

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Nov 1958)

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List of Index Items for This Publication

Letters from American POW, Ventjuji War Prison Camp

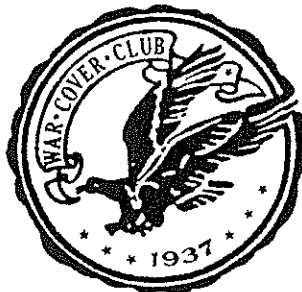
Emergency Forces, Egypt (many countries forces listed) (1956)

Capture of Okinawa (WWII)

Emergency Forces, Egypt (many countries forces listed) (1956)

Letters from American POW, Ventjuji War Prison Camp

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



November 1958

Whole No. 13

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

Well, the LEBANON affair is just about over. What have you from there? Stan Jersey reports that the Marine post office in Beirut was in a railroad car near the air field. They used cancel USN 12868 Unit 6. Dick Major reports that Task Force 201 in Lebanon is using APO 379. He has a cover with "Soldiers Mail" and the senders signature instead of a stamp. Cancellation reads "ARMY & AIR FORCE POSTAL SERVICE/A.P.O." First time I have heard of one with the ampersand.

I sent to both the Army and the Marines in Lebanon but as yet have had no word. The Navy came through though..The C.O. of the DES MOINES sent letter, cover, large picture of ship, history of ship, large picture and biography of the C.O. (the Jack Pot !). The clerk on the DES MOINES sent a cover with cachet of "THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NAVY IS INCREASING". The Mail Clerk of USS ESSEX mailed one. Also from the ESSEX was one from the PIO officer of the "World Famous Red Rippers" Fighter Squadron eleven. They were the first over the beach at Lebanon. Clerk, C.O. and Commander of Carrier Air Group Three sent from the SARATOGA. I have some dups to trade of the above Navy for some of the ARMY or MARINES.

C.D.Brenner, W.C.C. #46, 5 Montrose Road, Berkeley 7, Calif. writes in that he has a few broken runs of the BULLETIN between the years 1944-1949 that he will send to the first applicant who will agree to pay the postage on them. Many pages of illustrations are included in these lots.

Stan Jersey was in NYC October 11th and was staying at the Roosevelt Hotel. The Club members around New York planned a meeting with our new Director.

Raymond Milling, Pacific Stars and Stripes, APO 500, sends in a cover with APO 94. It opened Sept. 2nd, 1948 at Washington Heights, Tokyo, to take care of some of the business that had been using APO 500 at Hardy Barracks. The latter closed on 31 July and the following day the Camp Drake Branch of APO 500 became the main Post Office. FDC also has a smaller cancellation which looks new: "SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. Army-Air Force Postal Service A.P.O. 94 Br." in circle. On 15 August in the afternoon Camp Drake APO 500 ran out of stamps. Before a supply came in late in the afternoon, 157 pieces of mail went out with a rubber stamp inscription that said in effect, "No stamps available, postage and fees collected."

William Sasscer, W.C.C. #389 writes in re U.S. Postmarks with more than 29 letters -- He submits one with 39 letters: "Marine Corps Recruit Depot Sta. San Diego, Calif." I guess we both better give up and check the 53 in the one above from APO 94. Bill has a cover from USNS Pt. Barrow, flagship of Task Force 6.3 (Arctic ReSupply). He also got a cover from Mobile Batt. #4 with 17014 Br US Navy from "Somewhere in the U.S."

I have an Alaskan Air Force cover addressed to Secty General, ICAO, International Aviation Bldg, Montreal, Canada. What does ICAO stand for ? ?

JOHN C. DICKEL WAR COVER ACCUMULATION FOR SALE

I am handling the accumulation of War Covers of the late John C. Dickel of Phila., a member of advisory board for Engel's APO Cover Catalogue. Please communicate if interested in entire lot or lots minimum \$20.00.

REV. JAMES W. L. HILLS 2007 E. Cambria St. PHILADELPHIA 34, PA.

Mrs. M. G. Burrell is going to dispose of her War Covers. Your editor will help to dispose of this material. Mrs. Burrell wants to dispose of the items in books. Information in a future bulletin when material is received and listed.

Barbara Mueller received an award at TOPEX, Little Rock, Ark. in June with her "Stamp Days" topical. Someone said the Marines were pulling out of Lebanon so they could go to Little Rock.

Victor Maciejewski, W.C.C. #402, 1350 Park Pl., Brooklyn 13, N.Y. writes in that he is looking presently for U.S. Navals and Marine Corps covers in China 1929-39 plus covers of the old West, Lawman covers, Wells Fargos, Indian territories and reservations, horse, saddles and illustrated gun covers, forts, camps, barracks from 1840 to 1910.

War Cover Club, Branch Europe, had a recent meeting in Munich on August 14th at the Munich Festival. I got a card from Dick Major, Alfred Clement and Dr. Fred Brock of the WCC and also from the Pres. of the Bund Philatelic Club. The last I heard of Doc Brock he was at a meeting out on the West Coast. He sure gets around.

Who can decipher the following censor label used in Germany (?) in 1938:
Zur Devifenuberwachung zollamtlich geoffnet.

+ Jim Russell needs info on APO 271.

James B. Alper, BRW, APO 285 (Madrid, Spain) writes in about a cover he saw recently: cover from Mallorca to Barcellona during Civil War via submarine mail and is so cancelled. There were fewer than 10 such letters and it is believed that this is the only one saved, I'll try to get a picture of this one for the Bulletin. Cover not for sale.

Who has copies of Postal History Bulletins to loan the Club? ? Latest one costs \$2.00, obtainable from Edwin Mayer, 10 E. 40th St., NYC, N.Y. Articles that would interest us are: Blood Stained Travels in Polish History, Ed. Nowak, Sr...France Military Post in Netherlands 1792-1802, Harry S. Heymans... Danish Prussian War, Margaret & Ernest M. Cohn...Canada Sudan Campaign 1884-5, Peter A. S. Smith. The Postal History Society of the Americas meet the 1st Monday at 8 PM in the Collector's Club. Do they put out a "Journal" or "Bulletin" ? ?

Mystery Cover R/A 1757 Eng For Co, APO 18642, PM S.F. Censored by Army Examiner 24793 and Base Examiner 1656. No postmark. There is a back stamp "Boston, Mass Hdqts. First Service Command, Apr 3, 1945". Cover sent to Boston Univ. College of Bus. Adm. Any info will be greatly appreciated by our editor.

FOR SALE Early 42 N. Air Sta Kodiak Alaska with a CORK CENSOR, also USS UTAH 1932 and USS MARYLAND 1932. Contact Editor.

Jim Russell writes in about a new cancel from M.C.B. 3. This designation is in bottom of circle.

US Navy "Yankton" Northern Russia, April 1915 cover in recent auction. What was Yankton? ? Or where was it? ?

Received "The Psywar Society Bulletin" recently. Well written... P.H. Robbs, 8 Ridgway Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants, England is Honorary General Secretary.

The History of the 26th NCB is in WCC June 1953 Bulletin.

Who has info on Australian covers. I have covers with 10 diff. wordings in postmarks. Who has info on these? RAAF Australia, Aust Unit Postal Stn, Air Force P.O., A.P.O., A.F.P.O., Aust Army Post Office, Aust FPO, A.I.F. Field P.O., Field Post Office, Base P.O. Who has a list of locations for these?

Did the New Zealand Air Force see duty in S. Rhodesia in 1942?

There are 3 cancels listed from APO 379 so far. Handstamp with and without ampersand and a machine cancel. When was the last date of 379 in Lebanon? On one of covers is "AMLAN FOR SPECCOMME". This stands for American Land Forces Special Command Middle East. Soldiers Mail in Lebanon went out in Aug.

Alfred Clement of Graz, Austria at a recent meeting of the Munich Philatelic Club received a plaque from the "Altbrief Sammlerverein" for meritorious service to the field of stampless philately.

Gale Raymond has been honored by Cambodia with the grade of Chevalier of the Royal Order of Sahametrie, bestowed by royal decree of the King of Cambodia with its accompanying decoration, in recognition of his cooperation in the People-to-People program. Presentation of the award was made through the Royal Ambassador of Cambodia in Washington, D.C. It was his specialized study of Cambodia postal history which placed him in contact with many English-speaking people in Cambodia, whose friends in turn asked him to help them also find friends in America. Mr. Raymond is a retired Air Force officer, now an independent real estate appraiser in Houston, Texas.

Stan Jersey needs covers with corner card reading B H 11 (Base Hosp 11); Acorn 7 or Acorn 14. These are from South Pacific in WW II. Stan reports that the 58th Evac. Hospital was in Lebanon recently.

A.S.D.A. show in N.Y.C. Nov. 21-22-23rd in 71st Reg. Armory.

Who has an extra copy of the October 1958 "Leatherneck" mag. Very good article and illustrations in re to Marines in Lebanon.

Who has info on location of APO 100 on 8/25/58? Apparently it is connected with a central mail directory in Pacific area. Where is APO 239 at this time and what does AMDS in a cancel stand for? All these markings on one cover.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Term: 2 years.

President: Sol Whitman.Vice-President: Walter J. McNulty.Sec-Treas.: Isadore Willinger.Auction Manager: William Cipolli.Directors: R. P. Alexander, Phillip E. Baker, M. Hertzberg,
Stanley Jersey, Frederic Patka, Sterling S. Taylor.

Ernest M. Doane, 26 Myrtle St., Lynn, Mass. writes in that he received a note from the AF base at Madrid that the APO at that base was being discontinued and all mail will be sent through the APO at 283 in Torrejon. This postal office will have combination lock boxes for the personnel at the Madrid Hqs. Covers may be sent to Postal Officer, 13th Air Postal Squadron, APO 283, N.Y.C. (Member #378)

Derek F. Rayner, Kirhatone, 153 Alljeort Lane, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire, England writes that Robson Lowes Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps has taken over the Regent Stamp catalogue. Robson Lowe Ltd. now at 40 Pall Mall. Mr. Rayner has a POW card from an R.A.F. prisoner at No. 2 POW Camp Thailand. The sender states that he only sent 2 of these cards during all his years of captivity so they must be rare. He worked on the Railway also. Mr. Rayner has a fine collection of covers from the Anglo-French invasion of Suez, all British, that cover the complete operation from start to finish. (#399).

Last call for articles for special issue of Linn's magazine dealing with the War Cover Club. This is a good way to advertise the Club and also to have an article of yours get wide circulation. An article is being written on Tokyo Bay covers. The author needs info as to the exact day that the Navy allowed Naval Mail to have the ships name appear on covers after WW II ended. Also what day did the Navy allow the port of call to be in the cancellation? The author has Oct. 17, 1945, but does not know if that is right or not.

R. M. Startup, author of "The Mails Went Through" and "Korean War - N.Z. Military Postal Services" writes in re to U.S. Navy P.O. 17046. This was est. in New Zealand for the support party to the US Naval forces in Antarctica. They remained open for the 1958 winter (May-August) and is to be increased to summer time strength in September when US Naval forces return to the Antarctic for the 58-59 summer season and to relieve the winter staff at the various bases. This office is located in Christchurch, N.Z. and is designated Navy P.O. #20 for direction of mails (to cover the Antarctic area) but date stamp cancellation bear the number 17046.

On October 11th the War Cover Club had a meeting in New York City in the Collector's Club. Stan Jersey was in from Chicago and showed a collection of British Solomons that was great, not only in the covers involved, but in the way they were mounted and described on the album sheets. Stan also saves Gilbert and Ellice islands material. There were many, many members present from far and near. It was agreed at the meeting that the Club has made great advances in the last few years. The Club was glad to hear that Mr. A.J. Tripp is still able to give the Club a hand in its APO research. Final plans are being made for the APO Location List of WW II to be revised and reprinted in the near future. Reserve your copy today from the Sec-Treas.

Received a cover with a backstamp in red reading "Air Force Postal Directory/APO 433" and dated Aug. 29, 1958. First I've seen of this.

Who has info on 10922 Br.?

(Continued on Pg. 169)

Letters from American POW, Ventjuji War Prison Camp.

Stan Jersey.

June 1944..My dear Family, I am in fair health and good spirits, sorry to hear of the serious illness of Uncle George. I pray for him faithfully. I pray too for the success of Doctor Dwight E. Reeves and his operation on my cousin Normandie. He practiced diligently at Leavenworth General Hospital."

Letter from Manila, Sept 21, 1945, when this Officer was Liberated:

"Here I am back in Manila; I never thought I'd return when I left in November '42. I've ended up in a replacement depot, which prior to the surrender, dispatched drafts of officers & men to understrength units in the Pacific Theatre. Now, however, this depot processes liberated personnel....I've put on a good 20 lbs in the past 20 days - more evidence that Uncle Sam really feeds his troops. However, I'm still a bit soft, not quite ready for any banzai charges or any of that athletic stuff. A rubber of bridge or a little elbow bending is about my present limit.

One of the biggest thrills I'll ever have occurred the day (Sept 2) that a squadron of Saipan-based B-29's dropped good old State-side chow (and plenty of it) by parachute. The supplies were very hastily packed and many cases & drums of food broke loose from the 'chute harness, so as a result the sky was filled with cases, boxes and drums of food of all descriptions, many without 'chutes, hurtling thru the air. The roofs of our barracks & out buildings received several direct hits. But it was a beautiful accurate drop & did we go to town on that manna! We ate from morning till night & from night till morning, literally eating our way back to health & strength. As a result we picked up amazingly. Now this happened all over Japan, wherever there were prison camps. Prisoners from Hokkaide to Kyushu put away a helluva quantity of chow - it would have done your hearts good to have seen it. Can you picture me frying up a $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of canned bacon along with a few Bermudas and 3 or 4 spuds just for a midnight snack? Gosh I'm a good cook - that was the best bacon I ever tasted.

Sept 8, Our Lady's Nativity, an American recovery team of doctors, nurses and an enlisted body guard arrived at the camp to start us on the road back to LIFE. 329 officers, the largest officer group in Japan arrived at the Yokohama station on Monday morning at 8.30 AM. At the station to greet us were Lt. Gen. Eichelberger, Commanding General of the 8th Army, & staff (he shook hands with every POW who was liberated by the 8th Army) and the 1st Cavalry Division Band playing that well known number "California Here I Come". Later the Old Man himself, Gen. MacArthur came to the dock area to see us. Evidently he was quite concerned about the officers & men from the Philippines. There weren't many of Mac's old crowd left. Army Ground Forces personnel embarked on the USS TRYON, an armored hospital transport (there are only 3 of her type in the Navy). The Air Force people came in the same convoy on another ship. Navy & Marine Corps Officers left for Guam on a warship of unknown type. I believe it was a battleship. Many recovered personnel had been flown to Manila via Okinawa but we were unfortunate & were recovered too late for this.

I've heard that MacArthur had been attempting to contact the group of Officers I have been part of for so long, inasmuch as this group contained the highest ranking group in Japan; and most of us had been prisoners for over 3 years, and our health was very poor. No contact was made until Sept 8th, and no B-29's were available at that date.

I hear that General Weaver is back in the U.S. along with Wainwright. I still have the bath towel he kindly gave me in May 1942. Weaver commanded the Tank Group during the 1st Philippine Campaign. An officer and a gentleman.

The remnants of the 192nd Tank Bn. hope to return to the States together as a unit, the way we left the USA. Col. Wickord is pulling a few strings with higher authority, in fact with the number 3 ranking man in Manila Headquarters. I hope he is successful. It pays to know the right people. Personally as long as I'm on good terms with the Mess Sgt. and cooks I'm happy. Incidentally, upon recommendation of Gen. MacArthur, all officers, ex POW's who qualify as per existing prior War Dept. orders, have been statutorily promoted one rank to rank from Sept. 2, 1945.

So my new address as you have it is
1st Lt. _____
Liberated Personnel Section
A.P.O. 501 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco.

Your Secretary has a cover in his collection Postmarked A.P.O. 883, June 2, 1942, with the following letter enclosed:

Office of the Commanding General
United States Army Forces
China Burma India

To Whom It May Concern -

The following concerns Army Post Offices in the China-Burma-India Theatre. It is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. APO 879 was opened at Chungking, China early in 1942. This was the first APO in the CBI Theatre.
2. APO 886 was opened aboard the USAT Brazil in port at San Juan on 21 March 1942. The letters that day cancelled did not bear a date and were not released until the ship arrived at Karachi, India on 15 May, 1942. No first day covers as such are believed to exist which can be positively identified as first day covers. This APO became the permanent APO for Karachi, India, upon arrival of the Brazil on 15 May 1942 at that port, which ship carried the first contingent of troops to India.
3. APO 883 was opened at Malir Cantonment, 16 miles outside of Karachi, India, on the Sind Desert on June 8, 1942. Its opening was given no publicity and no First Day Covers as such were prepared.

This cover from APO 883, dated 8 June 1942, was either the second or third cover cancelled at APO 883 on the day that APO opened. It may be identified by my chop mark on the reverse.

Signed - Loren B. Thompson

(Then Captain, Adjutant Generals Department, Executive Officer of Malir Cantonment and formerly Adjutant aboard the USAT Brazil on its maiden voyage as a troop transport.)

Members of our group who live in the New York area held a meeting on Oct. 11th at the Collectors Club, N.Y.C. The main purpose was to meet Stanley Jersey who came in from Chicago to show part of his Solomon Islands Collection. This collection is without doubt outstanding and I can readily understand why Mr. Jersey has won awards at recent stamp exhibitions. There were 13 members present at the meeting and we stayed from 12:30 PM to 5 PM, which gives you an idea of how we all enjoyed the meeting. It was suggested that the Chicago members meet in a similar manner as we do.

I wish to thank John J. Britt for making it possible for us to have this meeting at The Collectors Club. Mr. Britt is a member of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club and obtained permission for us to meet. Incidentally, during our meeting, Stanley Jersey filled out an application for membership in The Collectors Club.

This news is rather late, but worth mentioning: Member Sam Simon won a silver medal at the Ispex show for exhibiting Concentration Camp covers. Miss Louise Clemencon got a 2nd award for showing French 10 Centime Stamps (Sewer Type) and Sol Whitman an honorable mention for showing Air Letter Sheets.

Sterling Taylor has two very nice covers from the Mexican War, one of them from General Stevens, who later became Washington Territory's first Governor.

Your secretary has in his collection two very interesting covers:
No. 1: A long cover, imprinted cachet reads: "Carried by the First Ocean to Ocean Submarine Service U.S.S. C-3" also "This envelope contained Subscription from Victory Loan Committee Balboa Heights, Canal Zone" and postmark reading "Cristobal, Canal Zone, May 7, 1919, 6A.M. Atlantic-Pacific" plus another receiving stamp, which reads: "Balboa Heights, C.Z. May 7, 1919, 2 P.M." Thus it is noted that it took 8 hours for the U.S.S. C-3 to negotiate the passage of the canal, a historical event of major importance at that time.

Cover No. 2: A long cover, rubber stamp reading: "Balboa Heights, C.Z. received First Trip Aero Mail, October 18, 1918, 10 A.M." and imprinted cachet "Carried by First Nonstop Ocean to Ocean Aero Mail Service". Also This envelope carried subscription to Fourth Liberty Loan, signed by H. Rowe, Chairman, 4th Liberty Loan Committee.

Stanley Jersey has a Civil War letter; the contents are interesting. Quote: Postmarked Old Point Comfort, Va.
"Hq. 85th Reg. July 4, 1862. Corn is up to my shoulders, wheat is cut, McClelland has fallen back with his army. They got reinforcements in faster than us. At White Oak Bridge they were piled in some places 2 and 3 deep -- this the result of cannon fire. They kept coming at us a brigade and division at a time. They had been given gun powder and whiskey before they go into battle. We found some in their canteens. We are camped in woods near Harrison's Bar on the James River. My address is Fortress Monroe, 85th Reg. Co c, Pecks Division, 2nd Brigade, N.Y..S.V."

Ernest Bellard has for sale two large binders with Mounted Ballott envelopes of WW II, all different APO's. Any member interested contact Mr. Bellard at 1940 Staunton Road, Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.

NEW MEMBERS

No. 404 - Paul E. Warnke, Capt. USAF. 3342 Pensacola Ave., Chicago 18, Ill.
Collects Islands of the Pacific.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

No. 394 - Harold Vincent Dunn, Jr. 617 W. 4th St., Carson City, Nevada.
Collects Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Gen. D.D. Eisenhower material.

DID YOU KNOW ?

That on the Island of Okinawa there was an ancient fortress called Shuri Castle. It had massive stone walls 20 feet thick and 40 feet high. The castle was described by wartime secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal as the most strongly fortified position encountered in the Pacific War.

The Japanese made the castle the cornerstone of their defense of Okinawa which U.S. troops invaded on April 1, 1945.

Assaulting American Marines and soldiers of the 77th U.S. infantry Division were stymied by the suicidal Japanese defenders.

By May, 1945, the tactical situation was this:

Combined Army-Marine forces had driven the Japanese in to the Southern end of Okinawa on a line running from Naha on the west coast through Shuri Castle to Yonabaru Airport on the eastern shore.

The gun-bristling castle, built 401 years before, lay about 3000 yards east of Naha, the Capital City.

It would have taken an enormous toll to storm or flank the castle, field artillery and aerial assault merely nicked the mammoth walls.

On the night of May 24, 1945, while Japanese Kamikaze planes struck again and again American Warship offshore, an officer from the 77th Division set out in a small boat for the Battleship Mississippi. He carried an urgent plan.

The order called for the Mississippi to breach the high wall in two places and destroy the rock-ribbed castle itself.

Other warships had found that even direct hits with armor-piercing shells bounced off the walls like flies off a hot stove.

All through the night the Mississippi's navigator studied charts and maps to plot a passage through treacherous shoals for a closer firing position. At 5:30 AM, with the sun rising in a blurred red ball through the overcast, they were ready.

The harsh silhouette of Shuri Castle, shrouded in gray gloom on a distant ridge, was invisible from the ships bridge. The ship's bombardment expert mathematically pinpointed the target range.

Hour after hour the bombardment continued in six-gun doses. By nightfall the army spotter reported that 90% of the Mississippi's shots had scored solid hits - but Shuri Castle looked as impregnable as ever.

On the third day the weather broke fair and clear and the Battleship moved in much closer to the shore and hammered away at this fortress, and by nightfall the fortress was nothing but rubble and the troops began cautiously picking their way through the rubble; they found fewer than 50 Japanese survivors waiting to surrender.

Major Gen. Pedro A. DeValle, commanding the 1st U.S. Marines, said he had feared the final assault would cost battalion-size casualties. Not an American life was lost.

Okinawa was reported secured by American forces on June 21st. This was largely made possible by the plan given to the Captain of the battleship Mississippi by this 77th Division Officer.

I do hope that the members will bear with us in the fact that this Bulletin is being issued about a month later than schedule. The cause, well lets say personal reasons, which we can't go into.

WE MOST SINCERELY WISH ALL THE MEMBERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

By Frederic J. Patka, Vienna

The UNEF came into existence under the General Assembly resolution of November 5th, 1956, approving the creation of a "United Nations Emergency Force."

Ten permanent members of the Security Council offered the first contingents for this force, e.g. Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, India, Norway, Sweden and Jugoslavia. The total strength of the UNEF is 6000 men.

After overcoming the innumerable and inevitable difficulties encountered in the formation of the force, the first unit of 95 men was flown by Swiss Air from Capadicino Airfield near Naples to Abu Suweir in the Canal Zone on November 16th, 1956. This unit consisted of Danes and Norwegians. Advance parties of the contingents of the other nations kept arriving at Naples from India, Colombia and Canada.

Headquarters and supply base of the UNEF are at the Airport of Capodicino near Naples.

POSTAL FACILITIES

It goes without saying that such an International force has to be provided with full postal facilities. UNEF got its Base Post Office in the Italian Civil post office building at the Railway Station of Naples. Four contingents only have their own post offices: the Indians, Swedes, Finns and Canadians. The mail from all other nations is sent free of postage to Base Post Office of the UNEF at Naples railway station. This Base Post Office forwards all mail either to the UNEF or home. Mail to foreign destinations is prepaid with Italian stamps at the expense of the UNO. The stamps are cancelled by the usual obliterations of the Italian civilian post office.

It seems that until April 1957 the Italian "Europe" stamp was used as postage, while thereafter the ordinary Italian postage stamps were used. Postmarks seen so far (mostly illegible) on UNEF mail are:

NAPOLI FERR. POSTA AEREA ESTRO ORDINARIE (Fig. 1)

NAPOLI FERROVIA POSTA AEREA INTERNO ORDIN. (Fig. 2)

Only once I found a cover with a machine cancellation "Napoli Corrisp. e Pacchi". Sometimes mail can be found with the cancellation of the special post office of the NATO HQ. South, Naples. In this case the mail arrived by courier plane and was cancelled at this office. The postmark reads:

NAPOLI C.P. - SEZIONE AFSOUTH (Fig. 3)
(AFSOUTH means Allied Forces South).

UNEF BASE POST OFFICE

Special obliterations are in use at the Base P.O. for the free mail to the countries of origin of the different UNEF units. The two obliterations, one a handstamp, the other one a machine cancellation, were reproduced already on page 721 (HLP No. 31/32) in connection with the special article on the postal arrangements of the Danish Unit. As far as I know these cancellations have been used for mail to Denmark, Norway, Colombia and Canada, but they may also have been used for mail to other countries. The mail is flown every second day by the UNEF Air Transport Squadron from Naples to Egypt or vice-versa to and from the Abu Suweir airfield (the UNEF Communications Centre in Egypt). In the same way all other supplies for the UNEF arrive.

INDIA

India dispatched the 3rd Paratroop Regt. to Egypt. An advance party of 50 men arrived on November 18th, the remainder a week later. The first FPO has probably been opened by the end of November. The Indians are said to run 3 FPO's, but I was unable to locate more than two, so far:

FPO 711 and FPO 712 (HQ of the Regt. No. 55 IPU (Indian Postal Unit)
(Figs. 4, 5 & 6)

Registered letters bear a rectangular cachet. The FPO's are dealing with all postal business transactions in the same way as a civilian post office (except cash-on-delivery parcels). Mail to India is free, while for mail to other destinations or for registered letters ordinary Indian postage stamps are used. Mail from the Indian units sometimes is also sent via BPO Naples in the same way as mail of units without own FPO's. In such cases the mail is prepaid with Italian stamps and cancelled by the civilian PO postmark. I have seen such letters with cachets reproduced here. (Figs. 7 & 7a).

SWEDEN

On November 20th, 1956, the advance party of the Swedish contingent (60 men) arrived by air at Naples, followed by another unit of 100 men on Dec. 2. The rest of the battalion arrived within a short time afterwards. The Swedish are running their own post office. The first day of operation was Dec. 9, 1956. A cacheted First Day Cover and the special postmark were reproduced on page 638 (HLP No. 28). All mail from this Army P.O. passes the collecting centre at Malmo 1 and is forwarded from there in both directions. The Swedish FPO handles all postal matters, also accepts savings, but does not deal with reimbursements and parcels. Letters up to 1 kg. are accepted. Inland postage fees are the rule for mail in both directions. For mail to Sweden special "two ways" army envelopes were issued. They are of the same type as all previous ones. There is an imprinted stamp on the front side and a second one on the reverse under the flap of the cover for the addressee's reply. This enables the folks at home to answer letters free of charge. On the lower part of the envelope is the one-line inscription: En Svensk krigsman tiger med vad som rör forsvaret (A Swedish soldier does not disclose what he knows of military defense). The colour of the envelope is gray, the text and stamp blue. The stamp for the answer on the reverse under the flap with the senders address is dark green. In addition to envelopes, Military post cards are also issued. Each member of the Swedish contingent receives a limited number of envelopes and post cards per month. For registered mail special labels are in use with the inscription "Svenska FN-bataljonen/Egypten". The frame and a large R in the left part of the label are in red inscription and a serial number in black. The Swedish Battalion is stationed in the Port Said-Port Faud area.

CANADA

The first Canadian Infantry Unit, the Queen's Own Rifles, arrived about mid-December 1956. The transport of this unit was effected by the Canadian aircraft carrier "Magnificent", which sailed on November 20th from Halifax. Mail dispatched during the passage can only be identified by the sender's address. The cancellation of the mail was done at the Fleet Mail Office Halifax. Mail from the "Magnificent" is also found with the "Commanding Officer" cachet. (Figs. 8, 9 & 10). There is also a Canadian Air Force Unit at the disposal of the UNEF, the 435th Squadron Transport RCAF, located at Abu Suweir. This unit participated also in the first air lift from Naples to Egypt, and now takes part in the mail and supply transport of the UNEF.

On March 11th another Infantry Unit of 140 men took off from Ottawa for Naples, swelling the Canadian unit to 1200 men. Mail from the Canadian units is found with the postmark of CAPO 5049 (Canadian Army Post Office). The

CANADA (Continued)

first date known is December 19th, 1956. Two types of postmarks are known to me:

Single ring 23mm dia. with the inscription CAPO-5049, date in two lines (steel cancel). Single ring 37mm dia. same inscription, date one line (rubber stamp).

This latter postmark is normally used for Registration and Parcel Post, but may also be found on ordinary mail and as transit stamp. Another postmark has been reported: Dia. 23mm, inscription CFPO-35 (Canadian Field Post Office) date in three lines (with time AM or PM). More types of CFPO postmarks are likely to turn up as the Canadian Units are dispersed over a large area. The colour of the Canadian postmarks (Figs. 11, 12, 13) is black; the large rubber stamp may be found in purple too. Instead of R-Labels, handstamps are in use. (Fig. 14). The serial number is added by hand. Canadian postage stamps are in use. Four different Unit Cachets are known to me (see Figs. 15, 16, 17, 18). The Canadian units are stationed east of Port Said, at Abu Suweir, and since March 1957 also in the Gaza Strip.

FINLAND

The first Finish contingent arrived in Egypt on or about December 10th, 1956. The unit advanced along side of the Suez Canal to the coast of the Red Sea. When on March 8th, 1957, the Israel Defense Forces evacuated the most southern point of the Sinai Peninsula, Sharm-el-Sheikh, a Finnish unit of 170 men took over this position. This is the fourth contingent with their own postoffice. The post office, most probably, is stationed with the main unit on the shores of the Red Sea. The cancellation used is a single ring steel obliterator of 35.5mm diameter as shown in Fig. 19. The first day was December 16th, 1956. I do not know whether this office accepted also registered mail, but it is probable. Mail to Finland is free. At the beginning, foreign mail was also forwarded free of charge (showing Helsinki transit postmark). From about March 20th onward such letters arrived charged with Postage Due. Thereafter letters from Sharm-el-Sheik bear Finnish stamps of 30Mk., i.e. the ordinary foreign postage rate.

DENMARK

The postal arrangements of the Danish Units were already described in HLP No. 31/32, page 720/721. We are showing here an additional rubberstamp in English, found on the mail of the Danish Unit (Fig. 20).

NORWAY

The first unit of the brand new United Nations Police Force were Norwegians and Danes. They arrived on November 10th, 1956, in Naples, and were flown on November 16th from Naples to Abu Suweir by planes chartered from Swiss Air. This unit took over the security of the Abu-Suweir-Ismaïlia area and the Mittla Pass on the other side of the Canal. On November 21st, a bigger Norwegian unit disembarked at Port Said, where a part of them remained. Another Norwegian-Danish unit is stationed at El Shatt, at the southern end of the Canal, and a sanitary company has its HQ at El Kantara, south of Port Said. From this contingent two different unit postmarks are known:

- 1) Large single ring rubberstamp, 39mm diameter, colour black. (Fig. 21).
- 2) Oval rubberstamp 50x32 mm, colour black. (Fig. 22).

The incoming mail (bearing no stamps) is cancelled at the BPO Naples and also bears an Oslo postmark, a square rubberstamp 25x25 mm, with the inscription OSLO/PORTO/OSLO/BETALT, (Fig. 23) or a similar one 23.5x24 mm, but a machine cancellation with five wavelines at the right of the square. This

machine cancellation shows also the date in two lines in the centre (Fig. 24),

COLOMBIA

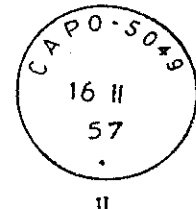
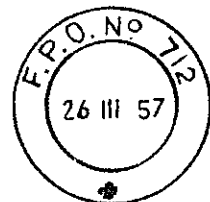
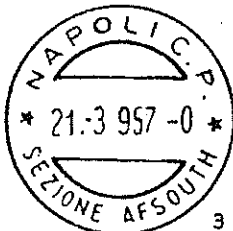
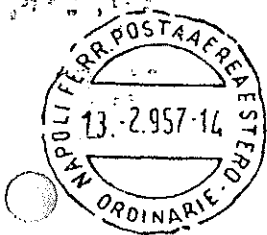
The first 270 men of the Colombian Forces disembarked on December 12th, 1956, at Port Said and took over the Port Faud sector, occupied by French troops. The Colombians have no post office of their own and the mail is sent via the BPO in Naples. From this first contingent I found five different rubber stamps: Small double-ring with the inscription BATTALION No. 2 COLOMBIA in the centre COMANDO, S 1, S 2, S 3 and S 4, diameter 29 / 18 mm, colour violet-blue. (Figs. 25, 26, 27, 28). S means Seccion or Section. The different sections are as follows:

- S 1 Personnel
- S 2 Intelligence
- S 3 Operations
- S 4 Logistic

The Colombian Infantry Battalion includes one HQ Company and two rifle companies. At the moment one company is at the Armistice Demarcation Line and two companies are at Han Yunes in the Gaza Strip. The HQ with all its sections is located at Han Yunes.

YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslavia sent a motorized infantry unit with a total strength of 703 men to Egypt. An advance party of 44 officers and men were flown in four planes from Zemlin Airport on November 16th to Abu Suweir. The main body of 630 men departed on November 24th from Sebenik on board three ships of the Yugoslavia Coastal Service. These ships were the S.S. "Partizanka", "Triglav" and "Celik". The ships reached Port Said on November 30th, 1956. After the disembarkation, the unit advanced in an eastern direction with destination El Arish, which was reached on January 10th, 1957. HQ of the Yugoslavia contingent is El Arish, but a small detachment is also stationed at the Communications Base at El Kantara. A Yugoslavia unit took part in the occupation of Gaza, but was later withdrawn, because they refused to carry out police duties. On April 21st, 1957, another unit of 320 men embarked on board the m/s "Proleterka", another ship of the Yugoslav Coastal Fleet. This unit arrived on April 29th at Port Said and joined the main unit of the Yugoslavia detachment at El Arish. Mail to Yugoslavia is forwarded free of charge and stamped with a straight-line rubberstamp "Postarina placena pauslano", meaning Postage paid in bulk. (Fig. 29). On arrival at Belgrade the mail is cancelled with the ordinary obliterator of this PO and forwarded to the addresses. In Egypt the mail is marked with an undated Army stamp, a circular rubberstamp of 31mm diameter with the inscription "VOJNA POSTA Br. 6000 BEOGRAD", coat-of-arms in the centre, colour blue (-- Army Post No. 6000 Belgrade). (Fig. 30). There exist also covers with a colored cachet, deep blue and ochre. The cachet shows a soldier with a flag of the UN, palms, and a rising sun. Inscription above: ODRED JNA UNEF (Unit of the Yugoslav People's Army UNEF) below: EGIPAT 1956-1957. These covers bear postage free stamp as well as the Army stamp No. 6000, but also another one I have only seen on these covers. This is a small single ring obliterator, of 25mm diameter. Inscription POSTA ODREDA JNA (Post Unit of JNA), below EGIPAT-UNEF, in the centre the year dates 1956-1957, colour black. (Fig. 31). Besides these postmarks, I know of one from the HQ, a large single ring rubberstamp with the bilingual inscription "JUGOSLAVIAN UN CONTINGENT / ODRED JUGOCLAVENSKE NARODNE ARMIJE OUN", coat-of-arms in the centre, diameter 40mm, colour bright violet. (Fig. 32). Note spelling "Jugoslavian". Further, there were some covers found mailed at the Egyptian PO at Al Arish, prepaid with Egyptian stamps, and the large unit stamp (Fig. 32) on the front and back. The Yugoslavs in the same way as other contingents sent also mail via the BPO at Naples. Thus there may be found covers with the large unit stamp - if this one is absent, the



F.P.O. No 712

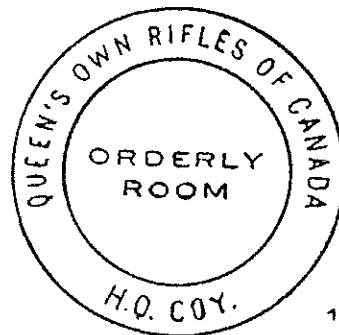
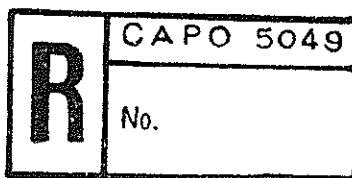
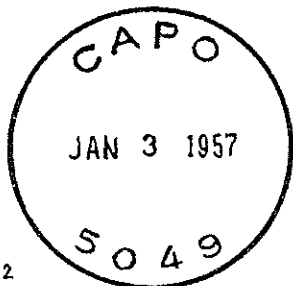
HMCS "MAGNIFICENT" MAIL OFFICE

COMMANDING OFFICER DEC 17 1956 H.M.G.S. MAGNIFICENT

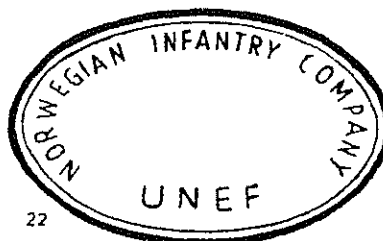
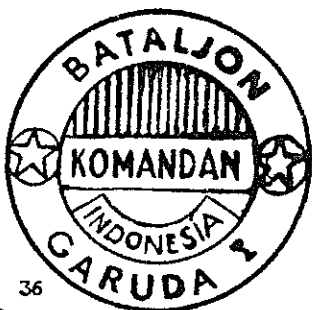
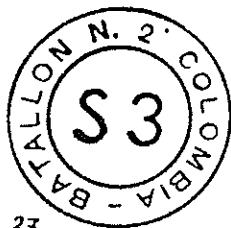
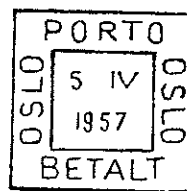
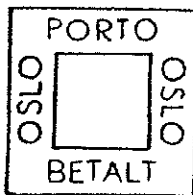
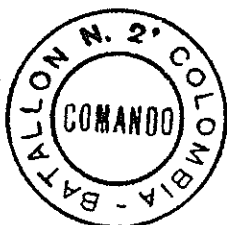
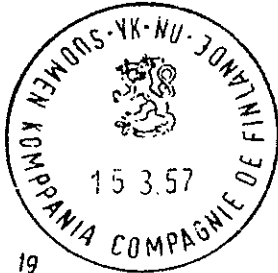


Despatcher 3 Bn The Para Regt (KUMAON)

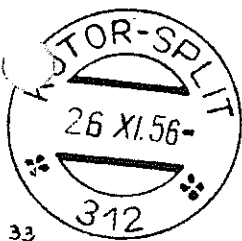
LT OC INPOSTAL UNIT UNEF



No 56 INF. WORKSHOPS RCEME



Postarina placena paušalno



YUGOSLAVIA (Continued)

Covers can be identified by the senders address only. Covers from the passage are also known bearing Yugoslav stamps and cancelled with the board PO obliterator of the "Partizanka". This mail posted on board was forwarded after return to Yugoslavia. The obliterator of the board PO is the normal one of this line with the legend "Kotor-Split 312". (Fig. 33). Dates from November 24-29th, 1956 only. The cachet of the ship can also be found on such covers. Some covers are known where the Yugoslav stamps are cancelled with the unit stamp (Fig. 32). I suppose that this was done by mistake as this postmark is usually not used as an obliterator. Covers from the transit passage to Egypt are rare.

INDONESIA

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, 1956, the first 112 men out of a total of 600 men of the Indonesian Contingent arrived in Egypt. This unit was flown by American planes via Beirut. The rest of the battalion followed about a month later, on January 22nd, 1957. It is interesting to note that the advance party arrived in civilian clothing. This contingent is stationed in the south, on the shores of the Red Sea, but after the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from the Gulf of Aqaba, this unit occupied the coastal strip jointly with the Finns, who occupied Sharam-el-Sheik. As far as I know, the mail goes via the Naples BPO. Two unit postmarks are known to me:

- 1) Double ring with inscription UNITED NATIONS FORCES / INDONESIAN CONTINGENT. Colour red. (Fig. 35).
- 2) A rough double ring rubberstamp, colour blue, about 40/31 mm dia. (Fig. 36).

The postmarks are mostly carelessly applied and good readable items are scarce. The meaning of the word "Garuda" is not known to me, but I suppose it means unit, company or similar. This Unit 1 is stationed at Rafa in the Gaza Strip. Mail to Indonesia is forwarded free of charge to BPO Naples and stamped on arrival with the postmark of the receiving PO in addition to "Porto Dibajar" (Postage Paid). (Fig. 35, 36.).

BRAZIL

Not much is known about the mail services of this contingent. The advance party of 50 officers and men arrived in Egypt at the beginning of January 1957. The rest of the unit followed about two weeks later. The first mail to members of the unit was dispatched from Rio de Janeiro on January 22nd, and was handled as diplomatic mail forwarded by the foreign ministry (total 337 letters). On January 24th this mail was flown by PANAIR to Egypt. The second dispatch followed on January 29th in the same way. On March 28th an Army plane of the Brazilian Air Force took off from Galeao airfield near Rio, and opened the regular postal communications for letters and parcels from and to the Brazilian battalion of UNEF. According to information received from Rio, the incoming mail from Egypt bears no special markings, and it is handed over by the foreign ministry where it is being postmarked and forwarded to the addressees.

U. S. AIR FORCE

In addition to the units of the UNEF, mention must be made of the U.S. Air Force, which operated the airlift in cooperation with chartered civilian planes of Swiss Air and the Canadian Transport Squadron RCAF. The U.S. Air Force operated under the designation "Task Force 322nd Air Division" and was composed of the

- 60th Troop Carrier Wing (From France)
- 317th Troop Carrier Wing (From Germany)
- 465th Troop Carrier Wing (From France) and the
- 7206th Air Transport Squadron (From Greece).

The airlift carried nearly 6000 soldiers of 10 nations from Italy to Egypt since November 1956, and about 850,000 tons of supplies. Mail from these units can only be identified by the sender's addresses, as it is mailed in the ordinary way via the US Army PO in Naples. The postmark is the well known US APO type, single ring rubberstamp, inscribed ARMY-AIR FORCE POSTAL SERVICE APO date and APO No. in four lines in the centre, at right of the circular stamp, four horizontal killer-bars.

MILITARY OBSERVERS

One also has to mention the many military observers sent to Egypt, some of whom are from nations not participating in the UNEF. The mail of these observers can only be identified by the sender's address. Sometimes they make use of the Egyptian postal services, they may send their mail via the BPO at Naples, or through a FPO of one of the contingents.

AIR LETTERS

Special air letters were issued for all the UN Forces by the HQ of the UNEF. Size 93x147 mm, bright blue paper, with dark blue striped border. In the upper left corner three lines

- 1) Name..... Rank....
- 2) Serial No..... Unit.....
- 3) UNEF (Block letters)BPO

Below sender's address AIR LETTER in dark blue sloping letters. On back text in two lines "Message must appear on inner side only. No tape or sticker may be attached / If anything is enclosed, this letter will be sent by ordinary mail."

CONCLUSION

The work of UNEF continues at present. Some contingents may be replaced by units of other nations not yet represented. Thus our record of the UNEF's postal services can never be complete as long as this United Nations force will continue to remain in Egypt, The Sinai Peninsula and in the Gaza Strip. We shall endeavour to record from time to time our findings but also request all readers to cooperate fully in order to unearth all available facts concerning our interesting and many-sided subject.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS (Cont'd)

INFORMATION RECEIVED: MACCO is an abbreviation for Marine Amphibious Corps Company". This was on a cover from Alaska in WW II; Navy No 10124 is at the Navy Net Depot, Floating Dry Dock Training Center, Tiburon, Cal.; No 16024 is the USS General W. G. Haan (AP-158); The Israeli pound on October 3rd was quoted at about \$.56. For further information on foreign exchange write to Carl Marks & Co., 20 Broad Street, NYC 5, N.Y.

ASSOCIATION CANJE INTERNACIONAL FILATELICO

(A.C.I.F.)

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