

Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (War Cover Philatelist May 1939)

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AEF Postmark, Latest Use of

New Group A-10 Postmarks

THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication



Edited and Published
by

DEL F NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

Subscription Price: One Dollar



Vol. 2

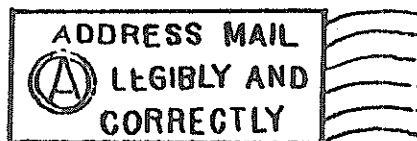
May, 1939

Whole No. 10

LATEST USE OF AN A.E.F. POSTMARK

In the January, 1939, issue we spoke of A.P.O. No. 927, Army of Occupation, closing on July 31, 1921, and illustrated an item used May 19, 1921, as the latest known use to an A.E.F. postmark.

This started something, and--in order of receipt of data-- Mr. S. W. McCune submitted another of the same type, used Dec. 6, 1921.



Shortly thereafter, Mr. Homer Artist submitted a Type A-57 postmark used May 9, 1922, incidentally used in connection with a hand-stamp return which includes a new "Soldier's Mail" marking--to be added to the check list in the March, 1938 W.C.P.

Return to:

Pvt. Henry Gerber

The Amar oc News
A. P. O. 927 * A. F. G.
Coblentz - Germany

Soldier's Mail

And, following that, Mr. M. Hertzberg sent the tracing of a Registered postmark used at A.P.O. 927, 5 Mrz. 1923. This is illustrated at the top of this page.

The "A.F.G." obviously indicates "American Forces in Germany," and brought to your Editor's mind a proof item from an original postmarking stamp which it was our good fortune to actually handle many years ago. This item, Figure S-22 on page 25 of this issue, is dated Mar. 8, 1923--three days after Mr. Hertzberg's Registered postmark. There is some question as to whether the postmark, S-22, was actually used on A.E.F. mail, and therefore it is not listed as a Type A postmark. If it can be proved that it was actually used, then it will be given the designation A-25. Who can report such a postmark actually used?

It will surprise World War cover collectors to know that a number of postmarking stamps were prepared towards the close of the war by the Post Office Department, and delivered to the War Department, but never used. Some day a check

(Continued to page 28)

 THE WAR COVER CLUB

New Members:

- 34 Correll, Elmer J., 260 North Street, Hamburg, Pa. (A.E.F)
 35 Jagger, E., 10 Kings Rd., Cheadle Hulme, Stockport,
 England. (British and A.E.F.)

- 0 -

The Annual Meeting was held on May 13th and 14th, at New York. Your Editor could not attend, and the following is a summary of the proceedings as reported:

The number of elective officers was increased to ten, a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six directors. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Milton B. Hunt; Vice-President, Hennen M. Sanford; Secretary, Maxwell Halpern; Treasurer, Wm. H. Montgomery; Directors - Miss Eva Gray, and Messrs. H. K. Robinson, Thomas Parks, M. Hertzberg, Eugene Carey, and Capt. Harry A. Brown. Editor for the Official Organ: Delf Norona.

The Secretary's report showed a balance of \$20.00.

The Editor's Report showed a deficit of \$39.40. \$15.00 was voted towards the deficit in publishing the W.C.P., and members are requested to donate one or more covers having a total value of 50c or more, to be sold at auction in the WCP the proceeds to be used towards publication of the official organ for the coming year. Write the Secretary concerning this. If enough material is received we shall have a club auction.

The President requests that members pay their 1939-40 dues to the Secretary promptly, Maxwell Halpern, 1351 Noble Ave., New York City. Dues are \$2.00, which includes a renewal of subscription to the official organ.

It was the sense of the meeting that Cleveland, Ohio, be selected for the 1940 annual meeting.

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THE HANDBOOK OF (U.S.) NAVAL POSTMARKS

The long-awaited second edition of this handbook and catalog, edited by our good friend Joseph M. Hale, has at last appeared.

Appropriately bound with Navy blue covers, it has 148 loose-leaf pages--to which addendas will be added in the future. The price: One Dollar, a bargain for a book of its character. There are numerous illustrations and one can readily catch onto the classification system adopted. Ships are listed alphabetically, with data as to class of vessel, dates of commission and decommissioning, known years of use of early postmarks (including the War period). Altogether a tremendous amount of valuable data is given. There are scores of listings of U.S. World War Naval postmarks, and it fully worth the dollar for the most complete and accurate list of war-time naval postmarks yet published. Ship postmarks only are listed--shore stations, censor marks, &c. will appear in a subsequent volume.

Your Editor knows that Mr. Hale is one of those painstaking and careful compilers, of whom there are only too few, and thoroughly familiar with his subject, and has no hesitancy in recommending this as a must book for war cover collectors. Our one criticism is that it is retailed barely over the printer's cost, of course away under actual cost, & such a book should have been sold for at least \$2.00. How-
 order immediately direct from Mr. Joseph

NEW GROUP A POSTMARKS

Since the type chart of Group A markings appeared a year ago, but four new types have been discovered. These are illustrated on page 25 of this issue. An extra copy of this sheet is being sent to members of the War Cover Club so that it may be clipped and the illustrations inserted in the proper place on your Group A type chart. Additional copies may be had for 10c; and for new readers of the War Cover Philatelist, copies of the Group A and D markings may be had for 25¢.

A few words of explanation are in order: The Type A-4 is the basic Type A-1 with killer bars replaced by a large 2 (evidently for APO 2, Paris.) Type A-34 is the Type A-33 with BORDEAUX removed. However, note Type A-33 has RECD, whereas Type A-34 has REC'D. The differences between the new Type A-66, and Types A-67 and 68 are obvious. A-76 was known to your Editor, but simply overlooked when the original Type chart was prepared. This item illustrated from the collection of Rev. H.K. Robinson. A-85 is the first emergency type so far known with the initials P.E.S.

There are other 'emergency' or 'provisional' markings which differ from those illustrated on the original Group A type chart, however, they have not been given separate type designations, for they already have characteristics in common with types already adopted. The original Group A type chart is arranged as follows -

A - With date (Types A-73 to A-85)

AA - With some portion of the inscription spelled out.

(Types A-73 to A-76)

A-73 U.S. Army / No.- (date)

A-75 U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE / No.- (date)

A-76 U.S. ARMY P.O. (date) / No.-

AB - Initials and/or figures only. (Types A-78 to A-85)

A-78 A.P.O.- / (date)

A-79 A P O / (number) / (date) (killer bars)

A-81 A.P.O. - (date in box) / (ornaments)

A-83 U.S.A.P.O. / (date) / (number) All in box

A-85 P.E.S. A.P.O.- / (date)

B - Without date (Types A-87 to A-92)

BA - With some portion of the inscription spelled out.

A-87 U.S. Army Postal Service No. -

BB - Initials and/or figures only (Types A-89 to A-92)

A-89 Figures only - black or colored

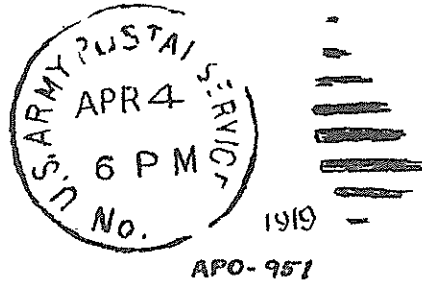
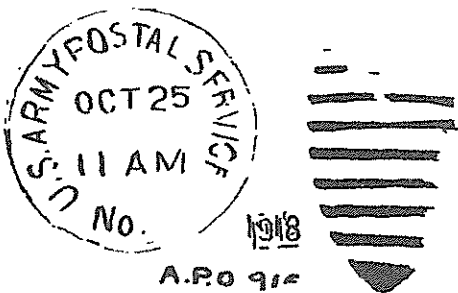
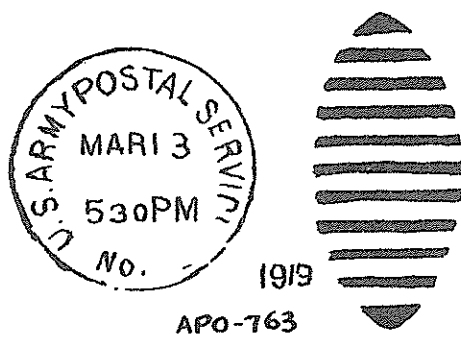
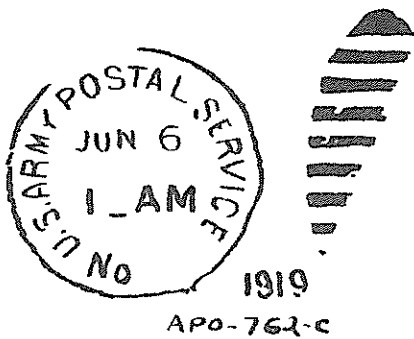
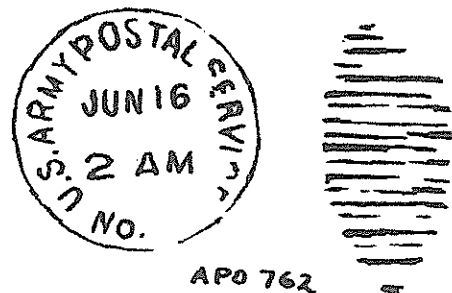
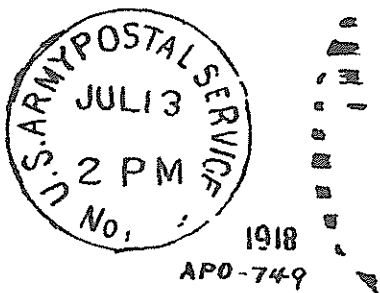
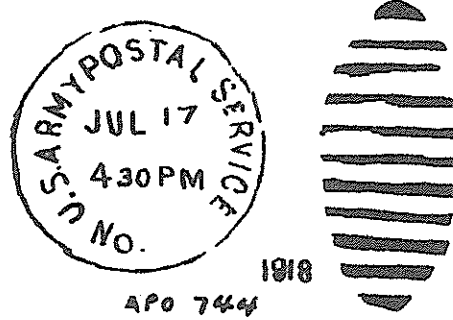
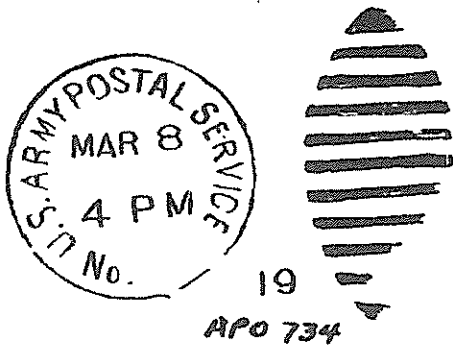
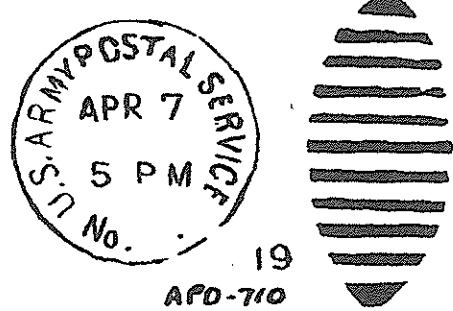
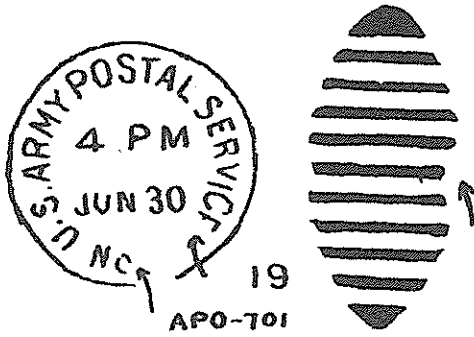
A-90 Figures only - white letters against black or colored background

A-92 A.P.O. -

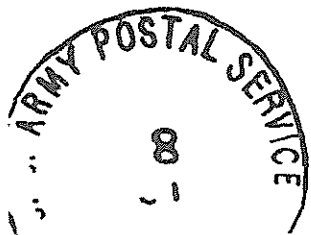
So that under Additional Illustrations, on page 25, there is no need to give new type designations for types A-78, A-81 A-89 and A-90.

However, note the illustrations S-21 to S-25, about which there is doubt as to their status. S-21 (which would classify as A-78) may be a British mark. S-22 is not known actually used. S-23 to 25 are on cards sent by the same party, two of which have no censor mark, and we hesitate to list type without seeing others from other correspondences. A-78 is from the collection of Eugene Carey.

Type A-10 Postmarks



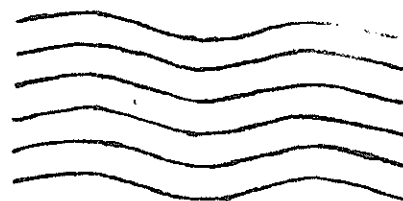
New Types



A-4

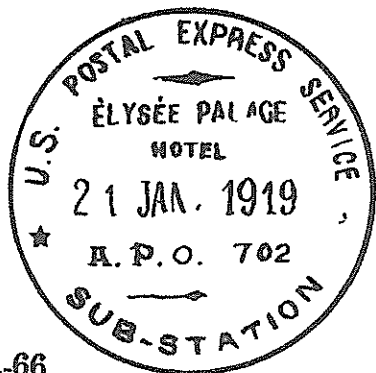


A-34



U.S. ARMY P O 10-C-17
No. 702

A-76



A-66

P.E.S. A.P.O, 701

MAY 29 1919

A-85

Additional illustrations -

A P O 2

7 8 1917

S-21

A.P.O. 701
26 MAI 1919

A-78

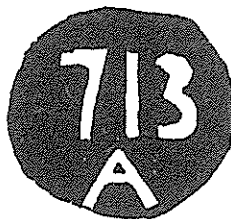
A.P.O. 761

NOV 12 1918

A-81

752

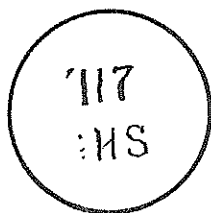
A-89



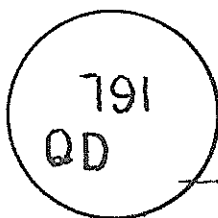
A-90



S-22



S-23



S-24



S-25

ARMY POST OFFICES OF THE A.E.F.
(Type A-10)

(Continued from page 18)

In listing and illustrating all Type A-10 postmarks so far identified as having been used at some given A.P.O., bear in mind that the chief differences between individual postmarks, as previously mentioned, consists in the spacing between individual letters. In the following list under Description no reference is made to this important feature:

APO 701 (St. Nazaire)

Description: o of No usually broken. Foot of second E of SERVICE broken. Break at bottom of circle, sometimes not as pronounced as illustrated. Break in killer bars at right.

Remarks: 11 covers seen (five separate correspondences), used from "5 29" (May 29) 1919, to Aug. 19, 1919. Those used in May and June have 4 PM before the date; those used in July and August have 4 PM after the date.

Several covers have the return address "APO 701," "APO 701-A," "St. Nazaire, in camp."

The latest known uses of regular type postmarks at APO 701 are: Handstamps Jan. 18, 1919 (Type A-52); Machine May 25, 1919 (Type A-29). Only provisional types (A-78 and A-85-- see illustrations on p. 25--and Type A-10) are known used after May 25, 1919. (APO 701 was not closed until Oct. 1919)

Identification Positive.

APO 710 (Second Division)

Description: Two distinct breaks in circle at bottom. A dot frequently appears between the breaks where the APO number was not completely removed. All have 5 PM.

Remarks: 8 covers seen (three separate correspondences), used from April 7 to April 19, 1919. On four covers the return address "APO 710" appears.

Type A-57 was also used at APO 710 in April, 1919, and it is possible this Type A-10 was used at a station or branch of the main post office while the Second Division was a part of the Army of Occupation.

Identification Positive.

APO 734 (32nd Division)

Description: Two distinct breaks in circle at bottom. A portion of the circle at the bottom bends outwards, as illustrated.

Remarks: One cover seen (Colln. Eugene Carey) used Mar. 8, 4 PM, 1919, with return address "APO 734." Letter addressed to Watersmeet, Mich. Other letters from the same correspondence in 1919 bear APO 734 postmarks (Types A-51 and A-57). The 32nd Division was organized from the National Guard of Michigan and Wisconsin. The latest known use of Type A-51 at APO 734 is Mar. 3, 1919, and the earliest of Type A-57 at APO 734 is Mar. 14, 1919, with this provisional Type A-10 used during the interim, March 8, 1919.

Identification Positive.

Description: Small breaks in circle.

Remarks: 4 covers seen (three from one correspondence), used from July 8 to 28, 1918. The writer of one letter informs the Editor that he was with the 28th Division at the time. APO 744 was established May 25, 1918, and the earliest known APO 744 regular postmark (A-13) is dated Aug. 14, 1918, indicating possibly these Type A-10s were used pending receipt of a regular postmark.

Identification Uncertain.

APO 749 (30th Division)

Description: Small break in circle and usually faint trace of an incompletely removed APO number.

Remarks: 7 covers seen (four separate correspondences), used from Jul. 14, 1918, to Aug. 15, 1918. All have 2 PM after the date, except one JUL 14 12 M. One cover has "APO 749." The 30th Division, organized from the Natl. Guard of Tennessee, &c., served entirely with the British. Significantly all 7 covers seen bear typical British Censor marks, and two are addressed to Tennessee. The earliest known APO 749 regular type postmark is dated Nov. 27, 1918 (Type A-41.)

Identification Positive.

APO 762 (Le Mans)

Description: Two (?) breaks in circle.

Remarks: 3 covers seen (two from one correspondence), May 27, June 11 and 16, 1919. All have 2 AM. Return addresses given as "Belgian Camp #1 APO 762," "Evac. Hosp. #22, Belgium Camp Le Mans." In one letter, "We leave for a seaport..." Le Mans was the "Am. Emb. Center."

Identification Positive.

APO 762-C (Le Mans)

Description: Bulge in bottom of circle.

Remarks: Three covers from separate correspondences, May 3 2 AM, May 21 and Jun 6, 1 AM, 1919; one with "Camp Hosp. 120 APO 762," another, "APO 762, Le Mans," another, "Forwarding Camp Le Mans APO 762-C." Inasmuch as this postmark is different from the Type A-10 used at APO 762 just mentioned, it is probable this particular A-10 was used at a station APO 672-C of the main army post office.

Identification Positive..

APO 763 (37th Division)

Description: Slight break under No. Trace of APO number

Remarks: One cover seen, Mar. 13, 1919, with "37th Division." The APO for the 37th Division was APO 763. The latest known APO 763 regular type postmark is Feb. 16, 1919. As APO 763 was discontinued March 13, 1919, (War Dept. records), the Type A-10 in question is probably a last day use.

Identification Uncertain.

WANTED: World War covers, especially Honor (Blue Cross), envelopes. Will buy or exchange. Eugene Carey, Iron River National Bank Bldg., Iron River, Mich.

APO 916 (86th Division)

Description: Large break at bottom of circle.

Remarks: 4 covers seen, Oct. 25 to Nov. 3, 1918, (from 3 separate correspondences). Three covers have 11 AM after the date, the fourth Oct. 28th has 6 PM. The letter in one gives the return address "APO 916." The censor marks are A-3301, A-3304 and A-3316, indicating they were individual censor marks from a group assigned to APO 916. The 86th Division came from Illinois. Three of the covers are addressed to Illinois, the fourth to Minnesota.

Identification Probable.

APO 951 (Luxemburg)

Description: Break in circle at bottom. Second E of SERVICE broken as indicated.

Remarks: Two postcards both from the same correspondence both April 4, 1919. One states "We are at Useldange, in Luxem. north of the city of Luxemburg," both are view cards of Diekirch (Luxemburg).

APO 951, however, was not established until Apr. 17, 1919, and these cards were used two weeks before that date! Also, another Type A-10 apparently the same as this one, is known used 6 PM Sep. 19, 1918!

No regular APO 951 postmark is known, and it may be that only this provisional Type A-10 was used at APO 951!

Identification Uncertain.

In addition, your Editor has eight other varieties of Type A-10 postmarks, none of which can be even tentatively identified.

Acknowledgments: The following for submitting Type A-10 covers: Eugene Carey, Hennen Sanford, H.G. Artist, Wm. Gross, J.M. Perkins, and Geo. A. Weiler.

- o -

Again, an S.O.S. - Please submit all your Type A-1 to A-24 covers for recording. Items must be seen before listing. Your Editor will pay express charges both ways if requested. Thanks!

- o -

LATEST USE OF AN A.E.F. POSTMARK

(Continued from page 21)

list of World War postmarks prepared for use but not used, will appear on these pages.

Now, to alibi for the misstatement to the effect that July 31, 1921, was the date of closing of the last APO of the A.E.F. - Check lists furnished by the Post Office and War Departments show numerous discrepancies in dates. The War Department list, published in 1919, of course does not mention the closing of APO 927, but the Post Office Department list, from which we took our information, gives July 31, 1921, as the date when APO 927 was closed.

Also, and as indicative of interest of our readers, when we do pull a boner it is immediately detected, Mr. Wm. Montgomery calls attention to an article by Wm. T. Kimball in Mekeels Weekly "The last APO to function was 927, closing in January, 1924." And, on examining old American Philatelist files, Joseph Euck, in the issue of June, 1935, mentions January 31, 1924, as the date of closing of the last APO.