

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

List of Index Items for This Publication

Postmark A21, 23 - 25

The Wars and War Covers of Latin America

THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication

Edited and Published
by
PASSED CENSOR
H.M.S. HOOD DELF NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

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Vol. 3

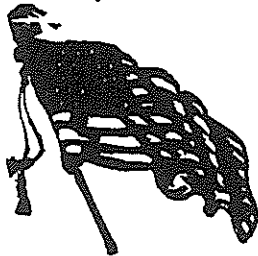
March, 1940

Whole No. 13

COVER-OF-THE-MONTH

SOLDIERS MAIL

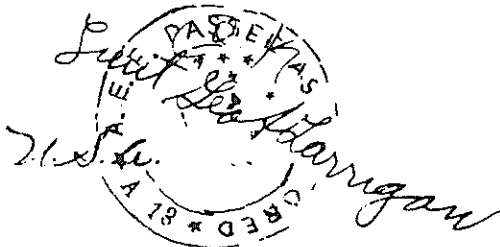
M. Rousden.
Chaplain U. S. Infantry



SOLDIERS' CLUB
DIRECTED BY CHAPLAINS U. S. ARMY



Mr. Thomas M. Cann.
506. Monmouth St.,
Trenton,
New Jersey.



This cover, submitted by Mr. R. Safarid, is of interest for several reasons. First, it has a beautiful flag imprint in black on a brownish paper envelope and is the only one of its kind known, postmarked with a fairly early date (Jan.3, 1918) at APO 703, Gondrecourt - 1st Army Corps School.

Next, observe the handstamp SOLDIERS MAIL. Handstamp franks on AEF mail are not common, but 15 varieties of soldier's or sailor's handstamps are known (see the March, 1940, American Philatelist); and, at that, this is the only instance of a frank combined with the facsimile signature of the person franking the letter.

Send in one of your pet unusual or story-telling covers for illustrating. We want one for each issue.

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BRITISH NAVAL CENSOR MARKS OF WORLD WAR 2ND *****

Britain's mighty H.M.S. Hood used the censor mark above on September 22, 1939, the first month of the war. Apparently the ship's name is not now used in the censor mark, as indicated by the "tombstone" item illustrated. The cover on which this censor appears is postmarked EDINBURGH--RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS 31 DEC 1939, the last day of the first year of the war to save the world from Hitlerism.

WAR COVER CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The War Cover Club will hold its annual meeting and election of officers at Washington, D.C. May 5th, Sunday, at the Mayflower Hotel. The meeting, as previously announced, will be held in conjunction with the Penny Black Centennial from May 1st to 7th. (Your Editor will be there May 1st to 5th.)

Come early and stay late, for there will be many cover collectors present and as our annual convention will be held in conjunction with the year's biggest philatelic event, that will be a golden opportunity for making recruits. Arrangements have been made for Mr. Joseph Gartland, of the Post Office Department, who was an official in the Army Postal Service in France, to address us.

In case you cannot attend, then write, giving your preference for officers, and your vote will be recorded.

Exhibit: 30 frames have been allotted to the War Cover. As the exhibit will be held at the National Museum and as some of the country's leading collections will be displayed, the Club is singularly fortunate in this respect. Please send in material to the Editor for a composite Club Exhibit before April 10th if possible.

Our plan is to show a composite exhibit for which material will be contributed by every member of the Club -

(a) One of each Type A postmark, in unusual condition, such as a record early or late date of use, or on an elaborate corner-card, and in the finest possible condition;

(b) In addition, a showing of unusual story-telling U.S. World War covers of all kinds.

Specialized written-up collections are also wanted of both U.S. and foreign war covers of all wars. The following will probably be shown: AEF Censor marks; AEF in Siberia, North Russia and Italy; Camps and Forts in U.S.; German World War Naval covers; Nonpostage World War labels; British World War covers; Philippine Spanish-American war; Occupation of Vera Cruz in 1914; Civil War patriotics; and a general collection showing one cover from every war.

If you have a specialized collection, then write immediately giving the number of pages and full details.

COOPERATION

Messrs. John T. Buckner and J. Macklem Perkins have sent in their entire collections of AEF covers for recording. This is the kind of assistance that makes the job of working up check-lists a pleasant one. Thanks!

THE TYPES B AND C CHART

This is published as a supplement to this issue. We are now really getting somewhere with the Classification System, and in due course will publish other Groups of markings.

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Messrs. Montgomery and Halpern have done good work around New York with their exhibits, and Miss Eva Gray who has now moved to Florida was given an award at the recent St. Petersburg show for her A.E.F. covers, which were, however, classified by the exhibition committee as "stampless covers."

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In addition to the material sent in for the big exhibition bring other sections of your collection for informal display as well as plenty of material for swapping at Washington.

A.E.F. TYPE A-21 POSTMARKS

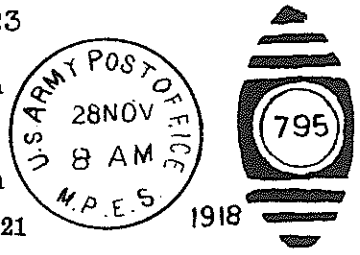
Type A-21, with its variants Types A-23 and A-24, are the only A.E.F. handstamp postmarks made in the United States which contain the designation M.P.E.S.

In this list, where the year date is omitted although the year of use is known it is indicated "(1919)."

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

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

Earliest known use: 3 NOV 1918 (APO 733) Colln. H. Artist
 Latest known use: JUL 13 1919 (APO 762)



APC 705 (Bordeaux)
Early JAN 14 9 AM 1919
Late JUN 16 9 AM 1919



Several intermediate dates. Feb 4 and Apr 26 have 1 PM, others have 9 AM. The APO number is "05" as illustrated, instead of reading "705."

APC 752 (Marseille)
Early NOV 11 12 M 1918
Late JUN 7 11 AM 1919
 from Apr 11.

Many intermediate dates.
 10 AM Dec 10 to Mar 20; 11 AM

APC 753 (Limoges, Haute-Vienne)
Early Dec 12 1918*

The only one reported.

APC 755 (78th Division)
Early Jan 12 1919*
Late Feb 17 1919*

The only ones reported.

APC 756 (80th Division)
Early 5 NOV 8 AM 1918
Late APR 23 11 AM 1919 (W. Montgomery)

Several intermediate dates.

APC 757 (Nogent-en-Bassigny, Haute-Marne)
Early 5 PM NOV 10 1918 (J.M. Perkins)

The only one seen.

APC 758 (Liffol-le-Grand, Vosges)
Early DEC 7 11 AM 1918
Late 12 APR 2 PM 1919

Several intermediate dates.
 Various hour slugs.

APC 759 (1st Army Corps)
Early 1 PM JAN 6 1919

The only one seen.

APC 760 (le Havre, Seine-Inferieure)
Early 4 PM APR 17 1919

The only one seen.

APC 761 (89th Division)
Early 12 M DEC 31 1918
Late MAR 13 5 PM 1919

Many intermediate dates.
 12 M from Jan 5 to Feb 11.

-
- APC 762 (le Mans) Many intermediate dates.
Early NOV 8 2 PM 1918 (J.M.Perkins)
Late JUL 13 11 PM 1919 Various hour slugs.
- APC 764 (Epinal, Vosges)
Early DEC 12 4 PM (1918) The only one seen.
- APC 765 (29th Division) Many intermediate dates.
Early Nov 10 1918*(R.Safarid) 11 AM to Dec 7; 9 AM
Late MAR 31 9 AM 1919 from Jan 9.
- APC 767 (Nantes, Loire-Inferieure)
Early NOV 20 6 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late FEB 6 6 PM 1919 (H.Artist) All have 6 PM.
- APC 768 (Cherbourg, Manche)
Early Nov 20 1918* The only one reported.
- APC 769 (5th Army Corps)
Early DEC 18 8 AM 1918 (H.Artist) The only one seen.
- APC 770 (90th Division) Many intermediate dates.
Early NOV 18 7 AM 1918 (R.Safarid)
Late FEB 10 7 AM 1919 All have 7 AM.
- APC 771 (79th Division) Many intermediate dates.
Early DEC 8 1 PM 1918 (J.M.Perkins)
Late APR 30 3 PM 1919 1 PM to Mar 19.
- APC 772 (Verneuil, Nièvre) Several intermediate dates.
Early NOV 18 6 PM 1918 All have 6 PM. Break in circle
Late APR 24 6 PM 1919 opposite A of ARMY.
- APC 773 (76th Division)
Early 3 NOV 8 PM 1918 (H.Artist) This may be 778!
- APC 775 (4th Army Corps) Many intermediate dates.
Early 6 NOV 1 PM 1918 (W.Montgomery) 1 PM to Jan 1, 1919;
Late 10 MAY 11 AM 1919 10 AM from Jan 28 to Apr 3.
- APC 776 (91st Division) Many intermediate dates.
Early NOV 6 4 PM 1918 (J.Buckner) 4 PM to Nov 9; 730 PM
Late MAR 24 130 PM 1919 Nov 27 to Dec 6; 5 PM Dec 14
to Dec 28; 730 PM Jan 6 to Jan 13; 130 PM Jan 19 to Mar
24. The postmarking stamp is still in existence (Colln
A.O.Reinhardt) set at Mar 30, 1919, the date of the last
dispatch of mail from APC 776.
- APC 777 (6th Division) The only one seen.
Early 20 MAY 7 AM 1919
- APC 778 (le Corneau, Gironde) 2 intermediate dates.
Early NOV 24 530 PM 1918 (J.M.Perkins)
Late DEC 29 530 PM 1918 All have 530 PM.
- APC 779 (Meucon, Morbihan)
Early NOV 3 10 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late FEB 20 10 AM 1919 10 AM from Nov 15.

 APO 798 (Mesves-sur-Loire, Nievre) Many intermediate dates.
Early NOV 24 2 PM 1918 2 PM to Mar 24; 4 PM from Apr 21.
Late May 17 1919 This may easily be confused with
 APO 793, but may be distinguished by the different hour
 slugs used.

APO 800 (Paris?)
Early Mar 18 1919*(R.Safarid) 1 intermediate date.
Late 430 PM MAR 27 1919 (F.W.Fuss)

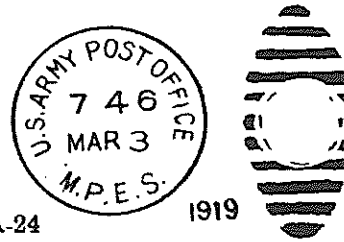
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A.E.F. TYPES A-23 TO A-25 POSTMARKS



A-23

A-23 is the basic
 Type A-21 with APO
 number cut out and
 a new APO number
 inserted in place
 of the hour slug.
 Used at the
 following APCs:



A-24

APC 721 (Dijon)
Early 15 MAR 721 1919*(H.Coleman) 2 intermediate dates.
Late 5 MAY 721 1919

APC 927a (Station of 3rd Army Hdqrs)
Early MAY 25 927 2 (1920) 2 intermediate dates.
Late AUG 24 927 2 (1920) All used in 1920.
 On all four covers seen, the return address is given as
 "APO 927a," three of which are backstamped APO 927, indicat-
 ing this postmark was used at a station of APO 927.

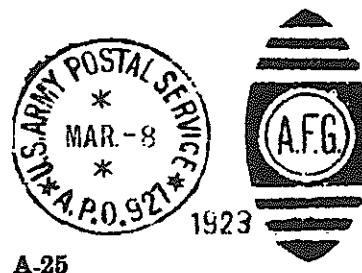
Type A-24 is the basic Type A-21 with APO number cut out
 and a new APO number inserted in place of the hour slug, the
 killer being further altered by cutting it into bars.

APC 746 (4th Division)
Early 746 FEB 17 1919(H.Artist) Many intermediate dates.
Late 746 MAR 9 1919(H.Artist)

Type A-25 is fully referred to
 on pages 21, 25, and 38 of volume
 2 of the War Cover Philatelist

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Machine cancellations will be
 listed in the next issue of the
 W.C.P. Has anyone a specimen of
 Type A-27 with the numbers 1 or 3?



A-25

 THE COVER HEADQUARTERS OF BOSTON fills want lists from
 ***** stampless cover days to
 the present. Drop us a line telling what you collect.
 Boylston Stamp Co., 132 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

THE WARS AND WAR COVERS OF LATIN AMERICA (Contd from p.49)

compelled to camp quietly overnight and wait for the agreed signal, a locomotive whistle at 8 a. m. Punctually to the minute the war started, like a sports event, with rickety machine guns, obsolete rifles and wicked machetes. The Rebels won.

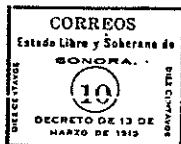
The writer once volunteered as a stretcher-bearer in a fracas, reported first to a school where a neutral foreign flag was flying, then to the Government forces, then to the Rebels, and, after having technically 'served' under three flags, and been wounded and hospitalized, was home--the same day. There were no A.P.O.'s, no censors, and no time out to send war covers to the folks.

Unfortunately for the war cover collector, just as the more obscure U.S. disturbances left no philatelic traces, most of the Latin-American left none, although there are hundreds of provisional stamps of Peru and Mexico, issued during the

Chilean occupation and the civil wars, available 'off paper' to stamp collectors. Not only were most of the troops illiterate but few were far enough from home to have to write, and the bitterness between fac-

CIVIL WAR ISSUES.

Sonora.



Mexico

flow of invasion and counter-invasion, made it dangerous to even possess soldiers' letters; so that the tendency was to destroy them even when civilian correspondence was preserved.

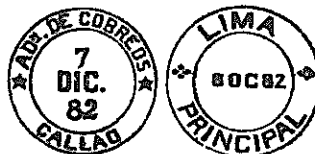
No country in Latin-America has had anything like the AEF postal system and even in the Chaco War, the most modern Latin-American campaign and the one engaging the largest number of troops, I am informed that there were no army post offices, both sides trucking mail back to regular post offices and no special markings were used. Bolivia seems to be the only western nation, besides the U.S., to have a war-time censorship of civilian mail.

French troops in Mexico, and Chilean troops in Peru, took their own stamps along with them, but since these soon became the only ones available in many places, even such covers are not necessarily soldiers' mail and these, just like U.S. covers before the Civil War, and Latin-American covers from all other wars, can only be identified positively as military covers if a designation appears on the face of the envelope or in the letter. The French used metal canceling stamps similar to those used in France, an individual number assigned to each post office surrounded by dots, on French stamps used in Mexico, and the Chileans in Peru used the same metal cancelers on Chilean stamps which the Peruvians had been using before the invasion.

So, if you have any kind of a war-time Latin-American cover you have something of a rarity, but if you have a genuine soldier's cover from any conflict before the Chaco war, prize it highly because there are probably fewer of them in existence than there have been wars down there.

OCCUPATION STAMPS.

Issued under Chilean Occupation. Chilean Stamps used in Lima, Callao, Paíta, Iquique, Pisagua, etc. With various cancellations including



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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ARTICLES ON A.E.F.

A bibliography of articles dealing with the A.E.F., prepared by Mr. H.M. Konwiser, appears in the January 6, 1940, issue of Stamps. It includes articles published since our January, 1938, issue; and it, used in conjunction with the indices appearing on this page, and in our January and September, 1938, issues, will give the reader practically a complete list of philatelic articles dealing with this subject. Please report any articles which may have been omitted from these lists to the Editor, as a complete record of all U.S. World War articles which have appeared in the philatelic press is desired, in addition, of course, to non-philatelic source material data.