

Weeds in the Victory Garden?

A Fresh Look at the WW II Patriotic Covers of Victory, VT

I. Background

A. Introduction

ON THE EVE OF AMERICA'S entry into WW II the small town of Victory, VT, was not unknown to philatelists. In the fall of 1941, a group of numismatic and philatelic collectors known as "The Original Order of Zunks" offered to service La-

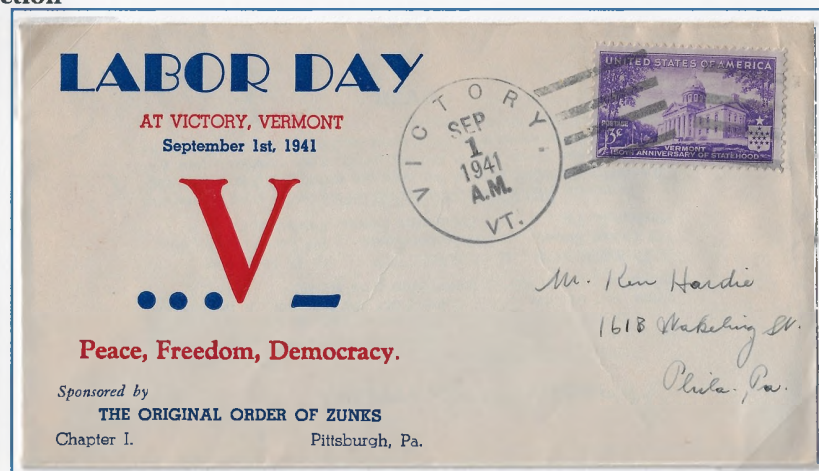
bor Day covers postmarked in Victory, VT (above). Victory's postmark would go to become popular on WW II patriotic covers, especially in the final 18 months of the war.

BEWARE — Lot # 1141 of the Nov. 6 D.G. Phillips auction is two cacheted covers postmarked in VICTORY, VT, on Apr. 6, 1917 (when the U.S. entered WWI) and Nov. 11, 1918 (Armistice Day) — est \$50-60. Pat Herst tells me that the old Victory, Vt., cds is in private hands and someone is making up these "rare" covers, especially the early ones. Apparently many of the WWII cacheted covers from Victory are authentic but there is no way to tell the good from the bad — my only advice is that if you are going to buy any of these items, don't pay too much for them (certainly not \$30).

Source: *The Vermont Philatelist*, November 1981, p. 8.

the war and was used to create bogus backdated covers. This charge was picked up by Lawrence Sherman in his highly-regarded (and well-deserved, despite qualifications presented in this exhibit) catalog of WW II patriotic covers.

This exhibit takes a fresh look at the WW II patriotic covers of Victory, VT. We will see that some aspects of Herst's hypothesis do not stand up to close scrutiny and will challenge the view that "there is no way to tell the good from the bad." Nevertheless, concerns about the legitimacy of Victory, VT, postmarks are not unwarranted, especially during the early period of the war (1941-1943). While most of the wartime patriotic covers of Victory are



But the popularity of Victory, VT, covers was tarnished in the 1980's with claims by popular philatelic writer Herman "Pat" Herst Jr. (left) that the Victory, VT, cancellation device fell into private hands after the end of

genuine, many are not. The aim of this exhibit is to examine how we can distinguish the "weeds" from the "roses" in Victory Vermont's WW II philatelic "Victory Garden." We can with *reasonable* certainty identify some covers as illegitimate and others as genuine. In some instances, we may not be able to reach a solid conclusion about a particular cover and because of the unfortunate influence of the fakes and fraudulent covers there may be lingering doubts about some covers.

B. Exhibit Plan

This exhibit is an Experimental class exhibit. While it focuses on patriotic covers, it is not a "patriotic cover" exhibit as such and reference to cachet artists, cover producers and Sherman *Catalogue* numbers are for identification purposes and ancillary to the primary focus of the Exhibit. Primary focus is on postmarks and other details that help in distinguishing fakes, hoaxes, or favor cancels from otherwise legitimate Victory, VT, patriotic covers issued during WWII. Additional detail of the exhibit's purpose and method is provided in the Exhibit Synopsis. A Technical Supplement is also available providing further details on certain technical procedures employed in evaluating the covers and postmarks. Following is an outline of the Exhibit.

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I. Background

C. Meet the Postmasters



Source: Sherman's Catalogue, color illustration following p. 14.

she and Story worked together, but her tenure insofar as the war years were concerned roughly cover the years 1943-1945. Many of the questions arising about practices in the Victory post office occur during her tenure.

†References to "Sherman's Catalogue" and cachet identification numbers refer to the 1999 edition of Sherman's work: Lawrence Sherman, M.D., *United States Patriotic Covers of WWII*, Collectors Club of Chicago, 1999.

For most of the first four decades of the 20th Century the postmaster of Victory, VT, was a family affair. From 1937 to the end of 1942 the Postmaster was Edwin C. Story. Prior to that, his mother Elmyra was postmaster from 1899 to 1934, and from 1934 to 1937 his wife Louise. Post Office records (at **right**) show that in early 1943 Mrs. Elizabeth L. Stanley became postmaster, serving until 1947. But a December 1942 cover illustrated in Sherman's Catalogue† (shown at **left**) shows Mrs. Stanley signing the cover as "Asst. P.M." There is no record of an official appointment of her as an Assistant Postmaster, and no indication how long

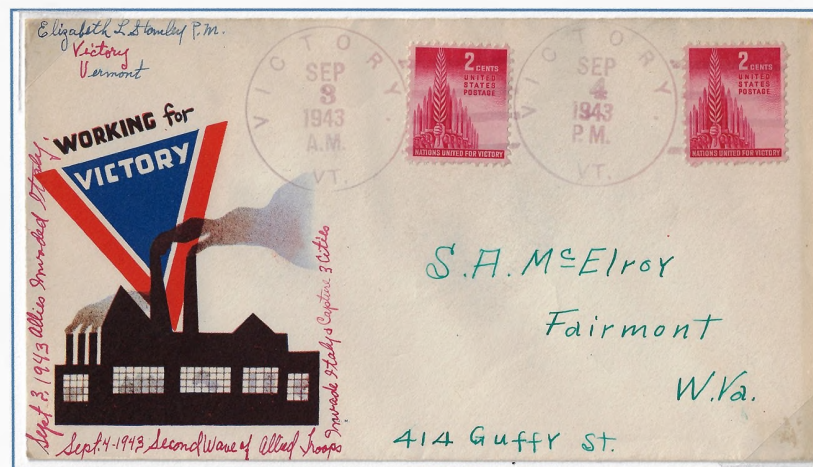
Essex		Vermont		Established _____		Discontinued _____	
Victory		(Post Office)					
POSTMASTER	NOMINATED	CONFIRMED	RECEIVED ON	COMMISSIONED	APPOINTED	CLASS AND DATE OF	REMARKS
Elmyra M. Story		Aug. 14, 1899				Dec. 17, 34	
Mrs. Louise W. Story		May 25, 34				Dec. 27, 1936	
Edwin C. Story		Jan. 9, 1937					
Mrs. Elizabeth L. Stanley		Jan. 18, 1937					
Mrs. Hazel Phelps		Jan. 20, 1943					
Mrs. Verda C. Merrill		July 5, 1948					
Mrs. Hazel Phelps		Feb. 23, 1949					
Discontinued Mar. 9, 1952							

Source: Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971.

Covers signed by Victory Postmasters: 1942-1945



Story-Poppenger (#3342) Category 1 Exemplar



Stanley-Minkus (#9136) Category 1 Exemplar

I. Background

C. Meet the Postmasters

The producer of the Armistice Day cover at **right**, Morris W. Beck, is listed in Sherman's *Catalogue* as Publisher No. 58 ("P58"). Beck was still in high school when this cover was produced and later became well-known to Navy cancel and cachet specialists. According to the definitive study of Beck's covers by Owen R. Murray, this was Beck's second cachet, preceded by an October 27, 1943 cachet honoring Theodore Roosevelt. The recipient of the cover at right, "Master John Herre," was himself just 12 years old (born Sept 18, 1931) at the time this cover was postmarked and signed by Mrs. Stanley. The cover appears to be addressed in young Herre's own handwriting, based on a casual comparison to his signature in a 1949 school yearbook (**right**). Validation of details such as these makes it impossible to view this as anything but a genuine Victory, VT, cover and postmark, and an example of the kind of background information useful to documenting the "exemplar" covers referred to in Part I.D. of the exhibit. Based on the covers illustrated by Murray, Mrs. Stanley signed at least one other Beck Armistice Day cover.

Covers signed by Victory Postmasters: 1942-1945

JOHN G. HERRE
187-01 Williamson Avenue, Queens
College Preparatory Course, Squads—
Cafeteria; Sgt. 1st Lt. W. V. F.
Page; Captain Help; Class Longfellow;
Stamp; Math Honor Roll; Honor
Roll; Major T. College.



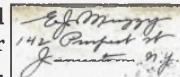
Brooklyn Technical College Yearbook, 1949



Stanley-Beck (#7385) Category 1 Exemplar

MORRIS W. BECK
Imprint on back of cover

The two covers **below** signed by Mrs. Stanley are both associated with E. J. Muzzy, an early producer and servicer of WWII patriotic covers (P390 in Sherman). The cover at **left** is identified as a Muzzy cachet in Sherman's catalog while the cover at **right** is identified as a Nichols cachet. But the imprint showing to the right of the stamps is for covers produced jointly by Muzzy and C. Malcom Nichols (P391). The cover at right is addressed to Donald Buxton (P92) by E. J. Muzzy (whose handwritten address is on the back flap). A cover signed by the postmaster and sent from one known producer another exhibits a high degree of authenticity as an exemplar of a genuine Victory, VT, postmark. These covers are sealed and were likely sent through the mail.



Back flap of Muzzy cover



Stanley-Muzzy/Nichols (#8155) Category 1 Exemplar



Stanley-Muzzy/Nichols (#8347) Category 1 Exemplar

I. Background

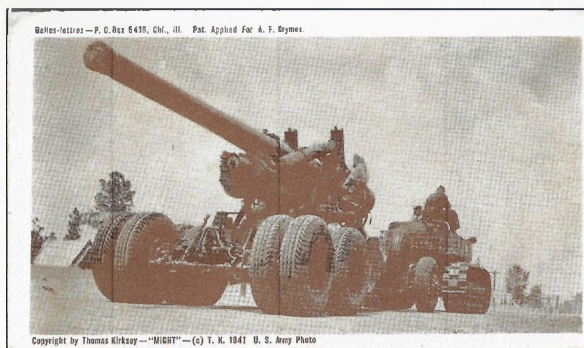
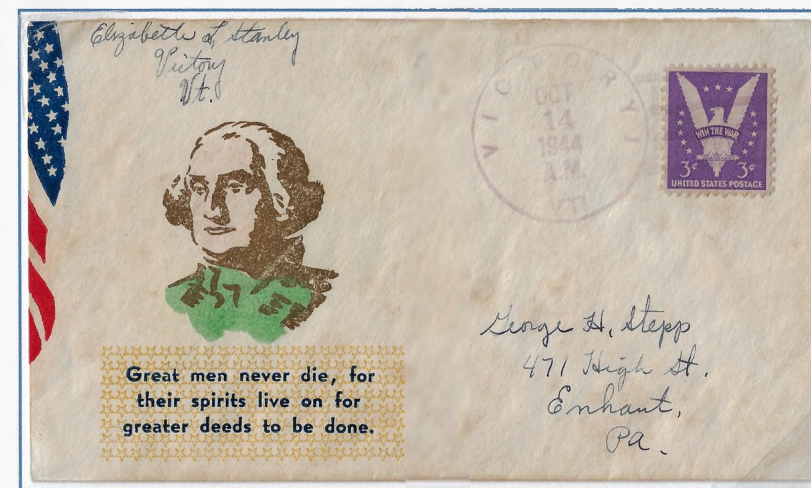
C. Meet the Postmasters

Covers signed by Victory Postmasters: 1942-1945

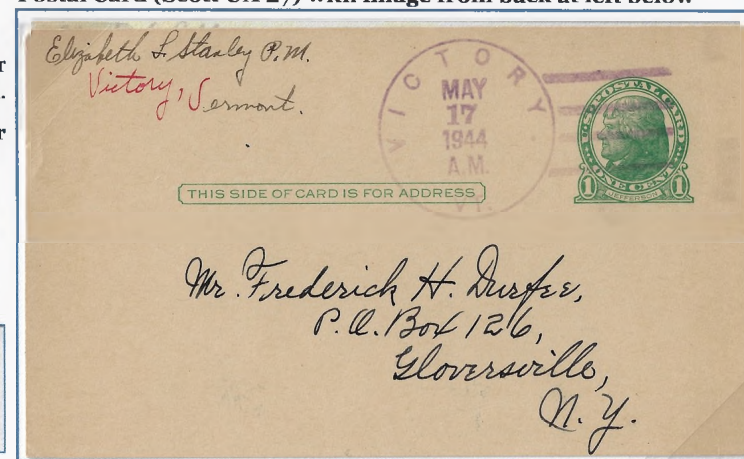
Stanley-Belles-lettres (#4632) Category 1 Exemplar
with image below of back side of cover



Stanley-American Patriotic Covers (#2753) Category 1 Exemplar



Postal Card (Scott UX 27) with image from back at left below



Not a patriotic cover, but important as an exemplar
of a genuine Victory, VT, postmark.

Category 1 Exemplar

Mr. Duffer.
May 17/44
For your postal card collection.

The addressee for this cover, Fred Cochran, was a patriotic cover producer (P113 in Sherman, and P164 jointly with Iva Donaldson) and a prolific collector and servicer of other patriotic covers. Several of his covers are represented as exemplars of legitimate covers in this exhibit.

I. Background

Covers signed by Victory Postmasters: 1942-1945

Weeds in the Victory Garden?

Stanley-Wesley Smith (#3138)

VE-Day Type B

Illustrated in Sherman

Category 1 Exemplar

Stanley-Cliff (#9046)

Artist: CS Anderson

VJ-Day Type A

Addressed to

Capt. A.M. Ash

Category 1 Exemplar



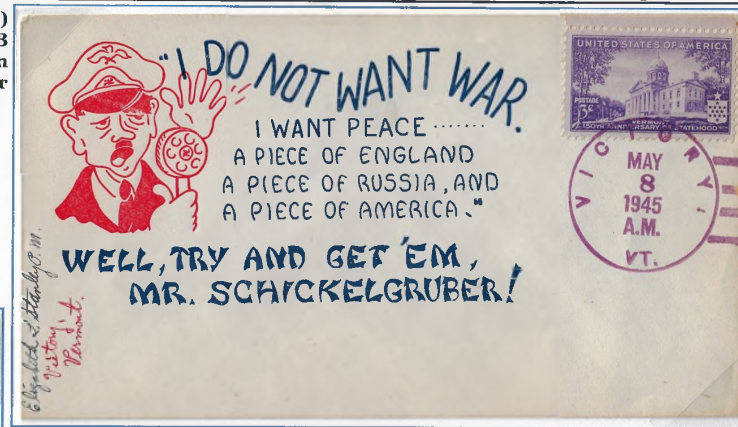
Stanley-Grover (#8213)

VE-Day Type B

Unaddressed

Thermographed

Category 1 Exemplar



Stanley-Minkus (#2602)

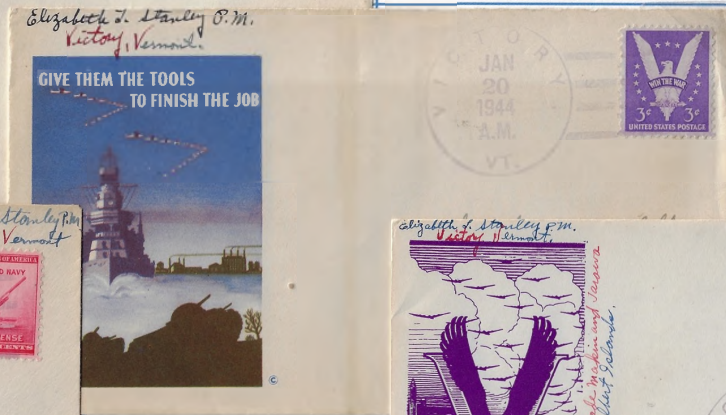
Addressed to

Edward V. McClellan

Category 1 Exemplar



Stanley-Runge (#1240) Category 1 Exemplar



Stanley-Cliff (#9046)

Artist: CS Anderson

Category 1 Exemplar



I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

1. Identifying legitimate postmarks

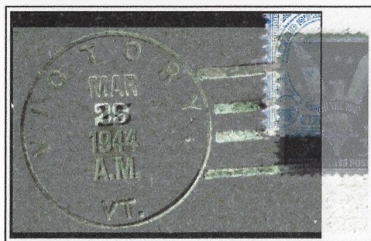
The primary aim of this exhibit is to demonstrate how we can “*tell the good from the bad*” with respect to WWII patriotic covers with Victory, VT, postmarks. In some instances the bogus character of a cover is immediately apparent from anachronistic details in the cachet or cancellation, or other telling characteristics. But sometimes more careful and scrutinizing procedures are required. A consistent methodology was applied in the study underlying this exhibit in which a number of plausibly legitimate cancels were first identified and then digitally analyzed with photo software. The procedure will be briefly described here; further details of the process are described in a separate technical supplement.

The first step was to collect a significantly sized sample of plausibly legitimate covers. The covers collected for this purpose fell into one of the following three categories:

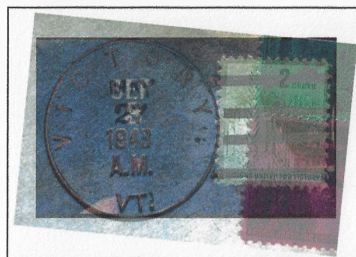
1. Covers signed by postmasters.
2. Covers produced and/or serviced by notable individuals.
3. Covers addressed or serviced for which the probability of being faked seems unlikely.

This represents a collection of covers for which there is a *rebuttable presumption* of legitimacy. That does not mean that they have been “proven” to be legitimate. It simply means that there is a *prima facie* case for their legitimacy. It is always possible that in the process of further investigation one or more of such covers might be found to be of dubious provenance. But this provides a starting point. And as the study progressed, some covers originally identified this way were indeed eliminated through additional research (e.g., the backdated D-Day and VJ-Day covers described later in the exhibit). The covers in category 2 are all covers produced or serviced by individuals identified in Sherman’s *Catalogue* as producers of WWII patriotic covers. The covers in category 3 are all covers addressed to individuals whose identity was verified through further research (primarily census records, draft registration cards, voting rolls or other information obtained through Ancestry.com). The postmarks in category 2 were digitally compared to postmarks on covers signed by postmasters (almost all covers signed by Mrs. Stanley) with proximately similar dates. So also for the covers in category 3 unless a cover in category 2 was thought to provide a better comparison (as in the D-Day example in the next subsection). Covers selected and identified using this process are referred to in this exhibit as *exemplars*. These exemplars were then used to examine the postmarks of other covers identified as “roses” in Part III of the exhibit.

At **right** are two samples of what we are calling exemplars, one from category 2, and the other from category 3. **Below** are the digital postmark comparisons for these covers.



Cochran 3/15/1944 vs. Stanley 3/29/1944

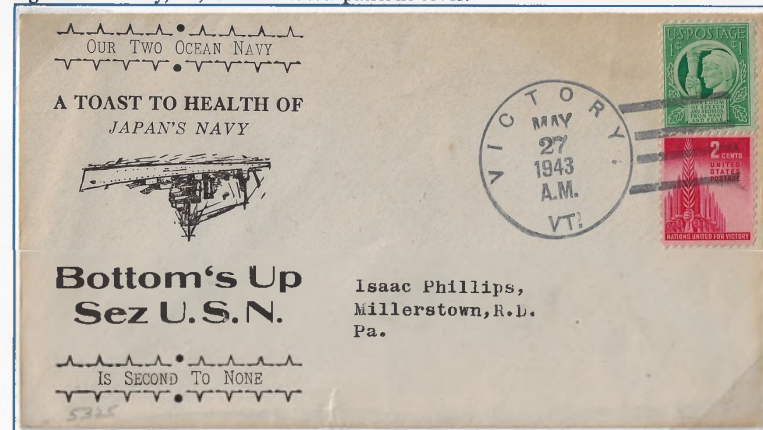


Phillips 5/27/1943 vs. Stanley 9/3/1943



Category 2 exemplar. S/Sgt Raymond E. Travis cachet (#6287) addressed to Fred Cochran (P113) and serviced by Iva Donaldson (P164), address on back flap at **right**. This cover provides a “double association” with known producers of WWII patriotic covers and has a high degree of probability as a legitimate Victory, VT, canceled WWII patriotic cover.

Mrs. Iva Donaldson
225 W. Duena Vista
Highland Park 3, Mich.



Category 3 exemplar. Harrington cachet (#5325) addressed to Isaac Phillips, address verified by WWII Draft Registration Card and Death Certificate. It is unlikely that anyone would have a reason to create a bogus cover with these details. It is presumed legitimate.

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

2. Illustration with D-Day covers

Here we illustrate the use of digital postmark comparisons and exemplar covers to analyze Victory, VT, D-Day postmarked covers, beginning with five covers believed to have the highest probability of being legitimate June 6, 1944, Victory, VT, cancellations. These five covers all show evidence of being cancelled on the same occasion as shown by the image scans below, and are designated “Type A” Victory, VT, D-Day covers. The three covers at right are all addressed to E. J. Muzzy. As noted when examining covers signed by Mrs. Stanley, Muzzy was a known producer and servicer of WW II patriotic covers with no known concerns about his philatelic practices, and other Muzzy covers appear elsewhere in the exhibit. After the war he joined the APS (#20280) and served as Secretary for APS Chautauqua Chapter No. 274 (#26797). In the late 1940s and early 1950s he was active in coordinating stamp shows and exhibitions. As to the background of his Victory, VT, D-Day covers, they are generic (not containing any details specific to D-Day) and were likely sent to Mrs. Stanley to be held for cancellation either for a yet unknown event, or perhaps even in anticipation of an eventual “Cross-Channel” attack to establish a second front (what eventually became known as D-Day). They are treated as exemplars for this analysis.

Muzzy-Gielarowski (#9036-#2)

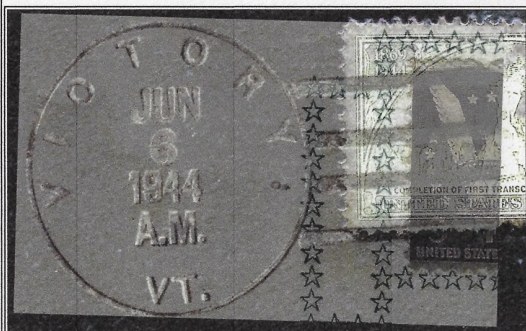
Category 2 Exemplar



Muzzy-Gielarowski (#9036-#1) Category 2 Exemplar



Muzzy-Giel. (#9036-#2) v. Muzzy-Giel. (#9036-#1)



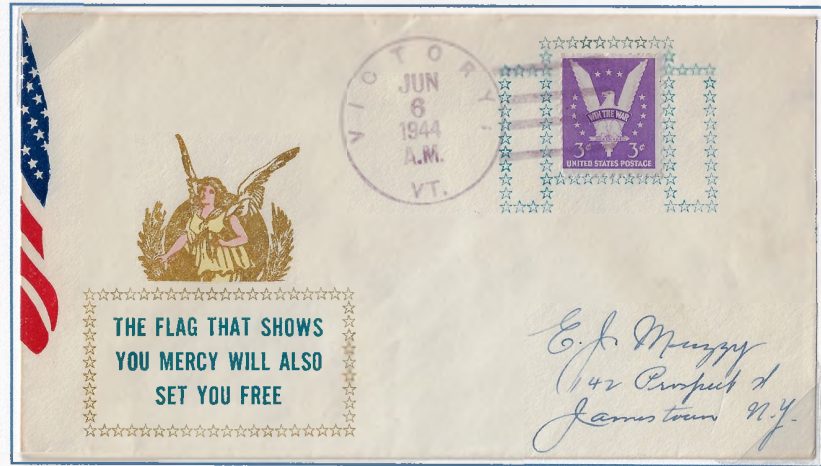
Muzzy-Amer. Pat. (#6641) v. Muzzy-Giel. (#9036-#1)



Weylan-Boone (#5174) v. Muzzy (#9036-#1)



Poppenger (#297) v. Muzzy (#9036-#1)



Muzzy-American Patriotic Press (#6641) Category 2 Exemplar

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

2. Illustration with D-Day covers (continued)

Below are the other two of the five covers originally typed as Type A Victory, VT, D-Day covers.



D-Day Type A Cancellation
Meylan-Boone (#5174)
Category 2 Exemplar
Illustrated in Sherman

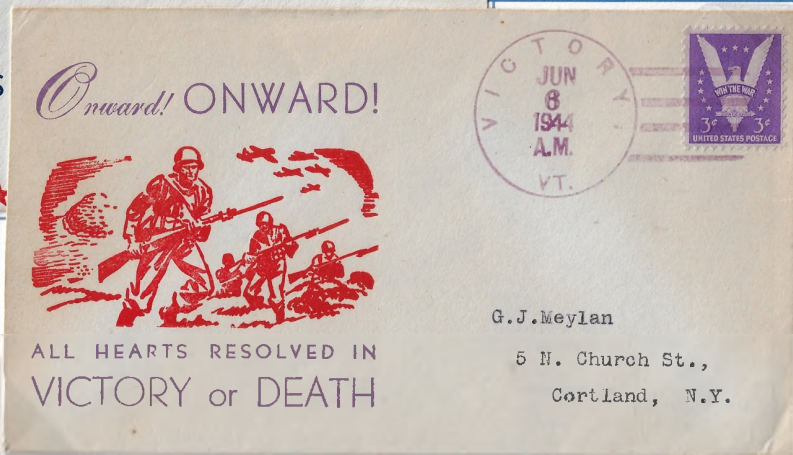
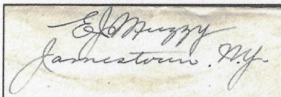
Subsequently a sixth Type A D-Day cover was discovered, shown at **right above**. *The importance of this cover cannot be overestimated.* The Mansfield, OH, postmark, where the cover was initially received before being forwarded to Akron, OH, shows that the cover entered the mail stream in Victory, VT, and conclusively ties the Type A cancellation to June 1944. Moreover, the back flap of the cover indicates that it was serviced by E.J. Muzzy at the same time as the other three Muzzy D-Day Type A covers. This collection of six Type A D-Day covers is strong evidence for what a postmark from the genuine Victory, VT, handstamp looked like as of D-Day, June 6, 1944.

A second group of Victory, VT, covers with D-Day cancellations, designated Type B, is exemplified by the Linto cover at **right**. William Linto was by far the most prolific producer of WWII patriotic covers. Most Linto cachets are unrelated to specific events. But many of these “generic” cachets, like the “price of Eggs” cachet on this Linto cover, contain a two-line add-on text cachet tying the cancellation date of the cover to some specific wartime event with an annotation regarding the add-on cachet along the left edge of the back of the cover. Note how our cover is addressed to Harold W. Stark, a noted philatelist of the period. Stark appears to have served as a go-between for Linto in securing Victory, VT, cancellations of his covers. It is a conjecture, but consistent with the facts, that Stark kept Mrs. Stanley stocked

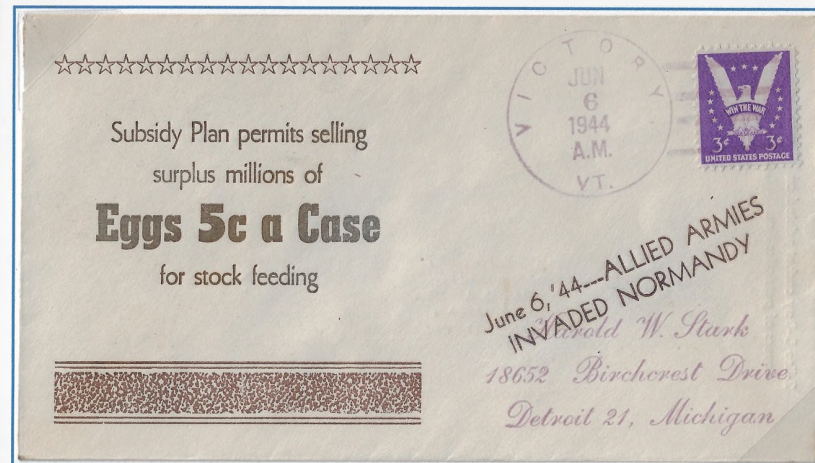
D-Day Type A Cancellation
CL Wolf-McCluney (#1560)
Category 2 Exemplar
Thermographed

D-Day Type A Cancellation
Poppenger (#297)

CL Wolf-McCluney back flap



with supplies of such “generic” covers and when significant events occurred would request such covers to be postmarked with the date of the event. The covers would then be sent back to Linto in Portland, Oregon and the two-line add-on text commemorating the event would be added. This, and two other covers designated as Type B, might under other circumstances be considered exemplars of legitimate Victory, VT, D-Day covers were it not for the fact that these covers show clear evidence of being cancelled under different circumstances than the Type A covers. What most **(continued on next page)**



D-Day Type B Cancellation Linto cachet (#6369)

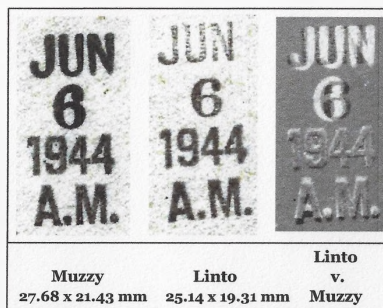
I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

2. Illustration with D-Day covers (continued)

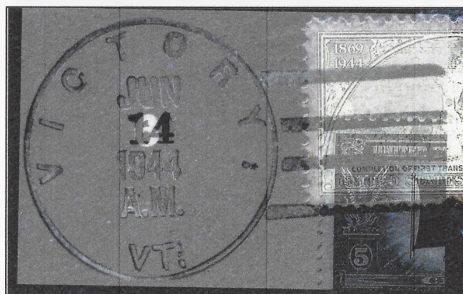
distinguishes the Type A and Type B covers is size of the “6” date slug used for the cancellations, as seen in the comparison at **left**. Note also that that not only is the “6” smaller with the Linto cancel, but the month slugs – JUN – of the two cancels do not line up. That suggests that the JUN slug was reset – removed, and then later reinserted – but that a JUN slug from a *prior year* was used suggesting that the reset occurred sometime *after* June 1944. The Type B D-Day covers thus show clear evidence of backdating.

As further evidence of this backdating, **below** is a June 14, 1944 cover addressed to “Master John Peter Gawel Jr.” Several more

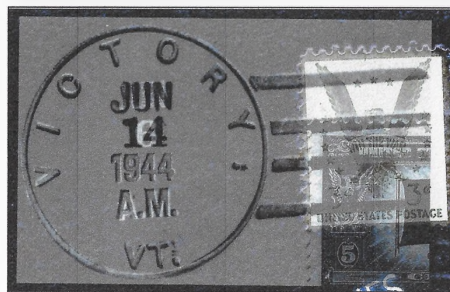


Gawel-Cornell (#159) Category 3 Exemplar

Gawel covers appear later in the exhibit as category 3 exemplars. Also **below** are digital comparisons of this Gawel postmark to the Muzzy and Linto postmarks. The month, year, and timestamp of the Muzzy cover line up well with the Gawel postmark, while the *month* does not for the Linto postmark. This is further evidence of the use of a different JUN slug (from a prior year) and the backdating of the Type B D-Day covers.

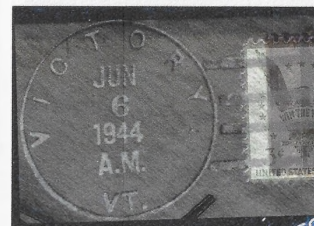


Gawel v. Muzzy



Gawel v. Linto

We have three other examples of Type B Victory, VT, D-Day cancellations. The first is from a Dorothy Knapp D-Day cover exhibited in Part III.D of the exhibit, shown here as an image, and with digital comparison to the Linto cancellation:



The other two are covers with Lowell cachets (#1537), one of which is pencil addressed to Mrs. John Lynch, with digital compari-(cont. on next page)



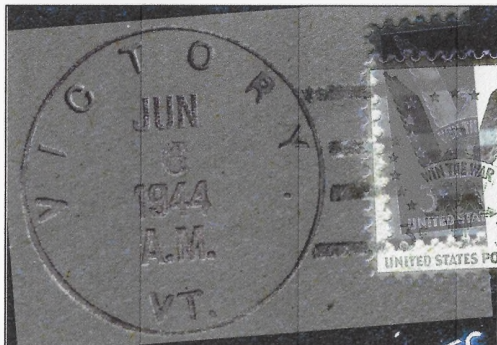
D-Day Type B Cancellations Lowell (#1537)

I. Background

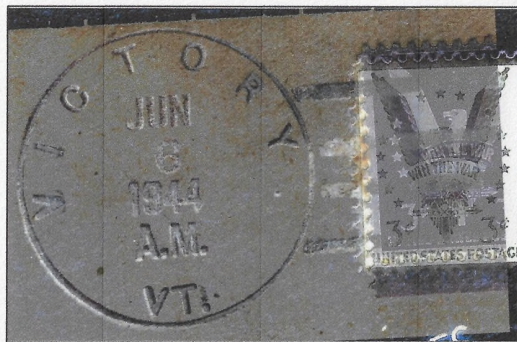
D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

2. Illustration with D-Day covers (continued)

sons shown below:



Lynch-Lowell v. Linto



Lowell v. Linto

The Knapp and Lowell covers overlay the Linto cover quite closely, indicating a group of covers cancelled on the same occasion.

We have a few more Victory, VT, D-Day covers to consider, but let's pause and summarize what has been established so far. We have demonstrated two different types of D-Day cancellations, designated Type A and Type B, for which there are for both types examples of covers that might be candidates for category 2 and 3 exemplars *were it not* for the evidence showing that these two types were cancelled on different occasions. Based on the evidence presented it is clear that Type A is more likely to represent genuine Victory, VT, D-Day postmarks than the Type B postmarks. The Type B postmarks appear to have been postmarked sometime *after* June 1944. What are we to make of this? It is unlikely that Dorothy Knapp or Mrs. Lynch knowingly set out to create philatelic fakes. (A judgment about Linto is more difficult; see Part II.D. of the exhibit.) Knapp probably trusted whomever supplied her with blank Victory, VT, covers postmarked June 6, 1944. We do not know the circumstances under which Linto or Mrs. Lynch requested their June 6, 1944, postmarked covers. The most favorable interpretation of the evidence is that the Type B covers are favor cancels. We will see several times in this exhibit that Mrs. Stanley appears to have been liberal in supplying favor cancels. Indeed, that seems to be demonstrated by the remaining examples of Victory, VT, D-Day covers to consider.

The few remaining D-Day covers are too diverse to constitute a separate class type. Shown at **right above** are two covers identified as having "Sunners" cachets. (For more about "Sunners" cachets see Part II.B.) As shown by the digital comparison (**right**) with the Muzzy cover, the "Sunners" cancel seems to be a hybrid of Types A and B in



Sunners v. Muzzy



"Sunners" (#3017, listed as Unknown in Sherman)

that it lines up with the JUN slug of the Type A cancels, but has the smaller "6" of the Type B cancels. Unlike many other "Sunners" covers which exhibit clear indications of more extensive backdating, this cover may well have been canceled as a favor cancel sometime in June 1944. The cachet was clearly added to the covers after they were canceled, as shown by how the image of FDR is printed *over* the CDS of the cancellation.

The final examples of Victory, VT, D-Day covers are shown on the next two pages. The first is a Farnam cachet addressed to Carl T. Lemponen, identified as a patriotic cover producer (#P319) in Sherman's *Catalogue*. The other three are the same Hill cachet addressed to Josephine Warner, a 32 year old Galveston, TX, school teacher. The digital comparisons on the next page show that the month, day, year and time are similar to the Type A cancels but with sufficient differences to suggest that they were cancelled (backdated) at a different time. The position of the JUN slug is more like the Type A cancels than the Type B cancels suggesting favor cancels postmarked sometime after June 6, 1944, but perhaps not as long after as the Type B cancels.

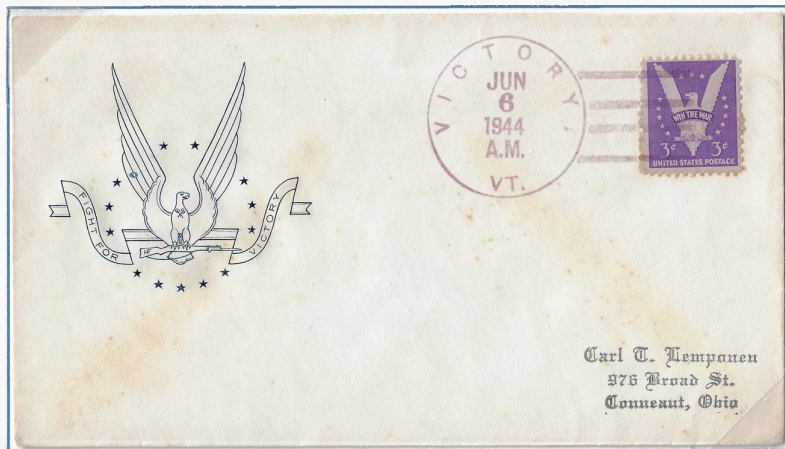
Summary Conclusions on the Victory, VT, D-Day Cancellations

Analysis of the Victory, VT, D-Day covers illustrates well the challenges of evaluating the legitimacy of Victory, VT, WWII (**continued on next page**)

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

2. Illustration with D-Day covers (continued)



Lemponen-Farnham (#1969)

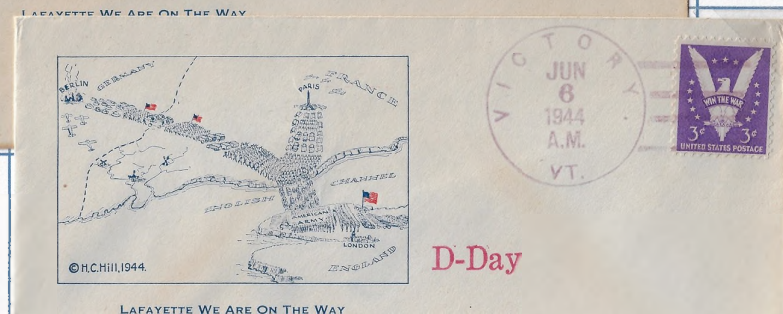


Lemponen-Farnham (#1969) v. Muzzy



Warner-Hill (#3889) v. Muzzy

(cont. from previous page) patriotic covers. Nothing can be taken for granted. Covers associated with known producers that might otherwise be considered exemplars of legitimate Victory, VT, cancellations are seen more likely to be favor cancels. But despite the challenges, Pat Herst's assessment that "there is no way to tell the good from the bad" was too pessimistic and does not stand up to scrutiny. Through patient and careful analysis it is possible to identify with reasonable certainty WWII patriotic covers with legitimate Victory, VT, postmarks. Mrs. Stanley's willingness to supply backdated favor cancels will not sit well with many collectors, but for the sake of the many producers and collectors of the time who sought and obtained legitimately dated patriotic covers, as well as modern collectors who find the WWII patriotic covers of Victory, VT, interesting, it is a worthwhile effort to see how we can "tell the good from the bad."



Warner-Hill (#3889)

The red rubber stamped "D-Day" on two of the covers was obviously added after the covers were received. The top two covers are unaddressed (pencil erased?) but were probably requested by Miss Warner at the same time as the bottom cover. There are other Warner covers identified as category 3 exemplars later in the exhibit.

Josephine Warner,
3928 Avenue S
Galveston, Texas.

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

3. VE/VJ Day variations

As with D-Day, Victory, VT, patriotic covers with VE and VJ day cancellations come with variations suggesting that the covers were cancelled at different times or under different circumstances. Surprising perhaps given the volume of covers with VE or VJ-Day postmarks, the variations are minimal and can reasonably be explained as a result of the volume of covers postmarked on these occasions. As shown in the newspaper clipping at **right**, appearing on Page 1 of the Burlington Free Press on May 9, 1945, the number of covers cancelled for VE-Day were estimated to be 2500. And at that time 500 covers were being held in Victory, VT, in anticipation of VJ-Day.

Even with the large volume of covers processed on VE-Day, there are only two principal variations in VE-Day cancellations, which we have designated Type A and Type B, with the Type B cancellations having both “A.M.” and “P.M.” examples for the timestamp. The two differ by the placement of the “8” as shown at **bottom left** in comparing the Rohaly-Donaldson postmark (Type A) with the Stanley-Grover postmark (Type Bam). The difference stems from the use of an “8” slug from 1944 for Type A covers rather than the 1945 “8” slug used for Type B covers as illustrated in the image at **right**. The Type A “8” matches the “8” from the Jan 8, 1944 Stanley-Andrews cover, while the Type B “8” matches the “8” found on a Jul 8, 1945 Linto cover. The 1944 “8” is slightly smaller and positioned more to the left (relative to the year) than the 1945 “8”. We saw the “mixing and matching” of month slugs from different years in the analysis of the D-Day covers. Here the “mixing and matching” is with date slugs from two different years. The processing of VE-Day covers probably was not completed on May 8. May 9 mail was probably processed first the next day and then the handstamp reset to finish processing the VE-Day covers but with a different “8” slug than the one used the day before.

**The Postmistress
At Victory, Vt.
Has Busy Day**

VICTORY, VT., May 8. (AP)—There was no pause today for Mrs. Elizabeth Stanley, veteran Victory postmistress, because philatelists showered her with 2,500 covers to be stamped with the victory postmark.

She said cancellations for the day were the equivalent of a normal six months in this community of 75 persons.

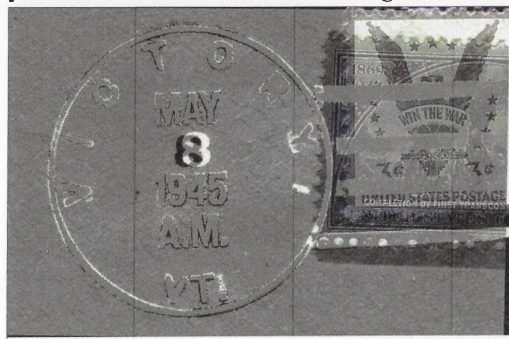
Five hundred covers, she added, had come from collectors now in Europe and many more from all parts of the world by package, shoe box and ailing. They had been accumulating for 18 months. Some bore stamps of liberated countries.

Some with an eye to the future, she said, had already sent 500 covers for cancellation on the day of victory over Japan.

MAY JAN MAY JUL
8 8 8 8
1945 1944 1945 1945

Type A

Type B

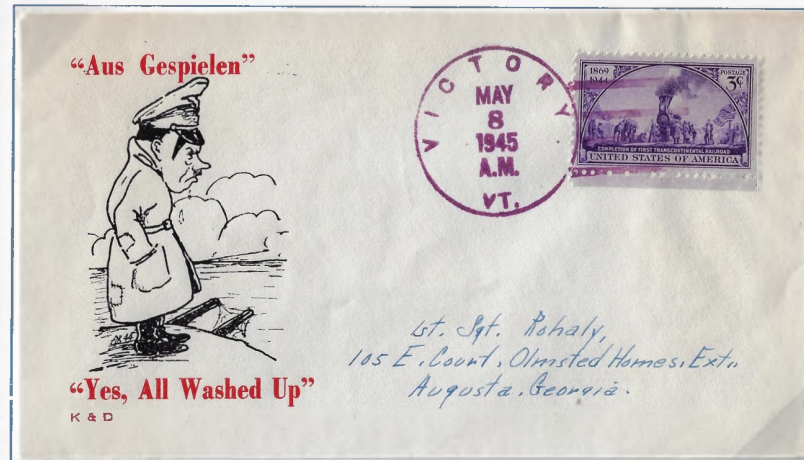


Rohaly-Donaldson (#693) Type A
v.
Stanley-Grover (#8213) Type Bam



Hamilton-Zunks (#8445) Type A
v.
Rohaly-Donaldson (#693) Type A

While we have two VE-Day covers signed by Mrs. Stanley useful for validating VE-Day covers, those are both Type B with A.M. timestamps. To validate Type A VE-Day covers we used the category 2 exemplar cover shown below, an Iva Donaldson cover addressed by Donaldson to Sgt Michael Rohaly. Both are listed as producers in Sherman (#P164 and #P483 respectively) providing “double attestation” as a category 2 exemplar. Below the Donaldson cover is a Type A Hamilton (Order of Zunks) VE-Day cover. The digital comparison at **left below** shows the Donaldson Type A cover v. a Stanley Type B cover, showing the essential difference between the two types (the position of the “8”). The digital comparison at **right** shows the Hamilton cover Type A cover vs. the Rohaly Type A cover.



Rohaly-Donaldson (#693) VE-Day Type A Cancellation Category 2 Exemplar



Hamilton-Zunks (#8445) VE-Day Type A Cancellation Category 2 Exemplar

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

3. VE/VJ Day variations

As already noted, Type B cancellations come with both A.M. and P.M. time-stamps, designated Type Bam and Type Bpm, respectively. The Stanley-Grover VE-Day cover was used to validate Type Bam covers. At **top right** is a Type Bam VE-Day cover serviced by Sgt. Rohaly. Rohaly covers were typically free franked with his service number and location handwritten on the back flap. **Below left** is a digital comparison of the Rohaly **Rohaly back flap** cover with the Stanley cover showing the typical alignment found in validated Type Bam covers.

1st Lt. Rohaly 20312376
Dep Det 1
Camp Gordon etc.

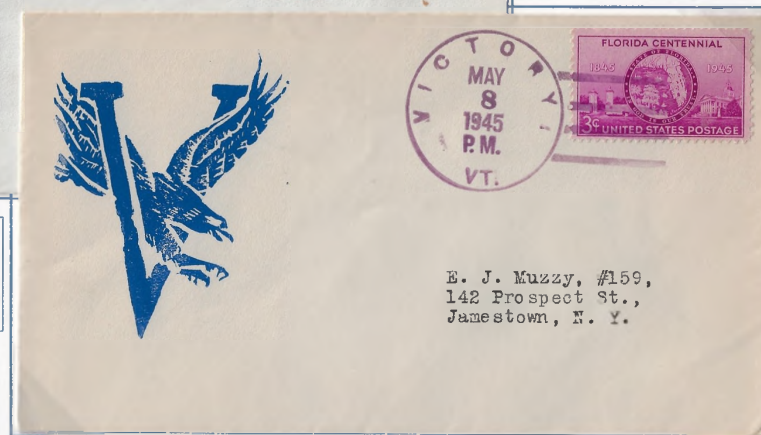


Rohaly-Runge (#4797)
VE-Day Type Bam Cancellation
Category 2 Exemplar

At **center right** is the category 2 exemplar used to verify Type Bpm VE-Day covers (since there was no Stanley cover with a Type Bpm cancellation). It is an M.C. Weston cover addressed to E.J. Muzzy. Weston is identified as #P608 in Sherman's *Catalogue* and typically provided a typewritten return address noting his Patriotic Cover Exchange Club member number on the back flap. The number #159 in the address to Muzzy is presumably Muzzy's PCEC member number.

M.C. Weston PCEC #230,
15 Ash St.,
Brockton, 33, Mass.

Weston back flap



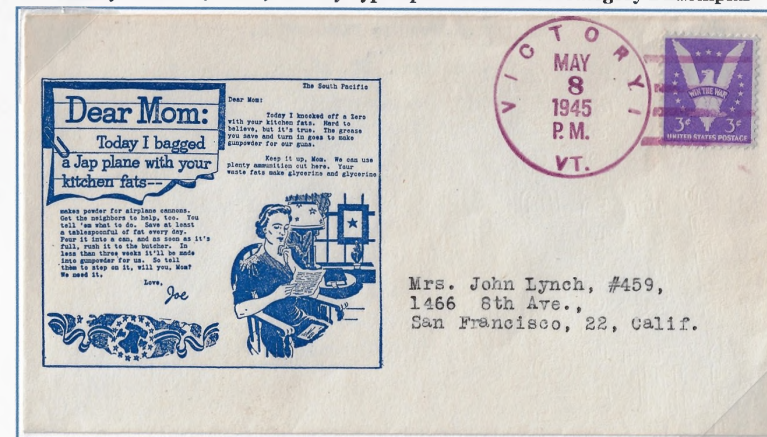
Muzzy-Weston (#8188) VE-Day Type Bpm Cancellation Category 2 Exemplar



Rohaly-Runge (#4797) Type Bam
v.
Stanley-Grover (#8213) Type Bam



Lynch-Johnson (#1567) Type Bpm
v.
Muzzy-Weston (#8188) Type Bpm



Lynch-Johnson (#1567) VE-Day Type Bpm Cancellation Category 3 Exemplar

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

3. VE/VJ Day variations

The Victory, VT, VJ-Day covers of September 2, 1945, introduce a new and unique twist. (For August 14, 1945 covers see Part II.D.1. of the exhibit.) All known September 2 cancellations replace the timestamp with the letters “VJ.” There are a couple of possible ways the “VJ” was created. One explanation (suggested by user “hy-brazil” of the Stamp Community Forum, <https://stampcommunity.org>) of how the “VJ” slugs were created is that “NO” was filed off of a “NOV” slug, and the “AN” filed off of a “JAN” slug, so that two slugs were used in the time slot to comprise the “VJ.” The other possibility (suggested by Dave Kent) was separate “V” and “J” elements from a rubber stamp set.



Type A

Type B

Type C

Either would account for the three main types of VJ-Day cancellations. Because separate “V” and “J” elements would only fill 2/3 (or less) of the space filled by the standard time slugs, removing and reinserting the “V” and “J” could easily produce the kind of variation observed the Victory, VT, VJ-Day covers. The differences in the three main types are obvious just from looking at the variations in the placements of the “V” and “J” between them as shown in the image at left.

Type A covers were validated by comparison to the Stanley-Cliff (#9046) VJ-Day cover. At **right above** is a Type A cover with a George Abel cachet serviced by Iva Donaldson (return address on back flap) and addressed to Fred Cochran in her handwriting. **Below left** is a digital comparison of the two. **Center right** is a Kosko cover used to verify Type B covers. Kosko's covers contain a signature/imprint on the back of each cover. **Below right** is a Type 2 cover with a Huss cachet pencil addressed by Huss to his PO Box in Evanston Illinois. The digital comparison **below right** shows the cancellation on the Huss cover compared to the cancellation on the Kosko cover.



Cochran-Abel v. Stanley-Cliff

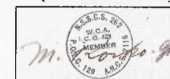
Huss v. Kosko



Cochran-Abel (#7514) VJ-Day Type A Cancel Category 2 Exemplar



Kosko (#2771)
VJ-Day Type B Cancel
Category 2 Exemplar
Signature/Imprint from back
cover (reduced in size):



Huss (#244) VJ-Day Type B Cancel Category 2 Exemplar

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

3. VE/VJ Day variations

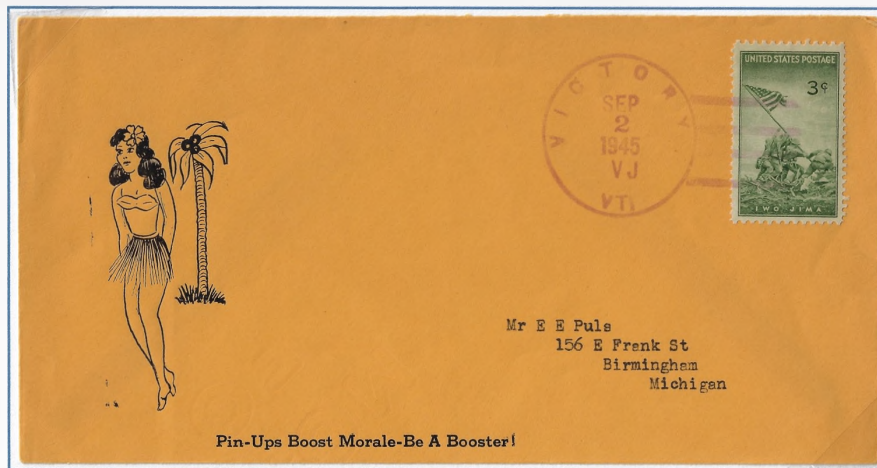
The cover below addressed to Lester McFarland (#P361 in Sherman) was used to verify VJ-Day Type C cancellations. Below it is a cover addressed to E. E. Puls (#P464) with a Type C cancellation. The digital comparison shows the Puls cancellation v. the McFarland cancellation.



McFarland-Coz Art (#3789)
VJ-Day Type C Cancellation

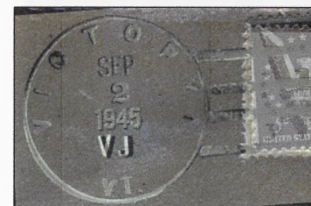


Puls v. McFarland

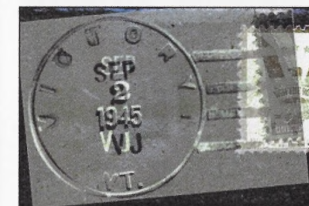


Puls-Field (#5455) VJ-Day Type C Cancellation

As shown in the two overlays below the difference between Type A and Type B VJ-Day covers is minor; Type C is another story altogether.

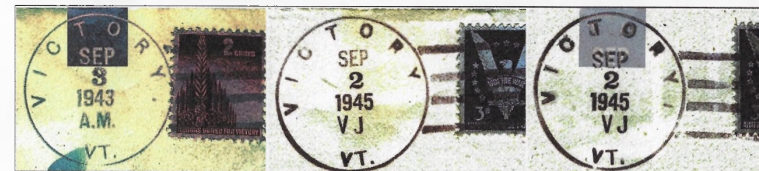


Type B v. Type A



Type C v. Type A

Whereas the only difference between Type A and Type B is in the position of the "VJ," while the month, date, and year line up together, in the Type C cancels the month and date are shifted noticeably to leftward. When examining the D-Day cancels we noted clear evidence that Type B D-Day cancels were created with different month and date slugs. Something similar appears to be the case with the VJ-Day Type C cancels. Closer inspection of Victory, VT, cancels showed that with 1943 cancels the month is positioned further left than in 1945 cancels. This can be easily seen in the following image with a "Mark I Eyeball" by noting the position of the month relative to the "T O" in "VICTORY." When the "T O" and "SEP" from the Stanley-signed 1943



Left to right: (1) Stanley-signed 1943 cover, (2) Stanley-signed Type A VJ-Day cover, (3) McFarland-Coz Art VJ-Day Type C cover.

cover is copied over the "T O" and "SEP" of the McFarland-Coz Art Type C cover, the horizontal placements of the SEP are essentially identical between the two. The remaining vertical displacement can be explained by differences in the vertical size of the date slugs between the two cancels (the "3" in the 1943 cancel is larger than the "2" in the 1945 covers).

As in the case of the Type B D-Day cancels, the natural implication of what we are seeing here with respect to the Type C VJ-Day cancels is that they were cancelled sometime after September 1945. There are only a handful of Type C covers (six more, besides the two at left, shown on the next two pages). Either these covers were received late, and stamped September 2, 1945, as favor cancels, or perhaps were received earlier but misplaced and not discovered until later. Either way, the Type C covers are likely backdated.

I. Background

D. Scrutinizing Victory Postmarks

3. VE/VJ Day variations



Smartcraft (#5409)
VJ-Day Type C
Thermographed
Illustrated in Sherman



Puls-Unknown (#3723)
VJ-Day Type C

Stark-Field (#8011)
VJ-Day Type C



Field (#5455)
VJ-Day Type C



Puls-Field (#8011)
VJ-Day Type C



Cornell (#2899)
VJ-Day Type C

II. "Weeds" in Victory's Philatelic Garden?

A. The Herst Hypothesis

At **right below** is an example of the "patriotic" cover that Herst relied upon in his *FIRST DAYS* article (note, though, the different orientation of the cancellation, a distinction without a difference). There is a lot more to be said later about the provenance of these covers, but for now our focus is on what Herst made of them.

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FIRST DAYS

Victory, Vermont, Fakes

... Herman Herst, Jr., AFDCS

On reading the article by my good friend and occasional neighbor, Marshall Ackerman, in *FIRST DAYS* for July 1984, I realized that I might have something to contribute to his fine article on covers from World War II.

For years, I have had in my "doubtful" collection a number of covers with postmarks of Victory, VT, which is my opinion cannot be other than fakes.

Among them originally was a cover with a lovely cachet celebrating the end of World War I. I was able to find a home for it some years ago, a home where it would be appreciated and never sold for what it was not. A collector of Vermont covers convinced me that it belonged in his collection more than it did in mine.

It bore a cachet picturing President Woodrow Wilson, and it was postmarked Victory, VT, Nov. 11, 1918.

Apparently whoever had the very convincing handstamp made also used it when World War II came along. As yet my covers from the second World War are still with me.

The first one, of heroic size, celebrates



Victory, VT, cover canceled Sep. 1, 1942, decorated with persons in the news of that period. The illustrations and text appear to have been borrowed from various sources — probably newspapers and magazines.

the United Nations, with the coat of arms of each one. Unfortunately, in the illustration the postmark was very lightly struck, but it is exactly the same as the one in the Sept. 1, 1942, cover, which shows important persons during World War II.

If there is doubt as to the authenticity of these Victory, VT, covers, it should be eliminated when one notices the Jan. 1, 1942, cover. It honors the United Nations. The United Nations concept was some

March One 1986

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The United Nations

1. United States; 2. Great Britain; 3. Russia; 4. China; 5. Australia; 6. Canada; 7. Union of South Africa; 8. New Zealand; 9. India; 10. Netherlands; 11. Norway; 12. Poland; 13. Greece; 14. Czechoslovakia; 15. Cuba; 16. Belgium; 17. Yugoslavia; 18. Costa Rica; 19. Panama; 20. Dominican Republic; 21. Haiti; 22. Salvador; 23. Guatemala; 24. Honduras; 25. Nicaragua; 26. Luxembourg; 27. Mexico; 28. Philippines;

The original countries comprising the United Nations did not include Mexico, The Philippines, and Brazil. These powers were excluded later.

Reverse of the Jan. 1 cover with erroneous information imprinted by the maker.

burg (note the misspelling) were overrun by the Nazis, and in no condition to join the United Nations. The Philippines were of course not yet independent when this cover allegedly went through the mails.

The United Nations cover comes in two colors, in a purplish black, and a reddish brown. The "Heroes of World War II" cover is in light blue.

If this Victory, VT, cancel is in private hands, as would appear to be this case, collectors and dealers ought to remember this possibility, as it could be used at any time to make additional fraudulent covers. It should be mentioned further that all of these covers are unaddressed. □

He wrote:

"If there is doubt as to the authenticity of these Vicotry, VT, covers, it should be eliminated when one notices the Jan. 1, 1942, cover. It honors the United Nations. *The United Nations concept was some years in the future. It was first discussed between F.D.R. and Churchill late in the war, once the allied victory was assured.*" [Emphasis supplied.]

Herst *completely* misconstrued the purpose of this cover. Did it not occur to him that Jan. 1, 1942 was of no consequence what-

soever to the origin of the United Nations of which he was thinking? Why would anyone bother to backdate a cover honoring the creation of the United Nations in 1945 to Jan. 1, 1942? In spite of an abundance of *philatelic* evidence to the contrary Herst was apparently ignorant of the wartime significance of Jan. 1, 1942. On that date was signed the "DECLARATION BY UNITED NATIONS" (continued on next page)

Axis' Foes Officially Become 'United Nations'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2. (AP) The countries battling Axis powers today were officially designated as the "United Nations."

They so described themselves in the pact in which they promised to make no separate peace with their enemies.

The designation, it was learned, was the result of long thought by President Roosevelt. He had been working night and day on the pact, and he pondered the designation "United Nations" until 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.

He wanted an adequate description, it was understood, which would avoid calling the signatories the "associated" or "allied" powers.

During the last World War when these latter terms were used, it was recalled, there was some opposition to alignment with any foreign powers.

High officials said the President used his war powers in committing the government to make no separate peace. While Congress has the right to declare war, the President is charged with prosecuting it as commander-in-chief, and the declaration by the United Nations was described as a war measure.

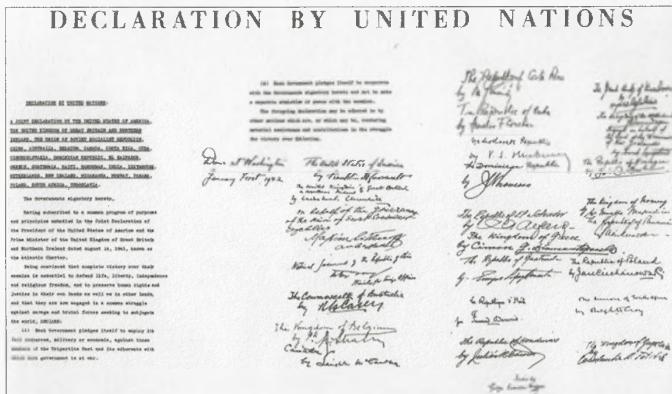
The Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, California) • 03 Jan 1942, Sat • Page 7



II. "Weeds" in Victory's Philatelic Garden?

A. The Herst Hypothesis

(cont. from previous page) during the Arcadia Conference held in Washington, DC, December 22, 1941, to January 14, 1942. Originally signed by 26 nations, by July 4, 1942, two more nations had signed the declaration (the significance of this to be made apparent shortly). As shown in the press clipping on the previous page, FDR coined the expression "UNITED NATIONS" in late 1941, *right at the beginning of WWII*, not years later near the end of the war as claimed by Herst. While there are significant issues with respect to the "Jan. 1, 1942" Victory, VT, cover under consideration, they are not the issues or concerns that led to Herst's claims. While Herst could perhaps be forgiven for getting his *history* wrong, as a philatelic writer it is difficult to excuse his apparent ignorance of an abundance of *philatelic evidence* in relation to this original "UNITED NATIONS."



By the latter half of 1942 the "DECLARATION OF UNITED NATIONS" of Jan. 1, 1942 was being recognized philatelically in a variety of ways. As examples, beginning at **right**, counterclockwise:

- 1: A Jacob Minkus patriotic cover (Sherman #1252) first produced in 1942 here used for a first day cover of Scott #907 issued Jan. 14, 1943.
- 2: A Belles-lettres patriotic cover (#6885) with an image of a 1942 Office of War Information poster entitled "The United Nations Fight For Freedom." This poster was approved for display in post offices in *The Postal Bulletin*, Vol. LXIII, No. 18440, May 22, 1942.
- 3: A Mae Weigand hand-painted cover (#1520) canceled July 29, 1942, one of a set recognizing the original 26 signatory countries to the Jan. 1, 1942 "DECLARATION BY UNITED NATIONS."

But by far the most inexplicable lapse for a philatelic writer of Herst's stature was his apparent lack of knowledge regarding the 2¢ 1943 Scott #907 commemorative issued Jan. 14, 1943. Beginning with its announcement in *The Postal Bulletin*, Vol LXIII, No. 18535, Dec. 30, 1942, the new stamp was known as the "UNITED NATIONS COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP."

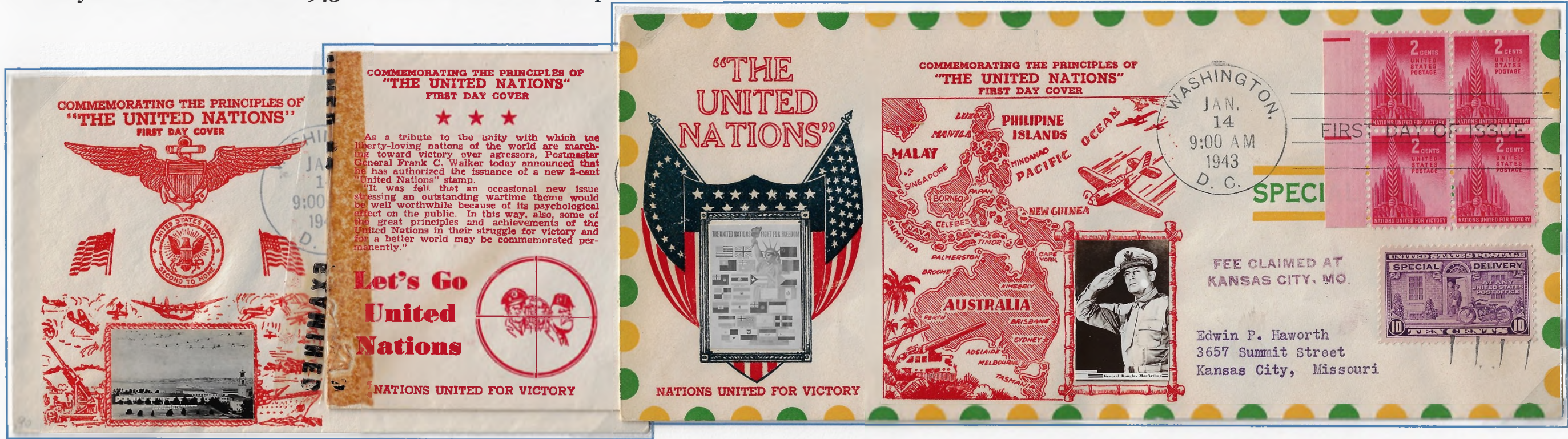
Illustrated on the next two pages are a few of the many cachets produced for the first day of issue of #907 showing how widely the 1943 Scott #907 stamp was known as the "UNITED NATIONS" stamp. Herst's belief that the Jan. 1, 1942 cover had something to do with the formation of the United Nations organization of 1945 led directly to his hypothesis that the Victory, VT, cancellation device "fell into private hands" *after the end of the war* (Sherman, 31, relying on Herst). Given Herst's so completely wrong understanding of the purpose of the Jan. 1, 1941 cover, we need to reconsider its background and provenance.



Mrs. Robert Shay
346 Elm Street
Penn Yan, N.Y.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?
A. The Herst Hypothesis

First Day Cover Cachets for the 1943 “UNITED NATIONS” Stamp



Walter Crosby Cachets



Cachet Artists/Producer, Left to Right: Staehle, Ioor, Poppenger, Farnum, Artcraft

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?
A. The Herst Hypothesis

Robert Neidzwiecki
First soldier reported killed at Hawaii,
December 7, 1941



Franklin D. Roosevelt




Capt. John Wheelless rescued nine wounded civilians at the risk of his own life. He was wounded in this heroic task.

George VI
King of England



Gen. Douglas MacArthur



On April 18, 1942, Brigadier-General Jimmie Doolittle led a squadron of American planes over Japan and bombed four Nipponese cities. For the first time in Jap history, that empire was attacked.

Captain Edward O'Hare contacted a squadron of Jap planes and single-handed shot down six of them.

Victory Postmark
SEP 1 1942 A.M. VT.



Lt. Frank L. Teixeira
O-1287086
HC 1st BN 185th INF
A. P. O. 49 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

The first cover directly **below** is the second of the two covers shown in Herst's *FIRST DAYS* article. Whereas Herst's cover was unaddressed, this one is addressed to Frank Teixeira, well known for a series of distinctive WWII event covers canceled with the iconic postmark of the 1st Infantry Division, APO #1. This cover comes from an earlier period in his army career when he was with the 185th Infantry Regiment stationed in Hawaii sometime between September 1942 and mid-1943. The cover at **bottom left** has the same cachet as the corresponding Herst cover, but with a July 4, 1942 postmark rather than the Jan. 1, 1942, postmark and is canceled with black ink rather than the violet ink of the cancel on the Herst cover. The use of violet ink did not come into use until Mrs. Stanley's tenure as postmaster and is clear evidence of anachronistic backdating intended to create a philatelic hoax.

As to when the Jan. 1, 1942, cover was actually cancelled, we can only draw a broad conclusion. Based on changes shown in the cancellations depicted **below** the cover was probably created in 1943 or early 1944 and certainly not much later than mid-1944. The letters in "VICTORY" show clear evidence of aging over time, with the letters softening and picking up more ink. This difference is most prominent in the "R," showing evidence of change by late 1944, and even more so by mid-1945 (after VE-Day).

Another significant difference (**cont. on next page**)

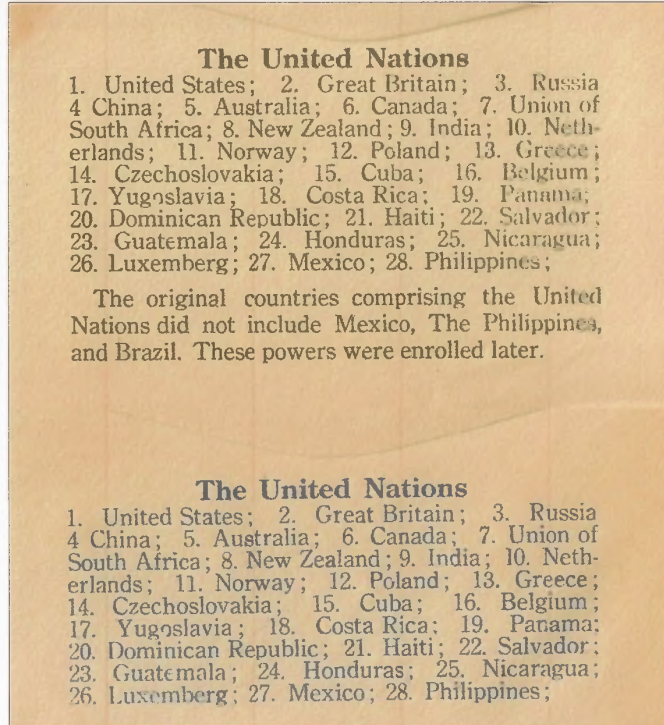
NEW ZEALAND



II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

A. The Herst Hypothesis

(**cont. from previous page**) between the Jan. 1, 1941, cover and the July 4, 1942, cover is the legend on the backside seen in the image **below**. The top legend is the legend appearing on the backside of the Jan. 1, 1941 cover and is also illustrated in Herst’s *FIRST DAYS* article. The bottom legend is what appears on the backside of the July 4, 1942 cover. It is immediately obvious that the July 4, 1942, cover was created first and that the Jan. 1, 1941, cover was an ineptly modified version of the “later” cover. The details of the July 1942 cover are



chronistically correct for the period. Between the signing of the DECLARATION OF UNITED NATIONS by the original 26 signatories and July 4, 1942, Mexico and the Philippines signed the agreement on June 14, 1942, making them #'s 27 and 28 in the list of “United Nations.” The July 4, 1942 cancellation may still be a backdated favor cancel, but the details are not anachronistic.

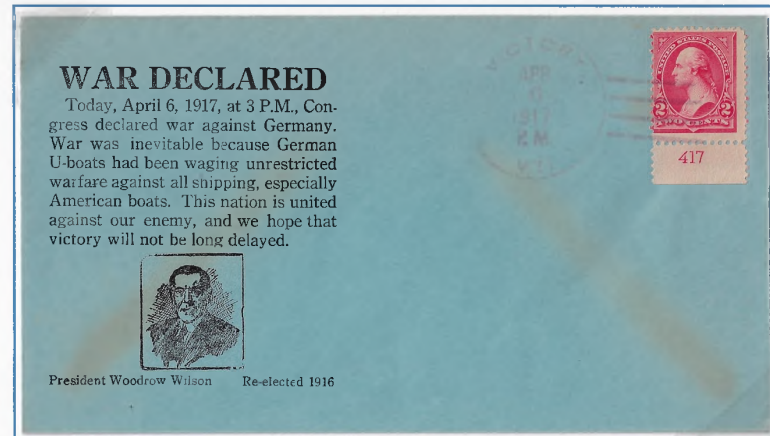
Not so for the three “explanatory” lines added to the back of the Jan. 1, 1941 cover. It is incredulous that whoever created this cover did not realize that this would betray the cover as an obvious hoax. On Jan. 1, 1942, when this cover was supposedly cancelled, who would have known that that Mexico and the Philippines would be added six months later? Even more curious is the reference to Brazil. It is not included in the list of 28 nations, so why “explain” it? Brazil was, however, added to the list on April 10, 1943, suggesting a possible *earliest date* for the actual creation of the Jan. 1, 1941 cover. Incidentally, rather than pick up on these clear inconsistencies, Herst went on about how some of the nations included in the list – Netherlands, Norway, China, Poland, Greece, et al. – were “overrun by the Nazis, and in no condition to join the United Nations.” He must not have known that these nations had “governments in exile” to authorize an international agreement.

There is one final note of significance regarding the lack of authenticity for the Jan. 1, 1941 cover. The actual announcement of the signing of the DECLARATION OF UNITED NATIONS was not made until the following day, Jan. 2, 1942, and generally not covered in news media until Jan. 3, 1942. Herst’s intuition that the Jan. 1, 1941, cover was hoax was not unwarranted. But the inferences he drew to form his claim that the Victory, VT, cancellation device was in “private hands” and (according to Sherman) being used to create fraudulently backdated cancels *after the war ended* simply does not stand up to scrutiny. There is much more to the story of what was going on in Victory, VT, during the period in question.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

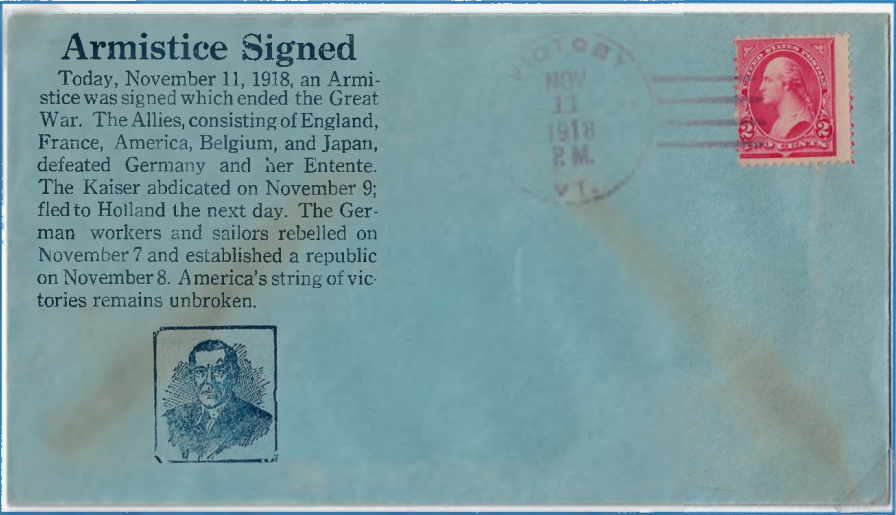
B. The Sunners Connection

The two covers that Herst fixated on in his *FIRST DAYS* article may be part of a much larger collection of philatelic hoaxes associated with William Sunners. Two covers purporting to be WWI Victory, VT, covers, one **below**, and the other on the next page, have been previously attributed to Sunners. Not previously noted (as far as the exhibitor knows), these covers were cancelled (**continued on next page**)



Fake WWI Victory, VT, “War Declared” cover attributed to William Sunners

II. "Weeds" in Victory's Philatelic Garden?
B. The Sunners Connection



Fake WWI Victory, VT, "Armistice Signed" cover attributed to William Sunners (cont. from previous page) with the violet ink for which there is no known evidence of use prior to Mrs. Stanley's tenure. The violet ink used during her tenure was not only non-standard but of poor quality exhibiting severe fading with time, especially with light strikes. With fading the violet ink does not stand out well with the blue covers used in the Sunners fakes but is more obvious in the following digital images:



Below is a montage of Victory, VT, postmarks spanning the period 1907-1940 with technical characteristics of what are designated as "4a-bar" types of 4-bar rubber handstamps. The type of cancel seen on the two Sunners fake WWI covers is what is designated an "A/1" variant of the 4a-bar type of cancel, with narrow (1 mm) killer bars and a narrow vertical span (14 mm) for the killer bars, similar to the 1907 cancel in the Willett-Thompson collection. By 1936 the cancellation device being used in Victory was the "A/2" variant with wider (1.5 mm) killer bars. In the three decades spanning 1907 to 1936, it is not improbable that the device used in 1907 was replace, probably multiple times. From the connection to Mrs. Stanley established with the use of violet ink, it is likely that Mrs. Stanley either cancelled the Sunners fakes herself with an older Victory, VT, handstamp or allowed Sunners himself access to an older device that he used to create the cancellations on the WWI fakes.



A number of Victory, VT, covers, while not previously attributed to Sunners, bear striking resemblance in a variety of ways to the two WWI fakes and other fakes previously attributed to Sunners and are likely his creations, or creations influenced by him. Since the evidence is inferential, these covers will be referred to as "Sunners" covers in this exhibit. The following Victory, VT, cover uses the same cachet as a Dec 7, 1941 fake with an Aiea, Hawaii, cancel identified as (continued on next page)

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

B. The Sunners Connection

(cont. from previous page) identified as a Sunners fake by Ken Lawrence:

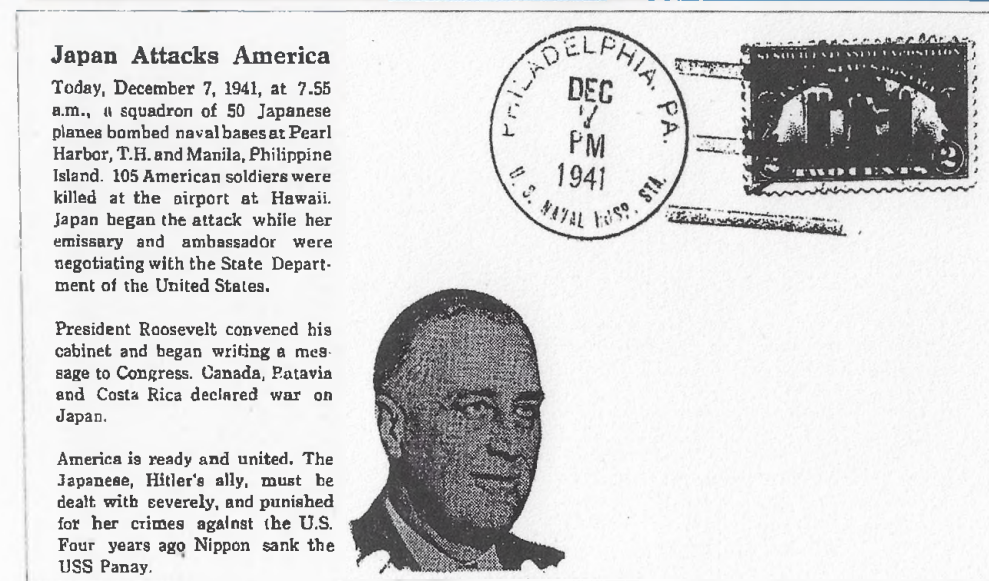
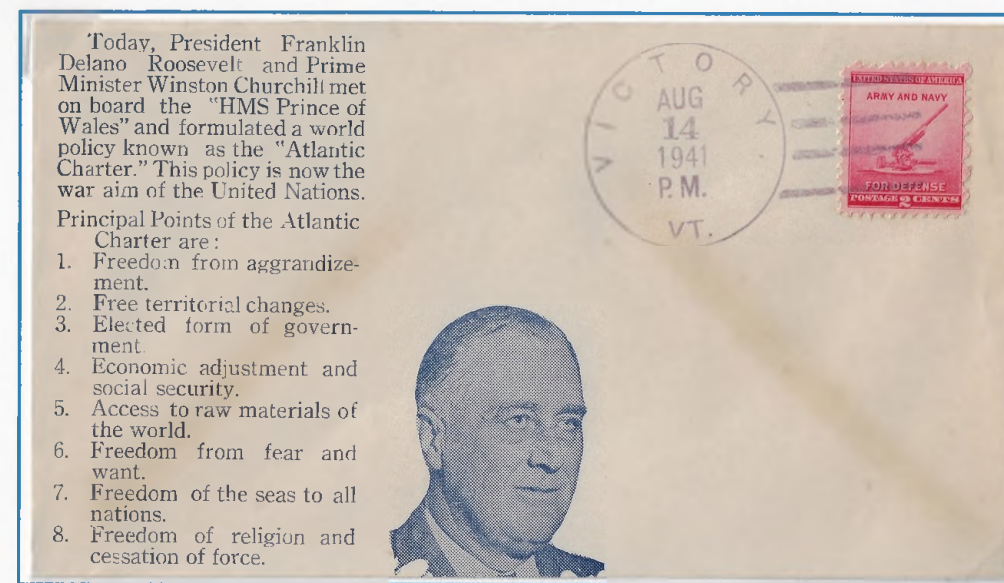


Fake Dec 7, 1941 cover attributed to Sunners by Ken Lawrence

One of the common attributes to the “Sunners” covers is a pedestrian lack of artistic design or creativity with the cachets consisting of easily copied or reproducible images and text with factual errors or anachronistic details. The above two covers are reminiscent of the Jan 1, 1942 cover from the Herst *FIRST*

DAYS article in this respect with the artwork consisting of seals and coats of armor easily copied from other sources.

The Sunners connection and these “features” characteristic of Sunners’ covers are illustrated further in the following two covers:



Another Fake Sunners Dec 7, 1941 Cover

The Victory, VT, cover purports to commemorate “The Atlantic Charter,” a joint declaration agreed upon by FDR and Winston Churchill aboard the HMS Prince of Wells in August 1941. The meeting between the two was held from August 9 to August 12, but the agreement (**continued on next page**)

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

B. The Sunners Connection

(cont. from previous page) was not made public until August 14. Principal talks that led to the Atlantic Charter took place on August 9 and 10 aboard the USS Augusta, not the HMS Prince of Wells. Factual errors like these are common with Sunners covers. The bogus character of the cover is also given away by the *violet* ink of the postmark.

The following “Sunners” cover further illustrates the kind of anachronistic errors often seen with these covers:

IT HAPPENED TODAY
April 18

1431 Joan of Arc was declared guilty of blasphemy and imposture.

1906 San Francisco was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake and fire.

1754 City of Pittsburgh (first known as Fort Duquesne) was founded.

1775 Paul Revere began his famous midnight ride to Lexington, rousing the patriots who repulsed the redcoats.

1802 Erasmus Darwin, famous naturalist, was born today.

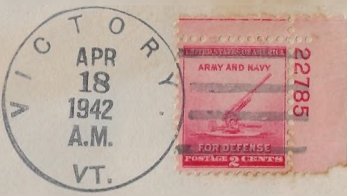
1861 Robert E. Lee declined to take command of the Union troops.

1874 David Livingstone buried at Westminster Abbey.

1901 Boxer Rebellion broke out in China.

1909 Joan of Arc was beatified, made a saint.

1918 First American air squadron attacked German positions in France.



Tokio Bombed

Today, April 18, 1942, Jimmy Doolittle, and 63 other American aviators, bombed Tokio, the capital of Japan. These men flew in 16 B-25 medium bombers. These bombers took off from the deck of the USS Hornet, an aircraft carrier. This was the first time that land bombers took off from an aircraft carrier.

Eight of the aviators were captured, five were interned in Russia, two were wounded, one subsequently died. Eventually, some of the captured flyers were reported executed after a Japanese “fair” trial.

This cover is postmarked with the date of Doolittle’s famed Apr 18, 1942 bombing raid on Tokyo. The text narrative of the cachet, common with “Sunners” covers, begins “Today...” followed by historical narrative tied to the date of the postmark. In this case historical details regarding the bombing, such as that the bombers took off from the USS Hornet, were not revealed *until a year later* at the time of the first anniversary of the bombing. At the time of the bombing FDR coyly claimed that the raid was orchestrated from “from our secret base in Shangrai La.” Furthermore, on the date of the postmark there was no way to know the details contained in the second paragraph! “Sunners” cachets often make impossible claims like this.

There are many more examples of “Sunners” covers with Victory, VT, cancels, but we will wrap this up this section with the three shown at **right**, and one more on the page following. The cachet text of the bottom one is particularly ludicrous. How would anyone know that “Today, Italy *secretly* surrendered ...?” Furthermore, the statement that “This cover was posted *on the corresponding minute* of the actual invasion...” is meaningless because the specific time the postmark was (purportedly) applied is not indicated in the timestamp. As we will see again later, the “P.M.” in the postmarks of the top two covers is suspect because there is no evidence that Victory, VT, had more than a single A.M. mail dispatch (with the exception of VE-Day).

Today, August 17th, 1943, the United Nations completed the capture of Sicily chasing the Germans across the two-mile straits to the Italian mainland. Seventeen days later, the British landed on the Italian shore, driving the fleeing Germans further inland. The Allies are definitely on their way to Berlin.




MUSSOLINI KICKED OUT!

Today, July 25, 1943, Benito Mussolini, Premier of Italy, and leader of the Fascist Party, was removed from office and Pietro Bodoglio installed in his place.

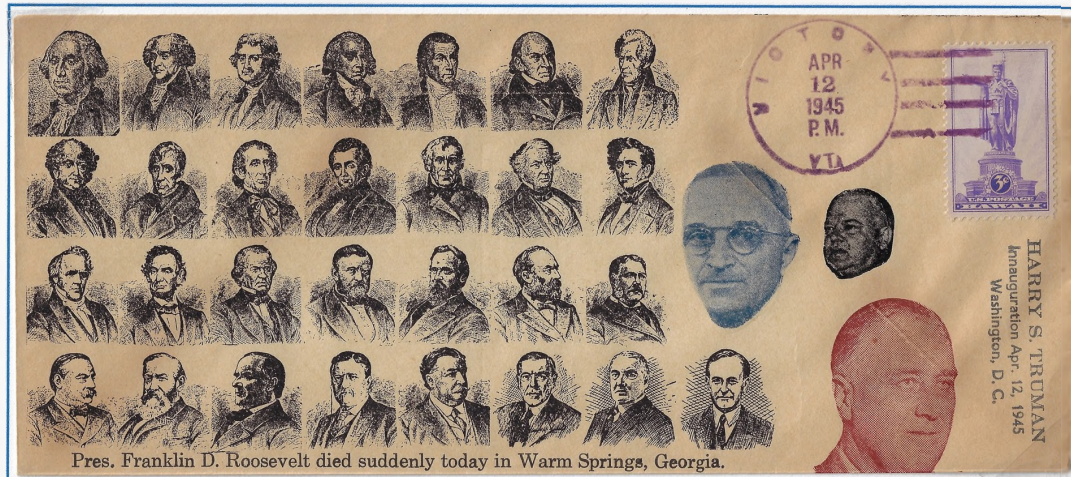



Today, Sept. 3, 1943, on the fourth anniversary of the Declaration of War by England against Germany, England invaded Italy. Today, Italy secretly surrendered unconditionally to the United Nations. This cover was posted on the corresponding minute of the actual invasion of the European continent.




II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

B. The Sunners Connection



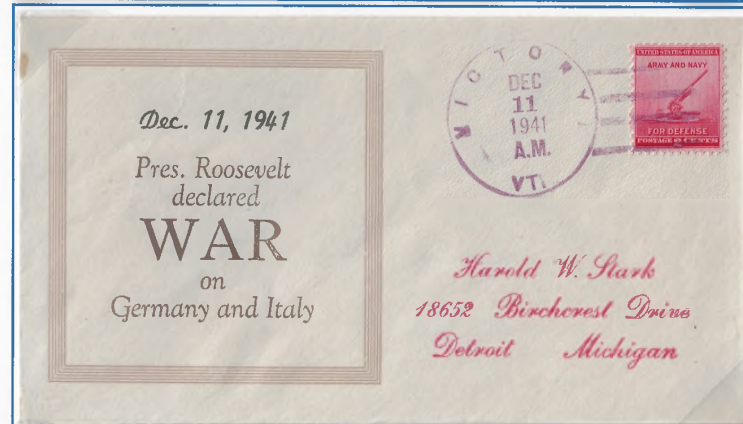
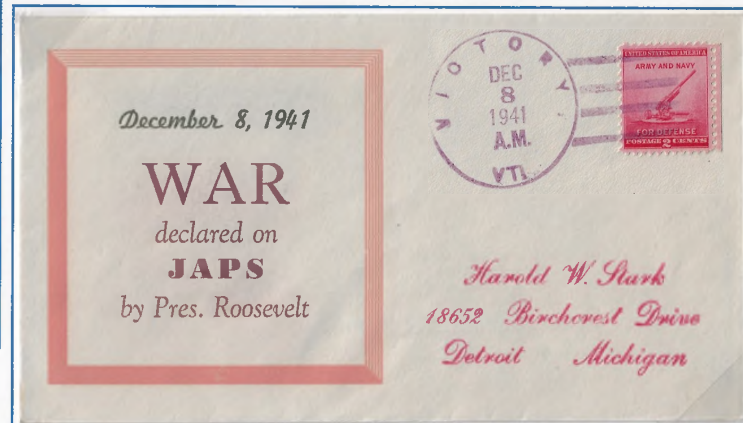
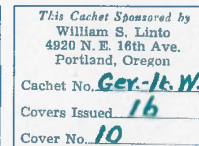
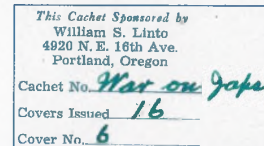
This final cover has “Sunners” written all over it. From cachets composed of state seals and national coats of arms we can now add portraits of Presidents. Besides the natural suspicion that attaches to a “Sunners” cover, the postmark clearly dates from the period of the 1946 Linto covers shown later in the exhibit. If these cancels were made with the Victory, VT, cancellation device (as the exhibitor believes to be the case), then sometime between VJ-Day and mid 1946 the device experienced significant further degradation in its ability to render crisp cancellations. This is one example of a Victory, VT, cover that could be consistent with the Herst hypothesis of covers being created after the end of the war. But there is still no evidence that the device had “fallen into private hands.” The similarity here to the 1946 Linto covers is consistent with this happening on Mrs. Stanley’s watch. Summing up, the Sunners Connection was one of the seedier episodes of philatelic mischief in Victory, VT, during WWII.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden

C. The Linto “December 1941” Covers

The dead giveaway with the covers at **right** is the violet ink used in the cancellation which places them within the time of Mrs. Stanley’s tenure as postmaster. The quality or state of the cancel (indicated by amount of ink picked up and deposited for the “R” in “VICTORY”) is a consistent with a creation sometime in 1945 (though possibly early 1946). The most puzzling thing about these covers is the association of Linto and Harold Stark with something that can only be described as a philatelic hoax. The time between the date of the postmark and the actual date of cancellation is simply too much to dismiss as favor cancels. Linto would probably not hesitate to request favor cancels, and perhaps Harold Stark too, though he was a prominent philatelist of the period (an authority on stampless covers and a serious collector such that two covers from his estate eventually made it into the William Gross collection). So it is hard to accept their involvement in the production of these fakes. But the cachets are classic Linto in style, and the covers have the standard

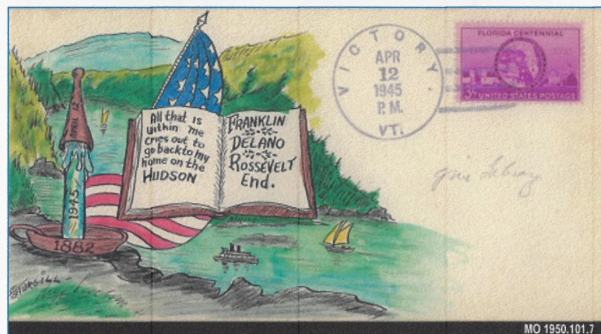
Linto identification on the reverse side, as shown in the following images:



Whatever the explanation is as to how these covers came into existence, they are clearly philatelic frauds.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden

D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?



i.e., applied in accordance with all applicable postal regulations. But in practice, the term is not always used this restrictively. In an online discussion of the cover at **left above**, where the exhibitor pointed out that the cover (from the FDR Presidential Library Museum, handpainted by Cairo Sturgill) was obviously backdated, Ken Lawrence replied *“Backdating we take for granted. The P.M. cancel was a favor struck for an FDR admirer, according to the library. He probably requested a P.M. cancel, considering how unusual it is.”* The P.M. cancel is certainly one of the things that clearly marks this as a favor cancel, as a small postoffice like Victory would only need a single dispatch per day, and legitimate Victory covers almost always bear A.M. timestamps (VE-Day being the notable exception). Backdating can also be inferred from the improbable likelihood that the request for this cancel could have been received in time for a legitimate April 12, 1945, postmark. FDR’s death occurred on the afternoon of April 12, 1945, and even if a request for a cancel had actually been received that day, the only *legitimate* timestamp it could have received would have been an A.M. timestamp for the next day.

Earlier we saw evidence of the backdating of Dorothy Knapp’s June 6, 1944 D-Day cover. Certainly in the case of Knapp or Sturgill, their covers are recognized as philatelic creations not normally intended to be sent through the mail. (There are exceptions. See the discussion of Knapp covers in Part III.D of the exhibit.) Valued for their art and not for postal history, many never even stop to think whether the postmarks on such covers are backdated. However, as we’ve already seen, at some point backdating crosses the line into fraud or fakery. The difference will be with respect to motive or intent. As we will see in this section of the exhibit sometimes that difference is hard to discern.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden

D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?

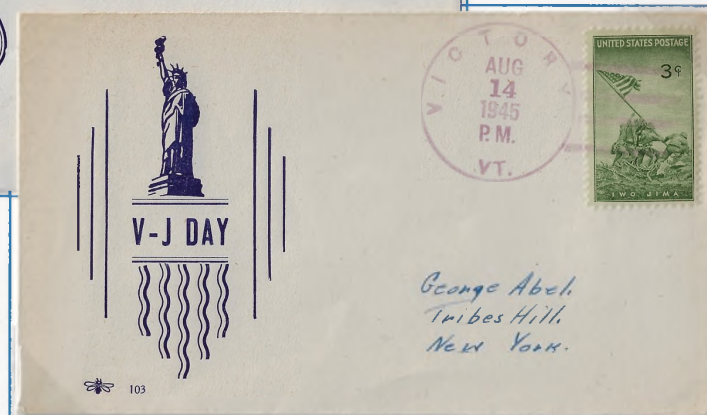
1. August 14, 1945

President Truman announced Japan’s unconditional surrender at 7 PM, August 14, 1945 to a group of reporters at the White House. Even moreso than in the case of FDR’s death, that was simply too late in the day to acquire legitimate August 14, 1945 postmarks from Victory, VT. While far fewer in number than the Victory, VT, postmarks for September 2, 1945, such covers do exist. The three covers at **right** were probably sent to Victory with a request for August 14, 1945, cancels by Iva Donaldson, whose easily recognized handwriting appears on two of the three covers. Like Donaldson, Abel is listed as a producer in Sherman (#P2).

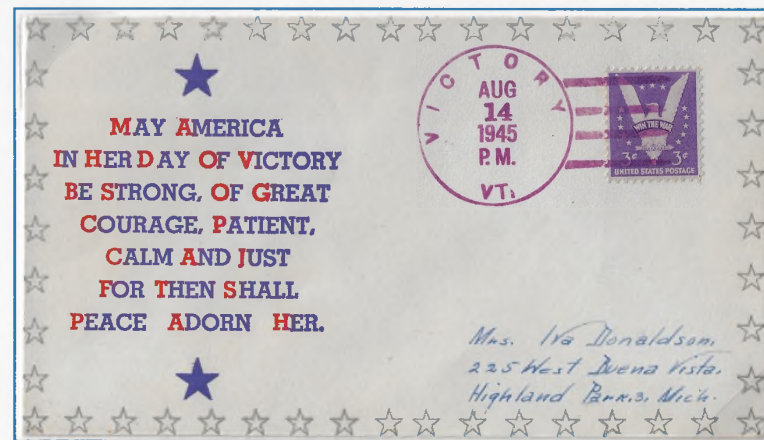
The AFDCS defines a favor cancel as “Any postal marking supplied as a favor or accommodation for a stamp collector.” The definition is agnostic with respect to anything having to do with *when* the postal marking was supplied. Perhaps the definition *presumes* that the postal markings are legitimate,



Brenn (#8274)



Abel-Brenn (#8272)



Donaldson-Boone (#4556)

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?

1. August 14, 1945

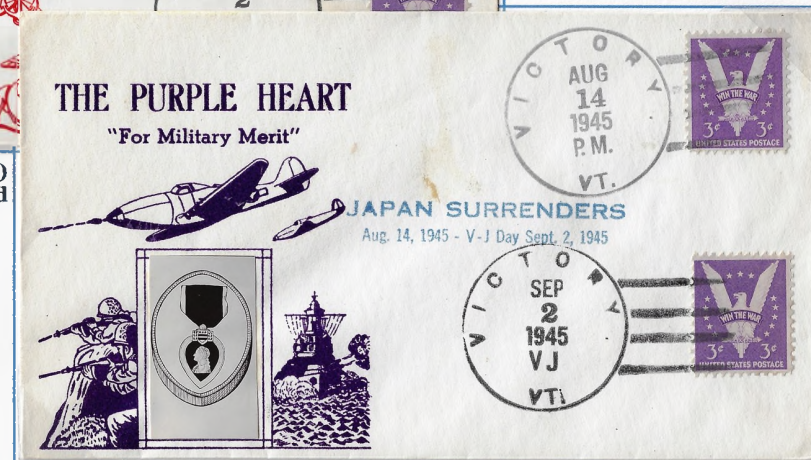
Most August, 14, 1945 covers appear to have been cancelled at the same time. An exception is the lower of the two Smartcraft covers **below**, which appears to use an AUG slug from a previous year, like the Type B June 6, 1944, and Type C VJ-Day covers (note closely the position of the AUG slug relative to the “T O” above it. These Smartcraft covers are the most commonly found August 14, 1945 Victory, VT, covers. August, 14, 1945 cancels are also found on covers also with VJ-Day Type A cancels like the covers shown at **left**. A plausible scenario is that they were received in Victory after August 14 but before September 2 with a request for dual cancels—an August 14 cancel, and a VJ-Day cancel whenever that event took place. That a formal “VJ-Day” surrender on a battleship in Japan would occur later was announced at the time of the August 14 surrender. That event occurred September 2.

Smartcraft (#8122 Artist: Nielsen)

Thermographed



Crosby (#5607)
Thermographed



Cliff (#8271 Artist: Anderson)



Crosby (#5607)
Thermographed

II. "Weeds" in Victory's Philatelic Garden?

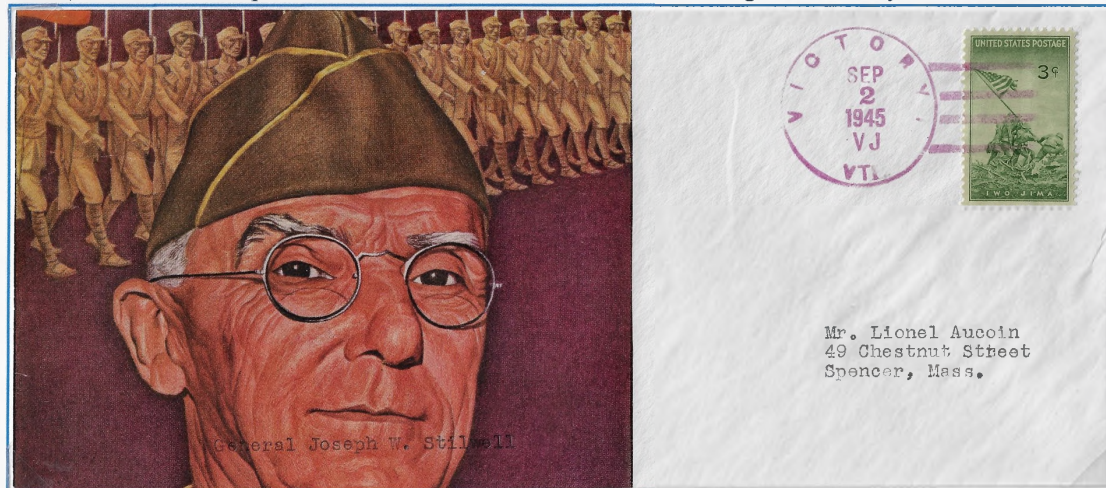
D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?

2. Aucoin and Mellow VE-Day and VJ-Day Covers

Lionel Aucoin was a noted collector of autographs directed personally to him. His collection included autographed photographs or letters from literary icons such as Robert Frost, Carl Sandberg, H.L. Mencken, Helen Keller, W. Somerset Maugham, and Jean P. Sartre, and historical figures such as General Hap Arnold and Richard M. Nixon. He is particularly noted for what has been called the most comprehensive collection of signed musical autographs in American history, from such noted musical figures as W.C. Handy ("The Memphis Blues"), Arnold Schoenberg ("Verklärte Nacht"), Oscar Hammerstein ("Make Believe" from Showboat), Sigmund Romberg ("Lover Come Back to Me"), William Grant ("Song of a New Race"), Vernon Duke ("April in Paris"), Dale Evans ("The Bible Tells Me So") and many, many others.

According to his obituary Aucoin was a stamp collector. He was an executive-secretary of the Maximum Card Society and a member of Sports Philatelists International. Outside of that little is known of his philatelic activities other than a number of one-off covers with Victory, VT, VE-Day and VJ-Day cancels. The cachets on Aucoin's covers consist either of labels and poster stamps, or portraits of WWII allied military or political leaders cut from the covers of TIME Magazine. At least in one case, the VJ-Day cover shown above at **right**, the magazine cover portraits were applied after the cover was postmarked. In this particular case the cancel appears to be consistent with what we have identified as a Type A VJ-Day cancel. But in the case of the cover below, there are serious questions as to whether the cancel was made with a genuine Victory, VT, cancellation

device. Further discussion of that follows on the next page.



First, we want to pay attention to the distinctive and scarce use of "VE" in the place of the time of day in the Aucoin VE-Day and Mellow VE-Day/VJ-Day dual covers seen on the following pages. This substitution is not found on genuine Victory, VT, VE-Day covers, which used A.M. or P.M. in the time-of-day slot. So, what are we to make of this? By all appearances the Aucoin covers were prepared sometime *after* VJ-Day. They bear signs of being postmarked on multiple separate occasions, not all at once. As to the distinctive and scarce use of "VE" a possible explanation is that Aucoin was captivated by the use of "VJ" in VJ-Day covers and requested "VE" as a favor for his covers. Whether this request was satisfied by Mrs. Stanley herself or some unknown party to whom Mrs. Stanley gave access to the genuine Victory, VT, cancellation device is unknown, though the existence of the VJ-Day Type A Aucoin cover suggests complicity by Mrs. Stanley.

As one-off creations it is possible that Aucoin intended his covers for his own collection and did not set out to create spurious covers to defraud others. But after his death, at some point the covers were acquired by dealers who were unaware of the dubious circumstances of their creation and marketed them as legitimate VE-Day and VJ-Day covers. That they are not. At best, they were created as favors to Aucoin that took on new life after his passing.

Other than the Aucoin and Mellow covers, Victory, VT, VE-Day covers using VE in the time-of day slot are quite rare, but do exist. Two are shown in the following pages.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?

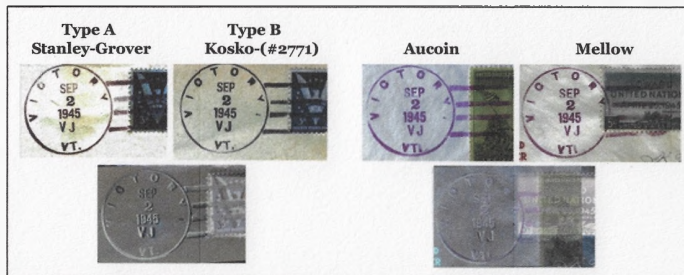
2. Aucoin and Mellow VE-Day and VJ-Day Covers

Below and at **right** are two covers from a set of 12 (all pencil addressed to “J.K. Mellow, Clayton, Mo.”) with Stahle cachets commissioned by Fluegel (known as the “Liberation series”) commemorating the liberation of the 12 “Overrun Countries” franked with stamps from the 1943 series of “Overrun Countries” commemoratives (Scott Nos. 909-920). The entire set appears to mimic a set marketed by Stahle with VE-Day postmarks, but here with Victory, VT, postmarks for both VE-Day and VJ-Day. The Prague liberation cover (below) is clearly backdated as there is no way the cachet (with the specific date of VE-Day) could have been designed and covers postmarked on May 8 in Victory because of the time it would take to design and produce the cachet once the date of VE-Day was known. Legitimate versions of this cover will have a Washington, D.C., postmark that was presumably applied to blank covers on May 8 and the cachet applied later. In any case, from the similarity of the Victory, VT, postmarks on these covers to the Aucoin covers, they were almost certainly created sometime after September 2, 1945.

All 12 of the covers in this set have the same VJ-Day postmark with the central elements shifted significantly to the right compared to legitimate Victory VJ-Day postmarks, as illustrated in the image at **right**. In online dialog with Ken Lawrence and Richard Frajola both have expressed the opinion that the cancels on the Aucoin and Mellow covers could not have been created by the same device as the legitimate postmarks and are fakes probably created by electrotyping a fake canceller (Lawrence).

A curious aspect to all of this is the identity of the “J.K. Mellow” to whom the covers were addressed. James K.

Mellow, apparently an avid collector of WWII patriotic covers (judging from other covers addressed to him like the one **below** at **bottom**) was just 17 years old in 1945. He spent at least part of 1946 enrolled at Princeton, but apparently dropped out and (according to his obituary) spent time in 1947 in the U.S. Army with occupation forces in Japan. He later graduated from Washington University in his home town of St. Louis in 1951. How did this young man come into an orbit to where he was the recipient of a fraudulent set of covers such as these? We may never know, but see the caption below the cover at bottom. A connection between William Sunners and these covers would seem more than just coincidence.



This cover (#7095-Unknown in Sherman) looks like a “Sunners” cover.

II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?

2. Aucoin and Mellow VE-Day and VJ-Day Covers



II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

D. Philatelic Hoaxes or Favor Cancels?

2. Aucoin and Mellow VE-Day and VJ-Day Covers



Non-Aucoin/non-Mellow VE-Day Covers with “VE” Time-stamp

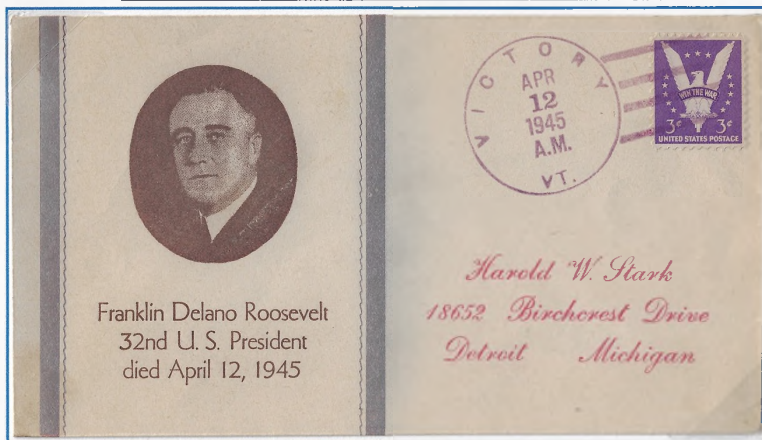
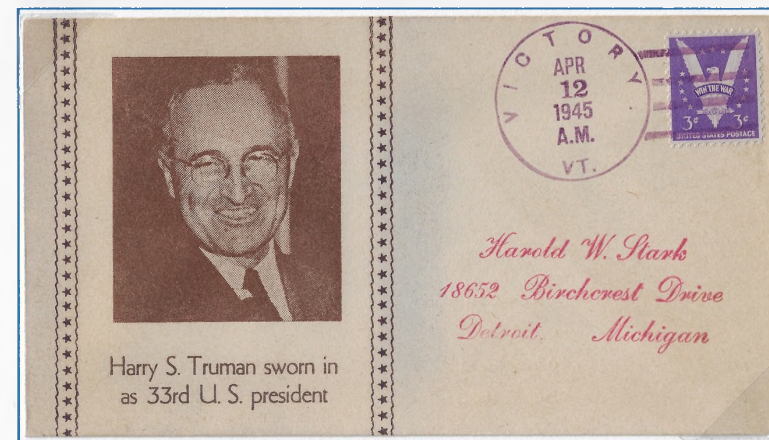
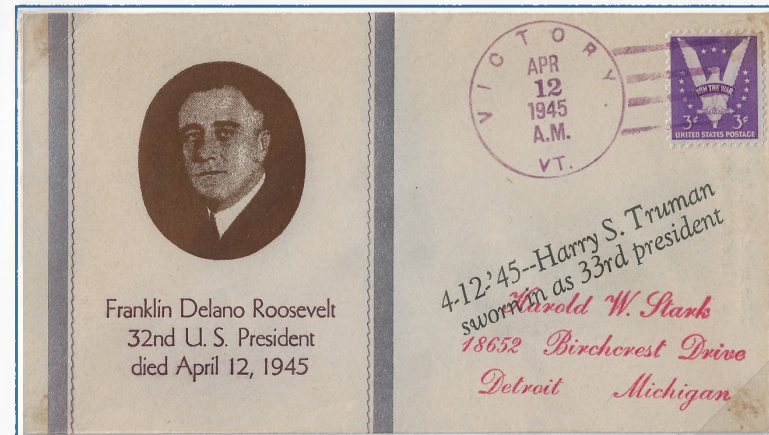
II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

E. The Linto “FDR Dead-Date and Truman Inaugural Covers”

A version of the cover shown **below** (but unaddressed) figures prominently in Sherman’s section on “Weeds in the Victory Garden” of the 1999 version of his catalog of WWII patriotic covers (pp. 30-32, image of cover on p. 31). Special attention is called to the anachronistic nature of the “A.M.” in the postmark time slot. There is no question that, like the Cairo Sturgell FDR death-date cover, this William Linto cover is backdated. The question is *by how much?* In Sherman it appears as a putative example of support for Herst’s hypothesis that the Victory, VT, cancellation device “fell into private hands” and was being used *after the war ended* to create bogus Victory, VT, patriotic or event covers. But careful study and analysis calls this into question and substantial evidence exists that the degree of backdating Linto’s FDR death-date and Truman inaugural covers was no greater than the backdating of the Sturgill cover (and perhaps less). The “A.M.” timestamp is not a significant factor in establishing the degree of backdating and was probably just an oversight in requesting blank covers with Apr 12, 1945, Victory, VT, postmarks.

Evaluating the circumstances of the Linto April 12, 1945, covers requires analysis of Linto’s work methods in producing his WWII patriotic covers. Linto had several different ways of identifying his covers in a consistent way on the back of each cover. The backs of the three covers shown below and at right are shown in the following image:

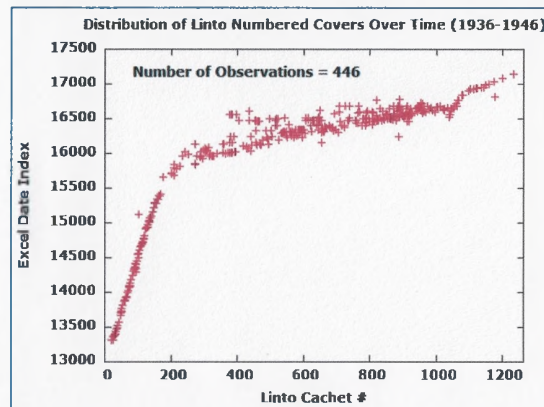
This Cachet Sponsored by Wm. S. Linto 4920 N.E. 16th Ave. Portland, 11, Oregon	This Cachet Sponsored by Wm. S. Linto 4920 N.E. 16th Ave. Portland, 11, Oregon	This Cachet Sponsored by Wm. S. Linto 4920 N.E. 16th Ave. Portland, 11, Oregon
Cachet No. <u>902</u>	Cachet No. <u>902</u>	Cachet No. <u>903</u>
Covers Issued <u>85</u>	Covers Issued <u>85</u>	Covers Issued <u>75</u>
Cover No. <u>20</u>	Cover No. <u>68</u>	Cover No. <u>15</u>
2-line cachet, at right, printed on 18 of this patriotic		



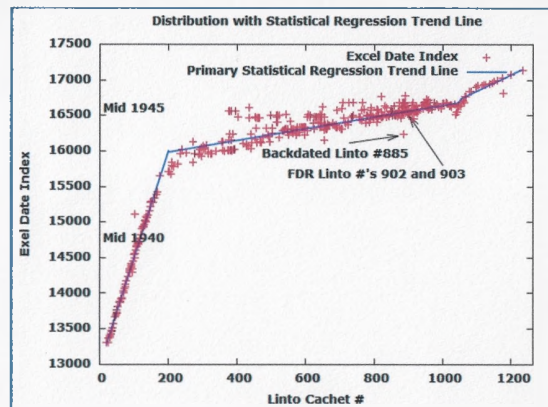
II. “Weeds” in Victory’s Philatelic Garden?

E. The Linto “FDR Dead-Date and Truman Inaugural Covers”

The following is a brief overview of the statistical analysis performed on the Linto numbered series of covers to determine when the FDR death-date and Truman inaugural covers were most likely created. More detailed explanation of the statistical procedures employed are provided in a technical supplement accompanying the exhibit. The following three panels summarize the statistical findings. Panel A shows the distribution of Linto numbered covers over time (1936-1946) for a sample of 446 Linto numbered covers. Panel B plots a statistical trend line through the data with annotations pointing to the data points for the Linto death-date and Truman inaugural covers (#’s 902 and 903) as well as a Linto cover that has been significantly backdated (#885).



Panel A

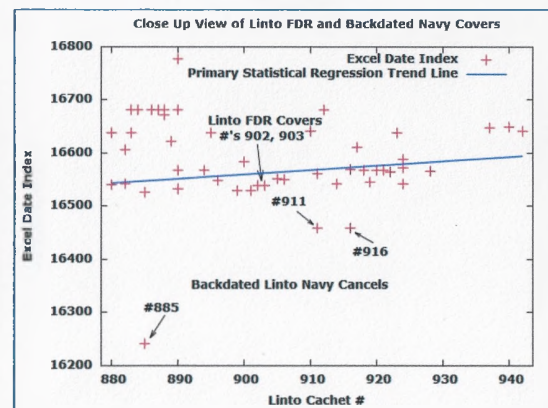


Panel B

Panel C “zooms in” to give a closer view of the statistical distribution around the Linto covers.

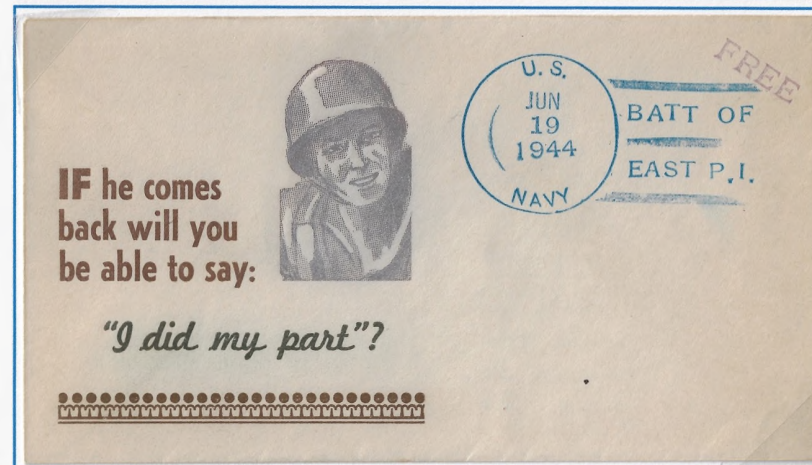
Deviations of the data points from trend lines shown in Panel C are clues about whether a numbered cover was backdated or the opposite, postmarked substantially after the cover was originally created. Data points below the trend lines suggest backdating, and data points above the lines suggest the covers were postmarked some time after the cover was initially created. This was a common occurrence for covers sold to Linto’s subscribers, who would receive the covers without postmarks as they were created, and might not get around to using them until some time later.

But what interests us are data points which fall below the trend lines, and especially substantially below the lines. Linto cover #885 (bottom right) is a particularly notable example of this. This cover was produced sometime in March 1945 and received a March 31, 1945, Victory, VT, postmark. But someone who possessed an unpostmarked copy of #885 used it to create a fake Navy cancel dated June 19, 1944. Two other fake Navy cancels on Linto covers #s 911 and 916 also show evidence of significant



Panel C

backdating. Linto covers #902 and 903, are only slightly below the trend line. This shows some backdating of the Linto FDR death-date and Truman inaugural covers, but that they were created as a part of Linto’s normal pattern of work flow. A plausible scenario is that late on April 12, 1945, or more likely a day or two later, Harry Stark contacted Mrs. Stanley and requested blank covers with April 12, 1945, Victory, VT, postmarks. Within a few days Linto received those in Portland, Oregon, and proceeded to produce these covers. These covers can be considered favor cancels in the same way as the Cairo Sturgill cover. They were not created after the war and backdated to appear as if issued contemporaneously with the events depicted.



III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

If "weeds" are an appropriate metaphor for the seedier and unseemly aspects of philatelic activity in Victory, VT, during WWII, perhaps "roses" can be a metaphor for the philatelic good that came out of Victory, VT, during the war. Here in Part III we exhibit a significant number of WWII patriotic covers for which it is reasonable, in *most* cases, to believe that they are legitimate cancellations using the genuine cancellation device for Victory, VT. We emphasize "in *most* cases" because when handling roses, it is always possible to be pricked by a thorn or two. Metaphorically speaking, when this occurs in the exhibition of the following covers, such concerns will be noted. It should mostly be limited to the early period of the war, 1942 and 1943. The presentation is year by year, with 1942 and 1943 presented together since the number of covers for those years is much less than for 1944 and 1945.

A. 1942-1943

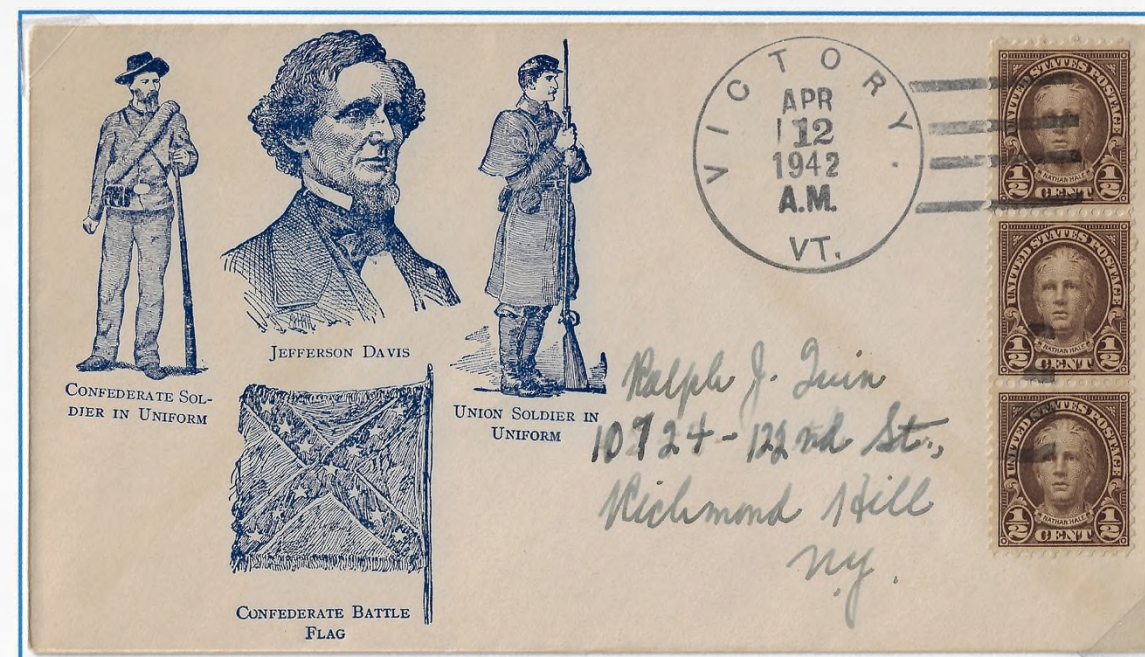
Two of the three covers **below** and at **right** exhibit a cachet about them

Mottoes of the States

Alabama	Here We Rest	Montana	Gold and Silver
Arizona	God Enriches	Nebraska	Equality before the law
Arkansas	The People Rule	Nevada	All for Our Country
California	Eureka (I have found it)	New Hampshire	No State Motto
Colorado	Nothing Without Deity	New Jersey	Liberty and Prosperity
Connecticut	He who, transplanted, continues to sustain	New Mexico	It grows as it goes
Delaware	Liberty and Independence	New York	Excelsior (Higher)
Florida	In God We Trust	North Carolina	To be rather than to seem
Georgia	Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation	North Dakota	Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable
Idaho	Mayest thou endure forever	Ohio	An empire within an empire
Illinois	State Sovereignty - National Union	Oklahoma	Labor conquers all things
Indiana	No State Motto	Oregon	She flies with her own wings
Iowa	Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain	Pennsylvania	Virtue, Liberty and Independence
Kansas	To the stars through difficulties	Rhode Island	Hope
Kentucky	United We Stand, Divided We Fall	South Carolina	While I breath I hope
Louisiana	Union, Justice and Confidence	South Dakota	Under God the People Rule
Maine	I direct (I guide)	Tennessee	Agriculture and Commerce
Maryland	With the shield of thy good will thou had covered us	Texas	No State Motto
Massachusetts	With the sword she seeks peace under liberty	Utah	Industry
Michigan	If you seek a pleasant peninsula look around you	Vermont	Freedom and Unity
Minnesota	The Star of the North	Virginia	Thus ever to tyrants
Mississippi	By Valor and arms	Washington	By and By
Missouri	Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law	West Virginia	Mountaineers are always freemen
		Wisconsin	Forward
		Wyoming	Let arms yield to the gown



(pun intended) that reeks "Sunners." But with the exception of the P.M. in the postmark for the cover with the coats of arms of the British Empire there is nothing about the dates of the postmarks to cause suspicion. And the P.M. could have been requested as a favor with the rest of the cancellation being genuine. For the cover **below** with the civil war cachet, census and draft registration records tie the addressee to a known person and the cover was likely cancelled and mailed to the addressee as postmarked.



Quin-Unknown (Not in Sherman) Category 3 Exemplar

I. III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?
A. 1942-1943

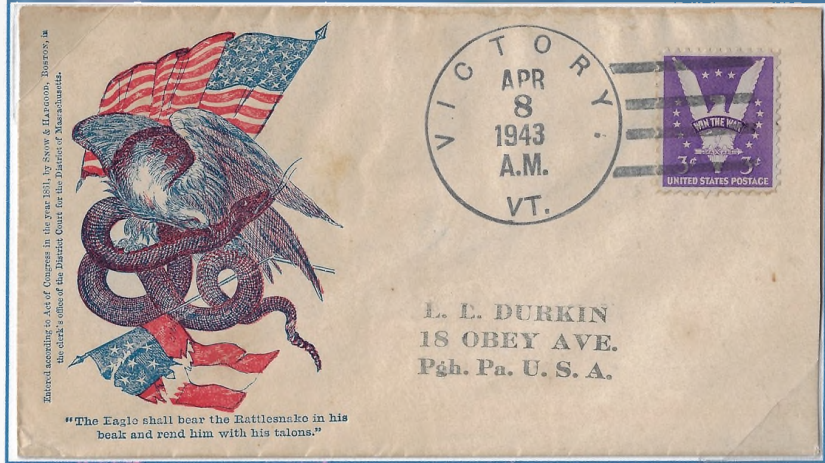
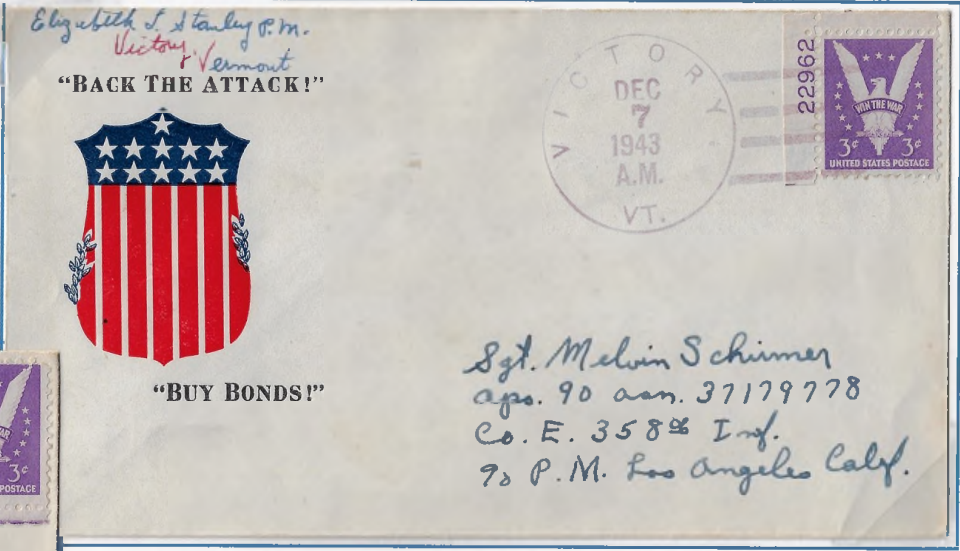


Schirmer-Amer. Pat. Press (#7328)
Category 2 Exemplar

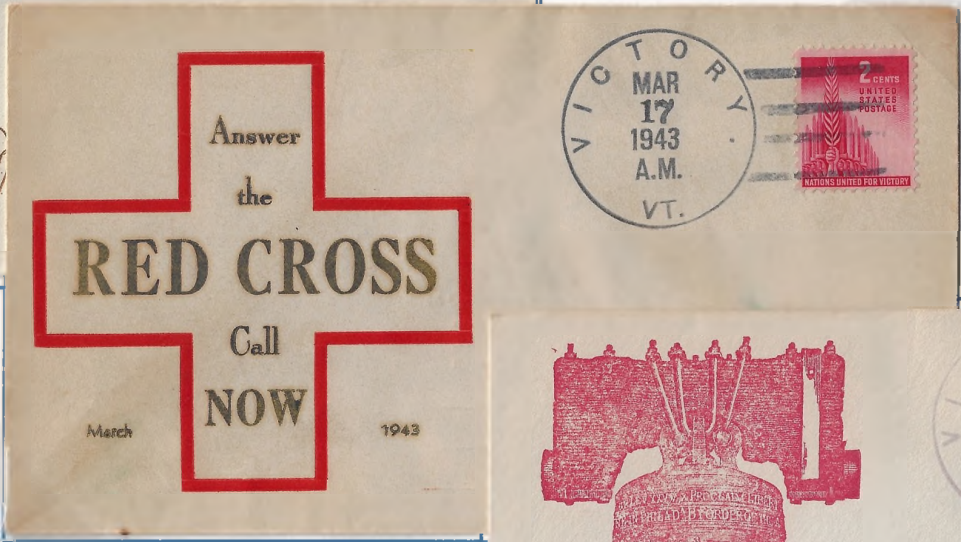


Stanley-W. Smith (#753)
Postmaster-Signed
Category 1 Exemplar

Schirmer-W. Smith (#272)
Category 2 Exemplar



Durkin-1861 Snow & Hapgood, Boston Civil War Patriotic Cover
Category 3 Exemplar



Linto-Beatty (#533) Linto #215
Category 3 Exemplar



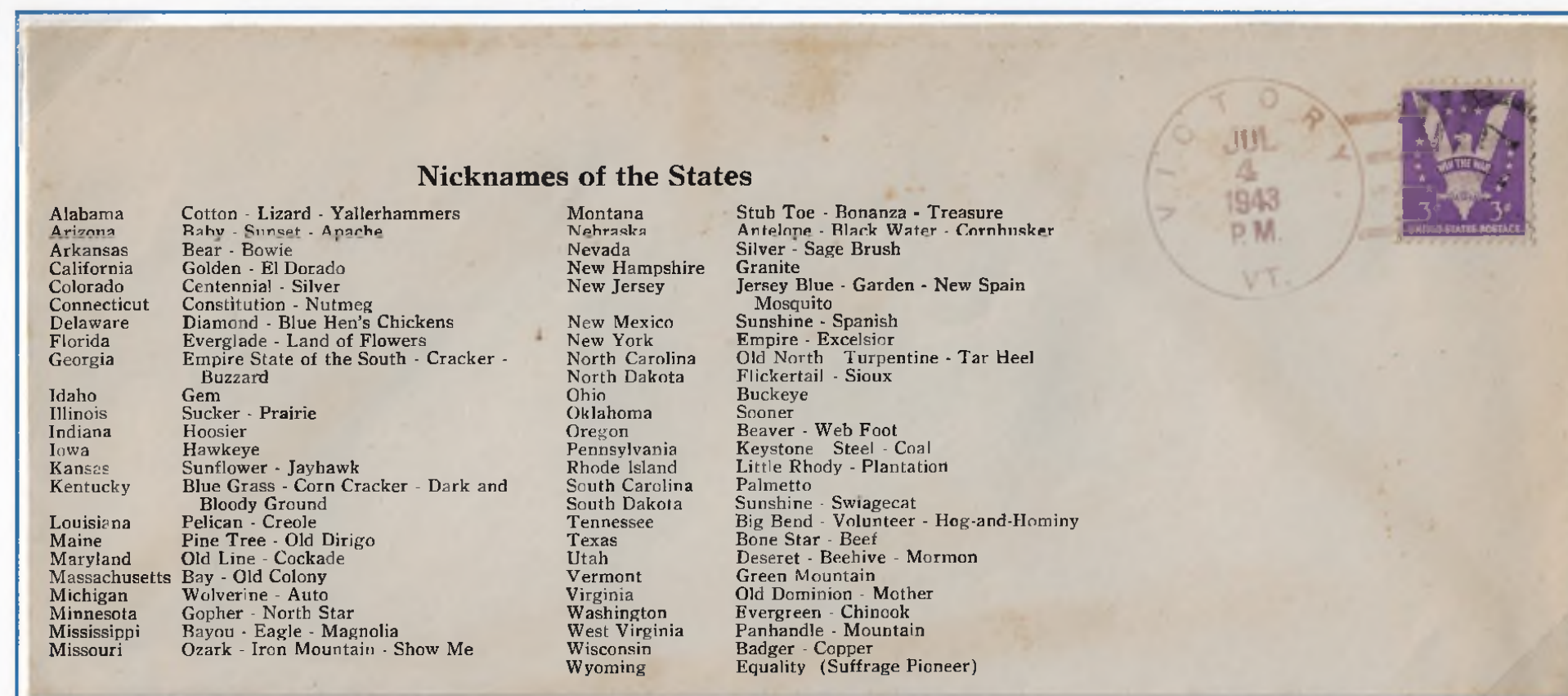
Muzzy-Harrington (#9519)
Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

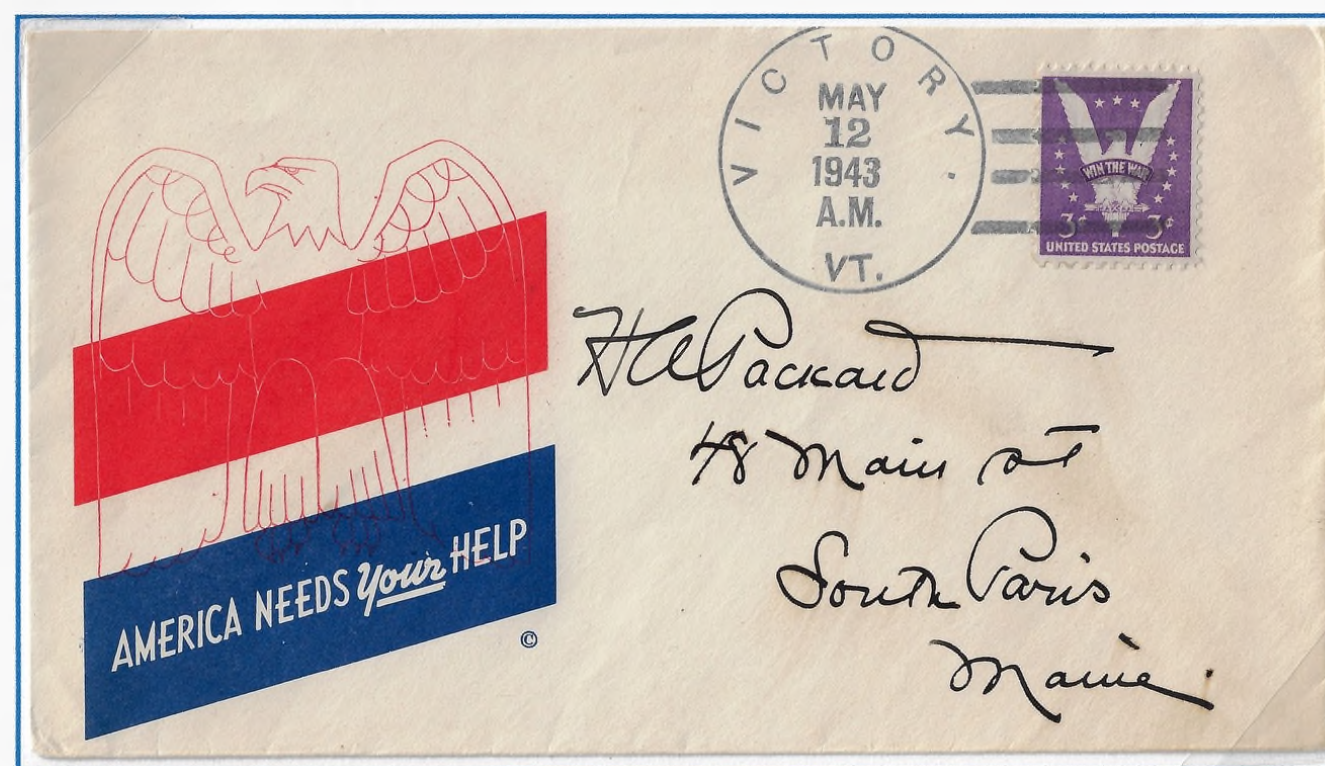
A. 1942-1943



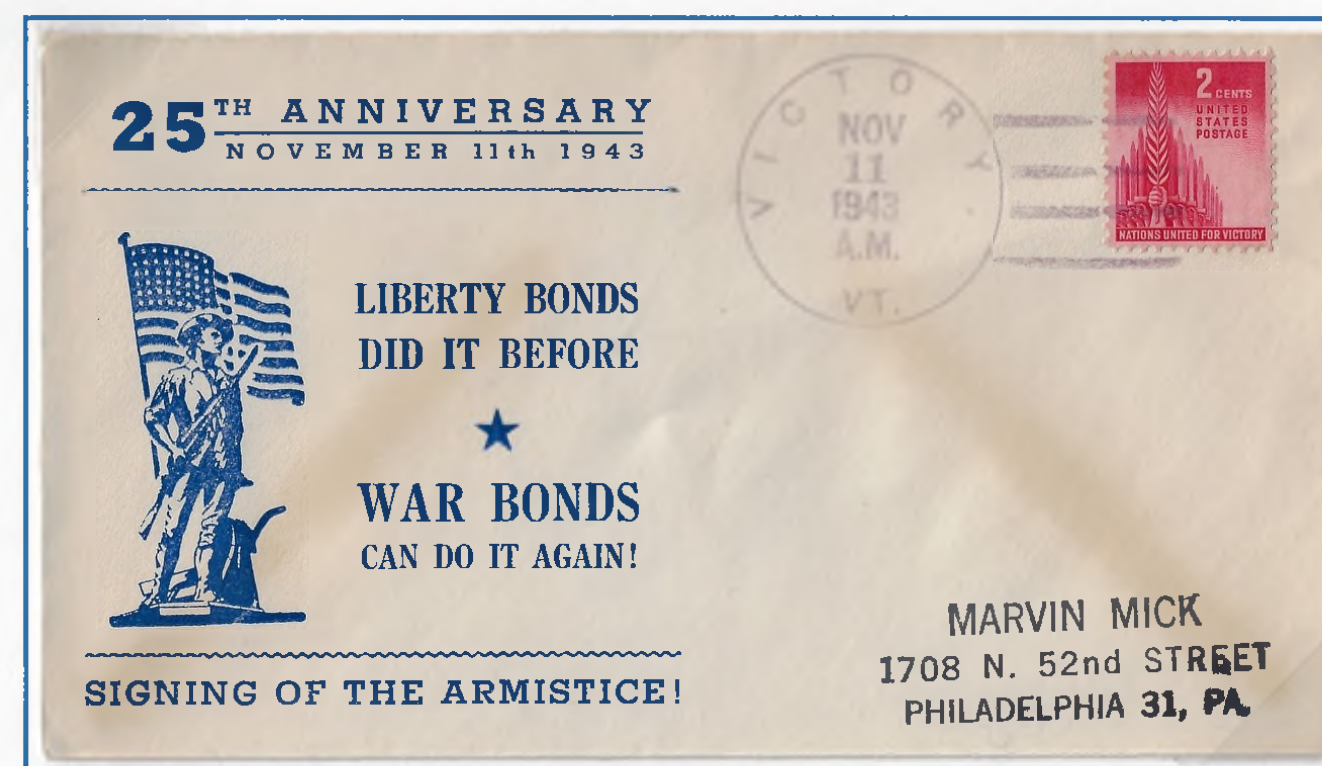
Schiffer (Not in Sherman) Category 3 Exemplar



Not in Sherman Another “Sunners” cover?



Packard-Minkus (#411) Category 3 Exemplar

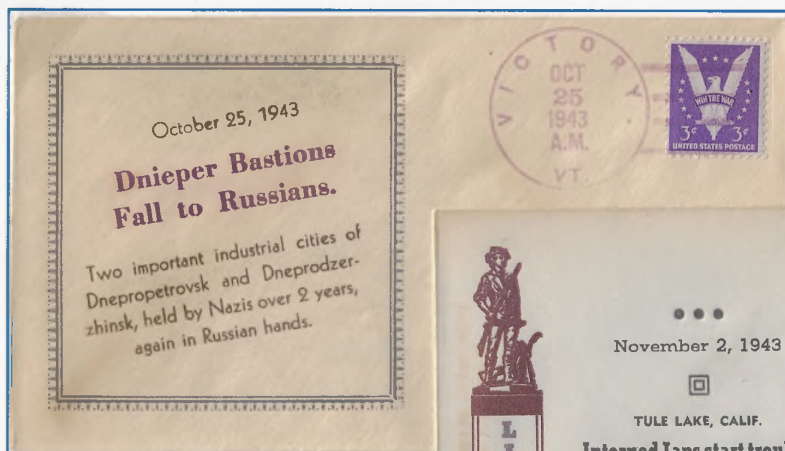


Mick-Beck (#7385) Category 3 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

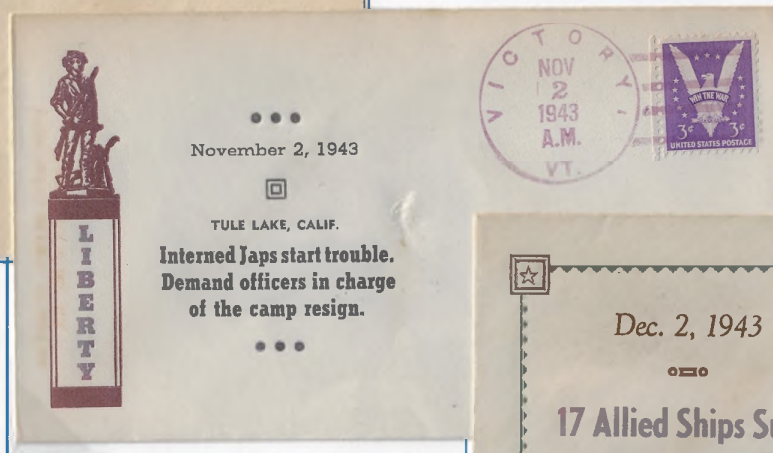
A. 1942-1943

Besides his “numbered series” Linto had a series of 115 covers designated “HP-...” (“Historical Patriotic”). According to Sydney Cohen and Lawrence Sherman (relying on Cohen) these covers were all cancelled at the US Navy Atlantic Fleet Service School and were “held for the duration” of the war because of military regulations prohibiting philatelic mail. Cohen was apparently unaware that there were covers in the HP series cancelled in Victory, VT, three of which are shown below, along with an image showing the backside of the covers (from left to right). If not for favor cancels (backdated) the cachets are add-on. This would seem to apply to the covers cancelled at the Atlantic



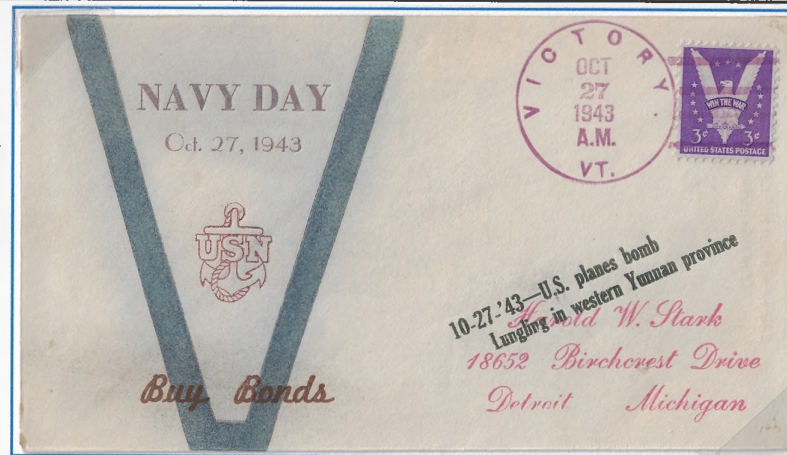
Linto (#4994)

Fleet Service School as well wherever the date of the postmark matches specific date details in the cachet.



Linto (Not in Sherman)

This Cachet Designed and Sponsored by WILLIAM S. LINTO 4920 N.E. 16th Ave. Portland, OREGON	This Cachet Designed and Sponsored by WILLIAM S. LINTO 4920 N.E. 16th Ave. Portland, 11, ORE.	This Cachet Designed and Sponsored by WILLIAM S. LINTO 4920 N.E. 16th Ave. PORTLAND, 11, ORE.
Cachet No. H.P.-105	Cachet No. H.P.-109	Cachet No. H.P.-113
Covers Issued 15	Covers Issued 45	Covers Issued 15
Cover No. 8	Cover No. 1	Cover No. 2



Linto (#4767) Linto #385

October 27, 1943, was something of a watershed for Linto covers with Victory, VT, postmarks. In addition to the Navy Day cover shown above, a large number of other covers (with cachets not tied to Navy Day) were cancelled that day. Linto covers canceled in Victory, VT, become much more common after that.



Linto (#1577)

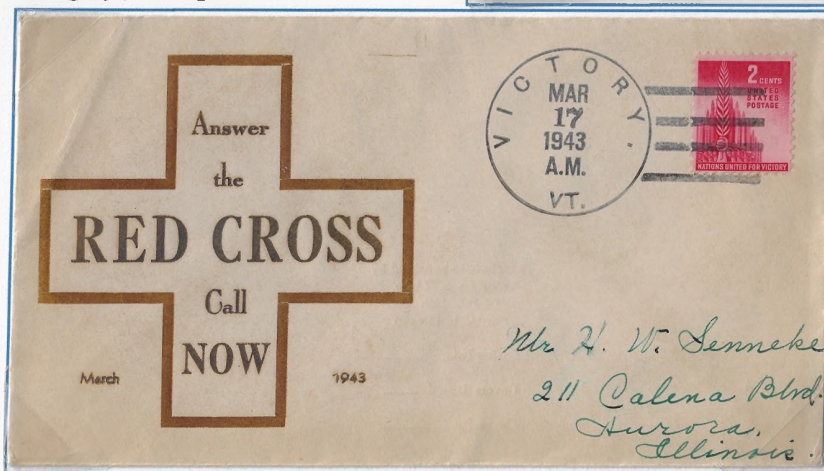
I. III. “Roses” in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1942-1943



Muzzy-Nichols (#3411)
Addressed to Muzzy
Category 2 Exemplar

Senneke-Linto (#533) Linto #215
Category 3 Exemplar

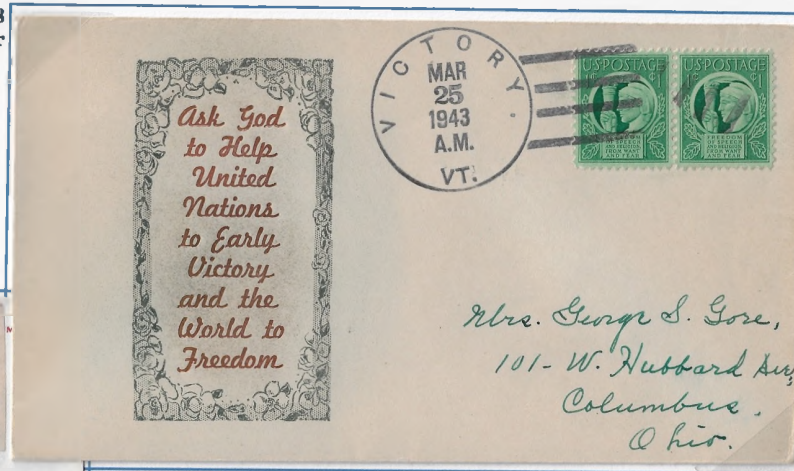


Gore-Linto (#209) Linto #628
Category 3 Exemplar

Staehle (#619)



Muzzy (#8155)
Category 2 Exemplar



Muzzy-Nichols (#1811)
Addressed to Muzzy
Category 2 Exemplar

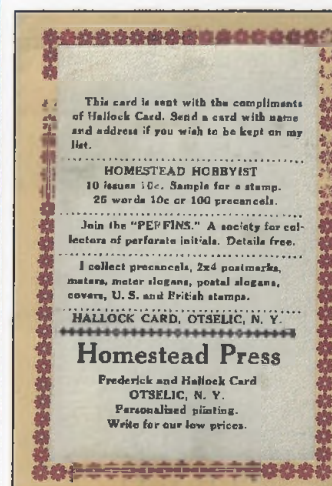


III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

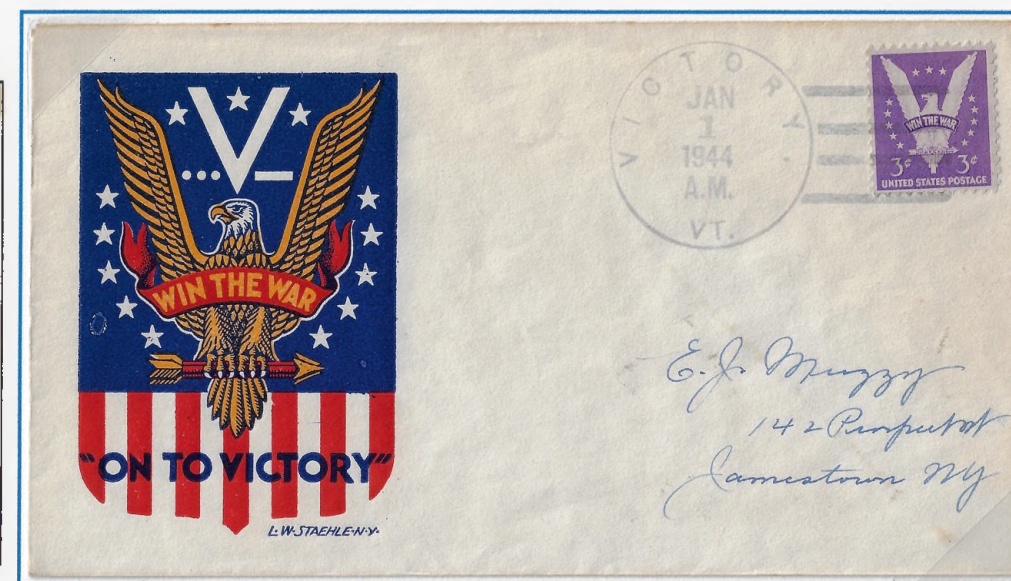
A. 1944



Hallock Card-Homestead (#7996) Category 2 Exemplar



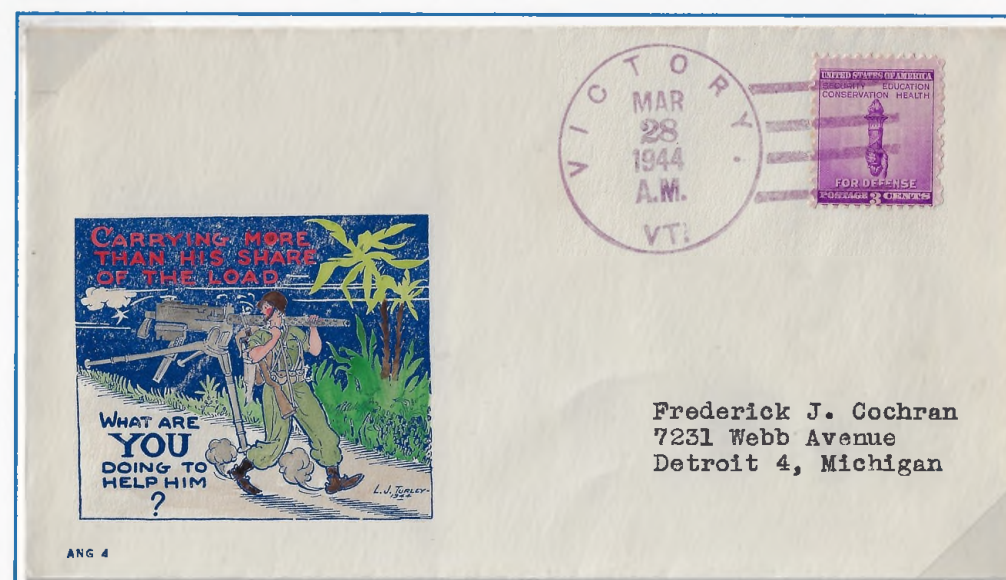
Homestead Press Advertisement on Backside



Muzzy-Staehle (#7967) Category 2 Exemplar



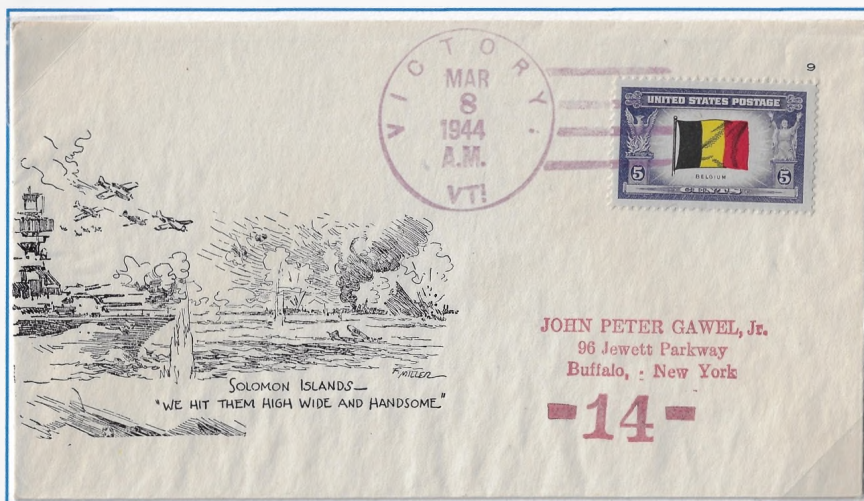
Kosko-Hill (#1083) Category 2 Exemplar



Cochran-Ang (#1198) Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944



Gawel-Collectors Surplus (#6278) Category 3 Exemplar



Swayne-Linto (#2001) Linto #388 Category 3 Exemplar Mrs. “Florence” Swayne was a prolific collector of WWII patriotic covers. She also maintained a large correspondence with US servicemen overseas in which she would send them US stamps asking for local foreign stamps in return.



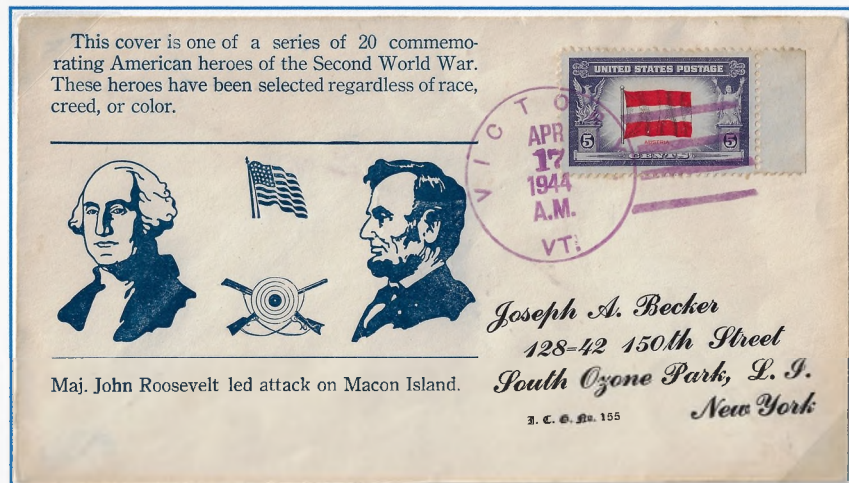
Nichols-Linto (#7606) Linto #454 Category 2 Exemplar Only a small number of the many Linto covers with Victory, VT, postmarks are included in this exhibit, with preference given to those addressed to individuals who can be identified. C. Malcom Nichols (Charles M. Nichols, Jr.) authored “Early Post Offices of Chautauqua, N.Y. (1960).”



James-Boone (#9000? #9100-Sherman2006) Category 3 Exemplar

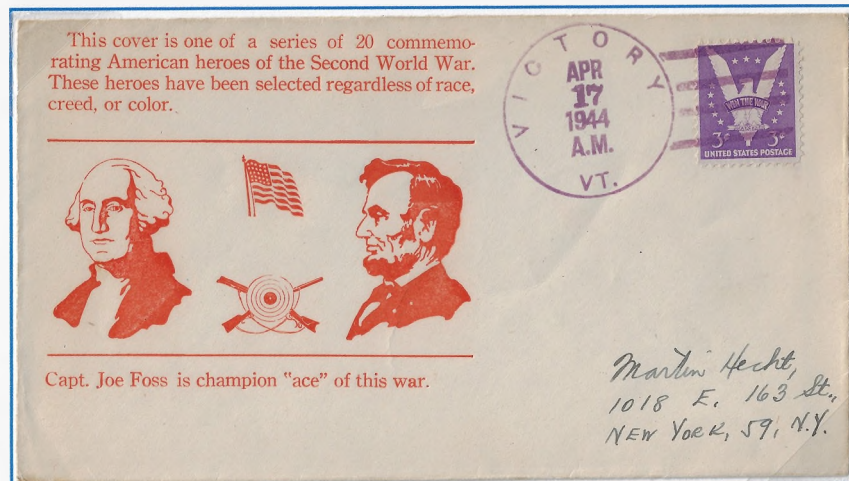
III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944



Becker-Unkown (#7109)

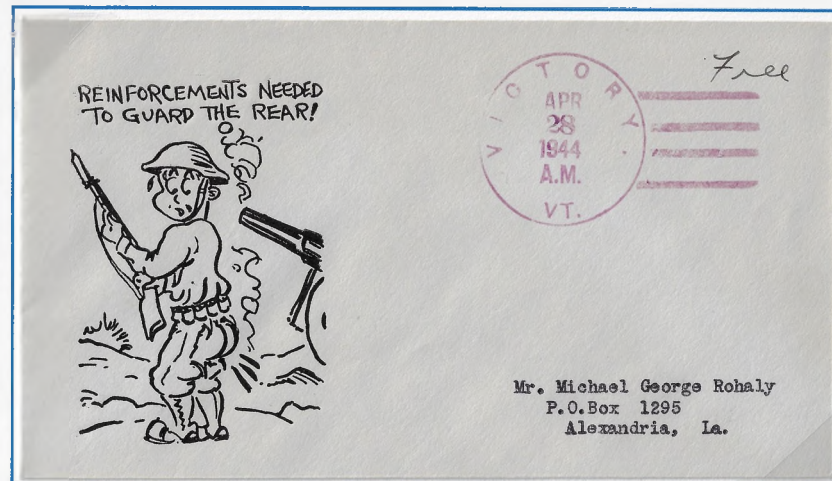
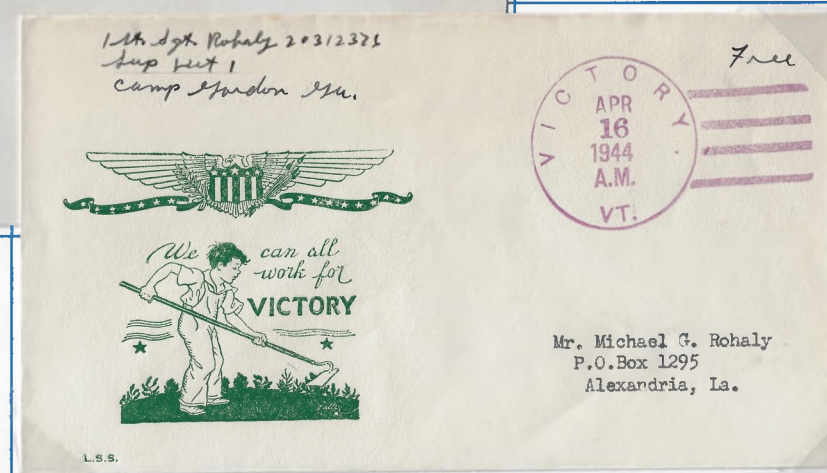
One of a set of 20 listed as “Unknown” in Sherman, but the style of the cachet suggests “Sunners.” There is nothing anachronist about the cachet details or postmarks, and sets of these covers exist with other postmarks: 3/28/44 Jamaica, NY, 4/3/44 America, Ala., and 6/5/44 New York, NY (Madison Square Station). Becker was a



Hecht-Unkown (#7099) Illustrated in Sherman

national leader in the United Boys’ Brigade of America and editor of its national periodical *Brigader*. Martin Hecht was an 11-year-old member of the Boys’ Brigade in 1944. Becker appears to have encouraged philately as a Boys’ Brigade activity and a number of Boys’ Brigade covers, including several more addressed to Hecht and Becker, can be found at the following web site:

<https://www.levycatalog.net/uscovers/a.shtml>.

Rohaly-Lupton (#5707)
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-James (#6751)
Category 2 Exemplar

Rohaly-Louisville Stamp Society (#8706) Category 2 Exemplar

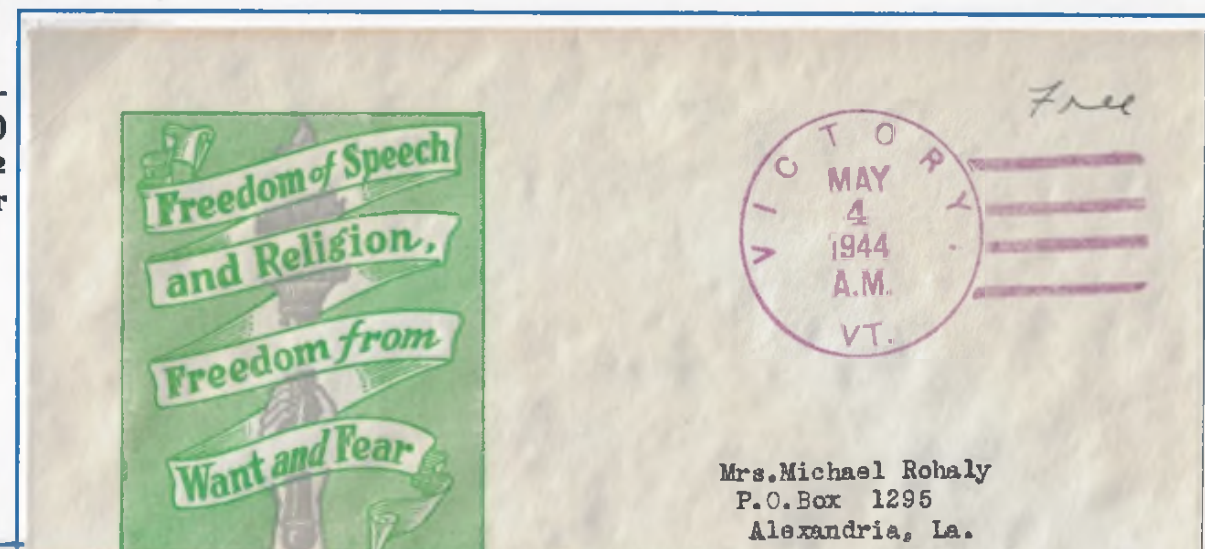
III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

B. 1944

Rohaly-Ioor (#9631)
Category 2 Exemplar



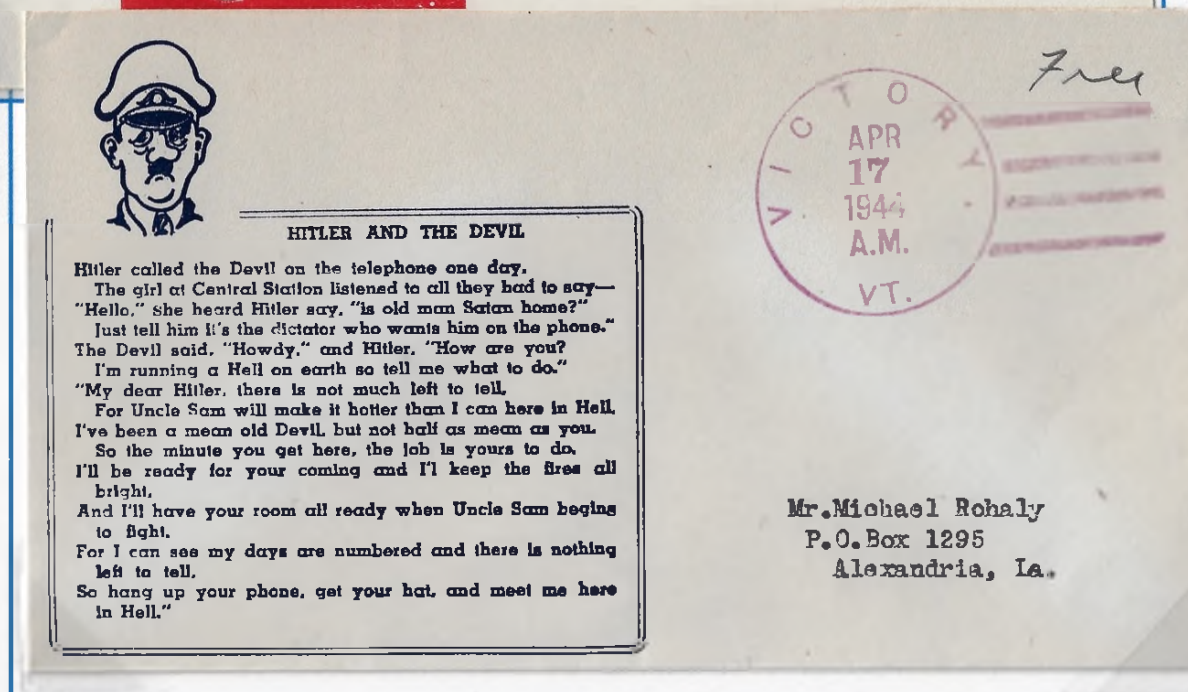
Rohaly-Ioor (#2357)
Category 2 Exemplar



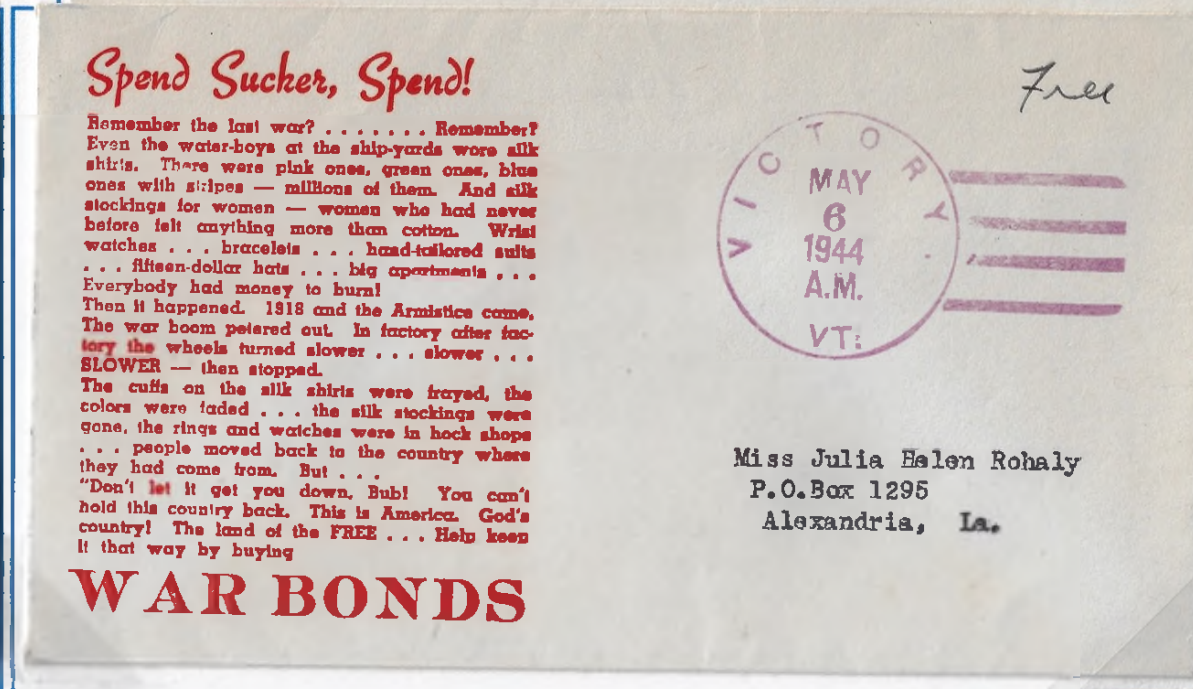
Rohaly-Louisville (#8706)
Category 2 Exemplar



Rohaly-Boone (#3012)
Category 2 Exemplar



Rohaly-Boone (#3998)
Cat 2 Exemplar



Rohaly-Boone (#6316)
Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

B. 1944

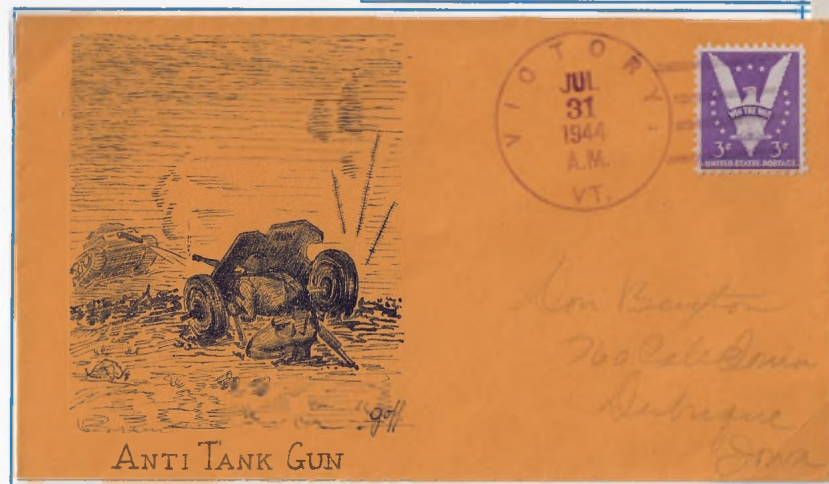


Dime Store (#2248)
Illustrated in Sherman

Muzzy-Boone (#4002)
Category 2 Exemplar

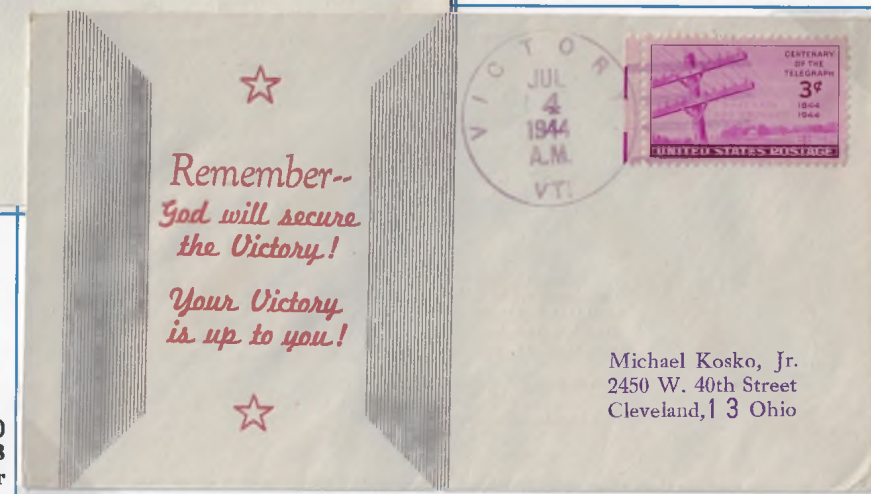


Cochran-Ang (#3372)
Category 2 Exemplar
Illustrated in Sherman



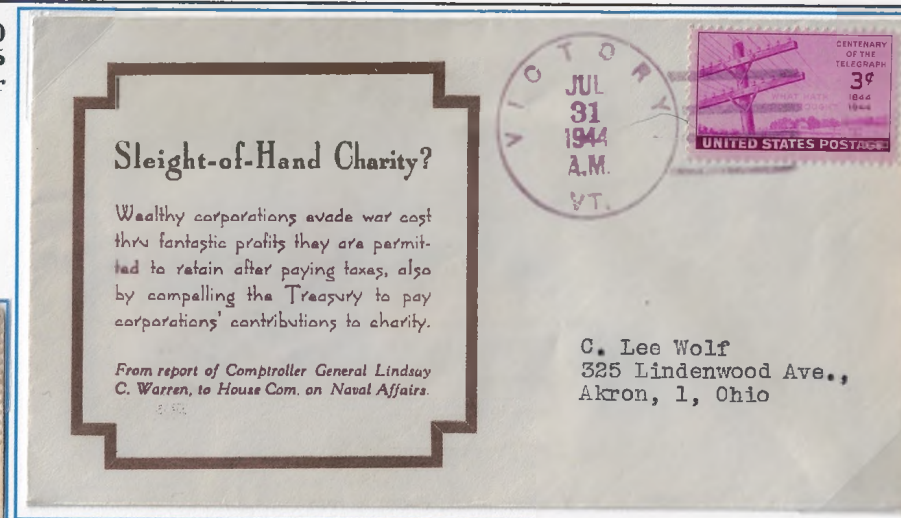
Buxton-Huss (#583) Category 2 Exemplar

Kosko-Linto (#5858)
Linto #548
Category 2 Exemplar

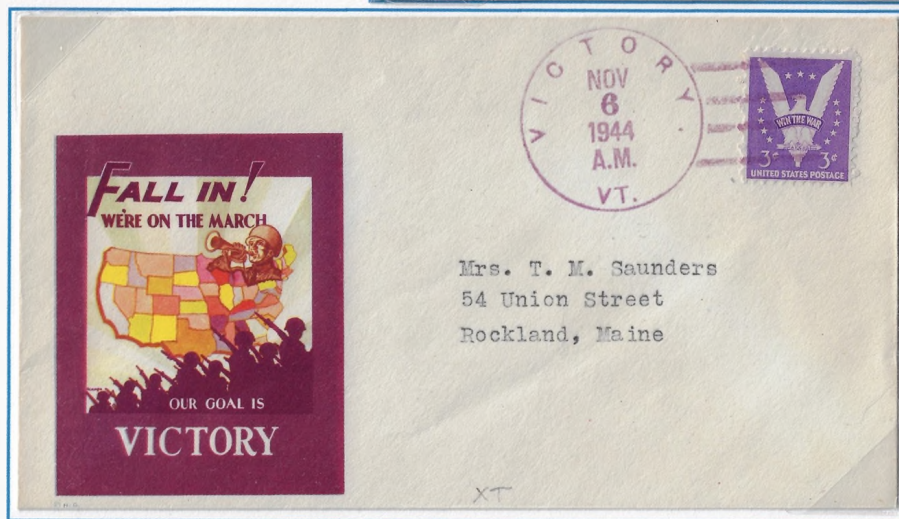


III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

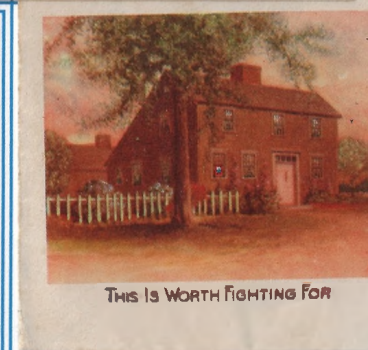
B. 1944

Stepp-Minkus (#1444)
Category 3 ExemplarStepp-Minkus (#2332)
Category 3 ExemplarCL Wolf-Linto (#6246)
Linto #516
Category 2 Exemplar

C. Lee Wolf
325 Lindenwood Ave.,
Akron, 1, Ohio

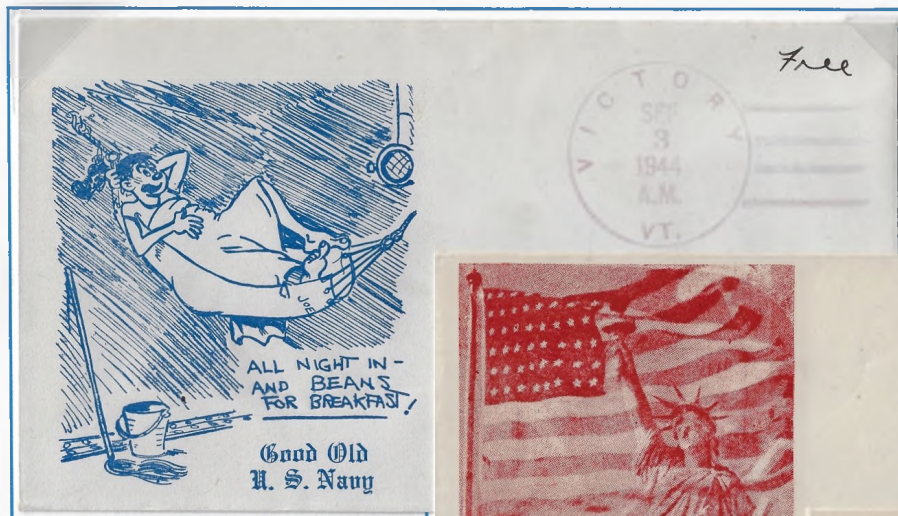
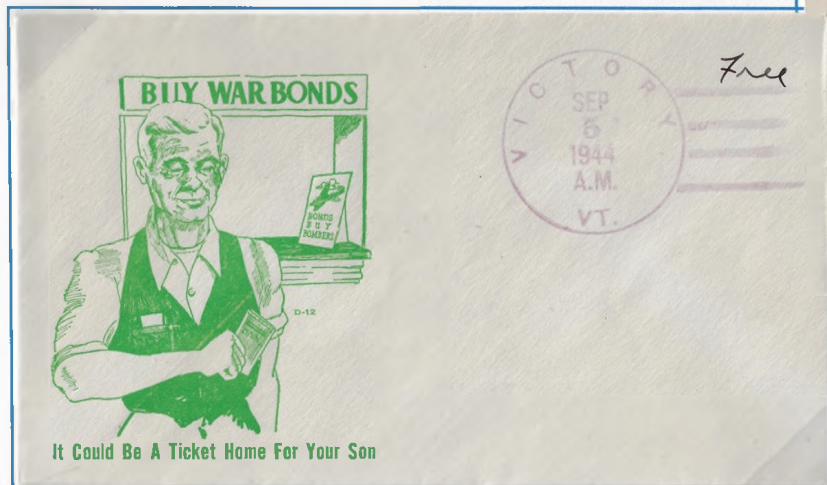


Saunders-Ever Ready (#7926) Category 3 Exemplar

Stepp-Minkus (#4100)
Category 3 ExemplarStepp-Minkus (#7152)
Category 3 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944

Rohaly-AD Smith (#5190)
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Crosby (#314)
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Crosby (#3834)
Thermographed
Illustrated in Sherman
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Ray Davis (#1257)
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Crosby (#7763)
Thermographed
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Runge (#5931)
Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944



Neal (#4865)
Category 2 Exemplar

Carpenter (#9270)



Stanley-Andrews (#1215)
Postmaster-signed
Thermographed
Category 1 Exemplar



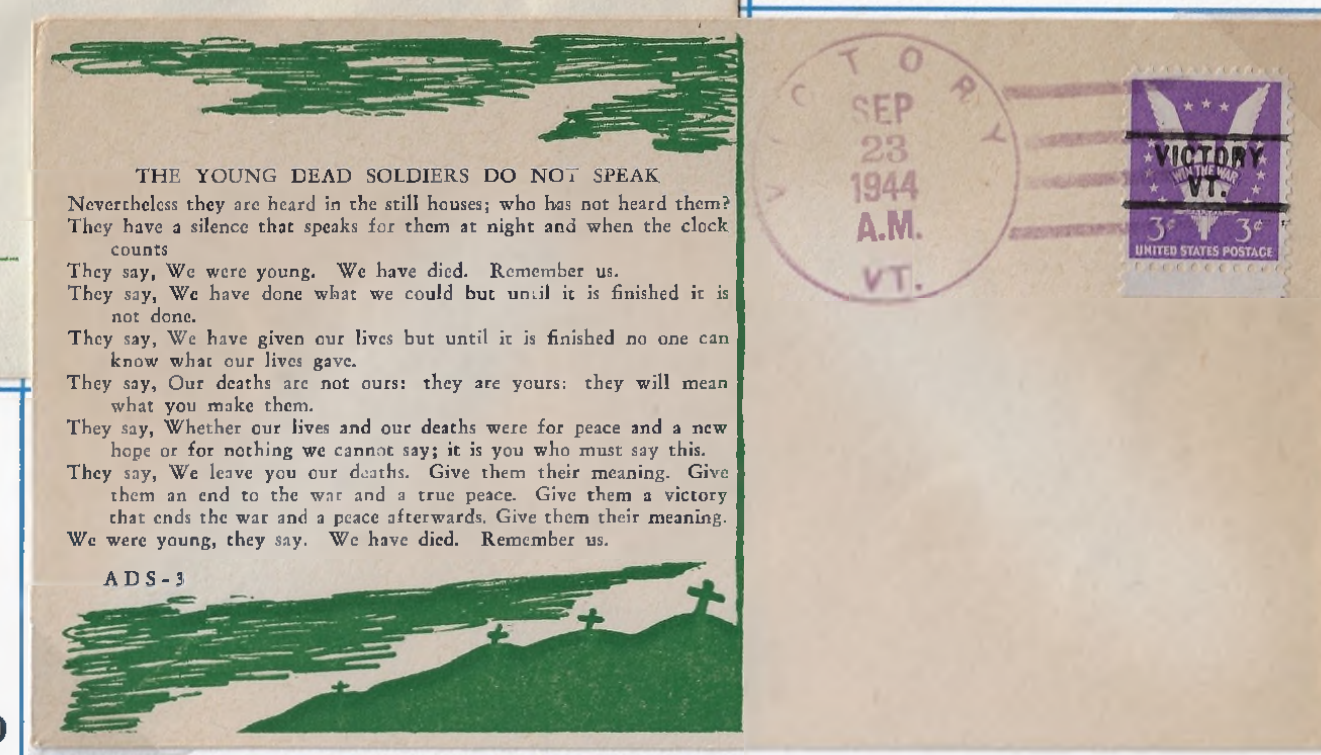
Gawel-Cliff (#9046)
D-Day Type A
Category 3 Exemplar



American Patriotic Press (#5190)
Illustrated in Sherman



AD Smith (#6956)



III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944

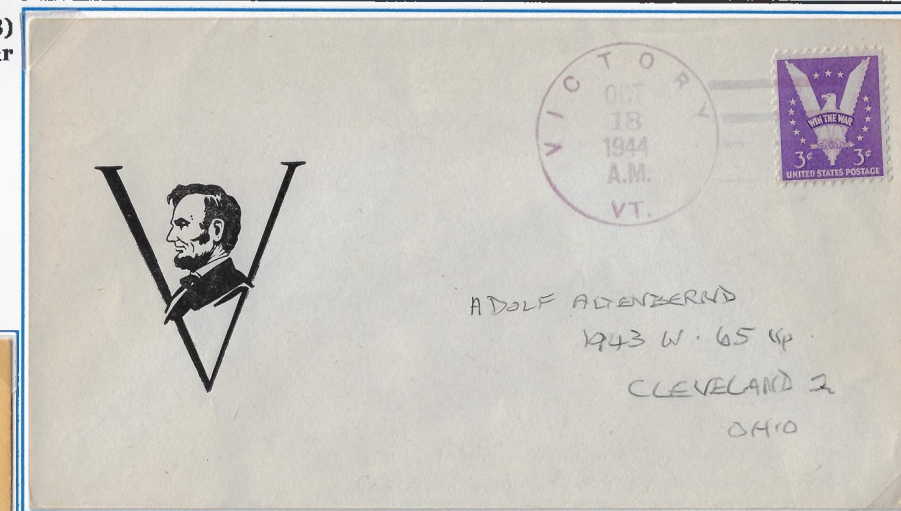
Rohaly-Brenn (#6420)
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Poppenger (#9270)
Category 2 Exemplar

Free

Thorpe-Ang (#754)
Category 2 ExemplarHERBERT R. THORPE
WESTFIELD, MASS.

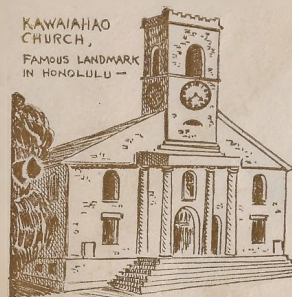
Back Them Up With Bonds

ANG 28

LET THE ANGEL
OF MERCY
ALWAYS BE
WITH YOUUnknown-Stepp
Not in Sherman
Category 3 ExemplarADOLF ADENBERND
1943 W. 65 W.
CLEVELAND 2
OHIORohaly-American Pat. Press (#3966)
Category 2 Exemplar

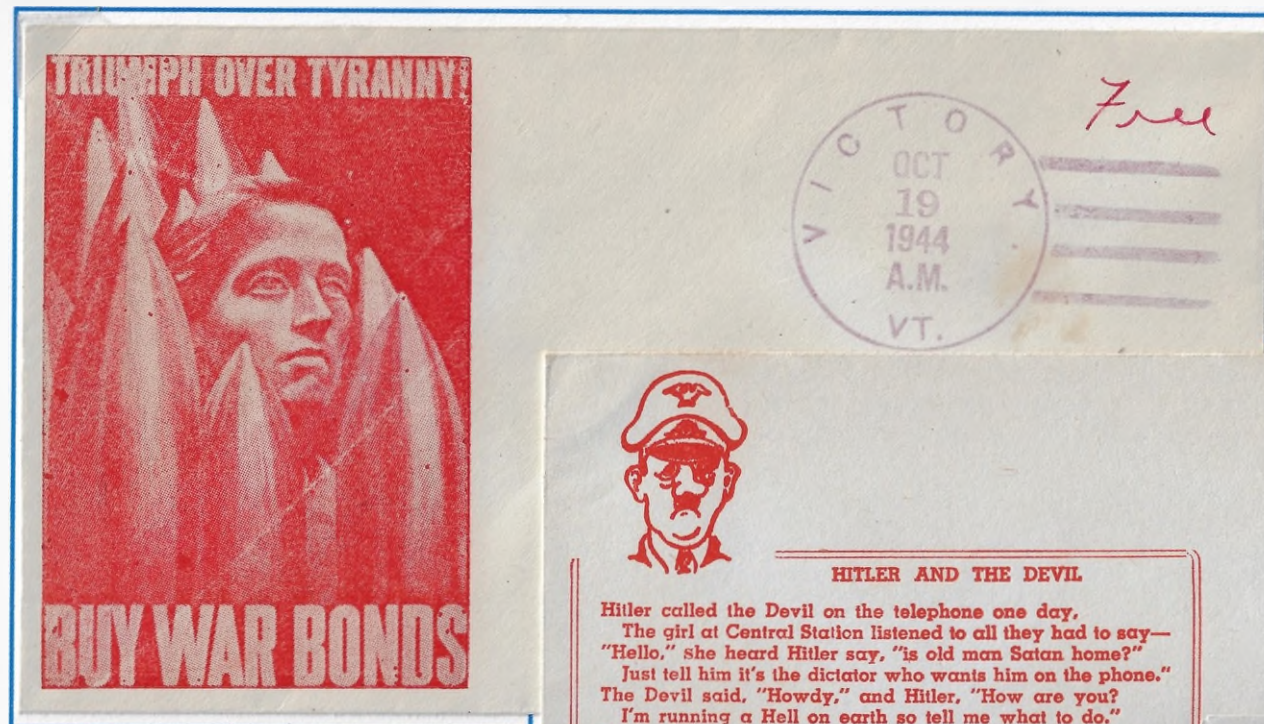
Free

Rigo falls to Russians

George H. Stepp
471 High St.
Embaut pa

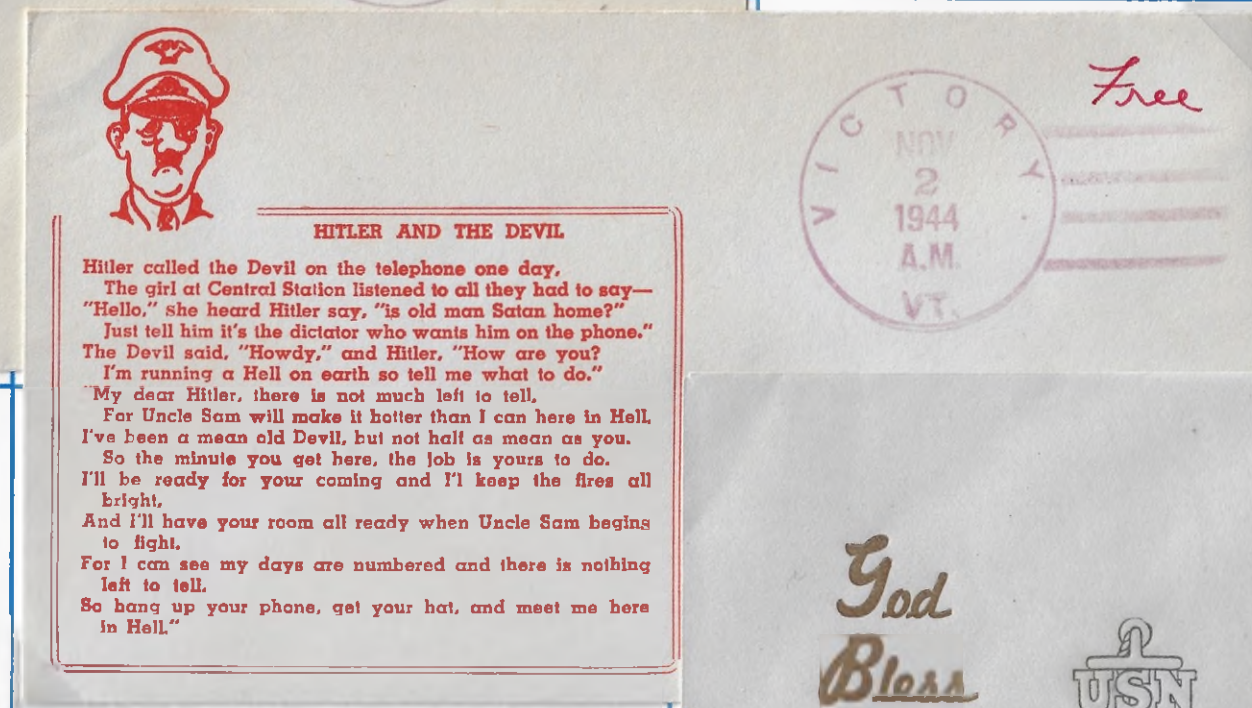
III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944



Rohaly-AD Smith (#7363)
Category 2 Exemplar

Rohaly-Boone (#3012)
Category 2 Exemplar



Giellarowski-Fleetwood (#2641)
Artist: Knapp
Category 2 Exemplar



Roudebush-Huss (#451)
Category 2 Exemplar



Swayne-Linto (#2635)
Linto #688
Category 3 Exemplar



III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden? A. 1944

Stoll-Grimsland (#7873)
Category 2 Exemplar

Rohaly-AD Smith (#2094)
Category 2 Exemplar

Rohaly-Poppenger (#3352)
Category 2 Exemplar

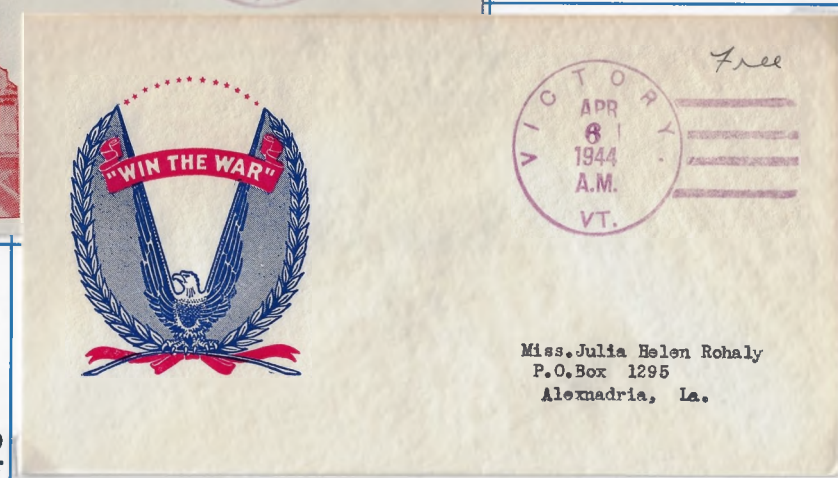


Stoll-Grimsland (#7682)
Category 2 Exemplar

Rohaly-AD Smith (#2804)
Category 2 Exemplar

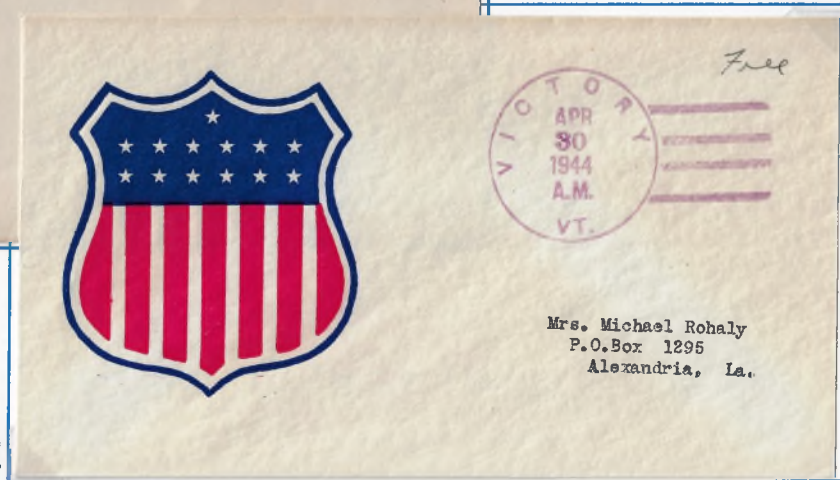


Rohaly-Ioor (#9071)
Category 2 Exemplar



III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1944

Rohaly-Advertiser (#3755)
Category 2 ExemplarRohaly-Ioor (#9608)
Category 2 ExemplarMr. Michael George Rohaly
P.O. Box 1295
Alexandria, La.Bernhardt-Minkus (#8825)
Category 3 ExemplarStepp-Minkus (#5336)
Category 2 ExemplarMrs. Michael Rohaly
P.O. Box 1295
Alexandria, La.Rohaly-Ioor (#9570)
Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?
C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A

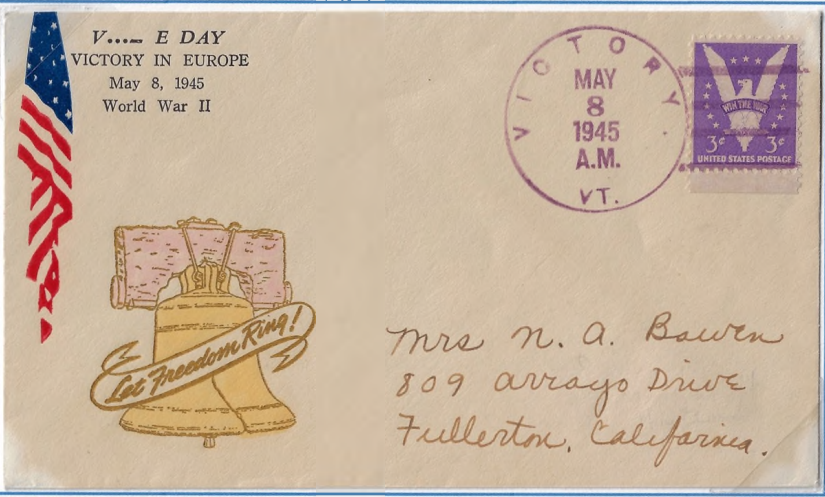


Kosko-Schusterman (#1544)
Category 2 Exemplar

Cochran-Crosby (#2534)
Thermographed
Category 2 Exemplar



Bowen-American Pat. Press
(#3957)
Category 3 Exemplar

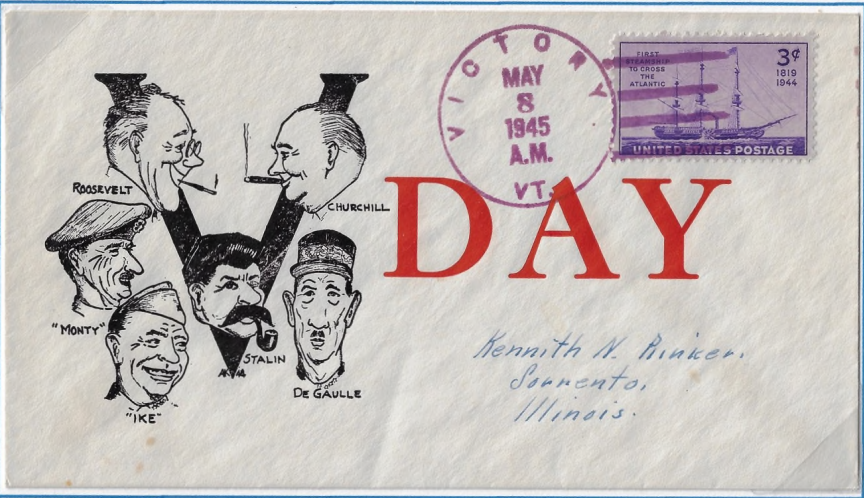


Ioor (#601)

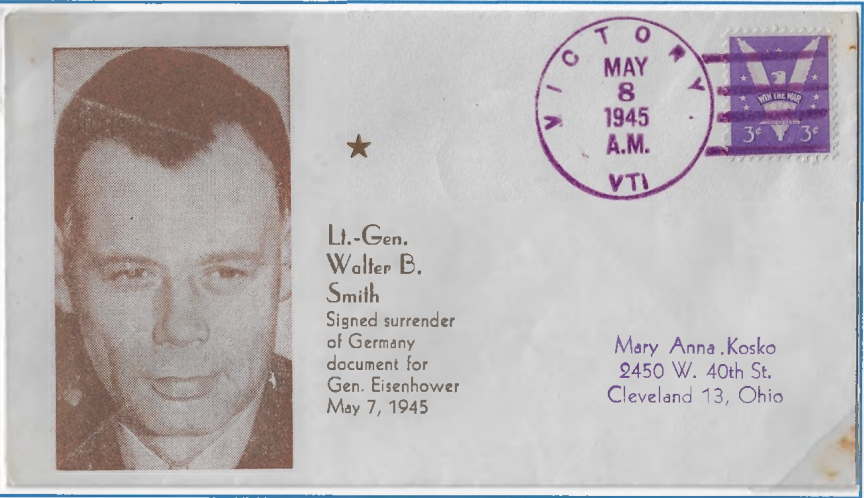


Jarret (#7637)

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?
C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A



Rinker-Knoll (#8144) Category 2 Exemplar Addressed to Rinker by Iva Donaldson



Kosko-Linto (#4288) Linto #922 Category 2 Exemplar

Temple-Zunks (#8445)
Category 2 Exemplar

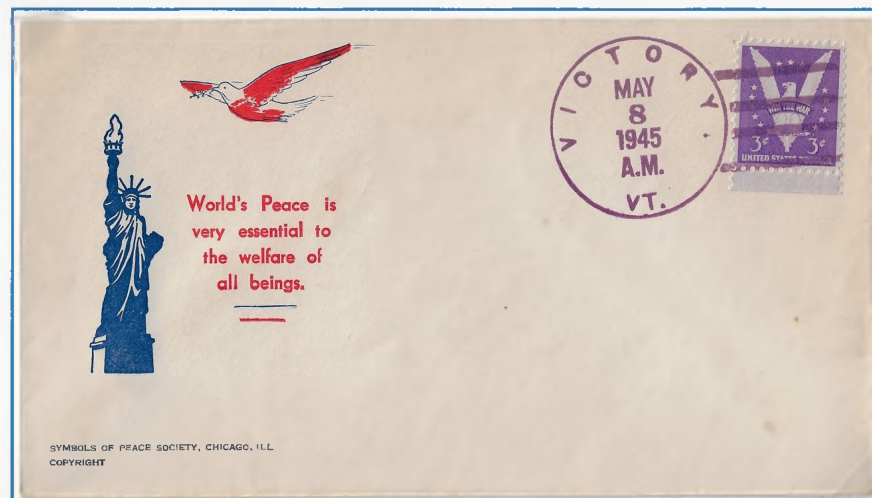


Czubay (#8239)



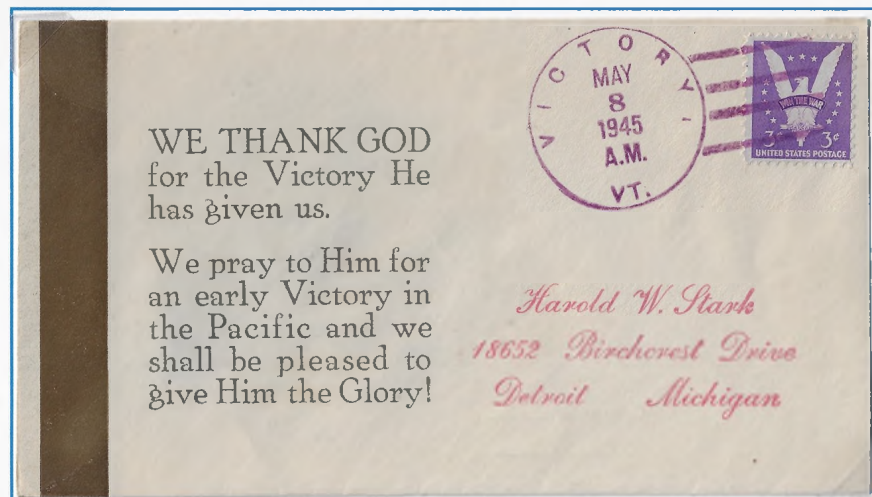
Warner-Hill (#2845-Sherman 2006) Category 3 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden? C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A



Symbols of Peace (#9184)

Cozart (#1708))

Cozart (#1708)
Illustrated in Sherman

Stark-Linto (#8810) Linto “V-E-D-1”



Barnes (#4705)

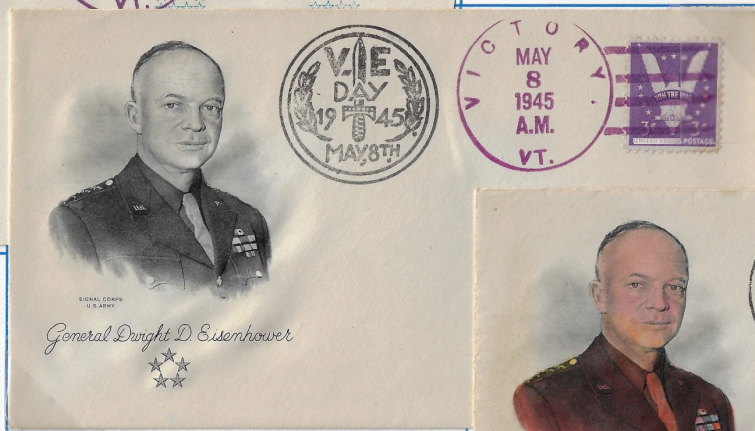
III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

American Patriotic Press (#2634)

C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A



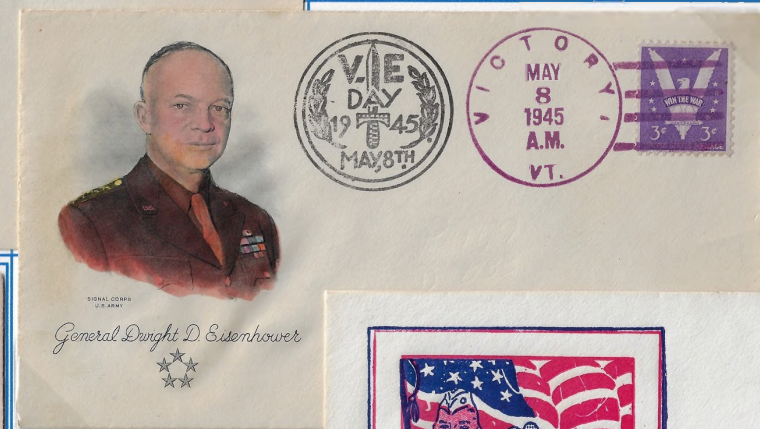
American Pat. Press (#6640)



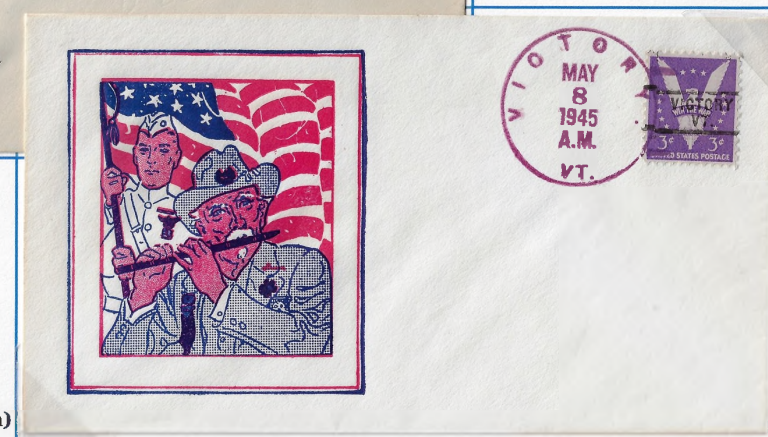
Artcraft (#2492)

Artcraft (#2492)
Add-on Tint

Kisko (#2760) Category 2 Exemplar



Unknown (Not in Sherman)



III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A



Ioor (#9605)

Ioor (#9631)

Unknown [Ioor?]
(#678-Sherman 2006)

Ioor (#9443)



Grandy (#3993)

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A

Huss (#9641)



Anderson (#8036) Dual cancellation with Aug 14, 1945 (favor cancel-backdated)



Harrington (#8489)



Unknown [loor?] (#7658)



Bartz (#8094)

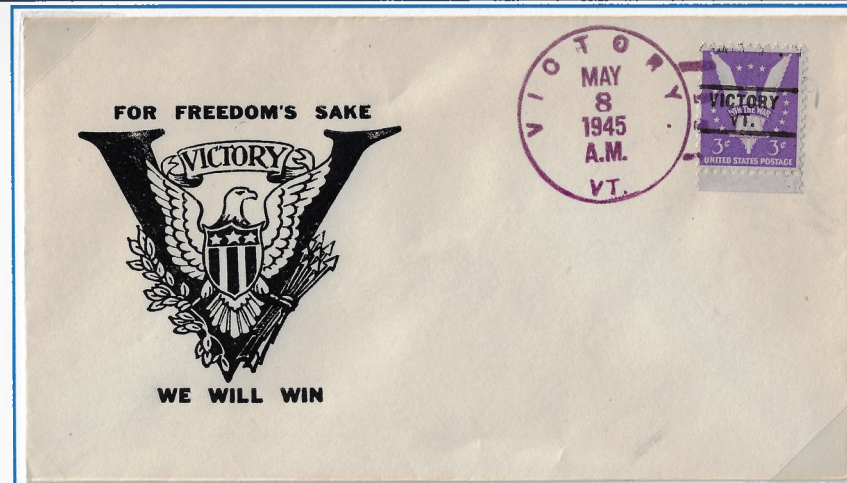
III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A

McFarland (#2140)



Clifford (#8467) Illustrated in Sherman



McFarland (#7982)



Unknown (#8393) Thermographed



Grover (#8211) Thermographed

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?
C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A



Donaldson (#5232)



Sanders (#7985)

Wesley Smith (#272)



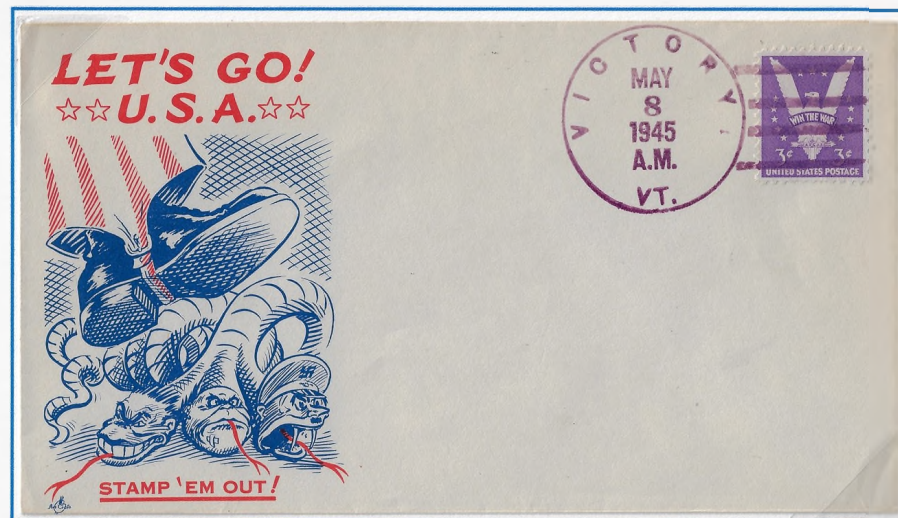
Poppenger (#3958)



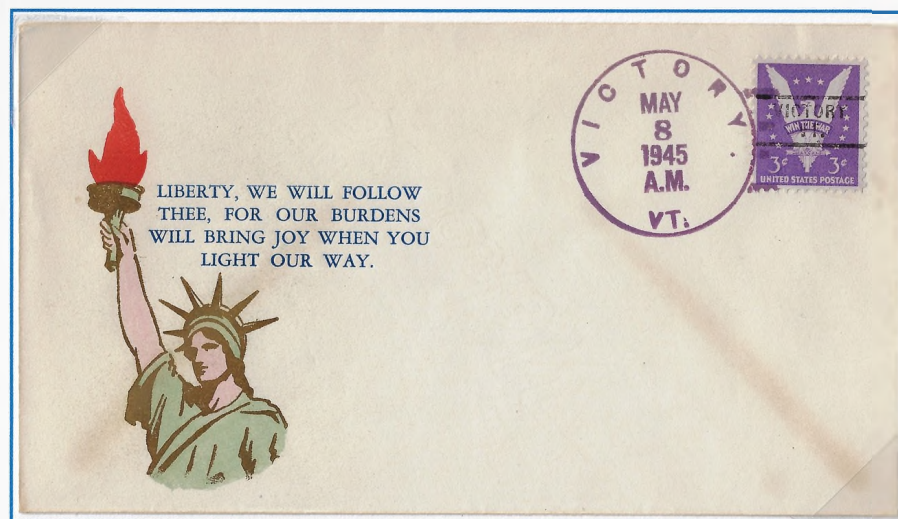
Poppenger (#3958)

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A

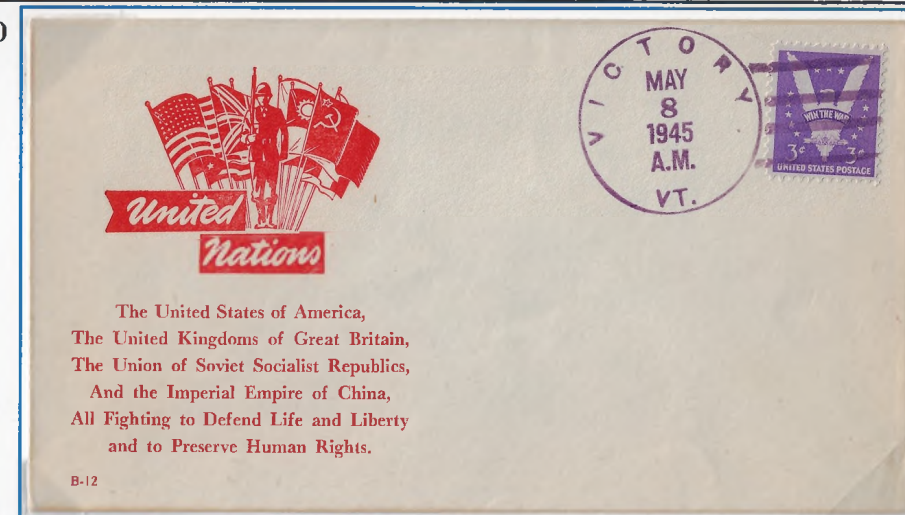


Artcraft (#4037)

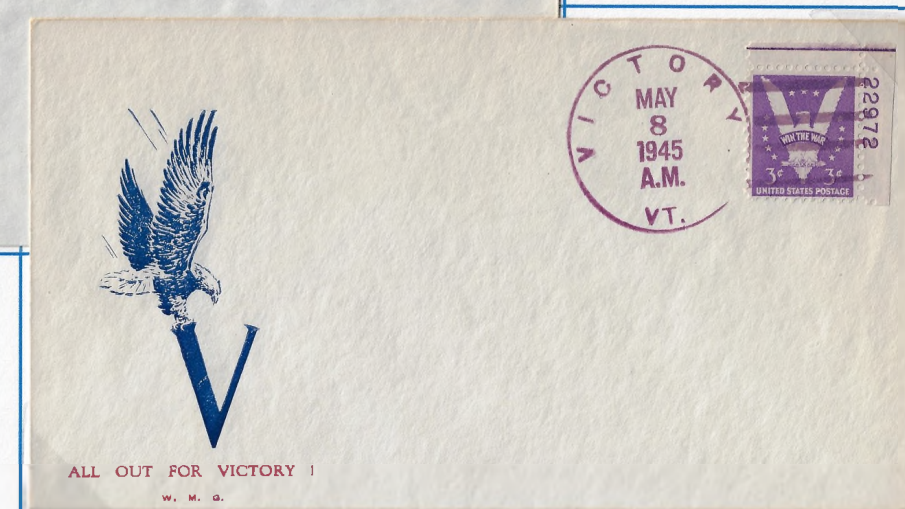


American Patriotic Press (#4168)

Brenn (#4037)



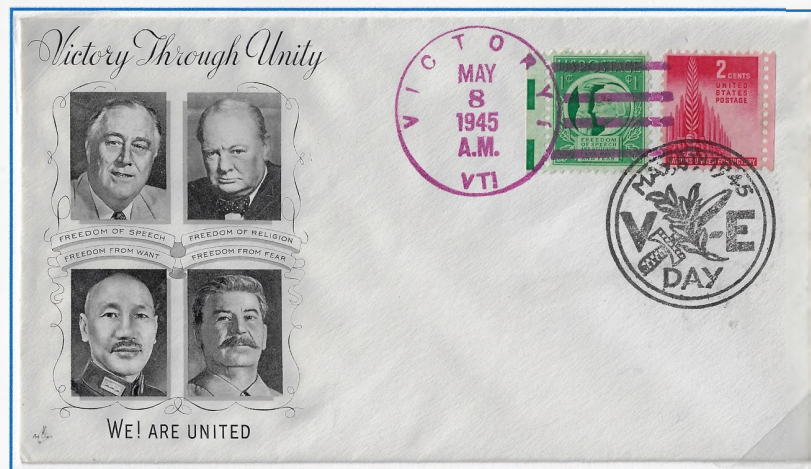
Ioor (#9573)



Grandy (#8024)

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

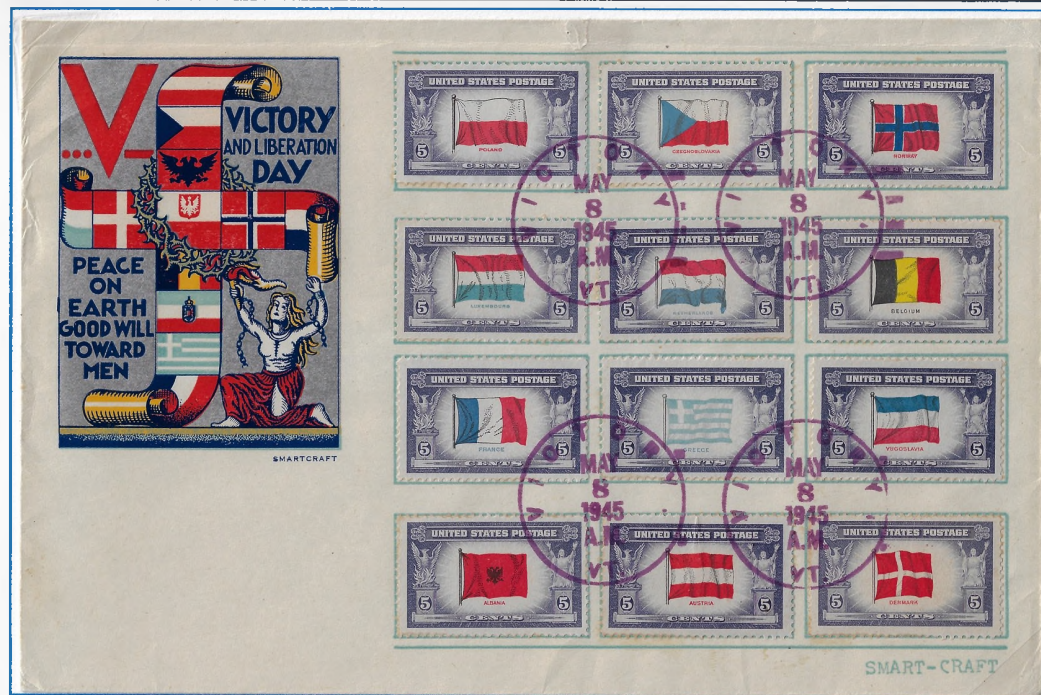
C. 1945 – VE-Day Type A



Artercraft (#8466)

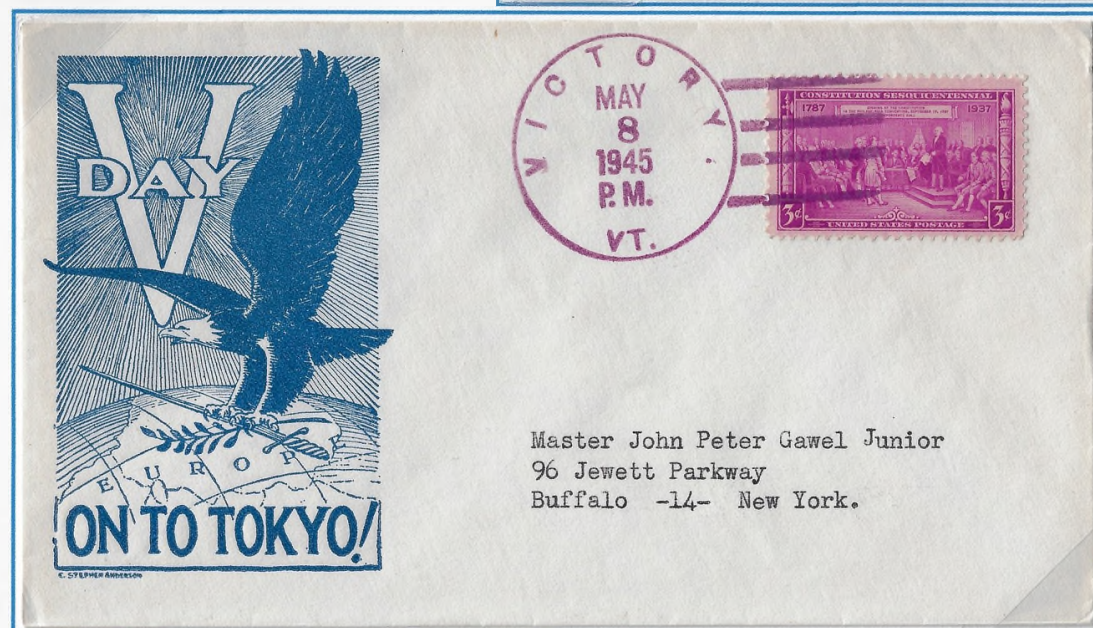


Staehle (#2546)

Smartcraft (#7952)
Illustrated in Sherman

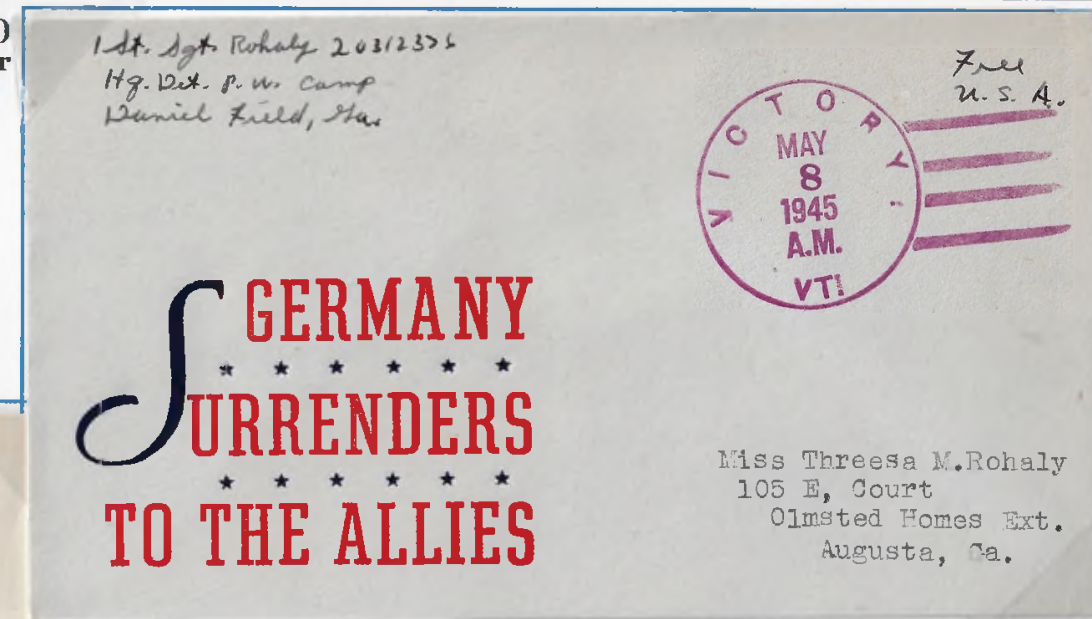
III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 - VE-Day Type B

Muzzy-Unknown Hand-
made (Not in Sherman)Rohaly-Runge (#9487)
Category 2 ExemplarGawel-Anderson (#8036)
Category 3 ExemplarMaster John Peter Gawel Junior
96 Jewett Parkway
Buffalo -14- New York.

PLEDGE

I pledge allegiance
to the flag of the
United States of
America, and to the
Republic for which
it stands; one Nation
indivisible, with
Liberty and Justice
for all.

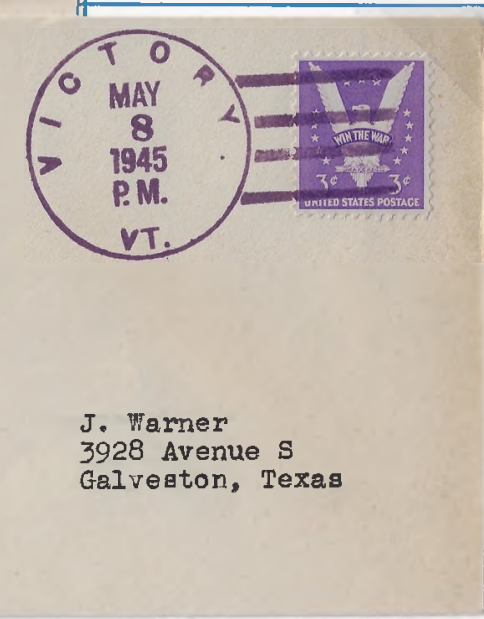
Warner-Carpenter (#167)
Category 3 ExemplarMiss Threesa M. Rohaly
105 E. Court
Olmsted Homes Ext.
Augusta, Ga.Warner-American Patriotic
Press (#5486)
Category 3 Exemplar

A Soldier's Prayer

By PRIVATE ALLAN OSBORNE

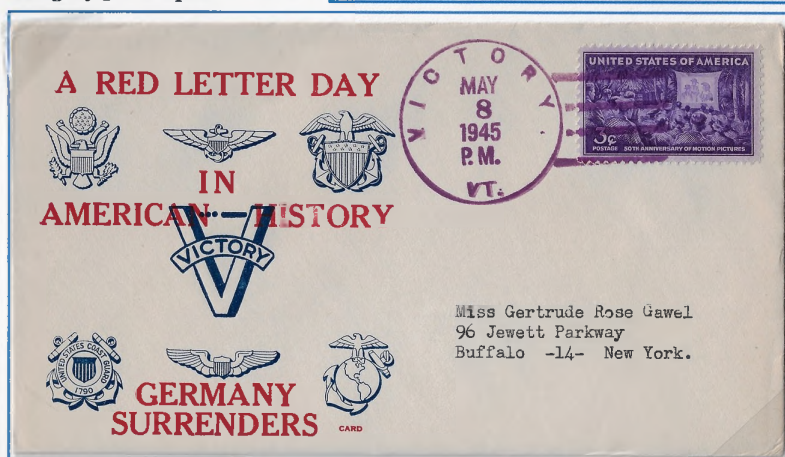
O Lord to Thee on bended knee
I make to You, my humble plea;
To always do my very best
To bring to all, peace and rest.
Without a fear, without delay
To go along life's darkened way,
To carry on our Christian Faith;
Helping all of allied race.
God help to keep our spirits high
As we go onward, Do or Die.
In spite of danger from enemy gun;
We kneel in prayer, when day is done.
When these days are forever past,
Please bring to all a peace to last.
When the sun shines through the rain
Thy weary heart shall bear no pain.
And when you bring this peace to men,
Please send us homeward—once again.
Amen.

Dedicated to:
My Church—Village Church, Medway, Mass.
My Deacon—Carl A. Smith, Sr.
My Parents—Mr. and Mrs. Erville C. Osborne.
My buddies in the Army.
Carpenter, Holliston, Mass.

J. Warner
3928 Avenue S
Galveston, Texas

III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 - VE-Day Type B

Dudley-Poppenger (#8348)
Category 3 ExemplarDudley-Poppenger (#8348)
Category 3 ExemplarGawel-Hallock Card (#132)
Category 3 ExemplarRohaly-Garfield (#9603)
Category 2 Exemplar

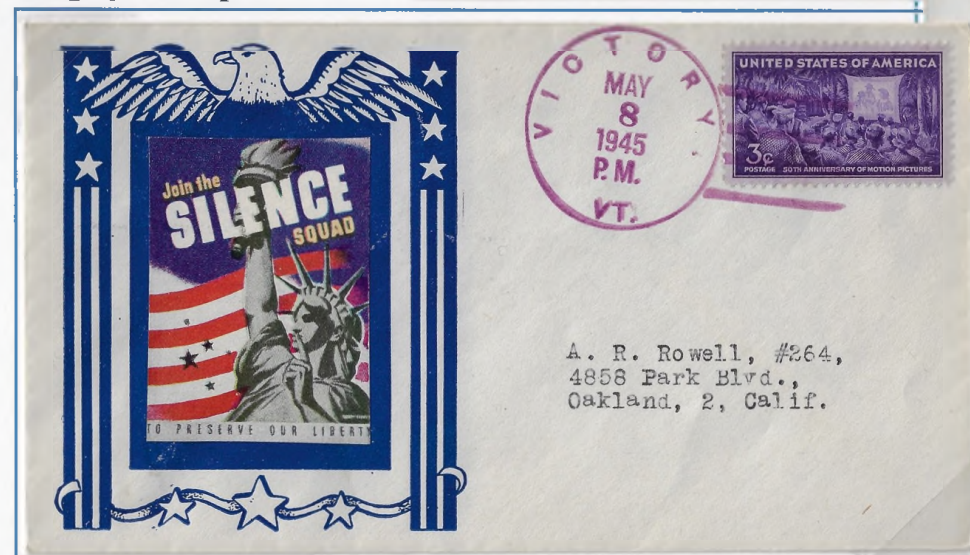
Dirigo-Sanders (#2551)

III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden? C. 1945 - VE-Day Type B



Rowell-Artists for Victory (#3638)

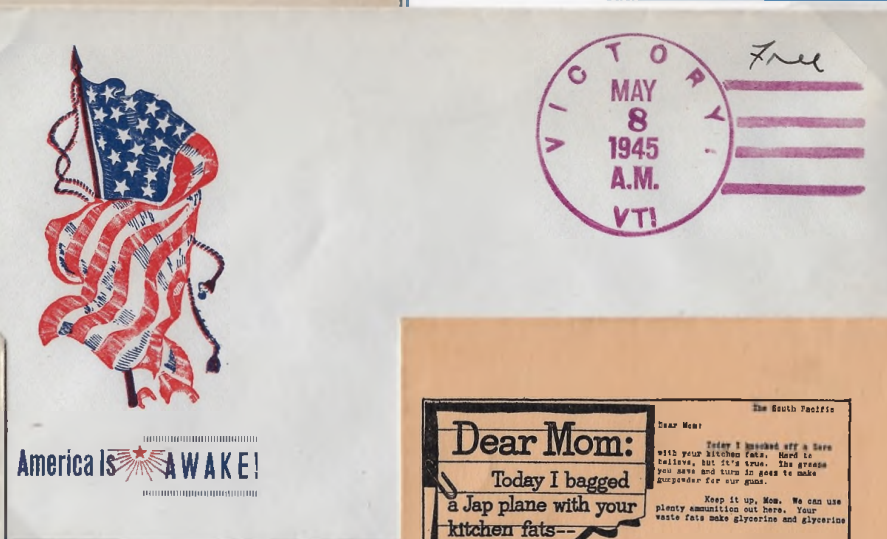
Serviced by M.C. Weston #230
#s are membership nos. in the Patriotic
Cover Exchange Club
Category 2 Exemplar



A. R. Rowell, #264,
4858 Park Blvd.,
Oakland, 2, Calif.

Schirmer (#3293) Misidentified in Sherman as Cozart

Warner-Linto (#6635) Linto (V-E-D) Category 3 Exemplar

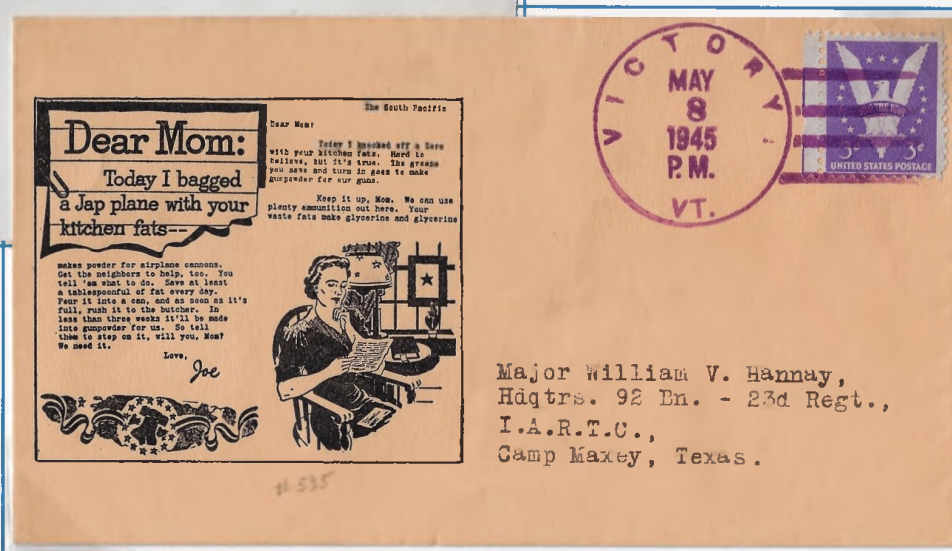


Hannay-Johnson Cover Press (#2551)

Serviced by M.C. Weston
Category 2 Exemplar



Rohaly-W. Smith (#9603) Category 2 Exemplar



Major William V. Hannay,
Hqtrs. 92 Bn. - 23d Regt.,
I.A.R.T.C.,
Camp Maxey, Texas.

III. "Roses" in Victory's WWII Philatelic Garden?
C. 1945 - VE-Day Type B



Gift-Smartcraft (#7952)
Artist: Staehle
Illustrated in Sherman
Category 3 Exemplar

Kosko-Hallock Card (#2760)
Category 2 Exemplar



Gawel-Anderson (#8036)
Illustrated in Sherman
Category 3 Exemplar

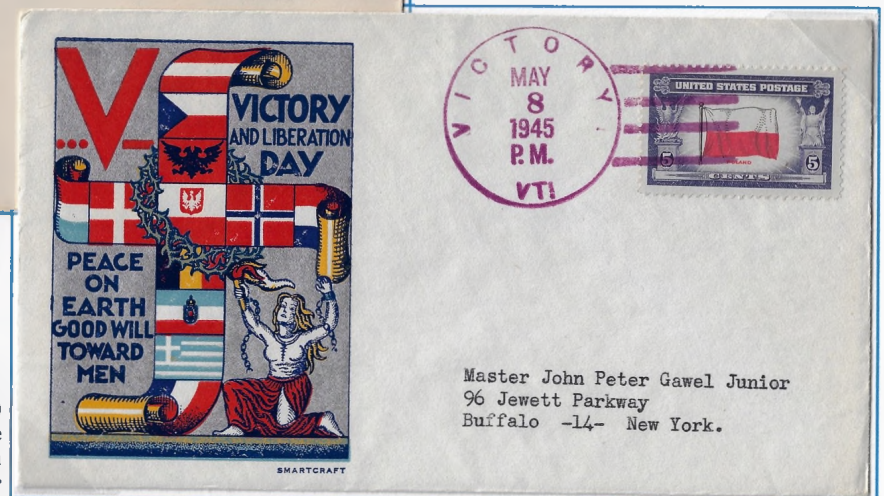


Miss Gertrude Rose Gawel
96 Jewett Parkway
Buffalo -14- New York.

Gawel-Smartcraft (#7952)
Artist: Staehle
Illustrated in Sherman
Category 3 Exemplar



Minkus (#7259)



Master John Peter Gawel Junior
96 Jewett Parkway
Buffalo -14- New York.

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VJ-Day Type A



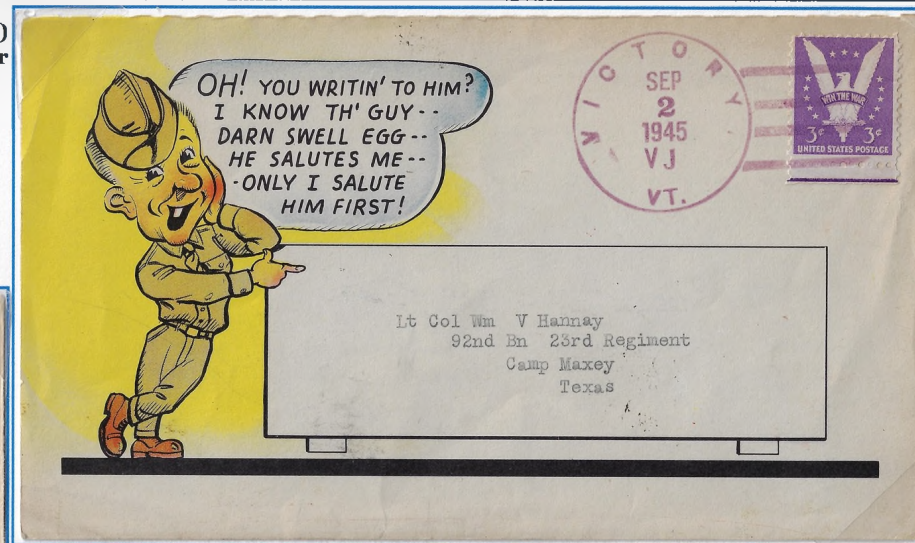
Auge (#7405)



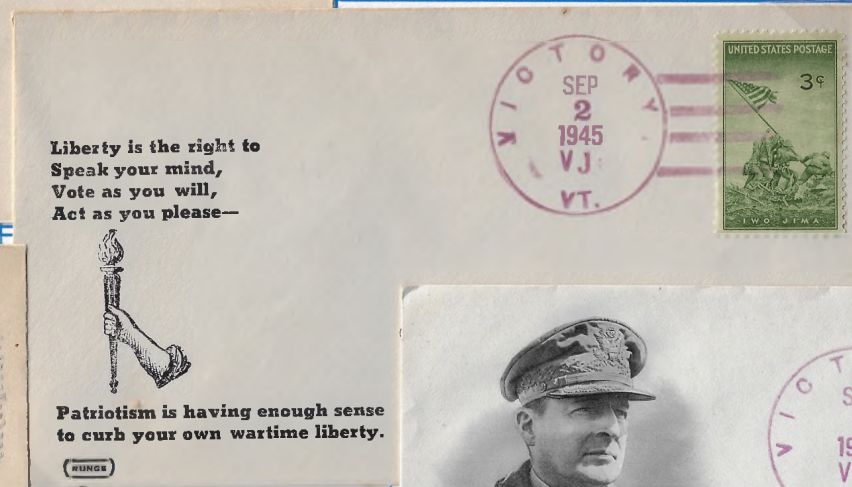
Auge (#7406)



Auge (#7503)

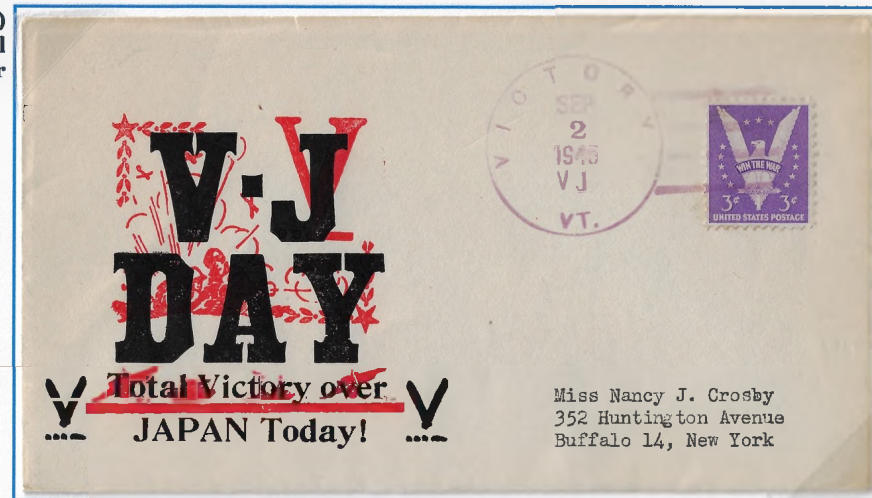
Hannay (Not in Sherman)
Category 3 Exemplar

Runge (#4159)

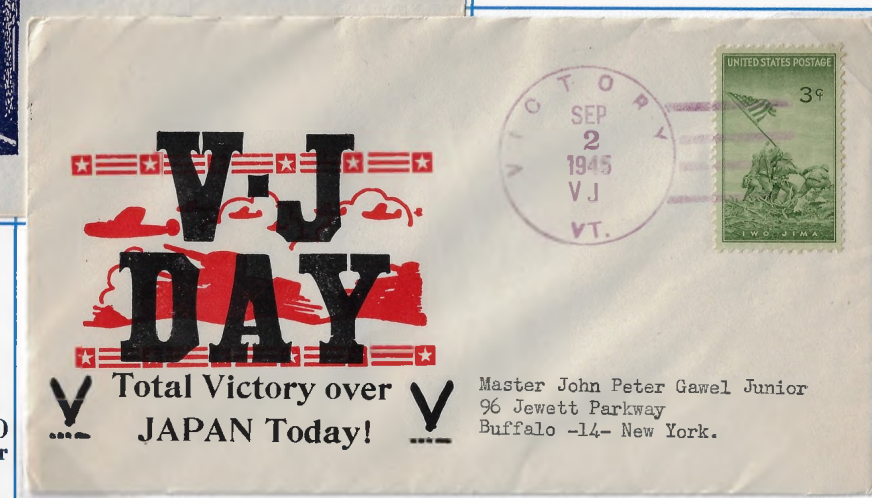
Gawel-Artcraft (#2490)
Category 3 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VJ-Day Type A

Anderson (#8271)
Illustrated in ShermanCrosby-EA Anderson (#8244)
Serviced by Gawel
Category 3 ExemplarCzubay (#6909)
Artist: N.F. Nielsen
Illustrated in ShermanMiss Nancy J. Crosby
352 Huntington Avenue
Buffalo 14, New YorkVon Los (#1847)
Thermographed
Illustrated in Sherman

Chapman (Not in Sherman) Category 3 Exemplar

Gawel-EA Anderson (#8245)
Category 3 ExemplarMaster John Peter Gawel Junior
96 Jewett Parkway
Buffalo -14- New York.

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VJ-Day Type A

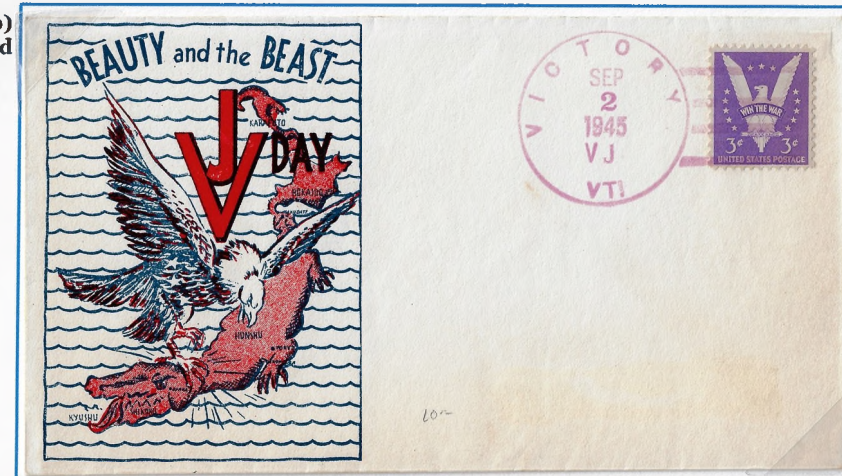


Czubay (#8270)
Illustrated in Sherman
Thermographed



Smartcraft (#5409)
Illustrated in Sherman
Thermographed

Crosby (#820)
Thermographed



Unknown Homemade
Thermographed



Stark-Linto (#8335) Linto #1055



Unknown Homemade
Thermograph



III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

C. 1945 – VJ-Day Type A

American Patriotic Press
(#8852)

Hill (#5222)

Smartercraft (#6599)
Artist: Staehle

Price-Runge (#744) Category 2 Exemplar



Hill (#5222)



Hill (#2845-Sherman 2006)

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?
C. 1945 – VJ-Day Type B

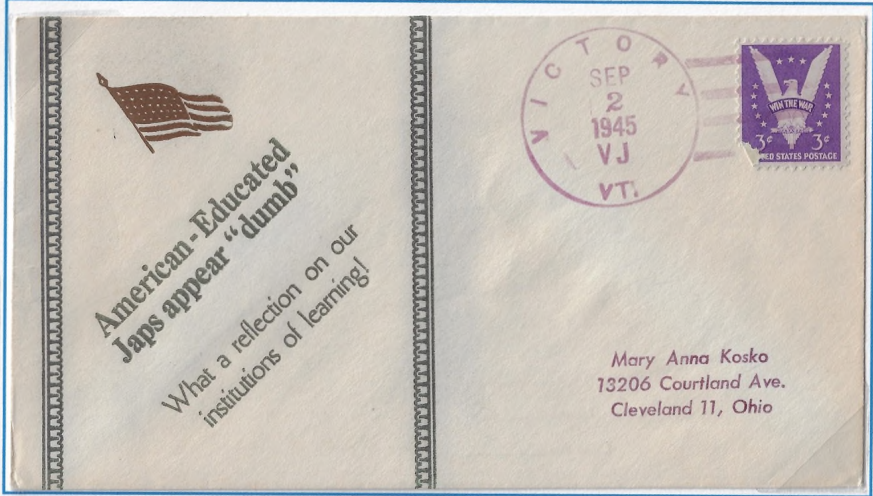


Ioor (#9586)

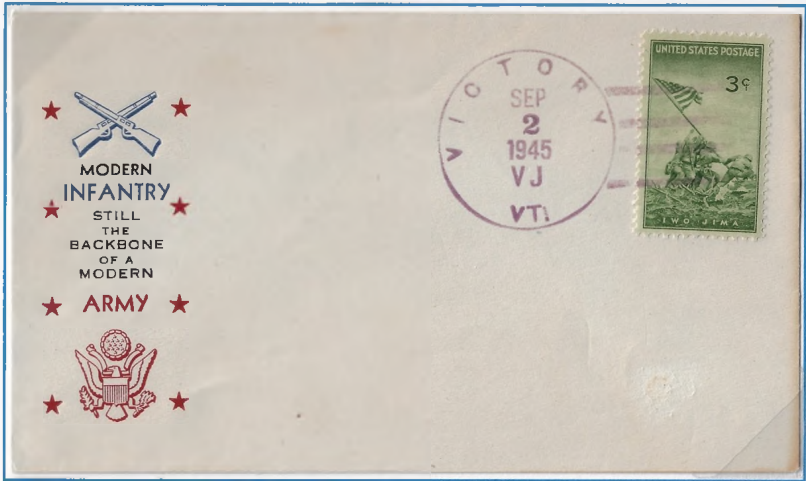


Kosko-Linto (#487)
Linto #1049
Category 2 Exemplar

Unknown
(Not in Sherman)
Thermographed



Kosko (#1906)
Category 2 Exemplar



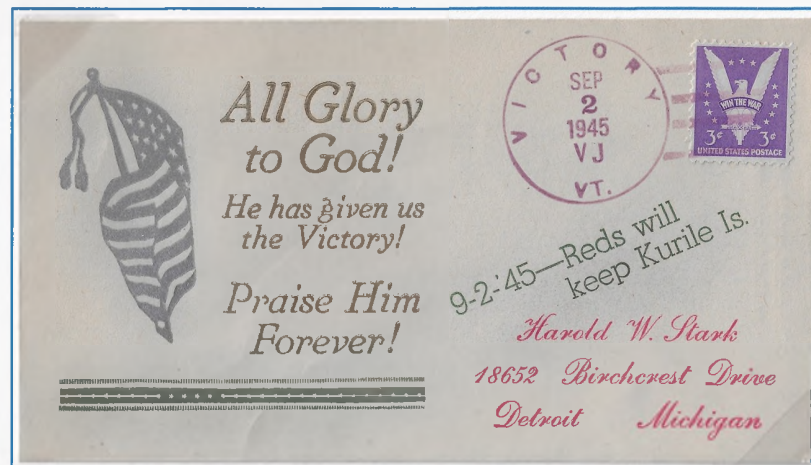
Schirmer (#4643) Misidentified in Sherman as Cozart



Puls-American Pat. Press (#5858)
Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

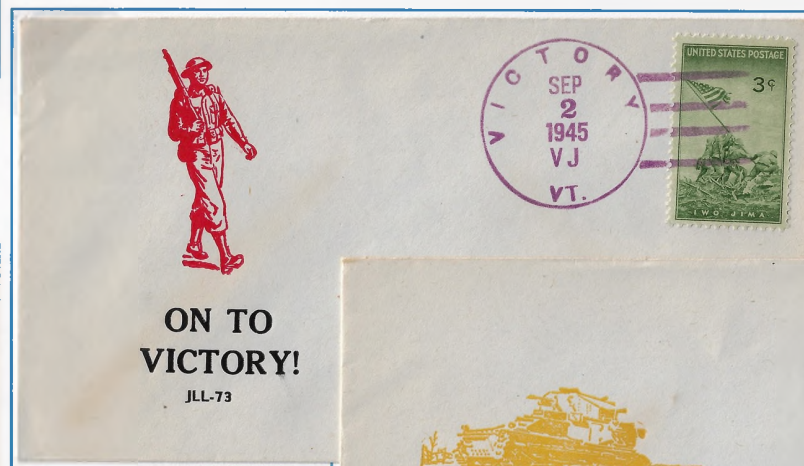
A. 1945 – VJ-Day Type B



Stark-Linto (#310) Linto #980



Stark-Linto (#4275) Linto #1056

Czubay (#8270)
Thermographed

Lowe (#5100)



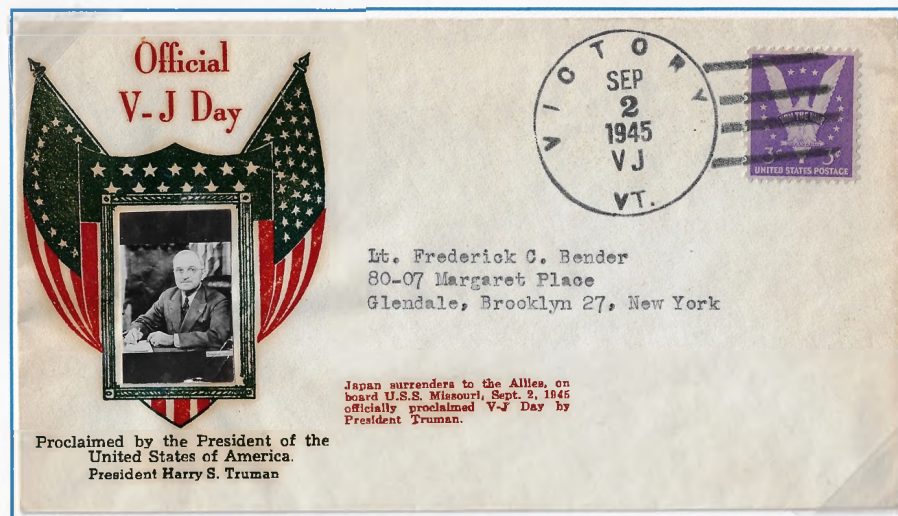
Lowe (#5101)

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

A. 1945 – VJ-Day Type B



Kosko (#1905) Category 2 Exemplar



Bender-Crosby (#4999) Category 3 Exemplar

Kosko-Lowell (#1233)
Category 2 Exemplar

Huss (#2493)



Huss (Not in Sherman) Category 2 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden? C. 1945 – All Other

Stanley-Linto (#265-Sherman 2006) Linto #779
Postmaster-signed
Category 1 Exemplar



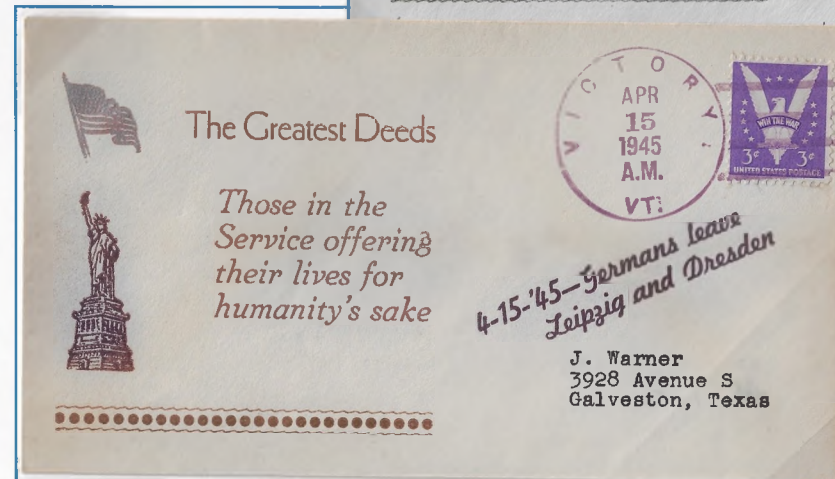
Kosko (#836-Sherman 2006)
Category 2 Exemplar



Kosko-Linto (#4280)
Linto #1063
Category 2 Exemplar



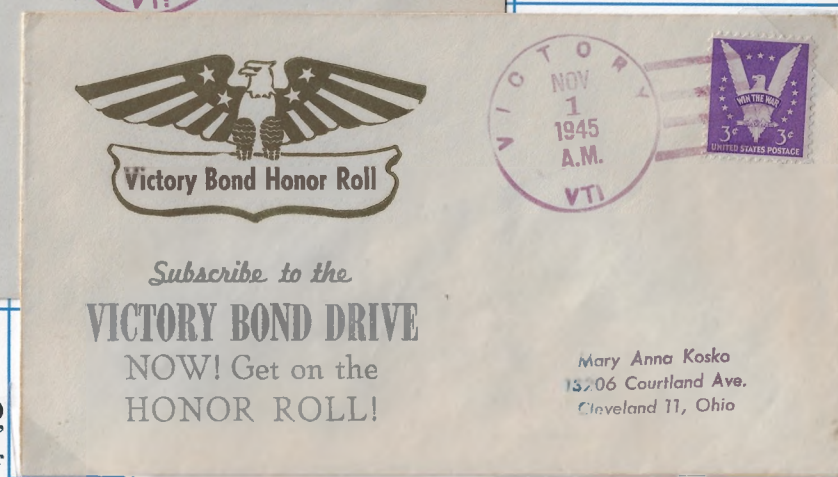
Thorpe-Carpenter (#574)
Category 2 Exemplar



Warner-Linto (Not in Sherman) Linto #882 Category 3 Exemplar

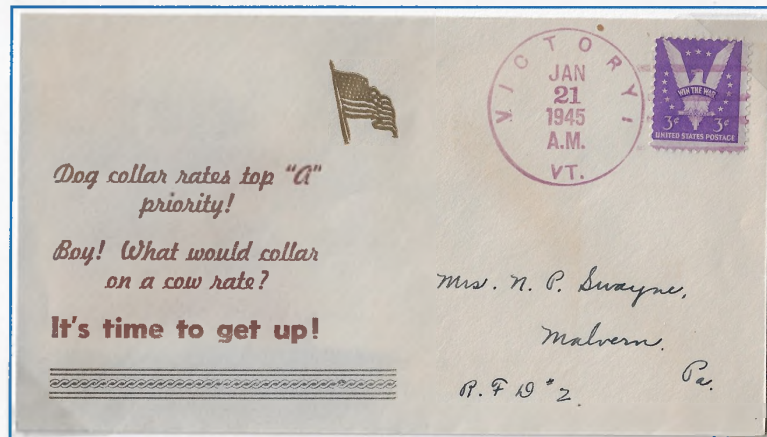


Kosko-Linto (Not in Sherman)
Linto #8th B.D.
Category 2 Exemplar

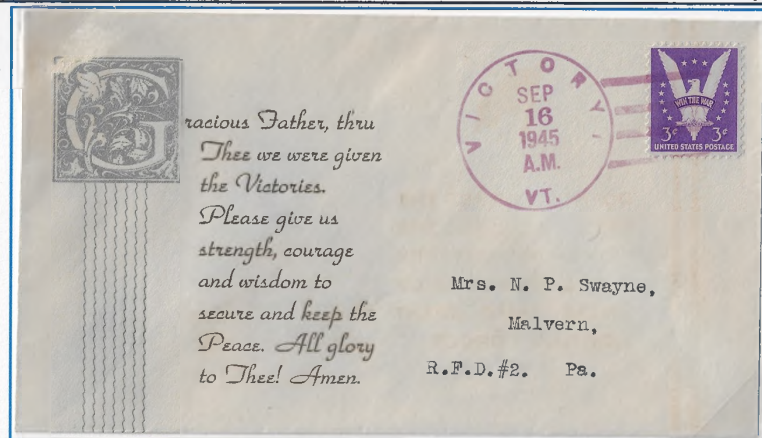
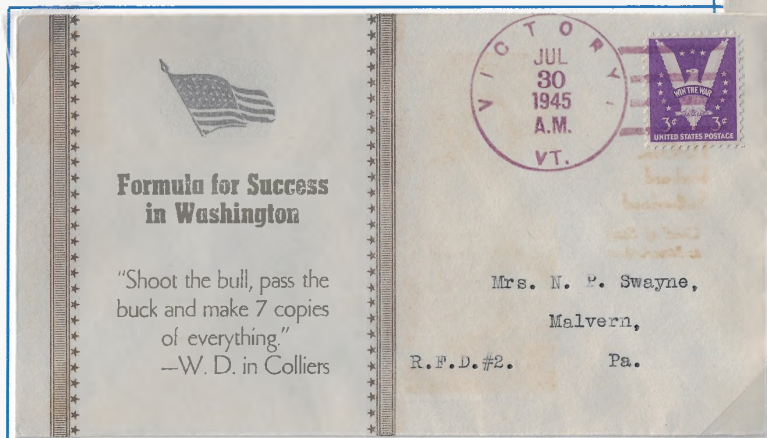


III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

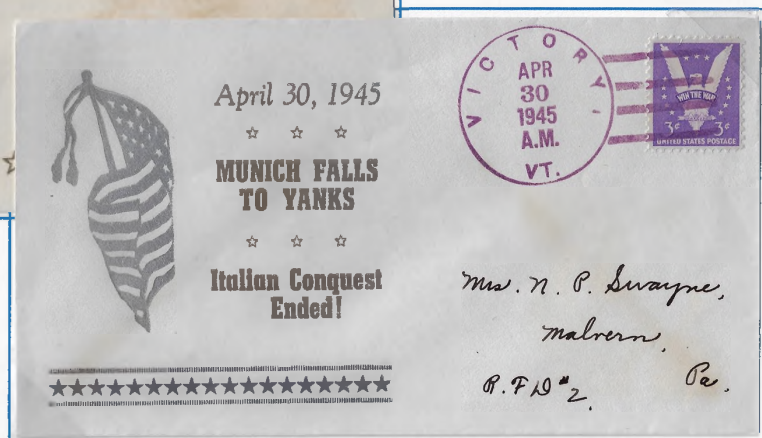
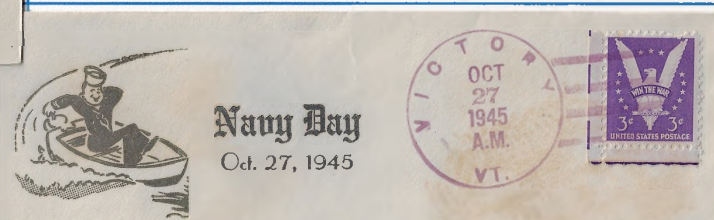
C. 1945 – All Other



Swayne-Linto (#1721) Linto \$803 Category 3 Exemplar

Swayne-Linto (Not in Sherman)
Linto "Peace"
Category 3 ExemplarSwayne-Linto (Not in Sherman)
Linto "N.D.-45")
Category 3 Exemplar

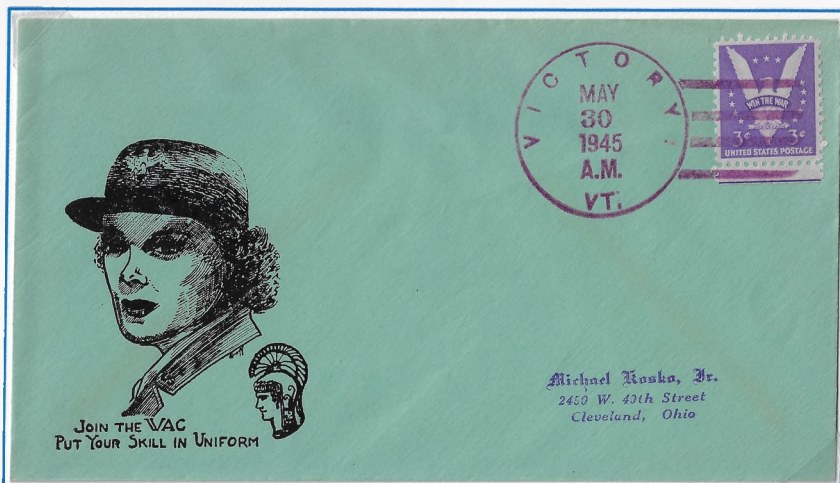
Swayne-Linto (#2241) Linto #1024 Category 3 Exemplar



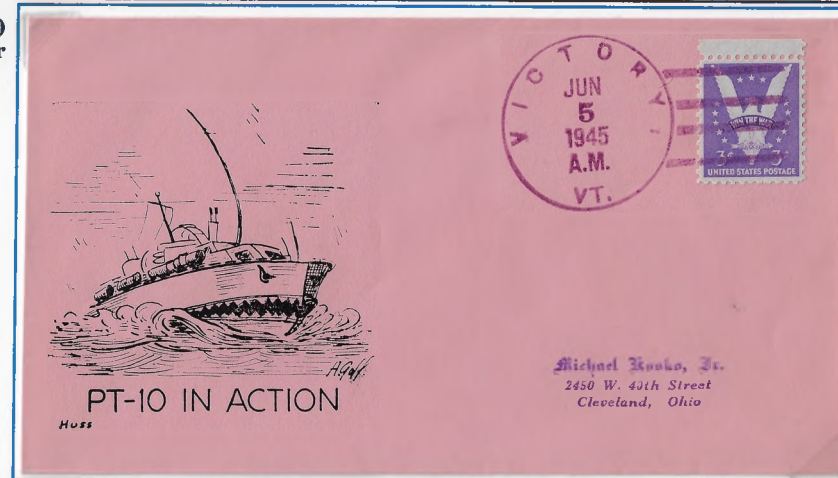
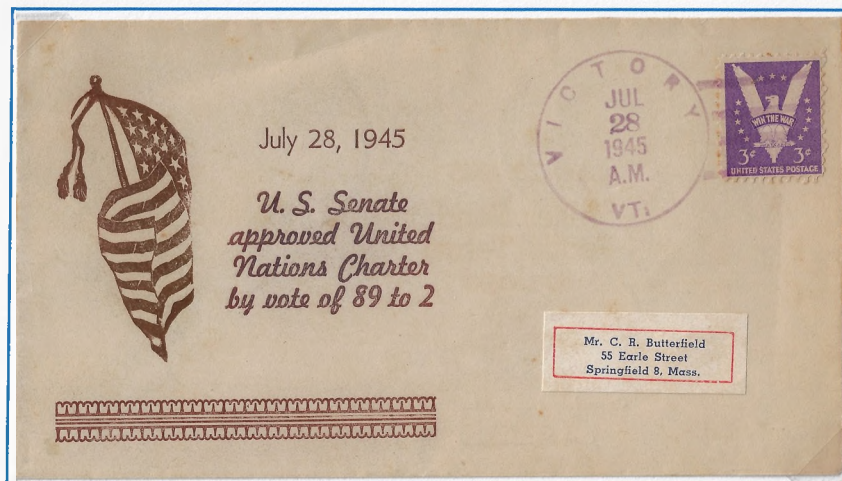
Swayne-Linto (#569) Linto "Munich" Category 3 Exemplar

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

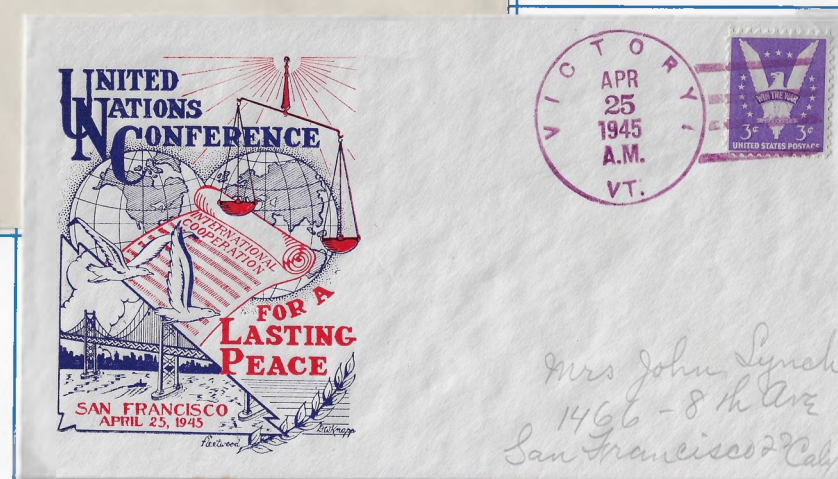
C. 1945 – All Other



Kosko-Huss (#4643) Category 2 Exemplar

Kosko-Huss (#5604)
Category 2 ExemplarKosko-Huss (#754)
Category 2 Exemplar

Butterfield-Linto (Not in Sherman) Linto “Ch. A. P. P.” Category 3 Exemplar

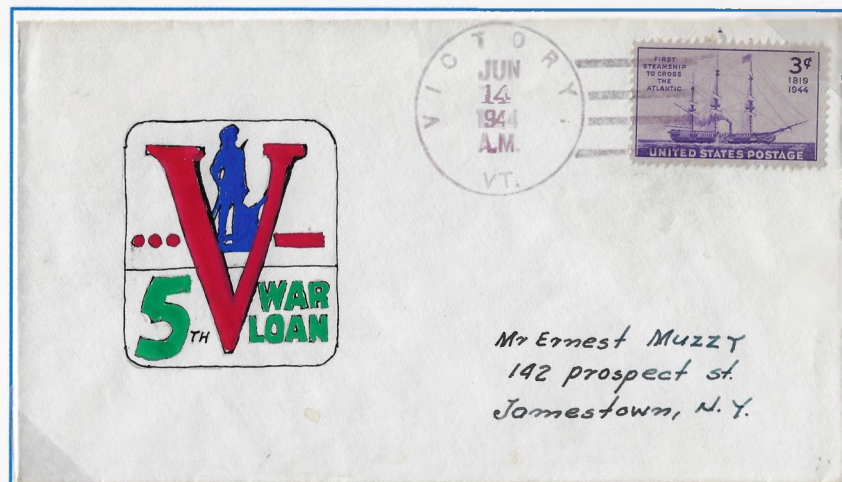


Lynch-Fleetwood (#7660) Category 3 Exemplar

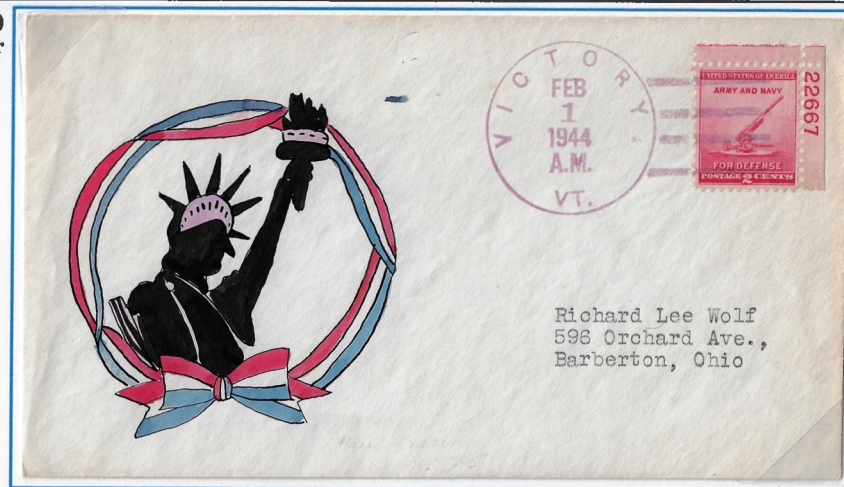
III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

RL Wolf-Adler (Not in Sherman)
Category 2 Exemplar

D. All Years – Handpainted and Autographed Covers



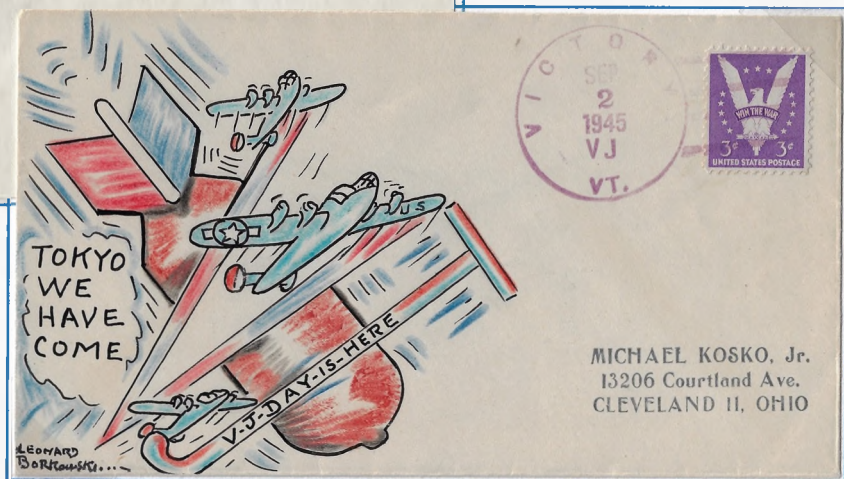
Unknown (Not in Sherman)



Adler (Not in Sherman)



Muzzy-Adler (Not in Sherman) Category 2 Exemplar Addressed to E.J. Muzzy by
Sgt. Melvin C. Schirmer (producer P504 in Sherman)

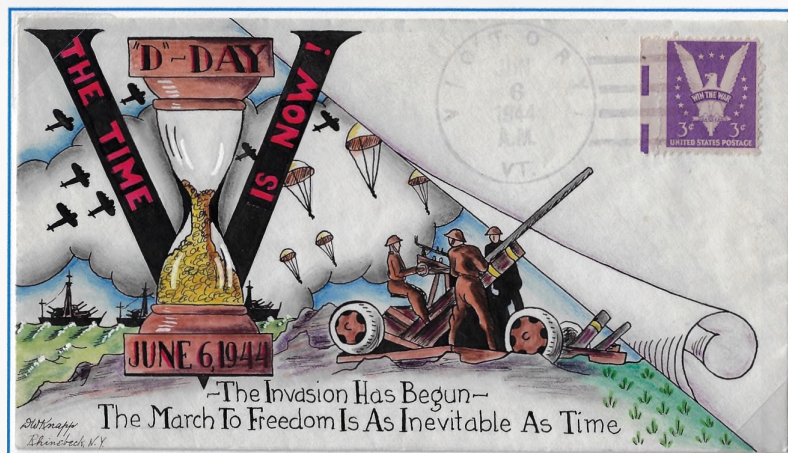


Kosko-Borokowski (#7305) Category 2 Exemplar VJ-Day Type Cancel

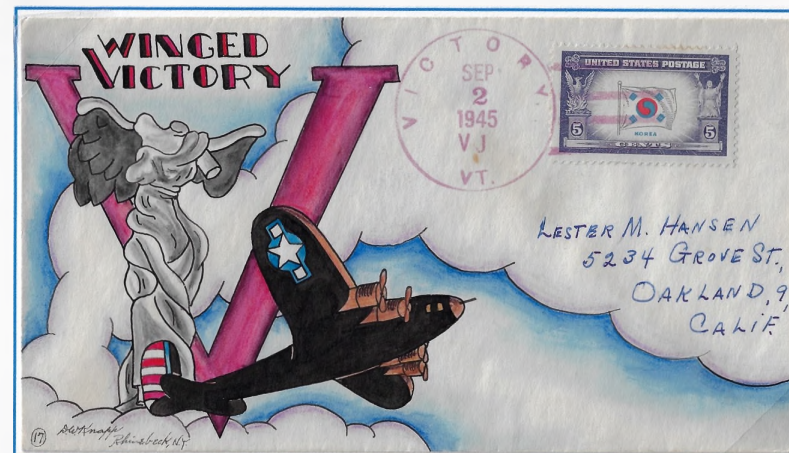
III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

D. All Years – Handpainted and Autographed Covers

Dorothy Knapp



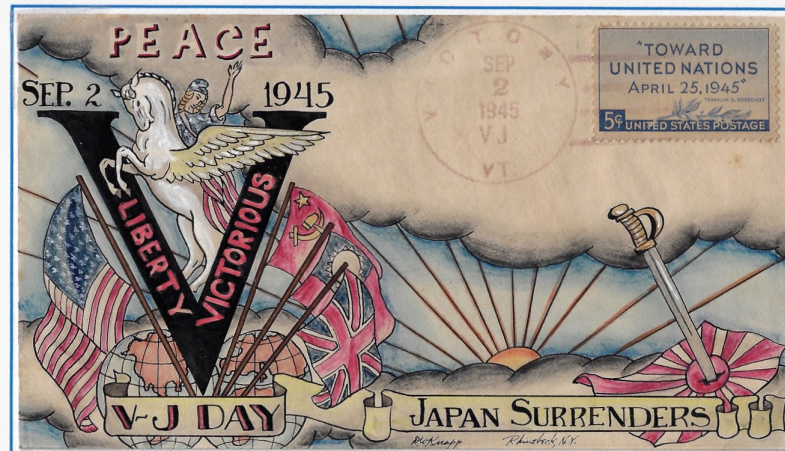
Knapp (#1546) D-Day Type B (Backdated)



Hansen-Knapp (#9074) VJ-Day Type A Category 3 Exemplar The two VJ-Day covers shown here illustrate two different “styles” of Knapp’s handpainted covers. The one shown below is an “All Over” design which leaves no room for an address. The one above, one of two “Winged Victory” designs Knapp created in 1943 illustrates Knapp covers that left room to be addressed and posted in the mail. This cover has a return addressee posted on the back flap: Mrs. M. (Mayme) Richards, 301- 19st, Sacramento, 14, Calif. It was likely sent to Victory, VT, for a VJ-Day cancellation and then posted in the mail to the addressee.



Knapp (#8231) VE-Day Type A (Addon Cachet) Pencil Addressed to Knapp Category 3 Exemplar

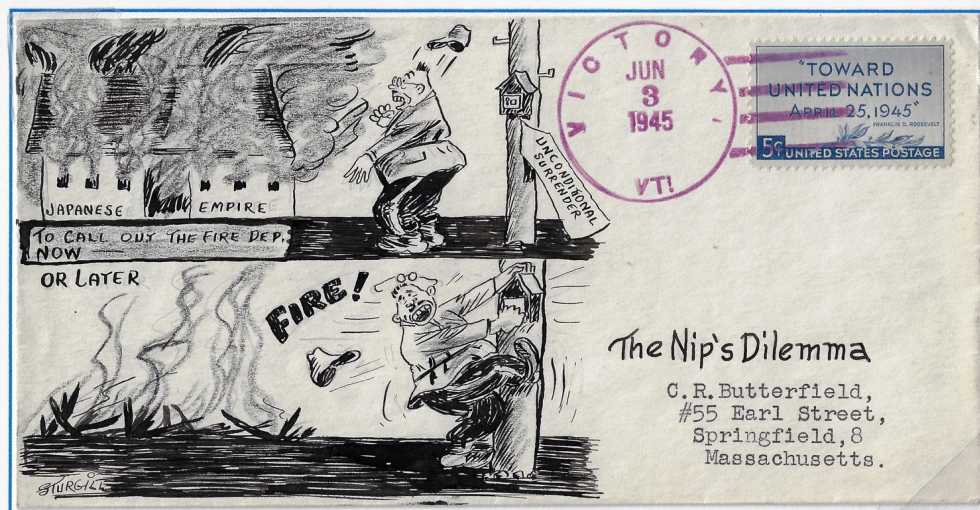


Knapp (#7305) VJ-Day Type A Cancel (Addon Cachet) Category 3 Exemplar

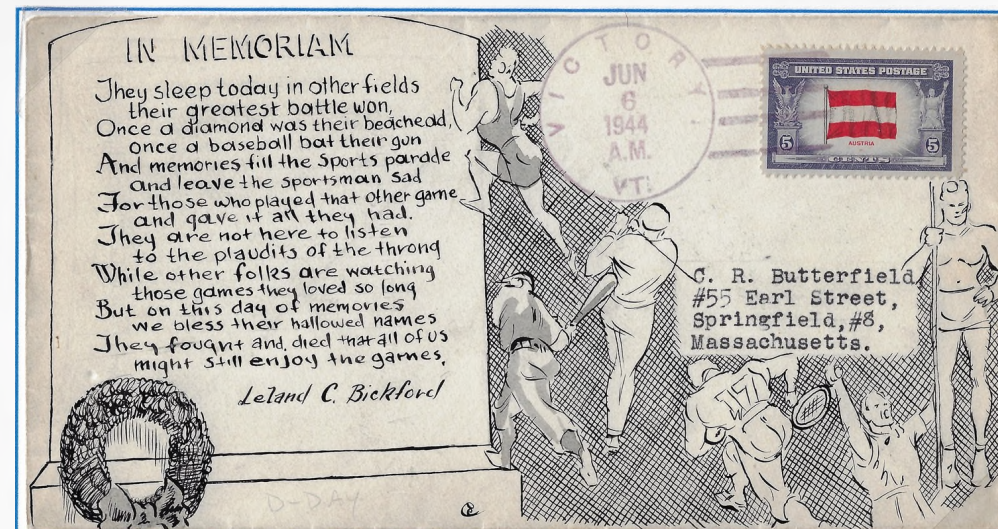
III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

D. All Years – Handpainted and Autographed Covers

Cairo Sturgill



Butterfield-Sturgill (Not in Sherman) Missing timestamp



Butterfield-Sturgill (#3319) D-Day Favor Cancel Neither Type A nor Type B, but likely a one-off favor cancel. Similar to the cancel on the “Sunners” D-Day cover (normal JUN slug with smaller “6”) but with enough difference (in the position of the “6”) to likely have been cancelled on a different occasion.

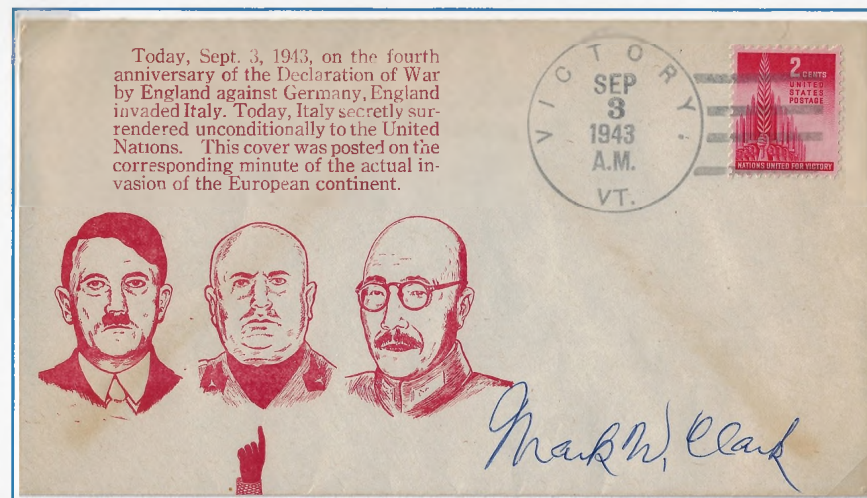


Butterfield-Sturgill Korean War cover One of several that Sturgill created during the Korean War.

III. “Roses” in Victory’s WWII Philatelic Garden?

D. All Years – Handpainted and Autographed Covers

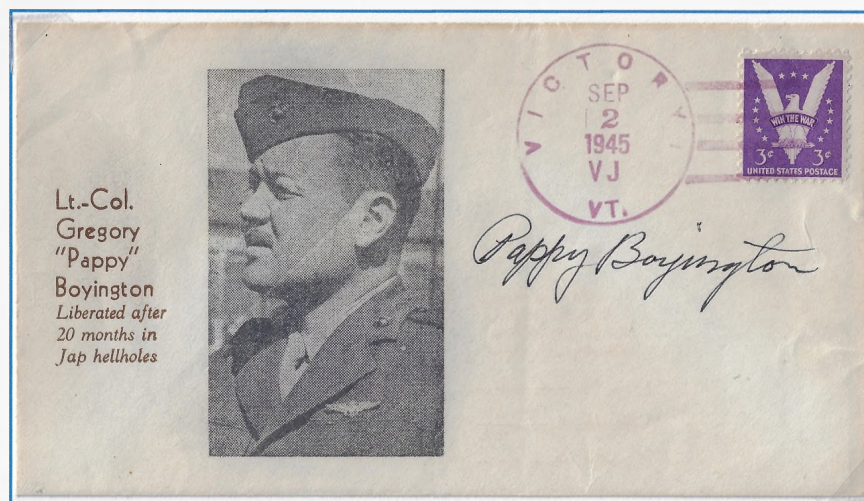
Autographed Covers



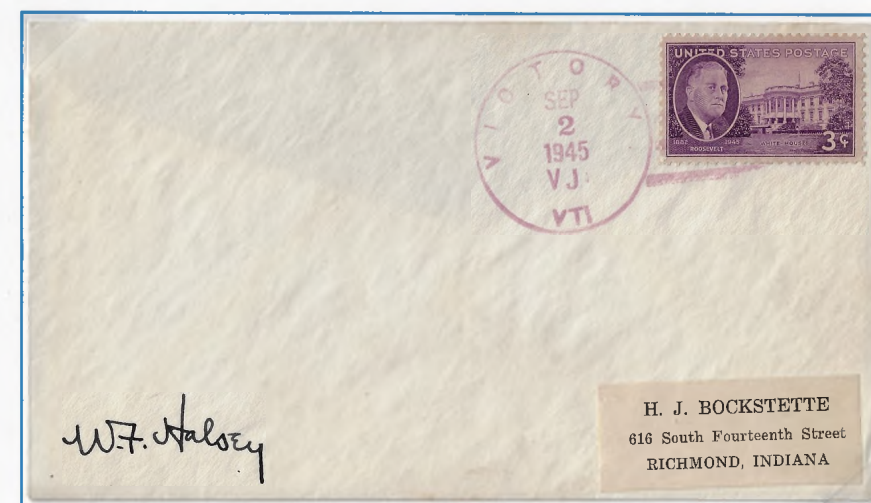
General Mark Clark While the cover is a fraudulent “Sunners” concoction the autograph has been authenticated by Beckett Authentication Services, Certification No. A23956.



Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and George C. Patton VE-Day Type A Cancel Authenticated by Beckett Authentication Services, Certification No. A90162.



Colonel George “Pappy” Boyington Type undetermined; not Type A, B, or C. Likely favor cancel. Authenticated by Beckett Authentication Services, Certification No. A90163.



Admiral William F. Halsey VJ-Day Type A Cancel Authenticated by Beckett Authentication Services, Certification No. A90164.

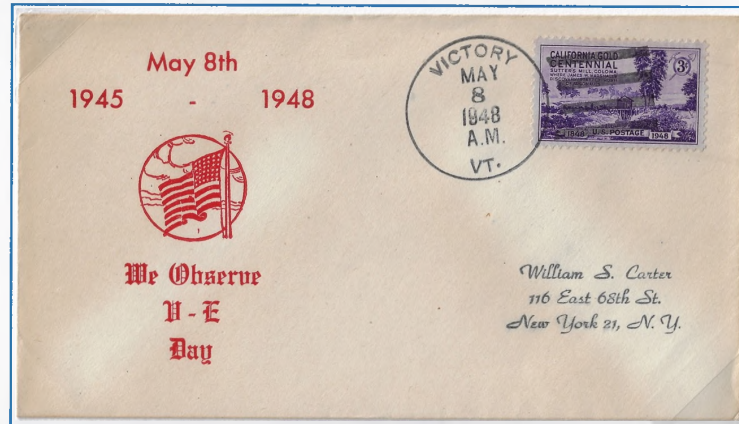
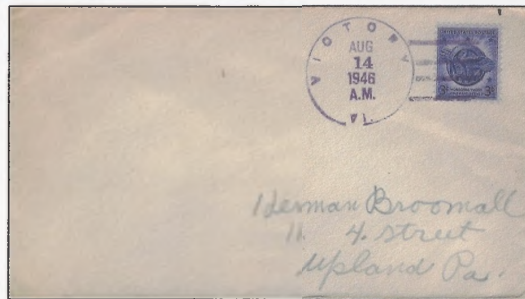
IV. The Postwar Years and Concluding Postscript

A. 1946-1953

With the exception of Linto, the production of patriotic covers with Victory, VT, postmarks all but ceased after 1945 with the exception of sporadic event covers such as the two shown at **right** and **below**. (As previously noted, Cairo Sturgill produced handpainted patriotic covers during the Korean War). Linto continued to issue his numbered series with Victory, VT, postmarks regularly at least through August 1946. As seen in the two examples at lower right, the quality of the cancellations became severely degraded during this time. If only the Linto covers exhibited this degradation one might wonder whether the postmarks were created for Linto with a bogus device but the same degradation in the quality of the postmarks is found on regular mail as illustrated by the image at **right** from Bill Lizzote's collection of Victory, VT, covers.

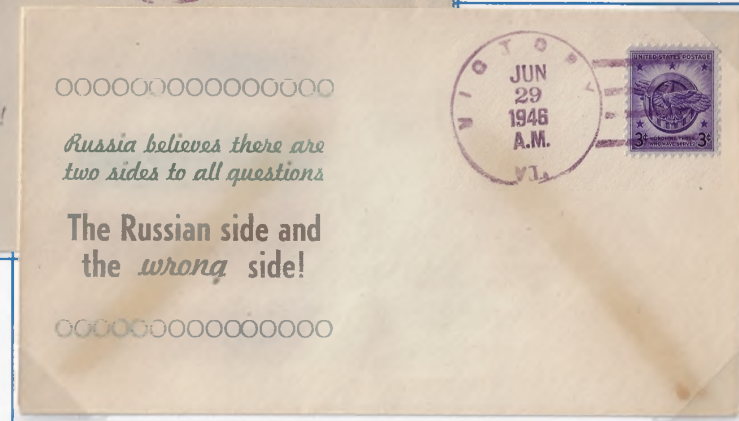
The date of Mrs. Stanley's resignation as postmaster is not recorded but Mrs. Hazel Phelps was appointed as her successor on July 1, 1947 and sometime in that time frame the cancellation device was replaced with one that depicted “VICTORY” inside the CDS without the spaces between the letters seen in the device used by postmasters Story and Stanley. Mrs. Phelps tenure as postmaster was interrupted by a brief period (July 1948 to March 1949) during which Mrs. Verda C. Morrill was postmaster. On resuming the post, Mrs.

Phelps served until the post office was closed on March 31, 1952. She noted the event with a signed cover shown on the next page.



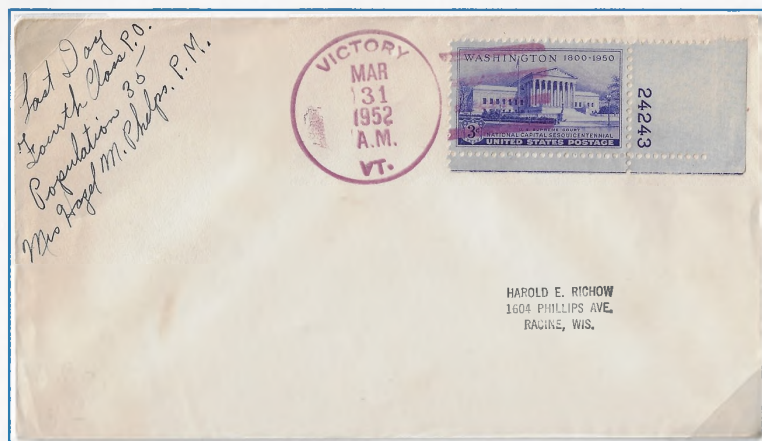
Stark-Linto (Not in Sherman)
Linto #1177

Linto (Not in Sherman)
Linto #1148



IV. The Postwar Years and Concluding Postscript

A. 1946-1952



Postmaster-signed cover memorializing the closing of Victory, VT, 4th class post office in 1952

B. Concluding Postscript

So, what are we to make of all of this? What have we learned? Pat Herst's belief that some Victory, VT, covers were bogus was not unwarranted. But his misattribution of the provenance of the Jan 1, 1942, "United Nations" cover caused him to jump to erroneous conclusions and misconstrue the nature *and extent* of the problem. His opinion that "*there is no way to tell the good from the bad*" was particularly unjustified and inappropriate. It may not always be easy to tell the difference but painting with such a broad brush is inappropriate and unwarranted.

First, with respect to the material that most attracted Herst's attention, it is actually *fairly easy* to "*tell the difference*." The material that has been identified as attributable to William Sunners, or described as Sunners-like ("Sunners" in quotation marks) is relatively distinctive. Most of it seems to date from 1942 or 1943 and even when something dates from a later period, like the "Sunners" 1944 D-Day cover or April 12, 1945 "Presidential Seals cover," it is not hard to spot. We have noted multiple times the general lack of creativity and originality in the cachet elements of the "Sunners" material. Add to that a tendency in the text of the cachets to make claims that are either impossible or anachronistic in nature and repetitively trite ("Today...") and we can identify the "Sunners" material easily enough. There is no good reason to allow the "Sunners" material to create a *prima*

facie case that all Victory, VT, WWII patriotic covers must be suspicious in origin.

Second, with respect to the rest of the questionable Victory, VT, WWII material we have seen that *most* (but not all) of it can be explained by Mrs. Stanley's apparent disposition or tendency to accede to requests to backdate material presented to her for Victory, VT, postmarks. This is the case whether the backdating might be dismissed simply as a favor cancel (such as for the Knapp and Linto D-Day covers, or the Sturgill and Linto FDR death date covers) or of a nature to seriously question the motives or ethics involved (like the Linto December 1941 covers). Here "*telling the good from the bad*" takes more effort but that effort yields results that once obtained hold across a broad range and variety of covers. For example, in the analysis of the VJ-Day variations Type C was found to exhibit evidence of backdating while Types A and B were accepted as legitimate and genuine VJ-Day cancellations. The significance of this leads to a third broad conclusion.

Great effort was made to identify "exemplar" covers, covers which have a *prima facie* basis for being accepted as genuine and legitimate. Besides the postmaster-signed covers, these were covers associated with known producers of WWII patriotic covers ("category 2 exemplars") or covers addressed to identifiable individuals for which there was no reason to doubt their genuineness or legitimacy ("category 3 exemplars"). The strongest basis for designating a cover as an exemplar is when it is postmarked with a date not associated with any particular event that one might seek to commemorate. As such covers were identified, it was notable how many of them were associated with individuals who also had covers postmarked for significant events like D-Day, VE-Day and VJ-Day. Examples of this "cross-correlation" are illustrated in the following table:

	Non-Event	D-Day	VE-Day	VJ-Day
Michael Kosko	7		4	6
J. P. Gawel	2	1	4	2
E. J. Muzzy	6	3	1	
Fred Cochran	3		1	1
George Stepp	6		1	
Mrs. John Lynch	1		1	
Michael Rohaly	29		6	
Josephine Warner	1		4	
Exemplar covers with postmarks not associated with specific events for individuals also having covers with D-Day, VE-Day or VJ-Day postmarks.				

The correspondence between individuals producing or servicing "non-event" covers and covers for major events increases the probability that the postmarks on the major event covers are genuine also.

The most significant result however is that the legacy of collectors and producers such as Kosko, Gawel, Muzzy, Cochran, Rohaly and so many others who sought to create philatelic memorabilia of WWII with genuine imprints of the iconic Victory, VT, postmark is preserved and spared the ignominy of forever being tarnished by association with the false claim that because of the misdeeds of a few "*there is no way to tell the good from the bad*." The bad deserves to be exposed. But the good deserves to be exposed also.