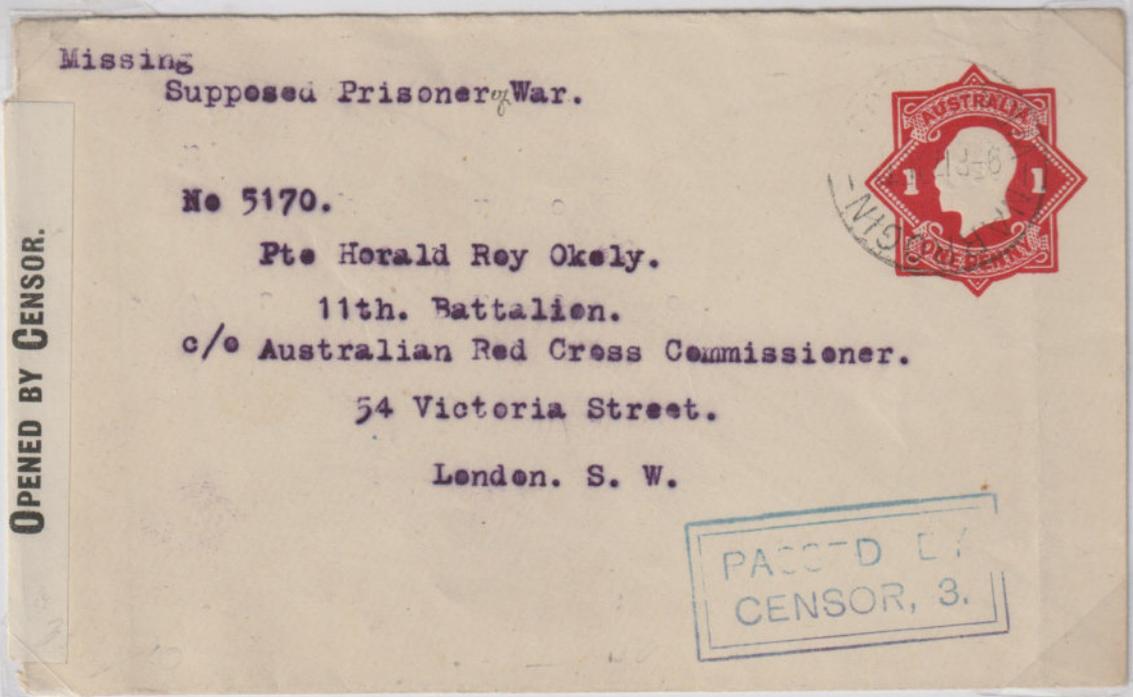# SIXTH CENSOR SEALING LABEL
A.I.F. OPENED BY CENSOR (capitals below line)
(30/5/17 – 5/12/17)

Leederville 30 May 1917, 5CSL1.6 (**ERD**), 5CC1.6/3, Muri 21 July

R. HASLER,

Commission Agent,

OSBORNE PARK,
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

OPENED BY CENSOR.

PASSED BY
CENSOR, 3.

Missing
Supposed Prisoner of War.

No 5170.

Pte Herald Roy Okely.

11th. Battalion.
c/o Australian Red Cross Commissioner.

54 Victoria Street.

London. S. W.

OPENED BY CENSOR.

PASSED BY
CENSOR, 3.

Narrogin 17 July 1917, 5CSL1.6, 5CC1.6/3

Perth 9 October 1917, 5CSL1.7 (**ERD**), 5CC1.6/1, German censor cachet

Mullewa 20 May 1918, 5CSL1.7, 5CC1.6/2

Type 5CSL1.7
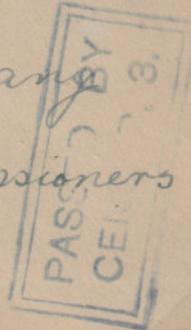
Narrogin 3 January 1918, 5CSL1.7, 5CC1.6/3

British Prisoner of War.

5170 Pte. Harold Roy Okely
11th Battalion
Australian Imperial Forces
Limburg — Germany
Australian Red Cross Commissioners
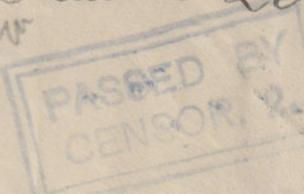54 Victoria Street
London   S - W

Mss Wubin, 10 bar dumb obliterator, 5CSL1.7, 5CC1.6/2, registered Perth 5 April 1918, Grenchen 19 June

Type 5CSL1.7

No. 1 State Mill via Manjimup 12 April 1919, 5CSL1.7(**LRD**), 5CC1.6/1, T10, mss 10, Berne
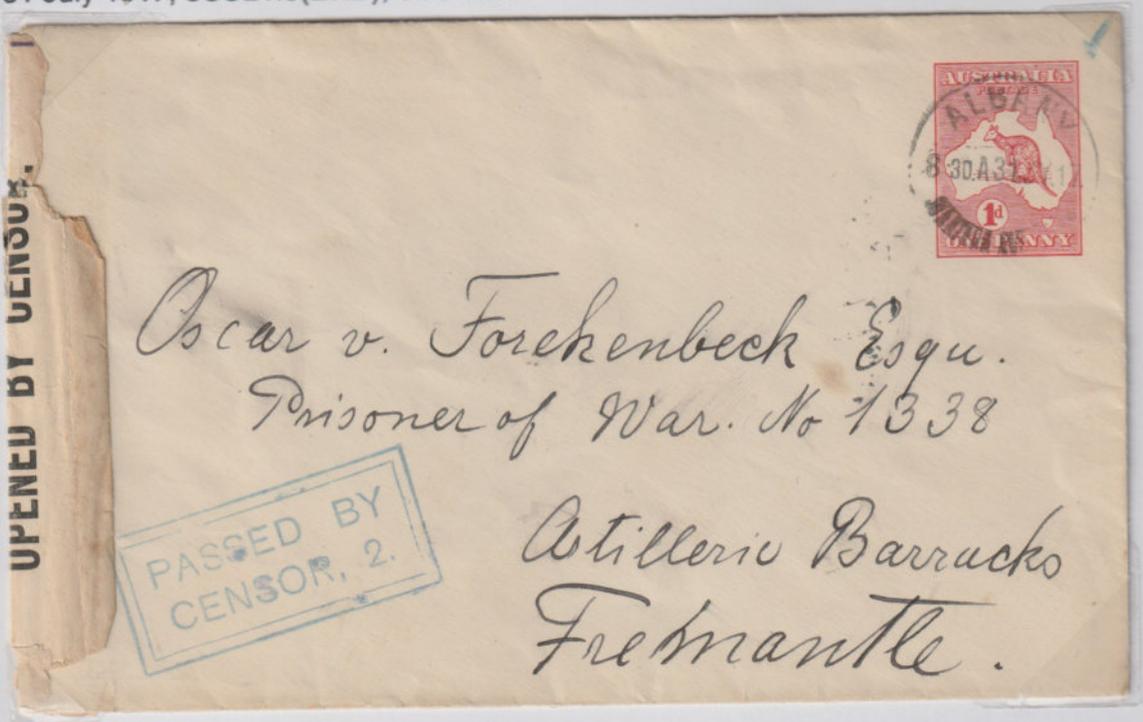23 May

No. 1 State Mill via Manjimup 30 August 1919, T 10, mss 10, Berne 1 October
Censorship in Western Australia formally ceased on 21 September 1919 but this cover
demonstrates that it effectively ceased before that.
CENSORSHIP CEASED

EIGHTH CENSOR SEALING LABEL
OPENED BY CENSOR
(31/7/17 – 3/8/17)
(Only recorded examples of this label)

Western Australia belatedly fell into line with the Australian practice of using censor labels stating 'Opened by Censor.' Although inscribed 'Prisoner of War', Forchenbeck was an internee who had been repatriated from Liverpool NSW.
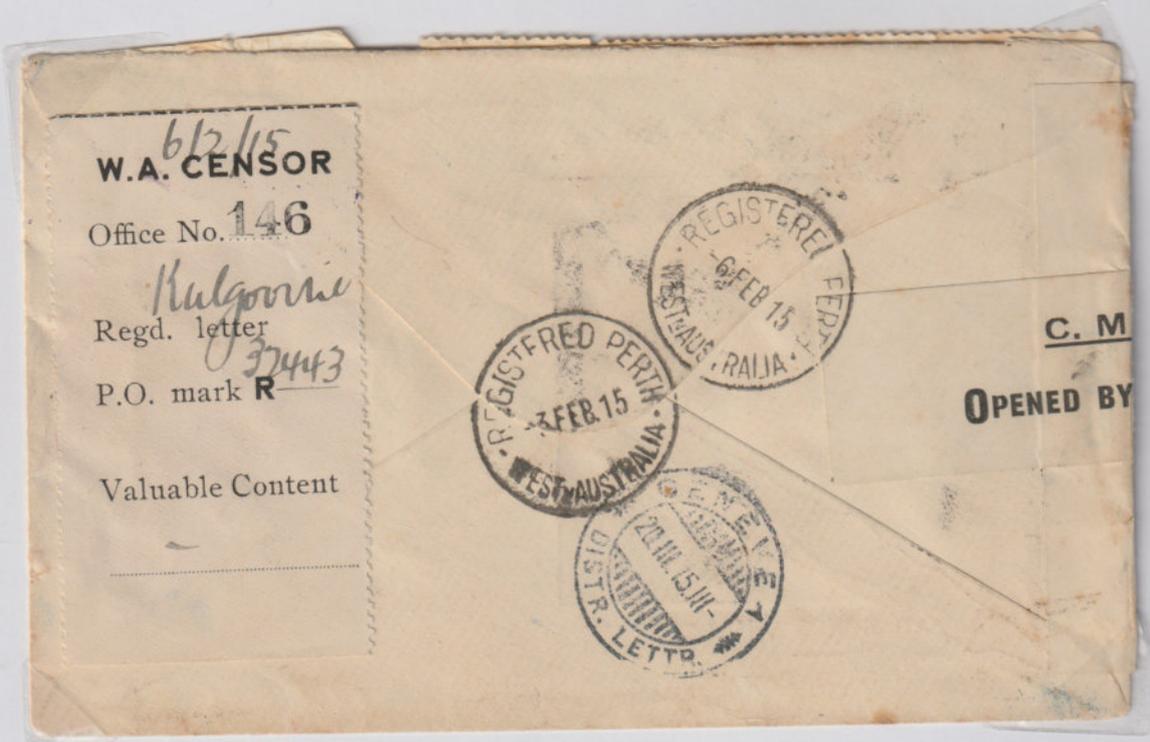Albany 31 July 1917, 5CSL1.8(**ERD**), 5CC1.6/2

Perth 3 August 1917, 5CSL1.8(**LRD**), Bienne 24 October

(–) 2

W.A. CENSOR REGISTRATION RECEIPT LABEL
(3/2/15)
(This is the only recorded censor registration receipt in Australia)

This is the only recorded example of a cover struck with two different censor cachets.
Double 2½d postage rate plus 3d registration.
Kalgoorlie registration label, registered Kalgoorlie 2 February 1915, registered Perth 3 February,
W.A. Censor Office No. 146 February 6, 5CSL1.3 tied 5CC1.1, 5CC1.2, Perth 6 February, Geneva
20 March

H.M. CUSTOMS 1918

Some mail in 1915 from the AIF in Egypt was intercepted by Customs before being censored. This 1918 mail indicated both Customs and the Censor were checking for illegal trading with the enemy.
Cairo

14 June 1918
Port Said
15 June
London
20 July
Perth
16 September
5CC1.6/1
Customs cachet
Perth
16 September
Guildford
18 September

Stockholm
6 December 1918
London
12 December
Perth
27 January 1919
5CC1.6/1
Customs cachet
Perth
28 January

COMMERCIAL CENSORSHIP

The only recorded example of Western Australian mail being censored twice.
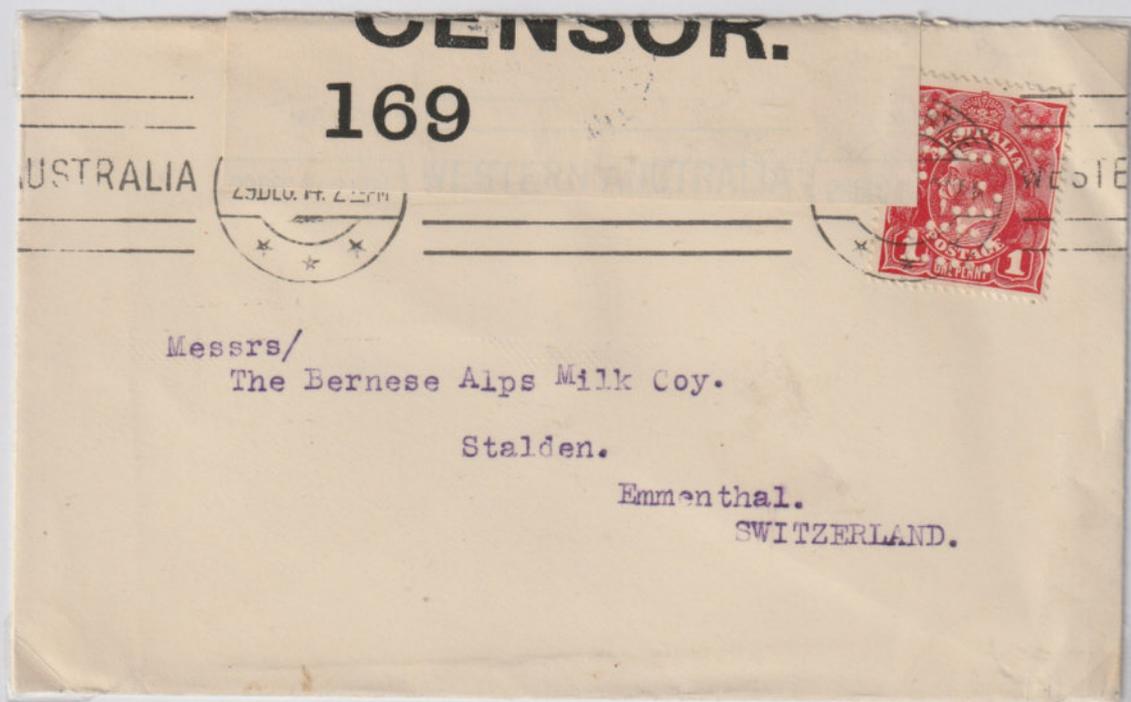Perth 12 June 1915, 5CC1.3, Sydney censor cachet

Guildford 12 April 1917, 5CC1.3 mss 2
The only recorded example of 5CC1.3 being converted to 5CC1.6 with a manuscript number
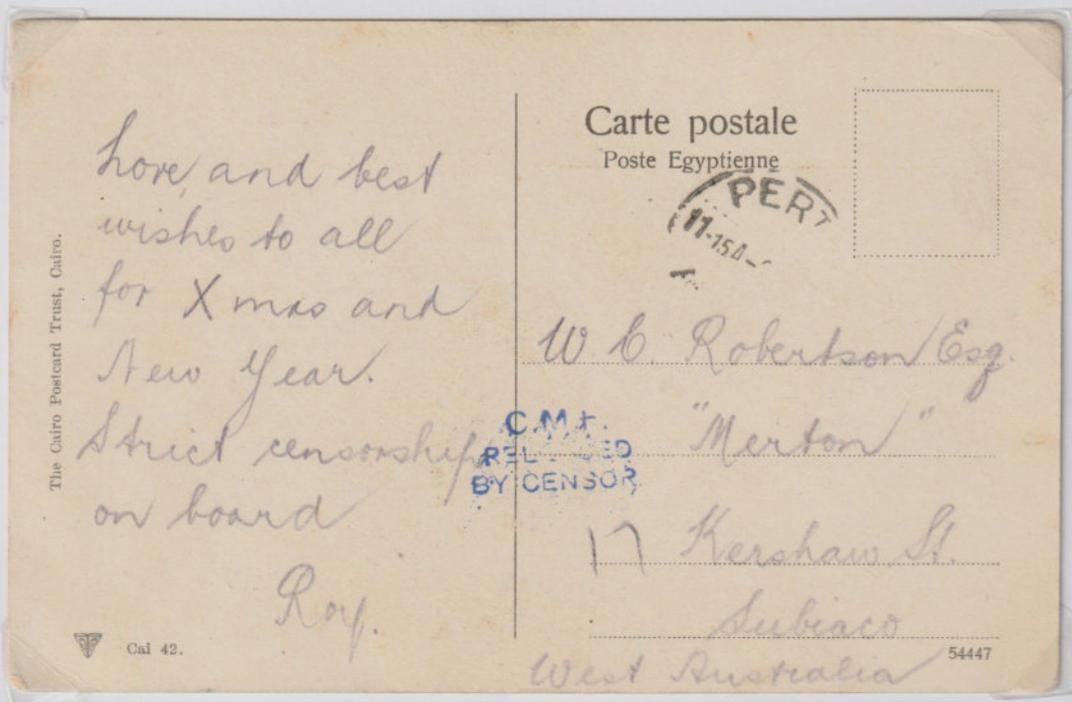
CENSORED ELSEWHERE

Mail to and from Western Australia could be intercepted and censored en route.
Perry 15 October 1914, Sydney 7 December , Sydney 8 December, Sydney Censor Sealing Label,
Sydney 9 December

D&J Fowler perfin
Fremantle 29 December 1914, London Censor Sealing Label, Stalden 7 February 1915

Mail handling procedures and censorship of mail from the First Convoy were not well established so some mail was censored on arrival.

The top card is the only recorded example of a stamp cancelled by the censor cachet. Possibly posted at Colombo. "What do you think of the Australian Navy?", 5CC1.2

Egypt PPC, 5CC1.1, Perth indecipherable date

CENSORSHIP OF INTERNEE MAIL

On 10 August 1914 all German males were required to report to a police station and some were interned on Rottnest island. The circular Prisoner of War Letter C.M.F. 5th MD. Indicated the letter was censored under the authority of the Commandant on Rottnest and was passed, entitled to free postage.

Written Detention Camp Rottnest 13 April 1915, POW cachet, 5CSL1.2, 5CC1.3, Perth 17 April

POW cachet, 5CC1.3, Perth 10 June 1915

CENSORSHIP OF POW MAIL

Crews from captured German ships *Greifswald* (6 August), *Neumunster* (16 August) and *Thuringen* (26 August) were taken to Rottnest as prisoners of war.
Sender P.O.W. Johannes Korff, Ships Offr, Rottnest Island, censor blue pencil tick, Major Meeks censor cachet, 5CC1.3, London circular Passed Free Prisoner of War cachet, London POW Bureau struck out and letter forwarded to Germany.
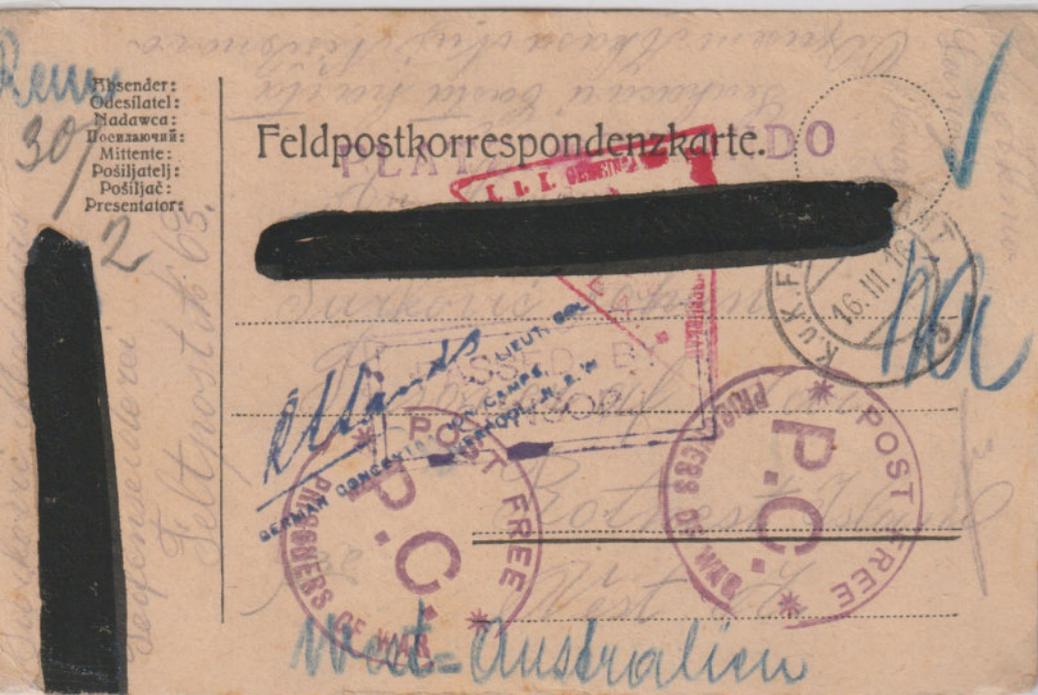

Stamps removed, possibly by censor
New York registered 31 May 1916, returned for postage 1 June, H.M. Customs cachet, 5CC1.3, Perth 14 July, redirected Liverpool Camp, Sydney censor sealing label, Sydney 2 August

GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP, LIVERPOOL, NSW
POW Redirected Mail

Rottnest Island Camp was closed on 22 November 1915. Some internees were released on parole but most internees and all POW were transferred to NSW.

Dolmacia
13 January 1916
Vienna
Censor cachet
London
PC Post Free
5CC1.3
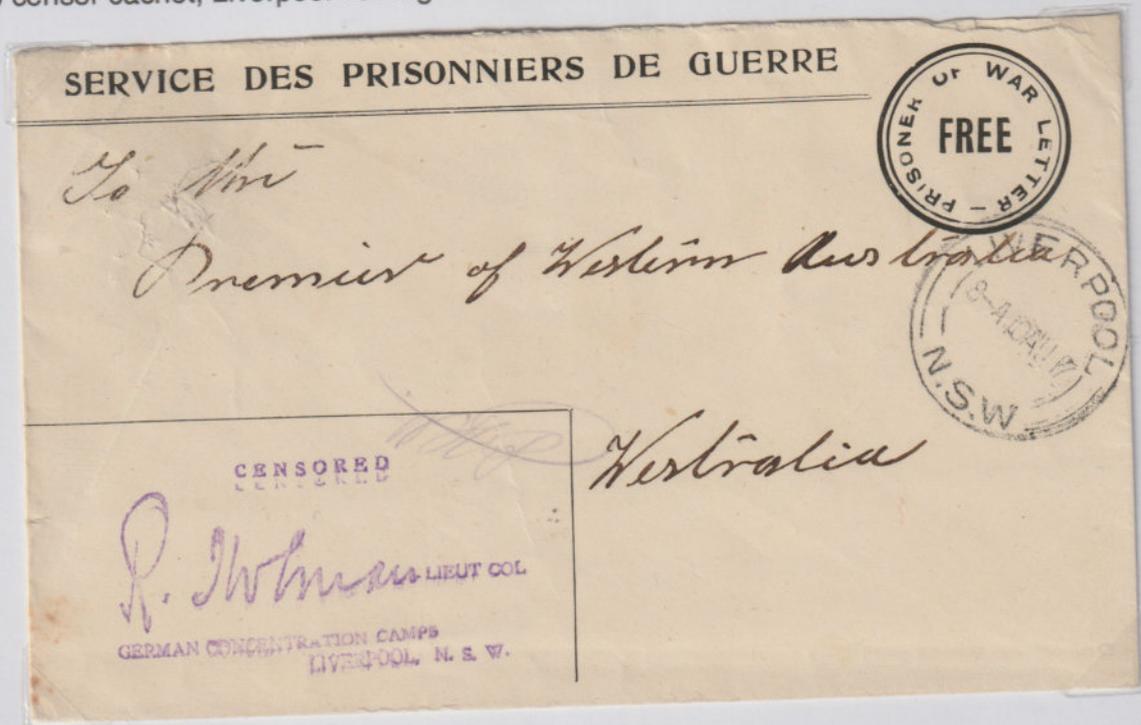Liverpool Camp
Censor cachet
Stamps removed
Censor tick

KuK Feldpostampt 63
16 March 1916
Platz
NDO cachet
Vienna
Censor cachet
London
PC Post Free
5CC1.3
Liverpool Camp
Censor cachet
Censor tick

GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP, LIVERPOOL, NSW

Camp censorship was deemed sufficient for these letters. Postage was free but registration was not.
Camp censor cachet, Liverpool 10 August 1917

Camp censor cachet, Holdsworthy Mil. Camp 'rat tail' registration label, Holdsworthy Camp 17 July 1918, Liverpool 18 July, Sydney 18 July, Perth 23 July

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY BARRACKS FREMANTLE

After the closure of Rottnest Camp, some enemy aliens were arrested or sought
imprisonment because they could not get work due to discrimination against them. The
RAGA Barracks held 8 internees in March 1916.
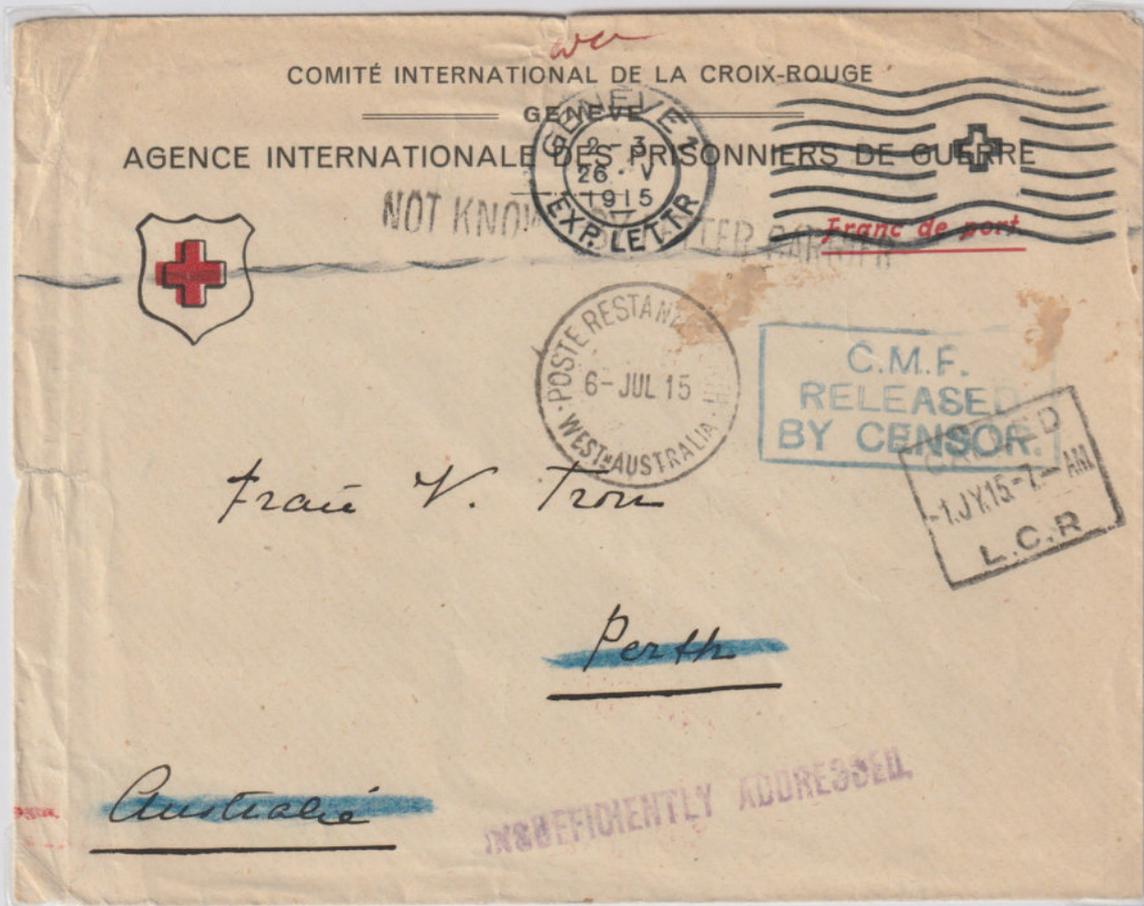Basle 15 April 1916, faint partial censor cachet

Jacques Bohme had been under surveillance in Geraldton before his arrest. The writer
apparently knew of his arrest but not where he was detained.

RED CROSS POW AGENCY

The International Red Cross POW Agency in Switzerland sought and recorded information about the location of POW and internees in conjunction with the branch of the British Red Cross Society established in Melbourne and subsequently in all other capitals.
This attempt to contact the addressee failed.
Geneva 26 May 1915, 5CC1.2, LC Room 5 July, Poste Restante 6 July, Not Known by Letter Carrier, Insufficiently Addressed, DLO 30 July
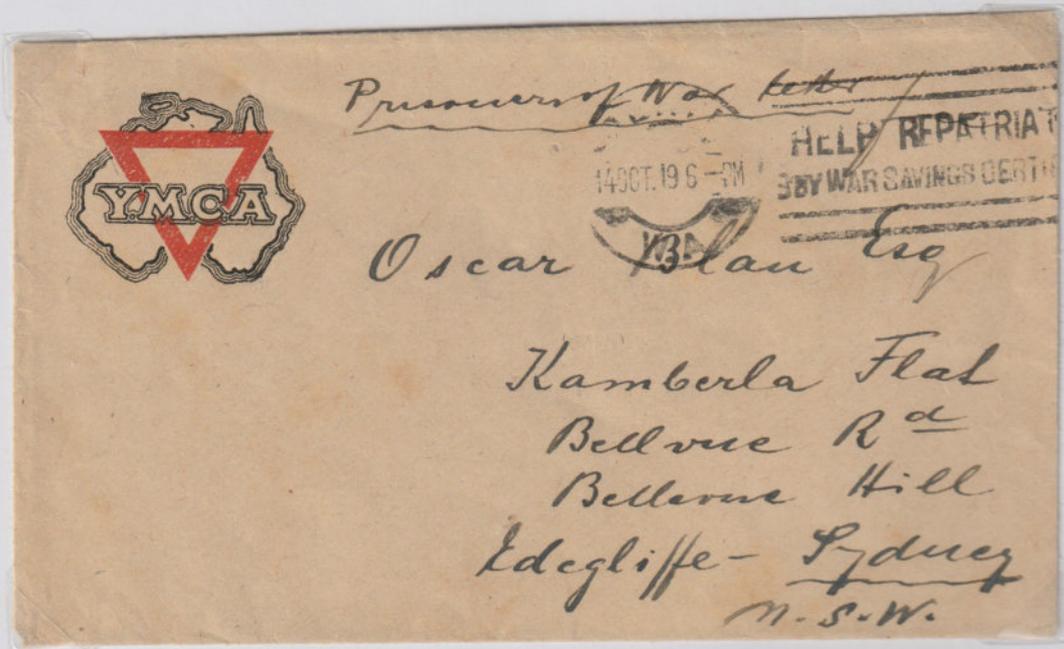

The Swiss POW Agency handled almost 170 million postal items in 1918.

REPATRIATION: CENSORSHIP CEASED

The Geneva Convention required all POW be repatriated after the war. Some internees were also repatriated and were entitled to free postage while in transit.
Fremantle 14 October 1919

Inscribed OAS instead of POW so this card was struck with the AIF Postage Free cachet.
Probably posted on board SS *Rugia* at Fremantle September 1919.
Oscar Blau had been interned and then released to run his business in Sydney. He amassed a hoard of POW mail from Liverpool Camp and sealed it up in a wall of his office where it was found when the office was demolished in the 1990s. It is the most significant source of World War 1 POW mail in Australia.