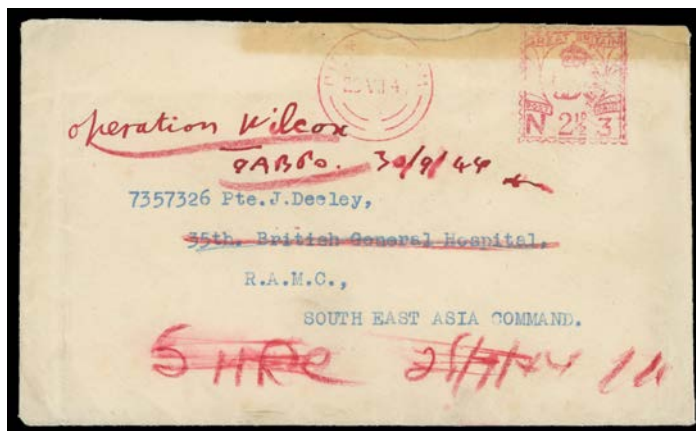


Lot Type Grading Description

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 All military personnel were withdrawn by late-1946.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<sup>T</sup>

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<sup>T</sup>