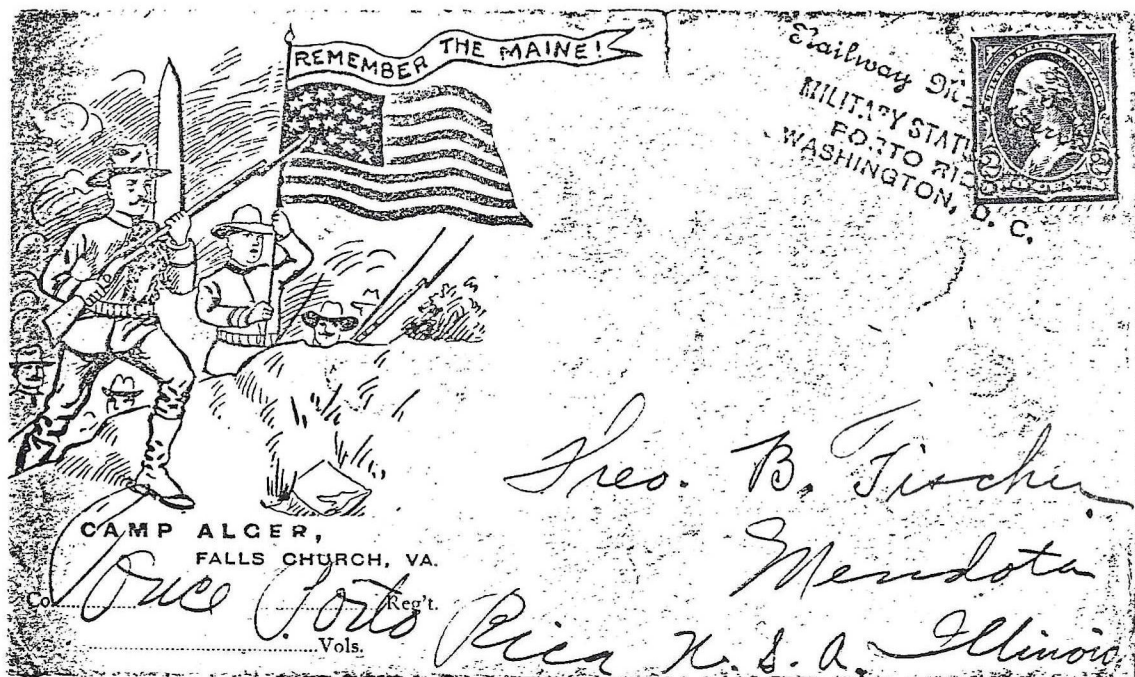
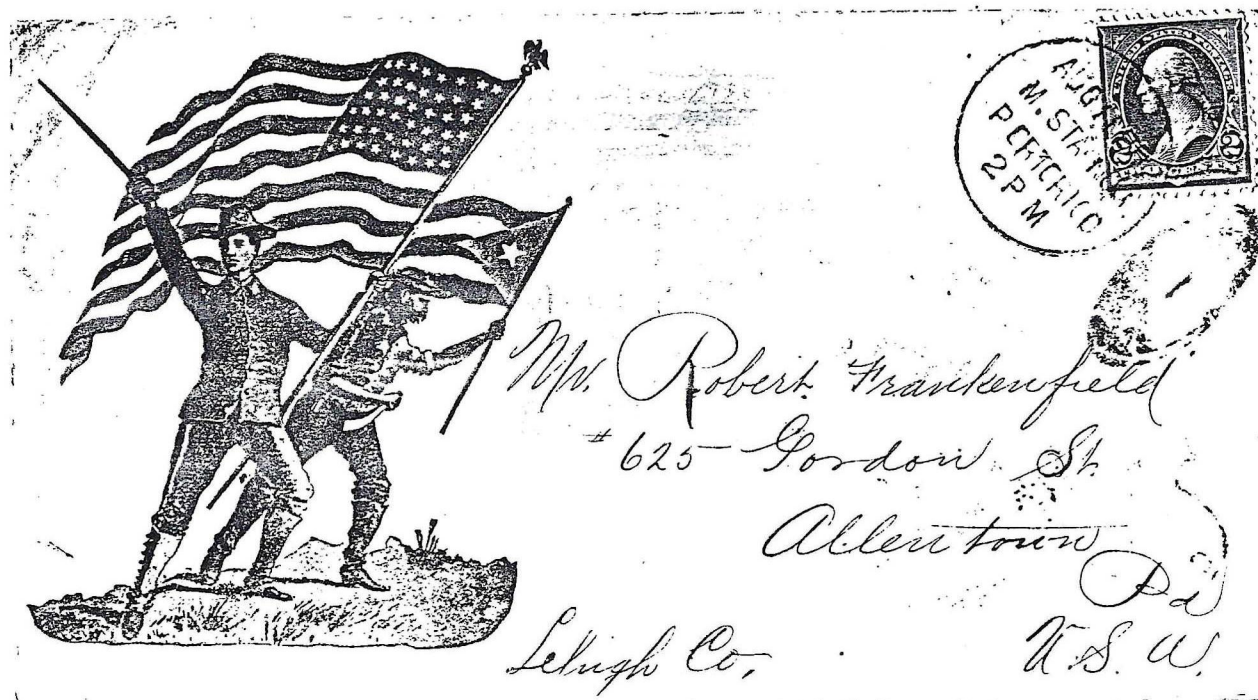
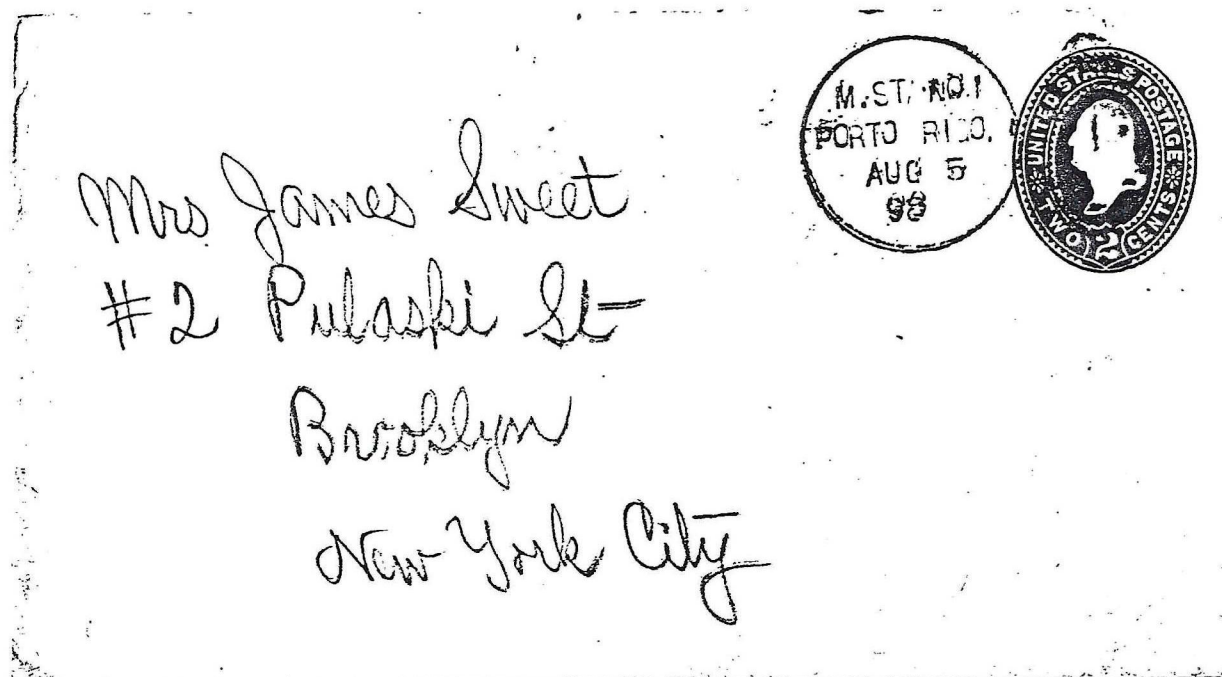


Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Railway Mail Service
Mil. Sta. No. 1 Porto Rico



There was a short (35 kilometer) railway line from Ponce to Yauco, on which this extraordinary and previously unknown Railway Mail Service marking was used. No information is available on how this marking came to be used, but it must be from very early in the occupation period based on the New York transit marking of 9 August and Mendota, Illinois receiver of 11 August 1898.



The first Military Postal Station operated at Playa de Ponce until 17 September 1898, when it was moved from the beach area to the main post office in Ponce proper. Although the provisional RPO-type postmark was used for two weeks, its movable type format resulted in varieties in the placement of the text (e.g. lower cover shows the date in top line of cancel and time added at bottom).

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 1 Porto Rico

ARMY CHRISTIAN COMMISSION
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
2 West 29th Street, N. Y. City,
If not called for in Five Days
return to

Company F Reg't
MILITARY STATION NO. 1, CUBA



Mr. A. L.
G. J. W.




A. O. Titman
T. O. Boy 77
Ponce, P.R.



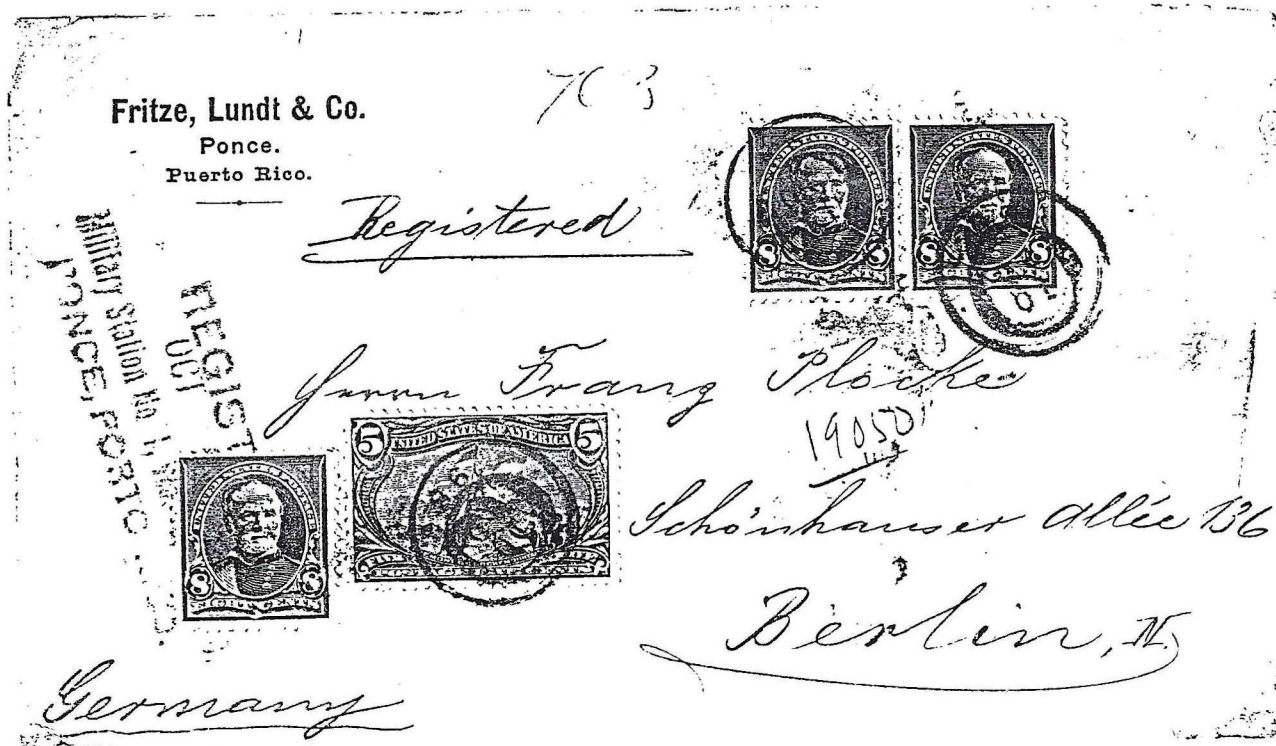
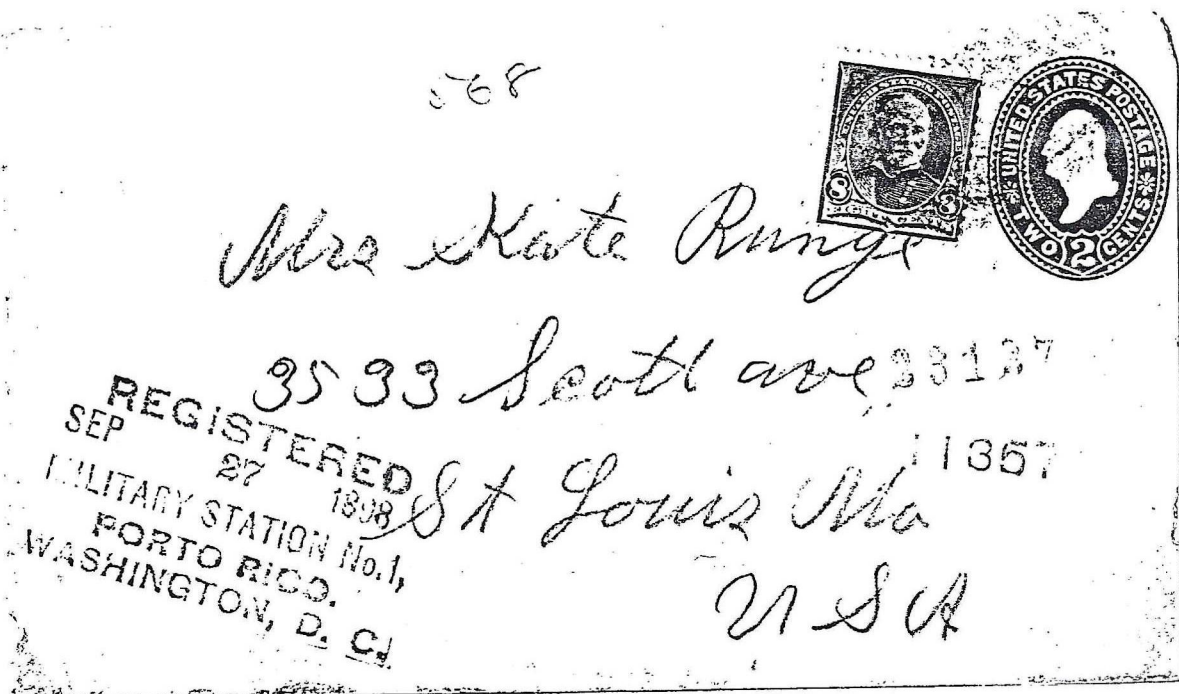
Anheuser Busch Brewing Ass'n
St. Louis, Mo

Scott.
W. is.

The provisional postmark was replaced in mid-August by a steel duplex, which continued in use until well into 1899. Above examples show a soldier's letter with early use of this device, an unusual variety with "17" in the killer, and a late example used on 4 cent entire (extremely scarce used from any Puerto Rican military station). This marking clearly incorporates the fact that the Puerto Rican military stations were branches of Washington, D.C.

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

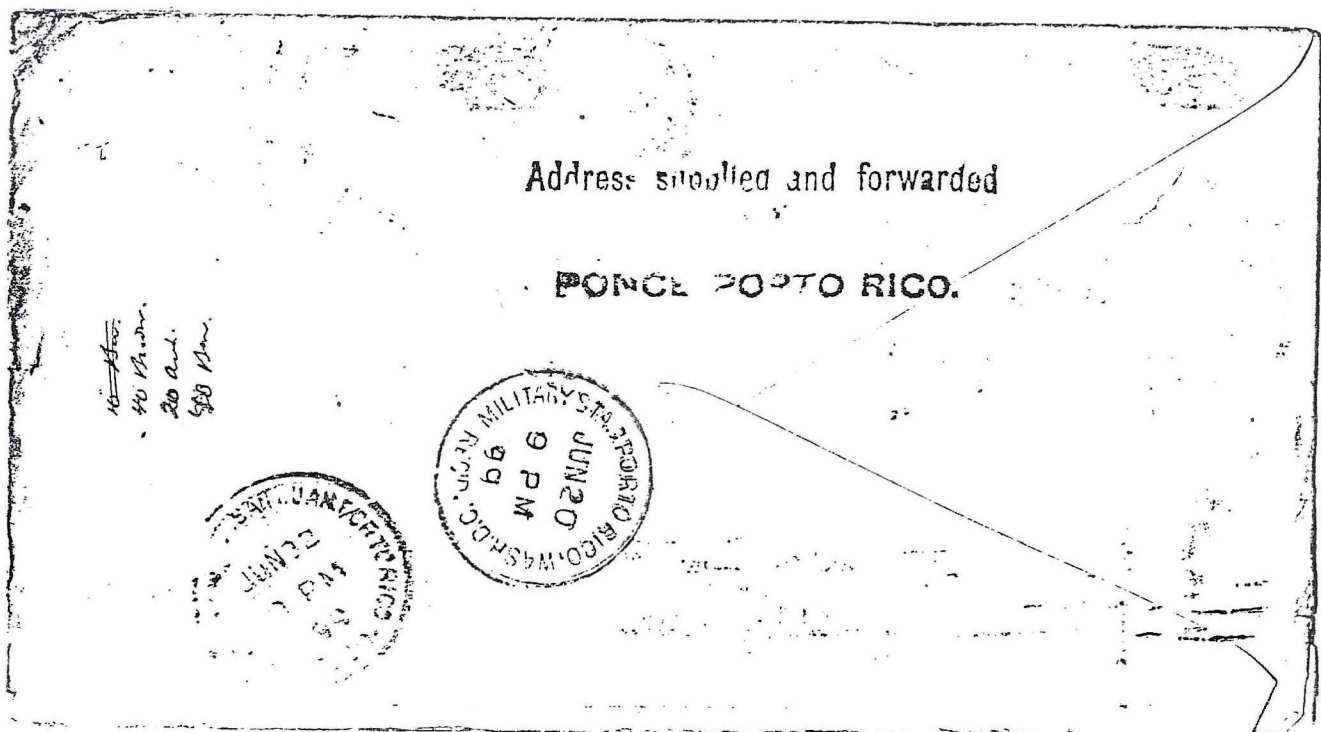
Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 1 Porto Rico



Two types of Registration markings are known from Military Station No. 1 at Ponce. The first was a 5-line device without indication of the town of origin. A later version had 4 lines that included "Ponce" in the text.

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 1 Ponce



Examples of auxiliary markings used at Military Station No.1 are unusual. Further, incoming mail is considerably scarcer than outbound. (Thus, "Rec'd." markings are much less common than the normal cancels for the corresponding stations.)

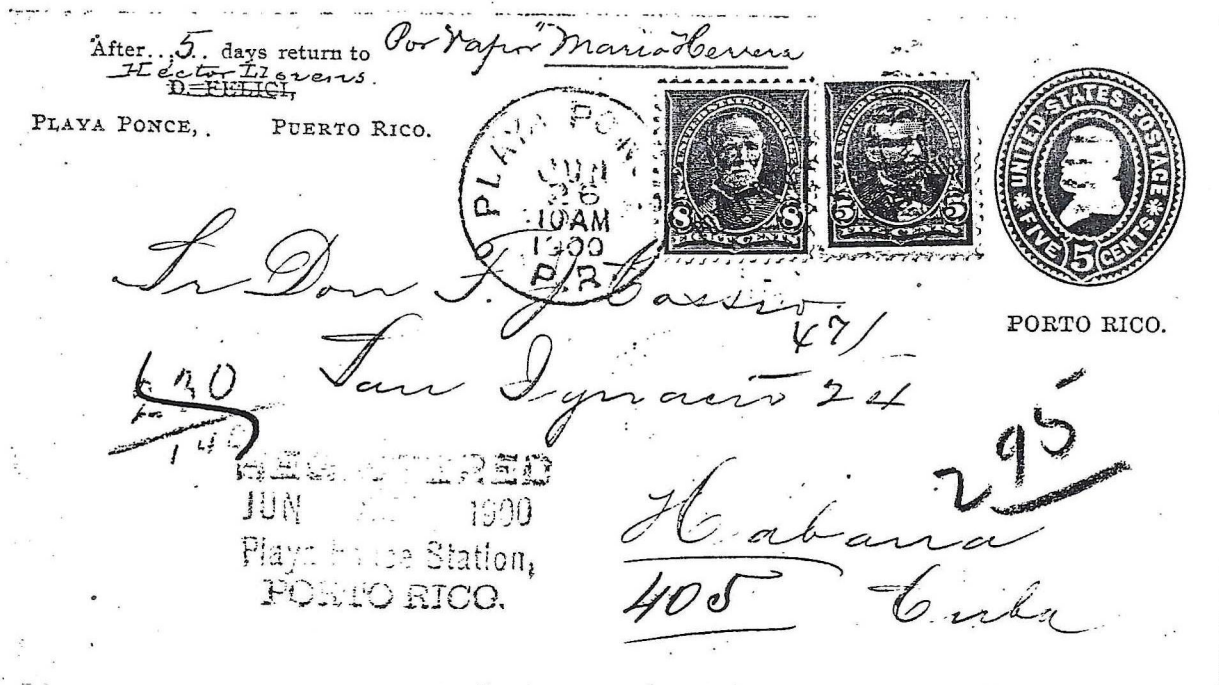
Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Ponce



On 15 March 1899 the military postal stations in Puerto Rico were transferred from the Washington, D.C. post office to the Department of Posts, Puerto Rico. Existing postmarks continued to be used for some time after that, but with the change in administration they began to be replaced by postmarks with normal civilian styling.

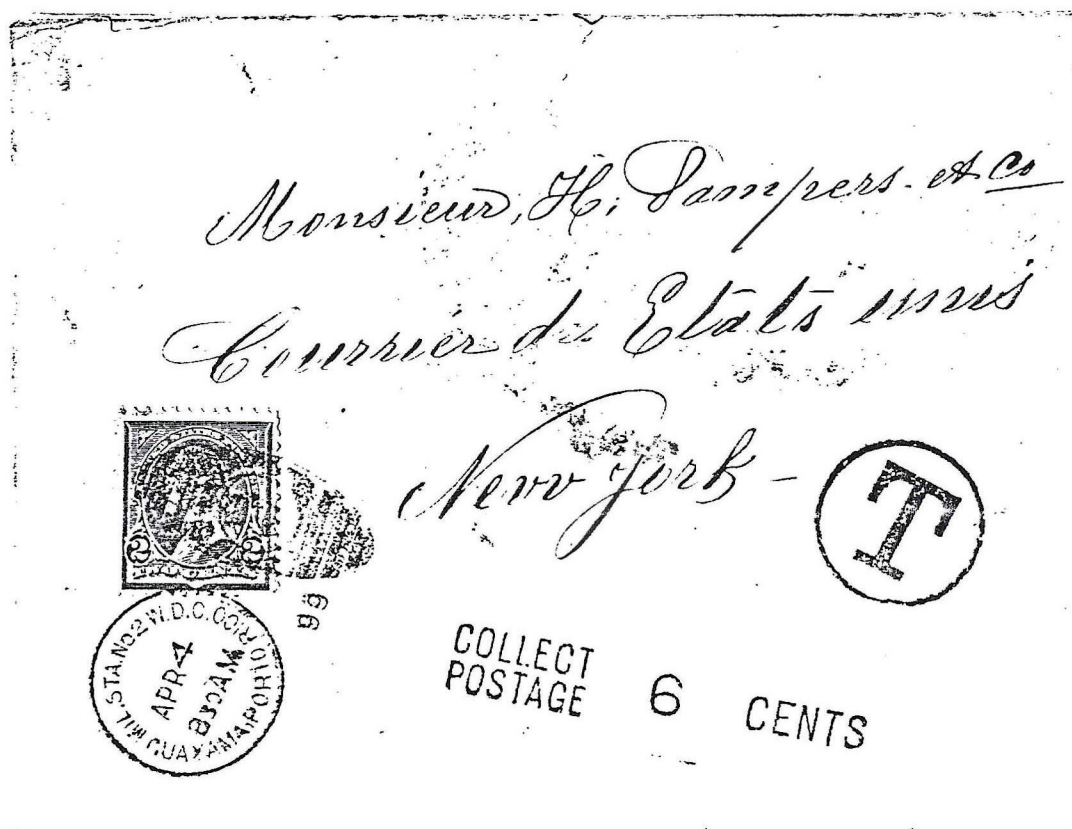
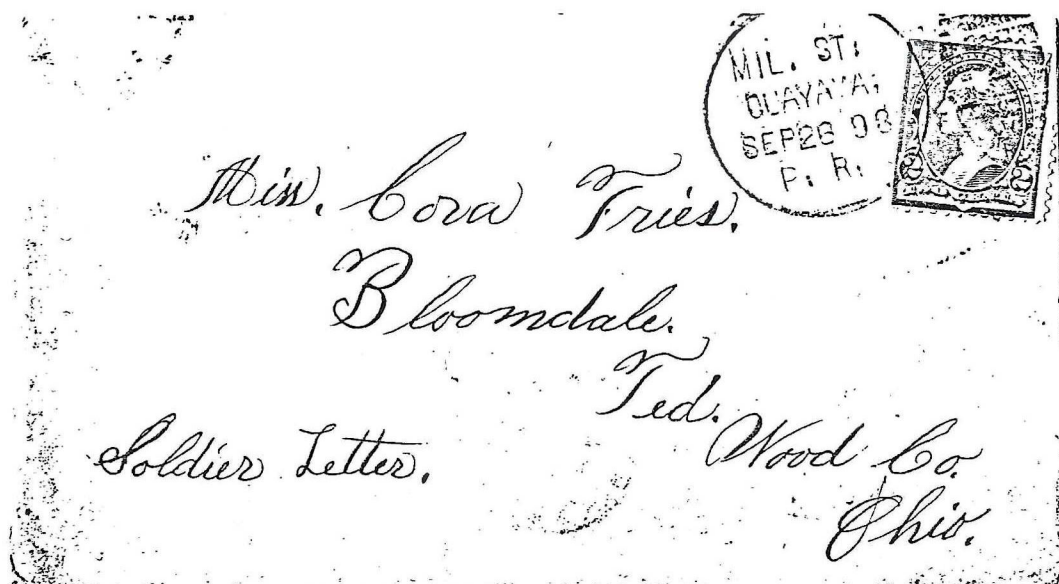
Standard double ring Registration marking, introduced at Ponce in 1899. Note use of "R" and smudge killers to cancel the postage. Use of 4 cent imprinted envelope in this period is very unusual. Upper cover correctly paid at 5 cent international rate plus 8 cents for registration. Lower cover with 23 cents postage is most likely philatelically overfranked.



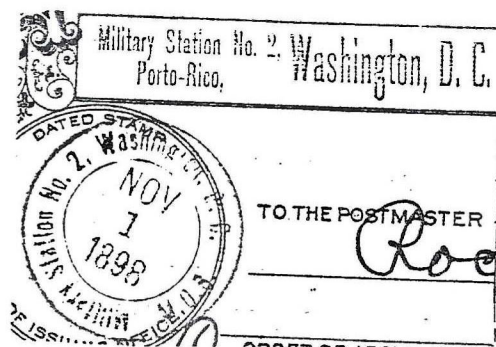
After Mil. Sta. No. 1 was moved from Playa de Ponce into the town proper, Playa de Ponce was operated as a branch post office of the larger Ponce post office. Above cover, franked for ½ to 1 oz. plus registry fee of 8c, has as backstamps a double ring "Ponce, Porto Rico/Rec'd Reg" transit marking of the same day and a Havana receiving mark on 4 July.

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 2 Guayama



Military Station No.2 was established at Guayama on 23 August 1898. Initially, a provisional postmark was used, but this was subsequently replaced by a steel duplex device. The "T" marking is a postage due indicator left by the Spaniards; in this case postage due was assessed (at double deficiency) as the sender was a civilian, hence not entitled to send letters to the U.S. at the domestic rate.

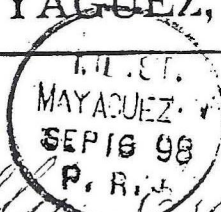


Additional markings from Military Station No. 2 included Money Order Business and Registration. These are also unusual, with the former being the only example recorded.

SABATER & C^o - MAYAGÜEZ, P.-R.

F. Bonilla, Esq.
N. 24 State St.
Room 321.

New York



Post Office Department.

POST OFFICE AT MAYAGUEZ, PORTO RICO.

(MILITARY STATION No. 3.)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

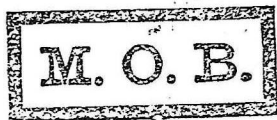
(No. 1-L)

A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using
this envelope to avoid payment of postage on
private matter.



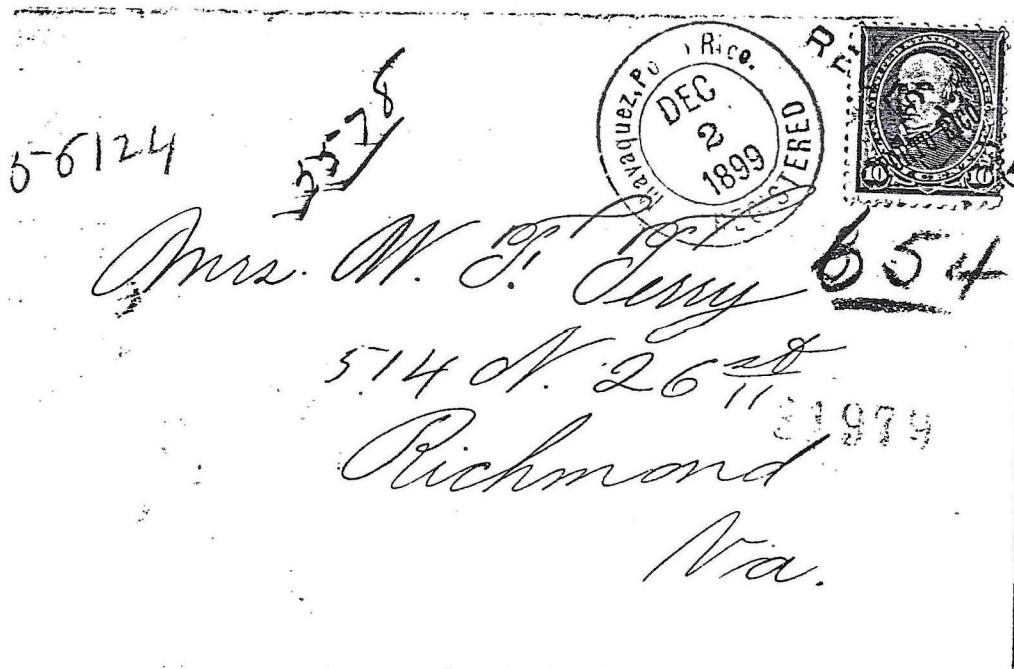
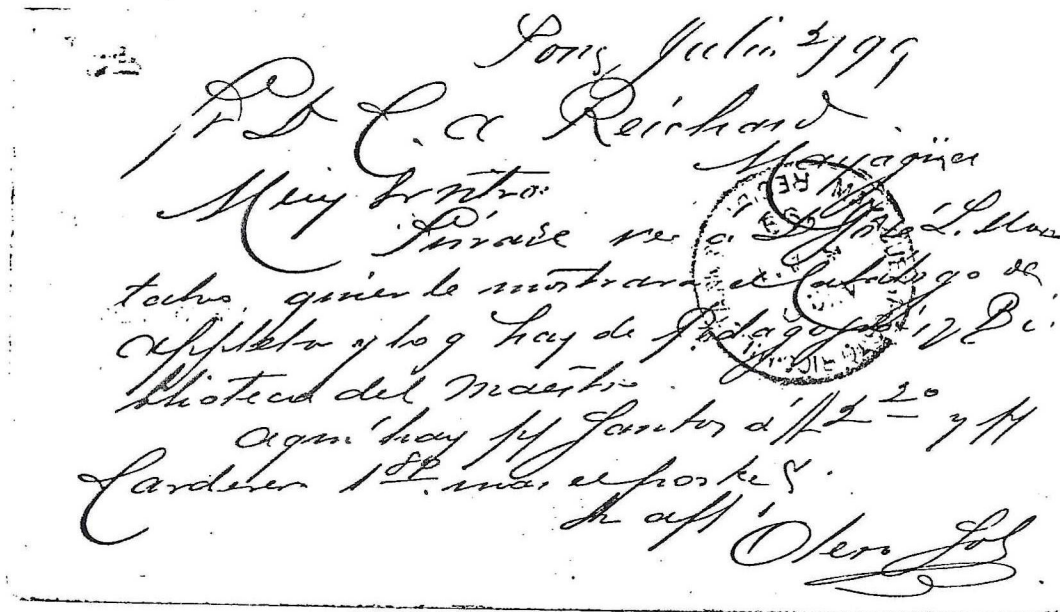
POSTMASTER, *Stapleton*

Staten Island ~~COUNTY~~



New York

Military Station No.3 was established at Mayaguez on 23 August 1898. A provisional postmark was used initially, but was subsequently replaced by the normal steel duplex device.



Mayaguez used a steel Rec'd cds, which is scarce. Postcard from Ponce shows proper backstamping.

Unlike the double ring registration markings used in Ponce and San Juan, Mayaguez's showed the location in both upper and lower case letters. In this instance, postage was cancelled with an unusual single line "Registered" marking. Backstamped "San Juan, Porto Rico/Rec'd" on 4 December.

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 4 San Juan

FIDEL GUILLERMET

FARMACÉUTICO Y DROGUISTA

PLAZA DE ALFONSO XII

Apartado No 43

PUERTO-RICO

MIL. ST.
SAN JUAN
OCT 19 98
P. R.

Directa.
Via HABANA

E. U. de A.

Srs LANMAN & KEMP.

P. O. Box 3784



NEW-YORK

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS OF PORTO RICO.

P. O., SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

(No. 1-L.)

A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using
this envelope to avoid payment of postage on
private matter.



1900

POSTMASTER, *Stapleton*

COUNTY,

M. O. B.

N.Y.

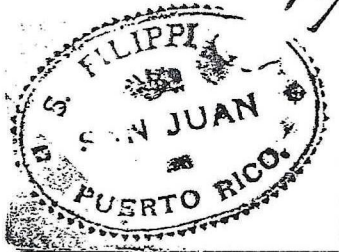
Military Station No.4 was established at San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital, on 23 August 1898. As was the case for the other early offices, a provisional postmark was used initially and subsequently replaced by the normal steel duplex device.

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

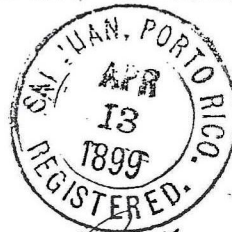
Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 4 San Juan

Merrills

H. P. Sampers & Co



BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE
HEADQUARTERS
PORTO RICO



R. Chester Frost & Co.

167 N 169 Wabash Avenue

58704

Chicago

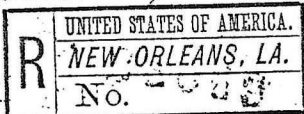
Ill.

U. S. a.

Via New York



Alberto Meyer
a/c de la Compañia de Agencias.



2607

Cos
Guatemala
America Central

San Juan had 3 different types of registry marking: the typical Military Station 4-line handstamp; the double circle datestamp introduced in 1899; and a boxed marking (with chamfered corners) supplied in 1900. Note apparent confusion of postage rates: 2c for civilian on top cover, 5c for soldier on middle cover. Official registered mail required payment of postage (2c) as well as registry fee (8c).

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

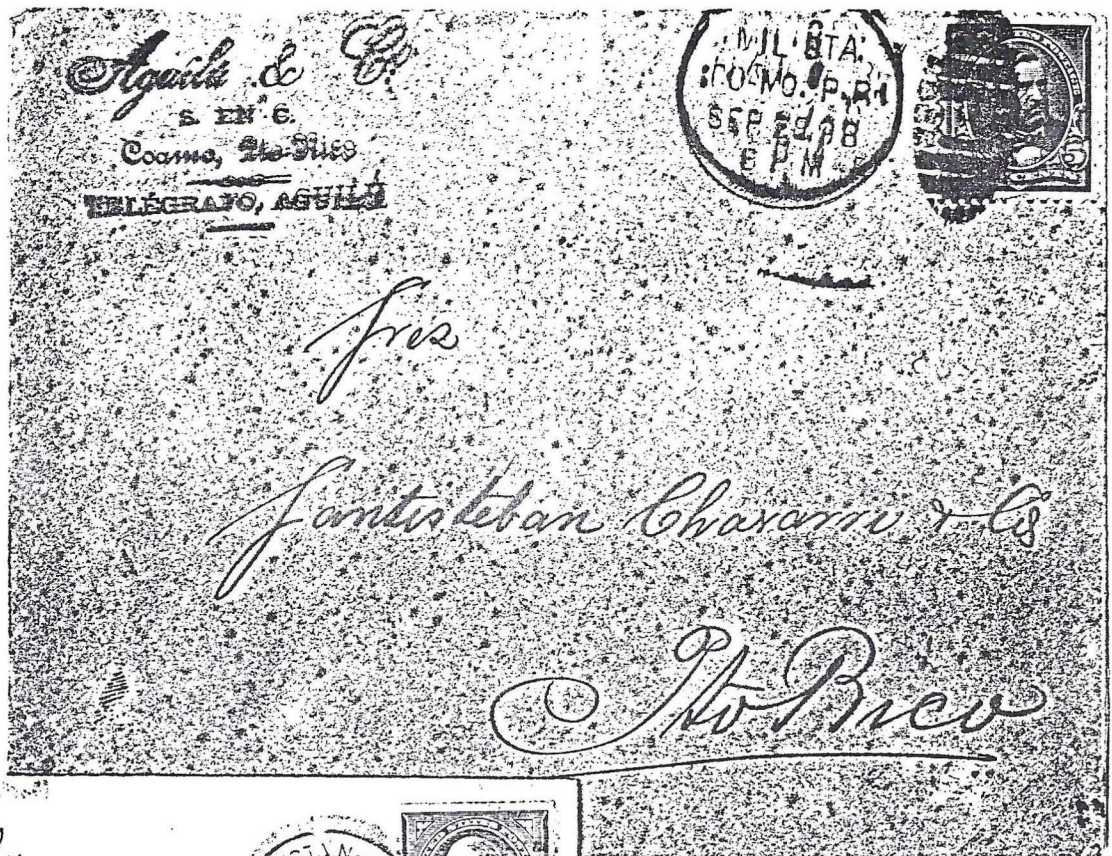
Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 4 San Juan



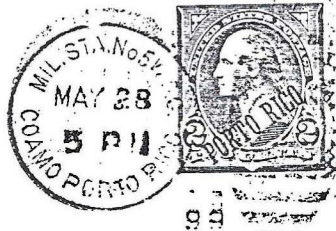
Examples of auxiliary markings from Military Station No.4 are unusual. "Dead Letter Bureau" marking apparently introduced after 15 March 1899, as it omits the Military Station designation. Lower cover also shows two "Rec'd" marks, of Military Sta.4 and of unnumbered station at Arecibo.

Puerto Rico 1898-1901

Postmarks
Mil. Sta. No. 5 Coamo



Sister Letter
Herbert M. McQuarthy
aa Surgeon U.S.A.



Military Station No.5 was established at Coamo on 9 September 1898. As usual, a provisional postmark was used initially and subsequently replaced by the normal steel duplex device.



For many years, no example was known of Registered mail from Military Station No.6. The above cover is the only recorded example. Note use of "Washington, D.C." double ovals to cancel postage. This was the correct designation in the undated killers used by the Puerto Rican military stations on registered mail and parcel post, as they were branches of the Washington, D.C. post office.