

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Dec 1947)

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.

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CHANGES IN LIST OF APO LOCATIONS

- 1 Scot. (1): Charlton Marshall, Eng. (5)
 2 Tenby, Pembroke, Wales. (1)
 4 Exeter, (Devon.) Eng. (1)
 5 Wiltshire, Eng (1): New Castle, Co. Downs, Ire. (2)
 8 Omagh, N. Ire.
 9 Winchester, (Hamps.) Eng. (5)
 29 Tavistock (Devons.): Tidworth (Wilts.) Eng. (1&2)
 30 Chesam, (Bucks.) Eng. (1)
 34 Omagh, N.I. Northwich (Chester.) Eng. (1&2)
 42A Ger.
 57 Zeppelinheim (Ger.) Air Ammunition Depot, '47
 76 Plymouth & Southampton, Eng. (1&2)
 79 Northwich, (Norfolk) Eng. (1)
 83 Keele Hall, (Straff.) Eng. (1)
 86 8th. Sta. Hosp. Iwo Jima.
 90 Mail to 640
 106A France.
 113 Mail to 508
 117 Bristol, (Glouc.) Eng. (1)
 121 53d: 96th: 155th. Gen. Hosp's.
 138 Grantham, Eng. (2)
 140 Hq. 9th. Bomber Comm. Eng.
 149 Tidworth
 151 Lashenden, N.I.
 154 Hq. Stuttgart Military Post, '47
 165 40th. Gen. Hosp. Eng.
 168 115th. Sta. Hosp. Eng.
 200 Remove. Czech. (Units were in Czech. Hq. never there)
 207 Hq. Erding Air Depot. '47
 208 Hq. Fursteneldbruck Airbase, '47
 209 Camp Crookston, Glasgow (1): Ashchurch, (Glouc.) Eng. (3)
 226 Glasgow, Scot. (1)
 229
 231
 252 Tidworth, (Wilts.) Eng. (4)
 253 Wincanton, (Somerset) Eng. (1)
 254 Hardenhuish (Wilts.) Eng. (1)
 255 Chiseldon, (Wilts.) Eng. (1)
 256 Batsford, (Leics.) Eng. (1)
 266 95th. Gen. Hosp.
 316 305th. Sta. Hosp.
 322-1 13th. Gen. Hosp.
 350 19th. Gen. Hosp. Eng.
 400 1st. Military Railway Ser. Oran-Tebessa, Algeria, (2): Florence, It. (3)
 434 N. Af. (1)
 437 Tidworth, Eng. (2)
 469 Leicester, (Leics.) Eng. (1)

(continued on next page)

(continued from Page 1)

472 Newbury, Eng. (1)
 508 74th. Gen. Hosp.
 513 127th. Gen. Hosp. Fr.
 514 30th. "" "" "" Eng.
 518 19th. "" "" "" ""
 526 16th. "" "" "" ""
 546 Derben, Eng.
 551 Hq. GFR Supply Pool
 559 Edmunds, Eng. (2) Hq. 3d. Bombardment Div.
 569A Camp Dane Ghyll, Lancashire, Eng.
 571 115th. Sta. Hosp. Eng.
 573 19th. Gen. Hosp. Fr.
 586A 95th. Gen. Hosp. Luxem.
 604 Hq. So. Atlantic Sub-Depot, Air Ser. Commd.
 608 104th. Sta. Hosp.
 642 Sutton Veney
 644 Sudbury, (Suffolk) Eng. (1)
 645 40th. Gen. Hosp. Eng.
 646B Mail to 757 Eng.
 647 2d. Gen. Hosp. Eng.
 648A Stormoway, Scot.
 654 Mail to 640 Eng.
 656 "" "" 637 ""
 667 127th. Gen. Hosp. Fr.
 696 Sunninghill, (Berks.) Eng. (5)
 703 Central Postal Directory, Jap.
 704 Hq. Tachikawa Army Air Base. (Evidently two bases here.)
 707 Camp Rizal, Manila. '47
 722-2 Hq. N-W Service Commd.
 722-4 Railhead Depot.
 761 Hq. Repl. Depot.
 763 Hq. BPA. Tunis.
 767 1st. Mil. Ry. Ser. Lyon-Strasbourg, Fr.
 785 12th. Bomber Grp. used 390 & 888 after reaching the CBI area.
 788 Hq. N. Af. Div. ATC. E. Div.
 794 Hq. Mil. Ry. Ser. It.
 815 Hq. 1st. Repl. Depot, Korea.
 871B Cheltenham, Eng.
 873 Yeovil (Somerset) Eng.
 884 Hq. 3d. Air Depot Grp.
 887 Gen. Hq. Mil. Ry. Ser., ETO. Paris. Feb. '45
 970 Okinawa (1)

New Members and Change of Address

268 Newby, Jerry B., 1816 N.W. 23rd St., Oklahoma City 6, Okla. Censored.
 176 Leighton, Leroy to 5123 Spencer Road, Cleveland 21, Ohio.
 234 Thomas, Jesse B. to 260 Madison Ave., Albany, N. Y.

ARMY POSTAL UNIT 209 AND HOW IT OPERATED

By Sgt. Jim Stumpf

The 209th Army Postal Unit, which operated APO 209, was activated at Camp Livingston, La., on March 11, 1944, under general orders from Headquarters of the 8th Service Command at Dallas, Texas. At the same time and on the same orders APO's 208, 227, and 228 were also activated. Units 208 and 209 were trained at Camp Livingston, while 227 and 228 were trained at Camp Polk, La. The first two, and possibly the other two, were "Type F" postal units. The table of organization for such units was 11 men and 1 officer. After two months of training, 208 and 209 departed for Camp Kilmer, N. J., where one week was spent in preparing to go overseas. At midnight May 30th we sailed aboard the Queen Elizabeth.

After an uneventful trip, we arrived at Gourock, Scotland, on the Clyde, west of Glasgow, on "D Day", June 6, 1944. Prior to landing we were read the instructions explaining where we were to go. 208 went to Oxford, 209 to Camp Crookston, near Glasgow. While at Glasgow, 209, along with 226, 229, and 231, worked at the 15 PRS, helping to sort the mail. The 15 PRS office was located at Virginia and Argyle Streets, in the heart of Glasgow, and had huge quantities of mail "states-bound" which had been held for some time since before the invasion for security reasons. These four units worked at sorting airmail letters for four days, only making states or primary separations. Finally the mail was cleared, sent to Prestwick, Scotland, and dispatched to the States. For the next two and a half weeks 209 worked on the docks scheming parcel post from the United States.

On July 1st we moved to Overton-on-Dee to join a newly activated hospital center, No. 1810. Here we spent a week and then the entire organization was transferred to Whitechurch, Shropshire, moving in on the heels of the 11th Replacement Depot and APO 131. At this location we started serving the 15th, 16th, 68th, 82nd, and 83rd General Hospitals, and General Depot G-16; the 342nd AAF Station, C 900 Chemical Depot, plus a few other scattered units. Within a short time the 15th and 16th Hospitals moved to the Continent and we added the 129th and 137th General Hospitals to our list. On July 25, 1945, we suspended operations and moved immediately to Ashchurch, Gloucestershire, to take over operation of APO 518. At that time 518 was preparing to go to the Pacific, but "V-J Day" came along, the orders were cancelled, and 518 was disbanded on September 24th. APO 63 moved in and operated at Whitechurch from then on.

On October 9, 1945, the 209th sailed from Southampton Staging Area and landed at Le Havre. Our orders were to report to APO 539 at Friedericksfeld, Germany. On October 13th we arrived at 539, having driven from Le Harve in a jeep and a personnel car, with some equipment on a trailer. APO 539 soon suspended operations and we took over the units serviced by it. However, we decided upon Seckenheim as our operating base, this location being two miles from Mannheim and five miles from Heidelberg where 7th Army Headquarters is located.

Concerning our cancelling devices, we began with only the hand stamps. At the very first we had no rubber 209 slug, but soon we were supplied with the proper 209 stamps because of the volume of mail that we handled. We had to have each unit clerk cancel his own mail. Not until late winter of 1944 did we finally get a hand-operated cancelling machine. At that time there were only two or three of these machines in the United Kingdom. No APO number slug was received with this machine. We alternated the time slugs, AM and PM, and for a short time used a rubber 209 hand-stamp slug until the steel number slug arrived. The change of the APO number to different positions was due to the fact that several different clerks were authorized to change dates in the dial, which was done every night.

CHINESE MILITARY POSTMARKS, 1937-1947

Covers that bear postmarks of Chinese army post offices are difficult to obtain. The information on them presented herewith comes largely from about 50 covers in the possession of members L. H. Tuttle, M. Hertzberg, and W. J. Cipolli. No pretense is made at completeness, but we are at least making a start. The Chinese ideographs on the postmarks which we illustrate are not guaranteed to be absolutely accurately reproduced. Most of these postmarks are found badly inked on coarse, absorbent, native paper, so that they are usually partly indistinct. We have succeeded in finding a few fairly clear ones. Certain of these postmarks have in their upper panel ideographs which are translated "temporary". They were applied to mail going into occupied territory to disguise its military origin so that the Japs would not take reprisals against the soldiers' families. We give the following translations, dates of use seen, and locations where known. The first number in each section is the one illustrated on Page 8.

1. Temporary/Oct. 27, 1939/Post Office 65 (Small numerals)
 - 34 - 2nd Area. Cmd., Luchow (1943), Nanning (1945)
 - 61 - 1941
 - 65 - 1939
 - 105 - 1941
 - 141 - 1940
 - 153 - 1940
 - 156 - Nanning (1942)
 - 199 - 1940
 - 291 -
 - 326 - Salween Campaign, Western Yunnan (1943)
 - 345 - N. E. China (1946)
2. Temporary/date ?/ Post Office 4 (1940) (All Chinese characters)
 - 32 - 1941
 - 34 - 1940
3. Military Post/Sept. 5, 1937/Post Office 69 (All Chinese characters. From Tientsin-Pukow. 1st day of use.)
 - 22 - 1938
 - 32 - 1940
 - 34 - 1939
 - 38 - 1938
 - 153 -
4. Military Post/May 9, 1941/103 (Large numerals)

32 - 1940	126 - 1941
34 - Hq. 2nd Area Cmd., Nanning (1941)	156 - 1941
38 - 1940	170 - 1941
92 - 1942	199 - 1940
102 - 1940	201 - 1941
103 - 1941	246 -
106 -	311 - 1942
109 - 1940	334 - Chinese S.O.S., Kunming
	345 - Chinese Training Center, Ramgarh, India

There appears to be a fifth type of which the only example seen is from F.P.O. 801. It has four ideographs in the upper panel, but they are too indistinct to be deciphered.

 PENNSYLVANIA WAR BALLOTS

By James R. Mundy

Having had the opportunity of examining some 3,000 war ballots from the State of Pennsylvania, County of Erie, I am listing below the major differences which I have found:

1. Carrier - 4 1/8" x 9 1/2", white envelope with two red stripes (each about 1/8" wide), with the following inscription printed between the lines: OFFICIAL ELECTION WAR BALLOT---VIA AIR MAIL.
 Upper right-hand corner inscribed: "Free of Postage Including Air Mail.
 Lower right-hand corner bears address.
 Upper left-hand corner bears return address.
 All above inscriptions are printed in red ink.

2. Return Carrier - 3 7/8" x 8 7/8", printed in red, same as above. There is a Sworn Affidavit printed in black on the reverse side, which must be properly filled in and signed.
 There are many variations of this envelope, due to what appears to be a poor job of printing. Some envelopes do not have any printing on the face, while others have only partial inscriptions. (I have also come across one regular Federal Government Penalty envelope, size 4" by 9 1/2", with the Sworn Affidavit mimeographed on the face of the envelope. The Penalty Clause is on the lower left-hand corner, due to the fact that the envelope was mimeographed up-side-down. This particular envelope is some sort of a provisional.)
 Although the Return Carrier type of envelope bears the inscription: "Free of Postage Including Airmail", several covers have airmail postage affixed.
 A few covers show the following inscription written by the voter on the flap: "Opened to receive contents. Sealed by me this----day of ----." Signed. These particular ballots must have been exposed to excessive heat or dampness, effecting the gum on the flap enough to seal the envelope before use and forcing the voter to peel the flap open, insert the ballot, and then reseal the flap with mucilage or scotch tape. In one case adhesive tape was used. Some bear censor marks, but the majority were not censored.
 These covers may be found with all types of postal cancellations, naval, town, camp, fort, and A. P. O. A few were officially used and did not go through the mail. They of course bear no postmark. Here is the reason: Prior to Election Day, "workers" (usually G.I.'s) from the several political parties would canvas the downtown business section of the city for members of the Armed Forces home on leave. Upon meeting one they would persuade him to go and vote. (Believe me, they had quite a sales talk. I know because I am one who was thus approached.) They had an automobile in which they drove you to the court house, where you were furnished with a ballot, given a chance to vote, seal the ballot and fill out the affidavit. Then the whole thing was notarized on the spot. The ballot was placed in the vault with the others until Election Day.
 The law requires that the ballot covers be kept along with the ballots for at least two years.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 5)

3. Ballot Envelope - 3 5/8" x 6 1/2", bearing the following inscription printed in black on the face: OFFICIAL MILITARY BALLOT.
A very few of these envelopes were used instead of the regular return carrier. They and similar types postally used should prove to be very worthwhile items. I found only one in 3,000 covers examined.

Editor's Note. War ballot covers from all 48 states are now in the hands of collectors. Some states used many varieties. The Bulletin cannot list all of these. Here is a good opportunity for someone to assemble and publish in booklet form the available material on the subject.

The Glossary of U. S. Naval Abbreviations to which attention was called in the October Bulletin may now be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 35 cents. It is well worth the price.

Add 644 to the list of APO's using the SERIVCE error hand stamp.

Under Public Law 239, approved July 25, 1947, all military stations, branches, and money order units located in excess of five miles from the corporate limits of the office to which attached, must be discontinued by the close of business on January 25, 1947. This act rescinds Public Law 368 of 1940. See Section 402, Paragraph 2, Postal Laws and Regulations, 1940. Whether this law applies to branches of Army Post Offices overseas is not known.

The FREE mailing privilege for members of the Armed Forces was established by Act of March 27, 1942, Sec. 901, Public Law 507, 77th Congress. On October 6, 1945, the following amendment was added to this section: "This section shall cease to be in effect after December 31, 1947." In other words, according to this law, FREE mailing will cease with the advent of the year 1948.

(The above two items from H.E. Rankin)

BRITISH TPO'S IN FIRST WORLD WAR

CAT TPO -- Cairo to Port Said	RAK Day Mail TPO -- Rafa Kantara
TAC TPO -- Port Said to Cairo	SAT TPO -- Suez? to Port Said
KAL TPO -- Kantara to El Arich	LAD TPO -- El Arich to Devaa (Deraa?)
LAK TPO -- El Arich to Kantara	RMS/IEF 1919 -- Indian Exp. Forces in Palestine Syria. Single circle type.
PAL TPO -- Paléstine to El Arich	BEF Main Line TPO/ Down--Calais-Cologne
RAB TPO -- Rafa to Beersheba	N.R.E.F./TPO No. 1 -- Murmansk
BAR TPO -- Beersheba to Rafa	N.R.E.F./TPO No. 2 -- Murmansk
Z W TPO -- Alexandria and Western Desert Line	(No postmarks known)

Only one TPO is known to have been operated by the British Army in the Second World War. This was one of the launches taken over from the River Gambia civilian TPO. It carried only military mail bags and is not known to have used a postmark.

A New System of Classifying APO Types

A committee of Club members has been working for more than a year on a permanent system of classification of APO types to replace the temporary system adopted during the war. The most practical system so far devised is an adaptation of the Locy System of classifying naval postmarks. It applies equally to hand stamps and machine cancels. Here is how it works. A list of illustrations of the basic or major types is published. All sub-types worth classifying are indicated by letters or combinations of letters added to the basic type numbers. Killers are listed separately, by number, since there are cases where one dial is used with several killers. When necessary the killer number may be added to the letter combination to give a complete and accurate description. BPO's and PRS's are treated the same as APO's. Below are given preliminary lists of sub-types and killers, with a request that they be studied and that suggested changes and additions be sent to the editor.

Sub-types

- a. APO number removed from bottom or side of dial.
- b. APO number added in place of time slug.
- c. All slugs removed. (Dial has blank center.)
- d. Letters A.P.O. and APO number both removed from bottom or side of dial.
- e. Time slug (a.m., p.m.) omitted.
- f. Slug indicating day of month omitted.
- g. Year date entirely missing.
- h. APO number added as slug to Base PO postmark.
- i. Part of normal slug missing; such as number or one letter of BPO slug.
- j. "A.P.O." and APO number added as two separate slugs.
- k. Letters "A.P.O.", BPO, or PRS and APO number on one slug in place of time slug.
- m. Machine cancellation. (Added after type number when necessary.)
- n. One or more figures of year date missing.
- o. Blind postmark. Place of origin removed from dial, or dial entirely missing. Mostly used on mail from staging areas in U. S.
- p. APO slug or date slug in thick, oversize, figures or letters. Probably rubber type in many cases.
- r. Sub-type a, with APO number restored with different type of figures from original.
- s. Two slugs with same APO number in one dial.
- t. Like sub-type b, but with APO number in tiny figures.
- v. Any variation or variety not otherwise listed.
- w. Like sub-type b, but with figures of APO number widely spaced.
- x. One or more periods normally missing from "A.P.O."
- y. Word "Unit" plus number, or unit number alone, in place of time slug.

Killers

1. 4 heavy parallel lines, spaced from dial and bevelled on one end.
2. 4 heavy lines, close to dial and bevelled on one end.
3. 5 wavy lines.
4. 7 wavy lines.
5. 4 heavy parallel lines, spaced from dial and square on both ends.
6. Tapered grid of seven heavy lines.
7. Tapered grid, with number between heavy lines.
8. Double pairs of three parallel lines.
9. Large, usually colorless, "V" or "X" in Type 2 killer.
10. Three additional heavy lines added to Type 2 killer. Possibly taken from a navy killer.
11. Type 1 killer with upper bar replaced by words "AIR MAIL".
12. (?) APO number in killer.

Types of Chinese Military Postmarks, 1937-1947



1.



2.

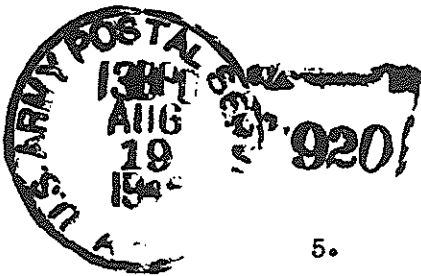


3.



4.

U.S. Army Postal Markings, World War II



A74

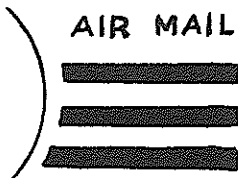
5.



6. (9th U.S. Army, APO 339)



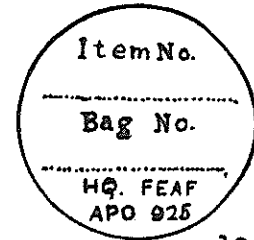
7.



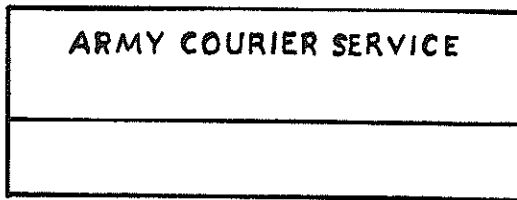
8. (APO 74)

RETURN TO UNIT
NO HOSP RECORD
CENT POSTAL DIR

9.



10.



11. (Guam)

CERTIFIED TO BE OFFICIAL
COURIER MAIL ONLY

SIGNATURE

RANK

12. (Hq. IX Corps)

U.S. Navy Postal Markings, World War II

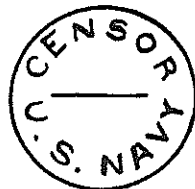
Returned to Sender



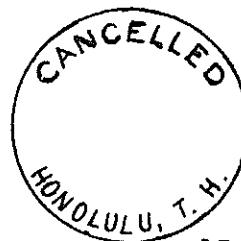
Unclaimed

By F.P.O. Directory
Service, Wash., D. C.

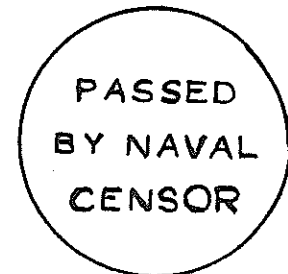
13.



14.



15.



16.