

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

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List of Index Items for This Publication

AEF Franks

Mystery (APO) 800 Series

Ambassador Gerard Censor

British Army and Navy Postmarks (WW I)

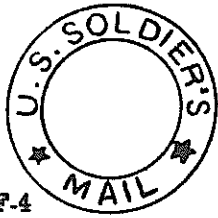
Some British Prisoners of War Markings

Siege of Ladysmith (Boer War)

Ambassador Gerard Censor

THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication



F-4

Edited and Published
by

DEL F NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

Subscription Price: One Dollar

FRANKED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECT. 1100, ACT 3 OCT. 1917
F-5

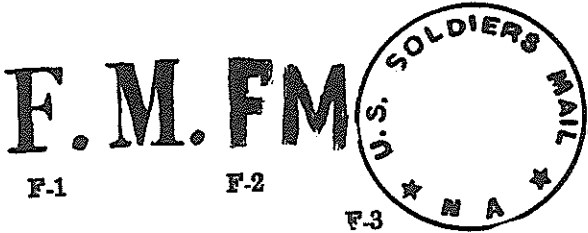
Vol. 1

March-April, 1938

No. 3

A.E.F. FRANKS

A general article on this subject appears in the Feb. 5, 1938, issue of STAMPS. We wish to compile a check list of early and late dates of use of these hand-stamped Franks.



F-1

F-2

F-3

Soldier's letter
On United States Service. Mail.
F-6 F-7

What follows is just the crudest sort of a start.

Type	Color	Date	Pmk.	Remarks
F-1	Purple	Feb. 28	1919	Corner card Loyal Order Moose, Paris
F-2	Grnish			Official General Staff Letter. F.M. in same color as Censor and BY COURIER.
F-3	Blue	Sep 4	1917	Also same color Oct. Nov. and Dec 31, 1917
F-4	Magenta	Jan 31	1918	Censor mark A87 also magenta APO 713
F-4	Grey	Jul 24	1918	Censor mark A87 also grey APO 713
F-5				Noted on many marines or sailors mail
F-6	Purple	Oct 1	1917	
F-6	Blue	Apr 28	1918	
F-7	Blue	Jul 31	1918	AEF mail to US, but Wash. D.C. cancel.

AMBASSADOR GERARD CENSOR

Censor
Gerard

AMERICAN EMBASSY

837

Passed

This Ambassador Gerard censor mark (in pink) is on a cover sent by a member of the American Red Cross in Germany to the U.S. Bears a German 20 pf. stamp; AMERICAN EMBASSY 837 on the back (in pink); on the cover in purple RECEIVED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN DIPLOMATIC POUCH; and the stamp cancelled with the Washington D.C. postmark JUN 28, 1915.

Another similar cover bears the Washington pmk JUL 20-1915 and AMERICAN EMBASSY 1131 on the back.

Note the foreign style figure 7 with a cross-bar, indicative of the fact that German clerks were employed at the Embassy during the crucial days before our entry into the war.

EDITORIAL

We have indulged in many phases of Philately--from stampless covers to first days, mint U.S., air-mails, Xmas seals, and precancels; collected generally and specialized in such countries as Great Britain, Ecuador and Jamaica, but-- the more we see of War Covers the more fascinating this branch of Philately becomes to the exclusion of all others. Most of our readers are interested in A.E.F. covers, but we recommend the collection of covers relating to other wars, and the World War covers of other countries. A few typical examples of covers used in connection with various wars are always of interest. One of our English subscribers, F.J.Carter, some of whose British prisoners-of-war postmarks are shown in haphazard fashion in this issue, from his large collection of such items, reports that his earliest prisoner's cover is dated 1650, written by a soldier during the Thirty Years War in Germany, asking for money for his ransom!

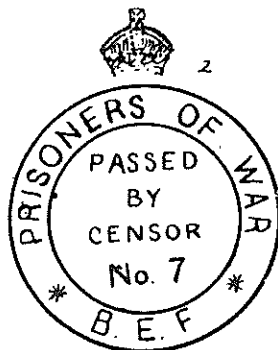
A section will be devoted at BIPEX (Bronx County Stamp Club National Philatelic Exhibition) to World War covers, to be held May 19th to 22nd. The General Chairman of the Exhibition, Wm. H. Montgomery, 30 Pine St., N.Y.C., an enthusiastic collector of War covers is responsible for this, which we believe is the first time World War covers have been given a special section at a national exhibition. Write him for prospectus. Cost \$2.00 a frame, to hold 16 regular album pages. We have promised a frame of A.E.F. Censor Marks.

Hennan Sanford's A.E.F. book is now appearing in instalments in the American Philatelist. Those who are not members of the A.P.S. may secure a copy of the book when published from your Editor. Price will be \$1.00. Send in your reservation now.

Patronize advertisers, and send in your Advt. Every cent of income is used towards publishing.

SOME BRITISH PRISONERS-OF-WAR MARKINGS
Traced by F. J. Carter

No. 400 PRISONERS OF WAR COMPANY.
No.
Date.....



WORLD WAR COVERS

I have just acquired a very unusual lot of French Official War Covers. Includes fine franks of naval aviation, submarine service, Embassies, consulates, &c. Write for list if interested.

E. N. SAMPSON

420 Allyndale Drive

Stratford, Conn.

THE MYSTERY 800 SERIES

An interesting article on the Mystery Post Offices of the A.E.F., by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Williams, Jr., appears in the January issue of Stamp & Cover Collectors Review. Write Mr. August Dietz, the publisher, 109 E. Cary St., Richmond, Va., for a copy. And we wish to give his publication a boost as it specializes in Confederate and Civil War material.

The Williams's have submitted a specialized check list of all known 800 offices (not included in their article) which is reproduced below. Send in your 800s for photographing, to 1229 Clarke Ave., Roanoke, Va.

All items in the list are Type A51, except APO No. 800 which is Type A35, and APO Nos. 809, 832, 811, which are A58.



Cancellation		Censor		Organization or Return
APO	Color	Date	Color No.	Address and (Remarks)
800	Blk	MAR 18 1919	Pur	2d Prov MP Co. IX Corps APO932
800	Blk	MAR 27 1919	Pur 3421	274 M.P.Co. APO 932
806	Blk	27 NOV 1918	Pur	2d Prov M.P.Co. 2nd Army
807	Blk	8 NOV 1918	Mag 3316	
808				(Reported by Coleman)
809	Blk	14 DEC 1918	Pur 2603	
810	Blk	24 NOV 1918	Pur 3108	Medical Corps
811	Blk	11 FEB 1919	Pur 1650	
813	Blk	15 NOV 1918	Pur 3536	U.S. Infantry
813	Blk	23 FEB 1919	Blk	2d Co. 3d Prov. Reg. Classif. Camp A.P.O. 762
813	Blk	15 MAR 1919	Blk	2d Co. Classif. Camp APO 762
813	Blk	20 MAR 1919	Blk 3300	2d Co. Classif. Camp APO 762
813	Blk	18 JUN 1919	Blk 3300	(Very late date)
814	Blk	2 NOV 1918	Mag	
814	Blk	22 NOV 1918	Mag 3359	Signal corps
814	Blk	23 NOV 1918	Blu 3316	
815	Blk	8 NOV 1918	Pur 3461	
819	Blk	18 OCT 1918	Blk	Co. L 332 Inf. APO 901
822	Pur	23 OCT 1918	Blk 1499	Med. Det. 332 Inf. APO 901
822	Pur	30 OCT 1918	Blk 1499	Co. C 332 Inf. APO 901
822	Pur	18 NOV 1918	Blk 1499	Co. G. 332 Inf. APO 901
822	Pur	19 NOV 1918	Pur 1572	Co. L 332 Inf. APO 901
822	Pur	19 NOV 1918	Pur 1499	AEF Italy APO 901C
822	Pur	22 NOV 1918	Pur 1499	Co. L 332 Inf. APO 901C
822	Pur	15 DEC 1918	Pur 1499	Co. G 332 Inf. APO 901
822	Pur	18 DEC 1918	Pur 1499	AEF in Italy APO 901C
822	Pur	25 FEB 1919	Blk 1499	Co. L 332 Inf. APO 901C
823	Blk	9 NOV 1918	Pur	(All APO 822 mailed from Italy US A.A.S. (Reverse side shows date Nov. 10. Mailed from Italy

Cancellation		Censor		Organization or Return	
AP0	Color	Date	Color	No	Address and (Remarks)
824	Grn	8 DEC 1918	Pur	585	Co L 332 Inf APO 901 (Both mail-
824	Grn	23 JAN 1919	Pur	585	Co L 332 Inf APO 901 ed fr. Italy
825					(War Dept states this was as-
					signed, but changed to APO 905
					" " " " " 916
826					
827	Blk	Illegible	Pur		Entire cancel has been painted
					over, apparently purposely. AGO.
					lists this as Mobile 31 Div.
827	Blk	25 OCT 1918	Pur	2421	
828					A.G.O. lists this Mobile 38 Div.
829	Blu- Pur	29 NOV 1918	Pur	1518	M.G.Co. 323 Inf. 81 Div. (Written
					Nov. 29 at Cirey, where outfit
					spent one night. War Dep. says
					AP0 829 was changed to APO 912
830	Blu	NOV 1918	Blu	1500	Letter 11/27/18 from La Suze
831	Pur	8 OCT 1918	Pur	2345	(A.G.O. lists this as
					Mobile 8 Div., assigned 11/24/18
					disc. 11/30/18.
831	Pur	13 OCT 1918	Blk		(Note all APO 831s were used
831	Pur	14 OCT 1918	Pur	2345	before date when the office
831	Pur	22 OCT 1918	Pur	2345	was officially opened.
831	Blk	22 NOV 1918	Blk		
832	Blk	30 SEP 1918	Pur		(This is Type A51
832	Blk	JAN 22 1919	Mag		(This is Type A58
834	Blk	OCT 1918	Blu	184	112 T.M.B.
834	Blk	17 NOV 1918	Pur	2061	
835		9 SEP 1918			AP0 784
838	Blk	8 SEP 1918	Pur	1936	M.T.C. School APO 772
839	Blk	17 OCT 1918	Pur		O. & T.C. #5 T.A.
839	Blk	20 DEC 1918	Blk	1703	Co.C. 53d A.F. C.A.C.
841					(Reported by Kimball
842	Blk	NOV 2 1918	Pur	1611	
842	Blk	NOV 16 1918	Blu	727	U.S. Air Service
842	Blk	NOV 18 1918	Blu	727	U.S. Air Service
842	Blk	NOV 19 1918	Blk	1792	22d Aero Squadron.
844	Blk	2 NOV 1918	Pur		
845	Pur	22 AUG 1918	Pur	1866	Hdqr. Amb. Sect. 104 San. Train
845	Blk	18 NOV 1918	Pnk		Nurse
845	Blk	1918	Pur	2533	
845	Blk		Mag	1854	Hdqr. Det. 29 Div APO 765
846	Blk	2 NOV 1918	Pur		
848	Pnk	8 SEP 1918	Pur	1197	Bat.A. 309 F.A.
849	Pur	16 AUG 1918	Pur		Co.H 316 Inf. APO 771 (Earliest
					use of 800 series
849	Blk	8 SEP 1918	Pur	2119	Co.C 312 M.G.Br.
849	Blk	20 NOV 1918	Mag		Inf. U.S.A.
850	Pur	31 AUG 1918	Pur	2554	310 Supply Trn APO 737

Abbreviations: Black-Blk; Blue-Blu; Purple-Pur; Magenta-Mag; Pink-Pnk. The exact sequence in dates is given as shown in the postmarks, thus 2 NOV and NOV 2.

Items submitted by: Gray (6); Hunt (11); Norman (4); Norona (20); Perkins (2); Robinson (1); Safarid (10); Williams (9). Who else will help?

Earliest use APO 849-Aug. 16, 1918; Latest APO 813-Jun. 18, 1919

BRITISH ARMY & NAVY POSTMARKS

By A.E.Cordwell, 240 Uttoxeter Rd., Mickleover, Nr. Derby, England

The outbreak of the Great War found Britain perhaps the most unprepared of all the combatants for a long conflict involving forces many times more numerous than its small standing Army and reserves. Postal organization for a few tens of thousands had to be extended almost in a flash to cater for millions. Resort to improvised postal markings became necessary, and although many of these emergency types were in use for prolonged periods, some were of more or less temporary use by small formations and are very scarce. The emergency types included skeleton dies in which the required lettering was inserted in moveable type; rubber dies, mainly used for special, e.g. parcel, cancellations, and in the case of the Navy patterns cut into corks or bits of wood, or in short almost anything that would afford an obliteration. In this short preliminary article I propose to deal in a very general way with the principal types of postmark used by the British Army overseas, leaving a more detailed description to later articles, which will also deal with the postmarks of the Indian and Colonial forces, and those of the Navy.

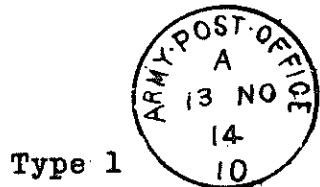
ARMY POSTMARKS: These fall into three main classes, viz:

- (a) Those bearing the legend ARMY POST OFFICE, either in full or in various abbreviations.
- (b) Those bearing the legend BASE ARMY POST OFFICE, or wording to that effect, in full or abbreviated.
- (c) Those bearing the legend FIELD POST OFFICE, either in full or in various abbreviations.

Postmarks falling into classes A and B were used by the larger military formations and at bases, camps of a more or less permanent location, stationary hospitals, railheads, &c. Those in class C were allotted to the smaller formations which, generally speaking, were liable to more frequent change of locality than base formations, hospitals and so on - in other words to formations at the front itself or in the areas near the front.

CLASS "A" - ARMY POST OFFICE

There are five principal types, as illustrated.



Type 1

Single Ring
Ordinary Metal Die



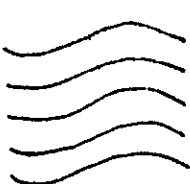
Type 2

Double Ring
Ordinary Metal Die



Type 3

Skeleton Ring
Moveable Type



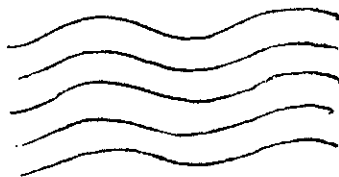
ARMY POST OFFICE 3

B

17 JAN 18

+

Type 4 - Machine Cancellation



Type 5

"Horse Shoe" Index
letters and figures
in moveable type



Type 1 - Single Ring: There is a sub-type without the dots between the words of the legend. The main type bears index figures 1 to 11, and the sub-type 12 to 18. Both were in use for manoeuvres in the years immediately preceding the War and on the Western front from August, 1914, until they became obsolete early in 1915.

Type 2 - Double Ring: The index consists of a number or letter(s) only or of number and letter(s) combined.

Double ring marks bearing an index number only were used on the Western front until they became obsolete early in 1915 concurrently with the single ring type. Index numbers 1 to 4 however, continued in use at the principal base ports: No. 1 Havre; No. 2 Rouen; No. 3 Boulogne; No. 4 Calais.

Numbers 19 to 33 were also in use during the 1913 manoeuvres. Double ring postmarks bearing index letter(s) or letter(s) and number came into use early in 1915 and continued in use until after the end of the War.

The index letter(s) denotethe source of correspondence, either as to locality or unit. For example:

<u>Index letter</u>	<u>Allotted to</u>
L	Base or camp in Italy
R	Railheads
S	Stationary offices

Thus, R26 denotes 26th Divisional Railhead.

Type 3 - Skeleton Rings: These are of various sizes, and were used principally in the Eastern theatres of war in Gallipoli, Salonika, Egypt and Palestine. They generally bear index letters SX or SZ with a number following. A few marks of the skeleton ring type were in use in France.

Type 4 - Machine Cancellations: These were used from 1915 principally at the base ports mentioned above under Type 2.

Type 5 - Horseshoes: The initial index letter in this type is invariably R, followed by another letter or number, or by both. There are but about a score of marks of this type, all scarce. (ED.- The illustration of Type 5, from our collection is a new A.E.F. item, brigaded with the British.)

CLASS "B" - BASE POST OFFICE

Marks of this class are sometimes found as BASE ARMY POST OFFICE and sometimes as ARMY BASE POST OFFICE. The abbreviation B.A.P.O. is also found. The only types are Double Ring and Skeleton Ring, with an index letter or number, but not both. The only numbers used were 1 to 4, in double rings, for the ports mentioned earlier in this article. The earliest type of double ring had no index letter or number, but a Maltese Cross instead.

A variety of this class is the postmark in the double ring type bearing the legend ADVANCE BASE POST OFFICE, with a Maltese Cross as index, used in 1914. This is very scarce.

CLASS "C" - FIELD POST OFFICE

The only types of this class are the skeleton ring and double ring.

Skeleton Ring: Apart from very few exceptions these were used in the Eastern theatres of war, in Gallipoli, Salonika, Egypt and Palestine. The index consists of a number or letter(s) only, or both combined. The rings are of various sizes, and were used from 1915 onwards.

Double Rings: These came into use early in 1915, with the obsolescence of the early Army Post Office types. They are found with an index of a number or letter(s) only, or both combined.

An index of a number only indicates Brigade.

As with the Army Post Office types, the index letter indicates the unit or locality, e.g.

<u>Index letter</u>	<u>Allotted to</u>
A	Army H.Q.
D	Divisional H.Q.
H	Corps H.Q.
P.B.	North Russian Force
T	Divisional Train

Certain letters were also allotted to Territorial Divisions, M to North Midland Division; N to Northumbrian; S.M. to South Midland Division; W.R. to West Riding Division; and others were allotted to certain special formations -

B	Guards Division
D.C.	Cavalry Divn. H.Q.
I	Indian Divn
P	Canadian Divn. 1917 and later
X	Canadian Divn. before 1917
W	Australian Divn.

Consequently: DB - Guards Divl. H.Q.; 2B 2nd Guards Divn.; DC Cavalry Divl. H.Q.; HC Cavalry Corps H.Q.; and TM North Midland Divl. Train.

These identifications held good in the main only up to June, 1916, and after January, 1919. During the intervening period periodical interchanges of these marks were effected in the smaller formations, presumably to prevent easy identification of the locality of the units at the front.

- o -
RETURN

Quite a large number of U.S. World War soldiers mail markings Return are known. A few are shown. More later.

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 1919
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

ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO U.S.A.

WITH _____

OFFICE

DATE

 THE SIEGE OF LADYSMITH

Mr. Arthur W. Smith, of Flint, Mich., writes concerning the siege of Ladysmith during the Boer War in South Africa. His father was in the town as a war correspondent, and published The Ladysmith Lyre (liar) during the siege, the first issue of which, Nov. 27, 1899, is before us as this is written. (Read "Fields of Adventure" by Ernest Smith, published by Small Maynard & Co.)

The siege lasted from Nov. 1, 1899, to Feb. 28, 1900, a few thousand soldiers and civilians being isolated from the rest of the British army by the Boers. Letters were smuggled out of town in some instances in the turned up trousers cuffs of natives.

Several siege covers have been submitted by Mr. Smith:

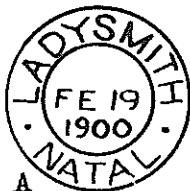


Fig. A

PK

New Castle.

21. Feb 1900

Fig. B.

LADYSMITH SIEGE POST OFFICE

Feb. 28th 1900

Fig. C

Cover with postmark A, with notation in upper left corner "No stamp procurable," addressed to Ladysmith--this being a local letter, intramural delivery!

Cover with postmark B, but no Ladysmith postmark, being one smuggled out of the town by the method mentioned, evidenced by its crumpled up condition. Addressed to Colenso.

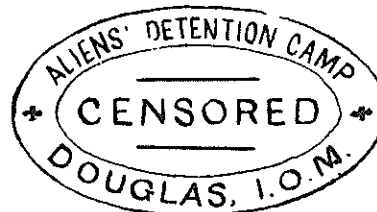
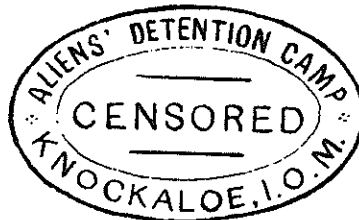
Cover addressed to Ladysmith from the outside, with a Johannesburg 16 Feb. postmark, and in the same condition as the cover just described.

Cover with postmark C, being used on Feb. 28, 1900, the day the siege was raised by General Buller.

The siege covers of Ladysmith have undoubtedly been carefully studied by our English friends, and any added information will be welcome.

- o -

MORE BRITISH PRISONERS-OF-WAR MARKINGS



 NOW AVAILABLE

CHOICE (A.E.F.) WAR ENVELOPES

Descriptive Lists Free
 Self-addressed large envelope appreciated

ROBERT R. SAFARID
 7147 Manse - Forest Hills - New York