

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Dec 1948)

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WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

Volume V, No. 5

December 1948

WAR COVER CLUB MEETING, Friday November 19th
Collectors Club, New York City

FRIDAY MORNING MEETING. The meeting was called to order by President Klinger at about 9 o'clock. Secretary Robinson led in prayer.

The President thanked all those who had made the meeting possible. The Secretary was requested to send a note of thanks to the Collectors Club for its courtesy in allowing us to use its rooms for our meeting.

The question of our joining the National Federation of Stamps Clubs was raised. After some debate it was moved by Halpern, seconded by Montgomery, that we join. The motion carried and the Treasurer was instructed to send in our dues of \$1.00 for the year 1949.

The Secretary then reported on the Donation Auction which had been held for the benefit of the Club. He stated that all but one lot had been sold and that if none were returned we should add something over \$100 to our treasury. This was considered very satisfactory by all present. The possibility of future auctions was discussed. It was the sentiment of all present that we should hold other auctions, the Club to get 20% for expenses for conducting them and the balance to be sent to the original owners of the lots. It was also suggested that they be held in different parts of the country, so that members in the various areas could see the lots and thus bid more intelligently. If possible a more detailed description would be helpful and after each auction the prices realized should be published in the Club Bulletin.

Publicity for the Club and its activities was next on the agenda. It was felt that we should try for more publicity in both the newspapers and the stamp magazines. Miss Koor, of the Scott Publications, who had just joined the Club, volunteered to take charge of publicity in the New York area. It was hoped that members in other areas would volunteer to render a similar service.

Mr. Grounds of Albany very kindly offered to have mimeographed for us any post-card size information bulletins we might desire to have sent to our members from time to time. Mr. Halpern of New York then offered to have new letterheads and membership application blanks printed for us. His offer was accepted with thanks and the President agreed to furnish him the necessary data.

It was decided to hold a one-day meeting on some Saturday during the latter part of March, and also another auction, the lots to be on exhibition during the meeting. All bidding as before will be by mail. Watch the Bulletin for the exact date and further particulars.

Several of the members were asked to bring in part of their collections and show them at the Saturday afternoon meeting. The sixteen persons present then introduced themselves so that we all might become better acquainted. The meeting adjourned at nine-fifty.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEETING. The session was called to order at 2:30 by President Klinger. Mr. Montgomery, the program chairman was introduced and took over.

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He presented several members who showed part of their collections. If the samples shown were any criterion, many members have beautiful collections, some of them lavishly illustrated and very well written up.

Mr. Ground was the first one called upon to exhibit. He showed a very interesting collection of World War II covers dealing with public relations and others with service emblems on the envelopes.

Miss Koor then showed her propaganda leaflets and various courier covers. Much of the interesting material shown was new to those present.

President Klinger followed with his album of covers from Generals and Admirals. It was beautifully illustrated and a real work of art, showing how effort and imagination can add interest to any collection.

Secretary Robinson then showed a variety album of covers including both World Wars, censored, P. O. W., etc., and another album devoted entirely to P. O. W. covers from World War I from many countries.

Mr. Ryan exhibited an album of covers from various Army units with appropriate insignia. It requires much time and patience to make up such a collection.

Mr. Baker followed with part of his collection of covers arranged according to location. This has involved much research. These covers came from many small and seldom heard of places all over the world where members of our armed forces were located.

Mr. Degroot then brought forth a wealth of A. E. F. material with emphasis on the "human interest" angle. It was most interesting and greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Halpern then showed his Siberian covers which form what is probably one of the finest collections of its kind anywhere.

Finally Mr. Montgomery exhibited his A. E. F. material which he keeps mounted for exhibition purposes. There were many rare and choice items. He also showed a collection of propaganda labels from the two World Wars. This is a most educational collection that goes very well with war covers.

About twenty-five people were in and out during the afternoon. After visiting and swapping until 7 P.M., we called it a day and started on our various ways, groggy from the wealth of fine material that we had seen, happy in the new friendships we had made, and determined to make the War Cover Club a more alert and better organization.

H. K. Robinson, Secretary

According to the NEW YORK TIMES, about half the U. S. Air Force personnel now stationed in England is attached to B-29 groups located at Scrampton and Waddington, near the old cathedral town of Lincoln, and at Marham and Lakenheath, old wartime Royal Air Force bases. The largest single unit, however, is the 59th Air Depot of some 2,000 officers and men recruited from Texas and formerly stationed at Rome, N.Y. They are located at Burtonwood, the sprawling American supply and maintenance depot of some 27 square miles, which at its peak just before D-Day housed nearly 30,000 American soldiers. Their assignment is a permanent one and their task, officially, is to service and American planes on the Berlin airlift. This base, known to the natives as "Little Detroit," is on the outskirts of Warrington, about 20 miles from Manchester and Liverpool. All the above troops are attached to the Third Air Division which has its headquarters at Bushey Park.

ALLIED MISSIONS AND TRAINING UNITS IN THE U.S., WORLD WAR II

by C. D. Brenner

Some months after the entrance of the United States into the last war I was inspired by the suggestion of a fellow collector to begin the formation of a collection of covers that would illustrate the various ways in which our Allies were represented in this country in connection with furthering the war effort. The undertaking was reasonably rewarding and resulted in a rather unusual assemblage of material. The various Allied groups and representatives were on the whole most cooperative. The Allied representations fell into two general groups: those consisting of members of the armed forces and those consisting mainly of civilians whose chief task was obtaining supplies.

If we begin with the military representatives and start at the top, we must give first consideration to The Combined Chiefs of Staff, the British-American high-strategy board headed by Sir John Dill and General George C. Marshall. They used a white penalty envelope with a neat blue corner card reading simply THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF/WASHINGTON. There was another, lesser, joint military commission of representatives of Mexico and the United States. Each half of this group had its own stationery. The Mexican members used an envelope with a double corner card. The upper section of it reads: Embajada de Mexico/Comision Mexico-Norteamericana/de Defensa Conjunta/Seccion Mexicana. Below it is the same inscription in English. We find the American section using an envelope whose corner card reads: JOINT MEXICAN-UNITED STATES DEFENSE COMMISSION/Washington/Official Business/United States Section.

It was not until the Spring of 1943, after the Allied landing in North Africa, that France came into our picture. It will be remembered that two rival factions claimed the right to represent France: the Giraudists and the Free French. Both sent several missions to this country. The Giraudists seem to have been the more business-like. At any rate they used the more impressive stationery. In our capital they used envelopes inscribed: French Military Mission/Washington, D. C., and French Naval Mission/Washington, D. C. Their New York Office made one envelope do for both. Its return address reads: Mission Militaire Francaise/Aux Etats-Unis/521 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. The Free French sent over a military and a civilian mission. Both appear to have been too poor to use printed envelopes and contented themselves by stamping their mail with round rubber identifying handstamps similar to those long in use in the French Army. One of them is inscribed: COMITE NATIONAL FRANCAIS/ Délégation aux E. U./Mission Militaire; the other, for the civilian section, reads: Délégation du Comité National Français/New York.

This does not exhaust the list of military missions. We find the Brazilian Mission using two types of printed and one handstamped corner card reading: BRAZILIAN MILITARY COMMISSION/2134 Leroy Place, N. W./Washington, D. C. The envelope used by the Chinese Mission is inscribed: CHINESE MILITARY MISSION/TO THE UNITED STATES/2374 Massachusetts Ave., N. W./Washington, D. C. This mission also used a round identifying handstamp with a similar inscription in English and Chinese. It may be recalled that this mission felt that it was being neglected, so it packed up and returned home. The Norwegians too had their mission. It used several types of handstamped corner cards. One reads: ROYAL NORWEGIAN MILITARY MISSION/IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA/20 East 80th Street, New York, N. Y. Another type omits the second line. Before the war was over, probably for reasons of economy, this mission was moved to the Norwegian Embassy in Washington and functioned through the military attaché's office there. It might be added here that the Norwegian Embassy

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used an interesting meter slogan reading NORWAY STILL FIGHTS!/AT HOME, AT SEA/ & IN THE AIR. Even tiny Luxemburg sent over a military mission sometime after that country was liberated, and so we find covers with a printed return address reading simply: GRAND-DUCHE de LUXEMBOURG/Mission Militaire. Czechoslovakia's interests seem to have been handled through the offices of the Military and Air Attachés in Washington. Covers from most military attachés are scarce, but since these attachés function in peace as well as war, there is no reason to give them special attention here.

The great amount of British shipping that used U. S. ports was controlled by representatives of the British Navy in these ports. The markings of the British Fleet Mail Offices in New York and San Francisco have been described in the WAR COVER BULLETIN of August, 1945. The B.F.M.O. in San Francisco used a red handstamped corner card on its mail: BRITISH FLEET MAIL OFFICE/c/o U.S.F.P.O. Bldg.,/651 Brannan Street/San Francisco, Calif. To supervise British shipping of all kinds there was also a routeing office in San Francisco. The writer, having heard of this office, decided to visit it and learn at first hand how it handled its mail. Entering the Federal Building, where the office was located, he found it bristling with armed guards, but his request to proceed to the British office went unchallenged. There he was received by a very courteous officer who explained that the office used the common O.H.M.S. envelopes upon which was handstamped in purple: BRITISH ROUTEING OFFICE/ROOM 404/FEDERAL BUILDING/SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. Furthermore, the officer mailed to the writer an envelope so stamped. There was also a British routeing office in Boston. The envelope used there is one of the O.H.M.S. variety with the return address printed in the lower left-hand corner: BRITISH ROUTEING OFFICE/First Naval District Headquarters/150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. New York must certainly have had a routeing office too, but no stationery from it has been seen. The British also had a naval liaison officer on the Gulf Coast who apparently supervised the shipping of supplies as well as the building of ships. He used an envelope with a printed corner card reading: BRITISH NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER/Todd Galveston Dry Docks, Inc./ P.O. Box 656/Galveston, Texas. This officer later transferred his headquarters to Pascagoula, Miss., but no new postal stationery is known from there.

While we are concerned with the British Navy mention may be made of the hotel in Asbury Park, New Jersey, which the British took over and used as a place where seamen could rest and recuperate. In accord with the British custom of designating naval shore stations as ships this one was called H. M. S. Asbury. There is no evidence that specially printed stationery was used here, but since the war the writer has secured a cover on which the sender has written H. M. S. Asbury as the return address. It bears the well-known "tombstone" censor mark of the British Navy.

Late in the war the British took over Falcon Field in Arizona for aviation training. No reply was received to a letter addressed to the commanding officer there. It is not known how mail of British personnel there was handled, but it is believed that no special stationery was used. The Netherlands Air Force took over two air fields in this country for training purposes: one at Midland, Texas, the other at Jackson, Miss. The latter used an official envelope inscribed: ROYAL NETHERLANDS FLYING-SCHOOL/,Jackson, Mississippi. Aviators from a number of other Allied countries trained in this country, but no distinctive stationery from any of them is known. Members of the Canadian Army received instruction at our various training Centers. So far as is known their mail was handled the same as

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that of American personnel in the same camps.

We are not quite finished with British Aviation, for there remains the important British Air Commission which had offices in Washington, New York, and Los Angeles. It represented the British Air Ministry and as such was a civilian organization. Its main function was to supervise the purchase and manufacture of airplanes and parts. The envelope used by the Washington office has a modest corner card reading: Air 67/1785 Massachusetts Avenue/Washington, D. C. In similar manner, on the envelope of the New York office is printed: P. O. Box 51, Wall St. Station/New York, N. Y. Underneath is handstamped: BRITISH AIR COMMISSION/AIR TECHNICAL AND INSPECTION. As might be expected, in California the Commission did not hesitate to identify itself openly, for it used both regular and air mail envelopes whose corner cards read: Air 67B/BRITISH AIR COMMISSION/ California Bank Building/9441 Wilshire Boulevard/Beverly Hills, California.

A story as interesting as the one above, though not as long, can be told about the foreign missions and training units in Canada. It must remain for another occasion.

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES IN A. P. O. LOCATION LIST

By A. J. Tripp

- A.P.O. 1 - Tidworth, Eng. (2)
 34 - Northwich (Cheshire) (2)
 73.1 - 158th Inf. Regt., Luzon, 1945
 251 - Castlewellan, N. I. (1); Northwich (Cheshire) (2)
 302 - Salisbury (Wilts.) (1); Tidworth (Hants.) (2)
 305 - Lurgan, N. I. (1)
 343.2 - Eighth Army Signal School, as redesignated 1948
 503 - Yokohama Commd. Port, 1948
 518 - Yeovil (Somerset) (1)
 519 - London (1); Tidworth (Hants.) (2); Salisbury (Wilts.) (3)
 527 - Burnham (1) and Elvenden (2) (Norfolk, Eng.)
 528 - APU helped 633 at Camp Griffiss; to N. Af. 11/10/42.
 633 - Sunninghill (Berks.) (1)
 639 - Longkesh, N. I. (1); Kircassock House, N. I. (2)
 641 - Londonderry, N. I. (1); St. Eval (Cornwall) (2)
 644 - Gosfield (Essex) (1)
 647 - Headington (Oxon.) (1)
 650 - Kew Gardens, London (1) (Assigned to 12th A. F. May not have been used in U.K., as assignment was made about 5 weeks before 12th A. F. moved to N. Af.)
 872 - Burtonwood (3); Norwich (4); Morley Hall, Wymondham (5)
 873 - Goxhill (Lancs.) (2)

PRICES REALIZED IN DONATION AUCTION
November 15, 1948

1. -- 1.25	20. - .25	39. - 2.25	58. - 1.10
2. -- 2.00	21. - 1.25	40. - 2.25	59. - .50
3. -- 1.75	22. - 1.15	41. - 1.50	60. - .50
4. -- 1.10	23. - 1.25	42. - 1.65	61. - 2.25
5. -- .50	24. - 2.25	43. - .25	62. - no bid
6. -- 1.10	25. - 1.65	44. - .75	63. - 4.25
7. -- 1.25	26. - 2.50	45. - 1.75	64. - 2.10
8. -- 3.50	27. - 2.10	46. - .65	65. - rtd.
9. -- 3.00	28. - 1.55	47. - .50	66. - rtd.
10. - 3.00	29. - rtd.	48. - 1.10	67. - 1.25
11. - 3.10	30. - 2.25	49. - .75	68. - 1.00
12. - 3.50	31. - 2.25	50. - 1.10	69. - 1.00
13. - 2.50	32. - 1.50	51. - 2.75	70. - 1.30
14. - .50	33. - 1.25	52. - 1.25	71. - 1.50
15. - .85	34. - 2.50	53. - .50	72. - 1.50
16. - 1.75	35. - 2.25	54. - 1.25	73. - .25
17. - .25	36. - 2.25	55. - .55	74. - 1.25
18. - .75	37. - 1.10	56. - 1.35	<u>\$107.15</u>
19. - .50	38. - 2.60	57. - 1.10	

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF MEMBERS

- 245 - Browning, Lester L., P. O. Box 2, Natchez, Miss. P.O.W., Censored.
- 280 - Freiberg, Ralph. 4142 26th Street, San Francisco 14, Calif. U.S. Naval only.
- 281 - Rosenberg, Ned. 1037 Kelly St., Bronx 59, New York.
- 282 - Koor, Miss Jean. c/o Scott Publications, 1 West 47th St., New York 19, N. Y.
Propaganda leaflets, Courier covers.
- 283 - Rogan, Kevin P. RN. Box 90 Napanock, N. Y.
W.W. II U. S. especially (Armed Forces)
- 284 - Simon, Sam 558 West 164th St., New York 32, N. Y.
German concentration camp Mail.