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# AUXILIARY MARKINGS

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Issue No. 5

A journal that reports about and studies the myriad markings  
added to a letter that explain how it reached its final destination

Publication of The Auxiliary Markings Club

www.postal-markings.org

Retour



ADV<sup>D</sup>  
1Ct.

*Way*



## Table of Contents

AMC President Message .....	1	by David Allan Cooper, Sr.
by Nancy B. Clark		
Great Auxiliary Marking...if only.....	1	Auxiliary Markings on First day Covers.....4,5
by Gerald Nylander		by Ralph Nafziger
Editorial.....	2	Return to Sender/Writer Hands on Military Mail.....6,7,8
by Tony Wawrukiewicz		by George Cosentini and Tony Wawrukiewicz
Canadian Pacific Express, Uncalled For and Undeliverable		Bibliography for Auxiliary Markings (updated).....8
Notices.....	2,3	by Tony Wawrukiewicz

### AMC President Message by Nancy B. Clark

Welcome to our second year of *Auxiliary Markings* newsletters! Thanks to all of you who have made this possible. Tony edits the work and puts our information into a format we can keep and share. Resourceful authors write up their information and share it with fellow members. Copies of our newsletter go to the American Philatelic Research Library. We are creating an archive of information as a resource for future collectors.

If you are a brave volunteer who agreed to coordinate a specialized area of auxiliary markings and are getting bummed over not receiving any response from the membership in your area of interest, may I make a suggestion? Write about a specific aspect of your specialty. When the article appears you may well find that others share your interests but lacked a starting point to converse with you. You may also find a fellow "organizer" who has made an attempt to relate materials in an order you had not considered. So provide a framework or focus on a small area of knowledge and get Tony an article: a win – win situation all around.

Included in this issue of the AM is another membership survey. It has been altered from the initial attempt to discover what our members collect as people were unsure what categories to check. Others did not find a category that matched their interests. We hope this version will be easier to use and more meaningful in its categories. In a newly formed organization, especially one with collecting interests as broad as our group's, categorization is tough to come by. Please send this form to Jerry Johnson ASAP.

The Board has looked at a preliminary set of By-laws and recommended modifications. When the revised set is ready, hopefully by this spring, it will be sent to you for your vote.

The exhibit copy service is proving popular, even with only a single exhibit to share. As I write this the holidays are upon us. May you always have a mail receptacle, not be "missent" and your year be full of fingers pointing to new discoveries!

### Great Auxiliary Marking ... if only by Gerald Nylander

I was reading my August 23, 2004 copy of *Linn's*, and one of the lead articles caught my eye. It was by Charles Snee and it concerned modern counterfeit stamps being used on the west coast. He went into the details of how this flag stamp differed from the Post Office issued stamp and that the stamps were being sold on the Internet. They were being offered as excess postage from a failed business and offered as a discount. Where have we heard that before?

And then there it was. Down in the article, on the second page of the story, was the mention of it. Mr. Snee quoted a government official as saying "When small volumes of questionable mail were found, they were sent to a mail-processing center and marked before being returned to the senders. Each letter bore this marking: 'Returned to Sender Evidence of Counterfeit Postage.'" He indicated that the marking was applied using a handstamp or a preprinted yellow or white label. Unfortunately, no cover was shown with the story.

This sounds like a great auxiliary marking...if only? If only we find it! It's up to us stamp collectors, and hopefully AMC members, to find this new marking and or label. Since this happened on the west coast, chances are that's the first place to look, so AMC members out there should start searching. But they could have been sent anywhere so that doesn't mean the rest of us can't look and find it either.

Who's going to find this marking to show our editor so it can be in our journal?

Good hunting out there, everyone!

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### Editorial by Tony Wawrukiewicz

This January issue marks the beginning of the second year of publication of *Auxiliary Markings*. I have really appreciated receiving a number of excellent articles for publication. I am proud of the product. Except for one thing, I have enjoyed being the editor.

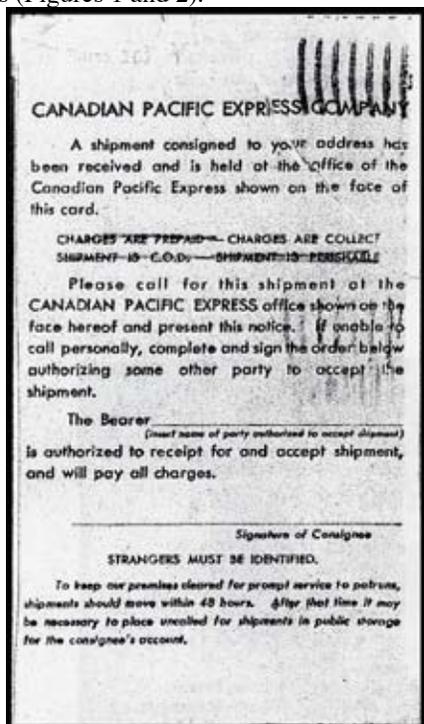
That is, because I am involved with so many aspects of our hobby and have many interests in my private life, my time for editing is somewhat limited. I welcome manuscripts in any form as I can have them transcribed for me into a Word document. When I receive a manuscript with images that still need some work, I am more than willing to clean them up for publication. I also can take a single interesting auxiliary marking, write it up, and scan an attractive image for the newsletter.

However, I am finding that I do not have the time and energy to take a group of auxiliary markings sent to me without any text or story, write the story and produce images that I feel are worthy of our group's publication. Admittedly, in the past year, I have willingly chosen to do this for a few articles, but I can't continue to do this and keep my sanity.

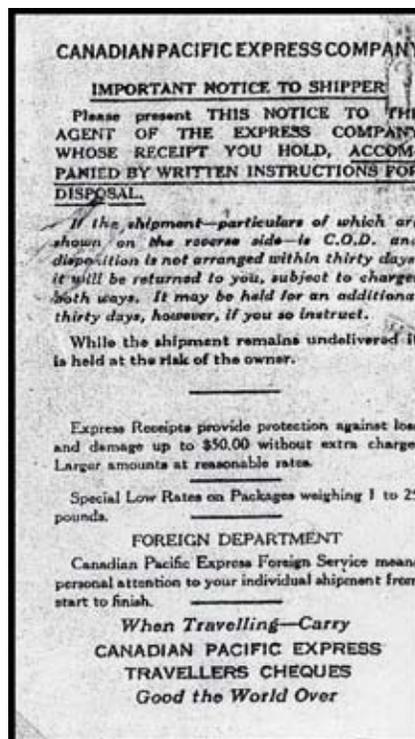
**Announcement:** I have a group of spray markings that are auxiliary markings, and together they make the beginning of a nice article, especially if any of you have a few more examples to contribute. If anyone has any that they would like to contribute, please send them to me as a 300 DPI jpeg or color copy, and I will use them together as an article in the next newsletter. Thanks.

### Canadian Pacific Express, Uncalled For and Undeliverable Notices by David Allan Cooper, Sr.

The Canadian Pacific Express Company shipped items for its customers. This company used two forms for this business, 161 and 186, where Form 161 advised consignees that shipments were available for pickup while Form 186 advised the original shipper that the goods were unable to be delivered and requested disposal instructions (Figures 1 and 2).



Form 161



Form 186

For various reasons these forms were not always deliverable and received various Canadian Post office auxiliary markings to this affect. This article illustrates three examples of the misadventure of these forms, from 1951 to 1954.

The Oct. 20, 1952, 2¢ postal card in Figure 1 is a copy of Form 161 (the form itself is on the reverse). This form was advising a consignee that a shipment was available for pick-up. This card was mailed to the consignee at the 2¢ third-class rate, but could not be delivered to him because he was "Not Known."

That is, it was "RETURNED TO SENDER" because of the manuscript "Not Known" which overlies the boxed handstamp. Also note the "DO NOT REMAIL UNDER THIS COVER" notice at the bottom of the box. This postal card was returned "2 CENTS DUE" (see 2¢ postage due stamp) because matter at the third-class rate was not returned free but at the 2¢ third-class rate.



Figure 1

The June 23, 1952, 3¢ postal card in Figure 2 is a copy of Form 186 which was attempting to advise the original shipper that the goods could not be delivered, and requested disposal instructions ("...the consignee is unknown here no such number as above. Please advise."). That is, the Canadian Pacific Express Company was requesting disposal instructions for this package for the reason given.

The rate paid is the domestic, surface, post card rate because there was writing on the front that was not allowed on third-class matter. This card could not be delivered to the original shipper ("RETURN TO SENDER, NOT IN DIRECTORY") and was returned free because it was mailed at the first-class rate. The pointing hand is quite elaborate and beautiful.

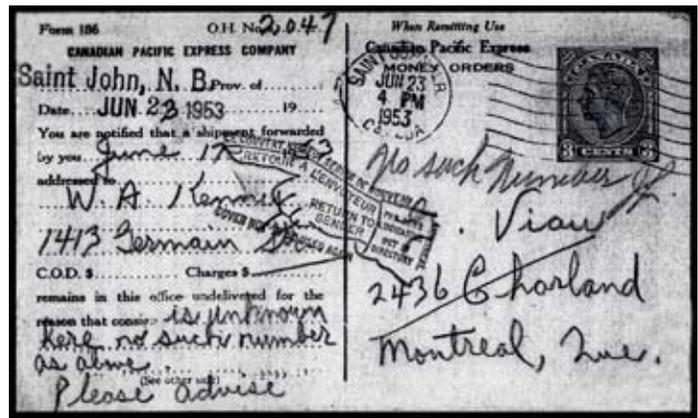


Figure 2

The last postal card (Form 161), the Sept. 30, 1953, 2¢ postal card in Figure 3, is similar to that in Figure 1. This form, too, was advising a consignee that a shipment was available for pick-up. This card was mailed to the consignee at the 2¢ third-class rate, but could not be delivered to him because "Insufficiently addressed."

That is, it was "Return to sender" because it was "Insufficiently addressed." This postal card was returned "2 CENTS DUE" (see 2¢ postage due stamp) because matter at the third-class rate was not returned free but at the 2¢ third-class rate. This is indicated by a very attractive handstamped pointing finger with an attached "2 CENTS DUE." This postal card was inadvertently not cancelled by the Post Office in St. John, New Brunswick.

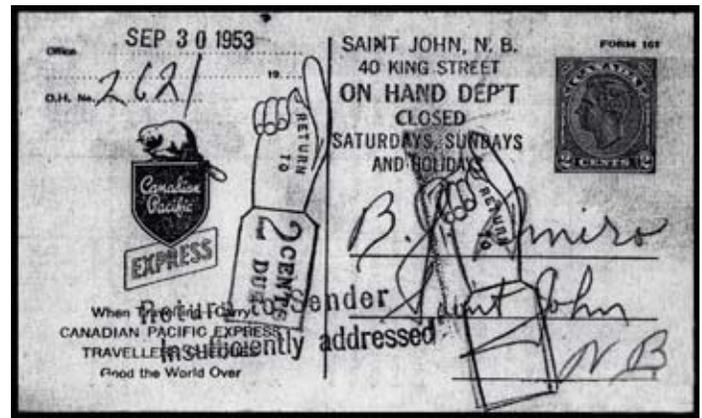
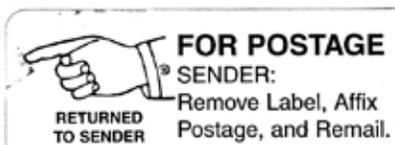
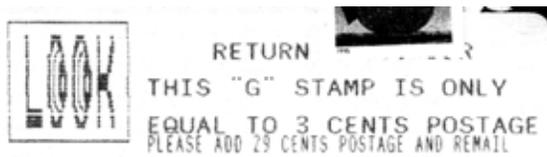
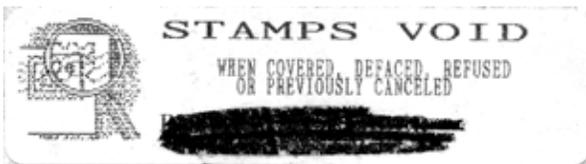


Figure 3

In conclusion, note that an understanding of material such as this, including auxiliary markings used, requires a considerable knowledge of the postal rates and laws.

### Miscellaneous Labels

These three labels tell no story. They are just interesting. The first two came from Jerry Johnson.



### Another Membership Survey

Included with this issue of the AM is another membership survey. It has been altered from the initial attempt to discover what our members collect as people were unsure what categories to check. Others did not find a category that matched their interests. We hope this version will be easier to use and more meaningful in its categories. In a newly formed organization, especially one with collecting interests as broad as our group's, categorization is tough to come by. Please send this form to Jerry Johnson ASAP.

## Auxiliary Markings on First day Covers

by Ralph H. Nafziger

Although most contemporary First Day Covers (FDCs) never see mail service, earlier FDCs often were sent through the mail-stream. As such, they were subjected to auxiliary markings to the same extent as ordinary mail.

This article surveys, describes, and illustrates a representative sampling of FDCs exhibiting a variety of auxiliary markings. As time has progressed, the nature of auxiliary markings has changed, and some have become extinct. This article focuses on (1) markings that redirected the FDCs to different destinations enroute to the addressee and/or were returned to the sender, (2) other markings that deal with undelivered and delayed FDCs, and (3) special classes of mail on FDCs.

### Redirected FDCS

Redirected FDCs with auxiliary markings include those that have been sent to an incorrect post office. They required redirection by the post office to reach the correct address. Many post offices to which FDCs had been sent incorrectly used a single-line rubber stamp. Others simply used a "missent" marking. Another variety of "missent" auxiliary marking is a rubber stamp with a space in which the incorrect post office could rubber-stamp its name. The illustrated FDC in Figure 1 is backstamped Halsey three days after the First Day of Issue. The stamps overpaid the domestic airmail rate for one ounce or less by one cent.

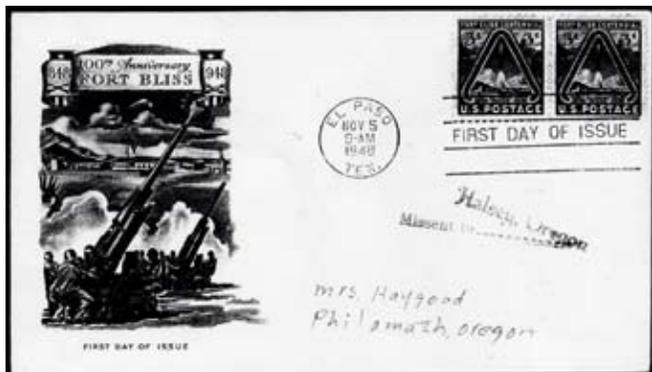


Figure 1

Forwarded mail comprises another category of redirected mail (Wawrukiewicz, 2001). Such FDCs have been re-mailed to the addressee at another address, usually because the addressee has moved. This service has been free since June 8, 1872 (Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, 1999). An example is shown in Figure 2 wherein a label with a typed forwarding address was used on an FDC. These labels were precursors to the computer-generated

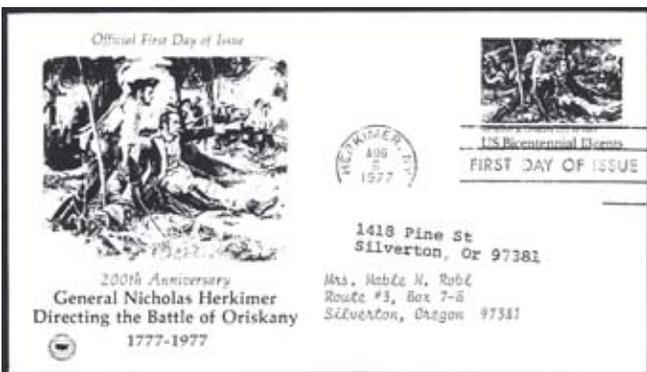


Figure 2

forwarding labels now in use. The stamp paid the domestic first

class letter rate for one ounce or less.

### Undelivered FDCS

Mail that is undeliverable includes FDCs that were unclaimed, refused or addressed to someone who is deceased or has moved and left no forwarding address. Illegible, incomplete, unknown, or incorrect addresses that cannot be forwarded also constitute such mail. If there is a return address, the FDC can be returned to the sender. Otherwise, it may be sent to a dead letter office.

If an FDC was unclaimed by the addressee, frequently it was returned to the writer. This often was indicated by a wide variety of pointing hands, one of which is shown in Figure 3. The stamp paid the correct domestic first class rate for one ounce or less.



Figure 3

If an addressee on an FDC moved and left no forwarding address, the FDC had to be returned to the writer. The FDC in Figure 4 had the correct domestic rate from the United States to the Philippine Islands. The FDC could not be delivered, and was returned to an Illinois address. In the process, it was missent to Tallahassee, FL. Evidently, a postal clerk misread the circular date stamp as the destination.



Figure 4  
Delayed FDCs

There are numerous reasons to explain the delay of FDCs in the mailstream. Early FDCs were delayed when there were no contents, they were unsealed or damaged, or there was a lack of airmail service. Other reasons for delays usually were indicated by a variety of special message markings, such as censor indicia.

An example of a delayed FDC is shown in Figure 5. This FDC was received without contents, as indicated by an auxiliary marking. Another marking indicates that it also was received unsealed. The 2¢ postage paid the first class domestic rate for one ounce or less.

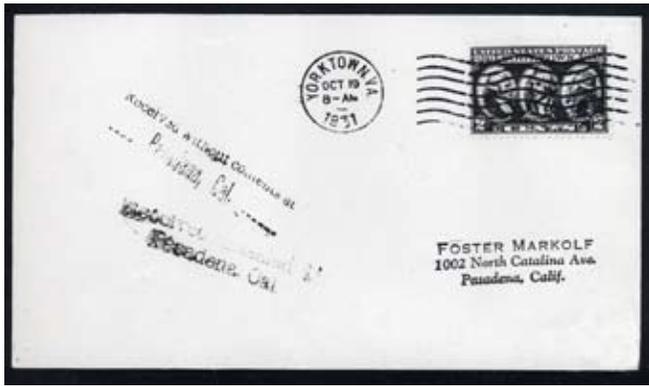


Figure 5

Mail during wartime was subject to opening and examination. FDCs were no exception. The FDC in Figure 6 was opened and its contents examined. The FDC overpaid the rate from New York to London by one cent. After examination, the FDC was forwarded to a new address, to which the officer had been transferred. The FDC has a London backstamp (December 9, 1940).

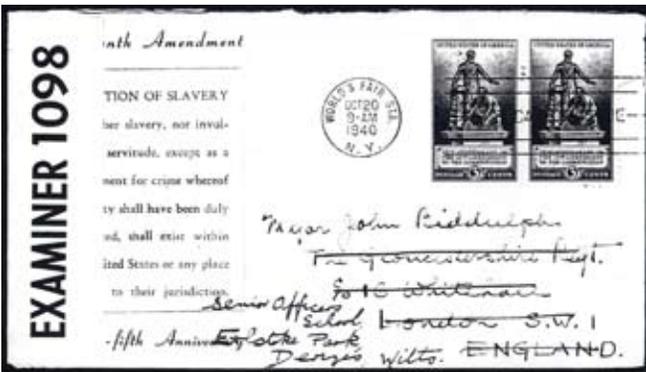


Figure 6

**Special Classes of FDCs**

FDCs may have received registry service or been given special delivery service, provided that sufficient postage was affixed. If an FDC was addressed to “general delivery,” it had to be held by the post office for a given time before it could be returned or otherwise handled.

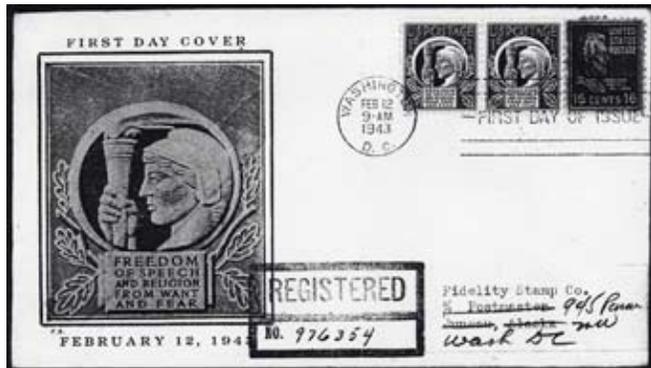


Figure 7

Figure 7 shows a registered FDC that was sent to Alaska and then returned to Washington DC. The minimum registry fee was 15¢. With 3¢ domestic first class postage, this equaled 18¢. Back-stamped postmarks indicate that the FDC arrived in Juneau, AK on February 25, 1943, and was subsequently received in Washington on March 8, 1943.

In 1937 domestic airmail special delivery service with a mini-

registry fee cost 31¢ for one ounce or less. The auxiliary markings on the FDC in Figure 8 indicate these services. The postage on this FDC overpaid this rate by 49¢. The FDC required three days to reach its destination. The marking “fee claimed by office of first address,” means that a fee was paid to a special delivery messenger. This messenger service was discontinued on July 1, 1945, after which this auxiliary marking no longer was used. After that date, messengers became hourly or annual rate employees, and were no longer paid on a fee basis, a goal they had sought for many years (Gobie, 1976).



Figure 8

**Postage Due**

FDCs must have sufficient postage to prepay first class rates. If the FDCs fail that requirement, they must be assessed postage due. The FDC in Figure 9 was sent from Washington, DC to Vancouver, BC. In 1936, the airmail rate to Canada was 6¢ per ounce. Special delivery service was 20¢, for a total of 26¢. Hence this FDC was short paid by 10¢.



Figure 9

The author hopes that this brief, introductory sampling of auxiliary markings on FDCs will stimulate discussion and additional information. Such input is welcome.

**References:**

Beecher, Henry W. and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *US Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999*, CAMA Publishing Co., Portland, OR, 1999, p. 286.  
 Gobie, Henry M., *The Speedy—A History of United States Special Delivery Service*, W. Gobie. Miami, FL, 1976, p. 233.  
 Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S., *The Forwarding of Mail by the U.S. Post Office Department, 1792-2001*, James E. Lee, pub.

## Return to Sender/Writer Hands on Military Mail

by George Cosentini and Tony Wawrukiewicz

We as auxiliary markings collectors are already aware of the incredible number of United States' returned mail markings there are. Surprisingly, in comparison, the number of such markings on military mail is somewhat limited. That is, one finds few such markings unless military mail is a major part of what one collects.

However, even a person such as George Cosentini, who has a very large collection of military mail matter, has few examples of return to sender and writer pointing hands in his collection. This article's 29 illustrations of different pointing hands, demonstrates

a large portion of such markings that are known to exist. This certainly doesn't mean that there aren't others, but they are not growing on trees.

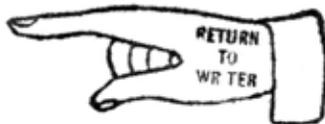
The 29 examples are broken down into major groups - those returned from Fleet Records Offices, Central Mail Handling Divisions, and specific military bases, those returned for APO, FPO, and MPO numbers and from discontinued groups, those returned as death was verified, a few miscellaneous types and five generic hands with no obvious military connection. The date given adjacent to them indicates year of usage.

### Fleet Records Offices



1944

FOR BETTER ADDRESS  
FLEET RECORDS DIVISION  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, 7 CALIF.



1945

USE FULL NAME, RATE, SERVICE NO.  
U. S. FLEET RECORDS OFFICE  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 7, CALIF.



1945

SEARCHED AT:  
U. S. FLEET RECORDS OFFICE,  
FORWARDING ADDRESS NOT AVAILABLE  
RETURNED FOR BETTER ADDRESS.



1945

FOR BETTER ADDRESS  
MAR 14 1945

ATLANTIC FLEET RECORDS OFFICE

This letter was unclaimed at original address and address to which forwarded.

### Central Military Mail Handling Divisions



1941



1951

ADDRESS UNKNOWN  
CENT. MAIL DIRECTORY



1952

FORWARDING ADDRESS UNKNOWN  
CENTRAL DIRECTORY APPAC



1958

DIRECTORY SERVICE GIVEN  
CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY  
APO 459, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

### Returned From Bases or Camps



1942

UNCLAIMED  
FROM:  
Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark.



1944

UNCLAIMED  
FROM FORT JACKSON, S. C.

Returned APO, FPO, MPO Numbers



1945



1958

NOT ON ACTIVE FPO FILES



1959

REASON CHECKED  
 For complete military address, showing unit and APO number  
 For complete military address, showing unit designation  
 Abbreviated unit designation cannot be identified



1959

REASON CHECKED  
 Address illegible  
 For APO number  
 No such unit  
 No such APO  
 APO address  
 Unit inactivated



1959

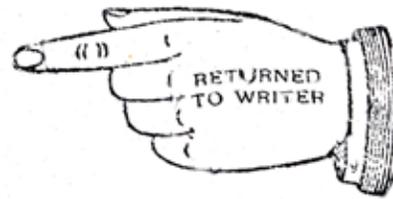
Naval activity  
Not on active FPO files  
PCG STA NY, NY



1966

Insufficient Address  
Military Post Office number not shown

Discontinued and Decommissioned



1944

APO DISCONTINUED



1959

UNIT DISBANDED



1945

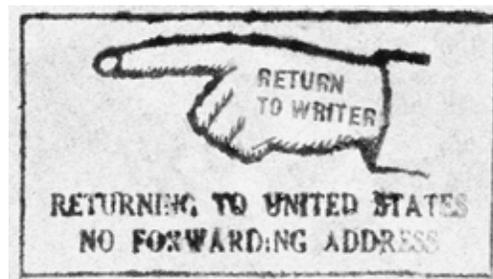
RETURN TO WRITER  
ACTIVITY DECOMMISSIONED

Miscellaneous



1945

USE FULL NAME, RATE, SERVICE NO.

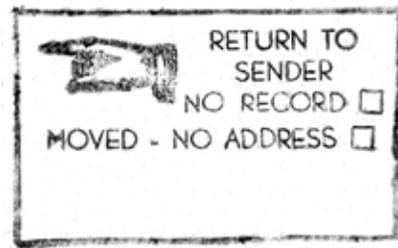


1945

Verified Death



1944



1945



1944



1945



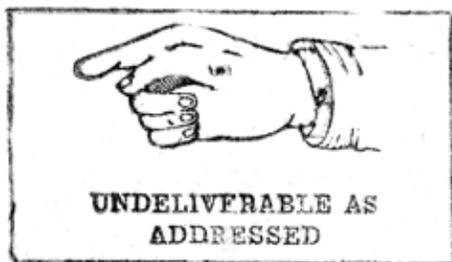
1945

REASON CHECKED  
 Unclaimed ..... Refused .....  
 Unknown .....  
 For better address .....  
 Moved, Left no address .....  
 No such office in state.....

Generic Hands on Military



1945



1945



1946

For better address

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for Auxiliary markings - New Entries

**DAMAGED MAIL:**

- (3) "The Post Office Seals of the United States, Volume one: The Regular Issues" by Adam Perkal & Seymour Kazman, published by George Alevizos, Santa Monica, California, 1983. "Examples of Handstamps used in Conjunction with Official Seals," pp 138 - 142 (includes unsealed and damaged-related handstamps).

**SPECIAL DELIVERY:**

- (2) Bibliography of U.S. Special Delivery System, Robert L. Markovits. See [www.usbackofthebook.com](http://www.usbackofthebook.com), click on Library link. This is a very comprehensive bibliography concerned with special delivery mail service and markings.