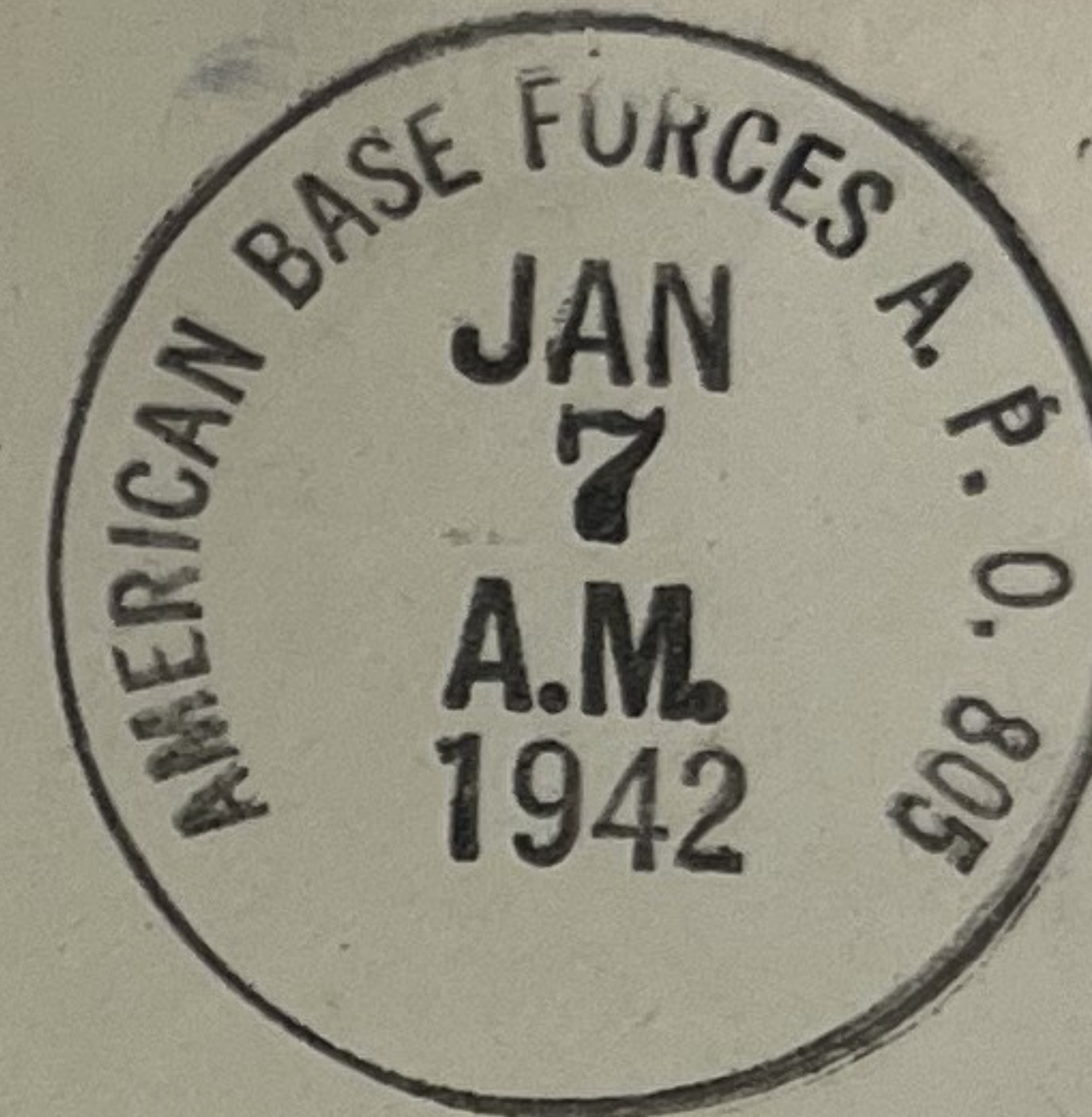
VIA AIRMAIL

PASSED BY
U 801 S
ARMY EXAMINER

Mrs. James Hallinan
41 Third Avenue
Hawthorne,
New Jersey
United States

*17 Dec 41
VF 4B
15c NOT 6c
as in
APO 805
Army Examin 801
(From Thomas Hallinan same address 5000
29 av 41 - 100 APO consul - See Name Form)*

Bradford C. Hammond
U. S. Engineer Office
A. P. O. No. 805
St. Lucia, B. W. I.



Mr. L. C. Hammond
2 Beekman Place
New York City, New York
U. S. A.
Apt. 11-F

PASSED BY
U 801 S
ARMY EXAMINER

VF
4c 7 Jan 42 (Wpoc EKD)
6c + 9c as airmail
& not US funds
(that's why 15c & not 6c)
(from 8/12/41)
See
BCPT
Tug 90
P60
APO 805
Army Exam 801

E. L. DAHLSTEDT PERMIO,
CASO #2, F. P. O.,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



air mail

POSTMASTER - CASTRIES -

STA. LUCIA - BRITISH WEST INDIES

667



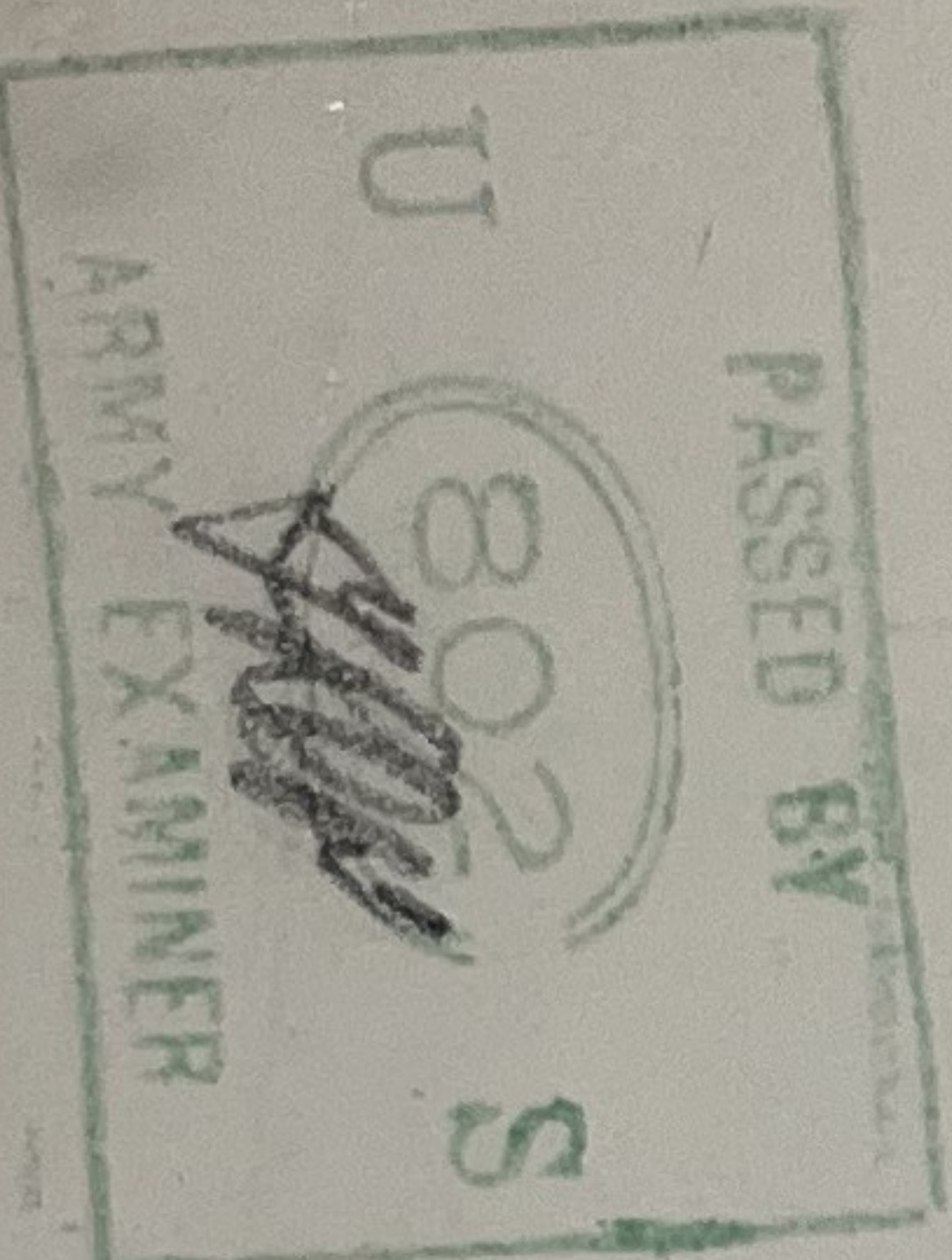
Mar 24

1942

APD

805

Pfc. John W. Gholson
Btry A. 88th. Sep. Bn.
A.P.O. 805. A.S.N. 616Z
St. Lucia. B.W.I



Pls

Any
Exams
802
(Green)
VF 4c
(805)
bus
144

309 R. Melnick St.

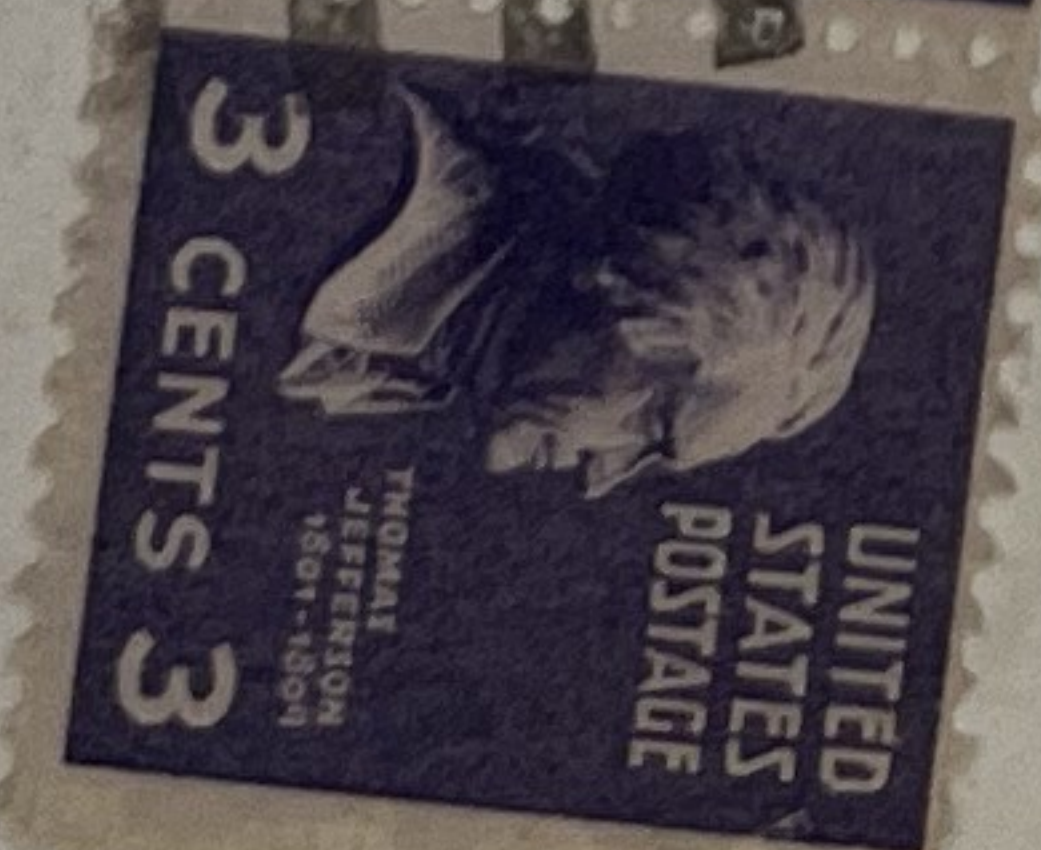
Bermonwell

Mar. 2. 7. Chalcan

Marshall Is.

75

AIR MAIL



AMPT

B.W.I. AUCTIONS

P.O. BOX 191, LONDON WC2E 8QQ.

VAT Registration No. 341 5359 66

LOT No.

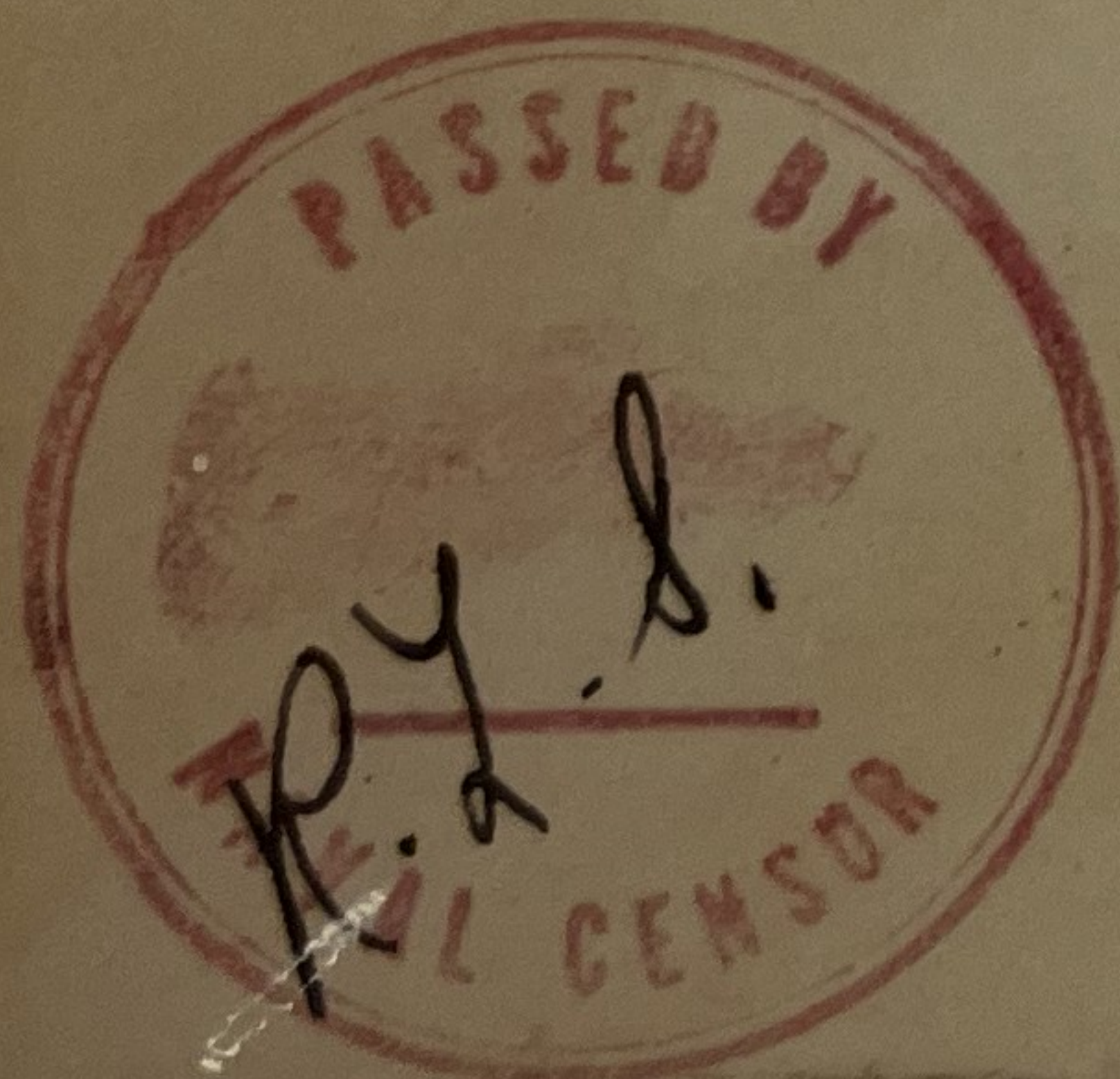
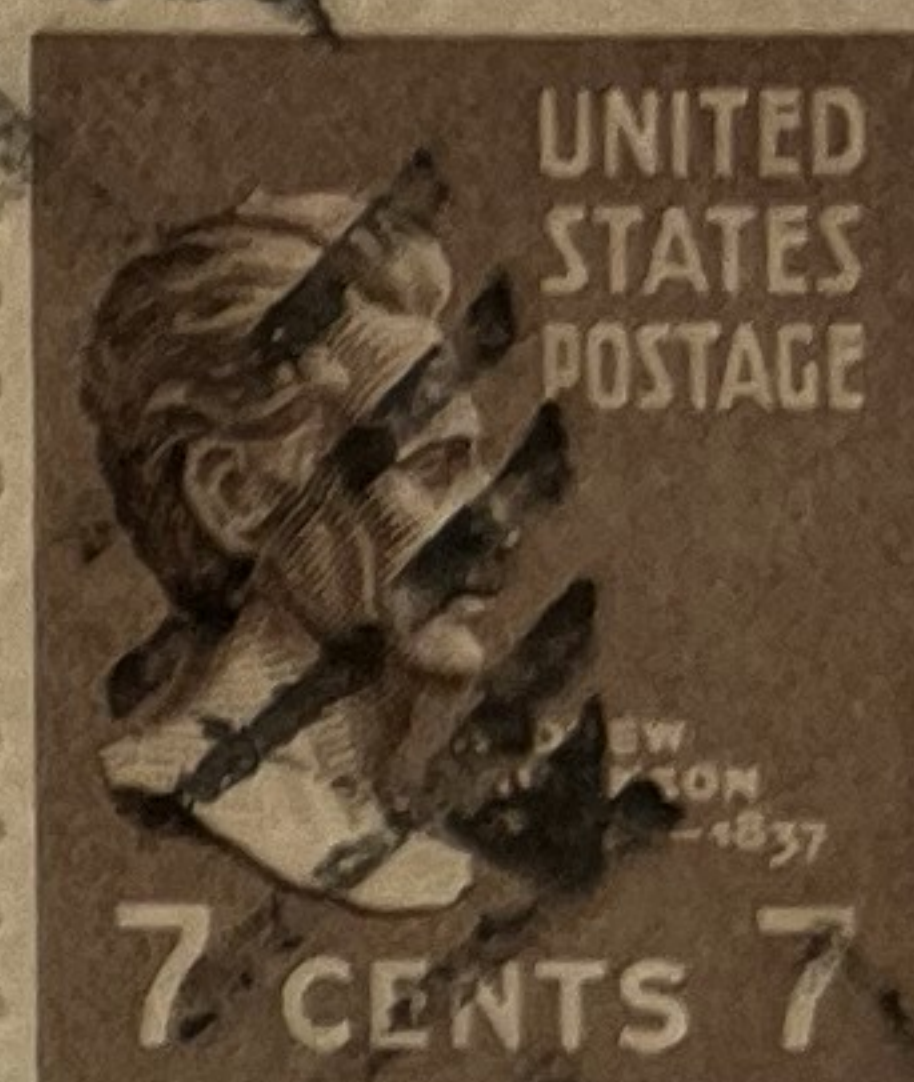
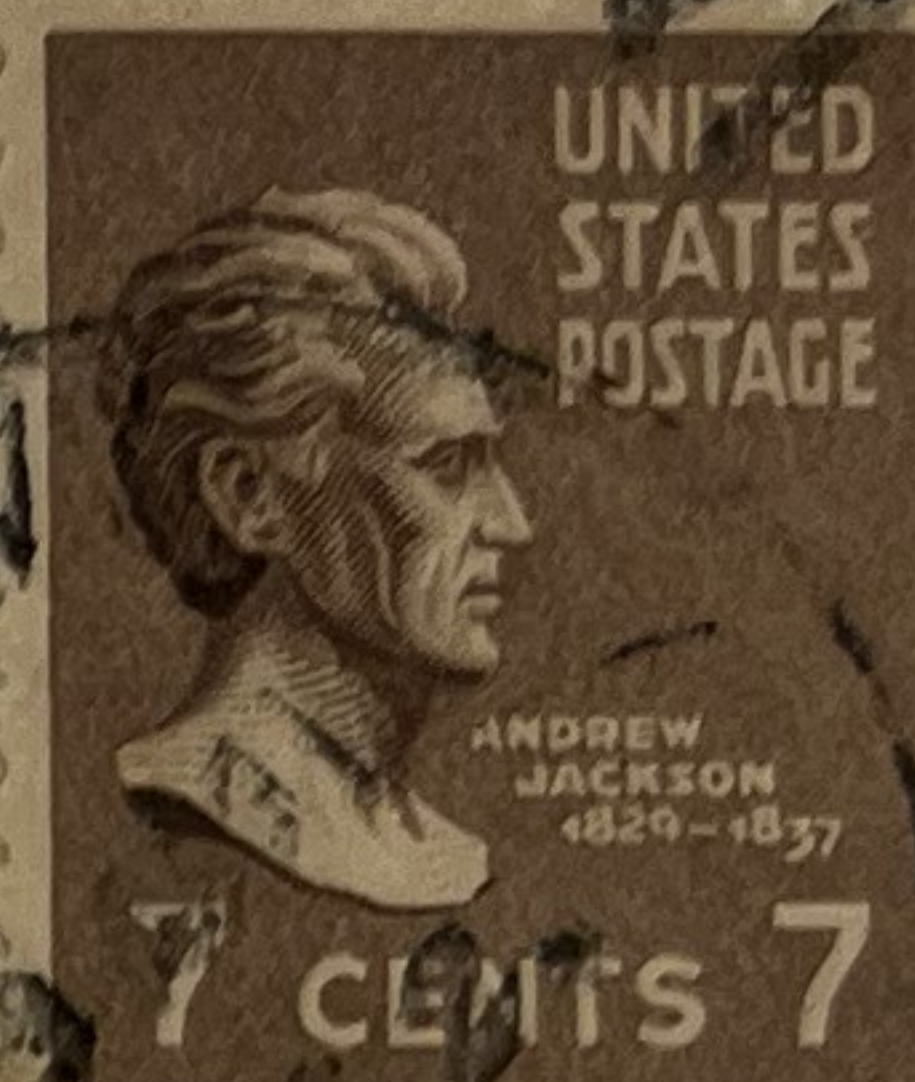
10292

SALE DATE

E L DAHLSTEDT PHMIC
CASU 2 C/O FPO
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

VIA AIR MAIL

Postmaster,
Castries, St Lucia
B.W.I.



May 87
US Navy
Aug 2
1944
low
to
Castries
Panama
Naval
Base

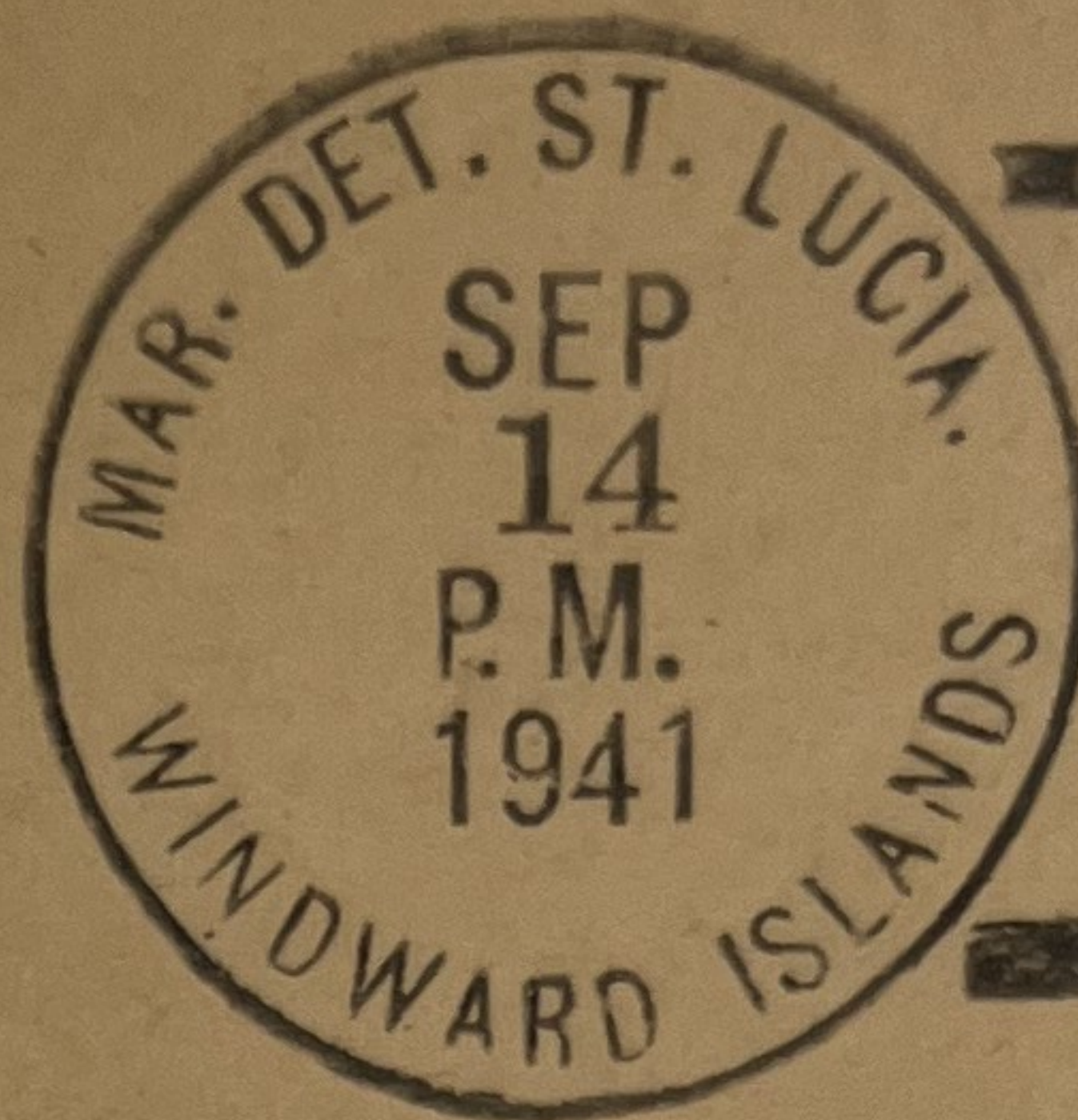
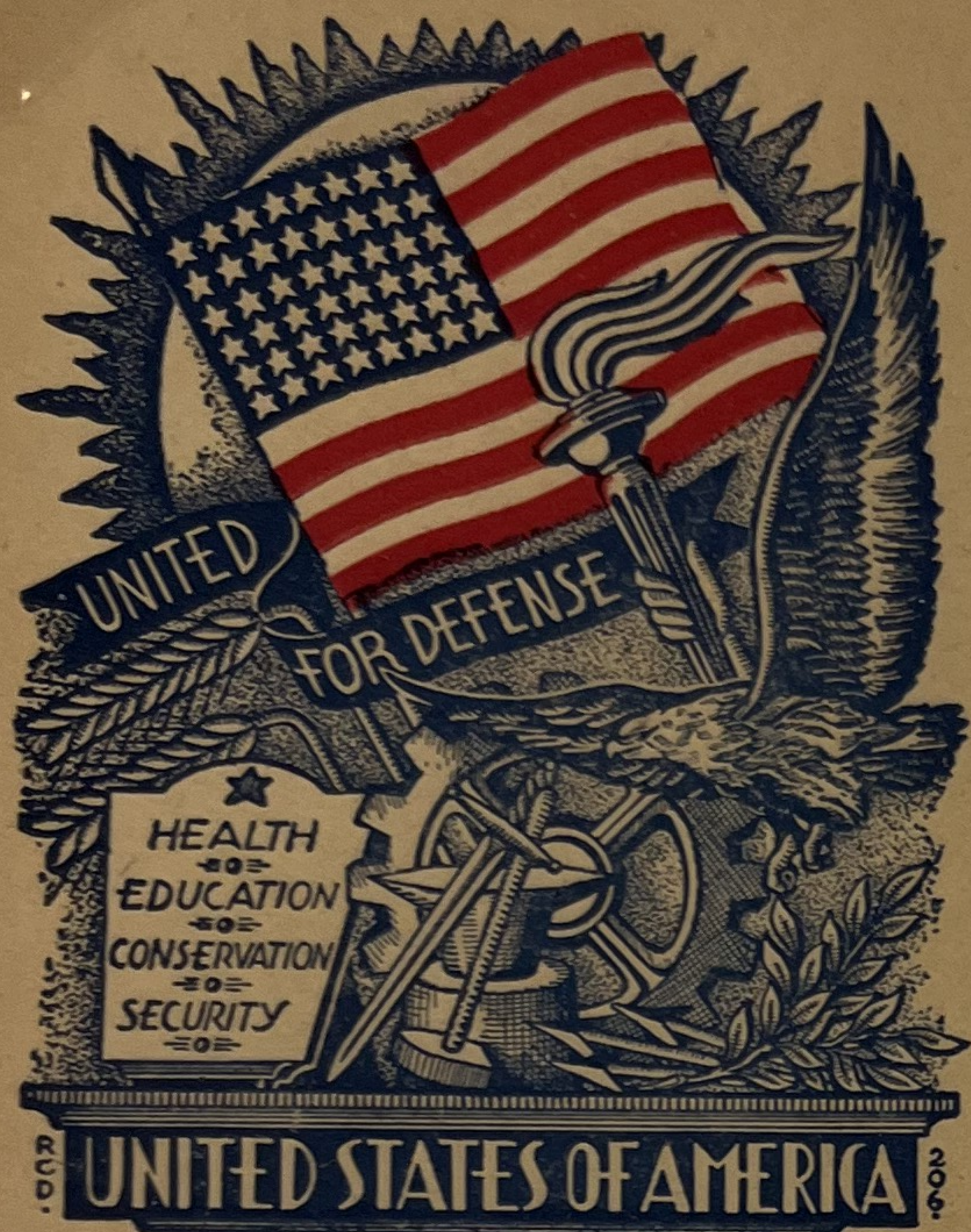
121211

U.S. NC 2 (but no dots at either side)
(See BCPI
Sept 90 p95)

A N^o 3755

PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING STAMPS AND TURNING PAGES

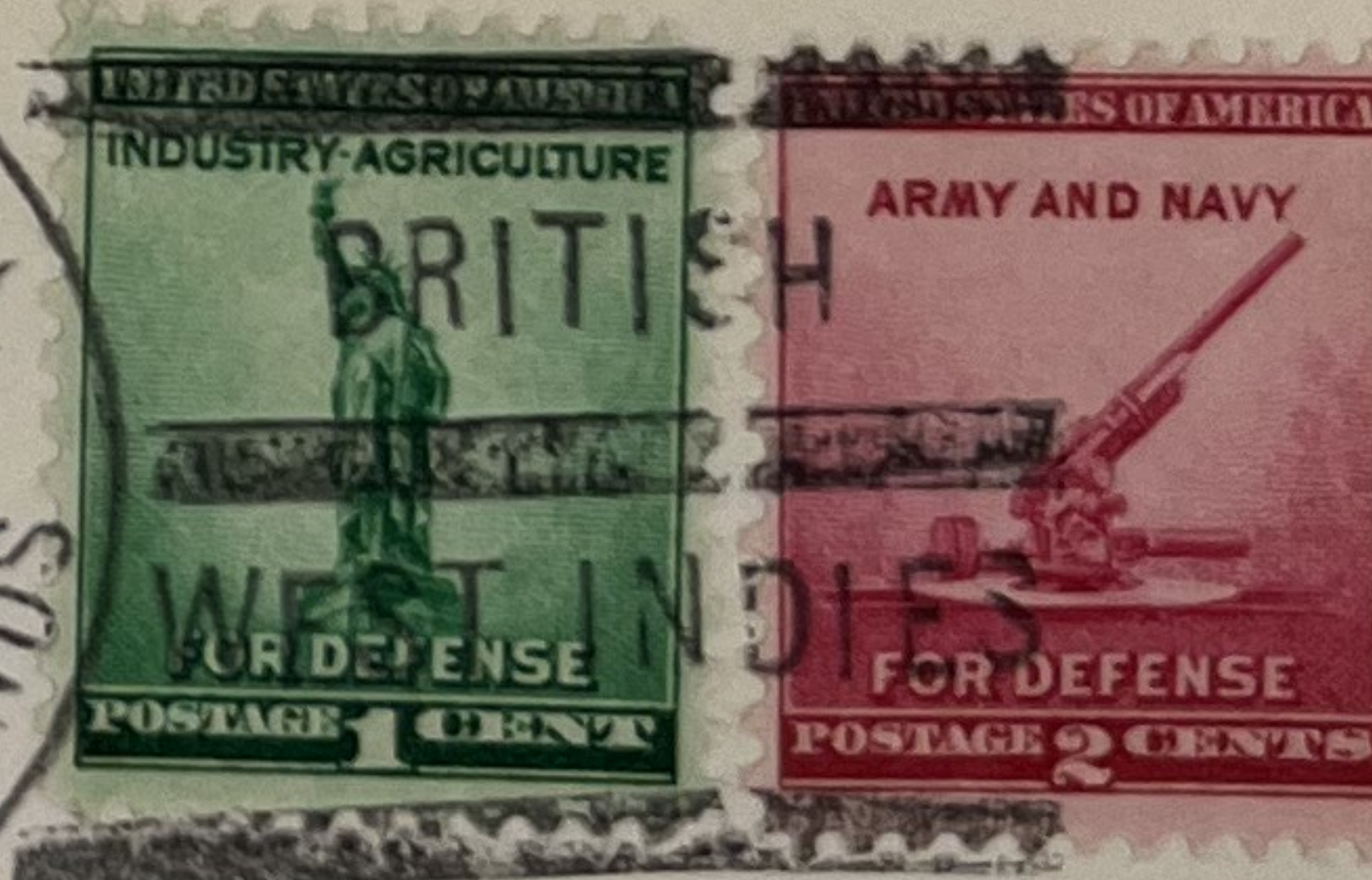
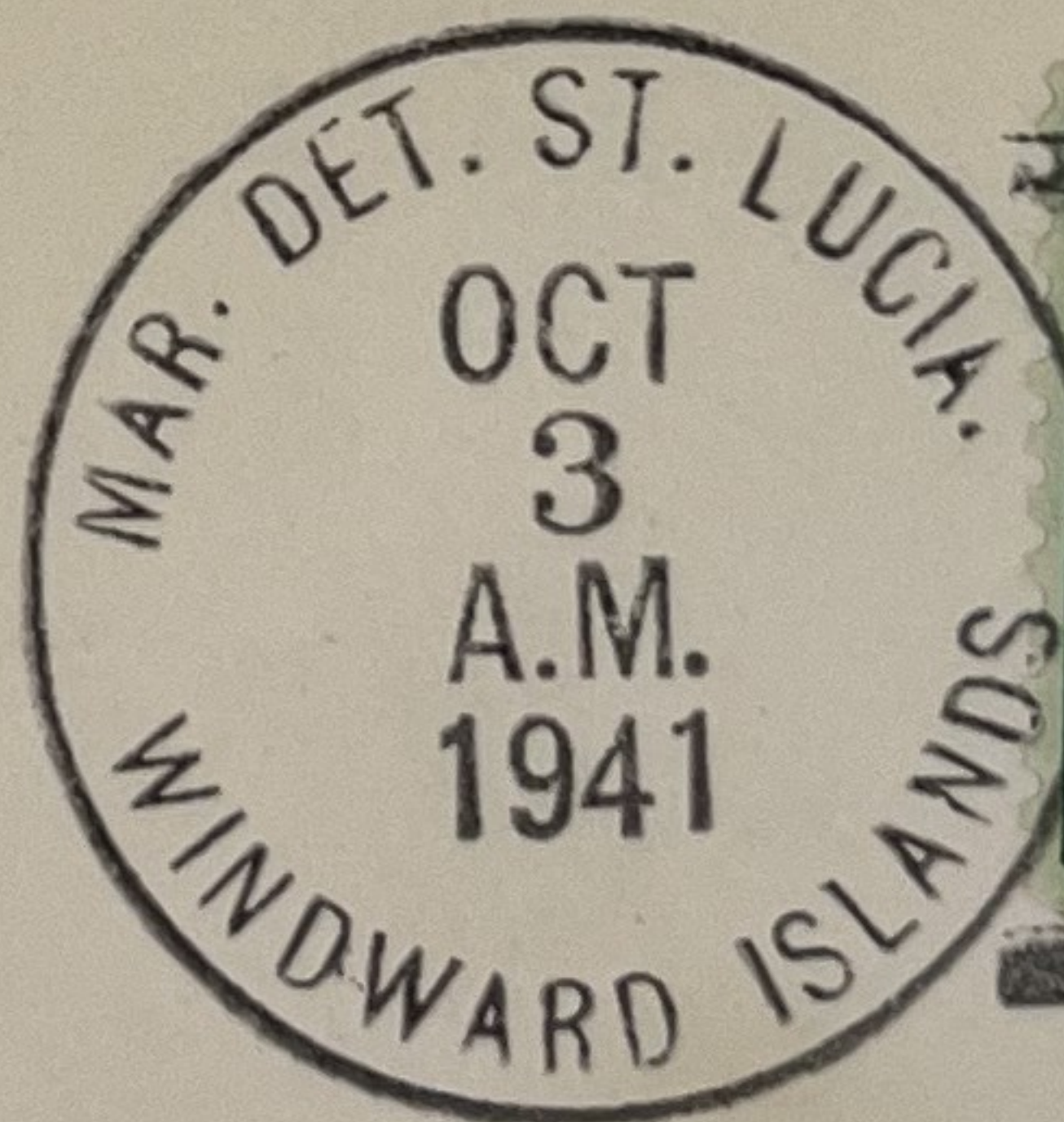
Gros Islet
The Marines



Mrs. M. Trot
437-55th
West New York, N. J.

The second type of cancellation used at Gros Islet was similar to the first but with the addition of the words "British West Indies" in 2 lines between the 3 cancelling bars. This was introduced in July 1941 and withdrawn in January 1942 on the closure of the Post Office at Gros Islet when the Navy relieved the Marines. The surface rate for a post card to the U.S.A. was 1c and for a letter 3c.

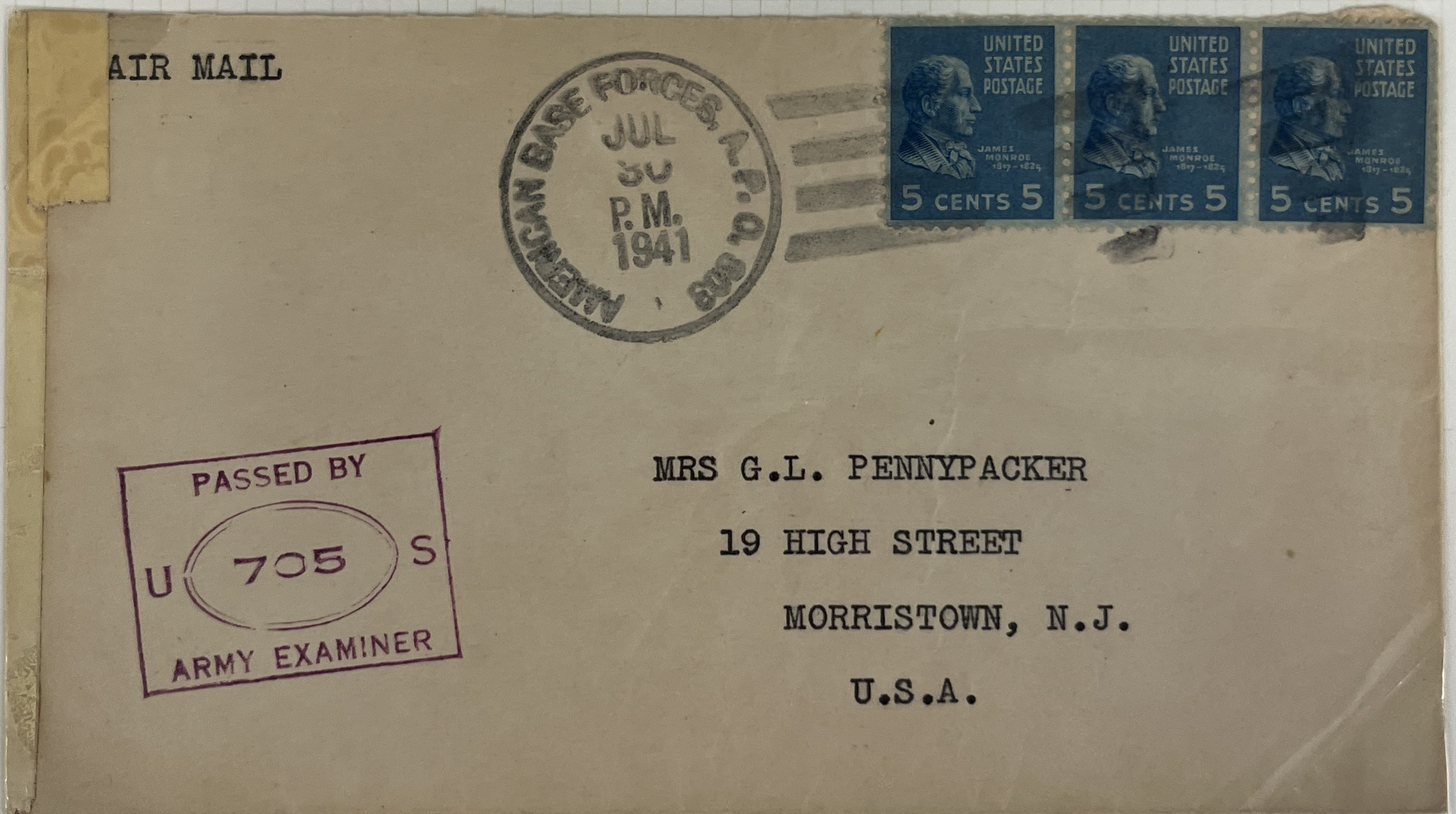
LET'S PUT OUR HANDS
TO THE PLOW
PROTECT **A**MERICA



GIMBELS
America's Stamp Center
33rd St. & Broadway
New York, N. Y. U.S.A.

Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 803

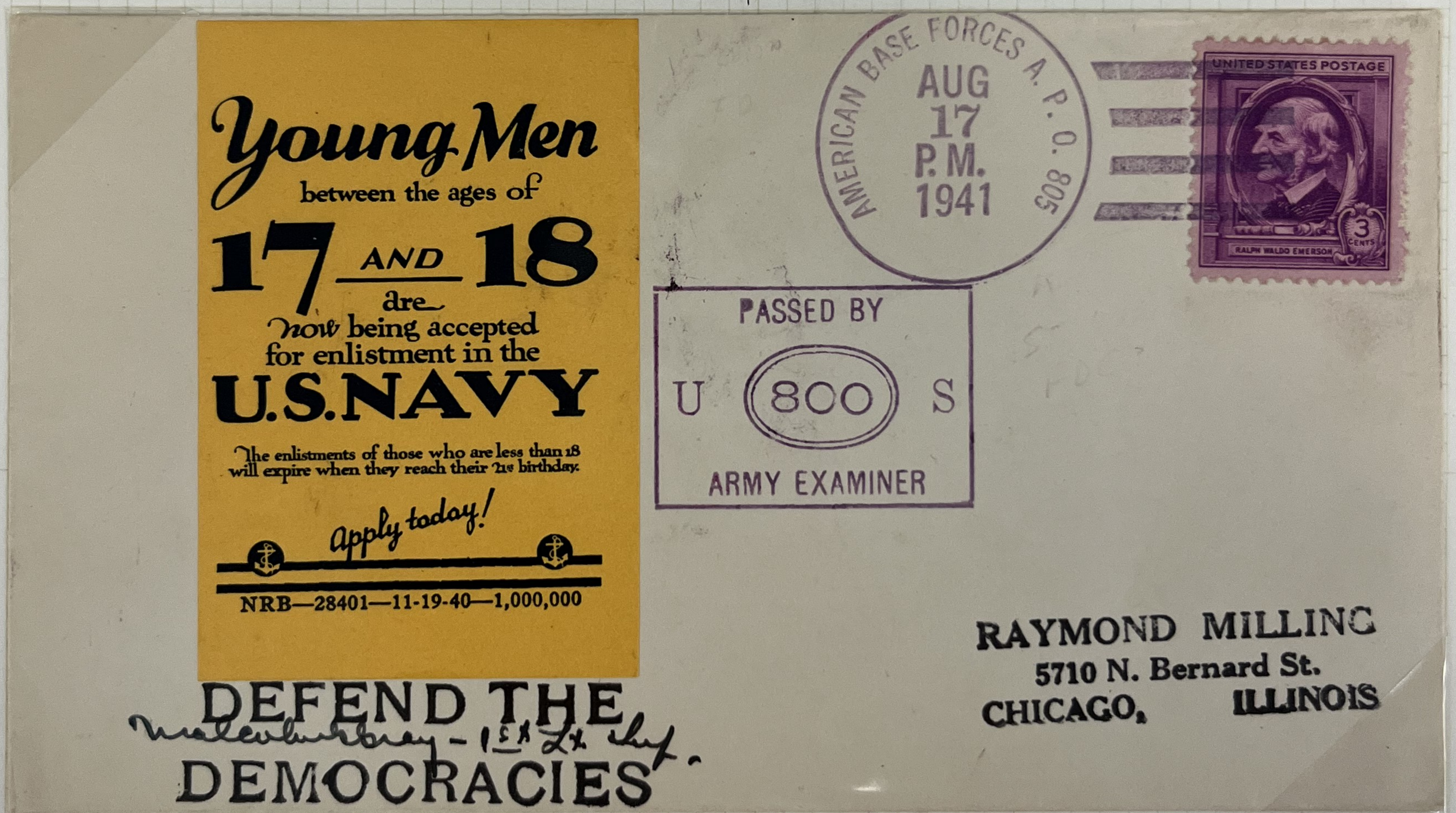
In April 1941, an Army Air Base was commenced near Vieux Fort in the south of St. Lucia at a site subsequently called Beane Field & now forming the St. Lucian International Airport known as Hewanorra. In June 1941 the runway was completed enabling the Army aircraft to fly out the mail. In June and July 1941 this mail was cancelled in Trinidad and bore the Army Post Office number of Trinidad "A.P.O. 803" so that this is not strictly a St. Lucian mark.



A cover sent by air from the Minder Construction Corporation, St. Lucia to New Jersey on 30th July 1941, bearing the U.S. Army censor mark. The air mail rate had been increased from 10c to 15c sometime in June 1941.

Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 805

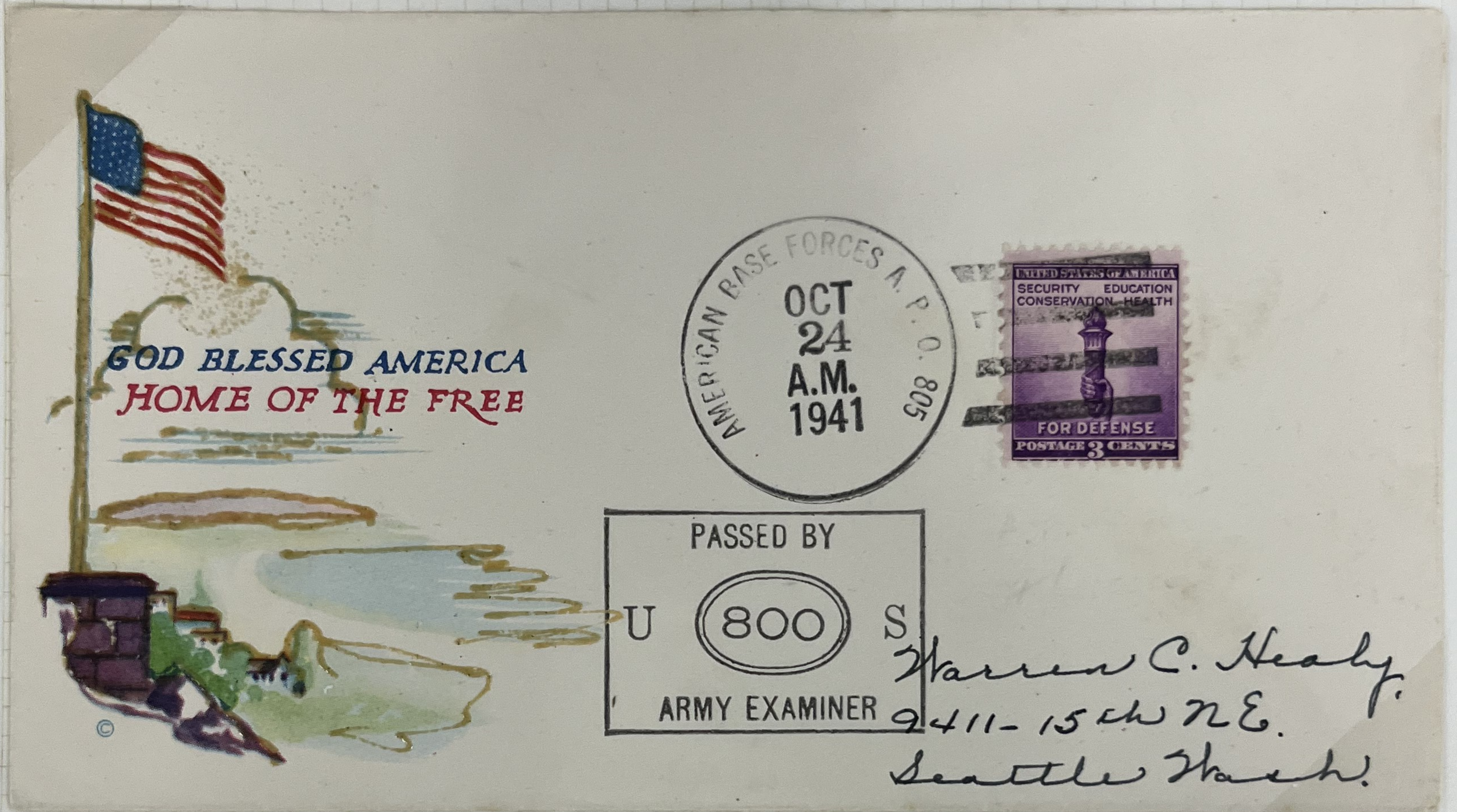
The first U.S. Army troops arrived at Vieux Fort early in August 1941. An Army Post Office had been established there at the end of July with the A.P.O. number 805. This appeared in the first cancellation used there, which until October 1941 was struck in purple, as was the censor mark.



A cover from A.P.O. 805 at Vieux Fort to Chicago on 17th August 1941, with the U.S. Army censor mark "800".

Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 805

From 24th October 1941 (when the first cover below was sent to Seattle)
the colour of the cancellation used at A.P.O. 805 was changed from purple to black.



Vieux Fort
A.P.O. 805



FORCES A. P. O. 805
NOV 28
A.M.
1941
VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs George Penny packer
19 High Street
Marlinton
New Jersey U.S.A

From
A.P.O. 805
to New Jersey on
28th November 1941,
a censored cover sent
at the 15c air mail rate
a few days before it was
reduced to 6c. for U.S. Forces
(not Civilians).

PASSED BY
U (801) S
LAWYER WINNER

MADE IN ENGLAND

W. R. Turner
District Engineer
U. S. Engineer Office
From: MINDER CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA, B. W. I.
A. P. O. - 805