

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Jan 1947)

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List of Index Items for This Publication

Bibliography for War Cover Collectors (WWI)

Typing Some Common APO Handstamps

Bibliography for War Cover Collectors

TYPING SOME COMMON A.P.O. HANDSTAMPS

By Michael R. Baggett

(For illustrations to accompany this article, see page 5.)

What seems to be the most puzzling problem in typing APO postmarks is trying to determine the differences in the handstamps that are most commonly used of all such postmarks. Up to the present the writer has seen no serious attempt at solving the problem, nor a listing of types which contained examples of all the major types of handstamps to be discussed below. In the type charts and listings seen, these handstamps are passed over as being either too many to type properly and still avoid confusion for the average APO collector, or too minor in differences to be given a major type number. The BULLETIN has listed and illustrated four of the five types to be considered, but only as varieties and with no attempt to distinguish between the different types as revealed in the spacing between the top inscription "U. S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE" and the letters "A. P. O." at the bottom. Each of the five types can be readily differentiated without the aid of any measuring device and without comparison to the original, once one has worked with them for any length of time. All of them when first put into service are the same size in diameter of dial, but as the result of constant use and for other reasons they may become enlarged and distorted, though never to the extent that the differences cannot be recognized.

These types are perhaps the most widely used of all the handstamps. At least one or more of them was used at every Army Post Office. Some offices over a period of time use all five types, i. e. APO 9. All of them were put into service the last few months of 1942 or early in 1943, during the time when all Army Postal Units had orders to refrain from using the APO number in the postmark. Consequently the first ones appear without such a number.

In Fig. 1 is pictured the most common type of all APO postmarks, which is listed as A48 and A49 in the Club's provisional type chart. The earliest date seen by the writer is August 26, 1942, from APO 1 which about that time was stationed in Scotland in preparation for the invasion of North Africa. This type does not again appear on covers from APO 1 until the late years of the war, which would lead us to believe that it was part of the equipment used by an APU based in Scotland which temporarily handled the mail of the 1st Division while it was at that location. No doubt there is an earlier date, but it is safe to say that its first use was in the month of August.

The type shown in Fig. 2 is listed in the WCC chart as A46 and seems to have the earliest date of use (in the writer's collection) of any of the five, appearing at APO 813 in Northern Ireland on August 20th 1942. Because of the proximity in dates, there is a possibility that both Figs. 1 and 2 were put into use at the same time. The physical differences between these two postmarks can be readily seen; there is a wide space between the letters "A. P. O." and in the inscription "U. S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE".

The third type, seen in Fig. 3, has been illustrated before as type number A47. In the original listing, the only difference brought out between types A46 and A47 was the addition of an APO number, but, as can be noted, while the upper inscription is approximately the same, the letters in "A. P. O." are much wider spaced. Although the earliest date seen is at APO 305 in the British Isles, its use was concentrated largely in the Italian Theater. For a long period it was the sole type of postmark for the majority of stationary APO's in that sector.

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Two varieties of the type shown in Fig. 4 have been listed in the WCC chart: A47b and A65, the former with the error spelling SERVICE and the latter with the number appearing outside the dial. The earliest date seen, from APO 880, is November 26, 1942.

The last type, Fig. 5, is the orphan of the group. No illustration of it has been seen in any type listing, but nevertheless it can be readily identified. It too appeared at an early date, at APO 9 on January 7, 1943, but was used at only a few APO's until the year 1945. At that time many new numbers were established in the Pacific Theater and at each this type was most used. Gradually as the old types became worn out at older APO's in this and other areas, they were replaced with the new type, so that it became fairly common.

All of these types have been seen in postmarks of much larger variations in size, but to try to segregate and list them would make any typing system too complicated for practical use. Therefore to simplify matters, it has been suggested that the letter "L" be added to any of the forementioned types when the difference in size is enough to be noticeable.

All dates given above are on covers in the writer's collection. He would appreciate seeing covers with earlier dates for any of these types.

An additional type of V-Mail cover must be recorded. It is of white paper and slightly larger than the ordinary V-Mail covers, measuring $4 \frac{15}{16}$ by $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inches. It is the type that has a small window on the lower right side, the so-called "return to sender" type. In the upper left corner is printed NAVY DEPARTMENT/V-MAIL SERVICE. Some V-Mail that could not be delivered to Navy personnel was apparently sent to Washington for directory service and then returned to sender in these envelopes. They bear the postmark of the Fleet Post Office in Washington.

The U. S. Army Air Forces had stations on South Caicos, Great Exuma, and Mayaguana Islands in the Bahamas. None had post offices. Their official address was: c/o Squadron "H", Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida. The Air Force detachment at Ciudad Trujillo, D. R., was known as APO 845, Det. B, but its mail was cancelled at APO 845. (D. W. Musser)

BRANCH APO's. The following additional numbers have been reported: 2F, 106A, 244.3, 246.1, 375C, 521.1, 532R, 709.2, 761.R, 803B, 828T.

Little or nothing of an authoritative nature has been published about the postal service and markings directly connected with certain U. S. wars and military enterprises. Perhaps there is little more to be told about some of our early military involvements because of the rudimentary character of postal facilities and because there is very little material to work on. We give the following list of such subjects about which a certain amount of interesting information could be assembled, with the hope that some of our members will be moved to investigate them: Civil War; Northern armies; Spanish American War; Cuban and Puerto Rican campaigns, naval markings, military camps; Mexican Border Expedition, 1916; World War I: Navy shore establishments, civilian censorship.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WAR COVER COLLECTORS

This bibliography which is being started in this issue will be continued from time to time. It will list important books and articles of interest to collectors in the various fields of war cover collecting. Contributions are requested of bibliographical items which would not ordinarily come to the attention of the editors, especially books and articles appearing in foreign countries.

ABBREVIATIONS

(To be used hereafter)

- Amer. Phil. -- The American Philatelist. Mekeel's -- Mekeel's Weekly.
- Cyc. -- Cyclopedia of U. S. Postmarks and Postal History, by Delf Norona. W.S.C. - Western Stamp Collector.
2 vols., 1933-1935.
- Phil. Adv. -- The Philatelic Adviser. W.C.P. -- War Cover Philatelist.

GENERAL

A. E. Glasewald. Die Post im Kriege. Gösnitz, 1914. (All European wars from 17th century to Balkan War, 1913. Most colonial expeditions of European powers. Cuban Insurrections, Brazil-Paraguay War, Chile-Peru War, Spanish-American War, Boxer Rebellion. No other U. S. wars.)

WORLD WAR I

General.

F. J. Carter. Prisoner of War Postal Service, 1914-1920. (England, ca. 1930. 2nd ed., ca. 1934). Privately printed. Illustrations for marks of many countries.

Stéphane Strowski. Les Estampilles Postales de la Grande Guerre. Amiens, ca. 1924. (Marks of Belgian, British, U. S., Russian, Italian, Portuguese armies used in France. List of prison camps in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, with their marks. Austrian, Turkish, Bulgarian prisoner markings.)

U. S. Army and Navy.

Anonymous. Archangel. The American War With Russia. By a Chronicler. Chicago, 1924. (Good factual account, with maps.)

Joseph F. Buck. The Yanks Are Writing. A General History of the A. E. F. Postal Service. In Amer. Phil., XLVIII, 8 (June 1935), 445-457.

Eugene Carey. Blue Envelopes and Honour Envelopes of the A.E.F. In STAMPS, March 29, 1941.

F. J. Carter. Remarks on the Prison Camp in East Siberia Under American Control. W.C.P., II, 8 (Jan. 1939), 3-4.

H. A. Coleman. U. S. Army Post Offices Overseas. New Philadelphia, Ohio, 1930. 2nd (limited) ed., revised and enlarged. N. p., 1931.

Gen. William S. Graves. America's Siberian Adventure, 1918-1920. New York, 1931. (Mostly a defense of the commanding general's political policies.)

Joseph M. Hale. Handbook of Naval Postmarks, 1908 to Date. Boston, 1936, 1939.

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- Milton B. Hunt. Check List of Camps and Forts in the U. S. (1917-18). In W.C.P., I, 1 (Jan. 1938), 3-7; I, 2 (Feb. 1938), 15-16.
- _____ . The A. E. F. in North Russia. In W.C.P., II, 8 (Jan. 1939), 5, 11-12.
- _____ . (with D. Norona). The Blue "Honor" Envelope. In W.C.P., II, 11, (Sept. 1939), 33-38.
- _____ . The A. E. F. Brigaded With the British. In W.C.P., I, 2 (Feb. 1938), 11-12.
- R. G. Mathes. Slogan Cancellations of the World War. In STAMPS, Oct. 21, 1939.
- H. M. Metzger. The A. E. F. in Siberia. In Amer. Phil., LIII, 8 (May 1940), 505-09.
- M. Miller. U. S. Military Post Offices in Europe. In Amer. Phil., XL, 9 (June 1927).
- W. H. Montgomery. Soldiers' Ballot Voted By Mail. In W.C.P., II, 8 (Jan. 1939), 10.
- Delf Norona. Circular A. E. F. Censor Marks. In Amer. Phil., XLVI, 2, 3 (Nov., Dec. 1932).
- _____ . Naval Censor Marks of the World War (1917-18). In Cyc. I, art. 6.
- _____ . U. S. Marine Expeditionary Forces in the West Indies (1917-19). In W.C.P., I, 2 (Feb. 1938), 9.
- _____ . Censoring Foreign (Civilian) Mail. In W.C.P., I, 2 (Feb. 1938), 13-14.
- _____ . Postmarks and Censor Marks of the A. E. F. in Siberia. In W.C.P., II, 7 (Nov. 1938), 1-2.
- _____ . Latest Use of an A. E. F. Postmark. In W.C.P., II, 10 (May 1939), 1, 28.
- _____ . Hand-Stamped Franks of the A. E. F. In Amer. Phil., LIII, 6 (March 1940), 400-01.
- _____ . U. S. World War Delayed Mail Marking ("A" Series). In W.C.P., III, 14 (June 1940), 14, to IV, 21 (March 1942), 47-54.
- _____ . U. S. World War Corner Cards. Flags. In W.C.P., III, 14 (June 1940), 16.
- _____ . The 1918 Christmas Package Coupon. In W.C.P., IV, 18 (June 1941), 24.
- _____ . U. S. Naval Corner Cards. In W.C.P., IV, 19 (Sept. 1941) 32.
- _____ . Handstamped Franks on U. S. World War Covers. In W.C.P., V, 24 (Oct. 1943) 11-12, and supplement.
- H. M. Sanford. The Mail of the A. E. F. N. p., 1941. (Published serially in Amer. Phil., March 1938 - April 1939. List of APO's. Bibliography.)

NEW MEMBERS

- 241 T. Earl Van Sickle, Jr., Cranford, N.J. V-Mail, British airgraphs.
- 242 J. C. Wheat, 2222 Carroll Park, Bay City, Mich. Censor markings all wars.
- 243 Charles H. Grounds, 1 Columbia Place, Albany, N. Y. Censored Civilian
W.W. 11
- 244 Dr. W. D. Peer, Box 23 Canal Winchester, Ohio. APO Canceled Patriotics.
- 245 Lester L. Browning, PO Box 2, Natchez, Miss. P.O.W. and Censored.
- 246 Eugene Jagger, 10 Kings Rd., Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Eng. APOS of all wars
and all countries - U.S. Preferred.



Fig. 1.

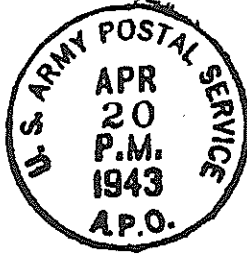


Fig. 2.

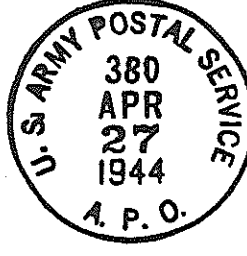


Fig. 3.

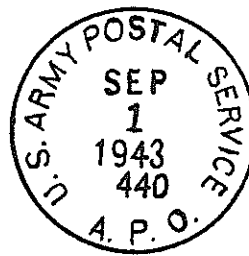


Fig. 4.

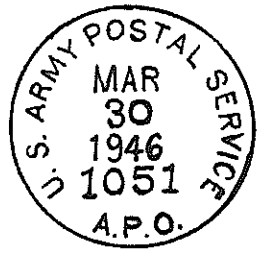


Fig. 5.

Illustrations for article TYPING SOME COMMON APO HANDSTAMPS



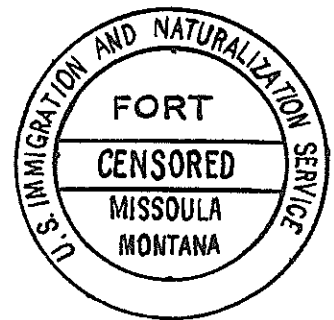
A72



A104



A73



K103

Censored
GENERAL OFFICER'S MAIL

MAJOR GENERAL, U. S. A.

H80

CENSORED
U S
A R M Y
A I R
C O R P S .

H81

GENERAL OFFICER'S MAIL

H82

IT IS REGRETTED THIS ITEM
COULD NOT BE DELIVERED AS
THE ADDRESSEE HAS BEEN REPORTED
MISSING IN ACTION

H83

This V - Mail letter could not be
photographed because
Enclosure in the envelope
Kindly advise your correspondents

1.

RECEIVED IN NEW YORK
PRIOR TO 1 DECEMBER
AND HELD FOR APPROPRIATE
CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

2.

THIS V MAIL COULD NOT BE PHOTOGRAPHED
MESSAGE SHEET MUTILATED

3.

*Micro-Filming Process
Discontinued*

4.

RETURN TO SENDER
SERVICE SUSPENDED
TO THIS ORGANIZATION

5.

MISSING IN ACTION

6.