

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Aug 1959)

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

APO 502 - New Caledonia

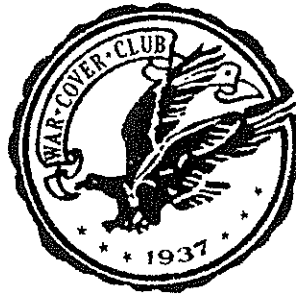
V-Mail (tests and possible illegal items)

Maganah Post (1947-8)

APO 502 - New Caledonia (WWII)

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

President: SOL WHITMAN
Sec.-Treas.: I. WILLINGER



Bulletin Editor:
KEVIN P. ROGAN, R. N.
65 Hooker Ave.
POUGHKEEPSEE, N.Y.

August 1959

Whole No. 16

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

Who has the latest address of Adrian Hopkins? He wrote an article for us about the Siberian AEF covers of WWI in Nov. 1956.

Neil D. Josephson is Editor of the Ice Cap News of the American Society of Polar Philatelists. Address is 83 Forest St., New Britain, Conn.

W. A. Haarstad, 710 East Walnut St., Santa Ana, Cal., is interested in securing a cover, APO 544, American mission to Norway, postmarked before the end of World War II.

The R.C.A.F. is NOT taking over the DEW LINE as stated in papers recently. In February only 20 Canadian officers left Ottawa to take up duties at radar stations operated by the US in the Canadian Arctic. WHO has covers from all the DEW line stations? Does anyone know how many there are? and Where?

Just reviewed: AMG Catalogue and Handbook, Joseph Bush, 143 Garrett Ave. Chula Vista, Calif. Pre publishing price \$3.75.

TRADE

TRADE

TO EXCHANGE CURRENT RCAF MILITARY COVERS AND CANCELLATIONS FOR CANADIAN AIRMAIL FIRST FLIGHT COVERS, USAF MILITARY COVERS AND USED AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES. R.K.MALLOTT F/L RCAF STATION AYLNER, W. ONTARIO, CAN.

ASOCIACION CANJE INTERNACIONAL FILATELICO (A.C.I.F.)

INDEPENDENCIA 550 "C" BUENOS AIRES REP. ARGENTINA

DR. MARIO E. TRAPANESE, MANAGER & COMMISSIONED OF FOREIGN OFFICE.

Edition of quarterly magazine, with a complete list of members and their wishes of exchange..stamps, coins, post cards, etc. Fee \$1 or unused commems.

POSTAL HISTORY CATALOGUE OF NEW ZEALAND lists 480 military covers from 1860 to Korea. Only \$1.50, airmail. KOREAN WAR N.Z. MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE 1950-1957 by R.M. Startup, \$2.00 airmail. 20 different WWII covers: \$5.00 - also approval books.

Laurie Franks 567 Barbadoes St. Christchurch New Zealand

WANTED

WANTED

C. B. COVERS - ALASKAN COVERS - MARINE COVERS, TO BUY OR TRADE,

BEG OR BARTER

KEVIN ROGAN

65 HOOKER AVE.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.

Bill Olcheski, stamp & coin editor of Air Force Times, Army Times and Navy Times wrote me that his paper is running a contest this year. Object of the contest is to see who comes closest to guessing the number of First Day Covers that will be cancelled when the Petroleum Industry Commemorative is issued August 27th. First prize is a presentation album containing a sheet of the new stamps autographed by the Postmaster General and the designer of the stamps. Many more additional philatelic prizes will be given. Sample copies of the above paper may be obtained by sending 25¢ in coin or stamps to Service Center, Army Times Publishing Co., 2020 M St. N.W., Wash. 6, D.C.

Member Leon Berman collects early 19th Century US Camps and Forts. He has 75 different and would like to know if there is any publication, private or Military, which lists old Forts, with some historical background of each.

Member Albert Higgins met with an accident some weeks back and was hospitalized. We are very glad to report that Albert has recovered and has resumed his activity.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30th, therefore dues are in order. To those members who have not as yet paid their dues, please remit the \$2.00 to the Sec. I. Willinger, 314 E. 163rd St., New York 51, N.Y.

Good article in April 1959 "German Postal Specialist" about the 1901 "Vineta" Provisional, Scott: Germany 65B Bisect 5 Pfg stamp used by members of cruiser S.M.S. Vineta at Rio de Janeiro who didn't have 3 Pfg stamps to send home newspapers containing articles about the ship and crew. Bisect was overprinted provisionally "3 Pf" cut from a piece of rubber.

A good English military magazine out - "Soldier", cost 10/6 per year. (\$1.50). Make check out to "Command Cashier", 433 Holloway Rd., London N7 England.

For \$1.50 you can get "Arctic Philatelist" from P.O. Box 75, Sitka, Alaska.

Just saw APO 102-6, 971-3 and Navy 3867, last from Okinawa.

On July 21st a special postal cancelling die and cachet commemorated the launching of the world's 1st nuclear merchant ship, the N.S. SAVANNAH. Send 10¢ cash or M.O. to Cachet Chairman, Box 7105, Apex Station, Washington 4, DC.

Tom McGrath, WCC 410, 161 So. Blvd., Albany 4, N.Y. has 8 recent issues of "New York National Guard" magazine. For 30¢ postage he will send these to you.

Who can decipher the following found on two covers? One has "Det 28, TUSLOG, Turkey", the other has "Obs METEO, DAS F.A.P., Base AEREA 4". The last I think was in the Azores. These two covers might have something to do with the I.G.Y.

Member Gale J. Raymond reports: The British Missile Testing Range had a Royal Air Force unit at St. Kilda Island (near Scotland) in 1957. At one time the island had a regular British post office, long closed (before 1930)

when the island population left. However, the R.A.F. mail in 1957 was cancelled with a ST. KILDA postmark applied, oddly enough, by a mainland p.o. at LOCHBOISDALE. In 1958 the R.A.F. unit was replaced by an ARMY unit and outgoing mail is again receiving a ST. KILDA postmark (a new double-circle one) applied en route at the NANTON p.o. on the mainland. (This info came from J. A. MacKay).

Gale continues: The RAF Base at GAN ISLAND, MALDIVES used FPO 1048 from about Nov. 1957 to August 1958, now uses an FPO 1013 postmark.

Has anyone seen a cover of the USN Antarctic "Byrd Station" hand stamped? Write Gale Raymond.

H.R.H. Prince Philip mailed several covers sent to him at the British FPO Christmas Island when he visited there April 4, 1959. Postmarks were perfect! By custom, British royalty do not give autographs.

Gale is seeking APO's 809A, 535, 523A, 684, 685 and 686. Check your APO's over.

WANTED TO BUY

NAVAL POSTMARKS 1908 - 1922

HAVE MANY DUPLICATES TO EXCHANGE

CAPT. H.F. ROMMEL, U.S.N.

27 Red Cross Ave.

Newport, R.I.

Bill Cipolli reports a few "AMPERSAND" cancels. Cancel reads ARMY & AIR FORCE POSTAL SERVICE.

Hand: APO 75, 503-1, 958-1

Machine: APO 63, 301, 925. If you know of others, contact Bill.

Just a reminder to you Navy fans & Arctic fans - the Navy, Army & Air Force are conducting their 10th consecutive sealift to supply radar and defense installations in the Arctic.

Fred B. Klein, 835 N. Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach, Fla., wants to dispose of his APO collection as a whole. He has about 90% of all numbers issued - grossing about 3500 items. These include various different cancellations with a variety of various stamps - regular - airmail, etc. Very few duplicates.

If any members have old auction catalogs dealing with War Covers that they don't want - send them to Bulletin Editor Rogan. Recently got a nice one from Fred Faulstich - Auction of Robson Lowe of Covers, Cancellations & Postage stamps of Second Boer War, 1899-1902. Great pictorial history of the covers used during that war.

Capt. Rommel sends picture of old Law Book with re to Civil War NAVAL covers. Sailors & Marines on Jan. 21, 1862 could send letters through the mails of U.S. without pre-payment of postage. Soldiers got theirs July 22, 1861. John A. Kasson, 1st Ass't Postmaster General writes: "The envelope must bear the certificate "Naval Letter" signed by the commanding officer or lieutenant on board the vessel, with the name of the vessel thus:

Naval Letter
Richard Roe, 1st Lieutenant
US Gun Boat KANAWHA

To John Smith
New York

This privilege does not extend to commissioned officers. All such certified letters must be rated with postage at the mailing office to be collected at the office of delivery. Letters addressed to such sailors and marines must be prepaid as before.

Incidentally, who has Marine covers from the Civil War? I suppose Rowland Gill has some. Do you, R.G.?

Your editor is interested in getting some covers from BURMA with a R.A. of 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional).

Stan Jersey is working very hard on research on So. Pacific history. A lot of our members can help out by lending him covers to check on. In past Bulletins he has asked for help with very little response. He will publish his results on Marine Corps locations at a later date. He has located Acorn 3 as Guadalcanal; Acorn 7 as Solomon Islands; Acorn 14 as Tarawa; APO 709-2 as Russell Islands.

Notes on Guadalcanal - 2nd Reg. & Paratroopers of 1st Mar. Div. hit Tulagi, Gavutu & Tanembogo (all 3 nested in a cove of Florida Islands). Relief of 64th Reg. of Nat'l Guard. 8th Marines sick with mumu from Samoa had to retreat. On 11/15/42 USS Washington led the fleet into the "slot" and caught the Jap Navy. Christmas was spent on Tarawa with Dengue fever. The 6th Marines were on USS Bobo, Jackson, Adams, Hayes, Crescent City - last 4 were attack transports. From New Zealand to New Caledonia 12/25/42 then on to Guadalcanal in Jan. 1943.

Jan 10th a big drive was made, 2nd & 8th Marines - Army on rt. flank.

Jan. 13th, 6th Marines relieved the 2nd and 8th; drive started to Kokumbona River, 10 miles away. Left on flank were elements of Americal Div. Drive went on to Tassafaronga Point.

On Oct. 26, 1942 the "President Coolidge" approached Espiritu Santo with the 172nd Inf., 43rd Div. to relieve the Marines on 'Canal. It was hit with mines in Scorff Channel & sunk. Only 2 lost.

Notes on Alaska. Merchant Marine vessels there in WW II April 30, 1943 - Operation "Land Crab" in Cold Bay. (North Coast - Alaska - Yukon - Franklin Mac Veagh - William L. Thompson - President Fillmore.) On May 11th into Attu - Massacre & Holtz Bays - bitter fighting until May 31st. June 3rd Jap planes approached Dutch Harbor. Transport President Fillmore there with 2000 troops of 260th CA (AA) and deck cargo of 155mm guns. She fired at Jap planes. (Passenger liner Yale - Platano - Antigua - Beaver - Santa Catalina - Arcata (Sunk July 14th))

The USS Grayhound was in Alaska.

Invasion of AFRICA - Convoy 10/28/42 between Azores and Maine. "Operation Torch" guarded by Task Force 34 which included the Massachusetts and Augusta. Joseph T. Dickman (ex President Roosevelt) in convoy. Landed Nov. 8th. Leonard Wood at Fedala just north of Casablanca. Henry T. Allen at Mehedia. Joseph Hewes sunk. Winooski there also. (Merchant Marine vessels).

Marine Fighter Squadron 211, Marine Aircraft Group 21 were on Wake Island the day the Japs attacked. 4 planes were in the air - the other 8 never got off the field. Dec. 11th the USS Triton (Sub) helped them by sinking a Jap ship. Dec. 23rd, 1941 they surrendered. The 448 Marines that had held Wake for these few days killed 820 Japs, shot down 21 airplanes and damaged 51, sank 2 destroyers and damaged 8 others. The Marines that survived were moved to Woosung prison camp near Shanghai. 98 civilian construction men were kept on Wake and were killed on Oct. 7, 1943. (American Legion Magazine, April 1959.)

USS BILOXI (CL-80) laid down 7/9/41, launched 2/23/43, commissioned 8/1/43. 1/30/44 she helped bombard OTDI and WOTJE. In late April, as part of T.G. 58.1, she helped to bomb WAKDE and SAWAR Air fields in New Guinea. She then went on to TRUK, SAIPAN, HOLLANDIA, IWO JIMA, YAP, GUAM, CHICHI JIMA, FORMOSA, OKINAWA, LEYTE, LUZON, INDO CHINA, HONG KONG, HAINAN, SAIGON and TOKYO without loosing a man to enemy action. Placed in "mothballs" 10/29/46. She used Types 22, 2N, 9FU and a provisional (P) cancel. FDPS 8/31/43 with 22 and 9FU. LDPS 5/8/46 with T-9FU being known. P cancel used early in 1946. Since ships of this classification are being converted to Guided Missile Cruisers, they are now of extra interest to cover collectors. (USCS LOG - Nov. 1958 - Ralph E. Lewis).

Your Bulletin Editor and your Sec.-Treas. who have been working hard on your last few Bulletins have scraped the bottom of the barrel as far as our extra articles or notes are concerned! You members MUST send in some HELP or we can't continue.

Navy No. 10124 is the Navy Net Depot, Floating Dry Dock Training Center, Tiburon, California.

Navy No. 16024 is the USS General W. G. Haan (AP-158).

Who has the location of 10922 BR?

Who has location of 9th Mar. Reg. - 3rd Mar. Div. in Nov. 1944 & 11/26/45?

Who has the history of the USS Pasadena (CL-65)?

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The latest word on the revised APO Location Books is that they will be finished and delivered to me in about two or three weeks. I have just received a letter from my printer explaining the difficulties he had and the reason for the long delay. I have lots of confidence in him and am sure that he will deliver as stated. I am looking forward to that day so that I can start mailing them out.

Member Sam Simon won a silver Bronze award at The Interposta show held in Hamburg for his showing of Concentration Camp Covers.

Our Club is indeed honored by having one of our members, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr. win the Grand Award at the 31st Annual Canadian Philatelic Society Exhibition (SARPHEX) for his showing of "Alaska Postal History".

At the same show Stanley Jersey won The Harris Trophy Award plus a Silver Medal for the best in British Commonwealth. He showed "Postal History of Solomon Islands".

Incidentally, Stan is making arrangements to be in N.Y. this fall, around the latter part of Sept. and as soon as I get the date, will plan a meeting of our members in his honor. At the present time Stan is looking for APO 502 covers dated from Oct. to Dec. 1942.

Member Harry K. Weymer has been elected President of The Philadelphia, Pa. Stamp Club.

R.M.Startrup of Masterton, New Zealand sent me the following info.: That US Navy P.O. 17046 located in New Zealand at Christchurch moved from a former brewery building in Kilmore St. Christchurch, to new buildings at The

Harewood International Airport, Christchurch at the end of March, 1959. This office acts as the Terminal Office for all mail for the US Antarctic Expeditions, resorting and forwarding mails from the States for the various Antarctic bases. This office is permitted to cancel philatelic covers for collectors.

In the last Bulletin mention was made of rephotographed processed V-Mail greetings. George J. Schultze supplied us with further information on that. I will quote from his letter: "Sometime in 1954 and 55 I purchased from Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton, Coldfield, England a lot of material, consisting of Airgraphs, 40 V-Mail Greetings without addresses and 68 with original address panels. I was told that they were demonstrations to show the high brass how the different machines operated. They were all done at the London V-Mail station probably in a separate section of the General Post Office. The 40 without addresses are all Christmas Greetings of 1943 according to the dates on some of them. They were made by cutting off the tops (address panels) and then placing the sheets on an unused sheet by gluing, I guess, and then run through a recorder machine or other machine used for that purpose. The ones with the addresses were done by just rerunning them. I have 68 and all were made from 1944 Easter Greetings. Now there is one thing to bear in mind, that is, the paper used was of all widths from 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 by 5" and controlled by the distance of the film from photographic paper on the enlarger machine. I don't see how so many different types could be made except at the V-Mail Stations, but the big mystery is how could they have been removed from the Station. All the V-Mails that I have are clean and unfolded and in the photo a crease shows up on some which definitely proves that they were made from a processed form."

Another member, Arthur Lewandowski, informed me that he received a lot of V-Mails from an Auction sale and he became suspicious because they were unfolded; therefore he returned the lot to the auction firm. This lot also came from England. Mr. Schultze, Lewandowski and myself are agreed on the fact that someone of the personnel at the V-Mail station did this job illegally. Any further comments on this subject by the members will be appreciated.

I have for sale a lot consisting of about 100 covers, all of them Belgium WW I. Included are Military Field P.O., Civilian censored with many different interesting markings plus some which bear Belgium overprint on German stamps. A very fine lot well worth \$7.50. I have a couple of smaller lots of the same material, at \$2.00 per lot. Any member who might be interested, please write me. I will be glad to send the lots on approval.

Letter written by Stanley Jersey addressed to L. C. Bennetts:

28 June 59

Dear Mr. Bennetts:
Australia

I am glad to know that you are a member of the WCC and in addition I think we are both members of the Papuan Philatelic Society of New Guinea.

I have a few spare minutes and am going to pass the following postal information from APO 502 in that you are interested in New Caledonia. This information is withdrawn from "History of 502d Army Postal Unit, APO 502, dated 8 July 1943", termed "SECRET".:

The 502d Postal Unit was activated on 16 Jan 1942 at Fort Jay, N.Y., per Authority General Order #4, HQ, 2d Corps Area, Governor's Island, N.Y. dated

15 Jan 42 and radiogram, War Department, Washington, D.C. Dtd 15 Jan '42. The initial complement of personnel consisted of 11 enlisted men and 2nd Lt. Walter E. Raftery, Inf, first CO; Lt. Raftery was assigned on 17 Jan 42. The above personnel left USA on the U.S.A.T. Berry on 23 Jan 42 and arrived at Noumea, N.C., on 12 March 1942, having traveled via Panama Canal and Melbourne, Australia. Said personnel performed postal duties on the trip from New York to New Caledonia. (This is the reason covers will be postmarked APO 502 prior to March 21, 1942, the date APO 502 functioned in New Caledonia. All covers dated before 21 March will have been postmarked on-board ship.) The Army Postal Unit of APO 502 traveled from Melbourne, Australia to N.C. on the S.S. Argentina. Guess they changed ships in Australia from the Berry to the Argentina. At their NY Port of Embarkation the Postal Unit received fifteen (15) bags of mail addressed to the members of Task Force 6814; the mail was sorted and delivered enroute. On March 21, 1942 the APO 502 Postal Unit operated in Noumea, New Caledonia - or this was the day 502 was functioning in New Caledonia. On March 28, 1942 the Unit received the first large scale shipment of mail for the US Forces' namely three hundred and fifty bags of mail - 1st class & Parcel Post.

(Somewhere I read that a cover exists with APO 502 with just DEC 1942. This could not be as the APO was not established until 16 Jan 42 per authority above - I am inclined to think it is DEC 1943 or a mistaken year slug - many strange things happened during the early period of WW II).

About the time that Task Force 6814 was being formed and about the time that APO 502 was established on 16 January 1942, APO 916 was assigned to personnel or organizations other than Task Force 6814 (later denominated the Americal Division). I have one cover, postmarked: APO 502 APR 20 AM 1942, with a return address, (Handstamp, in violet, "Finance Officer, APO 916 c/o POST-MASTER, San Francisco, California, USA". (Also see last issue of WCC Bulletin)

APO 502 had four units assigned to the APO

- 502 Unit 2 - est 27 Apr 43 at Plantestoes Gaic
- 502 Unit 1 - est
- 502 Unit 3 - est 2 Jun 43 Oua Tom
- 502 Unit 4 - est at Camp Barnes, location of HQ. USAFISPA.

The records also show that APO 502 acted as a Postal Regulation station for troops stationed in advanced Base in the South Pacific.

As I recall there were Ten (10) different circle censor handstamps used at New Caledonia from one to 10 (1-10). I should have one of each or most of them. I have made a long study of the censor marks as all units of the Army came from New Caledonia prior to being assigned to Guadalcanal, except the 1st battalion of the 147th Infantry that came from Tonga.

As I said on page one, I have a cover APO 916 for trade - also APO 502 Unit 2 plus odd one included one from Task Force 6814 in R/A plus numbered Censor covers. I should have some Naval covers from N.C. and Naval Construction Battalion covers to trade --

I am looking for some BARAKOMA covers. I have them all except one MS - but I need the 1st str line BARAKOMA addressed to someone other than Voyce, the same with the Large Rubber Barakoma in Black -- I will trade one of each of mine, addressed to me for them -- this isn't too good of a trade but it will help my own collection by getting rid of items addressed to me and taking the "Philatelic" look away from my own items.

Glad to hear from you when you get time -- by the way did you get the two BSI booklets issued in April? They are unobtainable in the USA and were all sold

out at GPO HONIARA - None were sent to the outer islands -- all were sold thru HONIARA within a few days -- I think one dealer got 85% of them.

I hope this information on APO 502 is new information to you as I'm sure it will be --- to

cc I. Willinger, N.Y.

HAGANAH POST

The Haganah Post was organized by the Signal Service (Communications) of the Jewish Underground Army. It was established in December 1947, and it ceased to function, as such, excepting for certain overlapping of services, May 15, 1948. May 14th saw the creation of the Israel APO, or Doar Tzvai.

The secret character of the Haganah activities and the fact that documents were dispatched only when urgency or importance warranted, plus the dire necessity of destroying written matter once it was received and read, combine to make such material equally desirable - and rare.

The basic organization of the Underground fell into 4 groups: HIM or HeI Mishma (home defense), Palmach or Plugath Machotz (Shock Troops), HIS, or HeI Sedeh (Field forces) and Gadna (Youth services - runners, communications, messengers & similar work.

Active service units were set up on the British plan, with 11 men to a Kitcha (squad), 30 to 40 to a Mahleqah (platoon), and 160 to the pluga (Company). A full 1000 constituted a Gdud (battalion), with 3 to 5 such units to the Hativah (brigade).

The communications system needed to keep these various forces in proper contact and to correlate their efforts brought the meager postal service into being. Surviving evidence shows that there were 6 (plus a very few more) place name markings. They were usually in circular form and generally with a common central design. One seen had an upright sword with leaves around it. Inside circles was MEFAKED HA'IR/HAIFA (Town Commander, Haifa). Special Service markings are known, on the order of the usual urgent, registered, personal and top secret indicia common to service mail. Study of covers reveals locations of various units of the heroic forces of a decade ago.

Covers noted in auctions going for around \$5.00:

Haganah cv.: Tiberias 15.IV.48

Haganah cv.: General Headquarters & Town Major, Cachets Haifa

Haganah cv.: Camp No. 14 Haifa/on back 'HQ' & Town Major, Haifa cachets.

Haganah cv.: 'Town Major' Tel Aviv cachet

Haganah cv.: 'Haganah Commander', Tiberias Cachet.

Cover Tel Aviv to 'Negev H.Q.', 'Haganah Tel Aviv', Negev & red "By Air" cachet.

Haganah cv.: "Headquarters Negev" "By Air" & arrival Haganah H.Q. "Tel Aviv" cachets.

Haganah cv.: "Town Major Sefad"

Edmond Tolkowsky wrote an article "Haganah Post Is Deep War Mystery" in Linn's stamp paper about a year ago.