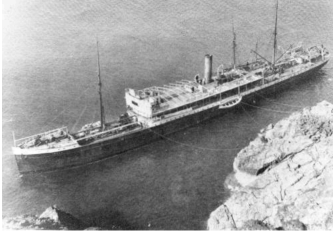


# *Crisis Averted - A Heroic Rescue Of Not Only The Mail*

Early on a foggy morning in 1907, as had happened more than once, a ship ran aground near the cliffs of Whitchurch, England. March 18, on course from Lagos, Nigeria and the Gold Coast, the *Jebba* floundered below the 200 foot cliffs and was battered by the waves. Carrying 155 passengers, precious cargo, and the mail it was a dire situation.



The *Jebba*, built in 1896. 302 feet long and 3813 tons.

Two local men, Issac Jarvis and John Argeat, climbed down the cliffs to the stranded ship. Created a bosun's chair and rescued all passengers during the night and the next morning. Within several days all the cargo as well as all the mail was salvaged. Unfortunately, the ship was lost and remains there to this day. A divers delight.



Final resting place just past Eddystone.

**Right :** Issac Jarvis & John Argeat



**Left :** Salvaged Cover

Mailed from Avrankou, Dahomey. (see reverse) Postmarked in Porto Novo Feb 20, 1907.

25 centime foreign rate to Zurich, Switzerland.

Instructed via Lagos

Salvaged from SS *Jebba* in violet indicating reason for delay.



**Right :** Depart Avrankou

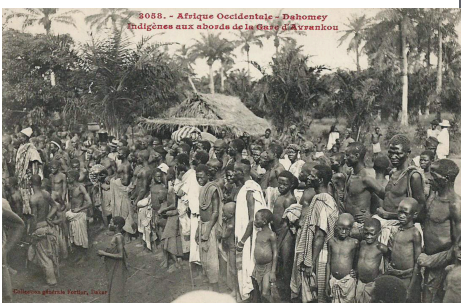
Processed Feb 22, 1907 in Lagos, Nigeria entering British mail stream.

Final arrival in Zurich Mar 21, 1907 just a month in transit including almost swimming with the fishes.

The town of Avrankou was a very small stop on the railway between Sakete and Porto Novo. It did not have a post office just a way station to enter the mail stream on the rail road.



**Right :** Photo post card of the rail station at Avrankou.



1908. - Afrique Occidentale - Dahomey Indigènes aux abords de la Gare d'Avrankou