

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Jan 1958)

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

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

List of Index Items for This Publication

AEF WW I Low Number APOs

Marine Corps, History of

History of Marine Corps (to WWII)

Military Sea Transportation Service (1950s)

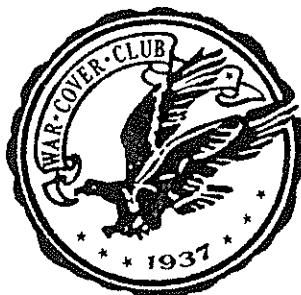
WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN
 Edited by Kevin P. Rogan, R.N.
 2 William Street
 Napanoch, New York

HARDY

NEW YEAR

January 1958

Whole No. 9

FLIGHTOF IDEAS

Well, where shall we begin? As soon as one bulletin is at the printers, I start the next column. I like to get the info down on paper before I forget it. It is not yet Christmas, but I don't know when you will be reading these beginning words.

Helen R. Fairbanks writes from Dept. of Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Wash. 25, D.C. that they have no list of C.B.'s with their locations that they could give us. The info is not restricted, so if you have one or two hard to locate CB covers, drop her a line, and I feel that she will cooperate. Received this info:

74 NCB - December 1943 - Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.
 1005 NCB - July 1943 - Bizerte, Tunisia.
 501 CBMU - September 1944 - Emirau, St. Mathias Islands.
 502 CBMU - May 1945 - Emirau, St. Mathias Islands, Assg'd Guam.
 CBMU stands for Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit.

Note from Ray Milling in Japan with the latest on Unit numbers on AP0 500. These unit indicators refer to T-9 all purpose cancels:
 No Unit # in cancel - Hardy Brks. Unit #1 - Pershing Heights
 Unit #2 - Camp Drake. Unit #3 - T.Q.M.C. (Tokyo Quartermaster Center)
 Unit #4 - 29th Engrs. Unit #5 - Hotel Gajo - En.
 Unit #6 - A.S.A. Unit #7 - Tokyo Army Hospital.
 Unit #8 - Tokyo Ordnance Depot. Unit #9 - Washington Heights.
 Unit #10 - Grant Heights. Unit #11 - Hardy Brks. Unit #12 - Camp Drake.
 Machine cancels and regular hand stamps are maintained only at the main office - Hardy Brks. and Camp Drake. Units 9 and 10 are temporary Christmas rush units at the housing areas from Oct. 15th to Dec. 15th. At other times these units are used at Hardy Brks. and Camp Drake. Ray mentions, in reminiscing on the long history of APO 500, that back in 1950-51 that PX - BR., DAI-ICHI-Br. and FINANCE Br. were spelled out in the names of regular hand stamps in use at that time at APO 500 branches. These locations have been returned to their Japanese owners. During the Korean War another was in the Mitsubishi Building which perhaps was the main office. That building has also been returned to the Japanese owners.

WANTED

U. N. E. F. IN EGYPT COVERS
 COVERS FROM RECENT SUEZ CAMPAIGN

MISS BETTY V. MILLER 108 WEST IVY STREET

WANTED

BRITISH, FRENCH AND EGYPTIAN
 KOREAN WAR COVERS

EAST ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Did you know that there was a New Jersey out in Illinois? It's near Oak Park. Mother and son fine..father Stan a "wreck".

USAREUR (US Army Rear (Hq) Europe) anticipates 5 million pounds of mail to the U.S. in this Yule season. USAREUR is located in Heidelberg, Germany I believe.

Arthur Lewandowski, 845 Intervale Ave., New York 59, N.Y. has for sale a recently issued handbook "The History of the R.A.F. Postal Service Overseas 1942-1957." The author: John A. Smith, and the price is \$1.00.

Article in recent WSC tells of experience Pfc. Churchman had since his address was mentioned in WSC and WCC papers. He is located in Libya. "A gent from Philadelphia wanted an Int'l Reply card (USA) mailed from Libyan P.O. I obligingly typed his address on the card and trotted it down to the GPO. They wanted nothing to do with it. "Non bonno" was the term the clerk used. I scratched my return address on it and threw it in the box outside, and said a prayer. It hasn't come back to me so it must have been delivered." Your editor believes this was delivered to member James Russell with an APO cancel on it. Cover is in my collection right now.

The above brings about to mind something that you can help me write up, and that is side stories in securing covers. You must have some covers valuable to you only, because of some interesting incident. PLEASE write it up and drop me a line. I will publish it in WCC Bulletin.

It seems to me I heard of A. J. Tripp locating some serviceman and helping to bring a family back together through a cover. He was the in-between-man. I remember Bill Cippoli looking all over for a cover that would have a U.S. APO on a British stamp--legitimate use. He tried all over and finally located one back in England a few years ago. It happened to be one HE sent while he was in England years ago. During the Korean War I was writing to fictitious persons at various APO's in Korea and they would be returned to me with APO cancels on the back. One fictitious person happened to be real and in the Netherland Army. We carried on a correspondence for quite a while, after he wrote to me trying to figure out where WE met!!

WORLD WAR I U. S. NAVY POSTMARKS

INCLUDED IN A COLLECTION I BOUGHT RECENTLY ARE QUITE A FEW DUPLICATE SHIPS. THESE ARE ALL OFFICIAL PENALTY ENVELOPES: MANY CENSORED. DESIRE TO TRADE, BUT WILL SELL THEM FOR \$1.50 EACH IF CANNOT TRADE THEM. CDR. H.F. ROMMEL, NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, R.I.

WAR COVERS 1914-18, 1939-45, INDOCHINA, KOREA, NORTH AFRICA, MILITARY, NAVALS, AVIATION, AUTHENTIC "DUNKERQUE'S", W.P. IN SWITZERLAND, RED CROSS MAIL, FDC, MAXIMUM CARDS, DIFF. U.N. CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND, FRENCH STAMPS CANCELLED MILITARY POST U.S.A. SINGLE AND IN LOTS.

KANDAOUROFF, 27 RUE DES MARTYRS, PARIS 9, FRANCE.
SPECIALIST OF THIS TYPE.

Who has covers from London's Mobile Emergency P.O. #1? I heard of one cancelled "LPR/London CO/Mobile PO/No. 1" (FDC 8/8/41)

When you send to the Philatelic Agency, PO Dept, Washington 25, DC, the return postage and handling is figured as follows: up to 100 stamps cost you five cents, up to 300 stamps 10 cents etc.

When was the term "U.N." first used?

16th C.B. at 8090 Navy, Tarawa.

Don Storms lives at Box 113, Dania, Florida.

Notes on recently received APO's..347 c/o Seattle 8/21/57; 352 c/o New York Sept. 1957; 352 c/o Seattle ended up at 743 and 403 in Sept. 1957 c/o New York; 355 c/o Seattle ended up S.F. with marks of 135 and 503 dated Sept. 1957.

U.S.C.S. National Convention to be held JUNE 28th and 29th, 1958 at Parker House, Boston, Mass. See you there.

Who has some covers from the affair in Oman? The British had the Cameronian Highlander troops there, also British led Trucial Oman Scouts.

Reinhold Krugel, Dusseldorf-Oberkassel, Wildenbruchstr. 43, GERMANY, sends out a pamphlet that offers many German covers fairly cheap. Covers from 19th century to date. Quite a few war covers.

THE GERMAN POSTAL SPECIALIST is near 10 years old. Sec-Treas is Jubert J. Stadlmayr, 2023 W. Oak, Fullerton, Calif. Looking over the list of articles of 1950-55 I see Feldpost forgeries IV 60, WW II Dienstpost II 57, France Occupation II 105, Feldpost Ruhr 1945 V 86, Tsingtau Provisionals II 81, Tunis Feldpost IV 80, WW II Army Corps VI 72, and many other articles of interest to WCC collectors,

I see where Richard B. Graham, 259 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus 14, Ohio is preparing a list of PRE-1908 NAVAL COVERS. He recently started an article in USCS. Send him all info on your covers, especially Civil and Span. Amer. wars.

It is now CAPTAIN H. F. Rommel. Congrats!!

I see where Win Grandy was exhibit chairman of the Connecticut Philatelic Society 10th Anniversary Exhibition held in New Haven the last of September.

Let's restore October 27th as NAVY DAY. Write to your congressmen and tell them your feelings.

On 2/13/57 the USS BOSTON (CAG-I) made the first firing of a guided missile in the Mediterranean from an American warship,

USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571) recently returned from within 180 miles of the North Pole. 5½ days she was submerged, exploring under the Arctic ice pack. Out of contact with the outer world for 74 hours.

P. H. Robbs, 8 Ridgway Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants, ENGLAND, proposes the founding of an international organization for the collecting of AERIAL PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS. Annual subscription of ten shillings sterling to Mr. Robbs will make you a founder.

FPHS newsletter #27 has an article on Air Dropped Propaganda leaflets 1918-53 by John C. W. Field.

German Postal Specialist, Nov. '57 has an article by Lt. Col. Halle on phony Dachau stamps and miniature sheets.

KOREAN WAR N.Z. MILITARY POSTAL SERVICES 1950-57 by R.M. Startup is successor to "The Mails Went Through". Price \$1.25. (Cont'd on page 110)

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES W.W. #1- (Low Numbers) A.P.O.'s
by ISADORE WILLINGER

Prior to the declaration of war by the United States against the Central Powers on April 8, 1917, plans had been made for an agency to supply postal service to American Troops abroad. Such an agency was established in June 1917, two months after the formal declaration of war.

In July of that year, in accordance with the approved plan, and in co-operation with the directing officials of the A.E.F., Post Offices were innagurated at St. Nazarre, and Headquarters for the Postal Agency located in Paris, France. Gradually, additional Army Post Offices were activated until one hundred and twenty were in operation. All offices were staffed by civilian personnel who handled Mail, Registry, Money Orders, Stamps and Parcel Post.

At the outset, stamps were required on all first class mail from the A.E.F. For this purpose, the Post Office Department issued special thirty stamp panes of the one cent and two cent denominations, to facilitate handling at the A.P.O.'s. However, in less than three weeks, on July 18th, General Order 15 provided for "F.M." franking in lieu of postage in the French Postal Service. Free franking was almost immediately recognized and accepted by our Army Post Offices. Consequently, very few covers with postage stamps affixed are known to exist. Other known frankings of that period include: "Soldier's Mail on U.S. Service", "Soldier's Mail on Active Service", and "O.A.S."

The majority of the Post Offices were attached to units on active service, consequently it was found necessary to take precautions against military information such as troop movements and their locations, from accidentally or otherwise reaching enemy hands. Two types of censorship of mail were instituted: Censorship of mail by each unit, and by the base censor. In addition, the use of A.P.O. numbers in lieu of names as had formerly been the practice.

The earliest numbers assigned to A.P.O.'s were 1 to 6, with numbers 7 to 18 being added shortly thereafter. These are referred to as the "low number provisionals", and were in use until September 1917. Subsequently the 1 to 18 were replaced with a series of numbers starting at 701. That there are a few covers known to exist bearing the 1 to 18 numbers, but postmarked after September 1917 can be attributed to the fact that all such cancellations had not been replaced immediately, and since they were the only ones available, they were used until they were replaced.

Two types of cancellations were in use: Type A-1 (a rubber hand stamp) and Type A-9 (a steel hand stamp). Type numbers A-1 and A-9 have been taken from the War Cover Club listing. The Type chart which classifies the various types of A.P.O. Postmarks is credited to the research and efforts of Delf Norona.

The chart reproduced below indicates the early and late dates of all known existing numbers on cover. Although none of number 8 and 10 of Type A-1, and none of numbers 4, 13, 16 and 17 of Type A-9 have come to light to date, it is quite possible they may be reposing in someones collections. The offices using those A.P.O. numbers may have been in operation but a short time, but it is unlikely that no mail at all was cancelled.

A.E.F. Army Post Offices (Low Numbers)

Type A-1

Number	Early Date	Late Date	Censor	Location
1	Aug. 17, 1917	Sept. 29, 1917	41--63	St. Nazaire
2	Sept. 11, 1917	June 13, 1918	39-757	Paris
3	Aug. 4, 1917	Aug. 19, 1917	1--3	Gondrecourt
4	Aug. 10, 1917	Dec. 5, 1917	38--42	Le Valdebon
5	Sept. 15, 1917	Nov. 15, 1917	69--99	Bordeaux
6	Sept. 3, 1917	Sept. 15, 1917	59--30	Chaumont
7	Nov. 15, 1917	Mar. 11, 1918	2007--2671	Mailly
8	None			Nevers
9	Aug. 28, 1917	-----	15	Neufchateaux
10	None			Beaumont

Type A-9

1	Oct. 5, 1917	Dec. 28, 1917	40-Base Censor #2	St. Nazaire
2	Oct. 25, 1917	Dec. 17, 1917	26-Base Censor #2	Paris
3	Nov. 6, 1917	Dec. 15, 1917	-----	Gondrecourt
4	None	-----	-----	Le Valdebon
5	Nov. 21, 1917	Mar. 15, 1918	? -- 1425	Bordeaux
6	Oct. 20, 1917	Nov. 21, 1917	22--219	Chaumont
7	Oct. 24, 1917	Nov. 18, 1917	112-113	Mailly
8	May 14, 1918	-----	1313	Nevers
9	Oct. 18, 1917	Dec. 26, 1917	145--180	Neufchateaux
10	Oct. 18, 1917	Dec. 11, 1917	174--15	Beaumont
11	Nov. 9, 1917	Dec. 21, 1917	149-146	Coetquidan
12	-----	Sept. 4, 1918	-----	Is-sur-Tille
13	None			Gievres
14	Dec. 12, 1917	-----	108	Langres
15	Nov. 24, 1917	Jan. 6, 1918	None--203	Vancouleurs
16	Dec. 1, 1917	-----	-----	Brest
17	None			Tours
18	-----	Dec. 3, 1917	-----	Saumur

The above check list has been compiled with the assistance of Harvey Crowell of Pittsfield, Mass., who has perhaps the largest collection of these covers in the Country. Others who have helped are: Rev. H.K. Robinson, William Cipolli, Philip Baker and M. Hertzberg.

It will be appreciated if any member who has numbered covers not on this list will advise the writer, on what he has. It can safely be said that all of these 1 to 18 series covers are extremely scarce, and in addition, the envelopes used were generally of poor quality, so that covers in fine condition are most difficult to get.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Cont'd from page 108)

At this time I would like to ask all my overseas correspondents to use AIR LETTER SHEETS when writing to me. Many members save these interesting items and I pass them on after noting letter for the BULLETIN.

FRENCH INDO CHINA WAR. April 1953 Communists invaded Laos territory. In Jan. 1954 the communists started a new drive in force against the French in Dienbienpu. May 1954, Dienbienpu taken. Communists move toward Hanoi. July 1954, truce. Viet Nam divided at 17th parallel. These are a few dates. WHO could write up a short history of this war for us?

(Continued on pg. 115)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Am very sorry to announce that Honorary Member Eva Gray has passed on. Eva Gray was one of the group that originally founded the Club, Miss Gray had served in the Army Nurses Corps during W.W. #1.

The Auction sale was supposed to have been included in this issue, but due to pressure of other business, we had to postpone the sale for the next issue, for which we feel regretful.

Also in the next issue will appear an article by Derek Palmer, "The War of the Pacific", which in my opinion I consider one of the finest articles ever to be written.

We are planning to hold a meeting of the New York City and vicinity members on February 1st, at the Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th St., N.Y.C. The meeting usually starts at 1 P.M. Those members who plan to attend, please bring an album to show.

New Members

- No. 388 - Mortimer DeGroot, 1930 Grand Concourse, New York 57, N.Y.
Collects A.E.F. W.W. #1
- No. 389 - William Sasscer, 35-05 - 94th St., Jackson Heights 72, N.Y.
Collects U.S. F.D.C. Navals, 1st Flights, Cam, Fam, H.P.O. U.N.
- No. 390 - Dr. Henry G. Cody, 340 State St., Bridgeport 3, Conn.
Collects France & Colonies War Covers, P.O.W. - U.S. & Possessions.

The Secretary has for sale several lots of W.W. #2 A.P.O. covers, 1000 covers in each lot. The condition is generally fine, with a large variety of different numbers. And the price is quite reasonable. For further particulars contact the sec.

DECEASED

Honorary Member - Eva Gray
Member No. 172 - John Dickel

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ETC. FOR LOAN. ADDRESS YOUR EDITOR.

- Polish Post 7 Years War 1939-45 H. M. Smith.
- Post Office, New York, Albert Goldman, Postmaster, During War Years.
- Check List of Swiss Camps. Burge Thomas (On loan)
- War Stamps of Allies 1914-20 Armetrong & Greenwood.
- Catalog Timbres de la Guerre. Locher
- APO Cover Catalogue. Engel.
- Mail Service Manual US Navy 1945, Corrected to 1952.
- The Army Mail Service, PO Dept. 1942.
- Adj. General's Field Manual, Army Postal Service 1943, Corr. to April 1944.
- Philately of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902. Stephen Rich.
- Michel's Kriegemarken-Katalog 1920.
- List of Propaganda Leaflets of Burma. Charles Molnar.
- List of Concerns holding permits to reproduce and distr. V Mail Sheets.
- Deutschen Feldpost, 13th Century to 1914. Alfred Clement.
- Deutschen Feldpost, 1937 to 1945. Alfred Clement.
- The Mail of the A.E.F., 1917 - 1921. Hennen M. Sanford.
- Militar-Luftpost 1793-1954 Alfred Clement.
- Warships at work. A.C.Hardy. 1940
- File of WCC Bulletins arranged as to subject.
- File of WCC Bulletins arranged chronologically.
- Fighting Divisions. Short histories of US Army Divisions. WW II.
- History of AF Postal Service, 1942-57. John A. Smith.
- WCC APO Location List. Tripp
- WCC Type Chart APO postmarks. Bennett & Baggett.

Glossary of US Naval Abbreviations. Navy Dept.
 The Mails Went Through. R.M. Startup. History of N.Z. Mails WWII, Korea
 Korea, 1950. Dept. of Army.
 Korea, 1951-53. Dept. of Army.
 Sunset Div. WWI. History of 116th Eng.
 British Army FPO 1939-50. Crouch and Hill.
 Zensur stempel, streifen und zettel in Deutschland & Osterreich ab 1945, by
 Curt Paul, Karl-Marx Stadt, Germany, Rudolph Harlass Str. 61 111
 Airgraphs, by Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton, Coldfield, England.
 List of Camp Locations in Australia, WW II. (On loan)
 History of Marine Divisions, Marine Corps. (On loan)

The above marked (On loan) have been out for a long time. Please return to your editor as soon as possible. There are others waiting for them. Thanks. P.S. Please send postage. Many of these items belong to the Club, and others to your Editor. Do YOU have something to add to this lending library?

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Written during WW II.

On November 10, 1775, the Continental Marines were authorized, and in the year following, a Marine detachment effected a landing on NEW PROVIDENCE in the BAHAMAS, beginning a tradition of amphibious operations that was to carry them ashore more than 180 times in the next century and a half. Major Samuel Nicholas, first Commandant, led his men ashore and captured enemy forts and large quantities of materiel badly needed by the Colonists.

Marines continued to fight the battles of the Revolution. One battalion reinforced General Washington after his retreat across New Jersey and was with him at Princeton. Many Marines served as marksmen in the fighting tops of the Yankee sailing vessels. A Marine aboard the Bon Homme Richard is credited with throwing the grenade that set off powder in the hold of the Serapis, giving John Paul Jones the victory in that famous sea engagement of the Revolution.

Historians have said that at no time in the country's history were the Marines more valuable or their esprit de corps more noticeable than during the Revolution. Trained rifle shots, they worked the tops of the American vessels, picking off the gunners of opposing British ships. However, like the Navy, they were disbanded shortly after the end of the war.

It was not until 1798 that President John Adams approved an Act of Congress establishing the Corps again. It was patterned after the Royal Marines of Great Britain, and used immediately in the naval war with France in 1799-1801. Again the Marines manned the fighting tops and headed boarding parties with cutlas and pike.

During the Barbary war the Marines took part in every battle and assisted in burning the Philadelphia in the face of enemy fire at Tripoli. Under Lt. Presley O'Bannon they hoisted Old Glory to the top of the Tripolitan fort at Derne, the first time the Stars and Stripes flew over a fortress on foreign soil.

The Naval War of 1812 also saw Marines in action aboard ships of the fleet. They were on land with General Dearborn in Canada, at the battle of Bladenburg, and with Jackson at New Orleans.

In the half century following the war of 1812 the Marines were everywhere, and gained a reputation of international fame. It was during this time that the Marines laid the groundwork for the famous phrase to become historic

later, "The Marines have landed and have the situation well in hand". During this period, many landings were effected all over the world. They fought against Indians in Florida and pirates in the West Indies, and conducted expeditions from ships against the natives in Sumatra and the Fijis in reprisal for outrages committed against Americans.

The leathernecks were with Perry when he opened the door to Japan in 1853 and have once again visited that benighted country, but without the courtesy of international calling cards.

In the war with Mexico the men of the Marines served with Scott on the march to Mexico City, stormed Chapultepec and led the way into Grand Plaza. Thus at an early date they had gained the first line of their world famous song, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli."

Marines served on both sides during the Civil War. They captured John Brown in 1859 with commander Robert E. Lee, then a Colonel in the U.S. Army. Later they fought against their former commander. The Marines served mostly afloat in this war, and took part in the important naval operations in the Gulf, the Mississippi and at New Orleans. They were also in the ships along the Atlantic blockade area.

After the Union was assured permanency, the Corps did a number of jobs, such as suppressing labor riots in Philadelphia and Baltimore, and enforcing New York revenue laws. When they weren't busy at home helping the civil authorities, the Marines found time to go to Korea, China and Caribbean to protect American property and lives. In 1867 and 1870 they were part of an expedition into Formosa, and a year later participated as a battalion of a naval brigade against Korean forts, in retribution for crimes against our countrymen.

In 1872 Marines landed in Alexandria, Egypt, to restore order there. Serving on all the oceans of the world aboard American war ships, the Marines frequently spearheaded whatever landing parties were necessary, and always brought back the news that the situation was once again in hand. Marines fighting at Guantanamo Bay in the Spanish American fleet operations after landing and taking the area by storm, aboard ships in the battle of Manila Bay and at Santiago the Marines manned secondary batteries with telling effects. The Corps only numbered 4800 after this war, an increase of 1700 from the end of the Civil War. The Corps was still a specialist and highly selective organization.

During the Boxer Rebellion in China, Summer of 1900, Marines from ships on the Asiatic station took part in the defense of the Legation Quarter at Pekin. A regiment of Marines formed part of the Allied relief expedition, from Taku to Pekin, and participated in the battle of Tientsin. The restoration of peace and security for American citizens and interests in China, however, brought but little cessation and rest. Next in order came the Philippines, where combined Army and Marine forces were employed to suppress an insurrection. Notable among Marine Corps activities in the Philippines were their participation in the Battle of Noraleta, and the expedition across the Island of Samar.

Following the war with Spain, the vast expansion of territorial and commercial interests of the United States, together with the enlarged Navy and shore establishments greatly increased the need for Marines, whose service and value had come to be acknowledged by the American people. In 1903, Marines were landed in Santo Domingo and Korea, while a force was sent to Abyssinia by camel caravan across the desert, to negotiate a treaty with King Menelik.

Since the turn of the century, with the exception of 1913, not a year has passed without seeing Marines on expeditionary service. For more than a century Marines have been employed in all parts of the world.

For almost half a century the Marines have felt at home in Panama. In 1903 and 1904 they served on the Isthmus during the formation of the Republic of Panama. Sixty years before, they were engaged in making safe the transit of the Isthmus. In 1908 Marines were again in Panama, and the following year protected American citizens and property at Corinto and Bluefield, Nicaragua. Four battalions of Marines were sent to Cuba in 1906. In conjunction with the Army they became the Army of Cuban Pacification.

The Marines have felt equally at home in Nicaragua. First there in 1852, thence they returned from time to time as conditions required. Disorders as the results of civil strife necessitated their return in 1909 and 1910. Two years later further strife brought them in large numbers, a battalion at first, followed by a regiment. Several engagements ensued before the mission of restoring the country to a stable basis was accomplished.

China also has come in for considerable attention by the Marine Corps. As early as 1854 internal upheavals endangered the lives of foreigners, including Americans, and required the presence of Marines. From then on, up to the Boxer Rebellion, Marines and sailors from the ships landed on a number of occasions to protect our nationals. The decade from 1901 was a comparatively peaceful one. In 1911 and 1912, however, Marines operated in China to protect American lives and property during the overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty. For the next 35 years the Marines had maintained a strong guard for the American Legation and Embassy in Peking.

Again in 1924 conditions in China became troublesome. Contingents of Marines and sailors were landed from time to time. In 1927, due to the upheaval in that country, and the attending danger to Americans, a force of about 5000 Marines was despatched and stationed at various trouble points, principally at Shanghai and Tientsin. By January 1929, the situation having improved, most of the force which had been formed into a brigade, returned to the United States, with the exception of a two-battalion regiment (Fourth Marines), which remained in China. This organization, with occasional reinforcements of additional Marines in 1932 and 1933, was engaged in preventing the belligerents from entering the International Settlement. In 1937, the Sixth Marines with a battery of anti-aircraft guns contributed to the formation of a brigade at Shanghai, with a strength of nearly 3000. After a few months it was seen fit to withdraw the Sixth Marines. The fourth Marines at Shanghai, together with other foreign forces there continued to defend the International Settlement, to maintain its neutrality. Upon the withdrawal of the United States Army forces in 1938, a Marine detachment was established at Tientsin.

In 1914 a large force of Marines and sailors was landed at Vera Cruz, Mexico, where the Marines participated in the occupation of that city, and remained in Mexico until the close of that year.

Beginning with June 1915, a brigade of Marines was stationed in Haiti. After a period of 19 years, during which law and order were fully restored, they were withdrawn in 1934. A strong force was also sent (July 1916) to the Dominican Republic, following strife in that country. After a period of 8 years the Marines were withdrawn (August 1924), but not until peace, law and order had been restored, and civil government established. Native constabularies were organized and trained by the Marines in both countries.

Upon entrance of the United States into the World War in April 1917, the Marines had approximately 12 500 officers and men, half of which number were

engaged in duty beyond the continental limits of the United States and on board ships of the US Navy. Despite this fact, only five weeks later, the Fifth Regiment of Marines sailed from the United States for service in France. This regiment was soon followed by the Sixth Regiment and the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion, and these three units were organized into the Fourth Brigade of Marines. This Brigade was assigned to one of the Infantry Brigades of the Second Division, American Expeditionary Force, which division was later under command of Major General John A. Lejeune, USMC. This division engaged in 8 operations in France, 4 of which were major offensives.

France was quick to appreciate the achievements of the 5th and 6th Regiments. Three times these units were cited in Army orders for conspicuous action in the Chateau Thierry sector, the Aisne Marne offensive and the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The 6th Machine Gun Bn. also shared similar citations for conspicuous conduct in the Chateau Thierry sector. For their conduct in these memorable actions, France awarded these three units the French fourragere and in their colors, the ribbon of the Croix de Guerre.

In addition to maintaining the Fourth Brigade in France, the Marine Corps organized and detached the 5th Brigade of the same strength, for duty with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Also the Marine Corps continued to function as the vital arm of the US Navy, supplying Marine detachments for all the larger vessels of the Fleet, as well as maintaining numerous detachments at Navy yards and supply and ammunition depots, to guard these heavily augmented naval activities.

In addition, the Marine Corps maintained one brigade in Texas as a standby, to protect the Allied oil supply in Mexico, one brigade in Cuba, an advanced base force in Philadelphia, and numerous detachments stationed in the Azores, Virgin Islands, Guam, Philippine Islands, China, Hawaii and Nicaragua. In Haiti and Santo Domingo, the Marine Corps administered and officered the Haitian Gendarmerie and the Guardia Nacional Dominicana.

The first operation of Marine Aviation of consequence was that of the First Marine Aeronautic Company stationed in the Azores in 1918, performing duty in anti-submarine patrol. In addition the First Marine Aviation Force served with the Navy in France and Belgium as a wing of the Northern Bombing Group. Also many Marine Corps aviators served with combat units of the Royal Air Force and the French Flying Corps.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Cont'd from page 110)

With this issue we are starting a HISTORY OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS. This was written during WW II, so is not complete. It will help locate some of your covers. These covers are collectable. Just heard recently of a collector who burned a large number of Marine covers because he didn't know anyone collected them !! Boy, would I have liked to have got hold of them.

Well, Christmas came to our house with a bang. What with a wife, 7 children and 2 grandchildren AND all the neighbors, we really had a ball. I ended up with a balloon cover from Paris in 1870, flown out during the time Paris was surrounded AND, Sol Whitman take note..it is an AIR LETTER SHEET. Hope to get the French deciphered as soon as the local High school opens up. Boy, are they having a long vacation this year.

MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (MSTS)

While the primary mission of MSTS is to provide transportation to military personnel throughout the world, the secondary mission of offering assistance at sea has become an important function of the organization. MSTS vessels at all times strategically located along with the 7 permanently stationed weather ships provided by the U.S. and Western European maritime nations to compile weather information and offer air and sea rescue service to all seekers.

The Darby, one of the eight MSTS ships running regularly between New York, Bremerhaven and Southampton had recently as one of its normal cargos the following: 1434 troops, 459 dependents, 18 pets, 54 tons of household goods and hold baggage, 3000 bags of mail and 18 privately owned vehicles.

For safety sake, the following drills are held: collision, man-overboard, engineering-casualty, atomic defense and damage control drills.

March 15, 1950 the Navy assumed operation of this service. In 1955 40 MSTS vessels participated in 58 distress missions, including 40 errands of mercy, 14 rescues at sea, and 4 searches. Transport Pvt. William H. Thomas rendered assistance at the sinking of the Andria Doria in 1956.

The Darby has a 40 bed hospital, an operating room, a skilled Navy doctor and nurse as well as highly trained Navy corpsmen aboard, ready to render assistance on the high seas. I imagine the others are as well manned.

Although the Navy operates MSTS, most of its vessels are civilian manned. Of the 8 vessels sailing between New York and Bremerhaven, only the Randall and the Butner are commissioned Navy ships, identified by the letter prefix USS, and manned entirely by Navy crews. The other 6 vessels, Patch, Rose, Geiger, Buckner, Upshur and Darby are prefixed by the letters USNS (United States Naval Ship) have naval commands aboard to administer and care for passengers, but are manned by highly skilled civilian crews, from the captain down to the wiper. The Randall and Butner can carry 2000 soldiers.

All MSTS transports on the North Atlantic run are named after generals. Average crossing time for all European bound MSTS transports is about 9 days.

85% of all military cargo is handled by commercial shipping companies. MSTS includes among its fleet CVE's for transporting planes, oil tankers, freighters, refrigerator ships and various landing ships, as well as transports.

USS POTOMAC (AO 150) is a tanker that Marine Transport Lines will operate for MSTS.

Other notes on MSTS are the following: 3 LSD's transferred to MSTS. USS Linderwald (LSD 6) last Dec. at Norfolk was first of 2 Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Forces LSD's to be turned over to MSTS. The ASHLAND (LSD-1), the first landing ship, dock ever built, joined MSTS in May 1957. The WHITEMARSH (LSD-8) of the Pacific Amphibious Force is also slated for transfer.

When transport planes are overloaded, the MSTS carries mail to and from overseas points, especially parcel post matter. Main shipping point in Europe is Bremerhaven, Germany.

STARS AND STRIPES of 9/22/56 had a very extensive article on MSTS.

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