

## LATE USAGE OF THE 1917 BSAC 1½D STAMP

This registered airmail cover was posted in Egypt on 14 December 1942. It is addressed to HT Laughlin, 154 Evans Road, Durban. The sender is not identified. It is a plain buff envelope measuring 13.2 by 10.3 cm.



Stamps on the back of the cover (reduced)

The cover bears the registration mark of APO 32 as well as a postmark of that a South African military post office with the date 14 XII 42. It was passed by Censor No 6586 and is signed by the censor. It bears a total of 9 by 1½d stamps of the 1917 Admiral issue of the British South Africa Company (SG 197) - two blocks of 4 on the front and a single on the back (all perf 14) - together with a ½d of the 1937 issue of South Africa (SG 75c) on the back - total paid 1s2d. All the stamps are cancelled with an EGYPT 37 postmark of the same date 14 DE 42. At the bottom of the postmark is 'POSTAGE/PREPAID' on two lines. There is no arrival postmark. The item did not qualify for free postage as it was being sent by registered airmail. The postage rate by air to South Africa was 10d for ½ oz with a further 4d for registration, so the correct postage was paid - but mainly with invalid stamps. Stamps of any allied country could be used on forces mail from the Middle East. The cover has not been opened and is clearly philatelic. Perhaps the latest known date for use of the BSAC Admiral issue!