

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Sep 1956)

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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September 1956

Whole No. 2

"Bill" is our new President

All the returns are in from all corners of the world and the results are as follows:

President..... William Cippoli      Vice Pres..... Sterling Taylor

Sec. & Treas..... Isadore Willinger

Board of Directors: Philip Baker, Ralph A. Miller, Arthur Nicholson,  
Almon J. Tripp, Saul Whitman and Benjamin Haywood

Secretary-Treasury Report

New Address: C. W. Spain, 280 46th Ave., Gulf B, St. Petersburg 6, Fla.  
Richard M. Major, 621 Barrett Rd., Falls Church, Va.

Resignations: 335 Lt. Col. David J. Edwards  
332 Francis J. Stewart

Deceased: 181 Elsie C. Hurdis of Providence, R. I.

Re-Instated: 84 John W. Holmdahl, 2300 Dashwood, Oakland 5, Calif.  
Collects War Propaganda Labels, All Countries (WW II) & Censored  
Would like to exchange duplicates.

New Member: 368 Mrs. Rae D. Ehrenberg, 164 West 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.  
Civilian Censored Covers of WW 2.

The annual WCC picnic took place at Win Grandy's home in New Haven, Conn., on Sunday, August 12th. As always Grandy outdid himself in hospitality. Hamburgers & hot dogs grilled outdoors, cooling salads and drinks added to the pleasure of under the shady trees. The members who attended brought albums and duplicates.

Sol Whitman is now editor of the Aerogramme column of the AIRPOST JOURNAL.

The Sec. -Treas. has received a quantity of WW 1 Russian and German POW cards for disposal. He will sell 5 different for \$2.10 to members. All have interesting markings. Does any member have Spanish American War covers for sale? Send them to the Sec. - Treas. for the next auction. You can put a reserve bid on each cover.

Rev. Floyd Leach has a collection of WW 1 AEF Siberia about as complete as possible. The Rev. has at least one cover for every month the troops were in Siberia except March, 1920. BUT he is always in the market for Siberians and North Russia. (Murmansk and Archangel). He has a small showing of North Russia and wants to build it up.

Sterling Taylor has just acquired a POW cover of the FRENCH REVOLUTION from a woman of nobility in Bicentre Prison. This is without a doubt a remarkable item.

Carl Lemponen has an unusual collection of close to 2000 different picture view post cards showing U.S. Post Offices on each card from different cities.

British FPO 170 had last day of postal service in Egypt on June 11, 1956. British post office commenced in Egypt, 1882.

In the last 3 years over 2000 priests have come out from Red China over little Freedom Bridge into Hong Kong. Who has covers from them?

### SWISS REGIMENTAL STAMPS

The so-called Swiss Regimental Stamps have quite a lengthy history since their first issue in June 1915. The first were designed as souvenirs for the Swiss soldiers who covered the border during WW 1. In March 1916 Soldier Stamps were sold during a Swiss Welfare Exhibition with the monies collected for "Soldatenstubens" or small wooden houses for soldiers' recreation. In May, 1916, the first stamp was issued by a military unit with funds derived to help soldiers in special need. Swiss law made it compulsory for all males physically fit to serve in the Army and also provided that they could be called upon at any time. During both World Wars many soldiers had to leave families and jobs; want often resulted.

All regimental stamps since May 1916 were issued and sold by the commanding officers of military units, or government officials. The stamps were cancelled with the official military postmarks, also used to cancel ordinary postage stamps. As ordinary mail could be sent free of charge from or to soldiers, it was unnecessary to give these stamps a postage value; few show the prices they were sold for. It was up to the commanding officer to determine price.

These stamps of WW 1 have become quite rare, especially those on cover. About 300 different stamps were issued. Considerably more (about 2750) were issued during WW 2. These are listed in Locher-Forestier Catalog printed in German and French. In WW 2, before the war was over, the situation got out of hand. As one dealer expressed it, the whole project got "so d... philatelic" most people became annoyed with the endless variety of errors, imperfs, etc. During World War 2 "Favor Cards" were printed for Swiss soldiers, these either Field Post cards or on "Militarpostkardes" which carried a Swiss soldier stamp. These are comparable to our own First Day Covers. Very beautiful color.

#### News Items

The active officers of the War Cover Club are always striving to attain as near perfection as possible where the good and welfare of our club is concerned.

We are trying to improve the calibre of our bulletin with better articles if that be possible, as well as news items re. our members collecting activities.

We would like to have more frequent bulletins issued but are hampered by the fact that our treasury has just enough funds to last us through the current year for about 4 bulletins. The printing costs are extremely high.

We also would like to see the members more active in exchanging with each other. Every one has duplicates which we would like to exchange for other items we need.

Our circuit Mgr. William Cipolla is always glad to send a circuit of your specialty upon request.

Re. the auctions, not enough members are interested enough to send in bids. Just a small trickle of bids were sent in on the Sept. sale and the same on the July sale. However, we are not discouraged and will keep trying with worth while material.

We would like more members to send in suggestions which are constructive in nature.

And last we need more articles from members. I am sure that a good many members could write an article on their favorite cover or specialty. If everyone cooperates it would mean for a better, much improved War Cover Club.

A meeting of WCC members is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29th, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, hours from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. All members who live in the New York City area or further, please attend.

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## BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICES IN NORTH RUSSIA

1918-1919

Reprinted by kind permission of Colonel G. R. Crouch

FPHS

In February and March 1918, British naval forces were landed at Murmansk in North Russia, where was the terminus of the British-Russian submarine cable, the sole direct telegraphic communication between the two countries. The first official reason given for the landing was the fear of a joint Finnish-German attack, and the possibility that the port might be turned into a German sub base. The landing was not opposed by the local Russian armed forces and in May and June 1918 more Allied forces were landed without opposition. At the beginning of July, the local Soviet Government at Moscow, and on 8th July the town and port of Kem, some 300 miles south of Murmansk, on the west coast of the White Sea, was occupied by the Allied troops (British, French and American) by force of arms.

On August 2nd, Archangel, on the east coast of the White Sea, 200 miles east of Kem, was occupied by a landing party, with the support of the local "White" Russians.

When the Armistice was signed in Nov. 1918, the Allied forces in North Russia were in occupation of the Murmansk coast, Kem and Archangel, but was held up by Bolshevik forces some distance south of the two last named towns.

3 officers and 16 men of the Royal Engineers (Postal Section) arrived at Murmansk on 28th September, 1918, and proceeded to set up base Army Post Offices both there and at Archangel. Until a suitable building could be erected at Murmansk, the base office there was established in 3 derelict railway wagons, but at Archangel the former Academy of Music was commandeered for this purpose, and proved very satisfactory.

Previous to the arrival of the R. E. (P.S.) the mail for the troops had been sorted and distributed by the Hq. staff. With a total staff of only 3 officers and 16 men, it was impracticable at first to open any FPO's but arrangements were made to send mails down the railway line once a week in charge of the guard on the supply train, in bags addressed to the officers commanding the distant stations. At the end of October a Russian T. P. O. carriage was found at Kem in good condition, and the absence of F. P. O. 's arrangements were made to send this T. P. O. which was called "Army Travelling Post Office No. 1, N. R. E. F." from Murmansk to Soroka (a 3-day journey covering 400 miles) and back once a week on a passenger train. This T. P. O. commenced to run on Nov. 4th, 1918, but there is no record of the use of a special T. P. O. date-stamp in connection with it.

On Nov. 25, 1918, 40 more men reached the Postal Section as reinforcements, who were divided up between the Murmansk and Archangel forces, and by the end of Nov. arrangements were made to open 8 FPO's at different points. A 2nd T. P. O. was also established between Murmansk and Soroka, thus affording a twice-weekly service. Later, the number of F. P. O. 's was increased according to requirements.

The date stamps used at the base offices were of Type 4 (APO) and those used at the field post office of Type 6 (FPO) with the initials "PB" and a series of numbers. (One cannot help suspecting that the person who thought of these initials had in mind the infantry's nickname -- the "P. B. I.")!

The base office at Murmansk was P. B. 1 and that at Archangel PB 2. The late Mr. Raynor in his list also records PB Z used at Archangel but I suspect this is the same as PB 2.

Type 6 (FPO) date stamps were used at various FPO's established under the base offices, and the following have been recorded, the letters A or M after the name indicating whether the office was under Archangel or Murmansk:

PB 11 Soroka (M)	44 Bakharitza (A)
PB 13	55 Beresniki (A)
PB 14	66 Obozerskaya (A)
PB 15 Kem (M)	77 Emetskoe (A)
PB 22 Kandalaksha (M)	88 Kem, afterwards Medyega Gora (M)
PB 33 Petchenga (M) served by trawler	99 Kola (M)

It will be noticed that many of the office numbers were multiples of eleven, the reason for which is not clear, unless it was to provide for additional offices being set up later, with intermediate numbers, and possibly to deceive the enemy.

The censor marks used were of the same small circular type that was used in France until the end of 1914, with a ring 23 mm. in diameter. Those used in Russia, however, can be distinguished by the letter "R" after the number appearing in the censor mark, and were impressed in black or violet ink.

The Allied Forces remained in occupation of practically the same area during the winter of 1918-19, when the White Sea was frozen over, so that the troops in Archangel could not be relieved by sea, although communication between the 2 portions of the force was, except for brief interruptions, maintained by dog-sleigh along the overland route along the southern shores of the White Sea, via Onega and Soroka. A party of Canadian troops were responsible for maintaining this service.

At this time there were 13,000 British, 10,000 Allied (American, French, Serbian and Italian) and 7,000 "White" Russian troops in the force.

In April 1919 arrangements were made to send out further troops from England to relieve those who had endured the Russian winter, and the first of these reached Archangel at the end of May. During June and July various offensive operations were carried out, but several mutinies took place among the local "White" Russian levies, one regiment in particular murdering its British officers. In view of the unsatisfactory position of the force, and agitation at home in Sept. 1919, it was decided to withdraw the troops before the coming winter. Archangel was evacuated by Sept. 27th, and by Oct. 12th, 1919, the evacuation of Murmansk also had been completed. The latest date stamp in the writer's collection is one of PB 1 (Murmansk) dated Sept. 27, 1919.

Thus ended a somewhat futile campaign, which cost the British Forces 41 officers and 286 other ranks killed and 65 officers and 591 other ranks wounded. For further details read "Armed Intervention in Russia, 1918-22" by W.P. and Z.K. Coates (Gollancz, London, 1935).

Previously PB 65 was shown -- 'twas a bad "55" or "66".

NOTE -- in Sept. 1955 of FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter several members have sent in information on their covers. PB 12, etc.

P. O. W. CAMPS WW 1

The following list of prison camps were used during the Great War (WW 1.). This is just a partial list. Please check your covers and articles over and send in names of camps with their locations to your editor. If enough interest is shown a future article could be prepared. Thanks.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA -- many camps. BULGARIA -- Bela, Sofia, Philippolis, Radomir, Razgad. BELGIUM -- Detachments from German camps. DENMARK -- Hald, Horsrod, Odense. FRANCE -- Many hundreds including Corsica and small islands. GERMANY -- Many hundred camps. GIBRALTAR -- Windmill Hill. HUNGARY -- Many camps. GREAT BRITAIN -- Including Ireland, Channel Is. and prison ships, about 400 camps. GREECE -- Mundros. HOLLAND -- Many camps. ITALY -- Many camps, including Sardinia, Elba and small islands. MALTA -- Verdala, St. Clements and Fort Salvatore. NORWAY -- Trondhjem (S. M. S. Berlin), Hamar (H. M. S. India). PORTUGAL -- Azores, Lisbon, Caldas da Rainha, Peniche. RUSSIA -- Many hundreds. ROUMANIA -- Sipote. SERBIA -- Cacak, Nisch, Alecsinac, Kramata and also detachments from Austrian camps. SWEDEN -- Wisby-Gothland (S. M. S. Albatros). SWITZERLAND -- Many camps. SPAIN -- Madrid, Pamploma.

AFRICA

ALGERIA -- Many camps. MOROCCO -- Many camps. TUNIS -- Many camps. EGYPT -- Maadi, Tura, Ras el Tin, Alexandria. SIERRA LEONE -- UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA -- Cape Town, Roberts Heights (Pretoria), Fort Napier (Natal). LOURENZO MARQUES, MADAGASCAR, DIEGO SUAREZ. GERMAN EAST AFRICA -- About 12 camps at various different periods.

ASIA

TURKEY -- Many camps. INDIA -- Ahmednagar, Belgaum, Sholapur. STRAITS SETTLEMENTS -- Singapore, St. Johns Is. SIBERIA -- including Turkestan - some hundreds. CHINA -- Hongkong, Nanking. JAPAN -- About 18 camps. SIAM -- Bangkok.

NORTH AMERICA

U.S. A. -- Fort Douglas, Utah; Hot Springs, N. C., Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Fort McPherson, Ga., Newport News, Va. (Prinz Eitel Friedrich). CANADA -- Amherst, N. S., Kingston, Ont., Vernon, B. C., Halifax, N. S.

SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL -- Rio de Janeiro, Penambuco. CHILE -- Quirinquina Is. (Concepcion, the survivors of S. M. S. Dresden were interned here.)

WEST INDIES

JAMAICA -- Up Park (Kingston), Port Royal. TRINIDAD -- St. James.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

AUSTRALIA -- Liverpool, N. S. W., Trial Bay, N. W. W., Berrima, N. S. W., Holdsworth, N. S. W., Rottneest Island, W. A. NEW ZEALAND -- Motuihi Island (Auckland), Somes Is. GUAM -- (S. M. S. Cormoran). HAWAII - Honolulu (S. M. S. Geier.) NEW GUINEA - Mandar

New Items APO Locations WW 2

89 CO 11-12-45  
476-D British Columbia, Canada 1-2-45  
678 CO 10- -46 .....

During WW 2 many countries censored mail. Who has a list that shows exactly which countries censored mail and those that didn't. Some censored incoming mail; some outgoing, etc. Who can help? Drop a line to the editor. Thanks.

THE ROMMEL SOUVENIR SHEET

Rev. Diemel mentioned these sheets a while back as being for sale in this country. I saw one at FIPEX in the children's exhibits. Is this a philatelic item made up after the war or really a sheet kept by the field postmaster of the Rommel Army of the advance and retreat of the campaign of the Afrika Corps? There is supposed to be a title page and INSIDE PAGES with the postmarks on them. How were the later events taken care of at this early date.. How did or could they plan extra sheets ahead of time.. for what?

This sheet (about 5000) published on Army Day 1940 for the winter aid fund. The TITLE page bears the stamp of the staff unit of Rommel's Army. 3000 copies were sold by the end of May. The invasion of France put a stop to the sale and by then the course of this unit was recorded philatelicly by the affixing of a French stamp and the addition of a French Detachment stamp. The stamp of the postal directorate of Catania on April 20, 1941 was added when the Afrika Corps crossed from Sicily to North Africa. A postmark from Tripoli commemorates Army Day. At the conquest of Tobruk the Italians got hold of the cancellor of the local British APO. This dated June 21, 1942, with Army Signals / IV BD was added. A railroad post seal in the Arabian and Latin language was added when looted from the station ABU HAGAG on the line to Cairo. This was on the advance to El Alamein. A French stamp from Gabes and an Italian Post stamp "Posta Militare" dated April 20, 1943, marked the retreat.

Apparently about 2000 copies have all these stamps, cancellations and facsimile signature of General Field Marshal Rommel. A few were personally signed by Rommel, I understand. The printing of the various texts was done by printing stations of the country concerned, as far as they were available.

These sheets were hidden after the war for a long time on account of the German Control Council law so the story goes. There is just enough space for these postmarks in 2 columns and really looks "made to order". I may be wrong... Quien Sabe?

NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP STAMP

On March 3, 1956, copy of STAMPS, Edward Nowak, Sr. of the Polonus Philatelic Society writes in recalling the tradition of Madonna of Czestochowa. He states, "Much has been written about stamps made at the vast Nazi Polish Army Officers at Woldenberg (Dobigniew). The rare stamps were printed from wood dies, hand carved secretly by inmates, and printed on margins of Nazi propaganda newspapers, or any scrap of paper, and secreted."

Numerous stories which came out from that camp reflected the strong, simple faith of prisoners, and among these was the stamp depicting the "Madonna of Czestochowa" better known in this country as the "Black-faced Virgin" revered by Poles and Lithuanians. From 3,112 copies of the stamp printed originally at Woldenberg concentration camp, only 109 copies escaped destruction. Of these only 42 copies are known to exist in volumes of prominent stamp collectors on this continent. A copy of the adhesive can be seen at Cardinal Spellman's postal museum in the collection of Polish stamps donated by the writer to Regis College, at Weston, Mass.

MANILA P.M.T. APO 928

From Mike Hertzberg, 294 Fairmount Ave., Oakland 11, Calif., comes something new in APO markings of the current period. He states, "A friend of mine who has access to mail sent into a sugar concern asking for a free booklet on cooking, showed me a cover some months ago reading "MANILA P.M.T./APO/928." I tried for a long time without success to obtain a cover mailed from 928 to me with this type of cancel. I then sent for information. They told me that it was "Port Mail Terminal" but the answer cover bore the regular postmark. I tried again and finally secured one. Whether this marking has an outer rim, I am not sure; it may be a poor impression. The cancel looks like a home made affair, so I doubt that it originated in Washington.

With the cover came a letter as follows:

Detachment 5, 11th Air Postal Squadron, APO 928, May 14, 1956.

"Enclosed you'll find the envelope requested be cancelled with the Port Mail Terminal postmark, although this postmark is very seldom used as a cancelling stamp for APO 928. The main purpose of this stamp is to back stamp Letters to and received at the Port Mail Terminal. This indicates the letter was received on certain date and forwarded to the addressee. (Signed) Paul Arizpe, T/Sgt. USAF, NCOIC MPMT.

.....  
 A particularly complete list of philatelic literature, including many out-of-print works, has just been published by Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N. Y. and copies will be supplied at 25 cents each. The 52-page listing includes handbooks and catalogs in German, French, Spanish and other languages as well as English and includes tables of contents for the Billig Philatelic Handbooks which are in print.

.....  
 Moe Luff, 1557 Hoe Ave., N. Y. C. 60, N. Y., announces the 1956 edition of "U.S. POSTAL SLOGAN CANCEL CATALOG" as now being ready for \$3.00.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* WORLD WAR II POSTAL HISTORY COVERS \*  
 \* CENSORED COVERS FROM REMOTE PLACES CONCENTRATION CAMP COVERS\*  
 \* SOLDIERS MAIL FROM ALL COUNTRIES PRISONER OF WAR MAIL \*  
 \* V-MAILS AND AIRGRAPHS KOREAN WAR FORCES AIR LETTERS \*  
 \* AS WELL AS ANY RELATED SUBJECT BOUGHT AND SOLD \*  
 \* ONE OF THE FINEST STOCKS IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL. SELECTIONS GLADLY \*  
 \* SENT TO W.C.C. MEMBERS \*  
 \* LAVA 854 INTERVALE, NEW YORK 59 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Corrections in APO Location List

- 46 Heidelberg, Ger. 3- -47 (the date was omitted)
- 297 Suspended 6-22-45 The errors are underlined
- 301 Kyoto
- 647-A 6-23-44
- 804 Suspended 5- 5-44
- 806 Leeward Is. (1) 8-16-41 (This line omitted entirely)
- 809 Greenland, (2) Suspended 3- -42 (same as above)
- 832 Fort KOBBE
- 928 SAPPORO
- 928-a should read 928-2



### FAMOUS AMERICAN SHIPS

The PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, famed round the world liner, was the largest American merchant ship to be lost in WW II. She was built in 1931 for trans-Pacific service. When launched the PRESIDENT COOLIDGE was the largest ship ever built in the U.S. Her loss in WW II was doubly tragic because she struck an American laid mine in an early war snafu. Only two of the nearly 5000 troops on board were lost. Strategically her loss was serious. Foreign ships were not available, and America had very few liners of this size. If the situation was bad then it is critical now. America's passenger ship fleet has almost disappeared from the seas. Only 3 major passenger liners have been built since the war.

With the outbreak in Korea, the AMERICAN VETERAN was one of the earliest of the merchant fleet chartered by MSTs to transport troops and supplies to the combat area. She sailed from Baltimore for this duty on June 25th, the day North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel. Six months later, having fully earned her name, she was one of the first two Korean support vessels to return to Baltimore, where she was sent for drydocking and overhaul.

A remarkable new book for nautical students, ship operators, shipbuilders, marine engineers -- in fact, anyone interested in ships, has just been issued by John La Dage and four of his colleagues on the faculty of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. Called MERCHANT SHIPS, A PICTORIAL STUDY, and illustrated with more than 1100 photographs of everything from complete vessels to the smallest items of shipboard equipment, it tells in almost 500 large pages the story of modern ships, their construction, operation, and repair. Published by the Cornell Maritime Press, Cambridge, Md., the book sells for \$15.00.

Do you collect old merchant ship pictures, oddities? If you do, you would be interested in the Steamship Historical Society of America. Write the Society's secretary, Mr. Edwin A. Patt, at West Barrington, Rhode Island, for information.

The ARROW was built for service between Boston and Bangor, Maine. She was originally the BELFAST, a speed queen with two stark smokestacks and all white hull and superstructure. Although she was 320 feet long and could easily cross any ocean, her war service was confined to use as an Army ferry between various islands in the Hawaiian group. Before WW II she was known and loved by thousands as the Colonial Line's night boat between New York and Providence, R. I. With her sister ship the COMET she had come to Colonial in 1935, after the Boston-Bangor line was abandoned. Their new owners operated the last overnight boats on Long Island Sound. The COMET and the ARROW were requisitioned when war clouds gathered and were among the first commercial merchant ships to be rebuilt into troopships. They were operated by the Army. Their reconstruction almost completely hid their earlier graceful lines. Some 50 ft. of forward superstructure including pilot house, was cut off, as was a large 2-deck section aft, to make the two ships ride better at sea. Their graceful hulls were plated over. When the war ended the COMET was sold to Chinese interests. The ARROW was being towed from Puget Sound to the Columbia River laid up fleet on a stormy February day in 1947 when she ran aground and became a total loss. Fishermen enjoyed fishing off her rusty fantail until she was finally cut up for scrap in 1949.

NOTES FROM DICK MAJOR

Enclosed is the translation from the Swedish magazine and a list of ships of the ROK Navy. I won't swear it's complete and no LST's or LSM's are included, but I can get them later. They have no names and aren't really fighting ships. Most of this is from my Korean naval officer friend, with some looking up in Jane's and other books to verify. Incidentally, they use the names very little. I've never seen a cover with a ship name on it, only the numbers. The DE's are recently acquired, they left San Diego for Korea end of May, due to arrive there about mid-June. These 2 may get FPO's later. None have any PO aboard now; covers I have are cancelled from Chinhae or Pusan (or US shore stations).

By the way, the Swede's remark on sending out covers with NORTH KOREAN stamps may have been true, but I have a cover from a SWISS officer from Cinuiju, sent to me direct and marked "Via Pekin-Moscow" in Russian! It's registered and took about 3 months to reach me. I'd be willing to send it to Tripp for photographing for Bulletin if some members want to see it.

I have 7 mint postcards from WW 1 with picture of "AMERICAN TROOPS IN PARADE - PARIS - 4th of JULY 1918" that I will give to first 7 WCC members that sends me 3 mint commems. (one for postage back) Interesting for WW 1 APO collectors.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Richard Major, 621 Barrett Rd., Falls Church, Va. Collects all APO, FPO and Naval covers, especially Korean War, Austria, Hungary and Germany.

SHIPS OF ROK NAVY

DE 71 Kyongki (ex Muir, DE 770); DE 72 Kangwon (ex Sutton, DE 771) named for prov. "do"

PF 61 Duman (kang) (ex Muskogee, PF 49; PF 62 Apnok(kang) (ex Rockford PF ) (in collision 21 May 52, decommissioned).

PF 63 Naktong (ex Hoquiam PF 5); PF 65 Taedong (ex Tacoma PF 3)

PF 66 Imchin (ex Sausalito PF 4) (named for rivers "kang" in Korean)

PCEC 53 Hausan (ex PCEC 882) PCEC 55 OKPO (ex PCEC 896)

PC 701 Paktusan (ex PC 823)

PC 702 Kumkangsan (ex PC 823)

PC 703 Samkaksan (ex PC 802)

PC 704 Chirisan (sunk by mine off Wonson, 26 Dec. 51)

PC 705 Hanlasan (ex PC 435)

PC 706 Myohyanysan (ex PC 600)

(names for mountains - "san")

PCS 504 Kaesang (ex YMS 504)

PCS 514 Kiechu (ex YMS 514)

PCS 518 ? (ex YMS 518)

PCS 201 (ex PCS 1426) PCS 202 (ex PCS 1445) PCS 203 (ex PCS 1446)

PCS 204 (ex PCS 1448) --- All FS's are ex Army FS's and named for Towns: 901 Namwon, 902 Kimhae, 903 Yoju, 905 Waekwan, 906 Chonju.

NOTE: Avoidance of "4" in pendent numbers of recent acquisitions; it's considered unlucky in Korea, particularly since PC 704 was sunk.

From the Swedish Journal "Frimarks-bladet", December 1954: Translated by Dick Major.

To show how it can be for a philatelist when he gets out into distant countries in upheaval, where history is not only being written but being made, we give here some recollections of Major Nils G. Kjellbom of the NNSC, who normally serves in the foreign section of the Skandinaviska Bank in Stockholm.

The Nature of the fieldpost in Korea during the time that the NNSC was there held a lively interest for its members, an interest which is apparently widespread in philatelic circles. To a certain extent the several stamp-minded members of the commission were disappointed in their anticipation during the trip out to Panmunjom, for it turned out that all of the more or less hurried landings enroute -- with the single exception of one in Prestwick, Scotland -- took place at American airbases, and thus the plentiful mail home had to be franked with ordinary US stamps. Thus the speedy trip permitted no investigation of any sort of regarding local post offices, either in Germany, the Azores, Bermuda or Hawaii. Later Japan was worked out -- the interest in stamps there is extraordinarily pronounced -- but our stamps chasers received something of a compensation for their earlier miscalculations in that upon arrival in Panmunjom, they found themselves next door neighbors to the so-called conference area, where the Indian troops detailed to the guarding of some 22,000 prisoners of war of Chinese and North Korean origin were stationed.

These Indian troops, whose commander was Lt. Gen. K.S. Thimayya, like the commission, had their own field post office, but it worked completely independently with its own personnel, while the commission's office was served by ambulatory American postal clerks. From the Indian postal clerks one could obtain the special Indian stamps issued for this expedition with the overprint (in the exotic tongue of their native land) "Indian Custodial Force Korea".

Letters which were sent through this post office all went to Bombay and were distributed from there; which is apparently the reason that a letter which the undersigned had had handed in there for dispatch to Honolulu was returned to me by an Indian messenger with the remark that instead I should frank it with American stamps and send it out "to the east". An attempt on my part to send a letter to my own address in Stockholm met with great success; it was returned there to me in Panmunjom as undeliverable by way of Washington and San Francisco and thus made a neat trip around the world.

Similar experiences occurred later up in North Korea, among others in the city -- or rather the erstwhile city -- of Sinanu on the Yalu River. There one could certainly buy oneself a limited number of North Korean stamps, but from thence a letter franked with these stamps (as paste you use cooked rice from the Asiatic soldiers messkit) could neither by hook or by crook considered to be legitimate to be sent to Sweden via China. The reason given for this refusal was that North Korea is not a member of the Universal Postal Union. So when one was stationed north of the 38th parallel there was no other way out but to send your mail, franked with American stamps, with the same weekly courier back through Panmunjom. The circumstances were the same in South Korea, even if -- purely as an exception -- a letter franked with South Korean stamps could be sent outside the countries borders, it would then be completed with American stamps.

Returning to the above-mentioned Indian stamps, which are without a doubt the most interesting, it must be stated in closing that the reminders of them were burned when the Indian troops, after a well-performed duty, returned home at the end of January last year.

ITEMS IN "NEWSLETTERS" OF THE FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Bibliography: Harry S. Porter, F.R.P.S.L.

Bolivia during the Chilian Occupation - London Philatelist Vol. 30 (1921)

Postal History of the 2nd A.I.F. This covers the Middle East practically exclusively,  
Australian Stamp Monthly, Oct. 1946 to Sept. 1947

The Australian Forces in Malaya 1940-42 -- Australian Stamp Journal, July to Oct. 1946

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Royal Australian Navy - Philately from Australia Vol. 1, No. 3 (Sept. 1949) deals with  
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Royal Australian Air Force Postal Service -- Philately from Australia, Vol. II, No. 3,  
and Vol. III, No. 1 and 2.

(If any WCC members are going to try to get copies of above please try and get an extra  
copy for WCC Library) (Editor of NEWSLETTER is D.E.F. Burney, 16 Grendon Way,  
Bierton, Bucks, England.)

In July 1955 Newsletter there is an article on F.P.O.'s in MALAYA by L.B. Golden.  
There is a list of books available from the FPHS Library available to members.

In Sept. 1955 Newsletter there is a 2-page list of articles taken in its entirety from the  
Publication "Literatur Nachrichten - Philatelic Digest) of the Munich Municipal Library  
(Philatelic Section), Nr. 21/22 for Jan. - June 1955 - Page 91 (All these articles are on  
various wars.)

In Nov/Dec. 1955 copy article on POSTMARKS OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN PALESTINE  
during WW II by S. Stobbs. British APO IN TRANS-CAUCASIA AND SOUTH ROUSSIA  
1919-20 by Col. G.R. Crouch.

In Jan. 1956 issue A. J. Tripp, of the WCC writes on US APO's IN UNITED KINGDOM  
WW II. (Detailed info on outfits there ) BASE CENSOR MARKINGS - ARMED FORCES -  
MIDDLE EAST WW II 1930-1945.

In March 1956 issue Notes by D.E.F. Burney from covers in J.A. Smith's collection on  
HUBBA - HUBBA CACHETS. Lots of illustrations.

In Supplement No. 1 a 9-page article on EGYPT POSTAGE PREPAID by members of the  
Forces Postal History Society.

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NAVY SHORE BASE PO'S WW II. CORRECTIONS.

3166 Delete "JAPAN", add "RYUKYU IS."

3167 ARIAKE BAY, Corrected spelling.

3169 Delete "JAPAN", add RYUKYU IS." (same with 3172, 3181, 3184, 3186)

3186 Now part of JAPAN, was part of RYUKYU IS., when 3186 was established.

3268 Delete "JAPAN", add RYUKYU IS."

3278 Change to "NAKADORI JIMA, JAPAN" -- 3416 & 3420 "YAWATA" & "OTARU"  
corrected spelling. 3421-Change "Kara Futo" to "KARAFUTO" 3933-Change to 3923,  
number error. 3964-"LEYTE IS.", correct spelling.

NURSE CORPSU.S. NAVY

The Nurse Corps was established on 13 May 1908, and consisted of one superintendent and nineteen staff nurses who reported to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Washington, D. C. for duty. Within a year the enrollment increased to 44 and assignments were extended to include four added hospitals, three on the East Coast and one on the West Coast. In 1910 nurses were assigned to hospitals overseas, in the Philippines, Guam, Honolulu, Yokohama, Samoa, Virgin Islands, and Cuba. In 1914, following the onset of World War I, nurses were released temporarily to serve in France with the American Red Cross. During World War I, the enrollment of regular and reserve nurses reached 1386. These nurses serving in England, Ireland, Scotland and France as well as in the U.S.

The Navy Hospital ship, the USS RELIEF, received the first nurses to serve at sea in 1920.

During the program of disarmament following World War I the Nurse Corps as all military groups, was considerably reduced and in July of 1938 it consisted of 427 members

On 7 December 1941 the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor. Five nurses on Guam were taken prisoner and after seven months internment in Japan, were repatriated on the Gripsholm. Eleven nurses who were captured in Manila were imprisoned for thirty-seven months before being released in 1945, when the American forces recaptured the Philippine

During World War II, the Nurse Corps was rapidly expanded, reaching a peak strength of 11,086 comprised of members of both regular and reserve. Within the continental limits, nurses were assigned to 40 hospitals, 176 dispensaries and 6 hospital Corps schools; overseas they were assigned to Naval activities in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, New Zealand, Australia, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Russell Islands, Solomon Islands, Admiralty Islands, Marianas Islands, England, Africa, Italy, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Cuba and Trinidad. Nurses served aboard twelve hospital ships and on hospital planes when the Navy's program of evacuation of casualties by air was begun in 1945. Two qualified flight nurses were sent to Rio de Janeiro where they assisted in setting up an air evacuation training program for the Brazilian Air Force.

The Nurse Corps participated also in the establishment and maintenance of schools of nursing for native nurses; briefly in Haiti, and for many years on Samoa and Guam. The latter two schools were turned over to the Department of Interior only a few years ago.

Following World War II the Nurse Corps was reduced to some 2000 members with the accompanying demobilization to military forces. Violation of the 38th Parallel in Korea in June 1950 necessitated rapid expansion of medical facilities and reserve nurses were ordered into active military service to help supplement the quasi-peacetime strength. During the Korean episode nurses were assigned to 3 hospital ships in Korean waters, to Military Sea Transportation Service, Military Service planes, Hospital Corps schools and hospitals, infirmaries and dispensaries at home and abroad.

For many years there was uncertainty as to the status of the Navy Nurse, as she was neither officer nor enlisted. In 1942 nurses were authorized temporary relative rank for the duration of the emergency. Finally in 1947 the Army-Navy Nurse Act was enacted, making the Nurse Corps a permanent staff corps of the U.S. Navy and according its members commissioned rank from Ensign to Captain, the grade held by the director of the Corps. Captain W. Leona Jackson, NC, USN, present director, appointed May 1, 1954.

GERMANS-W AFRICA. HERERO WAR

By A. J. Tripp

Originally known as Great Namaqualand, inhabited by Hottentot tribes from the Cape area. Regarded as a dependency of the Cape. A few Dutch and British farmers had settled there, and from 1805, the London Missionary Society had agents, of German nationality, among the Hottentots, many of whom had considerable strain of European blood.

About 1840, the London Missionary Society transferred its stations to the Rhenish Mission. In 1867 small islands off the coast were annexed by Great Britain. In 1868 disputes between the Hottentots and Hereros, a neighbouring tribe living in Damaraland. August, 1884, a German Protectorate proclaimed, with treaties with Portugal (1886) and Great Britain (1890), fixed the limits of German territory.

In 1903 the Bondelzwart Hottentots, living near the Cape Border, revolted, this developed into a war with the Herero and Hottentots generally. Impatience with white rule and loss of grazing ground the cause. A number of murders of Germans and their families followed.

The Herero tribe started hostilities Jan. 20th, 1904. Troops under Gen. von Trotha were sent from Germany. They stormed the Herero stronghold Aug. 1904, but the main body escaped and continued guerilla warfare. Oct. 1904 von Trotha proclaims every Herero within German border, with or without gun, will be shot. Chancellor Prince von Bulow forced von Trotha to repeal the whole proclamation.

Hendrik Witbed who had been a Hottentot leader previous to 1894, and had joined the Germans, but in Oct. 1904 he broke with the German force and was joined by other Hottentot tribes. This resulted in the massacre of 60 German settlers, British and Boer families were left in peace.

Gen. von Trotha was recalled to Berlin late 1905. The Herero had lost some 30,000 men killed, while thousands, including women and children had been forced into the Kalahari Desert to die.

German authority was not completely established until 1908.

In Nov. 1905, Hendrik Witbed had died. Other Hottentots took over, and the Germans found them a rather tough problem, - real warriors.

At height of the campaign (1906) the Germans had 19,000 men in the field. Cost of the wars to the Imperial Treasury was 23 million pounds.

Damaraland, also called Hereroland, forms the central portion of Southwest Africa. Dick Major has 2 covers of Herero War, one postmarked "Windhuk" and the other "K.D. Feldpost-station/Nr. 1." Stations 2, 3 and 4 also exist. #2 is the scarcest.

**WHO ELSE HAS COVERS ?**

Your editor has one from Gibeon 6-1-06, and one from Luderitzbucht 6-11-07, both picture postcards with poems on them.

U. S. S. LEXINGTON

CV 2 had 3 engagements with the Japanese before she was sunk at the Battle of Coral Sea on May 8, 1942, off Bougainville, New Guinea. Pilots of the Lexington shot down 18 Jap planes.

On March 10, 1942, planes staged a surprise raid on Jap ships at Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea, and sank or damaged 15 vessels among them cruisers, destroyers and supply ships.

Battle of Coral Sea planes from Lexington and Yorktown sank 1 Jap carrier and probably a second. They shot down 67 Japair planes on May 7 & 8, 1942.

CV 16. . Sept. 18, 1943 at Tarawa; On Oct. 5-6, 1943 at Wake; Nov. 19 to Dec. 5, 1943 at the Gilberts. . . these three with Air Group 16. Air Group 19 was with her on March 18 to 30 of April, 1944 at Palau and Bonins. Sept. 6 to Nov. 6, 1944 at Phillipines, Palau, Yap, Ryukyus, Formosa and Luzon. Air Group 20 was with the Lex Dec. 14 to 16th, 1944 at Luzon, Jan. 3 to 22, 1945 at Phillipines, Formosa, China Sea, Ryukus. Air Group 9 with her on Feb. 16 to Mar. 1, 1945 at Japan, Bonns, Ryukyus. Air Group 94 finished the war on her with June 20, 1945 at Wake, July 10 to August 15, 1945 at Japan.

U. S. S. SEATTLE 1X 39  
(Ex C. A. 11 U. S. S. WASHINGTON)

On April 23, 1914 sailed for Santo Domingo to protect American interests. From the latter assignment, she was detailed to Special Service at Vera Cruz, Mexico, later returning to her previous duty of protecting American interests off Santo Domingo and Haiti from June to Nov. 1914. During the first half of 1915 she cruised in the Caribbean investigating political conditions in Haiti, Cuba and Mexico and protecting American interests in those countries. From July 28, 1915 to Feb. 1916 she remained at Port au Prince, Haiti in the interests of American citizens. Her name was changed to the SEATTLE in Nov. 1916.

On June 14, 1917 she sailed as escort to the first American convoy to Europe arriving at St. Nazaire, France, June 26, 1917. She became flagship of the Commander Cruiser Force, Atlantic Fleet and did escort duty continuously until the end of the war, completing her 9th successive escort trip upon her arrival at NYC on October 27, 1918. She helped return troops from France until July 5, 1918. She made 6 round trips carrying 3,397 passengers. She was presented with a bronze statue from the city of Grasse, France, as being the first American warship to arrive in France after the beginning of the war.

In 1947 she was scheduled for scrap.

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE PHILATELY writes us through R. P. Alexander, 4507 Van Ness St., N. W., Washington 16, D. C., the following corrections to our APO Location list:

- 32 - I do not believe that this number is used in New Guinea.
- 201 - Used in Sendai, Japan.
- 248 - I believe it is Hachinohe in place of Hachinohe. Not in use at present time.
- 301 - Should be Kyoto in place of Kyote.
- 468-1 was SENDAI.
- 468-3 was MUTSUICHIKAWA.
- 713 - Is now in YOKOHAMA. Kyote should be KYOTO.
- 928 - Should be SAPPORO instead of Sappere.
- 970 - Should have ben KACOSHIMA.

BEAUFORT SEA EXPEDITION  
By Chester S. Knowlson

In a recent U. S. C. S. Log Ches Knowlson writes that the USS BURTON ISLAND, USCGC NORTHWING and HMS LABRADOR chalked up one more successful Expedition by successfully transversing the long sought Northwest Passage via McClure Strait - which had been attempted so many times but each time resulted in failure. Prince of Wales Strait had been transversed before; it runs south and east of McClure Strait between Banks Island and Victoria Island. Captain Robert McClure penetrated Prince of Wales Strait to within 30 miles of its exit at Melville Sound.

The BURTON ISLAND worked her way from Amundsen Gulf, through Prince of Wales Strait, Melville Sound and McClure Strait, while the NORTHWIND made her entry into McClure Strait from the Arctic Ocean along the northern edge of the ice bound passage.

The National Geographic Society supported the claim that this was the first time any ships have passed successfully through McClure Strait. Covers illustrated in the LOG was one of BURTON ISLAND dated July 29, 1954 with a Nome, Alaska postmark. The cachet is "BEAUFORT SEA EXPEDITION/ FIRST SHIP TO COMPLETE/ EAST TO WEST - NORTHWEST PASSAGE/ (McClure Strait)". This was mailed at the beginning of the passage. The other cover was postmarked Sept. 17, 1954, and Barrow, Alaska, which was on the return trip; both are helicopter-drop mail. If any WCC members have other covers from this Expedition it will be appreciated if they will advise Neil D. Josephson, 83 Forest St., New Britain, Conn., who is writing a book on the philatelic history of Polar expeditions.

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OPERATION DEEFPREEZE... What is the score?? I've seen some cachet'd covers around. Somebody must have known a member of the expedition to get them. The other 280,000 covers will return next year.

NAPOLEONIC COVER... In the May, 1956, issue of COVERS there is a fine article by WCC member FRED C. BROCK, M.D., showing the efficiency of the postal service during the Napoleonic wars, sent from Napoleon's birthplace, Ajaccio, on the island of Corsica to Osnabrueck in northwest Germany. Both sides of the cover are illustrated.

HEIMKEHRER POST... COVERS magazine reports that after WW II, German Red Cross enjoyed a free franking privilege for a few years the same as the privilege accorded to POW mail. Such mail was stamped Heimkehrer Post.

MILITARY REGISTERED MARKS... Alfred Clement sends in a 2-page supplement to his original article published a while back in the WCC Bulletin. This illustrated supplement will be added to Bulletin if there is enough demand.

A SHIP A SHE!... Why does everyone invariably refer to a boat as a "she"? Here are some reasons a group at a party supplied: "A boat is called a 'she' because there's always a deal of bustle around her... because there's usually a gang of men around... because she has a waist and stays... because she takes a lot of paint to keep her looking good... because it's not the initial expense that breaks you but the upkeep... because she's all decked out... because she knows her topsides... when coming into port she always heads for the buoys!"



VETERAN LINER LOST TO FLAG

A shining white ship, with red cross identification on hull and decks, stood out amid rolling clouds of black smoke on Dec. 7, 1941, in Pearl Harbor. She was an American hospital ship named SOLACE. All around was twisted, burning wreckage. Dead and dying American sailors filled the waters. To those who saw her she seemed indeed a haven of mercy. She rode undamaged.

Built in 1927 at Newport News, Va., as the IRIQUOIS, she had been one of the many miniature Atlantic liners built by the Clyde Line. All had Indian names. Indian murals decorated their comfortable public rooms. They served up and down the Atlantic Coast and were very popular. Many travelers today bemoan the fact that the line has been liquidated. An unfriendly Interstate Commerce Commission plus the high cost of new ships made its resumption impractical after WW II.

The SOLACE was one of America's two hospital ships when war began. She had been seized by the government some months before Pearl Harbor, as had many of America's private merchant ships. Her war service was outstanding.

After the war, since her former owners were out of business, she was sold to Turkey and is today one of its finest ships. Renamed the ANKARA, she operated in the Mediterranean, one more example of the destruction of our vital coastwise passenger fleet ships.

Pictures of IRIQUOIS and ANKARA appear in August 1955 issue of MERCHANT MARINE BULLETIN, free pamphlet of National Security Commission, The American Legion, Indianapolis, Ind.

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"GERMAN LEGION" ISSUES

Roger Szymanski, Milwaukee philatelist and keen collector of German stamps writes in 3 issues of the "German Postal Specialist" recently a profusely illustrated essay on the Field Post "stamps" of the foreign "legionnaires" serving with the Nazi armies in WW II.

There is an astonishing range and variety of these formations, some well-known (if only because of their labels), others relatively obscure. Troops from Belgium, Bohemia, Denmark, France, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Soviet Union and Spain fought against the USSR, the most prolific in numbers being apparently those Russians who took a chance of opposing the Communist regime under Nazi auspices. There were 27 different formations listed by Mr. Szymanski, drawing their members from so diverse a selection as Turkestan, Caucasia, Armenia, Georgia, the Caucasus and Azerbaijan. WHO HAS A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE?

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Your Editor want to buy a USS Pennsylvania dated 2/12/35; USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay 9/2/45; unusual Korean War items; early WW II Alaska and Canada covers; covers from U.S. Marines; covers from small wars or revolutions, i. e., Irish-English of early '20s; Arab-Israel War; old covers of USS Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri or Marblehead; covers from Confederate soldiers; etc. etc.

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THANK YOU.. WALTER J. McNULTY... FOR THE MUCH NEEDED SHOT IN THE ARM!

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Remember Captain Leonard P. LaRue, hero of Hungnam in 1950, skipper of the cargo ship MEREDITH VICTORY that rescued 14,000 refugees? I got a cover from him at that time. Recently I find he is a Benedictine monk, changed his name to Brother Marinus at St. Paul's Abbey at Newton, New Jersey. I heard from him the other day. Korea gave him the Korean Order of Military Merit Ulchi with Gold Star for his Korean War activities. He says he has found his real vocation now. As Coronet magazine recently said he is "God's Skipper" now. USCS Log mentioned him years ago. Good Luck, Brother!