

Cuba 1906-1909

Postmarks
Guanajay
Sancti Spiritus

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
CHAPLAIN GEO D. RICE
27TH INFANTRY
CAMP COLUMBIA, CUBA.



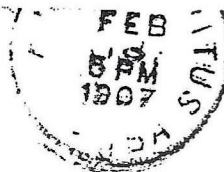
Mrs E. Eames,
Melrose Highlands,

NOV 15 1907
GUANAJAY - P. DEL RIO.

48130

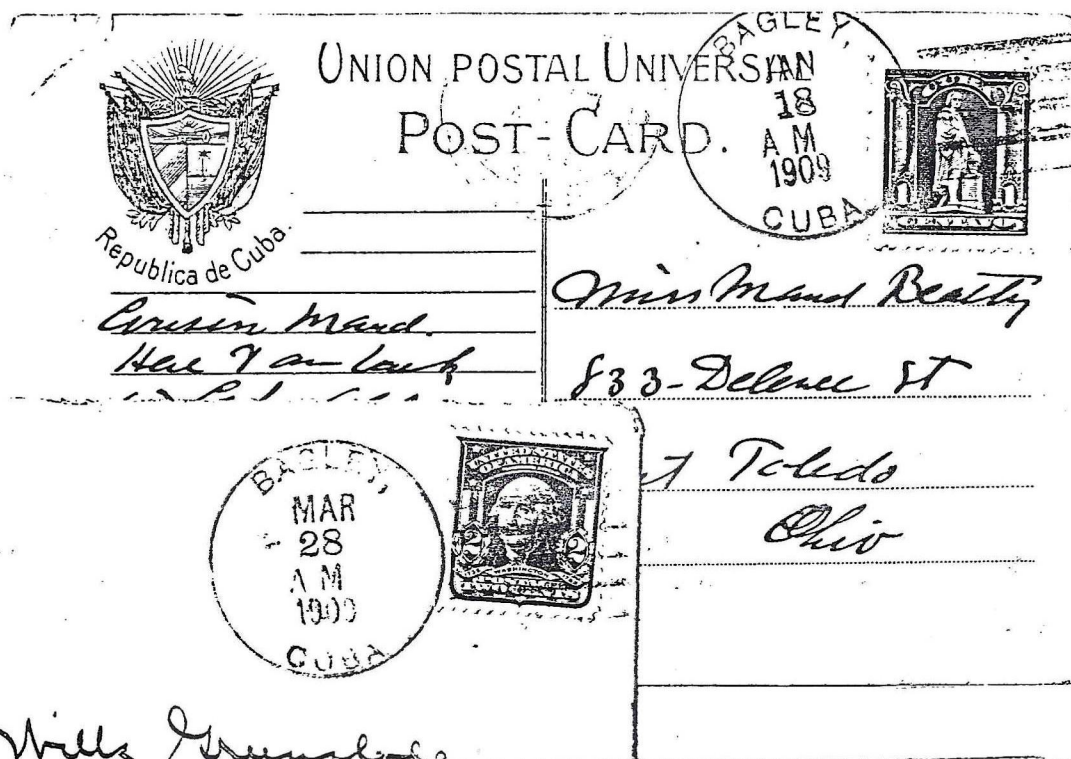
71277

Lieut. C. S. McRaynolds,
Artillery Corps
Camp Columbia, Cuba.



The Wm. H. Horstman Co.,
5th & Cherry Streets,
Philadelphia,
U. S. A.

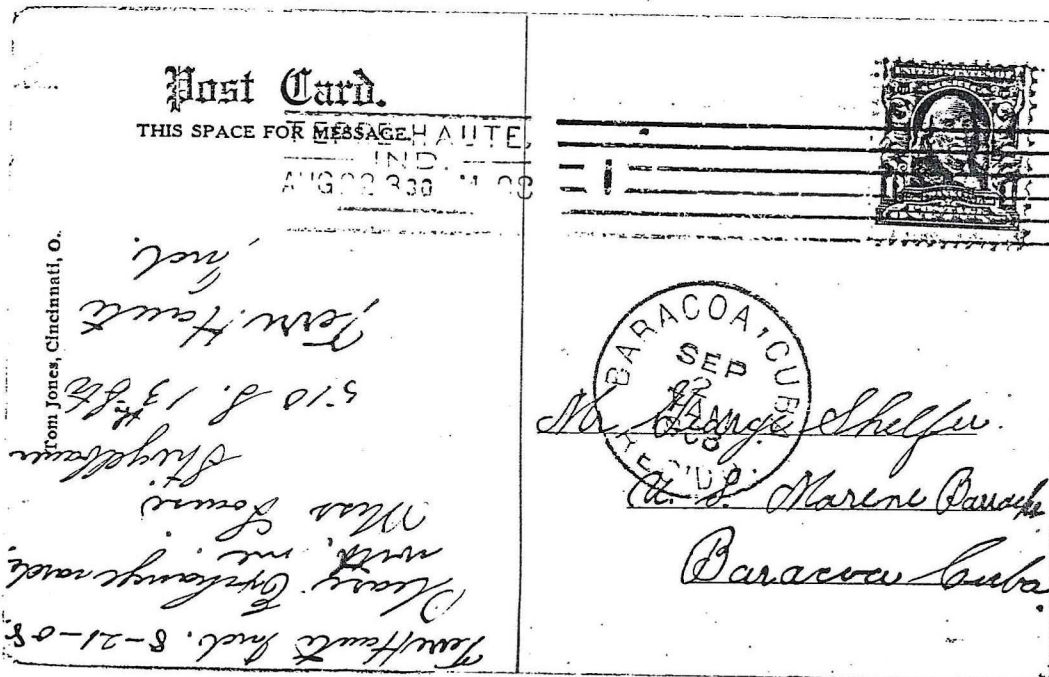
American troops in Cuba during 1906-1909 were employed to promote stability and to build the Cuban infrastructure. The former involved a lot of marching about the countryside, while the latter involved public works projects, principally roads and sewers. Notwithstanding these widespread activities, mail from outlying areas is scarce.



The US had leased the area around Guantanamo Bay in 1903, but did not begin the construction of the naval base there until after the beginning of the 1906 intervention. To serve the influx of construction and military personnel associated with this project the US post office named Bagley (for a naval officer killed in the Spanish-American War) was opened at South Toro Cay on 25 March 1907. This post office officially closed on 27 February 1909, but the latest recorded mail with US postage is 1 June 1909. Only US postage was supposed to be used at Bagley, but this was clearly not the case in practice.

Cuba 1906-1909

Incoming Mail



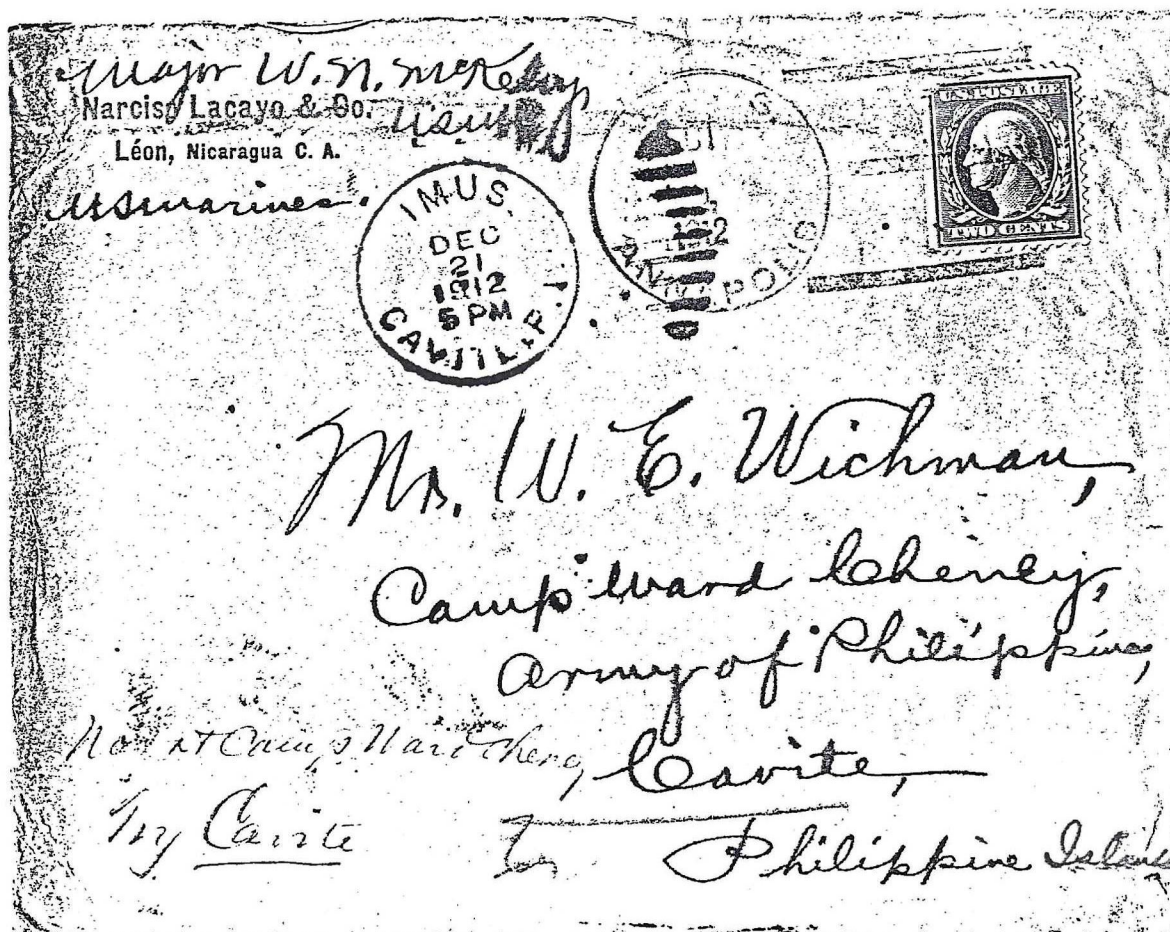
Mail from the US to military personnel in Cuba was carried at domestic rates. As this was mainly an Army operation, mail to Marines is unusual.

Mailed the day after the US troops left Havana. Cuban Columbia Barracks registry mark same as that introduced during the intervention.

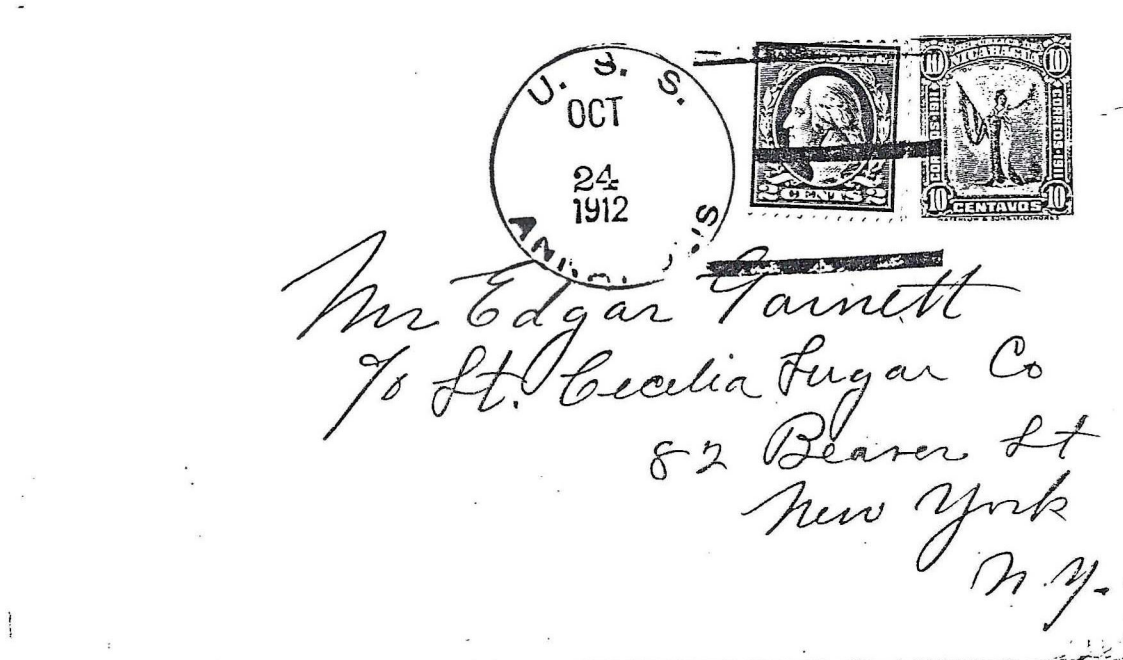


NICARAGUA 1912-1925

On 4 August 1912 the *USS Annapolis* landed about 100 sailors and Marines at Corinto at the request of the Nicaraguan government and the US Minister to Nicaragua. Subsequently this force was increased to as much as 2300 men, and was involved in combat against Nicaraguan rebels, as well as in securing Managua and Leon. Combat operations were concluded by October, and US forces withdrew in November 1912, except for a legation guard unit of about 105 Marines remained in Managua until 1 August 1925.



Mail from both the intervention forces and the legation guard unit is extremely scarce. The legation guard unit was notable for its bad behavior in later years (at one point the entire unit was replaced by Marines from Haiti) and for the fact that its presence did in fact maintain political stability. Three months after its removal, another civil war erupted in Nicaragua.

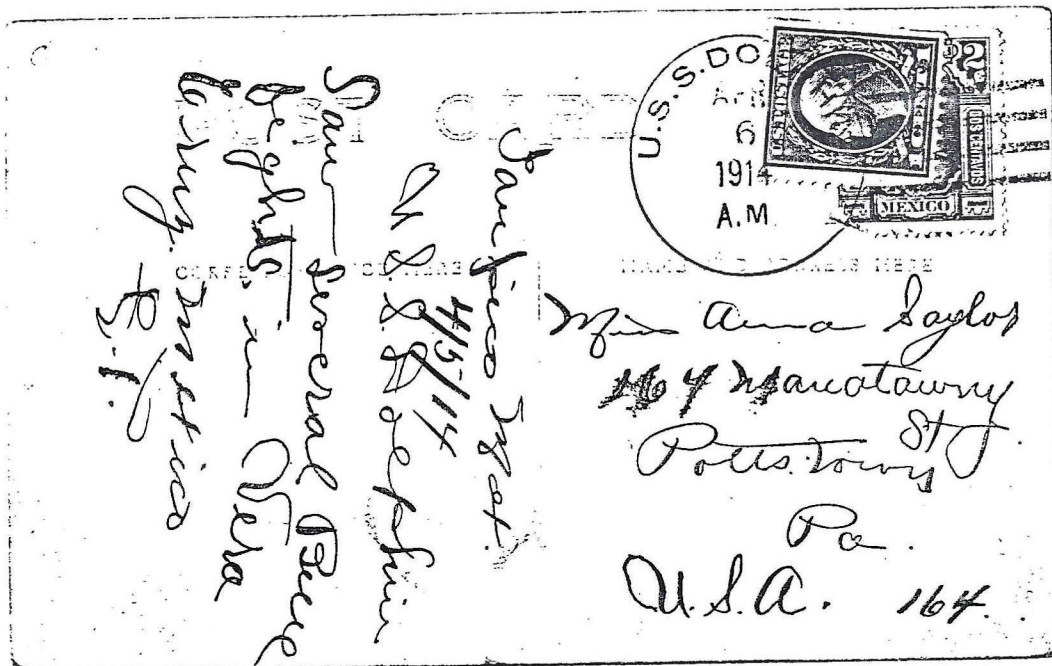


No US postal facilities were provided ashore for the intervention forces. Mail was taken to US warships for transmission abroad.



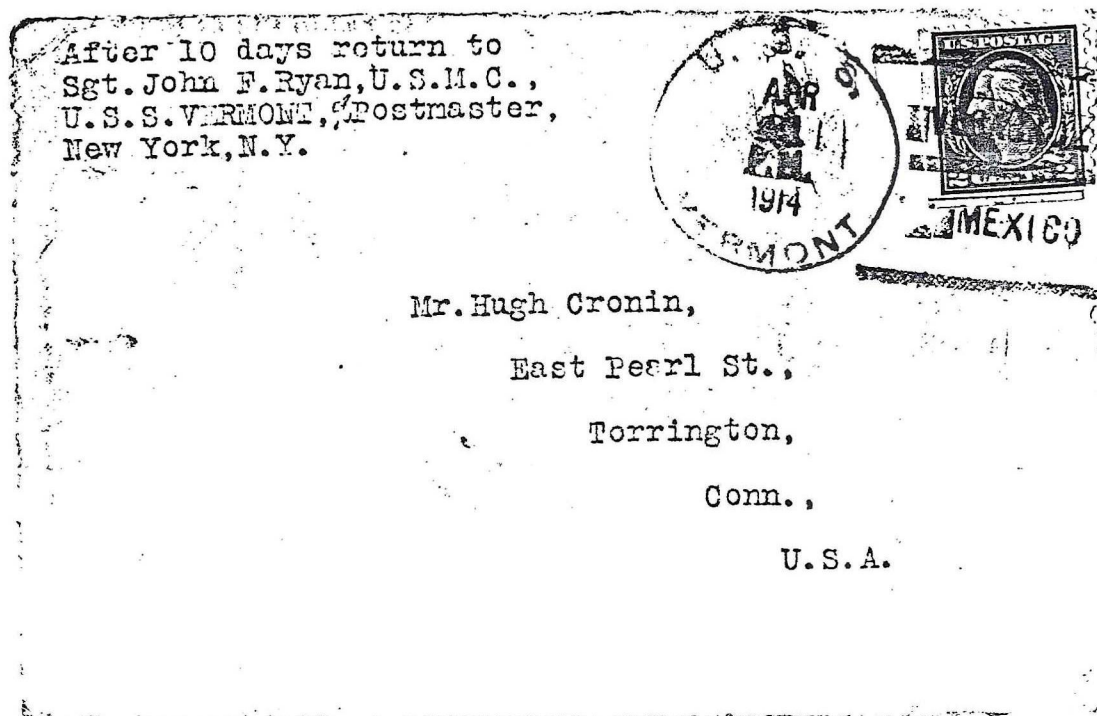
The "Marine Detachment, American Legation, Managua" post office is officially listed in operation 23 March 1922 - 3 August 1925. Only 1 postmark type is recorded.

MEXICO 1914



Long at odds with the Huerta government, the Wilson administration responded to detention of sailors from the *USS Dolphin* in Tampico on 9 April 1914 by making demands for actions which the Mexicans, considering them demeaning to their national honor, refused. It was assumed that the US would seize Tampico as a result.

Instead, the US government used the imminent arrival of the *SS Ypiranga* at Vera Cruz with armaments for Huerta's forces as an excuse to seize that port. This was accomplished 21 April 1914 by 787 sailors and Marines from warships, including the *Vermont*.



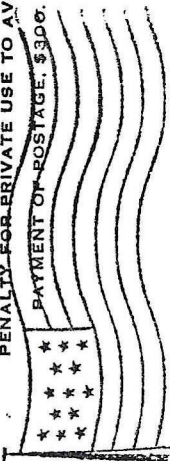
An initial occupation force of 3000 sailors and Marines was replaced by a largely Army force of 7500 men on 27 April 1914. The occupation, confined to the city of Vera Cruz (and the waterworks 10 miles distant) ended, following collapse of the Huerta government, on 23 November 1914

Mexico 1914

Rates
Military Mail to US

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.



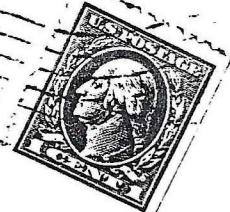
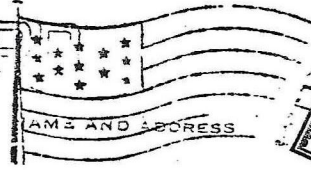
WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS U. S. EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Commanding General
R. F. L.



George Wilson
218 S. Regt
U. S. Marines
Vera Cruz
Mex

Mrs Emma B. Wilson
Hazleton
Ind.

P.O.B. 173

US military mail from ashore and from US Navy ships was carried to the US at domestic rates, which meant for free in the case of properly marked official mail. Bottom cover backstamped USS Des Moines, Vera Cruz, 27 July 1914.

HELD FOR POSTAGE.



Mr H. Louett

POSTAGE DUE ☒ CENTS.
U. S. S. Des Moines.

Washington St
Boston
Mass.

Mexico 1914

Rates
Civilian Mail Outside Mexico

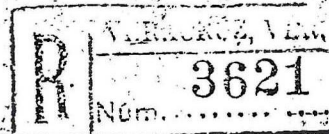
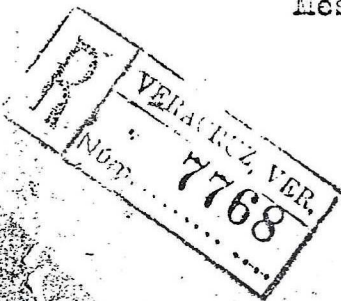
COMPANIA LIMITADA
LUZ ELECTRICA, FUERZA Y TRACCION
DE VERACRUZ.
REGISTERED.
APARTADO CORREO 112. - VERACRUZ.
OFICINA PRINCIPAL.
COLON 13. - MEXICO, D. F.



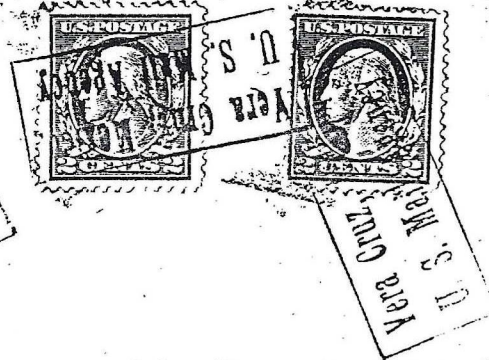
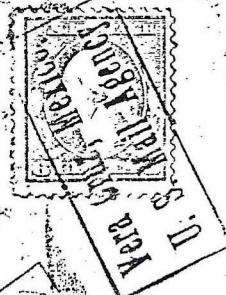
Messrs. Carr Brothers,

32 Broadway Street, 96028

NEW YORK, N. Y.



Monsieur A. FORBIN



80, Rue Saint-Lazare

(France)

PARIS (IX^E)

The US operated the only postal service in Vera Cruz during the occupation. Mail from civilians to points outside Mexico was carried at the same rates as would have been charged in the US: domestic rates on mail to the US, UPU rates for mail to other countries. US stamps were required.

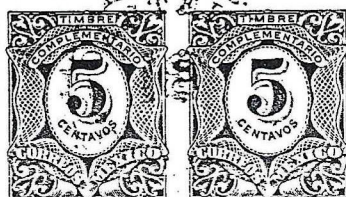


Local mail was required to be franked at US domestic rates with US postage.

Rates
Mail to Unoccupied Mexico



Leona Martiney
Edoardo Farnaz N.º 6
2.º Piso



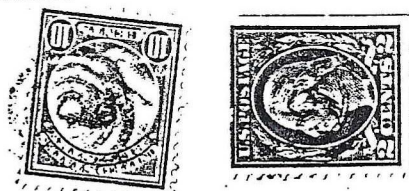
Puebla

The Mexican government refused to accept any mail from occupied Vera Cruz until 25 May 1914, when a postal agreement was reached with the local US Mail Agent. This agreement required that mail to the Mexican interior be franked with Mexican stamps at domestic Mexican rates.

Mexico 1914

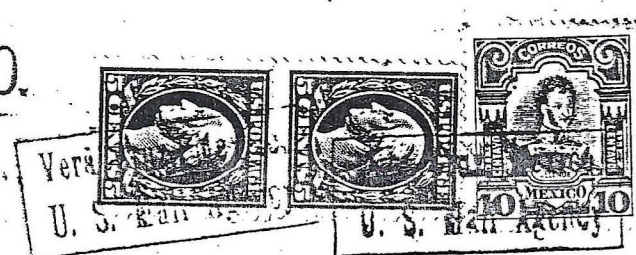
Rates
Mail to Unoccupied Mexico

Certificado!
Lrs. *T 30c*
246981
Sanborn Bros. Lics
Avda. "San Francisco" #12
México
VERACRUZ, VER.
R Num. 1569



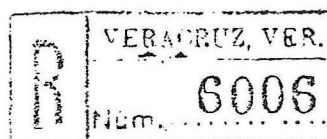
Registered mail shows some inconsistency in rates on letters into Mexico. The US Mail Agency, Vera Cruz always required 10c in US stamps for the registry fee, but usually did not collect US postage. Mexico routinely required payment of both registry fees (10c) and postage (initially 5c, later 10c) in Mexican stamps.

CERTIFICADO.



Señor H. Moeller

Above cover bears 30c in Mexican postage cancelled in Mexico, D.F., on back (double deficiency for both postage and registration fee not prepaid).



MEXICO, D.F.
Apartado No. 870.

4177c

Mexico 1914

Postmarks

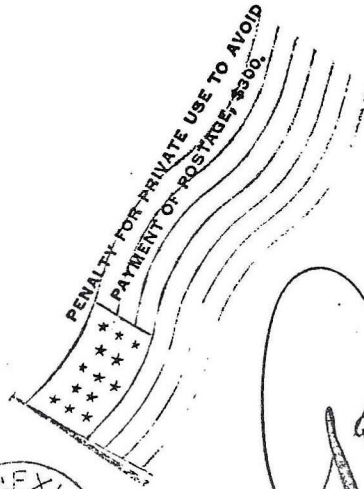


The Vera Cruz occupation was so hastily arranged that no prior plans for postal arrangements were made. At first, US forces ashore used cancels of the local Mexican post office. The earliest recorded date for both types of cancel is 3 May 1914 (coincidentally the date that the US Mail Agent took over the post office from a US Navy officer). The handstamp is recorded used through 29 May and the roller cancel through 23 June.

Mexico 1914

Postmarks

WAR DEPARTMENT.
Signal Corps, 4th Inf. 5th Brigade
Camp, Coahuila, Mex.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



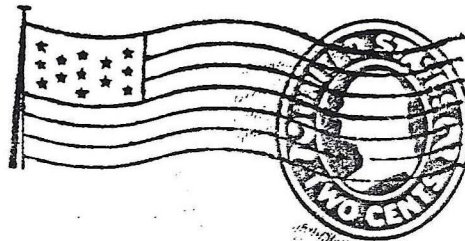
Commanding General
Second Division,
Veracruz City,
Veracruz

The Mexican postmark was replaced about a week later by a machine flag cancel. The current earliest use is shown here.

Mexico 1914

Postmarks

LIEUT C. W. ELLIOTT,
28th. U S. INFANTRY
VERACRUZ. MEXICO.



JOHN SUTCLIFFE



Mrs C. M. Tibbi
3743 Locust Street

LIEUT C. W. ELLIOTT,
28th. U S. INFANTRY
VERACRUZ. MEXICO.



Sag.

Minneapolis

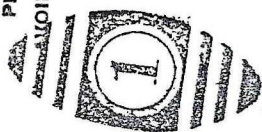
Mrs. Charles Winslow Elliott,

8437 Humbolt Avenue, South,

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sorenson has reported the existence of a second type of flag cancel, for which he recorded 3 examples on 29 August. His illustration plus the two August covers shown above suggest that there was only the 1 cancelling machine and that in the latter half of August it experienced some sort of mechanical defect which caused mis-feeding and resulting distorted impressions of the postmark.

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



1914

Commanding General, U. S. A.

cond Division,

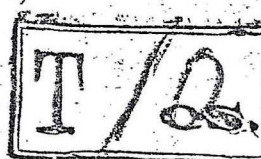
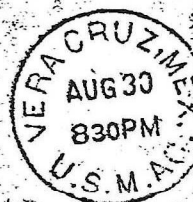
Texas City, Texas.

The second type of US Mail Agency postmark used at Vera Cruz. Recorded 2 June-22 November. Hammer 1 was used on mail going outside Mexico; hammer 2 on mail addressed within Mexico.

WAR DEPARTMENT
HQ. U. S. EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
--CHIEF Q. M., VERACRUZ, MEXICO

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Sr. 58

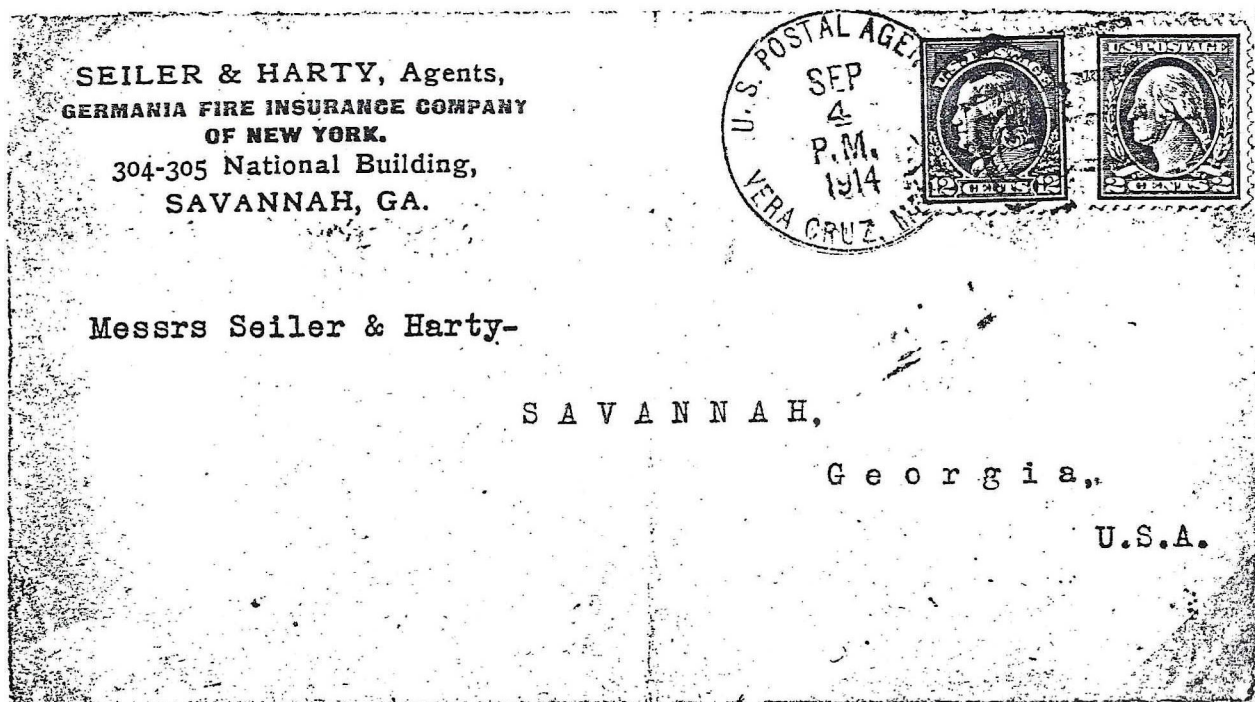


Escrita en el Departamento de Rezagos
sin la estampilla correspondiente.

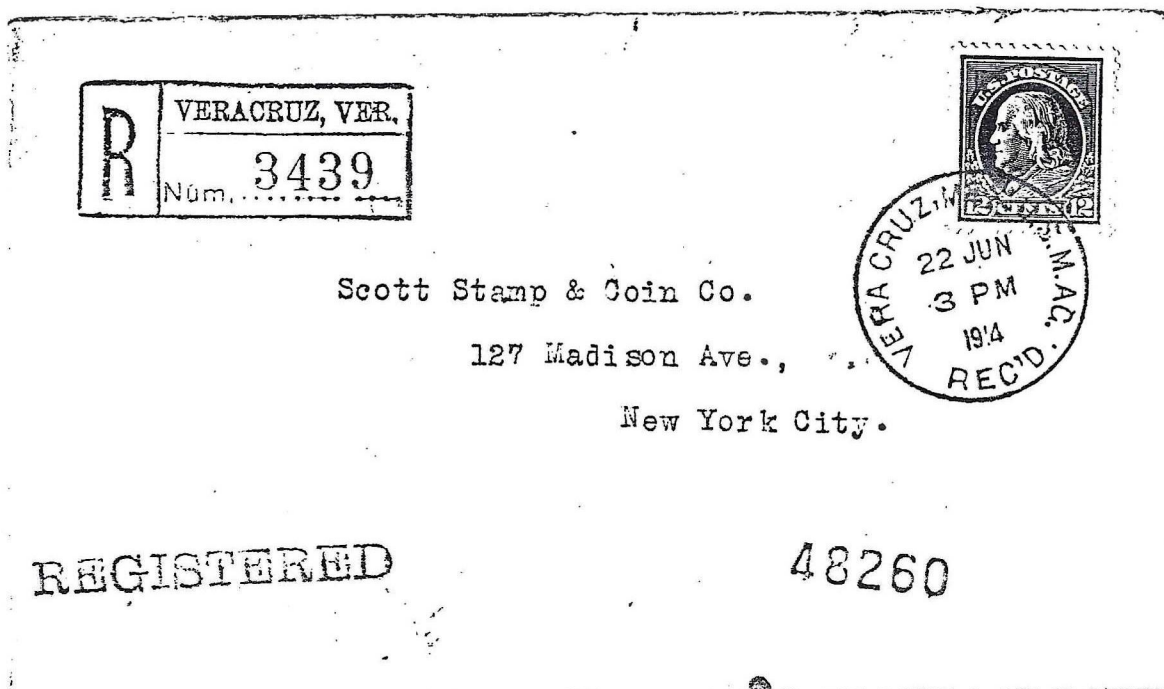
Francisco Javier Fernandez
Inspector del F. M.
Or 368 Loc. Vera
Calle de Hidalgo No 81.
Interior 45.



Mexico D. F.



The last regular mail cancel, recorded 11 June - 21 November. Much scarcer than the other types.



"Rec'd" datestamp. Extremely scarce except in philatelic usage; very uncommon even so. Known used early June - mid-November. Used as cancel on registered mail 3 - 23 June.