

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Postal Markings 1939)

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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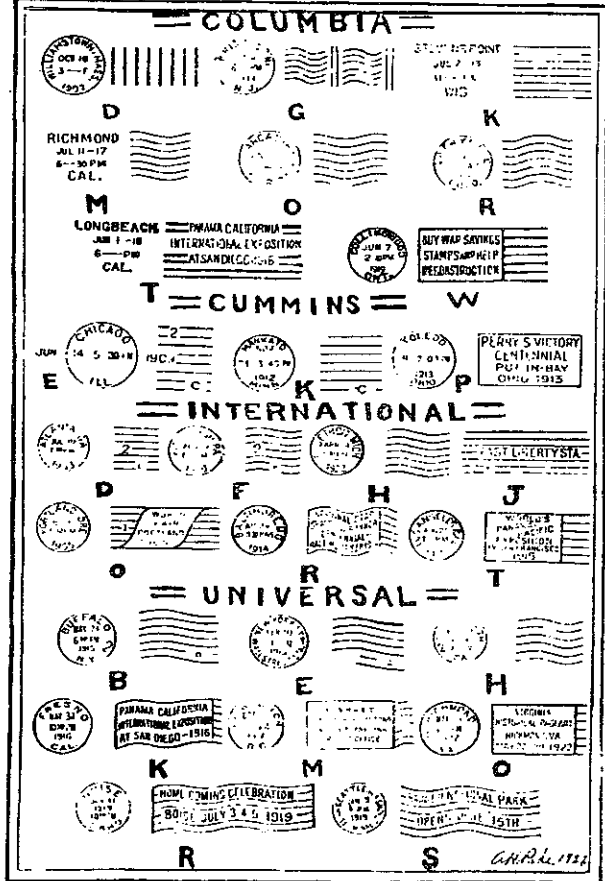
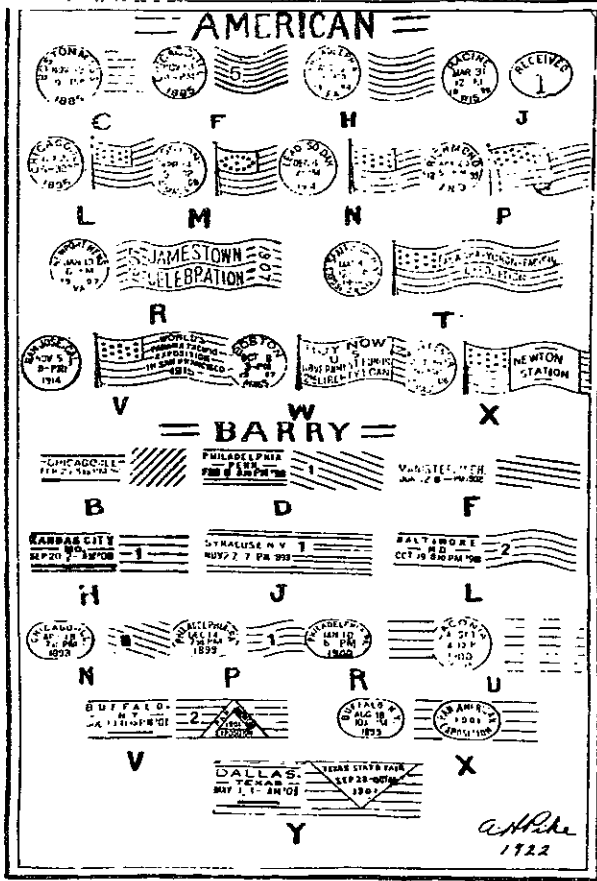
Swedish Military Covers (1930s)

War Covers (censor 1939 British & Canadian)

German Prisoner of War Camp Postmarks

Spanish Refugee Camp Covers (1939)

PIKE'S 1922 MACHINE CANCEL CLASSIFICATION



WAR COVERS

WORLD WAR NAVAL "LOCATION" MARKS

by Delf Norona

(Concluded)

S-21 and S-22 may be shore stations - information particularly desired; S-23, USS Warrington; S-24, USS Madawaska; S-25 to 28 are killers.

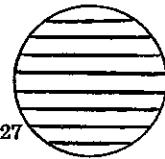
Detailed check lists will be published later but we first wish to list all known types. Send new types, 1917-19, to POSTAL MARKINGS for listing.

Acknowledgment due to Miss Eva Gray, Wm. R. Stewart, H.S. Smith, and to J.M. Hale for material from his handbook, illustrations for which were prepared by John Gill.



S-25

S-26



S-27



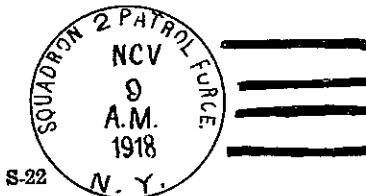
S-28

INFORMATION
OBTAINED

THE EARLIEST TYPEWRITTEN ADDRESS: Harold Brooks provided one from 1877; D.D. Berolzheimer reported one a month earlier - and both mentioned that letters were written at the 1876 Centennial Exposition on the machine. Fred Lightfoot reports a cover, typed, with the Centennial postmark. Now, who can antedate the 1876 Centennial?



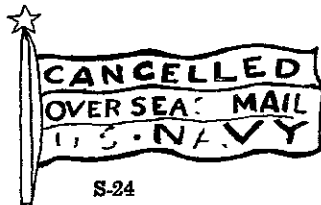
S-21



S-22



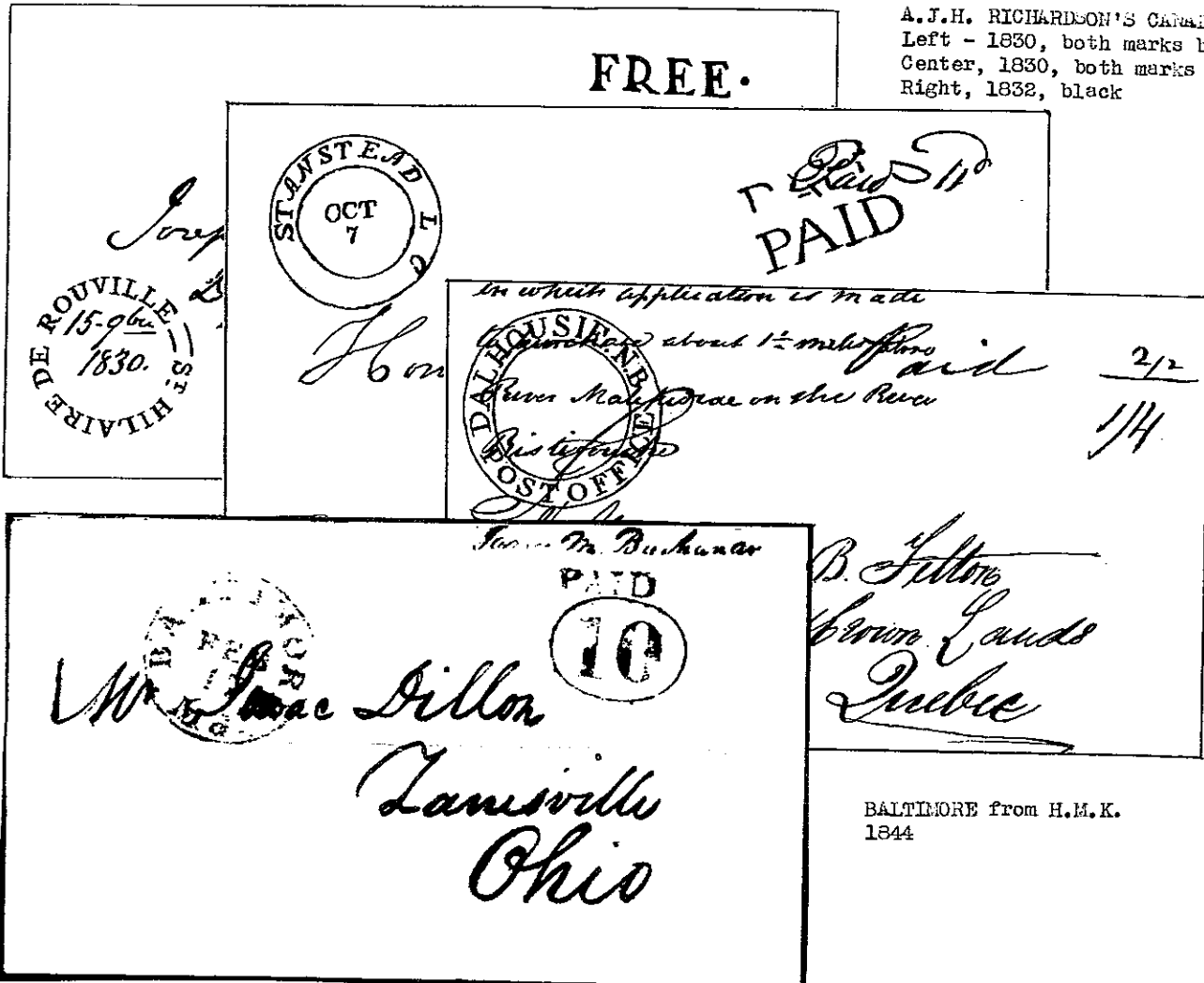
S-23



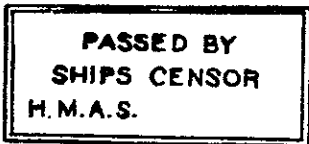
S-24



STAMPLESS COVERS



WAR COVERS



NAVAL WAR COVERS

Since the publication of the article on British Naval War covers, there has come into the possession of the writer a colonial item of considerable interest.

The cover bears the familiar "Passed by--Ships Censor" marking, as many of the British naval covers have, but there is this difference: Instead of "H.M.S.", i.e., "His Majesty's Ship", there appear the letters "H.M.A.S.", i.e., "His Majesty's Australian Ship".

On the reverse of the cover appears the circular cancel shown "A.I. Forces Postage Free--Vic.". "A.I." stands for "Australian Imperial"; this has been noted on land force cancels of the Australian army, notably in Egypt. Evidently, this marking

was applied as a receiving mark at Victoria. It is interesting to compare the fact that this mail was sent free of postage, while sailors on British warships had to frank their mail with stamps, except in cases where postage stamps were not available; in that case, mail was marked at London "Received from H.M. Ship--No Charge to be Raised".

The cover is endorsed "O.A.S.--Stamps Available". This is rather a peculiar inscription. The same has been noted on British warship mail, but this usually reads "On Active Service--Stamps Unavailable".

The cover bears no indication of the ship on which this cover originated, as was the case on British warships. British ships occasionally used markings that incorporated the name of the vessel in the censor marking, but these are quite scarce. It may have been the intention on the Australian warship also, as there is considerable space after "H.M.A.S.". However, in all probability, this space was intended for the use of the censor; that is, his initials were to appear here.

Since other British colonies, notably Canada, and New Zealand, maintained warships during the World War, there is the possibility that covers exist with special markings from these ships also.

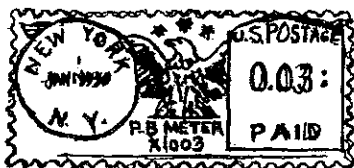
M. Hertzberg.

METERS

Please address all communications on Meters to

WALTER SWAN, JR.
Stony Creek, N. Y.

Illustrations by
John Coulthard



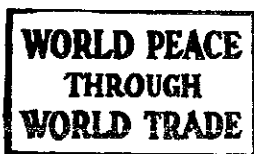
A new type that seems to be experimental. It has been rumored that this will be the 96000 series - but probably three or four will be tried out first

ACCIDENTS
Accidents Can Be Avoided

DIS
A Courteous Driver

It's a Safe Driver

A-37 (new)



W-320



H-390



S-150



S-387 (see note)



D-415 (new)

Numbers refer to POSTAL MARKINGS HANDBOOK No. 2: the Catalog of Meter Slogans. New ones are: A-37 Accidents Can Be Avoided A Courteous Driver Is a Safe Driver (ILL) D-415 Drive Carefully Life is Precious! (ARIZ)

Note to S-387: G. Anderson calls our attention to the fact that there are two sizes of this -- both with P.M. meters. Over 400 numbers of machines have been reported in all types so far.

INFORMATION WANTED

H. Morgan Ryther, Belchertown, Massachusetts, has written in to say that he is very anxious to see a cover that was listed last month in our stampless cover information. Since Mr. Konwiser does not keep a record of the source, will the owner of the cover, AMHERST MS 1844, with an 18¢ mark, red, please get in touch with Mr. Ryther, at the above address.

-*-

WAR COVERS

MILITARY MARKINGS OF THE NOVEMBER CRISIS

November found the nations of Europe on the brink of war. Czechoslovakia mobilized her troops upon the suggestion of France and Great Britain. As a result, certain field posts were operated by both Czechoslovakia and Germany.

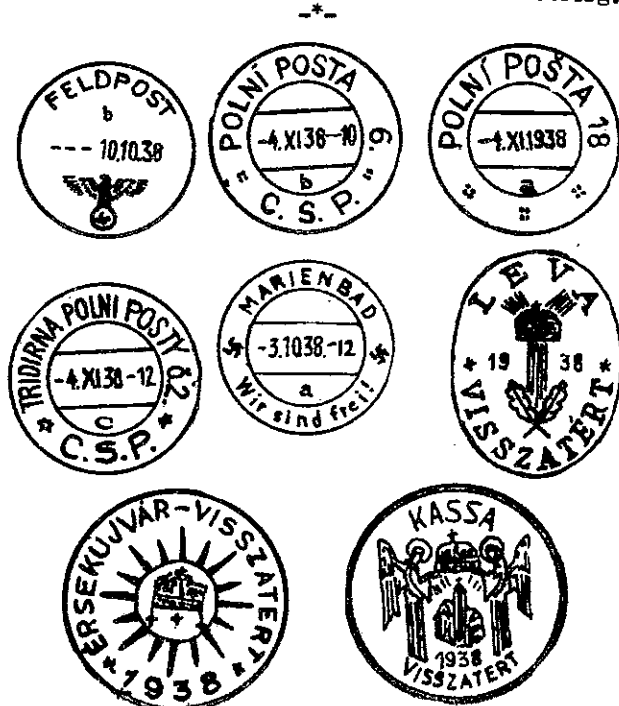
Germany used a marking similar to the "Feldpost" cancellation used during the 1937 maneuvers and also in Austria. The difference is that the cancel used in the Sudetenland did not bear the number of the field post, unlike those used in Austria, and the above-mentioned maneuvers. Instead, there are three short dashes, followed by the date.

Czechoslovakia also used field post offices upon mobilization of the army. The first shown here is Czechoslovakian field post office No. 6. The second is from the Czech field post office No. 18, which was in use a very short time. The third one is from the Czech field post sorting office No. 2. These bear no postage and are on special field post cards issued to the troops by the government. The card bears the coat of arms of Czechoslovakia, and beneath this is the wording "DOPISNICE POLNI POSTOVNI SLUZBY". At the left is a place to write the name and rank of the soldier. The cards are buff-colored.

The other markings shown are not - actually - field post cancellations, but rather are occupation markings used by Germany (1), and the other three are those used by Hungary. The last marking shown - incidentally, these are postmarks as well as cachets - was the Czech village of Kossice, renamed Kassa by the Hungarians.

The November crisis has very definitely left its mark on philately, and, particularly, on the postmark side.

M. Hertzberg.



METERS

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WALTER SWAN, JR.
Stony Creek, N. Y.

Illustrations by
John Coulthard



C 40



G 260



T 330



C 410



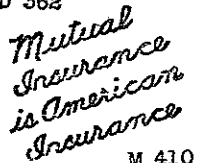
H 260



D 362

It takes less time
to *PRINT* a stamp
than it does to
stick one!

I 465



M 410

MOTION PICTURE
ARE YOUR BEST
ENTERTAINMENT

M 385A



G 420

My apologies to Mr. Coulthard. The X1003 "tracing" was done by yours truly, and was made possible through the cooperation of H.A. Morley who reported it first to me and sent a cover along. Mrs. Walter H. Hess has reported a new meter being a MultiPost machine and numbered M-3; efforts are being made to have it illustrated at an early date. Charles Hermann reported a PO meter which is numbered "Meter No. 0001 PO" being used at New York, N.Y. 1936 and appears to be an experimental of the National Cash Register Company. Meters #X1004 and X1005 have been reported through the courtesy of Werner Simon who is an authority on meters of Germany. X1005 reported as used by Tale & Towne at Stamford Conn. for a very short time. Further reports coming from L.W. Gibbon of Virginia state that Meter #100,000 has appeared and was used at New York, N.Y. and is of the same design, practically. A proof of Meter 101, which is a coin freed meter that has travelled up to Canada and back after being used at Stamford, Conn. Post-office for some time now has had its face lifted and is also similar in design to the X types. This X type should be classed as HX according to present system. Next month several illustrations will appear regarding these new discoveries. Until then, thanks to Mr. Simon, Mr. Gibbon and any others who have kindly cooperated with this column, and helped to disseminate the meter news. Also, to Mrs. Walter N. Hess, who reported a Multi-post experimental #M-3 in use.

Corrections for Postal Markings Handbook No. 2:

A-165 should read "November 7-13-1937".
A-325 " " "many needless steps".
C-40 meter number should be 57743.
I-390 should read "32 mm wide".
L-140 " " "Safely" not carefully.
M-25-26-32-38 meter number should be 55452.
M-50 add "1938-92244 .02".
M-374 meter number should be 55371.
P-20 should read "by air everywhere".
S-310 " " "01175, 2nd 56343".
S-345 & S-820 Delete entirely.
S-690 should read "Anywhere".
S-825 2nd. should be S-830
T-324a add 33x21 mm.
T-470 2nd. should be T-480.

Addenda: (see last month for slogans)

A-37 1938 57958 05; D-415 1938 93619 05.

-*-

WAR COVERS

SWEDISH MILITARY COVERS

by M. Hertzberg



The first record of the use of these field post cancellations in the writer's collection is 1930. This marking is shown here, the field post office, No. 2. In 1936, a cancellation of a different style was used; the circle is broken at a different place as there is more wording around the circle. Field post office No. 1, in this style has been noted in 1936, also. In 1937 and 1938 the single ring cancellation was used.

The most interesting part of these covers is that they are issued to the troops free; that is, they may be sent through the mails free. There is the heading "MILITÄRBREV" in the center, top, and to the right is a boxed design containing a crown, and posthorn in blue. On the reverse is a place to write name, rank, and branch of the service to which the sender was attached. Upon lifting the top flap, there is disclosed a box slightly different than the one on the face; this is gummed on the back, and the intention is to cut out the square impression, affix it to an envelope to the soldier, and it, too, will be carried free of postage. The writer has this pasted on an envelope mailed to a soldier.

Evidently, the Swedish government encourages correspondence between the soldier and his home as much as possible. In Sweden there is compulsory military training for a certain period each year, and the government thinks that by letters from home frequently, the soldier will be more willing to apply himself.

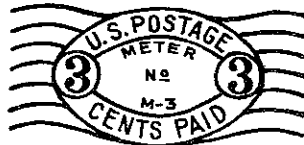
Other countries, such as Germany, occasionally permit their soldiers free transportation of mails, but Sweden is the only one to carry mails to the soldier free.

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METERS

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Stony Creek, N. Y.

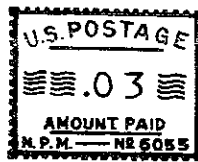
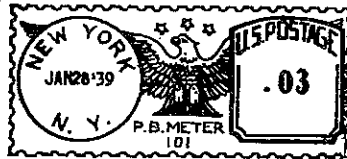
Illustrations by
John Coulthard



U. S. POSTAGE
OCT 15 1936
SER. NO. WT. Z. AMT. PAID

3587 FEE \$.03

METER 00001 P.O.
NEW YORK, N. Y.



M 132



L 90



H 291



W 145



H 75



M 232

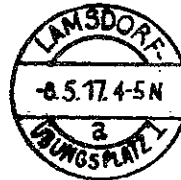
We illustrate, herewith, several meters reported last month, and also the National Postage Meter used as an experiment in the postoffice at Los Angeles.

#00005 has been reported at Washington, D. C. from 1936, same design as #00001 P.O., thanks to Warner Simon. Will you please check at the parcel post window of your postoffice to see if there are any experimental meters in service there and report promptly.

The Long Island City P.O. meter is illustrated through the courtesy of L. W. Gibbon.

..*

WAR COVERS



GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP POSTMARKS
by M. Hertzberg

Prisoner-of-war cover collecting is one of the most interesting phases of War cover collecting to the writer. At the Universal Postal Union Congress of 1908, it was agreed amongst the various members, that mail sent by prisoners'-of-war would be permitted to travel free of postage regardless of country of origin or destination.

Shown here is a complete representation of all the known camp postmarks used at German prison camps during the World War. There are a great many types of cachets used on prisoners' mail, one of which is shown here, Zossen, sent by a British prisoner. There is also a great variety of stationery issued to the prisoners by the Germans--; all have the heading "KRIEGSGEFANGENENLAGER" (Sent by prisoner-of-war).

However, it is quite unusual to find camp postmarks on prisoners' mail. Most of them merely have the civil post office cancellation of the town where the prison camp was located. The wording "Lager" in many of the cancellations shown here means "Camp". Others have "Übungsplatz", which means "Maneuvering place for troops". The writer is indebted for much of this information to Mr. F. J. Carter, Dawlish, England. Mr. Carter has published two books on "Prisoners of War Postal Service", and is an authority on the subject.

Mr. Carter has compiled a list of 237 German prison camps where Allied prisoners were quartered, and of this only 24 used camp postmarks. Needless to say, these camp postmarks are extremely scarce on prisoners' mail. The writer would appreciate it if readers who have new camp postmarks would communicate with him, in order that they may be compiled for Mr. Carter's use in future publications.

Prisoners' covers exist from many countries, but only the German prison camp covers bearing camp postmarks are dealt with here. There exist prisoners' covers from Brazilian, Siamese camps as well as from the more familiar combattants. Also, from prisoners interned in neutral countries, such as Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Spain and Norway.

..*

METERS

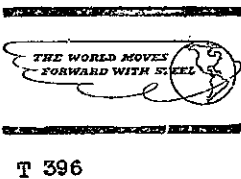
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WALTER SWAN, JR.
Stony Creek, N. Y.

Illustrations by
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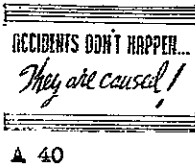


ITS EASY TO VISIT
FRIENDS BY
Telephone
I 390

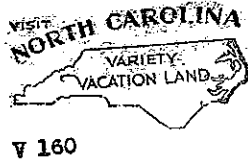
COOK
Electrically
AT LOW
MUNICIPAL RATES
G 350



use... BITUMINOUS
COAL
the ALL-PURPOSE Fuel
U 270



KODAK JUSTICE
as you go FOR
K 70 GENIUS
J 250



WHO SELLS IT? LOOK IN THE YELLOW PAGES first
An EXTENSION TELEPHONE
adds privacy and protection
... COSTS LITTLE
W 225 A 320

EXTENSION TELEPHONES
save time and steps
E 990



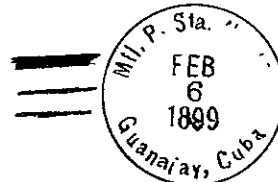
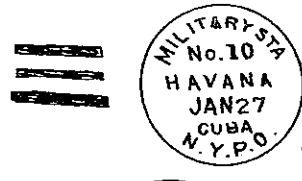
WAR COVERS

MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA
by Delf Norona



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Military Station No. 1, CUBA

POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS.
Military Station No. 34, Caibarien, Cuba.



REGISTERED
APR 4 1899

Military Station No. 26,
Buena Vista, Cuba.



There are shown a number of typical and unusual postmarks found on mail from Cuba during the period when the Military postal service was in operation in Cuba from the middle of 1898 to February 27, 1899, on which latter date a civil postal system was inaugurated.

The writer is compiling material for publication dealing with the postal history of the Spanish-American War. Collectors are invited to submit material for the record to Delf Norona, 315 Seventh St., Moundsville, W. Va.

(The leading article so far published on the Cuban military postal stations appeared in the January 1937 issue of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, by George S. Hill.)

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Illustrations by
John Coulthard



In making a meter slogan, the original drawing is made first, then it is photo-engraved on a die. Through the cooperation of Lou Kreicker, a philatelist himself, we show here the original of a commercial slogan and a proof of the die.

WAR COVERS

ITALIAN FIELD POSTS IN ALBANIA

When announcement was made that Italian troops were massing for an invasion of Albania, recently, the writer endeavored to secure some covers. With some I.R.C.s and a form letter in Italian secured through a friend, the covers were sent out to a few of the towns in Albania.

The postmarks used by the field post offices are very similar to those used in the Italo-Ethiopian War. However, the sequence of numbers seems to be considerably different. It is not known where the first one illustrated (No. 22) was used. It was mailed without postage stamps and received the "Due 10 Cents" marking at New York.

Field Post No. 202 was located at Scutari, Albania, according to the notation placed on the back of the cover. Field Post No. 402 was located at Durazzo - evidently a concentration point for troops on their way to the interior, as it is a port.

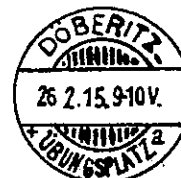
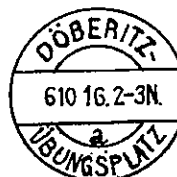
A cover was also sent to the capital, Tirana, but this came back with the regular post-office cancellation, but it had several of the stamps of Albania overprinted for the Italian Occupation.

We hope that a report from our Italian correspondent will fill in the rough spots in this account: it will appear in these columns, when available.

--M. Hertzberg



Some German Prisoner-Camp Markings
(See story in No. 94, May Issue)





SEPTEMBER, 1939

The Auctions advertised here have long made a point of including special **POSTAL MARKINGS** in their lists.

Please mention **POSTAL MARKINGS Magazine** when writing for catalogs or sending bids.

SPECIALIZED MATERIAL
frequently offered in Philadelphia auctions
Catalogue free

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STAMP AUCTION SERVICE
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20 Different Pennsylvania flag cancellation on cover 40c
25 Different obsolete meters on fronts of covers.....25c

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140 W. 42nd ST. NEW YORK CITY

THE BRITISH EMPIRE COVER CATALOGUE
(1861 - 1900)

The only catalogue listing Empire **\$2.75**
HANDSTRUCK Postage Stamps POSTFREE
on covers, with prices. Special reference is made to the ex-British Colonies in America, and the section on Great Britain has been entirely rewritten.

Send your order with cash to
ROBSON LOWE LTD., 96 Regent Street
LONDON, W. 1, ENGLAND

WAR COVERS

RETURNED POSTMARKS OF THE A.E.F.

By Delf Norona - Moundsville, W. Va.

The writer has some hundred and fifty varieties of subsidiary postmarks used during the World War, both in the U.S. and in France, on soldiers' letters which were not given normal postal service. Among such groups are those Forwarded, Returned, No Record, Not known, and the like. Many such subsidiary markings can be classified under two or more groupings.

We illustrate all markings showing that mail was returned. Should readers have Returned A.E.F. postmarks not shown, please submit for recording.

THIS MAIL
GIVEN DIRECTORY SERVICE AT
CAMP SHERMAN, OHIO.
NO RECORD
RETURNED TO
A. E. F. CENTRAL DIRECTORY DIVISION
PIER No. 86 N. R. NEW YORK, N. Y.
For Forwarding to Emergency Address.

Return to Marine Corps
Headquarters Washington, D.C.

Returned to Writer at Request of
War Dept. Addressee Left This
Point Before Receipt



Returned to Writer
from Camp Upton, N. Y.
Organization Demobilized.

RETURNED TO WRITER
Records Indicate Soldier
DISCHARGED
CAMP DIX NEW JERSEY.

The Adjutant General's Office

Unable to locate addressee by
reason of insufficient identifica-
tion data. Return to sender
suggested.

OCTOBER, 1939

POSTAL
3
MARKINGS

RAPID CANCELLING MACHINES

In last month's column, Mr. Fred Floyd brought out a question - how shall we classify the markings of early machines? By the name of inventors or their early companies or by the name of the company that finally took over the patents?

After much thought plus some correspondence, we have reached a decision.

Several machines existed, bloomed, and were absorbed by other companies. Such was the story of the Leavitts and the Ethridges, which became the "Early Americans", if you please. Such was the story of the Time machine, which afterwards was serviced by Cummins.

In classifying these, we are to be guided by the light of knowledge, wherever possible. The Leavitt machines were manufactured by Leavitt. His patents were bought by Ethridge, but they were never used to manufacture more machines. Therefore, we will class the Leavitts by themselves.

But the Ethridge machines were precursors of the Americans, and Ethridge actually was the American Company. Therefore, the early Ethridge are actually American forerunners, and will be classified as Americans.

The Barr-Fyke machines, having been produced by the inventors and never absorbed by others, will be classified by themselves.

The International and Universal will follow the pattern already established. The Barry machines form a class. The Cummins classification will include the Time and similar machines absorbed by Cummins.

The Continental machines and the other field products need classifying. We have not yet been able to unscramble these.

Herbert Greenwald has discovered several facts about the Barry machines, which will appear in later papers. However, two new types are important.

NEW YORK
MAY 4
5 30 PM
19
N.Y.

10

"The drawing of the patents (Barry) shows a circular trademark, but I have never found one until today. This one has needle holes on the face and the impression of the pressure platen on the back (both exclusive Barry patents), which neither the American nor Columbia can produce according to the patents issued them. If this is an American or Columbia die, it was used on a Barry machine."

ILION
N.Y. DEC 29.7-PM1900

The other is a distinctive type, neither F nor G. It, therefore, constitutes a new type, but will probably fall into a classification now being worked out.

WAR COVERS

Continued from last month

RETURNED TO WRITER

Directory service given cannot be delivered as addressed.



War Department
Central P.O., A.E.F. Unable to Deliver.

UNIT STILL IN FRANCE
Mail Returned to Chelsea Terminal
MAR 1 1910
from A. E. F. Without endorsement

ADDRESSEE RET TO U.S.A.
FROM CENTRAL P O A.E.F.
25 JUN 1919
CHELSEA TERMINAL
NEW YORK N
VIA A.P.O. 70

RETURN TO WRITER
Directory Service given. cannot effect delivery as addressed
Central Directory Division,
Pier No. 86, N.R., New York City.

Date _____

RETURNED TO WRITER

Not in directory
Central P.O., A.E.F.

UNIT RETURNED TO U.S.

Returned by Shipyard

Returned To USA 7/2 BOM

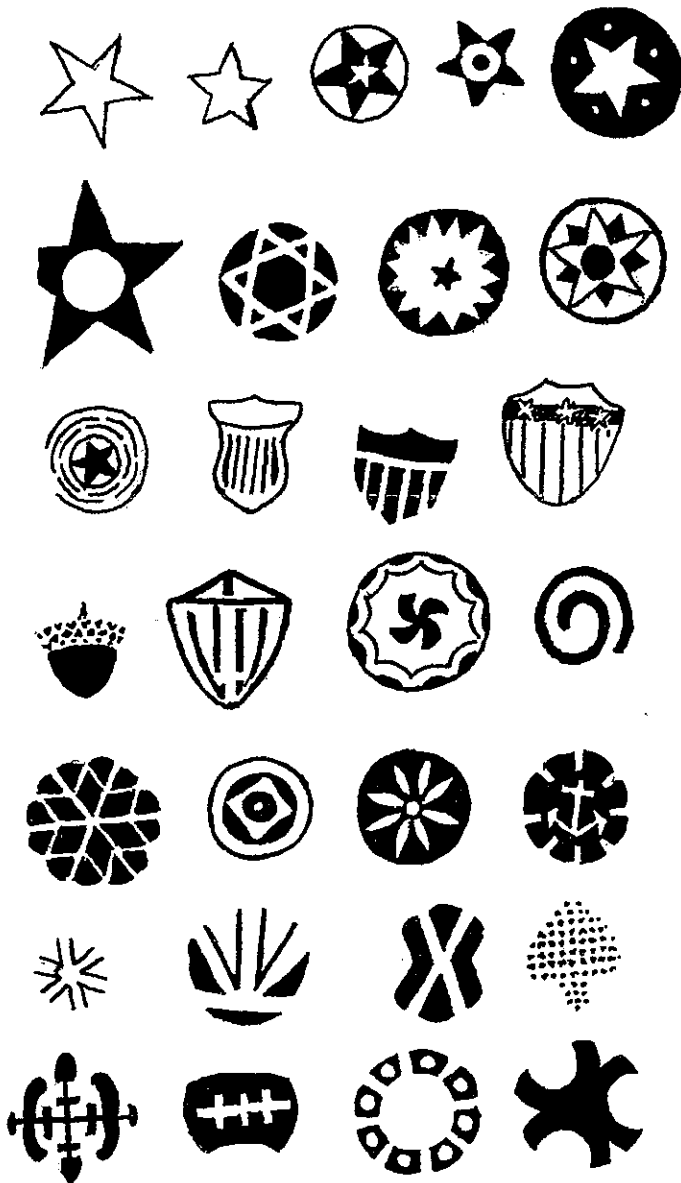
ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO U.S.A.

WITH _____

OFFICE _____ DATE _____

MARKINGS

on
CIVIL WAR ISSUES



From the Collection of Homer Smith.
Who can identify these? We have - second row,
last two, New York; sixth row - third, New York.
Last row: Putnam, Vt., Philadelphia, Leominster,
Mass., and Windsor Locks, Conn.

WAR COVERS

1939 MILITARY MANEUVERS

Canada opened more training camps for the Canadian Militia than they ever had before, in 1939. No doubt this was due to the increased activity in Europe. The new camps that opened were St. Bruno, and Valcartier Camps. In addition the following camps were in operation: Niagara, Petawawa, Dundurn, Aldershot, Sussex. These have appeared here before, so only the St. Bruno, and Valcartier camp cancelations are shown here. In addition Shilo, Manitoba was supposed to have a field post office, but the covers came back with ordinary postal cancels.

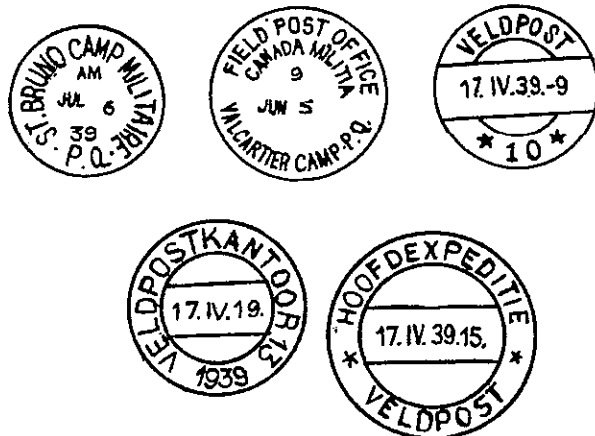
The Netherlands also increased their military preparedness by opening five field posts for troops on maneuvers. The first shown "Veldpost 10" was used, and in addition Nos. 11, and 12 were used in this same style of postmark. The writer has one of this type from 1937 with No. 13; this evidently was not opened in 1939, at least in the same type of cancelation. Two other styles of postmarks are shown here, that had not previously been illustrated. The "Veldpost" cancelation is the same type used by the Netherlands in 1915 during the World War, when they mobilized to protect their neutrality.

World War II should present opportunities unlimited to secure military postmarks of the British, French, German, and Polish troops in the field of action. It is quite probably that the German field posts will again show each infantry, division, and regiment, as was the case during World War I.

As soon as material is available, it will appear in these columns. Readers who come across new material are invited to report them, and due credit will be given.

M. Hertzberg.

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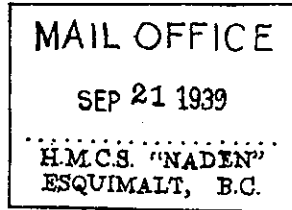


DECEMBER, 1939

WAR COVERS

BRAK OPŁATY SKIEROWAĆ KOLEJA

CENSORED MARKINGS, ETC.



PASSED BY CENSOR

PASSED BY CENSOR

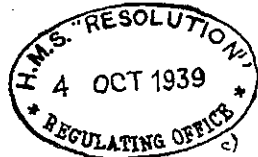
H. M. C. S. "SKBENA"



RECEIVED FROM

H.M. SHIPS

PASSED BY CENSOR

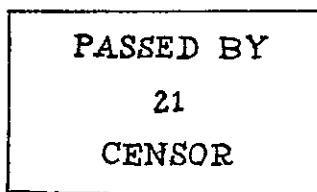


No war covers have been, as yet, reported from the continent of Europe. However, a few naval covers of World War II have been received.

The first marking illustrated here is from the Canadian warship "Naden." The "Mail Office" marking is a separate rubber stamp. This cover was originally sent to the "Champlain", but came back from the above mentioned vessel. Jan's Fighting Ships, 1938, fails to mention this ship. Does anyone know what type of vessel this is? No. 2 illustrated here is from H.M.C.S. "Skeen", a Canadian cruiser. This appears to be a two-lined rubber stamp, and not separately applied. The cover has merely the town cancel of Victoria.

No. 3 was used on the British warship H.M.S. "Resolution," with the customary "Received from H.M. Ships" marking, a straight-line rubber stamped censor marking, and the handstamp with name of the ship. The next "PASSED BY CENSOR", marking was applied on board H.M.S. "Hermes," and the cover has the London received marking, as does the "Resolution." No. 5 was used on H.M.S. "Royal Sovereign", with the ordinary town cancel of Flymouth, England.

PASSED BY CENSOR 4.



PASSED BY CENSOR 5.

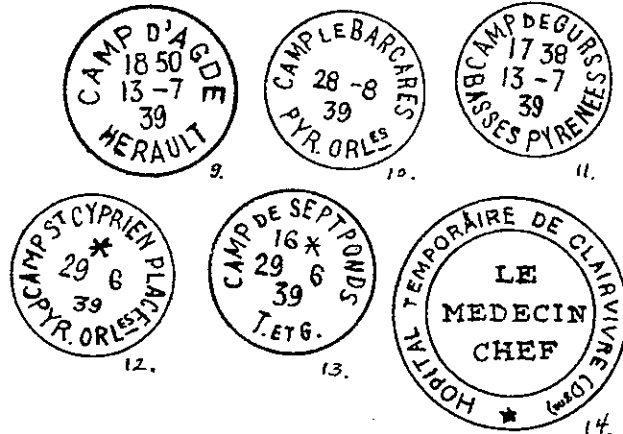
MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED 7.

The censor marking shown in illustration No. 6 was used at Singapore, Strait Settlements, in conjunction with a censor label containing coat-of-arms. The writer has also seen No. 14, censor number.

Neither France, England, nor Germany are using censor markings, or labels. The writer has received several pieces of mail from the above mentioned countries, and none of them have been opened by the censor.

Illustration No. 7 was used on a letter mailed at Saskatoon, Canada, although it is understood that the marking "Mail Service Suspended" was used at Ottawa, and is used on mail addressed to Germany.

Illustration No. 8 was used on a letter from Poland. This may, or may not be a censorship marking. The writer would appreciate it if readers able to translate would submit meaning in English.



SPANISH REFUGEE CAMP COVERS

As a direct result of the Spanish Civil War, thousands of soldiers, and political refugees fled to France. The French government set up camps to take care of these unfortunate people until such time as they could be settled permanently. Illustrations Nos. 9 and 13 are special camp Post marks from Camps d'agde, le Barcares, de Gurs, St. Cyprien Place, and de Septponus. Illustration No. 14 was used at a Temporary Hospital set up for these refugees at Clairvivre, France. This marking is very similar to the type used by France during World War I at hospitals.

These covers bear the current 90 centimes French postage stamp overprinted "F". The abbreviation represents "Franchise", or free. Since these refugees, in most instances, had no money, the French government presented them to the refugees for use on correspondence. This may be compared to the "F.M." overprints on French postage stamps for the use of soldiers in peace time.

--M. Hertzberg