

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 28. Santa Clara

Santa Clara had one of the four principal postal administrations under the Spanish and had a population of 13,763. The military station opened on January 10, 1899 and was transferred to civilians on February 22 of the same year.

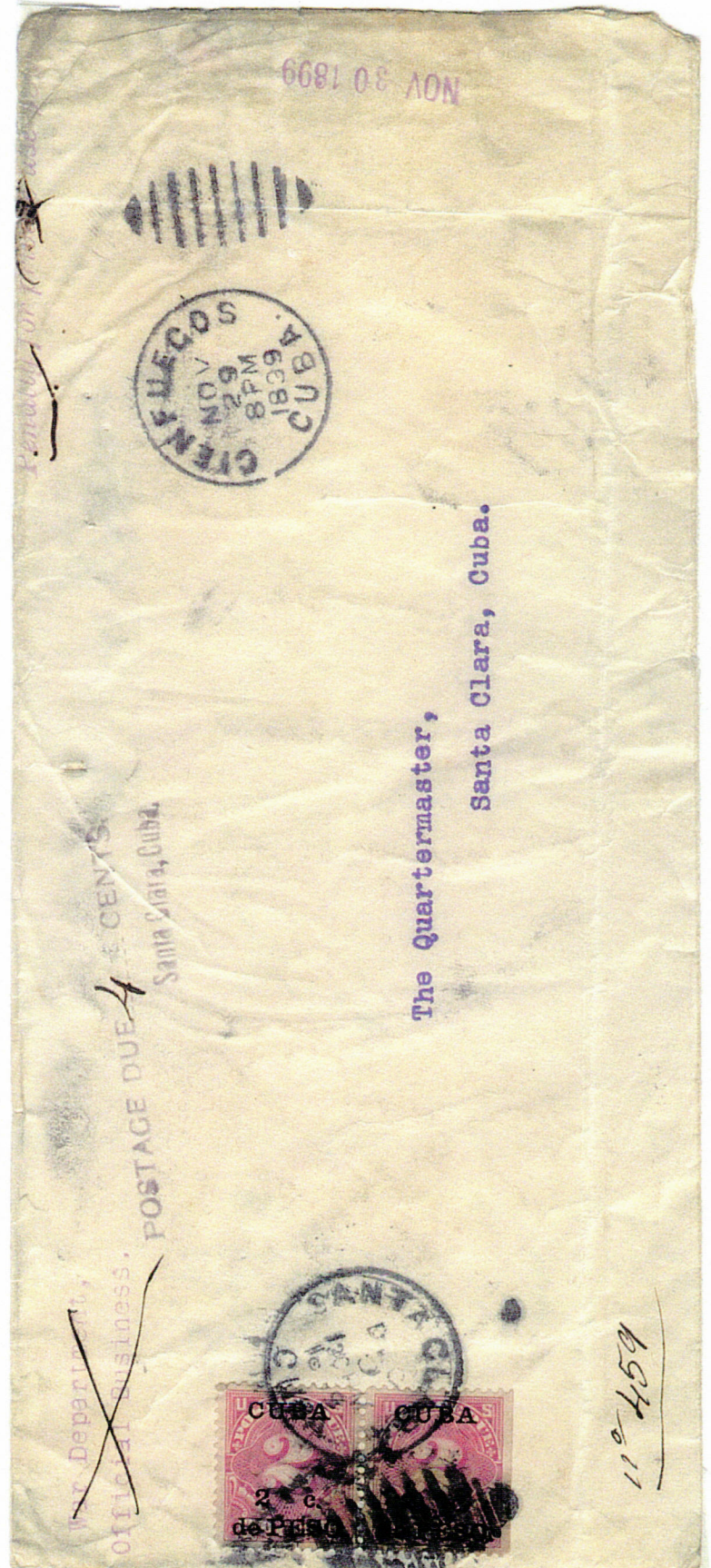
The only recorded markings from this station are the duplex canceler applied in red and a modified postage due straightline handstamp. Below there are examples of the duplex canceler on soldier's letters franked with overprinted and non-overprinted stamps. Order of March 24, 1899 specified that the special stamps overprinted for Cuba must be used in the island.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

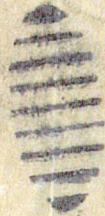
Station Number 28. Santa Clara

Nov. 29, 1899. Double weight unpaid war department penalty envelope from Cienfuegos to Santa Clara. Since the free franking privileges of the sender were unclear, the letter was charged the deficit (4 cents) upon arrival to Santa Clara. Only recorded example of this postage due marking from which the words "Military Station" were deleted after the station passed under civilian control.



~~War Department,
Official Business.~~

POSTAGE DUE 4 CENTS
Santa Clara, Cuba.



The Quartermaster,

Santa Clara, Cuba.

NOV 30 1899

11° 459

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

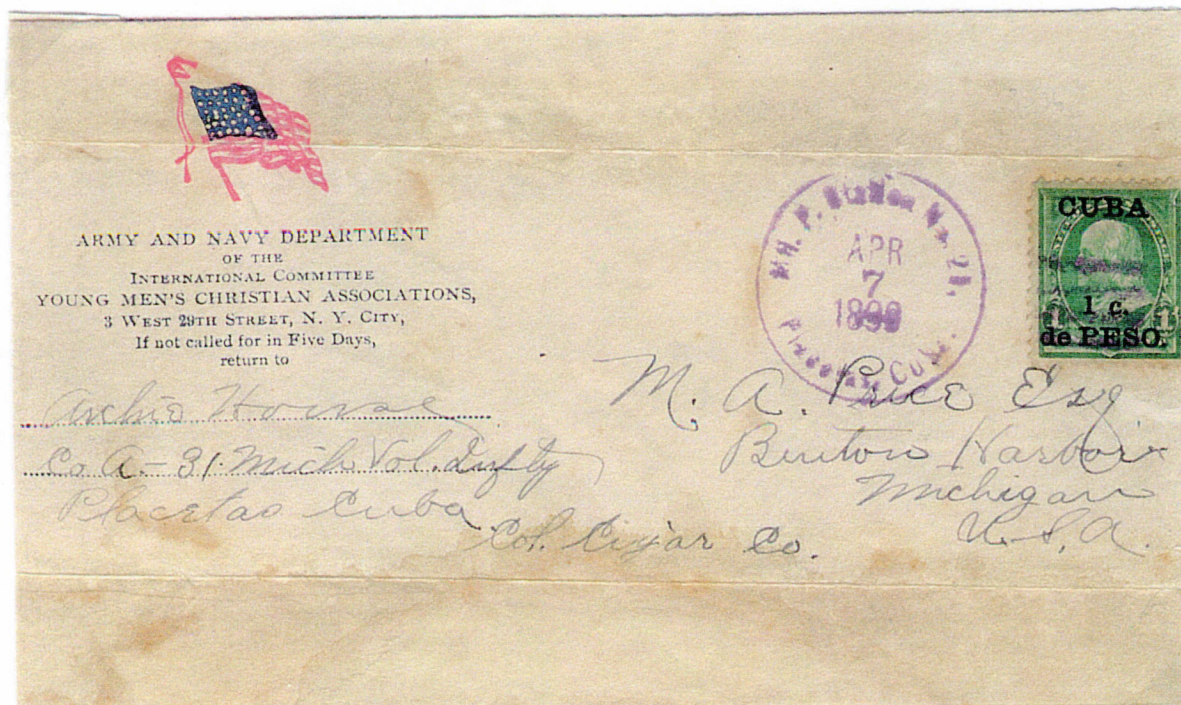
Station Number 29. Placetas

This town had a population of 5,409 and a fourth class post office. the military station opened on February 1, 1899 and passed under civilian control on February 26, 1899.

The two types of cancellers used on this station are shown below.



The only recorded example of the crude oval from this station.



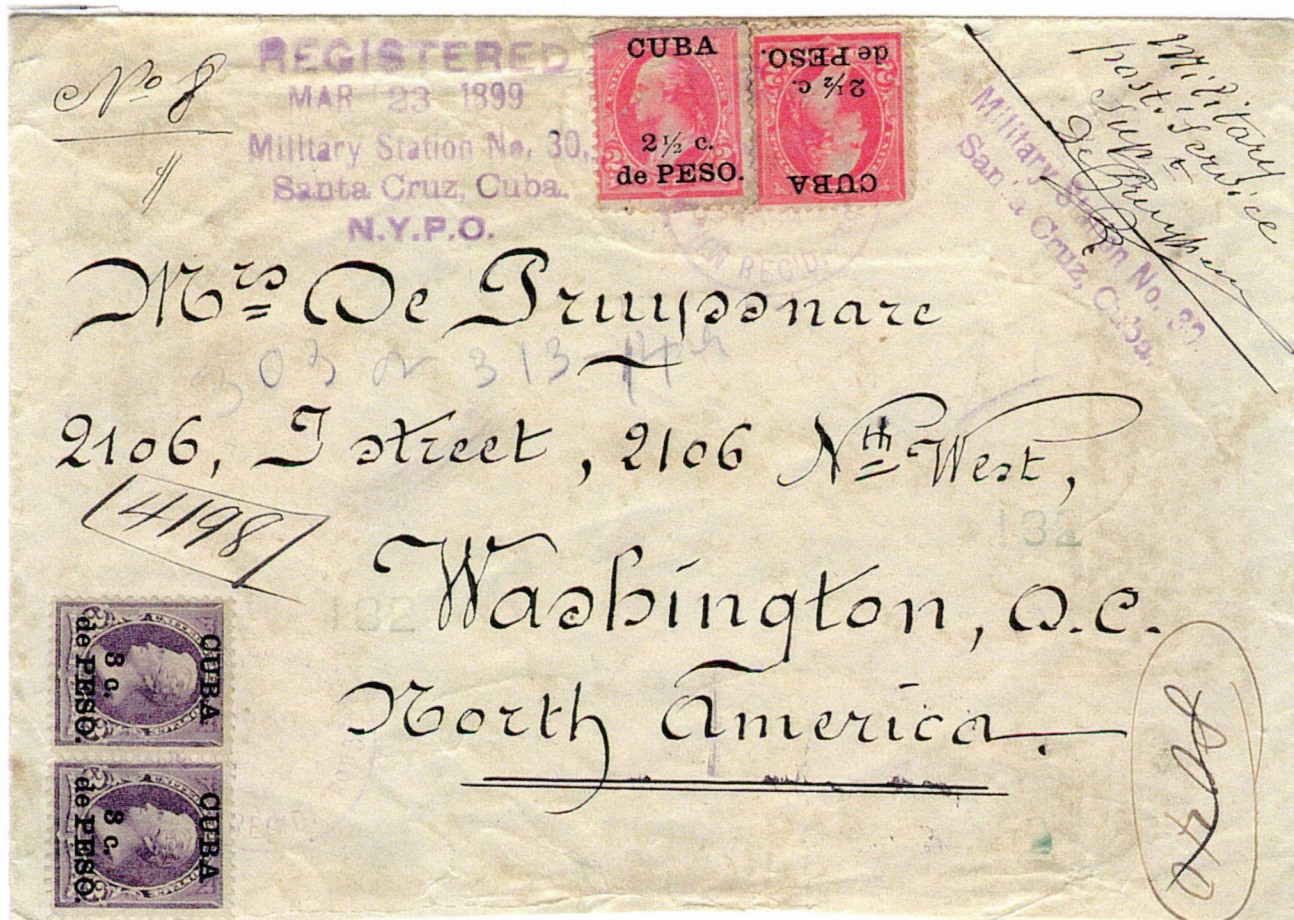
Apr. 7, 1899. Patriotic wrapper from Placetas to Michigan. Prepaid soldier's newspaper rate. There are two other recorded examples of this cancellation.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 30. Santa Cruz

This town had a population of 1,210 and a third class colonial post office. The military station opened on February 1, 1899 and reverted to civilian control on February 17 of the same year.

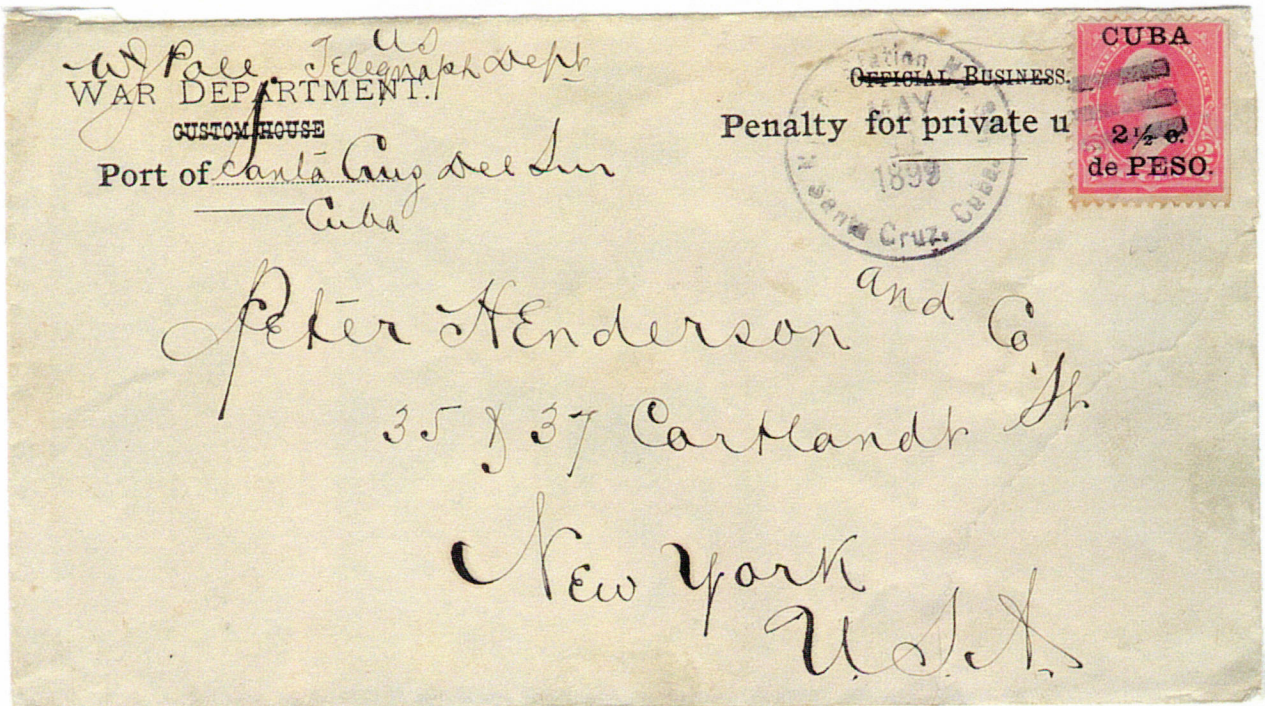
Four types of markings were used in this station: a duplex canceler, a receiving postmark, a registry handstamp, and a straightline auxiliary marking.



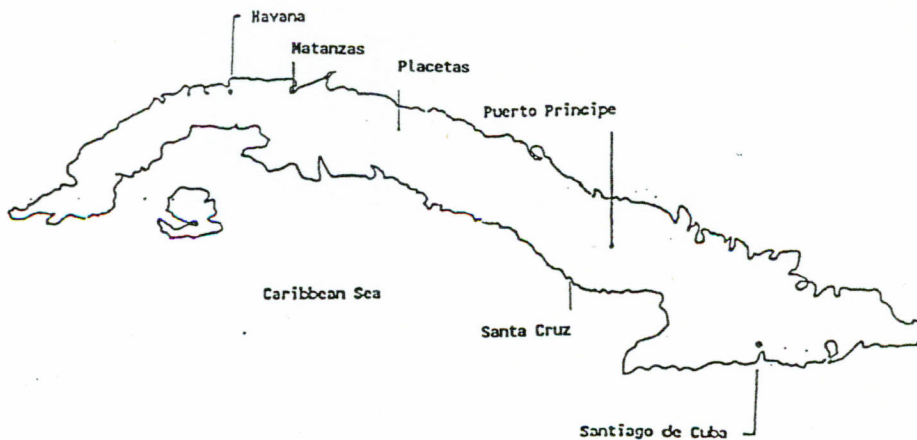
Mar. 23, 1899. Santa Cruz del Sur to Washington, DC. Registered soldier's letter (2 cents first class + 8 cents registry fee = 10 cents). There is one other example of each the registered and straightline auxiliary marking. This is the only recorded copy of the receiving handstamp which obliterates the stamps.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 30. Santa Cruz



May 11, 1899. Privately used War Department penalty envelope from Santa Cruz del Sur to New York. Prepaid soldier's rate. Latest recorded usage from this station.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 31. Santo Domingo

This town had a third class post office and a population of 2,079. The official opening date of the military station was February 1, 1899 and it reverted to civilian management on February 11, 1899. The garrison at this station consisted of twelve men.

The only recorded items from this station are the three loose stamps canceled with the crude oval shown below.

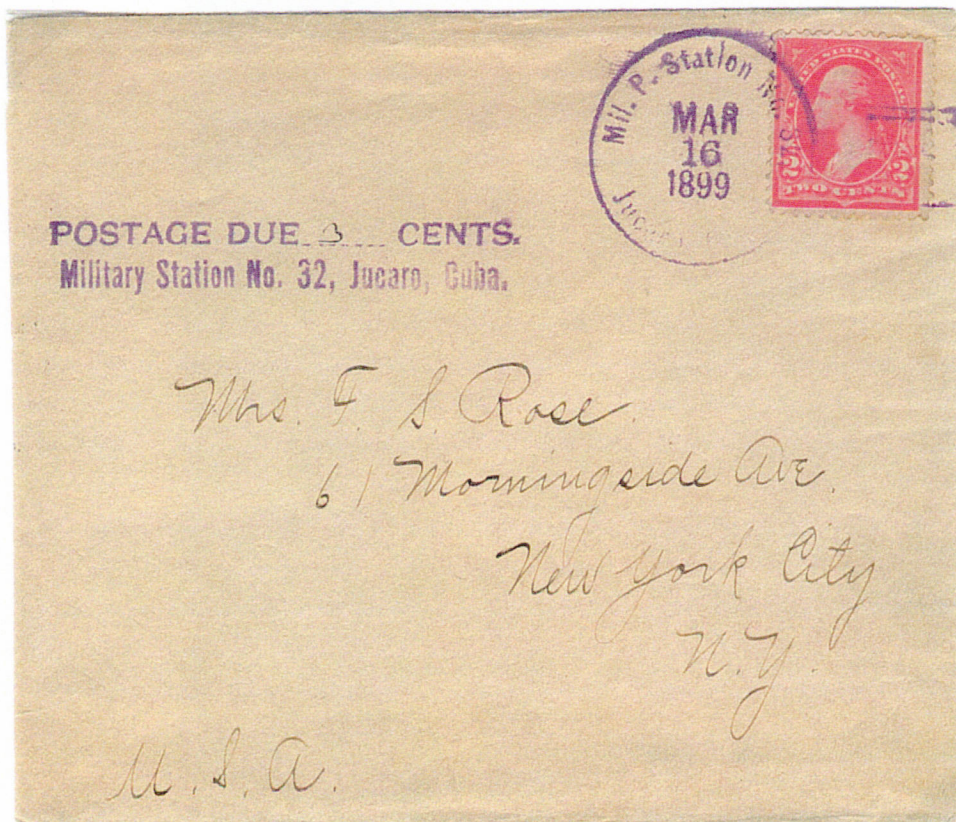


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 32. Jucaro

This small southern coast town was inhabited by only 468 people and had a fourth class colonial post office. The military station opened on February 1, 1899 and was transferred to civilians on the 17th of the same month.

This station used a duplex killer, a postage due straightline marking, and a crude oval handstamp. About half a dozen items have been recorded from Jucaro.



Mar. 16, 1899. Soldier's letter from Jucaro to New York City. Since the envelope was not properly endorsed as a soldier's letter, it was treated as a civilian letter charged the deficit (3 cents) at Jaruco. It should have been charged double the deficit. This is the only reported example of the postage due marking from this station.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

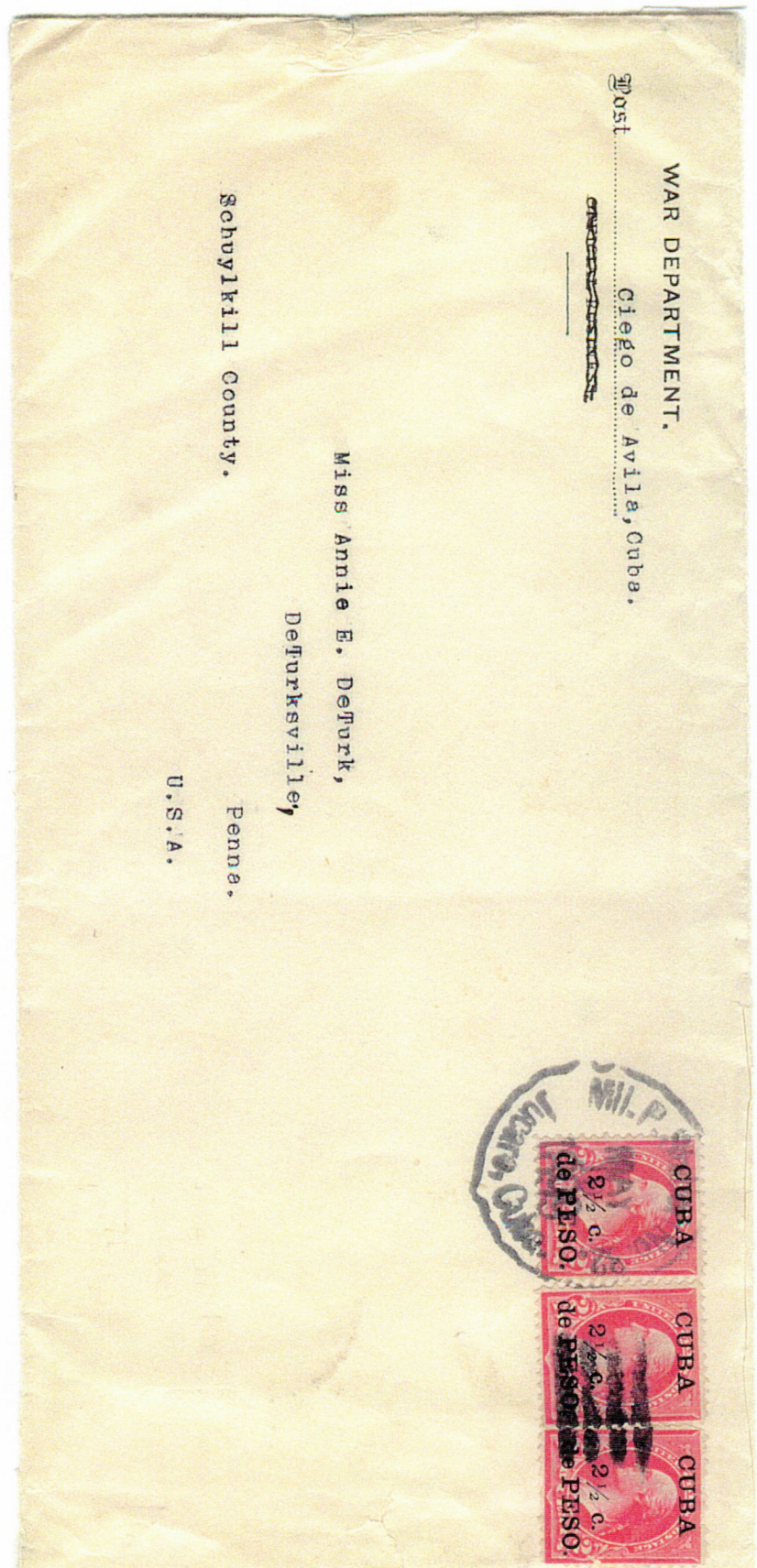
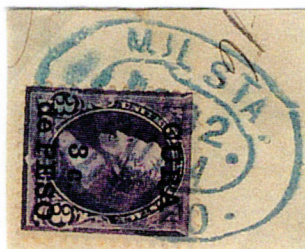
Station Number 32. Jucaro



ABOVE: Latest recorded usage from this station showing the rubber device breaking up.

RIGHT: Prepaid triple weight soldier's rate to Pennsylvania.

BELOW: The only recorded usage of the crude oval from this office.



WAR DEPARTMENT.

Post.....Ciego de Avila, Cuba.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Miss Annie E. DeTurk,

DeTurkville,

Schuylkill County.

Penna.

U.S.A.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 33. Sagua la Grande

This town had a second class colonial post office and a population of 12,728. The military post office officially operated from February 1 to 27, 1899.

The only type of marking from this station is the duplex canceler. About a dozen covers have been recorded from this station.



Apr. 25, 1899. Civilian rate letter from Sagua la Grande to New York.



Jun. 10, 1899. Patriotic soldier's cover from Sagua la Grande to Illinois.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 34. Caibarien

This town had a third class post office and a population of 7,013. The military post office officially operated from February 1 to 27, 1899.

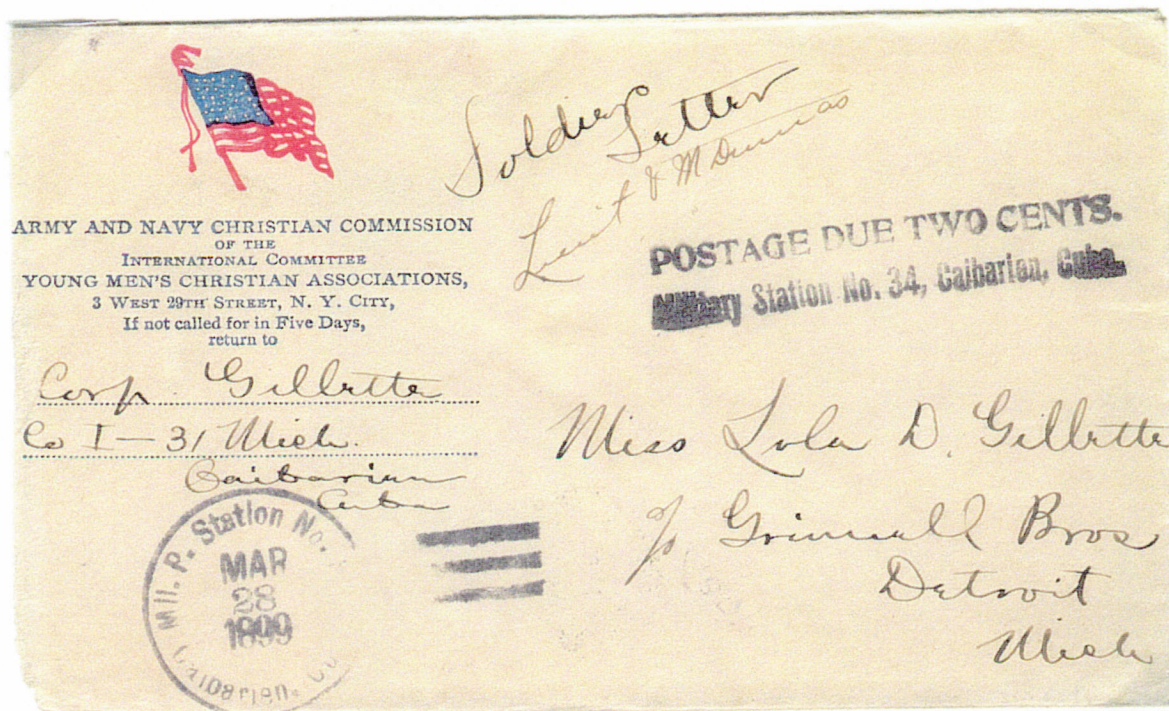
A duplex canceler and a postage due straightline marking were used at this station. All five recorded usages are known used in March.



Mar. 1899. Prepaid soldier's rate from Caibarien to St. Louis, MO.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 34. Caibarien



Mar. 28, 1899. Unpaid soldier's patriotic envelope from Caibarien to Detroit. This is the only recorded example of the postage due marking from this station.

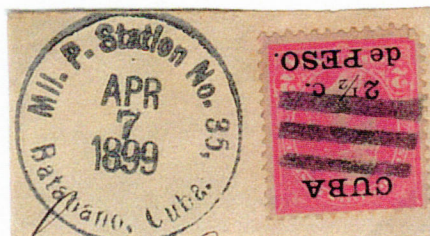


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 35. Batabano

This small village near the southern coast had 1,025 inhabitants and a third class post office. The military post office officially operated from February 1 to 17, 1899.

The only item ever recorded from this station is illustrated below.

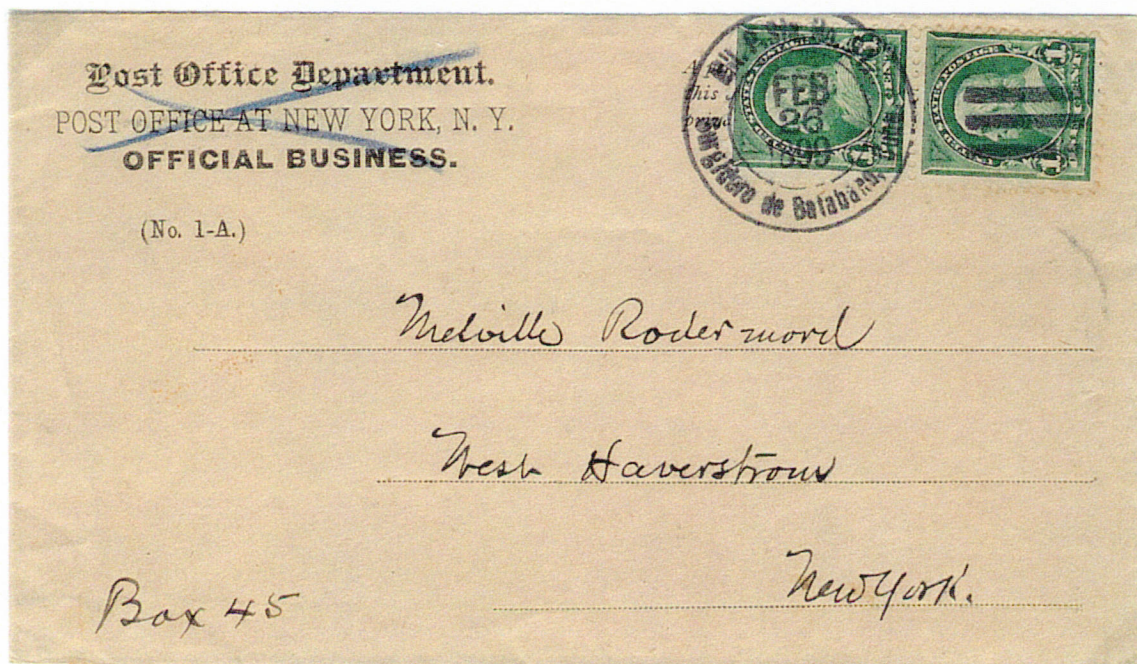


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 37. Surgidero de Batabano

This town had a population of 3,638 and a third class post office. The military post office officially opened on February 10, 1899 and "closed" on February 26, 1899.

A new style of duplex canceler was used in this station and at station # 38. The only two items recorded from this station are illustrated below.



Feb. 26, 1899. Post Office Department official envelope used privately on a soldier's letter from Surgidero de Batabano to New York State.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Station Number 38. Guines

This town possessed a third class post office and a population of 8,149. The military post office officially opened on February 10, 1899 and reverted to civilian control on the 24th of the same month.

This station used a double circle duplex killer, a crude oval canceler, and a receiving handstamp. Barreras reported a straightline postage due marking with the words "Military Station" deleted but no examples have been seen. A total of six items are recorded from this station, all of them fragments.



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



Latest usage from Guines.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

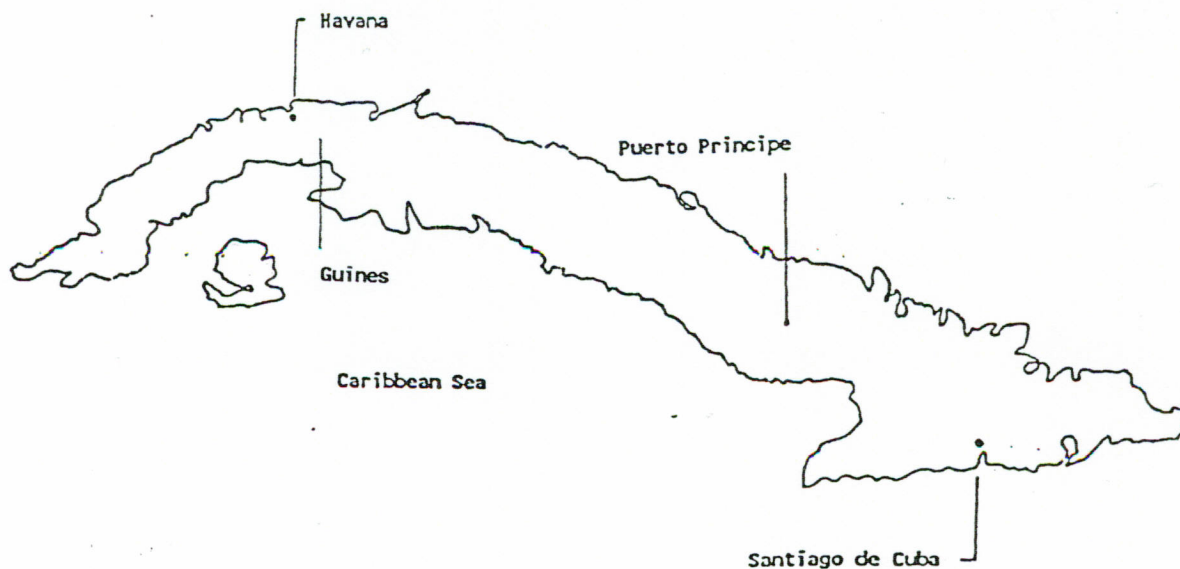
Station Number 38. Guines



Only reported example of the crude oval.



There is one other example of the receiving handstamp from this station which is also canceling a bisected Spanish colonial stamp.

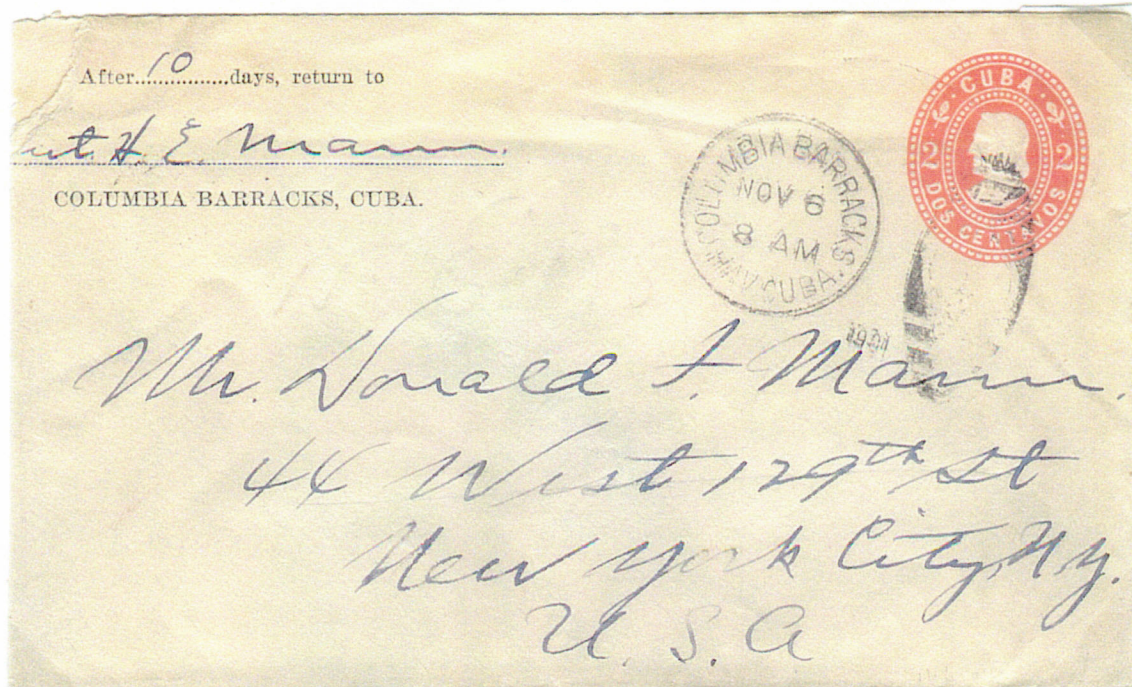


U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Military Camps. Cuba

After the closing of the military stations, US soldiers were housed in military camps that were near the largest cities. Only three military camps used distinctive cancellations on their mail.

The biggest military installation in Cuba was Columbia Barracks. It was located near Havana and operated from the day after the closing of military station number 10 until the day before Cuba became independent (February 18, 1899 to May 19, 1902).



Camp Mackenzie was located near the city of Puerto Principe. It opened around April 28, 1900 and closed on January 27, 1902. There are four items recorded with this cancellation.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Military Camps. Cuba

Rowel Barracks was located near the city of Cienfuegos and most of its mails were sent through the local civilian post office. Below there are two examples of letters originating in this Camp. On the first one it is indicated in manuscript and on the second by handstamp.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Military Camps. Cuba

Below there is one of the two recorded examples of the Rowell Barracks canceler.



Most of the mails from the military were handled by the local civilian post offices. Sancti Spiritus Barracks used an auxiliary straightline marking on letters originating there. Two examples known.



U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Military Hospitals. Cuba

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Post

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Field Hospital

Camp Columbia Havana Cuba

May 2nd 1899

*W. Howard French
M.D.*

New York City

*Hon. Secretary War
Washington, D.C.*



Penalty for private use, \$300.

May 2, 1899. War Department Official Business envelope from a Field Hospital in Camp Columbia at Havana. It is addressed to a US Senator in Washington DC, and was forwarded to New York City.

Jul. 6, 1899. Marine Hospital Service Official Business envelope used privately by an assistant surgeon from Cienfuegos. It is addressed to a surgeon at the US Marine Hospital Boat in Washington DC.



Treasury Department
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Penalty for private use, \$300
*W. H. Smith
asst. sur.*

*Surgeon J. H. White
U.S. Marine Hospital
Washington
D.C.*

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Post.....

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Field Hospital

Camp Columbia Havana Cuba

May 2nd 1899

W. Woodruff
W. S. C.

New York
Atty.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew
(W. S. Quator, S. Ky.)

Washington
D.C.



Penalty for private use, \$300.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Military Camps. USA

By the end of June 1899, 496 officers and men had died in action, 202 others had died of wounds, and 5,509 died of disease.



Aug. 21, 1898. Soldier's letter to Orange, NJ. It was written on board the U.S.S. Prairie and mailed at Montauk Station.



Aug. 31, 1898. Late usage of the Montauk Station canceler

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Military Camps. USA

Aug. 20, 1899. Soldier's postcard from Montauk Station to Hookset, NH. It arrived at its destination in just one day. The text is reproduced below.



"Montauk Point

Aug 20 - 98

Dear Mother;

We have landed once more on good American soil this morning. very good sailing but nothing to eat till we struck here and we found food that we were able to eat from the state & Red Cross.

Have felt good up to the last few days. I have got an awful Diarrhoea so am pretty weak. will write you a letter in a day or two.

Your Son Henry"

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL STATIONS IN CUBA

Department of Posts



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300.

DEC 30 1901
10 AM



*Mr. Wm.
Trea*

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300.

Mr. Henry G. Muller.

Graton Building,

Cincinnati Ohio.

Top:

Dec. 30, 1901. Official envelope from the department of Posts used privately on a letter from Havana to Washington DC.

Bottom:

On December 19, 1898 Mr. Estes G. Rathbone was appointed Director of Posts for Cuba effective January 1, 1899. This is one of the envelopes he brought with him and used shortly after his arrival to Cuba. The letter, recruiting a clerk for the post office, was written on board the ship to Cuba and mailed on January 7.

Mr. Rathbone was later imprisoned, in 1902, for embezzlement of funds from the Cuban postal system.

There is one other reported envelope of this type.

OFFICE OF

DIRECTOR OF POSTS FOR CUBA

HAVANA

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF POSTS FOR CUBA
HAVANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$ 300.

Mr. Henry H. Muller.

Groton Building,

Cincinnati
Ohio.