

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Dec 1951)

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>

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WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

Edited by Jean G. Koor  
972 Sherman Avenue  
New York 56, N. Y.

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VOL. VI

DECEMBER 1951

WHOLE NO. 12  
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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND A HAPPIER NEW YEAR! Them's my sentiments and they are intended for each and every one of you. SO-O-O, HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Don't forget the boys in service. Sure you sent off cards and packages to all your friends?  
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Well, the November meeting is just a memory now, but a very pleasant one. Despite the cold, rainy day, we had a fine turn-out. Guess it was a great success for it was urged by some members present that we meet more often. What better proof is there? WCC members Rogan and Willinger both gave interesting talks and showed marvelous items from their collections. Kevin had a wonderful lot of covers from Korea and in his talk explained how he was able to latch on to so many fine items. Suppose you write him and ask him to tell you sometime.

The ASDA Stamp Exhibition seemed to be another meeting of the WCC as all members seemed to be present and accounted for, and acquired much material for their collections.

WCC member James Clements Wheat on a recent trip to New York dropped in to say "hello" and I must say that it is very nice to meet friends one knows by letters only!  
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"Recently I acquired a cover sent by a Luxembourg volunteer in Korea, which intrigues me greatly. You almost have to see it to believe that such an international hodge-podge is possible.

"The cover is addressed in French to 'Sergt. Chef, /II Bn., 2me Cie, / Caserne St. Esprit. Luxembourg.' It is franked with two 2½d British stamps and canceled Field Post Office 790. Across the top is the manuscript indorsement in English: 'Active Service. By British Air Force.' The return address is on the back and reads: 'Cie. A, Belgian UNO Force Korea British Arme (sic) P.O. 3 via London.'

"Inside is a letter written on stationery of the 'British Commonwealth/ Occupation Force/ Japan' in German! (Of course, that is the native dialect of most Luxembourgers.) In it the writer states that they are now (May 26, 1951) north of Seoul and that although they have had some rough days, no Luxembourgers have been killed yet. He closes with regards to his old buddies who stayed at home and promises to send some souvenirs of Japan and Korea.

"Do you wonder that this has become my favorite cover?"

Richard M. Major

From Sec'y Tripp comes copy of letter which is self-explanatory and which I reproduce:

"Reference is made to your recent letter to the Post Postal Officer, in San Francisco, relative to the methods used for mail directed to Japan and Korea.

"The methods used at the present time are so analogous to those used during World War II that the minute deviations from the World War II system are not appreciably perceptible except to those actually handling the mail. As Major Aland mentioned in his letter, a joint Postal system called the Army-Air Force Postal Service has been organized to replace the Army Postal Service. However, this is only an internal administrative change consonant with the unification program of the Department of Defense, the character, goal and methods remain the same as during World War II.

"Your interest in the mail service to our forces is appreciated; therefore, it is regretted that at this time there appears to be insufficient new material of the nature requested in your letter.

Charlie H. Bell  
Colonel, USAF  
Director."

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A.P.O. applies to either Army P.O. or AIR P.O. regardless of which department is charged with operational responsibility. (This is official)

#### HERE & THERE

Covers from the Canadian Forces which recently arrived in Germany, were canceled with the British FPO 910, on British stamps.

CAPO 5050 is used only by the Canadian Base Office Censor, Korea.

The NAVY 17000 BR. serves as a central mail depot in Korean waters, serving some ships as large as destroyers. It would be interesting to know the details of such service as to the system used. Any of our Naval fans know?

Our Mr. Robbs of Grendon, England, exhibited some propaganda leaflets at the recent CAPEX at Toronto. This took an American Air Mail Society trophy. Nice going, Peter! Come again.

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CURRENT NEWS

UN Ships in Korean Waters (a partial listing)

BRITISH

HMS ALERT  
AMETHYST  
BELFAST  
BLACK SWAN  
CARDIGAN BAY  
CEYLON  
CHARITY  
COMUS  
CONCORD  
CONSORT  
COSSACK  
GLORY  
KENYA  
MOUNTS BAY  
ST. BRIDES BAY  
WHITESAND BAY

NEW ZEALAND

HMNZS HAWEA  
ROTOITI  
TAUPO

COLOMBIA

ALMIRANTE (PALILIA)

CANADIAN

HMCS ATHABASKAN  
CAYUGA  
HURON  
NOOTKA  
SIOUX

From Cipolli

NETHERLANDS

HMS VAN GALEN

R.O.K.

APNOK

DUMAN

PO 704

THAILAND

HMS BANGPAKONG

DENMARK

JUTLANDIA

AUSTRALIAN

HMS ANZAC  
MORECAMBE BAY  
MURCHISON  
SYDNEY  
TOBRUK  
WARRAMUNGA

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Mr. Joseph Arra, Istanbul, Turkey, states covers from the Turkish Brigade in Korea are at this time very scarce, most of the Brigade, consisting of 5000 men, are from Asia Minor (Anatolia) which is some distance south of Istanbul. Four of his covers are canceled at APOS 20 & 25, both in Korea, and we find TAPO 5401 in the RAS of two covers and APO 963 in the other two. This 963 is believed to be used as a mailing address only.

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TYPE CANCEL CHART - WW-II

This long awaited chart has been published at cost which will permit us to offer this to members at 50 cents per copy.

But somewhere along the line of progress, the final manuscript failed to reach the co-author, Mike Baggett, for his final checking and this was not discovered until your Secretary had rushed the publication through the press. This will entail but a short delay, and in all likelihood is ready by this time.

Send in your order now. You can be sure of having a chart which will number and identify any type or sub-type along with the various killer types in use during the period.

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BRITISH ARMY FIELD POST OFFICES 1939-1950, Locations & Assignments by Col. G. R. Crouch and Norman Hill

This book is published by LAVA, 520 Audubon Ave., New York 33, N.Y. The authors are British experts who are familiar with their subject. Contents are divided into three sections: History & Postmarks; Numbers & Locations; and Traveling Post Offices of the B.A.O.R. Regular price of the book is \$2.75, but available to WCC members through Sec'y Tripp, at the special price of \$1.75.

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From WCC member Jim Russell the following:

"A.P.O. 25 has a handstamp with the PORTAL error. Don't believe this has been reported before. This is dated July 7, 1951.

"Lately a new letter sheet has been used in Korea. This is a plain white sheet with black printing. On the back of the sheet is printed 'Supplied by Quartermaster Corps.'

"I have seen a cover from the Indian Field Ambulance Corps. This has a return address of British Army Post Office No. 3 c/o U.S. Army Post Office 301. This was sent by free mail to the U.S. and canceled at one of our APOs.

"I have seen quite a few covers from the Belgian Forces in Korea addressed to the U.S. While all of them had the return address of the B.A.P.O. 3, some of them were canceled from our APOs; some of these had U.S. stamps, others had British stamps, and some were sent FREE MAIL. Also in this lot were covers mailed from British Field Post 790 and some had British stamps, others U.S. stamps, and some by FREE MAIL."

Be sure to keep Jim advised on all Korean material. Right now he is especially interested in getting a list of APOs with the PORTAL error as well as the earliest and latest dates that they were used.

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In the mail is a letter from WCC member John Firebrace, of Sussex, England, requesting information and wanting to contact those who have covers from the British Commonwealth Forces in Palestine, from 1939-1948. Both Mr. Firebrace and WCC member H. J. Hare are recording all such material and welcome assistance and cooperation of all WCC members having pertinent information and material.

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NEWS - HERE and THERE

Canadian PO Bulletin states the address of the 27th Canadian Inf. Brigade including advance parties, on leaving Canada for Europe, will be CAPO 5050 c/o PM Montreal. (See news item found later - marked \*) CFPO 5027 is another Canadian Forces cancel reported from Korea.

From Tokyo, U.S. stamp sales through 225 APOs and branches of the Far East Commd. will total \$8 million for 1951 in contrast with \$3 million for 1950. Col. Cranford C. B. Warren of Atlanta, Ga. Adj. Gen. of the FEC states the tremendous increase in letter writing was even greater than the figures showed. Airmail and ordinary

letters from Korea are post-free. More than \$15 million in postal money orders are sent home monthly.

The FEC reactivated the 16th Corps, comprising the 40th and 45th Inf. Divisions and 34th Regimental Combat Team, the headquarters being located at Sendai in northern Japan.

APO 63 is reported being used in Formosa where a US Army Signal Corps unit is providing a communications system for the US Military Advisory Mission group.

APOs in France 10; 11; 21; 55; 58. APO 30 in use at Casablanca, Fr. Morocco. Three airfields are established in N-W Morocco, and two more under construction in unknown locations.

Some camps in Japan - Camp Zama 201-2; Cp. Yokohama 503; Cp. Sendai 547; Cp. McGill 201-1; Cp. Mower 27; Cp. Crawford 309; Cp. Drake 613.

\*Main unit of Canada's first military force sent to Europe in peace-time, boarded the liner SS FAIRSEA at Quebec Nov. 12th. 1,500 men of the special 27th Brigade were bound for Hanover, in the British occupation zone of Germany, to strengthen Gen. Eisenhower's North Atlantic Pact forces. Other groups will follow through this month and December.

MAIL CLERKS NIGHTMARE - With the 2nd Div. in Korea. Fox company of the "Rock of the Marne" Regt. is a mail clerk's nightmare. There are no less than 24 men in the company with identical or near identical names. There are four Browns, two Walls, two Bases, two Smiths, two Dunns, two McDaniels, Herrera and DeHerrera, a Laux, a Lock and an O'Conner, and a Conner.

from Stars & Stripes

U. S. S. DETROIT

For the Naval fans, perhaps the decommissioned Detroit's history ended in 1946, but here in Detroit it has been kept alive by the search of a ships clock.

During impressive ceremonies in Aug. 1924, the clock was presented to the new cruiser, a gift from the City of Detroit. Planes circled overhead and the crew stood at attention as the seven foot clock was brought aboard. It was the first ships clock presented to the Navy since 1890. Early in 1946 the Navy announced the Detroit would be decommissioned. That was when the paper work to get the clock back to the City of Detroit started. Senator Ferguson, The Secretary of the Navy, Detroit City officials and the Detroit Naval Reserve all agreed that the clock should be brought here. But the clock could not be found. From the Navy came a report that it was not on board the cruiser when the ship was decommissioned at Philadelphia Navy Yard. The Navy League and the Naval Reserve volunteer public relations unit here took over the search. Scores of letters were written to Navy officials.

Finally a curator at the Navy historical museum reported that a ships clock with a tarnished plate stating it came from the City of Detroit was in the warehouse. Today, Oct. 26, 1951, Mayor Cobo will formally present the 27 year old time piece to the Detroit Historical Museum.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the 23 year old Detroit was moored at Pearl Harbor. She, the USS St. Louis and USS Phoenix were the only cruisers to survive the sneak attack.

The USS Detroit's AA battery was given credit for two Jap planes during the first attack.

Outside Pearl Harbor the USS Detroit became the flagship of "Task Force One", comprised of the USS Enterprise, St. Louis and five destroyers, which was formed to track down the enemy, ending with a total of 227,510 miles during the war.

Late in '42 the ship patrolled the Alaskan waters and was "up front" in the invasion of Kiska and Attu.

Then after a short time of patrolling the Panama Canal area, the ship became the flagship of "Halsey's secret weapon" which was Service Squadron Six.

The USS Detroit's fame arises because the activities of her squadron made possible existence of "the fleet that didn't have to go home", as time after time the Japs were sure that our powerful Third Fleet had returned to base, only to get hit again in surprise attacks.

In such operations in Jap home waters, the USS Detroit's six-inch guns provided protection to the vital supply ships which became "sitting ducks" for the enemy during the transfer operations.

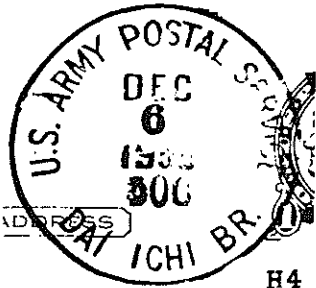
A position of high honor was accorded to the USS Detroit at the surrender ceremonies - the ship was placed immediately alongside the surrender ship, the USS Missouri.

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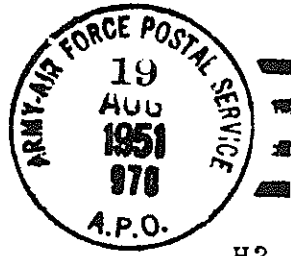
Detroit Edison Philatelic Society November meeting had WCC member A. K. Hurlburt as special speaker - his subject "Covers Tell the Story of Iwo Jima". This was of more than ordinary interest for the reason that it was illustrated with maps and pictures of the Marines spearheading the invasion forces on Iwo Jima. Among the covers are autographed items from the Supreme Commander Gen. MacArthur (Old Soldiers Never Die) on to the various commanders of the Navy and Marine Forces which took part in the invasion, including the Commanding General of the 1st Marines Forces which landed on the beachhead.

From reports received, Mr. Hurlburt's talk was a great success and the items shown of terrific interest and importance.

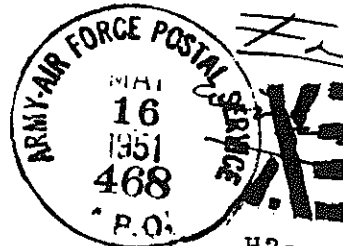
ILLUSTRATIONS



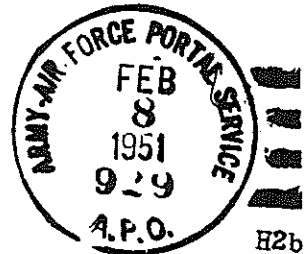
H4



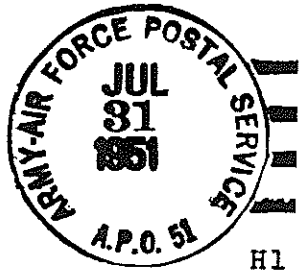
H2



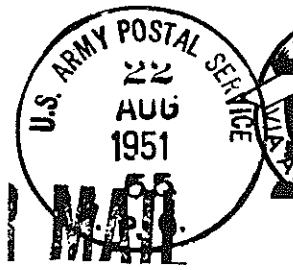
H2a



H2b



H1



MAIL



R1



R3

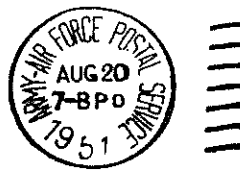
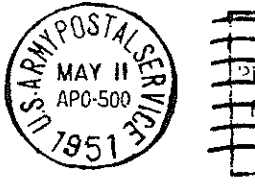


Fig.1

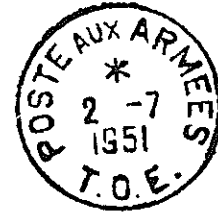


Fig.2

- H4 Larger dial - also found with "FINANCE BR" & "PX BR"
- H2 & H2b - most common types seen to date
- H2a - Larger type letters plus X killer perhaps puts this in the sub-type class unless more of this type is found (It is not believed this is Govt. issue but that the mail clerk of 468 cut up this cancel and then pasted the X himself.)
- H1 - Does not appear to be a very common type
- H5 - APO 55 used by HQ SHAPE, near Paris, varies from the A47 as the lettering covers only half of dial (correct your chart as to number)
- R1 - APO perhaps used as a mailing address only.
- R3 - Don't think this "1st. BPO Br." type used during WW-II.
- M1 - The dotted dash makes this a new sub-type
- M2 - Small APO 500 makes this a new sub-type
- M3 - This type, with yeardate at bottom, is found with "US Army-Air Force PS" (the cancel strike too light to photograph)
- Fig.2- This cancel may be a standard cancel used in the Far East by French Forces

SWAP SHOP

POSTMAN'S KNOCK :  
 SPECIALISTS IN WORLD POSTAL HISTORY :  
 May we suggest that you register your\* :  
 specialty with us...it is the best :  
 way to add items to your collection :  
 through occasional selections of :  
material for your inspection. \*  
 Summerset House Cincinnati 7, Ohio:

I COLLECT PRISONER OF WAR COVERS  
 AND I NEED ANY JAPANESE POW'S.  
 What Have You GOT TO OFFER?  
 - - - - -  
 Sterling S. Taylor  
 9612 Fremont Avenue  
 Seattle 3, Wash.



NEED ANY KIND OF KOREAN MAIL : WILL EXCHANGE FRENCH MISSION IN HEJAZ  
 Sent By U.S.-SIAM- : WW-I; FR. FPOs in Austria & Germany;  
 ETHIOPIA-BRITISH, Etc. : British Army Signals in Aust; Egypt &  
 WILL BUY OR TRADE : N. Africa; Ger. FPs and Fr. Navy for  
 : ALL ARMY & NAVY; Spec. U.S.; Jap. &  
 K. ROGAN -- NAPANOCH, N. Y. : Br. Empire.  
 : FREDERIC PATKA -- WIEN 8, AUSTRIA  
 : Lerchenfelderstrasse 70-72/1/6.

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NEW MEMBER-#321 PATKA, Frederic, Wien 8, Lerchenfelderstrasse 70-72/1/6  
 Austria. All Army & Navy; Spec. US; Jap. & Br. Empire

CHANGE OF: # 56 MORGAN, Maj. Ian C., 1463 Union Ave., Montreal 2, Can.  
 ADDRESS : #299 KERSHAW, Robt.S., 521 Spicer St., Akron, Ohio

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Don't forget to send in your nominations for officers for the next two years. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

Also we welcome any suggestions as to type of articles you want to see in the next few issues of your BULLETIN. If you don't tell us, how are we going to know?

Feel badly to learn from Sec'y Tripp that there are many delinquent members. To these members being removed from the membership list no more Bulletins will be sent, much as we would like to have them continue to be sent.

From Vivian E. Bolton I got a letter offering for exchange some 300 or 350 covers from the WW-II, all from the same G.I. but different types, etc. If interested, the address is 6244 Simpson Ave., North Hollywood, Calif.

Our British members are doing a marvelous job building up real interest in the hobby. WCC member H. J. Hare's display at the Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society under the title "Korea, the United Nations," was something different and probably unique. His wealth of material showed that there were as many as 19 different nations with postal arrangements in operation sponsored by 15 different Armies, six Navies, four Air Forces and five Red Cross units.

Indications are noted as the Korean war progresses, and the NATO forces build up in the Mediterranean and European area, that we will have just as much, if not more, interest as during WW-II. We will just have to continue to be on the alert for items from all possible areas.

WAR COVER CLUB AUCTION conducted by H. K. Robinson, 315 Mulry Lane, Lawrence, N. Y., to be held on January 7, 1952. Here's your chance to add some desirable items to your collection. Support the auctions -- thereby supporting your Club!

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Well, guess this is it, for this year 1951. Trust your holidays are happy and that the New Year 1952 will hold nothing but good for all of us.

JEAN G. KOOR

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR! MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!