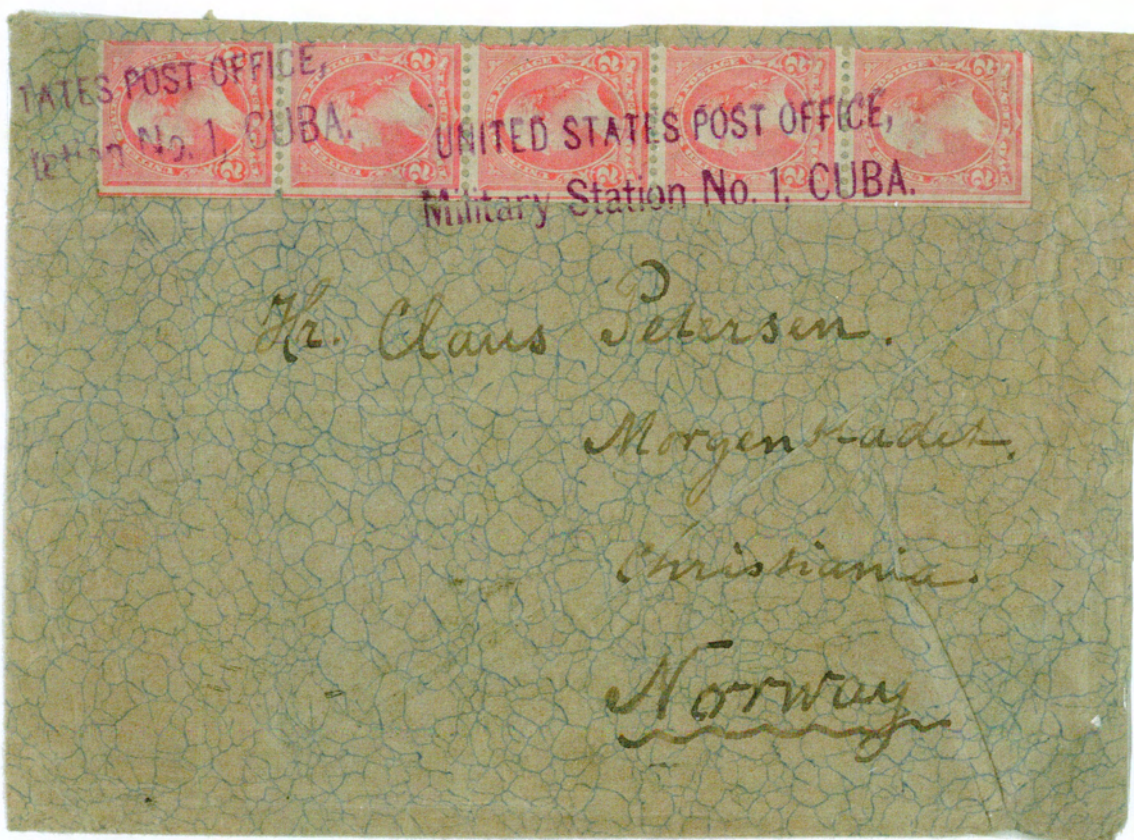


AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN THE CARIBBEAN 1898-1934

This exhibit tells the story of U.S. interventions in areas around the Caribbean Sea, starting with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War and continuing through the first quarter of the 20th Century. Energized by the destruction of *USS Maine* in Havana harbor, America adopted a policy of sending military forces to the area to reduce or forestall European influence and to deal with local administrations engaged in "chronic wrongdoing." This took our troops into Cuba three times during this period, as well as to Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

The interventions varied as to length and forces involved, although in no case were the numbers of troops large by modern standards. Thus, the availability of postal material differs from area to area and from time to time. A large number of military postal stations were opened in Cuba during and following the war, but examples of mail from many of these are extremely elusive. However, a wide variety of postmarks is shown from this period, including auxiliary markings. Mail from the other areas is easiest to acquire from Haiti and Puerto Rico, with that from the Dominican Republic the most difficult to find.



The first military station opened at Daiquiri, Cuba on 23 June 1898. The first postmark was undated so earliest use cannot be documented. However, based on an average of about 2-1/2 weeks delivery time from Cuba to the U.S., this cover -- which transited New York on 9 July -- would likely have been in the first mail despatched from Daiquiri. It is further distinguished by being addressed to Norway, thus being the only foreign destination mail seen by the exhibitor from this early period. Backstamped for receipt in Khristiana (Oslo) on 23 July.

The main thrust of the exhibit is a comprehensive display of military postal markings of the various stations, some of which are extremely difficult to acquire as the outlying offices often served units as small as a couple of dozen men, sometimes for very short periods of time. As to mail from the larger offices, an effort has been made to emphasize the unusual, including registered mail, supplemental markings, earliest and latest dates, etc. The exhibit is presented chronologically, based on the beginning date of each intervention.

CUBA 1898-1902

Following the sinking of U.S.S. Maine in Havana harbor, the United States declared war on Spain on 21 April 1898. The destruction of the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Santiago on 3 July by the Americans under Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley sealed the fate of the defenders of Cuba, which resulted in an armistice being signed on 12 August.

Oriente Province

Military Station No. 1, Cuba
June - July 1898



The initial U.S. post office in territory occupied outside of North America opened on 23 June 1898 at Daiquiri on the south coast of Cuba, the day after our troops landed. The first postmark was a temporary device indicating neither the location nor date. As the soldiers advanced toward Santiago, the military postal station moved westward to Siboney on 6 July and to the outskirts of Santiago on 21 July. The above covers are backstamped for receipt in the U.S. on 14 and 17 July, respectively, indicating origination in Cuba in late June or early July.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Station No. 1
9 August 1898
1 September 1898

The first standard postmark for ordinary letters was a steel duplex inscribed "Military Station No.1/NYPO" with "Cuba" in both the dial and the killer. This cds was used very briefly from 8 to 13 August 1898 when it was replaced with a postmark inscribed "Santiago." Thus, only a few examples are recorded.



For use on registered mail, an oval rubber double-ring marking of "Military/Sta. No.1 N.Y." with "Cuba" in the center was provided. No date or location was indicated but usage is reported from July into October 1898. This cover bears 13 cents postage (5 cent civilian rate to U.S. plus 8 cents registration).



To clearly indicate that the Cuban military stations were branches of New York, the first standard postmarks included "N.Y." in their inscriptions. U.S. troops participating in the war with Spain enjoyed two postal concessions. First, mail to and from the occupied territories was carried at domestic rates. In addition, letters could be sent unfranked, with the postage due -- but not a deficiency penalty -- being charged to the addressee.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Station No. 1
28 September 1898
29 November 1898



Several auxiliary markings were used at MPS No. 1, including those on the covers above, i.e. "Not in Cuba," "Returned to Sender," "Second Notice" and "Postage Due....Cents." Upper cover properly paid at 5 cent rate to a civilian addressee. Lower cover, not being to a military address, should have been paid at the 5 cent civilian rate. As it was not, a double deficiency (3 cents x 2), was assessed as postage due.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Station No. 1 Santiago
21 September 1898
21 November 1898

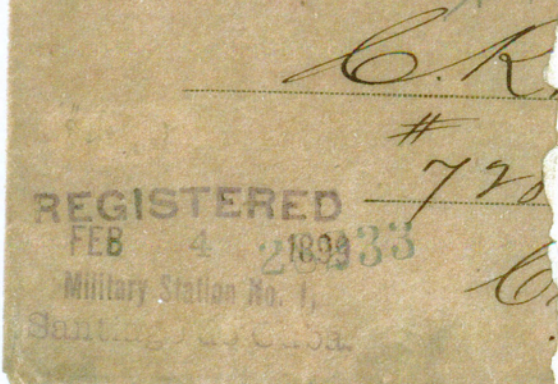


Mrs Mary Hamill
118 S Channing Ave

The first postmark with a designated location was a steel duplex with "Santiago de Cuba" in the dial. This cds is recorded as used 21 August 1898 to 13 April 1899.



Post Office Department.
POST OFFICE AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA,
MILITARY STATION No. 1.)
John Gustafson
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
(No. 1-A.)



#1529
Madame Charles A de Lima
Royal Hotel
33 Avenue Friedland
Paris
France

REGISTERED
NOV 21 1898
Military Station No. 1,
Santiago de Cuba.

Once Spanish resistance ended, locations were assigned to various military post offices, and a series of new markings was introduced, indicating the name of the towns in which they operated. In theory, there were stations numbered from 1 to 39. However, not all of these were necessarily activated as no covers have ever been reported from at least five of the locations -- starting with No. 2 -- and only one example is known from some of the others.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Sta. No. 3 Guantanamo
23 November 1898
8 April 1899



A total of 39 numbered military postal stations for Cuba are listed in the literature. In theory, at least, they would have been supplied with marking devices similar to those used in Santiago. However, some of the smaller offices handled so little mail and others were opened so late in the occupation period that no examples have been recorded in certain cases and only a few in others.

Two types of steel cds were used at Guantanamo. The first shows the indication "No. 3" at the top of the circle; it is recorded used from 23 November 1898 (above) to 28 July 1899. The second type has "No. 3" in the middle and is recorded from 7 January to 14 June 1899.

Francisco Lercalle
Boncha ya
Guantanamo
Cuba

Almanza



Sr. Sr. J. L. Riedel
Gerichtesler 12. 13.

Berlin
Cuba



MIL. STA. No. 3

NOV

11

2 3 4

QUINTANA ROO, CUBA

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Station No. 3 Guantanamo
17 January 1899

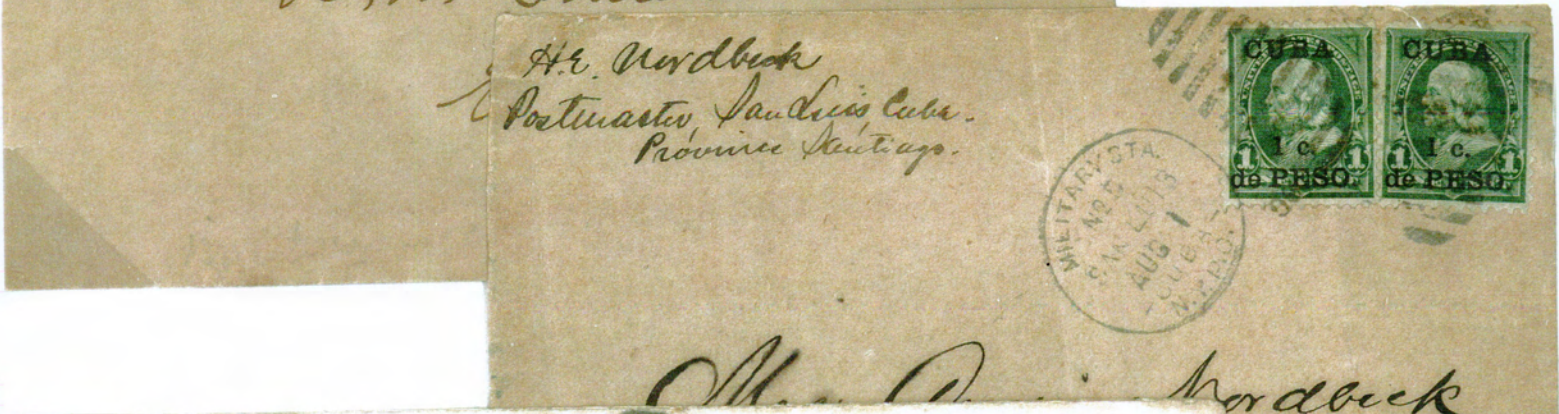
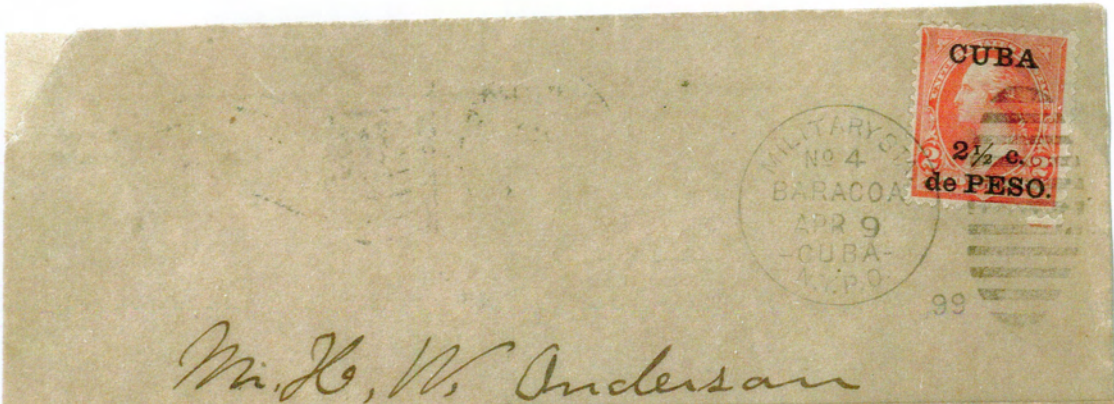


Above cover shows usage of the Guantanamo boxed registration marking inscribed "Military Station No. 3." Note that the postage is cancelled with a double oval killer inscribed "Mil. Sta. No. 3/Guantanamo."

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Sta. No. 4 Baracoa
9 April 1899

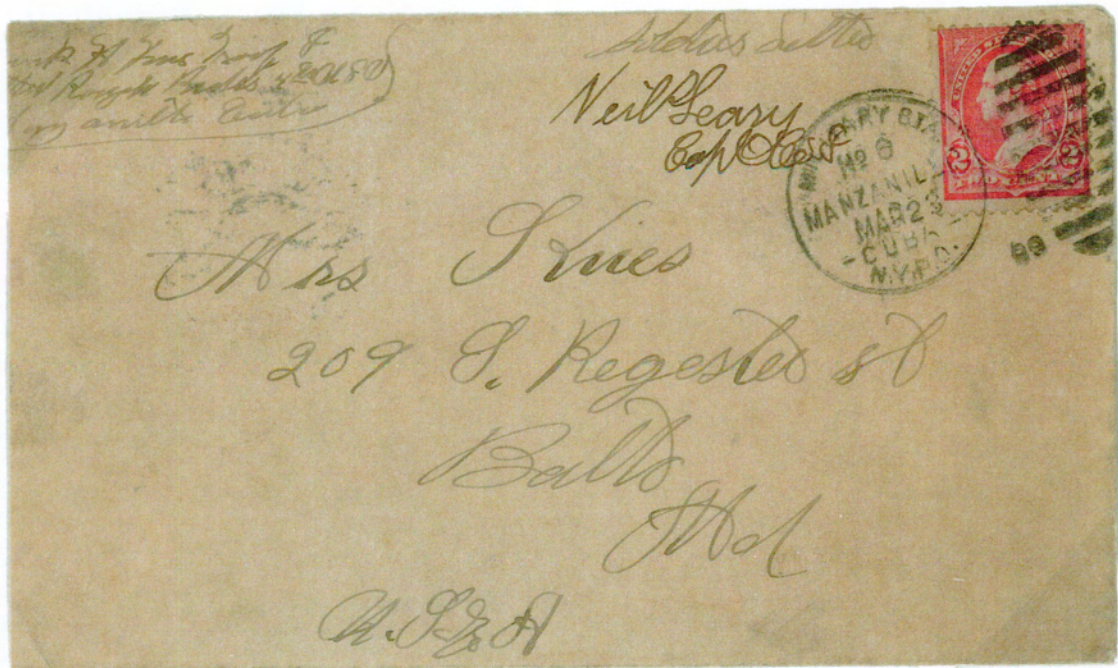
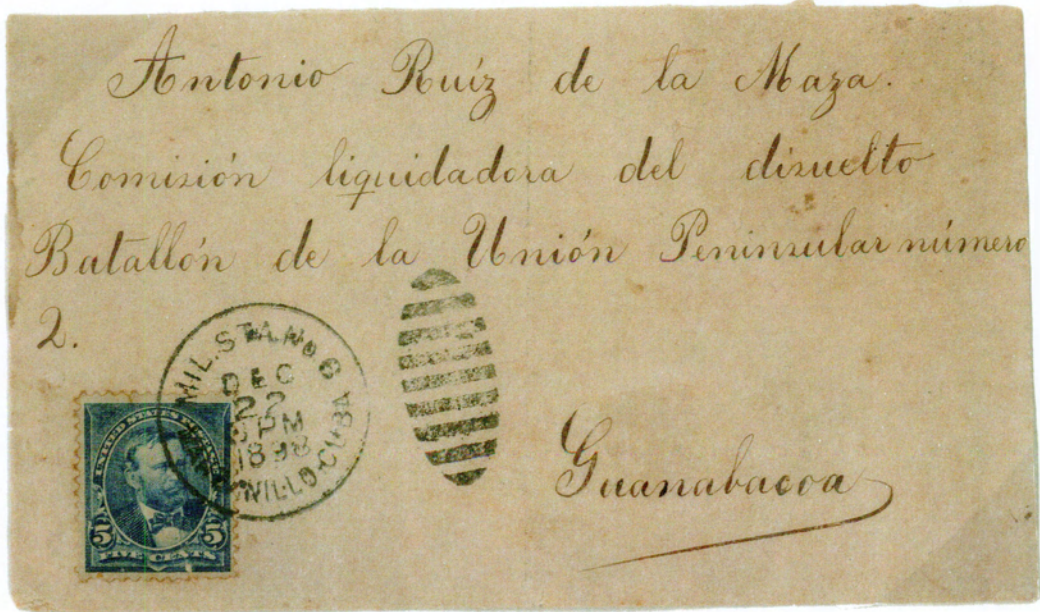
Military Sta. No. 5 San Luis
18 January 1899
1 August 1899



Covers from the smaller villages are scarce, with only a few copies recorded of some of the markings. Postmarks of Baracoa (near the eastern tip of the island) and San Luis (25 miles north of Santiago) are in this category, with examples of the latter recorded only on 4 April and 1 August 1899. The boxed Registration cachet for San Luis is the discovery example of this marking, being previously unrecorded in the literature.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Sta. No. 6 Manzanillo
22 December 1898
23 March 1899



Manzanillo used both types of steel cds, the early version with the "No.6" at the top and the later version with it in the middle. Previously recorded examples of these postmarks were from December 1898 to 2 March 1899.

CUBA
Oriente Province

MPS No. 6 Manzanillo
8 March 1899
11 May 1899

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300.



WAR DEPARTMENT.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



McKesson & Robbins
67263
91. Fulton Street
New York

4546

*sent by
Capt. J. P. ...
Manzanillo, Cuba*

#3351



R. VILLAVERDE,
MANZANILLO, CUBA.

M. Gofas's 314

REGISTERED
MAY 11 1899

Military Station No. 1
Manzanillo, Cuba.

Mr. Frank Tompkins

22 Fulton St.

60001
New York City

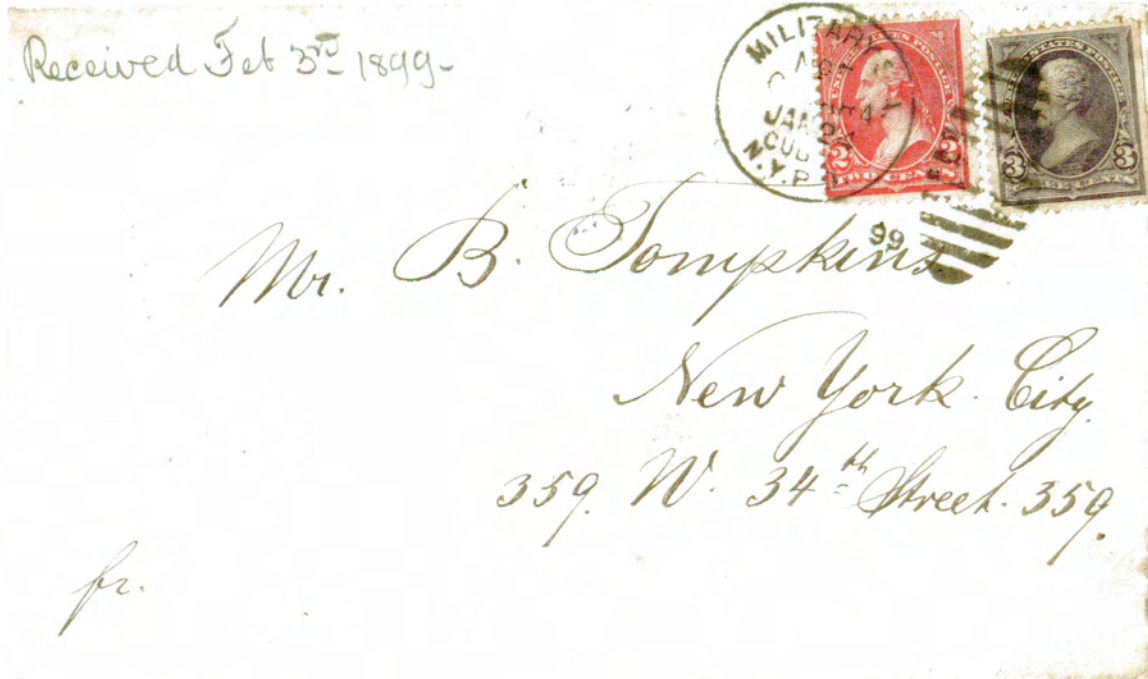
19261
Via Havana

Manzanillo used the same boxed and 4-line markings for its Registered mail as noted for other military stations.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Sta. No. 7 Gibara
24 January 1899

Gibara
25 August 1899



Only a few copies are recorded of these markings. Gordon reported no examples of covers showing the cds of Gibara, a small village on the northeast coast.

CUBA
Oriente Province

Military Sta. No. 8 Holguin
25 February 1899
15 March 1899

Holguin
11 January 1901



Penalty for private use, \$300.



WAR DEPARTMENT,
Chas. E. Patton,
 1ST LIEUT. 10 CAV. D. O. DIST. HOLGUIN.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

The Pierce Well Engineer & Supply Co.,

137 Liberty Street,

NEW YORK, N. Y.

75047

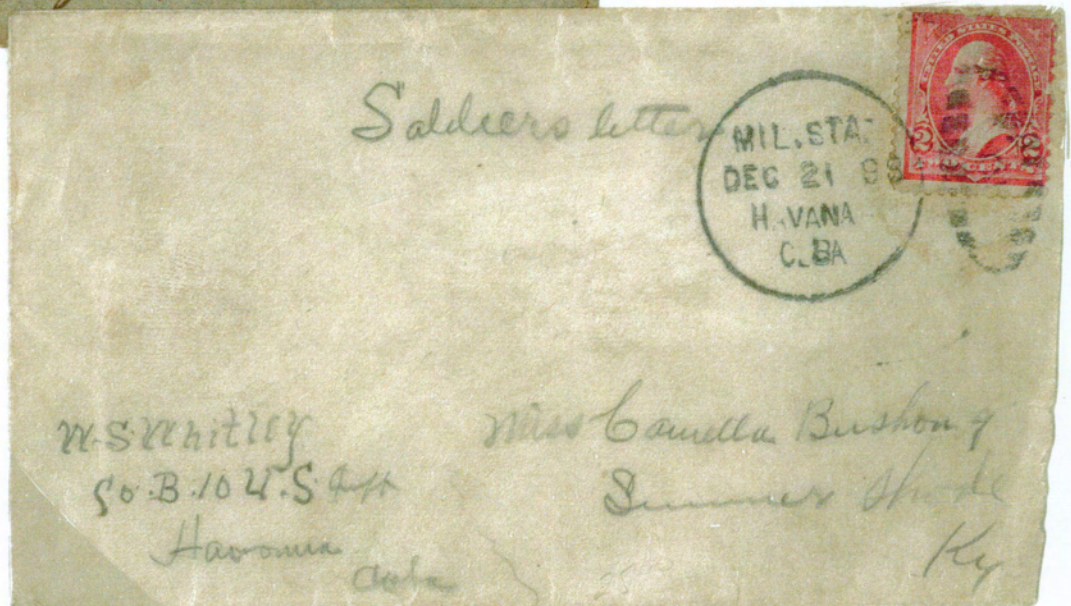
2404

The Holguin cds is noted used only from January to March 1899. The Registration marking is on a large piece from a military cover.

CUBA
La Habana Province

Mil. Sta. Cuba
13 November 1898

Mil. Sta. Havana Cuba
21 December 1898



A provisional postmark, modeled on RPO markings used in the U.S. at the time, is believed to have been brought to Havana by an army survey group in November 1898; its use on the upper cover is earlier than previously recorded. It was superseded by a similar cancel in which "Havana" was included in the cds. Examples of this marking are recorded only from 21 December 1898 (above) to 26 January 1899.

CUBA
La Habana Province

Military Sta. No. 10 Havana
21 December 1898
1 February 1899



Mr. Edmund Pena *soldiers letter*

3 East



Mrs. Laban. J. Smith.
252. Frenchurch. St.
Norfolk.

Virginia
U. S. A.

Soldier mail
Boissacommoney
Capt Condg Co 'B'
4th US Vol Infrs.



Mrs. Laban. J. Smith.
252. Frenchurch. St.
Norfolk. Virginia
U. S. A.



(Paper)

A third RPO-type cancel was used December 1898 and January 1899, with the number "10" in the killer. (Use of U.S. special delivery stamp from a military station is extraordinary.) 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 can be dated due to the absence of transit or receiving markings.

CUBA
La Habana Province

Havana
8 April 1899
7 December 1901

Per Tampa

HAVANA CUBA.
APR 8 1899
REGISTERED NO.



Mr

*Francis L. Meliset.
Au Grand Hotel Par. Capucines
~~La Grande Rue Paris~~
~~St Leger par Tours~~
~~André et Lorie~~*



Registered.

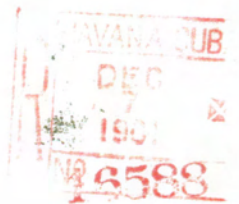


Leopolda Vormera Coque.

Via Poste Noire 10

Trieste

Austria.



*This envelope has
on it a 3.5+10 cent
stamp.*

1082

Registered mail from Havana during the American occupation does not provide any military station designation but the spelling is in English rather than Spanish. Two types of registration markings are shown above on covers to France and Austria, respectively.

CUBA
La Habana Province

Havana
15 November 1899
28 June 1901



Two additional auxiliary markings used in the Havana post office. The upper cover has the discovery example of a previously unrecorded marking of the "Lock Box Dept." and the lower shows a receiving cds of the "Carriers Dept." on a locally-addressed postal card.

CUBA
La Habana Province

Havana
7 December 1899
January 1901



Upper cover shows previously unrecorded auxiliary marking; this discovery example was officially taped and given bilingual marking "Received in Bad Order/Havana P.O. Cuba." The Havana Carriers Dept. was unable to locate the addressee of the lower cover, so it was advertised by the General Delivery Section, providing several unusual auxiliary markings on the front and back of the envelope.

CUBA
Camaguay Province

Military Sta. No. 11 Puerto Principe
9 March 1899
4 April 1899



The steel duplex of Puerto Principe (subsequently renamed Camaguay) is recorded in February and March 1899. Three-line handstamp to cancel postage on registered mail is recorded by Gordon but is very elusive; the boxed Registration marking is also quite scarce, with only five examples recorded.

CUBA
Camaguay Province
Pinar del Rio Province

Military Sta. No. 12 Neuyitas
1 March 1899

Military Sta. No. 15
Pinar del Rio
21 March 1899

The duplex cancel for Neuyitas is known from February to April 1899. Note that the correct spelling of the town should be "Neuvitas."

Penalty for private use,



Soldiers letter
H. F. Kendall
Capt. & Co.

Mar 12



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

Benjamin. S. Oushing.
WAR DEPARTMENT.
Pinar del Rio, Cuba.
Cost
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Use of the rubber datestamp for Pinar del Rio is relatively uncommon as it is recorded only in February and March 1899.

CUBA
Camaguay Province

Military Sta. No. 13 Cienfuegos
25 March 1899
30 March 1899
2 October 1899



The steel duplex of Cienfuegos is recorded from February to April 1899. Boxed registration handstamp and instructional markings reading "Second Notice" and "Forwarded" on middle cover are previously unrecorded. Similarly, the 3-line registration marking and double ring killer for registered mail shown on lower cover represent the discovery examples of these markings.

CUBA
Pinar del Rio Province
Las Villas Province
Oriente Province

Mil. P. Sta. No. 16 Guanajay
4 May 1899

Mil. P. Sta No. 18 Trinidad
13 March 1899

Mil. P. Sta. No. 19 Las Tunas
1 June 1899



Saladire Letter
Wm & Dougherty
May 1st 1899



Mrs. Grace Hill

H. W. Corner Sta
San

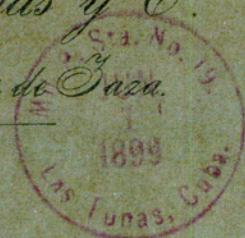
Soldire Letter
Geo. M. Travis
Capt. Co. H. 4th Regt.



Wm. Williams

Paris
Term.
A. S. A.

Figueras y Ca
Las Tunas de Vaca



Alernania

Sres G. H. Miller & Co

Bremen

Rubber cds markings are recorded as used at Guanajay from February to May 1899 (the oval killer was normally used on registered letters and parcel post). Postmarks of Trinidad are known from March to June 1899 (probable ERD shown above). Las Tunas is one of the scarcest markings, used briefly in the spring of 1899.

CUBA
Matanzas Province
Santiago Province

Mil. P. Sta. No. 21 Cardenas
11 April 1899

Mil. P. Sta. No. 22 Bayamo
29 May 1899

Mil. P. Sta. No. 24
Palma Soriano
20 March 1900

*T. H. Peck
2nd Lt., 10th Cav.*



Mrs. R. C. Phillips

SOLDIER'S LETTER.

J. Fowler,
Major, 10th Cav.
Bayamo.
Santiago, Cuba.



1442
AURELIO DE FLORES
MEDICO-CIRUJANO



Almania

Herr: Carl Kahl.

Dr. med. Heinrich Barla
Hals-Nasen-Ohrenarzt
Halle (Saale).

Halle a. d. Saale.

Sternstrasse No. 1.

REG. No. 88.

MAR 20 1900
Palma Soriano, Santiago.



Almania

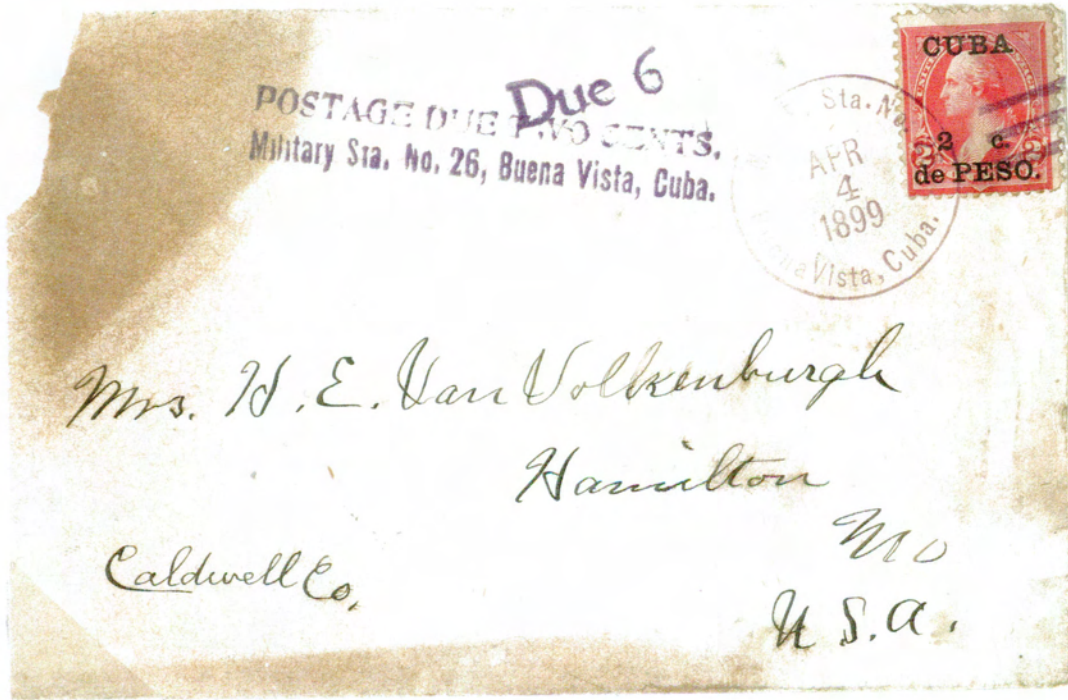
*J. Fowler Esq
Cornville
Dutchess Co
New York
aufenthalte.*



The rubber cds of Cardenas (usually blurred) is recorded in March and April 1899, but the postage due marking is unrecorded. The Bayamo marking is one of two recorded. No examples of a cds is 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

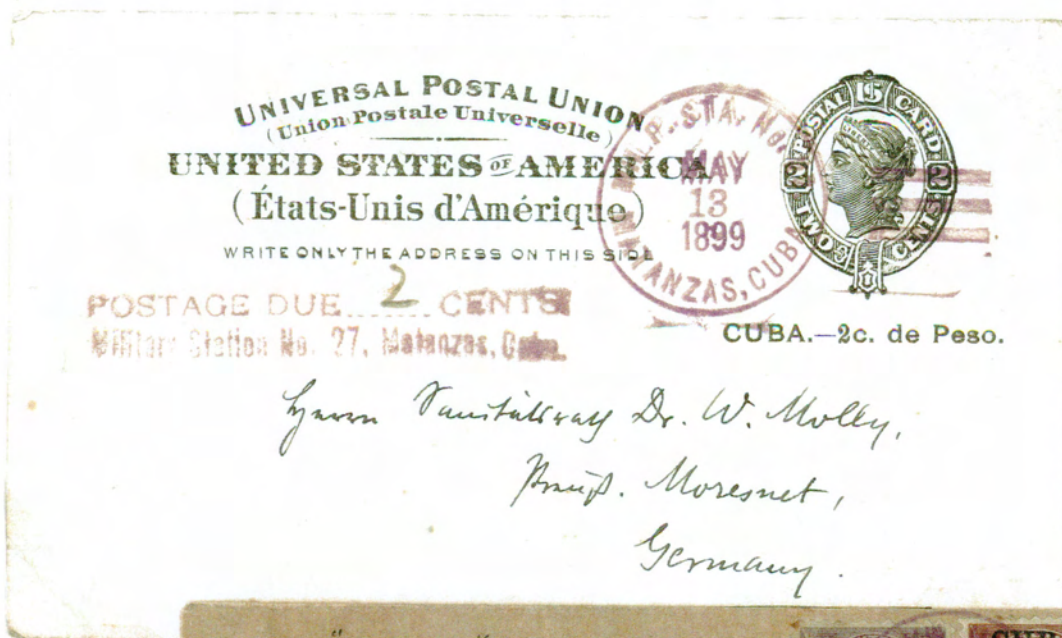
Military Sta. No. 26 Buena Vista
4 April 1899
6 June 1899



Examples above show rubber cds, postage due, and 4-line Registration markings of Buena Vista. The "Postage Due" type is unrecorded in Baker. As the upper cover is not endorsed "soldier's letter," it was assessed a double deficiency for the 3 centavos underpayment.

CUBA
Matanzas Province

Military Sta. No. 27 Matanzas
13 May 1899
5 May 1899



Examples above show rubber cds, postage due, and 5-line Registration markings of Matanzas. The former is recorded used from 28 January to 2 August 1899, while the "Postage Due" and "Registered" types are 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
12 June 1899

Military Sta. No. 34 Caibarien
19 January 1899
21 March 1899

After...5.....days, return to
*Dr M L. Turner 2nd Lt & Infy.
Sagua La Grande Cuba.*



J. B. Lippincott Co.

Department of Posts.
POST OFFICE AT CAIBARIEN, CUBA
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
(No. 1-A.)

This envelope can lawfully be used only by an
Officer of the Cuban Postal Service on Official
Business. The use of it to avoid payment of
postage on private matter of any kind is punish-
able by a fine of \$300.
REGISTERED
MAR 19 1899
Military Station No. 34,
Caibarien, Cuba.
N.Y.P.O.

J M

*Mr C. Vernon. Smith
52 Orchard st
Elizabeth
New Jersey
U.S.A*



The rubber cds of Sagua la Grande is known used from March to July 1899. Registration marking of Caibarien is previously unrecorded. The cds of Caibarien is only recorded used in March 1899, and fewer than five examples have been reported.

CUBA
La Habana Province

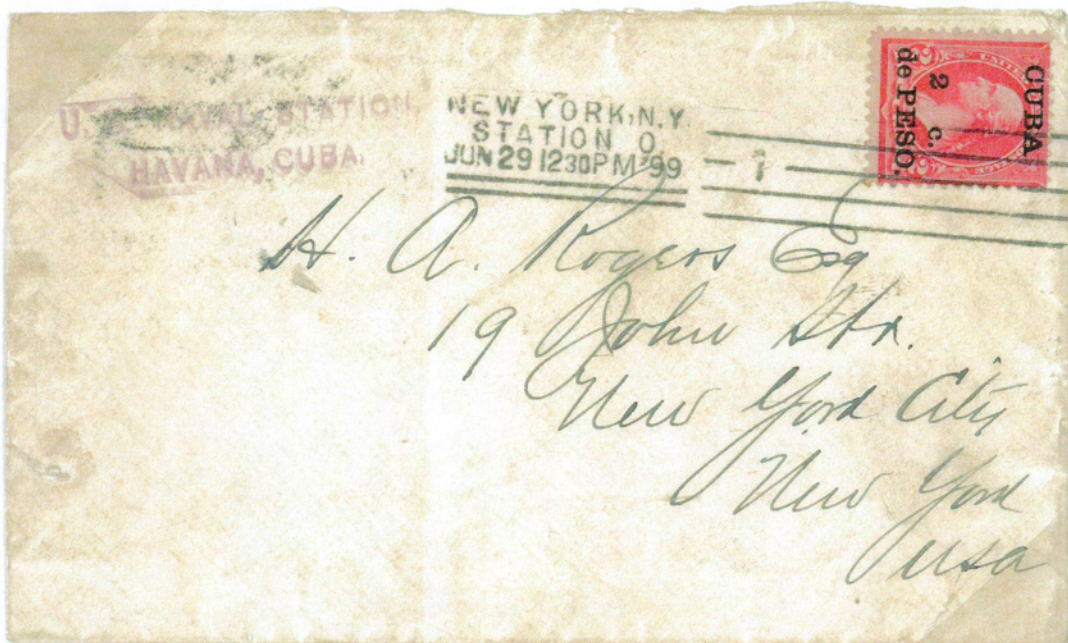
Columbia Barracks
22 April 1901
16 December 1899



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 the steel duplex shown above have been reported. Below is the discovery example of a registration marking -- struck on a sheet of note paper used as a wrapper.

CUBA
U. S. Naval Station

Havana
June 1899



Two line rubber stamp "U.S. Naval Station/Havana, Cuba" not previously recorded. Franked with 2 cent "Cuba" overprinted stamp, which was accepted when the letter entered the mail stream in New York.

CUBA
Naval Mail



Guantanamo Bay
20 July 1898
August 1898



Upper cover mailed by sailor from protected cruiser U.S.S. Columbia at Camp McCulloch, Guantanamo. Contents state that "We are coaling up here and expect to leave for Porto Rico tomorrow," and that "All hands are out of stamps now and we must send our letters C.O.D." However, postage due was apparently not assessed when letter entered the mails at Key West. Lower cover from U.S.S. Resolute to Naval Hospital at Norfolk, where it was redirected on arrival 6 August.

Yesterday and inquire my family for all Mrs. M. & family
 when I am in Key West
 and you are in Key West

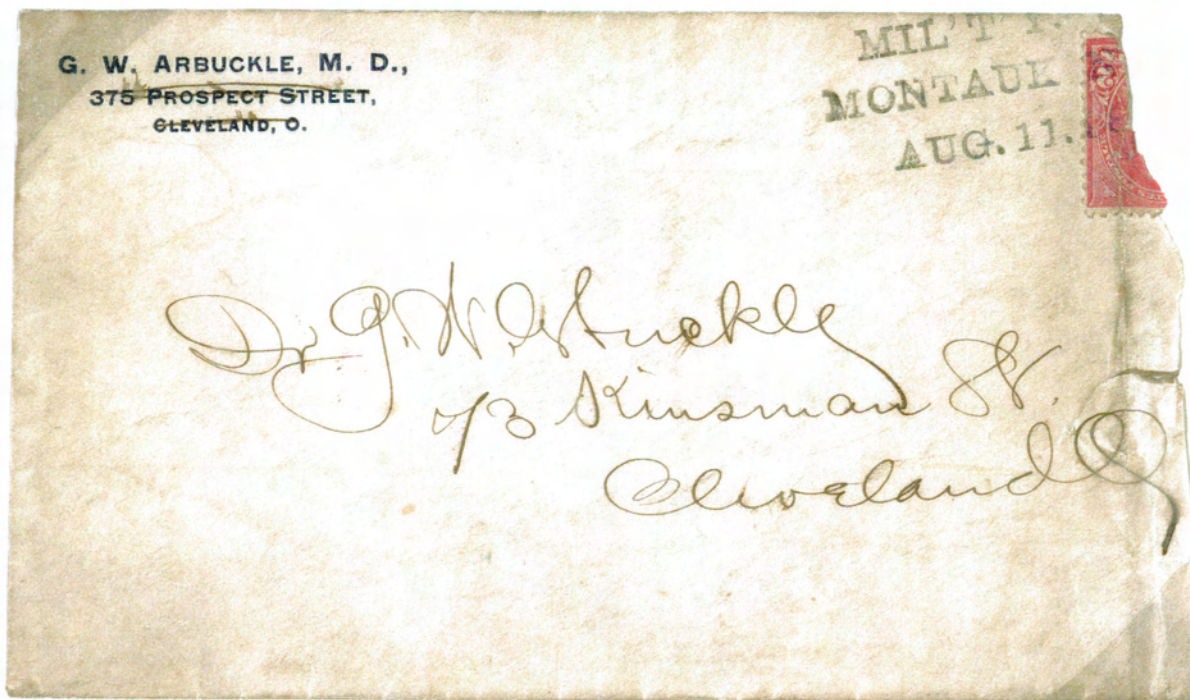
Camp of the
 First Marine Battalion,
 Guantanamo 7/14 1898.
 My Precious:
 I have written
 several times within a week
 and this is to go, I believe,
 via Key West, the place
 where your letters seem to stop.
 No word from Newport since
 17th ult. Suppose many
 letters will come in a lot.
 Note Mr. Dole to-day congratulating
 upon annexation of Hawaii. Have written
 Burton. Santiago surrendered to-day &c.
 pleases us very much. The r. f. is
 bad but has not reached us yet.
 Three ships in quarantine in the harbor &
 much care taken to guard against infection.
 Capt. B. Baker & Com. W. H. H. here

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY
 Mrs. Henry C. Cochrane,
 Newport,
 Maine Baracks. } R. I.

Post card from Maj. Henry Clay Cochrane, second in command of the First Marine Battalion in Cuba, to his wife in Newport. Written at Guantanamo on 14 July 1898, noting that "Santiago surrendered today." It was delivered by ship to the post office at Key West and placed in the mails four days later. The above is the only recorded piece of Marine mail from Guantanamo during the Spanish-American War.

CUBA
Quarantine Mail

Montauk Station, N.Y.
11 August 1898
12 September 1898



The only recorded example of 3-line provisional "Mil't'y Sta./Montauk N.Y." postmark which was used prior to arrival of definitive cds.



Because of an outbreak of yellow fever among the troops involved in the Santiago campaign and the lack of adequate facilities to care for them on Cuba, an isolated area was set aside at Montauk Point on the eastern end of Long Island. It was designated as Camp Nikoff and served as a quarantine area in order to avoid spreading the disease to civilians in the U.S. To serve the postal needs of the troops, a special post office operated at Montauk from August 1898 to February 1899.

CUBA
Prisoner of War Mail

Annapolis, Md.
8 August 1898

Washington, D.C.
1898



Spanish naval officers captured during the battle of Santiago Harbor were transported to the U.S. For a time, they were held at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, pending repatriation to Spain following the signing of the armistice agreement on 12 August 1898.

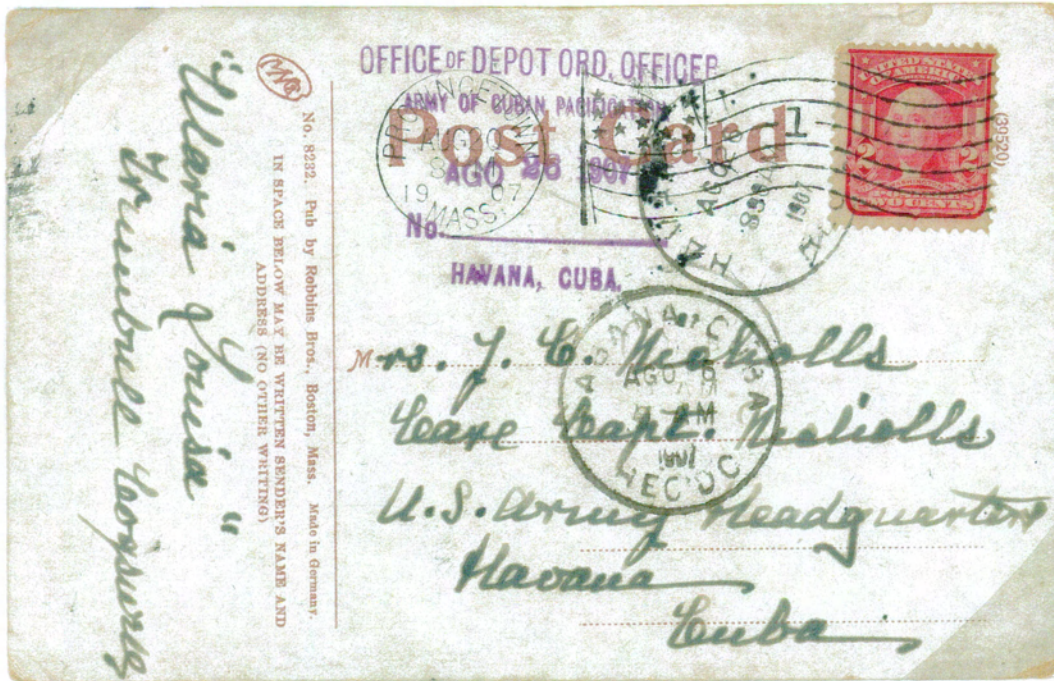
Mail from the POWs was censored by U.S. authorities before being dispatched. Two types of censor markings are shown above. The example from Annapolis reading "U.S.N.A./Censored" is mentioned but not illustrated in the literature. That from Washington reading "Prisoner's Letter/Censored and forwarded" is previously unrecorded. Both are short-lived and extremely elusive markings.

CUBA 1906-1909

When Cuba was granted independent self-government in 1902 following the Spanish-American War, the U.S. reserved its right under the Platt Amendment to take over the Cuban government under certain circumstances. In response to a revolt following a fraudulent election, the Americans invoked this right and, in October 1906, sent an Army of Cuban Pacification to Havana. This force, which numbered 6,500 at its peak, faced no opposition as its presence was welcomed by both the Cuban government and the revolutionaries. After the situation had stabilized, the Americans withdrew on 31 March 1909.

Inbound via Cuban post office

Havana
26 August 1907



The Cuban post office, like the rest of the Cuban government during this intervention, accepted and cooperated with the U.S. administration. Therefore, the U.S. relied on the civilian Cuban post offices to handle the mail for the troops. Note administrative receiving mark of the "Army of Cuban Pacification," previously unrecorded.

CUBA

Columbia Barracks
18 August 1907
25 January 1908

Edgar W. Howe,
Major 27th Infantry
HAVANA, CUBA,
Camp Columbia.



Ordinary letter sent from a Major in the Infantry to a relative in Pennsylvania. Unusual to have an officer's corner card.

*William Howe
125 North Duke St.
Lancaster
Pa.*



Registered letter sent from the post hospital at Columbia Barracks to Massachusetts. As is the case with most of the military campaigns, registered mail from the troops is very elusive.

Camp Columbia, in which American soldiers had served following the Spanish-American War, was the main encampment in the Havana area during the second intervention. In 1906, a Cuban post office was established there to serve the needs of the newly-arrived U.S. troops. Cuban postage was required, with rates of 2 centavos for letters and 8 centavos for registration.

CUBA
Marines Mail

Sancti Spiritus
18 February 1907

Baracoa
2 September 1908



As the 1906-1909 intervention in Cuba was mainly an Army operation, mail related to Marine participants is quite unusual. Shown above are outbound and inbound examples.

CUBA
Incoming Mail

Lajas
1907

Columbia Barracks
8 April 1909

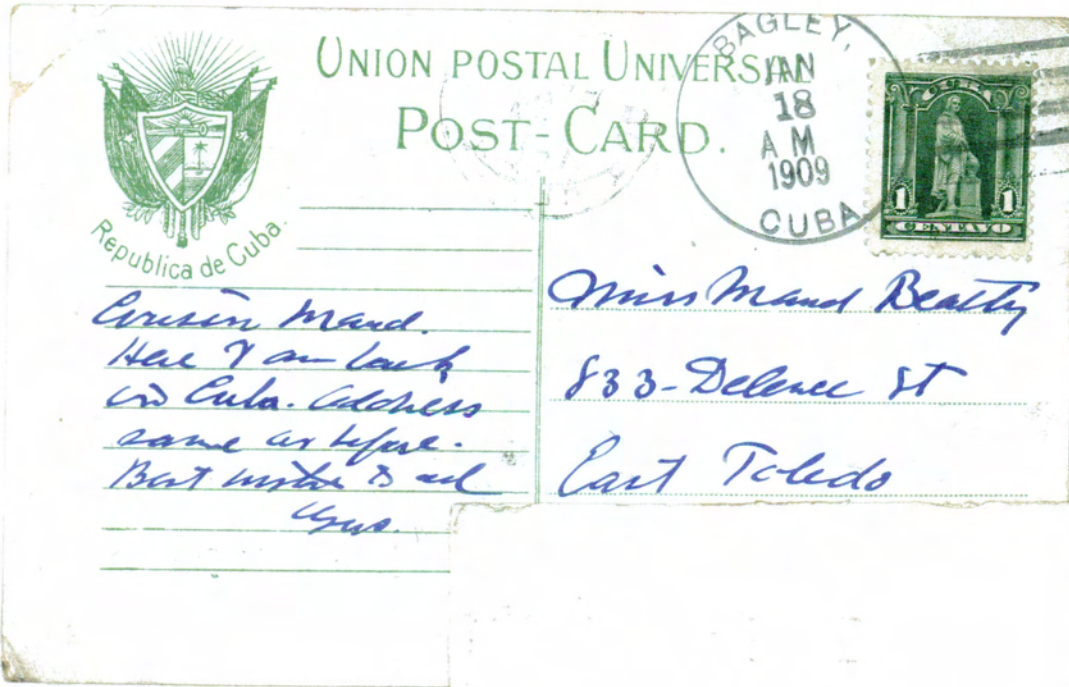


The postcard above was mailed from Wisconsin in February 1907 to a Marine at the camp for "L" Company, "I" Regiment at Lajas, Cuba. It was then forwarded to the Marine Corps HQ in Washington for readdressing, went to the Marine Barracks at League Island, Pa. and on to the Barracks in Philadelphia.

The mourning cover below was sent from Detroit on 1 April 1909, the day after U.S. troops left Havana. The registration marking of Columbia Barracks was applied as a receiving mark, and the letter was forwarded to Fort Sheridan, Illinois and then on to Washington, D.C.

CUBA

Bagley
18 January 1909
28 March 1909
1 June 1909



The United States had leased the area around Guantanamo Bay in 1903, but did not begin construction of the planned naval base there until after the beginning of the 1906 intervention. To serve the influx of construction and military personnel associated with the project, a U.S. post office (named Bagley for a naval officer killed in the Spanish-American War) was opened at South Toro Cay on 25 March 1907. This office officially closed on 27 February 1909, but the latest recorded use of its postmark is 1 June 1909 (above). Only U.S. postage was supposed to be used at Bagley, but this was not always the case in actuality.

CUBA 1917-1922

Following elections marked with the now-traditional fraud and violence, another revolt broke out in Cuba in February 1917. Though this had largely died out by May, the U.S. and Cuban governments decided that an American military presence in Eastern Cuba would serve their respective interests. At the suggestion of the Cubans, the U.S. leased "training camps" in Oriente and Camaguey Provinces, but in August 1917 filled them with Marines rather than soldiers being trained for France. Eventually overstaying their welcome, the last Marines were withdrawn on 6 February 1922.

Station Ship at Guantanamo Bay
2 October 1917
10 October 1917

Cpl. F. J. Kaiser,
Hed. Det., 7th Rgt.
of Marines.



Mrs. Mae Plandig,
2368 Catalpa Ave.,
Brooklyn,
N.Y.

U.S.A.

MARINE-MAIL
Place the Stamp Here

REPUBLICA DE CUBA.
TARJETA POSTAL.
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE.
(POST CARD — CARTE POSTALE)

ADDRESS ONLY
TWENTY CENTS
For Foreign

MESSAGE MAY BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

PUBLISHED BY HARRIS BROS. CO., HAVANA, CUBA. MADE IN U. S. A.

J. K. Bown
72nd Co. 7th Regt. U.S.M.C.
Guantanamo Bay Cuba
40 Naval Station

Edw. M. Coory,
2nd Lt. U.S. Army

Hallo Mrs. Shirley
how is everything?
I hope business
etc. is fine because
I'll soon be back
to see you another
visit
Sincerely
Gene Bown

4300 Wentworth ave
Minneapolis
Minn.
U.S.A.

PASSED
10
A.M.
OCT 10 1917

The 7th Marine Regiment landed at Guantanamo Bay in late August 1917, and elements were dispatched inland, mainly to Santiago de Cuba in Oriente Province. At first the mail was postmarked on the Receiving Ship at Guantanamo. The Marines in Cuba were entitled to the military free frank, which went into effect for U.S. servicemen overseas on 4 October 1917.

CUBA

9th Regiment
19 March 1918
17 April 1918



G. & C. Merriam Company,
Springfield,
Massachusetts.

W. Sampson,
Med. Dept. 9th Regt. U.S.M.C.
c/o P.M. New York, N.Y.

PASSEDE
by Rice
CENSOR

PASSEDE

CENSOR



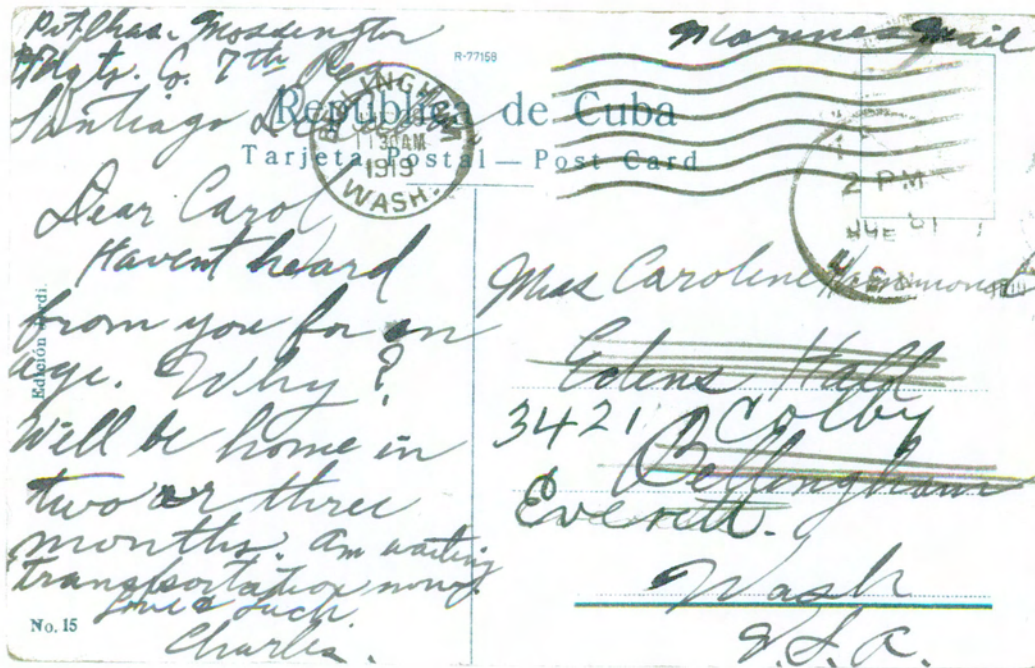
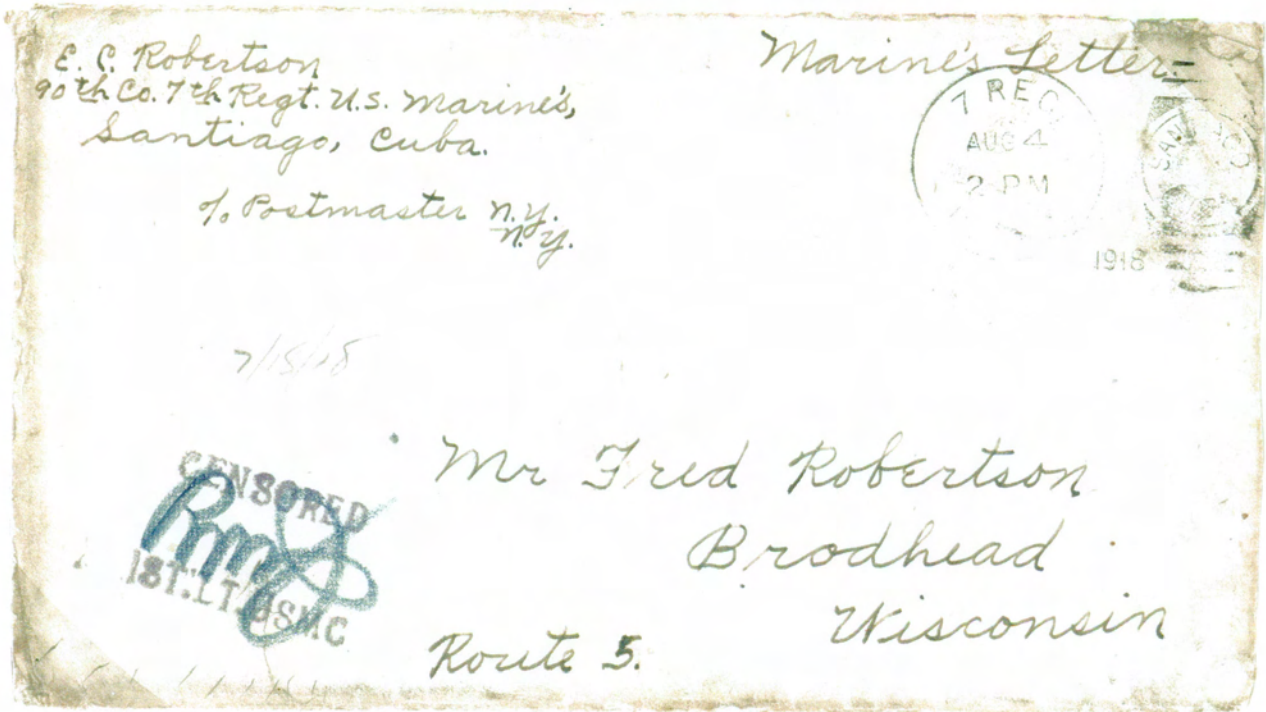
Mrs Ed Dittender
41 Magnolia Ave
Sanford
Florida

The 9th Marines arrived at Guantanamo Bay in December 1917. However, their presence was not required inland, and they appeared to have remained at Guantanamo until leaving Cuba in July 1918.

CUBA

7 Reg./U.S.M.C./Santiago/Cuba
4 August 1918
31 July 1919

Earliest & Latest Recorded Examples of this Postmark

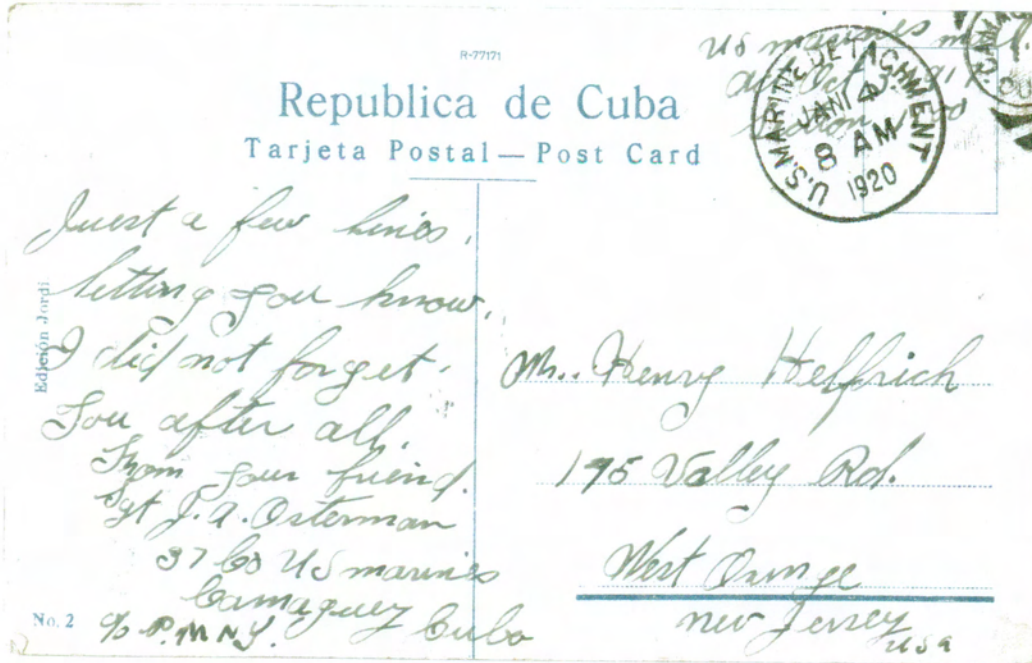


Except for Guantanamo, no postal service was provided for mail from the Marines until the summer of 1918 when the 7th Regiment postmark for Santiago was introduced.

CUBA

U.S. Marine Detachment/Camaguey/Cuba
14 January 1920
17 January 1922

Earliest Recorded Example of this Postmark



Although theoretically in use for more than two years, the postmark of the Marine Detachment in Camaguey is quite elusive, with fewer than five examples recorded. Used from 14 January 1920 to February 1922.

From
Pvt. E. C. Robertson
90th Co. 7th Regt. U. S. Marines,
Santiago, Cuba.
% Postmaster New York
N.Y.

Marine's mail.
PASSED BY CENSOR
H. Gardner
SECOND LIEUT U S M C

Mr Fred Robertson
Brodhead

Pvt Bert Davis
37th Co 7th Regt U.S.M.C.
Bayamo Cuba

Censored
Ld.
Captain

Marine's
mail

Miss Freda Davis

Pvt Bert Davis
37th Co 7th Regt U.S.M.C.
Camaguey Cuba

Marine's Mail,
Passed by Censor,
G. J.
2ND LIEUT., M.C.

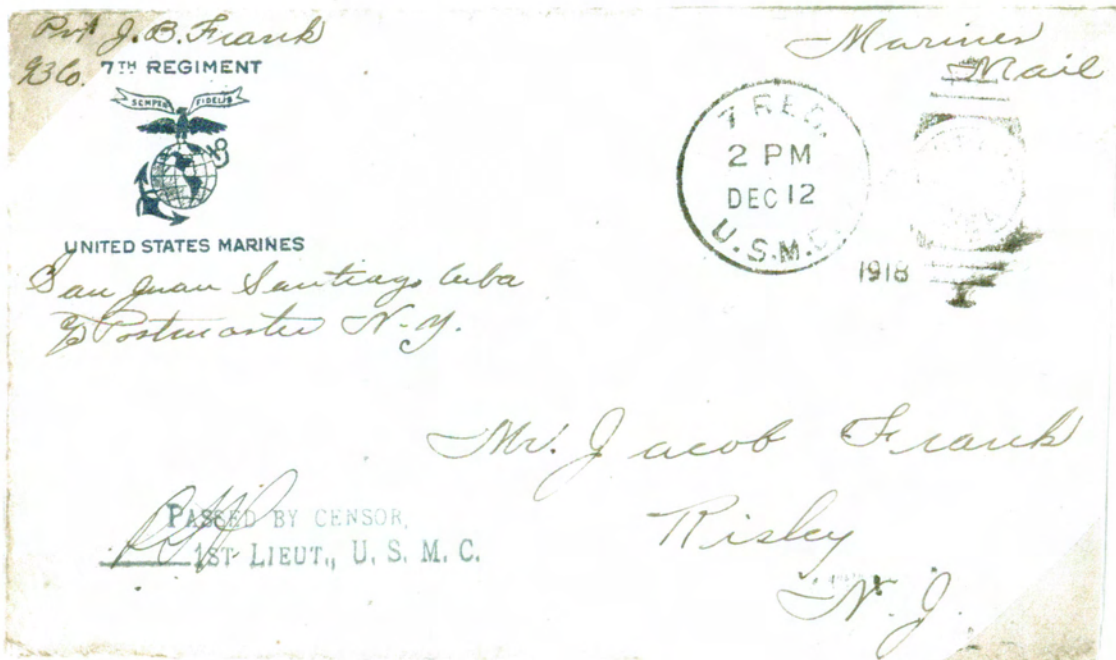
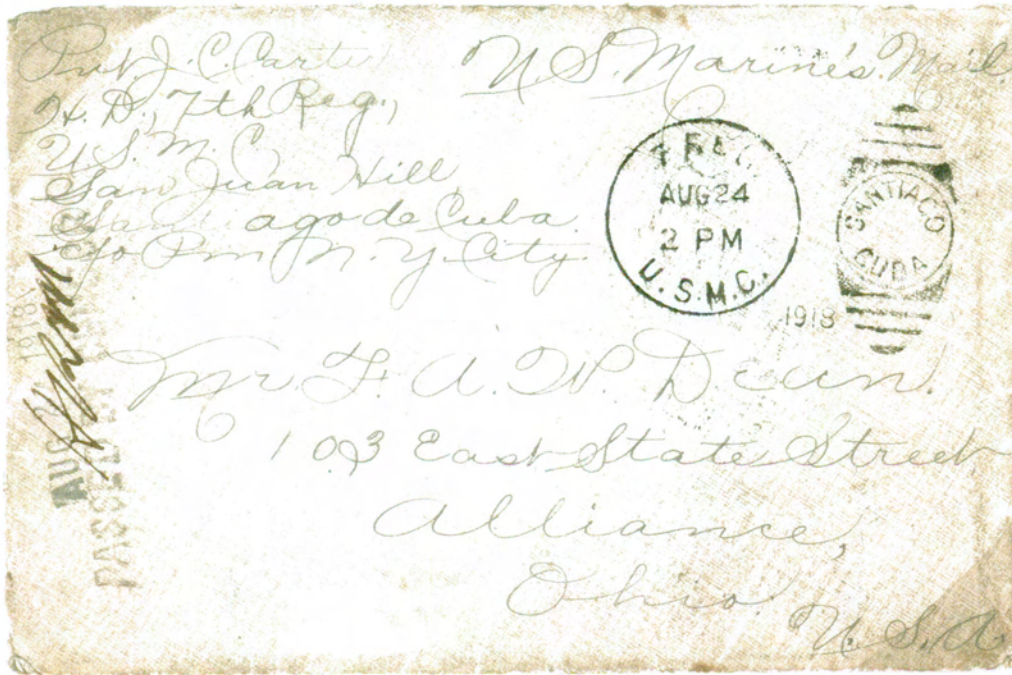
Calif
Oska
U.S.A.

Mr & Mrs J. J. Davis
839 So Hill St
Los Angeles
Calif.
ndc

In addition to the major concentrations at Guantanamo and Santiago, Marines were stationed at Bayamo, Camaguey and San Luis. Any mail that can be attributed to these locations is quite scarce.

CUBA

7 Reg./U.S.M.C./Santiago/Cuba
24 August 1918
12 December 1918



The primary encampment of the Marines outside Guantanamo Bay was at San Juan Hill (of Rough Rider fame during the Spanish-American War) near Santiago. The above covers show this location in their return addresses, the only examples seen by exhibitor so endorsed.

AMERICAN TPO USE ON
MAIL FROM CUBA

Ft. Pierce & Key West R.P.O.
23 February 1918

*Mr. H. Hickman
86 Co. 7th Reg. M.C.
Santiago Cuba
to postmaster N.Y.*



*Mrs. E. L. Hickman
Tooele
City,
Utah.
Box 120 U.S.A.*

Although Cuba was given its independence in 1902, from time to time the American government felt it necessary to intervene there to restore order. One such occasion was in 1918 when the 7th Regiment of Marines was sent to Santiago to put down a rebellion. This cover was sent by a member of the intervention force to a family member in Utah. It did not receive a military postmark, but an R.P.O. cancel was applied as it was traveling by train from Key West to Fort Pierce within Florida.

CUBA
Registered Mail

U.S.M.C. Santiago, Cuba
7 May 1919

Only Recorded Examples
of this Postmark



Marines
Mail

mann



Sgt. L. W. Borliene, m
HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH PROVISIONAL BRIGADE, U.S.M.C.
SAN JUAN, SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA.

Censored

Major, U.S.M.C.

REGISTERED
NO. 782

Registered mail from this intervention has never been reported in the literature. Thus, it is extraordinary that the only two examples known today were mailed on the same day, both showing the use of this hitherto unrecorded registration marking.

CUBA

Closely related but not a part of the Hemisphere Defense arrangements were the U.S. Naval facilities and the Marine units guarding them at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This area was our earliest foreign base, being leased on a perpetual basis from the Cuban government in 1903. However, as war clouds became more threatening, a major build-up in our strength there took place in late 1940 and throughout 1941.

Navy

Guantanamo Bay/Cuba/U.S. Naval Sta.
Guantanamo Bay/Cuba/U.S. Naval Operating Base
Machine Cancellations

1-B-11, FME, FMB,
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



Mrs. E. W. Gardner
278 George Avenue,
Wilkes-Barre

After 5 days, return to
Selden E. Goldstein O.S.M.C.
Box 19
US-NOB GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA



Mr. & Mrs. H. Goldstein
74 Mill St.
Springfield, Mass
U.S. A.

The Naval post office at Guantanamo Bay already had a long history, extending back to the first facility (named Bagley, Cuba) opened in 1907. The official designation of the station was changed from "Naval Station" to "Naval Operating Base" as of 1 April 1941.

CUBA
Navy

U.S. Naval Sta./Guantanamo Bay
U.S. Naval Operating Base/Guantanamo, Cuba
Handstamps
Special Services



Examples of handstamps used during 1941. Note cut-outs of special services markings provided to collector on a request basis. (No actually used examples have been seen by exhibitor.) Each of these is different in some questionable respect. The registration cds misspells the name of the station "Goantanamo." The money order cds indicates that it is a branch of Miami. The parcel post cds misspells the station "Caunt." and indicates that it is a branch of New York.

CUBA
Navy

U. S. Navy
Machine Cancellation

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$800.
MAY 17
2 PM
1945
NAVY

The Deming Company
Salem, Ohio.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT
NAVAL OPERATING BASE
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

me

Sufficient mail volume was generated at the Naval base that a "U. S. Navy" machine marking was placed in use at the Guantanamo base.

CUBA
Navy

U.S.N. Mobile Base Hosp./#1
Handstamps

Ensign P. F. Ashler
Mobile Hospital Base No. 1
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



Mr. A. Kneemoeller
Jacob Reeds Sons
Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
United States of America

H.C. GABB HA/1 U.S.N.
U.S.N. M/B HOSPITAL #1
GUANTANAMO BAY
CUBA



JOHNSON SMITH COMPANY
DETROIT
MICHIGAN
U.S.A.

A special postal facility was opened for the Naval Mobile Base Hospital on 13 November 1940. However, its operations appear to have been folded into the other Naval postal activities sometime in 1941.

CUBA
Navy

U. S. Navy
Handstamp
Contractor's Mail

Lewey Box #31

After 5 days, return to
FREDERICK SNARE CORPORAT
Contract NOy-4162
U. S. Naval Station
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA



VIA AIR MAIL



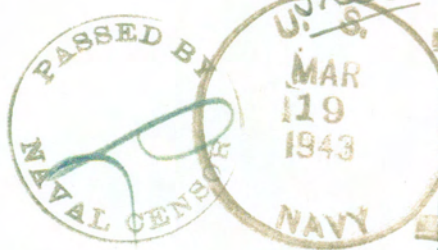
Mrs Marie C. Lewey
4721 Southern Pkwy.
Louisville, Ky.

"Special Delivery"



Special Del.
Approved by Office of Post Address

FROM
Joe Cauthorn Spm/3c U.S.N.R.
Locker Box - Fleet P.O.
"U. S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE"
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

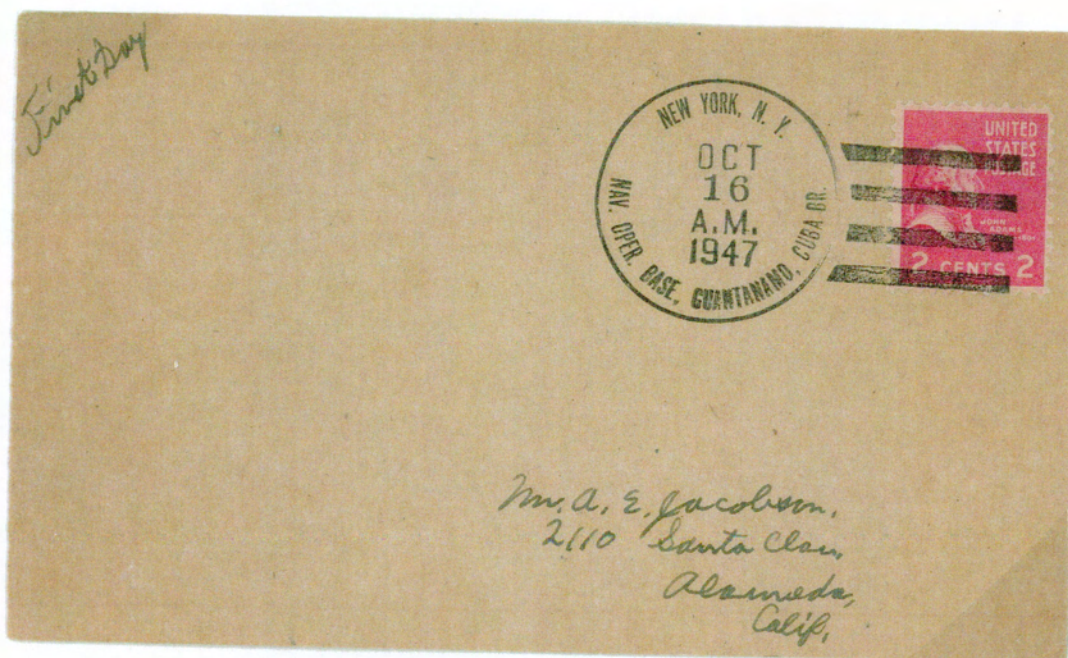


To Regalia Mfg Co
Rock Island
Ill

U. S. Navy postmarks used on contractor's and sailor's mail, in the former case on stamps paying the 16 cent rate for airmail - special delivery service.

CUBA
Navy

New York, N.Y./Nav. Oper. Base, Guantanamo, Cuba Br.
Handstamp



In the conversion to postwar operations, a new handstamp providing details as to the postal status of the base was introduced on 16 October 1947.

CUBA
Navy

Naval Oper. Base/Guantanamo, Cuba
Machine Cancellation

USS PETREL (ASR 14)
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
New York, N. Y.



*Fred Obst
170 Oak Street*

T. E. CRAIG
NAVY 115 Box 55
% FPO NEW YORK, N. Y.

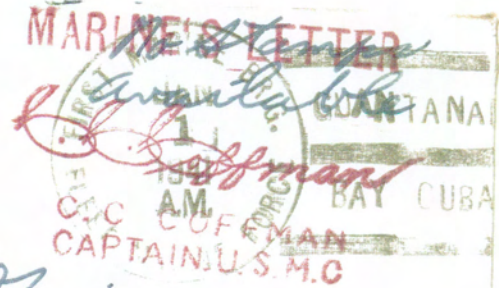


MR. AND MRS. W. GORBON
46 ~~3~~ Ravine Drive
Caldwell, N. J.

A new version of the machine cancellation for the Base was also introduced in the postwar period.

CUBA
Marines

First Marine Brig./Fleet Marine Force
Handstamps



Mr J.W. McGuire
C/o Coas Garage
Montrose, Pennsylvania
U.S.A.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Pvt. Hershell D. McGuire U.S.M.C.
B-1-11 F.M.B. F.M.F.
Guantanamo Bay Cuba

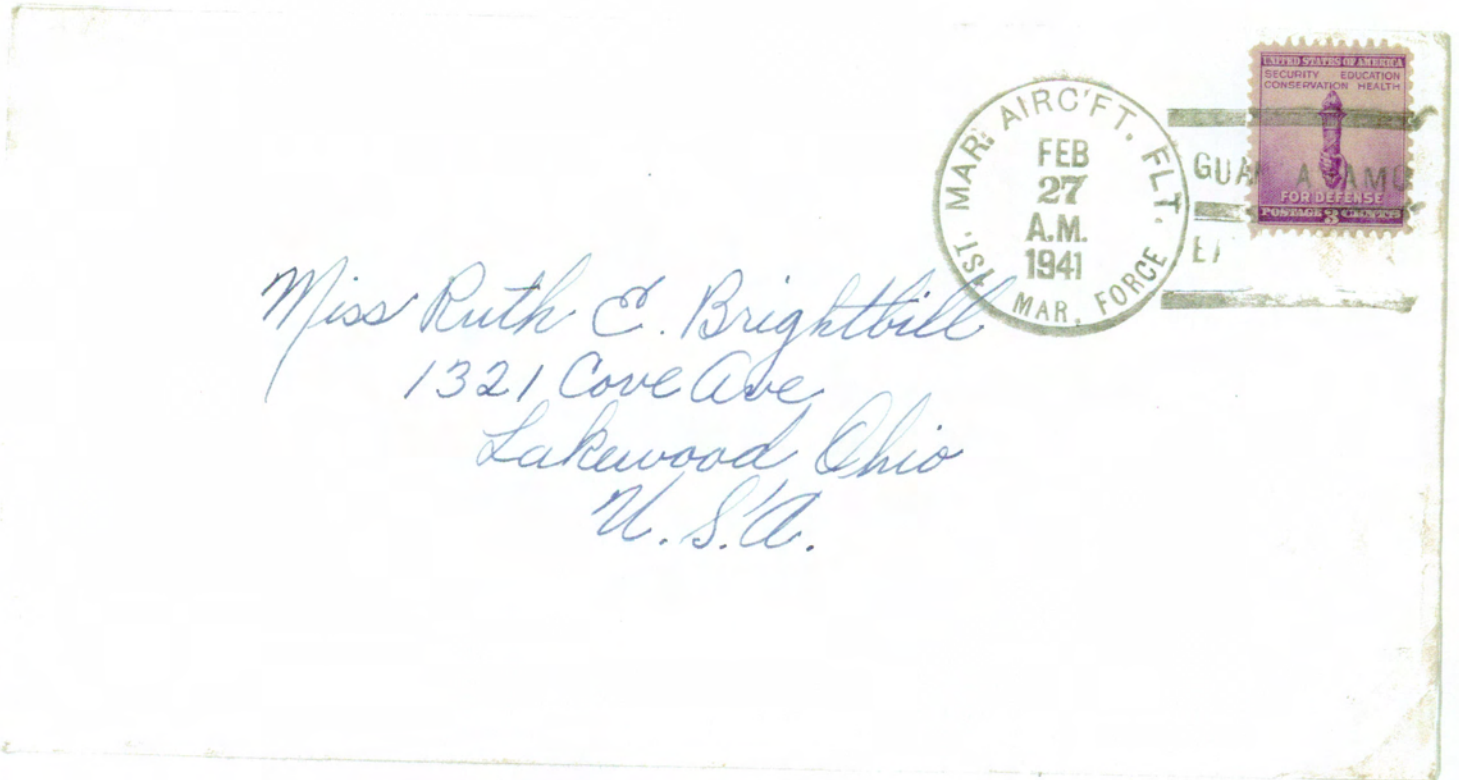


Johnson Smith & Co.
6615 E. Jefferson Avenue
Detroit Michigan
U.S.A.

As part of the built-up process, additional Marines were sent to Guantanamo in the fall of 1940. On 27 October, a postmark inscribed for the First Marine Brigade of the Fleet Marine Force was introduced, with "Guantanamo Bay, Cuba" inserted between the killer bars. During a period of stamp shortage at the beginning of 1941, a special cachet was applied to letters permitting them to be sent, with postage due being collected from the addressees.

CUBA
Marines

1st. Mar. Airc'ft. Flt./Mar. Force
Handstamp



Even the Marine aviation group at Guantanamo had its own postmark for a brief period in 1941. The return address on the reverse of this cover includes the designation "Squadron V.M.O.-1."

CUBA
Marines

Fourth Defense Battalion/Fleet Marine Force
Handstamps

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



The Director,
Marine Corps Institute,
Washington, D.C.

With the arrival of additional Marines in early 1941, a further postmark was introduced. This time for the "Fourth Defense Battalion." (The example dated 8 February 1941 is the probably the earliest recorded.)

United States Marine Corps



Ready to Defend America



NAVY DEPARTMENT
BATTERY "D", AA ARTILLERY
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
MB. NS. QUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

JAMES D. ATWATER
14 Sterling St.
Westfield, Mass.
U.S.A.