

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Apr 1960)

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>

List of Index Items for This Publication

Notes on AEF War Covers

Navy Operating Base, Londonderry, Northern Ireland

Eritrea Arsenal Fed 8th Army Advance (WWII)

Israel Military Postal Services and their Postmarks (1949)

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN



President:

SOL WHITMAN
1462 Taylor Ave.
New York 60, N.Y.

Sec.-Treas.:

I. WILLINGER
314 E. 163rd St.
New York 51, N.Y.

Bulletin Editor:

KEVIN P. ROGAN, R.N.
65 Hooker Ave.
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Managing Editor:

I. WILLINGER

Research Editors:

A. J. TRIPP
STANLEY C. JERSEY

APRIL 1960

WHOLE NO. 19

Our President, Sol Whitman has made several appointments, as follows: Managing Editor, I. Willinger; Research Editors, A. J. Tripp and Stanley Jersey. This Bulletin is being edited by I. Willinger.

I have received many letters from prominent philatelists who have praised the A.P.O. Location Book. I will quote from a few of them, as follows: "This is a very excellent publication and the War Cover Club is to be commended for its part in compiling and producing it." Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Director, Division of Philately. "This is a marvelous piece of research and will be of interest in many areas beyond the field of philately" Bill Olcheski, Stamp Editor, Air-Force Times. "Frankly this little book is a marvel of organization and completeness" Barbara Muller, Editor, Postal History Markings, The Bureau Specialist. I am sure that these expressions, these nice words make Almon J. Tripp feel extra good, knowing that his fine book has been so well received.

I am extremely sorry that I left out of my article of Jan. 23rd in "Stamps" several very important members who have contributed a great deal towards our club in the past. First and foremost is our Bulletin editor, Kevin Rogan who has been a tower of strength with keeping our Bulletin going. I don't know how it happened, I guess it was an oversight on my part. Members C. D. Brenner and M. Hertzberg also were good workers for our group in many ways; Mr. Brenner was Bulletin Editor for 7 years and contributed many fine articles for our Bulletins and Mr. Hertzberg was just as active and helpful.

Member Sterling Taylor wrote me that in "The Ruhleben POW Camp" article which appeared in Bulletin No. 17 there was an error; British civilians were confined there, not British soldiers. Mr. Taylor is a specialist of WWI POW covers and has an extensive knowledge of the subject.

Philip Baker who is compiling a check list of U.S. Military cancellations (overseas) dated from 1898 to 1940, will be glad to correspond with members for the purpose of obtaining further information of unlisted cancels. His address is Thomas Ave., Allendale, N.J.

Lava, Box 186, New York 59, N.Y. maintains one of the finest stocks in WW-II covers and can supply quite a few of the rare APO numbers. Due to their scarcity, they are expensive and cannot be had at bargain prices. If you have been searching for some of them for years without success, you might as well try Lava.

Heard from Ches Knowlson who writes that he is slowly recovering from his injuries received from that auto crash about two years ago. He cannot correspond as yet but wishes to be remembered to all the members who know him. How about sending him get well cards to help his morale. His address is 17 E. 34th St. (Reiffon) Reading, Pa. Please bear in mind that he cannot answer any correspondence.

WANTED TO BUY OR EXCHANGE
CIVIL WAR NAVAL COVERS NAVAL POSTMARKS, 1908-1922
Capt. H.F. ROMMEL, U.S.N.
27 Red Cross Ave. Newport, Rhode Island.

James Russell has been checking some of his notes on Korean APO's and would like some help from members with data on the following; He has a note that APO 18 was located in Korea and deactivated on 3-14-52. Would like to hear from anyone with covers from this APO from Korea. Would like date cancelled and Return Address. Mr. Russell knows that it was reestablished in Korea in 1957.

Also does any member have any covers cancelled from APO 950 during Korean War or was this APO used for a mailing address only? If any member has covers would like dates and return address.

And the last query; Mr. Russell has a cover from APO 901 cancelled 9-24-50 from Korea. Who has an earlier date from Korea?

In the special series of W.C.C. articles running in "Stamps" magazine Sterling Taylor's article, "Shanghai Express" will appear in the issue of March 19th and in later issues, J. Elson's article, "War Covers from Trinidad, B.W.I.", the last article being contributed by Stanley Jersey, "The U.S. Marine Corps Post Office in Bierut, Lebanon".

Your secretary recently purchased a cover, cancelled Vera Cruz, Mexico, dated May 25, 1914 - 13 star machine cancellation, mailed by a 1st Lieutenant of U.S. Marine Corps, free mail. By a strange co-incidence I dug up another cover in my collection which had the same type of cancellation mailed on the same month, day and year even to the same time, 6 P.M. This one was a civilian cover with stamp affixed. So after 46 years, the two covers, twins I would call them, meet again.

Stanley Jersey is working on a project to be included in the new Marine Corps Museum to be officially opened at Quantico, Va. the later part of April. Mr. Jersey plans to have four frames of (twelve pages) Marine slogan postmarked covers which were used during WW-II. These covers will be displayed in the museum and will quote from a letter sent to Jersey from Lt. Col. John H. Magruder, Director of the Museum: "Your project is an excellent one and will be most valuable to the Museum's documentation of World War II. It is contributions like this which go far toward making our Museum program a success. Your proposed contribution will be most valuable to us and will serve at the same time to provide something that will have special significance to the philatelic world."

Our new member, W.G. Weisbecker is interested in WW-I covers and cards bearing the overprinted stamps of Italy's occupation of Venezia Giulia, Tridentina and Trento/Trieste, also Italian East Africa from the Ethiopian conquest into WW-II. Mr. Weisbecker would like to correspond with members who collect these items or who have them for sale.

WANTED TO BUY

Scarce World War II covers, single items or accumulations.
\$1000.00 cash ready for an outstanding collection. Exchange against stamps considered.

LAVA Box 186, Boulevard Sta. New York 59, N.Y.

Additional Army-Airforce cancels supplied by James Russell: H-Hand-stamp, M-Machine. 10 H - 12 H - 18 H - 23 M - 24 M - 108 M - 120 H - 169 H - 227 M - 289 H - 323 H - 403 M - 696 H - 872 H - 958 H. Also 87 H - 164 H.

Would like to quote from member Gordon Bleuler's letter in which he describes some of the gorgeous items in his collection: "I have quite a nice collection of Civil War Union Naval Designs, both used and unused, also have a number of Civil War Naval Covers mailed to and from various U.S. ships. Have quite a few of the better Magnus Designs such as the U.S. Naval Expedition Series complete. I have this group mounted in two Elbe President Albums." (unquote). This is just a tiny segment of his very large collection of Civil War covers, blue chips I would call them.

Ernest Bellard is trying to find a book called "Les Estampilles Postales de la Grand Guerre" by Strowski; this book has a complete listing of WW-I military markings and of course it is written in French. All that Mr. Bellard desires is a loan of the book.

NEW MEMBERS

- 422 - Gordon Bleuler, 2115 Barberrry Drive, Dallas 11, Texas.
Collects Civil War Covers (Union and Confederate), Spanish American War Patriotics.
- 423 - Harold H. Griffen, International House - 506, Berkeley 4, Calif.
All Military covers of Occupations of WW-I, WW-II, Korea & Spanish American War.
- 424 - Theodore Sheldon, 209 South State St., Chicago 4, Illinois.
Spanish American War (Overseas only).
- 425 - Miss Anne Britney, 322 - 77th St., North Bergen, N.J.
WW-I and Korean Conflict. Army & Navy, FDC, FF, Mint & Used Stamps (US)
- 426 - John Green, 3146 So. Halsted St., Chicago 8, Ill.
APO's, Ober-Ost-Gebiet Covers & Postmarks.
- 427 - Miss Jessie W. Van Denburgh, 2191 Bolton St., New York 62, N.Y.
Postmarks, FD covers, FF covers, Navals and slogans, also Meters, Xmas seals, HPO.
- 428 - D.E.F. Burney, 16 Grendon Way, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks, England.
Military covers of all wars.
- 429 - L.M. Sjöholm, Estnasgatan 1.D.29, Helsingfors, Finland.
POW - and Ambulance post covers from all wars.

430 - W.G. Weisbecker, Room 1 L 4 F.A.O. Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy.
Commercially used covers of Italian Occupations from WW-I through WW-II according to specific dates that the occupations (all) were in force.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

410 - Thomas F. McGrath, 804 Park Ave., Albany, N.Y.

WANT TO BUY

Covers of Anglo-Boer War, Egypt - Postage Prepaid of World War II, Sudan, British African Colonies, FPO, APO, POW, Censored, EAF, APO-U-MPK of South Africa, etc. Prompt reply assured.

WALTER BJORK 139-80 85th Drive JAMAICA 35, N.Y.

"NAVAL OPERATING BASE, LONDONDERRY, NORTH IRELAND, 1942-1944."

This base, located at Londonderry on the river Foyle, was the first Naval shore establishment in the European theater, having been established on February 5, 1942. Construction began in July 1941 under Lend-Lease, but when the United States entered the war it was decided to retain this base rather than turn it over to the British as had been the original intention. The Londonderry base, designed to provide repair facilities for destroyers and submarines, included ammunition storage areas, hospitals and barracks. Clustered close by were living quarters for personnel at Beech Hill, barracks at Springtown, and a tank farm at Lisahally. Once the United States joined the conflict, Londonderry became of considerable importance. Convoy escorts were refueled there for the return trip across the Atlantic. Ships that had run the gauntlet of submarine-infested waters had their damaged hulls and machinery repaired there. Until the creation of the base at Exeter, Londonderry was the main source of supply for American naval establishments in the British Isles, and it was the major United States naval radio station in the European theater during the war. On August 15, 1944, the base at Londonderry was decommissioned except for the radio facility, which was continued." The cancellation used at this base was Navy 220. The Number in the M.O. canceller was 10961.

Also the regular type (2z and 3z) "U.S. Navy" cancellation was used except for a short time when the authorities gave permission to use the first name cancel. The above activity had a special cancel for that period reading "U.S. Navy Port Office" at the top of circle and "Liverpool, England" at the bottom.

WORLD PAPER MONEY "COLLECTORS GUIDE"

"In one convenient location, information which the Paper Money Collector might seek in a hundred volumes....and not find."

Price: \$1.50 Postpaid

Inquire about the World Paper Money Journal, World Paper Money Club and latest price lists.

Dwight L. Musser 432 - 20th St. Dunbar, West Va.

"FLIGHT OF IDEAS"

by Editor Kevin Rogan

Who has the address of Editor of "Alaskan Collectors Journal"?

Who has info on US Coast Guard & Naval vessels and British and Canadian vessels serving in Alaskan waters during WW-II? U.S.C.G. Cutter "Onondaga" served up there in '43 & '44, searching for aviators who had fallen into the sea or landed on uninhabited islands. U.S.C.G. "Cedar" at Unalaska in 1942.

Joe Fincher, PO Box 177, Sinton, Texas needs the following War Cover Club Bulletins: Vol. 6 - # 6 & #10; Vol. 2 - #3, 4, 5; Vol. 4 - #6. Will buy, beg or borrow.

The Marines added another location to their long line of Victorious sites - the latest was on the slopes of Squaw Valley where they helped out on the Olympics by preparing the ski trails.

Ray Milling, Pacific Stars and Stripes, APO 94, c/o S.F. Cal. sends copy of 2-20-60 which tells of newest Navy P.O. in Japan - P.O. Navy 570 at the Naval Housing Activity, Yokohama. Until last June the office was operated by the Army but was taken over by the Navy with the reduction of Army Forces in Japan.

A Post Office has been established aboard the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Ship "Explorer". The ship is now at Swan Islands in the Western Caribbean. Postmark will be "USC & GS Ship Explorer" and in bars will be "National Oceanographic Expedition, Swan Islands".

The American Philatelic Congress will have its 2nd Specialist Group Seminar on Sunday Nov. 6, 1960 at Hotel La Salle, Chicago. Congress meets Nov. 4, 5 and 6th. I think the WCC should send a representative to this seminar. At its first Seminar they started studying the problem concerned with dissemination of info. between groups, and of co-operation between groups of similar or related interests. David Lidman is President of Congress, 390 West End Ave., New York 24, N.Y.

Did any of the WCC members exhibit at the Congress at Barcelona, Spain, March 26th - April 5th?

Groups and Clubs can borrow the latest U.S. Navy film "Mail Call", telling of mail delivery to men of Fleet Units and overseas bases. Borrow through your local Postmaster. Film is 14 minutes long.

Canada has just launched the World's third-most-powerful Icebreaker, the 15,000 horsepower "John A. McDonald", to maintain communications with its farthest-north. The U.S. has one, more powerful, the USS "Glacier" but she is only second, now that the USSR's nuclear "Lenin" is in operation.

We should pick up a few covers from the forces in forgotten Korea. G.I.'s and Reds still talk at the truce tables. The truce zone, where not a shot can be fired, has turned into a perfect wildlife preserve.

Thanks for covers Dep't.: James W. Nyboe, Stan Jersey, Isadore Willinger, Bill Cipolli.

Last Minute News: About 20 members were present at The WCC meeting held at The Interpex show on March 26th. Included were quite a few members from out of town: Mrs. Judith Kohn from Cincinnati, Ohio, Miss Anne Britney from North Bergen, N.J., Richard Mayerson From Philadelphia, Pa., Burge Thomas from Washington, D.C., and Bruce Sherman from Brooklyn, N.Y.

The meeting itself was an interesting, lively affair, with guest speaker Stanley Jersey of Oak Park, Illinois showing part of his collection of "Military Covers of British Solomon Islands". This is a marvelous collection beautifully mounted on special pages and well written up. Mr. Jersey spoke for about 45 minutes and the members enjoyed his talk very much. It was agreed by everyone who was there that the meeting was a complete success. As to the show, "INTERPEX", Mr. Herbert Rosen is to be congratulated on presenting a very fine Stamp Show, as good as any which I have seen in previous years.

For the information of new members attention is called to the fact that this Bulletin appears four or five times a year, depending upon the condition of the Club's treasury. The high cost of printing places this limitation on the Bulletin. Obviously a greater membership will mean more bulletins, so it will be to the advantage of all to be on the alert for prospects for Club membership. The Secretary will be glad to supply membership application blanks.

FROM A TREMENDOUS STOCK I OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

100 War Covers, A.P.O.'s, etc. for \$5.00

100 Navals for \$5.00

20 Pieces of Postal Stationary for \$1.00

W. T. GMAHLE

5 WILLOW TERR.

HOBOKEN, N.J.

ERITREA ARSENAL FED EIGHT ARMY ADVANCE.

Eritrea, the 700-mile strip of land along the Red Sea, was one of the arsenals from which the Eight Army received the enormous supplies for the Egyptian offensive. The plan to make the arsenal was worked out by British and American experts before the United States entered the war.

Eritrea was selected because it was well out of reach of enemy bombers.

In December 1941, a United States mission, under Brigadier General Maxwell Russell arrived. By March, hundreds of American engineers and other technicians were at work putting up factories and innumerable other establishments.

A 500-foot floating drydock sunk by the Italians at Massawa and which was said to be so damaged that it would take at least two years to re-float, was raised by Capt. Ellsburg, U.S. Navy in nine days. The harbour where the Italians had scuttled 20 Merchantmen was cleared in record time.

When facilities were ready, huge convoys carrying war material of every kind sailed from United States, India, Australia and other Allied ports.

(Continued on page 236)

ISRAEL MILITARY POSTAL SERVICES AND THEIR POSTMARKS

by Dr. H. Fenigstein

When on November 29th, 1947, the General Assembly of The United Nations decided the partition of Palestine into two states, a Jewish and an Arab one, and the conversion of Jerusalem, the capital, into an International city, there were in Palestine three voluntary Jewish Military Organizations, illegal under the British rule: the Haganah, the largest of these, which later became the Israel army, and two smaller ones: The Etzel and the Stern groups. They were responsible for the defense of Jewish life and property against Arab attacks and on many occasions they fought the British too. They did not have any organized postal services and the mail at this time was forwarded by special runners or through taxi or bus drivers, or by airplanes (piper cubs, called "PRIMUSES", which became very famous during the siege of Jerusalem). In Jerusalem the Haganah organized a Communications system, its head office located in the K.K.L. main offices building and served as a special divisional H.Q. despatch office for inter-unit communications. The official mail carried a rubber stamp (2-ring cancellation, 34 mm in diameter) with the Hebrew letters M K (Misrad Keshet, which means Office of Communications) above and J M (for Jerusalem) below, and the date in the middle, with two small stars, one to the left and one to the right. The Offices in command of the City of Jerusalem used a special rubber stamp composed of two circles with Hebrew inscriptions "City Commander" at the top, and "Jerusalem" at the bottom, and in the middle the emblem of the Haganah. It seems that the communications offices of the Haganah were active all over the Country during the British mandate period, but the exact date on which they began marking their envelopes with special rubber hand stamps has yet to be revealed from the Haganah archives.

When in May, 1948, the State of Israel was officially established and the Israel Army organized, the establishment of Military Postal Services became a necessity. On May the 28th, 1948, the Postal Administration of the Israel Government released secret circular No. 10 to all Post Offices in the Country, about the new establishment of the Military Post in the Country. The Army Postal Service was formed as follows:

1. There were two Army Base Post Offices (a) in Tel Aviv and (b) in Haifa, responsible for the collection of mail from the Army Post Offices and the Civilian Post, and for the forwarding of same to other Army Post Offices, Army Postal Agencies and the Civilian Post.
2. There were 13 Army Post Offices (numbered from 1 to 15, but omitting numbers 11 and 13), responsible for receiving the mail from the Units in their areas and from the Civilian Post Offices and for forwarding it to the Base Post Offices, or Units in the Army Post Offices areas.
3. In isolated or cut-off areas there were Army Postal Agencies which collected the mail and forwarded it to the Army Base Post Offices, and
4. There was a special office for returned undeliverable mail - either because of insufficient addresses or because of the transfer of the Military personnel.

Markings on Official and Private Mail from the Israel Army
subject of the notes by Dr. H. H. Hirst



Fig. 1

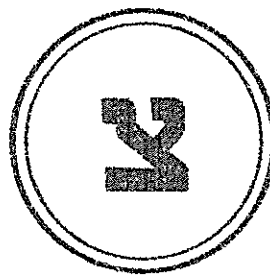


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 3a

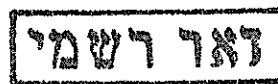


Fig. 3b



Fig. 3c

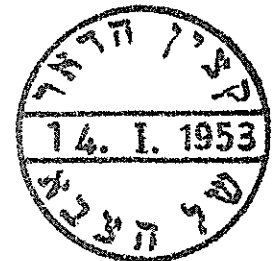


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

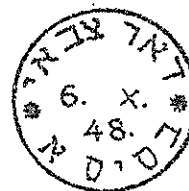


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

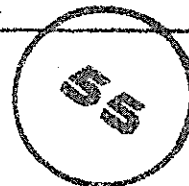
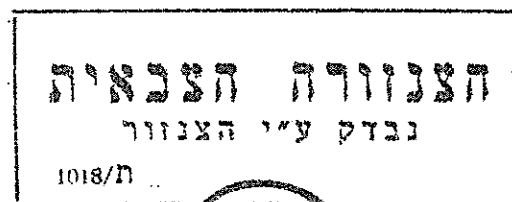


Fig. 11

The handling of a letter posted by a soldier in his unit was at least in theory (because in practice the Army postal clerks not always followed their instructions) as follows:

The Unit Postal Clerk stamped the letter with a triangular rubber stamp with or without the number of the unit and until 1954 with 3 letters at the bottom of the stamp: K.B.A. (for Kochot Bitachon Art-siim), which means Land Security Forces. Since 1954, the triangular stamps have two letters: "D" and "Z" (for Doar Zvai, which means Military Post) and the defense army emblem between them.

Then the letter was passed to the Army Post Office where it was stamped with a round, single ring date stamp 24mm in diameter with Doar Zvai at the top and Misrad (which means office) followed by the number of the office at the bottom; and starting in November 1948 with a letter "Aleph" or "Beth" over the date.

Since August 1948, most of the APO's received new obliterations, with slightly larger letters and numbers; one of the Army Post Offices - No. 5, in Jerusalem, because of the siege of the city, used a temporary rubber stamp much larger than the official stamp (metal) which didn't reach Jerusalem, owing to the bitter fighting in and around the City, probably until the second half of June 1948. (Fig. 3a)

The letters which reached the Base Post Offices were stamped there with the B.P.O. metal cancellations similar to the A.P.O. cancellations but having at the bottom the inscription "Basis Alef" or "Beit" which means Base A or B (Fig. 4). From here letters were sent according to their addresses, either to the Civilian Post Offices or to the Army Post Offices.

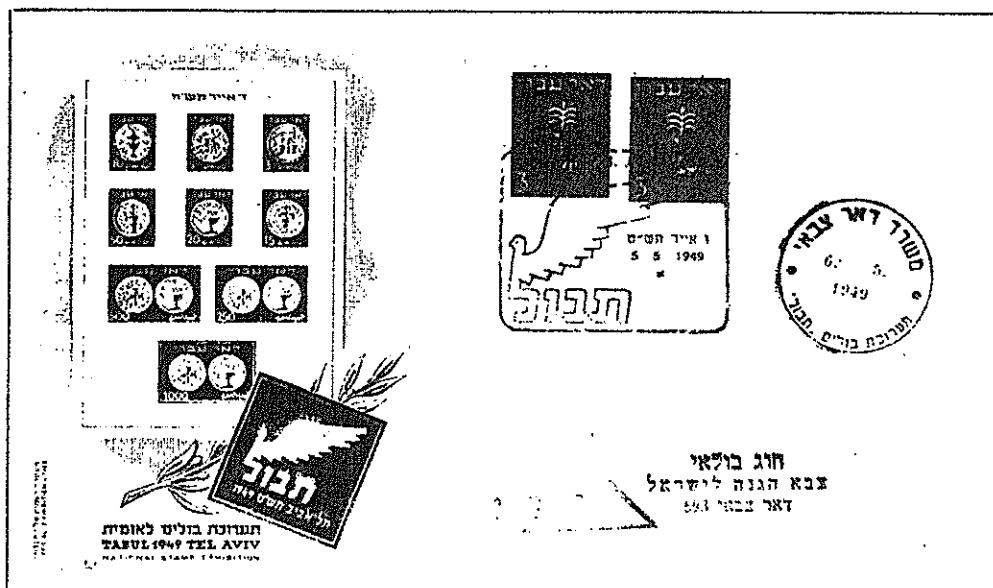
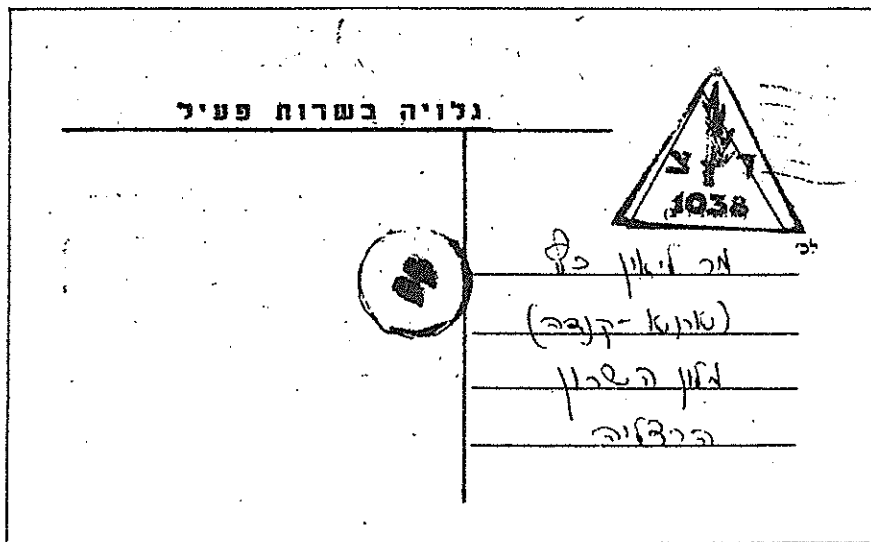
Mail from the Army was conveyed free of charge with the exception of letters to foreign destinations which had to be franked in accordance with the Civilian Postage rates.

On July 7th, 1948, registered mail service was introduced at all Army Post Offices and the soldiers had to pay 15 mills for each registered letter addressed to civilians. Special gummed, printed labels, 40 mm by 16 mm with Hebrew letter R (for Rashum, which means "Registered") on the right side of the label and to the left of it in two lines, Doar Zvai at the top and Misrad followed by numbers of the office below it. (Fig. 5)

After the signing of the Armistice agreements with the Arab countries in July, 1949, the Military Postal Services were discontinued, and the responsibility for the handling of the Military mail, except for official mail between the units was handed over to the civilian Postal Service, and the Army units handed over and received their mail at the Civilian Post Offices nearest to their units.

The use of the circular, dated army Postmarks was discontinued in 1953, but the triangle hand stamp is still in use by the units. Similar triangle marks have been printed lately on envelopes specially made for registered letters, the registered military labels being replaced since 1949 with bilingual labels used by Civilian Post Offices.

In addition to the above mentioned postmarks, there are many other



hand stamps found on Israel Military mail, either markings applied in the process of forwarding, re-directing or returning insufficiently or wrongly addressed mail, or markings used by Military censors, special Military Offices, etc. On one occasion there were used special Military Postmarks, and special registration labels in the Military Post Office which operated at the Tabul Stamp Exhibition in Tel Aviv from May 1st to May 6th, 1949. (Fig. 6)

Various inks were used by Military Offices, but the most commonly used color has been and is violet.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Markings on Official and Private Mail from the Israel Army by Dr. H. H. Hirst. BAPIP Bulletin No. 6, October 1953.
2. The Israeli Army during the War of Independence 1948-49. by Dr. E. Rachwalsky, BAPIP Bulletin No. 7, December 1953.
3. Israel Forces Postal Markings, by Dr. H. H. Hirst, BAPIP Bulletin No. 22, October 1957.
4. Postal Services in Besieged Jerusalem, by M. Brisker. THE HOLY LAND PHILATELIST, No. 54/55, April/May 1959.
5. Israel Army Post Services during the War of Liberation 1948/1949, by M.B., THE HOLY LAND PHILATELIST, No. 56/57, June/July 1959.
6. More about Postal Services in Besieged Jerusalem, by E.G. Jungwirth. THE HOLY LAND PHILATELIST, No. 56/57, June/July 1959.
7. Postal Services in Besieged Jerusalem, by Y. Levanon. THE HOLY LAND PHILATELIST, No. 58/59, August/September 1959.

ERITREA ARSENAL FED EIGHT ARMY ADVANCES

(Continued from Page 231)

At the same time there was a steady influx of American Military and civilian personnel.

In addition to the enormous supplies of war equipment, the Americans transported their own food and seeds to grow more.

All the work was carried out in secret and at lightning speed.

The U.S. Army maintained five Post Offices in Eritrea; Numbers 617, 684, 685, 686 and 815; reported earliest date of operations is June 1942. There, however, must be much earlier dates because U.S. personnel already had arrived in Eritrea in December 1941. Information is wanted.

NOTES ON A. E. F. WAR COVERS.

By Harvey Crowell

Most of us know there were over 2,000,000 soldiers sent to France by the United States Government in the years 1917 and 1918. On our entry into the World War, the problem arose of handling the mail of this great force. However, the U.S. Postal Service's successful solution in this huge undertaking, of expediting the mail to and from our forces in France, takes its place in postal history.

When the Yanks, the champion letter writers of all times, began writing home, the deluge started. To give an idea of its immensity, Capt. R. E. Willing in his pamphlet published in France in 1919, states that by December 1918, 132,000 sacks of mail went through the hands of the postal clerks and in January 1919, 28,000,000 letters were dispatched to the United States. At that time the U.S. Postal Express Service was handling more mail than the entire French civilian Postal System.

Now, it seems to me, after 40 years, that the bulk of this mail or rather the covers have been destroyed in various ways, and mostly by anxious mothers and relatives upon getting word from their boys, although there is perhaps a great number being held for sentimental reasons. My experience in collecting for several years shows that the approximated 40,000,000 pieces of mail that were dispatched to the United States, which can be classified as War Covers, should make this type of collecting an easy matter, but I have encountered some difficulty in acquiring the comparatively few that I have.

Beginning with the first 16 Post Offices set up in France, these were code numbered consecutively from number one. There were various types of postmarks used, due to the confusion and the rush to get organized. These were called the provisionals and are much sought after. Then came the change in A.P.O. numbers in the fall of 1918, to avoid conflict with postal stations of the Allies. The American Post Offices were re-numbered beginning with #701, each station retaining its distinguished digit in the final figure, as No. 1 became #701 and so on. These A.P.O. 700 series rate as common and easy to acquire. Then came the APO 800 series, which was used only in part, approximately 48 out of the full 100 are accounted for. The series is usually referred to as the 800 mystery series. The U.S. Government has disowned using or giving orders to use the 800 series. However, I have several APO 800 in my collection and have seen others in various collections. The sum total being that they are somewhat rare and cannot be had as easily as the APO 700's. Lastly, the APO 900 series, which was used much, after the Armistice, until finally discontinued on January 31, 1924 with the closing of Station APO 927, which has been the headquarters for the Third Army Corps. This 900 series was used for several years after the war, but as many of our boys were returning home and our forces became limited, naturally the APO 900's are not as numerous as the 700's. The postal service continued long after the War and with its far flung outposts also carried the correspondence of exchange of Prisoners of War and Peace Commissions. There are many phases which I have not touched upon and I am not attempting to cover them at this time.