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Inside this Issue:

Editor's Note	2
Transport Series Crash Cover Joe Bock	2
A Common Usage, but Uncommon Cover Robert Schlesinger	3
Presidential Series Postal History Prices in Scott's 2013 Specialized Catalogue Albert Briggs	4
A Swedish Use of the U. S. APO Service in the Korean War Dickson Preston	5
Postal Patron Confusion over Resumed U.S. International Mail Service At the End of World War II Louis Fiset	6

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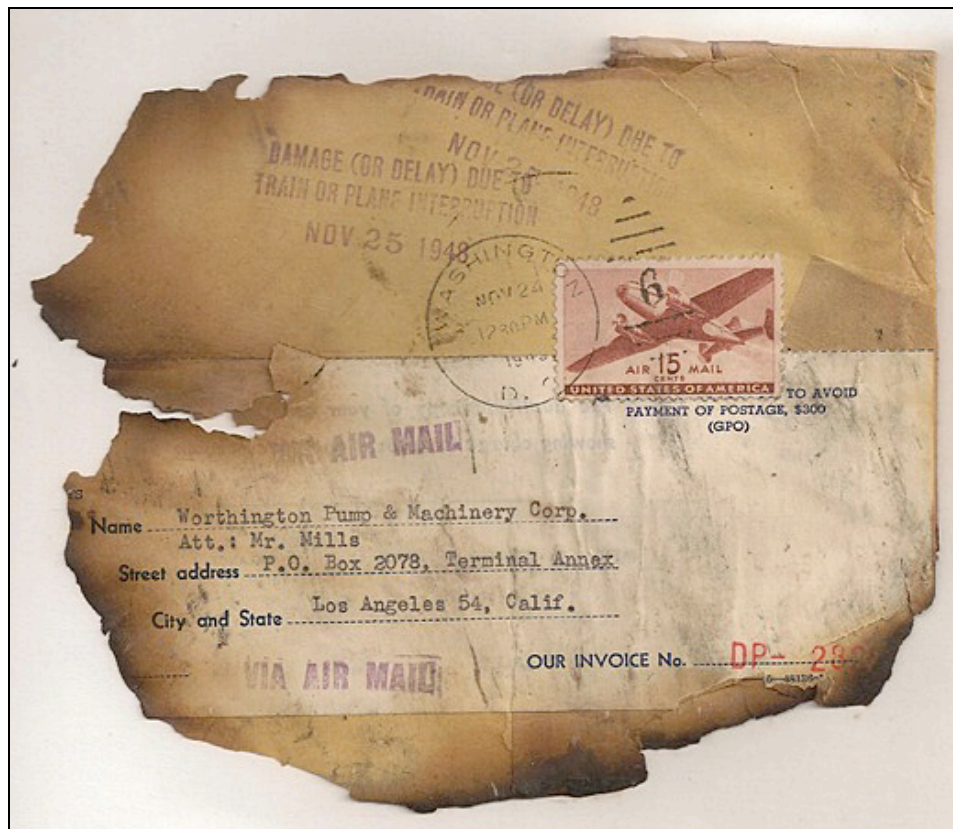
Editor's Note

Subscribers to the electronic version of *The Prexie Era* are in for a treat with this issue. Albert Briggs has acquired Walt Cole's "1938 United States Definitive 3 Cent Stamp" and has graciously given us permission to share it with readers in electronic format. This seven frame national (Gold) and international (Large Vermeil) award winning traditional exhibit was last shown at CAPEX 1996. Hard copy subscribers wishing an electronic copy on CD should send \$5 to me by mail to cover expenses, and I will get a copy out to you.

If you like having access to this Prexie era exhibit, you might consider donating a formatted copy of your own exhibit to USSS for its on-line Exhibition Photocopy Service. It is currently soliciting new exhibits.

Transport Series Crash Cover

Joe Bock

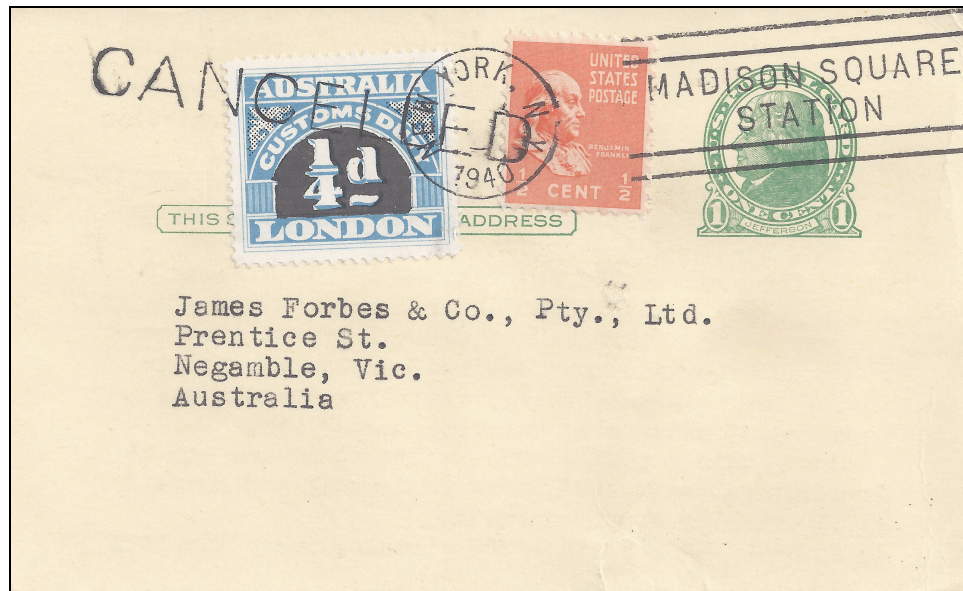


On November 24, 1948, a Trans World Airlines plane en route from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles, California crashed on landing, breaking up and catching fire. Reportedly, approximately one thousand pieces of mail were recovered and forwarded as original covers. An additional 2,000 items with damaged contents were forwarded to addressees in penalty (ambulance) envelopes. The 15-cent Transport Series stamp shown in the accompanying illustration, likely delivered in an ambulance envelope, paid three times the 5-cent per ounce domestic airmail rate, effective October 1, 1946.

A Common Usage, but Uncommon Cover

Robert Schlesinger

Robertsles@aol.com



The international printed matter rate is as old as the UPU itself; the General Postal Convention in 1874 itself authorized a rate of 1 cent per 2 ounces. This rate would increase to 1.5 cents per 2 ounces on April 1, 1932. Newspapers and commercial papers were included in this category, including bulk advertising printed on the back of postal cards. Normally, a half-cent stamp would be added to a 1-cent domestic rate postal card, and the 1.5-cent rate would be prepaid. Many postal rate collections have examples of this rate going to various destinations throughout the world. However, Australia posed a particular problem for this type of usage as may be seen in the illustration above.

The cost of printing, especially advertising, was expensive in Australia. Many advertisers found it cheaper to have their printing done off shore and having it shipped back for distribution to the advertisers' customers. As a result, Australia imposed a customs duty on ALL advertising printed outside the Commonwealth. This duty also applied to printed matter postal cards with printed advertising on the back. Such was the case with the postal card shown here.

Australia had customs stamps printed and distributed to its consulates throughout the world. Initially, the customs stamps were inscribed **LONDON**. Various rates would apply. If prepaid, the postal card advertising rate would be ¼ d per piece. Otherwise, each piece would be assessed ½ d postage due. The fear of advertisers was that addressees would not pay the postage due for 'junk mail' and thus not receive the advertising directed to them. As a solution, advertisers went to the Australian consulate to purchase enough stamps for that portion of their mailings addressed to Australia.

Despite **LONDON** being prominently displayed on the customs stamps, these adhesives would become available in Australian consulates throughout the world. As can be seen on the card shown here, this stamp was purchased and applied in New York City before the card was mailed. The New York City post office then machine postmarked the card that inadvertently 'tied' the customs stamp to the cover. The CANCELLED mark on the stamp was applied when the stamp was affixed and prior to placement into the mail stream.

Presidential Series Postal History Prices in Scott's 2013 Specialized Catalogue

by

Albert Briggs

The first mention of a proposed listing of Prexie postal history in the Scott's Specialized Catalogue occurred in the Summer 1992 edition of this newsletter. Twenty years later, coinciding by chance with the 75th anniversary of their issue, that goal has finally been realized. The 2013 Specialized Catalogue, just released in October, contains prices for each stamp on cover or tag and for many values separate listings for single franking uses. Some of the pioneer collectors and writers in this field are no longer with us and several others no longer actively collect this area. The information from the sale of their collections, however, has contributed to the prices in the new catalogue.

The genesis of this project lay in a message on a chat board posted by Scott's editor Chad Snee in the summer of 2011. In that post he mentioned engaging new collectors and collectors of more modern material with the new edition. Reading between the lines of that post led a member of the Prexie Era Study Group to question Chad on whether he meant to pursue the pricing of Prexie postal history. Mr. Snee's positive response to that inquiry led to a flurry of e-mails followed by informal meetings and exhibit tours at some national stamp shows. Positive interest on the part of Scott's editorial staff and willingness to help on the part of the study group led to the creation of a group of active collectors and exhibitors to provide the information.

A group of five individuals, including Albert Briggs, Dickson Preston, Robert Hohertz, Jeff Shapiro, and Bob Schlesinger was put together to hash out the information and come up with values. Collectively, this group has over 50 years of Prexie postal history collecting experience, is currently active in the field, and each member is an exhibitor of the series or a stamp of the series on cover.

The first task was deciding exactly what postal history of the series to list. This was no easy task. So many considerations come in to play when valuing a cover. The rate, the route, the destination, auxiliary markings, solo use, as well as other factors play major roles in determining an items value. After numerous electronic conversations and exchange of spread sheet after spread sheet a focus began to emerge. The final appearance was clearly up to the editorial staff of Scott's Catalogue but the study group committee decided to assign to each denomination and major printing format variety an "on cover" value, and where appropriate and significant, clearly defined single stamp use cover values. Values were also assigned to the dollar values on registry tags since they are commonly seen used this way.

The "on cover" value is intended to represent the price one could expect to pay for the most common way that value was used on a cover. For some stamps this represents a single stamp use, for others it represents use in combination with other stamps. For example, the 19 cent stamp, when found, is most frequently seen used with other values and this was priced at \$20.00. The 18 cent stamp is most frequently seen used by itself to pay first class plus registration and is priced at \$5.00.

Where it seemed appropriate to do so, dictated by the realization of such items, specific single franking uses were also listed and priced. For example, the 22 cent stamp, used on cover (with other values) was valued at \$20.00 while a single franking on an insured third class cover was valued at \$300.00 and a single franking on a registered local letter with return receipt was valued \$1000.00. The detail of all the listings can of course be seen in the catalogue.

The information used for the valuation process came from a variety of sources. Prices realized from the sale of the Suffet, Piskiewicz and Neil collections as well as the dispersal of the Larry Paige collection were incorporated into the process. Realizations of scarce items sold on Ebay as well as informal surveys of retail dealer stocks was also used in the several months long process of arriving at the valuations.

Hopefully this will provide some framework and guidance when buying, selling and appraising Prexie postal history.

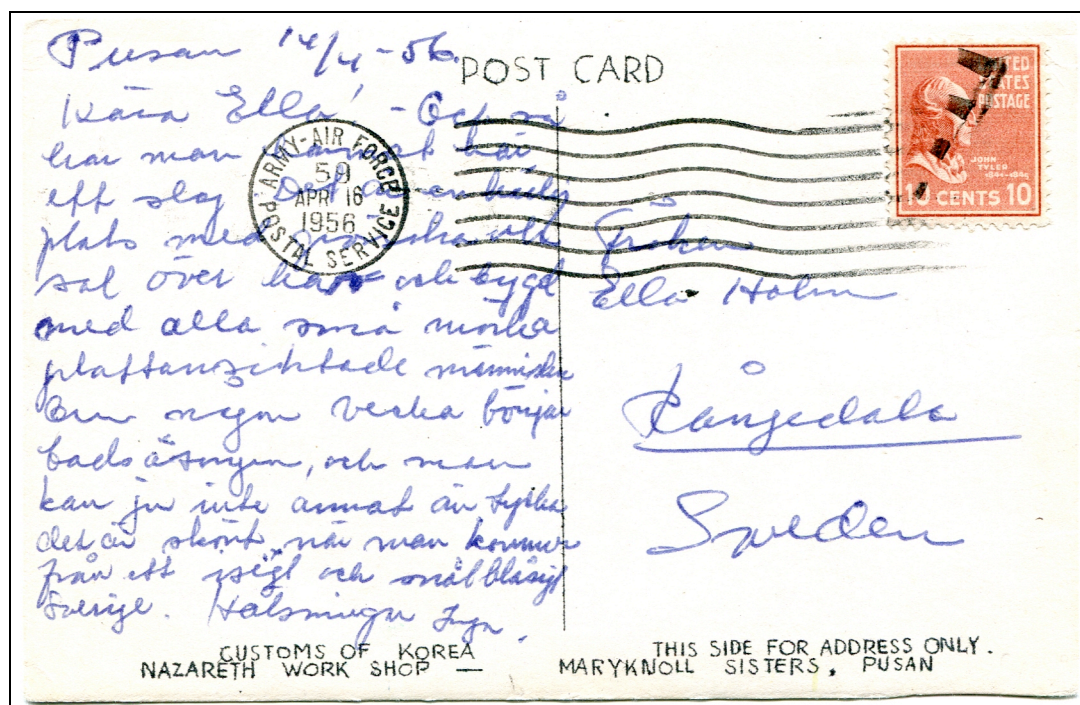
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A Swedish Use of the U. S. APO Service in the Korean War

by

Dickson Preston

In Steve Suffet's chapter "Collecting and Exhibiting Strategies" in the 1988 Helbock book *Prexie Postal History*, he showed a solo use of the 4 cent Prexie at U.S. APO 72 in Korea, mailed by a Swedish member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.¹ Steve cited this card as an example of how to enhance a Prexie exhibit by showing the most interesting examples possible.



This short article will present another use of the U.S. APO service by a person from Sweden in connection with the Korean War. The card shown here was written 14 April 1956 by a woman who had recently arrived from Sweden. It was postmarked two days later at APO 59, located at Pusan.² It was sent at the 10-cent international airmail post card rate in effect in the U. S. and its foreign post offices, including APOs. The message reads:

Dear Ella,

And so I have landed here for a while. It is a wonderful place with [illegible] sun over the land with all the short flat-faced people. In about a week the bathing season will start, and I cannot but think that it's wonderful to come here from Sweden that's icy and has cold winds. Regards, Inga.³

Sweden's contribution to the United Nations action to support South Korea against aggression from North Korea was to establish an Evacuation Hospital in Pusan. The hospital opened 23 September 1950 and was staffed by a contingent of 174 Swedish doctors and nurses at any one time. During the conflict a total of 1,124 Swedish men and women served at the hospital. It continued to operate after the 1953 ceasefire and closed in April 1957, a year after this card was sent.⁴

It is not clear from the message on the card whether the writer had come to work at the hospital or was simply there for a visit. Most likely she had some connection with the hospital or knew someone who did, since she mailed her card through the U. S. APO.

In either case this card shows an unusual use of a 10-cent solo franking paying the international airmail post card rate. Because Korean War uses of Prexies are much in demand, and because examples sent by the small Swedish contingent are quite scarce, this card is a good example of the kind of unusual item that Steve Suffet suggested could be used to enhance an exhibit.

¹ Richard W. Helbock, ed. *Prexie Postal History*, Lake Oswego, OR: La Posta Publications, 1988.

² APO 59 opened at Pusan in July 1950 and was changed to APO 96259 on 1 January 1965.

³ Translation provided by the APS Translation Service, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 apstranslations@gmail.com.

⁴ "Sweden in the Korean War," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden_in_the_Korean_War

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Postal Patron Confusion over Resumed U.S. International Mail Service At the End of World War II

by

Louis Fiset

Allied advances following the invasion of Italy in July 1943 and the landings at Normandy on June 6, 1944 had a direct impact on the resumption of mail service to the European, Mediterranean, and Balkan regions in the closing days of World War II and beyond. Until then, service was suspended to all of continental Europe under the control of Germany or Italy, with service only to the Allied countries of USSR, Great Britain, Malta, and Gibraltar; and neutral Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

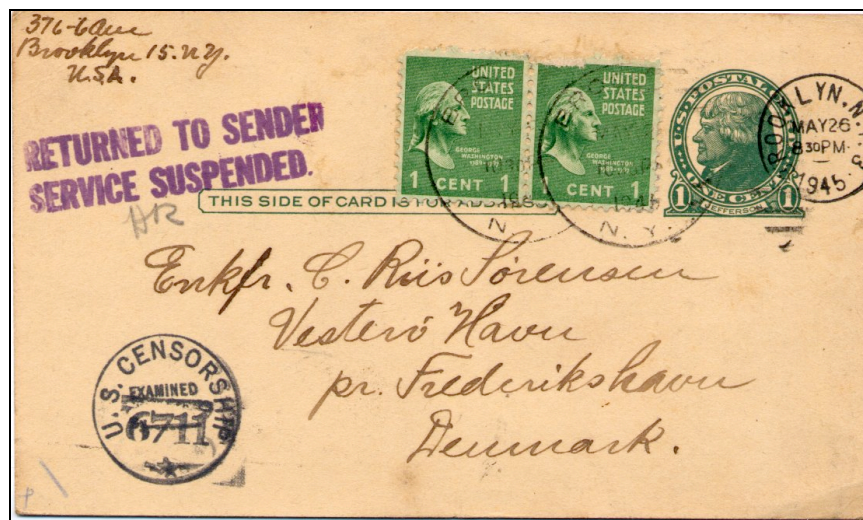


Figure 1

The incremental resumption of mail service to the occupied countries began in January 1944 with airmail service to French colonies in North and West Africa and ended with resumption of special delivery service to Germany on 4 August 1948. During this four-plus year period, which began while fighting still dominated in parts of Europe, confusion reigned on the part of postal patrons over the type of service authorized and the regions where correspondence could be sent. This article illustrates some of the confusion.

The primary causes of postal patron confusion included the following postal regulations:

- Postal service was resumed in stages beginning with nonillustrated post cards, with only personal messages allowed
- Service was initiated country-by-country
- Initial service within some countries (e.g., Italy, France, Netherlands) was by region following expulsion of Axis forces
- Surface mail to a given country was usually introduced before air mail
- Special fee services (e.g., registration, special delivery) were the last services to be introduced.

Figure 1 illustrates a typical piece of mail returned to the sender for violation of some aspect of postal regulations. In this case, the nonillustrated postcard was returned from the New York exchange office after censorship because resumption of postal service to Denmark was still a week away from when the postcard was postmarked. Figure 2, a highlight from the Walt Cole 3-cent Prexie exhibit, shows correspondence to Germany in 1946 that was returned because the message was written on an illustrated postcard in violation of postal regulations.

The two examples, in Figures 3a and 3b, show nonillustrated postcards to France documenting how service to some countries prior to the end of the war occurred on a regional basis. Paris was liberated on 19 August 1944, with postcard service restored the next month. However, the postcard to Bar-le-Duc, capital of the department of Meuse in northeast France, was returned because fighting still raged in that area. In fact, the so-called Battle of the Bulge, last major Axis offensive in the European Theater, remained two weeks away with much of it to be fought in the region of the Meuse River.

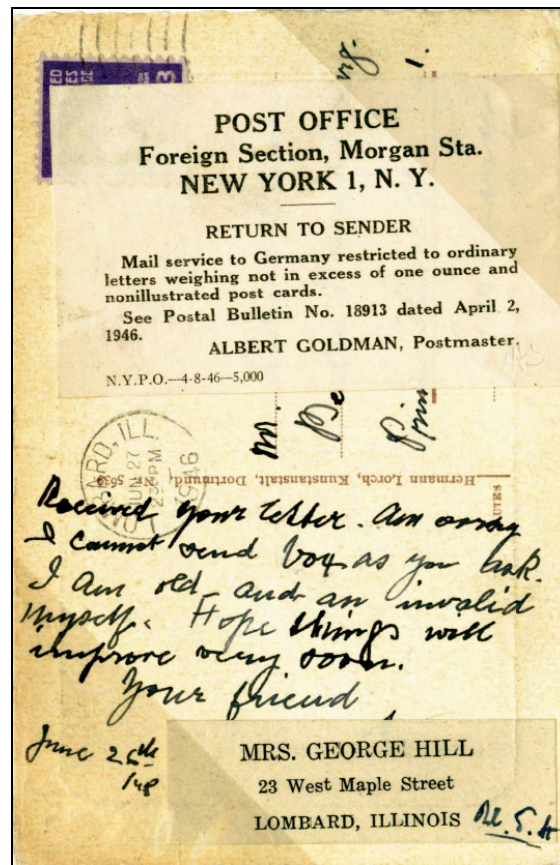


Figure 2 (Courtesy Albert Briggs)



Figure 3a



Figure 3b

The airmail letter to Rome in Figure 4, postmarked 29 July 1944, should have been returned to the sender because airmail service would not resume for more than a year (3 October 1945). However, because surface letter mail had been authorized on 16 February 1944, the letter was dispatched by surface route. Similarly, the postcard to Paris shown above, for which letter rate airmail postage to Europe had been affixed, was also forwarded by surface. However, the 28 May 1945 airmail letter to Norway, shown in Figure 5, was returned to the sender because only nonillustrated postcards were permitted at that time.



Figure 4

Finally, Figure 6 shows a combined registered airmail letter to Czechoslovakia that was returned for violation of postal regulations regarding registered mail. Airmail service had been resumed on 27 August 1945. However, registration service would not begin until the following 29 October. The **RETURN TO SENDER** label affixed by the New York exchange office, clearly spells out the violation, citing a specific postal bulletin as its authority. The relevant section of Postal Bulletin 18858 that documents availability of airmail but not registration service, may be seen below.



Figure 5

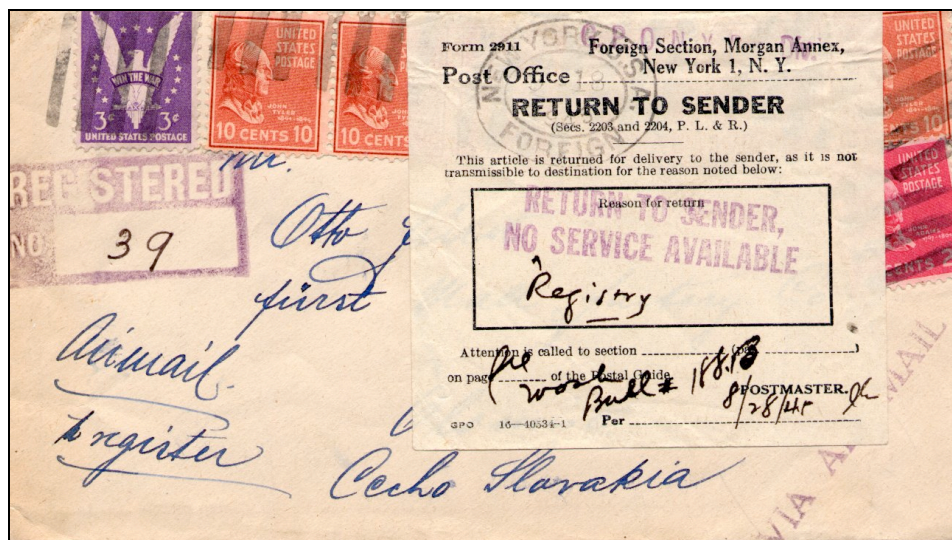


Figure 6

<p align="center">RESTRICTED RESUMPTION OF MAIL SERVICE (INCLUDING AIR MAIL) TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA</p> <p>ORDER No. 28941; DATED AUGUST 27, 1945.</p> <p>Effective at once letters not exceeding 2 ounces and post cards shall be accepted for dispatch by air or by surface means to destinations in Czechoslovakia.</p> <p>The following postage rates are applicable to mail to be sent by surface transportation:</p> <p>Letters—5 cents for the first ounce and 3 cents for the next ounce.</p> <p>Post cards—3 cents each.</p> <p>Articles intended for dispatch by air are subject to the postage rate of 30 cents per half-ounce or fraction.</p> <p>Air-mail articles are subject to the provisions of order No. 18605 published in the POSTAL BULLETIN of September 4, 1942.</p> <p>Registration, special-delivery, money-order, and parcel-post services are not available.</p>
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Postal Bulletin 18858