

LUREN

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THE 1942 RELEASE OF THE NORWEGIAN LONDON ISSUE

Frederick A. Brofes

Among the modern stamps of Norway, my favorite set is the famous wartime London Issue. I think my special affection is partly due to the remarkable high-relief engraving, which is unusual on stamps from any country. However, it is also due to their sentimental value as marking the Liberation of Norway from the German Occupation of WW II, a period which I witnessed.

As a stamp collector I was, of course, thrilled to see these stamps in Norway then, about which I had only heard. The 5 and 10 øre values show the destroyer *Sleipner*, which I remember boarding in Oslo harbor with other visitors during the victory celebrations.

The beautiful set of stamps was reissued in Norway in 1945 with an additional two values, the 5 and 7 øre. Printed by De la Rue & Co. in England, the set had originally been issued there on January 1, 1943, by the Norwegian government in exile. Shown here are copies of the original notices, dated in early December, 1942, that were released to the stamp trade, the philatelic and the regular press at that time. This interesting documentation, which is self-explanatory, includes a photograph for press use of the 6-stamp set, in a triangular arrangement. Remarkably, it shows not ordinary stamps, but some rare imperforate die proofs of the set.

A note, on the back of the photo, mentions that the stamps, besides being used mainly on the High Seas, would also be used "in certain circumstances" in Norwegian military camps in England and in Canada. However, in England, they actually only saw use on May 17, 1943, the National Day of Norway. In Canada, they were not used after all. Ordinary Canadian stamps were used at the Norwegian Air Force Training Camp at Little Norway, near Toronto, but with a distinctive postmark. A special stamp was indeed designed for use there, but was only issued in Norway after the war.

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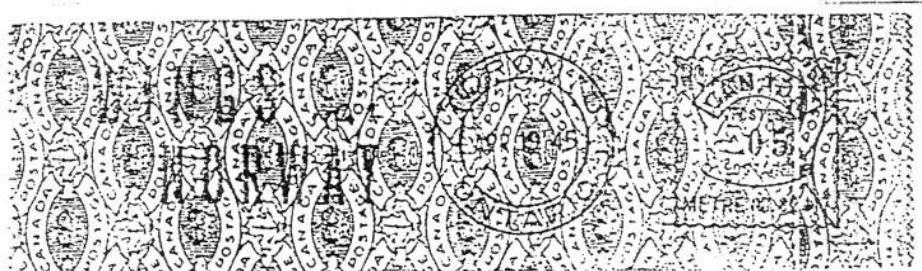


From the
ROYAL NORWEGIAN PRESS REPRESENTATIVE
2720 - 34th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

**NORWAY STILL FIGHTS!
AT HOME, AT SEA,
& IN THE AIR --**



From the Boys of
"LITTLE NORWAY"
TORONTO, CANADA



LUREN

THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

28, Kingston House,
Princes Gate
Kensington, S. W. 7.

Ref: H.4594/42

To: Stamp Dealers,
and Philatelic Papers.

Sirs:

This is to inform you that we have appointed the firm of Harmer, Rooke and Co., Ltd., London and New York to be the sole agents for the distribution of the new Norwegian postage stamps to stamp dealers.

These stamps, which will be taken into use from January 1st 1943, are being printed by Messrs. Thos. de la Rue & Co., Ltd., London, and consist of six denominations described in the accompanying script published by the Norwegian Government's Information Office.

Attached also find a photograph of the die-proofs of the stamps in question, showing them in their natural size.

For particulars regarding philatelic sale kindly apply to Messrs. Harmer, Rooke & Co, Ltd.

London, December 6th 1942.

Yours truly,
(Signature not legible)
MINISTER OF COMMERCE

The letter announcing the appointment of Harmer, Rooke, and Co., Ltd., as the sole agents for the distribution of the London Issue of Norwegian stamps to stamp dealers. Dated December 6, 1942.
(Retyped here because the copy provided is very faint!)

HARMER, ROOKE & CO. LTD.

DIRECTORS:

G. S. HARMER
GUY HARMER
GORDON HARMER

SECRETARY
KENDRICK HARMER
BARRISTER-AT-LAW

PHILATELIC
AUCTIONEERS

TELEPHONE
TEMPLE BAR 7941 (3 LINES)

TELEGRAMS:
PHILATORS, ESTRAND, LONDON

ESTABLISHED 1901

2 Arundel Street
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

VALUATIONS FOR PROBATE

and
551 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

WEEKLY AUCTIONS

KH/L.

10th. DECEMBER 1942.

Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in advising you that we have been appointed by the Royal Norwegian Government sole agents for the distribution to the philatelic trade of an issue of postage stamps to be released on January 1st. 1943.

The stamps are of six values:- 10 ore, 15 ore, 20 ore, 30 ore, 40 ore and 60 ore, and will be used by the sailors on board Norwegian warships and merchant ships on the high seas.

Supplies of these stamps will be available for distribution from January 1st., in complete sets at face value of 2/- per set, minimum transaction being 100 sets (£10).

Further particulars of this interesting and historic issue are enclosed with this latter.

Yours faithfully,
for. HARMER, ROOKE & CO. LTD.,

Encls.

The publicity letter sent to the philatelic press by Harmer, Rooke and Co., Ltd., announcing their appointment as the agents for philatelic distribution of the London Issue. Dated 10th December 1942.

Norwegian Exile Mail, England, 1943

Frederick A. Brofos

From a postal viewpoint, one didn't really need the special Norwegian stamps issued by the Norwegian government in exile in London during WW II. Nevertheless, they had their propaganda value, which cannot be over estimated.

Artistically and printing wise they were very successful and considered by many the prettiest stamps they had seen. They certainly were a real joy, support and pride for all Norwegians, both home and abroad, during those dark times.

For those collectors who, however, avoid "philatelically" produced covers, it will be rather difficult to find envelopes from that period which are suitably "commercial". Fortunately, everyone is not so particular. In those days, it was quite common to ignore existing postal rates and over frank letters with the whole set of six London stamps. This was done either for propaganda purposes or simply to please relatives or friends, whether they were really collectors or not.

A couple of such envelopes, which have a place of honor in my collection, we shall examine a little closer here. Both were sent from The Norwegian Government's Information Office in London to various press offices there. One is to the London office of "The New York Herald Tribune" and has on the reverse an impression in green of the official stamper of the Royal Norwegian Department of Trade. Although the contents are missing, it was probably like the circular in the second envelope which still remains. The latter is addressed to the "Diplomatic News Agency", London, and both are addressed by the imprint of an addressing machine which covered their mailing list.

The new stamps were First-Day postmarked: 1-JAN 1943-1. A pale grey-violet ink was used, so the attractive stamp designs were not obscured. Both carry the complete set,

THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION OFFICE

TELEPHONE
KENSINGTON 9441

KINGSTON HOUSE,
PRINCES GATE,
LONDON S.W.7

1st January, 1943.

Dear Sir,

We are sending you this New Year's greeting by the first post to be mailed from free Norwegian territory bearing the first Norwegian postage stamps to be issued by the Norwegian Government since its temporary departure from Norwegian soil on 7th June, 1940.

This letter is being posted on a Norwegian merchant ship on the High Seas - one of the 700-odd vessels belonging to the Norwegian Merchant Marine which, despite severe losses, are continuing to transport men, munitions and food over all the seven seas in the service of the United Nations.

The stamps themselves are of more than passing interest. They form part of a series of six which have been issued by the Norwegian Ministry of Commerce in agreement with the British authorities for use on Norwegian merchant ships on the High Seas in accordance with Article 35 of the 1939 Buenos Aires International Postal Convention, under which Norwegian ships on the High Seas are regarded as Norwegian territory and therefore entitled to use postage stamps issued by the Norwegian Government.

The whole series of stamps provides a symbolic representation of Norway's fight both on the World Front and on the Home Front. Each of them bears the unifying symbol "H.7" surmounted by the Royal Crown - a symbol which has been chosen by the Norwegian Home Front to demonstrate its loyalty to King Haakon VII of Norway and to the fight for freedom and independence which he personifies. Of special interest is the 20 far stamp which depicts the Norwegian Home Front slogan "Vi Vil Vinne" (We will win) - Norway's adaptation of the V Sign - painted on a Norwegian country road.

All Norwegians, both in the homeland and overseas, are hoping that in the year 1943 it may prove possible to transform "Vi Vil Vinne" into "Vi Vant" (We have won).

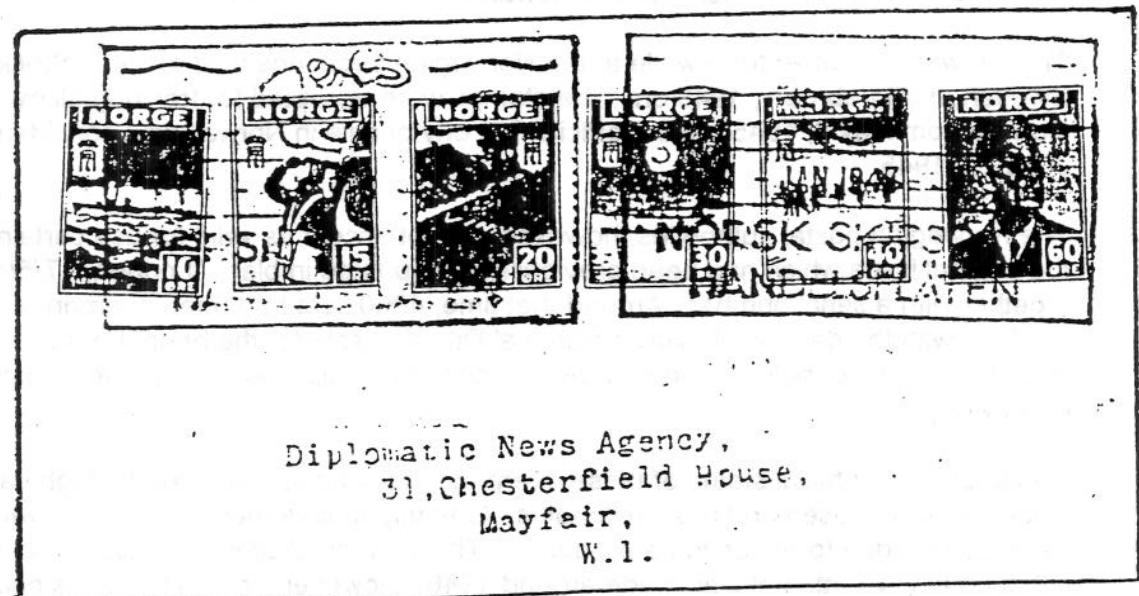
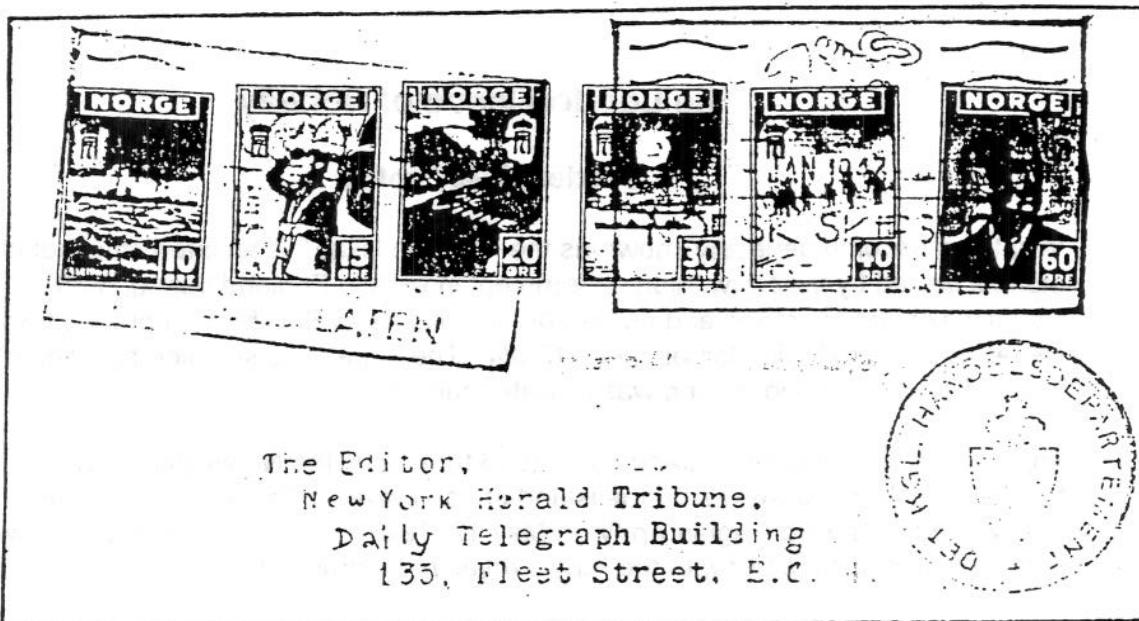
We hope that our friends in the press and broadcasting services of the free world will also be able to say "We have won" before the year 1943 is ended. Even if it takes longer to defeat our common enemies, however, we hope that we shall continue to fight and work together as comrades-in-arms in a great cause, and that when victory is eventually won we shall maintain this co-operation on a permanent basis as much in the field of information and ideas as in the political, economic and social fields. This is our New Year's wish and resolution.

Yours very truly,

for the Royal Norwegian Government
Information Office

Tor Gjesdal
H. K. Lehmkuhl

The London press release, Jan, 1, 1943, signed by Tor Gjesdal and H.K. Lehmkuhl.



The two envelopes, mentioned in the text, which contained the news release about the new Norwegian stamps.

The London Issue of Norway

Frederick A. Brofos

What has become generally known as the "London Issue", is an interesting set of stamps issued by the Norwegian government in exile in England during WWII. Beautifully steel-engraved and printed by Thomas De la Rue & Co., London, they were issued in sheets of 100 stamps, perf. 12 3/4. The paper was supplied by Samuel Jones & Co. Ltd., London, and was unwatermarked.

The stamps were issued on January 1, 1943 for use by the Norwegian Merchant Marine and Navy, as well as on the island of Jan Mayen in the Arctic. They were also briefly used by the Norwegian Army on May 17, 1943 only. The six designs showed patriotic subjects together with the King's royal monogram "H7".

The quantities printed ranged from 1 million of the 30 øre value to 22,275,000 for the 20 øre ordinary letter rate value. Two additional denominations, 5 and 7 øre (reusing 2 of the previous designs) were added when the set was re-issued in Finnmark, the first liberated province in Northern Norway towards the end of the war.

The set was also used for a while at the Norwegian Legation's post office in Stockholm, Sweden, from February, 1945 on. The stamps were accepted for franking all over Norway from May 8, 1945 but the official first day of sale in Norway was considered June 22, 1945.

The Norwegian postal authorities, however, did not accept as valid for use certain of the original issue which had been previously over-printed in black "London, 17/5/43", together with a serial number. Around that time, 4000 sets had been overprinted in England with the date of Norway's National Day and sold for the benefit of the Resistance. Nevertheless, some of the overprinted stamps were later favor-cancelled in Norway.

Inspite of the unofficial status of these overprints, they have maintained a high catalog value for both unused and used examples. One might have thought that this would have encouraged forgeries to be produced. This has fortunately not been the case, although a small attempt was made around 1946. However, certain mistakes occurred making it clearly distinguishable. The genuine overprint ran horizontally across the middle of all stamps except the 60 øre - where it was placed vertically - so as not to mar the monarch's face. This consideration was over-looked on the forgeries. Furthermore, the 5 øre stamp was also falsely overprinted. This value did not occur in the original overprint set. As sometimes happens, the forgeries in this case are actually much scarcer than the originals. Which is just as well, I suppose.



More Concerning the "Wings for Norway" Stamp

by Frederick A. Brofos

"Little Norway" Postmarks

There were two metal cancellers. One small, with text: LITTLE NORWAY ONT. The other, a little larger (as shown on Figure 1) with text: TORONTO-LITTLE NORWAY ONT. My cover has a cachet with the "V" for Victory symbol and the three dots and a dash telegraph code for "V" along with a red and blue sticker, which supported the Norwegian Relief organization.

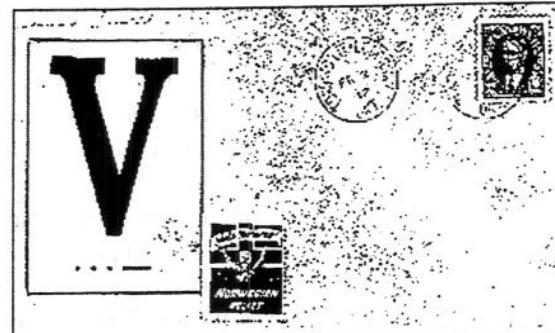


Figure 1.

Postage Meter Mark

A franking meter mark in red was used, including the slogan: WINGS FOR NORWAY, the same slogan as used later for the postage stamp issue. The dates I've seen are Oct. 14, 1941 and Apr. 19, 1945. The machine also produced gummed tapes for use on parcels. These had a multiple security underprint reading: CANADA POSTES or CANADA POSTAGE on ribbons surrounding a crown and maple leaf design. (See Figures 2 and 3.)

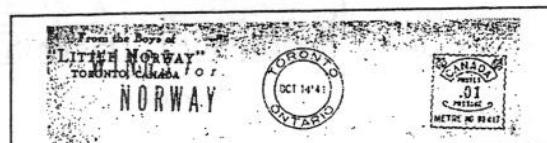


Figure 2.

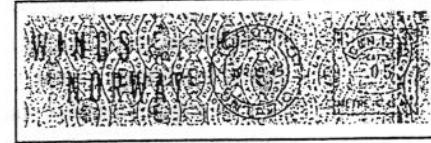
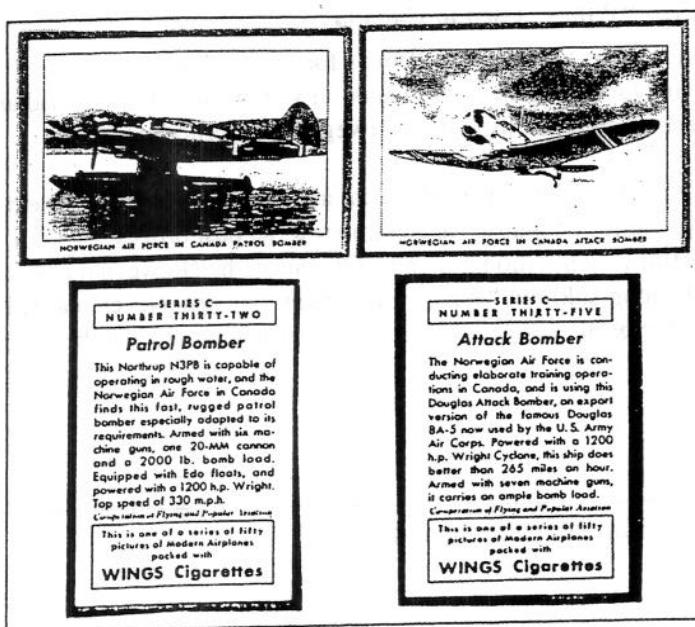


Figure 3.

Cigarette Cards



Figures 4 and 5.

It was probably during World War II that the Wings Cigarette Co. issued a series of 50 different small, colored cards of "Modern Airplanes." One of each was included as a bonus in every pack of cigarettes. This was done until a different set was later produced. Among the many planes of various types shown, cards no. 32 and 35 are of particular interest. Figures 4 and 5 show planes with the Norwegian red, white, and blue stripes on their wings. These were patrol and attack bombers used by the Norwegian Air Force in Canada. ➤

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Marginal Plate Imprints

Two printing plates for the "Wings" stamp were used with marginal imprints showing the Canadian Bank Note name and either "No. 1" or "No. 2." It would be convenient to know whether these numbers distinguish the two printings. (See Figure 6.)

Although the two printings were produced with a four-year interval, and one might expect some difference, I haven't noticed anything. Without a marginal imprint attached, I don't believe a loose stamp could be identified as to what printing it was from.

The paper both times came from the Eddy Co. of Hull, Quebec, without watermark and line-perforated 12.

Both printings were issued at the same time in Norway, so both plate imprints were available to the public then.

The first small printing of 50,000 stamps (1,000 sheets of 50 stamps each) may have only required one printing plate back in 1942.

Afterward, the plate was perhaps scrapped for its metal. Then, in 1946, when an unexpected further order arrived, a new plate (No. 2) had to be made. Then again, on this new larger order of one million stamps (20,000 sheets of 50 stamps each), speed may have been a requirement. If it still existed, the old plate No. 1 may have been used together with the new plate No. 2, allowing two presses to be utilized. Just what happened needs to be determined.

A telegram exists stating the cost of the million stamps at \$1 (Canadian) per thousand, making a cost of \$1,000 for the million and \$50 for the first 50,000. That seems rather cheap, but there may have been additional charges for redesigning and engraving on the first lot and later shipping expenses to Norway for it all.

"Wings" Used in Canada

Although originally intended for Canada, the "Wings for Norway" stamp was redesigned for eventual use in Norway itself. It was never on sale or used at any Canadian post office. However, in theory it could be used if a Norwegian post office existed on Canadian soil.

This unlikely situation actually did occur briefly at an international stamp show held at Montreal, Canada, in 1992. Various countries had extraterritorial post offices established temporarily for selling their nation's stamps. Of course, the Norwegian post office did not stock any of the long-sold-out "Wings for Norway" stamps. Nevertheless, I brought with me from New Hampshire several older Norwegian stamps and had them cancelled at the show. ►



Figure 6.

A remarkable cover (Figure 7) was concocted that included the "Wings for Norway" stamp, as well as the Flier (probably trained in Canada) stamp from the London Exile set.

Furthermore, the 5-cent U.S. Flag of Norway stamp was added and postmarked at the U.S. stand (after a full 30 cents postage was stipulated).

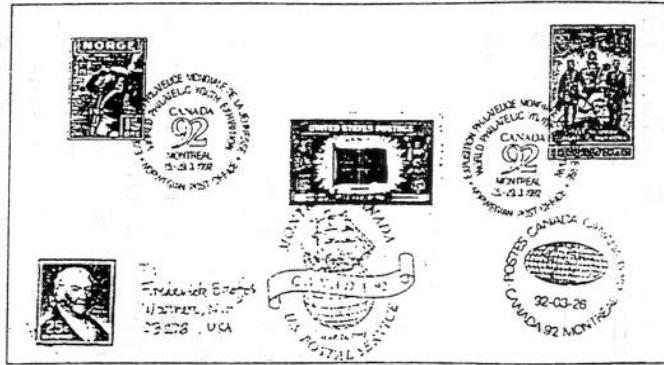


Figure 7.

Altogether, I was quite pleased with this rather eccentric, but unique and certainly legitimate creation of mine. Later, I noticed there was even a small error in the Norwegian postmark, where the "u" in "philatélique" was missing (Figure 8).



Figure 8.

*Frederick A. Brofos is a former editor of and frequent contributor to *The Posthorn* and other publications, mostly about Norway's stamps and postal history. Born in England, he spent World War II in Norway before coming to the U.S. in 1946.*

SPEILSALEN
GRAND HOTEL, OSLO



Røde Sal • Grand Hotel • Oslo

Dagens retter

15. mai 1943

* Utøn fettkort.

Dagens retter

8. mai 1945

* Utøn fettkort.

* Nesslesuppe 1,60

* Røket pigghå med spinat 4,—
* Forloren skivflaks 4,—
med pastinakk i kjørvelsaus

* Norsk fisksuppe 1,60

* Sildekabaret 3,50
* Kold sildefillet Grand Hotel 3,25

* Røket sild med spinat 3,—
* Rollmops med rødbeter og kålhabi 3,—

* Friske fjordreker 3,—
6 stk. Standardsnitter 3,50

* Torskefilet „Marguery“ 4,50
Ristet fjordsild 3,—

med rødbeter og spinat 3,—
Fiskekarbonader med surkål 3,—
* Røket lange med gulerøtter 3,—
og kjørvelsaus

Dessert

* Fruktgelé 1,50

MENYES, 1943, 1945.

- 10 % Service -

* Nesslesuppe 1,60
* Røket pigghå med spinat 4,—
* Forloren skivflaks 4,—
med pastinakk i kjørvelsaus

* Sildekabaret 3,50
* Fisksalat med blåskjell og reker 3,25
* Marinert sild Grand Hotel 3,25
Ristet røket pigghå 4,—
med stuet pastinakk

Fiskeboller i kjørvelsaus 3,—
med grønnsaker

Sildekarbonader med pikant saus, 3,—
potet- og grønnsalsat

Røket torsk med gulerøtter 2,75
og kjørvelsaus

Ristet fiskepølse 2,75
med pikant saus og surkål

Dessert

* Ananasfromasje 1,25

* Fruktgrøt 1,75

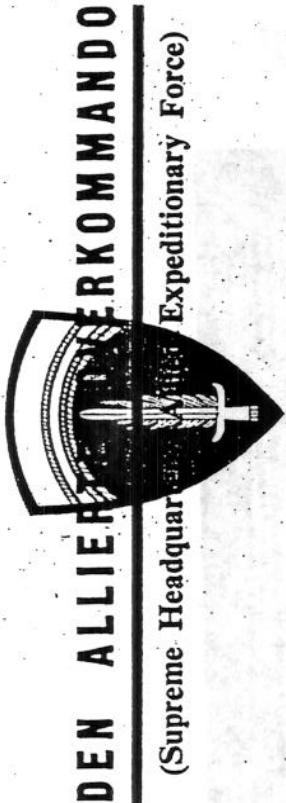
* Citron-is 1,50

* Lagkake Chantilly 0,50

Servering av mat ophører kl. 23.30 og all
annen servering kl. 0,30

Vend!

Liberation Day menu



Befal og mannskap tillhørende die Wehrmacht

i Norge

De væpnede tyske styrker i Norge har overgitt seg betingelsesløst.
Deres plikter som soldater er klare. Deres ordrer er nå følgende:

- Oppretthold disiplinen. Adlyd ordrene fra deres overordnede.
De vil gi dere de ordrer som kommer fra den allierte øverstkommanderende.
- Bli i deres avdelinger.
- Hold tilbake mulige udisiplinerte elementer blant dere som kan skade det norske folk. Dere advares om at dere vil bli holdt ansvarlig, både individuelt og samlet, for enhver skade mot norske borgere og norsk eiendom.
- Videre ordre fra den allierte øverstkommanderende vil bli gitt dere gjennom deres egne offiserer og gjennom allierte flyblad og radio.



An die Offiziere

und Mannschaften

der Wehrmacht in Norwegen!

Die deutsche Wehrmacht in Norwegen hat sich bedingungslos ergeben.

Eure Soldatenpflicht ist klar. Für Euch gelten zur Zeit folgende Anweisungen:

- Bewahrt Disziplin, gehorcht den Befehlen Eurer vor gesetzten Offiziere, die Euch die Weisungen des Obersten Alliierten Befehlshabers übermitteln werden.
- Bleibt bei Euren Einheiten.
- Disziplinlose Elemente unter Euch, die in irgendeiner Weise gegen die norwegische Bevölkerung vorgehen wollen, müsst Ihr in Schranken halten und festnehmen. Ihr werdet hiermit gewarnt, dass Ihr persönlich und in Eurer Gesamtheit die Verantwortung tragen werdet für jedes Vorgehen gegen die norwegische Bevölkerung und für jede Beschädigung norwegischen Eigentums.
- Weitere Anweisungen des Obersten Alliierten Befehlshabers werdet Ihr durch Eure eigenen Offiziere, durch allierte Flugblätter und durch Rundfunk erhalten.

IM NAMEN DES OBERSTEN ALLIIERTEN BEFEHLSHABERS



Nin

Brev fra Amerika

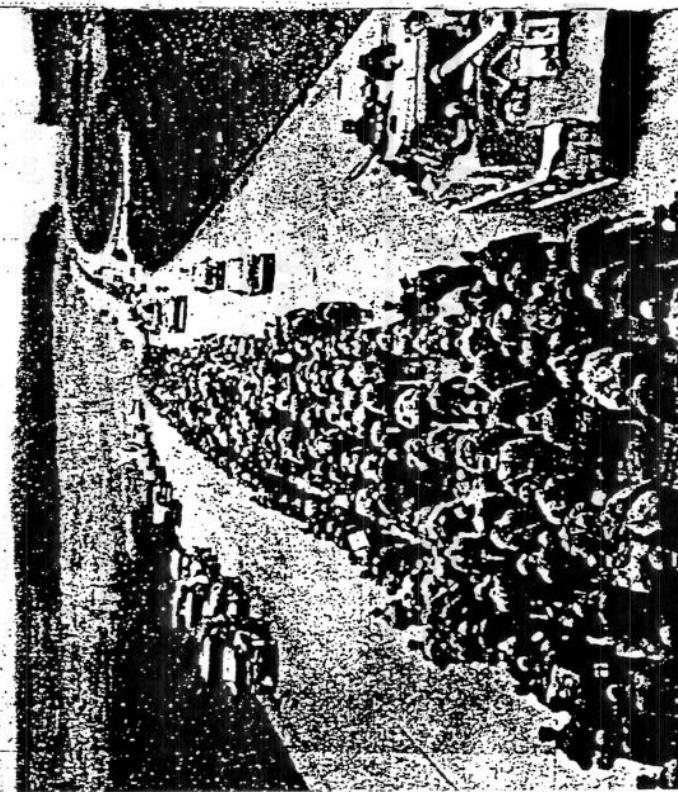
1045

ROOSEVELTS POLITIKK FORTSETTES AV PRESIDENT TRUMAN

100

De Forente Staten 33. president, Harry S. Truman, som var embedsleder i Washington, D.C. kom hoveden 12. april. Han ble innstilt i stillingen som president etter at myheden var kommet om til Roosevelt plutselig var avdødt ved døden i Warm Springs, Georgia. Truman ble valgt til vicepresident sammen med Roosevelt i 1944, og overnemmede da Roosevelt ble utnevnt til som president etter han utnominasjonskonferansen i 1944.

1



Digital TV in Württemberg aufgetreten ist. Bisher gab es nur eine kleine Anzahl von Teststationen, die mit dem digitalen Fernsehsignal ausgestattet waren. Jetzt ist es anders. Die ersten Stationen sind schon im Betrieb und werden bald von weiteren übernommen. Das bedeutet, dass es bald möglich sein wird, alle Programme des öffentlich-rechtlichen Fernsehens in digitaler Form zu empfangen.

departementet vil derfor gjennom spesielle representeranter, tilknyttet distriktskommandoen, sørge for at rekruttering av slike avlesningsmannskaper blir satt i gang snarest mulig.

De nødvendige forløyninger er truffet for at avde sjøfolk etterlatt middel snarest mulig kan bli tilstiltet de etterlatte gjennom vedkommende skiffleretter.

Post til sjøfolk i utenriksfart kan sendes under adresse: Letter Office, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. En har ordnet det slik at denne posten kan komme fram til adressatene så fort som mulig. Annodning om å etterlyse nordmenn i utlandet kan sendes til samme adresse.

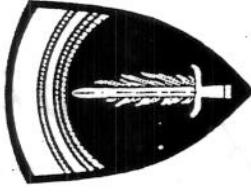
POSTVESENET.

Dette trykket et relativt begrenset opplag av nye norske frimerker, som vil bli satt i omloop straks.



VED FRIGJØRINGEN

AV NORGE



Administrasjonen på Svalbard vil bli gjennopprettet i normal former straks dette er mulig, og gruberne vil gjennopplatt. Under krigen har kullselskapene utarbeidet planer for gjenoppbyggingen og foretatt innkjøp av maskiner, utstyr m.v. Svalbard har vært under norsk militær kontroll siden mai 1942, og en del forberedende arbeider på stedet er allerede utført.

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TIL NORGE.

Vår samlede innsats har ført til fullstendig seier over den felles tyske fiende. Vår store oppgave er fullført, takket være den tapperhet og selvpoffrelse som de frie nasjoners soldater har vist, og takket være den motstandsvilje som mann og kvinne i de okkuperte land har opprettholdt gjennom undertrykkelsens lange år.

Dere nordmenn har vært et forbilde for oss under vår kamp mot nazistene på alle fronter. Den mektige striden dere har ført og de tunge ofre dere har båret, vil leve lysende i Norges historie, og leve i minnet hos kommende generasjoner av frie menn og kvinner.

Norske, britiske og amerikanske styrker under min øverste ledelse er i Norge for å gjenopprette norsk herredømme, for å avværne og kontrollere de fiendtlige styrker i Norge, og for å hjelpe landet tilbake til normale norske forhold hvor orden og anständighet igjen kan råde. Såsnart vi har fullført vår opp-

gave overfor de fiendtlige styrker, vil alle allierte avdelinger bli trukket tilbake fra Norge for å sørge andre formål.

Etter fem års fiendtlig okkupasjon vil ikke normale forhold vende tilbake i løpet av en dag. Dere vil stå overfor mange vanskeligheter og strabaser i tiden framover. Men hvor store og hvor mange disse vanskeligheter enn blir, så skal Norge bli fritt.

En hurtig avvikling av de oppgaver som de allierte styrker har i Norge, vil i største grad avhenge av medvirken fra hele det norske folks side. Jeg vil be dere gjøre alt derc kan for å hjelpe våre styrker, — som de vil gjøre alt for å hjelpe dere. Jeg føler meg sikker på at de allierte soldater, når de forlater Norge, vil ta med seg gode minner og vennskap. Slik vil vi sammen bidra til oppbygningen av et fellesskap, de frie nasjoners samfund, målet vi har kjempet denne lange striden for.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Øverstkommanderende for de allierte ekspedisjonsstyrker.

BUDSKAP FRA KONG HAAKON

Jeg og min regjering sender i dag en varm hilsen til alle norske kvinner og menn. Gjennom en mørk og vanskelig tid har det norske folk opprettholdt en ubrytelig front mot de tyske undertrykkerne og deres hjelbere. Sammen med våre alliertes beundringsverdige militære innsats har den offervilje og utholdenhets dere har vist, ført til frigjøringen av vårt land. Nå er vi ved målet for vår kamp.

De tyske okkupasjonsstyrker i Norge har overgitt seg. Ennu oppholder de seg i vårt land. Den krigstilstand som har hersket siden vi ble angrepet natten til den 9. april 1940, er ennu ikke opphevet, men våpenstillstand er inntrått.

I denne situasjon er det

mere enn noensinne nødvendig at alle bevarer den ro og viser den verdige oppreten som har vært vårt folks styrke under hele okkupasjonstiden. De som skal handle har fått sine forholdsordrer og vil følge disse. De andre hjelper vår sak best ved å avholde seg fra enhver uoverlagt oppreten. Mange forhold er fremdeles uoversiktlige. Våre vanskeligheter er ikke forbi. Men når vi nå tar fatt igjen, vil det være i et fritt land, hvor vi sammen skal bygge Norges framtid for oss selv og for våre barn.

Tiden som kommer vil stille store krav til hver enkelt. Det vil være av vesentlig betydning at alle lovlige myndigheter får den

DE ALLIERTE STYRKER I NORGE.

De allierte styrker i Norge har følgende oppgaver:

1. Å gjenopprette norsk suverenitet.
2. Å avværne og kontrollere alle tyske styrker i Norge.
3. Å medvirke i det første arbeid med å gjenreise landets velstand.

De allierte styrker som kommer til Norge for å hjelpe til med frigjøringen, vil bli i landet inntil de tyske styrker er avvæpnet og ferdige for hjemsending til sitt eget land. Dette kan ta sin tid, men de allierte styrker vil trekkes tilbake så snart storparten av de tyske styrker kan sendes tilbake til Tyskland, og resten er under effektiv kontroll av norske væpnede styrker.

De allierte styrkers nærvær i Norge kan medføre visse vanskeligheter for den sivile befolkning hva gjelder innkvartering. Men det er nødvendig at de er tilstede på grunn av det store antall tyske tropper som finnes i Norge og for å beskytte sivilbefolkningen mot fortsatte plyndringer fra fiendens side.

Hvorledes kan hjelp ytes de allierte styrker?

Norske forbindelses-offiserer vil følge med de allierte styrker. Hvis det oppstår vanskeligheter av en eller annen art, så rett alle

hen vendeler og klager til de norske forbindelses-offiseren.

Enhver ordre fra offiseren i allierte styrker eller fra Kongelig norske militære og sivile myndigheter må ubetinget opplyses.

Ingen nordmann må lenge opprettholde noen kontakt med de tyske tropper — som vil bli internert på bestemte steder i Norge.

Gå ikke selv til aksjon mot tyskerne. Alle krigsforbrytere vil bli straffet. Meld av til dømme om enhver som bryter mot tyskerne eller som samarbeider med tyskerne.

Ifall en avdeling tyskere eller quislinger fortsetter med væpnet motstand mot allierte eller norske styrker, så er det enhvers plik å gi alle mulige opplysninger og hjelpe til den allierte styrke som holder på med opprørsingen.

Kom ikke i nærheten av militært område, leire, stillinger eller depoter. Det gjelder særlig leire og barakker hvor tyske tropper er samlet under allier eller norsk militær myndighet kontroll.

Avvepningen av tyskerne vil skje under befal av allierte og norske militære sjefer.

Gjør ikke forsøk på å fjern våpen, ammunisjon, utstyr eller forsyninger fra tyske lagre.

Det er forbudt for allierte soldater å kjøpe matvarer noen norsk forretning, pens-

strekning vi kunne ønske. Men tilførsler vil komme etterhvert. Vi vet at alle villig vil rette seg etter de restriksjoner som er nødvendige, og samtidig gjøre sitt ytterste for at den hjemlige produksjon kan fortsette.

LANDSMENN: Vi føler alle det samme på denne dag. La oss holde fast ved det samhold som har ført oss fram til seier. Og la oss i denne stund minnes dem som ofret livet i kampen for Norge. La oss samles i løftet

ALT FOR NORGE

Haakon VII

Fra Hjemmefrontens Ledelse.

Vår kamp er kronet med seier Norge er etter fritt.

Våre sinn er fylt av glede, våre hjerter av taknemlighet mot dem som falt i kampen og mot alle som var med og kjempet seieren fram.

Fienden skal nå avvepnes av norske og allierte styrker, og snart vil vi helt ut være herrer i landet. Men husk: Kapitulasjon er ikke det samme som fred. Fienden har ennå våpen.

La oss midt i gleden bevare ro, verdighet og disiplin. Oppstre ikke utfordrende overfor den slagne fiende, og ta ikke retten i egen hånd.

Krigens oppgaver er løst, fredens oppgaver venter. De krever at vi sammen setter alt inn for å gjenopprette vårt folkestyre og vår rettsstat.

Den fred vi nå har vunnet, skal forplikte oss like sterkt som krigen og nøden bandt våre viljer til fedrelandets sak. Sammen skal vi bygge landet opp igjen som et bedre, rikere og lykkeligere hjem for alle.

Gud signe vårt dyre fedreland!

Notice from the Home Front Leadership :-

Our battle is crowned with victory
Norway is again free

(May, 1945)

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U.S. APO 544, Oslo, 1945

Shortly before the war, a slum clearance in an old part of Oslo which tore down a number of dilapidated houses and the former Women's Prison, made way for much needed parking space. Two large new modern office buildings were also constructed. Both were commonly identified by their street names, the one at Torvgaten 17, and the other nearby at Storgaten 33. Of course, they were taken over by the "Wehrmacht," after the German invasion of Norway on April 9, 1940 - a day which will live in infamy.

At the Liberation in May 1945, the Allied Military Headquarters took over in Storgaten 33 and the Germans were evicted. The new occupants were mostly British or Norwegian. The Americans had their own HQ around the corner at Torvgaten 17, which also included a movie theater and a post office.

The U.S. Army Post Office no. 544 was located on the ground floor. As it was a restricted military area, there was no admittance for anyone without a special pass. The office was manned by uniformed U.S. soldiers, some of whom had worked for the Postal Service in the States before the war. I particularly remember a Sergeant Riordan from Illinois.

Official mail as well as ordinary mail from soldiers went postage free. U.S. stamps were used on airmail, registered mail and parcel post. Most, but not all, values from 1 cent to 1 dollar of the U.S. 1937 Presidential series were on sale for either U.S. or Norwegian money. There was a handy conversion table on the wall, arranged by the Army Finance Section. Of course, other stamps, including commemoratives if one had them, could be used also.

A canceling machine of the "Universal" type was in general use. There were also rubber handstamps with 4-bar "killers," one in good condition and one rather worn. For registered mail, two other rubber handstamps were used. A 2-ring date mark was used in magenta color on the reverse side, while the stamps were cancelled in black with an oval 2-ring mark without any inscription. Other than this one, all the others included the designation "APO 544."

Some of the mail within Norway or to abroad was forwarded on by the Norwegian Post office. An "Oslo" transit-mark was usually added on the front. Letters with foreign addresses were usually opened by the Norwegian censor and resealed with the special tape. The majority of the ordinary postage-free soldiers or official mail going to the States was handled exclusively by the U.S. Army Postal Service.

There was only this APO in Norway at that time. As parcel wrappings were usually not saved by the recipient, it is difficult to find covers with used stamps. Six-cent stamps were required on Airmail letters. As everyone knew that most mail was flown anyway, few bothered to pay the extra charge.

-194-

APO 544 was opened on Jun.8, 1945. After 5 months of operation, the sale of stamps and money orders ceased on November 2. The APO was used mainly by members of U.S. Task Force "A," under the command of Brigadier General Owen Summers. Their chief duty was the disarming of German military units and keeping order among the troops, together with British and Norwegian forces.

Postage free Cover from US to APO 544

H.J. WOLAK S/C
NAVAL BARRACKS 2-B
U.S.N.P.F.
INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND.



FREE

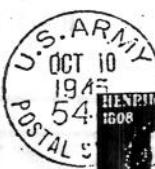
PFC. GEORGE E. STACHURSKI 36561717

PW GROUP, U.S. MISSION, NORWAY

A.P.O. 544 % P.M.

NEW YORK, N.Y.

HENRIK WERGEIAND
1808-1845



HENRIK WERGELAND
1808 . . . 1845



Lt.D.Mathew,
HQ 8861 Air Disarmament Wing,
33 Storgaten
Oslo.



Irregular cancellation, but didn't justify postage due

-195-

75 Earl H. Blegen, 17105493

U.S. Mission to Norway,
APO 544, 9PM, New York.

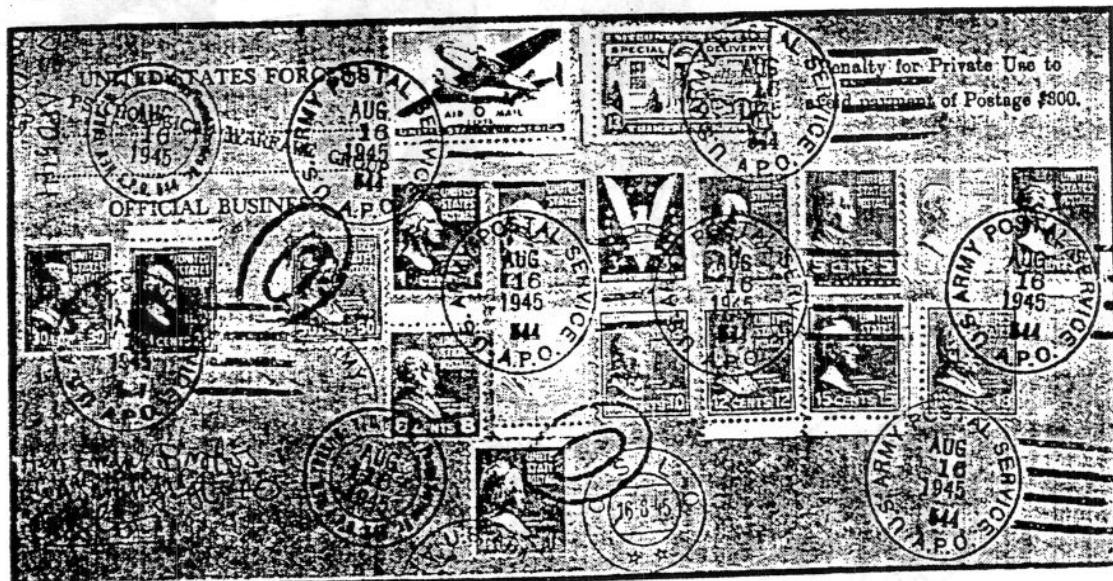


HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE -A-
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

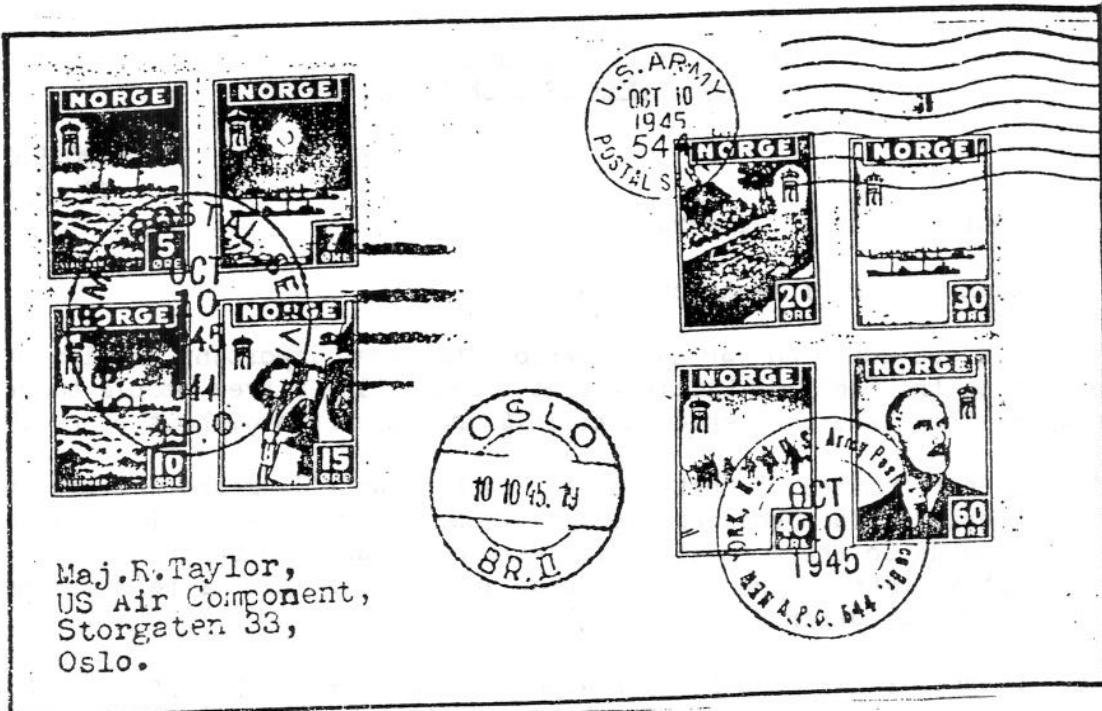
APO 544

Penalty for
private use
to avoid
payment of
Postage \$300

Major General R E Urquhart, CB, DSO,
GOC, Norway Command,
Room 209A, 33 Storgata.



-196



Letter from APO 544 with Norwegian Londonset and carried by Norwegian P.O. on 10.10.45. The Norwegian civilian employee did not have postage free rights. However, U.S. stamps should really have been used.



The U.S. Military H.Q. and the British (formerly German) one, in the rear. In between, a rubbish dump for thrown-out German papers to be burned, but not before I salvaged any fieldpost covers!

-197
Office of the Commanding General
HEADQUARTERS US TASK FORCE "A"

APO 544
22 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Your Service in Norway.

TO : Each member of Task Force "A".

1. You are going to Norway to perform the most important mission of a soldier not on the field of battle - that of assisting a free people to regain an independence they have cherished since 1814 and have been without since 1940.

2. In performance of that mission, each of us will represent the United States of America. Your conduct, your actions, and your personal appearance will always be a guide to the Norwegians in their attitudes and relations with you and with the United States. The things you do and say must always reflect the best that our nation can offer.

3. In your first associations with the Norwegian people you will find them a friendly, sports-loving, intelligent group with the same spirit of independence borne of democratic government that you find at home. Our relationship with the people of Norway, after our initial contacts, will depend on the way each of us acts and the way each of us carries out our obligations and duties. In that connection, these are some of the things that you must remember:

a. Your personal appearance - The Norwegian people, the British serving here with us, and your own American Service friends will judge you and the whole of our army by your soldierly appearance and military bearing. I want each man in this force to be always neat, clean and in proper uniform. I cannot stress too much the importance of your superior personal appearance.

b. We are not conquerors in Norway. There is no non-fraternization policy with the Norwegian people. You will have the opportunity here to develop many friendships with Norwegians. Take advantage of those opportunities and have a good time, but remember - the people will judge us all by your individual actions. Always act in a manner that will make the Norwegian people glad that we are stationed here.

c. Your treatment of the German forces is another matter. Our job here is the demilitarization of German troops and assistance to the Norwegians and British in controlling those troops. Specific orders will be issued to you by your unit commander describing your part in the mission. Follow these orders to the letter. Be firm and military in all your dealings with the Germans. The Germans are not our friends. The Germans are not friends of Norway.

4. You will find Norwegians very fond of their King and of their flag. The respect they proffer both is similar to the respect we pay at home to our flag and to our President.

5. I want each of us always to remember that it is our duty as soldiers of the US Army and our way of life as Americans to conduct ourselves in a manner that will pave the way for a lasting friendship between our nation and Norway. Military courtesy, soldierly conduct, and superior personal appearance will go a long way toward doing the job.

Owen Summers
OWEN SUMMERS,
Brigadier General, USA,
Commanding.

British Field Post Office 786, Oslo, 1945

In the hectic and exciting weeks around the Liberation of Norway in May 1945, the victory celebrations made most collectors temporarily put aside their hobbies. However, philately was not forgotten by everyone! While many people were busy drinking or swapping for cigarettes with Allied soldiers, young Brofos was more interested in the fieldpost operations. He was probably the only Norwegian philatelist who managed to find out in detail about the military postal arrangements of the Allies in those days, and here are his recollections.

A British field post office with the identification number 786 was opened in Oslo after the Liberation, probably around the end of May. It was in operation until the late fall of 1945. Oddly enough, it was set up in a former classroom on the second floor of Kampen High School. This place, together with several others, had been confiscated by the Germans during the war and used a barracks for their soldiers. At the war's end, the Germans were ousted and British troops moved in.

As it was a military area, British military police guarded the entrance and the Norwegian public was kept out. The post office personnel consisted of three uniformed soldiers, who had some pre-war postal experience. Before their army service, they had worked in post offices in Scotland.

Most of the mail was postage free, without stamps, and inscribed "on Active Service," and sent home to relatives and friends in England by the soldiers. A special envelope, marked with a green cross, could be used by them if they wanted to avoid local British censorship. The sender had to sign and certify on the outside of these so-called "Honor" envelopes that the contents contained no military information.

A good number of money orders were sent off, whereby part, if not all, of the soldier's pay was sent home to his family.

Special registered envelopes, at a reduced rate for the military, were available also. They had a 3 pence stamp showing King George VI embossed in dark green. For use on parcel post, registered or airmail, British stamps of the current George VI type with light background were on sale. On hand were the values 0.5d, 1d, 1.5d, 2d, 2.5d, 3d, 5d, 6d, 9d, and on up, probably to 2.5 and 5 shillings. Of course other kinds of British stamps could also be used, if one happened to have them.

The majority of the allied forces who came to Norway to disarm the Germans were British. The Commander in Chief of the British Forces in Norway was Major General R. E. Urquhart. The Representative for SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) – i.e., Eisenhower's HQ – was another Englishman, General Sir Andrew Thorne.

Mail from the British field post office to Norwegian addresses and maybe other places in Scandinavia, was handed over to the Norwegian post office, who transit-postmarked them on the front or back.

The British had no canceling machine. Only two metal handstamps were in use. They had to be struck rather hard in order to show a clear impression, but if one hit too hard, then the date cut through the stamps.

The 2 postmarks differed from each other, mainly in the length of the two small arcs in the lower section. I have divided them into Type 1 (long arcs) and Type 2 (short arcs). Type 2 has a break in the outer rim over the "s" and another under the figure "7."

There was also a dateless and rather worn rubber handstamp. It had vertical bars in the upper and lower half-circles. In the center was the two-lined text "ARMY POST OFFICE." It was used mainly on printed matter or parcel post.

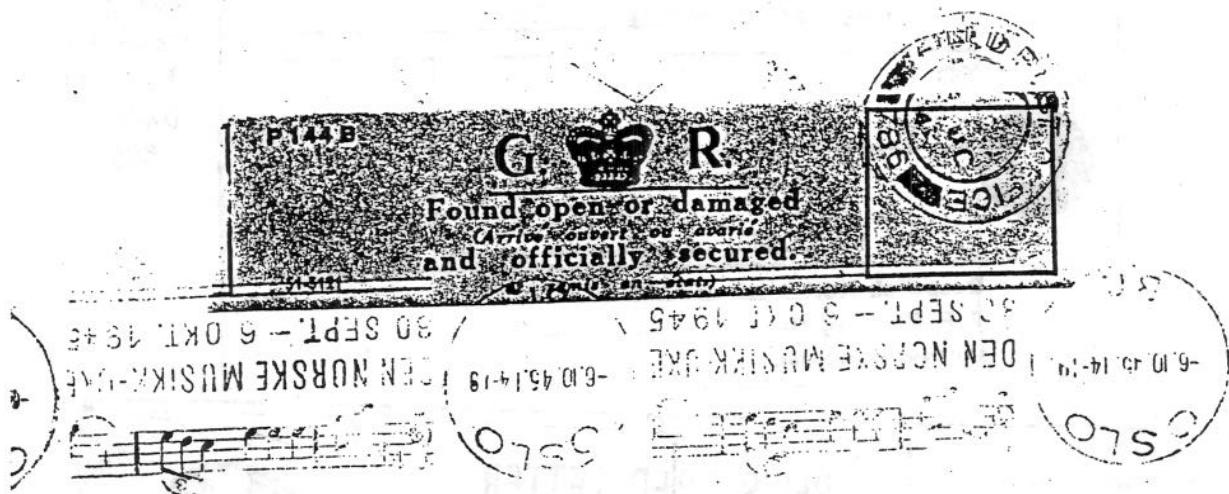
During the summer of 1945, one could read in the Swedish "Nordisk Filateli" and other stamp magazines, a number of sale announcements for envelopes with Swedish or Norwegian stamps affixed and canceled "Postkontoret N.L. Stockholm," a special postmark used at the Norwegian Legation in Stockholm, Sweden. They were mass-produced by enterprising Swedish dealers and offered at high price. Even though they were obviously "philatelic," many were swallowed by inexperienced collectors who like all kinds of "Cachets," "First Days," and "First Flights."

I couldn't afford those odd and expensive Swedish covers, but I had an idea: why not produce something myself? I was not only a keen stamp collector, but for a teenage schoolboy at that time, I had an unusual interest in postmarks and the like.

Looking for a summer job, I could have operated the telephone switchboard (knowing Norwegian and English) at the posh British Embassy. However, I instead chose to be a translator at the Allied Military Headquarters. Of course, I had a ball there. With access to the British and American fieldpost offices, I arranged a number of remarkable covers for my own collection as memento of those historic times. If they were able to use Norwegian stamps in Sweden, I thought I would use a Norwegian London set at the British and U.S. APOs. Although not authorized, they do look nice!

Unfortunately, I didn't know about it at the time, but several other British FPOs operated in 1945 in various other towns of Norway. They were no. 150 in Bergen (in violet, later black) and no. 785 in Kristiansand S. There were others at Stavanger, Trondheim, and Tromsø.

Not to be forgotten, are the British FPOs that operated for a short time in Norway back in 1940. They are, of course, rarities.



Militær postkontroll

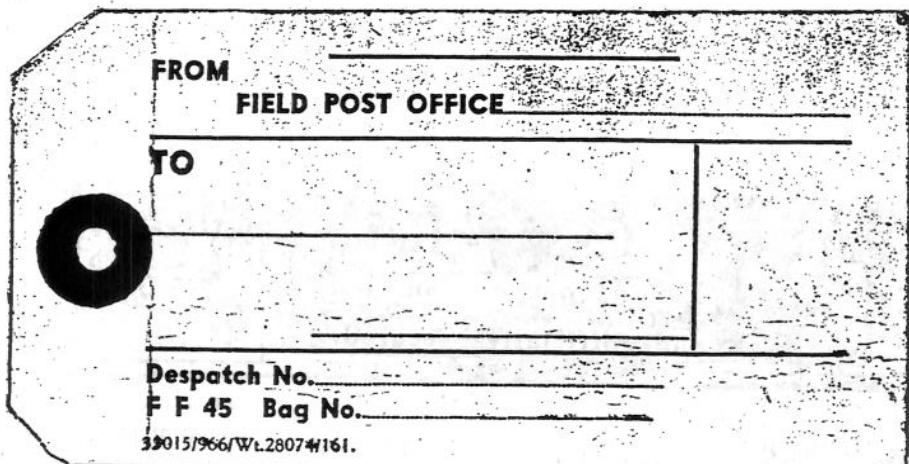


Herr Overing Bryn,
Troms fylkes kraftforsyning,
Tromsø,
Nord-Norge.

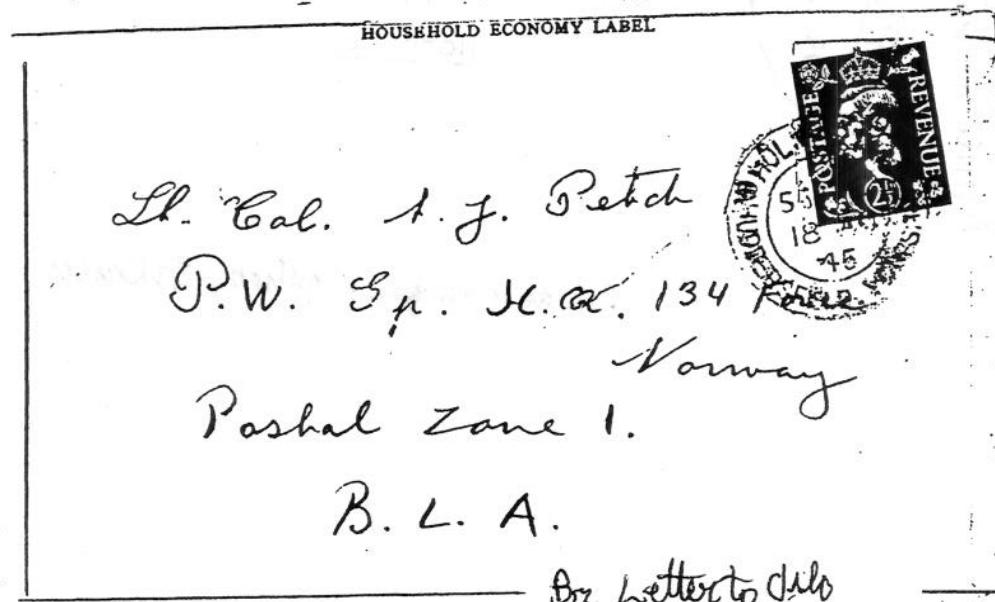
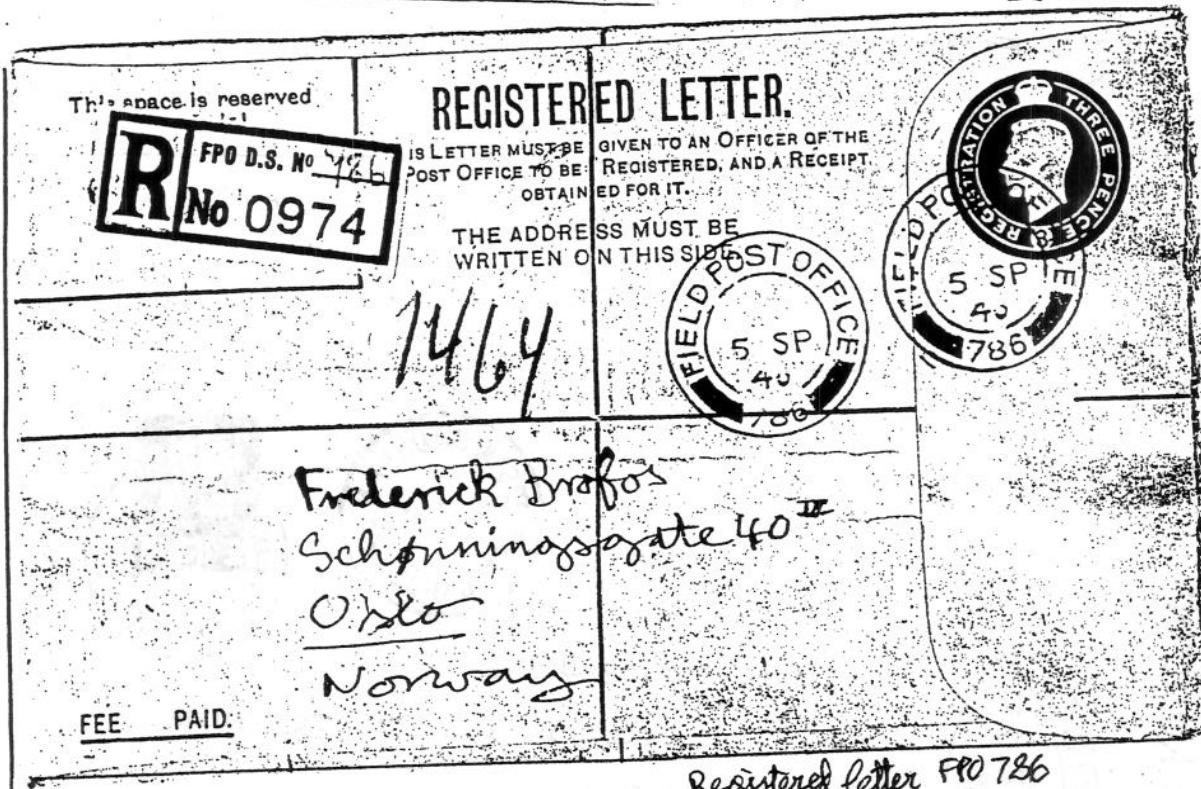
P.O. at Norwegian Legation, Stockholm

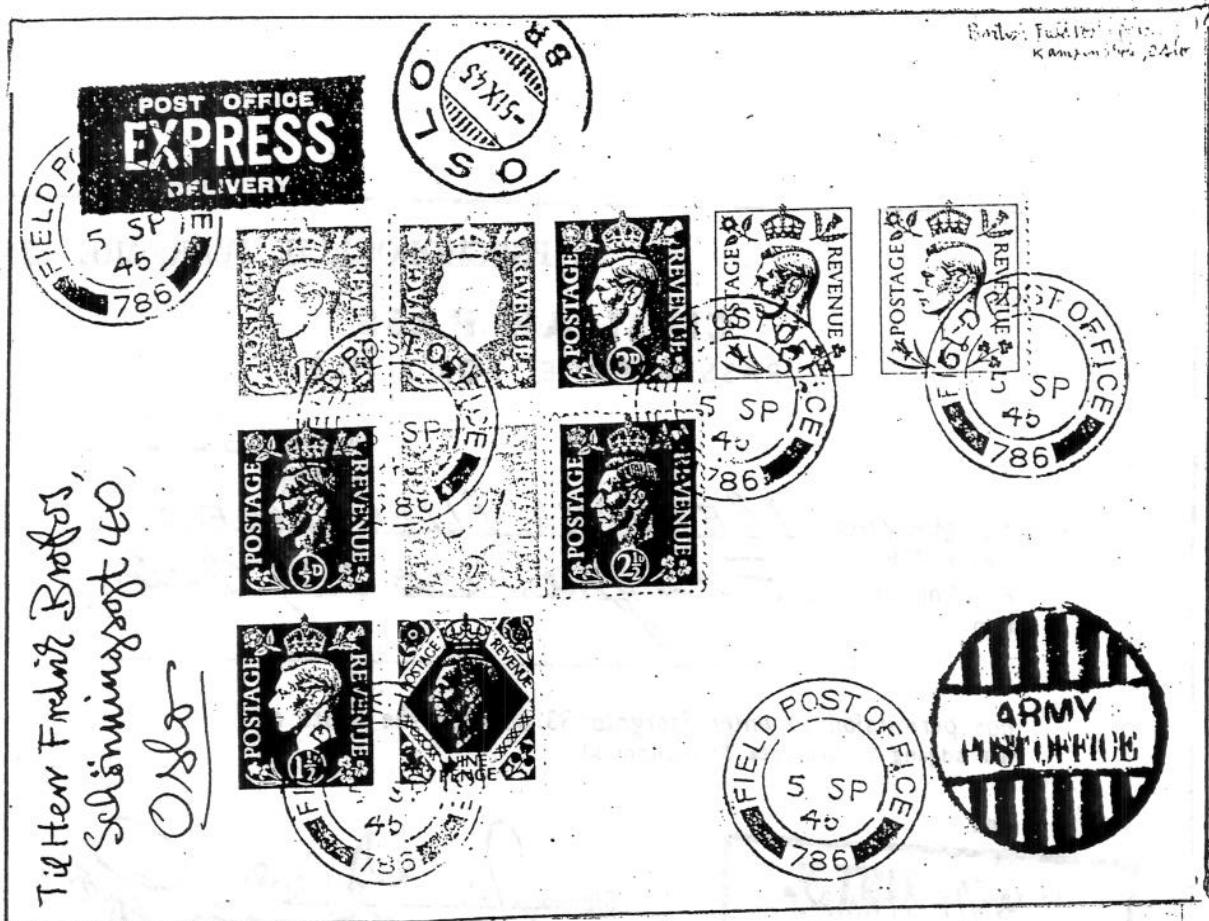


-201-



Mail bag
label
used at
FPO 786
Oslo
1945.





-203-

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE GROUP

CIVILIAN PASS
PASSERSEDEL FOR SIVILE

Number 303
Nummer

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss
Hr. / Fru / Frk.
Residing at
Bopel

FREDERICK ALLEN BROFOS

Frognerveien 27, Oslo

has permission to enter Storgata 33. between the hours of
har adgang til Storgata 33 mellom kl.

and

og
"G" UNIT STAMP

20 JUN 1945

H.Q. FORCE 134.

Signed

Signature of holder
Innehaverens underskrift

F.A. Brofoss

N.B. This pass must be produced on demand by British
Military Police or accredited Norwegian Guards.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED LAND FORCES NORWAY

PW Group,
Storgaten 33
OSLO.

PW 806.

24 Sep 45.

Mr. Frederick Brofoss,
Oslo.

Owing to the activities of this group closing down, will you please accept this letter as terminating your employment with effect from 15 October 1945.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the way which you have worked during these last 5 months, thereby contributing to the success of the operation.


Lt. Col.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE GROUP

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED LAND FORCES NORWAY

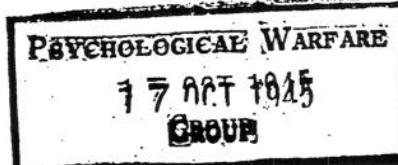


PW GROUP,
OSLO.

17 Oct 45.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

1. Frederick Brofos, has been employed in this office from 10 Jun 45 to 15 Oct 45.
2. His work consists of translating articles from the Norwegian press into English, and generally keeping the press clippings file for articles in the Norwegian press dealing with the Allied Forces in Norway.
3. Frederick Brofos is a conscientious, willing young man, who can be trusted to carry out successfully any job of work for which his age and experience qualifies him.



A. P. Pele
Lt. Col.

GENERAL ORDERS FOR ALLIED FORCES IN NORWAY

EXTRACTS FROM STANDING ORDERS

THESE ORDERS WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE INDIVIDUAL NOTICE OF EVERY OFFICER AND MAN OF ALL ALLIED FORCES WHO IS PERMITTED TO LAND IN NORWAY.

Precautionary Measures.

9. Especial care will be exercised with a view to the prevention of FIRES; and particular attention will be paid to Unit Fire Prevention Orders.

10. The position of known, or suspected, BOOBY TRAPS and MINES will be reported to an officer.

The Following are Forbidden.

11. Consorting with Germans and their collaborators, of any nationality.

12. The taking or retention of any article of enemy equipment for private purposes.

13. The removal or utilization of any articles which are the property of Norwegian citizens or authorities, unless duly requisitioned by the Allied service authorities through the Norwegian civil authorities.

14. The disposal either by gift or sale of any article of equipment, food or fuel to civilians, except as authorised under any special instructions. This includes enemy equipment.

15. The acceptance or purchase of any article of food or fuel from civilians, except as authorised under any special instructions. In particular, no meals will be bought in any hotel, restaurant, cafe or inn which has not been taken over by the Allied service authorities.

General.

1. All personnel are reminded that upon their conduct and behaviour in NORWAY will depend in large measure not only the success of our operations, but, also the future attitude of the Norwegian people towards our countries.

2. The Allied Forces go to NORWAY to liberate that country from German occupation, and, to assist the Norwegian authorities in the restoration of their country to normal conditions, so far as they desire our assistance in doing so.

3. The maintenance of high standards of discipline and the acceptance of some restrictions, are essential to this end.

4. We are visitors to, and guests in, the country of our friends and will conduct ourselves as such.

5. The following ORDERS are brought particularly to your attention. They will be modified as far as found possible when the situation allows.

Relationship with the Civil Population.

6. Relationships between the Allied Armed Forces with, and responsibilities towards, the civil population will be upon the same basis as in their home countries.

7. All personnel will conform to Norwegian laws.

8. The Norwegian police are empowered to arrest Allied personnel who violate Norwegian laws.

16. The transport in Service vehicles of any civilian or civilian stores, except on the instructions of an officer.

17. The despatch of any mail or money by any means other than through Service Postal channels.

The following are out of Bounds/off Limits.

(Except to personnel on duty)

18. All private premises except on invitation by the occupant.

19. All Cafes, Restaurants, Bars and Vinmonopol Stores.

20. All areas allocated for the accommodation of German Forces, their collaborators and released Prisoners of War.

ALLIED WARSHIPS, NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR FORCE CAMPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS ARE OUT OF BOUNDS/OFF LIMITS TO CIVILIANS EXCEPT WHEN ENTRANCE IS NECESSARY IN THE COURSE OF DUTY.

By ORDER OF

JOINT NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDERS.

ALLIED LIBERATION FORCES NORWAY.

1ST MAY 1945.

Wt 70406 60M 5/45 D. & Co.

British Military Courier Post Office, Oslo, 1945

During the Liberation of Norway, the Allied Military Head Quarters was in a modern 6-story building at Storgaten 33, Oslo. On the second floor, there was a large room with a long counter and cupboards. This was used in 1945 as a British Military Courier Post Office. Whether the furnishings remained from a former German fieldpost office, has not been confirmed. The building was taken over from the Germans at the Capitulation. Located there during the war, was the German City Commandant (Stadtkommandantur) and many other offices, Courts Martial, SS etc. After they had been evicted, a giant stone eagle with swastika was quickly removed over the main entrance.

The above-mentioned postal room contained now the "180 th Despatch Rider Section, Norway Force Signals". It was part of the "Royal Army Signal Corps" (RASC), that part of the British Army in charge of all communications. The office was managed by two or three uniformed soldiers, while several others drove around town on motorcycles, delivering and receiving important courier mail.

They were all jolly nice fellows, and I remember well the Chief, Corporal Salt and another soldier nick-named "Scottie". It was from the Corporal that I saved an interesting cover (fig.1) just before he was going to throw it away. It was a postage-free official letter just arrived from England.. It carries a British machine cancel marking the war's end in Europe. The famous "V" sign was shown and neatly repeated five times in Morse code (...) among the usual wave lines, as well as two Victory bells. Most important was the receiving mark used at the office. They only had the one postmark, but it was larger than usual. It was also much heavier and, perhaps because of that, always produced a nice clear impression. On the aforementioned envelope, the handstamp date is September 2, 1945, which was the date the Japanese surrendered. Victory in Europe and in the Far East - a nice combination.

The hand-postmark shows the code letters "AY", which distinguishes it from

similar marks used elsewhere. They were usually applied in black, but I have seen one in violet with the letters "SACR". Not much of a code, as I think it meant "Supreme Allied Command, Rear" and was probably used in England or France. Similar postmarks were used in WW 1 and even on British colonial stamps from Africa.

The mail handled at the courier post-office in Oslo was mostly postage free military matter, but British George VI stamps may also be found occasionally.

Another very interesting find I saved from a HQ waste basket, has a pencilled blue cross on front and back of the envelope. The British used this to distinguish registered mail. Aside from a numerator number stamped in black, there is an inscription; "Regd. SDS G.O. Smith". The latter being the clerk's signature. At the lower left corner, is a double-circle mark in red, reading "1st Air Landing/ Reconnaissance Squadron/ Orderly Room". This is from the first Liberation force that came to Norway, namely the British parachutists called the "Red Devils". After their dark red or maroon berets. The envelope is addressed to "Captain D.H. Robson, Aide de Camp to General Officer Commanding, Norway Command", i.e. the adjutant to General Urquhart, the head of the British Forces in Norway. A lucky find, indeed.

Before I end this story, I should mention a rather unusual episode that happened once at the courier post-office. I believe it was "Scottie", who came over to the counter with a torn package and smilingly said to me: "Fred, you who are interested in all kinds of markings, maybe you would have fun to make some impressions of this stamper before I repair this parcel which arrived here in a half-opened condition!" I quickly stifled my first surprise over this "irregularity in mail handling" and nodded my interest, thereupon, I was handed an oval rubber stamp, which appeared to be a censor mark for newspapers or press reports. It was probably made and sent over from London, from the appearance of the Norwegian coat of arms in the center. The inscription was "Pressekontrollen/Godkjent" ie, Press Control/

Approved, "Scottie" said that the other three stamps in the package appeared to be of the same type. This I assumed too and didn't examine them. I wonder now whether perhaps two of them may have contained the text "Ikke godkjent" ie not approved. Be that as it may, I struck off four impressions in black on an empty envelope and handed back the stamps, with thanks. It was then patched up and sent on its way, just where to, I don't recall anymore. It was obviously used to censor the press in Oslo and maybe elsewhere.

The Germans had a large press censor office in Oslo during the war, but that this was continued afterwards by others is little known. It was certainly lucky that I happened by just then, and unexpectedly got an impression of this rare censor mark used in Norway at the war's end.



ALLIED MILITARY H.Q., OSLO

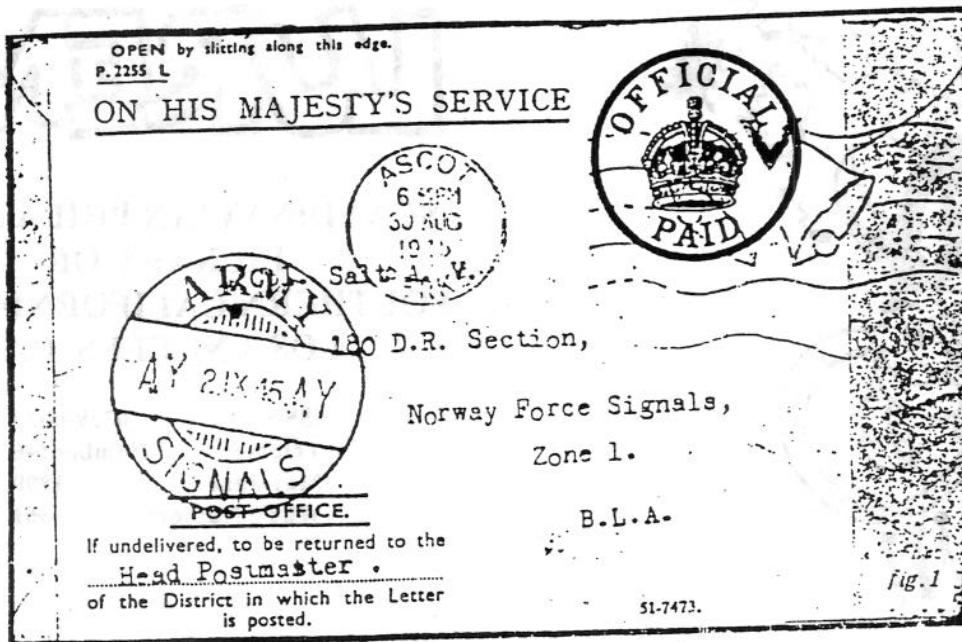
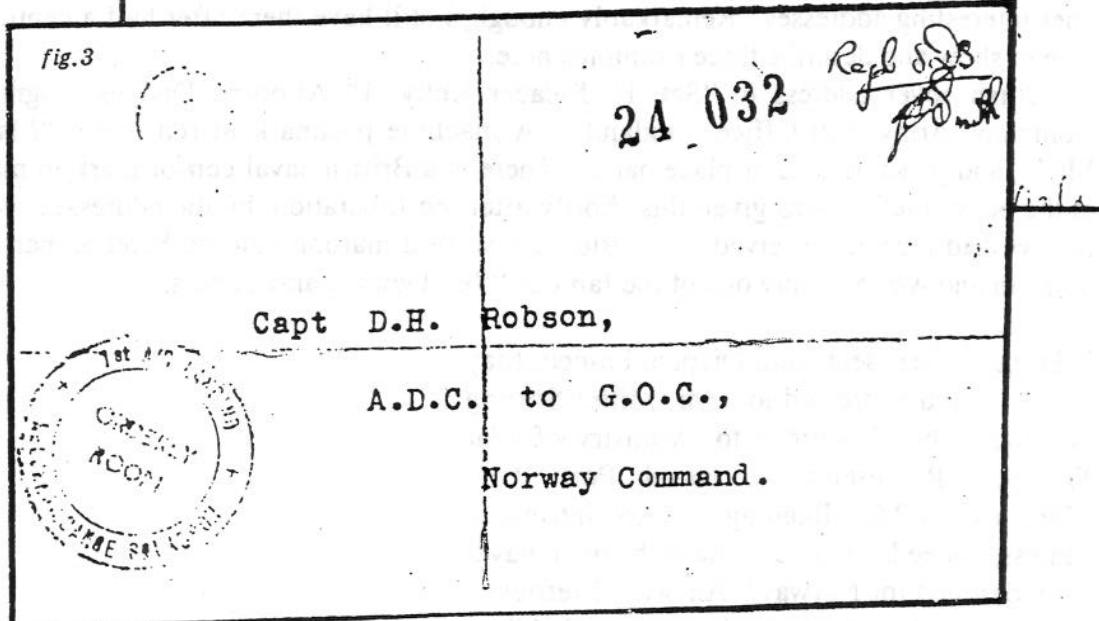
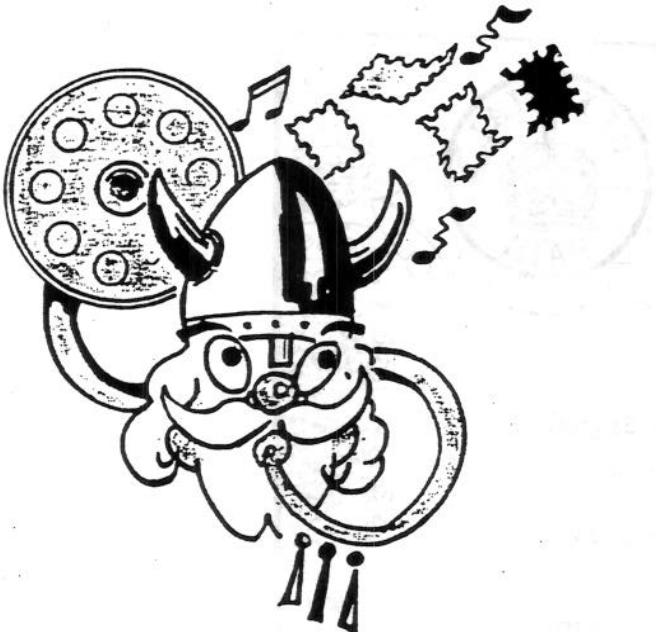


fig.2



fig.3





LUREN

SCANDINAVIAN PHILATELIC
LIBRARY OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.
LOS ANGELES, CA.

ISSN 0739-0025
Volume 31 Number 5-6
May-June 1999
Whole Number 361

THREE WAR COVERS FOUND IN NORWAY

Frederick A. Brofos

"Happy days are here again. The skies are blue, the clouds have gone. Happy days are here again!" I recall the tune better than the words of that old song, but it reminds me of an unforgettable time that I experienced some 50 years ago. I was right there in Norway when, on May 7, 1945, the country was liberated after five painful years of German occupation.

Although just a schoolboy, I had an advanced interest in stampless covers, even back then. Aside from German fieldpost covers being thrown out, I salvaged a number of Allied war covers with rather interesting addresses. Remarkably enough, I still have them after half a century and so am able to show and describe three examples here.

- 1) A British cover address to "Sgt. H. Meager Kelly, 1st Airborne Division Signals, 1st Company, Army Post Office, England." A machine postmark in red reads, "Maritime Mail", and gives no date or place name. There is a British naval censor mark in magenta at the bottom left. I was given this shortly after the Liberation, by the addressee, whom I believe had recently received it in Oslo. He wore a maroon colored beret as part of his uniform and was probably one of the famous "Red Devil" paratroopers.
- 2) A French cover, sent from Dieppe, France, May 12, 1945, and addressed to a Mr. Miller-Stirling in London, but forwarded to "Ministry of War Transport Representative, Naval Port Party 1736, c/o G.P.O. Reading." An intriguing address, indeed. Could it have been a naval party destined for Norway? Anyway, I retrieved it from a trash can in the basement of Allied Military HQ, Oslo, in June, 1945.

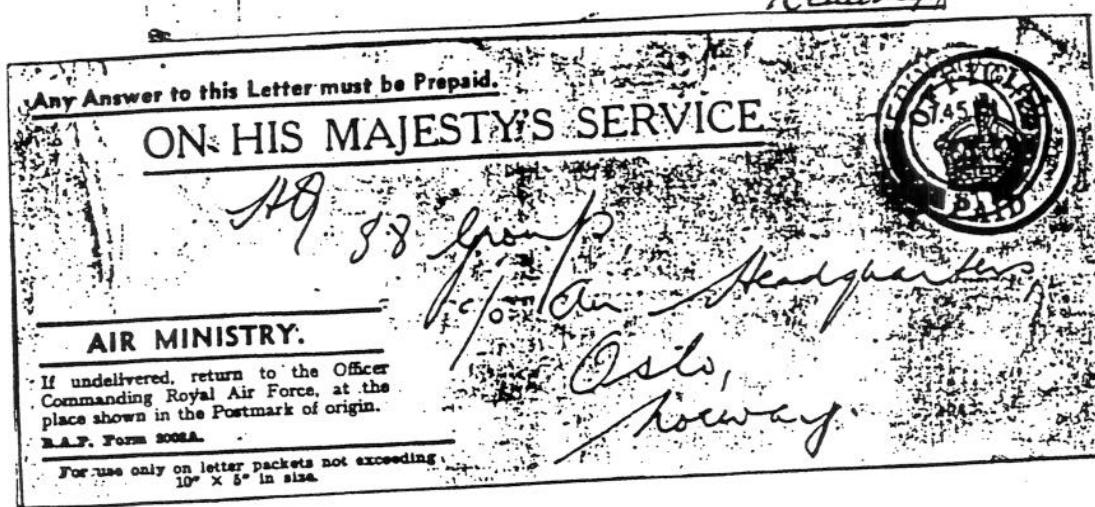
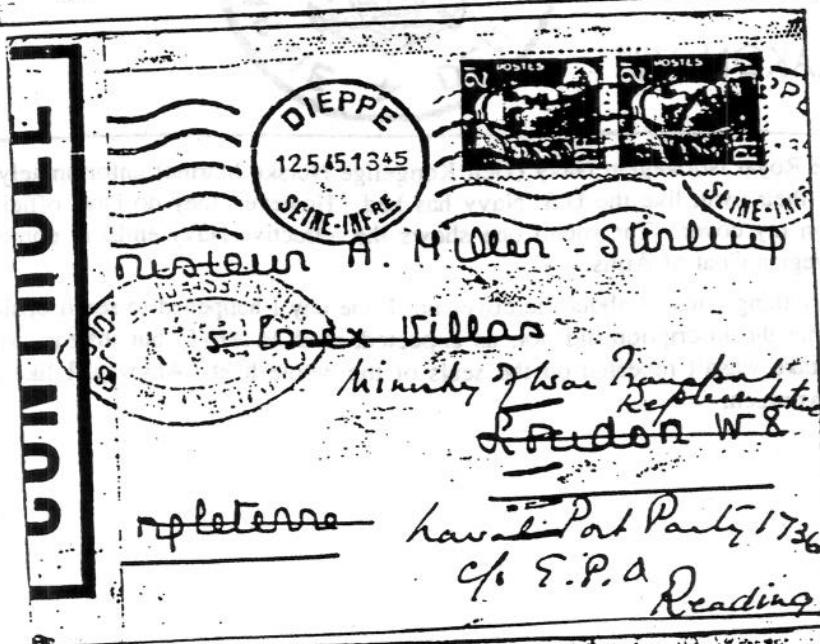
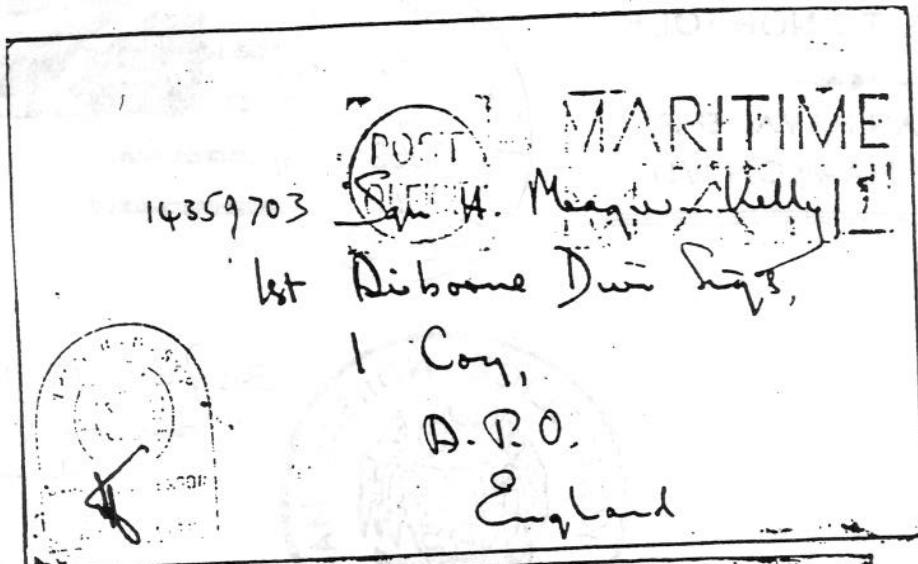
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3) A British postage free OHMS official envelope label, sent from the R.A.F. in Edinburgh in 1945, and addressed to "HQ 88 Group, c/o Air Headquarters, Oslo, Norway."

These are some of my mementos from an exciting time. If there was ever a year to raise a glass, it was 1945, when good spirits flowed and mankind celebrated their greatest achievement: Victory over the enemy and the end of the war.

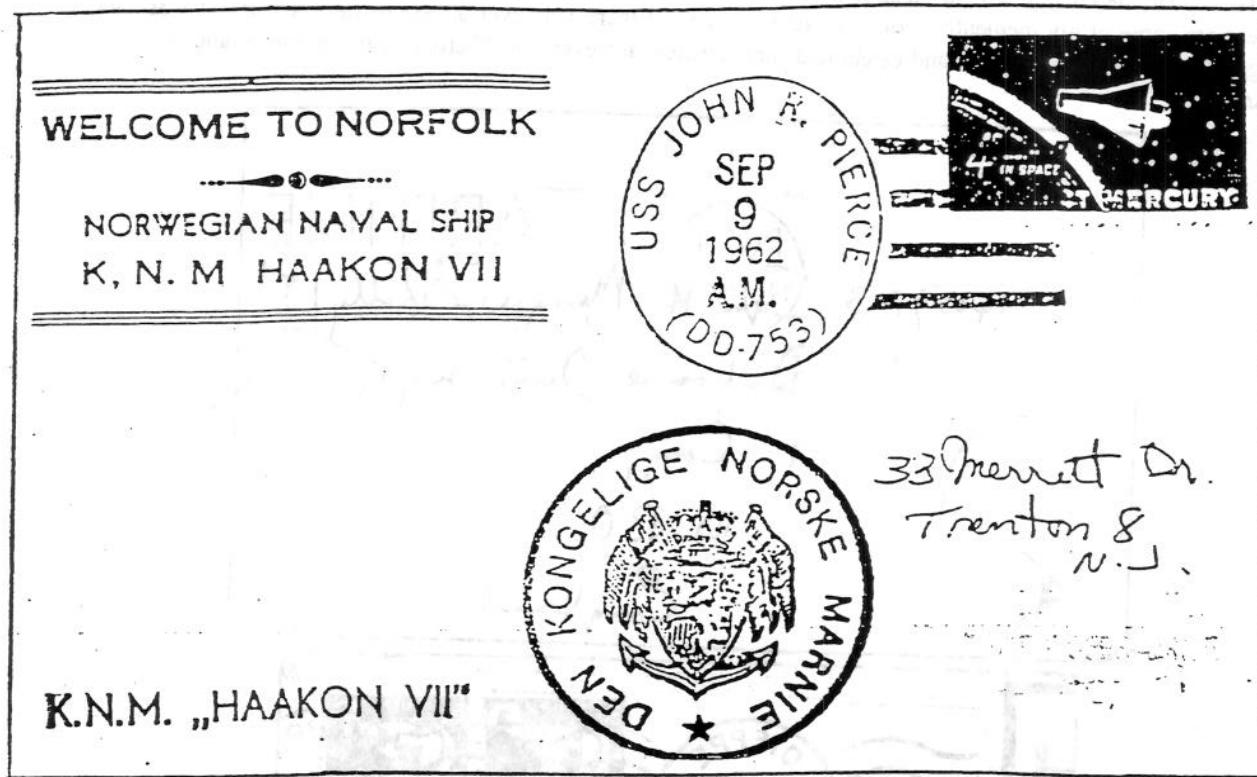


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NORWEGIAN NAVAL SHIP IN VIRGINIA

Frederick A. Brofos

In early September, 1962, the Norwegian naval ship *Haakon VII* visited Norfolk, Va. I have a cover from that event, with a special welcome cachet and cancelled aboard the USS *John R. Pierce* (DD-753).



The vessels of the Royal Norwegian Navy (Den Kongelige Norske Marine) unfortunately have never had individual postmarks of their own, like the U.S. Navy has had. However, they do have official seals and two of these were applied on my cover. The round one shows the attractive Navy emblem combining an anchor and flags with the Norwegian Coat of Arms.

I hadn't noticed anything unusual about the cover until one day I happened to see it upside down. Then, to my surprise, I saw that the inscription did not, as expected, read *MARINE*, but instead, *MARNIE!* Let us hope that this little mistake wasn't repeated on the seals of the whole fleet. Anyway, I liked the seal before and now I like it twice as much.