

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (War Cover Philatelist Nov 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.

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### **List of Index Items for This Publication**

*AEF Siberia Stationery*

*AEF Siberia, Postmarks & Censor Marks of*

*Remarks on Prison Camps in E. Siberia Under American Control*

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# THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication

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Fig. 1



1918

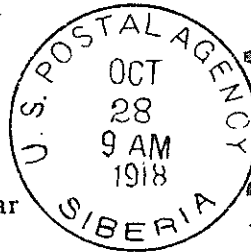


Fig. 2

Vol. 2

November, 1938

No. 7

## POSTMARKS AND CENSOR MARKS OF THE A.E.F. SIBERIA

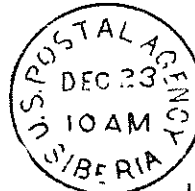
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According to a magazine article the first American unit, the 27th Infantry, arrived at Vladivostock August 16, 1918, followed by the 31st, both from Manila, and about the end of September some 4,000 men of the 8th Division was sent from Camp Fremont, Calif. There were between 9,000 and 10,000 American soldiers in all in Siberia. The last units left Siberia on April 1, 1920.

The following is a <sup>17</sup>revision of a check-list published by the writer in the Oct-Dec.1932 issues of Postal Markings.

### Fig. POSTMARKS

- 1 Early Oct. 2-18 (Editor) Late Oct. 7-18 (Editor) We do not know if the postmark Fig. 1 was used at Vladivostock or at the Agency at Shanghai.
- 2 Early Oct. 21-18 (W.K.Russell) Late Dec. 10-18 (Editor). All have the hour slug '9 AM'
- 3 Early Dec. 23-18 (Editor) Late Mar. 12-20 (A.E.Perry). All have the hour slug '10 AM'

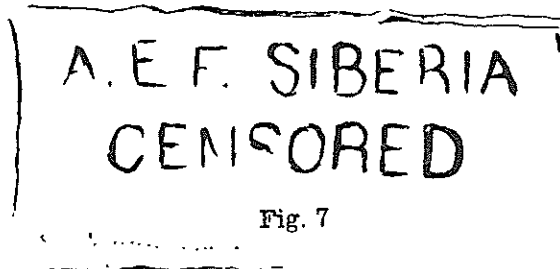
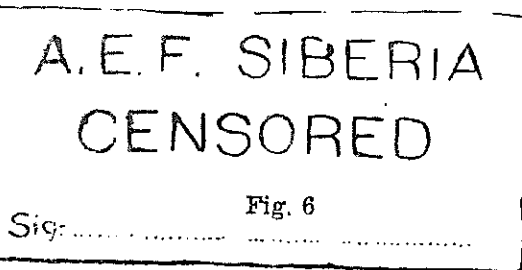
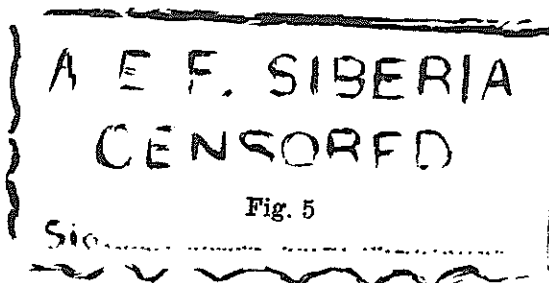
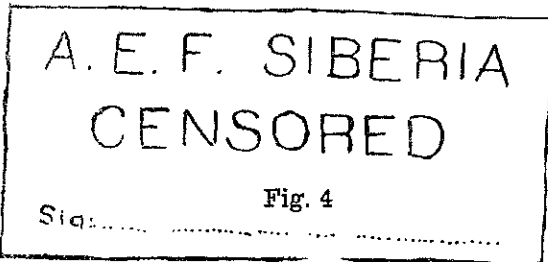


1918

Fig. 3



### REGIMENTAL CENSOR MARKS



- 4 to 7 Early Oct. 2-18 (Editor) Late Jan. 22-20 (J.T.Buckner)  
At least two censor stamps were used, in Fig. 4 the E of SIBERIA is to the right of E of CENSORED; in Fig. 6 it is slightly to the left of the E beneath it. Both the original marks Figs. 4 and 6 became battered, shown by #5 & 7.

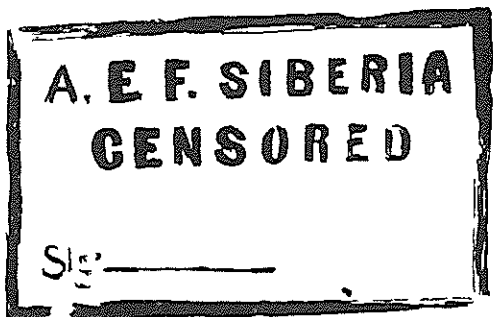


Fig. 8

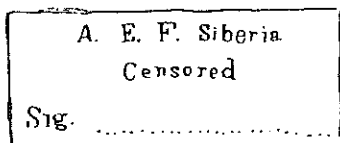


Fig. 9

A. E. F. SIBERIA  
CENSORED

Fig. 10

Sig.

- 3 Early Jun. 23-19 (Editor) Late Sep. 17-19 (H. Metzger);
- 9 Early Nov. 24-19 (A.E. Perry) Late Jan. 6-20 (A.E. Perry)
- Both in blue;
- 10 Only one seen. Cover addressed to New York with a 5c U.S. stamp canceled 'SAMBOR 18 1 21' (Russian or Czech pmk.!) (Colln. Wm.K. Russell) Who can explain this? The last units of the A.E.F. Siberia were withdrawn in April, 1920.

BASE CENSOR MARKS

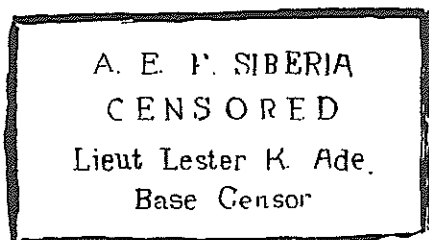


Fig. 11

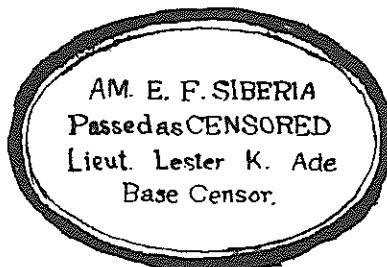


Fig. 12

A. E. F. SIBERIA  
CENSORED  
Lt. H. R. Par  
Par

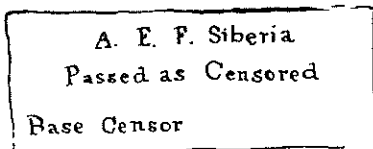
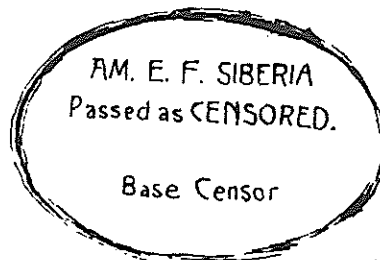


Fig. 13



15

14

- 11 Early Oct. 7-18 (Editor) Late Nov. 2-18 (Editor) Purple.
- 12 Early Mar. 25-19 (Editor) Only one seen.
- 13 Early Apr. 24-19 (H.V. Crowell) Purple.
- 14 Early Oct. 14-19 (Editor) Purple. Late Mar. 12-20 (A.E. Perry) Red. Also in Bluish Feb. 24-20.
- 15 Early Jun. 6-19 (Editor) Late Jun. 12-19 (Editor)

CENSOR LABELS

Two varieties of labels are known, used in resealing letters, one 'Opened by Censor-No.10' the other 'Opened-by-Censor.'

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. Again, PLEASE submit new early or late dates or use.

REMARKS ON THE PRISON CAMP IN EAST SIBERIA UNDER AMERICAN  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 CONTROL, 1919-20  
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(By F.J.Carter, Luscombe Terrace, Dawlish, Devon, England.)

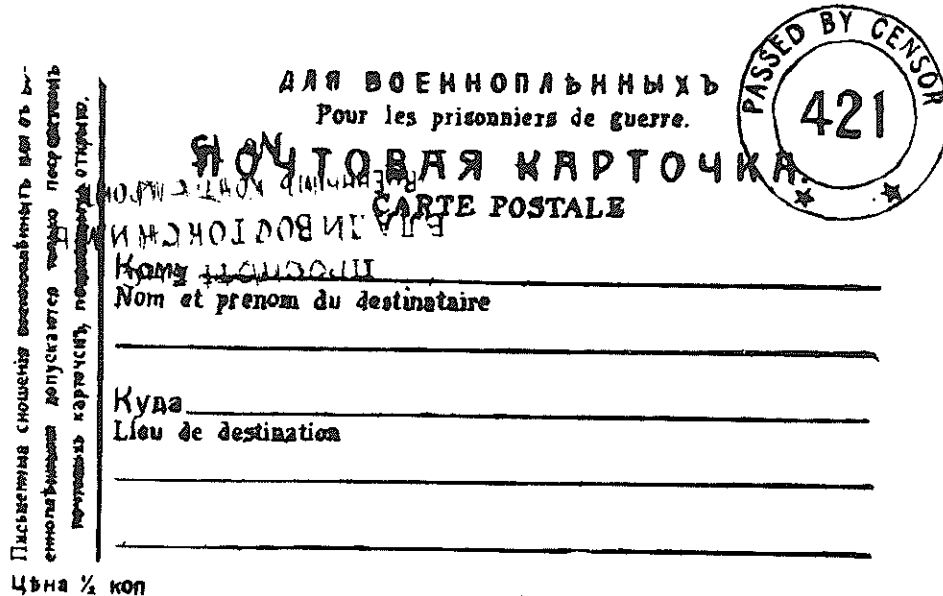
My authority for the existence of this camp is Miss Elsa Brandstrom's book Among Prisoners of War in Russia and Siberia.

The authoress was a prominent member of the Swedish Red Cross, and her book is the best which has appeared on this subject. On p. 261 she says, "In eastern Siberia one camp was taken over entirely by the Americans and two by the Japanese. Here the prisoners were extremely well treated and got plenty of everything to which they were entitled as prisoners of war."

There is philatelic evidence as to one of the Japanese camps, Perweja Riechka, in the existence of cards from there with Japanese censor marks.

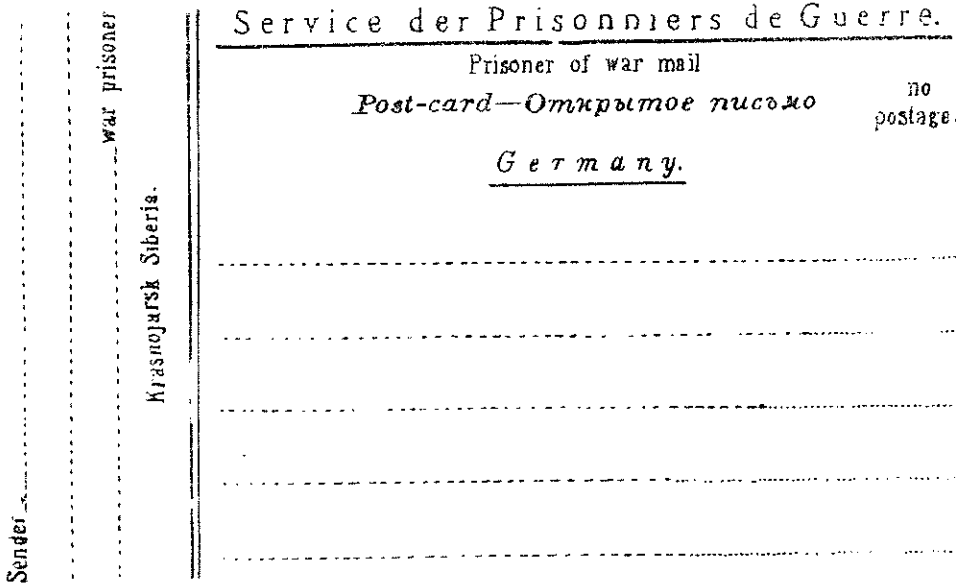
For the American camp there is less philatelic evidence, but there is evidence to shew that the Americans had control of the censoring of other camps.

The following cards shew American influence and censor control:



(1) Printed general P.O.W. card from Omsk camp dated 25 Jan.1919. Bears the Russian VLADIVOSTOK censor and the American censor No. 421.

(2) Printed special card from Krasnoyarak, dated 20-7-19. This card has only a Russian censor but contrary to the usual practice is printed in bad French, 'der' instead of 'des,' Russian and English. The wording 'Prisoner of War mail' is evidence of American influence, although this camp at the time was in control of the Czech Legion. (See illustration on next page.)



(3) Japanese field post card from Vladivostock camp addressed to Germany in English and forwarded through the Y.M.C.A. New York. Russian VLADIVOSTOK censor. Although this is a Japanese field card, I think it most likely came from the camp under American control, which was probably at or near Vladivostock.

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A.E.F. SIBERIA STATIONERY  
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Various types of imprints of a distinctive nature on AEF Siberia covers are shown below: (a) Official; (b) American Red Cross; and (c) Y.M.C.A.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
 HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,  
 SIBERIA.



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
 Commission to Siberia  
 CAMP SERVICE



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
 Commission to Siberia



White letters on black band



Triangle in red

Use was occasionally made by our men of Japanese envelopes some manufactured of 'rice paper' others of wood veneer. These Japanese envelopes are occasionally illustrated with hand-colored pictures of Japanese scenes, and make very attractive items for an A.E.F. collection.

Stamped Japanese letter sheets were also used by American soldiers, the stamps having no franking value, but they are nevertheless canceled with the regular A.E.F. Siberia postmarks.

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(Editorial and club announcements are crowded out of this issue, but will be included in the January, 1939, W.C.P.)