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

Back issues of the Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin' are now available. The issues available span the period from 1937 to 2022. The MPHS is a non-profit organization for philatelists and stamp collectors interested in the collecting and studying of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all countries, including soldiers' campaign covers, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, patriotics, propaganda, V-mail, censorship and similar related material.

You are encouraged to join the MPHS to realize the additional benefits of membership. See: http://militaryphs.org/membership

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Military Postal History Society Bulletin

Volume 55, Issue # 1
Winter 2016

www.militaryPHS.org

Angels of Bataan Were WW II's Earliest Heroines

By Kevin Lowther

Each of us old enough to remember WWII through its survivors has a personal pantheon of heroes: my late uncle whose aircraft carrier—the Bismarck Sea—was sunk by Kamikazes; my wife's late cousin whose all-black ordnance unit fought in the Battle of the Bulge; a teacher in my high school who survived the Bataan Death March.

Then there is Ken Zwicker, my first boss, who joined the Marines in December 1941 and later pledged to rescue his older sister, Alice, from a Japanese internment camp. Alice was an Army nurse who arrived in the Philippines in November 1941—just in time for the Japanese attack the day after Pearl Harbor. She was one of 54 nurses evacuated from Manila to the Army's defensive position across the bay on the Bataan peninsula. For protection, the nurses were issued helmets (**Figure 1**) left from WWI.

The Angels of Bataan, as they became known, spent the next three months providing medical care to thousands of wounded and dying American and Filipino soldiers under almost constant shelling and air bombardment. They were evacuated to the offshore island fortress

(continued on pg. 3)

Figure 1: First World War-era helmets, left over in U. S. Army stores in the Philippines, were issued to nurses arriving in Manila in November 1941. This helmet, painted with a green cross, was worn by Alice M. Zwicker, one of the "Angels of Bataan." It was recovered by an American soldier, who had been imprisoned on Corregidor, and returned to her after both had been liberated in February 1945. She had written her name inside the helmet. (Photo courtesy of the *Kennebec Journal*, Augusta, Maine.)

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.

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

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President's Message

by Ed Dubin

This month brought the news of the passing after an extended illness of long time member and past society legal counsel, Eliot A. Landau. See my write-up regarding Eliot later in this issue.

As this is the beginning of a new year I thought it appropriate to recognize members that keep this society going. Except for the bulletin editor's small stipend, all the jobs in the MPHS are filled by volunteers. They are held by people who recognize the need to give back to the hobby that has provided years of enjoyment. They recognize specialty groups such as ours are essential to collectors to spread knowledge that is not available elsewhere.

Ed as Treasurer and Louis as Vice President and temporary secretary fill two crucial jobs that manage our day to day business operations. Their work load during the dues cycle is heavy, particularly as we manage our hard-copy and digital version memberships.

Bob, our web master, has donated many hours in the redo of the web site. Compatibility with hand held devices in the future is a must. Bob's advice was invaluable as we went through the digital bulletin launch process.

Jeff, Awards Coordinator, works to keep the MPHS at the forefront of APS national shows and handled the design/purchase of all Portland Show recognition awards. Damage or loss of awards by the Post Office or show committees makes the job challenging at times.

Sergio, bulletin editor, has after years of running the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library found a new outlet for his creative energy. His aggressiveness in finding (or brow beating) authors has increased the bulletin to 36 pages this past year. If he has his way, we will be at 40 pages next year. The many authors and regular colmnists of the *MPHS Bulletin* are among the foremost unsung heoes of the Society in making this little engine go.

Thierry will spend many hours in writing up and research for the 180 auction lots you see in three bulletins a year. His work has contributed to a four fold increase in auction realizations in 2015 from 2014. In addition Thierry handles CD sales and is in the final stage of finishing our fourth APO book (Zip code APO numbers).

Norm runs the publication program and stores our book stock (saving a rental cost). His current book project is on the Korean War to go along with his PT boat and Seabee books. Al, a past President, now runs point on our convention arrangements. He along with Tony (past President), Dave (past bulletin editor) and Bob (General Counsel) are the board statesmen. As a group they have spent a number of years in organized philately, are quick with their advice and have the ability to cut to the core of an issue. If you run into any of the board members, please let them know you appreciate their service, because I sure do. Their excellence makes my job easy.

of Corregidor on April 9, 1942, as the remaining defenders on Bataan surrendered.

Incredibly, on Good Friday—April 3—Alice had managed to send an "alive-and-well" message to her parents in the central Maine village of Brownville. The telegraph connection between Cebu island and Pearl Harbor was still in American hands. Yet one month later, the *Bangor Daily News* was reporting her as dead. In fact, she was now in a Japanese internment camp in Manila. Corregidor—which had served as General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters—also had been surrendered.

Alice's remarkable story and that of her fellow nurses is told in Walter M. Macdougall's *Angel of Bataan*, published in 2015 by DownEast Books. Drawing on Alice's wartime diary and postwar speeches, Macdougall offers a tautly detailed account of what she faced over three and a half years of combat and confinement.

Her family refused to believe she was dead. Their faith was redeemed when they received an undated Imperial Japanese Army card (**Figure's 2 and 3**) from Philippine Internship Camp No. 1 later in 1942.

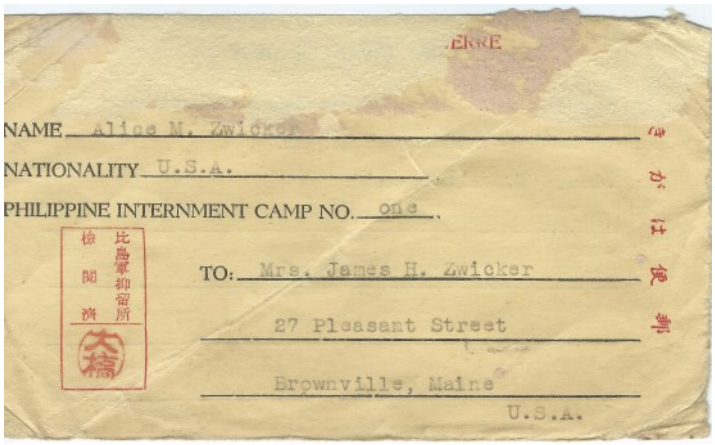


Figure 2: POW card of Alice Zwicker. The card was carried on board the mercy ship voyage of the S.S. Gripsholm between June to August 1942. Its retention by the Zwicker family confirms its provenance.

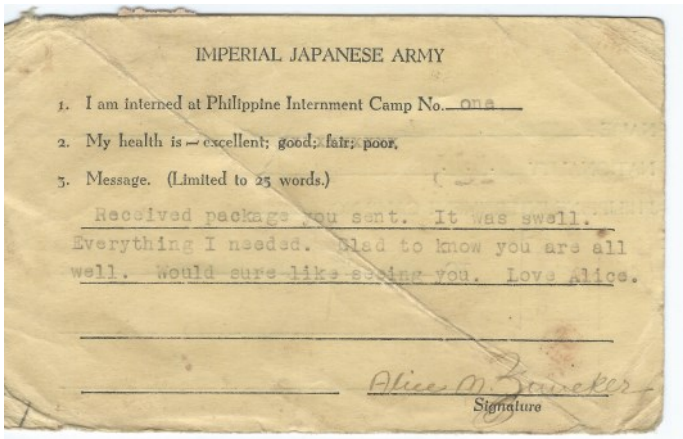
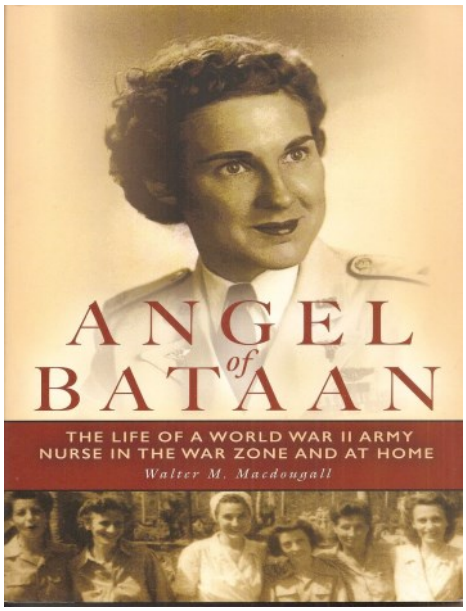


Figure 3: Reverse side of POW card of Alice Zwicker. Such cards were strictly controlled by the Japanese, particularly in regard to additional messages



Ken had joined the Marines and vowed to his brother and parents that he would find her. He came close. Ironically, he was with an artillery unit in the Pacific when Alice—liberated a few weeks earlier—arrived home in Bangor on March 3, 1945. By the time he learned she was free, through a news photo, he was fighting on Okinawa.

Ken was assistant publisher of the *Keene (N. H.) Evening Sentinel* when I joined the newsroom as a summer reporter in 1960. Sadly, I never met Alice, who continued her nursing career but whose health never fully recovered from the ravages of malnutrition, dysentery and tuberculosis contracted during her internment. She died in 1976.

The book reflects the ironies of war. Manila was considered a plum assignment for Army nurses, who numbered fewer than a thousand in late 1941. It soon became a hell on earth.

The young Japanese navy captain, commanding the transport taking the nurses from Corregidor to Manila, invited Alice and several others to tea. The captain said he looked forward to getting home after the war. The nurses assured him there would be little left of Japan when the Americans got through with it. "Japan?" the captain responded in English, "Hell, I'm not talking about Japan; I'm talking about Pasadena!" He had been visiting relatives in Japan when the war started.[1]

One of the hardest experiences for the nurses was being forced to abandon patients when they evacuated Bataan and, later, Corregidor. The bombing of Hospital No. 1 on Bataan was the most traumatic moment. Seventy-three patients were killed outright. Another 16 died of their wounds.

"What was to trouble every nurse for the rest of their lives," Macdougall writes, "was the leaving behind of their patients. It troubled them deep down, where the reality of their nurse's oath had come to live." One nurse, meeting a surviving soldier years later, told him, "Fine angel I was,

leaving you there on Bataan in a body cast."[2]

When Ken Zwicker's widow gave me a copy of *Angel of Bataan*, I asked if the family had postal history material related to Alice's wartime adventures. The book contains many photos, but nothing philatelic.

I'm glad I asked. In addition to the card in Figure 2, the family shared with me the cover (**Figure 4**) which Alice's mother, Mary, mailed to her on December 27, 1941—the day on which the nurses escaped to Bataan. It was returned marked "Service Suspended."

Figure 4: Mary Zwicker wrote her daughter in Manila on December 27, 1941. That was the day on which Alice and her fellow nurses were evacuated to a makeshift hospital on the Bataan peninsula. The letter was returned probably never having left the United States, marked "Service Suspended."

Figure 5 shows a Japanese cover, postmarked May 7, 1943, celebrating the first anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor. **Figure 6** is the counterpoint: a cover postmarked February 17, 1945, in Washington, D. C., proclaiming "Corregidor Is Ours Again." It is franked with Scott 925, which commemorates the island's liberation.

Figure 5: Japan marked the anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor with stamps commemorating its victory. This cacheted cover was mailed in Manila on May 7, 1943. The cover was censored by the Japanese Military Police.

MacArthur came to Internment Camp No. 1 three days after U. S. Army troops drove out the Japanese guards. When Alice emerged from her quarters, MacArthur was standing before her. "I threw my arms around his waist," she later wrote Ken, "and said 'Boy, am I glad to see you.' Then I suddenly realized you don't do that to a general."[3]

Figure 6: Scott # 925 was issued on September 27, 1944, to commemorate Corregidor months before the island fortress was retaken from Japanese forces in February 1945. Pictured on this event cover secured by the Zwicker family is General Jonathan Wainwright, the Army Commander who was forced to surrender American and Filipino forces in 1942, following General MacArthur's evacuation from the Philippines. Upon his release from a Japanese POW Camp in Manchuria six months after this event cover, the wan Wainwright was flown to Tokyo, Japan where he was presented by General MacArthur with the first pen used in the signing of the Japanese surrender document.

Figure 7: The Philippines issued this MacArthur commemorative set and 3rd Anniversary event cover in 1948 to commemorate the liberation of Manila in February 1945, following the intense battle to wrest control from the Japanese.

What does liberation feel like, apart from hugging a general? Alice tried to explain in 1973, at a time when the American flag was often burned to protest the Vietnam War. During her three years as a prisoner, she had neither seen the flag nor heard the national anthem.

"Under such conditions," she wrote, "the flag becomes much more than stars and stripes on a piece of cloth, and the anthem a great deal more than words set to music. . . . Never will I forget the first time I saw our flag raised over

the Internment Camp. . . . It would be impossible to express the depth of emotion one experiences at such a moment. Those who refuse to honor our flag and/or our anthem obviously have never been denied both."[4]

Figure 8: Commemorative cover ordered by Alice Zwicker from the Philippine Bureau of Posts on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Battle for Corregidor.

My thanks to Alice Zwicker's nephew, Rodney Tenney; Walter M. Macdougall; and Marilyn "Ada" Zwicker for their assistance

Endnotes

1. Walter M. Macdougall, Angel of Bataan, Camden, Maine: DownEast Books, 2015, p. 97.
2. Ibid, p. 85.
3. Ibid, p. 125.
4. Ref 3.

Editor's Note: Three asides are made here. First, despite their status as Army officers the captured Army Nurses of Bataan were placed in an internment camp (not a POW camp) in Manila, housed with civilians and other American female nationals. There they remained for 3 years. Secondly, the Figure 7 cover was addressed to Robert Dameron, a U.S. Navy officer who served in the Philippines and was briefly Alice's husband after the war. Thirdly, in 1945, Robert Montgomery/ John Wayne/ Donna Reed starred in a movie that recounted the story of American PT boats at this early stage of the war. It also contained a subplot on the nurses of Bataan. It was entitled ***They Were Expendable****.*

Military Postal History Society

The MPHS Auction is the place to fill your postal history needs reasonably. Also, help by donating materials (we are a 501 c (3) organization).

E-mails to the Editor

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

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

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

Additional comments via e-mail (to lugopspe@q.com**):**
From Konrad Meyer: November 15, 2015
Konrad added to the puzzle of the quixotic Portuguese Expeditionary Card of the previous *MPHS Bulletin*, by contributing virtually the exact same card - **in Russian** - below, with the explanation that he remembered a similar card from an auction. His note clarified the French language usage was written by a Marine on board the French cruiser CONDE from Archangel (Arkhangelsk) in Northern Russia during the Allied intervention. The card (in a letter) indicates that it was the 20th letter after leaving Brest, and dated September 1919

Reply: Thank you Konrad. Obviously a printer in France was trying to profit from Portuguese (as discussed in Issue # 4, 2015) and Russian forces (as shown here) on the Western Front. Last issue's attempt to rationalize the British soldier falls prey to commercial exploitation!!

Part II: Introduction to the Military Postal System of the NVA and VC - **Rarity**, **Patriotic**, **Adversity**, and **Decorative** Usages

by Daniel M. Telep

In Part I (MPHS Bulletin, # 4, 2015), I introduced this little studied subject, hoping to raise the level of philatelic awareness. As described in that first article, the military postal system of the North Vietnam Army and the Viet Cong was simplistic but effective reflecting (1) long delivery periods in view of the danger and distances involved, (2) the makeshift nature of the postal system created, (3) the ground and air conditions on the battlefield, and (4) the significant NVA/VC losses sustained in combat from 1960 onwards. This 20th Century philatelic window affords a rich variety of material for study.

Often 20th Century philately is seen as much easier to obtain than 19th Century classic material. In fact, however, the postal history of the Vietnam conflict from its very origins through the overthrow of the South Vietnamese government in 1975 is every bit as scarce as 19th Century classic material.

NVA and VC directives mandated that following receipt all military mail was to be burned to avoid capture. Likewise, South Vietnamese and American military intelligence, when any NVA or VC communications were captured and examined, were directed to destroy it.

Writing materials in the field for soldiers' use were scarce. Even for the relatively well supplied U.S. and South Vietnamese forces, writing materials were hard to come by, as attested by two American soldiers in a companion article to appear in issue # 3, 2016). Besides scarce materials, the cumbersome delivery times, the heavy censorship (i.e. phrases, sentences and other content literally cut out of letters), and the real danger to families back home all discouraged letter writing by fighters away from family. Moreover, the hostile climate, heavy rains, and high humidity destroyed what letters might have been saved. In summary, environmental and mandated destruction of what little mail was written and posted resulted in little postal history surviving the war.

So, you might well ask, where did the examples shown in my articles come from? Today it may safely be revealed that one U.S. officer returned from his tour of duty in Vietnam packing about 600 items. He sold them privately in the early 1980s, some eventually coming into my hands. Sometimes material crops up on EBay, and, of course, a few stamp dealers might have limited items for purchase. The one primary source, however, remains the scene of the action, with a continuing hunt for original finds in Vietnam.

DECORATIVE STATIONERY:

FIGURE 1: Letter from Hanoi to Hom Thu unit # 2135. Hand cancelled 1964 issue commemorating Irrigation for Agriculture.

My objective in developing this second article, in a series of four, is to put a face on the personality of the fighters and families for you, the reader. While much of my collection comprises military to military correspondence, postal stationery brings us face to face with family separations and parallels Civil War Confederate philately.

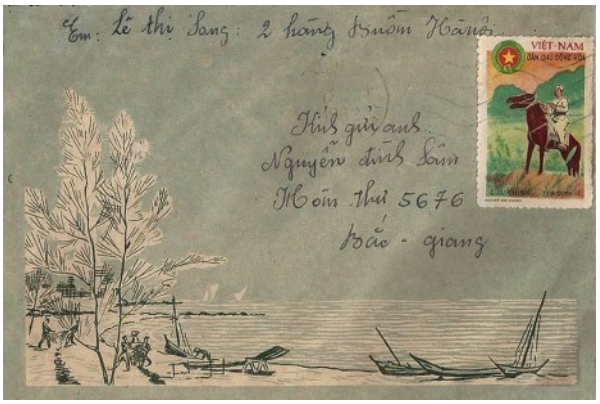


FIGURE 2: Hanoi machine cancelled 1961 Military frank stamp issued to a soldier for personal use, in Dec. 1962, addressed to Hom Thu unit # 5675. Mounted Frontier Guards stamp.

FIGURE 3: Military letter between 2 letterbox numbers, probably within a single command. Military cancelled 1966 issue, on August 20, 1966. 5 digit letterbox codes for increased security. Archery in National Athletic Games 1966 series.

FIGURE 4 : Letter from the rural district of Hanoi, known as Tu Liem to Hom Thu unit #63305 KP in the South. Hand cancelled 1968 Military Frank stamp on March 18, 1970

PATRIOTIC:

FIGURES 5 & 6: Hand colored Propaganda post card and 1964 stamp and commemorative cancellation all commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the 1954 victory of Dien Bien Phu when the French were defeated; front 1964 issue with Hanoi cancel; reverse - two fancy cancels.

The "U.S. Planes Shot Down" series of war stamp issues are among the best known issues by North Vietnam. There were a total of 19 adhesives celebrating the alleged number of planes downed, beginning with 500 in 1965 and ending with number 4,181 in 1973. The most recognized image (**Figure 7**)is the 1967 issue showing the female captor bringing in her much larger American pilot prisoner.

FIGURE 7: Patriotic image depicting armed woman and a falling fighter plane in the distance. Naval command letter to Budapest, Hanoi machine cancelled 1967 claiming 2,000 planes

FIGURE 8: Patriotic image depicting the shooting down of U.S. helicopters in Khe Sanh; Hanoi backstamped 1972 issue claiming 3,500 planes downed.

FIGURE 9: Patriotic naval scene with falling plane in the distance, sent from the port of Hai Phong to Hom Thu 54225 KP and dated for transfer on Sept. 15, 1967 and Oct. 17, 1967.

Highly sensitive letters had brief, often encoded addresses for protection. The system required intricate tracking of unit movements and individual locations, therefore frequent transferring, as in Figure 9.

FIGURE 10: Patriotic handstamp depicting armed soldiers; Viet Cong comrade writing the wife of a soldier about her husband's bravery, killing 14 enemy, receiving medal of gallantry, and becoming a party member, dated April 11, 1967.

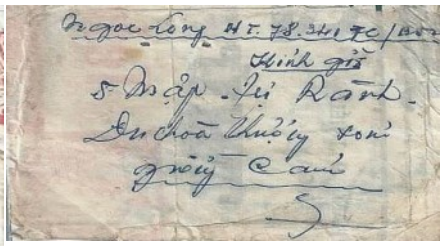
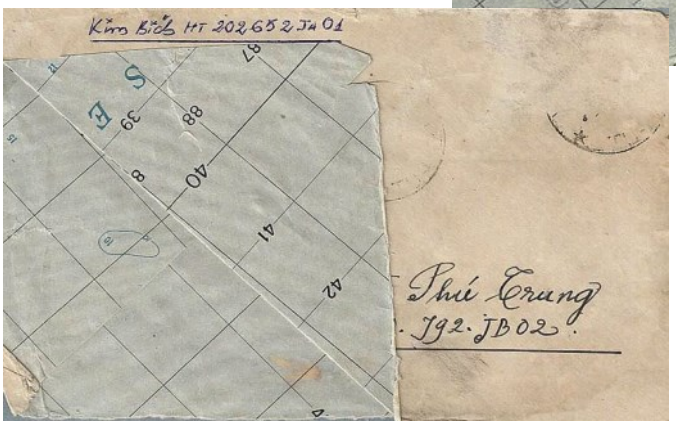
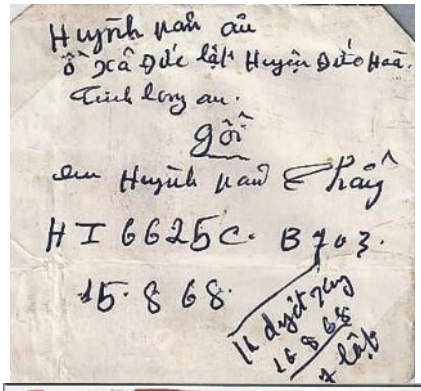


FIGURE 12 (left & above) : Made from .ikg opium shipping tag, sent from Hom Thu 78341FC (reduced color copy).

Figure 13 (right & below) Made from U.S. topographical map of the China Sea; sent from Ba Vi, a military post, stamp removed for security inspection (reduced inside view copy)



ADVERSITY COVERS



The Viet Cong had extremely limited resources, so paper of any kind became self made envelopes - used and reused. The adhesive applied to labels and to seal envelopes was produced by chewing rice with liberal amounts of saliva.

FIGURE 11: Constructed from a Cambodian cigarette box, the cover was captured while en route through Tay Ninh to Long An province, still bearing a Cambodian revenue tax stamp, dated August 15, 1968 (reduccd color copy).

FIGURES 14 & 15 (next page): Turned cover: First usage from Hanoi with 1965 issue has Hom Thu number obliterated on decorated envelope (reduced copy); Second usage Phu Dinh handstamp cancelled 1965 issue, redirected and forwarded with slightly changed Hom Thu # 2777XM.

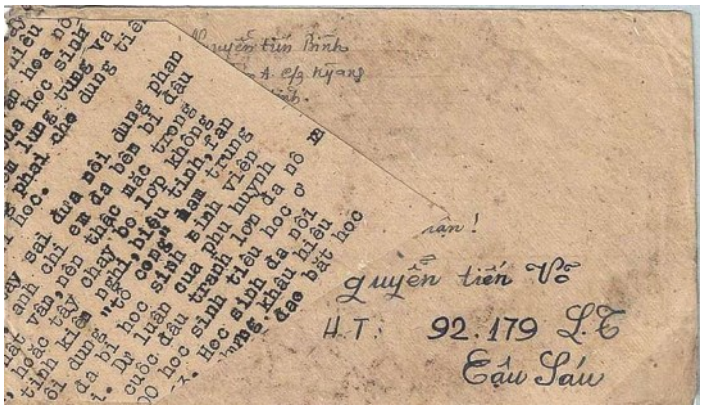


FIGURE 16: Made from a political flyer about the student uprising against the Diem government in the South, carried from Ha Tinh, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, to the Cau Sau communication transfer station in the Mekong Delta via the Ho Chi Minh Trail to Hom thu #92179LT.

Eliot A. Landau

This month brought the news of the death of long time member and past society legal counsel Eliot A. Landau. Eliot was active in many philatelic organizations besides his MPHS work, including past President of the Chicago Philatelic Society, and Chicagopex bourse chairman and legal adviser. His years of work with the U.S. Stamp Society and Classic Society earned him numerous awards. Eliot was active in the 1960's civil rights movement, from which he probably developed his keen interest in the many stamps honoring Abraham Lincoln and Civil War postal history. In 2009, Eliot lectured at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum on the subject of "Lincoln, Slavery and the Civil War". On a more personnel note Eliot was a gregarious personality and an engaging conversationalist. The last time I and Eliot spoke was at Chicagopex several years ago— reminiscing about time in the service. Eliot's stories were much more entertaining than my fighting behind desk experiences. Per the family's request, the MPHS has made a donation in Eliot's memory to the APRL.

I hope you enjoyed this tour of postal system communications by the NVA and VC during the Vietnam War. Parts III & IV will appear in Issues # 3 and 4, 2016. Your help with any materials will aid in compiling information on the postal history of the period from 1960 (when blatant armed rebellion began) through March 1975, when Saigon fell. Please address comments, questions, and/or available material to the author at P.O. Box 363, Sewickley, PA 15143. I welcome your phone call to 412-741-2634 or e-mail to dtelep@cdgnavigates.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT—2015
by Ed Fisher

Military Postal History Society

Beginning Balance:	2014	2015	% Change
	$15,753.83	$19,409.86	23.2%
INCOME			
Ad Sales	$145.00	$673.00	364.1%
Membership Dues	$7,860.85	$6,701.85	-14.7%
Book/CD Sales	$656.46	$1,178.81	79.6%
Contributions	$845.30	$1,789.74	111.7%
Auction Sales	$864.05	$3,382.06	291.4%
Bank Adjustments	$94.44	$0.00	-100.0%
Unallocated Deposits	$5,477.06	$1,046.88	-80.9%
TOTAL INCOME	$15,943.16	$14,772.34	-7.3%
EXPENSES:			
Bulletin :			
Editorial	$1,750.00	$1,590.26	-9.1%
Printing & Mailing	$5,758.39	$9,757.85	69.5%
Subtotal	$7,508.39	$11,348.11	51.1%
Website:			
Hosting	$314.99	$300.00	-4.8%
Development & Update	$300.00	$0.00	-100.0%
Subtotal:	$614.99	$300.00	-51.2%
Literature Comp Fees	$80.00	$36.22	-54.7%
Paid to Auction Sellers	$2,337.12	$2,441.21	4.5%
Secretary's Expenses	$99.71	$101.00	1.3%
Literat. Mgr. Expenses	$0.00	$820.65	
Treasurer's Expenses	$565.02	$0.00	-100.0%
Bank Fees/Checks	$217.99	$137.33	-37.0%
Auctioneer's Expenses	$120.28	$255.06	112.1%
Officer's Expenses	$0.00	$550.12	
Capitol Medals	$314.29	$929.62	195.8%
Award Mgr.'s Expenses	$42.34	$0.00	-100.0%
APS Show Table Fees	$300.00	$0.00	-100.0%
Dues Refund	$40.00	$0.00	-100.0%
State Filing Expenses	$5.00	$0.00	-100.0%
Insurance	$42.00	$68.19	62.4%
Subtotal	$4,163.75	$5,339.40	28.2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	$12,287.13	$16,987.51	38.3%
Ending Balance	$19,409.86	$17,194.69	-11.4%
Diff. from Prior Year	$3,656.03	-$2,215.17	

Matchbook Postcards of WWII

by Cary Finder

Beginning at least as early as WWI, the military was concerned about maintaining communication between military personnel and the folks at home. In WWI, they enlisted the help of service organizations who supplied numerous postcards. In WWII, V-mail and USO supplied postcards contributed to that effort.

But there was still the concern that whenever a soldier wanted to write that he or she have writing material available. One novel WWII idea was to make use of the fact that soldiers smoked a lot and needed matches. Why not make that matchbook into a postcard!

Figure 1 shows the outside of a matchbook that was distributed by the Hunter Flying Service at Victory Field, Vernon TX. Hunter was a contracted air school providing preliminary flight instruction to Army Air Force cadets. When the matches were removed, the inside was formatted like a postcard, with a stamp box and dividing line. This matchbook, the inside shown in **Figure 2**, was not mailed.

Figure 1: A Vernon, Texas Victory Field matchbook. These larger sized matchbooks measured 3 x 4.5 inches and contained 40 matches, hence their familiar appellation "40 strike matchbooks." Note the hole in the matchbook.

The inside (see **Figure 2**) has a box in the upper right for a stamp (or the word 'Free') and a dividing line to separate the address from the message. The small print in the lower left says "DO NOT MAIL MATCHES/TEAR OFF AT PERFORATION". These matches had been removed. This is the most common format for the inside of match books, but other formats exist.

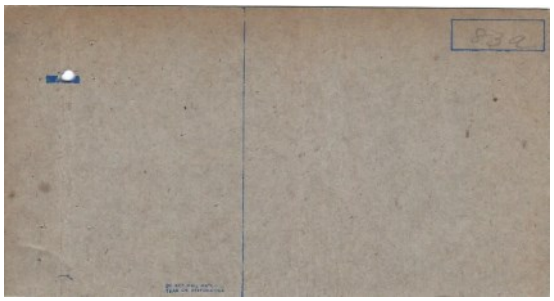


Figure 2: Postcard side of Figure 1. Produced by the Universal Match Corp. of Denver, Colorado, the hole (seen here) consistently appears on the matchbooks, apparently associated with a function in the manufacturing process.

Figure 3 shows the inside of a matchbook from Jefferson Barracks Army Air Forces base south of St. Louis, MO. The format included a Name & Rank, Organization, and Address on the address side of the line.

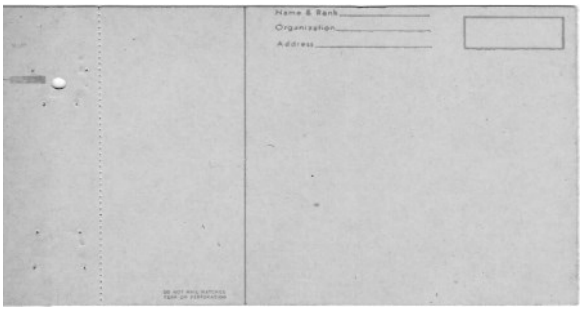


Figure 3: Inside of Jefferson Barracks Matchbook

Figure 4 shows the inside of a matchbook from the Pensacola Naval Air Station. In this case, the return address lines are printed on the message side. This matchbook was printed by the Universal Match Corp, St. Louis.

Most matchbook postcards were never mailed and are very common. Used matchbook postcards are very rare, but do exist as shown in the remaining Figures.

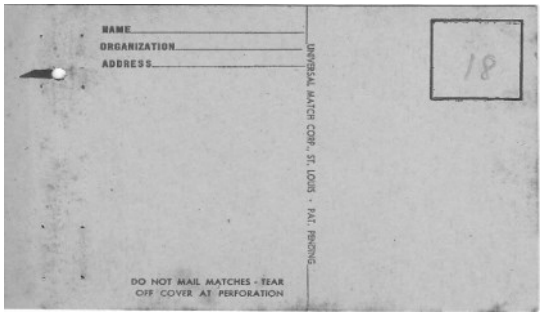


Figure 4 - Inside of Pensacola NAS Matchbook

Figure 5 shows the outside of a similar matchbook from the Vancouver (WA) Barracks. This matchbook only

measures 3 ⅝ x 3 inches because the soldier tore off the matches at the perforation. The inside of this matchbook was actually used as a postcard, as illustrated by **Figure 6.**

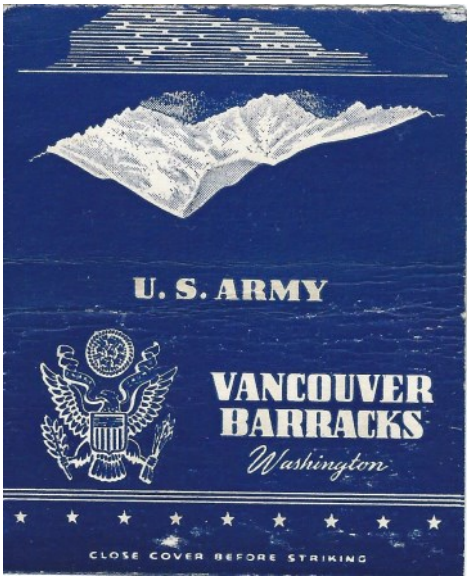


Figure 5: Matchbook from Vancouver (Washington) Barracks.

The word 'Free' has been written in the stamp box. It was sent by Pvt. Homer Schaffner to a woman (likely his wife) in Columbus, Ohio from the 'casual detachment' at Camp Hathaway in Vancouver, and mailed on April 23, 1943. Camp Hathaway was one of three black army camps in Washington State.

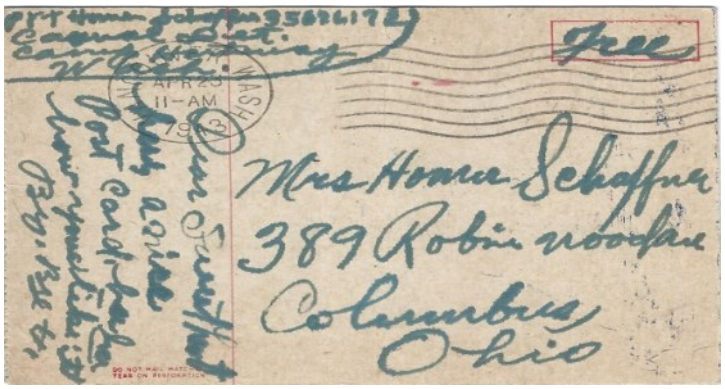
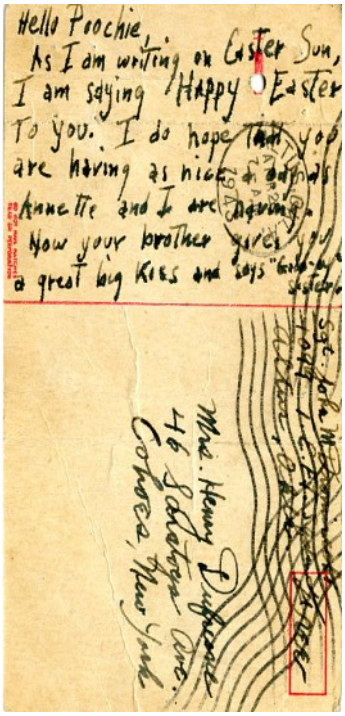


Figure 6: Inside of Vancouver Barracks matchbook of Figure 5, used by Pvt. Homer Schaffner.

Other examples of used matchbook postcards are shown in Figures 7 to 10. **Figure 7** is the inside of a used matchbook from the Altus Advanced Flying School, Altus Oklahoma and is postmarked in April,1943. **Figure 8** is the outside. A sergeant used it to send Easter Greetings to his sister in New York.

Figures 9 & 10 show a matchbook produced on the French Battleship *Richelieu*, one of the vessels of the Free French Naval forces. **Figure 10** shows this matchbook



Figures 7 & 8: Matchbook (above) mailed by Sergeant from Altus OK., serving at the Altus Army Air Force Flying School. Courtesy of Bill Feldman.

Figures 9 & 10: Matchbook from the French Battleship *Richelieu,* franked and censored from the ship. Courtesy-Lewis Bussey.

mailed on May 18 1943 while the ship was undergoing a refit at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The matchbook of **Figures 9 & 10**, was mailed as a souvenir to a noted New York collector. It was franked with the valid postage rate of 1¢, while the 55 centime was added to the matchbook as a souvenir of the passage. The pentagonal French cancel is that of the Battleship Richelieu. The US Civil Censor # 9840 mark is indicative of this miniature piece of postal history's entry into the US mail stream. Anyone possessing such inimitable mementos of military postal history are welcome to contact the author at cfinder@capaccess.org

TIENTSIN, CHINA and the BOXER REBELLION

by Larry Nelson

The YMCA Cover:

Figure 1: New York City YMCA cover, Japan franked and canceled at the Imperial Japanese Tientsin Post Office.

The envelope shown in **Figure 1** was supplied to American soldiers by the Army and Navy YMCA branch of New York City. My research indicates that the YMCA first supplied envelopes and stationery to our troops in 1898 during the Spanish American War. Some of those troops were shipped to the Philippines for garrison duty while others fought the Philippine insurrection between 1899 to 1902. Most of the American troops who fought at Tientsin had been shipped there from the Philippine Islands where they were stationed. I believe that this envelope embarked on its long odyssey by either of two routes to Tientsin by Far East bound American troops.

Background:

…In 1900, the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, aka the BOXERS, went on a rampage in Northern China - killing foreigners and Christians. This outraged the foreign countries that had managed to assert "interests" in China over the past century as the dynastic grip on the country weakened, namely: the U.S., Austria –Hungary, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia.

On June 20, 1900 the Chinese government, supporting the Boxers, declared war on the foreign powers and began a siege of the foreign legations in Peking (modern day Beijing) The day before, the various foreign legations in Peking had refused an offer of safe passage by the Chinese government to Tientsin, the German possession on the coast. In late May a rescue mission of about 2,000 troops had been assembled there and sent to Peking to provide assistance to the harassed and beleaguered legations. However, it was unable to break through to Peking in the face of Chinese military forces and Boxer obstructions. It retreated to a Chinese arsenal six miles north of Tientsin. The rescue mission was itself rescued on June 25. On August 14, the reinforced rescue mission from Tientsin finally made it to Peking and the besieged legation compounds.

Figure 2: Northern China, with 1900's English city titles.

The Battle of Tientsin:

In order to rescue the foreign legations in Peking, the treaty port of Tientsin had to be secured. It was located about two miles away from the old walled city situated on the Hai River. On June 15, 1900 thousands of Boxers attacked the old walled city of Tientsin, killing Christian Chinese and burning churches. They were joined on June 20 by regular Chinese troops. There were about 700 foreign business men and missionaries in the foreign settlements, along with thousands of Chinese. A mining engineer, the future President of the U.S., Herbert Hoover and his wife, were among those in the foreign settlement. He assisted in the defense of Tietnsin.

In early June 1900, about 2400 foreign troops had been sent to Tientsin to protect the foreign settlement. On June 16, the Boxers attacked, but were driven off. The Chinese Army then fired an estimated 60,000 artillery shells into the foreign settlement, most of which fell harmlessly to the ground as they failed to explode. Within seven days, an additional 5,000 troops of the powers reinforced the Tientsin foreign settlement. On July 13 the combined allied forces assaulted the walled city of Tientsin with 6900 troops, 900 of whom were Americans. The walled city was captured on July 14, 1900 with the Americans suffering casualties of 25 killed and 98 wounded.

With the capture of Tientsin, the road to Peking was opened and on August 14 the foreign legations were liberated. Some sporadic fighting continued until the Boxer Protocol Peace Treaty was signed in September 1901.

Tientsin Postal History

The subject of this article, **Figure 1** shows a cover dated September 6, 1900 and mailed from the Imperial Japanese Post Office (IJPO) in Tientsin to North Adams, Massachusetts. It is franked with a pair of Japanese occupation stamps with a red overprint (Scott # 10). **Figure 3** shows that it arrived in Yokohama, Japan on September 11, Boston on October 14 and finally in North Adams on October 15, 1900. Based on other covers that I have seen from this period, it also probably transited San Francisco.

Figure 3: Reverse of Figure 1 with Boston and North Adams receiving marks applied in mid October.

Figures 4 & 5: Tientsin postcard of February 1, 1901 showing a photograph of the city before the battle. A Tientsin feldpost card (cancellation feldpoststation # 8), it was sent to Tangschan (Tangshan), 75 miles northeast of Tientsin by a German soldier who was with the East Asian Expeditionary Corps, 2nd Railroad Construction Company.

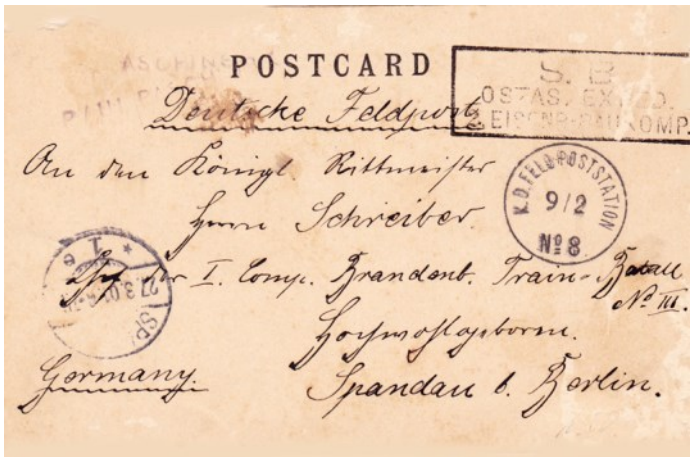


Figure 6, in contrast, shows a cover with the same corner card inscription as **Figure 1,** but canceled July 27, 1900 from the Military Station No. 1 in Manila, Philippine Islands and sent to Massachusetts.

The return address only indicates "Barugo July 4th." A little research (see reference 3) indicates that the 43rd Regiment, U.S. Infantry, under the command of Captain Harry M. Dey, arrived in Barugo on Leyte Island on July 2, 1900 and remained until May 22, 1901. In fact, on the date that the letter was written (July 4th), a patrol of 15 troops were sent to the nearby town of Carigara. It took from July 4, 1900 until July 27, 1900 for the cover to reach Manila where it was canceled. It arrived in Leominister, Massachusetts on September 24, 1900 where it was assessed 2 cents postage due (probably no stamps in Burago).

Despite the evidence posed by the **Figure 6** cover, it is theoretically possible in explaining the long route of the **Figure 1** cover, that the originally "mint" **Figure 1** cover was brought to Tientsin by a trooper from a unit other than the 43rd Infantry Regiment. This explanation is lent some credence by the absence of a U.S. post office in Tientsin at the time of the mailing, and the resort to the IJPO Tientsin post office for mailing.

Alternatively, a second explanation lies with those soldiers who came directly to China from the United States, and in fact had never been in the Phillippines. **Figure 8** shows such an example. It is dated September 29, 1900 and was sent from Tientsin to Chicago by a Marine from the 5th Battalion. The 5th Marines had been formed in Boston and sent directly to China.

Figure 6: Similar to Figure 1 with Leominister, Mass. receiving marks applied in mid October.

The U.S. Military Post Office in Tientsin

It was not until September 18, 1900 that the first U.S. Military Post Office was opened in Tientsin. **Figure 9**

shows a cover cancelled "Mil. P. Sta. No. 1, Tientsin, China" on September 19, 1900. This is the earliest recorded date for that post office. Note that the two cent U.S. stamp was overprinted "Philippines". By the middle of May 1901 all but one company of U.S. troops had left China and on August 31, 1901 the U.S. Post Office at Tientsin had closed.

Figure 7: Reverse of Figure 6 Philippines cover.
Figure 8 (below): Shows a 5th Marines cover posted through the U.S. Military Station Post office at Tientsin after its September 18, 1900 opening.

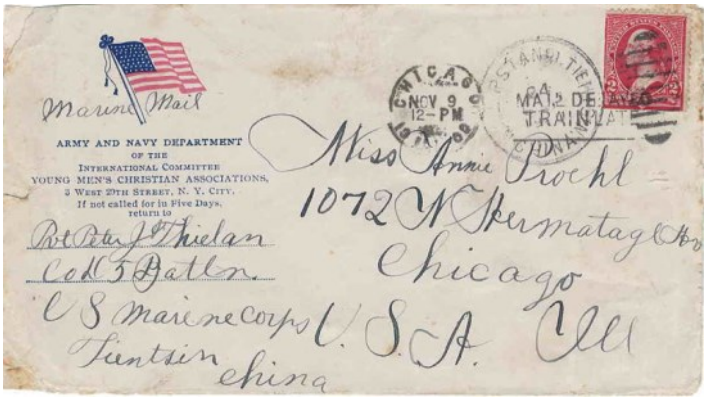


Figure 8 shows a civilian cover sent from the U.S. Tientsin post office to New York on August 15, 1901 which paid the five cents international rate.

Bottom Line:

Despite the oddity of a New York City to Tientsin, China, to Tokyo, Japan, to North Adams, Massachusetts routing in 1900 (involving a 12,000+ mile transit), there are two plausible explanations for the routing of **Figure 1.** One such explanation (through the Philippines) would have added another 2,000 miles.

I want to thank Al Kugel for letting me use **Figures 8, 9 and 10** from his collection. I would also like to hear from anyone with more information on this subject at censorship@comcast.net.

Figure 9: Mail sent through the U.S. post office in Tientsin (Earliest Recorded Date) before its closure.
Figure 10 (below): Cover sent through the Military Station Post Office of Tientsin on August 15, 1900 (Latest Recorded Date) shortly before its closure.

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5. Kugel, Alfred: "The Postal History of the American Contingent in the Boxer Uprising," *MPHS Bulletin,* January—March, 1993, ppg. 1—5.
6. Yates, Lt. Col. John R., Jr.: "The Boston Marine Barracks: A History, 1799—1979", 2013.

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I'm planning a tour of Lower Manhattan for those of you going to New York 2016, and who would like a break from the Show on Thursday (June 2). What's special about this!
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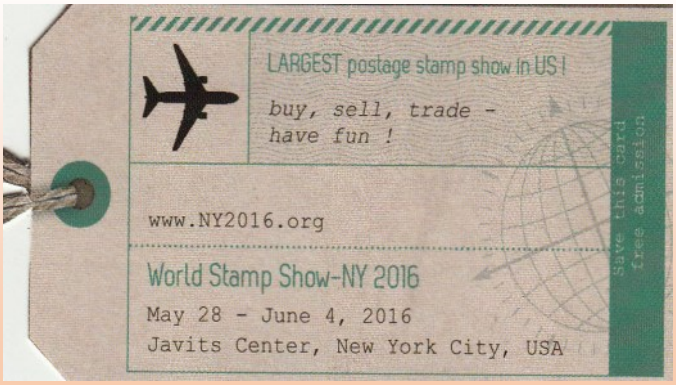
I need to know the level of interest of those who might like to go, so that I can finalize the size of the charter bus. Please let me know **no later than April 30th** if you (or spouse) would like to join us on the many tourist sites that most visitors to Lower Manhattan NEVER see. **Right now 13 have indicated interest.** E-mail me at lugopspe@q.com. Or call Sergio Lugo, 303-691-0393

Found on the Editor's Desk—and it's worth passing along.



The MPHS Table at New York 2016 is booth number 1280. It will be continually staffed by MPHS members—you among them if you'd like to volunteer and provide respite to some of our stalwart representatives. Please contact Ed Dubin if you'd like to help. The MPHS Board meeting will be held on Tuesday morning (9 - 12 noon, Room 1E17), followed in the afternoon (1 to 3 pm; Room 1E15) by the MPHS General Meeting and Dan Telep's presentation on the NVA/VC postal system. On Wednesday morning (10 to 12, Room 1E11) , Sergio Lugo will be presenting his talk on the Social Welfare Organizations of World War I that worked with the military. All are welcome to these MPHS activities.

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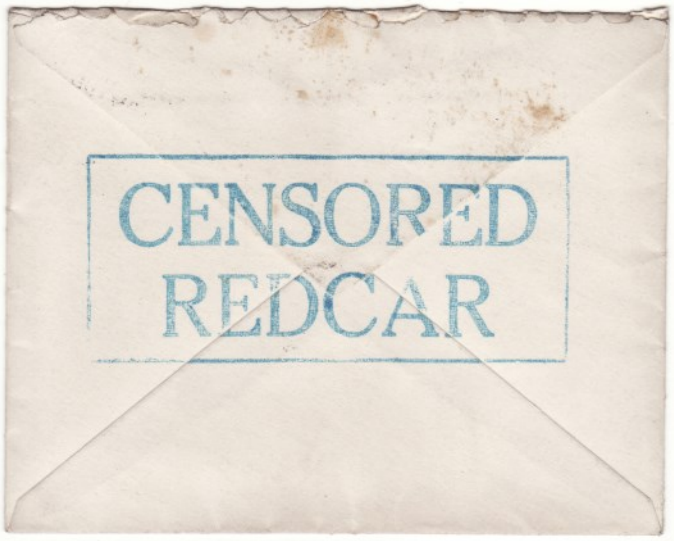
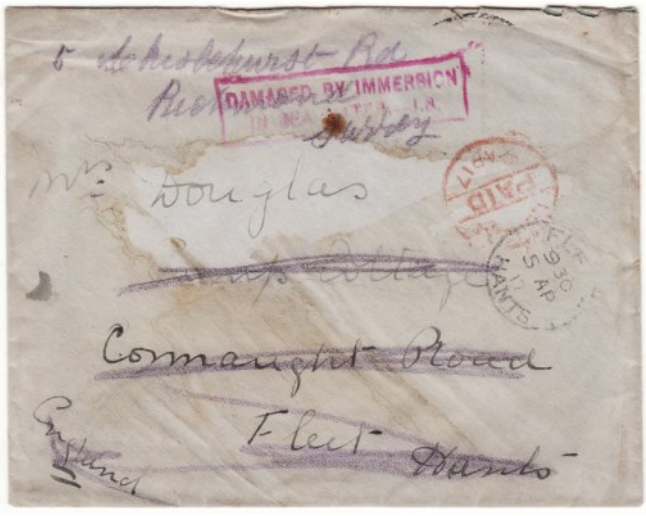
Cover illustrations are from my website, where you will find more items and full descriptions and prices in USD$.



GB— 1917 RNAS AIRSHIP BASE with CENSORED REDCAR



GB... 1917 WRECK MAIL from SS NORWEGIAN or Armed Merchant Cruiser KARMALA.

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

SPRING (# 2, April to June; **NY 2016 Special Edition**), release about April 10):

- On the Trail During the Mexican War (1846)
- Ferment on the 1916 American Scene
- Before a War: U.S. in 1956 Southeast Asia
- Decoration Day as Forerunner to Memorial Day
- Mitsui Corporation—2 Different Wars
- 1916—The Third War Year
- The Ubiquitous "I am quite well…" Cards

SUMMER (# 3, July to Sept, 2016; release 9/10/16)

- Part III: The NVA and VC Postal System
- Just Trying to Keep Everyone Honest—Canadian
- ABA Airlines *GRIPEN* Shot Down by German Fighter
- British Officer's WWI Mail from Cradle of Civilization
- Maximizing the C Ration
- The German U Boat War: 1914— 1918
- Brusilov Campaign: Its Impact on World History –Pt. I
- Battle of the Masurian Lakes and Tannenberg

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

- Part IV: The NVA and VC Postal System
- American Airmen in Italy, 1917 - 1918
- WW I Cover as a Billboard - Too Much to Understand
- Brusilov Campaign: Its Impact on World History –Pt. II
- Lufthansa Aircraft Shot Down near Falsterbo,Seden
- General Eichelberger
- BOAC Service to Sweden during WW II and the Crash of the Kinnekulle, Sweden

WINTER (# 1, Jan. - March, 2017, release about 2/10/17)

- American POW in the Boer War
- U.S. Forces in Fiji During World War II
- Where Sweetheart Pins Can Lead?
- A Mexican National In Uncle Sam's Army (Bilingual)
- WW I Sorority Letter Sheds Light on WWI Puerto Rico Regiments and WW II Walter Reed Hospital

"Soldiers Will Be Soldiers…!"

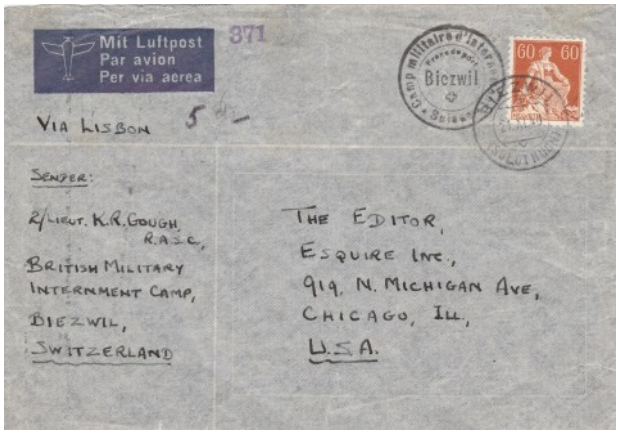
by Charles J. LaBlonde CPHh, FRPSL

When collecting the mail from WW II one often encounters letters that just cry out for research. I would like to share with you such a story, in this case involving Second Lieutenant Kenneth Roy Gough, British Royal Army Service Corps (RASC).

The philately of the letter itself.

Lt Gough was interned in what he called a "British Military Internment Camp" at Biezwil, Canton Solothurn, Switzerland. On 21 November 1940 he sent an airmail letter to Chicago USA. The postage rate at the time was 30 centimes for the letter and 60 centimes for the airmail surcharge = 90 centimes total. But, under Swiss PTT Prisoner of War (POW) rules, the 30 centimes for the basic letter was not required. The POW was responsible only for special services, in this case airmail, paid with a lovely franking of the 60 centime Helvetia with Sword.

The letter is marked as 5 grams, the first weight stage and via Lisbon which was the correct route at the time. The Biezwil camp "postmarked" the letter, carefully avoiding the stamp. The Biezwil Post Office officially postmarked the letter on 21.XI.40.



By late 1940 the Swiss were worrying about what might be going on in the many camps in the country. Thus the letter was examined by Swiss Censor Number 371. On the reverse of the letter is the usual Swiss censor tape. There is no sign of the letter having been cut open and resealed. In reality the letter was most likely delivered unsealed to the Swiss censor, as was the case for much of the camp mail.

What was the RASC?

Wikipedia tells us that the RASC was established as early as 1794 and called the Royal Waggoners.

With many reorganizations over the years, it became the Army Service Corps, winning the right to be called "Royal" following its service in WW I.

The RASC of Lt. Gough was responsible for land, coastal and lake transport, air despatch, barracks administration, the Army Fire Service, headquarters staffing, food, water, fuel and domestic materials supply (clothing, furniture and stationery), technical and military equipment. We would likely call it the "supply corps, " or the Quartermaster Corps.

Where was Lieutenant Gough in 1940?

In 1940, his RASC unit was attached to the 51st Highland Division near Metz. As part of the British pullout from France, the 51st was ordered to make for St. Nazaire on 29 May 1940. But the RASC detachment was held up in the Metz area until 13 June 1940 when they finally boarded an evacuation train. Due to the intense German action in France at the time the train only reached Vesoul. At that point Lt. Gough led his 80 men on a 6-day walk to the Swiss border where they were interned in Biezwil. One of his children has his diary from this period but I have not yet been able to establish contact with this person.

At first, the address surprised me, until I thought about it. I recalled from my youth that *Esquire* was a "gentlemen's publication" that now and then included pictures of lovely ladies, all very tasteful in comparison to today's offerings. But Wikipedia notes that in 1943 the U.S. Postmaster General, Frank Comerford Walker, brought charges against *Esquire* on behalf of President Roosevelt. The administration alleged that *Esquire* had used the Postal Service to promote "lewd images." In 1946 the U.S. Supreme Court found in favor of *Esquire's* rights under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

We must, of course, wonder what our RASC supply Lt. was trying to obtain from *Esquire* --- possibly some decorations for the camp?

Clandestine Postal History

A SECURE WRITING LABORATORY

by Mark Sommer

During the "Great War." (World War I), the British Post Office enacted in May 1916 the *Defense of the Realm Regulations 24A*. (for short = DRR 24A) Those regulations forbade the use of codes and secret inks in communications within the worldwide British mail system. Previously, such correspondence had been tolerated, providing the messages were otherwise deemed unobjectionable

For a short period following the passage of the regulation (specifically late May and early June 1916), letters and envelopes can be found sealed with "Opened By Censor" labels **printed in green ink** on white paper (see **Figure 1**). These covered the more common black ink labels .

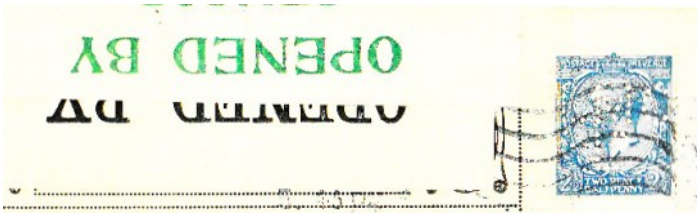


Figure 1: The unusual double censoring envelope with green tape of the First World War.

In his "*British Censorship of Civil Mails During World War I, 1914-1919",* Graham Mark suggests that these items (**Figure 2**) were subject to additional examination under the new regulations of DRR 24A.

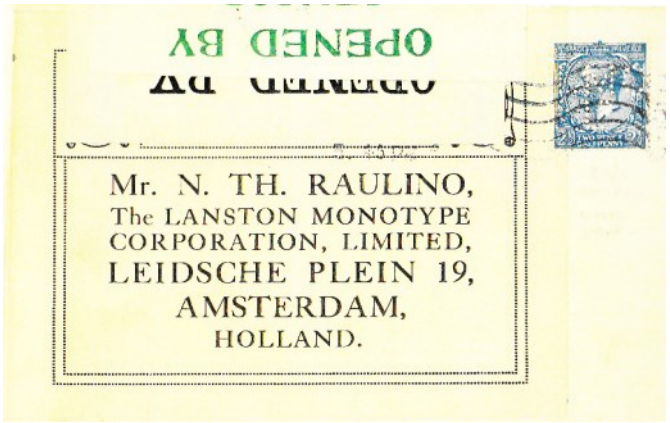


Figure 2: The entire of Figure 1 and an example of the application of DRR 24A.

The short period during which the green labels of **Figures 1 and 2** were used can be explained by rhe processes established by DRR 24A in the clandestine world of philatelic censorship during the war. .

Earlier speculation, within the philatelic press, had it that the pieces of mail with the special green labels were connected to increased censorship following the naval Battle of Jutland. That theory had not been supported by the date and period of time of the **Figure 1** and **2** examples. Of the few examples known, some are dated before the battle, while others were posted several days after a news embargo on naval losses had been lifted.

Subsequently, it came to light that the British Post Office had set up a secret writing laboratory during the May—June 1916 period which focused on detecting German processes intended to camouflage writing. These techniques involved the use of reliable lemon juice along with saliva and diluted milk that hid writing by making it translucent. The counter-espionage techniques developed by the Post Office to deal with the first method (use of lemon juice) could be done by applying a hot flat-iron, the second (saliva) by brushing ordinary ink over it, and the third (diluted milk) by dusting it with a fine graphite powder.

After months of experiments, a red fluid was created that acted as an almost universal developer. Applied with a brush to a suspicious letter, it immediately revealed any concealed writing. The mixture could be washed off and the mail/correspondence sent on to its intended destination without obliterating the clandestine message.

One of the bizarre outcomes of the entire effort followed the discovery that British newspapers were being mailed to Holland containing innocent looking advertisements marked in pencil. Some of the newspapers were posted in Liverpool, others in Portsmouth and London. The question arose: Were the ads genuine or might they conceal a code conveying intelligence to the enemy? To examine the premise of the question, newspapers addressed to Holland were collected and sent to code experts who subjected them to lab tests to detect invisible markings.

Figure 3 is an example of this practice, with the proper London handstamp, black on white OPENED BY CENSOR 1214 label, AND the additional green on white OPENED BY CENSIOR 6 label. The perforated holes in the stamps (otherwise known as "perfins" among stamp collectors/philatelists), **see Figure 2** are the initials LMC,

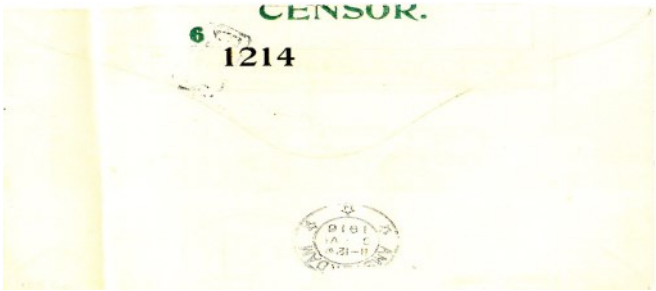


Figure 3: Inspected by censor 6 as well as 1214.

representing the Lanston Monotype Corporation. Such "perfins" are used by commercial enterprises as a means

of preventing employees from engaging in petty larceny by using the company postage stamps for personal use.

Censorship authorities realized that affixing the additional green label was the price that had to be paid in giving away the fact that the item had been subjected to a second, possibly special examination.

If you have information on clandestine mail (covers, articles, books, other) please contact Mark Sommer. As shown in his home address classified ad in this issue, its easier for Mark to deal with "snail" mail. Thank you for your consideration

References:

Graham, Mark: British Censorship of Civil Mails During World War I, 1914-1919",

.

British Navy Officer Illustrates Censorship Responsibilities

by Paul Albright

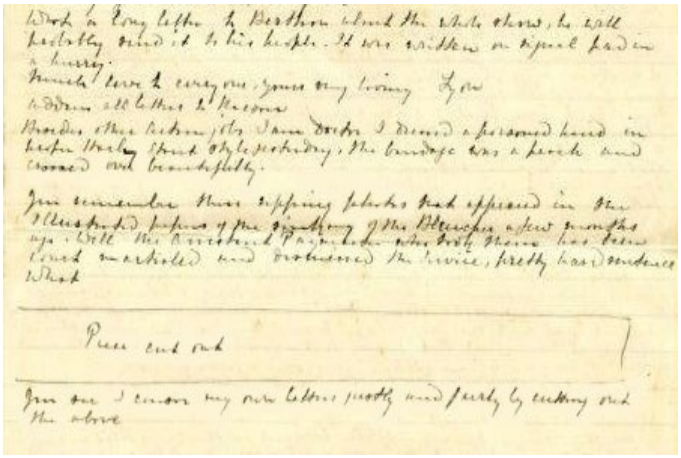
A young officer in the British navy provided his family with a short illustration of how he censored mail during World War I. In a letter from the Dardanelles in 1915, Sub-Lt. Edward Lyon Berthon described some of his duties aboard the *HMS Racoon*, a British Beagle class destroyer. One of his duties was as the ship's mail censor: "The mail has to be censored and passed by me, corrections to confidential Govt. (information) is put in."

In a letter to his parents and siblings on April 5, 1915, Berthon illustrated how he would handle removing confidential military information from letters. He began by writing: "You remember those ripping photos that appeared in the illustrated papers of the sinking of the Blücher a few months ago. Well the … paymaster who took them has been court-martialed and (removed from) the service. Pretty hard sentence, what?"

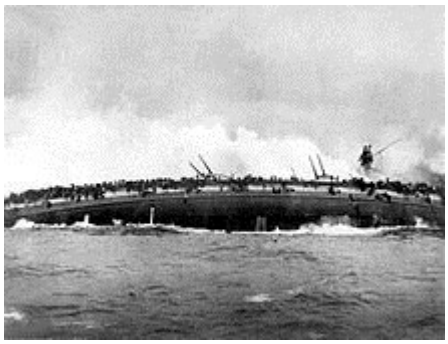
Immediately following this paragraph, he drew a box with the words, "Piece cut out" and followed that with another sentence: "You see I censor my own letters justly and fairly by cutting the above." (See illustration).

His hypothetical "deletion" could have been further commentary concerning the court-martialed paymaster, or perhaps the sinking of the German cruiser during the battle of Dogger Bank in the North Sea on January 24, 1915. The reason for the paymaster's court martial was not specifically spelled out in Berthon's letter, but it may have been for providing photographs of the sinking German ship to newspapers in Great Britain.[1]

Afterword: Berthon was a 20-year-old sub-lieutenant writing home. He went on to a distinguished career in the Royal Navy. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross twice (DSC with Bar) during World War I, rising to the rank of captain at the start of WW II.[2]



A portion of Lt. Berthon's letter of April 5, 1915, referring to the sinking of the *Blücher,* a subsequent court-martial, and how he censored letters. Source: Leonard Tinne Berthom Collection (MS 424, Box 1, folder 11). University of Colorado, Boulder. University Libraries. Special Collections Department. Gift of Stuart Leggatt.



He commanded the 19th Destroyer Flotilla that participated in the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk, France, in 1940. He was in command of the *HMS Cossack* in October, 1941, when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Gibraltar. Capt. Berthon, then 47 years old, perished in the explosion along with 158 of his officers and men.[3] Berthon was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

The Berthon family has a history of service in the British military, especially with the Navy. Capt. Berthon's namesake was the Rev. Edward Lyon Berthon, who invented and developed the Berthon collapsible lifeboat in the 1870s. The Berthon company was established in 1877 at Lymington, England, and today is prominent in the yachting industry in the U.K., with branches in the U.S., and in France.

References and endnotes:

1. The *SMS Blücher* sinking is found on Wikipedia. For aYouTube clip of the *Blücher* sinking https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXDOEGXOXCs
2. www.unihistories.com (search Royal Navy Officers 1939-1945).
3. www.uboat.net (search for *HMS Cossack*).

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 my home address by the dates shown below to Sergio Lugo, 1190 S. Grape, Denver, CO. 80246. Phone: 303-552-8897, or digitally to my e-mail address at 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	Issue Timeframe for *Bulletin* in Member Hands
Winter	January 20 to 25	Mid February
Spring	March 20 to 25	Mid April—Special Edition NY 2016
Summer	July 20 to 25	Mid August
Fall	October 20 to 25	Mid November

- *Sergio*

Secretary's Report

by Louis Fiset

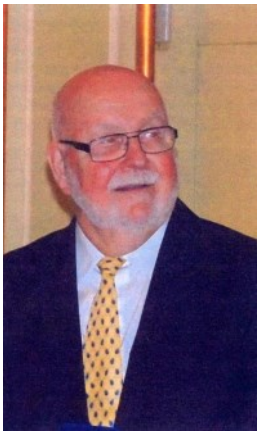
Membership October 30, 2015	411
New Members	+1
Reinstated	+0
Resigned	-1
Deceased	-0
Membership February 1, 2016	411

Please welcome these new members

Reinstated

Taps for Honored Members:

- **Eliot A. Landau**
- **Erik Lordahl**



Erik Lørdahl, 1937-2015

Author, editor, and military postal historian Erik Lørdahl of Norway died October 29, 2015 at age 78. He contributed to several books and authored a number of print and electronic monographs and databases. Lørdahl was widely known in the military postal history field and he had numerous contacts worldwide with whom he sought and shared information. *Alan Warren, Bjørn Muggerud*

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.]

Jack Thompson received a vermeil, the AAPE award of honor and the AAPE plan and headings award at **Filatelic Fiesta** in San Jose, Cal., in November with his **"The Spanish American War and the U.S. Postal Administration in Cuba."** Another vermeil and the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence went to Michael Dixon for **"WW2 ICRC Message Schemes for German Occupied British Channel Islands." Tony Dewey** also won a vermeil with his **"The War Rate: 1815-1816."**

Alexander Kolchinsky received a gold and the MPHS award for **"Prisoners of the Great War Send Home Picture Postcards"** at **Chicagopex** in Itasca, Ill., in November. Vermeil awards went to **John Warren** for **"Civil Censorship in India 1939-1945,"** and to **Robert Gray** for **"The Post Office of India during the World War I Era." Al Kugel** took a silver and the Women Exhibitors sterling achievement award for his **"British Forces in Ireland 1920-1922."**

A gold along with the MPHS award went to **Charles LaBlonde** at the **Florex** show in Orlando in December for his **"The Suspension of United States Mail to Switzerland 1942-1945." Sam Chiu** took a vermeil with his "**Hong Kong Wartime Airmail, Sept 1939 to Dec 1941."**

NEWS FLASH: Regis Hoffman was recently accredited as a fully qualified APS philatelic judge, with specialities in military postal history and censorship. Cheers and congratulations to Regis for this accomplishment..

ROLL CALL OF HONORS FOR DONATIONS

Thomas Tomaszek	Leonard Saslaw
Fred Hensel	Norman Elrod
Jim Lee	Robert Waldman
Michael DeBlasio	Russell Povenz
Paul Sopko	David Willig
James Boyden	William Sandrik
Jonathan Johnson	Millard Mack
James Stultz	Sergio Lugo
James Byrne	Al Kugel
Robert Stoldal	Steve Edmondson
Nick Shestople	Ed Dubin
Jack Thompson	Harry Marshall
Louis Reif	

Donations to the MPHS allows the Board to explore other services to offer the membership - such as our publications program and its products. Please consider a contribution.

Ed Dubin, President and Ed Fisher, Treasurer

An Unusual Stampless Naval Communications Cover from the White House Addressed to Admiral Leahy

by Paul M. Holland

World War II offers a fascinating area for military postal history. As part of my collecting interest in FDR-related items, I came across the following unusual White House cover sent via Naval Communications to Admiral and Mrs. Wm. H. Leahy, USS Tuscaloosa. Although not formally "postal history" since it was sent via Naval Communications and has no postal markings, it can be dated by context to December 22, 1940.

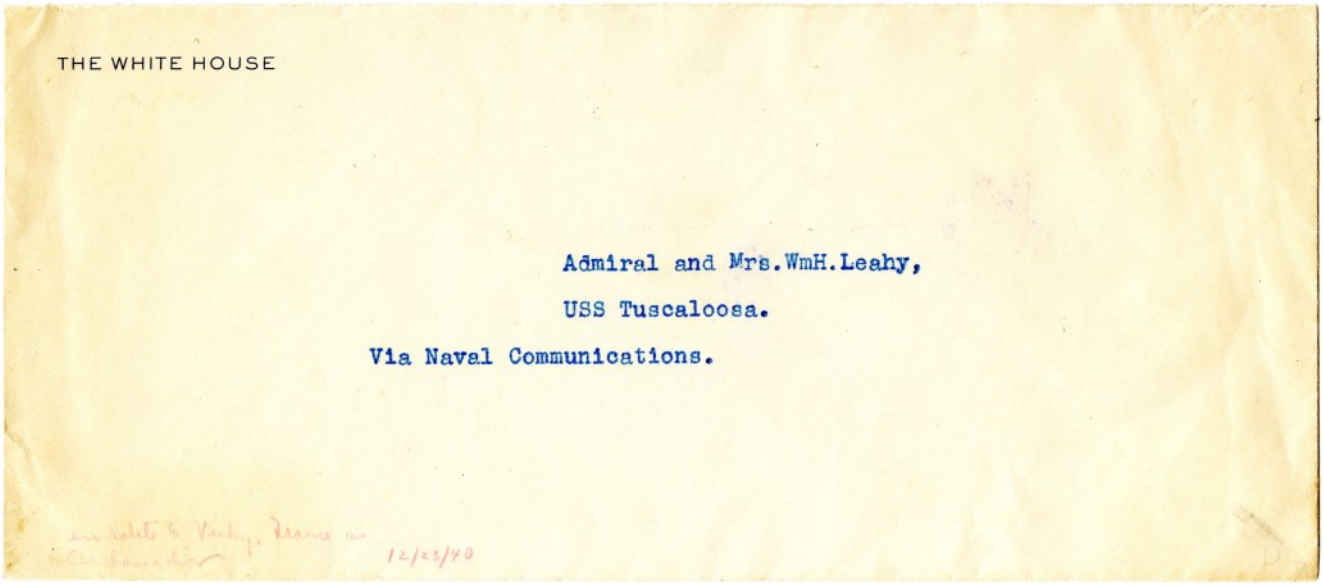


Figure 1: White House cover via Naval Communications to, USS Tuscaloosa. Postal history or not?

This was in the midst of desperate times, tagged by Winston Churchill as "the Darkest Hour". The collapse of France after the German blitzkreig assault of May 1940 had led to the formation of a pro-Axis government in Vichy headed by Marshal Pétain in late June, leaving Great Britain alone in the war against Hitler. President Franklin D. Roosevelt strongly supported the British, but faced an American public that opposed entering the war, presenting him with one of the greatest challenges of his Presidency.

It was in early December 1940, while FDR was cruising aboard the USS *Tuscaloosa* on an inspection tour of naval bases obtained in his recently negotiated deal trading 50 old American destroyers for basing rights, that he hit upon the idea of the Lend-Lease program to aid Britain. Regarding France, the best strategy he could devise was to provide American food aid to Vichy France while encouraging them to forestall cooperation with the German war machine, and especially not to allow the powerful French fleet to fall into the hands of the Germans. For this, he turned to his old friend Admiral William Leahy to serve as ambassador to Vichy France. Leahy already knew Marshal Pétain and key members of the French admiralty, and was well equipped to deal with this delicate assignment.

The cover likely contained a personal note from FDR, as the Leahys were long-time friends of the Roosevelts, and Admiral Leahy had just met in the White House with FDR and Sumner Welles from the State Department a few days before for more official instructions on December 19th. **Figure 2** shows Leahy and his wife aboard the USS *Tuscaloosa* on December 22, 1940 in Norfolk, VA. The *Tuscaloosa* left early the next morning, and sailed into the European war zone for Lisbon with the "stars and stripes" painted on the roofs of Turrets II and III, and her largest colors flying, escorted by the destroyers USS *Upshur* and USS *Madison* for protection against U-boats. After arriving in Lisbon on December 30th, the Leahys traveled by train to Vichy, France.

The cover itself shows signs of age, is open at the top, and there are no other markings, apart from a light notation in red pencil "En route to Vichy, France as Ambassador 12/23/40" that was probably added later. The White House envelope itself measures 104 by 240 mm and is undoubtedly genuine (I have some 50 other White House covers from the FDR era, and the style, size and intaglio printing of the corner card matches them). The blue typed address is also consistent with the FDR White House where both black and blue typewriter ribbons were used.

Figure 2: Admiral and Mrs. Leahy aboard the USS Tuscalossa on December 22, 1940.

That the addressee is "Admiral and Mrs. WmH. Leahy, USS Tuscaloosa" establishes the date by context. While the term "Naval Communications" usually implies message transmission by coded radio telegram, military couriers were also used to carry messages, and this cover was probably carried by pouch from Washington to the large naval base at Norfolk along with other courier messages. With a flight distance of less than 160 miles, there would have been frequent courier service by military personnel between Washington and the Naval Communications center at Norfolk, thus providing fast, routine, and secure delivery of documents for the Navy. Is it military postal history? You be the judge.

At the time of his appointment as Ambassador to France, William Leahy had served as Chief of Naval Operations from 1937 to 1939 and was Governor of Puerto Rico from 1939 to 1940. Following the United States entry into the war, he remained Ambassador to France until May 1942, shortly after the death of his wife in Vichy. Later Leahy became the highest ranking US military officer of World War II. His appointment to the newly created rank of Fleet Admiral on 15 December 1944, made him the most senior 5-star flag officer in the U.S. armed forces, senior to George Marshall, Ernest King, Douglas MacArthur, Chester Nimitz, Dwight Eisenhower, and Henry "Hap" Arnold (in order). He reported directly to FDR, serving as his top military advisor and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

LATE FLASH: The BBC released a news article on Jan. 31 on providing 12 million pieces of mail weekly to the British WWI soldier,

THE REST OF THE STORY"
By Raymond H. Murphy

How's this for a remarkable coincidence—a second article on the U.S.S. Tuscaloosa in the same issue. That's right—a very late submittal makes it possible.

Paul Harvey, a radio newscaster, often finished his program by taking a mundane piece of information and pointing out why it was significant. Here we have a patriotic cover from the *Tuscaloosa*, dated Dec. 13 1940, with a three bar cancel and the words "HRH Duke of Windsor".

The *Tuscaloosa* was of interest to Jamaican collectors since it took President Roosevelt on a "working vacation with a little fishing". What the Commanding Admiral thought of using his 10,000 ton warship as a fishing yacht is unknown, but, after all, this was the President.

The cruise left Miami on 3 December, went to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba then to Kingston where the President debarked and toured American base construction sites. The permission to site American bases in British colonies was the result of the "Destroyers for Bases" Act wherein the US gave Britain 50 WWI destroyers in exchange for base rights. Following his review, the cruise continued to St Lucia. It returned home to Norfolk on 16 December.

En-route, the ship rendezvoused with a US Navy PBY seaplane bearing the Duke of Windsor, the Governor of the Bahamas, who was also the former King Edward VIII of England, brother of the then-present King George VI, and a close friend of Winston Churchill. After a meeting with the President, the Duke flew back to the Bahamas.

Coincidentally, on his next radio "Fireside Talk" to the American people in January 1941, the President announced he was sending legislation to Congress for aid to Britain, not to be paid in cash, but rather in exchange for facilities and service - the "Lend-Lease" Program. This aid consisted of materials of war making from the US "Arsenal of Democracy" . This was the result of his meeting with the Duke and British officials on the President's trip. This cover commemorates this important meeting.

And, now you know the rest of the "fishing cruise" story and the prelude to Admiral Leahy's mission!

see http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-25934407

STARS & STRIFE

Mau Mau Uprising

"Guard Your Gun" Slogan Cancel

by Thomas Richards & Regis Hoffman

The **Mau Mau Uprising**, also known as the **Mau Mau Revolt**, **Mau Mau Rebellion** or **Kenya Emergency**, was a guerrilla war conflict in British Kenya between 1952 and 1960, involving Kikuyu-dominated groups summarily called *Mau Mau.* The British Army comprised the Kenya Regiment mostly consisting of the British, auxiliaries and anti-Mau Mau Kikuyu. The capture of rebel leader Dedan Kimathi on 21 October 1956 signaled the ultimate defeat of Mau Mau, and basically ended the British military campaign. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mau_Mau_Uprising).

David Anderson has written articles and books on this turbulent time in Kenya. In his words, the uprising was "a story of atrocity and excess on both sides, a dirty war from which no one emerged with much pride, and certainly no glory." Historian Daniel Goldhagen describes the campaign as an example of "eliminationism", though this verdict has been fiercely criticized

Figure 1: *Poster of the film "Something of Value", filmed in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising. Image courtesy of Hershenson/Allen Archive.*

Robert Ruark's first best-selling novel entitled "***Something of Value"*** was published in 1955. It described the Mau Mau uprising. The novel drew from the author's personal knowledge and experiences while on safari in Africa, and was adapted into a successful 1957 film, "***Something of Value".*** The film adaptation (see **Figure 1)** was filmed in Africa during the Mau Mau Revolt, starring Rock Hudson, Sidney Poitier, and Dana Wynter. It was a chilling, suspenseful book/ movie.

The Mau Mau lacked small weapons and heavy weapons early in the revolt, and sought to capture weapons from the army and their victims. This led to the "***Guard Your Gun***" message shown in the **Figure 2** poster. Additional notices included postal slogan cancels as well.

Figure 3 shows a 7 Sept. 1953 cover from Nairobi with a boxed **GUARD YOUR GUN** slogan cancel. In his book "***The Postal History of Kenya***"[1], Edward Proud states that the slogan was used in Mombasa from 18 Aug 1953 until 1 Oct. 1953, and in Nairobi was from 17 August 1953 until 8 Oct. 1953.

Figure 2: *"Guard Your Gun" admonition poster.*

Figure 3: Nairobi 7 Sep 1953 "Guard Your Gun" admonition slogan cancel.

Noted British writer and conservationist Elspeth Huxley (1907-1997) wrote in her 2003 book, "**Elspeth Huxley: A Biography**" – that "…. there was a gang of forty Mau Mau who had gouged out the eyes of a cow, and letters were now franked with the legend '**Guard your Gun**'" **Figure 4** (next page) shows an image of a 31 August 1953 *Guard Your Gun* cover from Nairobi that recently sold on eBay. Edward Proud also reports a 10c and 15 cent *Guard Your Gun* meter used from Mombasa. Only one date is reported by Proud – 9 Sept 1953 (see **Figure 5** on the next page). Addressed to Nairobi and cancelled by the Mombasa meter, it was forwarded to England and has a backstamp from Ngoma, Kenya.

The slogan cancels are scarce and may even be rare as they were used only for a very short period of time early in the rebellion. They reflected the need of Mau Mau forces to gather weapons to sustain the rebellion. If anyone has more information on their usage the authors would appreciate hearing it. (richardsthomas@sbcglobal.net)

[1] Proud, Edward B, The Postal History of Kenya

Figure 4: "Guard Your Gun" slogan cancel from ebay.

Figure 5: Edward Proud listing of the 10 c "Guard Your Gun" meter cancel from Mombasa.

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 be obtained through the American Philatelic Research Library, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823.]

John Hotchner offers part II of his series on **U.N. forces in the Korean War** in the October *American Stamp Dealer & Collector*. The countries include Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, and South Africa.

Rene Chavez describes the **Spanish volunteer division** in Russia in WW II, in the November *American Philatelist*. It is commonly known as the Blue Division since Army and Falangist personnel wore blue shirts. The units had fieldpost numbers and were granted free franking up to 100 grams, above which domestic rates applied.

Russian Navy personnel free-frank mail during the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War is the subject of **Vladimir Berdichevsky's** article in the Fall issue of *Rossica*. Special free-frank seals were placed on cards and letters of naval personnel. A number of pieces are illustrated. In the same issue, **Alexander Kolchinsky** describes the popularity of **picture post cards sent during the siege of Leningrad**. Many were never used. After the war they were found and used by the unscrupulous to prepare forged cards. The author shows a number of them and points out some of the characteristics that identify the forgeries.

In the December *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, **John Moody** describes and illustrates **WW II German occupation overprinted stamps,** including Poland, Alsace and Lorraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Albania, Serbia, and the Channel Islands.

Gavin Fryer shows mail sent to and from **H.M. Forces at Christmas in World War II** in the December *London Philatelist*.

Part II of a series by **John Burnett** on WW II little known facts is in the October-December *BNA Topics*, describing the **Pan Am Clipper route** established on request by Churchill across the South Atlantic. In the U.S., Roosevelt agreed, leading to FAM 22 from Natal to Bathurst, Gambia, Fisherman's Lake, and Leopoldville. In the same issue, **J. Michael Powell** shows markings used at **Halifax Fortress during WW I** and the earliest known POW cover from Canada, sent in September 1914.

Al Kugel reviews **the year 1916 and the First World War** as part of the centenary observance, in the January-February *Collectors Club Philatelist*. He summarizes key actions at Verdun, on the Somme, in Romania, Montenegro/Albania, East Africa, and Armenia.

Larry Wirth continues his discussion of **provisional overprints of Germany during WW I** in the December *German Postal Specialist*. He shows the overprints of LIBAU for Russia, and M.V.i.R. for Romania, the "Rumänien" marks, and the "Gültig 9. Armee" markings when the 9th Army advanced into the Ukraine.

In the November issue of the newsletter of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group, **David Collyer** discusses the **advanced aircrew training conducted in Canada** during early WW II for airmen from different parts of the UK. He tabulates correspondence from one crew member in training at Winnipeg to his hometown of Brisbane.

Ken Lawrence illustrates several **covers from the U.S. to destinations just before and just after WW II broke out**, in the fourth quarter 2015 *La Posta*. He describes rates and routes for Germany (1939), Palestine (1939), Lebanon (1940), Australian New Guinea (1942), Sweden (December 8, 1941), and Holland (1941).

Frank Acevedo concludes his series on **Puerto Rico and the Spanish American War** in the Fourth Quarter 2015 issue of *Possessions*. He shows Puerto Rican stamps overprinted for the Spanish war tax, provisional markings, U.S. military postal stations, and stamps introduced in March 1899 consisting of U.S. definitives and postage dues.

The November 2015 issue of *War Times*, newsletter of the World War II study group of BNAPS, reproduces a **1941 rate table published by Canada Post** in its "Postal Guide." The rates are for letters and postcards sent from other countries to Canada at that time.

APO/DPO/FPO Openings and Closings

by David Kent

These APO, FPO and DPO actions were announced in the *Postal Bulletin* between October, 2015 and January, 2016. Announcements advise Postal Service staff that they may now accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Active," and may no longer accept mail addressed to numbers listed as "Closed." Actual dates of operation of offices may differ from the dates given. Some numbers may be Mailing Addresses Only rather than representing an operating post office.

TYPE	#	ACTION	DATE
APO	09125	Open	11/12/15
APO	09245	Close	12/24/15
APO	09381	Open	11/26/15
APO	09397	Close	12/24/15
FPO	09550	Open	11/26/15
FPO	09600	Open	11/12/15
DPO	09709	Open	10/29/15
DPO	09844	Open	1/21/16
APO	09851	Open	1/29/15
APO	34044	Open	1/21/16
DPO	96504	Open	1/21/16
DPO	96505	Open	1/21/16
FPO	96632	Open	10/29/15

Normally the effective date of an action is the publication date of that issue of the *Postal Bulletin*. Exceptions would be marked with an asterisk*.

APO 09245 was assigned to the headquarters of the Army/Air Force Exchange Service in Mainz-Kastel, Germany. The Exchange there is one of the largest in Europe and presumably still operating. According to the last Absentee Ballot Deadline list, APO 09397 was in Ethiopia. APO 34044 is opened and closed regularly, perhaps for exercises in Central America.

Although the Navy is very slow to update its websites, collector sources in Europe report that FPO 96632 is newly assigned to the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, which arrived in San Diego last November as her new home port. As usual, the carrier, previously assigned to the Atlantic, took the long way around, through the Mediterranean, Indian and Pacific oceans, stopping in the Middle East to beat up on Afghanistan and Syria.

Trying to find the locations of newly-opened APOs and FPOs is frustrating. Even more difficult is finding the locations of Diplomatic Post Offices (DPO). The State Department offers nothing of use on its websites.

AEF MARKINGS

by Al Kugel and Ed Dubin

Below (and on the next page) are provided updates to Railway Post Office cancels and markings, Naval Money Order Business (M.O.B.) markings, AEF 2nd Edition covers we need copies of and WWI covers from future WWII leaders. Many WWII military and civilian leaders served in WWI. If you have any items that can add to Knox and Wainwright please let us know. Again, Al and I would like to hear from those of you who have examples of better copies of these cancels, additional cancellation types or copies of the illustrated covers. Thank you to the members who took the time to comment and provide updates to the earlier listed postmark lists. Your help is appreciated.

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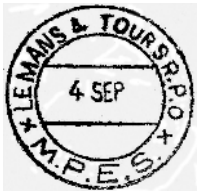
Railway Post Office Cancels

Dijon – Marseille R.P.O.

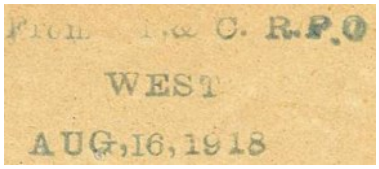
Lemans – Tours R.P.O. (day/month)



Lemans – Tours R.P.O. (day/month/south)

Bordeau/Vierson/Paris R.P.O. South Division

T. & C. R.P.O. West



British Army T.P.O. No.1 Russia Expeditionary Force

Railway Transportation Office Markings

Montmorillon (Vienne)

Vintimille, Italy

Naval MOB Cancels

U.S.S. Leviathan

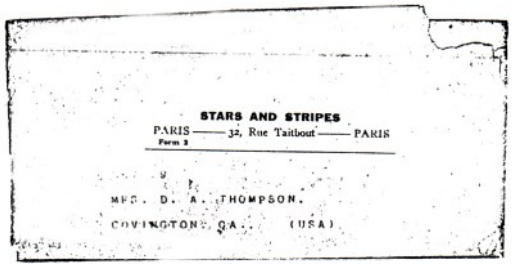
U.S.S. Pennsylvania

U.S.S. Texas

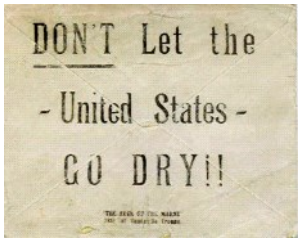
U.S.S. Arizona

AEF 2nd Edition Covers Illustrations Needed

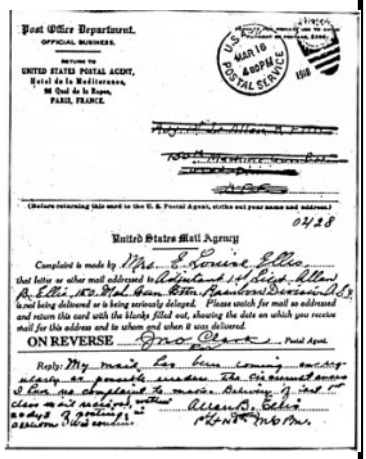
There are six different wording & font ***Stars and Stripes*** *wrapper designs.* ***We do not have*** *the illustration below.*



APO 846 Provisional Cancel



Anti-Prohibition cover (back only)

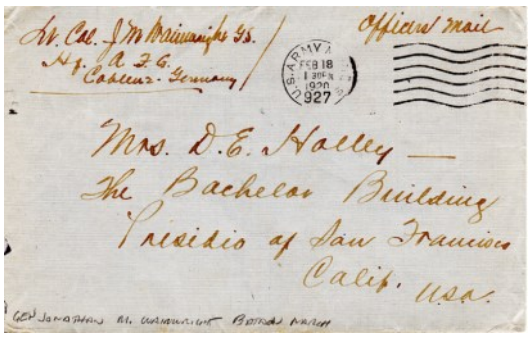


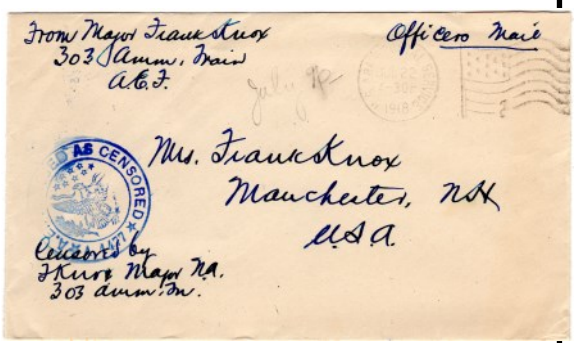
Example of AEF Mail Tracing Card.

Covers From Future Leaders

(Left): Lt. Col. Wainwright later rose to prominence when he was forced to surrender U.S. & Filipino forces in March, 1942.

(Right): Major Frank Knox wrote in 1918 to his mother before his ascent to Secretary of the Navy 20 years later.





Auction # 210
Closing on Saturday, March 26, 2016

BIDDERS:

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

MINIMUM BID = $2.50

DESCRIPTIONS:

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

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

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

Thierry— (The Auction Manager's) - Picks

If you have faith in my judgement, my insights may be of help in placing bids. They are provided below, and are given as my observations on the lots I've seen. My suggestions are NOT guaranteed to satisfy everyone. Good luck and come back to us frequently.

O 10/14: A selection of German ships during WWI
O 27/32: A nice selection of Australian WWII covers
O 38: An early Free Mail cover (first week)
O 49/62: A great selection of APOs in France during WWII
O 122: a POW card from a Belgian prisoner in Germany
O 128/129: A couple of interesting V-Mails
O 138: A couple of Liberty ship covers with elusive "CPNY" markings
O 144/149: A great selection of Seabee covers
O 173: An unusual Seabee "Nuclear Power Plant" cover from Antarctica
O 181: A well mixed box lot

WORLD WAR I

1. AEF – APO 2. Sender 57th Aero Sqdrn. Canc. Type A6002 **US Army Postal Service - 2** – 22 Jan NO YEAR (F). AEF Censor. F (1601)
2. AEF – APO 2. Sender 110 Reg Engrs. Canc. Type A6001 **US Army Postal Service - 2** – 25 Jul 1918 (F). AEF Censor. VF (1601)
3. AEF – APO 705. Canc. Type A7001 **US Army M.P.E.S. - 705** – 20 Dec 1918 (F). AEF Censor A.3196. Ave (1601)
4. AEF – APO 712. Sender 546th Engrs APO 712. Partial Canc. **...Postal Service No ??** – May .. 1919 (Ave). Partial AEF Censor A.2952. Letter. Ave (1601)
5. AEF – APO 717. Canc. Type A7001 **US Army M.P.E.S. - 717** – ?? Feb 1919 (F). AEF Censor A.2234. F (1601)
6. AEF – APO 715. Sender Hqs 107 Tr + M.P. Canc. Type A6011 **US Army Postal Service - 717** – 14 May 1918 (VF). AEF Censor (A.615 ?). F (1601)
7. AEF – APO 722. Sender 320 F.A. Canc. Type A2011 **US Army Postal Service - 722** – 18 Jun 1918 (F). AEF Censor A.1244. F (tears on top) (1601)
8. British Army P.O. 1. Sender Canadian. MC **Army P.O. 1** – B - 15 Dec 17 (VF). Censored - To Canada. With letter. Ave (1601)
9. French P/C. Mint P/C showing German Military flag taken in 1914. VF (0901) ***PICT***
10. Germany - SMS Hamburg. Cover sender SMS Hamburg. Free franked canc. Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 41 - 13-11-14 (VF) VF MB $5.00 (1601) ***PICT***
11. Germany - SMS Kaiserin. Cover sender SMS Kaiserin. Free franked blurry canc. Kais. (Deutsche) Marine Schiffspost No ?? - ??-??-(17 ?) (Ave). VF (1601)
12. Germany - SMS Konig. Cover sender SMS Konig. Free franked partial canc. (Kais. Deutsche Marine) Schiff(spost) No ?? - ?? -??-18 (Ave). F (1601)
13. Germany - SMS Venetia. German P/C. Free franked canc. Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 169 - 5-5-?? (F). VF MB $5.00 (1601)
14. Germany - SMS Wittelsback. Ship's P/C. Free franked canc. (Kais. Deutsche) Marine Schiffspost No (3)7 - 20-3-16 (F). VF MB $5.00 (1601)
15. Naval. Cover from Illinois (1918) addressed to USS Commodore in Chicago, Ill. F (1601)
16. Stateside Br (5). 5 covers MC Grant, Upton, Dodge, Mills and Alexandria Mil. Br. (1917/19 - Ave/VF). 2 with letters. F/VF (1601)
17. Stateside Br (5). 5 covers MC Sheridan, Hancock, Lee, Humphreys, Pike Branch (1917/19 - F/VF). F/VF (1601)
18. Stateside Camps (5). 5 civilian canc. covers from Camp Mills, Dodge, Meade, Del Rio&Fort Greenleaf.1 with letter. Ave/VF (1601)

PRE-WORLD WAR II NAVAL

19. League Island. Cacheted Cover Keel Laying ***USS Wichita***. 3c stp. Canc. Phial. (League Island) PA. Marine Barracks – 23 Oct 1935 (VF). VF MB $5.00 (1410)
20. Marine Base. Cacheted Cover 160th Anniv USMC. 1 1/2c stp. Canc. U.S.N. Sta. Marine Base Br - San Diego, Calif with "In Defence of Country" in KB – 10 Nov 1935 (VF). VF MB $5.00 (1410)
21. *USF Constitution 1931 (4)*. 4 covers (no cachet). All Cancel *US Frigate Constitution* **1931**: 22 OCT "**Yorktown, VA**."; 24 OCT "**Baltimore, MD.**"; 9 NOV " **Washington, D.C.**"; 17 DEC "**Jacksonville, FLA.** All VF – MB $4.00 (0901)
22. *USS Pioneer.* Cacheted USS Pioneer. 3c stp. Canc. Dutch Harbor, Alaska - 24 Jun 1939 (VF). VF (1602) ***PICT***
23. *USS Raleigh.* Cacheted "4th of July - USS Raleigh". 2c stp. Canc. *U.S.S. RALEIGH* – 4 July 1935 with "PORTALND - OREGON" in KB (VF). VF (0901)
24. *USS Sandpiper.* Cacheted Dumonte "USS Sandpiper". 2c stp. Canc. *U.S.S. SANDPIPER* – 12 Jan 1937 with "SAN DIEGO - CALIFORNIA" in KB (VF). F (0901)

WORLD WAR II MILITARY

25. 7 BPO (5). 3 covers + 2 PC. All canc. 7 BPO (1944-45 - Ave/VF). 4 are Censored. F/VF (1601)

26. Alaska - APO 939. Sender 165TH F.A. APO 939. 6x 1c canc. APO no # – 4 Aug 1942 (F). Censored "ASST. ADC Censor". F (1601) ***PICT***

27. Australia - Queensland. Australian stps canc. Field P.O. - 099 - ? NO 42 (VF). Censored. VF MB $4.00 (1601) ***PICT***

28. Australia - New Guinea. Registered cover. Australian stps canc. A.I.F. Field P.O. No 13 - 21 SE 42 (Ave). Censored. F MB $5.00 (1601)

29. Australia - New Guinea. Registered cover. Australian stps faint canc. A.I.F. (Field P.O.) No 24 - ??? (Ave). Censored. Back canc Hobart 6 MR 45. Ave (tears on top) MB $4.00 (1601)

30. Australia - New Guinea. Australian stp faint canc. Field (P.O.) - 098 - ??? (Ave). Faint Censor. F (1601)

31. Australia - Papua New Guinea. Australian stp canc. Air Force (P.O.)- 250 - 2 MR ?? (F). Censored. F (1601)

32. Auxiliary. Cover from San Francisco (Dec 1945) to APO 75. Handstamp "Forward to ... Returning to US". Ave/F (1601)

33. Belgium - APO 57. Sender 1392 Labor Supervision Co - APO 228. 6c air canc. APO 57 – 10 Jul 194? (F). VF (1603)

34. Belgium - APO 637 (3). Sender Supply Sq 10th AD Gp - APO 149. 6c air canc. Mar/Apr 1945 (F/VF). 1 with letter. Ave/VF (1602)

35. Canal Zone - APO 836. Sender 719th C.A. - APO 836. 6c air canc. NO # – 4 NOV 1942 (VF). Censored. F (tears on top)(1601)

36. Censored (2). 2 Belgian covers - Antwerpen (1944) to USA. German censor tape and handstamp on back. 1 VF - 1 Ave (1601)

37. China - APO 271. Sender 1712 Sig Sev Bn - APO 271. Free franked canc. APO 271 – 15 Aug 1945 (F). VF MB $4.00 (1603)

38. Early Free Mail. Sender 340th Bomb Sq - Sarasota Air Base, Fla. Free franked canc. Bradenton, Fla – 8 Apr 1942 (VF). VF (0909)

39. England - APO 513 (6). Sender 312 Station Hospital APO 513. 3 covers Canc APO 513 (1944 - F/VF) + 3 V-Mail (with envelope) same sender. Censored. F/VF (1602)

40. England - APO 519. Sender Det of Pat USHP 4125 APO 519. 6c air canc. APO 519 – 16 Feb 1945 (F). 2x 3c Postage Due stps. Censored. VF (1410)

41. England - APO 519. Patriotic (Tokyo bound) Sender 158th Gen Hospital - APO 519. Free franked canc. APO 519 – 28 May 1945 (VF). VF (1410)

42. England - APO 557. Patriotic (Anti-Aircraft V...-) Sender HQ BODA Eng Ser - APO 635. Free franked MC APO 557 – 12 Nov 1945 (VF). VF (1410)

43. England - APO 569. Patriotic (Blood Plasma) Sender Site 8 Base Air Depot 2 - APO 635. 3c stp canc. APO 569 – 20 Mar 1945 (VF). Censor tape. VF (1410) ***PICT***

44. England - APO 569. Patriotic (Air corps V...-) Sender Site 8 Base Air Depot 2 - APO 635. 6c air canc. APO 569 – 2 Sep 1945 (VF). VF (1410)

45. England - APO 569 (4). 4 covers Sender 13th RCD Site 4 - APO 569. 6c air canc. APO 569 – Apr/May 1944 (F/VF). Censored. F/VF (1602)

46. England - APO 598. Patriotic (Time for us to clean up) Sender Co M INF - APO 15329. Free franked canc. APO 598 – 5 Dec 1944 (Ave). VF (1410)

47. England - APO 635. Sender Site B A D #1 - APO 635. 6c air MC APO 635 – 6 May 1944 (Ave). VF (1601)

48. Fiji - APO 913. Sender Service Co - 132 INF - APO 716. 6c air canc. APO 913 – 5 Sep 1943 (F). Double censor + tape. VF (1410)

49. France - APO 65. Sender 373rd Engr GS Regt APO 228. 6c air MC APO 65 – 29 Nov 1944 (VF). Censored. F (1410)

50. France - APO 115. Sender 67th Comd APO 252. 6c air canc APO 115 – 29 Dec 1945 (F). With letter. VF (1601)

51. France - APO 146. Sender 944th Bomb Sq APO 149. 6c air MC APO 146– 5 Nov 1945 (VF). F (open rough) (1602)

52. France - APO 254 (Utah Beach). Sender 35th Tank Bn APO 254. 6c air canc. APO 254 – 29 Jul 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)

53. France - APO 297. Sender 89 CML Mortar Bn APO 339. 8c air MC APO (297) – 31 Mar 1945 (F # faint). Censored. F (fold)MB $4.00 (1410)

54. France - APO 513. Patriotic (US on guard)Sender HQ OISE AGD Dept P APO 513. Free franked canc. APO 513 – 5 Jan 1945 (F). Censored. VF (1410)

55. France - APO 548. Sender 1st Co 2nd Rgt 1st Spec Scv Force APO 4994. Free franked canc. APO 548 – 13 Sep 1944 (VF). Censored. VF MB $3.00 (1410)

56. France - APO 561. Patriotic (Be with them at every mail call). Sender 208 APU. Free franked canc. APO 561 – 30 Nov 1945 (VF). VF Min $4.00 (1410)

57. France - APO 570. Patriotic (Once more to peace) Sender 2759 Engr APO 758. Free franked MC APO 570 – 18 Mar 1945 (VF). Censored. VF MB $3.00 (1410)

58. France - APO 596. Sender 263rd Inf Co APO 454. 6c air canc. APO 5965 – 26 Feb 1945 (F). Censored. With letter. F (fold) (1601)

59. France—APO 772. Patriotic (God bless the land). Sender 2759th Engr APO 772. Free franked MC APO??? – 5 Jly 1945 (F).F (stain) (1410)

60. France - APO 772. Sender 982 Sig Ser Co APO 758. Free franked canc APO 772 – 16 Oct 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1601)

61. France - APO 891. Patriotic (Be with them at every mail call). Sender 3286 O.B.D. Co APO 562. Free franked canc. APO 891 – 1 Dec 1945 (VF). VF MB $5.00 (1410)

62. France - APO 891. Patriotic (United for Victory)). Sender 3286 O.B.D. Co APO 562. Free franked canc. APO 891 – 1 Dec 1945

63. Germany - APO 28. Sender 1160 Eng C Gp APO 230. Free franked canc. APO 28 – 1 Jun 1945 (F). VF MB $5.00 (1410)

64. Germany - APO 29. Patriotic (For us here at home...buy bonds). Sender 554 AAA AW Bn APO 339. Free franked canc. APO 29 – 13 Feb 1945 (F). VF MB $5.00 (1410)

65. Germany - APO 60. Sender 31st Eng Bn APO 758. 6c air canc. APO 60 – 1 Ma(?) 1945 (Ave). Censored. VF (1603)

66. Germany - APO 76. Patriotic (Our army is as good...). Sender 417th Infantry APO 76. Free franked MC APO NO # – 23 Jul 1945 (VF). VF MB $7.50 (1410)

67. Germany - APO 84. Sender 84 Div Arty APO 84. 6c air MC APO 84 – 16 Jul 1945 (VF). VF (1603)

68. Germany - APO 89. Sender 340 F.A. Bn APO 89. 6c air MC APO 89 – 25 May 1945 (F). VF MB $7.50 (1410)

69. Germany - APO 104. Sender 414th Inf APO 104. 6c air canc. APO 104 – 1 Mar 1945 (F). Censored. VF MB $4.00 (1603)

70. Germany - APO 113. Sender 113th Army Post(master) APO 113. 6c air canc. APO 113 – 31 May 1945 (VF). F (1603)

71. Germany - APO 124. Sender 2072 QM Trucking Co APO 149. 6c air canc. APO 124 – 27 Sep 1945 (F). With letter. F (1602)

72. Germany - APO 150. Sender 118th S.R.I. Co APO 403. 6c air canc. APO 150 – 8 Aug 1945 (VF). VF MB $10.00 (1410)

73. Germany - APO 162. Sender 2457 QM Trucking Co APO 149. 6c air canc. APO 162 – 17 Oct 1945 (F). With letter. F (1602)

74. Germany - APO 171. Sender 14th Const Regt APO 171. 6c air MC APO 171 – 17 Oct 1945 (F). F (1603)

75. Germany - APO 172. Sender 116th Evac Hosp APO 758. 6c air canc. APO 172 – 4 May 1945 (VF). Censored. VF MB $4.00 (1603)

76. Germany - APO 172. Sender 2nd Air Disarm Wing APO 149. 6c air canc. APO 172 – 28 Jun 1945 (F). VF MB $3.00 (1603)

77. Germany-APO 202. Sender 2457 QM Truck. Co APO 149. 6c air canc.APO 202–12 Oct 1945(Ave).With letter.F(open rough)(1602)

78. Germany - APO 252. Sender Sv Co APO 252. 6c air canc. APO 252 – 17 Nov 1945 (F). With letter. VF (1601)

79. Germany - APO 253. Sender 2nd Div 36th AR APO 253. 6c air canc. APO 253 – ? May 1945 (Ave). With letter + ETO card. VF (1601) ***PICT***

80. Germany - APO 451. Sender 290th Inf APO 451. 6c air MC APO 451 – 7 Jun 1945 (F). VF (1603)

81. Germany - APO 576. Sender 3161 Arty & F.C. APO 350. 6c air canc. APO 576 – 23 Jul 1945 (F). VF MB $15.00 (1410)

82. Germany - APO 577. Patriotic (When the yanks squeeze). Sender 379th AS Sqdrn APO 149. Free franked canc. APO 577 – 20 Aug 194(5?) (Ave). VF MB $7.50 (1410)
83. Germany - APO 175. Sender 784th AAA APO 638. 6c air canc. APO 175 – 25 Jun 1945 (VF). VF (1603)
84. Germany - APO 758. Patriotic (Apres la guerre fini)Sender 302nd Signal Operation Bn. APO 758. Free franked canc. APO NO # – 12 Sep 1945 (VF). VF (1410)
85. Germany - APO 800. Sender 25th Base Post Office APO 800. 6c air canc. APO 800 – 8 Dec 1945 (VF). VF MB $12.50 (1410)
86. Hawai - APO 956. Sender 55 AA APO 956. 6c air partial canc. (no date - not APO). "OVO" censor. F (1410)
87. Iceland. 2c stp canc First Marine Brigade Provisional – 11 Feb 1942 with "U.S. Marine - Iceland" in KB (F). VF MB $5.00 (1410)
88. Iceland - APO 810. Sender B-230 Q.M.R. APO 810. 3c stp canc. American Base Forces APO 810 – 1 Jan 1942 (F). Censored (# 606) VF MB $5.00 (1410)
89. India - APO 629 (2). Sender 859 Ord HM Co APO 629. 6c air MC/canc APO 629 – Apr/Jun 1945 (F). 1 Censor. VF (1601)
90. Iran - APO 523. Sender Millspaugh Mission APO 523. 6c air MC APO 523 – 23 Dec 1944 (F). Censor. VF (1410)
91. Iran - APO 523. Sender Millspaugh Mission APO 523. 6c air MC APO 523 – 21 Jan 1945 (F). Censor. VF (1410)
92. Italy-APO 34. Patriotic (On with the March) Sender 135th INF APO 34. Free frank. Canc. APO 34–2 Apr 1945(F).Censor.VF (1410)
93. Italy - APO 88. Patriotic (Be with them at every mail cal) Sender 351 INF APO 88. Free franked MC APO 88 – 13 Oct 1945 (VF). VF (1410)
94. Italy - APO 520. Patriotic (Be prepared) Sender 87th Dep Rap Sqdn APO 520. Free franked Canc. APO 520 – 13 Apr 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
95. Italy - APO 521. Sender 262nd Station Hospital APO 782. 6c air Canc. APO 521 – 6 Aug 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1601)
96. Italy - APO 750. Patriotic (Fighting for Victory) Sender 133 Ord Bomb Disposal Sq APO 782. Free franked Canc. APO 750 – 1 Oct 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
97. Italy - APO 767. Patriotic (Heel Hitler) Sender 415 Nite Fighter Sq APO 650. Free franked Canc. APO 767 – 18 May 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
98. Italy - APO 767. Patriotic (Guadalcanal Let'em have it) Sender 415 Nite Ftr Sq APO 650. Free franked Canc. APO 767 – 3 Jul 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410) ***PICT***
99. Italy - APO 776. Sender Inf Co APO 15333. 6c air MC APO 776 – 23 Jul 1944 (VF). Censored. F (1601)
100. Italy - APO 782. Patriotic (The Goal - Victory) Sender 812 Signal Service co APO 782. Free franked Canc. APO 782 – 21 Jul 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
101. Italy - APO 785. Patriotic (Buy War Bonds and stamps) Sender 739 Bomb Sq APO 520. Free franked MC APO 785 – 24 Feb 1945 (F). Censored. VF (1410)
102. Italy-APO 790 (2). Sender 262nd Sta Hosp. APO 782. 6c air MC APO 790 2nd Base PO–Jan/Feb 1945(VF). Censor. F/VF (1601)
103. Italy - APO 790. Patriotic (A G.I.'s dream) Sender 331st AAA S/L Bn APO 512. Free franked MC APO 790 2nd Base PO – 10 Nov 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
104. Italy - APO 794. Patriotic (Here is to Brag) Sender 760th Ry D.S. Bn APO 512. Free franked MC APO 794 – 21 Apr 1945 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
105. Italy - APO 794. Patriotic (A buzzard smelled..) Sender 760th Ry D.S. Bn APO 512. Free franked MC APO 794 – 21 Apr 1945 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
106. Label "Free". Cover Sender 457th Ordinance Co - Westover Field Mass. Label "Postage Free for Victory" canc. Chicopee Falls, Mass – 10 Jun 1942 (VF). VF (1601)
107. Luxembourg - APO 80. Sender 319th INF APO 80. 6c air Canc. APO 80 – 7 Mar 1945 (F). MS Censor. F MB $3.00 (1410)
108. Mariana Islands - APO 237. Sender 499th Bomb Gp APO 237. 6c air Canc. APO 237–30 Jun 1945 (F). Censor. VF MB $3.00 (1410)
109. Morocco - APO 668 (2). 2 covers Sender 6th P/E APO 668. 6c air Canc. APO NO # – 1 Feb 1943 (VF). Censored. VF (1601)
110. Morocco - APO 764. Sender 6th General Hospital APO 764. Free franked Canc. APO 764 – 7 Jan 1944 (Ave). Censor. VF (1601)
111. Netherlands - APO 79. Sender 315th INF APO 79. 6c air Canc. APO (79) – 22 Mar 1945 (Ave). Censored. VF MB $3.00(1410)
112. New Hebrides - APO 502. Patriotic (Freedom of speech) Sender 208 M.P. Co APO 502. 6c air MC APO 502 – 16 Nov 1944 (VF). Censored. VF (1410)
113. Palau Isl - APO 265. Sender 111 INF APO 265. 6c air MC APO 265 – 23 Aug 19(45) (F). MS Censor. VF MB $15.00(1410)
114. Papua New Guinea - APO 43. War Ballot Card Sender 169th Inf Regt APO 43. Free franked canc. APO 43 – 28 Aug (1944) (Ave). MS Censor. VF (1601)
115. Papua New Guinea - APO 320. Sender 533 E.B. & S.R. APO 322. 6c air canc. APO 320 – 30 Jun 1944 (Ave). Censored. VF (1601)
116. Patriotic. "Keep'em Flying" Sender M.P. Det 1570th S.U. Free franked MC Camp Breckinridge, KY – 4 Mar 1943 (VF). VF MB $5.00 (0901) ***PICT***
117. Patriotic. "Remember Pearl Harbor" Sender 224 ITB. 5c Yugoslavia Overrun Nation stp MC Camp Blanding, Fla – 7 Mar 1944 (F). VF (0901) ***PICT***
118. Patriotic. "Women's Army Corps" Sender Supply Div. Free franked canc. Fort Story, VA – 25 Jun 1945 (F). VF (0901)
119. Philippines - APO 24. Sender 24th Med Bn APO 24. 6c air canc. APO 24 – 24 Dec 1944 (F). Censored. VF (1603)
120. Philippines - APO 72. Sender Real Pict. 8th Photo Reconnaissance Sq APO 72. 6c air faint canc. APO ?? – ???? 194(5?) (Ave). Censored. VF (1603) ***PICT***
121. Philippines - APO 719. Patriotic (Keep your bonds) Sender 574 Sig A.W. Bn APO 719. Free franked canc. APO (719) – 20 Nov 1945 (Ave). VF (1410)
122. POW - Belgium. Kriegsgefangenenpost card from Belgian POW at Stalag VI F - Arb-Kdo Nr 44 - Bochlot {West.}. Canc. town ? 24.9.41. Handstamp " 23 Gepruft Stalag VI F. To Belgium. VF (0901)
123. Ryukus - APO 331. Sender 1878th Engrs Avn Bn APO 331. 6c air faint partial MC APO ??–25 May 1945(Ave). Censor.VF (1603)
124. Scotland - APO 648. Sender 68 Med Grp APO 230. 6c air canc. APO 648 – 11 Jun 1944 (F). MS Censor. F (fold) (1601)
125. Scotland—APO 648. Sender 1403rd B U, ED ATC APO 741. 6c air canc. APO 648–7 Oct 1944 (Ave). MS Censor. VF MB $3.00 (1410)
126. Stateside (10). 10 covers to / from same sender (Pvt/Cpl/Sgt Leary) at Ft. Riley, Camp Barkeley and Livingston. All civilian canc. except 1 Camp Barkey (1942/44). Most with letters. Ave/VF (1601)
127. Stateside (10). 10 covers to / from same sender (Pvt/Cpl/Sgt Leary) at Ft. Riley, Camp Barkeley and Livingston. All civilian canc. except 1 Camp Barkeley (1942/44). Most with letters. Ave/VF (1601)
128. V-Mail. "Do not send mail to this address" unprocessed V-Mail. Sender HQ Co 38 INF APO 2. Free franked with "Star" cancel. No date. VF (1410)
129. V-Mail. Illustrated V-Mail (Christmas Greetings). Sender 967 AAA Bn APO 706. No date. No envelope. VF (1601) ***PICT***
130. War Ballots (3). Size #10. Senders stateside: USN Air Station (Ohumwa, Iowa), USNTS (Grove City College, Penn), AAF Base Unit (Victorville, Ca). All 1944. VF (1601)

WORLD WAR II NAVAL

131. 1st Marines. Cacheted (First Day Postal Service) 3c stp canc. 1st MAR. 1st MAR DIV. - Fleet Mar. Force - 19 Jun 1941 with "Parris Island - S.C." in KB (VF). VF MB $5.00 (1410)
132. 2nd Defense Bat. 3c stp canc. Sec. Defense Bat. - Fleet Mar. Force-14 Oct 1940 with "San Diego-California" in KB (F). VF (1410)
133. 7th Marines. Cacheted (First Day Postal Service) 3c stp canc. 7th MAR 1st MAR DIV - Fleet Mar. Force - 2 Jun 1941 (VF). VF MB $5.00 (1410)
134. Admiralty Island - Navy 3205. Sender Naval Air Base Navy 3205. 6c air canc. US Navy - 3 Oct 1945 (F). With letter. VF (1602)

135. Bermuda. Sender Naval Air Station - Hamilton Bermuda. Misc stps (7) canc. New York, NY - Naval Operating Base (Bermuda Br) - 4 Aug 1941 (Ave). Naval Censor + tape (Naval Censor BER. 1). F (fold) (1601)

136. Dutch East Indies - Navy 932 (2). 2 covers Sender Section Base Navy 936. 6c air canc. US Navy - Dec 44/Jan 45 (Ave). Naval Censor. Ave/F (staple holes) (1601)

137. Guadalcanal - Navy 145. Sender A.B.U. Navy 145. 6c air canc. US Navy - 22 Apr 1944 (VF). Naval Censor. VF (1602)

138. Merchant Marine (2). 1 cover + 1 unprocessed V-Mail TO (liberty ship) ***SS Winfred L. Smith***. Cover 8c air canc. Wendell Idaho - 7 DEC 1944 with letter mentioning recipient last letter date line as being MURMANSK in Northern Russia / V-Mail 3c stp canc. Bridgeport, Conn - 21 Aug 44. BOTH Back transit postmark " CPNY ". VF MB $20.00 (0901) ***PICT***

139. Midway Island. Cachet Mailed at Midway 3c stp canc. Midway Det 3rd Def. Bat Fleet - Mar. Force-7 Dec 1940 with "M(idway) - Isl(and)(Ave/F). Ave/F (Heavy fold-stains on back)MB $10.00 (1410)

140. Naval Hospital (3). 3 covers same sender Newport Naval Hospital. Free franked canc. Newport R.I. - US Naval Hospital Br - Jun/Jul/Aug 1942 (Ave/F). With letters. F/VF (1601)

141. Naval Department (25). 25 Official Mail size #9/10 covers from Misc units like USN Separation centers, Rehabilitation sections, General Hospital, Naval Air Station, USCG... Some duplication. All 1945. 13 with US Navy canc. F/VF (1602)

142. Naval Department (25). 25 Official Mail size #9/10 covers from Misc units like USN Personnel Separation centers, Marine Barracks, General Hospital, Training Center, USCG, Navy Yard... Some duplication. All 1945 (1 is 1918). 17 with US Navy canc. F/VF (1602)

143. Patriotic. "For National Defense - Keep building" Sender Armed Guard SS Henry Gilbert Costin (Liberty Ship). 5c Denmark Overrun Nation + 1c stp MC US Navy – 24 Dec 1944 (Ave). Naval censor. VF MB $3.00 (0901)

144. Seabees - NAS Honolulu (Keegi Lagoon) Sender 13th N.C.B. Co. A. 6c canc. US Navy – 16 Jul 1944 with " ...- V .." in KB (F). 2 x 3c stps added and canc. US Navy 2 Jul 1944 (VF). Small Naval Censor. F MB $6.00 (0901)

145. Seabees - Pearl Harbor. #10 cover Sender 16th N.C.B. Co A. 2x 6c air canc. US Navy – 29 Oct 1942 (F). Naval Censor. Ave (tears + wrinkles right side) (1602)

146. Seabees - Manus Island. Sender 44th N.C.B. Co C. 6c air canc. US Navy – 29 Apr 1944 (F). Naval Censor. F (staple holes) (1601)

147. Seabees - Manus Island. Sender 78th N.C.B. Co B. 6c air canc. US Navy – 26 Jun 1944 (F). Naval Censor. F (staple holes) (1601)

148. Seabees - New Guinea. Sender 115th N.C.B. Co C. 6c air canc. US Navy – 27 Jul 1944 (VF). Naval Censor. F (0901)

149. Seabees - New Guinea. Sender 118th N.C.B. Co A. 6c air canc .US Navy – 22 Aug 1944 (VF). Naval Censor. VF (1601)

150. Separation Center (11). 11 Official Mail Navy Department size #9/10 covers from Misc Navy Separation centers: Camp Polk, Bremerton, Terminal Isl, Shoemaker, Norfolk,... All 1945. 6 with US Navy canc. F/VF (1602)

151. U.S.C.G. #10 War Ballot Sender USCG Tra. Sta. Groton, Conn. Free franked canc. US Navy – 4 Nov 1944 (VF). F (1601)

152. USMC (10). 1 censored cover with letter + 9 Official Mail size #9/10 covers from Misc Marine Corps units: Cherry Point, Mojave, Mare Isl, El Toro, Goleta, Eagle Mountain... All 1945. 5 with US Navy canc. F/VF (1602)

153. USN Convalescent Hospital (2). 2 Official Mail Navy Department size #9/10 covers from US Naval Convalescent Hospital in Yosemite National Park, Calif and Sun Valley, Idaho. Both US Navy canc. 1945. VF (1602)

154. *USS Mississippi*. Sender *USS MISSISSIPPI*. 6c air MC US Navy – 15 Oct 1945 (VF). VF (1601)

155. Wave Barracks (2). 2 Official Mail Navy Department size #9 covers from US Naval Separation Unit - Wave Barracks, Balboa Park, San Francisco, Ca. Both SF, CA canc. 1945. VF (1602)

KOREAN WAR

156. APO 7. Free franked – Sender HQ 7th INF Div APO 7. Canc. APO 7 (MC 8 Jun 51 – VF). Located Hoengsong, Korea. F (0909)

157. APO 86. Free franked – Sender 45 Div APO 86. Canc. APO 86 (KB 10 Apr 5(3)–Ave).Located Nambakchon,Korea. F(toning) (0909)

158. APO 301. Free franked – Sender 728 MP Bn APO 301. Canc. APO 30(1) (MC 9 Apr 54 – F). Located Yongsan, Korea. F (0909)

VIETNAM WAR

159. *USS Tutuila*. Ship CC Free frank. Canc.*USS TUTUILA* (ARG-4)

POST-WORLD WAR II MILITARY / COLD WAR

160. Antigua - APO 855. Sender Coolidge Air Base APO 855. 5c air canc. APO 855 – 6 May 1948 (VF). VF (1603)

161. Brazil - APO 843/676 (2). 2 covers. 1 is 6c air canc. APO 643 – 26 Mar 1946 (VF). 1 is 3c stp canc. APO 676 - 25 Apr 1947 (VF). VF (1603)

162. Germany - APO 69. P/C USNS General A.W. Greely. 1c stp MC APO 69 – 24 Dec 1951 (VF). VF (1603)

163. Germany - APO 162. Sender HQ 70 Ord Gp APO 162. 6c air MC APO 162 – 2 Jul 1946 (F). VF (1603)

164. Germany (15). 15 covers misc APOs from late 1940s to mid 1960s. Ave/VF (0909)

165. Germany (15). 15 covers misc APOs from late 1940s to mid 1960s. Ave/VF (0909)

166. Indian Army FPO 91. 5 x 6 cover from British Officer in "The Buffs". Free franked can F.P.O. No 91 - 23 Oct 46 (VF). F (fold) MB $5.00 (1601)

167. Misc (15). 15 covers misc countries APOs from late 1940s to mid 1950s. Ave/VF (0909)

168 Misc (15). 15 covers misc countries APOs from late 1940s to mid 1950s. Some size #9. Ave/VF (0909)

169 Misc (15). 15 covers misc countries APOs from late 1940s to mid 1950s. Ave/VF (0909)

170. Philippines - APO 450/500 (2). 2 covers. 1 is from Chaplain - 6c air MC APO 450 – 29 May 1946 (VF). 1 is from USO Camp Shows - 5c air canc APO 500 - date unclear (Ave). VF (1603)

171. War Ballots (2). 2 size #10 War ballots. 1 from Fort Belvoir, VA; 1 from Fort Huachuca, AZ. Both 1952. F/VF (1601)

MODERN MILITARY (after 1965)

172. Germany (10). 10 covers misc 5 digits APOs, all in Germany, all 1960s or early 70s. Ave/VF (0909)

173. Polar - Seabees. Handstamp PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant - McMurdo Station + Officer in charge CC and signature. 8c stp MC US Navy 17038 Br (15 Jan 1974) with slogan US Navy - Operation - Deep Freeze (F). VF MB $4.00 (0901)***PICT***

DESERT STORM

174. APO 09761. Sender 2186th Maint Co APO 09623. Free franked canc. APO 09761 – 11 Apr 1991 (VF). VF (1602)

UN MILITARY MAIL

175. ONUC (Congo) - Denmark. Sender Dan ONUC Command - Mov Control Eza. Free franked canc. Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo (1962 - F). VF (0901)

176. UNDOF (Golan) - Austria. #10 cover Sender UNDOF HQ AUSBATT. Austrian stps canc. UNDOF AUSBATT 1500 (1986 - VF). TO and address in Sultanate of Oman (unusual destination).F (0901)

177. UNDOF (Golan) – Poland. Cachet + Polish handstamp "XXIII Zmiana Syria". Free franked canc. Warzawa 1985. VF Philatelic (0901)

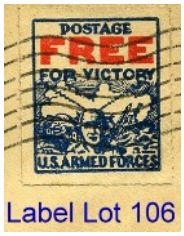
178. UNFICYP (Cyprus) - Denmark. Danish stp canc. Kobenhavn OMK (1968 - VF) + canc. DANCON - UNFICYP - 31 Sep 1968 (VF). VF (0901)

179. UNTSO (Golan). #10 UNTSO stationary. Lebanese stps canc. Aeroport International Beyrouth (1987 - F). VF (0901)

MISCELLANEOUS

180. Book "Guardians of the Sea" History of the United States Coast Guard 1915 to the present by Robert Erwin Johnson. Edition 1987. Hardcover 412 pages. VF MB $5.00 (0900)

181. BOX lot. About 820+ military covers from WWI to Korean and Vietnam War. Most WWII and Post WWII. Include ships, Ship P/C, Military bases, APOs,... Ave to VF (most F/VF) MB $80.00 (1244)



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CC Lot 120

Lot 129

Canc. Lot 166

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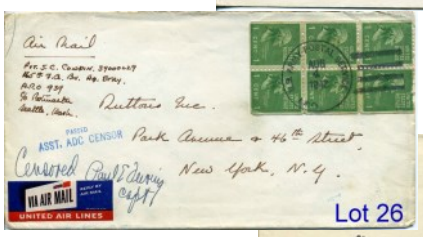

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SEEKING:: **Material** for exhibit and column.**focused on "Intelligence.**. Covers, stamps, postal history, literature/ references and appropriate other sought. I write for government & academic publications on the intelligence field and it is a good way to introduce non-collectors to the hobby.. All inquires acknowledged. Mark Sommer, 1266 Teaneck Road (10A), Teaneck, NJ 07666; (201) 837-0489 **16/2**

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Rear Guard Cover of the Month

By David Kent

WAR DOG DETACHMENT

Corporal Elmer Brautigam writes to a neighbor in Pennsylvania from the Chabua Air Base in India from APO 629

Dear Zelma: *April 6, 1945*

As you probably know ....., I am in India. It is a very strange and interesting country. There are millions of natives and they certainly do have some quaint customs.

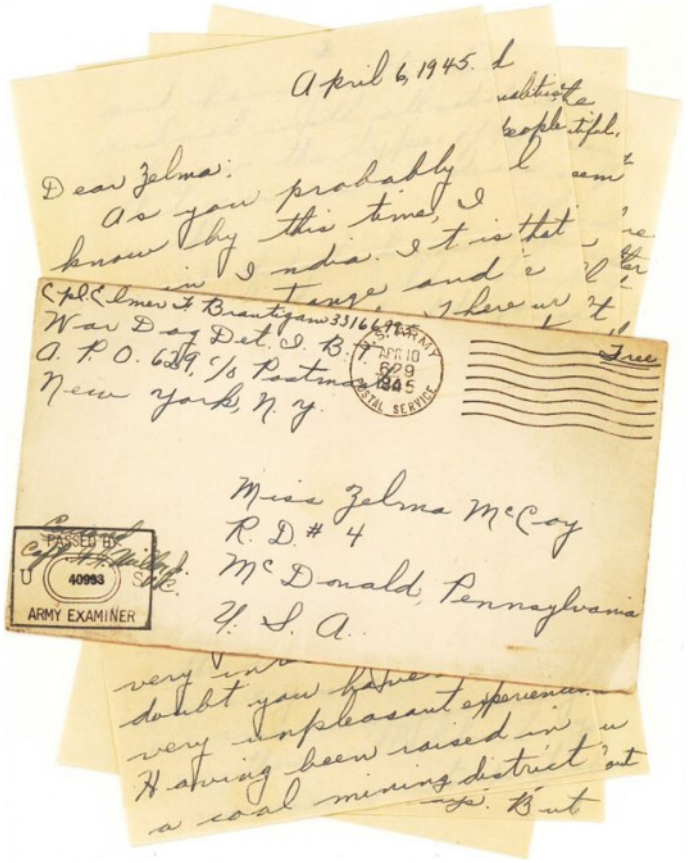
I was glad to receive your letter, and I thank you very much for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Your work must be very interesting, but no doubt you have some very unpleasant experiences. Having been raised in a coal mining district and having attended school with all nationalities I know the types of people that you must deal with.

I didn't know that you had sold the farm. No doubt your mother will hate to leave the place, as that has been her home for so long..... Washington is a very nice town and I am sure you and your mother will like it. You are moving into just about the finest part of the city.....

The war news seems to be good now. Of course we all hope and pray that it will end soon. The thought in every soldier's heart is "How soon is it going to end so that I can go home?" Our trip across the water was a very good one. However, I certainly did grow tired of seeing nothing but water, and I never dreamed that there was so much water in all the world. I also was seasick for a couple of days. But I enjoyed the trip very very much.

Hickory had its share of snow and cold weather this year. Some of that snow would look good to me now. Well, there isn't much to write about, so I'll close for this time. Thanks again for your letter....., .

Sincerely, *Elmer F. Brautigam*



Commentary: Chabua Air Base was in India's Assam Valley in the far northeast corner, bordering Burma and China. As the 1942 Japanese invasion of southeast Asia spread across Thailand and Burma, it cut off land access to the interior of China. Chabua became the hub of the air route "over the hump" of the Himalayas to China's interior. Thousands of missions were flown, transporting men and supplies in support of the Chinese. We usually refer to this area as the CBI — China-Burma-India — theater, but Elmer uses the initials IBT, for the India-Burma Theater.

Elmer makes no mention of it, but gives his return address as a War Dog Detachment. Using dogs to support soldiers dates back to the Roman legions. Dogs are used today in Afghanistan and elsewhere. A website on CBI unit histories(http://www.cbi-history.com/part_vi_wardog2.html) tells the story of the War Dog Det-CBI.

The group was formed in October 1943 at the War Dog Reception and Training Center, San Carlos, Calif. Consisting of 100 enlisted men and dogs, training was oriented to attack, sentry and scout work. In January 1944 they boarded the Liberty ship *Benjamin Ide Wheeler* at Los Angeles for a 72-day voyage to India, via Australia and Ceylon. Arriving at Calcutta in April, men and dogs had difficulty adapting to India's hot, tropical climate. There was nothing that prepared dogs for the scent of a herd of wild elephants or a tiger. Eventually, 43 teams were sent to the 475th Infantry and 124th Cavalry preparing for the push into Burma. The rest were shipped to Assam to work the air strips, ammo dumps, and Signal Corps outposts in the province.

The dogs were particularly useful as patrols began penetrating into Burma. One of the Japanese sniper's favorite tricks was to hide in a tall tree, allow a patrol to pass by, and then pick off the rear men in a column. They soon learned that when the patrol was led by a dog trained to sniff out hidden decoys, this gambit was hazardous to their health. No patrol led by a dog ever walked blindly into an ambush. In early 1945 replacements arrived for those who had succumbed to the ravages of disease and climate, bringing to 120 the total dogs serving in the CBI theater.

A dilemma developed at war's end. The dogs had been donated by families across the nation, with the promise that they would be returned at the war's close. However, handlers had developed deep attachments to their canine partners. To resolve the problem, the Army supplied the name and address of the owners and asked handlers to write them to waive their rights. Many owners understood the requests, agreeing to allow those returning to civilian life to continue walking side-by-side with their wartime comrades.