

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Oct 1948)

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

Military Camps in US During the Spanish American War

NEWS AND COMMENTS

In the August BULLETIN we gave a list of new APO's announced in the POSTAL Bulletin as operating through New York. Collectors who have sent covers to these post offices have had them returned stamped "A.P.O. Discontinued." One collector received along with his covers a note from an Army postal officer stating that these offices had never been opened. Can anyone throw more light on this mystery?

Of the Army Post Offices used by the U. S. Air Force units now located in England only one has been reported: No. 633 which seems to be located at Marham Air Field. Please report other numbers so that we may pass this information on to interested collectors.

Since March of this year a series of monthly articles entitled "British Field Post Offices 1939-1947" has been appearing in the PHILATELIC ADVISER. The authors are Col. G. R. Crouch and our fellow member Norman Hill, the two leading authorities on the subject. They give an accurate description of all postal markings used. Particularly valuable for collectors is the list of Field Post Offices, with locations and dates, that was begun in the August issue

THE WAR COVER CLUB is becoming internationally known. Not only do we now have three British members, but we have received requests for copies of our APO Check List from the Philatelic Museum in Stockholm and from the Imperial War Museum in London. If it were not for currency restrictions and unfavorable exchange rates we should undoubtedly have more foreign members. Even under these conditions it may be possible to arrange for a subscription with our secretary.

Member M. F. Handy reports finding a revalued borderless 6 cent air mail envelope with double overprint and another overprinted on an albino. The editor possesses one of these double overprints and knows of six or seven others. One was sold in a New York auction last spring. The second overprint is found in various positions on the envelope. The albino is the first of which we have heard. Needless to say these are all very desirable covers.

ADDITIONS TO LIST OF MEMBERS

- 167 - Bernard L. Ahman, Jr., 107 E. 32nd St., Baltimore 18, Md. APO, Camp, Naval, Marine, since 12/7/41.
- 279 - Carl D. Bibo, P.O. Box 1374, Santa Fe, N. Mex. One censored cover from each country.
- 275 - Wm. G. Boggs, Jr., Standish Ave., Ayer, Mass. Whole field.
- 277 - Geo. P. Cutress, 19 Hillside Grove, Chelmsford, Essex, England, U.S., Canada, S. & Cent. America, Pacific Is. Area, V-Mail, Airgraphs, Propaganda Leaflets.
- 278 - M. F. Handy, 539 Washington Street, Brighton 35, Mass. French & Fr. Colonies.
- 276 - Wm. K. Russell, 20 South 12th Street, Phila. 7, Pa. WW I & II, Span. Amer.
- 236 - Earl R. Roberts, 2308 Roosevelt Ave., Indianapolis 18, Ind. Censored, APO, Post-war Inflation of WW II.

REMEMBER THE CLUB MEETING IN NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 19th & 20th

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

There is need for a list of the camps, forts, and air fields in the United States and included continental territories that used distinctive postmarks during the Second World War. This is by no means an overwhelming task and it is hoped that some member will undertake to do it. The number of types of postmarks used is not very large. The majority of them were illustrated in the Bulletin for September 1944. A copy of this Bulletin may be obtained from Dr. Perry by anyone wishing to consider the possibility of compiling such a list. There are some rather large collections of covers against which such a list may be checked. Probably the most practical way to arrange such a list is alphabetically by states and territories, with the type numbers of the postmarks used appearing after the name of each camp, fort, and air field.

The covers discussed in the preceding paragraph are not collected nearly as widely as they should be. As stated elsewhere in this issue, it is exceedingly difficult to form anything like a representative collection of "camp" covers of earlier U. S. wars. In a few years the same situation will apply in lesser degree to the recent war. Many collectors are not aware of the interesting items to be found among such covers. At almost every one of these camps, forts, and air fields envelopes with printed corner cards were available, though in some cases they do not seem to have been very widely used. Other envelopes may have illustrated corner cards or bear the designation of distinctive units or be embellished by the addition of service emblems, divisional ensignia, and so on. Then there are a few out and out illustrated covers. Some of these are even now quite scarce. Special first-day covers exist. How much more interesting to have a collection with as many of the above-described markings as possible instead of just the common unadorned ones! Then to round out the collection there are the hard-to-get registered covers and in many cases the even harder-to-get handstamped postmarks to supplement the usual machine cancellations. Even censor marks may be found on mail from troops about to go overseas from staging areas in Camps Stoneman, Shanks, Miles Standish, and in New Orleans. One can if he wishes, add a little color to his collection by means of money order forms or receipts bearing the camp M.O.B. stamp.

A few specific covers may be cited as examples of the kind of interesting material to be found in this field of collecting. The paratroops in training at Fort Benning used half a dozen kinds of special envelopes. One of these has imprinted over the entire lower half of the front a picture of a landing with parachutes. A signal pigeon company at Fort Bragg has a pigeon on its envelopes. A photograph of Camp Shelby covers the entire front of an envelope used there. A cover from Keesler Field bears a small picture of a plane in flight over the field. Twenty years from now, perhaps sooner, collectors will be paying fancy prices for such covers at auctions. Why not try to obtain them now while the cost is small!

MILITARY CAMPS IN THE U. S. DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

by Eugene P. Cummings

Camp covers from all U. S. Wars, beginning with the Civil War, have received far less attention from collectors than they deserve. This fact may be explained in part by the relative scarcity of many of these covers. Probably the least interest has been shown in the camp covers of the Spanish-American War. These are all scarce. From some camps only two or three covers are known; from others none have been seen. The commonest seem to be those from the camp at Chickamauga National Park. Only three camp postmarks have so far been discovered: Chickamauga National Park; Military Station, Middletown, Pa.; and Military Station, Lexington, Ky.

There has never been any list of Spanish-American camps available to aid collectors. The list given below attempts to meet that need. It is not guaranteed to be complete, but it is nearly so.

CAMP ALGER. Near Falls Church, Va. Second Army Corps arrived here in July 1898. Camp was soon abandoned for a new site near Middletown, Pa.

CAMP AMELIA. Fernandina, Florida. Named for Amelia Island on the northern part of which it was located near the light house reservation just outside Fernandina. Port of embarkation for troops sent to Ponce, Puerto Rico.

CAMP BARRETT. Oakland, California, in what is now the Melrose Section of the city.

CAMP BLACK. Hempstead Plains, Long Island, N. Y.

CAMP COPPINGER. Mobile, Ala. Located in suburb of Crichton.

CAMP CUBA LIBRE. Jacksonville, Florida. Located on area between Liberty and Phelps Streets and Main and Sixty-sixth Streets. Occupied by Seventh Army Corps. There was a convalescent hospital for sick soldiers from this camp located at the northeast corner of First Street and Pablo Avenue, Jacksonville Beach.

CAMP DE SOTO. Tampa, Florida.

CAMP DEWEY. Manila, P. I. Located in suburb of Malate.

CAMP HAMILTON. Near Lexington, Ky.

CAMP JOHNSTON. Mobile, Ala. Located at Frascati where G. M. & N. railway yards are. Apparently a veteran and national guard camp used by the Mobile Cadets when first sworn in.

CAMP LONG. Portsmouth, N. H.

CAMP GEORGE G. MEADE. Near Middletown, Pa.

CAMP MERRITT. San Francisco, Calif. On edge of Golden Gate Park.

CAMP POLAND. Knoxville, Tenn.

CAMP SHIPP. Anniston, Ala.

CAMP STEVENS. Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS, Chickamauga National Park, Tenn. Covers known with return address reading Chickamauga National Park; Lytel, Georgia; Chickamauga Nat'l. Park Postal Station. Towns of Chickamauga, Chickamauga Hills, Lytel Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tenn. all within a radius of ten miles.

CAMP WHEELER. Huntsville, Ala.

CAMP WHEELER. Miami, Florida. It seems to be a fact that there were two Camp Wheelers.

DONATION AUCTION FOR THE BENEFIT
OF THE WAR COVER CLUB. BIDS CLOSE AT 12 NOON NOVEMBER 15, 1948.

Usual Auction Rules will prevail.

Bid liberally, as all money above actual expenses will go into the treasury of the War Cover Club. Practically all covers offered are fine or better. All covers are from W.W. II, unless otherwise specified.

Lot

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|--|-------|
| 1.13 Commercial Censored Covers from 10 countries, W.W.I | ----- |
| 2.W.W.I. P.O.W. special registered Red Cross cover from Tientsin to German prisoner in Siberia with Russian offices in China stamps 52, 53, 59, V.F. | ----- |
| 3.Same as above with stamps 52, 53, 55 | ----- |
| 4.Ditto, with block of four 32 | ----- |
| 5.8 v.f.A.E.F. covers, SW1, 702,713,734,746,750 | ----- |
| 6.2 covers, 1 returned marked "K.I.A. verified, statistical division A.E.F. "2.Canadian soldier from England to the U.S. marked "Postage due". | ----- |
| 7.3 A.E.F. covers, corner cards of J.W.B. Central Hotel, Nantes, Y.M.C.A., latter with fair strike "U.S.Army Postal Service M.O.B. October 12, 1917" | ----- |
| 8.Good cover, U.S. Postal Agency Siberia, A.E.F. censored. | ----- |
| 9.Ditto, except Y.M.C.A. envelope, small type A.E.F. censor.(14) | ----- |
| 10.Fine Y.M.C.A. A.E.F. Siberian cover, censored. | ----- |
| 11.Very good long Siberian A.E.F. Cover, 2¢ U.S.Stamp | ----- |
| 12.Very fine Siberian A.E.F. cover and cancel, blue censor. | ----- |
| 13.2 covers--Civil War letter, 3¢ '65 tied Washington D.C. Cover with Mexican Stamp tied Vera Cruz, Mex. U.S. MAG 1914 | ----- |
| 14.12 Fine A.E.F. covers, diff. A.P.O.'s and types. | ----- |
| 15.3 cards and cover. One safe arrival overseas card, two safe return cards, one French P.O.W. letter, Zeist, Holland to U.S. | ----- |
| 16.3 Fine Boer War Covers of 1900, two with stamps and one soldier's with Army Field P.O., S. Africa cancel. | ----- |
| 17. 26 A.E.F. covers, poor to fine, honor envelopes, various corner cards, etc. | ----- |
| 18. 6 good to very fine W.W.I. soldiers letters and cards, 2 Italian, 2 French, 2 Belgian. | ----- |
| 19.9 Fine cens. commercials W.W.I. including Samoa with #117 | ----- |
| 20. 16 W.W.I. cards and covers with British Army cancels, some used by Americans, poor to fine | ----- |
| 21.6 diff. camp cancels W.W.I. & 10 A.P.O.'s W.W.II,f to v.f. | ----- |
| 22.28 fine commercial covers, diff. countries, W.W.II | ----- |
| 23.10 Patriotics, f to v.f., 7 with A.P.O. cancels, 1 Naval | ----- |
| 24. 3 V.Mail pictorals W.W.II, 2 honor envs. W.W.I. one unlisted. | ----- |
| 25.15 A.P.O.'s W.W.II, including 3 revalued envelopes. | ----- |
| 26.Mint 2¢ Bi-cent envelope, overprinted, Air 6¢ Mail | ----- |
| 27. 4 fine honor envs. W.W.II, 2 types, from A.P.O. 2,140,508. | ----- |
| 28. 10 f.war ballot envs. 5 Penna. 3 Iowa, 1 Federal to Texas & Ohio. | ----- |
| 29. 30 A.P.O.'s between 29 and 871 | ----- |
| 30. 23 A.P.O's " 5 and 574A | ----- |
| 31. 23 " " 569 and 980, including 574A | ----- |
| 32. 11 Patriotics with camp and A.P.O. cancels ('41-'45) including 809 and 810 | ----- |
| 33.15 Patriotics, town cancels, several in color, including Greenhurst, N. Y. blue V | ----- |

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34. 30 A.P.O.'s between 133 and 872 -----
35. 30 " " 4 and 700 -----
36. 30 " " 5 and 914 -----
37. One V Mail Christmas greeting, one A.P.O. 86, located on
Iwo Jima, tying 3¢ U.S. Iwo Jima stamp. -----
38. 4 P.O.W's, 1. Camp 94 France 2. Camp McClean, Texas.
3 Ger. P.O.W. in Russia. 4. Belgrad, Camp 3. -----
39. 3 U.S.P.O.W's. in Germany to the U.S., one Ger. P.O.W. Camp
McClean, Texas, U.S. Censor. -----
40. Cover to Military Internee in Eire, with Eire Mil.Cens Stamp
V.F. and scarce, only 13 Mil. Int. in Eire. -----
41. Nederlandish Veldpost, cancelled Royal Dutch Brigade P. O.
and cens. cover from St. P and M. -----
42. One Navy cover with Rear Admiral autograph, one A.P.O. cover
with Maj.-Gen. autograph, 2 Phil. Victory cards, one used. -----
43. 3 covers, one with 5th. Army off printed cachet from A.P.O. 464
also A.P.O. 541 and 538 on patriotics. -----
44. One Off. 5th. Army cover, A.P.O. 464, one courier cover from Hq.
RAAF in Canada to Australia, scarce. -----
45. 21 commercial cens. covers from 15 countries, desirable. -----
46. 13 A.P.O.'s between 45 and 884, plus B.P.O. 1,2,4,7,11,
including 574A -----
47. 7 cards and covers from Germany, French Zone and Czech.
stamps with special cancels. -----
- 48.2 Jap cards, one good and one v.f., picked up on Kiski Is. by
landing party, cancelled and cens. by U.S. Navy -----
- 49.6 covers, 2 camps W.W.I., 4 A.P.O.'s W.W.II. 574A,809,805,803A. -----
50. Cover with 5¢ U.S. Czech. occupied nation stamp, cancelled from
A.P.O. 412 in Czech., ditto 5¢ French stamp, canc. A.P.O. 700
in Algeria. -----
51. Two fine and rare covers, one plain, one patriotic, from
Mexican Border Patrol 1916, canc. Brownsville, Texas. -----
52. 25 comm. cens. covers from diff. countries. -----
53. 7 covers--1. unused Br. Air Letter Sheet, 6 comm. cens.
including one from Hong Kong with #177, cat. \$2.25. -----
54. 4 Soldier's mail, A.P.O. 121A, 182 Br. 592 V.J. Day,
combined cancel 6BPO and APO 460. -----
55. 12 A.P.O.'s between 627 and 698. -----
56. 45 covers, APO's, Navals, Camps. etc. -----
57. 45 " " " " " -----
58. 22 A.P.O.'s and B.P.O's. on borderless 6¢ envs. -----
59. 22 as above. -----
- 60.45 covers, camps, fields, etc. -----
61. Mystery lot of 65 covers. -----
62. V.F.W.W.I. P.O. W coverstamped "Service of Prisoner of War
Canc. Belgaum & Ahmednagar -----Colonel
India. Supt.Civil Camp, Belgaum" -----
63. Fine WW I POW cover from Amherst, Canada.
Stamped, "Passed by Internment Censor, Amherst N.S." -----
64. V.F.W.W. I POW cover Hong Kong cancel stamped "Letters
Prisoner of War, Free under Convention "Hong Kong Censor. -----
65. W.W.I. V.F. POW cover with Field P.O. cancel from Sidi
Bishr Camp, Egypt. Stamped, "P.O.W. Central Censorship Bureau" -----
66. V.F.W.W.I. P.O.W. card from German P.O.W. interned in Switzerland,
cancelled AROS, with various handstamps. -----

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67. 10 F-V.F. Penalty Envs. A.P.O.'s 3,4,21,80,413,472,500,
517,522,887, one from Hq. U.S. Strategic Air F's. Europe -----
68. 15 good to V.F. APO's, including 1st. day of APO 967 -----
69. 36 good to V.F. APO's to 967. Interesting types with and
without APO # in the cancel. -----
70. 4 V.F. covers. APO 244 tying 3¢ Corregidor, 303 on patriotic,
New York, APO 865 Br. "3¢ steamship, cover cancelled
San Francisco, Calif. Army Base Forces Br. APO 920, MOB. -----
71. 15 Civilian Censored covers W.W. 11 inc. Argentine Consulate mail,
Malaya & unusual censor strike Palestine -----
72. 7 Naval covers War 11 (2 U.S. rest Canadian inc. 1 Maritime and 2
return address Can. 5 different listed service organizations. -----
73. 10 Army War 11 covers. (1 return to sender w/ many strikes, 8 APO,
1 "Idle gossip sinks ships" in red. -----
74. 1 German letter sheet censored Luftfeldpost stamp in blue. -----