

Courier service established in September 1917
for sensitive official mail. Cover below handled
by both APO 702 and MDS courier services.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
A.E.F. CHIEF PURCHASING OFFICE Q.M.C.
U.S.P.O. 702-FRANCE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



Atkinson
1st Lieut., Q.M.C.

REGISTERED MAIL
Q.M. 22-14
URGENT BY COURIER

Depot Quartermaster,

A. P. O. # 752, American E. F.

REGISTERED
17-6201-0



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

WAR-DEPARTMENT.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

URGENT
BY COURIER

Jalene 2705
V. D. 01/10/18

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Base Hospital #6.

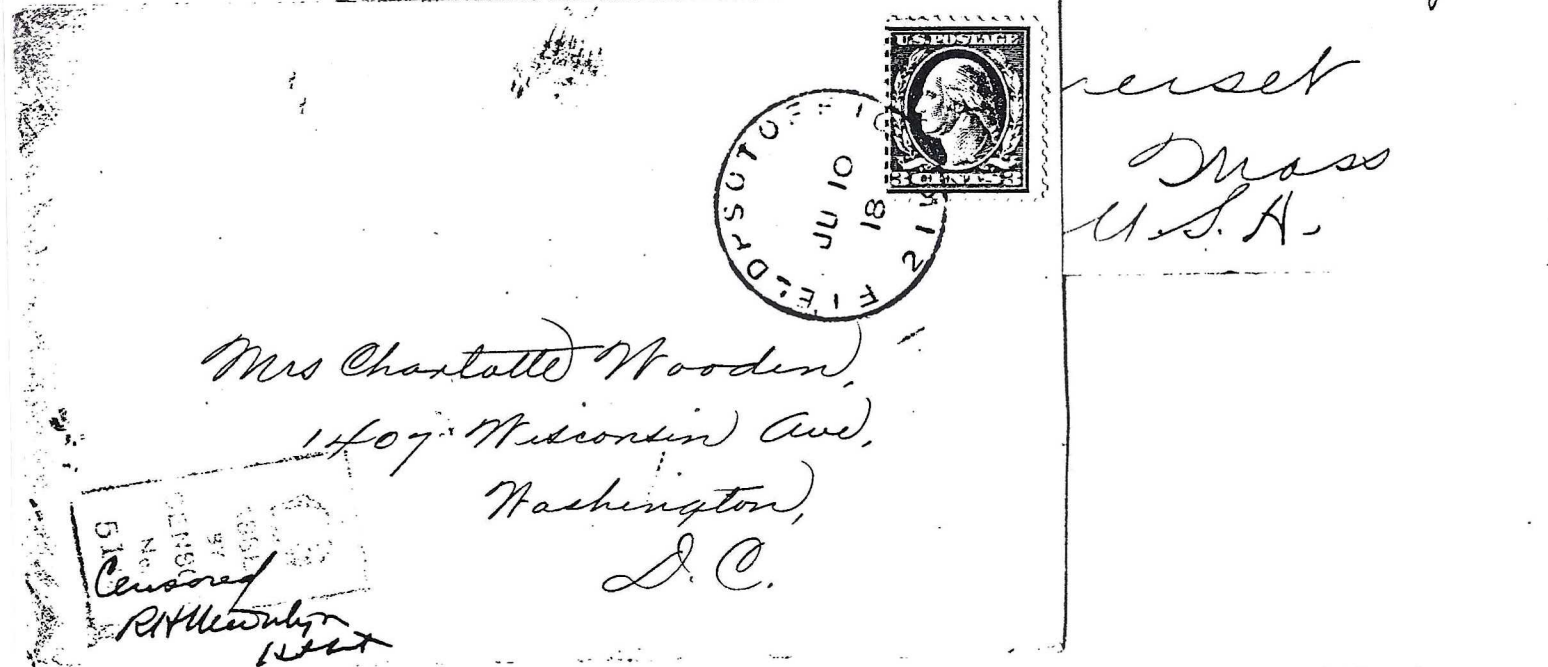
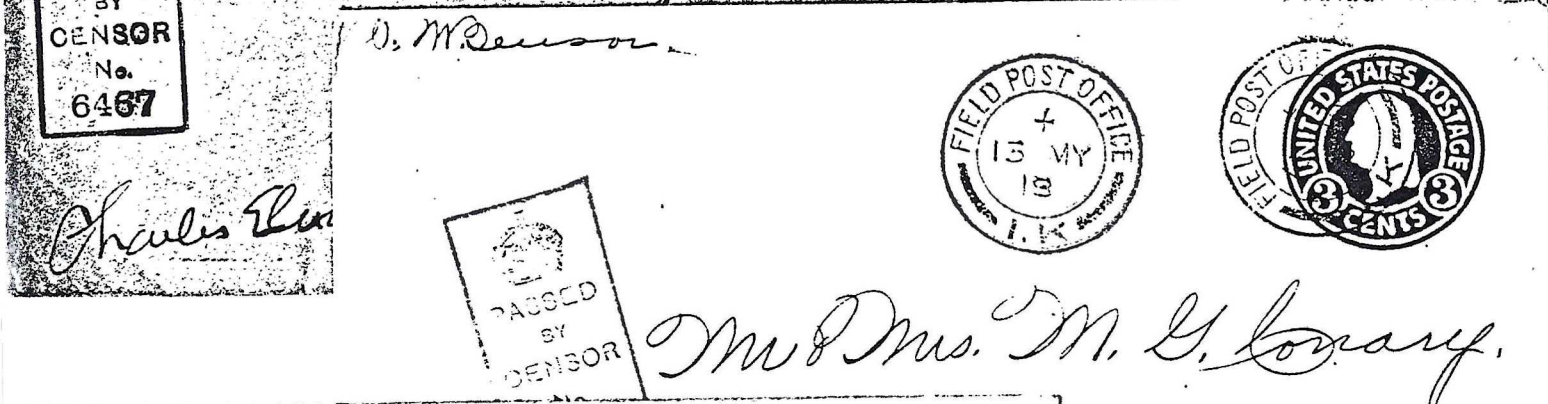
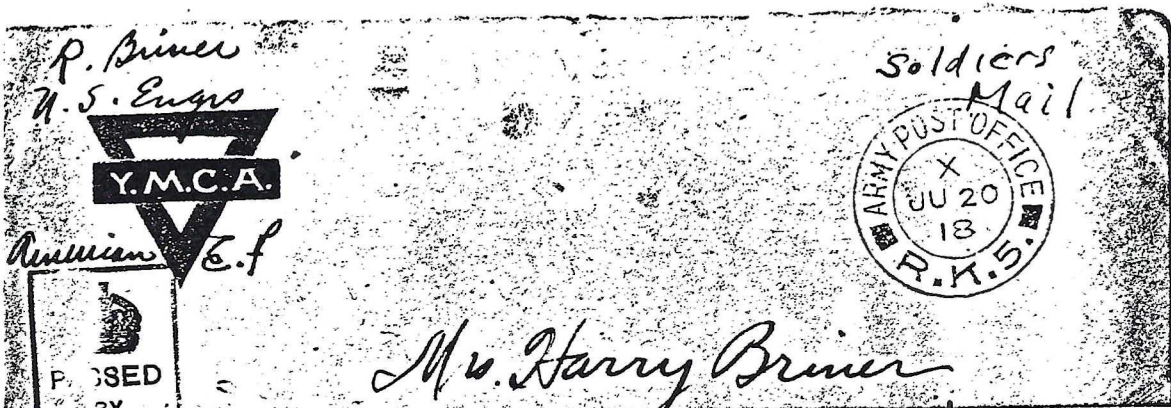
RECEIVED BY
DATE TIME

1146

URGENT B.F.

R. S. K.

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



Ten U.S. Divisions assigned to train with the British Expeditionary Force in Flanders and Picardy were assigned British APO postmarks in the RK series (though RK8) and FPO postmarks 1K through 24K. The U.S. II Corps was assigned APO HK.

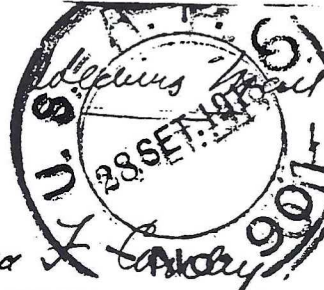
The standard design double circle is the norm. The APO 21K "skeleton" design is scarce, and the "PSOT" variety of this marking (shown above) is especially so.

Wartime
Postal History

Postmarks
Used in Italy

Post. Chas. F. Vavdek
Via S. Andrea 110 Kkt.
U.S. Army Ambl. Serv.
with 288th Army
A.P.O. # 901

Mantova,
Italy.
9/23/18



Mrs. L.F. Couley:-
Greetings from

Mrs. Lora F. Couley

Around 20 September 1918 (ERD 24 September) a postmark was obtained locally for APO 901. It is very scarce in any condition and, due to its size, complete strikes are rare.

W. Okey Kanable
Co. E 332 Inf
American Exp. in Italy
A.P.O. 901

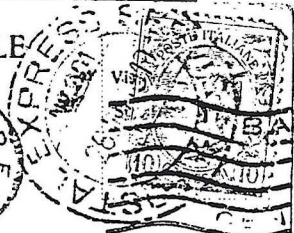
Soldiers Mail



At about the same time, regular MPES date-stamps numbered 819-825 were delivered to 7 of the 13 U.S. APOs set up across Italy. These are usually found struck in violet.



OPERA DI FRATELLANZA UNIVERSALE
CORPO AMERICANO Y. M. C. A.
CASE DEL SOLDATO



Dear Bob & Lady:
hope you are
both well and
have escaped
freezer my

ANETTI & POPPELMANN - MILANO

Mrs. Miller

Robert Miller

Benton Harbor

The PES postmark for APO 901 does not appear until January 1919. Poor strikes are the norm.

U.S. Army
Hospital May 14
Leah Couley
Went to see the
church here in
Lanna this after
noon. Wonderful place
Came out to France
by way of Paris.
Stayed at all the
of the...



Mrs. John L. Lalli

A locally produced postmark, modelled on the MPES double circle type, is recorded from December 1918. The Post Office records indicate that APO 901 closed on 18 May 1919.

< Latest recorded
AEF mail from Italy.

Rec. July 29 1918



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

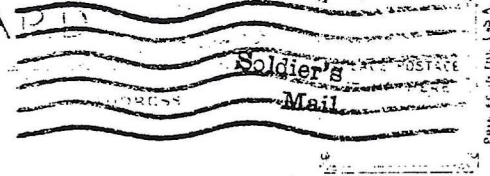
Name Mrs. A. H. Huling.

Address 506 Osage Ave.

Bartlesville, Okla U.S.A.



CAD



Dear friend,

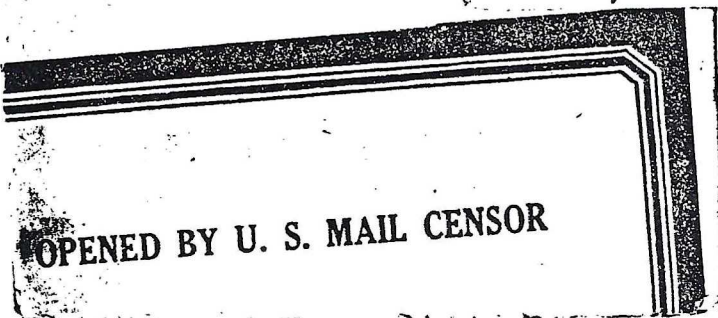
On board
ship in the Atlantic
Having a fine trip
and feel fine. Weather
is cold, wearing our overcoat.
Every thing safe and
no danger ahead. You

Miss. Clare Andreas.

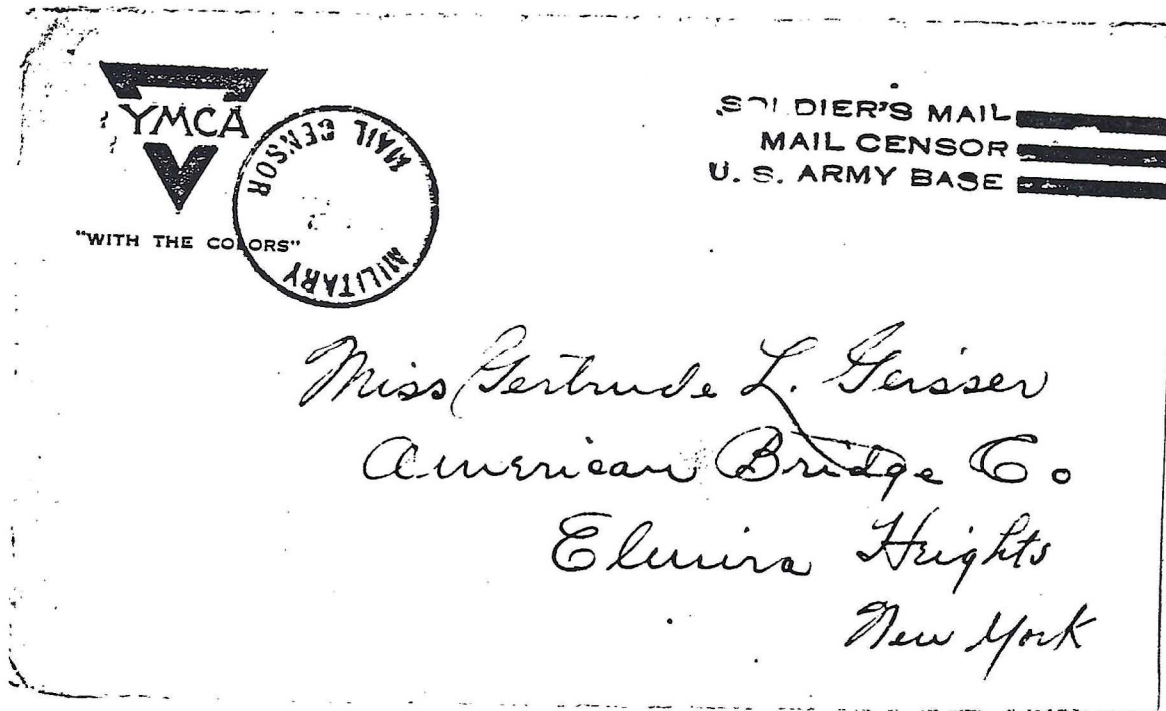
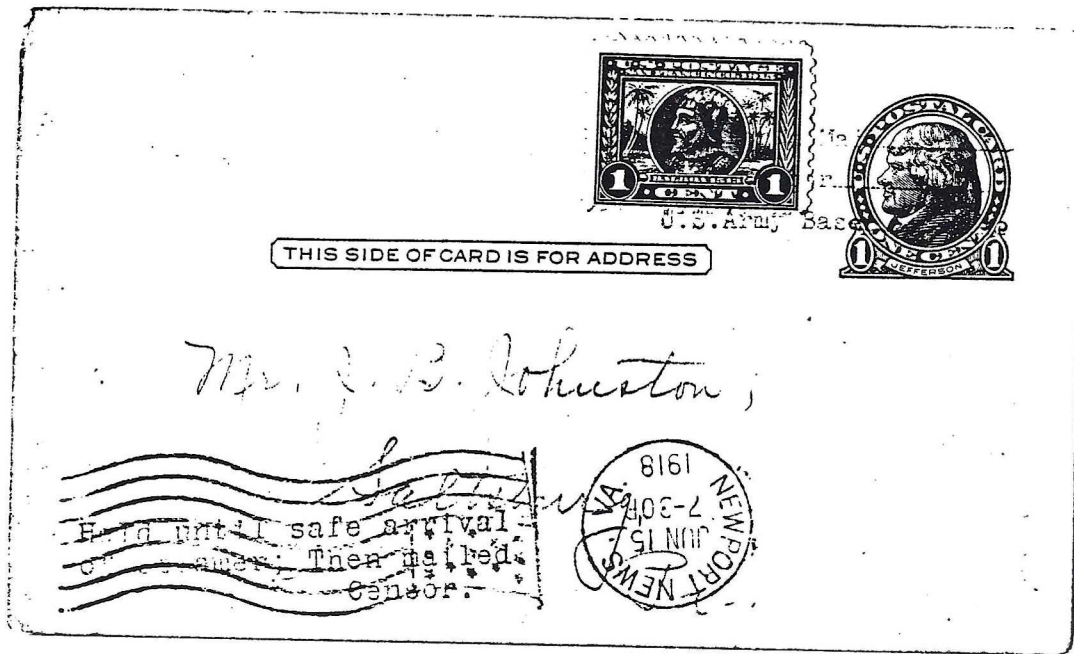
3423 Osage St

St Louis.

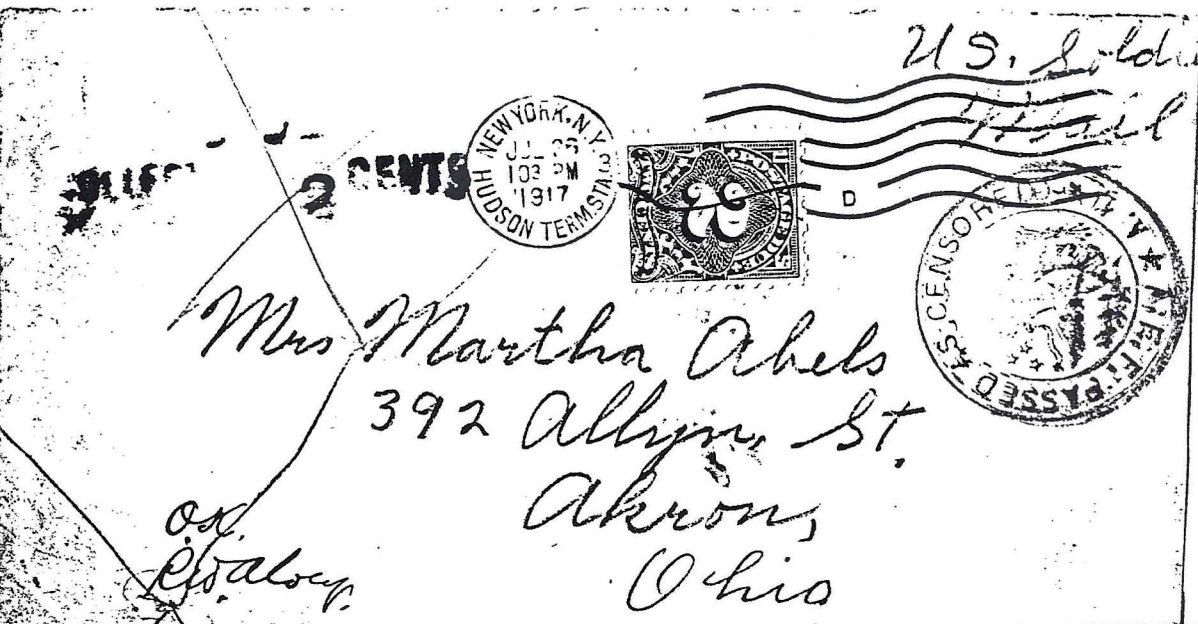
Mrs.



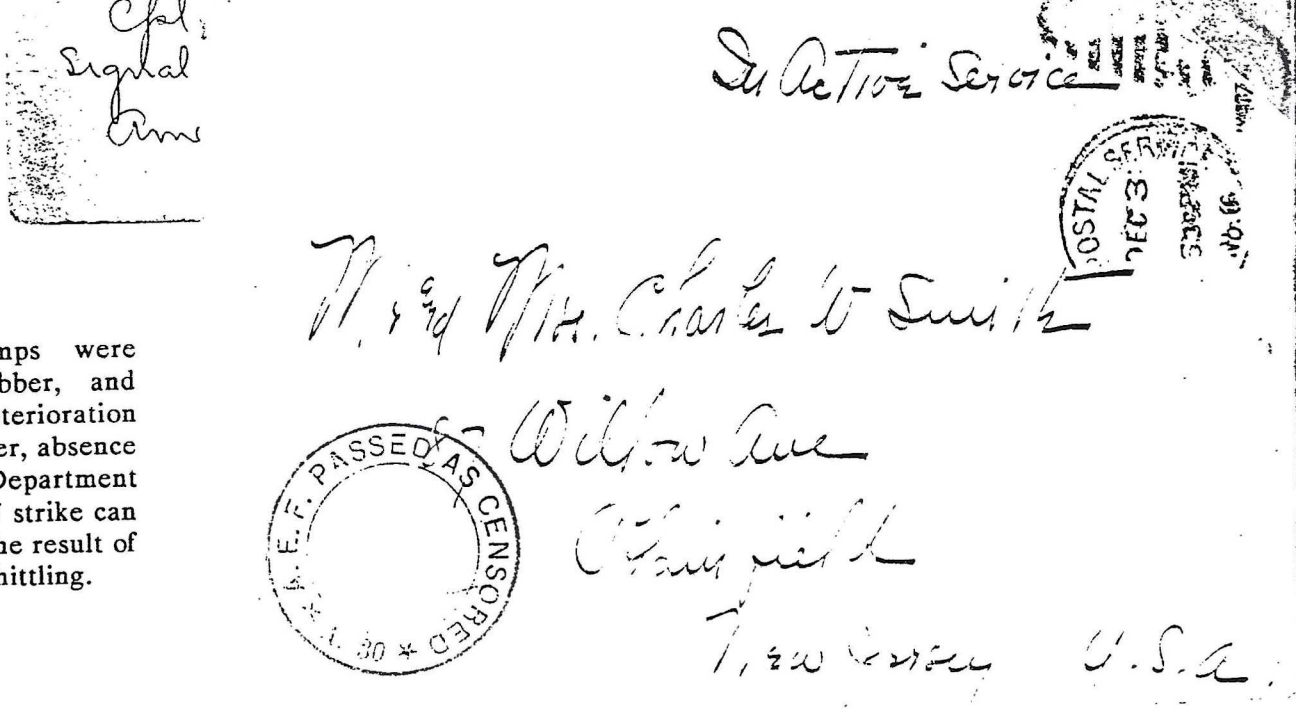
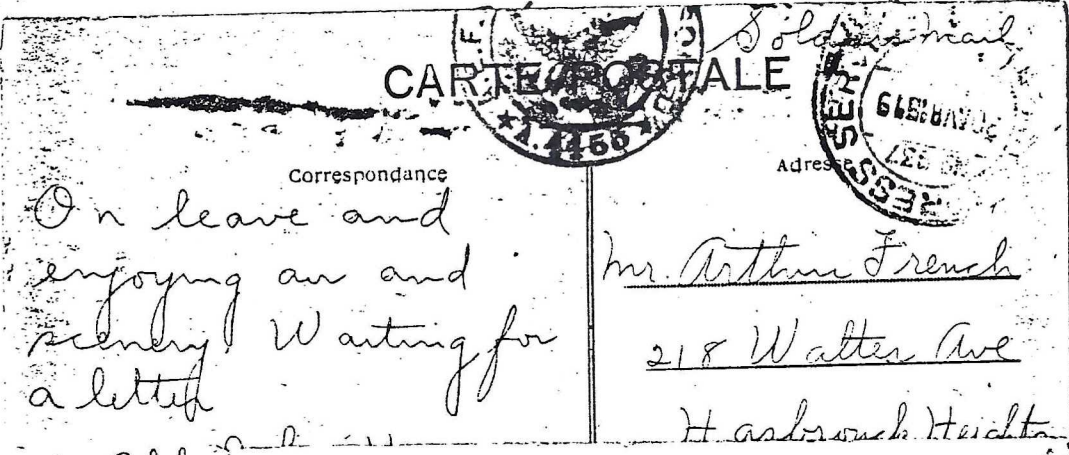
On 1 April 1918 the Office of the Chief Military Censor was given, in addition to its existing policy and administrative duties, responsibility for a portion of the mail of AEF troops en route to Europe. Two types of censor handstamp and 1 tape (2 subtypes) are recorded for this office.



All other censorship of AEF mail in the U.S. was carried out at the ports of embarkation. Since this involved almost exclusively safe arrival cards and letters left at the dock or with their ships by troops in transit, the censorship devices were designed to disguise the point and date of origin. Thus far 13 different handstamps incorporating "Censor" are recorded. It is likely that the vast majority of these were applied at the AEF mail depot at Hoboken, as 75% of the AEF troops shipped out of New York.



The Standard AEF unit censor handstamp. Recorded numbers range from 1 - 4455, with dates range from 17/20 July 1917 (above) to 11 July 1919.



These handstamps were made from rubber, and some do show deterioration by 1919. However, absence of the War Department arms in this 1917 strike can only have been the result of a bit of private whittling.

From B.S. Hides
 U.S.P.O. #731
 A.E.F. France

Letter.

RECEIVED BY
 JUL 19 1918

Mrs. Clarence E. Hides
 324 North Fourth Street
 Greenville.

As a rule unit censors did not use re-sealing tapes. This very unusual tape was most likely used because, against regulations, the envelope was submitted sealed to the unit censor.

P.H. McDowell
Y.M.C.A.

JUL 19 4-30P 1918 SERVICE

EXAMINED

12 rue Agnesseau
 Paris, France July 16

Mrs. P. H. McDowell
 Melrose

From
 Pte. Wm. H. McIntire
 151st In. S. + Mil. Police
 au. Detach. A.E.F.

U.S. ARMY
 APR 8
 2 PM
 POSTAL SERVICE
 1918

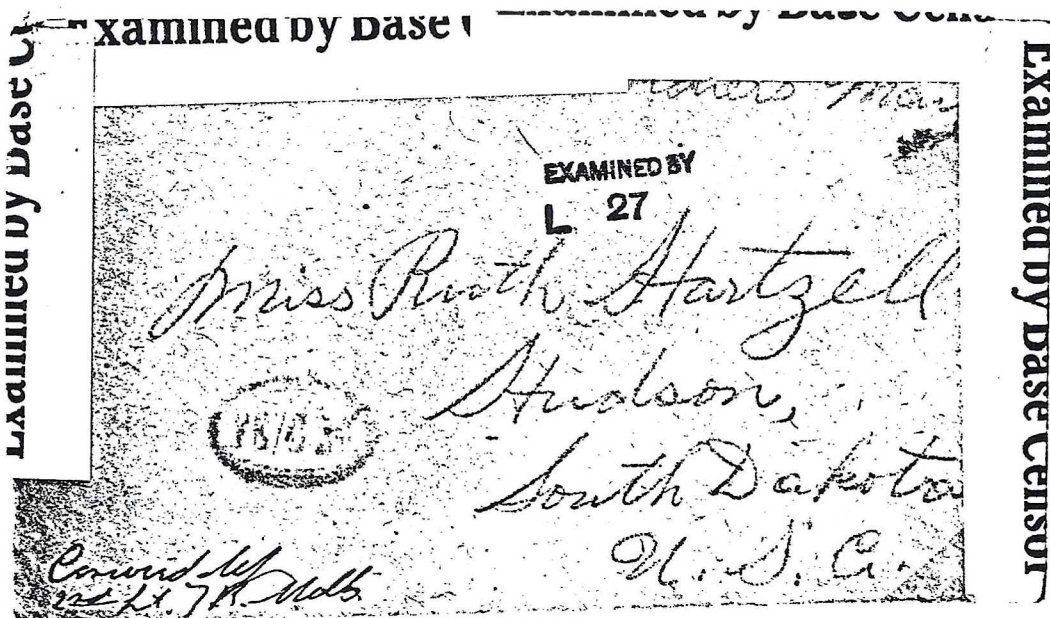
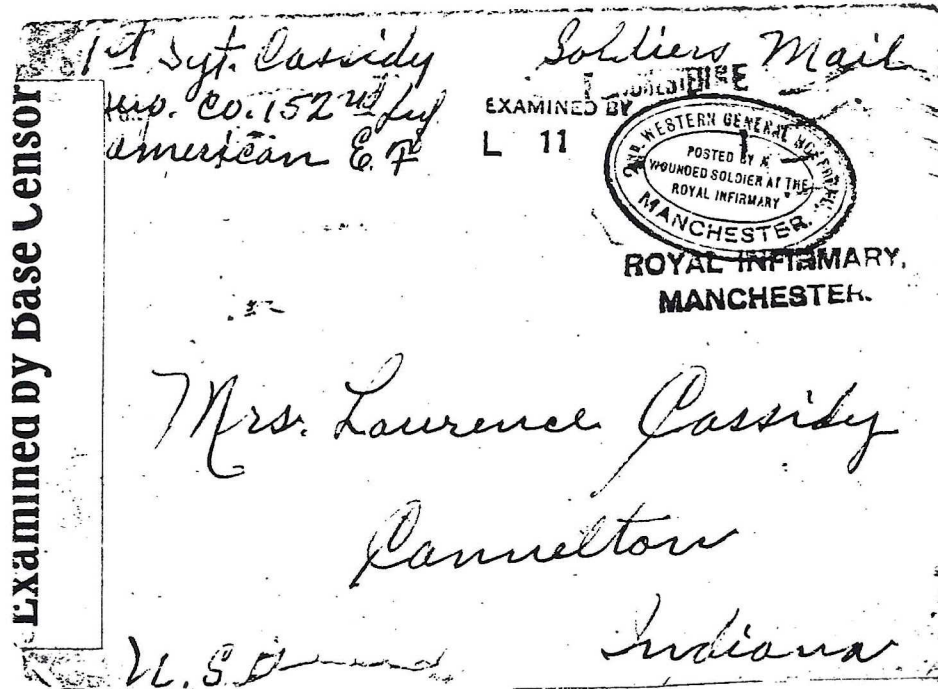
709

The Base Censor office was responsible for foreign mail and censorship of a sample of unit-censored mail. The Paris office used a boxed handstamp (#s 1-20) usually supplemented by 1 of 2 types of examiner numbers (shown here and on next page).

BASE CENSOR

JUL 5 1918

McIntire,
 Sai Jo,
 Valsko, Hasedate,
 Japan



A second Base Censor office was opened at Base Section 3, Liverpool (with a branch in London). In addition to AEF mail to and from the United Kingdom it handled mail from the AEF, North Russia (bottom cover above). It used the 2-line handstamp (in several subtypes) and the re-sealing tape shown here.

EXAMINED BY BASE CENSOR

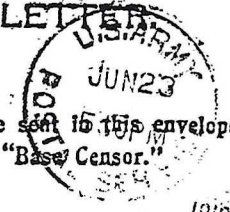
Handwritten: 1st Floor Supply Sgt by AEF



Unlike unit censors, the Base Censor routinely opened letters, and 2 types of re-sealing tape were used.

Miss Elizabeth Tutman Cramer

SOLDIER'S LETTER



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

1918



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 opened regimentally but liable to censorship at the Base.

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

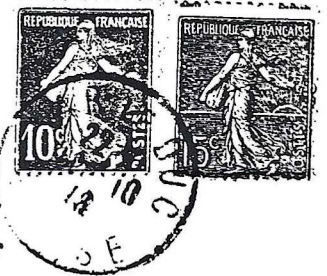
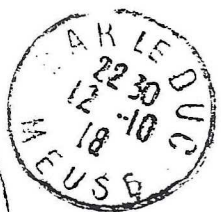
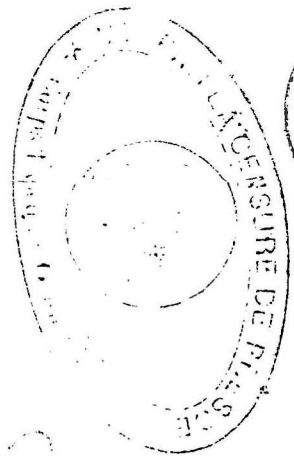
Address only.

Mde. Theresa Ballatou

#3 Selis Peliss

Name: *Bernard Ballatou*
Rank: *1st Sgt A/24 Pa.*

EXAMINED BY BASE CENSOR



News Editor
The Evening Telegram
Portland

OREGON

via French mail...

U.S.A.

The Base Censor also processed mail which the sender did not want to be read by his unit censor. This usually was sent in Blue Envelopes, which appear to have been opened on a spot-check basis.

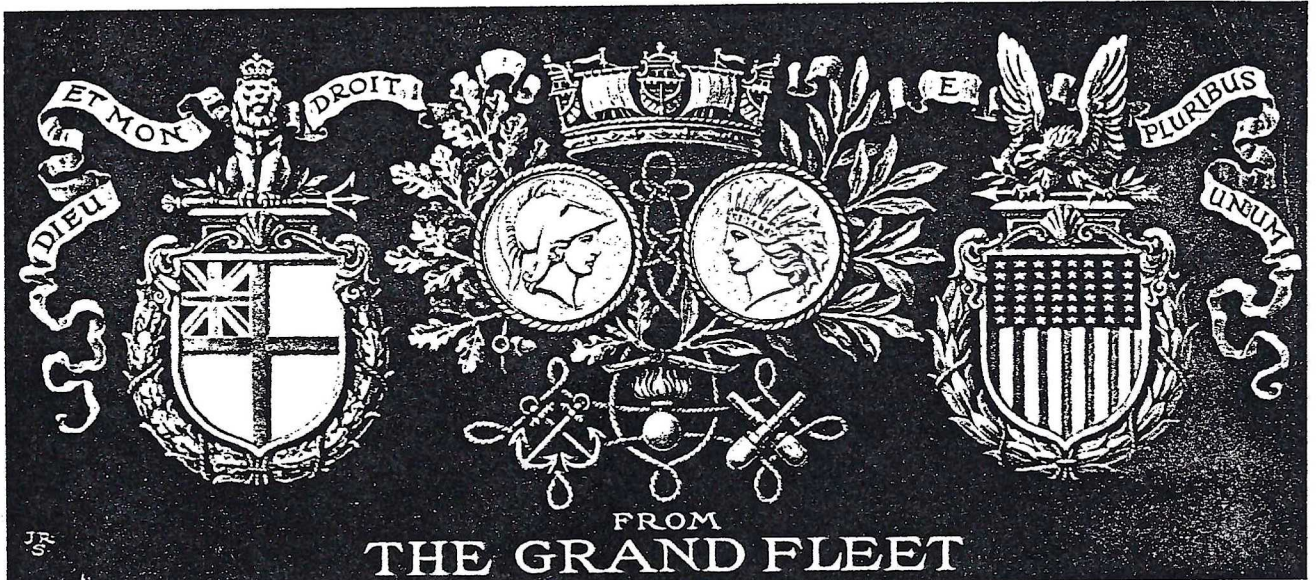
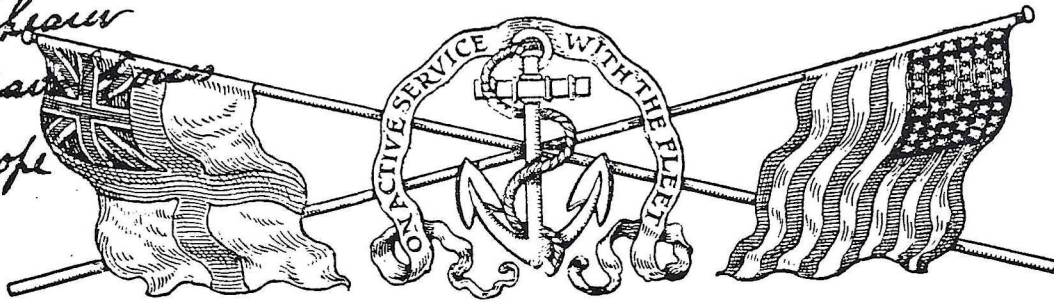
Press censorship (very unusual) was another job of the Base Censor.



Wartime
U.S. Navy

Afloat
Service with the British Navy

*R.V. Shaw
U.S. Navy
Europe*



COPYRIGHT BY THE GRAND FLEET FUND

will be coming home there, you a big...

J.H. Foy.
U.S.S. DELAWARE.
P.O. & GEO. London.

F.P.O. &



DM

DM

MAR 18

14 MAR 18

"U.S. NAVY" DUPLICATED
ON BACK

SOURIRE--De--France.
26--Rue--Cambon.
Paris.
France.

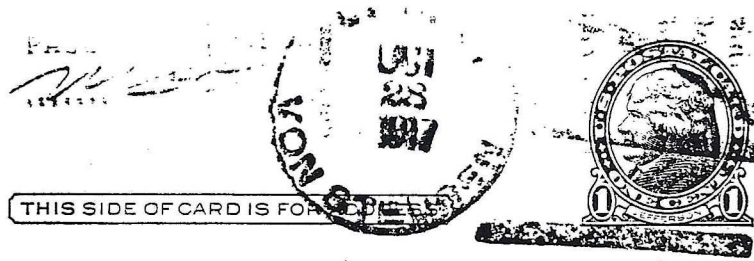
A.E.F. PASSED AS
CENSORED #
Charles Wilson
Lt. U.S.N.

The most visible U.S. Ships serving with the British Grand Fleet were battleships such as *Delaware* (arrived Scapa Flow 14 December 1917). However, as the German High Seas Fleet refused to come out after 1916, the heavy U.S. ships were used mainly on convoy duty. Smaller vessels such as the minelayer *Roanoke* were more active.

Top cover from *Roanoke* sailor, mailed from U.S. Navy Base 17, Invergordon, 1 December 1918. *Roanoke* had a post office from 1 March 1918 but no postmarks are recorded. *Delaware's* plain U.S. Navy postmark is on back of cover at left.

Wartime
U.S. Navy

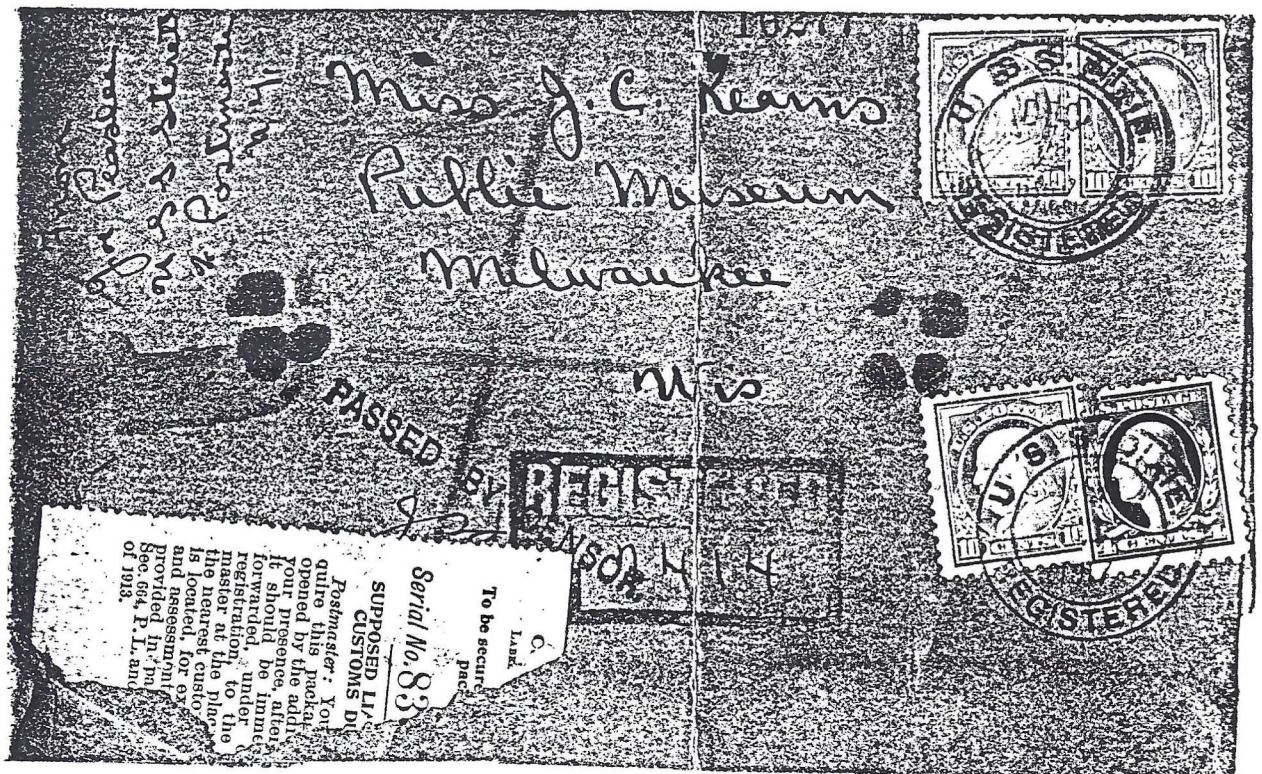
Afloat
Convoys



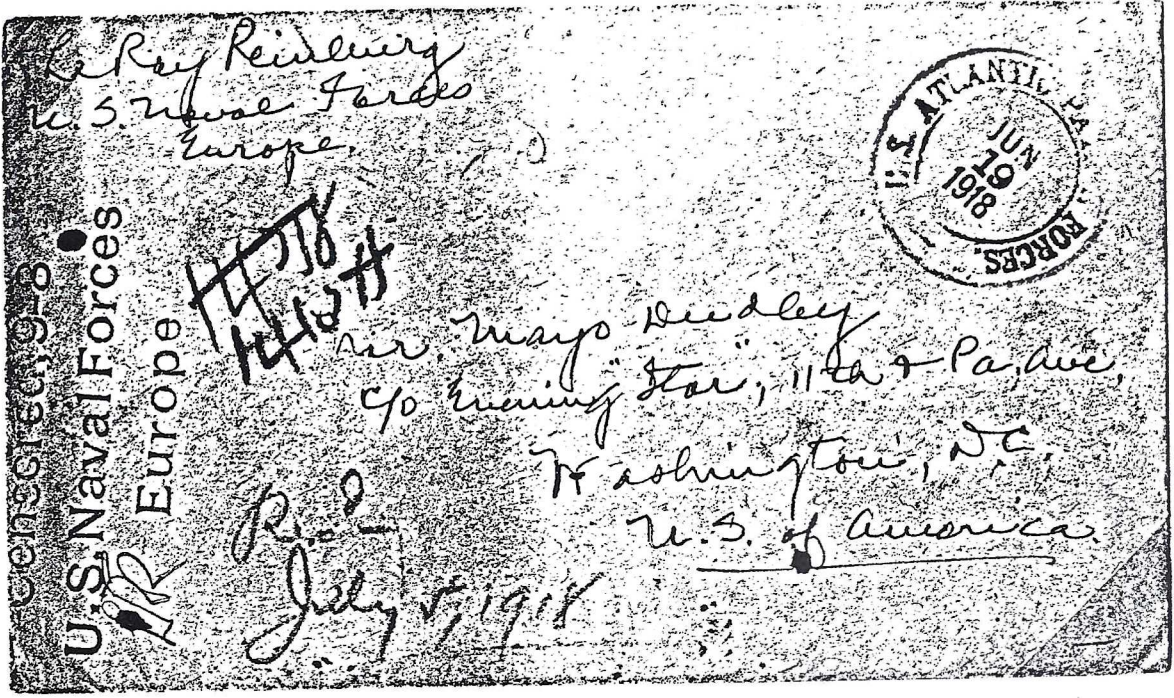
Probably the most famous of the U.S. Navy transports in WWI, *USS Von Steuben* had begun her war as a commerce raider in the German Navy, *SMS Kronprinz Wilhelm*, until she was interned in the U.S. in 1915. Card mailed as she was loading 1223 men and supplies for her first trip to Europe as a U.S. ship.

Miss Jane Workentin
123 Wise Ave
Oak Park
Ill
(To Playa Hotel)

USS Dixie (11 December 1917) was a destroyer tender based at Queenstown, Ireland from 12 June 1917 - 15 December 1918. U.S. sailors were entitled to the free frank when outside the U.S., but as with the Army, this did not extend to parcel post or to registry fees.

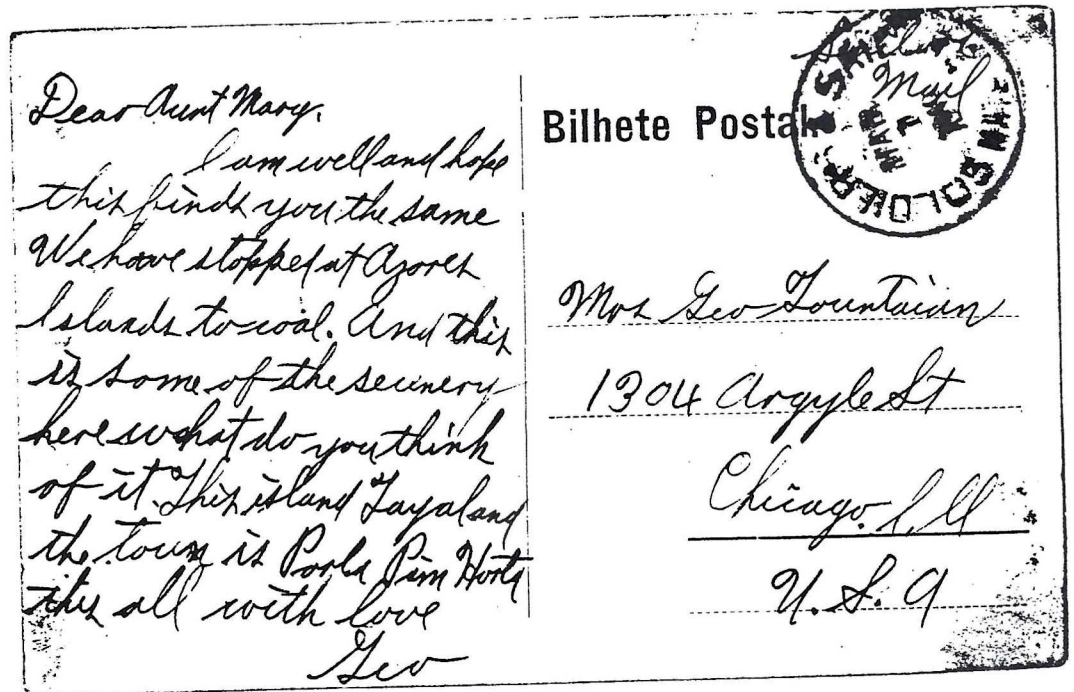


Continuous convoys were required to move U.S. troops to France and England, and to help keep them supplied. Troop and cargo ships had to be protected against German submarines during the crossings, which created an emphasis on destroyers that ran counter to the pre-war emphasis on greater numbers of ever-larger battleships.



Gibraltar; base number unknown. Base for patrol boats and stopping point for U.S. ships entering/leaving the Mediterranean.

Ponta Delgada, Azores; Base 13. Coaling station and seaplane base. "Soldiers and Sailors Mail" postmark very unusual.



The Navy operated a number of shore-based post offices in Europe during and after WWI. (Numbers recorded as high as 27, but it is not clear if all were used. The main concerns were bunkering facilities for the (largely) coal-powered ships and service, repair facilities for surface and air units used in anti-submarine warfare and, in France, the handling of troopships.

The opening and closing dates of these offices is not recorded in the philatelic literature. During most of the war U.S. Navy Base postmarks included only a base number rather than a place name location.

Wartime
U.S. Navy

Ashore

*H.A. Dunscomb
U.S. Navy Aviation
Brest France*

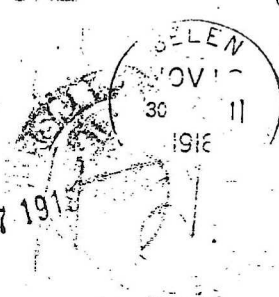
AMERICAN



SOLDIER'S
MAIL

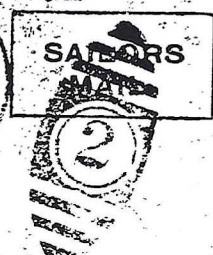


U.S. Naval Force



NOV 17 1918

Lake Daraga



Mrs. C. J. Neff

Burgess,

Ohio.

U.S.A.

32554

U.S.A.

MALDEN MASSACHUSETTS.

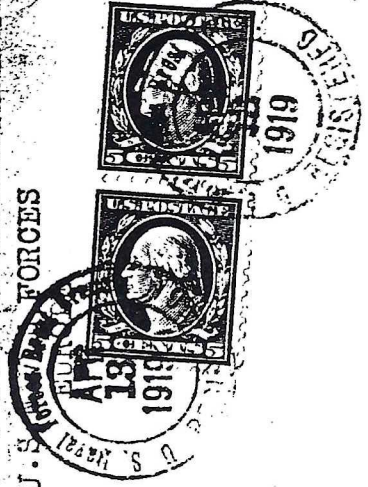
FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

REGISTERED

19-38

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

U.S. NAVAL FORCES



H.P. CULLEN
U.S.S. RINTINTIN.
Brest France

Brest, France; Base 7. Seaplane and kite balloon base, major supply depot and, from early 1919, the principal port of embarkation for American troops returning home. Cover at left bears 1 of only 2 recorded U.S. Navy Base registry postmarks from Europe during the AEF period.

Wartime
U.S. Navy

Ashore

O. J. Felio
U.S. Naval Forces
Europe.



The Boston Five Cents Savings Bank
Boston
Mass.



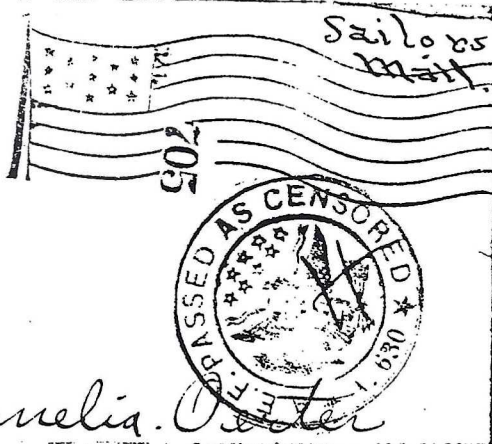
W. Manley
U.S. Naval Aviation Base
Queenstown Ireland



Miss. Cornelia Carter,
1723 College Ave.
Spokane,
Wash. U.S.A.

Queenstown, Ireland; Base 6. Aviation assembly and repair plus supply base for ships on convoy patrol in the North Atlantic. Only 4 examples of the postmark with name are recorded, all from after the Armistice.

Commander, G.M. 2nd Class, S.N. SOCIAL SERVICE
U.S. Naval Aviation Forces
Paulliac, Gironde, France
To Postmaster His Honor
JUN 21 1918
PM



Miss Cornelia Oster

L.L. Preston 219
U.S. Naval Air Station
Gujan mustin, Gironde
France. 900
JUN 18 1918
Sailors Mail
10



Miss Hazel Bevinger

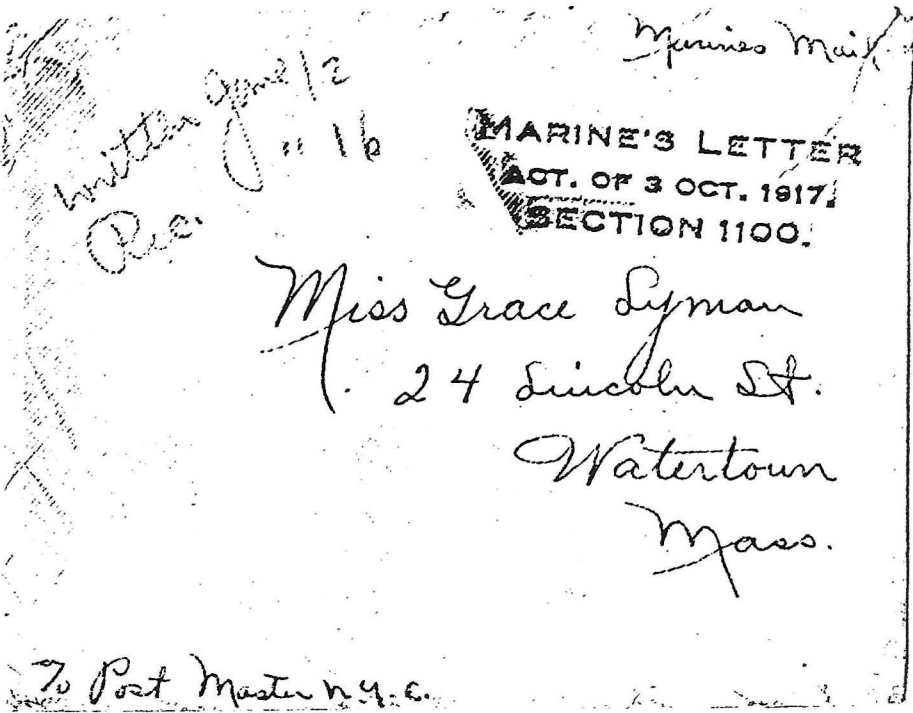


Go Van

13...
July 5 '18
feeling fine
but am hungry
for some home
made pie
Dayton
113
137 U.S. Navy, Station - Milano
Sailors Mail
Mr & Mrs Lore
70 Bates Building
1410 1st St N.W.
Washington
D.C.

No postmarks have been recorded for the Naval Air Stations above. Mail from Paulliac (aviation assembly and repair) and Gujon (balloons), France was routinely postmarked at APO 705 (Bordeaux). Mail from Porto Corsini, Italy (seaplane base) was nearly always sent without postmark (and with APO 702 [Paris] postmark in the exceptional cases) before the Armistice.

Wartime
U. S. Navy



U.S.M.C.

Of the over-2 million members of the AEF to serve in Europe, fewer than 20,000 were Marines. The 1st Bn., 5th Marines landed in France on 27 June 1917. They were later joined by the rest of the 5th and the 6th Marines, and served in the 2nd Army Div. In the late summer of 1918, the 11th and 13th Marines arrived in France, but were not used in combat.

Handstamp refers to date military free frank was enacted for WWI. It is very unusual.

U.S.N. Railway
Battery No. 1

Inspired by the German use of long-range naval guns mounted on rail cars, the U.S. Navy provided a similar service.

Note (Navy) censor's direction to register the cover. It is not clear why, or who provided the stamp.

