THE RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SCHEME

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been passing messages between relatives and prisoners of war held in enemy territories since the 19th century. In the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, Red Cross workers passed short written messages between these groups. The practice continued in the Boer War, in WWI and in the Spanish Civil War, the procedure becoming more sophisticated with the passage of time and continued use.

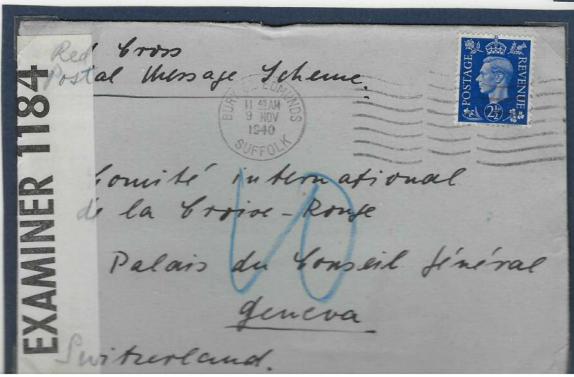


At the beginning of WWII in 1939, a convention was entered into by many of the countries engaged in warfare, including Germany, France and the UK (but not USSR or Japan), with ICRC to govern the role of the Red Cross in the war. Article 79 of the Convention allowed the Red Cross to pass information or enquiries about POWs. The WWII postal message scheme came into being.









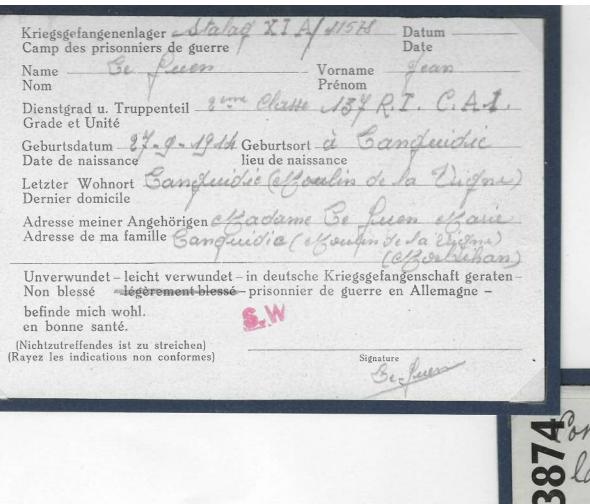


The scheme provided for the general public to purchase Form 61 (in the UK from post offices at one shilling each). Form 61 appeared in many different formats throughout the world. The head of the form provided space for the name and address of the person to whom the form was to be sent, The common theme was that the outgoing message to the addressee must be printed in block capital letters in either English, French or German on the front of the form and must not exceed twenty-five words in length. Form 61 was then delivered to the Red Cross office nearest to the writer of the message.





The letters 'AX' in red in a circle suggest the work of a second censor.



Prisoners of War Post Kriegsgefangenenpost

Post Free Gebührenfrei

To the

International Red Cross Committee



Palais du Conseil General

Geneva

Switzerland

Palais du Canseil General

Brass

Clanternational de

Palais du Canseil General

Clanses

Cheme

Scheme

Scheme

Scheme

Switzerland

Ç

ON HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE BY ALL AIR

Madame A. Morier,

Comite International de la Croix Rouge,

Agence Centrale des prisonniers de guerre,

Palais du Conseil-General,

GENEVE.

houles Ho.



The Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The Central Tracing Agency goes back to the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. The ICRC's representatives realised that it was indispensable, in time of conflict, to set up some sort of information bureau on neutral territory. The victims of a war are not only the sick, the wounded or the starving; there are also the prisoners in enemy hands, who are separated from their families and suffer psychologically.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE c/o Louis B. Pasher O.B.E. 39, Balfour Street CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY BAT YAM	AVION SERVICES GROUPES D	P 27-5.71 P 0040 P 10644
CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY BAT YAM	COMMITTEE	c/o Louis B. Pasher O.B.E.
Israël	CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY CH - 1211 GENEVA 1	BAT YAM

Ref. Nr. FC/ab 102.681/RL	Geneva, 25.5.1971
The International Red Cross C	ommittee begs to acknowledge receipt
of your letter of 18.5.19	71
concerning Mrs. Liela Sulin	man Adbulla
The best attention is being gividesired information is available you will	ven to your enquiry and whenever the I immediately be advised.

IRCC card from the Central Tracing Agency at Geneva to Israel acknowledging receipt of an enquiry concerning Mrs Leila Suliman Abdulla dated 27 August 1971.



20 October 1943 Entire Letter from POW number 204922 Camp 310 c/o Chief POW Postal Centre Middle East Forces sent via Geneva and arrived at its destination in Rolo, Reggio Emilia, Italy on 27 December 1943.



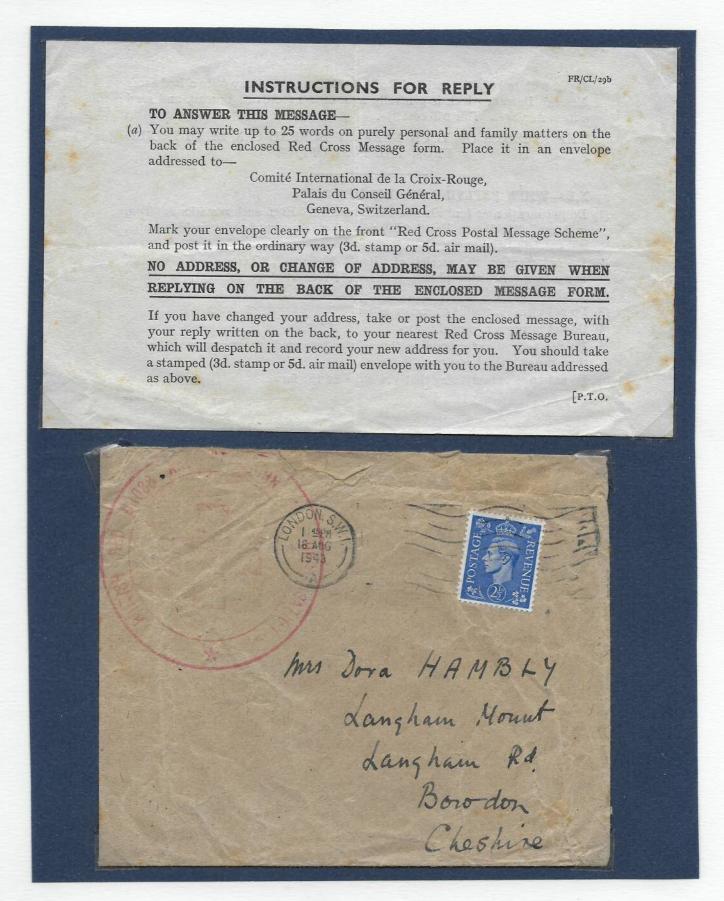
South Korean Stamp commemorating the role of the Italian Rec Cross in providing medical care during the Korean War (the Korean designer of the stamp used the Kingdom of Italy flag, while Italy had been a republic, with a different flag, since 1946) 1950-1953.

Hospital No. 68: official visit of the Korean Prime Minister. To the right of the group, Major Pennacchi and the group leader of the nurses S.lla Anna Maria Rosi



During the Korean War, the Italian Red Cross Field Hospital 68 (Ospedale da campo CRI n. 68) was despatched to Korea to aid the humanitarian disaster there, even though Italy was not a member of the United Nations at the time. The Hospital arrived in Korea in November 1951 and provided medical services to wounded civilians and soldiers of all sides. It finally left Korea in January 1955.

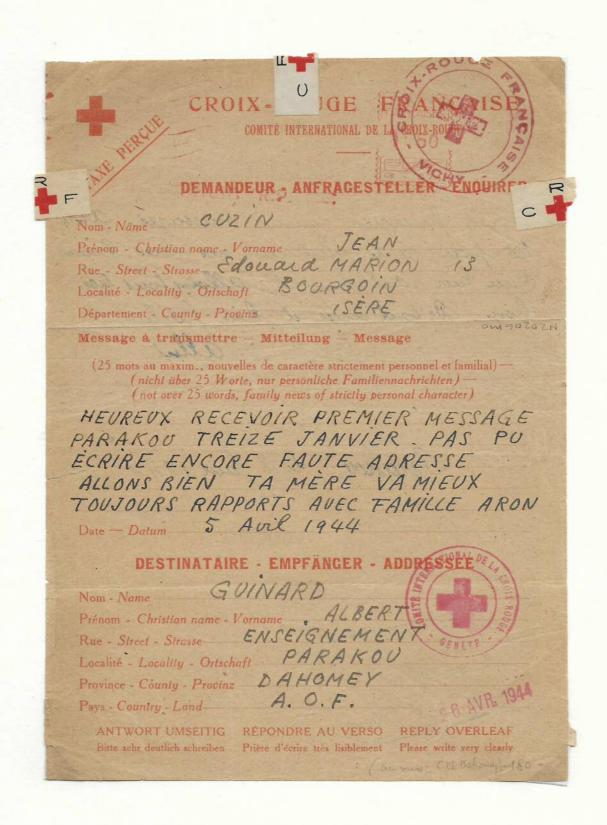
The example below appears to be a reply to a request for a Red Cross Message form. The envelope contained the 'Instructions for Reply'.



The reverse of the envelope is stamped 'If undelivered return to:- Foreign Relations Department, British Red Cross & Order of St John, Clarence House, St James's, London SW1

10244
CROIX-ROUGE FRANÇAISE
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUCE
Septon de de la
DEMANDEUD ANEDAGESTELLES ENQUIDED
Nom - Name HAMON (a jetsjempel).
3 4 1 15110
Prénom - Christian name - Vorname Chaquestins Den Partier
10
Département - County - Provinz Cotes du Nord
Department - Country - 17001102
Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) —
(not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character)
cherie recu messages Octobre Novembre et Fanvier Faris. Sante tous trois Satisfai.
Jante: Jeule Elisabeth aninhee Fraid tandis
grand vent. Presses te revoir Louise
attente pesante. Tendresses.
Date - Datum 29 Jevries 1944
DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE
Nom - Name HAMON
Prénom - Christian name - Vorname Malynoonne
ve - Strest - Strasse Rue Formel; govern
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft Alger,
Province - County - Provinz Allgerie
Pays - Country - Land Afrique du Model
ANTWORT UMSEITIG REPONDRE AU VERSO RAFLY OVEV. A

29 February 1944 French Red Cross Message Form to Algeria - no reply on reverse - with Swiss, Algerian and German Red Cross Cachets.



5 April 1944 Red Cross Message Form from Isère, Vichy, France to Parakon, Dahomey with Swiss Cachets and reply on reverse dated 8 June 1944. Vichy and Geneva Red Cross Cachets with part CRF Red Cross sealing labels at edges and Dahomey, Geneva Vichy Cachets on reverse.



UNITED NATIONS



The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization tasked with maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, achieving international co-operation, and being a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. It was established after World War II, with the aim of preventing future wars, and succeeded the ineffective League of Nations. Its headquarters, which are subject to extraterritoriality, are in Manhattan, New York City, and it has other main offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna and The Hague.









The organization is financed by assessed and voluntary contributions from its member states. Its objectives include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law. The UN is the largest, most familiar, most internationally represented and most powerful intergovernmental organization in the world. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193.



On 13 June 2019 supermodel and humanitarian Helena Christensen was announced as the new Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

The 50-year-old Danish model - who has also established a respected career as a photographer - has been working closely with UNHCR since 2015, using her creativity and experience to communicate refugee stories and amplify the voices of those who have been suffering or displaced.





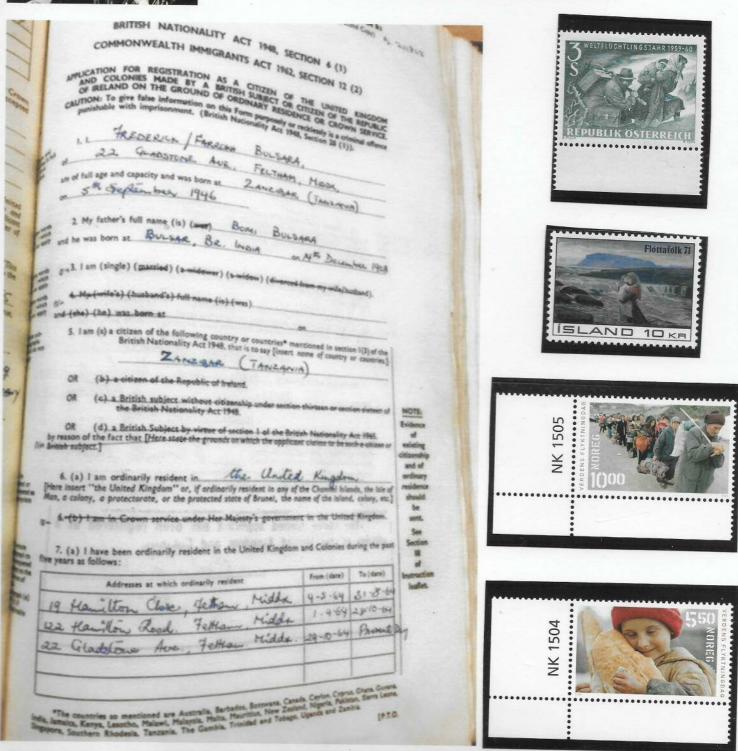
Commenting on her new position, Helena said: 'Over 68.5 million people are displaced around the world and the number is rising. There has never been a greater urgency to show support for refugees. I hope to continue to advocate for refugees and humanize their stories.'



Born Farrokh Bulsara 5 September 1946 in Stone Town, Sultanate of Zanzibar

Died 24 November 1991 (aged 45) Kensington, London

His parents, Bomi (1908-2003) and Jer (1922-2016) Bulsara, were Parsis from the Gujarat region of the Bombay Presidency province in British India and they had origins in the city of Valsad in Gujarat. They had moved to Zanzibar so that Bomi could continue his job as a cashier at the British Colonial Office.



In 1964, Mercury and his family fled from Zanzibar to escape the violence of the revolution for independence, in which thousands of ethnic Arabs and Indians were killed.

Zoë Wanamaker CBE



(born USA 13 May 1949; plus British citizenship from 2000)

Grandparents were Ukranian Jews

Wanamaker has been a Patron of the UK charity Tree Aid, since 1997. Tree Aid enables communities in Africa's drylands to fight poverty and become self-reliant, while improving the environment. In 2006 Wanamaker recorded a successful Radio 4 appeal for the charity. She is a patron of Dignity in Dying, the Lymphoedema Support Network, Youth Music Theatre UK and of the Young Actors' Theatre, Islington. She is also one of the Honorary Patrons of the London children's charity Scene & Heard. Wanamaker also supports Survival International's campaign to save the threatened native tribes in Brazil.

UK Refugee Week June 2019 - theme: 'You, me and those who came before', was an invitation to explore the lives of refugees - and those who have welcomed them - throughout the generations. Zoë's photograph above was used on one of the publicity postcards on sale.





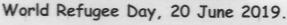




















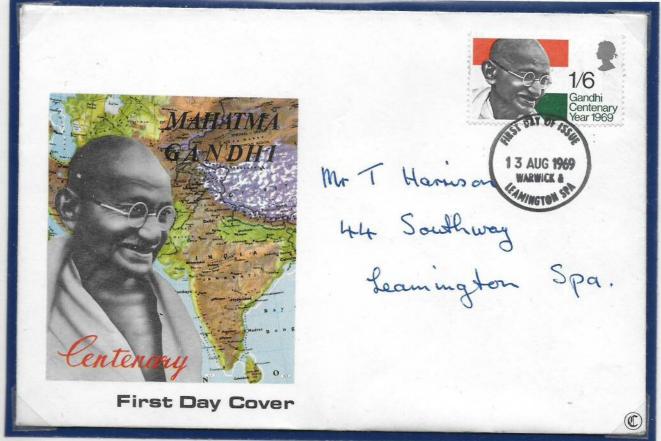
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi



2 October 1869 - 30 January 1948)

Mahatma Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist who employed non-violent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British Rule and in turn inspire movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. The honorific Mahātmā (Sanskrit: "high-souled", "venerable") first applied to him in 1914 in South Africa is now used throughout the world.

869 Gandh 1969 MEXICO...



During the Boer War, Gandhi volunteered in 1900 to form a group of stretcher-bearers as the Natal Indian Ambulance Corps. Gandhi raised eleven hundred Indian volunteers, to support British combat troops against the Boers. They were trained and medically certified to serve on the front lines. They were auxiliaries at the Battle of Colenso to a White volunteer ambulance corps. At the battle of Spion Kop Gandhi and his bearers moved to the front line and had to carry wounded soldiers for miles to a field hospital because the terrain was too rough for the ambulances. Gandhi and thirty-seven other Indians received the Queen's South Africa Medal.

Dr Lilian Mary Grandin

(25 November 1876 - 5 December 1924)

'A Beloved Physician'

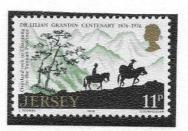


Almorah Cemetery, St Helier, Jersey



Kunming, Yunnan province, China







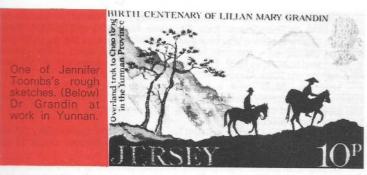


Designed by Jennifer M Toombs NDD FRSA, this set of stamps was issued on 25 November 1976 and printed on white unwatermarked paper with coloured silk fibres by Hélio Courvoisier SA, La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland.

Size 41.1mm \times 25.7mm, Perforation $11\frac{3}{4}$: $11\frac{1}{2}$, in sheets of 50.

She was a devoted Methodist and Bible Christian with an absorbing interest in the mission field.

THE ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY OF JERSEY'S FIRST WOMAN DOCTOR on the Yangtze-Kiang



Lilian Mary Grandin, first Jersey woman to obtain a medical degree, is the subject of our second special stamp issue of 1976. Born in St Helier on 25th November 1876 and educated at the Jersey Ladies College, she grew up a devoted Bible Christian with an absorbing interest in the mission field. While still in her teens she received a call to work as a medical missionary in China, where the ruthless Boxer Rising against foreign influences was threatening the very roots of Christian teaching in the self-styled 'Celestial Empire'.

Lilian Grandin was one of six sisters; her two brothers had died in infancy, so that her 19th-century father was probably reconciled to the thought of one of his daughters adopting a profession. She went to Edinburgh in 1899, where she qualified in medicine and surgery and took an extra dentistry course; she studied midwifery in Dublin and eyes and tropical diseases in London: then in January 1906 she sailed from Southampton aboard the 'Princess Alice', bound with three other Bible Christian missionaries for Chaotung in the mountainous south-western province of Yunnan, involving a journey of two-thousand miles up the Yangtze from Shanghai, which was the only way of reaching the old walled city, 6,000 feet above sea level, where most of her life's work was

In her Journal, Dr. Grandin wrote that on 'the 1st day of the 2nd moon' she and her fellow missionaries embarked on the Lui-wo, 'a smart little river steamer-the bright sky blue decks...rather dazzling against the bright yellow of the Yangtze waters'. Here she encountered a tenuous link with Jersey, for 'the Chief Engineer on the boat is a Mr Good of Gorey. He is quite an elderly man and it is long since he has visited his native island.

Breaking her journey at Hankow, she was told that a Boxer mob had recently murdered six Catholic priests and two Plymouth Brethren missionaries, but Chinese soldiers had smuggled to safety a woman and child disguised in army uniforms. 'It will be all right further up the Yangtze',

is courageously entered in the Journal.

But further up-river she reached Ichang, which the Chinese called their 'Door to the West'. 'Only here', she wrote prophetically 'does one begin to realise what Chinese life is.' The missionaries hired a houseboat. which had to be hauled by ropes over countless rapids. After ten days of this, 'the pilot will not go on as his mind is set on an evening's amusement in Kwei-fu so we must stay willy-nilly'. Next morning - 'It seemed to us there was recklessness, due to the dissipation of the previous night. Suddenly we crashed into a sunken rock. Had the bottom of the boat not been new we would probably have gone down in midstream.' A village

carpenter ('but an opium smoker') was found six miles away who agree to repair the damage for 2,600 cash (about 25p). Having no pitch, h caulked the seams with a mixture of flour and beef suet.

Exactly three months after she left Shanghai, this intrepid lady' journey was completed by a week on horseback from Chungking to th mission house at Chaotung, where one of her first actions was to spen £2.50 on 'a nice black pony-I am calling him "The Black Prince of Rozel" This name was a reminder of the far-away little island in the Englis Channel which she had left to find herself the only qualified doctor in tract of mountainous country as large as the whole of France, and soon to be holding clinics for aboriginal tribes, founding a leper colony and

training Chinese women to be nurses and midwives.

This was to be her home for a total of nearly ten years. Although withdrawn with other missionaries during the 1914-18 war, she returned to China in 1920, serving in Shanghai, Hankow and Wanchow before going back to Yunnan where she was given a 4-man military escort to see he and four Chinese girls through revolutionary-infested country to Chaotung. In November 1924 she wrote to one of her sisters about a colleague who had died of typhus and been buried at the Mission Perhaps that grave will mean to the women of Chaotung a removal of the fear of death - they are not afraid to go the road that their beloved teache went'. Only a few days later, three weeks before Christmas, Dr Grandin worn out by the vast area of responsibility that had undermined he health, also died of typhus. Her grave, tended for many years by the Chinese people of Yunnan, her patients and friends, was simply inscribed the control of the control 'A Beloved Physician'.



The stamps, presentation pack and first day cover have been designed by Jennifer M. Toombs NDD FRSA. The stamps will be printed on white unwatermarked paper with coloured silk fibres by Hélic Courvoisier SA, La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland. Size: 41.1mm 25.7mm. Perforation: 11%:11%. In sheets of 50. Date of issue: 25th November 1976.

In Chaotung, which was her home for nearly ten years in all, Dr. Grandin combined the duties of hospital doctor with nursing training for local Chinese women. Withdrawn with other missionaries during the 1914-1918 war, she returned to China in 1920, serving in Shanghai, Hankow and Wanchow before going back to Chaotung. The magnitude of the task she set herself with such a vast area of responsibility undermined her health and she died of typhus on 5.12.1924. On her grave is inscribed "A Beloved Physician."