

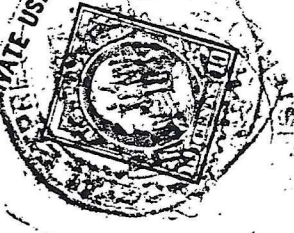
On 21 July 1917 the French government ordered that American soldiers' mail was to be accepted free of charge by civilian and military post offices, if endorsed "FM" (Franchise Militaire). "Soldier's mail" seems to have been acceptable as well.

Wartime  
Postal History

Rates  
Intra-AEF Mail

Regular mail was carried free of postage if sent via an APO. Registered personal mail is not recorded. Registered official mail is recorded both with and without payment of the 10¢ registry fee.

135  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300.



REGISTERED  
No. 25

Commanding Officer,  
Base Hospital #6,  
American E.F., APO 705, FRANCE.

Div. OSO,  
APO 717.

WAR DEPARTMENT.  
Finance & Accounting  
Med Dept., American E.F.,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

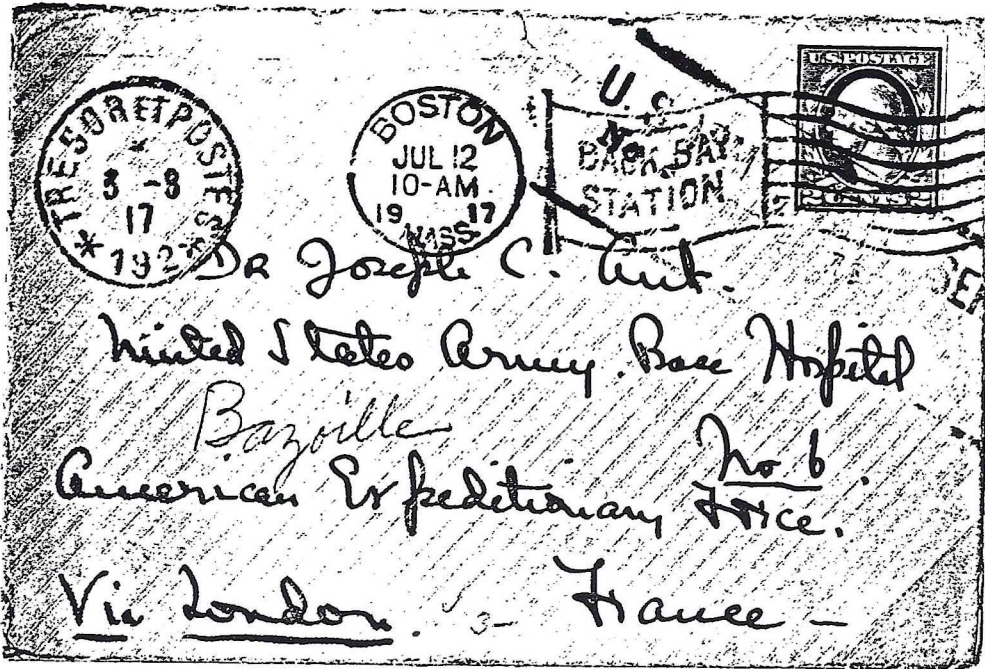
Forwarded to Addressee  
c/o *Smallie Newton*  
1835 - 7th St  
A.S.F. France  
Pt. W. *Newton*  
Co. A. 1st U.S. Inf.  
A.S.F.  
~~Paris, France~~  
B. J. *Steady*  
95 in 1949



DIRECTORY  
GENERAL DIR  
1949  
STOP  
A. E. F.



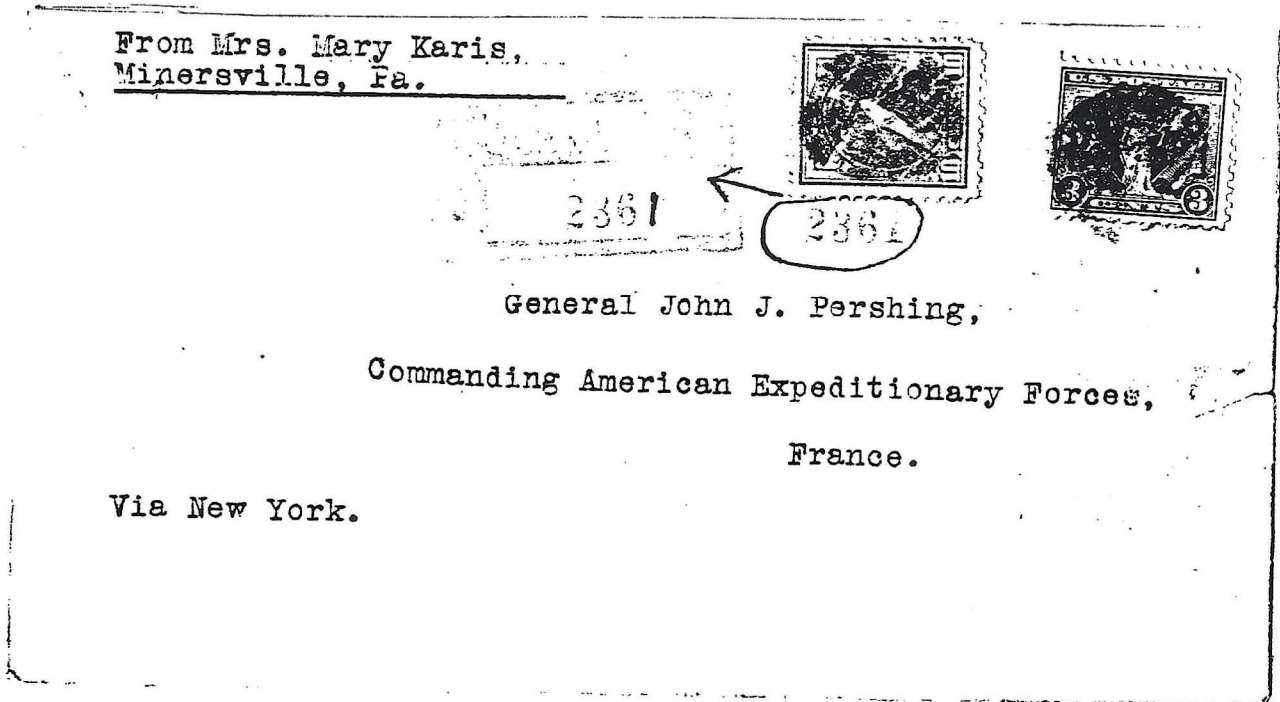




A very early cover to the AEF, received at APO 3 (Gondrecourt, 1st Div. School) 1 August 1917.



Backstamp

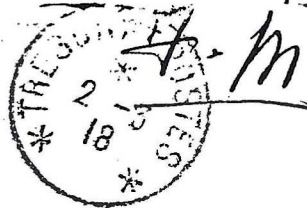


Incoming mail from the U.S. had to be paid at domestic rates: 3c per ounce for letters between 2 November 1917 and 30 June 1919, 2c before and after that period. Registry service was available, though currency and other valuables could not be sent by registered mail.

**R** LONDON, E.C. 92  
No. 109



Lieut. Colonel W. L. Babcock M.C.F.A.  
Base Hospital No. 6.



Army  
detachment Force  
France

Lieut. Edward M. Hodges  
Hopital américain



Mr

San Domingo  
Domenican  
Rep.

Mario Morera,

On Active service with A. E. F.

M.D. 1ST. Corps Replacement Battalion, A.E.F.  
American Expeditionary Forces, or

Base Hospital No. 6 A.E.F. A.P.O. 705.-

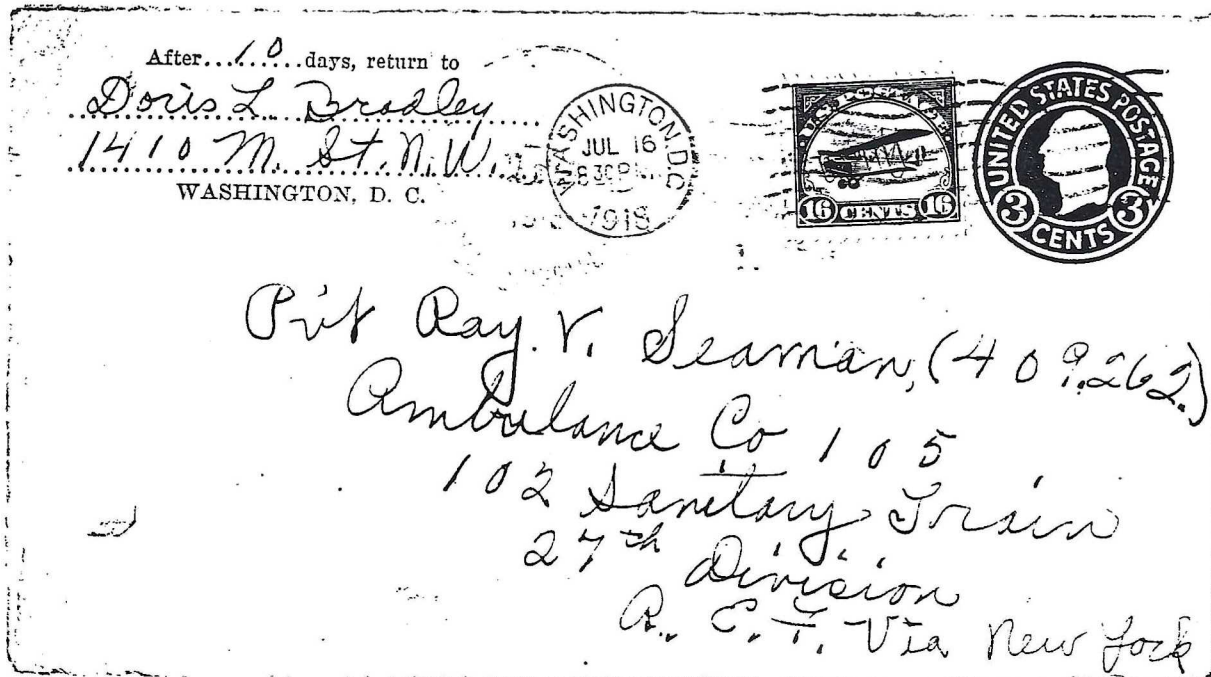
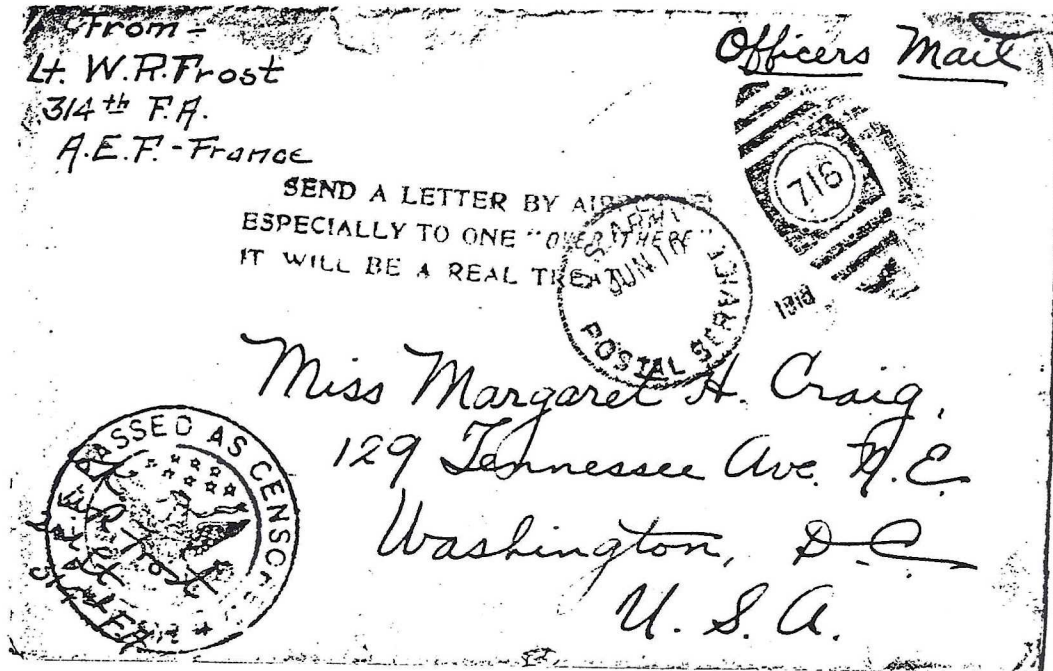
(Via New York)



FRANCE.

Very little mail to members of the AEF is known from countries other than the United States. Not surprisingly, nearly all of the small amount recorded is from Britain and France.





The Post Office used the AEF to promote its new air mail service in the U.S. Auxiliary handstamp applied in Washington, DC. The 16c air mail rate, effective 15 July - 14 December 1918, included special delivery to office of first address. If this were considered to be the New York post office (due to "via New York"), a case could be made for requiring the extra 3c for transmission to addressee in Europe.

*Haute France*

*28 Oct 18*

*My Dear Colonel*

*I wish there was something*

*that I could say to give you*

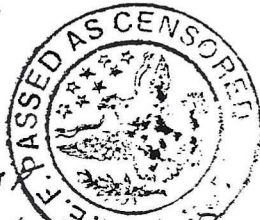
*Brig Gen Richard Smith*

*Col M.F. Wall*

*Greenburg*

Sympathy Letters

In early June 1918 it was ordered that letters of condolence from unit commanders and Chaplains be sent unsealed to the Statistical Division, with a small cross in the upper right corner. Such covers are extremely scarce. Sanford (1940) recorded only 2, and finds since then have not been numerous.



*Richard Smith*

*Brig Gen*

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

FROM A.E.F.

Geo. A. Buelow,

GHQ. A. E. F.

MOTHER'S LETTER



Mother's Day Letter

In 1918 the MPES announced that mail marked "Mother's Letter" and posted before 15 May would be loaded on a special transport and handled on arrival by the USPO as special delivery mail. Such mail is uncommon; the printed envelope is rare.

Mrs. Ernest J. Buelow,

317 Tenth Street,

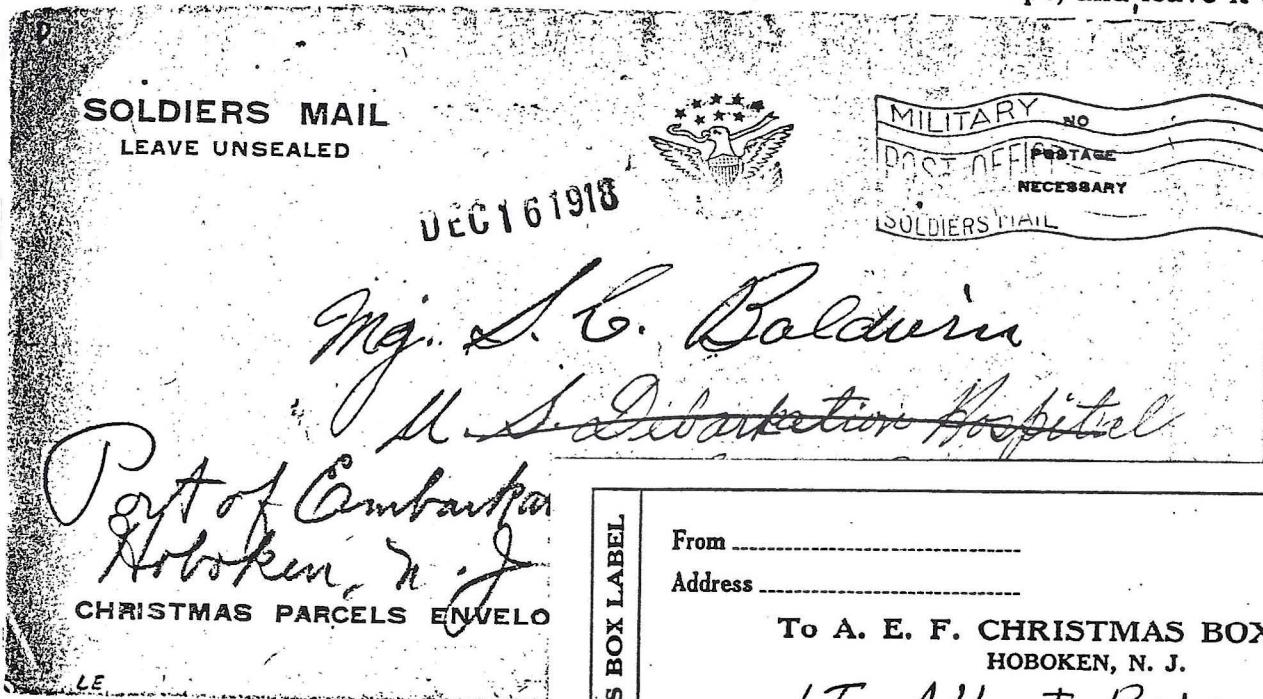
Oshkosh, Wisconsin





### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS BOX LABEL

Fill out the accompanying label as indicated but under no circumstances write anything else. Put it in the envelope furnished you, address it to the relative or friend you wish to have send you a Christmas box, and deposit it in the mail bag at the head of the ship's gang-plank. Do this before the ship sails. Do not put anything else in the envelope, and leave it unsealed.



**OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS BOX LABEL**

From \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

To **A. E. F. CHRISTMAS BOX DEPT.**  
**HOBOKEN, N. J.**

For LT. Albert Baldwin  
(Rank) (Name)

33rd. I. A.  
(Company) (Regiment) (Arm of service)

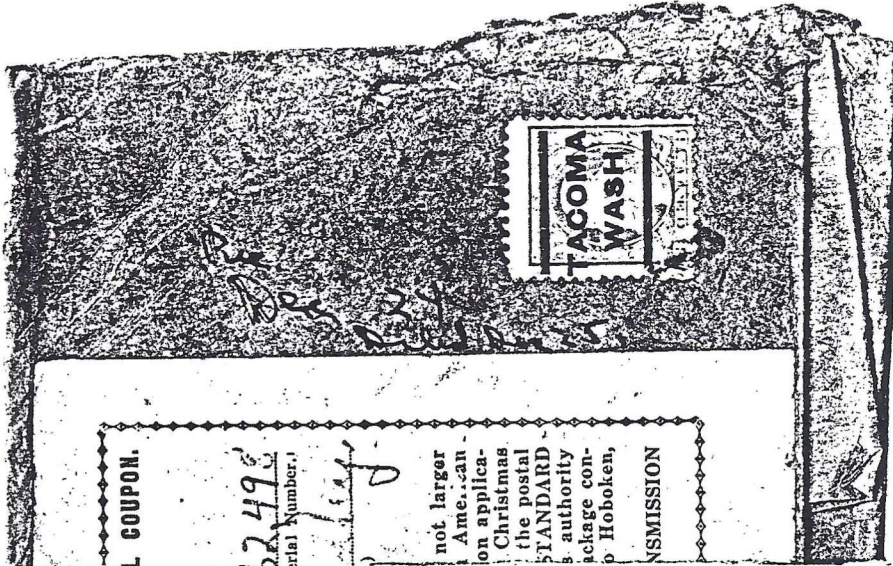
Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ **AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

One Christmas package not heavier than three pounds and to measure 9 by 4 by 3 inches will be carried free from Hoboken, N. J., to each soldier in the American Expeditionary Force. Standard box will be furnished upon application to local chapter American Red Cross in the United States. Christmas packages must not contain perishable articles or any article prohibited by postal laws from transmission by mail. This coupon is authority for any post office to accept on or before November 20, 1918, a Christmas package to conform with the above regulations for the soldier named hereon. Postage to Hoboken, N. J., must be prepaid. This coupon must be pasted on the package to secure its transmission.

3-4405

General Orders 166, 13 September 1918, provided that each soldier in France would be presented with 1 Christmas package coupon and a special mailing envelope. No usages of such an envelope from France are recorded. Two envelopes prepared for use at the Hoboken, NJ are recorded, and 1 of these has an unused label enclosed -- which is different from the label sent from France.





The parcel coupon issued in France; no varieties have been recorded. These are scarce, more-so used than unused; and they are more than scarce used with the accompanying Red Cross inspection label.

Between the time Corporal Haughton sent his label and received his package his regiment participated in the Meuse-Argonne and Ypres-Lys offensives. On 25 December 1918 it was patrolling along the Franco-Belgian border.

**OFFICIAL COUPON.**  
**AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**  
**CHRISTMAS PACKAGE COUPON**

FOR: Richard P. Haughton Corp 2262496  
 (Name) (Army Serial Number.)  
Headquarters 3163  
 (Name)

not larger than American application Christmas the postal STANDARD authority package con- Hoboken, TRANSMISSION

Approved by War Dept.  
 Approved by P. O. Dept.

**AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**  
**CHRISTMAS PACKAGE COUPON**

FOR: Wine, A. W.  
 (Name.) priv. 3635045  
 (Rank) (Army Serial Number.)  
P. M. E. Co. 71 A 90 S. O. S.  
 (Company.) (Regiment.) (Arm of Service.)

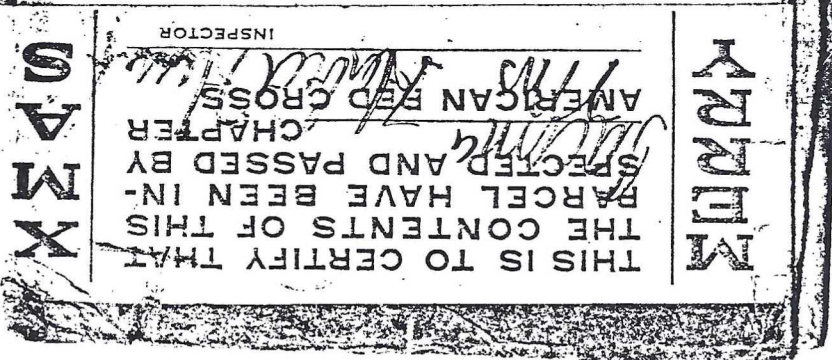
**PASTE THIS COUPON ON THE PACKAGE**

**DIRECTIONS:** One Christmas package not heavier than 3 pounds and not larger than 9 by 4 by 3 inches will be carried free from Hoboken, N. J., to each American soldier in Europe. Standard boxes of these dimensions will be furnished, upon application, by local chapters of the American Red Cross in the United States. Christmas packages must not contain perishable articles, or any articles prohibited by the postal laws from transmission by mail. **PACKAGES NOT CONFORMING TO STANDARD FURNISHED BY RED CROSS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** This coupon is authority for any postoffice to accept on or before November 20, 1918, a Christmas package conforming to the above regulations for the soldier named hereon. Postage to Hoboken, N. J., must be prepaid.

**THIS COUPON MUST BE PASTED ON THE PACKAGE TO SECURE ITS TRANSMISSION**

A. G. PRINTING DEPT., G. H. Q. A. E. F., 1918.

than sold tion. pack laws FUR for N. J. THU A. G.



While *The Postal History of the AEF* mentions a 15c rate, the coupon does not, and the few examples seen with stamps affixed bear a variety of rates. The 6c rate shown above is on a complete wrapper, and there is no evidence that additional stamps have been removed.

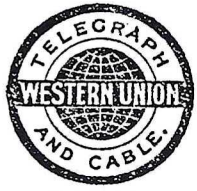


Form No. 87.

*B554/2*  
*D11/3rd*

# CABLEGRAM

WESTERN UNION  
TELEGRAPH-CABLE  
SYSTEM



CABLE  
LETTER SERVICE

IF UNDELIVERED  
RETURN TO:—  
22, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET,

LONDON, E.C.

*W. H. Southwick.*  
*US R Base Hospital*  
*No 2 No 1 Presbyterian*  
*General Hospital*  
*B. E. F. Paris.*

ARMY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

**B WESTERN UNION**

ANGLO-AMERICAN DIRECT UNITED STATES

CA/MH 1 \* 9 M

Via Western Union.

554/2 NEWYORK UHX 40

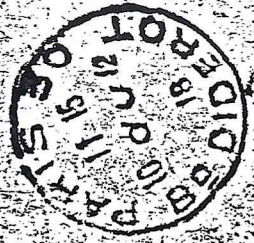
EFM AMEXFORCE LONDON

W H SOUTHWICK US R BASE HOSPITAL NO  
2 NO 1 PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
B E F PARIS SEND NO MAIL SIGNED  
L L HOPWOOD AS I DO NOT ANSWER  
CABLE ME IMMEDIATELY WHAT YOUR PLANS -  
SOUTHWICK

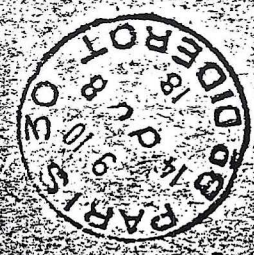
WEEK END  
CABLE LETTER.

CL  
387

Please hand your Reply direct to this Office.



*Arrived A.P.O. 708*  
*Aug 15. Dispatched*  
*Aug 15.*  
*Not delayed in*  
*this office*



REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE. **TELEGRAMME**

CAPTAIN HORACE C LEVINSON

ARTILLERY. C A C AMERICAN

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FRANCE

*Art. Repl. Re*  
*Camp Hest. AP*

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE. **TELEGRAMME** POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES

EFM MAJOR LLOYD BURNON BRIGS APO 708

AMERICAN ARMY FRANCE

Six incoming AEF telegrams are recorded: 4 Western Union (1 with contents) and 2 French Government telegraph. Of these, 1 Western Union and both of the French telegrams have AEF postal markings. None has postage, which was pre-paid by the sender of the telegram.



Post Office Department  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
REGISTERED ARTICLE  
No. 13747  
INSURED PARCEL  
No. 13747

Return to R. C. Carlson  
(NAME OF SENDER)  
Street and Number  
for Post Office Box 920 E Pike  
Post Office at Seattle  
State Wash

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
TO AVOID PAYMENT OF  
POSTAGE, \$300.

POSTMARK OF OFFICE  
OFFICE  
1918

DATE OF DELIVERY

U. S. Army Postal Service. 296997  
X9000 No. 778 SERIAL NUMBER  
Coupon for Paying Office  
NOT TO BE DETACHED BY HOLDER

Payee: One Hundred DOLLARS # 00 CENTS  
WRITE WORDS FOR DOLLARS FIGURES FOR CENTS  
Mrs. Adolph Gerstenzang  
714 Willard St.

Remitter: Base Post # 86  
THIS MONEY ORDER IS NOT GOOD  
FOR MORE THAN LARGEST AMOUNT  
INDICATED ON LEFT-HAND MARGIN  
OF THE ORDER AND ANY ALTERA-  
TION OR ERASURE RENDERS IT VOID

ISSUING OFFICE  
FEB 24 1918  
M.O.B.

Received 1918

STARS AND STRIPES  
PARIS — 1, Rue des Italiens — PARIS  
Form 2

12-27-18  
MRS. ALBERT G. JAMESON  
EAST FRIENDSHIP, MAINE (USA)

Each of the above items is scarce (the *Stars and Stripes* wrapper) to rare, because they were produced in much smaller quantities than AEF cards and letters and/or because they had little sentimental value to cause them to be saved after their job was done.

Money Order Business cancels are recorded on cover from October 1917; the dates that money order service began and ended are not known. *Stars and Stripes* was normally mailed only to the U.S.



*To be sent by  
registered mail  
JMS*



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

REGISTERED

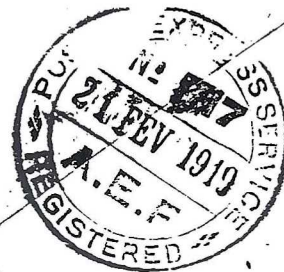
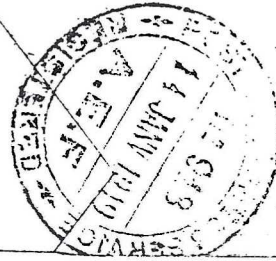
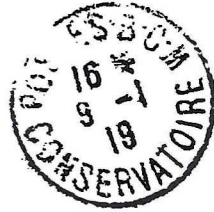
126

*Credit Commercial de France  
# 28, Rue du 4 Septembre  
Paris, France*

*Capt. John M. Townsend  
14th Engineers (I.R.)  
American C.F.*



B



First appears in January 1919. Found about one-third as often as the posthorn type. Recorded for a relatively small number of APOs in the 700s and 900s, predominantly in violet.

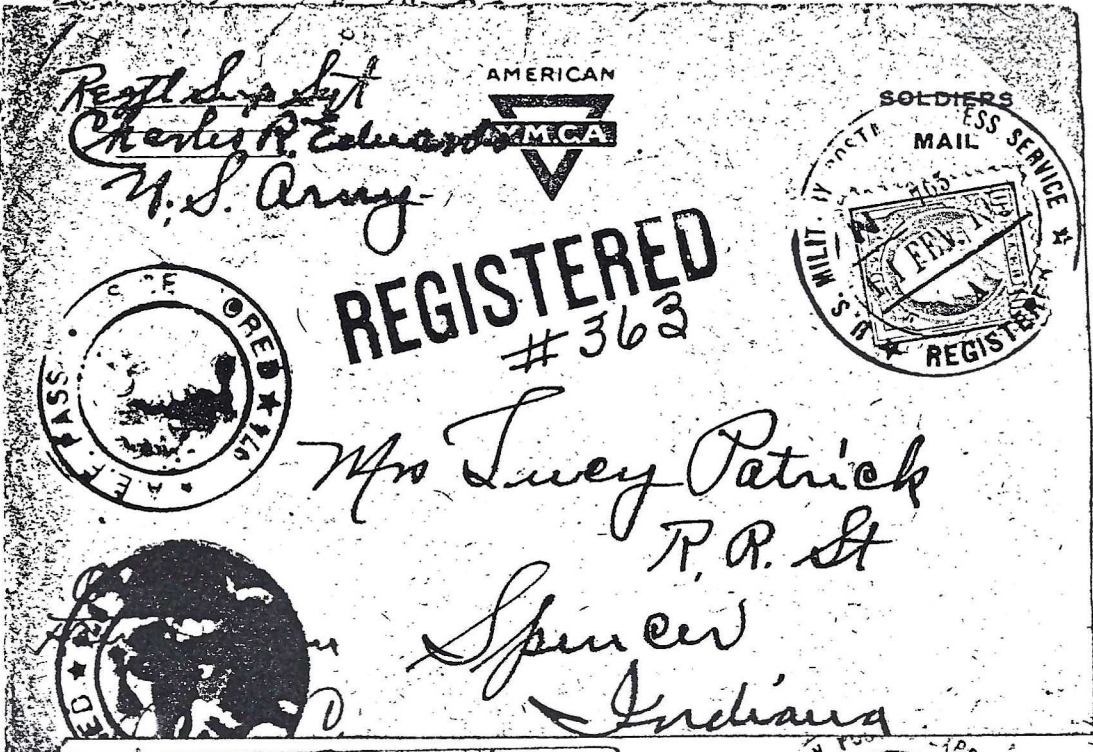


Wartime  
Postal History

Postmarks  
Posthorn Registry Datestamp  
Variations in Design and Use

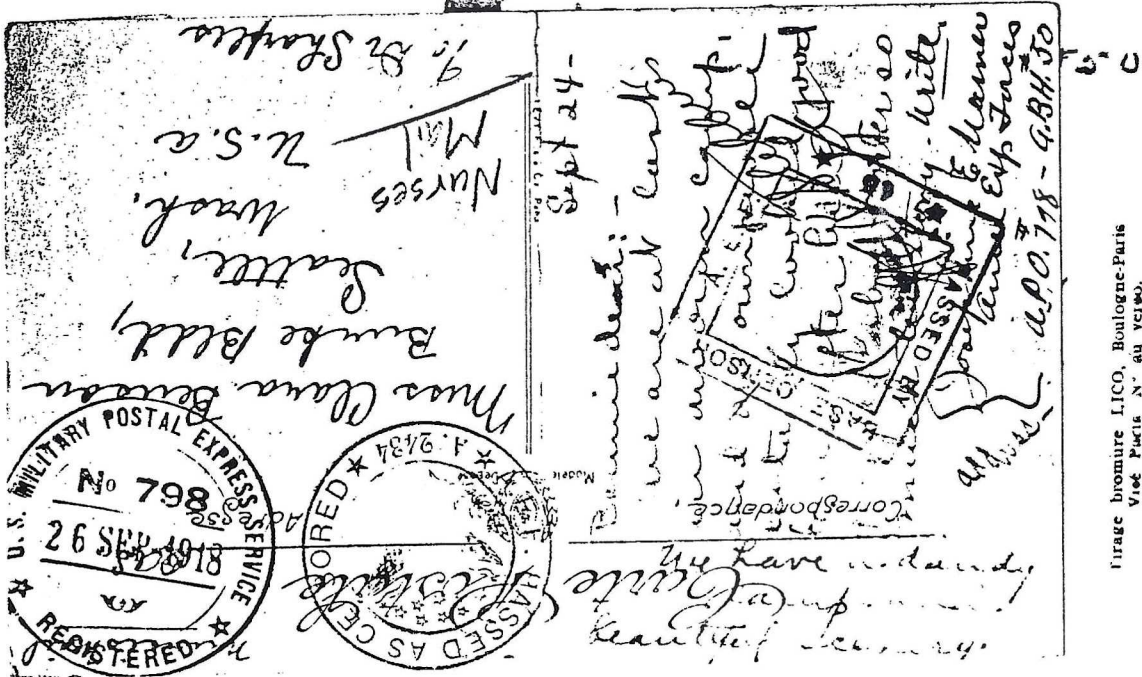


Non-standard "716B"



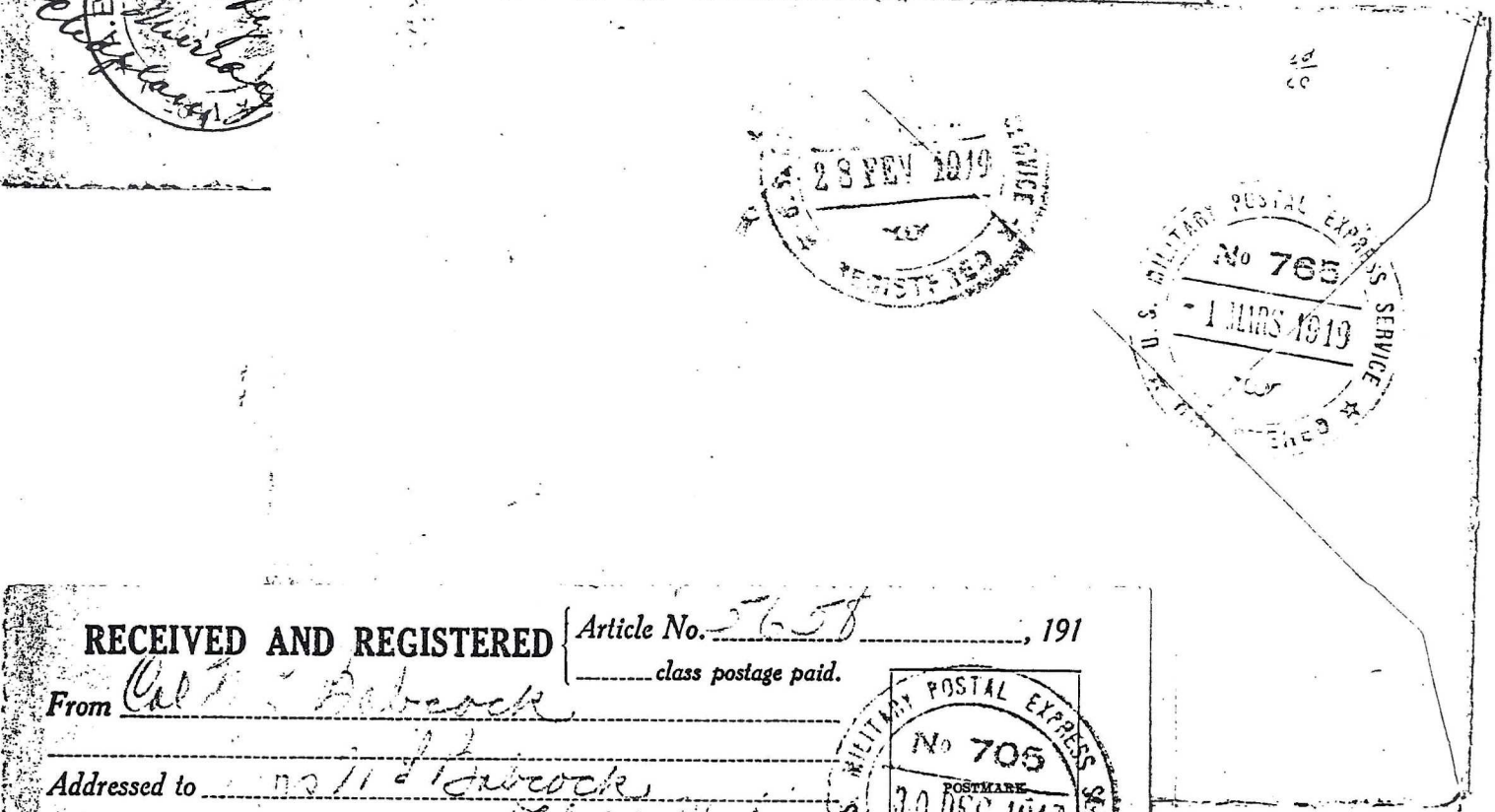
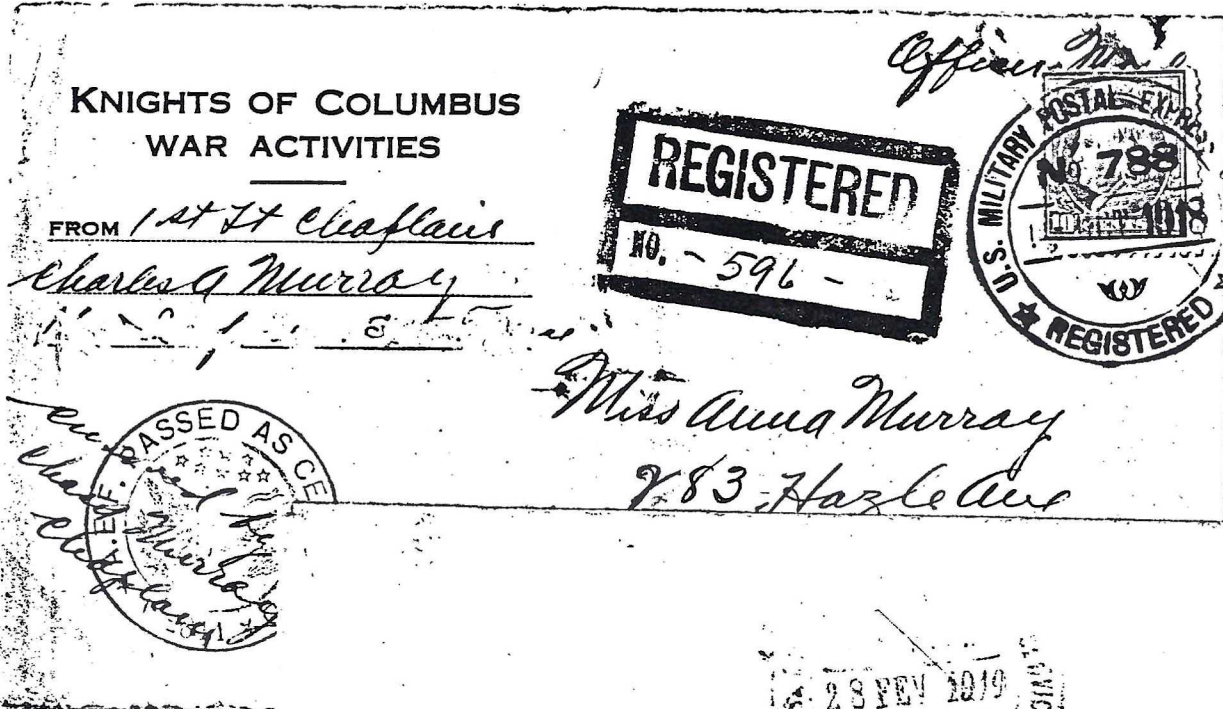
Non-standard "705" and ornament

Used on first class mail



France bromure LICO, Boulogne-Paris  
Visé Paris N° au verso.





**RECEIVED AND REGISTERED** Article No. *2658*, 191  
class postage paid.

From *Col. Babcock*

Addressed to *no 11 Babcock  
Frank Merri*

Return receipt desired \_\_\_\_\_

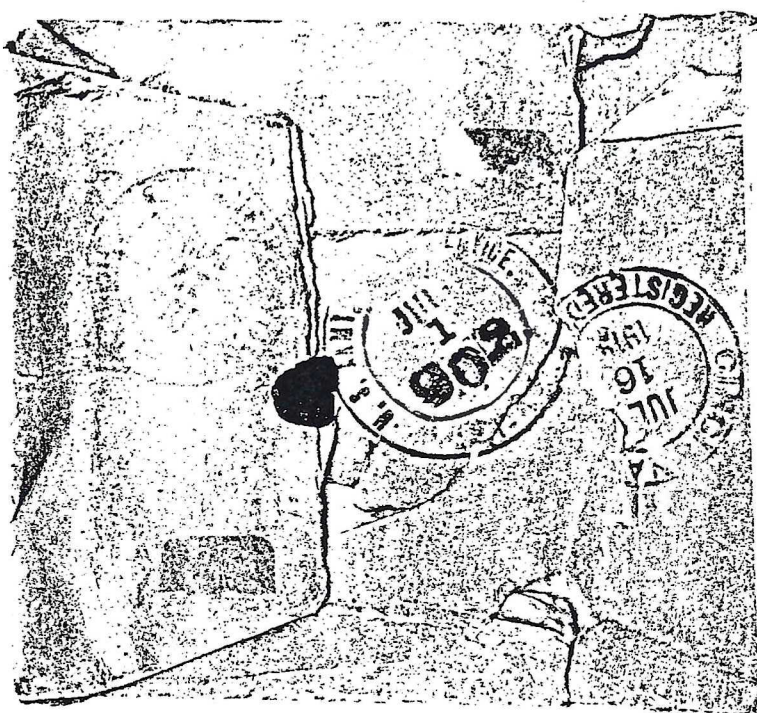
Delivery restricted  To addressee in person \_\_\_\_\_  
 To addressee or order \_\_\_\_\_ Postmaster, per *Bellman*

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL EXPRESS SERVICE  
No 705  
POSTMARK  
30 DEC 1918  
REGISTERED

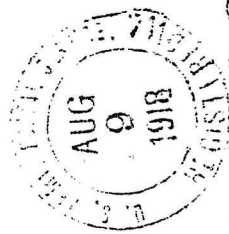
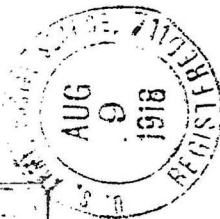
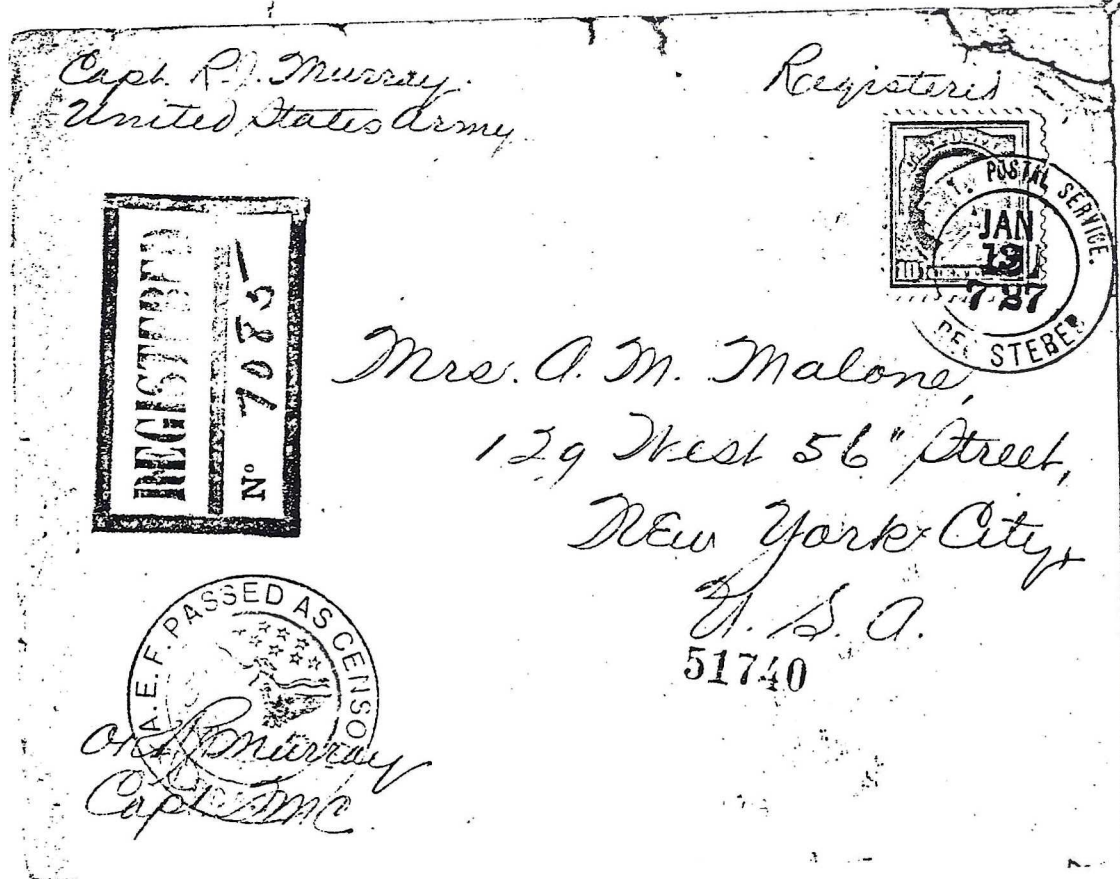
In August 1918 a new set of registry datestamps, incorporating an ornament traditionally (if erroneously) called a posthorn, was distributed to the APOs. Registered mail of any sort is at least scarce and registry receipts are rare. Strikes of the "posthorn" markings usually in violet; blue, red and black strikes are encountered much less often.

Wartime  
Postal History

Postmarks  
Small Registry Datestamp



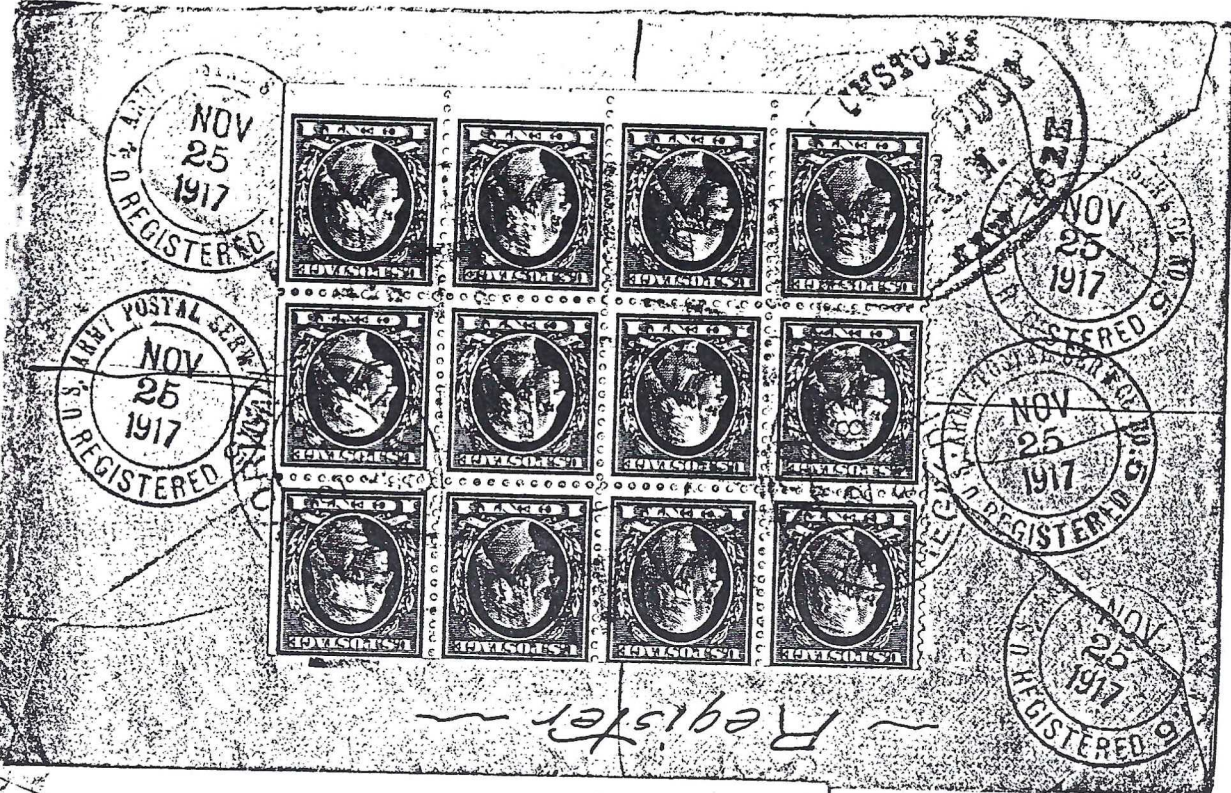
By the summer of 1918 a new series of registry datestamps began to appear. These have sans-serif type at top and spacing different from the earliest series. APO numbers were inserted by the postal clerks using pen or movable type.





Wartime  
Postal History

Postmarks  
Small Registry Datestamp



Serifed type at top, with low-number APO in fixed type. Infrequently found, usually in magenta. Even scarcer on incoming mail.

It appears that shortly after the free frank was announced (20 October 1917) that there was some confusion over whether postage as well as the registry fee had to be paid on registered mail. As this cover was sent by an officer on active duty, it is overpaid by 2c. Note AEF booklet franking.



THE FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY LTD  
41, BOULEVARD HAUCSMANN  
PARIS

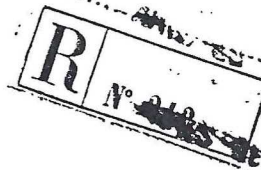
Major Warren L. Babcock

M.R.C.

6th Regiment, C.A.C.

A. E. F.

Par B.C.M. Paris.

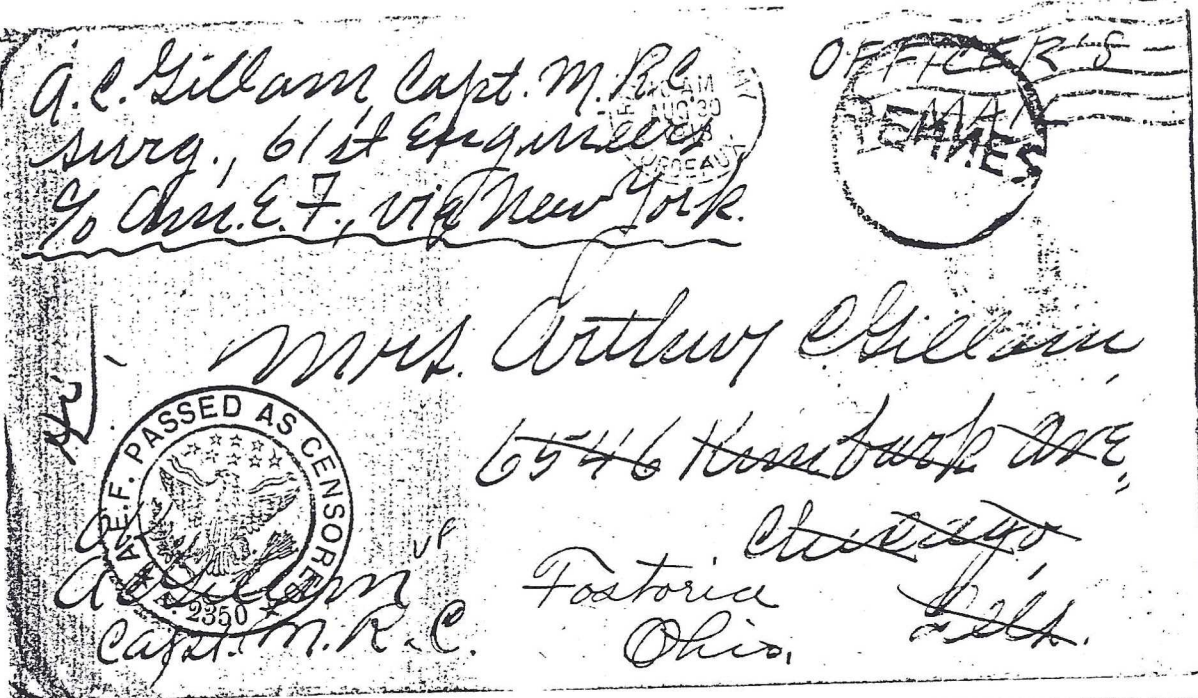


*48 quai de la Rapée  
Paris*



Wartime  
Postal History

Postmarks  
Town Names



Rennes was the location of a locomotive terminal and railway repair shop of Base Section No. 5, SOS, AEF. It eventually (January 1919) was assigned APO 940. The few datable examples of this marking are from August 1918.

APO 928 opened at La Valbonne on 18 November 1918. The (misspelled) negative handstamp is recorded used both before and after that date.



Two town name markings have been recorded on AEF mail and are eagerly sought after by AEF collectors -- though a more thorough historical analysis suggests that they are not postmarks.