

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin May 1957)

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

Task Force 322nd Air Division (1957)

Antarctic Helicopter Mail (1956)

Navy Civil Engineer Corps South Pole) 1956

Location of Stalags and Oflags

New Zealand Military POs in Japan (WWII)

New Zealand Military POs in Japan (WWII)

Task Force 322nd Air Division (1957)

Germany, POW Camp Locations (Stalags & Oflags)

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN
 Edited by Kevin P. Rogan, R.N.
 2 William Street
 Napanoch, New York

May 1957



Whole No. 5

I am forever begging for articles for the Bulletin. I go to Club meetings and I sometimes wonder if I am collecting covers or articles. Incidentally the articles are harder to get than the covers. Last issue I left out TWO fine articles which I will put in this issue pronto. My apologies to Fred Faulstich and Heinz Schupp. These articles got mixed up with my Christmas mail and remained there past the deadline for last issue. Some news notes of A. J. Tripp's were mistakenly left out of the last issue by the printer.

ANTARCTIC HELICOPTER MAIL

Edith Faulstich, 122 East 235th St., NYC 70, N.Y. received a cover from the USS Glacier, dated Nov. 2, 1956 from the Antarctic. The return address has this: "Flight by Helicopter from / USS Glacier (AGB-4) to: / Hut Point, McMurdo Sound / Via air from Hut Point to: / New Zealand and USA." Fred has this to say, "The enclosed letter has an illustration of USS Glacier in blue at top. Dated McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, Nov. 1, 1956. It states the writer arrived there on Oct. 28th, the first ship ever to get through the Ross Sea Pack that early. The ship tied up to the ice about 17 miles north of Hut Point, the winter quarters of Captain Scott in 1902, and directly opposite his 1911 winter quarters at Cape Evans. The mail is stamped on board, carried 17 miles to Hut Point by helicopter and from there goes by Air Force Globemaster planes to New Zealand and on to the States by mail. The writer remarks that all were surprised to find this mail service in operation on arrival! He also mentions that cargo was being unloaded - then they would sail to Little America and back to New Zealand to wait for the cargo ships to come down and bring them down through the ice. THE COVER IS BACKSTAMPED YONKERS NOV. 9, 1956. There may be a day gained by the International date line, but that sure is fantastic. It takes that long to get a letter across Yonkers sometime."

W A N T E D

COVERS OF THE REGIME OF ATAMAN SEMENOV SHOWING ANY OF THE STAMPS OF SCOTTS N1-N4. (OCCUPATION STAMPS UNDER THE OCCUPATION OF GENERAL SEMENOV) GIBBONS NOS 11-14 UNDER SIBERIA. R.P. ALEXANDER, 4507 Van Ness St. NW, Wash. 16, DC.

WANTED

WANTED

WORLD WAR II NAVAL POSTAL STATIONS OF CHICAGO AND VICINITY

EVANSTON, ANCHORAGE, ETC., ETC.

EARL MOORE 3746 SHEFFIELD AVE. CHICAGO 13, ILL.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

Congratulations to member ALBERT HIGGINS who has recently been elected Treasurer of the COLLECTORS CLUB of New York City.

CARL T. LEMPONEN is recuperating from a recent illness and is doing nicely. Carl is an occasional contributor to our Bulletin.

PHILIP BAKER is writing a book on the Spanish American War cancellations of 1898 to 1902 and needs a few more tracings of the following: Dajupan, P. I.; Military Sta. #5 - Bacolod - Apurri - Jolo - Military Sta. No. 2 Cavita - different types including 2 straight line cancellations. Also Vigan, P.I. He would like a complete description including the size of cancel in millimeters also the number of bars in the killer part. He will pay the postage both ways registered if these covers would be loaned to him. Lives at 241 Rudolph Ave. , Rahway, New Jersey.

Plans are being formulated for a week-end meeting in Napanoch this summer at your Editor's house. Lots of room for those who wish to stay overnight. July 20 and 21st.

In the Jan. 1957 issue of POSTAL SERVICE NEWS there is an article on the ALEUTIAN MAILBOAT run by the PO Dept. Power Boat Route 78091. This route runs between Seward, Alaska, Kodiak Island and the village of Nikolski on one of the outermost islands of the Aleutian chain. The round trip covers 1189 miles to serve 19 isolated villages. The motor ship EXPANSION, with Niels P. Thomsen, a retired Coast Guard Captain, as master, makes this run every month. While his ship is only 114 feet in length, she is seaworthy in every respect. Captain Thomsen has set up a variety of services for these Islanders including a bi-monthly newspaper called the MAILBOAT MONITOR, which carries the news of this remote area of the world.

FLOYD LEACH is wondering if anyone has a French Siberian, also the details of any Czech Siberians. Rev. Leach has one, an Imperial seal impressed in wax on the back. He wants to know if anyone has any of these from North Russia: PB 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77, 88 or 99.

The Naval branch Post Office in LITTLE AMERICA, ANTARCTICA is #17038, NYC., NY.

In recent issues of the WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP I read a few good articles, a few of which were: COVERS FROM OREGON TERRITORY DURING THE INDIAN UPRISING in 9/22/56; MARE ISLAND in 9/22/56; FEDERAL POW in 2/11/56 & 9/22/56; UNION ARMY ABSENTEE BALLOTING in 11/3/56; YMCA COVERS, SOUTH POLE COVERS and CIVIL WAR COVERS in 11/3/56; THE LOYALISTS in 10/6/56 issues.

Do you want SWEDISH ARMY IN EGYPT covers? Send \$1.00 to Karl Gunnar Knutsson, 10 Friherregatan, Stockholm-Vallingby, SWEDEN and he will send you 8 covers, one of which will be registered.

I sent a cover to a British ship in the Mediterranean Sea during the Canal disturbance last November. It was undeliverable and ended up in Singapore of all places !

APO 383 returned from Seattle. No reason. APO 361 returned, marked no such APO. APO 345 returned with no reason.

I got a cover and letter from Ex-General Mitsue Fuchida. He is the Jap that was in charge of the planes that raided Pearl Harbor. He is now a Christian and his return address is "God's Sky-pilot, Christian Missionary Army of Japan". He is touring the US at present.

Good pictorial article US ANTARCTIC TEAM HOLED UP AT THE POLE in a recent issue of LIFE magazine.

J. Burge Thomas, Care Shipping News, ASAKI EVENING NEWS, Box 555, Tokyo, Japan is the latest address. His newspaper was one of the sponsors of the Japanese expedition to the South Pole.

Am trying to get a Bulletin out to you folks every two months, so figure a deadline of two weeks after you receive a Bulletin. By the time I get the Bulletin typed, mimeographed, sorted, and mailed to you time goes by. Then the Post Office Dept. doesn't send these first class mail, so more time elapses.

Thanks for the covers Department: Cippoli, Willinger, Miller and Sol Whitman.

Who has covers of recent date from Northwest Territory of small post offices of R. C. M. P. posts?

Who has a good address of a real DEWLINE camp of today on Dominion soil?

Scott doesn't list, but HELA SUBMARINE stamp WW II on letter brought \$100 in Germany recently.

In March '57 issue of German Postal Specialist a good article on TOGO-FRENCH-BRITISH OCCUPATION-1914 PROVISIONALS.

Philatelic Gossip of 8/25/56 .. POSTES SERBES, OVERPRINTED ON STAMPS OF GREECE, WW I.

The "ICE CAPE NEWS" is edited by Dr. Neil Josephson, 83 Forest St., New Britain, Conn. It is the organ of the American Society of Polar Philatelists.

APO Location charts are \$1.50 for members and \$1.75 to non-members. Type charts for APO's are 35 cents. Send to Sec-Treas. I. Willinger, 314 East 163rd St., New York 51, N.Y.

H. J. Hare of West Wickham, England, is writing an outline of APO's used in Australia to be used for British Society of US specialists. Would like a copy when it comes out.

Received a copy of the book "The Mails Went Through" by R. M. Startup of Masterton, New Zealand. Very good book.

Jim Russell has added 2 POW covers from Korea to England recently. Both are from Camp #5. They have censor marks on them and Jim believes they were censored in England. What do the members know about this? Where were they censored? Jim would also like info on different British censor marks on POW mail from England.

Jim Russell, 2209 Brighton St., Phila 49, Penna, an ex Sea-Bee, has duplicate covers from the 97th C. B. Batt. which he will give to any W.C.C. member who will send him a stamped, addressed envelope. Send a #7 or larger envelope.

Sterling Taylor reports in that he picked up a cover (folded lettersheet) from Napoleon III while he was a prisoner in the Castle of Ham (where Joan of Arc was a prisoner, too). The letter was written before he became Napoleon III and he had just led an unsuccessful rebellion against the French Republic. That is quite a "conversation piece".

For 55 cents from Supt. of Documents, US Gov't Printing Office, Wash., D. C. you can get "KOREA, IN THE COMMON INTEREST".

In Feb. '57 issue of German Postal Specialist there is a good article on THE STALIN FELDPOST CARD.

Ralph B. Williams, P.O. Box 2354, Juneau, Alaska writes in re to APO 984 in WW II. German POW's at Excursion Inlet in WW II was a temporary affair. They were brought to southeastern Alaska to tear down the military installation built at Excursion Inlet early in the war to house American troops. When the war was pushed away from Alaska, the base was no longer of value, so the timber was taken and shipped to the South Pacific for use in that area. Only one POW ran away, but 3 days later he was found within a few hundred feet of the bakery, when the smell of hot bread was strongest. He was not punished as his experience spread through the camp and none of the others had hopes of getting through the rough snow and glacier covered Chilkat Range.

John A. Smith, 16 Wood End Ave. SOUTH HARROW, Middlesex, England is putting out a 30 page booklet on HISTORY OF THE R. A. F. POSTAL SERVICE of 1942 on. Price will be from 4 to 6½ shillings. Place your order now.

Western Stamp Collector of 3/23/57 has an article SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL WAR by Steve Rich.

In Jan. '57 issue of German Postal Specialist good article on CORK MARKS of 1945 on German stamps.

In Jan. '57 issue of USCS Jagyi has a complete list of DEW LINE ships. There were 4 groups: Project 572 West, Project 572 East, Sunec & Mona Lisa.

Was the 17th Inf. and 31st Inf. in Alaska in WWII? Was the entire 7th Div. in Alaska in WW II?

In May-July '56 issue of Global Cover Collector is an article on RUSSIAN HAND STAMPED COVERS JUNE - JULY 1948.

From a report reaching here, one of the neatest cancellation impressions currently available can be secured from APO 864, New York N.Y. The postal clerk seems particularly dedicated to neat, clean and careful mail cancellations.

What is a LORAN station?

U.S. NAVY CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS

By Ralph A. Miller WCC 358.

FACT --- Americans colonized the South Pole, November 20, 1956.

Eight Navy Seabees commanded by Lt. Richard A. Bowers, USN were the first residents of the bleak, snow capped plateau at the bottom of the world. According to the press, the Navy men were assigned to set up a camp for American scientists who will spend the coming antarctic winter at the pole.

The real news - minimized - is that the Seabees were the first people in history to live and WORK at the pole, thus adding one more chapter to their already long list of achievements.

One professional writer, to my knowledge, has publicized the Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC or Seabees) having two main groups - the Navy Construction Battalions (or builders) and the Special Naval Construction Battalions (stevedores) who handle cargo. Both groups, incidently, are a part of todays LITTLE AMERICA, ANTARCTICA scene.

In past years, WW II Naval covers have come to light bearing the familiar initialed and numbered "N. C. B." return address, and still more rarely one of the battalion's few mail cancellations turn up. It has been learned that cover specialist James Russell, a former Seabee, has knowledge of 82 different numbered units who carried out official assignments from tropic lands to the frigid areas.

The building of Mobile Fleet Post Office #1, Navy 230, at Adak, Alaska in 1944 is one project worthy of mention. Alaska alone accounted for 20 tours of duty.

EDITORS NOTE: Mr. Miller who contributed the foregoing to the February issue of the USCS "LOG" states that Lt. Bowers, USN, and the Seabees completed the South Pole assignments in six weeks, three days. Mr. Miller has no knowledge of any special cancellation; however, the Seabee "corner card" or RA is in your Editor's collection.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

Received my first UN Forces in Egypt cover. It was Registered with the following both in cancel and on Registration label: SVENSKA FN-BATALJONEN / EGYPTEN.

In Nov./Dec. issue of Forces Postal History Society Newsletter a good article on THE SIEGE OF PARIS - Oct. 1870 to Jan. 1871 - COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTER WORLD.

Who has covers from the revolt in Cuba of last December? Early December there was a battle at Aguas Finas, in southeast Cuba near the town of Niquero and about 12 miles from Bermejo Beach, where a small rebel "invasion force" had landed.

I have Propaganda labels from Ireland. ONE FLAG ONE COUNTRY FREE IRELAND. These are triangular in shape with pictures and other wording. There are 4 values (?) 1, 2, 3 and 4. Who has info on these. When used, etc.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY POST OFFICES IN JAPAN - II

R.P. Alexander, W.C.C. #369

(The article on pages 49 and 50 dealt with the New Zealand Military Post Offices in Japan during New Zealand participation in the United Nations Action in Korea. The present article covers New Zealand Military Post Offices in Japan from shortly after V-J Day until the outbreak of the Korean War).

When Japan surrendered in September 1945, Allied forces were needed for the occupation of that country. As the 2nd New Zealand Infantry Div. was then being disbanded in Italy, New Zealand was able to provide part of the occupation forces. The New Zealand Prime Minister announced on 27 September that the New Zealand occupation force would consist of an army brigade and an air force squadron. The Infantry Brigade was formed in Florence, Italy in October 1945 from members of the 2nd NZ Division and the 15th and 16th Reinforcements. While in Italy, the force was known as the 9th NZ Infantry Brigade Group but later it was called 2nd NZEF (Japan) Force, or simply "J" Force.

9th NZ Infantry Brigade Postal Unit, under the command of Lt. J. R. Baker, was the first of the J Force units formed. The postal designation of the unit was NZ APO 222 but while NZEF Chief Post Office, Cairo remained open, the local designation of NZ MPO KW 5 was used.

When the postal unit was first established, it took over some of the duties of the 2nd NZ Division Postal Unit and, when the older unit was disbanded on 3 December 1945, the newer unit provided postal facilities for all New Zealand troops in Florence. In February 1946, the Brigade moved south to Naples to embark for Japan. Base post office closed on 9 February and reopened on the 12th in Naples. The office closed on 18 February but reopened on the 21st on H.M.T. "Strathmore" when at sea.

J. Force advance party left Naples on 24 January and arrived 1 March 1946 at KURE, chief base and port for British Commonwealth Occupation Forces. The postal unit representative, Warrant Officer Thompson, despatched mails through Australian Base post office No. 8 in KURE. H.M.T. "Strathmore" arrived at Kure on 23 March 1946 and Base Post Office was shifted ashore that day to the Australian Base post office, where it was re-opened. As the several groups of J Force left KURE, postal staff went with them to establish field post offices, these offices being opened on 24 March 1946.

Sgt. Wood opened Field P.O. No. 2 at YAMAGUCHI. Field P.O. 3 was opened by Sgt. Irving at 2 NZEF (Japan) Hq. in SHIMONOSEKI. Field P.O. 4 was opened by Corporal Anderson on ETAJIMA Island in the former Japanese naval academy which housed the 6th NZ General Hospital, cavalry and other units.

No. 14 Fighter Squadron, RNZAF, arrived on the aircraft carrier H.M.S. "Glory" on 24 March and RNZAF-NZAPO 333 was opened on that day at the RAF Station in IWAKUNI. Although this office was primarily for the airmen, it also operated as the airmail transit center and was staffed by members of the Postal Unit who regarded the office as Field Post Office No. 1.

In late April, the 6th New Zealand General Hospital was shifted from ETAJIMA to KIWA, on Honshu, where Field Post Office No. 5 was opened. At the same time, Field Post Office No. 3 shifted to CHOFU and Field Post Office No. 4 shifted to MIZUBA. Field Post Office No. 6 was opened by Sgt. Youle on 26 September in the EBISU Barracks, in TOKYO. Field Post Office No. 7 was opened in BEPPU on 29 September 1947 by Lieut. Youle. Locations and dates for all post offices were as follows:

NZAPO 222 23 March, 1946 - KURE; 24 May 1946 - IWAKUNI; 9 Feb. 1948 - BOFU; 24 May 1948 - CHOFU; June 1948, closed at CHOFU; 3 Aug. 1948 re-opened at OZUKI; 24 Sept. 1948, closed and unit disbanded.

RNZAF/NZAPO 333 (Regarded as Field Post Office No. 10) 24 March 1946 - IWAKUNI; Feb. 1949 - closed.

FPO 2 - 24 March 1946 - YAMAGUCHI; 17 August 1948 - closed.

FPO 3 - 24 March 1946 - SHIMONOSEKI; late April 1946 - CHOFU; September 1948 - closed.

FPO 4 - 24 March 1946 - ETAJIMA; late April 1946 - MIZUBA; 3 September 1947 - closed.

FPO 5 - Late April 1946 - KIWA; 11 August 1948 - closed.

FPO 6 - 26 September 1946 - EBISU (Tokyo); 1 November 1946 - closed.

4 Feb. 1947 reopened at EBISU; late February 1947 - closed.

3 May 1947 reopened at EBISU; 30 May 1947 - closed. 3 October

1947 reopened at EBISU; late October 1947 - closed. 5 February

1948 reopened at EBISU; late February or early March 1948 - closed.

FPO 7 - 29 September 1947 - BEPPU; 7 February 1948 - closed.

Postage Rates:

Letters: First two ounces, free. Second ounce, 1d. Each additional ounce, 1d.

Registration: 3d.

Airmail letters: First ounce, free; each additional half ounce, 3d.

Airmail letter cards: Free.

Papers: First two ounces, free; first additional ounce, 3d; each succeeding ounce, 1d.

Parcels: Up to three pounds, 9d; up to seven pounds, 1/6d; up to eleven pounds, 2/-, and up to twenty two pounds, 3/6d.

Postage Stamps:

The consignment of Peace postage stamps was distributed among the field post offices of J Force and was placed on sale 1 April 1946. Existing stocks of Pictorials and King George VI postage stamps, except 2/- and 3/- values, were withdrawn and were not sold again until the Peace stamps were exhausted, about the end of 1946.

NZAPO 333 provided postal arrangements for all remaining New Zealand servicemen when all other New Zealand post offices had been closed, its location being variously reported as being both BOFU and IWAKUNI.

Source: THE MAILS WENT THROUGH by R. M. Startup, P.O. Box 275, Masterton, New Zealand. Chapter 13.

HEINZ SCHUPP
(16) Pfungstadt, Germany
Seeheimer Str. 71

Your bulletin of December, 1955, mentioned that some of your collectors want information on the location of the various STALAGS (POW camps for allied prisoners with the German army). I have located a list of the STALAGS and I kindly ask you to forward same to the individual collector who is looking for this information. I am sure that the spelling may be incorrect, as this list comes from a foreign collector. But I also know that the details are correct.

1a - Stablack	8b - Teschen, Sudetengau
1b - Hohenstein (East Prussia)	8c - Sagan
2a - Neubrandenburg - Mecklenb.	8d - ?
2b - Hammerstein	9a - Ziegenhain, Bezirk Kassel
2c - Greifswahl, Pommern	9b - Wegscheide
2d - Stagard, Pommern	9c - Bad Sulza
2e - Schwerin, Mecklenburg	10a - Schleswig
3a - Luckenwalde	10b - Sandborstel
3b - Fürstenberg, Oder	10c - Niemburg
3c - Alt. Drewitz	10d - ?
3d - Lichterfelde Süd (Berlin)	11a - Altengrabow
3e - Kirchau	11b - Fallingborstel
4a - Hohenstein, Sächs. Schweiz.	12a - Limburg, Lahn
4b - Mühlberg, Elbe	12b - Frankental, Pfalz
4c - Wistriz	12c - Wiebelsheim, Rhein
4d - Torgau, Elbe	12d - Trier
4e - Altenburg, Thüringen	12e - Metz, France
4f - Hartmannsdorf (Post Burgstadt i. Sachsen).	12f - Forbach, Alsace
4g - Oschatz, Sachsen	13a - Bad Sulzbach
5a - Ludwigsburg	13b - Weiden
5b - Villingen	13c - Hammelburg
5c - Offenburg	13d - Nürnberg-Langwasser
5d - Strassbourg (Elsace)	17a - Kaisersteinbruch
5e - Mulhouse, Alsace	17b - Gneixendorf
6a - Hemer, Kreis Iserlohn	18a - Wolfsberg, Kanten
6b - Neu Versen	18az - Spital
6c - Bathorn	18b - Drau Karten
6d - Dortmund	18c - Markt Pongau
6f - Bochholt (Westfalen)	18d - ?
6g - Bonn/Rhein	20a - Thorn
6h - Arnoldsweiler-Duron	20b - Marienburg
6j - Krefeld Fichnhain	21a - Schildberg
6k - Paderborn	21b - Schubin
7a - Moosburg	21ch- Wollstein
7b - Memmingen	21cz- Graz, Austria
8a - Görlitz	21d - Posen, Poland

These camps were established for soldiers below officer grade. Officers were kept in special OFLAGS.

Following is a list of OFLAGS - POW camps for Officers:

2a - Prenzlau	7ch - Laufen, Oberbayern
2b - Arnswalde	7cz - Tittmoning
2c - Wodenberg	8a - Kreuzberg Oppeln
2d - Gross Born	8b - Silberberg
2e - Neu Brandenburg	8c - Juliusburg
3a - Luckenwalde	8d - Hayerwerds
3b - Wehrmachtlager	8e - Johannisbrunn
3c - Lubben, Saxony	8f - Mährisch Trubau
4a - Hohenstein	8g - Weidenau Frohwaldau
4b - Königstein (for Generals)	8h/h - Oberlangendorf
4c - Leipzig - Colditz	8h/z - Eulenberg Römerstadt
4d - Elsterhorst	9a/h - Burg Spangenberg
5a - Wenigsberg	9a/z - Rosenberg, Fulda
5b - Biberach. Riss	9b - Werlburg, Lahn
5c - Wierzach, Wust	10a - Itzehoe, Holstein
6 - Tost	10b - Nienburg
6a - Soest	10c - Lübeck
6b - Dossel Walburg	12b - Mainz
6c - Everseide Osnabrück	17a - Edelnbach
6d - Münster	18a - Lienz
6e - Dorsten	18b - Wolfsburg
7a - Murnau	18c - Spital
7b - Eichstätt	21a - Schocken
	21b - Schublín

* * * * *

There is another group of camps, called "FRONT STALAGS". This group was established in June/July 1940 in France, to take up prisoners of African origin, Negroes, Algerians, Moroccans, etc. I have the list. Also, I have a short list of Straflagers, for prisoners who refused to work or tried to escape.

TASK FORCE 322nd. AIR DIVISION, April 1957.

The UN Emergency Forces airlift has carried 4120 soldiers of 10 nations from Italy to Egypt for the Suez crisis duty since November. It has brought back 195 who were ill or due to leave for replacement, and also has transported 830,496 tons of supplies.

Their mission was also given the task of the evacuation of all Civilian personnel from the troubled Middle East area.

Task Force 322nd. US Air Division included 60th Troop Carrier Wing, France; 317th Troop Carrier Wing, Germany; 465th Troop Carrier Wing, France, and 7206th Air Transport Squadron, Greece.

(Watch your RA's for these covers.)

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Con'd from Page 58)

Recent British F.P.O.'s of the Port Said adventure list 168 at Cyprus, 443, 782 at Malta, 953, 1040 Malta - 3rd Inf. Div. P. U.

The Portugese had one or 2 divisions on the Western Front in WWI. They used the std. British Double Ring type according to Jan/Feb issue of FPHS Newsletter.

ANTARCTICA NOTES

Ralph A. Miller

It has happened again! Once more collectors the world over have instinctively adopted a common topical subject - IGY mail cancellation covers - for lesser or greater degrees of personal specialization.

Like many others, the writer belatedly noted the new trend evidenced but quite optimistically believes there is still time to form (or acquire) a modest, representative collection. Therefore, a few belated notes are offered to guide other "late-comers".

Scientists from 40 countries are jointly associated with the INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR, or IGY, study of "earth sciences". Pertinently, hobbyists are interested in 31 scattered research stations, or bases, operating or to be established by 11 governments on Antarctica or its offshore islands.

The eleven nations are: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Union of South Africa, the U.S.S.R., and the United States.

Officially, the IGY has not started; running from July 1957 through December 1958, although Argentina established its' Belgrano base off Gould Bay, January 1955 - one of ten - while expeditions from the United States, British Commonwealth countries, France and the Soviet Union set up preparatory, or initial bases, late in the same year.

The United Kingdom's six bases and Argentina's ten predominate the polar picture; but the one to four separately located stations to be staffed and maintained by the other foreign nations will bear watching. Undoubtedly all will postmark mail.

At this writing the planned United States observation stations are operating at McMurdo Sound, Little America, Byrd Station, and Pole Station. However, before the month of February is over, the U.S.C.G. icebreaker "Northwind" and cargo ship "Arneb" should reach a coastal site on Vincennes Bay on the remote Knox Coast for a U.S. base, after establishing a joint U.S. - New Zealand station at Cape Hallett.

The sixth purely American post on a Weddell Sea coastal site to be commanded by the Navy's Polar explorer, Captain FINN RONNE, has not yet been established "in fact". A two ship Navy task force led by the icebreaker "Staten Island" faced such odds that it is reliably doubted that it could reach the exact spot earlier planned to locate Base Six.

Collector mail will be cancelled by Seabee personnel at Byrd Station, Pole Station and Little America. About 125,000 covers receiving a December 15 date stamp were cancelled at the South Pole. The Associated Press has estimated that 600,000 covers received machine cancellations at the two other "U.S. Navy" Byrd and Little America postal stations. Hand cancel items will be rareties.

No postal facilities exist at the U.S. air base on Victoria Land, just across McMurdo Sound from the ever active volcano, Mount Erebus, discovered by Sir James C. Ross in 1841. The station sits on New Zealand sovereign territory.

Thanks to the U.S. Navy, the few scattered covers arriving in the U.S. mail boxes are home solely because Navy planes carried them in empty cargo planes which have carried on a weekly "air shuttle" between McMurdo Base and the main Navy distributing post office at Christchurch, New Zealand. Transit time from there, by other, unofficial air hops home, via air mail, averaged but six more days traveling time. (A modern miracle).

From evidence on hand, covers entrusted to ships of Rear Admiral George Dufek's Navy Task Force 43 will possess the greatest intrinsic polar value. A variety of official cachets exist. The seaplane tender, U.S.S. Curtiss AV-4 accorded the greatest courtesy. Individual covers received a printed cachet aboard ship and my cover at least obtained a "Little America" cachet on reverse side, plus an "Operation Deepfreeze" cachet.

Covers of one type or another are due in late Spring. Among the unusual will be Navy post office markings impressed on board the Coast Guard's icebreaker, Northwind. With another goal met in the purely American quest, time and coin of the realm; yes and luck and ingenuity, will be needed to acquire foreign polar station markings on authentic covers.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

Sgt. William Frye, 8th Ord. Co. APO 305 is a member of the Russian Zone Handoverprint study and research group of the German Philatelic Society.

Address your mail correctly, especially to those in the service or at foreign addresses. Can you figure this one out? Mr. John Drake, 887 L St. / Lawrence County / San Diego, California. The San Diego post office tried to deliver, but no luck. Also no return address. So, before Saturday rolled around they turned it over to the Fleet Sonar School on the San Diego Naval Base. They solved the mystery. It was sent to LST-887 which was named USS Lawrence County. It was delivered there in the harbor.

Many of these so called "men's magazines" have some good war articles. Men in Combat, True, Naval Tales, Battle Cry, Argosy, Man, etc. etc. In Real Adventure of Jan. 57 good article on General Puller, the "Toughest Marine" and an article on the ordeal of the sub SQUALUS. Sept. 56 issue of Male has an article on Andrews' Suicide Raid (Civil War) which tells about the first use of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Recent Life magazine ran an article on Pearl Harbor - DAY OF INFAMY. April 13th issue of S.E.P. tells of the Oddest War ever Fought. For 200 years there has been war between Aden and Yemen.

Contrary to the popular thought, the location of weather stations and weather ships is not a classified project. The weather ships are operated by the US Coast Guard but US Weather Bureau observers take the meteorological observations. Currently there is no knowledge if the five US vessels cancel mail, or welcome collector interest. The Feb. 56 issue of the National Geographic magazine, and the December 56 issue of "The Polar Times" give the most concise information desired for a factual study of Antarctica. The latter, 31 page issue can be secured for one dollar from August Howard, Secretary, American Polar Society, 98-20 62nd Drive, Apt. 7H, Rego Park 74, New York.

Yeoman Robert Chaudoin, a Navy Seabee from Long Beach, Miss. is identified as the mail clerk at the Pole Station. Byrd Station has Virgil L. McGehee of Marthaville, La. as mail clerk, and at the Little America base the mail clerk is John C. McCafferty.

A. J. Tripp is working on a History of the 4th and 5th Marines at Iwo Jima. He also is working on a longer article on the Marines retaking Guam, Tinian and Saipan. A.J. mentions that Veterans of the C-B-I will hold their convention at Detroit August 7th to 11th of this year. A friendly rivalry exists between Merrill's Marauders and The Flying Tigers.

Received from Dick Major in Munich a list of ships which earned the Korean War ribbon. This list is from an official Navy publication. He has about 70 ships on "Free" covers. He also sent along an APO Directory Service backstamped cover. It had APO B. A. T. in the cancel. What does the B.A.T. stand for? Incidentally, the large cover Dick used was made from a map. I wonder if these are still being made or was this one from WW II.

Is CHANG-HOA in North or South Korea?

Who knows the locations of the DEW line stations, Mid Canada line stations and the Pine Tree Line stations. I found an Alert up near Greenland and that's all.

Vernon J. Miller (USCS) 2120 Wilhelm St., Baltimore 23, Md. holds auctions of fine Naval material every month or so.

Thanks to Walter J. McNulty for the fine magnifying lens. He must have heard that my eyes were getting old. Thanks.

Thanks for the Covers Department: Whitman & Major.

R. M. Startup, P. O. Box 275, Masterton, N.Z. is Editor of a bulletin "Mail Coach" issued monthly about N. Z. stamps, meters, postmarks, etc. His notes on ANTARCTIC as follows: "Mr. A. S. Helm who was postmaster at Scott Base returned to N. Z. by Globemaster on Feb. 23rd. Other men of the Expedition are returning on HMNZS Endeavor leaving about 23 men at the Base for the winter. USS Curtiss sailed from N. Z. for McMurdo Sound on March 2nd and carried in her cargo mail and supplies for Scott Base. It is hoped that covers from Scott Base are being brought back by the Endeavour.

Sol Whitman sends word that the Navy Branch Post Office in LITTLE AMERICA is #17038, New York, N.Y. He recently received an aerogramme from there with a double oval marking.

Joe Fincher, P. O. Box 177, Sinton, Texas sends in a cover of WW I vintage. Wants info on its value. Small envelope printed PRISONERS OF WAR No Stamp required. Oval postmark is POST FREE PRISONERS OF WAR and has large P. C. in center. This cover sent from Knockaloe Detention Camp, Peel, Isle of Man, England. What would be the value of this? Please contact your editor.

UNIVERSAL SHIP CANCELLATION SOCIETY - INTRODUCTION

By Raymond W. Milling, National Director
919 W. Newport Ave., Chicago 13, Ill,

No doubt most of you members of the WCC are more or less familiar with the USCS. The name of your society would indicate your primary collecting interest is collecting covers from war periods including Army, Navy and other service post offices. Members of the USCS collect both peace time as well as war time covers, but primarily from U. S. naval ships. Actually, most members also collect other service ship covers; U.S. Coast Guard, U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey and U. S. Army Dredges. Many of our members also collect navy shore station and marine corps units, both domestic and overseas locations.

Some collectors of ships postmarks specialize in one or more types of ships such as battleships, cruisers or aircraft carriers. Other members collect only combat ships as distinguished from auxiliaries. Some members specialize in classics, using 1920, 1925 Or 1928 as the cutoff date. All of the above collectors are general naval cover collectors.

Now we come to the real specialists. These members are usually members of some other philatelic organization and they limit the scope of their naval cover collecting to one of the following fields: Polar covers, Meters and covers from certain geographic areas such as Alaska, the Philippines, or Long Island. Some members are topical collectors, some collect covers bearing a certain stamp, such as the 3¢ "Stuart".

We have about 500 active members and four active chapters located at Boston, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. The USCS came into being in 1931 and is now the only active naval cover society in existance.

Like the War Cover Club, we are mainly a correspondence group. Our monthly LOG is sent to all members. I shall be glad to send further information and an application form for membership in the USCS to any reader requesting same. (A 3¢ stamp will be appreciated.)

Editor Rogan has been invited to write up the WCC for a future issue of the USCS LOG. I believe the two societies compliment one another rather than conflict with one another and many collectors of either society would benefit by dual membership in both societies.

* * * * *

From an overseas correspondent the Secretary has recently received three interesting covers: No. 1 is a first day registered cover, the registry label bearing imprint reading: Mawson, Aust. Antarctic Terr. with a block of 4 of the 3½d map stamp, cancellation reads Mawson, Aust. Antarctic Terr. No. 2 is a cover bearing a 1/- Tristan Da Cunha stamp cancelled Gough Island, South Atlantic Survey, and a rubber stamp marking reading Gough Island, Scientific Survey, 1955-56. No. 3 is a beautiful cacheted cover showing a Penguin standing on a cake of ice and imprint, Trans Antarctic Expedition 1956-1958 Scott Base. With a pair of 1/6 Ross Dependency stamps cancelled Scott Base, Ross Dependency, Jan. 11. 1957.

The Secretary will be sending out notices soon asking the members to remit dues and would appreciate if you all would co-operate. Of course if a member wishes to send the \$2.00 ahead of time, all the better.