

# A Philatelic Sampling of the Great War: Stamps, Postal History, and Ephemera



Paul Petersen

For the Reading Stamp Collector's Club

04<sup>th</sup> August 2014

The Great War (1914-1918) is probably the world's all-time second major event. It is second only to World War Two. As such, there will be significant philatelic offerings to come....

...for the historical background of almost every stamp, Cinderella, or piece of postal history shown tonight, there have been books, college courses, symposiums, and exhibits about this great catastrophic event.— P. Petersen



# The Centennial 1914-2014





# CENTENARY OF THE GREAT WAR



*'At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them'* - For the Fallen, L. Binyon

FIRST EDITION STAMP SHEET  
NUMBER 0001 OF 1000



# Some Think It Really Started in 1705



# Outline of Topics Covered-1

## ■ Stamps

- Worldwide Players
- Soldiers, Sailors, Air Corps, & Marines
- Some Major Offensives
- Enter: American Expeditionary Force
- Armistice & Versailles
- Occupation Issues
- Victory & Pax
- Memorials
- A few Side Bars
- Aftermath
- Modern Stuff

# Outline-2

## ■ Other

- Postal History
  - Samples of censorship, free franks, philatelic covers and more
- Savings: Thrift, Stamps, Bonds
- Cinderellas
  - Unit Stamps
  - Bond/Loan Drives
  - Fund Raising for War and for Disabled Vets



# The Impact of the Great War on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century→



# 20th Century

Decade of Revolution  
and Great War

1910

Irresistible forces turned the world upside down as the 20th Century marched through its second decade. In just 10 years, simmering discontent and revolutionary ideas reshaped geographic, political, artistic and scientific frontiers, sowing seeds of turmoil for decades to come.

1919



Designers: Paul Calle and Chris Calle

©1997 MIPS



# Great War Players-1





# Great War Players-2





# Great War Players-3





# Army, Navy, Marines, & Air Corps-1





# Army, Navy, Marines, & Air Corps-2





# Army, Navy, Marines, & Air Corps-3





# Some Major Offensives





# Armistice & Versailles



# Victory Issues & Pax-1





# Victory Issues & Pax-2





# Victory Issues & Pax-3



# Victory Issue & Pax-4





# Memorials-1



# Memorials-2





# Memorials-3



# Memorials 4





# Memorial Souvenir (15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armistice)



Rev. E. B. Davidson  
Huntingdon  
Va.



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Italy





# Occupation Overprints-1



# Occupation Overprints-2





# The Great War Post





# Poppies: A Topical





# Poppies-2



# Shore to Shore

Island Hopper previews forthcoming stamp issues

British  
Islands Stamps

## Jersey Post—Poppy Seed Stamps

Jersey Post has been keeping details of its latest issue under wraps, until now. GSN can exclusively reveal that Jersey's 'Remembrance' stamp issue, which features watercolours of poppies, contains a special print technique to mark the occasion of the centenary of the World War I.

Real poppy seeds have been encapsulated in two of the designs, sealed behind thin, transparent, bio-degradable plastic covers. The stamps can be planted and will gradually decompose as the seeds start to grow, producing the striking red flowers which are so strongly associated with Remembrance.

Sally Diamond from Jersey Post said: 'We are donating a percentage of our philatelic sales of this issue to the Royal British Legion, and we want to engage the general public and stamp collectors alike with a print technique that is fitting for this historic occasion. Our aim is to encourage everyone to support the Poppy Appeal by planting Jersey poppy stamps during May to create a profusion of flowers in time for the 4 August 2014 anniversary.'

Mia Diamond explains the concept of the stamps: 'Our early concepts were earmarked to include real poppy seeds right from the start and we discussed our idea with Carme Security Printing in France over a year ago.'

The Seed Stamp packet containing the 46p and 56p values from Jersey Post's Remembrance issue



Jersey Post marks the centenary of World War I with a another innovative issue



Once the right seeds were sourced from UK suppliers, Simon Seeds, our next challenge was to create an issue that would be sympathetic to the subject, whilst incorporating seeds within the designs.

Freelance watercolour artist, Katharine Asher, was chosen to produce the illustrations out of a pool of strong candidates. The end result is a set of stamps and a miniature sheet that represent the massive loss of life and bravery of all those who fought in the World War I, and also pay tribute to all those who have died for their country in all wars ever since.

A single poppy bloom appears on four of the designs, three of which also incorporate images including a lone soldier, the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris and the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration awarded for valor (the greatest number won in a single conflict is 628, awarded to recipients for action in World War I). The other two designs feature delicate paintings of the soldier wounded and a more modern portrayal of soldiers on the battlefield, to remember all those involved in active duty. Poppy seeds have been encapsulated into the 46p and 56p stamps which are also available in specially designed Seed Stamp Packets.

The British Legion adopted the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in 1921 and the first Poppy Appeal was born, now the most recognizable charity appeal in the UK. The significance of poppies as Remembrance is largely attributed to Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a doctor serving in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France with the Canadian Armed Forces. The charmed up soil, warmed up by the spring sun, encouraged clusters of poppies to grow in the aftermath of the complete devastation in the battlefields. McCrae was deeply inspired and moved by what he saw and wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. An artist representation of the poem is incorporated within the design on the miniature sheet.

Jersey Post hopes the stamps will appeal to collectors, children and humanitarianism and that people will buy the Seed Stamp Packets to plant, or put, or to send to their friends and family. The complete collection is available to pre-order online now at [www.jerseystamps.com](http://www.jerseystamps.com) and Jersey Post will make a donation to the Royal British Legion from the proceeds.

G.S.M. May 2014



# Taxation



# Taxation/Charity





# Posters on Stamps-1



# Posters on Stamps-2





# Nursing & Edith Cavell



# Funding the Wounded-1





# Funding the Wounded-2



# Atrocities





# Home Front-Women



# Home Front: Families





# Aftermath: Greco-Turkish War



# Aftermath: Anglo-Irish War, Civil War and Independence





# Et Cetera



# Stamps on Maps: Latvia #1





# Stamps on Currency



# War Bond Drive-1

## Innovative U.S. War Bond Program Offset Cost of World War I

Seldom-seen War Savings stamps are mementos of an eye-opening phenomenon in American history – the mass mobilization of citizens from all walks of life to finance the World War I effort. And they're handsomely engraved – a perfect complement to your U.S. stamp collection!

Taxation paid one third of the \$35 billion war budget. Average Americans paid the rest with war bonds. An intense marketing campaign was used to introduce everyday citizens to the new concept of interest-bearing bonds.

War Savings stamps were issued by the Treasury Department and sold in post offices and banks. The 25¢ Thrift Stamps were marketed to children while their parents were encouraged to purchase the \$5 War Savings Certificate stamp. The program was so successful it was used again during World War II. A neat piece of the past you'll be proud to own!



WS1

*In 1917, \$5 was  
equal to \$271 in  
today's wages!*

WS2

|  | Mint    | Used   |
|--|---------|--------|
| WS1.X 1917 25¢ Deep Green War Savings, U.S. .... | \$16.00 | \$3.00 |
| WS2.X 1917 \$5 Deep Green War Savings, U.S. .... | 100.00  | 25.00  |

## Scarce WW I War Savings Stamp is History You Can Hold!

Own mint World War I War Savings Stamps – a neat piece of American history unknown to most collectors!

Issued in 1919 to pay debts incurred during World War I, this stamp was sold at every Post Office and by every clerk and carrier. Millions of dollars were raised to help offset the war effort. War Savings Certificates were redeemable for U.S. Treasury War Certificates, Defense Bonds or War Bonds. The face shows how much the cost of investment was during each month of 1920 and that its value would be \$5 in 1925.

History you can hold in your hands – order yours now.

|  | Mint     | Used     |
|--|----------|----------|
| WS5 1919 \$5 War Savings Certificate, Mint, U.S. ... | \$795.00 | \$325.00 |



WS5 – War Savings Certificate  
Missing From Most Collections



# War Bond Drive-2

### Questions and Answers

at

**What is the difference between a Thrift Stamp and a War Savings Certificate Stamp?**

The 25-cent Thrift Stamps are issued to help you to save and exchange for a \$5 War Savings Certificate Stamp. The Thrift Stamp bears no interest; the War Savings Certificate Stamp earns interest.

**Why do I get a \$5 War Savings Certificate Stamp for from \$4.12 to \$4.23?**

The \$5 is payable January 1, 1923. It includes the return to you of your money with the compound interest that the Government will pay you. The sooner you fill up and exchange your Thrift Card for a War Savings Certificate Stamp, the more interest you will receive.

**Why should I exchange my full card of Thrift Stamps for a War Savings Certificate Stamp?**


Because the War Savings Certificate Stamp bears interest and the Thrift Stamp do not.

**What becomes of the money I pay for a stamp?**

It is a loan to the United States Government.

**How can my 25 cents really help?**

A loan of only 25 cents by every person in the Nation will provide the United States Government with 25 million dollars.



## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THRIFT CARD

ISSUED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

My friend

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

When sixteen 25-cent United States Government THRIFT STAMPS, representing a total of FOUR DOLLARS, are affixed herein, and a CASH PAYMENT of from 12 cents to 23 cents is made as provided on page 2, this card should be EXCHANGED for a WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATE STAMP for which you will be paid on Jan. 1, 1923


### FIVE DOLLARS

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THRIFT CARD

Take good care of your Thrift Card. If your Thrift Card is lost the money paid for stamps can not be recovered.

Thrift Stamps are on sale at post offices, banks, trust companies, and other authorized agencies.

Affix only 25-cent U. S. Government Thrift Stamps in space below. Do not use Postage Stamps.

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <br><div style="text-align: center;">1</div> | <div style="text-align: center;">5</div> <p style="font-size: small;">The first principle of money-making is money saving.</p> | <div style="text-align: center;">9</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Many a little makes a mickle.</p>   | <div style="text-align: center;">13</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Save and have.</p>                                      |
| <div style="text-align: center;">2</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Your second stamp here.</p>                               | <div style="text-align: center;">6</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Don't put off 'till to-morrow.</p>                       | <div style="text-align: center;">10</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Saving creates independence.</p>   | <div style="text-align: center;">14</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Good seeds from little seeds grow.</p>                  |
| <div style="text-align: center;">3</div> <p style="font-size: small;">If you want to succeed, save.</p>                         | <div style="text-align: center;">7</div> <p style="font-size: small;">A penny saved is a penny gained.</p>                     | <div style="text-align: center;">11</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Thrift begins with little savings.</p>                                   | <div style="text-align: center;">15</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Waste not; want not.</p>                                |
| <div style="text-align: center;">4</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Thrift is the power to save.</p>                          | <div style="text-align: center;">8</div> <p style="font-size: small;">All fortunes have their foundations laid in thrift.</p>  | <div style="text-align: center;">12</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Money placed at interest works day and night—in wet and dry weather.</p> | <div style="text-align: center;">16</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Learn economy and you start on the road to success.</p> |

**Important.**—When you have affixed the sixteen 25-cent U. S. Government Thrift Stamps representing \$4, take this card to a post office, bank, or other authorized agent, pay the number of cents indicated below the month in which the exchange is made, and you will receive a War Savings Certificate Stamp for which you will be paid \$5 on January 1, 1923. Such payment and exchange must be made during the year 1918.

| MONTH | JAN. | FEB. | MAR. | APR. | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG. | SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. |
|-------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Cents | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20    | 21   | 22   | 23   |

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE



# Swiss Army Post





# RF Cinderellas



# Italy & Austria Cinderellas





# Assorted WWI Cinderellas-1



# Assorted WWI Cinderellas-2





# Germany: Inflation & Lost Colonies



More Modern Stuff

The Approaching the Centennial  
(or Centenary as they call it in the UK)



# Belgian Souvenir Sheet



# UK Passchendaele '07 SS





# Isle of Man



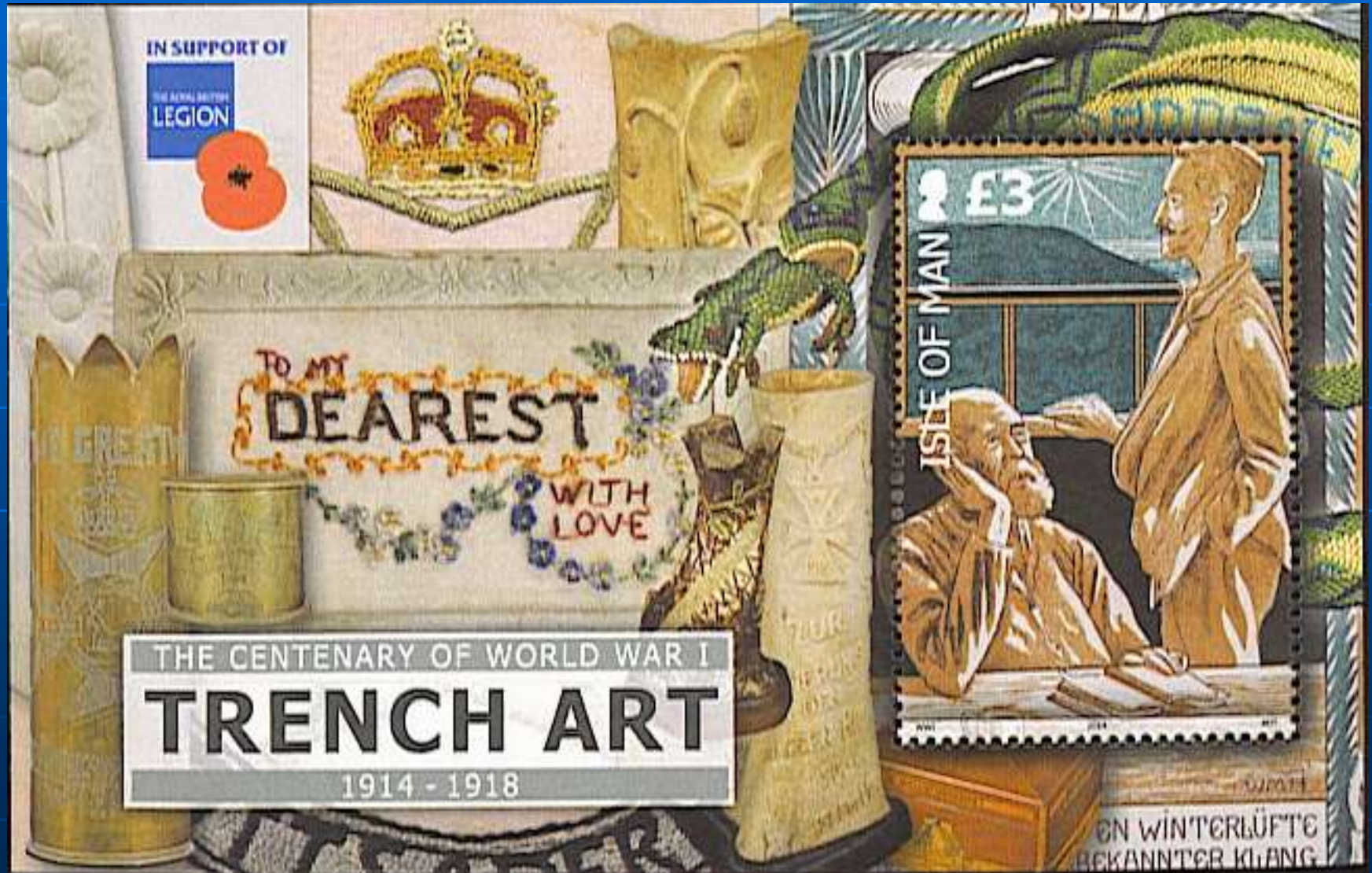


# Isle of Man '08 FDC





# Isle of Man '14 SS





# New Zealand ANZACs (1915-1971)





# Postal History: Philatelic PC



# Postal History: Free Frank

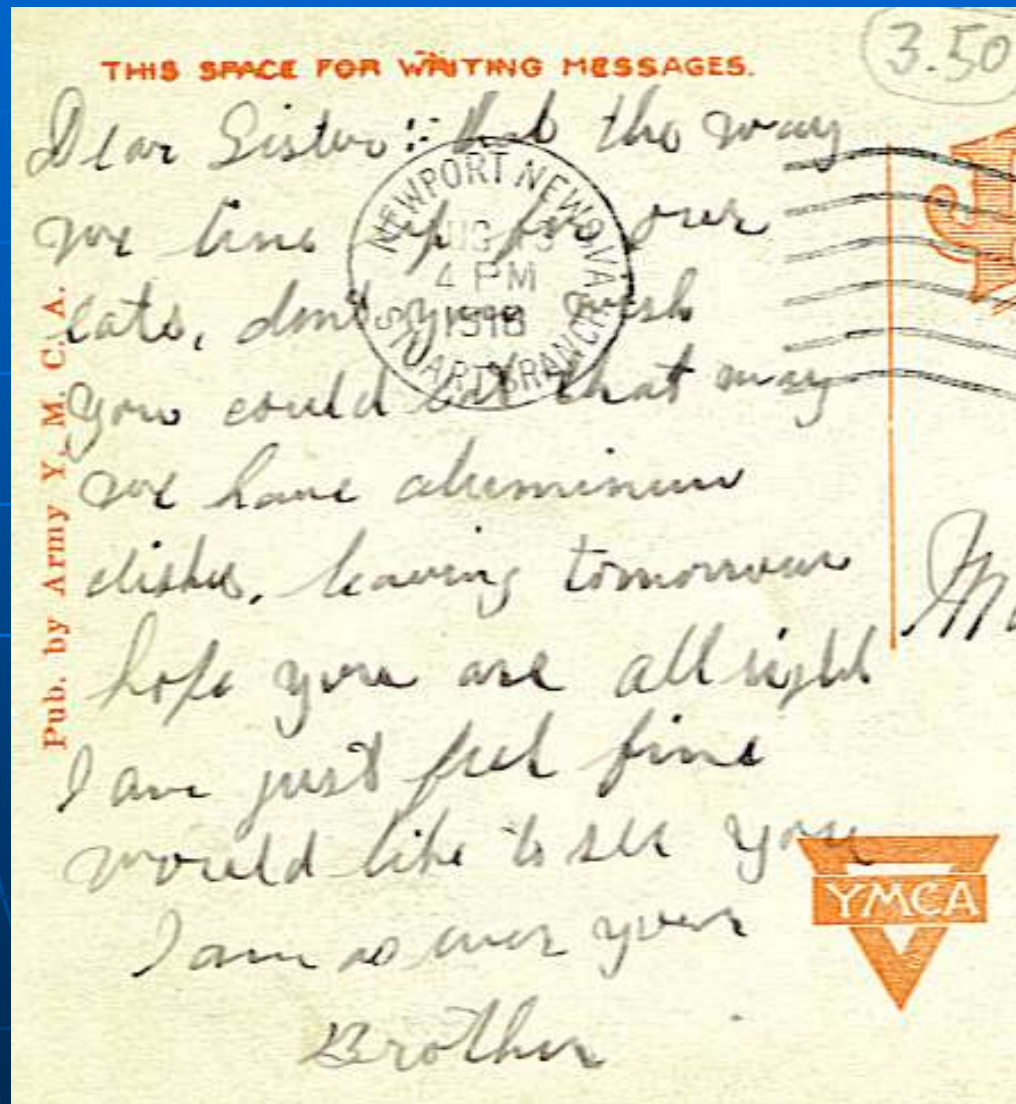




# Postal History: US War Tax



# Postal History: Boot Camp, YMCA





# Postal History: Censorship



# Postal History: Back Home

DEPARTMENT FOR RECEPTION  
OF RETURNING TROOPS

MILITARY  
POST OFFICE  
SOLDIER'S MAIL

**Post Card**  
For Address Only

SOLDIER'S MAIL.  
NO POSTAGE IF  
MAILED ON BOAT  
OR DOCK.  
OTHERWISE  
2c POSTAGE  
REQUIRED.

Date May 26

Arrived to-day Transport Pennamatoika

Going to Camp Dux

Will write from there as soon as possible.

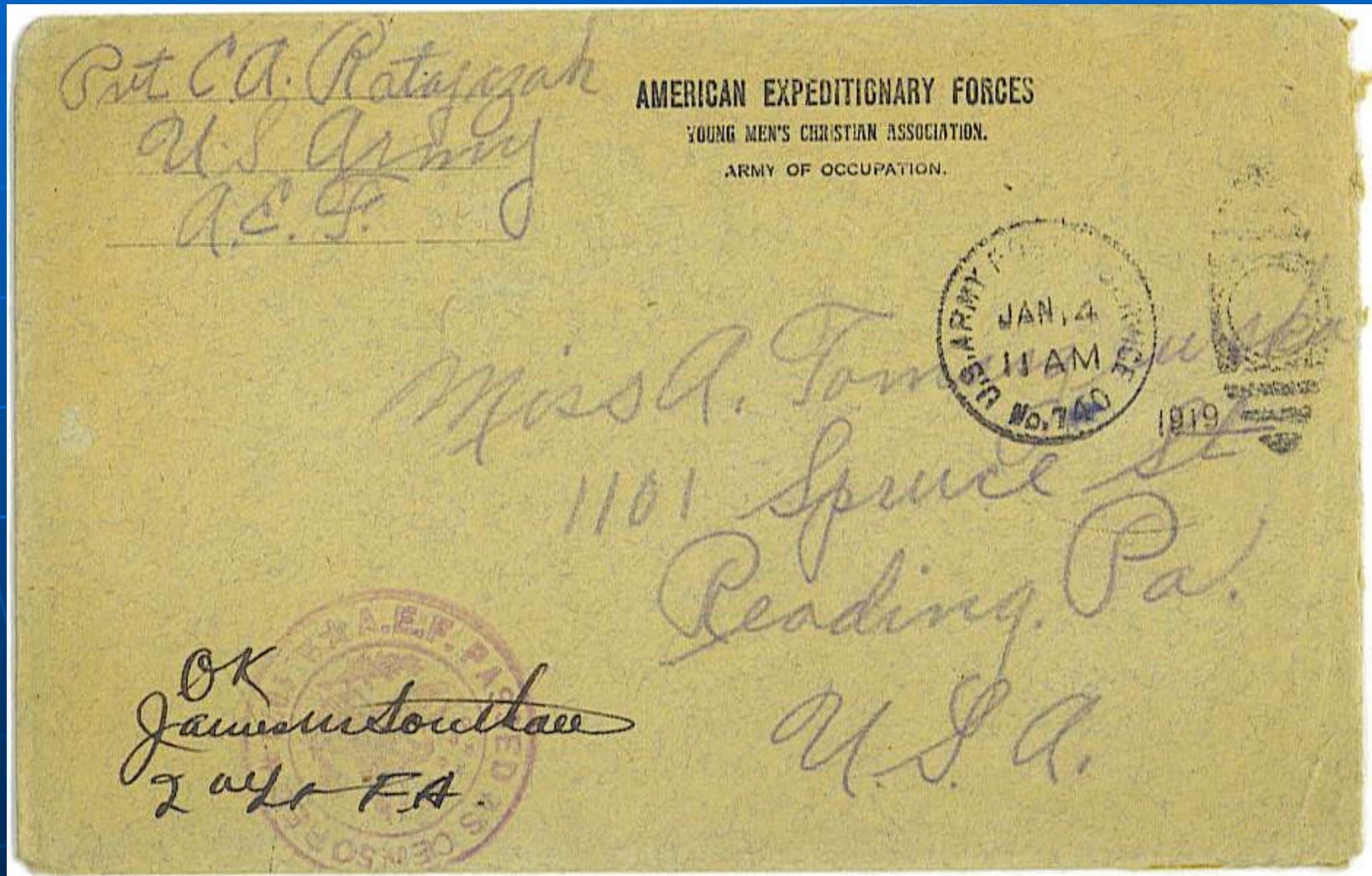
Name Howard Humminger

Unit 314th Inf 79. Div

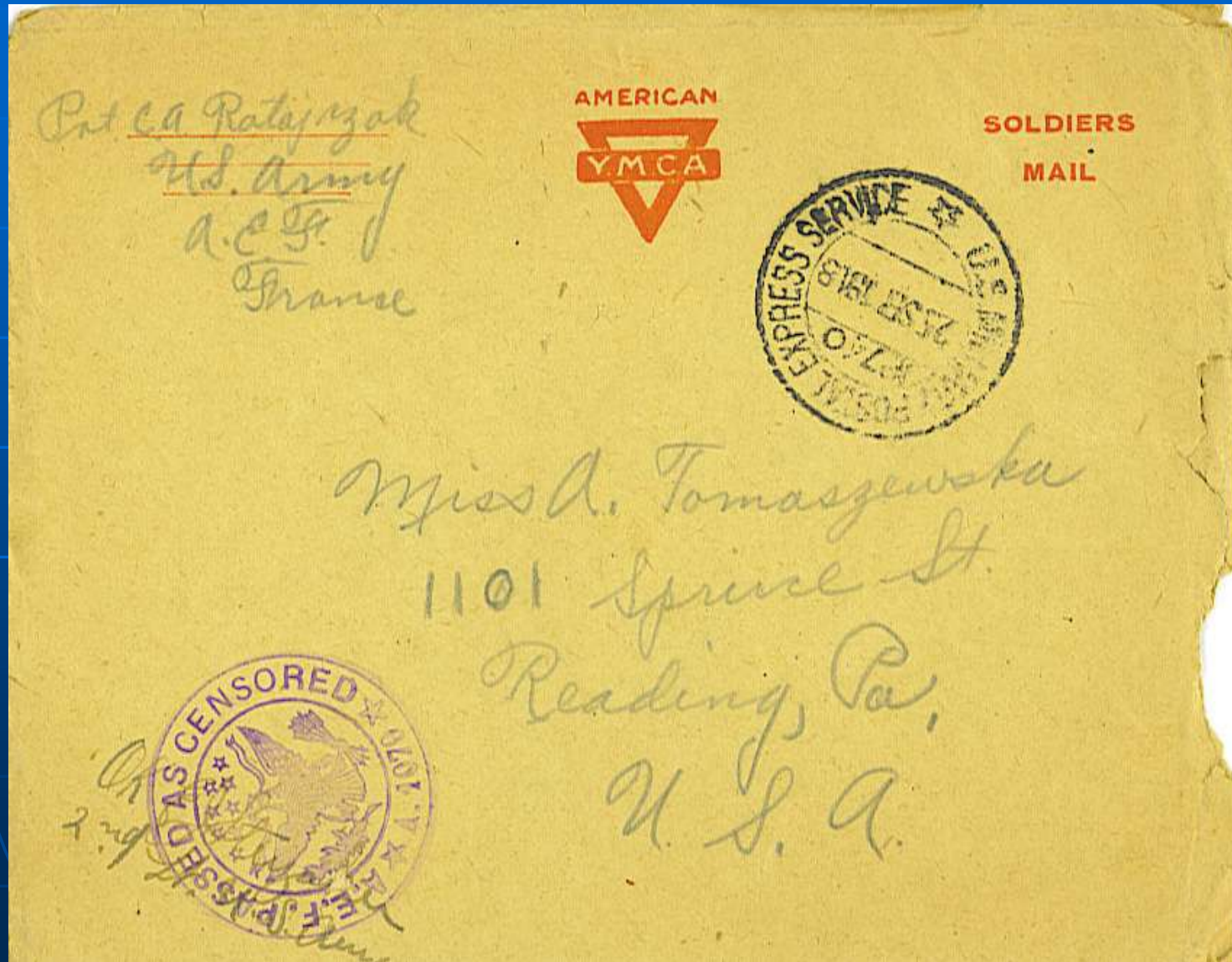
Mrs D. J. Humminger  
116 Longway St  
Athens Pa



# AEF:YMCA-1

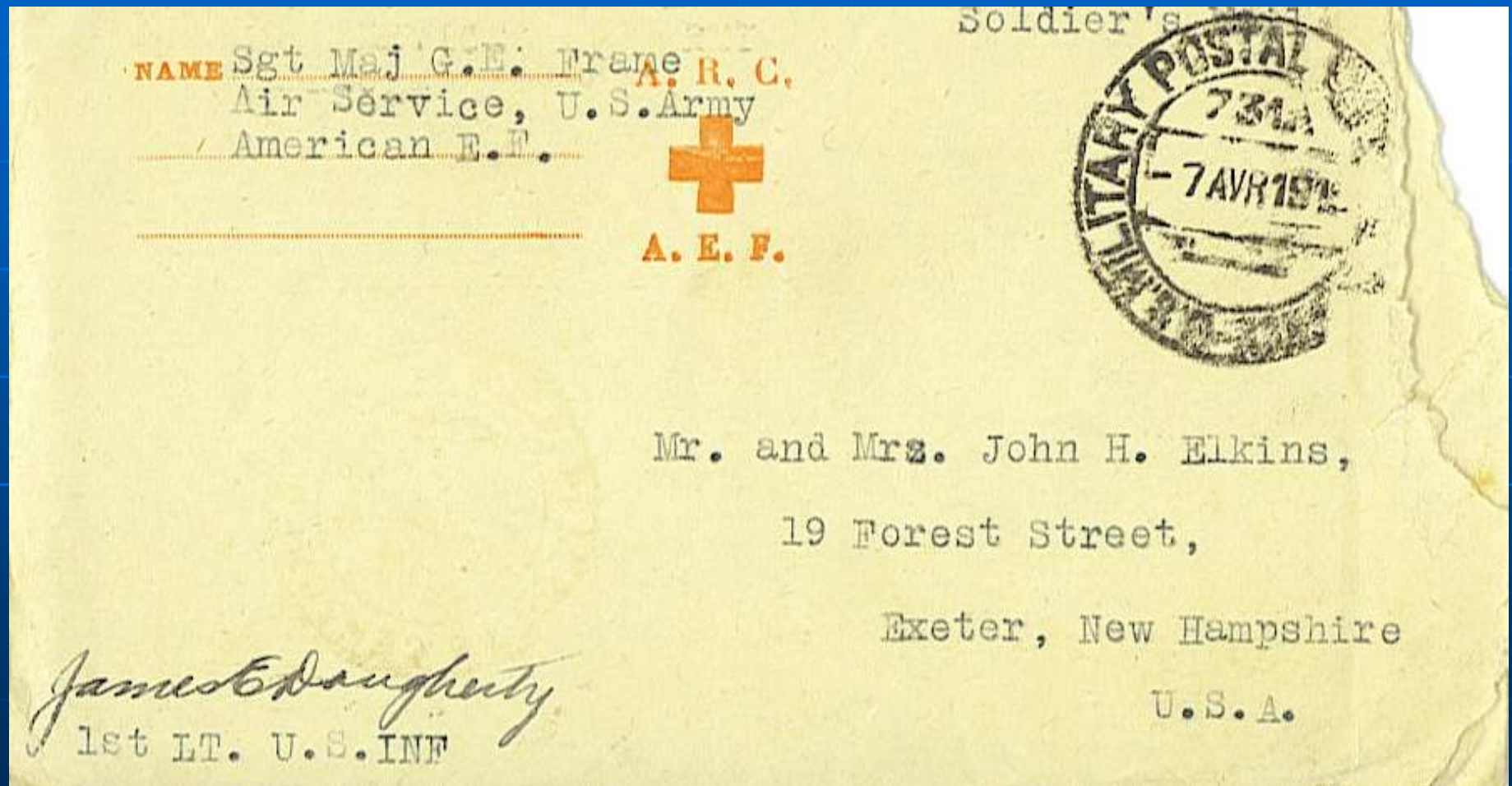


# AEF: YMCA-2

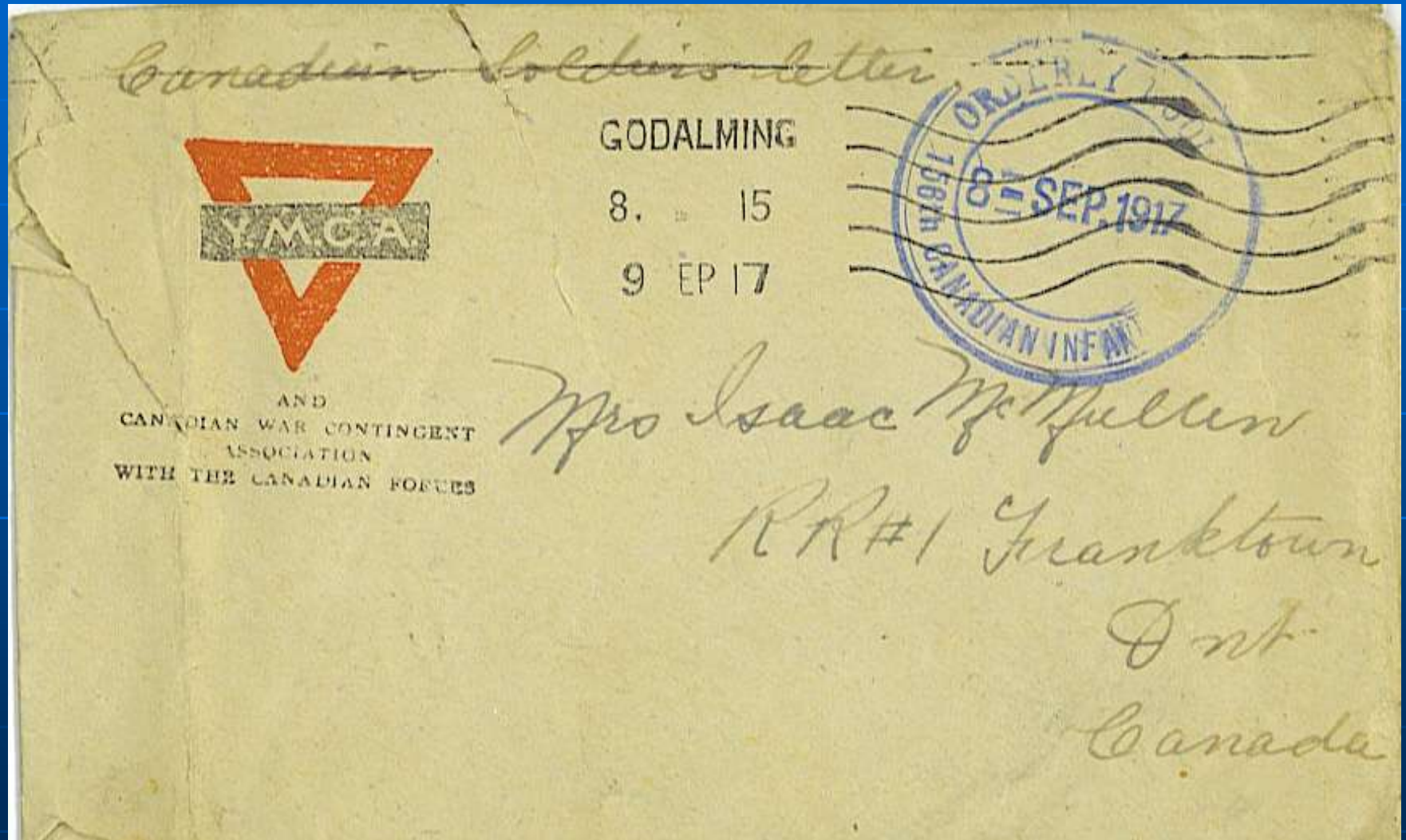




# AEF: American Red Cross



# CEF: YMCA-1





# CEF: YMCA-2



# The End

***Fini***