

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

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>

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AEF Blue Honor Envelopes

New Group A-10 Postmarks

Postmark A13, 15

THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication

Edited and Published
by

DELF NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

Subscription Price: One Dollar



Vol. 2

September, 1939

Whole No. 11

A.E.F. TYPE A-13 POSTMARKS

This is the conventional style of steel handstamp, then in current use in the United States, and is known used at over 40 APOs, from APO No. 701 to APO No. 747.

The year dates are sometimes omitted, indicated in the check-list in parenthesis (1919).

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

Earliest known use: DEC 19, 1917 (APO 707)

Latest known use: JUN ___ 1919 (APO 712)



APO 701 (St. Nazaire)

Early FEB 17 8 PM 1918

Late OCT 29 8 PM 1918 (R.Safarid)

Many intermediate dates. All have 8 PM and a nick at the left of the barrel, as illustrated.



APO 702 (Paris)

Early DEC 21 430 PM 1917

Many intermediate dates.

Late AUG 5 430 PM 1918 (E.Carey)

All have 430 PM.

APO 703 (Gondrecourt - 1st Army Corps School)

Early MAR 11 8 AM 1918

Many intermediate dates.

Late APR 26 7 PM(1919)(V.Todd)

All used from MAY 3, 1918, have 7 PM.

APO 704 (le Valdahon)

Early MAR 23 6 AM 1918 (E.Carey)

Many intermediate dates.

Late APR 9 1 PM(1919)

Year date omitted from Mar. 31, 1919.

APO 705 (Bordeaux)

Early Jan 19 ? 1918

Several intermediate dates.

Late JUL 24 - 1918

All Feb 10 to May 26 have 5 PM.

(Continued to p. 31)

The labels illustrated at the top of this page are known used as stickers on A.E.F. covers. The one with an Indian Head, the insignia of the Second Division, was frequently placed at the upper right corner of the envelope and the postmark, usually APO 710, ties it to cover, as though it was a postage stamp. The 9th Aero Sqdn label is known used on the back of covers used in May, 1919.

 WAR COVER CLUB EXHIBIT

The officers of the Club are working on the plan for circulating the Club Exhibit, mentioned in the January issue, among local stamp clubs. In the absence of volunteers, your Editor has finally decided to take on the job of giving the collection the necessary publicity and sending it to local clubs. But aid must come from members. Send the Editor five or six of your most interesting story-telling duplicates, as well as photostats of some of your rarities. We want not only A.E.F. but War covers of all countries and all wars. In sending out the collection for exhibition, members will, of course, receive first consideration.

Please send in your items right away, so the collection will be ready for circulation in time for announcement in our Publicity Issue.

PUBLICITY ISSUE

Our greatest weakness is that of having but a small circulation and little advertising. In an attempt to increase circulation, the next issue will be a Publicity Issue. 1,000 extra copies will be printed and given as wide a circulation as possible, copies going to all local stamp clubs, extra copies to all readers for distribution among prospective subscribers and members, and announcement made in stamp magazines generally.

The contents will consist of 'reader interest' articles, rather than technical check lists. Projected articles are: The Earliest U.S. War Cover; British Censor Marks of the World War; Restoration of Postal Service in the South (Civil War); Spanish-American War Covers; Scope of a War Cover Collection; and the like.

It will cost over \$30 to finance this special issue, and advertisements will be accepted at the rate of \$2.50 for a four-line ad. With the wide circulation--a word to the Wise is Sufficient!

DONATION CLUB AUCTION

As mentioned in the last issue, at the annual meeting, it was voted that members be requested to donate material for auction, the proceeds to go towards defraying the expense of publishing the W.C.P. To date only two members have responded. These lots are being placed for sale in Arnold's Postal History Auctions, and we invite your attention to the ad on page 35.

- o -

A complete set of all back issues of the War Cover Philatelist may be had for \$1.00. They will be useful for clipping.

- o -

The detailed check-list of Type A-13 postmarks in this issue has been compiled as the result of years of work, in which every postmark seen has been faithfully recorded. In addition to recording the hour of use, we are keeping notes of censor markings on individual covers. So far, not enough members have responded to repeated calls for help. What is the reason? Are you interested in work of this sort?

A.E.F. TYPE A-13 POSTMARKS
(Continued from p. 29.)

- APO 706 (Chaumont)
Early JAN ? 530 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late NOV 29 6 PM 1918 All Feb. ? to Aug 2 have 430 PM.
- APO 707 (Mailly)
Early DEC 19 7 PM 1917 Several intermediate dates.
Late JUL 9 7 PM 1918 All have 7 PM.
 There is a slight dent in the left side of the circle opposite PO of POSTAL.
- APO 708 (Nevers, Nièvre)
Early JAN 13 6 PM 1918 Several intermediate dates.
Late NOV 29 6 PM 1918
 Do not confuse with 703.
- APO 709 (26th Division, Yankee)
Early 4 PM DEC 23 1917 Several intermediate dates.
Late JUL 5 430 PM 1918
 4 PM preceding date used until Feb 1; 2 PM after date from Mar 29 to May 1. (E.Carey)
- APO 710 (2nd Division)
Early Dec 22 1917*(R.Safarid) Many intermediate dates.
Late 6 PM MAR 4 1919 4 PM used to May 7, 1918.
- APO 711 (Coetquidan, Morbihan)
Early APR 9 ? 1918 2 intermediate dates seen.
Late JUL 10 ? 1918
- APO 712 (Is-sur-Tille, Cote d'Or)
Early JUN 11 5 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late JUN ? 5 PM 1919 All have 5 PM.
- APO 713 (Gievres, Loir-et-Cher)
Early JAN 31 530 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late Jul 30 ? 1918*(Safarid)
 7 PM used from Mar 15. Dent in the circle opposite ST of POSTAL.
- APO 714 (Langres, Haute-Marne. Army Schools)
Early JAN 8 530 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late SEP 25 530 PM 1918 All have 530 PM.
- APO 715 (42nd Division, Rainbow)
Early FEB 8 5 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late AUG 10 530 PM 1918 Various hour slugs used.
- APO 716 (Brest, Finistere. Base Sec. No. 5 S.O.S.)
Early FEB 20 - 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late AUG 22 - 1918 Hour slug always omitted.
See - Type A-15.
- APO 717 (Tours, Indre-et-Loire, Hdqrs. S.O.S.)
Early FEB 18 6 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late AUG 9 6 PM 1918 All have 6 PM.

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- AP0 718 (Saumur, Maine-et-Loire (Villebernier)
Early MAR 4 3 PM 1918 Several intermediate dates.
Late DEC 24 5 PM 1918 5 PM from Aug 19.
- AP0 719 (Haussimont, Marne)
Early MAR 16 6 PM 1918 Several intermediate dates.
Late JUL 2 6 PM 1918 All have 6 PM.
- AP0 720 (Bourbonne-les-Bains, Haute-Marne)
Early MAY 15 8 AM 1919 The only one seen.
- AP0 721 (Dijon, Cote d'Or)
Early Feb 2 ? 1918 1 intermediate date.
Late Jul 27 ? 1918
- AP0 722 (la Courtine, Creuse)
Early JAN 15 4 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late AUG 15 4 PM 1918 All have 4 PM.
- AP0 723 (Clermont-Ferrand, Puy-de-dome)
Early FEB 13 5 PM 1918 Several intermediate dates.
Late 5 PM JUL 26(1918)(E.Carey)
5 PM precedes the month from Jun 15.
- AP0 724 (Issodun, Indre)
Early APR 15 5 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late JUL 27 5 PM 1918 All have 5 PM.
- AP0 725 (Saint Maixent, Deux-Sevres)
Early FEB 6 5 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late AUG 21 5 PM 1918 All have 5 PM.
Break in inner circle of barrel to left of '725.'
- AP0 726 (Blois, Loir-et-Cher)
Early JUN 22 3 PM 1918 (S.McCune) Both have 3 PM.
Late AUG 16 3 PM 1918
- AP0 727 (41st Division, St. Aignan, Loir-et-Cher, Depot)
Early Jun 22 ? 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late AUG 22 5 PM 1918 All have 5 PM.
- AP0 728 (Army Artillery Hdqrs. 1st Army)
Early Sep 27 ? 1918 Several intermediate dates.
Late JAN 30 1 PM 1919(E.Carey)
- AP0 729 (1st Division)
Early MAY 7 9 AM 1918 (E.Carey) 1 intermediate date.
Late Jul 4 ? 1918
- AP0 730 (Chatillon-sur-Seine, Cote d'Or)
Early JUL ? ? 1918
Late Aug 23 ? 1918* (R.Safarid)
- AP0 731 (Neufchateau, Vosges)
Early 8 MAY 5 PM 1918 Many intermediate dates.
Late MAY 1 5 PM 1919 All have 5 PM.
- AP0 732 (Vittel, Vosges)
Early JUL 8 6 PM 1918 Only one seen.
(Contd to p.39)

THE BLUE 'HONOR' ENVELOPE

By Milton B. Hunt - Southport, Conn.

The so-called 'Honor Envelope' or 'Blue Envelope' with its blue cross lines dividing its face into four parts was used by the A.E.F. to give the soldier an opportunity to write matters of a personal nature which might be embarrassing if censored by his own officers. The sender signed his name in the lower left corner, agreeing to certain things and the letter was not censored until it reached the Base. The British had used a similar green envelope, and the light green envelope is familiar to collectors of A.E.F. material as being used by members of the A.E.F. brigaded with the British.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Blue Envelope Authorized by Paragraph 10, G.O. No. 13.

Must not be used for money or valuables. Cannot be registered. Not to be censored regimentally but liable to censorship at the Base.

SOLDIER'S LETTER.

More than one letter may be sent in this envelope. In this case, it should be addressed, "Base Censor."

I certify that the enclosed letter or letters refer to personal or family matters only, and that they contain no reference to military or other matters forbidden by censorship regulations.

Form with fields for Name, Rank, and Company. Includes a circular stamp with a figure and the word 'CENSOR'. Handwritten signature 'M.B. Hunt' is present.

Address only.

Mrs L. H. Whelden
646 Main St.
Westbrook Maine
W.S.A.

Blue Envelope - Type A-1

Among those who have made a study of varieties of these blue envelopes the varieties in printing have proved interesting. Attempts to classify these envelopes have proven difficult owing to many shades of paper used and the styles of type seen. Color of paper ranges through ivory, cream, yellowish and brown. Type varies in size, heaviness and style. For the purpose of simplifying the classification of types in this attempt to catalogue them, the color of paper and styles of type are disregarded, except where italics are used (indicated in the check-list below - Rank.) The types A to H are based on the last words of the lines in the text in the upper and lower left and the upper right corners made by the cross bars.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G.O. No. 13.

A-1 **SOLDIER'S LETTER.**

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G.O. No. 13

A-2 **SOLDIER'S LETTER.**

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 13

A-3 **SOLDIER'S LETTER.**

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G.O. No. 13

B **SOLDIER'S LETTER.**

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 13

C **SOLDIER'S LETTER**

PRISONERS-OF-WAR COVERS: Extremely interesting historically. All with prison handstamp markings: Letter to Boer War Prisoner \$1.25; Postcard from Austrian prisoner in Siberia (World War) \$1.00. Write for free list of special cover items. E.N. SAMPSON, 420 Allyn-dale Drive, Stratford, Conn.

D SOLDIER'S LETTER.

E-1 SOLDIER'S LETTER.

E-2 SOLDIER'S LETTER.

F SOLDIER'S LETTER.

G SOLDIER'S LETTER.

H SOLDIER'S LETTER.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 13

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G.O. No. 13

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 12

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 13

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 13

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Blue Envelope Authorized by
Paragraph 10, G. O. No. 13.

A.E.F. and other World War covers are offered regularly in ARNOLD'S POSTAL HISTORY AUCTIONS. Many A.E.F. lots in the current auction, described by the War Cover Club Classification system. Readers of the War Cover Phil. should be on our mailing list. J.R.ARNOLD, Box 36, Metuchen, N.J.

The classification follows -

Type A *****	Type B *****	Type C *****	Type D *****	Type E *****	Type F *****	Type G *****	Type H *****
Left side of envelope -							
valu- to to Base.	valu- to to Base.	valu- to to Base.	valu- to liable Base.	valu- be cen- Base.	valu- be cen- Base.	valu- be censor- Base.	or stered. but Base.
or matters ference rbidden ations.	or matters ference rbidden ations.	or mat- no matters ations.	letter family contain other sorship ations.	or matters ference by ations.	or matters ference by ations.	letters and or regu- ations.	letter family no matters ations.
(Name) Rank signed: Rank 116.	(Name) Rank signed: Rank 116b.	(Name) Rank signed: Rank	(Name) Rank signed: Rank 116	(Name) <u>Rank</u> SIGNED; <u>Rank</u>	(Name) Rank signed: Rank 116.	(Name) <u>Rank</u> SIGNED: <u>Rank</u> 116.	(Name) Rank signed: Rank 1 16.
Right side of envelope -							
In nsor."	In nsor."	In nsor."	velope. nsor."	velope. nsor."	In nsor."	velope. nsor."	velope. nsor."

Other types may be found and will be added by announcement in the War Cover Philatelist. Help in collecting and arranging these types has been given by Eugene Carey and the Editor.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES CONCERNING THE 'BLUE HONOR' ENVELOPE

By the Editor

In addition to classifying the various settings by the last words of each line as above (Types A to H), it will be observed from the actual sized illustrations on pages 34 and 35, that the first three lines of the heading vary quite considerably in some cases. Note carefully the over-all length of AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES and SOLDIER'S MAIL, the presence or absence of periods after FORCES and 13, the style of the letter 'g' in 'Paragraph,' and so on.

By further classifying the types according to the three lines of the heading, we find three settings of Type A and two settings of Type E -

Type A-1:

Periods after 'FORCES' and '13.' Long dash under SOLDIER'S LETTER. G of 'Paragraph' thus - g. G.O. close together. Always on white or cream paper.

There were evidently two printings of Type A-1, as there are slight variations in the spacing between certain letters in the reading matter. While obvious to the eye, these are too difficult to describe or illustrate.

Type A-2:

No periods after FORCES or '13.' No dash under SOLDIER'S LETTER. G of 'Paragraph' thus - g. G.O. close together.

Type A-2:

No periods after FORCES or '13.' No dash under SOLDIER'S LETTER. G of 'Paragraph' thus - g. G.O. close together.

On buff paper similar to that used for Y.M.C.A. envelopes.

Type A-3:

Same as Type A-2, except that G.O. are wider apart, and on brown paper with diagonally laid lines.

Type E-1:

A, E, and F of AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES are larger than the balance of the letters of those words. "Blue Envelope Authorized by" is 39 mm. long.

Type E-2:

All the letters of AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES are of the same size. "Blue Envelope Authorized by" is 47 mm. long.

A tabulation of 'Honor' envelopes in the collections of Messrs. Carey, Hunt, and the Editor, indicate the relative scarcity of the various types and sub-types as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number Seen</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number Seen</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number Seen</u>
A-1	9	C	2	F	17
A-2	1	D	2	G	2
A-3	2	E-1	3	H	3
B	1	E-2	14	Total	<u>56</u>

Paragraph 10 of General Orders No. 13, which authorized these Blue Envelopes, reads:

"10 BLUE ENVELOPES:

"In order that men may forward personal or family letters without the necessity of having them read by officers known to them personally, such letters may be enclosed in the authorized "Blue Envelope" and sent directly to the Base Censor through U.S. Army Postal Service.

"In order to have letters forwarded in Blue Envelopes the following requirements must be complied with:

"(a) Only the authorized envelope supplied to organizations at the rate of one per man per week may be used. Blue Envelopes will be issued by the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F.

"(b) The certificate given on the outside of the envelope to the effect that the letters enclosed relate to personal or family matters only and do not refer to military subjects must be duly signed by the writer. If this certificate is not signed, the letter is subject to delay, destruction, or other action in the discretion of the Base Censor.

"(c) More than one letter may be forwarded in one Blue Envelope, but all the letters so forwarded must be from the person who signs the certificate referred to in (b). The practice of enclosing letters from more than one writer is forbidden.

"(d) Under existing postal regulations to avoid prepayment of postage all letters must be marked "Soldier's Letter" or "Marine's Letter" and countersigned by an officer before being placed in the Blue Envelope, but in this case the officer will sign the letter without reading it. If postage is prepaid, no officer's signature is required for

letters forwarded in Blue Envelopes.

"(e) Blue Envelopes for the use of French personnel attached to the American Expeditionary Forces will be issued to the senior French officer with each division. They will be stamped with a special stamp and are to be used only by those to whom they are issued. Their use will be subject to the same regulations as those issued to American troops. Letters in these envelopes must be posted in United States Army Post Offices.

"(f) Blue Envelopes cannot be registered, and should not contain money or articles of value.

"(g) Newspaper correspondents duly accredited to the American Expeditionary Forces are entitled to the use of Blue Envelopes in the same manner as American troops. Civilians authorized to accompany the army will be given Blue Envelopes at the direction of commanding officers concerned."

Since this order was issued under date of July 13, 1917, Blue Envelopes should exist used in 1917. So far, the earliest known use is FEB 6, 1918, (Blue Envelope Type H) used at APO 707. (Colln. Editor) Who has an earlier use?

Also, who has Blue Envelopes bearing postage stamps, used as provided by sec. (d), or by French officers under sec.(e)?

As they were not to be censored regimentally there was no need for a regimental censor stamp (the common circular type) still a fair percentage of Blue Envelopes do contain the circular type, and many will also be found with the regular Base Censor stamp.

A 'home made' Honor envelope is illustrated on page 39, but such an item is of no special significance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS are due Messrs. Eugene Carey and Milton Hunt for submitting covers from their collections.

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A NEW TYPE 'A' POSTMARK

In our last issue, on page 25, we illustrated as Fig.S22 a postmark, the actual postmarking stamp being still in existence, but which had never been seen used. (See page 21.) After copy for that issue of the W.C.P. had been prepared and was in the hands of the printer, a letter came from a non-War Cover collector, Richard Walton, "Enclosed a cover bearing a postmark of the A.F.G. and A.P.O. 927. If it finds a place please retain with my compliments." A-25

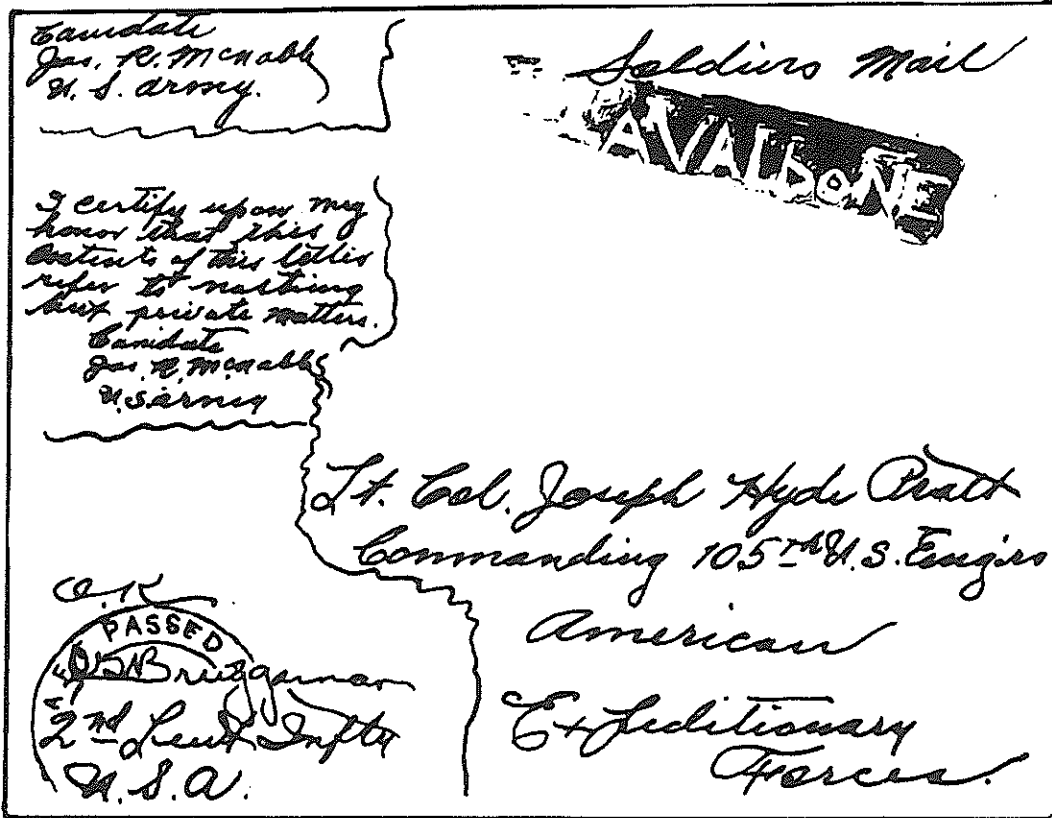
The cover bears the same postmark, used to cancel a 2c U.S stamp, mailed, however, not by a soldier but by "Mrs.A.H.B. -- Street, Colbenz, Germany." Month JAN 10, but unfortunately the year is illegible. So this may now definitely be called a Type A postmark, Type A-25.

Needless to say the cover does 'find a place' in our collection. It is queer how such things happen--after knowing of the possible existence of a certain postmark to have it turn up the day after copy went to the printer and before publication of the magazine, this after looking for the item for some eight years! Thanks again, Mr. Walton.



A NEW TYPE 'A' POSTMARK - LA VALBONNE (APO 928) ?

Rev. H. K. Robinson, who has always been ready to help by submitting new A.E.F. covers for recordation, submits the unusual cover illustrated -



The postmark(?) is rather lightly struck, and the illustration really does not do it justice. The significant point is that the color of the postmark and the illegible censor mark are both of the same shade of purple, and indicates that they were both applied at the same time.

APO was the post office at La Valbonne, established Nov. 18, 1918, and closed Feb. 14, 1919, according to the War Department list. Our only regular APO postmark at 928 is a Type A-55, dated Dec. 26(?) 1918. We believe it should be designated as a new Type A. What do you say?

We will be glad to illustrate unusual covers like this, so send yours along.

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A.E.F. TYPE A-13 POSTMARKS

(Continued from p.32)

APO 733 (Angers, Maine-et-Loire)		
Early	JUL 1 5 PM 1918	Many intermediate dates.
Late	FEB 19 5 PM 1919	All have 5 PM.
APO 734 (32nd Division)		
Early	JUN 10 5 PM 1918	Several intermediate dates.
Late	Aug 20 ? 1918	All have 5 PM.
APO 735 (la Rochelle, Charente-Inferieure)		
Early	MAY 9 6 PM (1918)	1 intermediate date.
Late	JUL 30 6 PM 1918	All have 6 PM.

APO 739 (77th Division, Liberty)
Early JUN ? 3 PM 1918 (W.Montgomery) Several intermediate
Late FEB 7 5 PM 1919 (E.Carey) dates.

APO 741 (Mehun, Cher)
Early 6 PM JUL 4 1918 1 intermediate date.
Late AUG 25 6 PM 1918 All have 6 PM.

APO 742 (82nd Division)
Early JUN 27 6 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late 1 PM MAR 24 1919

APO 743 (35th Division)
Early Jun ? 1918 (S.Ray) (See Type A15) The only one seen.

APO 744 (28th Division)
Early AUG 14 4 PM 1918 2 intermediate dates.
Late AUG 27 4 PM 1918 (Wm.Cross) All have 4 PM.

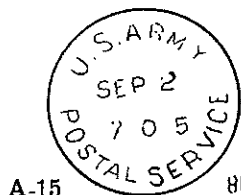
APO 745 (5th Division)
Early JUN 23 5 PM 1918 (S.McCune) Several intermediate
Late SEP 5 4 PM 1918 (M.Hunt and S.Carey) dates.

APO 746 (4th Division)
Early JUL 8 5 PM 1918 Several intermediate dates.
Late SEP 7 830 AM 1918 830 AM from Aug. 27, 1918.

APO 747 (Sercy, Meuse)
Early Oct 31 ? 1918 1 intermediate date.
Late JUL 5 7 PM 1919 All have 7 PM.

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

- o -
 A.E.F TYPE A-15 POSTMARKS



A-15



8161

This is the basic Type A-13 from which the APO number in the killer has been removed, and a new APO number placed in the circle.



1918



Known used as follows:

APO 705 (Bordeaux)
Early JUL 1 1918 (H.Artist) Many intermediate dates.
Late FEB 20 1919

It will be noted from the illustration that the APO 743 in the killer was not completely removed. See APO 743 in the Type A-13 check-list.

APO 716 (Brest)
Early SEP 6 1918 (S.McCune) The only one seen.
 There is some question as to whether this is a Type A-15 postmark or not. From the check list of Type A-13 postmarks it will be seen APO 716 never included the hour. From the imperfectly struck specimen illustrated, it may be that no attempt was made to remove the 716 from the killer, but an additional 716 was inserted in the circle for no particular purpose.