

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Apr 1988)

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

AEF Update

The Horseshoe Route, to US (WWII)

Open Letter of 1914 (Censorship)

First US Army Post Office in Newfoundland (WWII)

POW Mail from Russia after WWII

Open Letter of 1914 (Censorship)

POW Mail from Russia After WWII



WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME XXVII, NO. 3

APRIL - JUNE 1988

WAR COVER CLUB UNIT NO. 19 - American Philatelic Society

THE HORSESHOE ROUTE, WW II/BAHREIN ISLANDS - UNITED STATES

By David D. Howell

After Italy declared war, June 10, 1940, it was necessary to rearrange the Empire air route stretching to Australia. On the map, the route developed a horseshoe-like appearance, running from Durban, South Africa, to Sydney, Australia, and extending on to Auckland, New Zealand. In between the extreme points the route included Kismu, Khar-toum, Cairo, Lydda or Kallia, Habbanya, Basra, Penang, Singapore, Batavia, Soerabaja, Koepang, Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane.

Selected covers mailed from the Bahrein Islands to the

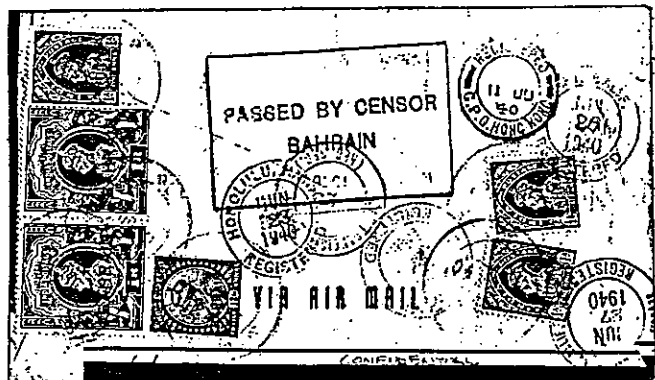


Figure 1

United States follow a sequence of military events which continually changed the exact route of mail dispatches into 1942. Early in 1940 mail was directed to the United States via London where it was place aboard the Trans-Atlantic

Clipper, but, with the entry of Italy into the war, mail from Bahrein had to be routed another way. This "other way" proved to be the Horseshoe Route, and covers from the period often bear manuscript notations directing the route onward.

IN THIS ISSUE:

WORLD WAR I RELATED

THE OPEN LETTERS OF 1914

By William Park 9

A.E.F. UPDATE: Additions & Corrections to the POSTAL HISTORY OF THE A.E.F. 1917-1923

Edited By Theo. Van Dam 10

WORLD WAR II RELATED

THE HORSESHOE ROUTE, WWII/BAHREIN ISLANDS - UNITED STATES

By David D. Howell 1

POW MAIL FROM RUSSIA AFTER WORLD WAR II

By Peter A. Michalove 5

THE FIRST U.S. ARMY POST OFFICE IN NEWFOUNDLAND

By Stanley C. Jersey 7

A cover mailed in late June 1940 (Figure 1) bears a manuscript routing notation "Via Hong Kong and Pacific Clipper" (not shown) and its reverse displays a nice assortment of stamps along with Bahrain censor marking and registry markings from Hong Kong and Honolulu.

The cover illustrated in Figure 2 was postmarked August 3, 1940. Although the manuscript routing notation uses slightly different language, this cover, too, followed the route from Bahrain to Hong Kong and on to the U.S. via the China Clipper. It bears a light triangular censor marking from Hong Kong at lower right.

In January 1941 the first handstamp routing cachets were used. The cover shown in Figure 3 was postmarked

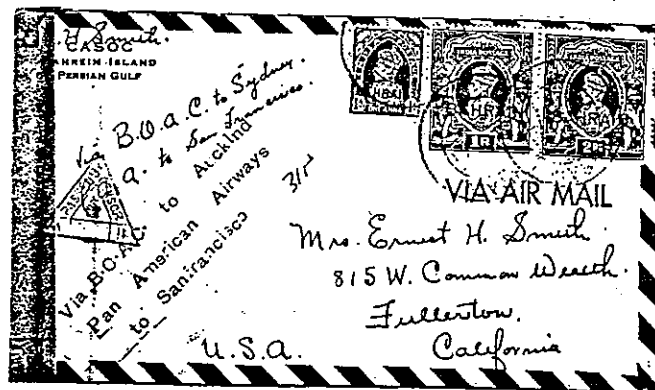


Figure 4.



Figure 2.

January 11th and bears a three-line cachet reading "Via B.O.A.C. to Sydney/Pan American Airways/to San Francisco". This particular wording may have been used for less than one month for later in January we find a new routing cachet reading "Via B.O.A.C. to Auckland/Pan American Airways/to San Francisco." (Fig. 4) The small triangular censor marking indicates that mail is now being censored in India instead of Bahrain and Hong Kong. This cachet apparently remained



Figure 3.

in use for several months, but by September 1941 it had been replaced by the variety shown in Figure 5, which reads "Via B.O.A.C. to Singapore/Pacific Clipper to San Francisco."

The Japanese first threatened the route at Rangoon forcing the flying boats to deviate from their route and do some island hopping. With the Japanese approaching Bangkok, that place had to be skipped with the planes landing at Sabang and Penang. Soon, however, Japanese troops advanced into Malaya and, early in 1942, Singapore fell. The Japanese continued their advance to take Batavia, Soerabaja and Bima.

The last flying-boat into Singapore was on February 3, 1942. Japanese planes now began bombing the northwest end of Australia. Darwin was hit and 15 flying-boats were shot to pieces on the water at Broome. Temporarily the Horseshoe Route had been broken and mail from Bahrain would have to find another way.



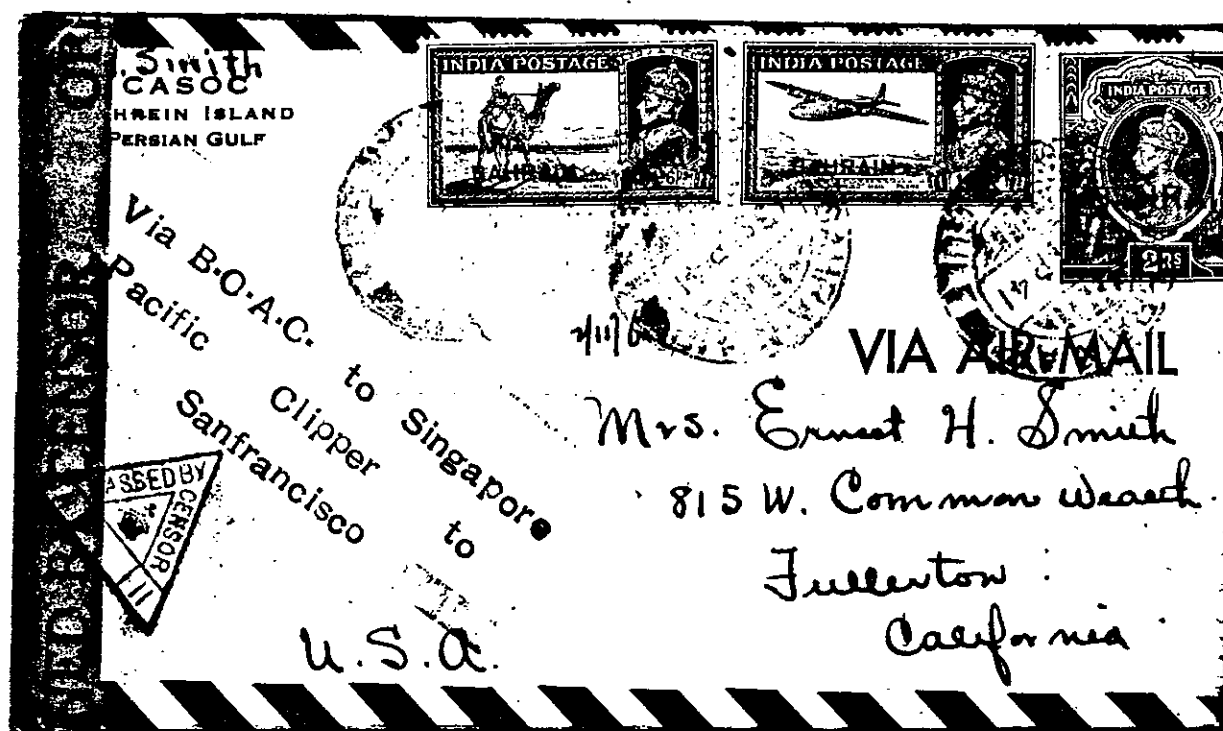


Figure 5.

ATTENTION TO ORDERS ...

Back in the Eisenhower years, when I was a green, young Plebe at West Point, I used to sit stiffly at the supper table every evening when the Brigade Adjutant called out, "BAT-TAL-IONS AT-TEN-TION! ATTENTION TO ORDERS." I said to myself, "Someday I'd sure like to be able to make that glorious call", but, alas, I never succeeded in *boning enough files* to achieve the exalted rank of Brigade Adjutant. So, when Theo Van Dam invited me to assume the editorial duties of the WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN, I realized that this was my chance to at long last call the Battalions to attention and pass along the official and unofficial poop for the day.

Today, based on the fact that this is my first issue and that I'm not yet plugged-in to WCC activities, there is no poop to pass along, so I'll spend a few lines introducing myself to those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting over the years. My name is Richard William Helbock; Bill to my friends. I am a native Oregonian, but attended school in the East (West Point-BS 1960; and Pittsburgh-Ph.D. 1973). After three years in the Air Defense Artillery (San Francisco & Thule, Greenland), I taught college geography at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces for 16 years. In 1982 I decided it had become important for me to return to Oregon and attempt to make my living doing what I loved best; writing and publishing postal history research. Now, six years later, after some very hard work and a lot of help from some very good friends, I am reasonably confident that it is possible to make a living as a postal history

writer/publisher, provided one is willing to settle for a modest life-style.

My collecting interests are centered on the postal history of Alaska Territory and the coastal region of Oregon and northern California. I also collect World War II APOs from all areas and Prexies (1938 Presidential Series) used on overseas air covers during the war. I have authored books on the postal history of Alaska, New Mexico, Oregon and Oklahoma, as well as, other more detailed subjects. My latest book, *POSTMARKS ON POSTCARDS*, was published in December 1987. In 1969 I began publishing *LA POSTA* as a bi-monthly journal devoted to postal history of the West. Since 1982 the publication has expanded to encompass all facets of North American postal history, and our list of subscribers has grown to nearly 1,200.

I welcome the opportunity to work with you, the membership of the War Cover Club, and I am honored to be offered the editorship of the *BULLETIN*, a journal I have long admired. I shall try my best to maintain a reasonably regular publication schedule with "target" publication dates of late April, July, October, and January of each year. I welcome suggestions, comments and criticisms from members, but I must warn you that my opportunities to respond with a personal written communication are severely limited. The best way, by far, to reach me for comment is to call. I am available for telephone calls from 9AM-4PM & 6:30-8:30PM (Pacific), seven days a week. The number is (503) 657-5685. If you don't reach me on the first attempt, try a little later as I do occasionally venture out from my forest hideout.

RWH



A.P.S. UNIT NO. 19

ARTHUR HECKER, President, 112-36 69 road, Forest Hills, NY 11375
 MYRON FOX, Vice-President, P. O. Box 283, Needham Hts., MA 02194
 CHRIS KULPINSKI, Secy.-Treas., P.O. Box 464, Feasterville, PA 19047
 RICHARD W. HELBOCK, Editor, P.O. Box 135, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
 W. THOMAS WATERS, Back ISSUES, Warwick Park Rd, #4, Pottstown, PA 19464
 THEO. VAN DAM, Publicity, P.O. Box 8809, Anaheim, CA 92812

Annual membership: \$5.00 in U.S. & Canada; \$10.00 overseas (includes BULLETIN sent air printed matter)
 Back numbers available at \$1.00 per issue.

FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

Well, we're going to give it another try. Our new editor is Bill Helbeck from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Presently he is publisher and one of the editors of *LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY*, a publication of 80-100 pages which appears every other month. Helbeck is assisted by three regional editors in the preparation of *LA POSTA*, but getting out such a publication is no small feat. We are indeed fortunate to have someone with such experience and qualifications taking charge of our newsletter. Welcome aboard Bill. Thanks for accepting the assignment and our thanks to Theo Van Dam for finding you.

Many of you have written me inquiring about your membership status, stating that you hadn't received any *BULLETINS* since such and such date. If you sent a SASE, you received a reply. The primary reason you weren't receiving the *BULLETIN* was that we didn't have an editor. One *BULLETIN* was issued containing only an auction. That had to be done because we were holding material for too long of a period of time. We had to clear the decks.

Because there has been since an erratic production of newsletters since Ray retired, all memberships have automatically been extended one full year. Many of you sent dues over the last several months. You will find that all of these changes are reflected on the mailing label. Your membership expiration date is listed on the upper right corner of the mailing label. A few labels may read an expiration date (even with the extension) of 12/87. I would appreciate it very much if those few people would forward their dues as soon as possible. With the increase in postage, etc., we really don't

want to spend the money if you aren't interested in the War Cover Club.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notification of a change of address should be sent to the WCC Secretary-Treasurer as soon as possible. Please include both your old and new address.

MISSING BULLETINS, QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, ETC.: Contact the Secretary-Treasurer if you have any questions about your membership, or if you suspect you have missed an issue of the Bulletin.

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS: Send all manuscripts, corrections, and additional information concerning material that has appeared in the *BULLETIN* to the *BULLETIN* Editor. Dealers, organizations, etc., are invited to submit news and press releases for possible publication in the *BULLETIN*, directly to the Editor. Publishers are invited to submit review copies of books and publications for review in the *BULLETIN* to the Editor.

ADVERTISING RATES: CLASSIFIED RATE - 10 cents per word per insertion with a 10% discount for four insertions and a 25% discount for eight insertions. **DISPLAY AD RATES** will be quoted on an individual basis. Please send all ad copy and address requests for information to the Secretary-Treasurer.

TO ADVERTISERS: The number in the bottom right hand corner of your ad indicates the last issue for which your ad is currently scheduled to run; e.g., [26-4] means Vol. 26, No. 4 (four issues per volume).

REPRINT PERMISSION: The War Cover Club grants permission to reprint articles provided credit is given the War Cover Club *BULLETIN* and the author of the article.

DAVID HOWELL 1922-1988

David Howell was one of this generation's real philatelic students. His field was the War Covers of the United States, and his interests ran from the Mexican War through World War II and later. He formed important collections, studied them, wrote about them, and then moved on to other wars. Sometimes he would sell a collection he was through with, often he would swap with other collectors for material of more current interest. His particular current interests were the Boxer Campaign of 1900-1901, World War I aviation (especially naval) and Civil Aviation in and out of Great Britain during World War II.

In addition to being a collector, David was a writer and an editor. He served the War Cover Club for many years as editor of the *BULLETIN*, and authored numerous articles including one that appears in this issue. We will all miss David's talents and scholarly contributions to our field, but we, and those who come after us, are forever indebted to him for the work he has done.

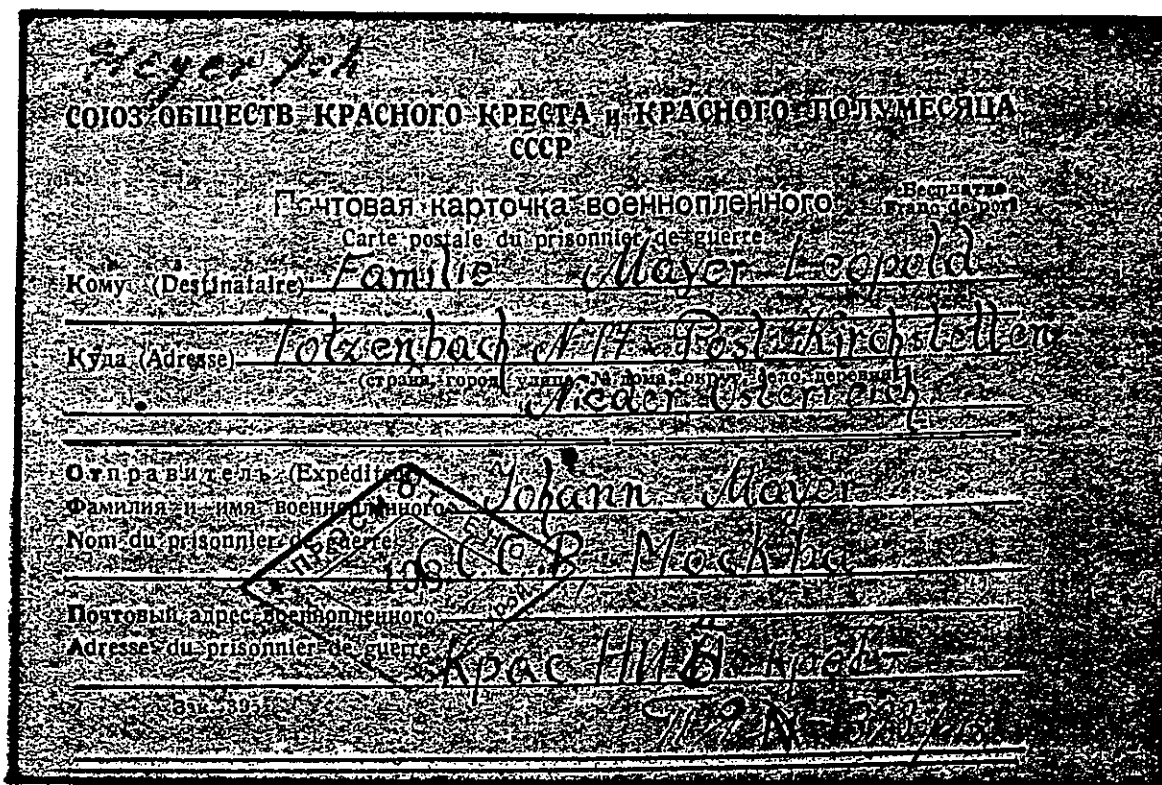


Figure 1. Red Cross/Crescent card from German POW in Russia.

POW MAIL FROM RUSSIA AFTER WORLD WAR II

By Peter A. Michalove

Mail from German soldiers captured in the Soviet Union during World War II presents an anomaly in that practically all of it dates from after the wartime period. Figure 1 illustrates a typical example. Written by an Austrian POW on a preprinted card provided by the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the message side of the card is dated 20.II. 1947. The writer gave his return address in Russian but had some trouble with the Cyrillic letters. A Russian, probably the censor, has corrected the errors. The censor mark is the diamond cachet toward the lower left, and it reads "PROSMOTRENO/Voennoi Tsenzuroi" (Examined by Military Censor) with the number 198 in the center. The mark is in violet. This form of censor mark appears on most POW cards, and I do not know of its use on any other kind of mail.

Rist (Ref. 2), quoting the *Suchdienst-Zeitung*, No 1/1971, reports that the diamond censor marks are known with numbers ranging between 31 and 446. The numbers through 232 are attributed to the Russian Republic; 233 through 282 to the Ukraine; 283 through 292 to the Belorussian Republic; and higher numbers to

other republics of the USSR. Thus, the card in Figure 1 originated in the Russian Republic.

The card illustrated in Figure 2 bears a censor mark numbered 332, and thus must be from further afield. Figure 2A shows the front of this card, complete with a red cross and red crescent. All POW mail was routed through a centralized system in Moscow, which is why both cards show a box number in Moscow as the return address.

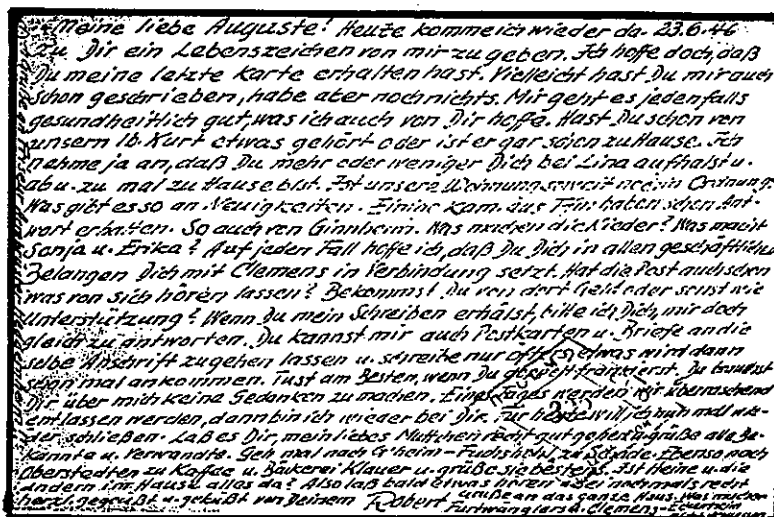


Figure 2. Censor mark No. 332.

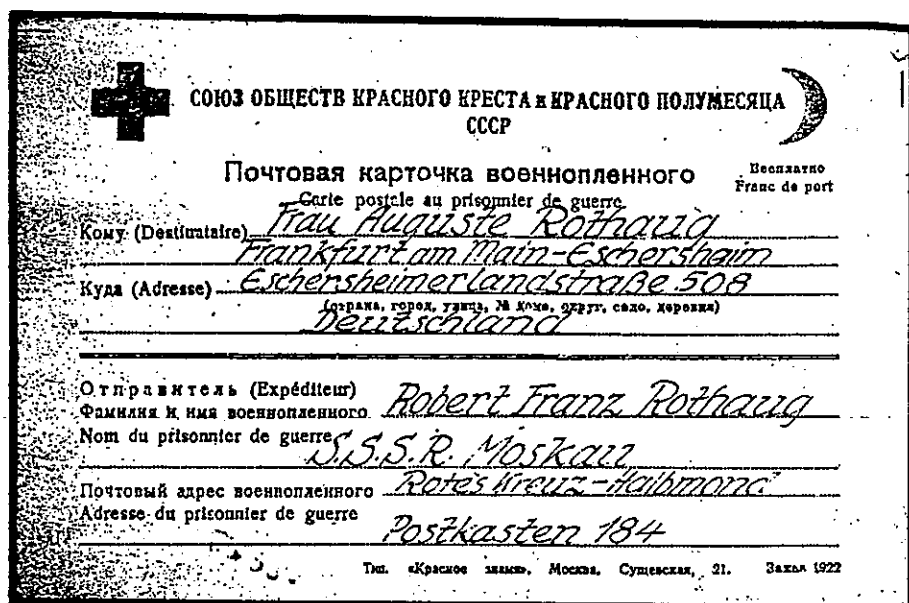


Figure 2A.

There is some controversy as to whether any POW cards were sent from the Soviet Union during the war. The Germans claimed that, in violation of international law, the Soviets would not allow prisoners in their custody to write to their families. It now appears that POWs in the Soviet Union were sometimes allowed to write during the war, but the Germans confiscated the incoming mail because of the disastrous news that it reported. Any surviving POW mail from the wartime period would be extremely rare.

The earliest known POW mail from the Soviet Union to Germany dates from July 1945, and such mail first reached its destination in December 1945. Some German prisoners were held until the mid-1950's, and the latest POW card I have seen is from 1956.

Figure 3 illustrates a related item, a cover from Aizpute (Hasenpoth) in Soviet Latvia to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva. It was censored on the reverse with the circular "R-a" Riga censor cachet which was usual for civilian international mail. This and a similar piece in my collection date from the end of 1945, and they were routed through Istanbul to Switzerland. The covers are preprinted "FRANC DE PORT," but both are franked with 1 ruble, 30 kopeks postage. This was the correct rate for a foreign registered letter, and

the registration was apparently not contemplated in the "FRANC DE PORT". These covers were probably from POWs who were trying to locate relatives in Germany after several years without contact. Many of these relatives may have been refugees by the end of the war, especially those from the eastern portion of Germany, who were resettled when these lands were ceded to Poland.

REFERENCES:

1. Afangulskii, Ya. "The Holy War Against Bolshevism," *Yamshchik*, No. 18 (1986), with further update in No. 19 (1986).

2. Rist, Karl. "Kriegsgefangenenpost der UdSSR," *Mitteilungsblatt der BAG Russland/UdSSR*, No. 19 (1978).

3. Schroter, Prof. Martin. "Red-Cross Cards of German POWs in the USSR 1945-56," *Postal History Journal*, No. 72 (1986), with further up-

dates in Nos. 73 & 74 (both 1986).

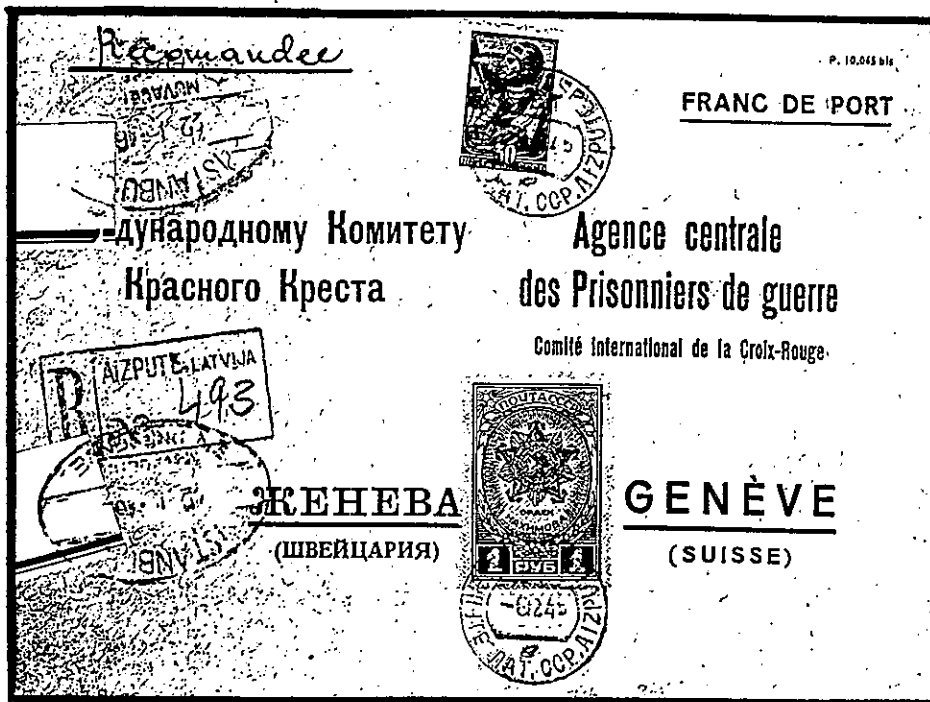
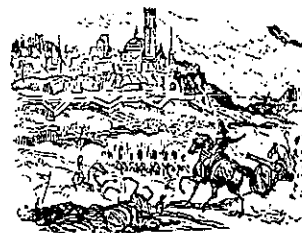


Figure 3. Cover to International Red Cross Committee.

THE FIRST U.S. ARMY POST OFFICE IN NEWFOUNDLAND

By Stanley C. Jersey

The actual functioning of the first U.S. Army Post Office (APO) in Newfoundland commenced with the departure from New York harbor on January 15, 1941, of the U.S. Army Transport *Edmund B. Alexander* (formerly the *America*), which arrived at Saint Johns, Newfoundland, on January 25 with 977 American troops on board. These men were part of the vanguard of the units intended to carry out the War Department's plan of "hemisphere defense." Aboard the vessel was a member of the staff of New York City Post Office, a Mr. Stoner, who was designated as Superintendent of this first Army branch of a domestic post office in Newfoundland. Mail was postmarked with a steel duplex handstamp which read "AMERICAN FORCES IN NEWFOUNDLAND" (Fig.1).

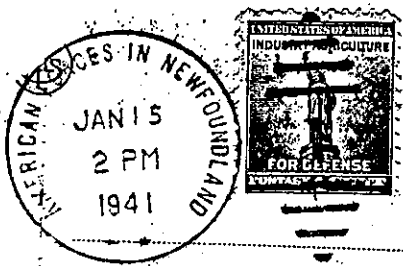


Figure 1.

For several months during the construction of quarters for personnel, the crew and troops -- including the Post Office Superintendent -- remained aboard the *Edmund B. Alexander*. It was not until May 30, 1941, that the Army Post Office was transferred ashore to a base known as Camp Alexander, which was located about one and one-half miles from the business district of St. Johns. Because of the heavy workload, the unit commander agreed to assign a soldier to assist the Post Office Superintendent on a full-time basis. A problem arose in the bonding of this soldier since at that time there were no surety companies prepared to write the bond. After an extensive inquiry, a company was finally located that agreed to write the necessary surety bond under a premium of \$5.00 for each \$1,000. The designated GI was bonded for \$2,000 and \$10 was paid out of Army funds.

Shortly after his arrival the Superintendent was forced to cope with several unforeseen complications in his assignment. These complications forced Mr. Stoner to function not only as a postal representative, but as an unofficial member of the Diplomatic Corps! The process of establishing and Army Post Office on the soil of another country, particular-

ly a friendly nation, was not quite as simple as it had first appeared.

Mr. Stoner had been instructed prior to his departure that military mail from Newfoundland posted through his branch would be treated like United States domestic mail and that domestic rates in effect at the time would apply. The problem with these instructions was that they had not been cleared with postal authorities in Newfoundland. As a result, a meeting was held between Major J. Haig-Smith, Chief censor, Secretary for the Posts and Telegraphs, and U.S. military officers in St. Johns on January 30, 1941, to work out the operational details. It was agreed at this meeting that what the Americans were planning to do (and already doing) was in line with the British Government's handling of postal matters in France and Russia during World War I. With this precedent in mind, it was deemed acceptable that United States troops would be allowed to use U.S. postage stamps on mail posted at the APO in Newfoundland.

It was further agreed that Mr. Stoner and the APO would deal with all incoming and outgoing mail from and to the United States in sealed bags, that is, the Newfoundland post office would not handle any of it except to transport the sealed bags by train and by boat across Cabot Strait. With regard to parcels, the February 1926 agreement between the United States and Newfoundland, which stated that "the country of origin shall allow to the other a destination fee of 30 cents a parcel on the total excess number of such parcel post packages received", would be maintained.

Internal personal communications between U.S. personnel at different points in Newfoundland would be treated as Newfoundland internal mail, and would be subject to Newfoundland rates of postage prepaid in Newfoundland postage stamps. Official mail to and from the United States would be made up in sealed or locked mail bags. Mails from the United States Army post office outward bound would be put on a train direct by U.S. Army personnel, and inward bound mail would be collected at the General Post Office of St. Johns by the U.S. Post Office staff.

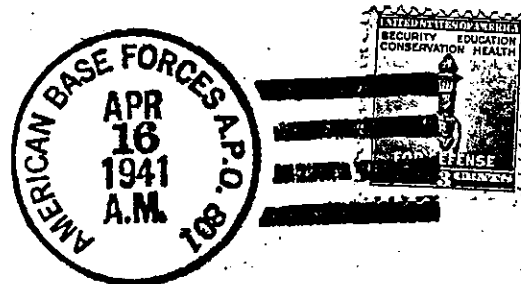


Figure 2.

The U.S. Administration in Newfoundland was informed upon arrival of the troop ship *Edmund Alexander* regarding censorship and points dealing with the problem. Initially, at least, the Americans followed the instructions laid down by Major Haig-Smith. Once the United States entered the War in December, the situation may have changed.

In conclusion, the American Forces in Newfoundland Branch of the New York post office operated from January 15, 1941, until April 15, 1941. At that time it was redesignated American Base Forces A.P.O. 801 (Fig. 2). The office remained aboard USAT *Edmund B. Alexander* until May 30, 1941, at which time it was transferred to Camp Alexander. Examples of postmarks from this APO, particularly the APO 801 variety, are fairly common on philatelic cards and covers, but legitimate, non-philatelic examples are difficult to find.



NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 1343 - Bruce Burwell (12/89) 3603 Sexton St., Alexandria, VA 22309
 2317 - Truman Bouter (12/87) Box 1370, Baileys Crossroads, VA 22041
 2318 - Samuel J. Pazzillo (12/88) 1129 Aurora Circle, Birmingham, AL 35215
 Airmail transmissions during WWII; routings & censorship - civilian, military & diplomatic; WWII POW airletters
 2319 - Galen L. McPherson (12/88) 444 W. Huntington Dr. #120, Arcadia, CA 91006 Spanish American War
 2320 - Victor J. Blais (12/88) 1900 Silver Lake Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039
 2321 - Wayne A. Forester (12/88) Box 5, Hanover, MA 02339
 2322 - Lawrence Rothfeder (12/88) 372 Canon Circle, Springfield, MA 01118 WWII
 2323 - John Finck (12/88) 2022 Harman Ave., Baltimore, MD 21230 General Postal History
 2324 - R.J. Daniel Wells (12/88) 10120 SW 80th Street, Miami, FL 33173
 2325 - Robert J. Hausin (12/88) 643 Fifth Ave. South, Naples, FL 33940
 2326 - Jonathan M. Flowers (12/87) Box 213, North Bridgeton, ME 04057
 2327 - Greg Cox (12/88) Box 2134, McKinleyville, CA 95521 3rd Reich propaganda cards and WWII as a general topic

- 2328 - Rex H. Felton (12/88) Box 934, Tiffin, OH 44883 American Civil War era; Franco-Prussian War era; Confederates
 2329 - Joseph Wofchuck (12/88) 20 Exchange Place, New York, NY 10005 Mail from the Holy Land
 1345 - Walter Stoermer (12/88) 20 Waterside Plaza, New York, NY 10010
 0518 - Salvatore J. Rizza (12/88) 13807 Congress Drive, Rockville, MD 20853
 1845 - Justin Gordon (12/88) 8338 N. Kedvale, Skokie, IL 60076
 1229 - RE. Wallace (12/88) 312 E. Weatherford St., Fort Worth, TX 76102
 1938 - Regis Hoffman (12/88) 2414 Sapling St., Glenshaw, PA 15116
 2330 - Neil Tomlinson (12/88) 6252 St. Georges Cres., West Vancouver, BC V7W 1Z2 CANADA
 2331 - Joseph Z. Zwolinski (12/88) 12212 Silk Oak Lane, Bayonet Point, FL 34667 Pacific Islands FDC, stamps & war memorabilia
 0400 - Henry Fenigstein (12/88) 2787 Bathurst St., Toronto, ONT., CANADA
 2332 - Eric Yendall (12/88) 1110 Second Ave., Ottawa, ONT K1H 8E1 CANADA Mauritius WWII civil & military censorship
 2333 - C.W. Morgan (12/88) 4465 Atwood Cay Place, Sarasota, FL 34233 New Guinea & Philippine Islands - WWII
 2334 - Thomas R. Klein (12/87) 15400 W. 89th St., Lenexa, KS 66219
 2335 - Lewis E. Bussey (12/89) Box 18674, Denver, CO 80218 French Naval Mail to US during WWII
 2336 - George Rodenberg (12/89) US Embassy, APO, NY 09038 Covers of the world
 2337 - Greg Schmidt (12/88) 870 Bengal Rd., Neenah, WI 54956 Viet Nam
 2338 - Joel Mirelez (12/88) Box 30, LaCanada, CA 91011 Naval WWII
 2339 - William Andrakulic (12/88) Box 193, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
 2340 - Ken Schoolmeester (12/89) Box 8465, Greensboro, NC 27419 Bureau issue definitives on censored covers
 2341 - David Snowden (12/89) 17 Orchard Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 Postcards of a military nature
 2342 - Lester C. Lanphear III (12/89) Box 80843, San Diego, CA 92138 Penalty covers & US booklets on cover
 2343 - Chris Hall (12/89) 369 E. 900 South #112, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 All areas of pre-war Germany
 2344 - Frank Wierzbowski (12/89) 55 Middlesex Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075 Polish Military History
 2345 - William Stein (12/89) 2118 Baylis ave., Elmont, NY 11003
 2346 - Robert E. Epler (12/89) Box 988, Lancaster, PA 17603 Colonial Africa & Asia; War covers in general
 2350 - William Morrill (12/89) 3501 Clare Dr. #80, San Angelo, TX 76904 Canal Zone; Mexico
 2351 - Joseph Lemmon (12/89) Box 153, Northford, CT 06472 WWI
 2352 - Pauline G. Hausdorff (12/89) 6502 Wickfield Rd., Baltimore, MD 21209 General postal history; All war material up to & including WWI; Maryland covers
 1739 - Allan Bergman (12/89) 28100 Collidge Dr., Euclid, OH 44132 American Civil War; Spanish American War; WWI & II
 2353 - Thomas Klein (12/89) 15400 W. 89th St., Lenexa, KS 66219 Military Mail - Viet Nam era; US commemoratives & definitives
 2356 - Eric Johnson (12/89) 6290 Olive St., North Ridgeville, OH 44039 US Naval covers
 2357 - Jerry Teubner (12/89) 2000 Court St., Sioux City, IA 51104 Australia Forces in Viet Nam; Russian Zone HOP's
 0687 - Al Smith (12/88) 1292 Oak Lane, Vineland, NJ 08360

OVERSEAS LIST

- 2334 - M. Bruls (12/90) Kreuzstrasse 28, D-5160 Duren, West Germany WWI, WWII war covers - Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands & Germany
 2347 - L.E. Freestone (12/88) 15 Cokeham Gardens, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 9TB, England Finnish Fieldpost - 1939-1944
 2348 - John Thiesen (12/88) Lokkegade 30, DK 3700 Ronne, Denmark WWI POW & Internee mail; fieldpost from armored units

● CONCLUDED ON PAGE 20

THE OPEN LETTERS OF 1914

By William Park

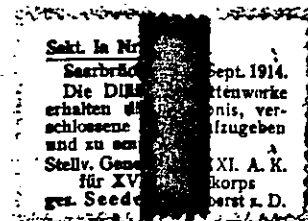
In August 1914 at the onset of World War I, Germany was prepared to establish censorship of all commercial mail to and from belligerent and neutral countries. By September all mail had to be submitted to postal authorities unsealed for inspection. All letters required the name and address of sender or indicia. Sealed briefs were, as a general procedure, returned to their sender. However, letters of suspect could be confiscated for further action or investigation by the military. All censorship was centralized and controlled by the Regional Army Corp Command. Figure 1 illustrates the handstamp marking which translates "Unallowed because sealed."

Unzulässig,
weil verschlossen.

Figure 1.

Firms essential to the war effort and administered by the military or government could, with special permission, mail and receive sealed letters. Figure 2 shows an Army censor label giving permission to mail and receive sealed letters which appears on the back of a cover from the Dillingen Mining Company. Letters of value were recorded in a postal counter register. In many ways this open letter system was a

Figure 2.



more efficient means of regulating censorship. Figure 3 illustrates a cover posted in Bous, Saar, which was submitted open, examined, sealed and accepted for transmission to Basel, Switzerland. The handstamp marking translates "Inspected and to be forwarded."

Foreign countries conducting business in Germany during this period were curtailed in their dealings. In many cases neutral nations were forced to correspond through their embassies. The United States Embassy was engaged in this type of activity for almost four years.

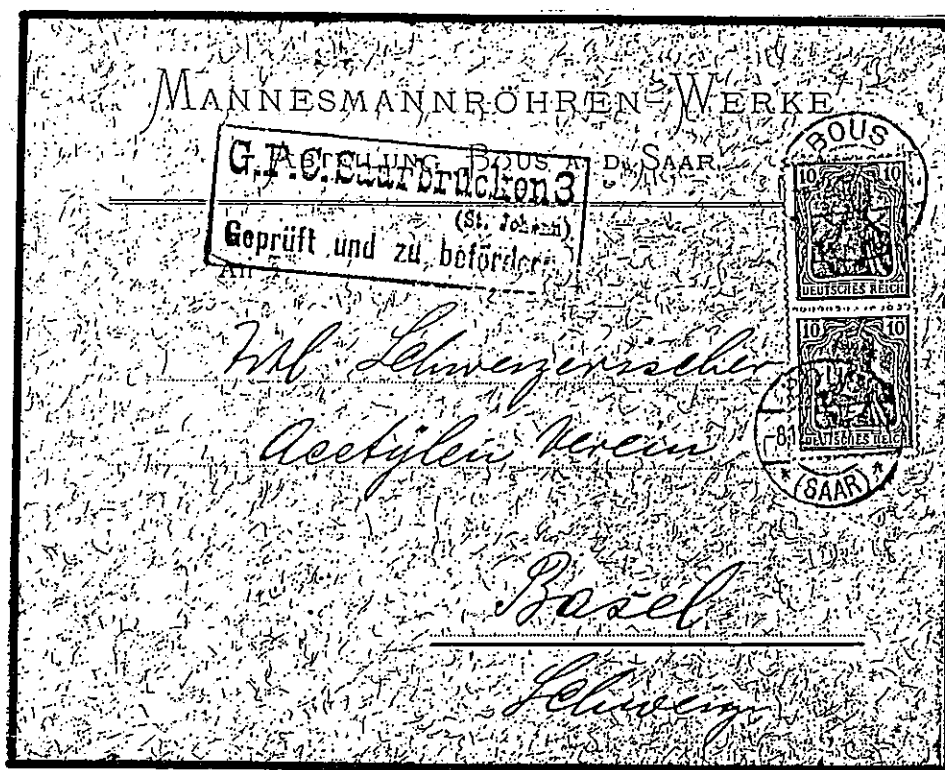


Figure 3. Inspection handstamp of Saarbrücken 3 censor.

A.E.F. UPDATE: ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO "THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE A.E.F. 1917-1923"

Edited By Theo. Van Dam

This is the third in the series of Updates to be published in the War Cover Club *BULLETIN*. Previous Updates appeared in the April-June and July-September 1986 issues. We want to thank all the contributors to this series of Updates, and we will be pleased to give credit where credit is due. Please keep your new finds coming in so that we can share the information with other interested collectors. It is amazing that after such a long time there are exciting new discoveries still coming to light. The updating information which follows is all keyed to the pages of *POSTAL HISTORY OF THE A.E.F. 1917-1923*.

page 11:

APO 975 (see also *Valuation Guide*; error in listing should be A4201 instead of A4101, page 9): additional date: on cornercard AMERICAN COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE PEACE, typed: 4 Place de la Concorde, used 7-23-1919 (Peace Treaty was signed June 28!) [Mark S. Hross] (Figure 1)

APO 975 used as a backstamp on returned cover to Major Huston, American Food Administration 7-28-1919 [John Hardies] (Figure 2)

page 14 Registered Mail

File: Military Intelligence Division No. 10963-53 - enclosure regarding disposition of records upon closing of offices. Possibly this may help estimate how few registered letters passed through this office. [John Hardies] (Fig. 3)

May be the first registered letter of the A.E.F.!! Envelope with unusual Y.M.C.A. corner card (not previously reported) franked with booklet pane 2-cent stamp (Scott #499f) plus 10-cent Washington tied (Type A1001) A.P.O. No.1 9-15-1917 (also early date for booklet pane stamp - maybe even the earliest), two boxed Registered handstamps to California, backstamped double ring registered handstamp (Type A901) also 9-15, New York transit postmark 10-1, and Watsonville, Cal., arrival postmark 10-28. Also on back is a previously unreported label "Contains 50.00 (mss) Coins, Notes. [Lester Lanphear] (Figure 4)

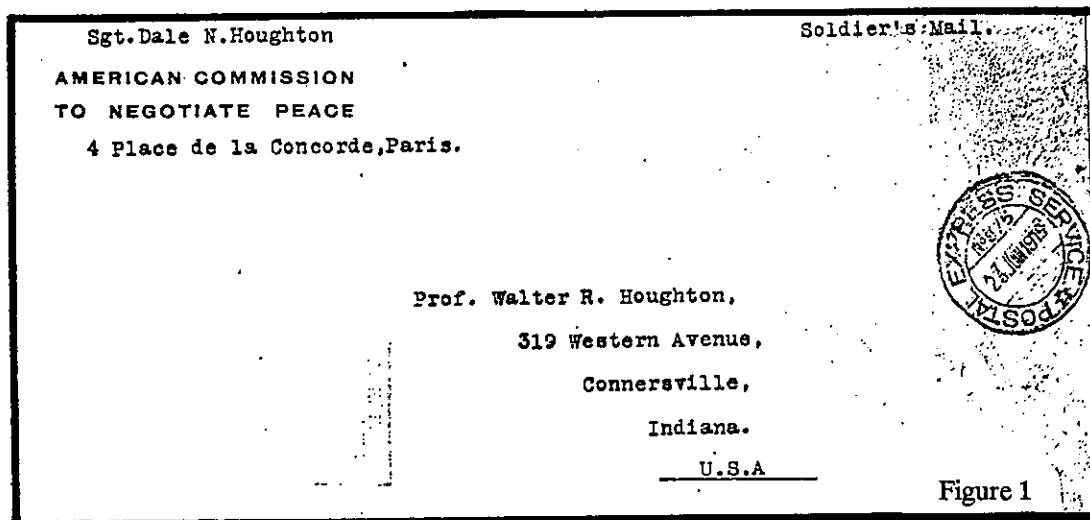


Figure 1

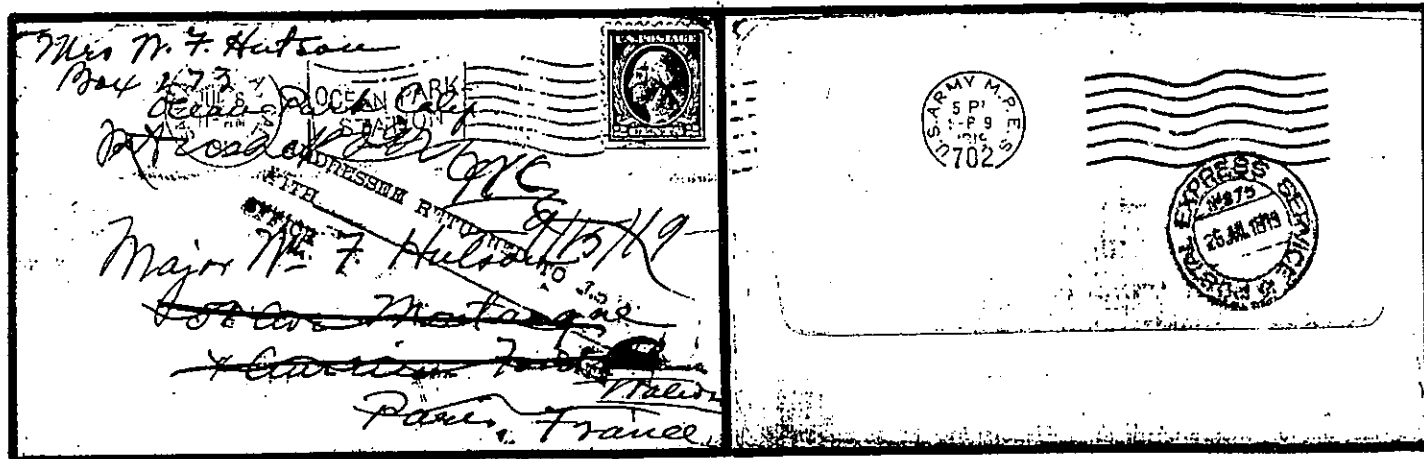


Figure 2

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

COURIER-REGISTER SERVICE

DATE 28 June, 1919

THE STARS AND STRIPES, #32 rue Taitbout, Paris, France.

REGISTER BILL From

No.	A. P. O. Reg. No.	FILE No.	FROM: Office, Order, or Person	ADDRESSED TO: Dept., Army Unit or Person	DESTINATION: A. P. O. No. or Town and Dept.
1	Package 8692		The Stars and Stripes	A.O. of S.G2, GHQ AEF	A.P.O. #706
2	Letter 8691		Major P. C. Mansford, S. & S.	A.O. of S.G2, GHQ AEF	A.P.O. #706
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Total of 2 (Two).
registers received in this dispatch

[Signature]
(Signature of Official, Order, or Courier)
[Signature]
(Signature of Receiving Clerk)

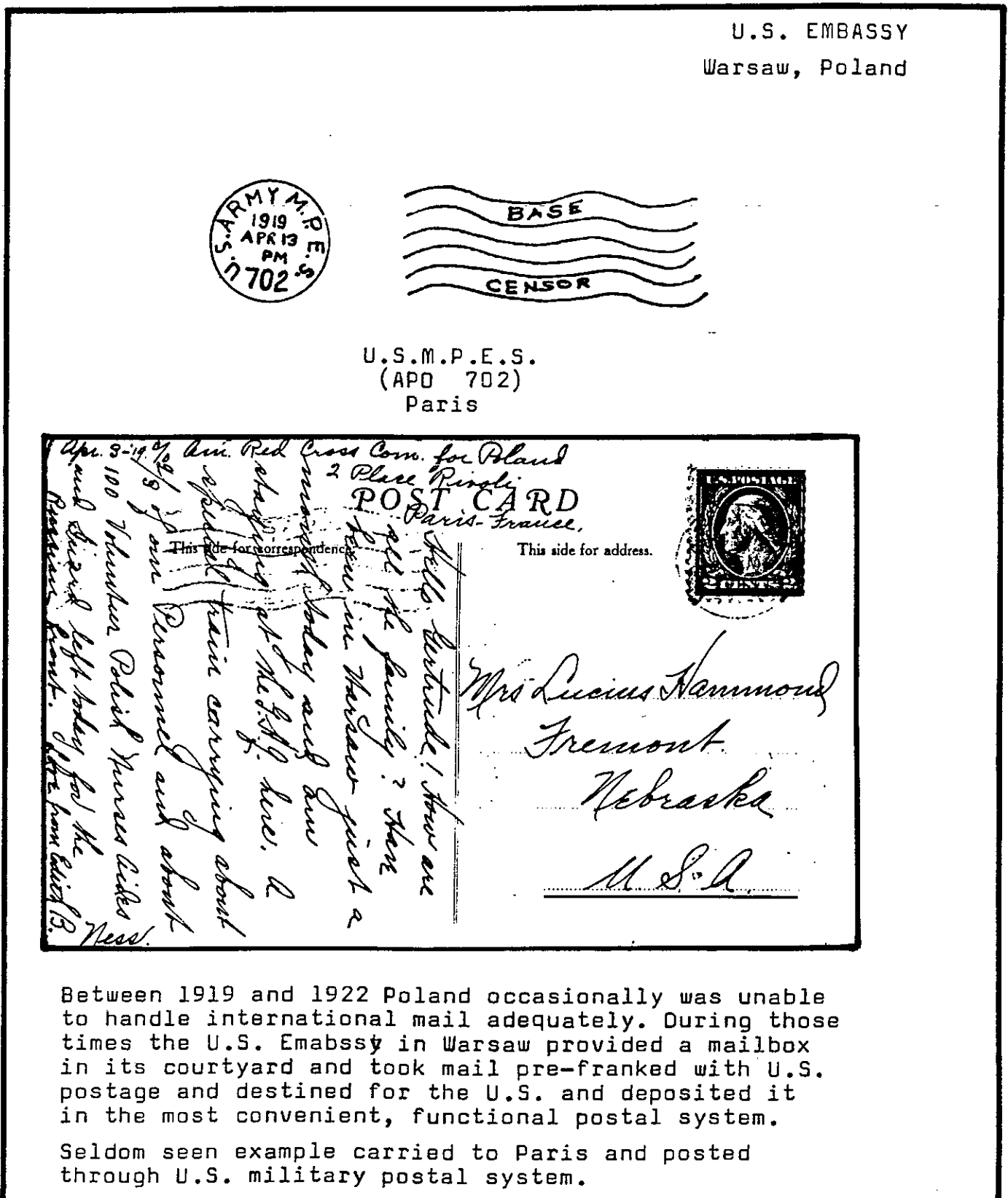


G.P.M.A.M.F. 3516-3-18-19-250M

Figure 3

page 15 Other Countries - Poland

Figures 5, 6 and 7. [Contributed by Thomas J. Gobby]



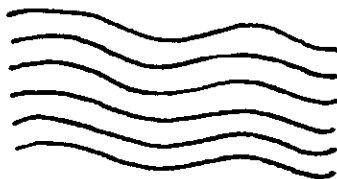
Between 1919 and 1922 Poland occasionally was unable to handle international mail adequately. During those times the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw provided a mailbox in its courtyard and took mail pre-franked with U.S. postage and destined for the U.S. and deposited it in the most convenient, functional postal system.

Seldom seen example carried to Paris and posted through U.S. military postal system.

Figure 5

HALLER ARMY

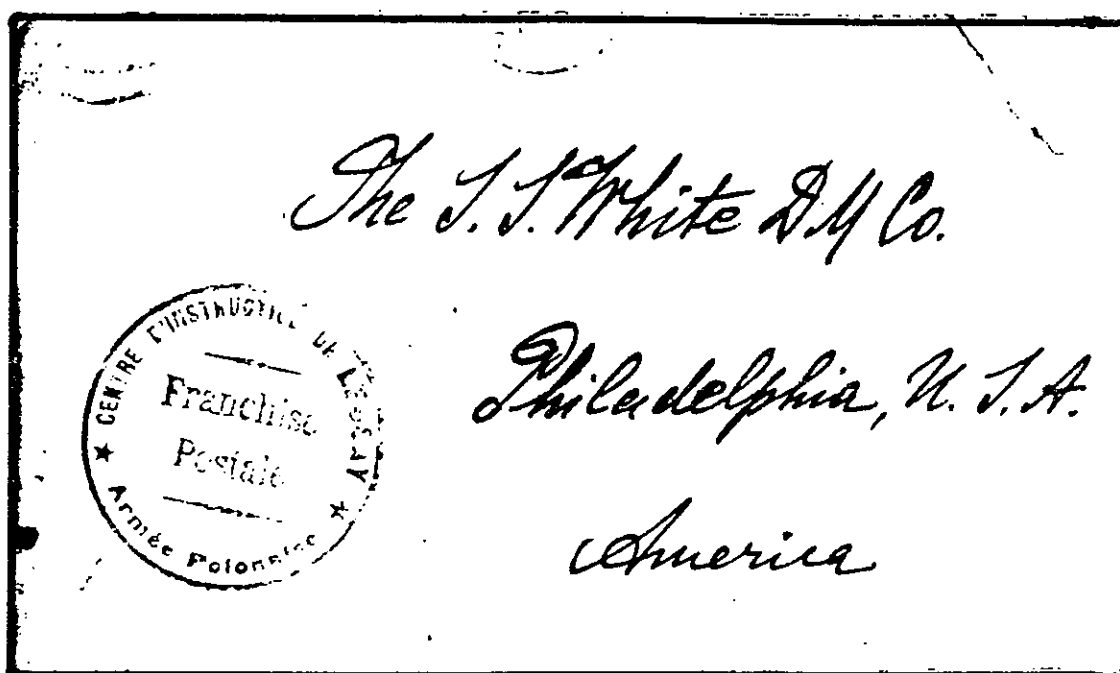
France



U.S.M.P.E.S. (APO 702)

Paris

Date unknown, 1918



Instruction Center at Lessay
Polish Army

One of two known covers with this APO cancel.

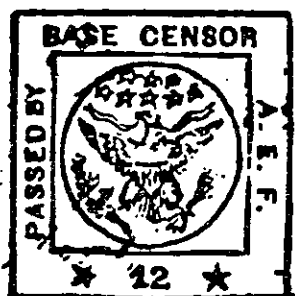
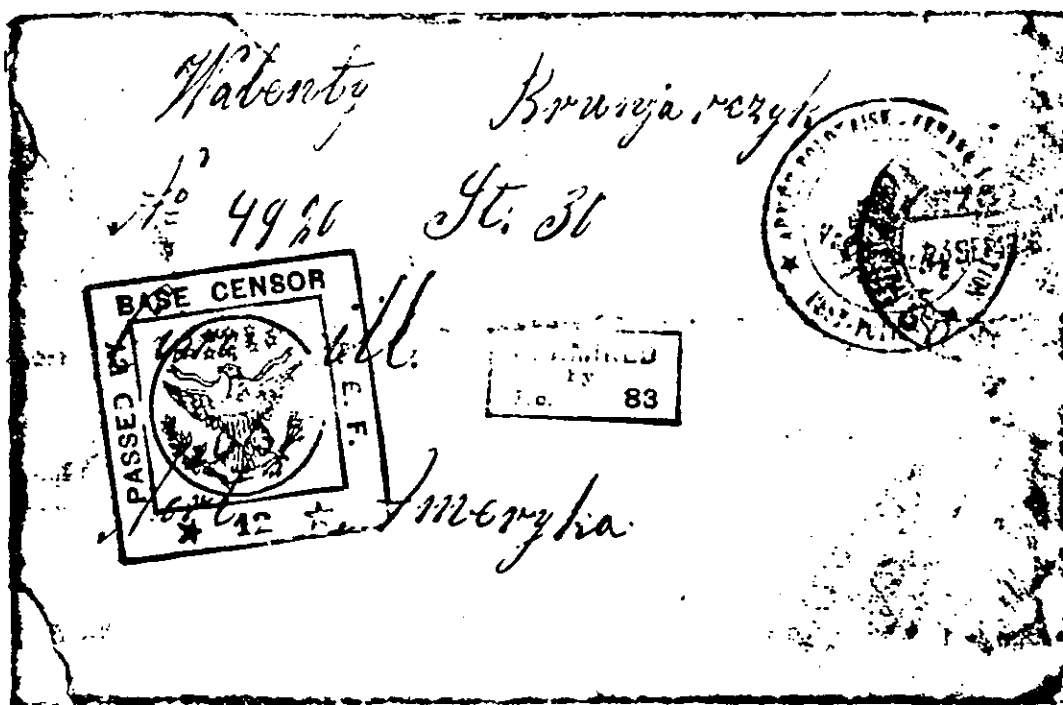
Figure 6

HALLER ARMY
France

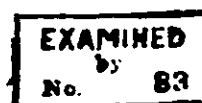
Figure 7



U.S. APO-752
Marseille
Bouches-du-Rhone
Debarkation Base



Censor markings:
A.E.F. Central Records
Office, Bourges



Circular cachet(violet) in French. Translates:
Polish Army - Instruction Center - Ussy-Potigny

One of five reported covers via this US APO.

page 17 Service Organizations.

A YMCA lettersheet - very seldom found - used by
APO 704 (La Valdahon) 10-29-1918 [R.E.G.] (Figure 8)

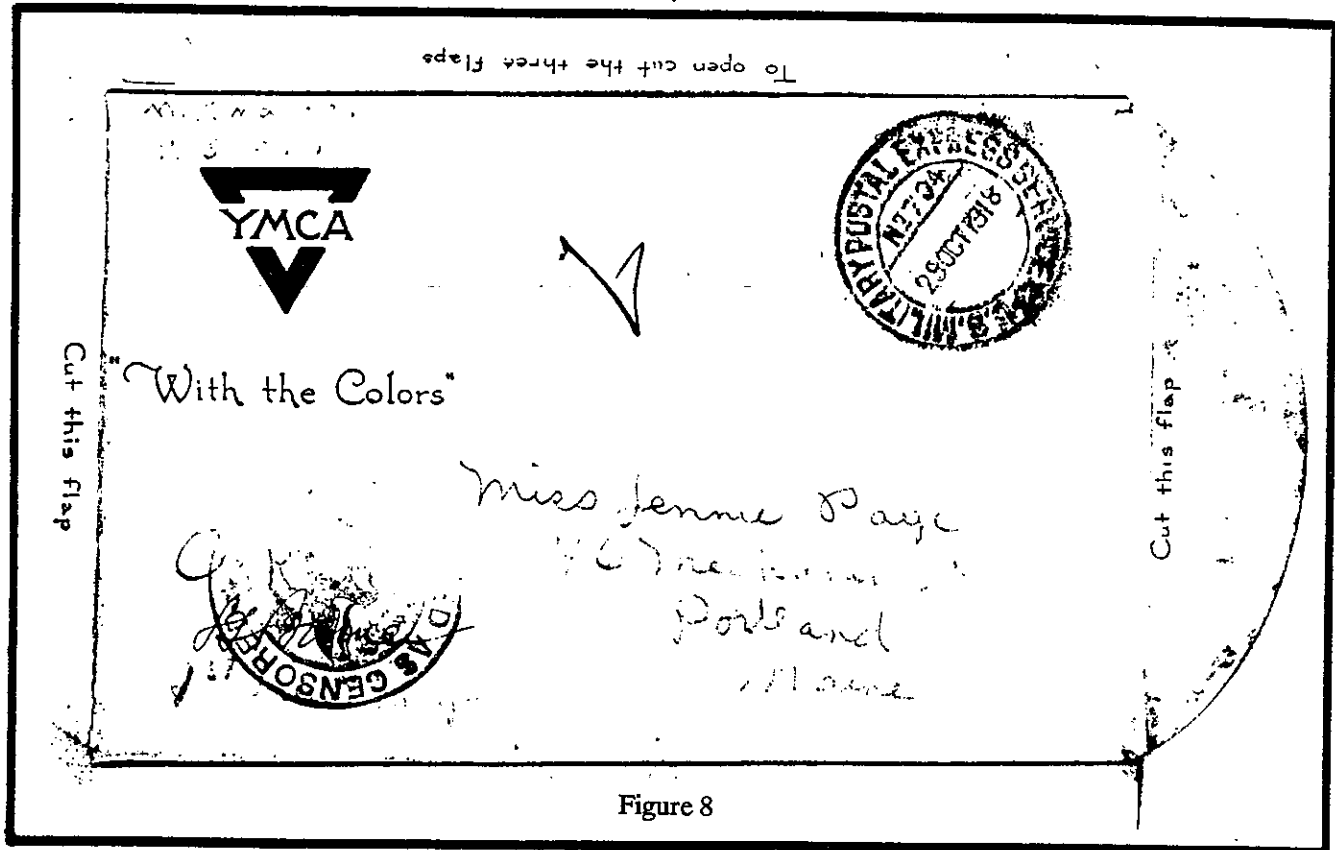


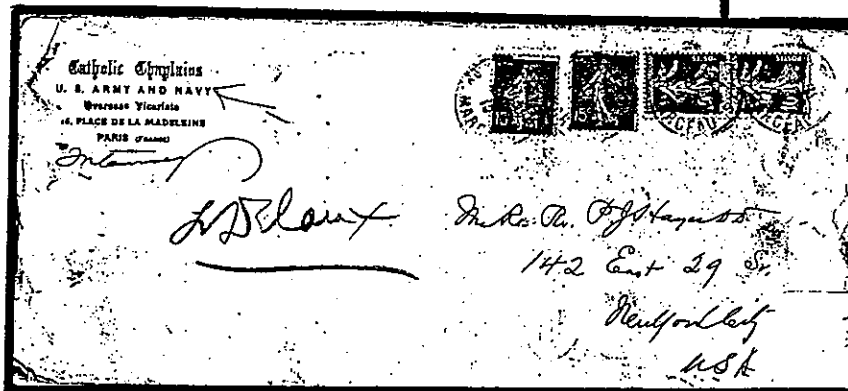
Figure 8

A NEW service organization "Catholic Chaplains/US Army & Navy/Overseas Vicariate/16 Place de la Madeleine/Paris" on envelope with French "Semeuse" stamps postmarked Paris 10-8- 1918. [ThVD] (Figure 9)

Figure 9

Catholic Chaplains
U. S. ARMY AND NAVY
Overseas Vicariate
16, PLACE DE LA MADELEINE
PARIS (FRANCE)

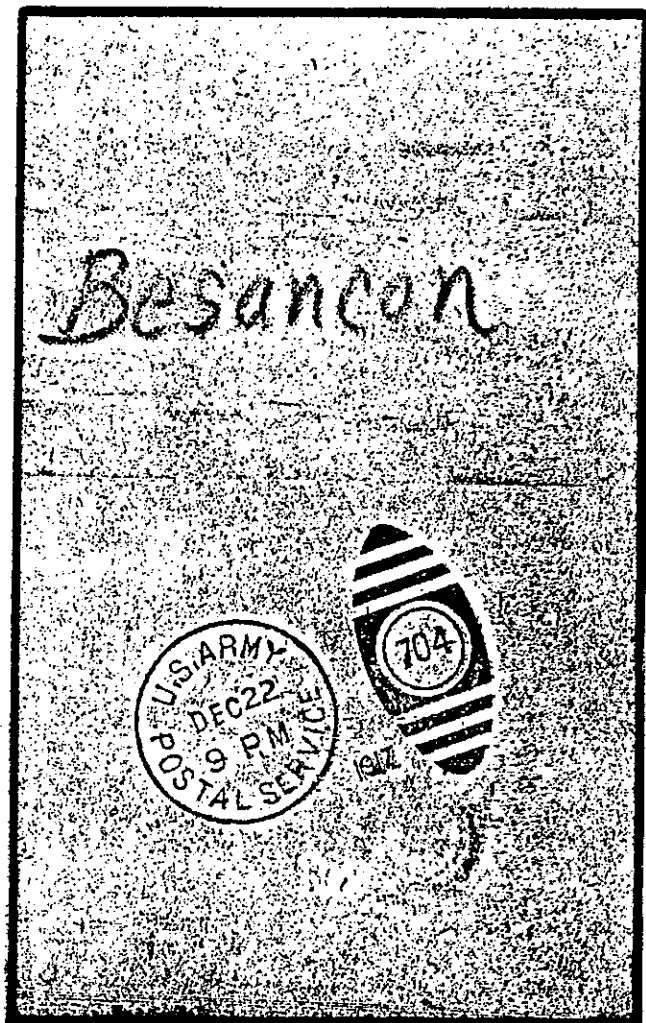
Intensy



page 31 Collateral Material

Facing slips? for bundles of letters on buff, thin paper.

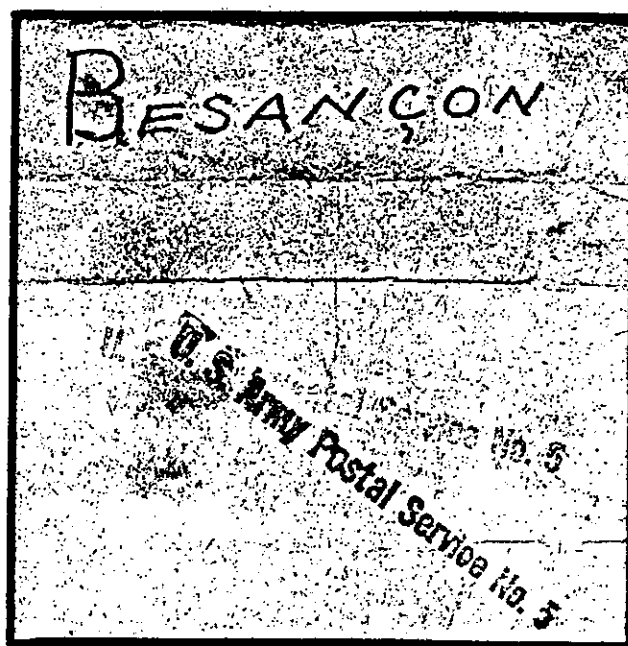
A. with postmark A2011 APO 704 (La Valdahon) and Becanson;



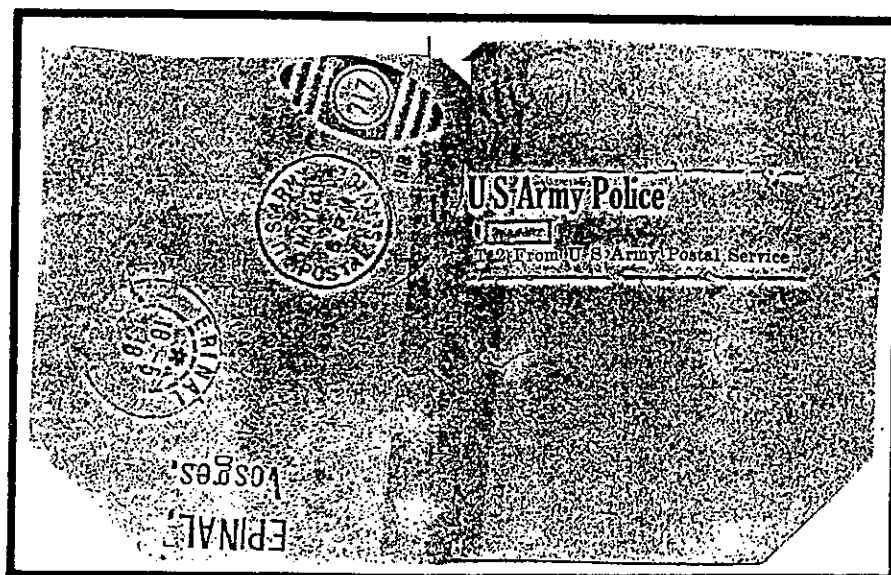
A

B. with violet straightline A8202.2 No. 3 (Gondrecourt) 61 mm. long;

C. with strtl. Epinal in violet and A2011 (Tours) -- on reverse U.S. Army Police [John Hardies] (Figs. 10A-10C)



B



C

Figure 10

page 43 The 2000 Series

Variety A2001.9 no APO number, Febr. 23 (DAY inverted) 1919, sent from APO 750 (33rd Division), letter datelined Berdorf, Luxembourg. [Mark S. Hross] (Figure 11)

See new listing *Valuation Guide*, page 9 - A2101.3 "05" in barrel (Bordeaux) 6-15-1919 - very few reported! [John Hardies] (Figure 12)

New variety A2003.1 APO 702 (Paris) inverted - a "fair" strike on card datelined 8-2-1919, note late usage of "Postal Service" term. In text of card, writer mentions he works for the Postal Express. [John Hardies] (Figure 13).

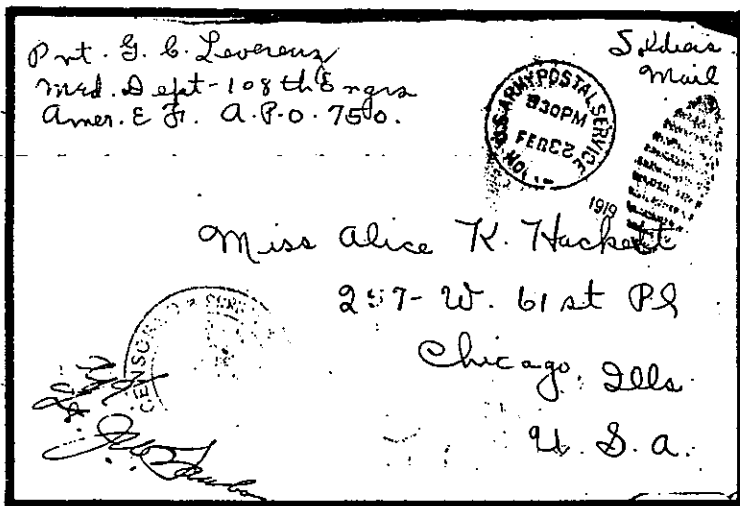


Figure 11

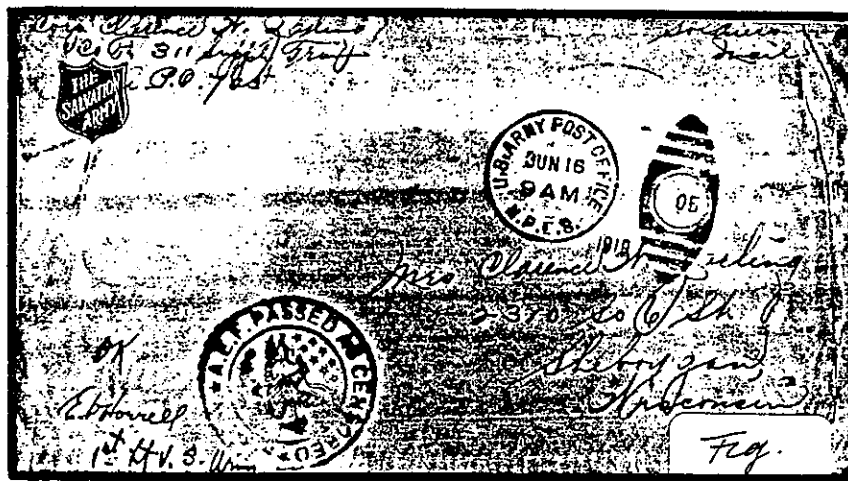


Figure 12

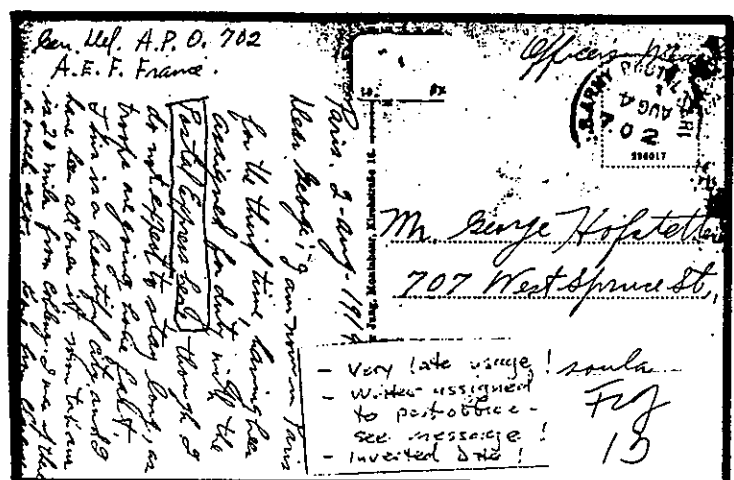


Figure 13

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

CLASSIFIED

Classified Ad Rates: 10 cents per word per insertion with a 10% discount for four insertions, and a 25% discount for eight insertions

Submit all ad copy to Secretary-Treasurer Chris Kulpinski, P.O. Box 464, Feasterville, PA 19047

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: WORLD WIDE MILITARY & NAVAL COVERS. Including Peacetime, Occupations, Campaigns, Wars, Internee, Censored, Delayed Mail, Officially Sealed, Seaposts and Unusual. Limited research assistance available. Fred Scheuer - Cancel Collector, Box 2356, Mesa, AZ (602) 964-6739

JAPAN MILITARY POST from the 1894 Sino-Japan War through World War Two. Write us for a selection of your interest. Nippon Philatelics, Drawer 7300, Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93921

SOUTH PACIFIC, BRITISH BORNEO. I stock only these areas and have a wide selection of covers, proofs, and other specialist items. No stamps or FDCs carried. How can I help you? References please. Similar material always wanted. Howard Lee, Box 636WC, New York, NY 10163

WANTED APO COVERS

WANTED U.S. APO's in Europe dated from Jun 1944 until April 1945. I buy all quantities. Please make offer to CPN Bruls, Kreuzstrasse 28, D 5460 Duren, West Germany

WANTED APO COVERS.

WANTED WW2 dated first day of operation. Will pay a minimum of \$10 or will trade, have large variety. Urgently wanted: #265, hand cancel dated November 1944 to end. A. Lewandowski, Box 1, New York, NY 10040

WANTED U.S. ARMY POST OFFICE covers: APO 681 (Oct.-20 Nov 1942); APO 682 (1942-46); APO 685 (27 Mar 1943-15 Jan 1944); APO 1221 (15 Jul-16 Sept 1942); APO 1227 (1942-1943). Emmanuel H. Pearl, P.O. Box 582, Campbell, CA 95009

WANTED APOs & U.S. NAVY in Iceland all periods [ex. APO 611, 612 M.C. (machine cancellation), 613 M.C., 614 M.C., APO 1028, APO 3488, Navy 25] Please send list of items for sale to: Leif Nilsson, Soedersvik 9074, S-761 00 Norrtälje, Sweden

WANT TO BUY From Greenland: *censored mail to and from the island; *covers with APO marks up to 1950. Gerhard Mueller, Friedrich-Stoltze-Str. 42, D-6231 Schwalbach/Ts, West Germany

WANTED SHIP COVERS

WANTED: U.S.S. NEW MEXICO (BB-40) and Flying Tigers (14th Air Force) Cancellations, covers, photos, articles and related materials. Send description, condition, price. Will return postage with reply. Kenneth Bridge, Rt. 4, Box 553-A, Roswell, NM 88201

WANTED POSTCARDS

BUYING POST CARDS depicting military uniforms, leaders, weapons, and warships. Books on same subjects also desired. Will pay cash or trade. John Dunn, Omni-BCC Nort, 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek, FL 33066

WANTED INTERNEE MAIL

WANTED MALTA POW and civilian internee mail. British-U.S.-French Army-Navy cancellations. Picture postcards - mint or used. George Camillery, 165 E. Union St., Newark, NY 14513

BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING MATERIAL

The following deadlines have been set to help keep the BULLETIN on Schedule:

Jan-Mar issue: February 1st
Apr-Jun issue: May 1st
Jul-Sep issue: August 1st
Oct-Dec issue: November 1st

In order to include material in a particular issue, it must be received by the Editor by the deadline listed above

NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP CHANGES (From Page 8)

2349 - Wolfgang Vogt (12/88) Zwickauerstr. 5, D 5400 Koblenz,
West Germany German POW & Internee mail - WWII
2354S- Joseph Vinals (12/89) Apartado Correo 171, 17220
Sant Feliu de Guixois, Girona, Spain US Navy in Asia; Yangtze
River Patrol; Gunboats; Boxer Rebellion
2355S- Bernd Essler (12/89) Langenbergerstr. 10, D-5160 Dueren,
West Germany Worldwide sea mail cancels; Maritime related
censorship; Worldwide navy mail

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING

A regional meeting of the War Cover Club will take place at PIPEX 88, the exhibition sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, to be held in Eugene, Oregon, this year. The meeting will feature a roundtable discussion of war covers, and all interested collectors in the region are invited to bring along a few of their unusual covers and participate. The date for the meeting is Sunday, May 29th at 2PM in the Hilton Hotel, Eugene. Meeting room will be announced at the show. For more information contact Len Lukens, P. O. Box 117, Phoenix, OR 97535.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEETING

A regional meeting of the War Cover Club will be held in conjunction with Cover Expo, September 24-25, at the Anaheim Sheraton Hotel, Anaheim, California.

Postal History

**Always the Unusual,
Esoteric & Inimitable...**

We offer Mail Sales with extremely interesting material in the \$25 - \$150 range. In addition, our Public Auctions offer appropriately rare and specialized material.

We are always interested in buying specialized items or collections.

Our Mail Sale and Public Auction catalogs are sent free to members of the War Cover Club on request. Please specify which catalog you wish.

**George
Alevizos**



2800 28th Street, Suite 323
Santa Monica, California 90405
Telephone: 213/450-2543
Cal. Auc. Lic. No. A1229

[28-31]

WAR COVER CLUB

CHRIS KULPINSKI, SECY.
P. O. BOX 464
FEASTERVILLE, PA 19047

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 284
Lake Oswego, OR

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED