

Perfins As Postal History - 2

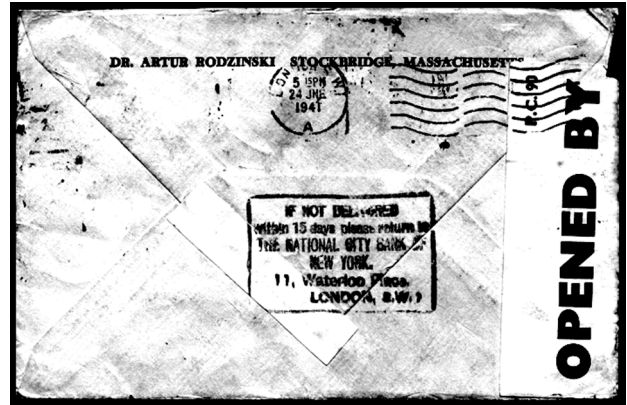
Rudy Roy (#1124)

This censored, twice re-directed airmail cover, though with very common NCB (N-44; F rated) perfins, is more complex than a cursory inspection would reveal.

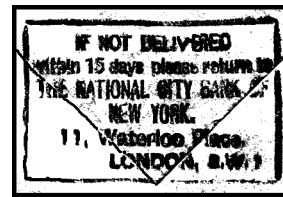
Originating in Stockbridge, MA (May 31, 1941 machine cancel) the cover was franked with a 3¢ Defense stamp (not a perfin) that paid the domestic first class surface letter rate. As can be seen in the scan of the reverse of the cover, it was sent by Dr. Artur Rodzinski to Mr. Samuel Schmeidler. Under the white address label is the address of the National City Bank of New York. It is evident that Mr. Schmeidler had provided the bank's address for his correspondence.



At NCB the white label was affixed to re-direct the letter to England. A strip of three 9¢ Prexies plus another 3¢ Defense issue, all with NCB perfins, were added to the cover, paying the 30¢ per half ounce air mail rate then in effect to England. A manuscript "Via Air Mail" was added in the NCB office. The letter was then re-mailed, receiving handstamp cancels on June 4, 1941, at the Church St. Annex, New York, NY.



In England the letter was censored by the British. There are no transit markings to confirm routing, though it was probably transported by a PANAM trans-Atlantic Clipper - FAM-18 flight via Bermuda. The letter arrived in England on June 24, 1941, as indicated by the London machine cancel backstamp on the reverse. It was then forwarded from the London NCB office to an address in Hyde Park, London. The London NCB office also added their return address handstamp to the reverse in case delivery could not be made.



Providing services to customers such as forwarding mail, especially by banks with offices in other countries, was not uncommon. USPS regulations then in effect allowed for mail to be re-directed provided that the necessary additional postage was applied.

Common perfins, not so common usage!