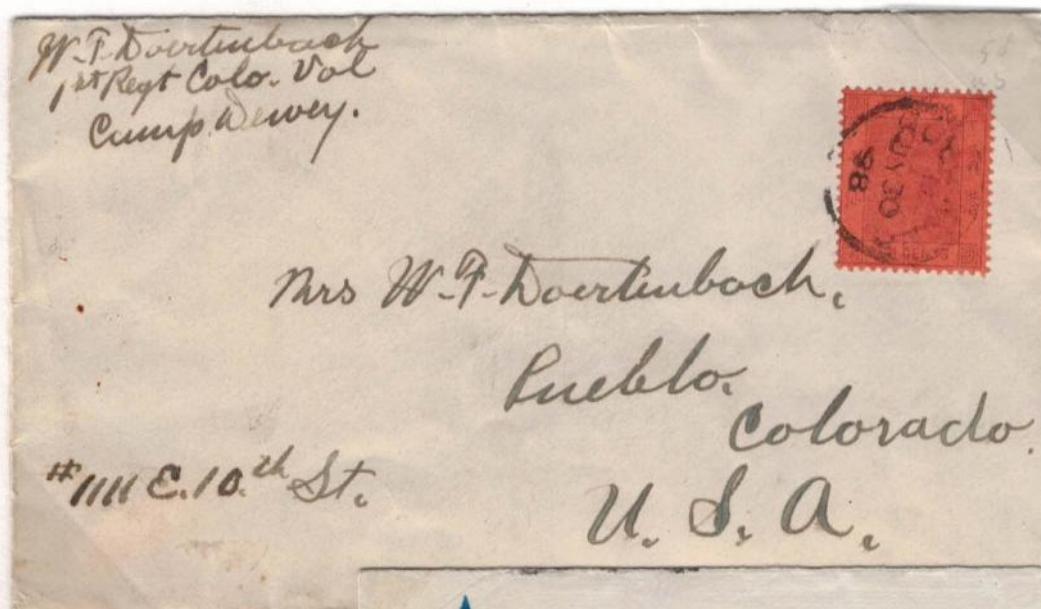


## PHILIPPINES

After the United States declared war on Spain on 21 April 1898, an expeditionary force was assembled preparatory to the occupation of the Philippines. The destruction of the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay on 1 May by the Americans under Commodore Dewey sealed the fate of the defenders, and an armistice was signed on 12 August. However, some of the Filipinos wanted independence, not merely the substitution of American rule for Spanish, and an insurrection led by Emilio Aguinaldo required the presence of a substantial American military force until it was finally put down on 16 April 1902.

### Transport Post Office Forerunners

Hong Kong  
26 July 1898  
30 July 1898



A fleet of four troopships sailed from San Francisco on 15 June and arrived in Cavite Bay on 16 July 1898. The postal agent and two clerks remained on board the steamer *China*, where they operated a "transport post office," gathering outgoing mail for despatch to the U.S. At least two such mail shipments went out via Hong Kong.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Manila Bay  
25 July 1898

Transport Post Office Forerunner

On Steam Ship Zealandia  
In Manila Bay  
July 25<sup>th</sup> 98

Dear Parents.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Merritt arrived  
yesterday afternoon, the balance of  
the 3 expedition will be 6 days later.

It rains here  
and very  
warm, about

RETURN TO  
ELMER H. THOMAS,  
NEW BRIGHTON, PA.  
~~I. F. THOMAS & SON CO., 2<sup>nd</sup> Street~~  
BONE FERTILIZERS  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Soldier's letter  
Elmer H. Thomas  
Detachment 10, P.V.



To Samuel C. Thomas,  
New Brighton Pa.  
U.S.A.

U.S. CHARGE  
TO COLLECT 2 CENTS

Several shipments of mail from the troops prior to the opening of the post office at Cavite on 30 July went directly to the United States for processing. These letters were forwarded to the addressees without prepayment of postage but 2 cents postage due was charged on delivery.

Example shown from a soldier on board S.S. Zealandia is one of six covers recorded from the despatch of 28 July; has transit backstamp of San Francisco on 22 August 1898 and was received in Pennsylvania on the 27th. Letter mentions arrival of General Merritt on the 24th and expected arrival of the balance of the expedition on the 30th.

PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Philippine Station  
30 July 1898

Opening Day of Cavite Post Office

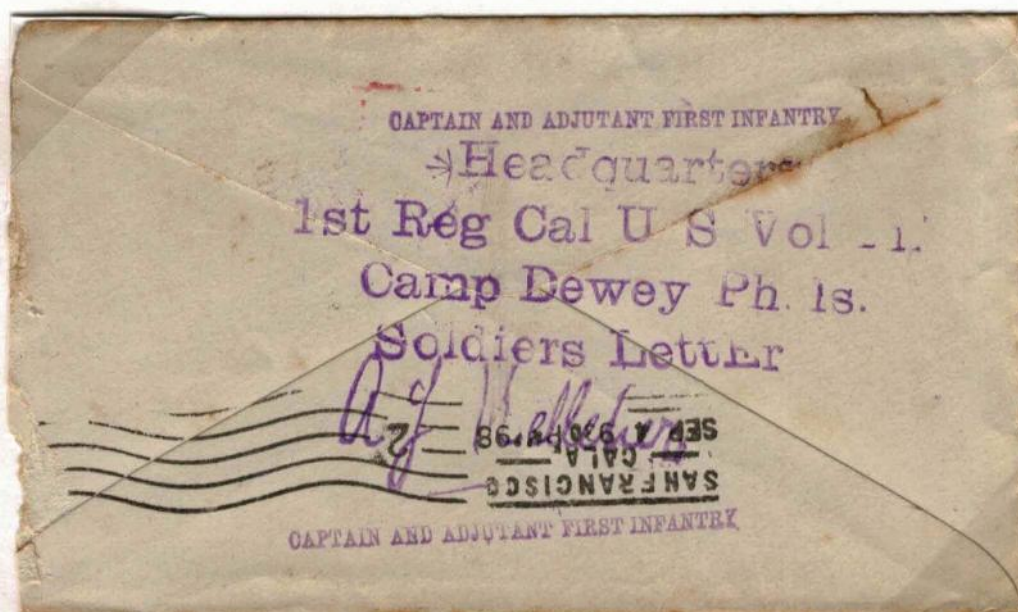


Eventually, the postal agent and the clerks, with their safe and other equipment, were unloaded and set up for business on 30 July 1898 at Cavite, about 10 miles southwest of Manila. This first U.S. post office in the Philippines was designated as the Philippine Station branch of San Francisco. Only four examples of this postmark are recorded on the opening date. The latest recorded date is 18 January 1899.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Philippine Station  
6 August 1898



A few days after the post office was opened at Cavite, a sub-station was opened at Camp Dewey nearby, the primary encampment for the U.S. forces (Goodale). No special marking was used on the Camp Dewey mail, which was delivered to Cavite for cancellation. However, the location was provided in a soldier's letter endorsement applied by the 1st Regiment of California Volunteers.



Souvenir of Agent Vaille's first visit to the Manila post office



F. W. Vaille, postal agent for the Philippine Island Military Postal Service, embarked on a transport at Cavite on 13 August to witness the taking of Manila and arrange for the transfer of the postal activity to U.S. control. He reported, "...I was enabled to land and enter Manila an hour or more before any of our soldiers entered the city, and soon thereafter succeeded in finding the Manila post office. There I was courteously received and shown over the office."

Vaille also prepared souvenirs of his visit, cancelling Spanish Philippines postal cards with the "Philippine Station" postmark and endorsing them on the back to confirm his visit on the 13th.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Philippine Station  
14 August 1898

Opening Day of Manila Post Office



On the following day, 14 August, the Manila post office officially opened for business under American authority. Only five covers are recorded as being used on the first day. Four of the examples are on letters sent to the United States and one (shown above) to Canada.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Philippine Station  
10 August 1898  
17 September 1898

Registered Mail

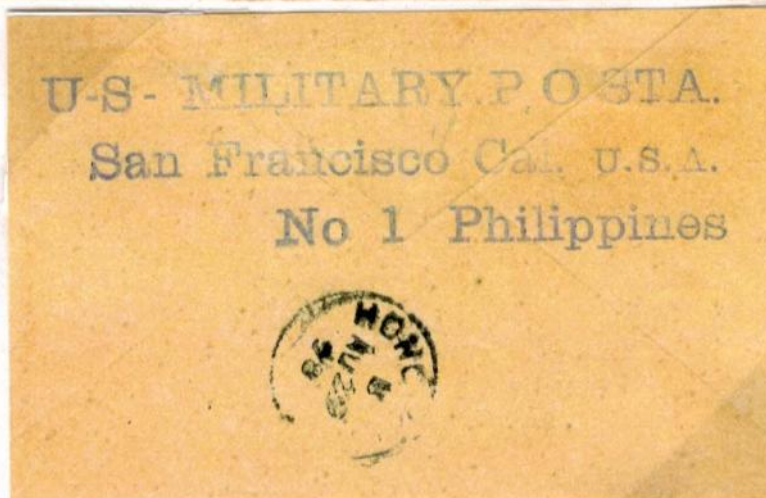


The single ring rubber Philippine Station cds used for registered mail is recorded used only for two months (from the recently-discovered EKU cover used from Camp Dewey on 10 August as shown above to 9 October 1898). Thus, it is an elusive marking, especially on mail to foreign destinations, as in the case of the lower cover to Italy.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Philippine Station  
24 August 1898



Single-ring rubber cds reads "Philippine Sta." The postage is cancelled with a double oval "San Francisco" killer. On the reverse is a previously unrecorded 3-line marking of the "U.S. Military P.O. Sta./ No.1 Philippines."



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 1  
24 October 1898  
11 November 1898



Manila was the first of six numbered military stations opened in the Philippines. A new double-ring postmark reading "Mil. Sta. No. 1/San Francisco, Cal." is recorded used from 17 October 1898 to 14 March 1899. An extensively used postmark, but usage to foreign destinations (as above to China and Indochina) is very unusual.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 1  
24 December 1898  
5 May 1899



For Registered mail during this period, a double ring cds was introduced, including the station number and San Francisco. This marking is recorded used between 26 October 1898 and 15 June 1899.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 1 Manila  
16 April 1899  
7 June 1899

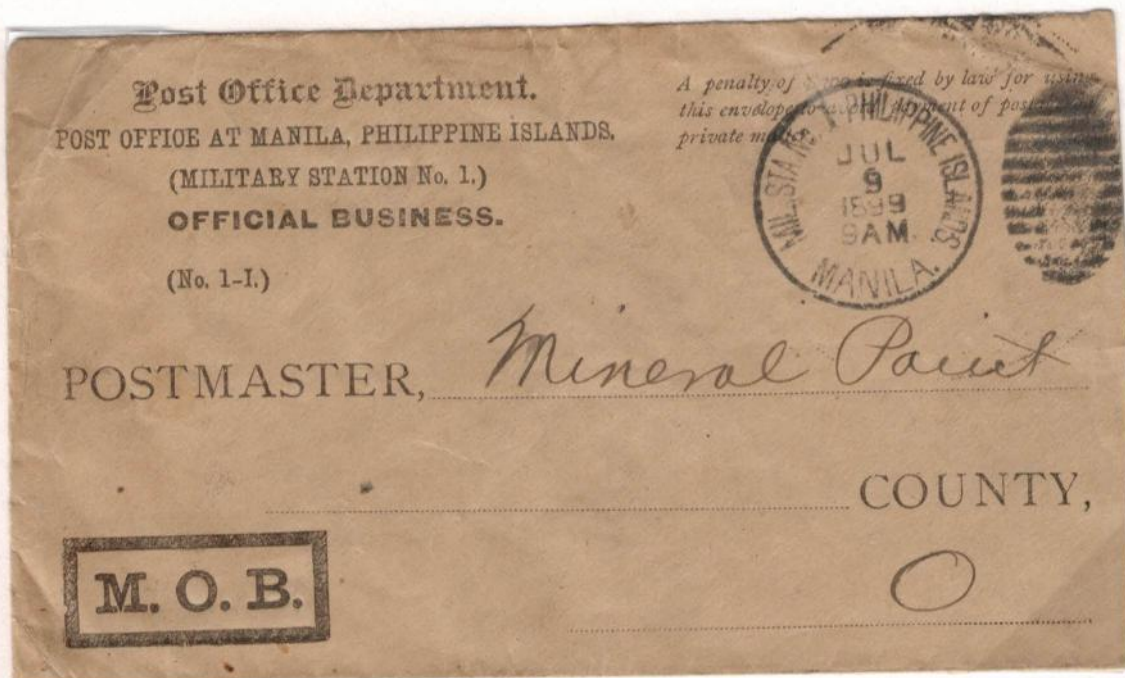


The third type of postmark for ordinary mail was a single ring rubber cds indicating "Mil. Sta. No. 1/Manila, P.I." It is recorded used from 23 March 1899 to 30 March 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 1 Manila  
9 July 1899  
12 September 1899



Two types of steel duplex devices were provided in 1899. The first, somewhat larger in size and with the town name at the bottom, is recorded used from 20 March 1899 to 22 August 1900 at MPS No.1. The second, smaller version has "Phil. Isl'ds." at the bottom and is recorded used from 5 December 1898 to 25 August 1900.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 1  
6 October 1899  
17 July 1901

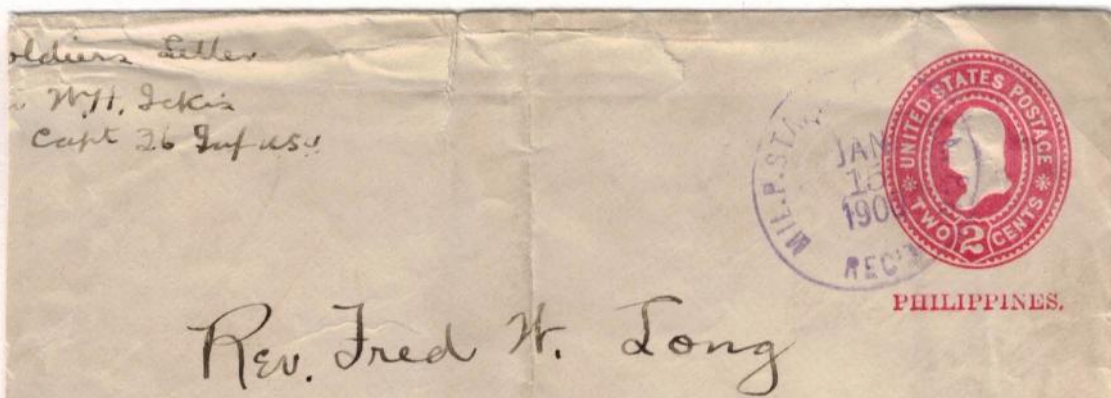


The Philippine postal service remained subsidiary to the San Francisco office until 1 May 1899, when it became an independent entity. This event was most clearly indicated by the excising of the S.F. reference from the Registry cancellation. The altered marking is recorded used from 15 May 1899 to 18 December 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

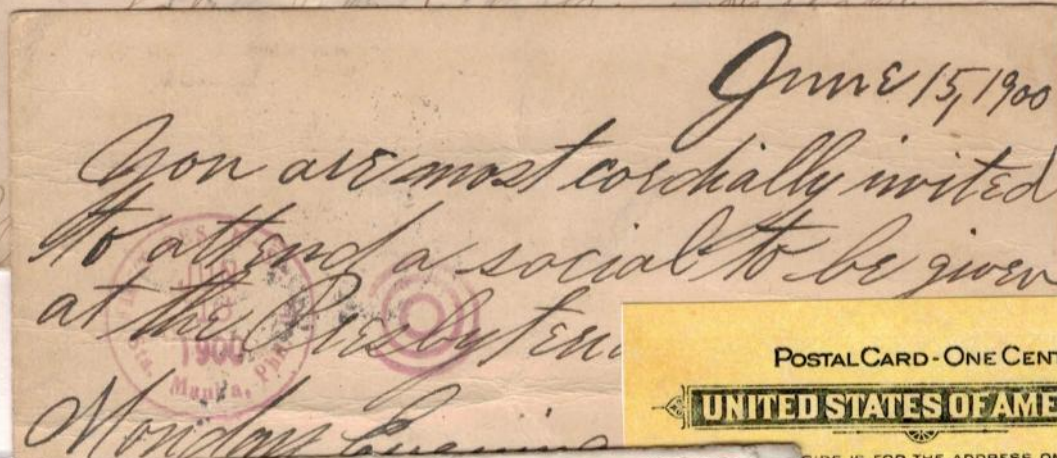
Mil. Sta. No. 1 Manila  
2 January 1900  
15 January 1900  
1 February 1900



In December 1899 and January 1900 a single-ring receiving mark was used to despatch mail from Manila. Contemporaneously, a version of this marking with the "Rec'd." filed down was also used. In addition, a "cleaned up" copy of this latter was used during February. Thus, three different versions of a hitherto unrecorded postmark came into use during a very brief period.



First Res. Hosp. Sta.  
5 February 1900  
16 June 1900  
28 June 1900



The First Reserve Hospital Branch post office operated during the military occupation of Manila. Although Goodale states that the postmark is always missing the "o" of "Hosp." this is incorrect as shown on the upper cover dated 5 February 1900. Shortly thereafter, the "o" fell out and the subsequently recorded strikes (from 6 February 1900 to 14 March 1901) are without "o." **Red cancel used as receiving mark; one of two examples.**







PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 1 Manila  
11 August 1900



N40 <sup>1553</sup> On Her Majesty's Service. 475  
Dr. J. Perry M.D.  
Office of Medical Officer in  
command.  
Marine Hospital Service  
Vat Hong Kong  
MANILLA

Incoming Registered letter from Mauritius with previously unrecorded "Received" marking of MPS No. 1. A very late reference to the San Francisco connection, which was actually severed in May 1899.



PHILIPPINES  
M.O.B. Postmarks

Mil. Sta. No.1 Philippine Islands  
12 September 1898  
11 January 1899



**ADVICE OF U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER**

Military Station No. 1, **Philippine Islands.** No. **4046**

DATED STAMP **JAN 11 1899** 189

TO THE POSTMASTER AT **Eureka Calif.**

ORDER OF ABOVE NUMBER AND DATE DRAWN ON YOU FOR **Five** Dollars **=** Cents

In favor of **Frank Fareman** PAYEE

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Street

NAME OF REMITTER } **Ed Graves**  
**W. Montague** POSTMASTER  
**ov.**

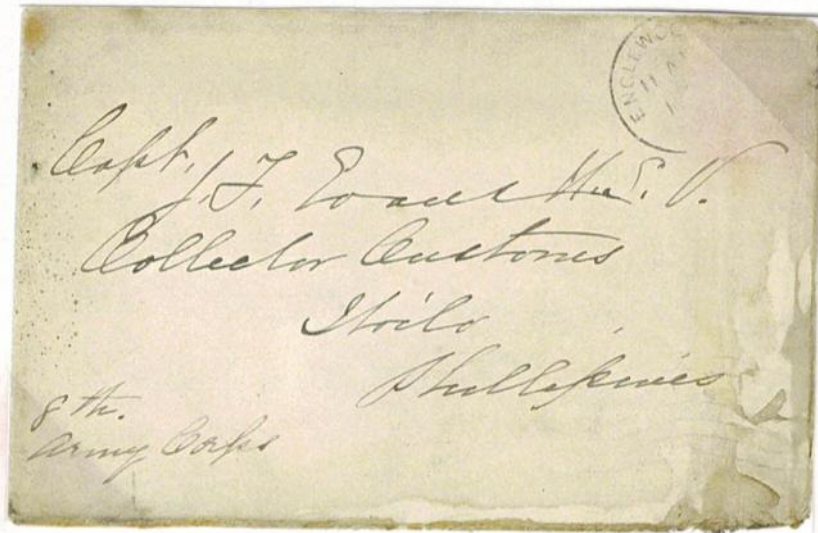
Only three examples of the money order (M.O.B.) postmark from Military Station No.1 have been recorded. The discovery example and earliest known version is shown above as a receiving mark on an inbound cover to a member of the California Volunteers. A subsequent example actually used on a money order for five dollars is shown below.



PHILIPPINES

Manila  
30 September 1899

Disaster Mail



The most sought after of all the markings of the military period in the Philippines was that applied to mail which was salvaged from a chartered transport, the *S.S. Morgan City*, which went down at sea off the southeast coast of Japan.

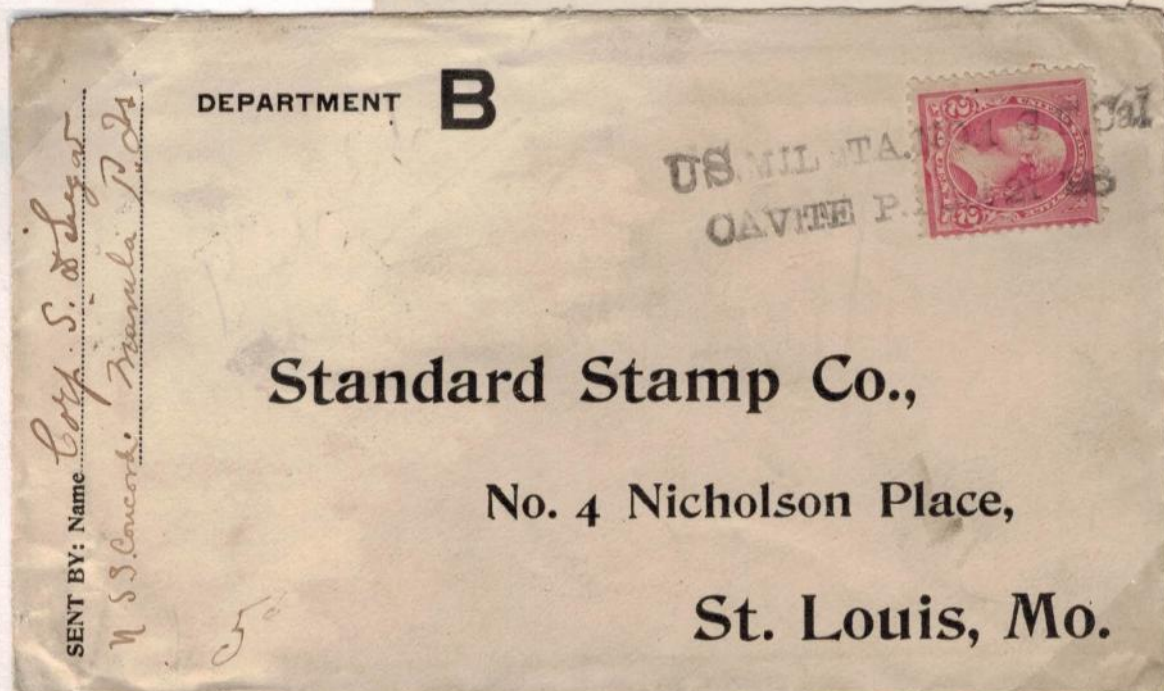


A portion of the mail on board was recovered and sent to Manila where a special handstamp reading "Damaged mail/off S.S. Morgan City/Manila P.I. 9-30-99" was applied. However, only four examples of this marking have been recorded. The above cover sent to an officer in the 8th Army Corps at Iloilo is the only one not addressed to Manila.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

U.S. Mil. Sta. No. 1 Cavite  
12 September 1898  
6 October 1898  
21 October 1898



After the Philippine Station post office was moved to Manila, it turned out that Cavite was handling sufficient mail to warrant restoration of a postal facility. As a result, a new 2-line handstamp was introduced. Postmarks of this type are recorded used from 7 September to 8 November 1898. Note the variations in the marking: the month is spelled in all capital letters on the top cover, but in upper and lower case letters on the middle and bottom ones. The third example shows lower case "s" in "sTA." (Perhaps the capital letter fell out and could not be replaced.)



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

U.S. Mil. Sta. No. 2 Cavite  
25 October 1898  
8 November 1898  
22 December 1898



As Military Station No. 1 had moved to Manila in August, it was no doubt rather confusing to have a new No. 1 at Cavite. As a result, the 2-line handstamp was changed to read "No. 2." This marking is recorded as being used from 25 October to 22 December 1898 (both shown above). Note the variations in the marking; the earliest strike shows the lower case "s" used in "sTA." It was then replaced with a proper capital letter in the marking on the cover. In the third example, the "2" has fallen out.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 2 Cavite



This 2-line marking clearly reads "Military Sta. No. 2, Cavite/Philippine Islands." but it is a mystery in several other respects. It is previously unrecorded and unknown to specialists. The date of use cannot be determined from the above piece, consisting of wrapping paper -- probably a portion of the front of a homemade envelope. The 2 cents postage due on top of the 2 cents franking suggests a double-weight, if odd-sized, letter was sent..



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 2 Cavite  
1 March 1899  
2 October 1900



Both the small and large steel duplex cancellers were also issued at Cavite. The recorded dates of usage of the former are from 5 February 1899 to 14 February 1901 and the latter from 23 March 1899 to 27 October 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 2 Cavite  
13 July 1901  
28 September 1901



Cavite used a small steel cds with "Rec'd." at the bottom of the dial to mark incoming mail. Upper registered cover from Pennsylvania to London was forwarded to Lt. Pollock on the U.S.S. Brooklyn at Cavite. Lower cover sent via the British post office in Shanghai to the Commander of the Naval Station at Cavite. By this time, the Manila "Rec'd." marking no longer stated that it was a military station, although Cavite's still did. Usage is recorded from 29 December 1900 to 28 September 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil Sta. No.2 Cavite  
7 February 1900  
10 November 1900



NAVY DEPARTMENT  
NAVAL STATION, CAVITE, P. I.  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$3000.

22454  
Department

Department, 24759

Station, D. C.

of America.

J.R. Waggener, U.S. Navy.  
Naval Hospital,  
Cavite, P. I.



PHILIPPINES.

12721  
Mr. John C. Dana

29/1 REGISTERED  
FEB 7 1900  
City Library Association  
Springfield.  
Mass.  
U.S. of A.

NO. 7576  
R. MANILA, P. I.

GEO. C. SCHAFER,  
Asst. Paymaster, U.S.M.  
CAVITE, P. I.

Summary statement of  
abstract deposits for  
October, 1900.

5/13  
REGISTERED  
NOV 10 1900  
Military Sta. No. 2, Cavite,  
Philippine Islands.

Examples of earliest and latest recorded dates of the 4-line Cavite registration marking, struck in purple and red. Large cover was official mail which required payment of the 8 cent registry fee but was free of ordinary postage.



PHILIPPINES  
M.O.B. Postmark

Mil. Sta. No.2 Cavite  
31 August 1899

**Postal Money Order** Payable in the United States only

Military Station No. 2, Cavite, Philippine Islands. No. 861

Pay to the order of Aug 31 1899

Montgomery H.  
THE PAYEE NAMED IN MY ADVICE OF SAME NUMBER AND DATE

THE SUM INDICATED BY FIGURES IN THE MARGIN HEREOF AND MY ADVICE

Dollars 25 Cents

To the Postmaster at New York

N.Y.

POSTMASTER H. H. Montgomery

RECEIVED PAYMENT

SEE SPACE ON THE BACK FOR ENDORSEMENT

DATED STAMP: MIL. STA. No. 2, Cavite, Philippine Islands, AUG 31 1899, M.O.B. OF ISSUING OFFICE

DATED STAMP: OF PAYING OFFICE

Vertical scale on left: DOLLARS (1-10), CENTS (1-10)

Examples of money orders from the campaign in the Philippines are very elusive. In fact, the one shown above provides the only recorded example of the M.O.B. cancel for Military Station No.2 at Cavite, which was used on a form for a payment of 25 cents. This piece apparently survived as it was never cashed.



PHILIPPINES  
Panay

U.S. Mil. Sta. No. 3 Iloilo Harbor  
10 February 1899  
- February 1899

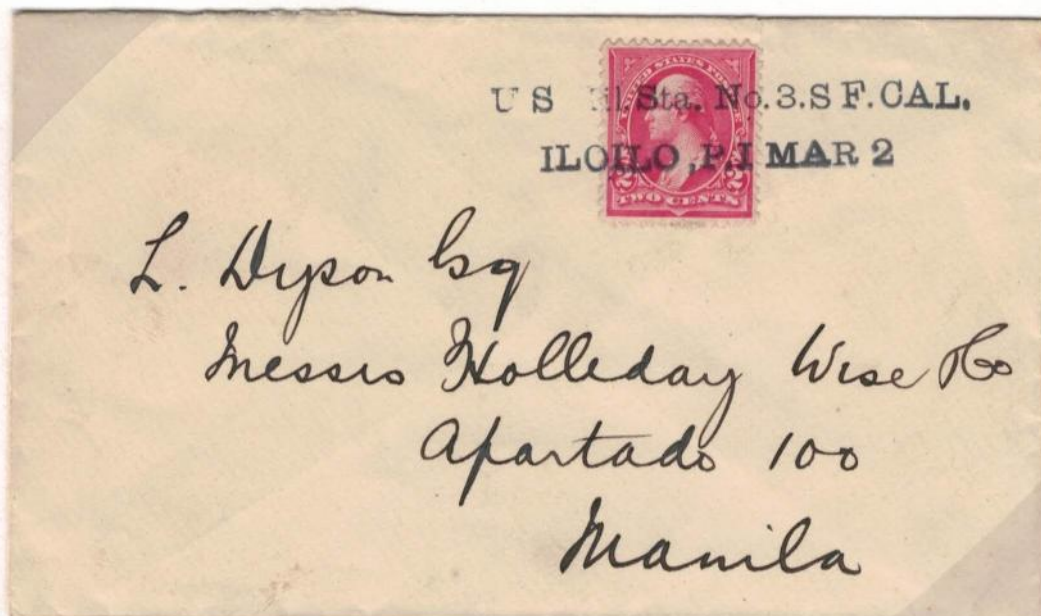


The first provisional marking was used on a transport ship in Iloilo Bay. It reads "Iloilo Harbor" and is one of the most elusive military station markings from the Philippines. It is recorded used between 7 January and 7 March 1899. The cover shown above is backstamped for receipt in San Francisco on 25 February.



PHILIPPINES  
Panay

U.S. Mil. Sta. No. 3 Iloilo  
2 March 1899  
7 March 1899

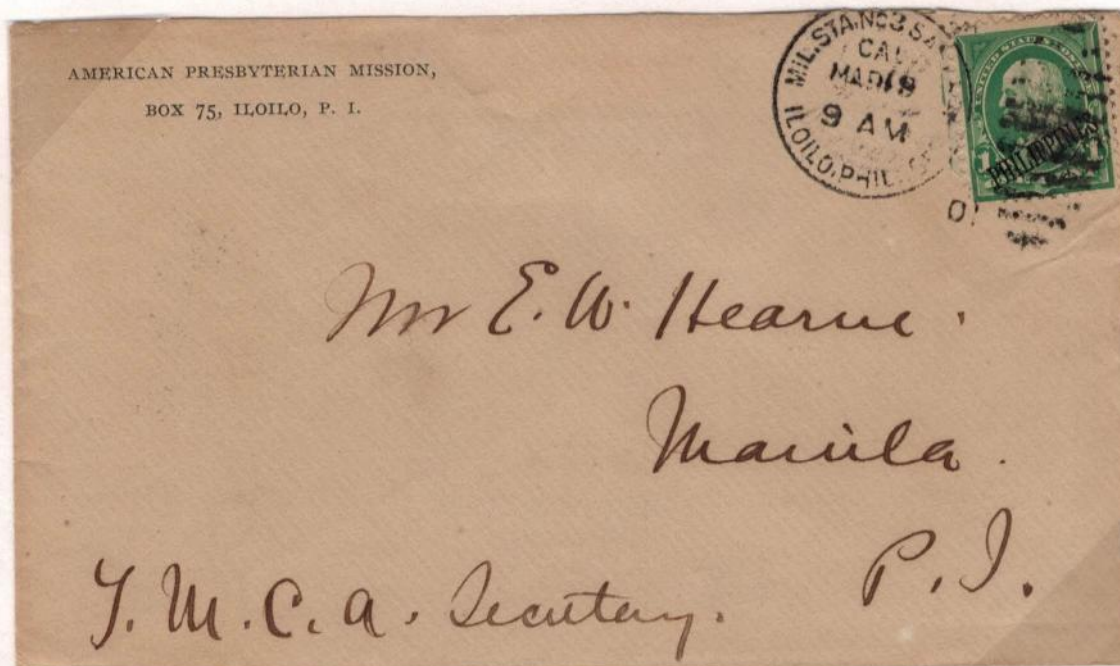


The second provisional marking dropped the "Harbor" designation. It has been recorded as being used for only 2 months, from 11 February to 11 April 1899. Examples are shown with black and purple ink, with the latter being on a registered cover, a very unusual usage.



PHILIPPINES  
Panay

Mil. Sta. No. 3 Iloilo  
19 August 1900  
19 March 1901



Both types of steel duplexes were used at Iloilo. The small version is recorded from 16 March 1899 to 28 November 1901, which the larger one runs from 6 May 1899 to 14 September 1900.



PHILIPPINES  
Panay

Mil Sta. No.3 Iloilo  
15 March 1899  
29 July 1899



Two types of registration markings are known from the Iloilo military station. The first is a four-line handstamp, not previously recorded, of which the discovery example is shown. The double-ring type was used more extensively and is recorded from 17 April 1899 to 16 September 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Cebu

Mil Sta. No.4 Cebu  
17 March 1899  
30 March 1899

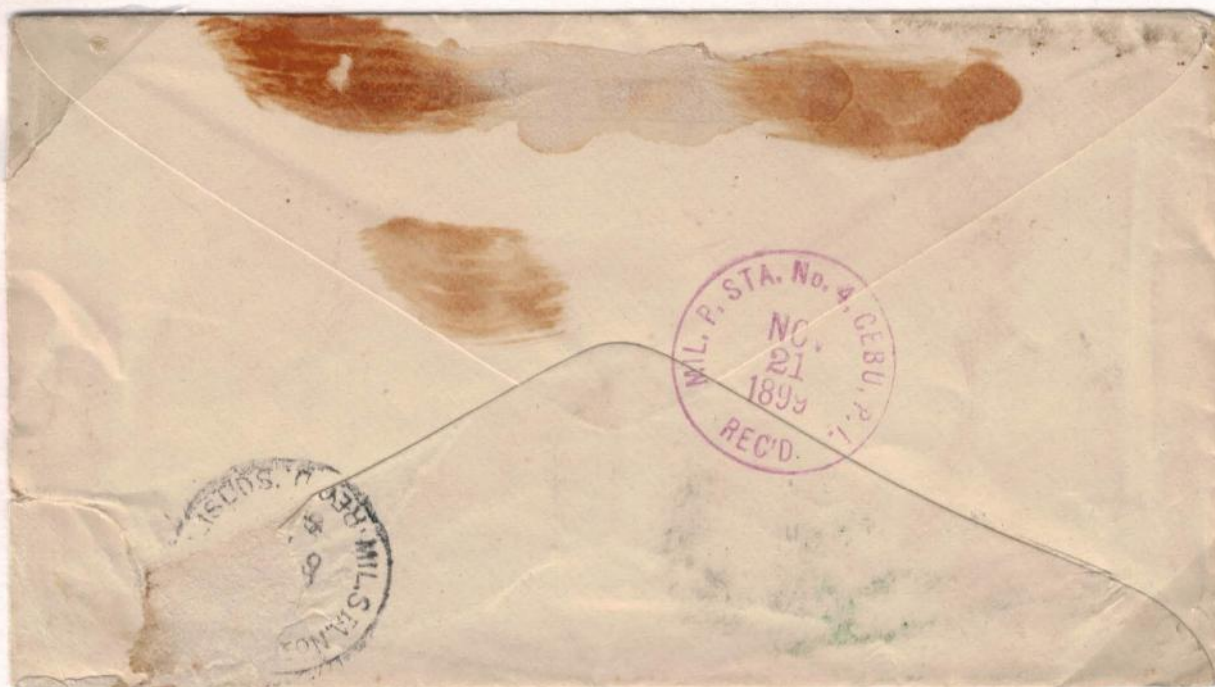
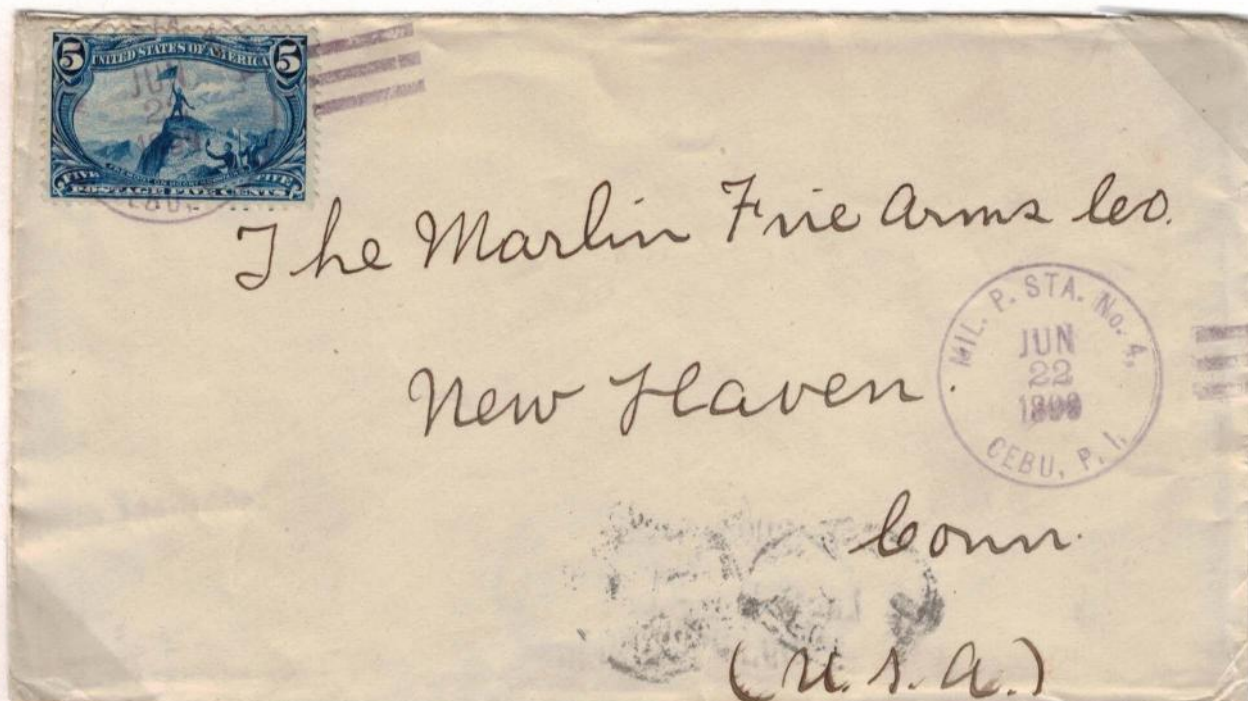


The most unusual military marking from the Philippines was an undated one used at Military Station No.4 on Cebu in March and April 1899. It was used in conjunction with a temporary cds transferred from Manila but with the station number "1" excised. Above examples on outbound and inbound mail.



PHILIPPINES  
Cebu

Mil Sta. No.4 Cebu  
22 June 1899  
21 November 1899



The standard single-circle cds for Cebu is recorded used from 6 June 1899 to 14 September 1900. A few examples of a matching receiving mark, similar but with "Rec'd." at the bottom of the circle, are known.



PHILIPPINES  
Cebu

Mil. Sta. No.4 Cebu  
4 October 1899  
11 December 1901  
4 March 1902



Shown above are the earliest and latest recorded dates for the 4-line registry marking. However, these differ in color and in the spacing of the dates on the second line. Below is a cover with a hand-drawn box for the registration number and the circular registry marking used later; sent to Singapore.



PHILIPPINES  
Negros

Mil Sta. No. \_  
30 March 1899

Mil. Sta. No.5 Bacolod  
9 May 1899



In March 1899, a small contingent (not more than a company) of California Volunteer Infantry was sent to occupy the Island of Negros. As new steel postmarks had been put in service in Manila, the Californians were given the old rubber double-ring marking with the station number "1" excised. This temporary cancel was used at Bacolod from 15 March to 2 May 1899. The new single-ring rubber marking was used from 3 May 1899 to 20 April 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Negros

Mil Sta. No.5 Bacolod  
12 May 1899  
31 January 1902



Bacolod used only one type of receiving mark, similar to the single-circle despatch mark but with "Rec'd." at the bottom of the circle. Registered mail from Bacolod is very unusual. Only four examples of the 4-line marking are recorded (three on outbound mail). Cover from Spain showing its use as a receiving mark is the discovery example on inbound mail.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. No. 6 Malolos  
5 July 1899  
11 July 1899



The last and most difficult of the numbered military postal stations in the Philippines, there are only five examples recorded of the Station No. 6 marking -- with postmarks from April to July 1899.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. Angeles  
7 December 1899  
19 February 1900

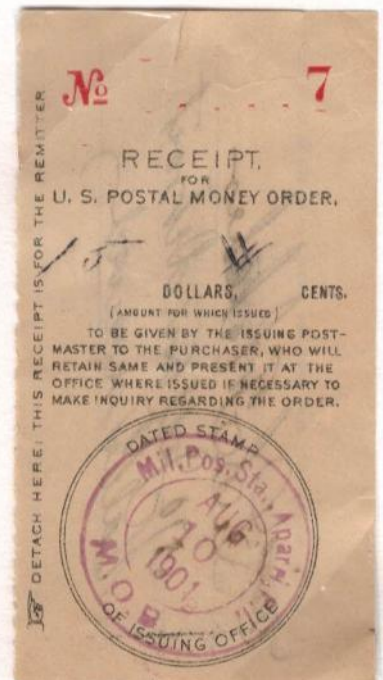
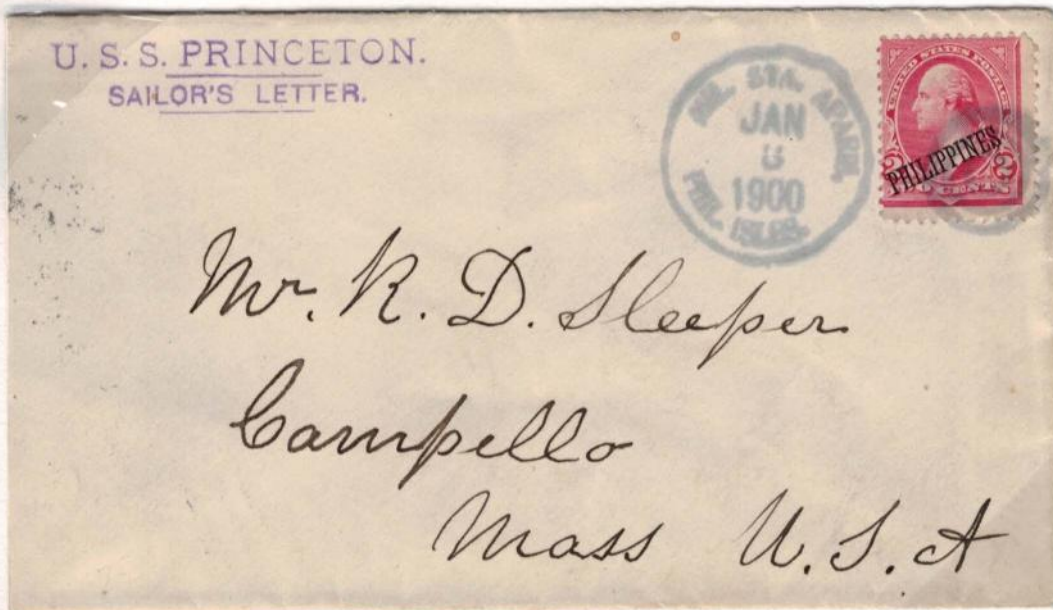


After the initial six military postal stations, nine more units were opened, but no additional numbers were assigned. One of this latter group was in the town of Angeles, located on the Dagupan & Manila railway. It used a single type of circular cds, with recorded dates from 5 October 1899 to 13 February 1901.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil Sta. Aparri  
3 January 1900  
3 February 1900  
10 August 1901



The *U.S.S. Concord* anchored off Aparri in northernmost Luzon and took formal possession in May 1899. However, there are no recorded examples of an Aparri postmark until December 1899. The lower cover shows cds with a scalloped edge, clearly a second form of the device. The "M.O.B." cancel shown used on a money order receipt is the discovery example of this marking, previously unrecorded in any of the literature.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil Sta. Aparri  
12 September 1900  
10 September 1901

B.  
Hamilton H. Blunt  
Capt. 149<sup>th</sup> Inf. U.S.A.  
Tuguegarao, Luzon, P.I.



NO. 19207 Miss Helen Gould  
MANILA, P. I. Sponsor. S. A. W. U. A.

New York City  
N.Y.

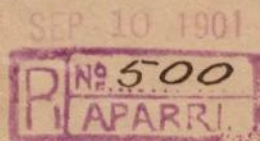
Answered No. 26  
# 356

From  
Dr. G. A. Skinner U.S. Army  
Aparri P.I.



34031

Photos only  
Registered.



Chas. M. Skinner  
San Diego  
Calif.

Two other postal markings are known on registered mail from Aparri. The first is a highly unusual straight-line "Aparri" apparently applied as a killer on the two stamps affixed to the lower right corner of the cover; the postage was also struck with an illegible circular postmark. The second and later usage is a rectangular box marking, shown here struck in red violet on a large piece of package wrapping.



**PHILIPPINES**  
Sulu Archipelago

Mil. Sta. Bongao  
15 June 1902

Most elusive of all  
the Military Station  
markings from the  
Philippines.



Bongao is by far the most obscure place in the Philippines to have a postal station. Only a tiny garrison was sent there, which is on a very small island within sight of the coast of Borneo.

Its marking was unknown to Goodale, and only four covers have been confirmed subsequently, with dates ranging from 1 July 1900 to 10 September 1902.

Bongao did not have a registry marking, but the cover was registered as it transited Jolo four weeks later. Transit marking of Manila (21 July) is on the reverse, along with New York receiving backstamp of 7 September.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. Dagupan  
14 February 1900  
24 May 1900



Dagupan was located at the northern terminus of the military railroad from Manila. Its postmark was previously recorded used only from November 1899 to April 1900. Note the obvious deterioration of the rubber handstamp due to the tropical climate.



PHILIPPINES  
Sulu Archipelago

Mil. Sta. Jolo  
26 October 1899  
15 May 1900  
7 May 1901



U.S. forces relieved the Spanish garrison at Jolo in the Sulu Archipelago on 19 May 1899. Examples of the standard rubber cds are recorded from 8 August 1899 to 7 May 1901. Postage due assessment on the upper cover reflects its lack of "soldier's letter" endorsement and being charged double deficiency of the 3 cent underpayment. The 1 cent stamp on the internal cover to Manila has a Jolo "Received" cancel, the only recorded example of this marking. Registration marking recorded used from 15 May (above) to 19 December 1900.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. San Fernando  
15 July 1899  
29 August 1899



Unrecorded in the literature, there are two distinct types of the single ring rubber cds for this office. One states "Phil. Isl'ds." and the other "Phil. Islands." The reason for this is unknown, and the dates of usage are overlapping, with the overall period recorded extending from 15 July 1899 (above) to 18 July 1900.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil Sta. San Fernando  
27 February 1900  
13 July 1900



The San Fernando receiving mark is not recorded in the literature. Above is the discovery example used as a despatch marking on an outbound letter. The typical military station 4-line registration marking was issued to San Fernando, but examples of registered mail were unknown until recent years. Only four such covers have been recorded to date, of which the above is the latest known.



PHILIPPINES  
Sulu Archipelago

Mil. Sta. Siassi  
29 October 1901  
26 January 1902



U.S. forces occupied Siassi shortly after Jolo, thus consolidating their position in the Sulu Archipelago. Use of the rubber cds is recorded from November 1899 to March 1902.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil. Sta. Vigan  
16 February 1900  
1 May 1900  
26 May 1900



Vigan used military markings for an extended period, recorded from 16 January 1900 to 3 August 1901, but examples are elusive and often not well struck. Even allowing for deterioration of the rubber due to the tropical climate, the evidence is that at least three devices of differing size were used.



PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Mil Sta. Vigan  
26 March 1901  
7 June 1901

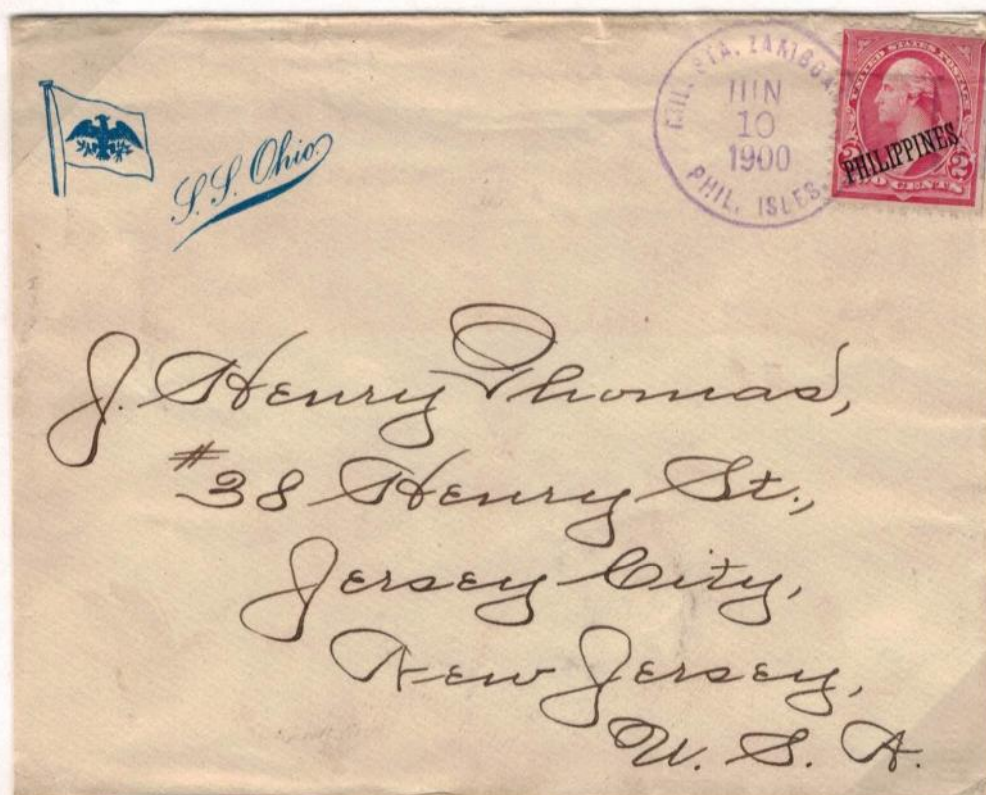
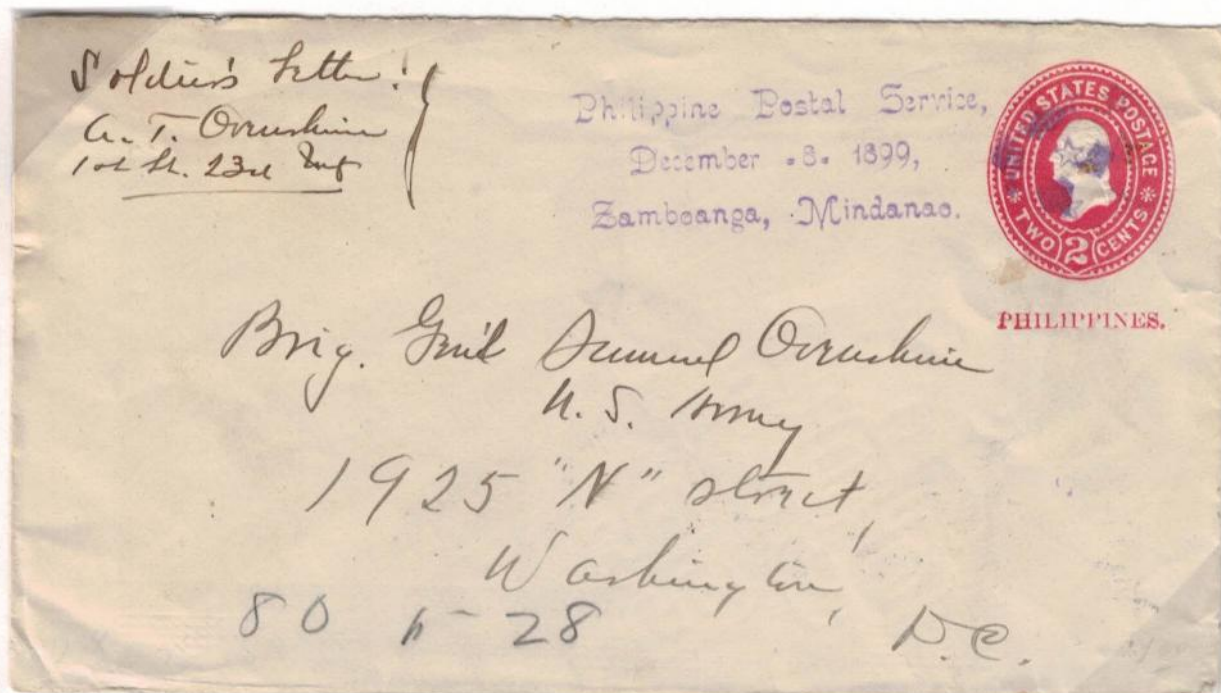


Registered mail from Vigan is known only late in the military period. It was marked with a rectangular box, similar to but larger than that used at Aparri, applied in red or black as per the above examples.



PHILIPPINES  
Mindanao

Mil. Sta. Zamboanga  
8 December 1899  
10 June 1900



The first postmark of Zamboanga was an unusual 3-line provisional, which has been recorded from 12 August to 27 December 1899. The standard rubber cds has been seen used from 5 January 1900 to 17 March 1901.