



WORLD WAR II:

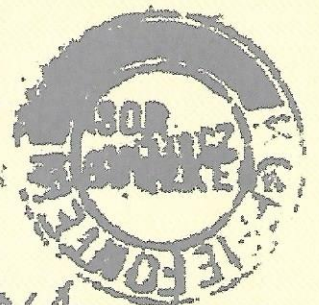
PRISONER OF WAR AND INTERNMENT CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR MAIL



JBR Findlay & Rory Ryan

PRISONNIER DE
PRISONIER
KRYGGEGEVANGENE
KOFFIEFONTJIN

PRISONNIER DE
PRISONIER PASSED BY
KRYGGEGEVANGENE
KOFFIEFONTJIN



Miss Elasto (Dept. NA.)

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PRISONER OF WAR AND
INTERNMENT CAMPS
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AND THEIR MAIL

JBR Findlay & Rory Ryan



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INTRODUCTION

After the declaration of war by the Union of South Africa on Germany on 6 September 1939, the Union government established an internment camp at Baviaanspoort, near Pretoria. This was done to accommodate up to 600 civilians who were suspected Nazi sympathizers or those who felt that South Africa should not support the Allies against Germany, such as members of the Ossewabrandwag. The second South African internment camp was opened at Leeukop, Rivonia, north of Johannesburg, on 21 September 1939 to accommodate 150 internees. The establishment of other civilian internment camps at Andalusia, Ganspan, Jagersfontein and Koffiefontein in the Orange Free State followed. On 10 June 1940 the Union government declared war on Italy. As the war escalated and South Africa became more involved, the need arose for the establishment of prisoner of war camps.

With the South African forces in East Africa and the capturing of previously Italian held territory in Somaliland and Abyssinia, there were numerous Italian prisoners of war (POWs) who had to be interned. After the South African forces had liberated Abyssinia, they moved to Egypt and the eastern Sahara, where many more Italians (as well as Germans) were captured. Because of the German origins of many South African citizens as well as the evident sympa-

thy for Nazis among some South Africans, German POWs were sent to camps in other Commonwealth countries. Many transit POW camps were opened in Kenya and in Egypt, but logistics were always a problem. Accordingly, South Africa was requested to accommodate many of these POWs. As a result, over 97 000 Italian POWs were sent to South Africa. The first Italian POWs arrived in Durban on 4 April 1941. They were held in the Clairwood transit camp for administrative processing before being transferred to the Durban Road Camp, at Pietermaritzburg or Zonderwater, near Pretoria.

Initially, the internment camps were under the control of the Minister of Justice. From 14 August 1940, the Director of Internments (Lt Col P.B. Blankenberg) reported to the Minister of the Interior (Mr H.G. Lawrence) and then, from 22 September, all internment camps were under the administration of the Department of Prisons. The Director of Prisons also became the Director of Internment Camps. Shown below (Illustration 1) is an OHMS cover bearing the cachet of the Director of Internment Camps, Pretoria. (Various Active Citizen Force units were assigned the task of guarding internment and POW camps while they were in the reserve force awaiting transfer to East and North Africa. Examples of such ACF units are the Cape Town Highlanders, Prince Alfred's Guard and Regiment De La Rey.)

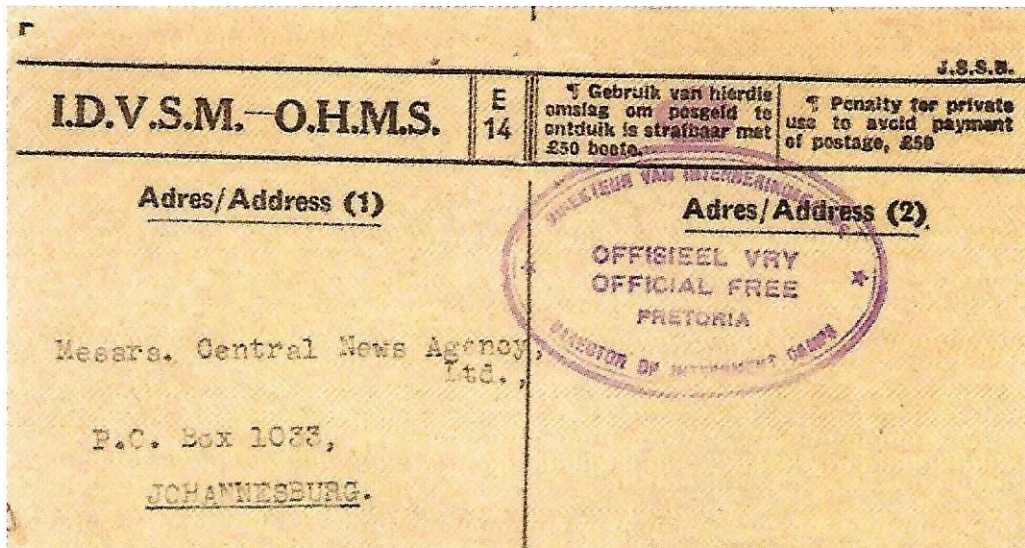


Illustration 1. Cachet (Type 5) of the Director of Internment Camps (Dickson). [See page 4 for a typology of the cachets.]



Illustration 2. Cachet (Type 1a) of the Director of Internment Camps (Cafetzoglou)

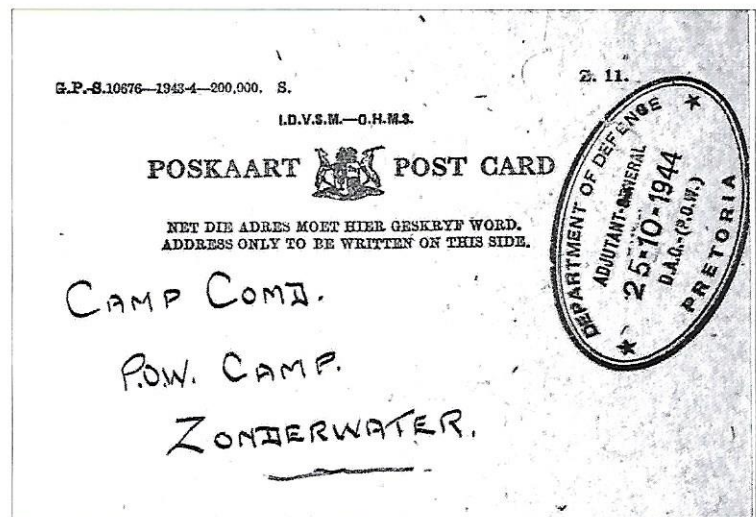


Illustration 3. OHMS post card from the Adjutant-General, D.A.C. (P.O.W.), 25.10.44. (Findlay, copy)

Until October 1940, the 6th Battalion, 1st Reserve Brigade, was responsible for guarding the internment camps. This role was taken over by the Internment Corps, whose members had volunteered for service within South Africa only, and was formed to release these 6th Battalion soldiers for active service elsewhere.

With the escalation in the numbers of POWs being sent to South Africa, the need arose for more and larger POW camps and other facilities such as hospitals. The largest POW camps established were at Zonderwater, near Pretoria, the Durban Road POW Camp, Pietermaritzburg, and Kroonstad Camp. Many other smaller ones were established as the need arose.

The South African government placed restrictions on where POW and internment camps could be located as well as on where POWs could obtain outside employment. The prime considerations were that there was a 160km exclusion zone (east of longitude 31° 19') on the Moçambique border and the POWs and internees could not be located in a malaria area. Moçambique was a Portuguese colony and was neutral during the war. So-called 'native areas' and reserves as well as mission stations were prohibited areas.

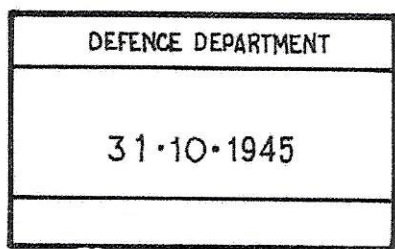
The Vatican established an Apostolic Delegation in Bloemfontein to administer to the needs of the Catholics in the Union of South Africa before the war and, with the many Italian POWs in South Africa, this Delegation assisted with the monitoring of POWs and internees in the camps. In addition, the Apostolic Delegation

received and forwarded messages to and from South African POWs in Italy and Germany to next of kin in South Africa via The Vatican Radio with a reciprocal arrangement for Italian POWs in South Africa. The Apostolic Delegate was the Right Reverend Archbishop van Gylswijk during the war period.

The South African Red Cross Society was also responsible for the well being of the POWs. On 5 April 1943 it was "acknowledged as the official information bureau for Italian POWs in South Africa". The Rev Henri P. Junod was appointed as the South African delegate of the International Red Cross Committee (CICR), Geneva, with the role of inspecting all the POW and internment camps to ensure that the conditions in which the inmates were being held met acceptable standards and that the POWs were being treated within the requirements of the Geneva Convention. M de Bondeli and Dr E Grasset, who were CICR delegates, assisted him. The CICR office was located at the South African Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg.

CAMP AND CENSOR CACHETS

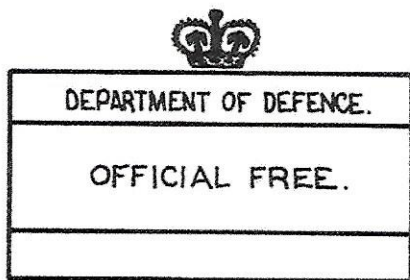
In his unpublished study of the unit cachets of the UDF, Michelson (2001) identifies five basic types of unit cachet (within which there are numerous smaller variations). Following Michelson's typology, the five types of cachet employed by the internment and POW camps are as follows:



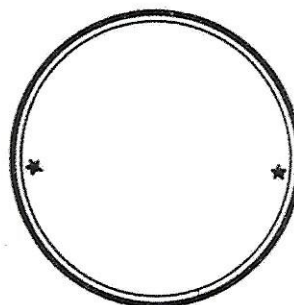
Type 1 (boxed)



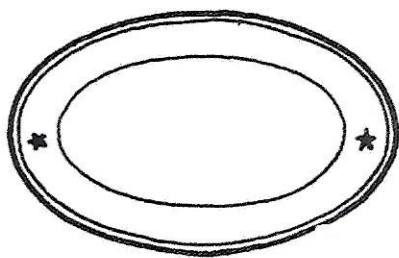
Type 1a (boxed and unlined)



Type 2 (boxed and crowned)



Type 3 (circular)



Type 4 (oval)



Type 5 (oval and crowned)

¹ Much of the information regarding the camps, their inmates, and the Red Cross visits to the camps derives from the many reports compiled by Rev. H.P. Junod on his tours of inspection, which are housed in the CICR Archives in Geneva. The other principal source of detailed information concerning the camps is the Adjutant-General (POW) records in the South African National Defence Force Documentation Centre, POW Archives.

Concerning censor cachets, Tabachnik (1980) identifies four types of censor cachet employed in the camps. We have identified sub-

types for more detail. All are unboxed two-line bilingual cachets. The various sub-types can be identified in the table below.

Type		Sub type	PBC length	Height mm	Letters
Type 1	PASSED BY CENSOR DEUR DIE SENSOR GOEDGEKEUR	a	27,5	7	2
		b	34	8	3 (Andalusia)
		c	35	8	3
		d	36	8	3 (Baviaanspoort)
		e	39	7	2 (Zonderwater)
Type 2	PASSED BY CENSOR DEUR DIE SENSOR GOEDGEKEUR	a	35	8	3 (Gans, Jag, Kof).
		b	51	8	3 (Baviaans, Leeukop)
Type 3	PASSED BY CENSOR A. DEUR SENSOR A GOEDGEKEUR		60	8	3 (Baviaans)
Type 4	PASSED BY CENSOR B DEUR SENSOR B GOEDGEKEUR		59	8	3 (Baviaans, Leeuwkop)

In addition, a four-line trilingual POW cachet was employed at some internment camps, of the following type: PRISONNIER DE GUERRE; PRISONER OF WAR; KRYGSGEVANGENE; KOFFIE-FONTEIN.

In the discussion of each camp (below), the types of cachet having been recorded at the camp will be indicated.

SCARCITY RATINGS

At the end of the description of each internment and POW camp, a scarcity rating of mail emanating from the camp is provided, on a scale of 1 (indicating the most common) to 10 (indicating the most scarce). This rating system is intended as a **guide** for the collector, and should not be regarded as authoritative. The rating system will be refined as more covers and cachets come to light.

INTERMENT CAMPS

At the outbreak of war and as a result of the relatively large number of people in the country who supported or potentially supported the Nazis in the country, the South African government opened the first internment camp for civilians at Baviaanspoort, near Pretoria, early in September 1939. It was designed to hold up to 600 people. The second internment camp for civilians was at Leeukop, Rivonia, north of Johannesburg, which was opened on 21 September 1939 with accommodation for 150 internees. The Post Office Circular 1112 of 16 October 1939 announced that internment camp mail from Baviaanspoort and Leeukop would be free of postage to any destination but parcels and air mail letters should be pre-paid. Other internment camps were opened shortly afterwards. It would appear that POWs were also interned in these camps as the mail originating from some of these camps received a POW camp cachet in the top right hand corner of the envelope.

Mail from the internment camps was subject to censorship by the camp authorities, who would apply the internment camp cachet(s) to verify that the mail was from that specific camp. It also received a "Passed By Censor" cachet and the censor would often apply a manuscript number (e.g. G21). Mail from the camp would then be sent to the POW and Internment camp censor offices in either

Pretoria (Baviaanspoort and Leeukop) or Bloemfontein (Andalusia, Ganspan, Jagersfontein, Koffiefontein). POW air mail was censored in Cape Town; surface mail was censored in Cape Town, Pretoria or Bloemfontein.

ANDALUSIA CAMP:

This camp was opened in October 1939 (?) close to the Vaal-Harts irrigation scheme at Jan Kempdorp. The camp commandant was Col Withet and the internees' representative was Herman Beckurts. The first CICR visits to this camp were by Dr E Grasset on 28 November 1940 and 10 July 1941. From 24 April 1942 to July 1945, the Rev HP Junod made five visits and the number of internees ranged from 1341 to 1966. There were apparently two sections to this camp, namely, Group 1 (internees from SWA) and Group 2 (the remainder, which included many from Tanganyika (now Tanzania, formerly German East Africa)).

The nationalities of internees (1378) on 26 November 1944 were as follows: German nationals 148 (ex Union), 1 068 (ex SWA), 35 from ships, 51 from neighbouring territories, 3 British from SWA, 11 Union nationals by birth, 41 Union nationals by naturalisation, other nationalities were 15 from the Union, 5 from SWA and 1 from a ship. When Rev. Junod visited this camp on 16 to 17 July 1945 there was a total of 1341 internees, of which 1 283 were German nationals (136 from the Union, 1 067 from southern Africa and the remainder were from other territories or ships).

Censoring of mail was done at Bloemfontein with the following manuscript censor numbers recorded on mail originating from this camp, namely G2 (manuscript and cachet), G4, G12, G15, G18a, G21, G23 and G25.

Scarcity rating: 1

Mail emanating from the Guard Force at Andalusia, and at all other internment camps, is scarce. All Guard Force mail has a scarcity rating of 7.

<p>Camp cachet: types 1,2 & 5. Censor cachet: type 1 Four-line POW cachet (unboxed)</p>



Illustration 4.
Cachet of Regiment de la Rey (Andalusia Guard Force) cachet type 4 posted on 11.8.41 (Findlay)



Illustration 5.
Cachet of 2nd Battalion, Natal Mounted Rifles (Andalusia Guard Force) cachet type 3, 31.5.41 (Findlay)



Illustration 6.
Andalusia Camp type 5; censor type 1 (Ryan)

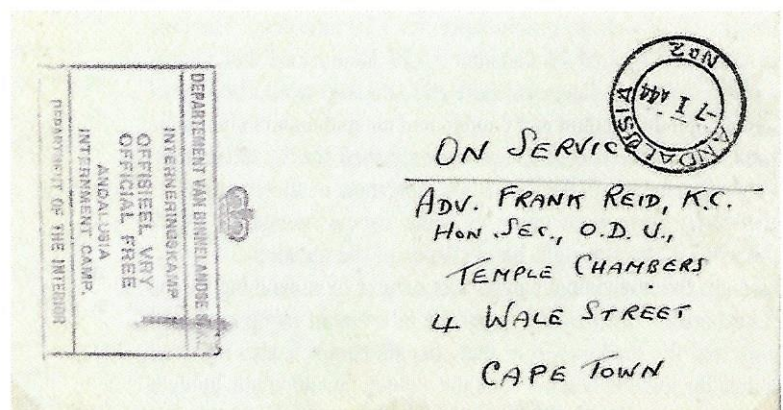


Illustration 7.
Andalusia Camp type 2 (Cafetzoglou)



Illustration 8.
Incoming registered letter from
SWA, 16.7.41 (Ryan)

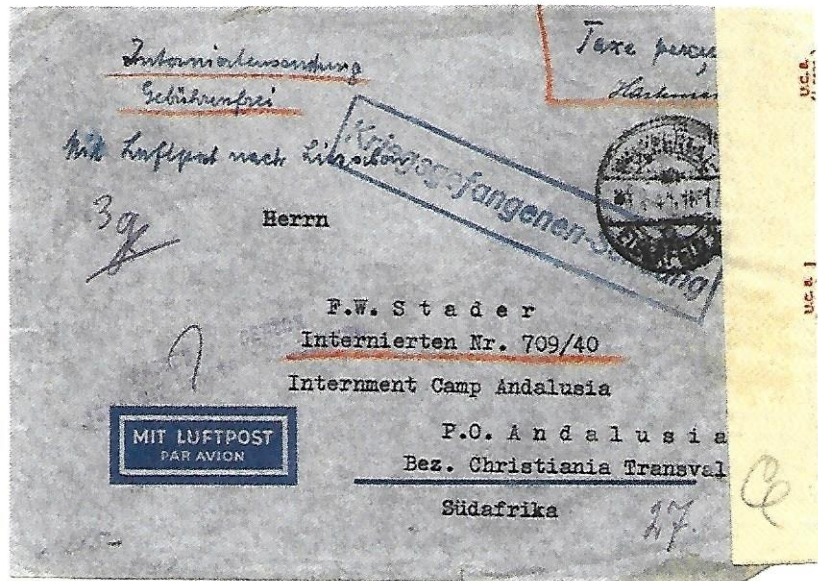


Illustration 9. Incoming airmail
cover from Germany, 1941, cen-
sor type 1 (Dickson)



Illustration 10. Airmail, from
Andalusia to Germany via Cape
Town, 13.2.43, camp type 5; censor
type 1; Coat of Arms E civil censor
(Dickson)



Illustration 11. Registered envelope bearing camp cachet type 1 and unboxed POW cachet, 23.1.41 (Ryan)

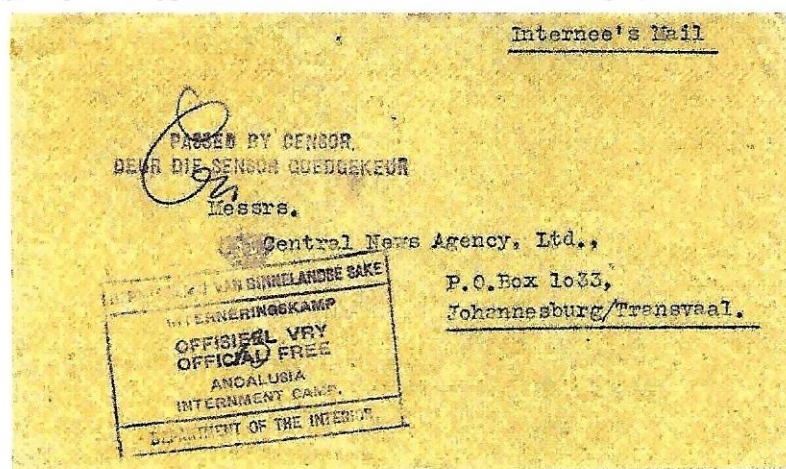


Illustration 12. Cachet of the Department of the Interior (type 2) and censor cachet type 1 (Dickson)

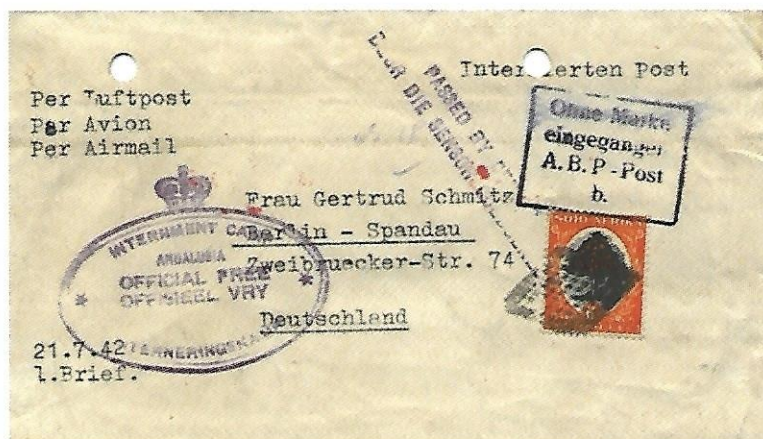


Illustration 13. Airmail from Andalusia, 1942. Note the grill canceller, origin unknown (Miller)

BAVIAANSPOORT CAMP:

This was situated about 20km east of Pretoria. The first visit by a delegate of the CICR was by Dr. E. Grasset, who made 8 visits between 6 November 1940 and 21 December 1944. There were two visits by Rev. Junod, on 4 December 1945 and 28 June 1946. The numbers of internees varied from 546 (June 1946) to 1852 (January 1942). There was a wide range of nationalities interned in this camp as illustrated by the December 1945 count of 2 Danes, 1 Dutch, 1548 Germans, 2 Hungarians and 2 Russians. This total consisted of 372 sailors, 164 from Tanganyika, 28 from the Rhodesias, 5 from Uganda, 4 from Portugal and 9 from the ship "Watussi", a German ship scuttled off the South African coast early in the war. From time to time other nationalities, such as Estonians, Finns, Lithuanians and a Swiss, were interned here.

It appears that mail was censored in Pretoria and, apart from the "Passed by Censor" cachets, a manuscript "C" is often recorded on this mail, which is also common to censored mail from Leeukop. There is also a "Passed by Censor G" (ID). There are five types of censor cachet recorded from this camp. The sender's address on outgoing mail is given as "c/o Director of Internment Camps, Salisbury House, 331, Pretorius Street, Pretoria", which is the same for Leeukop Camp.

Scarcity rating: 2

- Camp cachet: type 5
- Censor cachet: types 1,3 & 4
- Four-line POW cachet (boxed)



Illustration 14.
Baviaanspoort Camp
cachet type 5



Illustration 15. POW cachet in red and censor type 3, 3.7.40 (Findlay)

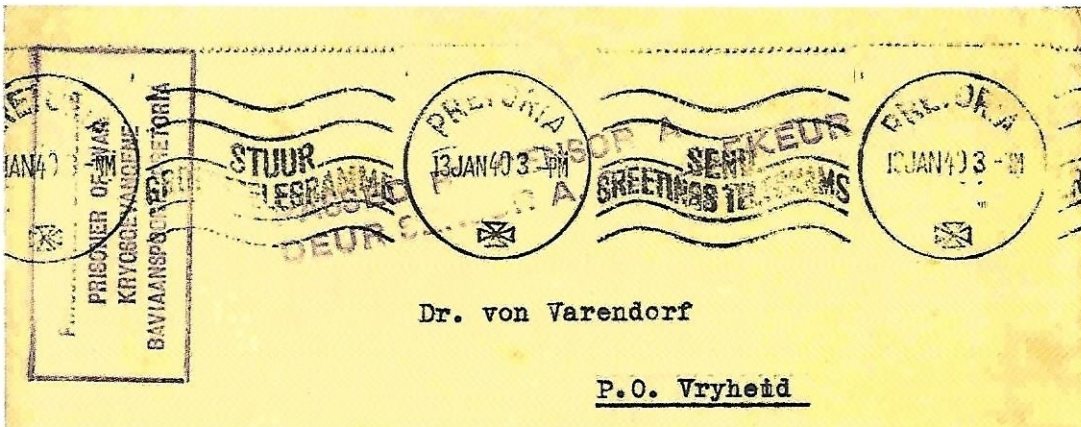


Illustration 16. POW cachet in violet and censor type 3, 13.1.40 (Ryan)

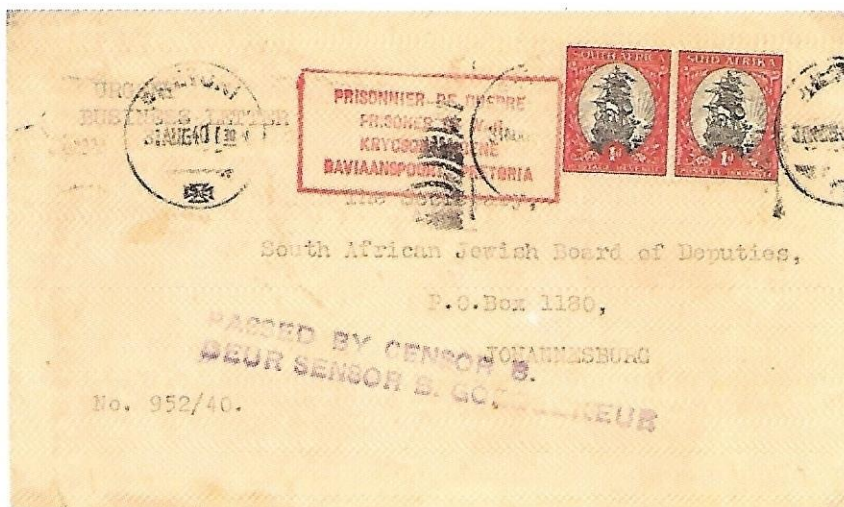


Illustration 17. POW cachet and censor type 4, 31.8.40. From 'E. Maier, Segregation Camp', presumably a separate section for Jewish internees (Findlay)



Illustration 18. Surface mail to Germany, bearing faint camp type 4, censor type 1 and Coat of Arms E of Cape Town (Dickson)



Illustration 19. Surface mail to France with an array of censor and redirection markings, 1941 (Miller)

GANSPAN CAMP:

This camp was situated in the Orange Free State (Free State) and was in close proximity to the other internment camps in the area (Andalusia and Jagersfontein). It was divided into three sections - Camp No.1 was exclusively for Union nationals, Camp No.2 was for Jewish internees and Camp No.3 was for German nationals and those of German origin.

This camp appears to have been visited only twice by Dr. E. Grasset on 28 November 1940 and 11 July 1941.

Censored mail from this camp received a manuscript G14, which is also common to mail from Jagersfontein. Censoring was done at Bloemfontein.

Scarcity rating: 4

Camp cachet: types 1 & 5
Censor cachet: types 1 & 2
POW cachet: none

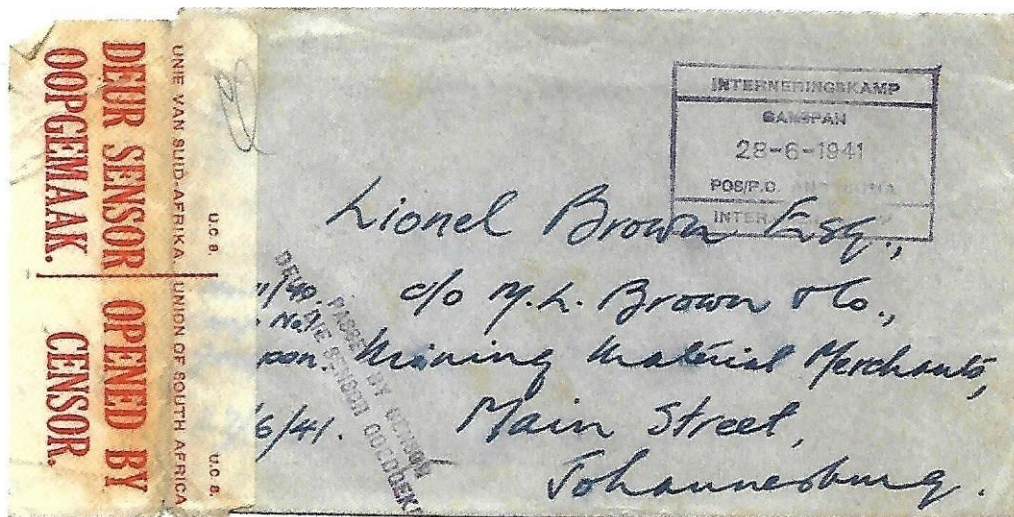


Illustration 20. Camp type 1, censor type 1, 28.6.41 (Dickson)

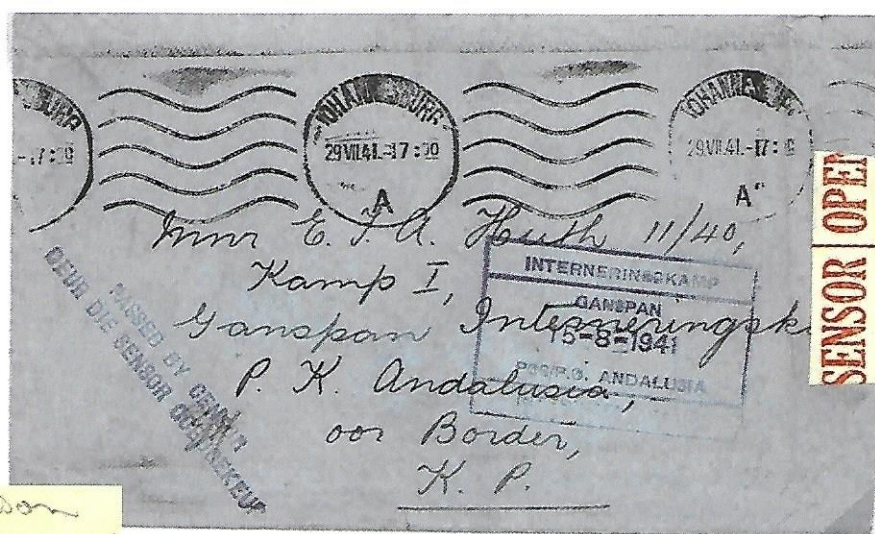


Illustration 21. Camp type 1, censor type 1, 29.7.41. From July 1941, censors were presumably instructed to use tape economically (Ryan)

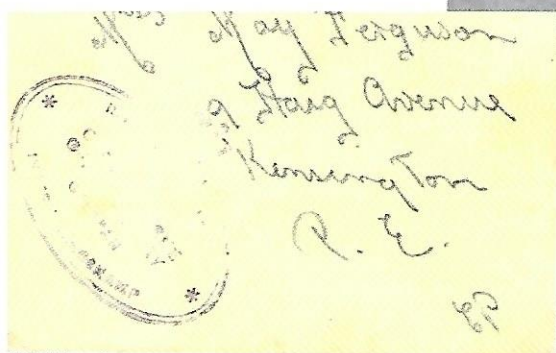


Illustration 22. Camp type 5 (Cafetzoglou)

JAGERSFONTEIN CAMP:

This camp, sited on the property of a diamond mine at Jagersfontein village, was divided into two sections. It appears that Camp No. 1 was for Vichy French and Camp No. 2 was for Italians (ex Koffiefontein). Rev. Junod visited this camp three times; on 23 April 1942 (142 internees), 22 October 1942 (372 internees) and 28 October 1943 (109 internees).

Mail from this camp received two types of censor cachet as well as a manuscript G14, G18 or G24 censor identification number and was censored in Bloemfontein.

Scarcity rating: 4

Camp cachet: type 5
 Censor cachet: types 1 & 2
 POW Camp cachet: none



Illustration 23. Camp type 5, censor type 2 and manuscript censor G14, 9.12.42 (Findlay)



Illustration 24. Camp type 5, censor type 2 and manuscript censor G14, 9.11.42 (Findlay)



Illustration 25. Camp type 5, censor type 1, surface mail to Germany, 1.8.42 (Cafetzoglou)

KOFFIEFONTEIN CAMP:

This camp was situated on the diamond mine ground near the town of Koffiefontein in the south-west Orange Free State. Dr. E. Grasset visited the camp on two occasions (26 November 1940 and 8 July 1941) and the Rev. H.P. Junod visited it on seven occasions between 22 April 1942 and 17 July 1945. The number of internees ranged from 453 to 1199. This camp was partitioned into Camp No. 2 for Germans (Reich), Camp No. 3 "other nations", Camp No. 4 Italian Fascists and Camp No. 5 Italian Royalists. There is no indication of who was in Camp No. 1 but mail items indicate that it could have been Union nationals or possibly the Guard Force. On 25 November 1944 there were 220 internees

from Umvuma Camp and 32 from Fort Victoria Camp in Rhodesia transferred to Camp No. 5.

Mail from this camp, censored in Bloemfontein, received two types of censor cachet and a manuscript G4, G6, G15, G19, G25, G27 or G31 censor identification number.

Scarcity rating: 4

Camp cachet: types 2, 4 & 5

Censor cachet: 1 & 2

Four-line POW cachet (unboxed) of two types (see below and right)



Illustration 26. Camp type 5

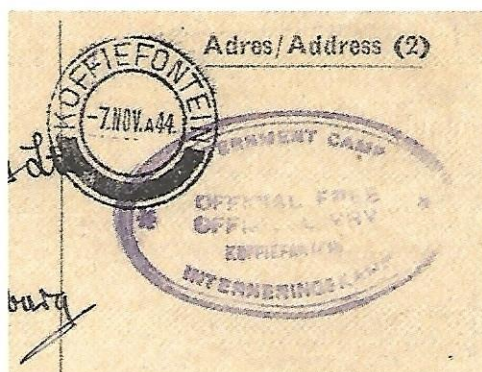


Illustration 27. Camp type 4

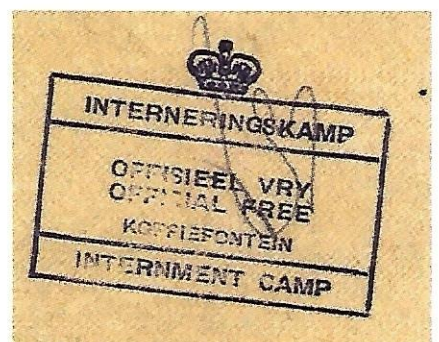


Illustration 28. Camp type 2 (left and above, Dickson)



Illustration 29. POW cachet, letters in top line 2,5mm x 41mm (Findlay)



Illustration 31. Camp type 4, censor type 1 on air mail cover, 21.2.44 (Findlay)



Illustration 32. Camp type 5, censor type 1 on uprated air mail cover, 4.3.43 (Ryan)



Illustration 33. Camp type 5, censor type 1 and additional 'G 2' censor stamp (Ryan)

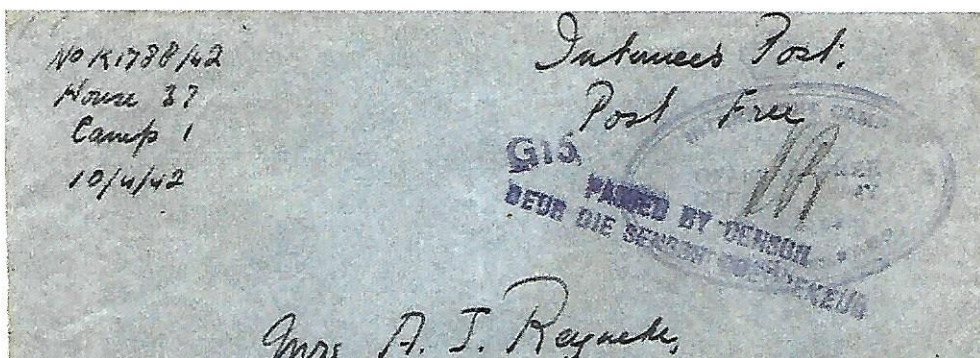


Illustration 34. Camp type 5, censor type 1 and additional 'G 15' censor stamp (Dickson)

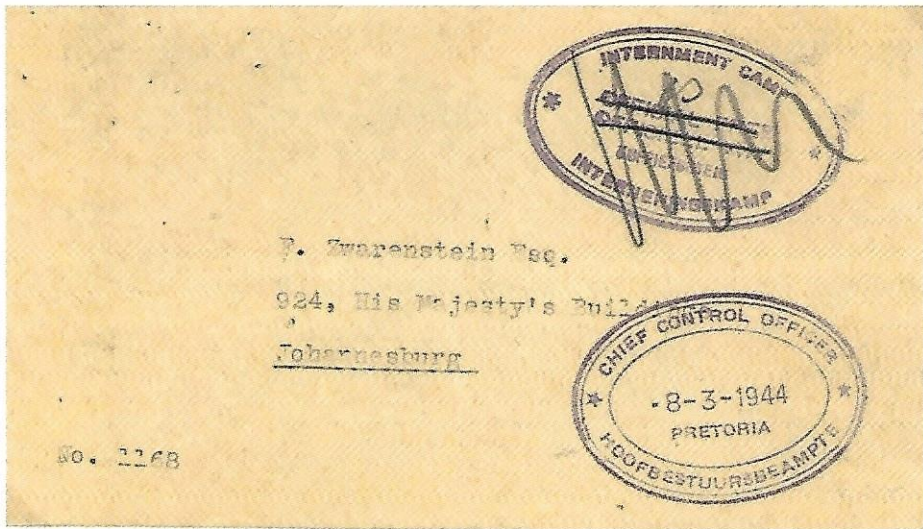


Illustration 35. Camp type 4 (scored by pencil) and oval Chief Control Officer, Pretoria, 8.3.44 (Findlay)



Illustration 36. Cape Town Highlanders (Koffiefontein Guard Force), 5.12.40 (Findlay)

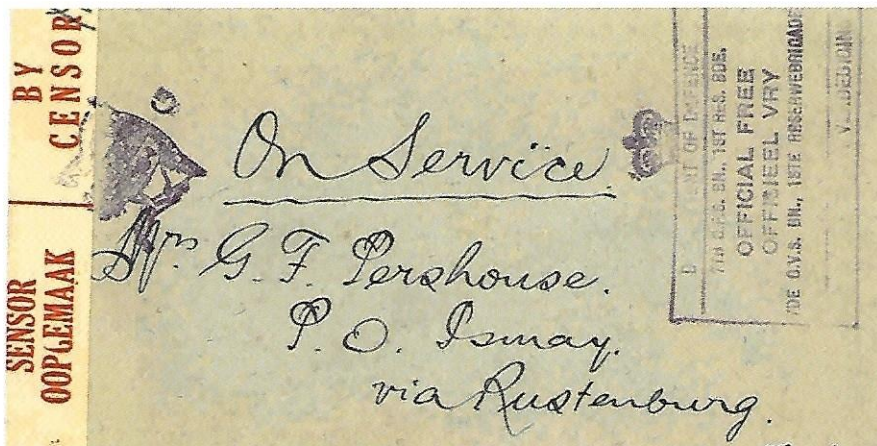


Illustration 37. Capt Pershouse, 7th OFS Battalion, 1st Reserve Brigade (Koffiefontein Guard Force) with Coat of Arms G of Bloemfontein (Ryan)

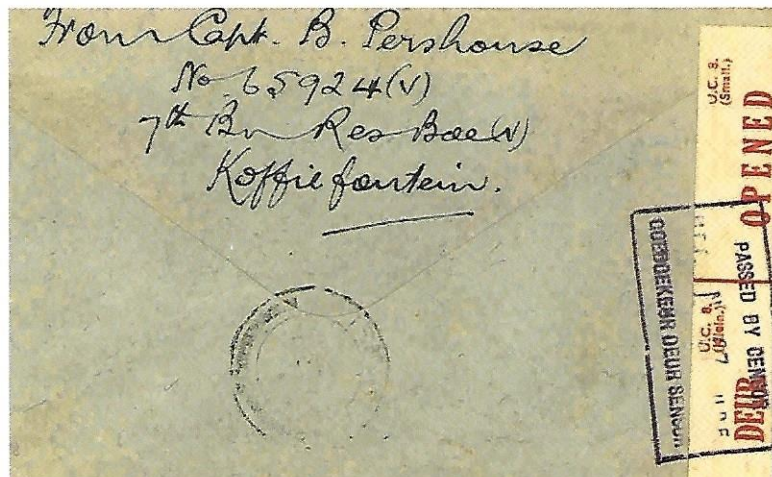


Illustration 37a. Back of (above) Pershouse cover. Note the dual censorship, military and civil

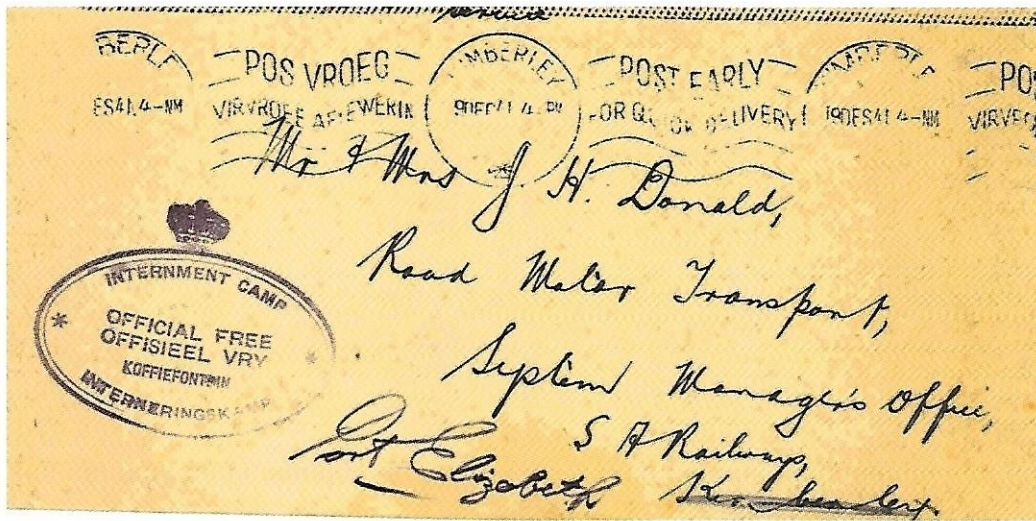


Illustration 38. Camp type 5, routed through civil post office, 9.12.41 (Cafetzoglou)

LEEUWKOP CAMP:

This camp was opened on 21 September 1939 and was expanded to hold 350 internees. It was visited twice by Dr. E Grasset, on 5 November 1940 and 3 June 1941, when there were 79 internees of which 48 were German.

Mail items from the camp were censored in Pretoria and often received a manuscript "C", identical to that from Baviaanspoort. Two types of censor cachets are recorded from this camp. The sender's address on outgoing mail is given as "c/o Director of Internment

Camps, Salisbury House, 331, Pretorius Street, Pretoria", which is the same as for Baviaanspoort Camp.

Scarcity rating: 4

Camp cachet: type 5
 Censor cachet: types 1 & 2
 POW cachet (boxed)

Illustration 39. Camp type 5, censor type 1 and POW cachet (boxed) in red, 2.1.41 (Findlay)

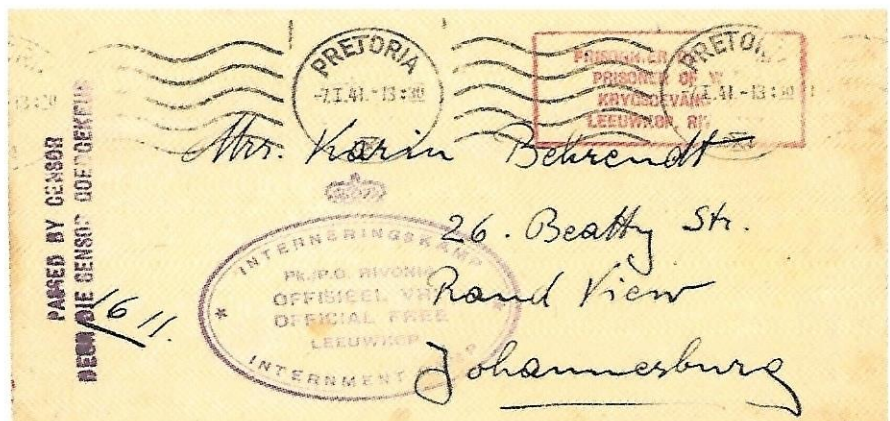


Illustration 40. Camp type 5(?), censor type 2 and POW cachet (boxed) in red, 3.12.40 (Findlay)

Illustration 41. Prince Alfred's Guard (Leeuwkop Guard Force), 22.3.41 (Findlay)

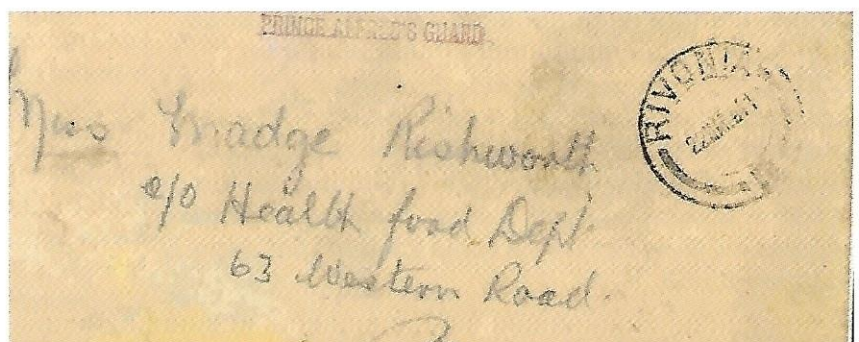




Illustration 42. Airmail to New York, 13.1.40 (Miller)

WINDHOEK CAMP:

On 18 September 1939, the first internees entered this camp, which was given the nickname of "Klein Danzig" (Kock, 1975). It was built to house 100 internees. By 27 September there were 58 internees and on 30 September 1939 there was a total of 120. This led to overcrowding and from this time, the camp was a transit camp only, where the necessary administration was completed prior to the

transfer of the internees, mostly to Andalusia. There was a total of 1600 SWA internees during the war. Mail items recorded from this camp are not common. From the CIRC records, it does not appear that any of their delegates visited this camp in South West Africa.

Scarcity rating: 9



Illustration 43. Boxed Windhoek Internment Camp 'Censored' cachet, 28.12.40 (Findlay)

PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

With the capitulation of Italy on 8 September 1943, the terms of confinement of the Italian POWs were reviewed and subsequently relaxed in many cases. The POWs could take an oath whereby they would not interfere with the local population, would not become politically active and would not attempt to escape. The result was that many POW camps became self-administered by the Italians under the nominal supervision of the South African authorities.

Outside work parties and "Outside Employment" (OE) were encouraged and the specialist skills of many Italians were utilized on government projects such as timber felling, road building and the construction of irrigation systems. Unskilled POWs were permitted to work as labourers on private farms and businesses where the employers had to pay the POWs as well as supply specified accommodation and meals.

The POW camps recorded are:

ALEXANDERFONTEIN CAMP:

Near Kimberley (see Tabachnik 1980).

Scarcity rating: 10

ALIWAL NORTH CAMP:

This was a transit camp for farm OE and was opened on 22 June 1944 (when the Senekal camp closed and the POWs were relocated to this camp) and closed on 30 November 1945. It was initially located at the vacated RAF Camp adjacent to the airport and was relocated to the vacated SAAF camp at the airport on 16 April 1945. The Camp Commandants were Maj. Lombard and later Lt J.N. Human (1945). This camp was visited once by the Rev HP Junod on 14 September 1945 when there were 3 officers and 790 men interned. In the censor's report of December 1944, a censored letter dated 2 December 1944 states that "this camp was built for 500 prisoners of war".

Scarcity rating: 10

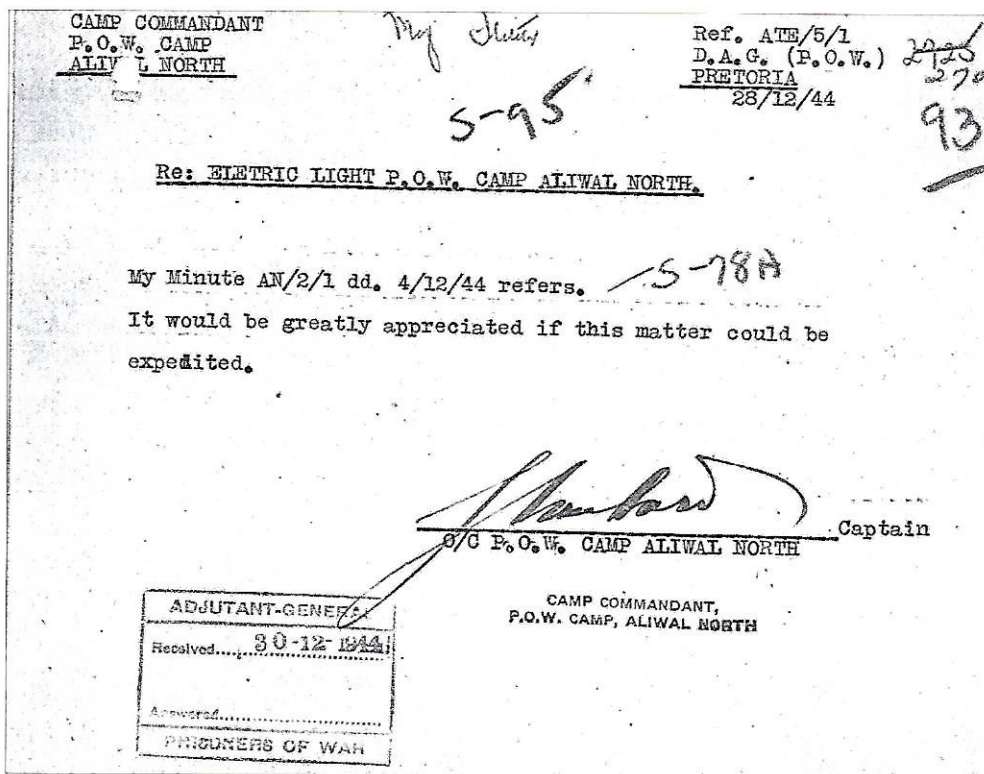


Illustration 44. Minute from Camp Commandant, Aliwal North (SANDF)

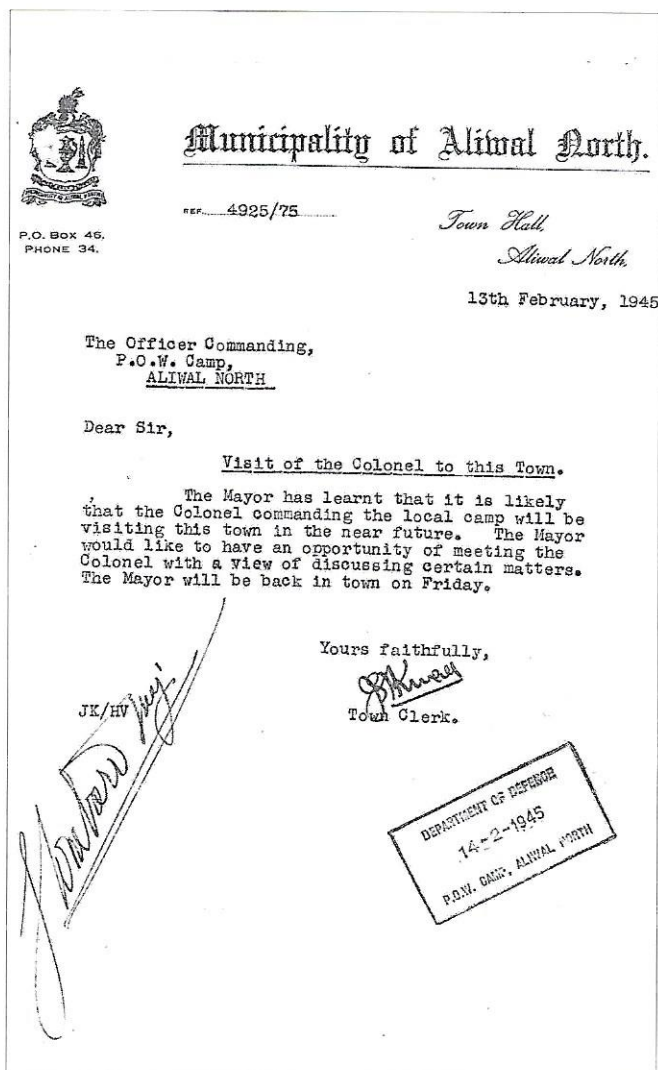


Illustration 45. Letter from Aliwal North Municipality to the OC, Aliwal North POW Camp, bearing camp type 1 on 13.2.45 (SANDF)

BLANCO CAMP:

This was situated a few kilometers north of George and was the detention barracks for POWs in the George area.

Scarcity rating: 10

BULTFONTEIN CAMP:

This was a transit camp under Kroonstad Camp for farm OE which was opened on 31 May 1944 and closed on 7 (or 30) December 1944. It was located in the Industrial Hall at the Showgrounds. On 11 July 1944, 300 POWs were sent to this camp from Zonderwater. The Camp Commandants were Lt. P.J. du Preez and later Capt. (Maj.) R.H.Blake. The Rev. H.P Junod visited it when it held 1 officer and 232 men interned and 287 "outside labour" POWs (14 October 1944). This was regarded as a "maize harvesting camp".

Scarcity rating: 10

CAMP NO. 21, CAPE TOWN: (see Migliavacca 1980)

Scarcity rating: 10

CAROLINA CAMP:

This was a convalescent camp for Italian POWs on the farm "Burnside" No. 57, a portion of the farm "Twyfelaar", 200 morgen in size (approximately 190 ha). It was the property of His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop of Bloemfontein, Bernard Jordan Gylswyk as the representative of the Roman Catholic Church, and it was on loan to the government at no cost. It was established to provide POWs suffering from stress and depression an alternative environment and a maximum of 100 POWs at any one time were permitted at the camp. The POWs built a dam on a neighbouring farm, which was used to irrigate crops. The first POWs (41 in number) arrived by train from Zonderwater on 10 November 1944. There were 75 POWs resident there on 19 July 1945. The camp was closed on 15 November 1946 but 6 POWs and a Sgt were left there as caretakers until it was handed over to the church. It was administered from Zonderwater.

Scarcity rating: 10

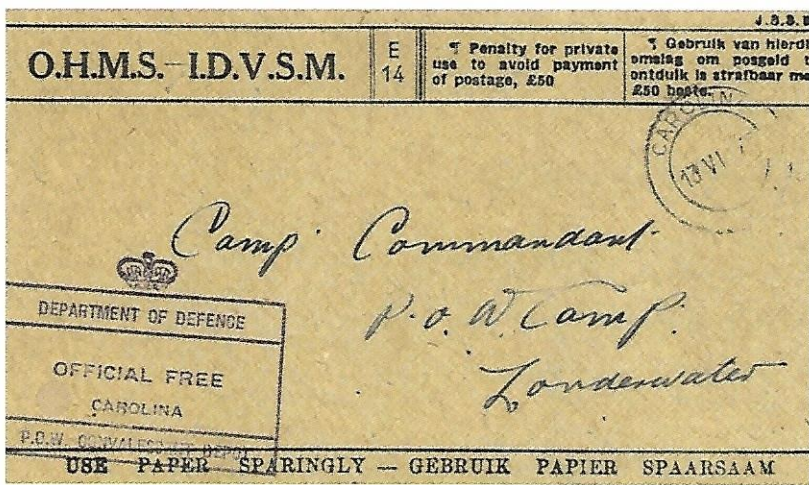


Illustration 46. OHMS cover showing camp type 2, 13.6.45 (Findlay)



Illustration 48. Durban Camp type 2

COOKHOUSE CAMP:

This was situated on Farm Sydney, owned by R.K. Burchell, at Cookhouse about 200km from Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. It was opened on 10 August 1943, when the first 53 POWs arrived to prepare for the arrival of the main body of POWs on 11 September 1943, and it was closed on 6 March 1946, when the last 62 POWs left by train for Zonderwater. The Camp Commandant was Maj S.L. Patterson, VD, until September 1945, followed by Capt W.R. Erskine and Capt J.R. Windridge, until it closed. It appears to have been a base camp as well as an OE camp for POWs working on irrigation schemes for farms and the eradication of alien cactus species. There was no detention barracks and defaulters went to Zonderwater. The number of POWs recorded by Rev. Junod during three visits ranged from 893 (5 January 1945) to 1089 (14 October 1944). In October 1944 there were 1 medical officer (189968 Bellosguardo Michele) and 265 men interned in this camp with 773 working as outside labour on farms. There was a proposal to establish camps at **Cradock** and **Graaff-Reinet** (see below) -- which would have been under the Cookhouse Camp -- but these two camps were not established.

Scarcity rating: 10

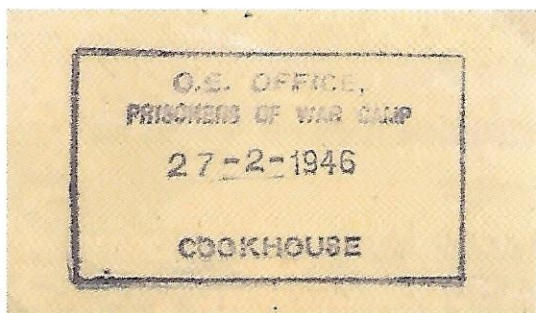


Illustration 47. Cookhouse Camp type 1a

CRADOCK CAMP:

There was a proposal to open a camp here for the eradication of cactus. The camp was to be opened towards the end of 1943. However, this camp did not become a reality.

DURBAN CAMP:

This camp opened in February 1941 and closed in March 1947. It was a transit camp in Durban for receiving POWs from ships. POWs were then moved to the other camps once documentation and administration had been completed. References, in other sources, to the 'Durban Camp' are probably references to this camp.

Scarcity rating: 7

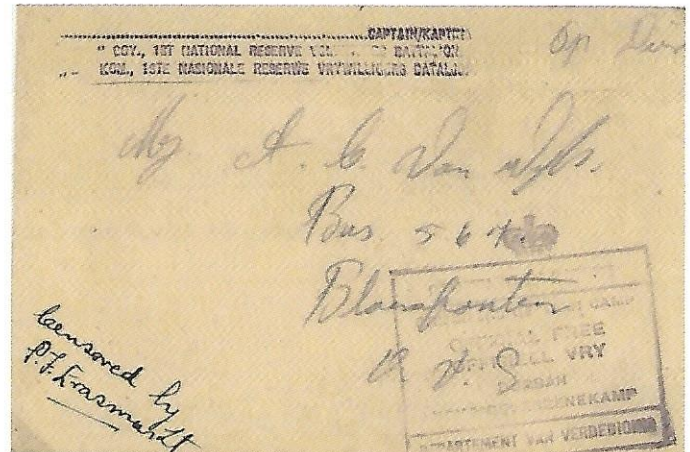


Illustration 49. Camp type 2 and 1st National Reserve Volunteer Battalion (camp guard), (Findlay)

DURBAN ROAD CAMP, PIETERMARITZBURG:

This was possibly opened on 17 October 1939 and reached a maximum of 4,754 POWs on 17 May 1943 according to Rev Junod's reports. The first Camp Commandant was Maj B.C. Knight (Oct. 1942) followed by Lt Col W.G. Lowe (1943 - 1946). The camp was divided into 6 sections, namely, Section 1 for Italians in transit, Section 2 for permanent Italians, Section 3 for Germans, Section 4 was the hospital (183 POW Hospital), Section 5 was for POWs of other nationalities and Section 6 was for the Guard Force.

On 17 May 1943, the composition of the camp was as follows: 1 097 Italians, 2 000 Germans (captured in the Middle East on 4 December 1942), 1 657 French (from Saigon, Haiphong, Ouyiers), 15 Senegalese, 8 from Martinique, 20 from Djibouti, and 20 from Madagascar. The camp was downgraded from a transit camp to an OE Camp on 11 May 1945 and it closed in March 1947.

Scarcity rating: 6

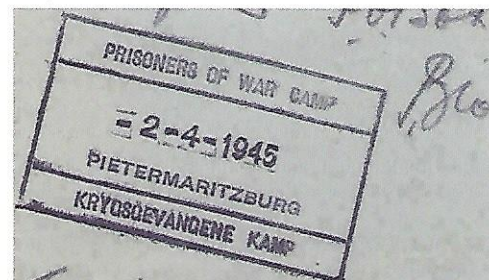


Illustration 50. Pietermaritzburg Camp type 1

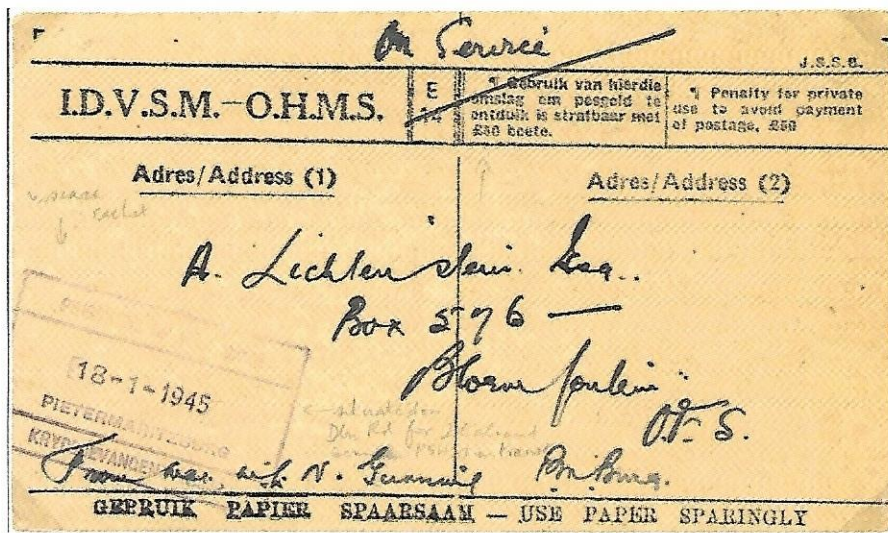


Illustration 51. OHMS envelope used 'On Service', bearing camp type 1 (Cafetzoglou)

DU TOIT'S KLOOF ROAD CAMP:

This camp contained only Italians who were employed on the construction of the Du Toit's Kloof Pass, which was on the 80km stretch of road from Paarl to Worcester. Once completed, the pass reduced the road distance by 19km. The camp was opened on 26 November 1942, when the first 50 POWs arrived, and closed on 4 October 1945. The camp administered the **Buchu Sub-Camp** (located in the Kloof to be closer to the road works as they progressed) as well as a **Cape Corps Camp**, both of which opened in June 1944. When the Buchu Camp opened, there was a proposal to change the name of the Du Toit's Kloof Camp to Keerweder Camp (after the farm on which it was situated), but this was not implemented. The Du Toit's Kloof Camp Commandant was Maj DJ De Beer, ED, for the entire period that the camp was operational, and the Buchu Camp Commandant was Lt De Gaspari, who was succeeded by Lt P Wharton-Hood. This camp was visited four times by Rev. Junod, between August 1943 and September 1945, during which time the number of POWs ranged from 34 to 1 174. There were two Italian medical officers (Capt. Luigi Bietolini and Lt F Gaeta). For the construction of the road there were 2 South African and 8 Italian surveyors. Between 16 and 21 POWs were employed as 'outside labour' at Lane's Pottery, approximately 5 km from Wellington. The postal address of this camp was the Huguenot post office (with Paarl as head office), which has probably resulted in speculation that there was a POW camp at Huguenot and Paarl. A cross was made by the POWs and was erected on the Huguenot Mountains to commemorate their contribution to the construction of the road.

Scarcity rating: 10

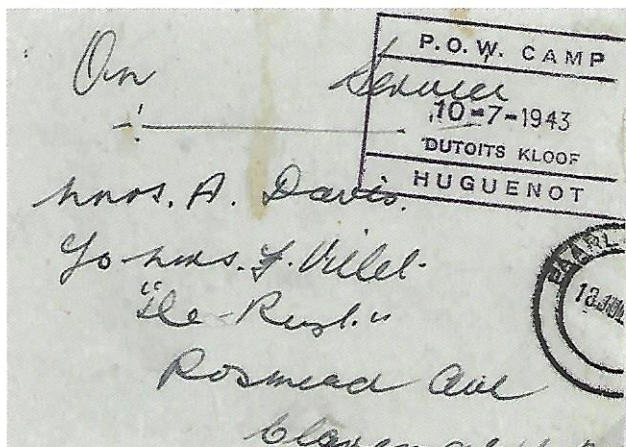


Illustration 52. Du Toit's Kloof Camp type 1, no censorship (Cafetzoglou)

GEORGE CAMP:

Also known as the Montagu Pass Camp, this camp was located 6km from George and was opened on 15 November 1942 for the construction of the Montagu Road Pass (as well as for the forestry detachments) and it was closed on 31 August 1945. The camp was commanded by Maj. Farrer until 10 June 1943, followed by Maj. Frans Heywood until March 1944 and from April 1944 it was commanded by Maj. B.O.Smith, MC. Rev. Junod visited the camp four times between August 1943 and January 1945; the number of POWs ranged between 308 and 1041 with over 300 POWs dedicated to road building. POWs used the local civilian hospital.

Scarcity rating: 10

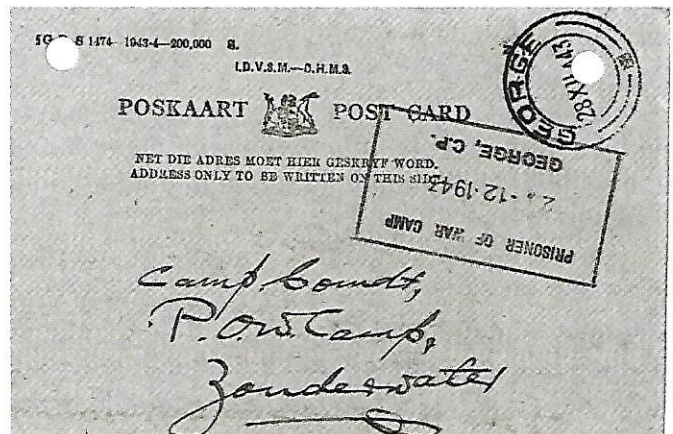


Illustration 53. OHMS post card from Camp Commandant, George to Camp Commandant, Zonderwater, bearing camp type 1 on 28.12.43 (Findlay, copy)

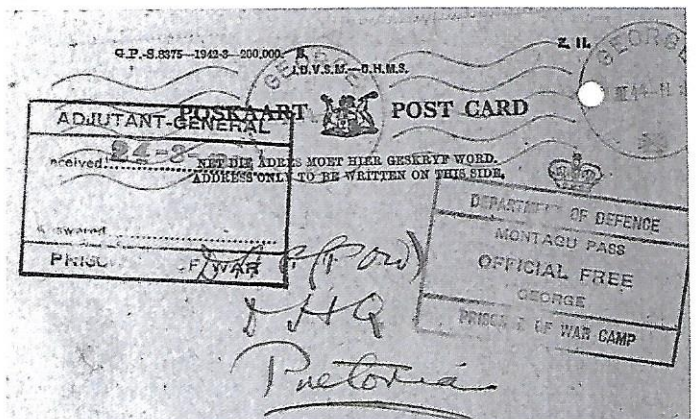


Illustration 54. OHMS post card showing the Montagu Pass POW Camp cachet (type 2), 24.3.44 (Findlay, copy)

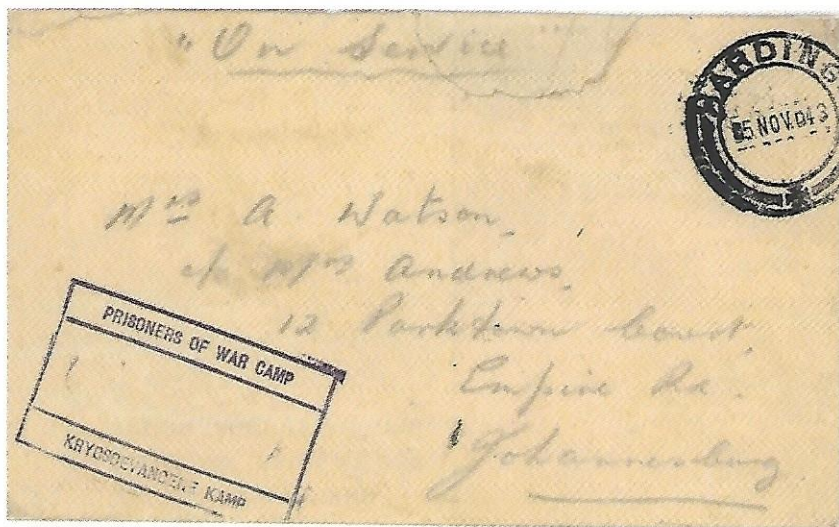


Illustration 55. Camp type 1, no censorship (Findlay)

The **George Camp** administered the following forestry camps and the numbers of POWs are those as reported by Rev. Junod during his visit of January 1945.

BERGPLAATS CAMP:

Approximately 40km from George containing 75 POWs.

BUFFELSNEK CAMP:

Approximately 124km from George and 35km from Knysna containing 75 POWs. The medical officers were 56031 Mustacchia Girolano and 23395 Moschardi Fernando.

FARLEIGH CAMP:

Approximately 75km from George with 47 POWs. The medical officers were 330951 Tassone Domenico and 257188 Stanchich Edidi.

JONKERSBERG CAMP:

This camp was opened in 1943 under the Department of Forestry but the 97 POWs were administered by George Camp. The medical officers were 237212 Paradiso Guiseppe and 88132 Cavanna Giovanni.

MILLWOOD CAMP:

This camp was opened on 5 December 1944 approximately 102km from George with 52 POWs working "a large forest".

STORMS RIVER CAMP:

This camp was situated 240km from George and contained 25 POWs, who, according to Rev. Junod, received excellent treatment.

The Camps of Buffelsnek, Farleigh, Jonkersberg and Millwood were still open on 27 July 1945.

Scarcity rating for all forestry camps: 10

These forestry camps were the responsibility of the Director of Forestry. On 7 December 1943, the Department of Defence appointed Capt FP Joubert as 'Inspector of POWs' under the George Camp Commandant, and he was responsible for discipline and other POW matters at these camps.

GRAAFF-REINET CAMP:

This camp was proposed for the eradication of cactus and a site was chosen on the Agterstefontein Outspan (on the Petersburg Road about 32km from Graaff-Reinet). However, on 21 December 1943 a decision was taken not to establish this camp.

HARDING CAMP:

This would appear to have been associated with Weza Camp (17 km apart) and was also involved in forestry. There is no record of POW numbers, as there are no records in the SANDF archives of a camp at Harding.

Scarcity rating: 10

HUGUENOT CAMP:

(See Kruger 1991). This is the same as Du Toit's Kloof Camp.

JACOBSDAL CAMP: This functioned from before 9 October 1943. (A camp cachet type 1 is known.)

Scarcity rating: 10

JESSIEVALE CAMP:

This was a forestry camp for tree-felling on the farm Vlakfontein in the Eastern Transvaal, 25km from Lothair towards the Swaziland border (4 km from the Vossman's Beacon Post Office). It was opened on 17 July 1943, when the advance party erected the first tents. The main POW group of 224 arrived on 30 July from Zonderwater and the number of POWs reached a maximum of 294.

The camp commandant was Capt B.D. White (Aug. 1944) with 19 UDF staff. The camp was administered by Zonderwater Camp. It closed on 7 October 1944. When Rev Junod visited the camp on 14 January 1944, it contained 217 internees and a doctor (19979 Olivieri Vittorio).

Scarcity rating: 10

KROONSTAD CAMP:

This was a transit camp for farm labour for areas such as Groenblom, Bothaville, Wesselbron and Hennenman. It was located at the Agricultural Showgrounds, which was leased by the Kroonstad Agricultural Society from the Municipality. The camp was opened on 23 August 1943 with 300 POWs and closed on 15 or 27 April 1946. The first OE took place on 25 August 1943. The Camp Commandants were Lt G.S. van Kerkhof (August 1943), Maj R.H. Blake (1943-1944) followed by Maj T.G. Mitchell (1945). Rev Junod visited this camp on three occasions from 14 October 1944 to 14 September 1945; the number of POWs ranged from 4 officers and 713 men to 4 officers and 2,231 men.

With the closure of Bothaville Camp (on 24 August 1943) and Hennenman Camp (on 21 August 1943), the POWs were transferred to Kroonstad Camp. Wesselbron and Groenebloem Camps had closed at an earlier date, and their POWs were also absorbed into Kroonstad Camp. There was a Detention Barracks located within the camp. The Italian POWs on OE planted the grass on the Kroonstad golf course.

Scarcity rating: 8

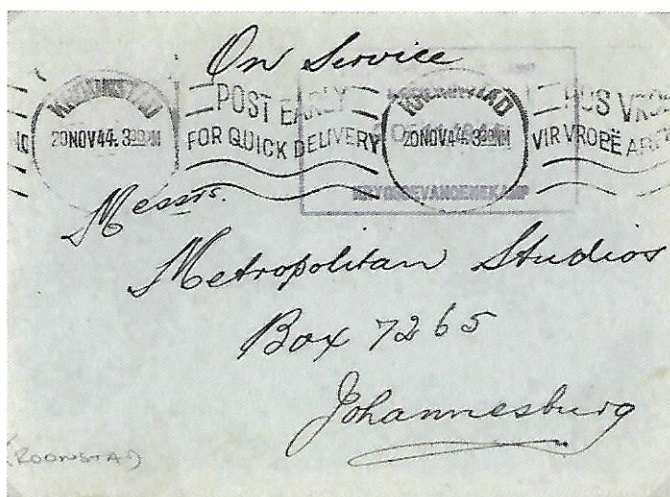


Illustration 56. Camp type 1, posted at Kroonstad (Cafetzoglou)

T. 27. POST **GRAPHIS.—POSKANTOC TELEGRAAFDIENS.**
 G.P.S. 335—1943—150/1000

Handed in at— **STIGOUS** Ingeweer te—
 Woord— Datum— Tyd van Inlewing—

Class— **JPB325 G KROONSTAD 19** 2/55MM=
 Route— Service Instructions—

Office Stamp
 30-8-1943

TO
AAN
CAMP COMMANDANT POWZON ZONDERWATER P.O. CAMP

At
 Om
 Van
 By

At
 Om
 Van
 By

JH B

PLEASE SUPPLY 5000 EACH LETTER FORMS AND POSTCARDS = CAMP COMMANDANT
 POW CAMP KROONSTAD +

500
 → PO 6000 each

ITALIAN POSTAL SECTION
 28-8-1943
 CAMP ZONDERWATER

Doubtful words may be repeated. No Repetition Fee will be collected if an error is disclosed. This form should accompany any inquiry.
 Tyfelagtige woorde kan herhaal word. As 'n fout aan die lig gebring word, sal geen koste vir die herhaling gevorder word nie. Hierdie vorm moet alle navraag vergesel.

Illustration 57. Telegram from Camp Commandant, Kroonstad, to Camp Commandant, Zonderwater 30.8.43. (Findlay, copy)

O.H.M.S.—I.D.V.S.M.

Free Camp Commandant.
 P. O. W. Camp,
 Zonderwater.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE
 KROONSTAD
 -7-1-1946
 KNYPDELAANDERSKAMP

Illustration 58. OHMS post card from Camp Commandant Kroonstad to Camp Commandant Zonderwater, 7.1.46 (Findlay, copy)

KRUGERSDORP HOSPITAL:

The Mental Hospital at Krugersdorp had a section for POWs (POW Annex), which had 157 POW patients on 2 August 1944. It appears to have been opened in February or March 1944 and was closed on 19 December 1945.

Scarcity rating: 10

LOSKOP CAMP:

This was established before 20 May 1943 as a farm labour camp and for an irrigation scheme of 38,500 hectares on the Olifants River north-east of Pretoria. The Camp Commandant was Capt. P.J. Fourie and it was administered by Zonderwater Camp. There was a total of 436 POWs and 2 medical officers on this project of which 320 were regarded as 'outside labour'. The camp closed on 3 May 1944, when the last of the POWs were moved to Zonderwater Camp. (A two-line Camp Commandant cachet is known.)

Scarcity rating: 10

LYTTELTON CAMP:

Established under the Quartermaster General of Northern Command on 5 November 1946 for OE, with 100 POWs from Zonderwater Camp. There was a maximum of 218 POWs in this camp.

Scarcity rating: 10

MAIZE HARVESTING CAMPS:

In 1943, five Maize Harvesting Camps were established in co-operation with the Sentraal Wes Kooperatief (Central West Co-operative) to assist with the harvesting of (mainly) rain-damaged maize. POWs from Zonderwater were sent to Groenebloem Camp (323 POWs, opened 3 June 1943 and closed 5 August 1943), Hennenman Camp (313 POWs, opened 2 June 1943 and closed 25 September 1943) and Wesselsbron Camp (297 POWs, opened 2 June 1943 and closed 25 August 1943).

POWs from Kroonstad were sent to Bothaville Camp (326 POWs, opened June 1943, closed 24 August 1943) and the Kroonstad area (325 POWs, opened 27 May 1943, closed 15 April 1946). Other small groups of POWs were sent to help farmers in Bethlehem, Bloemhof, Bloemfontein, Bultfontein, Clocolan, Christiana, Fickburg, Frankfort, Groot Marico, Heilbron, Leslie, Lichtenburg, Morgenzon, Senekal, Standerton, Theunissen and possibly other areas.

Four outside labour camps were established in 1944 to help farmers with the annual maize harvest. POWs at Zonderwater were allowed to volunteer and were then selected for this work. A POW order at Zonderwater (27 April 1944) states that there were four camps involved in this scheme: Bultfontein, Ottosdal, Senekal and Wesselsbron. The POWs were sent to these camps on 23 May 1944; most returned towards the end of June or early July.

In March 1945, two camps were established for maize harvesting at Schoonspruit and Wesselsbron and were supplied with POWs from Kroonstad. This was once again coordinated by Sentraal Wes Kooperatief.

Scarcity rating for all maize harvesting camps: 10

OTTOSDAL CAMP:

This camp opened on 23 May 1944 at the livestock sale facilities of the Ottosdal Auction Association (Vendusie Vereeniging) for a rental of £1 a month and closed in December 1944. On 11 July 1944, 400 POWs from Zonderwater were sent to this camp. When Rev. Junod visited it, there were 1 officer and 357 men interned and 33 OE POWs (14 October 1944).

PAARL CAMP:

(see Kruger 1991). This probably refers to Du Toit's Kloof Camp.

PONGOLA CAMP:

This camp was established to build the weir on the Pongola River, to provide irrigation for farmland. On its completion, the POWs were transferred to either the Loskop irrigation scheme (under Zonderwater) or to the Riet River irrigation scheme (under Kroonstad) on 3 May 1943.

Scarcity rating: 10

SENEKAL CAMP:

This camp was opened on 4 July 1944 with 242 internees and 201 as OE. It was located in the old police barracks and was rented from the Town Council for one shilling a year. It closed on 20 November 1944; the majority of the POWs were moved to Aliwal North Camp. This was one of the "maize harvesting camps".

Scarcity rating: 10

C.C. P.O.W. Camp
SENEKAL.
 Sen. 2/9
 D.A.G. (P.O.W.)
 G.H.Q. PRETORIA
 11/11/44
 MUNICIPAL WATER ACCOUNT
 Your minute A.G. (P.O.W.) 2700 d.d. 30 Sept. 44 refers.
 Enclosed please find the accounts from Senekal. Municipality in duplicate. Also forms Z.26 in duplicate duly completed.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL
 13-11-1944
 Received.....
 Answered.....
 PRISONERS OF WAR

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
 11-11-1944
 O/O P.O.W. Camp Senekal.
 P.O.W. CAMP SENEKAL
 COMMANDANT, P.O.W. CAMP

UPINGTON CAMP:

This camp was opened in January 1943 with 188 POWs for the construction of an irrigation scheme of 1500 sq km on the Orange River, known as the Orange River Farm Settlement (Gazzani, 1987). It was administered by Kroonstad camp. In the Censor's Report of December 1944, a letter dated 5 December 1944 states that "there are 60 prisoners of war in the camp". It closed in 1946.

Scarcity rating: 10

VAALHARTZ CAMP:

This was opened before October 1943 and is possibly associated with Andalusia Internment Camp.

Illustration 59. Minute from Camp Commandant, Senekal POW Camp, 11.11.44 (SANDF)

Scarcity rating: 10

VENTERSTAD CAMP: (see Migliavacca, 1980).

Scarcity rating: 10

VOORTREKKERHOOGTE DETENTION BARRACKS:

This was established for POWs and was open until December 1947. On 18 December 1947 there were 3 Italian POWs in this DB.

Scarcity rating: 10

WARMBATHS CAMP:

This was a farm labour transit camp, located at the old Native Military Corps camp on the farm Boschpoort 1129, Waterberg. The POWs were involved in the building of an irrigation scheme about 100km north of Pretoria. The camp opened on 4 or 26 May 1944 with a total of 734 POWs, of which 198 were for OE. The last POWs left on 28 February 1946 and the camp closed on 10 April 1946. The initial POWs were transferred from the Loskop Camp when that camp closed. Warmbaths Camp supplied OE POWs for Louis Trichardt, Nylstroom, Pietersburg, Potgietersrust, Tzaneen and a portion of the Pretoria district. The Camp Commandant, at the time of closure, was Maj D.J. De Beer, ED, who had previously commanded the Du Toit's Kloof Camp. On 26 October 1944, there was a total of 2 076 POWs, including OE, in this camp. It had its own detention barracks.

Scarcity rating: 10

Telephone Standerton 108.
 A.G. (POW) General Headquarters, Pretoria.
 Ref: PW/21/2404/46
 Camp Commandant, P.O.W. Camp, Standerton.
 4 March 1946.

PAYMENT FROM CANTEEN WELFARE FUND.

Authority is sought for the payment of £31.16.0., from the profits of the Canteen Welfare Funds, month of February, 1946, details as per attached Nominal Roll.

MAJOR
 CAMP COMMANDANT: P.O.W. CAMP STANDERTON.
 O.C., P.O.W. CAMP, STANDERTON.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL
 3/3/46
 Received.....
 Answered.....
 PRISONERS OF WAR

CAMP COMMAN
 24-12-1945
 WARBATHS/WAR
 PRISONER OF WAR
 PRIVATE HOTEL

Illustration 60. Minute from Camp Commandant, Standerton POW Camp, 4.3.46 (SANDF)

Illustration 61. Warmbaths Camp type 1

WEZA CAMP:

This was situated about 170 km south of Pietermaritzburg and was built to house approximately 400 POWs. It was opened in mid-1942, and was closed on 28 February 1946, when the last POWs left, but the camp was finally shut down only on 2 April 1946. The POWs were administered by the Durban Road Camp (Pietermaritzburg). The overall administration of the camp fell under the Conservator of Forests, Department of Forestry. The Camp Commandants were Lt I.J. Gouws (to September 1943), Capt CV Marshall (2 weeks in September), Capt A.C. Desselss (to 31 January 1945), Capt C.V. Marshall (to 12 February 1946) and Lt J.S. Short at the time of closure. From February 1944 to September 1945 there were between 103 and 293 POWs (including 2 medical officers) at the camp, all of whom were involved in forestry. There were 7 POWs allocated for OE.

Scarcity rating: 10

WHEAT HARVESTING CAMPS:

Because of the importance of food, a proposal was made to assist the wheat farmers of the eastern Orange Free State with the wheat harvest in December 1942 and January 1943. The magistrates in these areas were approached by the Adjutant General to determine whether or not farmers required POW labour. By the time this proposal was put into action, most of the harvest had been completed, and only 35 POWs were utilized (Frankfort - 15; Lindley - 8; Petrus Steyn - 10; Senekal - 2).

Scarcity rating: 10

WORCESTER CAMP:

This camp opened in November 1942 and closed on 15 June 1946. However, the OE section remained open until 11 January 1947. The Camp Commandant was Maj R.A. Miller, VD. It was located in the showgrounds and was designed to hold 2,800 POWs. It opened with 389 POWs and reached a maximum of 3,448 POWs, of which 2,894 POWs were OE, involved mostly on the grape and fruit farms. Rev. Junod visited this camp three times between September 1943 and September 1945.

Some of the OE camps were at Molteno Estates (112km from Worcester near Elgin, containing 75 POWs); W Naude Farm (10km from Worcester, containing 11 POWs) and Stettyn Farm (32km from Worcester and containing 8 POWs). The POWs used the local hospital; serious medical cases were sent to 160 Military Hospital at Wynberg. The Worcester Camp administered 121 Labour Camp.

Scarcity rating: 8

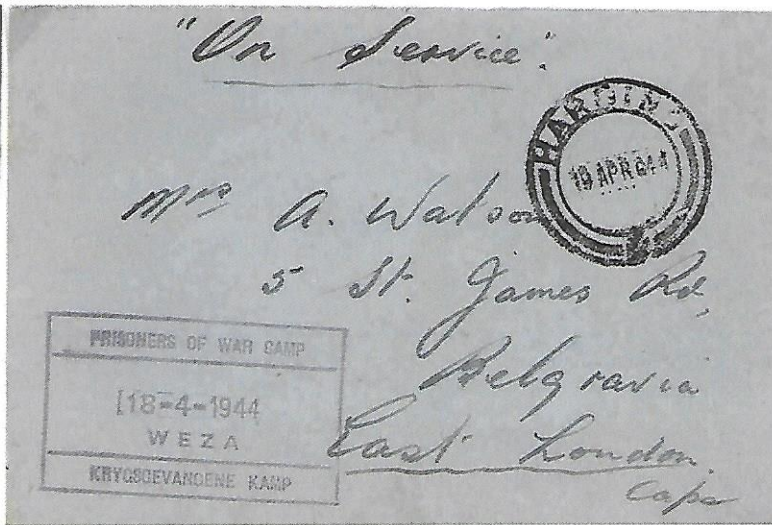


Illustration 62. Weza Camp cachet type 1 (Findlay)

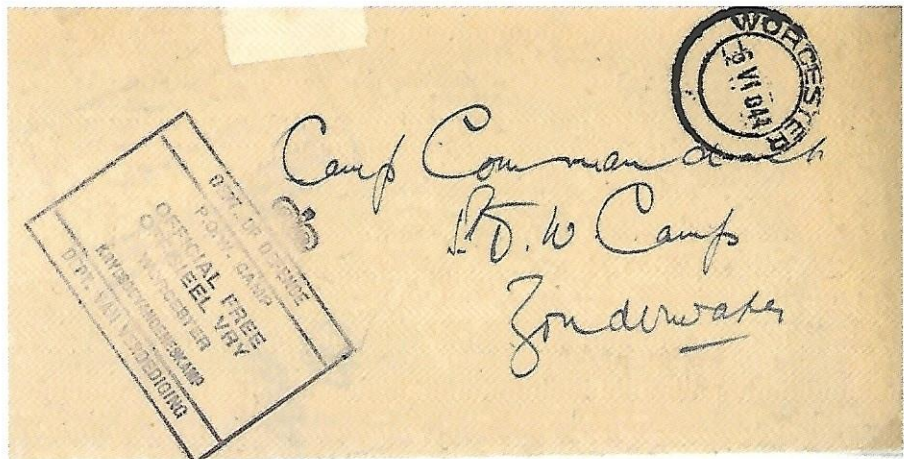


Illustration 63. POW Camp type 2 (Findlay)

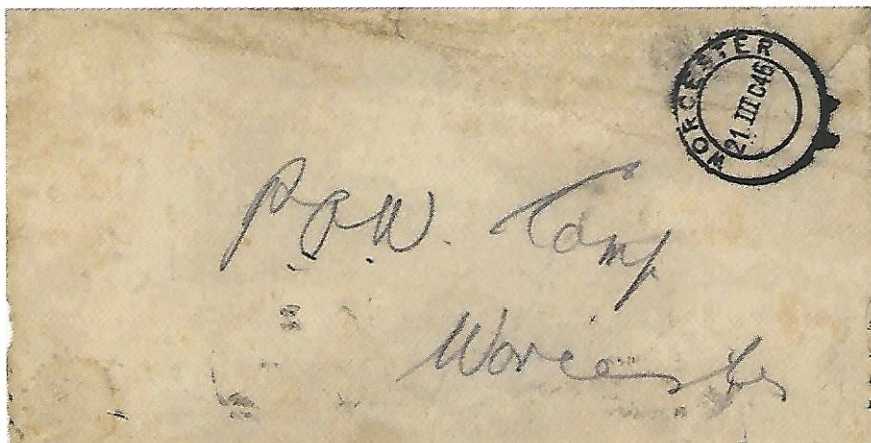


Illustration 64. Incoming to Worcester POW Camp (Findlay)

On Service

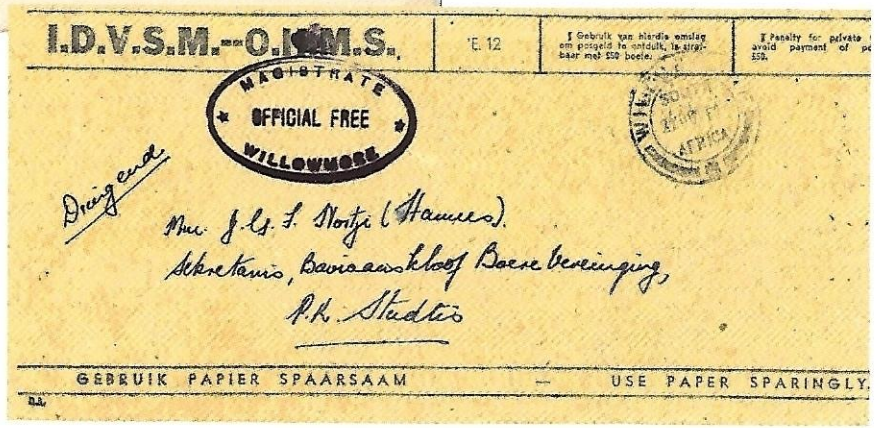
*From D.M. Dufresh
P.O. Box Camp
Worcester*

OFFICE OF THE PAYMASTER
#4-1-1943
WORCESTER
'DENSE OF WAR CAMP

*J. Reid Esq.
Wole Street chambers
Cape Town*

Illustration 65. Worcester Camp type 1 (Cafetzoglou)

Illustrations 66 and 66a. Cover and contents from the Magistrate of Willowmore to the Secretary of the Baviaanspoort Farmer's Association, concerning the use of Italian POWs for the maize harvest, 24.10.44 (Ryan)



In reply please quote
Gelye in u antwoord
te verwys na } No. 9/7/16. Z. 14 B.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
OFFICE OF THE KANTOOR VAN DIE

Dringend MAGISTRAAT,
WILLOWMORE.
24 Oktober, 1944.

Mnr. J.G.F. Nortje (Hannes),
Sekretaris, Baviaanskloof Boere Vereniging,
P.K. STUJTIS.

Meneer,

GEBRUIK VAN ITALIAANSE KRYGSGEVANGENES VIR KORINGOES, 1944, BAVIAANSKLOOF BOEREVERENIGING.

1. Met betrekking tot my brief van 23 deser, wens ek u mee te deel dat die Kommandant, van die Krygsgevangenskamp te Worcester, my vandag gebel het, en meegedtel het dat hy Saterdag, 28 deser, hier op Willowmore sal wees om lede van die Boerevereniging te ontmoet, en die skema aan hulle te verduidelik. Ek sal dus bly wees as u reelings sal tref vir verteenwoordigers van u Boerevereniging om hom te ontmoet op my kantoor, 10 uur aanstaande Saterdag.

2. Ek het u vandag gebel, maar kon u tot dusver nie op die foon kry nie. Ingeval u nie eerder met my in verbinding tree nie, sal u my weer bel om te se of alles in orde is?

Die uwe,
J.M. Dufresh
MAGISTRAAT.

JC/MM

ZONDERWATER CAMP

(also referred to as Premier Mine Camp): This camp should not be confused with the UDF training and mobilization camp at Premier Mine. The camp was the biggest of all POW camps in South Africa, opening in April 1941 and closing in February or March 1947, with the last personnel leaving on 15 June 1947. It was divided into 14 blocks, each comprising 4 camps. These camps were numbered from 1 to 44 [but $14 \times 4 = 52$], each containing approximately 2 000 POWs. For example, Block 1 consisted of Camps 1, 2, 3 and 4; Block 2 consisted of Camps 5, 6, 7 and 8; Block 3 consisted of Camps 9, 10, 11 and 12. Block 8, Camp 29 was reserved for Fascists only. There was a hospital, No. 118 POW Hospital, with 3 000 beds, which officially closed on 31 January 1947. The hospital was referred to as the "Z" Hospital. Some mail items recorded have a single "Z" stamped on the cover, possibly indicating that they originated from the hospital. The first Camp Commandant was Col D.M. de Wet, VD, followed by Col Hendrik Frederik Prinsloo, MBE ED, from 13 January 1943, whose second-in-command was Maj Murray.

Rev Junod visited the camp many times between 10 September 1941 and 23 August 1946, during which time the number of offi-

cers ranged from 33 to 220 and the total number of POWs reached a maximum of 67 571 on 18 December 1942. Many POWs were transferred out of this camp to other camps, as well as being allocated as OE labourers on farms. The camp had a detention barracks (DB), which also served other camps, such as Aliwal North and Warmbaths. The Assistant Directorate of Medical Services (POW) was situated at Zonderwater to administer all POW medical affairs.

Zonderwater was also the headquarters of all POW administration in South Africa; all records and returns were held here. In November 1944, the staff complement was 5 UDF members and 26 Italian POWs and there were branches at Bultfontein, Ottosdal, Senekal and Warmbaths.

Scarcity rating: 2

Camp cachet: type 1 (Italian Postal section; Political Section), type 2, type 4 (Outside Employment Office; 2nd Echelon POW Information Bureau).

Defence HQ cachet: type 2 (Prisoners of War Hospital; ADMS POW, Assistant Directorate of Medical Services for POWs), type 4 (Adjutant-General, DAG POW).

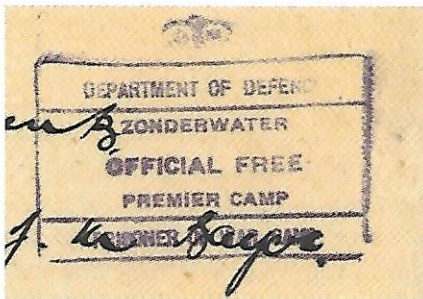


Illustration 67. Camp type 2 (purple)

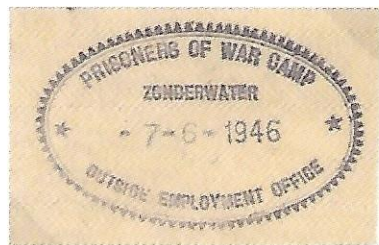


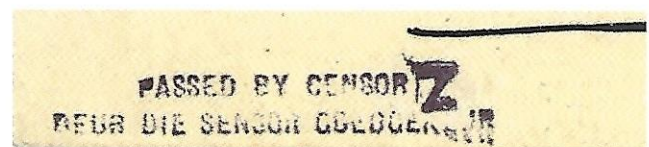
Illustration 68. Camp cachet type 2 (mauve)



Illustration 69. Outside Employment Office, type 4



Illustration 70. Incoming registered cover from Eritrea, camp type 1 (Findlay)



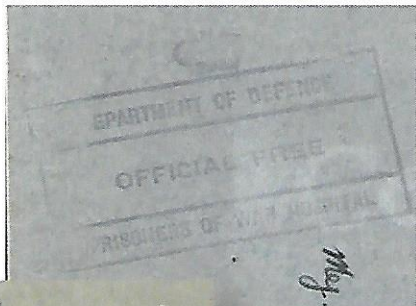
Illustrations 71 and 72. Two examples of the 'Z' censor mark, presumed to be associated with the Zonderwater POW Hospital

POW HOSPITALS

POW hospitals were located at Clairwood, Far East Rand, George, Johannesburg, Loskop, Pietermaritzburg, Premier Mine, Wynberg (160 Military Hospital), Worcester and Zonderwater. There were possibly others. In addition to the above camps and their medical facilities, there was an Aliens Hospital at Krugersdorp, where POWs were treated. This might have been attached to the Krugersdorp Mental Hospital. On 14 October 1944, 10 Italian POWs from Durban Road Camp, Pietermaritzburg, were taken to this hospital.

Scarcity rating: 10

Illustration 73. POW Hospital, type 2



*Illustration 74.
A.D.M.S.
(P.O.W.), type 2*

OUTSIDE LABOUR CAMPS

There were many construction projects on which the Italian POWs worked, such as buildings, roads and irrigation works. Many of these buildings are now preserved as national monuments. Some of the other works undertaken by Italian POWs -- which did not appear to have a formal POW or internment camp -- were as follows:

MILITARY UNITS:

POWs were utilized as cooks, waiters, gardeners and general labourers at 61 Air School (George), and it is likely that these POWs were administered from Worcester Camp. Similarly, POWs from Zonderwater were utilized in camps at Potchefstroom, such as OC Troops Officer's Mess, 1 Armoured Brigade Officer's Mess, Signals Training Centre, Youth Training Brigade and the YMCA. Other units and locations using POWs from Zonderwater include OFS Garrison messes (Tempe, Bloemfontein), 110 Military Hospital (Voortrekkerhoogte), 130 Military Hospital (Baragwanath), 8 Battalion Reserve Brigade (Ganspan), Prinshof Camp (Pretoria), HQ Mobile Field Force (Ermelo), Railways & Harbours Brigade (Mapleton Camp). POWs from Kroonstad were supplied to 6 Armoured Brigade in that town. An application for POW labour was received from the Anti-Aircraft Depot at Ottery, Wynberg, which was rejected as this was a prohibited area for POWs.

CAMP NO. 121:

An outside labour camp near Worcester (SANDF Archives).

CERES FACTORY:

A number of Italian POWs were employed in a fruit-exporting factory (see Gazzani, 1987).

GREYTOWN CAMP:

This camp was situated 75 km north of Pietermaritzburg. The POWs probably constructed an irrigation scheme at Rietvlei on the Umvoti River. There is no record of POW numbers. Eight Vichy French officers were housed in the Plough Hotel in Greytown from June to

September 1942, after which they were transferred to Koffiefontein Internment Camp.

MFULI RIVER DAM, NKWALENI:

Italian POWs are known to have built the dam on the Mfuli River, a tributary of the Uhlutuzi River, and the irrigation canal in the Nkwaleni Valley, Zululand. It is still functional at the time of writing.

MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL, BULWER:

Italian POWs are known to have built this hotel, starting in 1942 (or 1943) and finishing it in 1945. Due to the war, there was a shortage of building material and the POWs did a fair amount of improvising. The Bulwer jail was converted into a fort during the 1906 Bambatha Rebellion; the Italian POWs were housed in the jail and in tents in the grounds while they were building the hotel.

ST. ELMO'S MISSION, UMZIMBI:

Italian POWs were employed here.

ESCAPES

It is interesting to note that, according to Rev. Junod (14 September 1945), 38 Italian POWs managed to escape. This relatively small number can be explained by the fact that after the capitulation of Italy, the Italian POWs in South Africa received better treatment and a greater degree of freedom, thereby making escape a less attractive option.

VICHY FRENCH DETAINEES

On 23 April 1942 the Union of South Africa severed diplomatic and consular relations with Vichy France and, from that time, Switzerland represented the interests of French nationals in South Africa. Various French ships, for example, "Cap Padaram", "Cap Tourone", "Bangkok", "Compiègne", "Marechal Gallieni" and "Commandant Dorise", were impounded in South African ports towards the end of 1941 and early 1942. By 29 December 1941, there were 5,315 French detained of whom 2 154 had been repatriated. These French nationals were regarded as detainees rather than internees or POWs, and had a reasonable degree of freedom.

There were many nationalities and affiliations among these French-speaking detainees, such as Free French, Vichy French, Indo-Chinese, Arabs, Malagasies, Martiniques and Senegalese. These were also classified as 'European' and 'non-European', according to the prevailing system of racial classification at the time. The majority was detained in the port cities. Port Elizabeth used the Air Force Station (which was not ideal) and all detainees were subsequently moved to East London, where they were accommodated at the Show Grounds. In Durban, detainees were held at Clairwood Camp and many were moved to the Durban Road Camp in Pietermaritzburg, which held 1 699 Vichy French on 18 December 1942. Many were held in a camp at Bethlehem and the French officers were generally accommodated in hotels in the Karoo such as at Cradock, Middelburg and Graaff-Reinet. Those Vichy French who were regarded as being pro-Nazi were moved to one of the internment camps. There was a plan to move all Vichy French to Iraq and Persia but this proved to be a problem, and Madagascar became the chosen destination.

In June 1943, 1 614 French detainees were transferred to Madagascar and by 8 September 1944 all the Indo-Chinese (Annamites) had been transferred there. There were up to 78 French Foreign Legionnaires detained, initially in Andalusia and Baviaanspoort camps (2 were in Jagersfontein and 8 in Koffiefontein camps), and in April 1946 there were 49 in Baviaanspoort and one in Koffiefontein. It appears that the last Vichy French and the Legionnaires were repatriated in mid-1946.

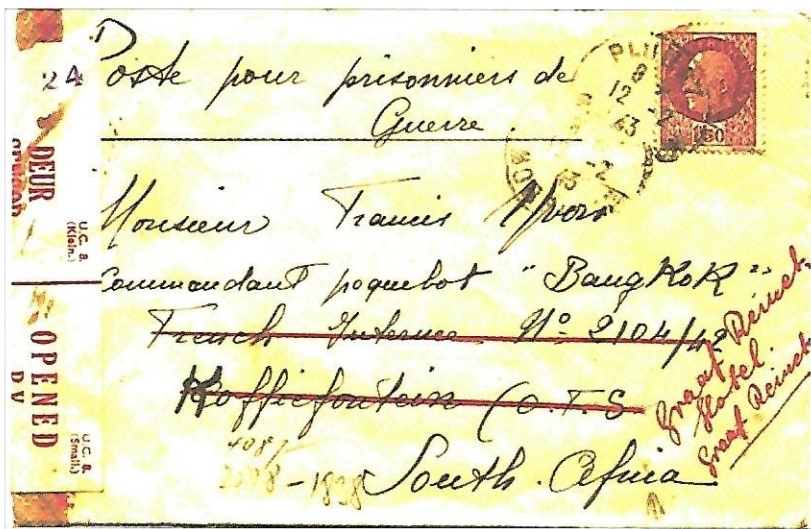


Illustration 75. Cover sent to the French Captain of the 'Bangkok'. Note that the cover is re-addressed to Graaf-Reinet, where he was kept under surveillance until repatriated. (Cover and information, Mullins) Also, see illustration 19.

MAIL FROM PRISONER OF WAR & INTERNMENT CAMPS

On 27 August 1943, the South African High Commission in London, UK, agreed to two conventions with the German and Italian governments regarding POWs. The conventions were the "Special Agreement with the German Government arising out of the POW and Sick & Wounded Conventions" and the "Special Agreement with the Italian Government arising out of the POW and Sick & Wounded Conventions".

Article 36 of these conventions stated that German generals were permitted to write and post 5 letters and 5 postcards per month; other officers were entitled to write 3 letters and 4 postcards per month and German other ranks were allowed 2 letters and 4 postcards per month. Letters were a maximum of 24 lines and postcards a maximum of 7 lines long. The same article in the Italian convention allowed for officers and other ranks to write and post one letter and one postcard a week, a letter being defined as 24 lines and a postcard 10 lines. British, Dominion and Colonial POWs in German or Italian POW camps were entitled to "exactly similar" mail.

In addition, Articles 36 and 38 of both agreements state "Italian [German] Postal Authorities agreed to convey free of charge between Italy [Germany] and Lisbon letters and postcards to and from British POWs in return for free conveyance by British air service between the United Kingdom and Lisbon letters and postcards to and from Italian [German] POWs". Both services would be at "no charge". However, an additional clause stated, "POWs from British Dominions and Colonies and India in Italy [Germany] are permitted to prepay correspondence for transmission by air". The same conditions applied to Italian and German POWs in POW camps in the Dominions, the Colonies and India.

Letters to and from POWs and internees in South Africa were postage free for surface mail and 9d (3d plus 6d stamps only) for airmail, the postage rate at the time. Parcels also required prepayment.

Mail from POWs in camps in South Africa was not permitted to indicate geographical location in any way. This explains why there are

very few POW mail items with a South African postal date stamp. In addition, it was prohibited for postcards and letters to be numbered in any way. No registered mail and no picture postcards were permitted to be sent to or by POWs. Two registered covers, one into Andalusia and one out of Andalusia are anomalous in this regard. The outgoing cover may have been from a member of the guard force. Censorship of the text in letters or postcards had to be done by means of ink or a similar substance, and not by means of cutting the words out.

Under the Prisoners of War Censorship Regulations of 1941, there was no restriction placed on the number of letters that a POW could receive. However, only "short" letters were permitted and the sender's name and address had to be clearly legible. There was a provision that postage stamps could be removed from mail. There were 200 examiners appointed in the Union, each with his or her own stamp and/or number; a list of the name and address of the sender and addressee of each censored letter was kept and a weekly report was required from each examiner. Any suspicious entries in letters had to be referred to the chief censor. The examiner was not permitted to write any remarks on the envelope and letter.

Article 9 of the Sick & Wounded Convention allowed for "protected personnel to write twice as many letters and postcards as POWs". Protected personnel included doctors, orderlies, nurses and chaplains. (Captured female army nurses were to be repatriated at the earliest possible convenience).

The UDF staff at the POW postal section at Zonderwater consisted of 1 x Lt or Capt, 1 x WO II, 1 x S/Sgt, 2 x Sgt, 1 x Cpl and a WAAS secretary, assisted by a number of POWs.

Post Office Circular 1173 refers to the handling of mail from Ganspan but not Jagersfontein and it is assumed that Ganspan serviced mail to and from Jagersfontein in view of the manuscript censor marks. Mail to and from Andalusia, Koffiefontein and Ganspan camps was censored in Bloemfontein. Similarly mail from Baviaanspoort Camp and Leeukop Camp was censored in Pretoria.

Air mail to and from POWs went through the office of the postal censor, POW Section, at the main post office in Cape Town (Room 616). An inventory of all letters received and dispatched was kept both at the POW camp and at the censor's office. It is likely that all mail to POWs went to the POW administrative headquarters at Zonderwater before being distributed.

A 5-line boxed cachet with "Prisonnier de Guerre / Prisoner of War / Krygsgevangene / Union of South Africa / Unie van Suid-Afrika" was applied to mail from POWs to overseas destinations (see illustration of POW post card, type 1, below). This 5-line cachet is also recorded without a box frame. The unboxed 5-line cachet is also recorded as having a 27mm "Y" at the right side with a manuscript "P19" (Dickson). It appears that these cachets were not applied to local mail or to postage free mail from non-POWs at the various camps.

A 4-line boxed cachet with "PRISONNIER DE GUERRE / PRISONER OF WAR / KRYGSGEVANGENE / BAVIAANSPOORT, PRETORIA" or "LEEUKOP, RIVONIA" and a similar 4-line, but unboxed cachet for Andalusia and Koffiefontein are known. The Ganspan and Jagersfontein internment camps do not appear to have had similar cachets.

POW cachets bearing the words "Prisoners of War Camp" and the name of the camp have been recorded from the following camps on mail items:

Aliwal North, Bultfontein, Carolina Convalescent Depot, Cookhouse Durban (? Clairwood), Du Toit's Kloof, Huguenoot, Paarl, George/Montagu Pass, Jessievale, Kroonstad, Pietermaritzburg, Premier Mine

²We are grateful to L Roberts for this information, and for the facts concerning the Mountain Park Hotel at Bulwer.

(=Zonderwater), Roberts Heights, Senekal, Standerton, Warmbaths, Weza, Worcester (Office of the Paymaster), Zonderwater (Italian Postal Section).

Other POW mail items with a Department of Defence cachet have been recorded from "A.D.M.S. (P.O.W.)" (Assistant Directorate of Medical Services for POWs at Zonderwater), "Apostolic Delegation (P.O.W.)", "Durban", "Office, Outside Employment Officer, Premier Mine", "Prisoners of War Hospital", and "Zonderwater Premier Camp".

Dumb POW camp cachets, bearing the words "POW Camp" but not the name of the camp, have been recorded on mail with datestamps from Harding, Kroonstad and Zonderwater.

The "Department of the Interior" cachet is recorded on mail from Andalusia Internment Camp. The administration of internment camps was under this government department from 14 August to 22 September 1940. This cachet is recorded on items in the collections of Findlay, Dickson, Ryan and others.

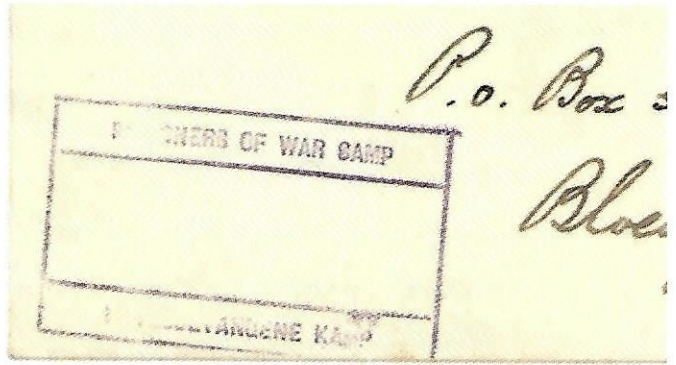


Illustration 76. Dumb POW Camp, cachet type 1

PREPRINTED POW POSTAL STATIONERY

On being captured, Italian POWs completed one official 'capture card' and two Red Cross 'capture cards', which were forwarded to the next of kin.

At least two types of postal stationery were issued to the Italian POWs in South Africa, a letter sheet and a postcard. These both contain the usual space for the addressee and then the details of the sender (name, rank, POW number, Italian Prisoner of War Camp, Union of South Africa).

Table 2 Letter Sheets: POW 9 stationery issued to Italian POWs in South Africa during World War II (GP = Government Printer; CT = Cape Times (Pty) Ltd)

Type No.	Printer	Ink	Date	No Printed	Remarks
1.	GP	Black	1941-2	200 000	
2.	GP	Black	1941-2	750 000	
3.	GP	Black	1941-2	550 000	
4.	CT	Black	3.42 [Mar 1942]	3 500 000	Taglia qui*
5.	EHW	Black	No date	-	Taglia qui*
6.	CT	Black	15/9/43 [15 Sept 1943]	3 000 000	Tagliare lungo questa linea*
7.	GP	Blue	1942-3	200 000	'PRIGONIERE' (not 'I')

*'Taglia qui' = 'Cut here'; 'Tagliare lungo questa linea' = 'Cut along this line'.

Scarcity ratings: Type 1: 7 Type 2: 6 Type 3: 6 Type 4: 2
 Type 5: 9 Type 6: 2 Type 7: 9

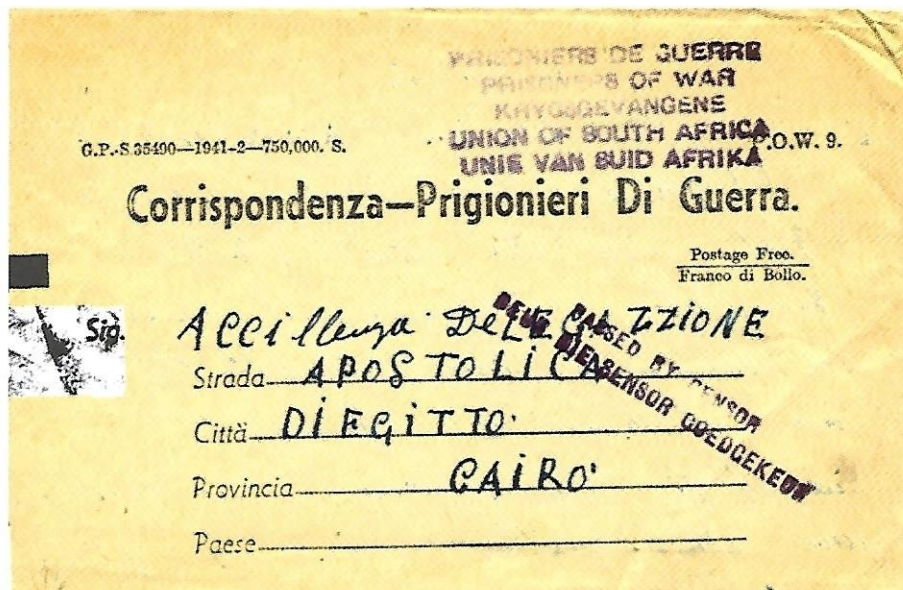


Illustration 77. POW 9, type 2, censor type 1 (Miller)

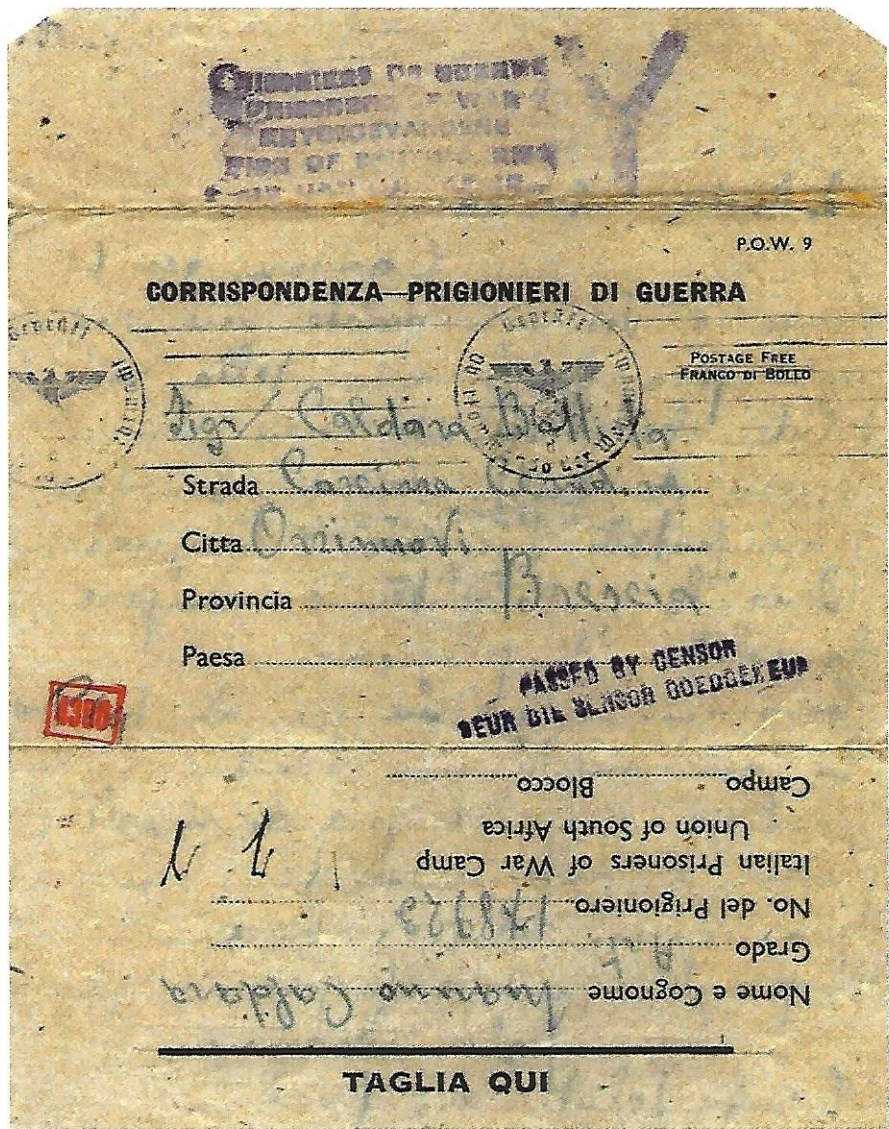


Illustration 78. POW 9, type 4.
 Censor type 1. Also, Note the five-
 line censor cachet with 'Y', which is a
 mystery (Dickson)

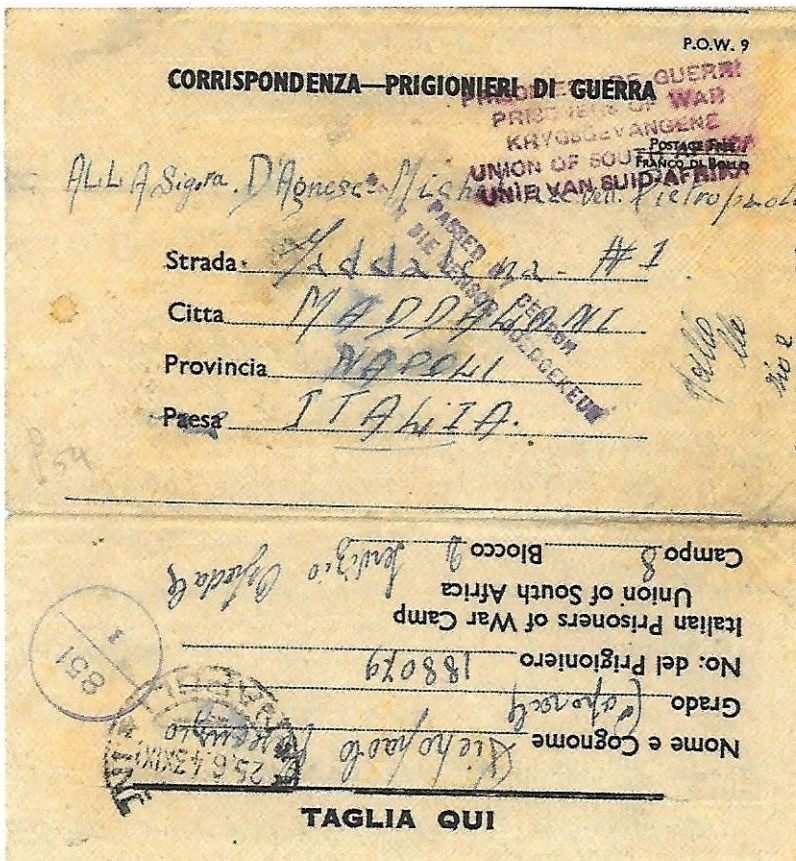


Illustration 79. POW 9, type 5: The title of
 "CORRISPONDENZA - PRIGIONIERI DI
 GUERRA" is shorter than that of Type 4, and
 the address details are bolder than those of
 Type 4. Censor type 1 (Dickson)

P.O.W. 9
PRISONIERS OF WAR
KRYGSGEVANGENE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
POSTAGE FREE
FRANCO DI BOLLO

CORRISPONDENZA—PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

Full Signal

Nome *Ferraro Ferrante*

Strada *l' Abate N. 36-*

Città *Trapani*

Provincia *Trapani*

Paese *(Sicilia)*

Non si aggiungano altre indicazioni!

16
Italian Prisoners of War Camp
Union of South Africa

No. del Prigioniero *38606-*

Grado *Sottile*

Nome e Cognome *Ferraro Ferrante*

Tagliare lungo questa linea

© C.N.L.T.D.—M7373. L711461. 3,000,000. 15/9/43.

Illustration 80. POW 9, type 6, censor type 1. (Dickson)

CORRISPONDENZA—PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA
PER VIA AEREA.

SIG. *RODELLA GIOVANNI*

VIA *CASINA SCANDOLA*

CITTA' *LENO*

PROVINCIA *BRESCIA* PAESE *ITALIA*

Nome e cognome *Ferraro Ferrante*

Grado *Sottile*

No. del Prigioniero *38606*

Italian Prisoners of War Camp.

Union of South Africa.

LENO
-5143-
BRESCIA

LENO
-5143-
BRESCIA

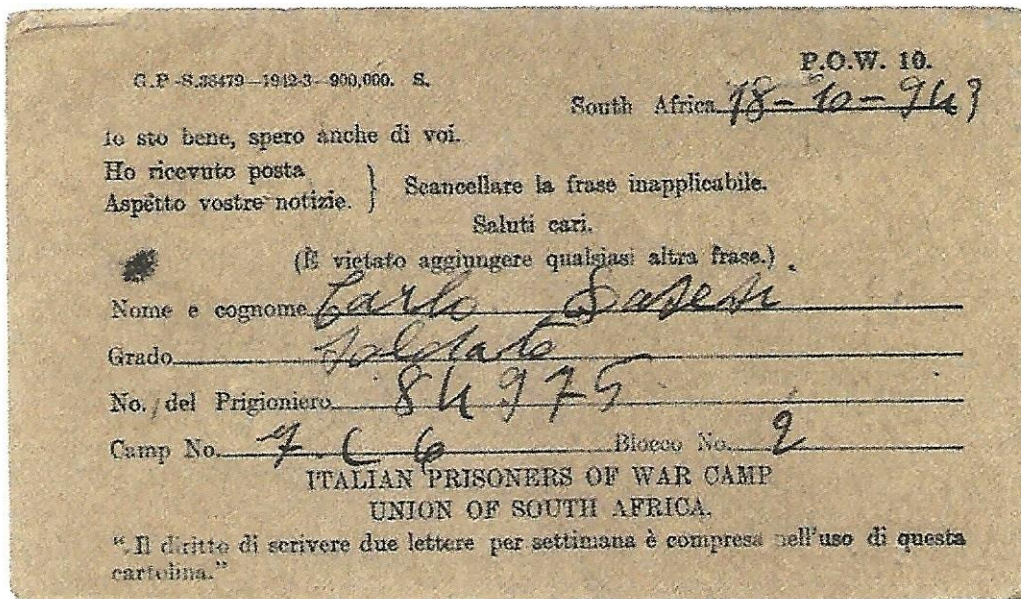
Illustration 81. POW 9, type 7, censor type 1 (Daynes)

Table 3

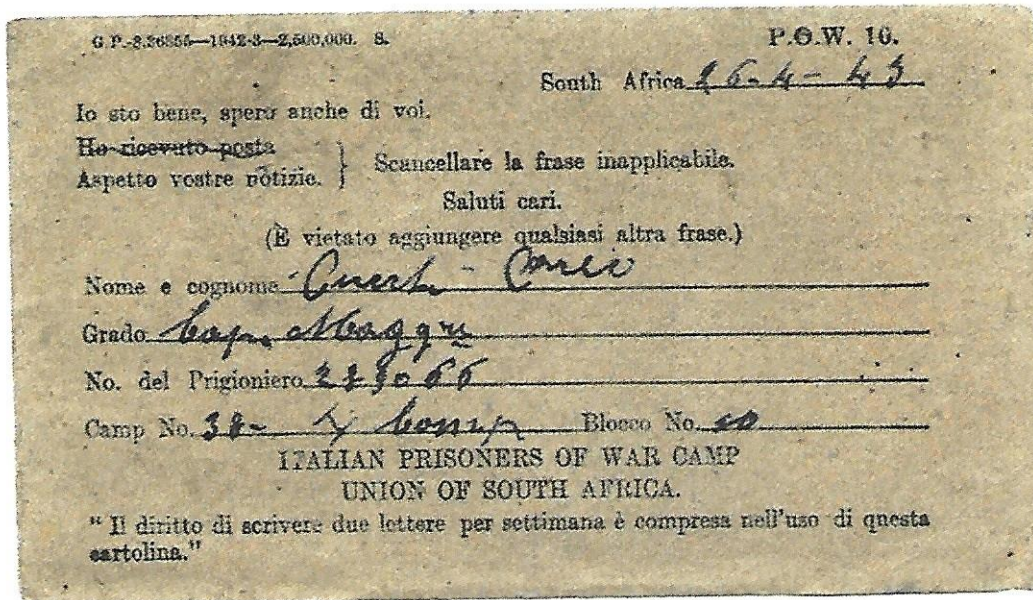
Post cards: POW 10 stationery issued to Italian POWs in South Africa during World War 2

Type No.	Printer	Date	No Printed	Size	Language
1.	GP	1942-3	900 000	132 x 75mm	Italian
2.	GP	1942-3	2 500 000	132 x 75mm	Italian
3.	GP	1943-4	3 000 000	152 x 91mm	Italian, English

Scarcity ratings: Type 1: 7 Type 2: 4 Type 3: 4



Illustrations 82 and 82a. Front and back of POW 10, type 1 with five-line trilingual cachet (Dickson)



Illustrations 83 and 83a. Front and back of POW 10, type 2 (Dickson)

LETTER SHEETS FOR GERMAN POWS

The German prisoners, who, arriving in Durban, were not sent on to camps in other countries, were transferred to the Pietermaritzburg Camp. It is not clear why some German POWs were retained in South Africa. The Official Year Book of the Union of South Africa (Chapter 29, No. 23 of 1946, entitled "The Union of South Africa and the War") records 2 006 German prisoners held in 1942 and 2 000 in 1943. All of these prisoners had been transferred out the Union by the end of 1943.

This small contingent of German prisoners required some form of stationery, either letter sheets, postcards, or both. The printing of the letter sheets was initiated in April 1942, with the final proof being approved by the Adjutant-General on 18 May 1942 (see illustration 84 below). There is no evidence of an official postcard

having been printed for these prisoners.

Two examples of the letter sheet, printed by the Government Printer in German, and used in June 1943, are recorded (see illustrations 85 and 86 below). The job number is G.P-S 38074, the date of printing is indicated as 1942-3 and a total of 20 000 were printed. There is no allocated POW stationery number, as for the Italian letter sheets (POW 9) and postcards (POW 10). All headings are in German, except for "German Prisoners of War Transit Camp. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA" in the address and the words "Postage Free". Both used examples received a Passed By Censor cachet, of different sizes (Type 1c and an unrecorded type, 36 x 6 mm). If there were 2 000 prisoners and a printing of 20 000, then 10 letter sheets were allocated to each prisoner. The letter sheets can be regarded as rare.

(Data) Epifania 1844

Caro Pasquale, con la presen-
te ti faccio sapere che sto in bu-
nissimo stato di salute, come
pure vorrei sentire di te e di
mamma e da come state, perche
l'ultimo postale che ho
ricevuto era datato 6/16/43.
Salutami tutti, baci a mamma,
e te mette affezioni tua frat. Albano

Illustrations 84 and 84a. Front
and back of POW 10, type 3
(Dickson)

SERVICE OF PRISONERS OF WAR. P.O.W. 10.

AL : *Pasquale Pasquale*
Via S. Rosa 17
Rovato, Prov. Brescia
- Italia -

Nome *Pasquale Albano*
No. *281376* Grado *P. W.*

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

G.P.-S.42593-1843-4-3,000,000. B.

G.P.-S.35274-1842-3-10,000.

Korrespondenz — Kriegsgefangener.
Postage Free.
Postfrei.

Herrn
Strasse _____
Ort _____
Provinz _____
Land _____

Block _____
Camp _____
SUDAFRIKAANSE UNIE - Union of South Africa
Deutsches Internationales Lager
German Prisoners of War Camp

Nr. des Kriegsgefangenen _____
Rang _____
Name und Familienname _____

Presfs to be read by Author
as the final corrections have
not been checked by G.P.W.
Readers.

ADULT
18-5-1942
affares. J. Speck

Illustration 85. Proof of the
letter sheet for German POWs
(SANDF)

Eingegangen

28 OKT. 1943
G.P.S. 8071-1942-3-20,000

PRISONIERS OF WAR
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Korrespondenz - Kriegsgefangener.

Postage Free
Postfrei

Herrn Karl Hlink

Strasse Liststrasse

Ort Stuttgart - 4

Provinz Württemberg

Land Deutschland

DEUTSCHE WEHRMACHT
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
German Prisoners of War Transit Camp.
Nr. des Kriegsgefangenen 55720
Rang Sergeant
Name und Familienname Karl Hlink

p4

Illustration 86. Letter sheet sent on 29 June 1943, arriving in Stuttgart 122 days later (Findlay)

Name und Familienname _____

Rang _____

Nr. des Kriegsgefangenen _____

German Prisoners of War Transit Camp.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Land _____

Provinz _____

Ort _____

Strasse _____

Herrn _____

Korrespondenz - Kriegsgefangener.

PRISONIERS OF WAR
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

G.P.S. 8071-1942-3-20,000

607943

Illustration 87. Letter sheet sent on 8 June 1943, arriving in Stuttgart 104 days later (Findlay)

Other official POW forms were P.O.W. 1 - individual Medical Record Form; W.R./P.O.W 5 - South African Red Cross Society, Prisoners of War Interned in the Union of South Africa (list); P.O.W. 8 - Strength Return of Prisoners of War; P.O.W. 8A - Weekly State of Prisoners of War Interned at 12:00 Hrs; P.O.W. Forms 16, 17, 18 and 19 concerned transfers of pay to and from POWs.

Civilian internees used ordinary civilian stationery.

ENEMY POW MAIL POSTAL ROUTES TO SOUTH AFRICA

According to the Assistant Director Army Postal Services Union Defence Force (ADAPS UDF) records, all mail from Germany and Italy to German and Italian POWs in South Africa went via Geneva in Egypt. Mail from Germany went to Basel (Switzerland), then to Istanbul (Turkey), to Palestine and then to Geneva. Mail from Italy was collected at Chiasso and then followed the same route via Basle to Geneva. Mail to German and Italian POWs in Canada, the UK and the USA went from Basel via Lisbon (Portugal) to each country.

On arrival in Egypt, all mail to enemy POWs went to the Chief Prisoners of War Censor (G.S.I.(c)) before it was forwarded to the Central POW Postal Section at Geneva (located at POW Camp 306), which was responsible for the sorting of all POW mail. This was part of the British Army Post Office 207 (BAPO 207); Field Army Post Office 135 (APO 135) was responsible for the dispatch of all mail. Mail was first sorted alphabetically for each camp des-

tinuation, then counted, and the bundles were labeled and addressed. For example, "Bag No. XXX, destination South Africa; contents 8,975 letters - date of dispatch 21.9.42". An official from BAPO 207 would seal the bags with the "Field APO 135" impression.

From Geneva, the mail went by road to the BAPO at Port Tewfik, where it was loaded onto a ship to Cape Town. On arrival in Cape Town, the POW mail went to the Central POW Postal Section for censorship. It then went to Zonderwater Camp before being directed to the camp where the POW was located.


RADIO MESSAGES

In order to accelerate the exchange of messages between POWs and their families or next of kin, use was made of the radio. An agreement was reached whereby very short messages (maximum of 25 words) could be sent, via the POW camp commandant, to the Chief Censor in Cape Town. Once the censor's approval had been granted, the item was given to the Apostolic Delegate. The Vatican Radio had specific stations in England, Egypt, Australia, India and South Africa to relay POW messages. All messages were routed through Cairo, which appears to have been the central co-ordinating station for contact with Rome. The South African Secretary for External Affairs approved this system on 26 May 1942 and it was reciprocal for Italian POWs in South Africa and South African POWs in Germany and Italy. The messages were written on printed forms with space for the name and address of both the sender and addressee as well as for a return message.

Mod. 40

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Date


 SECRETARIAT OF STATE
 TO HIS HOLINESS

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED
 BY RADIO ON 22 DEC. 1942

Sender Bernard Friedlander.

Rank Lance-Corporal. No. 241876

Camp No. 104. Military Post 3200.

Addressee Mrs. H. Friedlander.

Street 44 Pearson Street.

Town Port Elizabeth.

County Eastern Province.

Country South Africa.

Message (10 words - Season's greetings only)

X'MAS and New Year Greetings
to all. Fit smiling lore.

Illustration 88. Christmas Greetings message, 22 December 1942(Findlay)

Messages from family and next of kin to POWs were posted to the censor and marked "via Durban and Cairo for disposal via Egypt".

The Vatican Radio would confirm the sending of these messages in writing (where possible) and many service organizations would listen to the broadcasts and forward the messages to the relevant people. There are many examples of postcards confirming the sending of radio messages. The South African Red Cross played a major role in the collection and distribution of these messages.

Broadcasting to Africa by the Vatican Radio was daily at 19h15 to 19h45 on wavelength DGZ 14605 (20.54m).

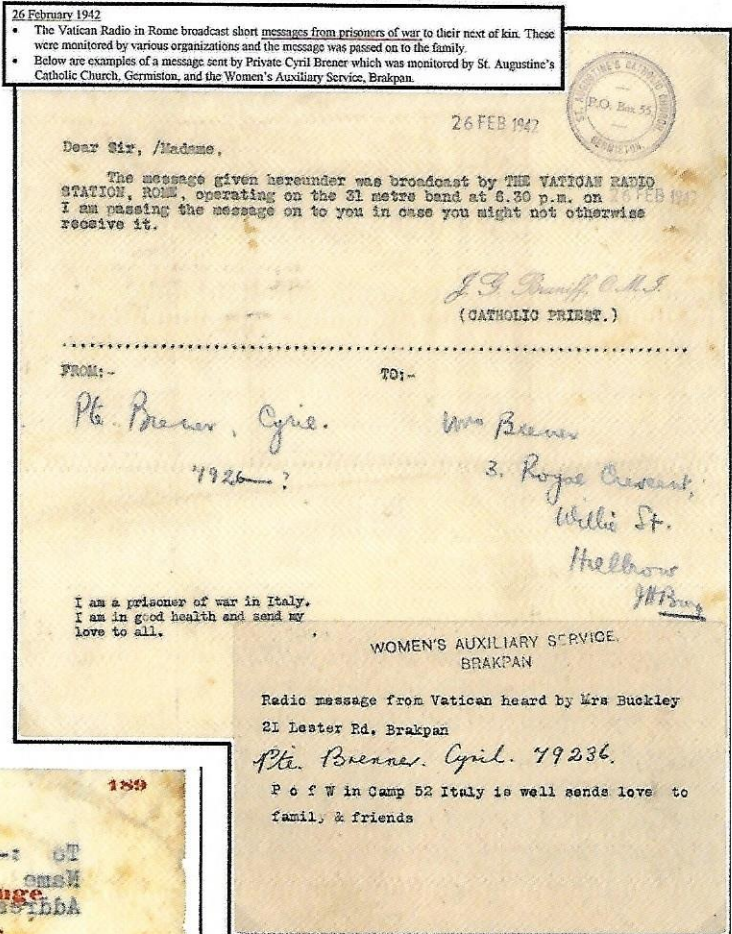


Illustration 89. (Findlay)

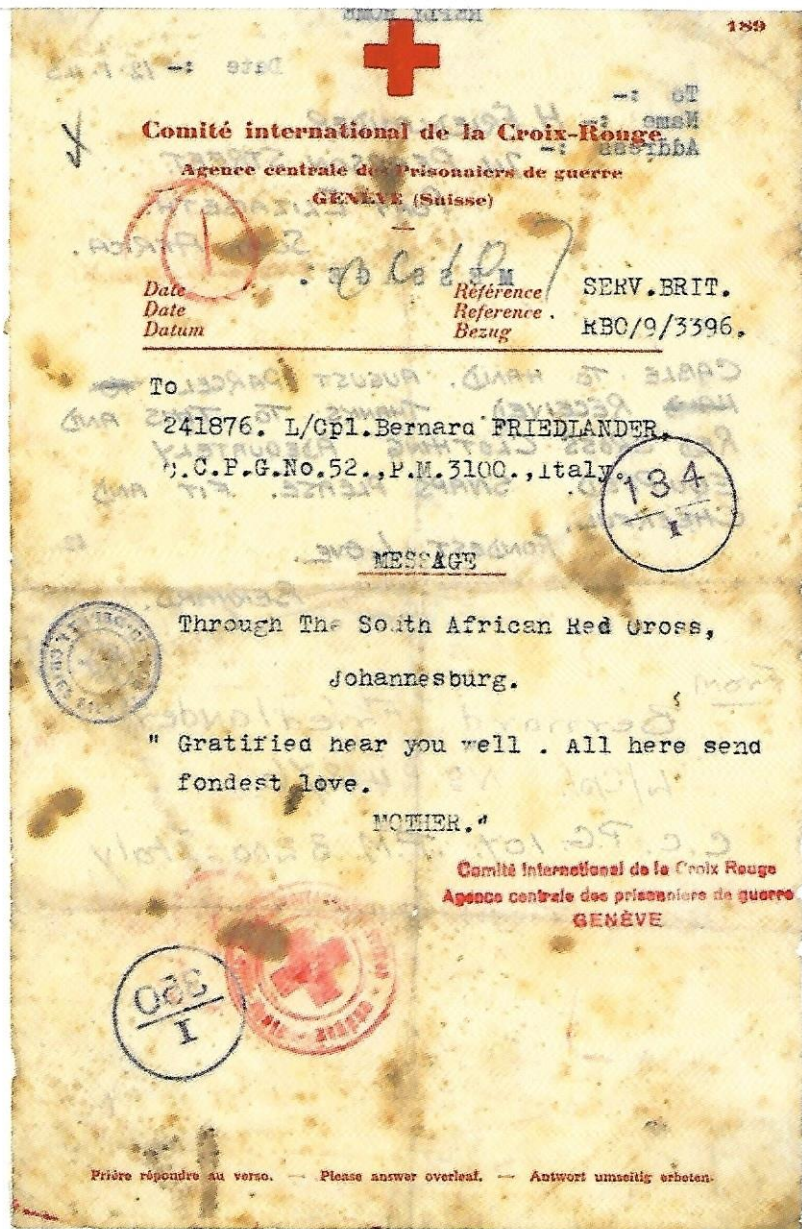


Illustration 90. Message from his mother in Port Elizabeth to L/Cpl. Bernard Friedlander, a POW in Camp 107, Torviscosa, Italy. The message was forwarded by the Red Cross in SA to the Red Cross in Geneva, where it was typed on this form. The Red Cross in Rome then forwarded the message to the Camp. Friedlander replied on the back, and the form was returned by the same route back to SA, being censored in Egypt en route (Findlay)

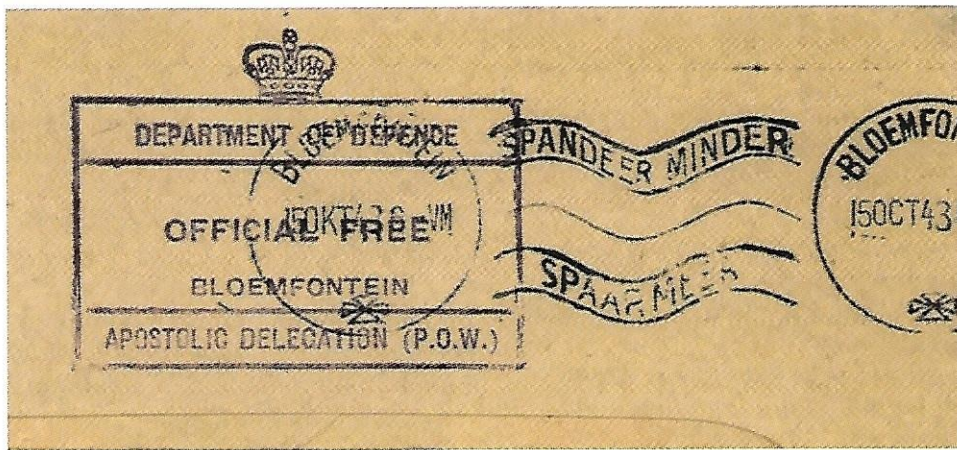


Illustration 91. Apostolic Delegation cachet type 2 (Findlay)

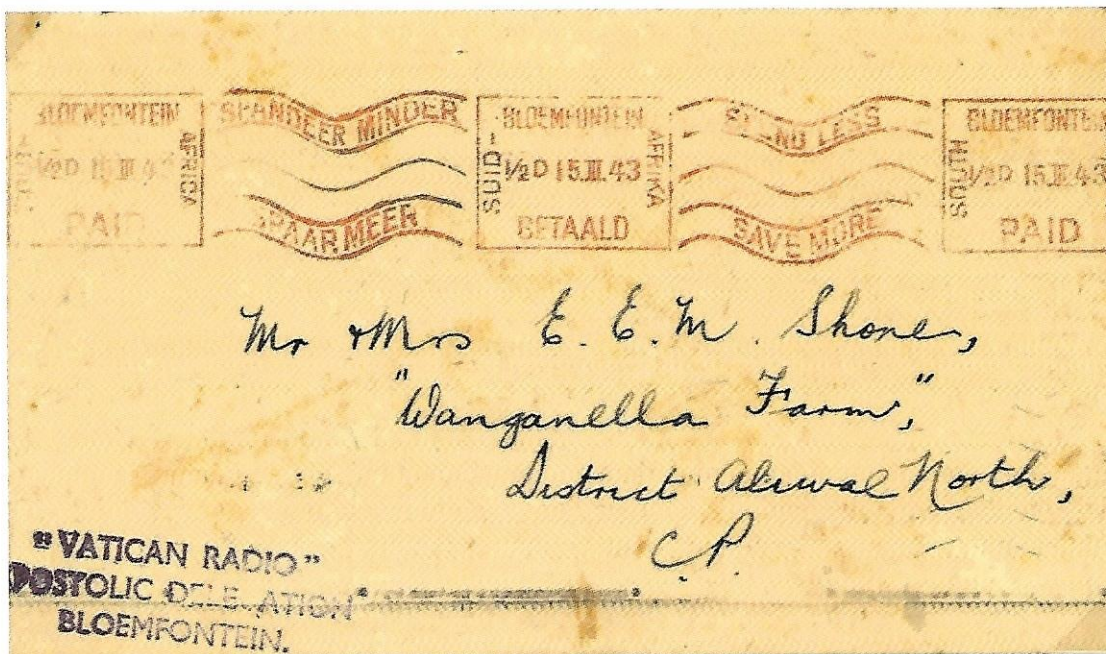


Illustration 92. Apostolic Delegation Bloemfontein cachet (Findlay)

POW CAMP TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES

Each of the camps had a telegraphic address registered with the Post Office for the ease and speed of delivery of telegrams (as at 29 January 1945). These addresses are:

Aliwal North: POWNORTH
 Cookhouse: POWCOOK
 Kroonstad: POWSTAD
 Montague Pass: POWMONT
 Pietermaritzburg: POWPIET
 Standerton: POWVAAL
 Warmbaths: POWBATHS
 Worcester: POWWOR
 Zonderwater: POWZON

CONCLUSION

There were 43 POW camps and six internment camps established in South Africa during World War II. There were many "outside labour camps", which were the result of Italian POWs co-operating with the government after Italy capitulated in 1943. Mail items from the POW camps are not common and only 19 POW camps are recorded as having an identifying cachet(s).

The present study is by no means complete. New camps, cachets, markings and information will no doubt come to light. The authors welcome correspondence in this regard. (See page 38 for contact details.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The help of the following individuals has been greatly appreciated:

- Fabrizio Bensi, Comité International de la Croix-Rouge, Archives Division, Geneva
- Emilio Coccia of the Zonderwater Block Association, who opened up new sources of information
- Tom Mullins, whose knowledge of all aspects of WW2 postal history in SA is enormous
- Lt. Steve de Agrela and staff of the South African National Defence Force Documentation Centre, who sourced and provided a wealth of information
- Leslie Roberts of the Mountain Park Hotel, Bulwer

- George Cafetzoglou, Leo Crandel, Chris Miller, John Daynes, John Dickson and Tom Mullins who generously gave access to their collections
- Louise van Niekerk and Paul van Zeyl, for the excellent layout and the index

The authors would be glad to receive comments, additional information and scans of unusual covers, at the following addresses:

- J.B.R. Findlay at P.O. Box 3474, Parklands, 2121, South Africa, agrecon@pixie.co.za
- Rory Ryan at P.O. Box 1683, Halfway House, 1685, South Africa, rpr@lw.rau.ac.za

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Tabachnik, A. 1981. 'World War II POW Mail from South Africa.' *The S.A.Philatelist*, May 1981, pp141-143.

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CAMPS



Registered mail to an Italian POW, which was received at the Italian Postal Section at Zonderwater POW Camp, and redirected to the addressee at Vergelegen Wine Estate, where he worked as an OE labourer.

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Aliwal North 16, 17 illus, 21, 25, 27, 37
Andalusia 3, 5, 6 illus, 7 illus, 8 illus, 10, 16, 22, 27, 28
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Moltene Estates 23
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61 Air School (George) 26
121 Labour Camp (Worcester) 23, 26
160 Military Hospital (Wynberg) 23, 26

ORGANISATIONS (INCLUDING GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY)

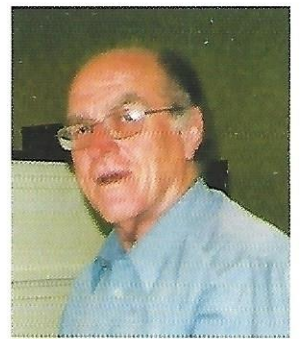
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Regiment De la Rey 3, 6 illus
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South African National Defence Force Documentation Centre 4
South African Red Cross Society 36
Sentraal-Wes Koöperatief (Central West Cooperative) 21
1st National Reserve Volunteer Battalion 18 illus
1st Reserve Brigade 3, 14 illus



OAS cover bearing 1st Battalion Cape Corps Du Toit's Kloof boxed cachet, presumably originating from the Cape Corps Camp at Du Toit's Kloof

A REVISION OF POSTAL STATIONERY AND CENSOR MARKS USED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS AND INTERNMENT CAMPS IN WORLD WAR II

by Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.



Introduction

In the publication 'World War II: Prisoner of War and Internment Camps in South Africa and their Mail' by J.B.R. Findlay and R. Ryan, published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in September 2003, details are recorded of postal stationery used by Italian and German prisoners of war (POW), as well as censor marks used on mail from prisoners of war and internees. Since publication, there have been additions to those that were recorded. This article records those previously listed, and new items since 2003.

The above publication contains details of the many camps and projects that involved the Italian POWs. The illustrations of the letter sheets and postcards shown previously remain valid.

Each POW letter sheet and postcard has the indication that postage is free printed on the address front panel ('Postage Free / Franco di Bollo') except Type 7. This suggests that the Post Office approved the free transmission of this mail and it can be considered as official postal stationery of the Union of South Africa.

Type No.	Printer	Order No.	Date	No. Printed	Remarks
1	G.P.	S.33530	1941-2	200 000	
2	G.P.	S.35490	1941-2	750 000	
3	G.P.	S.33782	1941-2	550 000	
4	C.T.	J.180794	3.42 [Mar. 1942]	3 500 000	Taglia qui*
4a	C.T.	-	11.42 [Nov. 1942]	500M	Taglia qui**
5	E.H.W.	None.	No date.	-	Taglia qui***
6	C.T.	M7373 L711461	15/9/43 [15 Sept 1943]	3 000 000	Tagliare lungo questa linea*
7	G.P.	S.36237	1942-3	200 000	'PRIGIONIERE' (not 'I')
8	G. & S.	-	1942 (?)	-	'500M/11/42'
9	G.P.	S.35097	1942-3	720 000	

G.P. = Government Printer. C.T. Ltd. = Cape Times newspaper.
 * Taglia qui = Cut here; Tagliare lungo questa linea = Cut along this line.
 ** Chris Oliver collection. (Also confirmation of Type 9).
 *** The late John Dickson collection

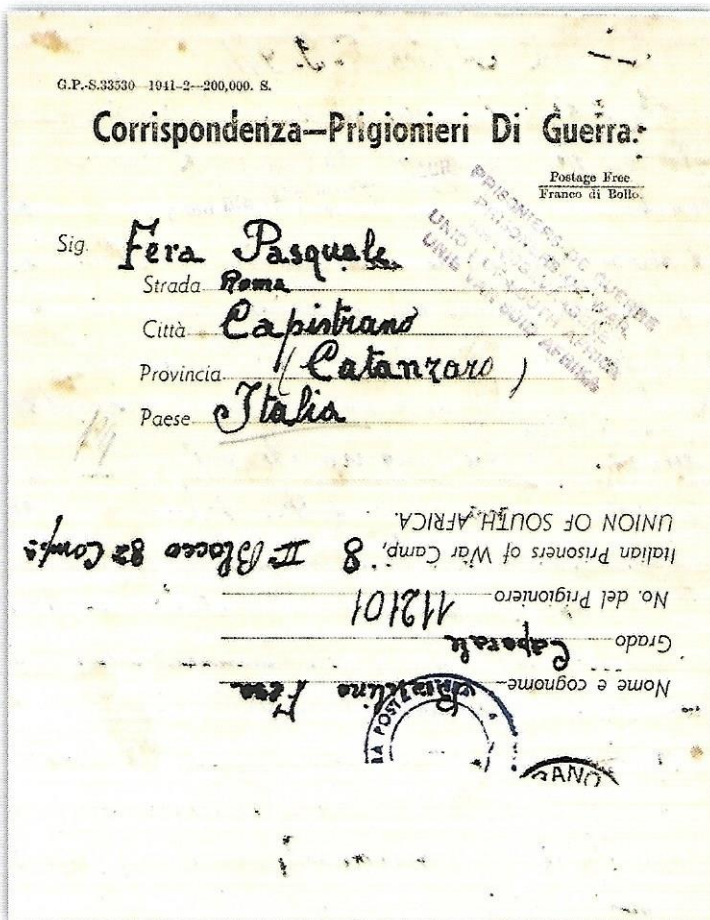


Fig.1: Type 1 Italian POW Lettersheet.

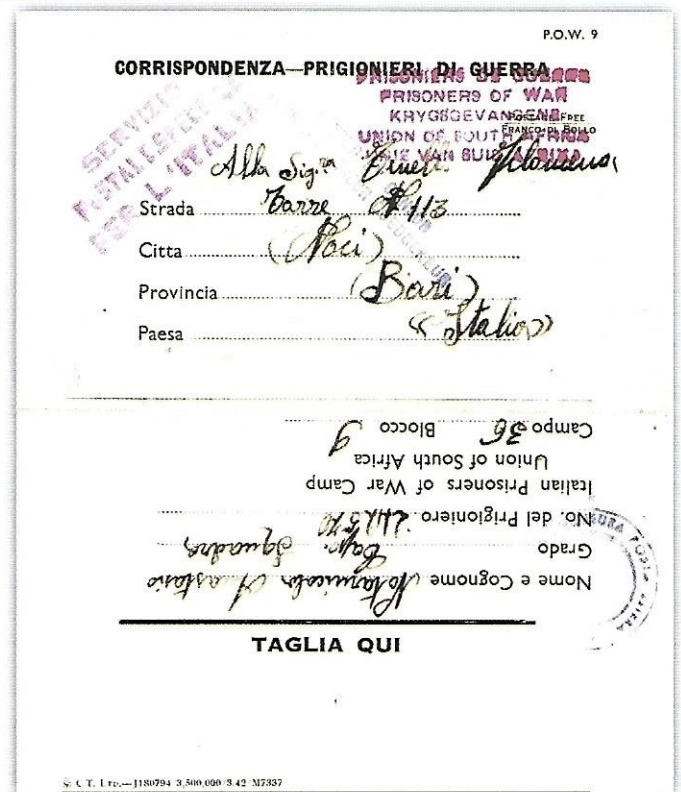


Fig.2: Type 4 Italian POW Lettersheet ('Taglia Qui').

Union of South Africa Italian POW letter sheets (P.O.W. 9 Stationery)

All letter sheets are printed in black except Type 7 which is printed in blue. Type 7 appears to have been forwarded to Cape Town for air mail transmission as all examples seen have Cape Town datestamps and indicate that postage has been paid.

There are two additional letter sheets to those previously recorded and are listed as Types 8 and 9.

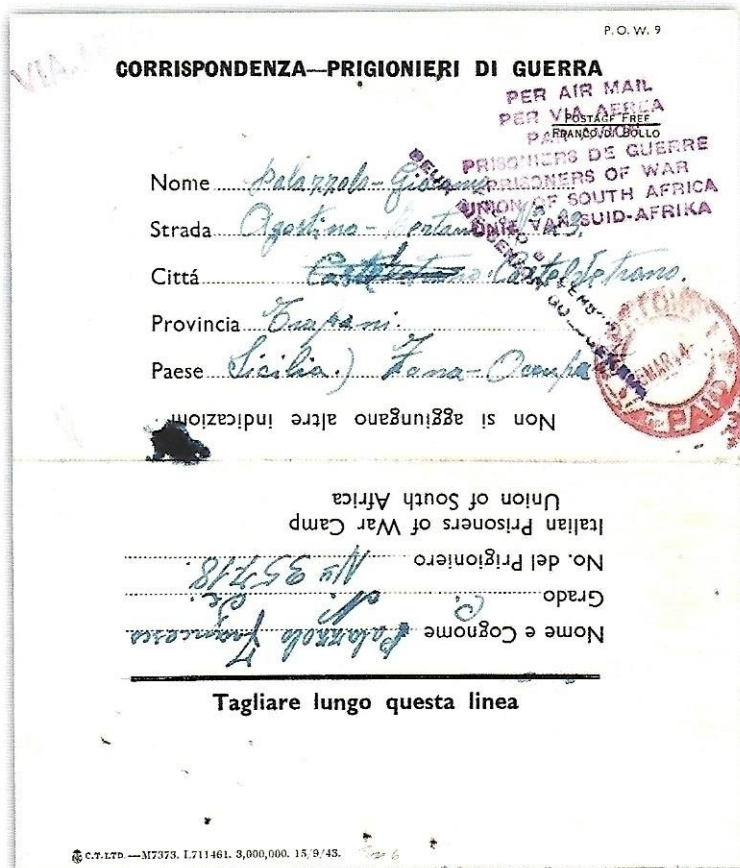


Fig.3: Type 6 Italian POW Lettersheet ('Tagliare lungo questa linea').



Fig.4: Type 7 Italian POW Lettersheet ('Per Via Aerea').

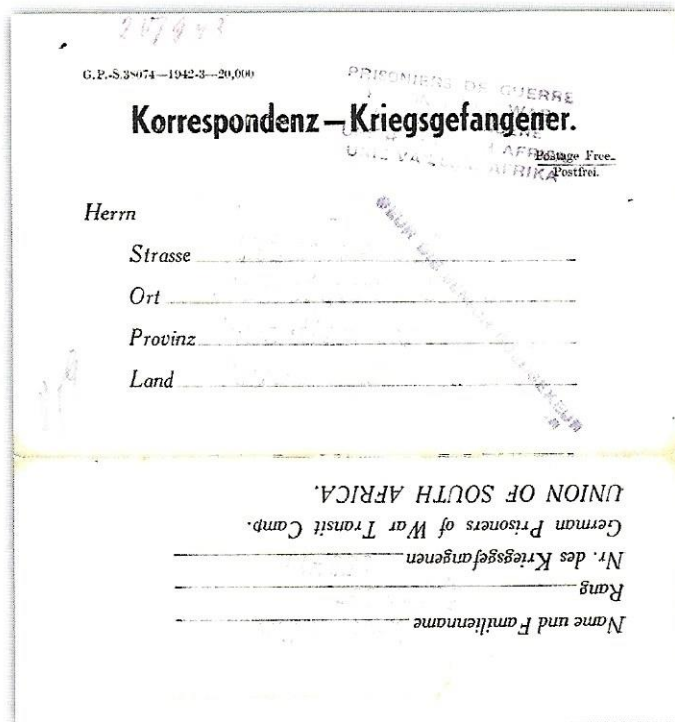


Fig.5: German POW Lettersheet. (image trunkated).

Union of South Africa German POW letter sheet

A single type of POW lettersheet was issued for German prisoners in transit in South African camps. Although 20,000 were printed, these remain exceptionally scarce (The author has seen only two examples in 40 years of collecting this material).

Union of South Africa Italian POW address notification and correspondence postcards.

There are three types of Italian Prisoners of War postcards issued by the Union of South Africa authorities: (i) a notification of POW status and address to next of kin with no stationery identification number and not for correspondence; (ii) identified as 'P.O.W. 10' stationery in the top right corner with the reverse side for the address and not for correspondence; and (iii) identified as 'P.O.W. 10' stationery in the top right corner with the addressee and the sender's address on the front with the reverse side for correspondence.

The printing and wording are the same for types (i) and (ii).

These POW notification postcard types are sub-divided as follows:

Type No.	Printer	Order No.	Date	No. Printed	Size mm	Language
(i) POW Notification Postcard (No stationery identification number)						
1	G.P.	S.35096	1942-3	500,000	132x83	Italian
2	G.P.	S.36250	1942-3	750,000	135x85	Italian
(ii) POW 10 Notification Postcard						
3	G.P.	S.35272	1941-2	500,000	140x90	Italian
4	G.P.	S.35006	1942-3	500,000	(132x75)*	Italian
5	G.P.	S.36855	1942-3	2,500,000	132x75	Italian
6	G.P.	S.38479	1942-3	900,000	132x75	Italian**
7	C.T.Ltd	M7373 L711461	15/9/43	3,000,000	(132x75)*	Italian
8	G.P.	S.42593	1943-4	3,000,000	152x91	Italian
(iii) POW 10 Correspondence Postcard						
9	G.P.	S.42593	1943-4	3,000,000	152x91	Italian, English

G.P. = Government Printer. C.T. Ltd. = Cape Times newspaper.

* The measurement is not accurate.

** The late John Dickson collection



Fig. 6: Italian POW Address Notification Postcard Type 1 Front.

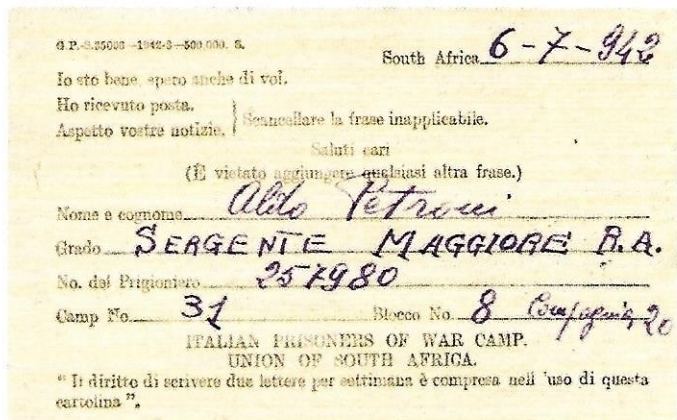


Fig. 7: Italian POW Address Notification Postcard Type 1 Reverse.

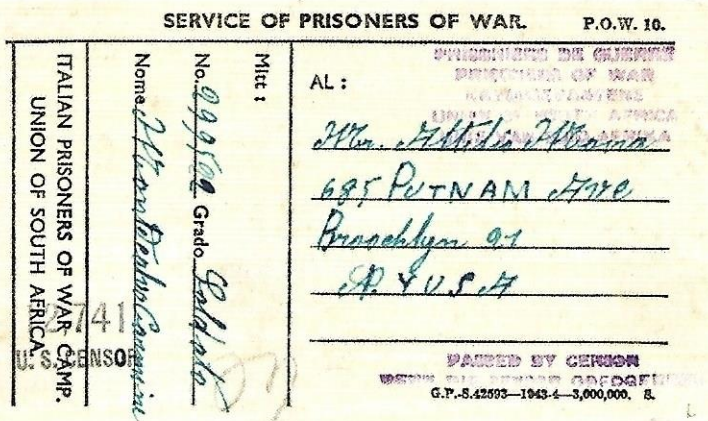


Fig. 8: Italian POW Correspondence Postcard Type 9 Front.

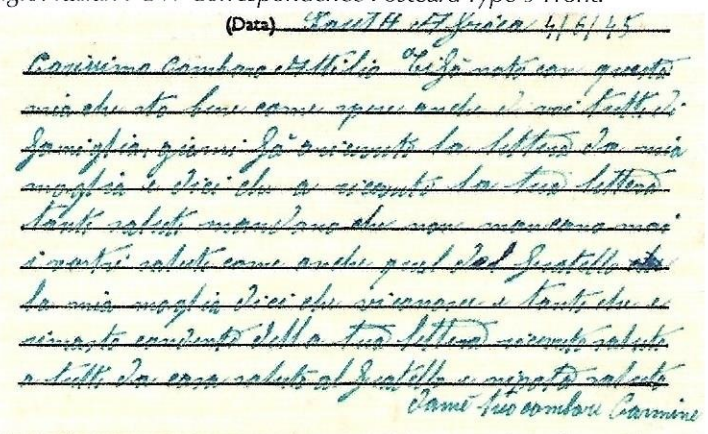


Fig. 9: Italian POW Correspondence Postcard Type 9 Reverse.

PASSED BY CENSOR Cachets

These cachets were used on mail items from all camps and appear to have been made individually as there is a range of sizes. In the table alongside, the length of the cachet is the length of the English 'PASSED BY CENSOR' and the height of the cachet includes both the English and Afrikaans terminology.

I suspect that Type 2a will also be found on Andalusia mail, Type 2c will also be found on Baviaanspoort mail and Type 3 will also be found on Leeukop mail.

Apart from censorship at the camps, it appears that the censors were located at Pretoria, probably Salisbury House (Baviaanspoort, Leeukop, Zonderwater), Bloemfontein (Andalusia, Ganspan, Jagersfontein, Koffiefontein) and Cape Town for air mail items. The Pretoria censors probably also handled the 'Outside Employment' mail where appropriate. The 5-line trilingual camp Prisoner of War cachets, whether boxed or not, with the camp name included, are either in upper or lower case and are not dealt with here.

Type No.	Passed By Censor	Sub-type	PCB length mm	Height mm	Location
1	PASSED BY CENSOR DEUR DIE SENSOR GOEDGEKEUR	1a	27.5	7	Zonderwater. Bloemhof*. Venterstad*.
		1b	34	8	Andalusia.
		1c	35	8	Andalusia. Baviaanspoort. Koffiefontein. Leeukop. Zonderwater Stellenbosch*.
		1d	36	8	Baviaanspoort.
		1e	39	7	Zonderwater
		1f	28	6	Outside Employment, Lyndoch*, Cape
		1g	28	7	Andalusia.
		1h	39	6	Cape Town.
		1i	36	6	Pietermaritzburg**.
		1 Var.	PASSED BY CENSOR DIE SENSOR GOEDGEKEUR (Missing 'DEUR')	1c variety	35
2	PASSED BY CENSOR DEUR DIE SENSOR GOEDGEKEUR	2a	35	8	Ganspan. Jagersfontein. Koffiefontein.
		2b	51	8	Baviaanspoort. Leeukop.
		2c	55	8	Leeukop.
3	PASSED BY CENSOR A DEUR SENSOR A GOEDGEKEUR	-	60	8	Baviaanspoort.
4	PASSED BY CENSOR B DEUR SENSOR B GOEDGEKEUR	-	59	8	Baviaanspoort. Leeukop.

* Outside Employment of POWs on farms; This suggests that mail was forwarded to Zonderwater or Pretoria before being dispatched.

** On the German air lettercards.

S.A. ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PRISONERS

To do everything possible for Prisoners of War and their families
315 Boston House, Strand Street, P.O. Box 1754, Philadelphia, Pa.

a record of a Berlin Radio Message

re: *corporal R. J. McGregor Home*

~~It~~ and is sent for your information

to all at home. I am

in regularly. You are a

and prayers. All my a

Mac.

2/48 23-5-44