

CUBA
La Habana Province

Military Sta. No. 10 Havana
5 January 1899
1 February 1899



Mrs. John De Venish

soldiers letter



Mrs. Laban. J. Smith.

252. French Church. St.

Norfolk.

Virginia

U. S. A.



Mrs. Laban. J. Smith.

252. French Church. St.

Norfolk. Virginia

U. S. A.



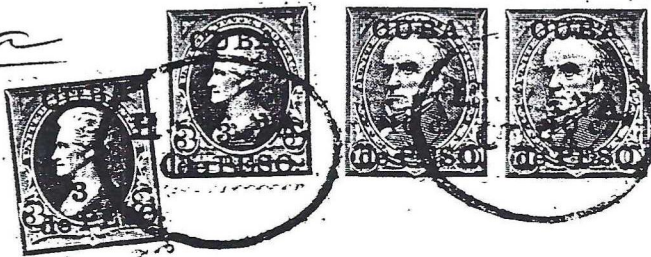
A third RPO-type cancel was used in January 1899, with the number "10" in the killer instead of the "2" used in the earlier version. A new steel duplex cancel was then introduced; it is recorded as being used from 27 January to 2 May 1899. Three examples of covers with the oval marking were reported by Gordon, but none could be dated due to the absence of transit or receiving markings.

CUBA
La Habana Province

Havana
8 April 1899
3 July 1899

Per Tampa

HAVANA CUBA.
APR 8 1899
REGISTERED No. *154*



*Francois L. Meliset.
Au Grand Hotel Bonaparte Capucines
La Grande Rue Paris
St. Leger pour Tours
Indre et Loire
France.*



Early Registered mail from Havana does not provide any military station designation. Above covers show two types of "Havana, Cuba/date/Registered No." markings and two different killers.

CUBA
Camaguay Province

Military Sta. No. 11 Puerto Principe
9 March 1899

Military Sta. No. 12 Neuyitas
1 March 1899



Soldiers letter
H. F. Kendall
Capt. 5th



Mrs. H. F. Kendall
No 1113 Thurman St
Portland
Oregon

Steel duplex markings from Puerto Principe (subsequently named Camaguay) are recorded in February and March 1899. From Neuyitas, markings are known from February to April 1899. Note the spelling error in the postmark of Station No. 12, as the name of the town should be "Neuvitas."

CUBA
Las Villas Province
Pinar del Rio Province

Military Sta. No. 13 Cienfuegos
25 March 1899

Military Sta. No. 15 Pinar del Rio
23 February 1899

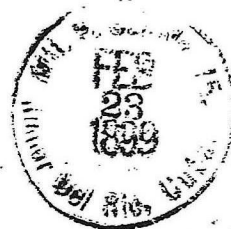
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
(Union Postale Universelle)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(États-Unis d'Amérique)

WRITE ONLY THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE

Drs M. J. ...
265 Lexington Ave
N.Y. City
U.S.A.



Voluntario ...
J. J. ...
Capt. 7th Co "E"
Camp ...



Mrs. J. Buchanan ...
576 College Street
Providence
R.I.

The steel cds marking from Cienfuegos is recorded from February to April 1899. From Pinar del Rio, a rubber cds is known used during February and March 1899.

CUBA
Pinar del Rio Province
Las Villas Province

Military Sta. No. 16 Guanajay
14 March 1899

Military Sta. No. 18 Trinidad
30 June 1899

Post Office Department.
POST OFFICE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

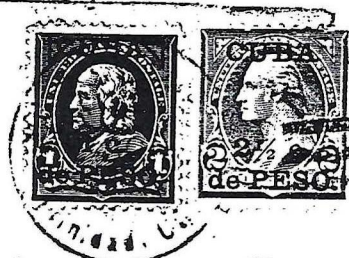
(No. 1-A.)

This envelope can lawfully be used by an
Officer of the United States on Government
of the Government. The use of postage on private
ment of postage on private mail is
punishable by a fine of



M. D. Lloyd Esq.
C/o Buffalo Ry. Co.
Gold Springs,
Buffalo, N.Y.

Estados Unidos



Fres. J. & J. Welsh
P.O. Box 50

RETORNE A
S. SANCHEZ IZNAGA.
TRINIDAD DE CUBA.

Philadelphia
Pa.

Rubber cds markings are recorded to have been used at Guanajay from February to April 1899 and at Trinidad from March to June 1899.

CUBA
Matanzas Province
Oriente Province

MPS No. 21 Cardenas
11 April 1899

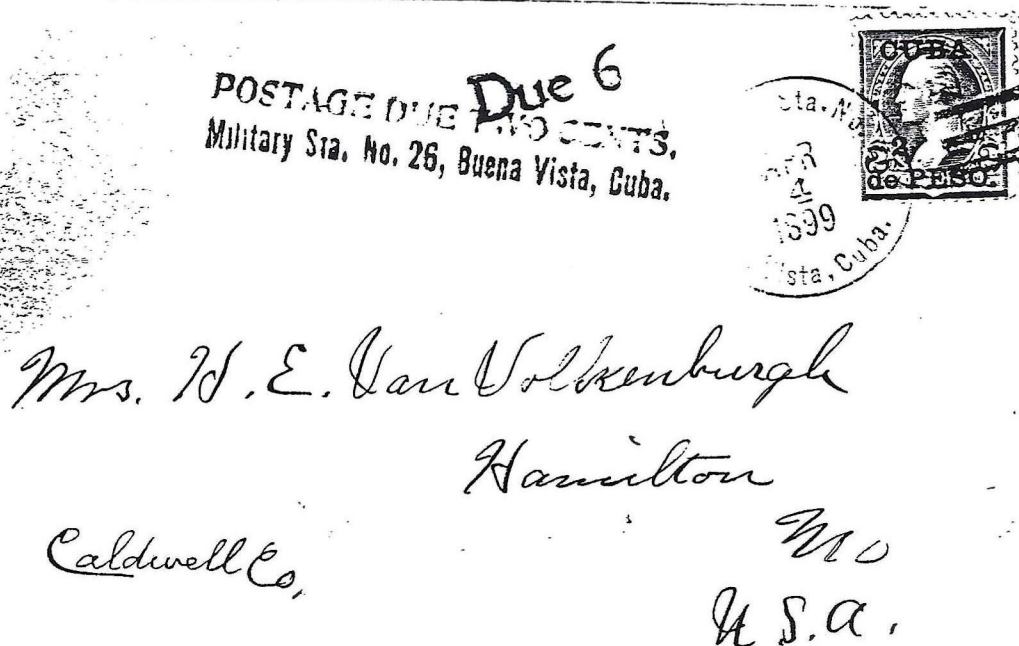
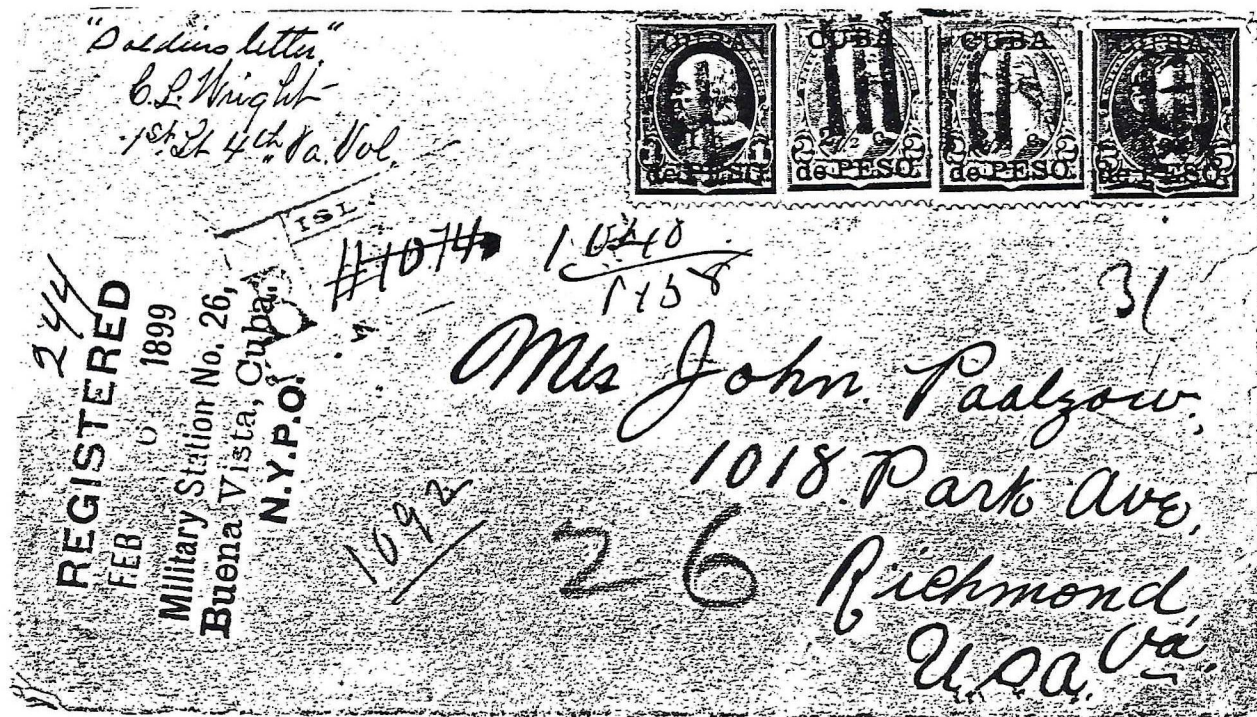
MPS No. 24 Palma Soriano
20 March 1900



The rubber cds marking of Cardenas (often blurred) is recorded in March and April 1899. No examples of a military station cds has been recorded from Palma Soriano, but there are two examples of the oval killer reading "Mil Sta./Palma Soriano" with "No. 24 Cuba" in the center.

CUBA
La Habana Province

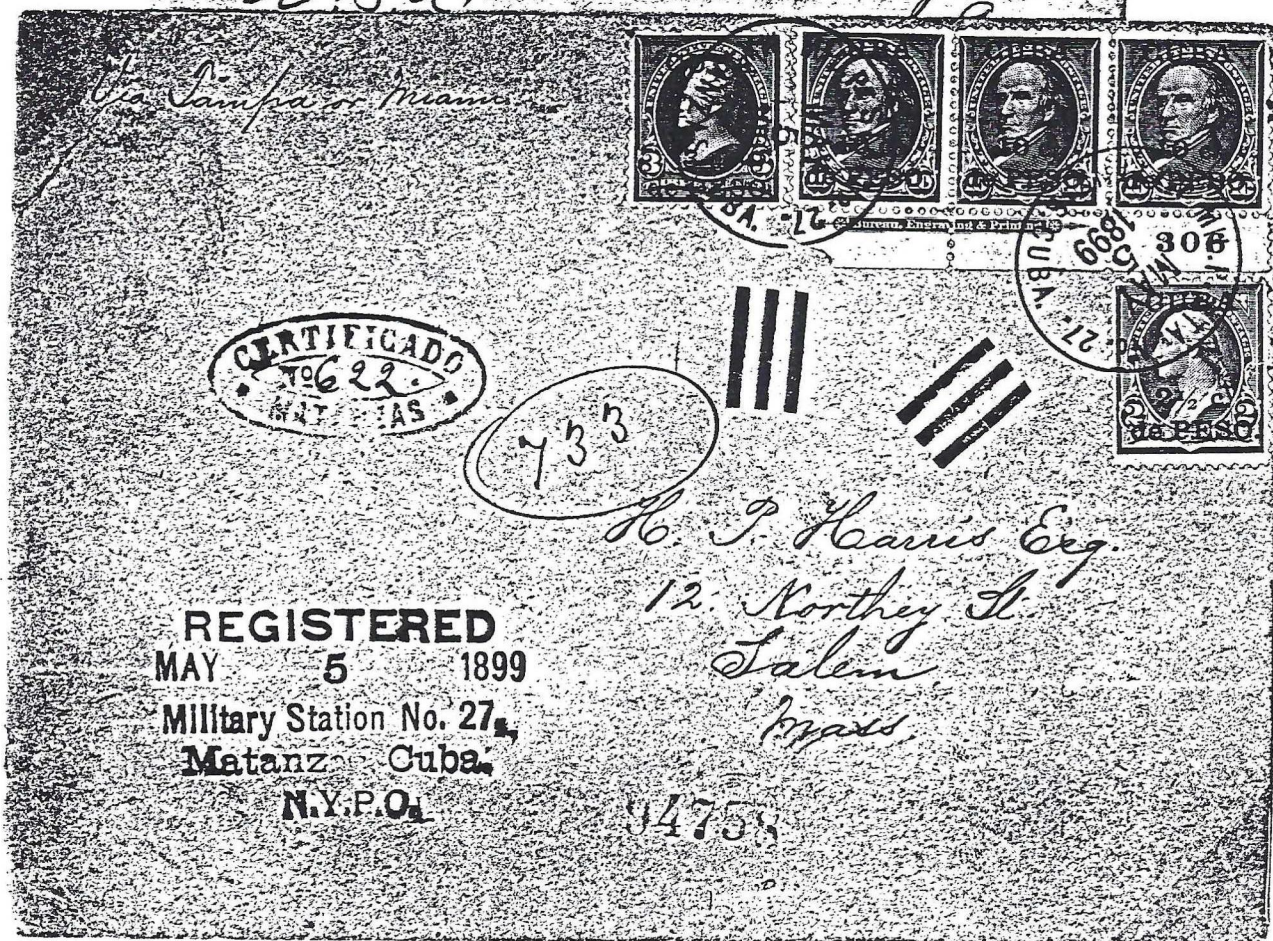
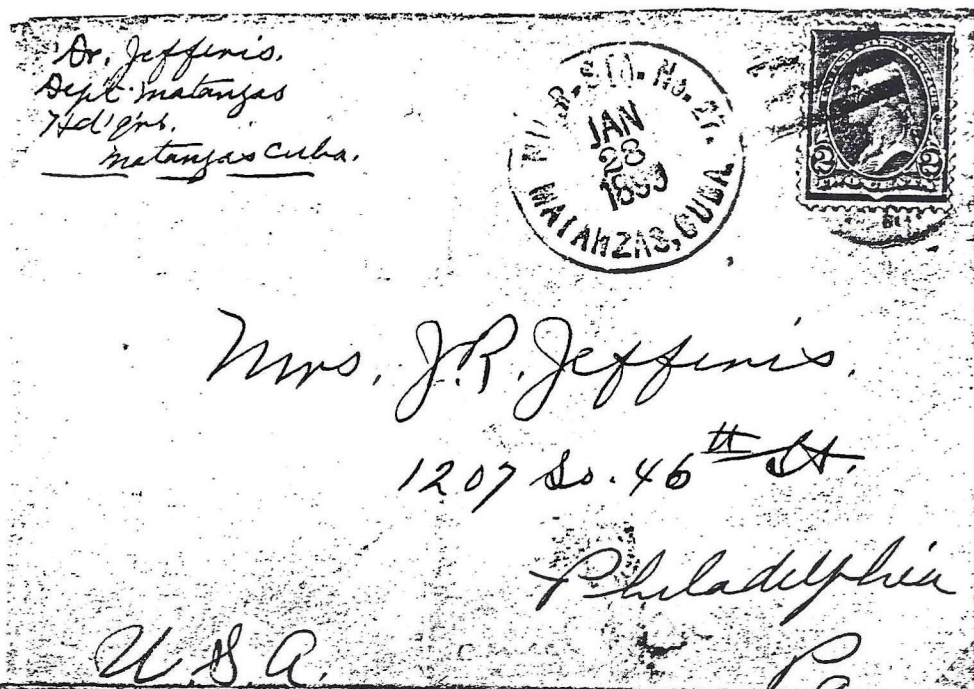
Military Sta. No. 26 Buena Vista
6 February 1899
4 April 1899



Examples above show several markings of Buena Vista, including 5-line Registration postmark, normal rubber cds and postage due marking, the latter quite unusual. As the lower cover was not endorsed "soldier's letter," it was assessed a double deficiency for the 3 centavo underpayment.

CUBA
Matanzas Province

Military Sta. No. 27 Matanzas
28 January 1899
5 May 1899

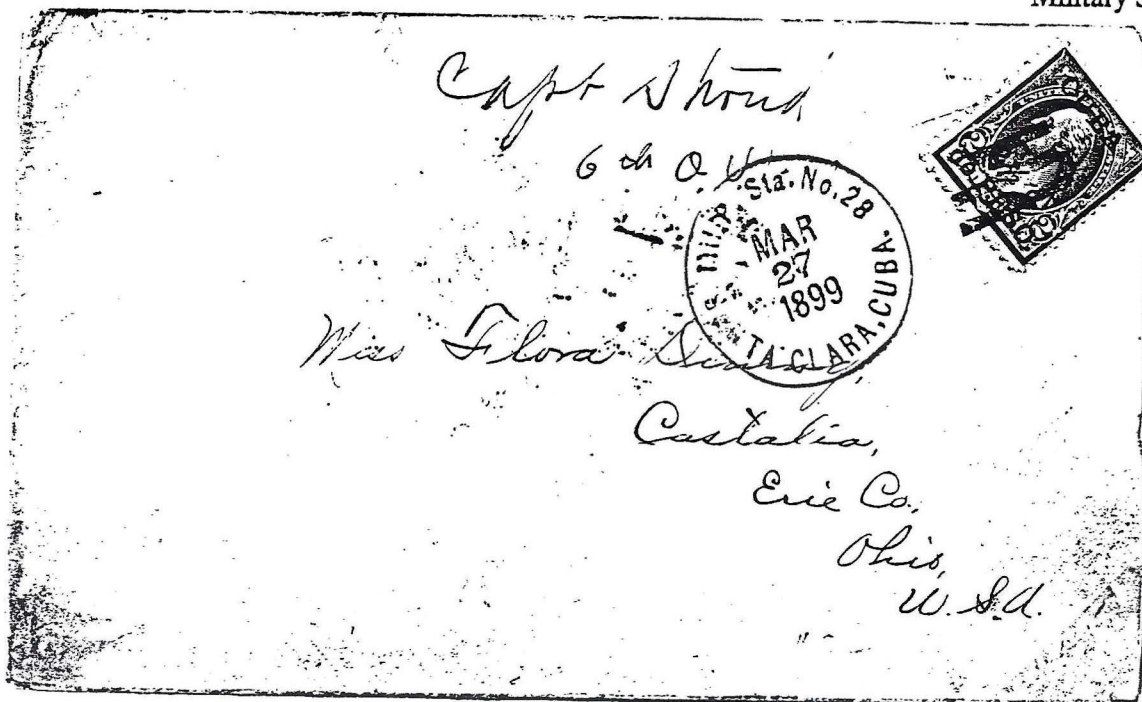


Examples above show both rubber cds and 5-line Registration markings of Matanzas. The former is recorded used from 28 January (above) to 2 August 1899, while the "Registered" type is unrecorded in Gordon. Note the use of the captured Spanish oval registration marking on the lower cover.

CUBA
Las Villas Province
Camaguary Province

Military Sta. No. 28 Santa Clara
27 March 1899

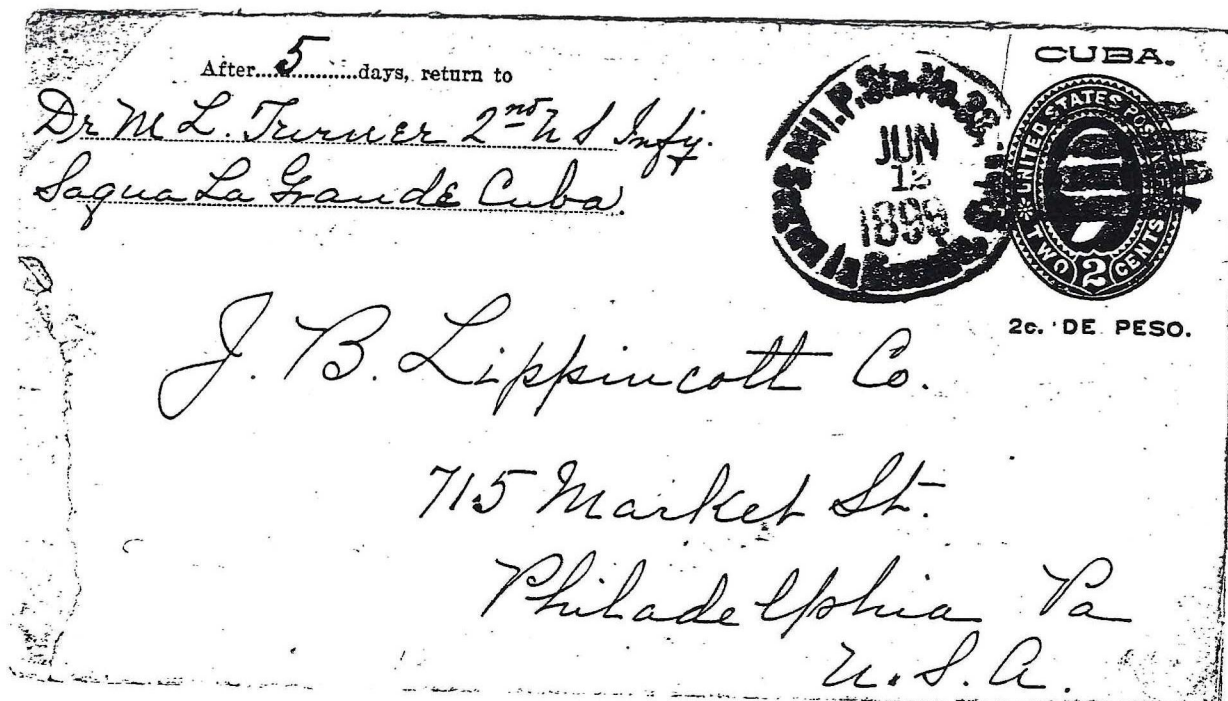
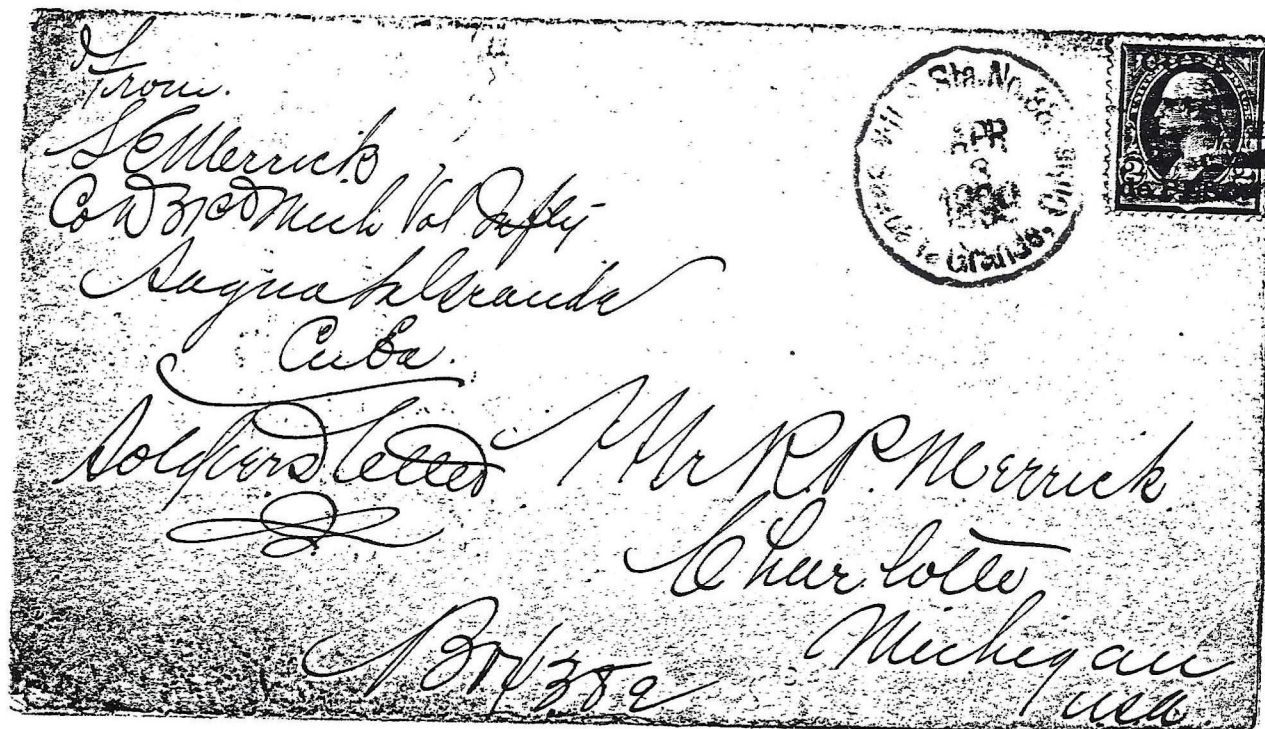
Military Sta. No. 32 Jucaro
28 March 1899



Examples of the higher number military stations, which were open only briefly, are scarce. Postmarks of Santa Clara are recorded from 17 February to 20 April 1899 and from Jucaro from 28 March (above) to 9 June 1899. The bottom cover also bears an unusual postage due marking, reflecting an underpayment of 1 centavo. (Because of an error in printing this denomination, these stamps were sold for 2 centavos each, rather than 2 1/2.)

CUBA
Las Villas Province

Military Sta. No. 33 Sagua la Grande
3 April 1899
12 June 1899

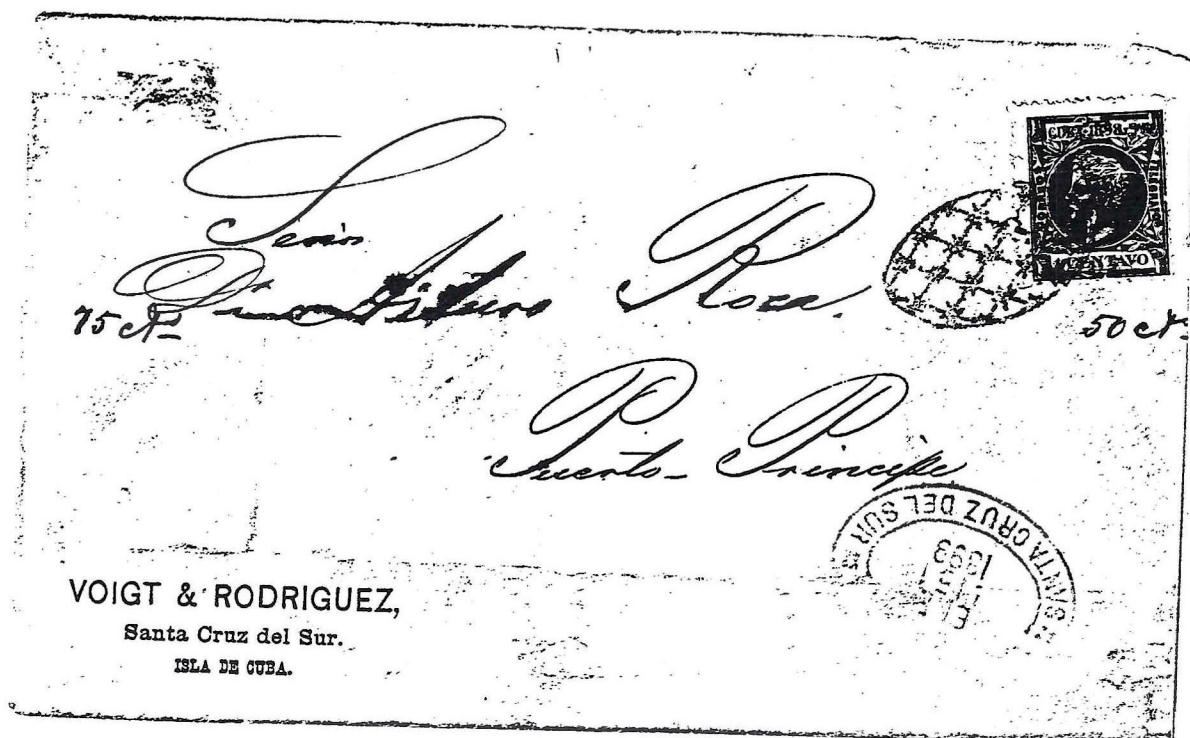


The rubber cds of Sagua la Grande is known used from March to July 1899. Clearly, there was a tendency for the rubber in the postmarks to deteriorate after extended use in the tropical climate.

CUBA
Camaguey Province

Santa Cruz del Sur
15 January 1899

Provisional Municipal Postage

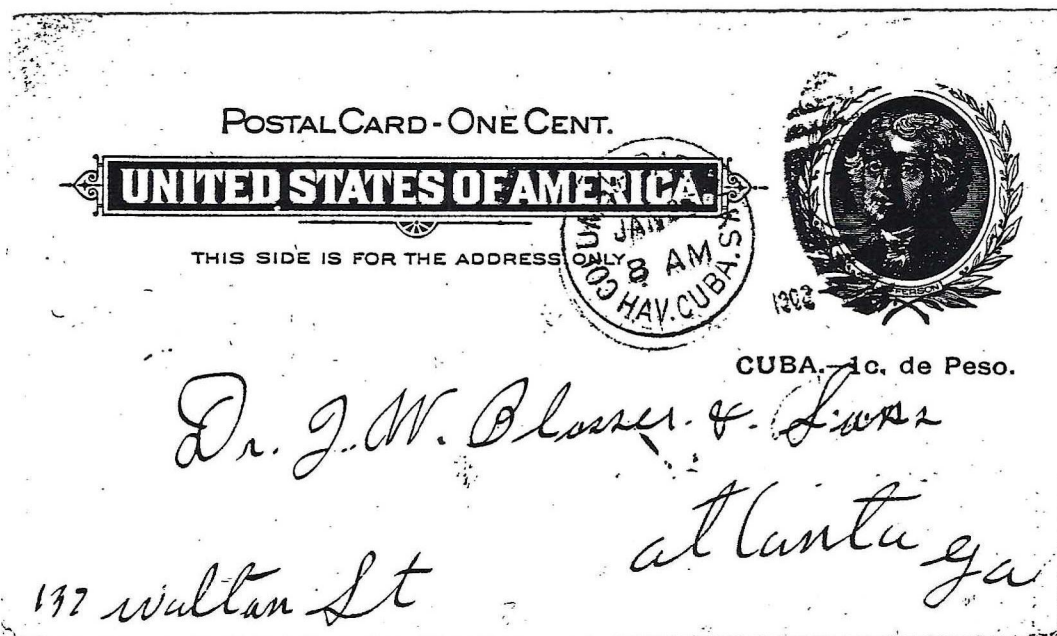
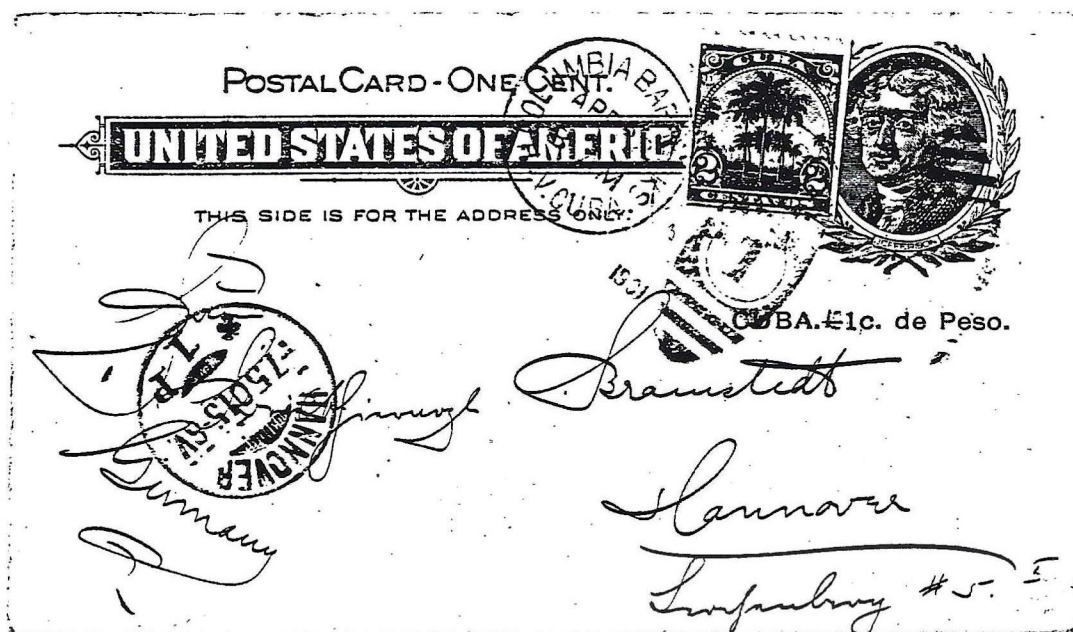
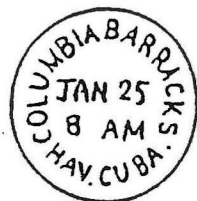


American and Cuban revolutionary forces captured Puerto Principe on 24 November 1898. When it was learned that no American stamps were immediately available, the Cuban Liberation Army proposed to General Carpenter, the U.S. military governor, that supplies of Spanish stamps be overprinted. On 19 December, the order was given for the local production of five denominations. Five printings were made during December 1898 and January 1899. These "Puerto Principe Provisionals" were in use for approximately one month as they were withdrawn from circulation upon the arrival of a supply of U.S. postage stamps on 20 January 1899.

In the primary source literature, Jones & Roy state that between 21,400 and 28,000 stamps were produced in total. They were used in only four towns: Puerto Principe, Minas del Principe, Nuevitas and Santa Cruz del Sur. Covers showing use of this issue are particularly elusive, with only two recorded from this latter post office.

CUBA
La Habana Province

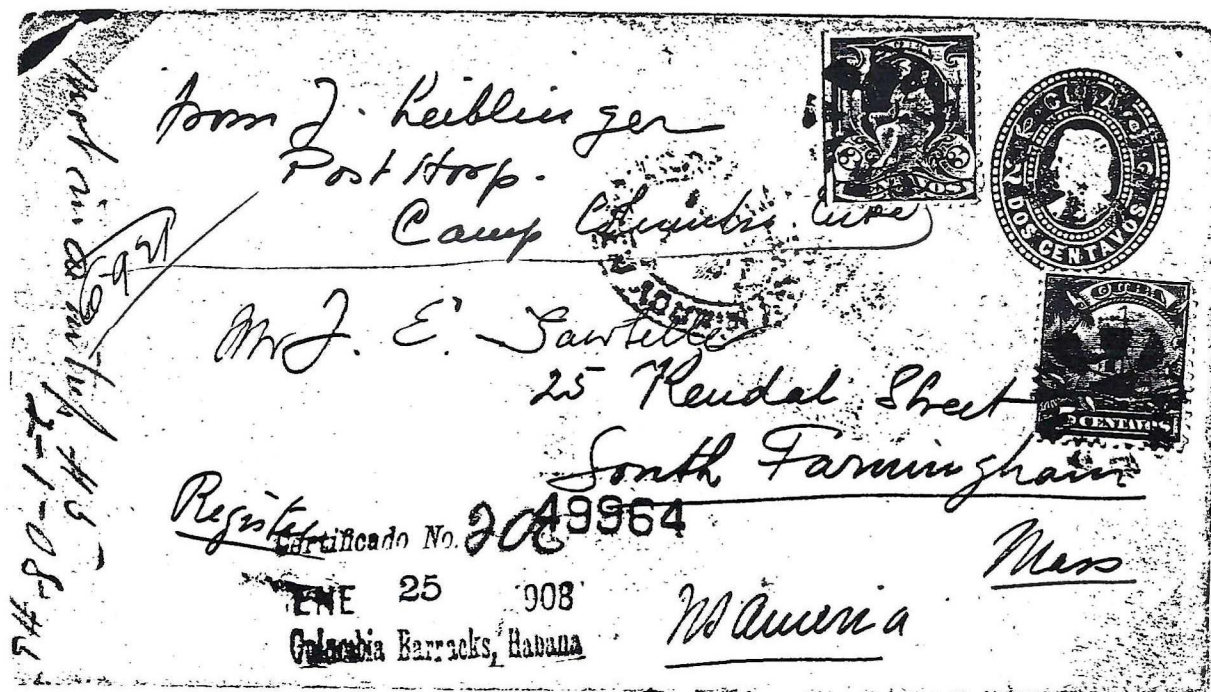
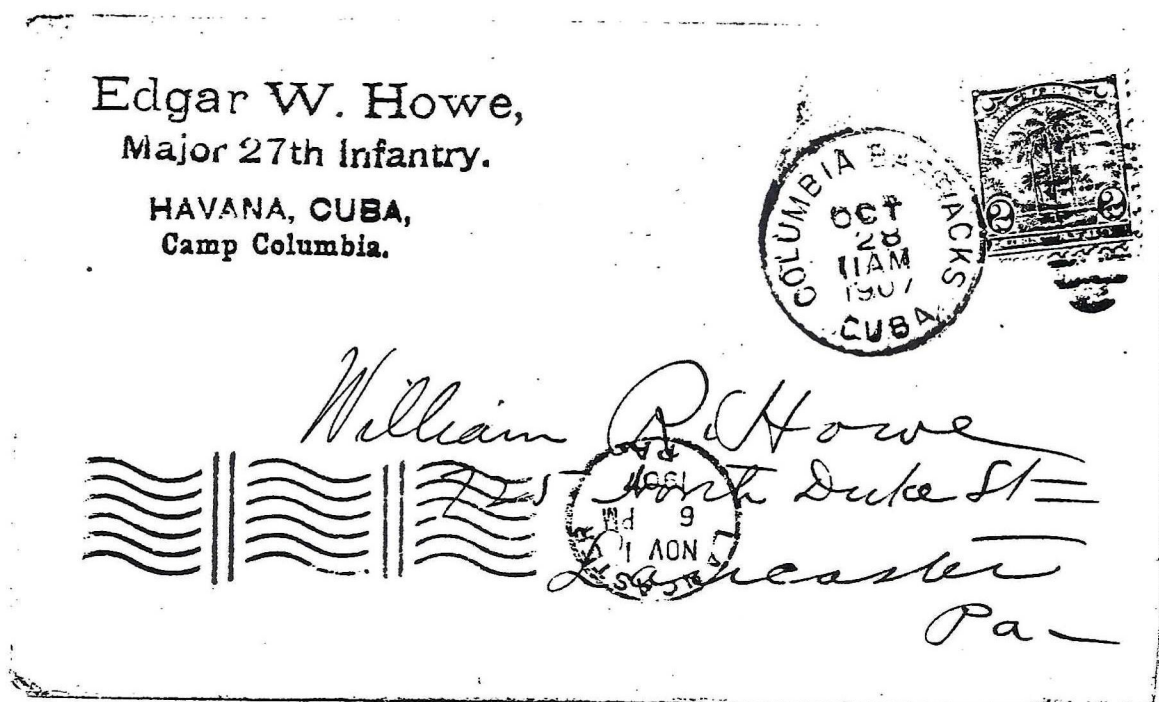
Columbia Barracks
22 April 1901
25 January 1902



The Havana military station closed officially on 17 February 1899 and was "reopened" the following day under the name of Columbia Barracks. Gordon states that it continued to operate as a military post office under this title until 19 May 1902. Only seven examples of this marking are recorded, from 19 March 1901 to 28 January 1902. (A Cuban post office named "Columbia Barracks" was opened later using different markings.)

CUBA
La Habana Province

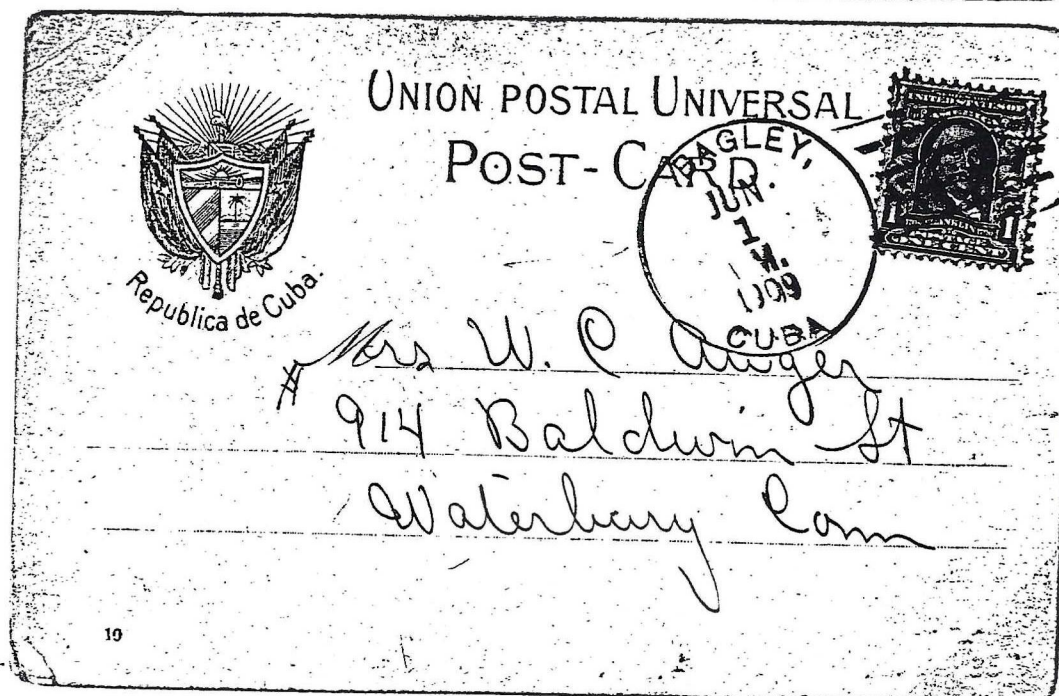
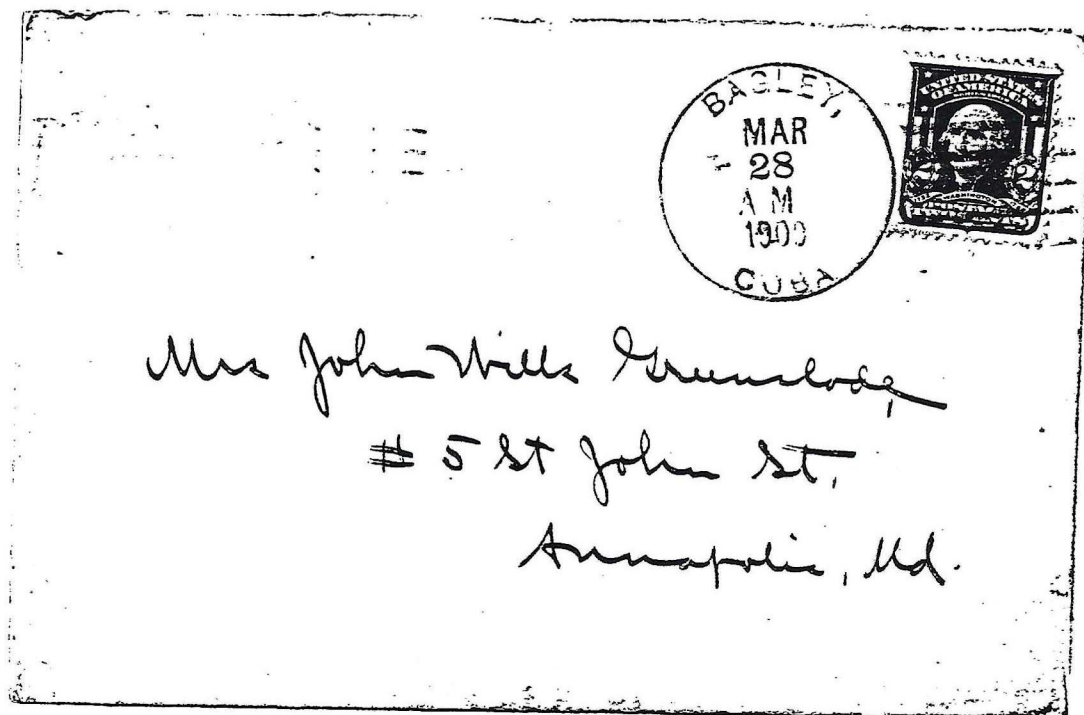
Columbia Barracks
28 October 1907
25 January 1908



Due to political unrest, the U.S. continued to maintain a military presence in Cuba after independence, with headquarters at Camp Columbia outside Havana. By 1906, there was sufficient demand for postal service at the camp that the Cuban government established a post office there. Note the "Columbia Barracks, Habana" registration marking, with "cogwheel" type killer used to cancel the postage.

CUBA
Oriente Province

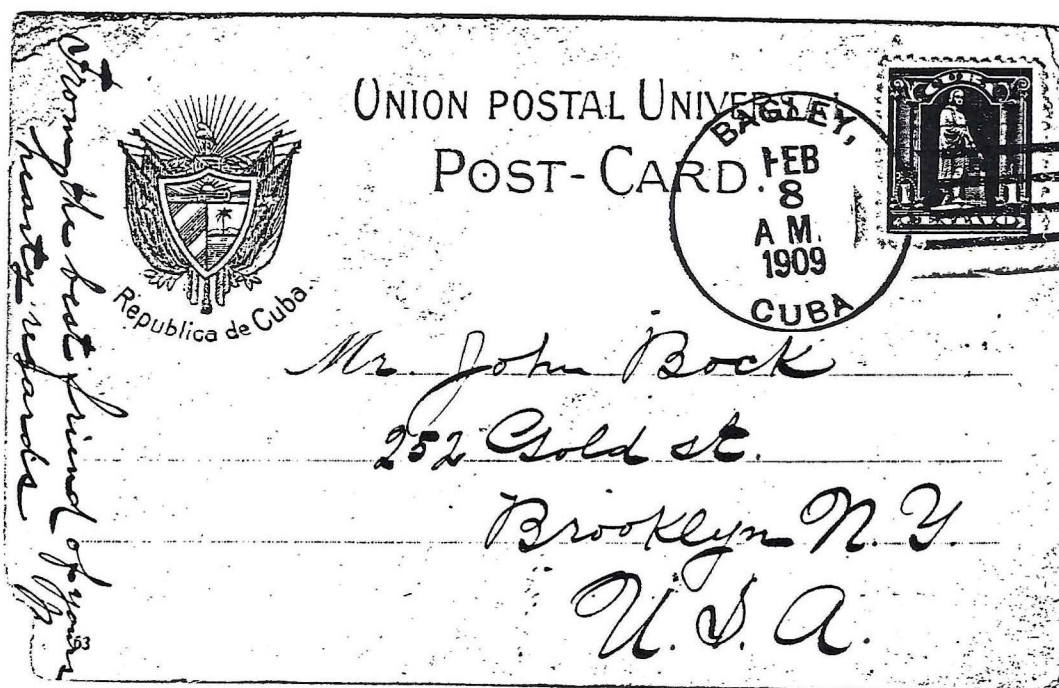
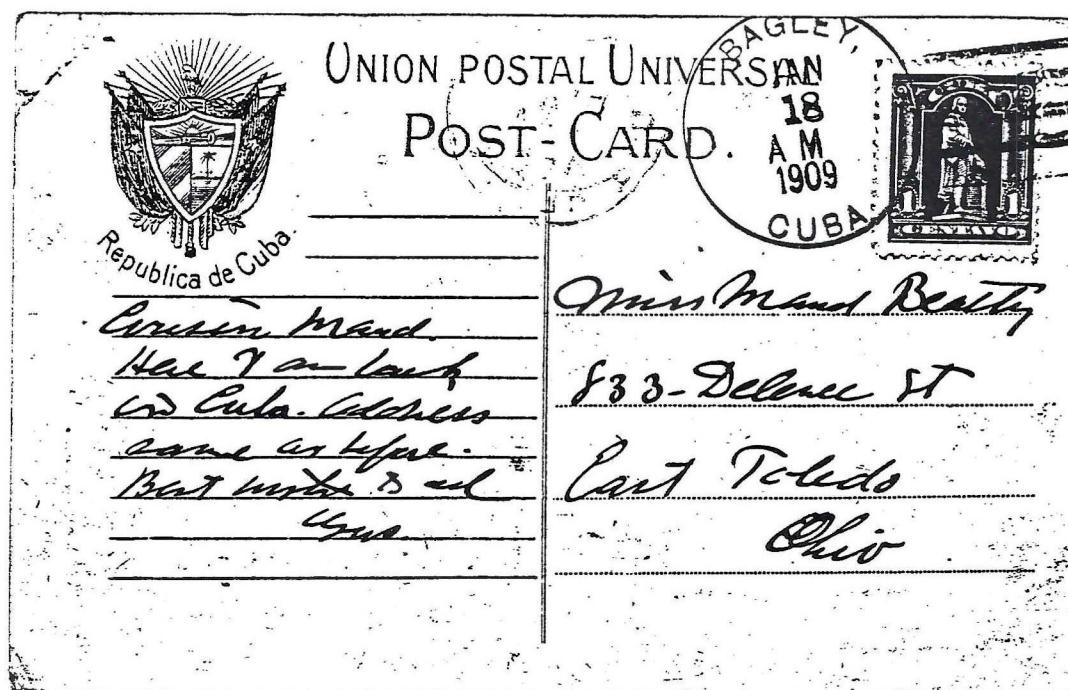
Bagley
28 March 1909
1 June 1909



In 1903, the United States leased an area around Guantanamo Bay on the southeast coast of Cuba for a naval operating base. Activity did not get underway on the construction of buildings and other facilities until 1906-1907. With the accompanying influx of construction and other personnel, a U.S. post office named Bagley was opened on South Toro Cay on 25 March 1907, accepting mail at domestic rates. The completion of the principal construction projects, combined with the establishment of postal facilities on board U.S. warships in 1908, led to the shutting down of the shore-based post office the following year. The official closing date for Bagley was 27 February 1909, but the latest recorded postmark is dated 1 June 1909 (see above).

CUBA
Oriente Province

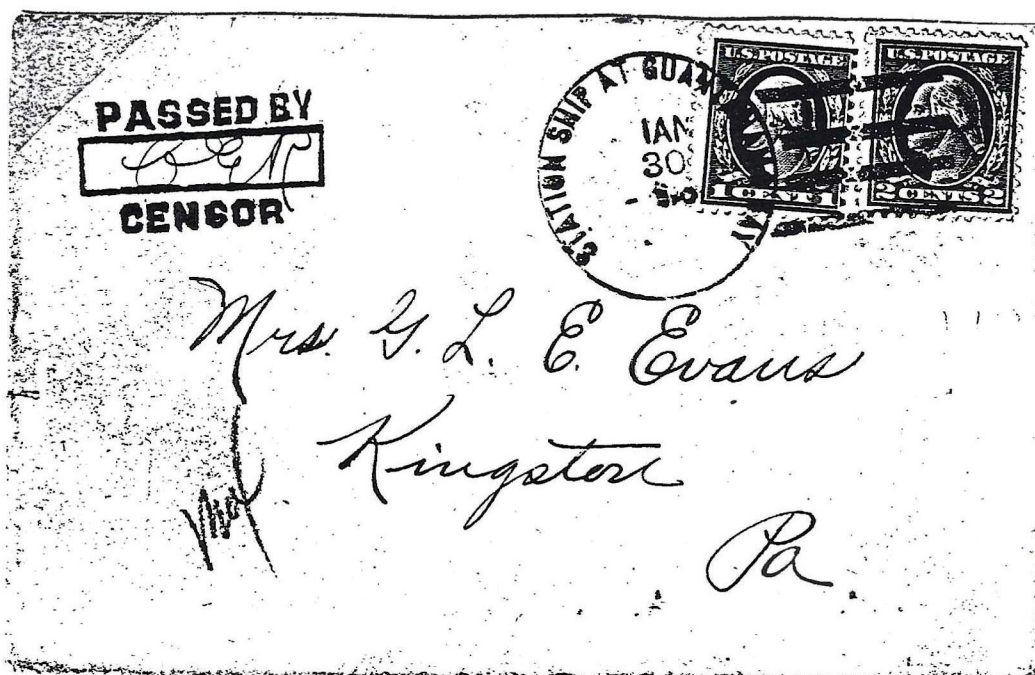
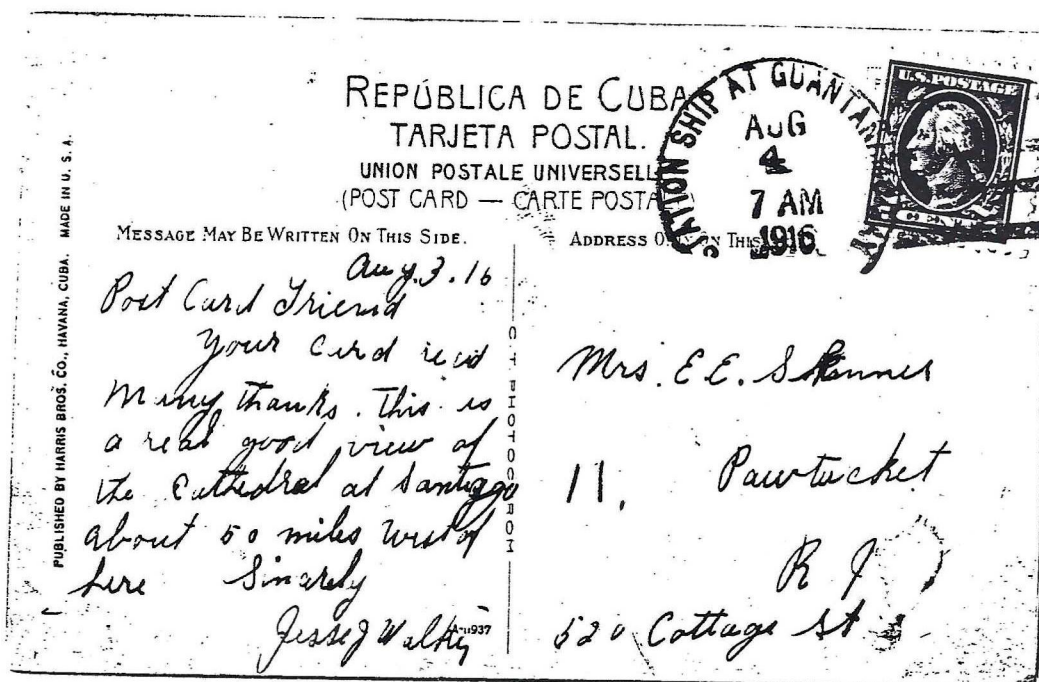
Bagley
18 January 1909
8 February 1909



Only United States postage should have been used at Bagley. Gordon notes that "Scarcity of material makes it impossible to say that Cuban stamps were used with any frequency," but such usage was apparently accepted without imposition of postage due.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Station Ship at
Guantanamo Bay
4 August 1916
30 January 1918



Following the outbreak of World War I, especially with submarine warfare being unleashed in the Atlantic by the Germans, Guantanamo became more active. As a result, a new postmark reading "Station Ship at Guantanamo Bay" came into service. Following the entry of the United States into the war, mail from the sailors and marines at Guantanamo was subject to censorship.