

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Jun 1948)

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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THE JULY MEETING

There will be a meeting of the War Cover Club in New York City, July 16, 17, 18. All members who can make it are urged to write at once to Secretary Robinson for details, hotel reservations, etc. Plan to bring along part of your collection for exhibition and your duplicates for swapping. A number of the officers are planning to be present. It will be a fine chance to make acquaintances and soak up war cover lore.

Paul Klinger, President

A CLUB AUCTION

Sometime in the early autumn the Club will hold a mail auction to raise funds with which to increase its usefulness to the members. The Secretary has generously volunteered to manage the auction. It is planned to ask for donations of auction lots valued at not less than \$1.00 each. Save some of your choicer duplicates to contribute. Further details will be given in the next issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending April 15, 1948.

Receipts

Balance from previous year	15.31
Dues from members	169.00
From sale of Location Lists	61.50
From sale of Bulletins (back issues)	10.92
From sale of files of War Cover Philatelist	10.00
Advertising space	1.00
Interest from savings account	.53
	<u>268.26</u>

Expenses

Postage and express	30.67
Printing	198.25
Envelopes for mailing Bulletin	8.99
Stationery	10.15
Copyright fees	<u>12.00</u>
	260.06
Balance	<u>8.20</u>

A. E. Perry  
Treasurer

Sales Manager's Report  
For the year ending April 15, 1948

Total circuits entered this year	153
Value of these circuits	\$3,118.65
Total circuits retired	179
Value of circuits retired	\$1,626.44

M. R. Baggett, Sales Manager

NEW MEMBERS

- #271 - Charles B. Stecher, 189 Hillside Ave., Leonia, New Jersey. (World War II)
- #272 - Christie M. May, 32 Belle Vista Ave., Locust Valley, L. I., N. Y. (U.S. naval ship covers. Would like to exchange.)
- #273 - Capt. Peter H. Robbs, Grendon, Northampton, England (Aerial propaganda leaflets. Exchange correspondence limited.)

A.P.O. MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

The May, 1948, issue of "XX KILLERS" (publication of the U. S. XX Century Postal Cancellation Society) contains an interesting article on machine cancellers supplied by Pitney-Bowes, Inc. Such cancellers were furnished on short order to the War Department early in the war. We reproduce part of a letter from the Manager of the Order and Traffic Department of that company in regard to them.

"The machines were required urgently and the quickest item we could supply was our Model FS machine adapted for cancellation work; that is, we removed the dial arrangement for dialing postage, as this would not be required, together with the parts required in connection with the dial.

"Instead of a postage meter we supplied one of our printing attachments. In the space in which we would ordinarily engrave the non-metered permit indicia or the departmental cancellation...we engraved the wavy cancellation bars. The postmarking die and type are the same as used in postage meters.

"There were 62 of these supplied; however, they moved around so fast and A.P.O. numbers were changed so rapidly that I would not have any idea in the world as to what die engravings of postmarking dies were required.

"After this initial group of machines were shipped, we received orders...for our Model K post office cancelling machines, of which about 600 were supplied direct to the War Department. These cancellations were the standard six bar (i.e. wave-Editor) cancellations together with the postmarking die as commonly used. The postmarking die was engraved with U.S. Army Postal Service and A.P.O. number or other identifying number, as required."

(Editor's Note:- The double-circle postmark used by the 7th Base Post Office (A53) has been definitely identified by Pitney-Bowes as the type supplied with the original 62 machines. The similar postmark used by the 21st Base Post Office is almost certainly the same type. The postmarking dies referred to in the last paragraph above have not been definitely identified, but there is some reason to believe that they are those which we have provisionally listed as A84 to A89.)

## EARLY AIR FORCE UNITS

By A. J. Tripp

The 7th and 19th Bombardment Groups, consisting of B-17 Flying Fortress units, were the first bombing elements to go overseas in World War II. So designated, they saw action in both the MTO and the Pacific, as well as India. We can assume that no other air force used the variety of Army postal locations, as some elements went overseas from Florida to North Africa and India, while others flew from California to the South Pacific. Covers can be identified only by their unit designation in the return address. This return address should include the 513th Bombardment Group, which was a part of the original 7th Bomb. Gp. and redesignated the 513th in North Africa.

The 19th Bombardment Group took off from Bakersfield, California, before the start of war in December, 1941. It was closely followed by the 7th Bombardment Group. Some units were on their way to Hawaii when the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was received. They were recalled and sent eastward via Florida. These early units flew to Manila by way of Hawaii, Midway, Wake, Guam, Port Moresby. They were forced to leave the Philippines after the Japanese invasion. They flew to Surabaya, Java, from where some units of both groups went to Australia, while others proceeded to Calcutta and Karachi, India. The latter came under the command of the 10th Air Force until they were moved to other areas. Ground units of both groups sailed in transports to Hawaii, Canton Island, Suva, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth, Australia, and on to Karachi, which was their first base.

Units of the 19th Bombardment Group were bombing the Solomon Islands about 17 months before the Headquarters of the 13th Air Force moved to Henderson Field on Guadalcanal in July, 1943. Covers from the 7th Bombardment Group are found dated in 1942 from India and bearing the shield type censor stamps H22, H23.

The first unit of the original 7th Bombardment Group to fly eastward, consisting of one B-17, took off from Tampa, Florida, just before midnight on December 31, 1941. Its course was via Trinidad, Belem and Natal, Brazil, across the Atlantic to Cape St. Queens Island, near Freetown, Sierra Leone. There the plane was found to be damaged and no spare parts were available. So the crew returned to the U. S. via Lagos, Nigeria, to man another plane.

A second flight of 6 planes left Tampa on March 30, 1942. Their course was by way of Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, Belem and Natal, Brazil, across the Atlantic to Liberia. From there they went on to Accra, Gold Coast, Kano, Nigeria, Khartoum, Egyptian Sudan, Aden, Arabia, and reached their first base at Karachi on April 13, 1942. Later, in July, they flew to Lydda, Palestine by way of Shaibad, Iraq. Here they joined the RAF "Halverson Detachment" and were officially designated the 513th Bombardment squadron. In November, 1942, they moved to Abu Siur, Egypt, located between Cairo and the Suez Canal. Plane repairs in this area were made at the Base Air Depot (BAD) located at Gura, Eritrea, near Asmara. At the beginning of January, 1943, this unit was moved to Biskra, Algeria. The middle of the same month it was based at Ain M'Lila, Algeria, where it fought with the 9th and 12th Air Forces until ordered home to the U. S. on March 30, 1943.

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FOR SALE - Historical World War II post card collection. Fine large album of 500 unique A.P.O. cards from all overseas branches of the Army Postal Service. Write to ROBERT R. SAFARID, 7147 MANSE STREET, FOREST HILLS, L. I., NEW YORK.

BASE SECTION 3 (S.O.S.), Le Havre and England, WORLD WAR I

By Milton B. Hunt\*

Base Section 3 was established at Le Havre on August 13, 1917, to handle U. S. troops arriving through ports on the English Channel. The Le Havre office was redesignated Base Section 4 on November 27, 1917, and Base Section 3, with headquarters in London, then served all of England.

No U. S. army post office was located in England, British post offices being used by Base Section 3.

In carrying out its principal functions Base Section 3 handled over a million troops and two million tons of supplies arriving through England; had charge of rest, embarkation and repatriation camps; hospitals; some 80 training stations; and equipped the troops sent to North Russia.

The composition of Base Section 3 in England was:

Air Service: 32 aero service sqs.; 31 aero sqs.; 13 aero repair sqs.; 19 aero constr. cos.; 2 aero repl. sqs.; 2 aircraft acceptance parks.

Engineers: 1 detach.

Infantry: 1 battalion; 1 pioneer battalion.

Medical: 3 Am. Red Cross units; 5 base hospitals; 4 camp hospitals; 1 medical supply depot; 1 base laboratory.

Motor Transport: 1 MTC detach.; 1 truck co.

Quartermaster: 1 butchery co.; 3 QM depots; 1 stevedore detach.

Signal Corps: 1 service co.

Tank Corps: 1 salvage and repair co.

Principal stations and depots, Base Section 3 (S.O.S.), England:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Function</u>
Southampton	Sept. 1, 1917	Rest Camp
Winchester	Nov. 7, 1917	Rest Camp (Morn Hill)
Romsey	Dec. 26, 1917	Rest Camp
London Depot	Dec. 1917	Transit depot
Paignton	Jan. 1, 1918	Hospital
Liverpool	Jan. 10, 1918	Hospital
Hursley Park	April 20, 1918	Hospital
Knotty Ash	April 24, 1918	Rest Camp
Flower Down	July 26, 1918	Air Service camp
Swansea Depot	June 1918	Storage depot
Dartford	July 18, 1918	Base Hospital 37
Portsmouth	July 28, 1918	Base Hospital 33
Tottenham	Aug. 1, 1918	Base Hospital 29
Codford	Sept. 23, 1918	Air Service camp
Salisbury Court	Sept. 27, 1918	Base Hospital 40

Editor's Note. No list has been compiled of the training stations in England used by the Air Service and other troops, but the following are known: Arundel, Ashford, Bovington, Colne, Catterick, Doncaster, East Hocking, Farnborough, Stamford, Worgret Camp (Poole).

\*This information was found among the unpublished notes of the late Mr. Hunt.