

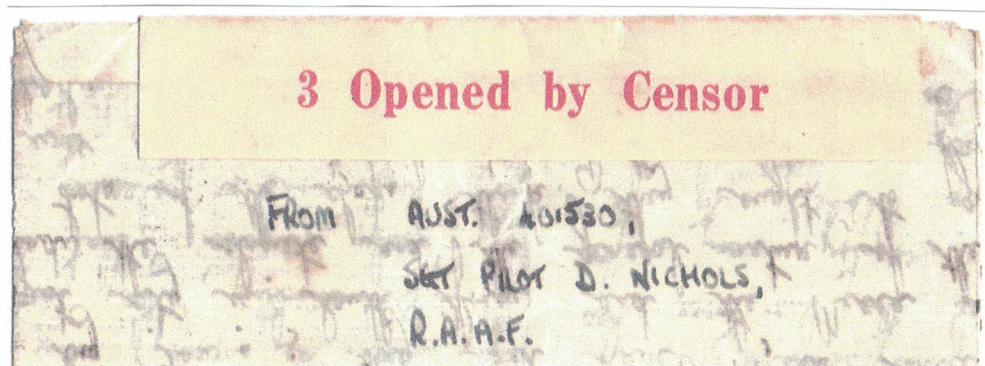
SOUTHERN RHODESIA to AUSTRALIA

Via the Egypt Australia air mail service

1941



Sergeant Pilot D. Nichols, RAAF, wrote on 21.12.41 from Kumalo camp, near Bulawayo, to a Miss R. White at Middle Creek, Victoria, Australia, using a Southern Rhodesia Active Service Letter Card, Style A, first issued 17 Nov. 1941. It received a rather feint "Rhodesian, Air Training Group, Official Free" cachet, RATG 1, measuring 48 x 30 mm overall with a central 23 mm "Official Free". At the time this was probably applied in Bulawayo. The 3d Victoria Falls indicium was cancelled by a double circle Bulawayo, S.Rhodesia, datestamp for 22.DEC.41. Opened in Melbourne, Victoria, where a Censor tape was applied.



Comments made by the Australian Pilot include :-

"Rhodesia would be a marvellous place if it weren't for the RAF. There are hundreds and hundreds of RAF here and not enough Civilians."..... "That and the climate and the general nature of the country soon make you rather cheesed. Lots of the chaps think they ought to give Rhodesia to the Germans after the war as a punishment."

References :-

Rhodesian Study Circle Handbook, Memoir 17, The Postal History of Southern Rhodesia during World War II, by Christopher J. Cooksey and Keith G. Harrop.

The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, Dec.2013 / No.249, p172.