

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin May 1955)

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

US Armed Forces in Jamaica

Albanian Postal History (1800s-1950)

Deutsche Dienstposten (German Service Post Office)

Location of Field Post Offices (WWII)

Trieste - US Troops (WWII)

US Armed Forces in Jamaica (WWII)

Occupation of (APO 209) (WWII)

wcc member
(correct copy
as listed)
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WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN
Edited by Kevin P. Rogan, R. N.
2 William Street
Napanoch, New York

Vol. VIII

May 1955

Whole No. 8

I was glad when 1955 rolled around but then I proceeded to get under the weather again. This Club definitely needs a couple of volunteer Editors. Then they could put out every other issue.

Well to start things rolling I better start off with the usual "FLIGHT OF IDEAS."

WCC member Charles Jensen, 9 Evas Alle, Glostrup, DENMARK wants to sell his large collection of war covers, censored mail and field mail. He also has propaganda leaflets from occupation of Denmark. This is also a new address of Mr. Jensen's.

Last November during Stamp week the Sha-Wan-Ga Stamp Club of Ellenville, New York had a stamp exhibition. Your editor showed 2 frames of war covers. The title was "Seminole War to Korean War."

Do you remember the agencies in the states brought about by WWII? There was the WPB, OPA, ODT, OCD, WLB, OWI, SSB, WMB, OWMR, WFA, SPA, etc. Do you have covers of these in your collection? Do you have others than these that had to do with the war effort? If so please let me know about them. Thanks.

What date will we give for "Victory" in Indo China? July 21, 1954??
Who has an article on postmarks and troops in Indo China?

It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the death of WCC member George W. Bartlett on November 17th. His collection will be auctioned off in the near future by H. R. Harmer Co., 32 East 57th St., N. Y. C. The Glen Ridge Trust Company of Glen Ridge, N. J. is the Administrator of his Estate.

I see where 4 Indian Army Post Offices use overprinted stamps for the use of Indian Troops who supervised the armistice which ended the fighting in former French Indo China. Perhaps covers could be obtained from J. F. Droucett Dian, Bombay Philatelic Co. of Nassau Street. The Indian stamps with the Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam overprints were placed in use Dec. 1, 1954.

During WWII, the Japanese turned over to Siam some towns on the Malay peninsula and these towns used variously Siamese or Japanese Occupation stamps on their mail. W. M. Lester, 2010 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, Calif., would like to get hold of a list of these towns so he could seek their cancellation on Siamese stamps and Japanese Occupation issues. Can anyone help him?

Our Sec-Treas Willinger has been sick lately again but from latest reports is fit as a fiddle again. He would like to know the whereabouts of Corp. Eugene P. Boudreau, Osake Army Hosp, APO 1007? That was his last address.

Since the latter part of last August the USS Calvert and other naval craft have carried nearly 200,000 Vietnamese refugees from Haiphang in Communist Viet Nam to the port of Saigon in the south. The Calvert applied a cachet inscribed "Passage to Freedom...USS Calvert...Indo China" with a map of Indo China applied.

Does anyone have some Korean POW covers with US stamps cancelled with the Communist handstamp? These unique covers came about due to the fact that relatives of the prisoners often included mint stamps in their letters.

There is a new type of APO in which New York, N. Y. appears at the top of the cancel. The APO and number is at the bottom. One seen is APO 112, Feb 21, 1955, 5:30 PM.

Thanks to W. T. Gmahle for an addition to the WCC library. "Mail Service Manual of the United States Navy," edition of 1945. I believe this is corrected up through 1952.

Just received word that the Spring meeting of the WCC will be held in N.Y.C. on April 23rd. I wish everyone had the opportunity to come to this meeting in the Collectors' Club. Beautiful 4 story club house that would more than hold all of us. Please come early and stay late. There is a special train coming in from Philadelphia that day.

William Paterno, Box R, Napanoch, N. Y. would like to get covers and stamps of the Roman States on a pay or exchange basis.

I have received word from C. A. Setterstrom, 155-78-th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. He was a Comdr. in the "so called" Army of Cuban Pacification, which consisted of a U. S. garrison at Camp Columbia, outside Havana supported by a naval force of which the U. S. S. Columbia was flagship. There was no invasion as such. He notes the campaign medal is dated 1908. It is of olive bronze and its ribbon is olive with a red, white and blue border. There was a period of adjustment during which this "Army" contributed toward tranquility and kept the politicians in check pending adjustment of the treaty which had made Cuba a republic. Apparently the Platt Amendment was involved. Thanks.

- Deceased -

320 Bartlett, C. W. 34 Edgewood Rd., Glen Ridge, N. J. Censored covers

- Changes -

7 Gray, Eva, RN 91 Main St., Saugus, Mass. Wants Plate blocks

304 Spain, C. W. 280 46th Ave., St. Petersburg Beach 6, Fla.

189 Baker, Philip E. 241 Rudolph Ave., Rahway, N. J.

- Additions -

242 Wheat, James C. 222 Groveland Rd., Carrol Park, Bay City Mich.
Censor markings of all wars

355 Wood, Marshall H. 344 Brookside St., Smithtown St

210 Langer, Robert A. 70 Fairmont Ave. Glenbrook, Conn.
Overseas Army covers of WW II

361 Gmahle, W. T. TEC, Instructor at TE School, Bainbridge, Maryland
Naval Covers.

Flight of Ideas

Sorry to hear that Jean Clark recently lost her mother.

Note from M. Hertzberg. He has a cover from a Mexican fighter squadron #201 which fought in WW II out of the Phillipines against the Japs. The only way to tell this is the return address as they used our postal facilities. The squadron was made up exclusively of Mexicans. He also has a "CAPO 51" used by the Canadian forces in Kiska. They used US airmail stamps or free envelopes with this cancel.

Received two fine "last day" covers of US troops occupation in Trieste from Major Edwards. Thanks a million for the thought. When he left Trieste the Major left a few covers with the mail clerk at the mail APO and a few at the Reg. Br. APO to be cancelled when the APO's closed. The ones from the Reg. Br. were returned dated 10/8/54. "the first day the troops began moving out."

The covers from the main APO were cancelled with a type 9 dated 10/26/54 "day of the end of the Trieste occupation." Major Edwards finished school next month. Where to then Major?

Card from Cdr. Rommal, USN to say that he has a penalty cover from the USS Mount Vernon, WW I, postmarked Hoboken, N. J. July 1918. This is not proof she had no cancel in WW I but is evidence. Thanks.

WCC member Hare reports on American Stamp Club of Great Britain. They recently had a display in the City of London Philatelic Society. Many examples of printing, postmarks of covers of Civil War, Union and Confederate patriotic covers, North Korea, Formosa, etc. Sec. of Club is Mr. J. E. Chase 32 Downsway, Sanderstead, Surrey, England.

QUIZ CORNER by Bob Gordon Box 145 Northfield Vermont

The French "F. M." Stamps: Were they used in all French colonies? I have covers from Chad and North Africa and loose stamps with Mauritania postmarks. Why were they used at times and not at other times? Most French military covers have no stamps at all. A comprehensive article on these stamps and some info on postal regulation applying to French soldiers would be useful, I'm sure.

Incidentally, a cover reportedly from a legionnaire at Dien Bien Phu (January 1954) to Luxembourg has 18fr stamp of France, cancelled by POSTE AUX ARMEES cancel (no number), and return address of S(ecteur) P(ostal) 82388, T. O. E. The cover went by air. How come 18 francs rate?

Has anybody any idea how many different inscriptions were applied to covers retrieved from ships sunk during the late war? I have just 3 items; but there have doubtless been hundreds:

SALVED FROM THE SEA : handstamp on May 1940 cover from Canada to England
DAMAGED BY : handstamp struck on Argentine stamps on a November
SEA WATER : 1941 piece
RECEIV'D DAMAGED : handstamp on large part of cover to South Africa;
BY SEA WATER : also with HARRISMITH postmark of June 1943.

Anybody have a cover from the U. S. Naval Hospital at Yokohama; It was commissioned May 16, 1872; it presumably had mail service from 1908 until its decommissioning on March 21, 1924. It was again listed (in official records) with navy mail service in 1934 (recommissioned?) I have never seen or heard of a postmark.

What is the status of the short-lived post office U. S. MILITARY GOVT. UNIT/ PALAU ISLANDS which existed in 1947, at least/ I have a cover with this marking and May 1947 date. How long did this one exist? Military post office or civil?

FRANCE: NAVAL POSTMARKS OF WW I. Who has a list of these with locations where used? "POSTES NAVALES/MED. c/1" in single-lined circle, dated June 15, 1917. Return address 1 "S. P. 515." "POSTES NAVALES/MEDIT. D" in single circle with date of Dec. 23, 1916. Return address is penned as "Caserne Bouvet, Salonique" as nearly as I can decipher it.

FRENCH NAVAL POSTMARKS with "BUREAU" number: Is there any available listing of these, with locations: I have a few only: "POSTE NAVALE/BUREAU No 11" dater Dec. 16, 1939. "POSTE NAVALE/BUREAU No 53" dated April 23, 1945. "POSTE NAVALE/BUREAU 75" of March 19, 1947. Probably at Toulon.

Please send information direct to Bob. Any answers he gets he will list in the next Bulletin. Thanks Bob !!

One of my more interesting albums is one that I built up back in 1944 while serving in the army. I wanted to build up a collection of patriotic envelopes that would be different from the average and still would be small enough to go into one album.

I decided that I would try to get my patriotics mailed from each of the post offices in the state of Nevada. I chose this state because it had the least number of postoffices and also because it was near my location at the time. I decided to use the Corregidor stamp and use as my theme "Nevada Remembers Corregidor." But my Corregidor stamps ran out (as many had to be sent out a second time) and I used the Win the War stamp for the balance.

The first few pages of the album are devoted to postcards (mostly photographic) of views in Nevada. Then follows the covers (mounted two to a page on front and back) arranged alphabetically by cities. There were 126 postoffices at the time and I have all used on patriotics except for the city of Unionville. And on the upper left hand corner of seventy one covers is the signature of the postmaster of that city.

Since this collection was formed thirteen of the postoffices have been discontinued. They are Arthur, Bristol Silver, Charleston, Jungo, Mill City, Mount Montgomery, North Las Vegas, Oreana, Preston, Rebel Creek, Rio Pinto, Rox and Weeks.

I wrote to each postmaster and asked him to cancel the envelop and return it to me at camp. (I had already addressed them to myself). I must admit I enjoyed very much seeing these covers show up daily four about eight months. I was sent overseas before the last covers came in and so missed out getting the Unionville cover. Except for this one cover and some more views on cards, I only plan to get plain envelopes used from the new postoffices in operation in the state since that time.

U. S. EIGHT ARMY NOTES by A. J. Tripp

HQ. X. Corps with the Corps artillery was moved, without personnel or equipment, from Korea to Ft. Riley, Kansas, Sept. 25 '54.

Officers and men will be assigned at Ft. Riley and will act as a tactical unit for maneuvers and training units in the 5th Army Area.

The X Corps along with the 1st Marine Div. made the famous landing at Inchon and later served as one of the three Corps of the 8th Army.

Headquarters of Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor's 8th Army will move to Camp Zama near Tokyo during Nov. 54, with Taylor becoming commander of all ground forces in Japan, Korea and Okinawa; an advanced HQ of the 8th Army will remain in Seoul.

The HQ. IX Corps will go to Sendai, Honshu, Japan and replace the XVI Corps which is slated to be deactivated in Nov. To date, the 2nd, 3rd, 25th, 40th, and 45th Inf. Divisions have left Korea.

The 3rd Div. left Seoul Oct. 30 '54 aboard the transport Gen. Stewart bound for Ft. Benning, Ga. via Panama Canal, about 1025 men of the 3rd Div. boarded the ship, the remainder of the Div. being assigned to other units to complete their tour of duty.

The Columbian Bn. of 800 men also returned home aboard the Gen. Stewart.

The 24th Div. HQ group, plus the 34th Regt. will also move from Korea to Japan sometime in Nov. The 19th and 21st Regts. will remain in Korea for the present time. The 1st Marine Div. and the 7th Inf. Div. will remain in Korea.

The ROK Army has been built up to 20 Divisions, containing 700,000 men.

HQ of the 5th Air Force were shifted from Korea to Nagoya, Japan early this fall. Over half of its combat forces are spread over Japan, Pacific Island bases and the U. S.

ALBANIAN POSTAL HISTORY

by
E. Jagger

The postal history of Albania began not in 1913 but much earlier still. Prior to 1913 it formed part of the Ottoman Empire and as such utilized Turkish stamps. The early dates stamps used bore the town name solely in Turkish characters. Later ones were bi-lingual. Turkish Post Offices are known to have existed in the following places:

AVALONA	TIRANA	SCUTARI DI ALBANIA (ISKODRA)
HAIMARA (KHIMARA)	BERAT	ERGERI (ARGYROKASTRO)
SANTI QUERANTI	EL BASSAN	LESKOVIK

Contemporary with the Ottoman Postal Service were the offices and agencies of the Great Powers notably those of Austria whose offices were situated in the following towns:

DURAZZO opened in 1873	SAN GIOVANNI DI MEDUA in 1873
SANTI QUERANTA in 1870	SCUTARI DI ALBANIA in 1855

The stamps used at these offices were the stamps listed in the catalogues for use in Austrian Levant.

Somewhat later in the field came Italy which opened postal agencies at : SCUTARI on Nov. 1st, 1901; DURAZZO on June 25, 1902 and VALONA on May 5, 1908. These at first used ordinary Italian stamps without overprint until Spt. 1, 1902 when the 5, 20 and 25 centesimia denominations appeared with overprint Albania and with new value expressed in Paras.

During the BALKAN WAR, Montenegro occupied Scutari on April 23, 1913 but were not in occupation very long as an International Force provided by the Great Powers were placed in control of Scutari from May 14, 1913 until July 1914. Serbia occupied Durazzo from Nov. 13, 1912 until May 6, 1913 so it is quite possible for postmarks of these towns to appear on Serbia and Montenegrin stamps.

It is also possible to find Greek stamps overprinted "Ellanika Dioikasis" and the permanent issue for the occupied territory with postmarks of the following and other towns:

KORITZA	BERAT	ARGYROKASTRO	EIMAPPA (CHIMARRA)
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Koritza was occupied on Dec. 6, 1912; Berat in Sept, 1914 and Argyrokastro from Sept. 1914 until Oct. 1915.

During the 1914-18 war, Montenegro again occupied Scutari in July 27, 1915 and presumably remained there until the Austro-Hungarian Forces arrived there on Jan. 23, 1916.

El Bassan and Durazzo were occupied by the Serbians in June 1915. The Bulgarians marched in the former town in Jan. 1916 as the remnants of the Serbian army were in the process of being evacuated to Corfu after their retreat across Albania.

The Italians landed forces at Durazzo in Dec. 1915 to cover the Sorbian evacuation and British forces designated the Adriatic Military Mission were there and utilized date stamp Army Post Office SZ6.

On Feb. 28, 1916 the Austrian forces marched into Durazzo and it was not until Oct. 3, 1918 when Italian forces re-captured the town, that a British A. P. O. was again in operation, the date stamp

in use was Army Post Office SZ10.

Italy prior to entering the 1914-18 was as a belligerent, landed Marines on Sasono an island opposite Valona on Oct. 30th and Boxing Day 1914 occupied Valona and remained there until Sept. 1920. The following are details of some of the postmarks:

UFFICIO POSTA MILITARE ALBANIA (2)

POSTE MILITARE TRUPPE OCCUPAZIONE NO 1 VALONA

POSTE MILITARE TRUPPE OCCUPAZIONE but with office No under date and above Truppe Occupation 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. There are 3 types of No. 5 datostamps showing different types of Figure 5..small, modium and large..the ornaments differ.

POSTA MILITARE 50 from Durazzo POSTA MILITARE 115

While the Italian forces were in occupation of most of the southern portion of the country, perhaps with the exception of KORITZA which was occupied by the French from 1916 until June 21, 1920, the postmark in use would be the well known Tresor ot Postres, but the office number is unknown to me. The northern portion was in the hands of the Austrians and postmarks inscribed KOK ETAPPEN POST AMT with town name at foot were in use:

ALESSIO (LESCH): DZURI : DURAZZO (DURZ) : EL BASSAN : SCHKODRA :
SCUTARI (SCHKODRA) : TIRANA

Towards the end of 1918, datostamps bearing inscription POSTE ITALIANE with town name at foot, the following are known to exist:

AVALONA

ARGYROKASTRO

DELVINO

Scutari is one of the places which appears to have had a most chocquered career in the way of occupations. Montenegro on April 23, 1913 followed by an International Garrison from May 14, 1913 till July 1914, reoccupied by Montenegro on July 27, 1915 followed by Austrians on Jan 23, 1916 who hold same until Oct. 1918. On Oct. 30, 1918 Serbain forces arrived there and were joined on Nov. 5, 1918 by French and Italian detachments. Later on a British batalion was added and this inter allied occupation lasted until March 11, 1920 when the Italian Army were placed in sole control. This lasted until March 1922.

After the withdrawel of Italian forces from Albania, the country apparantly wended its way undistrubed until Good Friday, April 7, 1939 when the Italian forces landed and occupied the country.

Among the datostamps in use were the following:

DIREZIONE POSTA MILITAIRE ALBANIA on April 17, 1939 DURAZZO
Officos Concentramonts PM 402 DURAZZO
" " PM 403
Ufficio Postalo Militaro 22 May, 1939 TIRANA
" " " 202 May 1939 SCUTARI

When the attack on Grocco in Oct. 1940 by the Italian forces took place no doubt the above postmarks were again brought into use together with many others.

The Locations of the German Field Post Offices 1939-1945

By Alfred Clement, Austria

This is the first report of the locations of the German F. P. O.'s during the second world war. It is a very hard thing to work this list because no official material is to hand. All details are to find in collections of war covers and it is therefore natural that this list cannot be complete.

This is my beg - to help me in this working and let me know all details you know of the German F. P. O.'s and write me about this to supplement the list (my address: Graz/Austria, Schwimmschuikai 6/11).

The numbers are those to be found in the postmark before the date. They are running from 100 to 999. The letters are the different letters in the postmarks of one office and are to find above the date.

If you will write me please let me know; the number in the postmark, the letter above the date; the date of the postmark, the locations of this postmark and the times he had been in use there.

It is important too to note the LGPA's in the senders addresses (LGPA - Luftgaupostamt - air mail collecting office) because they are in accordance with a certain part of the formerly front par example LGPA Wien - Balkan, LGPA Breslau- Russia (South), LGPA Paris - France and so on.

All, even the littlest details are of great value for this painful working. please help me and let me know your knowledges about the German Field Postmarks and their numbers.

The list:

100 abc	West-Dtschld	Sept. 39
107 abc	Frankreich	1944
112 abc	Frankreich	Jun 42
113 abc	Belgien	Spt 41
120 a	Skandinavien	Mai 42
121 abc	Afrika-Italien	1942
123 abc	Italien	1943
132 abcdefgh	Berlin	1942-43
133 abcde	Belgien	1944
135 abcd	Polen	Okt 39
	Frankreich	1941
136 abcdefg	Frankreich	1941-43
137 abcdefg	Russland (Mitte)	1941-42
139 abc	Russland (Sud)	1943
140 abc	Holland	1941
144 abc	Russland (Sud)	1943-44
145 abc	Frankreich	1943
146 abcd	Russland (Nord)	1943
149 a	Russland (Mitte)	1942
150 abc	Russland (Sud)	1942
153 abc	Frankreich	1941
155 abcde	Frankreich (Paris?)	1940-44
156 abcd	Frankreich	1941-42
164 abc	Rumanian	Mai-Jul 41
	Russland (Sud)	Aug 41-1943
	Italien	1943-44
165 abc	Russland (Mitte)	1943
172 abc	Russland (Sud)	1944
176 abcd	Balkan	1943
178 abc	Russland (Sud)	1943
180 abc	Russland (Sud)	1942-43
181 abcdefgh	Frankreich	1940
190 abc	Russland	1944
191 abc	Russland (Sud)	Aug 42
	Balkan	Okt 42
192 abc	Balkan	1944
195 abcde	Belgien	1941-44
198 abc	Russland (Sud)	1943
199 abcde	Skandinavien	1943
200 abcde	Belgien	1941-42
205 abc	Italien	1943-44
206 abcd	Frankreich	1941-42
207 abc	Balkan	1944
208 abcd	Skandinavien	1942-43
209 abc	West-Dtschld	1944
211 abc	Russland (Mitte)	1944
214 abcdefghi	Belgien	1940-44
215 abc	Belgien	1941
	Italien	1944
222 a	Russland (Mitte)	1941
225 abc	Russland (Nord)	1941-43
228 abcd	Finnland	1942-44
231 abc	Gen. Gouvern.	Mrz 41

UNITED STATES USED IN JAMAICA by CHARLES M. GILDART

For 81 years since 1860, no stamps other than Jamaican issues were used for postal purposes in the Colony. However, World War II changed a lot of things--the mails were no exception.

HISTORY. In order to understand why United States of American postal issues were valid in Jamaica, we must go into history. For the defense of the western hemisphere it was necessary that the armed force bases be established. Under the "lend-lease" agreement Jamaica was one of the British Islands where the United States was permitted to establish and maintain naval and air bases for 99 years. It is the largest of the British West Indies and one of the most important. Kingston, the capital, has served as a base for the British Navy ever since the Island was taken from Spain in 1655. Regarding the postal arrangements, a member of the Colonial Office in London has informed the author, "Under Article XVI of the Agreement made on the 27th March 1941 between the Government of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, regarding the lease of those bases, the U. S. may establish Post Offices for the exclusive use of the U. S. forces and U. S. civilians employed at the bases. Post Offices established under this Article could not be used by the Colonial population, and all letters mailed in such Post Offices required U. S. postage stamps and were processed by U. S. Officials."

MARINES As is usual when the U. S. armed forces "occupies" anything it falls to the Marines to be there first. The landing on Jamaica by the U. S. Marines, a department of the Navy, was no exception. Two weeks before the lend-lease agreement was signed, "The Marine Detachment, Portland Bight, Jamaica, Branch of New York was established on March 15, 1941." This installation was located on the Naval Air Station at Portland Bight at Old Harbour Bay in the Parish of St. Catherine, about 3 miles south of the town of Old Harbour.

C. D. Sketoe, Head of the Postal Affairs Office of the Marine Corps states, "Records at this Office indicate a New York Branch Post Office was established on 15th March 1941 to serve the Marine Detachment, Portland Bight, Jamaica and that it was discontinued on 15th February 1943. The organization was a Security Detachment and averaged approximately seventy in number. Upon disbanding of the Marine Detachment located at Portland Bight, the majority of the personnel were transferred to various Marine Corps stations of the East Coast of the United States."

NAVY After the Marines had the "Situation well in hand" the U. S. Navy took over. Lt. Colonel Donald T. Jones, of the Public Relations Office of the Defense Department states, "Navy records show that the only Post Office assigned to the Island was Navy 10938, which was assigned to the Naval Auxilliary Air Facility, Portland Bight, Jamaica. The Post Office was established on 20th February 1943, and discontinued 1st September 1944."

According to Capt. O'Keefe of the Navy Department, "U. S. Mail originated by U. S. Navy personnel in Jamaica was postmarked "U. S. Navy." (Since this is true of all U. S. Navy shore installations, absolutely authentic covers with U. S. Navy markings used in Jamaica are unobtainable). Capt. O'Keefe continues, "The Naval air station was the only U. S. naval activity shore based in Jamaica. Approx. 500 U. S. military personnel were assigned to the Naval Air Station, Jamaica at the peak of operation. Upon disestablishment of the Naval Air Station their personnel were reassigned to various naval ships and stations."

Army The principal American military installation of the Island was Vernam Field, which was named for Lt. Remington De B. Vernam, an American ace who was shot down in combat in 1918. (WDGO N 6 1941). Vernam Field was on the same reservation as Fort Simonds. The installation was located in Clarendon Parish about 5 miles South of Four Paths and 33 miles W. S. W. of Kingston with Sandy Gully being the nearest town.

Construction of the base was principally the work of American civilian contractors under the supervision of Army engineers. Except for a few minor projects, the work was completed between 1st July 1941 and 26th August 1942.

The first troops, known as Force Tuna, arrived on November 21, 1941. Company "A", 89th Inf. formed the nucleus to which were joined Medical, Ordnance, Signal, Quartermaster, Finance and Airways detachments for a total strength of 311 men. There was a steady increase in the garrison until March 1943, when the total was 1292. After that month, there was a general reduction in the strength until the B-29 training program brought a new high in strength of 1433 in March 1945.

Jamaica not only served as one of the main defenses of the Caribbean area but also carried on important training program. The Antilles Department, comprising the Caribbean area, was selected as a proving ground for the B-29. This instrument dealt crushing blows against Japan. Vernam Field was one of the principal bases for these giant bombers.

Ground troops also received training including assault landing manoeuvres with the British and the "Tiger Patrol", the name given to an unusual and effective project developed by the local command. Small groups of men were taken to unfamiliar parts of the Island 50 miles from Headquarters. Each man had a light pack, his individual weapon and 3 "X" rations. The patrol leader was then given a compass, an inadequate map and a bottle of iodine for water purification. Without further clause, he was told to get his men back to the base and submit report of observations along the way. Meanwhile, the local constabulary was alerted to catch the men if possible. Many who took this training served later with roving patrols in Burma.

On August 1, 1946 Vernam Field was placed under the Cribboan Air Command. Then to close an era in Jamaica Philatolic History, on Jan 2, 1950 "the American Base was handed over to the Jamaican Government, who had purchased all stock and accessories plus building, runways and equipment.

CANCELLATIONS

"Mar. Dot. Parland Bight-----Jamaica Br."
The Marino Detachment, Portland Bight, Jamaica

British West Indies cancellation exists in 3 different types. In general the descriptions are about the same;--a single lined circle 33 mm in diameter, from the right of which extend three 2 mm wide bars, the top and bottom being 33 mm and the middle 29 mm in length. These bars are spaced $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm apart. Within the circle arranged around the upper segment, are the words "Mar. Dot. Portland Bight," and around the lower segment "Jamaica Br." In the center letters and figures arranged in 3 lines give the month, day and year, with a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm separating the lines of the day and year.

Type 1 - Contains the words "FIRST DAY CANCEL" between the bars and was used only on the first day of use, July 18, 1941. On each cover in the upper left hand corner is a stamped number in green-blue ink.

The "Jamaica Philatelist" reports, "Each first day cover appears to have been numbered serially, and we have seen 1276, the highest of the serials to have come under observation."

Type 2 - This is similar to the above, but without the words "First Day Cancel." This was the cancellation in general use until early 1942.

Type 3 - This cancellation is similar to the above two types, with the exception that between the top and middle bar is the word "BRITISH" and between the middle and the bottom bar is the words, "WEST INDIES." For security reasons this cancellation was in use but a short time. There has been one seen dated October 20, 1941.

"A. P. O."

Type 4 - This type is the forerunner of the APO cancellation. This is a single lined circle, $31\frac{1}{2}$ mm in diameter. From the right of which extend 4 heavy 2 mm wide bars, the top and bottom being 22 mm and the middle two 21 mm in length. The bars are spaced $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm apart. Within the circle arranged around the upper two thirds, are the words, "AMERICAN BASE FORCES A. P. O. 804." In the center letters and figures arranged in four lines give the month, day, time and year. Censor marks appear on the face of the covers from this and the following APO. The army censor examination mark which is usually a double line oval circle with his number in the middle and "Passed by Army Examiner" at the top and bottom and U. S. at the sides. The censor mark is a rubber stamp, rectangular in shape, 37 x 26 mm.

"A. P. O. 861"

Although not substantiated by army or postal authorities, APO 804 was replaced by APO 861 on May 5, 1942 and was used at Fort Simonds until Dec. 6, 1949. It exists in two distinct varieties.

TYPE 5 - This is the first of the universal APO cancellation types. It has essentially the same measurements as the above type. Within the single lined circle in the upper two-thirds segment are the words: "U. S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE" and in the bottom part, APO 861." In the center letters and figures arranged in 4 lines give month, day, year and time. First date of use May 5, 1942; last date for this is unknown.

Type 6 - This is the second of the universal A. P. O. cancellation types. The measurements are about the same as the aforementioned types. Within the single-lined circle in the upper two thirds segment are the words, "U. S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE" and in the bottom part, the abbreviation, "A. P. O." In the center letters and figures are arranged in four lines with "861" at the top, then the month, day and year. The first date of this type is unknown; last date Dec. 6, 1949.

NOTES

If a collector should try to obtain one each of those types he will find that it is no small matter. The "Marine Detachment" and "A. P. O. 804" cancel can only be found on U. S. Stamp covers. "As it operated prior to the enactment of P. L. 507, 77th Congress, 27th March 1942, free postage was not available for military personnel using the A. P. O." However, A. P. O. 861 can be found with U. S. postal issues and also with the military's "Free" frank.

For the most part, mail for the services stationed in Jamaica was sent to and received from the Postmaster's department in New York City. However, with the advent of Type 6 it is noted from the "Free"

franks that the Postmaster in Miami, Florida handled the duties.

It should also be noted that commissioned officers were allowed to censor their own letters. Enlisted men relied on the official army censor.

Authorities of the Army, Navy, Marine and Postal departments have told author that Jamaican stamps were not valid for postage by military personnel stationed at the installations. However, there always seem to be exceptions to prove the rule. A relative, of the author, a Colonel in the army, wrote regarding this point, "About February in 1942 troops were forbidden to use local foreign postage for mailing letters, on account of the necessary national censorship. We preferred to depend upon our own censors. However, I remember in late 1941 and early 1942 receiving letters from the garrison in Jamaica directed to Panama bearing Jamaican postage. I think the regulation was strictly carried out from about the 1st of March 1942 onwards.

It is the author's belief that in this instance Jamaican adhesives were used for expedience sake. For mail to go through "regular channels" to the army post at Panama it would have to go first to New York, by using Jamaican Postal service it would go directly to Panama. Needless to say, it the author's great wish to obtain one of these covers.

Now a complete Jamaica Postal History collection will start as usual, with the pre-stamp covers and Great Britain used in Jamaica, to a new ending-that of the U. S. used in Jamaica.

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DEUTSCHE DIENSTPOSTEN
(German Service Post Offices)
by Major Herman L. Halle

It is with sincere appreciation that I take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous assistance given me by Dr. Hermann Schultz in compiling this article. Dr. Schultz is the outstanding authority on the issues of the Deutsche Dienstpost and the head of the Study Group Deutsche Dienstpost, a working and research group within the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten.

During WW II, in its initial successes, the German Army penetrated deep into enemy territory. With the occupation, a necessity for a civil administration for occupied territories became apparent, and in most cases, one was actually instituted. This administrative setup created a need for a postal administration capable of dealing with and of meeting the requirements of civilian employees and civilian employees and civil servants within the official and party offices. Field-post units generally moved into the field with the armies and were in no position to place their already strained facilities at the disposal of the civilian administration. Regular post office service in occupied territories which had been disrupted and closed down by military operations were often operating only on a very limited scale, or were still in the process of reorganization. There was also a reluctance to entrust service mail and mail originating with the civil administrations in occupied territories, to non-German elements. Espionage and counter-espionage were important factors to be taken into consideration. Accordingly, it was decided to establish a Deutsche Dienstpost (Service Post Office) shortly after occupying any enemy territory. Such postal service was found in most occupied countries. These Service Post Offices were staffed at least in the leading positions, by Reichs-German postal civil servants who were ordered to duty directly from Germany. Lesser positions, clerical and administrative help were selected from locally available, experienced post office personnel. In the selection, careful screening was made to assure the employment of trustworthy people. This method of staffing found wide acceptance in the eastern regions.

The mission of the newly established Dienstpost was the maintenance of postal service for the previously outlined personnel and agencies, including all party offices. Traffic was maintained to and from the Homeland. The military program of securing the occupied territories necessitated the authorization of the use of these postal facilities by additional personnel, including the help needed for the construction of the Westwall and eastern defense lines. The German policy of following a fullest economic exploitation brought additional users to the occupied territories. Among them were the Organizations Todt and Speer, numerous construction firms with government contracts, official branch offices, party offices, and labor recruitment services. Developments led to the establishment of the following Dienstposten:

- 1) Deutsche Dienstpost Osten (East). Initially this postal service incorporated all territory occupied by German troops during the Polish campaign; including territories which had been German prior to 1918, such as Upper Silesia, Danzig, East Prussia, Posen, etc. After the incorporation of the Warthegau Danzig, West Prussia, German and Polish Upper Silesia, etc, into the Greater German Reich, the Deutsche Dienstpost was replaced by the German Reichspost, in the winter of 1939-40.
- 2) Deutsche Dienstpost Generalgouvernement. This service developed out of the Deutsche Dienstpost Osten after the establishment of the General-gouvernement on Nov. 5, 1939, and incorporated the existing postal service of former Polish territory, with the exception of that part of Poland which was directly incorporated into the Greater German Reich. This Dienstpost maintained service throughout the occupation of Poland.

3) Deutsche Dienstpost in Norwegen. This service was established after Norway was occupied by German troops and a civilian Reichskommissar was appointed in Oslo. It was chiefly established for postal service of the Reichskommissar and his offices in the various harbor towns. It operated up to the time of the capitulation.

4-6) Deutsche Dienstpost Elsass, Lothringen, and Luxemburg. Established after the occupation of the western territories by German troops, in the summer and fall of 1940. By 1941 most service Post Offices were incorporated into the German Reichspost, which took over the responsibility of all postal traffic.

7) Deutsche Dienstpost Niederlande. This service was established in 1940. It served the newly appointed Reichskommissar and his offices. In addition numerous firms engaged in building defensive positions, armaments etc, were permitted to use the service. Service was maintained until the time of capitulation or respective withdrawal.

8) Deutsche Dienstpost Ostland. Established after the occupation of Russian territory in August 1941. It also maintained service until the occupation ended. Several offices in the Kurland, however, continued to operate until the day of capitulation.

9) Deutsche Dienstpost Ukraine. Established in the Fall of 1941 and remained in operation until the withdrawal in 1944.

10) Deutsche Dienstpost Bialustock. The district Grodno was serviced from Oct. to Nov. 1941 by the Service Post Office "Garten" of the Dienstpost Ostland. With the incorporation of the district Bialustock into the province of East Prussia, the Reichspost was charged with responsibility of postal matters. This authority included the area of the district of Grodno.

11) Deutsche Dienstpost Galicien. Established after the occupation of Galicia, east of the San River, by German troops in the Summer and Fall of 1941. With the incorporation of the district of East Galicia to the General Gouvernement in 1942, the service was taken over by the postal authorities of the General Gouvernement.

12) Deutsche Dienstpost Adria. Established for the Adriatic coastal line of Fiume and Trieste, as far as Udine, and including the provinces of Laibach and Friaul.

13) Deutsche Dienstpost Alpenvorland. Established for the area of Tyrol and Trantino in November 1943, after the surrender of Italy. After this had taken place, Italy was administratively considered an occupied country. Offices were established for the purpose of economic and labor exploitation. The existing Italian postal service was no longer considered reliable for the transmission of official mail. The Service Post Office remained in operation until the end of the war.

14) Deutsche Dienstpost Boehmen und Mähren. Established in 1939 for the entire area under the protectorate administration, with its numerous official offices, including several Army installations and logistical support units. The service remained in operation until the end of the war.

15) Deutsche Dienstpost Sued-Steiermark, Sued-Kaernten and Krain. Established in the early Summer of 1941 after German troops had occupied the former kingdom of Yugoslavia. It was established in that part of the country which was later incorporated into Greater Germany. The Dienstpost ceased to function after the establishment of mail services by the Reichspost.

In France, Belgium, Greece, Jugoslavia, Italy, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania, no Service Post Offices were established. Mail service facilities of the German Field or the respective Air Command Post Offices were utilized. These were responsible for transmittal and distribution of official mail.

Most of these countries had maintained pacts with Germany before 1939, or were later forced to ally themselves with Germany during the war, or were outright allies. The Hitler regime tried to create the impression of sovereignty for these countries. It was therefore politically impossible to establish service Post Offices on friendly, foreign soil.

With the Netherlands and Norway, things were a little different. Here the rulers had gone into exile to England, and Reichskommissars were appointed.

Service Post Offices were established. Annexation of these countries was not contemplated, but by naming Reichskommissars, their sovereignty was lost. This fact was emphasized by the creation of the various Dienstpost Offices.

In closing, may it be pointed out that the history of the Deutsche Dienstpost is extremely interesting, especially so since the military events did not always permit uniform standards, but frequently required improvisation. Tracing of the history is not a simple matter. Many historic documents, postal directives, etc., have been lost and destroyed during the chaotic withdrawal of the German Army. Many postal officials became entangled in military operations and lost their lives. Much of the research material has been lost by evacuation, bombing, or by the death of specialist collectors. In Germany, the study-group Deutsche Dienstpost under the leadership of Dr. Schultz is actively conducting painstaking research to shed some light on this phase of philately. How difficult a task this can be is seen by the fact that few details are known of the Deutsche Dienstpost General Government, although the Postal Museum in Warsaw and the City Archives of Cracow survived bombings. These institutions are not in possession of the official directives and bulletins published in connection with the Dienstposten. Thus, the compilation of the various post offices under the various Dienstposts must be compiled from cancellations.

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TRIESTE U. S. TROOPS -- TRUST -- APO 209 by A. J. Tripp

Events leading to the occupation of Trieste are in order to record the activities of the 351st Infantry, 88th Inf. Div. which with supporting units, 88th ARMORED RECON. CO., 508th SIGNAL CO., 23rd ORDNANCE CO., 281st MILITARY POLICE CO., 12th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTERY (Separate), 517th ENGINEER COMBAT CO., and HQ. TRUST, formed the nine year occupation force of U. S. troops in Trieste.

The 88th Div's combat record is too long for this page, but among the records we find it the first to enter Rome, first to contact the elements of the 7th Army south of the Brenner Pass. During the Po-Valley drive, the division captured 30,000 prisoners in 16 days of action. In Spet. 1945, the 88th moved into Trieste, Zone A which also contains the City of Trieste, British forces also occupied this area, Zone B being ceded to Yugoslavia. Later the 88th was inactivated leaving the 351st Regt. with its supporting units as an occupation force. APO 209 which landed at Gourock Scotland June 6 1944, going first to Galsgow to help 15 PRS, later to England and Germany then inactivated. Again 209 was put to work serving the occupation forces in Trieste, the APO was located in center of the city of Trieste. This APO served about 4,500 officers and men, and about 2,000 dependents. The 351st Regt. was housed in the caserma, this is the Italian term for a military compound, a collection of barracks, administration buildings, etc. As the 351st Regt. comprised over 50% the force, and the barracks located some distance east of the city, an APO branch was established at Regimental HQ, where complete postal service was available. WCC member, Major David J. Edwards, who returned home with family Dec. 1953, sends me a pic of Gen. J. L. Collins, then Chief of Staff, reviewing TRUST forces June 1951. Major Edwards was commander of the provisional battalion during this ceremony.

When the 351st moved out of Trieste, it went to Leghorn, Italy, then returned to Camp Rucker, Ala., where it is now the major part of the 351st Regimental Combat Team, (RCT).

Major Edwards, M. C. is now located at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, where he is taking the "Advance Medical Service Officers Course" at the "Medical Field Service School." He hopes to return to European duty in the near future. He has our best wishes - always.