

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Mar 1950)

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 BULLETIN  
OF THE WAR COVER CLUB

An Occasional Publication

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1 West 47th Street,  
New York 19, New York.

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VOL. VI

MARCH, 1950

WHOLE NO. 5

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V-Mail Crash Cover  
by Arthur K. Hurlburt

How can that be possible?

Here is what happened.

A V-Mail letter prepared in Athens, Ohio in December, 1944, was sent to a sailor overseas % Fleet Post Office, New York, New York. The sender requested that the cover be returned to him for his collection.

When it reached its destination, the V-Mail cover was postmarked "U.S. Navy/Dec. 22, 1944." It was placed in an airmail envelope and mailed to the original sender in Athens, Ohio. The airmail envelope was canceled "U.S. Navy/Dec. 30, 1944."

Late in January, 1945, a Post Office Department "penalty" envelope postmarked "New York, New York/January 20, 1945" reached Athens, Ohio. It contained the V-Mail cover, the airmail cover, and a small slip of paper on which the following was printed in red:

"United States Post Office  
New York 1, New York

This letter was recovered from a mail-carrying plane that was in an accident.

Respectfully yours,

Albert Goldman  
Postmaster"

Both covers, V-Mail and Airmail, show the marks of burning at the corners and edges and the brown stain of scorching.

So here we do have a real V-Mail "Crash" cover.

(continued from January)

### WORLD WAR II

In these twenty years of comparative peace, the arts and science of propaganda generally had been intensively developed, and with the outbreak of war in 1939, the whole resources of psychological warfare were mobilized by all the nations involved. Britain began dropping leaflets on Germany in September, 1939, and "Words Are Weapons" was a slogan kept to the fore for many grim years. By V-E Day, over two thousand different types of leaflet had been disseminated over Hitler's Europe from bases in the United Kingdom. British based leaflets may be divided into four main classes:

- (a) P.W.E. leaflets, published by the Political Warfare Executive, Political Intelligence Department, British Foreign Office.
- (b) O.W.I. leaflets, published by the Office of War Information, U.S. Government (The "U.S." series).
- (c) Joint P.W.E./O.W.I. leaflets (The "X" series).
- (d) P.W.D. leaflets, published by the Psychological Warfare Division of S.H.A.E.F. (General Eisenhower's H.Q.). (The "T", "V", "W", "Y" and "Z" series.)

Most leaflets have their reference number in one of their lower corners. It should be noted that in some cases the same numbers were used for 1942, 1943, and 1944, so that to identify a leaflet the year of its issue must be known as well as its reference number. Many leaflets prepared for use were never disseminated, so there are quite a number of missing items on the record.

It is impossible even to give a summary of the contents of the leaflets; some are poorly printed pieces of paper a few inches square, others are magnificently produced magazines, with multi-colored illustrations. Their contents comprise the whole history of World War II; the Allied military victories and their setbacks; the "Big Three" Conferences; the speeches of Roosevelt and Churchill; the terrific scope of Allied War Production, and in fact, every incident of consequence in the long, long years of War. In addition to the many varieties of leaflets and booklets, the collector can also obtain a number of "baggage labels," attached to little bags of tea, coffee, cigarettes, etc. which were dropped from time to time to help relieve Europe's hunger for such luxuries. As British based leaflets are probably the types most likely to be found by readers, an outline of the many kinds in existence is now given.

### BELGIAN LEAFLETS

About 120 types exist, the majority being in French and Flemish, although in some cases separate editions were distributed. Included are several items of "Le Courrier de l'Air" series (1940/41) and a lengthy "L'Arc en Ciel" series, as well as the "journal Illustré" and "Le Messager de la Liberte" miniature booklets.

### CHANNEL ISLAND LEAFLETS

Although certain of the leaflets addressed to German troops in France were also dropped on the Channel Islands, only three items exist in English sent specially to these Islands. They are entitled: "Message from H.M. the King," "News from England," and "Dr. Garbett's Sermon."

## CZECHOSLOVAKIAN LEAFLETS

Ten different leaflets and miniature booklets were dropped on this country, mostly giving news and messages of encouragement to this German-occupied territory and its sorely-pressed population.

## DANISH LEAFLETS

Thirty-nine different leaflets were disseminated on Denmark, including ten issues of the miniature magazine "Vi Vil Vinde." Of rather unusual interest is the leaflet D6 of 1944, which was dropped to expose a German "stunt" in April, 1944, when they had a Luftwaffe aircraft with R.A.F. markings fly over Copenhagen dropping "fake" Allied leaflets telling the population to be ready for liberation, and to accept Russian and American negro troops.

## DUTCH LEAFLETS

The leaflets dropped over the Netherlands total about 200 and comprise a most interesting selection, as they go right up to V-E Day. They include over twenty editions of the small magazine "De Wervelwind," and 139 editions of the newspaper "De Vliegende Hollander." The last number of this newspaper, dated 10th May, 1945, shows the Victory crowds in New York and London, and a reproduction of the instrument of Surrender of all the German forces in the Netherlands to Field Marshal Montgomery.

## FRENCH LEAFLETS

The leaflet material disseminated over France reached terrific proportions, and there are over 670 different items in existence. The well known British newspaper series "Le Courrier de l'Air" reached well over a hundred editions, commencing in December, 1940 and continuing until August 1944. Its American equivalent "L'Amerique en Guerre" was first dropped in the autumn of 1942; actually the first issue to be disseminated from Great Britain was issue number 18, (U.S.F.7) on November 28/29th. The last issue, number 113, was dropped on 13/14 August, 1944. This latter series provides a wonderful illustrated history of the War between those dates. Most issues are multi-colored and exceedingly well illustrated with photographs and maps. A variety of illustrated magazines are included in the total, the most lavish productions being the American "Voir" and the British "Accord."

The "Z.F." series was connected with the military operations from D-Day onwards. "Z.F.4" was the warning dropped on D-Day itself upon Normandy towns and villages, instructing the people to flee from bombardment instantly.

Quite a number of Allied leaflets were "faked" by the Germans, who themselves dropped very similar types, full of cunningly concealed anti-Allied propaganda. In most cases the Allies were able to obtain copies, and promptly dropped further leaflets showing the difference between genuine and German items. Such leaflets are especially interesting to a collector.

## GERMAN LEAFLETS

The first British leaflets were dropped over Germany on the night of 25/26 September, 1939, and by the winter leaflet dissemination had reached a fairly substantial scale. The first news-sheet to be distributed was the "Wolkiger Beobachter" (The Observer from the Clouds) and a pun on the well known Nazi newspaper the "Volksischer Beobachter." The early items were mostly confined to a recital of economic facts, rather crudely presented. By 1942, the British Bomber Command had substantially increased its activities, and the leaflets were much more popular in form, and much better produced. In May of that year the first 1000 aircraft raid was made on Cologne, which resulted in a great impetus to leaflet dropping. Meantime a year before, the first issue of "Luftpost" had been dropped. This was a small news-sheet, and ran into very many editions, continually giving the lie to Dr. Goebbels' domestic propaganda.

In 1943 the U.S.A.A.F. was able to supplement the efforts of the British R.A.F. by dropping leaflets of the "Sternenbanner" series, which ran to 21 editions. The "X.G." series was dropped from May to October, 1944 upon German troops, and the "Y.G." series was a S.H.A.E.F. newspaper, dropped between April and May, 1945. The "W.G." series was dropped chiefly upon the German population near the battle area and its lines of communications. It included many items for displaced persons with the issues in French, Dutch, Italian, Polish, Russian, Slovakian and Czech. The "Z.G." series are of special interest, being addressed to German troops in the battle areas and constituting a wonderful record of the Battle for Germany. The "T" series are the famous "Nachrichten" newspapers which were dropped almost daily upon German troops near the front line and upon the isolated garrisons in France and the Channel Islands.

Altogether, close on 950 different leaflets were disseminated on Germany and upon German troops outside Germany.

## ITALIAN LEAFLETS

The first two leaflets (numbered 450 and 451) were dropped on the night of 13/14 August, 1940, on one of the first R.A.F. sorties over the Alps to Italy. This commenced a highly successful bombing and leaflet campaign against Italy. In 1942/3 many more leaflets were dropped from bases in the Mediterranean area, but some thirty different types exist from U.K. bases.

## LUXEMBOURG LEAFLETS

In 1942 a pair of leaflets, L.1 and L.2, was dropped on this little territory which also received items from time to time in French and German.

## NORWEGIAN LEAFLETS

Leaflet dissemination over Norway was rather intermittent, but nearly fifty different types exist, including a number of booklets.

## POLISH LEAFLETS

Only three items were actually dropped over Poland, "British Message to Poland," "Poland Is not Yet Destroyed," and "Proclamation." Eight other leaflets were prepared for use, but for one reason or another, were never disseminated.

## SPANISH LEAFLETS

As Spain was neutral, no leaflets were dropped on her territory, but a special leaflet in Spanish was dropped by R.A.F. Coastal Command on her fishing fleets when these went into prohibited or mined waters.

(to be concluded in next Bulletin)

## U.S.S. NORTHAMPTON C.A. 26

by Ralph Lewis

Name ship of her class of 6, our first large group of Washington Treaty cruisers, Northampton is another gold star ship. She was ordered June 13, 1927 from the Bethlehem Ship Building Co. at Quincy. Her keel was laid on April 12, 1928, she was launched September 5th, 1929 and commissioned on May 17th, 1930.

Like their predecessors, the two Pensacolas, the ships of the Northampton class were well under treaty limits. Northampton's displacement was 9,200 tons standard or 10,544 tons at full load; she was 600 ft. 3 in. long, 66 ft. 1 in. beam, and had a maximum draft of 23 ft. Her four turbines developed 107,000 shaft horse power and gave a designed speed of 32.7 knots. Her main battery was 9-8 in./55 cal. guns in 3-3 gun turrets. Her secondary 8-5 in./25 cal. A.A.s (room for this number of A.A. guns was obtained by removing her torpedo tubes). Her protection was light. War time crew was about 1200 men.

With her five sister ships and the two Pensacolas, Northampton formed the heavy cruiser force of our post-Washington Treaty Navy during the Thirties. In 1938 she was flagship of Cruiser Division 4 of the Cruiser Scouting Force based at San Pedro.

At Midway she formed part of Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid's heavy-cruiser covering force under the command of Captain William W. Chandler.

At the Santa Cruz Islands battle, Northampton was part of the task force built around the Hornet which was joined by the Enterprise force for this action. She stood by the burning Hornet, our big loss in this action, taking her in tow until she finally succumbed to more torpedo and bomb hits.

In the Noumea Espiritu Santo actions, Northampton under Captain Willard Howard A. Kitts III was Rear Admiral Howard H. Gourd's flagship in the covering force.

At Tassafaronga (Northampton's last fight) she was the last ship in Admiral Wright's cruiser line as they steamed into this night action. Her first target was an enemy destroyer. Along with Minneapolis, New Orleans, and Pensacola, Northampton was struck in the first Japanese torpedo attack, being hit amidship. At 1:30 A.M. everyone but the salvage crew was ordered to abandon ship. At 3 A.M. of December 1st, Northampton turned on her beam ends, rolled over and sank stern first.

The following cancellation types are known to have been used on the Northampton: T-3s (FDC), T-3B, T-3BC, T-3<sub>a</sub>, T-3AC, T-9, T-9v, T-9fw, T-9gw, T-9x, two types Fs, and the war-time Z cancels.

## MISSING AND UNKNOWN APO'S

Several requests received concerning such APO's on which there is little or no information, have been given some study. The following list was made up after checking all sources of information, including the official list on file at Washington. Any additional data on these numbers, found in the cancels or in the return addresses, with full description of both, will be welcomed by A. J. Tripp who is responsible for the following list:

Of the following numbers, we have no information: 13,14,18,47,48,87,120,123, 186,187,188,189,190,191,221,222,223,224,233,294,332,338,342,414,480,504,593,609, 670,672,673,674,723,733,734,753,754,756,823,844,889,890,898,899,974,988,992,993.

Numbers assigned, not established overseas.

20 - U.S. 4th Army Hq.

402 - U.S. 2nd Army Hq.

Numbers reported established, from POD Bulletin:

50 Starnberg, Ger. '45; 296 LeHavre, Fr. '45.

Numbers found in the return addresses only:

356 via SF (Luzon); 654 via NY; 735 via N.Y.

Numbers found in cancels, not found in official records:

15 via SF (T.H.); 54 via NY, It. & Fr. 745 via NY; 746 via NY.  
888 via NY (Burma); 893 via NY.

Note: APO cancels used at the various U.S. training camps will not be used for the Overseas List.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This being the third issue for which I have been partially responsible, I think members have had an opportunity by this time to decide whether the Bulletin is carrying articles of interest to the majority, whether any particular field is being neglected. Material is woefully slow in arriving. I was certain I would have many, many letters on favorite items in collections but very few have been forthcoming. When collectors get together, I know they talk most enthusiastically about certain items; why can't you jot down your thoughts on some of your items and send them on to me; while it isn't possible for all of us to get together at meetings, we could and should use the Bulletin as a means of contact.

The War Cover Club is YOUR Club and to keep it functioning and growing, it requires your cooperation and assistance. Don't leave it to the other fellow to carry on all the time. Let us hear from you. WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN.

If coaxed enough, I may write a short paragraph about an interesting trip I made recently Long Island-ways!

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OUR SPRING MEETING

The War Cover Club will hold its spring meeting on April 29, 1950, at the office of Scott Publications, 1 West 47th Street, New York, N.Y. Plan now to be present. The meeting will be open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. You will be able to meet other members, see some of their material, and swap stories and material. It is hoped that we may have an interesting speaker also. Watch the philatelic publications for further notice on meeting.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

H. M. Sanford to 1975 Hampton Road, Rocky River, 16, Ohio.  
Vernon L. Ardiff to # District Freight Claim Agt., NYC System,  
123 W. Polk St., Chicago 5, Ill.  
Merritt F. Handy to 44 Highland Ave., Malden 48, Mass.