

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin May 1946)

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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WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

Volume II, No. 7

May, 1946

CLUB ELECTION RESULTS

The members listed below have been certified as the elected officers of the Club for the next two years by the Nominating Committee which conducted the recent election. A complete summary of the votes cast is in the files of the secretary.

President: Arthur F. Black
 Vice President: J. Paul Klinger
 Sec'y-Treas.: Dr. A. E. Perry

Directors: C. D. Brenner
 H. M. Sanford
 Major Ian C. Morgan
 M. Hertzberg
 D. C. Bartley
 Rev. H. K. Robinson

TREASURER'S REPORT (CONDENSED), YEAR 1945-1946

Income

Balance in treasury, April 1945	67.32
Members' dues	155.75
Sale of publications	31.40
Advertising	1.00
	<u>255.47</u>

Expenditures

To C. D. Brenner, for printing and mailing Bulletin	148.71
Postage	10.19
Stationery	10.34
Printing	20.15
To D. Norona, for files of PHILATELIST	5.00
	<u>194.39</u>
Balance on hand, April 15, 1946	61.08

A. E. Perry
 Treasurer

V-Mail Notes

We are publishing this month what are believed to be the major varieties of V-Mail postmarks. So far as is known, only machine cancellations were used in this country. Those used at Station 1 (New York) and Station 2 (San Francisco) are the same type. Close scrutiny will reveal several dies of each variety. Figures 3 and 4 show two different dies used at Station 3 (Chicago). Covers from Station 1 are frequently found with the ordinary machine cancellation of the Grand Central Station; less commonly they are found with the machine cancellation of the Church Street Annex and with an unidentifiable New York machine cancellation using the BUY DEFENSE SAVINGS and WAR BONDS slogan. Station 2 used the same slogan from San Francisco. In February 1945 this station used what was probably a provisional killer consisting of two groups of three long parallel bars. The type illustrated by Fig. 4, with numeral 10 in the killer, is known only on V-Mail air mail from Station 3. The same type with numerals 54 and 55 in the killer was used on ordinary V-Mail from this station. The reason for using these numbers is not yet known.

V-Mail processed in England regularly received one or the other of the British type postmarks illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. In the Fig. 5 type the postmark, emblem, and inscriptions all seem to have been printed in the same operation. Type 7, known only on covers delivered in Iceland, consists of a regular APO postmark which has been flattened to fit the restricted space on the V-Mail envelope.

No other special types of postmarks are known used overseas. A few covers from all theaters of the war are found with various APO or Navy postmarks. Most of the time V-Mail delivered outside the European Zone bore no postmark at all.

V-Mail envelopes show a number of methods of manufacture. The paper used is of a great many qualities and varieties and runs through many shades of white, tan, buff, manila, yellow, and brown. In this country the Post Office Department made contracts for V-Mail envelopes with 52 manufacturers. This fact alone is sufficient to account for the manifold varieties just indicated as well as the large number of minor variations in the type-setting of the inscriptions. Mr. A. K. Hurlburt is collecting the data on these variations and will eventually give us the results of his endeavors.

The official date for processing the last V-Mail sent from this country is October 15, 1945, and October 31, 1945 for processing the last V-Mail received in this country. However, it is known that at least one roll of film was processed and sent from Station 2 after October 25.

When V-Mail service was discontinued a certain amount of paper had been printed up for envelopes but not yet cut up. Instead of being discarded it was turned and made into envelopes for the delivery of War Bonds.

Important V-Mail Dates

- June 4, 1942: V-Mail service established from U. S. Forces in Great Britain to U. S.
- June 12, 1942: First letters received in U. S. from England.
- June 15, 1942: Service established to U. S. Forces in Great Britain.
- July 9, 1942: Service extended from Great Britain to Cairo and Australia.
- July 10, 1942: Service established from U. S. Forces in Australia to the U. S.
- July 14, 1942: First V-Mail sent from San Francisco.
- July 21, 1942: First V-Mail arrived in San Francisco from Australia.
- August 1, 1942: Admiral C. W. Nimitz sent first V-Mail letter from Pacific Fleet to Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox.
- October 15, 1945: Last V-Mail sent from U. S. (see above).
- October 31, 1945: Last V-Mail from overseas processed in U. S.

TYPES OF ARMY POST OFFICES. (Contributed by Wm. S. Beatty)

There are three general kinds of Army Post Offices: organic, general assignment, and shelf. Organic are those which are included in the tables of organization of Army units such as corps and divisions. The men who run these post offices are not organized into a Postal Unit, but are part of the division or corps represented by the number. Base Post Offices, Post Regulating Sections, corps, and divisions are the only units that have organic APO's. They always retain the same APO number. Postal service for all other Army units is provided by post offices which have no specific assignment to any particular unit. In other words, these post offices are assigned where and when needed, or are so to speak general assignment post offices. This statement requires some qualification. The Adjutant General of the U. S. Army is responsible for supplying this general assignment postal service; he is not responsible for the post offices of the corps and divisions. That is the responsibility of the Army Ground Forces. The Adjutant General, in order to discharge his responsibility, organizes Army Postal Units to run the general assignment post offices. He gives these postal units numbers by which they are known: for example, the 13th Army Postal Unit. When a general assignment post office is in operation, it is usually operated by the postal unit of that number. In other words, if APO 13 is functioning, it is operated by the 13th Army Postal Unit. But it does not always follow in practice that when the 13th Army Postal Unit is working it is operating APO 13. The 13th Army Postal Unit may be helping the 514th Army Postal Unit run APO 514, if 514 is swamped with work, in which case APO 13 is not in operation at all. Thus in reality it is the Army Postal Units which are general assignment and not the Army Post Offices. Under this system it is possible to have an APO in operation for several months and then out of operation for four or five months. During those four or five months its postmark would not be used.

Shelf numbers are not organic to any unit nor are there any postal units that bear their numbers. They are just numbers that are taken off the shelf when they are needed. Examples of shelf numbers are 39, 385, 481, 482, 483, 484, 653, 659, 747, 748, 749, 753, 754, 756, 875. Postmarks from those post offices should contain those numbers and not the numbers of the postal units which are operating them. They are irregularly used.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE IN JAPAN. The following account is from a letter by Sergeant Glenn T. Atwell quoted in THE RAILWAY POST OFFICE and called to our attention by H. E. Rankin.

"You asked me to explain about our mail run, so I will try to make it clear. To begin with, the air mail and first class comes by plane from Frisco to Atsugi Airfield near Tokyo, where the 31st P. R. S. is located. From there it goes to the Seventh B. P. O. in Yokohama where it is reworked into units. All the parcel post comes by boat to Seventh B. P. O. Now our job is to transport all the mail for Army units in Hokkaido and Northern Honshu. We carry only first class mail and registers in the mail car. The only mail that is worked en route is the registers. The parcel post is transported by box cars to our units in Aomori and Sapporo. In other words we have charge of all the incoming and outgoing mail in this part of Japan.

"We also have a post office here in Sapporo. We serve all the units which are not served by APO 77 and APO 309. The post office is handled by six men.

"Our mail car is equipped with a small living compartment where the clerk sleeps and eats. He does not leave the car during the three day trip. The run is split at Aomori with six men running from Sapporo to Aomori and six from Aomori to Tokyo. On this end of the run the mail car is put on a ferry at Hakodote and ferried across the straits, which is a 62-mile trip and takes five hours in good weather." (There is no indication in the above that any postmarks are used in this railway mail service. Editor)

Additional U. S. Army Press Censor Markings

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
U.S. ARMY PRESS CENSOR

EMANUEL GOLDBERG
61302
CHINA THEATER

1.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
6041 B
U. S. ARMY

1 SEP 1945

Name _____ No. _____
PRESS CENSOR ETC

2.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
53

Date 10 NOV 1944

NAME..... No.....
A. E. F.

FIELD PRESS CENSOR

PASSED BY CENSOR
17
G.H.Q.
AFPAC

4.

PERSONAL USE ONLY
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
9 MAR 1944
Theater Censor
E.T.O.U.S.A.

5.

PERSONAL USE ONLY
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
17 JUN 1944
Theater Censor
E.T.O.U.S.A.

6.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
U.S. ARMY PRESS CENSOR

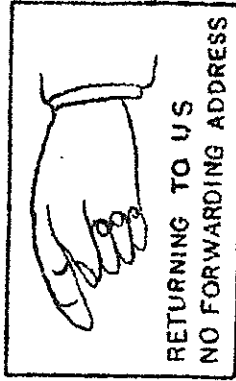
61614

8.

PASSED BY CENSOR
49
G.H.Q.
S.W.P.A.
MILITARY

9.

RETURNING TO U. S.
LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS



RETURNED TO US - NYEAPQ.
17th Gen. Hosp. W. S. W.

ENROUTE TO U. S.

RETURNING TO
UNITED STATES

RTD. TO U.S.
N.Y.E. - A.P.O.



NOT FOUND

ENROUTE TO UNITED STATES

(Unit) (Initials) (Date)

Returned to United States
Attn. Post Postal Officer
N.O.P.E., New Orleans, La.

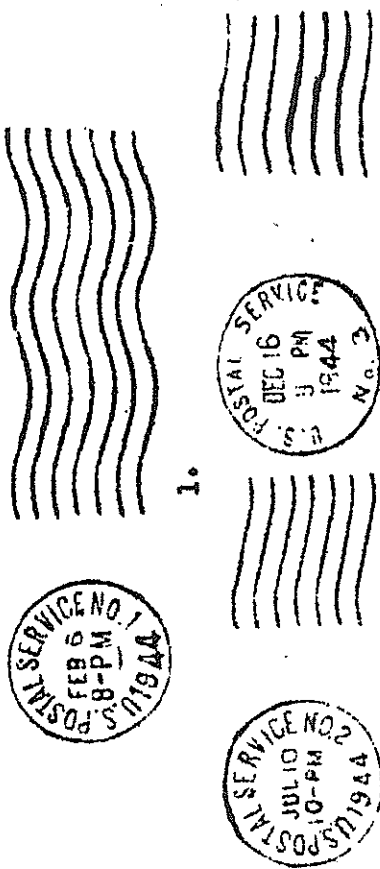
RETURNED TO U. S. NYEAPQ



RETURNED TO UNITED STATES
c/o Post Postal Officer
Post of Embarkation Army Post Office,
New York, N.Y.

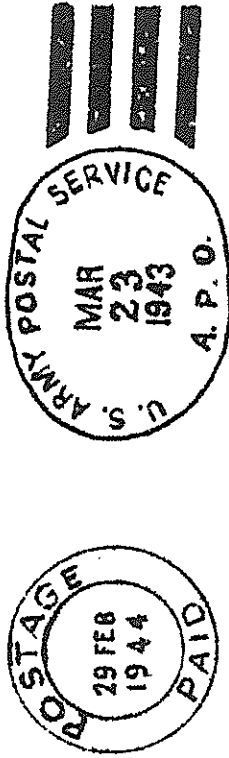
UNDELIVERABLE
NO FORWARDING ADDRESS
AVAILABLE

V-Mail Postmarks



1.

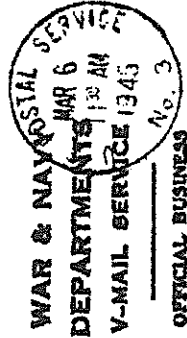
V-Mail Postmarks



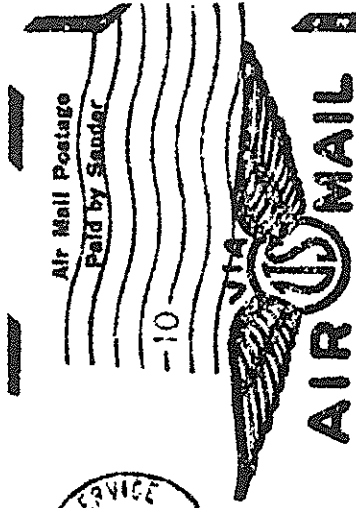
6. (England, red)

7. (Iceland)

2.

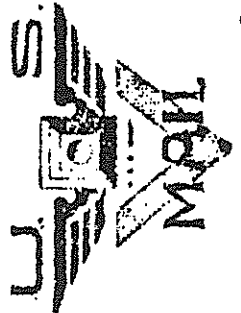


3.



4.

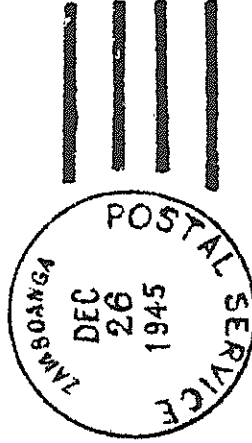
WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Penalty for Private use to avoid payment of postage, \$500.

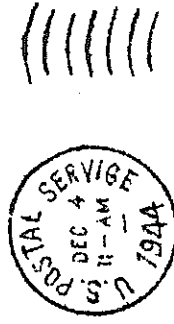


5. (England, blue)

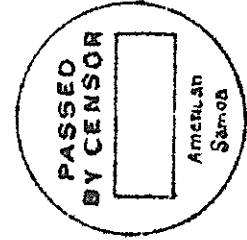


Provisional Civilian Postmark Made from an APO Hand Stamp

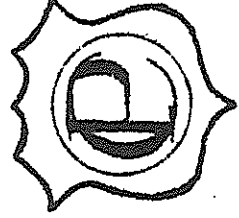
Error SERVICE (Camp Shanks)



C. C. D. - 986



Civilian Censor



Civilian Censor Dept. Philippines