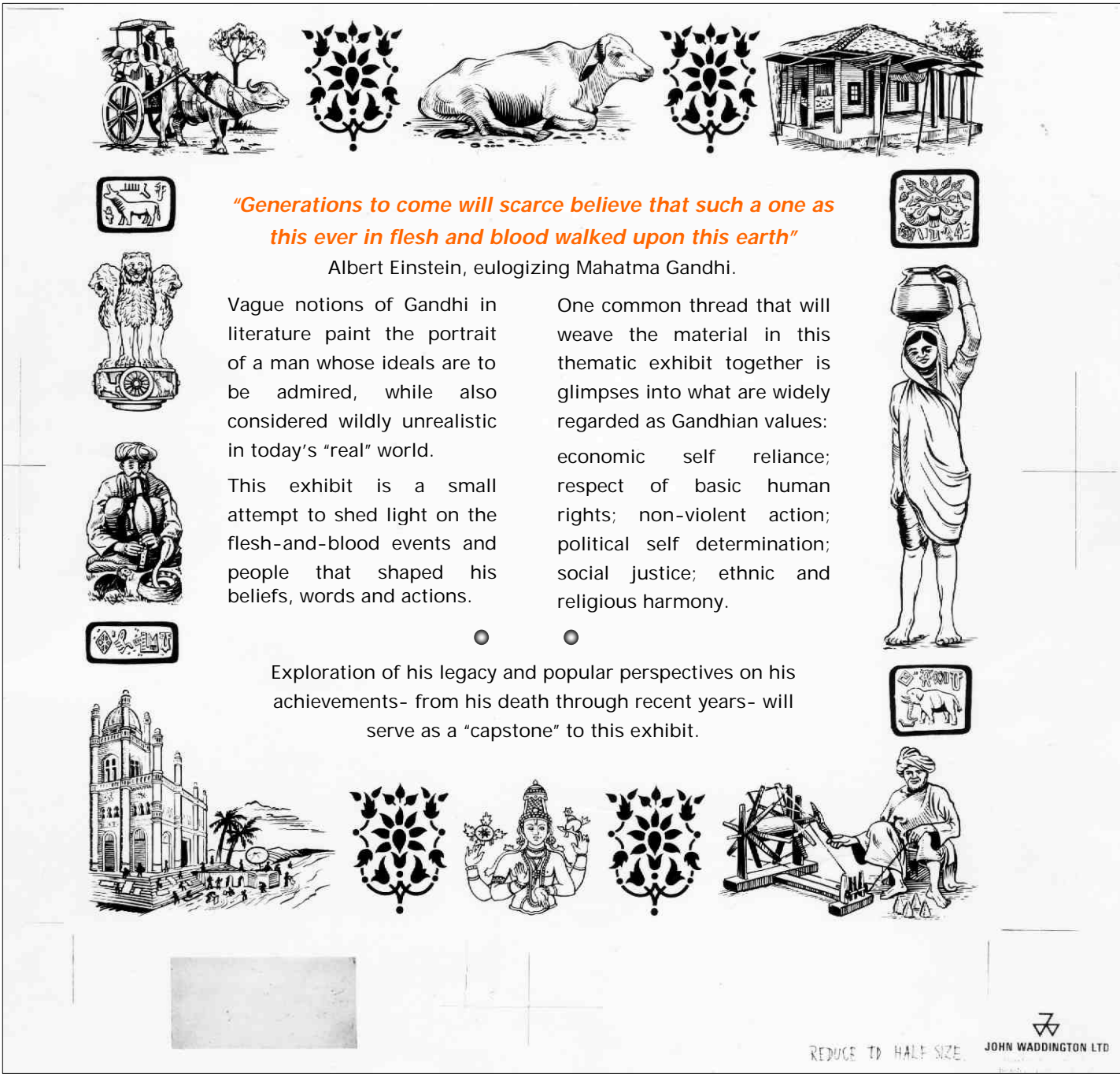


Gandhi's Life and Legacy: India & Beyond

A window into the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is presented through philatelic material.

Our journey through this exhibit will begin with Gandhi's birth in 1869, take us through significant events in his life [in Africa, England and India], pause for a brief moment during and after the last days of his life and end with popular retrospectives on the eventful life of this "Great Soul" [Mahatma].



[Mauritius \(1969\) Printer's Die Proof](#). This frame, depicting scenes from daily life in India, was prepared from original artwork for the border of the 1969 Gandhi Centenary issue souvenir sheet. This photographic proof is one of only two believed to exist, based on records from the Crown Agents' Archives*.

* Reference: George Alevizos Public Auction, Sale #100, Lot #1487, December 17th 1997

Exhibit Plan

When the subject of a thematic exhibit is a personality, the natural order for an exhibit plan is expected to be straight-line chronological. The story line presented here is an attempt to explore two facets: (1) the various events that shaped Gandhi's life and ideals AND (2) our historical perceptions of the same.

These events and perceptions are grouped into logical blocks and a semblance of chronological order has been maintained within each group, when deemed necessary to organize the story.

<u>Title, Plan</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>The Memorial Issue of 1948 from India</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Early Years</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>India After Gandhi</u>	<u>2</u>
• Birth [1869]		• First Death Anniversary [1949]	
• Family and Early Schooling [1869-87]		• Free India Stands for World Peace [1949-69]	
• Student Years in England [1888-91]		• For Mutual Annihilation [1998]	
<u>Legal Professional</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Lasting Impressions</u>	<u>2</u>
• Early Years as a Lawyer [1891-93]		• Modest Attire	
• Business Lawyer in Transvaal [1893-96]		• Spinning Wheel	
• Lawyer Turned Activist in Natal [1896-1902]		<u>No Man is an Island</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Participation in Wars</u>	<u>7</u>	• Those who Shaped his Thoughts	
• Anglo-Boer War [1899-1902]		• Adversaries and Associates	
• Zulu Rebellion [1906]		• Friends and Admirers	
• First World War [1914-18]		• Followers and Adherents	
• Second World War [1939-45]		<u>Inspiration and Legacy</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Political Organizer & Negotiator</u>	<u>10</u>	• Anti-War Movements [1940-]	
• Natal Indian Congress [1894-14]		• Anti-Apartheid Movement [1946-]	
• Indian National Congress [1897-1948]		• African Nationalist Movements [1950-]	
• Indian Round Table Conferences [1930-31]		• Pan Arab Nationalism [1918-]	
<u>Architect of Civil Disobedience</u>	<u>14</u>	• Civil and Workers' Rights in the Americas [1960-]	
• <i>Satyagraha</i> in Southern Africa [1907-14]		• Fighting Totalitarianism in Central Europe [1960-]	
• <i>Swadeshi</i> Movement-Boycotting Imports [1906-35]		• The Indian Diaspora [1830-]	
• Boycott of KGV Coronation in Durban [1911]		<u>Lip Service and More</u>	<u>5</u>
• Untouchability- <i>Harijan Movement</i> [1916-34]		• Service, Duty and Community	
• Fighting for Peasants' Rights [1917-18]		• Race, Religion and Humanity	
• Boycott of Prince of Wales Royal Visit [1921-22]		• Apostle of Non-Violence	
• <i>Dandi</i> March- Against Salt Tax [1930]		• Champion of Human Rights and Peace	
• Separate Electorates & Provinces [1932-42]		• Monuments and Memorials	
• The Quit India Movement [1942-47]		<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Social Experimenter</u>	<u>3</u>		
• Life in Ashrams [1904-48]			
• Fasting for Legal & Social Reform [1911-48]			
<u>Partition of India</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total Number of Pages</u>	<u>80</u>
• Independence [1947]			
• His Last Fast [1948]			
• The Assassin's Bullet [1948]			

Early Years

Birth [1869]

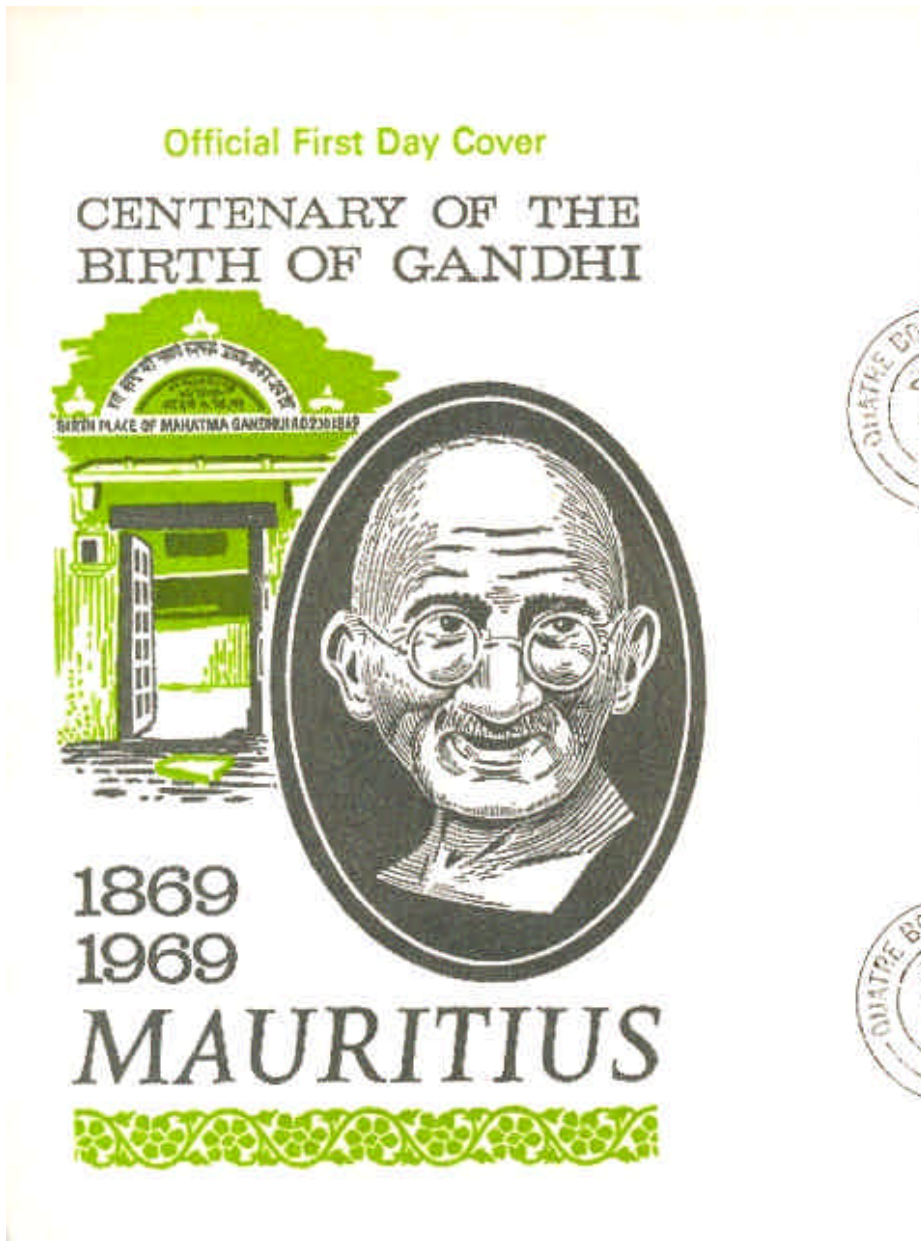
By the shores of the Arabian Sea in the small coastal town of *Sudamapuri* [now *Porbandar*] in the princely state of *Khathiawar*, the sixth child of *Karamchand Uttamchand* was born on October 2nd 1869. The father "*Kaba*" *Gandhi*, descendant in a chaste *Vaishya* [merchant] family of grocers, had little formal education and was *Diwan* [Prime Minister, a grand title for a poorly paid bureaucrat].

Baby Mohan was the youngest [fourth] of his father's fourth wife [the other three lost by death] and was named *Mohandas* [devotee of Mohan, another name for the Hindu God Krishna].

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi had three elder sisters [two from his father's first two wives] and two elder brothers.



India (1997): Special Pictorial Postmark- Porbandar HPO
3 Rupee franking was for lowest domestic rate.



Antigua (1998): 7-year-old Gandhi with image of his primary school in the background.



Mauritius (1969): Post office's Official FDC cachet showing image of the house Gandhi was born in.

Note the CDS: *Quatre Bornes*- where Gandhi visited in 1901 and now the site of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

Early Years

Family and Early Schooling [1869-87]



Antigua (1998): 12-year-old Gandhi in front of Alfred High School, Rajkot.

In 1881 Gandhi entered High School in Rajkot [then called Alfred High School, now called Mahatma Gandhi Vidyalaya].



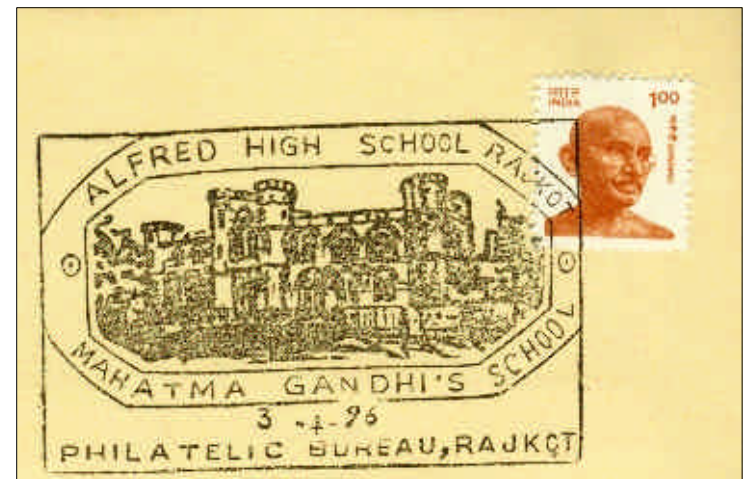
Ghana (1998): 17-year-old Gandhi graduating from High School.

At age 17, Gandhi passed his high school matriculation examination and graduated. He joined Salmadas College in Bhavnagar, in another neighboring princely state.

At age thirteen, he married Kasturba Gandhi. He was earlier betrothed to two other girls [the first at age 6], both of whom had died subsequently.



India (1969): Kasturba and Gandhi (Ba & Bapu), shown here in their later years, were married 63 years!



India (1996): Special pictorial cancel from the Rajkot post office's Philatelic Bureau showing Gandhi's High school.

Childhood Memories. Perhaps the most intense early memory of an "external influence" that Gandhi recollects in his biography was from watching a play while he was in primary school. The play was about *Harishchandra*, a legendary king in Indian mythology who went through several ordeals with the ideal of strict adherence to absolute truth. Young Gandhi wondered why everyone could not be truthful like the legendary figure, a thought he acted on throughout his life.



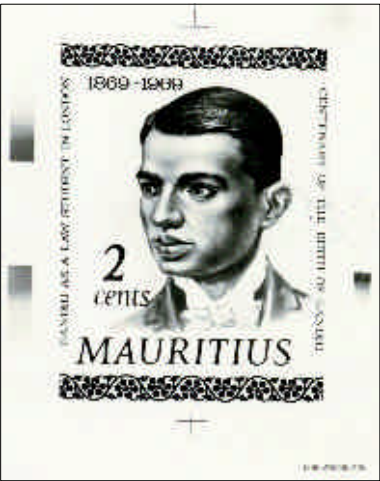
India (1989): Still from 1913 silent film of the play *Harishchandra*, commemorating 75th anniversary of Indian Cinema.

It is one thing to admire truthfulness, another to practice it as a child. Young Mohan was no different from other children his age. At 15, he tried meat eating, but gave up feeling guilty. Later, he took up smoking and even made a feeble attempt at suicide "in sheer disgust" at his behavior. The same year, he even stole a piece of gold from his brother's armlet, to pay of some of his brother's debts. Finally, he confessed to all of this to his father, just before his father died when Gandhi was sixteen.

Early Years

Student Years in England [1888-91]

“At sea” in college, Gandhi had a very difficult time keeping up with his studies. When a friend of the family suggested that he go to England and “come back to a good life as a Barrister”, he could not resist the idea. After promising his mother that he would abstain from “wine, women and meat”, he set sail for England on September 4th 1888 [over the objection of family elders].



Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die proof showing Gandhi as a Student in London (approved w/ signature and stamp of engraver on back).

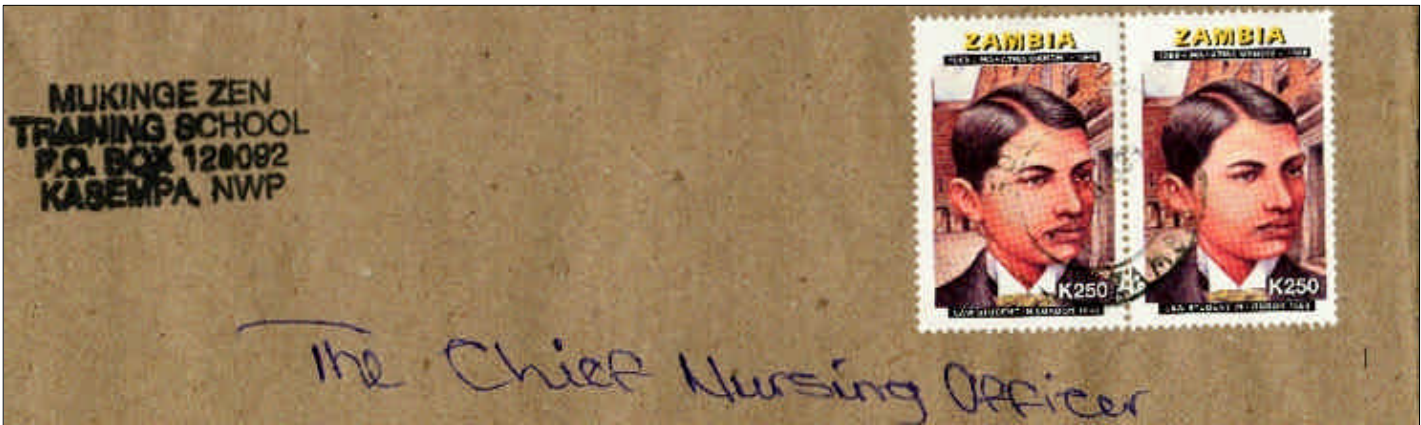


Full sheet of Mauritius 2c stamp with an error in one stamp on the sheet. The error is a black full circle, about half the size of the 13½ perforation. A magnified image of this black circle located within the letter N in the word STUDENT is shown.

This previously unreported error has been detected in two full sheets in the same location. This raises the possibility that it could be a plate error. Plate positions for these two sheets are yet to be verified.

STUDENT

To make up for the social disadvantages of his vegetarian lifestyle, he took to several pastimes of “proper English gentlemen”. These included lessons in elocution, French, dancing, western music and fine tailored western clothing. Besides joining the London Theosophical Society and the Federal Union of Vegetarian Societies, Gandhi did complete his legal studies in 1891. He was “called to the Bar” in London on June 10th, enrolled in the High Court on the 11th and set sail for India on June 12th 1891.



Zambia (1998): Domestic rate large envelope usage of a pair of stamps showing Gandhi dressed in western clothing, while in London in 1888.

Early Years as a Lawyer [1891-93]

Gandhi arrived in India after completing his legal studies in England and learnt that his mother had died. European in dress and manner, Gandhi also knew nothing of the laws of his own country. He had no idea of Hindu or Mohammedan legal procedures.

At the High Court in Bombay, he could not gather the courage to cross-examine a witness in his first case. He never again appeared in court on behalf of a client in India! After a brief stint back home drawing up petitions and memorials, he was pleased to accept an offer to be retained by an Indian merchant from the Zuid African Republic [Transvaal].



Scottish "Local" (1979): Archival Progressive Proofs. Incorrectly identifying the image as Gandhi practicing Law in Bombay in 1891. Both the portrait and the law office window in the background are from Johannesburg from much later.

In early 1893, Gandhi sailed for Durban, to represent a Moslem merchant's firm, Dada Abdulla & Co. He left his wife behind, intending to return in a year. He arrived in Port Natal in late May, amidst a sea of indentured labor from India.

Two days later, Gandhi was chastised in a Durban Court for his refusal to remove his "turban" and had to leave. He wrote to the press and while labeled "an unwelcome visitor", got noticed.



South Africa (1993): Special cancellation commemorating the centenary of Gandhi's arrival in South Africa.

June 1893. The experience that galvanized his resolve to fight for racial justice came a week later. On his way to Pretoria from Johannesburg, he was forcibly removed from a first-class coach just for being a colored passenger. When he objected, he was thrown out of the train in Pietermaritzburg.

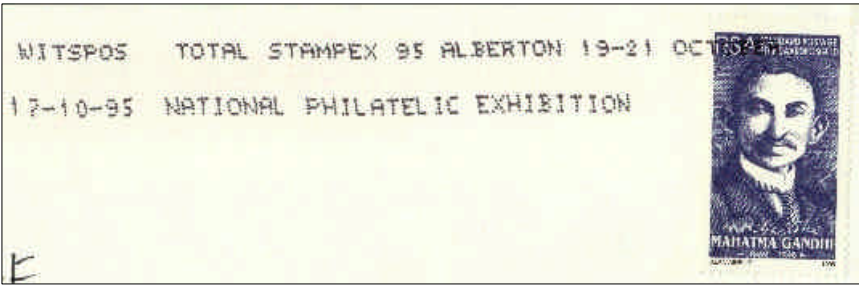
Incensed by his treatment on the train to Pretoria, Gandhi called a meeting of the Indian community and gave the first public speech of his life. Thus began a political career that lasted 55 years!



India (1995): The Pietermaritzburg station, where Gandhi was thrown out, featured on the special cancellation for a joint issue of two Gandhi stamps with South Africa (commemorating India-South Africa Cooperation).

Business Lawyer in Transvaal [1893-96]

While opening the eyes of Indians to their deplorable social status in Transvaal, Gandhi also chastised them for deceitful business and poor sanitary practices and the lack of a "civic sense". In effect, he was holding the community responsible for some of the bias against them. Not happy with the untruths it took to pursue a business case, he settled his client's case and returned to Durban, prepared to return to India.



South Africa (1995): Image of Gandhi from a photograph taken while he was a lawyer in Durban. Early use, with special rolling cancel for philatelic exhibition.

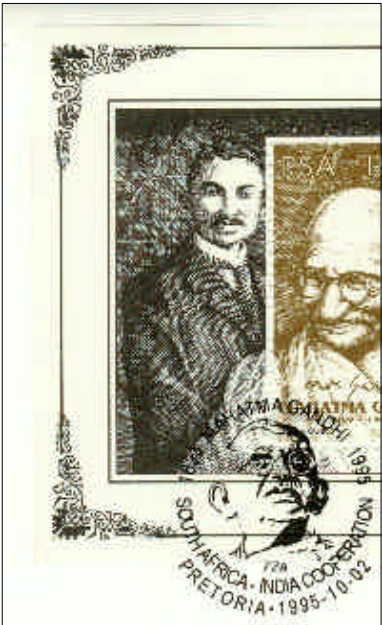
At his farewell party in April 1994, Gandhi read the headlines in the Natal Mercury about a new law. Asians were to be deprived of representation in the legislature. He asked the Indians to fight this law, they asked him to extend his stay by a month- the rest is the history of an activist lawyer in southern Africa!



Guyana (1998): Another image of Gandhi as the Johannesburg and Durban Lawyer.

Gandhi continued to practice law in Pretoria and Durban and continued to experience racial indignities. In late 1893, he was kicked off the sidewalk near ZAR President Kruger's house in Pretoria [coloreds could not use sidewalks]. Even when pressed by white sympathizers to press charges, he refused. He did not believe in litigation for personal grievances and never pursued the same.

In September 1894, realizing that he was not returning to India soon, Gandhi applied for admission to practice in the Natal Supreme Court. The Natal Law Society objected on the basis of race and color, but the Chief Justice accepted him. Two weeks later, he successfully argued and won what was probably his first court case!



South Africa (1995): FDC of miniature sheet showing "Gandhi the Lawyer" in margin illustration and older Gandhi on stamp.

Johannesburg Law Practice. Long-lasting friendships were formed between Gandhi and his office staff in Johannesburg. One was H.S.L. Polak, Gandhi's legal assistant, who published a photograph of the entire legal team in a 1949 Gandhi biography. In the front row, left to right: Polak, M. K. Gandhi and Sonja Schlesin, his secretary (an immigrant from Russia).



Uganda (1998): Image on the stamp shows Gandhi and his staff in the Johannesburg Law Office, based on the historical photograph. The 2500 UgSh stamp was intended for registered airmail, but late usage required additional postage. The cover was erroneously machine cancelled on the back [5APR2000], as shown in the facsimile image to the left.

Lawyer turns Activist in Natal [1896-1902]

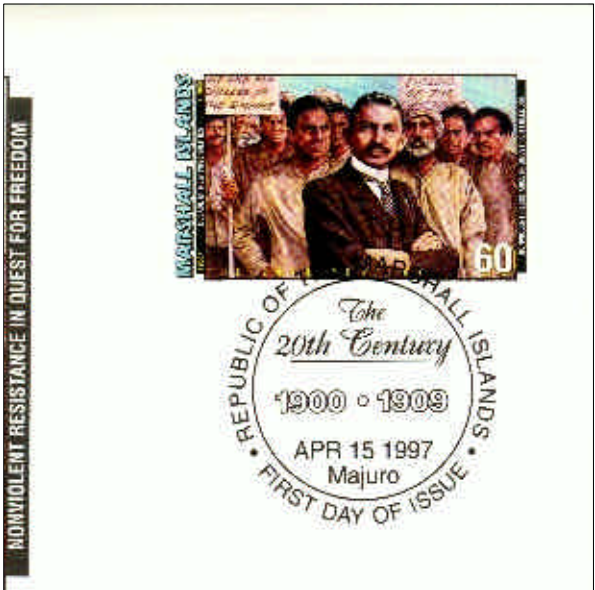
Indians in Transvaal [then the South African Republic] could not own property and those in Natal were losing their right to vote [through the Franchise bill]. Gandhi took his grievances to Lord Ripon, Secretary of State for Colonies. Over 10,000 signatures were collected in a petition drive organized by Gandhi in a fortnight and submitted on July 17th 1894!

In June 1895, Gandhi defended and secured the release of a prominent indentured laborer who was a victim of these laws in Durban. This case brought into contact with labor rights and immigration issues of indentured workers, which he championed through 1901, when he returned to India.

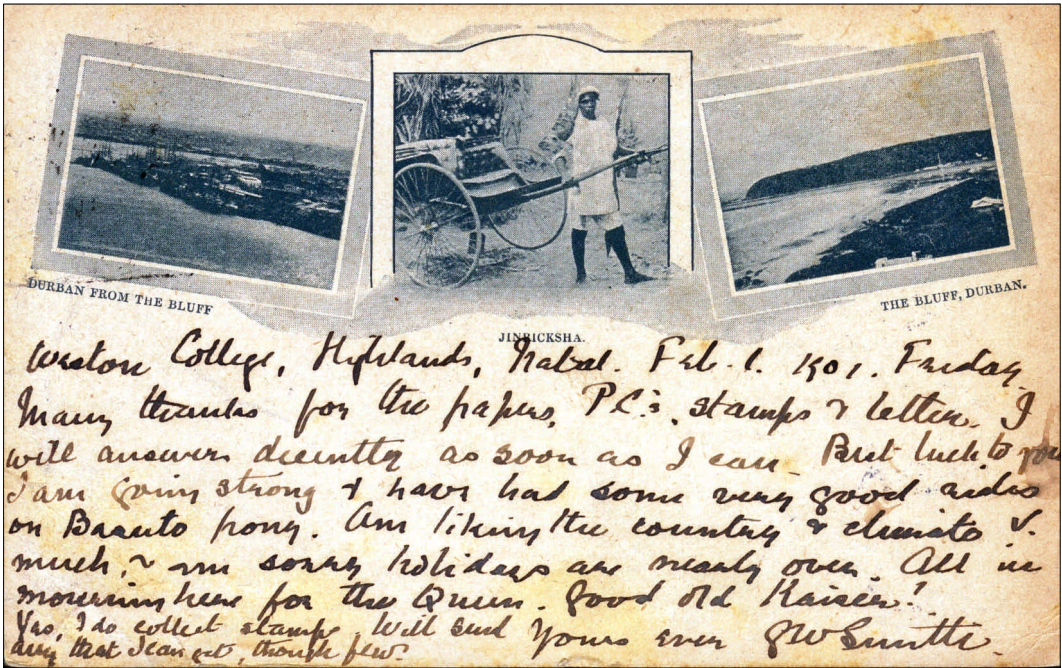
As his organizing skills matured, Gandhi organized these workers in mines on walkouts and strikes.

Another law Gandhi took issue with was one prohibiting the carrying of colored passengers by Indian ricksha haulers in rickshas marked "For Europeans Only".

While Gandhi himself objected to using rickshas pulled by the Durban natives, he protested this by-law with the Durban Town Clerk in September 1900 and petitioned the Natal Governor on the subject in December 1900.



Marshall Islands (1997): Official FDC of stamp depicting Gandhi as the labor rights' lawyer, leading Indian indentured laborers in a strike against their treatment by the Natal government.



Natal (1901): Postal stationery w/ preprinted image showing a ricksha. Letter mentions mourning here for the Queen. Mailed from Durban the day Gandhi laid a wreath at the Queen's statue and paid tribute to her at a memorial service in Durban.

Reduced image of address side shown to the right indicates that this interesting letter card was sent to Hamburg.



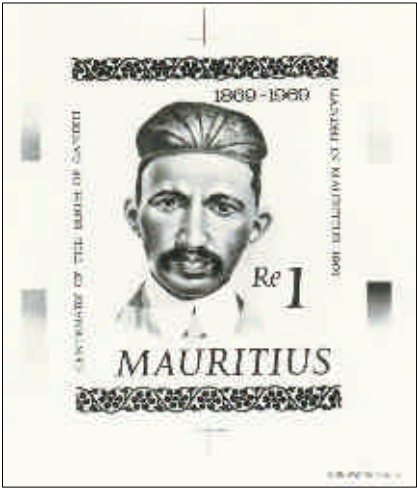
Legal Professional

..... Lawyer turns Activist in Natal [1896-1902]

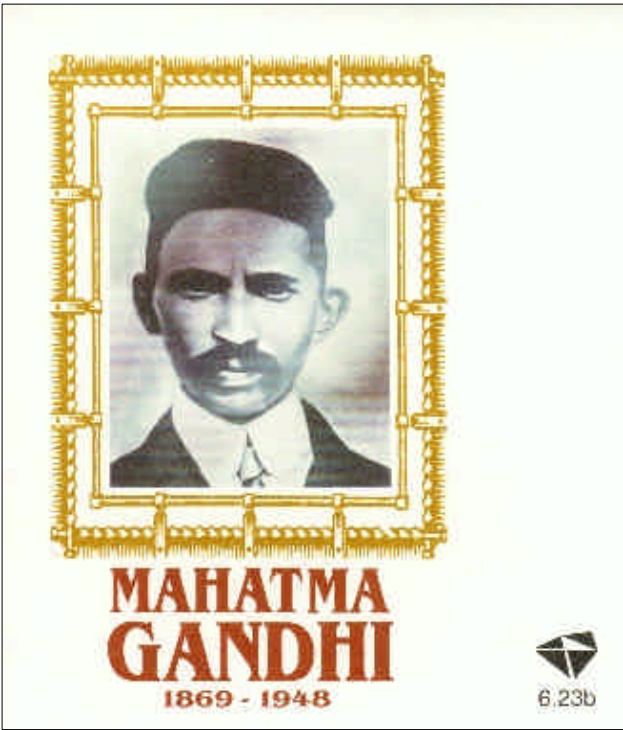
Gandhi returned to India in June 1896 to bring back his family, sailing from Durban to Calcutta. Based on his interviews and speeches in India, he was almost lynched by Durban Europeans, upon return on January 14th 1897.

Based in Durban, Gandhi was active in organizing against a new threat in 1899- the removal of Asiatic Indians in Transvaal to

On his way to India from Natal, Gandhi arrived on October 30th 1901 in Port Louis, Mauritius. His reputation preceded him from Durban and he helped organize indentured workers in Mauritius sugar plantations. The short celebrated trip ended when he sailed for Bombay on November 19th 1901.



Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die proof showing Gandhi as he arrived in Mauritius in 1901



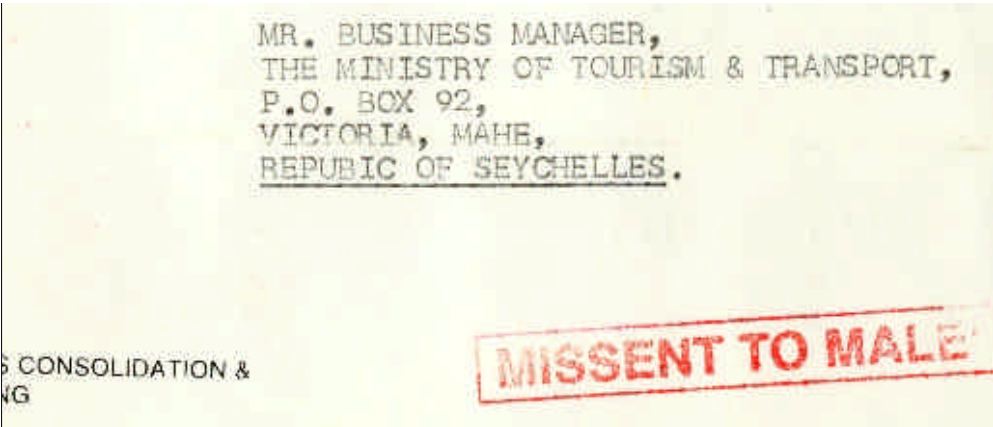
South Africa (1995): Official cachet from the post office's FDC showing the image of Gandhi as he arrived in Mauritius in 1901

Between 1893 and 1914, Gandhi traveled by sea several times between India and Africa. Arab and Indian merchants frequented these seas long before Europeans discovered the east.

Ports of call in this region included *Malé* (Maldives), *Victoria* (Seychelles), *St. Denis* (Reunion), *Port Louis* (Mauritius) and *Colombo* (Ceylon).

In many ways, while the world has apparently “grown smaller”, it appears more ignorant than it was in the days of his sailings.

India (1996): This cover is a fine illustration of modern day geographic ignorance. Airmail with a Gandhi definitive and two 1996 commemoratives was clearly addressed to Victoria [Capital on the Island of Mahe], Seychelles. Instead, the cover went to Malé, capital of Maldives. A mistake, one can be quite sure, that would not have been expected in the days of steamship mail boats!



MR. BUSINESS MANAGER,
THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM & TRANSPORT,
P.O. BOX 92,
VICTORIA, MAHE,
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES.

MISSSENT TO MALE

Anglo-Boer War [1899-1902] and Zulu Rebellion [1906]

"I hate war only as a soldier who has lived it can,... who has seen its brutality, its futility and it's stupidity"
Dwight D. Eisenhower

For those who wonder why a story on the "Apostle of Peace and Non-Violence", the most celebrated "pacifist" of the twentieth century, has a section on participation in war...

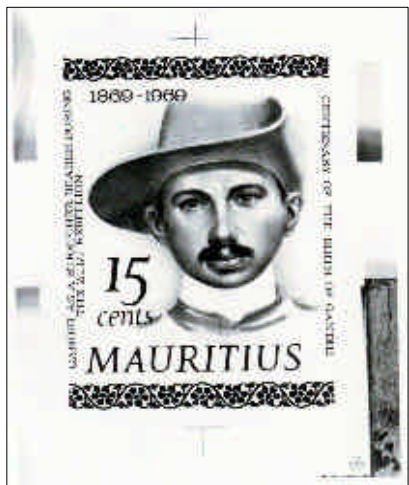
It all began in the last year of the nineteenth century, in Southern Africa. Gandhi, as a proud sincere "Citizen of the Empire", served what he perceived was his "moral duty".

In recognition of his service to the Crown during the Anglo-Boer war, Gandhi was awarded the British Empire War Medal (Queen Victoria). Seven years later, he was recognized for organizing an ambulance corps under the rank of a Sergeant Major, during the Zulu Rebellion. Gandhi was awarded the British Empire War Medal (King Edward VII) for that service.

Gandhi offered the services of the Indians on Oct. 27 and left for the front with the Ambulance Corps on Dec 14.

He served in Estcourt on Dec. 19, when the corps was temporarily disbanded after the "Colenso Reverse".

Gandhi was living in Johannesburg when news of the Zulu rebellion reached him in 1906. He still believed in the good of the British Empire and his sense of loyalty to the Crown was unshaken. Natal had a Volunteer Defense Force to quell the rebellion and Gandhi offered to form an Ambulance Corps. The offer was accepted and Gandhi enlisted 24 men from Durban.



Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die Proof showing Gandhi when he served as a Stretcher Bearer in the Zulu Rebellion.

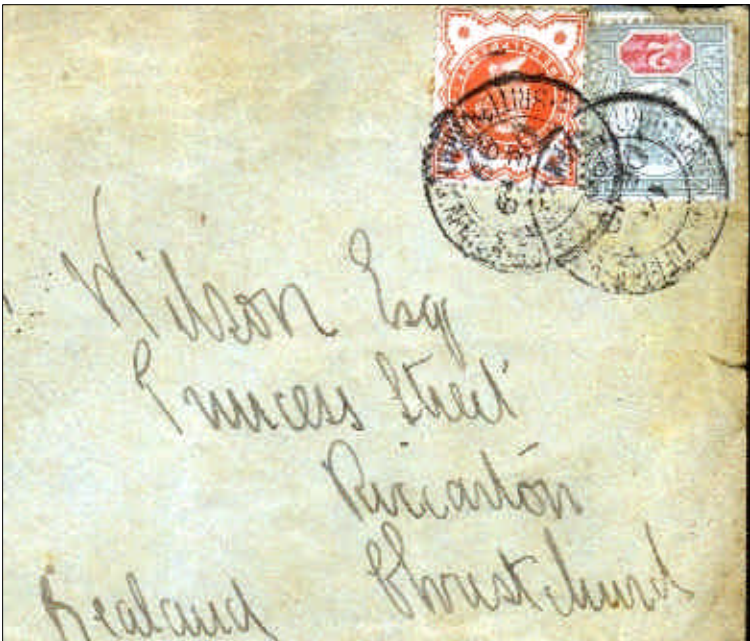
As late as in the 1940s, Gandhi wrote:

"Even after introspection during all these years, I feel that, in the circumstances in which I found myself, I was bound to adopt the course I did during the Boer War and the Great European War and, for that matter, the so-called Zulu 'rebellion' of Natal..."



Central African Republic (2000): Only stamp thus far to feature the image of the Queen Victoria British Empire War Medal awarded to Gandhi for service in the Anglo-Boer War.

19 Dec. 1899: The day Gandhi served in Estcourt. British Army cancels [FPO 14] on UK stamps. Early covers with NZ destinations are rare. This was mailed four days into the Battle of Colenso.



Much has been said about Gandhi's involvement in the Zulu Rebellion. The high historical profile of this service on the side of the "whites" was a thorn in the side of relations between Indians and Africans in South Africa for some time to come. Gandhi's own recollection was that he *"bore no grudge against the Zulus, who had harmed no Indians"*. He recorded doubts about the existence of the "rebellion", but indicated that the *"rightness or otherwise of the rebellion was not likely to affect"* his decision.

Gandhi said that his *"heart was with the Zulus"* and he was elated to learn that they would basically *"nurse wounded Zulus"*. Which is why his offer for the ambulance corps was accepted so quickly. The whites did not want to nurse the Zulus! Later, Gandhi learnt that most of the severely wounded Zulus were not in battle, but were prisoners of the British vigilante forces!

When the war began, Gandhi's personal sympathies were with the Boer, but he felt he had no right to consider his "individual convictions" before duty to the nation! The choice of volunteering for the medical service was simple- these Indians in Natal were neither trained nor would be allowed to enter combat.

After the crushing blow at the battle of Spioenkop [Jan 19-24], General Buller changed his strategy. Gandhi was commended for bravery for serving under fire (for which he was later awarded a war medal). The Ambulance corps was disbanded Jan 28 after the British Red Cross arrived.



20 Apr 1900: Between Apr 20-24, Gandhi addressed several personal letters and forwarded presents to the men who served with him in the ambulance corps. British Army cancel [FPO 15] on cover to England with one ½p Natal stamp.



4 Sep 1900: Striking Registered envelope mailed from Winburg in Orange Free State to England, with 4½ p postage paid with Boer-war provisionals from the now British province.

Queen Victoria died of natural causes on January 22nd 1901. On Jan 23rd, Gandhi expressed condolences over the Queen's death in writing to the Colonial Secretary, on behalf of Natal Indians.

24 Jan 1901: Cover to England franked with 1p UK stamp and British Army cancel [FPO 5].



The fortunes in this war had reversed with the second British offensive from the Cape [Jan- Aug 1900]. The Boers then began a guerrilla offensive [Aug. 1900- May 1902]. The handling of the Boers by the British in Bloemfontein is the subject of many stories.

WWI: Indian Forces Overseas

Gandhi was in England when WWI broke out. He gathered Indians in England and Ireland, many his colleagues from South Africa. He insisted on Indians in England *“doing their bit”* for the war, an idea objected to by many others. In this effort, Gandhi assembled a class of 80 volunteers who trained for first aid. Some of these volunteers went on to serve British and Indian soldiers wounded in battles on the Western front, where there were many casualties. Of the 70,000 Indians who served in France, over 5,500 were killed.

29 Aug 1915: Early usage in FPO No. 8 [Indian Forces in Merville France, as part of the Western Front]. FPO cancel on the back illustrated.



9 Nov 1915: Early usage from IEF [Indian Forces in Egypt as part of the North African Front]. IEF overprinted Indian stamps were common. This was uncommon “Official Mail” on stampless cover to England. Note CS Office backstamp.

Besides the Western Front, the Indian Army of 10 divisions served in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine, East Africa and Gallipoli. Many of these men served as cannon fodder in the British army long before Gandhi was involved in a controversial “call to arms”.

Probably the most controversial subject on Gandhi and Wars was his participation in the Imperial War Conference in Delhi [invited by the Viceroy] in 1918. He left Delhi and initiated a call for volunteers.

WWI: Recruiting Combatants

This was different from all else; Gandhi was recruiting COMBATANTS for battle, not an ambulance Corps. The moral dilemma was probably taxing, as his pacifist ideals had begun to congeal by this time in his life. Gandhi got very sick towards the end of this drive, as he did while he was recruiting in London in 1914.

Indian forces numbered about 155,000 in 1914. By November 1918, the Army had swelled to 573,000. Over 1.3 million Indians served in WWI and about 72,000 were killed in combat.

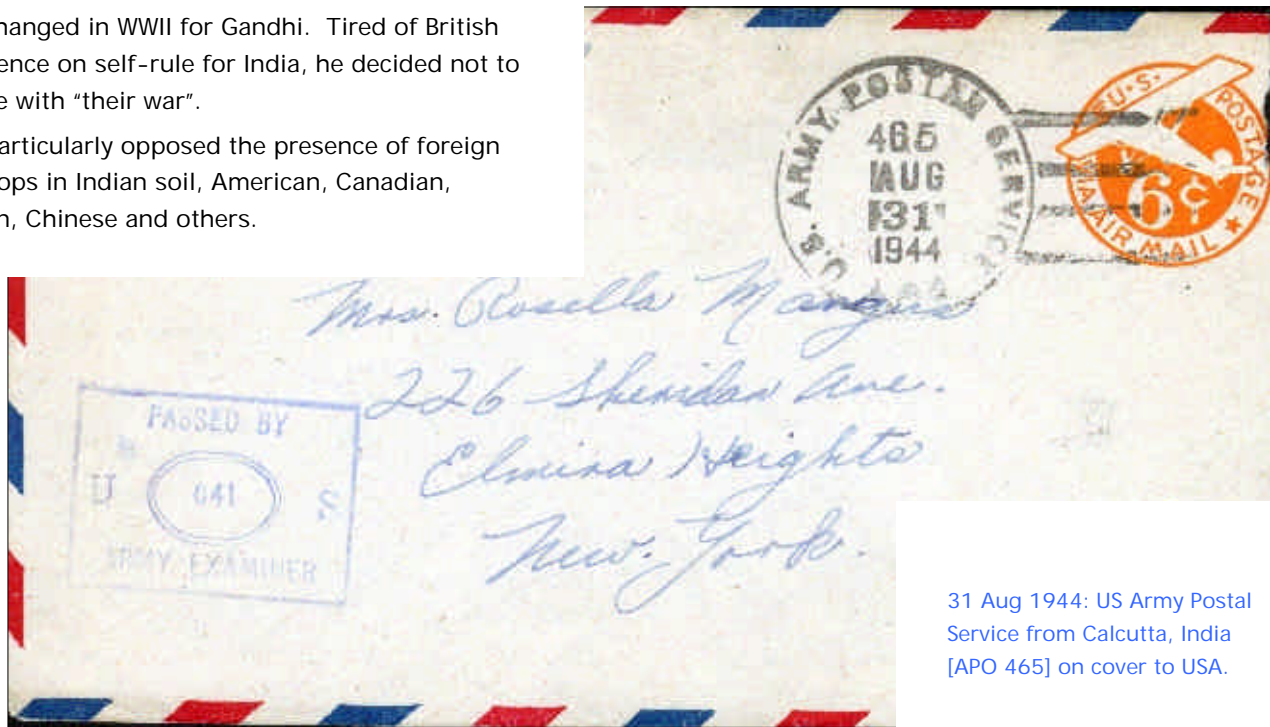


Scottish “local” (1979): Progressive Color Proofs depicting Gandhi’s efforts at recruiting soldiers for WWI.

WWII: Foreign Forces in India

All had changed in WWII for Gandhi. Tired of British intransigence on self-rule for India, he decided not to cooperate with "their war".

Gandhi particularly opposed the presence of foreign allied troops in Indian soil, American, Canadian, Australian, Chinese and others.



31 Aug 1944: US Army Postal Service from Calcutta, India [APO 465] on cover to USA.

WWI: Indian Foces Overseas

In contrast to his recruiting Indians for active service in WWI, Gandhi opposed their involvement in WWII. This did not stop millions of Indians from serving in all fronts. Numbering 189,000 in 1939, the Indian Army swelled to over 2.6 million in 1945.

The British Middle East Theatre would never have won its campaigns in East Africa, North Africa and Western Asia without the Indian army. Indians are famous for successfully engaged Germans and Italians in the western desert of Eritrea.



Sep 1940: Early use from Indian forces in Asmara, Eritrea [FPO 90] to London. This FPO was located in the old Ford dealership in Asmara!

WWII: Indian National Army



The greatest domestic political challenge to Gandhi came during WWII from Subhas Chandra Bose, formerly President of the Indian National Congress [1938-39]. He broke ranks with the mainstream during WWII to form a rebel army that could take advantage of British vulnerability in the face of a Japanese attack.

India (1968): Bose shown proclaiming Azad Hind Government in Singapore in July 1943.



India (1964): Bose portrait with INA insignia and "rallying the troops". He escaped house arrest in 1941 in Calcutta and fled to Nazi Germany.



Azad Hind (1943): The Germans in Vienna prepared a set of "Free India" stamps with patriotic themes. These were meant for use when the Japanese invaded and conquered British India. Most were destroyed after Allied Capture of Austria.

Bose left Berlin for Japanese occupied Singapore on 2 July 1943, to join them in their drive towards India and their operations in Burma.

His declaration of "Azad Hind" (Free India) was meant as a direct rebuff to Gandhi's "passive" non-cooperation with the British during WWII.



Bose, who had been arrested several times in the early 1930s was released once in 1932, on the condition that he went to Europe.

His exile in Vienna in 1932 is believed to have sowed the seeds for his contacts with the Nazis.

He released a militant book called "The Indian Struggle" in 1934.

On Jan 26th 1943, Bose celebrated "Independence Day" in Berlin.

He took charge of the INA in August 1943 and formed a second division in December.

In 1944, the INA lost the famous "Imphal Campaign" in NE India and he's believed to have died in an air crash in early 1945.

While Gandhi vehemently criticized Bose and the INA, he was popular. Even Tagore asked Gandhi to stop alienating Bose!

Bose continues to have "cult-like" following in India. Many of his sympathizers protested the release of the film Gandhi in India, as it lacked reference to Bose!



India (1993): Bose shown reviewing troops of the Indian National Army

Patriotism on the Home Front



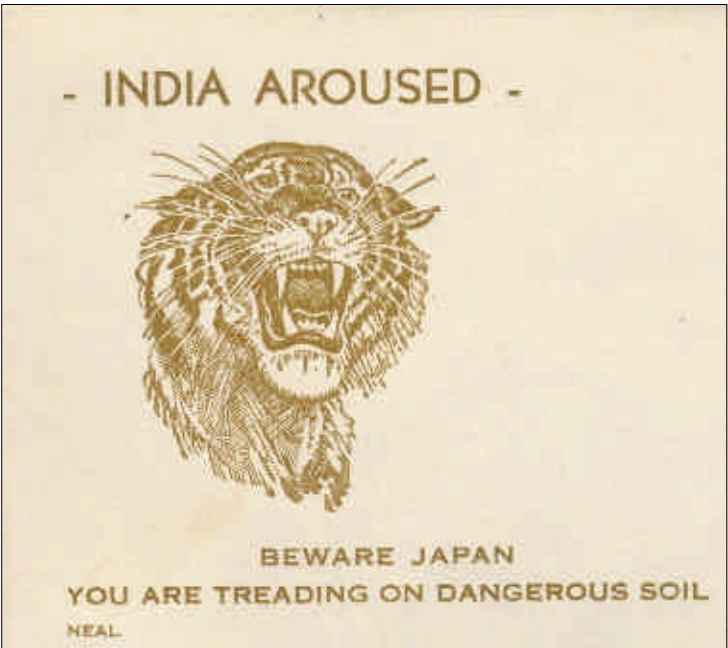
Patriotism was the name of the game and the British government did everything to rally the Indian masses against a possible Japanese invasion.

India: Patriotic cover with cachet reflecting anti-axis slogan.

Of the 1 million allied forces in Burma and Southeast Asia, 700,000 were Indians.

After the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan declared surrender on 10 Aug 1945.

The Japanese forces in Burma surrendered to the allied forces officially on August 15, 1945, ending the threat to British India.



Burma was placed under a military administration and a controversial selection process for native representation in the administration began.

India: Another Patriotic cover with a slogan cachet directed towards the Japanese, who were knocking on India's door.

The same British government that strongly cracked down on the use of nationalistic cinderellas and labels (Boycott British Goods, Swadeshi, Buy Indian Goods) in the 1930s, encouraged the use of patriotic war labels during WWII.

In contrast to WWI, when Gandhi was out recruiting combatants for the empire, Gandhi and most leaders of the nationalist movement spent the WWII years in jail, charged under the Defence of India Act for speaking out against cooperating in the war effort.

India (1944): Cover with a patriotic "Save for India's Defence" war label that actually went through the mail, in the sensitive area of NE India [near the Burmese border]. Tied to 1½ as local rate stamp with CDS.



Celebrating Victory

The only Indian Nationalists to celebrate with the British were Jinnah and the Muslim League, who broke ranks with Gandhi and the Indian National Congress to support the British War effort. Barely six weeks after the end of WWI, the process was underway for issuing India's commemorative "Victory issue" set. Unlike most British colonies that issued the omnibus design, the stamps printed in India had their own unique design.

India (1945): [Essay submitted for approval, signed by the Head Engraver and Officiating Master of the India Security Press.](#)

Unadopted design engraved and printed in full color.

Based on records available to the King George VI Philatelic Society, this is the only known copy of the design at this stage of the approval process.



India (1945): [Essay submitted for approval, signed by the Head Engraver and Officiating Master of the India Security Press.](#)

This is the design that was accepted and approved for production.

Possibly unique, based on records available to the King George VI Philatelic Society,