

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Oct 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>

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*VR24 - 6th Fleet's Aerial Supply Link (Morocco) (WWII)*

*Our Spanish Bases (1950s)*

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

October 1957



Whole No. 7

Our Sec-Treas., Isadore Willinger is happy these days what with all the new members joining up. Let's start off the bulletin with our membership report:

New Members

- #373 Edwin T. BOWDEN, 3206 Bridle Path, Austin 3, Texas  
 Collects Civilian Censored covers of WW II.
- #374 Louise Clemencon, A.I. 2, 36 Monroe St., New York 2, N.Y.  
 Collects France and Colonies, French Military Cancellations.
- #375 Stanley C. Jersey, 631 N. Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Illinois.  
 Collects Postal History and covers British Solomon Islands, Gilbert & Ellice Islands and Australia.
- #376 R. Adm. L. A. Bachman, U.S.N. (Ret.) Rt. 1, Box 198, Vienna, Virginia.  
 Collects all covers dealing with all wars and revolutions which have taken place in the South and Central American Countries.
- #377 George Havlik, 2336 So. Central Ave., Cicero 50, Illinois.  
 Collects Czecho-Slovakia, Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Also APO's of WW II from those countries.
- #378 Doane, Ernest M., 26 Myrtle Ave., Lynn, Mass.  
 Collects Army, Naval, Censored, POW, Worldwide & US.
- #379 Becker, Joseph A., 128-42 150th St., So. Ozone Park 36, N.Y.
- #380 Schelcher, Eugene W., 117-28 169th St., Jamaica 34, N.Y.  
 Collects Navy covers and cancellations.
- #381 Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., Hotel La Salle, 10 No. La Salle St., Room 216  
 Chicago 2, Illinois. Collects Newfoundland, Labrador, Alaska.

Change of Address

- William A. Haarstad, 710 East Walnut St., Santa Ana, Calif.
- Richard M. Major, 7995 Army Unit, APO 407, New York, N.Y.
- Raymond Milling, c/o Y. Nohara, 218-3-Chome, Koenji, Suginamiku, Tokyo, Japan.  
 or, Pacific Stars and Stripes, APO 500, c/o PM, San Francisco, Calif.

Moved, Left no Address

- #304 C. W. Spain, 3301 Wiscasset Rd., Dearborn, Mich. was the last known address. Can some member help our Sec-Treas. out?

"NAVAL POSTMARKS 1908-1928 WANTED."

Cdr. H. F. Rommel, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

Above is the ad I have been running for several years in the American Philatelist. Yet it recently occurred to me that the two finest collections I have bought have been thru the WCC Bulletin -- in one case from an ad of mine, and in another from an ad I answered. Let me hear from you. I have some to trade, too.

FLIGHT OF IDEAS

Info needed on U.N. Blockading and Escort Force, T.F. 95, Korean War.

Word from the North indicates that APO 858, New York, N.Y. ceased operations on July 9, 1957. Mail to the long established Greenland base must now be addressed as follows: Unit 1, APO 864, New York, N.Y. The change may bring about a new mail cancellation.

Covers from DEW-LINE Resupply ships reaching the States indicate that cachets were impressed on "Project 572-West" vessels only, this season. With slight variations, cachets picture a polar bear on a cake of ice. A second large group carries a distinctive Military Sea Transportation Service "ship cachet", all viewed from Navy, Coast Guard and merchant vessels carried commonly agreed on wording, "1957 Arctic Operation."

An Associated Press release August 13 from Fairbanks, Alaska, in an interview with Brig. General Stanley Wray, Chief of the U.S Air Force Electronic Defense System, discloses that the 3000 mile long chain of radar stations guarding North America's northern rim, has operated in test for months and already shown 100% capability. The statement was made at a formal ceremony marking formal delivery of Dewline by the builders, Western Electric Co., to the government. The dispatch also stated that 600 civilian employees of the Federal Electric Corporation man the continent spanning Dewline stations. With that fact disclosed can collectors expect special mail cancellations.

WWI Navy Censor Mark..Cdr. Rommel wonders if anyone has the whole story on the circular "Passed by Censor USN" mark used during WWI. There is an identifying number beneath an anchor in the center. This was started to be fully written up in an old WCC Bulletin years ago. It seems to your Editor that some ship names were mentioned. Jim Russell was working on it at the time.

Richard M. Major, 7995 Army Unit, APO 407, New York, N.Y. will service embossed 6¢ A.M. Fipex covers at APO 108, (Munich), 757 at Frankfurt or at 403 in Heidelberg for members. Please send three 3¢ commems or two of the 4¢ Flags. Dick is looking for Austrian Naval covers. He has a two volume history of the K u K navy in WWI. He will buy or swap for almost anything of this sort. Dick also sends word that map envelopes are still showing up over there. Send postage if you are interested. Continuing the "MUNICH REPORT", Dick mentions a nice item he picked up recently. It was from the Austrian cruiser "Kaiserin und Konigen Maria Theresia" from China during the Boxer insurrection. Sender is "Midshipman Georg Ritter von Trapp" later captain of the Austrian submarine U-5, which sank the French cruiser "Leon Gambetta" in 1915, and the father of the now famous Trapp family.

A rubber stamp marking has been noticed on covers from APO 225. Marking is in a box 2-3/4 by 3/4 reading "THE U.S. ARMY / A KEY TO PEACE."

Where is Barakoma Airfield? I have a last day cancellation dated 2 July 57

Admiral Bachmann is looking for philatelic articles and covers on any of the wars in the South American countries. Here is a chance for all of us to pool all our info and get these little wars cleared up. For instance, there is the War of the Pacific 1879-1883 between Chile and Peru; the Chaco War (Bolivia-Paraguay 1930-1937) and the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917.

S. C. Jersey writes and sends info on C.B. batt. in British Solomons.

We have US Army troops with the Topographic Unit, Amer. Far East Forces in Kavieng, since Sept. 1956. They, with 40 Australians will do a ship-to-shore survey of New Ireland. Lt. Clark Hawkins and Cpl. Arthur Pitts, with other Americans, have a small ship and equipment. They expect to be on New Ireland until about Oct. 1957. (Item from Pacific Island Monthly.)

Helen R. Fairbanks, Bureau Historian, Bureau of Yards and Docks, made out C.B. locations list.

Aug. 1957 USCS mentions a Belgium Nautical Research Assoc. Write to Paul E. R. Scarceriaux, 21, Avenue Charbo, Bruxelles 4, Belgium.

Aviation Photo Exchange, P.O. Box 75084, Los Angeles 5, Calif., has a free catalog of photos of US Navy ships.

W. A. Haarstad, 710 E. Walnut St., Santa Ana, Calif., wants to know if anyone has info regarding the type of mail service provided for the Doenitz government in Germany during the period May 1 to 23, 1945.

Carl Lemponen is coming along fast since his operation. Picked up an Australian WW I showing Austrian Military markings, an AMG used in Germany and Finnish occupation of Karelia. Carl has side collections of used foreign blocks, postal history and post office viewcards.

Thanks for the covers: Milling, Russell, Cippoli, Major, Miller, Whitman, Willinger and Adm. Backman.

Who has an article on Gough Island, South Atlantic, and Tristan Da Cunha recent activities? Around last May.

Ran across an article on John Charles Fremont, the soldier of misfortune who worked with the Topographical Corps in the mid 1800's and rose up to run for President of the U.S. I will put this article with a cover I have mailed in 1856 with his picture on cover. These were put out as political advertising. I picked this cover up long ago with some Civil War Patriotics but find it is more valuable than that.

Weather ships are named Station A, Station B, etc. They are all US Coast Guard vessels with personnel aboard from the US Weather Bureau. (No ship P.O.) Radar Station picket ships are US Navy..are usually converted merchant vessels..but are given Navy names and usually have post office aboard.

The USCGC Stortis finally found the Northwest passage along with some other DEWLINE ships.

APO 862 has a PB meter. Number 335965.

Who has covers from the British troops in Oman? I sent for some, but they must have got lost in the hills...or are there hills in Oman?

Costa Rica is putting out a series of stamps which recalls the 1856 war against the filibusterer William Walker. Just ran across a pocket book with the life of William Walker in it.

Short article on the Boers of So. Africa in August COVERS. Also article about U.S.--Orange Free State Patriotic cover used by the Boer Relief Fund. Also an article on Spanish American War Covers.

On 21 May 1951, the first H bomb was dropped from a US airplane in the vicinity of Namur Island in Bikini Atoll, according to R. P. Alexander.

Deepfreeze II of 1956-57 did not have the following ships with them as previously reported: Sgt. Truman Kimbro and Pvt. Joseph F. Merrell. In DEW LINE Supply ALAMO and PRESERVER did not participate.

Col. Tuttle, 7075 Neptune Place, LaJola, Calif., is anxious to secure a cover of the AVG or Flying Tigers from China before May 1942 when they started using APO 879.

Notes from A. L. Tripp: APO 187 used at Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Is. during H Bomb Tests, covers seen with 187 cancel dated from Feb. to July 1956. Parry Island, a nearby small island was assigned APO 435, and other covers noted with 436 and 437 in the RAs cancelled 187 indicate covers perhaps from Hawaiian units based there during the tests. No doubt 187 had need of many unit numbers for various groups connected with the tests. An LST was used to bring supplies from the Gilberts to Eniwetok; this would indicate a supply base at Tarawa, 187 Box 10. 187-1 is noted in the RA of one cover. CAN ANYONE SUPPLY OTHERS?? (LST 306 of MSTs put into TARAWA 1956)

Orders to remove the APO number from the cancels issued July 1, 1942. Orders to restore the APO number to the cancels issued about March 15, 1943. First number to reappear: APO 887, Mar. 17, 1943. It was almost at the end of July '42 before the last APO was taken out. WW II FREE mail approved by FDR Mar. 22, '42. 5 days later put in operation. Discontinued Jan. 1, 1948.

Stamp Collecting of Feb 22, 1957 has two fine articles. OPERATION MUSKETEER, notes on Field Post Offices used in the recent Campaign in Egypt, by D. G. Rayner, and A PIECE OF GILBERTS POSTAL HISTORY, APO 187, PO Box 10 of 1956, by S. C. Jersey, a recent new member to WCC.

When Sol Whitman was up to the summer meeting of WCC at my house, he reported as follows: We have an Israel Military sheet used recently during the fighting in the Sinai & Gaza. This sheet has been PRIVATELY printed by the American-Israeli Paper Mills Ltd. of Hadera. The entire sheet including the parallelograms is in dark blue. At the upper left are the Hebrew words "On Active Service". In the upper right corner is the Defense Forces insignia. Cancelled in Ber Toviya, Gaza, on March 4th this sheet has on the face a military triangular censor marking in purple #1217. On the back is another Military censor label printed in red, measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x 4 inches. Pierson Ostrow reports that 250,000 sheets have been printed, and after the campaign was over, the remainders were gathered in by the army and destroyed.

WANTED COVERS FROM THE U.S.S. AVOCET, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
EXPEDITION FROM MAY 12th UNTIL JUNE 8th 1937, WHILE IN THE  
AREA. WANTED APO 240, 242 967.  
S. C. JERSEY 631 N. KENILWORTH AVE., OAK PARK, ILLINOIS.

U.S.C.G. LORAN STATIONS  
 -----  
 Ralph A. Miller (WCC 358)

Apparently a bit of mystery surrounds the name LORAN STATION. This has prompted speculation that the stations, which are generally located in more or less remote spots facing the ocean, are some new type of top secret government installation. But that is not true.

The U. S. Coast Guard operate the transmitting stations as shore station navigational aids. And LORAN means "Long Range Aid Navigation". A small staff of technical men usually headed by a Lieutenant, or Lt. (j.g.) man each station.

Few are near established settlements or possess individual post offices, yet fact suggests some sub-office status. However, locations and mailing addresses are not officially publicized. So-called "mail service" is irregular.

Six operate in Alaska, and there are stations in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Greenland, the Western Caroline Islands, Wake and such widely separated locations as French Frigate Shoals in the Pacific (Near Hawaii), and far north: Cape Chriotian, Baffin Island, Canada's Northwest Territory.

Canada has it's Spring Island Loran Station at KYUQUOT, British Columbia and search (and research) may turn up more. All mentioned have an appeal to the "Corner Card" collector.

The old theory that any office important enough to send reports will possess an official hand stamp holds true to Loran stations. Despite long trips and equally long waits, collectors fortunate enough to have had covers serviced, all have experienced rewarding returns.

Bush points out in his "Modern Arms and Free Men" that complex navigating systems for aircraft were developed. The long-range Loran system for this purpose, using reflection from the ionosphere, covered the oceans. In this system, simultaneous pulses of radiation were issued from three or more stations, and their time of arrival at plane or ship were compared by a suitable cathode-ray device, yielding the position rapidly, and within a mile or two. #121 Loran Officer at Danish base, Nipisat.

IBERIA CULTURAL FILATELICA IS A SPANISH INTERNATIONAL  
 SOCIETY OF EXCHANGE AND CORRESPONDENCE. AGENT IN USA IS  
 MRS. GERTRUDE SCHUPMANN, 1341 E. LAKE AVE, GLENVIEW, ILL.

WANTED - COVERS FROM WEST INDIES, BRITISH COLONIES and OTHERS, LATIN AMERICA, US APO's, N. GUINEA, SOLOMONS, GILBERTS & ELICE.

BILL CIPPOLI, TILSON, N.Y.

- W A N T E D -

U.S. MARINE COVERS - FROM 1775 to PRESENT TIME. KOREAN WAR COVERS.

APO 1 - ALL WW2 DATES. NAVY C.B. COVERS OF ALL KINDS.

KEVIN P. ROGAN, 2 WILLIAM ST. NAPANOCH, N.Y.

OPERATION DEEPFREEZE III.

Ralph A. Miller

G. L. Ketchum, Captain, U.S.N., of the office "U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica", Washington, D.C., has kindly released the list of ships participating in Operation Deepfreeze III, and dates of departures for Antarctic waters, listed in the table below. This schedule is based upon current operational plans and is subject to last minute changes. There are no facilities for canceling mail on those ships marked with an asterisk (\*).

SHIP	MAILING ADDRESS c/o	DEPARTURE DATE
BROUGH (DE-148)	FPO, New York	26 Aug. 57
GLACIER (AGB-4)	FPO, New York	23 Sept. 57
BURTON ISLAND (AGB-1)	FPO, San Francisco	1 Nov. 57
WYANDOT (AKA-92)	FPO, New York	27 Nov. 57
*NESPELEN (ACG-55)	FPO, New York	12 Nov. 57
ATKA (AGB-3)	FPO, San Francisco	18 Nov. 57
*PVT. JOHN R. TOWLE	FPO, New York	20 Nov. 57
*GREENVILLE VICTORY	FPO, New York	21 Nov. 57
WEST WIND (WAGB-281)	FPO, New York	27 Nov. 57
ARNEB (AKA-56)	FPO, New York	2 Dec. 57

All ships should be covered for their individual cachets. Philatelic mail will be returned in Spring of 1958.

MERCHANT MARINE NOTES

Only 11 years after the MAYFLOWER arrived at Plymouth, a ship twice her size was built by the Puritans in Salem. By 1776 our Merchant fleet consisted of over 1000 vessels. The first ship built in this country was the VIRGINIA, "A faire pinnace" of 30 tons, constructed by Capt. George Popham's colonists at the mouth of the Kennebec, Maine.

New Merchant Marine Book..Felix Reisenberg, Jr., has written a new book on the Merchant Marine in the War. Entitled SEA WAR, it is published by Rinehart.

In Feb. 1942 the QUEEN MARY left Boston with 14000 Americans for a 42 day voyage to Australia.

The MAUI left Australia in the spring of 1943 returning wounded soldiers and airmen.

The LEVIATHAN, one of America's most illustrious passenger liners, was long regarded as the world's largest ship. She was seized from Germany upon this country's entry into WW1, when our merchant marine had virtually no deep-sea passenger ships. Her service as a troopship made her world-renowned.

FAMOUS AMERICAN SHIPS by Frank O. Braynard. Published by Hastings House, New York, tells the history of America as told through the lives and adventures of 60 historic vessels, from Viking longboat to the superliner UNITED STATES.

## POSTMARKS OF U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS

<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Type 9</u> <u>reads</u>	<u>Rptr.</u>	<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Type 9</u> <u>reads</u>	<u>Rptr.</u>
1	10678 ?	A	42	42nd	C I
2			43	43rd	C I
3			44	44th	B I
4	Bremerton, Wash. T2 '42 Seattle, Wash. T9 '43 New York, NY 13820 2.9.		45	8240	C
5	5th	B I	46	46th	B I
6	8035	C	47	8250	D
7	8040	C	48	8255	C
8	6th	B I	49	8260	C
9	7th	B I	50		
10	8045 ?		51	51st	C
11	8th	C D I	52	52nd	B I
12	9th	B I	53	8310	C
13	11th	B I	54	8315	C
14	13798	E	55	55th	C I
15	12th	B I	56	8325	C
16	8070	D	57	57th	B I
17	13th	C D I	58	8335	C
18	14th	C I	59		
19	15th	B I	60	60th	C I
20	16th	B I	61	61st	C I
20-1	8090	C	62	62nd	B I
21	17th	B I	63	63rd	C I
22	18th	C D I	64	8365	C
23	& Error	L I	65	UUU Br. 10890 ?	? I
24	19th	B I	66	66th	B I
25	20th	C D I	67	10993	C
26	8110	D	68		
27	20th U 1	C D I	69	69th	C I
28	21st	C D I	70	70th	C I
29	21st U 1	B I	71		
30	22nd	B I	72	10997	C
31	23rd	C I	73	73rd	C I D
32	24th	C I	74	type 2	A
33	25th	C I	75	75th	C I D
34	26th	C B D I		13792 ?	F
35	27th	C I		10991 ?	G
36	28th	C I	76	10998	D H
37	28th U 1	C	77	78th	C I D
38	29th	C D I	78		
39	30th	C I	79	10999	C
40	31st	B I	80	10834	B
41	32nd	B I	81	82nd	C I D
	33rd	B I	82		
	34th	B I	83	84th	C I D
	35th	B I	84	10978	C
	13813		85	10970	C
	36th	C I	86		
	37th	C I	87	10984	C
	38th	C I	88	10979	C
	13815		89	10988	H
	39th	B I	90	10996	C
	13793		91	10904	C
	40th	B I	92	10893	C
	41st	C I	93		
	8220 ?	?	94	10871	C
			95	10894	C (2 & 9)
			96		



<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Type 9</u> <u>Reads</u>	<u>Rptr.</u>
97 (Sec.1)	10860	C
97 (Sec.2)	10783	C
98		
99		
100	10851	C
101	10807	C
102	10805	C
103	10806	C
104	10815	C
105	10804	C
106 (Sec.4)		
106 (Sec.)	10825	C
107	10788	C
108	10783	C
109	10786	C
110		
111		
112		
113	10776	H
114	10782	C
115	10781	C
116	10747	C
117	10731	C
118	10749	H
119	10751 ?	A
120		
121	10700	C
122	10739	C
123	10752	H
124		
125	10740	H
126	10734	C
127		
128	13914	C
129	10727	C
130	10736	H131
131		
132		
133		
134	13977	C
135	10705	C
136	10702	C
137	13838	C
138	10778	C
139	13860	C
140	10620	
141	10665	C
142	10624	C
143	13854	C
144		
145		
146	13834 ?	A
147	13852	C
301	10561	C
302	10452	C

SPECIAL BATTALIONS

<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Type 9</u> <u>Reads</u>	<u>Rptr.</u>
1	8525	C
2	8530	C
3	10990	C
4	10985	C
5	10971	C
6		
7	10924	C
8	10911	C
9	10905	?
10	10744	C
11	10869	H
12	10913	C
13	10826?	A
14	10814	C
15		
16	10753	C
17		
18	10678	C
19 (Sec.1)		
19 (Sec.2)	13981	C
20		
21	10789	C
22	10750	C
23	10787	H
24		
25	10708	C
26	10678	C
	10676	?
27		
28		
29	10560	C
30		
31		
32		
33	13986	C
34		
35	13952	C
36	13840	C
37	13839	C
38		
39		
40		
41		
45th N.C.Reg.	13828	B
RPTR. (Reporters)		
A. Ralph Freiberg		
B. Rowland Gill		
C. James Russell		
D. Anthony Fernandez		
E. "Buddy"		
F. Dr. Satterlee		
G. Steve Sedlock		
H. Schell		
I. John Gill		

Canton Islands (Phoenix)

5 N.C.B.  
 10 N.C.B.  
 99 N.C.B. Det-Apr. 43  
 588 N.C.B. June 1944 - July 1945

Funifuti Island (Elice)

3 N.C.B. Co. "C" - April 1943  
 2 N.C.B. Det. of 2 officers & 120 men - 2 Oct. 1942.  
 517 C.B.M.U. 30 Dec. 1943.  
 506 C.B.M.U. Det. 3 officers & 125 men - Sept. 1944

Tarawa (Gilbert Islands)

16 N.C.B.  
 18 N.C.B.  
 74 N.C.B.  
 98 N.C.B.  
 116 N.C.B.  
 14 N.C.B. SPECIAL  
 549 C.B.M.U.  
 577 C.B.M.U.  
 607 C.B.M.U.

Guadalcanal

6 N.C.B. Cos. A&D - Arr. 1 Sept. 42	77 N.C.B.
7 N.C.B.	82 N.C.B.
14 N.C.B. Arr. Nov. & Dec. 42.	88 N.C.B.
15 N.C.B.	1 N.C.B. SPECIAL
18 N.C.B.	2 N.C.B. SPECIAL
24 N.C.B.	4 N.C.B. SPECIAL
25 N.C.B.	6 N.C.B. SPECIAL
26 N.C.B. Arr. Nov. & Dec. 1942.	9 N.C.B. SPECIAL
27 N.C.B.	11 N.C.B. SPECIAL
33 N.C.B.	18 N.C. Regiment
34 N.C.B. Det. of 260 men - Mar. 43	22 N.C. Regiment
37 N.C.B.	44 N.C. Regiment
46 N.C.B.	501 C.B.M.U. Arrived March 1943.
47 N.C.B.	515 C.B.M.U.
53 N.C.B.	518 C.B.M.U. )
58 N.C.B.	520 C.B.M.U. ) Arrived early
61 N.C.B.	533 C.B.M.U. ) months of 1944.
63 N.C.B. 14 officers, 650 men. arrived 11 June 1943	532 C.B.M.U. )
	531 C.B.M.U.
71 N.C.B.	1016 C.B. Detachment
73 N.C.B.	1056 C.B. Detachment
75 N.C.B.	1068 C.B. Detachment

Munda (New Georgia)

24 N.C.B. Arrived 15 August 1943.  
 47 N.C.B.  
 73 N.C.B.  
 82 N.C.B.  
 561 C.B.M.U.  
 568 C.B.M.U.  
 580 C.B.M.U.

Rendova

24 N.C.B. 1st Echelon arrived 30 June 1943  
 Entire Battalion there by 1 August 1943.

Treasury Island

82 N.C.B. Arrived Dec. 1943  
87 N.C.B. Cos. A & 25 men of Hdqtrs. Co. arrived 27 Oct. 1943.  
88 N.C.B. Arrived Jan. 1944  
89 N.C.B.  
6 N.C.B. Special Detachment  
569 C.B.M.U. )  
587 C.B.M.U. ) July 1944  
534 C.B.M.U.  
21 N.C. Regiment

Tulagi

6 N.C.B. Detachment of 59 men - October 1942.  
26 N.C.B.  
27 N.C.B.  
34 N.C.B. 12 February 1943.  
9 N.C.B. SPECIAL  
504 C.B.M.U. Detachment  
505 C.B.M.U. Detachment  
521 C.B.M.U.  
1008 N.C.B.D.  
1010 N.C.B.D.  
1019 N.C.B.D.

Vella Lavella

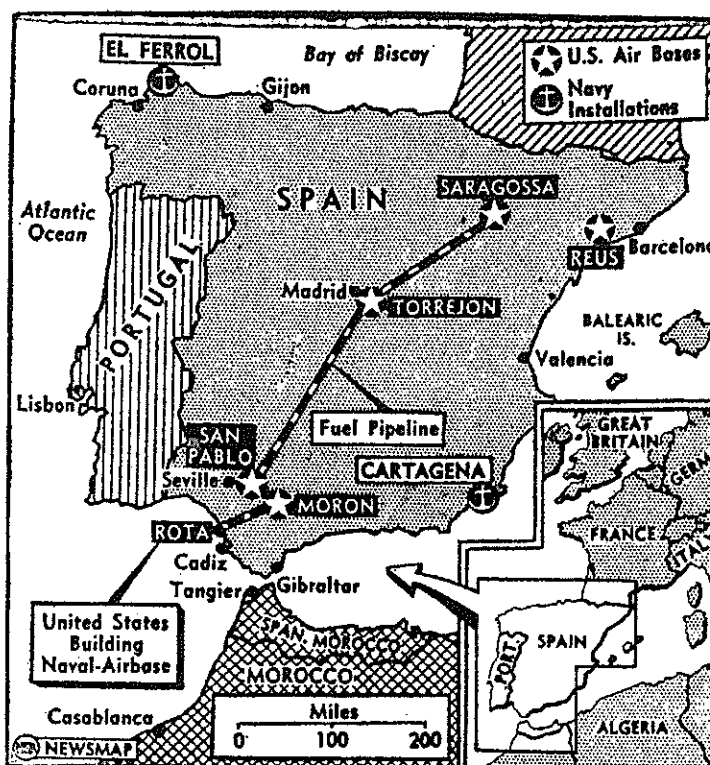
53 N.C.B. Det. operating from Nov. 1943 to Jan. 1944.  
58 N.C.B. Arrived 15 August 1943  
77 N.C.B. Arrived 25 Sept. 1943  
82 N.C.B.  
502 C.B.M.U. Jan. 1944  
6 N.C.B. SPECIAL

-- OUR SPANISH BASES -- A. J. Tripp

Authorities at Maj. Gen. August W. Kissner's 16th Air Force Hq. in Madrid declare that with runways all in and navigational aids being installed, the three big Strategic Air Comd. (SAC) bases right now "are ready to go if the balloon goes up". SAC B47 bombers have already landed at the most northern installation in Spain, actually a mammoth "double" base with two runways at Zaragosa, 200 miles N-E of Madrid. Cargo aircraft have been flying in and out of Torrejon, 18 miles from the Spanish capital.

Torrejon will eventually become the AF Hq., and the largest base in Spain. Both Torrejon and Zaragosa will be ready for full operational use this summer, officials say, and the third SAC base, at Moron, near Seville, will be ready next fall. The fall date also applies to the San Pablo maintenance depot at Seville, which will provide the support for the entire Spanish base complex.

On the Navy side, the giant combination port and airbase at Rota, west of Gibraltar, is expected to be ready for limited operations by next October. The installation will be the only US naval base on the Continent where carrier-based aircraft can land and be serviced.



**SPANISH BASES ALMOST READY**—American long-range nuclear bombers will begin "limited operations" out of Spain this fall. In an emergency our Strategic Air Command could move into Spain today. The three main SAC bases (Seville, Torrejon, Saragossa) have had housekeeping crews for several months. Newsmag shows our network of air bases and naval installation. Lifeline of the complex is the \$45 million, 12-inch, American-built fuel pipeline. Torrejon's 13,400-foot runways are the longest in Europe. Rota is a combined port-naval air station. It will be able to handle three large Forrestal-type carriers simultaneously. At El Ferrol and Cartagena, the Navy is installing underground fuel dumps.

A recently completed 485 mile underground pipeline stretching across Spain will provide the bases with petroleum products. A complete air defense system includes early-warning radar and communications networks linking all bases and sites. Naval fuel and ammunition storage sites at El Ferrol in the northwest and Cartagena in the southeast.

There are presently about 7000 Americans, including nearly 4000 dependents, in Spain in connection with the base construction and aid programs. An estimated 10,000 Air Force and Navy personnel are to be permanently stationed in Spain when things get set up. These will be in addition to SAC rotational units which will be deployed overseas for 60- to 90-day exercises.

The Air Force at present is planning full peacetime utilization only at Torrejon AB, but they pointed out that permanent detachments will be stationed at Moron and Zaragosa to keep the bases in constant readiness.

Each of the Air Force installations will have its own American community off-base, with a total of 1,500 guaranteed rental housing units presently under construction by Spanish firms.

At Roto, where the Navy expects to have 3,500 men by early 1959, some 600 US Government housing units are going up, with the first due to be ready for occupancy next month.

The US commanders and their respective bases are: Col. Joseph N. Donovan, Torrejon; Col. William L. Welch, Zaragosa; Col. C. J. Beck, Moron; and Navy Capt. Norman Gillett, Rota. No commander has been named as yet for San Pablo.

By Robert J. Dunphy, Stars and Stripes, April 23, '57.

## -- VR24 - SEAGOING 6TH FLEET'S AERIAL SUPPLY LINK --

A crack Navy outfit, working with a handful of planes, is fast making a name for itself as "The World's Biggest Little Airline" at Port Lyautey, Morocco. Known as VR24, the Navy Air Transport Sq. operates 24 hours a day the year round delivering vital supplies to fast-moving units of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Flying six big Douglas Skymaster type transports and six compact TFI "Traders", VR24 shuttles mail, personnel and cargo to the 6th Fleet units wherever they may be - on sea or shore.

The squadron's 12 planes flew 36 million miles in fiscal 1956. The past July we rang up 94 flights out of Port Lyautey alone, transporting 2,427 passengers, 425,000 pounds of cargo and 94,000 pounds of mail. During the same month, VR24 planes hauled 1,836 passengers, 280,000 pounds of stateside-bound mail into Port Lyautey from the Fleet. Typical flights logged during the month were bound for Barcelona, London, Izmir, Athens, Rome, Nice, Marseille, and parts far away as Oslo and Stockholm.

"Skipper" of the outfit is Capt. R. C. Knowles, a veteran of 19 years in the Navy. One of the reasons that Knowles' job at Lyautey is so tough, is that the 6th Fleet is so highly mobile. For this reason, all the VR24 flights are nonscheduled, and many are set up at the last minute, in order to keep up with the fast moving Fleet units. It was precisely on this account that the Navy Wings first were set up in 1949, after the Naval Air Transport Service and the Air Transport Comd. had merged to form the Military Air Transport Service (MATS). At that time, it was decided that the Navy needed a special airline to support the mobile Fleet in out-of-the-way places on a nonscheduled basis. The Navy still works with the MATS on a scheduled basis, but the Wings operations are separate.

The Squadron also operates other terminals at London and Naples, The detachment at Naples flies the Squadron's TFI Carrier-type twin-engine aircraft that delivers cargo and passengers right on board ship while the fleet is at sea. This "Carrier-On-Board-Delivery" (COD) detachment has all the facilities to carry out its mission independently of VR24, the unit's TFI's transport mail, cargo and personnel from shore to ship, and are capable of carrying nine passengers or 3,500 pounds of cargo per flight.

Most of the cargo slated for delivery to the Fleet is flown to Lyautey from Norfolk, Va., by VR22, in huge R6Ds (Douglas DC6s). Many times they offload the planes, refuel them and turn them around for the trip back to the U.S., all inside of an hour.

The Air Terminal Officer files a daily report to Naples listing the amount and destination of all cargo, passengers and mail he has on hand. The Fleet Air Logistics Coordinator at Naples then determines whether the volume and importance of cargo warrants a flight to any given point. He informs Lyautey of his decision, specifies the route and shortly afterwards a VR24 transport is on its way.

Sometimes special flights are made; we go half way around the world, said Lt. R. C. Freested, Air Cargo Officer at Lyautey. "Compared to MATS, we are more like a bush-pilot outfit. On a typical flight recently, I flew over 1,600 miles of desert without radio aid to deliver personnel and equipment to a remote Navy station on the East Coast of Africa.

With "Well Dones" from Fleet Commanders pouring in on top of this, the world's Biggest Little Airline is becoming known as one of the best-operated as well.

From Stars and Stripes, 27 Sept. 1956.

"POSTAGE AND FEES PAID"  
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( From Stars and Stripes, June 18 '57 )

The Army will stop using postage stamps and adopt a new system for official mailing containers on July 1. Under a simplified system for reimbursing the Post Office Department announced by Major General Herbert M. Jones, the Adjutant General, pre-payment of postage and the penalty indicia will be discontinued for official matter mailed through U.S. and military channels. Although continuing to use existing stocks of franked envelopes, the Navy started a similar procedure last October 1st, and the Marine Corps on January 1st. The Air Force is considering possible adoption of the system, according to military postal officials.

The present indicia on mailing containers will be replaced by a new statement reading "Postage and Fee Paid, Department of the Army". This will serve for all classes of postage, including air-mail, and special delivery, insurance and registry fees.

The arrangement will eliminate the necessity to weigh mail, affix postage and maintain records of the procurement of penalty envelopes, labels and stamps. Reimbursement to the Post Office for military mail, reported to cost the Army in excess of \$7.5 million yearly, will be made on pre-negotiated basis. While the new system will not necessarily cut the cost of mailing, it will save an inestimable number of man hours.