

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Jul 1955)

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.

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

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It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the passing of WCC member Joseph Lohr. He had been ailing and was confined in Montifiore Hospital in NYC.

Dues of \$2.00 are payable on July 1st to Isadore Willinger, 314 E. 163rd St., New York City 51, N. Y. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st to July 1st.

Jim Russell had an article on Korean P. O. W.'s in the April 16th issue of the Weekly Philatelic Gossip. Will all collectors who have Korean POW covers please send the dates and types of cancels on them and any other info to Jim? His address is 2209 Brighton St., Phila. 49, Pa. Jim will write us a summary on this info.

Our Sec-Treas Willinger just returned from a vacation in Florida. The lucky boy returned home just in time for an 8% raise.

QUIZ CORNER By Bob Gordon Box 145 Northfield, Vermont

No information has been volunteered on the various questions raised in the May issue of WCC Bulletin. Drop a line.

Just ran across a stampless cover (no F. M. stamp either) dated March 1955 with machine cancel POSTE AUX ARMEES and a slogan "killer" in duplex: L'Indication du No du B.P.M. ou d'un lieu (illegible) est interdite dans les adresses militaires So don't use Bureau Postal Militaire number in your letters to French soldiers hereafter. This number, incidentally, was from Germany.

Oddity in the way of history, just turned up: The treaty of peace of Dec. 10, 1898, ending the Spanish-American War, did not turn over to U.S. the islands of Cagayan, or the Sibutu Islands, in southern Phillippines, or the Batan Is. a group in northern Philippines. We got them in 1900, by a new treaty, plus payment of \$100,000. Question: was there any postal service in those areas in the interim?

Received in an exchange lately a Bavarian cover of 1916 (card rather) with an adhesive "Feld-Post" label; head of Hindenburg; no denomination; no inscription except "Feld-Post." Some kind of charity label, I suppose. Know anything of this one? Postmark is Ingolstadt.

Send some answers and there will be more questions next time.

Word comes in from Nery Hertzberg.. "At a recent WCC auction sale, I obtained a cover from the Mau Mau campaign, FPO #1055. This was a philatelic item. However, I now have another one from FPO #1057, from the Commanding Officer on a "Forces Letter" form bearing a 6d British stamp. I wonder how many FPO's exist of this campaign? I have a list of the units there, and have sent covers; will let you know what I am able to get.

Our local club has weekly auctions, and in one of them, I obtained some covers that puzzled me greatly, until I learned the "key" through a newspaper article. One of our members is serving with the army in Germany, and he occasionally sends material back for a donation auction. They bear rubber stamps, no postage, and, although some of them have an APO return address, there is no APO cancel; the postmark invariably is a German town cancel.

One of them is a large double circle reading, in English, "HQ. 6932 LABOR SERVICE CENTER (GUARD) APO 757/OFFICIAL," town pmk. Born (Tauanus). Another, "6981 LABOR SERVICE SIGNAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALLION/OFFICIAL/APO 161 US ARMY." postmark on this is "NEUREUT-LAGER/KARLSRUHE/BADEN."

Another reads "6970 LS ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION BATALLION/OFFICIAL." Pmk. Ettlingen (Baden), 1954. Another reads "3331 US ARMY LSN SVC LIAISON DETACHMENT /OFFICIAL," pmk. Heidelberg. One other rubber stamp, double circle in red "8015th LS M C & GS DEF. CO. (Ger)/APO 34, US Army." Pmk. Nahbollenbach, Nahe. Another "LABOR SERVICE COMPANY (GUARD)/4028" This pmk. Munchen.

Still another reads "HEADQUARTERS 8761 LABOR SERVICE SIGNAL BASE DEPOT COMPANY/OFFICIAL." pink. Pirmasen (Signal Depot, APO 189, in return address)

At first I thought that they might have been forced labor for POW's, then displaced persons' mail. However, a newspaper article cleared up this matter. The nucleus of the new West German Army was formed into Labor Companies by out forces prior to the admission of West Germany into NATO. In other words the organization took place earlier, so these are the forerunners of the new West German Army." Thanks Merv. Let's hear from you more often.

Just received from C. J. Curtis of 43 Showell Green Lane, Birmingham 11, England an addenda to "Catalogue of Forces Covers" entitled ALLIED ARMIES INCLUDING ALLIED ARMIES IN GREAT BRITAIN 1939-1945. Price 20 cents.

What naval ships of Canada and U. S. were in on the occupation of Kiska. Also what air force units of both countries were there?

Received word from LAVA, 854 Intervale Ave., New York 59, N. Y. that he has for sale covers of U. S. and France Forces in Indochina 1954; FDC of the Indian FPO's in Indochina at 6.50 for the set of 4 covers. Offer subj. unsold; Catalogue of the German FPO's 1939-1945 by Alfred Clomont for \$2.75.

Just received a full page story with pictures of a story of WCC member Fritz Lotkemann's POW collection. He has 600 POW covers. This appeared in the DENVER POST. Also shorter article in NY World-Telegram re to Lotkemann. His collection starts with the early 19th century Napoleonic campaign and goes up to the Korean conflict. Lotkemann's proudest possession is a cover donated to his collection by Gen. William Dean. The envelope once contained one of the few messages Dean received from his family while a prisoner in Korea. Lotkemann values his collection at \$1,000. A mystery which has intrigued Lotkemann during 30 years of collecting the covers is what has happened to those envelopes which were posted by American prisoners in Germany during WWI. Although 15,000 letters are known to have been written, he says not a single cover is in circulation today.

Harold J. Vacura, 421 Tuxedo Blvd., Webster Groves 19, Mo. is in the process of reducing his APO collection. He would like to trade mostly for Minn. precancels Band T&T. If anyone is interested send in his want list.

Cippoli and Rogan need an APO 806 from Antigua, BWI, Chart number AB 7, We need this for information so please let us know even if not for trade or sale

Has anyone got any covers from Ireland during the time of the "Trouble" in the early 20's?? Your editor needs some for his Eire collection. There is an article re those in Newsletter #6 (March 1954) of Forces Postal History Society.

Member S. L. Bayer of the Penny Black Stamp Co. lost his wife recently. We offer sincere condolences.

Robert A. Langer of Glenbrook, Conn. inherited his father's collection of APO, V letter mail and autographs and has carried on. He has remained in the club under his father's number of 210.

MEMBERS !! Check all your holdings. Drop me a line about a few of your favorites. Please.

Very glad to hear that F. W. Ryan has recovered from his recent illness. We missed him at our last meeting of WCC in Nyc.

Have seen covers of WWII vintage which sent from Poland to Switzerland. Now on them are markings that show that they went through Egypt or Ankara, Turkey or through both.

What is a C. I. C. Cancel???

Did you know that A. L. Nicholson has covers from the first Sabrojet pilot shot down in the Korean war, a POW letter-card from Lt. Ralph Nardella who took over the work of the famous Father Kapaun in Camp 5, a letter from one of the brain washed POWs (this letter was handed our AP reporter by the Communist reporter Alan Winnington at Panmunjon), another returned POW letter showing a Russian cancel at Pongyang, North Korean POW interrogation center, a cover from a Turkish POW and many, many others. Also 2 letters from Frank Nach, AP photographer who was a POW.

A STORY OF A NORTH KOREAN POW COVER
by A. L. Nicholson

Almost all of the covers in my Korean War collection have interesting stories connected with them, either from the cover itself or my method of obtaining it. The following cover and story is among my most prized.

Do you collectors of this type of material have a cover from a North Korean or Chinese held in one of the U. N. POW Camps of South Korea? I bet not. All who have tried to obtain POW covers from the Korean War have found it difficult even from our own countrymen. After obtaining a few from friends I decided to try for one from our enemy. I managed to contact a guard at one of the U. N. Camps by the name of SGT. Joe B. Kirchner. "Joe" as our correspondence progressed was finally able to get two cards which he sent me along with a very interesting letter part of which I will quote here. "I was at U.N. Camp 4 near Taegue until I volunteered like 20 others to set up a new PW stockade, calling it Camp 10 or Ascom City. The Korean name was Pup-yong, located 9 miles north of Inchon and 14 miles southeast of Seoul. I am commander of Compound "C" holding some 500 anti-Communist POWs. These were used to work for the 44th Engineering Construction Bn. famous for struggle on Heartbreak Ridge. The covers I am sending you were presented me upon request of their Compound Representative. There is one other type but they are reluctant to part with these."

One of the cards (see photo #5) was written from UN Camp 2 at Pusan by BANG, Yang Kie to his friend HYEN, In Soo in camp 5 (transferred to Camp 10) and bears this message. "Dear In Soo: How uncomfortable you must be during this sticky summer season. I'M so happy to read such warm letters from you. My body is back in tip-top shape so please feel at ease. I received kind care from the U. N. Forces at the hospital. You asked about my elder brother, PANG Unggyu, and my uncle, PANG, Yukbom. Well they have both been released from the hospital. Uncle Pang, Yukbom is now at the worker's compound (TN - presumably referring to a compound where trusted POWs that went out to work were kept.) and PANG, Unggyu will go to Camp 7. We were all together but now are all separated so imagine how lonesome I am. You and I must see each other as free men after the release. Promise. In closing I have one request. Would you be so kind as to go to Enclosure #3 for me and convey my regards to PAK, Unsik. Also would you please tell him that my uncle PANG, Hasop is at Nonsan (Camp 6) Well - waiting for the glorious day of release--"

That letter was written only a short time before President Rhee's release order and the mass escape of POWs.

For several months nothing more was heard from my pal Joe. Then in April, 1954 he turned up at Fort Bragg, N. C. In the letter that followed I added the closing chapter to my POW story. A part of his last letter read as follows, "I was still Compound Commander of "C" at the time of the break-out. 23 of my POWs were killed. The letter-card you received was addressed to one of them." Poor In Soo, "The glorious day of release" for which he waited never came. So ends a cover story.

* * * * *

-Change of Address-

228 Vacura, Harold J., 421 Tuxedo Blvd., Webster Groves 19, Mo.
339 Rommel, H. F. USN, Cdr. USS Worchester CL 144 FPO New York, N. Y.
322 Stewart, Francis, 11 Chestnut St., Wallington, N. J.
2 Robinson, H. K. Rev., 38 Rider Ave., Patchogue, N. Y.

- Reinstated -

32 Sanford, Hennen, 1975 Hampton Rd., Rocky River 16, Ohio
333 Lohr, Joseph J., 1447 Minford Place, New York 60, N. Y.

APPENDIX - U. S. - APO LOCATIONS, WW-II.
1941 ---- 1947

Page 3
April 1955

	(add) Addition or new (cor) Correction	(cs) Correct spelling (3) Position	
7-1	Korea (add)	790-6 Italy (add)	?
26	(1)	8-23-44 801C (cor)	7-21-41
79	""	4-22-44 803 (1)	4-28-41
91	CO (7)	8-20-45 803A (6)	12-13-41
145	(1)	6-19-44 804 Suspended (2)	5- 5-42
163	""	3- 8-44 806 (1)	8-16-41
168	""	9- 5-44 810 (1)	7-27-41
201	Camp Durness (add-11)	815 Inchon, Korea (cor-5)	
201-3	"" Bander, Ota, Jap (add-14)	816 (1)	5-22-42
205-1	(add)	10-25-46 825 ""	12- 8-41
248	(cs-5) Hachinohe	827 ""	1-12-42
248	(""-6) Mutsuichikawa	829 ""	1-10-42
257	(1)	5-13-44 831 ""	12-27-41
257B	(add)	6-20-45 832 ""	3-25-42
364	(1) in England ?	2-23-43 834 ""	2-21-42
407-6	(add)	5-20-47 836 FST (2)	3-23-46
468-1	Japan (add)	837 (1)	2-24-41
468-3	"" ""	877 (1)	4- 1-42
470	(1)	10- 4-44 886 ""	3-22-42
503-1	New Guinea (add-cor)	8-20-43 911 Taipei, Formosa (cor)	
592	CO (2)	11- 3-45 941 (1)	1-15-42
616	Cairo, Egypt (1)	7-27-42 942 ""	11- 1-41
616A	"" (add)	942H (add)	8-15-46
633-1	(cor)	9-17-43 942N Nanek, Alsk. (add)	8-29-46
633A	""	9-18-43 853 (1)	3-14-42
637A	""	7-28-44 954 ""	9-11-41
713-1	""	9-27-43 957 ""	12-20-41
720	CO	9- ?-46 958 ""	7-18-41
721	""	8- ?-46 959 ""	8- 7-41
790G	Italy (add)	11-22-45 1104 Hile I., T. H.	3-13-42
		1141 (1)	10-11-45

Thanks to WCC members Cipolli and Lowandowski for the majority of the above newmaterial, some items with cancels dated earlier than the Army records list.

We would appreciate checks for other members, in the following manner.

RA/ 36th.Ser. Sqd. 26th.Ser.Grp. APO 149

C / "PO 10 Jul.18'44

The writer was with the (IX A. F. Service Commd. APO 149) and the cover was canceled by APO 10 which was the first APO to land after D-Day in France.

Early censored covers from Hawaii; Alaska and Canal Zone are found with civilian PO cancels, also military post cancels, should also be reported, many of such bases mail was censored before the supply of cancel stamps were available.

More Lend Lease Base dates are needed, 654 used as an address only, by the 54th. AAA Brigade who were widely scattered, this has been found only in the RAs; 364 used in England much earlier than Army records show; APO 790-2 BPO with its many branches.

Combat teams of the 17th. and 32nd. Inf. Regts. of the 7th. Division, plus the attached units, Service Co; Recon. Troop; Medical Bn. participated in the battle for Attu and Kiska in the Aleutain Is. from May, 11 to June 2, 1943. No covers have been reported, also there are no official APO records. Please report all such covers dated before Sept. 16, 1943.

A. J. Tripp 16533 Mendota Ave., Detroit 21, Mich.

MAIL FROM BATAAN AND MINDANAO.
1941 ----- 1942

We have known of the letters from Bataan Peninsula after the surrender of Manila and the naval base at Cavite Jan. 2, 1942, and we thank our WCC member A. E. Lewandowski for the loan of items illustrated and home-town news clippings which verifies the covers. After the fall of Manila, it can be assumed the mail was flown out by the 19th Bombardment Group, through Java to Australia, and that Gen. Mac Arthur carried mail to Australia March 1942. History states only one out of three supply ships reached the Bataan forces, so it is doubtful if mail was carried out by surface routes.

During Nov. 1941, two tank units were sent from Ft. Knox to the Philippines, the 192nd Tank Bn. contained 32 men, including three officers all from the area of Port Clinton, Ohio. The news clippings state some letters mailed about Feb. 12 '42, were received at Oak Harbor, Ohio Apr. 1 '42. Bataan forces surrendered Apr. 9 '42, with some escaping to Corregidor located three miles off shore of Bataan point. Corregidor fell to the Japs. May 6 '42, and after this date, we assume ended the flow of letters to the home folks.

Gen. Eichelberger's "Our Jungle Road To Tokyo" tells of the Mindanao guerrillas, commanded by Col. W. W. Fortig an American mining engineer who had been operating gold mines in the islands, Fortig was called to service with Corps of Engineers, early 1942, served on Bataan, and then sent to Mindanao to direct airfield construction. When the Philippines fell, Fortig took to the bush and became guerrilla leader, with him were considerable number of associates, military and civilian, Americans and Filipino.

The first supplies for the guerrillas were shipped to Mindanao by submarines Feb. 1943, from then on, supplies were received regularly by submarines, later by planes and small landing craft.

Fortig had been in radio contact with Gen. MacArthur's HQ almost from the first, his early receiving equipment was so mediocre, the messages had to be beamed to San Francisco and relayed back to Australia by a strong California station. The Japs confined their operations mainly to coastal cities, highways and waterways, thus the guerrillas were able to control about 95 per cent of the island. Fortig's force totaled about 25,000 men, the lack of land communication between separate guerrilla organizations made centralized command a problem, but Fortig by establishing a radio network, achieved a degree of unification which enabled them to take the offensive early 1945 and in an amphibious assault supported only by two small naval craft, had forced the Japs to evacuate the town of Talisayan on the island's north coast.

I have seen one cover censored stamped in Australia, there was no cancel, no military unit designated in the RA, and I would appreciate the loan of any such described cover, letters and possible news clippings for research and photos to be made for reference.

From Cippoli comes a cover from Col. O. DeCarro, Fort Mills, P. I., APO No. 7, As of today I don't know location of Ft. Mills, believe it is on Luzon. Censor stamp seems to be an Australian type. APO 7 I assume is a number applied to Philippine army system. "To be censored at first U. S. port, not yet officially censored by Army or Navy authorities" in MS, written in red ink. I will do some research on this cover through US-PI & Aust. military personnel, it may turn up other interesting matter.

Almon J. Tripp
16533 Mendota Ave.
Detroit 21, Mich.

SOME MARKINGS ON SOLDIER'S LETTERS FROM THE EGYPTIAN ARMY IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI
WAR OF 1948-9

Peter A. S. Smith

In the six years since the military campaigns of the Arab-Israeli war there have appeared no publication known to me describing the markings appearing on soldier's mail from the Egyptian Army. I do not have the material or knowledge to treat the subject adequately, but in the complete absence of other information, these noted may be of some use. They are a description with comments of five covers in my collection obtained from a correspondent in Egypt shortly after the end of hostilities.

All of the covers which I have are addressed in Arabic only to rural localities in the neighborhood of Matay, and all are apparently written by enlisted men. They are stampless; and bear no postage due markings, which implies that a free mailing privilege existed. The remaining feature in common is a large handstamp, either on front or back, in the form of a rectangle 50x35 mm. with chamfered corners (Fig. 1.). It is inscribed in Arabic in the top line "wahidat barid almaidan" (field post unit), in the middle line the date (day-month name-year) written in Arabic and expressed in the Gregorian calendar, and in the bottom line a large number and "raqm" (Number) both Arabic. The numbers seen are 2 to 5; the handstamp is struck in purple, black or blue-green. On one of the covers this is the only marking.

On three of the covers there is an additional handstamp consisting of two concentric triangles, 29 and 8 mm. on a side, respectively, inscribed in between in Arabic "uradha 'ala - arraqib - mukhabarat alharbiyq" (shown to - the censor - military correspondence), with a two or three figure number in Arabic in the center. This marking is struck in purple or dull blue, in an ink differing from that used for the first marking. (see Fig. 2) On three of the covers, Figure 1 and 2 are the only handstamped markings, other than the backstamp of the civil post office at destination.

One of the covers, bearing Fig. 1 but not Fig 2, bears a censor label, which is tied to the cover by a handstamp consisting of two concentric squares, 20 and 19 mm. on a side, respectively, bearing the Arabic numeral "1" in the center and an illegible Arabic inscription between the squares. In the most legible portion, it may read "markaz" (district). The label itself is printed in red on plain white paper, and carried in a single line the inscription "fataha bima'rafa markaz arruqaba" (opened by means of the district censor), in a rectangular frame 65x20 mm. There is a further inscription in very small type outside the frame at top reading "namooj raqm" (form number). At the bottom is another inscription having both letters and numerals, including "1948" (all in Arabic) and "matbu'a al...." (.....printery) unfortunately too small to be completely legible.

All of the letters bear in manuscript a signature in handwriting different from the address, together with the word "ruj'a" (read), apparently an officer's endorsement. Two of the covers bear in the upper right corner in the same handwriting as the address "albarid alharbi" (army post).

Unfortunately, most of the dates are largely illegible, and it is impossible to tell the time taken for the journey to the addressee. July 8, 1948 is the earliest legible date, and "15 JU. 9" (Backstamp) is the latest. More material would obviously be very helpful, but it appears to be extremely difficult to obtain. It is hoped that some of the excellent philatelists in Egypt will give us a more complete history of this military post when the domestic situation permits.

DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS by Sam Simon

Following is a partial list of known D.P. camps in Germany after WW II. Of some the location is in parenthesis after the official name or camp number.

Amberg (Pfalz)	Augsburg (Bavaria)
Beggendorf (Bavaria)	Bergen-Belsen (the former conc. camp)
Bielefeld	Brauweiler (Cologne)
Centr. DP camp 8-50 (Wuerzburg)	Coburg
Eichstaett (Baden)	Eutin (Baltic camp)
Flensburg	Goettingen (Wuerttemberg)
Hamburg-Neugraben	Hassendorf (Lithuanian)
Hanau	Munich-Freimann (Polish)
Luebeck (Polish)	Kornwertheim (Wuerttemberg)
Landsberg	Lampertheim (camp 578) (Hessen)
Lechfeld (Augsburg) (Bavaria)	Ludwigsburg (camp 213)
Leipheim	Lintnof (Dusseldorf)
Meerbeck (Lithuanian)	Memmingen (Latvian)
Montgomery (Lithuanian)	Muender (Hannover)
Neu-Ulm (Ukranian)	Northeim (camp A) (Hannover)
Apfelkochlager (Passau)	Regensburg (Ukranian)
Rochelle (Eschenstruth-Hessen)	Seedorf (Lithuanian)
Solomit (Thuringia)	St. Ottilien (Bavarian)
St. Pauenstift (Neu-Oetting) (Bavaria)	Warta (Nienburg-Weser)
Wentdorf (Hamburg)	Koehrenwald (Wolfratshausen)
Wuerzburg (Lithuanian)	UNRRA Team 1025 camp 581 APO 757
UNRRA Team 1027 (Berlin)	Schwabach (Austria)
Glasenbach (Salzburg, Austria)	Ried UNRRA 338 (Austria)
Marktredwitz (Bavaria) Bahnhof-Hotel RP no 13a UNRRA Team 144	

If any one of you has further information as to such camps, I would appreciate if you would drop me a line. Thanks. Sam Simon, 80 Bruce Ave, Yonkers, N.Y.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS THIS MONTH

No. 1 and 2. are from the article by A. S. Smith on Arab-Israeli War.

No. 3, 4 and 9 are from the article by A. J. Tripp on Mail from Bataan and Mindanao in 1941 and 1942.

No. 5 is from the article of A.L. Nicholson on North Korean POW cover.

No. 6 is from W.T. Gmahle Haiti in 1931.

No. 7 is from Ind~~a~~-China Trouble. USS Wasp of Sq. 173 of 7th Fleet. Cdr. F.W. Luebke writes "Flight of 4 "Cougars" of which I was leader was launched by catapult at 1000 25 March 1954 and landed aboard at 1135. On this flight an unidentified DC-5 Transport was intercepted at 14000 ft. on course 045 degrees."

No. 8 is from the safe evacuation of TACHEN ISLANDS. Lt. Smith Pilot of Sq. 152 fromm USS Yorktown said: "we were over Tachen Islands on 2200 to 2430 on 9th and 1000 to 1115 and 2400 to 0230 on 11th where we watched the evacuation on radar. Only bogies were over commie China where no American dares tread. It was awfully difficult to figure out why anyone would want to fight on such a beautiful night."