

204

WAR DEPARTMENT.

COL. H. CUSHING.
POST-AP.O. 731. AEF.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

URGENT

BY COURIER

Official

From A.P.O. 702
OFFICIAL REGISTER
No. 33497

Commanding Officer;

Base Hospital No. 6,

American E.F., France.

APO 705



MeJ. MOORE



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300.

WAR DEPARTMENT

C. R. HOWARD
CAPTAIN, ENGINEER



*CR Howard
Capt Eng Co.*

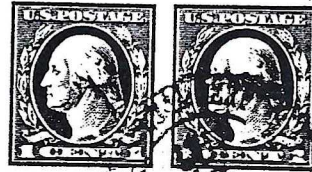
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300.
VOID
PAYMENT



From A.P.O. 702
OFFICIAL REGISTER
No. 33497

*FARMERS LOAN & TRUST CO
41 BOULEVARD HAUSSMAN
PARIS
FRANCE*

Earliest recorded use 23 November 1918.
Apparently used only on courier mail originating outside Paris and sent on via APO 702.



P. O. P. O. 16 99

Return to _____
23rd U. S. INFANTRY
Syracuse, New York

Soldier's Post Mail



U. S. Army

*OK,
Print
7/14/17*



Passed

*Ans
2/18/19*

*Digan
Cove
Arms
Mass.
U.S.A.*

The M.O.B. daters of APOs 9, 10 and 11 are recorded used as cancels on covers from the first 2 weeks of operation of these offices (APO 11 cover above is first day of post office). Their scarcity suggests that this was not a normal practice. The late usage as a transit dater is even less common.

Wartime
Postal History

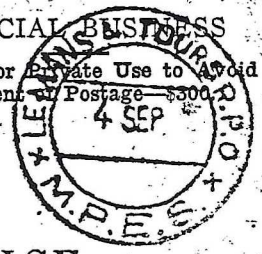
Postmarks
Railway Post Offices

Miss Ruth Remond
606 1683
11/16/18
FRANCE C. R. P. O.
WEST
AUG. 16, 1918



105-6

M. P. E. S.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use to Avoid
Payment of Postage \$300.00
4 SEP
CENTRAL POST OFFICE,
TOURS,



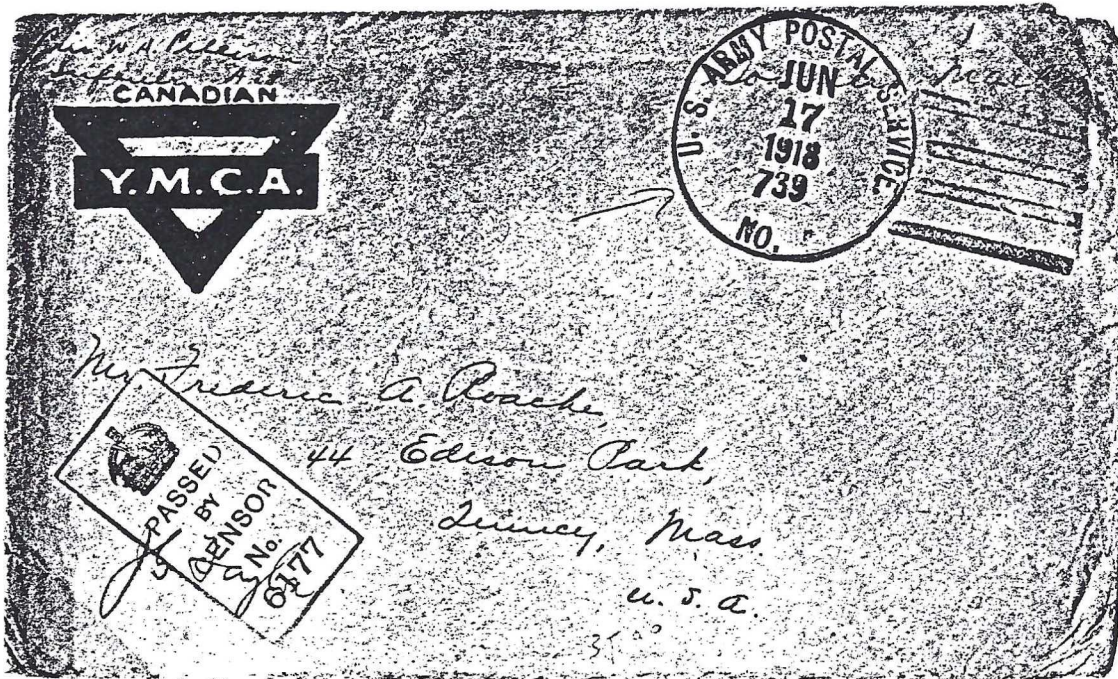
Montpont, France.
Base Hosp. #3. CARTE POSTALE
Amb. Co. #333
CORRESPONDANCE
Jan. 4, 1919
Dear friend: Received
your interesting letter.
Sending you a few lines
from France. This old
monastery was taken over
last winter and proved to
be one of the best over here.
Some of the things we will get
our trip ~~to~~ led to
sent you ~~the~~ greeting.
Remember me to your friend,
L. E. Montpont



FRANCE.

Miss Theo Amisbury
3850 Indiana Ave.
Chicago,
U.S.A. Illinois

The AEF operated a railway mail service, but details are not known. Only the 3 types of postmarks shown here are recorded, with a total of 6 examples altogether. "T & C" are not identified, but are probably Tours (HQ, Services of Supply, AEF) and Chaumont (GHQ, AEF after 1 September 1917).



APO 739 (77th Div.) established 20 April 1918 but Division sent to BEF area and U.S. APO not used. Transferred to U.S. I Corps administrative control 12 June 1918. Note that AEF censor handstamps had not been supplied when this cover was sent.

APO 743 (33rd Div.) established 20 May 1918. Division served with French XXXIII Corps until joining U.S. I Corps 27 August 1918



U.S. Divisions operating with the French and British armies used French or British postal facilities (including postmarks), even though they may have been assigned a U.S. APO. As these divisions were transferred to AEF control, their APOs became active and postmarks had to be found. Note that both the earliest rubber datestamps and the early-1918 reproductions were returned to service at this time.

Wartime
Postal History

Postmarks
Provisionals: Second Period

*Mr. & Mrs. Baker,
The Quonset
Narragansett,
U.S.A.*

*official mail
I.D.V.
France
I have to
take care
of you
I hope
you are
well
I love
you
I hope
you are
well
I love
you*

APO 730 opened 7 February 1918
APO 738 opened 10 April 1918

S. ARMY
APR 13 6 PM 1918

Cadet W.B. Coleman
AMERICAN Air Service
Y.M.C.A. A.C.F.

Soldier Letter
APR 13 6 PM 1918

Reply to
A.P.O. 747
Narragansett
American Expeditionary Force, France

POST-CARD
A.P.O. 747
Soldiers Mail

G. Goodwyn
Wineoff Hotel

9031
CENSORED
CORRESPONDANCE



CARTE POSTALE APO 772

APO 747 opened 25 May 1918.
APO 772 opened 31 July 1918.

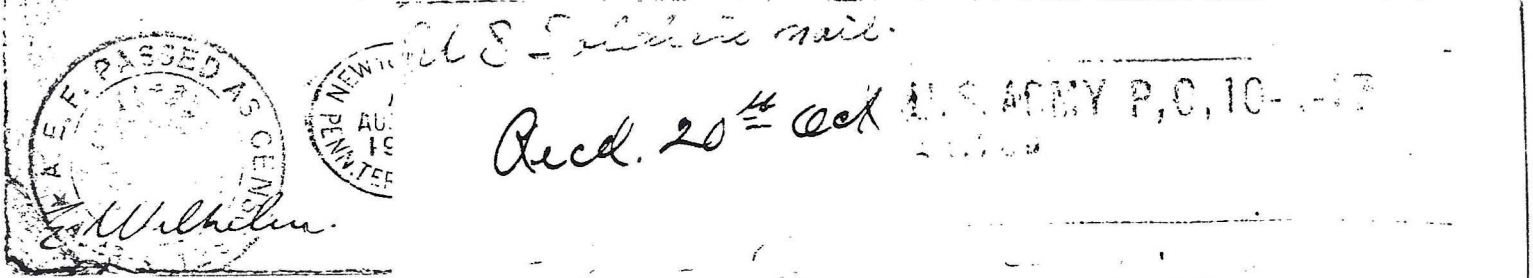
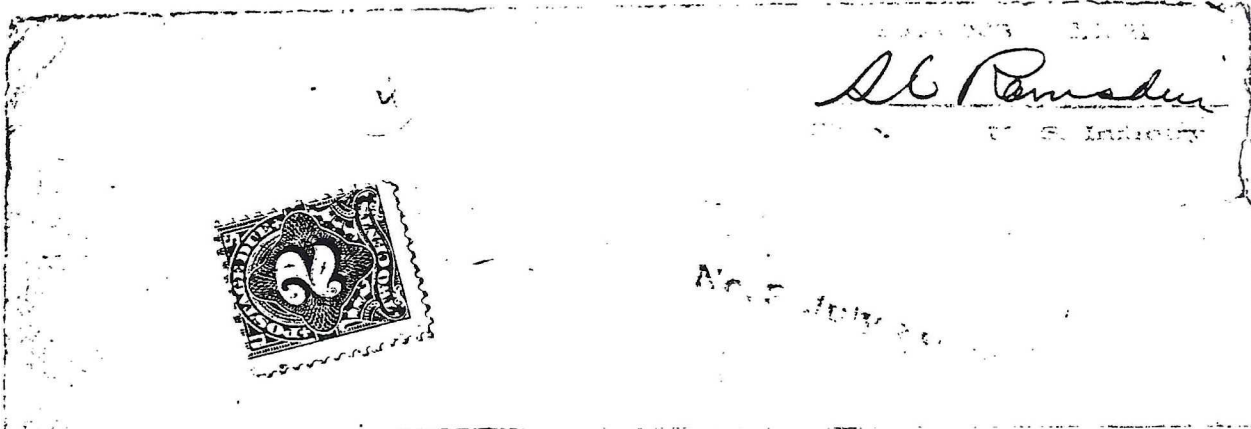
*Hello ma chère
je vous envoie
de la part de
tous. Je me
trouve bien et
je suis en
bonne santé.
Bonne nuit.
Lieut. John H. Banks
M.P.O. 303. APO 772
A.C.F.*

Soldier Mail
ADRESSE
*Mrs. Edgar Banks
Dunstable
Leam
U.S.A.*

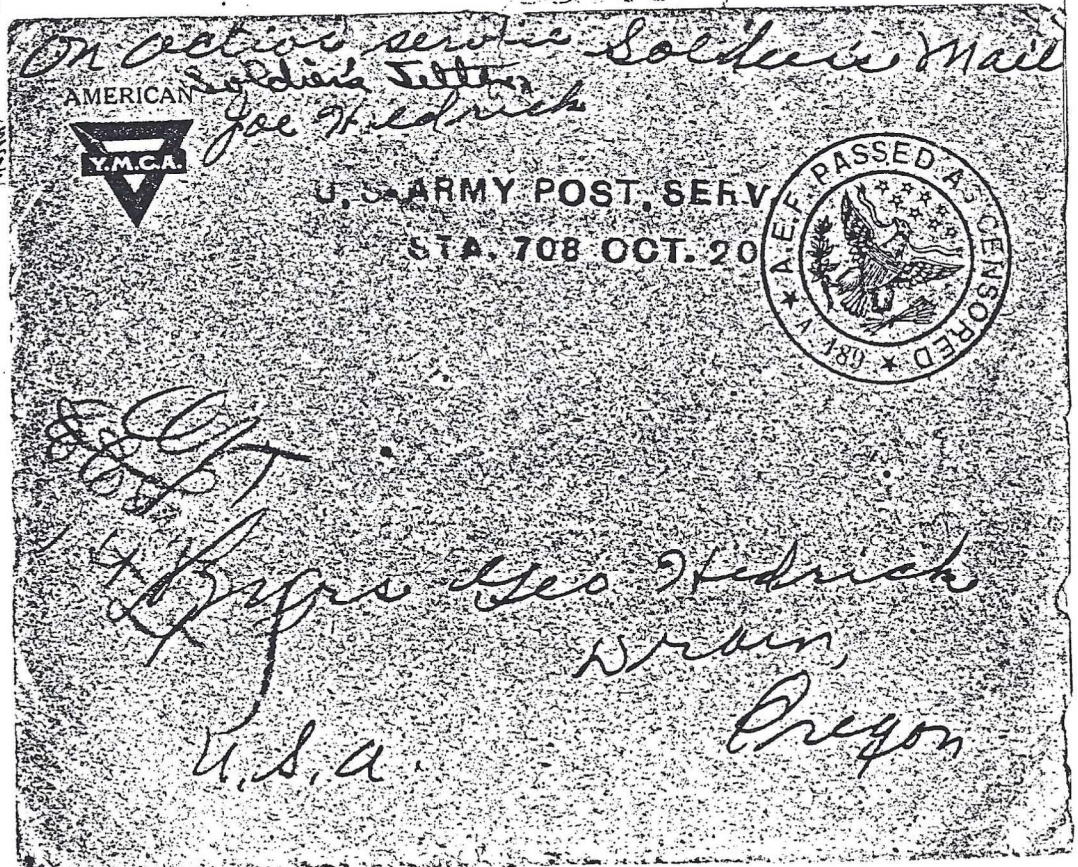
As American troop strength built up in France in 1918, Army post offices were opened faster than datestamps could be acquired. Earlier offices tended to use rubber handstamps patterned on the earliest APO datestamps, but with APO number inserted in bars by movable type. Those opening later tended to use what they could get. Markings in colors other than black are very scarce.

Wartime
Postal History

Postmarks
Provisionals: First Period



^ Note Chaplain's handstamp -- a throw-back to the Spanish American War (required to avoid postage due penalty) that was abandoned in the early days of the AEF

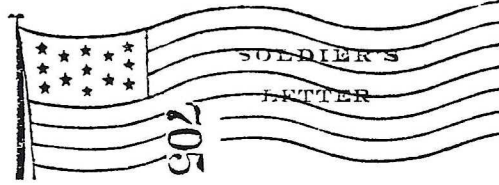
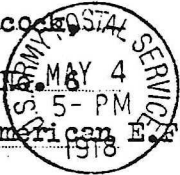


In 1917 APOs 3, 708, 709, 739 and 773 used non-standard postmarks pending delivery of their regular cancels. The earliest of these recorded is 30 July (shown above). The few recorded strikes tend to be poor due to looseness of the movable type used to make these devices.

**Wartime
Postal History**

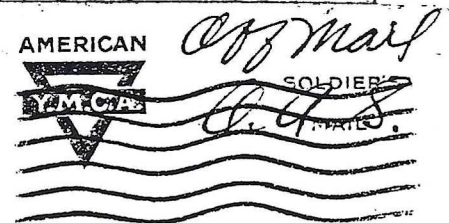
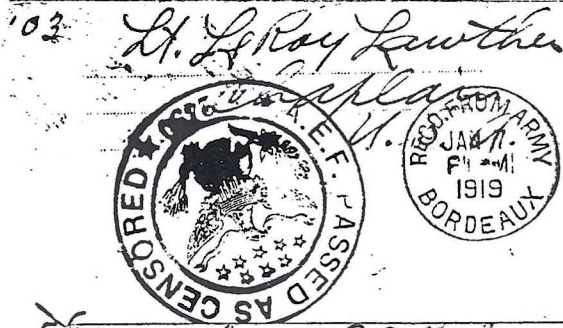
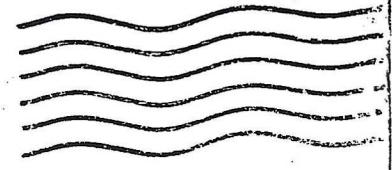
Postmarks
Machine Cancels

NAME W. L. Babcock
Base Hospital
A.P.O. #705, American E.F.



The Post Office Dept. sent several American (flag) and Universal (way lines) cancelling machines to France. These were used at the larger stationary APOs.

J. J. Kovalovsk
 1st Lt. 330 F.A.
UNITED STATES OFFICERS CLUB
BORDEAUX



St. Le Roy Lawton
George R. Bullock
1st Lt. 330 F.A.
American E.F.

CARTE POSTALE

Soldiers Mail
O.A.S.

Correspondance



*I guess you will
 surprised to get this
 card. I have thought
 of you & the Providence
 many times. Hoping
 you are still whipping
 but your name keeps
 fresh reports to all
 my friends here. "Geo"*

Mo. G. M. Holloway
401 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia
Penna

After the Army took over the APO system, the Post Office continued to operate mail collection offices at the larger French ports. The Rec'd From Army Bordeaux cancel is a very common example of collection office handling

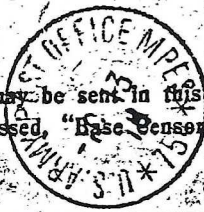
The variant with "Bordeaux" removed is one of the scarcest AEF postmarks (4 recorded). The above card was sent from Le Mans, suggesting St. Nazaire as a logical place of use for this machine.

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.

(Name) Capt. Baurle

Rank Corporal

Countersigned:
Louis G. H. V. G.

Rank 1st Lt.

Address only.

Miss Mary Maurer

104-N-35th St.

BASE CENSOR

RECEIVED

5

H. C. 116

Chaplain J. C. Martin
56th Inf. S. Infantry
American C. I.

Official Mail.




Light Bernard Patrick J. Hayes.

142 E. 29th St.

New York City.

U. S. A.

C. H. Butler
Co. H, 11th Prov. Reg.
A. E. F. University
APO #909
Beaune-France


CARTE POSTALE

Correspondance

It's a long time since I heard from you, old pal, but here's greetings. I hope to get home by Aug. if you are around in Ill. I'll look you over when I'm down here getting "shuck".


O.K. Censored -

R. N. Herrickson
1st AUSA

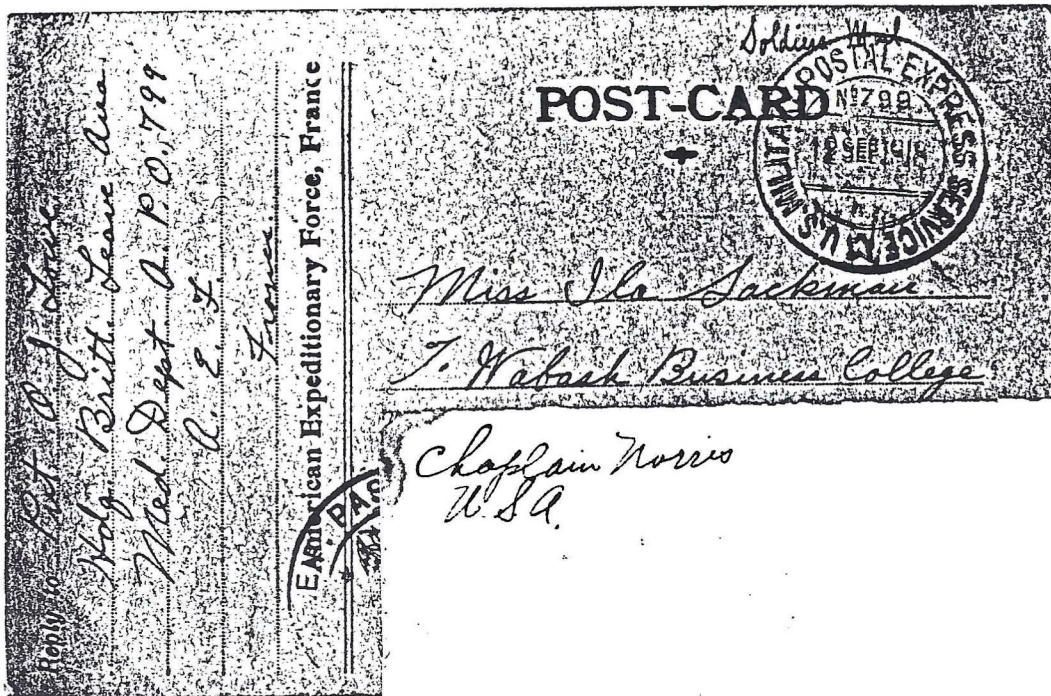


Address

Arthur Gilbert
Pana, Ill.
U. S. A.



Patterned on French Army *Tresor et Postes* date-stamp. Recorded from late July 1918. First postmark to incorporate "MPES" (Later modified to PES for APOs 746 and 909.) Colored strikes are "difficult" according to *The Postal History of the AEF* (a gross understatement, actually).



Chaplain Norris
U.S.A.



The Rev Patrick J. Hayes
East 29th St.

From Ernest Jackson
Capt. U.S. Army
~~Wabash, Ind.~~
American E.F.

Soldiers mail
St Stephen's Rectory
New York N.Y.
N.Y.



Miss Ora Jackson
Jeddell
R#1. Texas
U.S.A.



These postmarks are fairly common in violet, especially for the numbers used in Italy (818-825).
Examples in red, green and blue are rare.



CARTE POSTALE

Put Offery
Fairly good New
Wed Sept 11 C.S.O. - P.O. 717
Working over in
Cuma.
I visited this place
on my way to my
Moskuma St. by
les-Bains. Had a
very nice time.
Alba. Gr. in the
lat of

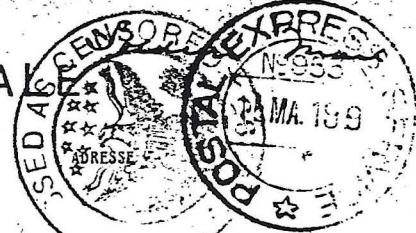
Cap. Anillo Niagara,
Box 324, P.H.H.
Ameri - Espul / Gnos
July - 1818
Dear brother: I'm
happy to hear
you are well & every
thing is going
well. I hope you
will send me a
few more pictures
I would get them
for my collection.

Miss Sarah Gentry
Thomson

Mar 15 1919
M. S. Muller
Esch-Az.



CARTE POSTALE



Ag. G. S. Whitney
Vern. Vance Dr.
Piscataway, N. J. -
Cuma. 201

CORRESPONDANCE

5/15/19.
The master has now
- very warm tho.
Have received both
cards & answer of.
Facing fine home.
Gunnies

Mr. F. C. Whitney
6 Newington Ave. North
Hartford, Conn.

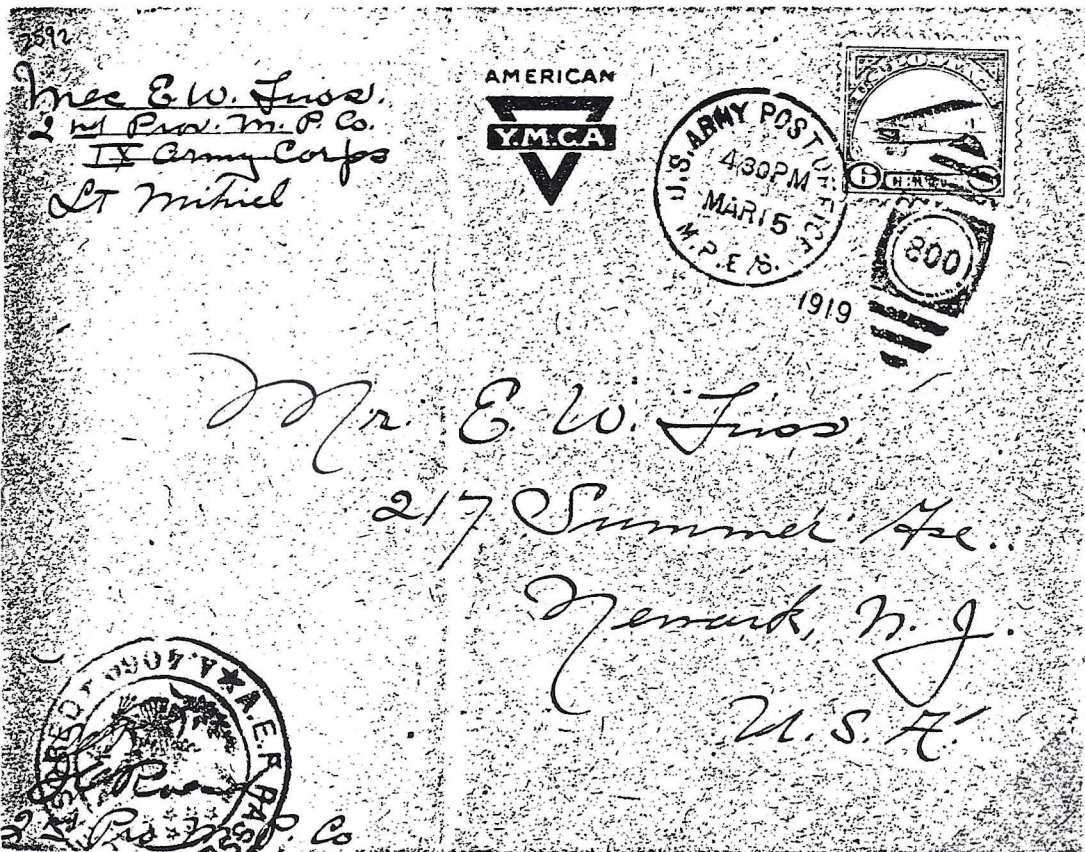
U. S. A.

APO 953, highest APO
number used by the AEF

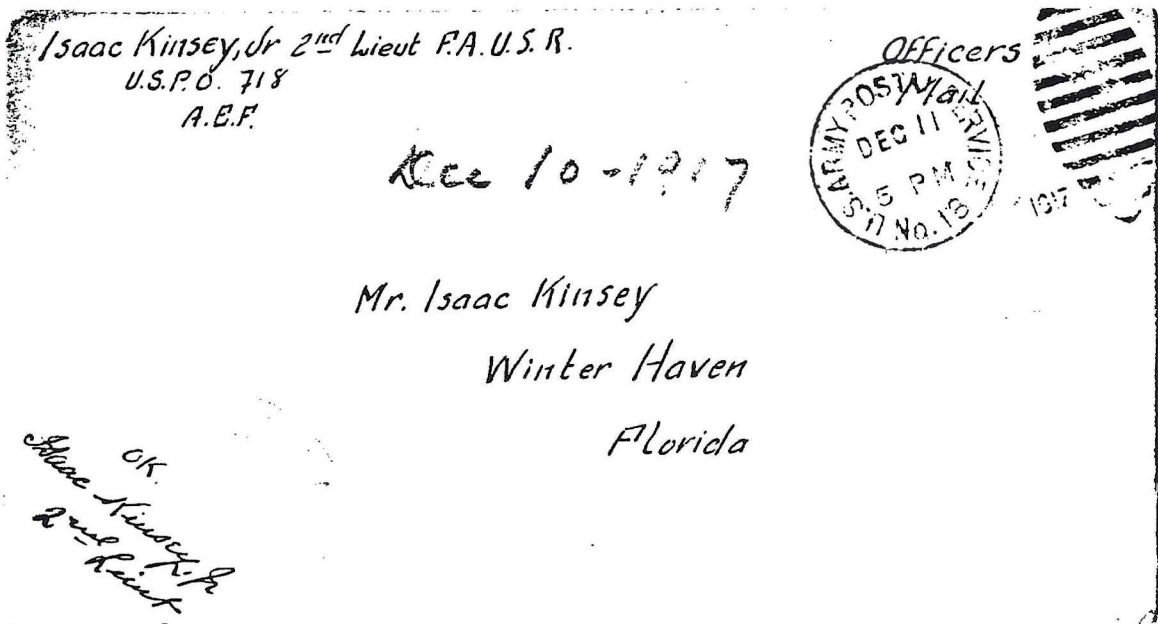
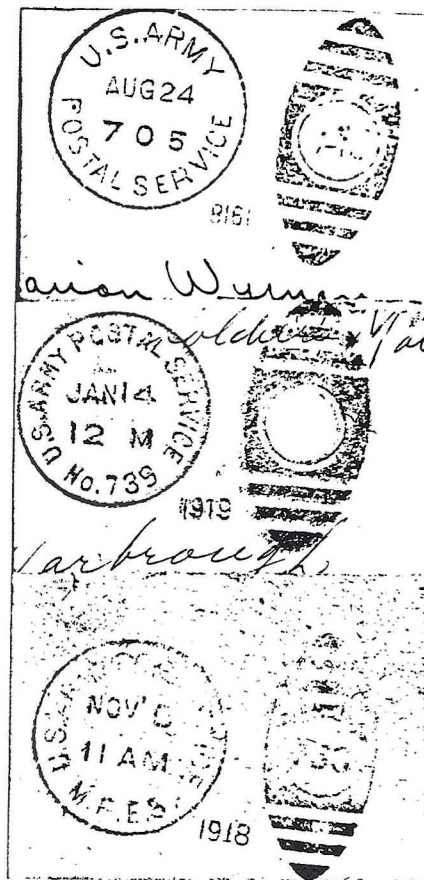
First recorded 14 August 1918. Four basic subtypes plus additional variations in size and ornaments.
Numerous date and number variations.

Wartime
Postal History

Postmarks
Small Steel Die with Barrel



Souvenir use of stamp. No postage required. No air service provided in Europe; not needed from Hoboken to Newark.



First appeared October 1917, numbers 1-18 (17 and 18 are rare); later with 3-digit numbers at foot and/ or in killer. Four main sub-types, as shown, 1 reflecting change to Military Postal Express Service. Many variations in date/time lines. Recorded only in black except for 1 example in blue.

**Wartime
Postal History**

**Postmarks
Large Rubber Handstamps**

*Austin M Lloyd
1st Lt Eng 42 WSR
Unassigned
amed. Forces
France.*

*Soldiers Mail
C. S.*

APO 726, opened 31 January
(per War Dept.) or 1 February
(per P.O.) 1918 at Blois.

Wrs Austin M Lloyd

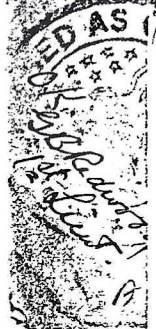


*from 58 Redwood 1st Lt.
Co I 28th Infantry*

Military Training Camps Association



APO 729 served the 1st
Div. Opened 6 (or 14)
February 1917 but ap-
parently not activated
immediately as 1st Div.
initially used APOs 703
and 704.



*Cook H. C. Baker. Soldiers' Mail
Co. B. 101st US Eng.
A. E. F.*

*Mr. J. H. Baker.
American Woolen Co.
Boston Mass
U. S. A.*

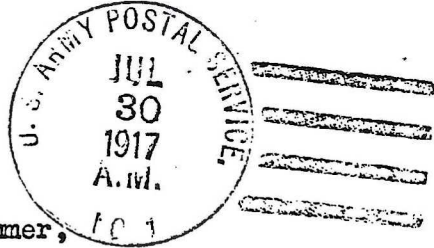
APO 731 opened at Neufcha-
teau on 11 February 1918.



Similar to the first rubber datestamps but with different spacing around the dial and 3-digit APO numbers inserted by movable type in dial. Created to meet the need brought about by arrival of large numbers of U.S. troops France beginning in early 1918. Traditionally grouped with the first AEF APO cancels due to design similarity, they belong with the provisionals, as they were produced at about the same times and for the same reasons as those cancels, and were later replaced by postmarks of standard design. Clarity of strikes declines over time. Colors other than black are scarce.

Censored.
J. I. MacDonald

Soldier's Letter.



Mr. George Sommer,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,

New York, 1



Carte Postale

Correspondance



Everything here

*Sgt. W. O. Brooks
7th Aero Sqdn.
U.S. Air Service*

Soldiers mail
P. W. High
land Ave,
Jamaica
New York
Wa.



Mrs. W. Brooks.
278. Dolores St.
San Francisco.
Calif.
U.S.A.



1st Lieut A.S. U.S.A.

Introduced in July 1917 with numbers 1 - 9 in fixed type at foot of dial. Used regularly into mid-December; some numbers reappear infrequently in 1918. Recorded in black. Clear examples are not difficult in 1917, but in 1918 wear is usually apparent, resulting in poor strikes.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300.



EMBASSY
MAY 10 P.M.

D. C.

CHIEF OF FINANCE
MUNITIONS BUILDING

REGISTERED

WAR DEPARTMENT

Finance Officer,
8 Av. d'Iena, Paris, France.

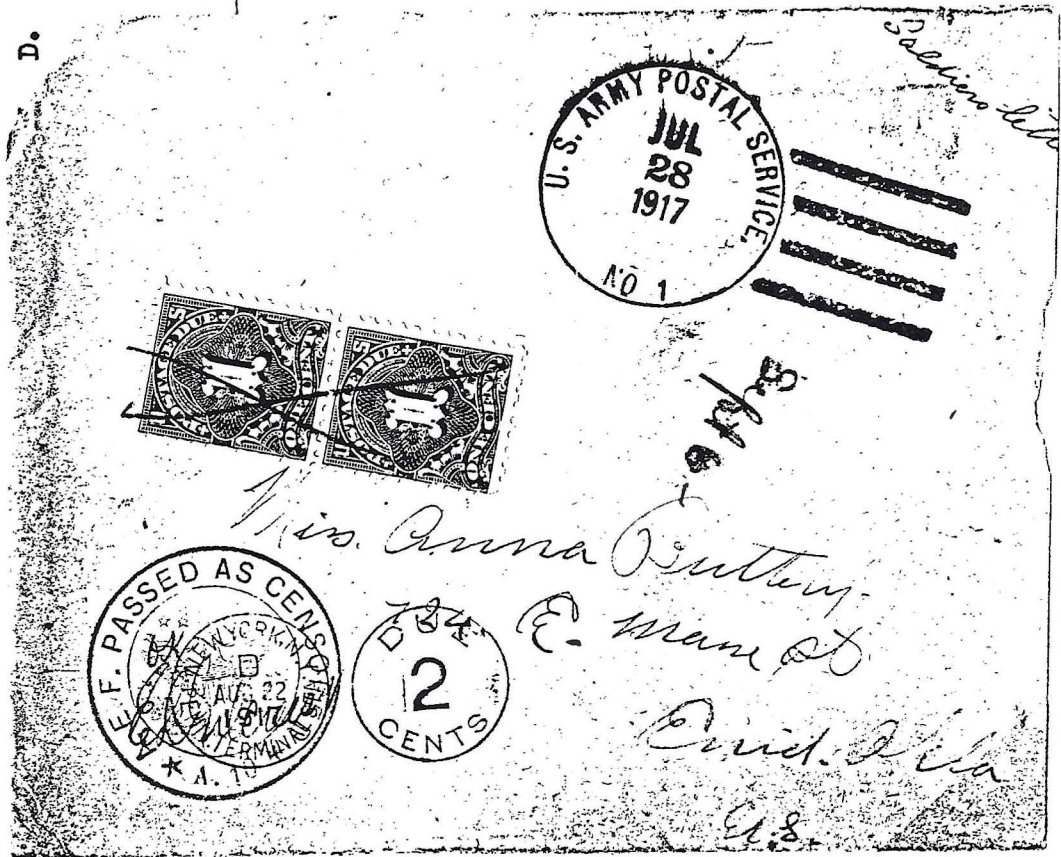
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Account Current, Cemeterial ~~exp.~~
Construction Account

4976

Earliest and Latest Recorded
AEF APO-Postmarked Covers

The Post Office Department established the U.S. Mail Agency, France on 13 June 1917, and the first office of this agency (No. 1, St. Nazaire) opened on 10 July. APO No. 2 (Paris) opened on July 12 or 16, and was later re-numbered 702.

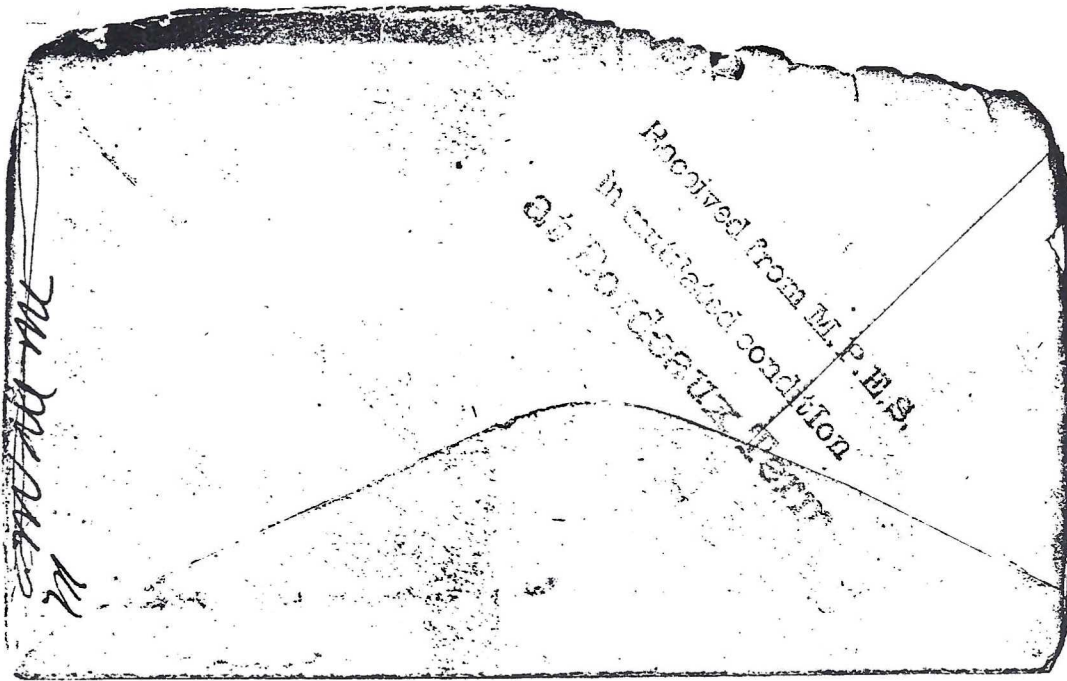


On 1 September 1919 all remaining AEF personnel in Europe (approximately 50,000 men) not already transferred to American Forces in Germany were assigned to a new command, American Forces in France. By 1 January 1920, all but 46 men had been repatriated and these 46 were assigned to U.S. Embassies in Paris and London.

Post Office records (demonstrably wrong in many other cases) have APO 702 closing on 22 October 1919. APO 702 mail after this date is scarce, but there is enough of it to make clear that, even if the post office was closed, its cancels were left with and used by the remaining Army personnel.

**Wartime
Postal History**

**Postmarks
Auxiliary Markings**

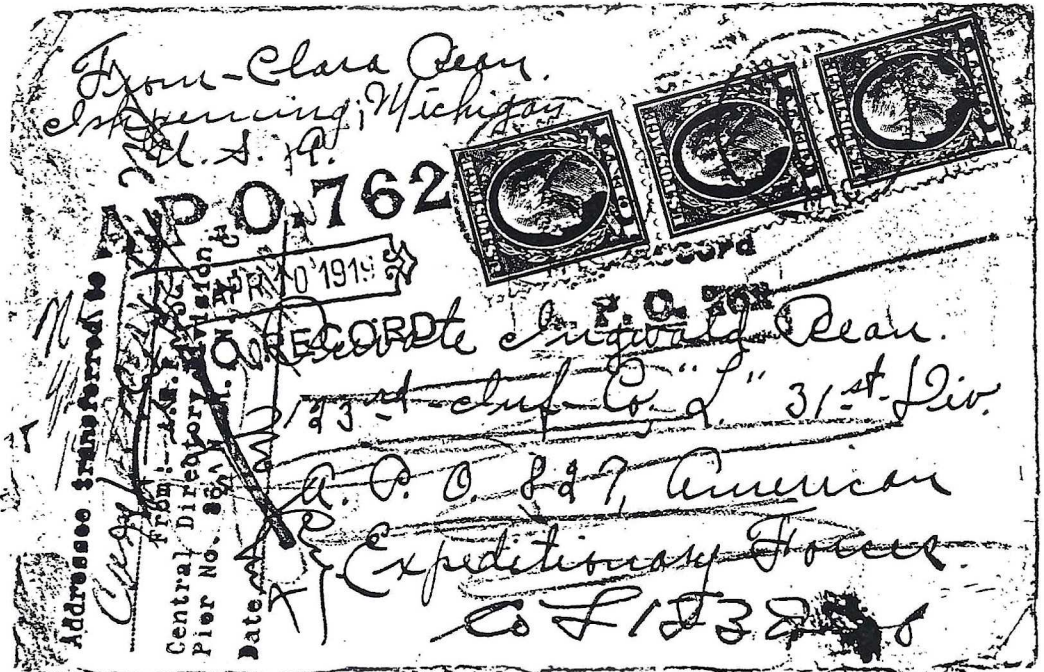


Wreck Mail

Only recorded AEF cover with postal marking reflecting damage in handling in France. Note that the Bordeaux terminal postal facility was operated by the Post Office Dept., while the MPES was operated by the AEF, thus making allocation of blame more important.

Returned Mail

Over 22 million pieces of undelivered AEF mail were returned to the U.S. Such covers typically carry a wide range of endorsements, some postal, some applied by military units. No systematic study of these markings has been made in the 70-plus years since they were used.



Wartime
Postal History

Postmarks
APO 702 Courier Service

D.E. Lighton,
U.S. Army

Mrs. A.L. Lighton,
Hudson, Ohio.



*Corp. Ernest A. Anderson
of Post Section 2 D.H.O.
American E.T.*



SOLDIERS
MAIL

CARTE POSTALE

Correspondance

*Dear Aunt Mattie;
Here is a close
view of the two not
alls just as I saw
them last Saturday
when arrival here. It
was a gala day never
to be forgotten.
For record.*



*Cedar
13th & St.*



GRAND HOTEL - PARIS

BOULEVARD DES CAPUCINES

PLACE DE L'OPERA

TÉLÉPHONE N° { 235-48
235-49
235-51

*Mr. Herman Hoopes
Real Estate Trust Bldg
Philadelphia
Penn*



*Forward Hoopes
Major Infantry*

This service appears to have operated in Paris for the purpose of collecting APO mail from the various hotels. Six different datestamps are recorded. Earliest recorded use of 24 October 1918 suggests that this is neither connected with the Motorcycle Dispatch courier service established in September 1917 for sensitive official mail, nor with the Army courier service established in connection with the Peace Conference and later used by U.S. missions through Europe (APO 975).