

FORCES POST OFFICES - MALTA

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Forces Post Offices - Malta



The planned run-down in early-1972, and the subsequent re-start after the new agreement on Military Facilities in Malta, had no direct effect on postage rates for the British Forces. The 1 oz. rate of 3p. had been in force since 1 July 1971 and remained unchanged throughout 1972.



1973 (15AP) 1 oz. rate with GB 3p. Machin cancelled by FPO 944-A.

Date	Rates	Date	Rates	Date	Rates
1971 (1 Jul)	3p - 1oz 5p - 2oz 7½p - 4oz 10p - 8oz 20p - 1lb 35p - 2lb 70p - 4lb (max)	1973 (10 Sep)	3½p - 1oz 5p - 2oz 7½p - 4oz 10p - 8oz 20p - 1lb 35p - 2lb 70p - 4lb (max)	1974 (24 Jun)	4½p - 1oz 6p - 2oz 9p - 4oz 12p - 8oz 22p - 1lb 37p - 2lb 75p - 4lb (max)

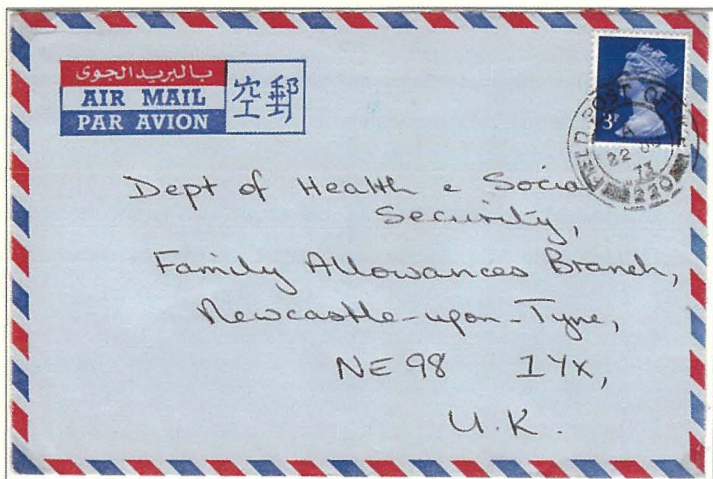
In 1972, surface postal rates applied to British Forces in Malta, on an 'all-up' basis. This system continued until 1975, with rate changes in 1973 and 1974. On 17 March 1975, the 'all-up' system was split into a more traditional system of separate rates for surface and air mail.



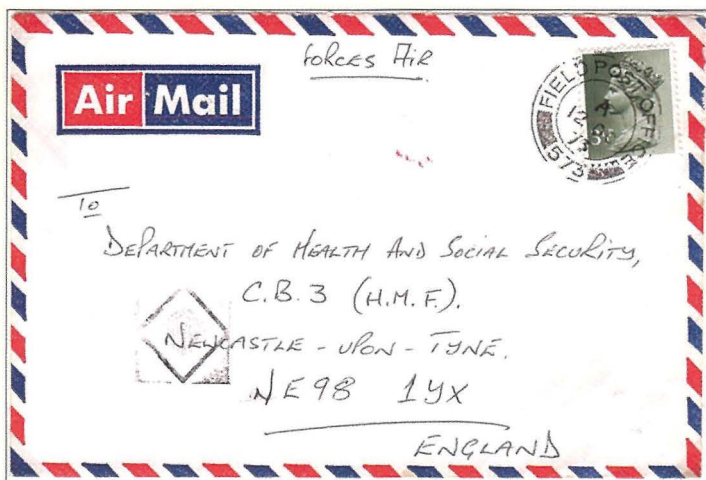
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 10 September 1973, the 1 oz. rate was increased from 3p. to 3½p., but the higher weight rates stayed as they were.



1973 (22JU) 1 oz. rate with GB 3p. Machin cancelled by FPO 220-A. This datestamp was used at St. Andrews Barracks post office (S236).



1973 (12OC) 1 oz. rate with GB 3½p. Machin cancelled by FPO 573-A. This FPO datestamp was used at St. Francis Ravelin post office (S237) for a relatively short period (recorded as 30 Apr 72 to 12 Nov 73).



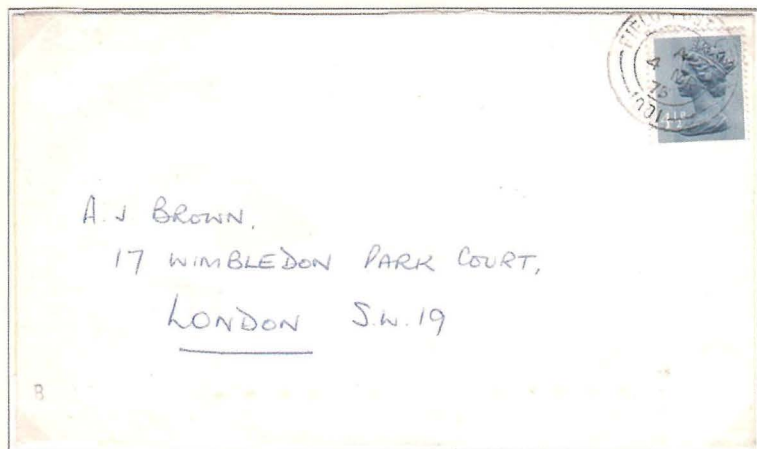
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 24 June 1974, the 1 oz. rate was increased from 3½p. to 4½p., with the higher weight rates receiving proportionate increases.



1974 (18JA) 1 oz. rate with GB 3½p. Machin cancelled by FPO 944-B.



1975 (4MR) 1 oz. rate with GB 4½p. Machin cancelled by FPO 1001-A.



Forces Post Offices - Malta



In 1975, changes to the Forces postal rates affected the rates from Malta. It was no longer possible to send letter mail at surface rates using the 'all-up' system, and instead, a new table of airmail rates was introduced from 17 March 1975. Initially, the weight scale was imperial, but changed to metric on 29 September 1975, accompanied by a rate increase.

Date	Europe	Date	Europe	Date	Europe
1975 (17 Mar)	7p - 2oz 10p - 4oz 12½p - 6oz 15p - 8oz 17½p - 10oz 19½p - 12oz 22p - 14oz 24p - 1lb 34p - 1lb 8oz 44p - 2lb 54p - 2½lb 64p - 3lb 74p - 3½lb 84p - 4lb (max)	1975 (29 Sep)	8½p - 60g 11½p - 100g 15p - 150g 18p - 200g 21p - 250g 24p - 300g 27p - 350g 30p - 400g 33p - 450g 36p - 500g 51p - 750g 66p - 1kg 81p - 1.25kg 96p - 1.5kg £1.11 - 1.75kg £1.26 - 2kg (max)	1977 (13 Jun)	9p - 60g 12½p - 100g 16p - 150g 20p - 200g 24p - 250g 28p - 300g 32p - 350g 36p - 400g 40p - 450g 44p - 500g 67p - 750g 87p - 1kg £1.07 - 1.25kg £1.27 - 1.5kg £1.47 - 1.75kg £1.67 - 2kg (max)

Forces Air Letter Rates

Date	Rate	Date	Rate	Date	Rate
1975 (28 Apr)	5p	1975 (29 Sep)	6½p	1977 (13 Jun)	7p

Forces airmail and air letter rates from Malta from 1975. After the 1977 increases, there were no more changes prior to British forces leaving Malta on 31 March 1979.



1977 (11JY) 1 oz. airmail rate with GB 9p. Machin cancelled by FPO 1001-A.



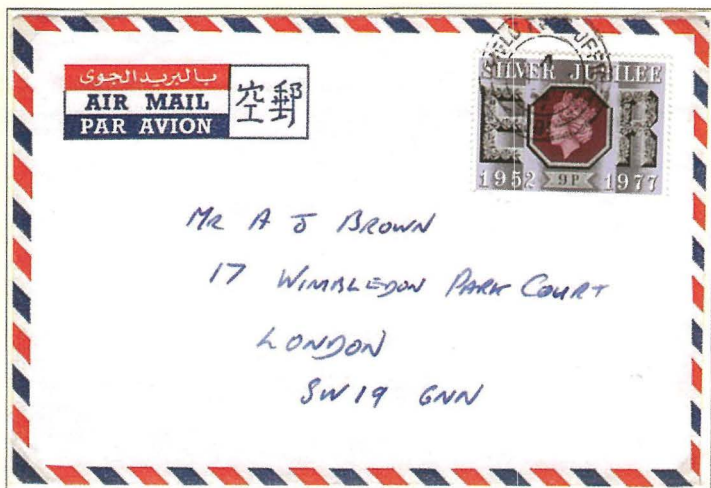
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 13 June 1977, the 1 oz. airmail rate was increased from 8½ p. to 9p., with the higher weight rates receiving proportionate increases. Rates for formular air letters were also increased, but continued to be lower.



1977 (17MAY) 1 oz. airmail rate with GB 8½ p. Silver Jubilee cancelled by FPO 112 rubber datestamp (Blackwell type B2A). Rubber datestamps were normally used for internal services and rarely on letter mail.



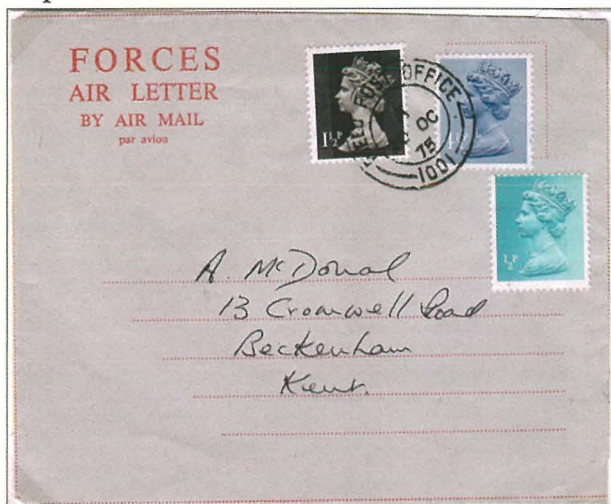
1977 (4JY) 1 oz. airmail rate with GB 9p. Silver Jubilee cancelled by FPO 1001-A.



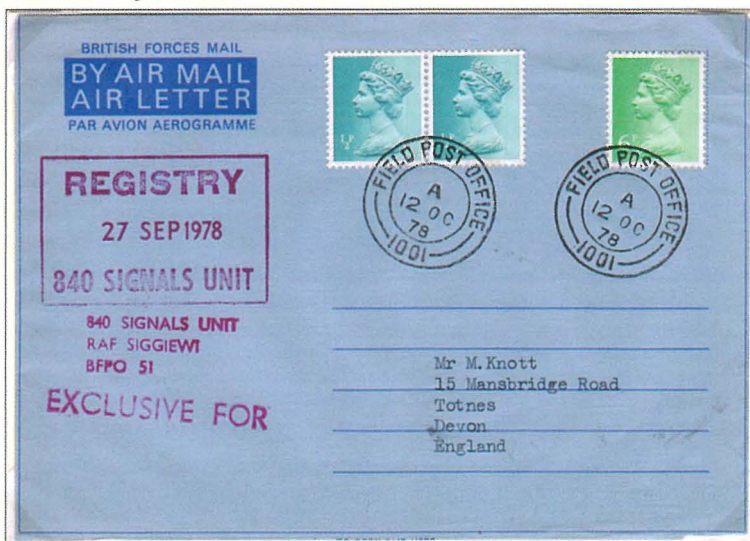
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 13 June 1977, the air letter rate was increased from 6½p. to 7p., but still represented a lower cost than the 1 oz. airmail rate.



1975 (200C) Forces Air Letter with 6½p. rate franked by GB Machins, cancelled by FPO 1001-A. Sent from HMS *Hermes* in Grand Harbour.



1978 (120C) Air Letter with 7p. rate franked by GB Machins, cancelled by FPO 1001-A. Sent from RAF 840 Signals Unit at RAF Siggiewi



Forces Post Offices - Malta



Envelopes with embossed octagonal Machin definitives were used from Malta's forces post offices, but it is likely these were 'Printed To Private Order' supplied by collectors and not available for local purchase.



1977 (11AUG & 26 AUG) PTO envelopes with 9p. frankings, cancelled by FPO 107 'Blackwell' rubber handstamps from BFPO 51. The 'Blackwell' handstamps were usually used on internal services, and were probably specially requested.



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John Daynes,
25A Mill Road,
Burnham on Crouch,
Essex, England.



1977 (29 OCT) PTPO envelopes with 9p. frankings, cancelled by FPO 156 'Blackwell' rubber handstamps from BFPO 51. 'Blackwell' handstamps were usually used on internal services, and were probably specially requested.



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Local mail with a Malta forces post office datestamp is scarcer than items to overseas destinations. The rate was 2p. (or 2c.) per oz. and could be paid with GB or Malta stamps. Items franked with Malta stamps would be passed to the Malta GPO for cancellation of the stamp(s).



1977 (15AP) Local cover with 2c. franking, cancelled in Valletta. In this case, the FPO 1001 datestamp has been applied to the cover without cancelling the stamp. With oval RAF Luqa 14 APR cachet and Sliema 16 APR datestamp on reverse.

(Upper cover) 1977 (3FE) Local cover with 2p. Machin, cancelled by St. Andrew's Barracks FPO 748-A. Backstamped Sliema on 4 FE 77.