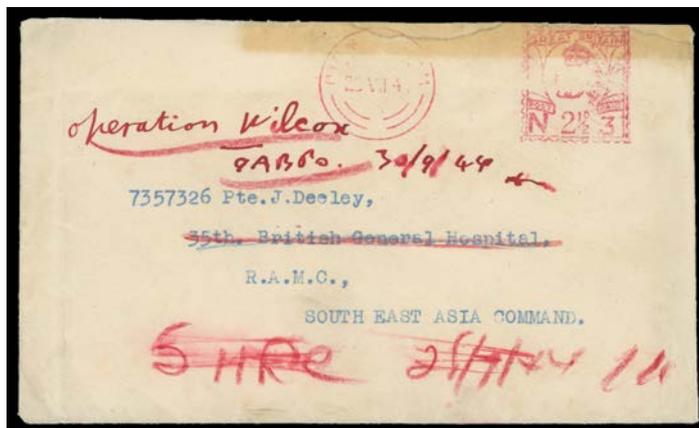


Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration

A small Ceylonese army detachment was sent to Cocos in 1941. Some of the troops were pro-Japanese. This created unrest & there was even an unsuccessful mutiny. Three soldiers were sent to Colombo where they were executed. No postal material from the mutiny period has been recorded. The Japanese twice bombed Cocos in 1944, prompting Lord Louis Mountbatten, the Allied Commander based in Ceylon, to send Indian Army & RAF personnel to the islands to construct an airstrip. All military personnel were withdrawn by late-1946.



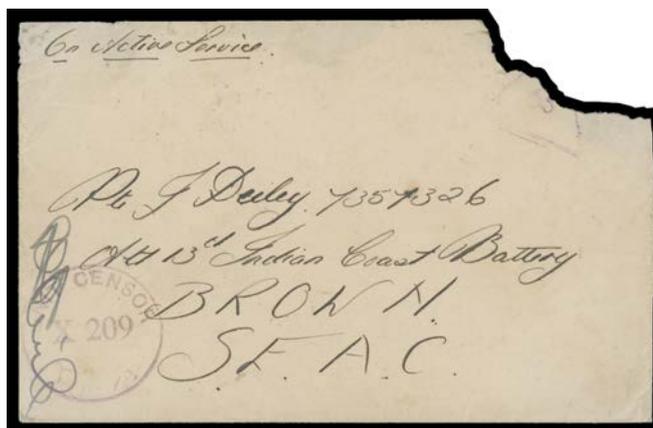
Lot 2385

2385 C C **INWARDS MAIL:** 1944 (July 29?) cover from GB with 2½d meter to "35th British General Hospital/RAMC/South East Asia Command", redirected to "Operation Wilcox", although paid for surface only it was flown to Cocos per Catalina flying boat, opened a bit roughly & stained at the top from a 'sticky' tape repair. [Following the Japanese bombardment in 1944, use of the word "Cocos" in communications was suppressed. Various coded military addresses were used including 'Operation Wilcox', 'Island X' and 'Fortress Brown'. Use of such addresses on mail is very rare & the only the examples we have seen are from *Colin Riddell's* collection]

400^T

Lot 2386

2386 PS B - 1944 (Nov 24) civilian 6d aerogramme from GB to "35th British Gen Hosp/RAMC/South East Asia Command", redirected to "Island X/oc tps/Brown" (= Occupying Troops) & flown to Cocos per Catalina flying boat, stained at the base from 'sticky' tape reinforcement. [**NB:** West Island was sometimes referred to as 'Brown's West Island']

600^T

Lot 2387

2387 C C - 1945 (Jan 12) stampless Forces cover from Ceylon with 'UNIT CENSOR/X209' h/s used at Mount Lavinia & Indian-pattern No 9 ABPO b/s, to "13th Indian Coast Battery/Brown/SEAC", corner fault at upper-right.

300^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

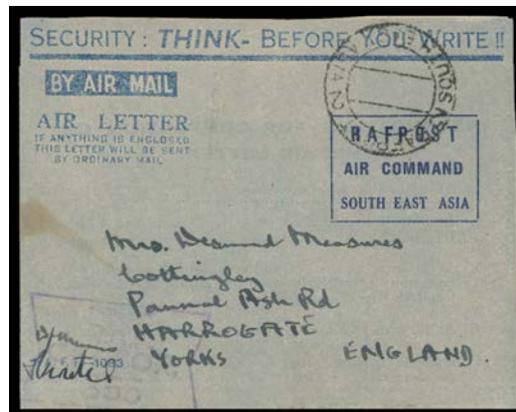
Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2388

- 2388 C A- - 1945 (Apr 5) airgraph with photograph of the addressee's wife from GB to "129 Staging Post/RAF/SEAC", usual horizontal fold (which is clear of the photo). Believed to be **the only recorded airgraph addressed to Cocos**. [129 Staging Post was a postal unit at the West Island Airfield that processed incoming mails between -.1945 & -.3.1946]

500^T

Lot 2389

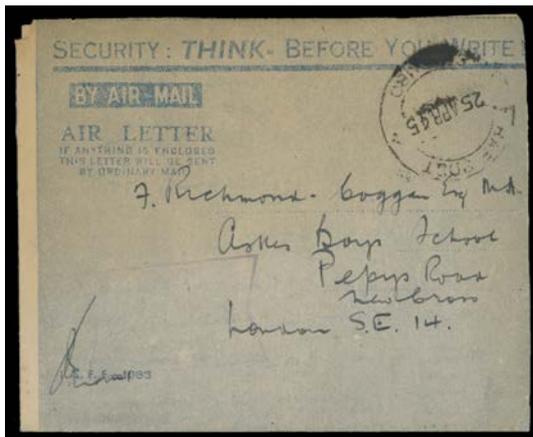
- 2389 PS A **129 STAGING POST:** Undated Forces Air Letter with printed 'RAFPOST/AIR COMMAND/SOUTH EAST ASIA' at upper-right & instructions within for addressing mail completed with "129 Staging Post" & 'CEYLON AIR FORCES' h/s in violet, sent to GB with 'RAFPOST/ 2 /SOUTH EAST ASIA/ 2 ' cds with the dateline removed. There must have been thousands of these *pro forma* air letters but this is the only example we have seen from Ceylon. [In 1944, logistical & construction units of the XIVth Army were sent to Cocos for *Operation 'Pharos'*, to construct a heavy bomber airfield on Brown's West Island. *South-East Asia Command (SEAC)* intended Cocos to be a Forward Strategic Operating Base for retaking Malaya & the Dutch Indies]

300^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

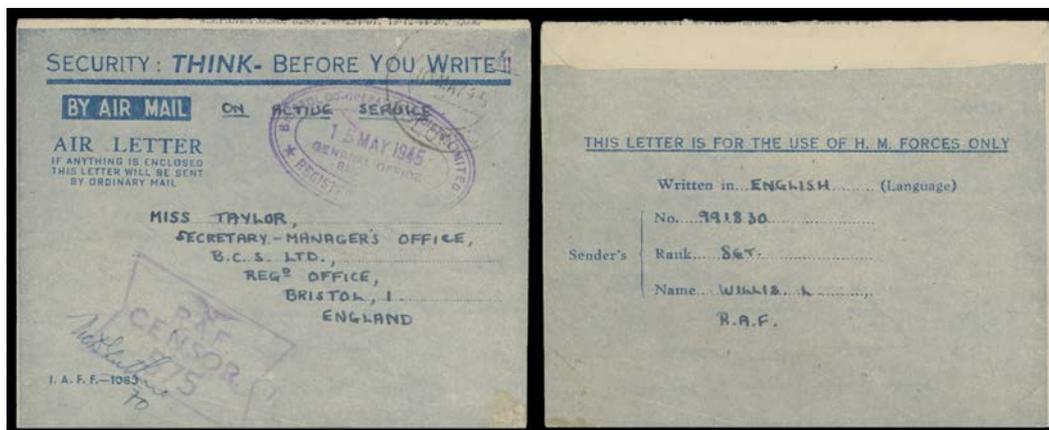
Est \$A



Lot 2390

2390 C B - 1945 (Apr 17) Forces Air Letter with letter headed "129 Staging Post/RAF/Ceylon Air Forces", t sent to GB with unnumbered 'RAF POST/25APR45/COLOMBO' cds, minor internal repair. [The letter states "...if I could only disclose my actual whereabouts you would indeed have a rarity to add to your collection...I hope to get a choir going soon"]

300^T



Lot 2391

2391 PS A- - 1945 (May 3) use of Forces Air Letter from a member of 7136 Servicing Echelon with 'RAF/CENSOR/575' cachet in violet - ERD on Cocos - over signature of *Flying Officer Guthrie*, to GB with partial 'RAFPOST/10MAY45/COLOMBO' cds & private arrival cachet. [Operations Record Book for 129 Staging Post shows F/O Guthrie arrived at Cocos on 29.4.1945 by Catalina, which flew the outgoing mail to Colombo]

400^T



Lot 2392

2392 CL B **INDIAN ARMY FPO 46:** 1945 (Nov 3) envelope front affixed to previously used Indian OHMS cover registered to "GHQ/New Delhi" with exceptional franking of Indian 1½ x3 paying 4½ registration fee tied by 'FPO/No 46/3NOV45' cds, transit backstamp of No 9 ABPO in Colombo & 'NEW DELHI GHQ APO/10NOV45' arrival b/s, minor blemishes. **The only recorded usage of Indian stamps on Cocos.**

1,500^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2393

2393 PS B - 1945 (Apr 9) Forces 'Blue Triangle' Air Letter with letter headed with '37 Ind HAA Bty IA' h/s in violet, Indian-pattern 'FPO/No46/13APR45' cds & 'UNIT CENSOR/R722' cachet in violet used at Cocos, despite completed honour certificate on reverse reopened at Colombo & resealed with 'OPENED BY EXAMINER' label tied by triangular 'FIELD - CENSOR/170' cachet in violet, minor defects. **The ERD for both the FPO 46 cds & Unit Censor h/s on Cocos: Ted Proud notes usage of FPO 46 between 13APR45 & 10JAN46. [The record book of the 37th Indian HAA Battery states "...completed disembarkation on Fortress Brown on 4.4.1945..."]**

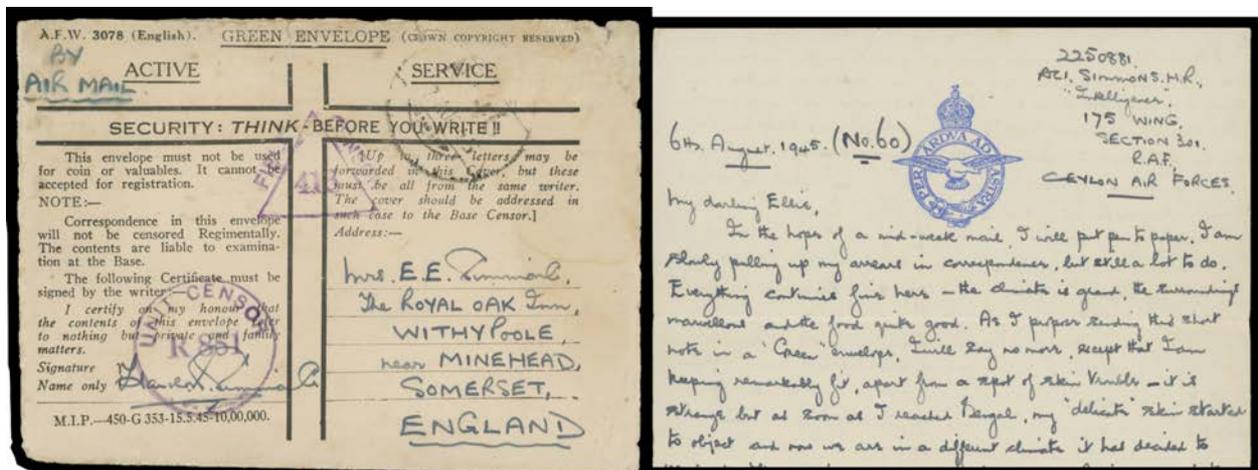
500^T



Lot 2394

2394 C B - 1945 (June 7) Forces Air Letter with letter headed "HQ 352 Petroleum Ptn RASC", to "Nuseirat/MEF" with Ceylon 20c tied by 'FPO/No46' cds & 'UNIT CENSOR/X53' cachet in violet (earliest date used at Cocos), triangular 'FIELD - CENSOR/45' cachet in violet, minor aging. [Nuseirat is on the Gaza Strip, Palestine. Today it is a United Nations Refugee Camp with more than 77,000 inhabitants]

500^T



Ex Lot 2395

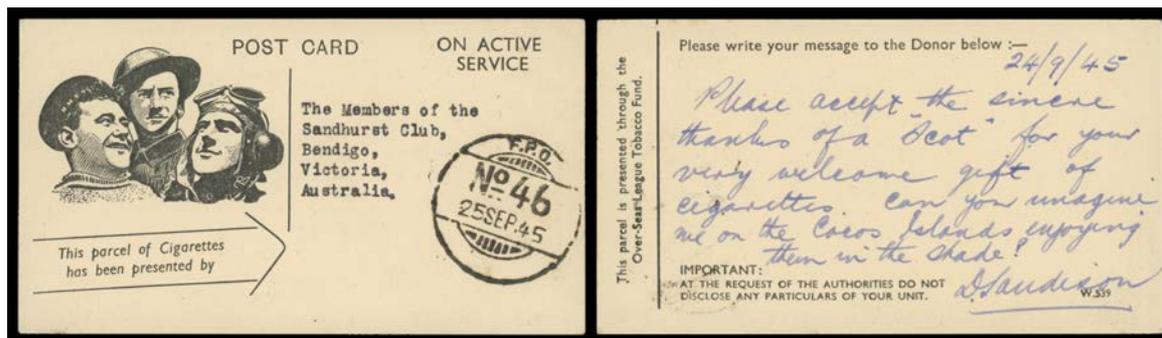
2395 PS/L C/A - 1945 (Aug 6) usage of Forces black/white 'GREEN ENVELOPE' to GB with 'FPO/No 46/7AUG45' cds & 'UNIT CENSOR/R851' cachet in violet used on Cocos, some soiling & peripheral defects; with the enclosed letter on RAF stationery that states "...everything is free here so why not have a sample...I have certainly not said anything in this letter that is taboo...". A rare "Green Envelope" usage on Cocos: we know of only one other example. *Ex Kim Dwyer: acquired for \$920. (2 items)*

500^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



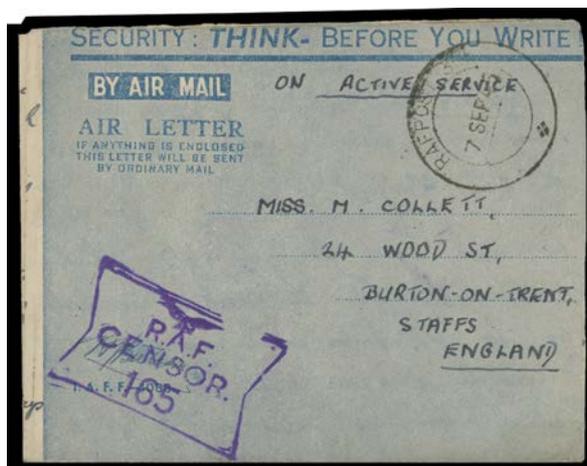
Lot 2396

2396	C	A	- 1945 (Sep 24) usage of printed OAS 'This parcel of Cigarettes...' card, to Australia with superb 'FPO/No 46/25SEP45' cds. Letter of thanks states "...can you imagine me on the Cocos Islands enjoying them in the shade". [Japan surrendered 2.9.1945. Censorship was ended & "Cocos" could again be used in correspondence]	500 ^T
2397	PS	A	ROYAL AIR FORCE PO 301: 1945 (June 4) use of Forces Air Letter - address panel only - with letter headed "129 Staging Post", to Yorkshire with very fine 'RAFPOST 301/7JUN45' cds & equally fine 'RAF/CENSOR/575' cachet in violet. The RAFPOST 301 cds is notorious for being poorly struck: this is about as fine as it comes. [A Command Administration memo of 3.6.1945 advised all personal mail for the Cocos should be addressed "Section 301, RAF, Ceylon Air Forces"]	100 ^T
2398	C	B	- 1945 (July 20) OAS cover to India unusually with Ceylon 20c tied by poor 'RAFPOST 301/20JLY45' cds, fine 'RAF/CENSOR/575' cachet in violet, minor blemishes.	250 ^T



Lot 2399

2399	PS	A-	- 1945 (July 30) usage of Forces 'Blue Triangle' Air Letter with message headed "99 Squadron/301 Section/RAF/Ceylon Air Forces", to GB with poor 'RAFPOST 301' cds & 'RAF/CENSOR/575' cachet unusually in black, minor blemishes. [The letter states "...Naturally I am not allowed to say anything about this place...There's very little in the way of entertainment, not even a canteen...I went almost a month without mail and then received a pile all in one day..."]	400 ^T
On this date, 30.7.1945, the strategic role of RAF Cocos changed from providing staging facilities to being a base for heavy bombers operating against the Japanese in the Dutch Indies & Malaya.				



Lot 2400

2400	PS	A-	- 1945 (Sep 3) usage of Forces Air Letter with message headed "99 Squadron/RAF/Ceylon Air Forces", to GB with unusually fine 'RAFPOST 301/7SEP45' cds & 'RAF/CENSOR/165' cachet in violet used on Cocos, minor blemishes. [The war ended on 2.9.1945. The writer states "...I am not in Ceylon as you have been thinking, I am on...the Cocos Islands...midway between Australia and Ceylon...We are OK now for entertainment..."]	500 ^T
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COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2401

2401 PS B - 1945 (Oct 24) usage of GB 6d Air Letter from London addressed to "175 Wing/Section 301/RAF/Ceylon Air Forces" at Cocos, light horizontal fold.

400^T

Lot 2402

2402 PS B - 1945 (Nov 30) usage of SEAC illustrated 'XMAS AIR LETTER' endorsed within "Cocos Islands Xmas 1945", sent to GB unusually with fair 'RAFPOST 301/30NOV45' cds applied on reverse (no blank space on front), minor defects.

500^T

Lot 2403

2403 C A- - 1946 stampless cover endorsed "Forces Mail" & on the flap "RAF Station/Cocos Island/Ceylon Air Force", to GB with unusually fine 'RAFPOST 301/11MAR46' cds. [Flying operations ceased with closure of the West Island Airfield on 7.4.1946]

500^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

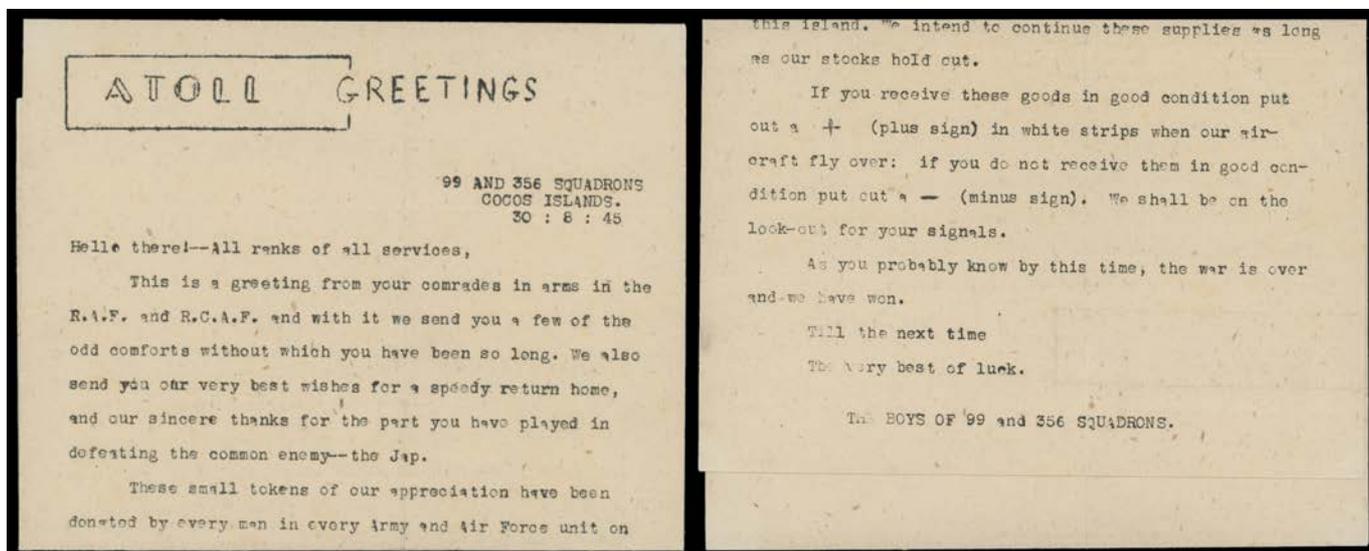
Lot Type Grading Description Est \$A



Ex Lot 2404

2404 C B **INDIAN ARMY FPO 150:** 1946 OAS cover to India with very fine backstamp of the rare 'FPO/No 150/4FEB46' cds used at Cocos, to Bombay with arrival b/s of 11.2.1946, minor soiling. [FPO 150 replaced FPO 46 on Cocos in January 1946. The ERD for the cds is 28JAN46, on a Ceylon 5c. *Ted Proud* records usage between 4FEB46 & 4MAR46 only] (2 items)

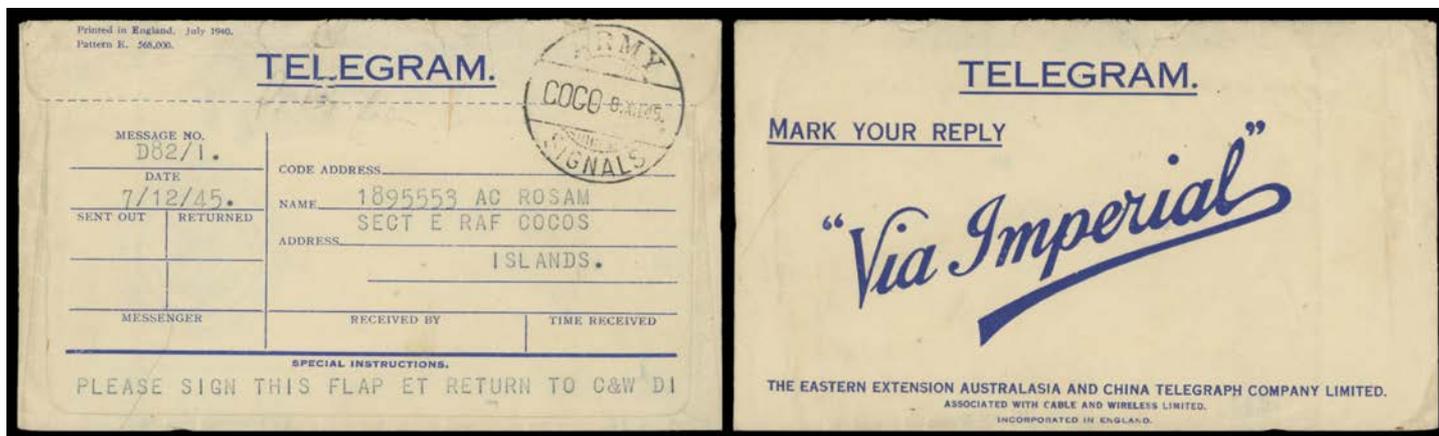
1,000^T



Lot 2405

2405 C A- **PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS:** 1945 (Aug 30) roneo'd leaflet headed 'ATOLL GREETINGS/99 and 356 Squadrons/ Cocos Islands' dropped over Changi POW Camp in Singapore, remarkably fine. It states "...These small tokens of appreciation have been donated by every man in every Army and Air Force unit on this island...the war is over and we have won..." (which was a trifle presumptuous because the formal Japanese surrender was three days later, on 2.9.1945). Rare: **the only example we have seen.**

250^T



Lot 2406

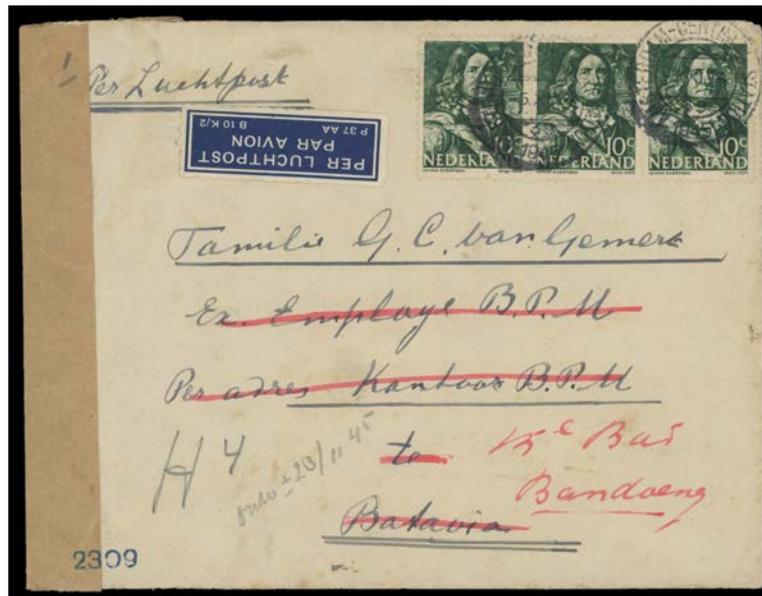
2406 C B **ARMY SIGNALS:** 1946 *Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co* envelope to "RAF COCOS/ISLANDS" with largely very fine strike of the rare 'ARMY/COCO 8.XII.45/SIGNALS' cds, minor defects. **Extremely rare.**

1,500^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1941-46 World War II Military Administration (continued)

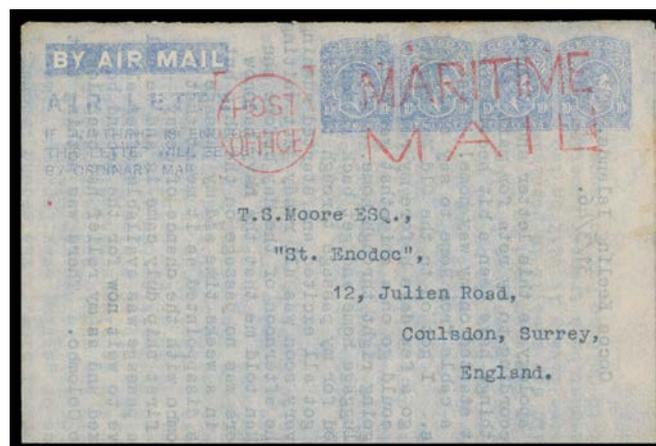
Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Ex Lot 2407

2407 C B/A- **KLM TRANSIT MAILS:** 1945 (Nov & Dec) commercial covers from Holland to Batavia or Semarang both at 30c airmail rate with Dutch black/brown censor tape, the first redirected to Bandoeng, the other forwarded to Ceylon, minor blemishes. **Unrecognised rarities.** [On 10.11.1945, KLM included Colombo & Cocos in its first post-WWII service to the Indies. On 16.11.1945, the KLM pilot received a full briefing on Cocos. The last such transit at Cocos was on 18.1.1946. Flights then flew Colombo-Batavia direct. From 22.2.1946, both Ceylon & Cocos were bypassed, the new route being via Calcutta & Rangoon] (2)

400^T

Lot 2408

2408 PS A- **CIVILIAN MAILS VIA MILITARY CHANNELS:** 1946 (Mar 31) usage of scarce Ceylon 10c+10c+10c+10c Air Letter with lengthy typed message headed "Cocos Keeling Islands" & on the reverse "co NOIC, Cocos, Via FMO Colombo" (= Fleet Mail Office), to Surrey & cancelled with British naval 'POST/OFFICE - MARITIME/MAIL' machine in red, very minor blemishes. An extraordinary usage & **the only such item from Cocos that we have seen.** [Colin Riddell states that in return for hospitality shown by employees of the Cable Station, the RAF assisted with sending & receiving of their mail. The letter is basically a whinge about plans to leave the island having been scuppered: "...there is a trooper around Java somewhere that is supposed to be...evacuating [troops] to Singapore then coming here to take some of the chaps here back to Colombo..." He also mentions the impending abandonment of the airstrip & the cessation of air services]

1,000^T