

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Feb 1949)

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Blue Beach on the Lingayen Gulf (WWII)

Postal Service of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force

"BLUE BEACH" ON THE LINGAYEN GULF

By Almon J. Tripp

A letter from an Army postal clerk states that APO 70 was set up in Dagupan, Pangasinan Prov., just a few days after the invasion forces landed in "Blue Beach", January 9, 1945. This may prove to be the first APO established by the U. S. forces after the invasion of Luzon. The APU servicing it then had a personnel of 30 enlisted men (EM) and one officer. At that time the volume of mail handled by APO 70 had become so large that outside help was asked for. Fifteen civilians answered the call for office work. It is interesting to note that in this group were found professional people, such as lawyers and school teachers. There were also from 50 to 100 men helping with the manual side of the job.

After the Army had advanced to San Fernando where Base M was established in May, 1945, APO 70 was soon assigned to this location with a personnel of one officer, three EM's, and six civilians. Because the volume of mail serviced for this Army and the forces which had landed north of Subic Bay later in January amounted to from 50 to 100 outgoing bags and 500 to 1,000 incoming bags daily, the number of EM, civilian aids and laborers was gradually increased. At this time the CO of APU 503 took charge and under his guidance many improvements were made. Nearby quarters were obtained for the male employes in order to expedite the handling of the mail.

May 31, 1946 marked the inactivation of APO 70 and its new designation as APO 74-2. Its parent, APO 74, was located at nearby Clark Field which is about 60 miles northwest of Manila. Due to the decreasing number of units being served by this APU, it has now been moved to much smaller quarters among the Base M buildings, but it still retains its Money Order and Registry windows. There have been frequent changes of Postal Officers, and the number of civilian employes and laborers has decreased until at the present time there are only four Filipino civilians employed. It is an interesting fact that APO 74, Unit 2, has for its postmaster an American lady, Mrs. Helen E. Cowen. It is probably the only army post office that can claim this distinction.

Note. We can assume that the major amount of the Army mail was serviced at San Fernando for some time after the liberation of Manila on February 3, 1945, and that after the inactivation of APO 70 on May 31, 1946, many of the APU's would be returned home. This would account for the civilian workers being employed to operate APO 74-2. It may interest some to know that Dagupan was the second Luzon village liberated by the U. S. forces. The canceller stamps at this civilian post office were destroyed by the Japs and there is evidence that the local postmaster used pen and ink to cancel the mail for at least five months after D-Day, January 9, 1945.

Published for the War Cover Club by
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INTERESTING COVERS

It is hoped to make a department called "Interesting Covers" a regular feature of this BULLETIN. Members are invited to send in descriptions of covers of unusual interest in any field of war cover collecting. To give this department at least a small start the editor will describe several of his own covers.

1. Cover addressed to a member of the British Air Commission in Washington. (In regard to this mission, see December, 1948, BULLETIN.) In the upper left-hand corner is typed: "By Ferry Command - Urgent". No postage was paid and the letter apparently had the status of diplomatic or courier mail. On the back is stamped in blue: "Routed Via: /THE BRITISH AIR COMMISSION/Washington, D. C." Below this is typed: "I certify that the contents of this envelope concern official business matters only. (Signed) Burghley, Controller, American Supplies and Repair, M.A.P." Across the left end of the envelope is typed: "From: Lord Burghley, M. P., /Ministry of Aircraft Production, /Millbank, London, S. W. 1".

David Cecil, 18th Lord Burghley, whose signature appears on this cover, left the Ministry of Aircraft Production a few months later to become Governor General of Bermuda. LIFE Magazine ran a feature article on him at that time. During his student days at Oxford and for a few years afterwards, he was a famous track star. Some may recall that he won the 400 meter hurdles at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam and Los Angeles.

2. It is interesting to contrast the above cover with another in the editor's possession. This one was sent in April, 1943, from Rolls Royce, Ltd. to an official of the Packard Motor Company in Detroit. On the face is the same blue hand stamp reading: "Routed Via: THE BRITISH AIR COMMISSION/Washington, D. C." Also on the face is inscribed in manuscript: "R.A.F. Ferry Command". But this letter, coming from a private firm was opened by the censor and sealed with a common type of civilian censor label. Furthermore the cover bears two postage stamps. It does not appear to have gone through the post office, however, for the stamps are cancelled by a hand stamp reading: "M. A. P./By BAG". So the letter, after being censored, must have been sent to the Ministry of Aircraft Production which forwarded it by diplomatic or courier pouch. Do the British, like us, require letters carried "outside the mails" to bear postage, or did the Rolls Royce Company apply stamps not knowing that they might not be required? Several of these covers are in the hands of collectors.

3. The next cover takes us back many years. On the left side of its face is printed the picture of a large tent. The sides of the tent are raised. Inside are some tables and chairs and what looks like an organ. Some soldiers are sitting about engaged in reading or writing letters. From the top of the tent fly an American flag and a pennant bearing the letters Y.M.C.A. Beneath the picture we find the printed inscription: "Young Men's Christian Association Tents, /Division Encampment, /National Guard of Pennsylvania, /Mt. Gretna". The cover is postmarked Chautauqua, N. Y., May 14, 1898. It has no return address, but it can scarcely have been sent from the camp at Mt. Gretna. The sender very possibly had not used some of these covers obtained at one of the encampments, perhaps that of the previous year. The most interesting fact about this cover is that it is the earliest one on record that gives evidence of the Y.M.C.A. working with our military establishment. The Spanish-American War had started about three weeks before this letter was mailed, but I have never heard of the Y.M.C.A. functioning with our troops during that war. Does this represent only a local effort on the part of this organization at the time of a national guard encampment? When did the Y.M.C.A. first take an official and permanent interest in the welfare of the members of our armed forces?

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Mario de Sanctis. Serviço Postal de Força Expedicionária Brasileira. (Postal Service of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force). An off-print in pamphlet form of an article in Brasil Filatelico for September, 1948. 20 pp. Illustrated.

The well-known Brazilian philatelist, Dr. de Sanctis, presents a full and accurate treatment of his subject based on official documents, interviews with individuals, and a study of covers. The Army, Navy, and Air Force in Brazil itself used a number of varieties of hand-stamped frank, as free postal privilege was granted to members of the armed forces when writing to their families. The franks used on ships include the name of the ship. There were two "collecting stations" in Brazil (Correio Collector Sul, Correio Collector Norte) where mail was assembled for forwarding to the Expeditionary Force in Italy. These collecting stations had their own postmarks and censor marks. In Italy, the Expeditionary Force had two base post offices (Correio Regulador) and four field post offices (Estação Postal). Postmarks have been seen from all except the 2nd Base Post Office. Unit and base censor marks were used. (See BULLETIN for July, 1946, for illustrations of types of markings used by the B.E.F.) Covers from the Brazilian armed forces are rare. Dr. de Sanctis has seen only about fifty. This pamphlet is written in Portuguese, but with the above explanations and the illustrations it should be usable. Members can probably arrange to obtain a copy of it by writing to Dr. de Sanctis at Avenida Lins de Vasconcelos, 1837, Cambuci, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Alfred Clement. Die Feldpost des zweiten Weltkrieges. Vienna, 1948, pp. 40. Illustrated.

The most comprehensive and authoritative treatment of the subject that has appeared. Collectors of Feldpost covers will find it valuable for identifying the place of origin of postmarks, periods of usage, and so on. A copy may be obtained from the author for sixty cents. Address: Heinrichstrasse 27/1, Graz, Austria. An effort is being made to have this publication obtainable from the secretary of the Club.

Carl W. Ehlerding. The Mail of German Prisoners of War in Japanese Camps, 1914-20. Published by Erich Haide, (24a) Balje uber Stade, British Zone, Germany. 1949. \$3.00 (Order directly from publisher, but send money to Fritz Billig, 16839 Highland Avenue, Jamaica 3, New York.) 9 pages of text and 4 of illustrations.

A detailed study of these scarce covers. Also included is an introduction to the understanding of Japanese postmarks.

Military Posts, Camps and Stations in the Continental United States, December, 1948. Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C.

The latest edition of a publication that has been appearing periodically.

One of our members, Ralph Freiberg, a specialist in U. S. naval covers, states that he can identify most of the Navy numbers used during the past few years. If any of our members want to know where certain of their numbered naval postmarks come from, Mr. Freiberg will be glad to help them out. His address is 4142 26th Street, San Francisco 14, Calif. (Enclose return postage. Ed.)

 INFORMATION WANTED

Mr. A. J. Tripp, who is compiling for us a history of all the ALP's, has submitted a long list of APO's about which little or nothing is known. We publish this list below. You will contribute a welcome co-operation if you will check your covers against this list and report to Mr. Tripp covers that appear to have passed through any of these APO's. His address is 16533 Mendota Avenue, Detroit 21, Mich. The following information will be particularly helpful: 1) complete unit designation and the APO number given in the return address, and 2) the date of the postmark.

APO 12 (before May '45), 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22 (before '45), 39, 47, 48,
 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 60, 67, 68, 87, 97, 106, 107, 108, 111, 116, 120, 123, 142, 177,
 185, 186, 188, 189, 190, 191, 202, 221, 222, 223, 224, 232, 233, 237, 266, 294, 296,
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 583, 584, 585, 586, 588, 590, 592, 593, 596, 597, 598, 599, 609, 611, 612, 614, 617,
 625, 626, 628, 631, 642, 651, 652, 653, 657, 659, 661, 664, 665, 666, 669, 670, 672,
 673, 674, 679, 681, 685 (early dates wanted on all 680's), 686, 691, 693, 694, 699,
 722, 723, 724, 725, 727, 730, 733, 734, 735, 737, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 753,
 754, 759, 760, 761, 762, 764, 765, 769, 770, 771, 773, 774, 775, 776, 778, 779, 781,
 783, 784, 786, 791, 792, 793, 818, 820, 821, 822, 823, 840, 844, 860, 866, 870, 878,
 884, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 896, 898, 899, 904, 905, 911, 916, 918, 921, 931,
 933, 934, 945, 967, 972, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 982, 983, 984, 985, 988, 989,
 990, 991, 992, 993, 996, 998.

New Addresses:

234 - Jesse B. Thomas. 107 State Street, Albany 7, New York.

211 - Wm. J. Cipolli. 950 S. Berendo Street, Los Angeles, California.

NEW YORK MEETING

There will be a one-day meeting of all members of the War Cover Club who can get to New York City on March 26th. This will be a continuation of the Fall meeting and will be similar in character. It is not limited to members who live in New York but is for all who can get there. The meeting will be held at the Collector's Club. Bring duplicates and plan to have a good-get-together.

IMPORTANT

The Club will hold another auction but not for the Club. However, the Club will retain the usual 20% fee that all Auction Houses charge. Usual auction rules will prevail. This means you can put a reserve on your items if you wish but it will be so noted on the auction list. The bids will be open not later than April 25th. Lots will be on display at the New York City meeting March 26th. Therefore, get your material to H. K. Robinson, 315 Mulry Lane, Lawrence, N. Y., very quickly. Robinson will probably appreciate it if you write up a description of your own lots but make it brief or he will have to use the blue pencil. Auction lists will be mailed to all members at a later date. If you have any GOOD material you can't use but that you want to dispose of, now is the time to do it - get the lots to Robinson soon.

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Some of our members are apparently unaware of the opportunities offered by our Sales Department to acquire and dispose of covers. During the past three years the Sales Department has done a very flourishing business, handling many thousands of covers. If you are one of those who have never made use of this Department, you are urged to communicate with the sales manager, M. R. Baggett, 1615 North McDowell Street, Charlotte 6, North Carolina.

It is desired to have a showing of war covers at the exhibition to be held this spring at Bellingham, Wash., in connection with the meeting of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. There should be several members who could send exhibits. For further information communicate with D. C. Bartley, 6035 8th Ave., N.E., Seattle 5, Wash.

The WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR for November 2nd illustrates a cover from H.M.S. Hobart with a special Tokyo, Japan, Surrender Day marking (September 2, 1945). This we believe is an Australian ship. There were other ships of the British Empire serving with our fleet at the time of the occupation of Japan. Did they too follow the example of their American allies by applying special cachets to their covers, - a (for them) daring innovation? Perhaps our British members can throw some light on this subject.