

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

A duplex killer, an oval canceller, a receiving marking, a boxed registry, and straightline and postage due handstamps were used in this station.



Only type of duplex used at this station.



Feb. 11, 1899. Single rate civilian cover from Puerto Principe to Detroit.

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Since the new type of handstamps on many occasions were not delivered on time, the post offices continued to use the same military station markings after they were transferred to civilian control. Some were modified to eliminate the words "Military Station".



The framed registry marking with the station number deleted.



Apr. 11, 1899. Puerto Principe to Pittsburg. Probably a philatelic use on a civilian registered cover (5 cents first class + 8 cents registry fee = 13 cents). The registry marking has the number of the military station deleted. This is the only reported example of the straightline handstamp from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

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Apr. 29, 1899. Civilian registered cover from Puerto Principe to Germany (5 cents first class + 8 cents registry fee = 13 cents). Both the registry marking and crude oval canceler have the words "Military Station" and "No. 11" deleted.



Jul. 11, 1899. Registered civilian letter from Puerto Principe to Santiago de Cuba. Underpaid by one cent. Modified registry marking without the words "Military Station No. 11."

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

This large city, now known as Camaguey, had a "Principal" postal administration and a population of 25,102. The military station officially opened on December 12, 1898 and was transferred to civilians on March 1, 1899.

Despite banning the use of Spanish Colonial stamps in US occupied areas, they continued to be used in the Province of Puerto Principe after the arrival of American forces on November 24, 1898. Since there were no US stamps available, General R. Carpenter, the US military governor of the province ordered the purchase and overprinting of the Spanish colonial stamps. Their use was valid in the towns of Puerto Principe, Minas del Principe, Nuevitas, and Santa Cruz del Sur from December 19, 1898 until January 22, 1899 when US stamps overprinted for Cuba finally arrived. In the town of Santa Cruz, however, US stamps were not available until February 28.

The overprinting was done at night, for security reasons, on a pedal-operated flat press at the print shop of the newspaper "Las Dos Republicas". The stamps were overprinted in strips of five thus, no blocks or vertical multiples exist. The print shop only had sets of four of the same type of numerals chosen hence, a different thinner type was added to each setting of five.

There were five printings with different settings which made possible the reconstruction and identification of the distinct overprints. Between 21,400 and 28,000 stamps were surcharged. Less than 25 covers of this rare provisional issue have been recorded.



The three different Military Station cancelers used to obliterate these provisional stamps.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

First Printing. December 19, 1898.

The surcharge is 17.5 mm in height, in dull black ink on the orange brown "milesima" Spanish Cuba issue of 1898. The narrow numerals are on position two.

2 cents on 2 milesimas



Jan. 1899. Civilian registered letter from Puerto Principe to Germany. Only recorded cover of the provisional issue with a complete setting of five stamps and only recorded usage to Germany.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

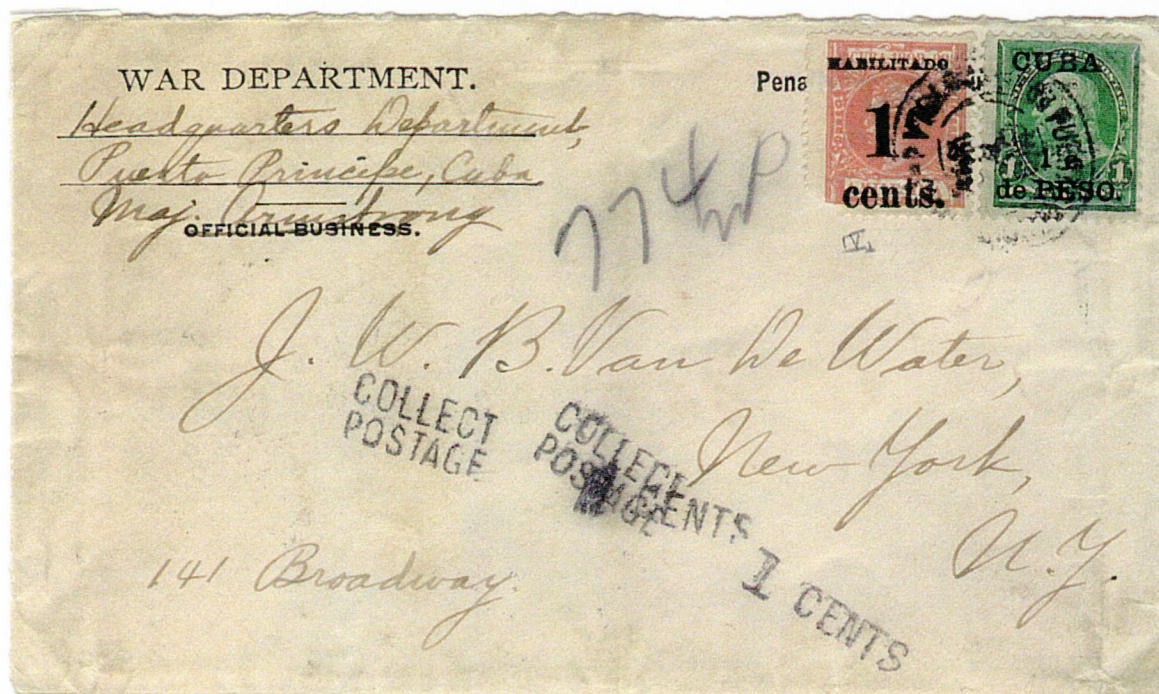
Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Third Printing. December 24, 1898.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in bright black ink on the orange brown "milesima" Spanish Cuba issue of 1898 and the one half "milesima" newspaper stamp of 1896.

1 cents on 1 milesima



Jan. 1899. Soldier's rate from Puerto Principe to New York City. Position one used after the provisional issue was demonetized on January 23, and therefore not accepted as postage by the New York post office. The overprinted US stamp was accepted and the letter was charged only one cent postage due.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Third Printing. December 24, 1898.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in bright black ink on the orange brown "milesima" Spanish Cuba issue of 1898 and the one half "milesima" newspaper stamp of 1896.

3 cents on 1 milesima



Jan. 6, 1899. Single weight civilian rate from Puerto Principe to New York City. A position three 3 cents on 1 milesima surcharge (third printing) combined with a 2 cent on 2 milesimas surcharge from the first printing.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Fourth Printing. December 27, 1898.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in red ink on the one centavo black violet Spanish Cuba issue of 1898.

3 cents on 1 centavo



Jan. 9, 1899. Civilian single rate letter (probably overpaid by one cent) from Santa Cruz del Sur to Puerto Principe. Position five. One other recorded cover with this postmark.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Fourth Printing. December 27, 1898.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in red ink on the one centavo black violet Spanish Cuba issue of 1898.

5 cents on 1 centavo



Feb. 1899. Third printing, 5 cents on 1 cent. Civilian registered letter from Puerto Principe to New York.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Fourth Printing. December 27, 1898.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in red ink on the one centavo black violet Spanish Cuba issue of 1898.

10 cents on 1 centavo



Jan. 1899. Single weight registered letter from puerto Principe to Munich, Germany via Havana. A 10 cents on 1 centavo surcharge from the fourth printing combined with a 2 cents on 2 milesimas from the first printing. One of the two recorded covers with the ten cent stamp from the fourth printing.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Fourth Printing. December 27, 1898.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in red ink on the one centavo black violet Spanish Cuba issue of 1898.

10 cents on 1 centavo



Jan. 1899. Multiple weight registered letter from puerto Principe to Havana. A 10 cents on 1 centavo surcharge, position two, from the fourth printing combined with a 5 cents on 4 milesimas from the fifth printing. There is one other recorded covers with the ten cent stamp from the fourth printing. Probably unique combination of printings on cover.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 11. Puerto Principe

Provisional Stamp Issues

Fifth Printing. January 11, 1899.

The surcharge is 19.5 mm in height, in black ink on the one half "milesima" newspaper stamp of 1896.

3 cents on 1 milesima



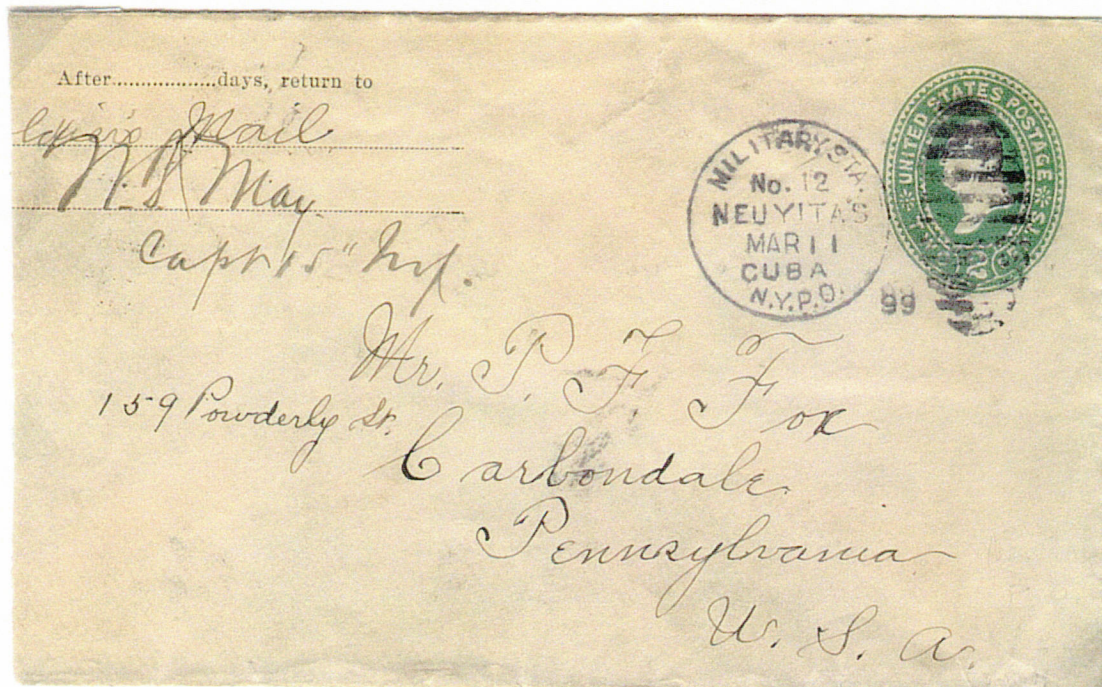
Jan. 1899. Civilian single letter rate from Puerto Principe to Havana. A 3 cents on 1 milesima surcharge, position two. Of the four recorded covers from the fifth printing this is the only one known with the three cent overprint.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 12. Nuevitas

An important town on the north coast with a population of 4,228 and a second class post office. American troops arrived on November 16, 1898. The military post office officially opened on December 12, 1898 and on February 28, 1899 it was turned over to civilian control.

The only style of marking from this station is the small circular duplex with the possible exception of a straightline registered handstamp reported by Barreras. The earliest recorded date is February 19. The postmark from this station has the misspelling "NEUYITAS".

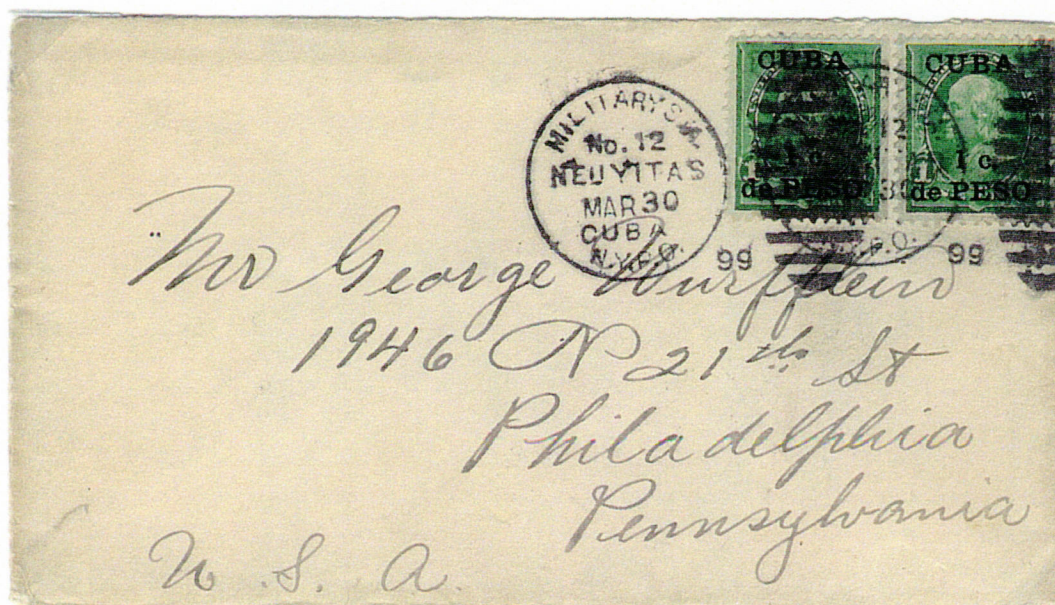


Mar. 11, 1899. Prepaid soldier's letter from Nuevitas to Carbondale, PA.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 12. Nuevitas



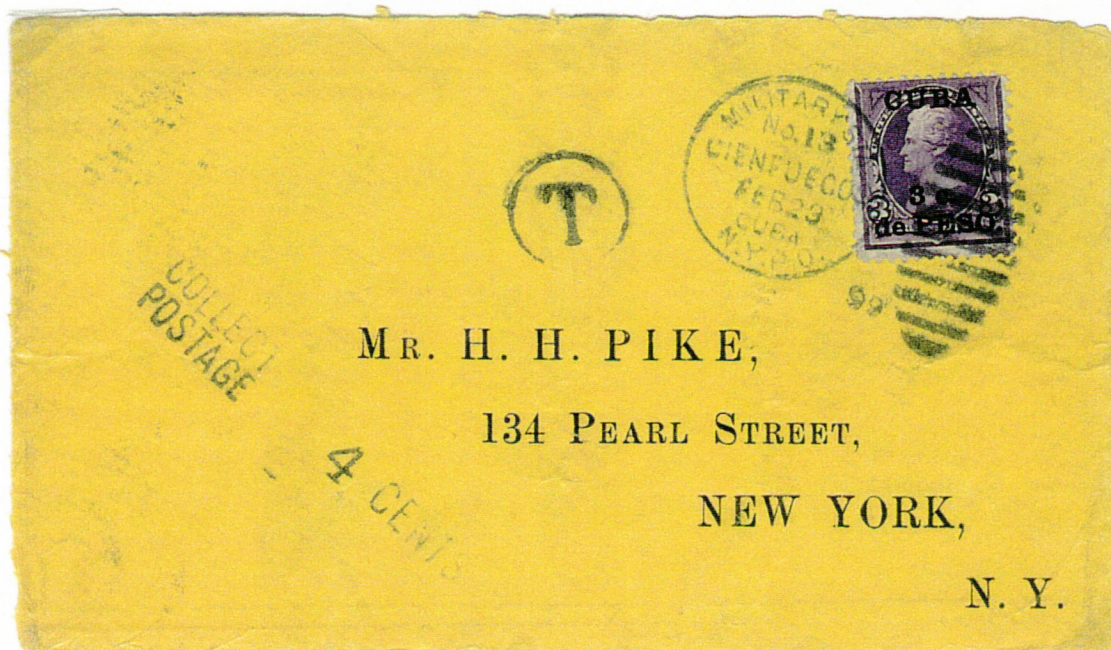
Mar. 30, 1899. Unendorsed soldier's rate from Nuevitas to Philadelphia.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 13. Cienfuegos

The largest city in the province of the same name. It had a first class post office and a population of 30,038. US soldiers arrived on November 1898. Although Americans did not control the city until January 1, 1899, the military post office began operating in the outskirts of Cienfuegos on December 21, 1898 and later moved into the city to occupy the building of the local Spanish post office. It was transferred to civilians on February 17, 1899.

This station used a duplex canceler, a receiving marking, a crude oval canceler, a straightline handstamp, and a boxed registry marking. The earliest example dates from February 6, 1899.



Feb. 29, 1899. Cienfuegos to New York. Underpaid civilian rate which was charged double the deficit (four cents) upon arrival to New York. This is the only style of duplex canceler used in this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

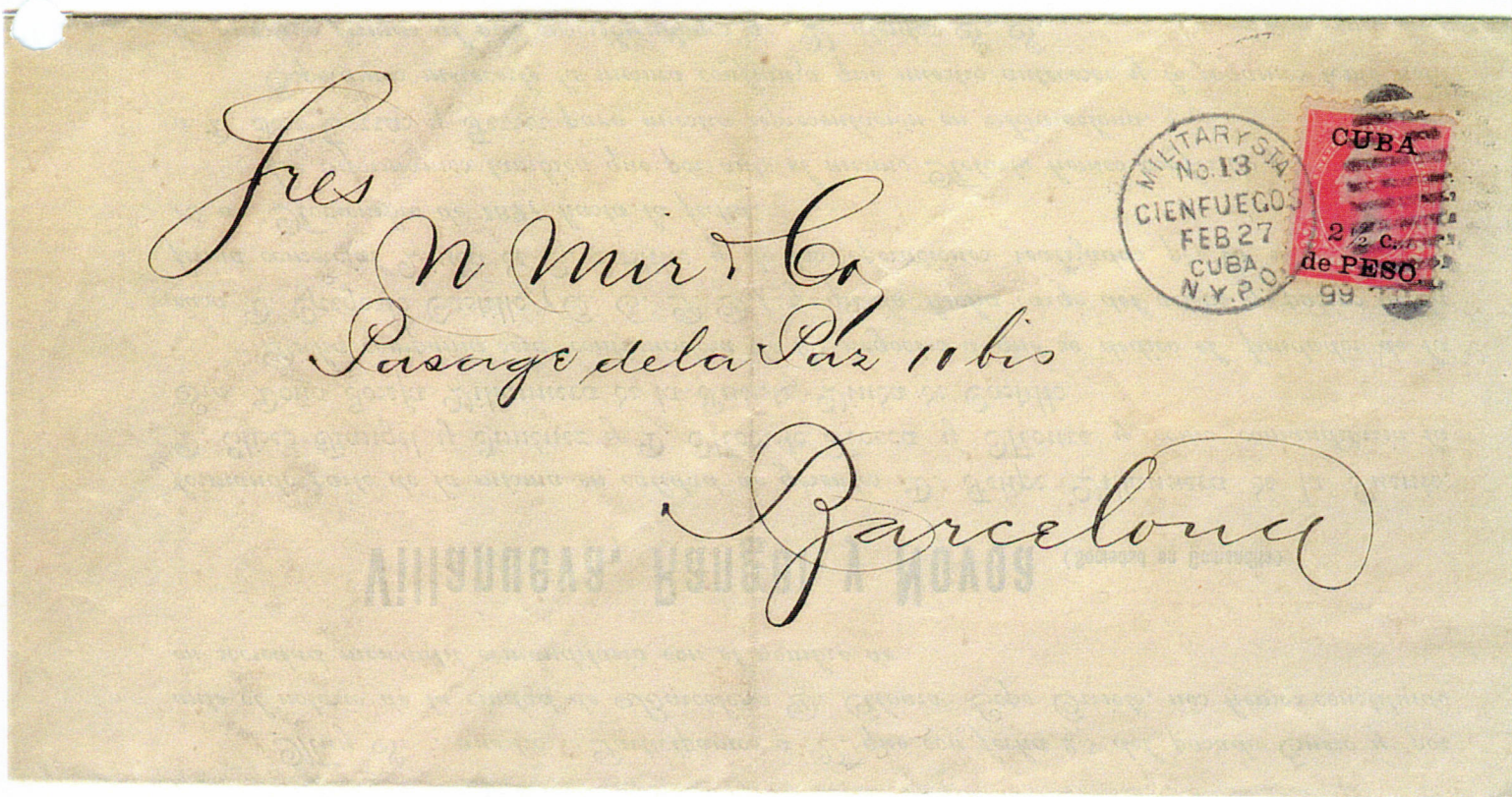
Station Number 13. Cienfuegos

Two covers showing the civilian rate to the U.S.A.

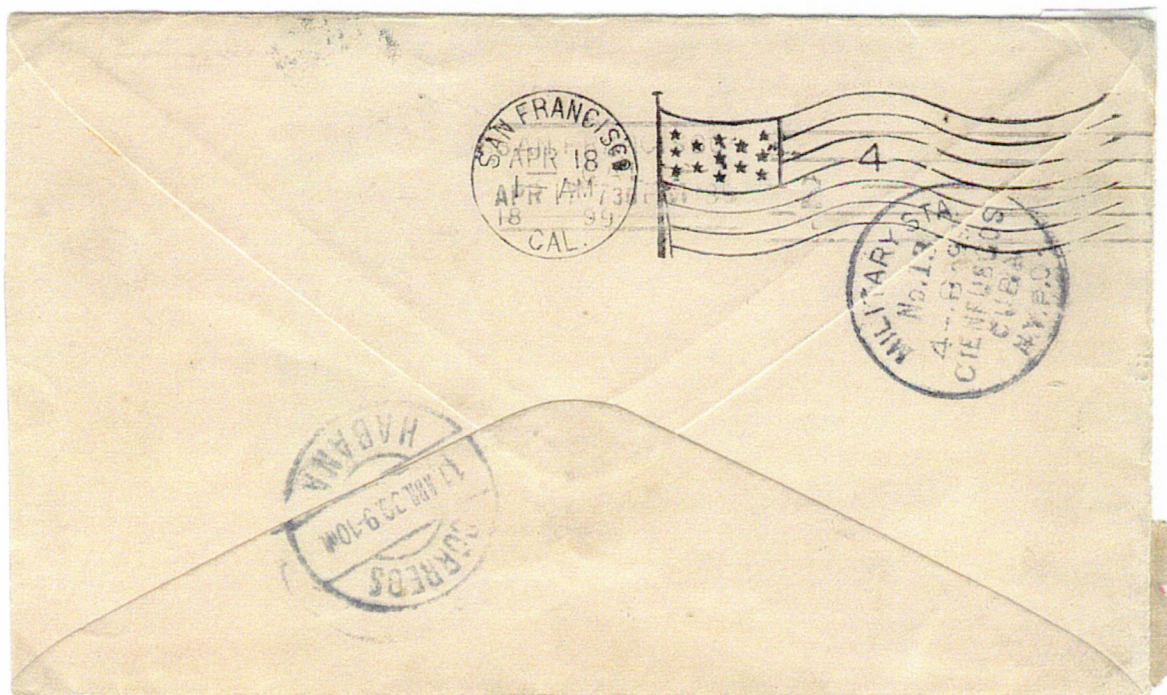


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 13. Cienfuegos



Feb. 27, 1899. Cienfuegos to Barcelona. Unusual civilian printed matter rate to foreign destinations.



April 1899. Civilian cover from Los Abreus to San Francisco, California via Cienfuegos. Abreus was a small village whose only postal route was with Cienfuegos. This is the only reported example of the receiving handstamp from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 13. Cienfuegos



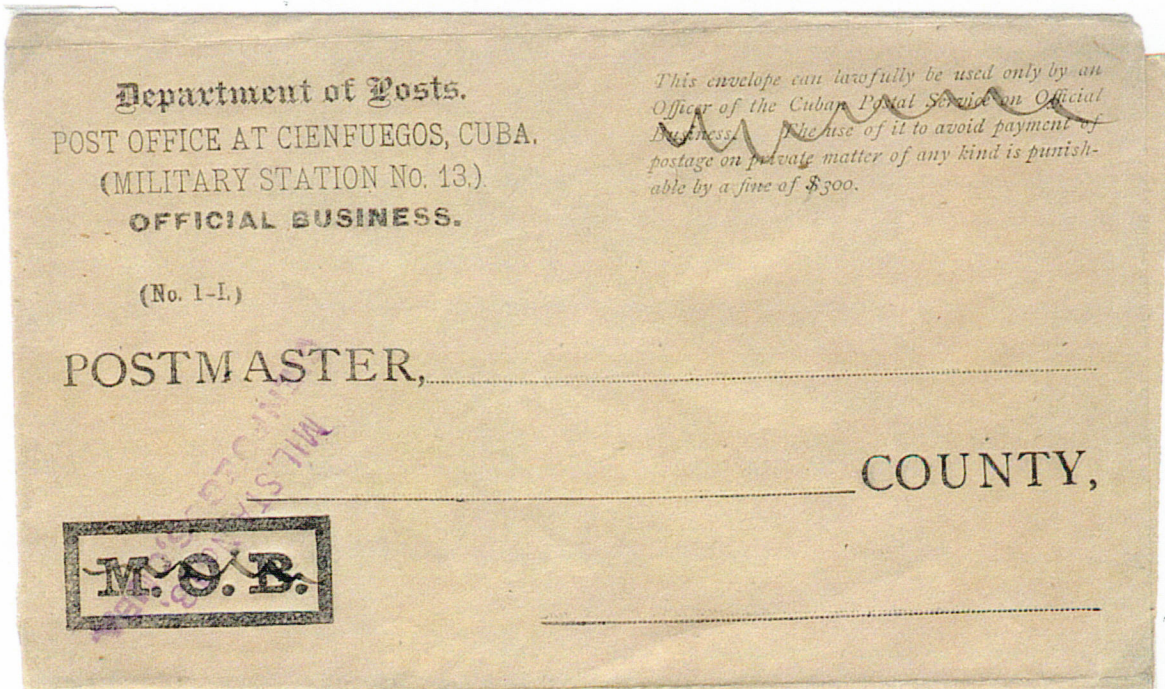
July 26, 1899. Registered letter from Cienfuegos to Havana. Civilian rate overpaid by one cent. It was addressed to General Maximo Gomez, Commander in Chief of the Cuban insurgents. There are very few items with the crude oval from this town which was generally used for registered mail.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 13. Cienfuegos



May 22, 1899. Registered letter from Cienfuegos to San Francisco. Civilian rate overpaid by two cents. This is one of the two recorded copies of the boxed registry marking from Cienfuegos. Note that the words "Mil. Sta. No. 13" have been deleted from this handstamp.



Unused official Money Order Business envelope from the military post office at Cienfuegos. It also has the only reported example of the straightline marking from this town.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 15. Pinar del Rio

This city had one of the four principal postal administrations of the island and a population of 8,880. This station opened on January 1, 1899 and was transferred to civilian control on February 23, 1899.

In this and all the subsequent stations, the word "POST." (for postal) was inserted in the duplex cancelers which were also made of rubber instead of steel. Three type of handstamps were used in this station: a duplex canceler, a crude oval handstamp, and a receiving marking.



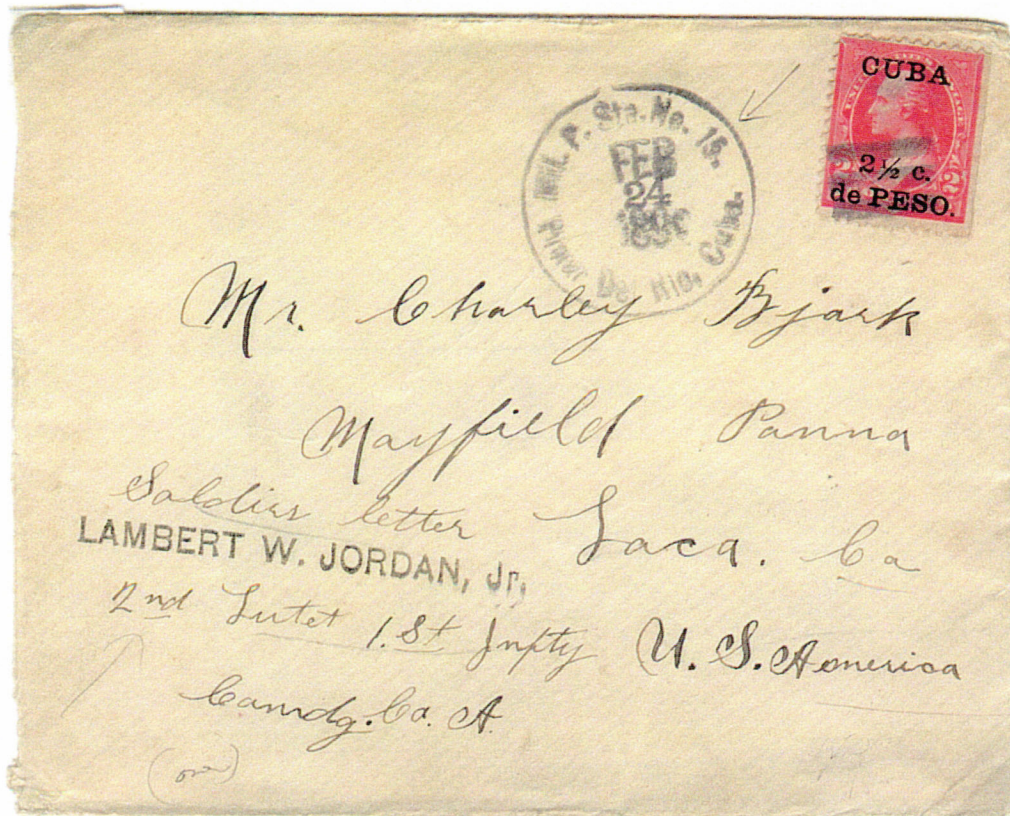
Feb. 6, 1899. Pinar del Rio to Pennsylvania. Prepaid soldier's rate. Rare usage of the only type of duplex canceler from this station before it was transferred to civilian control.



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

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 15. Pinar del Rio



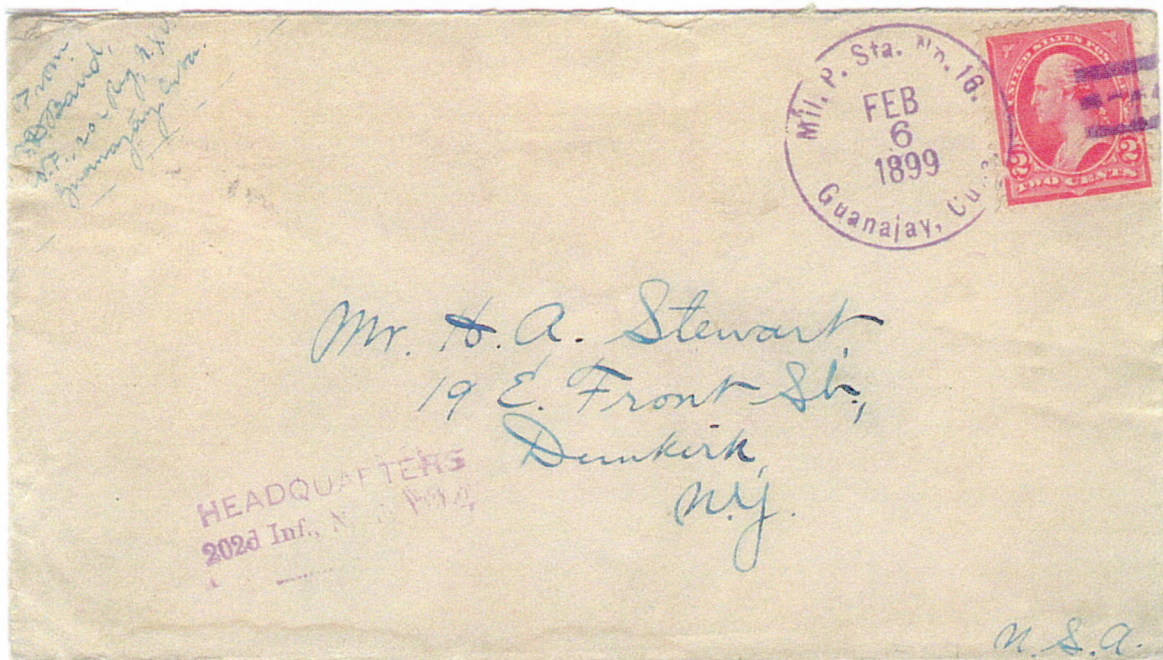
Feb. 24, 1899. Pinar del Rio to California. Prepaid soldier's rate. Usage of the duplex canceler one day after this station was officially turned over to civilian administration.



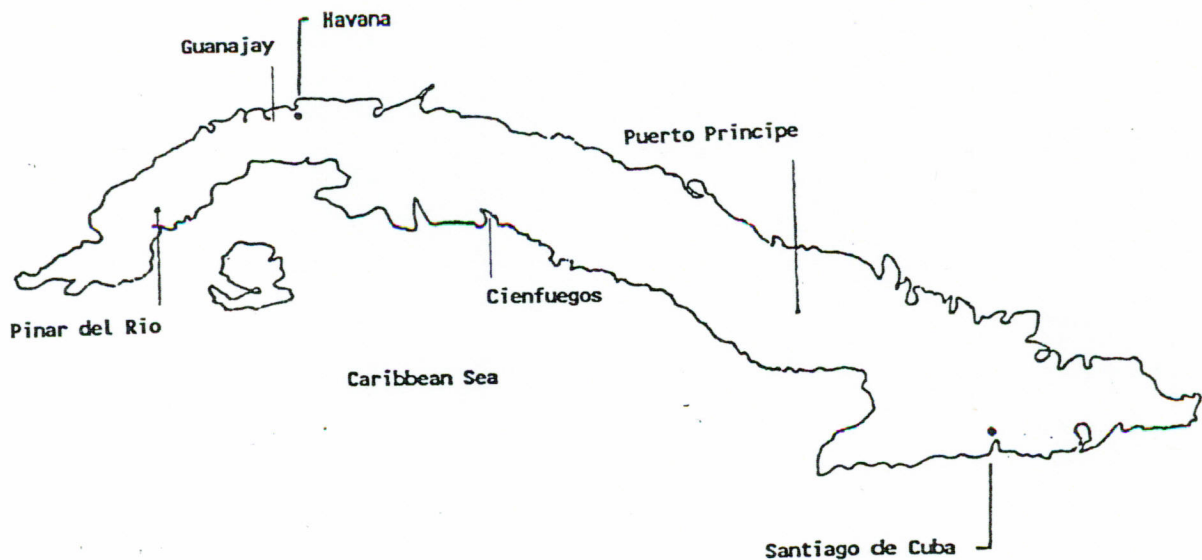
Jan. 30, 1899. Macon, Georgia to Pinar del Rio. Only recorded example of the receiving handstamp from this station.

Station Number 16. Guanajay

A duplex canceler and a crude oval are the only markings recorded from this station.



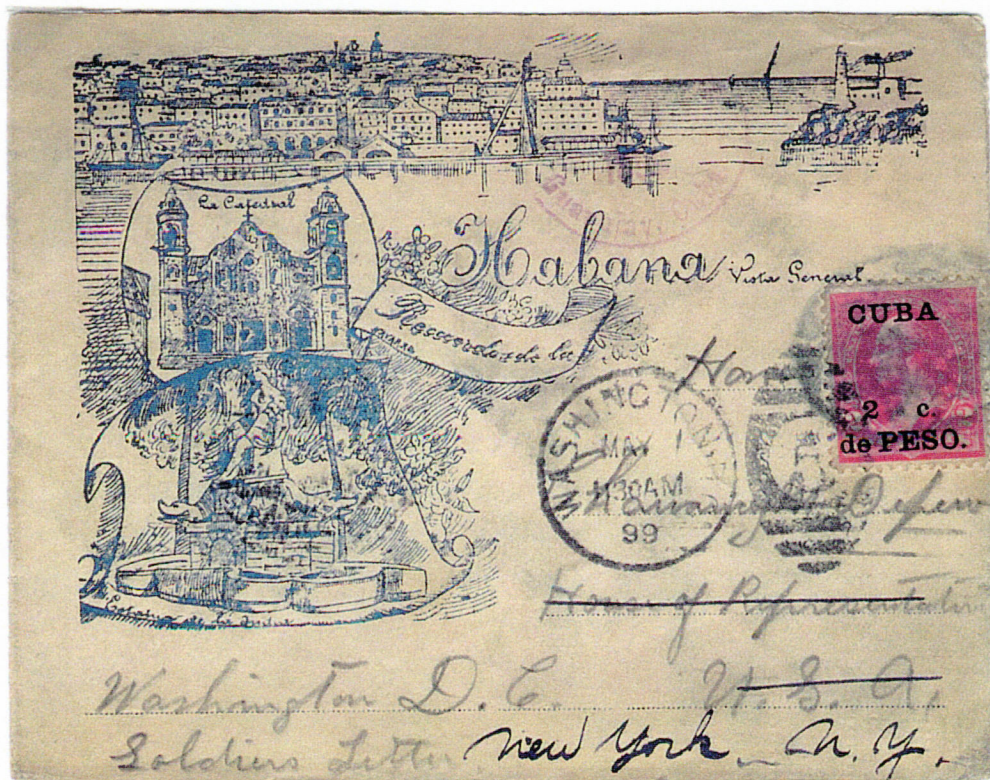
Feb. 6, 1899. Guanajay to Dunkirk, NY. Prepaid soldier's rate. The duplex canceler was always applied in magenta. Earliest known cover from this town.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 16. Guanajay

Soldier's rate to USA on captured Spanish patriotic envelope and souvenir cover with a view of the city of Havana. Both covers bear the duplex canceler. The stamp on the bottom cover, like most items from this station, is obliterated by a crude oval handstamp.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 16. Guanajay

Two examples of the crude oval from this station, which is most often illegible, on civilian and soldier's mail to the US.

