

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Fal 2016)

Back issues of the Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin' are now available. The issues available span the period from 1937 to 2022. The MPHS is a non-profit organization for philatelists and stamp collectors interested in the collecting and studying of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all countries, including soldiers' campaign covers, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, patriotics, propaganda, V-mail, censorship and similar related material.

You are encouraged to join the MPHS to realize the additional benefits of membership. See: <http://militaryphs.org/membership>

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US Mail Censored by Canada in 1916 and 1917



Marshall Paul von Hindenburg at Tannenberg, 1915 —Drawing Wikipedia

Military
Postal
History
Society
Bulletin
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THE BATTLES of TANNENBERG and the TWO MASURIAN LAKES CAMPAIGNS of 1914—1915: PROPAGANDA and POSTAL HISTORY

By Patrick McNally, M.H.

In the process of researching and developing an article of remarkable events, one acquires ancillary materials germane to the topic, but not always acceptable within the narrow limits of exhibiting or journal practices. A postal history of the Battle of Tannenberg and the two Masurian Lakes Campaign would most likely be represented with Soldiers' Mail with Feldpost covers inscribed by the sender, sent free, with perhaps, a unit designation.

The addition of postcards enlivens the topic in two areas: personal communications and propaganda. Deltiology is a rich field of visual information. The sending and collecting of postcards of this time period were in the heyday of popular communication. Deltiologists usually collect these images in mint (unused) condition, with a smattering of postal history recorded. **A great number of war photographic and artistic images quickly made it to the public as well as the participating soldiers.**

(continued on page 3)

Figures 1 and 1A: A great propaganda postcard of the era showing Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg mailed from the 8th Infantry Division feldpost, August 31, 1915



MAIL CALL:

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Military Postal History Society



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President's Message

by Ed Dubin

This year we added a second membership meeting at the November 18-20, CHICAGOPEX stamp show. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th at 12PM in the Carlyle room. Sergio Lugo will make a presentation on the "Vichy French Empire". CHICAGOPEX is one of the premier stamp shows in the country. I would urge you attend if you can, you will not be disappointed (see pg. 23)

The MPHS web site is continuing to evolve. We have two guiding objectives for the site. One is to make the site compatible with portable hand held devices. I do not remember the exact numbers but by far the most internet searches and activity are now done on portable devices. To stay relevant the site must be designed to load fast and not clutter smaller screens.

Our second objective is to generate more traffic to the site by improving content. In the last few months we made several additions to the site to this end. This spring auction was expanded with an additional 100 lots only listed on line. The take rate for these lots was comparable to the bulletin listings. Two recent content items added to the site are: an illustrated data base of WWI military related holiday cards, and a YouTube link to a video on the "Greco Turk War 1918 to 1922". The holiday card data base we expect with time to grow and cover other conflicts. The video was a joint project of the MPHS and Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, with Al Kugel providing the illustrated covers and Sergio the driving force in its production (see pg. 9)

We would love to add more content to the site. If you have an exhibit small or large that you would like to share contact me at my e-mail address and we will work to make it happen.

A not so bit of good news is after years on the job our Publication Sales Manager, Norm Guenzner is stepping down. If you have a desire to work in organized philately this is an opportunity. The work has not been demanding with most of our sales taking place at shows. However, there are some changes we would like to make to improve sales that you would be helping to develop. If interested please contact me at my e-mail address and we will go over a more detailed job description.

Our 2017, convention is in conjunction with the Denver, CO, Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (May 26 to 28). In addition to the MPHS the show will host the Universal Ship Cancel Society, Civil Censorship Society and American Society of Polar Philatelists. Also on the Thursday, May 25, the MPHS is sponsoring a pre-show military postal history seminar. Go to the show web site at: <http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com> for information on location and hotel accommodations (see pg. 23)

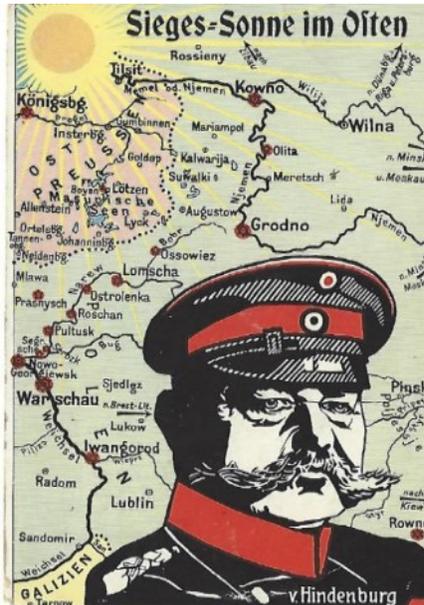
Postal history students focus on letters and envelopes with cancellations and any other official markings. They tell a story. Postcards, post marked at the actual time the battles took place are highly desirable, **but rather unlikely.** Soldiers' mail within the time limits of August 20-31, 1914 through February 21, 1915 are plentiful and still affordable. Postcards with appropriate date stamps would naturally lag behind the actual chronological events for a number of reasons.

Propaganda is an important facet of war and communication. This article focuses on the use of such propaganda as a complement to postal history in Germany's effort to convince the home front and the fighting soldier of that nation's achievements against the erstwhile Russian enemy. War photographers were now shoulder to shoulder with field sketch (Feldskizze) artists in the thick of battle. Patriotic newsreel films also documented events that were shown in movie houses. Those newsreels took time to shoot the scenes, develop the film and presented in movie houses. Then, manufacturers and their respective governments made them available in the form of postcards on the home front and to the soldiers, for communication and propaganda purposes. Germany produced a wide variety of "real" photograph postcards in this period, as well as a large number of battle sketches on postcards. Eastern Front postal history material is a bit harder to find than their Western Front cousins and are a bit pricier.

A great propaganda postcard of the era is that of **Figure 1** (and **1a**) showing Field Marshall Paul von Hindenburg enveloping the Second Russian Army of General Samsonov. Many historians liken the Battle of Tannenberg to the Punic Wars of Rome, specifically Cannae (216 BCE).⁽¹⁾ Hannibal defeated the larger Roman Army under the Roman consuls Paulus and Varro, employing the tactic of a double envelopment. He won the battle, but didn't win the war. Similarly, at Tannenberg, Hindenburg saved East Prussia, but Germany eventually lost the war. The image of Hindenburg displayed on the visual side of the card dramatizes the propaganda element of the card. But its postal history appeal cannot be denied as evidenced on its written side by the ancillary marking of the 19th Anhalt (Saxony) infantry company #93 (with the E and L in its interior) and its strong postmark and date of the 8th Infantry Division. The astute reader will note that the date is a bit later than the battle's actual events. Is it valid battle related postal history or propaganda in light of the time to invent, print and distribute it?

Figures 2 and 2a, also with von Hindenburg, gives the geographical battle locations in a nut shell. - Hindenburg had been recalled from retirement and teamed up with Erich von Ludendorff (the "hero" of the Liege siege) to replace the disgraced commander Max von Prittwitz. Prittwitz had panicked in the face of a more rapid mobilization by Russia than expected.

War related postcards, both photographic and artistic, became an industry. Hindenburg's star began to rise and propaganda had a savior. The 'Victory Sun in the East' (*Sieges-Sonne im Osten*) postcard of **Figure 2** was a public relations sensation, a relief to the folks on the German home front. The reverse side of the 'Victory' card shows usage, a year and a half after the battles. It features



FIGURES 2 and 2a:

Mailed through the 72nd Feldpost station on August 26, 1916:



the war poem "The Watch in the East" (*Die Wacht im Osten*). Not as famous as the *Die Wacht am Rhein*, but still providing patriotic vigilance and related Tannenberg/Masurian Lakes postal history by the distinct feldpost marking and the the auxiliary circular rubber stamped Etappen -Kommandantur of the director of communications. Berliners built a large effigy of Hindenburg called "Wooden Hindenburg," (see **Figures 3 and 3a next page**) where civilians could drive copper, silver and gold spikes into it for a fee. The continued propaganda value of the battles is evident, being used nearly two years after the battles.

Figures 4 and 5 (on the next page) are also germane to the topic of propaganda and, in this case, military history as opposed to military postal history. **Figure 4** shows Hindenburg observing the battle. Colonel Max von



Figures 3 and 3a: The “Wooden Hindenburg,” used in October, 1917 from Chemnitz.



Hoffmann was an aide to the Field Marshall and his adjutant, Ludendorff. His descriptions of the battles are famous for their humor. Following the war, Hoffmann gave tours of the battle sites labelling places where the Field Marshall slept before, during and after the battles.⁽²⁾ Hoffmann also named him as General ‘was sagst du,’ a reference to Hindenburg’s manner of discussing war plans with Ludendorff, asking what he thought⁽³⁾ Both cards are in mint condition making them of limited postal history utility for articles

Postcards from the early stages of WWI show German soldiers and their leaders, with the famed “Pickelhaube” (piked) helmet (see **Figures 4 and 5**). These were replaced shortly after Tannenburg and the Masurian Lakes as impractical, by the “coal scuttle” type of helmet which survived into World War II. The spiked helmet

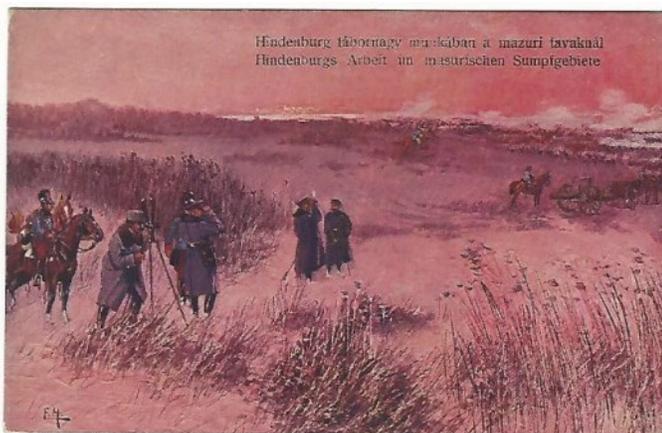


FIGURE 4: Field Marshal Hindenburg standing near the tripod wears a “Pickelhaube” in this cyanotype (red colored) postcard.

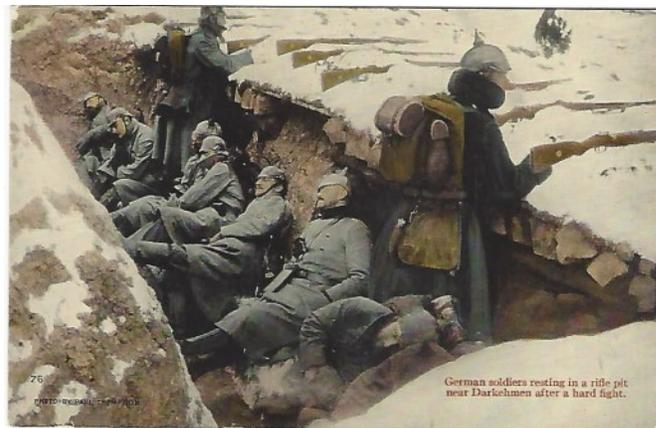


FIGURE 5: The postcard is captioned in English and refers to a fight near Darkenheim. The helmets help pinpoint the years. The Kaiser and Emperor Franz Josef are visiting the battlefield.

and snow help date the timeframe of the postcard, absent any written/postal history information

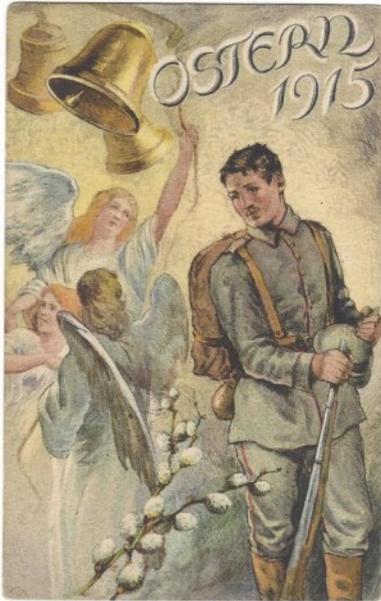
There is a whole genre of artistic renderings used for propaganda purposes on postcards and posters of this helmet. While in mint condition, the snow of **Figure 6** (see below) originates from the second Battle of Masuria. Written in English and referring to a fight near Darkenheim (the site of the Royal Hohenzollern horse farm) with resting soldiers in the trenches, the propaganda focus of the card was, undoubtedly, the English allies of Russia. Despite the shortcoming of no postal history on its reverse, the postcard can serve the postal historian well in providing clues (Pickelhaube and snow) when trying to date postcard postal history lacking such information as dates.

Figure 6: Written close to the time of the battles, this postcard provides a wealth of military postal history. The feldpost marking appears to be that of the 3rd Brigade of a Landwehr Division.

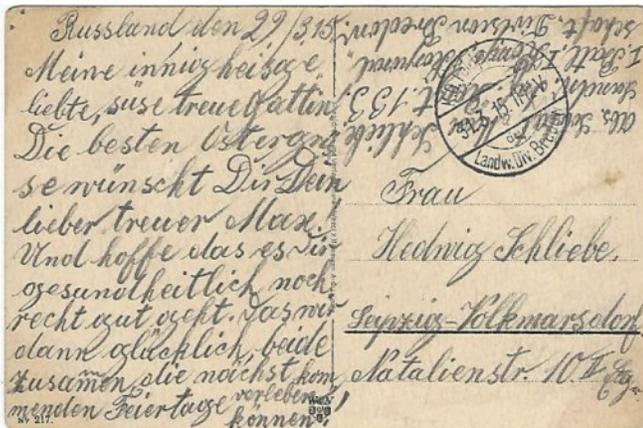


The artistic representation of a soldier celebrating Easter (“Ostern”) in 1915 shown in **Figure 7** makes for a better candidate to illustrate homeland propaganda goals, despite

its obvious military postal history. Posted on 31.3.15 by the feldpost of the Bredow Landwehr Division, this was less than a month after the Masurian battles. Further, it is written by a very proud German in occupied Russian territory. The small alphabetical art mark at the bottom center identifies the anonymous artist and publisher,



Figures 7 and 7a: Postmarked March 31, 1915 from the feldpost of a Landwehr Division in occupied Russia.



When General Rennenkampf finally moved after the defeat of Samsonov and the latter's suicide it was too little and too late for Russia. These later engagements are known as the beginning of the Masurian Lakes campaigns. They were actually just a continuation of the earlier Tannenberg battle. Tannenberg and Masuria were a theater of the vast Eastern Front. The Front extended southward another 1,000 miles to include theaters of active Austro-Hungarian and Russian combat (aka the Galician battles).

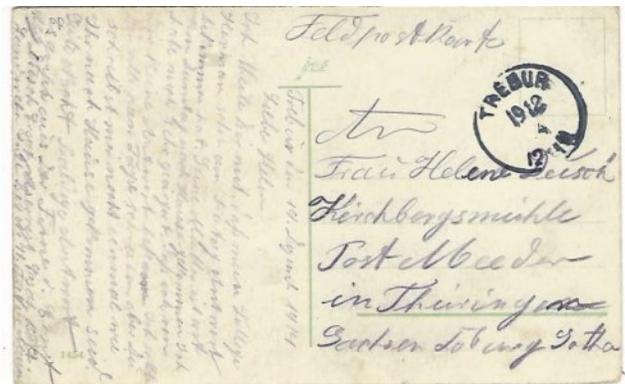
Technically, the first Masurian Lakes battle occurred between September 9-14, 1914. The second battle, known as the Winter Battle of Masuria, occurred between February 7 -18, 1915. Both resulted in another pincer movement, thousands of casualties and another 100,000 Russian prisoners lost to Germany. Thus, the strict parameters of this article are August 20, 1914 (Tannenberg) to

February 18, 1915 (Second Masuria).

One would think that a number of letters and postcards would be sent well after the battles were concluded. Rest and reorganization of units would make time available to write the folks back home. Perhaps the author's self-imposed dates needlessly limit the study as illustrated by the **Figure 7** postcard, and should be extended to accommodate the gap between the event and the time it takes to write the folks back home.

Another propaganda sensation was the early German WWI reports of Russian soldiers at the Battle of Tannenberg (August 20-31) being surrounded and shot down like ducks in a pond. While there is evidence that this, in fact, did happen, history takes about twenty years to get the whole story correct (see **Figure 8**). Journalism can be sensationalized and any incorrect information usually gets buried as a retraction on page 48 of a newspaper, days, months and years after the event, if corrected at all. One needs to read the memoirs and official histories from the losing side to get a more accurate description, "Wie es eigentlich gewesen." as it actually happened aka the philosopher Hegel. The Russians were, much later, considered a worthier opponent despite their extremely poor leadership from the highest levels.

While the propaganda value of **Figure 8** is evident,



Figures 8 & 8a: A postcard with a strong propaganda focus showing the victorious Germans of the Battle of Tannenberg slaughtering a Russian unit. The postmark date (1912) does not jibe with the written date (1914).

the postal history value of the card is confounded by the dating. It is initially confusing. The assumed year date of 1912 doesn't make sense. When one looks at the **Figure 8a** written date of 19 December 1914, it fits in the time frame of the three battles. The 1912 refers to the 19th day of December. This is NOT the usual European date system of 12th day of the 19th month, which is an impossibility. It then becomes evident that a transposition was made. Not all Feldposts have the same cancellation devices!

An important postal history question arises among those who can read German. Why was this postcard sent to Trebur (near Gross-Gerau) about 4 kilometers east of the Rhine River near Frankfurt? The postcard seems to suggest that the addressee's mother is perhaps a refugee in Trebur. Was she from the East? The son does mention that he is in a Landwehr unit #11, but it is nowhere near East Prussia. Because the date is relatively early in the war, it is unlikely that he was on leave. Perhaps he had been wounded?

The imprint of the number 1454 and the word "import" in green are the only identifying marks of the artist and printer. (There is an illegible green marking under the Feldpost script, still unknown at this time). Lacking a proper postmark, the story is missing a great deal of evidence/propaganda for total understanding of the events.

In contrast, take the example of **Figures 9 and 9a** (The Three Musketeers—'Die drei Musketiere von Allenstein'). The address side says they shot 50 Russian Cossacks in



Figures 9 & 9a: The postcard draws upon the imagery of the Three Musketeers (German Army analogy) holding off the furious charge of Russian cavalry



this manner during the skirmish. The postmark indicates the postcard was mailed on September 24, 1914 and represents an interesting juxtaposition between propaganda and military postal history. It was inspected by a Landwehr officer— see the purple, double stamped cancels. How much of this actually happened? Or is it an overly one sided portrayal of the events for its propaganda purpose?



Figures 10 & 10a: The artist Hugo L. Istrune created this rendition of the ... "Schlacht bei Tannenberg".



It is a great propaganda inclusion, not only by the date stamp of 5.12.14, but because it is a civilian usage from Berlin (reverse of Figure 10). Oddly, it was sent to the USA, a non-combatant at the time, with season's greetings. How much war information was reaching across the pond at this time? Seven months after the battle limits its utility as postal history and while it might be a propaganda triumph, it nonetheless inadvertently shows that the Russians did achieve their general objective of capturing Allenstein (aka Tannenberg in Russian) - the furthest westward advance of the Russian Second Army in the war. Censorship of mail does not seem to have been as rigorous as in World War II.

Railroads played an important part in Hindenberg's double envelopment (see Dennis Showalter's *Railroads and Rifles....* 1975). General Pavel Rennenkampf's

Russian First Army was screened by German cavalry while the bulk of the 8th Army was moved to encircle Samsonov further south and west. Bahnpost and Zugpost (mail canceled within a train station or mailed on a moving train) cancellations would be welcome additions to the postal history aspects of this article. While I have a number of covers and postcards with such Bahnpost or Zugpost markings from the Eastern Front during the First World War, none fall within the narrow timeframe of this article

“Collateral damage” is a historically recent term used as a war-time descriptor. German photographers took lots of pictures of damaged property in East Prussia, serving the real propaganda goal of influencing popular opinion. Relatives of East Prussians were eager to hear of their families in the affected areas. Postcards and letters were their means of communications as the war ministries were reluctant to give out information critical to the war effort. The examples shown in **Figures 11, 11a, 12, and 12a** not only show the graphic nature of war, but also their inflammatory propaganda appeal.



Figures 11 & 11a: The destruction wrought in Lyck upon Prussian civilians was the subliminal propaganda message of this military postal history postcard. The card was sent on February 23, 1915 near the end of Second Masuria.

Sensationalized reports of rape and pillage were critical to the strategic importance of the battles in the east. In a sense, however, that home front propaganda backfired on the Germans. These reports proved instrumental in moving two divisions from the Western Front in France to stop the Cossacks in the Eastern Marches of what is now Poland. It was later determined that this impacted dearly on Germany and its main goal of “wheeling West to touch the Channel with their sleeves” on their way to Paris (4) The Western thrust of the German advance stalled and the Western Front became a quagmire of blood soaked trenches for the next four years.



Figures 12 & 12a (next page): Another Lyck postcard, with less evident collateral damage



The destroyed houses in Lyck of **Figure 11** was posted only a few days after the Winter battle. In contrast, **Figure 12** was posted from the 31st Infantry Division nearly three months later on May 25, 1915. While **Figure 11** promotes a sense of danger and immediacy because of the date and destruction wrought, **Figure 12** does not, in part because the scene is not as dramatic and its later date—after the Russians had been thrown back and the battle lines considerably stabilized.

Yet another arena for wartime propaganda close to

covers and postcards (but dubious postal history) is that of the poster stamp. These were not officially produced for postage usage but may be found on postal history. Germany was the epicenter for printing in the Western world. Since Genefleisch (Johannes Gutenberg), visual imagery and slogans could easily be printed via the printing press with movable type and wood block imagery.

The Industrial Revolution, coming later to Germany, spawned an industry of stamp like promotional material to entice the general public. Industrial exhibition fairs (aka World Fairs) became a vehicle for nationalistic pride at international competitions. Technology, furthermore, created amazing new weapons of destruction such as the tank, airplane, machine gun and gas warfare which could readily be displayed in graphic form by the poster stamp.

Warring nations produced hundreds of images on the scale of the poster stamp. From the ennobled leaders to the grunts in the trenches, poster stamps were collected by the civilian populations. National spirit fortified the civilians for victory or, more correctly, the coming privations. Most combatants created entire sets of men in uniforms that competed with collectors of related interests (see **Figure 13** in the case of Germany) and which served the propaganda aim. Switzerland was neutral during WWI, but their soldier poster stamps are imminently collectable. French regimental poster stamps, many produced by Delandre, are also popular—both as propaganda and as postal history. Stadtswappen are city coat of arms. These too became poster stamps on occasion. The Stadtswappen of Allenstein was produced in a series of East Prussian towns by a large coffee manufacturer



Figure 13: German poster stamps of the First World War created for their artistic and propaganda value. Two feature Hindenburg. Finding them on covers, legitimately used, enhances their value as postal history . . .

(Kaffee Hag). Medals for bravery, like the Iron Cross, veterans' organizations and the Red Cross, were also produced as poster stamps (see **Figure 14**).

From patriotism, to ominous evil figures, to satire, poster stamps put different faces on the war (see **Figure 15**) in the all important realm of propaganda.



Figure 14: Poster stamp labels of WWI. Occasionally, such labels can be found on period covers. . . .

Propaganda for the home front comes in other forms as well. As Matthew Brady photographs of the American Civil War graphically showed, the dead, bloated bodies on the fields of Gettysburg are not the images of warriors lunging forward, swords drawn, riding their stallions into battle.

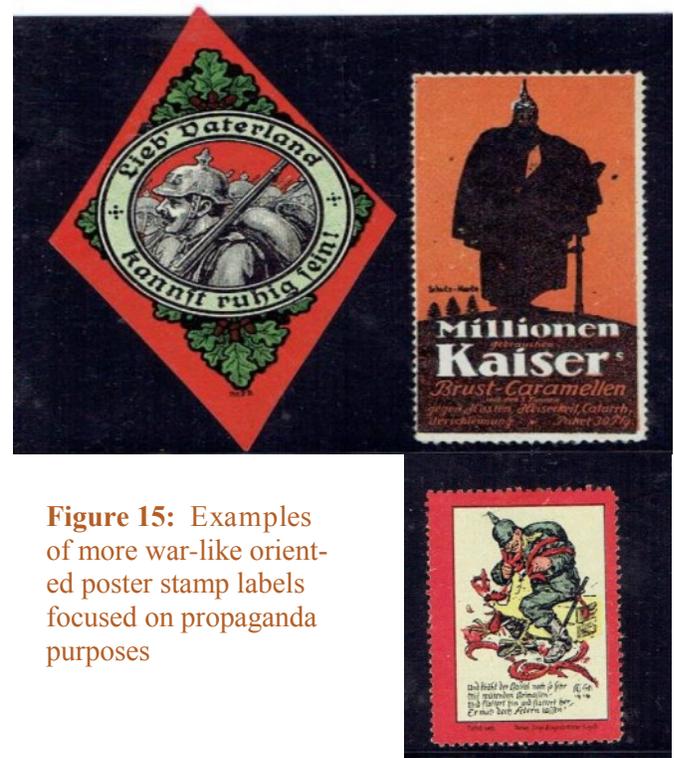


Figure 15: Examples of more war-like oriented poster stamp labels focused on propaganda purposes

The Battle of Tannenberg and the two Masurian Lakes campaigns halted the Russian juggernaut, leading to the capture of approximately 200,000 prisoners and the death of thousands killed and wounded in action. After these campaigns the Eastern Front bogged down into the same trench warfare as on the Western Front. Massive casualties experienced by the Imperial Russian Army fueled the first short lived Russian democratic revolution (Kerensky) and the following Bolshevik/communist revolution took Russia out of World War I in 1917. Massive numbers of German troops were then released for the Western Front. While their release came too late to save the plans of von Schlieffen in the West, they provided the hammer of the German spring and summer offensives of 1918, which smashed itself and eventually collapsed against the anvil of the Allied armies of France, Great Britain, Italy and the newly introduced Americans.

I believe that I have made the case that postcards (and poster stamps) shed a different light on military related written materials. They illustrate more poignantly the propaganda aspects of written correspondence and in so doing enhance postal history articles. They help the reader understand the postal history visually in his/her mind's eye. Time limited events such as battles before the advent of modern communications, as shown in the previous pages, consequently should be afforded extended time limits to allow for the development and delivery of mail related to those scenes long after the scenes depicted by those battles.

Propaganda and patriotism are integral parts of both military and postal history. The more comprehensive the treatment of the entire topical/historical collection the more informative the story.

FOOTNOTES:

The author has assembled a 16 page bibliography for sources used.

1. John MacDonald, *Great Battlefields of the World*. (New York: MacMillan, 1984.) p. 10-11
2. Dennis Showalter, *Railroads and Rifles: Soldiers, Technology and Unification*. (Camden, CN.: Archon Books, 1975.) p. 330
3. Attributed to Colonel von Hoffmann.
4. Alfred von Schlieffen statement quoted from Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August*. (New York: MacMillan Publishing, 1962.) p. 25

Editor's Note: Patrick P. McNally is a retired college instructor, president of the Denver Germany Stamp Club and a veteran. He has been a stamp dealer for 3 decades, with a strong focus on Germany and topicals, as well as a very strong interest in the history and events surrounding Allenstein and its environs—having visited the area on three separate occasions.

FUTURE MPHS CONVENTIONS

2017 Denver – ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW
 2018 (Oct. 5-7) Indianapolis – INDYPEX (tentative)
 2019 San Francisco – WESTPEX
 2020 Chicago – CHICAGOPEX

Here's a new **spectacle** for members of the MPHS
 We're trying out videos on OUR WEBPAGE
 (produced jointly with the RMPL).
 Our first such video is on the Greco Turk War of
 1919-1922.

It can be found at www.militaryphs.org
 Or at <https://youtu.be/OuZ2NWmI4pU>. On You
 Tube. If the direct link does not work, right
 click on your mouse and select "Open Link in
 new window."

Holiday Cards of World War I update:

Also now available on the MPHS web site, is the web page devoted to Holiday Cards of WW I. Many of you will recall that this started as a solicitation in Issue # 3, 2015 for donors of Christmas cards used during the Great War. The response was so positive that, after publication of some of the cards in issue # 4, 2015, we decided to expand the webpage to include any holiday cards used during the Great War.

The webpage now contains nearly 200 images of the postcards. And not to worry—where applicable the postal history of the card is available as well. You'll find that you can view the cards individually, or by 6 groups (including holidays and countries). Metadata (that's fancy lingo for data collection) is provided with the card. Where you see the notion "more detail" at the bottom of the card - click on it and you'll find the postal history of the card, if any.

This has been a wonderfully collaborative endeavor between about 12 donors, your editor, and the MPHS IT manager. But this is not the end of the story. As you are looking at the postcards and paper ephemera, if there are distinct cards you'd like to submit that are not shown, please feel free to send them to Sergio Lugo. We will be expanding the number of cards hosted and, in fact, we currently have about another 50 to add. Any postcards and ephemera that you can supply will be a welcome addition to the collection. Just be patient. It is a tedious process amassing cards to justify an expansion, and then metadata collection and scanning have to occur, followed by uploading of files to the webpage. And to All—best wishes for the Holidays, and a Merry Christmas to all.

E-mails to the Editor

Your thoughts on the articles and presentations in the Bulletin are solicited. Send in a thumbs up or thumbs down on what you've read in our most recent Bulletins, and this one.

And BTW, MAKE IT POSITIVE. We don't need a rehash of our favorite Smokey Bear capped D.I. motivational practices. What is needed is encouragement about their articles in terms of the facts and issues. Leave the pointing fingers to the editor re. grammar, sentence structure, totally incorrect observations, punctuation, minor discrepancies, font size etc. What we really are seeking from you is the creation of a positive environment that encourages writers. Thanks for appreciating that need.

Comments via e-mail to lugopspe@q.com:

US Mail censored by Canada in 1916 and 1917

by Graham Mark

I hope that in my book I did not write sections which are open to misunderstanding, but in MPHS Bulletin vol.55 #3, Mark Sommer appears to have misread pg. 90 of my book on British censorship during WWI. To quote from my book:

"In March 1916, the War Office became concerned about this possible evasion [ie mails from USA being sent to Canada for forwarding to Europe] and asked the Canadians to censor mails between USA and Canada to test this theory. Farquharson reported (para 73) that the results were negligible. Steinhart (1986) showed that this censorship lasted less than two weeks between 8 and 19 April 1916."

"There was a second period of censorship of mails between Canada and USA in the first week of April 1917. However, nothing has been seen in British records to show that this examination was carried out at the specific request of London."

My personal suspicion is that the second period was done because someone at the top of the Canadian censorship had entered the matter in the office diary for review.

There was nothing clandestine about these two separate short periods of censorship - covers were opened and re-closed with labels, while postcards were stamped to show they had been inspected. I have databases of covers and cards censored in these two periods, in each case over 100 items are listed, with one or two extensions to Steinhart's dates. If members can provide details of more covers I will be very happy to acknowledge them and publish the results. (Scans would be most useful to: gmarkb34@btinternet.com)

The location of the censorship can usually be deduced from a combination of the origin, destination and markings on the censor labels.

References:

Farquharson, Lt. Col ASL: *Report on Postal Censorship during the Great War (1914-1919)*, War Office, London, 1920, National Archives, Kew, ref DEFE1/131

Mark G: *British Censorship of Civil Mail during World War I, 1914-1919*, Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, Bristol, 2000, ISBN 9780953000418

Steinhart AL: *Civil Censorship in Canada during World War I*, Unitrade Press, Toronto, 1986, ISBN 0919801404

E-mails (Letters) to the Editor—continued

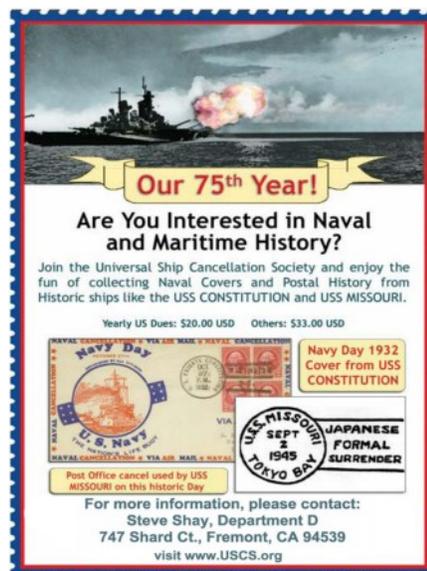
Sept. 6, 2016

Re: US Mail censored by Canada in 1916 and 1917

by Robert S. Borden

Censorship was by Canadian authorities, not British. First period April 8 - 17, 1916 while U.S. was neutral. A second period was April 1 - 6, 1917 on all mail to/from USA including transit mail from other countries (mainly Asiatic mail landed at Vancouver). I have handled no more than 6 pieces in 50 years! Best reference is "Civil Censorship in Canada during WW I" by Allan Steinhart, 1986.

From one of the "old guard."

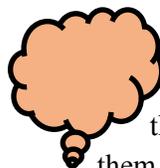


Military Postal History Society



Help the Society by donating materials (we are a 501 c (3) organization), or purchasing lots in the MPHS Auction.

Due to a temporary relocation to Vietnam, our Auction Manager, Thierry Delespesse, has had to suspend the auctions until the 3rd issue of 2017.



If you're not getting our e-mail blasts, check your computer settings—they may be blocking them or sending them to your trash (in both cases as spam)!!

Part III: The Military Postal System of the N.V.A. and V.C. - "Command Centers" by Dan Telep

First a bit of background. In the Fall 2015 issue of this publication, I introduced in Part I the little known subject of the Communist military postal system during the Viet Nam conflict between 1959 and 1975. Part II followed in the Winter 2016 issue, addressing rarity, patriotic usages, and decorated and adversity stationery usages. Now, in Part III, I introduce "Command Center Usages." Expect Part IV in 2017, which will expand and discuss their security and urgency markings, used on mails. Because of their elevated importance, these are the rarest of all types of NVA/VC mails. A sampling of these markings is included in this Part III article, to whet your appetite.

What does "Command Center Usage" mean?, you ask! To define "Command Center Usages" means to understand the enemies' mail service for sensitive communication in their Southern military campaign, initiated in December 1959 to escalate the war against the 'insurgents' and their Allies, chiefly the USA. The Central Command Center was the military headquarters for the campaign, always located across the border in Cambodia, referred to as COSVN or Committee for South Vietnam. It was the main post office transfer unit, in constant motion due to American and South Vietnamese offensive air capabilities. Communication, instructions, commands, and reports to and from all military units operating in the South, also in constant motion, went through this Command Center. The NVA/VC strategy and plans for tactical execution were developed at COSVN headquarters.

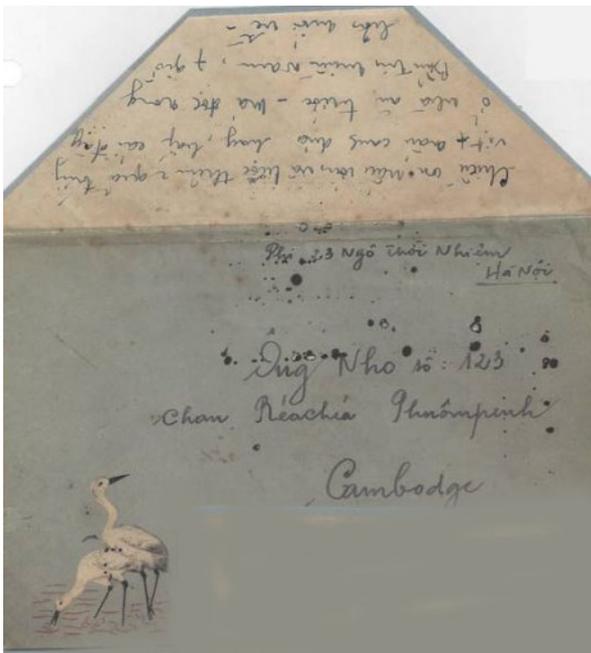
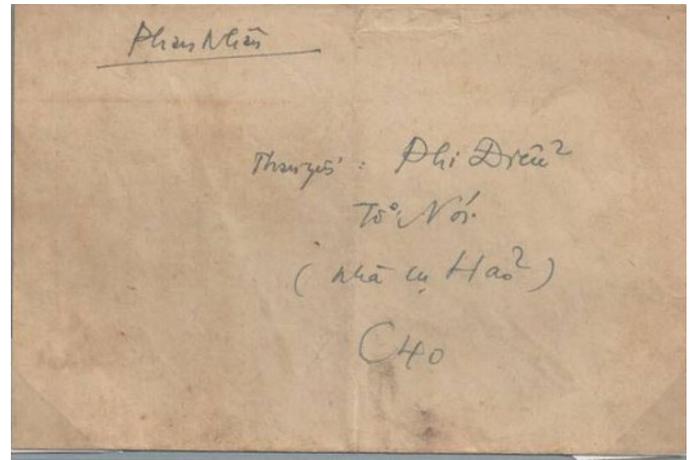
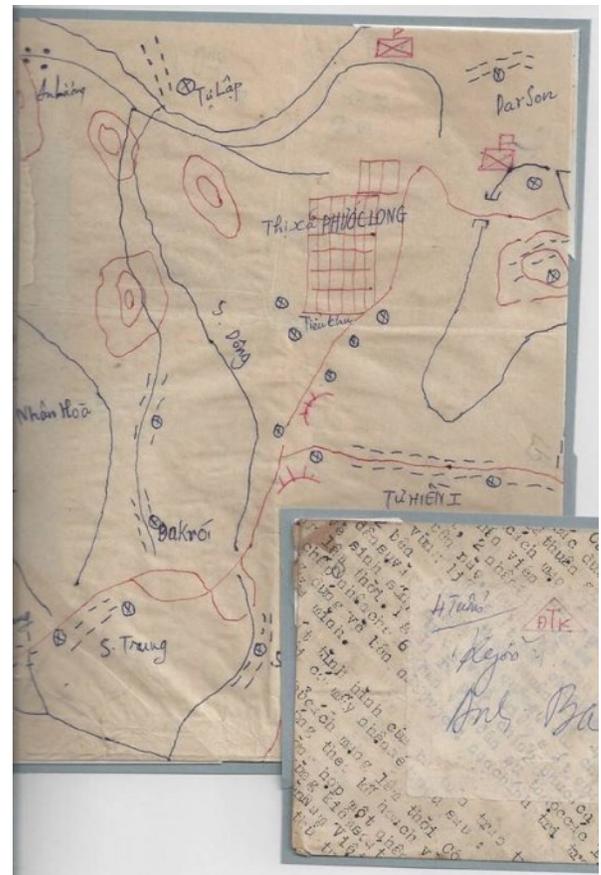


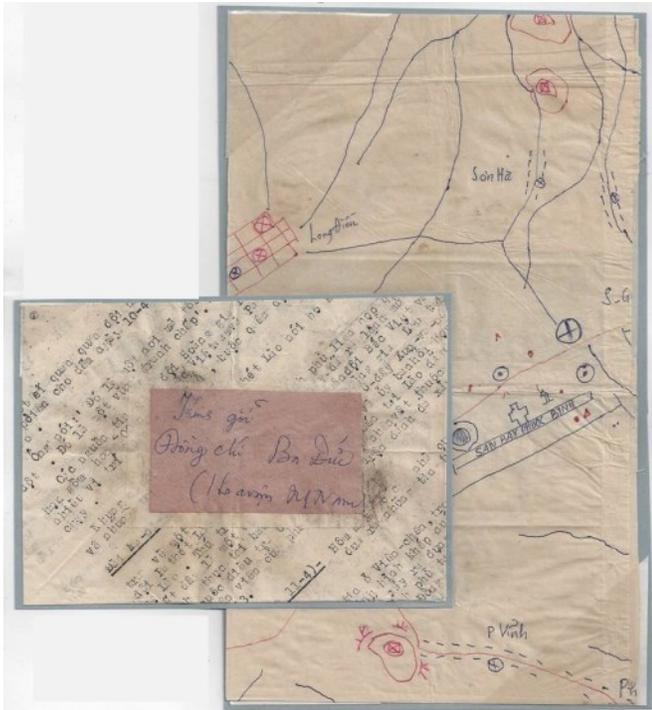
Figure 1 above, without contents, circa 1972, mailed from Hanoi to Cambodia at the COSVN location. Figure 2 (next column) is addressed to 'C40' which is the code for the COSVN Command Center, dated September 18, 1972. This folded letter was carried by courier, conveying the urgent need for medical supplies.



Complicated locating codes for both Units (Hom Thu) and individuals (Hop Tho) changed frequently. They were updated to the mail couriers, called Gio Liens, who operated at the squad level delivering mail to Divisions and Regiments of the NVA and VC deployed against ARVN and US forces. Needless to say, captured mails were prized by US intelligence officers. Hence, these couriers were especially targeted.

Therefore, "Command Center Usages" include: 1. Combat orders, 2. Logistical updates, 3. Maps, and 4. After action reports by military mail. Additionally, Unit to Unit mail such as Company to Platoon or Company to Battalion or Regiment passed through COSVN. Figures 3 (below) & 4 (next page) illustrate these usages.





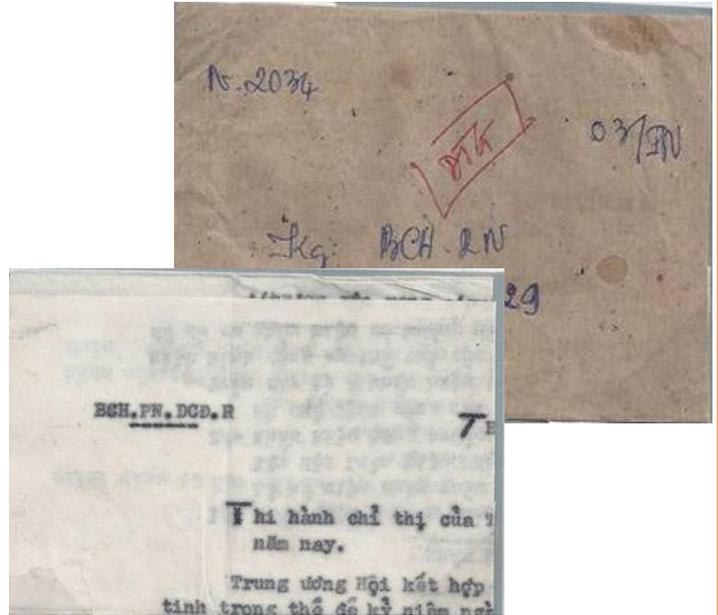
The battles in Phouc Long Province, in late December and January 1974-1975, were decisive NVA/VC victories over ARVN forces fighting from fixed positions behind wires, land mines and bunker complexes late in the war. These intricate hand drawn maps detailed topographical features and pinpointed ARVN positions, including mortar, artillery, the hospital, living quarters and supply storage. As the map was highly sensitive, it was cut in half and mailed in two pieces by two different Gio Lien couriers. One cover bears the secret/urgent 'DTK' marking, unusual this late in the war because such special handling markings were used less frequently as the NVA gained commanding control of villages and roads in the neighborhood. More discussion of envelope markings like 'DTK' is forthcoming in Part IV.



Figure 5 (above) is an adversity cover and letter carried by a guarded courier on January 7, 1975. Using a political musical sheet, it is addressed to a high ranking VC officer responsible for the Chinese People's Resistance Committee. The

five page letter provides intelligence on enemy troop strength, tactics, strategy, the current war and political situations, mood of the people, control of unions, money available for the efforts, relative strength of the local government by District, and plans to end the war.

Figure 6 (below), circa 1970-1971, shows the code for another Command Center 'F9229.' The courier was the connecting link to get it to the mobile center, wherever it was at that point. 'HT 5226,' is the sender's Unit number, the equivalent of an APO, wherever that unit was at that point. The sender indicated 'urgent' by adding "Gap" and, later, another hand added "DTG" (Dien Tin Gap for urgency).



The massive 11 page typed report of Figure 7 (below) discusses the mobilization of 300 more guerillas for the next large scale battle (dates and places not listed), the enemy's strengths and losses, current troops in the area of HT No. 5226, propaganda efforts, and commanders endorsing this report and plan of action.

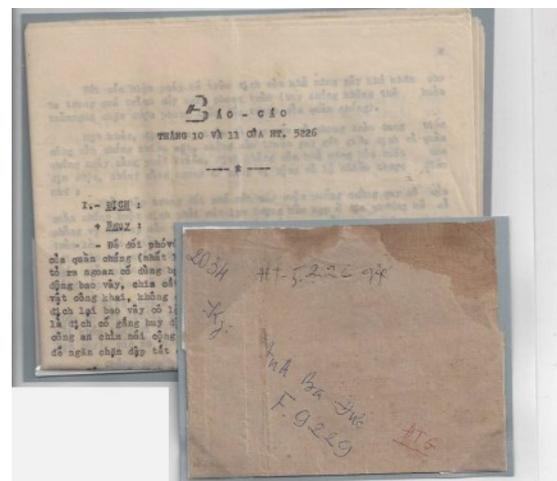


Figure 7, March, 1975, is also addressed to the 'F9229' Command Center. "DTK" means Urgent/Immediate Delivery and was usually used on mail sent to or from a high ranking official

related to the COSVN Command Center. This carbon copy letter from N. 2034 directs commanding leaders of NVA Unit BS 87 to attend the Party meeting with local committee leadership on March 8, 1975. Saigon fell on April 30, 1975.

Editor's Notes

by Sergio Lugo

Manuscripts/illustrations for publication are welcome. A **writer's guide** to article content, format and preferred layout is available by contacting me directly. Thanks for your consideration and please take up the challenge. You are the lifeblood of the MPHS *Bulletin*, as readers and authors. Won't you consider writing an article on subjects of interest to you in the postal history arena. You'll be encouraged at the reception you will receive. Please submit your article to my home address by the dates shown below to Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246. Phone: 303-552-8897, or digitally to my e-mail address at lugopspe@q.com. No responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Enclose stamped, self addressed return envelope with correspondence for any return mail

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DEADLINES

| Issue | Article Deadline to Editor and Revisions | Bulletin in Member Hands | |
|--------|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| | | 1st Date=Digital; | 2nd=Hard Copy |
| Winter | January 20 to 25 | Early February | Mid February |
| Spring | March 10 to 15 | April 8 | April 8 |
| Summer | July 20 to 25 | Early August | Mid August |
| Fall | October 20 to 25 | Early November | Mid November |



Figure 8 (above), finally, brings this introduction to Command Center mails to a close. This example of military telegraph usage carried combat orders and bears the seldom seen handstamp "Dien Bao" (meaning telegraph) and a red military handstamp, carried by Unit 81 and sent to an officer at HT 63305KP.

As a veteran of the war in Vietnam, I study the North's military mails and how they were delivered. I trust you have enjoyed this introduction into this fascinating facet of military postal history and the military systems employed to deliver it

Your generous donations to the MPHS allows the Board to explore other services to offer the membership - such as our publications program and its products. Such efforts as the Holiday Postcards of WW I or the video are underwritten by volunteer labor. Please consider a contribution. Your dues cover solely the normal operating costs of the Society. *Ed Dubin, President*



TRANSVAAL-GB: 1900 BOER War CONSULAR SERVICE USA envelope TAXED & TAX Deleted

Check the premiere military postal historian's offerings of [Mike White](http://www.mikewhiteuk.com) at www.mikewhiteuk.com

BAHRAIN—USA:1945 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE using US APO & MISSENT:

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Sattahip Post Office
Chonburi 20180
Thailand
Email:
mikewhiteuk@aol.com



Membership Status

(by Ed Dubin)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Members receiving Print Bulletins | 277 |
| Digital Bulletins | 54 |
| Digital + Digital Bulletins | 36 |
| Total | 367 |

Please welcome two new members who have joined us in the past quarter:

- # 3651: Christopher Jasnick
- # 3652: Ed Fraser

Both are welcome additions to our growing membership

GB... 1917 WRECK MAIL from SS NORWEGIAN or Armed Merchant Cruiser KARMALA.



WWII RECOVERED POW MAIL

by Michael Deery

Undelivered WWII POW mail was, in many cases, recovered by advancing allied forces in Italian, German and Japanese controlled areas. Attempts were made to return the mail to the sender, or if possible, forward the mail to the intended addressee.

Recovered mail was secured in transit to or from a POW camp or, in some cases, at the actual camp. Mail was just abandoned, left at some point, and hence recovered by allied forces; however, precise locations for recovered mail is unknown. This article examines WWII recovered (and undelivered) POW mail found in the European theatre.



Figure 1—also see Figure 5, each example illustrating a special use of the marking.

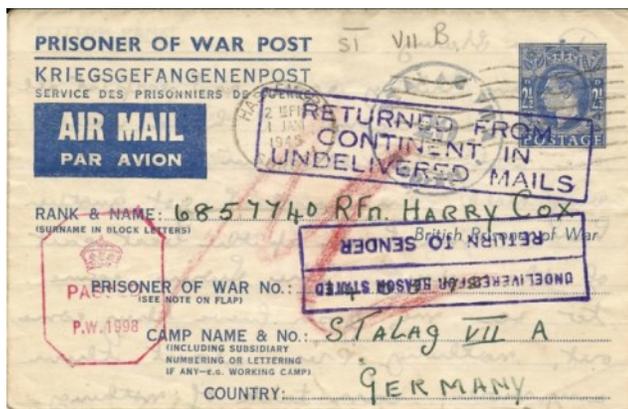
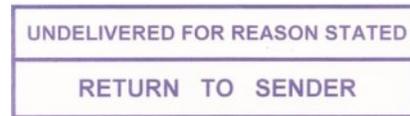


Figure 2: Received a host of alternative markings, including that of **Figure 1**.

The **Figure 1** handstamp was applied in England. The POW letter envelope of **Figure 2**, censored in the UK, was posted January 1, 1945 to Stalag VII A located just north of the town of Moosburg in southern Bavaria. We know the envelope reached the camp (scarce circular Stalag VII A handstamp), but the cover was redirected to Camp VII B in Memmingen, Germany. At some point either at Stalag VII A or on route to or at Stalag VII B the cover was recovered (along with many other such envelopes) by allied forces (both camps were liberated by the American 14th and 10th Armoured Divisions on April 26 and 28, 1945. The UK POW mail was sent to Great Britain for further processing where the two markings “Returned from Continent...” and “Return to Sender”

were applied. Such “undelivered mails” covers posted from Great Britain to German POW camps are not as challenging to acquire as are the following three examples of **Figures 5, 7 and 8**.



Figures 3 & 4: Undeliverable marking and Stalag VIIA cancel.

The next example is a returned POW cover posted from Alexandria, Egypt to Stalag 344 in Lamsdorf, Germany posted 6 September 1944 (originally Stalag VII B – but renamed / numbered in 1943 to 344).



Figure 5

This non-regulation envelope, “written in French”, was posted to Corporal Buhagiar (in Crete), and endorsed “By Airmail, via England & Sweden.” The mail reached England where the “OAT” (Onward Air Transmission) marking was applied. In order for the “undelivered mails” handstamp to be used, the cover would eventually have to have reached the continent (likely enroute to a POW camp – i.e. Stalag 344). Once the cover was recovered and returned to England, the two markings were applied. Since the cover was “written in French” the “RETOUR” marking was used and presumably the mail was returned to the sender. As a side note, the addressee became a headmaster in Rabat, and head of the Malta Teacher’s Union. POW / OAT combination covers are very scarce!

The third cover (see **Figure 6**), a POW censored letter sheet, was posted from Grimsby, Great Britain destined for Italian POW Camp 53, Sector II, PM3300 (Settore, Italy).

Received by the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, and marked for re-direction to POW Camp CCN 3200, the envelope reached at least one of the Camps



Figure 6

(confirmed by double ring circular Italian receiving marking on the back).



Figure 7: Double ring circular Italian receiving mark indicates that the card successfully reached one of the two POW camps in which Sgt. Blyth was housed.

Because of the advancing Allied forces in Italy, the mail was abandoned and left for the Allies to handle. The mail was returned to England where the two markings were applied and the cover supposedly returned to the sender. The POW mail addressed to Italian camps with these markings is scarcer than those sent to German controlled camps.



Figure 8:

A fourth example (Figure 8) shows a German POW form posted from German POW camp IV-F on 13 March 1945 to South Africa.

It was recovered either at the German POW camp or somewhere in Europe. It is not clear if the prisoner was liberated after the posting of the mail. In most cases, the “undelivered” recovered mails were sent to England and then returned to sender. This card was sent to England, where the “undelivered” marking was used, but the “return to sender” handstamp was not applied. The card was forwarded to South Africa reaching Durban January 2, 1946. Examples of this “Undelivered” handstamp on mail from German POW camps are seldom seen.

Although the term “undelivered mails” is used, some mail in fact was eventually delivered, see the Figure 9 alternative marking.

THIS LETTER FORMED PART OF UNDELIVERED MAILS WHICH FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ALLIED FORCES ADVANCING IN ITALY. IT IS UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED AND IS THEREFORE RETURNED TO YOU.

Figure 9

This marking was used in relation to mails posted to Italian POW camps and recovered by allied forces advancing in Italy in mid-1943. Three examples show the diversity of the posted POW mails.

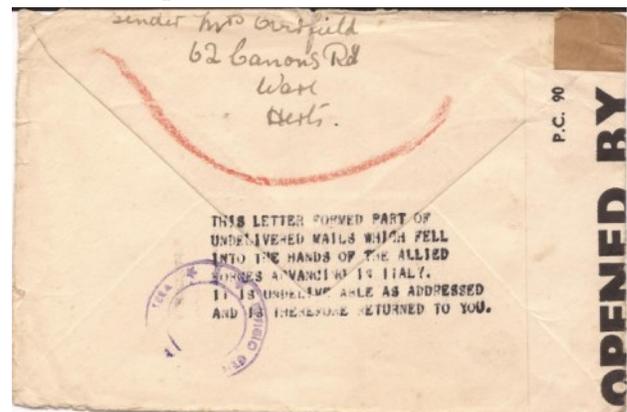


Figure 10: Air mail censored cover posted August 16, 1943 from Great Britain to British POW at Italian Camp PG 70, P.M. 3300. This is one of the more common examples of the use of this marking.

The next mailing, posted from London, England on August 23, 1943 was destined for Oflag 64Z, in Germany. The POW form was censored in Great Britain, and received two handstamps on the front: “Return to Sender” and “Undelivered as/addressed” rather than the boxed two-line handstamp seen in Figure 3.

The back of Figure 11 (next page) has the six-line returned marking, but there is no Italian circular handstamp which is typical of recovered mail from Italy in 1943. It seems, then, that the cover never reached Italy, and should have instead received the handstamp reading



Figure 11

“Returned from/ continent...” used on recovered mail in Germany. This could be a unique use of the handstamp. Another recorded example of this posting/recovery scenario is an identical POW form, posted same date, POW camp, by same sender, but to a different addressee.

Figure 12, posted (in care of the Italian Red Cross) June 7, 1943 to a South African POW in Italy, received an Italian Red Cross marking (applied in Rome) identifying the POW camp at C.C.N. / P.M. 3450 as well as AL MITTENTE / PER SERVIZIO SOSPEO handstamp.

Sicily was invaded in July 1943. Following the Allied landings at Salerno and Taranto, the Germans retreated to a line across Italy north of Naples. On September 8 Italy surrendered unconditionally and entered the war on the Allied side on 13th Oct. 1943, following its declaration of war against Germany.



Figure 12 (ex. Robert Johnson collection)

The Anzio landings followed on the 22nd of January 1944. The changing front on the Italian peninsula disrupted communications including POW mail delivery. The cover was returned to the sender in early 1945.

The airletter illustrated by Figure 13 was posted 21

May 1943 (earliest recorded posting date) to a South African POW in Italy. The Italian Suspended service marking was applied on the front.

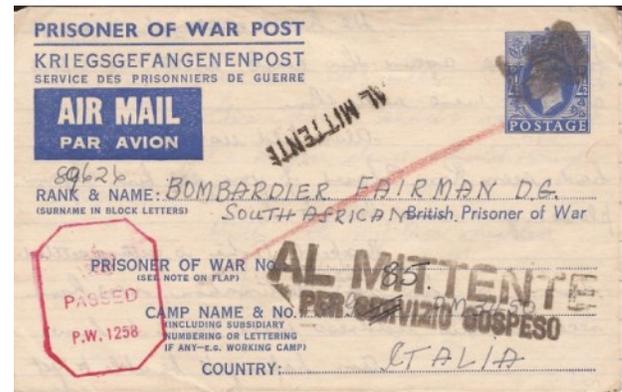


Figure 13 (ex. Johnson)

The reverse of the airletter shows recovered markings, the Italian censor handstamp and the machine posting date (applied in England). Also noteworthy is the manuscript received date 22/1/45 when the mailing was returned to its sender.



Figure 14 (ex. Robert Johnson collection)

Another marking is seen on a cover posted from South Africa to a POW camp in Italy. This handstamp marking is very elusive.

This letter, recovered by the Allied Forces, is undeliverable as addressed

Figure 15: This figure is displayed on Figure 16 of the next page

Figure 16 (see next page) was posted 30 August 1943 from Durban, South Africa where it was censored (South Africa red and white label and a purple handstamp). The cover, destined for P.G. Camp 107, reached Germany (brown censor sealing label secured over the S. African label). A two line “recovered” handstamp was applied and returned to sender. The marking was likely applied by



Figure 16

British forces since the back of the cover has a transit handstamp South African A.P.O. (U.K.) 21 AU 1945. The front has a final returned handstamp – Escombe, 31 August 1945 – two years after the letter was posted!

Two final POW postal items (Figures 17 & 18), sent in March 1945 to relatives in Canada, use two different recovery handstamps (rather scarce markings) of the Second World War. These remain little explored, but there are reference works that can fill in many of the gaps.



Figure 17

The examples of recovered mail shown in this article are just a few of many “recovered” markings used on mail during the advance of the Allied forces in 1943/45 in Italy and Germany. This subject area of the postal history of the Second World War is little known in our knowledge and in the references. A few of those references are noted below in the bibliography notes. Anyone interested in discussing the subject is welcome to contact me at: michderr@kent.com;

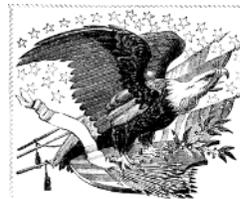
Please Note: Two covers and notes in the article were part of Robert Johnson's suspended mail collection.



Figure 18

References

- Armstrong, John, “WWII – GB – Undeliverable Handstamp in Italy”, Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, Vol 40, No. 3, pp 92.
- Winkelmann, Karl, “WWII – POW Mail Unable to Transit Switzerland”, Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, Vol 31, No. 3, pp 87-89.
- Deery, Michael, Return to Sender: Devices Used to Identify Service Suspended Mails during WWII (2nd edition) 2015. Privately printed, (ISBN 978-9869145-1-5), Spiral Bound, 342 pages, Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada. (See pages 64 & 101-106).



MPHS Auction UPDATE

To All MPHS Members:

We are remaining in Vietnam through mid-summer 2017. My next MPHS auction will be either in issue # 2 (Spring) or issue # 3 (summer). Donors and consignors seeking to place items in the auction, are asked to hold unto their materials until notified regarding the renewed start-up of the auctions.

Take care,

Thierry

Maximizing the C Ration

By Sergio Lugo

Foraging one's way through the countryside was often times the hallmarks of armies engaged in battle. The responsibility for adequately supplying the nutritional needs of the fighting man was that of the Quartermaster, or alternatively, the individual. With any kind of luck, Quartermaster's could supply the needs of armies engaged in combat, but such faith frequently failed in much of the pre-industrial world. An exception proved to be the Roman legions, whose quartermasters sought to stock rations and food stuffs at sites 25 to 30 miles ahead of the advancing legions so that their fighting men could reasonably rely on a daily supply of food to maintain their strength. In their case, the adage "The Army travels on its stomach" meant something definitively understood.

The annals of military history, however, show that Rome's example was seldom replicated by fighting forces before or after the example set by the Roman legions. More typically the foraging method of providing caloric intake was the norm, and that at the expense of local farmers who happened to be in the vicinity of roving armies. Probably, the most famous example of the foraging technique was set by General William Tecumseh Sherman and his 75,000 man army as it set forth from Atlanta on its March to the Sea in the American Civil War. In his case, he deliberately set off without a method of quartermaster resupply so as not to impede his army's progress, and minimize the loss of manpower forced to defend supply routes. Foraging became a daily requirement of the Army, taking up considerable time in locating provisions, and ensuring the life long enmity of Southerners, as they saw stocks of harvested grains, meat on the hoof in the form of cattle, pigs, and goats and other edibles disappear before the path of the voracious Northern invaders.

The same was true at sea. Sea provisioners had to ensure that provisions were taken on board, thoroughly inspected for quality freshness, and free from vermin, and ladled out in sufficient quantities to ensure the long term health of sailors and completion of the voyage. Special foods had to be secured to prevent the outbreak of the deadly scurvy disease while ships were in transit. Shortages could be made up by harvesting the bounty of the sea, or foraging in newly discovered lands or lands that had been previously foraged on earlier voyages. The results proved, however, to be heavily reminiscent of the accomplishments of their Army counterparts – sullen faces, empty grainaries and livestock pens and angered hearts at the abuse local populations had to take at the hands of the foragers.

Only with the onset of the Industrial Revolution

could headway be made with consistently providing for the dietary needs of soldiers. That was made possible by the development of heated, vacuum sealed cans - first employed to seal the soldier's favorite canned food – fruits in syrup!!! In the case of the American Army, the Industrial Revolution made possible the introduction of such daily rations as hardtack, the WW I K ration, the WW II – Korean – and Vietnam war era C-rations, and the post Vietnam war introduction of MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat). Such prepackaging required immense amounts of storage space for Quartermasters, but also required meticulous planning to ensure that foods were gotten out to fighting units and down to the individual soldier.

At this point, you the readers are wondering whether any of this bears any relationship to Military Postal History. Not to worry – it will in a unique and astounding way that is probably not replicated anywhere in the annals of military postal history. So hold your horses, and let's continue on our discourse on C rations.

C-rations were one of the primary means of keeping front – line American soldiers nourished during the wars of the period from 1940 to 1990. Hot meals were always the favorite, whether delivered by food wagons (WW I), or trucked out (WWII/Korea/Vietnam) or delivered by helicopter (Vietnam). C rations came in a close second, but are the stuff of what legends and movies are made of. However, most people who might bring the subject up in a discussion really have no idea of what they were. To help you better understand, I've directed you to a website exclusively devoted to the subject, it's: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meal,_Combat,_Individual_ration. Another site can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C-ration>



Figure 1: C ration box and contents.

The C Ration consisted of three units. The "M" (Meat) unit came in 12 basic varieties grouped in 3 menus of 4 different entrees (later supplemented):

- **M-1:** Beefsteak, Chicken or Turkey Loaf, Chopped Ham & Eggs, or Ham Slices (Cooked in Juices or Fried). **M-1A:** Tuna Fish.

- **M-2:** Meat Chunks w/. Beans in Tomato Sauce, Ham & Lima Beans, Beef Slices w/. Potatoes in Gravy, or Beans w/. Frankfurter Chunks in Tomato Sauce. **M-2A:** Spaghetti w/. Meatballs in Tomato Sauce.

M-3: Beef in Spiced Sauce, Boned Chicken or Turkey, Chicken w/. Noodles in Broth, or Pork Steak Cooked in Juices. **M-3A:** Meat Loaf.

Ham and Lima Beans was known irreverently throughout the armed forces as "Ham and Motherfxxxxx". *Beans with Frankfurter Chunks in Tomato Sauce* was called "Beanie Weenie" (both are news to this author).

The "B" (Bread) unit came in 3 varieties:

- **B-1:** 7 Crackers and 2 Chocolate Discs (*Types:* Solid Chocolate, Chocolate Creme, or Chocolate Coconut).

- o Peanut Butter Spread.

MB-2: 4 Hardtack Biscuits (often referred to by troops as "John Wayne cookies") and a cookie sandwich or fudge disc.

Cheese Spread (*Types:* Processed Cheese w/. Pimentos or Processed Cheese w/. Caraway Seeds). Spread Alternative: Plain Cheddar Cheese.

B-3: 4 Cookies and a packet of Cocoa powder.

Jam Spread (*Types:* Apple, Mixed Berry, Seedless Blackberry, Mixed Fruit, Grape, or Strawberry). It was used with the bread in the D-3 can.

The "D" (Dessert) unit came in three types:

- **D-1 (Fruit):** Halved Apricots, Sliced Peaches, Quartered Pears, or Fruit Cocktail. **D-1A (Fruit):** Applesauce.

D-2 (Cake): Pound Cake, Fruitcake, or Cinnamon Nut Roll. **D-2A (Cake):** Date Pudding or Orange Nut Roll.

D-3 (Bread): White Bread. (There were no alternatives).

Each menu was grouped by their unit number (i.e., M-1, B-1 and D-1 items were grouped together). Alternative items (designated with an "A" suffix) were introduced to provide variety and reduce the monotony. For variety, the M-1 and M-3 units (since they both used small cans) were often switched.

The "B"-unit's **Crackers & Candy** can was lined with a piece of corrugated cardboard to protect the contents from damage. In the "D"-unit, the white bread came in one solid cylindrical piece wrapped in wax paper, while the pound cake, fruitcake, Orange Nut Roll, and Cinnamon Roll came wrapped in paper wrappers like cupcakes.

The **Accessory Pack** came with salt, pepper, sug-

ar, instant coffee, non-dairy creamer, 2 pieces of candy-coated chewing gum, a packet of toilet paper, a 4-pack of commercial-grade cigarettes, and a book of 20 cardboard moisture-proof matches.

Typical commercial brands issued in the cigarette ration were: Camel, Chesterfield, Kent, Kool, Lucky Strike, Marlboro, Pall Mall, Salem, or Winston. Due to health concerns, cigarettes were eliminated from the accessory packs in 1975.

Despite the new name, the MCI was still popularly referred to by the troops as "C-Rations" (or "Charlie rats"), which it resembled in nearly all respects. The MCI was intended as a modest improvement over the earlier canned Type C or C ration, with inclusion of additional menu items to reduce monotony and encourage adequate daily feeding and nutrition. Heavy for their content, they were eventually phased out in favor of the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE).

The MCI consisted of a rectangular cardboard carton containing 1 small flat can, 1 large can, and two small cans. It consisted of an **"M"-unit can** (meat-based entree item), a **"B"-unit** (bread item) composed of the **Crackers & Candy Can** and the flat **Spread Can**, and a **"D"-unit can** (dessert item). The M-1, M-3, B-1, B-2, D-2, and D-3 unit cans were small and the M-2, B-3, and D-1 unit cans were large. The ration cans were packed upright, with the flat Spread can over the large can on the left side and the two small cans were stacked one over the other on the right side (the lighter one over the heavier one). On top was the brown foil **Accessory Pack** and a plastic spoon wrapped in clear plastic. Each carton contained a single complete meal providing approximately 5,000 kJ (1,200 kilocalories or 1,200 kcal), with a packaged weight of 1.2 kilograms (2.6 lb)^l and volume of 1.5 litres (0.053 cu ft).

The label of the ration carton was printed across the lid of the rectangular box in three rows. The first row always read "MEAL, COMBAT, INDIVIDUAL". The second row indicated the name of the meat unit in bold capital block letters (e.g., "TURKEY LOAF") and the third row indicated the "B"-unit number (either B-1, B-2 or B-3 Unit) in bold capital block letters. Sometimes there was a smaller fourth line of type at the very bottom of the cover that either indicated the contractor who made the ration or the manufacturer that made the cardboard box itself.

The ration boxes were shipped in a rectangular cardboard packing case. Each packing case contained 12 ration cartons (containing one of each meal) packed in 2 rows of 6 rations. They were grouped in 3 menus of 4 meals each, organized by their "B"-unit (B-1, B-2, & B-3). It also contained 4 paper-wrapped P-38 can openers to open the cans. Each packing case weighed 25 to 26 pounds (11 to 12 kg) and had a volume of 0.8713 cubic

feet (24.67 L). Early cases were bound with bailing wire, but late Vietnam War and post-war cases were bound in plastic strapping.

A postscript to this detailed account from the internet source!! It is probably safe to say that in the case of Vietnam field soldiers with limited options, the dietary planners never anticipated the wide-spread horse-trading that went on of items they liked (e.g. ham and lima beans) or particularly sought (cigarettes).

Further, to minimize arguments over selections of C rations, different methods were developed to distribute the C-Ration boxes. One such method included turning the packaging box over, opening from the reverse and selecting from the side of the ration box without any information of the contents.

In 1967, Private Ronnie Brown was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines serving in Vietnam, I Corps. He regularly wrote to his mom and on February 16th did so once again, in a 5 part letter. His letter read:

Ronnie Brown
6940254
1st Marine Division
San Francisco, CA.
U.S. Navy 14030

(Written on February 9, 1967; Postmarked: February 16, 1967)

To mom: (in Wichita, Kansas)

Hi Mom:

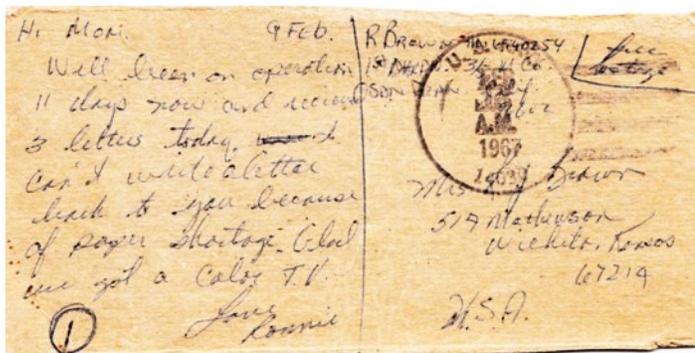


Figure 2: 1st part of Ronnie's letter

Well, been on operation 11 days now and received 3 letters today. I can't write a letter back to you because of paper shortage. Glad we got a color TV.

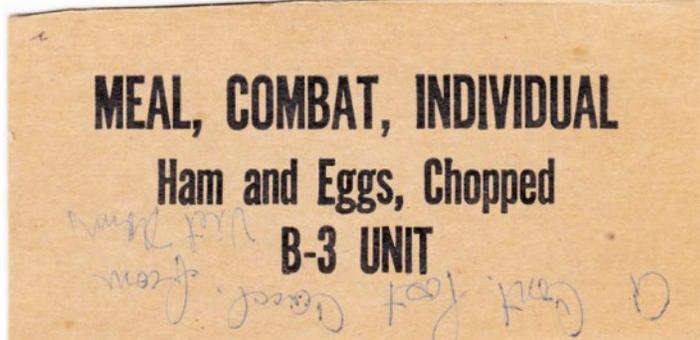


Figure 3: Reverse of Ronnie's first part postcard

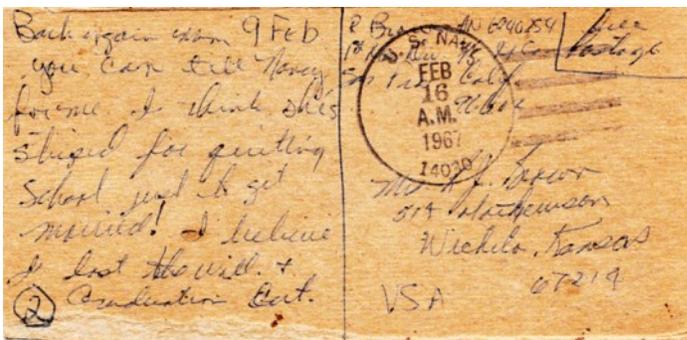


Figure 4: 2nd part of Ronnie's letter.

Part # 2: Back again mom. You can tell Nancy for me. I think she's stupid for quitting school just to get married. I believe I lost the will and graduation cert. (certificate)

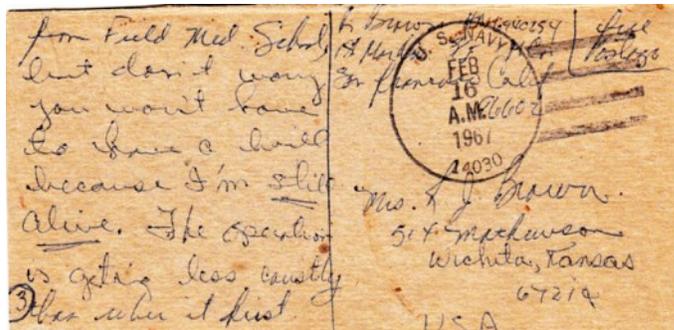


Figure 5: Reverse of Ronnie's second part postcard.

Part # 3: From Field Med. School, but don't worry you won't have to have a will because I'm still alive. The operation is getting less casualty than when it first

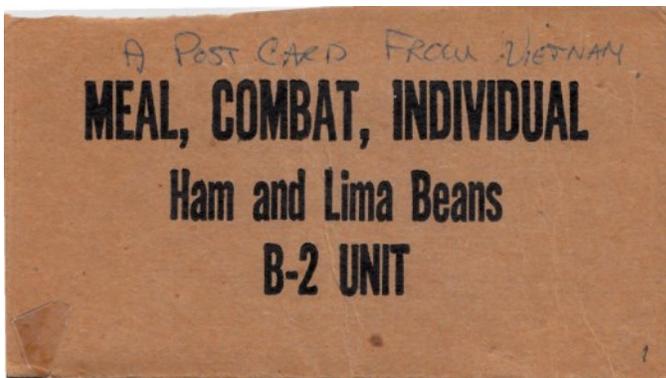


Figure 6: 3rd part of Ronnie's postcard.

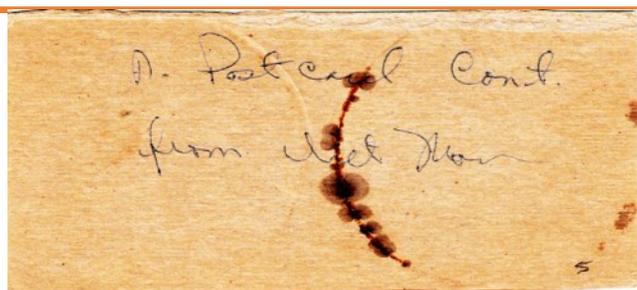


Figure 7: Reverse of Ronnie's 3rd part postcard

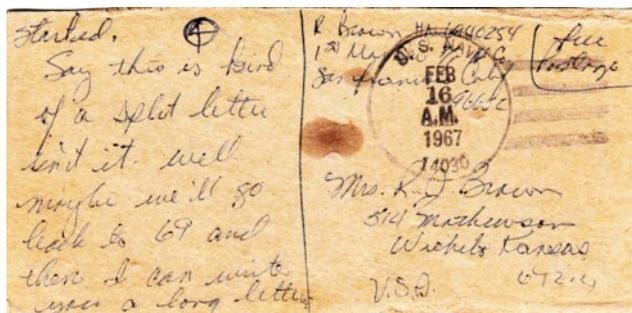


Figure 8: 4th part of Ronnie's letter.

Part # 4: started. Say this is kind of a split letter isn't it. Well maybe we'll go back to 69 and then I can write you a long letter.



Figure 9: Reverse of Ronnie's 4th part postcard

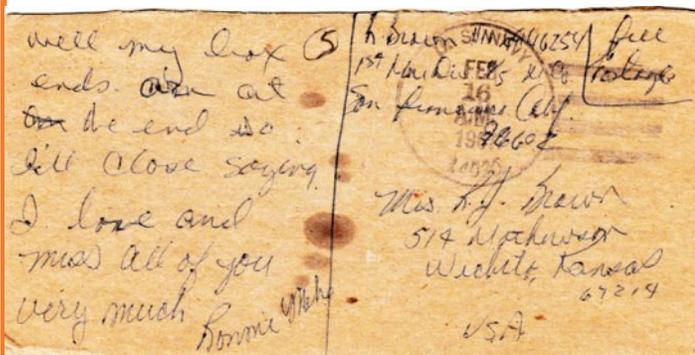


Figure 10: Ronnie's 5th part letter.

Part # 5: Well, my last box ends. Am at the end so I'll close saying I love and miss all of you very much.

Ronnie Mike (either the Mike refers to his middle initial, or Ronnie was a medic—see reference to Field Medical School). Further, the “69” reference is unknown by the author, and may refer to a firebase.

If you've managed to stay awake during this pedantic presentation you'll have recognized Ronnie's writing material. Presented are his consecutive, numbered letter parts. The address side of the postcards have been lightened by use of Adobe Photoshop in order to make them readable.

And there you have it. As can be seen from Figures 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 the letter parts were all canceled on the same day - February 16th, 1967 - on board a U.S. Navy ship, by a four bar cancel of FPO # 14030.

But there's one small piece of information that I need to share with the readers. The stains that you see on Figures 6 to 10 are not tropical staining or other exotic philatelic explanations such as fading in the sun, coffee spills, defects in paper etc.. They cannot be explained in the context of philatelic nuances. They are much simpler than all of these, for they are the tell-tale signs of humidity. In tropical climates, the lids of the cans accumulated moisture, and then rusted. That rust would transfer to the inside tab of the C Ration flap, and would, quite literally be left behind (on the inside flap), and seeping through to the front (see Figures 6, 8 and 10). The heavier the rust residue when you opened the box, the longer the likelihood that that particular C ration had been in Vietnam.

This has got to be a truly unique series of military postal history items, no where else replicated in the collections of the hobby. If anyone is aware of any such similar postal history, I'd like to hear word from you on it. In the meantime, my thanks to John Cook, Air-Cop@cox.net for having rescued these pieces from someplace in Wichita, Kansas many years ago and having the good sense to sell them to me at the August 2015 Wichita Stamp Show.

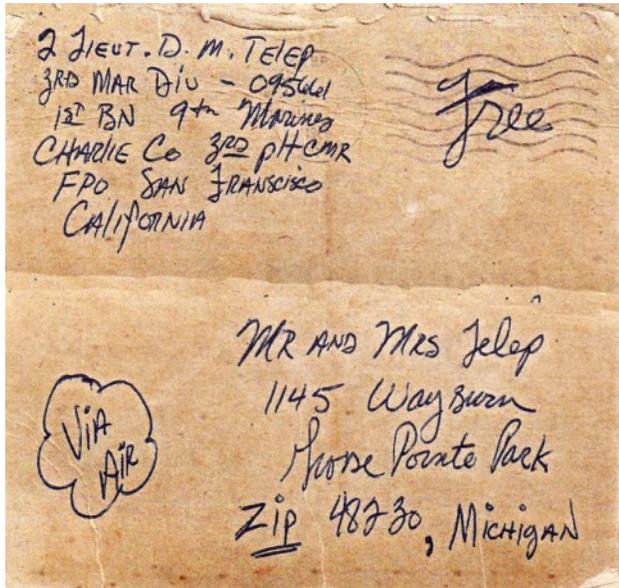
No sooner had I written the last paragraph's words then here came another example of “C rat” mail from the Vietnam era. In this case, I had decided to share the pre-issue article with Dan Telep. He obligingly forward a copy of a letter that he had written to his parents, using the sides of a C ration box. I'm not sure that this practice was endemic among Marine units, but those units seemingly didn't have much writing stationery to write upon.

He wrote to his folks that:

- he was moving out today to go west (towards foothills and hills along the Laotian border near to Con Thien), and
- that he had written two letters home on the sides of C

- that he had written two letters home on the sides of C ration boxes; and
- that he had just 11 months to go before rotating home (unlike Army personnel who served 12 months in Vietnam, it is my understanding that Marines served 13 months); and
- that he had gotten over all his cuts.

The machine cancel applied to the card is too faint to distinguish any postal history relevance.



Figures 11 and 12: One of two letters written to his parents on the sides of “Sea Rats” by 2nd Lt. Telep to his parents. Situated in the “Leatherneck Plaza” at Con Thien, just south of the DMZ, Lt. Telep was writing from Con Thien on July 13, 1967.

DEAR folks -
 WE'RE MOVING OUT TODAY TO GO WEST OF HERE? I CAN'T SAY MUCH MORE LET ME KNOW IF YOU RECEIVE TWO POST CARDS MADE FROM A SEA-RAT PACKAGE. I JUST FINISHED WRITING 4 LETTERS FOR MEDALS. I HOPE I GET YOUR LETTER SOON. I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE WHAT PETERS IS DOING. WHEN AUG & ROLLS AROUND, I'LL ONLY HAVE 11 MORE MONTHS TO GO OR I'LL BE IN VIETNAM THAT LONG. WE'LL PROBABLY GET REPOSTED BACK TO OKINAWA IN SEPT OR OCT FOR 3 MONTHS, MAYBE PHILIPPINES ETC. THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY I FEEL GREAT. ALL MY CUTS HAVE HEALED AND ALL IS O.K. SAY HELLO TO UNCLE STEVE & JILL, YOUR MOM & UNCLE JACK, BROTHERS, & MARY ETC. I'M FAB SOX MISSYGA JUNE 68 JSM

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- Nov. 18 - 20: MPHS Booth & Member Recruitment— you can help the Society grow. Do your part!
 Nov. 19, Sat.: 8—11 AM: MPHS Board Meeting
 Nov. 19, Sat.: 12—1:30 pm: Membership Meeting
- Video: Greco-Turk War—1919-1922
 - Program: Vichy French Colonial Mail (Lugo)

Look for our literature competition entry—the MPHS Bulletin, 2015—2016
 Sign in at table and inquire about social get togethers.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

Plans are shaping up for the spring convention of the MPHS in Denver on the Memorial Day weekend.

- Thursday (namely May 25th), a one day seminar on military postal history to be presented. Seminar consists of 12 one half hour presentations by subject matter experts on facets of military postal history.

Presenters are being sought

- Friday evening—RMPL tour and catered dinner. Approx. \$50/person, includes bus transp: 6 - 10 pm
- Approximately 6 presentation slots Fri.-Sun, by MPHS, USCS, Civil Censorship, Polar Philatelists.
- Up to 300 frames of exhibits for MPHS, depending on turnout. See webpage for prospectus. New FIP rules/criteria will be in place.

For more information: contact Al Kugel or see RMSS webpage for details and prospectus.



Smithsonian
 National Postal Museum

- Call for papers
- 10th Blount Postal History Symposium
- November 1—2, 2018
- World War I and its Immediate Aftermath
- Washington, D.C.
- For more information on formatting and permissions, please see the call for papers for 2018 at: <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/symposiums-and-lectures/>
 More details in future or contact Susan Smith at SmithSu@si.edu

CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS by Bruce Ellison

As a life long collector, I've always enjoyed going through "stuff" at shows. In that pursuit, I've frequently focused on free franked covers by famous personages. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was kind enough to personally sign one for me as a college student in 1958. President Eisenhower's secretary provided me with a signed autograph which "Ike" had signed after my letter to him while in the Presidency.

The cover shown in Figure 1 below was sent by Speaker Champ Clark. It caught my attention in the early 1960s, but it was not looked at further until a few years later. Then, I discovered that the cover contained a reply to an aspirant to the Naval Academy, with a somewhat odd concluding admonition!. I won't repeat it, as I think you can read it from Figure 3.



FIGURE 1: Congressional free frank reply of Champ Clark, Speaker of the House, to Douglas Johnson—applicant to U.S. Naval Academy.

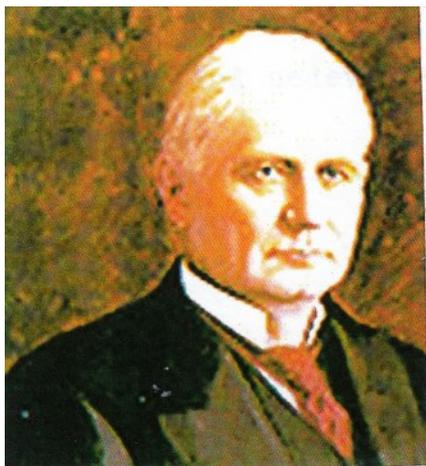


FIGURE 2: "Champ" Clark, U.S. Representative from Missouri, 1893-95 and 1897 to 1921.

The Wikipedia entry for Clark reads: James Beauchamp "Champ" Clark (March 7, 1850 – March 2, 1921)

was a prominent American politician in the Democratic Party from the 1890s until his death. A Representative of Missouri from 1893 to 1895 and from 1897 to 1921, he served as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives from 1911 to 1919. He was an unsuccessful Presidential candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1912.

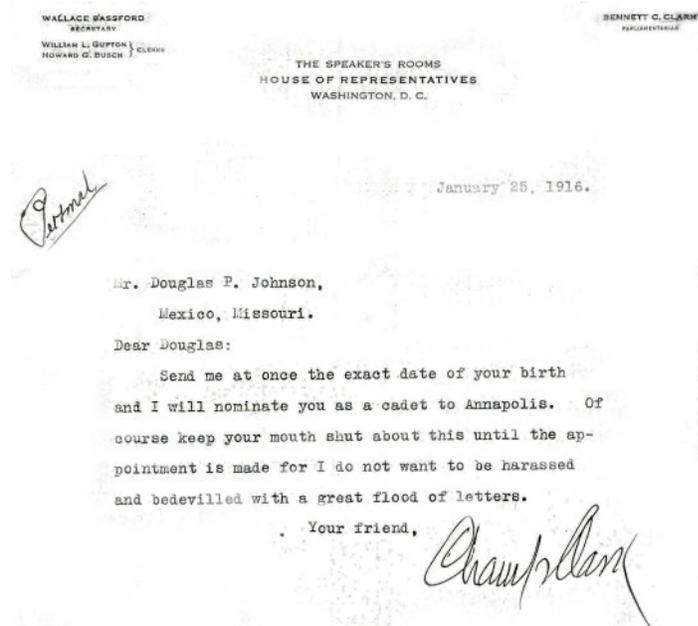


FIGURE 3: "Champ" Clark's letter to Douglas Johnson seeking information for a naval academy appointment.

In this case, Douglas Johnson was a successful applicant, being appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1916. His navy career saw him rise to the rank of Rear Admiral, having served in WW II and commanded an aircraft carrier group. He retired in 1950. I was able to locate Admiral Johnson many years ago in Cincinnati. He sincerely appreciated the return of the envelope and its contents after so many years.

Champ Clark's admonition speaks to the enormous prestige and power of Congressional appointments to the U.S. service academy. A privilege bestowed upon U.S. Senators and Congressmen to appoint citizens of their respective jurisdictions from their respective States, soliciting such appointments has been a time honored (and apparently from Clark's remarks a burdensome) tradition.

In closing, Douglas Johnson was apparently bent on a military career as he contemplated his future after high school. In addition to seeking the Congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, he had taken the entrance examination to West Point.

Stars and Strife

Movie Prop Mail – “Hart’s War” - Part 2

by Thomas Richards and Regis Hoffman -

Hart's War (**Figure 1**) is a 2002 film about a World War II prisoner of war (POW) camp based on the novel by John Katzenbach. It stars **Bruce Willis** (as Col. William McNamara), and **Colin Farrell** (as Lt. Thomas W. Hart).⁽¹⁾ The film, directed by Gregory Hoblit, was shot at Barrandov Studios in Prague, and released on 15 February 2002. It has provided a plethora of philatelic movie props along with other props such as: dog tags, West Point graduation rings, wedding rings, Camel cigarette packs, German match boxes, POW ID tags, etc. Prop uniforms, both German and U.S., have appeared on eBay and other sites. We have covered other philatelic POW props from this movie in the MPHS winter 2014 issue. We recently acquired about 30 more POW covers from the movie and some of them are covered below.

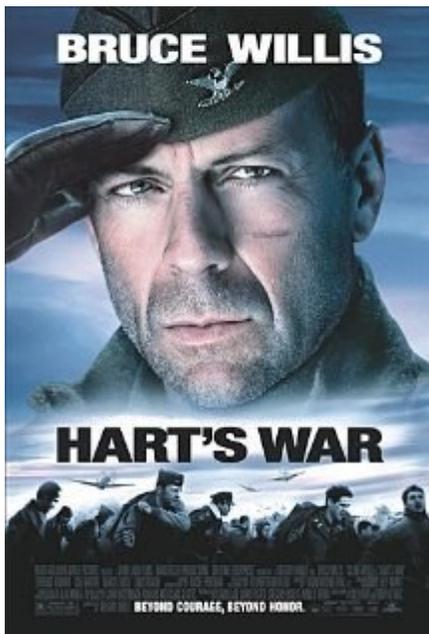
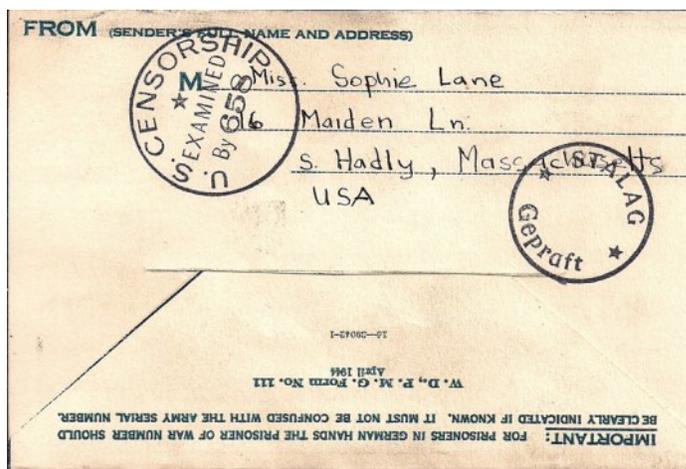
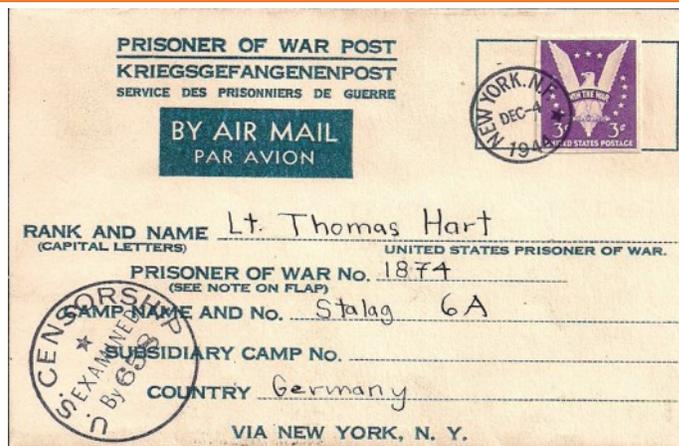


Figure 1: Hart's War film poster

Figure 2 shows the front of a POW formula envelope (W.D. P.M.G. Form No 111 April 1944) sent to Lt. Hart. Addressed to Stalag 6A it has a prop cardboard copy of the 3c victory stamp and was canceled in New York, N.F. (sic) on Dec. 4 1944. It is censored with a Stitch type A12 (Broderick/Mayo type C.4.1) circular censor marking. While the stamp is a prop the Form No 111 appears to be an original that was filled in by the prop department. **Figure 3** shows the reverse with the senders address (Miss Sophie Lane) and a circular German “STALAG Geprüft” (sic Geprüft) marking. Sophie Lane does not appear in the movie.

Figure 4 shows the detail prop masters will go



Figures 2 & 3: POW mail to Lt. Hart, purportedly censored by U.S. censor # 658.

to in order to make the props look authentic. They actually provided a detailed note to Lt. Hart even though the prop would most likely not be seen in detail in the movie.

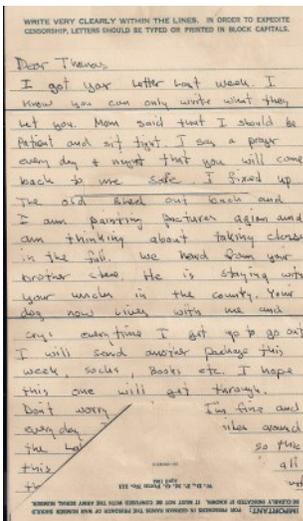


Figure 4: POW mail

Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 show additional highly detailed prop mail created for the movie. They show hand drawn POW envelopes from Col. McNamara's children (Karen and Rebecca) to him at Stalag 6A. The discrepancy between the first name – James – on the POW mail and the first name – William – used in the movie is confusing and was covered in the Winter MPHS 2014 article.

Note the personal “WE

MISS YOU DADDY” and “This rose is for you daddy” and “Karen for you dad” notations on the covers.

The covers are cancelled by a blurred Dec 4 1944 New York, N.F. (sic) cancels. **Figure 9** shows a clearer



Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8: Prop letters from Col. McNamara's "children." Three "censors" were employed. Note the wide margins of the facsimile prop Scott # C25 stamps.

cancel from another POW cover. With all the detail they used to create the covers and make them realistic – it is hard to explain how they could use N.F. instead of N.Y. in the cancel. A cardboard copy of the 6 cent Transport series (C25) was used on all of the POW covers we have to Col McNamara (approx. 50).

The covers show various versions of U.S. and German censor markings, Broderick and Mayo types C 4.1 and T 3.1.1 and Stich, Stich and Specht Type G28. Some

are exactly the same and others are only similar. As mentioned in previous articles on movie prop mail from war movies the prop masters go to GREAT detail for items that may never be seen in the movie or only as background material.



Figure 9: Detail of the New York cancellation and the C25 facsimile stamp.

LOOKING FOR

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MPHS Digital News & Updates

by Bob Swanson (MPHS IT Manager)

Hi, this is Bob Swanson. I maintain the website for the Military Postal History Society. This new column will describe some of the technological issues that you, as members, will be dealing with as we move the Society forward into the "online future".

Those of you who are signed up for an electronic version of the quarterly Bulletin should already be familiar with the regular emails you receive, as a new Bulletin is made available on the website. You should note that the password you need to access the Bulletin CHANGES ONCE PER QUARTER, and is included in the email message. All previous passwords will not work for the new quarter. Once you have downloaded your latest Bulletin, there is no need to keep any "postit" notes around with the password.

Members who receive the Bulletin electronically, as well as all members who receive email from the Society should be aware that we send out email notices using a special server at the "pair.com" company. The server is named "ten.pairlist.net"

This name is only important if you find that MPHS messages are being identified as spam and moved to your "JUNK" email folder. If this is happening, be sure to enter the server name into your "accepted email sources" (also called a "whitelist"). Check with your emailer software for the necessary settings, or if the messages are being intercepted by your ISP, please contact them to allow that server to be allowed to send to your account.

I'll answer questions that you direct to the editor.

**BOAC SERVICE TO SWEDEN during
WORLD WAR II and the CRASH on
KINNEKULLE RIDGE, SWEDEN
– AUGUST 1944**
by Ken Sanford

This article was originally published in “*Air Mail News*”, February 2011, Journal of the British Air Mail Society & the March 2011 issue of “*La Catastrophe*”, Journal of the Wreck & Crash Mail Society. Information on the Society is available from Ken Sanford - kaerophil@gmail.com



FIGURE 1: Lockheed Lodestar with marking of BOAC G-AGIH, Aviation museum at Oslo Airport - Aircraft Collection of the Norwegian Armed Forces

British Airways was operating regularly scheduled flights during 1939 and early 1940 to Finland and/or Sweden. The original route (No. 730) with British Airways (later BOAC) was from Perth, Scotland to Helsinki via Stavanger, Oslo and Stockholm, beginning in late summer of 1939. In November 1939, Imperial Airways and British Airways were merged and became British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC). When Norway was occupied by the Germans on April 9th 1940, the Norwegian stops were, of necessity, avoided and the route rerouted directly from Perth, Scotland to Stockholm's Bromma Airport until April 21st, when two Lockheed 14s landed at Bromma. These were the last commercial flights on a regular schedule.

During the autumn of 1940, nine roundtrips were made to Stockholm with an ex Polish Lockheed 14 (G-AGBG), mostly carrying diplomatic mail. During the end of 1940 a few special flights were carried out between Perth and Bromma. In early spring 1941 an agreement was signed between the UK and Sweden which allowed

planes of BOAC to operate a so-called “courier route” between Leuchars, Scotland (a Royal Air Force base south of Dundee) and Stockholm's Bromma Airport. The first flight departed from Leuchars on 2 March 1941, and arrived at Bromma on the 3rd. It was a Lockheed 14 Super Electra. At the end of 1941, BOAC used Lockheed Hudson 3s and Lockheed Lodestars.

The flight usually landed in Bromma early in the morning and returned in the evening of the same day. On 7 April 1941, a second Lockheed 14H Super Electra (G-AGBG) was added to the route. Initially, it was mostly to show the flag, by showing that the British could transport passengers, mail, newspapers etc. to Sweden. The Norwegian exile government in England paid for two Lockheed 18 Lodestars, which were brought over from the USA by Norwegian crews. The two planes were given civil British registration, and the Norwegian crews wore BOAC uniforms. (G-AGDD “Loch Lesna” and G-AGDE “Loch Lesja”).

On 18 August 1941, G-AGDE “Loch Lesja” flew from Leuchars, the first flight with a Norwegian crew. On 20 August, G-AGDD “Loch Lesna” operated the second flight with Norwegians. A few more Lodestars followed later, also with Norwegian crews.



FIGURE 2: Lockheed Lodestar G-ADGE at Leuchars - Sister aircraft to G-AGIH

During 1942, the Hudsons were supplemented by a number of Lockheed Lodestars (see **Figure 2**), purchased in the USA by the Norwegian Purchasing Commission (the Norwegian exile government in England). These aircraft were registered to BOAC but were also flown by Norwegian crew members wearing BOAC uniforms and issued British passports. On 5 August 1942 the first secret test flight was made with a military Mosquito Mk IV (DK301) by RAF 105 Squadron.

As the Second World War dragged on, more and more allied airmen landed in Sweden (mostly after their aircraft were shot up over Germany). They sought

repatriation. Norwegians wanted to join the war effort and the allies had a need for ball bearings and special (alloy) steel. For the record, during the war there were 2,784 British courier flights flown by BOAC. 787,500 kilos of steel and ball bearings were exported to England. The first flight of a BOAC Mosquito plane was made on February 2, 1943 with G-AGFV. A Mosquito could carry 600 kilos of ball bearings. BOAC also operated some daylight flights during May 1945 after the war ended. The last flight to Stockholm was with G-AGKO on May 16th, 1945.

On 12 March 1943 the first Douglas Dakota (DC-3) flight was made to Bromma Airport, Stockholm. On 6 October 1943, Niels Bohr was flown from Bromma to Leuchars. Bohr was a Danish physicist who made major contributions to understanding atomic structure and quantum physics, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922. He was part of a team of physicists working on the Manhattan Project, developing the atomic bomb at Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico, USA. On 8 October 1943, the first flight with a Liberator 3 (G-AGFS) was made.



FIGURE 3: Mosquito IV - G-AGFV

During the long daylight hours in the summer months it was extremely dangerous for the rather slow Hudsons and Lodestars to fly over German occupied territory, that is Norway and Denmark. Although the Lockheed aircraft provided good passenger and cargo carrying capabilities, its performance was unsatisfactory and a request for a high speed, high flying aircraft was put forward. The route required an aircraft with greater performance—speed, higher ceiling and greater endurance. That permitted a route over enemy territory that could be changed, allowing for the possibility of flying north of Trondheim in good weather conditions.

The aircraft that could leave most German fighters standing was the Mosquito. It had a very high payload, more than equal to its empty weight and cargo could

be carried in the nose, cannon space and bomb bay. On 5 August 1942, a 105 Squadron Mosquito B Mk.IV, DK301/GB-H carried out a courier flight to Stockholm. The aircraft was painted grey and devoid of all markings. Following the successful flight of DK301, a Mosquito PR Mk.IV, DZ411, was delivered to BOAC on 15 December 1942. During the spring of 1943, six Mosquito FB Mk.VIs were acquired, with the final three aircraft secured in April 1944. The new, fast aircraft served alongside the Hudsons and Lodestars, with many sorties flown by Norwegian crews. In the spring of 1943, German fighter activity increased and BOAC decided to ground the Lockheed aircraft. In the following summer months the Mosquitoes were the only aircraft operating the route. However the Norwegians disliked the lack of passenger space and took the Lodestars back to the air.

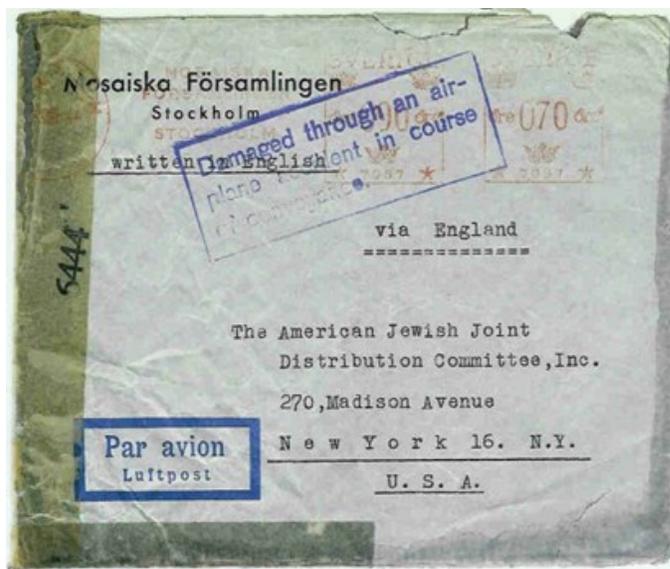


FIGURE 4: Stockholm to New York cover carried on board one of the six BOAC crashes, as indicated by the barely visible 1944 cancel at the upper left. Alternative marking in blue, showing damaged through an airplane accident, is unlisted by Nierinck. Franking paid by Swedish meter postage, with censors checking the mail in Great Britain.

The first Lodestar to be shot down by the Germans was on 3 April 1943, when a Norwegian operated BOAC Lodestar "Loch Lange" (G-AGEJ) was downed northwest of Skagen, Denmark by a German fighter based at Skagen. No mail is known from that incident. At 8:01 p.m. on 28 August, 1944, the BOAC Lodestar 18 (G-AGIH), took off from Bromma Airport, enroute to Leuchars. The Captain was Alf Kristian Hiorth and the second officer, who was being checked out on the route, was 1st Lieutenant Lars Larsen Bergo. The Radio Operator was Sven Brun Moe.

There were twelve Norwegian passengers onboard. The flight reported radio problems and attempted to return to Bromma. But because of bad weather, the

plane was directed to either Sätenäs or Torslanda (at Gothenburg), Sweden.

There are conflicting reports as to which airport the flight was directed to land. The Captain attempted to descend below the clouds, but had the bad luck to collide with the only hill in the area—Kinnekulle, which is a ridge in the province of Västergötland, Sweden. It is located on the southern shore of Lake Vänern, 55 kilometers from Sätenäs. Its highest point is 306 meters above sea level. The crash occurred at 00:30 on the 29th. As Kinnekulle is on a direct line between Bromma and Sätenäs, in this writer's opinion, the pilot was intending to land at Sätenäs—not Torslanda. If he was heading toward Torslanda, he would not have been near Kinnekulle—he would have been on a track much further south. Only four of the 15 on-board survived. The names of the dead passengers were not released during the war as they had relatives in Norway. Captain Hiorth was at the time of the accident, the most experienced of the pilots flying to Stockholm (82 trips).



FIGURE 5: Coffins of the dead passengers and crew from the crash of BOAC G-AGIH

In reviewing the history of this service, six of the twelve Lodestars crashed on the Stockholm route during the war, killing 11 Norwegian crew members and 18 passengers. The following is a summary of the crashes on the route during the war, including deaths and mail disposition:

- 3 April 1942 - Lodestar shot down over the Skagerrak by German Kapt. Erik Engnæs. Two pilots and 5 passengers killed
- 23 June 1942 - Hudson - G-AGDF - made an emergency landing in the water off Gullmarsfjorden, Sweden. The mail for GB was recovered three months later but no covers are known.
- 4 April 1943 - Lodestar - G-AGEJ "Loch Lange" left Bromma at 1:38 a.m., passed Lysekil, Sweden at 3:13 and then disappeared, and was not found. 15 kg of diplomatic mail was onboard, but no covers are known in collectors' hands. According to the German Oblt

Speidel, a German fighter shot down a Manchester at 4:32 a.m. 50 km northwest of Skagen, Denmark. It was more than likely the Lodestar.

- 23 April 1943 - Mosquito IV - G-AGFV was attacked by a German FW 190 over Denmark, and made an emergency landing at Barkaby outside Stockholm
- 17 August 1943 Mosquito G-AGGF crashed at Glenlee, Scotland - Bromma to Scotland
- 25 October 1943 Mosquito G-AGGG crashed into the sea near Leuchars, Scotland, probably due to engine problems, on a flight from Bromma to Leuchars
- 17 December 1943 Lodestar G-AGDE crashed into the sea off Leuchars, Scotland on a flight from RAF Leuchars to Stockholm-Bromma Airport, possibly due to ice on the wings. The accident killed all 10 passengers and crew members onboard the flight
- 3 January 1944 Mosquito G-AGGD Emergency landing at Sätenäs, Sweden (which was a military airport).
- 21 January 1944 Dakota G-AGFZ crashed at Bromma
- 31 January 1944 Lodestar - crashed into a hill at Strathaven, Lanarkshire, Scotland. All safe.
- 4 July 1944 Mosquito G-AGFV crashed at Bromma
- 19 August 1944 Mosquito Mk VI G-AGKP crashed in the North Sea 13 km from Leuchars
- 29 August 1944 Mosquito Mk VI G-AGKR departed from Gothenburg Torslanda Airport at 1:54 a.m. and disappeared. It was presumed to be a weather or mechanical problem, as the Germans said they had no fighters flying that night because of the weather.
- 29 Aug. 1944 Lodestar G-AGIH crashed at Kinnekulle.
- 2 May 1945 Lodestar G-AGLI - due to bad weather and a possible navigation error, made an emergency landing on water at Sikeåfjärden, 7 km northeast of Umeå, Sweden. Six passengers were onboard, including one woman. Both crew and passengers were rescued by a Swedish fishing boat before the aircraft sank.



FIGURE 6: BOAC crash cover with violet alternative marking for damaged mail applied in Great Britain, as was the censor before forwarding to Washington, DC. Courtesy of Gunnar Zetterman.

Inneliggande försändelse har ingått hit
i skadat skick.

FIGURE 6: Nierinck type 'f' label marking from Swedish ambulance covers, consisting of a semi-transparent glassine material.

Quite a number of covers are known from the crash at Kinnekulle of 29 August 1944. John Thiesen advises that "From my own studies of the items it seems as if most of the mail was so damaged, that it could not be forwarded. The covers were returned to the sender in an ambulance cover (see **Figure 6**) and with the label 'Åter till avsändaren' (Nierinck 440829 type 'a' - see **Figure 8**)."



FIGURES 7 and 8: Cover which was returned to sender (above) and (below) the reverse of a salvaged cover with Nierinck type 'a' ambulance label, Courtesy of John Thiesen.



Some of the mail to England and U.S.A. was in a bag which was not heavily damaged. These items were forwarded to the addressees. They show the framed hand-stamp "Damaged through an air-/plane accident in course/ of conveyance" (Nierinck type 'b'), which was applied in England in two colors—violet & blue.



FIGURE 9: Lockheed Lodestar with marking of BOAC G-AGIH at the aviation museum at Oslo Airport - Aircraft Collection of the Norwegian Armed Forces



Thanks to John Thiesen, Bo Widfelt, Magnus Heder, Gunnar Zetterman, Knut Arveng & Leif Ruud for information and translations for this article.

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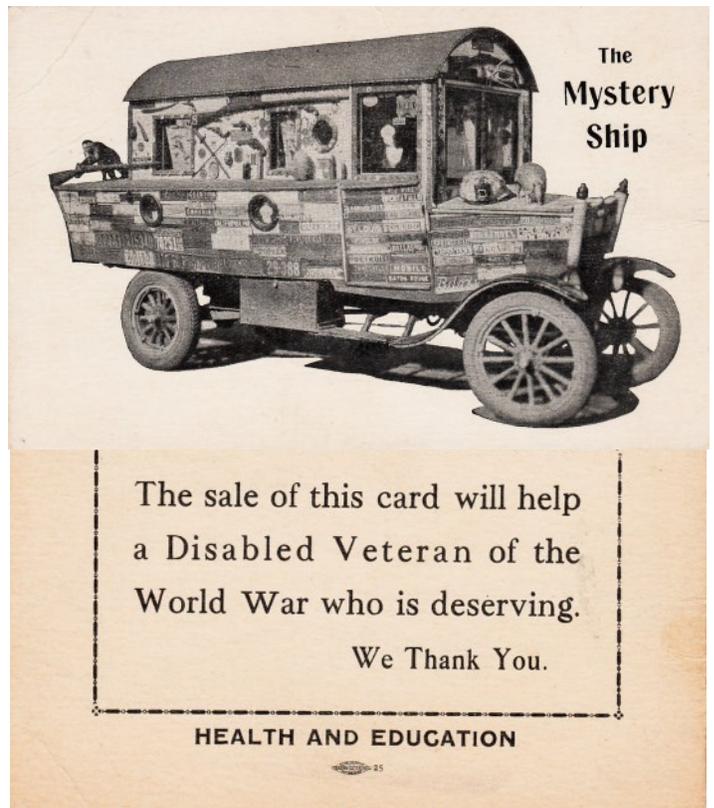
QUIXOTIC ITEM OF THE ISSUE

by Sergio Lugo

Someone in our membership (or friends) can explain this, I hope relative to who issued it!

It's a post WW I solicitation card, seeking help and/or donations for disabled veterans. Nothing on the card indicates what agency sponsored this, other than the reference to "Health and Education," and the union bug from the print shop.

The "ship" itself is mounted on a 1910's truck chassis. The "hull" is framed in name plates of various U.S. cities and a couple of license plates. The "deck" is topped by what appears (at the after "deck") to be a stuffed monkey holding a rifle, and at the fore deck by a safety helmet and a stuffed armadillo. The "superstructure" is framed by a bunch of guns and rifles. The reverse is self explanatory. Anybody?



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What's Coming To You In Future Bulletins

In addition to the 12 pages of MPHS Society news and regular features, the following are in the next 3 issues (*subject to change*). **Bold titles indicate completed:**

WINTER (# 1, Jan. to Mar., 2017, release 2/10/17)

- **The Brusilov Offensive—Part I** (Lugo)
- **American POW in the Boer War** (Mayo)
- **U.S. Forces in Fiji During World War II** (Jones)
- **Where Sweetheart Pins Can Lead?** (Lugo)
- **Lufthansa Aircraft Shot Down near Falsterbo** (Sanford)
- **German POW's in Canada (Jarnick)**
- Ft. Towson, Indian Territory Mail During the Republic of Texas Period (Crosby)
- Stars and Strife: Camp Alva, OK. POW Camp (Hoffman/Richards)
- Part IV: NVA & VC Postal System Security Markings and Usages (Telep)
- *Pending: Consular Mail during Wartime* (Vari)

SPRING (# 2, Apr. to Jun., 2017; release 4/6/17)

Still seeking U.S. WW I Focused Articles

100th Anniversary Edition: America in World War I

- **The Declaration of War from the GPO** (Lugo)
- **American Airmen in Italy, 1917-1918** (Mayo)
- **One Family's Social Welfare Commitment** (Lugo)
- **British censorship of American Mails (Sommer)**
- **The 4th Year of the War (Kugel)**
- **American Red Cross Surgical Hospital in 1920 Wilno, Poland (Lapas)**
- Stars and Strife: WW I Censorship of Hollywood Fan Mail—Warner Oland (Hoffman/Richards)
- MPHS Auction (Delespesse)
- German Interned Shipping - The Appam (Dubin)
- *Pending: AEF Aviation - (Henderson)*
- *Pending: Funding the Great War with War Stamps and Bonds (Charles)*
- *Pending: The Doughboy's Spirit—Letters Home (Ogle)*
- *(Pending): Puerto Rican Ghost Regiments (Lugo)*

SUMMER (# 3, Jul. to Sept., 2017; release 8/10/17)

- **The Brusilov Offensive—Part II** (Lugo)
- MPHS Auction (Delespesse)
- Stars and Strife (Hoffman/Richards)
- *Pending: Quakers in the Spanish Civil War (Bryne)*
- *Pending: War Ration Auto Use Tags (Lugo)*
- *Pending: Mexican National In U.S. Army (Bilingual) (Lugo)*
- *Pending: Colonial Armies of IndoChina prior to 1954*
- *Pending: APS Article on Espionage*
- *Pending: Q Boats*
- *Pending: Brazilian Expeditionary Force*
- *Pending: Vichy France Colonies (Lugo)*
-

APO/DPO/FPO Openings and Closings

by David Kent

These APO, FPO and DPO actions were announced in the *Postal Bulletin* between July and October, 2016. 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. Usually the effective date of an action is the publication date of that issue of the *Postal Bulletin*. Exceptions would be marked with an asterisk*.

| TYPE | # | ACTION | DATE |
|------|-------|--------|----------|
| DPO | 09001 | Open | 10/13/16 |
| DPO | 09023 | Open | 10/13/16 |
| APO | 09075 | Close | 9/29/16 |
| DPO | 09601 | Open | 10/13/16 |
| FPO | 09761 | Open | 7/21/16 |
| DPO | 09807 | Open | 8/4/16 |
| FPO | 09840 | Close | 8/8/16 |
| DPO | 09854 | Open | 8/18/16 |
| DPO | 34001 | Open | 8/4/16 |
| APO | 34044 | Close | 7/21/16 |
| DPO | 96210 | Open | 8/18/16 |
| FPO | 96212 | Open | 9/29/16 |
| APO | 96245 | Close | 9/1/16 |
| FPO | 96247 | Close | 9/1/16 |
| APO | 96447 | Close | 9/1/16 |
| FPO | 96538 | Close | 8/18/16 |
| FPO | 96541 | Close | 8/18/16 |

FPO 09761 is assigned to the newly-opened Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System installation at the Redzikowo Base in Gmina Slupsk, Poland. It is part of a network of similar stations across Eastern Europe that purportedly is there to defend against a possible attack by renegade terrorists in the Middle East. The chain nevertheless obviously stretches right across Russia's back yard, which the Russians cannot help but notice.

APO 09840 was assigned to the Naval Security Force base in Bahrain. APO 09075 was assigned to the Shipton Kaserne in Germany. With the reduction in forces there, postal operations in the Ansbach area have been consolidated in the Barton Barracks. APO 96447 was listed for Bangkok, Thailand in the latest absentee ballot deadline list. FPOs 96538 and 96541 were assigned to the Naval Hospital and Naval Ammunition Magazine on Guam, where postal operations have apparently been consolidated to save costs.

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 for 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.]

Myron Paley received a gold and the Rossica award at Minnesota Stamp Expo in July for his "*Russo-Japanese War.*" Another gold went to **Daniel Ryterband** for "*The American Civil War: Through-the-Lines Prisoner Mail.*" **Gerard Menge** took a silver with his "*Austria 1938 Anschluss: Annexation, Plebiscite, and Transition.*"

APS StampShow in Portland, OR. (August) featured three military exhibits in the champion-of-champions area, each receiving a Prix d'Honneur. **Ed Andrews** had his "*Hitler Youth – The Generation of Lost Innocence,*" **Robert Hisey** his "*Fall and Rise of French African Air Rates – WW II,*" and **David Hobden** his "*In Defence of the Border: Canadian Military Mails 1628-1885.*"

In open competition **Michael Dixon** won gold with his "*Boer POW Camps in Ceylon 1900-1902.*" A gold, the APC award and the Auxiliary Markings Club award went to **Louis Fiset** for "*Censored, Rerouted, Suspended, Resumed: U.S. International Mail in World War II.*"

The MPHS award, a gold, and the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence went to **Janet Klug** for "*British Empire Anti-Communist Actions in the Jungles of Malaya 1948-1960.*" Gold awards were taken by **William Fort** for "*Wartime Trans-Pacific Airmail Routes,*" **Charles LaBlonde** for "*The Rise and Fall of WWII Postal Censorship,*" and **David/Laurie Bernstein** received gold for "*Kriegsmarine Schlachtschiff Bismarck: A Philatelic History.*"

Wayne Youngblood earned a gold with his "*Lost Almost: The Los Alamos, N.M. Post Office and WW II.*" **David/Laurie Bernstein** won vermeil for "*Taffy 3: Two Hours of Gallantry, Guts, and Gumption.*" A vermeil and an AAPE award of honor went to **Jonathan Johnson** for "*Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea.*" **Niko Courtelis** won silver, the AAPE novice award and the Women Exhibitors sterling achievement award for his "*The Greek Occupation of Mytilene Stamps of 1912.*"

In the literature competition in Portland, **David Skipton** and **Steve Volis** won gold and the APS research medal for *Soviet Clandestine Mail Surveillance 1917-1991*, and **Raymond Murphy** won gold with *The Encyclopedia of Jamaican Philately, Vol. 9, Military Mails.*

Doreen Fitzgerald received a vermeil and the Postal History Society of Canada Rich Toop Memorial award for the best military exhibit, "*World War I: Messag-*

es Home in Silk," at the Royal 2016 exhibition in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, in August. **Steve Shay** took a vermeil and the MPHS award at the Americover show in Falls Church, Va., in August with his "*Mail to and from the U.S. Navy via Airmail 1918-1941.*"

Michael Dixon won a gold, the MPHS award and the show Grand Award at Seapex in Seattle, Washington in September with his "*British WWII Prisoner-of-War Air Mail Stationery.*" A vermeil award and the United States Possessions Philatelic Society award went to **Bradley Fritts** for "*Guam: Naval Administration to Post WW II.*" Another vermeil and an AAPE award of honor were taken by **Greg Galletti** for "*The League of Nations – The War Years.*" **William Messecar** received a silver and the Woman Exhibitors sterling achievement award with his "*British War Tax of World War I.*"

At the Omaha Stamp Show in Nebraska in September, **Michael Dixon** took a gold and the AAPE creativity award for his "*Boer POW Camps in Ceylon 1900-1902.*" A vermeil award along with a Germany Philatelic Society silver and GPS special award went to **Phil Miller** for "*Foreign Volunteers with Germany during World War II.*" He also received another vermeil and a GPS bronze for "*German Afrika Korps during WW II.*"

Al Kugel won a gold and the American Philatelic Congress award at Milcopex in Milwaukee in September with his "*Postal History of the American Forces in China 1900-1941.*" At the same show a vermeil went to **Myron Palay** for "*The Russo-Japanese War.*"

Doreen Fitzgerald received a national gold, an AAPE award of honor, and the best BNA 2,3, or 4-frame exhibit award for her "*World War I – Messages Home in Silk*" at the Novapex show in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September. **John Hall** won a national silver with his "*War Tax and the Post Office.*" At the same show **Graham Forbes** won a regional vermeil and the Rich Toop Memorial award for best military exhibit with his "*British Military Post Offices of the 2nd Boer War.*"

At the Sescal show in Los Angeles in September, **Louis Fiset** won a gold, the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence, the American Philatelic Congress award and the Postal History Society award with his "*U.S. Internment of Noncombatants in World War II, 1939-1948.*" At the same show a vermeil and the AAPE novice award went to **Jack Kifedjian** for "*French Military Occupation of Syria and the Arab Kingdom, 1919-1922.*"

At Indypex in Noblesville, Indiana, **Al Kugel** received a gold, the MPHS award, and a GPS bronze for "*Allied Occupation of the former German Colonies 1914-1922.*" He won gold and the Indiana Stamp Club 20th century award with his "*The AEF booklet Pane Stamps of 1917.*" **Charles LaBlonde** won a vermeil for "*The Rise & Fall of WWII Postal Censorship: A Swiss Perspective.*" Another vermeil went to **Janet Klug** for "*'I'll Be Seein' Ya...Five Years as a POW in Stalag VIII-B.*"

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, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823.]

Rudolf Anders describes the *special emergency cancels* for Wilhelmshaven in January 1941 in the July *German Postal Specialist*. Following a British bombing raid that destroyed the main post office in Wilhelmshaven, some of the city's mail service was moved to nearby Oldenburg where a Tarnstempel (camouflage cancel) was used. The author shows a local postcard using this mark.

Labron Harris discusses *POW mail during the Civil War* and shows two examples, in the August 15 *Linn's Stamp News*. **Kevin Lowther** continues his *World War I series* in the July-August *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, this time with a focus on the so-called war stamps created by Delandre of France. Some of these labels found their way onto covers in France but they are considered cinderellas. Delandre was convicted several times of swindling and fraud and eventually died while in prison.

Anthony Werring offers the first part of a series on *Taiwan military post* in the June issue of the *Journal of Chinese Philately*. Military post offices used a CDS with FPO designation (in English) until June 24, 1957. After that date the CDS contained "military post" in Chinese as well as "office" or "bureau" in Chinese. He shows some examples of 1957 and 1958 mail of the Matsu Islands.

The August issue of *War Times*, published by the World War II Study Group of BNAPS, carries an article by **Robert Henderson** on the *Royal Canadian Post Office mail bags for moving POW mail*, and shows two tags associated with them. In the same issue **Charles LaBlonde** shows a *cover sent from Lausanne*, Switzerland, to Toronto in October 1940. The letter was routed through Geneva to Lisbon and then on to Canada. It was examined and resealed with both French and English language labels.

The second part of his series on *clandestine stamps* of President Roosevelt by **Bob Baltzell** appears in the September *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*. Both propaganda stamps and counterfeits used on fake German newspapers were in FDR's collection and came to light when his collections went to auction.

Gavin Fryer, in the September issue of *London Philatelist*, illustrates a *cover sent to the Guard room on the destroyer depot ship HMS Hecla* which was in Iceland in the early part of WW II. The author reviews the history of the British Royal Marines landing in Iceland and the Faroes in 1940 to prevent Germany from establishing a foothold in those countries. He also summarizes the fate of

the *Hecla*, which was eventually sunk by a U-boat torpedo in 1942 near Gibraltar.

In the same issue of the *LP*, **Ute and Elmar Dorr** show many examples of *Hungarian WW I submarine letters* sent to the Americas. The arrangement was for Hungarian mail to be sent by German submarines to North, Central, and South America and was authorized by a postal decree in January 1917. Letters were to be placed in envelopes addressed to their destinations and then inserted in a carrier envelope and sent within Hungary to the Budapest 72 post office with the notation "submarine letter" in Hungarian. The individual covers that are shown bear various censorship and postal markings.

The September issue of *Scandinavian Contact* from Great Britain carries an article by **John McKay** describing the *efforts of neutral Sweden during WW I to aid Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war* and their relatives to connect. He shows examples of mail sent to the Österreich Ungarischer Hilfsverein (Aid Association) in Sweden as well as a printed (in German) post card sent to those inquiring about relatives.

Lewis Bussey specializes in the *RF overprints used on French Naval mail during WW II* when elements of the French Navy joined the Allied fleet. The mail had to be sent to addresses in the U.S. or Canada. In the September-October issue of *Postal Stationery*, Bussey details the overprinted U.S. postal stationery and its use at Casablanca, Alger, Oran, Dakar and elsewhere and identifies the overprint varieties.

Paul Binney discusses the *handling of mail at Fleet Mail Office (FMO) Avalon* during World War II in the September newsletter of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group. He shows examples of registered and air mail with special markings including censorship. In the October *Journal of United Nations Philatelists*, **Blanton Clement, Jr.** offers the fourth part in his series on *League of Nations and United Nations Associations*. He depicts examples of mail from a variety of UNESCO national commissions, clubs, and associations.

Dave Hill continues his series on *mail of World War I* in the October *Stamp Lover*. This time he shows examples of soldiers' mail, largely from Italian forces but also one or two pieces of U.S. and Switzerland.

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Rear Guard Cover of the Month - Submarine Squadron 8

by David Kent

Aug. 9, 1942

Dear Mother + Dad, Jack and Betty.

Was glad to hear from you all. I am just fine hope yur the same. Nothing was spoiled in the box much to my supprice. Mom I got all you letters but none from Ver Jeane so write her again and tell her to write me. I haven't got any from grandmother for a long time.

I didn't see Paul but I did see to boys that know him. I got a letter from Uncel Chester after I left the states. So I didn't get to see him.

So Harryv is going to be a gunner mate. Has he made seamen 2 class yet. I have. I glad you had a swell vacation this year. I wish I was there to help eat the fish. I also glad you have a swell garden this year. I hope Chet get in the army if he won'ts in. It is to bad Unckel Dick could not get in the navy, but it may be for the best. Has the dog bit eny one this year? You know it is a yearly habet of his, ha ha.

No I don't get the palletuum [*Palladium*, local newspaper] no more. I only got two copy of it. I am not in Pearl Harbor any more. Yes, there is something I won't that is all the book and magzens you can send me. So Bob E. got married - he's nuts.

Well, I guess I answered all you quesuen + asked me so I'll sign off now.

With Heaps of Love

Bob

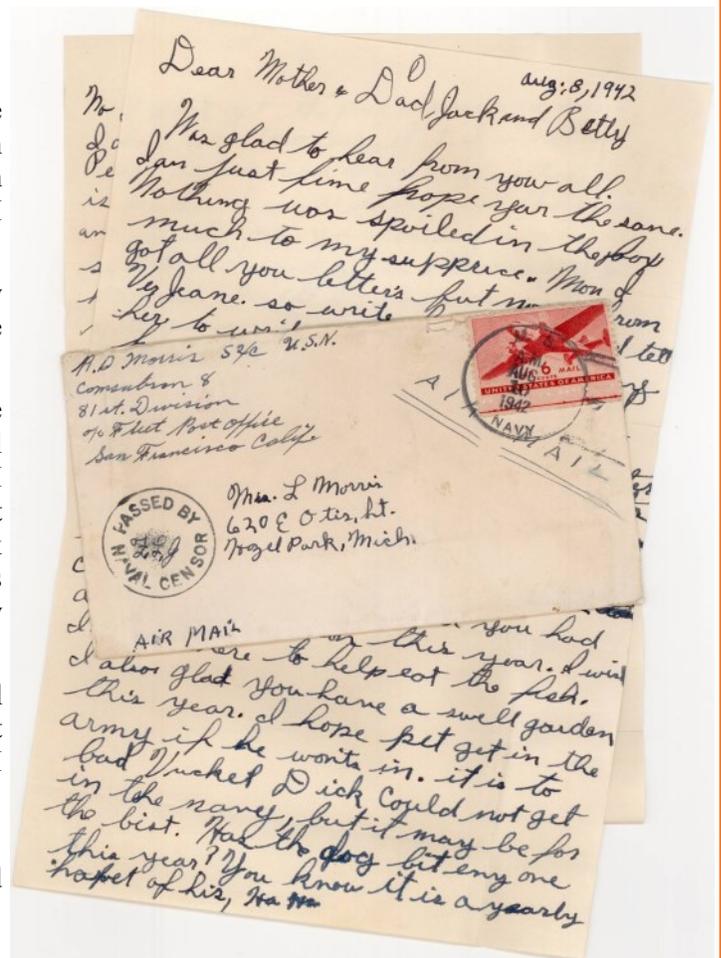
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Love and Kiss and more.

Commentary:

The narrative is replicated exactly as Bob wrote. Bob doesn't say where he is, of course, other than to comment that he is no longer at Pearl Harbor. To the outsider, his return address, ComSubRon8, 81st Division, offers no clue. Today we know that in August of 1942, Submarine Squadron 8 was headquartered in the submarine tender USS *Fulton* (AS-11) at Midway Island in the central Pacific. At that time the squadron had just one division with only three submarines assigned, *Gato*, *Greenling* and *Grouper*, all of them just a few months old.

Fulton was commissioned in September of 1941 at her building yard in northern California. Her crew was still sorting things out when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. She was sent to Panama, arriving there on 9 December. During the next month she established advanced seaplane bases in the Gulf of Fonseca, Nicaragua, and in the



Galapagos Islands, to help protect the Panama Canal. She then returned to San Diego to prepare for Pacific duty. She tended Pacific Fleet submarines at Pearl Harbor from 15 March 1942 to 8 July. She put to sea during the Battle of Midway in early June, participating in a notable rescue effort. She rendezvoused with the cruiser *Portland* and destroyer *Russell* and took aboard 101 officers and 1,790 enlisted men who had survived the sinking of the aircraft carrier *Yorktown*, which was lost during the Battle of Midway. She took the men back to Pearl Harbor.

She soon returned to Midway and helped to establish the submarine base there. The Battle of Midway was indeed the turning point of the war in the Pacific. On 17 October *Fulton* set sail for Australia, where she established an advanced base and rest camp for submariners. She spent the rest of the war at various places across the Pacific. She remained active with the Navy for another 46 years after the war ended. However, people often do not leave the historical records that ships do, and we have no information on what adventures Bob may have had in the war or the rest of his life.