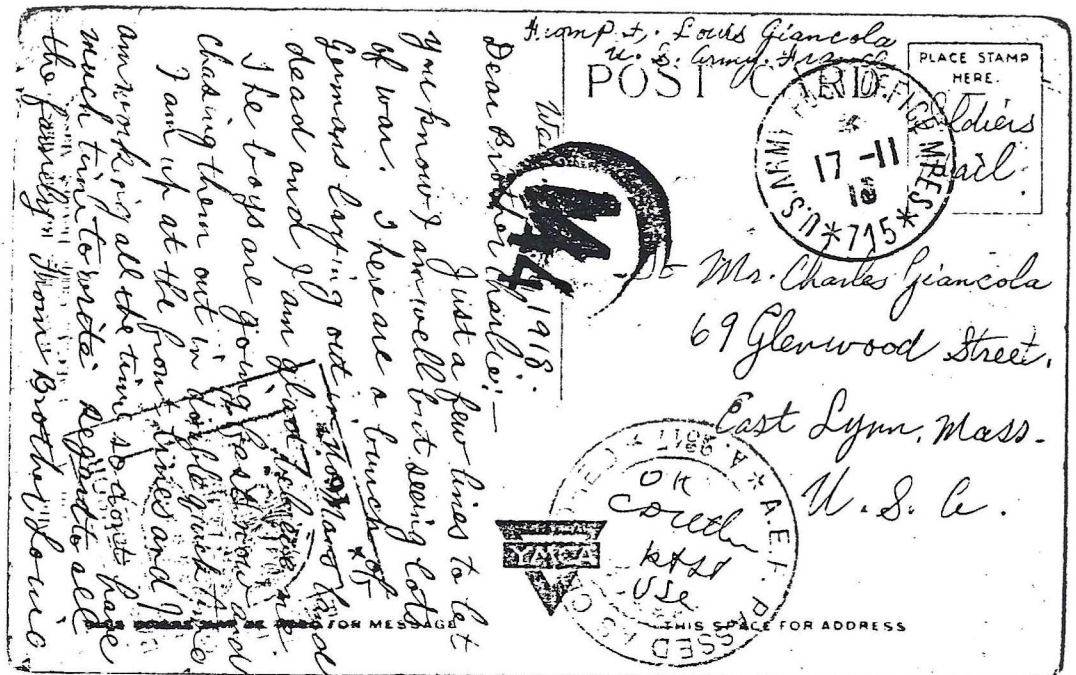


The celebrations that followed the announcement of the end of the fighting got in the way of postmarking mail, making this a scarce date for AEF postmarks. APO 785 was a stationed at Allerey, France.



Card written Nov. 6 but not posted for 11 days. APO 715 served the 42nd Div., which was in combat in the Meuse-Argonne offensive from 4-10 November. Note the text.

With their allies having sued for peace, signs of anarchy appearing at home and a major offensive pushing them back along much of the Western Front, the Germans agreed to an Armistice to begin at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.



Soldier's Mail.

AMERICAN COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE PEACE

INTELLIGENCE LIBRARY G-2

Sergeant. C.I.P.
Harold Putnam Browne,
United States Army.

O.K.

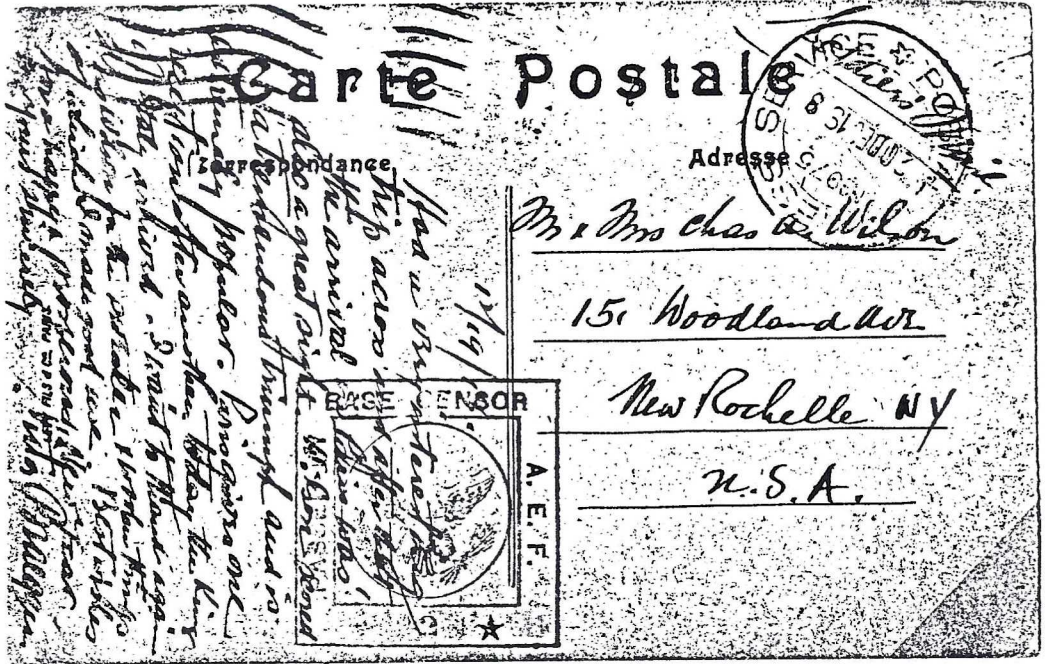
W.P. Browne

2nd Lt. U.S.A.

~~P.H. MOSELEY~~

~~1st Lt. U.S.A.~~

Miss Nellie C. Putnam.
Commercial Street.
PROVINCETOWN.
Barnstable County.
Cape Cod.
Massachusetts.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



Earliest Recorded APO 975 Mail

APO 975 was opened in Paris to handle mail related to the Peace Conference, and the APO 975 postmark is recorded used from 20 December 1918 - 21 August 1919. Some mail from the American Commission to Negotiate Peace is recorded posted at APO 702 (Paris). Note the text.

The American Commission to Negotiate the Peace, headed by President Wilson, arrived in France a month before the opening of the Versailles Conference on 18 January 1919. The AEF provided clerical and other technical support to the American negotiators. While a peace treaty was signed by the Germans on 28 June 1919, treaties with Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey kept the negotiators busy through August 1920.

Cattaro Austria
Jan 17th 1919

My Dear Wife

Private C.T. Hayden
Co H. 33rd Inf
American Ex Forces
Italy A.P.O. 901.C.

you a few
I trust the
same. no
thing nes

Soldiers
Mail



Mrs Clay T. Hayden
919 Monroe St.
Zanesville
Ohio
U.S.A.

Pvt. Glenn O. Gember,
Personnel Office, 2nd Bn. 332nd Inf.
Cattaro, Dalmatia. AEF APO 901

Soldiers Mail.

MR. AND MRS. ADAM J. G A M B
113 EAST FOURTH STREET,
MANSFIELD,
OHIO. U.S.A.



Censored by



On 21 November 1918 the 2nd Battalion (Cos. E - H) of the 332nd Infantry Regiment arrived at Cattaro. The 2nd Bn. rejoined the rest of its regiment at Genoa on 28-29 March 1919 and sailed from there to the U.S. While in Dalmatia, it sent its mail to APO 901 (Milan) for processing.

Postwar
History

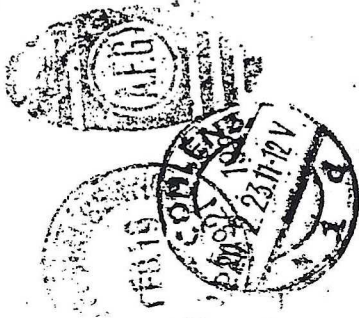
Forces in Germany

On 25 August 1921 the U.S. and Germany signed a peace treaty which was ratified by the U.S. Senate on 19 October. As a result, from December 1921 through May 1922 1,000 to 2,000 American troops per month were repatriated from Germany. During the second half of 1922, the strength of the AFG was maintained at about 1,200 men. These were withdrawn in January 1923 and on 24 January the AFG HQ left Coblenz. The command was officially discontinued on 21 February 1923.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
American Forces in Germany
Office of the General Sales Agent
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Stadt. Arbeitszentrale f. Erwerbsbeschrenkte
Ziegelgasse 22
Frankfurt a/Main

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



According to Post Office records APO 927 closed on 31 July 1921. However military records show that in June 1922 it had 6 personnel and an office in the AFG HQ building. As with other APOs serving U.S. headquarters in Europe, the APO 927 postmark was left with Army personnel who remained after elimination of both the APO and the command which it served. The latest recorded APO 927 postmark is dated 8 March 1923.

Sgt Joe Melzheimer

Soldier's Letter



Motor Transport Corps
Repair Unit 310
A. P. O. 927



Mr. Joe Melzheimer

423 W. D'Amphm

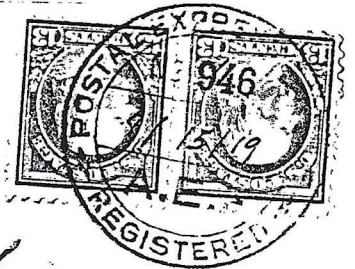
July 21/19

*Philadelphia
Pa*

APO 927 was established in Coblenz to serve the HQ, 3rd Army (later HQ, American Forces in Germany). It was officially opened on 18 November 1918 but was probably not operational until 16 December. While it is officially listed as having closed on 31 July 1921, its postmark is recorded used until mid-February 1923.

*Wm. L. ...
us ...*

REGISTERED



Registered

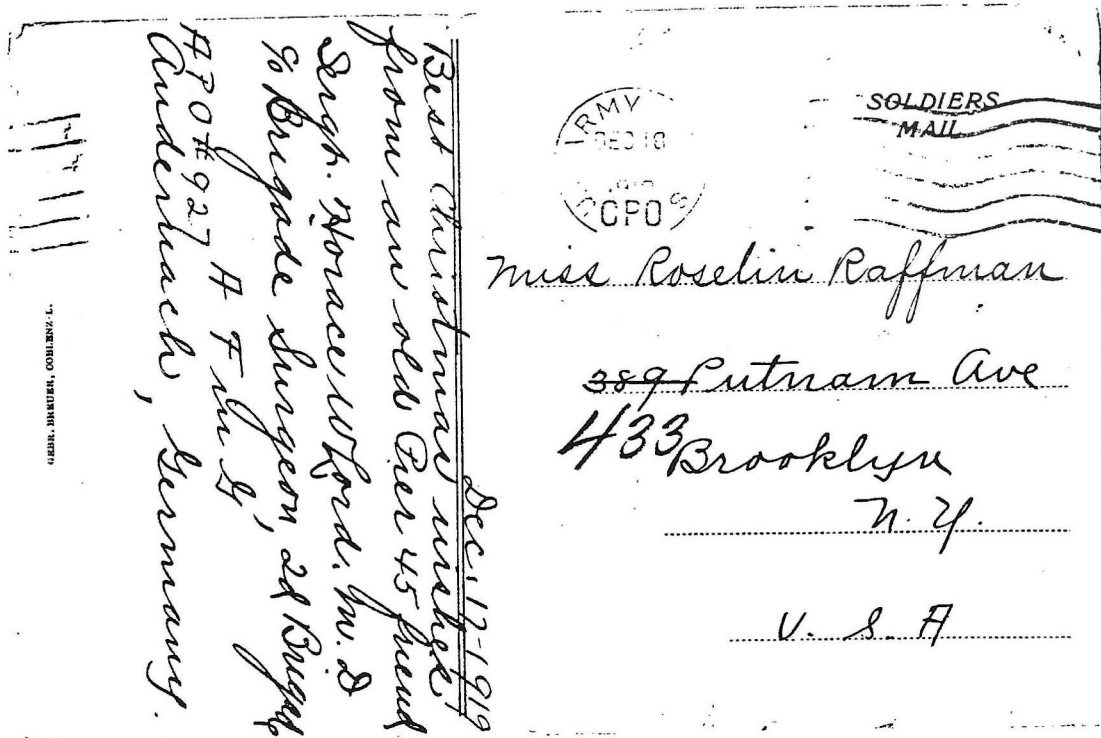
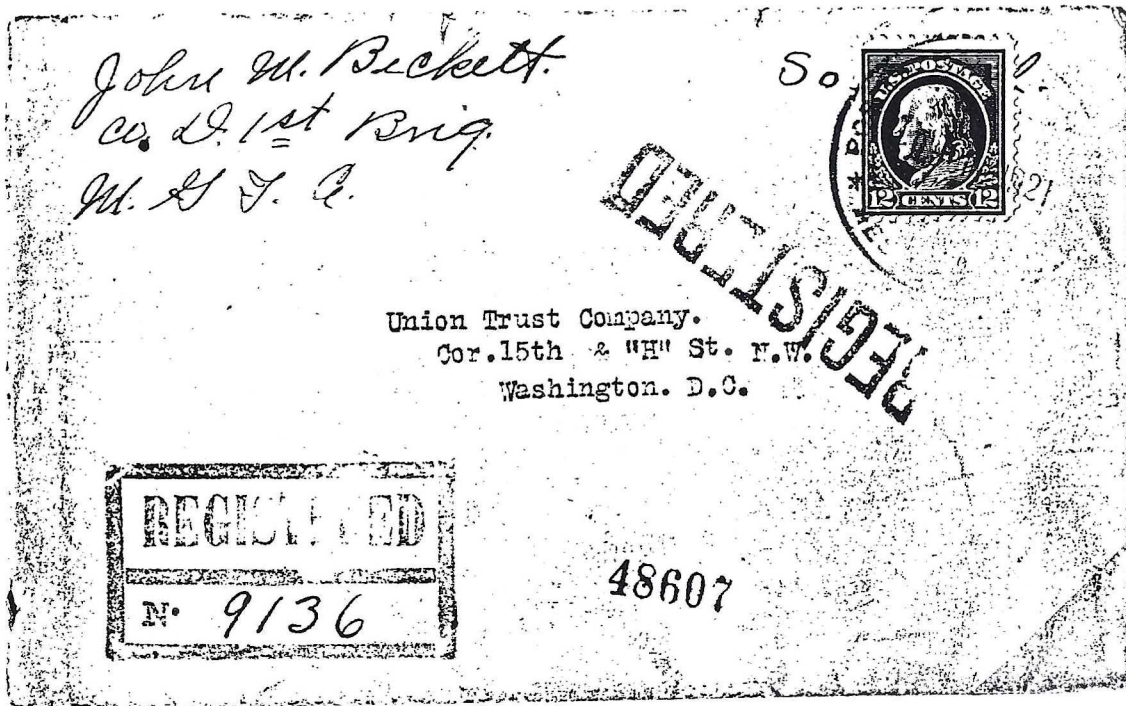
Lyman J. Sealey, Esq

Hammondsport,

N.Y.



APO 946 was opened in Berlin to serve the American Military Mission there. Official dates of operation are 28 February - 16 August 1919. It is the scarcest of the post-WWI U.S. APOs in Germany.



In November 1919 the 5th and 50th Infantry Regiments were sent from the U.S. to Coblenz with the idea that they would continue on to the Upper Silesia plebiscite area. They never moved on and were instead retained by the American Forces in Germany, which then organized its forces into 2 brigades, making the new troops the core of the 2nd Brigade. The additional troops brought the strength of the AFG at the end of 1919 to approximately 16,000 men, a level that was maintained until mid-1921.

1st. P. Whiteside
Headquarters Troop
A. F. in G.
A.P.O. 927

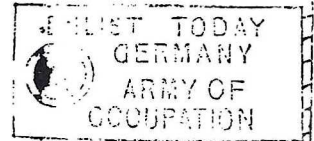
Soldiers Mail



Headquarters Troop Mrs. P. C. Williams
A. F. in G.
A.P.O.

Pvt. Obo Hastings
Co. 7th
B. M. G.
Bn.
A.P.O. 927. A.F.G.

Soldiers Mail

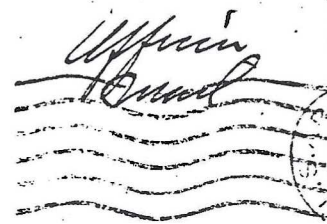


Mrs Ella Hastings

Quincy

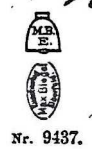
Michigan

Vertical handwritten notes on the left side of the envelope, including names and dates.



B# 47 U.S.A.

George Boardman
1000 ...
New Bedford, Mass
U.S.A.



Nr. 9437.

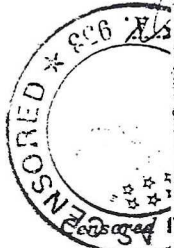
Following departure of the 1st Division on 21 August 1919, the strength of the American Forces in Germany was reduced to about 8,700 men (most in the 8th Infantry Regiment and the 7th Machine Gun Battalion, the rest in HQ, MP and other support units) plus 1,000 attached personnel. All of these were served by APO 927 in Coblenz. As might be expected, mail after August 1919 is much scarcer than earlier mail.

Pvt. GEORGE P. EBERLE
Hd'qs. Co., 30th Inf.
A. P. O. 740 A. E. F.



APO 740, 3rd
Div., Andernach.
Division moved
to Brest 5 Aug-
ust 1919.

Secretar



A
OFFICERS CLUB
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
H. D. Thompson
16th Fa. A.P.O. 746.

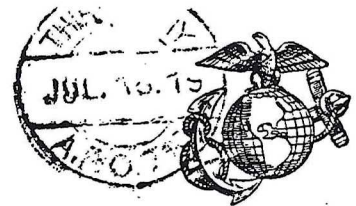
Officers Mail



George P. Eberle

Mr. Allen P. Kennedy Jr.

Co. Marines
Sixth Regt. 2nd. Division
Amer. Ex. Forces.



APO 746, 4th Div.,
Nieder-Breisig. Div-
ision moved to Brest
9 July 1919.

APO 710, 2nd Div.,
Heddesdorf, 2 days
before the division
moved to Brest.

Censored

Lt.
U.S.M.C.

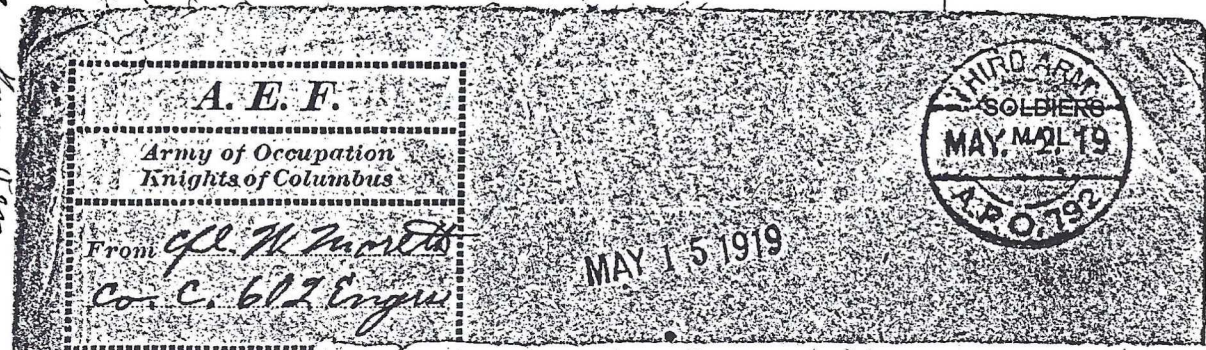
On 16 June 1919 it appeared that the Germans would reject the Allied peace terms and Marshall Foch ordered Allied troops to prepare to advance across the Rhine on 20 June. The U.S. 3rd and 4th Divisions were prepared to resume the advance into Germany when the top 2 covers were mailed.

Faced with this threat Germany capitulated, signing the peace treaty on 28 June. The Americans, offended at the harsh terms of the treaty, immediately began to prepare for the withdrawal of the bulk of their forces from Germany. The 2nd and 4th Divisions were withdrawn from Germany (and the 5th from Luxembourg) in July, followed by the 1st and 3rd Divisions in August.

Handwritten notes:
Karl Fischer, Altvater a. Rh.,
No. 6 87 Rheinpfalz
M. L. D. Meyer
Handwritten notes on the left side of the envelope, including names and addresses.



APO 775, IV Corps, Cochen.



From *G. H. Moritz*
Co. C. 612 Engin

MAY 15 1919



NAME 2nd.Lt. John J. Buller, V.C.
3rd. Cor. Mob. Vet Hosp. No. 1
Amer. E. F. Germany
A.P.O. 754

A. E. F.

U.S. Officers Mail



Mrs Claire M. Buller
2717 Lake St.
Ocean Park
California

John J. Buller
2nd.Lt.V.C.

USA

APO 792, VII Corps,
Wittlich.

APO 754, III Corps,
Neuwied.

The 3rd Army had 3 corps under its command in Germany: III (responsible for the north sector of the Coblenz bridgehead), IV (west bank of the Rhine adjacent to Coblenz) and VII (Stadt Kries of Trier and the German Luxembourg border and, from 10 April 1919, Luxembourg and a tiny part of Belgium).

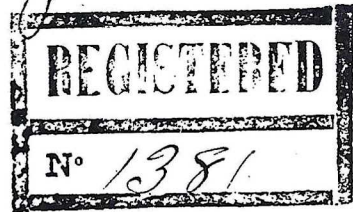
IV and VII Corps were discontinued on 11 May 1919, and III Corps was discontinued on 1 July 1919. In all 3 cases, the APOs serving the corps continued to operate for 2 to 3 weeks after its HQ closed.



Map card mailed from APO 740 (3rd Div.) on day Third Army was re-designated American Forces in Germany. Cross hatching shows area that writer, a Captain, administered.

U.S. forces in Germany were initially designated the Third Army, AEF, and the occupation force was supervised by the Advance GHQ, AEF at Trier, Germany. The Third Army was responsible for the area marked "A" at left and, from 1 April 1919, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

*Capt. W.G. Armstrong
Co. D. 355 Inf.
U.S. Army A.E.F.*

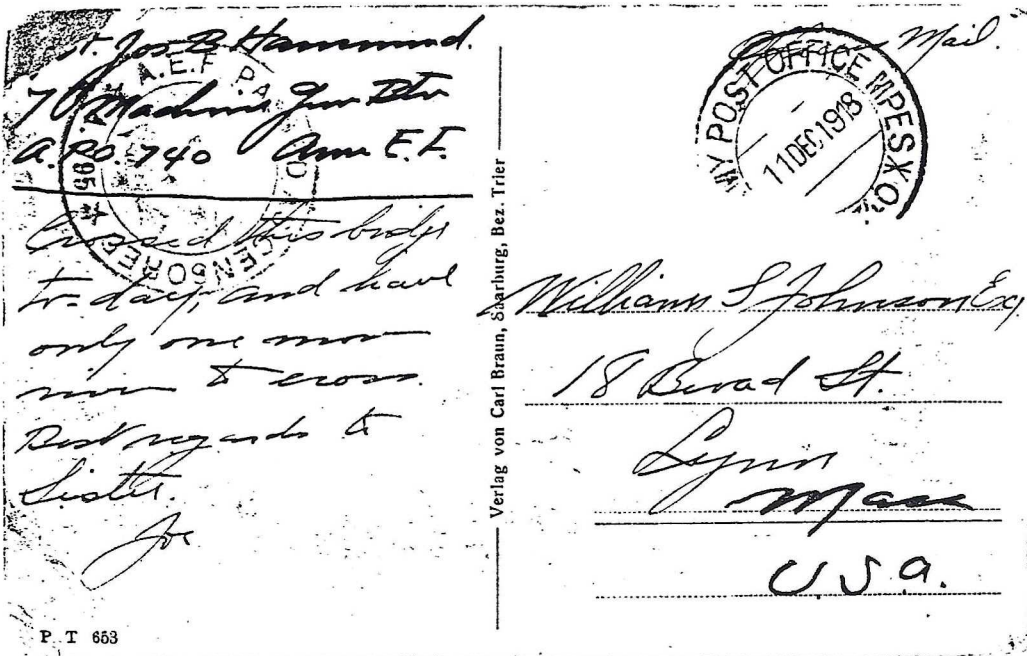


930 at
Gouz, Germany.

*Meek Ed. W. Fuss,
2nd Pro. M.P. Co. (Traffic)
I Army Corps.
A.P. O. 757
918*

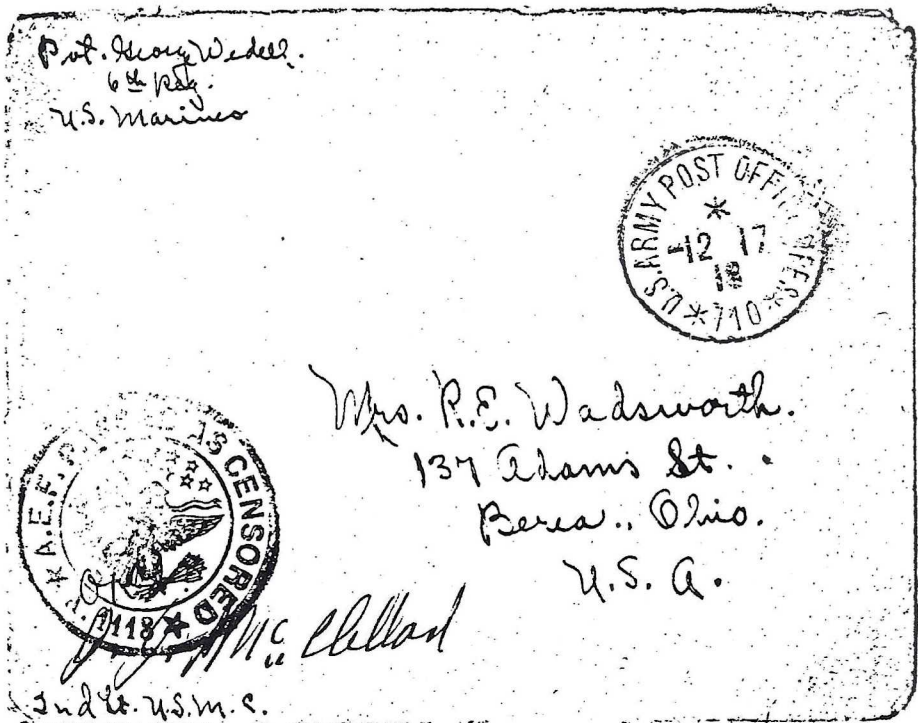
APO 930 served the AEF Advance GHQ until that unit was disbanded on 2 July 1919. (The APO continued to function until 11 August 1919.) Backstamped APO 932 (IX Corps) and 918 (2nd Army), both in France.





The 3rd Division (APO 740) crossed the German border on 11 December and arrived at its station in the Kreis of Mayen on 12 December.

The 2nd Division (APO 710) which included the 5th and 6th Marines, arrived at Coblenz on 13 December and took up positions east of the Rhine the next day.



At 5 a.m. on 1 December 1918 U.S. troops began to cross the Luxembourg-German frontier. On 7 December the 39th Infantry occupied the Rhine bridgehead at Coblenz, and by 17 December the U.S. advance into Germany was complete.

Postwar History

Grand-Duché de Luxembourg — Grossherzogtum Luxemburg
Carte postale — Postkarte

*This is in the nearest
city to where I am
stationed now in*

*Bergem
Post*

*1st Lt. H. W. Smith
Regt. Co. 15th A.I.T. Co.
American C. F.
France A.P.O. 745*



Mrs. Henry

*Corp. R. W. Dahl
Co. A. 131st Inf
American E. F.
A.P.O. 750*

Dierkirch, Lux.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE. WELTPOSTVEREIN.
Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. — Grossherzogtum Luxemburg.
CARTE POSTALE. — POSTKARTE.
Feb. 27, 1919.



3-24-19

Dear Electa: -

*Am here
attending the big
horse Sglt. I. J. Knudson
the 3rd Laundry Co #516
Am in A.P.O. 951
time*

Miss Electa Friedrich

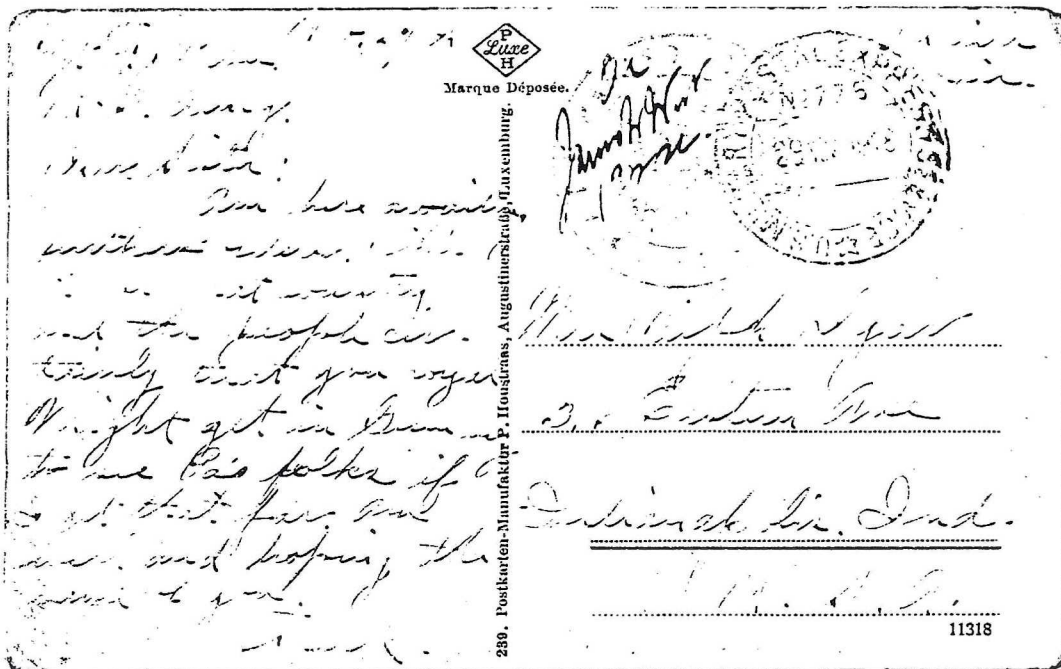
*Soldiers
Letter*



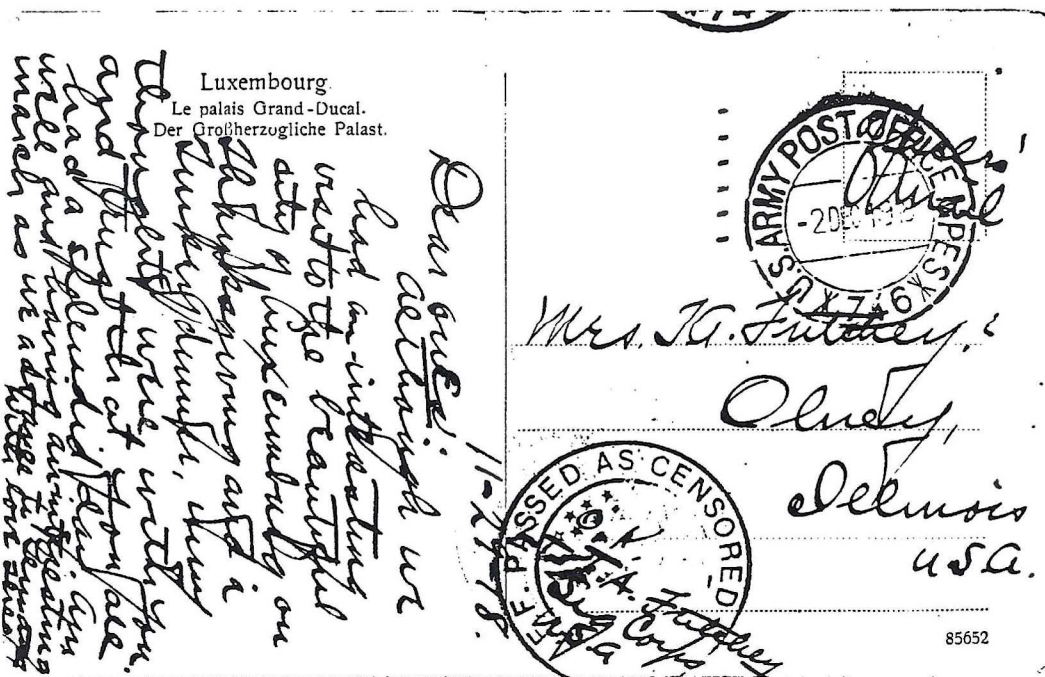
*Mr. Chas. B. Knudson
1926 Humboldt Blvd.
Chicago, Ill.
U.S.A.*



The 5th (APO 745) and 33rd (APO 750) Divisions were assigned to garrison duty in the Grand Duchy. The 33rd Div. departed in late April, and the 5th in early June 1919. In addition to the divisional APOs, APO 951 was established in Luxembourg City. It operated from as early as 17 April to as late as 5 August 1919.

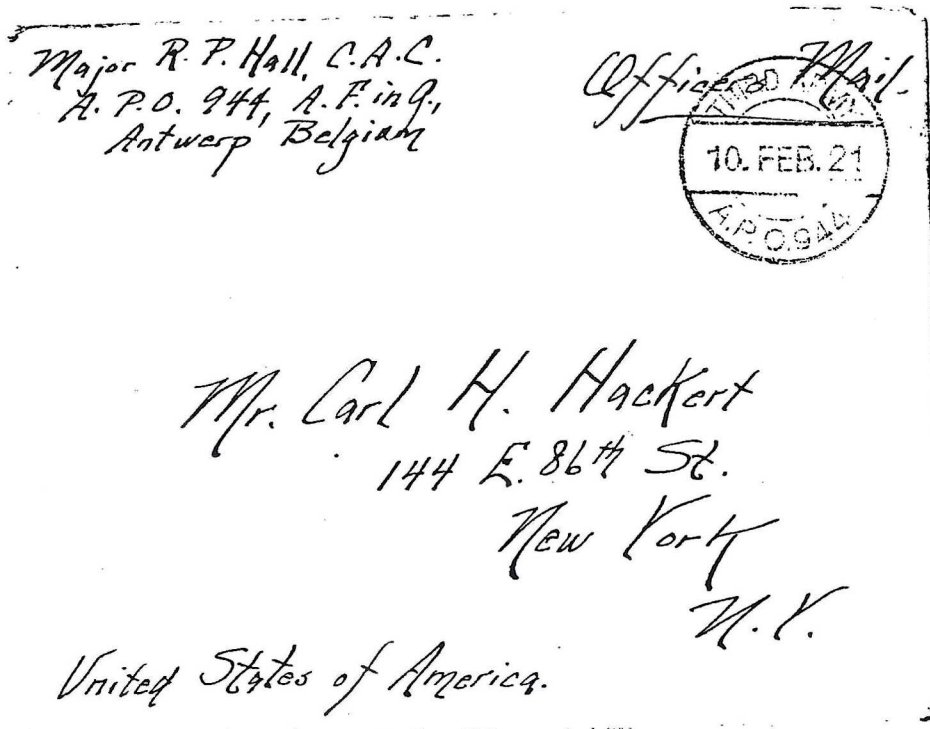


APO 775 served the HQ IV Corps (1st, 3rd & 4th Divs.). When this card was mailed it was located at Grevenmacher, Luxembourg, where it remained until 1 December.



APO 746 served the 4th Div. which was in Luxembourg only on 2-3 December 1918.

On 17 November 1918 the U.S. 3rd Army (6 divisions, with approximately 243,000 men) began advancing toward Germany, with most of the troops going directly into the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The advance was somewhat leisurely to insure that no contact was made with the German army, which was withdrawing eastward along the same routes. The first U.S. troops reached the Luxembourg-German border on 23 November and waited there until 1 December.



Base Section 9, Services of Supply, AEF, was opened at Antwerp on 22 March 1919 to serve the U.S. forces in Germany and Luxembourg, and APO 944 was opened there to serve people working at the supply base. Opening and closing dates for this APO are not certain; Post Office records indicate 28 May (which is clearly wrong) - 7 August 1919, while the War Department records show an opening date of 24 February 1919 and no closing date. The 10 February 1921 card above is a year later than anything else mentioned in the philatelic literature.

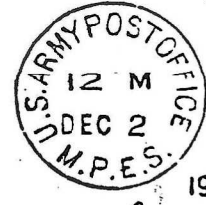


The left-most elements of the U.S. forces advancing to occupy Germany passed through a small corner of Belgium before entering Luxembourg. Card from member of 32nd Division (written in Luxembourg, posted through APO 734 in Germany) shows his route of march.

*Bern. C. Belhord,
Rept. U. S. Army.*



*Soldier's
Mail*



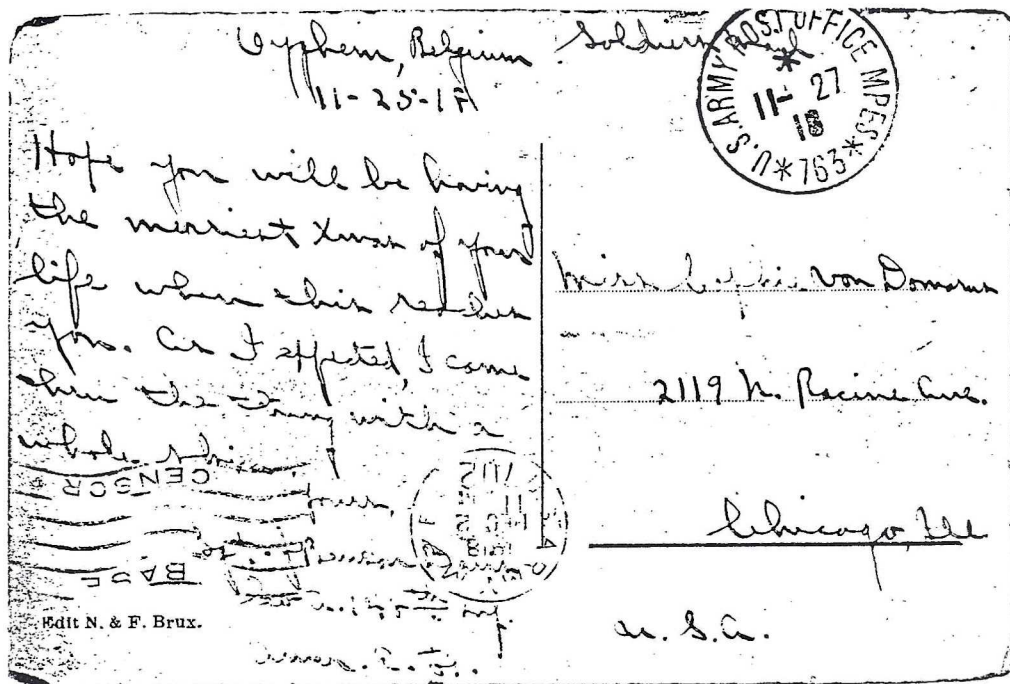
*Mrs. Irving R. Sheriff,
602 Randolph St.,*

*Racine,
Wisc.*

U.S.A.

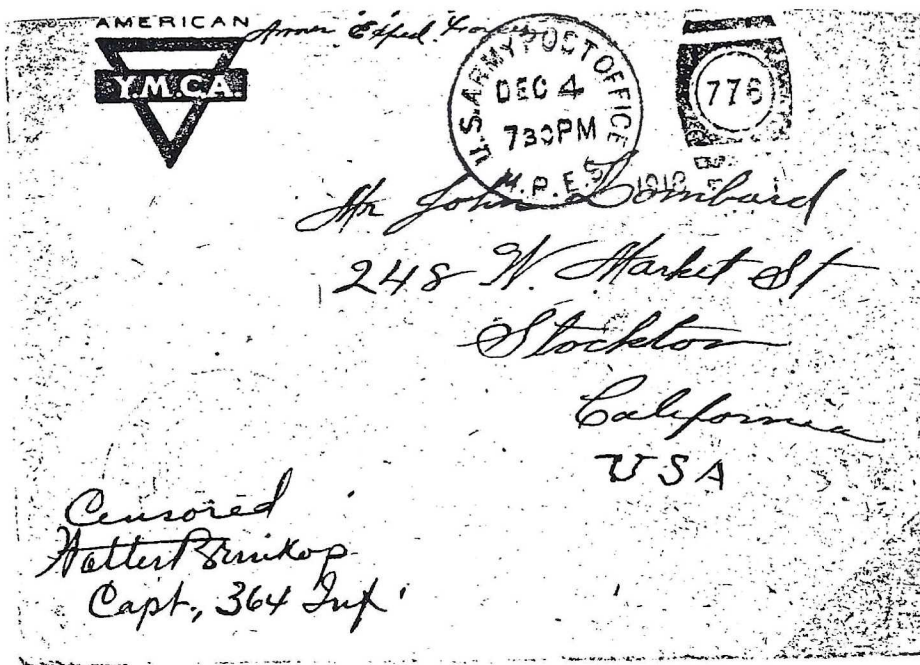


APO 761 served 89th Division, which was in Belgium from 25 November - 3 December 1918.



APO 763 served the 37th Div., which entered Belgium on 26 October, participated in the Ypres-Lys offensive, and returned to France on 7 December.

APO 776 served the 91st Div., which entered Belgium on 16 October 1918 and returned to France on 30 December 1918.



The 37th and 91st Divisions, which had been fighting in Belgium under the (Franco-Belgian) Army of Flanders at the end of the war, moved to new locations in that country and entered into garrison duties for a short time after the armistice.