

# Malta Green Crosses World War II

Notes and illustrations from the collection of Gavin Fryer RDP, FRPSL



*Chev Dr A. Bonnici FRPSL, receiving a commemorative medal after his Malta Grand Master's letters display cum power point dissertation at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 10 Nov 2011, from Mr Gavin Fryer RDP, FRPSL.*

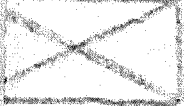
Priority was given to correspondence of servicemen on Malta to their families in the UK and to Allied Forces serving in Malta. To assist with identification of mail in the British Post Office so that priority could, indeed, be given to this mail, the concept of marking letters with a 'Green Cross' was conceived. About three examples are recorded of letters sent from Britain to servicemen on Malta on which a manuscript 'Green Cross' was hand-drawn. One of these was addressed from Ilford in Essex on 14 July 1941 to Bounsell serving with the 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery, shown at Fig. 1. This was censored and resealed with P.C. 90 label.

The Green Cross Labels were created at first stating that the weight of a single letter was limited to one ounce. Fig. 2 shows an example on an envelope sent from Oban in Scotland to a Major in the Royal Irish Fusiliers posted on 11 October 1941. This item was also censored and resealed with P.C. 90 label. Later a variant of the green label stating the weight limit for a single letter of half ounce was sent from Norwich in Norfolk to a Private in the Army Dental Corps posted on 5 October 1942, Fig. 3.

Meanwhile a general issue of green labels to servicemen, in which the weight was unspecified, that they could enclose with their letters home so their families could avail themselves of the priority service. Fig. 4 shows an example posted from Reading Berkshire on 12 August 1942. Similar labels come in shades of green, some paler than others, but otherwise for the same standard of service.

**EXAMINER 6642**

POSTIVE SERVICE.



147-41



1602620 Sumner H. Bounsell,

10<sup>th</sup> Heavy A.A. Battery,

7<sup>th</sup> A.A. Regiment, R.A.

Hurry

Malta.

Fig.1

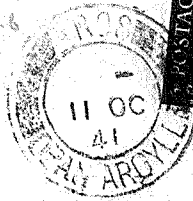
**EXAMINER 6256**



44.45.46



Weight  
not to exceed one ounce



Major R.A. French  
2<sup>nd</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>, The Royal Lancers  
Fusiliers

Abundant

M-100

Fig.2

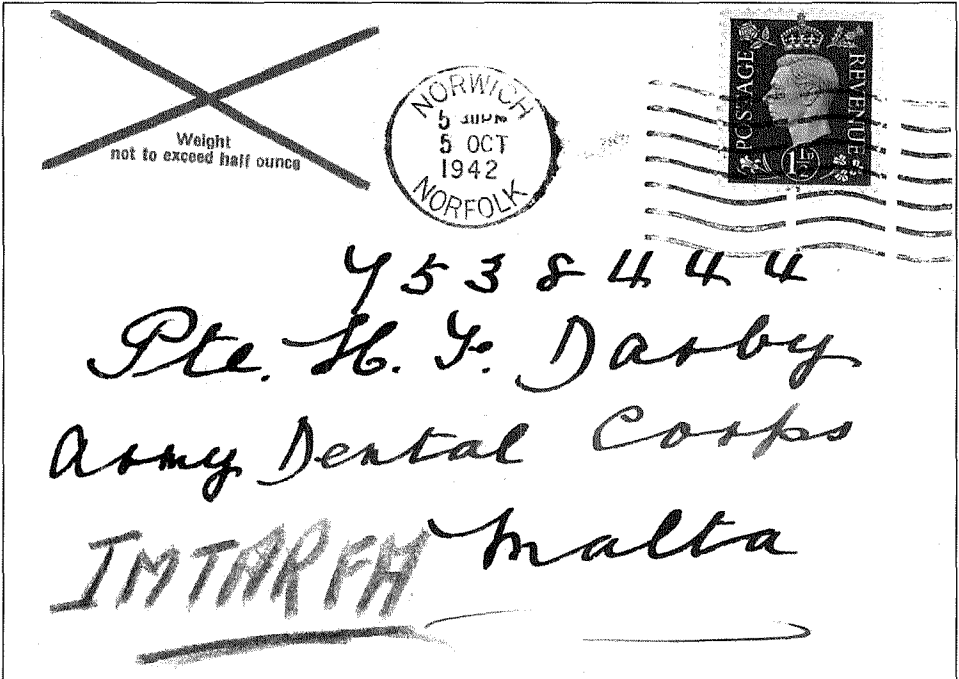


Fig.3

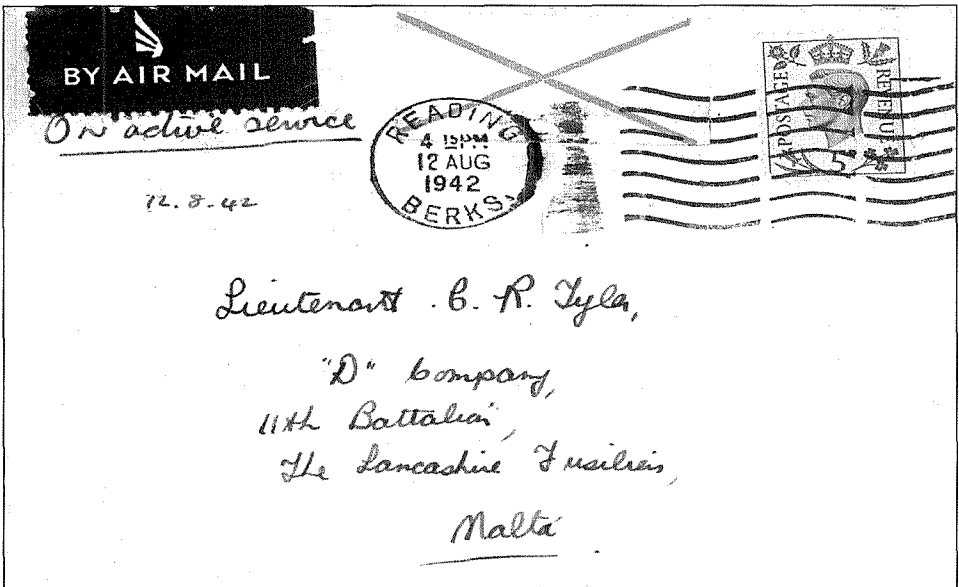


Fig.4