

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Fal 2010)

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

US Navy Shore Bases in Europe During and Following World War I

World War I AEF Update (American Red Cross)

POW Mail to the Stars: Sonja Henie

The Last Destroyer (USS Callaghan)

American Forces in Newfoundland

Philatelic Censorship During World War II (civil)

American Forces in Newfoundland

Free French in the British Mandate During World War II

Free French in the British Mandate During World War II

Philatelic Censorship During World War II

German Concentration Camps

LOPP Catalogue (Poland airmail)

Naval Cover Cachetmakers - Volume II

Military Postal History Society



Military Postal History Society

BULLETIN

Volume 49, Number 4

FALL 2010

Christmas Miracle on the Western Front

by Roger Callens

When war broke out in August 1914, German troops swept past Belgium on their way into France and at first made rapid progress. Soldiers on both sides believed they would be home by Christmas. But it did not happen that way. The Allies and Germans tried a series of outflanking movements which eventually led to a battle line, the Western Front, stretching from the Belgian coastline in the north to the Swiss border. Both camps dug trenches and erected barbed wire to hold their positions, and the nightmare that was to become "trench warfare" had begun. In the lead up to Christmas 1914, there were several peace initiatives. The Open Christmas letter was a public message for peace signed by a group of 101 British woman suffragists. On December 7, 1914 Pope Benedict XV had begged for an official truce between the warring governments.

He asked that the guns may fall silent at least upon the night the angels sang. Another initiative came from the U.S. Senate. All these attempts were rejected by both parties.

Christmas 1914 was both tragic and beautiful. For a very short time, men who had been trying to kill each other found out that their enemies were just human as themselves. The truce began when German soldiers started to sing Christmas carols. British troops responded and gradually both sets of soldiers moved out of their trenches and met in no man's land.

After exchanging stories and gifts, several games of football broke out. On some parts of the front hostilities were officially resumed on Boxing Day (Dec. 26) at 0830, ceremonial pistol shots marking the occasion. French and Belgian troops, who were fighting in the same trenches as the British, were less willing to take part. They had already lost 400,000 people and

parts of both countries were occupied. The instigators to the fraternization were mostly Catholic Saxon and Bavarian regiments and in no way Prussian troops, who never were involved.

A new book by the German historian Michael Jürgs "Der Kleine Frieden in Grossen Krieg," revealed that the celebrated Christmas Truce took place only because many of the Germans stationed on the front had worked in England. The truce was especially warm along a 30 mile line around the Belgian

town of Ypres. Not everybody, though, approved. One Austrian soldier billeted near Ypres complained that in wartime such an understanding "should not be allowed." His name was Adolf Hitler, from the 16th Bayerische Reserve Infanterie Regiment, at that time in the trenches at Wytshate.

On Christmas Eve the weather changed to a hard frost and the snow that had fallen created a real Christmas atmosphere. It wasn't quite goodwill to all men at Christmas 1914. Pte

Continued on Page 4.



Read About It...

American Forces in Newfoundland (Delf Norona).....	18
APO/FPO Openings/Closings	23
Christmas Miracle on the Western Front (Roger Callens).....	1
Free French in the British Mandate During World War II (Dennis Tong).....	6

The Last Destroyer	28
Philatelic Censorship in World War II	19
POW Mail to the Stars: Sonja Henie (Thomas Richards and Regis Hoffman)	16
U.S. Navy Shore Bases in Europe During and After World War I (Alfred Kugel).....	12
A Valley Forge Cover (Lindsay Miller).....	15

Military Postal History Society



The Military Postal History Society (a non-profit corporation) was founded in 1937 as the War Cover Club. American Philatelic Society Unit #19. It promotes the study of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all nations.

Volume 49, No. 4

Fall, 2010

Copyright © 2010 by the Military Postal History Society, Inc. All right reserved. Request reprint permission from the editor.

The *Bulletin* (ISSN 1075-5640) is published quarterly. Subscription is included in annual membership dues: \$20.00 to United States addresses; \$23.00 to Canada and Mexico (first class mail); \$25.00 to all other countries (air mail). Send membership inquiries and changes of address to the Secretary. Back issues \$2.50 from the Secretary.

Officers

President: Tony Brooks, *Membership*, 5452 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46220-3022 [tonybrooks@aol.com]

Vice President: Ed Dubin, P.O. Box 586, Belleville, MI 48112-0586 [dubine@comcast.net]

Secretary, Back Issues, Louis Fiset, PO Box 15927, Seattle, WA 98115-0927 [fiset@u.washington.edu]

Treasurer, Publications, Norman Gruenzner, P.O. Box 32, Cypress, TX 77410-0032 [ngruenzner@comcast.net]

Directors:

Alfred F. Kugel, *Immediate Past President, Conventions and Publicity*, 502 N. York Rd., Hinsdale, IL 60521-3531 [afkugel@hotmail.com]

James N. Boyden, *World War I Study Group*, 8194 Kaster Drive NE, Bremerton, WA 98311-4137 [jjimesmc@att.net]

Myron Fox, 4 Arbor Circle, Natick, MA 01760-2953 [Myron-Fox1@aol.com]

David A. Kent, *Bulletin Editor*, P.O. Box 127, New Britain, CT 06050-0127 [kentdave@aol.com]

Harvey Tilles, *Awards Coordinator*, P.O. Box 5466, High Point, NC 27262-5466 [htilles@triad.rr.com]

General Counsel:

Eliot A. Landau, 515 Ogden Ave., Suite 101, Downers Grove, IL 60515-3081 [ELandau@aol.com]

Auction Manager:

Thierry Delespesse [Apocovers@aim.com]

World Wide Web home page:

<http://www.militaryPHS.org>

BULLETIN EDITOR:

David A. Kent, P.O. Box 127, New Britain, CT 06050. Phone 860-667-1400. E-mail: KentDave@aol.com

Manuscripts and illustrations for publication are welcome. Send all material to the editor. While due care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Enclose a stamped addressed return envelope with correspondence.

Printed in USA.

President's Message

by Tony Brooks

I am writing this column about a month after the August 12-15, 2010 APS Stampshow in Richmond, Virginia. Those of you who had reported your e-mail addresses to Secretary Louis Fiset (fiset@u.washington.edu) should have received an invitation to visit the MPHS table at the show. Louis sent 400 emails and got about 41 back as undeliverable. Please contact Louis if you would like to add your email address or did not get the expected e-mail.

Thanks to Dave Kent's assistance, our shared table with the USCS worked out very well for us. Thirty-two MPHS members signed the guest book and we also added several new members. Enough Board members were present that we could address some issues that deserved immediate formal attention.

Our major accomplishment concerns the challenge of adding the color to our quarterly *Bulletin* at an affordable cost. My thanks to those of you who responded to my request for feedback on the possible increase in annual dues to offset the potential added cost of color in the bulletin. For the record, the responses were 3:1 in favor of the addition of color. Our Editor, Dave Kent, and our Board have unanimously approved the proposal. Our target date to introduce the selected use of color will be early 2011.

Dave Kent will be revising the guidelines for sending articles to him and we will post that information on the MPHS Internet site. We believe that ".jpeg" images at a density of 300 dots per inch (300 dpi) will suffice for color illustrations. Clearly we are trying to lay the groundwork to eventually offer a digital version of the *Bulletin* for each issue.

Going digital with color is an opportunity for additional ad income. Every publication we have checked has a two-tier advertising rate — with and without color. Advertising as a source of income has been a relatively small part of our revenue stream. Color should be an opportunity to improve.

The subject of the proposed expanded third edition of the Van Dam WWI AEF book was also discussed. The last issue of our *Bulletin* listed the proposed chapters. We continue to seek authors or reviewers for some of the chapters. See the list elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. The opportunity to store and access the working document on the Internet in a "Data Warehouse" is being explored. I will ask co-editors Al Kugel and Ed Dubin to give us a status report in future *Bulletins*.

The Board approved MILCOPEX for our 2014 convention and that it will be another joint meeting with our friends at the USCS.

Norm Gruenzner's new book on the postal history of PT boats and units in WW II is ready to publish. We are searching for an appropriate publisher.

I am also very pleased to note that we recently received formal approval to revise and reprint the 1980 Broderick and Mayo book on *Civil Censorship in the United States During World War Two*. This will be a joint project between the Military Postal History Society and the Civil Censorship Study Group.

We need an Advertising Manager for the *Bulletin*. I seek a volunteer to be appointed by the Board of Directors. Please write or e-mail me if interested. I believe that most of the effort required can be accomplished via e-mail or phone.

You belong to a very active society. We have ambitious plans as you can note. The goals are achievable with your help. Let me hear from you.

Editor's Notes

David A. Kent

Regular author Roger Callens presents a philatelic study of one of military history's more intriguing events, the Christmas truce of World War I. It was an event that certainly was, in some political quarters, unwelcome. His article is only one of several fascinating discussions that fill this issue.

Although we don't have the details worked out as of this writing, we hope to transition this journal to color printing beginning with the first issue of 2011. Military postal history doesn't tend to be particularly colorful, but I noticed in laying out this issue that often I had to tamper with an image to get it to reproduce well in black and white. Modern color printing should solve, or at least reduce, this problem.

No Auction

Our auctioneer, Thierry Delespesse, is temporarily living abroad and does not have an auction for this issue. Our mail auctions will resume with the first issue of 2011.

Deadlines

The *Bulletin* is written by its readers. We welcome your contributions to future issues. Here is the future deadline for the next issue:

Winter 2011 Jan. 9, 2011

If you want to have an article or notice published in a specific issue, it must reach me by the above date.

Secretary's Report

Louis Fiset

Please welcome these new members:

- 3510 Berthet, Robeert, New Iberia, LA
- 3511 Schlesinger, Robert, Buffalo Grove, IL
- 3512 Spies, Glenn, Bayonne, NJ
- 3513 Beauvais, Walton U., Columbus, OH
- 3514 Faust, Keith, Jacksonville, FL
- 3515 Patsalides, John, Ontario, Canada
- 3516 Bucholtz, Bernard, Lombard, IL
- 3517 Sloan, Frank J. MD, Dallas, TX

Reinstated

- 2865 Quinby, Roger, Alpharetta, GA

Membership Summary

Membership, July 10, 2010	467
New Members	8
Reinstated	1
Membership, Oct. 10, 2010	476

Stanley Coleman Jersey, 1921-2010

MPHS Past President Stan Jersey died September 20, 2010 in Encinitas, Calif. at the age of 89. He was born in Chicago and for many years maintained residences in both Chicago and in California. Jersey was involved with the food export business which required extensive travel and provided the opportunity to broaden his interests in stamps and postal history. However, his greatest interest in collecting, exhibiting, and philatelic writing grew out of his service as a medical air evacuation specialist in the South Pacific during the Second World War.

His exhibits garnered many awards nationally and internationally. Two of the more recent ones were "New Caledonia Postal History: The War Years 1941-1945," and "Under the Southern Cross: U.S. Forces' Mail in the British Solomon Islands, World War II." His articles ranged widely in such topics as collecting military covers, the "China Marines" regiment, and postal history of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Corregidor, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, the Society Islands, Samoa, APO and Navy numbers in the Cook Islands, and the Marines in Korea among others.

Stan's articles appeared in *Stamp Collector*, the *American Philatelist*, *SAS/O Informer*, *Linn's Stamp News*, *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, *American Philatelic Congress Book*, *The Philatelist & Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, *SPA Journal*, and elsewhere. He authored several books including *Postal History of United States Forces in British Solomon Protectorate during World War II* (1968), *Postal History of the United States & Japanese Military Forces in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands, World War Two* (1978), *Japanese Military Force in the Solomon Islands: Notes on Postal History, the War in the Pacific* (1984), and *New Hebrides Islands: Military Postal History of the United States Forces 1942-1946* (1994).

Stan Jersey's research extended beyond military postal history into military history itself. He spent 20 years conducting interviews with over 200 people and studying archives in Australia, Japan, and the United States to create his detailed and breath-taking study, *Hell's Islands: The Untold Story of Guadalcanal*, a 536-page book published in 2008. At the time of death he was working on another book about the Japanese presence in the Aleutian Islands during WW II.

During his term as president of the War Cover Club in the early 1990s, Jersey was instrumental in bringing about the organization's name change to Military Postal History Society. He also initiated committee work to revise the society's bylaws. Stan established the Military Postal History Society Outstanding Service Award, and was presented with that honor in 1997.

In addition to leading the MPHS Stan was also past president of the Chicago Philatelic Society. He was active in the Collectors Club of Chicago and was a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He served as an advisor to the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation, and when the memorial was dedicated in 1992 on the 50th anniversary, he worked with the postal service to prepare event covers for the occasion. Stan donated philatelic and non-philatelic materials to the Marine Corps Museum. He was honored for his philatelic contributions in the Spring 1993 issue of *Fortitudine*, the bulletin of the U.S. Marine Corps History Division.

Stan Jersey is survived by his wife Jeanne, four children, six grandchildren and one great grandson. A funeral mass was held at St. Giles Catholic Church in Oak Park, Ill. on September 28.

— Alan Warren

Christmas Miracle on the Western Front...

(Continued from Page 1...)

Palfrey from 2nd Bn Monmouthshire Regiment 12th Brigade, 4th Division was killed on that Christmas Day at Ploegsteert while returning from a burial party on a front where a truce had been agreed.

The Facts

At Frelinghien (Figure 1), a small place on the River Lys just across the Belgian French border, the 2nd Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers faced German soldiers of the 134 Saxon Infanterie Regiment, Lieutenant Kurt Zemisch, in civilian life a teacher, from 134 Infanterie (Figure 2) blew a two-fingered whistle toward the British trenches. To his delight the British whistled back. Some of the Germans, soldiers Möckel and Huss, who had worked in England before the war shouted greetings across the battlefield in English. The British watched in amazement as candle-lit Christmas trees began to appear atop the German trenches. After some time soldiers on both sides emerged from the trenches cautiously approaching each other to meet in no mans' land. Mortal enemies now exchanged gifts, shared food, drink and cigarettes. They showed each other pictures of their girlfriends, wives and families. Lt Zemisch recorded in his diary "Eventually the English brought a soccer ball from the trenches, and soon a lively game ensued." On November 11, 2008 a plaque to the Christmas Truce was unveiled at Frelinghien.

In the trenches at Wytshate both parties sang the same carols. The shared carols inspired Hauptmann Josef Sewald of Germany's 17th Bayerische Reserve Regiment (Figure 3) to make a bold gesture: "I shouted to our enemies that we didn't wish to shoot and that we make a Christmas truce. I said I would come from my side and we could speak with each other. First there was silence, than I shouted once more, invited them, and the British shouted 'No shooting.' Then a man came out of the trenches and I on my side did the same and so we came together and we shook hands — a bit cautiously."



Figure 1. German feldpost card with drawing of Frelinghien under fire by an artist from 134 Regt. Sent by a wounded soldier 134 Regt. at Feldlazarett 2 XIX AK at Quesnoy (a few miles east of Frelinghien) on 12-5-16.

From the 2nd Bn Bedfordshire Regiment, the Battalion Diary records: On the evening of 24th December 1914 at about 8 PM the Germans were singing in their trenches. There were numerous lights on their parapets apparently on Christmas trees. A voice shouted from the trenches, will someone come

out and meet me. A British officer went out with 3 men and met 5 Germans, the leader of whom spoke excellent English. The German said they wish to bury about 24 of their dead. During the conversation the German said he belonged to the 15th Infanterie Regiment, 26th Brigade, 13th Division, 7th Armeekorps (Figure 4). The men also had 15 on their shoulder traps and the red band round their caps was covered with grey cloth.

Pte Pentelow 1st Rifle Brigade, 11th Infantry Brigade, 4th Division writing to his sister: we had it quiet on Christmas Day and we didn't do any firing. Plenty of singing in the trenches on Christmas Eve, both carols and songs. The Germans had a few instruments and gave us several tunes. They shouted "come over you English people, we will meet you half way," and several other jokes were passed. Well, on Christmas Day we were out of our trenches

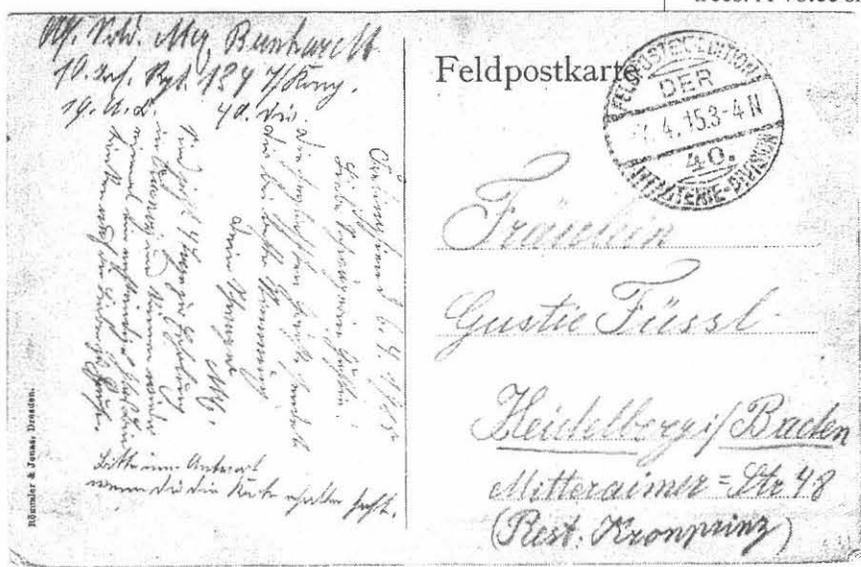


Figure 2. Feldpost 7-4-15, 40 Division 134 Regt. Written at Frelinghien on 6-4-1916.

Christmas Miracle on the Western Front...

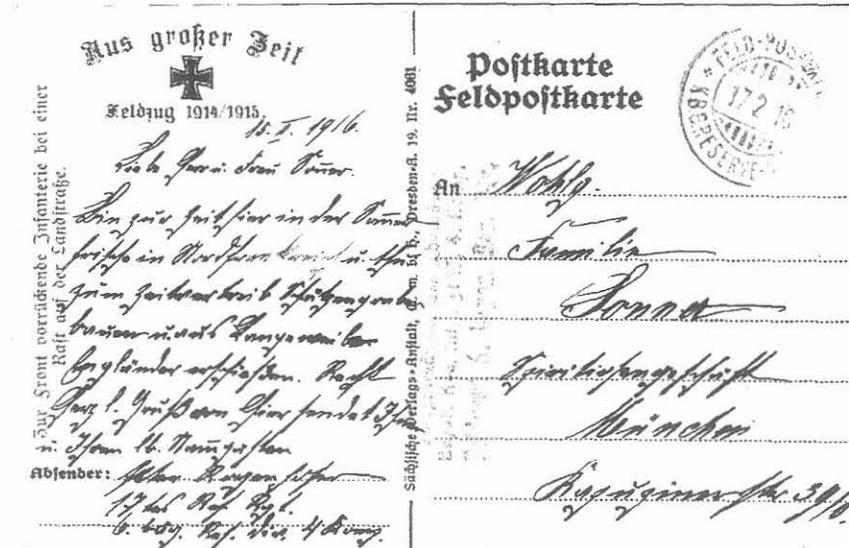


Figure 3. Feldpost 17-2-16 KB 6 Res. Division with regimental hand stamp Bayerische Reserve Infanterie Regiment 17.

day after Christmas the spontaneous truce was repeated. Three German officers, probably from 4 Ersatz Division, mounted the trenches with a monstrance from the St. John hospital in Dixmude. They asked if there was a priest present. The Belgian chaplain Vandermeiren appeared and threw a rope across to them and pulled the monstrance in a linen bag across the ice of the frozen IJzer River. The monstrance is now on display at the IJzer tower museum.

References: all Websites

- “The Christmas Truce of 1914”
- “Christmas Truce” (Wikipedia)
- “Der Spiegel 45/2003 Singen mit dem Feind”
- “Some of the Letters-The Christmas Truce”
- “De kerstvrede van 1914” (in Dutch)

and we met half way and shook hands and exchanged smokes. The 11th Infantry Brigade was in the trenches at Ploegsteert facing the German 139th Infanterie Regiment, 24th Division.

The Indian Corps (7th Meerut and 8th Lahore Divisions), (Figure 5) had suffered some 6,000 casualties in the defense of the southern sector of Ypres. They were exhausted and transferred to the sector Neuve Capelle to Givenchy on December 18, 1914. The Indian Corps attacked again in the early morning of December 19. Casualties were heavy as the Germans counter-attacked. Fresh troops arrived on December 20 to stabilize the situation. The burial of many bodies lying in the frost and bloody pools of no man’s land was one of motivations for the Christmas fraternization that soon occurred in this area. A truce was observed between the Garhwal Brigade, 7th Meerut Division and presumably the German 16th Infanterie Regiment, 27th Brigade, 14th Division.

One of the most remarkable events took place at Dixmude on the IJzer (Yser) River were the distance between Belgian and German trenches was the smallest. The Germans asked for a one-day truce. The Belgians accepted the offer and the



Figure 5. Indian Field Post Office 16 (Indian Corps in France) 16-11-14. FPO cancel on back of cover shown in inset.



Figure 4. Feldpost 29-10-15, 13 Inf. Div. and regimental hand stamp Infanterie Regiment 15.

List of units which took part in the truce

British :

- 4th Division, 10th, 11th and 12th Brigades.
- 5th Division, 14th and 15th Brigades.
- 6th Division, 16th, 17th and 19th Brigades.
- 7th Division, 20th, 21st and 22nd Brigades.
- 8th Division, 23rd, 24th and 25th Brigades.
- 7th Meerut Division (Indian) Garhwal Brigade.

German :

- III Bay. Armeekorps, 6 Bay. Res. Div., 12 Bay. Res. Brig., 17 Bay. Res. Regt.
- VII Armeekorps, 25 Brig., 13 Inf. Div. 13 and 158 Regt and 11 Jäger Bn.
- VII Armeekorps, 26 Brig., 15 and 55 Regt.
- VII Armeekorps, 27 Brig., 14 Inf. Div. 16 Regt.
- XIX Armeekorps, 47 Brig., 24 Inf. Div. 139 and 179 Regt. 48 Brig. 107 Regt.
- XIX Armeekorps, 88 Brig., 40 Inf. Div. 104 Regt. and 6 Jäger Bn.
- XIX Armeekorps, 89 Brig., 133 and 134 Regt.

The Free French in the British Mandate During World War II

by Dennis Tong

2501 42nd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116.

This article is to update and correct what is known about the Free French in Palestine and Transjordan during World War II. Much information about the Free French in the Levant during this period exists on Internet websites and in the literature, but what is stated is about their activities as part of the Allied invasion of the French Mandate via Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq. Pertinent facts about the Free French in the British Mandate not related to the invasion is primarily in French or translated into English in books about General de Gaulle. Books by English-speaking writers may mention something about certain Free French activities but often do not go into any detail about it. A review of the philatelic literature about the Free French reveals few articles, discussed in the "Postal History" section below.

Free French Relations with the Populations in the British Mandate

The French citizens in the British Mandate lived primarily in areas of religious significance in Palestine, such as Jerusalem, the Galilee and Bethlehem. They worked in about 70 religious organizations including religious orders, hospitals, charities and cultural entities. All of these groups sided with the Vichy-leaning acting French Consul General Amédée Outrey in Jerusalem against the Free French.

The Free French officials and military personnel in Palestine had a friendly working relationship with the leaders of the Jewish Yeshiva due to the common fight against the Nazis and their common Western values. Among the things the Jews of Palestine did for the Free French were to publish favorable newspaper articles about their activities, such as de Gaulle's speeches and the social events hosted by the wife of the Free French Levant military commander, Mrs. Georges Catroux, and to give them help from the Palmach and Hagannah. Jewish high schools were encouraged to teach French. A choir for the French language and civilization was funded at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Jewish Association for the Free French was established the first week in May, 1941 at Tel Aviv by Marc Goroditsky to help provide daily contact between the two groups. His May 5th lecture on de Gaulle's personality was well received by the people of Jerusalem. A May 1942 French painting exhibition in Tel Aviv was well attended.

General Charles de Gaulle's beliefs and experiences in the Levant had a great deal to do with the success of the Free French-Yeshiva relationship. His strong Christian beliefs led to an interest in the Levant when Marshall Petain ordered him to meet with Lt. Col. Georges Catroux, who was the leading French expert on the Levant, since Petain intended to visit French military bases there. De Gaulle was influenced early in his career by a Jewish French Col. Emile Mayer, who introduced him to a Jewish group of important writers, politicians, doctors, and lawyers. Later de Gaulle was advised by a

number of other French Jews during the Second World War while he was in London, such as Pierre Mendes-France. This led him to meet non-French Jews such as the representative of the U.S. Jewish Congress who was also the head of the Jerusalem Jewish Agency, Albert Cohen, on Aug. 9, 1940 in London. The meeting with de Gaulle occurred after Cohen met Media Director Sante Andrew at St. Steven's House in London on July 16, 1940 and on July 18 with Rene Plevin and Pierre Oliver Laprie, who both decided that the Free French could work with the Jewish Agency. De Gaulle told Cohen that he was against antisemitism personally and admired Zionism, which led the Jewish Agency to be the earliest group other than governments-in-exile to recognize the Free French as the representative of France.

Once the Free French recaptured the French Mandate, de Gaulle annulled the Vichy antisemitism decrees on Aug. 2, 1941 in return. Cohen offered to spread news of the Free French movement in both the U.S. and the Middle East and to tell the Free French of the U.S. political situation.

The Jewish Agency offered to help finance propaganda efforts in the French Mandate. The Free French response was an Aug. 7, 1940 directive appointing liaison officers to Jewish refugee camps and to Jewish organizations in neutral countries. Cohen was appointed the permanent liaison of the Jewish Agency to the Free French soon after his meeting with de Gaulle.

De Gaulle's actual experience in the Levant started in November 1929 when he requested a posting to the Armée du Levant's Beirut headquarters, where General de Bigault commanded about 30,000 troops. Major de Gaulle's job was to be chief of operations and military intelligence, so he traveled extensively by himself or with some other officers to places like Aleppo, Damascus and the British-controlled territories of Palestine, Egypt and Iraq. He wrote with a Major Yuon a historical retrospect of the Levant that analyzed France's military and political activities there, such as the crusades. The things he learned in writing the book, as well as the French soldiers killed in controlling the Levant, shaped much of de Gaulle's attitude toward British moves against the French Mandate during World War II. He had a natural tendency to see the British as adversaries and what he saw on his trips to British-controlled areas led de Gaulle to be combative with Churchill over policy about Syria and Lebanon. De Gaulle was transferred back to Paris in November 1931, but while he was in the Levant he learned the political, military, religious and cultural traps and complexities of the British and French Mandates. He felt that using the French army to police the colonial empire was a poor use of it, as the army should be used to keep France itself secure.

The Arabs in the British Mandate were either indifferent to the Free French, or openly sided with the Germans if they supported the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.



General Charles de Gaulle

Free French in the British Mandate During World War II..

The British were split in their feelings toward the Free French, due to the British desire to rid the Levant of the French, contrasted with their need for French help in fighting Nazi Germany. The British High commissioner for Palestine, Harold MacMichael, was very reserved toward the Free French because of the former reason, but the non-Arab British Palestine bureaucracy personnel were much more favorably disposed toward them. The Free French, under de Gaulle's direction, were cautious in their relationship with the British Mandate officials since the British had the League of Nations Mandate.

Free French Liaison Mission in Palestine

Free French General Nogries was put in charge of a Jerusalem liaison mission to make contact with the French in the Free Mandate, to develop a French program for Radio Jerusalem, and to improve Free French prospects in the eastern Mediterranean area. The mission closed after only two months as the British authorities only allowed it to be a place where Vichy French Mandate defectors could go to join the Allied forces. Captain Paul Repiton-Préneuf was put in charge of the mission on Aug. 28, 1940 proved to be very adept at dealing with both Jews and Arabs. He was helped in his information-gathering efforts by the wife of the Belgian ambassador at Cairo, Madame de Schouteete, who carried messages to and from Beirut to Cairo via Jerusalem for him. He had a spy ring in the French Mandate that collected information from Vichy officials who did not want to defect but who favored the Free French, such as Captain de Camus at Aleppo, from members of the Sûreté, from civil servants who also sabotaged the Vichy administration, and from tapping the communication lines of the chiefs-of-staff at the French Mandate's four largest cities. Repiton-Préneuf also had Free French contacts with the Jewish Agency to obtain Royal Air force secret messages being sent to London.

Free French Palestine Radio Facilities

The Free French were finally able to establish a French program on Radio Jerusalem, but the British authorities had censorship control over the station's broadcasts. Joseph Hal-

lignen, who ran the program, soon decided French interests were being affected. The Free French therefore started the clandestine Radio Levant France Libre in Haifa on Oct. 1, 1940 at the home of David Hacohen. The station was operated by de Gaulle advisor François Coulet with the help of Jean Fleuriot and Raymond Schmittlein. Hacohen also ran the Voice of Israel. The Hagannah stood guard to protect the radio station as it fought a propaganda battle attempting to get Vichy troops to defect, or at least not to fire on Free French invading troops. The station was opposed by the powerful Vichy Beirut radio station run by a Monsieur Chauchard. The Free French Haifa radio station created problems for the British, as it was heard throughout Palestine and was not as moderate as General Catroux of the British Cairo government wished. The station ceased operations in June 1941 when the Allies invaded the French Mandate.

Free French Palestine Diplomatic Missions

A Free French consulate was established in Tel Aviv just after the end of the Allied invasion into the French Mandate. Paul Repiton-Préneuf was appointed to be the Free French representative at their legation in Jerusalem that opened in August 1941. Most likely only a few personnel staffed the diplomatic mission. This legation continued to operate after the war.

Free French Military Relations in the British Mandate

De Gaulle, as head of the Free French, and General Georges Catroux, as commanding officer of the Free French Mideast Forces, wrote a military plan of action to invade the French Mandate in October 1940. Then Catroux went incognito to Jerusalem where the Free French liaison officer to the High Commissioner, Captain Repiton-Préneuf, introduced him to Harold MacMichael and other officials and to see if any problems existed that might prevent moving Free French troops north from Palestine. De Gaulle told Catroux on Dec. 31 to talk to the British authorities in Palestine and Egypt about invading Vichy-controlled areas after getting his report.

De Gaulle met Chaim Weizmann in November 1940 at London, where they talked in generalities about Jewish help for the Free French-planned invasion. One specific item that was brought up by Weizmann was whether the Free French would supply the Yeshiva with armaments.

A Free French emissary named Marquis de Vault has a favorable meeting with Jewish Agency representatives in February 1941 which led to a March 1941 meeting between them about forming a Jewish unit within the Free French military. British opposition as well as that by General Catroux and some of his Cairo headquarters officers ended the idea as they felt the move would cause a negative reaction from the Arab Levant population, even though the Free French would be getting nearly the equivalent of a division of troops. De Gaulle, as usual, was careful in his dealings with the Jewish Agency because of British sensitivities.

De Gaulle was at Cairo from April 1st to the 14th while the Axis forces were attacking Crete, driving toward Egypt in North Africa, sending personnel to Syria to obtain landing sites to support Ali Rashid's

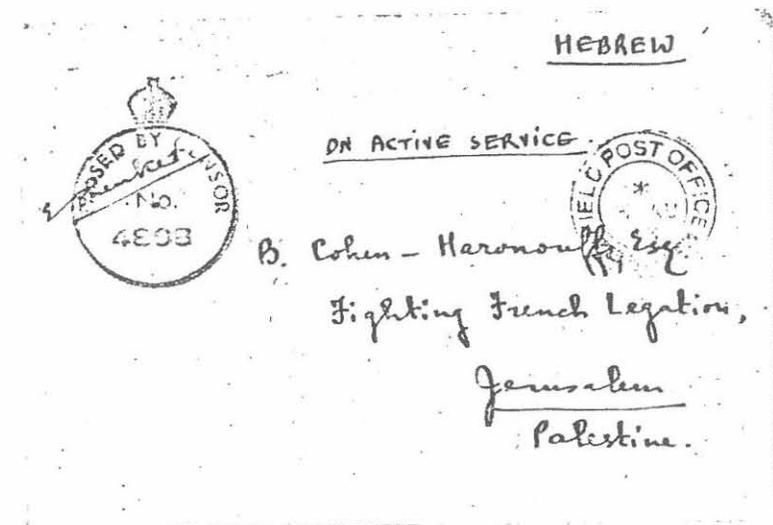


Figure 1. Cover addressed to the Free French Legation, postmarked at BFPO 518.

Free French in the British Mandate During World War II...

German-leaning regime in Iraq, and attacking in the Horn of Africa. The British Mideast commanding officer, General Archibald Wavell, refused a de Gaulle request sent via General Catroux for transport help to move French troops to attack the French Mandate, due to his need of forces to oppose the Axis on many fronts. Churchill's representative, General Spears, telegraphed de Gaulle that no transport was available for at least a month due to Wavell's Iraq operations. De Gaulle had felt that the Free French sympathizers in the Vichy-controlled Mandate would rally to him if they were given the chance to do so by an invasion. One such sympathizer was the Mandate High Commissioner at the time Vichy France signed the armistice with Germany. He had declared for Free France at that time and was immediately replaced by General Dentz.

De Gaulle felt in late April to early May 1941 that the British were trying to reach an understanding with the Vichy Mandate government as the United States had done with the Vichy French in recognizing the Petain government when the British tried to negotiate with the French Mandate governor.

General Wavell was concentrating on pacifying Iraq from early to mid-May 1941, during which time German agents Von Hintig and Rosen, disguised as commercial businessmen, went to see General Dentz for permission to contact German sympathizers and to evaluate Syrian airfields for use in staging a coup in Iraq in early May. Then Churchill cabled Wavell on May 9 to order him to give the Free French the necessary transport to attack the Vichy French Mandate when Churchill learned that de Gaulle, who was at Brazzaville in Africa, was going to recall General Catroux from Cairo, where he was coordinating things with the British and also learned that German and Italian planes were far advanced in using Syrian airfields to supply the Iraqi government in Mid May. The Germans had sent 106 planes openly to the Syrian airfields by this time. De Gaulle was so happy to get the transport and royal Air Force help for an invasion that he replied to Churchill for the first time ever in English that Catroux would be in Palestine and that he would go to Cairo. Catroux told de Gaulle when he arrived at Cairo that Beirut agents said that if the Free French invaded in force there would be token resistance, but if not, the Vichy forces would put up a fierce resistance. De

Gaulle had only 6,000 troops so he needed help from the British against the roughly 30,000 men Vichy had. However, General Wavell still had too much to handle on multiple fronts against the Germans so he gave de Gaulle the minimal number of troops and planes.

De Gaulle went to Jerusalem from May 14th to the 26th to prepare for the invasion. A Col. Collect defected from Beirut and joined the Free French in Jerusalem on May 21 with the news that Dentz's Vichy forces were letting the Luftwaffe land in Syria, were ordered to totally resist any invaders, and told to set up defensive positions on the frontier. Unfortunately the colonel was unable to bring a number of troops with him who wanted to defect because of a news leak. De Gaulle also had the information that Madame Schouteete had couriered from Beirut about the willingness of Vichy forces to fight any Free French invaders. Knowledgeable officers had said earlier that the Vichy forces hated the Free French.

Now de Gaulle had the Free French troops in Libya and Eritrea come to Qastina Camp in the Gaza area with the transportation that Churchill had ordered for him. He had a total of 6,000 men in seven battalions, a Hotchkiss armored car company, an artillery battery, a reconnaissance company and two squadrons of 12 planes each. General Catroux was the overall Free French commander; the British commander was General Maitland-Wilson.

De Gaulle reviewed the advance troops in Qastina Camp and then he and Catroux met Wavell and his staff in Jerusalem before going to Cairo. Problems arose at Qastina among some of the Free French troops who did not wish to fire at other Frenchmen. This was especially true for Foreign Legionnaires, so some of the troops remained at Qastina.

Defectors from the Vichy-controlled French Mandate went to join the Free French early in the invasion. Near the end of June 1941 more than 100 soldiers from the 3rd Company of the 26th R.I.C. regrouped near Haifa where they joined up with Free French troops from Egypt and North Africa, commanded by General Gentilhomme. However, most Vichy Mandate defectors went to Cairo, such as the Armée du Levant Chief of Staff Col. De Larminat. A Vichy commander with

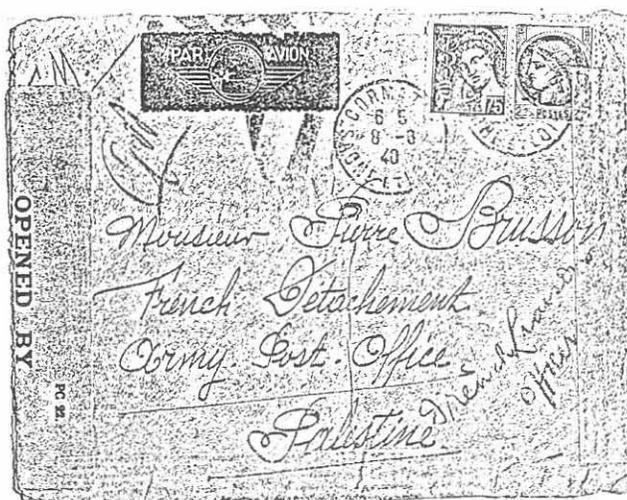
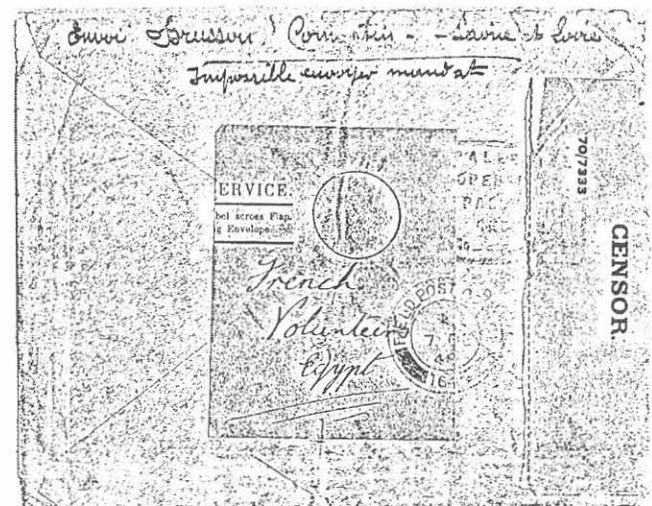


Figure 2. Twice-used cover originally mailed at Cormat, France Aug 8, 1940. On the other side, a British OHMS marking, censored, postmark from BFPO 164, Dec. 7, 1940.



Free French in the British Mandate During World War II...

twelve officers and more than 300 men defected to the Haifa area to join the fighting.

The British wanted a joint proclamation with the Free French to be made to the people of the French Mandate that the invasion was to lead to independence for the inhabitants. De Gaulle refused because he wanted the credit to go to France with the Free French making the proclamation and the British to have only a military role.

Blue and white Hagannah trucks carried the Free French through the Galilee to the Syrian border amidst the cheers of the Galilee settlers. De Gaulle moved to his Jerusalem headquarters on June 13, 1941 to be closer to the fighting and to visit the troops under General Gentilhomme, driving to reach Damascus. He spent time visiting the French wounded to cheer them up. De Gaulle moved to Damascus on June 23, two days after the city fell to the Free French with General Catroux moving on June 22.

Jewish forces fought as part of the invasion force with Col. Collet's contingent going to Damascus. However, most of the Palmach troops went up the coast road with the Australians. Yigal Allon helped put a bridge over the Litani River, while Moshe Dayan lost an eye while attacking coastal Fort Iskanderun in June 1941. A Jewish suicide team went to sabotage the Tripoli oil pipeline in northern Lebanon.

General Wavell, General Catroux de Gaulle and the British Cairo ambassador, Sir Miles Layptom, sent recommendations to London for armistice terms on June 19, including having a de Gaulle representative to be at the negotiations and Free France to represent France in the Levant. The British mishandled the armistice negotiations from the start because of a number of problems. Churchill had replaced General Wavell as head of British Forces Mideast by General Claude Auchinleck on June 22. Maitland-Wilson's relations with Catroux deteriorated due to the stress of the campaign. A group of Arabists in the Levant, including the British head of Jordan's Frontier Force, Sir John Glub, wanted the French out of the

Levant. Churchill's personal representative, Sir Edward Spears, believed that Glub was trying to incite the Transjordanians against the Free French in August 1942.

The fighting between Vichy Mandate forces and the Allied invaders ended July 10, 1941 with peace talks to start on the 12th at Acre. General Catroux as Delegate General with High Commissioner powers, represented the Free French at the talks, but was not allowed to sign the final treaty finished on the 14th. London had sent orders for the armistice terms via the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Consul General in Beirut, so the Free French were put in a poor position as the U.S. recognized Vichy France as the French representative, rather than de Gaulle's Free France. The Acre agreement that ended the fighting essentially allowed the British Military Command to rule the French Mandate and did not allow any Vichy forces that fought there to join the Free French. General Maitland-Wilson even made a secret agreement with the Vichy Mandate commanders not to let the Free French have contact with Vichy forces, and all Vichy troops and civil servants were to be shipped back to France, with no chance to join the Free French.

Vichy General Joseph de Verdilhac surrendered only to the British, and his Vichy troops received military honors and a return to France. His supplies and war materials went to the British. No mention was made of Free France in the Acre agreement.

De Gaulle got the final text of the armistice on July 18 and proceeded to repudiate the treaty as it was not what he, Wavell, Catroux and Lampton had agreed on in mid-June. De Gaulle met British Minister of State for the Mideast, Oliver Lyttleton, on July 21, 1941 and threatened to remove Free French troops from the British Mideast Command unless treaty terms were changed. Lyttleton changed the agreement on July 25 to give France the lead position in Lebanon and Syria. This meant that the Free French also got access to all Vichy troops and civil servants, all former Vichy Mandate war supplies, Lebanese and Syrian recruits to join the Free French Army, rather than the British, non-intervention by the British in the French Mandate's administration and politics, and protection of French interests in the Levant.

De Gaulle maintained good relationships with the Yeshiva after the new agreement was signed, even though his interests were in Lebanon and Syria now. Radio Levant France Libre and the French military liaison mission in Jerusalem ended. The Vichy Consul General Amédée Outrey in Jerusalem was recalled in July 1941, with Spain's diplomatic mission handling Vichy's interests. One of the Vichy Consulate's agents by the name of Zimmermann, who favored the Free French, was appointed Consul General on Aug. 14, 1941. De Gaulle replaced him with a Monsieur Cheylard on Aug. 24, 1942 due to incompetence.

De Gaulle became upset again by British treatment of the Free French interests in early 1942, so he started blocking French Levant cooperation with British intelligence. Churchill and de Gaulle had a June 10 meeting about the problems after the head of the SIS in the Mideast complained to the British



Figure 3. Mailed through BFPO 121, October 1942, to Egypt.

Free French in the British Mandate During World War II...

Minister of State for the Mideast, Richard Casey, that de Gaulle's non-cooperation was hurting the war efforts.

De Gaulle never returned to Palestine after August 1942, as he always flew directly to and from conferences in Beirut and Cairo. The last Free French to be in Palestine were a professor named Évariste Lévi-Provençal on a research trip, and a Col. Spillman who made a brief stop to meet General Spears while on his way to Iraq.

The Free French never forgot the help that the Jewish Agency and Jews in general gave them in taking the French Mandate from Vichy forces. David Ben-Gurion said in May 1944 that he hoped that France would take a major role in the Levant after World War II. The Yeshiva sent a delegation to Paris when it was liberated. De Gaulle, however, was cautious in his support for the Jews in Palestine because of worries of inciting the Arabs, but he supported Israel's United Nations independence vote, and supplied arms to Israel for years until the 1967 war caused a falling out between them.

Postal History

Free French British Mandate covers are mentioned only five times in the philatelic literature. This occurred in two articles, in two auctions lots, one of which was the major cover described in one of the two articles, and in one sentence in another article.

The author wrote an article that appeared in an early issue of *Holy Land Postal History*, the journal of the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel, that described a number of covers addressed to B. Cohen-Haronouff at the Free French Legation from the years 1943 to 1947. They were sent On Active Service, censored and postmarked by British Field Post office 518. Figure 1 is an example of these covers. Another cover was addressed in 1944 to the Delegate of France in Jerusalem. The author does not know where these covers are now. The author does now know of any covers from the Free French Tel Aviv consulate.

More is known in the philatelic literature about Free French Palestine military covers. The *Holy Land Philatelist* had an auction lot number 5379 in auction number 14 that described a multi-used 1941 OHMS cover postmarked with two date-stamps of British Field Post office number 171 (Mideast), and 201 (Jerusalem) and four partly covered oval cachets of the Free French Liaison Office, Haifa. This cover was probably from the Free French Liaison officer with the Hagannah guarding the Radio Levant France Libre station, but he possibly could have been the liaison officer for any Vichy French Mandate defectors. More information on the cover, such as the addressee and postmark dates, must be seen before a more definite guess about the liaison officer's work can be made.

A cover thought to be from the Free French troops after the end of the invasion was described in the journal of the British Association of Palestine and Israel Philatelists. The cover had an arrival postmark of British Field Post Office number 120, dated July 31, 1941 and was censored in the French Mandate with two different Cross of Lorraine censor marks. The FPO number 120 postmark was an arrival one as the office never left Jerusalem. The addressee, a Frenchwoman from South Africa, suggests that the writer was a Free French soldier who was part of the invasion forces setting up the transition to the Free French control.

Another French military cover was mentioned in a short description of a two-cover auction lot in a Bale mail bid auction, and then subsequently along with the Free French Jerusalem Legation covers mentioned earlier in this article. Unfortunately, major things of importance about the cover were edited out after the article was sent to Israel. This cover was stolen along with the Jerusalem Free French Legation ones. The cover was a twice-used one with one side having French postage cancelled at Cormat, France on Aug. 8, 1940, a handstamp cancelling the airmail label, an addressee in the Free French Palestine detachment, and a manuscript French Liaison officer on the right side. The other side had one-half of a British OHMS austerity address label addressed to the Free French Volunteers Egypt, an Opened by Censor label, and a British Field Post Office number 164 (Jerusalem) postmark dated Dec. 7, 1940 (Figure 2).

A fourth possible Free French cover has been recently discovered (Figure 3) in which the word French is written the English way in the upper right corner as well as OAS in the top center area. A British Field Post Office number 121 (Rafah) postmark of Oct. 11, 1942 is on top of the word French. Presumably the writer was French and bilingual in English, which would be necessary in a military Liaison officer. British Army Field Post Offices normally could only be used by soldiers so the writer of the cover was either Free French or a French-speaking Allied soldier. He was more likely to be Free French as they had a liaison unit in Cairo at British headquarters and some troops at Alexandria. The addressee is a bank in Alexandria, with Alexandria spelled the French way. The soldier could have been sending his paycheck to the bank near his Mideast base while on a visit to inspect Allied troops in the Gaza area that were to serve in the French Mandate occupation.

The last philatelic mention of the Free French in the British Mandate appeared in this journal, a single sentence in Roger Callens' article about Allied Air Forces in Palestine. He reported that no evidence exists that the Free French Fighter Squadron, which was part of Royal Air Force Wing Number 163, headquartered in Palestine and Transjordan, was ever in Palestine to use its landing fields in the Allied French Mandate invasion.

The author would like to hear from anyone with different interpretations of what the author has made about Free French material discussed in this article, or having other such covers. The author would like to thank Sid Morginstin and Ed Rosen for their help, and to dedicate this article to the late Marvin Seigel and the late Dr. Leopold Dickstein, both of whom had mentored him, to Joseph Schwartz who taught him some valuable things, and to Al Gaugh, who got him started in Holy Land Postal History.

References:

• Articles:

F. W. Pollack, in *The Holy Land Philatelist*, Feb./March 1959

"The Fighting French in WW II," *British Association of Palestine and Israel Philatelists*, Vol. 16, April 1956

Free French in the British Mandate During World War II...

Tong, Dennis, "The Free French in the Holy Land," *Holy Land Postal History*, Society of Postal History of Eretz-Israel

Callens, Roger, "Allied Air Forces in Palestine, 1939-1945," *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, Summer 2004

Lerner, Henri, "Avec de Gaulle en Palestine," *Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine*, Oct./Dec. 1992

• Books:

Aron, Raymond, *De Gaulle, Jews and Israel*, Transition Publishers, London, 2004

Catroux, General George: *Dans la Bataille de Mediterranée — Egypt, Levant, Afrique du Nord, 1940-1944*, Rene Juliard, Paris, 1949

Cook, Dan: *Charles de Gaulle - A Biography*, G. P. Putnam & Sons, New York, 1983

Crawley, Ardan: *De Gaulle*, Bobs-Merrill Co., New York, 1969

Crozier, Brian: *De Gaulle*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1973

Galante, Pierre: *The General*, Random House, New York, 1968

Lacouture, Jean: *De Gaulle — The Rebel 1890 to 1944*, W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1984

Ledwidge, Bernard: *De Gaulle*, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1982

Williams, Charles, *The Last Great Frenchman*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1993

PROPOSED CHAPTERS FOR THE US WWI POSTAL HISTORY BOOK (1914-1923), with author assignments.

1. The Vanguard 1914-1917 – Ed Dubin (dubine@comcast.net)
2. Development & Early History of the AEF – Al Kugel (afkugel@hotmail.com)
3. Postal Markings of the AEF - Al Kugel/Ed Dubin
4. Postal Markings and History by APO - **Open**
5. Special Services Mail of the AEF - Al Kugel
6. Railway Postmarks of the AEF - Al Kugel
7. AEF Mail to Foreign Countries - Al Kugel
8. AEF Holiday Mail - Al Kugel
9. APO 800 Postmarks - **Open**
10. Postal Censorship during WWI (Civilian/Military) – John Hardies (hardiesj18@yahoo.com)
11. APO 901 in Italy - **Open**
12. Mail Carried Outside the Postal Services - Jon Arndt (xss78tx@att.net)
13. AEF Medical Service – Jim Felton (n_g_rpo@yahoo.com)
14. The Home Front - Bob Swanson (bobswansong@gmail.com)
15. Training Camps/Facilities in the US - Bob Swanson
16. Occupation of the Rhineland - Jerry Miller (jhmnap@aol.com)
17. Military Aviation - **Open**
18. U.S. Navy – Jim Myerson (jpm_ww@yahoo.com)
19. Marine Mail - Ted Bahry (semperted@aol.com)
20. The African American Soldier - Ed Dubin
21. German POW's and Alien Internees in the US - Louis Fiset (fiset@u.washington.edu)
22. AEF German POW's in France - Ed Dubin
23. American POW's in Germany - Ed Dubin/Al Kugel
24. American Russian Prison Camp Guards in Germany - Ed Dubin
25. Stationery used by the AEF - **Open**
26. Patriotic Covers used by AEF – Jack Elder (jelder@granite-enviro.com)
27. American Red Cross - Jack Elder
28. YMCA - **Open**
29. Other Service/Relief Organizations - **Open**
Knights of Columbus - Greg Ciesielski (lilski@ec.rr.com)
30. North Russian Campaign – Joseph Taylor (joseph.taylor@yale.edu)
31. Siberian Campaign - Al Kugel

If you would like to volunteer to help with a chapter, contact either Ed Dubin or Al Kugel at the addresses above (or on page 2).

U. S. Navy Shore Bases in Europe During and Following World War I

By Alfred F. Kugel

The amount of information printed on this subject in the past has been quite modest. However, Nick Colley provided a number of insights in his recent article entitled "The U.S. Navy in Europe, 1917-1919..." which was published in the Winter 2010 edition of the *MPHS Bulletin*. However, Mr. Colley's piece was primarily oriented to the operational aspects of naval activities and examples of mail from warships, so it seems useful to add to the story by fleshing out the philatelic aspects of the shore bases, as provided in the following paragraphs.

Background

After the United States entered the war against Germany on April 6, 1917, there was an enormous build-up of our military forces in Europe. Overall, we had sent 2 million men to France to fight against the Kaiser's soldiers by the time the war ended on November 11, 1918. In addition, there was a large build-up of our naval forces, which were engaged in escorting troopships, anti-submarine warfare, minelaying in the North Sea and bombing raids by seaplanes against logistical facilities of Germany and Austria-Hungary on the Western and Italian Fronts.

During the course of the war, dozens of facilities were opened in Europe by the Navy, ranging in importance from the overall headquarters at 30 Grosvenor Gardens in Central London, to obscure fishing villages on the English and Scottish coasts that were home to sub-chasers and minelayers. For the purposes of this article, however, only the more significant bases will be considered.

The first base was officially created at Ponta Delgada in the Azores on November 16, 1917 when *USS Wheeling* was designated as station ship for this center of anti-submarine patrols in the eastern Atlantic. Navy seaplanes flew up to 70 miles out from the facility, which was known as Base 13, while destroyers and other warships conducted searches beyond this range. Overall, the base was extremely active, having refueled, resupplied or repaired 81 destroyers, 117 sub-chasers, 17 submarines and 135 miscellaneous ships by the time it closed in August 1919.

Our base on the Greek island of Corfu was used by sub-chasers to keep the Austro-Hungarian U-boats confined to the upper Adriatic Sea, where they could do less damage to Allied shipping than in the open Mediterranean. After the Dual Monarchy surrendered, some of the American warships then briefly moved into the ports of Cattaro, Fiume and Spalato.

One interesting sidelight to all of the naval activity was the need to have a high level of communication between the ships and the bases. As one aspect of this task, the Navy undertook

the construction a high-power radio broadcasting station at Croix-d'Hins near Bordeaux. Known as the Lafayette Radio Station, work on this facility started on May 28, 1918 but was incomplete at the time of the Armistice and not actually operational until two years later. (Nevertheless, it had its own postal station, with a designated postmark inscribed "Bordeaux, Fr./Lafayette Radio Sta." that was used in 1919.)

Naval Aviation

As it happened, none of our warships actually engaged in combat with surface vessels of the Imperial German Navy during World War I. Thus, aside from anti-submarine activity, the burden to carrying the Navy's fight to the enemy was borne by the Naval Flying Service and the associated Marine Aeronautic Company. In fact, the first U.S. active military unit sent to France was the First Aeronautic Detachment, which arrived at Pauillac on *USS Jupiter* on July 5, 1917.

Eventually, 27 naval air bases were activated in Europe. The most important were Eastleigh, Pauillac and Porto Corsini, which served as the assembly, repair and maintenance centers for the other facilities in the United Kingdom, France and Italy, respectively. Some of the aviation bases are listed below:

- Azores – Ponta Delgada
- France – Arcachon, Brest, Dunkirk, Fromentine, Guipavas, Gujon, Île Tudy, L'Aber Vrach, La Pallice, La Trinité, Le Croisic, Palemboef, Pauillac, St. Inglevert, St., Trojan, Tréguier.
- Italy – Porto Corsini.
- United Kingdom – Berehaven, Eastleigh, Killingholme, Lough Foyle, Queenstown, Wexford, Whiddy Island.

The Northern Bombing Group based in Dunkirk initiated raids on the German submarine facilities at Ostend in occupied Belgium on August 5, 1918. The Southern Bombing Group in Porto Corsini made its first raid on the Austro-Hungarian facilities across the Adriatic at Pola, also in August 1918.

Philatelic Aspects

Although there is literature available concerning the naval operations in Europe, very little information has been printed on the philatelic aspects. The story remains far from complete, but much new information has been developed in recent years, so that an update seems well warranted.

Up until the Armistice, many of the important bases were referred to only by number for security purposes, with numbers up to 29 being recorded. With subsequent research, about half of these can now be associated with a location, although it may be that not all the intervening numbers were actually used. Locations listed in the box have been identified.

Due to wartime secrecy, much of the mail from the bases was either sent unpostmarked (often with a generic straight-line marking inscribed "U.S. Naval Forces Europe") or with an generic "U.S. Navy" cds, without identification of its origin. However, in the latter part of 1918, some cancels with base numbers were introduced. Only after November 11, 1918 do we find cancels and other markings indicating the names of specific locations. However, since bases were being closed down rapidly during this period, most of these were used for only short periods and many are highly elusive.

Numbered Naval Bases in Europe WW I

6 = Queenstown, Ireland	17 = Invergordon, Scotland
7 = Brest, France	18 = Inverness, Scotland
8 = St. Nazaire, France	19 = Lorient, France
9 = Gibraltar	20 = Rochefort, France
13 = Ponta Delgada, Azores	25 = Corfu, Greece
14 = Bordeaux, France	27 = Plymouth, England

U. S. Navy Shore Bases in Europe, World War I...

Illustrated with this article are a number of examples of recorded postmarks, unit cachets and corner cards used at the shore bases in Europe, mostly dating from 1919. The most easily available identifiable markings are those from Brest, a major French port on the Atlantic coast, which was the operational base for the Navy on the Continent, servicing our warships as well as many of the troopships carrying our soldiers to and from France. The second most commonly available postmark is that inscribed "U.S. Atlantic Patrol Forces" (illustrated at right) that was used at Gibraltar. With a reasonable amount of diligent searching, examples of the postmarks of the headquarters offices in London and Paris can be found, but most of the other markings are rarely seen.

Special thanks are due to the eminent naval cancellation specialist, Jim Myerson, who generously shared information and scans of his material.

References:

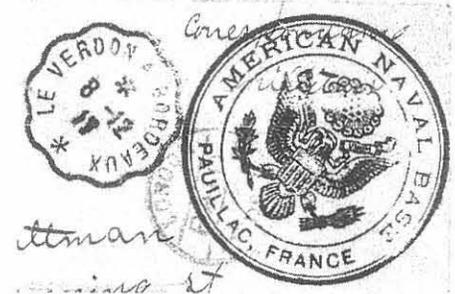
- "Marine Aviation in France," by James H. Sorenson, *War Cover Club Bulletin*, 1980, Vol. XX, No. 3.
- "Naval Aviation Chronology 1917-1919," history.navy.mil/branches/avchr2. *Naval Historical Center website*.
- "Naval Base 13," U.S. Naval Institute, *Naval History*, June 2005.
- "U.S. Military & Naval Aviation in Italy During World War I," by David D. Howell, *War Cover Club Bulletin*, December 1965 to February 1967.
- "U.S. Naval Bases Abroad, 1917-1919," by David D. Howell, *War Cover Club Bulletin*, 1971, Volume XIV, No. 6.
- "Wartime Expansion of U.S. Naval Communication System," by Capt. Linwood Howeth, 1963, *History of Communications-Electronics in the United States Navy*.
- "World War I Era Naval Aviation Stations," website bluejacket.com/usn-usmc-avi-wwI-air.fields.



Postmarks from Naval Base 7, Brest, France.



Naval Post Office, Paris.



Naval Air Station, Pauillac, France.



Naval Base 13, Ponta Delgada, Azores.

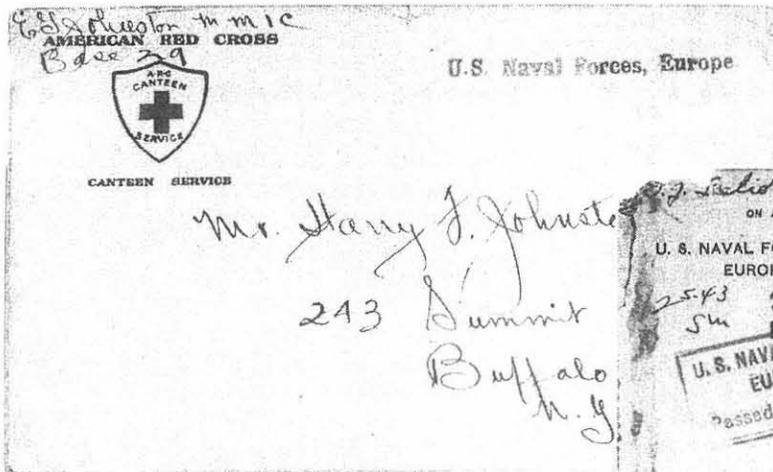


Naval Base 27, Portsmouth, England.



Naval Forces Office, London.

U. S. Navy Shore Bases in Europe, World War I...



Many World War I Navy covers demonstrate qualities that challenge collectors. They often lack postmarks, and those that do have postmarks often have the anonymous "U.S. NAVY" inscription. Return addresses or corner cards may not be of much help. The cover above is at least marked "Base 29," (Cardiff, Wales), but the one to the right has no clear origin.

Stationery from service organizations is often more helpful in identifying locations than postmarks — or lack of them.



The only standardized censor mark used by the Navy during World War I was this "fouled anchor" design. Each was numbered, but although the Navy certainly kept a list of which number was assigned to which unit, the National Archives reports that the Navy never gave them the list.

Examples of clearly identified Navy post offices in France are elusive. Here a sailor in the collier *USS Lake Daraga* posts his mail from Naval Base 14, Bordeaux, France.

A Valley Forge Cover

by Lindsay Miller

The year 1777 was a challenging one for the Americans in the Revolutionary War – the British had managed to successfully occupy Philadelphia, leading the Continental Congress to flee further east into Pennsylvania. As winter set in, General George Washington needed a winter encampment site. Valley Forge was chosen for its proximity to Philadelphia with the aim of keeping British foraging parties out of the Pennsylvania interior; still approximately twenty miles away, though, it mitigated the threat of a surprise attack by the British.

Nevertheless, winter at Valley Forge was not a pleasant one. The hardships faced at Valley Forge have become legendary. We learn in school of the suffering during that infamous winter, but we often forget – or fail to realize – the difficulty of securing supplies in a time of war... in 1778.

Non-combat related communication had an important place during the war; though delivery of ammunition and weapons was necessary to maintain the war effort, basic everyday needs likewise held immense importance. As winter began, circumstances had already taken a turn for the worse. In a circular to the states written by Washington from Valley Forge in 1777, he laments, “We had in Camp... not less than 2,898 Men unfit for duty by reason of their being barefoot and otherwise naked. Besides this number, sufficiently distressing of itself, there are many others detained in Hospitals and crowded in Farms Houses for the same causes.”

Despite constant requests to the Continental Congress and the states, in 1778 conditions grew worse still. Washington warned Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull of “the alarming situation of this Army on account of Provision.” He feared the Army’s mere “existence cannot be of long duration, unless more constant, regular and larger supplies of the meat kind are furnished.” Troops suffered so greatly that they were “on the point of resolving themselves into this fatal Crisis, total want and a dissolution of the Army.”

Supplies slowly started to appear in the springtime, but initially not in sufficient quantities. Although he received eight boxes of clothing from the state of Rhode Island, Colonel Israel Angell wrote to the Council of Rhode Island at the end of March 1778 that “there was not a Sufficiency to serve the whole... There are still many in the Regiment who are unfit for Duty, for want of Cloaths [sic].”

It was not until that spring, when Washington’s most capable general, Nathanael Greene, took over the quartermaster’s post, that supplies began to move in decent quantity. Dissatisfied with his Quartermaster General Thomas Mifflin for neglect of his duties, Washington appointed the reluctant Greene in March 1778. At the beginning of his post, Greene

set out to improve the roads between Valley Forge and Lancaster – the new site of the Continental Congress after the Philadelphia occupation. That way, delivery of supplies became easier. Better roads combined with a return of fish to the rivers improved conditions at Valley Forge dramatically; the early months of suffering at Valley Forge ended with about three months of abundance.

By then, French Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a former member of the elite staff of the King of Prussia, offered his military skills to the patriot cause. As a drill instructor at Valley Forge, he trained the American Army and brought them from a ragtag crew to an organized Army ready to fight by the end of the Valley

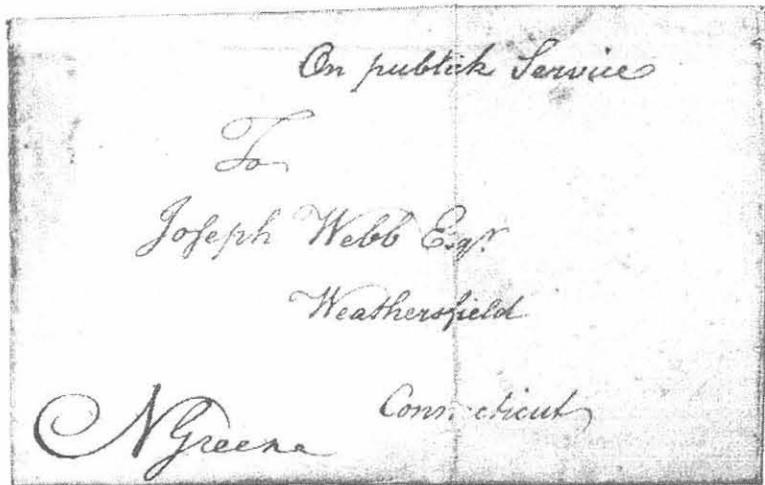
Forge encampment.

The letter of April 2, 1778 from Nathanael Greene to Joseph Webb reveals a more positive tone than previous letters from Washington and others camped at Valley Forge. With conditions improving, and the Army developing into a true fighting force, Greene requested from Webb portmanteaus (large, hinged suitcases) and valises “in any considerable Quantity,” for he felt lessening the quantity of chests and trunks would “enable [the Army] to move with the greater Ease.” Already, he saw the light at the end of the tunnel – a triumphant departure from Valley Forge.

Indeed, the Army did move out at the beginning of that summer, in pursuit of the Redcoats. With the French now in the war, Philadelphia was a difficult and dangerous location to defend, vulnerable to attack from sea. Once the British abandoned the city in June 1778, the American Army moved back into it within hours. The Army that moved into Philadelphia was certainly not the one that had let it fall. They were now proud soldiers trained for true battle. As the Revolutionary War waged on for several years after Valley Forge, the Redcoats now faced an enemy to be reckoned with.

Sources:

- Avery, Roy. “The Story of Valley Forge,” written for ushistory.org.
- Boyle, Joseph Lee. *Writings from the Valley Forge encampment of the Continental Army, December 19, 1777-June 19, 1778* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books), Vol. 1, 2000.
- Marsh, Allison. Object of the Month exhibition, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, January 2007.
- The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1931-1944), Volume 10.



*Stars and Strife***POW Mail to the Stars: Sonja Henie***by Thomas Richards and Regis Hoffman*

As one would expect, among the hundreds of thousands of pieces of fan mail to the “stars of the silver screen”, there are numerous interesting items of a military nature. This continuing column will address those items and hope to encourage others who have unusual covers that reflect Military Postal History to write about them.

Figure 1 shows mail from a RAF POW in Italy to the three-time Olympic champion (1928, 1932, and 1936) and movie star – Sonja Henie. In 1936, Hollywood studio chief Darryl Zanuck signed her to a long-term contract at Twentieth Century Fox which made her one of the highest-paid actresses of the time.

The sender, Sgt. L.W. Hatherly was part of a six-person crew who set off from Mildenhall base in Suffolk, England on the 12th of Jan. 1941 in a Wellington Mk 1C bomber #T2807. (Figure 2 shows a picture of a Wellington bomber.)

During the 1940-41 time period the 149th Squadron's planes were able to fly farther afield, and included Berlin and the industries of northern Italy in its targets. According to RAF Bomber Command records nine planes were on the mission — only one was shot down. The aircraft crashed (or was shot down) on a raid on Venice, Italy. All the crew was taken prisoner. The crew consisted of:

- Sgt. Richard A. Hodgson – escaped from Sulmona in Sept 1943
- P/O L.K.S. Wilson
- Sgt. L.W. Hatherly
- Sgt. E.E. Harding
- Sgt. J. McAnnally
- Sgt. C.F. Plummery

Sgt. L.W. Hatherly (#759243) was held at the Sulmona, Italy prison (#P.G. 78). The P.G. stands for Prisioniero di Guerra (POW). This prison was three miles east of Fonte D'Amore and 100 miles east of Rome. Figure 3 shows a photo of the prison taken after the war.

Campo 78 at Sulmona served as a POW camp in both world wars. During World War I, it housed Austrian prisoners captured in the Isonzo and Trentino campaigns; during World War II, it was home to as many as 3,000 British and Commonwealth officers and other ranks captured in North Africa.

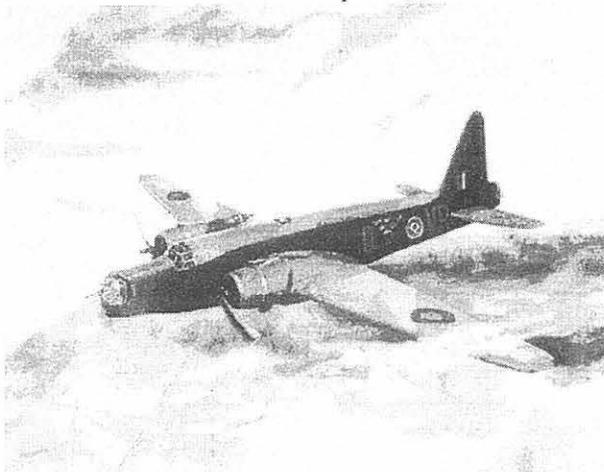


Figure 2. A Wellington Bomber.

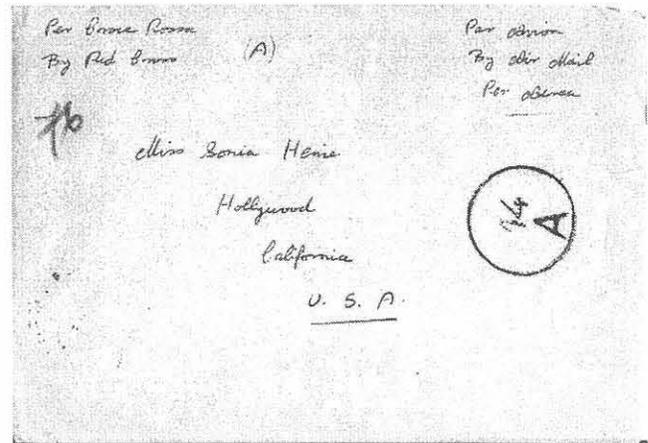


Figure 1. From a POW in Italy to Sonja Henie

The camp itself was built on a hillside and consisted of a number of brick barracks surrounded by a high wall. During World War II, conditions in Sulmona, as in many Italian camps, were good, especially in the two officers' compounds. Regular rations of macaroni soup and bread were augmented by fresh fruit and cheese in the summer, and food parcels from the International Committee of the Red Cross were distributed regularly. For recreation, the prisoners laid out a football field, and they also had equipment for cricket and basketball. There was a theater, a small lending library, at least one band, and a newspaper produced by a group of prisoners.

In September 1943, as the Italian government neared collapse, the inmates of Sulmona heard rumors that the evacuation of the camp was imminent. They awoke one morning to discover that their guards had deserted them. On September 14, 1943, German troops arrived to escort the prisoners northwards, to captivity in Germany, but not before hundreds of them had escaped into the hills (this is probably when Sgt. Richard A. Hodgson escaped).

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulmona>)

The front of the cover (Figure 1) shows it is addressed to Ms. Henie in Hollywood with a manuscript “By Red Cross”



Figure 3. Sulmona Camp (picture taken after the war).

POW Mail to Sonja Henie...

in English and Italian, and “By Air Mail” in English, French and Italian. It also has a circle censor marking with an “A” and a “14.” We have not been able to identify this marking as to location. Any assistance would be appreciated.

Figure 4 shows the reverse of the cover with Sgt. Hathery's information along with the censor tape and marking. The tape is similar to many in the Stich book *Civil and Military Censorship during WWII*, but is not shown. The censor marking (Figure 5) adds to the confusion. This is a NAVY censor marking (Stich type I 15B). It seems unusual that Navy personnel would be censoring POW mail. Can anyone add any clarification to this issue?

Figure 6 shows the power of the Internet and how it has added information and content to any research effort in general, and to Military Postal History research in particular.

An Internet search on Wellington Bomber T2807 lead to the Figure 6 image of a British Wellington bomber crashed in the shore waters of the Venetian Sea. The comment by the submitter of the image to an Internet Blog site said he had purchased it in an eBay auction in Germany. On the back in German was the following:

Unser bild zeigt die reste eines der drei Über der Italienischen Stadt Venedig in der Nacht vom 12. Zum 13 Januar 1941 abgeschossenen bristis-chen Kampfflugzeuge.

Loosely translated it says:

Our picture shows the remainders one of the three over the Italian city of Venice in the night of the 12th – British military aircraft shot down on the 13 January 1941.

RAF Bomber Command says only one was shot down. Perhaps the Germans felt the need to show that more were shot down for propaganda purposes. Could this be the Wellington T2807?



Figure 4. Reverse of the cover.



Figure 5. Censor mark, enlarged.



Figure 6. The crashed Wellington bomber.

American Forces in Newfoundland

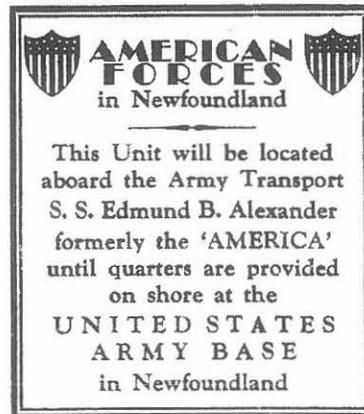
by Delf Norona

[Norona was one of the founding members of the War Cover Club, predecessor to the Military Postal History Society. He was one of the greatest experts on military mail, especially that of World War I. This article originally appeared in the March 8, 1941 issue of Stamps magazine.]

As preparations were made for sending American troops to Newfoundland in connection with the establishment of a naval, army, and air base there, (as authorized by the destroyer-naval base trade with Britain), the Post Office Department announced the establishing of a postal office in Newfoundland, effective January 6, 1941. The office is officially designated as AMERICAN FORCES IN NEWFOUNDLAND and located, at least temporarily, on the U. S. Army Transport *Edmund B. Alexander*. U.S. domestic rates and conditions apply on such mail, with parcel post to the States chargeable at the eighth zone rate of 15 cents the first and 11 cents for each additional pound.

The scheduled date for sailing was delayed, and it was not until January 15th that the transport left New York.

The post office was apparently put into operation the day of sailing, January 15th, as shown by the cover illustrated. Letters postmarked on that date were undoubtedly carried to Newfoundland and returned to the United States from there, as registered and special delivery first-day January 15 covers are backstamped in the United States February 1st. A registered receipt with the postmark used in backstamping registered mail is also shown. A four-ring target is used for canceling postage stamps on registered letters.



Walt Coyne
3117-36 St
Astoria N.Y.

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED ARTICLE No. 6		JAN 15 1941	
Free paid	Class postage paid	DECLARED VALUE \$	
From: Delf Norona		Addressed to: 3117-36 St Astoria N.Y.	
Accepting employee will place initials in space below, indicating registered delivery		Special delivery fee	
Return receipt fee	Delivery restricted to addressee	Postmaster, per	



The *Edmund B. Alexander* was originally the German liner *Amerika* at the outbreak of World War I. Interned in New York, it was taken over when we entered the war, renamed the *America* and operated as a transport from August, 1917. It was decommissioned September, 1919.

DK Enterprises Military, P.O.W., Internment Camp Postal History

- Naval both commercial and philatelic 1909 – 2006
- US/W W Postal History
- US/W W Stamps and Collections
- State/Federal/Foreign Revenues
- Buying Postal History, Military, etc
- Visa/Mastercard accepted
- Free shipping on orders over \$50.00

Visit my online store <http://www.dickeiser.com> or inquire about what's in stock.

New items are constantly added to the website.

Email: stamps@dickeiser.com

Dick Keiser, DK Enterprises 9960 Silverdale Way NW #11
360-692-3818 Store Hours: Mon – Sat 1030 to 1800

Silverdale, WA 98383
After hours: 360-271-9026

Philatelic Censorship During World War II

Frank Hoak provided an interesting World War II relic, a Philatelic Permit providing authorization to export or carry postage stamps and other philatelic material outside of the United States. Obviously purchasing stamps from an enemy country in time of war provides that country with financial support, and would not be permitted. Beyond that, however, stamps might seem like innocuous items that would not need to be regulated in the interests of national security. What may look innocent to a collector, however, could cause alarm to a knowledgeable censor. Innocent-looking lists of catalog numbers could in fact be a secret coded message that a censor might not detect. However, a stamp collector, or even better a stamp dealer, might quickly spot a faked list of numbers. The Office of Censorship therefore set up an office in New York, then the nation's philatelic center, which would review and approve any packages of stamps and related correspondence sent to a foreign country. Dealers who conducted regular business abroad had to obtain a permit.

This one was issued to Cora Gotfredson of Bickleton, Washington. In a sense, it's a wonder that the office would grant a permit to anyone with such a Germanic name. The name is not a familiar one in the philatelic world of today, and an Internet search only reveals that Cora (1899-1986) is buried with her husband Albert in a Bickleton cemetery.

The package includes the permit itself, a page of additional information, and a more elaborate set of instructions for permit holders.

**OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
PHILATELIC CONTROL UNIT
252 Seventh Avenue
New York 1, N. Y.**

PHILATELIC PERMIT

Pursuant to the application filed by you and subject to your continued compliance with the instructions enclosed, and to your satisfying the requirements of any other Government Department concerned, you are hereby granted permission to dispatch or carry postage stamps and other philatelic material to points outside the United States (with the exception of to territory occupied or controlled by the military, naval or police forces of the enemy or to blocked countries), under such regulations and subject to such censorship as may be in force at the time of dispatch.

The permit is not transferable and, unless renewed, will expire at the end of six months from the date thereof. The possession of same does not relieve you of the necessity of obtaining, in addition, any other permit or licenses required by the Treasury Department, or any other governmental department or agency concerned, or from complying with the provisions of the Trading With the Enemy Act.

Shipments must conform in every way to Post Office Regulations.

No reference to this permit is to be made in printing any envelope, letterhead, label or advertising material of the permit holder, public use of its number being limited to its appearance on the face of letters or packets containing postage stamps for export.

This permit may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of the Office of Censorship.

Nothing contained in this permit shall be deemed to limit the authority of the Office of Censorship to cause to be censored in its absolute discretion any material dispatched or carried under this permit.

PHILATELIC CONTROL UNIT

By Florence N. Erbe

General Permit No. G580
Issued at New York, N.Y.
Date: December 7, 1943
To: Cora B. Gotfredson
Bickleton, Washington

PCU-5a Revised 10/4/43

Philatelic Censorship during World War II...

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
Philatelic Control Unit
252 Seventh Avenue
New York 1, N.Y.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FOR HOLDERS OF PHILATELIC EXPORT PERMITS

Shipments of postage stamps may not be made to (1) any person whose name appears on the Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nationals, issued by the Department of State, or any person acting for any person on that list; or (2) to any person who is a resident, representative or agent of Germany, Italy, Japan, Bulgaria, Hungary, Thailand, or Rumania, or territories which have come under the control of the military, naval, or police forces, or other authority, of those countries.

Postage stamps may not be sent or taken to Andorra, Unoccupied China, Finland, French Guiana, French North Africa., French West Africa, Guadelope, Liechtenstein, Libia, Martinique, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tangier, Turkey, the Vatican City, or any colonies or possessions of the afore-mentioned countries.

Postage stamps may not be sent or taken to other foreign countries, with the exception of Canada, unless under a philatelic permit granted by the Office of Censorship.

The following stamps are objectionable to Censorship when found in international traffic:

1. All cancelled and uncanceled stamps owned, issued, or in use by European enemy or European enemy-controlled countries since January 1, 1940.
2. All cancelled and uncanceled stamps owned, issued, or in use by Asiatic enemy or enemy-controlled countries since December 7, 1941.
3. Any other stamps, irrespective of date of issue, in which our enemies are presumed to have, or have had, a financial interest.

Shipments of stamps to Prisoners of War in the United States, or to interned or detained civilians, is not permitted.

Form 675-A-Rev. 9/28/43

Examples of mail that was subject to philatelic censorship are very elusive. They would, of course, be addressed to another country. This postwar (1948) marking from Britain was almost certainly used as a customs control mark rather than as evidence of censorship.



Philatelic Censorship during World War II...

**THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
Philatelic Control Unit
252 Seventh Avenue
New York 1, N.Y.**

INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLDERS OF PERMITS FOR THE DISPATCH OF POSTAGE STAMPS

1. Postage stamps sent or carried to points outside of the United States must be dispatched in accordance with these instructions.
2. No permit will be construed to authorize the dispatch of postage stamps to enemy territory or to territory barred by Censorship regulations existing at the time of shipment.
3. The receipt of a permit from the Office of Censorship will not preclude the necessity of obtaining any license required by any other government department.
4. Postage stamps to be exported under a permit must be prepared and dispatched in the following manner:
 - a. Each shipment must be properly packed in accordance with postal requirements. Permit holders may not use the pages of any printed publication as part of the packing or wrapper.
 - b. A Philatelic Export Certificate setting forth the contents of each shipment and the estimated value thereof must be prepared IN DUPLICATE. One copy of this certificate must be enclosed with the shipment and the original mailed immediately by first class mail to the Philatelic Control Unit, Office of Censorship, 252 Seventh Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.
 - c. Each package must be fully addressed and have indicated on the face thereof the permit number of the sender, thus:

<p>POSTAGE STAMPS</p> <p>CENSORSHIP PERMIT NO. _____</p>
--

- d. The package when thus prepared should be posted or dispatched in the usual manner.
5. Philatelic export Certificates, in blank, for the use of permit holders may be obtained by applying to the Philatelic Control Unit. Permit holders may furnish their own certificates if they desire, provided the certificates correspond with the specimens supplied.
6. Permit holders are reminded that the prompt dispatch of their shipments depends on the accurate execution of these instructions. If prepared otherwise than as described above, they will be delayed. In view of the labor involved in dealing with them, no application for the return of the postage expended will be considered either by the Office of Censorship or by the Post Office Department.
7. No permit will be construed to authorize the dispatch of any shipment containing censorship labels, seals or other symbols of censorship, as international traffic in such material is strictly prohibited.
8. The description of the shipment, as listed on the Export Certificate, must contain sufficient information to readily identify the contents.

World War I AEF UPdate

by Theo Van Dam

The legacy of the late Theo Van Dam, the expert on the postal aspects of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War I, continues with these updates to his book *The Postal History of the AEF*, which remains the standard reference on the subject.

Chapter 7, American Red Cross in World War I

Letter enclosed in an envelope with Red Cross National Headquarters corner card with 3¢ Washington stamp postmarked Washington, D.C. Dec. 31, 1918 regarding the death of a private. *[Irving Baron]*

<p>7528 384</p> <p>NATIONAL OFFICERS</p> <p>WOODROW WILSON, PRESIDENT</p> <p>ROBERT W. DE FOREST, VICE-PRESIDENT</p> <p>JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS, TREASURER</p> <p>JOHN W. DAVIS, COUNSELLOR</p> <p>STOCKTON AXSON, SECRETARY</p> <p>WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE</p> <p>ELIOT WADDSWORTH, VICE-CHAIRMAN</p> <p>GEORGE E. SCOTT, GENERAL MANAGER</p>	 <p>THE AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON, D. C.</p> <p>BUREAU OF COMMUNICATION</p> <p>W. R. CASTLE, JR., DIRECTOR</p>	<p>RED CROSS WAR COUNCIL BY APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES</p> <p>HENRY P. DAVISON, CHAIRMAN</p> <p>JOHN D. RYAN</p> <p>CORNELIUS N. BLISS, JR.</p> <p>HARVEY D. GIBSON</p> <p>GEORGE B. CASE</p> <p>EX OFFICIO</p> <p>WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT</p> <p>ELIOT WADDSWORTH</p>
--	--	--

December 30, 1918.

My dear Mrs. Claessens:

We have your letter of December 17th, in which you ask for further particulars as to the reported death of your son, Private Charles Claessens, Co. A, 343rd Inf. Am.E.F. We can, at present, add nothing to what you already know, for we have on file only the official report that Private Claessens died of disease. This being the case, we hope you can find some small comfort in the thought that he had the very best of care and attention from our skillful doctors and devoted nurses, as we hear only the best accounts of our hospital service in France.

We have today written to our Paris office asking for information as to the things which you have particularly mentioned, and we will write to you at once when we receive a reply. Unfortunately, we cannot expect this for six or eight weeks, owing to the great congestion of the ocean mails and time which may be needed for research in France.

Please believe that we are very glad to be of any possible service to you in this matter, and that you have our warmest sympathy in the great loss which has come to you.

Very sincerely,
W. R. Castle, Jr.

Mrs. Peter H. Claessens,
Waverly, Minn.

ACL/AF

APO/FPO Openings and Closings

These APO, FPO and DPO actions were announced in the *Postal Bulletin* between August and October, 2010. Announcements advise Postal Service staff that they may now accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Active," and may no longer accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Closed." Actual dates of operation of offices may differ from the dates given. Some numbers may be Mailing Addresses Only rather than representing an operating post office.

APO/FPO #	ACTION	DATE
APO 09056	Close	9/30/10
APO 09266	Close	9/30/10
APO 09318	Close	10/21/10*
APO 09322	Close	9/30/10
APO 09367	Active	9/9/10*
APO 09367	Close	9/23/10
APO 09381	Close	9/23/10
APO 09384	Active	8/12/10*
APO 09389	Close	9/23/10
APO 09601	Close	9/23/10

In many cases the *Postal Bulletin* does not publish actual effective dates, saying only "immediately" for the action. The dates of these announcements are marked with an asterisk to show that this was the date of the *Postal Bulletin* notice.

The double listing for APO 09367 makes it look like a typographical error and a correction. The code has been listed for Ar-Ramadi, Iraq.

Small adjustments in the Middle East, mostly closings. APO 09318 was at the Mizar-e-Sharif airport in Afghanistan. APO 09322 was in Baghdad, and 09381 was listed for the air base at Al Taqqadum, while 09389 was assigned to Camp Al-Adad. APO 09601 was at the Aviano Air Base in Italy, one of several ZIP Codes used there.

In Germany, APO 09056 was assigned to the Funari Barracks in Mannheim, while APO 09266 was at the Hammond Barracks in Seckenheim.

Free Mail Program for U.S. Armed Forces

Three different articles appeared in the *Postal Bulletin* during this quarter announcing details of free mail for members of the Armed Forces directly supporting military operations in designated international locations. Since 1986 the Secretary of Defense has been authorized to establish or

terminate free mail privileges in these areas. The list below is the third of these lists. The second, published Aug. 26, added Yemen to the list of countries under Operation Enduring Freedom, and the third added Oman to that list. The third listing also noted that, effective Sept. 1, 2010, President Obama has changed the name of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn.

The following list, under the provisions of Title 39 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) 3401(a)(1) and pursuant to Executive Order 12556, dated April 16, 1986, includes the current locations for which the Secretary of Defense has authorized free mail privileges for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and designated civilians directly supporting military operations. This list, effective Sept. 23, 2010, supersedes the lists in the articles published in *Postal Bulletin* 22291 (8-12-10), and *Postal Bulletin* 22292 (8-26-10).

Africa: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, Mozambique, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda.

Operation Desert Spring: Kuwait, Kabal.

Operation Enduring Freedom: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Aboard ships in the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, in the North Arabian Sea (that portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude), in the Persian Gulf, and in the Red Sea.

Operation Enduring Freedom — Philippines: The southern Philippine islands of Mindanao and Tawi Tawi, Jolo on the southern Philippine island of Sulu, and the Province of Basilan.

Operation Joint Forge/Joint Guardian: Former Republic of Yugoslavia: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro (including Kosovo and Vojvodina).

Operation New Dawn: Iraq.

It is interesting to note that the list includes almost the entire continent of Africa, except for Egypt and the countries immediately to the south of it. While much of the continent has been in turmoil for more than a decade, few U.S. forces have been involved other than efforts to suppress piracy off the east coast.



Elgin E. Sink



Philatelic Militaria

by Alan Warren

[The following articles appeared in recent issues of a variety of journals and may be of interest to military postal history collectors. Copies of the complete articles can usually be obtained through the American Philatelic Research Library at APS headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa.]

In the June issue of the *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*, Michael Dobbs presents an overview of the Air Despatch Letter Service (ADLS) operated by Great Britain's Royal Signals during WW II in conjunction with the Royal Air Force. Although it served several European destinations, during 1945 it provided service from East Fortune airfield near Edinburgh to Norwegian airfields such as Gardermoen (Oslo), Kjevik (Kristiansand), and Sola (Stavanger).

The September issue of the same magazine is largely devoted to an article by Alan Totten on Scandinavian mail intercepted during World War I. The two types of mail considered are items between two neutral countries temporarily held up in transit by a belligerent nation, and items sent between a neutral country and a belligerent that is intercepted by the other belligerent and later released. He describes the handling of such material sent from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, showing examples of censor handstamps or labels and resealing tapes.

John Godfrey continues his series in the March *Scandinavian Contact* on wartime European flights to and from Finland during the 1939-1945 period. He shows early boxed censor markings used in 1939 and 1940 on letters to England and Hungary. He continues in the June issue with the circular Finnish censor marks and a letter to Vienna with incoming German censorship in 1941.

David Tett provides the second part in his series on POW mail in the Philippines in the June issue of *Stamp Lover*. This time he describes and illustrates three different types of pre-printed post cards used by the prisoners. His next installment in the August issue describes a fourth type of post card and discusses the receipt of mail in camps, mail to civilians, and mail forwarded overseas.

Richard Stock describes the contingent sent from New South Wales to the Sudan in 1885 in the September issue of *Postal History*. Mail associated with this effort is scarce as the unit consisted of only 734 men and was involved in operations in the Sudan for less than seven weeks. A few examples of covers are shown.

After seeing several covers marked to and from MTB 459 in the 1944-1945 period, Peter McCarthy researched the information further and reported it in his column on "Military Matters" in the July-September issue of *BNA Topics*. The ship was part of the 29th Canadian Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

He found some photos of the ship and its crew as well as its history.

While several MTBs were stationed at Ostend, Belgium in February 1945, a fuel spill led to a flash fire in the harbor that burned many of the vessels and caused ammunition explosions. The result was that five MTBs were lost including #459, along with 26 Canadian and 35 British sailors. Mail associated with MTB 459 is shown.

Writing in the August issue of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group's newsletter, Paul Binney shows a cover sent from Newfoundland to an airman serving with the Royal Air Force in England in 1939. It was addressed to him at the Newfoundland Trade Commissioner's Office on Victoria Street in London. This address was a convenience for sorting and forwarding mail to servicemen. In this case the envelope was readdressed to Officers Mess, R.A.F. Station, Feltwell, Thetford, Norfolk, England. Further research revealed that the Pilot, to whom the letter was addressed, was on a mission in 1940 after war broke out, dropping leaflets over Germany. His plane was shot down by flak and he was severely burned and died a week later. He was the first Newfoundland airman to die in WW II.

David H. Whiteley describes the conditions established by the British Post Office for the Thomas Cook & Son agency to handle WW II mail through its Post Office Box 506 in Lisbon, Portugal, in the July-September issue of the *Jack Knight Air Log*. The regulations specified the destination countries, restricted the letter to two sides of a single sheet of paper, required an unstamped inner envelope along with a postal order for two shillings for forwarding the letter to the neutral country.

Alfred Kugel discusses the disintegration of the Romanov Empire during the period 1917-1922 in the 2010 issue of the *American Philatelic Congress Book*. He delves into the Russian Civil War, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the Allied Intervention, and the political changes in the Russian related territories. He then illustrates the philatelic consequences of these changes with examples of mail.

In the same book JJ Danielski tells the story of the internment of Polish seamen in Sweden during World War II. Three of Poland's five submarines entered Swedish territorial waters in 1939 and the crews were interned. Then follows an extensive examination of mail to and from the internees, the censorship applied, and the location of the internment camps in Sweden.

An article by Bjørn Mugerud in the issue 5/2010 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* warns of two German censor handstamps that were sold at auction just a few years ago. Covers are turning up with these handstamps: one is marked "Durchzahlstelle der Wehrmacht 52," and the other "SS Panzergrenadier Regiment 23 Norge." They are the familiar circular handstamps with the eagle and swastika in the middle.

Future MPHS Conventions

November 18-20, 2011

CHICAGOPEX, Itasca, Ill.

April 27-29, 2012

WESTPEX, San Francisco, Calif.

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2013

BALPEX, Hunt Valley, Maryland

September, 2014

MILCOPEX, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On the Show Circuit

by Alan Warren

[Note: The purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of MPHS members the awards obtained in recent shows of exhibits that are basically about military postal history. This may include exhibits by non-members. While there are many non-military related exhibits by members, these are not recorded here.]

At the National Topical Stamp Show in Denver in June, David Kent won a gold, the MPHS award, the Ships on Stamps award, and the APS 1900-1940 medal of excellence for his "The Development of the American Submarine 1900-1924." Another gold and the Sports Philatelists International certificate went to Andrew Urushima for "Spoiled by War: The Games of the XII Olympiad." Ray Cartier received a silver and the best display division award for his "Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4: Ft. Worth, Texas."

John Birkinbine won a gold, the American Philatelic Congress award, the APS research award, and the MPHS award for his "Drama of the Civil War Period: Arizona and New Mexico Areas 1860-1867" at the APS StampShow in Richmond VA in August. John W. Barbour received a vermeil for "Restoration of the German Mail Service under Allied Occupation in 1945 and 1946," and Yamil H. Kouri, Jr. took a silver for "Cuban Insurgents' Mail during the Wars of Independence." In the literature section Russ Carter won a vermeil for *WW II U.S. Censor Enclosure Slips and Return-to-Sender Labels*.

Several military area exhibits were seen at BALPEX held in September in Hunt Valley MD. Mark Banchik won a gold, the reserve grand award, an ARA gold, and the APS 1900-1940 medal of excellence for his "Vera Cruz Occupation (1914) Revenues." Another gold along with the Postal History Society silver went to David Skipton for "Watchmen at the Gates: Imperial Russian Censorship and Foreign Publications."

Additional BALPEX golds were taken by John Barbour for "Restoration of the German Mail Service Under Allied Occupation in 1945 and 1946" along with a Germany Philatelic Society gold, N. O. Good for "A Message to the Enemy" along with a GPS gold, and Thomas Richards for "AMG Military Travel Permit Stamps" along with an ARA gold. Vermeil awards as well as GPS vermeils went to Alfred Kugel for "Allied Occupation of the former German Colonies 1914-1922," to Harold Peter for "German Military Internees in Schleswig-Holstein May 5, 1945 to January 31, 1946," and to Morris Rosen for "Ghetto Post and Labor Camps in German Occupied Europe 1939-1944." Also taking a vermeil was Regis Hoffman with his "Allied Forces in East Africa, World War I."

Dick Phelps received a gold at the Greater Houston Stamp Show in September with his "The WWII Censor Markings of Curaçao." Al Kugel won a vermeil at Milcopex in Milwaukee in September for his "Military and Administrative Mail of the Western Allies."

BOOK REVIEWS

Naval Cover Cachetmakers

reviewed by Alan Warren

Naval Cover Cachet Makers' Catalog: Volume II—ANCS Crews, USCS Chapters & Study Groups, compiled and edited by Robert D. Rawlins. 322 pages, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, stiff covers, punched for 3-hole binder, Universal Ship Cancellation Society, Inc., Healdsburg CA. Hard copy \$50 postpaid in USA, \$80 abroad; CD \$40 postpaid USA, \$45 elsewhere. Prices for USCS members slightly lower. Ordering details from USCS Treasurer, PO Box 981, Healdsburg CA 95448 USA or www.uscs.org.

Volume I of this catalog appeared in 1988 with cross references updated in 1997. It is an alphabetical listing by cachet maker for naval cachets made by individuals and organizations. It is still in print. This new volume focuses on two groups that spawned cachets for naval covers. The American Naval Cancellation Society (ANCS) was formed in 1935 and was comprised of geographical Crews that were clustered around a major city such as San Diego, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Detroit, etc. The Universal Ship Cancellation Society (USCS) was founded in 1932 and is composed of Chapters that are also geographically located, and a few Study Groups.

The ANCS had little central organization and left the Crews to do their own thing, although a newsletter was circulated to members. In the first section of this catalog, the ANCS Crews are listed with officers and cachet directors, and some examples of the cachets made by them are identified and shown in color where possible. Old newsletters and other sources were used to compile these listings.

The printing method is identified such as thermographed, hand stamped, mimeographed, etc., the date of the cover, and the event that was celebrated by the cachet. One of the more prolific cover producers was the Argonauts Crew of submariners. They produced scores of cacheted covers between 1935 and 1946.

In contrast the USCS was established in 1932 and has had a strong central management as well as active chapters around the country. The USCS is still very active today and developed more than 100 chapters over the years. The bulk of the catalog is devoted to the chapters' production of covers. Again, the covers are listed with date and event and method of printing. A few examples of cachets are shown in color for each chapter.

Some chapters were (are) much more active than others in cover production. For example the Stephen Decatur Chapter No. 4 in Philadelphia has produced over 2,000 cacheted covers between 1933 and the present. While only 22 covers are illustrated, the descriptions for all covers will help collectors identify them. The lists are not complete for the chapter covers as again they are drawn from archives and scattered records as well as individual collectors. However they are as complete as can be expected unless new covers are located and identified.

Information provided for each chapter includes date of founding, list of organizing members, cachet director and cachet artists, and other historic data. A glossary of terms and abbreviations used in the catalog is provided as well as an alphabetical index to the names of the Crews/Chapters. Credit for the compilation of both Volumes I and II of the catalogs goes largely to the indefatigable Robert D. Rawlins who researched many sources and individuals to prepare these tools for the study of naval cachets.

German Concentration Camps

reviewed by Alan Warren

German Concentration Camps 1933-1945: History and Inmate Mail by Erik Lørdahl. Compact Disc in Word™ 2003, War and Philabooks Ltd. AS, 2008. ISBN 82-995588-0-8 from War and Philabooks Ltd. AS, Gydasv. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway.

ERIK LØRDAHL
German
Concentration Camps
1933 – 1945

HISTORY and INMATE MAIL

Version 5.0

© War and Philabooks Ltd
Tårnåsen – Norway
October 2008

This compact disc is an expanded and updated version of the 2000 edition, and the number of pages increased from 700 to 1300. The text is in the English language. To publish a hard print copy would be expensive and so the CD format makes the work much more affordable. Concentration camps were not for prisoners of war or refugees but rather for

ethnic or political groups that do not benefit from fair trials. Although concentration camps have existed since before the turn of the 20th century, the most notorious are those created in Germany and its occupied territories under the Third Reich.

A short history of the concentration camps surveys five periods beginning in 1933 and lasting until the end of WW II in 1945. A timeline identifies significant events year by year. The organization of over seventy camps and key personnel are identified and a table provides location and opening and closing dates. A short bibliography completes this introductory chapter.

The next chapter describes the documents collected and shown, i.e. letters, the handling of mail, camp postal stationery, cachets and labels, stamps and cancellations, receipts, and telegrams among others. One of the larger files on the CD consists of collected articles about each camp, discussing camp history, censor marks, types of letters and stationery, and special cachets and labels. Tremendous detail is provided such as number of buildings in the camp, number of prisoners, cataloging of censor marks including illustrations, and even examples of forgeries.

Another file lists subcamps and the main ones they were associated with. Forgeries are dealt with in more detail here with separate files for many of the camps. Another file contains nine newsletters written by author Lørdahl after the first edition of his treatise, showing new discoveries.

One phenomenal file on this disc is a spreadsheet with over 10,000 documents (camp correspondence) listing the name of the prisoner, nationality, birth date, camp, and other details. This work is a very thorough compilation of data on the German concentration camps and prisoner mail. The black and white illustrations lend an immediacy (especially the letters and cards), and will help collectors to understand materials they assemble on concentration camp mail. The disc is a great resource for studying this aspect of World War II postal history.

LOPP Catalogue

reviewed by Alan Warren

LOPP Catalogue by Chris Kulpinski. 64 pages, spiral bound or compact disc, Scottsdale AZ, 2010. \$30 postpaid in the USA, \$35 elsewhere, available from www.PolishPhilatelicLiterature.com, or Chris Kulpinski, 9350 E. Palm Tree Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85255.

This interesting publication will appeal to collectors of cinderellas, Poland postal history, and aerophilately. The English language catalog is the first one to update information on these labels published in the 1966 *Sanabria's Air Post Catalogue*. It is based on the 2006 publication by Wladyslaw Lugowski and Jacek Kosmala on the "Fund for National Defense" that more than doubles the number of such labels recorded.



The version reviewed here is the CD of the work in PDF™ format. The LOPP was an organization established by the 1928 merger of two similar groups resulting in the "Liga Obrony Powietrznej i Przeciwgazowej" or LOPP (League for Air Defense and Anti-Gas). The LOPP labels were a fundraising effort to promote Air Weeks and help provide revenue to support the air defense of Poland.

The labels were produced between 1924 and 1938 and sold by post offices for affixing to envelopes, but were not intended to be cancelled. The funds raised helped support the purchase of airplanes and the construction of airfields. The catalog listing begins with forerunner labels issued by the League for Defense against Gas Attacks by Air. The labels are described in terms of denomination, dimensions, and perforation.

Section 2 presents LOPP labels in color with descriptions of size and perforation, with catalog numbers. Notes include the purposes of the labels like membership dues, construction of airport hangars, aeronautics week awareness, and related activities. Many labels are described as locals for cities such as Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow, Lodz, Poznan and others. Perforate, imperforate, and misperforated varieties are listed.

Some labels were used on balloon mail, some are identified as proofs or specimens, and some have perforated initials. Values are shown using a scale of relativity for the current year (2010) so that future values can be estimated. Values for labels on documents are considerably higher.

In section 3 of the catalog, those labels for membership dues are listed by town name to assist those who collect by location. Section 4 lists the so-called locals by cities, townships, and provinces. Section 5 is a geographical listing by purpose like construction of specific airports, purchase of airplanes, and acquisition of particular air defense equipment. Section 6 identifies labels issued for military naval purposes—a National Maritime Fund, and section 7 lists balloon labels and special handstamps and commemorative cancellations used with them.

The LOPP labels are interesting cinderellas used on mail and sold to raise funds for the aerial defense of Poland. They provide an interesting glimpse at peacetime efforts to protect the country and present an ominous interlude prior to World War II.

MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY

CLASSIFIED!

Classified ad rates: 30 words for \$6.00. No minimum number of insertions or discounts.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	\$70.00
Half Page	\$45.00
Quarter Page	\$25.00

A 10% discount applies for multiple consecutive insertions of the same display advertisement.

Submit all ad copy with payment (payable on a U.S. bank) directly to the Treasurer, Norman Gruenzner, P.O. Box 32, Cypress, TX 77410.

COVERS FOR SALE

SELL/BUY military, diplomatic postal history — especially Holyland. Prepublication manuscripts sale. WW II Australian Army Levant cover valuations \$20.00. Other offers, gift. Rare 1960s APO 09223 UNTSO cover raffle with purchase. Dennis Tong, 463 42nd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121 [10/4]

BOOK FOR SALE

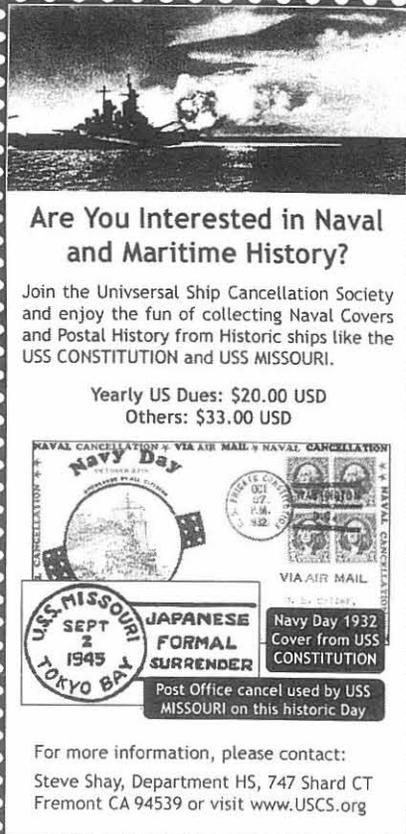
"The Autobiography of Gaius Petronius Merva, Soldier of Rome," a novel about the start of the Fall of the Roman Empire. Click on <http://www.3mpub.com/saqqa/> [11/3]

WANTED: COVERS

WW II COVERS and letters relating to malaria. Looking for covers related to Navy malariology and Army malaria survey and control units. Kelly Horn, kfhorn@bellsouth.net. [10/4]

MPHS PUBLICATIONS

The MPHS has a very active publishing program, part of its long history in making valuable education research tools available to collectors. See articles elsewhere in this issue on how you can obtain some of these books, and how you can participate in the publishing program as a writer or researcher.



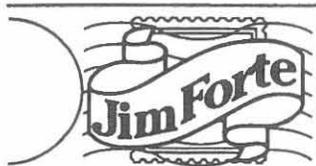
Are You Interested in Naval and Maritime History?

Join the Universal Ship Cancellation Society and enjoy the fun of collecting Naval Covers and Postal History from Historic ships like the USS CONSTITUTION and USS MISSOURI.

Yearly US Dues: \$20.00 USD
Others: \$33.00 USD

NAVAL CANCELLATION • VIA AIR MAIL • NAVAL CANCELLATION
Navy Day
U.S. MISSOURI
JAPANESE FORMAL SURRENDER
Post Office cancel used by USS MISSOURI on this historic Day

For more information, please contact:
Steve Shay, Department HS, 747 Shard CT
Fremont CA 94539 or visit www.USCS.org



Military Postal History

- Over 100,000 covers in stock
- Mostly Twentieth Century
- Most in the \$10 to \$100 range
- Credit Cards Accepted
- Free shipping over \$50.00

Please ask for color photocopies of your areas of interest or visit me online <http://postalhistory.com>

Jim Forte
P.O. Box 94822
Las Vegas, NV 89193
800-594-3837 or 702-791-6828
FAX 888-898-6123 or 702-369-9139

Cash Paid

For postally used U.S. covers, letters and correspondences at least 50 years old. We seek 19th century or earlier, but will consider anything

pre-1960, including family correspondences and WWI, WWII soldier's and war-related mail, individual letters, diaries, ship logs, documents, manuscripts, broadsides, and accumulations of all kinds. We also buy postcards (Pre-1940 U.S. & Worldwide). Also: stampless covers and autographs. Free appraisals, quick decision, and we pay you immediately! We also cover all postage costs.



WE BUY HISTORY ON PAPER!



Fred Schmitt
Served On
USS Maloy
EDE-791

www.fredschiitt.com

Member: Manuscript Society, ASDA, APS, PTS (London), CSDA (Canada)

Schmitt Investors Ltd.

International Postal History Specialists Since 1953
P.O. Box 387-MPH • Northport NY 11768
Phone: (631) 261-6600 (24 hours)
Fax: (631) 261-7744 • E-Mail: fred@fredschmitt.com

The Last Destroyer

One of the great inventions of the World War II era was radar, an acronym for Radio Detection and Ranging. It has passed through many generations of transformation since British inventors perfected it in the late 1930s. The “radar” picture of weather you see on television today is actually a computer-generated montage, often made from several radar views, graphically enhanced and with color highlights added. The more basic earlier generation of radar display is a circular screen called a Plan Position Indicator (PPI), with a rotating line imitating the rotation of the radar antenna. The image represents an “overhead” view, with blips on the screen showing the location of objects detected by the reflection of the radar beam.

Perfecting the PPI, however, and the production technology to build them in quantity, took several years. Installing early radar units on ships was difficult, considering the weight and size of the equipment, and the power needs. Many of the World War II ships equipped with radar used an “A” scope, little more than an oscilloscope with a wiggly line across the screen. A spike in the line indicated the detection of a reflected radar beam, but you had to know where the antenna was pointed to calculate where the target was. Nevertheless, shipboard radar operators became quite adept at using the equipment, and the technology added significantly to the American victory in the war.

One of the vessels equipped with radar during the war was *USS Callaghan* (DD-792), named for RADM Daniel Callaghan, who was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for his courageous leadership during the naval battle for Guadalcanal. The *Fletcher*-class destroyer was built at the Bethlehem Steel Co. yard in San Pedro, Calif., and was commissioned there in November, 1943. She quickly headed for the Pacific and amassed an enviable record (eight battle stars) in the war, becoming a familiar figure in the battles for Palau, Saipan, Guam, the Philippines, Formosa, and eventually the battle for the Ryukyus.

It was during the struggle for the Philippines that the Japanese unleashed their most fearsome weapon, the Kamikaze. Essentially a plane built around a bomb, the pilot made the ultimate sacrifice by crashing his plane into his target. Radar-equipped ships became important defenses against the Kamikaze, for they could detect them at a distance so they could be engaged and destroyed before reaching the main battle area. This eventually led to the stationing of a radar picket line some distance out to detect approaching Kamikazes. However, this also made the ships of the picket line tempting targets for the Kamikazes, and many of them suffered for their technologically advanced status.

The *Callaghan* crew rejoiced when they found out on the morning of July 28, 1945, that they would return to the U.S. after one final night of radar picket duty. The Japanese, however, had been working on some way to defeat the technology of their enemy, and realized that radar was best at detecting the metal skin of an airplane. They resorted to using a Type 93 Advanced Trainer nicknamed *Akatonbo* (Red Dragonfly, called the Willow by the Allies). The old biplane was made of wood and fabric, making it very difficult for radar to “see” it. It also flew very slow (about 75 knots) and almost at wavetop level, further obscuring it. The 250-pound bomb it carried must have taxed all its resources. The ones used in the Okinawa campaign flew from Miyakojima, a small island about halfway between Taiwan and the island of Okinawa.

Gun crews saw the plane approaching on the port side and quickly took it under fire, seeming to drive it away. However, in the darkness the pilot circled around and, skimming low and undetected, returned to strike the ship on the starboard side. The plane’s bomb exploded in the after engine room, causing massive flooding. Fires soon ignited antiaircraft ammunition, prevented nearby ships from rendering aid. *Callaghan* sank in the early morning hours, with the loss of 47 members of her valiant crew.

She was the last destroyer lost in World War II.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

U.S.S. CALLAGHAN (DD792),
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use To Avoid
Payment of Postage, \$300.



Postmaster,
New York,
New York.