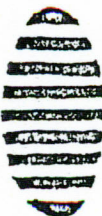


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 6. Manzanillo

This important southern coastal city had a population of 14,464 and a second class post office. US troops landed here on October 3, 1898. The military post office officially opened on December 1, 1898 and was handed over to civilian control on February 19, 1899. There were two types of duplex cancelers, an auxiliary straightline marking, a receiving, and a crude oval handstamp used at this station.



Nov. 24, 1898. Manzanillo to Havana. First class civilian domestic rate of five cents per 1/2 Oz. Post office order 296 of July 21, 1898 authorized civilian use of military postal service at higher rates. This is the earliest cover from this station mailed before the official opening date. It arrived at Havana on Nov. 28.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 6. Manzanillo



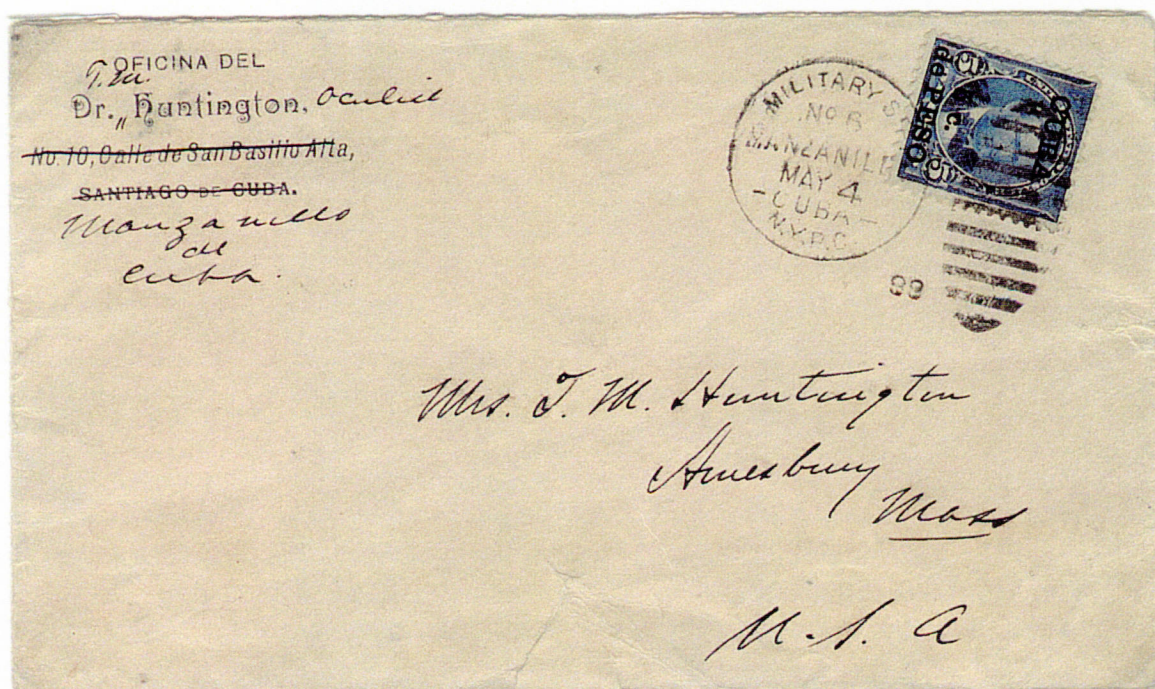
Dec. 15, 1898. Manzanillo to New York. Civilian rate. First type of duplex canceler from this town last recorded on December 22, 1898.



Dec. 17, 1898. Manzanillo to Wheeling, West Virginia. Prepaid soldier's rate.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 6. Manzanillo



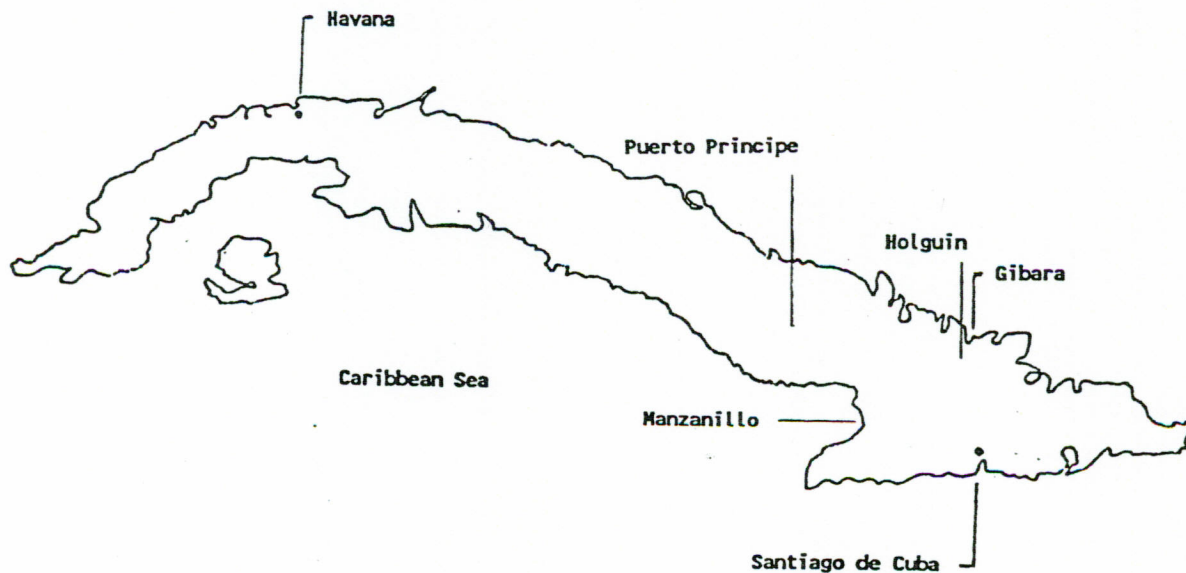
May 4, 1899. Manzanillo to Amesbury, MA. Single weight civilian rate. This is the second type of duplex canceler used in this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 6. Manzanillo



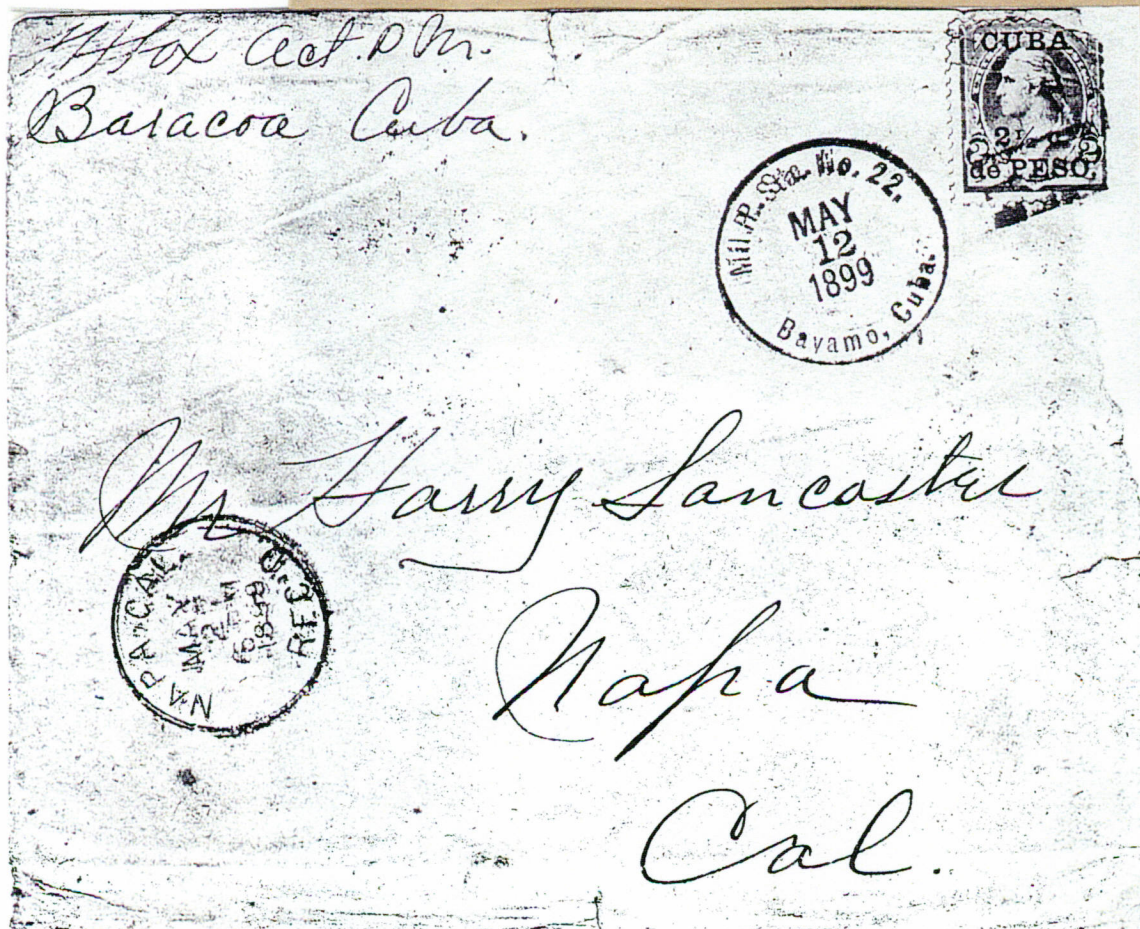
March 1899. Niquero to Baltimore via Manzanillo. Niquero was a small village that had no postal facilities and its only means of communication was a small road to Manzanillo. Unpaid soldier's rate. The postal act of March 3, 1879 specified that servicemen on duty could mail letters unpaid to be paid upon delivery at no extra charge. This is the only recorded example of this auxiliary straightline marking from Manzanillo.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

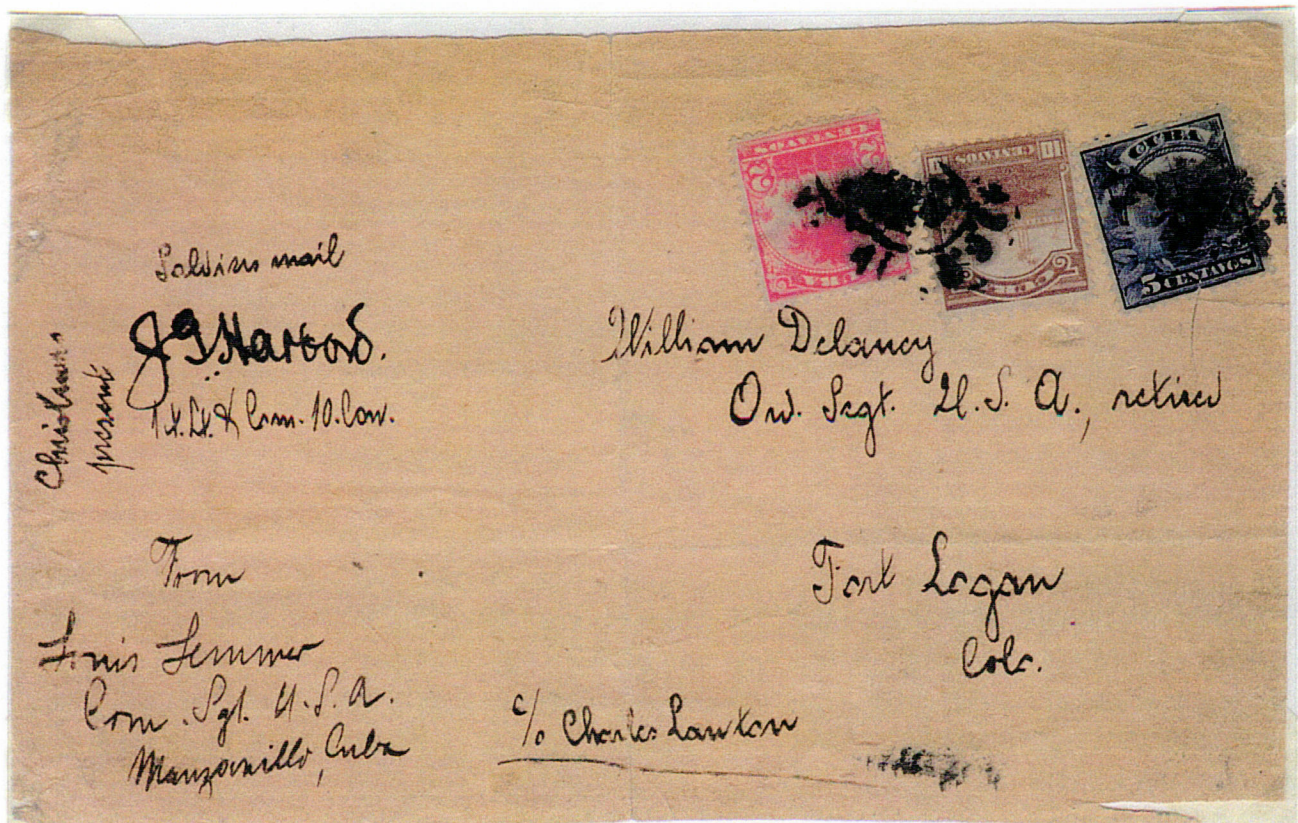
Station Number 6. Manzanillo

May 12, 1899. Baracoa to Napa, California posted at Bayamo (Military Postal Station No. 22). The only recorded copy of the Manzanillo receiving handstamp that was applied to this cover in transit. Private correspondence of the acting American Postmaster at Baracoa (Military Postal Station No. 4).



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 6. Manzanillo



Manzanillo to Fort Logan, Colorado. Large fragment of a package with manuscript 'Christmas present'. There are very few surviving examples of parcel of parcel post from this period. Prepaid soldier's fourth class rate of one cent per ounce (17 cents). Four examples of the crude oval have been reported from Manzanillo, three of them on loose stamps or small fragments.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 7. Gibara

This important town on the north coast had a population of 6,841 and a second class post office. The military post office opened on December 1, 1898 and passed to civilian control on February 28, 1899. Two types of duplex cancelers were used in this station and there are only five full covers recorded.



Dec. 27, 1898. Gibara to Matanzas. Domestic civilian rate of five cents per 1/2 oz. This is the only reported example of the first type of duplex canceler (large circle) and the earliest cover from this station.



July 10, 1899. Gibara to New York. Civilian rate. First type of duplex canceler but with the words "MIL. STA. No. 7" deleted. Used when the station was under civilian administration.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 7. Gibara

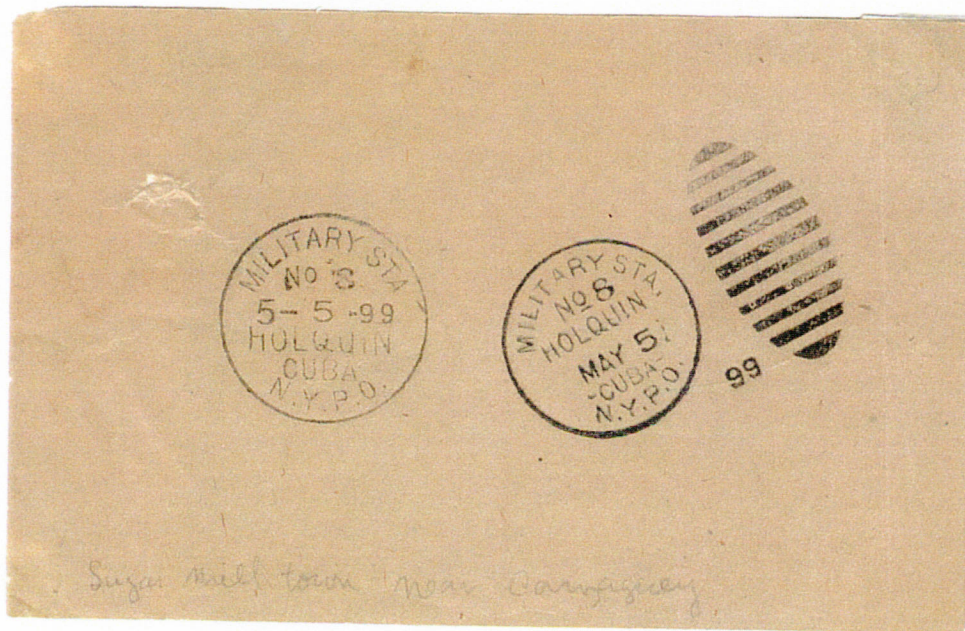
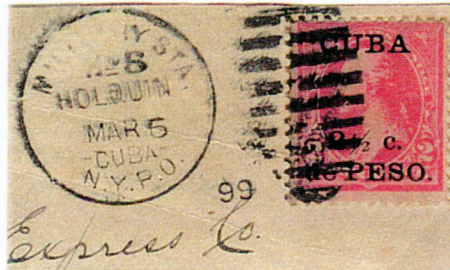


May 25, 1899. Letter from the mayor of Gibara to the military governor of Holguin. Second type of duplex canceler (small circle) from this station. On the reverse there is the only postally used example of the receiving handstamp from Holguin. This is an example of the old Spanish colonial rate of 2 cents for letters within the same province.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 8. Holguin

This town had a second class colonial post office and a population of 6,045. The military station officially opened on December 1, 1898 and was transferred to civilian control on February 28, 1899. A duplex canceler, a receiving marking, and an oval handstamp were used at this station. All of these markings have the town's name misspelled "HOLQUIN". There are very few covers recorded and the earliest is dated February 10, 1899.



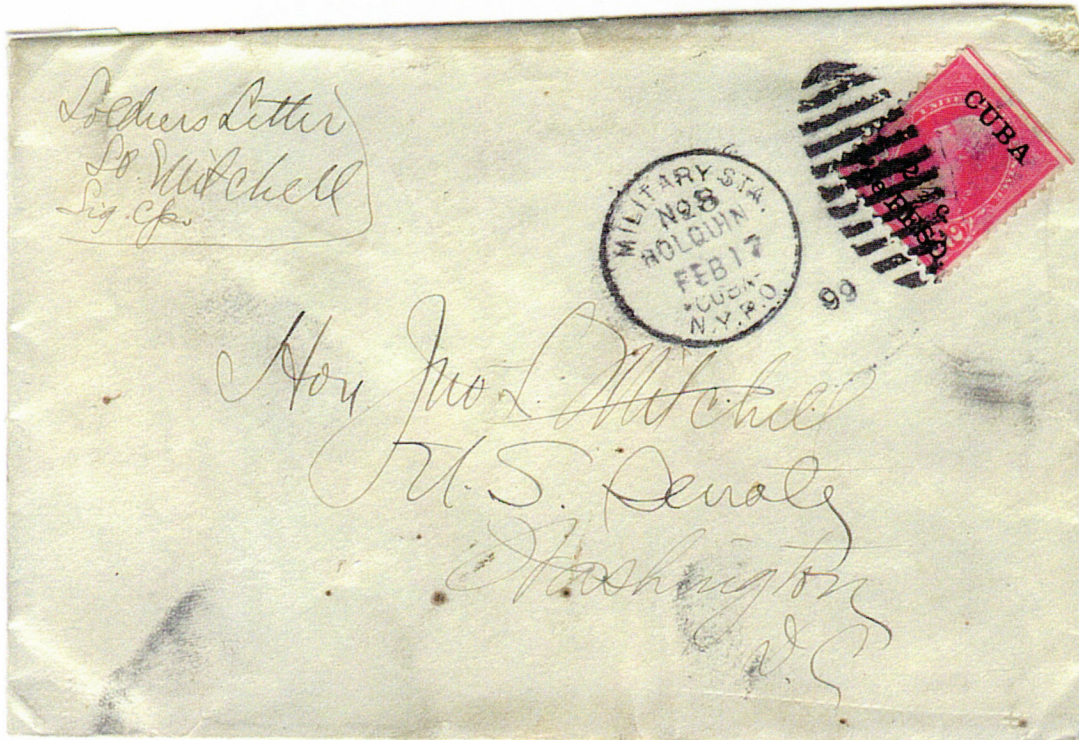
This fragment probably comes from a post office impression book and shows the receiving and duplex markings.



The only reported example of the crude oval marking from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 8. Holguin



Feb. 17, 1899. Soldier's letter from Holguin to Washington DC. This is the only type of duplex canceler (small circle) recorded from this town.



Feb. 28, 1899. Soldier's patriotic envelope from Holguin to Cincinnati. Patriotic covers from Cuba are very scarce. All of the patriotic covers with this design (Richard Pearson Hobson) seem to have been posted at Holguin.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

The capital city had a population of 235,981 and the largest postal facility in the island. It was under naval blockade at the suspension of hostilities on July 17. An army survey group sailed from Savannah on November 13 to make preparations for the military occupation. The first major forces arrived on November 26 and the city was formally surrendered on January 1, 1899. The military station officially opened on December 12, 1898 and was transferred to civilian control on February 17, 1899.

The first type of marking used in this station was a duplex canceler with movable characters. This style of marking was first used at many army camps in the US and by several military stations in Puerto Rico but apparently Havana was the only Cuban city that had it. It was in use until the end of January.



Earliest type of cancellation used at this station and only known example of this variant (date on bottom). Most likely brought by the early survey group and used before the station had officially opened.



Numeral "10" in grid. Used from December 21, 1898 to January 26, 1899.

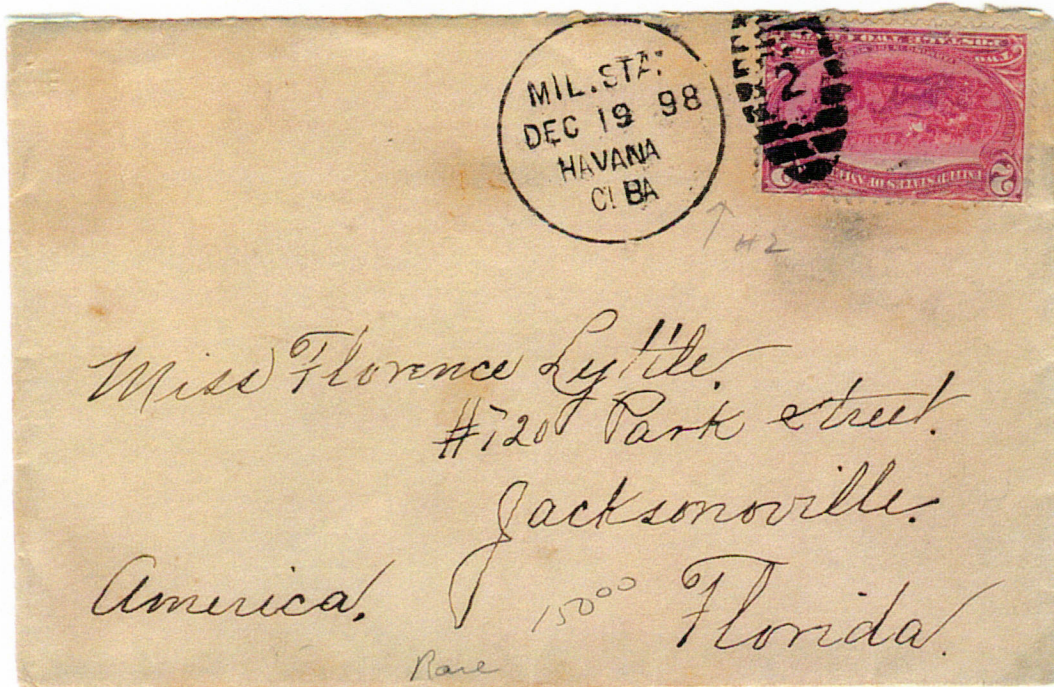


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

Another type of duplex canceler with movable letters had the numeral "2" in the grid. It is only recorded from December 19 to December 24, 1898.

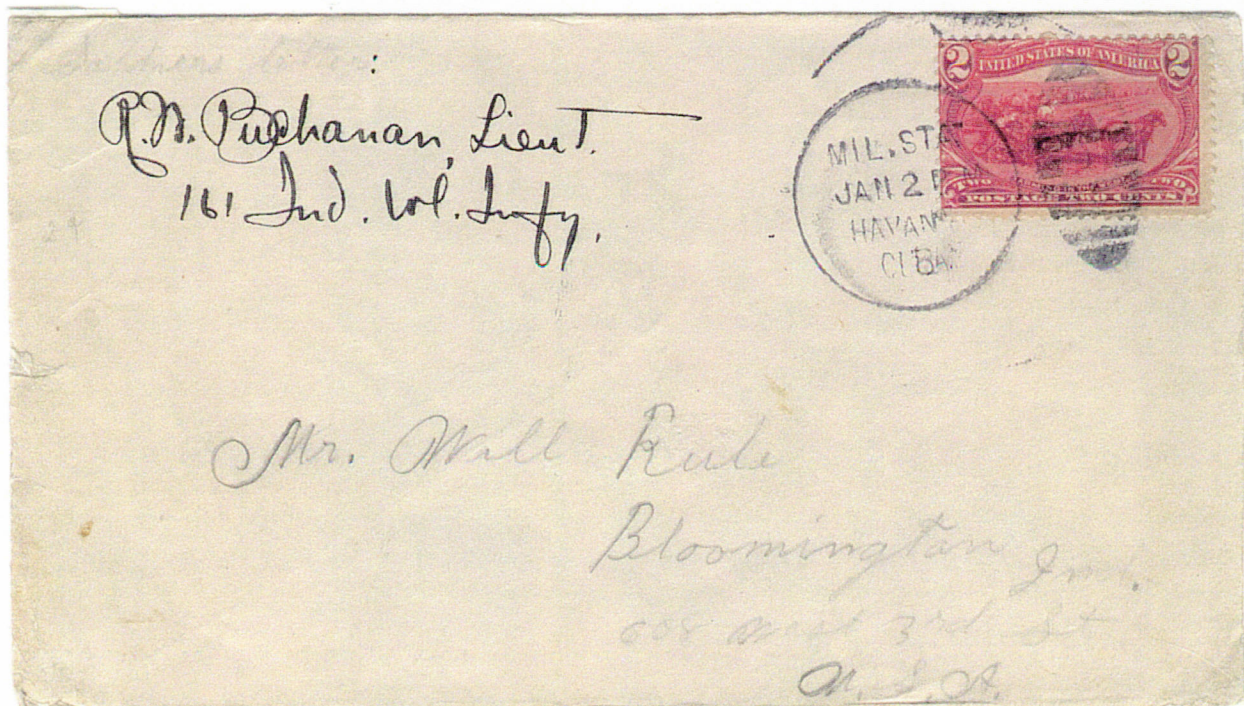
Below there are two examples of this marking on soldier's and civilian letters to the US.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

Below there are two variants of the first duplex canceler from this station. The first one, with the numeral "1" in the grid, has only the month and day on the second line (no year). The second cover, with the numeral "10" in the grid, has "PM" instead of the year.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

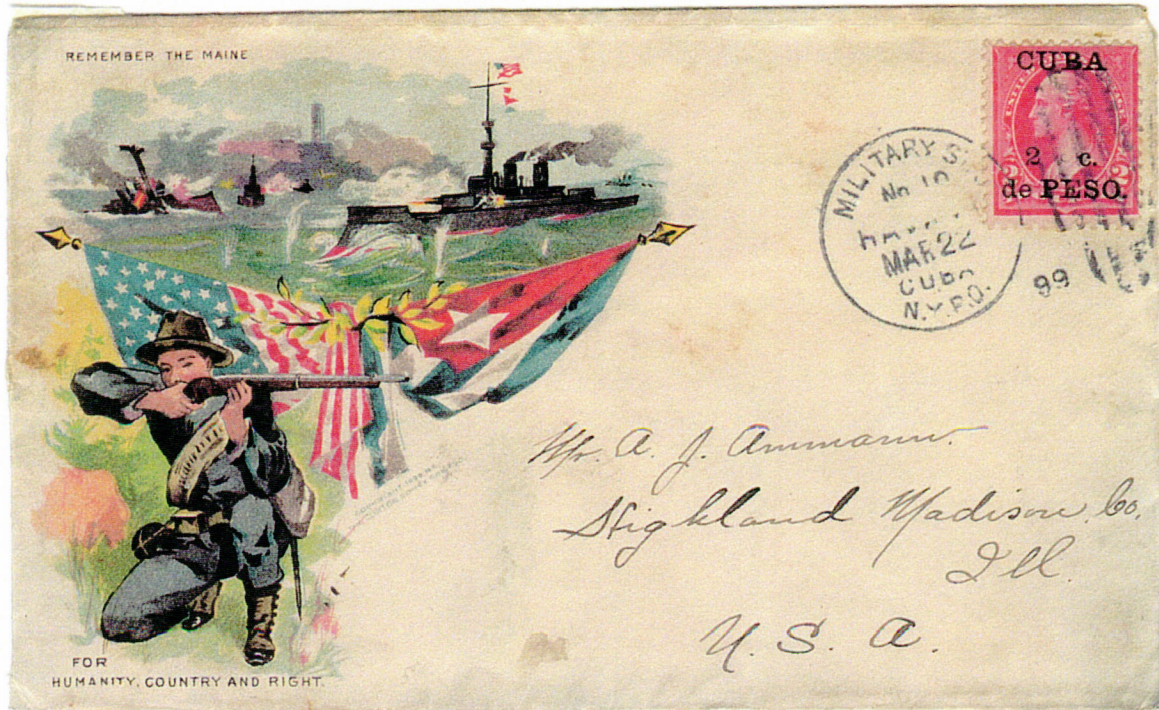
In February of 1899, the post office at Havana started using two new duplex cancelers, one with horizontal and one with vertical lines in the grid. They were used until mid 1899. Below there are two examples of the killer with horizontal bars on civilian mail to the US. The first letter was underpaid by three cents and was therefore charged double the deficit upon arrival to New York.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

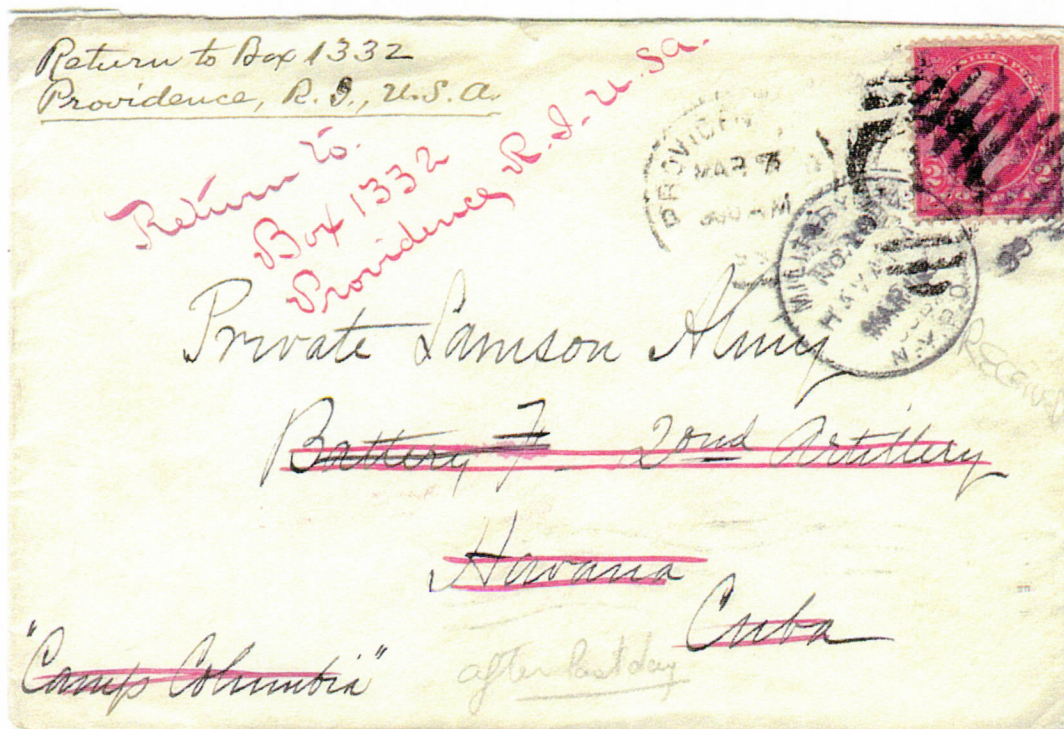
Station Number 10. Havana

Havana had by far the largest concentration of US soldiers and the busiest military postal station in Cuba. Below there are two examples of the duplex killer with vertical bars on soldier's mail to the US. The second cover was sent from the rare Military Hospital No. 1. Patriotic covers from Cuba are very unusual.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana



Mar. 1899. Providence to Havana. First class letter rate to military personnel. The addressee was not in Cuba and the duplex canceler was used as a receiving (or transit) marking.



Mar. 13, 1899. Soldier's patriotic cover from Havana to Brooklyn. It originated from the US Army Hospital ship, Bay State.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

Souvenir envelope and captured Spanish patriotic cover on soldier's letters to the US. Both designs were mostly used by Spanish troops who enjoyed postal franchise and therefore did not leave a space in the design for stamps to be affixed.

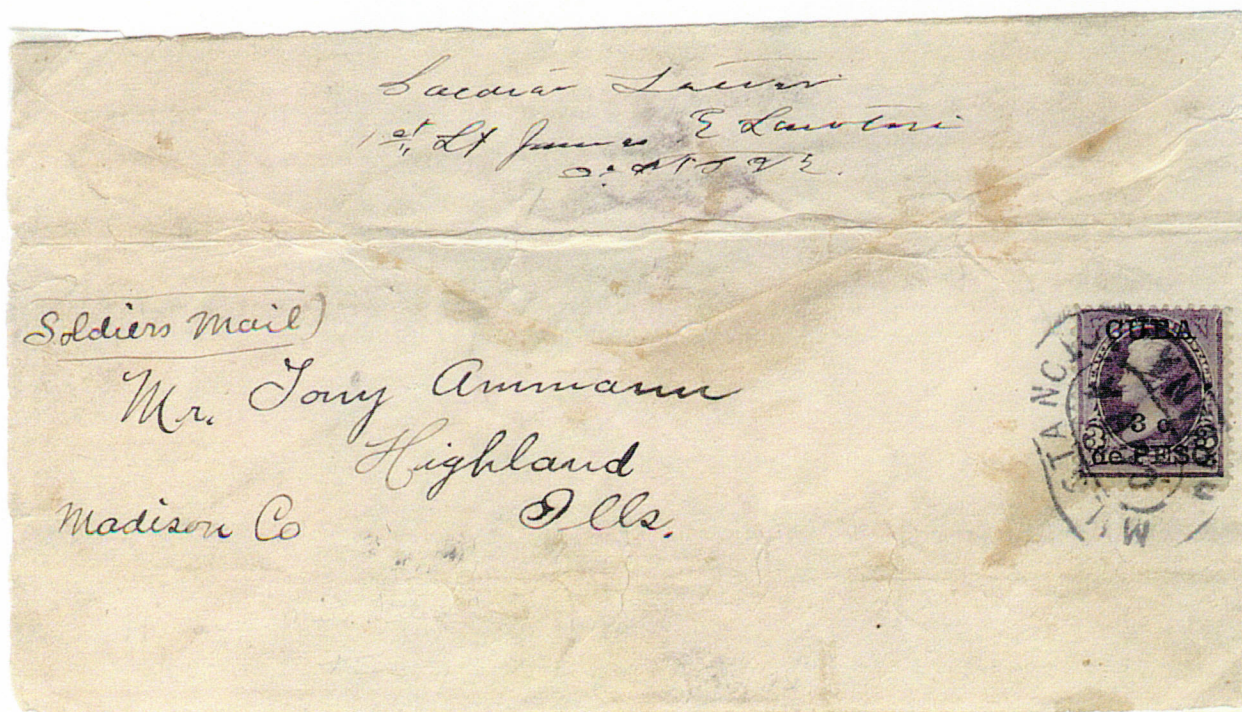


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana



Large fragment of a multiple weight letter from Havana. There are five recorded examples of the crude oval from Havana.

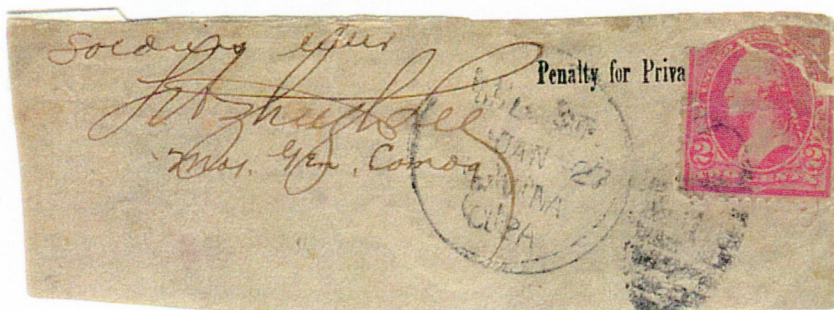


Soldier's letter from Havana to Illinois. Overpaid by one cent.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

General Fitzhugh Lee was a nephew of Robert E. Lee and had been the US Consul General in Havana since 1896. It was he who requested the presence of the U.S.S. Maine at Havana, and after it was blown up and war was imminent, he resigned as Consul to join the Volunteer Army. He left Cuba on April 10, Easter Sunday, to return later as Major General of the invading forces. Below there are two items of soldier's mail duly certified by his signature.

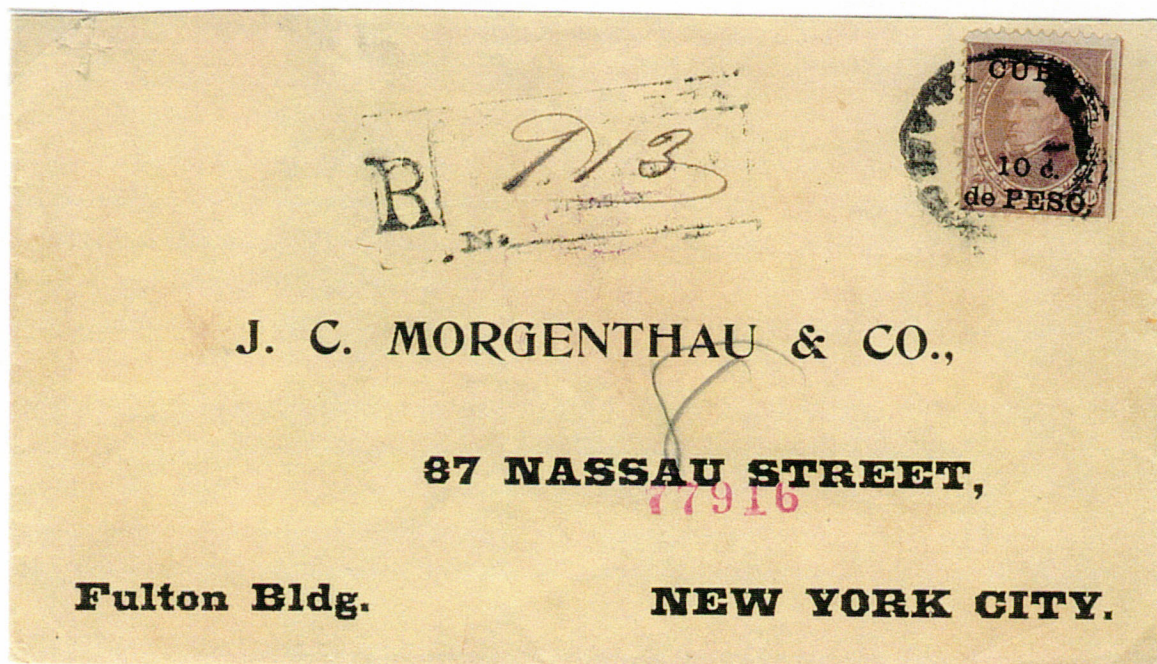


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana



Jan. 30, 1899. Multiple weight registered cover from Havana to New York. The only reported example of the straightline "Military Station No. 10, Havana, Cuba".

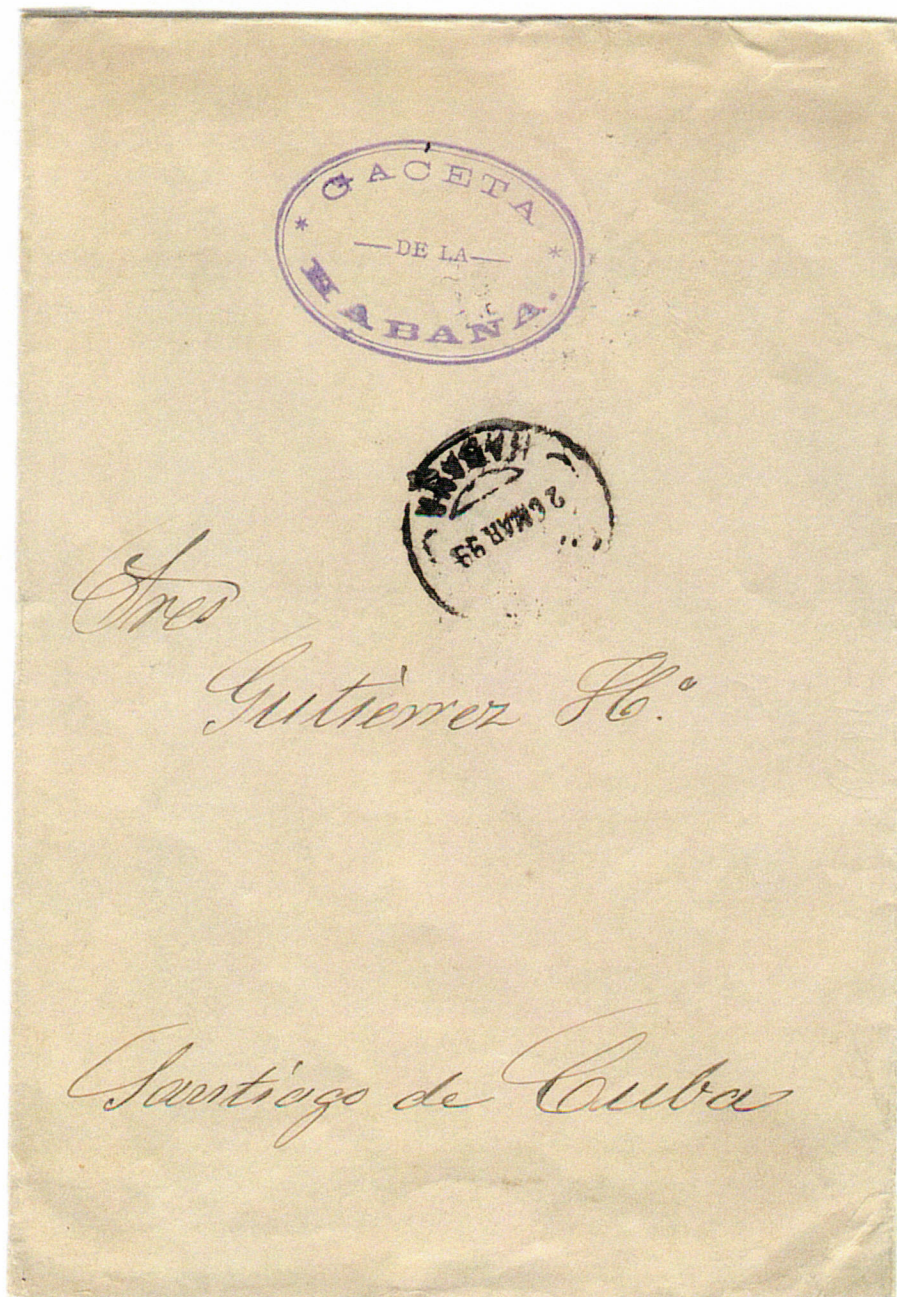


Jan. 1899. Registered cover from Havana to New York City. The worn out captured Spanish colonial canceller was rarely used on mail from this military station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

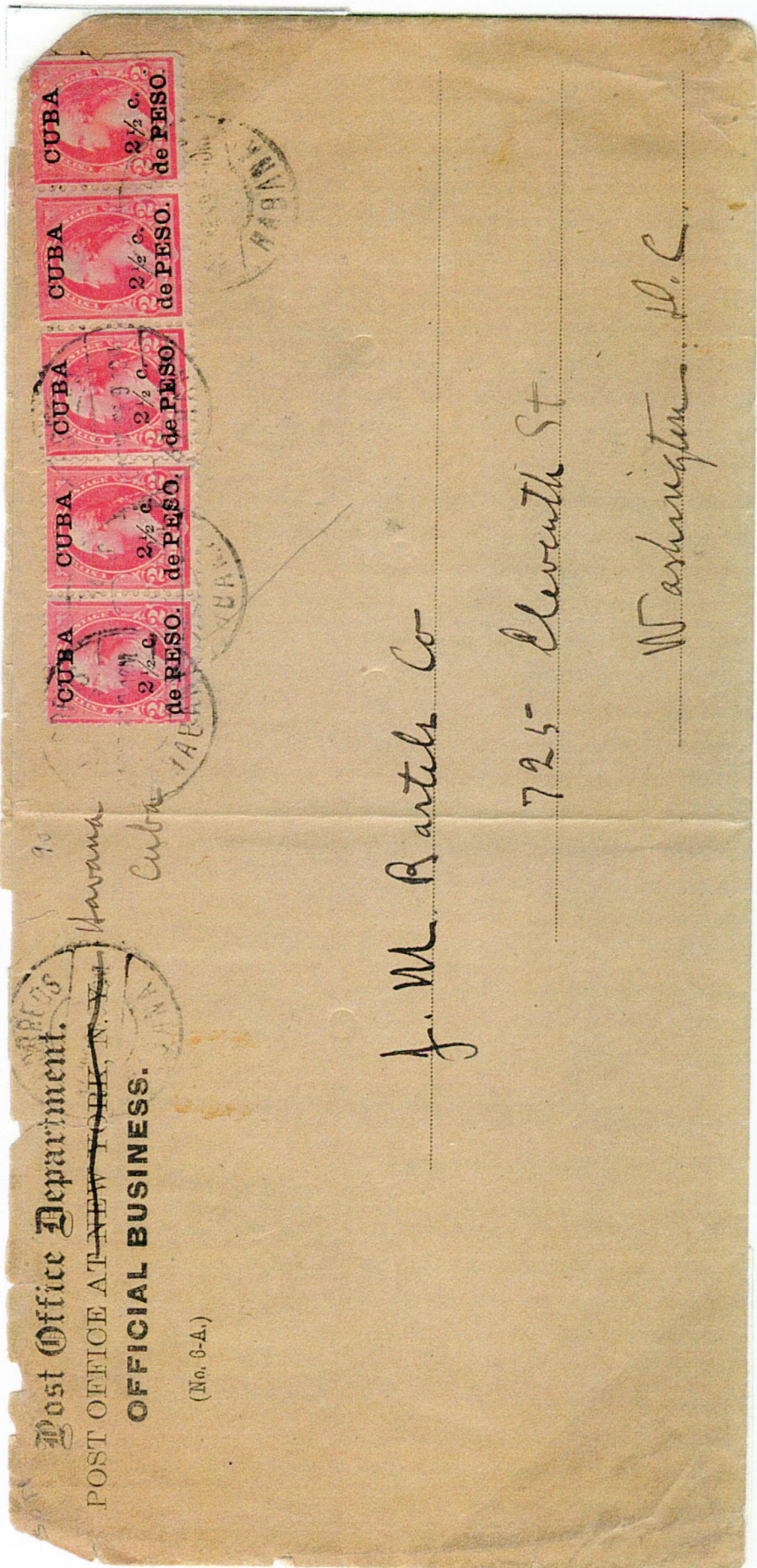
The official Spanish newspaper, "Gaceta de La Habana", continued to enjoy postal franchise during the US occupation.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 10. Havana

Jan. 1899. Privately used official mail envelope from Havana to Washington DC. It is a double weight civilian rate or a quintuple weight soldier's letter (less likely). The stamps are obliterated by a Spanish colonial canceling device. It is addressed to the famous stamp dealer and philatelic writer J. M. Bartels.



Post Office Department.

POST OFFICE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

(No. 6-A.)

Havana

Cuba



J. M. Bartels Co

725 Eleventh St.

Washington, D. C.