

## Louisville and the United States Armed Forces

### A Postal History

This exhibit explores Louisville's connection to the United States armed forces and major conflicts in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Military bases in Kentucky are also included.

The relationship of Louisville and Kentucky to the military is a multi-faceted one. Not only have Kentuckians served in all branches of the armed forces, many local industries produced armaments, vehicles, and supplies that supported the military both at home and overseas. On the home front, private individuals, civic organizations, and government agencies managed resources, and offered patriotic support to those in uniform.

This exhibit is organized by subject and date beginning with the period before WWI and concluding with the launch of USS Louisville nuclear submarine in 1986. The postcards and covers range from personal notes home, to reminders of the many active armed forces units, vessels, and theatres of war.\*\* The major topics:

- Camp Taylor and WWI
- Ships
- Patriotic Cachets
- Fort Knox
- Godman & Bowman Fields
- WWII Industry Mail
- Camp Breckinridge
- Soldier's Mail
- Ships Named After Louisville and Kentucky
- Ammunition Plant
- POW Camps



This is a first day of issue cover with the five stamps used to honor the 5 branches of the military active in 1946. Note that four of the stamps were issued in 1945. The Merchant Marine issue (top right) was the last one issued on Feb. 26, 1946 and that made this first day of issue cover using all 5 stamps possible.

\*\* Some of the information for this exhibit was obtained from *Kentucky and the Great War*, by David Bettez and *Committed to Victory - The Kentucky Home Front During WWII* by Richard E. Holl.

Louisville Industry Supporting the Military: 1886

**Bid for concrete for Jeffersonville Army Depot**

This cover, mailed from a Louisville supplier of concrete on June 23, 1886, was a proposal for supplying cement for the Army Depot across the river in Jeffersonville, Indiana. The bid process is documented on the envelope, from bid opening through the receipt by the Quarter Master General's office July 31<sup>st</sup>.

In most major cities, whether in times of war, or peacetime, various companies supplied goods or services to the various branches of the military.

The envelope bears two 2-cent red brown stamps of the issue of October 1, 1883.



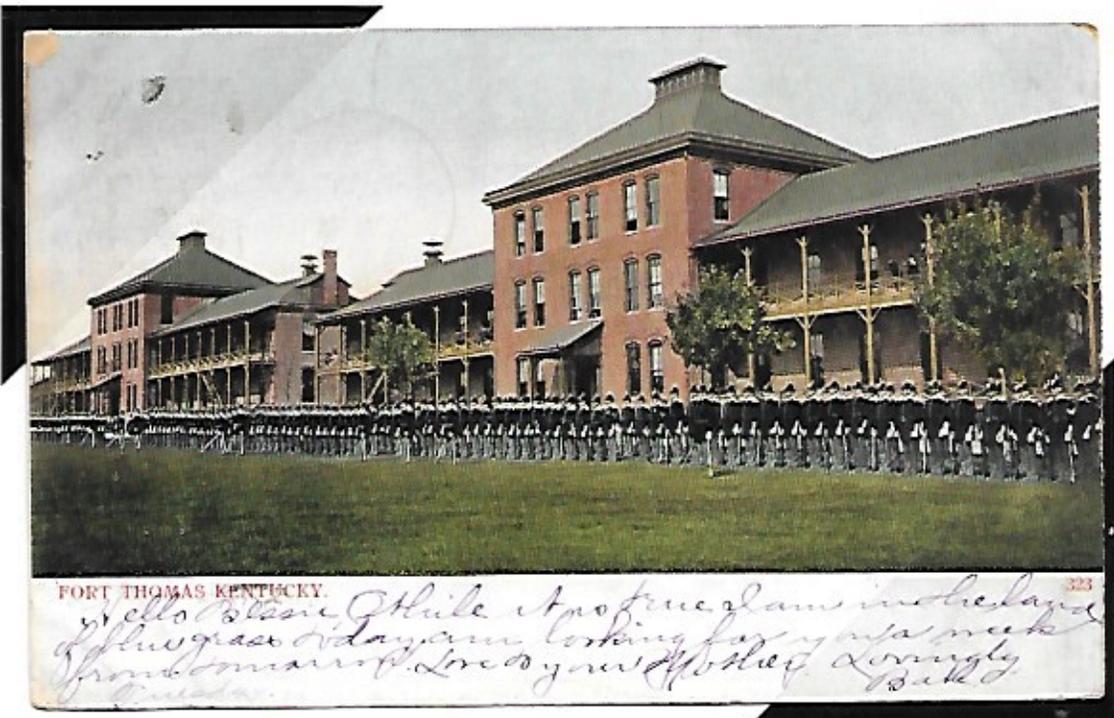
## World War I: Fort Thomas

Fort Thomas was established in 1890 and served as the base for the U.S. 6th Infantry Regiment until they were called into action in 1898 in the Spanish-American War. In 1916, the Kentucky National Guard was called on to support the Mexican Punitive Expedition, led by General John "Blackjack" Pershing. 2400 Kentucky troops patrolled the sixty-mile section of the U.S. – Mexico border.

During World War I, Fort Thomas became an induction center. More than 70,000 soldiers spent up to three weeks there before being transferred to training camps such as Camp Taylor. In 1937 Paul Tibbets, the future pilot of the Enola Gay, enlisted here.

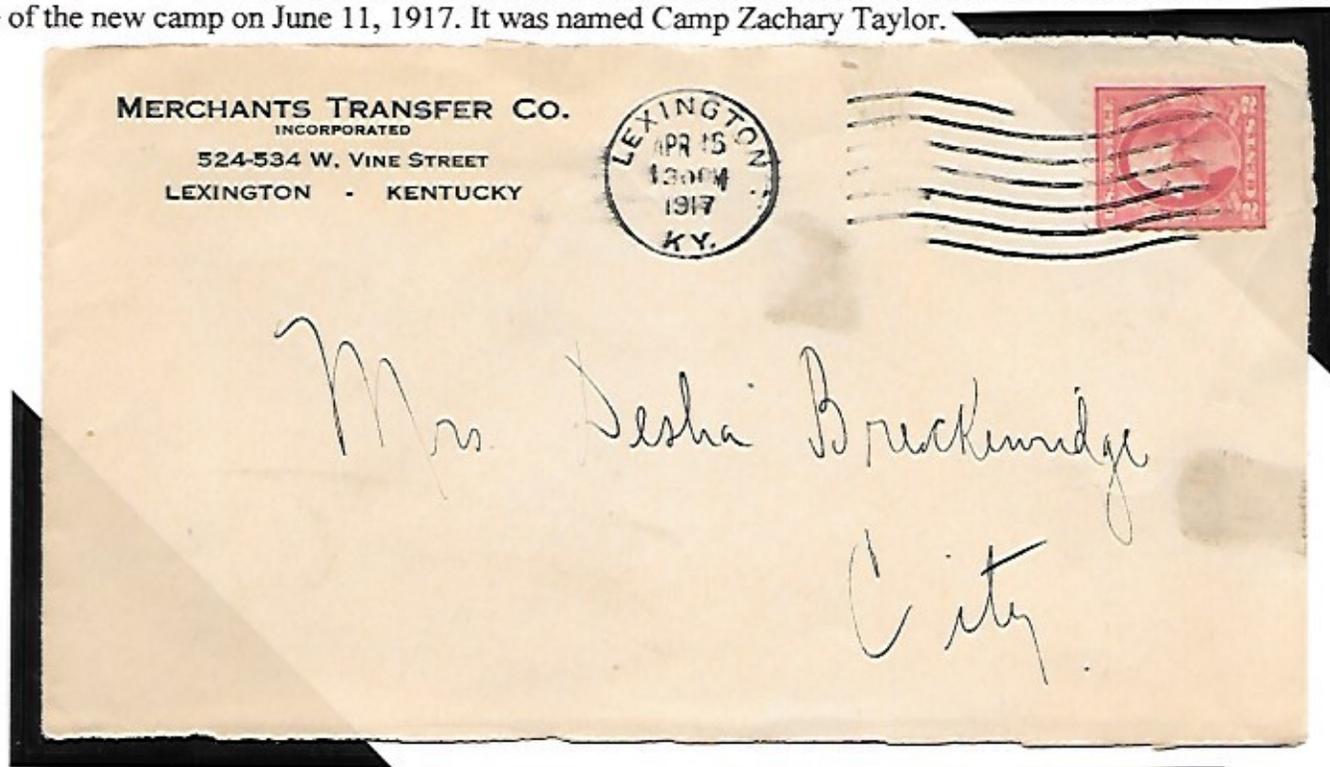
The fort was closed in 1964.

The two postcards are dated 1907 and 1918.



## World War I: Desha Breckinridge and Camp Taylor

In 1917, the U.S. Army asked for proposals for a new military camp to be built in Kentucky. The top proposals were made by advocates for a camp near Louisville, and a camp located at existing Camp Stanley, near Lexington. The Camp Stanley proposal was spearheaded by Desha Breckinridge, the editor of the Lexington Herald. Both Desha and his wife, Madeline, used the editorial pages of the Lexington Herald to advance various social causes. It is not clear whether this is addressed to him or her or whether this letter had anything to do with the proposal, but it was mailed during the period when the proposals were still being considered. Louisville was chosen as the site of the new camp on June 11, 1917. It was named Camp Zachary Taylor.

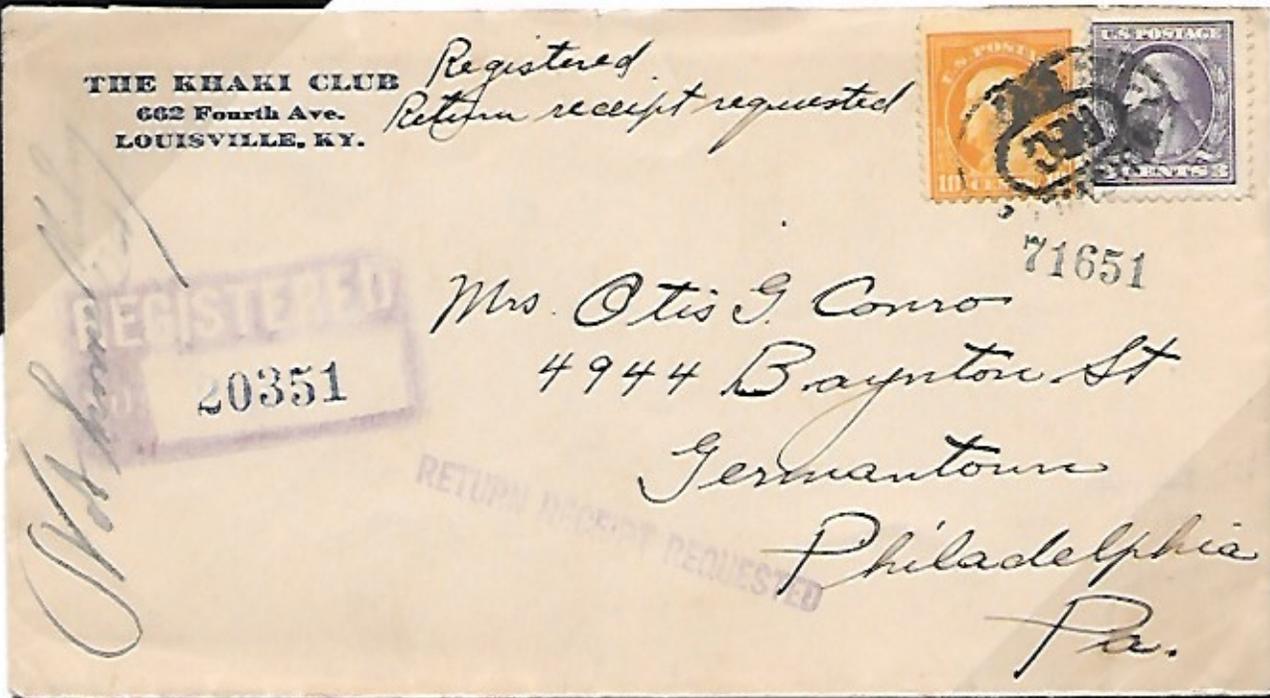


This postcard was sent by a soldier training at Camp Taylor and is dated July 13, 1918. This was about 3 months after the U.S. entered World War 1.

## World War I: Camp Zachary Taylor

A color picture postcard mailed from Louisville, Ky on August 17, 1918, showing a long row of ambulances and drivers on the grounds of Camp Zachary Taylor.

Sent by E. Minkley of the 16<sup>th</sup> Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 151<sup>st</sup> Depot Brigade who was stationed there, but was expecting to be sent to another camp soon.



A registered cover sent on October 18, 1918 by Private Edwin S. Conro using stationery provided by the Khaki Club in downtown Louisville. The Khaki Club, established in October 1917, was sponsored by the National League for Women's Service and provided soldiers from nearby Camp Taylor comfortable chairs and writing tables with stationery to make them feel welcome. The club later added a canteen where soldiers could buy sandwiches, drinks, and other items. The women sponsors often acted as surrogate mothers to the soldiers.

## World War I: Soldier's Letters From And To Louisville



Picture postcard of two soldiers stationed at Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville. Postmarked "Louisville, Taylor Branch" on July 15, 1918, which indicates that a post office branch was specifically set up at Camp Taylor for use by personnel stationed there.

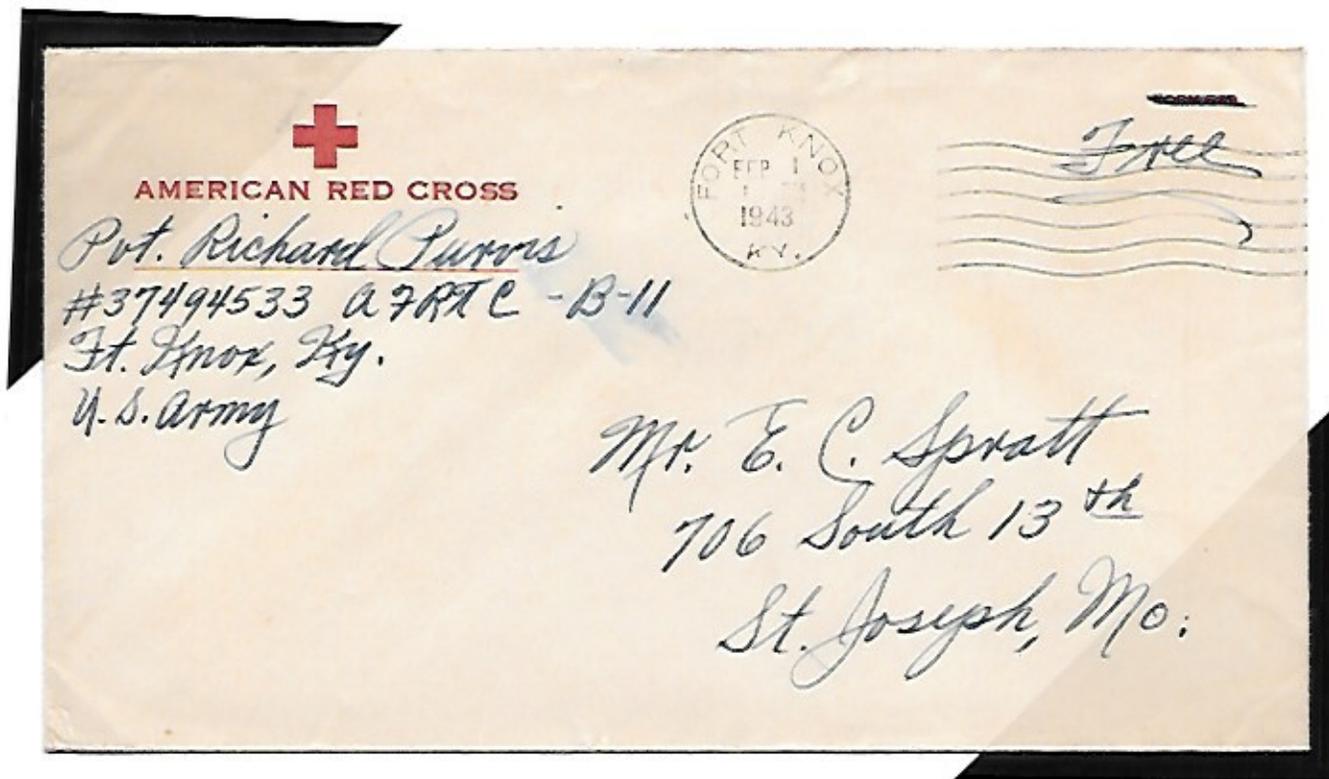
The Taylor Branch post office was established in 1917 and operated until sometime in 1920. In 1922 the Post Office Department established a Camp Taylor post office which served the general area until it closed in 1946.

The postcard pictures the writer, John (seated) and his friend Taylor (standing) in uniform with part of Camp Taylor in the background.

Seen below is a postcard provided by the American YMCA for soldiers on active service with the American Expeditionary Force fighting in Europe. This post card was sent to Louisville from a soldier in Baker Company, APO 927 in Germany. It passed the proper censorship channels as evidenced by the A E F Passed As Censored circular marking at the bottom



World War II: Soldier's Letters From And To Fort Knox, Kentucky



A letter sent from Fort Knox, Kentucky on September 1, 1943 to St. Joseph, Missouri. Mailed in American Red Cross stationery, it was sent "Free" of postage. This was under the Post Office Act of March 27, 1942 stating that any first-class letter from military while on active duty to any person in the US shall be free, by writing "Free" in the upper right, and in the upper left, name, rank, rating, and service to which they belong.



An airmail letter sent from a Private at APO 869 to a female 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant at the Regional Hospital at Fort Knox, KY. Since APO 869 was overseas, it received censorship handling by being passed through a U.S. Army Examiner. Since this letter was sent airmail, it did not qualify for treatment as free soldier mail and was charged the appropriate 6 cent airmail rate.

## World War II: Fort Knox

Fort Knox is south of Louisville in an area that was contested by Union and Confederate forces. In 1918, an artillery training center was built here and named Camp Knox after Henry Knox, Revolutionary General. In 1932 the camp was turned into a permanent garrison and named Fort Knox. In 1940 the 1st Armored Division was established here along with the Armored Force School. It is the site of the US Gold Depository, and has protected some of the most precious US documents (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Gettysburg Address).



A postcard which was mailed from Fort Knox in 1942 is displayed here. The message:

*Hello Al: Having a swell time here at Fort Knox. Its a swell camp and they feed us very good. I'm in the "Armored Force." Which includes tanks, half-tracks, trucks, jeeps, peeps and motor-cycles, I'm signed up for half-track. We start driving tomorrow. Write and let me know how the gang is."*

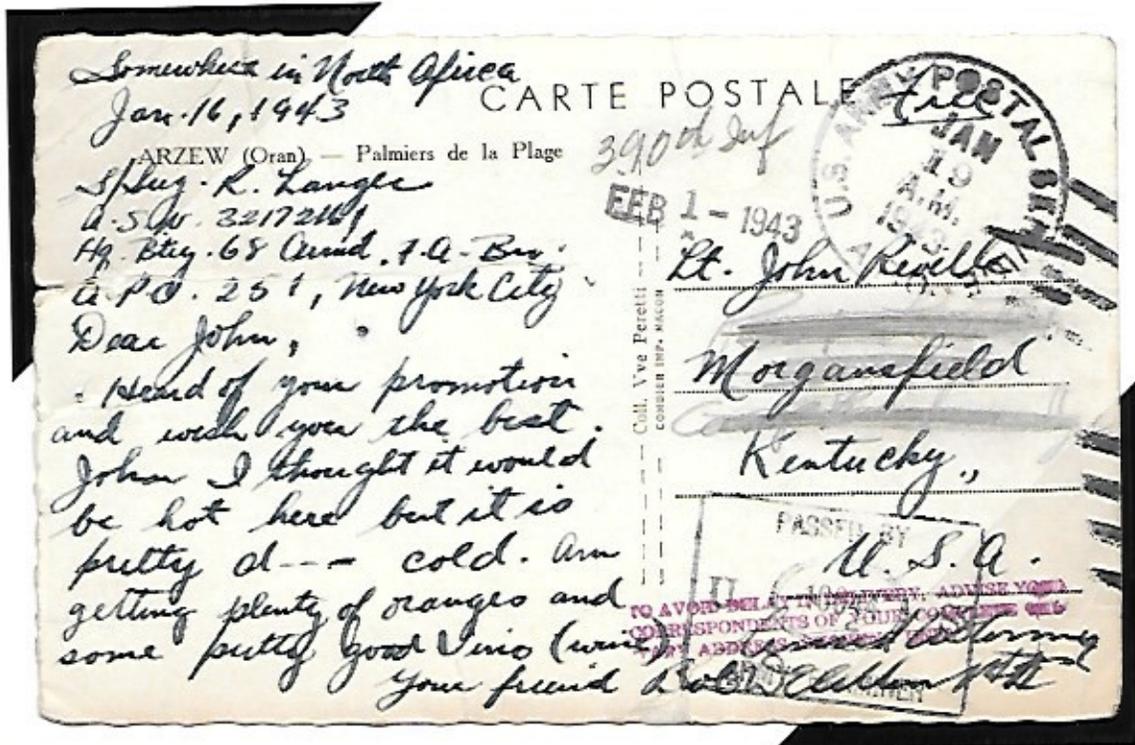
The image on the postcard is of a Jeep - like "scout car." Although we do not know what vehicle it is, it does remind us that the Ford plant in Louisville (at Eastern Parkway and Third Street, now owned by UOL) produced over 93,000 Jeeps during WWII.

## World War II: Camp Breckinridge

This army training camp was built in 1942 and trained 30,000 infantrymen during WWII. It was also used to house as many as 3,000 enlisted German POWs. Some of these POWs were put into agricultural service around the camp. It is now open to the public as a museum and art center.



This card, from a Private to his fiancé, was sent via free soldier mail in 1943. The image is that of the service club. Many of the countryside murals were painted by a German POW.



This cover was mailed from North Africa in January 1943 to a soldier in the 390th Infantry Regiment. The 390th was constituted in July 1918 and demobilized in November 1918. It was ordered back into active military service 15 September 1942 and reorganized at Camp Breckinridge. Morganfield is the town closest to the camp, and perhaps the Lieutenant to whom it was addressed was living off-base.

## Pre-World War II: Indiana Army Ammunition Plant

Construction of IAAP's 3 plants began in 1940. Production of smokeless powder began in Plant #1 in April 1941. Plant #2 was never completed. Production of propellant charge bags for mortars or cannons at the Hoosier Ordnance Plant began in September 1941. At one point, more than 32,000 workers, many of them construction workers, were employed at this site which covered more than 10,000 acres. Production was stopped 2 days after V-J. day. Limited production was conducted during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Plants #1 was run by DuPont, and the Hoosier Ordnance Plant was run by Goodyear.



A photo postcard postmarked Charlestown, Ind. is displayed showing a part of the plant in September of 1941. The message:

*Hello Williams', How's the celebration? Ours here in Charlestown is ever so fine. Only on Sundays the place is rather dead. We went to visit Fort Knox on Sunday. Is it a big place?! Tell you all about it some day. P.S. This is a sample of the big mills here. Almost looks like Duquesne. Agnes*

Pre-World War II: Indiana Army Ammunition Plant

An Air Mail, Special Delivery cover from the DuPont Company to the Wilson Products Company in Reading, PA and postmarked Louisville, February 7, 1941 is exhibited here. The date is before production was started and may have been for needed information or supplies.



FORM CG-14  
AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO  
**DU PONT**  
ESTABLISHED 1802  
E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY  
CHARLESTOWN, INDIANA

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**

See Classified by Office  
of Post. Admin.

Special

**Special Delivery - Air Mail** AIR MAIL

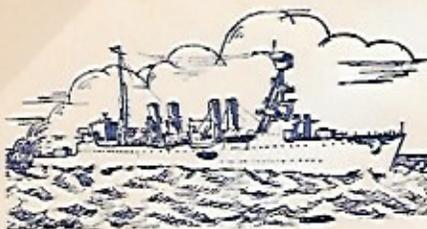
Wilson Products Inc.  
Reading, Pennsylvania

LOUISVILLE  
FEB 7  
6:30 PM  
1941

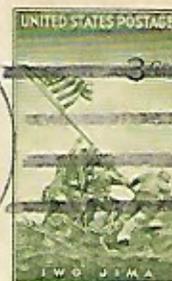
## World War II: Ships

**LST: Jeffersonville, Indiana:** A Landing Ship Tank was a WWII naval vessel built for amphibious landings. It had a flat bottom, so it'd remain upright when beached. The bow opened with a ramp for unloading tanks, vehicles, cargo, or troops. It could carry 10 tanks and 15 vehicles, or approximately 160 troops. About 1000 were built. It is postmarked less than 3 weeks after V - J Day and marked U.S.S. LST - 727. This LST was launched at Jeffersonville, Indiana on September 10, 1944. It served in the Pacific and was decommissioned in 1948.

### PACIFIC FLEET OF 1940



The U. S. Fleet arrived in Hawaii May 6, 7 & 8, 1940 for three weeks maneuvers. "They missed the boat" and the Permanent Pacific Fleet was created based at Pearl Harbor.

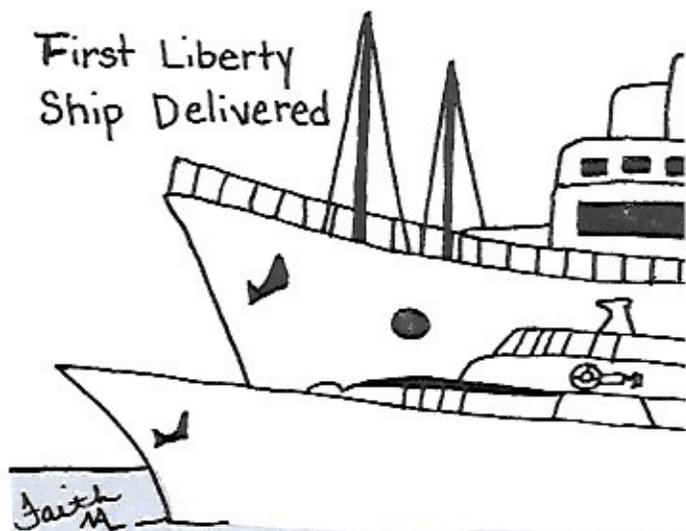


### U.S.S. LST-727

TAZEWELL G. NICHOLSON  
Post Office Box 32  
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

### WORLD WAR II

First Liberty  
Ship Delivered



50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



First Liberty ship delivered December 30 1911 - 1991



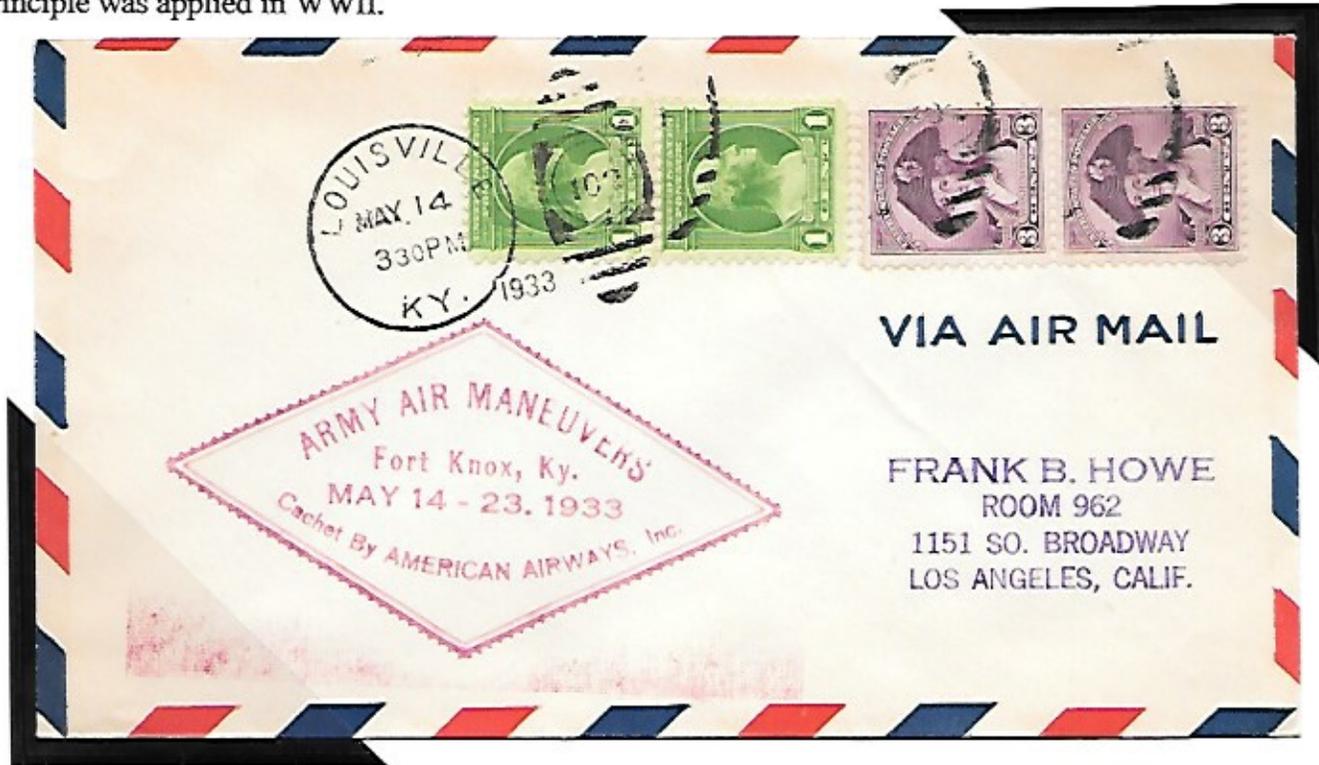
50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE FLEET

**Liberty Ship:** 2710 Liberty Ships of a low-cost design were built, starting in 1941, to replace torpedoed ships for the US cargo fleet, and for Britain and the USSR. They were thought ugly, and slow. They were vulnerable to U-Boat attack. A commemorative stamp was issued in 1991 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Liberty Ship delivered. A First Day Cover canceled at Louisville is displayed herewith.

## Godman Field – Fort Knox

Godman Field, part of Fort Knox, is the first airfield in Kentucky. It was built for the 29th Aero Squadron, which began operations there in October 1918. The 31st Balloon Company was based there from 1920 to 1921. Afterwards, the field was largely inactive until 12th Observation Squadron was assigned there from 1937 to 1942.

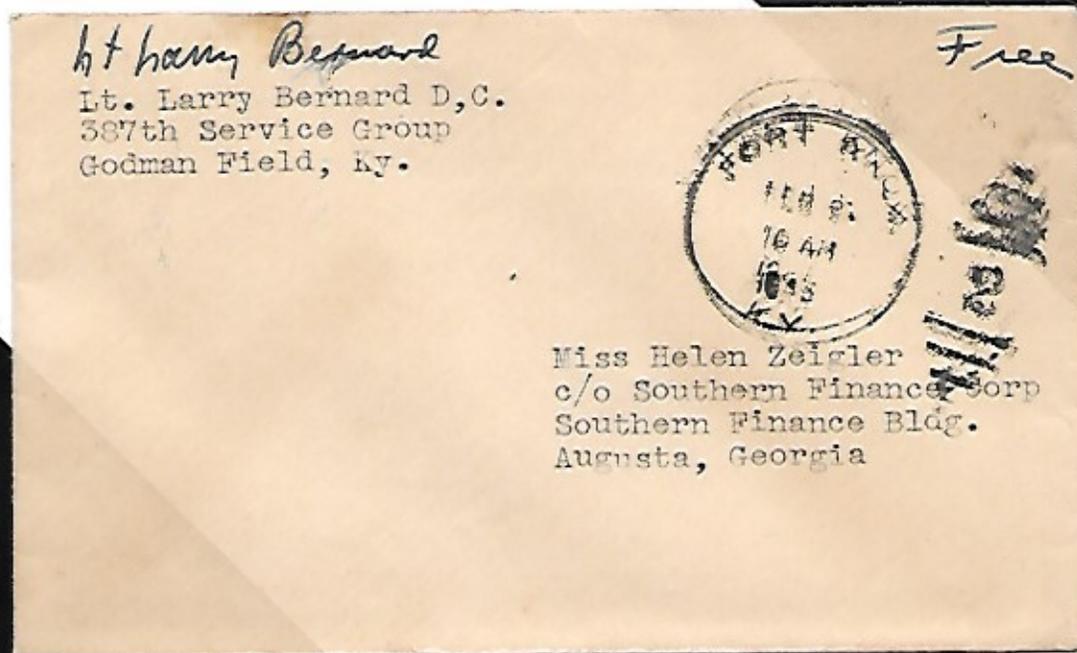
The cachet on this cover notes the Army Air Maneuvers of May 14-23, 1933. The purpose was to test an air defense warning system. Bombers were sent from Dayton, OH toward Fort Knox and spotters along the route notified interceptors at Godman Field. The interceptors, even older model aircraft, could prevent the bombers from reaching their target. It was determined that bombers would need fighter escort to reach their targets and this principle was applied in WWII.



## Godman Field 387th Bombardment Group

Several groups were assigned to Godman Field for short periods during World War II, including the 73rd Reconnaissance Group and the 387th, 391st and 477th Bombardment Groups all flying Martin B-26 medium bombers.

This cover was sent by a lieutenant assigned to the 387th Service Group. The 387th consisted of a headquarters company, a services company, and four bombardment squadrons. They were stationed at Godman field in May 1943. In June 1943, the group was transferred to England and flew their first mission in late July.



## World War II: Flight Training Schools

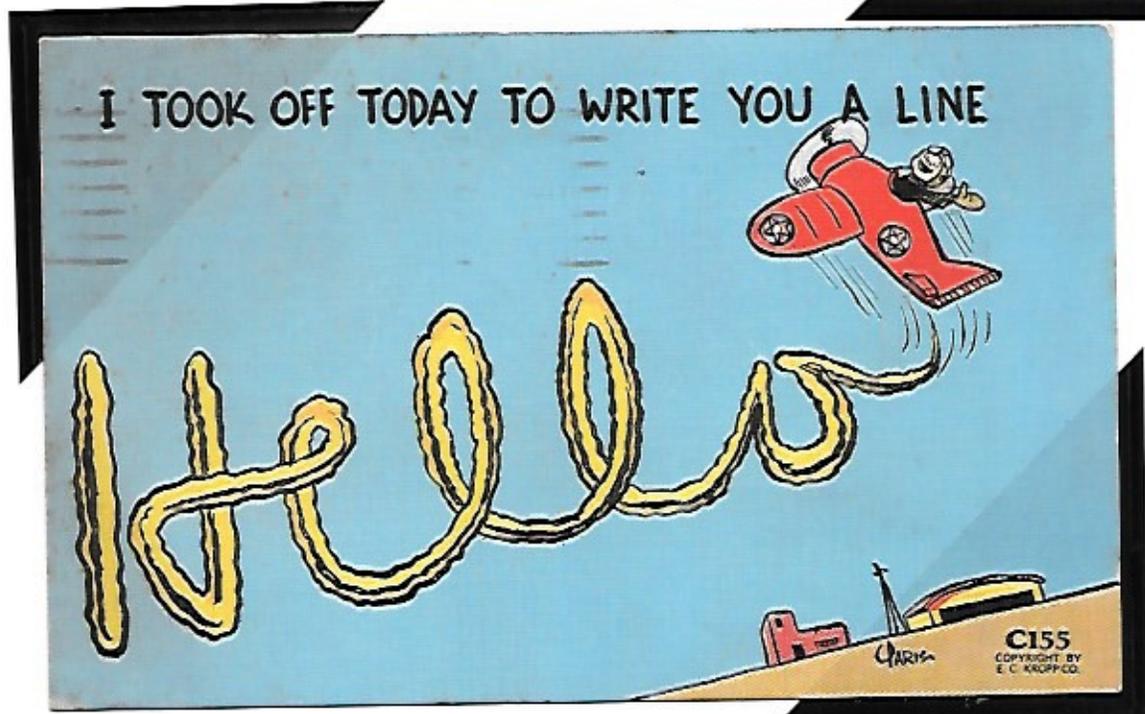
### Bowman Field

During WWII, Bowman Field was the busiest airport in the country, with thousands of members of the military calling Bowman Field their temporary home.

In 1943 Glider Pilot Combat Training opened. It was also the home to Army Air Force School of flight surgeons. This card was sent by a member of the 314<sup>th</sup> TC Group. This group was formed in March 1942 was stationed at Bowman Field in June 1942. It moved overseas to North Africa in May 1943 and took part in the invasions of Sicily and Italy.



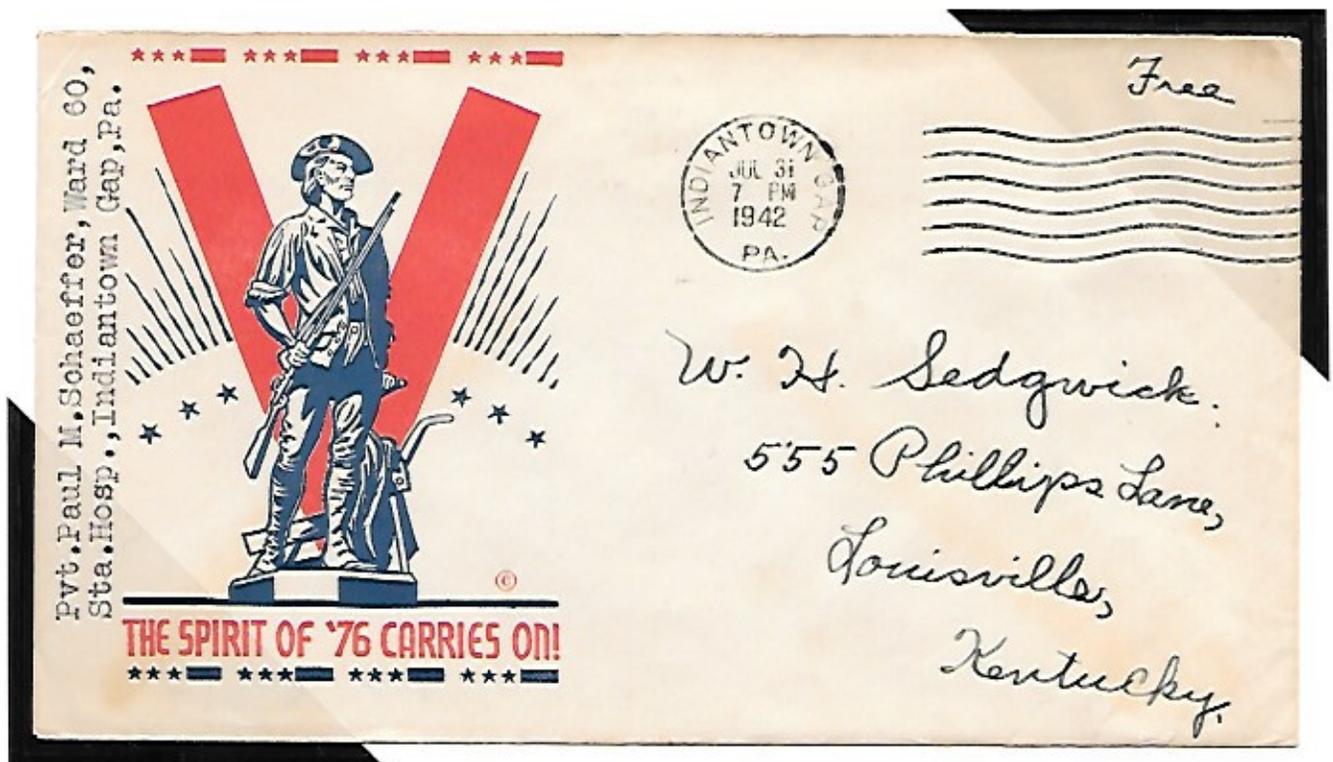
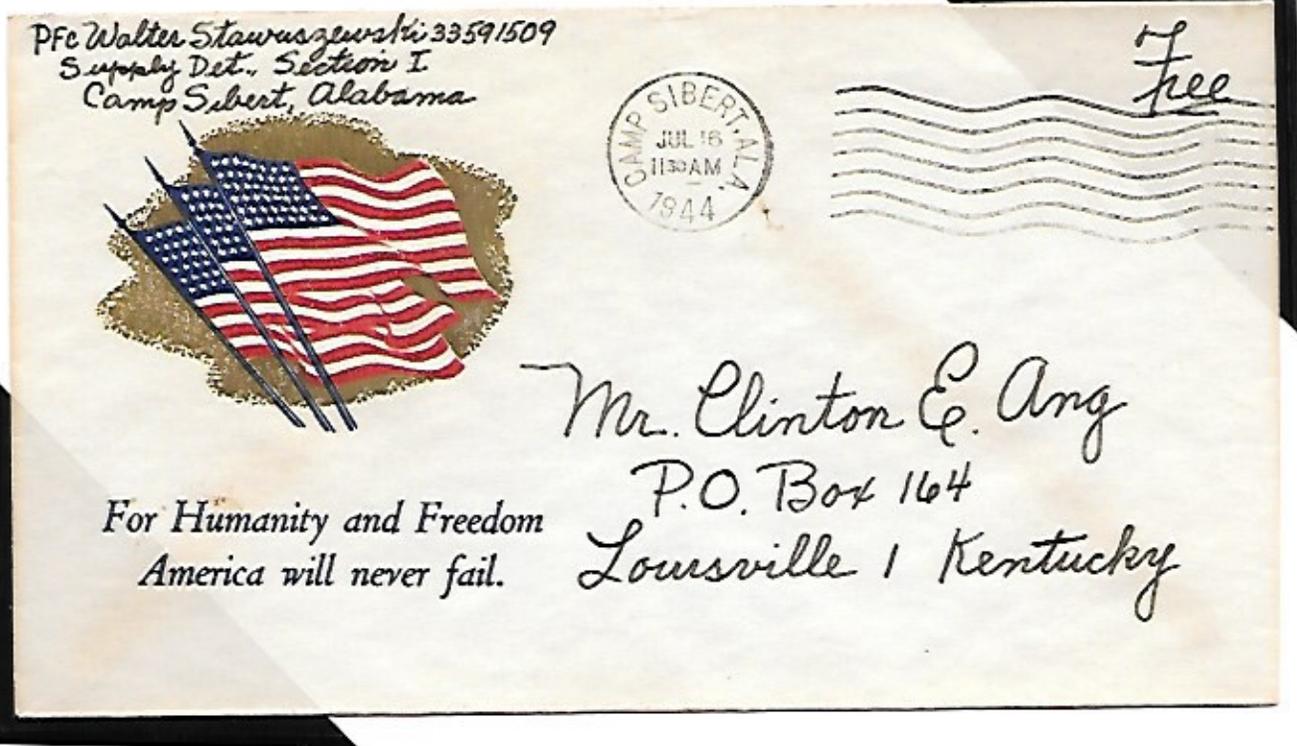
### Tuskegee



This card was apparently sent by a pilot training out of the Tuskegee Advanced Flying School to his father in Louisville. Though not part of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, a bomber group of African-Americans, the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, was reactivated in January of 1944. Beginning May 1944, they were stationed at Godman Field at Fort Knox.

## World War II: Soldier's Free Mail to Louisville, Kentucky Bearing Patriotic Cachets

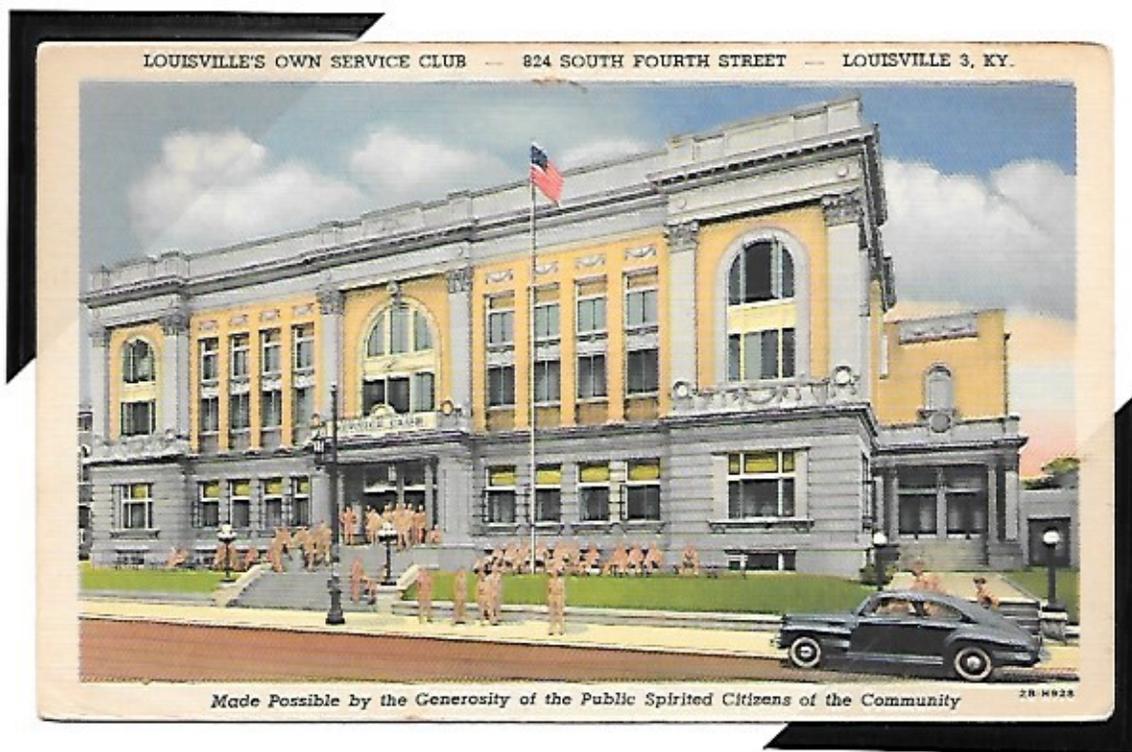
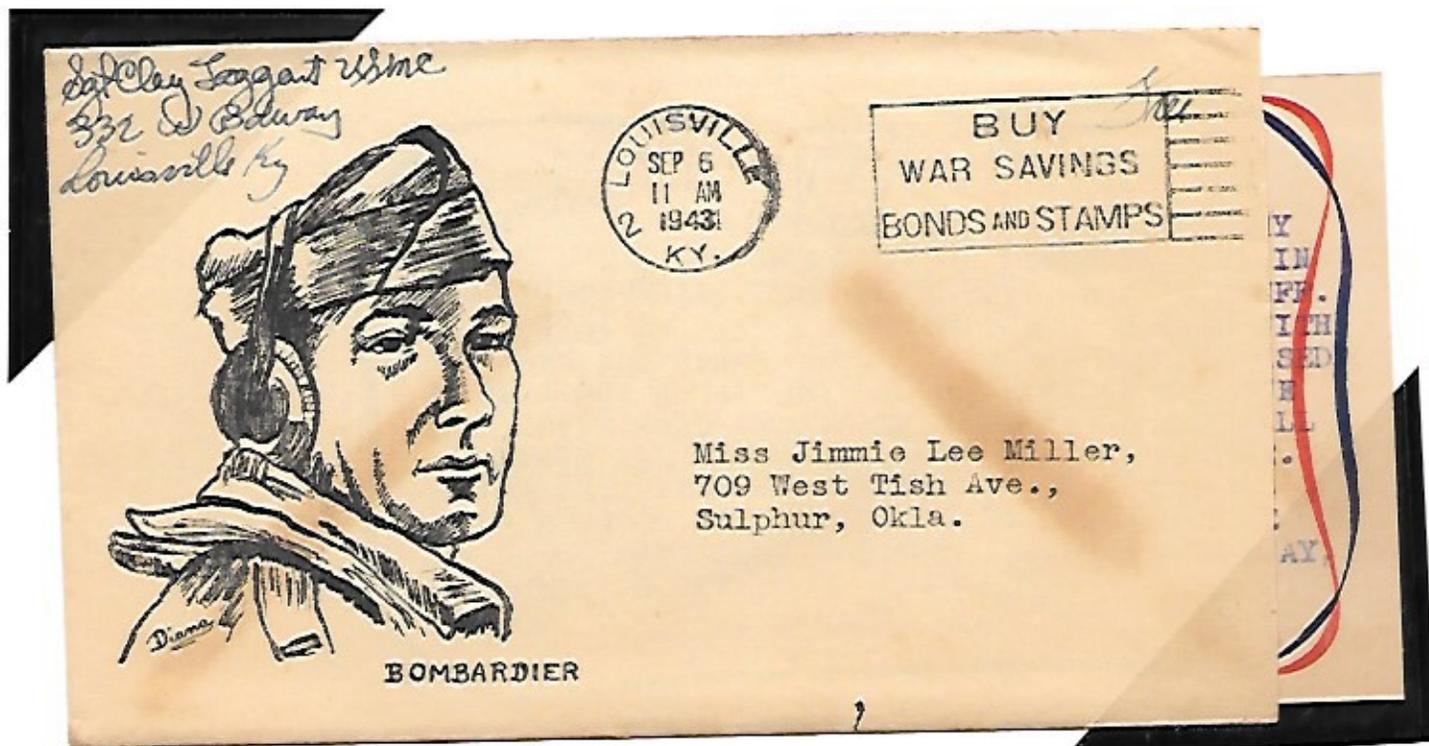
Patriotic cachets have been used on mail since the Civil War, but during World War II they were used in abundance. There are over 11,000 covers known and recorded. One cachet maker was Clinton Ang of Louisville. The cover seen below was sent to Mr. Ang using the "Free" mailing privileges of an active duty soldier at Camp Sibert, Alabama in 1944. It bears a very colorful patriotic cachet and slogan.



The cover above was mailed for free in 1942 by a Private at the Station Hospital at Fort Indiantown Gap to Louisville. It bears a "THE SPIRIT OF '76 CARRIES ON!" patriotic cachet.

## World War II: Cachet Cover with Letter Card

Here is a free mail envelope with a Bombardier cachet printed on the front. The cancellation urges War Bonds and Stamps. Inside is a USMC letter card from our city in 1943 by a Marine sergeant. The message on the card appears printed by a Ditto machine and informs fellow collectors of patriotic covers that he was assigned to a base in Georgia, and then to Sea School.



**Louisville Service Club:** Louisville bought this building in 1940 for use by soldiers flooding into the area. The USO used it as its model. It provided a place to stay and entertainment. The use was so great that the Club acquired a nearby school for more space. This postcard has a 1945 Louisville cancellation. The message:

*Hello Son: I took a weekend pass. I am going back on a later bus. I expect to see a show. Had a tough week; thought it would be something different. This where I am. Write soon. Pop*

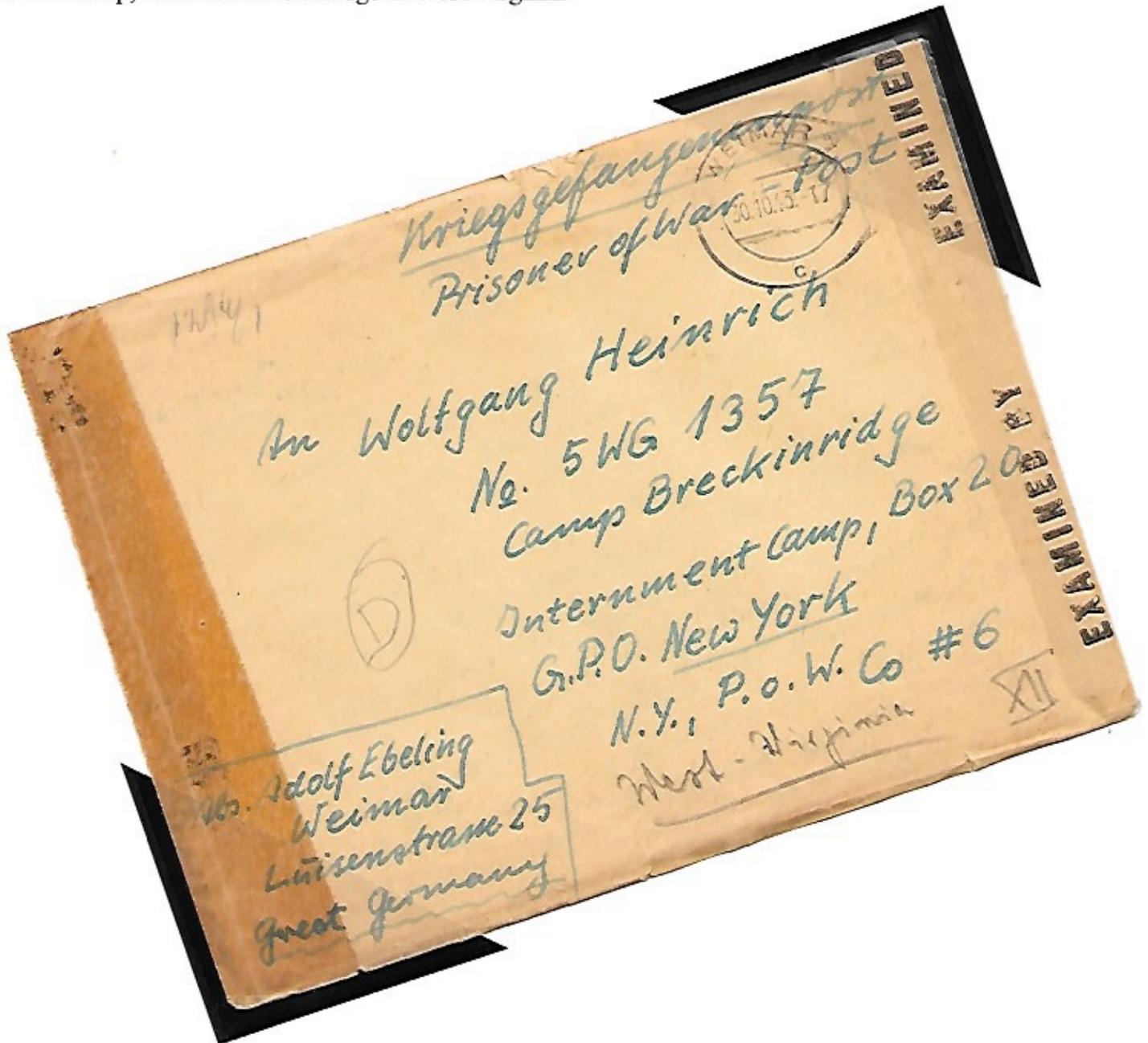
## World War II: Kentucky POW Camps

Kentucky had three major POW camps during WWII, Camp Breckenridge, Camp Campbell, and Fort Knox. Of the 370,000 German POWs in the US, some were Nazis, most didn't care, but about 3300 were anti-Nazi. Camp Campbell was one of a few camps designated for anti-Nazi POWs.

Note that all of these bases were also Army training facilities. In 1950 Camp Campbell became Fort Campbell, home of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

### Camp Breckinridge

The Red Cross was responsible for delivering POW mail both to and from the camps. This letter was written to a German POW at Camp Breckinridge, located in Morganfield, KY. The date on the letter is Oct. 14, 1943 and was postmarked in Weimar two weeks later on Oct. 30, 1943. It was opened and reviewed by both American and German censors (German censor markings are on the back.) Note that it was sent to New York and then routed to the specific camp. The penciled "West Virginia" on the address may be the result of confusion as to the location of the camp; there is a Breckinridge in West Virginia.



World War II: Kentucky POW Camps

Camp Campbell

This letter was sent by a German prisoner interned at Camp Campbell to his parents in Vorpommern. Like most such letters, there are few details about life in the camp. The prisoner states he is well and misses his family and hopes to get mail from them, especially since it is near Christmas. This is a standard form for POW mail, with directions in English, German, Italian, and Japanese. It has US censor markings, but no apparent German censor markings. It is not clear as to whether this was ever delivered in that mail from this camp was usually sent back by the censor. As noted previously, Camp Campbell was specifically designated for anti-Nazi prisoners.

10571



Vorpommern.

Klein Brehmehagen Kreis Grahm mern.

INDIRIZZO:

ADRESSE:

ADRESSE:

Frank Beta Klein dete



PRISONER OF WAR



NOV 13 1943

ABSENDER

NAME Klinder Wilhelm <sup>SwG 6367</sup> ISN

CAMP CAMPBELL PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
BOX 20, GENERAL POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, 1, N. Y.

DO NOT WRITE HERE!!!

NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!!!

NON SCRIVETE QUI!!!

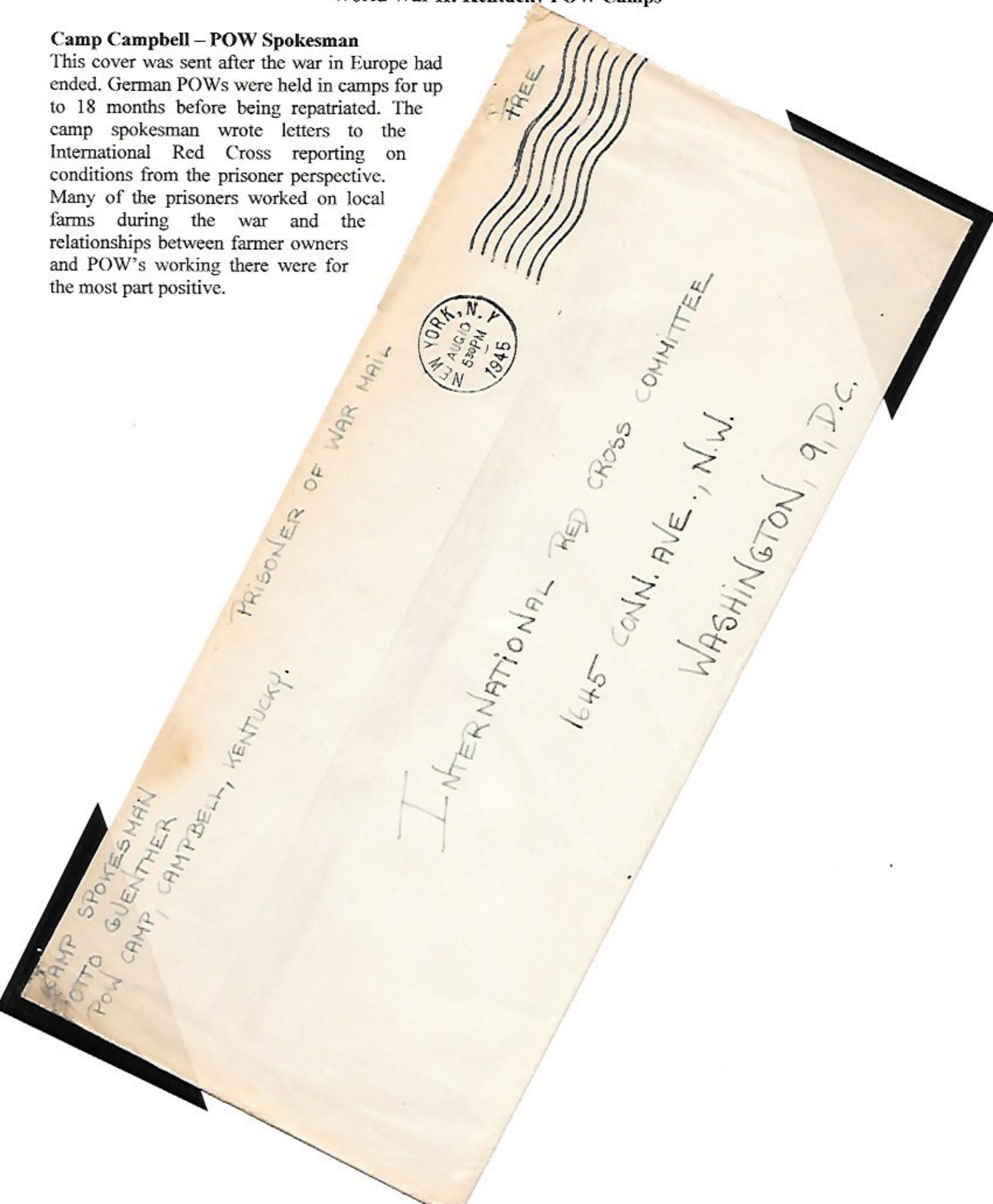
書勿

10571  
U.S. CENSOR

## World War II: Kentucky POW Camps

### Camp Campbell – POW Spokesman

This cover was sent after the war in Europe had ended. German POWs were held in camps for up to 18 months before being repatriated. The camp spokesman wrote letters to the International Red Cross reporting on conditions from the prisoner perspective. Many of the prisoners worked on local farms during the war and the relationships between farmer owners and POW's working there were for the most part positive.



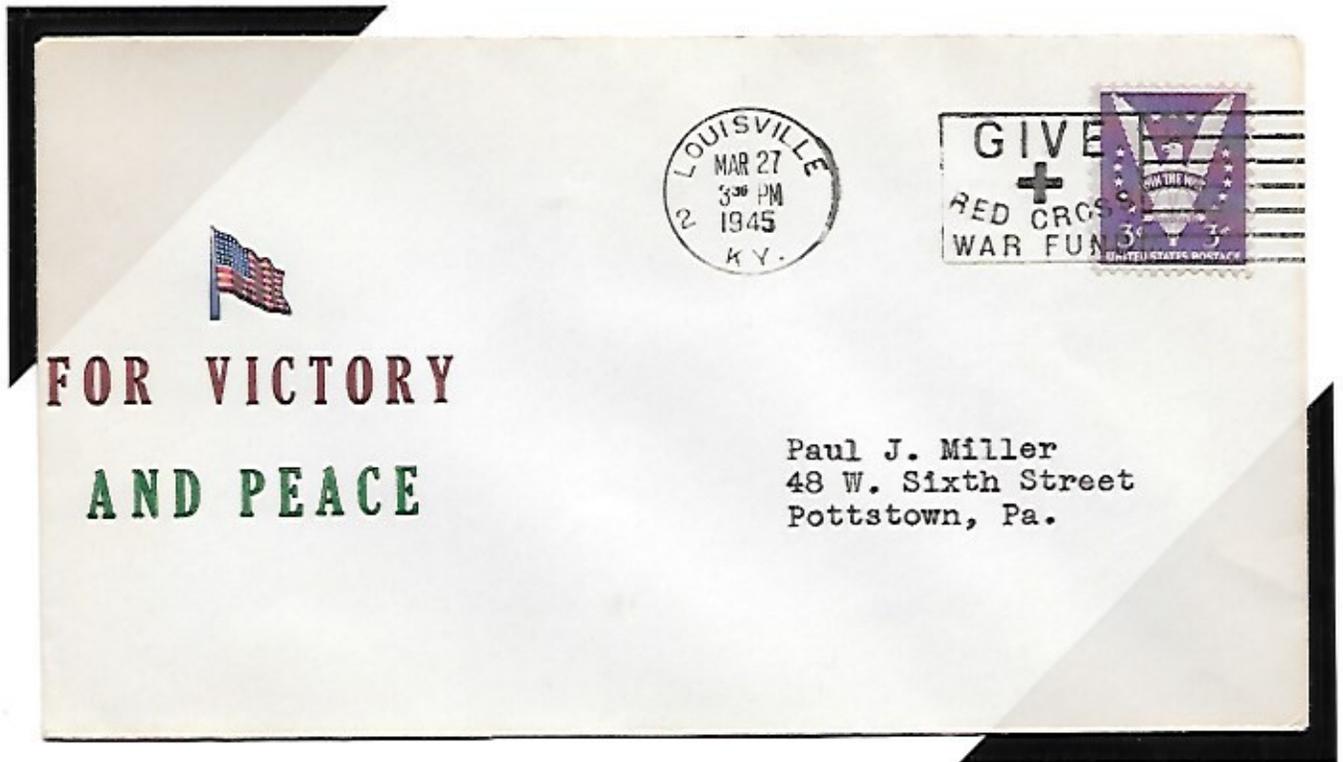
CAMP SPOKESMAN  
OTTO GUENTHER  
POW CAMP, CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY.

PRISONER OF WAR MAIL

NEW YORK, N. Y.  
AUG 10  
6:30 PM  
1945

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE  
1645 CONN. AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

World War II: Other Mail Bearing Patriotic Cachets



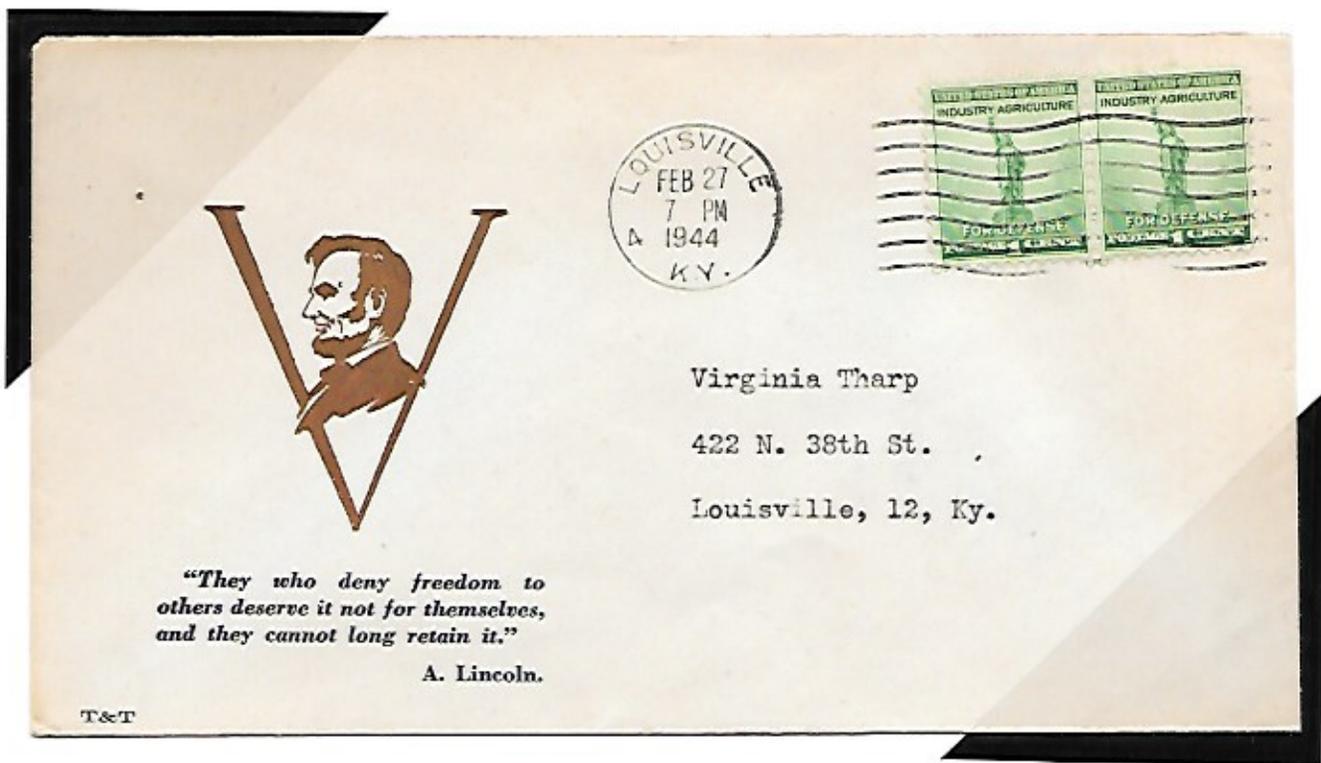
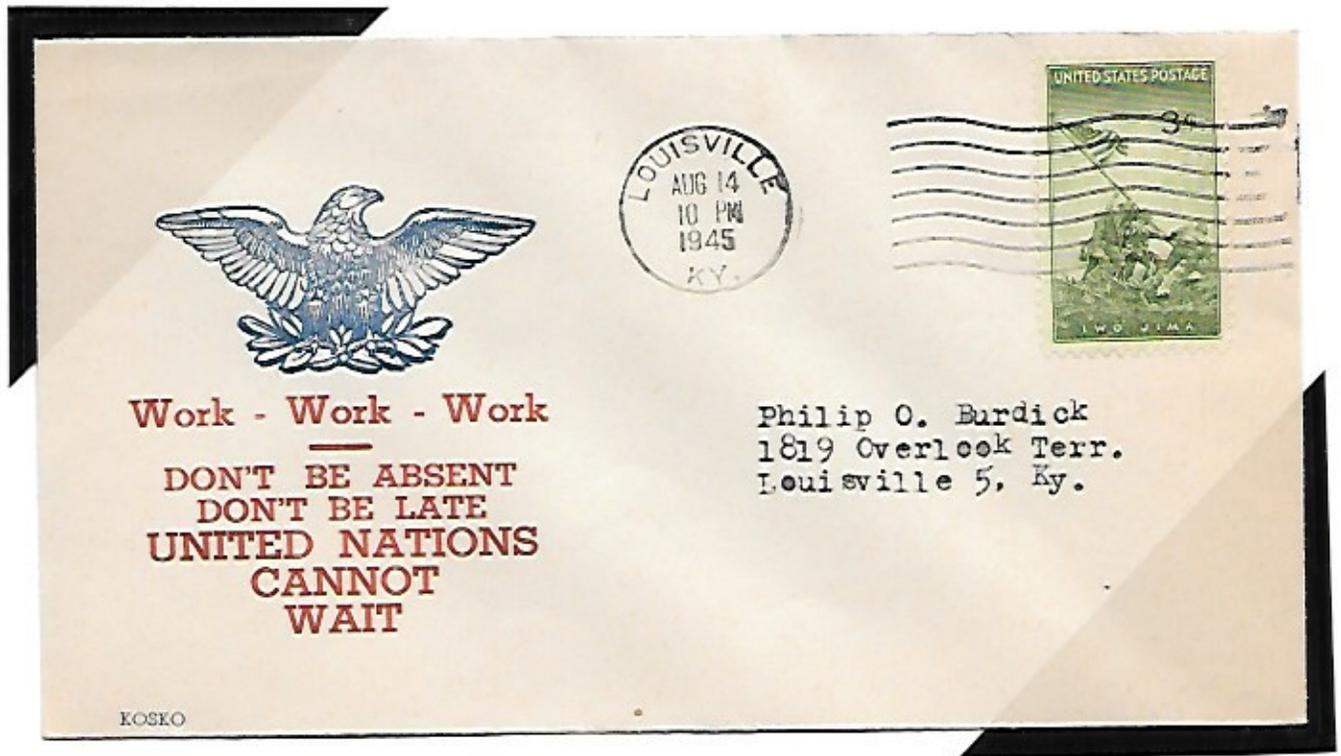
Most of patriotic envelopes were used by civilians to show their support for the war effort. This one, mailed from Louisville in March 1945 is a good example. Of special note is the slogan cancel over the 3 cent "Win The War" stamp. Both the stamp and the cancel were used extensively during the war years. The cancel encouraged giving to the Red Cross War Fund. In 1941-42 the fund raised \$66 million. In 1943, \$143 million was donated.



This cover is an example of a philatelic (stamp related) usage. The sender had the stamps cancelled at two different post office within a week or so. The postmarks of Speed and Victory are related to the patriotic cachet's words of "Full Speed Ahead / Victory!".

## World War II: Other Mail Bearing Patriotic Cachets

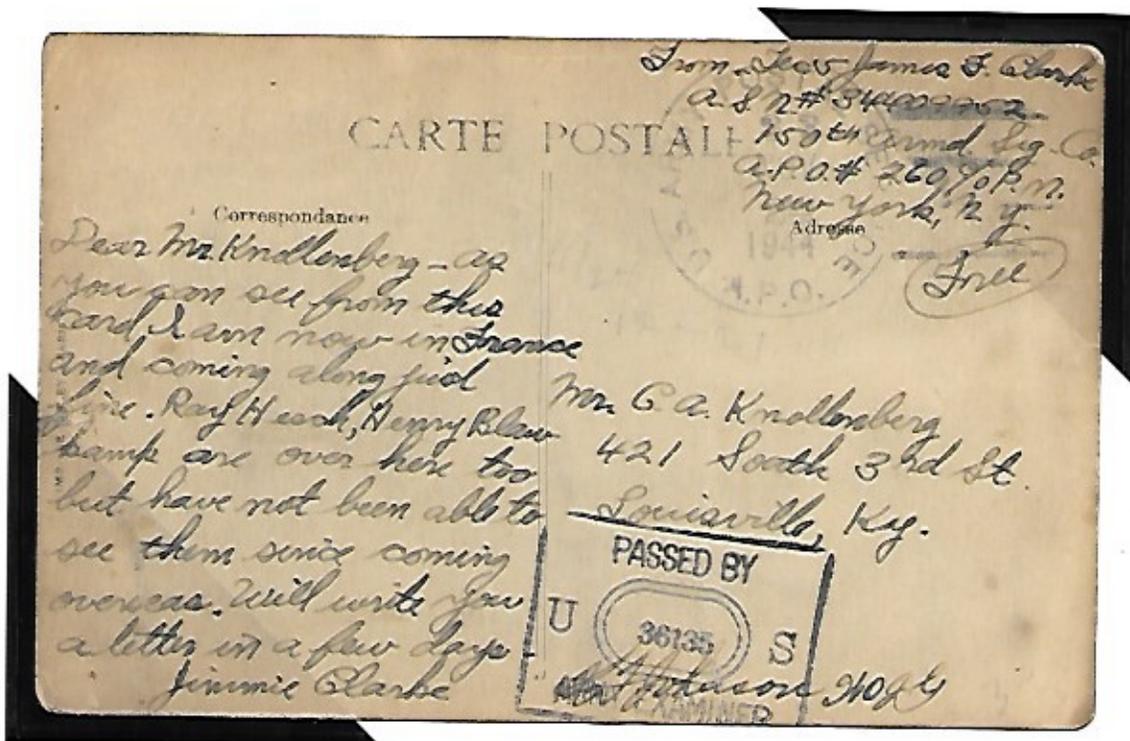
The cachet of this cover urges work and supports the United Nations. Interestingly, it was postmarked at Louisville on V-J Day and has a stamp celebrating the capture of Iwo Jima.



This cover has a quote about Freedom from Abraham Lincoln. It was postmarked at Louisville in February of 1944. There would be much war yet before WWII would end. The stamps are from a three-stamp series supporting defense. Before March 25, 1944, the rate for local first-class mail was 2 cents, as seen here. After this date local letters required full first-class postage of 3 cents as seen in the cover at the top of the page.

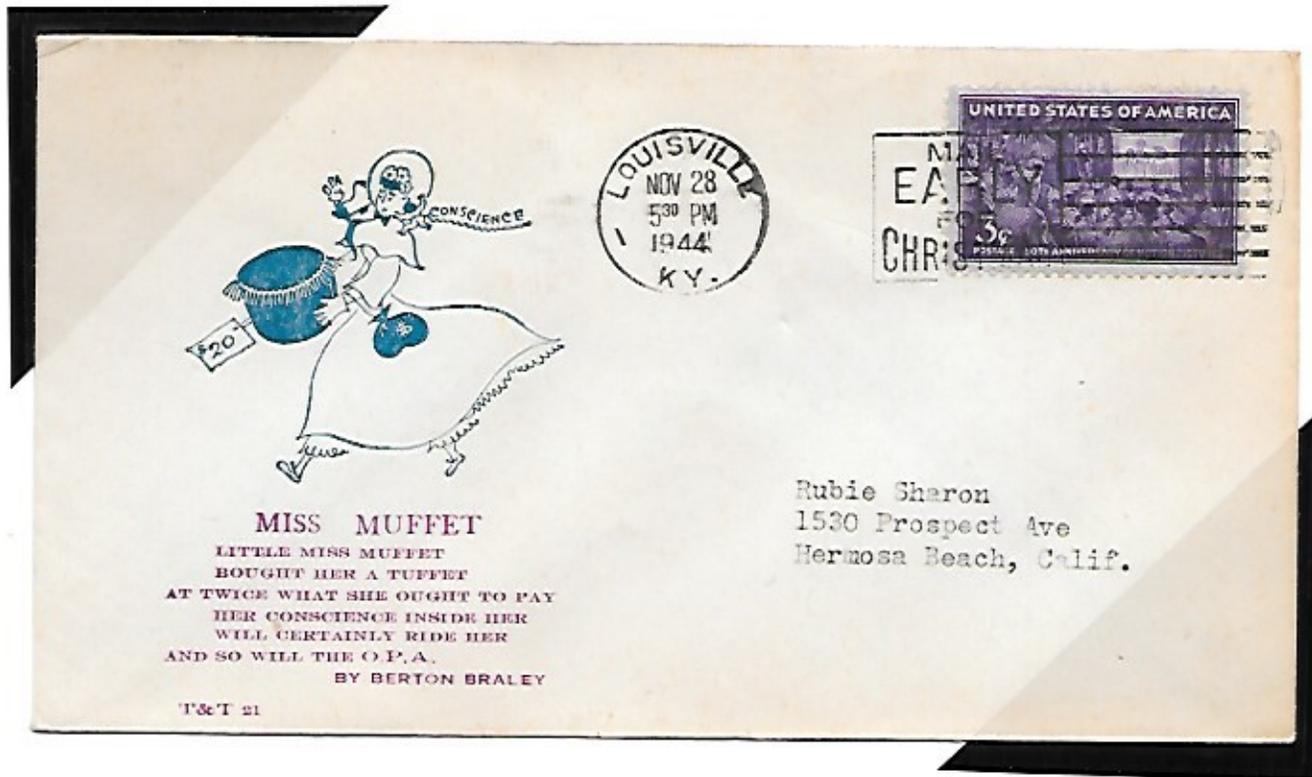
### World War II: Soldier Card – Cherbourg

This card from a soldier in Cherbourg, France was sent in 1944, but exact date is unclear. The 150<sup>th</sup> Armored Signal Company was part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and was in Cherbourg beginning Sept. 23, 1944

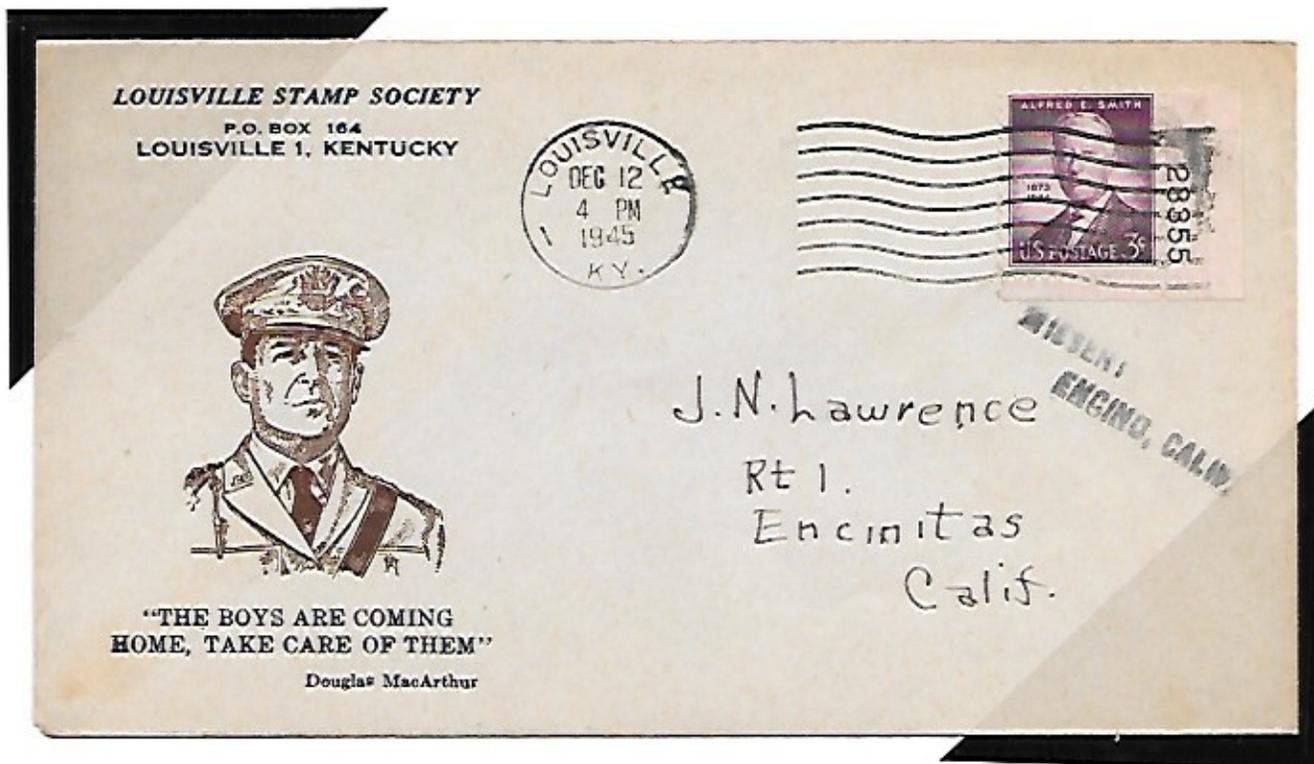


## World War II: Office of Price Administration

The Office of Price Administration was a national agency with local boards operating throughout Kentucky, beginning in 1942. They were responsible for controlling inflation and various product shortages and did so through price controls and rationing. This cachet discouraged black market purchases.



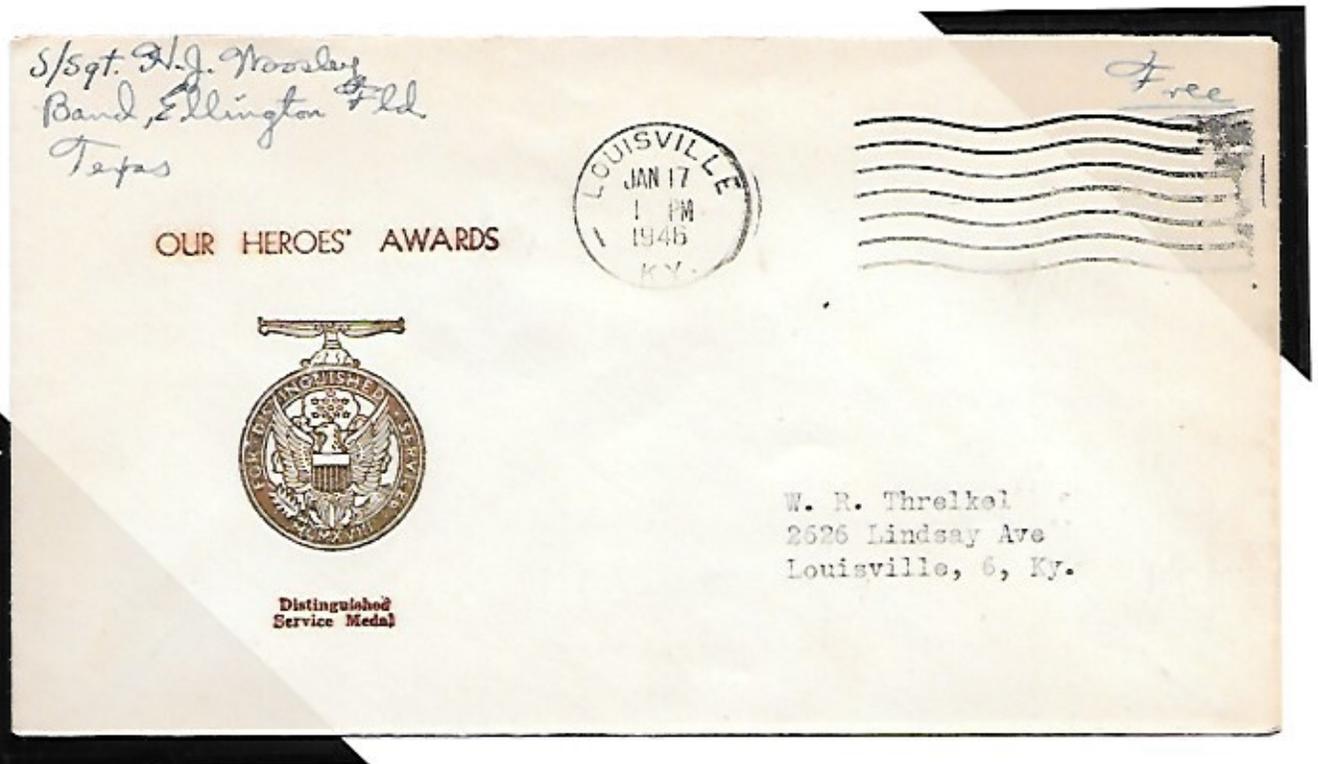
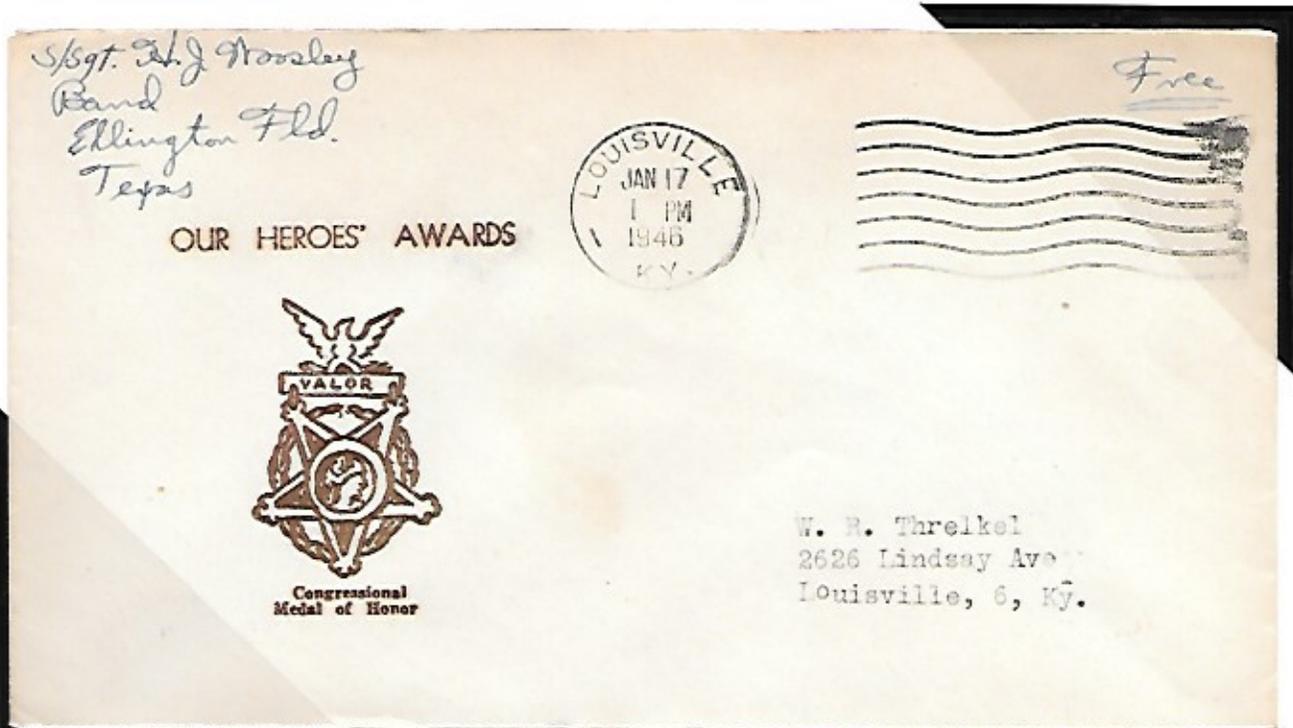
MacArthur Cover



This cover was sent about 3 months after Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted Japanese surrender. Note it was sent from the Louisville Stamp Society.

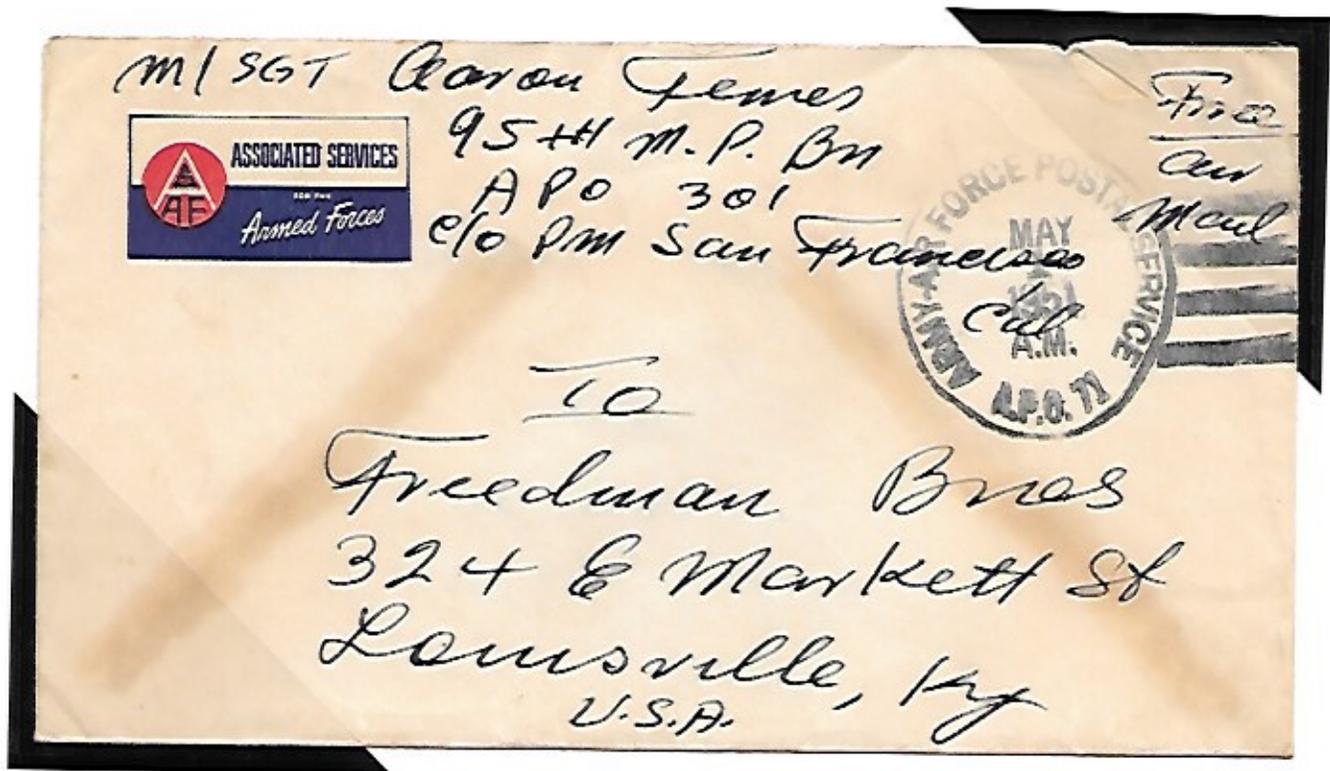
## World War II: Other Mail Bearing Patriotic Cachets

These two covers, mailed from Louisville after the war in January 1946, bear cachets honoring World War II heroes. The first illustrates the Congressional Medal of Honor, while the second illustrates the Distinguished Service Medal. Note that these were still mailed under the Free soldier's mail and therefore did not require the use of stamps. According to Postal Bulletin 18871 (October 30, 1945) free mail for soldiers was to end December 31, 1947.



## Korean War: Free Soldier's Airmail To Louisville, Kentucky

At the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, the Post Office Department, through the Act of July 12, 1950, (effective July 18, 1950) provided that armed forces in Korea or other combat zones could receive free surface mail and free airmail service. As in World War II, in the upper right, the word "Free" in the handwriting of the sender, and in the upper left, the senders name, rank, serial number, and service was required. This Act only applied to personal letters. This free service was extended until June 30, 1953, at which time it expired.

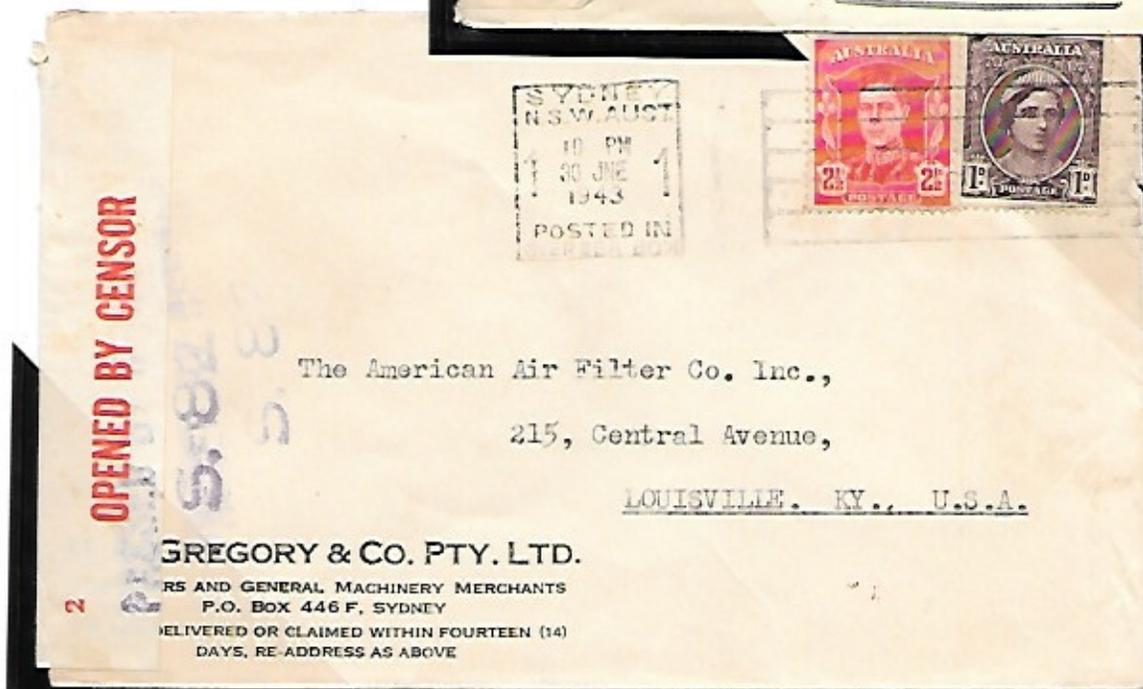


A free airmail letter sent from Master Sergeant Aaron Temes of the 95<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, A.P.O. 301 to an address in Louisville, Kentucky. The envelope bears a May 1, 1951 cancel of the Army-Airforce Postal Service, A.P.O. 71. Note the "Free Air Mail" as required by the post office. The letter was sent in stationery that was provided by the Associated Services for the Armed Forces (ASAF), an organization much like the present day U.S.O.

## World War II: Military Mail to American Air Filter

American Air Filter Co. is headquartered in Louisville and makes filtration products for commercial, industrial and residential use. Bill Reed, a skilled engineer and entrepreneur, developed the Reed Air Filter in 1921. Reed joined forces with seven other firms to create American Air Filter Co. in 1929. Major company milestones include providing filters for 21 types of Allied aircraft during World War II and supplying environmental control equipment for underground launch sites and control centers for ballistic missiles during the 1960s.

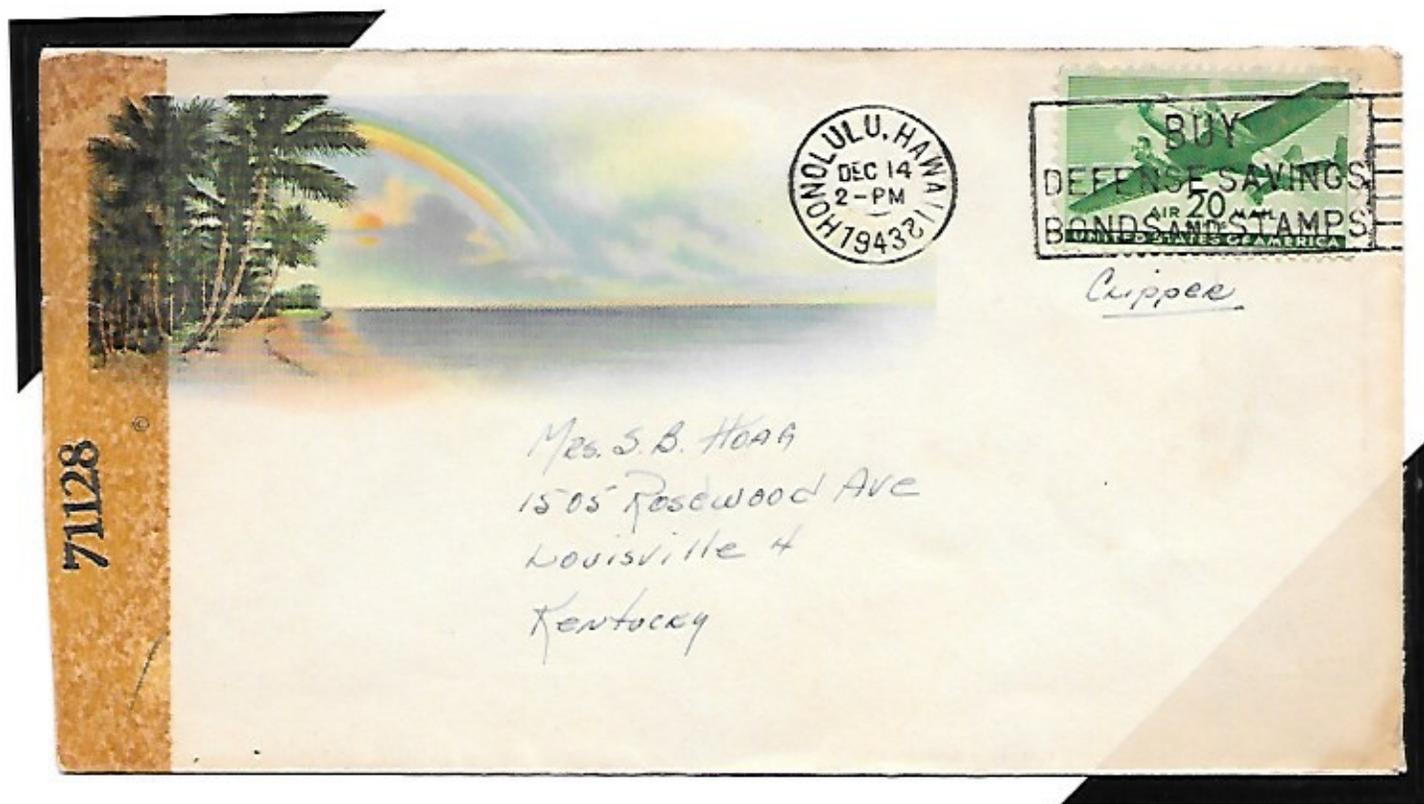
This cover from Leighton Buzzard shows no sender. However RAF Leighton Buzzard was a non-flying RAF station. During WWII, it was a major base for secret communications traffic. Set up in underground tunnels, state of the art equipment was used to handle wireless RAF international communications. Air filtration in tunnels is a requirement and thus this letter, sent during the height of the war via airmail, could have been from the base.



This cover from Australia was sent June 30 and was not received until August 1. Though the routing is not evident on the cover, submarines going from Hawaii to the mainland for repairs or refitting often also carried mail.

## World War II: Censored Cover

This cover was sent by a registered nurse at Sacred Heart Hospital in Honolulu to Louisville via air mail. Sent in 1943, the air mail route from Hawaii to the mainland was the only commercial route segment retained from the pre-war trans-pacific Foreign Air Mail routes 14 and 15. Mail was sent via the Pan Am Clipper. Though this letter was sent and received within US territory, it still had to be inspected by censors.



## Military Hospitals

### United States Marine Hospital

The U.S. Marine Hospital was built in 1845 and opened in 1852. The patients at the Louisville Marine Hospital were usually victims of disease, temperature extremes, and mechanical deficiencies of the era's naval technology. During the Civil War along with Jefferson General Hospital, it formed the foundation of Louisville health care for wounded soldiers, both Union and captured Confederates, both white and black. During World War I, the hospital cared for many amputees injured in the war. During the 1930s, it served as housing for nurses and doctors of nearby hospitals. The hospital closed in 1933.

The hospital, now restored to its original design, is the only one of 7 hospitals built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century "for the benefit of sick seamen, boatmen, and other navigators of the western rivers and lakes" that still remains.

This card was mailed from Seymour, IN in 1910 and there is no indication the sender was associated with the hospital.



Mrs. K. Keister 35921401  
Nichols Gen Hosp.  
Louisville Ky.



Here is to Brag! the Yankee Flag,  
That stands at the head of all,  
And her soldiers, too,  
God bless the Blue,  
Are ready to stand or fall.  
Here's to the Boast! That a Better Toast,  
Played, not on your weary ears,  
Than this simple hit,  
From a Yankee wit,  
On a country dead, to fears.

Carpenter, Holliston, Mass.



Mrs. K.E. Keister  
203 Bellefield Ave.  
Elyria, Ohio

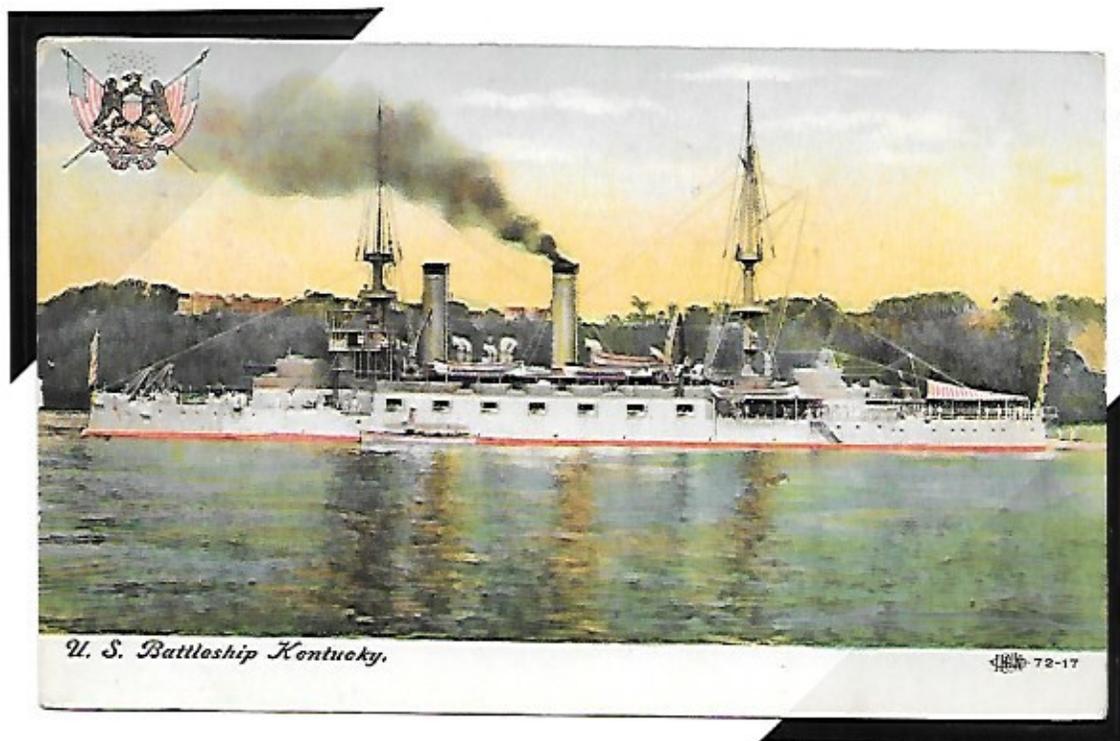
### Nichols General Hospital

This hospital was operated by the U.S. Army Medical Dept. from November 1942 until March 31, 1946. Thereafter until 1952, it was operated by the VA and designated "Nichols VA Hospital." Nichols hospital specialized in nerve repair and many of the patients were paraplegics. Kenneth Keister, sender of this mail, enlisted in 1943 at the age of 29. It is not clear as to whether he was a patient or stationed at the hospital.

## U.S. Navy Ships Named After Kentucky

This Battleship USS Kentucky was launched in 1898. She served in East Asia from 1901 to 1904. From 1904 to 1907 she cruised the Atlantic and then served in the Great White Fleet (16 battleships and auxiliary ships divided into 2 squadrons), a mission to make friendly visits and display US naval power around the world. Although the USS Kentucky mounted two 13 in. and two 8 in guns as well as fourteen 5 in. guns, she did not participate in any major combat. She was decommissioned in 1920.

Shown here is a cover for a letter mailed from the USS Kentucky to an address in NY state in November 1918. It was passed by a censor on November 9, 1918, i.e., just before the war ended.

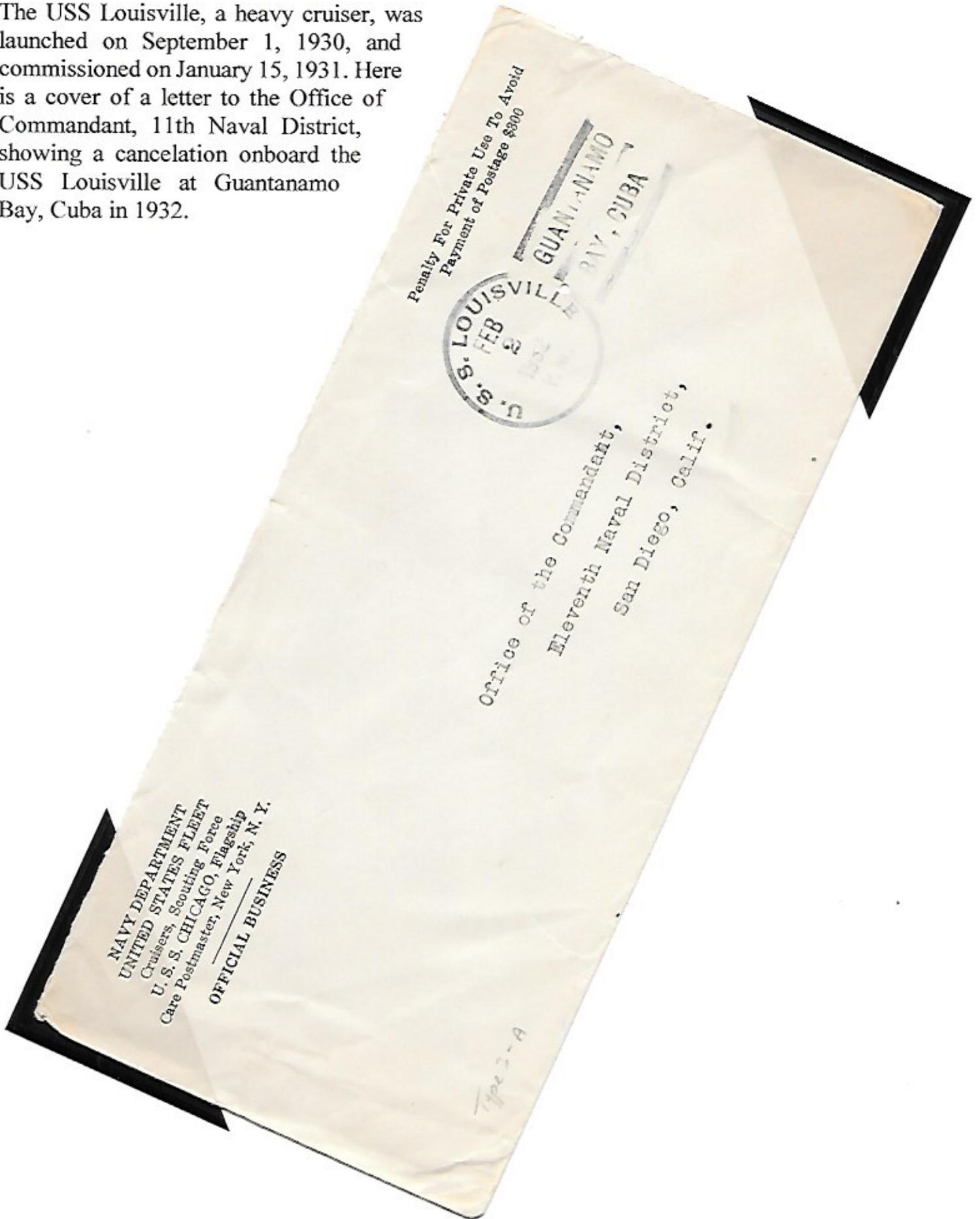


This postcard shows a side view of the battleship. It was postmarked Concord, NH in 1923, the year the Kentucky was sold as scrap.

The message on the card relates to family scheduling.

U.S. Navy Ships Named after Louisville

The USS Louisville, a heavy cruiser, was launched on September 1, 1930, and commissioned on January 15, 1931. Here is a cover of a letter to the Office of Commandant, 11th Naval District, showing a cancelation onboard the USS Louisville at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 1932.



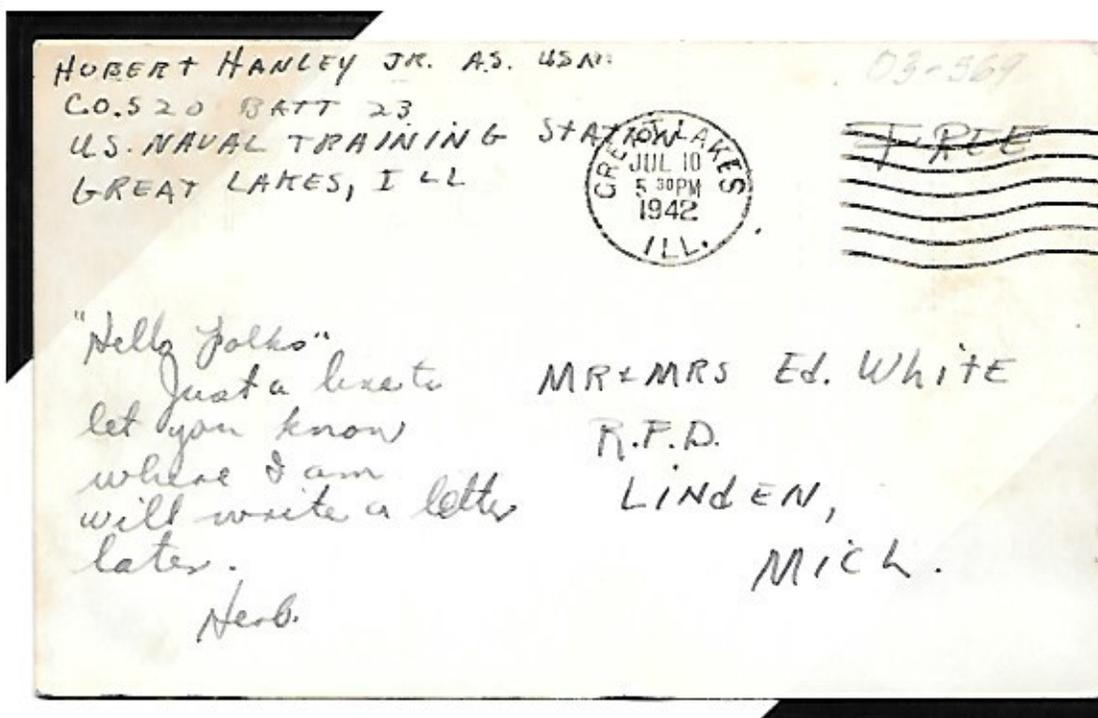
## U.S. Navy Ships Named after Louisville

The USS Louisville was the first large warship to be built in a drydock. Her armor was light, but she was commissioned as a heavy cruiser (CA-28) due to her (8 inch) guns. During WWII she carried over 1,100 officers and men, along with 55 marines. She served in the Pacific including in the Solomons, the Marianas, and at Leyte Gulf. She was refitted several times. She suffered damage when a shell from the USS Indianapolis ricocheted off an atoll and exploded near her. In 1945 she was hit by a Kamikaze on 5th and on the 6th of January 1945, killing more than 40 sailors. She was returned to service but was hit by a Kamikaze on June 5th losing 8 sailors. She was decommissioned at Philadelphia in June 1946. Known as Lady Lou, she was awarded 13 battle stars.

U. S. S. LOUISVILLE



A photo postcard mailed at Great Lakes Training Station in July 1942 shows a profile of the ship. The message: "Hello folks" Just a line the let you know where I am. Will write a letter later. Herb.



## U.S. Navy Ships Named after Louisville

The USS Louisville (SSN 724), a Los Angeles-class, fast attack nuclear powered submarine is the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named for Louisville, Kentucky. She was launched on December 14, 1985 and commissioned on November 8, 1986.

In January 1987, she transited the Panama Canal to her home base in San Diego as part of Submarine Squadron 11. She has seen action in Iraq in both Desert Storm (1991) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003). In 1991, as Operation Desert Storm began, she carried out the first war patrol by an American submarine since World War II. During this mission, she became the first submarine to fire Tomahawk cruise missiles in combat. As a result she was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation. She was awarded another Navy Unit Commendation in 2003 for her role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She is currently stationed at Pearl Harbor.



Her commissioning is celebrated here on a cacheted first day cover dated on November 8, 1986 at Groton, CT.