

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Mar 1941)

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**

*Dutch Indies Censor Marks (WWII)*

*Egypt Censor Marks (WWII)*

*Ethiopia Censor Marks (WWII)*

*Finland Censor Marks (WWII)*

*France Censor Marks*

*French Guyana Censor Marks (WWII)*

*Germany Censor Marks*

*Censor Labels & Markings, Foreign*

*Dutch Indies Censor Marks*

*Egypt Censor Marks*

*Ethiopia Censor Marks*

*Finland Censor Marks*

*France Censor Marks*

*French Guyana Censor Marks*

*Germany Censor Marks*

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Beginning with this issue of the WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN all censor labels, markings etc., will be fully illustrated. We hope this innovation will be a pleasing and agreeable improvement. Many readers inquired whether this could not be arranged and as Delf Norona stated: "Illustrations, even if crude, are absolutely essential to an easy understanding of what you are describing." Unfortunately under the mimeograph process and with the limited tools at my command, these illustrations will be somewhat "crude" but I do hope the same will assist readers and make the bulletin more valuable.

The large number of collectors, who are interested in present war material, is rather surprising. We already have received one subscription from England, one from Australia and quite a number from our Canadian friends. If, as and when general conditions improve, we hope to expand our circulation to such a degree as to enable us to carry on exchange of information with all countries of the world.

At present it is our intention to complete the present listing of material alphabetically from our present record until we have reached the countries under "Z". Then we plan to bring such information up-to-date by listing the additional information secured since the previous listing. Therefore, for the time being, do not send in any additional information until I request the same. When this time arrives, I shall ask for samples so that the new markings etc., can be fully illustrated. However, we do want any other information at this time such as pertains to censorship rules, explanations of the whys and wherefores of certain markings etc. It is our hope to publish in the bulletin not only a description of the markings but also the reasons for them and all additional information of help to make the story as complete as possible.

It will also be noted that the present issue carries the beginning of a classification system. This system may have to be changed later but for the time being it will serve the purpose of properly describing the various items, so that, when referring to a certain cover, only the classification letter and numeral need to be used. The following are the classification abbreviations which will be in use hereafter:

- CL Censor Labels
- CM Censor Markings Handstamps
- FF Free Franks
- MC Military Censor Markings
- MOS Military Organization Handstamps
- MP Military Postmarks
- MR Military Postage Rate Handstamps
- MS Military Stationary
- NC Naval Censor Stamps
- NP Naval Postmarks
- OM Official Mail Stamps
- P Propaganda
- RC Red Cross Markings
- WP Prisoner of War Items
- WSC War Slogan Cancellations
- X Miscellaneous

All collectors of war covers are greatly indebted to Harry L. Lindquist, publisher of "STAMPS" for the special issue of March 29, 1941. In as much as Harry Lindquist kindly has offered to publish further articles on our hobby, I suggest that all those who are not as yet subscribers, subscribe at once. I believe this will be advantageous, not only because the magazine will contain interesting and valuable articles but also in appreciation of its cooperation. Subscription is \$1 per year and I shall be glad to handle such subscriptions.

GEORGE C. HAHN, Editor  
835 Williamson Building  
Cleveland, Ohio

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CURRENT WAR CENSORED Gold Coast 25¢; Great Britain 15¢; Canada Authorized for Export, 15¢; German occupied Netherlands 35¢; British F.P.O's France, 40¢; from Iceland 50¢; British Navals 35¢; Swiss F.P.O's 35¢; Spanish Civil War Loyalists 40¢; others on approval. The Berkshire Exchange, 736 Hillgirt Circle, Oakland, California

Ch. 10 Purple Imprint

DUTCH INDIES

CENSUR BATAVIA (CL 1)  
 CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 2)  
 CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 2)

CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 3)  
 CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 5)

CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 4)  
 CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 4)

CENSUR GEOPEND (CL 5)  
 CENSUR GEOPEND

Geopend Militaire  Censuur - Medan  
 (CL 6)

- CL 1 Black on manilla
- CL 2 Black on manilla
- CL 3 Black on manilla
- CL 4 Black on shiny white
- CL 5 Black on shiny white
- CL 6 Black on shiny white

Some covers from Dutch Indies sent via Trans-Pacific Air Mail bear Hong Kong Censor Label only.

DEV.  
1

(CL 1)

CENSUR  
GEPASSEERD

9

(CL 2)

GECENSUREERD

4

(CL 3)





(CL 4)

  
 DEVIEZEEK  
 CENSUR  
 BATAVIA

(CL 5)

DUTCH INDIES

CM 1 Red Imprint  
CM 2 Red Imprint  
CM 3 Red Imprint

CM 4 Purple Imprint  
CM 5 Red Imprint

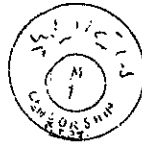
Many covers from Dutch Indies also carry Hong Kong and Singapore Censor Markings

E G Y P T

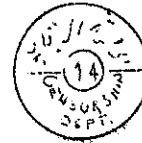
BY CENSOR OPENED BY CENSOR  
بالتفتيش المصرى المصرى المصرى المصرى  
SHIP EGYPTIAN CENSORSHIP EGYPTIA  
بالتفتيش المصرى المصرى المصرى المصرى

(CL 1)

CL 1 Pale Blue on white (Continuous Label)



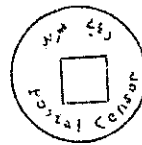
(CM 1)



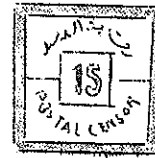
(CM 2)



(CM 3)



(CM 4)



(CM 5)

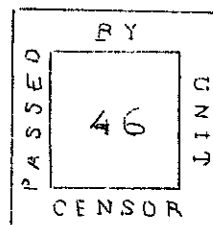


(CM 6)



(CM 7)

- CM 1 Handstamp Black and Red Imprint
- CM 2 Handstamp Black and Red Imprint
- CM 3 Handstamp Black and Red Imprint
- CM 4 Handstamp Purple Imprint
- CM 5 Handstamp Purple Imprint
- CM 6 Handstamp Purple Imprint
- CM 7 Handstamp Purple Imprint



(MCM 1)

- MCM 1 Handstamp used by officers in the military service. Purple imprint Egyptian CM 2 also used on cover.

ETHIOPIA

Military Postmarks.



(MP-1)



(MP-2)



(MP-3)

MP-1 Field Post Office No. 15  
Field Post Office No. 12

MP-2 Field Post Office No. 40A  
MP-3 Field Post Office No. 84

FINLAND

Censor Labels

Tarkastettu 20. 10. 39 ann. os. N:o 348 nojalla.  
Granskat i stöd av förordn. N:o 348 av 20. 10. 39.

(CL-1)

SOTASENSUURI  
KRIIGSCENSUREN

(CL-2)

TARKASTETTU

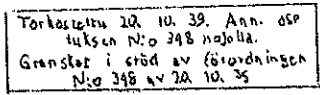


GRANSKAT

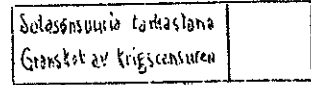
(CL-3)

- CL-1 Black on white (Used during Russo-Finnish War)
- CL-2 Black on white (Used during and after Russo-Finnish War)
- CL-3 Black on white (Used after Russo-Finnish War)

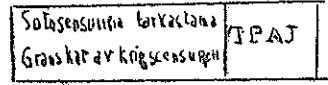
Censor Markings



(CM-1)



(CM-2)



(CM-3)



(CM-4)



(CM-5)

- CM-1 Handstamp Purple Imprint
- CM-2a Handstamp Purple Imprint (Censor's initials in script)
- CM-2b Handstamp Blue Imprint (Censor's initials in script)
- CM-3 Handstamp Purple Imprint (Censor's initials part of stamp)
- CM-4 Handstamp Blue Imprint
- CM-5 Roller hand or machine stamp Black Imprint

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THE C.A. BULLETIN (C.A. stands for Collection Appeal) is issued every month or two and invariably lists War Covers. It takes but a postal card to receive the current issue, and subsequent ones as they appear. You will be glad you asked for it. Write to HERMAN HERST, JR. 115 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y.

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JOIN THE WAR COVER CLUB. In union there is strength. Details from George C. Hahn, 835 Williamson Building, Cleveland, Ohio

FINLAND

Military Postmarks



(MP-1)



(MP-2)

MP-1 Field Post Office No. 5

MP-2 Field Post Office No. 15

MP-1 cover also carries a handstamp illustrated below and a circular handstamp with partly illegible inscription excepting "Patteristo". "Kentaposti" means Field Mail and "Patteristo" means Battery. (Courtesy of Eugene Carey)

KENTAPOSTI

Russo-Finnish War began with the invasion on November 30, 1939 by the Russians and the peace treaty was signed on March 12, 1940.

FRANCE

Censor Labels

CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE

(CL-1)

CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE

(CL-2)

CONTROLE

(CL-3)

EXAMINE  
PAR.....

(CL-4)

- CL-1 Black on white. Inscription 5.2 cm long. Used in 1939  
 CL-2 Black on gray. Inscription 5.0 cm long. Used early 1940  
 CL-3 Black on white. Used late 1940  
 CL-4 Black on white. Censor number in script. Used early 1941

Censor Markings

CONTENU  
VERIFIE

(CM-1)



(CM-2)



(CM-3)

- CM-1 Handstamp. Black Imprint. Used April 1940 applied to flap  
 CM-2a Handstamp. Black Imprint. Used late 1939 and early 1940  
 CM-2b Handstamp. Blue Imprint. Used late 1939 and early 1940  
 CM-3 Handstamp. Black Imprint. Used after Armistice.

CM-2 and CM-3 are used to tie label to cover.

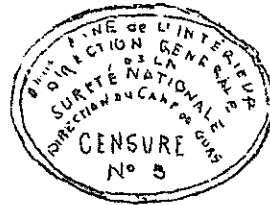
A new and special organization has been put in force for the censure. In the previous war the censure bureaux were but few and disseminated along the frontiers and in the chief towns. This time each "Department" has its own bureaux called a "Commission" and each Commission has received a special indicative constituted by two letters, i.e. "BK" or "AG". Each censor of each department has his identification number containing the two letters of his department, i.e. BK 783 or AG 232. The stamping with those numbers is done twice on each cover, once on the front and once on the back, both are tying the control band to the cover. From time to time the mark of the Commission - a circular stamp with the figure of the Republic in the middle and inscriptions around the figure - is stamped on letters ordinaires, but it is not customary. (From the War Cover Philatelist)

F R A N C EMilitary Post Marks

(MP-1)

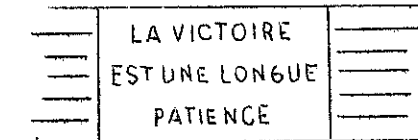
MP-1 Secteurs Postal 233

Cancellations in use in the Military Mail Offices are the former circular type with Poste Aux Armees and a star around the date which is in the center. In spite of the introduction of the Secteurs Postal with their numbering, no such number appears in the cancellation.

Prisoner of War Markings

(WP-1)

Used on a cover from Camp de Gurs, Basses - Pyrenees, January 25, 1941. The cover was franked with postage stamps and apparently did not receive the franking privilege.

War Slogan Cancellation

(WSC-1)

In use February 1940

Miscellaneous

X-1 A stamped 90-centimes postal card used for communication between occupied and unoccupied France. Face of card leaves room for name of sender and addressee and on reverse are printed various sentences pertaining to the sender's and his family's health and general condition. Those sentences, which do not apply, are to be crossed out.

The new French stamps, depicting Marshal Petain, signify the change in status of the country for the letters "RF" and the inscription for which they stood "Republique Francaise" are absent. Instead the stamp is inscribed "Postes Francaise", which stands for French Postage.

FRENCH GUYANACensor Markings

(CM-1)

CM-1 Hand stamp; black imprint. Stamp is applied on flap of envelope

S T A M P S. Have you ordered the March 29 issue of "Stamps"? Or better yet, send your subscription to this magazine to the editor. Articles on War Covers are accurately described in "Stamps". George C. Hahn, 835 Williamson Bldg. Cleveland, Ohio.

G E R M A N Y

Censor Labels

3ur  
Desifenüberwachung  
sollamtlidh  
geöffnet

CL-1 Black on white. Inscription reads:  
"Opened by customs authorities for  
purpose of exchange control".

The above label (CL-1), in a continuous roll, imperforate at top and perforated sidewise, was used prior to outbreak of war, as early as in 1938. Although its purpose was the checking of money leaving the country, it also served the purpose of censorship of the content of letters.

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German censor labels in use since the outbreak of the war can be roughly classified into two major types. One bearing the inscription "Geprüft" (examined) and the other "Geöffnet" (opened). The "Geprüft" labels vary only in the quality of the paper used and in the addition of a short dash on some labels. This dash is located above and to the left of "Geprüft". The reason for the difference of the two major types, mentioned above, is not known at this time.

Geprüft



CL-2 Black on white and Black on Grayish Paper.

CL-2a Same as CL-2 except for the addition of short dash as above described. Black on White and Black on Grayish Paper.

Geöffnet



(CL-3)

Labels with the "Geöffnet" inscription can again be subdivided into two major varieties. The one bearing a large circle and the other a small circle. Those with the large circle are CL-3. Apparently these labels are furnished in continuous rolls and are cut off as needed by the Censor. There are minor varieties in printing and paper too minute to list.

CL-3a Black on white and black on Grayish. Bottom of "t" of "Geöffnet" 1.2 cm distant from left edge of circle. Label cut at both ends

CL-3b Black on white and black on Grayish. Bottom of "t" of "Geöffnet" 2.2 cm distant from left edge of circle. Label serrated at ends.

CENSORED COVERS Wanted to buy or exchange. Eugene Carey. Box 527, Iron River, Michigan.

CURRENT WAR I have a number of duplicates of censored covers, military and naval covers etc., for sale or exchange. I want to buy everything needed pertaining to present war. GEORGE C. HAHN, 835 Williamson Bldg. Cleveland,



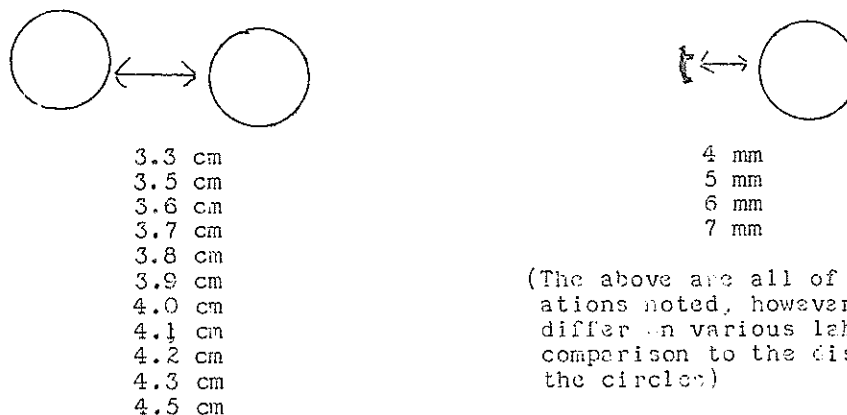
G E R M A N YCensor Labels

(CL-4)

- CL-4a Five small diamond shaped dots in bottom of circle. Label cut at ends. There are minute differences in the printing and paper of this label. The distance between the circles and the position of the word "geoffnet" varies. These differences even occur on the same label and seem to indicate that the type has been handset at different print shops without regard to the original sample. It is not believed that these difference are any indication of the places of censorship. The following will indicate the variations seen so far: (Black on white label)



- CL-4b Similar to CL-4a but two small diamond shaped dots to the right and left of a small "b" in bottom of circle. Black on white. Label cut at ends. Minute difference in printing and paper again can be noticed. Distance between circles 3.7 cm. "t" of "Geoffnet" 6 mm from left edge of circle to the right.
- CL-4c Same as CL-4b but black on manilla
- CL-4d Same as CL-4a but two small diamond shaped dots to the right and left of a small "e" in bottom of circle. Black on white and violet brownish black on white. Some labels are cut at end, while others are serrated. Minor varieties in printing and paper again can be noticed. The variations in distances between circles and between the "t" of "Geoffnet" and the left edge of the circle to the right can be noted below:



The next issue of the WAR COVER BULLETIN will be mailed on or about May 1, 1941 and will continue with a report on German Censor Markings followed by balance of countries in alphabetical order.