

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (War Cover Philatelist Jun 1940)

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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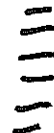
THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication

Edited and Published
by

DEL F NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

Subscription Price: One Dollar



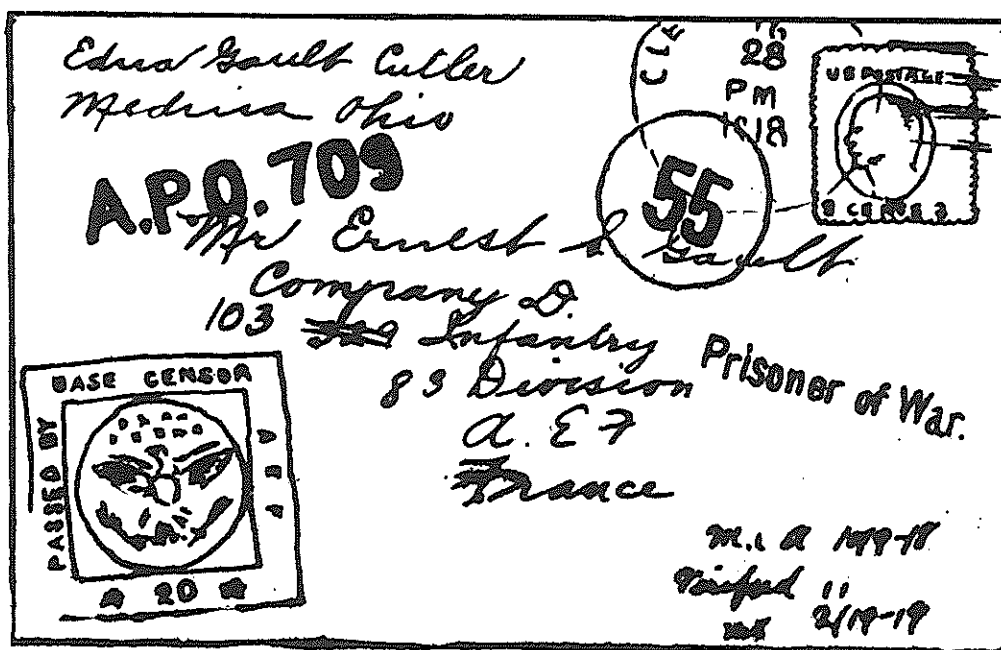
Vol. 3

June, 1940

Whole No. 14

COVER OF THE MONTH

This story-telling cover, from the collection of the club's new president, Hennen M. Sanford, was shown as part of the War Cover Club's exhibit at the New National Museum during the month of May.



The cover was sent from the United States to the A.E.F. and later returned. It bears so many markings, applied after its return, of no particular significance, that it is illustrated as of the time when it started its homeward journey.

The letter originated in Ohio AUG 28 1918 and was addressed to a man in the 329th Infantry, 83rd Division. The 83rd was a depot division at Le Mans. The soldier had been assigned to the 103rd Infantry so, probably at Le Mans, the 329 was deleted and 103 inserted.

(Continued on p. 13)

APO 914, TYPE A-29

The number 914 used in Type A-29 at APO 914, is much smaller than those used in other Type A-29 postmarks. What probably happened was that no regular 914 slug was available and date slugs 9, 1, and 4 were combined to form the 914, as indicated by variations in spacing between the letters in different Type A-29 postmarks used at APO 914, two of which are illustrated on this page.

THE WAR COVER CLUB

New members:

- 37 Rauch, Otto, 186 Adams St., Delmar, N.Y. (A.E.F.)
- 38 Buckner, John T., Pleasant Hill, Mo. (A.E.F.)
- 39 Ismert, Martin E., 1701 Federal Reserve Bldg., Kansas City, Mo. (All wars)
- 40 Stone, Robert G., C/o Blue Hill Observatory, Milton, Mass.
- 41 Porter, Burrill, 1312 Walnut St., Harrisburg, Pa.
- 42 Kanaga, Clinton W., 1217 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. (All wars)

- O -

The Annual Meeting of the Club was held at Washington, DC. in conjunction with the Penny Black Centenary; and all who attended had a pleasant and profitable time.

The high-spot of the meeting was a round-table conference with Inspectors Gartland and Collier of the Post Office Department, who were connected with the A.E.F. postal service.

The following officers were elected for 1940-41:

H. M. Sanford, Rocky River, Ohio, President; Eugene Carey, Iron River, Mich., Vice-President; John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Mo., Secretary-Treasurer; and Miss Eva Gray, and Messrs. Milton Hunt, Maxwell Halpern, M. Hertzberg, Thomas Parks, and J. P. Klinger, Directors.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

x
x To the Members of the War Cover Club: x
x May I express my sincere appreciation for the x
x honor you have extended to me at the convention held x
x in Washington, D.C., May 5th, 1940. x
x We believe it will be the earnest desire of each x
x and every member to continue the splendid work carried x
x on in the War Cover Philatelist. This work can be x
x made more and more efficient if each member will do x
x his share to help our editor, Delf Norona, compile x
x new data. Unusual items and new findings will be x
x properly acknowledged and will benefit each of us, if x
x sent to the Editor for listing. x
x Plans are now under way for a Club Auction and de- x
x tails of this will be forthcoming. It is further x
x hoped that our membership can be increased, and we x
x earnestly ask your opinion on matters "for the good x
x of the Club." x
x HENNEN M. SANFORD x
x President. x
x

XX

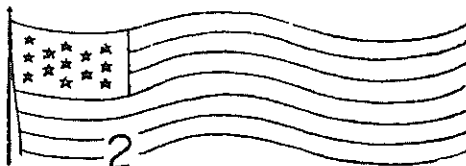
Our retiring officers Milton Hunt and Maxwell Halpern will continue club work by holding Club Auctions of War Cover Material. Write Mr. Hunt at Southport, Conn., first before sending covers. Only first-class war cover material is wanted.

The Editor's report showed a total deficit to date of \$38.68, reduced by \$10 through a donation by the club of subscriptions to various philatelic libraries.

A New York Chapter was authorized under the leadership of Mr. Wm. H. Montgomery.

A.E.F. TYPE A-27 POSTMARKS

Type A-27, manufactured by the American Postal Machine Company and known to collectors of machine cancellations as the American Type N, was the first machine cancellation used at A.P.O.s. Note the slot in the wave for the insertion of A.P.O. numbers.



A-27

APO 2 (Paris)

Early NOV 28 4-30 P 1917 (W. Grandy) Many intermediate dates.

Late AUG 8 4-30 P 1918

Year slug omitted from Jan 1 to Jan 17 1918.

A.E.F. TYPE A-28 POSTMARKS

This is identical with Type A-27 except that the APO numbers are in the 700s. The APO number reads down, except for APO 702, where from Oct 16 to 21st 1918 it reads either up or down.

Earliest known use: APR 16 8-PM 1918 (APO 701)

Latest known use: NOV 2 4-PM 1918 (APO 702)



A-28

APO 701 (St. Nazaire)

Early APR 16 8-PM 1918

Late JUN 28 8-PM 1918

Many intermediate dates.

Always 8-PM.

APO 702 (Paris)

Early 30 SEP 4-PM 1918

Late NOV 2 4-PM 1918

Many intermediate dates.

Always 4-PM.

From Oct 16 to 21st the 702 reads either up or down.

APO 705 (Bordeaux)

Early MAY 2 5-PM 1918

Late AUG 27 7-PM 1918

Many intermediate dates.

Always 5-PM to Jul 27. After that date following hour slugs used: 5-PM, 6-PM, 7-PM, 8-PM, and 9-PM.

APO 717 (Tours)

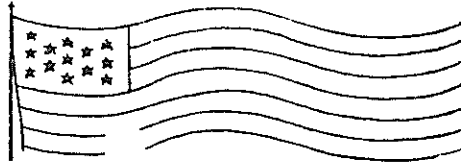
Early APR 24 6-PM 1918

Late JUL 6 6-PM 1918

Several intermediate dates.

A.E.F. TYPE A-28A POSTMARK

This is either A-27 or A-28 with APO number removed. In preparing the type chart the assigning of a number for this type was unfortunately overlooked.



A-28A

Place of use uncertain; but possibly at a seaport, perhaps St. Nazaire (APO 701). Further information desired, and please submit for inspection covers with this postmark which bear return addresses.

Early JUL 26 8-PM 1918

Several intermediate dates.

Late AUG 18 8-PM 1918

Always 8-PM.

- O -

A.E.F. TYPE A-29 POSTMARKS

This is the style of rapid canceling machine postmark known to collectors of machine cancellations as the International Type H.



A-29



Earliest known use: OCT 29 1918 (APO 702)

Latest known use: SEP 30 1919 (APO 716)

APO 701 (St. Nazaire)

Early NOV 20 1918 8 PM

Many intermediate dates.

Late MAY 25 1919 4 PM

Following hour slugs

used: 4 PM, 8 PM. A copy has been reported (R. Safarid) with the 701 inverted, used Mar 15, 1919.*

APO 702 (Paris)

Early 1918 OCT 29 4 PM

Many intermediate dates.

Late JUN 9 5 PM 1919

Following hour slugs

used: 2 PM, 4 PM, 430 PM, 5 PM. From Jan 17 to Jul 19 this is found with the circle broken at the bottom, the variety being designated as Type A-31. A copy has been reported (J. I. Palmore, jr.) with the 702 inverted, used Dec 5, 1918.*

APO 705 (Bordeaux)

Early DEC 3 5 PM 1918

Many intermediate dates.

Late JUN 21 930 PM 1919

Following hour slugs used: 5 PM, 9 PM, 930 PM

(continued on page 17)

WAR COVER APPROVALS - A.E.F. and camp covers, Military and censored covers from World War, Present War, Ethiopian War, Spanish Civil War and other wars. Also foreign and first flight covers. Send wants and references. STAMP BAR, 2015 S.W. Tenth Ave., Portland, Oregon.

COVER-OF-THE-MONTH

(From page 9)

The 103rd Infantry was a regiment in the 26th Division, A.P.O. 709. Note the A.P.O. 709 postmark, Type A-92. This man had, unfortunately, been captured by the enemy; so the letter was sent to the base censor's office in Paris, where it received a PRISONER OF WAR marking, and the base censor mark 55 (in circle), in addition to the large PASSED BY CENSOR NO. 20. This No. 20 base censor marking was apparently used only on prisoner's mail.

On the back of the envelope, not illustrated, there is a manuscript notation "Prisoner of War, Berne, Switzerland, c/o A.R.C. Through Base Censor," and a Paris Type A-41 postmark with an illegible date.

The letter, however, was not delivered in Europe, but was returned to the United States in May, 1919, indicated by postmarks of not interest here and not illustrated.

Your Editor has data concerning the composition of the AEF by infantry, artillery and engineer regiments, as well as other units of various divisions. This information has been of value in helping us understand the story behind the cover, as in this case. This data will be published in the War Cover Philatelist in a future issue.

- o -

U.S. WORLD WAR DELAYED MAIL MARKINGS ("A" SERIES)

This is the first of a series of lists of all known U. S. World War postmarks which indicate that letters were in some way delayed or impossible to deliver. The list, of course, is confined to markings used on letters to or from soldiers, in other words, those of a military nature only.

Those which undoubtedly were used overseas on A.E.F. mail, are given the suffix "A," while those undoubtedly used in the United States have the suffix "U."

The list is arranged in strictly alphabetical order; and, as this is the first listing of these markings, many additional items will come to light, and the numbering is to be considered of a temporary nature only.

A few explanatory remarks follow -

FigureRemarks

- A- 5U Common. In purple and black. Usually on back of cover. Seen used from 3/17/19 to 7/23/19. Usually with manuscript notations "Casuals" and "C.P.O."
- A-10U to A-12U. Note differences in spacing. Very common. Always in purple. Usually with a serial number following the date. A-10U used from 6/12/19 to 8/20/19; A-11U used from 5/3/19 to 7/31/19; A-12U 6/21/19.
- A-13U This is a forwarding mark, not a "corner card."
- A-14A Fairly common. Usually on back of cover. Purple and black.

- o -

WANTED - We need article on war covers of foreign countries. Articles need not be of a specialized nature, and they need not be original. At the Club convention members indicated a desire to have such articles included occasionally, but your Editor must have help.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A-1

ADDRESSEE RET TO U.S.A.
 FROM CENTRAL P O A.E.F.
 25 JUN 1919
 CHELSEA TERMINAL
 NEW YORK N.Y.
 VIA A.P.O. 705

A2A

ADDRESSEE RET TO U.S./
 OFFICERS MAIL
 F O
 2 - JUL 1919
 RE " " NEW YORK N.Y.
 VIA A.P.O. 705

A3A

ADDRESSEE RET TO U.S.A.
 WITH CASUALS
 FROM CENTRAL P.O. A.E.F.
 10 JUN 1919
 REDIRECTORY SECT. PIER 86
 NEW YORK N.Y.
 VIA A.P.O. 705

A6A

ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO U.S.A.

WITH _____

A5A

OFFICE

DATE

Addressee Ret U.S.A. Casual CPO

Redirectory Section Pier 86

New York N Y Via APO 705

A6A

11 JUL 1919

A7A

Addressee Ret U.S.A Casual
 CPO. Redirectory Sec Pier 86
 New York N Y. Via APO 705

ADDRESSEE STILL IN FRANCE
 Mail returned to Chelsea Terminal
 FEB 27 1919

From A. E. F. Without endorsement

A8A

Addressee transferred to

Addressee still in France
Present Address Unknown.
Transferred from Unit Before
It Departed for U. S. A.

From :- A. E. F.
Central Directory Division.
Pier No. 86, N. R., N. Y. C.

A98

A10U Date.....

Addressee transferred to

From :- A. E. F.
Central Directory Division,
Pier No. 86, N. R., N. Y. C.

A11U Date.....

Addressee transferred to

From :- A. E. F.
Central Directory Division,
Pier No. 86, N. R., N. Y. C.

A12U Date.....

ADJUTANT & INSPECTOR,
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS,
WASHINGTON D. C.

A13U

ADVISE
Central Post Office A P C. 902
And A.P.O. 762 of your correct
ADDRESS

A14A

Advise your correspondents of
your correct Company Amer EPDT FORCE
and Regiment Nos.

A15

A16U

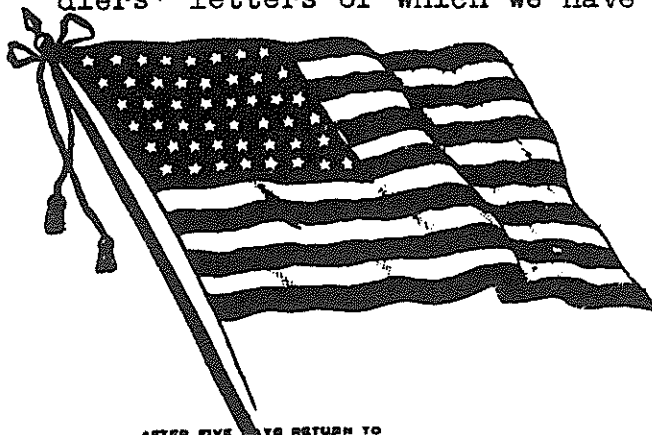
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY F

A17U

U.S. WORLD WAR CORNER CARDS - SINGLE FLAGS

Corner-cards showing pictures of flags are common on soldiers' letters from camps in the U.S., but are rather infrequently found on A.E.F. letters.

The following are all the "single-flag" corner cards on soldiers' letters of which we have a record.



CAMP WADSWORTH
SPARTANBURG, S.C.

F-2a

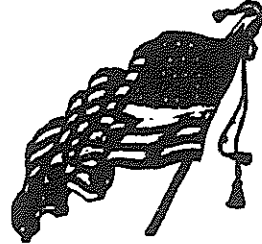


RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS TO

Lieut. A. Chalder

Y. M. C. A. HEADQUARTERS
5th U. S. RESERVE ENGINEERS CAMP
OAKMONT, PA.

F-2b

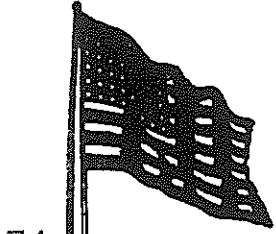


ARMY DEPARTMENT
MINNESOTA YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATIONS
CAMP RAMBEY,

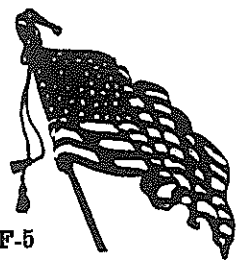
F-3

AFTER FIVE DAYS TO RETURN TO
E. H. Howard
c. Med. Corps
Y. M. C. A. ARMY BRANCH
Fort Logan Colo.

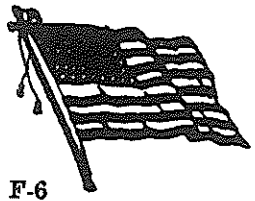
F-1



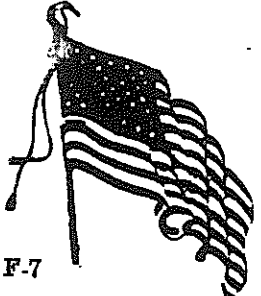
F-4



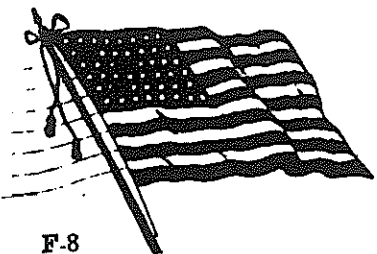
F-5



F-6



F-7



F-8



F-9

Figures F-1 to F-3 speak for themselves; F-4 to F-6 are on envelopes which have Y.M.C.A. imprints on the back, and F-7 and F-8 are on otherwise blank envelopes. F-9 is a pen & ink sketch of an A.E.F. item from the collection of Eugene Carey. All these are in red, white and blue. Nos. 4 and 5 are by far the commonest.

Two additional items, not illustrated, both with small flags similar to F-2b and both in blue, contain the following inscriptions:

(F-2c) FIRST REGIMENT TENT Y.M.C.A.

(F-2d) ASSOCIATION WAR WORK Y.M.C.A. SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

All of these in addition to the item on p. 1 of our March issue.

 A.E.F. TYPE A-29 POSTMARKS
 (Continued from page 21)

APO 706 (Chaumont)

Early NOV 1 1918 2 PM (V.Todd) Many intermediate dates.Late MAY 22 5 PM 1919

Following hour slugs used: 130 PM, 2 PM, 5 PM.

APO 713 (Gievres, Loir-et-Cher)

Early 7 PM DEC 23 1918 Many intermediate dates.Late 1919 JUL 11 7 PM

7 PM used, (except from Jan 25 to Feb 4 1919 when 3 AM was used.) From Jan 17 to Feb 6 "1 17" to "2 26" was used instead of JAN 17 to FEB 26.

APO 716 (Brest)

Early 1919 JUN 27 12 M Several intermediate dates.Late 1919 SEP 30 11 M

APO 717 (Tours)

Early 11 1 6 PM 1918 (C.Pellerin) Many intermediate
Late AUG 4 6 PM 1919 dates.

Usually 6 PM. From Nov 1 to Nov 27 "11 1" to "11 27" was used instead of NOV 1 to NOV 27. Month and date always precedes the hour. (See APO 717, Type A-32)

APO 727 (41st Division)

Early NOV 6 5 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.Late JUN 17 4 PM 1919

5 PM to Nov 15 1918, 4 PM from Jan 1 1919. Month and date always precedes the hour and year. This is the only mobile divisional post office to use a rapid canceling machine.

APO 914 (Heippes, Meuse)

Early DEC 7 2 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.Late APR 23 2 PM 1919

Always 2 PM. Purple from Dec 10 to Dec 15, Violet Dec 18, Black from Jan 3 1919. The figures 914 are much smaller than those used to designate the APO number at other offices. (See title page of this issue.)

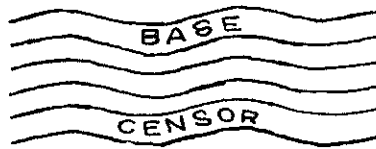
- o -

A.E.F. TYPE A-30 POSTMARKS

This is Type A-29 with BASE CENSOR in the wave.



A-30



Used only at APO 702 (Paris)

APO 702 (Paris)

Early 1918 NOV 27 4 PM Many intermediate dates.Late 1918 DEC 12 11 AM

Following hour slugs used: 11 AM, 4 PM and 430 PM

With APO number omitted

Early 1918 (With month, date and hour slugs omitted.)

JAN 2 12 M 1919

JUN 27 3 PM 1919 Many intermediate dates.

26 1919. (Sometimes the entire circle is omitted)

A.E.F. TYPE A-31 POSTMARKS

This is Type A-29 with a break at the bottom of the circle



A-31



Earliest known use: Jan 17 1919 (APO 702)

Latest known use: Sep 9 1920 (APO 927)

APO 702 (Paris)

Early 1919 JAN 17 2 PM Many intermediate dates.

Late 11 AM JUL 19 1919

Following hour slugs used: 11 AM, 2 PM, 5 PM

APO 704 (le Valdahon)

Early 1918 DEC 1 12 30 PM . The only ones seen.

Late 1918 DEC 5 12 30 PM

APO CPO (902) Bourges, Cher, Central Post Office)

Early 5 AM MAY 5 1919 Many intermediate dates.

Late DEC 18 1 PM 1919

Following hour slugs used: 5 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM. This postmark has CPO instead of 902, as illustrated.

APO 927 (3rd Army Hdqrs, Later Coblenz)

Early JAN 25 130 PM 1920 (J.M.Perkins)

Late SEP 9 9 AM 1920 Several intermediate dates.

Following hour slugs used: 9 AM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM.

- o -

A.E.F. TYPE A-32 POSTMARKS

This is Types A-29 or A-31 with the APO number omitted.



A-32



APO 702 (Paris)

Early 1918 OCT 29 4 PM Many intermediate dates.

Late 130 PM JUL 21 1919

Following hour slugs used: 130 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM.

APO 702 - With BASE CENSOR in wave, see under Type A-30.

APO 717 (Tours)

Early OCT 29 6 PM 1918 (J.T.Buckner) The only one seen.

This is probably APO 717 (Tours) for the return address is "APO 717," and contrast the sequence of year, month and date and hour slugs with APO 702 of this type, and compare with APO 717, Type A-29.

- o -

 THE COVER COLLECTOR - The only magazine devoted to all phases of cover collecting invites you to become a reader. Well illustrated, subjects ably but simply discussed. A quality monthly publication for only 50 cents a year. The Cover Collector, St. Joseph, Missouri.

SERVICE SUSPENDED - RETURN TO SENDER

A number of postmarks and labels are known which contain something to the effect that mail service is suspended with an enemy country and the letter is being returned to the sender.



S-1

DESPATCH TO SPAIN OR SPANISH COLONIES PROMISED ON ACCOUNT OF WAR

S-2

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.

S-3 (N. Y. P. O. Foreign Branch)

Mail service suspended to country addressed.

S-4

S-5

POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Returned to sender for the reason that SERVICE IS SUSPENDED. No means being available for transmission to destination.

S-6

POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Returned to sender for the reason that service is suspended. There are no means available for transmission of the article to destination.

S-7

SERVICE SUSPENDED

Post Office, New York, N. Y.

FOREIGN STATION

RETURN TO SENDER

MAIL FOR RUSSIA

(Extract from P. O. Dept. Postal Bulletin H683 of June 21, 1918)

Office of Second Asst. Postmaster General, Washington, June 19, 1918.

Referring to Postmaster General's Order No. 211 of April 7, 1917, under which mail service to and via Germany was suspended, notice is hereby given that mail service is also suspended for a number of governments and administrative divisions of Russia, as follows: Crimea, Finland, Poland, Bessarabia, Courland (Kurland), Cherson (Kherson), Ekaterinoslav, Esthonia, Grodno, Kaluga (Kalouga), Karkov (Kharkov), Kholm, Kiev, Kovno, Kurak, Livonia, Minsk, Mohilev (Mogilov), Orel, Podolia, Poltava, Pskov, Smolensk, Tauride, Tchernikov, Vilna, Vitebek, Volhynia, Voronezh (Woronez) and Kars, Erivan and Ardahan (including Batoum), in the Caucasus, because the territory herein described is occupied by the enemy.

Mail for other parts of Russia shall not be accepted for despatch by the way of Europe but such mail shall be accepted, at the risk of the senders, when marked "Via Pacific," for despatch by such service as may be available through Siberia.

S-8

N. Y. P. O. 5-28-18

OTTO PRAEGER, Second Asst. Postmaster General.



S-9

POSTAL SERVICE SUSPENDED

RETURN TO SENDER

S-10

- S-1 Postmark on a Civil War U.S. letter addressed to the South.
S-2 Printed label on a "first-day Spanish-American War" cover NEW YORK APR 26 98 addressed to Havana, Cuba. On that day postal service was suspended; resumed on August 19th;
S-3 Postmark on letter U.S. to Belgium in 1916;
S-4 Postmark on letter U.S. to Austria, August, 1917;
S-5 Postmark on letter U.S. to Russia, 1919;
S-6 Mimeographed label on letter U.S. to Russia, Dec. 1917;
S-7 and S-8 Printed labels on letters U.S. to Russia, 1919;
S-9 Postmark on letter Great Britain to Germany, Sep.1,1939;
S-10 Postmark on letters addressed to Denmark and Norway just before their invasion by Germany, April, 1940.

- o -

This is the first showing of these postmarks. Many more undoubtedly exist. Will you report new items--whether U.S. or foreign?

MOTHER'S DAY LETTER

At least three types of printed Mother's Day Letter franks on A.E.F. covers are known -

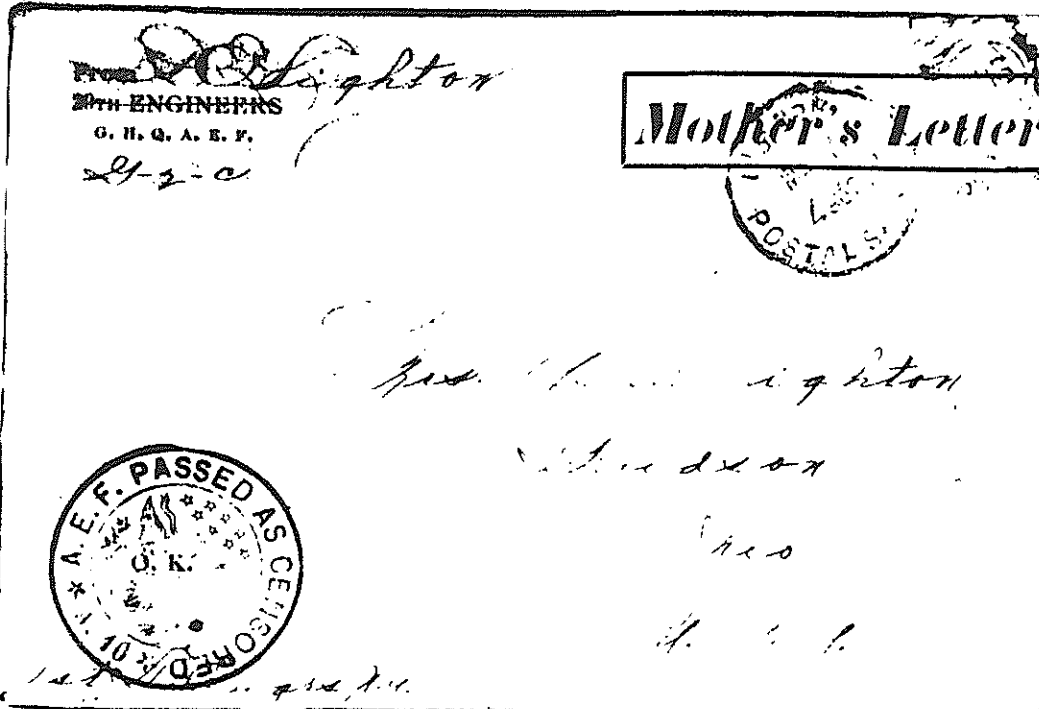
From

AMERICAN

SOLDIERS MAIL



MOTHER'S DAY LETTER.



The first with a Y.M.C.A. imprint is in black; the second, with the 29th Engineers imprint is in black, but the words "Mother's Letter" is in red. This item, from the collection of President Sanford, must really be seen to be appreciated. A third has in Gothic type printed in black on the right corner of the envelope, and is not particularly attractive. Are there others?

- o -

DEFEND AMERICA BY AIDING THE ALLIES

The Ohio Valley Stamp Club of Wheeling, W.Va., of which your Editor is an officer, has voted unanimously to hold donation auctions and use the proceeds for publicity in connection with the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. (with France now gone, this means Great Britain.) This despite the squawkings of Ham Fish and West Virginia's boy-wonder, lame-duck senator Rush Holt now en route to political extinction.