

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Spr 2016)

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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SPECIAL EDITION OF THE  
NEW YORK 2016

VOL. 55, # 2, Spring 2016

Military Postal History Society



Aircraft Nose Art Through The Years

Look us up at booth # 1280, and learn more about our exciting and informative specialty—involving peacetime and wartime, civilians and servicemen/women. See pg. 28 for MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY show related activities, and ppg. 29-32 for our dealer sponsors. For information on the Society see our webpage at <http://www.militaryphs.org/>. For information on New York 2016, see the website at [http://www.ny2016.org/SubMenu/Graphics\\_Ads.aspx](http://www.ny2016.org/SubMenu/Graphics_Ads.aspx)

# Military Postal History Society



Vol. 55, No. 2

Spring 2016

The Military Postal History Society promotes the study of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all nations. A non-profit corporation, it was founded in 1937 as the War Cover Club, American Philatelic Society, Unit # 19. Home page: <http://www.military.PHS.Org>

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ed Dubin

As I write this column we are weeks away from the New York 2016 International Stamp Exhibition. Your officers and directors have made excellent progress in getting geared up for it. You first should notice the New York 2016 SPECIAL EDITION you are reading. Sergio has been planning and rounding up authors for the past year to add 20+ pages of content. The MPHS will be an active show participant. We are sponsoring three seminars that are described later in the bulletin and, *subject to the total number of respondents*, a Manhattan bus tour of military related sites. Another aspect of NY 2016 is participating societies will have the opportunity to present one exhibit frame with application information and examples of material they collect. The MPHS frame will show mail from the 1800's to present day conflicts.

In addition, at our society booth will be available all of our publications priced at special show sale prices. But, to properly man the booth we need help. There are many hours over an eight day show, during which the table needs staffing. We are sharing the booth with the Universal Ship Cancellation Society and American Society of Polar Philatelists to help with manning, but your help is needed to do our share. Two to three hours in your schedule to work at the table will be a great help. The Washington 2006 Show was a recruiting success for the society. With your help NY 2016 can be equally so. Please contact me at the listed e-mail address if you can help.

We have made great progress on our various military-related research publication projects. First, our past bulletins from 1937 to the present are now digitized. However, to make use of 79 years of military postal history research a new index is required. A member has volunteered to lead the effort, and in the not too distant future members will have access. A second project is a fourth volume to our APO location series. When not running our auctions, Thierry is doing the research to document the ZIP code APO usage. When finished I expect Volume 4 to be our top seller. A third project that Norm started after finishing his PT boat history is a similar treatment of the Korean War. Our fourth project is the update to the Van Dam AEF Postal History 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. When Al and I started this work we knew much new material had come to light since the early 1990s. Thanks to the help of many of you, the amount of new postal history and redoing the illustrations has been a surprise. We have changed our estimated page count to 450 pages as our new target vs. the original 230 pages of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

I would urge each of you to plan to attend the upcoming New York International show. Every international show I have attended has been an exciting event. I expect this year's show will not disappoint.

# Military Postal History Society Bulletin



See April 24, 1919 letter excerpt below of Capt. Harry S. Truman to his finance—Bess Wallace

## NEW YORK 2016 SPECIAL EDITION

The world's largest international stamp show returns to the U.S. in May-June 2016. The first U.S. International Show was held in New York City in 1913, slightly more than a century ago. Since then our country has served as host to eleven additional shows—six in NYC, in 1926 (2nd), in 1936 (3rd), in 1947 (4th); in 1956 (5th), and now in 2016 (the 11th).

In the space of that century, the world has changed mightily, as has the hobby. Two World Wars, and innumerable smaller conflicts have provided fodder for the ever widening military postal history horizons of the hobby. New York's Nassau Street was in its bloom during those first five International Shows, as was the hobby in the nooks and crannies and towns of America. The hobby focused on stamps and collections during much of that time. Exhibitions had a strong focus on collections on display pages, with comprehensiveness and rarity displays being the objective; postal history was relegated to the sidelines by collectors, exhibitors, and judges. The War Cover Club (predecessor to the Military Postal History Society) did not exist at the time of the third international show. Ebay would have been treated as a badly misspelled word, and the "internet" would have been considered a fault in the game of tennis or ping-pong.

This MPHS Bulletin serves as a **SPECIAL EDITION** for the International Show—a special effort on our part to commemorate the New York 2016 Show by bringing forth a wide sampling of the civilian and military postal history available throughout the realms of collecting. It does so by providing articles focused on any year ending in "6" which bears a connection to military affairs and postal history. The majority of this issue focuses on the Great War, but we've managed to present other articles with year "6" center points, including the Mexican American War, WW II and Vietnam.

And, for your information, here's what the future President had to say upon seeing the embodiment of the NY 2016 logo.

"I've never seen anything that looked so good as the Liberty Lady in New York Harbor ..... You know the men have seen so much and been in so many hard places that it takes something real to give them a thrill, but when the band on that boat played "Home Sweet Home" there were not very many dry eyes. The hardest of hard-boiled cookies even had to blow his nose a time or two. Every welfare organization in America met us and gave us something....."

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/personal/large/ww1\\_letters/pg29txt.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/personal/large/ww1_letters/pg29txt.htm)

We most certainly hope you enjoy this SPECIAL EDITION, the Show itself and your continued membership in the MPHS.

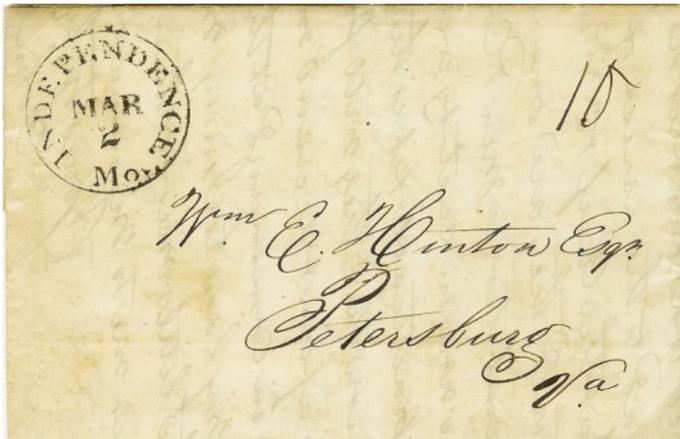
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## On the Trail During the Mexican War

by David F. New

Family ties reach far back in American history in the case of my family. Five of my Missouri ancestors served in the war, with two of them in the famed march of the 1st Missouri Volunteers to Santa Fe and the battles along the current Mexican U.S. border in 1846—1847. The transcribed letter below from one of those ancestors should be sufficiently clear to fill in any questions the reader may have about this unusual historical military postal history item. See **Figures 1 & 2**. Clarification notes are added at the end of the transcribed letter to explain some of the references in the folded letter.



**Figure 1: Stampless folded letter with due 10 cent rate paid at Independence, Missouri.**

Santa Fe, N. M. 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1846

My Dear Edward,

I have not had this pleasure for sometime & in the interim am without any of your esteemed favors to reply to. Samuel will have informed you of my promotion to the first Lieutenancy of the Howard County Company; (Missouri) & since my rise, have grown so much in love with the service that have determined, in the event of Congress authorizing the raising of new Regiments to a candidate for an appointment to a Captaincy, & to forward my views, I must call you to my aid.

I wish you to write to Judge John Y. Mason & request him to place my name before the President for a Captaincy in the event of a new Regiment being raised. It would be as well for you to back you [sic] application by letters from Dr. Wm. B. Goodwin, Geo B. Cary & such other influential gentlemen as you may know. I know W. Jones might be useful. – You will of course state that I am a Citizen of Missouri at present a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. Mo. M [Mounted] Volunteers & now in New Mexico.

I have seen some service & will before I return home have served one year & it is presumed that the Pres. for appointing those who have already served the Country & can bring honorable testimonials of their good & soldier like conduct. – In making the application be sure & state that it is for a Captaincy in a Cavalry Regiment. I much prefer that Corps, but would go into the Infantry if the other could not be obtained.

I shall try & get the member of Congress from my state to beg for me, but I will stand a double chance if Judge Mason will us [sic] his influence for me. – I depend on your exertions that you will. Do all you can to advance my interest. My Regiment has moved to El Paso were [sic] they will await my arrival with a battery of artillery of a provision train. & then march to Chihuahua.

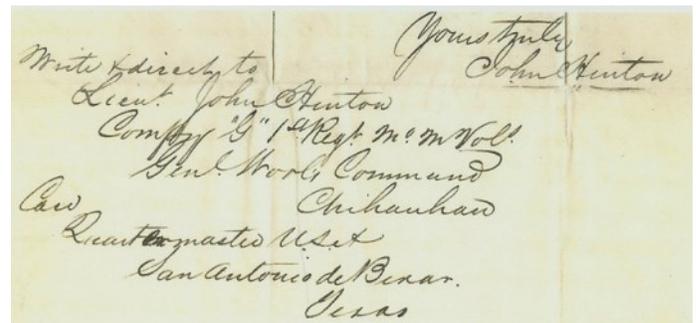
Rumor reports from 700 to 1000 Mexican troops at the Pass to oppose Col. Doniphan's advance, if true they must have a fight before I can come up, as I cannot leave here before the 1st present & it will take me fully 20 days to reach the Pass. I cannot but hope that no fight will come off without me. It looks a little selfish but I calculate largely on winning a brevet or 2 in my first fight.

We have had quite a stir here for the last 10 days owing to the discovery of a plot to recapture this territory. The Mexicans had laid their plans very well & completed their organization; but having sufficiently early in [sic] information Col. Price was enabled to take such steps as to lead to the arrest of most of the ring leaders.

But the Chief & 2nd in Command are still uncaptured & they are smart, well educated & poor ambitious men & consequently dangerous. – Those now in custody will be tried as soon as practicable & it is the general opinion that they will pull hemp – Col. Price is a firm & decisive man & well calculated to be in command & at the present time.

Give my love to Jenny, Mother, Jane & to the kids, all their little ones, for their Uncle Jack – remember me to Mamma & the servants.

Yours truly  
John Hinton



**Figure 2: Forwarding address for Lt. John Hinton, written at Santa Fe on December 28, 1846.**

Clarifications of some of the allusions in Lt. Hinton's Mexican American War letter are provided below for the benefit of the reader.

- Figure 2's transcription is:  
**Write & direct to Lieut. John Hinton Company "G" 1st Regt Mo M Vol. Genl Wool's Command Chihuahua, Paso Quartermaster, USA San Antonio del Bexar, Texas**
- The folded letter/envelope represented by Figures 1 & 2 was received at Independence, Missouri on March 2,

1847, involving 64 Days travel time, having been written shortly after Christmas, 1846.

3. Lt. Hinton did fight in the big battle with Doniphan at Sacramento where 1600 U.S. troops routed over 3,000 Mexican soldiers. The Missourians experienced 3 killed and not many wounded.
4. Hinton also wrote a letter to his father from the battlefield on Mexican military stationary, but that was sold in the Risvold auction in 2010. A rare and unique piece carried by military courier to Fort Leavenworth.
5. "Pull Hemp" = be hanged.
6. Excerpts below from Wikipedia:

Alexander William Doniphan was an American attorney, soldier and politician from Missouri, and is best known today as the man who prevented the summary execution of Mormon founder Joseph Smith, Jr. at the close of Missouri's 1838 Mormon War. He also achieved renown as a leader of American troops during the Mexican–American War, as the author of a legal code that still forms the basis of New Mexico's Bill of Rights, and as a successful defense attorney.

At the beginning of the Mexican–American War Doniphan was elected Colonel of the 1st Regiment of Missouri Mounted Volunteers, serving in several campaigns, including the capture of Santa Fe and the invasion of northern Mexico (present day New Mexico).

After Santa Fe was secure, General Stephen W. Kearny left Doniphan in charge in New Mexico, and departed for California on September 25, 1846. Doniphan's orders were to wait until General Sterling Price arrived with the 2nd Missouri Mounted Volunteers, then being assembled in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. After Price arrived, Doniphan led the combined force South to Chihuahua via El Paso, Texas. There they were to link up with Brigadier General John E. Wool, who was moving southwest from San Antonio, Texas toward Guerrero and Monclova, Coahuila, to attack Monterrey, Nuevo León from the west.

Kearny had known that the Navajo people were going on the war path. With Mexican troops gone, the Navajos sought to test these new American soldiers; hence, as Doniphan waited for Price, the Navajos mounted a raid and kidnapped 20 Mexican men and women.

Doniphan was eager to start south in late September, but he first had to wait for Col. Price. He was then ordered by Kearny to engage in negotiations with the Navajos. This all led to little progress as the raids continued.

After Price arrived, Kearny, near the present-day border of Arizona and New Mexico, learned that the Navajos had attacked some sheepherders, killed them, and stolen their herd of 2,000 sheep.

Kearny dispatched a message to Doniphan on October 2, 1846 for Doniphan to attack the Navajos. Doniphan was unable to find the Navajo in the vast expanses of their desert highlands, but the chiefs did send a member of their tribe to find him and begin negotiations. This brief encounter resulted in the signing of a peace treaty with several of the Navajo chiefs.



Figure 3: Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan

Initially, Kearny was amicable, but on October 3rd a band of Navajos attacked the village of Polvadera, stealing the livestock and sending the residents fleeing for their lives. Kearny now called for all citizens of the territory to take up arms and aid the cavalry in finding the Navajos, retrieving their property, and to "make reprisals and obtain redress for the many insults they received from them."

Returning South to their campaign against the Mexican Army, Doniphan's men won the Battle of El Brazito (outside modern day El Paso, Texas) and then won the Battle of the Sacramento, which led to the capture of the city of Chihuahua.

At the latter battle, Doniphan and his force were outnumbered by more than four to one in troops, and two to one in artillery, but only lost one killed and 11 wounded to the Mexican armies' loss of 320 dead, 560 wounded and 72 prisoners of war, together with all their supplies.

When the war was over Doniphan and his men marched to the South Texas coast where they embarked on ships and

returned to Missouri via New Orleans to a heroes welcome. His epic campaign had taken him and his men on a march of nearly 5,500 miles (8,900 km).

#### 7. Excerpts from Wikipedia:

In August 1846, the territory of New Mexico, then under Mexican rule, fell to U.S. forces. Governor Manuel Armijo surrendered at the Battle of Santa Fe without firing a shot. When Kearny departed with his forces for California, he left Colonel Sterling Price in command of U.S. forces in New Mexico. He appointed Charles Bent as New Mexico's first territorial governor.

Many New Mexicans were unreconciled to Armijo's surrender; they also resented their treatment by U.S. soldiers. Gov. Bent implored Price's superior, Col. Alexander Doniphan to interpose his authority to compel the soldiers to respect the rights of the inhabitants.

An issue more significant than the galling daily insults was that many New Mexican citizens feared that their land titles, issued by the Mexican government, would not be recognized by the United States. Dissenters in Santa Fe plotted a Christmas uprising. When the plans were discovered by the US authorities, the dissenters postponed the uprising. They attracted numerous Native American allies, including Puebloan peoples, who also wanted to push the Americans from the territory.

On the morning of January 19, 1847, the insurrectionists began the revolt in Don Fernando de Taos, present-day Taos, New Mexico. They were led by Pablo Montoya, a Mexican, and Tomás Romero, a Taos pueblo Native American also known as Tomasito (Little Thomas).

Romero led a Native American force to the house of Governor Charles Bent, where they broke down the door, shot Bent with arrows, and scalped him in front of his family. After they moved on, Bent was still alive. With his wife Ignacia and children, and the wives of friends Kit Carson and Thomas Boggs, the group escaped by digging through the adobe walls of their house into the one next door. When the insurgents discovered the party, they killed Bent, but left the women and children unharmed.

The Indians killed and scalped several other government officials, along with others seen as related to the new US territorial government. "It appeared," wrote Colonel Price, "to be the object of the insurrectionists to put to death every...[m]an who had accepted office under the American government."

A large armed force of approximately 500 Mexicans and Pueblo attacked and laid siege to Simeon Turley's mill in

Arroyo Hondo, several miles outside of Taos. Mexican insurgents also killed seven American traders who were passing through the village of Mora. The rebellion cost the lives of 15 Americans killed on January 20.

The US military moved quickly to quash the revolt; Col. Price led more than 300 U.S. troops from Santa Fe to Taos, together with 65 volunteers, including a few New Mexicans, organized by Ceran St. Vrain, the business partner of the brothers William and Charles Bent. Along the way, the combined forces beat back a force of some 1,500 Mexicans and Indians at Santa Cruz de la Cañada and Embudo Pass. The insurgents retreated to Taos Pueblo, where they took refuge in the thick walled adobe church.

During the ensuing battle, the US breached a wall of the church and directed cannon fire into the interior, inflicting many casualties and killing about 150 rebels. They captured 400 more men after close hand-to-hand fighting. Seven Americans died in the battle

A separate force of US troops under Captains Israel R. Hendley and Jesse I. Morin campaigned against the rebels in Mora. The First Battle of Mora ended in a New Mexican strategic victory. The Americans attacked again in the Second Battle of Mora and won, which ended their operations against Mora.

US officials ordered the execution of some of the captives in the plaza in a "drumhead court-martial", including the leader "Montejo" Pablo Montoya. Price then set up a military court in Taos to try more of the captured insurgents under civil law. The court was in session for fifteen days. The jury found 15 men guilty of murder and treason (under the new US rule), and the judges sentenced them to death.

On April 9, the US forces hanged six of the convicted insurgents in the Taos plaza; all but one were convicted of murder, and he of treason. This was the first execution by hanging in the Taos valley. Two weeks later, US forces executed five more. In all, the military government hanged a total of 28 men in Taos in response to the revolt.

The revolt did not end after the siege of Taos. New Mexican rebels engaged US forces three more times in the following months. The actions are known as the Battle of Red River Canyon, the Battle of Las Vegas, and the Battle of Cienega Creek. The U.S. army was victorious in each battle, and the New Mexicans and Native Americans ended open warfare.



## Mitsui Corporation—Two Different Wars

by Sergio Lugo

The post card shown is a NEW YEAR's greeting card of January 1, 1916 to a Denver engineer. Dated in the western style of January 3, 1916, it also bears the Japanese style postmark, showing the postmark for the emperor's reign—in this case Emperor Tashio's 5th year, 1st month, and 3rd day of his reign. This innocuous card was used in the middle of the First World War, in which Japan was an ally of the Western powers. Its Allied association was parlayed into widespread territorial gains in the Pacific and in Asia as Japan acquired a number of mandate possessions from the League of Nations after former German forces were ousted/captured by Imperial Japanese forces in 1914 and 1915. The card serves more poignantly as the lead in to the background of the Mitsui Company and, in particular, during WW II, to a far grimmer capacity.



Founded by Mitsui Takatoshi (1622–1694), in what is now today's Mie prefecture, Takatoshi moved to Edo

(modern day Tokyo) at age 14. At age 38, he took over the family business, Echigoya, opening a new branch in 1673, a large *gofukuya* (kimono shop) in Nihonbashi, in the heart of Edo. In time, the *gofukuya* separated from Mitsui, and is now called Mitsukoshi. Traditionally, *gofukuyas* provided products made to order, with payment on delivery. But he changed the business to a cash in advance model. This was not a widespread business practice of the time, but in 1683 the shogunate granted permission for money exchanges (*ryōgaeten*) in Edo. The Mitsui "exchange shops" facilitated transfers.

After the Meiji Restoration in the 1860s, Mitsui became an enterprise that expanded to become a *zaibatsu*. Mitsui's main businesses in this period of industrial development were drapery, finance and trade. Mitsui then began diversifying, mainly into related fields to take advantage of accumulated capabilities. It entered into mining after acquiring a mine as collateral. On July 1, 1876, Mitsui Bank, Japan's first private bank, was founded. Mitsui Bank survives as part of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

During the early 20th century, Mitsui was one of the largest *zaibatsu*. Mitsui Bank became the holding company. It was joined as an ultimate parent company by Mitsui & Co. and Mitsui Mining (MM) in 1900. Within two decades, the "Great War" proved a boon to Japan's developing industry, with its ships, weaponry, and steel all in demand. Better yet were the 1920s, in which a booming world economy stimulated expansion. However, Japan's future as a modern capitalist country appeared to depend on access to raw materials and strong overseas markets, which could only be secured by colonial expansion.

Japan accordingly embarked on a program of aggression throughout Southeast Asia and China, with MM establishing mines and refineries during the latter part of the 1930s. The gradual gains of Japanese labor were more than offset by MM's importation of thousands of forced conscripts from occupied China and Korea.

By the beginning of full-scale hostilities in China in 1937, MM was Japan's leading producer of coal, nonferrous metals, explosives, chemical weapons, and petroleum refined from coal, the latter a particular essential to its war effort. In 1941 Mitsui Chemical was created by MM to shoulder these duties, as well as the manufacture of chemical-based munitions. MM was soon put under the direct control of the Japanese government and became the nation's leading supplier of lead for bullets and, via Mitsui Chemical, sulfur for explosives.

As part of the Japanese plans for the exploitation of China, during the 1930s and '40s the subsidiary tobacco industry of Mitsui had started production of special "Golden Bat" cigarettes. Their circulation was prohibited in Japan. The Japanese secret service under

the controversial Imperial Japanese Army General Kenji Doihara distributed them in China and Manchuria. Within its mouthpiece were small discreet doses of opium or heroin. Consequently millions of non-Japanese consumers became addicted, while huge profits were created. Eventually, Doihara, was prosecuted and convicted for war crimes before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East and sentenced to death.

MM would eventually become Japan's largest user of prison laborers, reaching more than 750,000 by the end of WW II. During WW II, American prisoners of war were forced to work as slave laborers, some of whom were maimed by MM employees. MM transported and used the greatest number of Allied POWs as slave laborers. Their mines, factories, and docks were considered among the most hellish for non-Japanese. At the postwar war crimes tribunals, former POWs identified many Mitsui employees as sadists, torturers, and murderers.



POW barracks at Mukden, Manchuria from website *The Battlin' Bastards of Bataan*.

However, no actions ever took place against the company. According to testimony presented at the Tokyo War Crimes trials in 1948, the revenue from the narcotization policy in China, including Manchukuo, was an estimated 20 million to 30 million yen per year in profit, while another authority stated that the annual revenue was estimated by the Japanese military at US \$300 million a year.

It would be hard to gauge the profitability of these activities, in light of the Second World War's total destruction of Japan as an economic power. But by the end of the war, MM executives at least had the comfort of knowing that the bulk of their assets lay far underground, safe from the ravages of Allied bombing.

The Allied occupation forces under General Douglas MacArthur sought to encourage democracy in Japan, and destroy its capacity for war, by systematically breaking up the handful of great *zaibatsu* that controlled nearly all economic activity. Mitsui companies targeted for dissolution included MM, which in 1950 was split into two new firms, MM Company, Ltd. and MM & Smelting, Co., Ltd. The latter was given all of Mitsui's non-coal mining interests, while the former remained Japan's leading producer of coal and related products.

U.S. foreign policy makers soon lost interest in the *zaibatsu*, becoming more concerned about the threat of Asian communism. Many Mitsui companies were tacitly encouraged to regain their former strength by means of a new, less formal organization known as the *keiretsu*, within which MM played an important role as one of the group's oldest constituents. MM and its fellow Mitsui affiliates gradually rebuilt the Mitsui empire during Japan's post 1950 economic boom.

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#### Recent news flashes:

Regrettably, last second additions were inserted in the last issue that warranted more attention. We are making up for three such news flashes here:

#### JUDGING:

One of our columnists has entered APS' judging ranks. **REGIS HOFFMAN**, long-time collaborator with Thomas Richards in our *STARS and STRIFE* column, has become a fully qualified philatelic judge, with specialities in military postal history and censorship. Regis is looking forward to selection to jury panels at local, regional and national shows to share his knowledge and expertise with other accredited judges.

#### HISTORICAL RELEASE.

The BBC published an article in its centenary series of WWI on January 31, 2016. It is well worth your time to read the article found at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-25934407>. Its title: **HOW 12 MILLION LETTERS A WEEK WERE GOTTEN TO BRITISH FIELD FORCES.**

#### DISTINGUISHED PHILATELIST AWARD:

Congratulations to **ALAN WARREN** who will be recognized during the Summer Seminar as the APS' 2016 Distinguished Philatelist. The Distinguished Philatelist Award recognizes an individual who has contributed to the hobby for many years displaying dedication, leadership, and commitment. Alan has also served the MPHS faithfully for the past three decades as an author, book review columnist, and committeeman and officer in various MPHS positions.

## 1916 -- THE THIRD WAR YEAR

by Alfred F. Kugel

*Note: This article first appeared in the Collectors Club Philatelist, # 95 - 1, January - February, 2016. It has been kindly supplied to the MPHS by that journal's editor, Gene Fricks, and author Al Kugel, a director of the MPHS.*

### The Strategic Situation

At the beginning of 1916, fighting on the Western Front had died down once again with neither side having been able to deliver a knockout blow. The stock of war materiel expended in the two prior years needed to be rebuilt, and a new contingent of troops needed to be recruited and trained to replace the high level of casualties suffered in 1914 and 1915. However, by late winter the combatants were ready to go again, and the main target chosen by the Germans was to attack the great French fortress complex surrounding the city of Verdun.

In response, the Allies attempted to support Verdun by initiating attacks designed to prevent the Germans from shifting even more troops to that area. In the northern part of France, the British forces embarked on a major push on the Somme River. Although they gained some ground, the advance was not sufficient strategically and soon petered out. On the Eastern Front, the Russians launched what turned out to be their final offensive of the war, named after their commander, General Brusilov. This, too, had some positive tactical results, but did not change the adverse strategic situation for Russia.

In 1916 for the first (and only) time in the war, the German High Seas Fleet came out of its ports for a full-scale battle with the Royal Navy in the Skagerrak off Denmark (generally known as the Battle of Jutland). The results of the battle involved a substantial number of ships being sunk on both sides. Although the Germans could claim a tactical victory by inflicting more damage than they sustained, it was a strategic defeat as they were unable to break the British blockade and came to the conclusion that it would be useless to make a further attempt to do so for the balance of the war.

Although not directly involved in the fighting, there was a large-scale "ethnic cleansing" of the Armenian people from eastern Anatolia by the Ottoman authorities that took place in 1915 and 1916. For the Armenians, it was genocide; for the Turks it was viewed as punishment for the support of the Allies by most of the Armenians, and the dispute continues to this day.

Although there was a lot of effort expended and lives squandered by both sides during the year, there was remarkably little real change in the strategic situation in the war. Both sides continued to look for some development that would provide hope for victory in the ensuing year. In the case of the Allies, Romania was induced to join in, thus draining off Austro-Hungarian troops from the Russian

front. On the other hand, the British-French invasion of the Dardanelles, which had been undertaken in the prior year in the hope of driving Turkey out of the war, had to be aborted and the troops evacuated in January 1916. Elsewhere, nothing changed significantly.

### Impasse at Verdun

By 1916, the German commander, General von Falkenhayn, believed that defensive positions were so strong that it was unlikely that there could be a breakthrough on the Western Front sufficient to produce victory for either side. As a result, he elected to pursue a strategy of attrition. His plan was to attack the fortress city of Verdun on the Meuse River, which he felt would provoke strong French counterattacks that would lead to catastrophic losses in the face of massed German artillery fire. A postcard depicting the Germans bombarding Verdun is shown as **Figure 1**. In his view, the French army would likely "bleed to death" and be forced to seek an armistice.



**Figure 1 (above):** Picture card of a German bombardment of Verdun. **Figure 2 (below):** Reverse of Figure 1 - showing the Crown Prince. Mailed (via feldpost) one year after the 1916 battle by a soldier of the German 120th Infantry Regiment.



Unfortunately for the Germans, they did not stick to their plan. Once the battle had begun, they came to believe that success at Verdun had become a matter of national prestige,

so they shifted from their original battle plan to an attack strategy, which only succeeded in inflicting the severe bloodletting on their own men as well as the French. As a result, the official count showed a total of 714,000 casualties (about 60 percent French and 40 percent German) at the end of the 300-day battle.

The fighting at Verdun had begun on February 21, and lasted until December 16. It is generally considered the greatest single battle in world history. This was the case even though the battlefield was less than 10 square kilometers in area. For its defense, the city had 20 major forts and 40 smaller ones, with layer after layer of defensive positions, and the Germans could simply not overrun all of them no matter how great an effort was expended. It is estimated that more than 10 million shells were fired during the battle and the entire area was a wasteland when the fighting died down. The French *poilus* (infantrymen) fought bravely under trying circumstances for many months to fulfill General Nivelle's order "*Vous ne les laissez pas passer* (They shall not pass)," and they didn't.

Although the struggle in the West continued for nearly two more years, neither the French nor the German army ever fully recovered from the magnitude of their losses at Verdun. General von Falkenhayn was held responsible for the failure to take the city and was replaced as Chief of the General Staff by Field Marshal von Hindenburg

### The British on the Somme

In an effort to prevent the Germans from shifting even more troops to the Verdun front, it was decided that a major British-French attack would start on the Somme River on July 1. The first event was the heaviest artillery barrage ever unleashed by the British army. Over a front of some 25,000 yards, a thousand field pieces and howitzers pounded away. However, the Germans were well entrenched and not blown away as expected. Thus, when the infantry attack began, the machine guns appeared and cut down swaths of the advancing men. On the first day of the battle, 20,000 British soldiers were killed, amounting to 60 percent of the officers and 40 percent of the men engaged.

The battle on the Somme continued fiercely for five months, with a noteworthy aspect being the first use of tanks by the British in November. Eventually running through what had been a vast inventory of artillery shells, the Allied effort finally died out by late November. At most, the German front line had been pushed back by five miles, with no change in the strategic situation.

### Action on the Eastern Front

In June 1916, the Russians mounted what was to be their final major action, known as the Brusilov offensive. However, this campaign only lasted for three months as logistical support failed. A particularly vulnerable portion

of the Eastern Front was near the Romanian border manned by unprepared Austro-Hungarians. These were mostly recruits from the Slavic parts of the Dual Monarchy, who saw little virtue in fighting hard against the Russians for the benefit of the Germans. As a result, they gave way until strengthened by some German troops shifted from the west. In the end, the Russians gained some ground, about 20 miles on average, but failed to reach their primary objectives, the cities of Lublin and Lemberg. As a result, a second stalemate developed on this front at the end of the year.

Elsewhere in the region, the Germans solidified their hold on Lithuania (**Figure 3**) and southern Latvia and attacked Russian positions in the Baltic, including bombarding the Riga naval base (**Figure 5**). Farther south, the Russians were able to advance against the Turks in eastern Anatolia, capturing the fortress of Erzeroum (**Figure 6**).



**Figure 3 (above):** Picture card of an armored train defending Vilnius (Lithuania). **Figure 4 (below):** Field Marshal von Hindenburg decorated the reverse of the Figure 3 postcard, having been routed through Feldpost # 171 in December 1916.



### Romania Joins In

The Romanians had long coveted certain territories of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, especially Bukovina, Transylvania and the Banat. As a result, the Allies were able to make a tempting offer to transfer these areas to Romania after the war as an inducement to bring that country



Figure 5: Postcard showing German navy shelling Riga.



Figure 7: Censored, registered Romanian fieldpost cover to Switzerland.



Figure 6: Postcard of Russian occupation of Erzeroum (Anatolia).



Figure 8: Austrians relaxing in Montenegro.

into the fighting in the meantime. The bait was taken and Romania declared war on August 27, 1916. Shortly thereafter, a modest offensive was initiated northwestward across the Hungarian border. See **Figure 7** for a registered fieldpost cover from a soldier in the Romanian 5<sup>th</sup> Division to Switzerland. However, although the Romanians had more troops in the area, they were not logistically prepared to carry out a major campaign and their advance was soon brought to a halt. With the Austrians being reinforced by German troops from farther north and the Bulgarians attacking into the Dobrudja from the south, momentum soon shifted to the Central Powers. By the end of September, the Romanians were essentially back to where they started and more trouble would lie ahead in 1917.

**Occupation of Montenegro & Albania**

Following up on the occupation of Serbia, the Austro-Hungarian forces advanced down the Adriatic Coast and took over the small Kingdom of Montenegro in January 1916. Only two stamps were specially issued for this area (**Figure 9**), with Austrian “Feldpost” stamps being the primary method of paying postage during the occupation. King Nicholas went into exile in France, never to return to

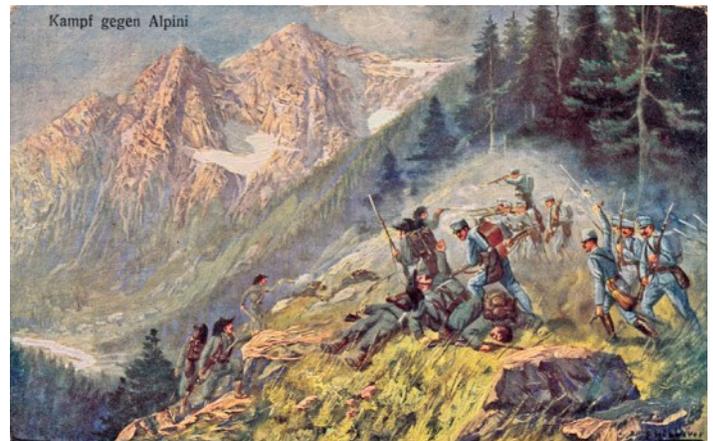


Figure 9: Cover franked with Austrian stamps overprinted “Montenegro.”

his own country as it was absorbed into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats & Slovenians (later named Yugoslavia) at the end of the war.

In a further follow-up move, the Austrians advanced into Albania in February 1916, taking control of the northern and central parts of the country before being blocked by French and Italian troops in the south. **Figures 10 & 11** show a postal card sent from Scutari in Austrian-occupied Albania to Vienna.

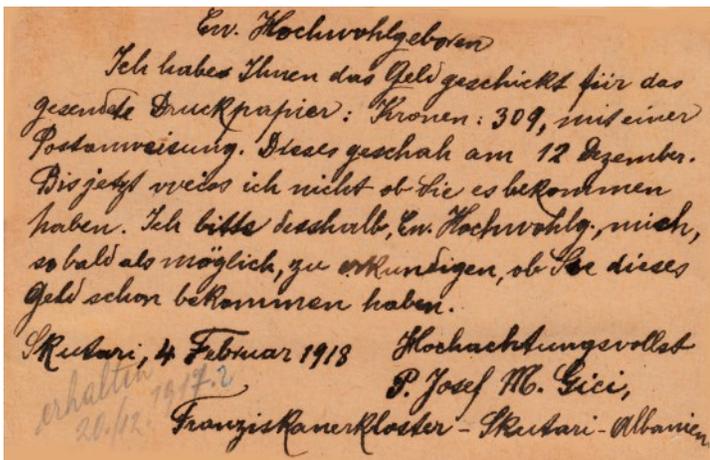
**Figures 12 and 13:** The particularly difficult Alpine terrain along the Italian border is shown in this card sent by a member of Landsturm Battalion # 29. A crude attempt at censorship was applied to the field cancel of feldpost # 222 in September 1916.



**Figures 10 and 11:** Austro-Hungarian military feldpost postal card, registered (and handstamped) in Scutari, Albania and sent to Vienna on February 5, 1918.



**Figure 14:** Gunner Mundell's mail was routed through the India Office on April 11, 1916, but proved undeliverable to the unit in the face of overwhelming Turkish Ottoman forces at Kut, Mesopotamia. The reverse is shown on the next page.

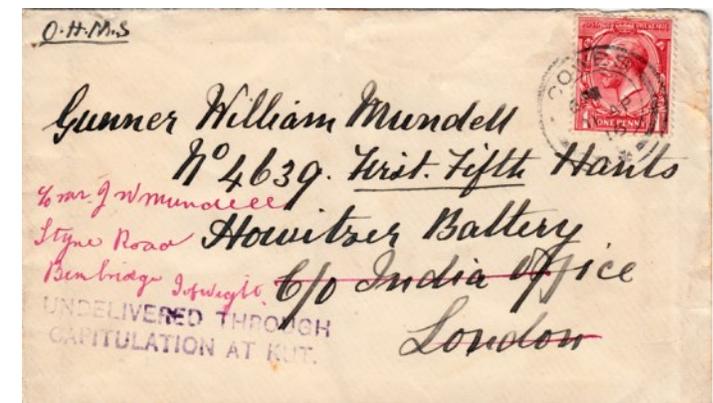


**Quiet on the Italian Front**

The fighting between the Austrians and Italians in the Alpine border region was relatively modest during 1916. There was a lot of patrol activity (**Figure 12**), but the terrain was sufficiently difficult that there were neither significant battles nor territorial changes.

**Action in the Near East**

Fighting continued in Mesopotamia where the British tried to advance on Baghdad. However, they managed to outrun their supply lines at Kut-al-Amara, where some members of the Indian Expeditionary Force in the town were cut off and subjected to a siege that forced them to surrender. Mail addressed to British troops there could not be delivered and had to be returned to the sender, receiving the special marking shown in **Figures 14 & 15**.



**Activity in East Africa**

Having occupied all but the last of the former German colonies in Africa and the Pacific in the first two years of the war, the Allies decided that 1916 should be the year



**Figure 15:** The reverse of Figure 14, showing the alternative marking applied on August 31, 1918 in Exeter before return of the letter to the Mundells. The blue label may have had something to do with undeliverable casualty/pow mail.



**Figure 16:** Overprinted British stamp on cover sent within occupied German East Africa. Registered in Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria.

in which they would take control of German East Africa. The primary British push took place from Kenya into the area around Moshi in the northeastern part of the colony. See **Figure 16** for a registered cover franked by an adhesive of British East Africa overprinted "G.E.A." and used within the colony from Mwanza to Dar-es-Salaam.

Striking from the west, Belgian troops invaded out of the Congo, crossing Lake Tanganyika and taking Tabora in September (see picture card of the latter action shown as **Figure 17**). The Nyasaland Field Force moved up from the south and a small Portuguese force crossed the Rovuma River and took Kionga in the southeast. The Germans were unable to provide a conventional defense against all of the invaders, so they shifted over to guerilla warfare in the bush rather than contesting the cities and towns. Nevertheless, this action continued to tie down a substantial number of Allied soldiers in chasing the defenders around the countryside.

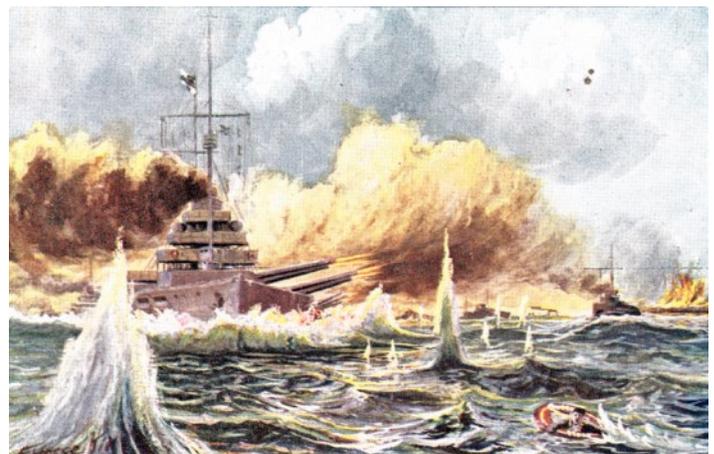
## War on the High Seas

The year 1916 was also noteworthy for when the German High Seas Fleet decided to challenge the British Navy. The first and only full scale naval battle of the war took place on May 31 in the Skagerrak off Denmark (and thus is known as the Battle of Jutland). It was the first head-to-head clash between battleships since Tsushima in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, as well as the last such encounter between such ships in history since aircraft carriers had replaced battleships as the main offensive naval weapons during World War II. **Figure 18** shows a German battleship firing a full salvo of shells at Jutland.

The German plan was to lure out a portion of the British Grand Fleet to be attacked by their entire High Seas Fleet. This strategy did not work as the British learned from signal intercepts that a major operation was planned and sent out the whole fleet, so that there were 151 British combat ships involved (including 28 battleships and 9 battle



**Figure 17:** Picture card of Belgian troops entering Tabora in East Africa.

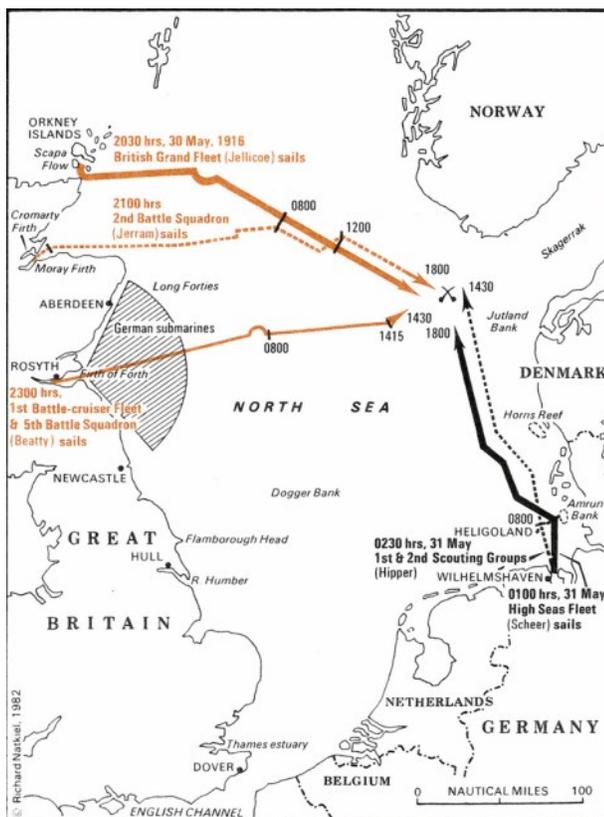


**Figure 18.** Picture card of German battleship unleashing a salvo at Jutland.

cruisers) versus 99 German (including 16 battleships and 5 battle cruisers). The battle went on through the afternoon and evening of 31 May, with first one side on the

attack and then the other, involving two major engagements (See **Figure 19** for a plan of the battle). In overall results, fourteen British and eleven German ships were sunk, with tonnage lost of 113,000 versus 62,000 and 6,000 sailors killed versus 2,500.

Although the Germans could claim a tactical victory by inflicting more damage than they sustained, the battle was a strategic defeat as they were unable to break the British blockade, and they elected not to try again for the balance of the war. Based on the outcome of Jutland, the German naval strategy shifted to unrestricted submarine warfare involving the destruction of neutral shipping as well as Allied, eventually providing the rationale for America's entry into the war in April 1917.

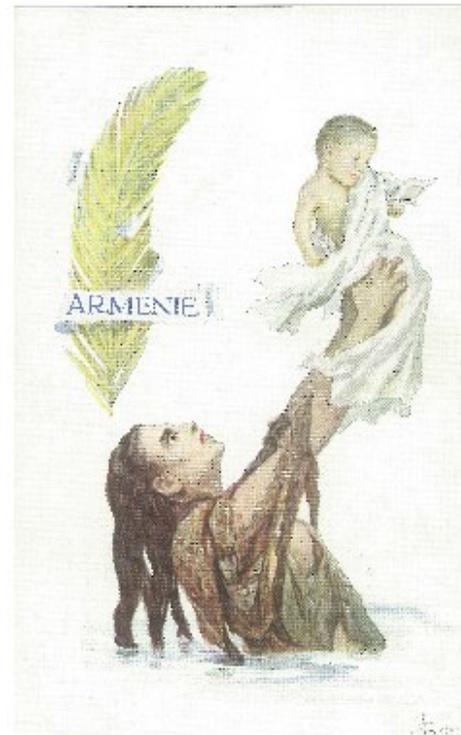


**Figure 19: Battle Plan for Jutland.**

### The Armenian Tragedy

Closely associated with the war in the Near East was the Turkish effort to purge its territory of the estimated two million Armenian Christian minority out of a total of 28 million persons living in the Ottoman Empire in 1914. Ancient Armenia came under Turkish rule under Sultan Salim in the sixteenth century. While the Armenians were subsequently permitted to live in their traditional territory, they were treated as second-class members of the empire without many of the rights of the Muslim subjects. Views as to what happened during the war vary widely, with the events being considered as genocide by Armenians and

many others but viewed by the Turks as punishment through the deportation of people considered supporters of the Allies against the Ottoman war effort, especially during the Russian invasion of Eastern Anatolia in 1915 and 1916.



**Figure 20: French remembrance card honoring Armenia.**

The first overt action occurred in February 1915 when Armenian members of the Turkish army were forced to turn in their weapons and serve in labor battalions digging trenches and similar work. (These men subsequently disappeared and were presumed murdered.) Later, the same apparently happened to many male Armenian civilians in various parts of the empire. Finally, large numbers of women, children and the elderly were forced on death marches to the south from Anatolia to concentration camps near Deir-el-Zor in the Syrian desert, where many perished from lack of food, water and shelter, and others from disease and massacre. **Figure 20** shows a French propaganda remembrance card for Armenia published as part of a series entitled "The Martyred Nations."

Even a century later the differing views persist. However, the deaths have been estimated at between a million and a million and a half. Whatever the arguments, it is clear that a very thorough "ethnic cleansing" had taken place, with very few Armenians remaining alive in Turkey at the end of the war. Most of the survivors from Anatolia were those who left with the Russian army when it retreated in 1917, and subsequently lived in the Soviet Union. Others managed to emigrate to Europe and the United States.

Winston Churchill is said to have described the

situation as an “administrative holocaust” and stated that “the clearance of the race from Asia Minor was about as complete as such an act, on a scale so great, could be. There is no reasonable doubt that this crime was planned and executed for political reasons.” In the United States, the *New York Times* reported almost daily on the mass murder of Armenians, at various times describing the process as “systematic,” “authorized,” and “organized by the government.” Former President Theodore Roosevelt characterized the events as “the greatest crime of the war.”

### Summary

By the end of 1916, none of the various strategies employed by the Allies or the Central Powers had worked in bringing the war closer to an end. Vast numbers of men had been killed or maimed without providing any significant positive offsets. Nor were there any obvious answers to what would happen in the next year. As a result, frustrations must have been built to a high level. One might speculate that both sides might have been willing to go back to the *status quo ante* if only that were possible but, of course, that wasn't going to happen. However, two major developments would lie ahead in 1917: Russia leaving the war and America entering, but they couldn't be known at this time.

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- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\_of\_Verdun

Your generous donations to the MPHS allows the Board to explore other services to offer the membership - such as our publications program and its products. Please consider a contribution. Ed Dubin, President

## What's Coming To You In Future Bulletins

In addition to our informative 12 pages of regular columns, the following are slated for the pages of the next 4 issues (*subject to change*):

SUMMER (# 3, July to September, 2016, release 8/10/16)

- The Battles of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes
- WW II's Dash Across Europe—A Mechanic's View
- British Officer from the Cradle of Western Civilization
- The German U Boat War—1914—1918
- ABA Airlines *GRIPEN* Shot Down by German Fighter

FALL (# 4, October to December, 2016, release 11/10/16)

- Just Trying to Keep Everyone Honest
- The Brusilov Offensive—Part I
- Part III: The NVA and VC Postal System
- American Airmen in Italy, 1917-1918
- Lufthansa Aircraft Shot Down near Falsterbo, Sweden

WINTER (# 1, January to March, 2017, release 2/10/17)

- WW I Cover as a Billboard - Too Much to Understand
- The Brusilov Offensive—Part II
- Part IV: The NVA and VC Postal System
- Maximizing the C Ration
- WW II Recovered Mail
- Marines and Cuba
- London Orient Flight
- American POW in the Boer War
- U.S. Forces in Fiji During World War II
- BOAC Service to Sweden during WW II and the Crash of the Kinnekulle, Sweden

SPRING (# 2, April to June, 2017; release 5/10/17)

- Mexican National In Uncle Sam's Army (Bilingual)
- WW I Sorority Letter Sheds Light on WWI Puerto Rico Regiments and WW II Walter Reed Hospital
- Consular Mail
- War Ration Auto Use Tags
- Where Sweetheart Pins Can Lead? Keep Em Flying



## SPECIAL EDITION ON LINE AUCTION

### Sale 211 Bis (the Online Only auction)

- This auction is separate from auction lots listed on ppg. 56+
  - Available only at the MPHS webpage at [www.militaryphs.org/auctions.html](http://www.militaryphs.org/auctions.html)
  - Also available by mail (send SASE 71 c)
  - Submit bids to Thierry Delespesse, see page 62
  - Same procedures for the online auction as for all other auctions.
  - Closing Date: June 18, 2016 Saturday

## The WWI Ubiquitous "I am quite well ..." Cards

[British Army Form A2042, the Field Service Post Card]

by Michael D. Dixon, PhD, FRPSL

### The role of Censorship

Maintaining communication with dispersed forces was considered to be of paramount importance. However, the overwhelming concern of the [British] Government was security. Using as a decision base experiences learned in the Boer War, the War Office expressed concern that, in the event of another conflict, the envisioned rapidly growing number of letters and telegrams to be sent, often by people who were privy to sensitive information, would result in stresses on established censorship procedures.

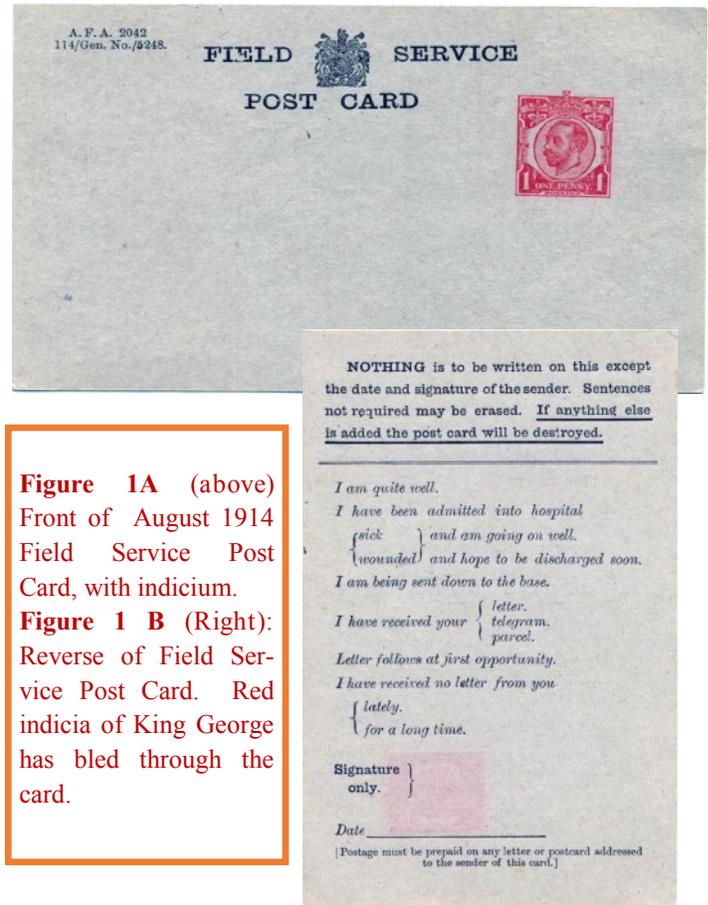
Even innocent letters home from the front could unwittingly provide the enemy with useful information if intercepted, so the War Office decided to censor all mail before it was sent. Giving away information about troop movements and battle plans was forbidden. Reporting awful battle experiences could affect support for the war on the home front. Even grumbling about conditions in the trenches or other signs of low morale could be exploited by the enemy and were liable to be deleted.

Censorship was far from a perfect art form; at the front the task generally fell to junior officers, some of whom felt uncomfortable about what they were reading. Censorship methods were often crude with forbidden subjects either scribbled out or tom out of letters.

### The Field Service Post Card

As early as November 1912, the War Office, in collaboration with the General Post Office, embarked on finding solutions to the perceived censorship problems. Additionally of concern were expressions by field officers that they would not want their troops spending time composing lengthy letters to home. The War Office concluded that an effective way to circumvent censorship and to control time spent by troops was to use the *Field Service Post Card* (FSPC), a pre-printed multiple choice form on which the soldier crossed out text that did not apply, such as *'I am quite well'*, *'I have been admitted into hospital'* or *'I have received no letter from you lately'*. This was hardly romantic, and no words of affection could be added, but it reassured loved ones that senders were safe. Cards bore an admonition that if anything other than the address, a signature or date was added to the card, it would be destroyed (**Figures 1a and 1b**). An exception was made at year end when greetings statements, such as *'Merry Xmas'* or *'Happy New Year'* were permitted. It was intended that cards would be distributed free-of-charge at pay parades at the rate of two per officer or enlisted man. The War Office reimbursed the General Post Office for postage costs.

The first forms were printed by The Stationery Office in August 1914. The buff coloured cards measured 140 by 90 mms. and bore an imprinted indicia of the 1d. George V stamp in red. The initial printing was for 2 million cards, with an additional 1 million per month for the remainder of 1914. Cards were made available at the War Office on 15 August 1914. Even though FSPCs were not required to be censored at any administrative level, many examples can be found with censor hand stamps applied.

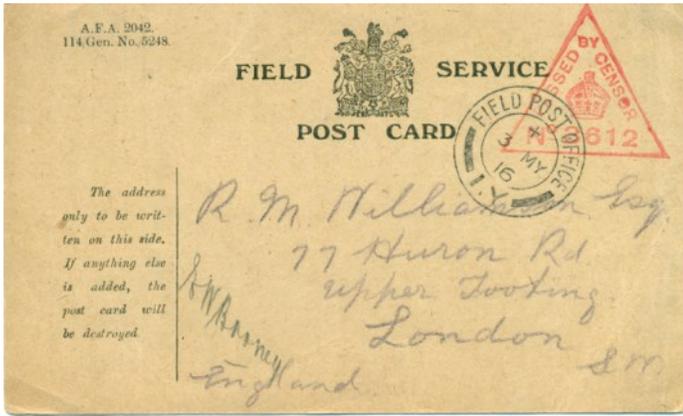


**Figure 1A** (above)  
Front of August 1914  
Field Service Post  
Card, with indicium.

**Figure 1 B** (Right):  
Reverse of Field Service  
Post Card. Red  
indicia of King George  
has bled through the  
card.

### Free Postage

On 28 August 1914, the troops were granted the concession of being able to send letters weighing less than 4 ounces free of charge to the United Kingdom. On and after that date, FSPCs were distributed as stationery at the unit level. Existing stocks of stamped cards were gradually used up. **Figure 2** illustrates a 1916 card without indicia. The sender dated the card 28 April, 1916. The card has been cancelled with FPO cds 1Y of 3 May 1916; FPO 1Y was assigned to the 1st Mounted Brigade serving in Egypt at the time of mailing. Even though FSPCs were exempt from censorship (the *raison d'être* for their design), this card received the crown-in-triangle PASSED BY CENSOR hand stamp in red of examiner number 3612.



**Figure 2:** 1916 card without indicia, used from Egypt to England

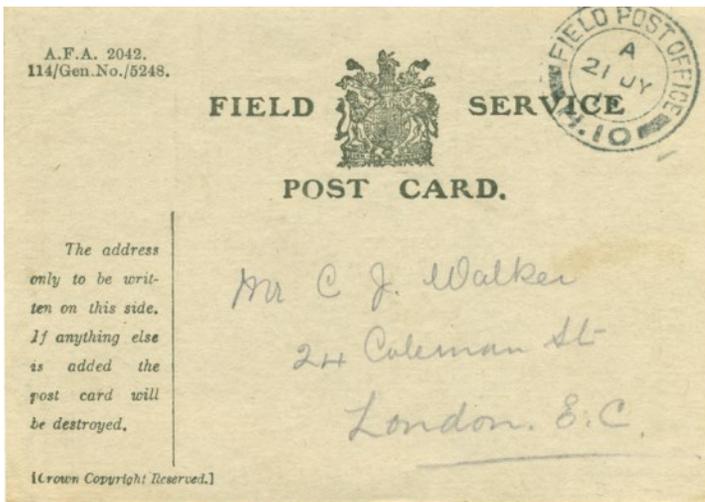


**Figure 4:** 1916 card used in 1917 from a Canadian soldier to British Columbia, Canada. Canadian adhesive added and cancelled with Victoria, BC machine cds.

To meet war economies and shortages of raw materials, with effect from September 1916 printing by Chapman & CO., the size of the cards was reduced to 115 by 85 mm. **Figure 3** shows a small format card from the September 1916 printing used in 1917. This card to London bears the cds of FPO H.10 of 21 July 1917. FPO H.10 was assigned to Corps HQ based in the Ypres, Belgium area at the time of mailing.

**Numbers Printed**

After introduction of free postage, there was no need for cards to be printed by the Stationery Office and bear impressed indicia. Instead, contracts were awarded to commercial printers. The first cards produced under contract were printed by Morgan Reeves & Co., Ltd. During September 1914 1,000,000 cards were produced and delivered to the War Office for distribution. By the cessation of hostilities in 1918, no less than 13 print companies produced a total of 223,220,000 FSPCs. In 1916, no less than

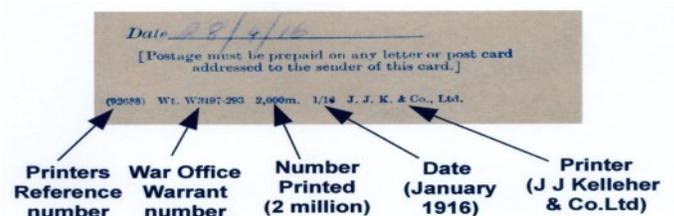


**Figure 3:** 1916 card used in Ypres, Belgium in July 1917. (The printer's imprint on the reverse has Wt.W34977293 and 9716 in error for Wt.W3497/293 and 9/16 respectively.)

The concession of free postage was applicable only to mail from active forces to the United Kingdom. FSPCs to other destinations required postage at the customary rates. **Figure 4** illustrates a card used to British Columbia, Canada. Cancelled at the front with an FPO 6.W cds of 6 December 1916, the card required an additional Canadian 2¢ definitive for the inland post card rate; FPO 6.W was assigned to the 6th Canadian Brigade serving on the Western Front; Victoria, British Columbia machine cancel cds of 4 January 1917 added in Canada.

Printer	Number Produced (in 000s)
Morgan Reeves Co. Ltd	13,200
Unwin Brothers	2,000
F. Thorne & Co. Ltd	4,000
The Pencarbon Company	1,000
G. A. Townsend	1,760
Cherry & Smallbridge Ltd	1,300
George Utter	700
Shaw & Sons Ltd	46,080
Waddle & Co. Ltd	7,100
J. J. Kelleher & Co. Ltd	48,000
Chapman & Co. Ltd	34,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>223,220</b>

Table of FSPC printers and quantity printed by each firm.

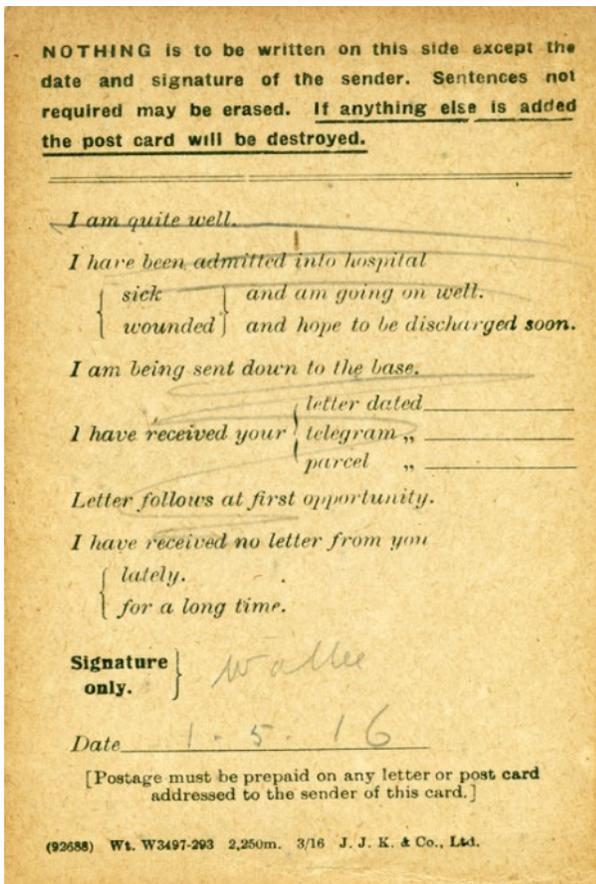


**Figure 5:** Enlarged part of Figure 2, showing the producer's imprint.

59,500,000 were printed. Printers' imprints are given at the foot of the reverse side of each card. **Figure 5** provides an example

### Completion of FSPCs

Such rarities as typewriters and even pen and ink were seldom available to the troops at the front. The occasional typewritten card seen, almost without exception, appears to have been used at corps, division, brigade or battalion headquarter locations where clerical support staff

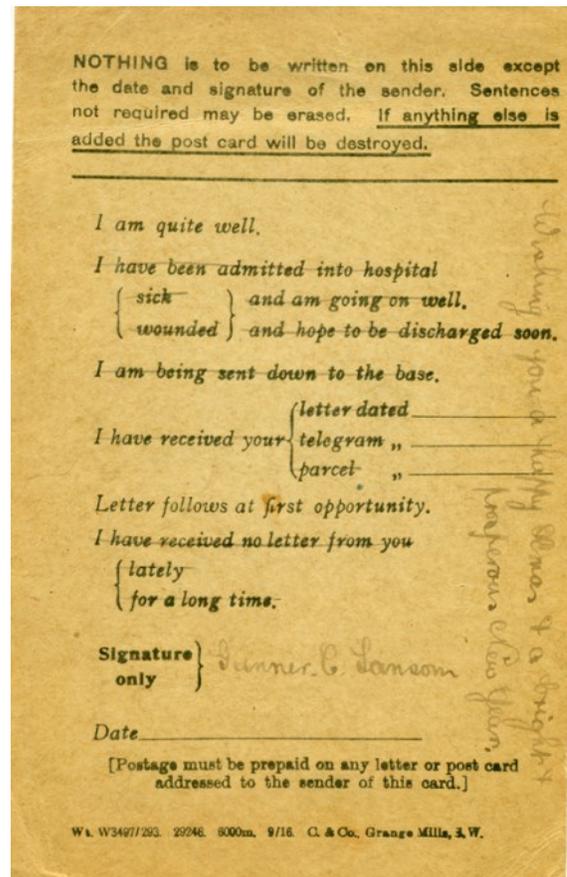


**Figure 6:** March 1916 FSPC issue with FPO C.5 CDS (assigned to the 5th Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Cavalry Division in the Arras, France area) of 2 May 1916. Sender indicates he has been wounded, but hopes to be discharged soon.

were available. The vast majority of FSPCs have been completed in pencil. Often, the pencil manuscript is faint and difficult to read; occasionally an indelible pencil has been used that makes manuscript visually stronger.

### “Whizz Bangs” and “Quick Firers”

Troops gave FSPCs the nickname “whizz-bangs” as they constituted an attempt to speedily mail home an accurate sense of the front-line experience. A “whizz bang” was also “a light shell fired from one of the smaller German field artillery guns,” so that to send home a bland postcard was also, in a sense, to send home a letter bomb.



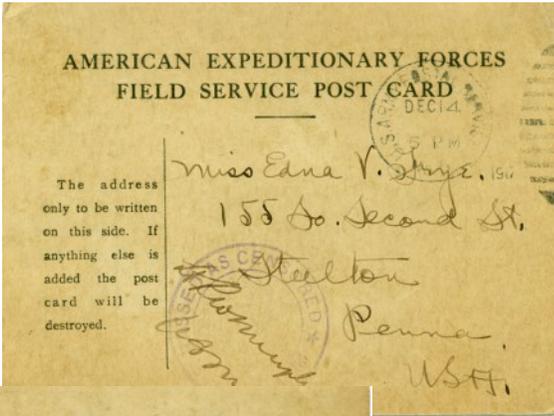
**Figure 7:** 7 September 1916 FSPC issue with FPO TX2 cds (assigned to 2nd Australian Division Train in Somme area) of 13 November 1916. Sender added (at right edge) permitted Christian greeting: Wishing you all the Compliments of the Season.

Because of the speed with which they could be completed, troops also called FSPCs “Quick Firers.” Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

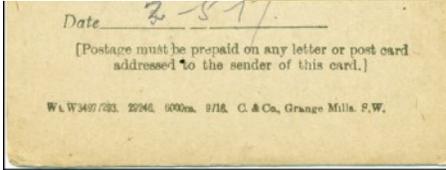
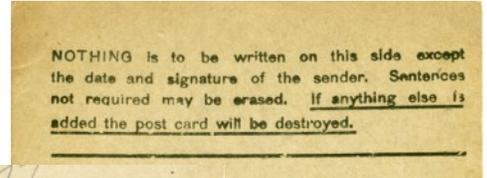
Following the success of the FSPC with the British Expeditionary Force, when the USA entered the conflict it produced FSPCs for the American Expeditionary Force as illustrated in **Figure 8**.

### The Appeal of Collecting FSPCs

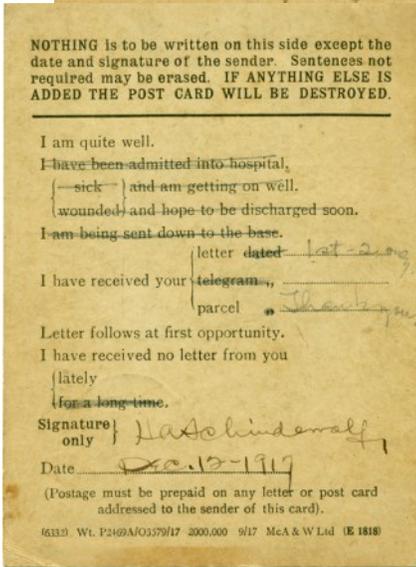
It is not surprising that, with the involvement of so many printers, an array of varieties is extant. In addition to cards with different printers' imprints, different typefaces were used as well as different settings. No less than 26 different “types” of the WWI FSPCs have been identified as well as a multiplicity of identifiable sub-types. Add to those variants the range of postmarks used by different military units in many theatres of war giving rise to an almost boundless universe of FSPC examples (see **Figures 9 to 12** on the next page).



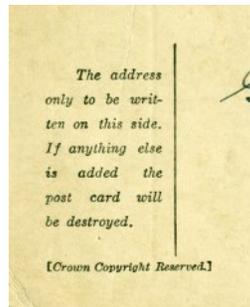
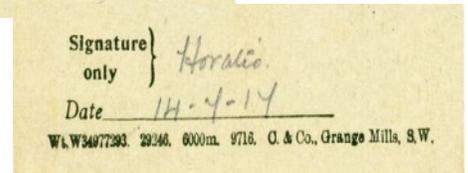
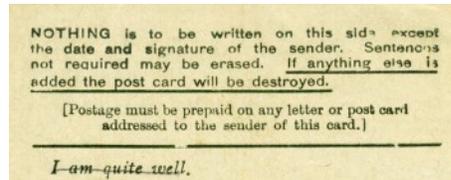
**Figures 8a & 8 b (at left):** USAEF 116 x 118 mm version of the FSPC. Used from USMC to Steelton, PA, on December 14, 1917.



**Figures 11A 1 & 2 (above):** Reverse of 1916 FSPC printed by Chapman & Co. note on postage beneath date.



**Figures 11B 1 & 2 (below):** Reverse of 1916 FSPC printed by Chapman & Co. note on postage beneath admonition.



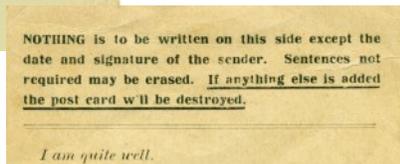
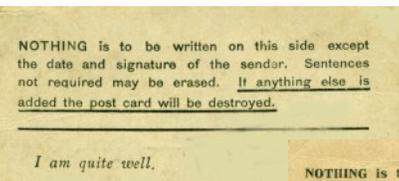
**Figures 9 A and 9 B:** Both inscriptions printed on FSPC cards in 1916 at the bottom left of cards printed by J.J. Kelleher (at left) last line reading “destroyed” and by Chapman & Co. (at right) last line reading “be destroyed.”



**Figure 12:** 12 April 1916 FSPC, printed by J.J. Kelleher & Co. showing double impression on front, one impression inverted.

**Further Reading**

While philatelic literature resources have many articles dealing with the subject of FSPCs, the seminal reference work on the FSPCs is the volume *I Am Well* by Peter Burrows published in 1987 by the author and distributed by The Forces Post History Society, Surrey, UK.



**Figures 10A and 10B:** Both inscriptions printed on FSPC cards in 1916 at the top reverse of cards printed by Chapman & Co. (at left) in sans serif type with single line beneath the admonition and by J.J. Kelleher & Co. (at right) with double line beneath the admonition.

## Clandestine Postal History

### “Before a War...”

## U.S. Involvement in South East Asia

By Mark Sommer

Following the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu, the former French Indochina was broken up into three (some would argue four) independent States—namely Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (North and South). As early as 1950, the U.S. had publicly announced the establishment of Military Assistance and Advisory Groups (MAAG) in Indochina, which were warily accepted by the French. Following the French withdrawal from Indochina, the U.S. began rendering civilian and military assistance to the governments of three of the four nation-states created in the Region, as part of its long-term strategy of “containment” and the shoring up of those governments to combat Russian and Chinese Communist expansion.

Figure 1 is an example of that military assistance program in Cambodia —albeit not a self evident piece. The name CAMBODIA was faintly penciled in sometime after the mailing of the piece when someone realized the significance of the FPO and the corner card inscription and made the link between the two.



**Figure 1:** February 1956 correspondence from MAAG, California through U.S. Navy FPO 17041

That Fleet Post Office was 17041. The corner card inscription of U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group was initially thought of by the author as a clandestine group within the CIA. Upon further study, it was realized that this group was standard U.S. Army nomenclature for “MAAG” group/command, providing military assistance and aid to governments throughout the world during the Cold War era. The distinctive emblem of “MAAG” in Indochina is shown in **Figure 2**, replaced by the distinctive patch of the Vietnam War shown in **Figure 3**.

So basically what is shown by **Figure 1** is early evidence of the **military** (as that term relates to the U.S. Army) assistance program of the United States to

Cambodia in the wake of the French withdrawal from Southeast Asia and before the intensification of the conflict in 1961 between North and South Vietnam.



**Figures 2 and 3:** U.S. Army patch insignia of MAAG Indochina (above) from 1950 to 1956 and MACV in Vietnam (below) from 1960 to 1970.



MAAG Cambodia was established on June 4, 1955, after the May 16, 1955 signing of the U.S. -Royal Government of Cambodia agreement. The agreement almost entirely consisted of non-combatant high-ranking US military personnel to advise the Cambodian armed forces. MAAG Cambodia was staffed mainly by army personnel, with smaller contingents of navy and air force personnel.

As Cambodia's leadership moved towards an official policy of neutrality in the Cold War, MAAG Cambodia's involvement in the country was terminated on November 20, 1963 by General Order 6, MAAG Cambodia, which closed following the Cambodian government's cancellation of all U.S. aid.

If you have information on such clandestine mail (covers, articles, books, paper ephemera) please contact Mark Sommer. As shown in the classified ad in this issue, its easier for Mark to deal with “snail” mail. His home mailing address is in the classified ad. Thank you for your consideration.

## The Turbulent American Landscape in 1916 and its Portent for the Future by Sergio Lugo

The year 1916 is not normally seen as a particularly noteworthy 364 days in the nation's life. A closer examination of some of the issues of that year, however, presents us with a wider appreciation of the year's impact on the U.S. for decades to come – both in the military and political arena. Here is presented some of the internal turmoil of 1916, relating them to the military affairs of the nation. Postal history, supplemented where necessary by diverse ephemeral material, more than adequately makes the connection between the issues and the history, for the four discussion topics presented, consisting of :

- *A. General John Pershing*
- *B. Naval Expansion*
- *C. The Preparedness Movement*
- *D. The 1916 Presidential Campaign*

### *A. The Mexican Border—Where GENERAL JOHN PERSHING proved himself before the main event.*

Unusually in the context of combat leadership, commanding generals are forged by the fire and flame of current battlefield experiences. Not so, General of the Armies John Pershing. His pre-war background provided him with the experiences to prove himself an excellent battlefield commander in the Great War.

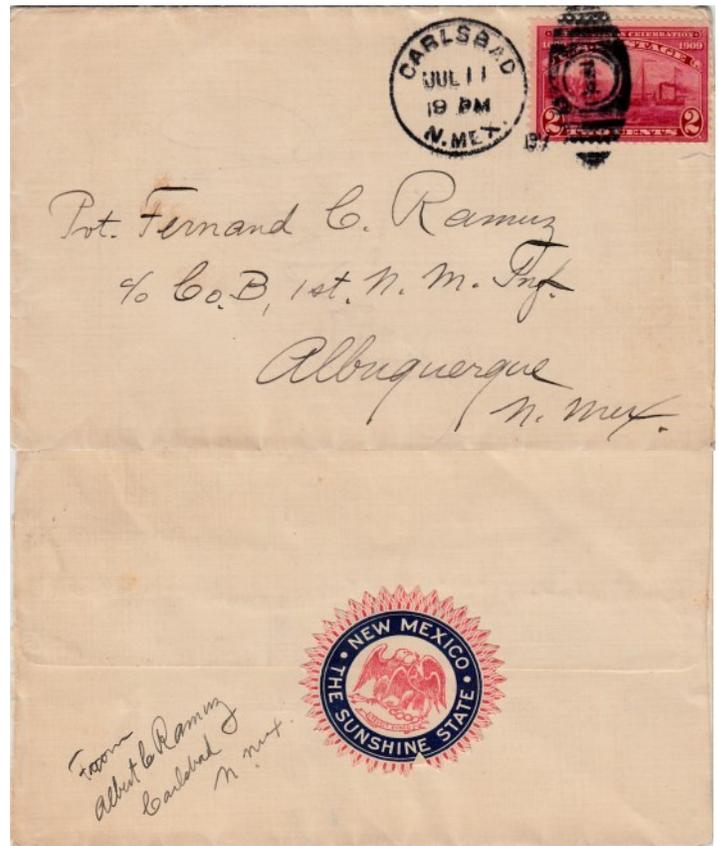
Service with combat forces during the Philippine Insurrection, was followed by Lt./Cpt. John Pershing serving as an observer in the Russo-Japanese War, attached to General Kuroki Tamemoto's Japanese First Army in Manchuria from March to September in 1905. Pershing returned to the U.S. in the fall of 1905. President Theodore Roosevelt employed his presidential prerogative and nominated Pershing as a brigadier general, a move which Congress approved. In skipping three ranks and 835+ officers senior to him, the promotion gave rise to accusations of political connections and not military abilities. While Pershing was politically connected, several other junior officers were similarly advanced to brigadier general.

Pershing's reputation for both stern discipline and effective leadership grew, with one soldier under his command portraying Pershing as an "S.O.B." and that he hated Pershing's guts, but that "as a soldier, the ones then and the ones now couldn't polish his (Pershing's) boots."

On December 20, 1913, Pershing received orders to take command of the 8th Brigade at the Presidio in San Francisco. With tensions mounting on the border between the U.S. and Mexico, the brigade was deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas on April 24, 1914, arriving there on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Despite a variety of hindrances, **Pershing organized and commanded the Mexican Punitive Expedition in 1916 in relatively short order.** This was a combined armed force of 10,000 men that penetrated 350 miles (560 km) into Mexico, to capture/rout Pancho Villa and his revolutionaries.

**Figure 1** represents a scarce original envelope of the Mexican Punitive Expedition. It was sent to "Pvt. Fernand C. Ramuz - c/o Co. B, 1st N.M. Inf. - Albuquerque. N. Mex." by his New Mexican family. Pvt. Fernand C. Ramuz was in Company B, effective May 9, 1916 and participated in the Mexican Punitive Expedition. The New Mexico National Guard was ordered into Federal service on the Mexican border from 9 May 1916 to 5 April 1917, following the Villa attack at Columbus, New Mexico.



**Figures 1 and 2: Letter to Pvt. Fernand Ramuz from family during the initial phase of the Mexican Punitive Expedition.**

At the start of the United States' involvement in the Great War in 1917, President Wilson considered mobilizing an army to join the fight "over there." Frederick Funston, Pershing's superior in Mexico, was being considered for the top billet as the Commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) when he died suddenly from a heart attack on February 19, 1917. Following America's entrance into the war, Wilson, after a short interview, named Pershing to command, a post which he retained until 1919. A major general, Pershing was promoted to full general (the first since Philip Sheridan in 1888) in the National Army, and was made responsible for the organization,

training, and supply of a combined professional and draft Army and National Guard force that grew from 27,000 men to two Armies totaling over two million soldiers. Pershing eventually achieved the rank of General of the Armies, one of only a few men to have attained that rank.

Among the units called up to WW I federal service was the First Infantry Regiment of the New Mexico National Guard, out of service for only three weeks!! It was mobilized again on April 24, 1917. In October 1917 the regiment was ordered to Camp Kearny, California where it joined the balance of the 40th Division composed of National Guard troops from California, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. Elements of the regiment were then reorganized into the 143rd Machine Gun Battalion and the Military Police Battalion. Once the 40th Division reached its final destination at La Guerche, France the entire division was transformed into a depot division responsible for training men as replacements for active divisions

The same iron will and force of personality that he had shown from his West Point graduation through to his command of the Mexican Punitive Expedition served him in good stead as AEF Commander, despite the obvious inexperience. Pershing exercised significant control over the AEF, with a full delegation of authority from Wilson and Secretary of War Newton D. Baker. Baker, cognizant of the endless problems of domestic and allied political interference in military decision making in wartime, gave Pershing unmatched authority to run his command. In turn, Pershing exercised his prerogative carefully, not engaging in issues that could distract or diminish his command with his superiors, or with Allied commanders and their respective civilian leaders.

Within three months of being appointed, Pershing and his 500 man "American Expeditionary Force" were on their way to France (June 1917). In so doing, he displayed the same hallmark that distinguished him in the Philippines and along the Mexican Border – namely **being in the field with his troops**. But he had learned more in the Mexican Expedition than one may imagine. Most notably, modern warfare required long and arduous training to turn the civilian come soldier into a skilled member of the 10,000 man force. The War Department's training program was tremendously influenced by Funston's (as overall commander) and Pershing's (as Punitive Force commander) familiarity with the Mexican Border's technical requirements, and he ensured that battle tested appointees were at the War Department while he and the AEF set off for France. The essential lesson of the value of well trained civilians had not been lost to him on the Border, and so he and knowledgeable staff worked in the War Department for regimens in the AEF that would spit out a fully trained soldiery from basic and advanced training camps within 5 months from the civilians enrolled in the U.S. military.

As the American plenipotenary on the ground in Europe, Pershing had to engage in the **diplomatic niceties**



**Figure 3: The occasion of writing to the El Paso Pioneer's association has been lost in time, but one prominent soldier's letter was still subject to postage due!!!**

**of coalition building and working with Allied leaders**, both civilian and military. That facility had been gained in the Philippines with the African American soldiers he had commanded, in Manchuria as an American observer of the Russo-Japanese War, in Washington, D.C. with the civilian politicians all around him, and in pre-expedition Mexico in his dealings with Mexican revolutionary leaders, including Pancho Villa.

While he saw to it that the War Department produced the trained manpower needed, his AEF staff in France introduced the training program that steered the education of stateside camps and outposts - fully preparing Americans for the combat they would taste. While attending to his diplomatic niceties, he and his staff soon learned the real story of trench warfare, hard fighting, artillery preparation, small advances, gas warfare, forward movement involving "storm trooper" training, and the introduction of aero and tank warfare. Fortunately, he and his staff had become **acquainted with these features of the modern battlefield in the Sonoran desert**, but Pershing insisted that his fledgling and growing Headquarters staff were to subject themselves to French and British training instructors to learn all facets of modern warfare, as quickly as possible including strategic planning and combined arms operations. The training system for the eventual 2 million men who served "over there" was, thus, in effect from the moment the first element of the AEF stepped off the ship.

In one important regard, the AEF training differed from the Allies and never acquiesced to Allied doctrine. Pershing insisted that American troops would focus their arms training on rifles and marksmanship to engage enemy forces, not grenade throwing. That emphasis was among the hallmarks taken to the trenches in December 1917, and which continued for the next 11 months of combat.

**Figure 4** illustrates John Pershing as the American commanding general. It is one of at least four postcards depicting prominent Allied commanders of the war. It was produced for the American Red Cross from a painting by J.F. Bouchor (Official painter to the French Armies).

The painting was done at American General Headquarters on/about June 24, 1917. It was produced nearly a year before Pershing was able to realize his ambitious dream of fielding the first of two American Armies in combat (the 1st U.S. and 2nd U.S. Army with over 1.5 million men).

And the diplomatic niceties had its pay-off as well. Strong willed, stubborn and single minded in his goals and purposes, Pershing took care to ensure his support with the President and Secretary Baker. He was able to maintain his insistence on the creation of an American Army, not the parceling out of American divisions to provide units (and cannon-fodder) for the British and French Armies. His civilian superiors became the objects of tremendous pressure to do just exactly the opposite of what Pershing wanted, but Pershing had carefully cultivated his ground to deflect that pressure by his masterful dialogue with the President and the Secretary, and timely, judicious concessions when the situation warranted, - namely Allied losses on the battlefield that temporarily required the insertion of Ameri-



can divisions. But for the most part, Pershing succeeded in fielding the aforementioned two American Armies that rapidly impressed his allies with their training efficiency and preparedness for battle, even in those instances during the summer and fall campaigns in which inordinately heavy

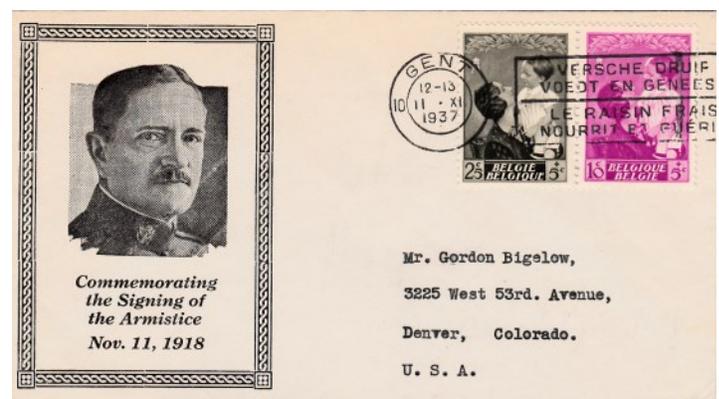
casualties beset the well trained Americans.

The grounding gained in chasing Pancho Villa in the Mexican hinterland in 1916 prepared the American Army in Europe in ways that could not have been imagined in March 1916. And, of course, that testing gave President Woodrow Wilson significant insight into the character of the man that he would so quickly appoint to lead the largest American army in 60 years. It could have been a strutting McClellan at his desk-side interviewing for the billet; instead it was a full blown, battle tested U.S. Grant that the year 1916 had produced for the nation.

**Figure 5 below** was sent from the Office of the Commander in Chief to Sister Aloysius at the St. Joseph Academy in Sacramento, California on February 21, 1919. One suspects that the Academy held some sentimental value for the **humble** Commander in Chief, as he endorsed the cover as its censor as J.E. Pershing, 1st Lt., Inf.!



**Figure 5: A humble Commander in Chief took time to send a note to a Sacramento, California Academy while completing his duties in occupied Germany.**



**Figure 6: A self served event cover, commemorating the 19th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice and America's General Pershing was probably forwarded to Belgium by Gordon Bigelow of Denver, Colorado**

## ***B. THE MOUSE THAT ROARED: The Underpinnings of Naval Power - The 1916 Navy Bill***

Large navy advocates did not relish the continued, obsolescent navy fielded by the U.S., viewing it as a symbol befitting a second rate naval power. Their advocacy began early in the 1910s, reaching its climax in the aftermath of the 1916 engagement in the North Sea in the largest sea action of the Great War. The resulting authorization for American naval forces was to affect world affairs for another three decades.

The stimulus for the U.S. Navy's expansion into a world class naval power after 1916 had begun in 1914, and very much under the leadership of President Woodrow Wilson. As in the preceding year, the Navy Secretary's annual report included the complete recommendations of the General Board concerning the new construction deemed advisable. Its program was in most respects a duplicate of those which the board had made for the preceding five years, except that a specific appropriation for air was recommended, and for the first time the seagoing submarine was mentioned.

The outbreak of the Great War in July of 1914 set in motion a series of quasi-war related events in America. President Wilson signed a Proclamation of Neutrality on August 5, 1914. In spite of the neutrality proclamation, there was persistent agitation carried on both by public



**Figure 7: Real photo postcard of the U.S.S. Nevada circa 1916-1920. The Nevada served in both World Wars. The distinctive twin towers were removed after her 1927 refit.**

officials and private citizens to bring the U.S. Navy into a state of heightened effectiveness. The Navy was generally recognized as the chief line of defense in the event of hostilities. Differences of opinion arose between Secretary Daniels and naval officers as to the navy's real condition.

Assertions and charges regarding an understrength Navy were traded back and forth, that few of the capital ships were ready for actual warfare, that submarines were

useless, and that there were many other shortcomings that would seriously undercut the fleet's service.

Congress signaled its appreciation of the needs of the Navy by passing in 1914 the largest naval appropriation bill recorded in American history up to that time, and by restricting expenditures ashore, so as to allocate the largest possible sum to the development of the sea going Navy. The U.S.S. Nevada became one of the dreadnoughts funded by that legislation.

In 1915, Congress voted more money for naval construction. However, it made appropriations only for about one-third of the amount it would cost to build the vessels authorized. The Sixty-fourth Congress was to make appropriations to continue their construction. Such binding of one Congress by another for the construction of modern warships became necessary because they are so large and costly that multiple years were required to build dreadnoughts, as well as destroyers and submarines.

The battleship U.S.S. Nevada (Figure 7) was completed as the naval expansion program saw the fruits of its early vision. At the time of her completion in 1916, *The New York Times* remarked that the new warship was the greatest [battleship] afloat because she was so much larger than other contemporary American battleships: her tonnage was nearly three times as great as that of the obsolete 1890 pre-dreadnought *Oregon*, almost twice as great as that of the 1904 battleship *Connecticut*, and almost 8,000 short tons greater than that of one of the first American dreadnoughts, *Delaware*, which had been built just seven years prior to *Nevada*.

Continuing tense relations over the naval policies of the combatants, both Great Britain and in particular Germany, caused the United States to again reexamine its naval construction options in 1916.

### **The Naval Act of 1916**

The largest naval construction program ever called for by any nation was advanced by President Wilson in his Third Annual Address delivered to the two Houses of Congress, December 7, 1915. For the first time in the report of a Secretary of the Navy, a plan was submitted which spanned a period of five years. The adoption of a continuing five year program of construction was a distinct innovation, never having been advanced by any prior administration. It provided for the construction of a naval force that would match anything afloat. It was proposed that the huge number of ships would be constructed in yearly increments as outlined in Table I on the next page.

The prelude to the Navy Bill of 1916 reflected a deliberate course and policy of President Wilson and his Secretary of the Navy to allow the U.S. Navy to be the rival of any Navy afloat. That predetermined policy is in direct contrast to Wilson's professed goal of avoiding involvement in the war, as both a personal and presidential

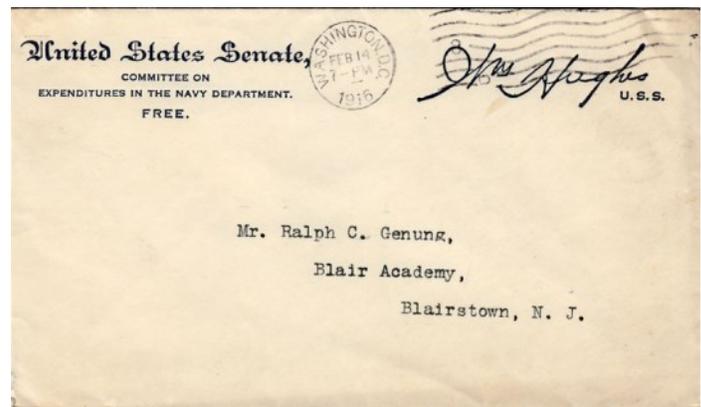
position. In consequence, 1916 became the year in which the U.S. truly became a world naval power as it prepared to contend with the vicissitudes of war time.

President Wilson made his sentiments clear with regard to the purpose of the "Big Navy Act," stating "This would be a navy fitted to our needs and worthy of our traditions." On a Western tour he advocated for the U.S. a navy second to none when he proclaimed "There is no navy in the world that has so great an area of defense as the American Navy, and it ought to be incomparably the greatest navy in the world."

*Nevada* provided the solid demonstration of what the future navy would look like as envisioned by the 1916 Navy Bill. It was the first battleship in the US Navy to have triple gun turrets, and a single funnel. Using oil gave the ship an engineering advantage over coal-fired plants, as oil yielded "a far greater steaming radius for a given amount of fuel." The ability to steam great distances without refueling was a major concern of the Navy's General Board. In 1903, the Board felt all American battleships should have a minimum steaming radius of 6,000 miles (9,700 km) so that the US could enforce the Monroe Doctrine. One of the main purposes of the Great White Fleet's voyage around the world in 1907–1908, was to prove to Japan that the US Navy could "carry any naval conflict into Japanese home waters." Possibly as a result of this, battleships after 1908 were mainly designed to "steam 8,000 miles at cruising speeds" covering the distance between San Pedro, where the fleet would be based, and Manila, where the Fleet was expected to have to fight under War Plan Orange, a distance of 7,540 miles (12,130 km). Endurance was obviously a major concern.

Furthermore, oil allowed for the boiler-room crew to be reduced — the engineer on *Delaware* estimated that 100 firemen (stokers) and 112 coal passers could be adequately replaced by just 24 men, which would save weight, allow some crew quarters to be eliminated, and reduce the amount of fresh water and provisions that the ship would have to carry. *Nevada* also had maximum armor over critical areas, such as the magazines and engines, and none over less-important places. Previous battleships had armor of varying thickness depending on the importance of the area being protected. This radical change became known as the "all or nothing" principle. The armor configuration on the battleship increased to 41.1% of its displacement.

As a result of these design modifications, *Nevada* was the first of the so-called "Standard" type of battleship. "Standards" were characterized by the use of oil fuel, the "all or nothing" armor scheme, and the arrangement of the main armament in four triple or twin turrets without any turrets located in the middle of the ship. The two battleships of the *Nevada*-class were virtually identical except in their propulsion. *Nevada* and the *Oklahoma* were fitted with different engines to compare the two, putting them



**Figure 8: Correspondence of U.S. Senator William Hughes, Chairman of the Committee on Naval Expenditures during 1915—1917. He did not live to see the fruits of the Navy Bill, dying in office at age 45 in January 1918.**

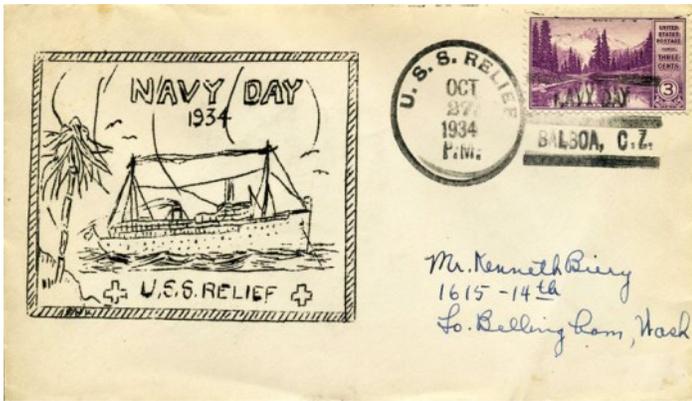
into 'head-to-head' competition: *Oklahoma* received older vertical triple expansion engines, while *Nevada* received Curtis steam turbines.

The Naval Act of 1916 also went by the name of the "Big Navy Act." Frequently overlooked as a landmark piece of legislation, more than \$500 million was to be spent on that emerging modern, naval force.

Opposition to heavily armored and thus expensive "Dreadnought" ships was strong in the House, but was overcome by the results of the one great naval battle of World War I between the British Royal Navy and the German High Seas Fleet, at the Battle of Jutland (31 May–1 June 1916). Despite that engagement's mixed results, it proved to Preparedness supporters that a heavy, great tonnage Navy armed with large guns was necessary to defend American shores and merchant ships on the seas in the event of war. President Wilson told Col. Edward House that he was anxious to hasten the day when the American Navy was larger than Great Britain's, proclaiming "Let us build a Navy bigger than hers and do what we please."

**Table I: Construction Targets—Navy Bill of 1916**

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Battleships	2	2	2	2	2
Battle Cruisers	2		1	2	1
Scout Cruisers	3	1	2	2	2
Destroyers	15	10	5	10	10
Fleet Subs	5	4	2	2	2
Coast Subs	25	15	15	15	15
Gunboats	2	1			1
Hospital Ships	1				
Fuel Ship or		1		1	
Repair Ship					1
Ammunition Ship				1	1



**Figure 9: The *U.S.S. Relief* was the hospital ship authorized by the 1916 Naval Bill shown in Table I. The hand drawn cachet was probably the work of Mr. Kenneth Biery. The *U.S.S. Relief's* Second World War story is extremely well documented in U.S. naval records.**

The Senate passed the “Big Navy Act” on July 21 although it specified that five of ten intended battleships would be replaced with battle cruisers. Not until August 8 did Rep. Lemuel P. Padgett, Tennessee Democrat and Chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, confer with Wilson and agree to support the Senate bill. With the passage of the 1916 Navy Bill, Democrat Rep. Claude Kitchin of North Carolina despaired: “The United States today becomes the most militaristic naval nation on earth.”

The *USS Relief* (Figure 9), was the hospital ship called for by the 1916 Navy Bill. The sixth *USS Relief* (AH-1), the first ship of the U.S. Navy designed and built from the keel up as a hospital ship, was laid down 14 June 1917 by the Philadelphia Navy Yard; and launched 23 December 1919. With a bed capacity of 550 patients, *Relief* was one of the world's most modern and best equipped hospital ships. She decommissioned at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard 11 June 1946. *Relief* was sold for scrap 23 March 1948 to the Boston Metals Co. *Relief* received five battle stars for World War II service.<sup>1</sup>

In Sept. 1918, the Navy Department’s General Board recommended in addition to the sixteen capital ships called for in the initial act, that an additional twelve battleships and sixteen battle cruisers be built. By 1922, the U.S. Navy, if all the ships had been built, could have surpassed the Royal Navy in size and strength. However the expectation of a ruinous arms race with the British and the Japanese led to the Washington Naval Conference of 1921–22 and the tonnage limit ratio agreements (5:5:3) with the US having parity with the Royal Navy.

If the full program envisioned between 1916 and 1918 had been carried out the US would have built or be building in 1921, according to the classification followed by the Navy General Board: twenty-seven battleships of the first line, six battle cruisers, twenty five battleships of the second line, ten armored cruisers, thirteen scout cruisers, five first-class cruisers, three second-class cruisers, ten

third-class cruisers, 108 destroyers, eighteen fleet submarines, 157 coast submarines, six monitors, twenty gunboats, four supply ships, fifteen fuel ships, four transports, three tenders or torpedo vessels, eight vessels of special types, and two ammunition ships.

The impact of such a construction program was recognized by politicians and disarmament proponents the world over, prompting the movement towards naval limitations in 1922. That naval expansion also had consequences that did not ripen for decades to come, but which were to become a direct result of its passage. Among the most prominent was the Washington naval accord’s recognition of Japan as one of the great naval powers - an Asian nation (in the first place) that had achieved remarkable industrial growth (in the second place) in short order.

The Washington naval accords also contributed to the naval air strength of the U.S. in unforeseen ways in the struggle that was to engulf the world two decades later. Two of the battle cruisers called for by the 1916 Navy Bill, namely the *U.S.S. Lexington* and the *U.S.S. Saratoga*,



**Figure 10: The light cruiser *USS Richmond*, one of the 10 scout cruisers of the 1916 Navy Bill. Earning 2 battle stars in WW II, her most notable action was during the Battle of Komandorski Island in the Aleutians. She was struck from the Navy Register in January 1946. The cover commemorates her departure from Cuba for Bremerton, Washington on September 1, 1934, and was cancelled by a 4 bar ship cancel applied on board ship.**

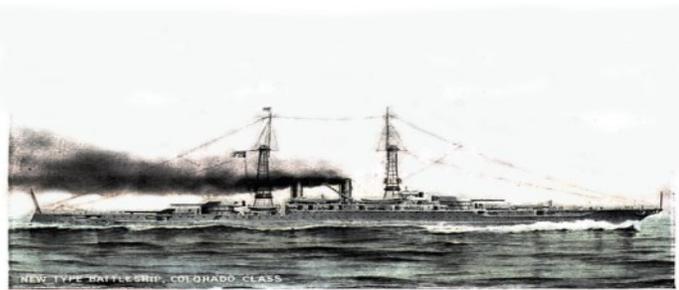
(Figure 14) served as the backbone of the hard pressed foundation in early WW II of the great carrier force wielded by the U.S. Navy in the latter stages of that struggle.

And what of the great battleships planned in the 1916 Navy Bill at the hands of the Washington naval accords? That story takes different twists and turns!

- We’ve noted the development of naval air power using the hulls of two of the planned battle cruisers.
- The story of 50 destroyers of 1916—1921 vintage is noted below and their leverage at the outset of WW II. The pre-dreadnought battleships of the U.S. fleet found their way into the Accords as easily disposable obsolete relics of pre WW I days. Seventeen battleships (BB’s

11 to 28) were scrapped or disposed of by the terms of the Washington Accords. Among the most prominent of these was the *USS Delaware*.

- In addition, seven of the 1916 - 1921 battleships called for by the Navy Bill were otherwise disposed of or scrapped. They included the *U.S.S. Washington*, *South Dakota*, *Indiana*, *Montana*, *North Carolina*, *Iowa*, and the *Massachusetts*.
- Battleship survivors of the class of 1916 - 1921 construction became famed fighting ships of WW II. They included, the *USS Nevada*, *Oklahoma*, *Pennsylvania*, *Arizona*, *New Mexico*, *Mississippi*, *Idaho*, *Tennessee*, *California*, and *Louisiana*.

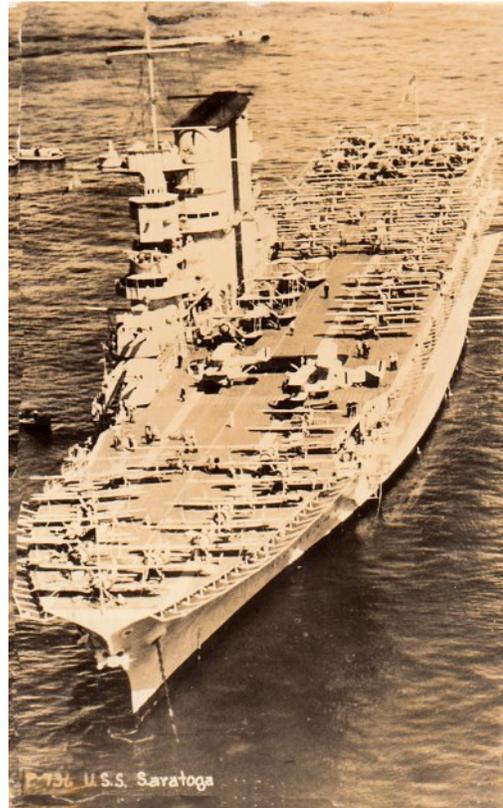


**Figure 11:** The Colorado class battleships were the last of the battleships completed before the Washington Naval Accords. Three of the class entered U.S. naval service in 1920—21: the *USS Colorado*, *USS Maryland*, and *USS West Virginia*.

**Figures 12 & 13:** Chet wrote to Paul Ruckman on this real photo postcard of 1933 vintage displaying 6 flush deck, 4 stackers. Of the six, five saw active duty with the U.S. Navy in WW II, while the *USS Fairfax*, # 93 (second from right) became *HMS Richmond* in the Royal Navy as a result of the 50 destroyer deal.



The battle cruisers called for by the Navy Bill suffered a worst fate. Six were undertaken, none were launched, with four being scrapped and two becoming aircraft carriers. The mothballing of significant numbers of



**Figure 14:** *USS Saratoga* real photo postcard, circa 1935. The card was used in January 1944 by Mrs. Margaret Trapp to her father, as her husband Lt. Herb Trapp was sailing for the war zone on CVE 79, the *USS Ommaney Bay* of “Taffy” fame in the Battle of Samar Strait in the Leyte Gulf battle. CVE 79 was sunk three months later on January 4, 1945.

smaller ships constructed through the Navy Bill of 1916, finally, provided the collateral for acquiring British naval bases to serve as forward extensions of the 1940 U.S. Navy. The fifty destroyers called for by the Navy Bill of 1916 became 111 ships of the Wickes and Clemson class of 4 stack, flush deck destroyers by July 1919. Fifty of the state of the art destroyers envisioned by naval planners in 1916 became the immensely important outdated greyhounds of the sea bargaining chips for the U.S. in U.S. foreign policy and the acquisition of naval bases in British territory one year before America’s entry into the Second World War.

#### Endnotes:

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Relief\\_\(AH-1\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Relief_(AH-1)) AND <http://www.navsourc.org/archives/09/12/1201.htm>  
<http://patriot.net/~eastInd2/rj/alt/rc/chronicle.htm>  
<https://archive.org/details/HISTORYOFUSSRELIEFAHI>

**NOTE:** This article is continued on Page 33 with the discussion of the Preparedness Movement

### Special MPHS Tour of Lower Manhattan:

A tour of Lower Manhattan for those at New York 2016 who would like a break from the Show is planned on Thursday (June 2). What's special about this!

1. I'll lead it. I grew up in the area and know it well.
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3. A modern A/C charter bus would take us to 4 drop/pick up points. Costs as follows: \$30 each for 56 passengers; \$32 each for 49; and \$50 each for 30 (minimum needed). Cost of bus = \$1500 Lunch is separate. A walking tour from the four drop/pick-up points would take no more than about 6 hours to complete (7 hours if we include a deli lunch on Broad Street, VERY, VERY REASONABLE).
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5. **I need to know who might like to go, to finalize the size of the charter bus. At the moment there are 18 on the tour. Please advise no later than April 23rd if you (or spouse) would like to join us to see many sites that most visitors to Lower Manhattan NEVER see. With insufficient numbers, I may cancel on April 23rd on short notice.** E-mail me at lugopspe@q.com. Or call Sergio Lugo, 303-552-8897.

On **Tuesday** morning, **May 31** (10 am to noon) the membership and interested postal historians are invited to Room 1E07 to bring their prize, as well as trouble-some, covers to a 2 hour session entitled **"STUMP and STUPIFY YOUR FELLOW COLLECTORS"** - **Mysteries and Unknowns of Military Postal History.** This is meant as a convivial assembly during which attendees share their mysteries with the audience to impress them with their knowledge or lack thereof. Please join us and be prepared to have a rollicking good time with new and old acquaintances, and the probability that your cover will wind up in the MPHS Journal. Overhead projector being arranged. To be hosted by Sergio Lugo or Ed Dubin or David Kent - subject to coverage at the MPHS booth. **Alternatively, if turn-out is poor we are asking Ed Dubin to give a presentation on "American POW's in WWI"**

World Stamp Show



### MPHS NY 2016 SHOW CALENDAR

**May 28—June 4th:** MPHS Booth # 1280 (help needed)

**Tuesday: May 31**

- 10—12 noon: (Rm. 1E07)-Stump & Stupify Your Fellows
- 1—2 pm: (Rm. 1E11) MPHS General Membership Mtg.
- 2—4 pm (Rm.1E11) Dan Telep Vietnam Presentation

**Wednesday June 1**

- 10—12 noon: (Rm. 1E11) - Sergio Lugo, Social Welfare Agencies of WWI I presentation

**Thursday June 2:** 9:30—5 pm: Tour of Lower Manhattan (details of mtg. location to be forwarded; may be cancelled)

The MPHS booth is # 1280. It will be continually staffed by MPHS members—you among them if you volunteer - contact Ed Dubin. Tuesday morning features our STUMP & STUPIFY get together (see orange box), with the afternoon devoted to - 1 to 2 pm; Room 1E15—the MPHS General Meeting followed by Dan Telep's presentation on the NVA/VC postal system. On Wednesday morning (10 to 12, Room 1E11), Sergio Lugo will be talking on the Social Welfare Organizations of World War I that worked with the military. All are welcome.

The U.S. Postal Service has released the subjects for the daily postmarks available during WSS-NY 2016. One of them is Armed Forces Day

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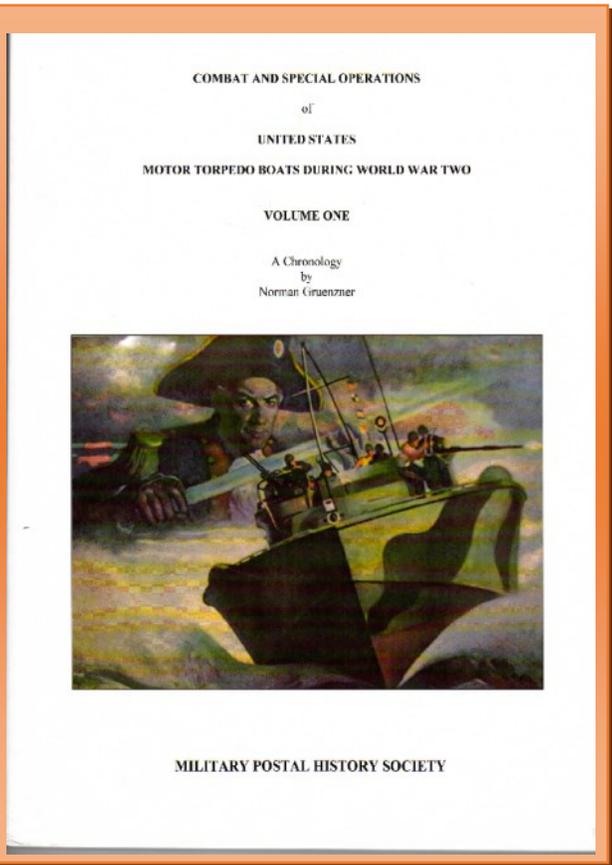
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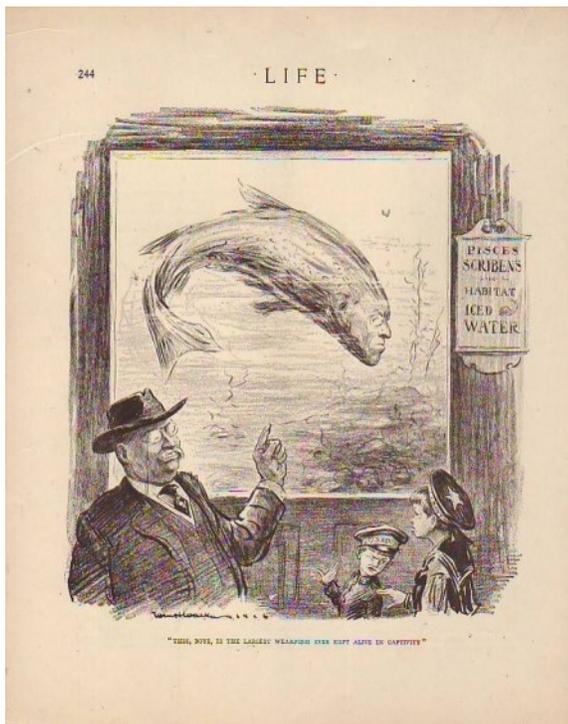
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## The Turbulent American Landscape in 1916 (continued)

### C. THE PREPAREDNESS MOVEMENT

In 1915, a vehement "preparedness" movement emerged in the United States, arguing that the country needed to immediately build up naval and land forces for defensive purposes. That movement forced significant political debate within American society, led to one of the nation's most important unsolved bombings, prompted significant political stance switches on the part of the Nation's leadership, led to the establishment of private military training camps, and mobilized hundreds of thousands of marchers and demonstrators to an outpouring of public fervor both against and in favor of a preemptive strategy of armament. An unspoken assumption of the movement was that the US could be involved in the "Great War."



**Figure 15: LIFE magazine parody of President Wilson by former President Roosevelt proclaiming: "This boys is the largest weakfish ever kept alive in captivity."**

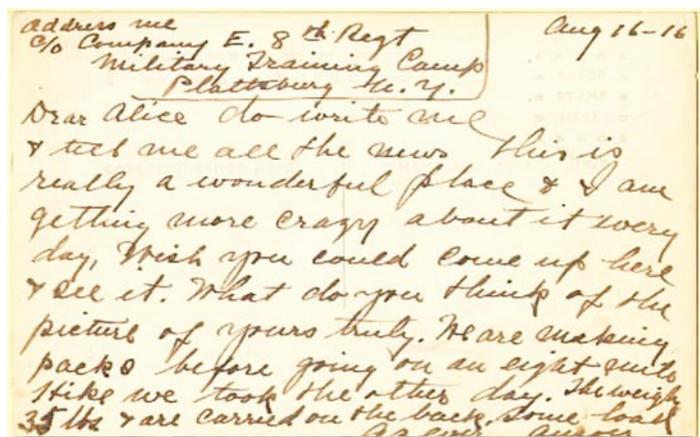
General Leonard Wood (still on active duty after serving a term as Chief of Staff of the Army), ex-president Theodore Roosevelt, and former secretaries of war Elihu Root and Henry Stimson were the driving forces behind the "Preparedness" Movement, along with many of the nation's bankers, industrialists, lawyers and scions of prominent families. Their combined efforts promoted an "Atlanticist" foreign policy committed to establishing and maintaining Anglophile internationalism.

The "preparedness" movement embraced a "realistic" philosophy of world affairs - propounding that economic strength and military muscle were more decisive than "idealistic," progressive crusades (as espoused by Democrats and socialists) focusing on ideals of democracy and national self-determination. "Preparedness" propo-

nents showed that America's 100,000-man army even when augmented by 112,000 National Guardsmen, was outnumbered 20 to one by the German army, underscoring America's weakness over and over again.

"Preparedness" embodied one central concept, namely "universal military training" (UMT). This meant conscription directed by a national service program under which the 600,000 men who turned 18 every year would be required to spend six months in military training, and subsequent assignment to reserve units. Both Roosevelt and Wood favored universal conscription, with both criticizing Wilson's opposition to a large standing army and his advocacy of unarmed neutrality (**Figure 15**). While the "Preparedness" movement's calls for action ultimately failed, it left in its wake achievements that are ultimately not understandable for the postal historian without a familiarity with the movement itself, particularly in relation to the postal history of training camps and the Citizens' Military Training Camps. <sup>(6)</sup>

The Plattsburg Movement was an outgrowth of the "Preparedness Movement," which peaked during the period immediately before and after the First World War, roughly 1912-1920. The movement arose during the same time



3 Plattsburgh Barracks & Soldiers' Quarters, Plattsburgh, N. Y.

**Figures 16 & 17: Correspondence from Camp Plattsburg, August 1916. Anson writes, how does she like him in the other card (Figure 18) "We are making packs before going on an eight mile hike. The weight load is 35 pounds....." Courtesy of Bob Swanson**

the federal government was beginning to modernize the nation's military forces, a move that resulted in the abrogation of the state's constitutionally assigned militia powers.

At the head of this movement was General Leonard Wood. Appointed Chief of Staff of the Army in 1910, Wood differed from his colleagues in that he possessed a faith in the citizen soldier. The vehicle for Wood's plan was a summer training camp. Wood envisioned a six-week training course that would acquaint youths with what the army was all about. Activities included vigorous physical exercise, introduction to military strategy, and field exercises. As the fundamentals were mastered, more specialized military tasks were introduced. At the end of each week the youths endured a grueling hike during which maneuvers were conducted in order to integrate all the previous week's lessons. These volunteer camps were an experimental version for Wood's larger plan: the establishment of military training centers all across the country to train college men for future military service.

Because the volunteers at Plattsburg paid their own way, most were affluent college men from the East. In fact, a significant portion of the whole Preparedness Movement was fueled by the elite establishment. Frightened by the war in Europe, and by the indifference of many Americans, these advocates of American preparedness used their considerable influence to ensure that General Wood's experiment at Plattsburg would expand and continue. The result was the establishment of the Military Training Camps Association (MTCA) with the goal of raising and maintaining a 400,000 man Continental Army which would replace the National Guard as the nation's line of defense after the regular army forces. While the proponents of Plattsburg and the MTCA recalled the spirit of republicanism in the Continental Army, and while 400,000-500,000 men was a sizable number to serve, this plan was in no way "universal," nor did it aim to be. Another concern was constructing the machinery to train the officers required to lead all these men. Furthermore, this "citizens" army and the training camps that would be established were designed to be under federal control. Prior to the National Defense Act of 1916, serious constitutional impediments existed to such an overt federalization of militia forces.

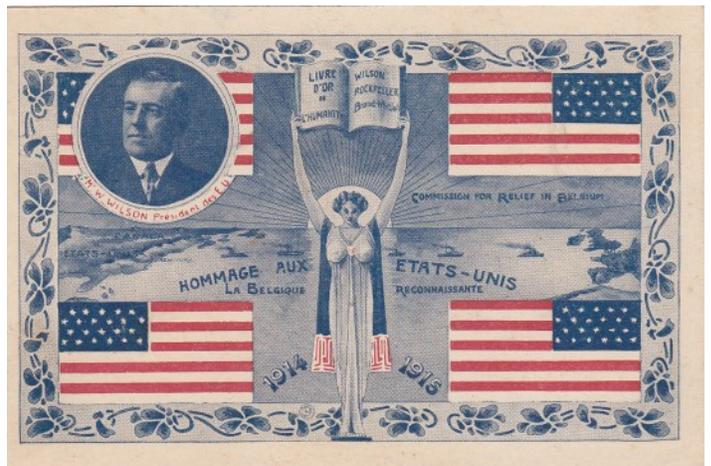
The First World War and the immediate postwar reaction dampened enthusiasm for both universal military training and the entire Preparedness Movement. No support existed for the implementation of the proposed National Army, even though the many combat veterans returning from Europe would have been ideal for the MTCA to form a trained corps around which a real citizens' army could be constructed. While universal training stalwarts attempted to keep the faith, the end of the war brought about the end of the MTCA's role of examining and recruiting officer candidates. Interestingly, by the signing of the Armistice in 1918, approximately 100,000 officer candidates (nearly 50

percent of the U.S. Army's officer corps) graduated from the Plattsburg Movement - the birth of "the 90-day wonder" had taken place.

Several such camps in 1915 and 1916 hosted some 40,000 men largely of elite social classes, and the later Citizens' Military Training Camps that trained some 400,000 men from 1921 to 1940. The training camp at Plattsburg was not the only one established in the summer of 1915. Similar camps were founded at the Presidio in San Francisco; at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago; and at American Lake (Ft. Lewis) in Washington state. In February 1916 the Military Training Camps Association (MTCA) was created to lobby for and facilitate preparedness.



**Figure 18: The real photo postcard showing Anson rolling up his backpack. The absence of postage and the dual card reference of Figure 15 suggests that Anson enclosed the postcards to Alice in an envelope. Military free franking would not have been possible, only being permitted 14 months later for soldiers serving overseas and military censorship was not in force. As can be seen in Figure 18, Anson was with Company E, 8th Regiment. Courtesy of Bob Swanson**



**Figure 19: The 1915 aid to Belgium reflected in this postcard served as both a stimulus to the anti-war movement, as well as to preparedness advocates and backdrop to the 1916 Presidential election.**

With passage of the National Defense Act (June 3,

1916) and the 1916 Navy Bill authorizing increased military and naval forces, the MTCA helped establish the 16 officer-training camps that provided the bulk of the officer corps necessary to lead the U.S. war effort. For some two decades after the war, the MTCA acted as the recruiting agency for the Citizens' Military Training Camps, which provided four-week instruction programs to some 500,000 men aged 18–24.

“Preparedness” was fostered in other ways. The fate of occupied Belgium (**Figure 19**) served as an example of what could happen to an unprepared country and was played upon in public propaganda and the formation of charitable organizations intended to provide relief. To emphasize these and other aspects of preparedness, Roosevelt authored two books on the subject, *America and the World War* (1915) and *Fear God and Take Your Own Part* (1916), that helped popularize the “Preparedness” agenda.

The “Preparedness” movement’s most demonstrative displays of fervor, however, was not in the military training camps, but on the streets and sidewalks of major and minor American cities across the country, including:

- New York City on May 30, 1916 at which an estimated 137,000 paraded up 5th Avenue;
- Hartford, CN; Chicago, IL., and St. Louis, MO. on June 3, 1916
- Washington, D.C.:
- Dallas, Texas on May 30, 1915
- Providence, R.I. on June 3, 1916
- Savannah, GA. June 1916
- El Paso, TX. and
- the infamous San Francisco parade of July 22, 1916.

Before entering a discussion of the parades, it should be noted that the Socialist Party was a bulwark of opposition to the “Preparedness” Movement, as were Anti-militarists and pacifists. The latter were strong in Protestant churches and in women's groups. They protested vehemently, loudly and in every possible forum that the plans of the “preparedness” movement was tantamount to making over the US into another Germany. “Preparedness” advocates retorted that military “service” was an essential duty of citizenship, and that without the commonality provided by such service the nation would splinter into antagonistic ethnic groups. One spokesman promised that UMT would become “a real melting pot, under which the fire is hot enough to fuse the elements into one common mass of Americanism.” Further, the discipline and training gained in training camps would make for a better paid work force. The hostility to military service, however, was so strong as to make it difficult to imagine a conscription program winning approval in 1915 - 1916.

Suggestions by labor unions that talented working class youth be invited to Plattsburg were ignored. The “preparedness” movement was distant not only from the working classes but also from the middle class leadership

of small town America. It had little use for a National Guard that it saw as politicized, focused on mundane local affairs, poorly armed, ill trained, too inclined to idealistic crusading, and too lacking in understanding of world affairs. The National Guard, nonetheless, was securely rooted in state and local politics, with representation from a very broad cross section of American society.

To counter the unions, Socialist and anti-militarists in their public pronouncements, organizations such as the National Security League, American Defense Society, League to Enforce Peace, and American Rights Committee sponsored preparedness parades. Chief among the goals of the parades was to pressure Wilson into strengthening



**Figure 20 & 21: Pictures showing the Missouri National Guard (later the 138th Regiment) and City Fireman approaching St. Louis' Jefferson and Locust Street in the June 3rd, 1916 preparedness parade.** <sup>(7)</sup>

national defenses and to demonstrate the patriotic fervor of many of the American people.

Initially, the movement had encountered opposition from the President whose sentiment focused on the strengthening of armed neutrality. After the *Lusitania*'s sinking and the Pancho Villa raid against Columbus, New Mexico, Wilson's attitude changed dramatically - embracing “preparedness” to sustain Wilson's evolving views on the potentiality of future war in the Great War. Ironically, the “Preparedness” Movement began fading as this evolution in the President's thinking progressed.

But not before the parades. Many in the United States saw the nation poised on the edge of the war precipice. On the one hand stood the preparedness advocates, counterbalanced by isolationism proponents of many stripes. No where was such juxtaposition of opposing



**Figure 22: Reproduction of the real photo postcard of the Preparedness Parade in Dallas on May 30, 1915.**

views more evident than in San Francisco, among radicals such as the Industrial Workers of the World ("the Wobblies") as well as mainstream labor leaders. The rise of Bolshevism and Socialism contributed to labor unrest, with San Francisco's business community increasingly nervous at the thought of revolution with labor rebels at the forefront of insurrection. The Chamber of Commerce organized a Law and Order Committee, despite the diminishing influence and political clout of local labor organizations.

The huge Preparedness Day parade of Saturday, July 22, 1916 in San Francisco was a target of radicals. An unsigned antiwar pamphlet distributed throughout the city in mid-July read in part, "We are going to use a little direct action on the 22nd to show that militarism can't be forced on us and our children without a violent protest."

Thomas Mooney had been tipped off to threats that preceded the parade and pushed resolutions through his union, the Molders, and the San Francisco Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council warning that provocateurs might attempt to blacken the labor movement by causing a disturbance.

The parade was the largest parade ever held in the city. The 3.5 hour procession had 51,329 marchers, including 2,134 organizations and 52 bands. Military, civic, judicial, state, and municipal marchers were followed by newspaper, telephone, telegraph and streetcar trade unions. Many units in the parade came from other cities of the San Francisco Bay Area.

At 2:06 pm, about half an hour into the parade, a time bomb in the form of a cast steel pipe filled with explosives exploded. The bombing killed ten and wounded 40. Two labor leaders, Thomas Mooney and Warren K Billings, were convicted in separate trials and sentenced to be hanged. Rena Mooney and Israel Weinberg were acquitted. The sentences were eventually commuted.

Despite Wilson's eventual embrace dramatically demonstrated in the midst of a presidential campaign, the Democratic Party continued to view the "preparedness" movement as a political threat. Roosevelt, Root and Wood

were prospective Republican presidential candidates. More subtly, the Democrats were rooted in localism that appreciated the National Guard, and Democratic voters were hostile to the rich and powerful in the first place. Working with the Democrats in Congress, Wilson was able to blunt the outspokenness of the preparedness forces. Army and navy leaders were forced to testify before Congress to the effect that the nation's military was in excellent shape.

In fact both services were in questionable shape for war. Despite the flood of new weapons unleashed in Europe, the army paid scant attention. It was making no studies of trench warfare, poison gas or tanks, and was unfamiliar with the rapid evolution of air tactics. In 1915, the Democrats in Congress tried to cut the military budget, but the "preparedness" movement effectively exploited the outrage over the *Lusitania*, forcing the Democrats to promise some improvements to military forces.

Unlike the nation's military (Army) force, President Wilson was predisposed to embracing a long-term building program designed to make the fleet the equal of the Royal Navy by the mid-1920s. In this regard, "Realism" was at work as admirals were Mahanians in belief, seeking a surface fleet second to none—coinciding with Wilson's views. Wilson's naval program touched off a firestorm within the army. Secretary of War Lindley Garrison adopted many of the proposals of the preparedness leaders, especially their emphasis on large federal reserves and abandonment of the National Guard. Garrison's proposals not only outraged the localistic politicians of both parties, they also offended a strongly held belief shared by the liberal wing of the progressive movement, who felt that warfare always had a hidden economic motivation.

Specifically, they warned that the chief warmongers were New York bankers (like J. P. Morgan) with millions at risk, profiteering munition makers (like Bethlehem Steel, which made armor, and DuPont, which made powder) and unspecified industrialists searching for global markets to control. Antiwar critics blasted them. These selfish special interests were too powerful, especially as noted by Senator LaFollette in the conservative wing of the Republican Party. The only road to peace was mediation and disarmament, propounded by William Jennings Bryan as Secretary of State, and following his resignation in the face of the growing divide between he and Wilson.

Garrison's plan unleashed the fiercest battle in peacetime history over the relationship of military planning to national goals. In peacetime, War Department arsenals and navy yards manufactured nearly all munitions that lacked civilian uses, including warships, artillery, naval guns, and shells. Items available on the civilian market, such as food, horses, saddles, wagons, and uniforms were always purchased from civilian contractors. Armor plate (and after 1918 airplanes) were exceptions.

Peace leaders like Jane Addams of Hull House and David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University,

redoubled their efforts, and now turned their voices against Wilson because he was "sowing the seeds of militarism, raising up a military and naval caste." Many ministers, professors, farm spokesmen and labor union leaders joined in, with powerful support from a band of four dozen southern Democrats in Congress who took control of the House Military Affairs Committee.

Wilson, in deep trouble in light of the impending election, took his cause to the people in a major speaking tour in early 1916, a warm-up for his reelection campaign that fall. Wilson seems to have won over the middle classes, but had little impact on the largely ethnic working classes and the deeply isolationist farmers. Congress still refused to budge, so Wilson replaced Garrison as Secretary of War with Newton Baker, the Democratic mayor of Cleveland and an outspoken opponent of preparedness. Garrison kept quiet, but felt Wilson was "a man of high ideals but no principles."

A compromise was reached in the halls of Congress in May 1916, as the war raged on and Berlin was debating whether America was so weak that it could be ignored. The army was to double in size to 11,300 officers and 208,000 men, with no reserves, and the National Guard would be enlarged in five years to 440,000 men. Summer camps on the Plattsburg model were authorized. Ironically, preparedness supporters were downcast, while antiwar advocates were jubilant. In both their respective eyes, America would be too weak to go to war.

The House gutted the naval plans as well, defeating a "big navy" plan by 189 to 183. But that gambit itself was turned around by events in the North Sea. The Battle of Jutland (May 31/June 1, 1916) saw the German fleet nearly sunk by the British fleet, only to escape by brilliant seamanship and luck. Arguing that this sea battle proved Mahanian doctrine, the navalists took control in the Senate, broke the House anti-war coalition, and authorized, in the 1916 Navy Bill, a rapid and massive build-up of the fleet, including naval aviation which received \$3.5 million. Further, the government was authorized to build its own armor-plate factory.

Not coincidentally, the furious debate between preparedness and anti-preparedness forces in 1916 and the notable weakness of American military power that could be projected beyond American shores encouraged Berlin to restart its unrestricted submarine attacks in 1917. Germany anticipated that this would mean war with America, but it discounted the immediate risk of (1) the insignificant US Army and (2) the naval expansion plan would not become operational at sea until 1919 - 1920. By then, the German high command believed that the war would be over, as the Entente's western front would be overwhelmed by German forces released from the Eastern front as Russia tottered and undersea U-boat warfare had gradually starved England into submission as the transports for essential food supplies slipped under the waves by torpedo attacks. The



**Figure 23: Montgomery Flagg's famous image first appeared as part of the Preparedness debate in the July 6, 1916 issue of Leslie's Weekly with the title "What Are You Doing for Preparedness?"**

notion that armaments led to war was turned on its head. In essence, refusal to arm in 1916 led to war in 1917.

A reminder of this great debate on the American social and political scene remains with us to this day, **as the greatest poster of all time** - reprised time and again in multiple causes of the past century. Originally published as the cover for the July 6, 1916, issue of Leslie's Weekly with the title "What Are You Doing for Preparedness?" this portrait of "Uncle Sam" went on to become--according to its creator, James Montgomery Flagg--"the most famous poster in the world." Over four million copies were printed between 1917 and 1918, as the United States entered the Great War and began sending the AEF into war zones.

Endonotes:

(6) The prior three paragraphs were paraphrased from the Oklahoma City University Law Review. Originally published as *21 OKLA. CITY U. L. REV. 191-245 (1996)*. For **educational use only**. The printed edition remains canonical, from [www.okcu.edu/law/lrissue.htm](http://www.okcu.edu/law/lrissue.htm)

(7) <http://missourioverthere.org/explore/collections/peters-william-collection/william-peters-world-war-i-scrapbook-1915-1919/>

#### ***D. Bryan's Enigmatic Role in the 1916 Presidential Campaign***

The role of William Jennings Bryan in campaigning for President Woodrow Wilson presents an enigma following Bryan's resignation as Secretary of State in 1915. An examination of issues during his tenure and his 1916 campaign support for Wilson elucidates their differences and Bryan's motives in promoting Wilson's re-election.

For supporting Woodrow Wilson for the presidency in 1912, William Jennings Bryan was appointed Secretary of State, the top cabinet position. The only powerful public office he ever held was his two years in that position. Wilson took his measure and only nominally

consulted him after his inauguration, making all the major foreign policy decisions from the White House.

Bryan kept busy negotiating treaties that promised mediation of disputes before war broke out between the signatory countries and the United States. He made several unsuccessful attempts to negotiate a treaty with Germany. Known officially as "Treaties for the Advancement of Peace," the treaties set up processes for mediation rather than arbitration. In September 1914, as the largest neutral nation, he wrote President Wilson urging mediation in the Great War that had erupted in Europe a month earlier.

He also steadfastly pointed out that by traveling on British vessels "an American citizen can, by putting his own business above his regard for this country, assume for his own advantage unnecessary risks and thus involve his country in international complications"

Wilson's demands for "strict accountability for any infringement of [American] rights, intentional or incidental" following the loss of the *Lusitania* in 1915 troubled Bryan. He counseled an "evenhanded" approach, urging "...why be so shocked by the drowning of a few people, if there is to be no objection to starving a nation."



**Figure 24: Chicago Daily News cartoon of June 9, 1915 following Bryan's resignation as Secretary of State, and accurately conveying the increasingly hawkish President Wilson.**

By 1915 Bryan sensed that the neutrality heretofore advocated by President Wilson was being eroded by unrestricted German U-boat warfare. He also sensed that Wilson was increasingly leaning towards an aggressive strategy in the absence of the cessation of German depredations during the increasingly destructive war, then in its 16th month. To make his position clear, William Jennings Bryan resigned as Secretary of State in September 1915 after his rejection of Wilson's efforts to prescribe U.S. foreign policy memoranda on denouncing Germany for her undersea tactics.

Despite his misgivings over what he had seen as an increasingly hawkish Wilson, Bryan nonetheless threw his eloquent oratorical abilities behind Wilson's bid for a second Presidential term during the summer and fall campaign season of 1916. By the time of the nomination and elec-

tion, German undersea warfare had basically been called to a halt in order not to rile the neutrals into anti-German preparations. Instead, the Germans focused on the destruction of Allied naval might and military strength (in the battles of Verdun, the Somme and Jutland). However, the "preparedness" movement had come into full flower on the American scene and had forced the nation into a divisive debate on the merits of military and naval expansion in the face of possible involvement in the Great War.

Wilson's 1916 nomination and election theme were directly tied to the Great War, as he was ordained by the Democratic Party as the President "who had kept us out of war." (also see **Figure 19**) That theme served as the public relations spin in rallying the party faithful in support of the President and contributing significantly to the narrow defeat of the Republican candidate, Charles Evans Hughes, and the "preparedness" initiatives that were widely seen as a Republican political ploy to garner support.

It can be argued that President Wilson was already predisposed to war and fully intended to keep his options open, despite the slogan's peace theme. Bryan realized this from the communiques he had been involved with as Secretary of State and Wilson's increasingly hardline stance by the point of Bryan's departure. His resignation had been prompted by the President's effort to secure Bryan's agreement to a missive aimed at Central Europe and denouncing German barbarism on the high seas. Thus, down deep Bryan realized that Wilson would quickly jump to his 1915 sentiments, if provoked, that would lead to war.

President Wilson had initiated minor, but nonetheless, significant military action against Mexico earlier. A behind the scenes significant policy debate arose in D.C. over German submarine depredations, and Wilson cannot be advanced as the model of "peace" in these debates that his positions belied, leading in part to Bryan's resignation rather than supporting a foreign policy position that was anathema to him. When Germany resumed submarine warfare, Wilson was sufficiently provoked that the tenor of the "Peace" President could be put behind him after November 4, 1916. And that is what happened with America's declaration of war in early April, 1917.

Despite the muted tone of public utterances of the President in his re-election bid, from Bryan's perspective a Democrat was a Democrat, and better than a Republican any day of the week. Thus, it can be said that as the election proceeded, William Jennings Bryan sought to use his considerable public appeal and oratorical skills to promote the defeat of "preparedness" Republicans. In so doing, Bryan probably recognized the implicit threat to peace posed by the re-election of a President that would jettison his professed peace stance for a policy of war if he saw that the Alliance powers threatened in any way the sovereignty of the American Republic or the rights of its citizens.

Down deep Bryan probably realized that Wilson would quickly jump to the warrior's stance if sufficiently

provoked, no matter his publicly professed peace stance. In light of his enormous, but waning, influence within the Party, Bryan may have hoped that his active campaign support of Wilson (whose re-election was not a sure thing) would materially influence Wilson to move away from war, and back onto the path of “even handed” neutrality.

President Wilson was predisposed to protecting American interests, even if it meant war, as his prior actions had demonstrated. In 1914 and 1916 his actions involving Mexico reflected a willingness to risk war if American honor demanded it. At Vera Cruz, in 1914, the assault of the U.S. Navy and Marines resulted from his desire to protect American commercial interests, inadvertently creating a minor flare-up on the American domestic scene that the revolutionary Mexican forces did not forget. And in 1916 the decision to send a punitive expedition across the border to hunt down Pancho Villa amounted to a violation of Mexico’s sovereignty at a time of Mexican civil war, adding fuel to that nation’s perception of Wilson and Americans as war mongers. Mexican antipathy was aroused, followed by Mexican refusal to employ their trains to move American troops about in Mexico, and stand-off battles fought with Pershing’s expeditionary units in several engagements, while setting the stage for Germany’s transmission of the Zimmerman Telegram.

On another stage, the Navy Bill of 1916 provided Wilson with the means to further demonstrate his warrior leanings by launching the greatest naval construction frenzy since the founding of the Republic and the largest expansion until the dark days of 1942 as the U.S. endured the widespread Japanese successes of WW II. The great Navy of the 1916 Navy Bill would be the rival of any European power and would serve to stop any contemplated invasion of continental North America. It also, served the very practical purpose of deflating the “preparedness” movements hysteria over “defenseless” America.

The confluence of all these factors suggests that it was virtually predictable from the actions of Wilson that the U.S. would be at war with the Alliance powers shortly after the 1916 election. The contradictions between the imagery and the reality of the enigmatic President seen by Bryan led to Bryan’s stepping down in the face of Wilson’s diffident foreign policy positions. **It also explains Bryan’s reemergence in 1916 in trying to buttress Wilson’s earlier “neutrality” views.** But despite Bryan’s efforts, no sooner had the President settled into his second term than the Germans initiated their provocations in the form of the Zimmerman Telegram, as well as the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare. Both provided the necessary fodder that Wilson needed to back the position that he so masterfully had concealed from public view in 1915, and during the 1916 campaign.

Bryan had not ignored his reservations about the President that had been gained from his Secretarial experience **and probably secretly hoped that his influence**

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**2020: November 20-22: Chicago -- CHICAGOPEX**

**could be used to dissuade the President from what appeared to Bryan to be an almost predetermined course navigated by Wilson if submarine warfare was renewed.**

And that helps to explain the odd reality of Bryan’s campaigning for Wilson in the fateful year of 1916. Historian Nicholas Perkins propounds that view in his study of Wilson entitled *Missionary Isolationist*. In his view, Bryan was the deciding factor in winning Wilson re-election, when he wrote:

Pg. 118 “Following the convention, he campaigned enthusiastically for the president through twenty Western states, evading his own doubts by arguing that Wilson’s domestic record and success in keeping the nation out of war entitled him to a second term. When the election was over it became apparent that the Commoner’s evocative combination of peace and domestic reform still carried a powerful magic in many areas of the country. Fifteen of the twenty states in which Bryan campaigned went for Wilson and provided the margin of his narrow victory.

But, as in this article, Perkins was mystified by Bryan’s support of the President, until he realized that there was deeper meaning to his support than met the eye. He wrote:

Pg. 119—120 “Encouraged by the support for his position implicit in the election outcome, Bryan decided it might now be time to shift the focus of his efforts from keeping the nation out of war to promoting mediation. From the beginning of the war he had felt that ending the war through American mediation would be the ideal way of rendering disinterested service to the belligerents and the only sure method of keeping the nation from being sucked into the conflict. As secretary of state, he had constantly urged mediation on the president and was never satisfied that enough was being done to press it upon the belligerents. One of his reasons for resigning was to free himself to urge mediation publicly.

And Bryan was not adverse to exploiting his new found respect in the eyes of the President to again promote an agenda that now found favor with the President. Perkins wrote:

Pg. 119—120: “On December 12 the Germans formally asked American assistance in arranging a peace conference. Delighted, Bryan immediately cabled British Prime Minister Lloyd George to urge the Allies to seize the moment, and in telegrams to the belligerent ambassadors in Washington, he implored their assistance to the same end. When, on December 18, Wilson sent his message asking the warring nations to state their aims as a preliminary to the calling of a peace conference, it appeared that Bryan’s prayers had at last been answered.”

The disillusionment which followed the responses of the opposing sides in the European conflict one can argue, became just another painful thorn in the long and distinguished career of William Jennings Bryan, and his record of failed aspirations and deflated public hopes.

But not coincidentally, the dis-ingenuity of Wilson came back to haunt both of them and the American Republic shortly after. Many political leaders of the nation and much of the populace were aghast at the moral cynicism displayed by the signers of the Treaty of Versailles (including Wilson) and the treatment of the ideals expressed in the Fourteen Freedoms that Americans had enthusiastically embraced.

Those political leaders and the electorate disavowed the President’s aspirations in 1920 at the apparent cynicism displayed by the victors for which Wilson had marshalled America’s resources and fighting forces to bend their shoulders to the plow to achieve Allied victory. That American repudiation of Wilson was to affect American domestic and foreign policy for the next two decades as the excesses of the “Roaring Twenties” took hold and the austerity of the Great Depression forced reevaluation of the American dream. Not until the Second “Great” War were the stuffings knocked out of the foreign policy principles of renewed isolationism and disentanglement from world politics that arose from the cynicism engendered by the 1919-1920 rejection of the high minded principles of 1916.

#### References:

- Perkins, Nicholas: *WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN: Missionary Isolationist*, Perkins, Kendrick University of Tennessee Press, 1982, Knoxville, TN.
- “When Gentlemen Prepared for War” The following worldcat points to libraries. <http://www.worldcat.org/title/when-gentlemen-prepared-for-war-the-plattsburg-military-training-camp-of-1915-16/oclc/270712870>
- <http://www.friendsofthenysmilitarymuseum.com/the-plattsburg-training-camp/>
- <http://www.worldwar1.com/tgws/rel011.htm>
- Military Training Camp Association of the U.S.: *Roster of Attendants at Federal Military Training Camp, 1913—1916*: HQ, 31 Nassau St., Dec., 1916; Anderson & Ruwe, Inc. Www. Harvard University Research Guide: Harvard and the Military.

## Quixotic Item for The Issue

by Sergio Lugo

This article begins with the usual editor’s request that your submissions are always considered for inclusion in this column. Regrettably, this plea seems to have fallen on deaf ears—but not to worry—Dudley Do Right always seems to come to the rescue and that has happened once again!

Not only does the Internet provide a lot of useless nonsense and information, it does the inestimable job of providing us with documents which would NEVER have been found by us as researchers and writers in the “antiquarian” days of library visits and inter-library loan. This is particularly true for those intrepid souls who spend hours upon hours scanning interminally long documents. In issues to come, I will regale you with portions of the 7 volume, 8500+ pages of the Austrian War Archive (1933), detailing the 1916 Brusilov Campaign. At the moment, I’m introducing you to one of the outstanding U.S. Army History handbooks: *U.S. Army in World War II; Special Studies Military Relations between the U.S. and Canada*, Stanley Dzuiban, which can be found at <https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-SS-Canada/USA-SS-Canada-5.html>

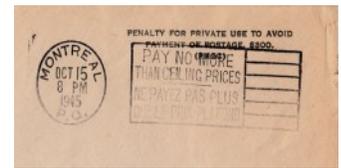
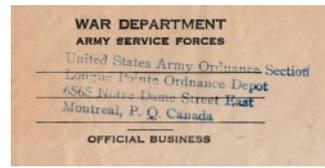
I was drawn into this document’s overview of the topic because of some unusual covers I had acquired. More on those later, however. *The Military Relations Between .....* paints a fascinating story of the continental defense of North America between these two nations and the many, many logistical, tactical, strategic, and manufacturing plans and decisions the two nations had to undertake throughout the war. While sovereign in each respective country’s space, Canadians had to adapt to the ways and processes of the U.S. in many ways—not vice versa—as the junior partner. The *Special Study* explores many of these controversial elements in a somewhat chaotic system of command and control, as each ally attempted to understand the other’s foibles and hierarchical structure to get the job done.

Surprisingly, such coordination extended to the manufacturing and supply arena, but here the *Special Study* failed me, as the covers I was looking at bore corner cards that have escaped me in my internet or library searches. Four of the six covers were addressed to the Henry Morgan Company, which I have since learned was a major Canadian department store. The other two were addressed to the Canadian Vickers firm, and to Major I.C. Morgan, Paymaster 6th Hussars.

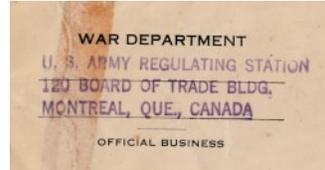
I naturally assumed that Major Morgan was somehow tied into the Henry Morgan firm, but later concluded that was simply the whim of coincidental fancy. But I did learn from the Internet that the 6th Hussars (The Royal Canadian Hussars Montreal) trace a direct lineage from the Montreal Volunteer Cavalry formed in the late eighteenth century. The present regiment perpetuates five cavalry and one armoured units: the Royal Montreal Cavalry, the 5th Dragoons, the 6th Duke of Connaught’s Royal Canadian Hussars (6th DCRCH), the 11th Argenteuil Rangers, the 17th Duke of York’s Royal Canadian Hussars (17th DYRCH), and the 1st Motor Machine Gun Brigade. In 1941, the 6th DCRCH were called upon to furnish the

Headquarters Squadron of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division and were designated 15th Armoured Regiment (6th DCRCH). In Oct. 1943, the 5th Canadian Armoured Division landed in Italy and went into action in mid-January 1944. The 6th later moved to France in February 1945.

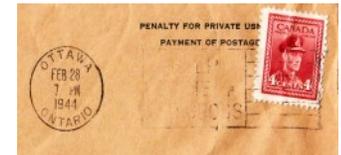
But as usual I digress. The philatelic images that first caught my eye was the free franking indicia of Figure 1 (see Figure 3) and the initials in the corner card (shown as Figure 2). From the other covers, I learned that the BAR of Figure 2 stood for Bureau of Aeronautical Representative, U.S. Navy. But the first quixotic element about the cover was the provision of the free franking privilege to the U.S. Navy's correspondence originating out of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I was unaware that such a privilege would have been extended to the U.S. by Canada. Even more surprising, however, is the second quixotic element—namely that this practice may have been sporadic in nature and may have been the exception rather than the rule with two other covers not affixing postage, but three other covers franked. The final quixotic element of these covers are the corner cards themselves—that fully name the U.S. services branch operating out of Montreal or Ottawa, but for which I could not find any information in the *Special Studies*, albeit the Military Attache corner card is self explanatory. Please, take a look at the corner card and franking sections of those envelopes (they are # 10 entires), shown as Figures 4 to 13. Any reader, particularly Canadian, is welcome to fill in the information gaps by an e-mail or letter to the editor. These quixotic item (s) will be very much enriched by information relative to the statutory or administrative extension of the free franking privilege to U.S. forces in Canada, as well as information on the units and/or sections shown in the corner cards, particularly relative to function, or superior oversight authority in either the U.S. or Canadian government during World War II.



FIGURES 4 and 5: Canadian free franking U.S. Army Ordnance slogan metered cover on official business.



FIGURES 6 and 7: Canadian free franking U.S. Army Regulating Station machine cancel on official business.



FIGURES 8 and 9: Canadian franked U.S. Military Attache cover on official business?

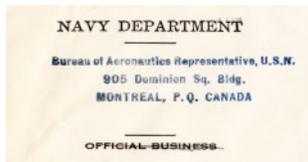
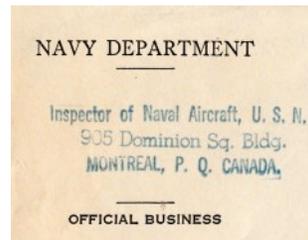
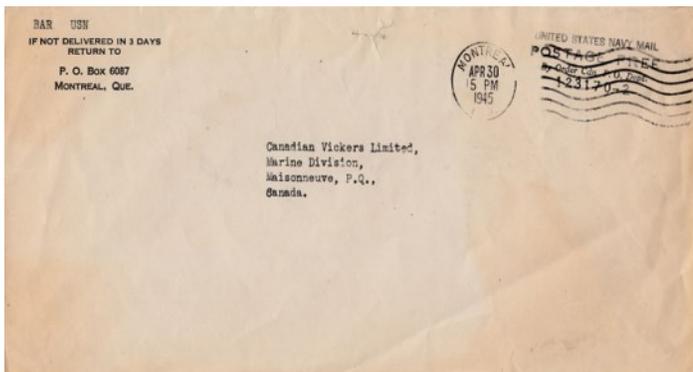


FIG. s 10 and 11: Canadian franked U.S. Bureau of Aeronautical Representative cover not on official business?



FIGURES 12 and 13: Canadian franked U.S. Inspector of Naval Aircraft cover on official business?



FIGURES 1, 2 and 3: Canadian free franked U.S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautical Research cover.

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## Tankless Tank Corps “Trained” at Gettysburg in 1918

by Kevin Lowther

The U. S. Army, during the First World War, had two separate tank corps—one in France commanded by Captain George Patton Jr., and one at Camp Colt, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, under Captain Dwight Eisenhower.

Patton had the satisfaction of getting into battle, having lobbied General John J. Pershing to release him from AEF headquarters in Paris. Eisenhower was compelled to remain stateside, training his virtually tankless corps for deployment in the event the war continued. His 10,800 officers and men were ready to depart for France when the armistice was signed.

Eisenhower’s frustration was salvaged somewhat by his promotion to lieutenant colonel and the knowledge that his organizational skills were recognized. They would fully blossom on D-Day a quarter century later. It was this talent, however, which led the Army to keep him in Gettysburg.

Camp Colt was established in 1917 and converted to a tank corps training ground in early 1918. Eisenhower assumed command on March 24. The camp’s main section occupied the field immortalized 55 years earlier by Pickett’s charge.

Tank corps recruits soon became familiar with the topography of the Battle of Gettysburg. They picnicked in the Devil’s Den and used Little Round Top for target practice. Letters in my collection from two trainees—brothers, in fact—capture the uncertainty and fragile morale which settled over Camp Colt during the summer of 1918.

Writing on June 24 on Tank Corps stationery—no tanks, but nice writing paper—Jim Hubbard complained to his brother Jack in the Navy that “They treat us almost like prisoners here and the Boys are so disappointed at the prospect of long delay about going into action, and of training here stead of England.”

Their third brother, Bill, bunked with Jim. On July 1—the anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg—Bill wrote to Jack of their joining local citizens partying in the Devil’s Den and “flirt[ing] with the pretties.”

They “took along our signal flags and talked from Devil’s Den to Little Round Top where some other fellows were signaling.” They also entertained a member of the British admiralty, who had come down from New York City to visit the battlefield. He was a member of a British commission buying military supplies.

Eisenhower did what he could to inject reality into their training. A single French-built Renault tank had been sent across the Atlantic.<sup>1</sup> At least the tankers would know what a tank looked like! Eisenhower also mounted machine guns on heavy trucks and had the men shoot at Little Round Top.

By early July there were rumors of a move. Jim had been told by a lieutenant that, when they finished heavy infantry drill, they would go to a camp near Scranton for target practice before shipping out to Ireland. There they would presumably train with actual tanks. Jim wanted to earn an officer’s commission in Europe. He now feared the fighting would be over by October. In early August, he wrote his brother, “the men are in a smouldering state.”

Eisenhower’s four tank battalions got as far as Hoboken and were scheduled to leave for Europe on November 18. Like most of the two million men still training in the U. S., they never left.

In 1919, Eisenhower participated in a transcontinental truck convoy organized by the Army. Among other weapons on display was a small Renault tank.

Patton had observed the tank’s modest effectiveness in the St. Mihiel Salient in September 1918 and shortly thereafter in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. However, the National Defense Act of 1920 abolished the Tank Corps as a separate entity, incorporating it into the Infantry. Patton chose, for the moment, to join the Cavalry.



Eisenhower and Patton still had faith in the future of the tank. Eisenhower argued in the November 1920 issue of *Infantry Journal* that mechanical and other problems with tanks could be overcome. He suggested that tanks eventually would prove more effective than machine gun brigades, which had performed well in the war.

As Lt. Col (Ret.) Thomas D. Morgan writes in “Ike

and the Tank,” superiors warned Eisenhower to forsake tank warfare, just as they were warning another officer, Billy Mitchell, to forget about aerial bombing.<sup>2</sup>

Other military men gradually came to agree that tanks might be useful. By 1925, the *Infantry Journal* was publishing pro-tank articles. All that was needed was another war.

**Endnotes**

1. The Holt gas-electric tank, developed in the U. S. in 1917, proved too heavy and inefficient. It never went beyond the prototype stage.

2. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Thomas D. Morgan, “Ike and the Tank,” accessed on the Internet, October 27, 2015.



**LOOKING FOR SMOKING COBRA soldier** postal history of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force of World War II—Army, Air Force or Naval—1943 to 1945. For an article under development. Scans, pictures, postcards, postal history for purchase. Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246; e-mail: lugopspe@q.com

**LOOKING FOR YOU** to Attend Our Annual Membership meeting on Tuesday, May 31, Room 1E 15 between 1 and 2 pm where we will recognize Larry Nelson for 2015’s best article in the MPHS Bulletin, entitled “The Mexican Border Incursion of 1916 - Somewhere on the Border.”

**APO/DPO/FPO  
Openings & Closings**  
by David Kent

These APO, FPO and DPO actions were announced in the *Postal Bulletin* between February and March, 2016. Announcements advise Postal Service staff that they may now accept mail addressed to numbers listed as “Active,” and may no longer accept mail addressed to numbers listed as “Closed.” Actual dates of operation of offices may differ from the dates given. Some numbers may be Mailing Addresses Only rather than representing an operating post office. Usually the effective date of an action is the publication date of that issue of the *Postal Bulletin*. Exceptions would be marked with an asterisk\*.

TYPE	#	ACTION	DATE
DPO	09160	Open	2/18/16
APO	09161	Open	3/3/16
APO	09245	Open	2/4/16
APO	09758	Open	2/4/16
APO	09758	Close	2/18/16
FPO	96649	Open	3/3/16

Finding the locations of overseas military post offices, whether they are opening or closing, is a frustrating process these days. The Military Postal Service Agency no longer posts any useful information on the Internet, and those who manage other types of websites with military ZIP Code listings rarely take serious actions to keep them up to date. The only observations to make on the list above is to note that the “Open” announcement for APO 09758 was apparently an error that was corrected by another announcement that the code was “Closed.”

## MPHS Marked Down Literature Sale at New York 2016 ONLY

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By Theo Van Dam. Spiral bound, clear plastic cover, 274 pages

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**Bulletin Back Issues** **\$5**

**Article Photocopies:** \$1.25 for one article; \$5 for up to 15 pages plus \$0.25 per page afterwards.

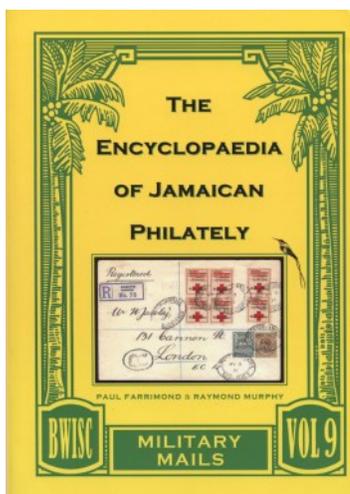
## Book Reviews

by Alan Warren

*The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately, Vol. 9: Military Mails* by Paul Farrimond and Raymond Murphy. 466 pages, perfect bound, 8 ¼ by 11 ¾ inches, The British West Indies Study Circle, Javea, Alicante, Spain, 2015. ISBN 978-1-907481-24-6, £29 plus shipping; details from <http://www.bwisc.org/index.html>. US residents can obtain copies for \$45 from Ed Barrow at [e.barrow1@gmail.com](mailto:e.barrow1@gmail.com)

This handbook is the definitive source for information pertaining to military mails of Jamaica including censorship and patriotic covers. This new edition is totally revised with renumbering of labels in some cases and the addition of new information. The discussion goes beyond World War II.

Some historic background, including the Spanish influence and then the early years of the British presence, sets the stage for the modern period starting with the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The chapter on the British Army lists various handstamp markings in chronological order by type. In each case there is an image of the mark and brief mention of its purpose with earliest and latest known dates of use. The British Field Post Offices (BFPOs) after independence are listed. Registered mail markings are shown as well as censor handstamps.



The next chapter deals with the Royal Navy in Jamaica. World Wars I and II are examined as well as the period between the wars. Markings described include the Naval Intelligence Center, British Packet, Fleet Mail Office, and some censorship markings. The Royal Air Force has a short chapter of its own.

Another chapter focuses on prisoners of war, internees, and evacuees and the markings found on their mail. A separate chapter is devoted to censorship services in WW I and WW II with details of handstamp markings and labels. This is one of the more expansive sections and incorporates images of covers and sometimes maps that

show air mail routes.

Additional chapters address the handling of mail in Jamaica for Canadian forces, American forces (with censored naval covers from between the wars), and Provincial forces of the West Indies and Jamaica. Patriotic covers handled in Jamaica have a section of their own.

Each chapter is followed immediately with several appendixes that reproduce official letters of instruction, listings of vessels and units, censor numbers, and cross references to previous editions of this handbook. Each marking has a catalog number of its own.

There is no master index for this book but a useful search tool is an index of handstamp markings and the pages where they are found. A 2-page listing of references will lead readers to related sources of information. Rarity factors are not shown.

Despite the complexity of the subject the book is designed to be useful for collectors of military mail. The text is not crowded and the illustrations are clear and distinct, and in color when covers are shown. The attention to detail of the handling of military mail in just one of the British West Indies islands is truly amazing.

*Murmansk Konvoiene 1941-1945* by Erik Lørdahl. 60 pages, 8 ¼ by 11 ¾ inches, saddle stitched, in Norwegian, Tårnåsen, Norway, 2015. ISBN 978-82-92826-05-8, ordering details at [www.warandfieldpost.com](http://www.warandfieldpost.com).



The Arctic Convoys serving Murmansk and Archangel, Russia, during WW II, brought lend-lease materiel to the Soviet Union. This is their story using historic photos and postal history. The vessels plied the North Atlantic and Barents Sea, with constant threat from German submarines.

The first convoy sailed in 1941 from England via Iceland to Russia and was code-named *Dervish*. After that the sailings were given code numbers beginning with QP or

PQ depending on whether they were going to or from Russia. The code prefix changed for each year of the war.

The author summarizes some of the key events that occurred during the war involving the convoys, taking them chronologically with each passing year. The Norwegian merchant fleet played a key role in these operations. Mail is shown from Russian, American, British, and German participants with many of the items censored depending on origin, destination, and routing.

Photographs and picture postcards of various marine craft, both transport supply vessels as well as escort ships, bring a sense of immediacy to the reader and supplement the examples of mail to help tell the story. The massive supply effort succeeded despite the loss of some ships. About 7.5% of the supply tonnage was lost over the 5-year period of the convoys. 1943 was a fortunate year with all vessels making it through.

A brief list of literature sources is provided, and credit is given to a number of collectors who provided some of the covers for illustration. One appendix lists the Norwegian ships in the convoys and the London ship cachet numbers. Another appendix lists the convoy numbers by year, their point of origin, the total number of ships and the number sunk. A list is provided of the U-boats that were sunk during the convoys, and a final appendix gives the letter codes for all Allied convoys during the war.

Author Lørdahl was hospitalized with terminal cancer as the publishing arrangements for his book were being finalized. He was able to help with last minute changes and corrections. The printer delivered the books the day that Erik died. He has left an important document for the benefit of postal historians.

*Alan Warren*

**MPHS AUCTION SALES REPORT - 2015**

by Thierry Delespesse, Auction Manager

- # 206 – Total sale = \$833.00 (incl. \$21.00 MPHS)  
[Society profit = \$106.21 + \$83.30 + \$67.75 = \$257.26\*]
- # 207 – Total sale = \$913.75 (incl. \$44.50 MPHS)  
[Society profit = \$118.84 + \$91.38 + \$83.00 = \$293.22\*]
- # 208 – Total sale = \$716.50 (incl. \$0.00 MPHS)  
[Society profit = \$85.36 + \$71.65 + \$73.75 = \$230.76\*]
- # 209 – Total Sale = \$589.50 (incl. \$00.00 MPHS)  
[Society profit = \$117.45 + \$58.95 + \$42.50 = \$218.90\*]

**TOTAL PROFIT for 2015 = \$1,000.14**

\$733.14 (commission) + \$267.00 (MPHS Sales \*\*)  
(\*Society profit = Seller + Buyer commissions +  
\*\*MPHS sales (which include donations, primarily from Robert Quintero)

**E-mails to the Editor**

Your thoughts on the articles and presentations in the Bulletin are solicited. So, how about a novel idea for this solicitation. Why don't you send in a thumbs up or thumbs down on what you've read in our most recent Bulletins, and this one.

And BTW, MAKE IT POSITIVE. We don't need a rehash of our favorite Smokey Bear capped D.I. motivational practices. What is needed is encouragement about their articles in terms of the facts and issues. Leave the pointing fingers to the editor re. grammar, sentence structure, totally incorrect observations, punctuation, minor discrepancies, font size etc. What we really are seeking from you is the creation of a positive environment that encourages writers. Thanks for appreciating that need. And for this issue, thumbs up or down on:



- |                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| • Articles             | X | X |
| • Coverage:            | X | X |
| • Auction :            | X | X |
| • Article substance:   | X | X |
| • Multi-part articles: | X | X |
| • More Scans           | X | X |

Comments via e-mail (to lugopspe@q.com):

**From: Graham Mark, March 21, 2016**  
**FORENSIC EXAMINATION OF LETTERS IN BRITAIN 1916**

Following Mark Sommer's article about the use of closure labels printed in green ink (MPHS Winter 2016, pp 21-22) "A Secure Writing Laboratory" I can offer some more information and comments on the covers I have recorded.

The wording of the Defence of the Realm Regulation 24A of 10 May 1916, was:

"If any person sends from the United Kingdom, whether by post or otherwise, any letter, document, or substance containing any written matter which is not visible or legible unless the medium in which it was written is subject to heat or some other treatment, or any letter, document or substance in which any other means for secretly communicating information is used, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations."

So codes and secret inks were banned, where previously there had been a degree of tolerance providing the messages were otherwise unobjectionable.

For a short period in late May and early June 1916, covers can be found with a censorship label printed in green ink and with low numbers at lower left. From the modest number of covers seen bearing these labels it can be stated that all with a green ink label also carry a standard black ink censor's label which is

## E-mails to the Editor (cont'd)

covered by the green ink version.

There was a theory that this second examination was prompted by the news embargo following the Battle of Jutland (31 May 1916) but evidence of covers posted both before the battle, and after the news embargo had been lifted on 3 June, has discounted this idea. It was proposed by this author (in 1994) that this additional examination was carried out under the then new Regulation 24A looking for codes or secret writing. This is reinforced by an item from a lady censor's scrapbook (**Figure 1**) which identifies the green ink label as being used by the 'Testing Department' the name commonly used in the censorship for their Chemical & Code Branch.

Farquharson stated, in his para 715, that beside the experts (not specified) there were 30 women examiners under an Assistant Censor with two Deputy Assistant Censors in the codes and ciphers section and three Deputy Assistant Censors in the chemical section. The period of use of these green ink labels was only a couple of weeks or so. That can be explained because two quite different labels on a cover would indicate to the recipient that the letter had been subject to a more rigorous examination than usual, and the censors would not want to draw attention to their practices. So far 19 covers have been recorded. All were addressed to the Netherlands which seems unusual, but no explanation can be offered. Six of the covers were to a philatelist, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He was a refugee railway engineer from Antwerp, who appears to have had a brother, and no doubt friends, in this country. But why his mail should have warranted special attention is not clear.

Further reports of the use of these labels will be appreciated, via the editor.

### References:

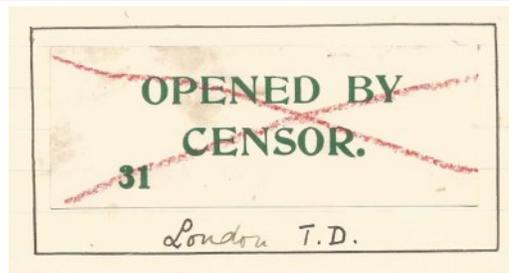
Farquharson, LtCol ASL (1920): *Report on Postal Censorship during the Great War (1914-1919)*, chapter XXXI, UK National Archives ref: DEFE1/131.

Graham, Mark (2000): *British Censorship of Civil Mail during World War 1 (1914-1919)*, Stuart Rossiter Trust, Bristol, ISBN 9780 9530004 18

Pulling A (ed): *Defence of the Realm Manual*, 3<sup>rd</sup> enlarged edition, February 1917, HMSO, London.

*The Times* (London) 18 June 1919, p. 9 "Postal Censorship. Secret writing laboratory"

*Daily Telegraph* (London) 18 June 1919, "Censorship Secrets"



**Figure 1:** Label pasted in a scrap book by a lady censor.



**Figure 2:** Ascot, Berks, 28 May 1916, paid 2½d, to Zeist. Censor label 1270 (black ink, type 5) overlaid by green ink label (type 22) number 18. Arrived 7/6/16.



**Figure 3:** Paddington, London W, 14 June 1916, paid 2½d, to Scheveningen. Censor label 1217 (black ink, type 5) overlaid by green ink label (type 22) number 13. Back-stamped at The Hague 2 July 1916, Scheveningen arrival date not clear.

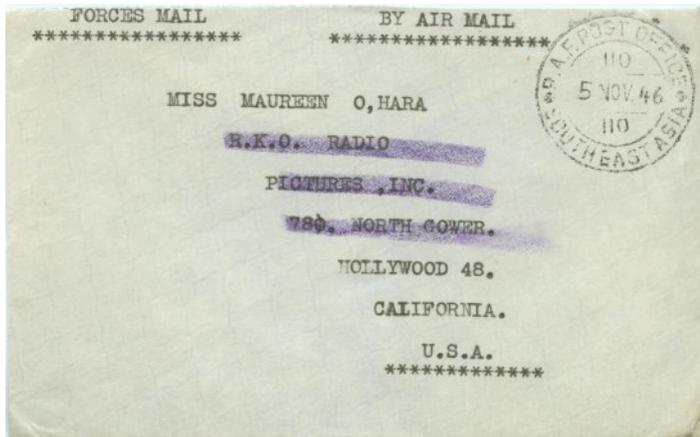
## Stars & Strife: Post World War II British Forces

by Regis Hoffman and Thomas Richards

This installment of "Stars & Strife" chronicles post-World War II Hollywood fan mail covers sent by members of the British forces overseas. Although the war was over, Britain continued to maintain forces throughout the world, both in their Empire and in occupied lands. The immediate post WW II era makes for a highly collectible facet of military postal history.

As we have seen in previous installments, during war-time troops often wrote to their favorite movie stars in an attempt to help retain some sense of normalcy during extremely difficult times. Even during peacetime this practice continued.

**Figure 1** shows a cover from a member of the Royal Air Force (RAF) in India in 1946 to actress Maureen O'Hara, an Irish actress who starred in many Hollywood productions of the 1940s and 1950s. She worked for a number of studios including RKO and Fox. The cover is addressed to RKO, but this is crossed-out, indicating she was no longer working for them.

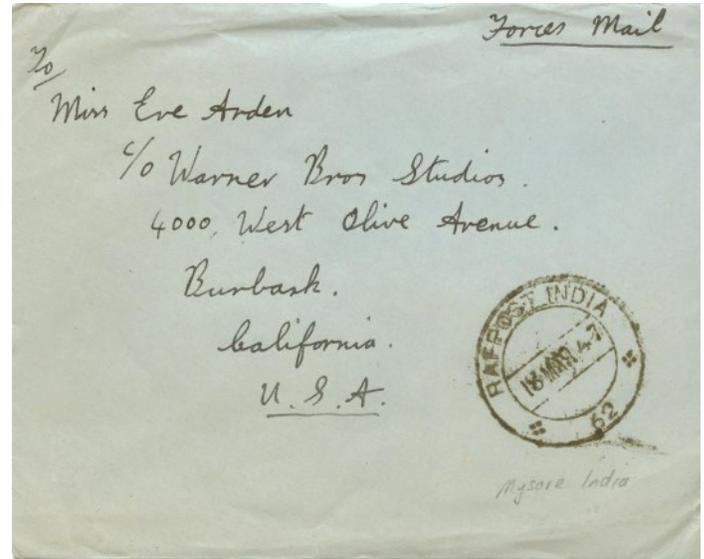


**Figure 1.** Cover from member of RAF in India to actress Maureen O'Hara.

Another cover from the RAF in India is shown in **Figure 2**. This cover is addressed to actress/comedienne Eve Arden at Warner Bros. Studios. Eve Arden was an American actress whose almost 60-year career crossed most media frontiers with both supporting and leading roles. To younger audiences she is most remembered for playing the sardonic but engaging teacher role in *Our Miss Brooks*, and as the Rydell High School principal in *Grease* and *Grease 2*. Before those roles, she performed in several memorable films including a supporting role as Joan Crawford's friend in *Mildred Pierce* (1945) for which she received an Academy Award nomination as Best Supporting Actress.

Even though the war was over, a free postage

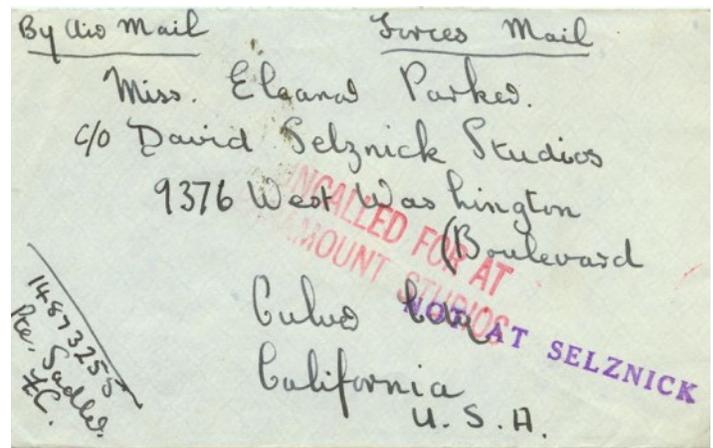
concession was still in force among British servicemen. Until 1947 it had been general practice that letters from members of British Forces serving overseas up to one ounce (1 oz.) in weight had been accorded air conveyance from most areas overseas to the UK free of postage. How-



**Figure 2.** Cover from member of RAF in India to actress Eve Arden.

ever, this concession was withdrawn on 1 May 1947 and from that date such letters intended for air conveyance were, in general, to be prepaid 1½d or the equivalent in local currency.

**Figure 3** is a letter to the stunningly attractive actress Eleanor Parker at Selznick Studios. She was an actress of notable versatility, and was called the Woman of a Thousand Faces by Doug McClelland, author of a biography of Parker by the same title. She was nominated three times for



**Figure 3.** Cover from member of British Forces in India to actress Eleanor Parker. Has two Hollywood studio auxiliary markings.

the Academy Award for Best Actress in the 1950s. She was not at that studio, so the handstamp reading “NOT AT SELZNICK” was applied. The “SELZNICK” marking is not common. It was then forwarded to Paramount Studios where it received the “UNCALLED FOR AT PARAMOUNT STUDIOS” mark.

The back of the cover bears a “Hospital Town – Bangalore” civilian cancel (see **Figure 4**). Interestingly the cover bears the “Forces Mail” inscription, but no evidence of a military postmark. The working theory is that it is about four months before Indian independence. British troops were in the process of handing over their bases and a lonely soldier at the sunset of the Empire writing to a Hollywood star dropped the letter in a military box. The postal official transported the letter to the civilian mails because their own military post office was shut down.



**Figure 4.** Hospital Town – Bangalore cancel on back of cover in Figure 3.

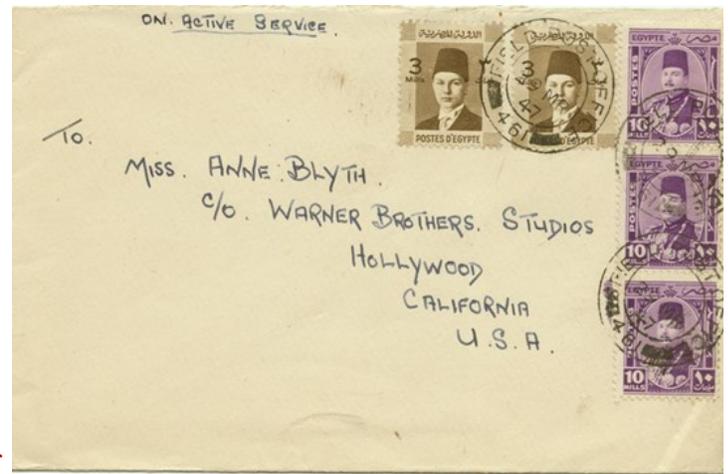
British forces also maintained a presence in post-war Egypt. The 1951 British forces cover in **Figure 5** is addressed to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios. It has no star name, but there is a penciled “Vi Ellen” which might indicate it was for actress and dancer Vera-Ellen. She was



**Figure 5.** Cover from member of the British Forces in Fanara, Egypt (F.P.O. 266).

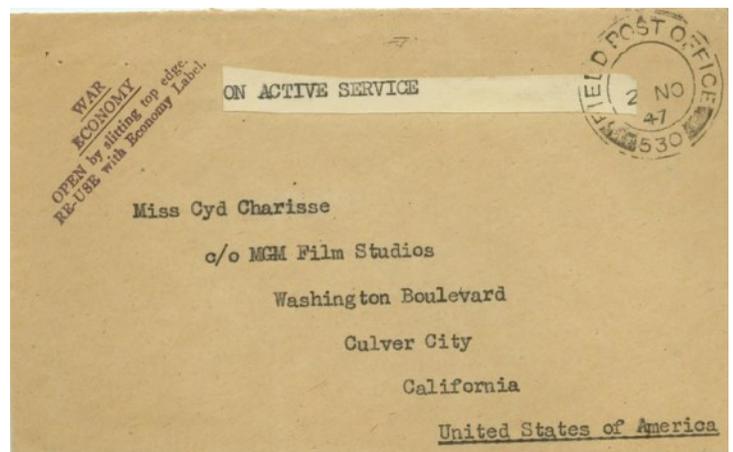
principally celebrated for her lithe figure and animated performances with partners Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Danny Kaye, and Donald O'Connor. It was mailed from F.P.O. 266 located in Fanara, Egypt. By this time, the free franking privilege had long expired, and British stamps were required on the letter.

Up to 1951 several FPOs can be found cancelling Egyptian stamps, usually on covers to Egypt and other non-UK addresses. It is assumed that this was because the mail was handed over to the Egyptian civil Post Office where a quicker delivery would result, rather than send the mail to England. **Figure 6** is an example of such British forces mail using Egyptian stamps. This 1947 cover is from F.P.O. 461 at Port Said, Egypt and is addressed to actress Anne Blyth



**Figure 6.** Cover from member of the British Forces in Port Said, Egypt (F.P.O. 461)

at Warner Bros. Studios. She was often cast in Hollywood musicals, but was also successful in dramatic roles. Her performance as Veda Pierce in the 1945 film *Mildred Pierce* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.



**Figure 7.** Cover from member of the British Forces in Trieste, Italy (F.P.O. 530).

A soldier in Trieste, Italy mailed the fan letter shown in **Figure 7** (prior page) to actress Cyd Charisse at M.G.M. Studios in November of 1947. She starred in films that showcased her talents as a dancer, most notably in the musical *Singin' in the Rain*. Note the re-use of a war economy envelope, an austerity measure introduced in Great Britain during the war to economize on paper.

Following the war, Britain maintained a significant presence in Germany. The cover in **Figure 8** is from a British Field Post office in Germany to actress Doris Day at Warner Bros. Studios. Early in her career, she was known mostly as a singer. In the late 1940s she became more prominent in films. In 1950, U.S. servicemen in Korea voted her their favorite star.



**Figure 8.** Cover from member of the British Forces in Germany assigned to the British Army of the Rhine (F.P.O. 791).

This article illustrates that writing letters to their favorite movie stars continued after World War II had ended. In our experience, this type of material is scarcer than their WWII counterparts.

The authors would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by members of the Forces Postal History Society on their on-line discussion forum.

Our membership Secretary reports that we are off to a smart start with our digital MPHS publication. As of February 11 (see next column), 14% (57/411) have decided to try the digital version of the Journal. Those 57 consist of digital only (30) plus digital and hard copy (27)

It sure would be nice if those receiving the digital version provide us with feedback in the form of testimonials (thumbs up or thumbs down) for the benefit of those members who might be considering going the digital route.

## Secretary's Report

### *Louis Fiset* Membership Summary

Membership February 1, 2016	411	
New Members		+2
Reinstated		+0
Resigned		-0
Deceased		0
Membership February 1, 2016	413	

#### Please welcome these new members

3624 Carapella Jr., Donald, Corning, NY  
3625 Barwis, John, Holland, MI

#### Reinstated

#### Taps for Honored Members:

Promote your Society with the many collecting, and non-collecting, acquaintances that you meet. so that they too, can enjoy the benefits of membership. A membership application is on our website, from which applicants can easily join directly with convenient online PAYPAL payment. Forms may also be obtained from Louis Fiset, PO Box 15927, Seattle, WA. 98115-0927 e-mail: [fiset@u.washington.edu](mailto:fiset@u.washington.edu)

**CAMEO**  
**contributions to this**  
**SPECIAL EDITION have been**  
**made by all our contributing authors**  
**(see MAIL CALL index) together with the**  
**MPHS' support of the journal and the**  
**added financial support of the following:**

**Tony Brooks (MPHS Board member)**  
**Kurt Braun**  
**(Safe Publications)**  
**Ed Dubin (MPHS Board member)**  
**Dutch Country Auctions**  
**Patricia Kaufmann**  
**(Confederate Stamps/Postal History)**  
**Alfred Kugel (MPHS Board member)**  
**James Lee**  
**(James Lee Postal History)**  
**Sergio Lugo (MPHS Board member)**  
**Don Tocher**  
**(U.S. Classics)**  
**Civia Tuteur**  
**(in memory of Ron Mitchell, Denver)**  
**Mike White**  
**(Mike White Postal History)**

*Thank you,*  
*Sergio Lugo*

## AEF MARKINGS

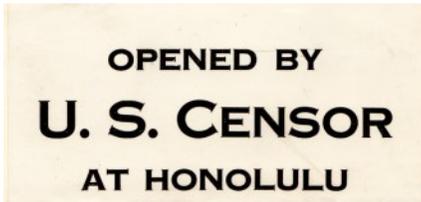
by Al Kugel and Ed Dubin

Below are illustrations of censor hand stamps of the POW and internee camps located in the U.S. and its possessions. Excluded are censor sealing labels (except for the Hawaii Schofield Barracks camp), Washington Chief Censors Office, New York Postal Censorship Office and any British or German labels/ markings. Again members who have examples of better copies of these markings, additional types or copies of the illustrated covers, Al and I would like to hear from you. Thank you to the members who took the time to comment and provide updates to the earlier lists. Your help is appreciated.

Al Kugel  
[afkugel@hotmail.com](mailto:afkugel@hotmail.com)

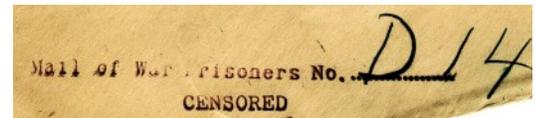
Ed Dubin  
[dubine@comcast.net](mailto:dubine@comcast.net)

### HAWAII: SCHOFIELD BARRACKS

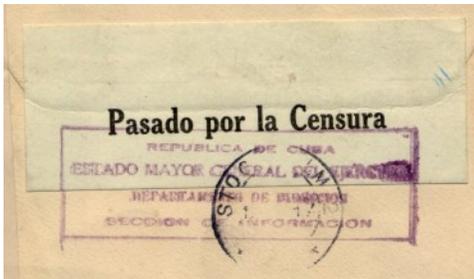


PRISONER OF WAR  
 German Prison Camp,  
 Hawaiian Department  
 CENSORED

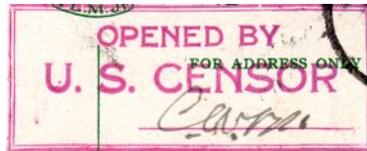
PRISONER OF WAR



### CUBA



CANAL ZONE:  
 Tabago Internment Camp

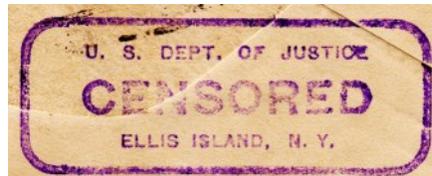


GLOUCESTER IMMIGRATION  
 CENTER New Jersey  
 (Forwarding Hand Stamp)

*War Prison Barracks,  
 Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.*

### ELLIS ISLAND, New York

Correspondence of Interned Seaman  
 No Charge for Postage



CENSORED  
 U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
 ELLIS ISLAND, N. Y.

### PHILIPPINES

Beguio Government Center

PRISONER OF WAR

The liner/auxiliary cruiser *Cormoran* sailed into Apra Harbor in December 1914, never to depart, and was scuttled in April 1917. 314 POWs remained in Guam until transferred to the U.S. in June, 1917

PRISONER OF WAR  
 FROM S. M. S. "CORMORAN,"

### GUAM

Camp Burnett



### PRESIDIO

Internment Camp,  
 San Francisco, CA.



**HOT SPRINGS, North Carolina**

[Editor's Aside: This detention camp was closed on July 1, 1918']

OFFICIALLY CENSORED  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
HOT SPRINGS, N. C.

INTERNED CAMP

CENSORED  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
HOT SPRINGS, N. C.  
Y. M. C. A. Aid

**FT. OGELTHORPE, Georgia**

[Editor asides: 5,500 German and Austrian nationals were trapped in America by the declaration of war: 1,136 German Army personnel; 2,300 German merchant marine sailors, and 2,300 German or Austrian civilians working in the U.S. The National Lutheran Commission expended \$25,000 in services to these interned aliens and pow's, with two camp pastors assigned to Ft. Ogelthorpe and Ft. Douglas. Ft. Ogelthorpe housed 166 men in November 1917 (85% Lutheran), with spiritual services provided by regular Army Chaplain Major J.H. Sutherland. ]

CENSORED.

Letter of War Prisoner.

EXAMINED AND PASSED  
War Prison Barracks  
Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

War Prison Barracks No. 2  
Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga

FORT OGLETHORPE GA.  
CENSORED

**FT. DOUGLAS, Utah**

[Editor asides: Lutheran camp pastor K. Walter Schmitt (March 15, 1918) was succeeded by Lutheran Camp Pastor C.F. Knoll (November 11, 1918) in serving the 300+ pow's at the camp—mainly prisoners from the *Cormoran*]

NOT AT WAR PRISON BARRACKS No. 2  
FORT OGLETHORPE, GA.

MAIL OF WAR PRISONERS NO. 272  
FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH. CENSORED

EXAMINED & PASSED  
War Prison Barracks  
FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH.  
FORWARDED

**FT, McPHERSON, Georgia**

{Editor's Aside: 850 prisoners (500 Lutheran) were served by Lutheran Camp Pastor Rev. R.E. Rutzky from January to April, 1918. Source of information for all the above: ELCA Archives, Chicago, IL.: Camp Pastor Walter Schmitt (Box 13, Folder 28); folder for the Committee on Interned Aliens.

FT. McPHERSON, GA.

CENSORED

EXAMINED AND PASSED  
WAR PRISON BARRACKS No. 1  
FORT McPHERSON, GA.  
CENSOR No. 2

CENSORED

FORT McPHERSON, GA.

## On The Show Circuit by Alan Warren

[Note: This column brings to the attention of MPHS members awards obtained in recent shows for exhibits that are basically about military postal history. It includes exhibits by non-members. It does not include non-military exhibits.]

At Sandical in San Diego in January, **Charles LaBlonde** won a vermeil and the MPHS award for his "World War II German and Italian Soldier's Mail from Goa to the Geneva Red Cross." Two silver awards were taken by **William Woytowich** for "Guam: 1941-1945, the War Years," and for "The US/Guam Wake: The Little Ship that Could."

**Joe Youssefi** received a *prix d'honneur* in the single frame champion-of-champions competition at AmeriStamp Expo in Atlanta in January for his "Bushire under British Occupation." In the open competition gold awards went to **Richard Wilson** for "The Three Millimes Army Post Stamps of Egypt 1936-1941," and to **David Zemer** for "World War I Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone." **Robert Rentsch** took a silver and an AAPE award of honor for his "Postcards Designed and Printed in German POW Camps in Japan 1914-1920."

**Robert Hisey** won a gold, the APS research award, the American Air Mail Society award, the MPHS award, the Postal History Society award, and the show grand award at Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition with his "Fall and Rise of the French Africa Air Routes of WW II." **David Zemer** also won a gold and the single frame grand award for "World War I Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone." **Sam Chiu** received a vermeil for "Hong Kong Wartime Air Mail, September 1939 to December 1941."

**Louis Fiset** took a gold, the MPHS award, and the single frame grand award at Aripex in Mesa, Arizona in February with his "1871 Commune of Paris Prisoners' Mail." In the multiframe section he won another gold, the APS research award, and the Auxiliary Markings Club award for "U.S. Internment of Noncombatants in World War II - 1939-1948." **David and Laurie Bernstein** received a vermeil for "A Postal History of German Pocket Battleship Admiral Graf Spee." They also won a silver for their "Pickett's Charge and the Monument at Gettysburg."

Vermeil award winners at Texpex in Grapevine, Texas in February were **Gerard Menge** for "Austria 1938 Anschluss: Annexation, Plebiscite and Transition" along with an AAPE award of honor, and **Greg Galletti** for "The League of Nations - The War Years." **Charles LaBlonde** received a silver for "World War II German and Italian Sailor's Mail from Goa to the Geneva Red Cross."

**Greg Galletti's** "The League of Nations: The War Years" took gold, the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence and AAPE plan & headings award at Cleveland's Garfield-Perry March Party. A vermeil was awarded **Bernard Biales** for "Americans Carry the British Mails: A Tale of War and Madness" and a silver went to **Michael Bass** for "The Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine 1917-1918"

## Philatelic Militaria by Alan Warren

[Note: The following articles appeared in recent issues of a variety of journals and may be of interest to military postal history collectors. Copies of the articles can usually be obtained through the American Philatelic Research Library, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823.]

**Larry Wirth** continues his series on the **German colonies and offices issues during and after WW I**, this time with Part 3, in the January *German Postal Specialist*. He describes and illustrates issues from German New Guinea, German East Africa, Cameroun, Caroline Islands, Kiautschau, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Southwest Africa, Togo, and Morocco and China offices.

Writing in the February *Airpost Journal*, co-authors **Bob Wilcsek and John Wilson** discuss why so little mail from Germany to the United States in 1940-1941 went via Bermuda where it would be censored. **John Wilson** provides Part 5 of his series on LATI "substitute service" of Pan American Airways in the same issue.

**Anthony Fandino** describes the **Zentsuji Camp on the Japanese island of Shikoku** where U.S. prisoners were taken after the capture of Guam in 1941, in the February *U.S. Stamp News*. **John Burnett** offers the third part in his series on **little known facts of WW II** in the January-March issue of *BNA Topics*. His focus this time is on mail of Canadian POWs in Japan. In fact very little mail made it out of the camps as the Japanese did not forward most of it. As prisoners were liberated they were handed the letters they had written during the preceding four years!

**Graham Mark** describes a special scheme of the **British Post used during WW I to speed up the censorship process** for mail going abroad, in the February *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. The cost of the service was half a crown (2s. 6d.) paid with stamps, and the letter had to be delivered to a special posting box at the chief censor's office on London's King Edward Street. Registered and express business mail given this priority handling saved time.

**Colin Pomfret** shows a **much-traveled 1944 cover** in the January 2016 issue of the *BNAPS Canadian Military Mail Study Group newsletter*. It was sent from the Canadian Legion in Montreal on April 1 and addressed to a captain in the No. 1 Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit, Canadian Army Overseas. On April 10 it passed through an Army post office SC11 machine and reached the CPC headquarters directory service the next day.

Endorsements noted that the captain was no longer at the No. 1 CACRU nor at the Non-Effective Transit Depot (NETD) and the cover arrived May 4 at the general delivery office at the headquarters of the Canadian Postal Corps Overseas. Another marking was applied at some point, "S.O.S. TO CANADA." A boxed marking indicates it reached the No. 4 District Depot in Montreal (no date noted) and it was re-addressed to the captain's home in Montreal.

**David Piercey** provides a short **history of Fort Nelson in British Columbia** in the March-April *Canadian Philatelist*. He covers about 20 years from 1937 when the post office was established there until 1958. During WW II the United States took over construction of a new airport at Fort Nelson as well as work on the Alcan Military Road that became part of the Alaska Highway.

From 1942 to 1947 the post office Muskwa operated in the vicinity. US APO 476 was at Fort Nelson until U.S. personnel left in 1946. The Fort was home to RCAF units and was involved with the DEW-line and other Cold War operations. As an RCAF base it closed in 1958.

**Kevin Lowther** continues his review of **World War I related philately** in the March *American Stamp Dealer & Collector* with a description of a special treaty rate, between the United States and Germany implemented in 1909 for letters, which was suspended in February 1915. **Lewis Tauber** reports some interesting details from about a dozen letters penned in **a single correspondence during WW I** in the March 22 *Canadian Stamp News*. The Canadian soldier's correspondence runs from 1916 at Camp Borden in Ontario and ends just after the end of the war with letters from APOs in Germany and Belgium.

**Knut Arveng** shows pictures of some of **Norway's air defense equipment of WWI and WW II** in the March *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*. The items include anti-aircraft weapons, airships, searchlights, and a few pieces of associated mail. Arveng also presents some photo postcards depicting the transport of Norwegian wounded sailors through neutral Sweden in WW I. Atle Fossmark shows examples of censored mail at Stavanger, Norway, during 1940.

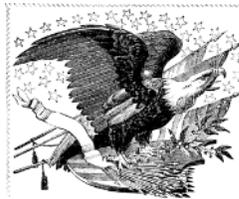
## Editor's Notes

by Sergio Lugo

Manuscripts/illustrations for publication are welcome. A **writer's guide** to article content, format and preferred layout is available by contacting me directly. Thanks for your consideration and please take up the challenge. You are the lifeblood of the *MPHS Bulletin*, as readers and authors. Won't you consider writing an article on subjects of interest to you in the postal history arena. You'll be encouraged at the reception you receive. Please submit your article by the dates shown below to Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246. Phone: 303-552-8897, or digitally to [lugopspe@q.com](mailto:lugopspe@q.com). No responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Request reprint permission from the Editor.

### DEADLINES

Issue	Article Deadline to Editor and Revisions	Issue Timeframe for <i>Bulletin</i> in Member Hands
Winter	January 20 to 25	Mid February
Spring	April 20 to 25	Mid May
Summer	July 20 to 25	Mid August
Fall	October 20 to 25	Mid November



**Auction # 211**  
**Closing on Saturday,**  
**June 11, 2016**

### BIDDERS:

Bid in 25 cent increments, e.g.: \$3.25; \$4.75, \$8.25  
On hand written bids, make Lot #'s and bids legible.  
Winning bids should be paid in 10 days. Delaying payment requires us to send time consuming reminders, incurs postage \$ and delays reimbursement to sellers.

**MINIMUM BID = \$2.50**

### DESCRIPTIONS:

- Unless noted otherwise, envelopes are regular size (normally # 6)
- **FRANKING:** For post WW II envelopes, all covers are stamped unless otherwise stated. Official business covers don't have postage unless otherwise stated. "6 cent air" has a stamp or is stamped postal stationary
- Cancel quality for individual lots is noted in parenthesis (VF), as is the cover's condition in general at the end of the description

### ABBREVIATIONS (note "unless otherwise stated" (UOS) is applicable to all abbreviations):

- **APO**=Army Post Office. Branch is in cancel (UOS)
- **DR** = Double Ring Cancel
- **FPO** =Fleet Post Office. Branch is in cancel (UOS)
- **KB** = Killer Bar Cancel
- **MC** = Machine Cancel
- **MB** = Minimum Bid
- **MS** = Manuscript;
- **PicT.** = the Lot is illustrated by a picture.
- **PC**= Postcard;
- **SB** = Suggested Bid (a suggestion, not required)
- **Stp** = Stamp;
- **V Mail** = Processed & with envelopes (UOS)

### Thierry— (The Auction Manager's) - Picks

My insights may be of help in placing bids. Provided below are my observations on the lots I've seen. My suggestions are NOT guaranteed to satisfy everyone.

- **Lots 2-6:** France&Italy 18-19th century military covers
- **Lots 7-11:** Nice classic naval covers, Great White Flt.
- **Lots 43—50:** A great selection of WWI German ships
- **Lot 57:** Spanish Civil War "American Friends" Cover.
- **Lots 64-69:** Selection of USS Arizona covers.
- **Lots 92-95:** Unusual WW II Finnish Military covers
- **Lots 106/08/09:** A nice selection of German SS covers.
- **Lots 130 & /31:** A couple of Merchant Marine covers with elusive markings
- **Lots 137 - 39:** Some Tokyo Bay covers
- **Lots 172 - 77:** Selection of UN Peacekeeping covers

CIVIL WAR

**1. Barracks Gen Hospital.** Small Official Business printed "Barracks U.S.A. Gen Hospital - New Orleans LA". 3c stp Canc. New Orleans LA 4 Nov 69 (F). Ave/F (Stain left side - slightly shortened right side) (1604)

PRE-WORLD WAR I

**2. Italy 1879.** Folded letter handstamp "Artiglieria - 9 Reggimento". Free franked canc. Pavia 26-9-79. Back seal "Comando". Inside printed letter with MS text and signature. VF. MB \$14.00 (0901) . PICT



**3. Italy 1845.** Folded letter handstamp "Il Comandante della Provincia di Cuneo". Free franked canc. CUNEO 9. Ott. Inside printed letter "Comando Militare" dated 9-10-1845 with MS text and signature. VF. MB \$16.00 (0901) . PICT



**4. Italy: Papal State 1829.** Folded letter text -Italian-datetime Ravenna 9 Janeiro 1829. Handstamp "2e Reg Carabinieri Pontifigi + Serv- de Carabinieri". Partial Canc. Ravenna. VF. MB \$25.00 (0901) PICT



**5. Napoleonic Conquered Territory - 1799.** Stampless letter linear postmark "92 - GAND" (VF). Long letter (3 pages) in French date-line 20 Nivose An 7 (9 Jan 1799). Addressed to "Adjutant General - Bergen Op Zoom". VF. MB \$20.00 (0901) PICT—next pg.

**6. Napoleonic Conquered Territory - 1808.** Stampless letter linear postmark "96 - LIEGE" (VF). Back red postmark "28 .. 1808". Letter in French dated 25 May 1808. VF. MB \$14.00 (0901)

**7. Naval - Great White Fleet.** 2 P/C. 1 view Albany W.A. - stps Western Australia faint canc. - dateline *U.S.S Ohio - Albany West*

**Australia 16 Sep 1908.** 1 View Melbourne - stps Victoria canc. Melbourne 5 Sep 1908 - dateline Melbourne Victoria Australia 4 Sep 1908. Same Sender. VF. MB \$20.00 (1604)

**8. Naval - USS Petrel.** PC (Charleston S.C.) 1c stp. cancel *USS PETREL - 4 Dec 1911* (VF) (Gunboat). VF (1410)

**9. Naval - USS Tennessee.** 3c stationary mailed to Lt. Geo Tyler USN - USS Tennessee - New Orleans - Louis. Canc. Brattleboro VT - 20 Mar 83 (VF). F (upper left corner damaged - part of back missing) (1410)

**10. Naval - USS Utah.** PC (Lynn Mass) 1c stp. cancel *USS UTAH - 2 Jan 1913* (F) (Battleship). VF (1410)

**11. Navy Department.** #10 Navy Department cover addressed to Brig General Holabird - Quartermaster U.S.A. cancel Washington Free - Oct 29 (VF) (1880s). F (damaged / tears on top and right side) (1416)

**12. Philippines Occupation.** Printed CC Army and Navy Club - Manila, P.I. Philippines stp (Sc 214 or 227) canc Manila, P.I. - 18 Jan 1903 (VF). VF (1416)

**13. Spanish Amer. War Philippines.** Partial cover MS Soldiers' mail. 2c Stationary canc Mil.Sta. Dagupan - Phil Isles - 16 Apr (1900 ?) (Ave/F - Faint). Ave (damaged - about 2 inch removed from left side - tear on right) (1604)

**14. Spanish Amer. War.** Cover from Carnegie PA to Capt at Camp Meade. Back canc Middletown Mil Sta Penn - 11 Nov 98 (VF). Letter. VF (1604)

**15. War Department.** P/ C (Washington DC) Sender Handstamp CC "War Department - Office Commissary General - Washington Dc - 18 Jan 1911". 1c stp canc Washington DC - 18 Jan 1911 (VF). VF (1604)

WORLD WAR I

**16. AEF.** Sender 115th Inf. MC Flag Canc. Type A6019 **US Army Postal Service** - 25 Aug 1918 (VF). AEF Censor. VF MB \$10.00 (1410)

**17. AEF.** P/C (soldier "We're Happy - When the Ghost walks") MC Eagle + Military- Post Office - Soldiers Mail" - no date (VF). VF (1410)

**18. AEF - Air Service.** Sender 264 Aero Squadron - U.A. Air Service London S.W.1. Free franked British Canc. Edinburgh - 18 SP18 (F). Censor Tape (6679). F MB \$10.00 (1410)

**19. AEF - Air Service.** Sender 264 Aero Squadron - U.A. Air Service London S.W.1. Free franked British Canc. Hounslow - 10 JY 18 (F). MS Censor. F MB \$10.00 (1410)

**20. AEF - APO 2.** Sender 110th Engrs. MC Flag Type A6001 **US Army Postal Service-2-3** Aug 1918 (F). AEF Censor 6. Letter. VF (1601)

**21. AEF - APO 2.** Sender 102nd F.A. Band HQ Co. MC Flag Type A6001 **US Army Postal Service - 2 - 29** Dec 1917 (VF). AEF Censor 2. VF MB \$5.00 (1410)

**22. AEF - APO 702.** Sender Trumpter US Army. MC Flag Type A6011 **US Army Postal Service - 702 - 2** Oct 1918 (F). AEF Censor 14 + small Examined by No 24. F (some damaged left side + light fold) MB \$15.00 (1410)

**23. AEF - APO 702 (2).** Canc Type A3001.4 **US Army Post Office MPES - 702 - 26-10-18** (F). AEF Censor A.2096. F (some damaged left side + fold). + 1 P/C (Versailles) MC Type A7109 U.S. Army MPES - 28 Feb 1919 (Ave). VF (1602)

**24. AEF - APO 702.** P/C (Soldier + flag + girl {Revanche 347}). Canc Type A4001 **US Army Postal Express Service - No 702 - 21** Aug 1918 (F/VF). AEF Censor 8 + small Examined - ?7. VF MB \$5.00 (1410)

- 25. AEF – APO 705.** YMCA American Expeditionary Force, France card Sender 23 Engrs. MC Flag Type A6011 **US Army Postal Service - 705** – 21 May 1918 (VF). AEF Censor. VF MB \$7.00 (1410)
- 26. AEF – APO 715.** YMCA Army of Occup.cover - Sender 117 Supply Train APO 715. Partial Canc. Type A3001.3 **US Army Post Office MPES-715** – 8-1 no year (Ave - partial). AEF Censor A.706. VF (1301)
- 27. AEF – APO 717.** AEF War Risk Section card. MC Flag Type A6011 **US Army Postal Service - 717** – 2 Apr 1918 (VF). AEF Censor A.263. VF MB \$7.50 (1410)
- 28. AEF – APO 724 + 725.** YMCA cover sender 31st Aero Sq canc. Type A3001 **US Army Post Office - 724** – 13-09-18 (F). AEF Censor. F (Open rough at right). + Cover sender 176 Aero Squadron canc. Type A3001 **US Army Post Office - 725** – 12-16-18 (F). AEF Censor + Base censor. VF (1604)
- 29. AEF – APO 731.A.** YMCA cover - Sender 85 Aero Sq. Canc. Type A4021 **US Military Postal Express Service - 731.A** – 6 Dec 1918 (F). AEF Censor A.1165. F (cover in fragile state) MB \$5.00 (1301)
- 30. AEF – APO 736.** Chamonix Hotel cover - Sender 79 F.A. Vet Dept. Canc. Type A3001 **US Army Post Office MPES - 736** – 3-30-19 (F). AEF Censor A.4033. VF MB \$5.00 (1301)
- 31. AEF – APO 746.** Sender APO 746. Canc. Type A4101 **US Army Post Office MPES - 746** – 1 Jan 1919 (VF). AEF Censor. With note on P/C Bad Bertrich. F (tear top right) (1601)
- 32. AEF – APO 944.** P/C (Anvers) Canc. Type A4200 **Postal Express Service - No 944** – 14 Jun 1919 (F). AEF Censor A.4151. To Leman YMCA. VF MB \$8.00 (1604)
- 33. AEF Lot (25).** Lot of 25 Post War covers - Various postmark types and # (Ave/F) Many APO 772. Ave/F (most Ave). (1301)
- 34. American Red Cross – Palestine.** #10 American Red Cross - Commission to Palestine cover. 2 Egyptian Stps canc Cairo - 27.XII.18 (F). Censor handstamp "Passed Censor A". F (open rough on left) MB \$7.00 (1604)
- 35. Army Branch (5).** All YMCA covers - 1918 - 3 c stps - all state-side. Canc. from Hancock, Greene, Wheeler, Mills, Dick Branch. Canc. and condition Ave to VF. (1601)
- 36. Austria Feldpost.** Feldpost card Canc. D.d.K. Feldpostamt 207 - 23.1.15 (VF). VF (1410)
- 37. Camp Meade.** CC U.S.A. Base Hospital - American Red Cross - Camp Meade, MD. 3c stp Canc. Baltimore - Meade Branch - 28 Aug 1918 (VF). VF (1601)
- 38. Canada - Barriefield Camp.** YMCA Canadian Forces card Canc. Field Post Office - Canada Militia - Barriefield Camp Ont. - 2 AU 16 (F). F (fold - stain) (1604)
- 39. Canada - Internment Camp.** Cover from Toronto, Ont - 13 May 1918 addressed TO a Belgian Soldier - Amersfoort Internment Camp in Holland. Censor tape. VF MB \$25.00 (1301)
- 40. Canada - POW.** Cover from Halifax, N.S. - 18 Jun 1918 addressed TO "Belgian Prisoner of War - Amersfoort - Holland. Censor tape. VF MB \$105.00 (1301)
- 41. Germany.** Faint handstamp 123 INF Div. Free franked canc. Feldpost Expedition - 123 Infanterie Division 123 - 25.4.16 (F). With P/C enclosure. VF MB \$10.00 (1410)
- 42. Germany.** Faint unit handstamp. Free franked canc. K.D. FeldpostExped - der 2. Marine Div. - 28.8.15 (VF). VF (1410)
- 43. Germany - KMS 13.** Military Card sender **SMS Helgoland**. Free franked canc. (Kais. Deutsche Marine (Schiff)spost No 13 - date unclear (Ave). VF (1208)
- 44. Germany - KMS 14.** P/C (Ranlidja) sender **SMS (Goeben)?**. Free franked canc. Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No (14 ??) - 10-2-15 (F). F (1601)
- 45. Germany - KMS 24.** P/C (Brunsbuttelkoog) sender **SMS Oldburg**. Free franked canc. Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 2(4)? - ??-11-15 (Ave). VF (1601)
- 46. Germany - KMS 48.** P/C sender **SMS Thuringen**. Free franked partial canc. (Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 48 - ??-3-17 (Ave). VF (1208)
- 47. Germany - KMS 62.** Feldpostkarte sender **SMS Kong Albert**.

- Free franked canc. Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 62 - 22-7-(1)6 (F). + small Ship picture. VF (1208)
- 48. Germany - KMS 121.** P/C sender Nordsee Vorpostenhalbflot. Free franked canc. Ka(is. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No (1?)21 - 19-??-17 (Ave). VF (1601)
- 49. Germany - KMS 188.** Cover sender **SMS Sierra Ventana**. Free franked canc. (Kais. Deutsche) Marine Schiffspost No 188 - 18-1(2)-1(6)? (Ave). Ave (stained) (1601)
- 50. Germany - KMS 359.** P/C (SMS Wiesbaden) sender **Lightship RI**. Free franked canc. Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 359 - 18-7-1916 (Superb !!). VF (1208) **PICT**



- 51. German Occup. of Belgium.** Handstamp Militarisches Textil Beschaffungs. Free franked canc. Brussel - 10.XI.191? (F). VF (1416)
- 52. Germany - POW.** Cover C Offizier-Gefengenen-Lager - Torgau a. Elbe. Sender Russian POW to Danish Red Cross. Canc. Torgau - (3.6.15)? (F). VF MB \$15.00 (1410)
- 53. Naval - Mare Island.** Cover 3c stp MC Vallejo, Calif - Mare Island Naval Branch - 17 Dec 1918 (VF). VF (1410)
- 54. Naval - Receiving Ship.** Cover 3c stp MC Great Lakes, Ill - U.S. Receiving Ship - 21 Jan 1919 (VF). VF (1410)
- 55. Patriotic.** Small cachet Tank "Treat 'Em Rough". 1c stp MC Gettysburg PA (6 Nov 1918) to Oregon and Fwd. VF (1301) **PICT**



- 56. Philippines - Censor (2).** 2 Cover Philippines stps canc. Manila (1918-19). Both censored. VF MB \$7.00 (1604) **PICT**



PRE-WORLD WAR II

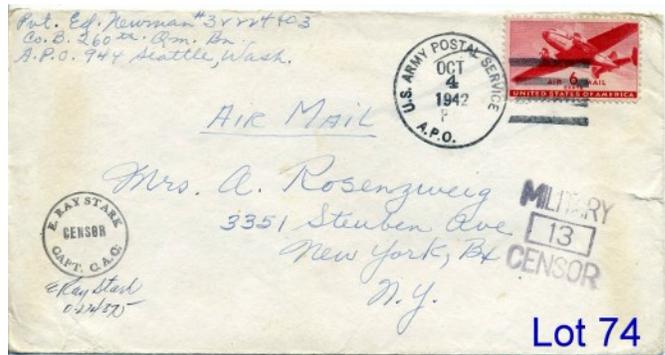
**57. Spanish Civil War.** CC Servicio Internacional de los Amigos Cuaqueros - American Friends Service Committee. Rep Espanola stps cancel Valencia (faint - 1938). Censored "Censura Valencia". VF MB \$20.00 (1604) **PICT**

PRE-WORLD WAR II NAVAL

- 58. China - 4th Regt USMC.** Sender 6th US Marines Shanghai. 3c stp. Canc. 4th Regt U.S.M.S. - Shanghai. China - 11 Jan 1938 with "Semper Fidelis" in KB (VF). VF (1602)
- 59. Destroyer Squadron 3.** 3c stp. MC Flag Destroyer Squadron No 3 - 8 Sep 1934 (VF). VF (1410)
- 60. Destroyer Squadron 14.** Sender USS Dobbin 2c stp. MC Flag Destroyer Squadron No 14 - 3 Feb 1930 (VF). VF (1410)
- 61. Germany - Cruiser Emden.** Cacheted "Portland welcomes Cdr Bachmann and crew Cruiser Emden". 6c stp. mute canc + Canc, Deut -usche Marine Schiffspost - **Kreuzer Emden** - 20.1.35 (F). VF (1416)
- 62. Sub. Base Pearl Harbor.** 1c PC UX27 Canc. Honolulu (U.S. Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor Br) Hawaii-21 Aug 1928.VF (1416)
- 63. USS Arkansas.** 2c stp. MC Flag **USS ARKANSAS** - 20 May 1930 (VF). VF (1410)
- 64. USS Arizona.** Mint P/C (Schmidt)- small note on back. VF (1410)
- 65. USS Arizona.** #10 official CC Supply Officer - **USS ARIZONA**. Canc. San Francisco Calif - 7 Jul 1927 (VF). VF (1416)
- 66. USS Arizona.** #10 Navy Department official CC **USS ARIZONA**. Canc. **USS ARIZONA**-7 Aug 1933 (F-Type 6). VF MB \$15.00 (0901)
- 67. USS Arizona.** Cacheted (St Patricks Day) 3c stp canc. **USS ARIZONA** - 17 Mar 1936 - with "LNG 118,50 W - LAT 32-24,N" in KB (VF). VF MB \$5.00 (1410)
- 68. USS Arizona.** Cacheted (Washington's Birthday) 2c stp canc. **USS ARIZONA** - 22 Feb 1938 - with "San Francisco" in KB (VF). VF (unaddressed) MB \$5.00 (1410)
- 69. USS Arizona.** Vet Admins Official Business sent TO **USS ARIZONA**. and FWD. Back Canc. **USS ARIZONA** - 22 Sep 1939 with 1 PM Inverted (VF - Type 6). VF MB \$10.00 (0901) **PICT**
- 70. USS Delaware.** 2c stp Canc. **USS DELAWARE** - 28 Aug 1920 with "Provincetown - Mass" in KB (VF). VF (1410)
- 71. USS Florida.** 2c stp. MC Flag **USS Florida**-10 Apr 1930 VF (1410)
- 72. US Navy in China (3 covers (1 cacheted)).** USS J.D. Ford - Chefoo China (1934 - F), USS Finch - Tsingtao China (1936 - VF), USS Mindanao - Canton South China (1939 - VF). VF MB \$6.00 (1604)

WORLD WAR II MILITARY

- 73. 7 BPO (5).** 5 covers all canc. 7 BPO (1945 - Ave/VF). Censored. F/VF (1601)
- 74. Alaska - APO 944.** Sender 260<sup>TH</sup> Qm. Bn APO 944. 6c canc. APO no # - 4 Oct 1942 (VF). Provisional censor 13 + "E. Ray Stark - Censor - Capt. C.A.C." handstamp. VF MB \$10.00 (0901) **PICT**
- 75. Australia - New Guinea.** Sailors & Soldiers Church of England cover. Australian stp canc. AUST. ARMY P.O. 207 - 15 My 44 (F). Censored. F (small piece missing top left) (1601)



- 76. Australia - New Guinea.** A.C.F. cover. Free franked canc. AUST F.P.O. 160 - 20 JA 44 (VF). Censored. VF (1601)
- 77. Australia - APO 501.** Sender HQ U.S.A.S.O.S. Medical section - APO 501. Free franked canc. APO no # - 26 Oct 1942 (F). USAFIA 57 censor. VF (1410)
- 78. Australia - APO 920.** Patriotic (Quartermaster Corps). Sender 198th QM. GS Co - APO 920. Free franked MC (7)? BPO - 03 Dec 194? (Ave). Censored. VF (1410)
- 79. Azores - APO 100.** Sender 801 Eng Bn APO 100. 6c air canc. APO no # - 20 Mar 1944 (VF). Censored. With long letter. VF MB \$6.00 (0901)
- 80. Azores - APO 100 (2).** 2 covers Sender 1390th AAF Base Unit APO 100. Both free franked canc. APO 100 - 19 Oct 1944 (VF) / 9 Apr 1945 (Ave). Censored. F (both shortened at right) (1604)
- 81. Belgium - APO 637 (2).** 2 covers Sender Supply Sq 10th AD Gp - APO 149. Both 6c air canc. APO 637 - 3/7 Apr 1945 (VF). Both Censored. 1 with letter. F/VF (1602)
- 82. British Forces in Iceland.** Free franked canc. Field Post Office 306 - 16 JY (42) (Ave/F). Triangle Censor 1104. To Canada. VF (1604)
- 83. B.W.I. - APO 805.** Sender Airways Det - APO 805. 15c Prexie canc. American Base Forces APO 805 - 9 Jan 1942 (F). Censor 807. Ave (torn open left) (1410)
- 84. Brazil - APO 619.** Sender Pici APO 619. 2x 6c air faint canc APO ??? - 20 Jul 1945 (Ave faint). Handstamp "Soldiers gift - Free entry..". With letter. Ave/F (heavy wrinkles) (1601)
- 85. Canada - APO 440.** Sender Station 7 NAWATC - APO 440. 6c air Canc. APO 4(??)- 16 Apr 44 (F). Censored. VF MB \$12.00 (1410)
- 86. Canada - APO 677.** Free franked canc. APO 677 - 18 Oct 43 (VF). MS Censor. VF MB \$3.00 (1410)
- 87. Censor - Mexico.** P/C to US. Mexican Stp canc. Tijuana 10 Apr 42 (F). Handstamp "Released by Authority of the District Postal Censor". VF (1602) **PICT**



- 88. Censor - Philippines.** Size #10 CC Afran Stamp Co. Philippines Ovpst stp canc. Manila 11 Aug 1945 (Ave) to US. Censor "PC-CCD". VF (1604)
- 89. Censor - Thailand.** Size #10 Thailand stp partial canc. ??? 30.7. (41?) (Ave) to US. Small Censor "6". VF MB \$5.00 (1604)
- 90. China - APO 627 (3).** 3 covers sender 76th Fighter Sq APO 627. 2x size #10 6c air canc. APO no # - 8/13 Sep 1942 (VF) with Shield Censor No 24. 1x 3 Dec 42 (F) racetrack censor. F/VF MB \$7.00 (1604)

- 91. England V-Mail - APO 513 (6).** 6 V-mail with envelope Sender 312 Station Hospital APO 513 - All Apr 1944. F/VF (1602)
- 92. Finland - Kenttapiostia.** Sender 1.kpk.3821 (7th Division Hq). Handstamp "Kenttapiostia" - no cancel. Back cancel Pispala 2.V.44. With letter. F MB \$5.00 (1606)
- 93. Finland - Kenttapiostia.** Sender 1/3902 (28th Field Hospital). Handstamp "Kenttapiostia" - Canc. Kenttapiosti Konttorin - 2.X.?? (Ave). With letter dated 1943. VF (1606)
- 94. Finland - Kenttapiostia.** Cover from Simpele - 19.X.42 to 2.kpk.9106 (132nd Light Anti-Aircraft Bat). VF (1606)
- 95. Finland - Kenttapiostia.** Sender 1/8349 (20th Motor Transport Co). Handstamp "Kenttapiostia" - Canc. Kenttapiosti Konttorin - 5.VII.4(3)? (F). F (1606)



- 96. France - APO 146.** Sender 444<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Sq APO 149. 6c air MC APO 146 - 17 Nov 1945 (F). F (tears) (1602)
- 97. France - APO 772.** Sender 982 Sig Serv Co APO 758. Free franked canc APO 772 - 13 Oct 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1601)
- 98. Germany.** Free franked Feldpostbrief Pict Canc. Eisenbach - 04.10.43 to Wassel. German (Nazi) unit handstamp. VF (1309) **PICT**



- 99. Germany - P/C.** P/C German soldier. German stp canc Stuttgart - 14.8.39 (F). VF MB \$5.00 (1606)
- 100. Germany - APO 109.** Sender 640th Clearing Co APO 230. 6c air canc. APO 109 - 27 Apr 1945 (VF). Censored. F MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 101. Germany-APO 124.** Sender 2072 QM Trucking Co APO 149. 6c air canc. APO 124 - 2 Jul 1945 (VF). Letter +2 pics. MB \$5.00 (1602)
- 102. Germany - APO 202 (2).** Sender 2457 QM Trucking Co APO 149. 6c air canc. APO 202 - 1/5 Oct 1945 (F/VF). F (1 open rough) MB \$5.00 (1602)
- 103. Germany - APO 250.** Sender Plans Group "G" - G-2 Section. 6c air MC APO 250 - 3 Jun 1945 (VF). F MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 104. Germany - APO 267.** Sender 540th QM Salvage Repair Co APO 339. 6c air canc. APO 267 - 28 Mar 1945 (F). Censored. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 105. Germany - APO 658.** Sender 3rd ECA Regt APO 658. 6c air Canc APO 1 - 26 Jul 1945 (F). VF (1604)
- 106. Germany - 5th SS Panzer.** Sender 30629c(5th SS Panzer Div). Luftfeldpost stp canc Feldpost-???.???.42 (F). VF MB \$20.00 (1002)
- 107. Germany - Labor Camp.** Parcel Card from Poland to Arbeitslager Drutte. 60pf Hitler stp canc. Pabianitz - 03.10.44 (F). Drutte canc on back. F (1604)
- 108. Germany in Poland-SS Police.** Sender fpn 29821(4th SS Police Rgt). Polish Ovpt General Govern. canc ?????. Kommandantur Warschau handstamp. Text dated 29.6.40. VF MB \$40.00 (1002) **PICT**
- 109. Germany in Russia-15 SS Division.** Sender fpn 36099A (Stab II u. 5.-8. Kompanie Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Regiment 33 {15 SS-Division}). Canc Feldpost 04.1.44. Unit handstamp. Censor "AS". To Riga. VF MB \$10.00 (1002) **PICT**



- 110. Germany - Red Cross P/C.** Mint - soldiers + ambulance. VF MB \$10.00 (1606) **PICT**
- 111. Hawaii - APO 958.** Sender G2 Section APO 958. 6c air canc. APO no # - 5 Dec 1943 (F). Censored. VF (1410)
- 112. Iceland - APO 610.** Sender 959 A.B.S. Bn APO 610. Misc stp canc. APO 610 - 11 Jul 1944 (VF). Censored. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 113. Iceland - APO 610.** Patriotic (We must do all we can). Sender 959 A.B.S. Bn APO 610. 2x 3c stps canc. APO 610 - 9 Oct 1944 (F). Censored. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 114. Okinawa - APO 239.** Sender 51st Fighter Group APO 239. 5c air MC APO no # - 6 Mar 194? (F). VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 115. Okinawa - APO 239.** Sender 473 Signal Aviation APO 239 Unit 1. 5c air MC APO no # - 11 Oct 194? (F). VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 116. Okinawa - APO 239.** Sender 1st Recon Sq VLR Photo APO 239. 5c air MC APO no # - 13 Dec 194? (F). F (tears on top) MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 117. Okinawa - APO 245.** Sender 475 Fighter Group APO 245. 6c air MC APO 245. 19 Aug 1945 (VF). Censored. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 118. Okinawa - APO 337.** Sender 47th Bomb Gr A Sqdn 867 APO 331. 6c air Canc. APO 337, 25 Jul 1943 (F). Censored. F (fold) MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 119. Okinawa - APO 903.** Sender 494 Bomb Gr APO 903. Free franked MC APO 903, 25 Aug 1945 (VF). Censored. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 120. Okinawa - APO 903.** Sender 319 SG 438 S APO 901. 6c Air MC APO 903 - 29 Jul 1945 (VF). Censored. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 121. Okinawa - APO 1051.** Sender 494 Bm Grp 866 Bm Sqdn APO 903. 6c Air Canc. APO 1051, 25 Aug 1945. VF MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 122. Palau Isl - APO 264.** Sender 494 Bm Grp 866 Bm Sqdn APO 264. 6c Air MC APO 264 - 18 Jan 1945 (VF). Censored. F (part tape removed) MB \$5.00 (1603)
- 123. Palau Isl - APO 265.** Sender 111 INF APO 265. 6c air MC APO 265 - 23 Aug 1945 (VF). Censored. VF MB \$10.00 (1604)
- 124. Philippines - V-J Day.** Handstamp "V-J Day cover - Sept., 1945 - Luzon, P.I.". Philippines stps canc. APO no # - 2 Sep 1945 (VF). Censored. No address - Philatelic - VF (1416)
- 125. V-Mail.** Illustrated V-Mail (Christmas Greetings). Sender 70th AAA Gun Bn APO 706. No date. No envelope. VF (1601)

#### WORLD WAR II NAVAL

- 126. Brazil - Navmis.** Brazil stp canc. NAV(MIS) - RIO - 5 Feb 1941 (F). Back CC US Naval Mission to Brazil. VF (1604)
- 127. Brazil - Navy 331.** Sender NAF Box WW Navy 331. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 16 Apr 1944 (VF). Censored VF (1410)
- 128. Fleet Marine Force.** Cacheted (First Day Postal Service - Sixth Defense Batta.) 3c stp canc. Sixth Defense Bat. - Fleet Marine Force - 30 Apr 1941 with San Diego - Calif in KB (VF). VF (1410)
- 129. Mariana Isl - Navy 3245.** Sender Island Command Staff - Navy 3245. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 27 Jul 1945 (F). Censored VF (1410)

**130. Merchant Marine - SF (2).** 2 large covers (6 1/2 x 5 1/4) TO **SS Mission San Diego**. Both 6c air canc. Oklahoma City, Okl. - Nov/Dec 1944. Both with letter / cards. BOTH Back transit postmark "D.P.C. - S.F.". VF MB \$20.00 (0901) **PICT on request**

**131. Merchant Marine - NY (2).** 1 cover + 1 unprocessed V-Mail TO (liberty ship) **SS Winfred L. Smith**. Both 3 "Win the War" canc. Bridgeport, Conn - May/Aug 44. With letter. BOTH Back transit postmark "CPNY". VF MB \$20.00 (0901) **PICT on request**

**132. Misc. Covers (11).** Lot of 11 Misc covers (2 Army - 1 Navy Department card - 2 are cacheted). Incl. USNTS San Diego, NAS Norfolk, Camp Allen Lion three, Navy 1005,.. 7 are with letters. Ave/VF (1602)

**133. Patriotic - Navy 3205.** Cacheted (Alphabet of Democracy). 6c air canc. US Navy - ? Sep 1944 (Ave). + 1 cover sender Navy 3205 - 6c air canc. US Navy - 2 Dec 1944 (VF). Both censored. F/VF (1601)

**134. Seabees - Iwo Jima.** Sender 301 N.C.B. Co. D. 6c canc. US Navy - 5 Mar 1945 (VF). Naval Censor. VF (1410)

**135. Seabees - Marianas.** Sender 13<sup>th</sup> USNCB Co D. 6c air canc. US Navy - 2 Jan 1945 (VF). Naval Censor. To Navy 3205 Fwd - DSG handstamp. Ave (Open rough at right) (1601)

**136. Seabees - Pearl / Okinawa (2).** 2 covers Sender 74<sup>th</sup> N.C.B. Co C. Both 6c air canc. US Navy - 21 Sep 44 / 2 Sep 45 (F/VF). Naval Censor. 1 with letter. VF (1601)

**137. Tokyo Bay - USS Lexington.** Non philatelic cover Sender Division E USS Lexington. 6c air Canc. **U.S.S. LEXINGTON - TOKYO BAY** - 15 SEP 1945 (F). F MB \$20.00 (0901) **PICT on request**

**138. Tokyo Bay - USS Mt Olympus.** Size #10 Cacheted (3rd Amphibious - Tokyo Force) 6c air canc. Type F **Tokyo Bay - U.S.S. MT OLYMPUS** - 2 SEP 1945 (VF). Censored. F (trimmed at left - partially into cachet) MB \$10.00 (1410) **PICT on request**

**139. Tokyo Japan - USS Teton.** Size #10 Sender CC USS Teton AGC 14. Free franked canc. Type F **Tokyo, Japan - U.S.S. TETON** - 29 Aug 1945 (F). Censored. VF (Philatelic) (1604)

**140. U.S.C.G. - Navy 49.** Sender USCG Box 2 - Navy 3245. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 29 Jun 1944 (VF). VF (1410)

**141. USMC - 2nd Raider (Guadalcanal).** Red Cross cover Sender H&S Co 2nd Raider Regt. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 3 Jan 1944 (VF). Naval Censor. VF (1410)

**142. USMC - 4th Marine Air Wing.** Sender 4th Marine Air Wing. 6c Air MC U.S. Navy - 5 Aug 1945 (F). Naval Censor. VF (1410)

**143. USMC - 22nd Marines.** Sender Hdqs Co - 3rd Bn - 22nd Marines - 6th Marine Division. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 23 Aug 1945 (Ave). Naval Censor. VF (1410)

**144. USMC - 22nd Marines (Guadalcanal).** Sender Hdqs Co - 3rd Bn - 22nd Marines. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 16 Apr 1944 (VF). Naval Censor. With letter. VF MB \$5.00 (1002)

**145. USS Aegir.** Sender **USS AEGIR** (Sub Tender). 6c air canc. US Navy - 4 Jan 1945 (F). Naval Censor. VF (0901)

**146. USS Consolation (2).** 2 covers Sender **USS Consolation** - Div H. Both 6c air canc. US Navy 15688 Br. - 24 Oct / 8 Nov 1945 (F). F (both trimmed at right) (1601)

**147. USS Marvin H. McIntyre.** Cachet "V-J - off Wake Island in route to Guam". 3c stp canc. US Navy, 2 Sep 1945 (VF). Back canc. **USS Marvin H. McIntyre Br - 2Sep1945(DR - VF)**. Unaddressed (1604) **PICT**

**148. USS Oahu.** Sender **USS Oahu - Div 7** (Repair ship). 6c air canc. US Navy, 27 Jan 1945 (VF). Letter. Naval Censor. F(tears top) (1601)

#### POST-WORLD WAR II MILITARY / COLD WAR

**149. 20th Anniv Army Aviation.** #10 Cacheted Letter gram "20th Anniv US Army Aviation St Louis". 8c air + 13c (E-17) +16c (CE-2) Special Delivery stp canc. Airport Mail Facility - Saint Louis MO - 6 Jun 1962 (VF). VF (1416)

**150. Germany - Censored.** 75c Pf (Sc 553) German stp Canc. (Bamberg) (1947 - Ave). Handstamp US Civil Censorship Germany + tape. F (tears) (1416)

**151. Indian Army FPO 648 (Sumatra).** "On Active Service" letter form - NAAFI. Free franked canc. F.P.O. No 648 - 1 Aug 46 (VF). VF MB \$5.00 (1601)

**152. Office of Alien Property** - Department of Justice - Honolulu T.H.

CC #10 Official business cover. 6c air + 2x1c + 10c Prexies Canc Honolulu Hawaii - 28 Jan 1949 (F). VF MB \$5.00(1604)

**153. Venezuela Air Force (2).** 2 Size #10 Official "Fuerzas Aeras" covers. Both multi Venezuelan stps canc. Maracay - Estado Aragua (1953 - F). VF (1604)

#### POST-WORLD WAR II Naval

**154. Guam - Navy 926.** Sender N.S.C. Camp Lenson Dispensary Navy 926. 6c Air canc. U.S. Navy - 26 Feb 1946 (VF). VF (1410)

**155. USS Intrepid.** Sender Capt R.R. Blick - **USS Intrepid** (Signed). Free franked MC US Navy - 2 Sep 1946 (F). With letter. VF (1601)

**156. USS Topeka.** Cacheted (USS Topeka occupation of Japan). Free franked canc. USS TOP(EKA)-7 Jan 1946 (Ave). With letter. VF (1601)

#### KOREAN WAR

**157. APO 86.** Free franked - Sender 120 Comb Eng Bn - 45 Inf Div APO 86. Canc. APO 86 (MC 8 Jan no year - F). VF (0901)

#### VIETNAM WAR

**158. 6250th Combat Support** sender at APO SF 96307. Free franked Canc. APO ?? (KB 21 Dec .. - Ave). F (tears on top) (1602)

**159. APO 96307.** Vietnam cachet. Free franked Canc. APO 96307 (MC 6 Feb 1967 - F). VF (0901)

**160. FPO 96602.** Vietnam cachet. Sender A co Med - 3rd Med Bn - FPO SF 96602. Free franked partial Canc. ??? (MC 5 Jul 1967 - Ave). To FPO 96601. F (fold) (1604)

**161. USS Albatross.** Sender **USS Albatross MSC 289**. Free franked canc. **USS MATTAPONI** - 5 Oct 1966 (VF). {During Operation Market Time off Vietnam} VF MB \$5.00 Non Philatelic (0901)

**162. USS Intrepid.** Cacheted (USS Intrepid). Free franked canc. **USS INTREPID** - 4 Nov 1967 (VF). With letter. VF (1410)

**163. USS Paul Revere.** Sender X-Division USS Paul Revere. Free franked canc. **USS PAUL REVERE**, 5Feb1966 (VF). MB \$3.00 (0901)

**164. USS Pine Island.** Sender USS Pine Island AV-12. Free franked canc. **USS PINE ISLAND** - 5 Feb 1966 (F). VF MB \$3.00 (0901)

#### MODERN MILITARY (after 1965)

**165. Israel - X-Rayed.** Size #10 cover (State of Israel B "This mail was X-Rayed". VF (1604) PICT

**166. Mail Sanitized (2).** Since 9-11, mail to Government offices in Washington DC is sanitized. 2 x Size #10 cover To the Secretary of Energy from 2006/2007. Handstamp "Received - Mail Sanitized - 17 Jan 2006 / 18 Jun 2007". VF MB \$5.00 (0901) **PICT on request**

#### DESERT STORM

**167. APO 09603.** Sender 328 TAS/DO - Op Desert Shield - APO 09603. Free franked canc. APO 09603 - 25 Nov 1990 (VF). VF (0901)

**168. APO 09833.** Sender C Co - 2-22nd INF - APO 09603. Free franked canc. APO 09833 - 27 Apr 1992 (VF). Located in Sharm-El Sheik, Sinai, Egypt. VF (0901)

**169. APO 09896.** Sender 2186th Maint. Co (LE) GS - Op Desert Storm - APO 09623. Free franked canc. APO 09896 - 6 Mar 1991 (F). With letter. VF (1602)

**170. APO 09896.** Sender 2220th TC - APO 09734. Free franked with label "Operation Desert Storm - Persian Gulf 1991" canc. APO (09)896 - 1 Aug 1991 (Ave/F). VF (0901)

**171. FPO 09526.** Sender 47th Field Hospital - Op Desert Shield - APO 09867. Free franked canc. US Navy FPO 09526 - 12 Oct 1990 (VF). Both located in Bahrain. VF (0901)

#### UN MILITARY MAIL

**172. MINURSO (Western Sahara) - Austria.** Sender Military Observers - Austrian Contingent - Minurso. Moroccan stps canc. Layoune (1996 - F/VF). VF MB \$4.00 (0901)

Continued on pg. 62

## Decoration (MEMORIAL) Day Postcards

by Stan Cohen

*[The author (owner and publisher of PICTORIAL HISTORIES) was specifically asked to present this article in the Special Edition since the NY 2016 Show is being staged beginning with the Memorial Day Weekend. Medical considerations prevented submittal of the article until the final SPECIAL EDITION draft was near completion. The last second inclusion of the article was made possible by the financial assistance of Civia Tuteur of Chicago, in memory of our philatelic acquaintance and friend Ron Mitchell, Denver]*

Of all the national holidays celebrated in this country, Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) is perhaps the most mystifying as to its origin and set date. One date for the first observance of a day honoring the dead of the Civil War can be traced to the South in 1866 and one version credits it to Julia Pierpont, wife of Frances H. Pierpont, Reconstruction Governor of Virginia. A day for Confederate dead was also observed in 1866 and is still observed in six Southern states on different dates but being a national holiday now is observed nationwide.

The holiday has many other versions as to its initial origin. Union General John A. Logan of Illinois was a founder of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a veteran's organization made up of former soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Union forces. It was as commander of the GAR that Logan declared and



**Figures 1 & 2:** The G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was formed in 1866. The G.A. R. dissolved in 1956 with the death of the last remaining Union soldier, Albert Woolson (1850-1956). At its height it had 490,000 members.

signed General Order No. 11, designating May 30, 1868, as a day to decorate graves and otherwise honor the memory of the Union dead. The GAR was honored on many Decoration Day cards (**Figures 1 and 2**). The tradition was carried on after WW I by the new American Legion organization and the GAR.

Other towns have also laid claim to the origins. Boalsburg, Pennsylvania insists that it is the “birthplace” as graves began to be decorated there on July 4, 1864. Another claim comes from Jackson, Mississippi where Confederate graves were decorated in April 1865. Other towns have laid claim and in 1966, the Federal Government declared Waterloo, New York as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. The residents were among the earliest to

officially designate a memorial day on May 5, 1866. The National Memorial Day Museum, operated by the Waterloo Library & Historical Society is located in Waterloo. Another credible story has James Redpath, a good friend and biographer of abolitionist John Brown as the originator in 1866 while serving as Superintendent of Schools in Charleston, South Carolina. The source is Redpath's very obscure 1926 biography by Charles Horner. He was appalled at the condition of the Union soldier's graves, and asked students and local freedmen to clean them up and decorate them. The idea was picked up by Union appointed Governor Generals in the South, who made the holiday May 1, from which it has gradually moved to the present day.

Memorial Day was observed on May 30 until 1971 when a



**Figures 3, 4 & 5:** The cards, of course, have the Civil War as their central theme, and date to the early 1900s. “Decoration Day” was changed to Memorial Day in 1882, but the original name was frequently retained well into the 20th century.

new federal holiday schedule designated the last Monday in May as the official day. Before this and to 1882 the practice of placing flowers at gravesites was known as Decoration Day (**Figures 3, 4, 5**). New York was the first state to officially acknowledge May 30 in 1873. By 1890 all of the northern states had followed suit.



**Figures 6, 7 & 8:** Two of the three cards depict the reconciliation of the North and South (also see Figure 10). Figure 6 shows the two most prominent generals on each side—Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, while Figure 8 provides another view of Robert E. Lee.

The vast majority of early 1900s Decoration (Memorial) Day cards were printed in Germany for many different publishers, especially English firms. They depicted the American Civil War



**Figures 16, 17 & 18:** No 16 is a Raphael Tuck & Sons “Decoration Day” Series No. 158. Cards 17 and 18 are beautiful embossed cards of Decoration Day Series No. 1. No date or publisher noted on the back side.

**Figures 9—13:** Five of the 12 part set of Raphael Tuck & Sons Confederate Decoration Day postcards. Decoration Day has been celebrated on different days by individual States in the former Confederacy. This is a valuable set. Produced in 1908, the set was printed in Germany, albeit published in England.

and, increasingly, the reconciliation of the two sides after the war. (Figures 6, 7, & 8).

As the states of the “Old South” were observing their own holiday dates, the famous English post card publisher, Raphael Tuck & Sons put out in 1908, a set of 12 full-color cards honoring Confederate leaders and Confederate dead. This is a very hard set to complete (Figures 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13). Alternatively,



**Figures 14 & 15:** Both cards (circa 1910) were German published—the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 and the charge up San Juan Hill in the 1898 Spanish-American War.

as the Civil War receded in time some Decoration (increasingly MEMORIAL) Day cards focused on the Revolutionary War

(Figure 14) or the 1898 Spanish –American War (Figure 15).

Every conceivable type of art work was used to portray prominent Confederate and Union generals and admirals as well as common soldiers/sailors and women/children. Much equipment was also illustrated and, of course, many cards showed the elderly veterans of the Civil War. (Figures 16, 17, 18).

Of the many sets of Decoration Day cards printed and marketed, Series Number 150 of ten cards by New York City’s Sam Gabriel Co. (also called Gabriel & Sons) has long been considered to be among the most beautiful. The illustrations depict aged veterans remembering their Civil War days and comrades, the public honoring survivors, and the fallen heroes being paid tribute. One extraordinary card pays tribute to the serviceman of all wars. It depicts militiamen, regular army, volunteers and a sailor representing the many armed conflicts our nation had fought, from the



**Figure 19:** Four wars memorialized Revolutionary War to the Spanish-American War. (Figure 19).

The company was started in 1907 and sold to The American Colortype Co. in the 1930s. Its artwork cards were published for many expositions, military and patriotic events. The company went out of the postcard business in the 1950s. One of the company’s main artists was Frances Brundage, one of the country’s busiest and most successful commercial artists of her era. Her career spanned a half-century from the 1880s until her death in 1937. (Figure 20). Another prolific postcard artist was Ellen H. Clapsaddle (1865-1934) who was famous for her patriotic postcards featuring images of children (Figure 21).

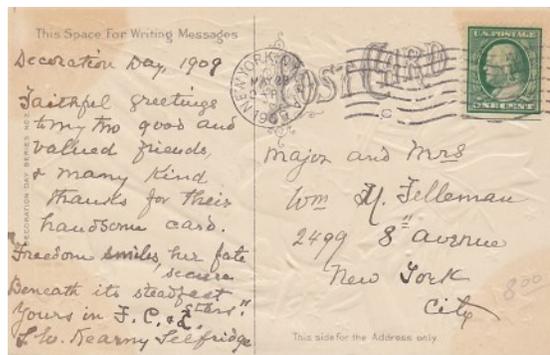
**Figures 20 & 21:** The International Art Publishing Co. issued a number of patriotic cards (see Figure 20—left) designed by Frances Brundage usually depicting women and children. Ellen H. Clapsaddle (Figure 21—right) was well-known for depicting children on her Decoration/Memorial Day cards.



During World War One, card production ceased in Germany. Domestic American printers had to take up the slack. During the subsequent Depression years and after, postcards were manufactured as “linen” cards—considerably cheaper and less attractive. Following the 1940s, “chrome” cards were introduced - representing the ultimate fusion of color photographs with paper backing. The beautiful artwork of the turn of the century Decoration Day cards were lost to history.

So the main span of time for the beautiful art cards was a 15-17 year period commencing with 1900 and continuing up till the World War One years. Today such patriotic cards are a thing of the past, but Memorial Day remains with us as both the traditional first weekend of the summer season but mainly the one day set aside to honor all Americans who have valiantly fought, and died, in our wars.

And not to overlook the obvious in the way of questions, yes postal history is a feature of DECORATION DAY postcards. At the bottom left, Figure 22 relays information about a birth from Munich, North Dakota. Directly below, Figure 23 conveys the message of Decoration Day from 1909 New York City: **“Freedom smiles, her fate secure, Beneath its steadfast stare.”**



#### **AUCTION CONTINUED:**

**173. ONUC (Congo) - Sweden.** Official cover Handstamp "Swedish Contingent Commander and Liaison Officer - OUNC HQ - Leopoldville". Free franked canc. Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo (1962 - VF). VF MB \$5.00 (0901) **PICT on request**

**174. UNEF 1 (Egypt) - Brazil.** Sender Brazilian Battalion - UNEF Base PO - Beyrouth Lebanon. Lebanese stps canc. Beyrouth R.P. - - 1.6.59 (VF). F (light fold) MB \$10.00 (0901)

**175. UNEF 1 - Egypt (3).** 3 wrappers Senders PIO HQ UNEF (1 in Beirut - 1 in Gaza - 1 CAPO 5049). 1 Lebanese stp canc. Beyrouth (1960), 1 Canc. United Nations Emergency Force (1960 - Gaines 200c) - 1 canc. United Nations Emergency Force 2(196? - Gaines 200e). VF MB \$6.00 (0901)

**176. UNIFIL (Lebanon) - India / pouch (2).** 1 #10 UNIFIL cover to UN FCU in New York (Sent by pouch - no canc). 1 UNIFIL air letter - sender 519 GR HQ Coy IND Batt III UNIFIL. Handstamp "Indian Contingent Office - UNIFIL". Back Indian stps canc. FPO No 1680 - 9.9.07. VF MB \$6.00 (0901)

**177. UNIKOM (Iraq / Kuwait).** UNIKON #10 cover. Kuwaiti stp canc. Doha Post - 28 Jan 199(3). VF MB \$6.00 (0901)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**178. Book "National Guard and Special Camps - Plans and Photographs - June 1918".** Plans and photos of 16 National Guard Camps and 33 Special Camps. By Construction Division - War Department. Soft-bound about 250 pages. F (spine repaired - slight stains bottom of last 20+ pages) MB \$15.00 (1605)

**179. P/C USS Maine.** Mint bilingual 3. Habana. Maine and Kentucky. F (small scuff at bottom left. Light stain on back) (1410)

**180. P/C USS Maine Monument.** (W.B. Garrison) Anchor over Victims of USS Maine, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Used cancel. Washington DC 1917. VF (1410)

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## Rear Guard Cover of the Month

by David Kent

### Marine Detachment on a Battleship

Dear Mamie:

*U.S.S. New Hampshire*

When we came in after some days at sea and got a couple of weeks accumulated mail I was rejoiced to find yours. Not that I like to get letters from married women in particular, still there is a certain piquancy attached thereto.

My captain's commission has not yet come but Tench probably can tell or find out when it will get here. It is overdue now but I will draw back pay from May 23d so I grieve not. When the back pay comes (about \$ 260) I shall smite my debts a staggering blow.....

Tell Tench that any dope he can secure relative to me will be highly appreciated (efficiency marks be).

How do you like the wedded existence? I imagine it would bore me but may investigate some time if I can find a pretty efficient woman.



Mary Mears is making me a sweater but if you know any of these knitting women who knit just so, tell them I have sixty Marines who have no such article and who are on watch for four hours at a time on the deck and exposed to a cold wind and spray of the North Atlantic which is not warm. They would appreciate greatly and doubtless write letters of gratitude which I would censor.

The other day "somewhere" at sea the fleet was in column. Twenty seven battleships in a column eight miles long. Five submarines suddenly appeared and twenty seven deck officers nearly had a fit apiece. They proved to be American subs and the destroyers which had headed for them at 30 miles an hour paused scathing no man.

I am kept fairly busy now but it is monotonous. When my captain's commission arrives I may be moved out. There is one captain on here already but I can not tell what will happen.

Bessie writes something of a call to Haymarket but they have written me nothing from home.

The Phillipino says "Dinnaservedsab" and I close.

Regards to Olga et familia et Tench. Love, Alex



Real photo postcard of marine guard, compliments of Fairwinds Stamp Co. 30 heads counted in 1st rank, suggesting that this was a battleship's complement of 60 marines, circa 1914-1919.

#### Commentary:

It doesn't take much to realize that the writer isn't an ordinary seaman, but a well educated Marine. He was Alexander Galt (1892-1966), a 1914 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. He retired as a major. During World War II he worked as Commandant of Cadets at Fishburn Military School, a small high school in Virginia.

Galt was the Officer in Charge of the Marine Detachment on the *New Hampshire* in 1917. Traditionally, Marine detachments on Navy ships served as security and even attack forces. Typically a detachment had two officers, and from 35 to 55 enlisted men. Marine Detachments performed ceremonial functions, staffed the brigs on Navy ships, manned naval gun batteries and at times conducted combat operations ashore. Galt says that his detachment has 60 men, undoubtedly increased during the war as more men were needed to stand watch in submarine-infested waters.

Galt also mentions that his men could use sweaters to withstand the cold. Knitting warm clothing for servicemen became a cottage industry during World War I. The most important garments were wool socks for the doughboys in the trenches in France where standard military issue socks weren't of much use in the wet and cold of trenches. Warm sweaters were also appreciated. Knitting became so "patriotic" that it became fashionable to knit in church. Fund-raising drives were conducted to raise the money needed to purchase skeins of wool for the knitters to use.

Naval experts might cringe at Galt's column of "twenty seven battleships," knowing that at no time has the U.S. ever fielded that many battleships at one time. As a Marine, he probably used the term to include any large armored and well-gunned warship, official Naval classification systems notwithstanding.