

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin Win 2009)

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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Military Postal History Society



Military Postal
History Society

BULLETIN

Volume 48, Number 1

WINTER 2009

Allied Patrol Boats in the Rhine

by Alfred F. Kugel

Based on the terms of the Treaty of Versailles ending World War I, the Rhine River marked the boundary between occupied and unoccupied Germany, with the exception of the three bridgehead areas that extended 30 kilometers eastward from Cologne, Coblenz and Mainz. Thus, the Allies felt that they needed to control the river traffic in order to see that the Germans abided by the disarmament terms and other provisions of the treaty. On this basis, a small flotilla of American, British and French gunboats was deployed on the river from Strasbourg in newly liberated Alsace north to the German-Dutch border.

Because of the modest size of the operations, mail from the sailors involved is scarce and seldom seen. Although the British and French had special cachets that were used on such letters, the Americans did not. As a result, examples sent by U.S. naval personnel are difficult to distinguish from other occupation mail from that time period. In fact, I have only seen

one such item in decades of collecting AEF material – see Figure 1. It is a picture postcard of Bonn, endorsed “Sailors Mail” and posted at APO 927 at Coblenz on August 28, 1920. In the message, it states that “I am on the Rhine now in Germany....”

The British operated a flotilla of motor launches that patrolled the Rhine from their base at Cologne. A group of these vessels can be seen in Figure 2. Mail from their sailors received a special oval cachet inscribed “British Rhine M(otor) L(aunch) Patrol Flotilla” and could be sent through the British APO S.40 or the German civil post office in Cologne. See Figure 3 for an

example mailed in January 1921. The French had several cachets for use on their naval mail. The most elaborate of these was a double circle depicting an anchor in the center and inscribed “Marine National/Flotille du Rhin” around the periphery. Figure 4 shows an example on a picture postcard of Strasbourg, on which the message of

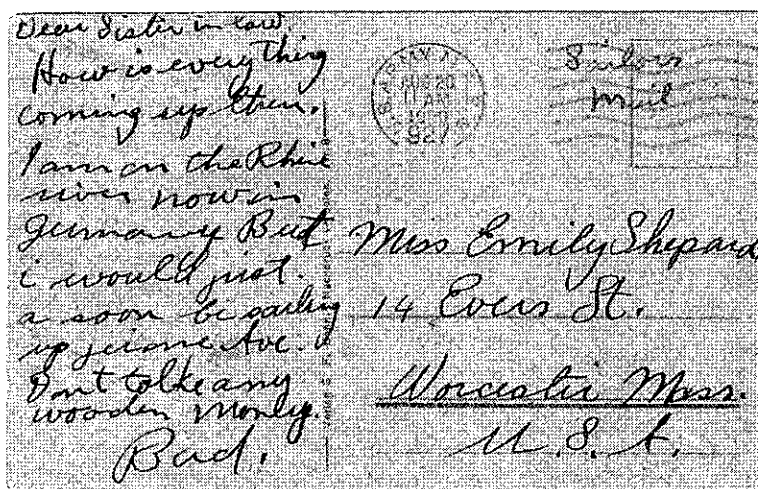


Figure 1. American Rhine Patrol mail.

example mailed in January 1921.

The French had several cachets for use on their naval mail. The most elaborate of these was a double circle depicting an anchor in the center and inscribed “Marine National/Flotille du Rhin” around the periphery. Figure 4 shows an example on a picture postcard of Strasbourg, on which the message of

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Military Postal History Society



The Military Postal History Society (a non-profit corporation) was founded in 1937 as the War Cover Club. American Philatelic Society Unit #19. It promotes the study of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all nations.

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Winter, 2009

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Officers

President: Alfred F. Kugel, *Conventions and Publicity*, 502 N. York Rd., Hinsdale, IL 60521-3531 [afkugel@hotmail.com]

Vice President: Tony Brooks, *Membership*, 5452 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46220-3022 [tonybrooks@aol.com]

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

Treasurer: *Publications*, Norman Gruenzner, P.O. Box 32, Cypress, TX 77410-0032 [ngruenzner@comcast.net]

Directors:

Myron Fox, *Immediate Past President, Auction Manager*, 4 Arbor Circle, Natick, MA 01760-2953 [MyronFox1@aol.com]

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Charles J. LaBlonde, *APS Representative, Literature Award*, 15091 Ridgfield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3554 [CLaBlonde@aol.com]

Harvey Tilles, *Awards Coordinator*, P.O. Box 5466, High Point, NC 27262-5466 [htilles@triad.rr.com]

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

General Counsel:

Eliot A. Landau, 515 Ogden Ave., Suite 101, Downers Grove, IL 60515-3081 [ELandau@aol.com]

World Wide Web home page:

<http://www.militaryPHS.org>

BULLETIN EDITOR:

David A. Kent, P.O. Box 127, New Britain, CT 06050. Phone 860-667-1400. E-mail: KentDave@aol.com

Manuscripts and illustrations for publication are welcome. Send all material to the editor. While due care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Enclose a stamped addressed return envelope with correspondence.

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President's Message

by Al Kugel

There seems to be an unwritten but long-standing tradition for collectors to set their albums aside late in each year, especially during the holiday season, and concentrate on families and friends. However, now that the end of winter is approaching, it would be a good time to get those stamps and covers out of the cabinets and shoe boxes and start to work on your collection or even on preparing an exhibit before the upcoming activities of summer begin to compete for your attention.

In fact, a clear highlight of the upcoming MPHS season will be the annual membership meeting of the Society. Indeed, in keeping with our policy of rotating the sessions between various sections of the country, we will be holding the 2009 version on the East Coast. It is our hope that this will provide members who live in that area with a better opportunity to attend in person. Most, if not all, of the officers and directors will be there, and we expect to have enough activities planned to provide a positive experience for everyone who attends.

Specifically, we have scheduled the location at the NOJEX Show, which will be next May 22-24 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, N.J. This venue is easily accessible from Newark Airport or by car via the New Jersey Turnpike. It is certainly not too early for members who would like to exhibit there to be getting ready for the show. A copy of the Prospectus and Exhibitors Application can be downloaded from the NOJEX website.

I would like to spend some of my space this time on another "commercial" for the National Postal Museum which, as you may know, is a major branch of the Smithsonian Institution. The NPM itself is conveniently located in the old post office building at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington D.C., just across the street from Union Station and the adjacent METRO stop. Thus, it can be easily reached by visitors arriving by train or by air at Reagan National Airport. Under the guidance of Chief Philatelic Curator, Dr. Cheryl Ganz, the museum is significantly expanding the quality and scope of its displays to include more aspects of collecting.

At the present time, the MPHS has two of its own people serving on the Council of Philatelists, a key advisory group to the Museum. The 33 members of the COP are collectors, dealers, auctioneers, philatelic writers and senior APS representatives who meet regularly to provide advice, support and expertise to the NPM and its staff. In this effort, Alan Warren and I serve on the Research sub-group, which is working to improve the library, its publications inventory and related activities. One of our major goals is to make the museum as helpful as possible to the philatelic researchers and others who come to make use of the facilities that are available. Other sub-groups are involved in the enhancement of the Museum's collection and in its website, which is known as ARAGO.

Alan and I strongly encourage members who go to the Washington area to make their plans to include a visit to the NPM. Try it, and we think that you'll like it!

Editor's Notes

David A. Kent

Cold winter weather can keep many of us in at this time of year. All the more time, one might conjecture, to work on organizing your collection(s). A well organized inventory, and a want list, is the collector's best friend.

Of course another pastime is reading about your hobby, which is our purpose for existence. Our Belgian correspondent, Roger Callens, tells us about escape routes in France for downed Allied pilots during World War II. Don Kochi provides biographical information about General Mark Clark to help us better understand a letter he wrote. Al Kugel shows some scarce covers from the Rhine River Patrol in post-World War I Germany. Our Hollywood reporters, Thomas Richards and Regis Hoffman, tell us about some prop mail from the 2001 movie "Pearl Harbor." And for those who couldn't get to our convention in Portland, Ore. a couple of years ago, we review extensive highlights of Bob Kinsley's gold-medal exhibit of covers from the Napoleonic Wars in the early years of the 19th Century. Surely material like this isn't to be found in every dealer's stock.

Also featured are Alan Warren's regular reports on news of the world of military philately, both at shows and in publications.

Cold winter weather can cause many problems. Early in the year our president, Al Kugel, slipped on the ice and badly broke his leg. He is still recovering. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Annual Meeting at NOJEX

Our annual meeting and convention next Spring will be held at NOJEX, the Northern Jersey Philatelic Exhibition. This annual World Series of Philately show, held in Secaucus, New Jersey each year on Memorial Day weekend, is one of the best in the Northeast. If you live within reasonable distance of the show, you should plan to attend next year's extravaganza, and meet with your fellow military mail collectors. A list of other planned future conventions appears on page 19.

Exhibiting is a wonderful way of showing off your collection. If we can work out the details, a copy of the exhibiting prospectus will be included as an insert in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Auctions

Our long-time Auction Manager, Myron Fox, is currently working on his last auction, which will appear in the next issue. Since his announced retirement, a new volunteer, Thierry Delespesse, has stepped forward to take over this valuable service to members. Details of the transition are still being worked out. In the meantime, please do not send any more material to Myron.

Deadlines

The *Bulletin* is written by its readers. We welcome your contributions to future issues. Here are future deadlines for the coming issues:

Spring 2009	Apr. 11, 2009
Summer 2009	July 11, 2009
Fall 2009	Oct. 10, 2009

If you want to have an article or notice published in a specific issue, it must reach me by the above dates.

Secretary's Report

Ed Dubin

Please welcome this new member:

3464 Chris Green, Orleans, ON Canada

Deceased

774 J.H. Walsh, Onanole, MAN Canada

2253 George Branam, Newbury Park, CA

Resigned

2865 Roger P. Quinby, Alpharetta, GA

3320 Dennis H Pack, Winona, MN

3290 David McNamee, Alamo, CA

Membership Summary

Membership, October 15, 2008	506
New Members	1
Deceased	2
Resigned	3
Membership, January 15, 2009	502

The Society acknowledges with thanks the donations made last year by the following members. These funds are a great help to support the society research and publication program. The donations are especially appreciated this year with our anticipated large publication expenses. If anyone would like a written receipt (we are a 501(c) 3 organization) let the Treasurer know. If I missed anyone please let me know.

Arthur L. Liberman

Karl E. Becker

Bob Rawlins

Katherine Mountain

Charles Corbin

Kirby Willems

Clifton Peters

Kirsten Stephens

Daniel A. Brouillette

Mark Banchik

Dennis Havasi

Michael DeBlasio

Greg Ciesielski

Nola Earl Hite

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J.L. Johnson Jr.

Richard F. Hoffner

James R. Stultz

Stuart Leven

James Shew

Toshimoto Arai

John Beirne

Wm. A. Sandrik

Dues are Due!

Members are reminded that annual dues are now overdue, the membership year ended as the year 2008 expired. Members with a date of 12/31/2008 above their address on the mailing envelope still owe their 2008 dues. If dues are not paid, this is the last issue of the *Bulletin* you will receive.

To keep your membership active (and keep receiving this invaluable *Bulletin*), make certain that your dues are up to date. Send your payment to the:

MPHS Treasurer

P.O. Box 32

Cypress, TX 77410-0032

Annual dues in the Military Postal history society are \$20.00 to United States addresses: \$23.00 to Canada and Mexico by First Class mail: \$25.00 to all other countries by airmail. Members can also use PayPal for dues payment (with an added charge for PayPal fee) by going to the application page of the society web site (<http://www.militaryPHS.org>) and follow the instructions.

Allied Patrol Boats in the Rhine...

(Continued from Page 1....)

March 27, 1919 refers to duty visits to Mainz and Ludwigshafen.

A second type was also a double circle but plain in the center and inscribed "Commission Interalliée/du Navigation de Campagne." The example shown as Figure 5 is on a picture postcard of Cologne and is dated May 16, 1919. The third version had similar wording in a smaller cachet but with "St. G." for St. Goar in the center. It is on a picture postcard of the Lorelei cliff and has a July 9, 1923 dateline. (See Figure 6).

The Rhine Patrol was a very minor operation in the context of World War I, but it is of considerable interest to collectors of naval mail, especially considering the paucity of material.

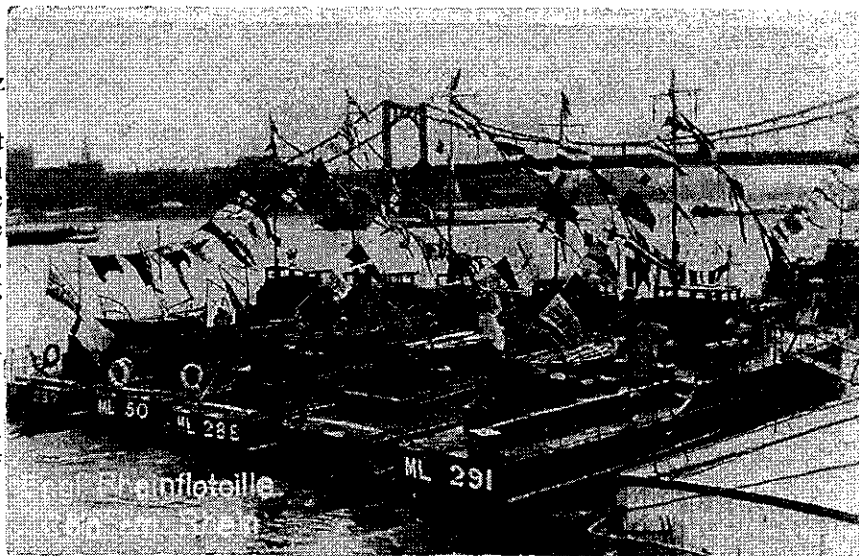


Figure 2. British motor launches of the Rhine Patrol.

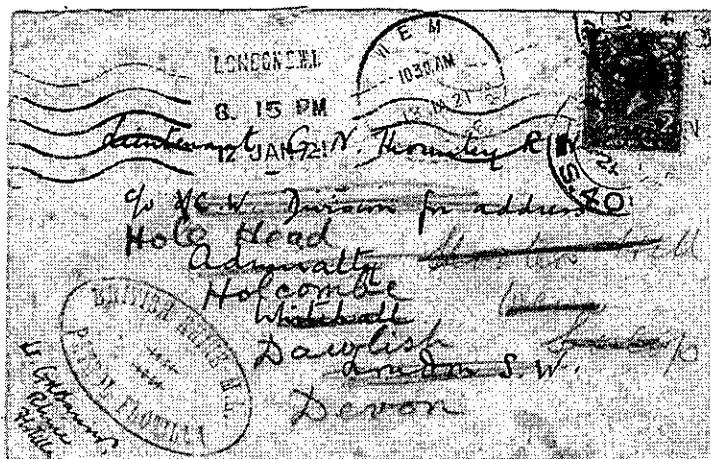


Figure 3. A 1921 cover mailed through the British APO S.40.

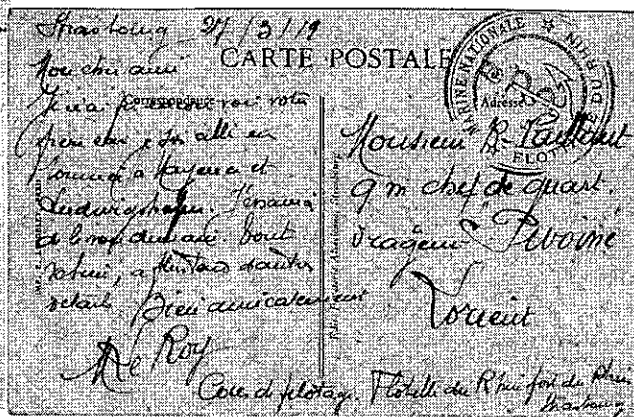


Figure 4. French Marine Nationale/Flotille du Rhin marking.

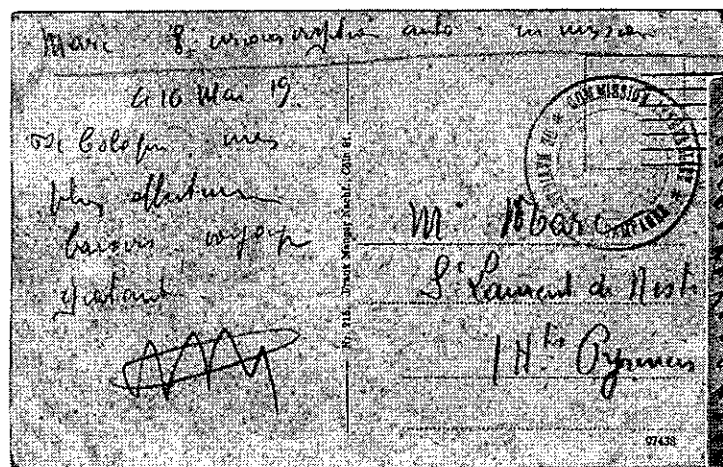


Figure 5. Second style of French marking.

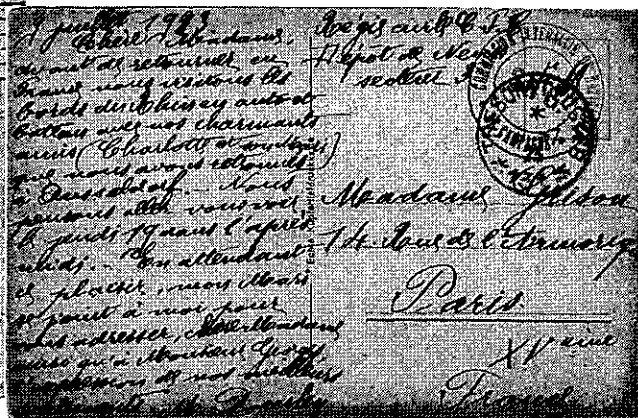


Figure 6. French St. Goar marking.

General Mark Clark Censored Letter

by Don Kochi

General Mark Wayne Clark, along with Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton, known as "Marshall Men," were chiefly responsible for engineering the Allied Victory in the European Theater of Operations. Personally selected and nurtured under the patronage of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, George C. Marshall, each rose to command prominence making their imprint on history by V-E Day and beyond.

None quite so spectacular as the Army career of Mark Clark. Only a lieutenant colonel in 1940, by war's end he had advanced through five grades of rank and by March 10, 1945 was the youngest officer to wear the four stars of a full general. Certainly his credentials for a successful military career had a lot to do with his meteoric rise to the top of the command heap. Of West Point pedigree, an Army Brat (his career father was also a West Pointer), AEF service with a Purple Heart (albeit curtailed due to his wound), well-connected mentors and patrons; were a few of his background assets which can be attributed to his rapid advance. What is often overlooked by his many devotees and detractors, was the complex character of the man himself. A quiet efficiency with a penchant for self-aggrandizement hid a ruthless ambition. A demanding impatient task master, yet was fair and considerate to the point of inspiring loyal devotion among his staff, subordinates, and common foot troops. He possessed an uncanny intelligence for immediately grasping the core of a problem with an equal talent for recognizing what was needed for its resolution; a valuable quality for a budding officer; yet it rankled his more jealous and resentful (of his success) fellow brother officers.

Although Mark Clark had a wide-ranging career, his name in history will inexorably be linked to the Italian Campaign and his beloved Fifth Army. Appointed Commanding General, Fifth U.S. Army on January 4, 1943, Clark's mettle was to be severely tested by the peninsular terrain of Italy and the tactical genius of his enemy counterpart, Luftwaffe Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. The invasions, winter campaigning, stalemates, bloody battles and difficult operations at Salerno, Naples, Monte Cassino, Rapido River, and Anzio along with the ultimate prize of Rome, all revealed the "soft underbelly of Europe" to be nothing more than a "dirty old boot." Obsessed with being the first to capture an Axis power's capital city, Clark worked under the dual pressure of beating Montgomery's Eighth Army and a D-Day deadline of

June 5-6, 1944 from marring his triumphant entry into Rome.

General Clark also felt his Fifth Army, under the overall 15th Army Group command of Sir Harold Alexander, was given little attention in the news while the British were seemingly credited with doing most of the fighting in Italy. Cranking up his publicity machine, Clark attempted to rectify this glaring (to him) oversight by launching a media blitz. If his name happened to figure prominently in the headlines, so much the better. A well-managed effort by his team of public relations officers did succeed in placing Clark and his 5th Army in the public's eye, although the shameless process alienated some notable journalists and newsmen.

Hungry for positive war news and success stories, the country forgave his ample ego as Hollywood reporter Louella Parsons lauded Clark as "America's dream hero." An excerpt from a Mark Clark biography by Martin Blumenson best illustrates his wide spread popularity in the national limelight:

"...he became the object of adulation, and received gifts and letters from strangers. Parents of twin boys named them Mark and Clark. Hollywood planned a major motion picture of his exploit. A 13-year-old girl in North Carolina saw him in the newsreels and returned again and again to the movie theater to watch him on screen."

A letter dated March 27, 1943 on official Headquarters, Fifth Army, Office of the Commanding General stationery (figure 1) was written by Gen. Clark to a young female (I suspect) schoolgirl in Atlanta, GA. The body of letter reads: "This will comply with your request, in your letter of February 3, for my autograph. You must have an interesting collection," and is signed off with his full name. The envelope cover (figure 2) also official HQ 5th Army stationery (figure 3) is franked FREE and postdated March 29, 1943 with an APO 464 (Oudja, Morocco). Over the BASE EXAMINED stamp, the General acting as his own censoring officer, once again signed in self-censoring flourish, his full name. Thus, the adoring fan received not only one, but unwittingly, two MARK W. CLARK autographs!

References:

Blumenson, Martin. *MARK CLARK: The Last of the Great World War II Commanders*. New York: Congdon & Weed, 1984

Wikipedia biography of Mark Wayne Clark.

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Wayne_Clark

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
A. P. O. #464

March 27, 1943

Miss Virginia Hambrick,
386 Fatterson Avenue, S.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Miss Hambrick:

This will comply with your request, in
your letter of February 3, for my autograph.
You must have an interesting collection.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

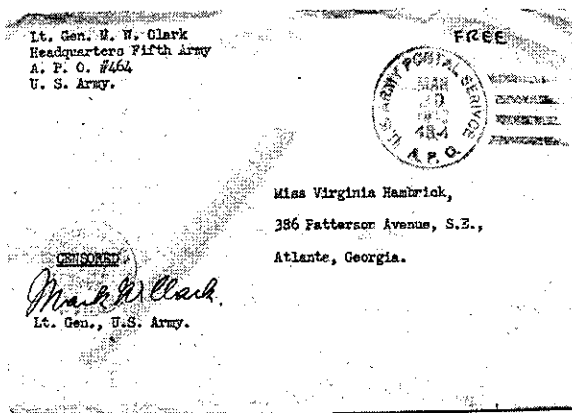
Mark W. Clark

MARK W. CLARK
Lieutenant General, USA,
Commanding.

Lt. Gen. M. W. Clark
Headquarters Fifth Army
A. P. O. #464
U. S. Army.

Mark W. Clark
Lt. Gen., U.S. Army.

Miss Virginia Hambrick,
386 Fatterson Avenue, S.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia.



Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods, 1791 - 1815

by Bob Kinsley

[This article provides illustrations of 200-year-old folded letters with army handstamps taken from Bob's gold medal exhibit at APS StampShow in Portland, Ore. in August 2007. Many are poorly struck and required enhancement or supplemental identification. BauGal stands for Bureau General (i.e., headquarters). The "scribbles" on the letters are indications of postage due in decimes.]

The French conquest of much of Europe by its many armies at the turn of the nineteenth century began with the revolt of the Third Estate, the commoners, against the power and privileges of the First Estate, the clergy, and the Second Estate, the nobles and the wealthy. The main grievance was the exemption of such clergy and wealthy from paying taxes, which directly (land tax, poll tax, war tax, the hated salt tax, etc.) or indirectly (church tithe, feudal taxes) amounted by some accounts to more than eighty percent of a peasant's income. The revolution manifested itself in the fall of the Bastille prison July 14, 1789 which continues to be celebrated every year. With King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette of France under virtual house arrest,

Emperor Leopold II of Austria and King Frederick II of Prussia met at Pilnitz in Saxony in August 1791 to declare their intent to restore Louis to his previous position, and raze Paris if he was harmed. As the Austro-Prussian forces under Duke Ferdinand mobilized, France prepared for war by establishing in December 1791 an Army of the North (Figure 1) and an Army of the Rhine (Figure 2), the first of the many armies of the revolutionary period.

An insurrection of the commoners in Paris on August 10, 1792 resulted in the dethroning of the King, the end of the monarchy and establishment of the first Republic. As the countries engaged in war, new armies were authorized by France in Oct 1792 such as the Army of the Moselle (Figure 3), Army of the Alps (Figure 4) and Army of the Ardennes

BAU PRINCIPAL
ARM. DU NORD

A Monsieur
Monsieur de Saint-Quentin
Ministre de la Guerre
A Louvain...

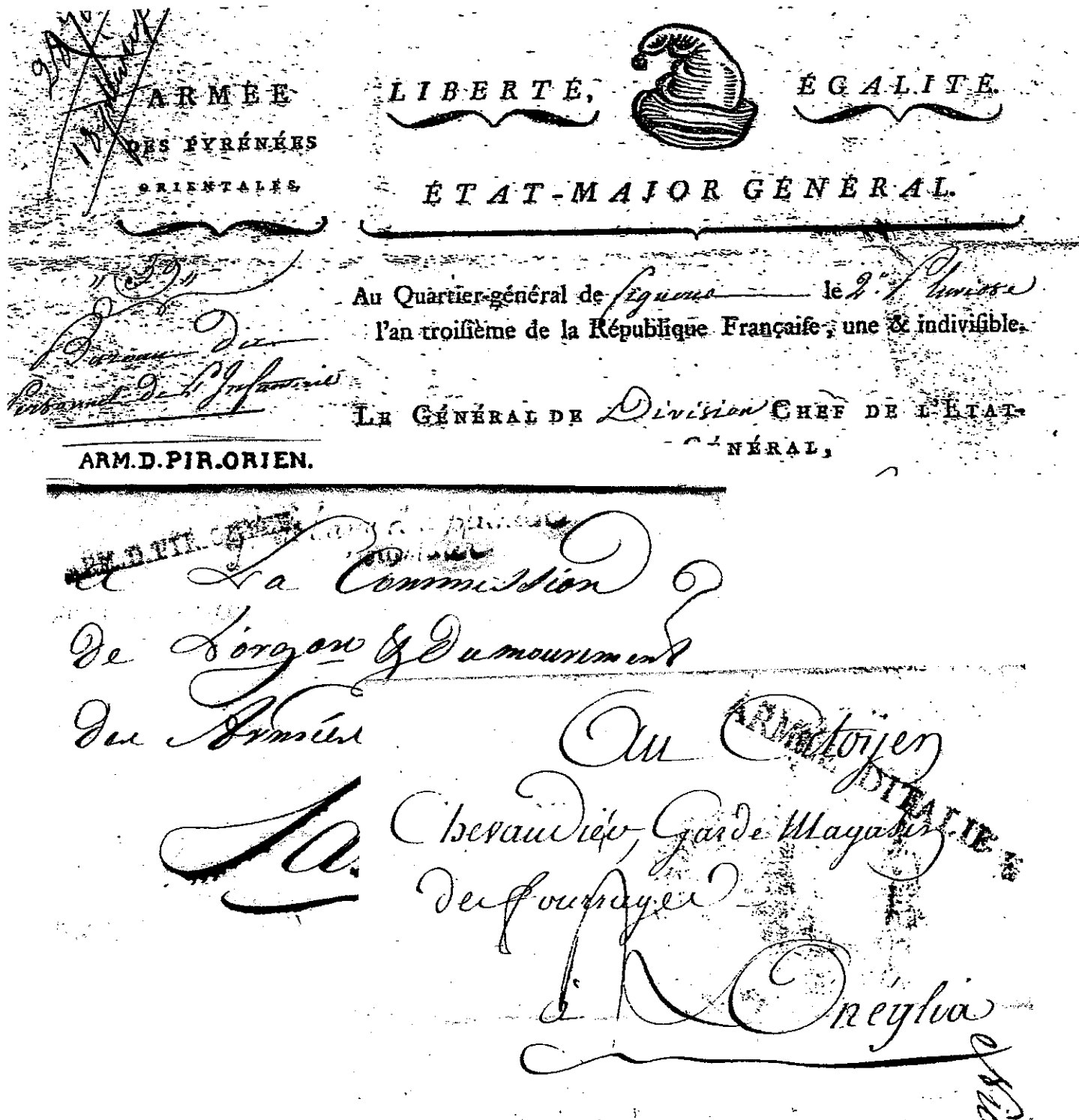
Cher Citoyen
D. L. Foulc
BAUGAL
ARM. DU RHIN

BAUGAL
ARM. DU RHIN
Commissaire
Propriétaire
D. L. Foulc
Département de Rhénanie
BAUGAL
ARM. DU RHIN

Figures 1 (above) and 2.

Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods...

As France prepared to invade Portugal through Spain (to deprive the British of any ports on the coast) it established a new Army of the Pyrenees also on Oct. 1, 1792, then quickly divided it into two separate armies, the Army of the Eastern Pyrenees (Figure 7: official letter with "Bonnet Phrygien" symbol of the revolution) and of the Western Pyrenees (Figure 8), but then disbanded them in 1795 following a secret peace with Spain. In early 1793 the Army of the Coasts (Figure 9) was established to defend against a possible invasion by England; this lasted only three months when it was divided into the Army of the Coasts of Brest (Figure 10) and the Army of the Coasts of Cherbourg. Later in the year another coastal army was formed, called the Army



Figures 6 (right) and 7 (top and left).

Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods...

of the West, to defend coasts further south near Bordeaux. The various armies were being created, reformed, renamed and disbanded throughout the period.

As the Army of the Moselle continued through Luxembourg across the Rhine into Germany it joined parts of the Army of the North to become the Army of the Sambre and Meuse (Figure 11) in 1794, named after the two rivers which flowed from Belgium into France. An Army of Germany was established Sep. 29, 1797 merging the Armies of the Sambre and Meuse, and parts of the Army of the Rhine (Figure 12) and of the Moselle, mainly for occupation duties. Part of this army became the Army of Mayence in December 1797, charged with maintaining peace in that city. At the end of Napoleon's victories in Italy he was offered command of a new army formed in October 1797 called the Army of England (Figure 13) in anticipation of the invasion of England. He convinced the Legislature that such action would not succeed and instead created an Army of the Orient with which

I DIV. ARMÉE
DES CÔTES DE BREST

I DIV. ARMÉE
DES CÔTES DE BREST

*Recevez membres de la commission
De l'organisation et du mouvement
Des armées de terre.*

ARM. DES PYRÉES OCLES

ALIS

ARM. DES PYRÉES

St. Pierre
Alme

ARMÉE DES CÔTES

Administrateur du District

Dinan

des côtes

Figures 8 (left), 9 (right) and 10 (top).

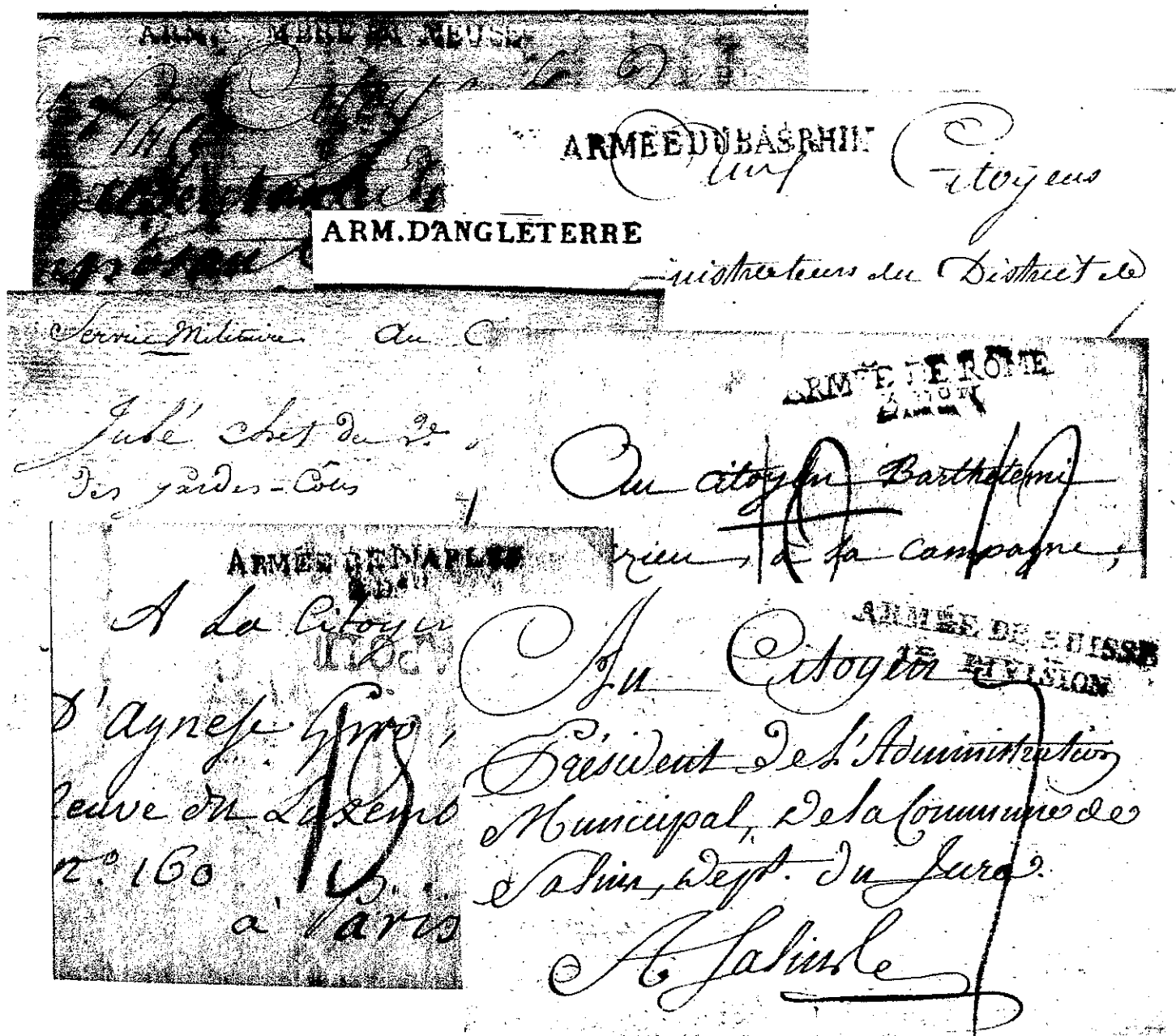
Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods...

to invade British-controlled Egypt. This action led to Russia joining with Britain and Turkey to form a Second Coalition against France.

An Army of Rome (Figure 14) was a short-lived revolutionary army established in February 1798 to keep the peace in Rome. In June 1799 it was relocated and became the Army of Naples (Figure 15); after six months it again became a part of the Army of Italy. In March 1798 part of the Army of the Rhine became the Army of Switzerland (Figure 16), and in March 1799 part of the Army of Mayence became the Army of the Danube (Figure 17). Apparently the names kept changing depending on the sector in which they were fighting. Following their victory against the Russians at Zurich in September 1799 these armies were absorbed back into the large Army of the Rhine, and Russia defected from the coalition of allies.

Following the French conquest of Holland it was given the name Republic of Batavia, and the occupation troops were part of that army although no army handstamps are known. Instead they used a Holland Troops handstamp (Figure 18). The area became the Kingdom of Holland in 1806 and was annexed as part of France in 1810.

ARM. SAMBRE ET MEUSE



Figures 11 to 16.

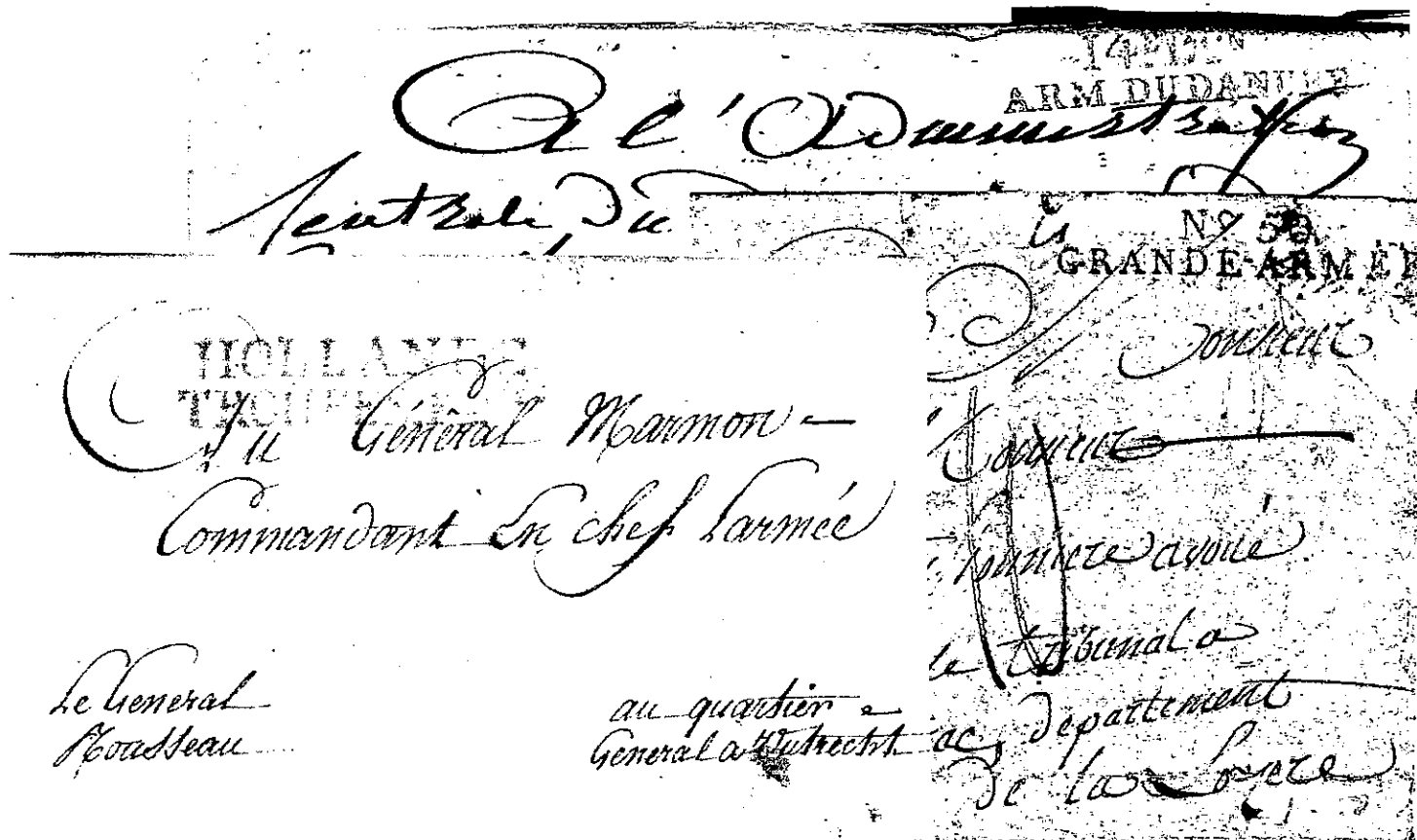
Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods...

The Army of Reserve was created by an order of Napoleon in March 1800 using troops taken from the Army of the West, the Army of the Orient, and from troops stationed in Paris. Following his famous march across the Saint Bernard mountain pass into Italy he renamed it the Army of Grisons in October 1800. Another occupation army of the period was called the Army of Observation of the South operating in Italy in the areas of Tuscany and the Papal States, lasting only one year until absorbed back into the Army of Italy in April 1802. Since Napoleon was unwilling to mount a direct attack on Britain, he tried less direct means such as shipping embargoes and the invasion of Egypt. In addition he gave his attention to the homeland of the British King George III and mounted an army of some 30,000 men to overrun Hanover in north-central Germany. By the Convention of the Elbe on July 5, 1803 Hanover agreed to disband its army, many of whom were recruited to form the British King's German Legion (which subsequently played an important role in the final defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo).

The end of the lengthy array of armies of the revolutionary period came about when Napoleon proclaimed himself Emperor in 1804. At that time Napoleon authorized the many Grand Armies (Figure 19), numbered according to the sector in which they operated, from 1 to 100. There continued to be a few armies named after the area in which they operated, such as the shortlived Army of Dalmatia, following what Napoleon considered his most brilliant victory, defeating the Austrian-Russian forces at Austerlitz, whereupon Austria ceded the coastal area of Dalmatia to France in Dec 1805.

Napoleon next turned his attention to closing the last remaining ocean port available to the British, that of Lisbon. A secret treaty with Spain granted French troops access through Spain to conquer Portugal and an Army of Portugal (Figure 20) under General Jean-Andoche Junot entered Spain in November 1807 and took possession of Lisbon that month. In March 1808 Napoleon marshaled some 100,000 troops, comprising some 45 Armies of Spain (Figure 21), and invaded Spain in what is known as the Peninsular War; in May he placed his brother Joseph on the Spanish throne as king. Some were reformed as the Army of Catalonia (Figure 22), operating in the last area to be overrun by the French. Subsequently the British not only forced the French out of Spain but continued with the invasion of France, since Napoleon had taken most of his armies out of Spain to invade Russia in the summer of 1812. Instead of pitched battles, the Russians employed a scorched-earth practice, leaving little for the subsistence of the French armies which had begun with over 600,000 men but by December numbered only about 5,000. Napoleon returned in defeat from Russia, and upon the allied victory over Paris in March 1814 he abdicated and was exiled to the Isle of Elba.

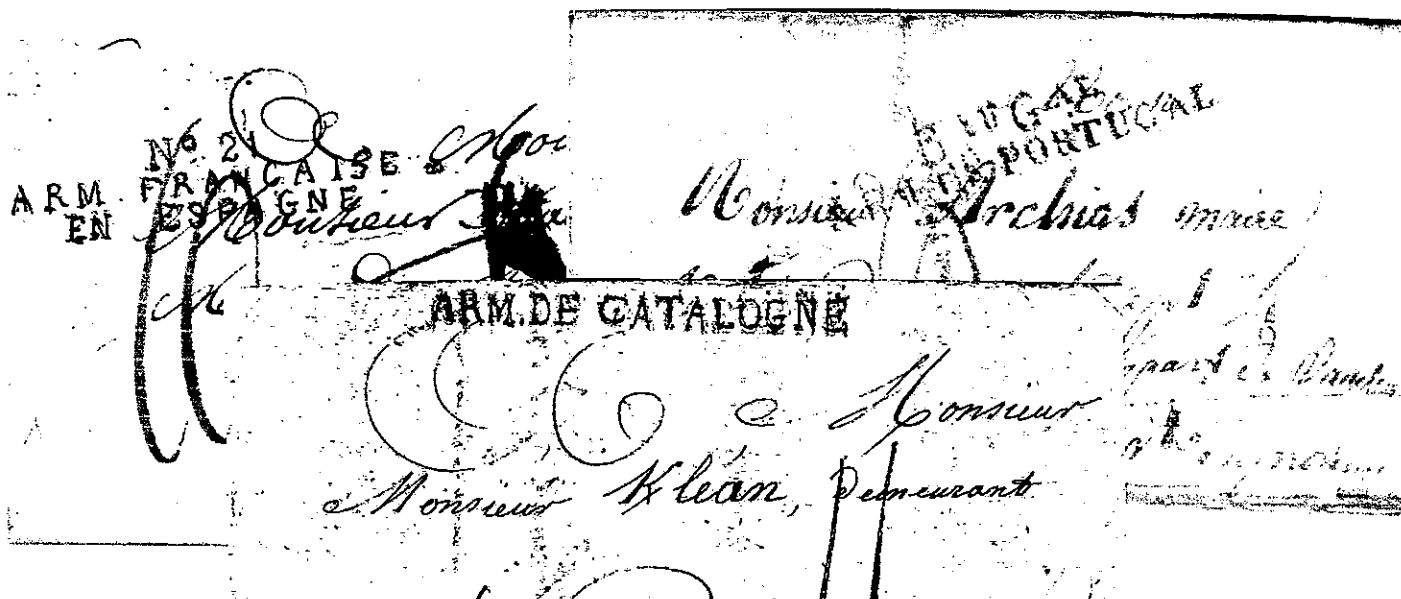
14^e D^{re}
ARM DUDANUBE



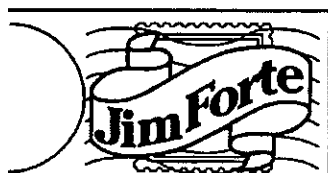
Figures 17, 18 and 19.

Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods...

Napoleon still had visions of victory and returned to France in 1815 to again face the British forces under Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, and the Prussian forces under Marshal Gebhard Blücher on the northern frontier, and then the Austrians and Russians under Prince Schwarzenberg on the eastern frontier. Napoleon was defeated at the famous Battle of Waterloo, again abdicated and was imprisoned on the Isle of Helena for the remainder of his life.



Figures 20, 21 and 22.



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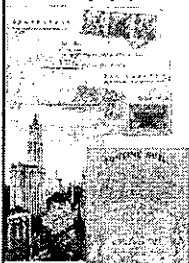
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94th Pursuit Squadron

by David A. Kent

The question raised by this cover is, what was Eddie Rickenbacker's famed 94th Pursuit Squadron doing at the San Diego Naval Air Station in the early days of World War II? The legendary "Hat in the Ring" unit was never assigned to the Pacific Theater, and had spent the interwar years based at Selfridge Field, Michigan.

The short answer is, responding to panic caused by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The United States was truly shocked by the Japanese assault. For a century and a half the nation had felt safely isolated from world conflicts by the wide oceans that separate it from Europe and Asia. If the Japanese now had a fleet that was powerful enough to sail all the way to Hawaii and conduct major operations there, what was to keep them from sailing a couple thousand miles farther and attack the west coast of the United States?

One enterprising Japanese submarine captain actually did that. On February 23, 1942, Commander Nishino Kozo in the submarine *HIJMS I-17* surfaced off the coast of Santa Barbara, California and lobbed a dozen and a half shells into an oil refinery. After-action reports claim that he caused a mere \$500 in damage, probably less than the cost of the shells, but it was enough to generate widespread panic along the coast.

On Pearl Harbor Day the 94th was temporarily operating from El Paso, Texas, where the flying weather was better than at its home base in the lake-effect snow country of Michigan. On December 8 the squadron was ordered to California, originally to March Field, near Riverside some 50 miles inland from Los Angeles. A few days later it was diverted again to San Diego, closer to the ocean. During the war the 94th flew the twin-tailed P-38 Lightning, which was a formidable air fighter, but it was still under development in 1941. Just how well it might perform against a Japanese Zero, or whether it could operate effectively against ships, was still in question. It took Lockheed's legendary Kelly Johnson many more months to iron out all of the quirks in this unusual aircraft's design. The P-38 would eventually become one of the mainstays of the Pacific Theater, but War Department planners

soon decided that the 94th Pursuit Squadron was needed more in the European Theater.

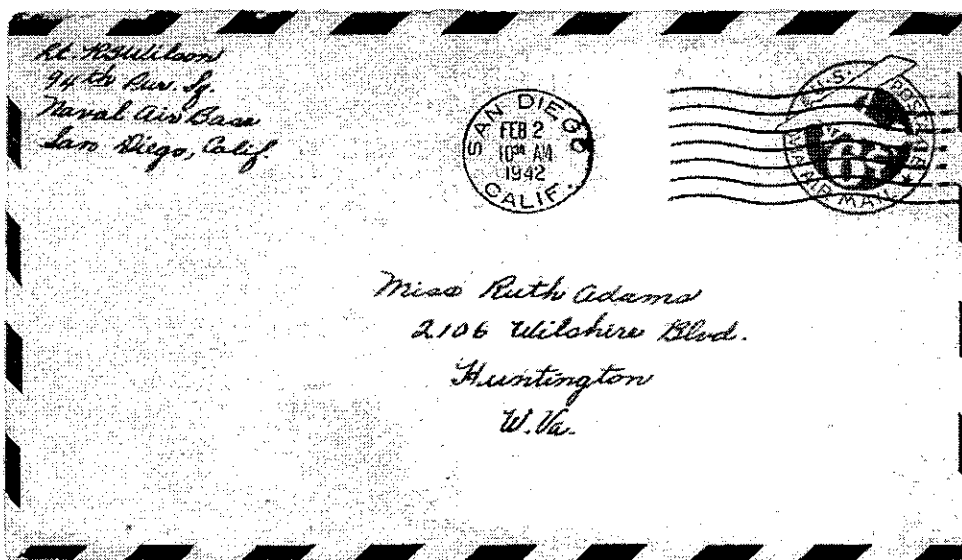
The P-38 was considered a long-range plane, but that range was not long enough to cross the Atlantic in one hop. The squadron took the Newfoundland-Greenland-Iceland route instead, actually staying a few months in Iceland when it was realized that the North Atlantic island was within range of German bombers flying from occupied Norway. It eventually ended up in North Africa, moving to Italy after that country capitulated. The 94th accumulated an outstanding record during the war, credited with 124 aerial kills and drawing particular attention for its participation in the Ploesti oil field raids.

The 94th began life as the 94th Aero Squadron, at Kelly Field, Texas on Aug. 20, 1917. It was the first to enter combat in France

during World War I, earning its moniker "Hat in the Ring" squadron. It made more kills than any another squadron, and boasted such famous aces as Eddie Rickenbacker, Raoul Lufberry and Douglas Campbell. It remained active between the wars, always a pioneer in new aircraft, many of which never reached production status. As the war ended its pilots experimented with the P-80 Shooting Star jet fighter, although they were never able to bring it to the ultimate fight against a Messerschmitt Me-262.

The unit was reclassified the 94th Fighter Squadron in 1946, based again at March Field flying the P-80. As the Cold War grew it was again reclassified the 94th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, part of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) at George Air Force Base, California, flying successively the F-86 Sabre Jet, and the F-102 and F-106 delta-wing fighters. It moved to McDill AFB, Fla. in 1971 to transition to the F-4E Phantom II jet. It moved again to

Langley AFB in Virginia in 1976, becoming one of the first squadrons to fly the F-15 Eagle. Redesignated the 94th Fighter Squadron again in 1991, it has been on alert at Langley since late 2001, in 2005 being the first to transition to the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's latest air superiority fighter.



The Escape Line "Comet"

by Roger Callens

After the fall of France in June 1940 many of the British prisoners of war marching through Belgium on their way to camps in Germany escaped and hid on farms in the Flemish countryside. There were many escape lines formed in Europe during World War II, some large and many modest, some operating successfully for long periods and others cut tragically short. Two of the better-known lines were "The Pat O'Leary Line" and "The Comet Line."

Patrick Albert O'Leary was the undercover name of a Belgian army doctor named Albert Guérissse. After the Belgian capitulation on May 28, 1940 he made his way to Gibraltar and volunteered for hazardous service. In 1941 he went to Marseille, France and soon made contact with other organizations. By mid 1941 there was a firmly established escape line under the name "Pat O'Leary Line," guiding escapers and evaders from Belgium through northern France to the safety of Spain. The line carried more than 600 escapers to Spain and back to Britain. 1943 was the year which saw the disastrous collapse of the line, with most of the members arrested. Pat O'Leary (Albert Guérissse) was arrested in March 1943 and later sent to Dachau but survived the war.

The "Comet Line" was a Belgian escape and evasion network that assisted escaped and evaded British soldiers, Allied airmen downed and Belgians who tried to join the Belgian Forces in England. Andrée De Jongh, the daughter of a headmaster, was born in Brussels on November 30, 1916. After leaving college she was working as a commercial artist. When the Germans invaded Belgium on May 10, 1940 she decided to become a nurse. Some of her patients were captured British soldiers.

In 1941 Andrée De Jongh (nickname Dedée) decided to follow the example of a WW I heroine, Edith Cavell, and with help of her father, Frederick De Jongh, she organized an escape line later known as "Comet Line." This included the creation of a series of safe houses in and around Brussels and later in the countryside and France. In June 1941 together with Arnold Deppe, who also assisted in the hiding of soldiers, worked out a route to Bayonne on the Spanish frontier, a place where Arnold Deppe had once lived. A friend of Arnold Deppe gave him the address of Madame De Greef, a Belgian

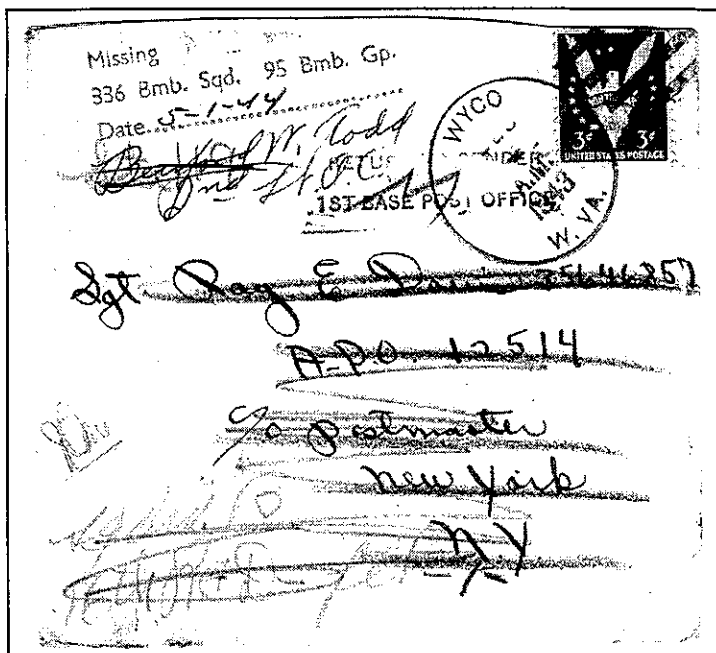


Figure 1. Cover from Wyco, West Virginia dated December 4, 1943 to Sgt. Ray E Davis temporary APO 12514, England. Unframed markings "Missing 336 Bomb Sq. 95 Bomb Gp. Date 5-1-44" and "Return to Sender Verified 1st Base Post Office England." On reverse postal marking "1st BPO 15-1-44 Control Section."

family of Brussels who had been living in the town of Anglet after fleeing the advancing German Army. Madame De Greef introduced him to a Basque chief of the mountain guides to take the escapers across the border.

The first trip was not a success. In July 1941 Andrée De Jongh joined Arnold Deppe in taking a group of 10 Belgians and an English woman down the line to Spain. Once arrived in Spain the Belgians were arrested by the Spanish police and three of the Belgian army officers were taken back across the frontier and handed over to the Germans. Andrée De Jongh thought that in the future she would take the escapers straight to the British consul at Bilbao, Spain. In August 1941 Arnold Deppe took six Belgians and traveled on the train through Lille, France while Andrée De Jongh with two Belgians and a Scottish soldier traveled through Valenciennes, France. Arnold Deppe failed to arrive at their rendezvous on the Somme River in France so Andrée De Jongh continued to Bayonne and Anglet to Spain. She took the Scottish soldier straight to the British consul at Bilbao and then waited three weeks in Bilbao while arrangements were made with the British MI9 to reimburse her expenses by the consul.

When she returned to Brussels the news was bad. Arnold Deppe had been arrested with his group as they left Brussels on the train to Lille, France. One of the Belgian officers, handed back to the Germans in July, had talked and the Germans had a description of Andrée De Jongh from this man. Unable to stay in Belgium, she went to Paris, France. Fortunately Arnold Deppe was arrested with other Belgians rather

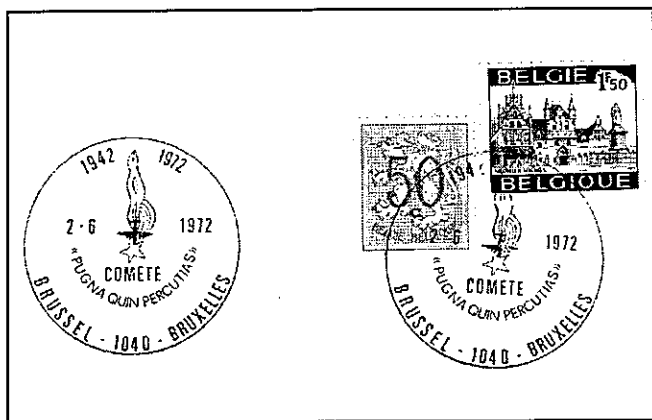


Figure 2: Special commemorative hand stamp with "Comet Line" badge and motto.

The Escape Line "Comet"...

than with Allied military personnel and returned after the war from the concentration camps in Germany. The German Gestapo, using a traitor, arrested her father Frederick De Jongh in Paris in June 1943 and later executed him at the Mont Valerien, France. Andrée De Jongh was also betrayed and captured at a farmhouse at Urugne, a French village near the Spanish border, in January 1943. She was interrogated by the Gestapo and tortured and admitted that she was the organizer of the network. Unwilling to believe her, the Gestapo let her live and sent her first to the Fresnes prison in Paris and later to the concentration camps Ravensbruck and Mauthausen. She was released by Allied troops in April 1945.

Meanwhile, the escape line "Comet" continued in her absence. Andrée De Jongh helped around 400 Allied military personnel to escape from Belgium, through occupied France to the British consulate in Madrid and to Gibraltar. She accompanied 118 of them by herself. When Andrée De Jongh (Dédée) was forced to move to Paris in April 1942 she was succeeded in Brussels by Baron Jean Greindl, codenamed "Nemo," a citizen of my home town Zellik where a lane is named after him. Following infiltration of the "Comet Line" by the Gestapo (German secret police) agents Baron Jean Greindl was arrested on February 6, 1943 after been betrayed by the Belgian traitor Jacques Desoubrie. Baron Jean Greindl was sentenced to death and imprisoned at the Etterbeek Barracks, Brussels. Ironically he was killed on September 7, 1943 during the U.S. Air Force bombardment of the Etterbeek Barracks.

The escape line was to follow the hilly goat trails that led through the Pyrenees mountains to the Bidassoa River, the border between France and Spain. The Bidassoa was a flooded torrent, especially in the winter, and dangerous to cross. In the night of December 23-24, 1943 a group of 10 tried to cross the Bidassoa River. One of the group was 2nd Lt Jim F Burch from Terrel, Texas, copilot of a B-17 from 385 Bomb Group, 549 Bomb Squadron shot down on October 10, 1943 at Holten, Netherlands. The men were shaken when gunshots from the Spanish Guardia rang out as they entered the water. Two men, 2nd Lt Jim Burch and the Belgian "Comet" leader, after the arrest of Baron Greindl, Comte Antoine d'Ursel, were swept away by the raging current and drowned. German border patrols found both men's bodies later that night but to this day no one knows where they were buried.

One of the Bomb Groups during the mission at the ball-bearing factory at Elberfeld, Germany on 5 January 1944 was the 95th Bomb Group. On their way back the B-17 serial 42-37734 code ET-G "Cuddle Cat" from the 336th Bomb Squadron was hit by Flak and crashed at Ermeton sur Biert, a small village near Namur, Belgium. From the crew of nine, one was killed and the others baled out. Three of them evaded

capture and the others were taken POW by the Germans. Two of the evaded crew members, T/Sgt Louis Rabinovitz and Sgt Ray Davis (Figure 2) were taken in charge by the "Comet" line. Unfortunately T/Sgt Rabinovitz was evacuated via the

false KLM escape line and arrested by the Germans on May 30, 1944 and transferred to a POW camp in Germany. Sgt Ray Davis (Figure 1) had the fortune to be evacuated by the "Comet" line. With two other American airmen he left Belgium on March 11, 1944 and arrived safely at the hiding place of Belgian De Greef family at Anglet, southern France. Increasing German border patrols and the lack of mountain guides made it more and more difficult to cross into Spain. At the same time the Allied troops had landed in Normandy and liberation was imminent. Sgt Ray Davis remained at the hiding place at Anglet, France and

was finally liberated by American troops in September 1944.

Epilogue

The Belgian "Comet Line" saved more than 800 downed Allied airmen. From the 2,000 "Comet Line" members and co-workers more than 800 were arrested. 216 of them were executed or died in concentration camps. After the war Andrée De Jongh (Dédée), founder of the escape line, was made Countess by the Belgian King. In Britain she was awarded the George Cross and the Medal of Freedom by the Americans. Later she went to the Belgian Congo and worked as a nurse in a leper colony and did similar work in Ethiopia at a leper hospital in Addis Ababa. She passed away in Brussels on October 13, 2007.

The "Comet Line" badge can be seen in the bottom right-hand of a stained glass window in the Basilica at Koekelberg in Brussels. The badge (Figure 2) represents a falling plane and a star for those in the "Comet Line" which aided Allied evaders and escapers, beneath the badge is the motto "Pugna Quin Percutias" (fight without blows). The window was unveiled in October 1953 by Prince Albert (now King Albert II). Beneath the window is the Royal Air Force Escaping Society plaque. Also in the Basilica is a chapel dedicated to the RAF. Behind the altar are beautiful stained glass windows who symbolize the long-standing spirit of comradeship between Britain and Belgium, in particular the Belgian Air Force and the Royal Air Force. The windows were created by the talented Belgian artist Madame Theodora Veranneman.

References (all websites):

- "Andrée De Jongh", "Komeet (Comète) ontsnappingslijn van Dédée" (Dutch)
- World War 2 Escape Lines Memorial Society - www.conscript-heros.com/escapelines
- "Comète Kinship Belgium" - users.skynet.be/Belgian.material



Figure 3: Photograph in Belgium of Sgt. Ray Davis (standing on left) with three other U.S. airmen waiting evacuation.

Stars and Strife

Movie Prop Mail – “Pearl Harbor”

by Thomas Richards and Regis Hoffman

As one would expect, among the hundreds of thousands of pieces of fan mail to the “stars of the silver screen,” there are numerous interesting items of a military nature. This continuing column will address those items and hope to encourage others who have unusual covers that reflect Military Postal History to write about them. This time we will cover prop mail created for wartime movies.

Roger Callens’ interesting article on “An American in the RAF” in the summer 2008 issue of the *MPHS Bulletin* sent us looking for some prop mail that we had from the 2001 movie “Pearl Harbor.” Roger’s article covers an American volunteer in one of the Eagle Squadrons. These were individuals who joined the RAF prior to the US entering the war.

In the movie “Pearl Harbor,” Capt. Rafe McCawley (Ben Affleck) joins the RAF and is shot down and presumed killed. His girl friend at Pearl Harbor, Nurse Lt. Evelyn Johnson, (Kate Beckinsale) falls in love with Rafe’s best friend, Capt. Danny Walker, (Josh Hartnett). When Rafe re-appears in Pearl just before Dec. 7th 1941 the love triangle explodes.

When Pearl Harbor is attacked, all is forgiven and they unite to fight the Japanese. The remainder of the story covers the battle and the eventual Doolittle’s (Alec Baldwin) raid on Japan.

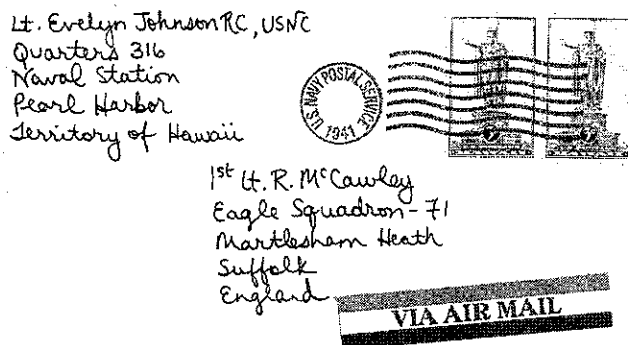


Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows an envelope addressed to 1st Lt. R. McCawley at Eagle Squadron – 71 which, per Roger’s article was formed on Sept. 10th 1940 (the following reference says Sept 19th 1940) at Church Fenton, York, England. They were later moved to Lindsay, England.

It was sent from Pearl Harbor to Rafe at Eagle Squadron 71 at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, England. It is cancelled with a 1941 (no day/month) U.S. Army Postal Service cancel. Two actual U.S. 3-cent stamps (Scott’s #799 of 1937) pay the postage to England. Many times the prop masters use stamps issued after the time period – but these were appropriate. No censor markings are shown but the U.S. had not begun to censor mail yet.

The six-cent rate airmail rate was OK for movement within the U.S. and its territories but I don’t believe it would cover transit to England. The six-cent airmail rate to or from members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving outside the continental U.S. did not go into effect until after Pearl Harbor. So this letter appears to be underpaid. Can anyone enlighten us on this rate situation?

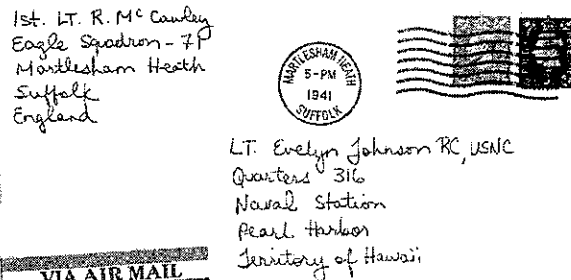


Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows a letter going in the opposite direction. The envelope is cancelled by a Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, England cancel with no day/month in 1941. No mention is made in the Eagle Squadron reference of the move to Martlesham Heath which is in the south of England while Church Fenton is in the north. This may have been poetic license or poor research by the prop department.

Two actual British 3-pence stamps pay the postage to the U.S. In most cases with prop mail the prop master will create simulated cardboard stamps (See “The Great Raid” prop mail article in the Fall 2005 issue of the *Bulletin*).

However, the stamp on the right (Scott #240) was from the 1937-38 issue while the stamp on the left is probably #263 which was from the 1941-42 issue and may not have been available prior in early 1941. However no month date is shown and it could be later in 1941.

The envelope appears to contain a letter. I’ve opened others before and they usually contain blank pages. It is addressed to Evelyn at Pearl Harbor. No censor marks are shown contrary to what would be expected.

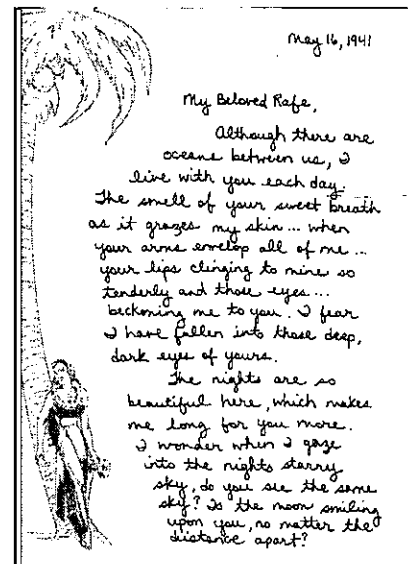


Figure 3.

Figure 3 shows the front page of a letter from Evelyn to Rafe dated May 16th 1941. The palm tree, beautiful girl, theme on the paper appears to fit the Pearl Harbor scene – pre-war.

When movie studios sold items from their movies they usually included a Certificate of Authenticity (COA), and this item has one. It is not very easy to get authentication of movie prop mail from

the true stamp authentication services. So this may be all the collector has.

Reference:

Eagle Squadrons website: www.eaglesquadrons.com/cop-permine/index.php?cat=5

AEF - FRENCH GOVERNMENT GIFT CARDS

by Russ W Carter

The three cards illustrated here are occasionally seen in exhibits, in dealer's stocks, and on eBay. They are always misidentified. The cards, which are multicolored, are always identified as just a French postcard, but there is much more to the story that was found in the National Archives recently.

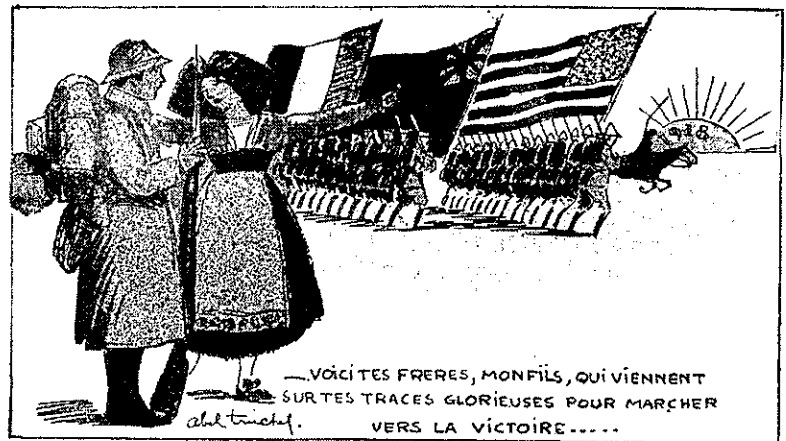
On Dec. 21, 1917, the French government's Photographique et Cinématographique de l'Armée section gave 300,000 of these cards to their counterpart in the AEF as a goodwill gesture. The Photo Section of the Press Division did not know what to do with them as they were not in the business of giving away stationery. The 18 crates were blocking the hallway and they needed to get rid of them quickly.

At first it was suggested that they be given to the Post Office Department, but they could not give them away for a variety of reasons. Then someone suggested that the YMCA might want them. The YMCA was contacted and asked if they would dispense them. The YMCA was happy to get them and began giving them away shortly after January 15, 1918.



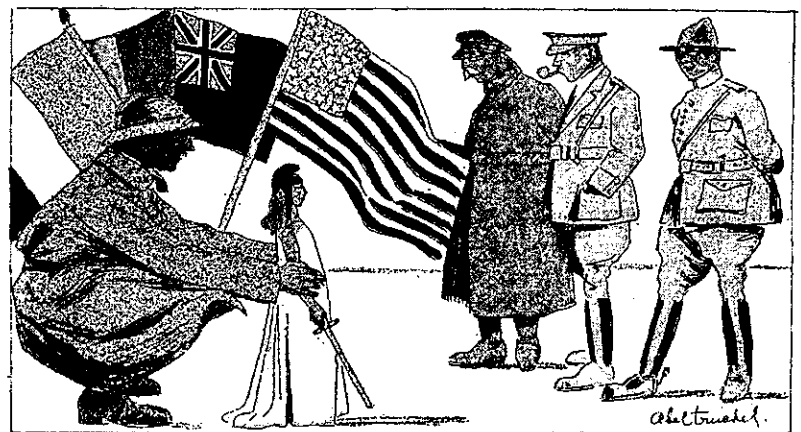
BRAVO ! CAMARADE,
A L'OMBRE DE TON DRAPEAU,
NOUS MARCHERONS VERS LA VICTOIRE

Bravo, comrad, under the protection of your flag,
we will win the Victory!



—VOICI TES FRERES, MON FILS, QUI VIENNENT
SUR TES TRACES GLORIEUSES POUR MARCHER
VERS LA VICTOIRE.....

Your brothers, my son, tread in your glorious footsteps towards the Victory!



VOICI L'ANNEE NOUVELLE ET NOUS L'AVONS BAPTISEE : VICTOIRE !!!

Here is the new year : We name her « Victoria! »

Follow-up to "The 'Second-Earliest' AEF Cover from World War I?"

I refer to the above article found in the Fall 2008 *MPHS Bulletin*. I have a roster of AEF Base Hospital No. 4 and the addressee's name of "Merchant" on the cover is not on that roster. The roster can be found in "Album de la Guerre," published in 1919 by Base Hospital No. 4. Further, I feel the cover was most likely not written by an American because of the style and because "Ohio" is misspelled. Also, the writer refers to "North America" in the address rather than using "USA" as was common with American soldiers. The use of "North America" is often-seen in addresses of covers and cards from civilians in the United Kingdom. The use of a U.S. postage stamp is a mystery, and like the author, I wish we had more data.

Jim Boyden

APO/FPO Openings and Closings

These APO and FPO actions were announced in the *Postal Bulletin* between November, 2008 and January, 2009. Announcements advise Postal Service staff that they may now accept mail addressed to APO/FPO numbers listed as "Active," and may no longer accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Closed." Actual dates of operation of APO/FPO post offices may differ from the dates given. Some numbers may be Mailing Addresses Only rather than representing an operating post office.

APO/FPO #	ACTION	DATE
APO 09362	Active	11/20/08*
APO 09364	Active	01/15/09*
APO 09790	Close	01/01/09*
APO 09888	Close	01/01/09*

In many cases the *Postal Bulletin* does not publish actual effective dates, saying only "immediately" for the action. The dates of these announcements are marked with an asterisk to show that this was the date of the *Postal Bulletin* notice.

Very little activity of any kind. APO 09888 was at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait, where it has operated since Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Understanding APO 09790 requires a lesson in modern military terminology. It was assigned to Camp Able Sentry, near the airport in Skopje, Macedonia. The camp was established in the 1990s and was designated an RSO base, for "Receiving, Staging and Onward Movement" in support of Operation Joint Guardian in the Balkans. In 2001, when civil conflict tore apart much of Macedonia, the American forces there were evacuated to Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo, and the facility was designated a "warm base," meaning that operations were suspended and that base was maintained by a small group of civilian contractors in the event that it might be needed again. The civil strife in Macedonia soon diminished, and on Dec. 15, 2004 NATO headquarters in the Balkans moved out of a local shoe factory into the base.

The following notice appeared in the *Postal Bulletin* of Jan. 15, 2009:

Effective January 18, 2009, the Postal Service is revising the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) 113, 123, 413, 423, 503, 507, 601, 703, 705, and 707.3 to reflect a request from the Department of State to distinguish diplomatic overseas mail from military mail. A Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) is a designated USPS civilian Post Office that falls under the jurisdiction of the postmaster of either New York City or San Francisco. These facilities are operated and managed by the Department of State to serve overseas personnel at American embassies and consulates. DPO is the preferred name for mail addressed to Department of State overseas offices. Customers shipping items to a DPO address in a Priority Mail large flat-rate box will pay the same price for the Priority Mail large flat-rate box as for a box shipped to an APO/FPO address. With this change, DPO last line address information must contain the DPO designation and the appropriate two-letter state abbreviation (AA, AE, or AP), followed by the ZIP++ or 5-digit ZIP Code.

When the Military Postal Service Agency's database of APO and FPO numbers first became available online several years ago, it included several entries marked "DPO," rather than APO or FPO. We commented then that those codes all were assigned to American embassies or consulates. Apparently the Department of State has just now asked that mail for these facilities be handled separately from military mail.

APO Catalog Update

by Thierry Delespesse

The update of the "APO 1965 to Present" catalog is underway and going well. There are some major changes in the new edition. One is that the catalog will have illustrations: pictures of APOs, covers and especially APO cancels and miscellaneous markings. It is impossible to show postmarks for all the APOs over the years but many unusual, out of the ordinary postmarks will be shown as well as many of those used by contingency APOs — the 09300 series.

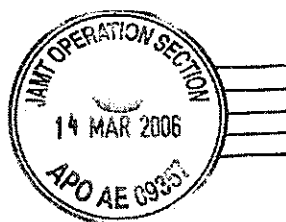
Also, the APOs used during the various operations, such as Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to name just a few, will be better defined in the listings.

I'm now at the point where I need some help. During the past few years, it has been increasingly difficult to get information on APO locations and dates of operations. I have some gaps here and there, so if you collect modern APOs (after 1964) and have such information, even if it is only about one specific APO, please contact me and I'll let you know what I'm looking for.

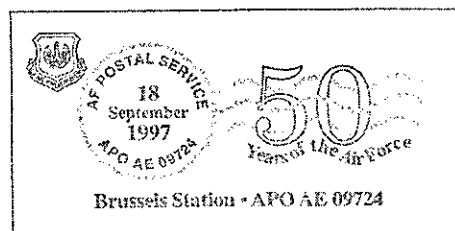
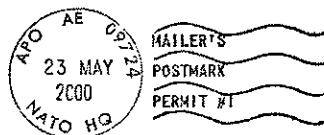
Also, I have many examples of APO postmarks but I'm sure there are more out there that I don't know about. So if you have covers with unusual cancels, such as odd sizes, odd shapes, cancels showing a location, operation's name or that are just plain different, please let me know so I can use them in the new edition. You'll find some illustrations of unusual cancels with this article as examples.

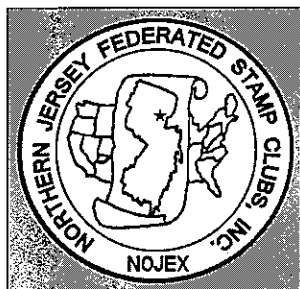
Finally, I'd like to expand a bit on the information about the Vietnam War. So if you collect mail from that war, please let me know.

You can contact me by e-mail at : apocovers@aim.com or by mail at: PO Box 32225 - Tucson, AZ 85851-2225.



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NOJEX

Annual Exhibit of the North New Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, Inc.
APS Chapter 508

Exhibit Entry Form

Due April 1, 2009

Please Print

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Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Email

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☐ Are you exhibiting for the first time in a National Competition?

☐ Are you a member of a North Jersey Federated Stamp Club?

Club

Memberships in National Societies with Membership No.

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TITLE

Brief description for program

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Awards Won at WSP or International Exhibitions by This Exhibit

Award / Exhibition Date

.....
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Cost/Frame

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- ☐ D. Illustrated Mail Division
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On the Show Circuit

by Alan Warren

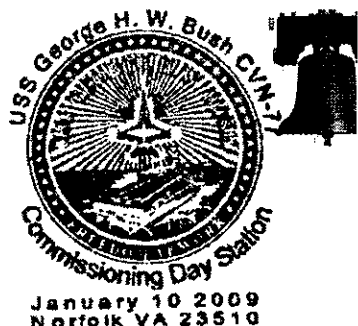
At the FIP Praga 2008 exhibition in Czechoslovakia in September, Steven Walske won a gold with his "Military Postal History of the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War." He also received felicitations of the jury. In October the SES-CAL/Americas show was held in Los Angeles. The competitive exhibits included many from the south and central America countries. As a result, many exhibits were judged by an FIP jury according to FIP standards as well as national APS standards.

Roberto Eaton won a FIP large vermeil and a national gold for "Paraguayan Chaco War Correspondence in the 1930s: The Paraguayan Mail System during the Defense of the Chaco 1931-1936." David Cordon also received a FIP large vermeil and a national gold for "Mails of Boer War Prisoners Held in Bermuda." Another large vermeil and national gold went to Eliot Landau for "Classic France: The Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875 in the Foreign Mails."

At the same show, a national gold and the MPHS award went to Giorgio Migliavacca for "Italian Prisoners of War in the USA during World War 2." In the single frame category, Louis Fiset took a FIP gold and national gold for "Mail Linked to the Two U.S. - Japan Diplomatic Exchanges in World War II." Peter Iber received FIP and national silvers for "Civil Censored Mail - Thailand - World War II 1939-1945."

Phil Rhoads won a gold, the APS 1940-1990 award of excellence, and the MPHS award at VAPEX in Williamsburg VA in November with his "The Murder Of Lidice." Al Kugel received a single frame vermeil and the AAPE award of honor at OKPEX in Oklahoma City in November with his "American Military Agencies in Latin America 1922-1942: Cuba and Colombia."

At the FLOREX show in Orlando in December, Bob Yacano won a vermeil and the International Philippine Philatelic Society Eugene A. Garrett award for "Mail during the Philippine Revolutionary Period 1898-1901." At the same show Raymond Murphy received a silver for "Jamaica in World War II."



Criteria for Military Postal History Society Awards

The Military Postal History Society (MPHS) award and certificate are each given to the best exhibit in an APS World Series of Philately show which has as its subject or a major theme material relating to the military and/or naval forces of any country in war or peace or focuses on some aspect of a wartime conflict.

Some examples may be evident from their titles such as "War in the Balkans, 1914-19" or "Allied Intervention in China During the Boxer Rebellion." Others may be less obvious but still appropriate such as "The Katanga Uprising and its Postal History," or "U.S. Mail from and to the Japanese-American Internment Camps, 1942-45," and military and civil censorship exhibits.

Some exhibits with a non-obvious title may still qualify if there is a major focus on the postal history of a conflict. For example, an exhibit of Bolivian Postal History of the 1930s might qualify if, in the jury's discretionary judgment, a major portion of the exhibit was devoted to the beginning, combat and end of the Chaco War. A postal history of the Philippines from 1896-1946 could qualify if it included significant material from the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection which followed, the Philippines in World Wars I and II (including mail of American troops stationed there before the invasion by Japan), postal history of that invasion and the liberation. Exhibits featuring army mail in peacetime or during a period of occupation would qualify as would "The Pacific Fleet Between the Wars: 1919-1941."

The **award** is awarded at shows with three or more qualifying exhibits and must be awarded to the best of those exhibits. It is expected, but not required, that the medal would usually be awarded to an exhibit which receives a medal level of silver or better.

The **certificate** is awarded at WSP shows where there are only one or two qualifying exhibits. All medal levels are considered appropriate. For example, if a show has two qualifying exhibits and both have won bronze medals but the jury believes that one of the exhibits has better potential for advancement, they should select that exhibit in order to encourage the exhibitor.

The MPHS Awards Chair should be notified after the show and the award or certificate will be promptly provided.

Show Committee awards chairs will also be provided with MPHS membership applications and are encouraged to give them to all exhibitors with qualifying exhibits. It is NOT required that an exhibitor be an MPHS member to qualify for an award. Any questions may be directed to MPHS Awards Chair, Harvey Tilles at htilles@triad.rr.com or Eliot A. Landau at elandau@aol.com.

Future MPHS Conventions and Meetings

May 22-24, 2009

NOJEX, Secaucus, N.J.

Feb. 26-28, 2010

St. Louis Stamp Expo. St. Louis, Mo.

November 18-20, 2011

CHICAGOPEX, Arlington Heights, Ill.

April 27-29, 2012

WESTPEX, San Francisco, Calif.

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2013

BALPEX, Hunt Valley, Maryland

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 at APS headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa.]

Bill Pekonen continues the discussion on blackout cancels of Canada during WW II in the August issue of *War Times*, published by the World War II Study Group of BNAPS. He provides tables of Eastern and Western Command Squadron Numbers and Naval Post Offices to help identify locations. He continues the series in the November issue, which includes a list of HMCS ship names that really stood for base locations.

Colin Pomfret describes a picture post card showing the area known as "The Narrows" at St. John's, Newfoundland in the November issue of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group's newsletter. It was sent during WW II and was delayed and marked by Naval Censorship with a handstamp reading, "This souvenir has been delayed for reasons of Security, pursuant to Naval Order No. 3318."

Another Canadian publication is the quarterly journal of the British North America Philatelic Society's *BNA Topics*. The April-June 2008 issue carries an article by David H. Whitely on Canadian forces that served in the North Russian campaign of 1918-1919. In addition to describing the handling of mail for the Syren and Elope Forces, he lists Canadian airmen with name, rank, unit, theatre and home town.

In the same issue, Bill Topping describes the Willow Park training camp in Victoria, B.C. during WW I and its use of the Victoria Sub. Office X cancellation. In the July-September issue, Mike Street illustrates a previously unknown RCAF WW II marking on a parcel bag tag, and asks readers to help clarify some manuscript notations. The tag also bears a clear marking from FPO 116, not previously reported.

Robert W. Collins, who has written about and exhibited Korean War material, discusses the turncoats in the November issue of *La Posta*. A group of 21 United States POWs did not want to return home at the end of the war as they had collaborated with the North Koreans and Chinese. Collins describes some of their mail and gives profiles of two of the turncoats—Richard Tennison and Albert Belhomme.

The Serbian-Turkish War of 1876-1877 is described briefly by Jovan Velickovic in the November-December *Collectors Club Philatelist*. However, he illustrates a very unusual registered letter sent from Knjazevac to Belgrade in February 1877. The franking consists of eight copies of the 10 para Prince Milan issue in the rare perforation of 9½ and cancelled in manuscript with the Cyrillic characters for "Paid." The cds for this post office was not found when it reopened and was replaced with a new one only a few weeks after this letter was mailed.

Anatoly Osatinski strikes into new territory with his article on the field post offices of the Red Army cavalry in WW II in the Fall issue of *Rossica*, journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately. In addition to showing some examples of illustrated patriotic stationery, he provides a detailed table listing FPO stations by number and their division, the regiments in the division, the Corps, army and front, the period of active duty dates, and further notes.

Alfred Kugel writes about Swiss volunteers in the German military effort during WW II in the December issue of *German Postal Specialist*. Volunteers from several European countries in the German campaign in the Soviet Union helped with the "Anti-Bolshevik Crusade." In the case of neutral Switzerland, the effort was in humanitarian aid. After many years of searching, Kugel had found only two examples of correspondence from the Swiss volunteers—a cover from a physician working in the Swiss Surgical Mission, sent from a field post office, and a post card sent by a nurse with another Swiss Surgical Mission located in a military hospital in Warsaw.

Harry Hohndorf discusses the War in Finland during 1808-1809 in issue No. 6/2008 of *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift*, published by the Swedish philatelic federation. He uses a number of period maps showing the offensives, and cites several print sources for background details.

Egil Thomassen illustrates some of the blackened cancellations used in Scotland during World War II in the December issue of the *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*. The examples are from an extensive correspondence from the Norwegian brigade's army school and training division, and sent to Sweden. The evolution of the cancels that were permitted and censorship labels are shown.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Guadalcanal

reviewed by Alan Warren

Hell's Islands: The Untold Story of Guadalcanal by Stanley C. Jersey.

536 pages, 6 1/4 by 9 1/4 inches, case bound, dust jacket, Texas A&M University Press, College Station TX, 2008. ISBN 978-1-58544-616-2, \$35 from better book stores or Amazon.com.

This is *not* a military postal history work. It is a military history book and a stunning example of such. Noted collector, exhibitor, and past president of the Military Postal History Society, Stan Jersey, takes the reader on a nearly day by day

journey recalling the heroic efforts and tragic casualties in one of World War II's most gripping campaigns. Without sensationalizing the horrors experienced by both the Japanese and American military forces in these famous battles, the author presents a thoroughly researched and detailed record of the events leading up to and culminating in one of the fiercest confrontations of the Pacific Theatre.

The Solomon Islands represented a strategic location for both sides, and their military importance underscores the heavy toll sustained in the

Allied attempts to regain control of the islands. Japan easily took over Tanambogo, Gavutu and Florida islands in 1942 and proceeded to build an airstrip on Guadalcanal. They were surprised when the U.S. Marines enacted amphibious landings on these islands in August 1942 with a goal of taking over and completing the landing strip, later named Henderson Field.

Following a brief historical background of the Solomons, Jersey tells of the evacuations undertaken there once Japan had landed at Malaya and attacked Pearl Harbor. The Pacific War was under way. By early 1942 the islands were under control of Japan and construction began on the airstrip on Guadalcanal. July brought Allied bombings and strafings in preparation for invasion. However, the intransigence of the Japanese forces and the unanticipated brutality of jungle warfare and fighting in the tropics were soon apparent to the Allies.

August 7, 1942 marked the Allied assault on Guadalcanal. Jersey's detailed narration of the events over the ensuing weeks and months reveal his intensive search of Japanese archives to understand the organization and deployment of their forces. In addition he turned up diaries and personal photos of the troops on both sides to provide a vivid account of the battles. The author learned that his access to Japan's war records was the first such request since shortly after the war ended.

Jersey's narrative is so detailed that it seems a movie script could easily be made from it. Reading of the tribulations and heroic acts on both sides during the fight for Guadalcanal is a spine-tingling experience. The campaign went on much longer than either side expected, into February 1943. Ultimately the Japanese were weakened by lack of supplies and

food, despite attempts to bring materiel in by submarine under cover of darkness.

The painful evacuation of Japanese forces portends the end of the story. A few roving bands did not make the escape and went on to fight or kill themselves rather than surrender. Snipers continued to plague the U.S. forces. The last enemy soldier surrendered in 1949.

Appendices provide detailed listings of the Japanese forces, notes on the sources used in each chapter, a glossary of terms and acronyms, and a monumental bibliography. Seven pages of special acknowledgments underscore the tremendous efforts expended by Stan Jersey to recreate the historical record of events. This book is not only a landmark of archival and personal research, but also a fitting testimonial to one of the most bitter campaigns of the Second World War.

Red Cross

reviewed by Alan Warren

Mail to the Red Cross from Warsaw: Routing and Censorship—Late 1944, Early 1945 by Chris Kulpinski. 64 pages, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, card cover, spiral bound, self-published, Scottsdale AZ, 2008. \$30 postpaid in USA, \$35 elsewhere. Also available on CD for \$15 anywhere in the world. Ordering details from www.polishphilatelicaliterature.com or from Chris Kulpinski, 9350 E. Palm Tree Dr., Scottsdale AZ 85255 USA.

The Vistula River divides Warsaw and the eastern side is known as Praga. That area was liberated by Polish units fighting with the Russian Army during 1944. Postal communications were reestablished there and a set of two stamps issued in September 1944. The 25 gr. Eagle stamp ceased to be valid after December as that rate was no longer needed. The other value was the 50 gr. Grunwald Monument stamp.

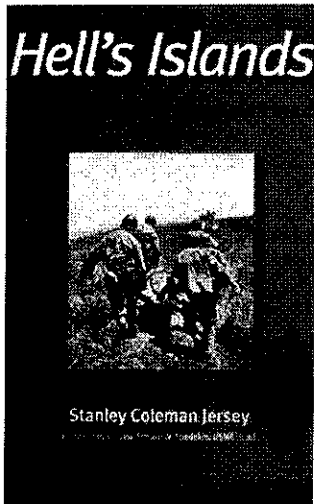
A large part of what little mail survives from this late war period was sent from the Praga section of Warsaw to the International Red Cross in Geneva during late 1944 and early 1945. The routing was Warsaw>Moscow>Ankara>Beirut>Cairo>Gibraltar>Geneva. The elapsed time was lengthy as the mail was accumulated in Warsaw for some time before going in bulk to Moscow.

Author Kulpinski identifies the active post offices in Praga at the time and locates them on a city map. The cancellations at these offices are described and illustrated. Most of the mail was registered and bears Geneva arrival marks.

Censorship was conducted at various way points but it is difficult to determine where the mail was opened or passed. Censorship was conducted at Cairo, Beirut, and Gibraltar as well as by the Polish Military. Various censorship handstamps and resealing tapes are shown, and identified where possible. Just where some colored resealing tapes (orange, pink, brown) were applied is not clear. A few registered covers escaped censorship, again indicating that censorship was not conducted consistently.

Transit markings and some earliest known uses are illustrated. A rarity scale, based on covers examined by the author, is presented for various markings. The transit time was usually between 100 and 200 days, but sometimes even longer. A detailed analysis of the covers studied is shown in tabular format. The book includes half a dozen literature references.

The data provided on this limited inventory of covers in a brief time period late in WW II offers some conclusion on how the mail was handled. The author has provided an interesting glimpse into this niche of Polish mail related to the Second World War.



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War Ballots: Military Voting by Mail from the Civil War to WWII by Russ Carter. Covers military voting in 1813 thru the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War One and World War Two. It is spiral bound with a clear plastic cover (262 pages w/315 illustrations, 9 charts, 2 identification guides. **Cost:** US members \$20; Canadian members \$35; Mexico, \$40; overseas members \$45; non-members \$55. **CD:** All members \$10; Non-members \$20.

WORLD WAR ONE

AEF in the BEF by Jim Boyden. Spiral bound (400 pages w/ 150 illustrations). **Cost:** US members \$35; overseas members \$40; non-members, \$55.00. **CD:** All members, \$15. Non-members, \$25.

US Air Service in Britain, WWI by Jim Boyden. Comb bound (96 pages with illustrations). **Cost:** US members \$25; overseas members \$35; non-members \$45. **CD:** All members \$10. Non-members: \$20.

Postal History of the AEF 1917-1923 by Theo Van Dam. Spiral bound w/hard, clear plastic cover, (274 pages). **Cost:** Members price: US \$25; Canada \$35; Mexico \$45; overseas members \$45. Non-members: US \$50. **CD:** All members: \$15. Overseas: \$35.

Update I – Postal History of the AEF. Spiral bound w/hard, clear plastic cover, (66 pages). **Cost:** Members price: US \$10; Canada \$15; Mexico \$20; all other members, \$30. Non-members \$35. **CD:** \$10. members; Non-members \$20.

Update II Postal History of the AEF. Spiral bound w/hard plastic cover, (168 pages). **Cost:** Members price: US \$15; Canadian and Mexican members \$20; all others \$30. Non-members: \$40. **CD:** All members \$10, Non-members \$20.

WORLD WAR TWO

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WANTED: COVERS

WW II COVERS and letters relating to malaria. Looking for covers related to Navy malariology and Army malaria survey and control units. Kelly Horn, kthorn@bellsouth.net. ([09/1])

"INTELLIGENCE" MATERIAL for new exhibit and column. Covers, stamps, postal history associated with the CIA, KGB, MI5/6, Mossad, covert operations, etc. Literature/references/appropriate material also sought. I'm writing for several government/academic publications related to this field and believe it is a good way to introduce non-collectors to our hobby via the military/intelligence/govern-

ment community. All inquiries will be acknowledged. Mark Sommer, 1266 Teaneck Rd., #10A, Teaneck, NJ 07666. (201) 837-0489. ([08/3])

PT BOATS. Seeking Help. Looking for good photocopies of covers, photos and or documents relating to Motor Torpedo Boats (PTs), Tenders, Bases. They will possibly be included in a book dealing with PT boats. If you can help, please contact Norm Gruenzner at P.O. Box 32, Cypress, TX 77410-0032 or at ngruenzner@houston.rr.com. Thank you in advance.

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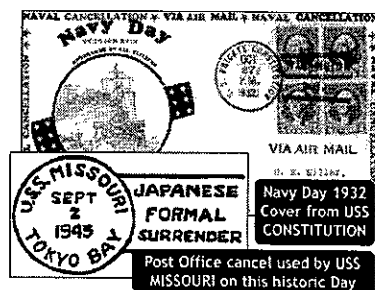
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WORLD WAR TWO

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✧ *Numbered Army and Air Force Post Office Locations, 7th Edition, Volume 2 - Temp APOs* by Russ Carter. All Members: \$44.



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Operation Tradewind

World War II consisted of a vast number of distinct operations, battles, and other events, enough to confuse even the most organized of military planners. But if you could also confuse an enemy, that certainly could be to your advantage, and enhance your chances of success.

An example of this was the scheduling of Operation Tradewind, the invasion of the island of Morotai in the Dutch East Indies. It was planned for mid-September of 1944, simultaneous with Operation Stalemate II, the more noticeable (and controversial) invasion of Peleliu. Both Japanese-held islands were deemed necessary for the upcoming invasion of the Philippines, but Morotai was lightly defended and obviously the easier target. In contrast to the fast carrier task forces that accompanied the First Marines to Peleliu, Operation Tradewind, along with the usual amphibious landing forces and support, was defended by a much smaller carrier group, consisting of six escort carriers and ten destroyer escorts, designated Task Force 77. These forces were considered strong enough to repel any air or submarine attacks the Japanese might mount.

The Japanese high command badly misused its submarine resources during the war, but Lt. Mitsuo Shiiizuka, in *HIJMS RO-41*, was finally freed from previous assignments of carrying supplies to isolated islands and was able to assist in the island's defense. On October 3, 1944, as he patrolled off the island, he was able to gain a favorable position on the escort carrier *Midway* (soon to be renamed *St. Lo*) and fired a torpedo. *Midway* managed to evade the torpedo, but it hit the destroyer escort *Shelton* directly on the starboard screw, caus-

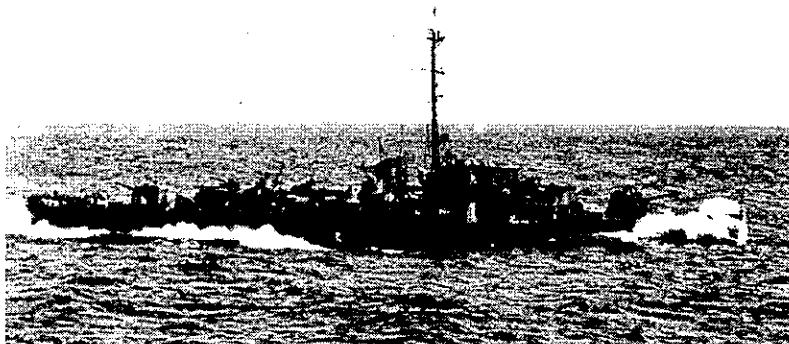
ing severe damage and flooding. Sister escort *Richard M. Rowell* quickly came alongside and removed the crew. The combined crews rigged lines and attempted to tow *Shelton* to safety, but as flooding increased so did her list, and she eventually capsized and sank.

Shelton, unfortunately, was not the only American casualty of that battle. The remaining escorts, and planes from the carriers, quickly began looking for their assailant. There were four American submarines known to be in the area, and they were directed to give their positions. Only three did. A plane from *Midway* sighted a submarine submerging and dropped

two bombs on it, even though it was in a safety zone for American submarines. The site was marked by dye and *Richard M. Rowell* steamed to the area and established sound contact on the submarine. The boat then sent a series of dashes and dots which the sonar operator stated bore no resemblance to any current recognition signals. Suspecting this was an attempt to evade,

Richard M. Rowell attacked with a pattern of Mark-10 hedgehogs. This attack produced underwater explosions, and debris rose to the surface.

Postwar analysis of the situation shows that *RO-41* had cleared the area by then, but also reveals that the American submarine *Seawolf*, which was definitely in the area, disappeared at about that time. Examination of Japanese records shows no attack that could account for the loss of *Seawolf*. While it is possible that *Seawolf* was the victim of an accident, or lost as a result of an unrecorded enemy attack elsewhere, it is more likely she was sunk by friendly fire. Her crew of 62 officers and men, as well as 17 Army passengers, were lost.

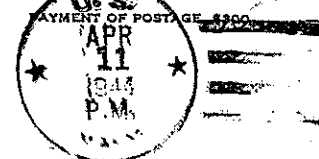


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