

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (War Cover Philatelist Feb 1938)

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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*Check List of Camps & Forts in US*

*Divisional Insignia on AEF Covers*

*Marine Expeditionary Forces in West Indies*

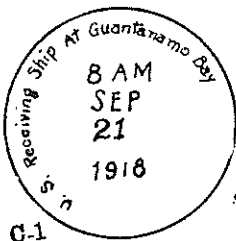
*Censoring Foreign Mail*

*First British WW I Postmarks*

*Censoring Foreign Mail*

# THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication



Edited and Published  
by

MARINE'S LETTER

DELF NORONA  
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

ACT OF 3 OCT. 1917.  
SECTION 1100.

Subscription Price: One Dollar

\$-1

Vol. 1

February, 1938

No. 2

## U.S. MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES IN THE WEST INDIES (1917-19.)

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During and for some years following the World War, U.S. marines were stationed in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. American post offices were established, but at times letters were posted in the native offices.

C-1 to C-5 used in Cuba, S-1 to S-6 in Dominican Repub. All Cuban items shown were used in 1918, C-1 noted used from June 1 to Sep. 27. All Dominican items used in 1919, except S-2, used on cover with a regular Dominican stamp and postmark, Aug. 13, 1918. This item was submitted by A.E. Cordwell, 240 Uttoxeter Rd., Mickleover, Nr. Derby, England, who is preparing a check-list of British Army postmarks. We expect a contribution from him for an early issue.

New items and dates of use (1917-1919) solicited.

Passed Censor

NOT IN 7<sup>th</sup> REGT.  
" " 2<sup>nd</sup> M.G. BATT  
NOT KNOWN WITH  
MARINE FORCES IN CUBA  
C-3



Lieut M. C. PASSED BY CENSOR

C-2

C-5

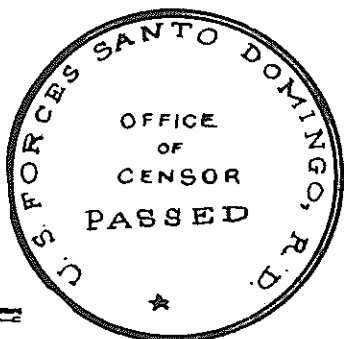
C-4 CAPTAIN U. S. M. C.

Transferred to U. S. A.  
For discharge

S-3

TRANSFERRED TO U. S.

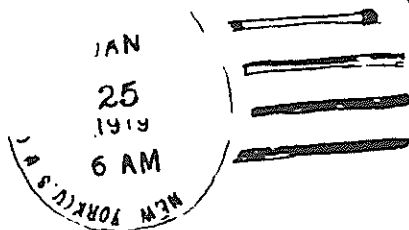
S-4



S-2

Not in Second Prov. Brigade  
Forwarded for proper address  
To The A. & I. Dep't Hdq't's,  
U. S. M. Washington D. C.

S-6



S-5

### THE CIRCULAR A.E.F. CENSOR MARKS

R.R. Safarid, in response to the request in our January issue, reports A-1, and a new high number, A-4386. Several have commented, but the Italian style APO 901 is still the only one of its type seen.

## EDITORIAL

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The response to our first issue makes us feel certain of obtaining at least a hundred paid subscribers, and thus produce at least 40 pages of the W.C.P. For every additional hundred subscriptions about 30 additional pages of the W.C.P. will be published.

Most readers want U.S., but a fair number wish other countries included, so we are prevailing on M. Hertzberg (secretary of the War Cover Club) to send in a contribution on some foreign topic, which he is well qualified to do.

The main object in producing the W.C.P. is to bring out new material, so every reader is expected to contribute new items for the record. Don't leave all to the other fellow.

Our friend, H.M. Sanford, is preparing a brochure on the A.E.F. to be printed as an APS handbook. When published copies may be obtained from your editor. This will in no way conflict with our projected book.

## RENOVATING A.E.F. COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

By Mrs. John W. Williams, Jr., 1229 Clarke Ave., Roanoke, Va.

The main obstacle to success in this line is that the usual welfare issue envelopes were intended for use and not for posterity, and the common cover resembles blotting paper

Look into turned under corners of your dilapidated cover, and see if there isn't a small but vital piece of paper tucked into an apparently fatal tear. Find out with what you have to work and visualize in your mind just what repair work you can do. This is an important step. Don't rush ahead with a wet towel and a hot iron.

Take one-half teaspoon of powdered gum arabic, mix gradually with one-half teaspoon of water until it resembles jelly. Add slowly one-half glass of water, until the gum arabic mixture is dissolved. The result is a slightly thickened water, which will give body to all types of paper.

With a blunt instrument--I have found a magnarule most efficient--dipped in water, work and ease out all odd ends, creases, &c. Stick the magnarule into the envelope and worry out the corners. If the instrument is damp, this prevents old creases from becoming tears.

Take a No. 2 camels hair brush, and using the gum arabic water, moisten slightly first one edge of the cover and then another. Iron after each inch of dampening, working slowly and using, if possible, what is known in informed housekeeping circles as a small traveling iron. When the faintest odor of hot paper reaches you, turn off the iron for a while. Always work on the backs of envelopes, as moisture will make most inks run, even after twenty years.

Work from the edges into the center, moistening with the brush as you go. Then give the finished product a swift dry ironing over the face.

Ragged edges may be patched from the inside with paper from identical envelopes. Always keep otherwise useless covers for this purpose. Match and glue with a careful eye and hand. Watch out for grey Y.M.C.A. stationery as it dissolves under too much moisture.

A.E.F. BRIGADED WITH THE BRITISH  
 \*\*\*\*\*

By Milton B. Hunt - Southport, Conn.

As a part of the military plan of the World War, a number of units of the A.E.F. were attached to the British command for training and service. The first of these were six hospital units mobilized in the United States which took over British base hospitals. Later there were aviators, signal corps engineers, infantry and other specialized groups brigaded with the British, and the 27th and 30th divisions served until the armistice. For these units under British command the British military post office system was used. A brief study of these postmarks is necessary. For the most part in the B.E.F. the type of postmark used was a double circle with the words ARMY POST OFFICE, FIELD POST OFFICE, BASE ARMY POST OFFICE with a letter or a number or a combination of letter and number between the circles, with time



TYPE 1



TYPE 2

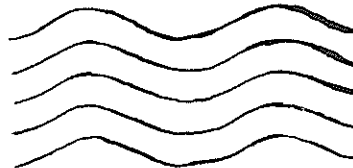
ARMY P.O 1

B

13 JUN 18

+

TYPE 3



date, and year in the center. Types 1 and 2 show this most frequently used mark. A straight line type with or without wavy lines, Type 3, was in use in some of the more permanent base offices.

The Army Post Office was used by large units or by stationary post offices. The Field Post Offices were given to smaller and more mobile units and variations were given for units as small as a brigade. Letters designated special services or specific groups, such as S for Stationary, D for Divisional headquarters, T for Transportation, R for Railway service, C for Cavalry and later Canadian, W for Australian.

In this system the American divisions were given the letter K, which had been used up to early 1918 for tank service designation. So we find after May, 1918, mail arriving from the A.E.F. with the Army Post Office RK and RK-1, &c. Field Post Office 1-K to 24-K. A check list of these marks is given at the end of this article.

While many other marks, such as S-13 and S-15 are shown on A.E.F. mail they cannot be truly classified under A.E.F. marks without including a large number of the other British marks. The letter writer merely sent the mail through the nearest British post office. One such is found with a Field Post Office SW-1 showing that the mail was dispatched thru the Australian Stationary post office. The same was true of many Americans in England. Various town post offices were used. Many camps in England were used either for training or rest purposes. Mail from these camps came back with the same marks as used by the British in the same places.

In summary, the only mail with specifically designated marks would be those with a letter K after early 1918.



Typical  
British  
Censor  
Mark

In addition to the censorship of the company officer various types of censorship markings are known. The type used in the A.E.F. in France is frequently found, a rectangular type with the crown, as shown, used by British censors, and the sticker type used to seal an opened letter.

The six hospital units working under British command were:

Base 1 General Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital of New York at Etretat, using Army Post Office S-9.

Base 9 General Hospital, Lakeside Hospital Cleveland, at Rouen, using Army Post Office S-15.

Base 11 General Hospital, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass., at Dannes Camiers, using Army Post Office S-18.

Base 16 General Hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, at Le Trepot, using Army Post Office S-13.

Base 18, General Hospital, Northwestern Hospital, Chicago, at Dannes Camiers, using Army Post Office S-18.

Base 12 General Hospital, Washington Medical Hospital, St. Louis, at Rouen, using Army Post Office S-15.

In England there were U.S. Army Base Hospital 29, at Tottenham; U.S. Army Base Hospital 37 at Dartford, and U.S. Army Base Hospital 33, at Portsmouth.

Check list as seen by the author is as follows:

Field Post Offices: 2K, 5K, 6K, 10K, 11K, 12K, 13K, 14K, 15K, 19K, 20K, 21K, 22K, 24K.

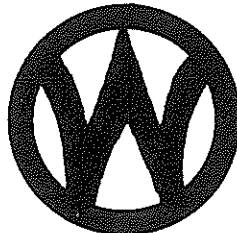
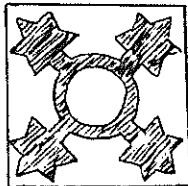
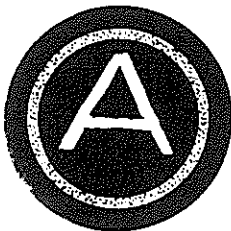
Army Post Offices: RK, RK-5.

In addition, mail from American soldiers has been found marked Army Post Office 4, S1, S13, S14, S18, S25, S29, S46, S51, S52, S60, S83, S106, and SW1. Also S-37.

Of type 3 the following are known: 1 at LeHavre, 2 at Rouen, 3 at Boulogne, 4 at Calais, S15 at Rouen.

- o -

#### DIVISIONAL INSIGNIA ON A.E.F. COVERS



Third Army 4th Division 89th Division known, either on envelopes or postcards:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 32nd, 42nd, 89th, ~~89th~~, 90th Divisions, and 3rd, 4th and 7th Corps, and 3rd Army. What others have you?

An early issue of the National Geographic contains a valuable history of the various divisions, with a full set of colored illustrations of military insignia. We have a few copies of this issue to exchange for War covers. The history of each division is traced from its formation, and is an invaluable reference work for World War cover philatelists.

- o -

CENSORING FOREIGN MAIL

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Censorship of foreign mail was authorized by the Trading-with-the-Enemy Act in the latter part of 1917. The first public notice stated it would be conducted at New York, Canal Zone, Porto Rico, and other places, ultimately extended to 11 principal points, with the employment of 1,600 persons.

OPENED BY CENSOR. OPENED BY CENSOR. OPENED BY CENSOR

No.



1841

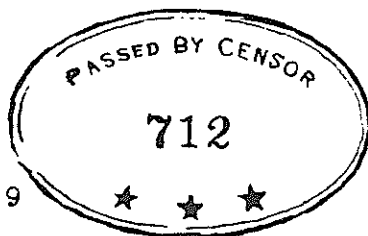
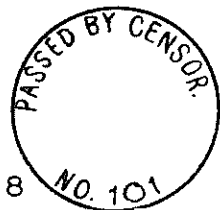
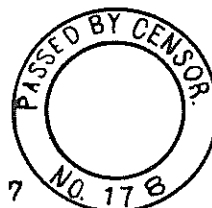
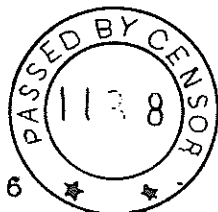
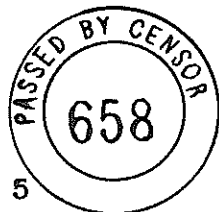
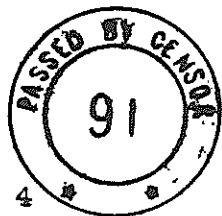


Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

After a letter had been opened and examined it was resealed with a label, Fig. 1, measuring about 80 x 55 mm., and a censor handstamp used to tie the label on cover. Do not confuse these with somewhat similar British labels, of which Fig. 2 is a common type. Fig. 3 is the label and handstamp on an item, originating from Russia, postmarked 5-11-18, and addressed to the United States. Probably British, but it may be American!



-00361

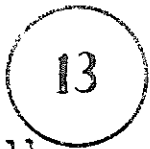
10

No.

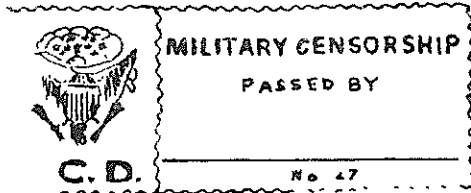
Figure

Censor Numbers

- 4 - 25, 41, 49, 76, 87, 91, 117, 130, 133, 154, 176, 180, 195, 205, 209, 224, 231, 241, 246, 250, 254, 267, 270, 286, 289, 310, 362, 376, 382, 385, 414, 423-6, 434, 457, 469, 485, 497, 700, 1111, and 5000. Earliest use Feb. 6, 1918.
- 5 - 616, 658, 667, 671
- 6 - 118, 1150
- 7 - 178
- 8 - 101
- 9 - 712
- 10 - -00361. U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, to New York, February, 1918



11



12

DETAINED DURING THE WAR BY THE CENSORSHIP BOARD UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT. (1.)

13

ENCLOSURE PROHIBITED EXPORTATION

14

Figure

Censor Numbers, &c.

- 11 - 13. Used in connection Fig. 5.
- 12 - Cristobal, C.Z., May 10, 1919, to U.S.
- 13 - Letter from Norway, 1/26/18. No date of release.
- 14 - Letter from N.Y. 2/6/18 to Brazil. A mimeographed label on the envelope reads, "This letter is returned to the Sender because it contains stamps for transmission to a foreign country."

Scores of additional censor numbers exist, in addition, undoubtedly, to other types of handstamped censor marks not illustrated.

- o -

FORWARD-ED-ING

A number of U.S. military markings used during the war, with the word FORWARDED or FORWARDING are shown. Those illustrated were used either in the U.S. or abroad.

A.P.O. 727	Forwarded to:	A.P.O.
<input type="text"/>		
Clerk 18		

NO RECORD OF ADDRESSEE AT CAMP DIX, N. J.  
Forwarded for final Directory Service to Central Directory Division, Pier 86, North River, New York City.

Forwarded to Addressee  
c/o

FORWARDED  
A. E. F. VIAN. Y.

Forward  
Balloon Co.  
A. E. F.

DIRECTORY SERVICE GIVEN  
CENTRAL DIRECTORY DIVISION  
PIER 86, N. R., NEW YORK

FORWARD TO FORWARD TO  
U.S. Address U. S. Address

FORWARDED  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY  
FORCES IN FRANCE

C.P.O C-P-O

FORWARDED TO Forwarded American  
American Expeditionary Forces Expeditionary Forces.

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.

FORWARDED -  
Camp Crane Co. 4, A.R.D.  
American E.F. Via New York

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 CHECK LIST OF CAMPS AND FORTS IN U.S. (1917-18)  
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(Continued from January issue)

<u>State and Town name</u>	<u>Military Designation</u>	<u>Estab- lished</u>	<u>Discon- tinued</u>	<u>Types</u>
<u>TEXAS:</u>				
Austin	Aeronautics Branch			
Austin	Mobry Branch			
Austin	Penn Field			
Corpus Christie	Military Branch		3-28-17	
Dallas	Aviation			
Dallas	Dick Branch	2-18-18		
Dallas	Love Field Branch	2-18-18		
El Paso	Fort Bliss	9- 1-16		
El Paso	Military Branch			
Fort Bliss	Fort Bliss	9- 1-16	still operating	
Fort Worth	Barron Branch			
Fort Worth	Bowie Branch	9-10-17		70
Fort Worth	Carruthers Branch			
Fort Worth	Taliaferro Branch			
Galveston	Military Branch			81
Houston	Ellington Branch	11-26-17		72
Houston	Logan Branch	8- 6-17		70
Loredo	Military Branch			
Mercedes	Llano Grande Mil.Br.		5- 5-17	
San Antonio	Camp Funston Branch	5-18-17	10- 3-17	
San Antonio	Camp Wilson Branch	5-15-16	3-24-17	
San Antonio	Ft.Sam Houston Sta.			73
San Antonio	Military Branch	5- 1-17	5-18-17	
San Antonio	South Military Br.	5-15-17	4- 1-21	
San Antonio	S.San Ant.Mil.Br.	5-11-17	7- 1-18	74, 73
San Antonio	Stanley Branch	10- 6-17	12-15-22	71
San Antonio	Travis Branch	9- 3-17	2-15-23	70
Waco	Aviation Branch	1- 7-18		72
Waco	MacArthur Branch	8- 6-17		70
<u>UTAH:</u>				
Fort Douglas	Fort Douglas		8- 1-17	
Salt Lake City	Douglas Sta.	8- 1-17		
<u>VERMONT:</u>				
Burlington	Ft.Ethan Allen Br.	7- 1-17		
Burlington	Military Branch	6- 1-17	7- 1-17	
Fort Ethan Allen	Ft.Ethan Allen		7- 1-17	
<u>VIRGINIA:</u>				
Alexandria	Accotink Mil.Branch	7- 2-17		
Alexandria	Humphries Branch			
Alexandria	Military Branch	5-21-17		
Fort Meyer	Fort Meyer			75
Hampton	Langley Field Branch	10-16-17		70
Newport News	Aviation Branch	9-27-17		72
Newport News	Eustis Br.			70
Newport News	Hill Branch	10- 1-17		
Newport News	Stuart Branch	10- 1-17		70
Norfolk	Military Branch	5-10-17		
Petersburg	Lee Branch	8- 3-17		70, 71
Petersburg	Military Branch	7-18-17	8- 3-17	
Portsmouth	Norfolk Navy Yard	7- 1-11	Still operating	
Portsmouth	Ordnance Branch			
Portsmouth	Naval Hospital Sta.	6- 4-17		



<u>Town name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Establ.</u>	<u>Discont.</u>	<u>Types</u>
<u>VIRGINIA (Continued)</u>				
Richmond	Military Branch			
U.S. Naval Training Sta.	Hampton Roads Branch	2- 1-18		
<u>WASHINGTON:</u>				
Puget Sound	USS Receiving Ship at Puget Sound			82
Tacoma	Amer. Lakes Branch	7-16-17	8 -3-17	
Tacoma	Lewis Branch	8- 3-17		70
Tacoma	Military Branch		7-16-17	
Vancouver	Military Branch	6- 1-17	2-15-20	
Vancouver	Signal Branch			
<u>WEST VIRGINIA:</u>				
Charleston	Military Branch			
Fairmont	Military Branch		9-15-17	
<u>WISCONSIN:</u>				
Sparta	Camp Robinson M.Br.	6- 2-17	12-20-17	

Report new Camps and Forts to Milton Hunt, Southport, Conn. Acknowledgments due Jno. P. Barr for assistance.

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#### THE FIRST BRITISH WORLD WAR POSTMARKS

This type of postmark had been used in England during Army maneuvers before 1914, and was the first type used with the B.E.F. in France. Numbers run from 1 to 11 as shown, and from 12 to 18 without dots between ARMY·POST·OFFICE.



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#### ASSISTANCE WANTED FROM EVERY READER OF THE W.C.P. -

Please report new items to persons to whom articles are credited. Where no name appears, submit direct to the Editor. Due acknowledgment will be made in the WORLD WAR POSTAL HISTORY OF THE U.S. when published.

#### For Sale

Check list of APO's in France, giving dates of establishment and discontinuance, and with valuable two page map.

Taken from the Cyc of U.S. Postmarks ..... 50c

General Catalog of U.S. Postmarks ..... \$1.00

Slogan Postmark Catalog (including War items).. .35

3d Amer. Phil. Congress Papers, with article by Capt. Townsend on Military P.O. at Hoboken ..... 1.00

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#### WAR COVERS WANTED:

World War covers all countries, soldiers letters, slogans, patriotics, postal stationery, censored mail, 'occupation' & War tax stamps, &c. on cover. Also Spanish-American War covers, and covers used during any other war (all countries) before 1890.

I have duplicate World War covers for exchange only, except that for the beginner only- 10 diff. World War covers, U.S. and Foreign, \$1.00; 4 diff. U.S. World War Naval covers for \$1.00.

DELFT NORONA - MOUNDSVILLE, W.VA.

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THE BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE auctions always include War Covers.

Write for auction catalogs. 736 Hillgirt Circle, Oakland, Calif.