

# Guerre de Crimée

Collection DODD  
(1989)

V A R N A

JUNE 1854  $\rightarrow$  SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> 1854

28mm BLACK NO CODE

The Crimean War.

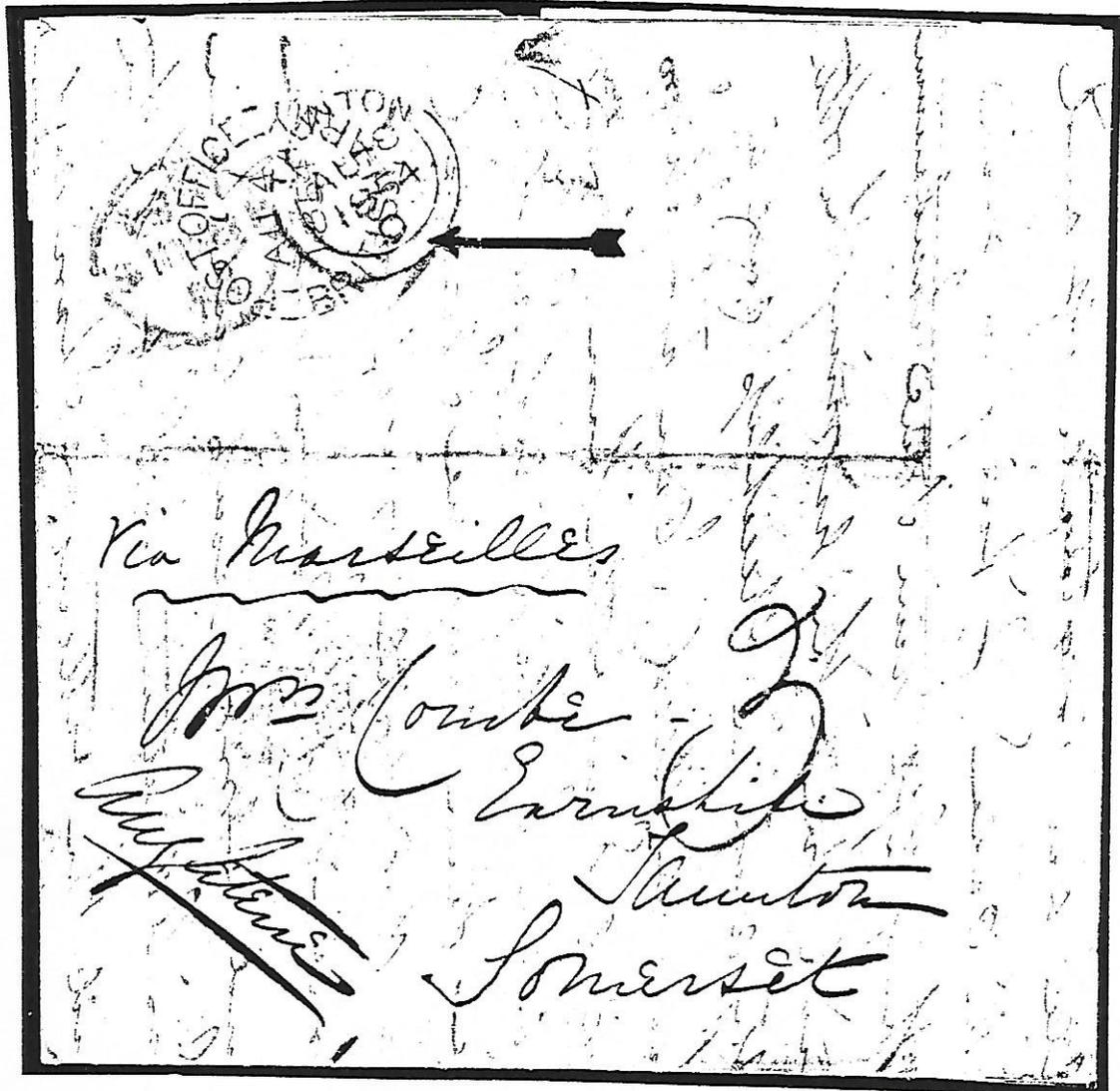
A letter dated 4th August 1854 and headed 'Varna'.

The letter has manuscript '3' rating to England, and is endorsed 'Via Marseilles'.

Backstamps: Post Office - British Army c.d.s. 4 Aug. 1854, in black, no code letter.

London Foreign Branch arrival 15 Aug. 1854.

Taunton arrival c.d.s. 18 Aug 1854.



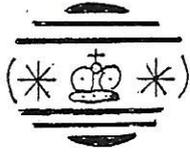
The black datestamp without code letter was in use at the Varna Post Office until the 6th. September 1854.

The Crimean War.

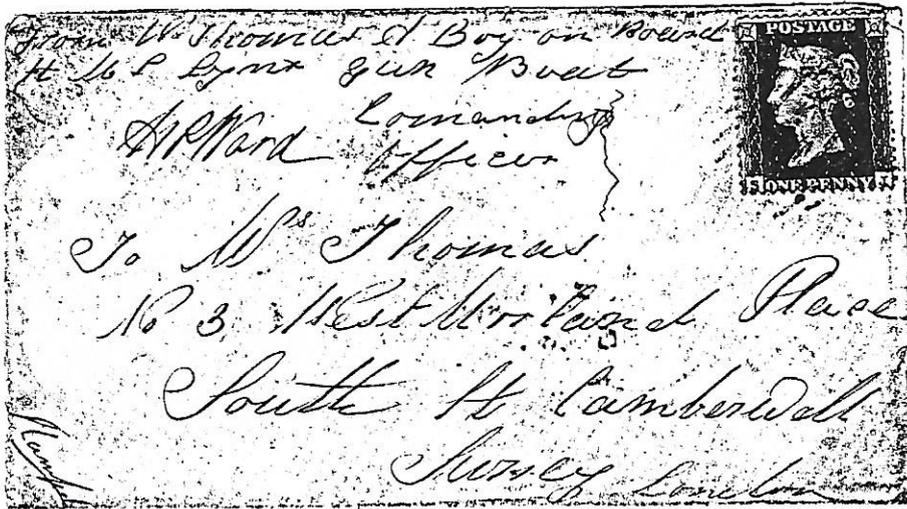
28th December 1854.

The 1d rate for ' Other Ranks'

A cover to London bearing a single 1d red cancelled with  
Crown between Stars obliterator. Manuscript ' From  
W.Thomas. A Boy on board H.M.S. Lynx Gun Boat '  
Countersigned ' H.P.Ward, Commanding Officer '



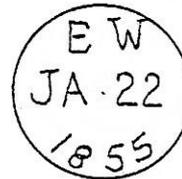
VV Source  
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S.C. 16  
DIE I



GREEN  
CODE A



Balaclava  
13 April 1855

My Dearest Mother,

I have no news to tell you since I last wrote but you will be glad to hear that I got a fall in the Sebastopol Steeplechase which has laid me up for a few days having broken my left knee. I say you will be glad to hear it because I have often thought myself a fool for doing such things but having been fortunate in winning races for others lately it is not an easy matter to get off riding without giving offence but I have now quite determined to ride no more, steeple or flat, whilst I am out here.

We opened fire on Saturday last (Easter Sat) and have continued indefinitely ever since but I do not hear that there is much apparent damage to the works or town. We have lost several men and two officers. Lt Ince had both his legs taken off and died immediately afterwards. Lt St Clair was also wounded but is doing well. What is to be the result no one at present seems to know but I trust all this firing will be followed up by an assault or we shall be exactly where we were at starting. Heard last night that escalating ladders had been sent down which looks like business. They talk of the shipping going in when they storm. I do not think there is a chance of an attack in this quarter at present. Thanks for your nice letter of 30th March, pray also thank Pru and Fred for their joint letter. I am glad my note reached him safely & it was approved of. I hope to hear that Fred falls to 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as I know them also very well and Col. Lawrence is a very good man - under him being some very nice young fellows in it. I was much amused at Fred riding Bill's mare till he gave her the gout and Billy being so delighted, declaring that he could never get anyone to go ahead when mounted on his horses. I am sorry to hear about George but I hope it is only the spring and overgrowing I gave Docherty your message about his wife and he seemed much pleased. Will you tell Emily that I received her letter and thought I had acknowledged it and thanked her for it. I remember it gave me great pleasure at the time. I am sorry to hear that Billy does not shake off his gout and rheumatism. If I was in his place I should go away to the Rhine as soon as the fine weather sets in and try the baths. I hope Donovan will succeed with the hounds but I fear he will find it hard work for mind, body and pocket. It must be a great relief to Pru to feel that he now need only look upon it as his amusement. I fear the Conference at Vienna is not getting on very well. At any rate it will be a long business, even if it ends in peace. Omar Pasha arrived here yesterday with 20,000 Turks. I hope they will not run back to him when the enemy comes to pay us a visit. I saw Col. Midham who arrived two days ago & Col Wyndham who was at the races and looked well. Lt Raglan lent me his carriage to come to my camp in which was very kind of him. I am up now and my leg nearly well so dont make yourself in the least uneasy. I get everything I want and everyone is very polite and nice. Poor J Shiffnar was the cause of my fall. His horse which was on my left fell at a wall and came right across me. My horse took it beautifully but when he landed found Shiffnars horse getting up in front of me which of course sent me head over heels. I must now say goodbye, Dearest Mother. With kind love to all relations and friends

Ever your affec. son

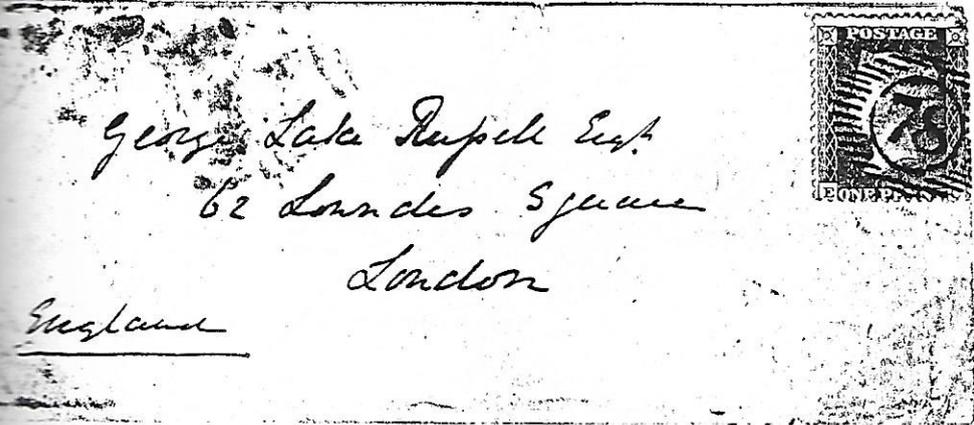
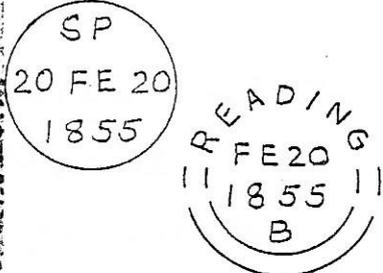
Henry

Three covers from the Russell correspondence.

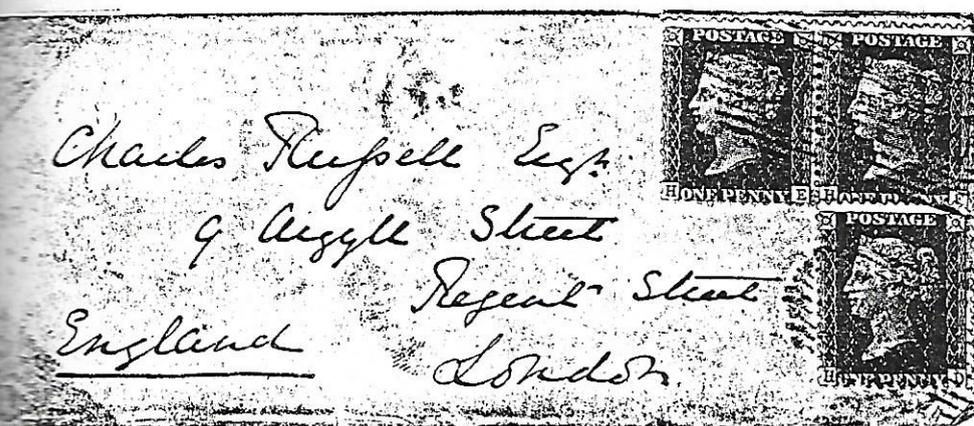
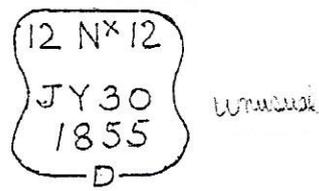
W.H. Russell (later Sir William Russell) was War correspondent for 'The Times' in the Crimea. His uncensored despatches drawing attention to the mismanagement of the commissariat and medical services, contributed to the fall of the Aberdeen ministry.



Feb. 1855  
Cover to Reading with 3 x 1d cancelled with triple 49 of London Inland Office



July 1855  
Cover to London with single 1d cancelled at London District Office. Probably handed to Master of a vessel to post in London.



6th. May 1856  
Cover to London with 3 x 1d cancelled at London Inland Office.



85  
20