

Fiji - Redirected Letter to U.S.Forces- They Tried Harder –Even in Wartime.

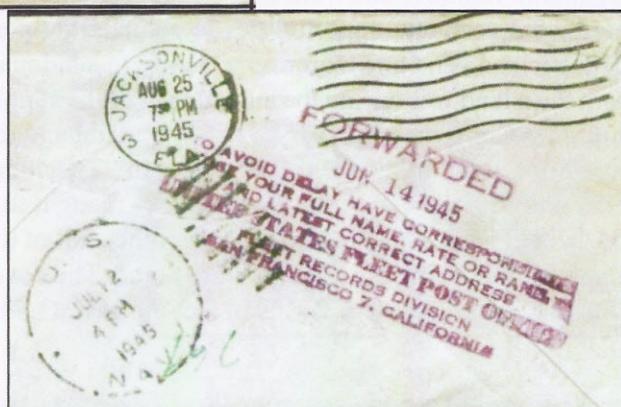
From Bryan Jones.

The much travelled inter-island cover illustrated, from a Suva souvenir store on 17 April 1945, was originally addressed to a member of C.A.S.U 40 at postal address Navy 140. This was a naval support unit located at **Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides**. However by the time it arrived, and this would only have been a few days, the cover having been transported by air almost certainly through the SCAT network using C-47 (the military version of the DC-3 Dakota) aircraft, the

intended recipient had moved to a new location. It was initially re-directed to the Fleet Records Office, San Francisco, arriving on 14 June 1945, where it was again redirected to NAU AIR FAC N-225. Now this where some knowledge of the rather cryptic abbreviations for US Forces units comes in handy for this NAU AIR FAC N-225 facility was, at that time, located at **Funafuti** in the Ellice Islands, the cover arriving there on 12 July 1945 (backstamp). Once again however the intended



recipient had moved on, and therefore the cover was re-directed for the third time, this time back to CNAOPTRA Jacksonville, arriving on 25 August 1945, and routed from there to the Naval Air Station, Melbourne, Florida.



After all of this effort the recipient could still not be traced and therefore this much travelled cover was returned to the sender in Fiji. However as the manuscript markings show the problems were still not yet over for on arrival back in Suva it was allocated an incorrect box number, the correct box number (Box 20) eventually being added.

So the original sender received their letter back after a five month delay, one only hopes that it did not contain an invoice for purchases made before the intended recipient left Fiji!

Fiji & Samoa – Missent to Two Locations.

From Steven Zirinsky.

An interesting registered official post office cover from Argentina addressed to “The Postal Department, Honiara, Iles Saloman”, and missent to two different locations, Nadi Airport, Fiji, and Apia, Western Samoa. Unfortunately there are no postal markings so we cannot be certain in which order the markings came to be applied.

