

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

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

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List of Index Items for This Publication

Allied Army Cancels in Iran

Location of 6th Marine Division

Allied Army Cancels (WWII) in Iran

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



June 1958

Whole No. 11

Location of 6th U.S. Marine Division (Actually formed Sept. 1944)

April	1942	1st Raider Bn.	Samoa
December	1942	3rd Raider Bn.	Samoa
June	1942	22nd Marines	Samoa
November	1943	22nd Marines	Maui
April	1942	2nd Raiders	Midway
August	1942	2nd Raiders	Makin
September	1942	1st Raider Bn.	Guadalcanal
November	1942	2nd Raider Bn.	Guadalcanal
February	1944	4th Marines	Guadalcanal
April	1944	22nd Marines	Guadalcanal
September	1944	29th Marines	Guadalcanal
August	1942	1st Raiders	Tulagi
February	1943	3rd Raiders	Russell
July	1943	1st Prov. Raider Reg.	New Georgia
		22nd Marines	Eniwetok
		4th Marine Reg.	Emirau
June	1944	1st Bn., 29th Marines	Saipan
July	1944	1st Prov. Mar. Brig.	Guam
August	1945	6th Marine Division	Guam
April	1945	6th Marine Division	Okinawa
Aug. 30,	1945	4th Mar. Reg. Reinf.	Yokosuka
Oct. 11,	1945	6th Marine Division	Tsingtao

NOTES ON PACIFIC LOCATIONS. WW II.

Jan. 28, 1944, Marshall Is., USS Tennessee, Maryland & Colorado bombed Roi-Namur. 4th Mar. Div. went in. 15th Defense Bn. (Marines) went ashore to garrison Roi-Namur after fighting of a few days.

The Seebes, 20th Eng. on Feb. 17th to Eniwetok.

May 29, 1944, 2nd and 4th Marine Div. landed on Saipan, Marianas Is. with 27th Div. in reserve. (5 AMP)

(3rd Amp. Corps) 3rd Marine Div. captured Guam Aug. 10th, 1st Prov. Mar. Brig. and 77th Division there also.

2nd and 4th Marine Divisions took Tinian.

On Saipan there was Army 534th and 773rd Amp. Tractor Bn., and 708th Armored Amphtrac Bn.

USS New York at Iwo Jima.

VMO-4 (Marine) did observation missions off the USS Bismark Sea. Bismark Sea sunk 2/21/45.

Your Editor needs AAFPO numbers 85, 105, 106, 117, 118, 121, 170, 209, 223, 224, 292, 562, 473 to 481, 693, 694, ALL the ALASKA ones, CANADA, N.F. GREENLAND and 843. Also US Marine Raiders, Seebee covers and unusual Hawaiian covers.

EXCHANGE - British Regimental cap badges for U.S. Naval Covers and/or U.S. A.P.O.'s. Good clear strikes only. Most line Regiments. Many scarce Yeomanry and Territorial Battalions, several pre-1914. Good condition. Write: D.E.F. BURNEY, 16 Grendon Way, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks, ENGLAND.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

For Histories of outfits write U.S. Inf. Assoc., Infantry Journal, 1115 17th st., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

A member of Parliament wrote from the House of Commons recently to I. Willinger, our Sec.-Treas. concerning our Club. We have been getting inquiries from all over recently. Why don't you sign up a member TODAY?

A few ALASKA covers revealed the following info: APO #944 postmarked 5/14/42 from Co. C, 138th Inf. and 6/30/42 from Btry F, a60th F.A. There were troops in COLD BAY in 4/17/42..postmark on cover was Seattle Wash, Term Anne

Would all my foreign correspondents please use AIR LETTER SHEETS when dropping me a line? Thanks.

I need a USS Montana of July 1909. It was over to the TURKISH ARMENIAN trouble.

W A N T E D

APO 240, 242, 718 & 930 (Gilbert Islands) 293, 1051 and 1056 (Solomon Islands) 967. Also need CB covers, Gilbert & Elice and Solomon Islands listed in October WCC Bulletin. USS Astoria, July 1934 with CHRISTMAS ISLAND in Killer bars and USS AVSCOT with CANTON IS. in killer bars.

Send info & price to S.C.Jersey, 631 N. Kenilworth Ave, Oak Park, Ill.

Who has a location list of Australian APO's in WW II ? Who has locations of CB Bns. and Special CB's. Many people need the info.

RF overprints are appearing in many auction magazines. Who could write an article on them?

I got a 6/24 overprint on a Washington Bicentennial cover, postmarked 5/17/45 from USS PC 1198 FPO NYC recently. I have heard that these covers were delivered only to the European Theatre with the result that used covers usually bore that APO mark. I have never heard of one used on a Naval vessel. Many people have searched.

In March 1958 BUREAU SPECIALIST Barbara Mueller writes of our Club. Thanks Barbara. If I remember rightly, Barbara gave the best write up on FIPEX that

I read. I read many, many reports to supplement my notes on FIPEX for a report I was to make to our local stamp club. When I came to Barbara's report I cut it out and handed it to the club and said.. "There was FIPEX".

In April 12th issue of AIR FORCE TIMES Bill Olcheski writes of "History written in WAR covers" in which he mentions the Club.

A meeting of the War Cover Club was held at Phil Baker's in Allendale, N.J. on March 26th. Good time was had by all. The nominating committee has come up with the following slate: President: Sol Whitman; Vice Pres.: McNulty; Sec.-Treas.: Willinger; Auction Director: Cipolli; Directors: Baker, Jersey, Patka, Hertzberg, Alexander and Taylor. Phil Baker showed his Spanish American War collection and Willinger his Marine covers.

Tripp's Location Book of APO's of WWII is to be entirely re-written on fine grade paper to bring it up to 1947. The approximate pre-publishing cost is to be \$2.00. If you want to reserve a copy, send your money to Sec-Treas. Willinger. In order to get things rolling we need to have some ready cash to cover the initial cost, so it has been decided to hold an auction with half of the proceeds to go to the Club, and other half to member, to be credited to his copy of the location book. So send in \$4.00 worth of covers. If they are sold, \$2 goes to the Club, and you get a book when it is printed. O.K.? Please send in covers !!!

It behooves everyone to check over his APO's and send all latest info to Mr. Tripp immediately. All dates that are earlier or later than in location book at present. All odd return addresses, all odd cancellations, branch #'s.

I have become very interested recently in these long APO return addresses. Some have 4 or 5 numbers and some with letters after the number. These are called "Salt water" numbers, or shelf numbers. It is fun trying to locate these. Some can be located by another APO number or by a camp cancellation. Please send any dups and ALL info to your Editor. Thanks!

Ralph Miller, the ALASKA specialist needs only the following APO numbers in cancel to complete his collection: 725, 936, 945, 971 during 42 and 43, 972, 976, 978, 979, 981, 984, 989 and 990. He will pay 50¢ for "Fort Mears Br" and "Fort Greely Br". \$1.00 for perfect cancels of Seattle & Excursion Inlet Br or Annette Landing Field Br or Ketchikan, Annette Landing Field Br. \$2.00 for Umnak Isl. Project, Seattle, Wash. Also is seeking Giant size naval cancel large as Silver dollar of 1945-47 (U.S. Navy-Kodiak, Alaska). The above, except the APO numbers, are to be double ring "All purpose" cancels. (Or would you call these Registry markings??)

Some info received from the Navy dept. as follows:

Navy No. 231 was assigned to Oran, Algeria and disc. on June 20, 1944. Navy No. 920 was assigned to Coast Guard Army Manning Detachment (a mobile unit) and was disc. on June 12, 1946 (Who knows what kind of an outfit this is??) Navy No. 3923 is still being used and is assigned to Yokosuka, Japan. Navy No. 319 was assigned to Plymouth, England; disc. 6/1/44. Navy No. 1925 was assigned to Algiers, Algeria; disc. 7/8/44. Branch No. 13604 assigned to Navy Radio Station, Wahiawa, Oahu (Navy No. 85) and is still currently being used. Branch No. 12990 was reassigned as Branch No. 14006, Unit 3 in March 1953, which is now being used by the 2nd Marine Air Wing. These branch numbers are assigned for accounting purposes only and are not to be used as any part of an address.

Recent auction of Allan Thatcher of Clearwater, Fla. has some nice patriotic covers offered.

(continued on page 133)

OUT OF THE "JUNK" PILEBy Stan Jersey

I have one cover, APO 40, cancelled January 9, 1942. This cover has been from pile to pile, box to box. Every time I turned around, this cover kept poppin up. No matter where I looked, I saw it. I believe it even made the trash box once. Because I thought this cover was used in Hawaiian Islands, it did not mean a thing to me, and I disregarded it. Several times in the past when I came across this item I intended to send it to Mr. Tripp, the Club historian, but never did. I said, "what the heck--just another Hawaiian APO". My interest in APO 40 begins when it arrived at Guadalcanal. Thus, anything else with APO 40 on the cover not located in the Solomon Islands was just so much "junk".

Hearing that Mr. Tripp was working on a new WCC APO location book, I determined to dig this envelope out, along with a few others I had with early dates and forward them to him for checking. On this particular cover I wrote the following in pencil: "Not necessary to return--throw away."

The following Division History is quoted from Mr. Tripp's letter to me:

40th Infantry Division:

After induction March 3, 1941, Division reported to Camp San Luis Obispo, California, for training. On December 8, 1941, with other troops under Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell undertook defense of Southern California sector. Sent to Fort Lewis for advance training April 1942. Departing U.S. August 1942 for overseas training in Hawaii.

The date on this envelope 1/9/42, cancel ty. Am-18a complete with censor stamp with a R/A of Co C, 185th Inf. APO 40, c/o PM SF, Cal.

Mr. Tripp's comment on my "Junk" cover--"the only such cover I've seen--nice item--It is sure a rare cover."

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Continued)

Member Viehoff arrived in New York from Holland. He and Willinger spent an enjoyable evening together. Viehoff is touring the country, and expects to get back to the East in June.

W. H. PRUITT, EMC USN CPO Quarters, USS Ranger, CVA 61 read of our Club in the NAVY LINES. He has LDPS of the BARNES (CVE) and FSPS of the RANGER for sale or swap. He also has 1st Day International Naval Review and other special Ranger covers.

The Philadelphia area Chapter of the American 1st Day Cover Society meets the 3rd Tuesday at the Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Bldg., 202 No. Broad St. Stamps, Covers coins, viewcards are a few of the hobbies. Further info from Louis Meyer, 244 Fernon St., Phila., Pa.

Ralph Miller has info from the Adjutant General in re to our getting covers cancelled. He will write it up soon.

Walter Bjork writes that he has changed his address to 418 East 76th St., New York 21, N.Y.

When did V-Mail cease to and from San Francisco and New York?

Who has locations of U.S.S. Pasadena CL 65? (continued on page 136)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

With deepest regrets I must report that two members who were very close friends of mine have passed away. I had known Mortimer DeGroot for over 25 years, and had worked with him on many Stamp Exhibitions in N.Y.C. Mr. DeGroot had been the owner and founder of the Visi-Tray Mount Co., and had amongst other things collected A.E.F. World War #1.

The other member, Lt. Col. F. Richmond-Coggan, had joined our Club about 3 years ago, and I had been in constant correspondence with him during all that time. We had done a lot of exchanging and always, his exchange to me would be many times the value of what I sent him. I could never seem to catch up with what I owed him. Two fine gentlemen whom I will greatly miss. May their souls rest in peace.

The planned picnic at Winfred Grandy's home, 98 Harrison St., New Haven, Conn. will take place sometime in August. All members are invited to attend. We always have a most enjoyable time there, with lots of covers to see. And Mr. and Mrs. Grandy are extremely hospitable.

Sterling Taylor, who collects P.O.W. covers writes that his latest acquisition is a letter from an Italian (captured by the Turks) asking his family to be sure and pay the ransom - probably part of the "30 Years" War or perhaps just plain Pirates - Anyway, its dated 1620, and is the oldest P.O.W., although he does have one from a POW of the action between the French and the English, before the French Revolution.

New Member: 398 - George J. Stevens, 917A Colbert St., Chickasaw, Alabama.
Collects Navals, A.P.O.'s and Censored Covers.

Address Changes: Philip E. Baker, Thomas Ave, Allendale, N.J.
Harold V. Dunn, Jr., 74 Caliente St., Reno, Nevada.

The A.E.F. W.W.I collection of the late Mortimer DeGroot is up for sale. Any member who is interested in purchasing same, please write to the Secretary for particulars.

I have been corresponding with M. Hertzberg of Oakland, Calif. for a long time and, mainly, Hertzberg likes to describe covers in his collection. His letters are so interesting, that I thought it would be a good idea to condense all the letters in the form of an article. Thus, our members could also read same. The article appears after the Secretary's Report, on page 135.

I have a lot of about 1000 A.P.O. W.W. 2 covers for sale, condition very good to fine, mostly regular size covers. Price: \$15.00. Anyone interested?

June 30th is the end of our fiscal year and dues will be in order at that time. There will be no objection to members sending in dues ahead of time. How about it?

Your Sec. will attend the Stamp Exhibition called ISPEX, which will be held at the N.Y. Trade Show Building, 8th Ave. & 35th St., N.Y.C., from June 15th to 18th. This Stamp Show is being sponsored by The Society of Israel Philatelists. Any member who attends the show, look up the Sec. at The Bronx County Stamp Club booth. He will be very glad to say hello to you and talk of our mutual interests.

The reprinting of The APO Location Book WWII will be done in about a month or two. Our printer has the old book and is awaiting all the additions and corrections from Mr. Tripp. We are not rushing this job as it is important for us to do an accurate and neat job.

Notes From HERTZBERG To I. WILLINGER.

I have five volumes of Korean material, including covers from each foreign unit that was stationed there. Also have a cover from General Dean as a POW in a Chinese Prison Camp in Korea. My covers are mounted two to a page, on 8½ by 11 paper, mounted with Nu-Ace corners. Each volume is 4" thick. I use McBee binders, which are not intended for stamp collectors. They are for business forms. However, they serve my purpose.

I have a specialized collection of Vera Cruz, 1914, with U.S. cancellations on covers bearing U.S. & Mexican postage and combinations. On lower part of handstamp cancels are letters U.S.M.A. which means "United States Mail Agency". Only one I have was actually sent by a soldier stationed there. The balance of about 50 covers are from civilians. I have 2 Registered covers from there. As far as I know, only a metal handstamp, a machine cancel and registry markings were used at Vera Cruz. There were also some Naval covers of this period, with "Vera Cruz" between killer bars, 1914. I have a few of these.

My earliest U.S. Marine Corps cover is one from The Spanish American War, from The Philippines, with nice printed insignia of The U.S. Marine Corps, (Large). Other early M.C. covers I have is the Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, handstamped cancellation with part of the name across the top and the rest on the bottom. Where the killer bars should be it reads: "CO PM NYC U.S. Marines". Another one I have, dated Dec. 17, 1917, shows three killer bars with "U.S. Marines" showing between the top lines. All others I have seen show the wording arranged in a semi-circle. It appears that at some time the cancellation fell out or was taken apart. When replaced, the words "Dominican Republic" in lower circle were placed upside down from right to left, just like an invert.

I have still another one, with two killer bars, considerably thicker than the one of 1917, incidently. This is the one, the 1917 cover that bears a censorship signature in pen and ink. All the others, while they show no censorship, are free of postage, and of course the war had actually ended by that time. One of the covers bears a "U.S. Navy" marking of Jan. 24, 1919, with additional rubber stamp in three lines: "Marine's Letter / Act of 3 Oct. 1917, Section 1100."

I have two covers which bear Town postmarks other than Santo Domingo City. The latter is an American cancel, obviously, since the spelling of the Country name is in English. One cover has "Hato Yor/Republica Dominicana" dated Dec. 30, 1918. Another shows "San P(EDRO) De Marcoris / Republica Dominicana" dated May 11, 1919. This is the familiar YMCA envelope, with 182nd Co. 75th Reg., 2nd Prov. Brigade USMC, San Pedro De Macoris, D.R. in manuscript.

I think the most interesting one of all is with the YMCA emblem in colors, but with part of the wording (printed inscription) in Spanish: Association Christiana / De Jovenes / YMCA emblem in red and blue) "With the Colors" / Con El Ejercito / . I do have a foreign Army cover in my collection with YMCA inscribed in Portugese; this is a cover from the Portugese troops in France during WW I.

Any cover actually sent by the Military during the Vera Cruz 1914 expedition are scarce. I have a couple: one of them shows a rubber stamp with return address of an Army officer, the other is a penalty envelope of the War Dept. These have the Flag cancel. Registry covers have a boxed marking, and they are rare.

Some very tough cookies to obtain are covers sent by the Brazilian Expeditionary Forces sent to Italy during WWII. They used their own Postal facilities there. I have several, including some warships and training camps within

Brazil. One very interesting item was sent to a Brazilian soldier who was wounded in Italy, and evacuated to the La Garde General Hospital, New Orleans, La. Another is from a Brazilian flier who was with our Air Forces in the Canal Zone.

From one of the WCC circuits I obtained a registered cover from the AEF Siberia, a couple of earlier ones prior to the arrival in Siberia with Japanese stamps, and U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, and one from the commanding General of the AEF, Siberia.

General Douglas MacArthur material wanted. Will buy WWII and Korean War patriotics; special event covers; USS Missouri, Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945; Covers with rubber stamp slogan, "I shall return", in any form; cards; seals; autographed covers, etc. Write: HAROLD V. DUNN, Jr., WCC #394, 74 Caliente St., Reno, Nevada.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Continued)

Who has location of 9th Mar. Reg., 3rd Mar. Div. in 11/26/45 and Nov. 1944?

Who has some postal history of TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO since it was combined in 1913? Member J. Elson, 2800 Chrysler Bldg., NYC 17, N.Y. wants anything philatelic from there also.

Do we have an APO on ASCENSION ISLAND NOW, and if so, what is the APO #?

Member George J. Stevens, 917 A Colbert St., Chickasaw, Ala. is interested in securing the itinerary of ships making the 1957, 1958 trips to the Arctic. He will swap Naval covers for APO's. He mentions receiving Deep Freeze covers as follows: TOWLE, NESPELEN, WYANDOT and ARNEB. ARNEB cover had IGY cachet with Hallett Station. Rec'd BURTON ISLAND with usual Task Force 43 cachet. Has quite a few late 1957 Nov.-Dec. cancels from ATKA, WYANDOT and GLACIER. WYANDOT also cancelled for WAGB-281.

Men of the 4th DANISH U.N. BRIGADE are serving with the UNEF now. They paraded in Copenhagen in early April.

There is a tiny Navy force guarding Saipan. They watch over West Pacific Defenses and Welfare of Northern Marianas. Who has a dup cover?

Who has info on THE REGENT STAMP CATALOGUE OF BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS by Robson Lowe, Ltd., London? How late was it issued, etc.

The Keystone Postcard Club has a subscription to the Keystone Hobby News. Hobbies are coins, covers, viewcards, stamps, antique collecting, etc. Write to Louis Meyer, 244 Fernon St., Phila 48, Penna.

Stan Jersey is looking for WW II Marine covers with Unit numbers in the return address. ie, USMC Unit 100, 1005, etc.

As far as we know, all mail for the Marshalls, Marianas and Carolines is to be sent in care of Guam. Who has covers.

We have had mention recently in STAMPS mag, and in the Bureau Specialist. Also in the APS and SPA Journals. Lets hope we get many more members.

The P.O. Dept. cautioned that domestic U.S. Postal money orders may no longer be used to send funds to British Guiana. Use International money orders only.

(continued on page 137)

Betty Miller picked up a Canadian UNEF piece from a registered pkg that had the CFPO 35 cancel, but was the roller type cancel used on bulk mail; three straight lines above and below the writing. There is a similar cancel with CFPO 34 and CAPO 5049, it is believed.

Talking about UNEF..The U.N. has got out a booklet entitled "The Emergency Force - UNEF's Job Well Done". Available for 10 cents from the United Nations Bookstore. Nice UNEF pictures in it.

Betty continues..UNEF covers are getting harder to get ahold of. The base P.O. at Beirut is now operated by the Canadians, and they open anything addressed to Postmasters, Postal officers and Mail Clerks, and all such items are returned to the senders.

I was told that there was an Anti-Tank Bn. from an OHIO National Guard Div. sent on one of the last boats to the Philippines before they were closed up in WW II. The 27th Division was in Camp Shelby at the time and was supposed to go, but never got there. Who has info on this???

Continuing our talk, this person from the Pacific area told me there was the 22nd Marine Regiment that was never assigned to a Division. They and the 1st and 3rd Bn. of the 106th Inf. went in on Eniwetok. He said the 22nd Marines were "real" fighters. The 2nd Bn. of the 106th went in on Majuro, where there were no Japs. USS Relief came into Majuro afterwards from New Guinea. Who knows of a Col. Delesque? ? who trained the Army Rangers at Schoefield Barracks?

Got cover with R.A. of Det. 14th Sig. Serv. Co., 1469th AAF Base Unit, APO 947-1 c/o PM Minneapolis, Minn. Postmarked 1/1/45 APO 947. Another R.A. APO 1103 Seattle, Postmarked 2/28/42 Seattle, Wash., Term. Annex. Another Postmarked 3/3/42 Fort Richardson with R.A. of Cold Bay, Alaska. Another Postmarked 3/13/42 Anchorage, Alaska, with R.A. of Cold Bay, Alaska. It was censored, like the others.

APO 510 in Italy is not in current use.

Spain has 282 at Moron de La Frontera, 283 at Torrejon Air Base, 284 at Seville, 285 at Madrid, and 286 at Zaragoza.

PHILATELIC CANCELLATIONS..Postal Service AFR 182-14 AR 65-70 of 5 April 1957 para 57 reads:

Philatelic Cancellations. a. Requests for postmarks on philatelic covers may be complied with except when precluded for security or other military exigencies. b. Air Force postal officers who receive requests to have air mail covers and first flight envelopes carried on Air Force aircraft will comply with AFR 205-20. AFR 205-20 says, simply, "no soap".

There are no APO's in India at present.

NPO's..830 at Kami-Seya, Japan, and 3923 at Yokosuka.

Betty Miller got a UNEF air letter from the Canadian Contingent franked with the stamps of Lebanon and the r/a was UNEF BASE POST OFFICE, BEIRUT, LEB.

Lt. Col. Webb of Canada writes that the QUEENS OWN RIFLES of Canada never did go to Egypt for UNEF. How about that Mr. Patka.

US Survey Ship FS 216 is in New Guinea waters. Who has covers from her?

Who has old copies of "American Heritage" they don't want? (cont. on pg 142)

W.W.II ALLIED ARMY CANCELS IN IRAN

By E. Jagger.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, a well organized German Colony already existed in Iran, and between 1939 and 1941, this colony grew larger, and its grip on Persia's industrial life became more complete.

When Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June, 1941, both the Soviet and British governments made repeated representations to the Iranian government upon the dangers of German activities in Iran. At length, on August 25, 1941, British and Indian troops marched in from the South and Russian forces from the North, the main purpose being to protect the vital oil wells and refineries, and to send much needed supplies and weapons to aid Russia. Within three days of the Allied entry, the Iranian army ceased resistance, and a few weeks later, the Shah had abdicated in favor of his son.

Briefly, the Russian Zone consisted of Teheran and North thereof, while the British occupied the railroad south thereof, and west of Teheran by road linking the towns of Hamadan and Kermanshah to Khanaquin on the Iraqi frontier, which was a railhead on the railroad from Bagdad, and where transshipment of supplies occurred from rail to road for onward dispatch to Russia.

Turning to philatelic matters, I think the reason why Russian war covers are so elusive is that the Russian soldier rarely used envelopes when in the field, and instead, folded his letter-sheets as in the olden days before envelopes came into use. The Russians appear to have used the APO number as an address, as I have seen a cover which bears the same number on the back-stamp as on the address; the cancel, which is not very clear, bears the letters at the top, "CCCP," the hammer and sickle below, the date across the center, and at the foot, initials (illegible) and number 13379.

The Indian Field Post Offices were stationed at Abadan, Khorromshahr, Ahwaz, Andimeshk, Doroud, Arak (Sultanabad), Qum, Teheran, Hamadan and Kermanshah, as follows:

Indian Section Base:

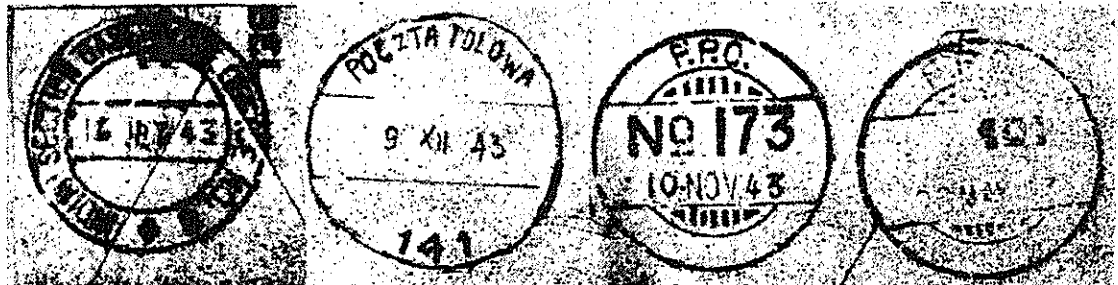
Post Office 8 Ahwaz (in Dec., 1942)	F.P.O. 54 Doroud (in Nov., 1944)
F.P.O. 101 Abadan	F.P.O. R24 Hamadan
F.P.O. 103 Teheran	F.P.O. 173 Khorromshahr (after Apr. 1943)
F.P.O. 105 Arak (Sultanabad)	F.P.O. R19 Khorromshahr (before Apr. 1943)
F.P.O. 107 Ahwaz	F.P.O. 174 Andimeshk (after Apr. 1943)
F.P.O. 109 Kermanshah	F.P.O. R18 Andimeshk (before Apr., 1943)
F.P.O. 114 Qum (until Aug., 1943)	
F.P.O. 114 Doroud (after Aug. 1943)	
F.P.O. R25 Doroud (until Aug. 1943)	
F.P.O. R25 Qum (after Aug., 1943)	

Mail to and from the United Kingdom was not very satisfactory in the early days, as all mail other than airmail was conveyed to Basra where the Base Post Office was situated, and thence by steamer to Bombay for reforwarding to Britain via the Cape of Good Hope. This was a somewhat lengthy journey in those days, taking approximately eleven to thirteen weeks, and on occasions, even up to six months. Letter mail up to the weight of two ounces was conveyed free, but anything over that weight was charged for; likewise, any registered letters required a fee of 3 Annas. As Indian stamps were on sale at the Field Post Offices, one may occasionally see odd letters or letter-cards franked with British stamps, cancelled with Indian F.P.O. These would have been brought in by the soldier who happened to have the British stamps in his



Christmas 1944 V-Mail greeting of the U. S. Persian Gulf Command, which the author considers the most beautiful one he has ever seen.

Some examples
of
Field
Post Office
Cancellations



possession when he left the United Kingdom or the Middle East Theater, if he came from there. Anyway, they were frowned upon the Indian authorities.

Airgraphs to the United Kingdom took about twenty-three days, and airmail letter-cards, from eleven to twenty one days, and required a 3 Anna stamp. Rates for airmail letters up to a half-ounce in weight for the United Kingdom were 8 Annas, and an additional 8 Annas for each succeeding half-ounce or fraction thereof. Time taken was from three to eight weeks, and they were conveyed partly by sea and partly by air. The opening of the Mediterranean, in 1943 after the Italian collapse, lessened the time taken in transit to from four to seven days for an air-letter card and airmail, and approximately three weeks for ordinary free mail, as these came overland from Cairo via Damascus and Baghdad.

Incidentally, about January, 1944, by kind permission of Uncle Sam, British troops were allowed to dispatch airgraphs and V-Mail to the United States free of charge, but if to Britain, it was still necessary to pay the 3 Annas.

As Field Post Offices do not make delivery, each unit must send a post orderly to collect and dispatch its mail, so any letters addressed to a civilian address, such as banks or shops, in Iran or Iraq, had to be handed by the F.P.O. to the Iraqi or Iranian Civil Post Office for delivery. They charged double the deficiency to the addressee on such letters. As there were complaints about this, the Indian Army Postal Services came to an agreement with the Postal Administrations of the countries concerned whereby any letters from a soldier to a civilian address would be franked with an Iraqi stamp to an address in that country, and an Iranian stamp for an address in Iran. Several values of the stamps of both countries were obtainable at each Indian Field Post Office, and occasionally a cover may be found bearing an Iraqi or Iranian stamp cancelled by a Base A.P.O. or F.P.O. I do not know if any similar arrangement was entered into by the United States A.P.O.

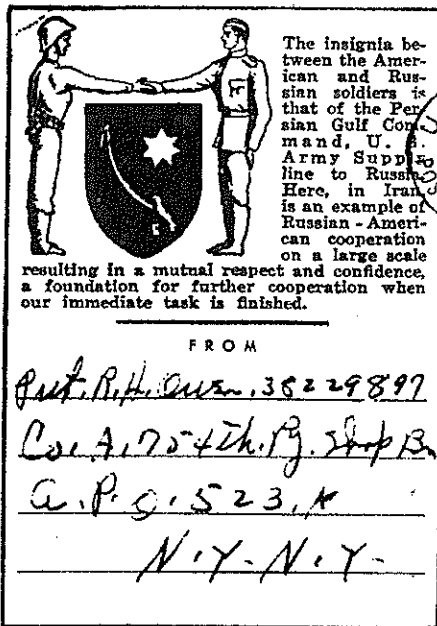
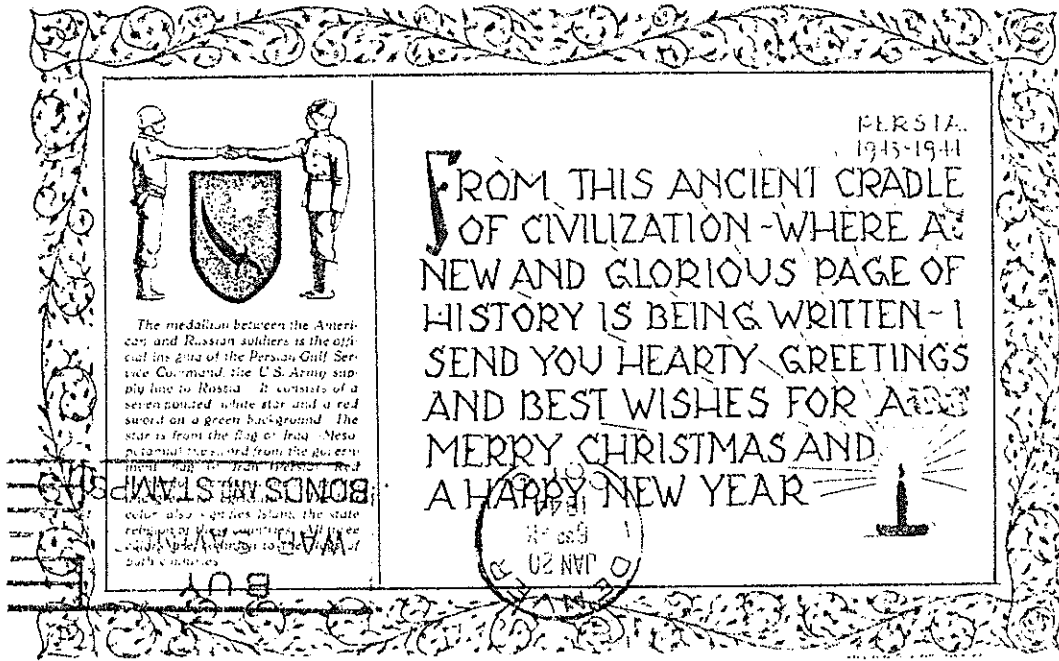
United States APO's appear to have functioned at about a dozen places, as follows:

APO 523	Teheran	795	Khorramshahr
523A	Qum	796	? Bandarshahpur
535	Kazvin	797	Andimeshk
680	Ahwaz	799	Arak (Sultanbad)
783	Khurrumabad	824	Abadan
784	Hamadan		

I think that APO 824 may possibly have been used by the American Mission in Iran, as I have seen dates as early as May, 1942.

Possibly few people have ever heard of the Polish Field Post Offices which operated in Iran. I am only aware of two of them, which were functioning at Teheran and Ahwaz. The stamps they used were Indian postage stamps, and they had their own special date-stamps, inscribed "Poczta Polowa" at top, date across the center, and the number at the foot. No. 141 was in use at Ahwaz until the office closed down during February, 1944. No. 130 was at Teheran, which would, no doubt, have ceased to operate about the same time, when these offices went to function in the Middle East and Italy, where the bulk of the Polish forces were.

A relaxation of the U.S. Persian Gulf Command censorship permitted G.I.'s to mention in their letters whether they were fortunate in being stationed in the fair city of Teheran or whether they were amid the dust and heat of the desert and plains, with a temperature of anything up to 140 degrees in the shade, and there wasn't much shade.



3

U.S. ARMY
 523
 OFC 1
 1944
 MILITARY SERVICE

Free
 POST CARD
 ADDRESS ONLY

S/Sgt Hodge Owen
 Fitzsimmons Gen. Hospital
 Denver, 8
 Colo.

Ward 3.

A "Christmas Greetings" postcard was issued in 1943, the left hand corner showing a G.I. and a Russian soldier shaking hands over a shoulder patch of the Command. The following year the same corner design was shown on the address side, while the front of the postcard portrayed a view of Mount Demarcand, Daniel's Tomb at Shush, etc.

The design of the U.S. Persian Gulf Command Christmas, 1944, greeting in V-Mail is by far the most beautiful one that I have seen as yet, and is worth of a frame. I think the artist who was responsible for it is to be congratulated. The same artist produced a somewhat similar design for 1943, but unfortunately, I do not possess a specimen of this. I shall be most grateful for any offer of a copy of this, and any others by this artist. The Christmas airgraph issued by the Persia and Iraq Command of the British Army does not come up to this high standard.

In closing, I hope that these few notes will prove of interest to collectors, and I shall be grateful for any further information on this subject that any reader can furnish me.

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The above article appeared in "STAMPS", the issue of Dec. 21, 1946. The writer, Eugene Jagger, is a former member of the WCC, and had previously contributed many articles for our Bulletins.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Continued).

Thanks for the covers: Betty Miller, Bill Cipolli, George Schultze.

Who has articles on "Lend Lease Bases" or info on Trinidad? Contact Mr. Willinger.

Bill Cipolli needs info on "PASSED BY EXAMINER * BASE ARMY" censor marks with these numbers: 1701, 1706, 1723, 1727, 1729, 1732, 1743, 1747, 1748. Probably all are from ALASKA? Bill reports that the following are all in ENGLAND: 1014, 1015, 1018, 1025, 1030, 1035, 1037, 1042, 1045, 1051, 1052, 1057, 1063, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1078, 1079, 1085, 1087, 1088, 1090, 1095, 1096, 1098. Who has others? The Base censor marks are few and far between. Bill reports that Navy 10499 is in Guam. Bill wants a list of ships that served in ALASKA waters in WW II. He is starting a list of "Passed by Army Censor" marks. Those with the number in an elongated circle. He is making a list of r/a and postmarks. What an undertaking!!

How is Chester Knowlson making out? Let's hope he is fully recovered by now.

The US Naval Institute Proceedings for last Dec. has article "A Voyage to Nowhere" by Capt. Edwin A. McDonald, USN. This is an account of 1956 trip to the Antarctic by USS Staten Island (AGB 5) and USS Wyandot (AKA 92) for delivery of materials and supplies for the establishment and building of Ellsworth Station as part of Operation Deepfreeze II. Capt. McDonalds was commander of Task Force 43.7 (Courtesy USCS Log)

Reinhold Krugel, Wildenbruchstr. 43, Dusseldorf-Oberkassel, Germany, offers some fine covers with good prices. Send for a catalogue. UN, UNEF, Different wars, etc.

Why is a ship called a "she"? Because there is invariably plenty of bustle about her? Because she has a waist and stays? Because it takes a lot of paint to keep her looking up to par, or because only a mighty good man can handle her right? USCS published the above.