

Gibraltar Study Circle Annual Competition

ENTRY FORM

(To be completed by the entrant – One form per entry)

Name ...**Bert Burton**.....

Contact (Phone or e-mail **anne_burton@sky.com..**

Brief description of entry

GIBRALTAR ROYAL NAVY WWII CENSOR MAIL INCLUDING THE SPECIAL MARKS OF FORCE H WHICH INDICATED THE POSTAGE FEE OF 5D HAD BEEN PAID.....

Class: (Tick appropriate box)

Class – No. of sheets	No of sheets in the entry	Tick
1. Premier (Advanced) (32 sheets or more)		
2. Postal History (16 sheets maximum)	16	✓
3. Traditional (Adhesives) (16 sheets maximum)		
4. QEII (16 sheets maximum)		
5. GB used in Gibraltar (16 sheets) maximum)		
6. Miscellaneous (16 sheets maximum)		

Notes:

All sheets to be sequentially numbered.

This form and your exhibit should be sent to WebMaster (Mr S Lawrence – **therockeditor@outlook.com**) by the 30th June.

Naval Censor Mail with variant rates to and from Gibraltar during first 3 years of WWII.

This exhibit illustrates various postal rates and censor markings on mail to and from naval personnel on board ships in Gibraltar during this period, including a selection of marks that appertain to mail from ships of Force H, which indicated the postage fee of 5^d had been paid. Force H was a special force initiated by Winston Churchill in 1940 to replace French naval power in the Western Mediterranean based in Gibraltar following the French armistice with Germany.

Rate:- From 30th January 1940, the postage rate for an airmail letter to the U.K. was raised to 5^d, using GB stamps, & for use by the Royal Navy in Gibraltar from 5th February. 5^d was also the airmail rate from the UK to Gibraltar providing the sender knew the ship was in Gibraltar. Once Italy had entered the war the 5^d rate could only apply to personnel posting mail on board ships at Gibraltar. .

From 1941 Royal Navy mail from Gibraltar went via RAF Sunderland aircraft to UK via Lisbon to Plymouth or Poole.

Two types of the first naval censor mark have been identified, prior to the tombstone Censor, introduced in December 1939. The first **Spaced out** as in example below.



HMS Valiant

Route - Gibraltar - Algeciras by ferry - Algeciras - Madrid by rail - Madrid - Lisbon by air - Lisbon - UK by air leaving Lisbon on Monday's and Thursdays.

Adhesive - None.

Censorship - Censoring Officer SBT was Inst. Cdr S B Taylor RNVR appt HMS Valiant 21st November 1939.

Markings - On board - PASSED BY CENSOR (Daynes type N618) Initialled.

London - RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel. d/r LONDON 16 FEB1940 CDS.

Rate - Mail from naval personnel on active service was post free

References:-

1. World War II Censor marks by Nick Colley - 2. Postal History of Gibraltar Richard Garcia MBE - 3. The Rock, Newsletter of the Gibraltar Study Circle Issues 115 and 116.

Plan

1 - First type of Naval Censor mark
4 - 8 Various postal rates
10 - 16 Force H mail

2 - 3 1st & 2nd naval censor marks
9 - Sea mail post

These used worldwide including Gibraltar, on airmail covers to & from UK.

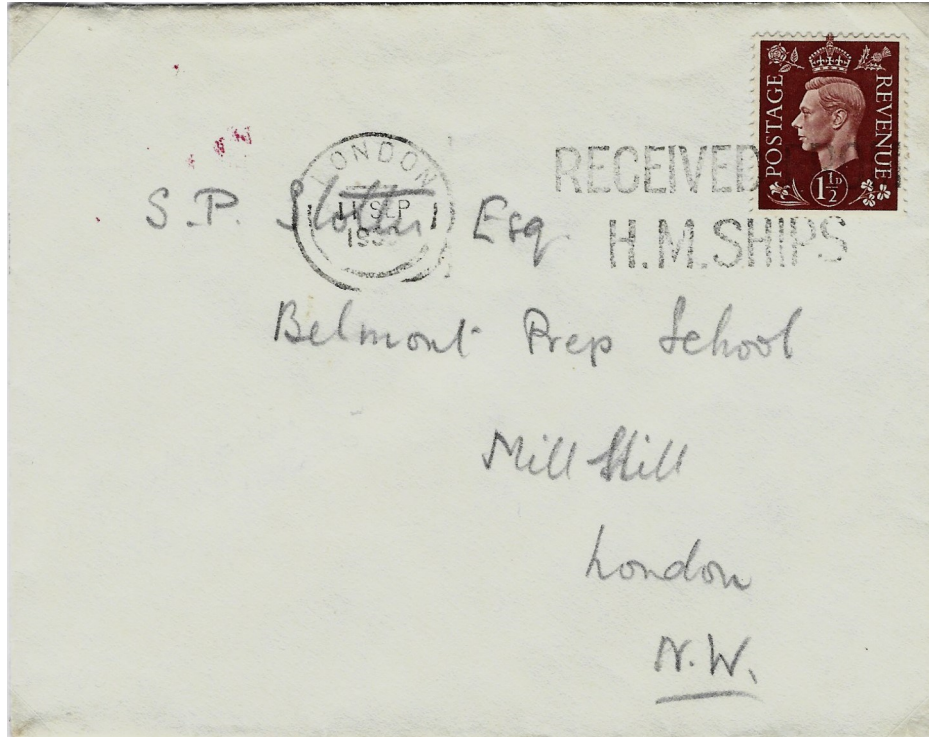
Route - Gibraltar - Algeciras by ferry
Algeciras - Madrid by rail - Madrid -
Lisbon by air - Lisbon - UK by air
leaving Lisbon on Monday's and
Thursdays.

Adhesive - GB KGVI 1½^d

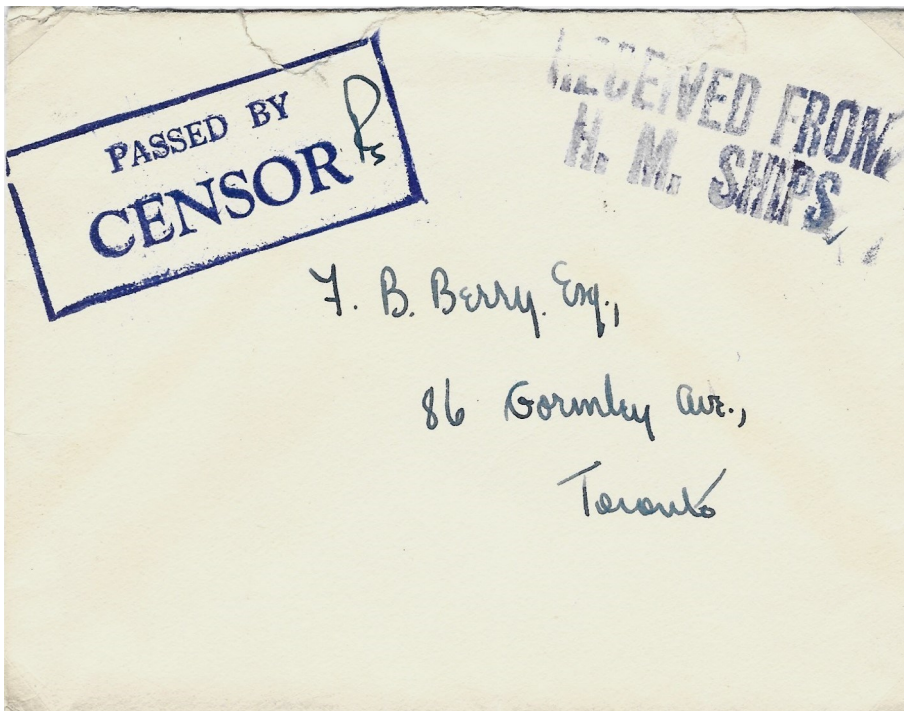
Markings - London - d/r LONDON
11 SEP 1939 cds.
Unboxed RECEIVED
FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel.

Backstamp - PASSED BY
CENSOR (Daynes type N603 note
the stop after CENSOR)
Initialed.

Rate - 1½^d was the dispensation
rate to R.N. personnel.



HMS Firedrake



Route - Gibraltar - Algeciras by ferry
- Algeciras - Madrid by rail - Madrid -
Lisbon by air - Lisbon - UK by air
leaving Lisbon on Monday's and
Thursdays.

Adhesive - None.

Markings - Boxed PASSED BY
CENSOR (Daynes type N522
known only from HMS Firedrake)
Unboxed RECEIVED FROM H.M.
SHIPS machine cancel.

Rate - Mail from active service
personnel was post free.

Interest - HMS Firedrake was in
Gibraltar as part of Force H.

This censor mark is listed as uncommon

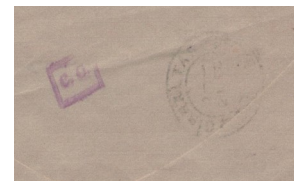
The rare Censor (Daynes type) N532 is only known from Gibraltar. In use October 1939 to December 1939 when the Naval Tombstone censor was introduced which was then the standard naval censor mark.



1939 3rd December Gibraltar to Shoreham-by-Sea.

Route	Gibraltar - Algeciras by ferry - Algeciras - Madrid by rail - Madrid - Lisbon by air - Lisbon to UK by air.
Adhesive	Gibraltar KGV1 4 ^d .
Censorship	Censoring officer Pay/ Lt. Cdr.W A Stewart RNR appt HMS Cormorant 25 th August 1939
Markings	On board - struck with the rare Daynes boxed type N532 ¹ censor mark. Winged style roulette BY All MAIL label Gibraltar - KD31 (7.5.37)-(28.6.40) 3 DE 39 CDS ² .
Rate	4 ^d for first ¼ oz from 1936 until 9 th August 1939 when it increased to 4 ^d for the first ½ oz.

1/4^d Correct airmail rate between Gibraltar and Canada broken down as follows:- 1/2^d Transatlantic air rate - 2^d surface rate from Gibraltar to Lisbon.



1941 12th October Gibraltar to Ottawa, Canada.

Route Gibraltar - Lisbon overland - Lisbon - New York by Transatlantic Air Service by Pan-American "Clipper" Boeing 314 flying boat via Azores & Bermuda - New York, - New York - Ottawa by air.

Adhesive Gibraltar KGV1 1/4^d stamps.

Censorship Initialled - dated 12/10/41

Markings On board - struck with Naval Tombstone Censor (Daynes type 100¹.)
 Initialled.
 Manuscript AIRMAIL
 Manuscript via YANKEE CLIPPER LISBON
 Gibraltar - Krag hand driven continuous impression machine M1 State 2 (2.9.40)-(20.2.42) 12 Oct 41 CDS²..
 Note - **TRAVEL** removed from pre-war mark.
 Boxed PASSED CENSOR. The **H1A** mark in **RED** was in use between 23rd Jan 1940 & Jun 1944.

Backstamp The **C.G.** mark in use between 11th Nov 1940 & 4th Jan 1943 applied by the Gibraltar censor after confirming sender was based ashore not from a Royal Navy ship.
 d/r GIBRALTAR cancel.

Rate 1/4^d correct airmail rate to Canada.

Airmail at 8^d rate.

Royal Navy ship in Gibraltar

A new postage rate of 8^d (1oz to 2oz) has been recorded with Naval Postage marks. 8^d was second rate step from Gibraltar. This letter may not have come from Gibraltar but the date and rate would seem to indicate that it did.



1940 9th March Gibraltar to Liverpool.

Route	Gibraltar - Algeciras by ferry - Algeciras - Madrid by rail - Madrid - Lisbon by air - Lisbon - UK by air.
Adhesive	GB KGVII 8 ^d stamps.
Markings	On board - struck with Naval Tombstone Censor mark (Daynes type N100 ¹) Initialled. Manuscript AIR MAIL Manuscript On Active Service. London - Rubber stamp RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel. These were introduced between 1940 & 1942. This one was soon distorted due to overuse in 1941.
Rate	8 ^d correct rate for airmail (1oz to 2oz).

Registered airmail at 8^d rate - 5^d postage 3^d registration fee.

HMS Vienna

5^d correct airmail rate with the Registration fee set at 3^d making up the 8^d rate. The 5½^d impressed stamp on the registered envelope was either not accepted or the sender did not realise that it could be used towards postage

Adhesive:- KGVI 8^d stamps.

Censorship - Censoring Officer G J Flint was Pay/Cdr G J Flint appt HMS Vienna 27th April 1942.

Markings On board - Registered airmail size F Type MM91 No. 0127. Naval tombstone censor mark (Daynes type N100¹). Initialled.

London - Manuscript BY AIRMAIL Rubber stamp RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS cancels.



Name and Address of Sender
G J Flint
HMS VIENNA
% GPO London

HMS Malaya



Adhesive - KGVI 8^d stamps.

Censorship - Censoring Officer DHD was Lt D H Dawson R.M. appt HMS Malaya 22nd September 1941.

Markings - Naval Tombstone censor mark (Daynes type N100¹) Initialled.

Registered label R MM95 No 0925.

Manuscript Registered Air Mail.

Rubber stamp RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS cancel. These introduced between 1940 & 1942. This one was soon distorted due to overuse in 1941.

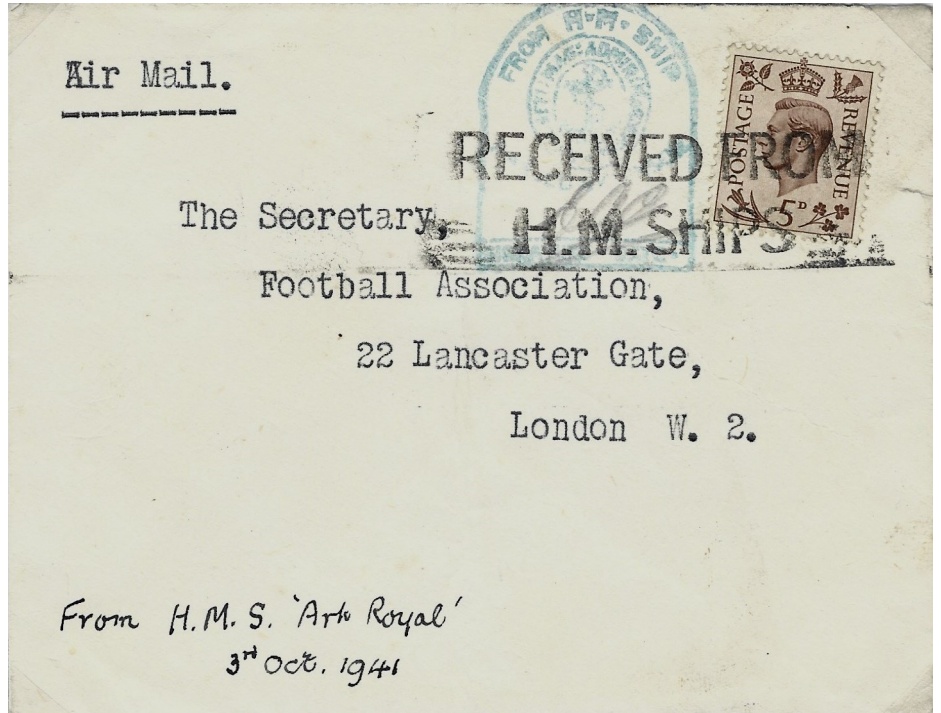
Once Italy had entered the war in 1940 the 5^d rate could only apply to naval personnel serving on ships at Gibraltar

Adhesive - GB KGVI 5^d stamp.

Censor - Naval tombstone mark (Daynes type N100¹)
Initialled

Markings - On board - Typed Air Mail.
London - Cancelled in transit through London with unboxed RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel.

Rate - 5^d correct airmail rate



HMS Fortune



Adhesive - GB KGVI 5^d stamps.

Censorship - Censoring Officer DWB was Commissioned/Temp/ Surg. Lt. David Wilson Bain appt HMS Fortune 1st September 1941.

Markings - On board - Naval Tombstone Censor mark (Daynes type N100¹)
Initialled
Manuscript Air Mail.
London - Cancelled in transit through London with rubber stamp RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel.

Note:- It is most probable the ship's office had exhausted its supply of 5^d stamps so stamps to that value had made up the rate.

Airmail rate for civilians sending mail from the United Kingdom to Gibraltar was 5^d as long as the sender knew that the ship was actually in Gibraltar, otherwise it was 1/3^d which was the rate for sending to RN ships worldwide.



1941 13 th May	Blackpool to HMS Renown in Gibraltar
Route	Blackpool - London by train - London - Paris by the daily air service - Paris - Marseilles onto Tangier by the French airmail service - Tangier - Gibraltar by ferry.
Adhesive	GB KGVI 5 ^d stamps.
Markings	Censor Examiner PC 90 2546 applied in London s/r BLACKPOOL LANCS 13 MAY 1941 CDS. Rouletted Winged BY AIR MAIL label. Manuscript AIR MAIL.
Addressee	Mr J N Richards was a Commissioned Gunner appt HMS Renown 18 th April 1939 until 22 nd April 1942.
Rate	5 ^d correct airmail rate from UK to Gibraltar.

1/4^d Correct airmail rate between Gibraltar and Bermuda broken down as follows:- 1/2^d Transatlantic air rate - 2^d surface rate from Gibraltar to Lisbon.



1941 28th November Gibraltar to Bermuda

Route	Gibraltar - Lisbon overland - Lisbon - Bermuda via Azores by Pan-American "Clipper" Boeing 314 flying boat.
Adhesive	Gibraltar KGVI 1/4 ^d stamps.
Censorship	Censoring officer WDM was Temp/Gunner W D Madders appt HMS Cormorant 8 th June 1941.
Markings	Naval tombstone Censor mark (Daynes type N100 ¹) Initialed. Manuscript AIR MAIL via YANKEE CLIPPER Gibraltar KRAG M1 State 2 (2.9.40)-(20.2.42) 1 DEC 41 CDS ² . Note:- TRAVEL removed from the pre-war mark.
Backstamps	An H2 small boxed C.G. mark in red with a d/r GIBRALTAR 3 DEC 41 CDS, struck after examination, to tie the back flag of the cover which was handed in unsealed for censorship.

This is Naval Mail that has been censored by the Gibraltar civilian censoring authority



1941 11th July UK to Gibraltar

Route Oxford to Lisbon by air - Lisbon to Tangier by air
- Tangier to Gibraltar by ferry.

Adhesive GB KGVI 5^d stamp

Censorship Censored by the Gibraltar civilian censor 6245.
Initialed.

Markings s/r LEATHERHEAD, SURREY 11 JULY 1941 cds
Winged style BY AIR MAIL label.
Manuscript - Via Lisbon

Rate 5^d correct rate when sender knows the
addressee is in Gibraltar.

Addressee Cdr H G Gorton R.N. was the Commanding Officer

Sea mail from Gibraltar to U.K. at the 2^d rate

HMS Lady Shirley

This is mail posted on board ship prior to despatch for onward despatch

Route - By first available vessel to UK.

Adhesive - None.

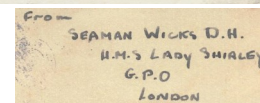
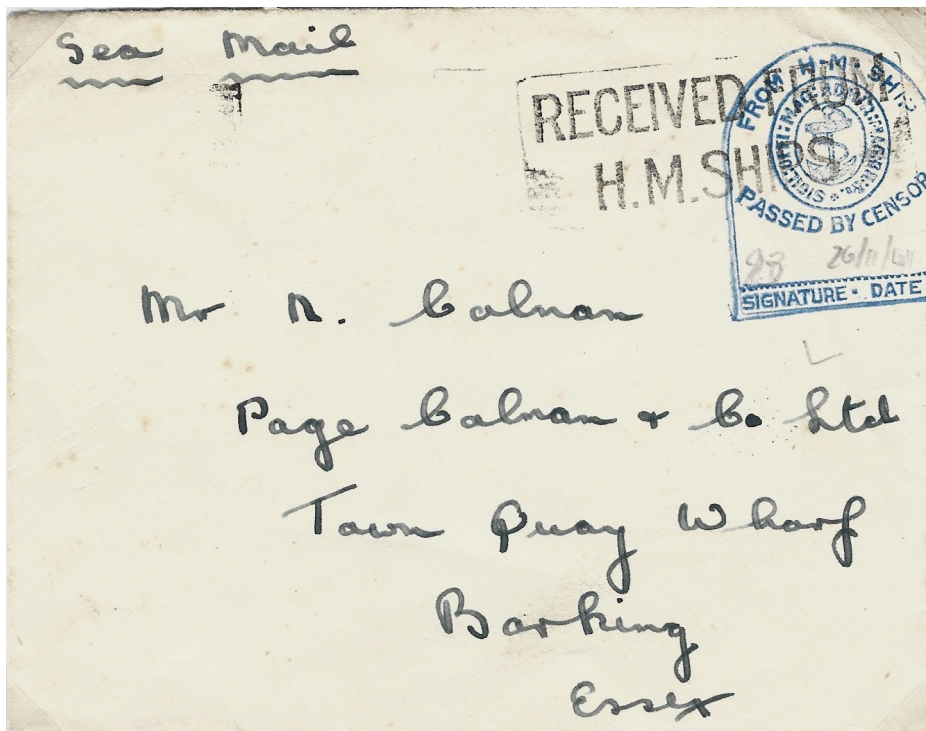
Censorship - Censoring Officer IB was Lt. I Boucant.

Markings - On board - Naval tombstone censor mark (Daynes type N100¹).
Initialed dated 26.11.41.
Manuscript Sea Mail.

London - Cancelled in transit through London with boxed RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel.

Backstamp - Sender's address.

Rate - Mail from serving naval personnel on board ships was freepost.



This cover is Naval mail posted as civilian mail at the Gibraltar Post Office as it bears local stamps to the value of 2^d.

HMS Cormorant



Route - By first available vessel to UK

Adhesive - Local KGVI 2^d stamp.

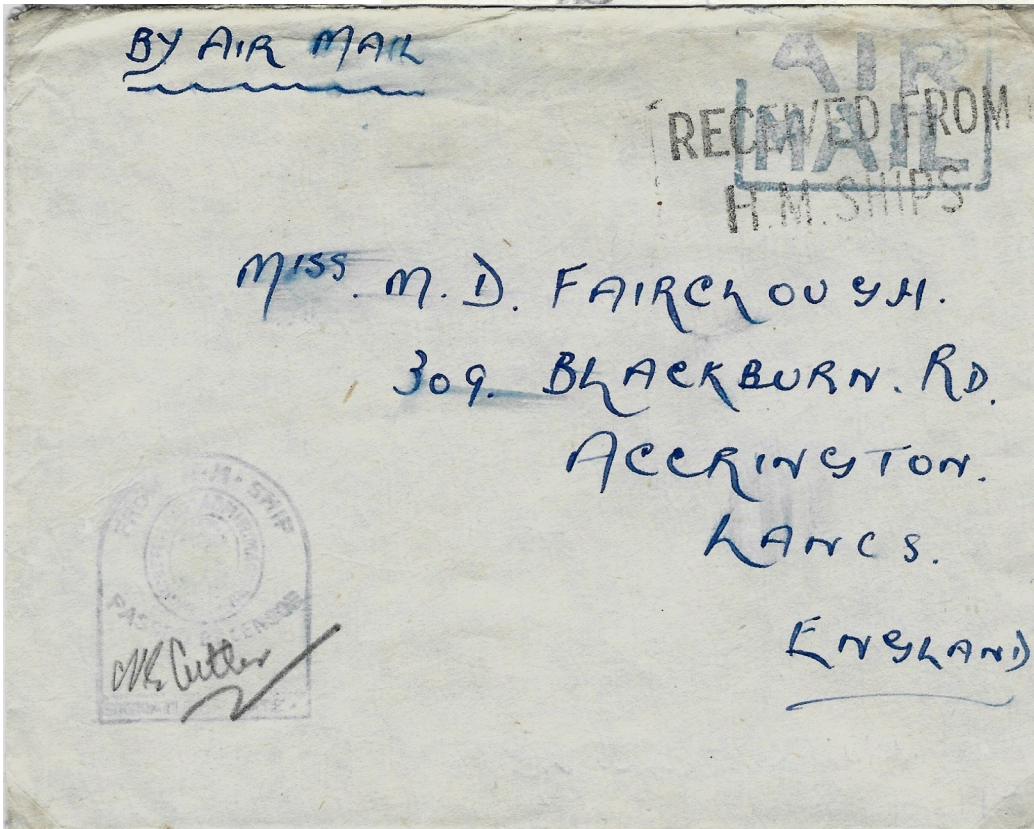
Censorship - Censoring Officer RG was either Lt. Cdr R Galsford RN or Lt. Cdr R Genge RNR.

Markings - Naval tombstone censor mark (Daynes type N100¹)
Initialed.
Gibraltar Krag hand driven continuous impression cancelling machine M1 State 1 (22.8.35)-(17.8.40) 3JAN 1940²

September 1940 to 9th April 1941 airmail from Force H without indication that postage had been paid.

HMS Renown

24.12.40.
47.



25.5.41.
119.

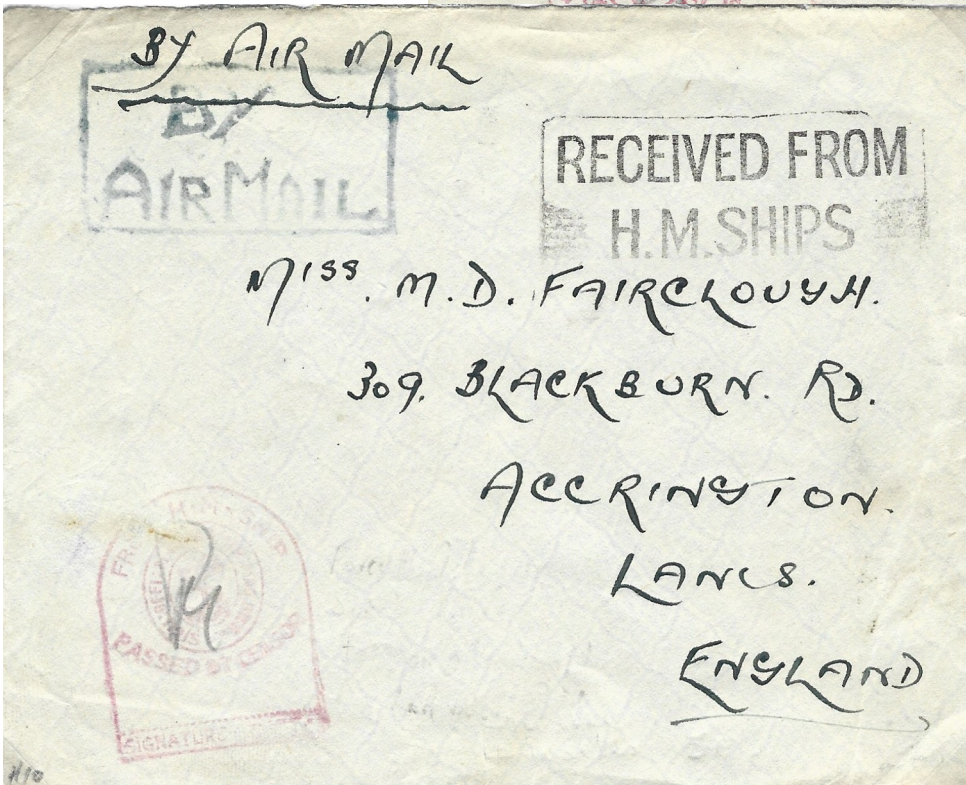
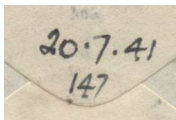
Censoring Officer
NE Cutler was
Lt, Cdr NE Cutler appt
HMS Renown
1st August 1939.

From 9th April 1941 the indication that the 5^d airmail postage had been paid was a boxed AIR MAIL mark in blue. Placed at the top righthand corner of the envelope. This continued until the 18th July 1941.

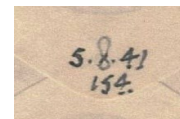
Both covers have the Naval Tombstone Censor marks (Daynes type N100), top dated 24.12.40, bottom dated 25.5.41. Initialed on board. Both have been cancelled in transit through London with RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancels. From 1941 mail was sent by RAF Sunderland flying boats from Gibraltar to Plymouth or Poole.

From 18th July until 2nd August 1941, a period of only 3 weeks, the Boxed AIR MAIL mark was moved to the lefthand corner of the covers.

HMS Renown



HMS Nelson



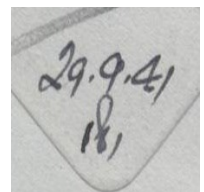
From 3rd August 1941 until 5th October 1941 a new boxed BY AIR MAIL mark to the left of the covers

Both covers have the Naval Tombstone Censor marks (Daynes type N100¹), top dated 20.7.41, bottom dated 5.8.41. Initialed on board. Both have been cancelled in transit through London with boxed 2 line RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancels. Flag of FO(H) had been transferred to HMS Nelson on 27th July 1941.

A new boxed BY AIR MAIL mark was used from 3rd August until 5th October 1941. This cover does not have that mark. Instead stamps to the value of 6^d have been affixed, overpaid by 1^d as the rate for naval personnel was 5^d.



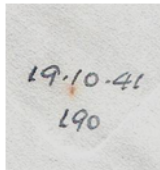
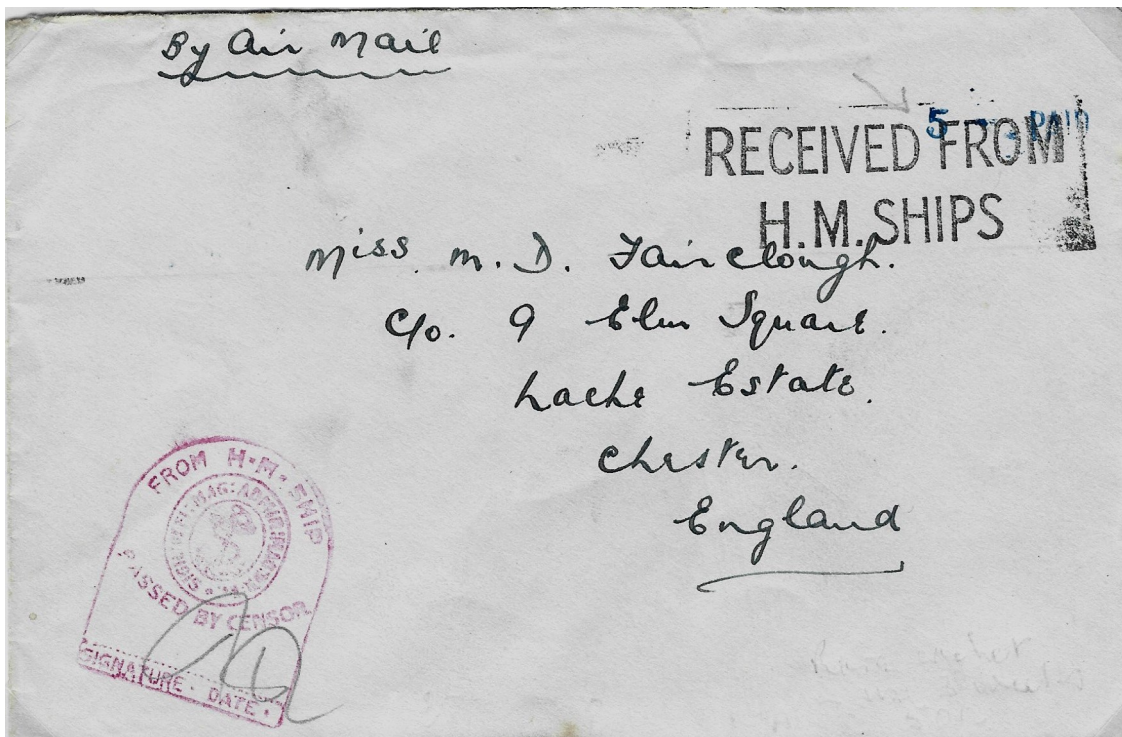
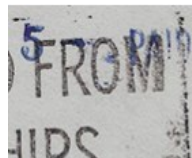
HMS Nelson



Adhesive	6 ^d GB. Overpaid 1 ^d . The Naval rate was 5 ^d .
Markings	On board - struck with 'Tombstone strike' Daynes type N100 ¹ . Initialled. Dated 29.9.41 Letter No. 181 mark on reverse. Manuscript BY AIR MAIL. London - struck with boxed 2 line RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel applied in transit through London.
<u>Rate</u>	5 ^d was airmail rate from Gibraltar from 6 th February 1940.

Flag of FO(H) transferred from HMS Nelson to HMS Rodney 1st October 1941

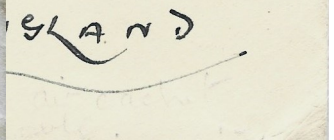
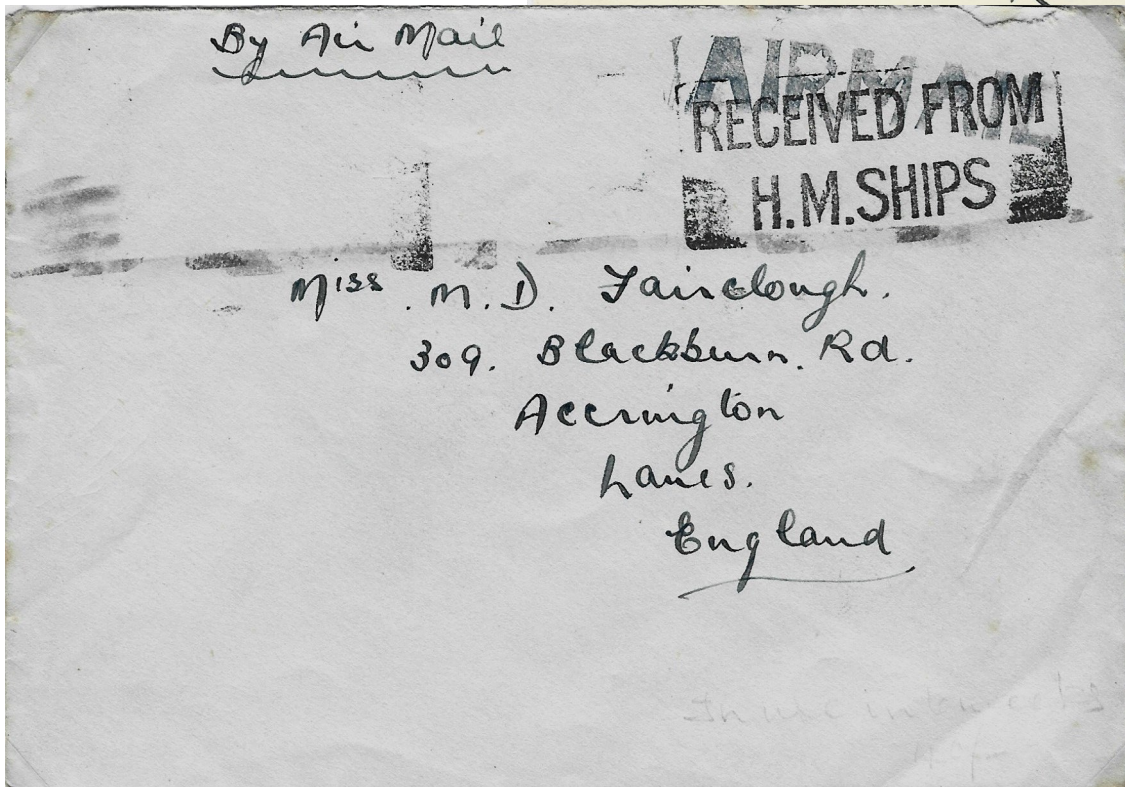
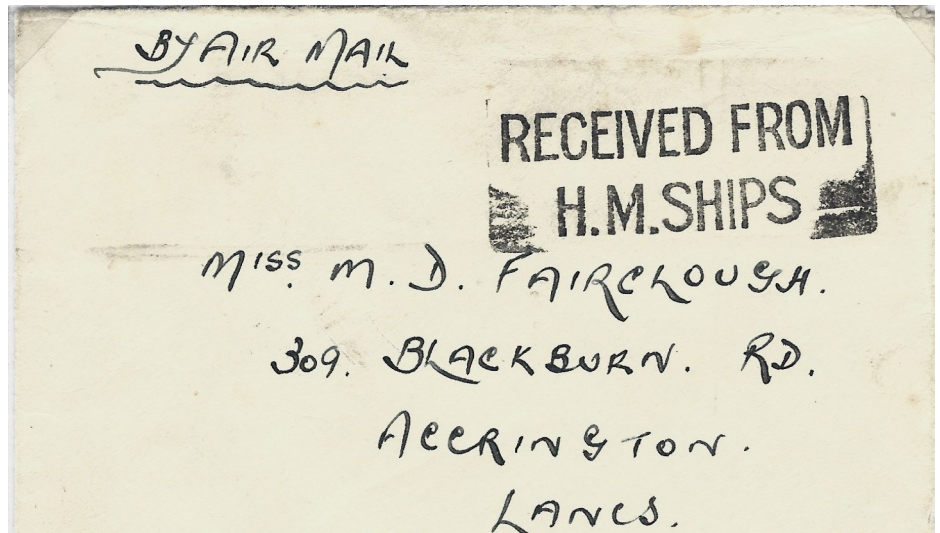
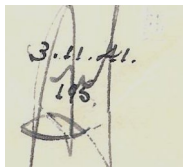
From 5th October 1941 until 26th October 1941, the 5 PAID mark, indicating the 5^d postage fee had been paid was used and is believed to be only 1 of 7 known. This mark was only in force for 3 weeks, and was the scarcest of the Force H airmail markings



Adhesive	None.
Markings	<p>On board - struck with 'Tombstone strike' (Daynes type (N100¹)). Initialled. Dated 19.10.41. Letter No. 190. Straight line 5 PAID mark. Manuscript By Air Mail</p> <p>London - struck with boxed 2 line RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancel applied in transit through London..</p>
Rate	5 ^d airmail rate for Naval personnel posting mail from Gibraltar.

The posting of this cover falls in the nine days between the 5PAID mark ending 26th October 1941 and the introduction of the BLUE LINO CUT STYLE AIRMAIL mark introduced on the 5th November 1941, hence no indication postage fee had been paid.

HMS Malaya



Replaced on 5th November 1941 with the blue lino-cut style AIRMAIL placed at the top right corner of the envelope. This mark has only been recorded 5th Nov-18th Dec

Top cover date 3.11.41, no censor mark. Bottom cover has the Naval Tombstone Censor mark (Daynes type N100), dated 16.11.41. Initialled on board. Both have been cancelled in transit through London where they boxed 2 line RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS machine cancels. The flag of FO(H) transferred from HMS Rodney to HMS Malaya in October 1941.