

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Jan 2017)

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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Russian Cavalry (1916): Source—Wikipedia

THE 1916 BRUSILOV CAMPAIGN and Its Global Impact - PART I
by Sergio Lugo

The acquisition of the Austrian semi-postal cover of Figure 1 led to an entirely new view of the Great War's Eastern Front. Shown as Figures 1, 2 and 3, what caught my attention was the Austrian semi-postal stamp (Scott # B 5) used for franking. I've had an affinity for that set of stamps since childhood, and here was my opportunity to acquire one on cover. Additionally, the censor marking was intriguing, but more so was the address on the reverse, that turned out to be an Austrian Reserve Hospital, specifically # 5 in Galicia.

Figures 1, 2 and 3: The components of the initial inquiry into the Brusilov Offensive of 1916. The sender was Karl Friedl, a cadet serving at the K.U.K. Reserve Spital (Hospital) in Doina, Galizien (Galicia). He addressed his letter to Sir A. Friedl, 10th District, # 21 Alixinder Lane, Vienna. Stryl refers to the town, as well as the river. The cancel is that of Dolina, Gal (icia) and appears to be June or July 31, 1916. The 32.f.w/2 marking at upper left is unknown to the author. The Austrian military censor was in the Ukraine/Russian town of Stryj.



Karl Friedl Kadett aus
K.u.k. Reserve Spital Nr. 5
in Doina Galizien

PLEASE NOTE: To encourage writers, promote lead articles and touch upon the wide ranging interests of our members, new lead articles will always appear on the cover page, while second parts of prior issue lead articles can be found several pages into an issue.

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Military Postal History Society



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President's Message

by Ed Dubin

If you have not sent in your 2017 dues, please do so now before you forget. You can pay your dues online via PayPal. Go to our website www.militaryphs.org and click on "Membership" and follow instructions. Please use our PayPal email address: dues@militaryphs.org for your electronic payment. Any questions you have on dues payment please contact our Treasurer Ed Fisher at efisherco@earthlink.net. If your dues are not paid by the release of the spring bulletin this will be your last bulletin.

A good reason to make sure your dues are paid up is this year's special expanded spring bulletin. At CHICAGOPEX this fall the board approved funding an expanded 64 page spring bulletin to mark the 100th anniversary of our entry into WWI. The content of the bulletin will have all articles (see pg. 25) related to our participation in WWI. The WWI era was a very tumultuous time that set the stage for the history of the next century. For the postal historian the era is a gold mine of material and topics to study. Even now after 100 years we are still finding new and fascinating postal history. The planned articles are varied and sure to be informative.

Several weeks ago we learned with some sadness of the passing of life member Myron Fox. Myron was a past president of the MPHS and for many years the society auction manager. In addition to military postal history Myron's other collecting interest was Germany. He served as an officer and board member of the German Philatelic Society. Myron's willingness to donate his time and talents to help run the MPHS were appreciated and will be missed.

Our 2017, convention as we pointed out in the last bulletin, will be held in conjunction with the Denver, CO, Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (May 26 to 28). The May 25 pre-show military postal history seminar is taking shape. Later in this bulletin (see pg. 11) is a list of the presentation topics. Also the exhibiting prospectus and entry form are now available at the show website (<http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com>). As we have been doing since 1992, we will present the Theo Van Dam MPHS Grand Award for the best military postal history exhibit entered in the show by a society member. The last award was a beautiful glass eagle. I would encourage you to get your entry forms in early. Our annual membership meeting will be held that Saturday afternoon. We will have a presentation that is TBD right know. Also the winner of the best 2016 bulletin article will be announced.

Ed Dubin

IT COLUMN by Bob Swanson

The Military Postal History Society (MPHS) offers a number of documents in electronic formats. Today, I'll write a bit about how to view the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files published by the Society.

We'll assume you have already downloaded the desired PDF file to your computer, phone, or tablet. The PDF format is a standard, and is pretty much world-wide in use. It was originally created by the Adobe Corporation. When viewed, a PDF document appears on your screen as close as possible to its appearance on the printed page. Note that MPHS documents are stored in PDF format as 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages, not A4 or any other European standard.

On most systems, double-clicking on the PDF file should bring up a viewer for the document. On many computer systems, the reader is the Adobe Reader program. There are several other readers available for computers, phones, and tablets. One example is the Foxit reader, provided by a commercial company for free. **(When downloading a program like this be sure you are connected to the vendor website, and not just any "free downloads" website, as some so-called "free" sites can try to load dangerous software into your computer or phone.)**

PDF is a powerful document system. For many documents you read, you will not see all the features it offers. A lot depends on the author or PDF creator. For example, PDF offers the feature of "bookmarks" within a file. To see an example, download and view Al Kugel's Germany Plebiscite exhibit PDF file. When you view this PDF document, you will see the pre-set "bookmarks" along the left side of the display screen. These were put in by the Society webmaster, to allow you to navigate to different pages of the exhibit. If you don't see the bookmarks, try to enable them with the "View" menu of your PDF program. Not every PDF document will have these bookmarks.

When the content of a PDF file is text, such as the content listing for Auction #209, you can search the text of the PDF file, using the PDF reader program. For instance, looking at this file, you can search for the string "1918", and you should see all the lots that are described as being used in 1918. NOTE that text searching will not work with PDF files made up of only images, such as the Al Kugel exhibit pages described above. That PDF file contains only page images, and no searchable text.

Please feel free to e-mail the editor with any questions you may have on the MPHS' use of digital and electronic communications. He will forward the questions to me for response in the pages of the MPHS Bulletin. *Bob Swanson*

Here's a new **spectacle** for you as members of the MPHS. Our video on the Greco-Turk War of 1919-22 is on OUR WEBPAGE. It can be found at www.militaryphs.org or at <https://youtu.be/OuZ2NWmI4pU> on YouTube. If the direct link does not work, right click on your mouse and select "Open Link in new window."

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT,
as we explore developing another video
of a Pearl Harbor survivor who was a
battleship postmaster.**

FUTURE MPHS CONVENTIONS

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

Holiday Cards of World War I update:

Also available on the MPHS web site, is the web page devoted to Holiday Cards of WW I. An additional 100 images were recently added to the database and will be loaded to the webpage in March, giving us a total of roughly 350 images. 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. Metadata (that's fancy lingo for data collection) is provided with the card. Where you see the notation "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 collaborative endeavour involving about 12 donors, your editor, and the MPHS IT manager. If there are distinct cards you'd like to submit that are not shown, please feel free to send 300 dpi scans to Sergio Lugo. We will continue expanding the number of cards hosted.. 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. Anybody volunteering for any step in the process will be welcomed with open arms!!!

BRUSILOV CAMPAIGN—continued:

Not knowing exactly where Galicia was (other than the one in northwestern Spain, which I took for granted was not that of **Figure 3**), I undertook an internet search. It turned out that several prominent offensives had occurred there in Austro-Hungarian/German versus Russian battles during the first two years of the Great War. That explained why one family member was writing another in Vienna, Austria. Closer inspection of the date of **Figure 2**, suggested the time frame for the writing of the letter as possibly June or July 1916. That was exciting, as that date placed the cover's use several weeks after the beginning of the great onslaught (I had since learned) of the Russians that had a tremendous impact on the outcome of the war and the course of future world history.

After its World War I debacles at Tannenburg, the Masurian Lakes (see prior issue), and the first two thirds of 1915 (including the loss of Lutsk—see **Figures 7 and 8**) the Russian army fell back to a line from Riga in the Baltic through to the Pinsk marshes near the Romanian frontier – about 500 miles long (see **Figure 4**). Russia partitioned the Eastern front into three sectors:

- North-West Front led by General Kuropatkin, basically defending the approaches to St. Petersburg; opposite German forces.
- West Front commanded by General Evert—the centre sector covering roughly 150 miles. opposite primarily German forces;
- South-West Front commanded by General Ivano—the southern sector, basically responsible for a 300 mile front opposite Austro-Hungarian forces.

All three commanders proved to be reluctant to take the offensive against the Germans in light of the latter's victories in 1914 and 1915.

The Eastern Front in 1916:

By 1916, the glaring deficiencies in Russian equipped armies had been overcome. Soldiers were being properly trained, with rifles being supplied at the rate of 10,000 per month. Front line units were fully staffed with machine gun companies and sufficient artillery shells stockpiled. The offensive reticence of Russian field commanders allowed the winter months of 1915-1916 to pass quietly, with the time used to train. In consequence, the Russian Imperial army was in a far better state than it had been at the war's outset. Its 1.5 million men faced 1 million Alliance troops along the entire Eastern front.

The 'new' army fought its first battles in the spring of 1916. These were a direct consequence of the blood-letting experienced by the Allies on the Western Front, and the 1915 Chantilly agreement to launch simultaneous attacks against all fronts of the Alliance powers in the spring and summer of 1916. The Allies hoped that the

Tsar's efforts would prompt the Germans to withdraw troops to the east, weakening German strength in the West.

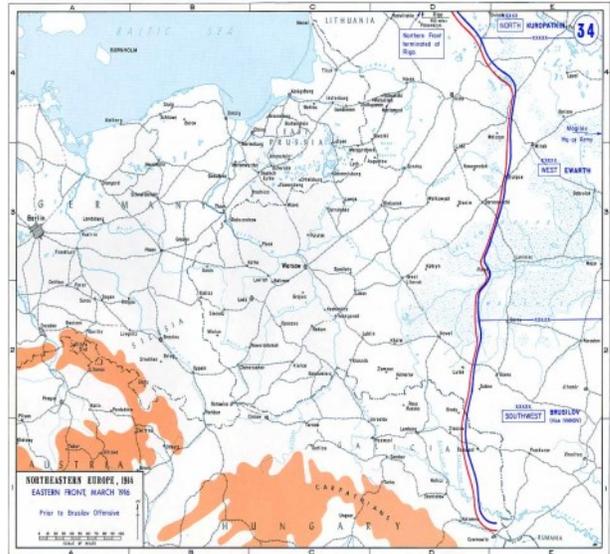


Figure 4: The Eastern Front in early June 1916, with Brusilov's forces stretching from Kovel at the north and anchored at the Romanian border to the south.

The field hospital in **Figure 5** reflects the partial accomplishment of the Chantilly Agreement. The start of the Russian North West and West front 1916 offensive



Figures 5 and 6: Austrian field hospital. The fieldpost card was mailed on 23 August 1916. He was not a patient.

was remarkably successful. German records reflect just how surprised they were at the severity (but not the accuracy) of the artillery onslaught they suffered and the success of the Russian infantry and cavalry. The Russians took the advanced lines of the Germans along the Eastern front. Then, inexplicably, the artillery and air support provided to the infantry was withdrawn. Apparently, overawed Russian leadership left the troops on the ground in shallow marsh trenches and exposed to poison gas attack, with the main tactical assault in the form of “human wave” attacks. Unable to withstand the gas attacks in the Battle of Lake Naroch (modern day Lithuania), the North West Front Imperial armies withdrew. While that advance demonstrated that the revitalized Russian army was capable of effective action, it nonetheless possessed limited offensive capabilities. The disciplined retreat of Russian forces spoke to the ability of the revitalized forces more than to the leadership qualities of their commanders.



Figures 7 and 8: Letter from Luts'k to Petrograd on August 8, 1915. The registration label is that of Luts'k, while the Russian censor marking at the lower left corner of Figure 7 was applied in Petrograd. Writing to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bureau of Inquiries), a note penned at the Ministry onto the cover indicated that the writer was seeking or providing an official list of those Russian subjects interned in Germany who were permitted to leave for Russia. Franked with Scott # 92 (x 2) & 75.

It should be noted as we proceed that it is theoretically possible to present 7 different languages on the postal history of the Brusilov Campaign - German, Northern Italian, Hungarian, Russian, Polish, Roumanian, and Bulgarian. None of them do I speak, or read, and I've had to rely on translators for those postal history examples I have included and related to the Brusilov Offensive, before, during and after. Most Figures are Austrian, most are postcards, and most fit within the dates of June 5 to September 30, 1916 as in the **Figures 5 and 6** example. **Figures 7 and 8**, on the other hand, are postal history re-

flecting Russian language usage from a letter from August 8, 1915. In this case, this was before the Brusilov campaign, but the letter was from the city of Luts'k before its capture by German forces in the fall of 1915. The recapture of Luts'k became a key objective of the Brusilov campaign, a feat that was accomplished within 4 days of the opening of that offensive.

The Brusilov Offensive (Russian name : Брусиловский прорыв Brusilovskii proryv), aka the June Advance, proved to be Russia's greatest, and last, feat of arms in the Great War. Its gargantuan scale, along just one of the Russian fronts, was among the most fatal operations (in terms of casualties) of the Great War. It precipitated the worst crisis of the war for Austria-Hungary as well as the Entente's greatest victory. It contributed mightily to the undermining of German offensive operations along the Western Front by requiring the shift of German divisions in the West to the East. But, the tremendous loss of Russian lives added to the Great War's earlier casualties contributed to the collapse of the Romanoff dynasty that began shortly after the offensive's close.

Launched on June 4, 1916, the Brusilov Offensive continued into late September. The offensive took place in what is today the Ukraine. Despite Brusilov's precautions to avoid relying on human wave attacks, in the latter stages of the campaign it followed in the footsteps of over two years of futility and huge battlefield losses. Brusilov's commitment and energy could not expunge the backdrop of defeat and missed opportunities to swing the Russian hierarchy behind Brusilov's actions.

The Allies continued to urge the use of Russian forces as a means of diverting Austrian troops from the Italian front, particularly along the Isonzo, where numerous successive Battles of the Isonzo were fought.¹ In the April 1916 joint meeting of the Russian high command, both Evert and Kuropatkin argued in favor of a defensive campaign, while the aggressive Brusilov (having moved up from leading the Russian 8th Army) argued for an attack by all three fronts. He reasoned that while the

Germans and Austro-Hungarians could cope with an attack on just one sector of the Eastern front, the Alliance powers could not adequately deal with Russian offensives along the entirety of the Eastern front.

Evert and Kuropatkin were unconvinced and were unwilling to commit their Front armies. Brusilov managed to convince the Army leadership (the Stavka, Grand Duke Alexei and the Tsar) to authorize a grand offensive along his South West front's lines, to be followed immediately by attacks along other Russian fronts.

Despite his misgivings about a South West Front only attack, his concerns were allayed by the commitment to delayed attacks by the North West and West fronts. Brusilov returned to his sector and ordered the generals of the four armies under his control (the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th) to set-out their own plans to initiate the offensive. By doing so, Brusilov was convinced that the Germans would be unable to pin-point the location of the main attack. In fact, Brusilov was planning a dispersed, frontal assault over a wide front and not a specific, single hammer-blow move against the Austro-Hungarian lines. To ensure the utmost secrecy, Brusilov ordered correspondents out of the area. He also refused to give out, or permit his subordinates to do so, any information that was likely to make its way to the Tsarina Alexandra. Her interference while her husband was at the front had reached into all levels of the Russian Army.



Figure 9: General Brusilov (seated). Courtesy of www.historydoc.com/edu.ru

The Chantilly Agreement had obligated Russia, France, Britain and Italy to simultaneous attacks for the summer of 1916. However, joint action could not be coordinated so closely as to allow maximum exploitation of offensives along the Western, Southern or Eastern fronts of the war. In order to assure the continued flow and replenishment of munitions and equipment to the Imperial Army, the Tsar felt obligated to send Russian troops to

fight in France and Salonika, as well as engaging the Alliance's armies on the Eastern Front. The aforementioned Lake Naroch Offensive in the Vilno area had been launched with a view to regaining lost Russian territory and to offset the German hammer blows to the French at Verdun. The Lake Naroch Offensive had displayed the ineptitude of General Evert, but he had not been replaced.

Brusilov had assumed command of the South West Front in March 1916. The plan devised by the 63 year old former cavalryman and aristocrat provided the backbone of Russia's second offensive in 1916 to uphold its Allied obligations. It evolved into a massive offensive against Austro-Hungarian forces in Galicia. Brusilov sought to smash through Austro-Hungarian defenses and weaken their resistance. Once again, Russian territory would be regained and pressure would be relieved on French and British armies in France and on the Italian Army along the Isonzo Front and southern fronts.¹ If success were achieved in Galicia (total forces of each side were fairly equal) Austria-Hungary's losses could force that Empire's re-evaluation of its role in the war. The Russians hoped that this third objective might result because of the heavy commitment of Austro-Hungarian troops along the Italian front.

Tsar Nicholas II had taken personal command of the Russian Imperial army in September 1915 following the German onslaught of 1915. He relocated from St. Petersburg to the front to do so. By then Russian resolve had hardened enough to allow a new defensive line to form along the Eastern front. Tsar Nicholas' intervention was a decision fraught with grave consequences both for the army and the Empire's civil administration. The Russian territory captured by the Central Powers by then included much of Poland and Lithuania. Two million Russian troops had been sacrificed, half of them prisoners for virtually no gains in the war. In contrast, and as a reflection of the grim realities of the Eastern front, the Central powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary had lost nearly one-million men to neutralize, not eliminate, the Russian foe.

General Evert's proclivity towards a defensive strategy of limited offense and falling back to preserve manpower, as well as stretching German/Austro-Hungarian resources and reserves was not without allies. As a strong supporter of the Romanovs, he was favored by the Tsarina and the court in St. Petersburg, who unabashedly interfered with military and civilian operations. The Tsar, nonetheless, approved Brusilov's plan, whose immediate objectives were the recovery of the cities of Lutsk, Kovel and Lviv that had been lost to the Central Powers in 1915. His request for supporting, simultaneous offensives by the adjacent Russian neighboring, we have seen was modified by the Stavka to subsequent, follow-up assaults.

Increasing Allied pressure caused the Russians to

hurry their preparations. Brusilov's four armies totaled 40 infantry divisions, together with 15 cavalry divisions. The Austro-Hungarians could field 39 infantry divisions and 10 cavalry divisions in defense. The Austrians formed along the 300 mile Galician front in three defensive lines. German reinforcements were also brought up.

Knowing that the Stavka would not provide significant reinforcements, Brusilov based his assault on three radical battlefield stratagems. First, he moved his reserves to the front line, turning his frontal attack into an "all-in" hammer blow. He employed his armies to dig entrenchments about 300 by 90 meters along the front line. These provided shelter for the troops and hindered observation by the Austrians.⁵

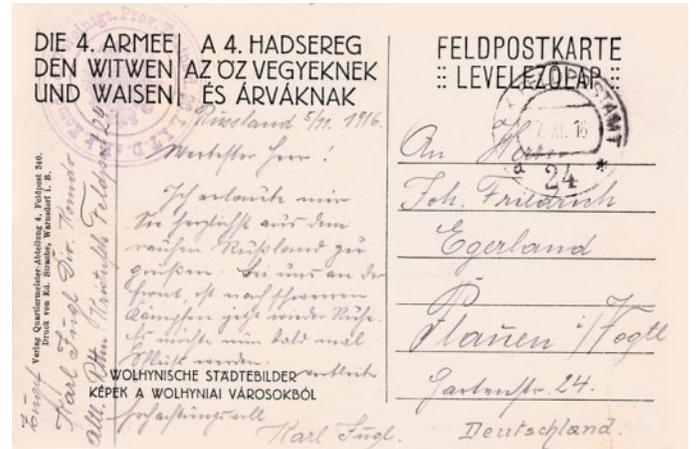
Russian forces crept to within 100 yards of the Austro-Hungarian lines as Brusilov prepared his troops. His second innovative stratagem for the massive, surprise assault along 480 kilometers of front, called for a short, intensive artillery barrage. The third innovation proved to be the Great War's first employment of "shock" troops on any WW I battlefield. The Stavka urged Brusilov to shorten his frontal attack to allow for a heavier concentration of Russian troops along the shrunken attack front, but Brusilov insisted on the efficacy of his plan. The Stavka relented.

Artist J. Lehmann painted the scene in Figure 10 of a town in the province of Wolhynien in March 1916 before the Russian onslaught. Subsequently converted to a postcard it, quite innocuously, cites the Austro-Hungarian Commander of the 4th Army - Archduke Joseph Ferdinand.



Figures 10 and 11: The card was produced by the Quartermaster Detachment # 4, for a widows and orphans fund. The Austrian censor marking in the upper left (on the reverse) appears to read: KK Comdo. D. Vereingt. Prov. Trains d. 26. L.L.i.DT. . . Written in Sudeten German, the message has escaped my ability to pinpoint the exact unit.

The use of "shock" troops and massive, but concentrated artillery bombardment worked beyond expectations. The South West Front's armies initiated the attack



on the Austro-Hungarian 4th Army at the city of Lutsk. The massive but brief artillery barrage from nearly 2,000 guns shocked the defenders along a 200-mile-long front stretching from the Pripet marshes to the Bukovina region to the southwest, in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. The key feature of the bombardment was its brevity and accuracy, followed by the assault of the appropriately named "shock" troops. Such maneuvers were in sharp contrast to the norm - protracted barrages that gave defenders time to bring up reserves or evacuate the forward trenches, while churning the front-lines so badly as to severely hinder massed attacking forces. For the Austrian reaction to the innovative, and unorthodox, maneuver used by Brusilov in the opening stages of the June Advance, see pages 725 and 726 of the *Last War, Vol. 4*.

The value of trained "shock" troops infiltrating the front-lines soon proved its worth. The Austro-Hungarian lines were broken, enabling three of Brusilov's four armies to advance in a rout in what became known as the Battle of Lutsk.

Though the Austrian troops at Lutsk, led by the over-confident Archduke Josef Ferdinand, outnumbered the Russians—the barrage obliterated the Austrian advantage, along with the Austrian front line. Brusilov's "shock troops" and following massed formations swept forward, taking 26,000 prisoners in one day. Within two days, the Russians had broken the back of the 4th Army, advancing 75 kilometers along a 20-kilometer-long front. Josef Ferdinand's career was effectively ended. Some 130,000 casualties—plus the capture of over 200,000 prisoners—forced the Austrian commander, Conrad von Hotzendorff, to end an offensive against Italy in the Trentino region and shift guns and divisions back east towards the Russian breakthrough along the front.⁶

The armies arrayed against each other on the South West Front (North to South) are outlined in Table I (next page) The complexity of the Order of Battle (OB) for the respective forces cannot be presented here, but for those interested, the pages cited in that table for the Army level OB in June 1916 are found in *Last War*^{2,4}

While perceptions of numerical superiority varied

at the time, postwar analysis suggests near equality. The English translation of *Last War*, the only such translation known for the OB of the respective armies, shows the Russian South West front numbering an Austrian estimated 638,000 Russian infantry/calvary versus 656,000 opposing Austro-Hungarians and Germans.²

Table I: Army Level Orders of Battle—June 1916²

<u>Austro-Hungarian & Germany</u> (Army; Commander, Divisions)	<u>Russian</u> (Army; Commander, Divisions)
---	--

German General Linsingen (in the sector just north of 4th Army, opposite the southern extremity of the West Front of Russian General Evert. Linsinger's troops counterattacked Brusilov's 8th Army forces in the early stages of the June Advance).
(208,000 troops) OB = ppg. 424—426

4th Army: Archduke Ferdinand 10 1/2 Infantry; 1 Calvary (119,000 troops) OB = ppg. 421—424	8th Army: Kaledin 11 Infantry, 4 Calvary OB = ppg. 427—428
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2nd Army: Bohm-Ermolli 8 Infantry, 2 Calvary (144,000 troops) OB = ppg. 418—421	11th Army: Sakharov 8 Infantry; 1 Calvary OB = ppg. 428—429
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Germ. South Army: von Bothmer 10 Infantry, 2 Calvary (86,000 troops) OB = ppg. 416—418	7th Army: Shcherbatchev 7 Infantry; 3 1/2 Calvary OB = pg. 429
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7th Army—Pflanzer -Baltin 8 1/2 Infantry; 4 Calvary (219,000) OB = ppg. 411—416	9th Army: Letschitzky 10 Infantry; 4 Calvary OB = ppg. 429—430
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Totals:

- with Linsingen = 776,000
- Without Linsingen = 568,000
- Listed in *Last War* = 636,000³ 660,000⁴

On June 15, Conrad told his German counterpart, Erich von Falkenhayn, that they were facing the greatest crisis of the war.⁷ Conrad's acknowledgement took Falkenhayn (the German Chief of Staff) by surprise, particularly as he was expecting an imminent French surrender at Verdun. Confronted with the Austrian trepidation in the face of the Russian onslaught, Falkenhayn was forced to immediately reassign four German divisions from the Western to the Eastern Front.⁸ That diminution of forces, led to a successful French counterattack at Verdun on June 23⁹, just one day before the preliminary British artillery bombardment initiating the massive Battle of the Somme.

Figures 13 & 14 (right) : Drawings of Russian farmhouses along the Eastern front in 1916, by German soldier artist, F. Priess, of Osten, Germany

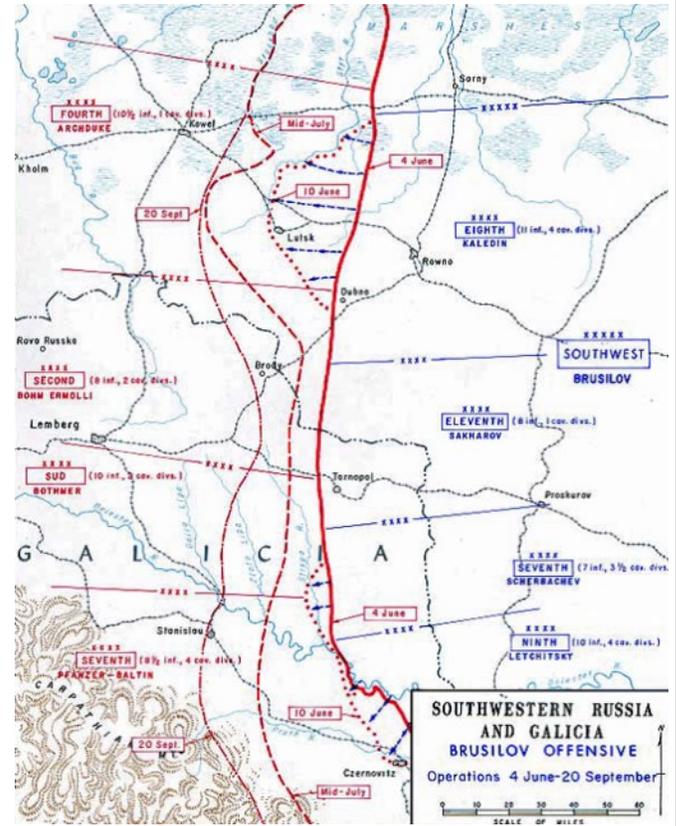


Figure 12: The South Western front showing the armies arrayed against each other and the advances made by the Russians by June 10, mid July and mid September 1916.

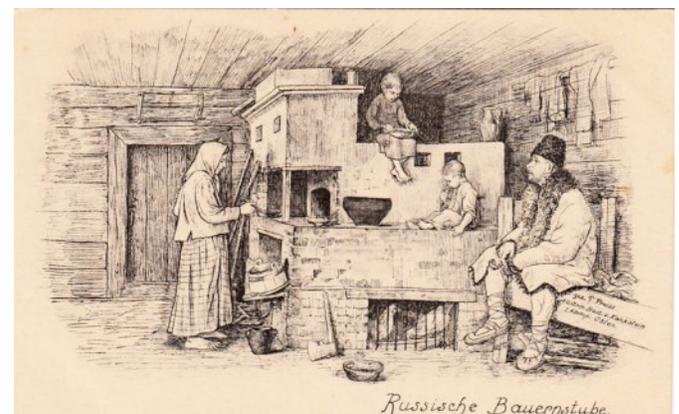


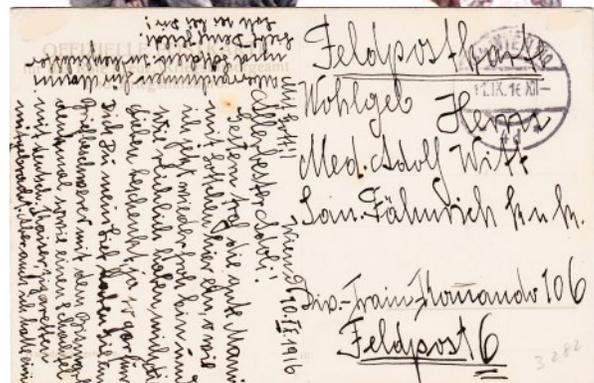
Figure 15 (right): North of the South Western Front's border at Lodz (now Poland), the enormity of Russian losses of prisoners taken is only slightly suggested from this postcard.

On June 8 the Southwestern Front armies took Lutsk. Archduke Josef Ferdinand barely managed to escape the city before the Russians entered. By then the Austrians were in full retreat and the Russians had taken over 200,000 prisoners. However, Brusilov's forces were becoming overextended and he made it clear to the Stavka and the Tsar that further success depended on Evert undertaking his assault, as agreed. Evert continued to dally and procrastinate,^{10, 11, 12 to 16} giving the Germans time to send diverted forces to the East. Field Marshall Paul von Hindenburg, Germany's commander in the East (Oberkommando-Ost), was once again skillfully able to capitalize on the German interior railroad lines to shift diverted divisions up and down the eastern front.¹⁷

The day that Lutsk fell (June 8th), Falkenhayn persuaded his Austrian counterpart Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf to move troops from the Italian Front to counter the Galician threat. Finally, the long delayed Russian West-Front attack began, two weeks after Brusilov's initial successes, and a week after the movement eastward of German (and Austrian) reinforcements. On June 18 and July 2nd, weak and poorly prepared offensives began under Evert, which soon came to a halt without appreciably altering the situation for Brusilov. (*continued in issue # 3, 2017*)

ENDNOTES:

- 1 *Last War*, Vol. 4, ppg. 307 & 308. Italy's dire straits at this time is well described by their Austrian opponent.
- 2 *Ibid*, ppg. 411 to 426.
- 3 *Ibid*., ppg. 426
- 4 *Ibid*., ppg. 430
- 5 *Ibid*., pg. 409—410. The significance of the advancing Russian trenching operations to the Austrians warranted two pages of discussion in *Last War*.
- 6 *Ibid*., ppg. 570—572
- 7 *Ibid*. ppg. 539
- 8 *Ibid*. pg. 484
- 9 *Ibid*., ppg. 577—578
- 10 *Ibid*., ppg. 531
- 11 *Ibid*., ppg. 490—491
- 12 *Ibid*., ppg. 540 to 542
- 13 *Ibid*., ppg. 573
- 14 *Ibid*., pg. 578
- 15 *Ibid*., ppg. 636—634
- 16 *Ibid*., ppg. 688-692. According to the Austrian War archives in *Last War*, by mid July, the Russian High command and Stavka had given up on any offensive actions by the North West (Kuropatkin) or West (Evert) Fronts despite a 3 to 1 superiority in manpower over the Germans. All offensive actions after mid July focused on the one aggressive commander of the three - Brusilov.
- 17 *Ibid*., pg. 574



Figures 16 & 17: The Italian front and its extension into the southeast tied down enormous numbers on both sides. In the case of the Isonzo battlefield, 12 major battles were fought; 5 prior to the Brusilov Campaign. The rugged terrain of the entire line from Italy into the Balkans is shown by this official Red Cross War Aid Bureau postcard. Painted by an artist named "Enna," the card shows the difficult terrain of the Austrian combat at Podgora in Dalmatia along the Adriatic coast. The card was sent by "Hilde" in September 1916 from a Vienna field post office to a field post # 6. It was written by a left handed "Hildi".

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

Plans are near completion for the spring convention of the MPHS in **Denver** on the **Memorial Day weekend**.

- A one day seminar on Thursday (namely MAY 25th) on the subject of military postal history. Consists of 12 one half hour presentations by subject matter experts on facets of military postal history (see to right). No charge. Facilitated by Tim Bartshe
- Friday evening—Tour of Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library and Dinner at the RMPL
- 6+ presentation slots Fri.-Sun, by MPHS, USCS, and Polar Philatelists.
- Up to 100 frames of exhibits for MPHS, per exhibit submissions (see ad). See webpage for prospectus. New FIP rules/criteria will be in place.

Contact Al Kugel (MPHS Convention Coordinator) or see RMSS webpage for details and prospectus.

RMSS - THURSDAY May 25, 2017 MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM (topics and speakers subject to change)

Richard Aspness

The South Vietnam War Source References or Indochina Soldiers and Labor Corps in WW I France

Tim Bartshe

The Free State at War, 1892-1900

Ted Bahry

U.S. Marine Corps Postal History

Joe Bock

Development and Delivery of the U.S. Atomic Bomb, 1942—1946

David Kent

Pending:

Ed Dubin

The LaFayette Escadrille

Steve Henderson

Development of AEF Air Training in WW I

Regis Hoffman & Thomas Richards

Movie Mail to the Stars during Wartime

Alfred Kugel

Mail of the Congress of Versailles and Boundary Commissions of the post-WWI period.

Sergio Lugo

Why Is There so Little Social Welfare Postal History in WW II as Compared to WW I

Patrick McNally

Propaganda vs. Postal History

Eckhardt Pobuda

German SS Stamps of WW II & their absence as Postal History

- Friday: May 26: Tour of Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library at 6:30 pm departure. Charter bus from show hotel and catered dinner at RMPL (\$50 per person)
- Saturday: May 27: Show Awards and Banquet

For Show goers visiting Denver, numerous cultural, tourist or military related sites are in close proximity: Air Force Academy; Cheyenne Mountain, Peterson Air Base; Pueblo Air Museum. Wings over the Rockies Air Museum, Ft. Carson, Warren Air Force Base; historic forts and sites in Kansas and Nebraska; Custer National Battlefield (500 miles north); Ft. Laramie (100 miles north); Ft. Union & Santa Fe Trail (300 miles south); Ft. Lyons, Rocky Mountain National Park, Stapleton Nature Preserve; National Forests; Cripple Creek Mining District; Aspen, Breckenridge, Vail. Travelling to Denver—bring along a light jacket for rain or snow.

Also see page 16 for more RMSS info.

World War II German POW Mail of Canada by Jerome C. Jarnick

During the "Great War," the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) provided humanitarian services to more than 5 million prisoners of war, interned in both Allied and Central Power camps.

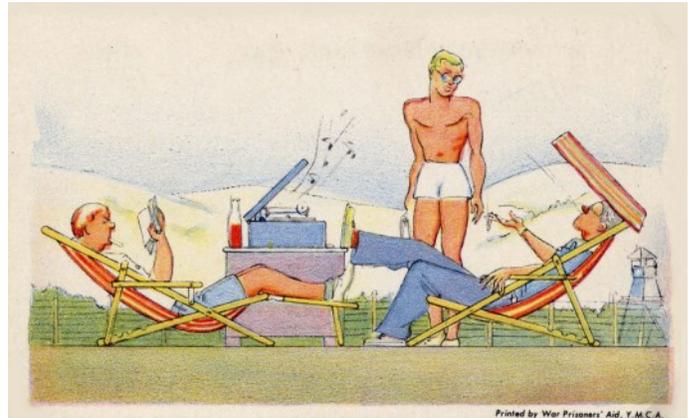
When World War II broke out in 1939, the YMCA reacted by forming the *War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA* to fill spiritual, educational, and recreational needs. This was done by furnishing Allied and German prisoners with non-essential goods, such as sporting equipment, radios, movies, musical instruments and reading material. Libraries were established in the camps with books (in several languages) produced at YMCA printing plants.

Among the items produced specifically for German prisoners of war in Canada was a series of postcards, either humorously themed or Christmas holiday themed. A recent addition to the MPHS website has been the creation of the webpage entitled "*Holiday Cards of WW I.*" It provides a comprehensive view of the variegated designs of postcards used in that war. Regrettably, no such resource exists for the Holiday cards of WW II, let alone postcards produced specifically for German POWs, numbering 38,000 in 25 POW camps.

The artwork for the WW II postcards was created by the prisoners. Karl Kafka has been reported as one of the artists, the others are unknown. The postcards were

ed on the reverse. Cards that are blank may indicate intent to make the cards available to jurisdictions other than Canada.

Postally used humor postcards are rare, with only a couple being known that actually travelled through the post. Apparently prisoners bought them as souvenirs and carried them back to Germany with them. The same is NOT the case with the Christmas oriented postcards, which can be found postally used.



Printed by War Prisoners' Aid, Y.M.C.A.

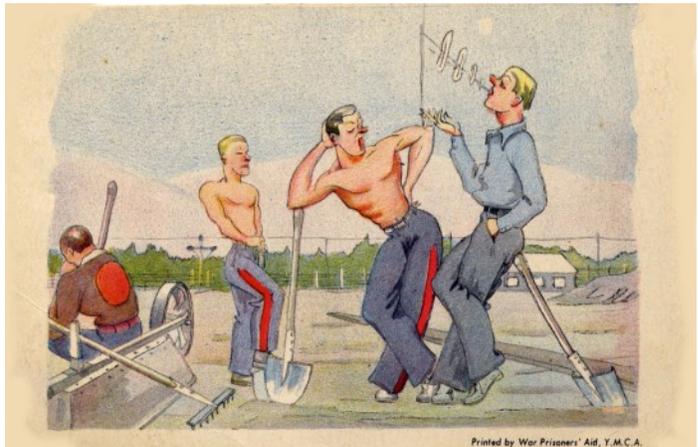
The next page is entirely devoted to providing illustrations of the Canadian service organization imprinted humor postcards. Following them, on pages 13 - 14, is a discussion and illustrations of postally used Canadian XMAS POW postcards.



Printed by War Prisoners' Aid, Y.M.C.A.

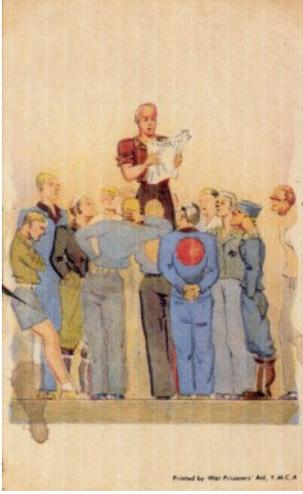
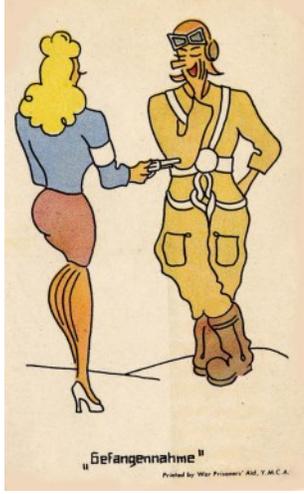
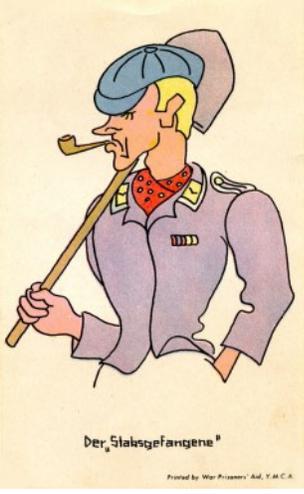
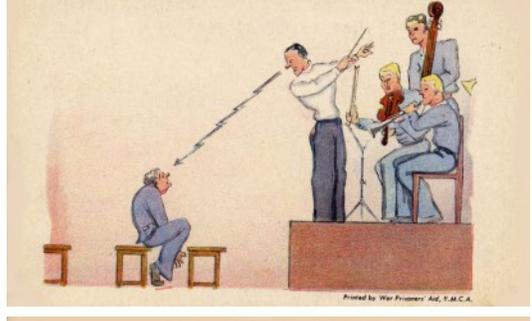
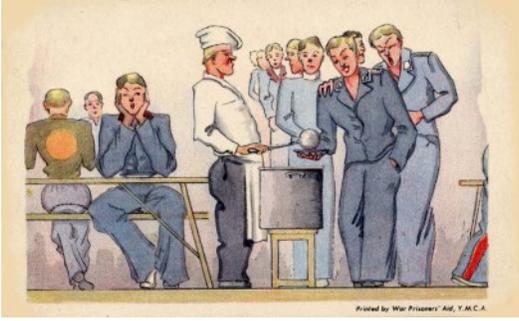
printed by the YMCA and were made available for purchase in the camp canteens. Many of the cards feature aspects of the day-to-day life in a Canadian camp, while others portrayed camp life and work in a light hearted fashion.

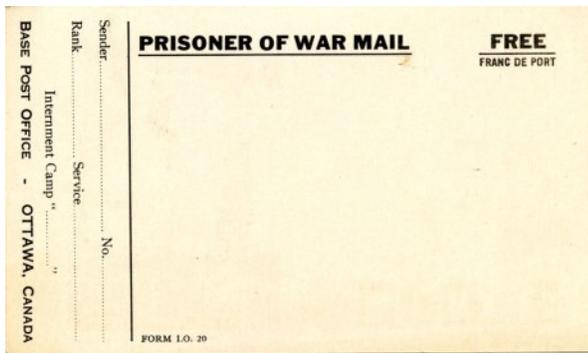
In many respects, little is known about these cards, especially in regard to quantity printed and how they were distributed. Inquiries to the YMCA by this author and other researchers have gone unanswered. Cards are found with Canadian Internment Operations *Form I. O. 20* print-



Printed by War Prisoners' Aid, Y.M.C.A.

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. Your dues cover solely the normal operating costs of the Society. Such efforts as the *Holiday Postcards of WW I* or the videos are underwritten by volunteer labor. Please consider a contribution.
Ed Dubin, President





The reverse of the Canadian YMCA German POW cards were printed as above.

In addition to the humorous postcards, the Y provided German POWs in Canada with a series of postcards for Christmas greetings. The artwork for the postcards was also produced by the prisoners. The cards were printed in black and white and often convey a sense of desolation and despair.

The back imprint of the Canadian Internment Operations Form I. O. 20 is shown above. Unlike the humor cards, the Christmas cards were frequently postally used by the prisoners.

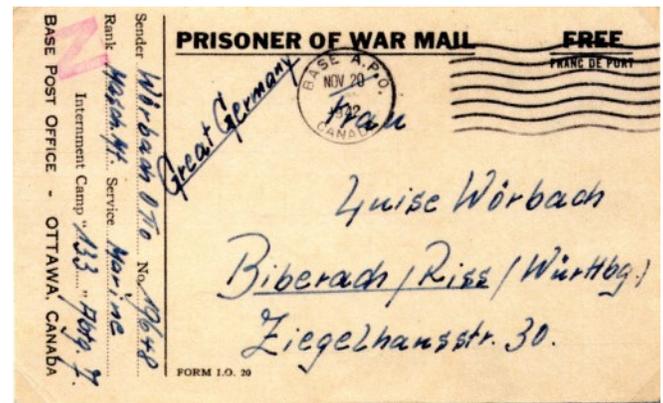
Figure 1 shows the cover of the YMCA War Prisoners Aid News of December 1944, published in New York, depicting a prisoner behind the barbed wire. A short paragraph in the publication acknowledges the production of the Christmas postcards.



Figure 1 XMAS: The cover does not acknowledge the POW as German or English.

The card shown in Figure 2 originated in Internment Camp 133, at Ozada, Alberta located between Calgary and Banff. The camp was open only about seven months before the prisoners were moved to Lethbridge, in southern Alberta. The Lethbridge camp retained the same designa-

tion number, 133. The card is from a Merchant Marine sailor and addressed to his wife in Biberach, Germany. Dated November 20, 1942 it was machine postmarked at the Base Army Post Office (BAPO) in Ottawa. The card does not bear any indication of censorship. During this period, mail posted at the camps was transferred to Ottawa where it was censored, postmarked and dispatched.



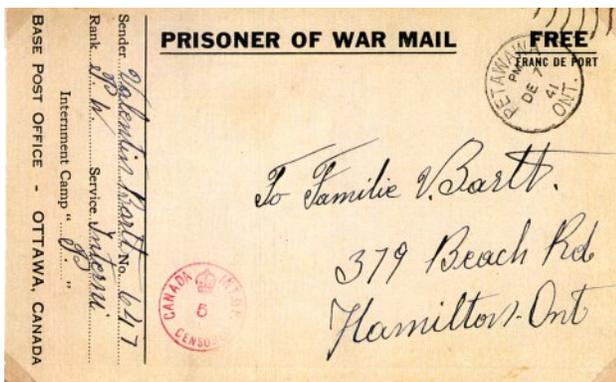
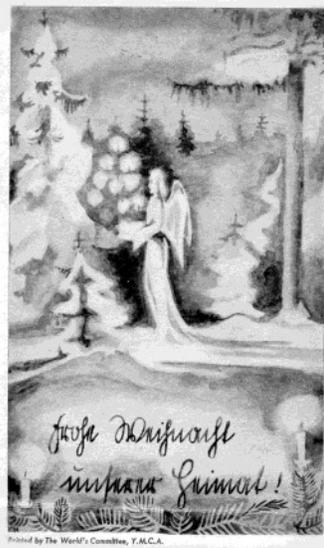
Figures 2 and 2a (above): The sender was writing to a female relation in Wurttenburg The N rubber stamp signifies a German internee who had served in the Navy or merchant marine.

Figures 3, 4 (below) and 5 (next page) XMAS: These examples are all in mint, never used condition.





Figures 5 and 5a show a card which originated from the civilian Internment Camp "P", located at Petawawa, Ontario, in the eastern part of Southern Ontario. Prior to October 1940, the internment camps were designated by an alphabetic letter, after that date the designations were changed to numeric.

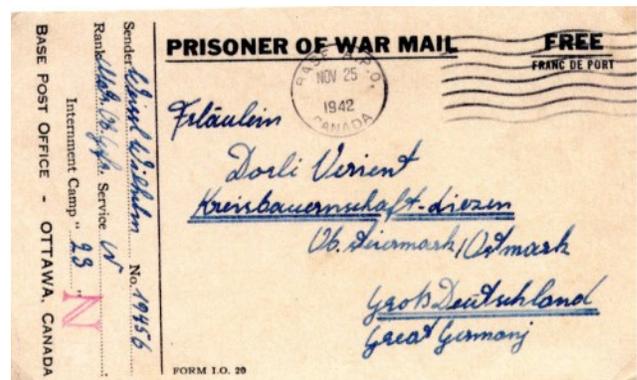
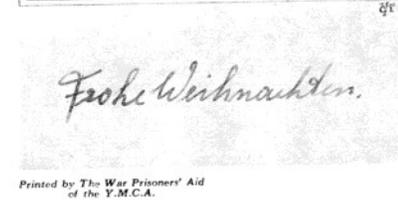
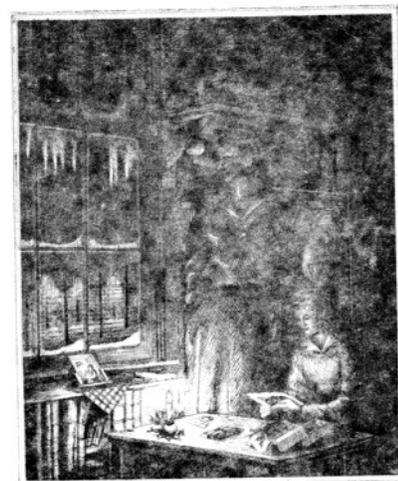


Figures 6: XMAS: The card was addressed to the Bartlett Family.

Camp Petawawa, a Canadian army base was the site of an internment camp used for both World Wars. The camp's official designation became Internment Camp No.33; located at Centre Lake. During its operation it held 645 civilian internees, the majority being either Italian or German. The card is from a civilian internee and addressed

to Hamilton, Ontario. It bears a round red *Canada Internment Censored 6* with crown handstamp. Enemy prisoner mail was normally censored at the BAPO in Ottawa. Some civilian mail was censored at the camp and turned over to the local post office, as was done in this case where the card received a Petawawa, Ont. duplex postmark of December 7, 1941.

Figures 7 and 7a (below) show a card sent from Camp 23 at Monteith to Germany. Monteith is located in Northern Ontario, about 30 miles east of Timmins. The card bears the BAPO machine postmark of November 25, 1942. Again, there is no indication of censorship by the Canadian or German censors. The rubber stamp "N" indicates that the sender had served in the German Navy.





Printed by War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A.

Figure 8 XMAS: The dark and somber mood of the Canadian YMCA POW XMAS cards is more than adequately displayed in this example.

ANYONE with further information on either subjects (Canadian German POW postcards and service organizations for German POWs in the U.S.) is welcome to write the author at jarnick@wowway.com;



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SOLICITATIONS for 2017

Here are two special requests for you to consider.

FIRST—2017 is the 100th Anniversary of the entry of the U.S. into World War I. We are turning issue # 2 of 2017 (see pg. 30) into a commemorative edition. The only way to successfully do so is to publish such an edition featuring articles on U.S. facets of the war — after America's entry. Won't you help by donating money for the publication—as it totals nearly \$1,500 more than regular issues.

SECOND - At the spring convention of the MPHS in Denver, Colorado on the Memorial Day weekend, the Thursday preceding the show (namely May 25th), a one day seminar on military postal history will be presented. That seminar consists of 12 one half hour presentations by subject matter experts on any facet of military postal history. An audience of enthusiastic military postal historian listeners would be most appreciated. See pg. 11.

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 # 3 (Summer) or issue # 4 (Fall). 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 Delespese

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS:
As a valued Member you know first hand the benefits of Membership. Let's build the future of the MPHS together.

Just A Gentle Reminder



Dues were due in December. Please renew!

We know you're still recovering from the holidays!! But we need to hear from you about your membership renewal. Absent receipt of your renewal dues, this will be your last MPHS Bulletin.



Have a nice day.

MPHS RMSS SHOW PROMOTIONS:

Examples of the RMSS Show Cancel, the cinderella stamp and the unfinished cinderella Souvenir Sheet for the MPHS Society are shown below. See the forthcoming issue # 2, 2017 for more details on how to get them for your collection.



Call for Papers for the Tenth Blount Postal History Symposium November 1-2, 2018 World War I and its Immediate Aftermath Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C.

On Monday, November 11, 1918, World War I came to an end. Wrought from militarism, nationalism and imperialism, the Great War broke empires, challenged established gender and race relations, and destroyed millions of lives. Mail became the critical link for the families separated and desperate for news. Governments responded to these developments and the disruption of communication networks, and struggled to determine who should be able to communicate with whom and about what.

Deadlines for One-page Proposal and CV Proposals: June 15, 2017

In addition to a one-page proposal, each individual should submit a one-page curriculum vitae with contact information (e-mail, phone, address).

Notification of acceptance will be mailed on or about August 1, 2017.

Papers are due by September 1, 2018. Accepted proposals must result in papers of 4500-5500 words, including bibliographic material, citations, and image titles. The articles must be formatted according to the guidelines of the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press. Images should be placed and discussed within the text and image permissions must be acquired. Writers will have the opportunity to revise their papers after the symposium and before the papers are considered for publication.

Possible Topics Include:

- Disruptions and shifts in mail transportation systems
- Communication alternatives to the mail
- Censorship of and by postal systems
- War-saving and thrift-saving stamp programs
- War propaganda and the mail
- War-time supply issues (inks, papers, etc.)
- Changing demographics and policies towards postal employees
- Postal systems in occupied territories
- Rise of airmail
- Stamps of the new countries

For more information on formatting and permissions, please see materials below.
Send proposals or questions to: NPMResearchChair@si.edu



Membership Status (as of Dec. 31, 2016)

	9/2016	12/2016
Members receiving Print Bulletins	277	315
Digital Bulletins	54	49
Digital + Print1 Bulletins	36	37
Total	367	401

- 3653 Alan Millen
- 3654 Dr. Steven Berlin
- 3655 Jeanine Offutt
- 3656 Bill Strauss
- 3657 Linda Foster
- 3658 Jay Bormann
- 3659 Danny Spunger
- 3660 Thomas Gates, Jr.
- 3661 John Pare
- 3662 John Farkas
- 3663 Ken Miller
- 3664 Randy Nilson
- 3665 Matt Stoll

CONGRATULATIONS

To all our star members for promoting the Society.



In 2016, we added 48 new members, an increase of nearly 15% in membership. **Keep up the good work. AND DON'T LET THE NAYSAYERS TELL YOU GROWING STAMP SOCIETIES IS IMPOSSIBLE THESE DAYS!**

American POW in the Boer War

by Dann Mayo

Generally speaking, covers to Boer War POWs in Diyatalawa Camp, in Ceylon, are not uncommon. But this one is, because it may have been sent to an American.

Approximately 300 Americans fought on the side of the Boers (while others fought for the British).¹ As a natural consequence, some of these Americans ended up in British POW camps.

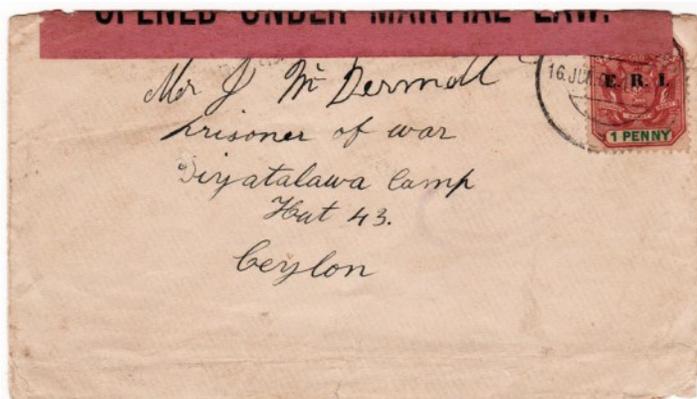


Figure 1: June 1901 letter to POW J. McDermott at Diyatalawa POW camp in Ceylon. The Transvaal overprint, Scott # 248, was produced in 1901—1902. The censor sealing tape reads: “Opened Under Martial Law.”

Frank McDermott of Wisconsin is listed as one of 16 Americans still in the Diyatalawa POW camp in August 1902 due to "being unable to defray the cost of their passage home."² Beyond that listing, I have not been able to find any details about this POW. Nor have I found a listing for any other McDermott at Diyatalawa Camp, or for any contemporary J (including J, James, Joseph, John, Jeremiah, Jebediah and Jedediah) McDermott in the Boer War, except for a J McDermott who died while serving in the Lancashire Hussars Imperial Yeomanry; clearly not our man. However, the 1920 United States Federal Census does list a Frank J. McDermott, age 48 (making him in his mid-to-late 20s during the Boer War), living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.³

Was the “J McDermott” of the above cover actually addressed Frank McDermott by a middle name or nickname (or even a misreading of a manuscript record; something that anyone who has done genealogical research will have found happens with maddening frequency)? Likely we will never be 100% sure. But whether he was or not, it is good to keep in mind that there were American citizens in British POW camps during/after the Boer War, and to be on the lookout for mail to and from them.

ENDNOTES:

1. The most accessible summary of these involvements is Brown, “Americans Who Fought in the Anglo-Boer War,” *Military History Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 6 (2012), published by The South African Military History Society. Viewable online at <http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol156bb.html> (last viewed October 2, 2015).
2. The list of the prisoners in Ceylon in 1902 can be found in US Department of State, *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States*, pg. 495. Viewable online at https://books.google.com/books?id=sFMzAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA495&lpg=PA495&dq=McDermott+POW+Diyatalawa&source=bl&ots=j9bLLEEPZ3&sig=L7rVwiVnNlpexDODp4yp-deLB3A&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDcO6AEwBGoVChMIuK3hjgv-xwIVyVc-Ch00Nwr_#v=onepage&q=McDermott%20POW%20Diyatalawa&f=false (last viewed October 2, 2015.) The same source lists 4 Americans at Bermuda (pg. 494) and 13 at St Helena (pg. 496). The listing of US POWs in India promised on pg. 494 does not appear.

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Don't dilly dally! Volunteer!

Thank you

U.S. Forces in Fiji During World War II

by Bryan Jones

By way of an introduction, the MPHS Bulletin has arranged for the presentation of articles by Bryan Jones on U.S. military forces mail through the Fiji Islands during World War II. The articles promise to shed light on a little understood subject area of military postal history, last studied and presented by Mr. Stan Jersey in his APS 1968 book. Mr. Jones was a personal friend of Mr. Jersey (U.S. Marine Corps), whose interest in U.S. military mails in that faraway Pacific region was stimulated in part by Mr. Jersey's fascination with those islands.



FIGURE 1: Mr. Jones is a Briton, closely associated in the past 3 decades with the Pacific Islands Study Circle in Great Britain, as editor of *Pacifica*. His philatelic writings are wide-ranging. His dedication to the subject has earned him a Congress Medal of the British Philatelic Congress. He hopes to translate his interests in Fijian postal history into a book to be entitled *The Postal History of Fiji During World War II*. Below is the initial installment on this work in the *MPHS Bulletin*.



FIGURE 2 is an example of a Special Delivery cover from U.S. Forces in Fiji, redirected on arrival Washington, D.C. datestamp of April 3, 1943.

The transit time of **Figure 2** by air was 9 days. The cover originated with Brig. General Craig, Division H.Q., 37th Infantry Division. Self censored (initials C.F.C.) using Base Censor handstamp # 1404. The datestamp used is unique, having been locally modified as follows. Originally issued to the 37th Infantry Division with APO 37 at lower rim of datestamp, Type PS2. The original APO number was removed in January 1943 for security reasons, now type PS3. APO 913 (the APO for Fiji) inserted locally using a different type. Now Type PS4. The Type PS4 date-stamp has only been recorded used on two occasions.

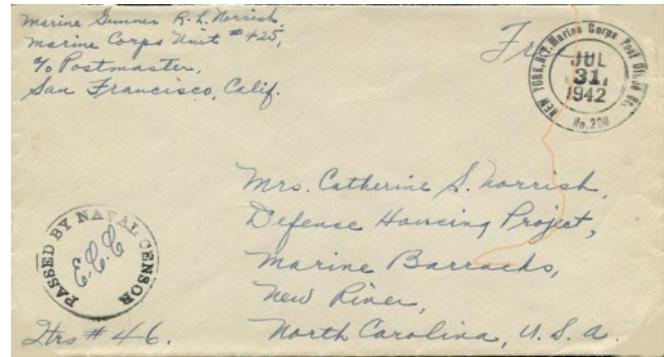


FIGURE 3: Invasion rehearsal exercise letter of Marine Gunner R.L. Norrish, Unit 425, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

A detachment of U.S. Marines, including the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Marines, spent three days (July 29 - July 31, 1942) rehearsing amphibious landings on Koro Island. That exercise prepared them for their forthcoming invasion of Japanese occupied Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Following completion of the exercise and prior to embarkation, a few letters were written by these gynes. The Regimental Post Office broke out its equipment to cancel the letters, hence the use of the double circle Marine Post Office No. 200, New York—datestamp July 31, 1942. Note the use of “Passed by Naval Censor” handstamp on **Figure 3**. The initials of the Chief Censor for the 1st Marine Division—E.C.C.—are those of Edward C. Cox, a Marine Gunnery officer.

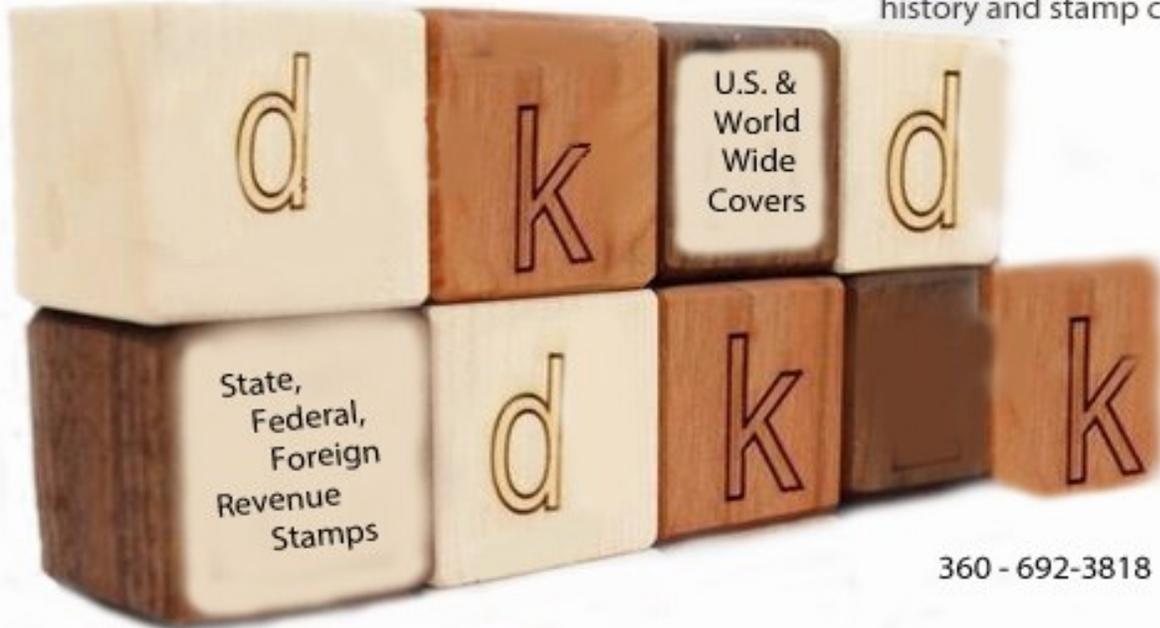


FIGURE 4: Cover from a Fijian NCO, assisting the U.S. 37th Division in liberating Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

Under the command of New Zealand, info on the Fijian forces can be found on the internet by a search for Fiji Commandos. Native Fijians were highly respected as comrades-in-arms by both N.Z. and U.S. counterparts. They are the only non-English nationals to have had a permanent presence in the British SAS (Special Air Services). **Figure 4** was written by T/Sgt. McGowan to his wife, using U.S. postal stationery and probably transported using the N.A.T.S. network. It features an R.N.Z.A.F Code C date-stamp of 4 Oct., 1943 originating from R.N.Z.A. FPO 366 on Guadalcanal. The censor was New Zealand officer G.E. Thompson, serving with the 1st Battalion, Fiji Military Forces using N.Z. type triangular military censor handstamp with Censor Code F 1. The battalion served overseas from April 1943 through July 1944. The arrival back stamp is Suva, 12 October 1943 redirected to Vatuoula and arriving 14 October 1943.

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Where Sweetheart Pins Can Lead?

by Sergio Lugo

“Long about” late 1939 – 1940, there first appeared on War Production Board posters a slogan message intended to inspire aircraft factory workers. It was geared towards the goal of maintaining an American Army Air Force in the face of the evolving hostilities in both Europe and the Asian mainland. That slogan was quite literally :”Keep Em Flying.”

That slogan became a popular wartime message far afield from war production within the mass audience of the American citizenry. Surprisingly, one of the places it took root was among sweetheart pins. I didn’t know a single iota about “Sweetheart Pins” until stopping over in mid August 2015 at Miscellany Antiques in Russell, Kansas. The proprietor, Neal Fisk, and I go back many years and for those of you unaware of it - he has an extraordinarily strong militaria bent to his antique business including much paper memorabilia including thousands upon thousands of antique postcards, paper ephemera items and postal history. On this pass through between Denver and Topeka, I happened to stumble upon 7 boxes containing “Sweetheart Pins”, to which I asked Neal “What Did you Say?” After repeating the question two times for confounded ears, Neal decided that he’d better explain to me what they were rather than repeating the misunderstood words.

During World War II, thousands upon thousands of jewelry items were fashioned throughout the country. They were intended for sweethearts (moms, wives, girlfriends, etc.) left behind by the eventual 15 million men of the U.S. armed forces, attesting to their love and devotion. Not EVER having heard of such pins, Neal showed me two reference works on them that he secured many years ago. And there they were in their magnificent splendor displayed by the hundreds in color on hundreds of pages of books. As I flipped through the pages, I noticed several with the slogan “Keep em Flying.” Immediately I got to the 850 + pins found in the 7 boxes, coming up with two such pins (see **Figures 1 and 2**).

Neal nicked me for a pretty penny (albeit discounted) on both pins, but I left Russell a contented man – hey great wartime souvenir items, but



now
what
was I
going
to

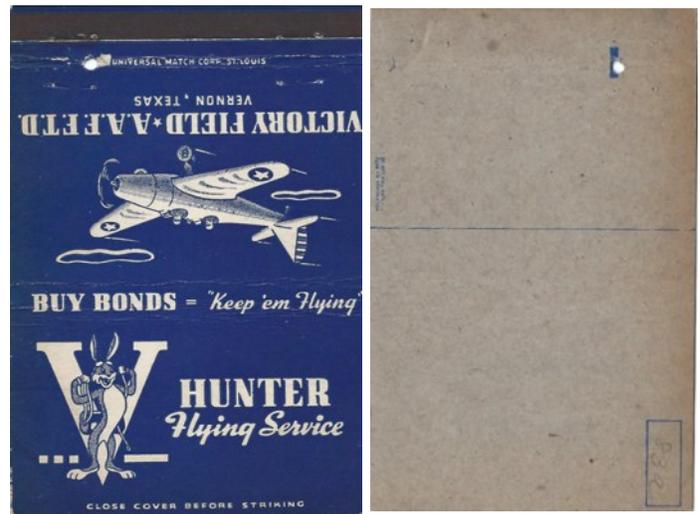


FIGURES 1 and 2: Keep ‘em Flying pin at left. Keep ‘Em Flying pendant at right .

do with them?? And by the way – I’m sure that more such “Keep ‘em flying sweetheart pins” adorned the fulsome figures of America’s sweethearts between 1941—45.

Thus began the search for a postal history theme founded on the slogan. I faintly remembered mailings of them from the Second World War period. That faint recollection reaffirmed the fact that the slogan (as in many others, e.g. “Loose Lips Sink Ships,” “Rosie the Riveter”) reached far into the lives of America’s civilian and military alike in ways that we could well imagine went beyond “Sweetheart Pins.” Let’s begin with where I first struck paydirt in this search.

For those of you that recall the pages of this journal way back when (in the olde days of a year ago, namely the winter issue of 2016) you may recall an article on matchbook post cards. Yes – matchbook postcards. Cary Finder had supplied the article and within its pages you’d have found two matchbook post cards - one mint, the other postally used. Reproduced as **Figures 3 and 4** is one of the postcards.



FIGURES 3 and 4: : A Vernon, Texas Victory Field matchbook. These larger sized matchbooks measured 3 x 4.5 inches and contained 40 matches, hence their familiar appellation “40 strike matchbooks.” Note the hole in the matchbook. The matchbook was produced by the Universal Match Corp. of Denver, Colorado. The hole consistently appears on the matchbooks, apparently associated with a function in the manufacturing process. The box for the “free” franking and the dividing line separating address from message are clearly visible on the reverse side (Figure 4).

Another matchbook cover bearing the slogan, but not the postcard indicia is illustrated in **Figure 5** (next page). In the case of **Figures 6 and 7**, a remarkable surviving example of a **postally** used match book post card is presented.

This UNIQUE form of postal history is followed by one that is generally more familiar to us as collectors and researchers. Namely the post card.



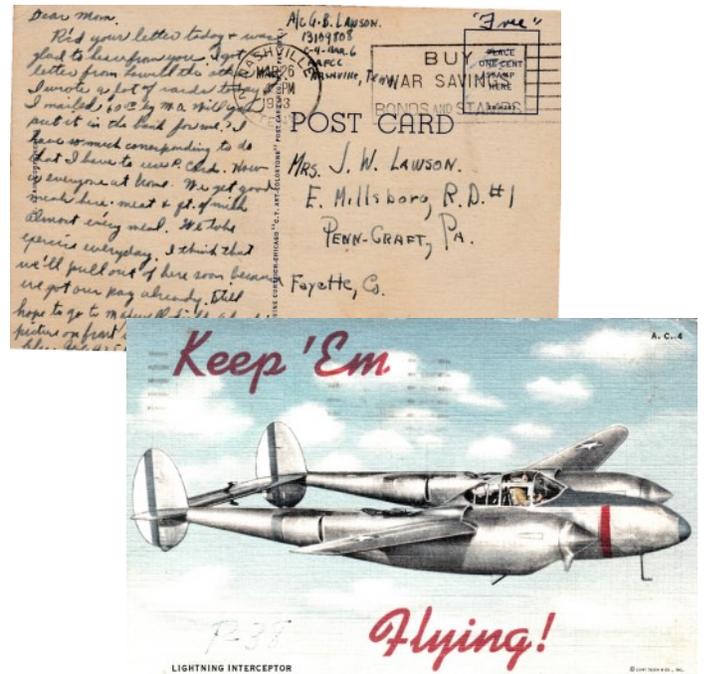
Figures 5, and 6 & 7: Left—Keep 'Em Flying matchbook of Alliance, Nebraska Army Air Base Exchange. Right and bottom: Matchbook mailed by Sergeant from Altus, OK., serving at the Altus Army Air Force Flying School. He was wishing a Happy Easter to Poochie in 1943. Courtesy of Bill Feldman.

The front and reverse of a postally used postcard are shown in **Figures 8 & 9**. As suggested previously, I have seen dozens of such WW II postcards in dealer boxes, but had never paid any real attention to them until now. In this case the plane shown is a P-38 fighter, most heavily used in the Pacific. Both cards were used in 1943.

The card, I believe, was issued as two variants. The first card featured airplanes of America's flying forces (see **Figure 9**). The second "Keep 'Em Flying" themed postcard (see **Figure 10**, next page) generally involved some humor - heavily focused on women. There is no way to estimate the numbers produced of either themed card. Suffice it to say that in my experience, both variants have turned up in my searches of dealer post card boxes.

One card from each variant is shown next, together with their obverse notations—turning these cards into true postal history pieces. In the case of **Figures 8 and 9** air-

man G.B. Lawson in Nashville, TN was writing to his mother in Pennsylvania in March 1943. He asked that she put away a \$60.00 money order he was sending, and that he hoped to fly the P-38 pictured on the front of the card. He was hoping that Maxwell Air Base, Alabama would be his next duty station.

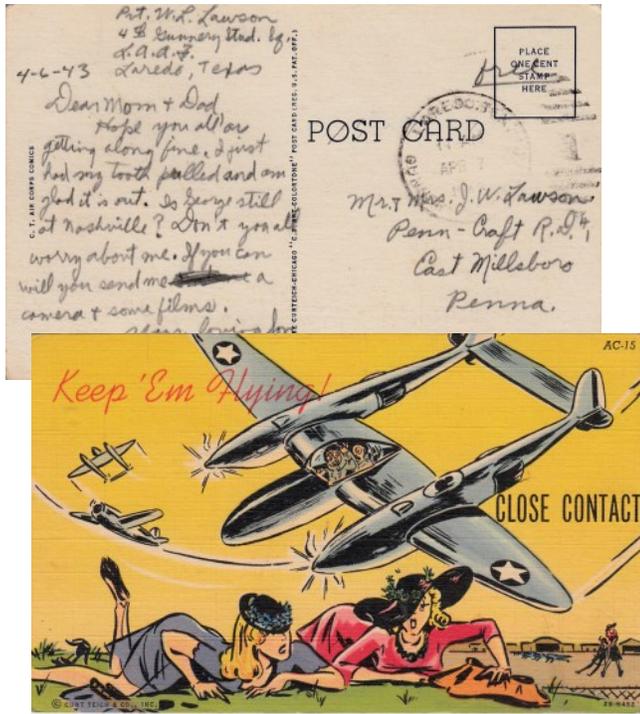


Figures 8 and 9: Airman Pvt. G.B. Lawson in Nashville, TN writing his parents.

Figures 10 and 11 (see next page) were from a card written by a Lawson brother (this one Lowell) to mom. Lowell was attending gunnery school in Laredo, Texas.

In our world of postal history, surprising discoveries were made that I had never imagined. Joe Crosby of Oklahoma City reminded me of the book by Lawrence Sherman entitled U.S. PATRIOTIC ENVELOPES OF WW II. It contains a Cachet Catalogue on pages 137 to 423. Details include: the cachet #, cachet text; color; topic, publisher and rarity. "Keep em Flying" cachets include #'s 4222, 4262, 4277, 4234, 4284, 4567, 4574-4577, 4588-4592, 4595, and 4597-4603. I most certainly cannot supply all of these 22 examples of "Keep Em' Flying" covers, but I can supply examples of postally used cachets. Next, I show the cover (Figure 12—next page) of Pvt. Otilie Johnson, Army Air Forces, WAC Section at MacDill Field, Florida sent to the Alexander Family working at Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh, PA. on October 29, 1944.

Contents have not survived the passage of time. **Figure 12** was from a WAC at MacDill Field in Florida, 1944. She was entitled to the free franking privilege. **Figure 13** was sent from the Reading Air Base in



Figures 10 & 11: Airman Lowell Lawson writing his parents. Courtesy of Kyle Nebo.



Figure 13: Reading, PA. "Keep Em Flying" cover



Figure 14: Americans trampling on Axis dictators
Figure 15: Lost Nation, Iowa 1944 cachet.

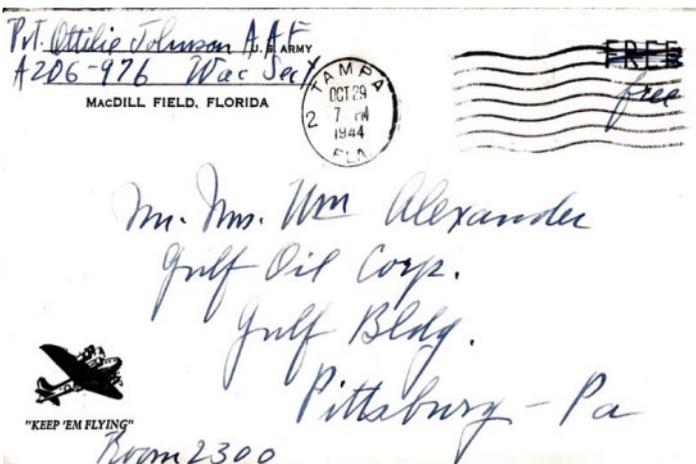


Figure 12: shows the cover of Pvt. Otilie Johnson, Army Air Forces, WAC Section at MacDill Field, Florida sent to the Alexander Family working at Gulf Oil in Pittsburg, PA. on October 29, 1944.



Figure 16: Pre-war Dutch Harbor, Alaska

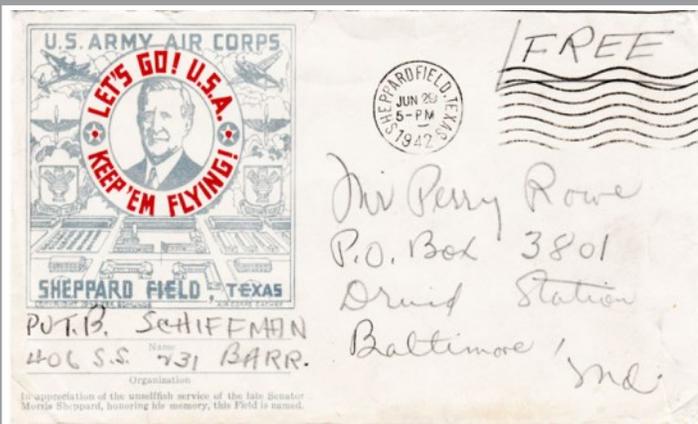


Figure 17: Pvt. Schiffman writing from Sheppard Field in Texas in 1942, showing the U.S. Senator for which the base was named.



Figure 18: Cpl. Harris' mail was post marked one day after the end of the war in Europe.



FIGURE 19: Fairmont West Virginia to Freeport, Long Island.



Figure 20: APS 1942 Label.



Figure 21: A portend of things to come. The awe-struck Japanese shown in mid 1942 were more than likely not thinking of the aerial bombardment that their island nation would experience.

A label, shown as **Figure 20**, showed that the slogan had reached into the ranks of the American Philatelic Society. The theme of the APS convention held in Cleveland between August 12 – 16, 1942 was Victory, reinforced by the slogan “Keep Em Flying”. The label was apparently not applied to commemorative cachets issued during the convention, as the headquarters of the APS does not have an archived example.

Also located was the label shown at right as **Figure 22**. In the case of both **Figure 20** and **22**, no postally used examples of their use during the war has been found by the author.



Further afield in the Keep 'Em Flying slogan's popularity is that of popular culture. Ephemera dealers offer posters (see **Figure 23 next page top left**) of the 1941 hit movie – *KEEP EM FLYING*, starring Bud Abbott & Lou Costello, and the famed comedienne Martha Raye. Advertisers in major American journals (see **Figure 24 next page bottom left**) emphasized the team building aspects of the slogan for their customers and employees.

And in the home, sofa pillow coverings could be manufactured, as in **Figure 25** (next page top right) from Laughlin Army Air Field at Del Rio, Texas. *Courtesy of Kyle Nebo.*



Amazing, isn't it, where sweetheart pins can lead to!

References:

Sherman, Lawrence: *U.S. PATRIOTIC ENVELOPES OF WW II*

WW: Do keep in mind that the worldwide web's references to *Keep Em Flying* are invariably to the movie.

Figure 26: Tom at Chanute Field was advising Marion that he wrote numerous letters at one time.



NORTH PLATTE CANTEN, NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA ...1941-1945 . Go to You Tube address below to see historic video of the North Platte Canteen.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=07DGeLvDw8I

QUIXOTIC POSTCARDS OF THE ISSUE

by Sergio Lugo

Pictured are “historical” postcards. They reflect on an inadvertent military incident, triggered by a hypersensitive fleet, alert to danger all around it. The incident that the cards reflect has a distinctive name, and could have drug another nation into war. Based on your knowledge of international events, see if you can recall the name of the incident based on some of the clues presented below.

1. The action occurred in the first decade of the 20th century.
2. One of the fleets had set sail to engage its enemy a half world away.
3. The war was brought to a close by an American Nobel Prize winner.
4. The incident occurred in international waters in fishing *banks* crisscrossed by many vessels.
5. No vessels were sunk in the incident.
6. The fleet was *dogged* by mishaps throughout its voyage.
7. A famous admiral gained his spurs because of his innovative maneuvers in the naval battle that followed the incident



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:**

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

100th Anniversary Edition: America in World War

- **American Airmen in Italy, 1917-1918** (Mayo)
- **The Declaration of War & War Message - (abbreviated GPO printing)** (Lugo)
- **One Family's Social Welfare Commitment** (Lugo)
- **The 4th Year of the War** (Kugel)
- **Ax-Wielding New Englanders Early AEF' Arrivals in Britain** (Lowther)
- **Stars and Strife: British WW I Censorship of Warner Oland (Charlie Chan) Fan Mail—** (Hoffman/Richards)
- **AEF Aviation -** (Henderson)
- **Sugar Wars: 7th Marines in Cuba (1917—1922) -** (Ciesleski & Lugo)
- **The Railway Mail Service in France** (Thompson)
- **The Doughboy's Spirit—Letters Home** (Ogle)
- **Postal History of the 1st Infantry Division-WW I** (Lugo) (back-up for any pendings)
- *Pending: American Red Cross Surgical Hospital in 1920 Wilno, Poland (Lithuania)* (Lapas)
- *Pending: German Interned Shipping - The Appam* (Dubin)
- *Pending: Funding the Great War with War Stamps and Bonds* (Charles)
- *Pending: The Marines of the 2nd U.S. Army Infantry Division* (Smithsonian)

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

- **The Brusilov Offensive—Part II** (Lugo)
 - **Lufthansa Aircraft Shot Down near Falsterbo** (Sanford)
 - MPHS Auction (Delespesse)
 - **Seals and Strife** (Hoffman/Richards)
 - *Pending: Quakers in the Spanish Civil War* (Bryne)
 - *Pending: War Ration Auto Use Tags* (Lugo)
 - *Pending: Mexican National In WW II U.S. Army* (Bilingual) (Lugo)
 - *Pending: Ft. Towson, Indian Territory Mail During the Republic of Texas Period* (Crosby)
 - *Part IV: NVA & VC Postal System Security Markings and Usages* (Telep)
 - *Pending: APS Article on Espionage* (Berlin)
- (continued on next page)

What's Coming in Future *Bulletins* (cont'd)

FALL (# 4, Oct. to Sept., 2017; release 11/10/17)

- *Pending: Brazilian Expeditionary Force*
- *Pending: Vichy France Colonies (Lugo)*
- *Pending: AFS Friends in World War I*
- *Pending: Korean War Vet—Bury Me in Korea (Albright)*
- *Pending: Civilian Use of Military Mail—China 1937—The Pope's Wife (Weirather)*
- *"Gladian" Shootdown Correction (Sanford)*
- *Pending: WW II German Surrender—Marcophilately Radio Telegram (Richards)*
- *Puerto Rican Ghost Regiments of WW I (Lugo)*

- **AEF MARKINGS:** This column is at an end in the *MPHS Bulletin* after a 3 year run. The authors urge readers to review the columns since 2014 with a view towards submission of previously unreported markings
- **POSTAL HISTORY OF THE AEF:** Ed and Al have been updating Theo Van Dam's classic on the AEF. The original is projected to be double in size from roughly 200 pages to over 450 pages. It appears that the original release date of April 2017 will slide back further into 2017 or 2018. **Volunteers wishing to work on a project of such massive scope are welcome to contact either Ed or Al.**

Email address for Dubin = dubine@comcast.net

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 in 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	<i>Bulletin</i> in Member Hands	
		1st Date=Digital	2nd=Hard Copy
Winter	January 20 to 25	Early February	Mid February
Spring	March 10	April 6	April 6
Summer	July 20 to 25	Early August	Mid August
Fall	October 20 to 25	Early November	Mid November

BTW: In its first ever such competition, the *MPHS Bulletin* won a high vermeil at Chicagopex. **AND A SECOND BTW:** The judges downgraded the entry because of the lack of an index. If you look closely, an INDEX has been introduced. This issue covers calendar year 2015 & 2016. For subsequent years, the cumulative INDEX will appear in the first issue of the new calendar year.

UPDATE ON AEF Markings Column and Postal History of WW I Book

Ed Dubin and Alfred Kugel have been working diligently on two projects which are nearing their respective completion dates. Here is an update on both:

APO/DPO/FPO Openings and Closings

by David Kent

These APO, FPO and DPO actions were announced in the *Postal Bulletin* between October and December, 2016. Announcements advise Postal Service staff that they may now accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Opened," and may no longer accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Closed." Actual dates of operation of offices may differ from the dates given. 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	11/24/16
APO	09008	Open	12/22/16
APO	09017	Open	12/22/16
APO	09018	Open	12/22/16
APO	09059	Close	12/8/16
APO	09245	Open	10/27/16
DPO	09301	Open	10/27/16
DPO	09310	Open	10/27/16
DPO	09311	Open	10/27/16
DPO	09312	Open	10/27/16
APO	09351	Open	11/24/16
APO	09711	Open	10/27/16
FPO	34085	Open	11/24/16
APO	96301	Open	12/8/16
FPO	96621	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96622	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96623	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96625	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96626	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96627	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96630	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96631	Close	11/10/16
FPO	96699	Close	11/10/16

APO 09059 was assigned to the Army Depot at Miesau, Germany, one of the Army's largest ammunition storage facilities. The many Navy FPO 966 numbers that were "closed" in November were apparently left "active" in some Postal Service lists when the ships they served were decommissioned as much as ten years ago, in a year-end clean up of the list.

MPHS Literature For Sale

Contact Norman Gruenzner (ngruenzer@comcast.net) with the titles of the books or CDs you would like to order. Please note that prices below DO NOT include postage. Mr. Gruenzner is filling the capacity until such time as a new literature manager is found. He will send you the total price of your order, including postage. Payment must be included with your order.

- Most listed publications are also available in CD format. Price = \$25. Please inquire before ordering
- Orders in U.S. Dollars. Send to: MPHS, Post Office Box 32, Cypress, Texas 77410-0032 USA.
- Ordering on-Line: Go to the MPHS Webpage at www.militaryPHS.org and pay thru PayPal

Multi-War Periods:

Greetings - Postal History of the Selective Service and the Draft 1917 to 1976.	\$25
By Russ Carter. Spiral Bound, 180 pages, 160 illustrations	
War Ballots: Military Voting by Mail from the Civil War to WWII.	\$25
By Russ Carter. Spiral bound, clear plastic cover, 262 pgs., 315 illustrations, 9 charts, 2 identifications charts	
“We Build - We Fight” Locations and Assignment of U.S. Naval Construction Units: 1941—2005	\$35
By Norm Gruenzner. Spiral bound, clear plastic cover, 421 pages, 76 illustrations	

World War ONE:

AEF in the BEF	\$35
By Jim Boyden. Spiral bound. 400 pages, 150 illustrations	
Postal History of the AEF, 1917 –1923	\$30
By Theo Van Dam. Spiral bound, clear plastic cover, 274 pages	
Update to the Postal History of the AEF	Sold Out
Spiral Bound, clear plastic cover, 66 pages	
Update II to the Postal History of the AEF	Sold Out
Spiral bound, hard plastic cover, 168 pages	
Note: CD of 3 Volumes (Postal History of the AEF; Update I and Update II) is available.	
U.S. Air Service in Britain, WWI	\$30
By Jim Boyden. Comb bound. 96 pages, illustrated	

World War TWO:

Combat and Special Operations of U.S. Motor Torpedo Boats during World War Two	\$50
By Norman Gruenzner, A chronology. Two volumes, 518 pages, 306 photos and illustrations	
Numbered Army and Air Force Post Office Locations	CD Format = \$30
By Russ Carter. Three Part series, 7th Edition. All in loose leaf, 3 hole punch format	
Vol. 1: (BPO's, PRS's and Regular APO's—1941—1964), 321 pages, 23 illustrations, 7 charts	\$30
Vol. 2: (Temporary APO's, 1941-1947); 417 pages, 17 illustrations, 9 documents, 1 chart	\$40
Vol. 3: Numbered Navy and Marine Corps Post Offices , 287 pages, 37 illustrations (CDs available)	\$35
WWII U.S. Censor Enclosure Slips and Return to Sender Labels	\$25
By Russ Carter. Spiral bound. 87 pages, 360 illustrations	

Other Publications:

Index of Bulletin Articles, 1937 to 2004	\$5
Bulletin Back Issues	\$5
Article Photocopies: \$1.25 for one article; \$5 for up to 15 pages plus \$0.25 per page afterwards.	
Foreign members: Please inquire as noted above.	

An Explicable WW II Air Mail Rerouting?

by Dann Mayo, Enrique Setaro, Ken Lawrence
and Sergio Lugo

The postcard shown was submitted to the MPHS for analysis by Enrique Setaro of the Hollywood Stamp Club of South Florida. It is dated 1943. Its intended recipient was Alice. The card appears to have been written in Portuguese. Setaro's basic query was where was the U.S. censorship marking applied, accompanied by two ancillary questions. Member Dann Mayo provided a response, using his extensive familiarity with censorship markings to answer directly the primary question. But as you'll see, Dann's response raised other issues.

As is evident, the card was intended to be flown from Argentina to Natal, Brazil and to Monrovia, Liberia and onward to Lisbon, Portugal for forwarding to Grenoble, France. Such a routing would have made sense except for wartime conditions. At Natal, it would have been transferred to a trans-South Atlantic route to Monrovia, but we're not sure which one? Further, another transfer likely would have occurred at Monrovia for a Lisbon bound flight – but again we're not familiar with which one?

However, the card received a U.S. censorship marking which, on its surface, was totally beyond our explanatory ability - since we cannot fathom why a U.S. censor would have been involved at any of these places. Dann Mayo's explanation of the censor marking clarified the marking itself, but not the routing requiring the U.S. censor marking. This was the gist of Enrique's basic question. He also noted the presence of two additional markings 2353 and 4149, which were unknown to him.



Dann's response follows.

"The US censor handstamp with *-* is the type assigned to San Juan, Puerto Rico (illustration documented in the Office of Censorship files in the National Archives). The examiner number fits within the 14001-14189 numbers assigned to the San Juan station.

I suspect that the red numbers are not censor numbers. If they were this would have traveled to 2 other stations (2353 = Canal Zone, 4149 = Miami). The fact that they are apparently of the same design using the same magenta ink suggests a use at a single location for some other purpose. What that might have been, I do not know. Sometimes I encounter numbers such as this (different fonts for different places) suggesting that they are PO handstamps for tracking registered covers turned over to censorship. That does not appear to be the case here.

BTW, this handstamp is not shown in Broderick and Mayo's: *Civil Censorship in the United States During World War II*. While the book is out of date, there has surprisingly been very few handstamps added to it in the past 35 years. I do not think that I have an example of this marking (uncertainty due to the fact that I never worked up my territorial markings for exhibit). Good Luck "

While Dann's response clarified the marking question, it added to the quandary relative to the routing consideration. To have received the San Juan censor markings, the postcard must have been flown northward from Natal to Puerto Rico. Once censored, rather than being returned southward to continue its journey to Monrovia, it appears possible that the postcard was placed on another route to Lisbon.

Helpfully, in an e-mail discussion between Dann Mayo and Ken Lawrence, Ken may have filled in the routing answer. Ken wrote "if I read David Crotty's catalog correctly, all October-November 1943 FAM 18 LATI-substitute flights were clockwise. They went Natal-Belem-Port of Spain-San Juan-Bermuda-NY. Then NY-Bermuda-Horta-Lisbon. So a card or letter posted in South America would have gone by one flight to San Juan, by a second to New York, and by a third to Lisbon."

Mr. Lawrence later went on to explain why San Juan, Puerto Rico. That has to do with the circumstances surrounding the creation and the termination of LATI service between Europe and South America.

Lawrence explained that:

“censorship at San Juan was required. Pan American Airways (PAA) agreed to provide transport between South America and Europe, which was Brazil's requirement to shut down the Italian LATI route and to confiscate LATI assets and equipment. Initially the PAA LATI-substitute route was supposed to call at Bathurst, Gambia, en route from Natal to Lisbon, where Britain opened an Imperial Censorship station to examine mail. However, PAA was not consistently following that plan. In exasperation, Britain negotiated a secret arrangement with the United States that required all LATI-substitute mail from South America to Europe to be censored at San Juan. So it really did not matter whether the route was clockwise or counter-clockwise.

John Wilson published the complete text of the secret US-UK San Juan agreement in *Cameo*, and possibly also in *Airpost Journal*.”

Lawrence adds that in a December 24, 2016 post to Richard Frajola's Board for Philatelists, that John Wilson explained the two numbers struck by censors: "The procedure was to apply two numbers, the larger one being the mail bag number, the smaller being the 'batch number'." He was writing about the practice at British imperial censorship stations, but U.S. Office of Censorship stations used the same system.

Lugo added the following. For the benefit of our military postal history readers who are unfamiliar with LATI—the acronym stands for *Linea Aerea Transatlantica Italiane*. Created in 1939, LATI sought to capitalize on the end of German airline service to South America as a consequence of the Second World War. LATI quickly began airline operations back and forth from South America, taking advantage of Italy's neutral status in 1939. Once Italy joined the fray in June 1940, Italian motives for operating the airline service were increasingly called into question on the part of British and, later, American officials. LATI service was eventually discontinued in 1941 as a result of Allied pressure on Brazil.

If there is anyone among our readers willing to advance another reasonable explanation and sources supporting your view, we'd love to hear from you. Please write the editor, or e-mail him at lugopspe@q.com

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 articles in terms of facts and issues. Leave the pointing fingers to the editor re. grammar, sentence structure, incorrect observations, punctuations, minor discrepancies, font size etc. What we really seek from you is the creation of a positive environment that encourages writers. Thanks for appreciating that need.

From: Gregory Finnegan of Cambridge, MA.:

11/18/2016: There must be a term for the phenomenon of learning about something new and THEN seeing it everywhere. When I wrote you.....I was vaguely aware of the use of ration boxes as writing/mail media.....In LINN'S issue of **28 July 2003**, p3, the then-editor Michael Schreiber's "Open Albums" column leads off with, and devotes 2 columns and 2 photos (obverse/reverse) to show: a postcard made from an MRE Applesauce box, sent to a retired Sgt. Major by his son, a SSgt. in Iraq. I've never tried LINN'S online, tho' I'm eligible, and even more so lack awareness of the time-depth of their online content. If you don't have access to the column, I'll mail you mine. They might even authorize reprinting it as a supplement to your article; I was glad to see the reprint in the latest issue of the BOAC/Sweden article, which I otherwise would never have seen! Cheers!

11/17/2016: Quite good over-all (as your earlier issues have also been) but I especially wanted to note my appreciation of your article on re-use of C-ration boxes as writing materials. My appreciation comes from various facets. First is simply that I'm glad for the detailed notes on what, exactly, "a" C-Ration consisted of..... More specifically, is the QMC aspect; my college advisor, an economist, had been chief of non-perishable subsistence for D-Day, the army having sent him to Harvard Business School for 6 weeks. More immediately, my late mother had been a civilian employee of the Army in Honolulu, from early 1941 until the end of the war. Much of her time was w/ the QMC. I still have her QMC-insignia earrings and, more significant, a black-on-white armband reading "US Army/Non Combatant/Hawaiian Department," issued after 7 Dec. There are also photos in blouse, shorts, old-style helmet & gas-mask case. I much enjoyed the article!

I do have a minor correction: Navy Branch 14030 wasn't a shipboard PO; if so it would have been in the 15xxx series. The postwar 14xxx series was assigned to USMC units or facilities. 14030 was the 3rd Marine Division. (Interestingly, the 1st MarDiv had 14052.) All this from the 1994 edition of Consantini & Gruenzner's UNITED STATES NUMBERED MILITARY POST OFFICES. That having been superseded, my info may have been corrected or changed in the current 7th ed. The 1994 entry for 14032 is minimal—no opening, closing dates, sub-branches or locations.

My primary philatelic interest is Naval postal history (my father was a career USN officer, and was a Japanese translator/codebreaker at PH during WWII). But I find MPHS immensely valuable too, not least for a balance between things of interest and things (like your article referenced above) that I might not have imagined would be so informative, but turn out to be!

MPHS immensely valuable too, not least for a balance between things of interest and things (like your article referenced above) that I might not have imagined would be so informative, but turn out to be!

Thanks for your good work (general and specific!) I'm sorry to miss your talk this weekend on the Vichy Empire, since my (now retired) 'day job' as an anthropologist involved research in what was then Haute-Volta.

Reply: Thank you so much for your kind remarks. Is that word or phrase you're looking for "déjà vu redux?" As always, I find that my learning curve on such matters as FPOs needs to climb, and maybe one of these days I'll better understand FPOs (vs. APOs). And, BTW, the Vichy presentation pointed out deficiencies in my coverage. Those are being rectified and the power point presentation will appear on the MPHS webpage in 2017.

And Another Mea Culpa: I about fainted when I read this passage from the Issue # 4, 2016, pg. 20 article (I thought I had corrected it): "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)." The passage should have read: "of items they particularly dis-liked (e.g. ham and lima beans)"

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.]

John Hall took a gold and the Wilmer Rocket revenue award at the Bnapex show in Fredericton NB, Canada, in October with his "**Canadian Fiscal War Tax Stamps of WWI.**" Hall also received a vermeil for his "**Canadian Postal Rates of the War Tax Era 1915-1926.**" Canada's newest national show, Canpex, was held in London, Ontario in October. **Myron Paley** won a silver plus the Rich Toop best military award with his "**Russo-Japanese War.**"

James Cate received a vermeil at Filatelic Fiesta in San Jose, Calif., in November with his "**Domestic U.S. Military Facilities: WWI 1917-1919, American Machine Flag.**" **Steve Shay** took a silver and the Women Exhibitors sterling achievement award at the same show for "**Mail to and from the U.S. Navy via Airmail 1918-1941.**" **H. James Maxwell** won a gold and the MPHS award for "**China's U.S. Constitution Commemoratives: Through-the-Line Usages.**"

At Chicagopex in November **Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski** took a gold along with the Mark Banchik foreign airmail award, the Cheryl Ganz aerophilatelic research award and the MPHS award for "**Flown Mail of the Siege of Przemysl 1914-1915.**" Vermeil awards went to **Michael Dixon** for "**1940-1945 Red Cross Civilian Postal Message Scheme for the German Occupied British**

Channel Islands," and to **Alfred Kugel** for "**Austro-Hungarian Forces in World War I.**" Al also received a vermeil for "**Scandinavian Volunteers in Finland during the Winter War.**"

In the literature section of Chicagopex **Scott Trepel** won a gold for "**Mail to and from US Forces Protecting the Capital in April-June 1861.**" Another gold went to **Piet an Putten and Nico de Weijer** for "**Postal Censorship and Internment Camp Mail in the Netherlands Indies 1940-1942.**" Vermeil awards went to **John Wilson** for "**Imperial Censorship Operations in the Gambia 1942,**" and to **Sergio Lugo** for the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*.

Richard Jones received a silver-bronze and the AAPE novice award at Florex in Orlando in December for his "**Training for War: Fleet Problem XX.**"

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.]

Knut Arveng describes the **roles of Norwegian women in the Korean War** in the **June** issue of *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*, using examples of mail and photographs. In the same issue **John Torstad** highlights the **life of pioneer and military aviator Trygve Gran** and shows examples of the **well-known 1944 stamp marking the anniversary of his flight across the North Sea.**

In the **August 2016** issue of the German journal of the Nordic country study group, *Philatelistische Nachrichten*, **Gerhard Ludwig** shows examples of **mail between Belgium and the Scandinavian countries during WW I.** Many have interesting postal markings with reasons for returning the mail to the sender.

Jim Etherington discusses the handling of **mail by the British Expeditionary Force in the November Gibbons Stamp Monthly.** The period covered is from the deployment to France **September 4, 1939** until evacuation in the **spring of 1940.** Many examples are shown with censor markings and FPO marks.

Eduardo Barreiros and Luis Barreiros describe **Portuguese Expeditionary Corps mail in WWI France** in the **November London Philatelist**, showing examples of registered mail and censorship. In the same issue **Barry Scott** continues his discussion of the **circular "M" hand-stamp of occupied Iraq 1920-1921.** He has located five additional examples since his earlier article.

John Burnett continues his series on **little known facts about Canada and WW II** in the **October-**

Continued on pg. 32

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Philatelic Militaria (cont'd from pg. 31)

December BNA Topics. He talks about the arrangement made by the U.S. and Canada with Japan to send internees of each other's countries to Mormagoa, Portuguese India, for exchange. He shows a cover sent from Canada to a Canadian POW held after the fall of Hong Kong. The letter, sent via Seattle and New York to the MS *Gripsholm* for the internee exchange, was censored in Canada and has Japan arrival marks.

The **BNAPS Canadian Military Mail Study Group** newsletter for **December** reproduces **holiday greeting cards** from Canadians. **Mike Street** shows a **post card mailed from a CFPO in Seoul** from a member of a Canadian concert party sent to entertain the troops. **Barry Brown** lists the **Canadian War Taxes (excise taxes)** that were paid on cigarette match books used **during WW II** in the November *War Times*, published by the World War II Study Group of BNAPS.

Alfred Kugel continues his series on **World War I** in the January-February *Collectors Club Philatelist*, this time with a **focus on 1917** when the United States joined the war. The overview includes submarine warfare, the French offensive in the west, Romania overrun, the Allied Base at Salonica, and Russia's pulling out of the war.

Stars & Strife:

WW II German Prisoner of War Camp at Alva, Oklahoma

by Regis Hoffman and Thomas Richards

During the war, the state of Oklahoma was the site for over 30 prisoner of war camps housing thousands of Axis prisoners.

Plans for these camps predate the war. As storm clouds raged over Europe, the U.S. government developed plans for interning more than 100,000 enemy aliens living in the United States. To prepare for this, camp construction began in four Oklahoma cities: Alva, McAlester, Stringtown and Tonkawa. The only camps that were used to hold enemy aliens were McAlester and Stringtown. Alva and Tonkawa became prisoner of war camps.

The prisoners began arriving in Oklahoma in April of 1943. As the war in North Africa progressed, the Allies captured large numbers of German and Italian soldiers from Erwin Rommel's famed *Afrika Korps*. The British government requested that the US government take responsibility for a number of them.

Only German POWs were confined in Oklahoma. An attempt was made to segregate the Nazi and Nazi sympathizers from the general camp populations and transfer them to special camps with higher security. One such camp was the Alva, Oklahoma camp.

The Alva POW camp was referred to as a *Nazilager* by many of the German POWs. The first POWs arrived on July 13, 1943, with the camp closed on November 15, 1945. Although the camp had a capacity of 6,000, it never held more than 4,850. Twenty-one escapes were recorded and five POWs died while incarcerated there.

Many American soldiers felt that posting at a POW camp was a degrading and empty assignment given to unworthy soldiers.

The cover in Figure 1 was sent from Pfc. Ronald Campbell, 455th Military Police Escort Guard (M.P.E.G.) Company at the POW camp in Alva to actress Deanna Durbin. Note the rather sparse address of "Hollywood, California." Deanna Durbin was perhaps the most written-to actress of her time, and readers of this column will recall that many WW II-era military covers addressed to her have appeared in this column.

The circular date stamp reads "ALVA, OKLA - INTERNMENT CAMP." The cover bears manuscript notations in crayon, "5x7" (crossed out) and "6x10". This is the size of the publicity photograph that was either requested or sent.

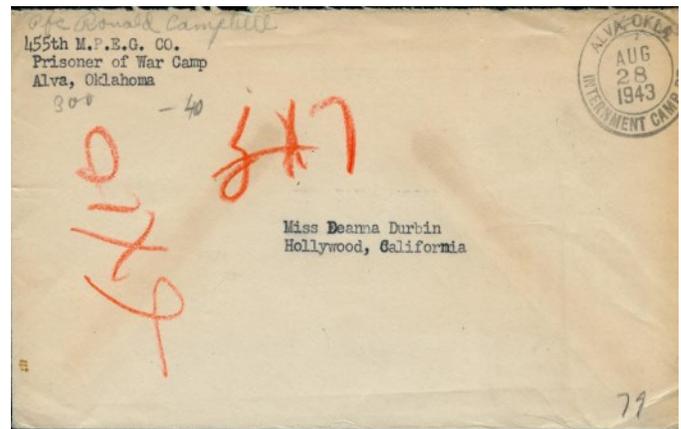


Figure 1: Cover from a guard at the German POW camp at Alva, Oklahoma to actress Deanna Durbin.

The Okie Legacy website (<http://okielegacy.net>) has a blog post from the sender of this letter, a fortuitous conjunction "of the stars":

"I was a member of the 455th MPEG COMPANY stationed at Camp Alva from July 43 until June 1944, when I left for the 63rd Infantry Division.

It was very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. It was true that the prisoners gave us a hard time when we were doing nightly bed checks. Sgt. Emil Minoti was a senior Sgt. who was confined to solitary confinement for a short period of time while I was there, and I noticed that he was killed trying to escape."

After VE Day, the POW's were shipped home, but 2,192 remained at the Alva POW camp on September 16, 1945. The bulk of them were shipped out October 1, 1945 then there were only 45 remaining.

On September 20, 1945, Col. H. S. Richardson (camp commander) announced the camp would be closed. On October 15, 1945, all of the POW's were gone. November 15, 1945, Capt. Pat Arnim (final camp commander) closed camp. A large number of guards at the Alva POW camp have connections with Alva to this day. Some were from Alva before the war and others married women from the Alva area and settled down there after WWII.

Your suggestions and submissions for articles, videos, power point presentations are always welcome!

**Aliens Were Exempt From US Militia Duty
During the American Civil War according
to Asst. Secretary of State
Frederick W. Seward
by Ravi Vora**

When William Seward was appointed Secretary of State in 1861, his son, Frederick Seward became an Assistant Secretary of State. He served from 1861 to 1869 under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, as well as 1877 to 1879 under President Rutherford B Hayes.

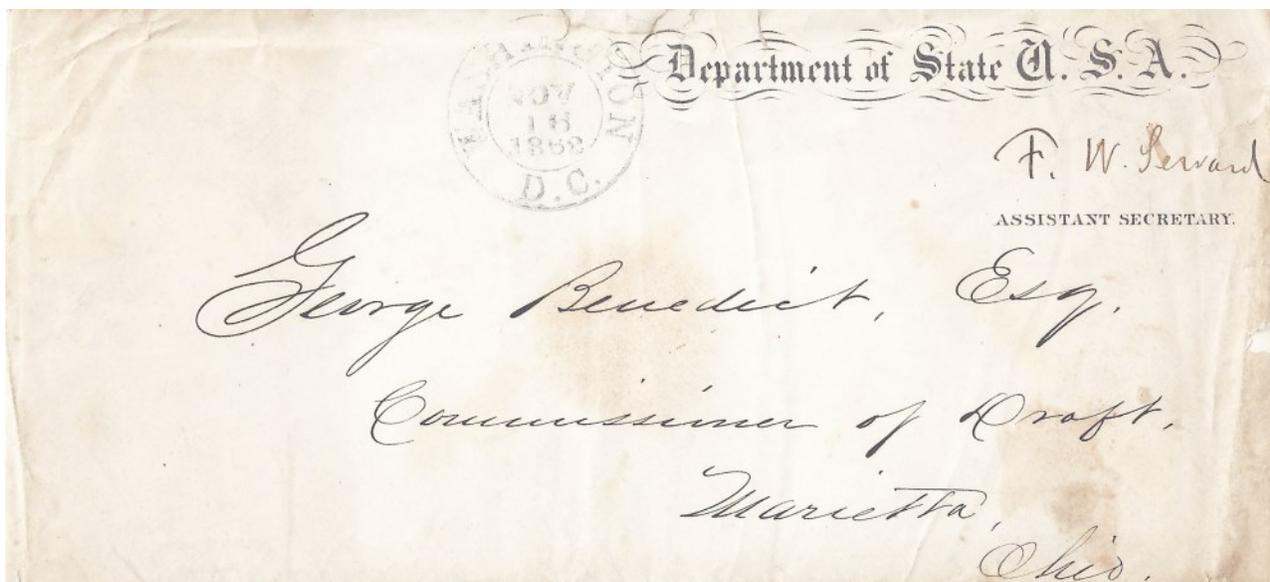
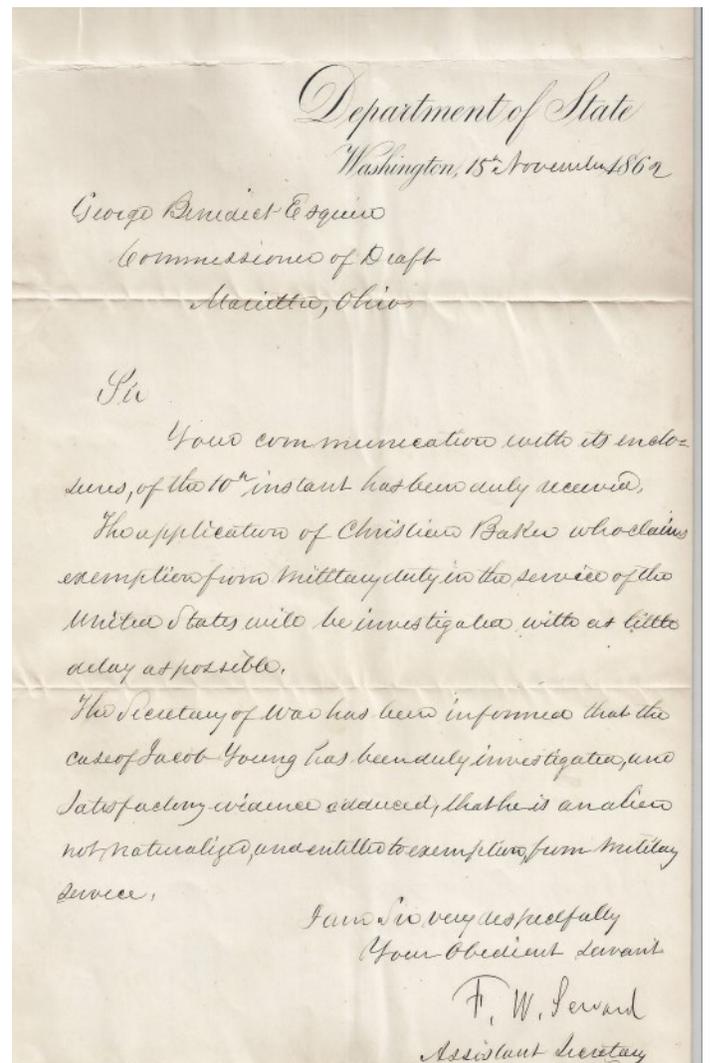
The Militia Act of 1862 gave President Lincoln the authority to draft 300,000 militiamen for up to nine months to serve in the US Army to fight against the Confederacy. However, the militias were to be state run with each county to be involved in the selection. Apparently the act exempted aliens (non US citizens) from serving. This was unlike direct recruitment into the Federal Army—as frequently depicted in lore and legend—particularly as it involved Irishmen.

The correspondence shown highlights the role of the Department of State in dealing with the question of whether prospective draftee aliens were required to serve in the US military. The official cover bearing the Department of State imprint was free franked to show that it was on U.S. government business. F. W. Seward signed with a WASHINGTON D.C. double circular cancel dated NOV 16 1862. The cover was addressed to a George Benedict, Commissioner of Draft, in Marietta, Ohio.

The enclosure is on a Department of State letter head dated 15th November 15, 1862. The letter advises the Commissioner that a Christian Baker's request for exemption from the US military service will be investigated as soon as possible. More interesting in the response is the reference to an alien, named Jacob Young, who is exempted from military service as an alien—a decision that

had been conveyed to the Secretary of War.

The letter and cover presents a somewhat arcane view of the obscure role of the Department of State during wartime in coordinating exemption requests/eligibility for military duty during that war.



CLASSIFIED ADS

For details and to submit all copy with payment (payable on a U.S. bank) contact editor, Sergio Lugo, lugopspe@q.com.

MPHS MEMBER ONLY ADS: for military postal history offered for sale or specialty items being sought.

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WANTED: Postal history of (1) U.S. 2nd Inf. Regt. (1791-now), (2) 1st Inf. Div. (1917-now), or (3) Social Welfare Organizations of WWI. S. Lugo: 303-691-0393; lugopspe@q.com to 17/4

SEEKING:: Material for exhibit and column. **focused on "Intelligence..** Covers, stamps, postal history, literature/ references and appropriate other sought. I write for government & academic publications on the intelligence field and it is a good way to introduce non-collectors to the hobby.. All inquiries acknowledged. Mark Sommer, 1266 Teaneck Road (10A), Teaneck, NJ 07666; (201) 837-0489 16/2

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Rear Guard Cover of the Month - Army Parcel Restrictions - 1944

by David Kent

Saturday 12th [August] 1944

France

Dearest Honey Pie:

As you could probably guess, I am writing this letter in bed and wishing like anything that you were beside me but I guess that just can't be, darnit. How have you been keeping yourself. I sure hope you feel OK when I get home. Say, honey, just do me a favor will you? You know "Susie" don't you? Well ask her for a lock of her hair so you can send it to me. I want to dream about it. That's the best I can do without being there to see her. I hope you don't get mad when I ask for a lock of Susie's hair but it's for a definet (sic) purpose.

Say honey why don't you send some packages? Tomato juice, peanuts, pineapple juice, cheese, salomi, candy ("Fanny Farmers"), cookies or any darn thing that is eatable. Also don't forget camera and plenty of film and whenever you can buy a roll send it.

I feel pretty good right now, I just took a bath (in my helmet).

I have written to Bill Carpenter a few times and no answer. I hope he didn't get "knocked down." Have you heard from him? Also Harold.

Well sweets I do wish I could be there with you because I love you so much but I can wait if you can.

Goodnight and all my Love to you both.

George

Commentary: George uses a return address of a squadron in the 371st Fighter-Bomber Group, which flew the P-47 Thunderbolt. The Group is normally listed as just a fighter group, and the Thunderbolt was officially classified as a fighter, but in a ground-attack role it could carry a bomb load of 2,500 pounds, more than half the payload of the B-17 Flying Fortress.

After stateside training, the Group moved to the European theater during March of 1944 and served in combat with the Ninth Air Force from April 1944 to May 1945. Its Thunderbolts flew fighter sweep, dive-bombing, and escort missions leading up to the D-Day invasion. It attacked railroads, trains, vehicles, gun emplacements, and buildings in France during the invasion. It continued tactical support and bombing missions during the breakthrough at St. Lo, and supported the subsequent drive across northern France. Targets included storage dumps, trains, rail lines, marshaling yards, buildings, factories, bridges, roads and vehicles. It supported Allied ground action in the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944 into Jan-

uary of 1945, and continued operations on into Germany until the war ended. The Group had three squadrons.

Group headquarters was in Beuzeville, France at this time. Postal records show his APO number, 595, was the village of Le Hatainnerie, while the post office that processed his letter, APO 157, was at Fontenay-sur-Mer, France.



What may surprise some is the postmark in the middle of the second page of his letter. It's not a four-bar cancellation device, but the double-circle style normally used at post office counters. It is from Gloversville, New York, the city to which the letter is addressed, dated about three weeks after the date of his letter. As outlined in an article in this journal back in 1999 (1), as the war progressed the Army found itself inundated with packages mailed to soldiers overseas, many containing "stuff" the soldiers did not want. To save transport space for more important cargoes, the cooperating Post Office Department issued rules saying that you couldn't mail a package to a soldier unless he had written you a letter asking for the contents. Furthermore, you had to bring that letter to the post office with your package as proof of the request, and the window clerk placed his postmark on the letter to prevent it from being used again.

One wonders if George's wife was able to find any Fanny Farmer chocolates, then an upstate New York speciality and what she thought of the Susie hair request!

(1) "Parcels for our Fighting Men," *MPHS Bulletin*, Winter 1999.