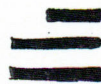


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 17. Mariel

This town had a population of 3,631 and a fourth class post office. The military station opened on January 1, 1899 and was transferred to civilians on February 27, 1899.



The only two items recorded from this station.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 18. Trinidad

This town had a second class colonial post office and a population of 11,120. The military post office opened on January 1, 1899 and was handed over to civilians in mid-March 1899.

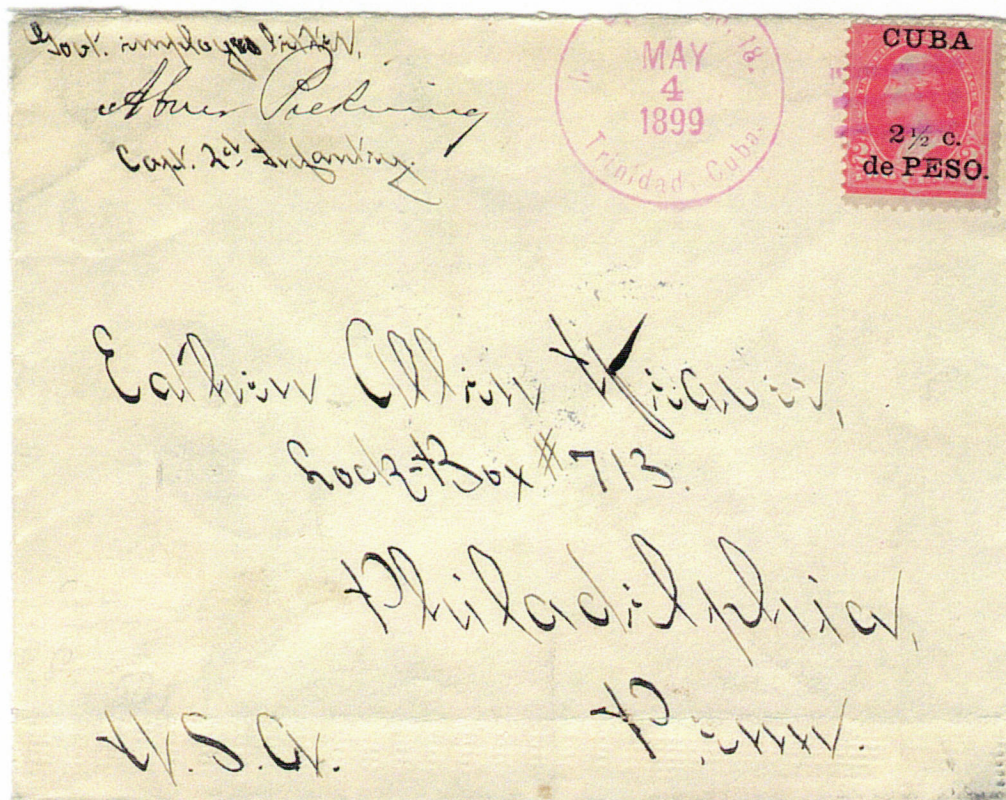
A duplex canceler is the only postmark reported from this town. Four covers have been recorded from this military station.



Feb. 17, 1899. Trinidad to Sidney, OH. Prepaid soldier's rate. This marking was applied in black ink during the first months of operation.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 18. Trinidad



May 4, 1899. Trinidad to Philadelphia. Prepaid soldier's rate. This marking was applied in magenta ink during the last few months of operation.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 19. Las Tunas

This small town was known as Tunas de Zaza and had a population of 1,014. The military station opened on January 1, 1899 and reverted to civilian control on February 16, 1899.

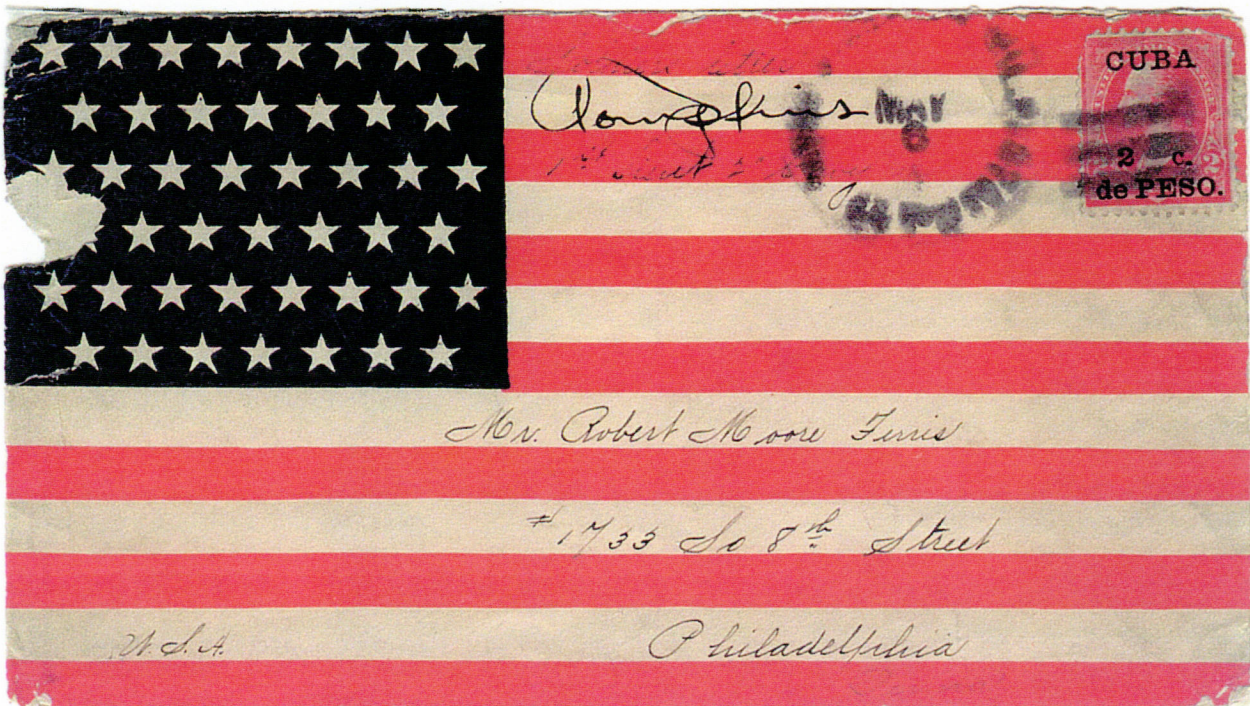
The only marking reported from this station is a duplex canceler although Barreras described a Money Order Bussiness handstamp that has never been seen. Four items have been recorded from this station.



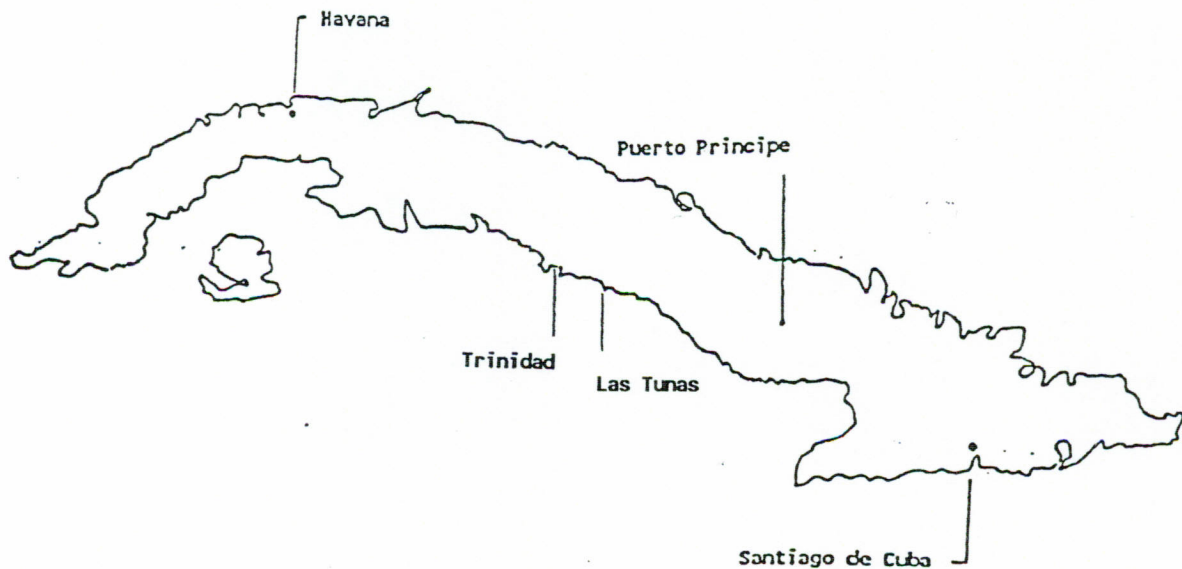
Mar. 31, 1899. Single weight civilian letter from Las Tunas to New York. Earliest recorded item from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 19. Las Tunas



May 6, 1899. Patriotic soldier's cover from Las Tunas to Philadelphia. Note the poor impression of this marking which was made of rubber.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

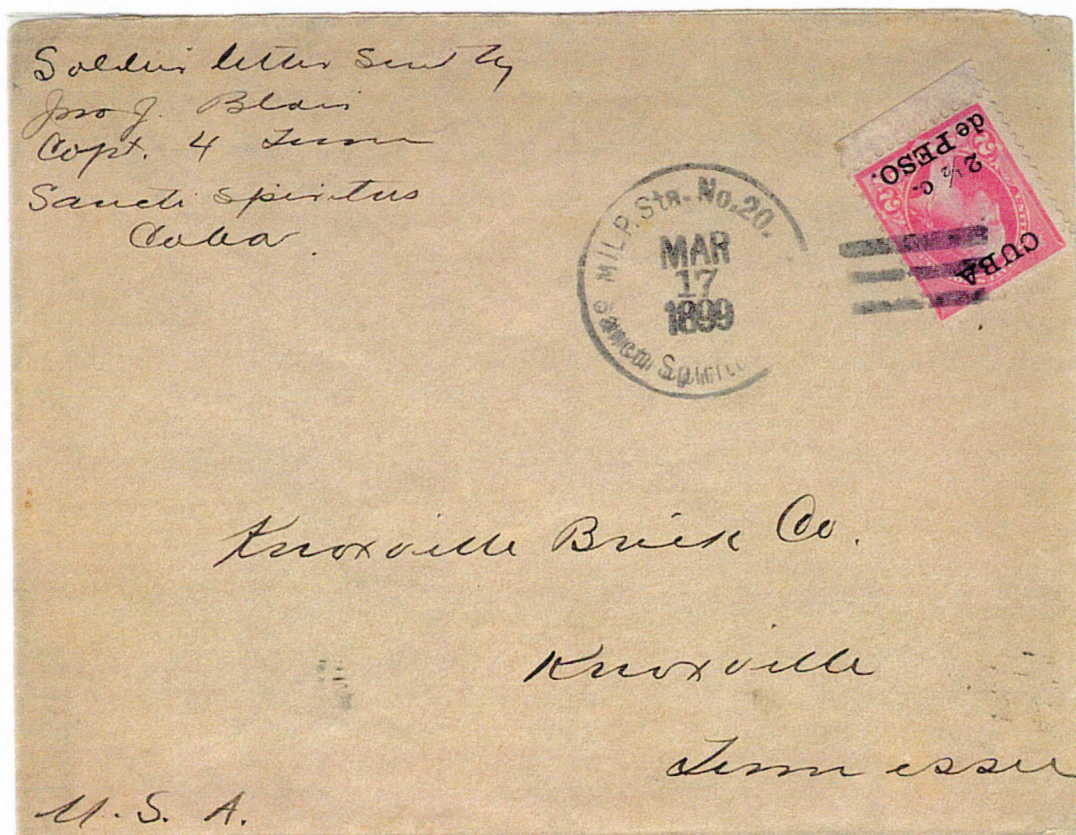
Station Number 20. Sancti Spiritus

This city had a first class colonial post office and a population of 122,696. The military station opened on January 1, 1899 and passed to civilian control on February 20, 1899.

A duplex canceler and an auxiliary straightline handstamp are the only markings recorded from this large city. Very few items reported from this station.



The stamp on the left is the earliest recorded item from this station.



Mar. 17, 1899. Prepaid soldier's rate from Sancti Spiritus to Knoxville, TN.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 20. Sancti Spiritus



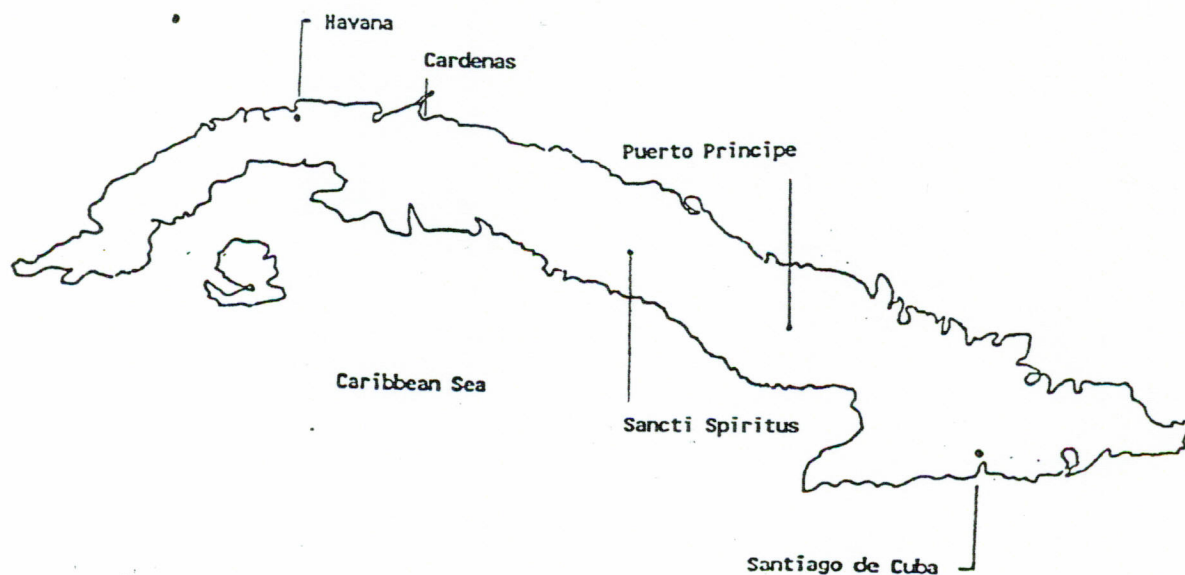
Mar. 17, 1899. Civilian single weight letter from Sancti Spiritus to New York.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 20. Sancti Spiritus



Sep. 1900. Canterbury, Great Britain to Santa Cruz del Sur, Puerto Principe province. Missent to Sancti Spiritus. Only recorded usage of a "MISSSENT" from any of the military stations in Cuba. Very late usage of a military station marking.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 21. Cardenas

This city had a population of 21,940 and a second class post office. The military station officially opened on January 1, 1899 and reverted to civilian control around March 5, 1899.

This station continued using the Spanish colonial handstamps since the military station cancelers did not arrive until March 20. Three types of military markings have been recorded here: a duplex canceler which was always applied in blue ink, a receiving handstamp, and a straightline registry marking.



Feb. 1899. Cardenas to Owensboro, KY. Prepaid soldier's letter. The captured Spanish canceler was used until late March 1899.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 21. Cardenas



Apr. 10, 1899. Civilian letter from Cardenas to Brooklyn.



Apr. 11, 1899. Cardenas to Havana. Civilian single letter rate of two cents within the same province. This rate was changed to five cents by the postal order of March 18, 1899.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 21. Cardenas



Apr. 8, 1899. Civilian letter from Cardenas to Providence, RI. Only recorded example of the receiving marking.



May 25, 1899. Multiple weight registered letter from Cardenas to New York. Only reported example of the straightline registry marking.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 22. Bayamo

This small town had a population of 3,022 but a first class colonial post office. The military station officially opened on January 1, 1899 and was transferred to civilians on February 20, 1899.

All of the items from this station have been recorded while under civilian administration. A duplex canceler is the only type of marking reported from this station.



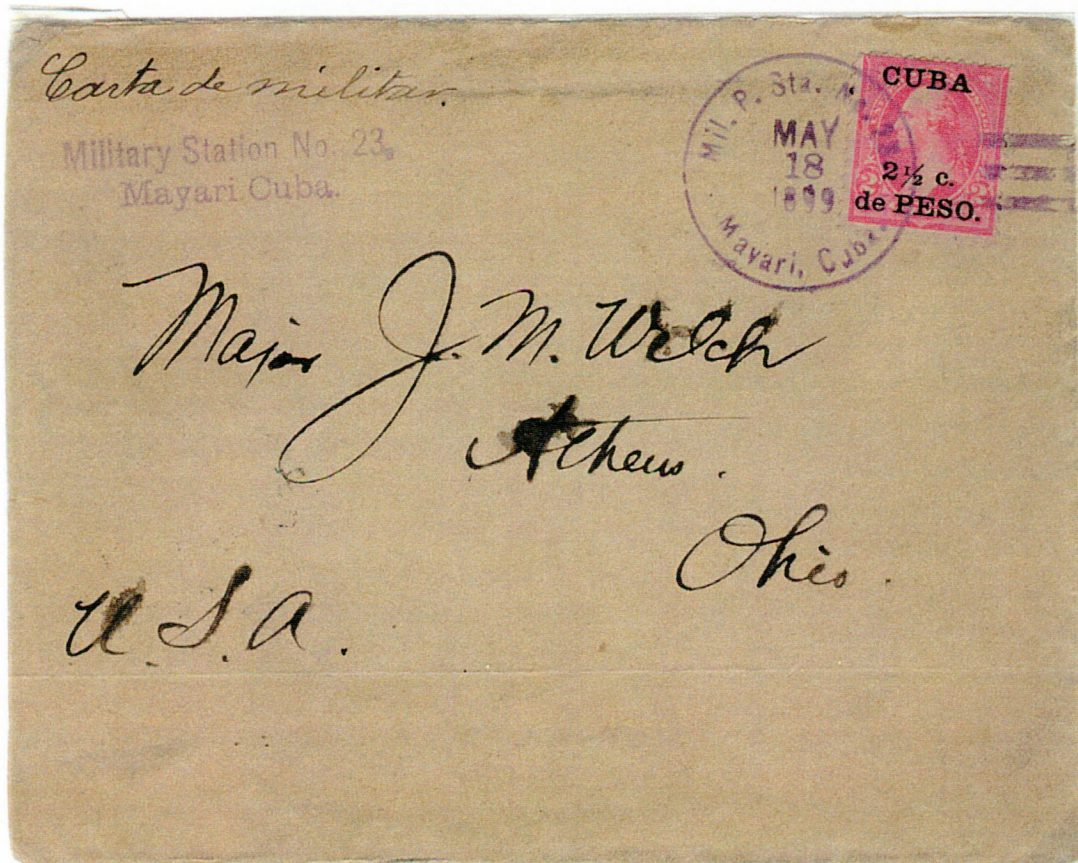
Mar. 21, 1899. Bayamo to Elizabeth City, VA. Prepaid soldier's rate.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 23. Mayari

This town had a population of 1,821 and a third class post office. The official opening date of the military station was January 1, 1899 and it passed under civilian control on February 23, 1899.

There are only two covers recorded from this station and two types of handstamps: a duplex canceler and a straightline auxiliary marking.



May 18, 1899. Prepaid soldier's letter from Mayari to Athens, OH. The sender did not properly identify the cover with the company's number and officer's signature but the post office was able to verify its origin and applied the straightline marking "Military Station No. 23, Mayari Cuba." and the manuscript notation "Carta de Militar" (Soldier's letter). This was authorized by postal order number 63 of February 23, 1899. This is one of the two duplex cancelers and the only known straightline marking from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 23. Mayari



Oct. 8, 1899. Mayari to Bastrop, TX. It was sent as a prepaid soldier's letter but since the sender failed to endorse it as such, it was treated as a civilian letter and therefore charged six cents postage due, double the deficit, while in transit at Santiago. The postage due straightline handstamp from Santiago is a military postal station marking with the words "Military Station" deleted. One of the two recorded items from Mayari.



Station Number 24. Palma Soriano

A third class colonial post office functioned in this town that had a population of 1,776. The military station officially opened on January 1, 1899 and was transferred to civilian control on February 23, 1899.



Mar. 26, 1900. Registered wrapper from Palma Soriano to Gand, Belgium. This wrapper was "discovered" in 1990 and is the only item ever recorded from this station. Very late usage of a military station marking.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 26. Buena Vista

This suburb of Havana had 4,071 inhabitants but no postal facilities during the Spanish colonial period. One of the busiest military postal stations, officially opened on January 5, 1899 and was handed over to civilians on February 20, 1899.

This station had a duplex canceler, a receiving postmark, a crude oval marking, a receiving handstamp, and a straightline auxiliary marking.



Jan 30, 1899. Buena Vista to Richmond, VA. Registered double weight civilian rate to US (5 cents x 2 = 10 cents + 8 cents registry fee = 18 cents). Early cover from this station before the registry marking was in use.



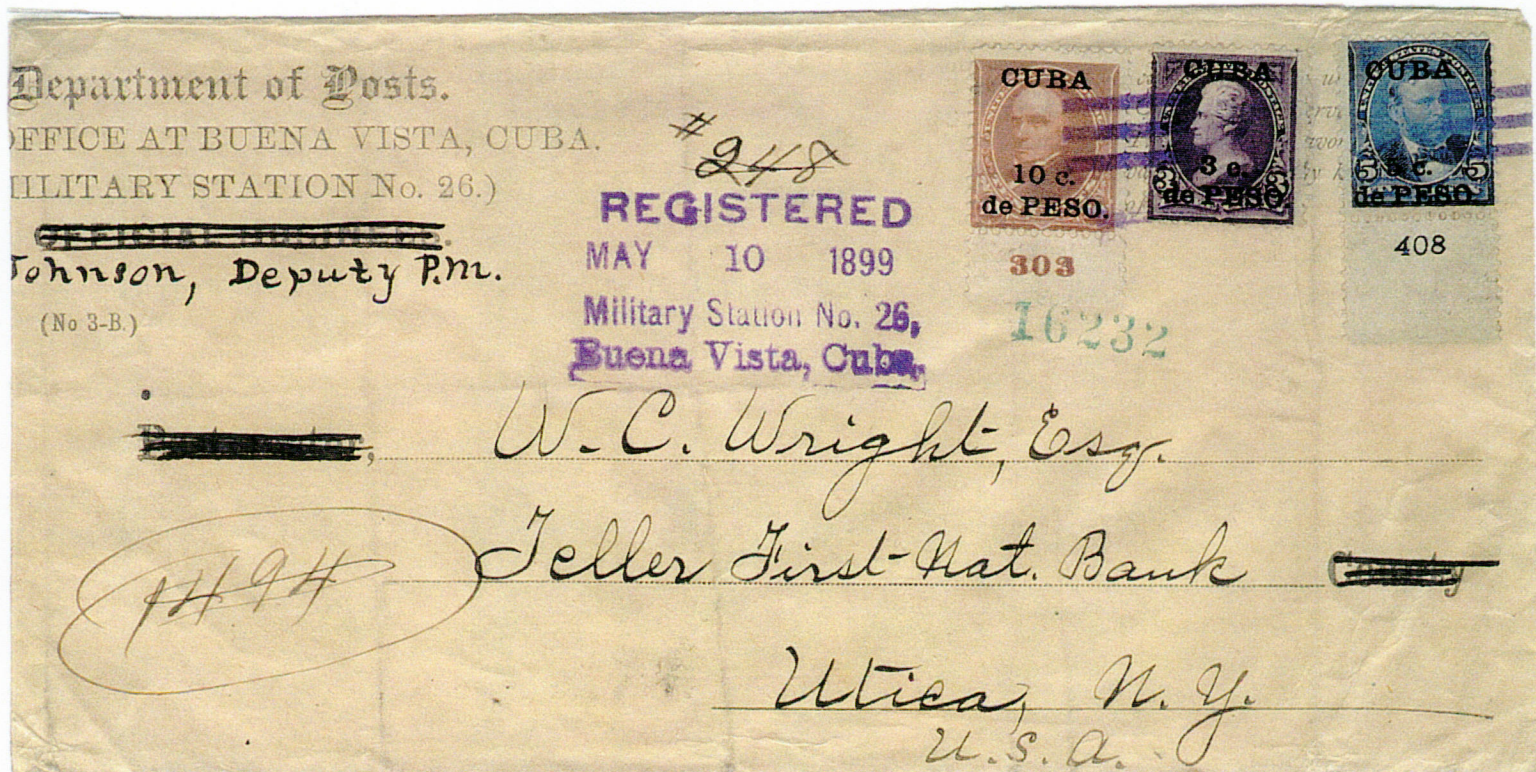
Feb. 6, 1899. Patriotic cover from Buena Vista to Chicago. The Spanish colonial stamp from Puerto Rico was obliterated with crayon and evidently accepted as part of the postage.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 26. Buena Vista



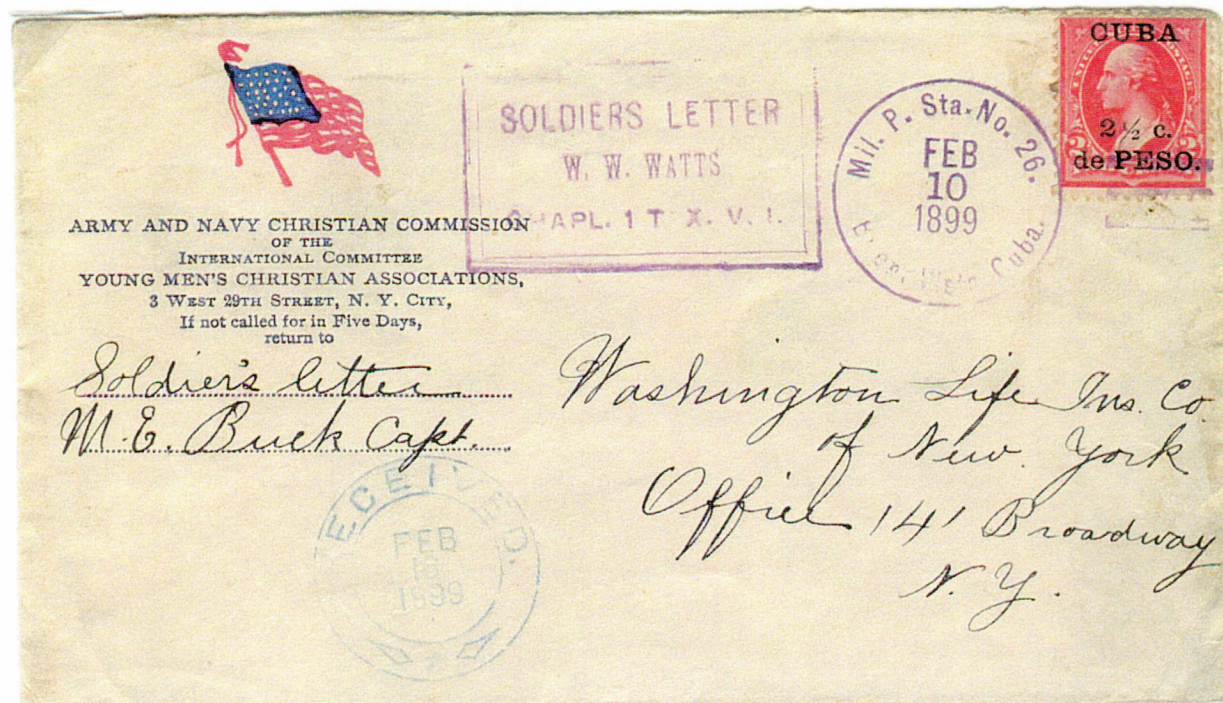
Feb. 13, 1899. Patriotic cover from Buena Vista to Waterville, ME. Single weight registered soldier's letter (2 cents first class soldier's rate + 8 cents registry fee = 10 cents).



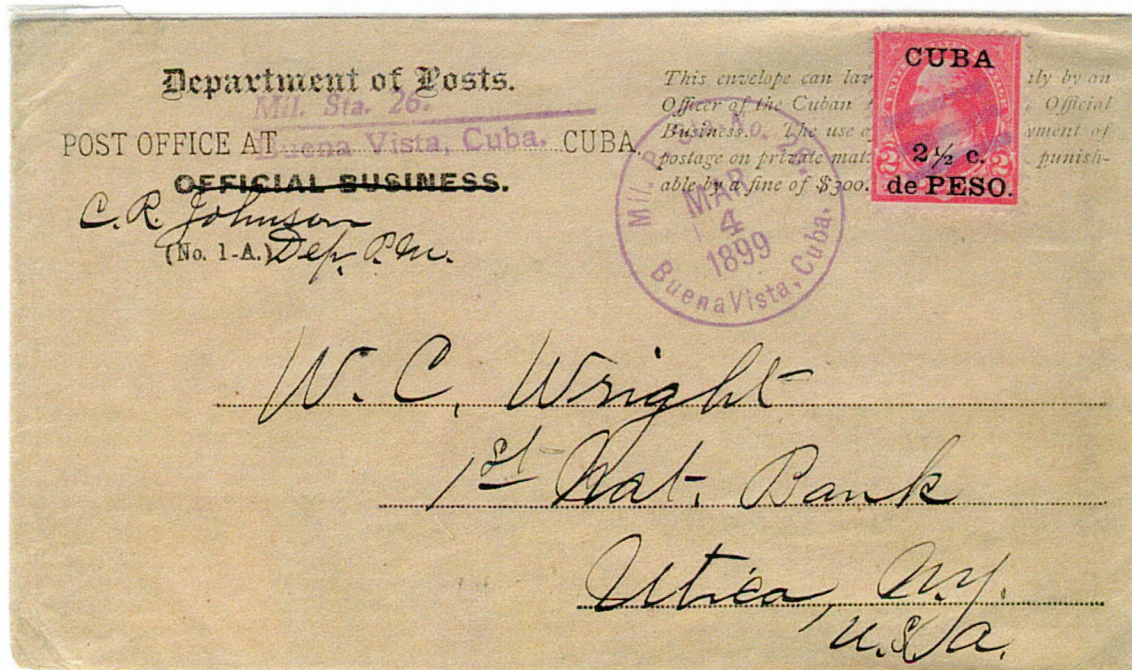
May 10, 1899. Privately used Department of Posts penalty envelope from Buena Vista to Utica, NY. Quintuple weight registered letter (2 cents x 5 = 10 cents + 8 cents registry fee = 18 cents).

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 26. Buena Vista



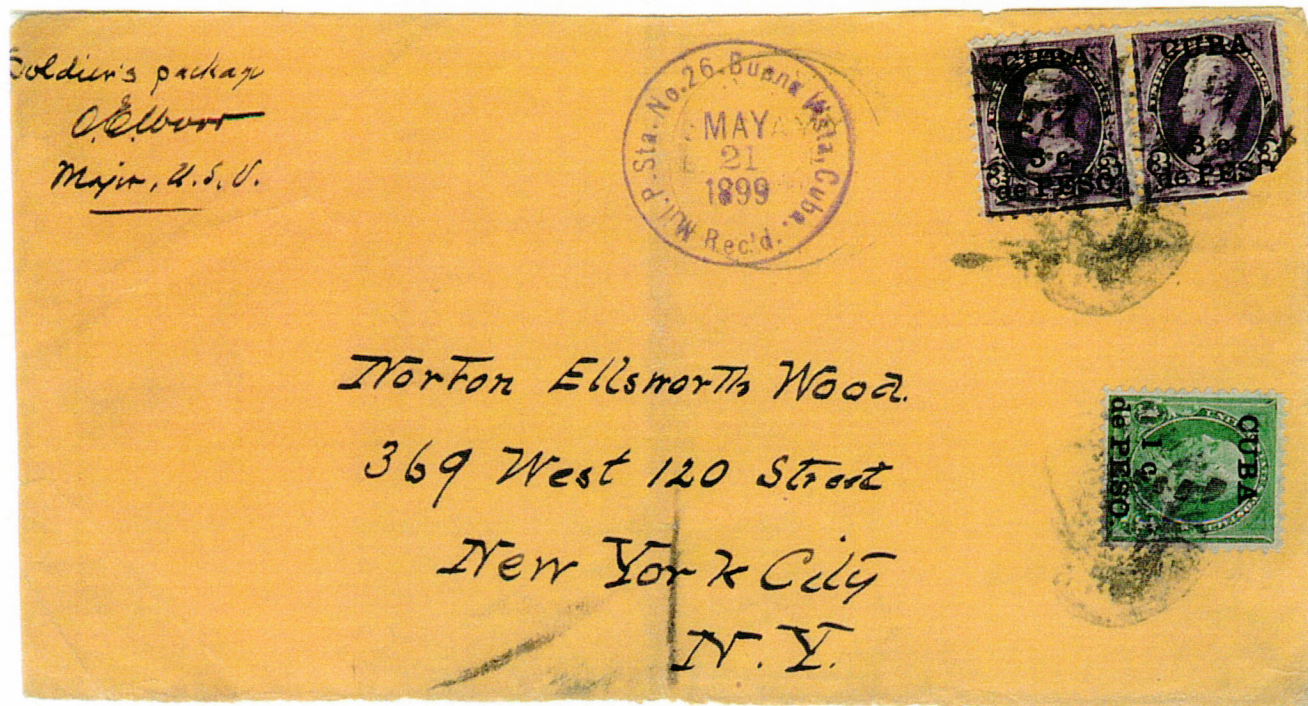
Feb. 10, 1899. Patriotic cover from Buena Vista to New York City. Prepaid soldier's rate. Even though this stamp had a 2 1/2 cent overprint, it was sold and used as a two cent stamp all over the island.



Mar. 4, 1899. Department of Posts penalty envelope from Buena Vista to Utica NY. It was used privately by the Deputy Postmaster. This is the only reported example of the auxiliary straightline handstamp from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 26. Buena Vista



May 21, 1899. Soldier's package from Buena Vista to New York City. The soldier's fourth class rate was one cent per ounce (7 cents). Very few examples of parcel post from this period have survived. The stamps are canceled with the crude oval handstamp. This is the recording copy of the receiving handstamp from Buena Vista.

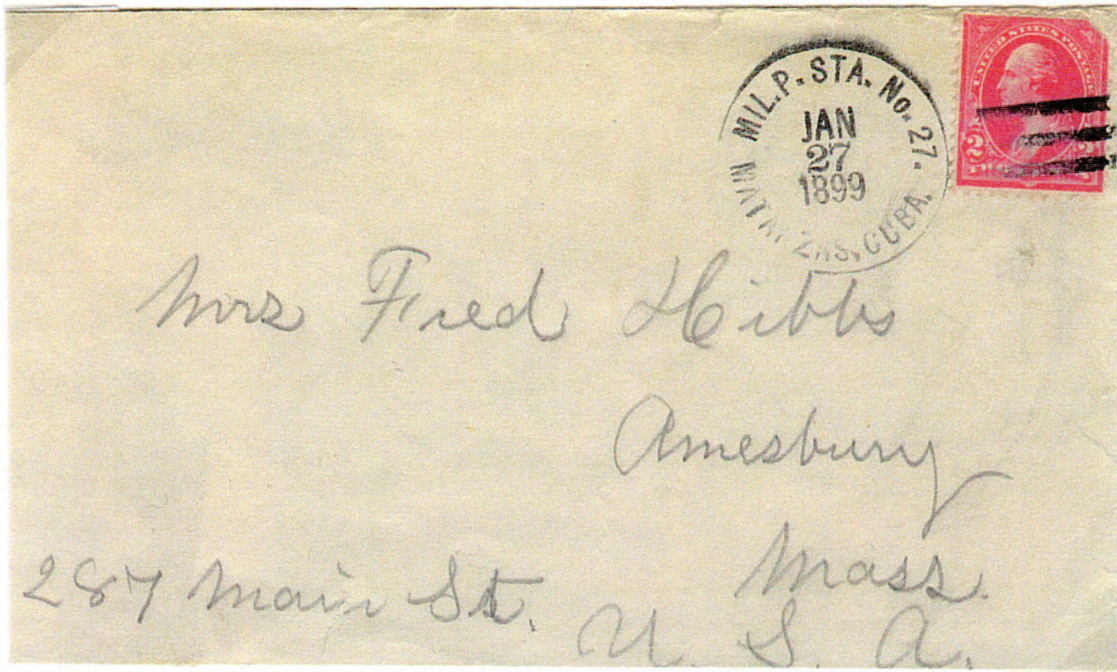


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 27. Matanzas

This was Cuba's third largest city with a population of 36,374 and a "principal" postal administration. The military station opened on January 6, 1899 and reverted to civilian control on February 26, 1899.

This station used two identical duplex cancelers, a crude oval postmark, a receiving handstamp, and three straightline postage due markings.



Jan. 27, 1899. Prepaid soldier's letter from Matanzas to Amesbury, MA. The earliest recorded date of this marking is January 26. Not properly endorsed as a soldier's letter. Note the clear impression of the handstamp.

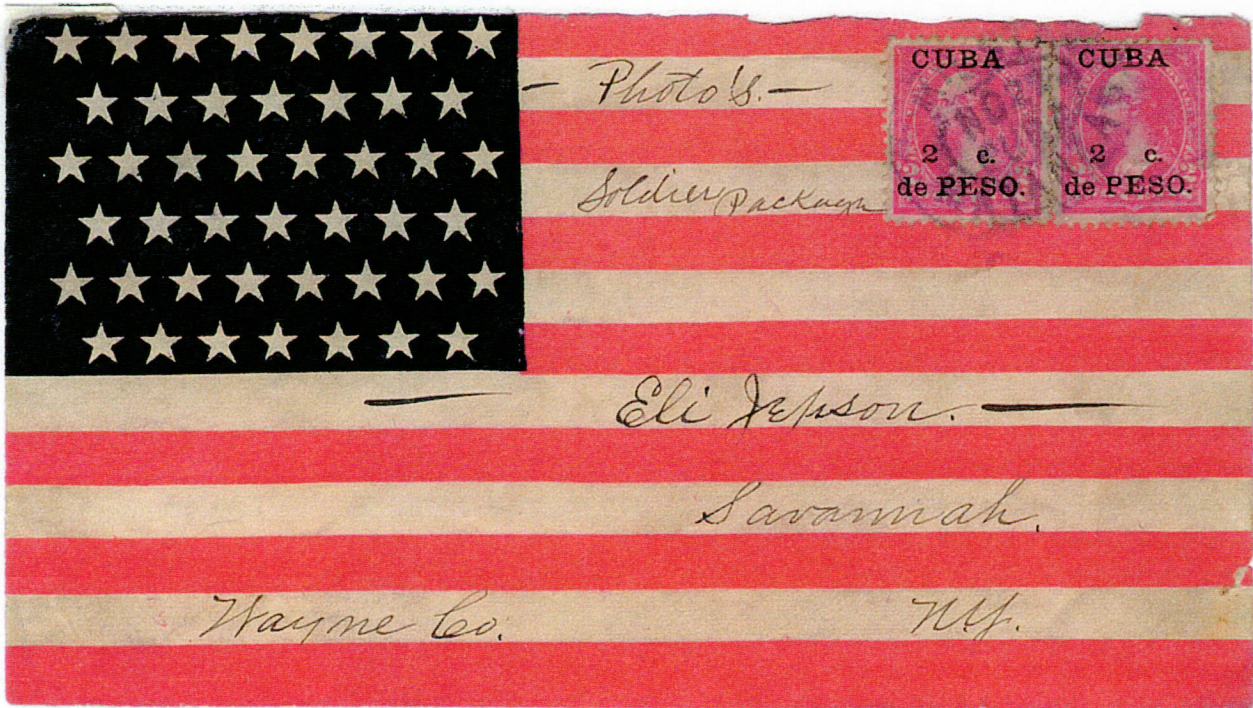


Feb. 6, 1899. Illustrated envelope on a prepaid soldier's rate from Matanzas to Taylorsville, KY. The letter

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 27. Matanzas

There is one other example recorded of the crude oval handstamp from this station on a small fragment.



Undated patriotic envelope from Matanzas to New York State containing photographs that were sent as parcel post. Its weight must not have exceeded four ounces since the rate for packages (fourth class) was one cent per ounce.

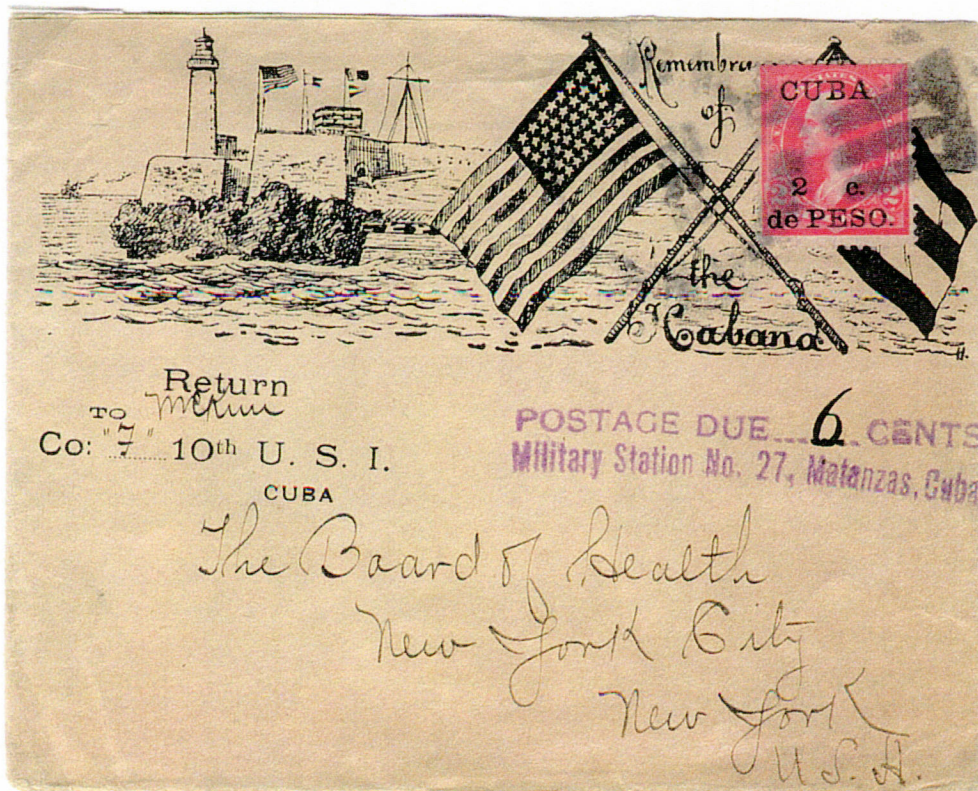
U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 27. Matanzas

Two of the four reported examples of postage due markings from this station are shown below. These two leave a blank space to write the amount due.



Apr. 6, 1899. Matanzas to Tarrytown, TN. It is most likely a soldier's letter but since it was not properly endorsed as such, it was charged six cents postage due, double the deficit. Note the grossly deformed canceler.



May 29, 1899. Patriotic envelope from Matanzas to New York City. Obviously a soldier's letter but not signed by an officer or chaplain and therefore charged six cents postage due. Again, note the marked deterioration of the canceling device.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 27. Matanzas

Two of the four reported examples of postage due markings from this station are shown below. These two have the specific amount due within the handstamp.



Feb. 19, 1899. Illustrated envelope from Matanzas to Somerville, MA. Properly endorsed soldier's letter that was sent unpaid. Domestic two cent first class letter rate. No penalty fee was collected from the addressee on unpaid soldier's letters. Only reported example of the "...TWO CENTS." marking and only example in black.



May 14, 1899. Matanzas to Chattanooga, TN. The cover was not properly endorsed as a soldier's letter and was

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 27. Matanzas

The two recorded examples of the receiving marking from this station are shown below.



TOP: Mar. 1899. Registered letter from Madrid to Matanzas.

BOTTOM: Feb. 1899. Registered multiple weight civilian letter from Matanzas to Paris. The oval "CERTIFICADO" handstamp is a captured Spanish Colonial marking. The receiving postmark in this case is used to cancel the stamps.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 27. Matanzas



Mar. 8, 1899. Registered civilian letter from Matanzas to Catalina, Cuba. Unusual example of old Spanish period rates since the new postal code was not enforced in this province until April 1, 1899 (3 cents inter-province single letter rate + 5 cents registry fee = 8 cents). This is probably the only example of the Registry marking from this station.

