

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (War Cover Philatelist Dec 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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Help Pay for the War Label

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The Wars and War Covers of Latin America

British Military Censor Marks (WW I)

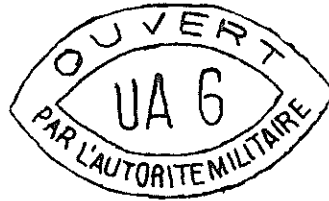
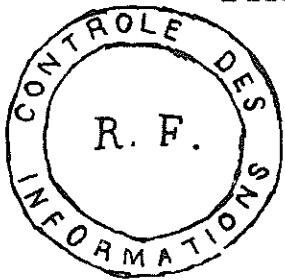
THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication

Edited and Published
by

DEL F NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

Subscription Price: One Dollar



Vol. 2

December, 1939

Whole No. 12

THE WAR AGAINST NAZIISM

It is too early to present anything like complete articles on the War against Naziism--a name coined by your Editor for the present European war--and the following are just fragmentary notes on World War II as it is now generally termed:

Britain declared war on September 3 at 11 a. m. (5 a. m. U.S. EST), and France declared war at 5 p. m. (11 a. m. U.S. EST). We sent a number of cards and letters through the mail postmarked SEP 3 11-AM (U.S. EST). They are, therefore, first-hour-of-the-war covers. Who else did the same thing?

The collectible War cover items will approximately parallel those used during the World War. We mention a few: Pre-war covers; Soldier's letters with postmarks used at camps at home and at base and field post offices; delayed mail and 'deceased' markings; Naval postmarks; patriotic, propaganda and covers with various military and other war-work corner cards; prisoner's and interned enemy civilians' covers; propaganda and patriotic labels, and so on.

We are all starting from scratch, and some of the wastebasket items of today will be most desirable covers of tomorrow--so commence now!

Pre-war covers may include those used during the occupation of the Sudetenland (March, 1939, issue W.C.P.), and even those used in neutral countries such as, for instance, an elaborate illustrated 'propaganda' label tied to cover with a New York Sep 25, 1935, postmark, with the title "HITLERITE CIVILIZATION--Persecutions, Despotism..."

We have a cover postmarked HAMBURG 31.8.39 (the day before the invasion of Poland) and addressed to Washington, D.C., arriving there October 2. The letter had been intercepted and opened in England, for it bears the Opened by Censor label, Fig. 1 -

Notice how similar this is to labels used during the World War.

A handstamp on cover from St. Lucia to the U.S., Fig. 2

P.C. 66

**OPENED BY
CENSOR**

5
PASSED BY CENSOR

474

Figure 1

Figure 2

French handstamps, in both black and blue, illustrated at the top of this page, on letters to the United States. These.

(Continued on page 51)

THE WAR COVER CLUB

New member:

36 Homer G. Artist, Adair, Iowa (U.S. World War covers)

The object of the War Cover Club is to encourage the collection and study of war covers of all countries and periods, with particular stress given to U.S. war covers. Intensive studies of U.S. World War postmarks and covers are being made and published in the official organ of the club, the War Cover Philatelist.

The American Classification System for listing U.S. World War covers has been adopted by the club, and three copies of the type charts so far published will be sent free to new members. (Three copies will also be sent to present members on request. Send a three-cent stamp to the secretary.)

The secretary has a limited supply of a four-page brochure Postal Service of the U.S. Army Overseas by Captain Harry A. Brown. A copy will be given to each new member as long as the supply lasts.

An invitation is extended to you to join the Club. Membership dues are \$2.00 a year, which includes subscription to the official organ. There is no formality about joining. Simply send your check for Two Dollars to the Secretary, Mr. Maxwell Halpern, 1351 Noble Avenue, New York City.

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EDITORIAL

Copies of this issue are being sent to numerous prospective members and subscribers. If you join the club, mail your check to Mr. Halpern at the address given, and your name will automatically be placed on the mailing list for the War Cover Philatelist.

Should you wish to merely subscribe to the War Cover Philatelist, send your check for One Dollar to the Editor, Delf Norona, 315 Seventh Street, Moundsville, W.Va. A complete file of back issues--full of original U.S. war cover articles--of this publication can be had for \$1.50 (\$1.00 to club members.)

1940 Annual Meeting: An invitation has been extended to our club by the American Philatelic Congress to hold our 1940 meeting at the time the Congress meets, at Washington, D.C., next May, on the occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Introduction of the Postage Stamp.

The club has been asked to sponsor an exhibit of war covers to be held at the New National Museum for about a week before and after the Congress. No charge will be made for exhibit space and we can have as many frames as will be needed (within reason, of course.) Also, an effort will be made to secure an official of the Post Office Department who was connected with the postal service of the A.E.F. as one of the speakers at the Congress. Announcement will be made later.

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Additional copies of this issue may be secured by readers for distribution at the price of 25 cents for 10 copies, or \$2.00 for 100 copies--less than cost.

Please submit your war covers (A.E.F. particularly desired) for recording, to the Editor. Due credit will be given.

BRITISH MILITARY CENSOR MARKS OF THE WORLD WAR

(By Milton B. Hunt - Southport, Conn.)

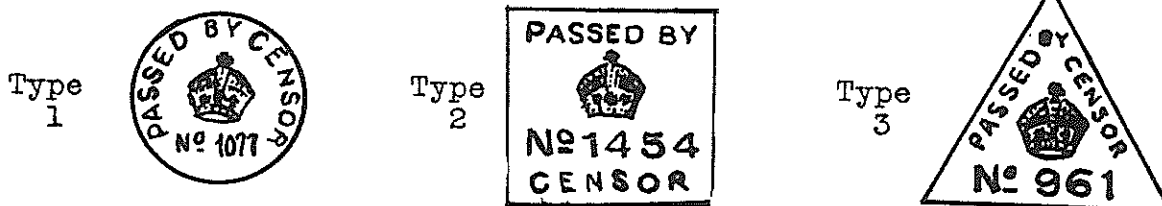
A study of the censorship marks of the mail of the British forces in the field shows a wide variety. Eight different censor marks are known used from August, 1914, to April, 1919, by British army units. Under the British command there were the Canadians, Australians, Indians and Americans, and mail originating under British command used these marks.

A study of the dates of these censor marks helps place the various types in chronological order so far as the forces in France are concerned. Further study of the date and identifying unit marks shows that a type used in France was later transferred to another front. This was done to prevent unlawful use and forging of marks.

The various types are similar. Wording varies little. PASSED BY CENSOR and PASSED FIELD CENSOR were both used. The crown always appears, although close study shows it is not always the same crown. The color of the ink varies; red, blue, black, and green, with intermediate shades, are known.

The censor marks were placed on mail at Battalion headquarters or at the Base. No censor marks were placed on mail originating at home camps.

The following is a list of known types -



Type 1 was used in France from August, 1914, to December, 1914. Higher numbers were used in the Mediterranean. This type with the letter R after the censor's number was used in North Russia in 1918-1919.

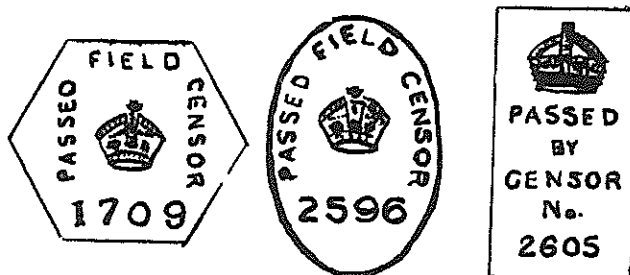
Type 2 was used in France from December, 1914, to April, 1915. It was used with higher censor numbers from the Dardanelles and Salonica from April, 1915, to January, 1916. Known on mail from Serbian hospital in Corfu in August, 1916.

Type 3 was used in France from April, 1915, to January, 1916. It was used on mail from the Mediterranean from January, 1916, to October, 1917. Has been seen on mail from Palestine in February, 1918.

Type 4 was used in France from January, 1916, to November, 1916.

Type 5 was used in France from November, 1916, to October, 1917.

Type 6 was used in France from October, 1917, to the end of 1919. It was used in the Army of Occupation, and also used in Italy from November, 1917, to April, 1918.



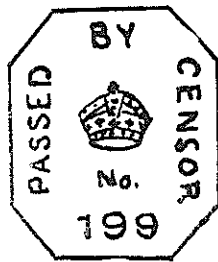
Type 4

Type 5

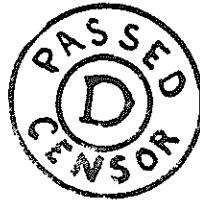
Type 6



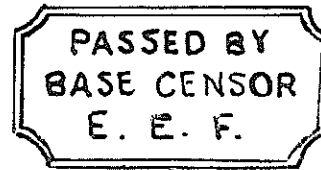
Type 7



Type 8



Type 9



Type 10

Type 7 was used in Italy from April, 1918, to April, 1919.

Type 8 was used on mail from Salonica, Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia, and was used in 1917-1918.

Type 9 was used by the Indian Expeditionary Forces 'D'.

Type 10 was used at the base of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces.

There were many other censor marks used locally and by smaller units. Many of these will be illustrated in a later article.

One often finds types 5 and 6 on mail sent to the United States where the censor's number has been blue penciled or erased. The reason for this has not been ascertained.

(NOTE: This is indeed a puzzle. Why was this done? What theory do you have to offer?--Ed.)

Many interesting marks have been seen on civilian mail from the various colonies of Great Britain.

Colonel Guy Crouch of Aylesbury, England, has helped with the facts in this article.

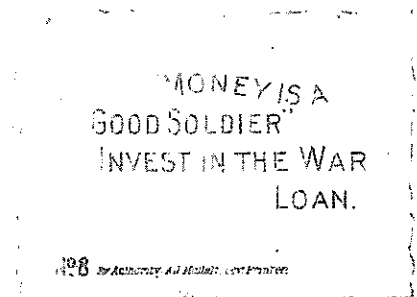
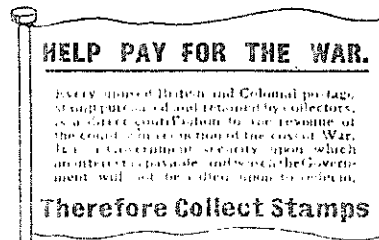
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"HELP-PAY-FOR-THE-WAR" LABEL

The label illustrated is being used on letters in England. It speaks for itself.

During the World War a large variety of labels were used on mail by the warring countries in Europe, but not to such a great extent in the United States.

A number of British World War are shown -



A.E.F. TYPE A-17 POSTMARKS

Type A-17 has the same wording as that used in Type A-13. There seems no good reason why Type A-17 was introduced, for the A.P.O. number in the killer is much more legible in Type A-13 than it is in the circle in Type A-17.

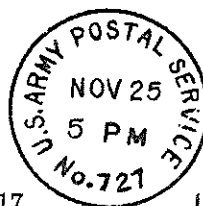
In this list, where the year date is omitted but the year of use is known it is indicated thus, '(1919).'

Items starred (*) have not been seen by the Editor.

In referring to the number of intermediate dates seen, 'several' means 3 to 6, and 'many' means over 6 copies seen.

Earliest known use: NOV 25 1918 (APO 727, 738)

Latest known use: JUL 22 1919 (APO 741)



APO 726 (Blois, Loir-et-Cher)

Early NOV 28 330 PM 1918

Two intermediate dates.

Late JAN 15 330 PM 1919 (H.Artist)

All have 330 PM.

APO 727 (41st Division, St. Aignan, Loir-et-Cher, depot)

Early NOV 25 ? 1918*

Many intermediate dates.

Late MAY 3 4 PM 1919

All have 4 PM.

APO 732 (Vittel, Vosges)

Early DEC 16 ? 1918

The only one seen.

APO 735 (La Rochelle, Charente-Inferieure)

Early JUN 17 ? 1919 (Wm.Montgomery)

The only one seen.

APO 738 (Chateauroux, Indre)

Early NOV 25 6 PM 1918

Several intermediate dates.

Late MAR 18 6 PM 1919

All have 6 PM.

(This sometimes looks like 733)

APO 739 (77th Division, Liberty)

Early JAN 14 ? 1919(W.Montgomery)

Several intermediate dates.

Late MAR 4 ? 1919(W.Montgomery)

All (?) have 12 M.

APO 740 (3rd Division)

Early Dec 21 6 PM 1918

Many intermediate dates.

Late APR ? 1919

All to Dec. 28 have 6PM; Jan.1 to Jan.29 have 11 AM; and Jan 31 to Mar.12 have 8 PM.

APO 741 (Mehun, Cher)

Early 6 PM DEC 11 1918 (H.Artist)

Many intermediate dates.

Late 6 PM JUL 22 1919

All have 6 PM before date.

The postmark Jul 22 1919 was used as a backstamp.

APO 742 (82nd Division)

Early 6 DEC 7 PM 1918

Several intermediate dates.

Late MAR 19 130 PM 1919

7 PM after date to Jan 21; 130 PM on and after Mar 5.

APO 743 (35th Division)

Early 5 PM JAN 3 1919

Two intermediate dates.

Late 5 PM 22 APR 1919(H.Artist)

All have 5 PM before date.

APO 748 (27th Division)
Early DEC 29 7 PM 1918(H.Artist) Several intermediate dates.
Late 8 FEB 7 PM 1919. All have 7 PM after date.

APO 749 (30th Division)
Early JAN 27 430 PM 1919 The only one seen.

APO 750 (33rd Division)
Early APR 2 ? 1919* (G.Burr) The only one reported.

APO 752 (Marseille, Bouches-du-Rohne)
Early MAR 21 ? 1919 The only two known.
Late MAR 29 ? 1919* (R.Safarid)

APO 755 (78th Division)
Early MAR 13 33) PM 1919 One intermediate date.
Late MAY ? 330 PM 1919 (H.Artist) All have 330 PM.

APO 760 (le Havre, Seine-Inferieure)
Early JUN 11 ? 1919 The only two seen.
Late JUN 23 ? 1919

APO 765 (29th Division)
Early 17 JAN 9 AM 1919 Several intermediate dates.
Late Apr 21 ? 1919 All have 9 AM.

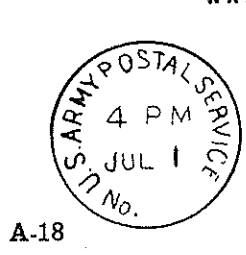
APO 766 (92nd Division)
Early ? * (Mrs.John Williams) Only one reported.

APO 770 (90th Division)
Early 7 AM MAR 7 1919 The only one seen.

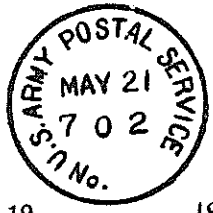
APO 785 (Allerey, Saone-et-Loire)
Early ? * (Mrs.John Williams) Only one reported.

- o -

A.E.F. TYPES A-18 and A-19 POSTMARKS



A-18 is the basic Type A-17 with APO number cut out.
 Known used:
Early 4 PM JUL 1 1919
Late Jul 11 ? (1919)
 Two intermediatedates A-19
 All with 4 PM



A-18 was probably used at St.Nazaire; as one cover is known with the return address "U.S.S. Westerner," and another has "From Private G--, APO 701."

Type A-19 is the basic Type A-17 with APO number cut out, and a new APO number inserted in place of the hour logos.

Only known uses reported: MAY 6 191_* and MAY 21 191_* (Both Dr. H.A.Coleman.)

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WANTED: WORLD WAR COVERS. A.E.F., Camps, &c., especially Blue Cross envelopes. Will buy or exchange. EUGENE CAREY, IRON RIVER NATIONAL BANK BLDG., IRON RIVER, MICHIGAN.

 THE SCOPE OF A WAR COVER AND WAR STAMP COLLECTION

This is addressed to the many philatelists who will receive this issue but who are not now war cover or war stamp collectors, in the hope that some may become interested in this field of philately. It is possible to but skim the surface of the subject, and what follows is just a very general resume as to the scope of a war cover and war stamp collection.

One may wish to form a general collection of war covers, together with stamps and other philatelic items dealing with wars and armed conflicts during all periods of time of which there is philatelic evidence. Take a random example--Japan: Select one or more covers, stamps, &c., used in connection with (a) the Sino-Japanese War, (b) the Russo-Japanese War, (c) the Boxer Rebellion, (d) the occupation of Formosa, (e) of Corea, (f) Manchuria, (g) the World War, (h) and the present undeclared war with China. (We illustrate a prisoner's of-war used at Bando, Japan, during the World War.



Other countries have had more wars than Japan, while some few may not have had any.

The items to collect may, in addition to actual soldier's letters, be only indirectly connected with the war--even to the extent of collecting commemorative stamps issued long after the event. The scope of a collection must, of course, be left to the imagination of the individual. One may find himself getting away from strictly philatelic items and obtaining such things as soldiers' diaries, military maps, medals, soldiers' newspapers, autographs of military personages, literature, illustrations--the end is limitless.

Military and naval peace-time items may also be collected, such as covers used at military camps and naval shore stations items used during maneuvers, naval covers, and even special adhesive stamps such as the Army and Naval officials of Great Britain, France, Austria, and other countries.

To keep posted on war items one should obtain the necessary literature, of which the following are recommended -

For the British Empire, Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire, the Regent Encyclopedia of Empire Postage Stamps, and the Philatelist, all edited by Robson Lowe, 96 Regent St., London W.1. Also the Philatelic Adviser edited by R. Alcock, 11 Regent St., Cheltenham, England.

For France, the excellent periodical Les Annales de Philatelie, edited by Prof. F.P. Renault, 38, Rue de Lourmel, Paris, XVe, France. Also Les Estampilles Postales Francaises au XXe siecle and Catalog des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France, both published by Yvert & Cie, Amiens, France.

Volume 2 of Kohl-Briefmarken-Handbuch ably edited by Dr. Herbert Munk (Dr. Munk, we have been told, is now a refugee, as is true of so many other unfortunate German intellectuals, from Hitlerism) contains invaluable articles dealing with German war items.

I WANT TO BUY - War Covers and war items of all countries, but particularly U.S. World war and Spanish-American war items.
 DELF NORONA, Moundsville, W. Va.

Now, for our own country. First, those of a strictly peace-time nature, such as postmarks used at military camps, naval shore stations, on naval vessels, and the like. There are covers used in our outlying territories and possessions, as well as a few used abroad (such as the NAVAL MISSION TO BRAZIL item). The MILITARY N.Y. item illustrated was used during the Plattsburg maneuvers this summer (illustration from the collection of Geo. A. Weiler) and is an indication that a military postal service is included in present military plans, contrasted with the fact that during the World War it was not until the spring of 1918

that a strictly military postal service was set up in France.

In connection with peace-time covers, there are many varieties of official and semi-official stationery covers to collect, picture post-cards, and so on.

Next, pre-war and post-war items, used before we entered a war, and also after the conclusion of hostilities. The

RETURN TO SENDER postmark is on a cover postmarked at New York early in 1916, and before we entered the World War. Another such item is the James W. Gerard Censored cover shown in our March, 1938, issue. Not many post-war postmarks are found, but there is a plethora of styles of corner-cards to collect--those of veteran organizations such as the G.A.R. Spanish-American, American Legion. There are slogan cancellations, and many other items of interest.

As for non-military items used at home during a war. There are the war revenue stamps of the Civil, Spanish-American and World wars; covers showing changes in postage rates to help finance the cost of war, including even the Revolutionary war and war of 1812; there are the valuable patriotic and propaganda covers used during the Civil, Spanish-American and World Wars; non-postage labels; Liberty Loan and Victory Loan slogan cachets, some official and some non-official; war Savings stamps, and so on.

Finally, and the most popular are soldiers' letters sent from both camps and from army post offices in the field, as well as war-time naval covers, prisoners' letters, franks, dead letter and delayed mail markings, censor-marks, special stamps such as the AEF booklet panes, postal stationery, official corner cards, corner cards of welfare agencies, occupation covers, and demobilization items.

There are philatelic items to collect in connection with all wars, and most military incidents, in which we have been engaged--Mexican wars of 1847 and 1914, marine occupation of Haiti, Nicaragua, Boxer Rebellion, and so on.

Sit back, relax and use your imagination, and you can probably think of many additional war and military items of a philatelic nature to collect.

All the topics mentioned are subjects for treatment in the War Cover Philatelist, and your subscription will be welcome. Articles too, are always solicited.



RETURN TO SENDER

Delivery could not be effected by the Foreign Postal Administration for the reason stated:

UNDELIVERABLE on account of conditions due to the war.

(N. Y. P. O. Foreign Branch)

 THE WARS AND WAR COVERS OF LATIN AMERICA

By Capt. Thomas Parks

Although the average American may think of Europe as the world's battlefield, actually the Americas lead in total number of armed conflicts in modern times. According to an official booklet, The Work of the War Department, these peaceful United States have had 101 wars since 1775, including dozens of Indian wars and such adventures as Shay's rebellion, the Whiskey rebellion, and Mexican border fights.

On the same basis, few of the 20 Latin-American republics have had less than 100 revolts or border clashes since independence; and some approach Nicaragua, which is reported to have long ago "celebrated her 1000th revolution!"

Omitting the innumerable border battles throughout all Latin-America, in which bored boundary patrols broke the monotony by shooting each other up, there have been few real internal wars among our southern neighbors:

- 1804-28 While Napoleon I invaded Spain and Portugal, Haiti, Brazil and all Spanish colonies, except Cuba, fought successful wars of independence.
- 1862-67 Thinking the U.S. too busy with the Civil War to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, Napoleon III invaded Mexico, set up Maximilian as Emperor, but lost.
- 1866 Spain likewise attacked Peru, and was defeated.
- 1865-70 Lopez, of Paraguay, was so dazzled by Napoleon III's court that he decided to conquer all South America; and crossed Argentina and Brazil to attack Uruguay, whose little civil war he disapproved of.
- 1879-83 Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia in the first war with ironclad warships, and took the nitrate fields.
- 1895-99 The Cuban revolt which brought about the Spanish-American War. "Remember the Maine."
- 1932-35 The Chaco War. Paraguay accused Bolivia of building forts on Paraguay territory, and captured so many Bolivian guns at the start that they won with them.

Except for the war in which tiny Paraguay fought the combined armies of Brazil, Argentine and Uruguay for five years, and lost 80% of her entire population, the most disastrous conflicts were the "Wars of the Reds and Whites" in Argentina, which lasted nearly a century after independence. Most of the other republics had somewhat similar civil wars, border wars or continuous revolutions, and decades of peace have been enjoyed but seldom, hence the usual bankrupt condition of potentially wealthy nations to the south of us.

Brazil was Portugal's colony for 300 years, then Portugal was Brazil's colony for 12 years; Peru and Bolivia were originally one, separated, united, and separated again; Haiti and the Dominican Republic did the same; Ecuador has had so many governments it has had 12 constitutions; in the 1927-28 election in Mexico all three candidates for President were assassinated; in 1931 Peru had 4 presidents in 8 days--but these teeth rattling shakeups left no special postmarks or "war covers."

Classic of all wars was the 1911 battle of LaCeiba, Honduras, described by Tracy Richardson in Liberty for Oct. 17, 1925, in which the two armies were herded away from a "neutral ground" (crowded with spectators) by U.S. and British sailors

(To be continued)

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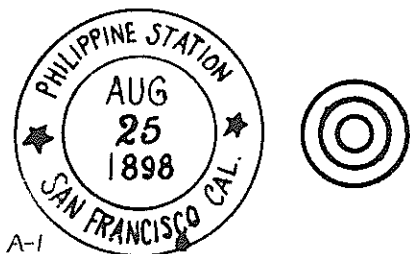
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(To be continued)

MILITARY STATION POSTMARKS USED AT CAVITE

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The first postal agent sent to the Philippines after the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, took with him a postmarking stamp with the inscription PHILIPPINE STATION-SAN FRANCISCO. On his arrival a post office was opened at Cavite on July 30, 1898, and this postmarking stamp was used there for about two weeks before the capture of Manila on August 13. After Manila was occupied, the postmark was used there until it was finally discontinued late in October, 1898.



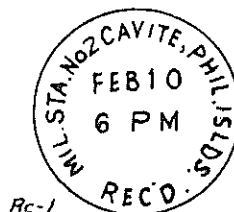
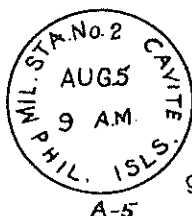
A check-list of postmarks used at Cavite follows:

US. MIL. STA. NO. 1 S.F. CAL.

US. MIL. STA. NO. 2 S.F. CAL.

A-2 CAVITE P.I. Oct 21 '98

A-3 CAVITE P.I. Nov 17 '98



REGISTERED
NOV 6 1899

MARINE'S MAIL.

Military Sta. No. 2, Cavite,
Philippine Islands.

S-1

GEO. H. WHEELER,
Supt. Military Station No. 2, Cavite

Rg-1

S-2

Figure	Period of Use	Color	Remarks
A-1	Aug 5 1898 to Aug 10 1898	Purple	
A-2	Oct 21 1898	Black	(Colln G.A. Goodale)
A-3	Nov 17 1898	Black	" " "
A-4	Apr 11 1899 to Mar ? 1901	Black	
A-5	Jun 23 1899 to Oct 28 1899	Black	
Rc-1	Dec 16 1900 to Jan 23 1901	Black	
Rg-1	Nov 6 1899	Purple	
S-1	Oct 28 1899	Purple	This is a frank
S-2	Oct 28 1899	Purple	Handstamp return card

The Editor would like to see your Spanish-American war covers for recording.

An order of the Post Office Department established Military Station 1, Philippine Islands, of the P.O. at San Francisco, on June 9, 1898; and Military Station No. 2, Cavite, on October 21, 1898. (Note, however, Fig. A-2.)

All unsigned articles in the War Cover Philatelist have been prepared by the Editor, to whom new items for the record should be submitted.

(from page 41)

items are submitted by Mr. Frank Stultz. The oval design enclosing the words OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE (Opened by Military Authority) differs from one with the same inscription during the World War in that it has pointed ends, whereas in 1914-18 they were rounded.

We have seen two types of CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE labels, used to re-seal opened letters:

Fig. 3 on a letter from Senegal Aug. 30; and Fig. 4 on a letter sent to France and returned undelivered. Compare them

TROLE POSTAL MILITAIR

Figure 3

CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE

Figure 5



Fig. 4

with the label commonly used during the World War, Fig. 5.

Professor Francis P. Renaut, editor of Les Annales de Philatelle, writes to us from Paris:

"I include specimens of two post-cards used in France for military mail, together with the following information:

"The white card (Fig. 6) is a private one, and one of the most artistic pattern. Many other types are in existence, usually of the simplest pattern with only lines and inscriptions for the address. All the private post-cards are on

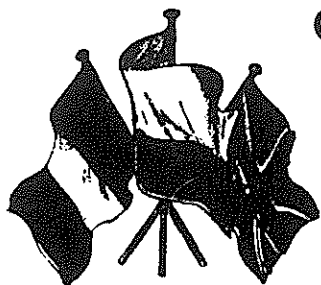


Figure 6

CORRESPONDANCE AUX ARMÉES



M

EXPEDITEUR :

.....
.....
.....

white board and must be. There are two official post-cards issued by the post office and both are on coloured boards, one on blue and the other on green; one for the soldiers and the other for people writing to soldiers. The green card

is sold for 5 centimes (Fig. 7), while the blue card is given free to the soldiers.

FRANCHISE MILITAIRE
PRIORITE

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

CARTE POSTALE AUX ARMEES

cette Carte
est vendue
5 Centimes
dans tous les
Bureaux de
Poste

EXPÉDITEUR

DESTINATAIRE

Fig.
7

M.....
.....
.....
à.....
.....
Département.....

Nom.....
Grade.....
Compagnie, Batterie.....
Régiment (arme ou service) {
.....
.....
Secteur Postal N°.....

(Il est recommandé d'écrire très lisiblement)

"Red post-cards and red envelopes have been prepared for use between official departments only.

"You will note on the official card (Fig. 7) the word PRIORITE which means that the cards or envelopes on colour will be sent more speedily through the 'censure' and other control departments, hence the use of colored papers or boards.

"As for the cancellations in use in the Military Mail Offices, it is the former circular type with POSTE AUX ARMEES and a star round the date which is in the middle. You will note that in spite of the introduction of the secteurs postaux with their numbering, no such number appears in these cancellations.

"A new and special organization has been put in force for the censure. In the previous war the censure bureaux were but few and disseminated along the frontiers and in the chief towns. This time each 'department' has its own bureau called a 'commission' and each commission has received a special indicative constituted by two letters, i.e. BK or AG. Each censor of each department has his identification number containing the two letters of his department i.e. BK 783 or AC 232. The stamping with these numbers is done twice on each cover, once on the front and once on the back, both are tying the control band to the cover. From times to times the mark of the commission--a circular stamp with the figure of the Republic in the middle and inscriptions around the figure--is stamped on the lettres ordinaires, but it is not customary. The censor's marks are all of an oval shape and are found usually in violet, sometimes in black or in red, rarely in blue."

(This explains the censor marks illustrated on the title page of this issue.--ED.)