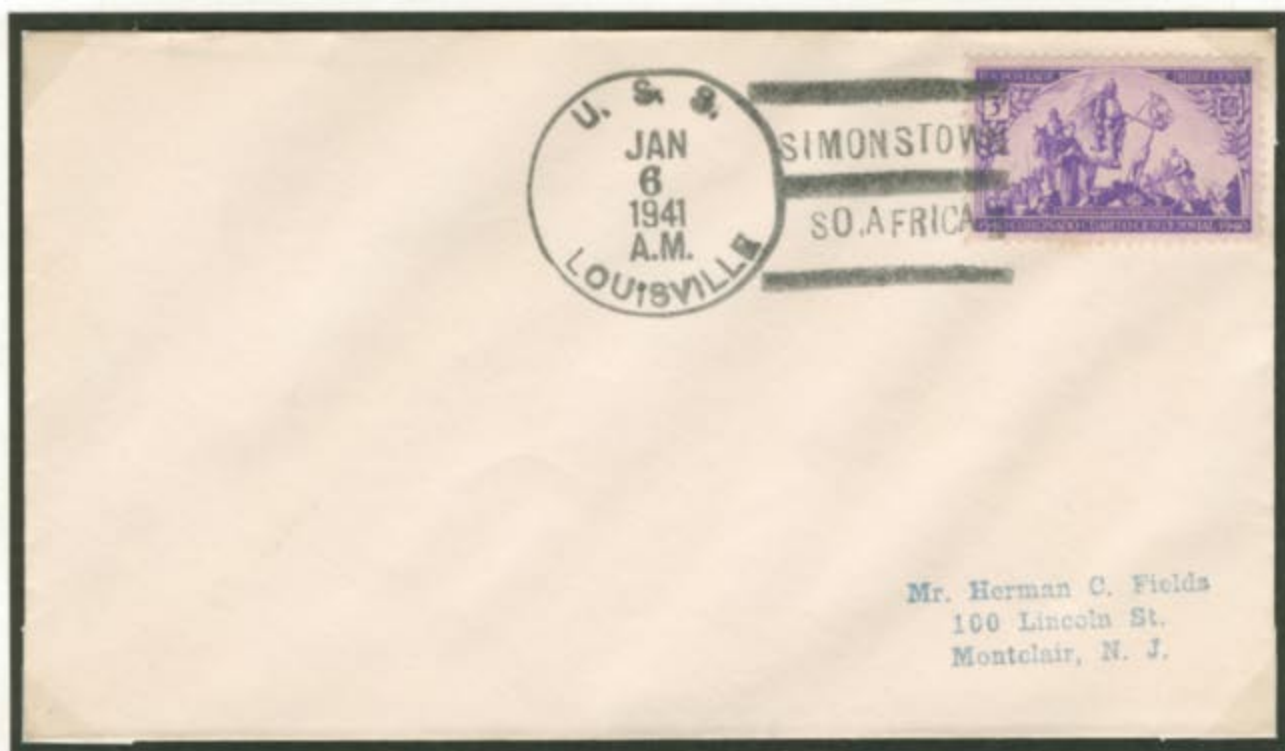


## USS Louisville Simonstown Killer Bar Cancellor: 1941

In 1941, the USS Louisville visited Simonstown on a secret mission to collect South African gold as a down-payment on the forthcoming Lend-Lease Agreement between the USA and the UK. The visit resulted in the USS Louisville's mailroom making a one-off rubber "killer bar" datestamp which it used aboard ship to cancel letters during her stay in Simonstown, 6 - 8th January 1941. It is uncommon. See overleaf.



*Circa 1938. Photo. The USS Louisville in the late 1930s on her South American "Show the Flag" tour.*



1941. US Naval Cover. SIMONSTOWN, SO.AFRICA 'JAN 6 1941' to NJ, USA (undated).  
'SIMONSTOWN SO. AFRICA' within killer bars. Rubber canceller made in Ship Post Office. Covers posted in NY.

The USS Louisville's visit to Simonstown was the result of a top-secret change of orders to her scheduled South American 'Show the Flag' tour. This Simonstown postmark must have come as an unexpected surprise to the recipient!