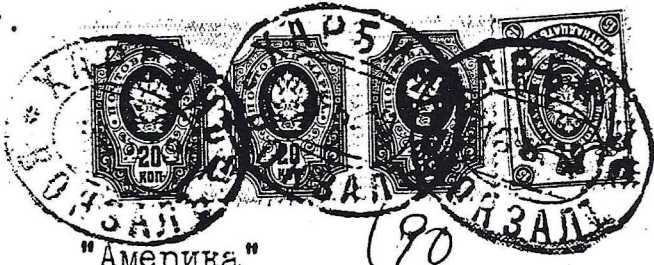


Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Russian Railway Service Corps

From Lt. P.E. Turner.  
R.R.S.C. .... A.E.F.  
Siberia.....



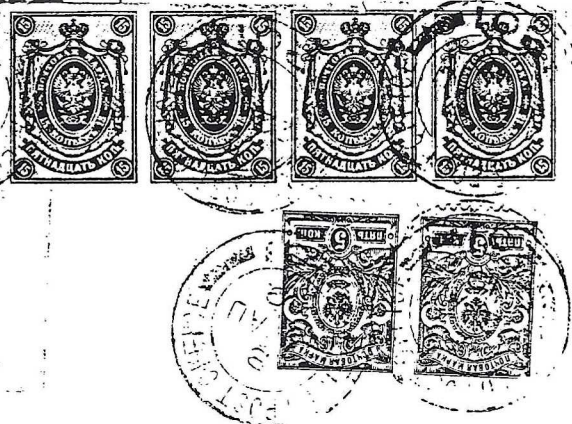
Mr. and Mrs. N.E. Turner.  
Reynolds, North Dakota.  
United States of America.

Postmarked Harbin  
Railway Station.

Opened  
by

180  
Rec: June 25-19

Office of the Chief Inspector, Chinese  
Eastern District, Trans-Baikal, Tomsk  
and Omsk Railways.



Col. G. H. Emerson

From Colonel G.H. Emerson  
Russian Railway Service Corps  
A.E.F. Siberia-Vladivostok.

To Mrs. G.H. Emerson,  
129 Macalester Ave.,  
St. Paul, Minn.  
U.S.A.

630 Grand  
~~682 Holly~~

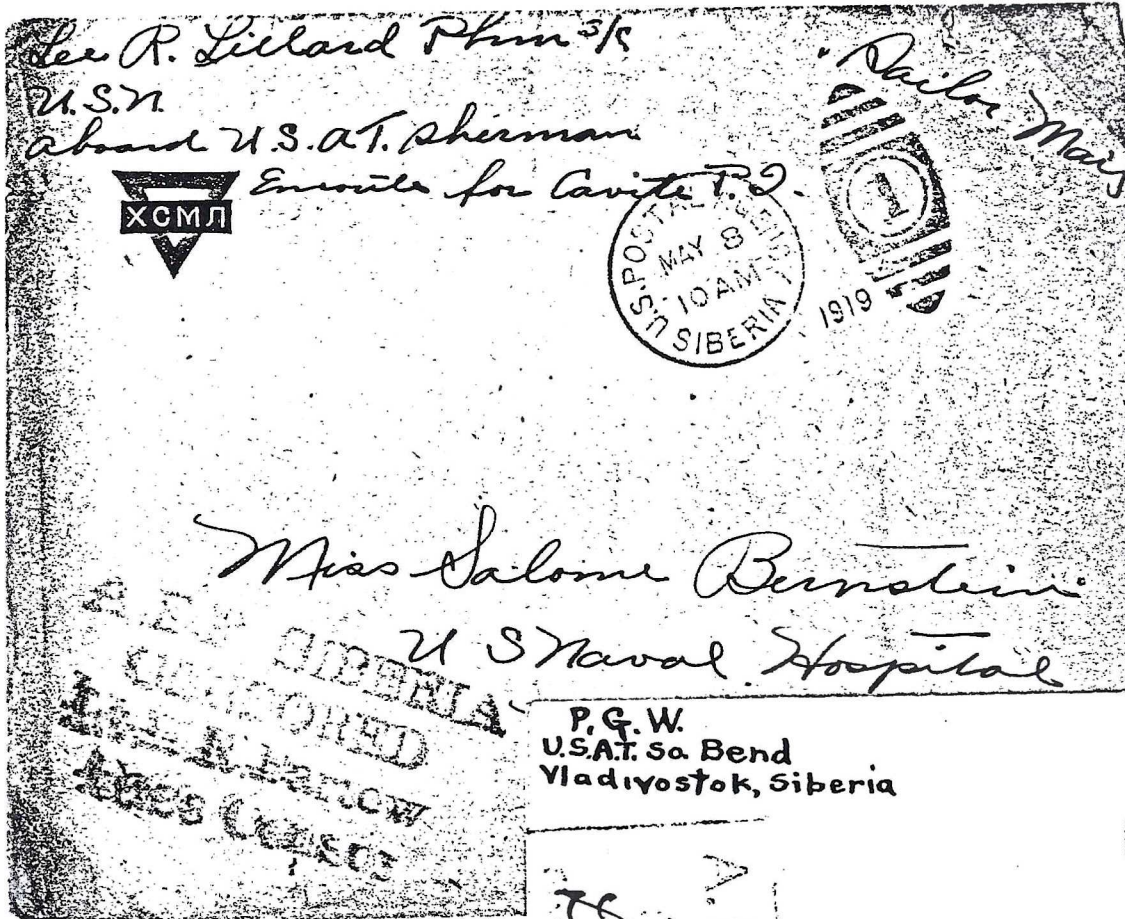
George H. Emerson,  
general manager of the  
Great Northern, headed  
the RRSC. The combi-  
nation of Russian  
stamps sent via the  
British field post office  
is most unusual.

The Russian Railway Service Corps, 288 men recruited from the Great Northern and Northwestern Railroads and of the Baldwin Engine Works in the Fall of 1917 to assist the Russian Provisional Government, landed in Harbin on 3 March 1918 and arrived in Vladivostok on 11 April 1918. These men were given U.S. Army ranks and uniforms, but were never commissioned. Eventually they worked closely with the American and other Allied intervention forces in Siberia.

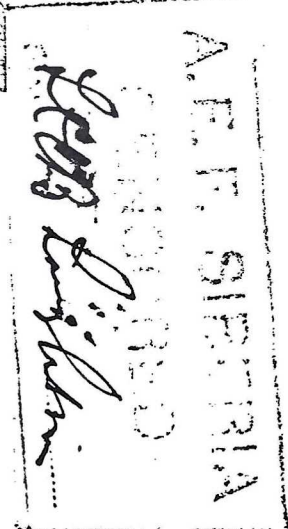
As these men were spread along the Trans-Siberian and Chinese Eastern Railway lines, they used such postal facilities as they could find, even after establishment of the U.S. postal agency at Vladivostok.

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
U.S. Army Transports



P.G.W.  
U.S.A.T. Sa Bend  
Vladivostok, Siberia



Mrs Milton Watson  
214 W. Barnard St.  
West Chester, Pa  
U.S.A.

Twelve US Army transports made at least one trip to Vladivostok during the intervention period. These ships were not equipped with on-board post offices, so mail from them can be identified only from the return address or details of the correspondence. Their military crews and passengers had the free frank while in Siberia.

USAT South Bend made only 1 trip to Siberia, to evacuate the 31st Infantry and was in Vladivostok 20 - 31 March 1920. Above cover postmarked 23 March 1920, the second latest date recorded for mail from the USPA Siberia, and only recorded cover from this ship.



Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

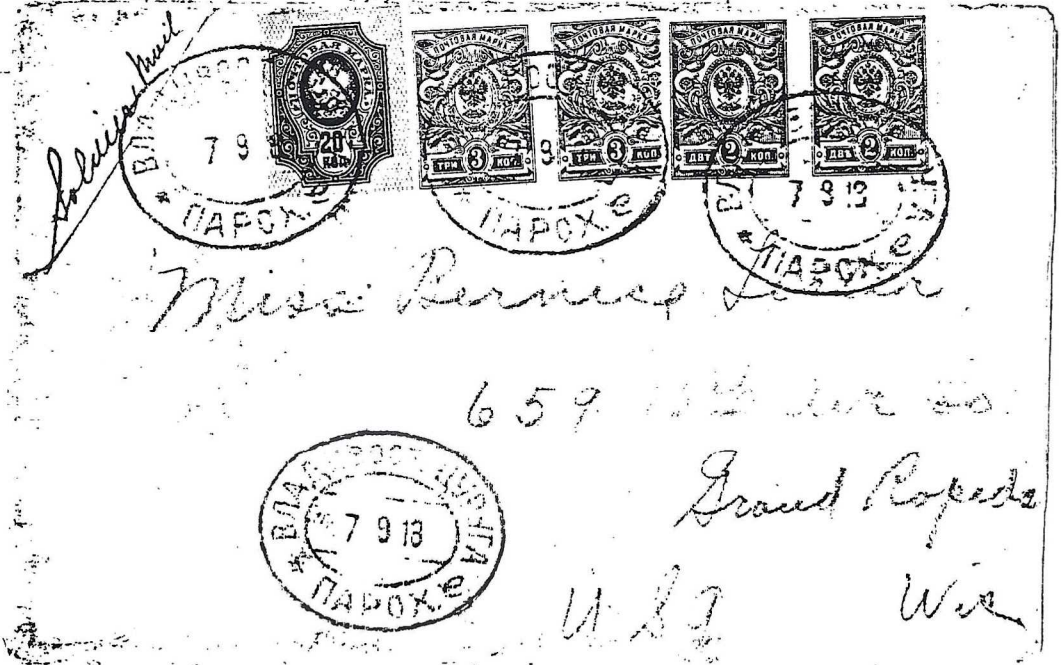
Siberia  
Postmarks

From Capt. J. S. Northrup, U.S.A., Headquarters  
American Expeditionary Force - Siberia  
Care of Depot Quartermaster  
San Francisco, Cal.

Office of Siberia  
Mail

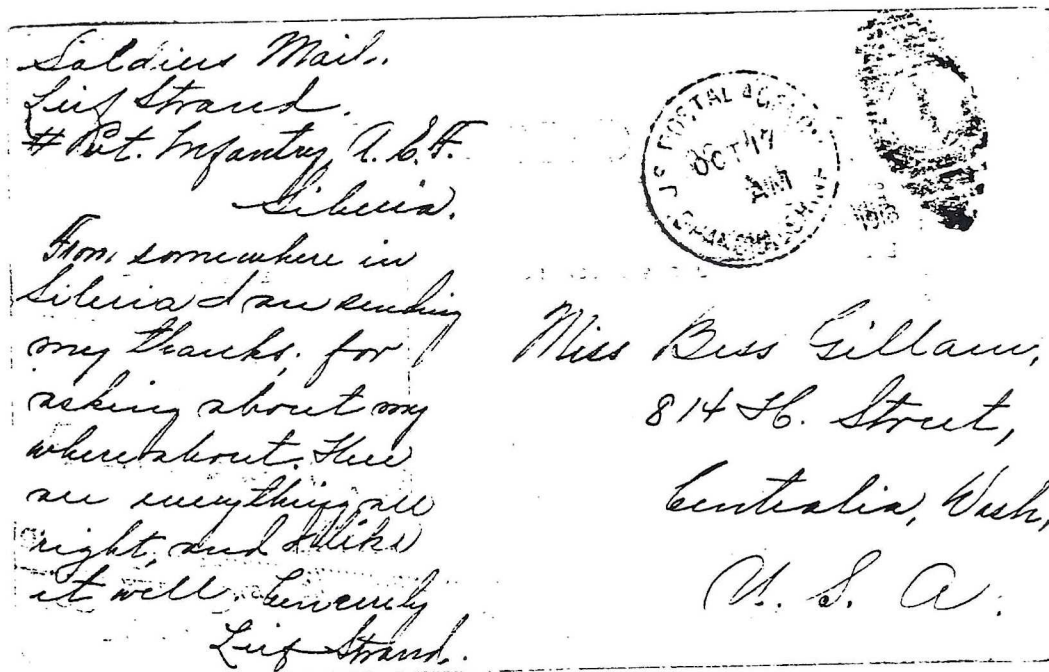
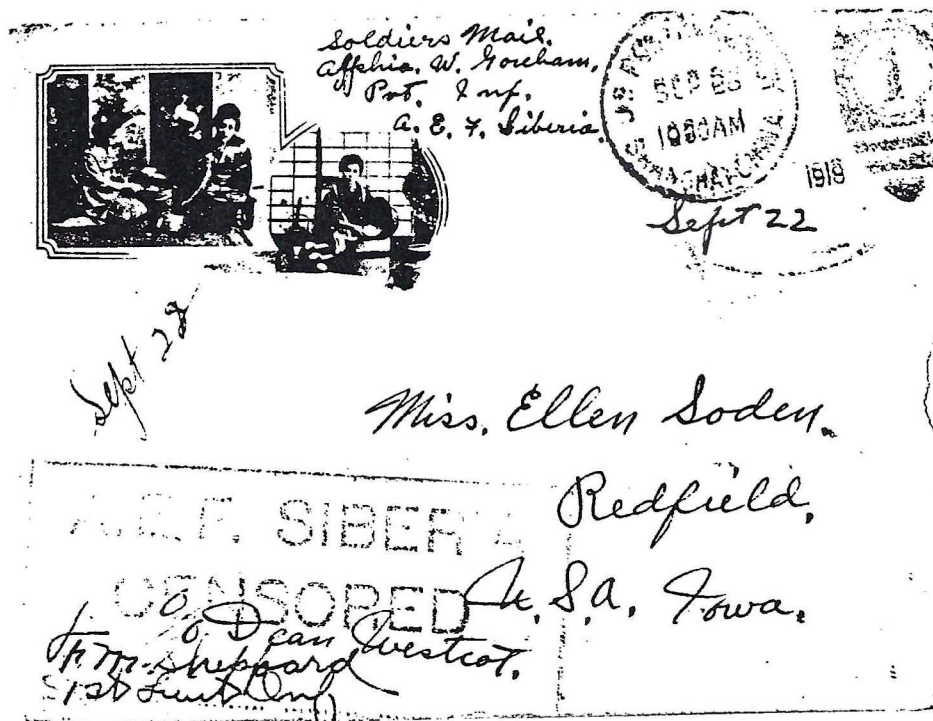
A. J. Gale  
Major, J. A.

Mrs. E. D. Northrup  
Schuster, Apt 5  
11<sup>th</sup> and Benton Street  
Los Angeles



No postal agency was established to serve the AEF Siberia until 12 September, 27 days after arrival of the first Army troops; and even then no cancel was provided until 25 September. Free-franked mail was accepted for carriage on US Army transports (which had no postal facilities or postmarks). Such forerunner mail is typically undated. However, it is usually censored in the upper right corner (as opposed to the more normal lower left), and a further clue (again not always present) that unpostmarked mail dates to this period is the "Depot Quartermaster" return address, which was later abandoned.

Soldiers willing to pay for quicker service could use the Russian post office. Above cover postmarked in the Vladivostok-Tsuruga Steamship post office.



From 25 September to 17 October 1918, the USPA Siberia used a cancel borrowed from the USPA Shanghai, China. Altogether 57 examples are recorded (17 in the Smithsonian), all struck in black. Poor to barely-legible strikes are the norm.

Through 2 October 1918 the USPA Shanghai duplex postmark appears with "1030AM" in the time slot. After that date only "AM" is used, without any indication of the hour.



Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Postmarks

Only recorded example of  
Shanghai Registered dates-  
tamp; 1 of 2 recorded  
examples of this type boxed  
registered handstamp.



*Soldier's Mail.*



*Mrs. G. J. J. Chapman,  
#113-11th Street,  
Pacific Grove,  
California,  
U. S. America.*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
*G. J. J. Chapman,  
Soldier's Mail.*  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-13-83 BY SP-6 R. H. H.

Free postage plus 10¢ registry fee.  
Backstamped San Francisco 4 Novem-  
ber (33 day transit).

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

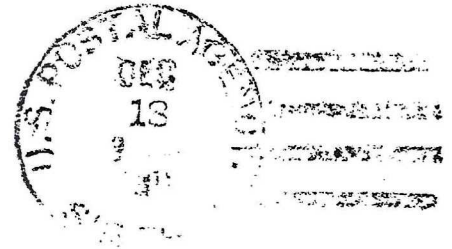
Siberia  
Postmarks

Soldier's Mail



Only recorded example of type H-3 private censor handstamp (long cover). Small cover self-censored by General Graves.

*Soldiers Mail*  
WAR DEPARTMENT,  
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,  
SIBERIA.



A. E. F. Siberia  
*Mrs. J. Graves*  
*Major Genl. U.S.A.*

Mrs. Norman C Streit,

*Mrs. Mrs. J. Graves*  
*The Nutwoodland*  
*# 2127 California St.*  
*Washington, D.C.*

Lieut. N C Streit,  
A E F Siberia,

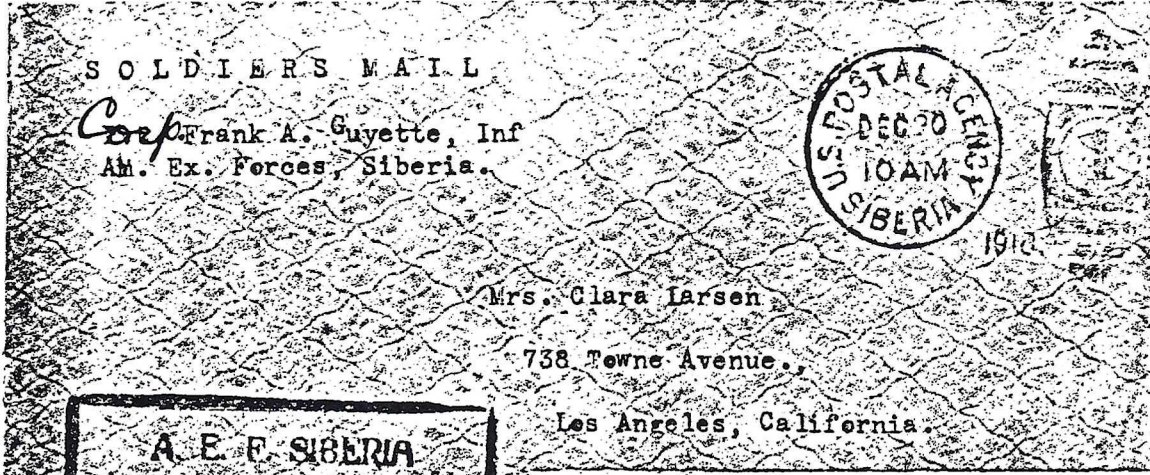
GENSORED  
Lt, N. C. Streit. - Inf.

First USPA Siberia postmark, brought to Vladivostok on 17 October 1918 by the Postal Agent, Stephen Crisler; placed in use 18 October. All recorded examples (215, 60 in the Smithsonian) are in black, with the 9AM time. First and last dates of use shown here.



Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Postmarks

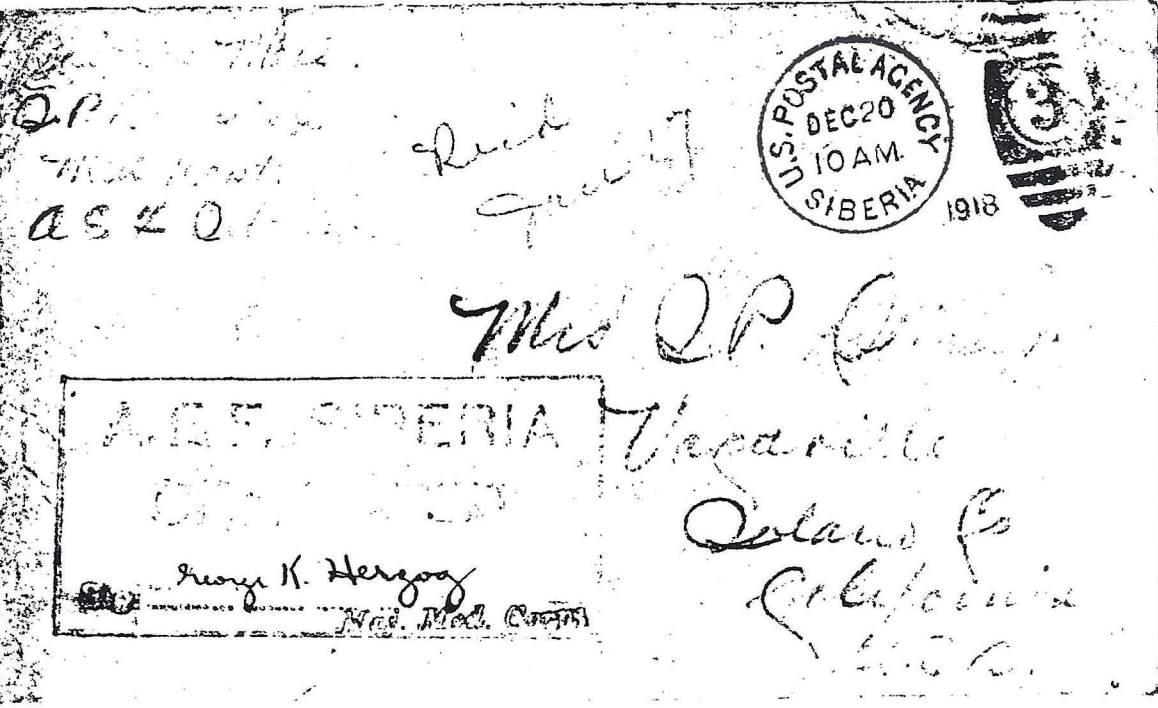


A. E. F. SIBERIA  
 CENSORED  
 Lieut. Lester R. Ade,  
 Base Censor

*Mrs. B. A. Winger*  
 +  
 Vladivostok  
 The American Red Cross  
 Siberia



*Mr. David LaRoy Dopping*



*reasury*  
*file:*  
*P. S.*

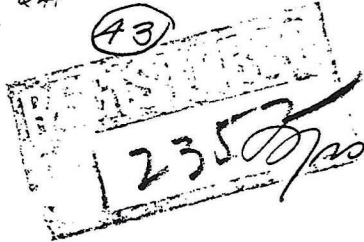
Hammer number 1: earliest (3 recorded) and latest (1 recorded) usages. Hammer number 3: only recorded example. There is no evidence that hammer number 2 was ever used.

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

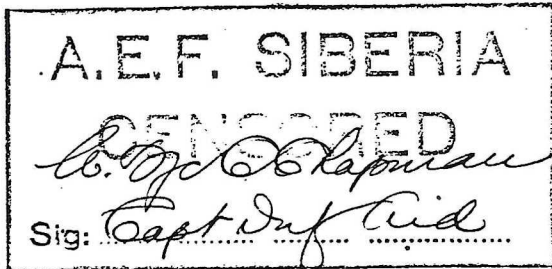
Siberia  
Postal Markings

*C. McChapman,*  
*Capt Inf, Aid.*  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,  
SIBERIA.  
6-11-1919  
244

*Soldiers to*



*C. McChapman,*  
*113 - 11th Street,*  
*Pacific Grove,*  
*California,*  
*U. S. America.*

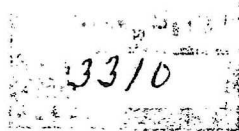


Type I Registered Handstamp, used at Vladivostok.

The USPA at Vladivostok processed about 4100 pieces of outgoing registered mail; other stations' quantities unknown. Of the 19 recorded pieces of USPA Siberia registered mail, 16 are from Vladivostok.

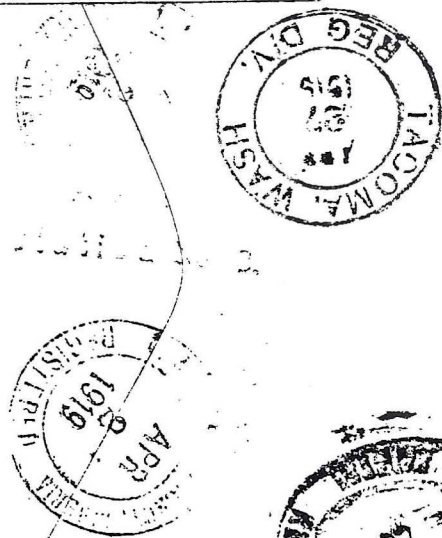


"WITH THE COLORS"



*113 - 11th Street*  
*Pacific Grove, California*  
*U. S. America*  
44133

Type II boxed handstamp used at Vladivostok (1 example, forerunner period) and later at Spasskoye (Station No. 3, dates unknown).



Station No. 3 handstamp, 1 example recorded on cover.



Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Postmarks

2277

RECEIPT

DOLLARS	77
15	CENTS

AMOUNT FOR WHICH ISSUED

TO BE DETACHED BY THE PURCHASER, WHO SHOULD PRESENT IT AT THE OFFICE OF ISSUE IF HE WISHES TO MAKE INQUIRY REGARDING THE ORDER

ISSUING OFFICE  
APR 17 1919  
STAMP HERE

United States Postal Agency, Siberia. 5221

X9500 Station No. 1 SERIAL NUMBER

Coupon for Paying Office  
NOT TO BE DETACHED BY HOLDER

Fifteen — DOLLARS 4 CENTS

PAYEE: *Third Nat Bank* FIGURES FOR CENTS

REMITTER: *Albert L Nelson*

THIS MONEY ORDER IS NOT GOOD FOR MORE THAN LARGEST AMOUNT INDICATED ON LEFT-HAND MARGIN OF THE ORDER AND ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE RENDERS IT VOID

ISSUING OFFICE  
APR 17 1919  
STAMP HERE

United States Postal Agency, Siberia. 7880

X9500 Station No. 2 SERIAL NUMBER

Coupon for Paying Office  
NOT TO BE DETACHED BY HOLDER

Twenty — DOLLARS 4 CENTS

PAYEE: *Mr John Borden* FIGURES FOR CENTS

REMITTER: *1203 Cooper Ave  
Capt H. R. Borden  
W. G. Co - 27 Div*

THIS MONEY ORDER IS NOT GOOD FOR MORE THAN LARGEST AMOUNT INDICATED ON LEFT-HAND MARGIN OF THE ORDER AND ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE RENDERS IT VOID

ISSUING OFFICE  
APR 17 1919  
STAMP HERE

United States Postal Agency, Siberia. 9720

X9500 Station No. 3 SERIAL NUMBER

Coupon for Paying Office  
NOT TO BE DETACHED BY HOLDER

Ten — DOLLARS # CENTS

PAYEE: *Mrs June B Monroe* FIGURES FOR CENTS

REMITTER: *Major E. C. Bush*

THIS MONEY ORDER IS NOT GOOD FOR MORE THAN LARGEST AMOUNT INDICATED ON LEFT-HAND MARGIN OF THE ORDER AND ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE RENDERS IT VOID

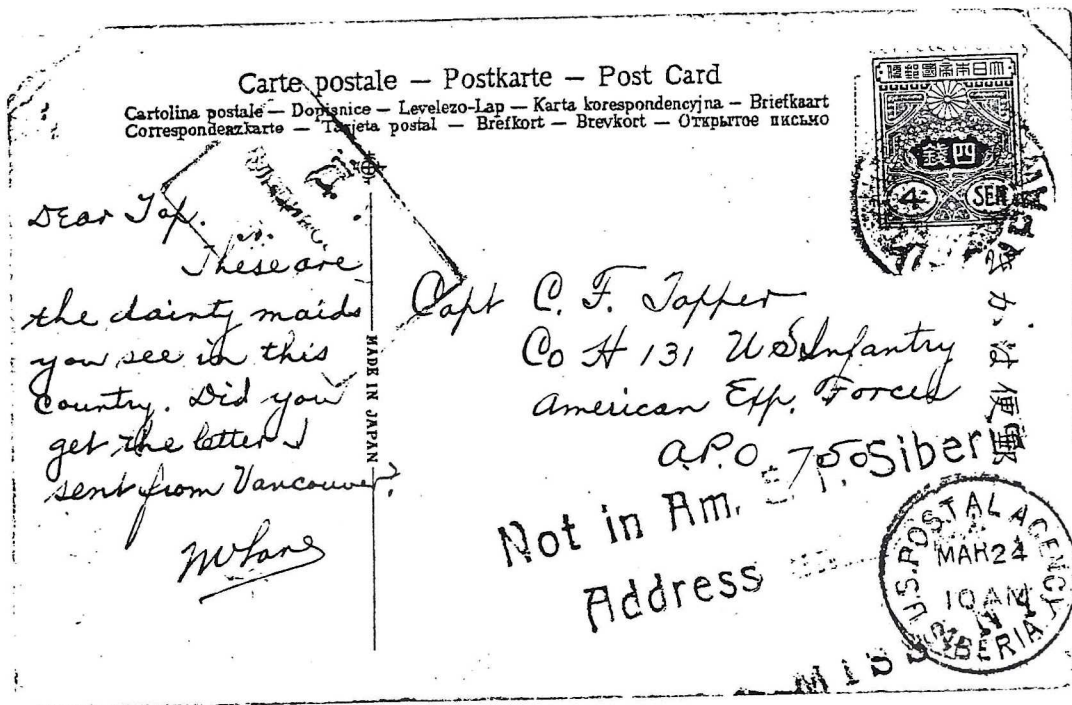
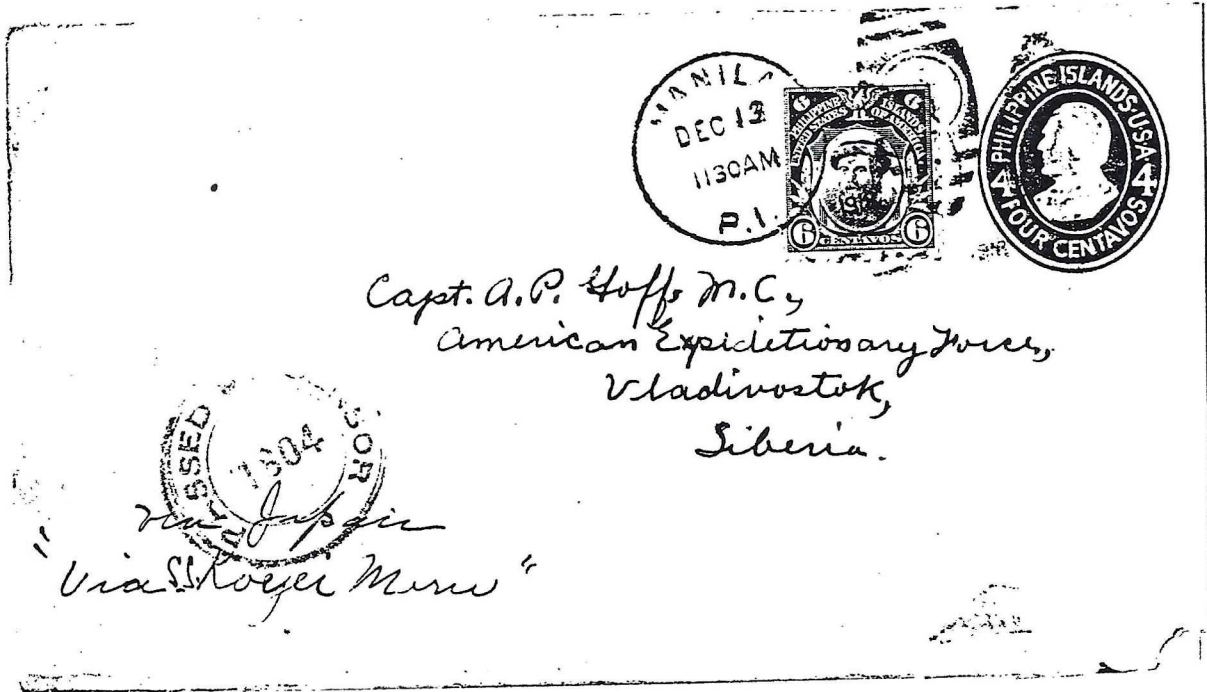
ISSUING OFFICE  
FEB 17 1919  
STAMP HERE

Only 7 AEF Siberia money order coupons and 1 receipt are recorded.

The existence of 3 field stations has been documented since 1953, but there is little postal evidence of their existence. For Station No. 1 (Verkhne-Udinsk), it consists only of the money order coupon shown here. For Station No. 2 (Khabarovsk) there are 2 money order coupons and 1 registered cover. For Station No. 3 (Spasskoye) there are 4 money order coupons and 1 registered cover. The money order receipt shown is the only evidence of this service from Vladivostok.

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Incoming Mail



Mail to the AEF Siberia from the US and its possessions was required to be paid at domestic rates.  
Mail from other countries (Russia excepted) was required to be paid at UPU rates.

"Not in Am. E.F. ..." handstamp: 3 examples recorded, only 1 with a USPSA Siberia postmark.



Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Censorship

Saidin's Mail  
Lawrence to Edirpan  
Capt. Inf. A. T. T.  
Siberia



房官臣大軍陸 兵備  
A. E. F. SIBERIA  
CENSORED  
Miss Ruby Poursavill  
778 Foun Ave.  
Los Angeles  
Calif.  
H. Vandenberg  
2nd Mail Dep.



PTICL K. Brown  
Co. B. 31st Inf.  
A. E. F. Siberia  
5 West Center  
S. F.

A. E. F. SIBERIA  
CENSORED  
Lt. R. J. Cryer  
Base Censor  
Miss Margaret Sheridan  
729 West 1st Avenue  
Denver  
Colorado  
U.S.

CENSORED BY  
CAPTAIN, 31ST INFANTRY

Mr.  
1741 Lacoma Ave.  
Berkeley  
Calif.

AEF Siberia regulations provided that mail was to be given unopened to "organization and detachment commanders" for censorship. "Company commanders" were to examine the mail, sign the cover and forward it unopened "to regimental or higher command to be stamped with the censor stamp." Base Censors were ordered to re-examine a portion of the unit-censored mail. This was done to a limited extent, but most "Base Censor" handstamps represent unit censorship of mail from HQ personnel.

Additionally, some officers used a personal handstamp to provide their name and/or rank (21 types recorded, each with fewer than 10 examples). Seventeen types of unit and base censor handstamps are recorded (quantities of from 1 to about 500 examples each, with 2 types accounting for 70% of the examples). The types shown above each have fewer than 20 recorded examples.

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Censorship

Opened by Censor  
No. 10

*covers more,  
but lesser R. Little  
Y.M.C.A. Siberia*

WITH THE COLORS™

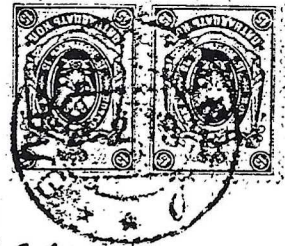


**E. F. SIBERIA  
CENSORED**  
*R. Yemawal*

*Frank Simpson*

*~~Santa Fe~~  
Range  
H. M. A.*

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
IN RUSSIA



*Mrs. George Gleason  
270 Kellogg St.  
Palo Alto  
Cal.  
U.S.A.*

Opened

by

**Censor No. 21.**  
**КЕНСОР № 21.**  
**КОММУНИКАЦИИ КОИТО РАСПРАВА**  
**№ 21**

Under the Censorship Regulations (Memorandum No. 4 on 9 September 1918) nearly all covers would remain open until the unit censorship process was completed, and censor sealing tapes were not required. The regulations further provided that "Any communication which has been opened by a censor will be closed again with the 'Opened by Censor' label..." Three types of AEF censor tapes have been recorded on AEF mail. As may be expected these are scarce.

In addition to censoring AEF mail base censors were involved in examining mail passing through the Russian post office in Vladivostok bound for America. U.S. and Russian censors worked in the same room and jointly examined mail of mutual interest, re-sealing the covers with an English language tape (2 types recorded) supplied by the Americans, tied by a Russian handstamp.



Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
Prisoners of War

*Via Amerika*  
POST CARD.

Prisoner of War Mail.  
American Prison Camp.  
Vladivostok, Siberia  
Prisoner of war No. 308.  
*Ferdinand Procher*

An *Via New York*  
Fraülein  
Lina Wolf  
Hanau-Kesselstatt  
Karls. Str. 8.  
Wiesbaden

POSTAL AGENCY  
SIBERIA  
10 AM  
JAN 27 1920

*Via New-York*  
POST CARD.

Prisoner of War Mail.  
American Prison Camp.  
Vladivostok, Siberia  
Prisoner of war No. 308.  
*Ferdinand Procher*

An *40*  
Fraülein

POSTAL AGENCY  
SIBERIA  
10 AM  
NOV 13 1919

Prisoner of War Mail

Base Prison Camp  
A. E. F., Siberia  
No. 308.  
Prisoner of war  
*Ferdinand Procher*

POSTAL AGENCY  
SIBERIA  
10 AM  
JAN 27 1920

Fraülein  
Lina Wolf  
Hanau-Kesselstatt  
Karls-Str. 8. Germany  
~~Austria~~

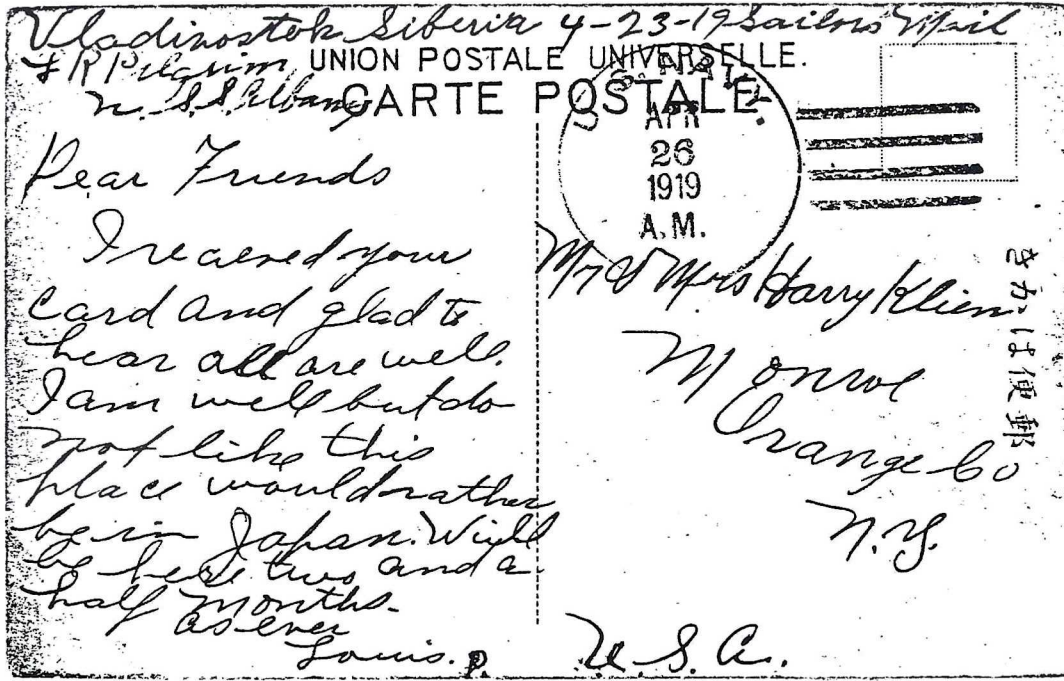
Via. New York

AEF Siberia administered 2 camps for Austro-Hungarian and German POWs, at Vladivostok, and Krasnaya Rechka. Mail to and from the POWs was free under the Geneva Conventions.

Two principal types (and 1 sub-type) of POW postcard were prepared by the AEF Siberia. None has any printing on the back. Only 5 examples are recorded of the top card, 1 of sub-type with the large "POST CARD" and 2 of the "Base Prison Camp" version.

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
U. S. Navy



USS Albany

Ship Type: Protected  
Cruiser  
Complement: 326

Tours in Siberia, Intervention Period: 19 June - 26 July 1919; 19 December 1919 - 30 March 1920; 23 September 1920 - 19 February 1921; 30 September 1921 - 17 February 1922

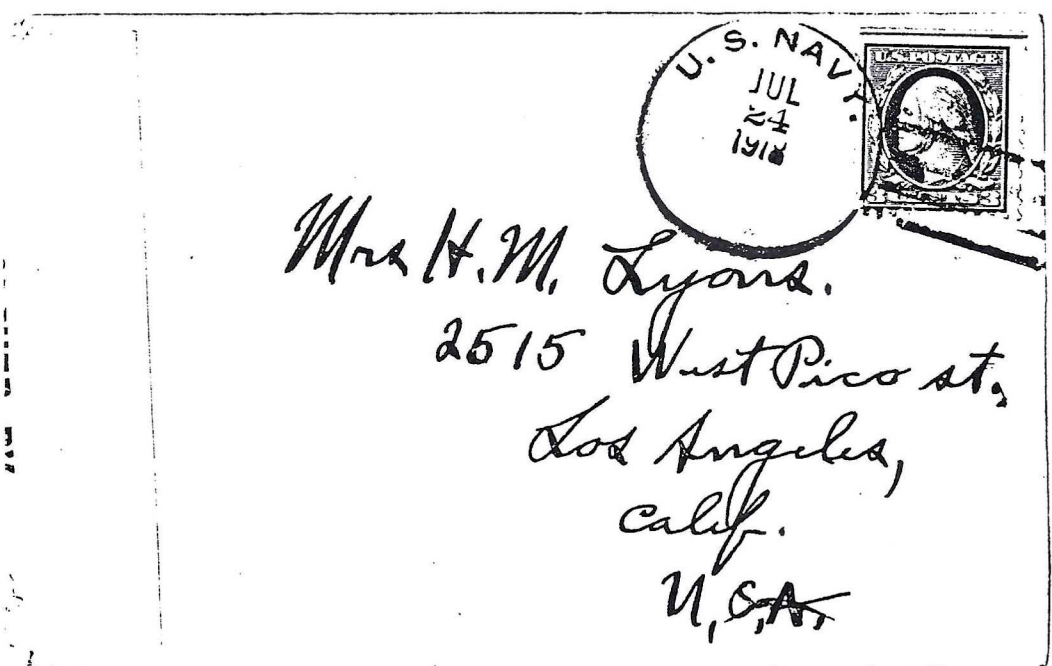
3 postmark types recorded (on 14 covers/cards).

USS Brooklyn

Ship Type: Armored  
Cruiser  
Complement: 729

Tours in Siberia, Intervention Period: 1 March - 9 October 1918; 23 December 1918 - 2 April 1919; 28 October - 8 December 1919

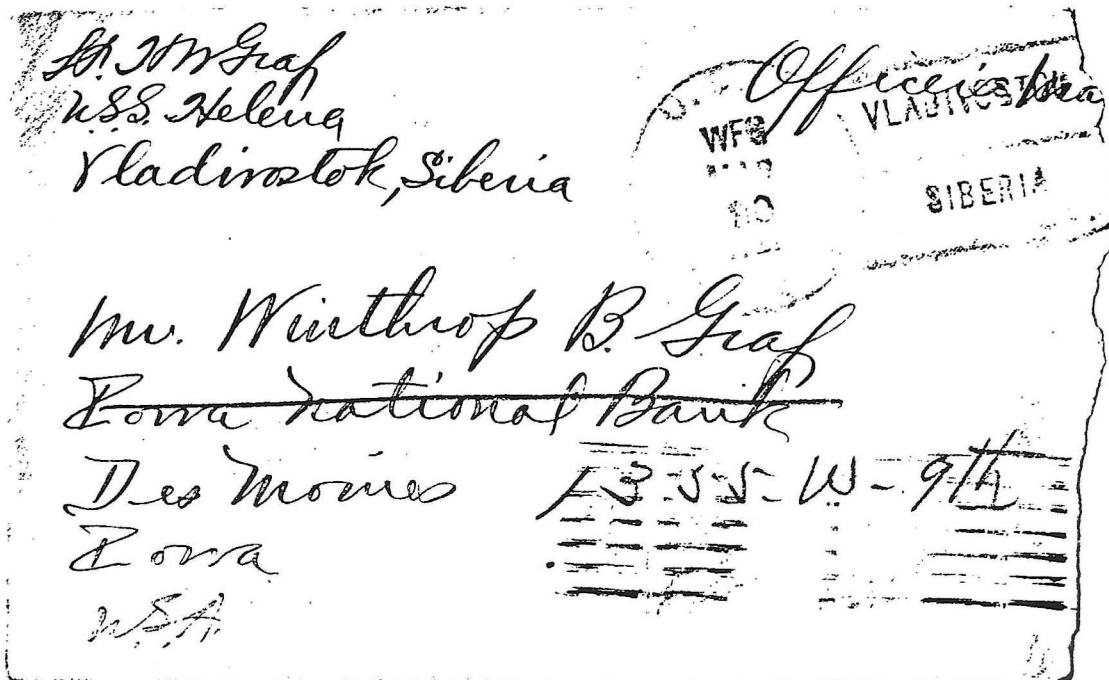
3 postmark types recorded (on 8 covers/cards).





Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
U. S. Navy



*USS Helena*

Ship Type: Gunboat  
Complement: 207

Tour in Siberia, Inter-  
vention Period: 15 Fe-  
bruary - 2 June 1919

Only recorded example  
of mail from Siberian  
Intervention.

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

*USS Sacramento*

Ship Type: Gunboat  
Complement: 171

Tour in Siberia, Inter-  
vention Period: 11 Sept-  
ember - 24 November  
1922.

Only recorded example  
of mail from Siberian  
Intervention.



Richard B. Norton,

U. S. S. NEW ORLEANS,

c/o Postmaster,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Wartime  
Intervention in Russia

Siberia  
U. S. Navy



USS New Orleans

Ship Type: Protected  
Cruiser  
Complement: 326

Tours in Siberia, Inter-  
vention Period: 17 July  
1918 - 20 December  
1919; 20 May - 27 Sept-  
ember 1919; 30 May - 3  
October 1921; 14 Febru-  
ary - 17 August 1922

1 postmark recorded (3  
subtypes, on 17 covers/  
cards).

Miss Emily Donaldson.  
118 Miles St.  
Bridgeport.  
Conn.

U.S.A.

USS South Dakota

Ship Type: Armored  
Cruiser  
Complement: Ca. 900

Tour in Siberia, Inter-  
vention Period: Ca. No-  
vember 1919 - June 1920.

2 postmark types record-  
ed (on 4 covers/cards).

