

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (War Cover Philatelist Oct 1943)

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**

*A War of 1812 Censored Cover*

*Handstamped Franks on US World War I Covers*

*A War of 1812 Censored Cover*

# THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WAR COVER CLUB

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Vol. 5 \*  
\* Whole No. 24 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Edited and Published  
by  
**DELF NORONA**  
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* October \*  
\* 1943 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Subscription Price: One Dollar

## A WAR OF 1812 CENSORED COVER

(From the Collection of Rev. Wm.H.Tower)

This cover from the well-known collection of our Vice-President bears the earliest known U.S. censored cover so far recorded.

The letter was written in Copenhagen Ju'20 1813 For the benefit of readers not familiar with stampless covers, the various regular post-marks are explained:

The letter, reaching the U.S. at Boston by ship, became a Ship letter and subject to 2c ship postage, the 2c to be paid to the master of the ship.

It was addressed to Sam. A. Law, Meredith, NY some 200 miles from Boston. The zone rate at that time for distances between 150 and 300 m. was 17c, and this 17c plus the 2c ship rate, or 19c, was marked in ink at the upper right corner of the cover.

Dr. Robt. F. Chambers jointly with your Editor published a check list of Boston postmarks in the August 1930 American Philatelist, from which it is noted that the SHIP marking was used from 1814 to 1825 and the townmark from 1813 to 1825, both in red.

On reference to our postal history library we find that Samuel A. Law was born in Connecticut and was "deputy postmaster" at Meredith, N.Y.

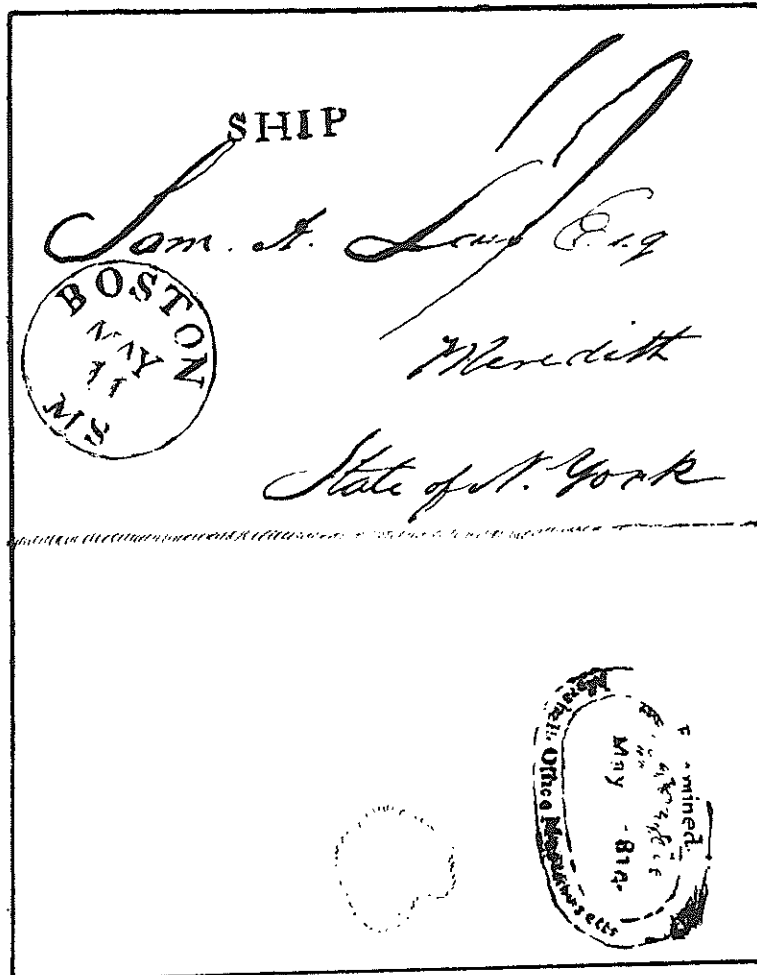
As to the war cover feature, the Double Oval marking on the back of the folded letter-sheet apparently reads "Examined ? -- May ? 1814-- Marshalls Office Massachusetts." This is in black and it is the earliest known U.S. censor-mark. On reference to the classification system outlined in the April 1943 issue, it will be seen that this should be given the designation Type RK-1.

We know nothing of the history of censoring during the War of 1812, and here is a field for interesting research. Who will undertake it?

-----  
This issue contains the following supplements (4 pages each) -

U.S. World War Type Chart, Group F markings;

U.S. Global War Type Chart (temporary), section 3.



THE WAR COVER CLUB  
\*\*\*\*\*

A supplement to the membership roster as it appeared in the July WCP will be published in our next issue, and it will include the names of old members who have paid up since July as well as names of new members.

Sales Department: Mr. Seymour has found it necessary to suspend operations of the Department due to pressure of war activities, and Mr. George M. Martin, 220 N. 35th Ave., Yakima, Wash., has been appointed, with the approval of the Directors, in his stead. Mr. Martin writes -  
"...In order that we may still continue to have a Sales Department, even though it will be somewhat curtailed, I have consented to do what I can temporarily to carry on.

"The Office of Censorship in Washington has requested that we restrict our sales activities to some extent in the interest of National security, and for that reason it is necessary to eliminate from our Sales Circuits military covers from our overseas bases and naval covers which bear the names of ships from which they originate. Other covers of this war and those of all other wars will continue to be handled in our circuits, and in order that the circuits may again be placed in circulation, I am requesting that those members who have suitable material forward the same immediately.

"It will naturally take some little time for the new Sales Manager to line up the circuits and get the material segregated, hence the request that members be patient if there is some delay."

Send in material to Mr. Martin as requested, but, please, no Overseas or Naval covers of the nature mentioned. Hold your duplicate covers of this nature for the duration.

Mr. Martin is doing a wonderful job in the listing of current U.S. war postmarks, another instalment of which appears as a supplement to this issue.

With the Compliments of Lieutenant Thos E. Gift: As long as the supply lasts there will be enclosed with this issue mailed to members of the Club a Buy-More-War-Bonds postcard distributed by the Army to enlisted personnel in the U.S. (Does any reader know of their use overseas?) These cards are being sent to members with the compliments of Lieut. Gift. He has been invalided and has been shifted around from one hospital to another, and he will be glad to hear from members while convalescing. His permanent home address is 1959 Haviland Ave., Bronx-60, N.Y. from whence letters will be forwarded.

On each of these cards presented by Lieut. Gift we have applied the

BACK THE BOYS IN THE TRENCHES

BUY A LIBERTY LOAN BOND

SECURE AT ANY BANK OR POST OFFICE

BUY A LIBERTY LOAN BOND

Available at any bank or post office

Liberty-Loan-Bond drive cachets of the World War, an article concerning which will appear here some day.

T/5

Getting back to the Buy-More-War-Bonds card, Delf Norona, jr., now stationed in California, sent one home with this message: "H. just passed some of these cards out this afternoon to the E.M. in the office. Its quite a coincidence; I met the fellow who posed for the picture on the other side at Camp Crowder last winter."

Next issue: Captain Morgan has contributed a check-list of Canadian military postmarks (1886-1943) which will be published in the Jan. issue.

What sort of material do you really want? Do you want the check-list of stations and branches in the U.S., as it appeared in the April issue, continued? We have an interesting postal-history story about the postal service inaugurated by General Braddock during his campaign in 1755. Would you like to see it published?

HANDSTAMPED FRANKS ON U.S. WORLD WAR COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

With the Group F type chart of the A.E.F. World War catalog, dealing with Franks, appearing as a supplement to this issue, comments are in order.

The use of Franks on Domestic mail of military and naval personnel, although permitted under postal regulations--the recipient paying the postage due, was seldom resorted to. Only two such franks are known, Types F-37 and F-65. However, they are fairly common on letters written by men about to go overseas at ports of embarkation, Types F-2, 4, 12, 21, 22, 47, 51-53, 57, and 77.

As to Overseas items, printed franks are the commonest and many attractive varieties exist. (See Ju'40 WCP). Manuscript franks, which are frequently not G.I., are also plentiful. A list of the wording of franks, both printed, handstamped, and manuscript, appears in the Oc'38 American Philatelist, to which we add the following manuscript items: "Soldiers Mail--Free Delivery," "Nurses Mail--On Active Service," "F.M." and "Soldiers Male".

The history of Franking has been discussed briefly by Hennen Sanford in the Oc'38 American Philatelist and by your editor in the Fe 5'38 issue of Stamps. Preliminary check-lists, now made obsolete with the appearance of the one below, appear in the Mr-Ap'38 WCP and the Mr'40 American Philatelist.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| F- 1 AEF France APO 7. Red. 1918  | F-47 USA NY or NJ Port of Embarka-<br>tion. Purple  |
| F- 2 USA Wash.D.C. Blue.  | F-51 USA Newport News,Va. Purple.<br>1918.  |
| F- 3 AEF Italy. Black. 1918   | F-52 USA Newport News,Va. Purple.<br>1918   |
| F- 4 USA Wash.D.C. Purple. 1918   | F-53 USA Newport News,Va. (?)1917(?)  |
| F- 8 Naval. Purple. This may be<br>a "personal" frank!  | F-57 USA NY or NJ Port of Embarka-<br>tion. Purple. 1918.   |
| F-11 AEF England. Red, Green.<br>1918. On envelopes with the<br>"King George Welcome" letter. | F-61 Marines. Black, Purple   |
| F-12 USA Wash.D.C. Blue. 1918   | F-65 USA Mil.Br.Chattanooga,Tenn.<br>Purple. 1918.  |
| F-16 AEF France. Blue and Purple<br>1917 and 1918   | F-71 AEF France APO 713. Black,Blue<br>Purple. 1918.  |
| F-18 AEF France APO 747. Blue.<br>1918.   | F-73 AEF France APO 713 & French p.o<br>Black,Purple. 1917.                                       |
| F-19 AEF. Blue. 1918. Letter<br>written on US Transport en<br>route.                          | F-77 USA NY or NJ Port of Embarka-<br>tion. Black. 1918. This is<br>a combined Type D and F.      |
| F-21 USA NY or NJ Port of Embarka-<br>tion. Purple and Black.<br>1917(?) 1918                 | F-81 AEF France, Paris. Purple.<br>1919. On Civilian mail (Dir.<br>LOOM) with US Base Cens.T.A30. |
| F-22 USA NY or NJ Port of Embarka-<br>tion. Purple and Black.<br>1917, 1918.                  | F-85 Naval USS Pittsburgh.Purpl.1919  |
| F-31 AEF England. Purple. 1918.   | F-86 Naval USS Cleveland.Black. 1919  |
| F-33 AEF. Purple. 1918. Some-<br>times without ON FOREIGN<br>SERVICE.                         | F-87 Naval USS Pueblo. Black. 1918  |
| F-37 USA Mil.Br.Douglas,Ariz.<br>Purple. 1917.  | F-89 Naval USS Pittsburgh. Purple<br>Blue. 1918   |
| F-38 AEF France. Black. 1918  | F-90 Naval USS Pittsburgh.Purpl.1917  |
| F-41 AEF France APO No.4. Purple.<br>1917   | F-93 AEF Italy. Black. 1919 'On Civ-<br>ilian mail (YMCA) handled by<br>the Italian p.o.          |
| F-43 AEF France APO No.3,709. Blue<br>1917-18 (See WCP Mr'40)                                 | F-97 Naval USS Cincinnati. 1918<br>Figs. 1 to 5. Used on personal mail<br>All used overseas.      |

With the possible exception of Type F-8, the franks listed on the preceding page were applied by some individual--possibly a company clerk, censor, chaplain, or officer--on the letters of others. Figures 1 to 5, however, were apparently used by the individual on his personal mail and are not given type designations.

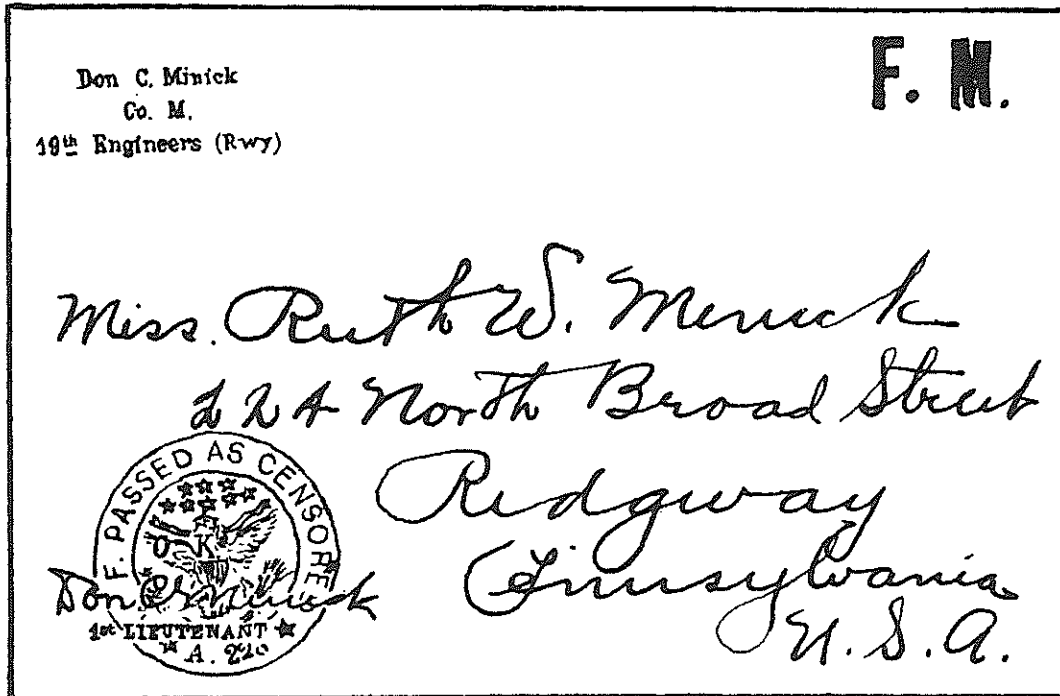


Figure 5 is illustrated here as it appears on cover. The F.M. is in the same shade of purple as the handstamped return address and the company censor-mark, obviously indicating that Lieut. Minick applied the F.M. on his own letter. Now, should it develop that he also used this same F.M. on mail of men in his company it will then be entitled to listing as a regular Type F and designated Type F-82.

We would like to see covers which readers may have of Figs. 1 to 5.

Acknowledgments are due to Miss Eva Gray and Jno. Buckalew, H.K. Robinson, V.A. Norman and Wm. Montgomery for submitting covers from which this type chart has been prepared, and apologies are tendered to members whose names are omitted through our failure to keep a detailed list of helpers.

- 0 -

FRANKS ON U.S. GLOBAL WAR COVERS  
\*\*\*\*\*



Handstamped franks are not G.I. on personal mail of members of the armed forces, inasmuch as regulations provide that the word FREE must be in the handwriting of the writer of a letter. However this regulation is occasion-

...V-



ally violated, in most instances by collectors. The label illustrated on the left (collector-made) has the word FREE in red, the balance in blue. The handstamp shown on the right, in black, was prepared by one of our own members, now in the Navy.

However, several navy mail clerks are taking advantage of the "slogan" blanks between killer bars of their regular ship cancel to insert the word FREE. A number are illustrated on page 6 of the Global War Type chart which accompanies this issue.