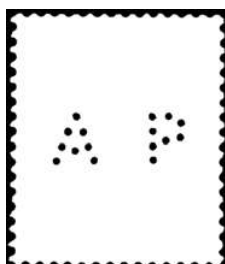


HOW DID THIS COVER GET TO GERMANY

Rudy Roy

The illustrated cover with pattern A4460.02b presents several mysteries that I am hopeful that members in the UK can unravel some or all of them for me.



A4460.02b

A4460.02b – of the Associated Press
of Great Britain, 85 Fleet Street,
London EC - known used between
1939 -1949

The cover is franked with a 3d King George VI and postmarked 30 June 1949, London. It is addressed to a person in the OMGUS (Office of Military Government United States) with a U.S. APO (Army Post Office) address. References list that APO as being located in Germany at that time. The cover was received at the APO on 6 July 1949.

The envelope used is one specially printed for airmail. In the U.S. such an envelope could ONLY be used for airmail – and if the postage applied was insufficient, then it was either returned for additional postage or assessed postage due. As this cover was being sent from

the U.K. to the U.S., the airmail postage for a basic letter of ½ ounce was 1/, in effect since May 1946. In theory there was no way the sender should have known the location of APO 742, so the international airmail postage rate should have been paid. It may have been possible, but highly unlikely, that this cover was sent to the London Exchange Office and then sent to the U.S., but being posted on the evening of June 30, and then being receipted at the APO in Germany on July 6 tends to indicate that somehow this cover was placed into the U.S. mails in London.



I cannot find any reference that indicates special arrangements between the U.K. and U.S. mails were in effect at this time permitting mail addressed to U.S. Army Post Offices in Europe to go directly into the U.S. mails in London for delivery in Europe. Mail for U.S. addresses would have normally gone to an Exchange Office for dispatch to the U.S.

The questions are – how did the cover get from U.K. mails to U.S. mails? How did the cover get to the addressee? By air or surface transport? If by air, was it commercial or military? What was the postage rate? Was there a special accommodation at this time allowing for mail to U.S. Army PO's in Europe to bypass transport back to the U.S. and be sent direct from the U.K.?

I would appreciate any and all comments. My email address is: rroyperfin@aol.com My mail address is: P.O. Box 5367, Virginia Beach VA 23471-0367 USA