

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Apr 1951)

Back issues of the Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin' are now available. The issues available span the period from 1937 to 2022. The MPHS is a non-profit organization for philatelists and stamp collectors interested in the collecting and studying of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all countries, including soldiers' campaign covers, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, patriotics, propaganda, V-mail, censorship and similar related material.

You are encouraged to join the MPHS to realize the additional benefits of membership. See: <http://militaryphs.org/membership>

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THE BULLETIN  
of the  
WAR COVER CLUB

Edited by  
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1 West 47th Street  
New York 19, N.Y.

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Vol. VI

APRIL 1951

Whole No. 9  
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From the Detroit News, dated March 27th, was noted the following: "A C-47 transport plane loaded with stationery took off from Mitchel Field, New York, today, shortage of such among the ground troops in Korea. Material donated by citizens all over the country. Letters have been received from Korea written on wrapping paper and cardboard. Detroit mothers complain of not hearing from their sons in Korea."

Don't forget to write the boys and, if possible, send some stationery to them.

First day's impressions of a Korean GI on leave in Tokyo: "I never thought that I would get so far west that I'd be homesick for Japan. I arrived in Tokyo mid-afternoon, and what a thrill to see paved and lighted streets, neon signs, street cars, taxi cabs, and night clubs again. The first place we visited was the FEC special services building which is located two doors from the Dai Ichi Bldg. We didn't get to see the 'Dug-out-Dug,' but I can say that the Dai Ichi building is the most heavily guarded place I've seen. Both GI's and Japs guard the place; they have the place marked off with red paint; that is the nearest one can get unless one has business there.

"We next went to the Tokyo PX, which is one PX which would make any department store that I've seen in the States look small. There are about seven floors and one can buy anything from needles to a motor scooter." (Evidently he didn't buy a motor scooter, he went horse-back sightseeing the next day, too tired to complete description of Tokyo.)

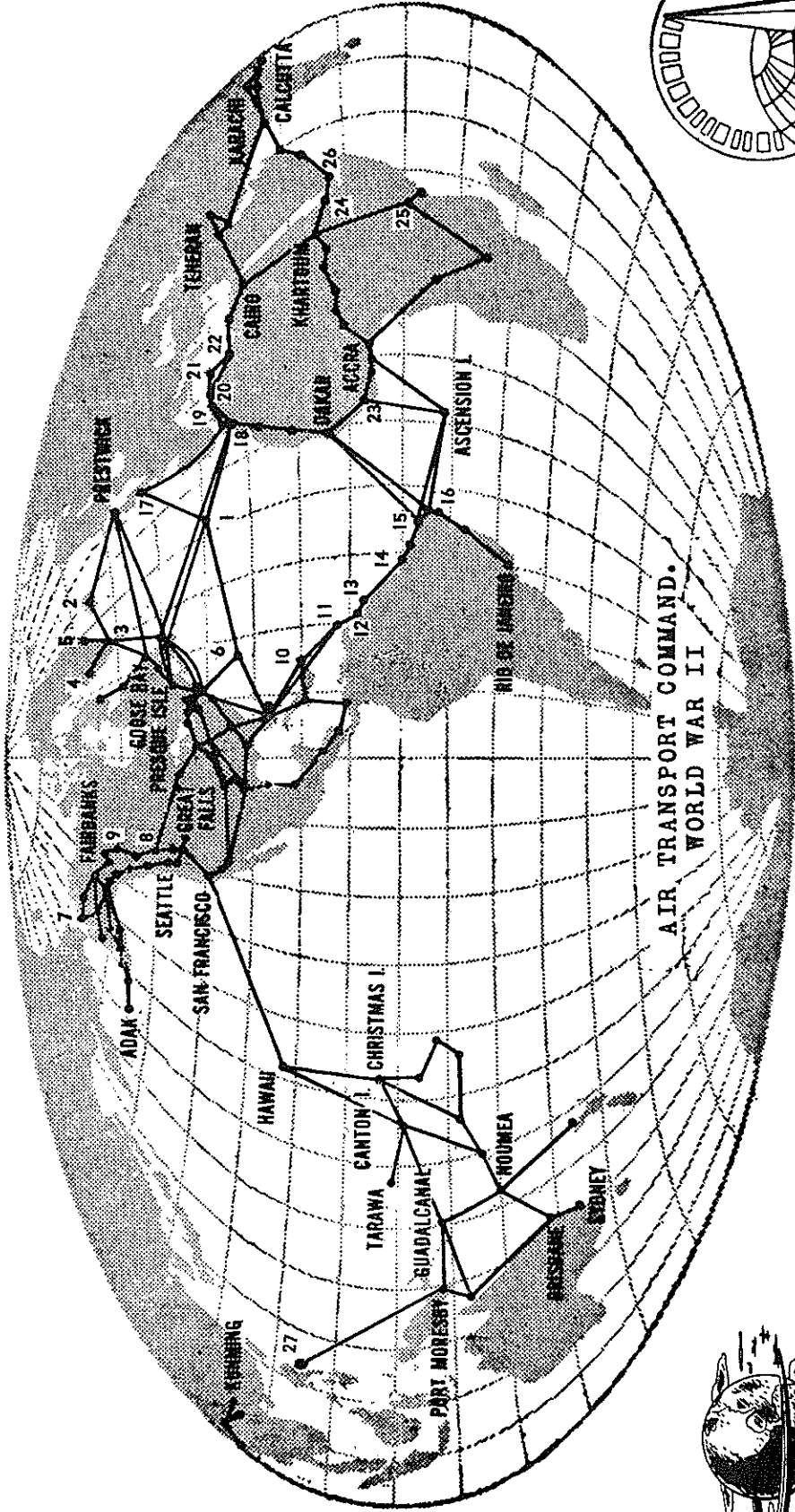
Many additional notes have been received on Korea and Tokyo new type cancels, all of which are being turned over to C. D. Brenner who has stated his willingness to add all new data to material which he already has and bring the list up-to-date. If further information is available or is desired, please get in touch with him. Please cooperate so that we can gather all data on this timely subject and publish as soon as possible.

A Canadian patriotic registered AM cover has been seen by Mr. Tripp, picturing an AAA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery) group in action, captioned "They Stand on Guard." The cover is franked with Canadian stamps and bears the Canadian Forces in Korea cancel "CFPO 25" dated Feb. 6/51. It is backstamped at Montreal, Feb. 11th, which Mr. Tripp says shows faster service than they receive in Detroit.

Linn's Weekly has a stock of WW-II patriotic covers, most designs suitable for use in Korea and Japan. Price is 25 cents for 30 envelopes and 30 sheets. Why not use patriotic stationery when writing.

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WCC Member Kevin P. Rogan has been appointed librarian and it is our aim to build up as extensive and complete a reference library of relevant material as is possible for us to gather together. All such books, pamphlets and articles should be sent direct to Mr. Rogan.



AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND.  
WORLD WAR II

Showing major routes used to transport Air Mail and V-Mail films to more than two hundred locations overseas.

ACCRA 606-625	14 BRAZIL 603
ADAK I. 980	15 BRAZIL 604-643
ASCENSION I. 877	16 BRAZIL 675
BRISBANE 923	17 LONDON ENG. 887-
CAIRO 788	18 CASABLANCA 396-524
CALCUTTA 465	19 ORAN 789
CANTON I. 914	20 ALGIERS 399
CHRISTMAS I. 915	21 TUNIS 763
DAKAR 622	22 TRIPOLI 498
FAIRBANKS 938	23 LIBERIA 605
GOOSE BAY 677	24 ERITREA 617
GUADALCANAL 709	25 KENYA 626
	26 ADEN 663
	<b>27 LUZON 351</b>



The Army Air Transport Commd. map is an early picture of the A.T.C. routes, this is indicated by the absence of Orly Airport, near Paris, which became Hq. of the European Div. in Sept. '44 and was assigned APO 741 and thereafter served its Division mail thru this number, in the ETO, that is, all ATC bases in its Div. used 741. Previous to this date, Hq. of the European Div. was located at Hendon Airfield, near London, their mail was serviced thru APO 887 at London.

A small map could not contain the 200 or more overseas ATC Bases and its contract routes, such a drawing would perhaps look like a jig-saw puzzle; many small islands in the Pacific, including the Aleutians were served with important supplies and mail never equaled by surface speed.

The ATC was first known as the "Ferrying Commd." and redesignated as the Army Air Trans. Commd. on June 20/42. Base units identity was changed by the following example of the base at Valley, Angelsey I. Wales, which was the first base after leaving Iceland, going east.

1. 69th. Ferrying Sqdn. Base.
2. AAF Base 1005 EW-ATC (European Wing)
3. Station #7 EW-ATC.
4. AAF-BU 1407 ATC-E. Div. (BU-Base Unit)

AP0 515A was first used, APO 64 took over in July '44.

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The Atlantic Alliance Pact may produce a large amount of material which will interest the WCC members. Current news gives the picture of four Inf. Divisions being sent to Europe, over 30 Airbases, some shared, along a curved line from England thru France, Germany, Tullin Airport at Vienna, Austria, French Morocco where also a Naval Base is planned, and on east to Castel Benito near Tripoli and at Bengasi, both in Libya, negotiations are under way for Air Bases at the Suez Canal Zone, also in Iraq, Malta and Jordon. An airbase is now being built at Cyprus. An estimated AF personnel of 20,000 will man the bases where perhaps one will find planes of all types, fighters, bombers, troop carriers and transports of the latest type.

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#### SWISS INTERNMENT CAMPS IN WORLD WAR TWO with a Tentative Checklist

by Jesse Burgess Thomas, Purser,  
WCC Member #234

With some trepidation the following list of some 600 (out of a rumored 1140 total) refugee and internment camps is offered, with no claims to completeness, but rather in the hope that it may stimulate researchers better equipped than this compiler with reference books and source material to answer the questions which arise in examining a quantity of this fascinating material from internees in Switzerland during the Second World War,---perhaps a unique paragraph in postal history.

One may well doubt whether another such babel of tongues has ever in the history of postal markings thus involuntarily been assembled at a given point in time and space. Tiny neutral Switzerland, already officially trilingual (quadrilingual if "Romansch" be included) and international in interest, was the logical focus for the mass internment of a cross-section of the polyglot nationals of dislocated Europe. And through historic Geneva, nerve center and mail clearing-house of the great bureaucratic machine known as the International Red Cross, flowed the increasing volume of letters written to their near relatives by the legion of interned

foreigners scattered through every canton of the tight little republic. In work, rest, athletic and prison camps, hospitals and clinics, hotels and pensions, universities and schools, at factories and restaurants, space appears to have been made available at short notice to the international flotsam of World War II. Some internees apparently were quartered with local farmers and private families in many a hamlet and town well known to American tourists for generations. Wherever work and shelter could be discovered for them, there one or more soldiers, sailors, airmen, partisans or civilians were placed awaiting repatriation, VE Day or death.

This article represents a form of laboratory experiment in that the writer has had no access to any material whatsoever outside the internal evidence comprised by the covers themselves. The envelopes from the entire Red Cross prisoner-of-war correspondence for 1945 were recently acquired by American dealers. Through the courtesy and cooperation of our good friend, Mr. Alex Doctor, WCC member No. 290, it was possible to spend some days sorting, comparing and listing an estimated 30,000 of these covers in his dealer's stock. Collated and systematically studied, these covers speak eloquently for themselves. Their appeal to collectors is varied. There is a feast here not only for the collector of P.O.W. postmarks, censors and Red Cross mail per se, but also for the topical collector who would tie in his interest in linguistics, geography and tourist lore, courier mail, hotels, "turned" and reused covers (which abound), hospitals, comforts for troops corner-cards and stationery, even R.P.O.'s. to a small extent---to mention but a few possibilities.

This study impinges inevitably on the even larger territory of Swiss fieldpost and military postmarks in general. The highly organized and bureaucratic Swiss army must have been surprisingly large for such a small country, judging by the multifarious cancels to be found. This fertile field is quite beyond the scope of the present article. Yet it has been impossible in some cases to differentiate between the covers from the prisoners themselves and those from the camp staff and troops or constabulary presumably guarding them (Bewachungstruppan, Troupas Surveillances, Truppe di Vigilanza), since fieldpost cancels in many cases are used on covers bearing unmistakable MS return addresses of individual prisoners - and conversely, rubber stamps of the administration often appear with the distinctive camp cancels used for internees' mail. A large percentage of all these covers from staff and prisoners alike are the common gray ("Mod. B") or orange yellow Schweiz. Armee (Armee suisse, Esercito Svizzero) forms. Since the internal evidence is thus inconclusive, fieldpost cancels appearing on camp correspondence are noted with the rest.

The embryonic material in the last column, entitled "Units", invites correlation with the camp listings in the first column, since in many instances mail from one camp seems to have been routed through the facilities of another. Which ones are the Stammlager or main concentrations is usually not obvious. Many titles appearing here as camps may be merely sub-groups within other camps or vice versa, or even smaller units, as in cities such as Lausanne, Geneva and Montreux. It is to be hoped that someone can clarify this sketchy information, as well as spellings marked (?). Much of this is probably inconclusive, being compiled solely from the oftentimes atrocious calligraphy and worse German, French and Italian of the less literate individuals attempting to write a foreign tongue learned largely by ear. Some of their information is so obviously incorrect on its face that one tends to distrust any word which cannot be fully corroborated in print or from rubberstamp markings, especially in view of the frequent similarity of names and their occasional duplication (e.g. Gossau, Stalden).

No attempt is made herein to estimate the scarcity or relative value of the several camps, since the writer has no idea of the actual number in existence. Judging by purely circumstantial evidence, markings are probably very rare from a dozen or more of these camps at least, for only one cover was discovered out of some 30,000 possibilities. The writer is personally opposed to any attempt to assign arbitrary cash "values" in the postal marking field in any case. Such pricing is dangerous at best, in that it logically tends to place the average, perennially impecunious collector, - ever at the mercy of the dealer, when the latter wishes to force his hand, - in a position where he cannot collect and study the field at all, except for a dubiously representative sample or two. The only conceivable benefit to the hobby would be to tempt a very few additional covers out of hiding by the lure of gold. Let us hope that Swiss Internee Mail is one field which will never become the prerogative of the wealthy elite only!

It will be observed that the camp "cancels" themselves are more properly free franks, serving a dual purpose, and are undated. All are of rubber; only in fieldpost ("FP-5") and town (invariably) cancels, do steel dies appear. All but "Types 7 and 10" (as arbitrarily listed herein) are, of course, one basic, small, dual-ringed type, broken down according to their equivalent readings in different languages for purposes of convenience only. They were usually applied in black, less often in some shade of purple or violet or violet-black, although blue and even pink impressions occasionally are noticeable (e.g. Stalden (Sarnen): red; Ganterschwil: blue). After some deliberation, notes on colors have been stricken from this listing, but the writer would be glad to organize his rough notes on this matter for anyone especially desiring his limited information.

Ordinary civil town marks often appear on these covers, either alone or alongside the camp "cancels" aforementioned. Their date slugs are of value in studying these covers because, apart from the Red Cross receiving mark (illustr. ), - as often as not omitted, - there is no other means of attempting any chronology from internal evidence. If stamps were used on the mail, as occasionally happened, ordinarily in the case of "Express" and/or "Registered" covers, these stamps are usually, though not always, tied by the town rather than the camp cancel. Registered labels are invariably of the conventional civilian type, perforated, on white paper, with thin red border and "R" and black serial number and town name. This may be relevant in any argument as to the technical postal status of the camp "cancels."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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WCC Member Carl T. Lemponen, #217, 976 Broad St., Conneaut, Ohio, sends an SOS. He is most anxious for help from members with information on War Ballots from each of the 48 states. Laws enacted by the various states to govern the absentee vote, types of ballots used (local, state and national), types of envelopes used, etc.

Mr. Lemponen also wishes to obtain more data on dates of earliest use of the Borderless 6¢ stamped air mail envelope from the various APO locations. Partial list is published herewith. Communicate direct with Mr. Lemponen. Eventually we hope to publish a complete list. I understand there are approximately 700 thus far.

Borderless 6¢ stamped Air Mail Envelope  
 Partial List of Early Dates Recorded.

A.P.O. 1, Jul. 26/44	29, Jul. 30/44	58, Jul. 27/44	62, Jul. 25/44
73, Feb. 14/44	79, Jul. 20/44	80, Jul. 23/44	90, Jul. 18/44
113, Jul. 18/44	127, Jul. 25/44	131, Jul. 16/44	133, Jul. 21/44
138, Jul. 30/44	140, Jul. 15/44	145, Jul. 17/44	229, Jul. 22/44
253, Jul. 24/44	337, Jul. 24/44	506, Jul. 25/44	551, Jul. 18/44
554, Jul. 15/44	642, Jul. 14/44	646, Apr. 24/44	652, Jul. 14/44
676, Jan. 24/45	900, Jun. 19/46	1000, Jun. 16/46	1051, May 17/45
BPO 1, Aug. 9/44	BPO 6, Jan. 18/45	BPO 22, Jan. 5/46	FRS 9, Mar. 21/45

Our members abroad have been very busy too spreading the WCC Gospel. From the Beckenham Journal, 24th January, was an interesting article covering the display of Mr. H. J. Hare taken from his collection Philately in War Time, and Exhibited at the Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society.

I was fortunate to read also a marvelous two-page spread in the Northamptonshire Advertiser of February 2nd, covering propaganda material from WCC Member Capt. P. H. Robbs. One of his rarest treasures is a leaflet in Croatian dropped by a Russian Bolshevik aviator over Austro-Hungarian troops in 1917 and is entitled "A Decree about Peace" and expresses the peaceful aims of the new Russian Government... It emphasizes the peaceful intentions of the Russian Government and pays tribute to the sensible working men of England, France and Germany... Says Mr. Robbs: "It is a pity that extracts from it cannot be disseminated over Russia now, so that the Russian people can be made to see what their leaders once believed." Capt. Robb, of course, is also interested in air mails.

From Major Ian C. Morgan, WCC Member of Montreal, came a copy of the Fleur de Lis, publication of Quebec Command's Headquarters, with postal address for CASP.

From Corporal E. P. Boudreau stationed in Korea I have seen some marvelous material, Russian printed cards and regular North Korean cards, etc. Told him some of our WCC members might be interested and he advised he would be glad to hear from you. His address is: 8076 MASH, APO #301, 5 P.M. San Francisco.

REMEMBER THE DATE - APRIL 28th at the new offices of SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, 1 West 47th Street, New York City, Room 910. Come anytime between 10 and 5. Try to bring new members along. We plan to have lunch at the Skipper Restaurant on W. 47th Street, so be sure to drop me a card telling me you are able to come so I can make the necessary reservations. After lunch we return to the office for the afternoon session. See you all that day---  
 I hope!

SUPPORT YOUR WAR COVER CLUB - SEND IN YOUR DUES - SEND IN MATERIAL FOR THE DONATION AUCTIONS - FUNDS ARE SORELY NEEDED FOR THE MANY PUBLICATIONS WE WANT TO PRINT. HAVE YOU BOUGHT NEW ITEMS FOR YOUR COLLECTION LATELY? THE LAST AUCTION CONTAINED SEVERAL INTERESTING KOREAN LOTS.

Membership

Reinstated - 156 PULS, Edwin E. 185 Linden Rd., Birmingham, Mich.  
 Pat. Spanish American & WW-1; censored & APOs.  
 New - 311 WYATT, Dan B., 1301 So. Big Bend Blvd., Richmond  
 Heights 17, Mo. WW-II Armed Forces; POW & Civilian Censored.