

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Jun 1978)

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

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

### **List of Index Items for This Publication**

*Pitcairn Island WWII Covers*

*Canadian POW Franks*



WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

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VOLUME XVIII, No. 5

WAR COVER CLUB

JUNE - JULY 1978

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Unit No. 19 - American Philatelic Society

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WESTPEX '79/WCC EXHIBIT Several more requests for information have come in. Nothing new to report at the moment. We, (the editor and the chairman, BFP), plan on attending the first WESTPEX '79 meeting and a report will follow.

Bear Flag Post Chairman Donald McPherson presided over the last meeting which featured mail of the U.S. Marine Corps. Instead of taking two or more months recess, the vote was to take only one month off for summer, the next meeting to be in August when "lighter-than-air" will be the subject. Each BFP member participates by bringing covers and through discussion. We keep learning "more and more about less and less." Seldom is there a scheduled speaker; we all wish to speak after which, refreshments follows.

Free offer John Koontz, one of two editors of MACHINE CANCEL FORUM, kindly offers their paper free of charge. Koontz writes, "...In the future we will be running several articles on APO machine cancels used abroad as well as naval ship cancels. These also may be of interest to your members. All we ask is a #28 sized SASE with 28¢ in postage affixed. (Send to J. Koontz at P.O. Box G, West Bowie Station, Bowie, MD 20715.)

We note that the classification system used is not that of the War Cover Club or that of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. Instead, the system is well-suited to collectors of machine cancels. They are classified according to manufacturer with all the variations of each usage in so far as is known. From the point-of-view of the use of these machines, the impressions as cancellations on military or naval mail would be of interest to military or naval mail collectors. Good research is being done here. Try it!

Discount Philatelic Literature Theo. Van Dam (POSTAL COVERS, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, NY 10509) is offering many special catalogues and other philatelic publications at a discount. Write for list. This is a service for our hobby.

Award Roy Cox, WCC, Baltimore, Maryland, was named "Man of the Year" at the Spring Convention of the Postcard History Society held in Elizabethtown, PA. The award was given for Cox's pioneering efforts in the joint hobbies of philately and deltiology. Congratulations!

A.P.S. Journal More marines. Stanley Jersey's article, "U.S. Marines in Korea" appears in the February issue of the A.P.S. Journal. Reference material was donated the A.P.S. by Frederic A. Schmidt.

Index to Newsletters For \$2.00, John Daynes (25A Mill Rd., Burnham on Crouch, Essex, U.K.) can supply the Index to Newsletters 1-140 (1952-1976) via air. This is the Forces Postal History Society Newsletter and, in the editor's opinion, one of the very best of its kind both quality-wise and content-wise. The Newsletters features all kinds of postal history articles about British military and naval mail.

WAR COVER CLUB, A.P.S. UNIT No. 19

Vice President: Robert J. Houston, 11 Yorktown Dr., Clark, NJ 07066
Sec'y/Treasurer: Lincoln E. Kieffer, P.O. Box 173, Jamesburg, NJ 08831
Auction Manager: E. Herbert Mayer, P.O. Box 4096, Greenwich, CT 06830
Bulletin Editor: David D. Howell, 1049 Northoak, Walnut Creek CA 94598

The War Cover Club grants permission to reprint articles providing credit is given the WCC Bulletin and the author of the article. Subscription rate, including membership fee, is \$5.00 yearly for U.S., Canada and foreign countries. Club members in foreign countries may request the Bulletin be sent via air (printed matter rate) for an additional fee of \$5.00 per year. Sales of back Bulletin issues, at \$1.00 per copy, are handled by former WCC Librarian, David R. Opperman, (1108 So. Cottage Grove Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801). Supplies are limited and not all issues are available. Publications, formerly in the WCC Library, are now located in the American Philatelic Research Library.

May we cordially welcome the following new Club members:

- 1610 Slater, Mrs. Nick, 1137 Mitchell Avenue, Waterloo IA 50702  
(WW II covers, APOs and Naval covers)
- 1611 Pettus, Ronald, RR I, Killen, AL 35645  
(Postal history of all types)
- 1612 Cohen, Norman Alan, 5631 Brookstown, Dallas, TX 75230  
(Palestine Mandate and Middle East - WW I and WW II censored covers)
- 1613 Lohrengel, Henry J., Jr., 121 S. Lawn, Kansas City, MO 64123  
(Autographs and anything of interest in war covers)
- 1614 Moffett, Ralph E., 652 Hillcrest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
(WW II censored covers, First Flights, Military postmarks)
- 1615 Sobery, D.J., ~~4444~~ Westheimer 635, Houston, TX 77027  
(Imperial German postcards and Militaria)
- 1616 Powell, Maurice, 8 Insole Grove East, Llandaff, Cardiff, S. Wales CF5 2HP, U.K.  
(Wars from French Revolution until end of WW II)

Trading Post Ad Rates Please send all checks and ads to the Secretary-Treasurer. Additional lines at the same rate as shown below:

1-3 lines, 1 insertion-	\$2.	3 insertions-	\$5.	6 insertions-	\$8.
4-6 lines, DO	-\$3.	DO	-\$7.	DO	-\$12.
7-9 lines, DO	-\$4.	DO	-\$9.	DO	-\$16.

Number at end of ad indicates number of ad insertions remaining. Typographical errors will be corrected with extra ad, no added cost.

WCC BULLETIN BACK ISSUES DESPERATELY NEEDED

The Back Issue Gifts and Sales Department of the War Cover Club is desperately in need of additional material. Supplies of many numbers prior to 1968 are now out of stock and no longer available for sale to new Club members.

Older members of the Club and former Club members are urged to check their files for duplicate issues that can be donated to the Department. Those members not having a need for their files, especially prior to 1968, are urged to make them available to the Department for re-sale. Back issues are sold for \$1.00 each and, though not a large source of income for the Club, sales since 1974 have resulted in \$240.00 being turned over to the Club Treasury.

Any donations of the War Cover Club Bulletin or the War Cover Philatelist may be sent to: David R. Opperman (1108 So. Cottage Grove Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801).

THE TRADING POST

WANTED: 100,000 WW II APO covers.....However, no lot is too small to consider.  
Prefer European other than England...plus Okinawa and Trust Islands. But I will buy ALL APOs...especially in bulk. Please send your list and your price to:  
Joe Bush, P.O. Box 626, Bonita, CA 92002.

FOR SALE: Album pages for APO covers. FOUR types. 8½" x 11" printed vertically for #10 envelopes; 6 ¾ too. Four pages for \$1.25 sample group postpaid; 50 for \$11.90; 100 for \$21.00. We will trade pages for covers. Let us know what you have. Joe Bush, P.O. Box 626, Bonita, CA 92002 12

Wanted: Romanian Occupation of Hungary, Nov. 1918-Mar. 1919, covers used in Carpatho-Ukraine. Send description and price to:  
L. H. Stone, 41, Garden Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11206 5

WANTED APO FIRST DAY OF USE COVERS. THESE ARE THE ONES I HAVE. NEED ALL OTHERS.  
PRICE IRRELEVANT OR WILL EXCHANGE. (APO) 3, 6, 9, 11, 24, 27, 30, 31A, 32, 42, 44, 45, 50, 52, 56, 57, 58, 62, 70, 71, 78, 79, 80, 81-I, 85A, 85C, 88A, 88B, 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 98, 100, 101, 102, 116, 121A, 122, 139, 140, 142, 145, 154, 155, 159, 163, 164, 168, 179, 184, 196, 204, 205, 208, 219, 239, 242, 246, 248, 252, 253, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 261, 262, 316A, 322-I, 333, 336, 339, 345, 348A, 357, 364, 375C, 378, 405, 408, 409A, 410, 412, 413, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 460, 462, 464, 466, 470, 481, 503-6, 513A, 514A, 514B, 516A, 519A, 520, 528, 528-I, 528-3, 544, 559, 565, 565-I, 574-A, 575, 578A, 581, 588, 596, 600, 605, 616, 617, 633A, 637A, 627, 646A, 654, 655, 675, 678, 705, 706-I, 711-2, 719-1, 742, 748, 759, 762, 776, 668, 781, 794, 801, 801A, 801B, 801C, 801D, 802, 803, 803A, 803B, 804, 805, 806, 807, 809, 809A, 810, 811, 812, 814, 816, 828, 830, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 845, 848, 849, 851, 855, 857, 869, 870, 877, 882, 884, 886, 891, 895, 895-I, 920, 923, 928A, 928-I, 828-2, 930, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 942, 943, 944, 950, 952, 953, 954, 955, 957, 958, 959, 967, 975, 1058, 1057, 1104, 2714.  
A. Lewandowski, P.O. Box 1, New York, NY 10040 5

WANTED: FOL. U.S.APOs on AUSTRIAN SOIL: APO 3, 7 Jun 45-12 Jul 45; APO 19, 2 Jul 45-Jan 46; APO 26, 15 Aug 45-31 Aug 45; APO 36, 14 May 45-20 May 45; APO 44, May 45 (324th Inf. Regt.); APO 58, 24 Aug 45- 31 Jan 47; APO 60, 11 May 45-19 Jun 45 (410th Inf. Regt.); APO 80, 16 May 45-19 Jun 45 (317th Inf. Regt.); APO 83, Dec 45-16 Mar 46; APO 139, 5 Jun 45-29 Jun 45; APO 150, 27 May 45-17 Jun 45; APO 168, May 51-Sep 55; APO 174, 31 Oct 45-Sep 55; APO 340, 27 May 45-6 Jun 45; APO 400, 27 Sep 45-31 Jan 47, APO 436, 14 May 45-29 Jun 45; APO 645, 28 Jul 45-11 Oct 45; APO 777, Jul 45-Sep 45.  
Lenard Mayrisch, Jr., 1817 Jackson Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 5

WANTED Covers censored by South or Central American Gov't. authorities. Wanted for study - will buy or trade.

Bruce B. Burwell, 4768 - 34th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105 4

Wanted: Covers from Luxembourg and Netherlands - Postal History, FDCs, FPCs, in fact, any cover. Paying top prices. Also picture postcards from the Netherlands before 1930 wanted. Further, I buy any better cover cover from Western Europe, South and South West Africa. Ask for more details or send me xeroxes.

William Putt, Erasmusstraat 50, 3035 LH Rotterdam, NETHERLANDS 2

WANTED: Patriotic envelopes WW II with Gen. MacArthur, Adm. Nimitz, Adm. Lockwood and Adm. Mitscher; Midway, Bataan, Corrigidor, Guadalcanal and all submarine; also, special postmarks. Make offer to:

M. Niclet, 25 Res. A. Briand, Apt. 232, 78700 Cenflans St. Honerine, FRANCE or contact Theo. Van Dam, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, NY 10509 3

PACIFIC ISLANDS, MALAYA, BORNEO. I'm always looking to buy, of course, but did you know that I also have a substantial stock of postal history material from these areas which can be seen on approval? What would you like to see? Reference please.

Howard Lee, P.O. Box 5950, New York, NY 10017 3

WANTED: WW I-AEF covers; need A19, A23, A42 types and A73 APO 3 June 1917. Please give best price. For Sale: Many different APO numbers of types: A13, A17, A21, A41, A46, A51, A55, A57 at \$1.00 each. Other types available. P.O.R.---Send Want List.  
Theo. Van Dam, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, NY 10509 3

THE TRADING POST

- WANTED: Canal Zone APO 841, 897, and 9820 through 9837 and FPOs, Picture Post Cards, Postal History of Canal Zone.  
J.W. Brumbaugh, P.O. Box 8661, Minneapolis, MN 55408 2
- LIBERTIAN COVERS WANTED: Any unusual items including war related, censored, seapost mail and early missionary letters, picture postcards, stationery, etc..  
Henry Chlanda, P.O. Box 637, Wall Street Station, New York, NY 10005 2
- WANTED: UNITED STATES ARMY POST OFFICE COVERS: APO 681 - 28 OCT 42-20 NOV 42; APO 682 -42-46; APO 685 - 27 MAR 43-15 JAN 44; APO 1221 - 15 JUL 42-16 SEP 42; APO 1227-42-43.  
Emanuel H. Pearl, P.O. Box 582, Campbell, CA 95008 1
- AUCTIONS: Three separate catalogues available: 1) Stamps and Postal History of the Far East; 2) Wideworld Postal History; 3) Stamps, Proofs and Essays of the World.  
Let us know what catalogues you would like to receive.  
George Alevizos, P.O. Box 5159, Santa Monica, CA 90405 1
- CATALOG of BRITISH EMPIRE CIVIL CENSORSHIP DEVICES, WW II. Section 1, British African Colonies and Occupied Territories, now available. Two hundred devices listed; over 150 illustrated, plus 37 pages of dates, charts, notes and scarcity listings, 8½"x11" punched for three-ring binder (not supplied). Price is \$7.50, postpaid, from:  
Dann Mayo, 5443 Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64110 1
- WANTED: COVERS - AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE; 1910 MEXICAN REVOLUTION; ANY 3rd REICH, but emphasis CONDOR LEGION. PICTURE POSTCARDS - AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE (MILITARY, NOBILITY). BOOKS - AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE (MILITARY, NOBILITY); EUROPEAN MILITARY DECORATIONS, MEDALS, ORDERS.  
R.F. Bunker, Apt. 63, 16161 Parkside Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 1
- WANTED: HOLY LAND (Palestine) philatelic material-covers, stamps issued or used prior to the state of Israel.  
Pearl's Mandate, P.O. Box 582, Campbell, CA 95008 1
- WANTED TO BUY - COVERS FROM: Falklands, Br. Virgin Is., Cayman Is., Br. Honduras, Pit-Cairn, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Most British and French Islands, Manchuria, Early China, Japan, Austrian and Italian Offices; all "odd-ball" countries; in fact, any good cover from anywhere. No lot too small, from one to one-hundred. Send with your price or our offer. Immediate reply. Bahamas Stamps, P.O. Box 640 333, Uleta, FL 33164
- WANTED: WW I and WW II Australian P.O.W. and Civilian Censored Covers.  
Robert Saunders, 5032 - 38th Avenue, S.W., Seattle, WA 98126 1
- Would like to buy or trade for Easter Island APO 09877; also FPO 950 Dec 44 to Dec 45; also ships in Korean waters 1945-1946 and early Korean occupation APOs 6, 7, 59, 235, 243, 712, 901, 970, 1054 - will pay top prices or swap from large stock of duplicates!  
Forrest W. Calkins, P.O. Box 1057, Grand Junction, CO 81501 1
- WANTED: DEUTSCHE SCHIFFSPOST-SEEPOST cards, covers; these lines only: HAMBURG-MEXICO, HAMBURG/BREMEN/MEXICO, HAMBURG/CUBA/MEXICO, 1900s-1930s, Cuba, Germany, Mexico other frankings. Describe, price, send:  
Vern Ardiff, P.O. Box 118, Sunnymead, CA 92388 0
- WANTED: Covers from Katanga, Biafra, South Kaski pre-1925; Belgian Congo, Canal Zone pre-1910; Tonga censored-New Zealand Marine Post Office; Forerunners of all Pacific Islands-Danish West Indies-Iceland pre-1920-Italian and Austrian Offices-Ethiopia pre-1925, Pitcairn Island; And, All good covers from every country. Top Dollar paid. Send with your price or our offer.  
BAHAMAS STAMPS, P.O. Box 640 333 WCC, Uleta, FL 33164 0
- WANTED: Cards, covers, U.S.S. DETROIT, February, 1971 with/without location "NAVASSA ISLAND, W.I." Describe, price, send:  
Vern Ardiff, P.O. Box 118, Sunnymead, CA 92388 0
- WANTED: U.S. APO covers mailed in Thailand during Vietnam War era. Would like to purchase (or copy) these for specialized study.  
Capt. Gary A. Van Cett, PSC Box 2432, Plattsburgh AFB, NY 12903 2
- ...WAR COVER CLUB AT WESTPEX '79...WAR COVER CLUB AT WESTPEX '79...WAR COVER CLUB...

CANADIAN PRISONER OF WAR FRANKS \*

Ed. Pritlove #

When World War II started, the Dept. of the Secretary of State, Internment Operations Branch, created two camps...one at Kananaskis, Alta. and the other at Fredericton, N.B. P.O.W.s, according to Article 38 of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War, are composed of two classes. Class 1 are officers, soldiers and other personnel officially attached to the armed forces, such as padres and other persons who follow the armed forces but are not directly members of it, such as correspondents, etc. Class 2 are enemy aliens or other personnel interned under the country's Defence Regulations. The rights and privileges of the two classes are considerably different. This can be best understood when one considers that an alien could live in Canada for a number of years, to all intents and purposes a good citizen but never having taken out citizenship papers, suddenly becomes an enemy because his homeland, to whom he still owes allegiance, has declared war on us. He doesn't deserve the rigors of an Army P.O.W. camp because he has actually done nothing but must be put out of circulation as a security safeguard.

Later it was deemed expedient, due to various reasons, the shortage of rations in Britain being a prime cause and the fact that if Hitler overran the British Isles, he would be able to free thousands of first-line troops, to send these to Canada. By 1943 there were over 20,000 of them here and this figure eventually exceeded the 35,000 mark. (All Allied P.O.W.s were not sent to Canada, of course.)

Mail to and from the P.O.W.s is postage free, within a given limit. For their outgoing mail the prisoners were first given postcards and envelopes in limited quantities but these were later changed to the now familiar folding type letter sheet.

By 1940 the free postage privilege to P.O.W.s regarding parcels was being abused to such an extent that some action had to be taken and this abuse was almost entirely on the part of friends and relatives of the internees, resident in Canada. The problem was, therefore, a domestic one for Canada.

The Internment Branch discussed the problem with the Post Office Dept. and a plan was approved. The result being what is known as a "Free Franking Label" that was issued and special regulations governing its use were promulgated by Parliament. In effect, and all postmasters were so advised, that effective February 1, 1940, all parcels addressed to or sent by P.O.W.s in Canada must bear the above-mentioned official label or be prepaid with postage in the usual manner. The internees were also instructed to advise their correspondents that unless their parcels were so franked they wouldn't be delivered to them. Now remember this applied only to Class 2 type of internees whose friends were resident in Canada, but did not apply to parcels from foreign countries, if they arrived in Canada free of charge. This was so as not to contravene the requirements of Article 38 of the Convention.

These new regulations were carried on to the end of the war, even after Class 1 prisoners started to arrive, although they weren't entitled to them, but that wasn't deemed important because it was hardly likely that these would have friends or relatives resident in Canada.

The new Franking labels were printed and provided under the Internment Operations Branch, not the Post Office, and were issued in limited quantities to certain accredited organizations and individuals such as the Internment

Committee of the Red Cross in Montreal, the Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners Aid Committee in Toronto, the Apostolic Delegate in Ottawa, etc., and was mostly used for sending text books, reading material and comforts to the internees. If such parcels were ordered from a store, that store would be issued a label on application for it. These (labels) were never issued to the prisoners themselves or to P.O.W. camps, despite opinions to the contrary.

With the influx of the Class 1 prisoners from overseas, the Internment Branch of the Secretary of State turned their jurisdiction of camps over to the Dept. of Defence - Directorate of Prisoners of War Branch, on January 1, 1943, who continued the use of the Franks until their discontinuance on January 31, 1947, but they ordered their own Franks. In all, six types of Franks were in use, two by the State Department and four by the Defence Department but all in limited quantities which make them decidedly scarce. After their discontinuance all unused copies were called in by the P.M.G. and destroyed and it is doubtful if even 2,000 of the entire six issues are in existence today. Some place it as low as less than 800 and of the 1st and 5th issues only a hundred or so. A fortunate man has the only complete set that I've been able to find or hear of. All were printed by authority of the King's Printer and were in black on various shades of red paper, approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and gummed. The first three types were individual labels, imperforate, and the last three were in strips of five, straight lined edges rouletted between. They all resemble each other but the words aren't quite the same. The Defence Department used the usual Army codes with the year and quantity.




Typical Franking Label


We now come to the cancellations. All P.O.W. mail was sent to a special depot in Ottawa before delivery to the various camps or from them, where it was censored, fluoroscoped, etc. and then forwarded to its destination. In the case of mail to camps, the cancelling was done in the camps by a corporal of the Veteran's Guard who was supplied by the Postmaster General with a special hand type canceller. This was the usual round type with which we all so familiar before the Meter Machines and automatic cancellers made such an influx into our lives. They read, P.O.W., the date and Camp designation, which at first were letters and later changed to numbers when the military assumed charge of all camps.

As the number of camps grew, the letter identification became somewhat chaotic; for instance, A was Kananaskis, B was Frederickton, D may be Winnipeg, D Barrie, E Lethbridge, etc., so the Army changed it to numbers, using the military district as location and numbering the camps in consecutive order as they

**PRISONER OF WAR MAIL**




*Met. Herman Drobisch*  
*P.O.B. 495 New Waterford C.B.*  
*Nova Scotia*  
*Canada*



**SENDER:**  
 No. P. *527* Name *Albert Drobisch*  
 PETAWAWA INTERNMENT CAMP  
 PETAWAWA, ONTARIO

Postal stationery - card - with name of internment camp imprinted. Cancelled "PETAWAWA, ONT/OC 28 41," the card was used postage free. Censor marking (typical) is in red ink on both sides of card.

**PRISONER OF WAR MAIL**




*Avion*  
*1943*  
*Great-Germany*  
*FORWARDED BY D B / 329*  
*L.P.*

*Familie*  
*Mehlis*  
*Berlin Neukölln*  
*Berliner Str. 106*



**SENDER:**  
 Name *Heinrich* No. *260 238*  
 Rank *Obergefreiter* Service *Heer* C. P. *3742*  
 Internment Camp *"132" Akt. 3*  
 BASE POST OFFICE: OTTAWA, CANADA

FORM I.O. 10  
 M.F.M. 3  
 1540M- (510) (1056)  
 H.Q. 17 39-2055

Green card with required postage for air mail has two different German transit censor marks. Cancel reads, "P.O.W./132/19 OC 43." Air service was to Lisbon, via England, from Lisbon to Stuttgart, the first part via British aircraft and the latter part via German air carrier.



were created. I don't know if you are all familiar with the Canadian Military District set-up during the Second World War; those who were in the services would be, but it went like this and was arranged on a per capita basis. Ontario was divided, I think, into six districts, Quebec two and the other provinces one each except Yukon which was in with B.C. and P.E.I. was in with Nova Scotia, I believe. MD1, which was mine, as I enlisted in Listowel, was Western Ontario, west of a line drawn roughly from Woodstock to Kincardine, with London as HQ and was known as M.D. 1. The men's regimental number prefixed with A. The Niagara Peninsula and Hamilton surroundings was MD 2 with the prefix B. Toronto and surroundings was MD 3 with the letter C, etc. Now if there was a P.O.W. camp in MD 1, the camp number became 1 and the first camp was also 1, so that its designation was 1-1 or 11. The second camp would be 1-2 and so on. The P.O.W. camp in Lethbridge therefore was 13-2, MD 13 for Alberta and 2 for the second established camp. The censoring depot in Ottawa had an alphabetical list of all P.O.W.s and was constantly kept informed of all prisoners whereabouts. This secrecy re camp location and its allotted number was maintained to prevent U.S. relatives, friends or enemy agents from seeking to personally contact the P.O.W. and perhaps aid him to escape.

With the last batch of P.O.W.s leaving Canada, These Franking labels were declared obsolete on January 31, 1947 and ceased to be valid for use. As mentioned above, the P.M.G. had all existing stocks called in, checked off and destroyed. It is hard to ascertain which is the rarer, the mint or the used. I've paid higher prices for either. Despite the regulations that these Franks be cancelled at the camps, there are always accidents and I have one that bears the Ottawa cancellation. It is considered to be something of a rarity as there was no P.O.W. camp in the Capital City or near it.

Type 1 was issued in February 1940 (2,000 copies); Type 2 was issued in February 1941 (2,000 copies); Type 3 was issued in May 1943 (5,000 copies); Type 4 was issued in November 1944 (5,000 copies); Type 5 was issued in July 1945 (1,000 copies); Type 6 was issued in March 1946 (5,000 copies) and is the one commonly encountered as all weren't turned in.

There may be some of you who will maintain that these (labels) are neither stamps or postal stationery because they aren't generally listed in catalogues and weren't issued by the Post Office Dept. I have no intention of attempting to justify them as such but fact remains that they were connived with the agreement of the Postal Authorities, that they did carry parcels up to the postal limit of 25 pounds anywhere in Canada which represented a postage value of \$2.50 each and without them the Post Office wouldn't accept and transmit parcels free.

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\* Continued from April-May WCC Bulletin.

# From an address by Ed. Pritlove, courtesy of the Brantford Stamp Club Library and reprinted courtesy of Mike Steet, Editor Grand News (Official Journal of Grand River Valley Philatelic Association, 163 Terrace Hill Street, Brantford, Ontario N3R 1G5, CANADA).

(Editor's note: In Pritlove's article the identification of certain letters with particular camps is not official.)

Credits and my thank you to Major W. Bailey, Capt. R.V. Furneaux (Ret.), Major R. K. Malott (Ret.), Major Ian Morgan, Mike Street, E.R. Toep, Peter Wiedemann and The Director, Directorate of History, NDHQ.

"R.S.V.P."

Myron Fex (P.O.Box 283, Needham Hts., MA 02194) has a cover postmarked in Sweden, Dec. 8, 1941. It has an airmail sticker and manuscript "BY CLIPPER." It also has two strikes (crossed out in crayon) of the German marking, "ZURUCK/POSTVERKEHR EINGESTELLT" indicating return postal traffic discontinued.

The envelope is addressed to New York. It has another strike reading: "BEFORDERUNG DURCH DEUTSCHLAND/(in)/SCHWEDISCHEN BRIEFBEUTELN/ZUGELASSEN LAUT MITTEILUNG DES RIVB." There is also an ordinary Berlin sealing strip and marks of the period. A British "P.C. 90" sealing strip endorsed "I.e." in ink. Are there similar strikes of the three-line marking? It could mean a forwarding of the mail (Swedish mail bundles), via Germany, in accordance with the "RIV B" announcement.

Comment: On the basis of the information given, Fex's cover probably was intended to go in the Swedish mail bag, through Germany (and subject to German censoring) and to the U.S. clipper at Lisbon.

In a recent Van Dam auction, a Swedish cover had a similar three-line cachet but with the ending reading, "RPM." It also had the Swedish postal cachet, "BY AIR OVER THE ATLANTIC/AND FROM NEW YORK." Although Van Dam's cover was supposed to go by a different route, it also went through Germany.

What had happened is that Germany announced, August of 1940, the complete blockade of England. The airline (British Airways, Inc./G.B.-Norway-Sweden-Finland) was disrupted. A wartime air route was opened between G.B. and Sweden, late 1940 and again 1941. The fact that the British civil aircraft were breaking the blockade is supposed to have infuriated the German Air authorities and mere fighter squadrons were put into action with the express purpose of shooting down the unarmed British civil aircraft. Another mail route existed through Germany. Neither of the belligerents was supposed to censor mail from a neutral nation. The mail was in a "closed bag."

Alan I. Breen (45 Glandevoy Rd., Christchurch, 5, NEW ZEALAND) inquires about a certain postal marking which was applied to two covers during WW II. The first cover is a U.S. Navy "penalty envelope" with "official business" inked out and directed to Southport, Lancashire. A "tombstone" censor is dated 7-3-45 and the familiar "POST OFFICE MARITIME/MAIL" machine cancel is applied. On the backside is the unidentified marking, a double-circle date stamp indicating the time received and with "RECEIVED/10 MAR 1945/CENSOR OFFICE" within. A second cover also has the "tombstone" censor marking, is also stampless, and with the New Zealand double-circle marking, "OFFICIAL PAID/ON ACTIVE SERVICE." Here the unidentified marking (just like the first one) reads, "RECEIVED/ SEP 1944." It (the mark in question) cannot be New Zealand; it is not British; it is not Canadian so must be of U.S. origin. If so, somebody must recognize it.



Breen's marking is identified as a U.S. Army or U.S. Air Force receiving postal marking. This marking was used world-wide. There are some slight variations but it is commonly about 43 mm. diameter and applied in light purple ink. Collectors of U.S. military mail generally have a number of examples in their collections. This receiving marking always gives time received, date and location with exception of the "CENSOR OFFICE" type used during WW II when location was kept secret. Stateside markings are common. We illustrate a Berlin marking similar to Breen's unidentified type.

Book Review: DEUTSCHE MARINE-SCHIFFSPOST 1914 - 1918, by Detlef H. Clausen. The catalog was put together by Detlef H. Clausen (Graf Spee Chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society) and is reported by Tom Dean to be available for \$6.00.

While not on a plane (as regards details and scope) with the DEUTSCHE MARINE-SCHIFFSPOST series of handbooks by Kerv. Kapt. A.D. Fr. Crusemann, this handbook would appear to worth the modest price to collectors interested in the German Navy during the World War I period only. Ships are listed in order of their "MSP" (Marine Schiffspost) numbers along with dates of usage of these postal numbers and a "remarks" column containing pertinent information on the ship and its eventual fate. Also included is a section in which the various cancellation and "Briefstempel" types are illustrated along with censor markings and registry label types to be found on naval mail of this era. A further section contains charts in which the major vessels are listed along with vital statistics of the ship itself.

The handbook totals 61 pages. For details, please write Tom Dean (17 Eulita Terr., Brighton, MA 02135).

(Review by R. J. Houston)

A number of War Cover Club members are also members of the A.I.C.P.M. The following is reported by Walter G. Weisbecker.

~~Corner of~~  
Special card and cachet.

"Italian Military Post in Africa" was the highly popular theme of III National Military Post Exhibition sponsored on 15-16 April at Crema, north Italy, by the Italian Association of Military Post Collectors in collaboration with the Crema Philatelic Circle, featuring more than 200 frames of specialized collections dealing with Italian military operations in Africa from the 1880's through World War II and its immediate aftermath.



Open to an avidly interested public, and including a representative gathering of dealers in worldwide military post material, the exhibition also provided for a post office on detached service at which, on 16 April only, a distinctive cachet was used to cancel postage on special commemorative post-cards. In addition, there was published by A.I.C.P.M. for the occasion a 177-page book in Italian "Le Poste Militari Italiane in Africa," cataloguing and evaluating the military post of all Italian campaigns in Africa (priced at \$9. or equivalent; available from L. Buzzetti, Viale Prealpi 44, 21047 Saronno (VA), Italy).

The following are some of the awards made:

A.I.C.P.M. Grand Prize and Gold Medal Diploma: Paolo Bianchi (Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia 1882-1941)

Alberto Diana Memorial Prize and Gold Medal Diploma: Emilio Simonazzi (for best collection of Libya)

Crema Rotary Club Cup and Gold Medal Diploma: Walter G. Weisbecker (Italian Military Post in East Africa)

Gold Medal Diploma: Fabrizio Longhi (Italian Aviation in Libya 1911-19); Carlo Martinez (Libyan War); Silvano Sorani (Italian Bases at Port Said 1917-19); Vittorio Sismondo (Italian Military Post in Somalia)

Vermeil Medal Diploma: Fernando Ales (POW Camps for Italians in East Africa); Roberto Cella (Italian Military Post in North Africa 1939-43); Giorgio Khouzam, Jr. (Libya); Pierluigi Montanelli (Italian Forces in Tunisia); Giancarlo Ravasio (Ethiopian Campaign 1935-36)

Silver Medal Diploma: G. Talpone, G. D'Agostino and M. Lazzarini

Bronze-Silver Medal Diploma: G. Fabbrizzi, E. Rivielle, E. Petranca and E. Nitta

Bronze Medal Diploma: G. Candia and G. Orazzini.

Some Observations on...

PITCAIRN ISLAND WW II COVERS

Clyde Carriker \*

Probably no other Pacific island has engendered as much attention, philatelically and historically, as has Pitcairn Island in the eastern Pacific. Situated at 25 degrees 04' South and 130 degrees 06' West longitude, the isolated home of the BOUNTY mutineers did not issue its own stamps until 1940.

Three imaginative novels and a couple of motion pictures brought the world's attention to Fletcher Christain, Captain Bligh and the others who followed the mutineers to Pitcairn. Considerable research has gone into the pre-stamp era of Pitcairn and, of course, many articles on the life, times and stamps of the current inhabitants have appeared.

Not much, however, has been written about the censorship activities on Pitcairn. No American Navy or Army unit was stationed at Pitcairn...or was there?

Forrest W. Calkins, writing in the Pitcairn Islands Study Group's Pitcairn Log, for Dec. 1975, states that he knew a person in the Army who had been stationed at the Air Force Base (Nandi?) on Viti Levu, Fiji. Calkins writes:

"...he told me they had been part of a rather small group which had been sent to Pitcairn to study weather and to watch for Japanese submarines...he described in detail the high cliffs on Pitcairn, and how he was impressed with the sea pounding against the cliffs, and how they could hear it plainly clear out on their ship..."

Calkins then says he visited this person in Milwaukee and saw several APO 913 covers with "...an 'A' written in pencil, which seemed most unusual. His (friend's) explanation was that they did not have a stamp with the 'A' designation, so the clerk just wrote an 'A' after the number!..."

Calkins later says that, in 1973, he discovered two APO 913 covers with the strange flat-topped "A" written in pencil and is convinced, or was then, that this must have been a "provisional" Pitcairn postmark.

From January 1942 until July 1943 I was stationed at Nandi, Fiji, APO913, and eventually commanded the 3rd Airways Detachment for more than six months. One of the units under the 3rd was a weather observation squad which came to us from Hawaii. The C.O. told me they had come directly to Hawaii from the States. Of course, it is possible that another unit could have been sent from American Samoa, Hawaii, New Caledonia or even Australia to Pitcairn.

Finding nothing in the standard reference works, including Bill Hornadge's 1976 "The Pitcairn Islands Stamp Catalogue" or Cy Kitching's 1976 monograph "Pitcairn Islands Postal History Markings," I concluded there was not much censorship, if any, on Pitcairn during WW II.

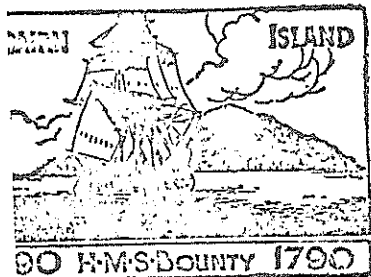
However, last May I acquired a long run of Pitcairn covers consisting of correspondence between Roy P. Clark, Pitcairn Postmaster for many years, and a Los Angeles area resident. Although I do not pretend to be a Pitcairn specialist, I couldn't pass up these interesting covers (with letters) with dates between June, 1943 and August, 1958. Eleven of the covers were posted between 9 June 1943 and 27 July 1945.

Of these 11 covers, five have been censored. Four of these were censored at various receiving points in U.S. It is in the 16 May 1944 letter that we find that something is taking place on Pitcairn because Postmaster Clark writes:

OPENED BY EXAMINER

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

FROM  
R.P. Clark,  
Pitcairn Island,  
South Pacific Ocean



P.C.-90

Mrs. Susan A. Dill,  
3467 Olive Street,  
Huntington Park,  
California,  
U.S.A.



OPENED BY EXAMINER

D.D.A. / 132

The cover cancelled 16 May 1944. A continuation of the censor label is appended to the left. According to Wil. Broderick (WCC Bulletin, Feb. and June/August, 1974) D.D.A. is the code for the British New Zealand censor. On the cover dated 2 Aug. 1944, the censor's mark appears to be typeset.

"Life here continues on about the same. Some changes that I cannot mention about have added new interest to island life." (*Italics mine.*) There is no further reference to whatever it was but on the back of the cover (illus. above) is handwritten, "This is one of the first censored covers sent out from Pitcairn Island."

I doubt that Roy Clark wrote this because the addressee annotated a number of items on the many covers and it looks like her handwriting.

The next 1944 letter I have in the run is dated 2 Aug. 1944. This is the key cover because on the reverse, typed on purple capital letters, is "PITCAIRN ISLAND/ OPENED BY EXAMINER/PITCAIRN ISLAND." Penned initials, perhaps "DS" are between the first and second lines.

This is the only cover I have seen with this censor mark except for a 9 Aug. 1944 photocopy of a cover sent to me by a New York collector. The typing in the photocopy appears to be the same but the censor's initials could be "DL." Following the 2 Aug. cover are covers postmarked in Nov. 1944 (two), Feb. 1945, July 1945 and Sep. 1945. None of the covers are typed with the typed censor's mark.

Why this late date for censoring on the island is still a mystery to me. There would have been little, if any, Japanese submarine activity this far east in the Pacific. Could a weather observation unit have been detailed to Pitcairn? Or a U.S. Navy ship...or Allied vessel? If so, for how long? Why?

\*(3209 East Cortez Street, West Covina, CA 91791)