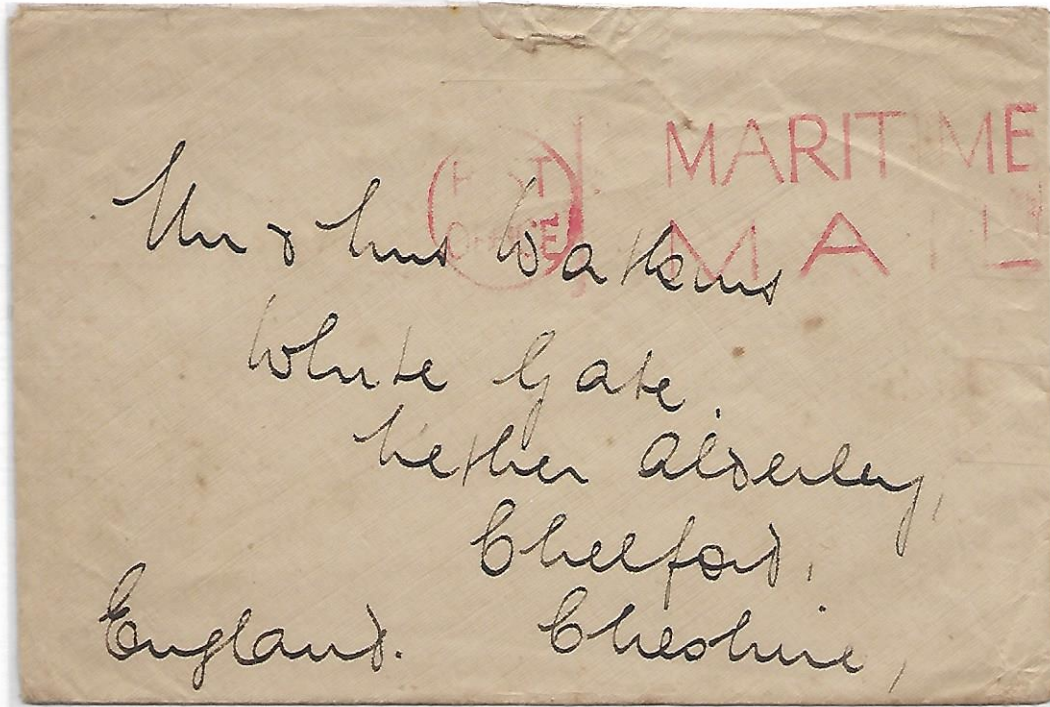
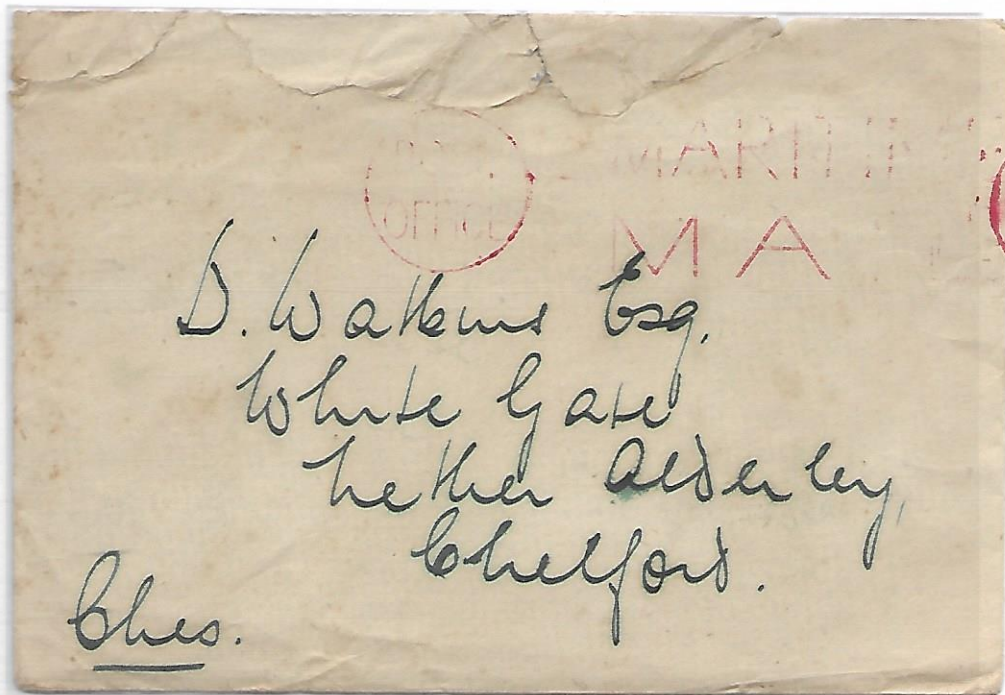


## MARITIME MAIL

A MORE OBSCURE ASPECT OF THIS POSTAL HISTORY WAS THE MAIL THAT ORIGINATED IN SHIP-BORNE POST OFFICES. UNTIL RECENTLY ENVELOPES BEARING VERY SPECIALIZED POSTAL MARKINGS GAVE A CLUE THAT THE LETTERS BEING DELIVERED WERE POSTED ON BOARD A SHIP AT SEA. TODAY THE SHIPS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY ARE AMONG THE LAST SURVIVING OPERATIONAL SHIP-BORNE POST OFFICES, EACH EMPLOYING A UNIQUE STAMP CANCELLATION DEVICE. OTHER SHIP OPERATORS ARRANGE FOR MAIL TO BE POSTED USING THE POSTAL SERVICES IN PORTS OF CALL (NOW CARRYING ANY SIGN OF THE ORIGIN OF THE MAIL AS BEING FROM A SHIP.)



THIS MARITIME COVER CARRIED ON BOARD FROM MARI TIME POST OFFICE TO CHESHIRE



THIS MARITIME COVER CARRIED ON BOARD FROM MARI TIME POST OFFICE TO CHELFORD