

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Spr 2017)

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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100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION - 2017  
 - OF AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO THE  
 FIRST WORLD WAR  
 VOL. 56, # 2, Spring 2017

Military Postal History Society



World War I Sheet Music

Thousands of sheet music titles were associated with the patriotic fervor of World War I, from the donning of the uniform, through farewells, to the battlefield, return home, and victory. In an age of graphic art in many mass media materials, sheet music lent itself to serving as the tableau of artists and musicians. The images shown are from the James Edward Myers World War I Sheet Music Collection at the University Library, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, <http://imagesearchnew.library.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/myers>

## Military Postal History Society



**Vol. 56, No. 2**

**Spring 2017**

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.militaryPHS.org>

### Officers:

**President:** Ed Dubin, P.O. Box 586, Belleville, MI.  
48112-0586 [dubine@comcast.net]

**Vice-President:** Louis Fiset, PO Box 15927, Seattle, WA.  
98115-0927, [fiset@u.washington.edu]

**Secretary:** TBA

**Treasurer:** Ed Fisher, 725 S. Adams Rd., Suite 252,  
Birmingham, MI 48009-6983  
[efisherco@earthlink.net]

### Directors:

Tony Brooks - Immediate Past President - ] 16231 Brookmere  
Ave., Fishers, IN. 46037-7339 {tonybrooks@aol.com]

Jeff Curtis - Awards Coordinator - 912 Jonathan Dr., Plain  
field, IN., 46168-2379 [jcurtis55@ymail.com]

Thierry Delespesse - Auction Manager - P.O. Box 32225,  
Tucson, AZ. 85751-2225 [Apocovers@aim.com]

Norman Gruenzner - Business Mgr./Assistant Treasurer, P.O.  
Box 32, Cypress, TX., 77410-0032  
ngruenzner@comcast.net]

David A. Kent - P.O. Box 127, New Britain, CT. 06050-0127  
[kentdave@aol.com]

Alfred Kugel - Conventions, 502 N. York Rd., Hinsdale, IL  
60521-3531 [afkugel@hotmail.com]

Sergio Lugo - Bulletin Editor - 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO.  
80246. Phone: 303-552-8897, [lugopspe@q.com; ]

**General Counsel:** Bob Zeigler

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## President's Message

One hundred years have passed since the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917, with a congressional declaration of war on Germany. Thanks to the financial generosity of fellow club members we are able to publish this expanded spring bulletin to mark the centenary. In addition to the MPHS bulletin the April issue of the APS Journal will be devoted to the postal history of the United States involvement in WWI. The MPHS and the APS articles will offer fascinating insight into the diversity of collecting the postal history of the tumultuous WWI era.

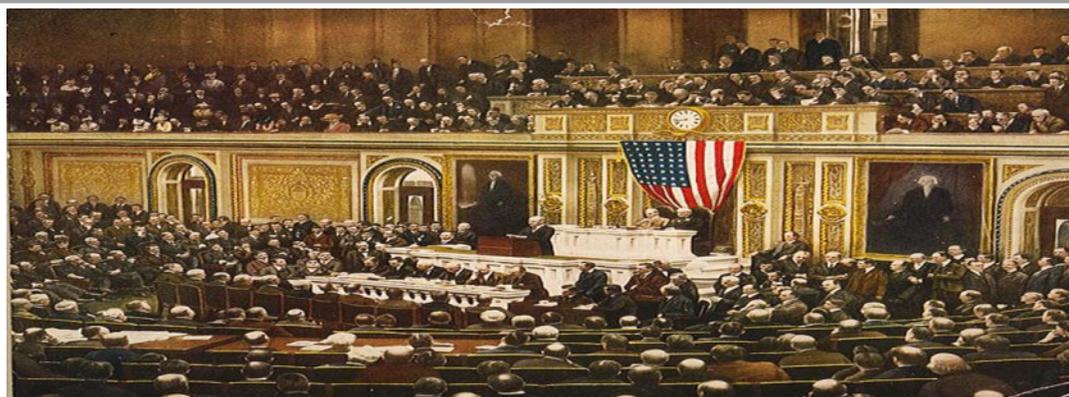
In his April 2<sup>nd</sup> speech to congress President Wilson asked for a declaration of war for a crusade to make the world "safe for democracy". In his July 10, 1919 speech to congress President Wilson again used the theme of a crusade when he referred to the U.S. as "a great moral force" that "made victory certain". As collectors of the artifacts and students of history we know the slaughter of WWI was something less than a splendid crusade. On a personnel note, on my Mother's side, coming from what is now the Czech Republic there were family members who fought on both sides of the war. The two Uncles that did return were both emotionally scarred. In the case of the AEF veteran he physically suffered the rest of life from the effects of being gassed. In today's vernacular they both suffered from PTSD and like many of today's PTSD sufferers their lives did not end well. On the wall of a small Czech village church is the name of a third Uncle that did not return.

Close to 51,000 Americans died in WWI in combat plus thousands more from disease. The remains of 32,902 American servicemen, that families opted not to have returned home, are buried in eight American cemeteries in Europe. Several of the cemeteries bear the names of the battles these men died in: St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Aisne-Marine (Chateau-Thierry). I'd like to think our saving the postal history and ephemera of this war is one small way to acknowledge and not forget even after 100 years the lives of these men.

*Ed Dubin*

## National WW I Memorial - Washington, DC, Dedication November 11, 1918

The memorial is being built in Pershing Park. The National WW I Memorial is to be dedicated on **November 11, 2018**, 100 years since the Armistice was signed ending WW I. These efforts are intended to correct a long overdue oversight by our country to honor the 4.7 million who served and the 116,516 American soldiers sailors, airmen, and marines who died in the Great War (**see video on website entitled "WW I Changed Everything": <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/>**).



**Military  
Postal  
History  
Society  
Bulletin**

**Vol. 56, # 2**

Library of Congress Photo: Woodrow Wilson's War Address to the Congress

**American Declaration of War Against Germany - April 6, 1917 and the War Message**

“WHEREAS, the Imperial German Government has committed repeated acts of war against the people of the United States of America; therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government, which has thus been thrust upon the United States, is hereby formally declared; and that the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial German Government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States. “

With that 131 word statement, the United States of America entered the deadliest international war in its history, bravely stepping forward into a new world that would shape its destiny for a large part of the twentieth century. Preceding the vote on the declaration, President Wilson had sent his message to Congress stating the nation's reasons for taking up the cudgel in battle. While the Declaration of War states in its concise language the direct causes of America's entry into the war, President Wilson's war message considerably expanded on those reasons. The President's War Message takes a closer look (pages 3 to 5 abbreviated) at the President's Address to the Congress of April 2, shown in the picture post-card reproduced by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. As reprinted by the Government Printing Office, the War Message was expanded to include the facts underlying the War Message. (continued on pg. 4)

**PLEASE NOTE: To encourage writers, promote lead articles and touch upon the wide ranging interests of our members, new lead articles will always appear on the cover page, while second parts of prior issue lead articles can be found several pages into an issue.**

**MAIL CALL:**

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Society News and Columns

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The four page President's War Message provided the underpinnings for support of the Declaration of War. Including the facts and rationale resulted in an eleven page reprinted official version of the War Message. No analysis is rendered herein, but main points are displayed in bold. Put simply, you are reading an abbreviated version of Wilson's statement in its significant particulars. Unlike other articles in this *MPHS Bulletin*, the selected passages are provided in a single column format, thereby reducing distractions experienced by the reader in reading multiple columns.

**65th Cong., 1st Sess. Senate Doc. No. 5, Serial No. 7264, Washington, D.C., 1917; pp. 3-8, *passim*.**

On 3 February 1917, President Wilson addressed Congress to announce that diplomatic relations with Germany were severed. In a Special Session of Congress held on 2 April 1917, President Wilson delivered this '**War Message**.' Four days later, Congress overwhelmingly passed the War Resolution which brought the United States into the Great War.

*Gentlemen of the Congress:*

I have called the Congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, **choices of policy to be made, and made immediately**, .....

On the 3d of February last I officially laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the Imperial German Government that .....put aside all restraints of law or of humanity and **use its submarines to sink every vessel** .....

The new policy has **swept every restriction aside**. Vessels of every kind..... have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy....., the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents. Even hospital ships and ships carrying relief to the sorely bereaved and stricken people of Belgium.....

.....**International law** had its origin in the attempt to set up some law which would be respected and observed upon the seas .....This minimum of right the German Government has swept aside under the plea of retaliation and necessity and because it had no weapons which it could use at sea except these ..... Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people can not be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a **warfare against mankind**.

..... The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it.....**Our motive will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might** of the nation, but only the **vindication of right**, of human right, of which we are only a single champion.

When I addressed the Congress on the 26th of February last, I thought that it would suffice to assert our neutral rights with arms, ..... But **armed neutrality, it now appears, is impracticable**..... Armed neutrality..... is practically certain to draw us into the war without either the rights or the effectiveness of belligerents. There is one choice we can not make, we are incapable of making: **we will not choose the path of submission**.....

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem **my constitutional duty, I advise that the Congress declare** the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States; .....

What this will involve is clear. It will involve the utmost **practicable cooperation** .....**with the governments now at war with Germany**, and..... the extension to those governments of the most **liberal financial credits**..... It will involve the **organization and mobilization of all the material resources of the country**..... It will involve the immediate **full equipment of the Navy** in all respects but particularly in ..... **dealing with the enemy's submarines**. It will involve the **immediate addition to the armed forces of the United States** already provided for by law in case of war at least 500,000 men, who should, in my opinion, be chosen upon the principle of **universal liability to service**, and also the authorization of subsequent **additional increments** of equal force .....I hope, so far as they can equitably be sustained by the present generation, by **well conceived taxation**....

.....let us be very clear.....to all the world what our motives and our objects are..... **Our object** now, as then, is to vindicate the **principles of peace and justice in the life of the world** as against selfish and autocratic power and to set up



*U.S.S. Arizona* ship cancellation on the day of the declaration of war, April 6, 1917. *Courtesy of Alfred Kugel.*



*U.S.S. Florida* ship cancellation on the day of the declaration of war, April 6, 1917. The Navy knew it was America's first line of defense. *Courtesy of David Kent.*

amongst the really free and self-governed peoples of the world such a concert of purpose and of action as will henceforth ensure the observance of those principles..... Lies in the existence of **autocratic governments** backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the **will of their people**. .... We are at the beginning of an age in .....that the same standards of conduct and of responsibility for wrong done shall be observed among nations and their governments that are observed among the individual citizens of civilized states.

We have **no quarrel with the German people**.....

A steadfast concert for peace can never be maintained except by a **partnership of democratic nations**. **No autocratic government could be trusted to keep faith** within it or observe its covenants. It must be a **league of honour**,.....

Does not every American feel that assurance.....for the **future peace**.....in the last few weeks in Russia? .....

One of the things that has served to convince us ..... is that from the very outset of the present war **it has filled our unsuspecting communities and even our offices of government with spies and set criminal intrigues everywhere afoot**..... that Government entertains no real friendship for us and means to act against our peace and security at its convenience.....the intercepted [**Zimmermann**] **note** to the German Minister at Mexico City is eloquent evidence.

We are accepting this **challenge of hostile purpose**..... We are glad..... **to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world** and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included: **for the rights of nations great and small** and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience. The world must be **made safe for democracy**..... **We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities** for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make.

..... we shall, I feel confident, conduct our operations as belligerents without passion and ourselves **observe with proud punctilio the principles of right and of fair play** we profess to be fighting for.

I have said nothing of the governments allied with the Imperial Government of Germany because they have not made war upon us or challenged us to defend our right and our honour.

We.....shall desire nothing so much as **the early reestablishment of intimate relations** .....

We have borne with their present government .....because of that friendship -- exercising a patience and forbearance.....

It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, **many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us**. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, ..... **we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts -- for democracy**, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, **for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations** and make the world itself at last free.

**TABLE I - Timeline of America's Involvement in WW I (including postal events)**  
by Sergio Lugo

|                   |                              |  |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| August 5, 1914    | Washington, DC               | President Wilson signs Proclamation of Neutrality  |
| May 7, 1915       |                              | Sinking of <i>RMS Lusitania</i>  |
| September, 1915   | Berlin                       | Germany proclaims end to unrestricted submarine warfare  |
| September, 1915   | Washington, DC               | William Jennings Bryan resigns as Secretary of State over President Wilson foreign policies.   |
| March 8, 1916     | New Mexico                   | Pancho Villa raid; Mexico Incursion by U.S. allows U.S. to test new ideas and leadership   |
| July 21, 1916     | Washington, D.C.             | Congress enacts Naval Bill after bitter disputes; Bill would make U.S. world's largest naval power   |
| August 4, 1916    | Virgin Islands               | U.S. purchases Virgin Islands to forestall German naval base, effective March 31, 1917   |
| 1916 summer       | U.S.                         | Preparedness and anti-preparedness movement demonstrations throughout American cities  |
| August 1916       | U.S.                         | Plattsburg Camp & other training camps for training of volunteer civilians in military life  |
| August 14, 1916   | Washington, DC               | Wilson forms Council of National Defense (CND)   |
| November 7, 1916  | U.S.                         | Wilson barely defeats Charles Evans Hughes in presidential election (277 to 254 in electoral college)  |
| December 1916     | Washington, DC               | William Jennings Bryan renews effort to persuade Wilson to promote mediation between combatants  |
| January 22, 1917  | Washington, DC               | Wilson calls for "peace without victory." Frustrated by efforts to mediate a peace, Wilson seeks cessation of hostilities by both sides  |
| January 31, 1917  | Berlin                       | Germany resumes unlimited submarine warfare seeking to starve England into submission  |
| Feb. 3, 1917      | Washington, DC               | U.S. cuts diplomatic ties with Germany   |
| Feb. 24, 1917     | Berlin & Mexico              | British intercept Zimmerman message seeking Mexico as German ally in exchange for return of southwest US.  |
| Feb. 1917         | Washington, DC               | Wilson asks Congress for greater powers. Led by Senator LaFollette, U.S. Senate refuses to allow Wilson to wage an undeclared naval war.   |
| March 11, 1917    | Washington, DC               | U.S. recognizes Carranza government in Mexico  |
| March 15, 1917    | Russia                       | Russian revolution deposes Czar Nicholas. Resulting instability in the Entente Powers (of Britain, France, Italy and Russia) encourages Wilson to act.   |
| April 2, 1917     | Washington, DC               | Wilson War Message to Congress—"world must be made safe for democracy"   |
| April 6, 1917     | Washington, DC               | U.S. Congress declares war on Germany  |
| April 1917        | Washington, DC               | General John Pershing appointed commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF)  |
| April 24, 1917    | France                       | 1st U.S. Infantry Expeditionary Division is constituted in New York  |
| May 28, 1917      | Washington, DC               | Selective Service Act passed. 10 million men are eventually registered and a lottery chooses first 687,000. Eventually, 3,000,000 men serve as draftees. General Pershing departs NYC for France   |
| June 15, 1917     | Washington, DC               | U.S. Espionage Act passed.   |
| June 26, 1917     | US & France                  | First AEF troops (500 men) arrive in Europe. AEF eventually grows to 2,000,000 men in Europe.  |
| July 2, 1917      | France                       | Pershing makes request for a 1,000,000 man strong AEF. Raised to 3,000,000 men on July 11, 1917.   |
| September 7, 1917 | France                       | First AEF death - Dr. 1st Lt. William T. Fitzsimmons of Harvard Medical Unit at Base Hospital # 5. Died in a German night bombing raid on <a href="#">Sept 7, 1917</a> . In 1920, Army Hospital 21 in Aurora, Colorado officially renamed the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. |
| Autumn 1917       | Washington, DC & Puerto Rico | Puerto Rico declared U.S. territory, becoming American citizens (selectively done previously) and eligible for US military service. Jones Act enacted in March 1918 regulates merchant shipping.   |
| October 1917      | Washington, DC               | Postal rate change passed by Congress. Free franking for AEF troops. Rates to return to pre-war levels upon signing of peace treaty.   |
| October 23, 1917  | France                       | 1st Artillery shelling of Germans by US 5th Artillery Regiment of 1st Infantry Division  |
| October 25, 1917  | France                       | First U.S. casualties of the war experienced by 16th Inf. Regt. of 1st Infantry Division   |
| November 7, 1917  | Petrograd, Russia            | Bolshevik Revolution elevates Communists to power and vow to withdraw Russia from WW I   |

**TABLE I - Timeline of America's Involvement in WW I (including postal events)**

|                                   |                       |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| December 7, 1917                  | Washington, DC        | U.S. declares war on Austria—Hungary   |
| January 8, 1918                   | Washington, DC        | 14 Point Speech - Wilson lists his goals for a war free world, including a League of Nations.  |
| March 3, 1918                     | Brest-Litovsk, Russia | Soviet Russia concludes peace negotiations with Central Alliance, officially withdrawing from WW I, and releasing millions of German troops for Western Front duty.  |
| March 19, 1918                    | U.S.                  | U.S. Congress officially establishes time zones; daylight savings time effective March 31.   |
| March 21, 1918 through July, 1918 | Western Front, Europe | Germany launches Spring offensive, mounting <b>five</b> distinct offensives against Allied forces., concluding with the Second Battle of the Marne.  |
| March 21, 1918                    | France                | General Ferdinand Foch is given “co-ordinating authority” over all Entente forces on Western Front.  |
| April 14, 1918                    | France                | General Foch appointed Commander-in-Chief of all Entente forces on the Western Front   |
| May 9, 1918                       | AEF                   | Military Postal Express Service established, superseding U.S. Post Office operations of prior year   |
| May 15, 1918                      | U.S.                  | Airmail service is begun by the U.S. Post Office Department  |
| May 25, 1918                      | U.S.                  | German U-boats appear in U.S. waters for the first time.   |
| May 28, 1918                      | Cantigny, France      | First victory of American troops on Western Front (28th Infantry Regt. of the 1st Infantry Division)   |
| May 1918                          | Chateau Thierry       | French and American troops block German advance in France.   |
| July 1918                         | AEF<br>U.S. & Russia  | U.S. AEF forces surpass 1,000,000 men<br>Britain and France ask President Wilson to supply troops for occupation of North Russia and Siberia to protect supplies provided to Czarist Russia and to help with evacuation of Czech Legion  |
| July 6, 1918                      | Washington, DC        | President Wilson agrees to U.S. intervention in Siberia to protect American supplies provided to Imperial Russia during war, and help control Japanese ambitions in Russia. Allied intervention at Vladivostok, Siberia begins August 3, 1918  |
| July 1918                         | France                | Second Battle of the Marne - Allied forces defeat Germans who begin retreat eastward, Allies begin counterattack against German forces, seizing initiative that only ended in November 1918  |
| August 8, 1918                    | France                | German General Ludendorff’s “Black Day” observation as British General Haig launches Battle of Amiens and Germans are pushed back to the Hindenburg Line   |
| August 10, 1918                   | AEF                   | Formation of the First U.S. Army   |
| August 1918                       | Worldwide             | Spanish influenza spans the globe, killing over 25 million worldwide and nearly 50,000 in the U.S.. American military fatalities amount to 55,000—more than total Americans killed in battle.  |
| August 1918                       | Washington, DC        | Last great private funding campaign of the War is launched by the “Seven Servants”   |
| September 12, 1918                | St. Mihiel, France    | Greatest assault of AEF in war clears the St. Mihiel salient.  |
| Sept. 26-Nov., 1918               | Meuse-Argonne,        | AEF loses 120,000 men (10% of its force) in heavy fighting in France. British forces break through the Hindenburg line at several points.  |
| September 29, 1918                | Bulgaria              | Bulgaria concludes armistice negotiations with the Allies.   |
| October 3—4, 1918                 | Berlin & Vienna       | Germany & Austria-Hungary send peace notes to U.S. President Wilson  |
| October 10, 1918                  | AEF                   | 2nd U.S. Army formed. Combined strength of U.S. 1st & 2nd Army = 1.5 million men.  |
| October 21, 1918                  | Berlin                | Germany ceases unrestricted submarine warfare  |
| October 30, 1918                  | Istanbul              | Ottoman Empire concludes armistice with the Allies   |
| November 3, 1918                  | Austria-Hungary       | Armistice signed between Austria-Hungary and the Allies  |
| November 9, 1918                  | Berlin                | Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany abdicates the throne, flees to neutral Holland next day.   |
| November 11, 1918                 | Compiègne, France     | Armistice signed with hostilities in WW I ended between Germany and the Allies. 10 million soldiers killed and 10 million civilians die from hostilities, disease and starvation. Germans anticipate a generous peace under Wilson’s Fourteen Points. AEF equals 2 million by Armistice; 2,000,000 men in training in U.S. |
| December 1, 1918                  | Germany               | First American troops enter Germany  |
| December 4, 1918                  | New York              | President Wilson sets sail for France to participate in the Paris Peace Conference, becoming the first U.S. President to travel to Europe while in office.   |

**TABLE I - Timeline of America's Involvement in WW I (including postal events)**

|                                 |                 |  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| December 11, 1918               | Rhine River     | American troops cross Rhine, enter Coblenz as HQ for U.S. occupation forces.   |
| January 1919 to<br>October 1919 | AEF             | Despite a "state of war" still in existence, U.S. begins demobilizing AEF and shipping men home.<br>Continues to October 1919  |
| January 10, 1919                | Paris, France   | Start of peace negotiations in France, essentially dictated by Allied governments.   |
| February 6, 1919                | Weimar, Germany | German national assembly meets in Weimar, beginning the Weimar Republic  |
| February 14, 1918               | Paris, France   | Peace conference agrees to principle of the League of Nations  |
| June 28, 1919                   | Paris, France   | Treaty of Versailles is signed, ending WW I  |
| July 1, 1919                    | United States   | War-time postal rate ends, reverting to pre-war rates per Act of Congress in October 1917  |
| August 1919                     | United States   | U.S. Army Commander General Peyton March orders the assumption of all welfare work by the U.S. Army, ending civilian involvement in such work effective October 31, 1919 |
| October 1919                    | United States   | End of demobilization<br>Creation of U.S. Army occupation force in Germany of 40,000 men   |
| November 19, 1919               | United States   | U.S. Senate fails to ratify the Treaty of Versailles   |
| July 1920                       | Russia          | U.S. withdraws forces from North Russia and November from Vladivostok  |
| 1921                            | U.S.            | Washington Naval Conference convenes to end building arms race involving naval fleets.   |
| July 2, 1921                    | Washington, DC  | Knox-Porter resolution formally ends war with Germany  |
| August 24, 1921                 | Vienna          | U.S.—Austria peace treaty signed, followed on August 29 by peace treaty with Hungary   |
| August 25, 1921                 | Berlin          | U.S.—German peace treaty signed  |
| January 24, 1923                | Germany         | U.S. Army of Occupation is ended in Germany  |

## LA POSTA BOOK RELEASE

### *Aspects of Postal History*

The Journal of American Postal History, better known as LA POSTA will shortly release a compendium of articles on the subject of postal history, entitled *Aspects of Postal History*.

Its pages contain 16 different chapters written by notable American postal historians including John Hotchner, Trish Kaufmann

One entire chapter is devoted to military postal history, authored by me, your editor. Should you get around to purchasing the book, let me know what you thought of the chapter.

Here's a new **treat** for members of the MPHS  
We're developing another video to be placed on **OUR WEBPAGE**, produced jointly with the RMPL. This second video will be focused on Jim Downing, Gunner's Mate, and naval postal clerk on the USS West Virginia, and Pearl Harbor survivor. We expect to have the video up and running by June 2017.  
It will be found at [www.militaryphs.org](http://www.militaryphs.org)  
Or on You Tube.

An article will be published simultaneously in the pages of the MPHS Bulletin.

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!**

### RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS:

As a valued Member you know first hand the benefits of Membership. Let's build the future of the MPHS together



## MPHS Annual Convention at ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

Plans are complete for the Annual convention of the MPHS in **Denver** on the **Memorial Day weekend**. Contact Al Kugel (MPHS Convention Coordinator) or see RMSS webpage for details and prospectus.

- Thursday (May 25th): Military postal history seminar. See next column
- Friday evening (May 26th)—Tour of Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library and Dinner. See next page
- Programs by MPHS members. See next column.
- Up to 100 frames of military postal history related exhibits. See webpage for prospectus or for accepted exhibits as of March 10 (see next page)
- Saturday evening (May 27th). See next page
  - Awards Banquet (See ROMPEX/RMSS table.)
  - See USCS table for possible auction
- Postal history dealers—see next page.
- Show cancel and MPHS labels (see next page)

## RMSS - THURSDAY May 25, 2017

### MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

(subject to change)

- 9:00 am **Tim Bartshe**: *The Free State at War, 1892-00*  
 9:30 am **Harry Charles, Dr. :** *U.S. Financing of WWI - War Savings Stamps & Liberty Bonds*  
 10:00 am **Richard Aspness**—*Indochina Soldiers and Labor Corps in WW I France*  
 10:30 am **Break**  
 11:00 am **Patrick McNally**-*Propaganda vs. Postal History in WW I Allied/Alliance Postcards*  
 11:30 am **Eckhardt Pobuda**—*German Feldpost of WW II—an Overview*  
 Noon: **Lunch**  
 1:30 pm **Joe Bock**—*Development and Delivery of the U.S. Atomic Bomb, 1942—1946*  
 2:00 pm **Ted Bahry**—*U.S. Marine Corps Postal History*  
 2:30 pm **Alfred Kugel** - *Mail of the Congress of Versailles and Boundary Commissions. Post WW I*  
 3:00 pm **David Kent** - *Princess Matoika and the many doors she can open.*  
 3:30 pm **Break**  
 4:00 pm **Steve Henderson**—*Development of AEF Air Training in WW I*  
 4:30 pm **Ed Dubin** - *The LaFayette Escadrille*  
 5:00 pm **Regis Hoffman & Thomas Richards**  
*Movie Mail to the Stars during Wartime*  
 5:30 pm **Adjourn**

*MPHS members needed to staff MPHS table. Please volunteer by contacting Al Kugel. Situated at the MPHS table will be membership forms, books for sale, and a case presenting a display of WW I soldier's mail within a diorama of lead toy soldiers at the front.*

### MPHS PROGRAMS & MEETINGS at the RMSS

#### Friday - May 26th:

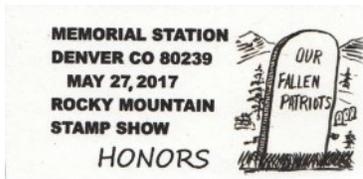
- 2:00 pm: PROGRAM: Dr. Harry Charles: Postal and Treasury Savings Systems - 1910 to 1921
- 3:00 pm: PROGRAM: Ravi Vora: American Colonial Military Mail— 1776 to 1789
- 4:00 pm: PROGRAM: Stephen Nadler: The Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-1880 and the "Great Game"
- 6:30 pm—10 pm: Tour & Dinner at Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library.

#### Saturday - May 27th:

- 8 am to 11:00am: MPHS BOARD MEETING
- Noon: MPHS General Meeting ,
- 3:00 pm: PROGRAM: Joe Bock: Postal History of Development of Atomic Bomb
- 4:00 pm: PROGRAM: Ted Bahry: Remembering Iwo Jima, 1945

### RMSS & MPHS SHOW PROMOTIONS:

RMSS Show sponsors always issue a commemorative, event cover featuring the Show's ad artwork. (see prior page). They bear the USPS approved cancellation shown below only for Friday or Saturday. These are for sale at \$2.00 each (\$5.00 for set) from the ROMPEX/RMSS Show Committee.



In addition, the MPHS offers the commemorative event label shown below and a Souvenir Sheet. For those interested in the event label  **tied to**  the Show cover, the cost is \$4.00 for each day. For those interested in the souvenir sheet, the cost is \$3.00 (too large for the cover). Send payment, and SASE, to Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246.

RMSS — Memorial Day Weekend



May 26 - 28, 2017

### AWARDS BANQUET:

Held at the hotel venue on Saturday evening, May 27, the awards banquet is always a highlight of the show when the audience gets to learn the winners of exhibits. At ROMPEX/RMSS, the banquet is always followed by a walk through of the exhibits to banquet goers. Ask at the ROMPEX/RMSS table for prices and ticket availability (or see Steve Schweighofer).

### Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library Tour and Dinner

For those of you coming to Denver, mark Friday evening (May 26th) as a very special evening. A charter bus will be loading at the hotel site for a 6:30 pm departure to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (RMPL - arrives 6:50). Your host will be Dalene Thomas, who will fill you in about the evenings arrangements. That is followed by a catered dinner, and whatever presentations President Ed

Dubin would like to make, followed by a 90 minute tour of the Library and its Gardens, led by former RMPL President Sergio Lugo and other RMPL volunteers. Visitors are always astounded at what the volunteers of the RMPL have managed to create in its 25 years of existence. Costs for the bus transport and catered dinner amount to \$50 per person, payable to Sergio Lugo. **Sergio needs to know how many will likely attend by May 15th to finalize arrangements with the caterer and bus company. Arrangements are being made for 50 attendees, otherwise Sergio may need to cancel these arrangements.**

### EXHIBITS

Show exhibits accepted as of March 10th total 294 frames. All are listed on the RMSS web site, at <http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com/exhibits/exhibits-listing>. George Brett Cup competitors, consisting of the finest exhibits in the land over the past two years, are listed. Exhibits with a **military postal history focus** number 80 frames as of 3/10/2017 and include:

*Victims of the Divine Wind*  
*Operation Crossroads - 1st A Bomb Tests*  
*The Bismarck—A Philatelic History*  
*French African Air Routes in WW II*  
*The 3 cent Iwo Jima Stamp of 1945*  
*British WW II POW Air Mail Stationery*  
*Decline of the Vichy French Empire*  
*Morale Maintenance in WW I by Social Welfare Agencies*  
*German WW I Military & Occupation Mail from Allied & Enemy Territory*  
*French Army of the Orient (1915-1923)*  
*U.S. Army Post Offices in Greenland (1941-1945)*  
*Little Known Ships at Pearl Harbor*  
*WW II Pacific Navy Location Ship Codes*  
*The U.S. War Savings Stamps of WW I*  
*Postmarks & Cachets of the U.S.S. Lexington—1928-1942*  
*A Potpourri of American Mail from WW I*

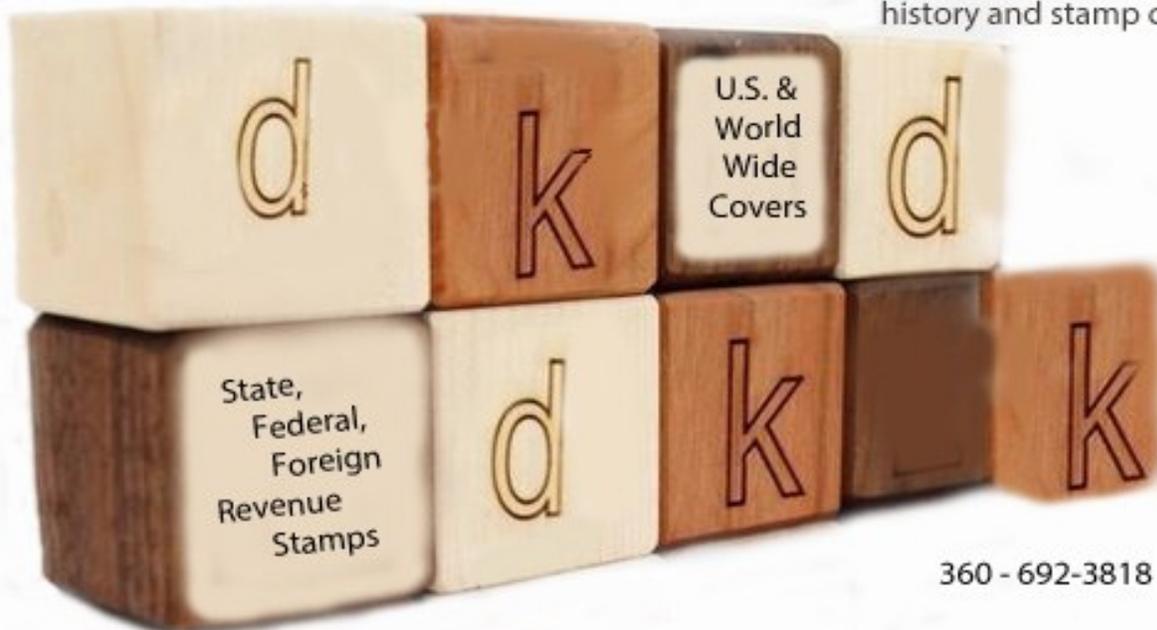
### POSTAL HISTORY DEALERS

As of March 10, we are aware of the following postal history dealers who will be in attendance. Your patronage of them for military postal history is most appreciated:

Fred Boatwright                      David Grossblat  
 Coast Philatelics  
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## WW I AEF Aviation Training

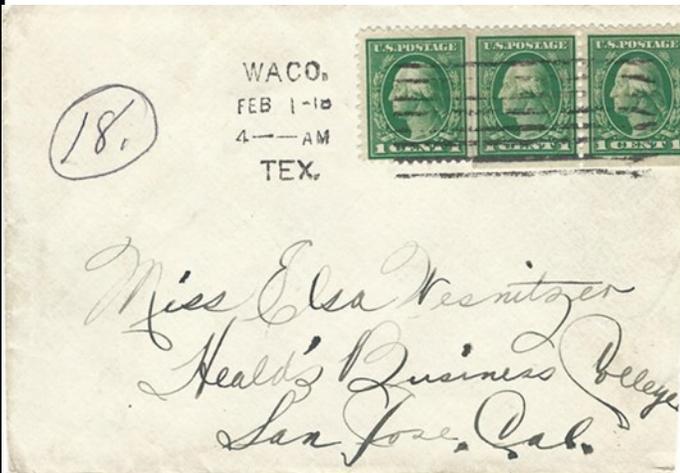
by Steve Henderson  
vshenderson@aol.com



World War I was the first major conflict involving airplanes. Airplanes were just coming into military use at the out-

set of World War I. Initially, they were used mostly for recon missions. Pilots and engineers learned from experience, leading to the development of many specialized types of airplanes after WWI.

Thus, aviation training became a major priority in providing adequate numbers of pilots necessary to support the war effort. At the start of World War One, Curtiss JN-4 "Jennies" were very basic and crude as shown above. By the time World War One had ended, aircraft design had become far more sophisticated and was separated into groups of fighters, bombers and long-range bombers. As the sophistication of airplanes evolved, so did the need for more specialized training. The development of aircraft was inspired by the evolving requirements, based on the way aircraft were actually used.



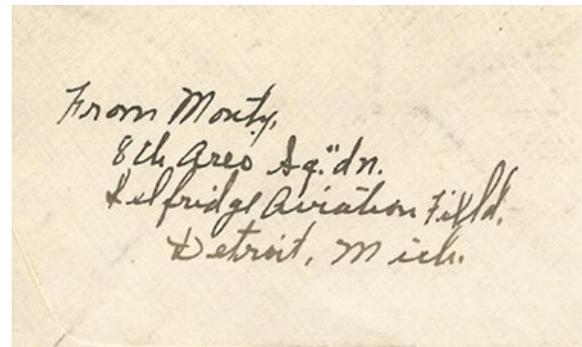
The AEF aviation training school at Fort Rich, Waco, Texas was one of the primary schools. The cover above, based on the date of cancel, was likely sent from a member of the 39th Aero Squadron while training at Rich Field. Initially, twenty-five flight cadets reported for training on Thanksgiving Day 1917, and flight instruction began on 1 December. Eventually a total of 243 Curtis JN-4 trainers were assigned to Rich Field, which was standardized by the War Department as the training plane for the Air Service. The JN-4's were crude compared to British and French airplanes. When the flight cadets graduated

from the six-week course at Rich Field, they were sent to advance schools training. Eventually some 400 pilots received their wings at Rich Field.



Advanced training of pilots began at Selfridge Field, Mount Clemens, Michigan in mid-1917, three months after war was declared. The cover above was posted on 20 July, 1917, making it a very early usage. These advanced student pilots were given a few flights and then, within two weeks, were sent overseas for additional training mainly with the more advanced British and French airplanes, albeit assignments to Italy were also made (see next article).

The corner card below is from the gunnery school that was also located at Selfridge Field. A cadet of the 8<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron sent the Mount Clemens cover above, with its distinctive ovate flag cancellation. Aviation students logged over 3,700 flying hours at Selfridge. Hundreds of



young men passed through the Selfridge Air Pilot School for the six weeks of training which qualified them for a commission. Then they were on their way as instructors to the front or to one of the nine other schools in the U. S.

With the boon of airplanes in World War I, the need for anti-aircraft defense was clear; however, America entered the war with little or no knowledge of anti-aircraft gunnery. Training was a difficult business because the problem was to successfully aim a shell to burst close to its target's future position, which was a tedious task.

## American Airmen in Italy, 1917-1918

by Dann Mayo

"Early in 1918, the few American Forces in Italy consisted mainly of the U.S. Army Ambulance Service with the Italian Army; a group of American aviators in the Italian air service; and two civilian agencies, the American Red Cross and the YMCA."<sup>1</sup>

"There was also USAAS presence at Italian bombardment schools in the Foggia area. Around 140 graduates of those schools saw combat action which [sic - while?] assigned to Italian bombardment squadrons."<sup>2</sup>

"Many Navy aviators also flew with the Italians from bases in Italy, primarily that at Porto Corsini."<sup>3</sup>

While a fair amount of attention has been paid to the Army Ambulance Service and the 332<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in Italy, these sketchy details are, so far as I can tell, all that the War Cover Club/Military Postal History Society has had to say about Americans flying for Italy in WWI. The cover below has led me on a search for additional information, and it is hoped that this article will lead others to find even more.

Cadet Raymond F. Fox is listed as having graduated from the Cornell University Ground School on 8 September 1917.<sup>4</sup> It was noted at the time that "Most of the



America's first step was to send officers to the more advanced French anti-aircraft schools for instruction. The first artillerymen in this field were twenty-seven officers of the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Monroe, Virginia. As one of them put it, this assignment was a big surprise to them. Who, in his wildest dreams, before this war, would imagine that the Coast Artillery would shoot at airplanes? The cover above was sent by an anti-aircraft artillery outfit in France in July of 1918.

### Summary:

Brigadier-General William L. Kenly was Chief of Air Service of the American Expeditionary Force in France during 1917 and the early training was under his command. By April 1917, very little training for aerial warfare had occurred, so the mission of training pilots was critical. After initial training in the U.S., an estimated 500 aviators went to Europe in mid-1917 for advanced training, flying mainly British Sopwith Camels, French Nieuports and Spads. This was partially due to patent problems with the Wright Brothers and also logistics.

Combat missions didn't begin until April of 1918 and lasted only seven months. There were 44 AEF Aero Squadrons in WWI which represented a huge investment for a 7 month campaign where the impact of aerial bombing, according to records, was only negligible. The U. S. Flight Surgeon program also began in 1918, as the need became apparent, based on statistics that showed that 58% died of their wounds sustained from combat and 48% died from injuries during training.

The 1918 Armistice with Germany ended World War I. The end of the war signaled a major slowdown in training, but aviators who had enlisted for the war were allowed to earn their wings but no new students were trained. Both aviation and anti-aircraft artillery engineers, after WWI, continued to refine technology which has taken us to the cutting edge where we are today.



graduates of the Cornell aeronautical school will go to Mount Clemens, Mich., to learn the art of flying. A certain proportion of the graduates, consisting of the men who attained high standing, have been sent directly to army

flying schools in France. Lately graduates have been asked to volunteer for instruction in other countries.”<sup>6</sup> After Italy, Fox served in the US First Aero Squadron. He was killed in action on October 1, 1918, which would have been early in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.<sup>7</sup>

As it happens there is a book dealing with part of this story: *Dear Bert: An American Pilot Flying in World War I Italy*,<sup>8</sup> composed mainly of the letters, journal entries and photographs of George M. D. Lewis, who arrived at Foggia in a group of aviation cadets under the command of Capt. Fiorello LaGuardia on October 16, 1917. Lewis does not provide a roster of the US cadets that trained at Foggia, and makes specific mention of only about 50 people (Raymond J. Fox is not among them). This book states that “In the period of 1917-1918, some 400 American cadets had flight training at Foggia on the southern Adriatic Coast of Italy. Of these, almost 100 saw service with Caproni bomber squadrons in the Veneto area in the war against Austria-Hungary.”<sup>9</sup>

Lewis' journal entries noting personnel arrivals and departures at Foggia are:

- Oct. 16, 1917 “some 150 US students here now” under the command of Maj. William Ord Ryan”<sup>10</sup>
- Nov. 21, 1917 “100 US cadet aviators came in from Paris”
- Feb. 14, 1918 “50 new men arrive at West Camp from Issoudin [sic], France”
- Feb 19, 1918 “making ready for 30 new men from France”
- Feb 20, 1918 “orders for 17 Lts. and 13 cadets to move to France for advanced training”
- Mar. 22, 1918 “[9 named men] going to the 7<sup>th</sup> Aviation center, France”
- May 30, 1918 “decorated the graves of six of our men who have died in accidents since Jan.”
- June 6, 1918 “[4 named men] leave for France with a group of 60”
- June 15, 1918 “first Caproni squadron... ready for the front. [19 named men]”
- June 19, 1918 - “Second squadron of 12 leaves tomorrow for Rome and the front”

In a June 19 letter, Lewis says he is to go to the front with a third group, but that did not occur. Instead, on July 25 he was a member of the 3-man crew on “The first American owned, and American flown, machine to cross the Alps...”<sup>11</sup>

In the course of researching this article I came across a few additional on-line sources that identify American aviators at Foggia.<sup>12</sup> The most colorful of these involved Billy Glenn Rushing, in whose honor the American Legion post in Atmore, Alabama was named.

“He was sent to New York and sailed Sept. 8, 1917,

on the *Adriatic*, a White Star Line ship, landing in Italy Oct. 15, 1917. At the Italian aviation camp, Foggia, he was given six months, flying five different types of machines, doing many aerial stunts without a single accident.

“March 23, 1918, with other American Eagles of the air, he was sent to guard the Italian front. Against the Austrians this detachment of aerial fighters, numbering 40 daring and capable aviators, proved so efficient and effective that General Pershing ordered the squadron to France, where the great drive destined to smash the Hindenburg line, was being fomented...

“It was while on an assignment as ferry pilot, out of Tours, France, guarding off German planes to protect transport ships bringing soldiers and munitions of war into France, that Billy Glenn Rushing lost his life, June 15, 1918.”<sup>13</sup>

By now you will have noticed that this article is short on postal history. The one known cover, shown above, was mailed through the civilian post office in Foggia, and there is no reason to believe that the Americans had their own, or were allowed the use of any Italian, military postal facilities there prior to late September, 1918.<sup>14</sup> Establishing whether Italian, British or US military postal facilities were used by the US fliers sent to Italian units at the front beginning in June 1918 and flying until the end of the war probably will have to await the discovery of covers from those men.

To help in your search for those covers, I can offer the following additional details:<sup>15</sup>

“Of the American pilots trained in Italy, 65 served gallantly with Italian squadrons on the Italian front and 17 others had been assigned to the Italian naval station at Foggia-Renatico for operations against Austrian submarine bases.” (pg. 46)

“... on November 11, 1918, in the Air Service, American Expeditionary Forces, there were 7,738 officers and 70,769 men, of whom 6,861 officers and 51,229 men were in France... Some 768 officers and 19,307 men were training in England and the remainder training and fighting in Italy. “ (pg. 51; on the assumption that all of the USAAS personnel in Italy were officers, as pilots would have been then, this yields a total of 109 in Italy.)

’ “The training center at Foggia was about 450 miles from the base of supplies... In all, 406 Americans received

preliminary flying training in Italian schools, of which 131 were given special bombing training.” (pg. 87).

“Instruction in preliminary flying was started [at Foggia] on September 28, 1917, and continued during the autumn and winter.” (pg. 99)

“The training in Caproni flying was reduced to small proportions by lack of Caproni airplanes, spare parts, and labor at the school. Nor did this training, when complete, qualify men for night bombardment according to the standards set on the western front. The 96 men who completed the course were placed with Italian squadrons, where they rendered creditable service on the Italian front.” (pg. 101).

“In the spring of 1918 an attempt was made to establish a school of aerial gunnery at Furbara, Italy, and instruction was started on April 24. Lack of machines and the distance from other training centers, which made it difficult to carry out the scheme of instruction deemed necessary, resulted in the abandonment of this project after two classes, 52 pilots, had gone through the school.” (pg. 101)



Caproni Bomber, Ca 3. Five variants of the Italian bomber were produced during the War. *Courtesy of National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.*

The only reference that I have found for an American air unit in Italy outside of the training school(s) is to the 111<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. In Wikipedia<sup>16</sup> this is identified as an Air Service Replacement Squadron, formed at Turin at the 8<sup>th</sup> Aviation Instruction Center on October 5, 1918 and demobilized in December, 1919.<sup>17</sup>

While “about 400” seems to be a solid number for trainees, reported numbers of USAAS personnel serving with the Italians varies (around 140; almost 100; 65 + 17; 109; 96). In any event, mail from these men will be

difficult to find. Based on all of the above, the most likely places to look for covers from US fliers in Italy are from the air schools at Foggia and Fubara, from the seaplane base at Porto Corsini (I recall seeing one or two of these back in the 1990s) and from Italian air force units in northern Italy. Beyond this, George Lewis mentions several instances where leave was granted to men at Foggia allowing them to go to Rome, and specific instances where he was sent to Naples and other cities in Italy in search of supplies and building materials, and to hospital for the flu.

Happy hunting.

#### References:

- *Air Service Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 11, Sept. 20, 1917.
- Lewis, George Edward Davis, ed.; *Dear Bert: An American Pilot Flying in World War I Italy*, Gisma, 2002
- Mauer Mauer, ed.; *The U.S. Air Service in World War I, Vol. 1*; The Office of Air Force History, USAF, 1978.
- *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, Vol. 14 No. 5, pg 132 and , No. 6, pg. 168 (February and March 1918); American Association of Engineers: Directory; 1918,
- Van Dam, Theo. ed.: The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1920, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed.; War Cover Club; 1990 Internet (preceeded by <http://www.earlyaviators.com/eallisma.htm> (Last reviewed Sept. 17, 2015)
- [earlyaviators.com/erushing.htm](http://www.earlyaviators.com/erushing.htm) (last viewed September 26, 2015).
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_American\\_Aero\\_Squadrons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_American_Aero_Squadrons) (last viewed September 27, 2015), citing Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the First World War, Volume 3, Part 3, Center of Military History, United States Army, 1949 (1988 Reprint) and Gorrell's History of the American Expeditionary Forces Air Service, 1917-1919, Volume 25, 800th-803d, 805th, 806th, 825th-830th, 835th, 837th, 875th, 1099th, 1101st-1108th, and 1111th Aero Squadrons
- o [www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&Grid=55992477](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&Grid=55992477) (Last viewed Sept. 17, 2015).
- [valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=73385](http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=73385) (last viewed Sept. 26, 2015).

#### Endnotes:

1. Van Dam: pg. 109.
2. *Ibid.*, pg. 173
3. *Ibid.*, pg. 174. On pg. 175 USAAS units in Italy are listed as HQ, USAAS in Italy, Rome; 8<sup>th</sup> Air Instr, Ctr., Foggia; Adv. Gunnery School, Fubara; Acceptance Park, Malpensa. On pg. 178 USNAS/USMCAS units are listed as HQ USNAS in Italy, Rome; Seaplane stations, Pescara and Porto Corsini; Training, Malpensa and Lake Bolsena;
4. <http://www.earlyaviators.com/eallisma.htm>
5. I realize that the dateline is actually 23.11.8 but the sender was no longer in Italy in November 1918 suggesting a misplaced “.”.

6. *Air Service Journal*: pg. 345.
7. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=55992477>
8. Lewis, ed.;
9. *Ibid.*, pg. 7
10. Retired as Major General, USAAF in 1946. His service included the Mexican Punitive Expedition and commander, Pacific Division, Air Transport Command. See <http://valor.militarytimes.com/>
11. Lewis, op. cit., pg. 125. Having gotten across the Alps, a fuel line problem caused them to crash their plane outside Paris. Following his return from France and a trip to the hospital with the Spanish flu (where he hung out with fellow-patient Ernest Hemingway), Lewis made it into combat, dropping leaflets on October 21 and bombs on October 25 and 27. Austria accepted Armistice terms on November 3.
12. Oberlin: pg. 125.; and several issues of the *Columbia Alumni News*, Volume 9 (1918). I suspect that further on-line searching would turn up more.
13. [earlyaviators.com/erushing.htm](http://earlyaviators.com/erushing.htm). There is a suspicion of a bit of flamboyance leading to error here. Lewis shipped out aboard the *SS Mongolia* on the same date that Rushing shipped out on the *SS Adriatic*, and he mentions stops in the UK and France, with arrival in Italy by train. And while Lewis lists men (none of whom was Rushing) being sent to France on March 22, 1918, he does not mention a combat deployment from Foggia to the Italian front as early as March 23.
14. Van Dam, pg. 107 reproduces the text of Memorandum No 1, HQ PES in Italy, identifying APO 901J to Foggia and notes that "Foggia... is served through the British Postal Service..." On pg. 112 APO 901-J Foggia is identified as serving The 8<sup>th</sup> Aviation Instruction Center.
15. All from Mauer Mauer,
16. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>  
Per the information in footnote 12 the 8<sup>th</sup> Aviation Instruction Center was in Foggia, and Turin is never mentioned in Mauer, op. cit. I do not have any basis for reconciling this discrepancy.

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*(continued in next column)*

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Your generous support of the MPHS in the amount of \$2,259 is greatly appreciated. Please keep us in mind in 2017, and rest assured that your contributions have been put to good use in promoting the MPHS and its activities.

*President Ed Dubin*

*Treasurer Ed Fisher*

### IT Column by Bob Swanson

Let's not "talk techie" today, but let's talk about "content". Our webpages contain a number of very useful and interesting educational items.

Now don't let the term "educational" throw you off. We pursue this hobby as part of our own ongoing education and enjoyment. When someone has created an exhibit or article of interest, we can move our hobby forward by posting that information on our web pages.

As a starting place, take a look at: <http://militaryphs.org/education.html>

Today I'll mention the excellent exhibits created by Al Kugel. He has covered many subjects including:

*Allied Plebiscite Activities in Germany, 1920-1921*

*European Boundary Commission Activity in the Aftermath of World War I.*

*Philippines: Spanish-American War, 1898*

*United States: The 'Prexies' Go To War*

*Saar: Allied Plebiscite Activity in the Saar Territory, 1935*

*Mail of the Congress of Versailles, 1919*

*Allied Forces in the Baltic Area in the Aftermath of World War I*

All of these, along with many additional articles, videos, and example postal history, are free to download from our site.

Do you have some interesting military postal history to share? Large or small, one page or many, we are happy to post them for educational and research purposes.

You don't have to be a seasoned competitive exhibitor; just a cover or letter that you want to share, will add greatly to our hobby.

Feel free to contact me at my e-mail address whenever the urge strikes you to "educate" our reading public.

*Bob Swanson*

**The Drake Family's Social Welfare Work in World War I**  
**A Family Heirloom Cover the Eye Cannot Comprehend**  
 by Sergio Lugo



It is not unusual in our hobby to encounter philatelic materials and other ephemera that strike us as somehow explainable, but their totality at first sight is more than our eyes can comprehend. In many such cases, gaining an understanding of them is akin to the proverbial onion needing to have its layers removed.

Such was the case with a cover I purchased many years ago, that I first described in an issue of *SCRIBBLINGS*. The assistance of Mrs. Jean Shulman, a volunteer historian with the American Red Cross, forced me to revise conclusions that I had drawn from the cover and presented in the last page of the original article. This, then, is a revision to the original article, most notably in the last two pages.

So, what to make of the cover and the 10 to 12 veils that accompanied it. Most observers would have discounted it as merely a pegboard for pinbacks and historical memorabilia on a basically unsightly, raggedy old cover. Because of its inexplicable appearance it would have been perceived as not meriting attention as a “complete” postal history piece as there did not appear to be a question to be pursued.

But to this student of World War I social welfare organizations, those pinbacks were interconnected. Down deep this “come hither” cover was yearning to unravel its secrets. The process of peeling back the layers I went through is outlined here to shed light on a complex story of the patriotic fervor that enwrapped one family in “The war to end all wars.”



**Figure 2—Layer 1 removed:** Envelope with “Welcome Home 27<sup>th</sup> Division ribbon” removed and highlighted.

The New Jersey address barely visible on the envelope suggested that the 27th Infantry Division Welcome Home ribbon was out of place. The 27th (the Yankee Division) consisted of New Yorkers. Initially, the ribbon was seen as irrelevant to explaining the social welfare agencies. It was removed and set aside to focus attention on other items on the pegboard that I thought would be of infinitely more interest (see **Figure 2**).

The first of the pins to attract my attention was the National League for Woman’s Service (NLWS) pin shown in **Figure 3**. I had acquired the lot expressly for the pin, as I was in the process of completing my fifth monograph on the social welfare organizations of WW I that worked with the American military.



**Figure 3—Step 2:** Envelope with National League for Women service pin removed.

The largest ad hoc woman’s organization of WW I, it is little known today—100 years later. Nonetheless, its numbers were well into the hundreds of thousands. Its membership was exceeded only by the American Red Cross. Among its many achievements were the creation of the Motor Corps, the establishment of the first serviceman’s canteens in major metropolitan areas, and the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Its creation in January 1917 was caught up in the cross currents of the politics of the suffragists, prohibitionists, and woman’s movement of the 1910’s, as well as the many services to U.S. men in uniform. Its postal history is fragmentary, with most of it centered on its auxil-

aries in 700+ chapters in towns and communities, such as Khaki Clubs and Defenders Clubs. Its presence suggested that whoever was behind the cover had saved the pin because of involvement in local NLWS activities. While scarce today, such pins were relatively plentiful in 1917 - 1918. In this collector’s experience, saving such pins on a makeshift pegboard was probably a very personal endeavor - reflecting involvement in such organizations, as opposed to merely collecting the pins.

The Women’s Defense Work Committee (WDWC), was an arm of the Council of National Defense (CND). The council had six U.S. Cabinet Secretaries. It was created in August 1916, as American concerns about a possible entry into the war began to heighten. In April 1917, recognizing the vitality of America’s female population, the CND created the WDWC as its arm to help mobilize American womanhood in support of the American war machine. One of its first steps was to create a system of State and Local Woman’s Defense Committees throughout the nation. In light of the address, the State Defense Committee memorialized by the pin in **Figure 4** was probably that of New Jersey.



**Figure 4—Step 3** Envelope with State Defense Committee pinback removed.

The lapel pin had probably been presented to a woman who, the peeled back layers suggested, was active in both the NLWS and the S.D.C.. Affirmation of this point of view was provided by one of the veils, embroidered with the caption "NEWARK S.D.C." The veil has since been donated to the WWI Museum in Kansas City, which did not have an example of such a local level veil.

Removal of the Liberty Loan related memorabilia as shown in **Figure’s 5 & 6** (see next page) further exposed the cover’s very shabby condition, as well as other features of this wartime American Red Cross cover. It had been mailed after the cessation of hostilities by the Armistice in November 1918, but before the signing of the peace in June 1919. Mailed in March 1919, the cover had been sent to either a Mr. or Mrs. Robert Drake. Organizations such as the SDC and the NLWS had provided volunteers to help raise funds through the five Liberty



**Figure 5 & 6 —Step 4:** Envelope with Liberty Loan medals and pin backs removed and highlighted.

Loan drives of the war. These medals and pinbacks commemorated the Third Liberty Loan drive held in Newark, New Jersey (see pp. 55-65 on the Liberty Loan program).

The Red Cross Seal of 1918 obliterated both the gender salutation and the street address number. But the presence of the pinbacks and medals showed that either the husband or the wife had actively engaged in several of the Liberty Loan drives conducted during the war. As the layers were receding, it was becoming increasingly apparent that the cover and its memorabilia were, in all likelihood, all connected to an exceedingly patriotic, fervent husband and wife supportive of America's involvement in World War I.

Since Liberty Loan promotion (and participation) was a key feature of the woman's activities of the NLWS and the WDWC, it was now assumed that the volunteer in this case was Mrs. Robert Drake of Newark, New Jersey. Further, that Mrs. Drake, with hindsight, had been a member of both the Loan Committee, and the SDC, as well as the NLWS.

The War Camp Community Service (WCCS) had well over 700 chapters and local affiliates operating on or

near 280+ Army and Naval bases throughout the U.S. It was one of the "biggs." Specifically, it was one of the "Seven Servants" of the Commission for Training Camp Activities (CTCA) (see Figure 7).

The distinct mission of the WCCS was to provide for morale maintenance services in towns and communities



**Figure 7 —Step 4:** Envelope with War Camp Community Service pinback removed and highlighted.

throughout the nation near U.S. Army and Naval bases. Everything from concerts, movie theater admissions, socials, entertainment, reading rooms, holiday dinners and much, much more were arranged by the WCCS for servicemen on leave, in part to prevent unseemly and unruly behavior by droves of young men receiving temporary respite from military camps. In the case of Newark, the local chapter probably worked with the facilities at Hoboken, from which the vast majority of the 2,000,000 men comprising the AEF were shipped. The pin, more than likely, had been presented to a WCCS volunteer, which I concluded by this time had been Mrs. Drake.

The next layer peeled back from the cover were the pin backs for the United War Work Campaign (UWWC). This campaign was the culminating fund raiser for the "Seven Servants" of World War I – namely the American Library Association (ALA), the Knights of Columbus



**Figure 8 —Step 5:** Envelope with United War Work Campaign pin backs removed and highlighted.

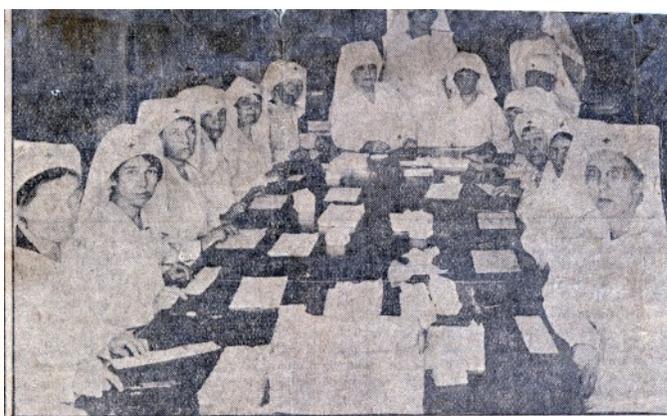
(KofC), the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), the Salvation Army (SA), the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), the Young Women's Christian Association (YMCA) and the WCCS. The fund drive had been

suggested by President Wilson in the summer of 1918, as a means of stymieing the plethora of fund drives by dozens upon dozens of organizations during the war. Its financial goal was \$200 million (in 2012 dollars = \$3 billion). In fact, the campaign raised \$220 million (\$3.2 billion).

Conducted in November, 1918, the funds brought in by the drive were expected to fund their activities for another one to two years of WW I warfare. Instead, the Armistice came into play almost immediately, and the funds were used for the activities of the "Seven Servants" well into the 1920s. The cornucopia of post WW I funds was to give rise to internal disputes within the ranks of each "Seven Servants" organization as to the proper disbursement of funds. Some of those funds were not liquidated until the late 1920s and early 1930s. The Drake family's association with the WCCS would have naturally led to involvement in the UWWC of 1918.

Congress in the early 1900s it has been tasked to engage in welfare relief in cases of calamities and national need. Mrs. Drake's involvement with the ARC was suggested by the ephemera sources accompanying the cover.

The memorabilia suggested that Mrs. Drake had been involved in the organization's second fund raising campaign (the small pin). Further, she had been presented (possibly by ARC Chapter # 462) with a large pinback for her work in enlisting members, new and old, in the roll call of all ARC members throughout the country during Christmas of 1918. Lastly, the newspaper clipping shown as **Figure 11** provided the most direct evidence of Mrs. Drake's involvement in service work as discussed further below in another paragraph.



The Main Work-Room Folding Compresses

**Figure 11:** March 31, 1918 *Newark Sunday Call* newspaper clipping. Note the veils worn by all members of the auxiliary.



**Figures 9 & 10 —Step 6:** Envelope with American Red Cross pin backs and medal removed and highlighted.

The removal of the American Red Cross (ARC) memorabilia (see **Figures 9 & 10**) represented the penultimate layer - save the envelope itself. One of the last monographs in the series that will be written focuses on the American Red Cross. The ARCs service during the First World War has been extensively documented and is well represented on-line.

It was the largest of the service organizations concerned with soldier/sailor welfare, but was not considered one of them. That's because since its charter by the U.S.

The demands placed on the ARC in its war-time service are too numerous to recount here. There were three services, nevertheless, of particular relevance to this cover. First, was the ARC Christmas Seal program, then in its 11th year. The Christmas Seal program has been well documented and does not have to be examined thoroughly here. But its relevance is shown by the two examples (Scott #'s WX 19 and 21) placed on this envelope (see **Figure 9**). Both are untied by mail cancellations, and the 1918 sticker (WX 21) covers the gender and the street address. It is obvious that the National ARC would not have affixed the sticker obliterating the gender and street number before mailing. It thus seems to be the case that it was applied for memorabilia purposes after receipt of the cover and its contents.

A second service was that of the Surgical Dressings unit of the ARC. The ARC sponsored units far and wide that assembled surgical dressings for the war-time fighting machine. Shulman points out that the National Surgical Dressings Committee of New York City began in

1914, separate from the ARC, to help Europe before the U.S. entered the war. The American Red Cross' Production Corp's Surgical Dressings section volunteers followed very strict medical military specifications. After the U.S. entered the war, the National Surgical Dressings Committee agreed to follow the ARC's rules and specifications. ARC Production Corps/Surgical Dressings volunteers were all associated with the Red Cross. Newark had such a unit (see **Figure 11**), as documented by a news clipping from the March 31, 1918, issue of *The Newark Sunday Call*. That clipping (in an advanced state of disintegration) noted within its 2,000 word description the presence of a Mrs. Robert Drake among the 31 women pictured in various photographs in the article.

Jean Shulman, the aforementioned volunteer historian of the ARC, noted that Mrs. Drake was most likely a production worker volunteer in her local Red Cross Chapter.



**Figure 12:** July 4, 1918, parade photo of ARC women in Paris, wearing dark head coverings.

The purpose of the ARC was basically outlined in its charter from Congress as being (in modern parlance) "a first responder" in cases of national, regional or local calamities and disasters. As such, it found itself in many roles and responsibilities in fulfilling its duties, beginning with the Johnston, PA. flood. In wartime, the third and final service was suggested bearing on the cover by the veils associated with the lot containing the cover. The Congressional charter of January 5, 1905 <sup>(2)</sup> states:

To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, in accordance with the spirit and conditions of the conference of Geneva of October, 1863, and also of the treaty of the Red Cross, or the treaty of Geneva, of August 22, 1864, to which the United States of America gave its adhesion of March 1, 1882....**included recommendations**

**for training nurses and offering them for the aid of armies.** (emphasis added)

...And to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

That third service alluded to here, was the nursing service consisting of thousands of nurses serving with civilian organizations, as well as the military services stateside and shipped overseas to staff hospitals and treatment centers for the sick and wounded in the A.E.F. The ARC was the de facto selection arm for the military of all nurses. In fact, 294<sup>(1)</sup> nurses died during the war, many as a result of the influenza epidemic that raged throughout the world in the late summer and early autumn of 1918.



**Figure 13:** The blue American Red Cross veil. It was also donated to the WW I Museum in Kansas City..

Further, Shulman reiterated the point from President Taft's Proclamation of August 22, 1911:<sup>(3&4)</sup> "The American Red Cross is the only voluntary society authorized by the government to render aid to its land and naval forces in time of war." By implication its charter justifies the maintenance of a reserve of nurses; and the Act of Congress of April 24, 1912. (an Act to provide for the use of the American National Red Cross in aid of land and naval forces in time of actual or threatened war) specifies kinds of aid, including nurses. Since December 1913 the American Red Cross Nursing Service was the nursing reserve for the Army and Navy. Professional graduate nurses enrolled in the ARC and in time of war were assigned to the Army Nurse Corps or Navy Nurse Corps for overseas duty. The Red Cross Nursing Service enrolled over 20,000 nurses for service at home and abroad during the WWI era.<sup>(1)</sup> Nurses not in the First Reserve for service overseas aided in the terrible

Influenza Epidemic in 1918-1919. Volunteer lay women who took the classes in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick were also important in their towns.

Jean Shulman again proved helpful with regard to the matter of the veils. She pointed out that ARC nurses did not wear veils. Nurses assigned to the military branches received Army or Navy issued uniforms for use both stateside and overseas, but never any veils. Nurses working with civilian relief organizations in the U.S. or overseas wore the traditional ARC uniform <sup>(5)</sup>

Lay women volunteers in the ARC, on the other hand, wore color-coded veils while nurses wore a very specific cap, cape and uniform. Production workers (surgical dressings, garments, knitting and other items) had color-coded veils. White for regular workers, Flag red for instructors or supervisors, and Flag blue for heads or superintendents of a workroom. Red Cross uniforms were obligatory for Surgical Dressings work. There were other colors for canteen, clerical, social services, motor corps, etc.

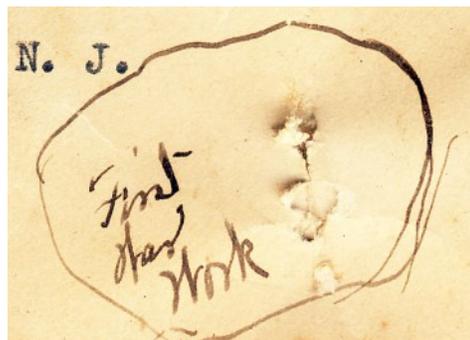
Our pegboard cover was accompanied by about 12 such veils, nine of which were commonly worn by ARC women during the war. The veils were initially thought to have been worn by Mrs. Drake, with Shulman's explanation further suggesting that Mrs. Drake may have risen in the ranks of the Surgical Dressings unit. Three veils in particular stood out. One (for the most part red in color) was very severely worn, damaged and basically crumbling at the touch. Its condition suggested considerable wear and tear by an instructor or supervisor. The second (in immaculate condition) was blue in color. The latter, I believe, was a formal dress veil worn occasionally possibly by a superintendent of a Surgical Dressings workroom, and possibly in this case by Mrs. Drake.

The veils, therefore, pointed to Mrs. Drake as their owner. However, the veils plus the first ribbon removed - that of the Welcome Home to the 27th Infantry Division together with the quixotic scribbled note - "Final (sic)ly has work" - (see **Figure 14**) suggest another alternative to answering the reason for the cover besides that of serving as a pegboard. However, no support for this latter possibility has been found in years of searching for that explanation.

Specifically, there may have been a close family relation to the Drake household that had joined either the AEF (if a male, probably a soldier) or the ARC (if a female, probably a nurse). He/she had served in the U.S. or in Europe, and had been transported back in February 1919 to the U.S. upon completion of service with the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in February, 1919-

The cover may have been sent to the Drake household thanking the family (and in particular Mrs. Drake) for

wartime service. Alternatively, perhaps it wished the family member well in the pursuit of post war employment and prompting the handwritten note about having finally found work. Postal history wise, the cover paid the proper rate of the time, namely the 3 cent first class rate passed by the U.S. Congress in October 1917 as a wartime revenue raising measure. The rate returned to its pre-war rate of two cents on July 1, 1919.



**Figure 14:** "Final(sic)ly has work." This cryptic remark suggested that someone in the family had secured employment, possibly after their return from France.

Internet searches by Mrs. Shulman of Newark City directories shows the address as a business address in 1920 and 1924 for a "Bless and Drake" firm. The firm manufactured Sad Irons - self heating smooth irons and trivets, patented as early as 1852 by Messrs James Bless and Robert Drake (cousins from Mason, Kentucky). The company existed from 1852 to 1927 in Newark. As we have seen, the address suggests the presence of a Robert Drake on Newark's Jersey Railroad Ave.. Robert Drake, Jr. was born in 1864 and was 45 in the 1910 U.S. Census. He was married to Grace G. Drake, but in the 1910 census there were no children in the household. However, at the iron works in the 1920 and 1924 business directories was an Edgar Bless Drake, and in the 1910 census an Edgar Bless Drake, Jr.. Edgar Jr. may have served in WW I. Should anyone ever acquire information about the family, particularly associated with the 27th Infantry Division, it would be most appreciated.

Everything else presented herein has been the fortunate confluence of educated guesswork resulting from familiarity with the social welfare organizations of WW I. Added to that are the efforts of an unknown memorialist (probably Mrs. Robert Drake), to herald the wartime contributions of one family's activities between the two year period of April 1917 to March 1919. What was an unfathomable (and unsightly) memorabilia piece when first acquired proved to be a magnificent example of one family's devotion to the cause. And truth be stated—what stories can unfurl from the layers of an onion.

*Ed. Note: Sergio Lugo is the author of five completed monographs in a set of 12 projected monographs. They focus on the social welfare organizations of the First World War, using postal history to illustrate the work of those organizations. The next scheduled release deals with the Christian Scientists-*

Endnotes:

1. Dock, Lavina: *The History of the American Red Cross Nursing*, MacMillan Co., NY: Appendix. The Appendix lists all ARC nurses who died in the war. Of these, 102 U.S. Army nurses died overseas. A memorial dedicated to Jane Delano and the 294 nurses is at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC..
2. Ibid., pp. 75—76
3. Ibid, pp. 120—121
4. Mrs. Shulman suggests that both documents of endnotes 1 and 2 can be found in Red Cross Magazines and Red Cross Bulletins. Internet Archive and Hathi Trust have many Red Cross publications from the WWI era. The Proclamation is in several 1915 medical journals and a 1911 American Journal of Nursing. (Try a search with General Orders, No.170, War Department, 1911 - Red Cross)
5. For clarification on ARC uniforms, see the book by Shirley Powers, *A Guide to American Red Cross Uniforms*. Googling “Red Cross Production Corps Uniform, 1917” gets you to the online booklet.

For a greater appreciation of the ARC’s work with the military in WW I, see (on-line and/or hardback) Henry P. Davison’s *The Work of the American Red Cross During the War—A Statement of Finances and Accomplishments, July 1, 1917 to February 29, 1919*

## FUTURE MPHS CONVENTIONS

**2018 Indianapolis – INDYPEX, Oct. 5—7, 2018**

**2019 San Francisco – WESTPEX**

**2020 Chicago – CHICAGOPEX**

Paul Albright, our ever vigilant internet scanner of philatelic and library websites informs us that our member Dan Telep will be speaking at the Collector’s Club of New York. Dan’s specialty, as you know from reading these pages, is Vietnam. From Pittsburgh, Dan will be making the trip to the “Big Apple” to present on [May 17](#) his "Viet Nam's Communist Insurgent Military Mail, 1959-1975." Members of the CCNY are in for an amazing talk.

### Military Postal History Society 2016 Financial Statement

|                           | <u>2015</u>  | <u>2016</u>   |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Beginning Balance: 1/1    | \$19,409.86  | \$ 17,194.69  |
| <b>Income:</b>            |              |               |
| Ad Sales                  | \$ 673.00    | \$ 264.00     |
| Membership Dues           | \$ 6,701.85  | \$ 4,101.06   |
| Book/CD Sales             | \$ 1,178.81  | \$ 976.21     |
| Contributions             | \$ 1,789.74  | \$ 426.45     |
| Auction Sales             | \$ 3,382.06  | \$ 3,259.27   |
| CD Proceeds               |              | \$ 65,748.08  |
| Unallocated Deposits      | \$ 1,046.88  | \$ -          |
| Total Income              | \$14,772.34  | \$ 74,775.07  |
| <b>Expenses:</b>          |              |               |
| Bulletin Expenses         |              |               |
| Editorial                 | \$ 1,590.26  | \$ 1,400.00   |
| Printing & Mailing        | \$ 9,757.85  | \$ 8,879.99   |
| Editor's Expenses         | \$ -         | \$ 168.70     |
| Subtotal                  | \$11,348.11  | \$ 10,448.69  |
| Website:                  |              |               |
| Hosting                   | \$ 300.00    | \$ 385.00     |
| Development & Updating    |              |               |
| Subtotal                  | \$ 300.00    | \$ 385.00     |
| Advertising & Promotion   | \$ -         | \$ 247.20     |
| Literature Competition    |              |               |
| Fees                      | \$ 36.22     | \$ 25.00      |
| Paid to Auction Sellers   | \$ 2,441.21  | \$ 2,892.59   |
| Secretary's Expenses      | \$ 101.00    | \$ 68.70      |
| Literature Mgr's Expenses | \$ 820.65    | \$ 861.97     |
| Bank Fees/Checks          | \$ 137.33    | \$ 96.50      |
| Certificate of Deposit    |              | \$ 60,000.00  |
| Auctioneer's Expenses     | \$ 255.06    | \$ 369.85     |
| Officer's Expenses        | \$ 550.12    | \$ 629.12     |
| Capitol Medals            | \$ 929.62    | \$ 88.04      |
| Miscellaneous             |              | \$ 37.08      |
| Insurance                 | \$ 68.19     | \$ 68.25      |
| Subtotal                  | \$ 5,339.40  | \$ 65,384.30  |
| Total Expense             | \$ 16,987.51 | \$ 76,217.99  |
| Ending Balance: 12/31     | \$ 17,194.69 | \$ 15,751.77  |
| Difference from Prior     |              |               |
| Year: \$ (2,215.17)       |              | \$ (1,442.92) |

## ***Sugar Wars and the Activation of the 7th Marine Regiment - 1917 - 1923.***

by Gregory Ciesielski and Sergio Lugo

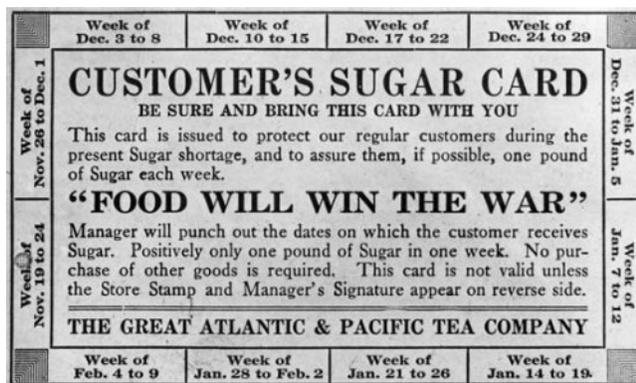
The Marine Corps' exploits in war are legendary. Among the many locales in which they have served have included China, South America, and the Pacific. Many of our readers have heard of the Banana Wars of Central America but few realize that the Marines were called to the colors in so-called "SUGAR WARS" as well, in the midst of World War I.

This article was first advanced by Mr. Ciesielski in 2015. It lay dormant until Sergio Lugo's discovery of a cache of photos (including real photo postcards) of 1919 Marines in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti spurred the finalizing of the article. Cuba, in fact, was a backwater of the "Great War" involving U.S. military actions. The Marines on that island fit within the framework of this 100th Anniversary edition.

In 1917, internal disorder in Cuba threatened American interests in their sugar cane plantations. In February 1917, as America broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, U.S. Marines were ordered ashore from several ships' detachments to protect the plantations and sugar mills. Two months later, the US entered the First World War on April 6, 1917. At the time, the Louisiana sugar and the West's sugar beet industry were incomparably smaller than the Cuban sugar industry. Cuba had become the principal supplier of this sweetener to the Allied nations fighting the war. So vital was that supply that it was declared a strategic

were withdrawn from Cuba in late spring 1917. The withdrawal proved premature as unfounded allegations in newspaper accounts suggested that German agents were infiltrating the sugar growing areas and spreading disaffection among the growers.

The Cuban government declared war with Germany shortly after the American declaration of war on April 6, 1917. To assist in the defense of the sugar industry, the U.S. decided to once again send troops into Cuba. Initially, those troops were to be an Army cavalry regiment. However, it too was required in France, whereupon the Marine Corps was directed to furnish an expeditionary unit. Since all available Marine units were fully committed to France, Haiti or the Dominican Republic, on August 14, 1917 the Marine Corps activated the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



**Figure 1:** Sugar ration card of WW I. Courtesy of *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

material for the American war effort and was rationed on the home front. In consequence of its worldwide demand, Cuban sugar prices per pound skyrocketed in value, surpassing their highest levels in history previously achieved only during the 1860s.

However, trained and experienced manpower was needed in Europe. There were few reserves to spare to ensure the security of this strategic resource. The Marines



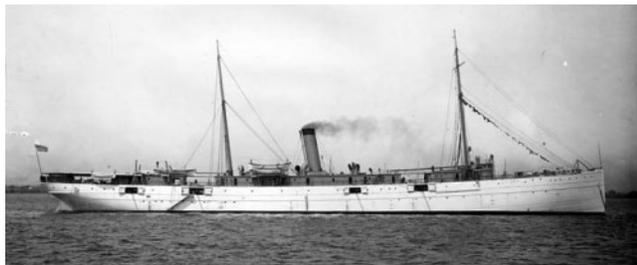
**Figures 2 and 3:** A real-photo postcard of Cuban newsboys, The address side bears a duplex postmark "U. S. MARINE DETACHMENT" in the dial and "CAMAGUEY CUBA" in the killer Dated December 27, 1921, the free franking privilege of the AEF soldiers of WW I was extended to Marines serving in Cuba.

The Regiment consisted of a Headquarters Detachment, and the 93<sup>rd</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> Companies. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the 37<sup>th</sup> Company from Mare Island CA joined the Regiment, followed on August 18<sup>th</sup> by the 59<sup>th</sup> Company from New York City. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the 71<sup>st</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup>, and 90<sup>th</sup> Companies arrived from San Diego CA. Lt. Col. Melville J. Shaw assumed command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment on August 19, 1917. Shaw was a veteran of the Spanish-American War of 1898, having seen action in Cuba in the June 1898 Battle of Guantanamo Bay, where he was brevetted to First Lieutenant for his gallantry.



**Figure 4:** Insignia of the newly created 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment

Preparations were quickly completed for embarkation, with the Regiment boarding the USS *Prairie* (see **Figure 5**) and the cruiser USS *CHARLESTON* (C-22) (**Figure 6**) for the voyage to Cuba.



**Figure 5:** The USS *PRAIRIE* (AD 5), the former Morgan Liner *El Sol*

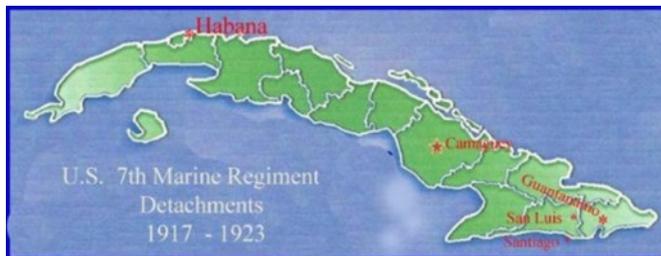
Landfall in Cuba, at Guantanamo came on August 25 1917, within 11 days of the unit's activation. The regiment was reported to be engaged in "training maneuvers", which was true to some extent. They were ordered by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General George Barnett, to train in field exercises, patrol, military sketching and reconnaissance. Encamped at Guantanamo, their primary mission of security force would not be made public until a later time.



**Figure 6:** The USS *Charleston* (C—22), St. Louis class protected cruiser.

With reports of German agents still in the area, requests were made to proceed to inland Provinces. The request was granted by the Commandant in late October 1917. The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment began moving on October 24<sup>th</sup> with detachments established at Santiago, Camaguey

City, San Luis and Guantanamo City (see **Figure 7**). The main purpose of the detachments became that of suppressing any German agents or other agents working against American interests. Because of the rugged terrain these Marines faced, horses were used to respond quickly to problems and thereby providing the Marines a great advantage in mobility.



**Figure 7:** 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Detachments in Cuba, 1917 - 1923.

With routine patrolling and "showing the flag" missions, the local population adapted to the fact that the Marines were in Cuba protecting their countries' sugar interests and no problems occurred. In September 1918, Lt. Col Shaw relinquished command of the Regiment to Col. Newt M. Hall who kept up Shaw's policies.

On December 26, 1917 the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Provisional Brigade along with the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Regiments. The 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment was to assist the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment was assigned to Galveston TX. On July 31, 1918 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade HQs and the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment were ordered to Galveston, leaving the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment without a higher echelon organization in Cuba..

On December 21, 1918 the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment was attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Provisional Brigade. The 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, which had recently arrived in Cuba was also attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Provisional Brigade.

Enter Pvt. Bill Burress of the 196th Company and his photographic horde of roughly 125 pictures. Originally from Poughkeepsie, New York, Pvt. Burress had joined the Marines circa 1914. For the next four years he was, alternately in basic training, at Mare Island Naval Base, and as an instructor for Officer Training Camps and Machine Gun gunnery after the onset of WW I through October 1918. At some point shortly thereafter he and his 196th Marine Company were off to the 7th Regiment in Cuba. Photographs of his unit's deployment to the Caribbean begin in late 1918/early 1919.

During its deployment in Cuba, the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment protected American owned sugar plantations, sugar mills, railroads and other installations. The 196th Company was evidently stationed in the Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba area. It spent many of its days in marching, drills, and patrolling. Leave time allowed them to visit many local tourist attractions of historic interest to Americans.



**Figures 8 & 9:** Pvt. Bill Burress in an undated photo. The *SS Breige* (spelling may not be correct) evidently served as his transport.



**Figures 10 & 11:** The Morro Castle at the entrance to Santiago de Cuba's harbor provides evidence of naval gunfire during the Spanish American War nearly 20 years earlier. The memorial services for Colonel and President Theodore Roosevelt were observed at San Juan Hill in January 1919 in Figure 11.

The Regiment ensured that the valuable sugar supply was processed and exported with only a minimal amount of interruption. The 6<sup>th</sup> Provisional Brigade was deactivated on June 21, 1919 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment remaining in Cuba until August 1919. Relocation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment back to Philadelphia was completed on September 4, 1919. The deactivation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment was held on September 6, 1919.

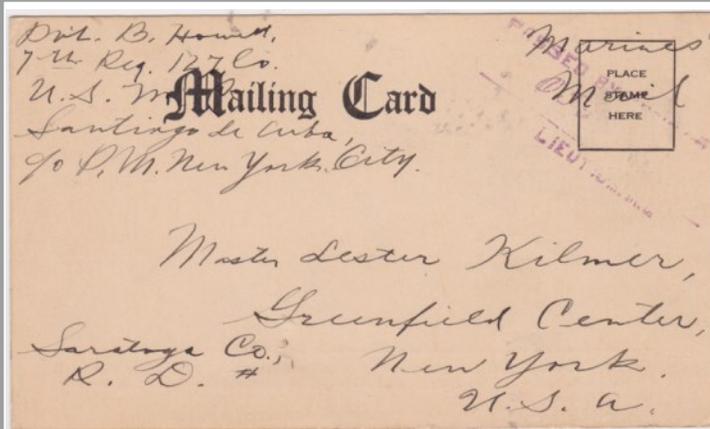
Two Marine companies continued to occupy Camaguey Province until February 1922. (see **Figure 2**).



**Figures 12, 13 and 14:** 196th Company's bivouac in Camp San Juan is shown in March 1919, together with the 196th Company Office. Captain Walters (kneeling) is showing a Corporal how to lay out his pack on the Company Street before a heavy marching order inspection. **Figure 15** below shows one of those marches.

Spared combat in the tropical climate of Cuba, the 196th could not escape marching and drilling to maintain its discipline and physical fitness. By so doing, the Company and the Regiment ensured that the valuable sugar supply was processed and exported with only a minimal amount of interruption.





**Figure 16:** Card sent in 1919 by Pvt. B. Howell of the 127th Company. Printed by the Woman's Naval Services, Inc. of which we know nothing, and censored with a straight-line cancel. *Courtesy of Larry Nelson.*

**Figure 17:** The 2nd Machine Gun Battalion on maneuvers to El Caney in March 1919. Fort El Caney was on top of the hill. It was around this fort that the Spanish had a line of 500 that held up the advance of 3,000 Americans. **Figure 17** shows the company on a march to Morro Castle in April 1919.



**Figures (clockwise) 20—23:** # 20: Burress wrote that the picture showed a tug of war between the 7th Regiment Team and the 2nd Machine Gun Battalion (won by the machine gunners). In the track meet of the same day, the 196th won by total points. # 21: Marines relaxing in Santiago de Cuba, as colorfully described by Burress in some of the blue language that Marines might have expressed themselves in: "Pounding their Ears, Corking Off, Snapping In, etc.); # 22: 196th returning from a hike to Morro Castle in April 1919 with Captain Walters on the left and Captain Peregrine on the right; # 23: Gunnery Sergeant Knowlton leaving the Company on April 16, 1919 for return to stateside.

**Figures 18 & 19:** Major Hisseman (spelling?) on April 25, 1919 at a village between Siboney, Cuba and Santiago de Cuba was enjoying the shade from the Cuban tropical sun.

Your generosity 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*

## Bringing the Mail to Doughboys - The Railway Mail Service Goes to War in WW I France.

by David Thompson

As we commemorate America's entry into the First World War with this centennial edition of the MPHS Bulletin, a number of stories begin to emerge of that time that brings "the war to end all wars" to life for us 100 years later. These can be found on the internet, print media involving newspapers as well as journals, philatelic and historical journals, and the worldwide web.

As a military chaplain, I recall the many instances during my time in service: "Never mess with a soldier's chow or mail if you want to keep the troops happy." This story is about the other half of this equation: *The speedy delivery of the mail to and from the troops at the front, on ships at sea, or on far away bases and places during World War I.*

In researching the history of the Railway Mail Service (RMS), I discovered the "how" of how the mail got to the troops that was different than in all American wars since that time. I'd like to share that story with you.

In WW II (and to the present), uniformed military personnel staffed Army Post Offices (APO's) and Fleet Post Offices (FPO's). Unlike the Second World War, much of the mail for the troops in WW I was sorted and delivered in large part by civilian Railway Post Office (RPO) clerks of the Railway Mail Service (see: <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/RMS/>).



**Figure 1:** "Sorting AEF Mail in France in WWI," from U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph provided by The Great War Society.

In reading, *Mail by Rail - The History of the Postal Transportation Service* by Bryant Long and William Dennis, I discovered that the civilian RMS took complete charge of all mails for AEF forces overseas in World War I.

A number of U.S. Post office Department employees of the RMS left their jobs on Railway Post Offices on trains in America and volunteered for service in France to bring the mail to the troops (<http://postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/special-passport.html>).

The "*United States Army in the World War, 1917-1919: Reports of the Commander in Chief, Staff Sections & Services, Vol. 15,*" (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1991) provides details of mail operations in Europe. It can be found online at "*The United States Army in WWI - 1917-1919 GHQ Statistical Branch Report*" (see: [http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/023/23-21/CMH\\_Pub\\_23-21.pdf](http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/023/23-21/CMH_Pub_23-21.pdf)).

As the civilian staffed Postal Express Service finally evolved in France, it consisted of three branches:

- The Motor Dispatch Service, organized September 15, 1917:
- The Postal Express Service proper, which was charged with delivery of all mail as distinct from courier matter, and the
- Overseas Courier Service. Its field of operation covered thousands of miles. Its 172 personnel was scattered throughout the entire War Zone.<sup>1</sup> Colonel Thorndike D. Howe, F. A., was appointed as Director of the Postal Express Service.

Army General Orders # 72 had standardized postal operations. Before its issuance,

the Motor Dispatch Service had been in operation for eight months. Mail for the AEF had been handled by civilian personnel. An overseas courier service had already been established. The function of this order was, therefore, to coordinate and to place under a single military direction the services already in operation.<sup>2</sup>

From July 1917 to June 1918 the U.S. Railway Mail Service (RMS), employed civilian RPO clerks and supervisory personnel to bring the mail to AEF troops. The Report stated that in the course of that time:

“.....during which the American Expeditionary Forces had grown to 659,245 persons.

On 1 June, 1918, fifty-one American post offices were in operation. The personnel of the civil establishment had grown to some 285 civilian clerks, to assist, whom about 400 soldiers had been from time to time detailed as necessity demanded. There was no regularly scheduled transportation of American military mail with the exception of one baggage car on each Tours-Chaumont military train, which carried sack mail for offices on that line. All other American mail moved through the French post on a verbal agreement as to the trains and number of sacks to be accepted. Mail from the United States, except for the few sacks sent by French post, was dispatched in carload lots to destination, un-convoyed.

The growth of the forces, the need for the constant expansion of every facility and service, and the extension of the area covered by American troops could not be met by the means at the disposal of the civilian agencies.”<sup>2</sup>

The administration of postal operations passed from civilian control to military authorities on July 1, 1918. They also staffed two large mail terminals, one in Bordeaux, France and the other in New York City, NY. Those terminal’s mission was to gather and direct all mails to the troops and back to their families in the first year of combat operations in France in WW I. In addition,

“The development of adequate postal facilities demanded, among other facts and consideration, an increase in personnel and number of post offices and the establishing of railway post office lines similar to those in the United States, with division superintendents in charge of the districts; the operation of pouch express service and shipment of carload lots of mail accompanied by military convoy; development of a scheme for dispatch of mails; the operation of postal regulating districts under the control of Army officers; establishment of inspection and liaison with the various branches of the American Expeditionary Forces and the War & Post Office Departments in Washington<sup>2</sup>

Taking over standard gauge railroad construction from the Transportation Department on March 12, 1918 after 62 miles of track had been built by the D.C. and F. constructed by January 1,1919: 885 miles of track with all the necessary adjuncts-engine terminals. machine shops. car repair facili-

ties, coal storage. More than 800 miles of yard and storage tracks were constructed. principally at the supply depots. Engine terminals with a total track-age of 100 miles, were constructed at 12 points. All construction was on or adjacent to the regular lines of communications assigned for U. S. Army use by the French, except a small mileage at forestry projects and approximately 90 miles at hospital projects, ordnance depots, aviation centers, and similar places. The outstanding feature of the railroad program was the construction of the Nevers cut-off, which, by providing a means of by-passing the congested yards at Nevers, shortened by hours the transport of men and materials from the ports to the front.....<sup>3</sup>

“In order to relieve the Overseas Courier Service of bulky matter the Overseas Express Service was instituted, connecting Washington with all points in the Expeditionary Forces reached by American Railway Mail Service cars. It has handled sixty-one eastbound shipments with an average weight of 1,794 pounds and a total of forty west-bound shipments averaging 444 pounds each.”<sup>4</sup>



**Figure 2:** “AEF troops sorting mail at St. Pierre des Corps,” from U.S.Army Signal Corps photograph provided by **The Great War Society.**

One such RMS employee, mentioned in the Smithsonian National Postal Museum on-line exhibit noted above, Charles Leary of Kansas City, MO, went to France and supervised Army Post Office (APO) # 714 at Langres, Haute-Marne, France. Army Schools in France were located there.

These RPO clerks were involved in:

- (1) supervising many of the APO’s in France or

- (2) working in the *Bordeaux Terminal RPO* in Bordeaux, France or
- (3) working on one of the 18 RPO train routes that serviced an AEF Army Post Office (APO) network by the end of the war of 275 AEF APO's (APO's) on these RPO routes (APO 701 to APO 975). See "*The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1923*," Van Dam wrote "Civilian Postal Agents attached to the Army (General Orders, No. 9, dated July 9, 1917) were to wear a distinctive brassard displaying the letters 'P.A.'"<sup>5</sup>

Long & Dennis expanded on the WW I story of the RMS overseas in World War I when they wrote:

"In France was created, mostly by RMS personnel detailed to the AEF Postal Administration, the largest network of military RPO lines and terminals ever set up by Americans at any time. By 1918 eighteen American RPO's and six additional closed pouch lines had been activated on the French railways; plus the new Bordeaux RMS Terminal, which received US-bound mail from the lines and sorted 84 percent of it out to direct packages for American cities, towns, or RPO routes."<sup>6</sup>

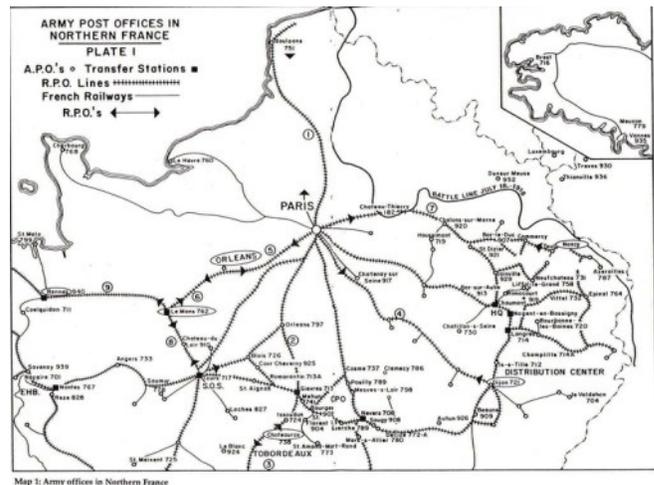
As stated previously, the administration of the postal business in the A.E.F. actually, passed from the civil to the military authorities on July 1, 1918.

Headquarters of the Postal Express Service had been established during June at Tours in order to secure touch with the Services of Supply and with all troop movements. Tours was also made the central supply point by the Postal Express Service. On October 16, 1918 the headquarters were moved to Paris, a more advantageous location because of proximity to advanced areas.

The official staff of the P. E. S ... with the Base Censor and their respective official organizations were housed in the Hotel Mediterranee. Here the Chief of the Postal Express Service directed operations. Of his principal assistants, one was in charge of personnel and served as liaison officer with the French and British services. A second was assigned to the supervision of the establishment and discontinuance of Army post offices. .... The third was in charge of the **Railway Mail and Transportation Service** (emphasis added) including distribution of mail on trains; maintenance of schemes for mail; transfer of mails to and from trains at junction points, and matters relating to personnel of the Railway Mail Service. A fourth assistant chief was assigned to duty in the United States with headquarters at New York to supervise distribution of mail at the port of embarkation

and the dispatch of mail to France. (p. 174).

"Main-line military RPO's were from Paris north to Boulogne (APO # 751); south to Orleans (797), Chateauroux (738) and beyond; Paris west to Le Mans (762); Le Mans to Rennes (940) , and also to Tours (717), on the Le Mans & Tours RPO, whose postmarks are most commonly found. Other lines to Bordeaux, Nancy (915), and Dijon (721), were similarly named; postmarks read "North" or "South" in lieu of train numbers, plus the letters "M.P.E.S."...Military Postal Express Service."<sup>6</sup>



**Figure 3:** Numbered RPO lines (9) and RPO/APO transfer stations (i.e. LeMans APO 762) and APO's connected by rail lines in Northern France."<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 4:** Everett Casmen letter to Iowa of August 16, 1918 from Co. C, 168th Infantry Regiment. Regimental censor # 2278. Westbound RMS straightline cancel of P (?) & C RPO. Courtesy of Alfred Kugel,

In addition to AEF RPO's on French trains in World War I, which distributed and transported the mail to the troops and back home to their families, the Railway Mail Service used the Bordeaux RMS Terminal. The terminal received, sorted and distributed the mail to RPO's in France to get mail to the troops and to gather and distribute outgoing mail from the troops to place it on ships back to the United States.

The British later also set up RPO's on the European continent for occupation duty British soldiers following the war, particularly the BEF Main Line TPO from Boulogne (France) to Cologne (Germany), operated January 1919 to the end of the occupation."<sup>8</sup>

The American Bordeaux Terminal RPO played a critical role as a mail transportation hub in serving our WW I AEF troops in France:

"The terminal distributed up to 44,555,000 letters a month (582 tons of mail), dispatched in sealed pouches. When ships were due to sail, no hours were too long and no conditions too forbidding to prevent a speedy all-out dispatch"<sup>9</sup>



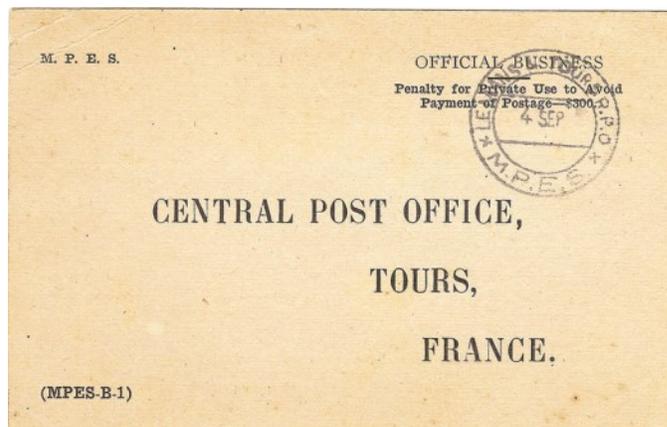
**Figure 5:** Captain Doyle letter to Ohio of January 12, 1919 from 37th Infantry Division. Regimental censor # 106X (Captain Doyle himself). U.S. MPES cancel of 1/16/1919. Dijon - Marsellis RPO South. Capt. Doyle describes Paris as a pretty city. Makes reference to a gift/package from Grasse. This turns out to be the world capital of perfumes at the time. *Courtesy of Alfred Kugel, via Ed Dubin.*

Intriguingly, beyond Europe, the RMS also set up postal detachments around the world to serve American troops deployed to the far reaches of the world during WW I. Long and Dennis write:

United States postal detachments manned by RMS personnel were set up in other parts of the

world - at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and even as far away as Siberia. A leading member of that far-flung unit was the late Joseph P. Cleland, of the Omaha & Denver RPO (on the CB& Q RR), who was renowned as a three times-round-the-world traveler."<sup>10</sup>

On the home front, at the American end of this mail pipeline stood the Chelsea RMS Terminal in New York City, running the length of Pier 86 at West Forty-Sixth Street. The Chelsea RMS Terminal's task was to gather all the mail from across the U.S. going to the servicemen of the AEF in France and get it placed on ships crossing the Atlantic to the Bordeaux RMS Terminal for distribution to American doughboys. In turn, the Chelsea RMS Terminal received all mail from the Bordeaux RMS Terminal from ships returning across the Atlantic. It processed and distributed that soldier's mail to RPO's and post offices in the U.S., thereby speeding the mail home to families, friends and relations awaiting word from their special doughboy serving with the AEF.



**Figure 6:** MPES official form card (B—1) for Central Post Office, Tours use. LeMans & Tours RPO of September 4, *Courtesy of Alfred Kugel, via Ed Dubin.*

"All Army overseas mail was ordered diverted there (Chelsea RMS Terminal), and half frozen clerks struggled with it in overcoats until 'the world's largest one-room heating plant' was installed. Haphazard overseas addresses used by the public (as, 110 Engineers, France) gradually were standardized in the general form: Name of soldier and unit, AEF, APO 123 (or whatever it was), France. Hundreds of patriotic 'dollar-a year' volunteers worked alongside the paid men and women clerks in the terminal with steady efficiency, including such notables as Henry Ward Beecher, Jr."<sup>10</sup>

Examples of A.E. F. cancellations, as illustrated by Van Dam are shown on the next page.



A9111.1



A9111.2



A9111.3



A9112.1



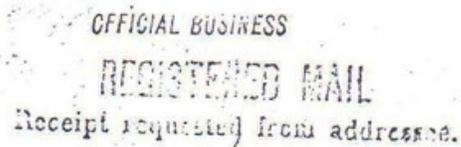
A9112.2



A9113



A9114.2



A9114.3



A9201



A9202



A9203.1



A9203.2



A9204



A9205



A9206



A9207



A9208



A9209.1



A9209.2

Figure 7: Examples of A.E. F. cancellations, including "LeMans & Tours RPO- M.P.E.S. cancellations (3rd line, A9203.1 & A 9203.2)." LeMans & Tours RPO Cancellations. 7

War's end in November 1918, brought with it the set up of a large redistribution center at one end of the Chelsea RPO Terminal. Its task was to assure that mail initially routed to men in units in France would catch up with them as they returned to the United States. This redistribution center was manned by Army clerks who redirected parcels addressed to men leaving France to the proper United States separation center.<sup>10</sup>

In his *The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1923*. Theo Van Dam reports:

"By December 1918, 131,900 sacks of mail had been received from and 25,532 sent to the United States; by January 1919 twenty-eight million letters had been dispatched to the United States, and more than fifty million had been received from the United States. At one point, the Military Postal Express Service handled more mail than the entire French civilian postal system"<sup>11</sup>

After the war, Long and Dennis reported that many Railway Mail Posts' of the American Legion sprang up at New York and elsewhere," attesting to the number of RMS employees who had served during WW I.

**Figure 8:** Chelsea terminal RPO cancels.<sup>12</sup>



In closing, my dad was one of those WW I soldiers who got mail from the RMS in 1918. He, in turn, returned the favor, sorting and distributing mail to our troops in World War II from 1940-1945 as a railway mail service clerk working at the Chicago Terminal RPO. Like so many WW I veteran RMS clerks, he knew the encouragement it was for troops to get mail and he worked hard to keep the mail flowing to GI's in the Second World War.

As 18 months of 1918 are commemorated by the 100th Anniversary of this increasingly dim memory of that long ago war, we need to remember to salute the men and women of the RMS, who played a superlative support role. They kept the mail going to lonely "Yanks" at the front, maintaining their morale in frequently desperate and bitter fighting. For concerned families back home, they maintained the home front morale by ensuring that they were kept informed of daily events and happenings "over there". Those unheralded postmen lived up to the RMS' motto: "*The mail must always go through.*"



**Figure 8:** From Montport, France Base Hospital # 3, Ambulance Co. # 333 to Chicago Paris-Bordeaux RPO South of January 5, 1919. Writer describes hospital as situated in an old monastery. *Courtesy of Alfred Kugel, via Ed Dubin.*

#### Editor's Note:

David A. Thompson, Rosemount, Minnesota is the son of WW I Veteran, PFC Arne M. Thompson, 34th CAC, U.S. Army. Later in life, Arne Thompson worked from 1940-1962 as an RMS RPO Clerk and Foreman/Clerk in Charge on RPO's in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and North Dakota. His son, a Commander in the U.S. Navy, David A. Thompson served as a Chaplain for many years. In addition to his specialty interest in the RMS, Chaplain Thompson has other philatelic interests, particularly in the Flu Epidemic of WW I. He is in consultation with the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum on its upcoming Centennial Observance Exhibit on WW I and the portion of that exhibit dedicated to the Flu Epidemic. Hopefully, he will write an equally fascinating article on the subject for a future MPHS Bulletin.

#### Endnotes:

1. *U.S. Army in WW I:* pg. 172 - 173
2. *Ibid.:* pg. 173
3. *Ibid.:* pg. 177
4. *Ibid.:* pg. 176
5. *Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1919:* pg. 5
6. *Mail by Rail:* pg. 210-211
7. *Op.Cit.:* 76-79. A complete listing of APO's serviced by RPO's in Northern France is on pp.76-79.
8. *Postal History of the AEF:* p.66
9. *Mail by Rail:* pg. 211
10. *Ibid.:* pg. 212
11. *Postal History of the AEF:* pg. 13
12. *Ibid.:* pg. 12

**References:**

- My thanks to Steven and Dr. Frank Scheer for their research into the Annual Reports of the Postmaster General, 1917 - 1919.
- My thanks to Mike Hanlon, Editor of the "*The Roads to the Great War*" website for use of excerpts of an earlier article on "*The RMS Goes to War in WW I*".
- The "*United States Army in the World War, 1917-1919: Reports of the Commander in Chief, Staff Sections & Services, Vol. 15,*" (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1991). It can be found online at *The United States Army in WW I-1917-1919 GHQ Statistical Branch Report*" (see: [http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/023/23-21/CMH\\_Pub\\_23-21.pdf](http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/023/23-21/CMH_Pub_23-21.pdf)).
- "*The Postal History of the AEF. 1917 - 1923,*" (2nd Ed), Edited by Theo. Van Dam, Fishkill, NY: The War Cover Club, 1990, p. 9. (A massive update to this classic is under development by Ed Dubin and Alfred Kugel).
- Smithsonian: *Railway Mail Service* (see: <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/RMS/>).
- *Mail by Rail - The History of the Postal Transportation Service* by Bryant Long and William Dennis (New York: Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corporation, 1951),

**APO/DPO/FPO Openings and Closings**

by David Kent

These APO, FPO and DPO actions were announced in the January—February 2017 *Postal Bulletin*. Announcements advise Postal Service staff that they may now accept mail for "Active" numbers, and may no longer accept mail for "Closed" numbers. 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   | TYPE #    | Action | Date    |
|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
| FPO 09204 | Open   | 1/5/17 | APO 09245 | Close  | 1/19/17 |
| FPO 09502 | Close  | 2/2/17 | FPO 09514 | Close  | 1/5/17  |

APO 09245 was assigned to the Army-Air Force Exchange Service h.q. in Mainz-Kastel, Germany, part of a consolidation that will see most services moved to Clay Kaserne. It appears that some facilities will close, but the h.q. base exchange are not closing entirely.

FPO 09502 is used for Marine Corps mobile units out of the East Coast. Most likely the code itself has not been discontinued, just one unit, but the *Postal Bulletin* listings only include the basic five-digit code, not the full nine-digit Zip Code that would provide details. FPO 09514 has not been listed as "Active" for several years.

**B-25 Fly-In to Honor the Doolittle Raiders at Grimes Field, Urbana, Ohio**

Bill Bean of Triple S Postal History informs us that a very special event will be held in Urbana, Ohio on April 15-18, 2017. This is the 75th ANNIVERSARY OF the DOOLITTLE RAID. It represents a gathering of B-25 Bombers (those flown by Doolittle and his raiders) to honor the last surviving Raider, who resides 20 miles distant from Urbana. This is the third year of the celebration. Also on display will be flown in examples of the Japanese Zero, and the U.S. P-52 Mustang fighters.

**Military Postal History Society**

Help the Society by donating materials (we are a 501 c (3) organization), or purchasing lots in the MPHS Auction.

Due to a temporary relocation to Vietnam, our Auction Manager, Thierry Delespesse, has had to suspend the auctions until the 3rd issue of 2017.

Check the premiere military postal historian's offerings of *Mike White* at



TRANSVAAL-GB: 1900  
BOER War CONSULAR  
SERVICE USA envelope  
TAXED & TAX Deleted

BAHRAIN—USA: 1945  
CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE  
using US APO & MIS-  
SENT:



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GB... 1917 WRECK MAIL  
from SS NORWEGIAN or  
Armed Merchant Cruiser KAR-  
MALA.



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## LETTERS TO THE HOMEFOLKS

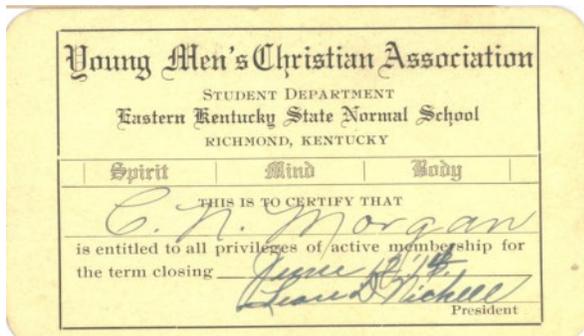
by Harlan Ogle

*Editor's Note: Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of "Director Emeritus" Harlan Ogle, these letters are brought to you from the Wayne County Historical Museum in Monticello, Kentucky. I had the immense good fortune of stopping in at the Museum on my way to the New York 2016 Show, and discovered a veritable treasure trove of historical memorabilia in this geographic hotbed of American patriotism. The story of one of those patriots (Charles Noble Morgan) was diligently pursued by Mr. Ogle with family descendants for this article to illustrate the importance of soldier's mail back to the home folks.*

In mid-summer and fall of 1918 the final push was going on in Europe to bring an end to "the war that would end all wars." World War I had demanded that the finest of America's sons and daughters be sent "overseas" to fight in a war we did not want but found it necessary to fight to protect and preserve liberty in the world. Hundreds of young men from Wayne County answered their nation's call to serve in the armed services.

One of those brave young men was Charles Noble Morgan from the Slickford community. Charles grew up in that peaceful part of the county. He was the son of W.R. and Rebecca E. Morgan.

W.R. Morgan was one of the early school teachers in Wayne County and, while growing up, Charles was encouraged to get a good education. He attended the Double Head Academy and apparently earned a teacher's certificate that enabled him to follow in the footsteps of his father and teach in the county school system. He also attended Eastern Kentucky State Normal School which eventually became Eastern Kentucky University (EKU).



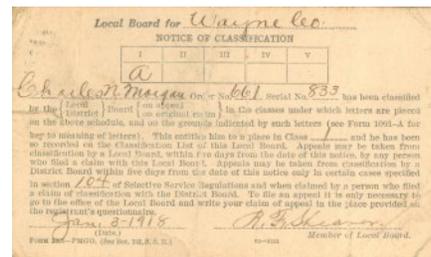
**Figure 1: YMCA membership card of Charles Morgan while attending Eastern Kentucky State Normal School from June 1914.**

Readers should recognize that postal history in the form of envelopes was not necessarily kept by recipients in

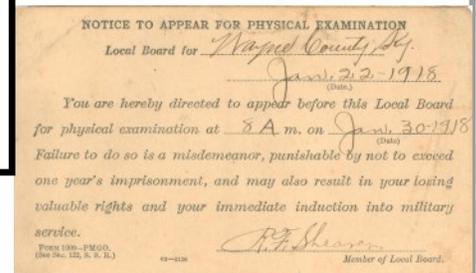
the mid 1910s. In this case, the postal history that was kept was two fold: (1) the contents of Charles Morgan's communiques home—namely the letters themselves, and (2) government forms dealing with induction and service in the U.S. Army. In consequence, the article takes the unusual tack of relying upon the pre-induction government forms to display the "means of conveyance" of military postal history, while using the contents of his letters as the postal history needed to track his two years of service in the military.



**Figures 2 & 3:**  
Dated Jan. 3, 1918, the Wayne County Selective Service's initial classification of Charles Morgan as 1 a. As a government form, the card was being sent on official business requiring no franking.



**Figures 4 & 5:**  
Dated Jan. 28, 1918, the Wayne County Selective Service's initial request to appear for a physical examination scheduled for Charles Morgan.



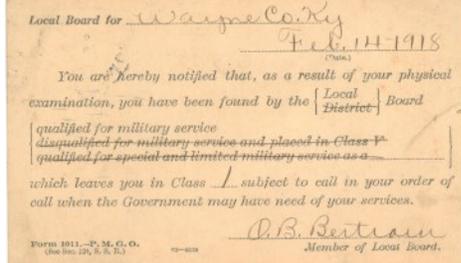
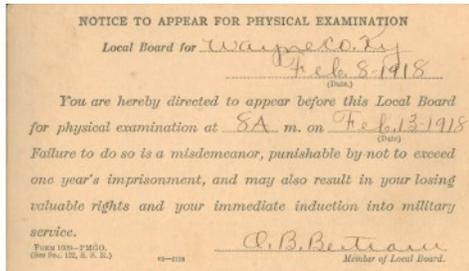
Pre-induction considerations involved an initial determination of classification (see Figures 2 and 3) and requests to appear for a physical examination (see Figures 4 & 5). In Charles' case, the pre-induction physical had to apparently be rescheduled. (see Figures 6 & 7 on next page). The pre-induction process required a subsequent determination of classification by the Wayne County Selective Service Board - shown by the card illustrated in Figures 8 & 9 (see next page).



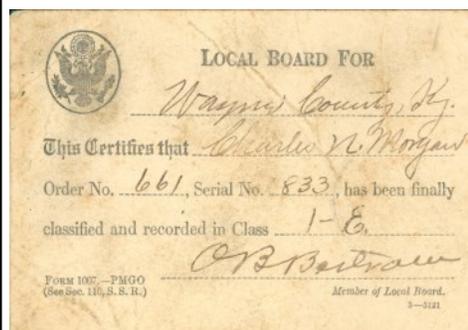
**Figures 6 & 7:**  
Dated Feb. 3, 1918, the Wayne County Selective Service's second request to appear for a physical examination scheduled for Charles Morgan.



**Figures 10 & 11:**  
Dated Feb. 28, 1918, the Wayne County Selective Service's determination of qualification for military service.



**Figures 8 & 9:**  
Dated Feb. 4, 1918, the Wayne County Selective Service's final classification for Charles—1 E—Deferred Student, fit for military service. This was proclaimed by the official seal of the United States, by the Wayne County Board—whose address was required to be affixed to the front of the card by an auxiliary marking.



**Figures 12:** Dated June 5, 1918, the registration card indicates that Charles was the 27th individual to be registered for service in Slickford, precinct 9.

Following his classification and determination of fitness from his physical examination, the pre-induction process required a determination by the Wayne County Board of his qualification for military service. This decision was conveyed on February 28th (see **Figures 10 & 11**), followed by his registration (see **Figure 12**).

Charles was drafted into the Army in April or May, 1918. He was sent to the new Camp Zachary Taylor near Louisville for his basic training. He knew it would be but a short time before he was sent to the European war zone.

Like many soldiers, Noble kept in touch with his family in Wayne County by writing and receiving letters. His family has treasured these letters for decades and now they are graciously sharing these family treasures with you—members of the Military Postal History Society.

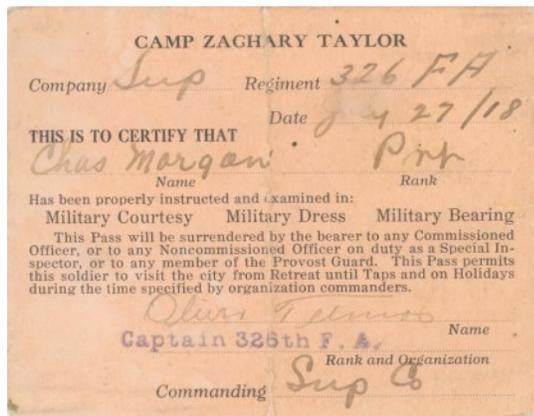
As you read the letters you will be able to follow Noble's journey from the quiet hills of Wayne County to the war zone of France. *If you read them carefully, you will be drawn into the life of the World War I soldier*—his sacrifices, his devotion to duty and family, and his desire to return home when the fighting was done.

I express my sincerest gratitude to the descendants of Charles Noble Morgan for allowing us access to these family treasures. They serve to remind us that many brave men and women have purchased the freedoms that we enjoy today, with their sacrifices.

**May 31, 1918:** from Camp Taylor, Kentucky:

I am feeling fine today considering what I have had for the last few days. I got my first nights sleep **last night** since I left home. They showed us a fine time in Monticello (*Editor's note—Wayne County seat*). The

Red Cross set us a big dinner at Burnside. The train had a wreck and we didn't get to camp till midnight...The local board appointed me captain at the company that left Wayne and Vena Tate and myself took them to Burnside...We all have our uniforms and look like real soldiers...There isn't any use to worry about me for I am sure having a fine time...I will send my old clothes home in a few days.



**Figure 13:** Camp Zachary Taylor certification of proper orientation of Pvt. Charles Morgan.

Undated: from Camp Taylor:

This is some camp here...We just have to work five days in a week. We get **Wed.** and **Sat.** Evenings off. We have had one payday since I came. I draw \$8.00...I took out a \$10,000 life insurance since I came...Did you get my clothes?...We have a Y.M.C.A. in each battalion. They furnish us with books to read and writing paper, and envelopes, moving picture shows, music, church and all sorts of things free of charge.

June, 4, 1918 from Camp Taylor:

I have been moving all week but just got settled **this morning**. I carried everything I had including my straw bed for about two miles...We go to the table and eat just like we did at home here. We have to do all sorts of work here; curry horses, haul hay, clean barns, drill, and everything.

June 16, 1918 from Camp Taylor:

I took my last typhoid shot **Friday**...I am in my barracks now waiting for orders to move, have already been transferred to the field artillery here in this camp... We never know when we have to move. I have had my stuff tied up all evening expecting orders every minute.



**Figure 14:** West Point, KY. Franked cover to Charles Morgan's mother. The postage fee was required of state-side soldiers throughout the war.

Undated from West Point, Kentucky: (*Editor's note: Camp's Young & Knox were forerunners of Ft. Knox*)

Well, we have moved again...We live in tents. West Point is just a little place on the Ohio River about 20 miles from Louisville.

July 6, 1918 from West Point:

We live in tents about fourteen feet square with eight men to the tent. We eat off of the ground right out in this hot **sun**...We eat Irish potatoes and light bread three times per day...Well how is everything at home. Has papa sold his cedar yet? Are you working the young mules this summer?...How are your hogs getting along? Are you about ready to move your mill and tell me anything else you can think of. I will try to get a furlough home if we stay here long enough.

July 7, 1918 from West Point:

We went into camp in the hollow (*Editor's note: For our non-American readers synonymous with "valley"*) at about eleven o'clock, tied our mules to our carts, and rolled ourselves in our blankets and laid down on the ground to sleep. The rocks and things bothered me some but I slept...There is a lot of talk about us leaving here but we don't know when we are going or where.

July 13, 1918 from West Point:

Well we don't get any too much to eat at West Point. I have fallen off (*sic*) several pounds but you needn't send me anything for by the time I would divide up with 7 bunkies (*Editor's note: 8 men to a tent*) there wouldn't be much left for me and you

know I would have to divide. P.S. Had a payday last week am sending home twenty dollars I think I can make out without it. You can use it any way you want too...Will send it when I get a chance.

Undated from West Point:

I didn't think we would be at West Point this long but we are still here and are expecting to leave any day. We have all of our stuff turned in and ready to go. Most of the boys that came with me are already in France and some of them that came after I did are already gone across.

August 27, 1918 from West Point

We have been expecting to be gone every day for two or three weeks and only one regiment is gone. All of the boys from Wayne (*sic County*) that were at West Point went with it but me...It rained all day **yesterday** and most of the day **today** and the mud here in camp is a sight on earth. I am muddy almost to my knees now. The water was about 6 inches deep **yesterday** where we kept our wagon and harness. We just waded around in it like mules but it doesn't seem to hurt us. I believe it is going to be over before long.

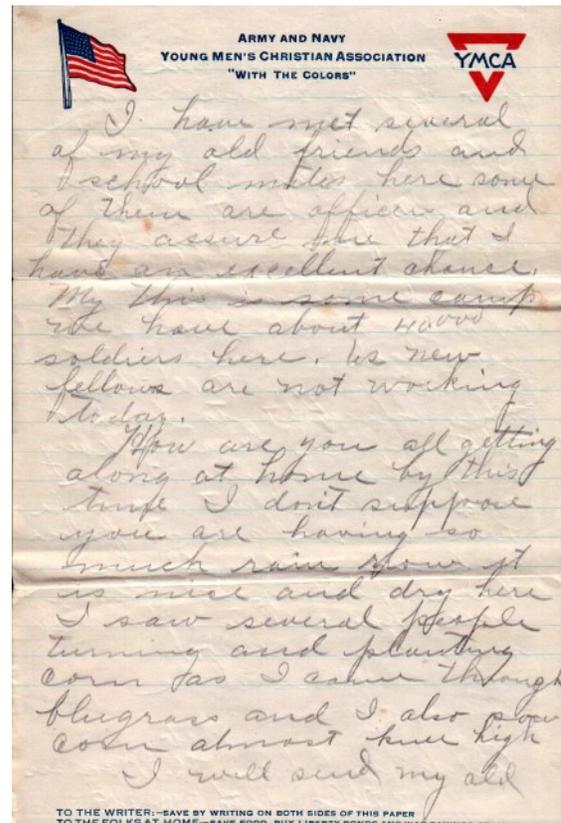
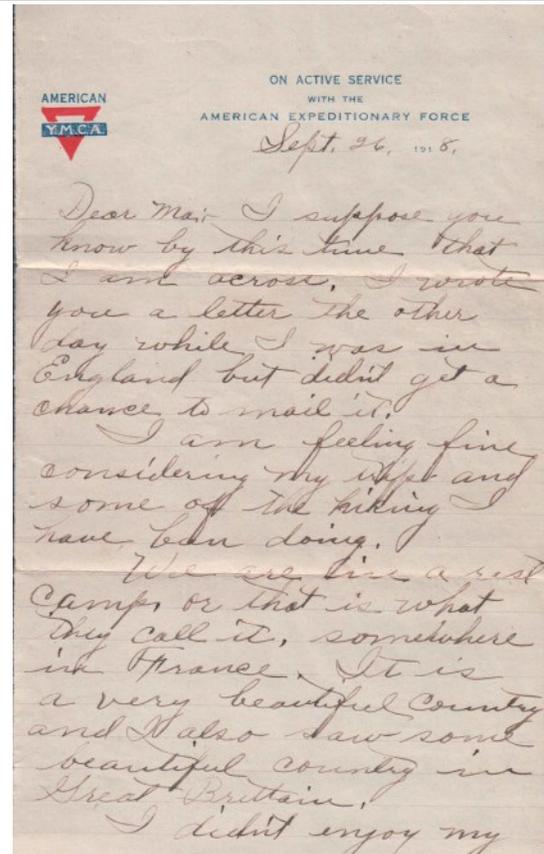
Sept.6, 1918 from Camp Mills, Long Island, New York:

We arrived in N.Y. City **last night** about eleven o'clock and was transferred across East River to Long Island...I certainly saw some country...We will have our woolen clothes issued to us in a few days and I think we will need them if it doesn't turn warmer but I sleep with my clothes on all the time nearly any way...We will be here for a few days. I don't know just how long before we start across. (*Editor's note: Probably from Hoboken, New Jersey embarkation point*).

September 26, 1918 from France:

I suppose you know by this time that I am across...We are in a rest camp, or that is what they call it, somewhere in France...I didn't enjoy my trip across the Atlantic to such a great extent. I was seasick for a day or two but didn't get as bad as some.

**Figures 15 & 16:** Charles Morgan's letter to his mother of September 26, 1918 from France. Written upon YMCA inscribed postal stationery.





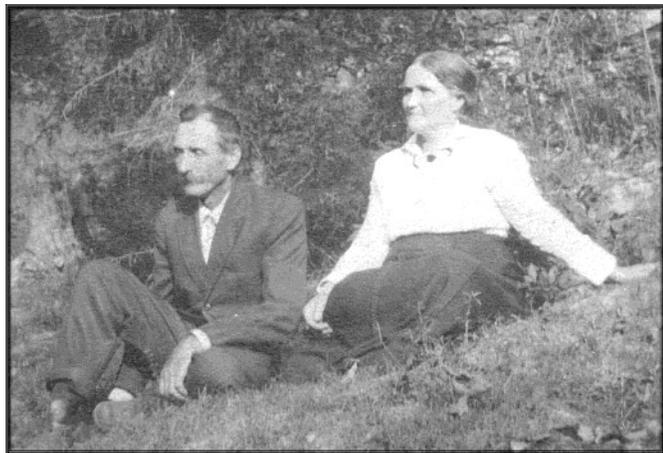
**Figures 16 & 17:** Charles Morgan's cover to his mother of October 1, 1918 from Bordeaux, France. Lt. Parkes Haynes was the censor. Once on his way to Europe, soldiers were not required to pay the postage fee by Act of Congress of October, 1917

October 1, 1918 from France:

I have traveled two days and nights since I wrote you before but I am still in France and no closer to the front than I was...It is the opinion of most of the boys over here that our stay is not going to be a very long one on this side.

November 5, 1918 from France

I guess you think I am never going to write again but I think I have a good excuse. Have been in the hospital with the Spanish Influenza for three weeks. Just came out [this morning](#)...I am pretty weak yet...I am counting on being home by spring myself but don't know whether I will or not. I believe it is going to be over before long.



**Figure 18:** Father W.R. Morgan and his wife (date unknown). She is the "Ma" of Charles' letters.

November 10, 1918 from France

Have just finished a pretty good washing, the first I had done for a month. I think I am getting about straight from the Influenza...How about the boys around home, are they still taking them or are they all in the service?

November 15, 1918 from France:

I imagine they had some great times in the States when the armistice was signed with Germany. They certainly did over here. We don't have any idea when we are going to get back to the States. There is a lot of work to do over here and they are liable to keep us for a while I think.

November 28, 1918 from France:

I though (sic) when I wrote you last that we would be gone from here by this time but we are still at the same place...I have never given you any idea of where I am in France. If you will look on the map in southern France and find Bordeaux you will be pretty close (sic) where I am at the present time...I guess you will be living in the valley by the time I get home but you had better hurry up because I may be home before so very long. At least I am hoping to be there soon.

December 14, 1918 from France:

I was sorry to hear about so many of the boys around home being dead. I know of five myself. Hope there isn't any more I haven't heard of.

December 20, 1918 from France:

I am still here in Camp de Souge—don't know how long I will be here. We have been expecting to lave (sic) for a month now. It looks like I might eat my Xmas dinner here instead of at home...I think probably I will be able to get home by Easter.

February 15, 1919 from Camp Stuart, Newport News, Virginia :

I have at last arrived in the states. We landed here at Newport News, VA this morning. I am feeling fine considering a fifteen day sea voyage and a rough sea most of the time...We think we will go from here to Camp Taylor and be mustered out there...We have been through the delousery again this afternoon and hade (sic) a good bath and clean clothes once more.

February 18, 1918 from Camp Stuart, Newport News, Virginia:

We are still here in Camp Stuart but I don't think we will be here much longer...We are getting fed much better here than we have been use (sic) to before...I guess you have noticed in the papers the disturbance they have in congress over the way the soldiers have been treated in some of the camps in France. We didn't see anything about it till we got on this side but we were not at all surprised.



**Figures 19 & 20:** Undated photographs of Charles Noble Morgan during his service in WW I and post-war.

The sequel to Charles Morgan's letters home to his mother and family have been memorialized in a very special fashion by Wayne County and the county seat of Monticello, Kentucky. At the intersection of several state highways stands the most prominent statue of WW I dedicated to the American doughboy.

Dedicated in 1923 as shown by the accompanying illustration, Wayne County, Kentucky eventually sent at least 484 of its very best to serve in World War I. In the records of **THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF DEFENSE** at least 25 "Colored Men" from the county served in the war effort. Twenty-three of the Wayne County soldiers would not return home alive. Ten were killed in combat and thirteen died in service related events. At least forty-five were wounded in action and brought back the scars of combat including years of suffering from the results of chemical warfare used on the battlefield.



**Figure 21:** "The Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue in Monticello, Kentucky, Wayne County. *Courtesy of J.D. Coffey, copyright. All rights reserved.*

A real sense of patriotism, gratitude, and honor seemed to fill every heart and mind of those who endured the separation from their family members who had "gone off to war." As early as June, 1919, interest was being shown in erecting a fitting memorial to those who had so courageously served their country in a war that they thought would be a "war that would end all wars."

The county's political leaders, veterans, and ordinary citizens began to raise the funds necessary to purchase and place a war memorial statue to honor their heroes. School children saved their pennies to help in the cause. Appeals were made throughout the county to contact an Indiana sculptor, Ernest Moore Viquesney, and arrange the purchase of his well-known statue, THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DOUGHBOY.

We have no record that Private Charles Noble Morgan was in the crowds at the dedication. There is no doubt, however, in this author's mind that on that rainy and cold day of April 8, 1923 that he, along with scores of

other of his comrades in arms, were milling around in that group of patriotic Americans.

Almost a century has come and gone and those who see it know that freedom comes with a price—a high price. Private Morgan was extremely aware of that price as can be seen in these words he wrote in one of his letters to the homefolks: “I was sorry to hear about so many of the boys around home being dead. I know of five myself. Hope there isn’t any more I haven’t heard of.”



**Figure 23:** Close up detail of “*The Spirit of the American Doughboy*” statue in Monticello, Kentucky, Wayne County. Courtesy of J.D. Coffey, copyright. All rights reserved.

*Final Note Harlan Ogle: After the war, Charles Noble Morgan returned to his beloved Wayne County, married, and, in his words spent the rest of his life “raising horses and boys.”*

*Editor’s note:* As former director of the Historical Society, Harlan Ogle wrote a small tract of 60 pages on the statue. Among other features, it lists all of the men of Wayne County who served in the war. On sale at the Wayne County Historical Society, it is entitled: “The Spirit of the American Doughboy” - a History of the “Doughboy” Memorial in Monticello, Kentucky.

**THE WAYNE COUNTY OUTLOOK**  
 VOLUME 15 - NUMBER 104 MONTICELLO, KY., THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1923. 5 CENTS A COPY, \$1.50 PER YEAR - NUMBER 47

**MONTICELLO, KY., THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1923.**

**PROGRAM OF DEDICATION**

**“THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DOUGHBOY”**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1923, 1:30 P. M.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Music   | American Legion, 11th District Band   |
| Invocation                                      | Rev. J. A. Parker   |
| Address of Welcome                              | Mr. James H. Duncan, Commander<br>Wayne Post No. 134, Am. Legion                                      |
| Master of Ceremonies                            | Mr. W. C. Wilson, Commander<br>American Legion of Kentucky  |
| “Kentuckians in the World War”                  | Gov. Edwin P. Morrow  |
| “The American Legion 100 Per Cent American”     | Mr. Brent G. Nunnolley, Adj. Am. Legion of Ky.  |
| “The Challenge of the Patriotism of Peace”      | Mr. Geo. Colvin, Supt. Pub. Ins.  |
| “American Memorials and Ideals”                 | Hon. J. M. Robison, U. S. Congressman, 11th District of Kentucky.                                     |
| “We Shall Keep the Faith”                       | Hon. Chas. I. Dawson, Attorney General of Kentucky  |
| “The Invisible Monument”                        | Hon. Alben W. Barkley   |
| “The Heritage”                                  | Col. Chas. Morrow, U. S. Army   |
| Introduction of Famous War Heroes               | Lt. J. O. Creech, D. S. C.<br>Sgt. Samuel Woodfill, C. M. H. D. S. C.<br>Sgt. Alvin C. York, D. S. C. |
| “Our Heroes” and “Roll Call of the Dead”        | General Jackson Morris, Adjutant General of Kentucky  |
| Unveiling “The Spirit of the American Doughboy” | Capt. John W. Tuttle  |
| “Star Spangled Banner”                          | American Legion Dist. Band  |

Other distinguished guests who will participate in the ceremonies are:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Maj. Daniel E. Murphy  | U. S. Cavalry, Special Representative War Department |
| Sen. W. A. Kinne       |  |
| Mr. Allen E. Denton    | State Executive Committee at Large                   |
| M. Wm. F. Miller       | Vice Com., American Legion of Ky.                    |
| Gen. Ellerbe W. Carter | 38th Field Artillery Brigade                         |
| Col. Daniel M. Carrell | 138 Field Artillery.                                 |

**Figure 24:** Program of dedication of the “The Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue from Wayne County Outlook of April 5, 1923.

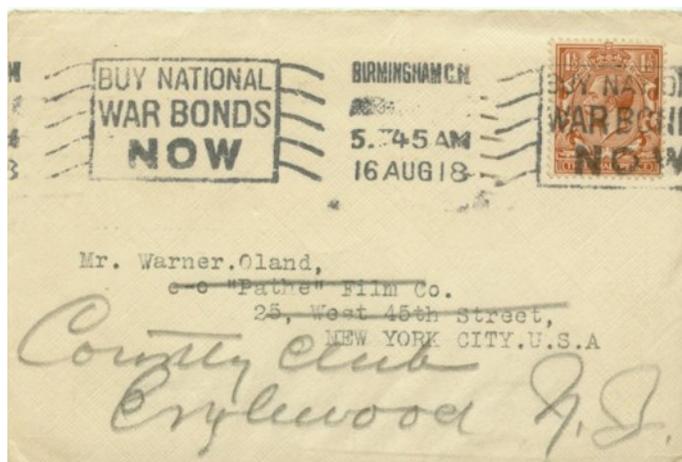
## STARS & STRIFE: Warner Oland and WWI

by Regis Hoffman & Thomas Richards

*This edition of "Stars & Strife" focuses on the actor Warner Oland and WWI censorship of mail addressed to him. For those of you unfamiliar with him, Warner Oland was the actor who portrayed Charlie Chan in a series of 1930's Charlie Chan films.*

Warner Oland was born in Sweden in 1880 and came to the United States when he was 10 years of age. He began his career as an actor in the theater, moving to silent films in 1912. He played many character parts but was soon typecast as an Oriental and is best known for his portrayal as the detective "Charlie Chan" in a series of 16 films.

WWI fan mail to Hollywood movie stars is rather scarce as the custom of writing to movie stars did not really begin in earnest until about 1916 (during the silent film era). In the early days of silent movies, the actors and actresses were not credited in the movie and remained anonymous; hence there was no fan mail. There are two theories that explain the anonymity of the players. One theory is that the studios preferred not to identify their actors – unknown actors could not demand huge salaries! An opposing view believes the actors themselves wished to remain anonymous. A "real" actor performed in the theater; roles in the new medium of movies merely paid the bills. Actors therefore wished to remain un-credited in the movies to retain their professional pride and standing



**Figure 1.** 1918 Cover from Birmingham, England to actor Warner Oland at Pathe films and forwarded to Englewood, New Jersey.

During the advent of the silent film era, movie production was scattered throughout the world (e.g. France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States), but the

devastation of Europe during the First World War stunted the growth of the European film industry. The United States film industry quickly became the world's leader. Of historical note is that the United States film industry during the early silent film era was centered in New York City – the migration to Hollywood came later.

A small correspondence sent to Warner Oland during the summer and fall of 1918 is the basis of this article. **Figure 1** shows a cover mailed in August of 1918 from a movie fan in Birmingham, England to Warner Oland at Pathe in New York City. The cover is not censored, but the slogan cancel encourages you to "Buy National War Bonds."



**Figure 2:** Advertisement for the Pathe serial "The Fatal Ring" starring Warner Oland.

A contemporary fan magazine (*Picture Play Magazine*, September 1918) lists Warner Oland's address as Pathe Exchange, 25 West Forty-fifth Street, New York City which matches the address on the cover.

Oland began work in Pathe serial films in early 1917. Serial films were popular in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and consisted of a series of chapters shown one per week generally ending in a cliffhanger. Viewers had to return

each week to see the cliffhangers resolved and to follow the continuing story. **Figure 2** is an advertisement from *Motion Picture News* (July-August 1917) for the serial "The Fatal Ring" starring Warner Oland.

Of interest on the cover in **Figure 1** is the manuscript forwarding to the "Country Club" in Englewood, New Jersey. Why forward it to there?

During this time period there were several film production studios in Jersey City and Fort Lee, New Jersey. The

Gleaver mentions seeing every episode of "The Fatal Ring". The letter also bears a manuscript check mark. A censored cover in the lot also had a letter with the check mark. We initially believed this may have been applied by the censor to indicate that the letter had been examined. However, since the non-censored cover also bears this check mark, we now believe this was applied by Warner Oland himself to indicate that the letter had been read and a response had been made. The fan letter itself asks for an autographed photograph of Warner Oland.

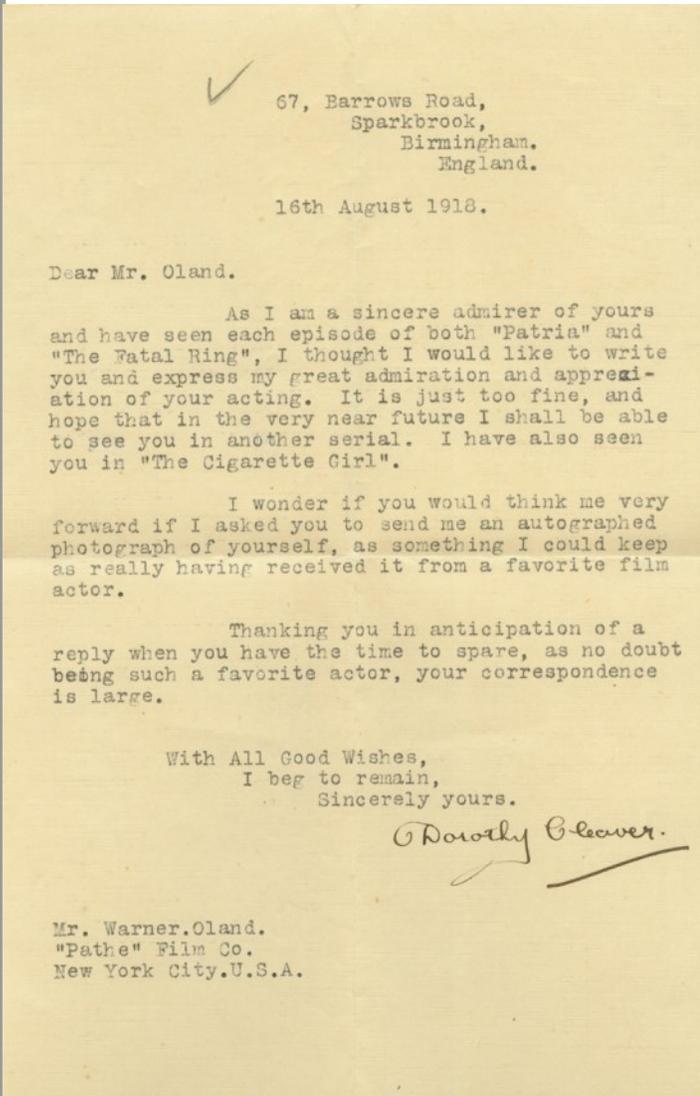
A second letter from the correspondence was censored in the United Kingdom before traveling to the United States (**Figures 5 and 6**). Censorship of mail from the United Kingdom to the United States commenced in 1915 and continued through 1918. This letter too was forwarded. Sent to Pathe, the manuscript in the lower left forwards it to "World Pictures" in New York City, then forwarded again to the Englewood Country Club.



**Figure 4.** The Swedish actor, Warner Oland, without oriental make-up.

*Motion Picture News* (June 8, 1918) mentions World Pictures will have Warner Oland as the principal Chinese role in "Mandarin's Gold" showing that the Swedish-born actor was already typecast as an Oriental.

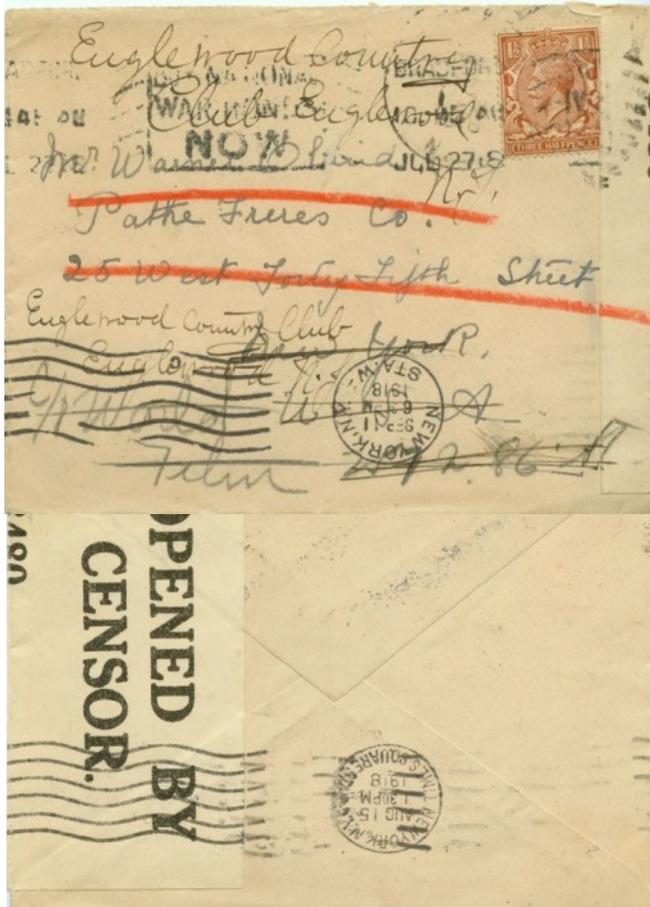
Warner Oland later became famous for his portrayal of "Charlie Chan", a detective for the Honolulu police. Fox Films signed him to play this role in 1931 with his first film as this character being *Charlie Chan Carries On* (**Figure 8**). He starred in a total of 16 Charlie Chan movies. Many of them can be seen free of charge on YouTube. He died in 1938 and is buried in Southborough, Massachusetts.



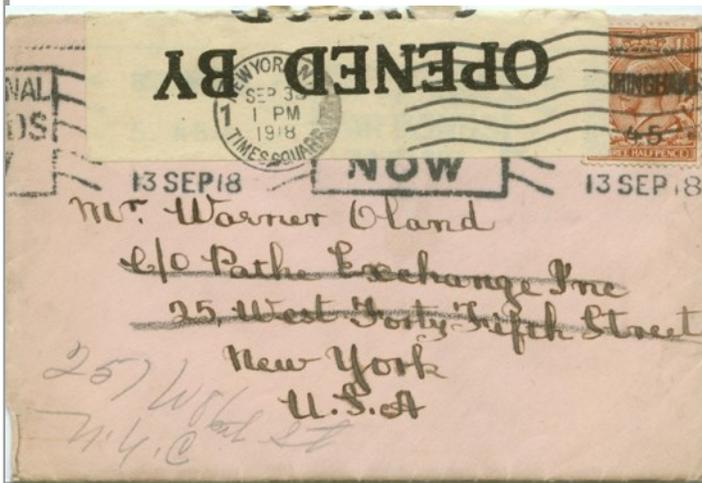
**Figure 3.** Correspondence enclosed in the fan letter of **Figure 1**.

Solax Studios were constructed in 1912 and were leased to various production companies including Pathe. Englewood adjoins Fort Lee and we theorize that Oland resided there during the filming.

**Figure 3** shows the letter written by the fan enclosed in the cover in **Figure 1**. Note that the writer Dorothy



**Figures 5 & 6:** Censored cover from England to Warner Oland. The cover was forwarded twice in the United States (front).



**Figure 7:** Another censored 1918 cover from Great Britain to the actor at the Pathe Exchange in New York City.



**Figure 8.** Movie poster of Warner Oland in his later career as “Charlie Chan.”

## SOLICITATIONS for 2017

Here are requests that we hope you will consider.

**FIRST**—2017 is the 100th Anniversary of the entry of the U.S. into WW I. We have turned this issue # 2 into a commemorative edition. The only way to successfully do that was to publish the edition featuring articles on U.S. facets of the war. Won't you take the time to thank the many contributors to this issue.

**SECOND** - For those of you going to the MPHS Annual Convention in Denver, we want you to join us at the RMPL on Friday night, May 26th. The cost will be \$50 per person, but I'll guarantee it'll be the most enjoyable \$50 you've spent in a long time on philatelic related activities. Besides that, we'd all like to see you!! **But please, please, do not dally in letting Sergio know that you'd like to participate.** I have to shell out \$2,500 for chartered bus transportation and the catered meal. I will not do that unless I have about 40 –45 people participating by about May 15th. Otherwise, I'll be forced to cancel.

**THIRD:** - Bob and I have completed a third update of the [Holiday Cards of WW I](#) webpage, bringing the total to roughly 300 cards. We continue to solicit submissions.

## Ax-Wielding New Englanders Early 'AEF' Arrivals in Britain

by Kevin Lowther

One of the least known American elements in the First World War was the New England Sawmill Unit. It was a non-military organization sent to northeastern Scotland to produce timber for the British and American Expeditionary Forces.

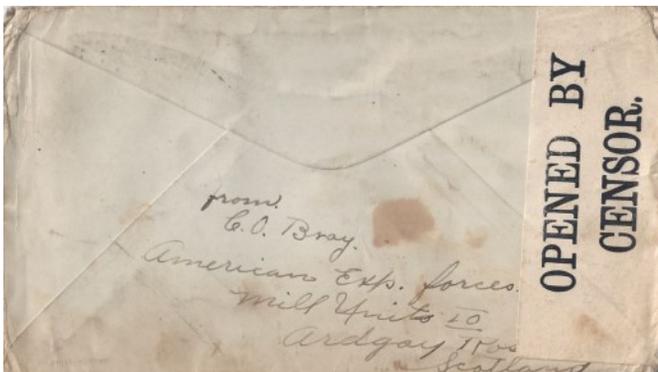
Ten mill teams, comprising 348 college students from Cornell, Harvard, Tufts, Maine and Oberlin, arrived in Liverpool on July 4, 1917. They were among the first Americans to cross the Atlantic—narrowly evading a German torpedo—following the United States' entry into the war. Their equipment arrived about a week later.

The scarce, censored cover shown below was posted in Ardgay, Rosshire, about 50 miles north of Inverness, presumably by a University of Maine "lumberjack." Ardgay was headquarters for the sawmill units. Each member signed a separate contract with the British Government, which expired on June 15, 1918. Following the termination of their contracts, about 200 decided then to enlist in the U. S. Army or Navy.

Seven of the ten units worked on the estate of Sir Charles Ross, inventor of the Ross rifle, with which Canadian troops initially were armed in WWI. The others worked on property owned by Scottish-born Andrew Carnegie.

In August 1917, General Order No. 108 established the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Forestry), which began sending men to France to cut timber and operate sawmills. They were AEF personnel, unlike those in Scotland. It is interesting to note, however, that the sender in Ardgay included "American Exp. Forces" in the return address.

These New Englanders, and the 20th Engineers joined the Spruce Battalions of the Northwest U.S. in harvesting forests for the wartime effort.



## What's Coming To You In Future Bulletins

In addition to the 12 pages of MPHS Society news and regular features, the following are in the next 4 issues (*subject to change*). **Bold titles indicate completed:**

**SUMMER (# 3, Jul. to Sept., 2017; release 8/10/17)**

- **The Brusilov Offensive—Part II** (Lugo)
- **Gunner's Mate, Chief Naval Clerk**
- **Quakers in the Spanish Civil War** (Byrne)
- **New Column: An Eye on Foreign Military Mail: French 1802 Letter Concerning Deserter** (Abrams)
- Pending - SS Appam
- Pending - Stars and Strife (Hoffmann/Richards)
- Pending: *Korean War Vet—Bury Me in Korea* (Albright)
- Pending - MPHS Auction (Delespesse)

**FALL (# 4, Oct. to Dec., 2017; release 11/10/17)**

- **Civilian Use of Military Mail—China 1937—The Pope's Wife** (Weirather)
- **APS Article on Espionage** (Berlin)
- **WW II German Air Field Post Service** (Abrams)
- **Postal History of the 1st Infantry Division** (Lugo)
- **An Eye on Foreign Military Mail**
- Pending: *Rear Guard Cover* (Kent)
- Pending: *Colonial Armies of IndoChina prior to 1954*
- Pending: *AFS Friends in World War I*
- *"Gladian" Shootdown Correction* (Sanford)
- Pending: *WW II German Surrender—Marcophilately Radio Telegram* (Richards)
- Pending - MPHS Auction (Delespesse)
- Pending - Stars and Strife (Hoffmann/Richards)

**WINTER (# 1, Jan. to Mar., 2018; release 2/10/18)**

- Pending: *War Ration Auto Use Tags* (Lugo)
- **An Eye on Foreign Military Mail:**
- MPHS Cumulative Index: 2011—2017
- Pending - MPHS Auction (Delespesse)
- Pending - Stars and Strife (Hoffmann/Richards)
- *Puerto Rican Ghost Regiments of WW I* (Lugo)
- Pending: *Rear Guard Cover* (Kent)
- Pending: *Mexican National In U.S. Army (Bilingual)* (Lugo)
- Pending: *Brazilian Expeditionary Force*
- Pending: *Decline of Vichy France Overseas Empire* (Lugo)

**SPRING (# 2, Apr. to June., 2018; release 6/10/18)**

- Pending - MPHS Auction (Delespesse)
- Pending - Stars and Strife (Hoffmann/Richards)
- **An Eye on Foreign Military Mail:**
- Pending: *Rear Guard Cover* (Kent)

## 1917—The Fourth War Year

by Alfred F. Kugel

*Note: This article first appeared in the Collectors Club Philatelist, # 96 - 1, January - February, 2017. 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:

By the beginning of 1917, the combatants were all suffering from the severe loss of lives in the prior battles, for which little tangible reward had been forthcoming. However, the actual fighting had died down with neither side having been able to deliver a knockout blow. The troops were weary, morale was negative and the losses in men and materiel needed to be replaced. As was the case in the previous years, both sides were looking for some development that would provide hope for victory in the year ahead.

On the Western Front, the French decided to have a try at a strong offensive action. The role of General Nivelle had been enhanced as a result of his success in defending Verdun the prior year, and he elected to unleash a head-on attack on the Germans in the area of the Aisne River. A major assault began in April with over a million men. However, the defenses were on the alert and the French suffered such heavy casualties that the offensive was called off after ten days. Even more serious was the fact that refusal to obey orders by French infantrymen could be observed as confidence in the generalship began to wane, and this problem would only get worse as the months went by.

Although Russia could still field a large army, its fighting prowess was greatly weakened by heavy casualties and then the first revolution in March 1917, which led to the abdication of the Czar. Later in the year, the Bolshevik revolution in November brought Vladimir Lenin to power, who believed that Russia needed to withdraw from the war so that he could consolidate his rule at home. As a result, he signed an Armistice with the Central Powers in December 1917, which was followed up by the Peace Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918.

Events took place in the Balkans and the Near East during 1917 that didn't change the strategic situation in the short run but suggested that more promising developments might occur in the following year. Most important were a change in government in Greece, which led to that country joining the Allies in July, and the liberation of Palestine and Mesopotamia.

### Unrestricted Submarine Warfare:

Having failed to break the British blockade in the head-to-head naval battle at Jutland, the Germans decided to adopt a new strategy in the program to sharply reduce or cut off the essential supplies of food, medicines and war materiel arriving in Britain by ship. The German U-boats had been successful in sinking many British and other Allied cargo vessels, but supplies continued to arrive in neutral shipping. The German Navy believed that the U-boat used sufficiently aggressively would be a war-winning weapon. The government was less convinced but, as the stalemate on the Western Front wore on, the Kaiser and members of the Reichstag became more willing. The case was made that the loss of imports would force the British to negotiate an armistice before the arrival of American troops could tip the balance on the ground. As a result, the Imperial government declared a new "War Zone" around the British Isles effective on February 1, 1917, which meant that ships in that area flying any flag would be subject to attack, a course almost sure to cause trouble with the Americans.

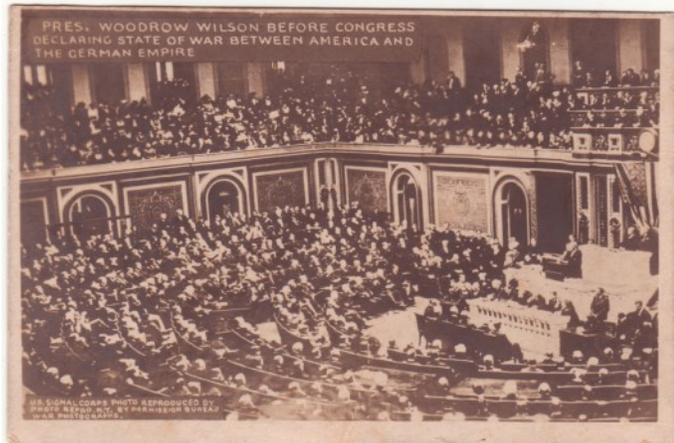
### America Joins the War:

Obviously, the most important strategic development of this part of the war was the entry into the fray of the United States on April 6, 1917. While it would take some time for the Americans to get geared up for large-scale combat, this event guaranteed that the Allies would be able to draw upon vast new production capacity of war materiel and, once trained, relatively unlimited manpower, neither of which was available to the Central Powers. As a result, it can be argued that the eventual outcome of the war had actually been determined at that point although no one yet knew it.

After the war started in mid-1914, the United States had remained neutral for nearly three years. This reflected the desire of most Americans to stay aloof from European problems and was reinforced by the fact that the country was populated by large numbers of immigrants from countries on both sides of the conflict. In fact, President Wilson won reelection in November 1916 largely with a boost provided by the political slogan that "He kept us out of war."

However, it would be fair to state that public sentiment had gradually shifted to a more pro-Allied stance, especially when a German submarine torpedoed the *S.S. Lusitania* in the spring of 1915 with the loss of 128 American lives, and as there were reports of atrocities committed during the German occupation of Belgium (no doubt involving some exaggeration on the part of British propagandists). This feeling was compounded when the Imperial government announced unrestricted submarine warfare in January 1917, putting American-flagged vessels at risk.

When the fifth U.S. merchant ship had been sunk, President Wilson decided that enough was enough and asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany on the basis that “the world must be made safe for democracy.” The resolution was enacted on April 6, which action is shown on a photo postcard (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1:** Photo postcard of the American Declaration of War

Considering that the U.S. Army at the beginning of the war in 1914 was extremely weak—fewer than 130,000 men—mostly assigned to forts located throughout the western states and overseas in the newly-acquired Philippine Islands, a major task would lie ahead for the War Department to create a force of sufficient size and training to compete in European-scale warfare.

In fact, the U.S. appeared sufficiently weak militarily that it has been reported that when Kaiser Wilhelm was warned that his adoption of unrestricted submarine warfare and the associated sinking of American ships could provoke U.S. entry into the war, he was not impressed and is quoted as responding “I do not care.” Well, maybe he should have!



**Figure 2:** Photo postcard of the lead contingent of the A.E.F. marching in Paris in June 1917.

However, to build an effective U.S. fighting force, men would need to be drafted and volunteers enlisted in unprecedented numbers, and numerous training camps would be opened, both at home and in Britain and France. All of this would take a good deal of time and effort, but it would happen. In the meantime, a small number of regular army troops were sent to France, arriving on June 25. In order to boost French morale, they conducted a parade in Paris as a propaganda move to indicate that support for France would be coming (**Figure 2**).

To meet the anticipated demand for mail service from the troops arriving in France, a network of Army Post Offices was created, with the first opening in St. Nazaire in July 1917. **Figure 3** shows a soldier's letter with the earliest recorded date from APO No.1 on the 28th of July.



**Figure 3:** Cover showing ERD of APO # 1 in St. Nazaire, France.

### The French Offensive in the West:

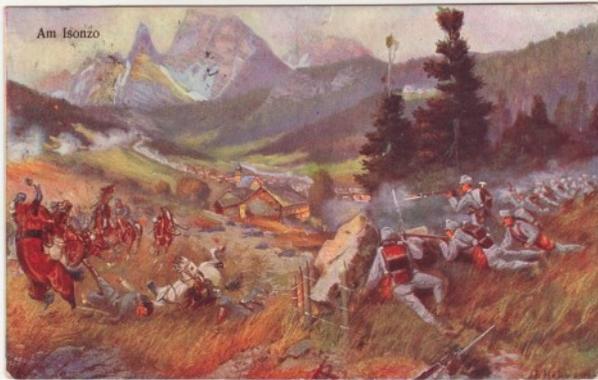
The so-called Nivelle Offensive took place in April 1917 along the Aisne River, involving more than a million men and the first French use of tanks in the war. Much like the British on the Somme in 1916, there was a tremendous artillery bombardment prior to the attack but the German defense was up to the task, with the men being well protected and thus able to deal with the advance of the infantry. In ten days, the French casualties totaled 134,000, of which 80 percent were suffered on the very first day of the battle. In the face of such bloodletting and only minor gains on the ground, the French High Command was forced to end the offensive relatively quickly.

Nevertheless, with the leaders seemingly unable to come up with a new, potentially more successful strategy, the same pattern seen in the prior years continued elsewhere, with mighty struggles in such places as Ypres, Neuve-Chapelle and Champagne. As before, these produced great loss of life but achieved little in terms of a

change in the strategic positions. In fact, for more than three years until the spring of 1918, with few exceptions the trench lines on the Western front did not change by as much as ten miles. The seemingly endless losses on the battlefield with little to show for it had significant negative effects on French military morale, leading to insubordination, refusal to follow orders and other signs of mutiny as men lost confidence in their leaders. This was to be a problem when decisions needed to be made about subsequent action in the period ahead.

### Breakthrough at Caporetto:

The situation on the Southwest Front between Italy and Austria-Hungary was essentially a standoff in 1915 and 1916, described by one observer as "...a vast war of attrition along a wide front without any penetration in depth, but with heavy losses..." A picture postcard (Figure 4) shows action on the Italian Front.



**Figure 4:** Picture postcard showing Austro-Hungarian forces along the Isonzo front.

However, the Austrians, stiffened by the inclusion of the German 14th Army, had built up their forces in the area for a surprise attack on the Italians. This was unleashed at Caporetto on October 24 and, by the time its momentum was spent, the advance had taken them to the Piave River, less than 20 miles from Venice. The Western Allies became alarmed by the threat to the Italians, and they responded with quick reinforcements by British, French and even some American troops. As a result, by December 1 the situation on that front ended up in another stalemate that lasted until mid-1918. Figure 5 shows a parcel address card franked with Austrian stamps for use in the occupied zone of Italy.

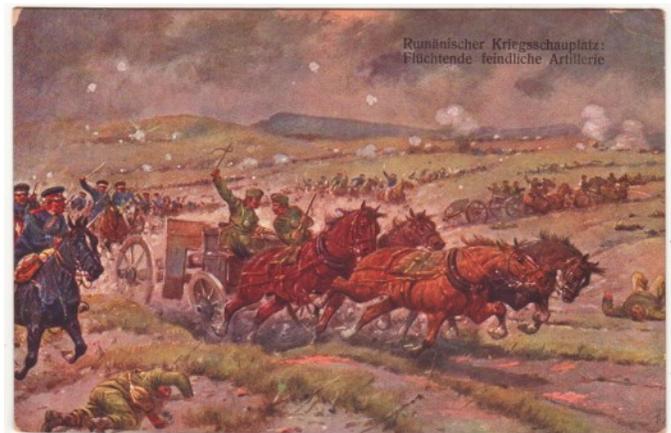
### Romania is Overrun:

Romania had joined the Allies on August 27, 1916, on the promise of substantial new territories to be transferred from the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the war. However, its army was unable to make much



**Figure 5:** Parcel address card from the Austrian occupation of Venetia.

progress in its early advance into Transylvania and soon faced defeat as a result of an Austro-German offensive led by Field Marshal von Mackensen from the west and the Bulgarians attacking from the south. Figure 6 is a picture postcard depicting the retreat of the Romanian army. The capital of Bucharest was captured on December 6, 1916. Figure 7 shows a censored cover with the three German stamps issued on July 2, 1917, for the occupied area; the overprint has the initials "M.V.i.R." of the German wording for Military Administration in Romania. The Austrians also issued stamps for occupied Romania.



**Figure 6:** Picture postcard of Romanian army in retreat.

With the Bulgarians moving north, the defending Russo-Romanian forces abandoned the Dobrudja in January 1917. Figure 9 shows a cover with the set of four Bulgarian stamps overprinted for use in Romania. Resistance continued for some months but was undermined by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in November 1917, which led to the withdrawal of all Russian forces helping to

defend Romania shortly thereafter. The Romanian army was thus isolated and signed an armistice with the Central Powers at Focsani on December 9, 1917. The withdrawal of Romania from the war was confirmed by the Treaty of Bucharest signed on May 7, 1918.

**Figures 7 to 9 (below):** # 7 shows a German cover with stamps issued for Romania; # 8 shows a money letter with Austrian stamps issued for Romania; # 9 shows a Bulgarian cover with stamps issued for Romania.



### The Allied Base at Salonica:

Greece was something of a conundrum for much of the war. The government was officially neutral, but the Allies suspected it of a pro-German bias, especially as the Queen of Greece was a sister of the Kaiser. However, there was considerable pro-Allied sentiment in the country and among many of the political leaders. The British and French adopted a rather high-handed attitude with Greece, initially using the island of Corfu as a base for the rest and rehabilitation of the Serbian Army in Exile, which had been evacuated by Allied ships from Albania. Later, a large base for a mélange of Allied troops (British, French, Italian, Russian and Serbian) was created at Salonica in spite of Greek objections. Eventually, a pro-Allied government was installed at that city under Prime Minister Venezelos. In time, however, support for King Constantine diminished and he was forced to abdicate on June 25, 1917. At this point, the Venezelists were able to take power in Athens, and the new parliament voted to declare war on Germany on July 2.

For a long time the Allied force at Salonica was primarily engaged in training and conducting maneuvers, so much so that the place was derided by the Germans as a huge concentration camp with large numbers of soldiers doing nothing. However, the presence of thousands of Allied troops in that area did prevent the Bulgarians from occupying even more of Greek Macedonia, and the Austrians from occupying southern Albania. Eventually, however, Salonica served as the jumping-off point for the Allied offensive in the Balkans that would ultimately be instrumental in driving Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria out of the war in late 1918.

**Figure 10:** Picture postcard of British troops entering Jerusalem.



### Liberation of the Holy Land:

The Sinai Desert proved to be as much of a barrier to the British in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in its intended invasion of Palestine in 1917 as it had been to the Turkish attack on the Suez Canal in 1915. The main problem was how to support sufficient forces to accomplish the primary objectives in a desert environment essentially devoid of water and with virtually no roads. The British eventually solved these problems by building a narrow-gauge railway to carry supplies and a pipeline along the coast across the peninsula to move fresh water for the men and horses.

As it turned out, the early attacks were stymied outside the Ottoman base at Gaza for nine months. However, in a new assault started on October 31, 1917, the EEF managed a successful flanking movement through Beer-sheba that threatened to cut the Turkish supply line. This forced a withdrawal from Gaza on November 7 and opened the gate to Palestine, of which the British quickly took advantage. As a result, Jerusalem was captured on December 9, the announcement of which was described by Prime Minister Lloyd George as a "Christmas Present" for the war-weary British people. Much of the rest of Central Palestine was quickly occupied in the ensuing weeks. **Figure 10** shows a picture postcard of the official entry of General Allenby at the Jaffa Gate into Jerusalem.

### Advance in Mesopotamia:

After being resupplied, the Indian Expeditionary Force resumed its advance up the Tigris River, finally capturing Baghdad on March 11, 1917. **Figure 11** is a picture postcard of General Maude's entry into the city. To celebrate this achievement, the British overprinted Turkish stamps with "Baghdad/In British Occupation" which were issued on September 1, 1917. **Figure 12** shows a cover franked with these stamps. This event was not so important



**Figure 11:** Picture postcard of General Maude's entry into Baghdad on March 11, 1917.

in itself, but it would provide a base for the eventual assault northward that drove Turkey out of the war late in the following year.



**Figure 12:** Cover bearing British occupation stamps issued celebrating the takeover of Baghdad.

### Russia Leaves the War:

1917 was a very difficult year for Russia. Although its army was still large, a high proportion of its best soldiers had been killed or become POWs in Germany as a result of earlier battles, and there were severe logistical problems causing shortages of arms, ammunition, food and supplies of all kinds. As a result, there was no real possibility of significant offensive action. In fact, disobedience by the troops and desertions (2 million in 1917 alone) were common events. In this environment, the Germans adopted a laid-back approach, essentially avoiding casualties while watching the Russian army disintegrate on its own. In fact, the only noteworthy action was the occupation of Riga, the capital of Latvia, on September 3.



**Figure 13:** Picture postcard of Russian revolutionaries attacking the Kremlin.

On the home front, the situation was even worse as the population was extremely war-weary and there were riots in Petrograd and other cities where shortages of food, fuel and other essential goods were blamed on the Imperial government. Thus, the country was ripe for revolution, which came to a head in March. The Czar was forced to abdicate on March 15, and a Provisional Government headed by Georgy Lvov of the Constitutional Democratic Party was formed. Although this provisional government was committed to continuing the war, it was unable to do much in that regard or to solve the basic problems. In due course, Lvov was replaced by Alexander Kerensky in July, but he was also unsuccessful.

In the meantime, the Germans sent Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the radical left Bolsheviks, by sealed train from exile in Switzerland to Petrograd, where he agitated against the Provisional Government and the war effort, demanding "Bread and Peace." As a result, a second revolution brought the Bolsheviks to power on November 7, thus changing the history of the world for the next 70 years. **Figure 13** shows a picture postcard of revolutionaries attacking the Kremlin in November 1917.

Lenin realized that he needed to take Russia out of the war in order to consolidate his power at home. He signed an armistice with the Germans in December, which was confirmed by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918 (see **Figure 14**).



**Figure 14:** Picture postcard of the Russian delegation arriving at Brest-Litovsk for the peace talks.

Under its provisions, the Russians gave up all territorial claims to the Baltic States, Bessarabia, Ukraine, Transcaucasia and other areas populated by non-Russian ethnic groups. **Figure 15** shows a map of the territories given up by Russia as a result of the Treaty.

#### Summary:

The year 1917 was likely a very frustrating period for both sides in the conflict, with little apparent progress

toward an end to the bloodletting. There were both favorable and unfavorable aspects for both sides, but nothing that was decisive in a near-term sense. The Allies could take heart from the liberation of Palestine and Mesopotamia as well as the enlistment of Greece, while the Germans could celebrate the victories in Italy and Romania. By far the most important news, however, was the Americans entering the war and the Russians leaving. These events would have an important bearing on what would happen in 1918. The armistice on the Eastern Front provided the resources for a final German offensive in the West in the first half of that year, and the entry of the United States provided the manpower for a turning of the tide on the Western Front in the second half, which eventually ended the war.



**Figure 15:** Map of territories surrendered by Russia in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

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## 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 will receive. Please submit your article to Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246. Phone: 303-552-8897, or digitally to my e-mail address at [lugopspe@q.com](mailto:lugopspe@q.com). No responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Enclose stamped, self addressed return envelope with correspondence for any return mail

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### DEADLINES

| Issue  | Article Deadline to Editor and Revisions | Bulletin in Member Hands |              |
|--------|--|--------------------------|--------------|
|        |  | Digital;                 | Hard Copy    |
| Winter | January 20 to 25                         | Early February           | Mid February |
| Spring | March 10                                 | March 30                 | April 6      |
| Summer | July 20 to 25                            | Early August             | Mid August   |
| Fall   | October 20 to 25                         | Early November           | Mid November |

## E-mails to the Editor

Your thoughts on the articles and presentations in the *Bulletin* are solicited. 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, punctuations, 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.

Comments via e-mail to [lugopspe@q.com](mailto:lugopspe@q.com):  
2/19/2017

**John Wakelin** wrote regarding the last issue's article on Keep Em Flying. Thanks for the most entertaining article. Hidden in my covers was one with a meter slogan encouraging young adults to become Army pilots. The slogan cancel, preceded by the Keep Em Flying legend was used in 1942. I wonder if the intent of encouraging youngsters to become US Army pilots was the original intent or just an extension of the slogan. Again many thanks for a great article. **Sergio Lugo** replies Thank you, John—it looks like you really enjoyed it. The slogan was attributable to a Boeing airplane plant in 1940, wherein management was trying to boost production line morale by introducing the slogan. As you can see, the slogan found many

E-Mails to the Editor continued:

proponents to repeat it in different situations.  
2/20/2017

**Hal Vogel** answered the quixotic item of the issue from issue # 1, 2017. Hal wrote: The incident to which you make reference on page 25 of the current issue of the MPHS *Bulletin* was called the Dogger Bank Incident, in which Imperial Russian warships (during Russo-Japanese [1904-05] War) mistakenly fired on British fishing vessels out of Hull in the North Sea, believing them to be Japanese vessels. A few fisherman and some aboard the Russian ships (friendly fire incident) were killed. **Sergio's response:** Thanks Hal for taking the time to write back. A memorable affair (to Russia's chagrin) commemorated by post cards of the day.

**LOOKING FOR** Seeking covers/postcards from the Polish town of Jedwabne from 1939-45. Same for Zambrow. Carl Barna, [cbarna@hotmail.com](mailto:cbarna@hotmail.com)."

### LOOKING FOR

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### NEW MPHS BULLETIN COLUMN BEING ADDED

We're adding another regular columnist to the MPHS *Bulletin*. He's John Abrams, and he'll be writing a column on foreign military mail entitled "Eye on Foreign Military Mail." His first column in the 3rd issue, 2017 will focus on a Napoleonic War letter of 1801 searching for a deserter. Please welcome John.

## Secretary Volunteer Needed

**And the time is now!**

### Secretary duties

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Contact President Ed Dubin

Email address = [dubine@comcast.net](mailto:dubine@comcast.net)

**Don't dilly dally! Thank you**

## Philatelic Militaria

by Alan Warren

[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 complete articles can usually be obtained through the American Philatelic Research Library, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823.]

**Robert B. Galland** tells the story of **undeliverable British mail of World War II** in the February *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. He describes and illustrates many examples including stopped in the country of origin, intercepted enroute, addressee not found, missing or killed in action, and POW among others.

**Richard Logan** recounts in detail the Canadian forces efforts in the **Battle of Vimy Ridge in WW I**, in the January-February *Canadian Philatelist*. April 9, 2017 marks the centenary of this campaign. The site is 175 kilometers north of Paris. The Germans put up amazing resistance but within two days the ridge and a nearby hill were in Canadian hands.

Some of the difficulties in **sending mail abroad during WW I** are described by **Kevin Lowther** in the January *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*. Among the unusual destinations and the problems they encountered were East Siberia, Algeria, Greece, Eritrea, and German East Africa.

**Kevin Lowther's** focus on WW I continues in the February *American Stamp Dealer & Collector*. This time he examines **mail of American medical personnel serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France**. **Jon Johnson** discusses the **Canadian hospital ship *Letitia*** in the January issue of the *Canadian Military Mail Study Group newsletter*. During WW II *Letitia* normally brought Canadian wounded back to Halifax. However she was also used on occasion to transport German POWs to Marseilles in exchange for Allied POWs who were then taken to England.

In the March *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, **Edward Klempka** presents the first part in a series on **Military intervention in Russia 1917-1922 during the Russian Revolution**. In this installment he discusses establishment of British army and field post offices in Northern Russia, Japanese forces in Vladivostok, and the Czech forces in Siberia, showing examples of associated mail.

**Erland Hansen** illustrates several **covers with censorship markings** from the Orange Free States / Orange River Colony during the **Boer War** in the March issue of *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, published by the Copenhagen Philatelic Club in Denmark. Examples shown include Boer censoring, British military censorship, and markings of Jagersfontein, Kroonstad, and Ladybrand among others.

## On the Show Circuit

by Alan Warren

[Note: The purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of MPHS members the awards obtained in recent shows for exhibits that are basically about military postal history. This may include exhibits by non-members. While there are many non-military related exhibits by members, these are not recorded here.]

**Robert Benninghoff** received a **gold** at **South-eastern Stamp Expo** in Atlanta in January with his **"The Irish War for Independence."** **Robert Rentsch** won a **large silver** and the **Path to Gold** award for **"1914-1920 German and Austrian Prisoners of War in Japan."** **Mel Dick** won a **vermeil** and the MPHS award at **Sandical** in San Diego in January with his **"The Postmarks and Cachets of the USS *Lexington*, 1928-1942."**

**Raymond Murphy** received a **large silver** and the **Auxiliary Markings Club single frame award** at the **Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition** in February for his **"Non-Standard Censorship of Mail in the Dependencies of Jamaica (Caymans and Turks, Caicos)."**

**Mark Banchik** walked off with a pile of awards at Aripex in Mesa, Arizona, in February with his **"Mexican-American War 1846-1848: How the U.S. Expanded across the Continent."** He received a **large gold**, the **APS pre-1900 medal of excellence**, the **MPHS award**, the **Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society silver**, the **U.S. Cancellation Club award**, and the **U.S. Philatelic Classics Society medal**. **Joe Youssefi** won a **large gold** and the **Postal History Society medal** with his **"Persia ROI: Rebellions, Occupations and Interventions."**

**Michael Dixon** took a **gold**, the **MPHS award**, the **APS research medal**, and the **APS 1900-1940 medal of excellence** at the **Texpex** show in Grapevine, Tex., in February with his **"Boer POW Camps in Ceylon 1900-1902."**

## BOOK REVIEW

by Alan Warren

***Holocaust Postal History*** by Justin Gordon. 188 pages, 8 ¾ by 11 ¼ inches, casebound, Sixpoint Watermark, Chicago, Ill., 2016. ISBN 978-0-9978401-0-0, \$29.95 plus \$4 shipping in USA, from Holocaust Postal History, c/o Justin Gordon, 3368 W. Devon Ave., Lincolnwood IL 60712, or [www.holpostal.com](http://www.holpostal.com).

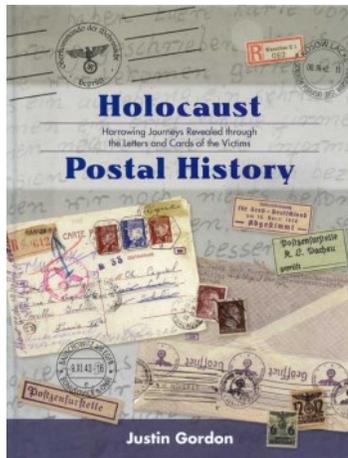
Stories of the Holocaust have been told using books, theatre, film, museums, exhibitions, art, music, i.e., just about every medium and genre. The purpose and scope of Justin Gordon's book is best described with its subtitle: "Harrowing Journeys Revealed through the Letters and

### Cards of the Victims.”

These written communications related to the Holocaust can also be used to tell these stories. Gordon has gone further by researching the senders and recipients of the postal history items he displays to bring the human element to our attention, thus intensifying the horrors that he unfolds. The material he describes combines both history and postal history through his research and analysis.

For many years the author informed youngsters and community groups about this monstrous blot on mankind in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He combines the subject of the Holocaust with his longtime interest in collecting stamps and postal history. He tells the story partly chronologically but also by topic.

Concomitant with the rise of Hitler and the Third Reich were the increasing propaganda and laws and decrees that victimized Jews. Anti-Semitic labels, early censorship, the establishment of camps, the enforced use of “Israel” and “Sara” as part of Jewish family names in correspondence, the confiscation of Jewish property and other restrictions are documented with covers. Many of the markings on the covers as well as the written contents and messages on cards and in letters are translated into English.



A chapter on ghettos reveals mail of relief organizations, censor markings, ghetto post offices and philatelic mail, Red Cross reply cards, special stamps and cancellations, and handling of incoming and outgoing mail. A chapter on Concentration Camps provides similar treatment with many examples of the special postcards that required personal identification details and forbade use of Yiddish or Hebrew—correspondence should be in German. Examples are seen from Dachau, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, Sachsenhausen, and Auschwitz.

Thus not all ghettos and camps are included. The author’s intent is to educate with specific examples of postal items. He also hopes to attract some non-collectors as some of his cover descriptions are often simplistic. He refers to the stamps shown as “Hitler heads” or “Hindenburg heads” and rate information is often lacking. Thus casual readers or collectors are not overwhelmed

with the minutiae of postal history.

One other category explored is the world of the Judenarbeitslager or special camps where Jews were assigned slave labor projects such as road improvement, major construction, agriculture, and factory work. Special postal cards were used and the author provides English translations of work assignment cachets, reply-instruction cachets, and similar markings.

One other interesting topic, titled “Unsung Heroes,” shows examples of mail of those who offered tireless support to their fellow Jews. This section includes Alfred Szwarcbaum and Abraham Silberschein in Switzerland, and the Kreh brothers in Italy. Two pieces of mail sent by displaced persons after the war ended are shown.

Appendices include abbreviations of currency for about a dozen countries mentioned in the book, a glossary of philatelic terms, a glossary of the postage stamps and stationery indicia illustrated on covers in the book, an extensive 12-page bibliography of resources, and an index.

The book is not intended to be a definitive history nor postal history of the Holocaust, but rather brings an immediacy to these topics by personalizing the senders and recipients, in other words the victims of these atrocities. Two of the book’s strengths are the English translations of the censorship markings, and the illustration of a wide variety of printed postcard and letter forms used by victims in camps and ghettos.

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## War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds- Funding the Great War

by Harry K. Charles, Jr., Ph. D.

### Introduction

As the United States became embroiled in World War I and U.S. troops began preparing to enter combat, Congress anticipated an immediate need for extra revenue (beyond normal Treasury receipts) to execute the war. The only way to raise the large amounts of needed money was through borrowing to cover the required deficit spending. Thomas Jefferson is often quoted as saying *“It is incumbent upon every generation to pay its own debts.”* He further went on to say *“Such a principle, if acted upon, would save one-half the wars of the world.”*

Congress knew that in order to borrow the needed money, the citizens of the United States had to fully support the war and be willing to pay for it, as the war was being fought. The War Savings Stamp program and Liberty Loan Drives of World War I were developed to fund the war by spreading the cost as widely as possible, while at the same time increasing public support and patriotism. The War Savings Stamp program and Liberty Loan drives literally reached every citizen with the message that everyone needed *“To do their part!”* by investing in War Savings Stamps (W.S.S.) and Liberty Bonds. The Liberty Loan drives will be discussed in detail below.

The Treasury Department established the War Savings Organization to promote and carry out the stamp sales program. Governmental, financial, business, service and fraternal committees were organized at every level from national to neighborhood to promote the sale of War Savings Stamps. Many citizen and business leaders served as sales agents. The youth of the nation was heavily recruited to buy stamps as their patriotic duty. Every household was targeted to buy War Savings stamps and bonds. Post carriers became mobile sales agents and the Boy Scouts canvassed almost every neighbor for sales.

The three letters W.S.S. (standing for War Savings Stamps) became the main logo of the stamp sales campaigns. The W.S.S. logo pervaded American life, appearing everywhere from pay envelopes to placards in windows. The ephemera<sup>1</sup>, associated with the W.S.S., is enormous and new material is being found almost daily. Some examples of the use of the W.S.S. logo are shown in **Figure 1**.

### War Savings Stamps

The Treasury Department, supported strongly by the Post Office Department<sup>2</sup>, began issuing \$5.00 War Savings Certificate Stamps and 25¢ Thrift Stamps in late 1917. The Thrift Stamps allowed the accumulation of the money to buy a War Savings Certificate Stamp in 25¢ increments. The War Savings Certificate stamps could ultimately be redeemed for Treasury Savings Certificates or on War



**Figure 1.** Examples of using the letters and logo for the War Savings System (W. S. S.) on everyday literature. *Top left:* brochure “Save Money....” was a pay envelope insert. *Top right:* A celluloid pocket and folder for holding 25¢ Thrift Stamps given out by a merchant. *Center:* typical W.S.S. message from a utility company on a monthly bill. *Bottom:* The two cards tout the importance of the Post Office in the W.S.S. effort— at left as a Registration point for Certificates and at right as a mobile sales agent for stamps.

Bonds. The 25¢ Thrift Stamp (Scott WS1) was issued December 1, 1917 (see **Figure 2**). It measures 28 mm wide by 19.5 mm high and was printed in sheets of 300 (subsequently divided into six panes of 50). The \$5.00 green War Savings Certificate Stamp (Scott WS2), featuring an engraved portrait of George Washington, is also illustrated in **Figure 2**. The \$5.00 stamp was issued on November 17, 1917 for use in 1918. It is a large stamp (39 mm wide by 55 mm high) and was printed in sheets of 80 stamps (subsequently divided into four panes of 20). A rouletted version of this green \$5.00

George Washington stamp also exists (Scott WS3)<sup>3</sup>. The remaining \$5.00 War Savings Certificate Stamps (Scott WS4-WS6) were issued in subsequent years (1919 through 1921) and are illustrated in **Figure 3**.

The \$5.00 values were worth \$4.00 at the beginning of their respective years and increased in value every month until they reached face value after five years. After this point they earned no further interest and needed to be redeemed or exchanged for a Treasury Certificate or War Bond. The 25¢ Thrift Stamps allowed small purchasers to accumulate the \$4.00 necessary to buy a \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp. The 25¢ Thrift Stamps paid no interest.

A national campaign was begun to sell two billion dollars' worth of War Savings Certificate Stamps. This was a formidable undertaking, since there was no national infrastructure to handle the sales. As mentioned above, The Treasury Department soon set up the War Savings Organization (WSO) using the Federal Reserve Districts and began



**Figure 2.** A plate number single, for the 25¢ Thrift Stamp (Scott no. WS1), is at the left. A plate number strip of the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp (Scott no. WS2, Series 1918) is at the right.

marketing the Thrift Savings Stamps widely, through the WSO's volunteer army of sales agents. The Post Office was a major sales outlet, not only having savings stamp sales and registration windows, but also acting as mobile stamp agents with at-home delivery (See the two cards at the bottom in **Figure 1**). Both the War Savings Organizations and the Post Offices were highly successful and sold millions of stamps. Most of these stamps were redeemed for their cash values, and, thus, they are relatively scarce. It should be pointed out that while the War Savings Stamp program raised a lot of money and created popular support for the war effort, it was enormously costly and inefficient and consumed an inordinate amount of people's time.

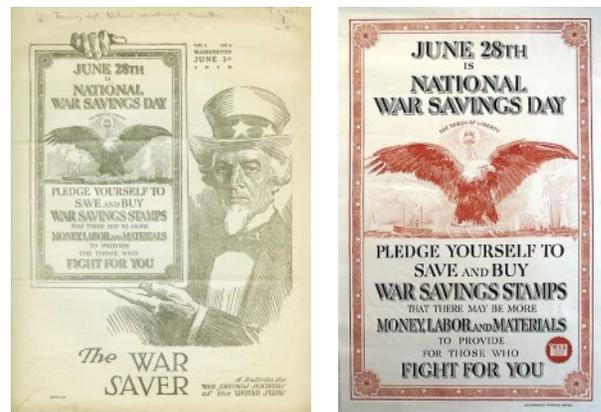
Businesses supported the stamp sales drives by not only selling stamps (many firms were government authorized sales agents) but also running advertisements, handing out literature, and placing

stickers on their bills exhorting the public to buy savings stamps. Fraternal and benevolent organizations entered into the sales campaigns supporting



**Figure 3.** \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps of years 1919 through 1921 (Scott nos. WS4 to WS6) are shown from left to right, respectively.

both stamp sales and their distribution. Placards and signs were displayed in every possible location (store windows, home windows, on billboards, in elevators, etc.) so that every citizen was fully informed of the stamp drive and encouraged to purchase stamps to their limits. President Wilson actually declared a National Savings Day (June 28, 1918) where every citizen was asked to purchase at least one savings stamp. An announcement for the National Savings Day is shown on the cover of the *War Saver* newsletter in **Figure 4**

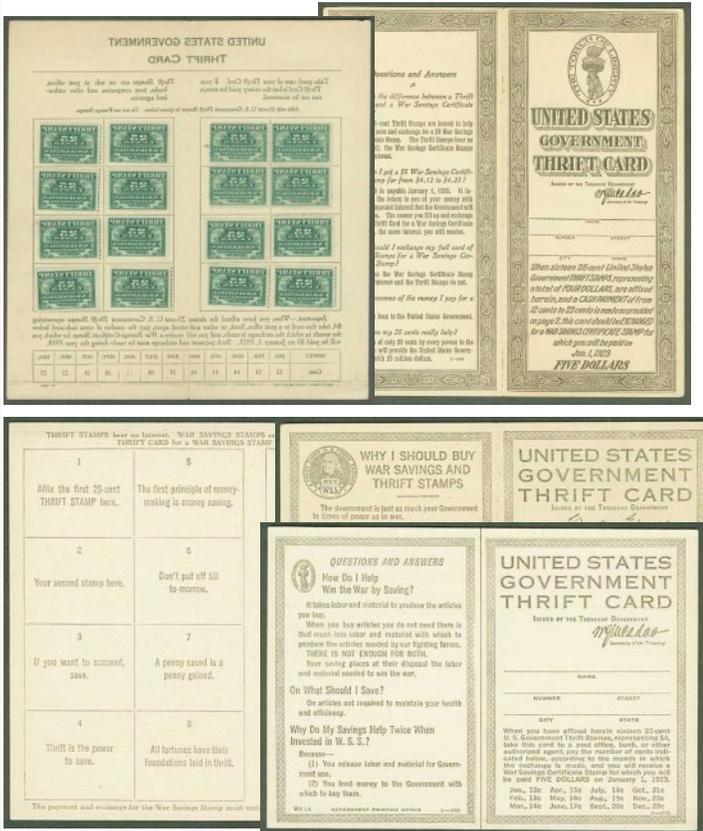


**Figure 4.** Cover of the Treasury Department's Newsletter *The War Saver* proclaiming the National War Savings Day on June 28, 1918. The newsletter shows "Uncle Sam" holding the poster of the National War Savings Day shown at right. Note the W.S.S. circular seal (lower right) on the actual poster.

For the 25¢ Thrift Stamp, the United States Treasury produced a bi-fold savings card called a "United States Government Thrift Card." The Thrift Card came in two major formats – large (41 mm wide x 193 mm tall, folded) and small (76 mm wide x 109 mm tall, folded), plus several varieties.<sup>4</sup> Each Thrift Card held sixteen 25¢ Thrift stamps, which accumulated the required \$4.00 necessary

to purchase a \$5.00 War Savings Certificate Stamp. Examples of the large and small Thrift cards are shown in **Figure 5**.

Each of the stamp spaces on both the large and small Thrift Card contains sayings promoting savings and thrift. The sayings are the same on both the large and small Thrift Cards except for space number 9. On the small Thrift Card space 9 reads “Many a mickle makes a muckle” while on the large Thrift Card it reads “Many a little makes a mickle”.<sup>5</sup> All of the Thrift Cards were printed in black ink on buff card stock. Some large Thrift Cards have pre-printed

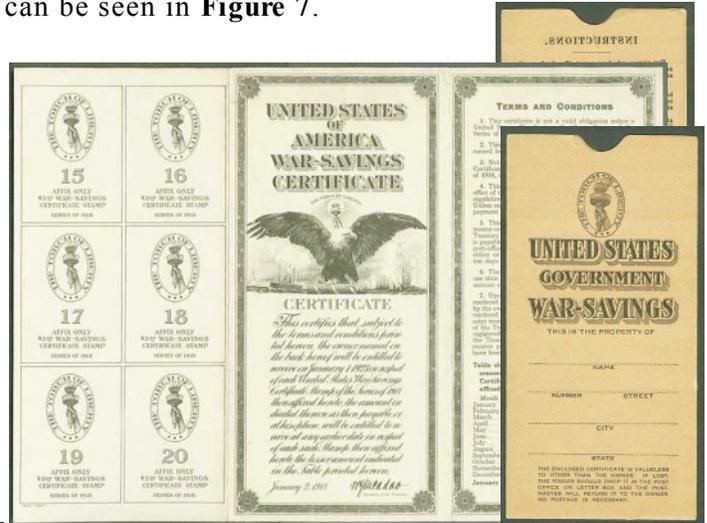


**Figure 5.** The card at the top left is the interior of a filled large Thrift Card holding sixteen 25¢ Thrift Stamps (total of \$4.00). The card at top right is the exterior of an unused large Thrift Card. Small Thrift Cards are shown at the bottom. There are two different outside designs (front and back) with a common interior holding sixteen 25¢ Thrift Stamps (left).

serial numbers in black or blue ink and others do not. The author has not seen a small Thrift Card with a pre-printed serial number.

For the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate Stamp issued in November of 1917, a tri-fold collection certificate (WSC Form 1) was used as shown in **Figure 6**. The certificate held 20 stamps and measured 293 mm wide x 203 mm tall open and 78 mm wide x 203 mm tall folded. It was printed with black ink on buff paper. The certificate features an engraved bald eagle on its front with the Statue of

Liberty’s torch on each of the 20 stamp spaces as shown in **Figure 6**. An envelope given to customers to hold their War Savings collection certificates is also shown in **Figure 6**. The front and back of a filled and cancelled certificate is shown in **Figure 7**. WSC Form 1 typically had a serial number printed in red on the central interior panel where the owner’s information was entered. Such a serial number can be seen in **Figure 7**.



**Figure 6.** Collection Certificate for Scott WS2 stamps and certificate storage envelope (Front and back). **Figure 7 (below)** is a filled and cancelled WSC Form 1, with twenty 1918 Series \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamps. Note the red control number (No. 00772550). The office and registration numbers have been hand written on each stamp in red crayon.



There is an unusual three-line cancel that appears on a few WS2 stamps. The cancel contains the words “PAYMENT REFUSED FOR CAUSE” and was stamped in red ink over Washington’s portrait. Such a stamp is shown in **Figure 8**. The reason for this message is given in the 1920 *United States Official Postal Guide (Section 101)* quoted on the next page:

**101. Refusal noted on certificates.**—In any such case when payment of an unregistered war savings certificate is refused and the person presenting it demands its return, the postmaster shall, before returning the certificate, stamp or write on the certificate and on each stamp affixed thereto the words “Payment refused for cause.” The holder should then be advised to take up any question of adjustment with the Secretary of the Treasury, Division of Loans and Currency, Washington, D. C. Rubber stamps for making the prescribed notation will be furnished by the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Equipment and Supplies, on requisition, to the postmaster at any office where there is frequent need for the use of such a stamp. Postmasters at all money-order offices are cautioned not to pay any war savings certificates or stamps bearing the words “Payment refused for cause,” except on receipt of special authority to do so in each case. Reasons for refusal included improper proof of certificate ownership, altered or erased certificate information, and other indicators of fraud.



**Figure 8.** \$5.00 Series 1918 War savings Certificate stamp marked with a “PAYMENT REFUSED FOR CAUSE” hand stamp.

Stamps on valid certificates were cancelled usually in pen or crayon with the office number and/or registration number (of the certificate) written on each one. Examples of such registration cancelling is shown in **Figure 7**. Registration protected the owner from loss, theft or fraudulent use. **Figure 1** has an illustration of a man registering his War Savings stamp certificate at the Post Office.

The \$5.00 War Savings stamp for 1919 (Scott WS4) was blue in color and was issued July 3, 1919. The stamps (27 mm x 36mm) were printed from 150-subject plates and divided into six panes of 25 stamps each. It contained a portrait of Benjamin Franklin and the customary inscription “\$5 and Series of 1919” as shown in **Figure 3**. Counterfeit examples of WS4 exist and were used to defraud money from unwary savers. These stamps could be bought at a deep discount (below \$4.00), thus promising the buyer extraordinary profits when redeemed

(typically one to five years later, at which time the seller was long gone). Unfortunately, the stamps were frauds and confiscated by the government whenever they appeared for redemption. An example of a counterfeit WS4 is illustrated in **Figure 9** along with a genuine WS4 for comparison.

The certificate for WS4 is shown in **Figure 10** (next page left). It is a bi-fold engraved design



**Figure 9.** Counterfeit WS4 War Savings Certificate stamp is shown on the left. Compared to the genuine stamp on the right, the paper is beige rather than white, the engraving of Franklin’s hair has less detail, and the numbers appear less sharp.

measuring 195 mm x 202 mm open (88 mm x 202 mm folded) and is printed with blue ink on buff paper. The Series of 1919 is featured prominently on the front. An eagle’s head appears between the words “United” and “States.” Again, Liberty’s torch is featured in each of the stamp spaces. Each certificate has also been given a seven-digit serial number on the front. The interior of this collection Certificate is also shown in **Figure 10**.

The 1920 \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp (Scott WS5) was carmine in color (as shown in **Figure 3**) and was issued on December 11, 1919. The stamp was 36 mm x 41½ mm in size and printed with 100-subject plates (four panes of 25). The stamp, again, contained a portrait of Washington and was inscribed “\$5 and Series of 1920.”

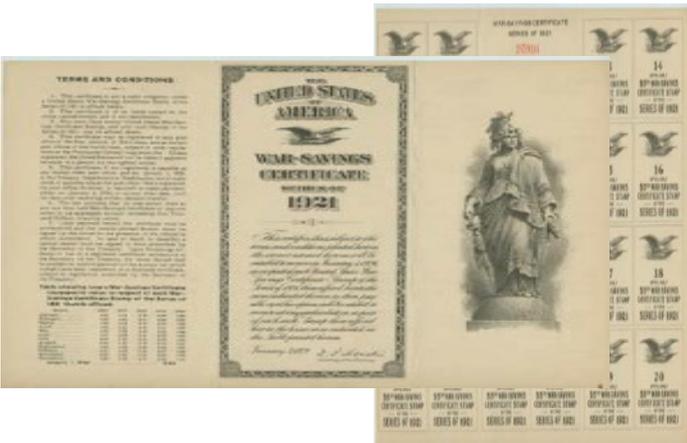
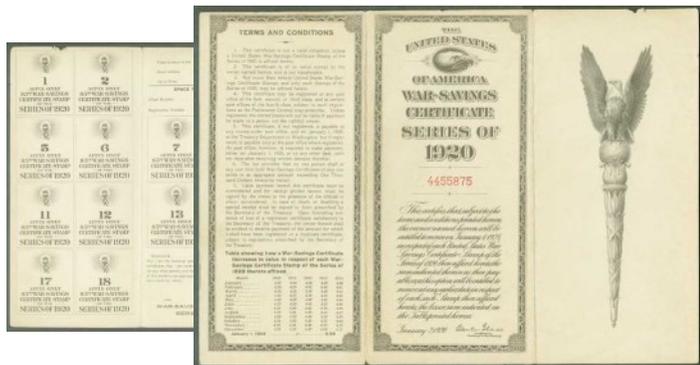
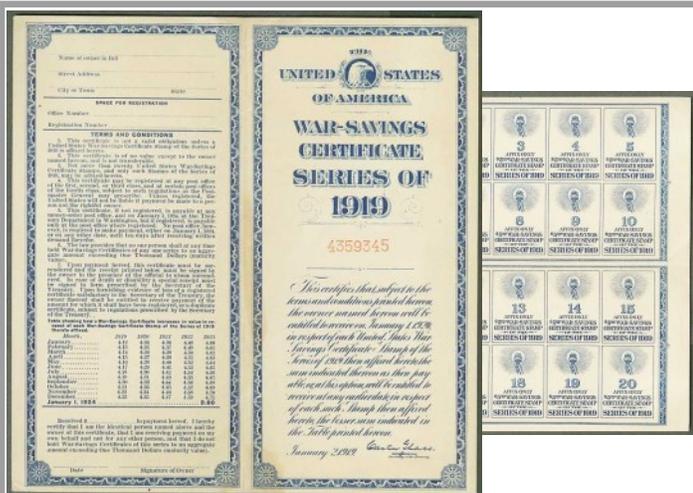
The collection Certificate for the 1920 War Savings Certificate stamp resorted to the previous tri-fold design as shown in **Figure 10** (middle). It measures 260 mm wide x 203 mm high open (86 mm wide x 203 mm high folded) and was printed in black ink on buff paper. The front features an eagle’s head, the “Series of 1920,” and a seven-digit serial number. The interior features 20 stamp spaces marked with Liberty’s torch. One panel of the tri-fold features an engraved eagle perched on the top of a scepter (**Figure 10** Center). The front contains the pre-printed serial number in red.

The last War Savings Certificate stamp

a year, few were purchased and even less exist in collector's hands, thus making it relatively rare.

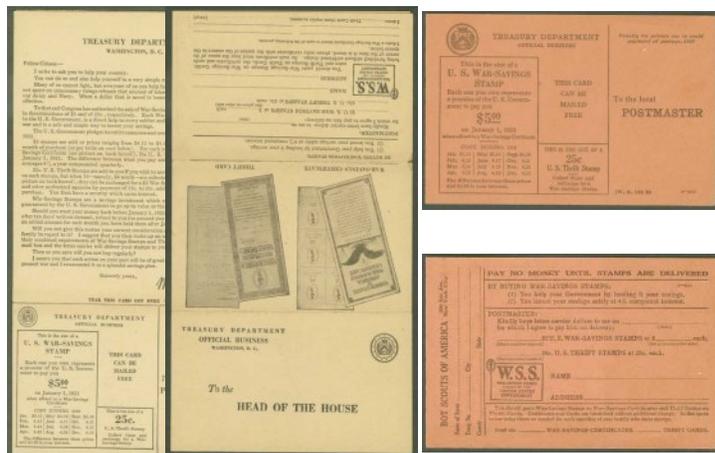
**Figure 10** (bottom) illustrates the collection certificate supplied for WS6. It is a tri-fold design measuring 260 mm wide x 203 mm high open (86 mm wide x 203 mm high folded). It was printed in black ink on buff paper. The front features an eagle<sup>7</sup> carrying the American flag and the prominent "Series of 1921." A serial number in red is printed on the interior central panel containing the owner information. The interior features the cover eagle in each of the 20 spaces. One of the panels is a beautiful engraving of the Statue of Freedom [8] perched on the U.S. Capitol dome.

Numerous official documents that are closely related to the War Savings Stamps (WS1-6) exist. **Figure 11** on the left illustrates the front and back of a tri-fold post card form (138 mm x 239 mm) that was left in household mailboxes or mailed to the head of the household (Form WS136). This form solicited the purchase of the 25¢ Thrift stamp and the \$5.00 War Savings Certificate Stamp. The card pictured both a large Thrift Card and the tri-fold card for saving the green \$5.00 War Savings Certificate stamp. The lower portion of Form WS136 was separable and could be mailed to the local postmaster requesting stamps. These stamps would then be delivered by the postal carrier who would collect the money. Similar other mail-in postcards also exist. For example Postcard W.S. 138R is illustrated in **Figure 11** below and measures 132 mm x 88 mm and has a GPO number (2-4161)



**Figure 10.** At the top are the interior and exterior of bi-fold collection certificate for the \$5.00 blue War Savings Certificate stamp. The tri-fold collection certificate for the \$5.00 carmine stamp is at center. The tri-fold certificate for the \$5.00 orange on green paper War Savings Certificate stamp is at the bottom.

(Scott WS6) was issued December 21, 1920. It was a \$5.00 stamp printed in orange on green un-watermarked paper (see **Figure 3**). The stamp design was 39½ x 42 mm, printed from a 100-subject plate (subsequently divided into four panes of 25). The portrait was that of Abraham Lincoln. The inscriptions included "\$5" and "Series of 1921." As the last stamp issued<sup>6</sup> and WW I had been over for



**Figure 11.** Left: Form WS136 mailed to the "Head of the House" to solicit the purchase of 25¢ Thrift stamps and \$5.00 Series 1918 War Savings Certificate stamps. The form was separable with a mail in post card. The collection cards for each stamp type are illustrated. Right: Form W.S. 138R used by Boy Scouts to promote purchases of Thrift and War Savings Certificate stamps.

on the front. It was made for the use of the Boy Scouts<sup>9</sup>, who were instrumental in soliciting donations to the war effort. Scouts would deliver these cards door-to-door as well as distribute them at town meetings and other social gatherings.

Note the boxed W.S.S. logo with the Statue of Liberty's torch on the back of the W.S. 138R postcard in **Figure 11**. The W.S.S. logo was prominently featured on most if not all of the savings stamp promotional material. Every individual and household was targeted (see WS136 form above). In addition to households and adults, two other groups played a key role in fund raising efforts and distribution of the thrift message. These groups were the businesses and the children in school.

Businesses co-operated with the war stamp fund raising efforts by selling stamps and putting the "Buy W.S.S." message in front of their employees and customers. **Figure 1** contains an example of a pay envelope carrying the W.S.S. logo. **Figure 1** also illustrates insert envelopes from WWI era businesses with solicitations (reminders to buy W.S.S.) as corner cards. Influential businessmen and well-to-do individuals were invited to fancy fund raising dinners. Every child in school was encouraged to join the thrift movement. Since 25¢ (the purchase price of a Thrift stamp) was a lot of money at the time, especially for children, various W.S.S. organizations provided "penny" books and "nickel" books so that the students could accumulate the 25¢ necessary to buy a thrift stamp. Children outside of the classroom were encouraged to invite their classmates to savings stamp parties and participate in other fund raising efforts

A discussion of the WWI War Savings stamps and the fund raising drives (multiple billions of dollars) would not be complete without mention of the awards given for the sales of war savings stamps. Many certificates, plaques, ribbons, medals and other tangible items were given to successful sales agents ranging from school children and the Boy Scouts to prominent businessmen. Examples of awards and ephemera associated with the W. S. S. program can be found in the book by Charles<sup>10</sup>.

## Liberty Loan Drives and Bonds

The Great War began in Europe. The precipitating event was the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. On July 28, 1914 the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia-setting off a chain of events that entangled all Europe (because of previous treaties and alliances) and ultimately the world. At the beginning of the war, the U.S. followed a policy of neutrality and non-intervention while at times trying to broker a

peace settlement. As the war progressed it became clear to the leaders of the United States that this country could not remain neutral and we would be drawn into the war sooner or later. The United States entered the Great War on April 6, 1917 as a result of resumed unrestricted submarine activity by the Germans and the conspiracy to finance Mexico to enter the war on the side of Germany and attack the United States along its border with Mexico (the Zimmermann Telegram or Zimmermann Note<sup>11</sup>).

It was also clear that the United States would not be able to fund participation in the war with the Government's current sources of revenue. Thus, money would need to be raised. The options open to any government to fund activities beyond their revenue limits are increased taxation, borrowing, and the printing of money. The printing of money was not considered due to its potential inflationary effect along with the devaluation of the dollar in the world economy. A plan developed by the then Secretary of the Treasury, William Gibbs McAdoo<sup>12</sup>, called for raising the needed money through new taxes (33%) and borrowing (67%). Very little new money was to be created.

The borrowing effort was called the "Liberty Loan." Securities were to be issued by the Treasury, with the newly created Federal Reserve System (1914) and its member banks conducting the sales<sup>13</sup>. The Treasury and the Federal Reserve united under the direction of McAdoo to create and execute the financial plan. The Federal Reserve System divided the U.S. into twelve districts as in Table 1. Table 1 also shows the money raised by each Federal Reserve District during the five Liberty Loan Drives.

American industry and, in general, the economy were operating at maximum capacity so that the war demands could not be met by simply bringing un-utilized capacity or resources into play. To meet the demands of the war, America's production capacity needed to be diverted from consumer goods to fulfilling the U. S. troop's need for the materials of war (guns, ammunition, ships, planes, uniforms, rations, etc.). Thus, the American people would have to sacrifice to wage war and support the U. S. troops. McAdoo summarized the needed sacrifice in an often quoted statement.

*"We must be willing to give up something of personal convenience, something of personal comfort, something of treasure-all if necessary and our lives in the bargain, to support our noble sons who go out to die for us."*

He was also quoted as saying,

*"Any great war must necessarily be a popular movement" and "...a kind of Crusade."*

Such were the Liberty Loan drives-short but intense campaigns-crusades! The Liberty Loan campaign plan had three major elements: 1) the public would be educated about bonds (prior to this bonds were the province of big business and the rich), causes and objectives of the

war, and the financial prowess of the United States; 2) the Government would appeal to patriotism and ask everyone to do their part—from school children to the very rich—by reducing consumption and purchasing bonds; and 3) the entire effort would rely upon a volunteer labor force, thus avoiding the financial market place with its brokerage commissions and a paid sales force. An example of a Liberty Bond is shown in **Figure 12**.



**Figure 12.** The Liberty Bond illustrated is a \$50 bond from the First Liberty Loan paying only 3.5% interest. Note the Statue of Liberty at the right. (See Table 2, below) (Image from Google Images)

As mentioned above, there were 5 Liberty Loan campaigns, four during the war and a fifth (Victory Liberty Loan) after the Armistice. A summary of each of the Liberty Loans appears in Table 2 (includes money raised, number of investors, interest rates, terms, etc.). The four wartime loan drives brought in over \$18 billion dollars

from over 50 million people. This compares to the \$8.8 billion raised by taxes. The \$18 Billion equates to about \$360 billion dollars in today's economy.

Liberty Bonds were issued in many denominations with the lowest being \$50.00, followed by \$100.00. These two denominations accounted for approximately 80% of the total number of bonds. The \$50.00 bond was a large sum of money for the average worker, who typically made less than 40¢ an hour. Thus, \$50.00 represented about a month's pay. Recognizing this, McAdoo introduced an installment plan arrangement using the 25¢ War Thrift stamps as illustrated in **Figure 2**. These stamps bore no interest, but when 16 of these Thrift stamps were accumulated on a Thrift Card (**Figures 5**), they could be exchanged for a \$5.00 face value, interest bearing War Savings Certificate stamp (purchased at discount of \$4.00 plus a few cents depending on the sales month—but if held to maturity in five years they paid a full \$5.00—the face value). These War Savings Certificate stamps were placed on a certificate (**Figures 6,7 and 10**) registered to an owner. They could only be cashed by the owner—hence the War Savings Certificate stamps were non-negotiable unlike the Liberty Bonds which were negotiable bearer bonds. Once 10, five-dollar War Savings Certificate stamps were accumulated they could be exchanged for a \$50.00 Liberty Bond (see **Figure 12**). Twenty of these stamps were required for a \$100.00 Liberty Bond.

**Table 1. Federal Reserve Districts and Pledges received during the five Liberty Loan drives.**  
Data derived from the information presented in reference 14.

| District               | States  | 1st Drive              | 2nd Drive              | 3rd Drive              | 4th Drive              | 5th Drive              |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Boston                 | MA, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME  | \$332,447,600          | \$476,950,050          | \$354,537,250          | \$632,124,850          | \$425,159,950          |
| New York               | NY, NJ <sup>b)</sup> , PR, VI   | \$1,186,788,400        | \$1,550,453,450        | \$1,115,243,650        | \$2,044,931,750        | \$1,762,684,900        |
| Philadelphia           | PA <sup>b)</sup> , NJ <sup>c)</sup> , DE  | \$232,309,250          | \$380,350,250          | \$361,963,500          | \$598,763,650          | \$422,756,100          |
| Cleveland              | PA <sup>d)</sup> , OH, KY <sup>e)</sup> , WV <sup>f)</sup>  | \$286,148,700          | \$486,106,800          | \$405,051,150          | \$701,909,800          | \$496,750,650          |
| Richmond               | VA, MD, NC, SC, WV <sup>g)</sup>  | \$109,737,100          | \$201,212,500          | \$186,259,050          | \$352,685,200          | \$225,146,850          |
| Atlanta                | GA, AL, FL, MS <sup>h)</sup> , LA <sup>i)</sup> , TN <sup>j)</sup>  | \$57,878,550           | \$90,695,750           | \$137,649,450          | \$217,885,200          | \$143,062,050          |
| Chicago                | IL, IA, MI, IN <sup>k)</sup> , WI <sup>l)</sup>   | \$357,195,950          | \$585,853,350          | \$608,878,600          | \$969,209,000          | \$772,046,550          |
| St. Louis              | AR, MS <sup>m)</sup> , MO <sup>n)</sup> , TN <sup>o)</sup> , KY <sup>p)</sup> , IN <sup>q)</sup> , IL <sup>r)</sup> | \$86,134,700           | \$184,280,750          | \$199,835,900          | \$295,340,250          | \$210,431,950          |
| Minneapolis            | MN, ND, SD, MT, WI <sup>s)</sup>  | \$70,255,500           | \$140,932,650          | \$180,892,100          | \$242,046,050          | \$176,114,850          |
| Kansas City            | KS, OK, NE, CO, WY, MO <sup>t)</sup> , NM <sup>u)</sup>   | \$91,758,850           | \$150,125,750          | \$204,092,800          | \$295,951,450          | \$197,989,100          |
| Dallas                 | TX, NM <sup>v)</sup> , LA <sup>w)</sup>   | \$48,948,350           | \$77,899,850           | \$161,220,650          | \$146,090,500          | \$87,504,250           |
| San Fran.              | AZ, UT, NV, ID, CA, OR, WA, AK, HI, U. S. Trust Territories in the Pacific  | \$175,623,900          | \$292,671,150          | \$287,975,000          | \$462,250,000          | \$319,120,800          |
| Treasury Subscriptions |   |                        |                        | \$17,917,750           | \$33,885,550           | \$11,140,300           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>          | <b>Pledged</b>  | <b>\$3,035,226,850</b> | <b>\$4,617,532,300</b> | <b>\$4,176,516,850</b> | <b>\$6,993,073,250</b> | <b>\$5,249,908,300</b> |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <b>Accepted</b>   | <b>\$2,000,000,000</b> | <b>\$3,000,000,000</b> | <b>\$3,000,000,000</b> | <b>\$6,000,000,000</b> | <b>\$4,500,000,000</b> |

a) Northern NJ; b) Central and Eastern PA; c) Southern NJ; d) Western PA; e) Eastern KY; f) Small tip of WA adjacent to PA-OH line; g) All of WA except for small tip (See note f); h) Southern MS; i) Southern LA; j) East and Central TN; k) North and Central IN; l) Lower WI; m) Northern MS; n) East and Central MO; o) Western TN; p) Western KY; q) Southern IN; r) Southern IL; s) Northern WI; t) Western MO; u) Northern NM; v) Southern NM; w) Northern LA

**Table 2. Summary of the Five Liberty Loan Drives during the May 1917 to May 1919 Period.**

Note: All five loans together had pledges totaling \$22.3 Billion dollars.  
The U. S. Treasury accepted \$18.5 Billion. Data from the information presented in Reference [14].

| Loan Drive                                  | Start Date               | End Date   | Approved Limit, \$B (Term) | Subscribed, \$B (Accepted, \$B) | Interest Rate, % Initial <sup>a)</sup> | Subscribers x 10 <sup>6</sup> |
|---|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Liberty Loan                | 05/14/1917 <sup>b)</sup> | 06/15/1917 | 5 (30 years)               | 2 (2)                           | 3.5                                    | 5.5                           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Liberty Loan                | 10/01/1917               | 10/27/1917 | 3 (25 Years)               | 3.8 (3)                         | 4.0                                    | 9.4                           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Liberty Loan                | 04/05/1918               | 04/27/1918 | 3 (10 Years)               | 4.2 (3)                         | 4.5                                    | 18.4                          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Liberty Loan                | 09/28/1918               | 10/19/1918 | 6 (20 years)               | 7 (6)                           | 4.25                                   | 22.8                          |
| Victory Loan (5 <sup>th</sup> Liberty Loan) | 04/21/1919               | 05/12/1919 | 4.5 (4 years)              | 5.3 (4.5)                       | 4.75                                   | 11.8                          |

- a) These were the initial rate approved in the Congressional Liberty Bond Acts for the various loans. Subsequent interest rate variations and terms were given in later bonds of that drive to promote sales, etc.  
b) The United States entered the First World War on April 6, 1917.

Each Liberty Loan drive had a vast array of associated advertising and propaganda. These items took the form of posters, labels or stickers, banners, postcards, blotters, hang tags, etc. For example over 9 million posters, 5 million window stickers and 10 million buttons were produced. Since the loans (and bonds) were called “Liberty”, a large portion of the advertising and propaganda used the Statue of Liberty as a theme. **Figure 13** illustrates three labels or stickers for the first three Liberty Loans, with 2nd Liberty Loan Drive label affixed to the cover. **Figure 14** (see next page) illustrates a “Liberty Speaking” sticker for the Fourth Liberty Loan and a page from a magazine offering to sell such stickers in bulk. The more traditional Fourth Liberty Loan label (without the Statue of Liberty) is shown in **Figure 15** (see next page) along with its use on cover. A label for the 5th Liberty Loan, also known as the



**Figure 13.** Gummed labels or stickers for the first three Liberty Loans. The label for the Second Liberty Loan is shown on the cover in the next column.

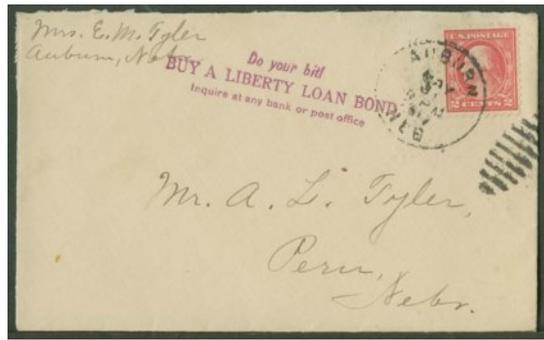


“Victory” Liberty Loan is also shown in **Figure 15**.

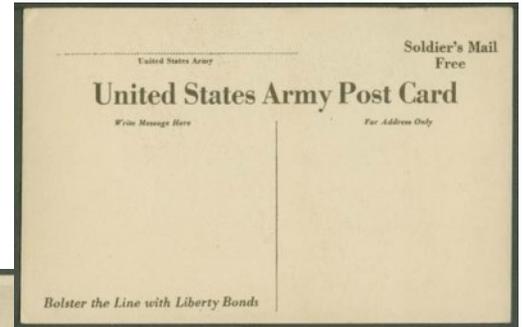
While stickers and labels for envelopes were popular many people just used hand stamps to support the Liberty Loan efforts on their correspondence. **Figure 16** (see next page) illustrates a couple of the Liberty Loan hand stamps encountered during the period. The cover at the top of **Figure 16** also illustrates an example of the machine canceller introduced by the Post Office Department to promote the Liberty Loans and the sale of Liberty Bonds. The U.S. Army issued correspondence picture post cards to the soldiers for mailing messages home that displayed modern weapons and the importance of the Liberty Loans in keeping our troops well supplied with the latest equipment. **Figure 17** (see next page) shows such a post card.

Promotional materials of all kinds were produced and every company took advantage of the loan drives to attract people to their products. A typical magazine advertisement is shown in **Figure 18** (see next page).

Other common Liberty Loan advertising materials such as window placards and poster images are  
*(narrative continued on page 63)*



**Figure 14.** Popular “Liberty Speaking” poster stamp, sticker, or label and a magazine page advertising its sale. This label or stamp was for the Fourth Liberty Loan.



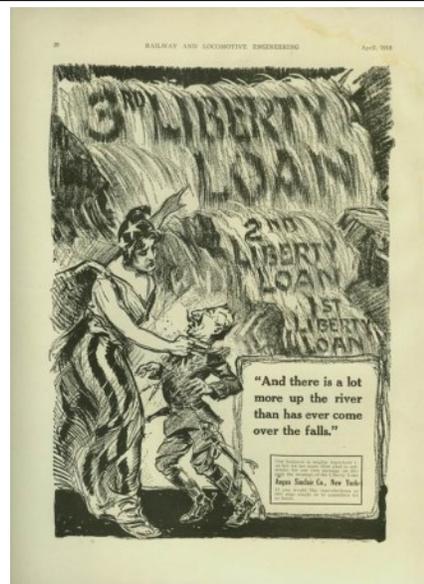
**Figure 17.** “Bolster the Line with Liberty Bonds” U.S. Army Soldiers Post Card emphasizing the importance of Liberty Bonds in equipping our soldiers with weaponry.



**Figure 15:** The label for the Fourth Liberty Loan (without the Statue of Liberty) is illustrated on an envelope mailed in October 1918. The label of the Fifth liberty Loan or the “Victory” Liberty Loan is shown at the right.



**Figure 16.** Examples of Liberty Loan Hand Stamps used on correspondence are shown above and in the next column. The legal sized envelope above has the hand stamp “BACK UP OUR BOYS-BUY LIBERTY BONDS-NOW” in three lines. The post office encouraged their sale by using a Liberty Loan promotional cancel as shown on the envelope for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Liberty Loan. The envelope in the next column has the message “Do your bit-BUY A LIBERTY LOAN BOND-Inquire at any bank or post office” in three lines.



**Figure 18.** Advertisement for the Angus Sinclair company of New York in *Railway and Locomotive Engineering* magazine. The company gave up its normal advertising page to promote liberty loans with a powerful waterfall analogy. They also sent people copies of this Liberty Loan advertisement.

shown in **Figure 19**. **Figure 20** illustrates lapel pins for the Liberty Loan and War savings Stamp system.



**Figure 19 (above).** Examples of Liberty Loan Poster Images for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Liberty Loans. The window subscriber signs are from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Liberty Loans. **Figure 20 (below).** Liberty Loan and War Savings Stamp lapel pins.



## Discussion/Summary

Billions of dollars to fund WWI were raised by selling Liberty Bonds and War Savings stamps. It is estimated that these activities raised more than \$24 billion and involved a large fraction of the United States population—both adults and children. The campaigns, although successful in raising money, were extremely inefficient due to the extensive involvement of volunteers and the large organization structures created at all governmental levels. However, the campaigns to sell bonds and stamps were extremely important in raising the patriotism of every American and galvanizing the American will to defeat the enemy—the barbaric Hun as some propaganda of the time portrayed the Germans. War Savings stamps and Liberty Bonds and their associated ephemera are key reminders of this important time in American history when the United States became the dominant power (economically and militarily) in the world.

## References and Endnotes:

1. Harry K. Charles, Jr., *United States Savings Stamps-The Postal & Treasury Savings Stamp Systems of the United States*, United States Stamp Society, Katy, Texas, 2012 pp. 176-224.

2 The 65th Congress passed an act to authorize an additional issue of bonds to meet expenditures for the national security and defense, and, for the purpose of assisting in the prosecution of the war, to extend additional credit to foreign Governments, and for other purposes. This act was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on September 24, 1917. While containing the usual provisions for issuing high value bonds for rich investors and financial institutions, the act contained a section (Section 6) for raising up to \$2 billion through the sale of war savings certificates. Investments in these certificates were limited to \$1,000 and at any one time an individual could only purchase up to \$100. These certificates were for the small investor. Another section (Section 9) brought the postal service into play as the major sales agent for such certificates. Part of the section reads:

*“That in connection with the operations of advertising, selling, and delivering any bonds, certificates of indebtedness, or war-savings certificates....., the Postmaster General, under such regulations as he may prescribe, shall be required, at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, the employees of the Post Office Department and of the Postal Service to perform such services as may be necessary, desirable, or practicable, without extra compensation.”*

3. Scott WS3 is a rouletted version of WS2. It was apparently rouletted by the American Banknote Company at the request of the Assistant United States Treasurer of New York. Approximately 308,000 sheets of 80 were sent to the American Banknote Company for finishing (to be gummed and rouletted).

4. There is a taller variety of the large Thrift Card (198 mm x 82 mm open) with a design identical to the shorter large Thrift Card. A similar tall large Thrift Card exists without McAdoo’s signature. This card does not have the words “Government Printing Office” on the inside below the table of months (see Figure 6) and may have been privately printed. See Chapter 4 of Charles’ book for further Thrift card details ( Reference 1, pp. 50-76).

5. Reference 1, pp. 56-57.

6. It should be noted that in late 1920, the Treasury Department issued a \$1 Savings Stamp (Scott no. TS1). It was printed in red ink on green un-watermarked paper with a portrait of Alexander Hamilton as the vignette. It was inscribed “Treasury Savings Stamp” with a further inscription “THIS STAMP EVIDENCES THE PAYMENT OF ONE DOLLAR AND WILL BE REDEEMED AT FACE VALUE ON THE PURCHASE PRICE OF A TREASURY SAVINGS CERTIFICATE.” A tri-fold collection card that held twenty of these \$1 stamps was also produced.

7. The Eagle Clutching the Flag was made from Miscellaneous Die # 9918. The engraving is identified in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) records as “Eagle.” According to the BEP, Miscellaneous Die # 9918 was transferred from an engraving, Die # 7242, by Robert Ponickau in 1909; see G. Hessler, “The Eagles and Ships of Robert Ponickau,” *The Essay-Proof Journal*, Vol. 31, # 3, Whole 125 (Summer, 1974), pp. 114-119.

8. The Statue of Freedom was designed by Thomas Crawford. The statue (a female allegorical figure representing the triumph of freedom in both war and peace) was cast in bronze. It stands 6 meters tall and weighs 6,800 kilograms. The statue was erected on the Capitol dome in 1863.

9. The Boy Scouts played a major role in both the Liberty Loan and the War Savings stamp campaigns. There are many posters and advertisements from the period extolling the help and importance of the Scouts. Special merit badges and medals were given to Scouts for the help in the fund raising campaigns. It was a great and important way for the Scouts to serve their country and they took this mission to heart. The Scouts raised millions of dollars by canvassing neighborhoods throughout the country, See the Scout solicitation card in Figure 11.

10. Reference 1, pp. 176-224

11. The Zimmermann Telegram was a coded telegram sent by the German Foreign Secretary (Arthur Zimmermann) to the German Ambassador to Mexico (Heinrich von Eckardt) on January 11, 1917. It informed Eckardt that Germany was going to resume unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1, 1917. Such an act would almost certainly lead to war with the United States and Zimmermann instructed Eckardt that if war with the U. S. seemed imminent, he was to approach the Mexican President (Venustiano Carranza) with a proposal for a military alliance with Germany. Germany would provide generous financial support to help Mexico reconquer its lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Telegram traffic from Germany was secretly monitored by the British and they were able to decode the message. The British leaked the information to the U. S. through a circuitous route (not wanting to divulge their German code breaking prowess-based on captured German cyphers). The note coupled with the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare raised war sentiment to a fever pitch and the U.S. entered the war on April 6, 1917. Mexico concluded that it would be impossible for them to retake the lost territory and it would not be in their best interest to try. Mexico remained neutral during World War I.

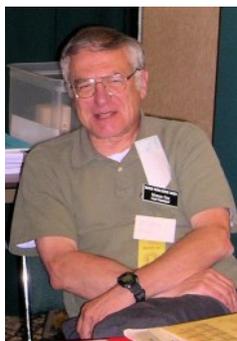
12. William Gibbs McAdoo, Jr. (October 31, 1863-February 1, 1941) was a lawyer and statesman who served under President Wilson as Treasury Secretary (March 6, 1913-December 15, 1918). He was responsible for stabilizing the United States economy as foreign investors began to cash their U.S. investments to fund the war in Europe. His closing of the New York Stock Exchange for four months-forced foreign investors to liquidate their foreign exchange holdings of the U.S., quickly turning the U.S. from a net debtor nation to a net creditor nation and shifting the balance of financial power in the world to the U.S.. As the U.S. entered WWI, McAdoo's acumen for fund raising and financial management were credited with financing American efforts and providing loans to the Allies. He also was in charge of running the railroads as Director General of Railroads. McAdoo was married three times and had a total of nine children. One of his wives was the daughter of President Wilson (Eleanor Randolph Wilson). After the war he went into private law practice. He was general counsel to the founders of United Artist. He was twice a presidential candidate (1920 and 1924), but never received the Democratic parties nomination after being an early front runner in both campaigns. He served as United States Senator from California (1933 to 1938). McAdoo died of a heart attack after at-

tending President Roosevelt's Third Inauguration in 1941. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

13. The Federal Reserve System is the government banking system of the United States. It was created on December 23, 1913 (by the Federal Reserve Act) to provide central control over the Nation's monetary system to mitigate (control) monetary crises or panics that plagued the U.S. in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Federal Reserve Act had three major monetary policy objectives (1) maximize employment; (2) stabilize prices; and (3) moderate long term interest rates. The United States was divided into 12 Federal Reserve Districts each with a designated Federal Reserve Bank. The Federal Reserve System is controlled by a Board of Governors (Federal Reserve Board-appointed by the President to staggered 14 year terms) and the 12 presidents from each of the Federal Reserve Banks. Once appointed the Board and the whole Federal Reserve System is an independent central bank. Its monetary policy does not have to be approved by the President or the Congress. It is self-supporting from income generated by its deposits, as well as system support and a statutory dividend of 6% on member banks capital investment. Any profit is turned over to the Treasury.

14. Labert St. Clair, *The Story of the Liberty Loan*, Washington D. C., James William Bryan Press, 1919.

## Obituary: Myron Fox



Myron Fox of Natick, Massachusetts, recently passed away at age 78. He was past president of the Military Postal History Society and served as auction manager from 1978 until 2009. He was active in the Germany Philatelic Society where he was a past vice president and director. He chaired the Third Reich Study Group. His collecting interests were military and censored mail. In recent years he focused on the U.S. and Germany in World Wars I and II and the occupation of Germany after both conflicts.



In 1996 he received the MPHS meritorious service award as well as the gold pin of the Bund Deutschen Philatelisten in recognition of his 25-years membership. Myron exhibited at many national shows in the U.S. and also participated in the German-American salons in both Germany and America. He was a member of many societies including the Forces Postal History Society, the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society of the U.K., the Civil Censorship Study Group, the ARGE Zensurpost in Germany, and the Norwegian War and Fieldpost Society.

Myron was a retired director of engineering for GTE Government Systems where he specialized in Army tactical communications.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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- Including contact location

**COVERS FOR SALE:** "Granddad's Covers": WWII, soldier, censored, U.S.-China, Official Mail, Naval postings, Patriotic, various military related—50 covers for \$65. Victor Schwez, 10519 Casanes Ave., Downey, CA. 90241. ends 17/2

**FOR SALE:** *YOUR UNIFORM IS YOUR PASS: Soldier and Sailor Welfare Relief in WWI.* 5 of 12 completed vols.: *American Library Association; Jewish Welfare Board; Salvation Army; National Lutheran Commission; National League for Woman's Service;* Soft-bound, saddle stitched, 60 - 85 ppg. ea.; \$25 per vol., \$125 for set; postage paid: Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246; 303-691-0393; lugopspe@q.com ends 17/2

**WANTED:** Postal history of (1) **U.S. 2nd Inf. Regt.** (1791-now), (2) **1st Inf. Div.** (1917-now), or (3) **Social Welfare Organizations** of WWI. S. Lugo: 303-691-0393; lugopspe@q.com ends 17/1

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Rear Guard Cover of the Issue - The National Guard in WW I  
by David Kent

April 19, 1918

Dear Folks:

I have been kept very busy this week and have not had much time to write. I do not get any time during the day and since I (sic) been assigned as corporal I have had to go to school for non-commissioned officers almost every night.

The night before last I thought I would go to the Y.M.C.A. and write the whole evening so after I had taken a bath almost eight o'clock, I started to write at the Y. I had just started when the lights went out, and they had motion pictures for two hours, Doug Fairbanks in an amusing skit, it was very good for this part of the country. When that was over, it was time for taps, so I had to go back without writing after all.

But this afternoon, we had just fallen out in formation when it started to rain, and it has been raining ever since so that I have had (sic) chance to catch up on my correspondence.

I got the three boxes Lelara was speaking of that I should have, also Aunt Maggi's, Lelara's and Uncle Frank's letters. I also got one from Dorothy Shelley today, she spoke of being in the store and having a chat with Lelara, my "dear sweet sister" as she called her, nice of her was it not?



Last night I was issued some more clothing. I got another pair of field shoes, another pair of breeches, also another pair of leggings along with extra shoe strings extra legging strings and a slicker as it is called. It is a raincoat of a very nice color, much nicer than the ponchos they issue at Camp Taylor.

That makes four pair of breeches I have, three issued and one pair of my own that belong to my suit. I think I will start in business, it would be a good idea, don't you think?

This Division has to be fully equipped for overseas service in two weeks and our captain said he thinks we will leave here for a port of embarkation by about the eighth or tenth of May. I think there is no doubt that we have to be rid of our grips by the first May.

We certainly have a swell bunch of officers. Our Brig. Gen. is Gen. Faison, acting Commanding Gen of the Division. Then there comes Major Graham and he is just like one of the boys. The other day we were putting up our shelter tents for the first time and he came around and showed us exactly how it should be done in the kindest way imaginable. Our Captain's name is Muldrow he has been in service for about five years I believe. Has red hair and looks just like Charles Klopeke. Then comes our Lieutenants, they are Burrows who was in charge of us while we were quarantined, Jarvis who is in charge of my platoon, and Beck who puts me in mind of Brother Celestine, talks like him and all, only I don't think the Brother uses the language he does when ..... does not go exactly right. We also have a dandy top Sgt. Blakely is his name.

Tomorrow morning we have inspection the whole regiment is going to pitch their shelter tents. I think that is going to be quite a sight. There will be row after row of them all on a line with one another about a half mile of them I should judge. You know each man carries a half tent with him in his pack with a pole and five pins. Two men then go together and put up one tent and also sleep in it when staying over night. They are about five feet wide seven feet long and four feet high.

Tomorrow afternoon we were told we would hike to Greenville, the whole Division with their full packs, so that does away with our half holiday tomorrow.

Sunday morning I intend going to communion at St. Mary's in Greenville. We are situated almost over a mile away from the K of C building but I am going to try and visit it sometime in the near future.

I am sending you a clipping of the play "Every Soul" which was given by the pupils of the Sacred Heart Academy of Greenville. I intended going to see it, but it started so late and besides I could not get off that night.

I forgot to tell you all that last Sunday morning at High Mass one of the priests who belongs to the Paulist Order gave the sermon, which was on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He only spoke for about thirty minutes, but I have never heard the Holy Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of our Holy Lord portrayed in such a manner before. He spoke in such a clear voice that you could hear every word he uttered and he certainly had a most

## Rear Guard Cover of the Month - The National Guard in WW I by David Kent

wonderful delivery.

Well, I guess this will be about all for this time, so hoping to hear from you all real soon.

I remain, with love to all  
Louis

**COMMENTARY:**

Anyone who has ever been through military boot camp training — any service, any era, any country — knows that it can be a surreal experience. Recruits from a wide variety of backgrounds, cultures, and potential skill levels learn to work together to achieve common goals. The task becomes more difficult when the goal of the training is to create a single fighting unit rather than merely provide the basics for individuals who will go off to various scattered units upon completion of training.

The author of this letter was Louis Discher (1895-1978), Roman Catholic scion of a family in Jefferson-town, Kentucky, a suburb of Louisville. His service in the Army during World War I was of sufficient local interest that it generated the newspaper article published in the *Louisville Courier-Journal* on Sunday 30 June 1918.

Camp Sevier was one of sixteen Army National Guard Mobilization and Training Camps established in 1917 to train and integrate National Guard units for service in a U.S. Army division. Named for a Revolutionary War general and governor of Tennessee, the camp was established on 18 July 1917 on 1,900 acres about four miles from Greenville, South Carolina. The camp housed 46,000 officers and enlisted men primarily from National Guard units of North and South Carolina, and Tennessee. They became the 30th U.S. Infantry Division. The camp was completed in November 1917 at a cost of \$6,500,000.

The first commander of the camp was Major General John F. Morrison, who formed the 30th U.S. Infantry Division and initiated training. Training began in August 1917. The Division departed for France in May 1918. The 30th distinguished itself in combat and sustained heavy losses, including 1,652 killed, 9,429 wounded and 77 captured. After the war ended the 30th returned to the U.S. and was demobilized on 7 May 1919 at Camp Jackson, South Carolina. Camp Sevier also became a demobilization center, and was turned over to the Public Health Service on 1 Apr 1919, which continued to operate the camp hospital for the next several years.

The Official History of the 120th Infantry "3rd North Carolina" 30th Division, from August 5, 1917, to April 17, 1919, was digitized by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The history is online at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/wwi/walker/walker.html>. The Division served in the Ypres-Lys Offensive, Somme Offensive, under the command of the British Army.

## WELL-KNOWN LOUISVILLE BOY ARRIVES OVERSEAS



CORP. LOUIS J. DISCHER.

A letter has been received from Corp. Louis J. Discher by his father, Joseph Discher, living on the Taylorsville road, telling of his arrival in France after a two-day stay in England. He was formerly stationed at Camp Zachary Taylor with Company C, 336th Infantry, and was later ordered to Camp Sevier, S. C. He sailed on May 13 from Boston with the 120th Infantry, 30th Division. In the letter to his father he says he enjoyed the trip overseas, and that they were received with open arms. He writes enthusiastically of the high spirit of the soldiers in his regiment and their eagerness to get into the fight. Corp. Discher is well known in Louisville, and while here took a great interest in athletics. He is a nephew of Frank A. Geher, of this city, and a graduate of St. Xavier's College.