

THE CHACO WAR 1932 -1935

Background and History

The Chaco region is a triangular shaped area of around 300,000 square kilometers situated between Bolivia and Paraguay bounded by the Pilcomayo River on the south-west, the Paraguay River on the east and the Bolivian Plateau on the north-west. It is a very inhospitable region and at the time of the war, was largely unpopulated apart from a few primitive Indians and a few small farming communities from the Mennonite Sect.

The ownership of the Chaco region had always been in dispute though, in 1897, President Hayes of the USA was responsible for establishing the borders that were in effect before the start of the war. The origins of the Chaco War actually date from 1924 when Bolivia, a landlocked country since the Pacific War of 1879-1883, discovered oil in the Tarija region of their territory and wished to exploit the full economic benefits by transporting it through the Chaco to the Paraguay River (navigable for ocean going vessels) and, eventually, out into the Atlantic. The first skirmish actually took place in December 1928 and diplomatic relations were severed though the Conference on Conciliation and Arbitration of the American Republics meeting in Washington quickly stepped in to arbitrate and a cease-fire and renewal of diplomatic relations was soon established. However, protracted negotiations failed to produce a settlement and hostilities resumed in June 1932 and lasted until a final ceasefire was declared on 14 June 1935.

At the outbreak Bolivia had some 100,000 trained troops and an air force of around 50 planes. Their military forces were generally well equipped. Paraguay, on the other hand, had only around 5,000 mostly ill-equipped troops and an almost non-existent air force. The one advantage the Paraguayans did have was a small navy operating on the Paraguay River.

The first major offensive was by the Bolivians who pushed deep into the Chaco region gaining a foothold on the Pilcomayo River. However, the Paraguayans, under the leadership of Jose Felix Estigarribia, halted the offensive and slowly over the following years, with many reversals of fortune, "reconquered" the Chaco and, in fact, invaded part of Bolivia itself. It was a bloody conflict. Thousands on both sides also died from thirst, malaria, dysentery and other diseases; In all Bolivia suffered the loss of over 52,000 men plus 72,000 wounded or maimed in action. On the Paraguayan side over 36,000 died and some 49,000 were wounded or maimed.

Finally, the Treaty of Buenos Aires on 21st July 1938 acknowledged most of the Paraguayan claims and three-quarters of the Chaco region was awarded to them. Bolivia was awarded the remaining part and also received navigation rights down the Pilcomayo River.

The Exhibit

Despite the numbers of troops involved and the three year time period, covers from the conflict are relatively uncommon. The most frequently seen war-related covers are examples of handstamped military censors on civilian mails from the Bolivian side (Paraguay did not censor civilian mails during the conflict). Many of the military covers that have survived show neither dates nor originations and it is therefore impossible to follow the course of the war with its many losses and gains for both sides from a philatelic point-of-view. This exhibit is therefore presented with material from the two opposing sides being shown separately and arranged by categories rather than by date order. Historical and geographical notes are included in *italics* where applicable.

The following categories are included in this exhibit

Bolivia	Military Mail	Frames 1 - 2
	The Platanillos Provisional	Frame 2
	Censor Labels	Frames 2 - 3
	Censor Handstamps	Frames 3 - 4
	Military Telegraph	Frame 4
	Propaganda Postcards	Frame 4
Paraguay	'Timbre Patriotico' Stamps	Frame 4
	Military Mail	Frames 5 - 6
	Censor Handstamps	Frame 7
	Propaganda Labels	Frame 7
	Mennonite Colony	Frame 7
Prisoner of War Mail	Mail to and from Prisoners on both sides	Frame 8

Of particular note on the Bolivian side are rare 'fortin' markings from Pantoja and Saavedra, the famous First Army Corps "cannon" cancel, rare airmail markings from the Northern Chaco plus examples of incoming mail to the Commander in Chief (Peharanda). Four copies of the rare Platinillos provisional stamp are shown including the only recorded mint copy along with the unique single and double usages on cover. This was the only war-related stamp issued by either side throughout the duration of the conflict. The censor labels shown include the scarce Rotary Club and Villazon Police types and the handstamped types include a Military Hospital censor. The two 'timbre patriotico' stamps on cover are, so far, the only ones recorded.

On the Paraguayan side there is a fine array of 'Posta Militar' cancels, rare air base markings, patriotic "flag" envelopes, a rare field hospital marking, a cover from the Commander in Chief (Estigarribia) to the President and the finest of two known covers delivered by the Boy Scouts organisation in Asuncion with the appropriate cachet. The small group of handstamped censor markings includes several scarce items including one from the 2nd Cavalry Division. Also shown are a range of the propaganda labels, both mint and on cover, that were issued by the Foreign Civil Legion in Asuncion.

Finally the Prisoner of War section includes mail forwarded through the Uruguayan Legation, the Rotary Clubs (La Paz, Salta in Argentina and Asuncion) and the Red Cross as well as by other means, both to and from prisoners on both sides of the conflict. Included is a "hidden" message from a Bolivian prisoner originally written in invisible ink (lemon juice) and a cover from a Paraguayan military prison.

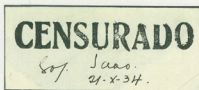
Bolivian Military Mail



1934 military cover to Santa Cruz with pair 15c to pay the 30c airmail fee with small circular 'CHACO BOLIVIANO/CORREO AEREO' illustrated "airplane" cancel in black with circular 'CORREO MILITAR/C-III-C-E' cachet (Commander 3rd Army Corps) alongside. Straight line 'CENSURADO' in black on the reverse with manuscript date (21 Oct) and 'CORREO MILITAR/SANTA CRUZ' arrival cancel

The "airplane" cancel is very uncommon

The 3rd Army Corps was active in the northern Chaco region in the latter part of 1934 so it is probably safe to assume that this "airplane" cancel was used at one or more places in this area



Bolivian Military Mail



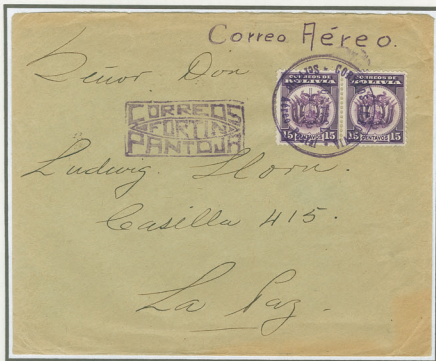
1934 military cover to Puerto Suarez on the Brazilian border with block of four 5c to pay the airmail fee (underpaid 10c) with two-line 'Correo Militar Ingavi/C.II.C.E.' (3rd Army Corps) cancel in violet with small circular 'CHACO BOLIVIANO/CORREO AEREO' illustrated "airplane" cachet in violet and very light arrival cds (30 Oct) alongside. Straight line 'CENSURADO' and circular 'CORREO MILITAR/C-III-C-E' cachet on the reverse

The only recorded example of this two-line Ingavi marking

Ingavi was located in the north central Chaco region some 330 km south west of Puerto Suarez. It was captured by Paraguayan forces on 8 June 1935 in what was to be the last major action of the Chaco War



Bolivian Military Mail



1934 military cover to La Paz with boxed 'CORREOS/FORTIN/PANTOJA' cancel with 2 x 15c with 'CONTROL/Servicio Aereo Postal' cancel to pay the 30c airmail fee. Manuscript 'Cmte.Bat. MM 10' dated censor (13 Mar) on the reverse

One of only two covers recorded with this 'Fortin' (small fort) cancel

Fortin Pantoja was a short-lived encampment probably named after General Pantoja whose 41st Regiment was annihilated in January 1933 during a flanking manoeuvre to the south while trying to overcome the Paraguayan stronghold at Nanawa

Bolivian Military Mail



Undated cover to La Paz with added 15c and pair 10c to pay the 30c airmail fee (overpaid 5c) with 'BATERIA CUELLAR M.M.10/1ER CUERPO DE EJERCITO' (1st Army Corps) illustrated "cannon" cancels in green. 3-D style boxed 'CENSURA' / CMTEIDE BATERIA M.M.10/ CAMPANA DEL CHACO' marking in the same colour on the reverse

The "cannon" cancel is very uncommon



Bolivian Military Mail



1933 military cover to Cochabamba with 5c and 25c to pay the 30c airmail fee with oval 'GRAN CHACO - VILLA MONTES' datestamp (2 May) in violet. Straight line 'REVISADO MUÑOZ' censor handstamp on the reverse. The cover would have originated in or around Muñoz

Muñoz was located 80 km due west of Nanawa, the Paraguayan stronghold, and was known as the Bolivian Capital of the Chaco. It was the Headquarters of the Commander in Chief General Kundt up until early December 1933. Muñoz was taken by the Paraguayans on 19 December 1933 on the eve of a short-lived armistice that came into effect on the 20 December. Hostilities recommenced on 7 January 1934

REVISADO MUÑOZ

Bolivian Military Mail



1932 stampless military cover to La Paz with circular 'REGIMIENTO ILLIMANI DE INFANTERIA/ BOLIVIA' "crossed rifles" cachet. Arrival backstamp (31 Dec)

The only recorded example of mail from this Regiment

Bolivian Military Mail



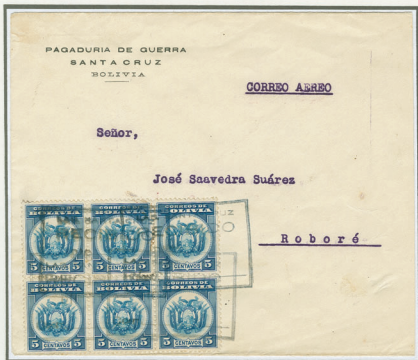
1935 stampless military cover to La Paz with framed 'FRANCA' in violet and, on the reverse, boxed 'CENSURADO/VILLAZON 193..' with manuscript date inserted (18 Apr) in the same colour

This is the only recorded example of this Villazon 'FRANCA' marking

Villazon was located in the western Chaco region around 150 km north east of Villa Montes. It was captured by Paraguayan forces on 17 August 1934 but was retaken by Bolivian forces on 11 November 1934. While in Paraguayan hands it was renamed "Sargento Rodriguez"



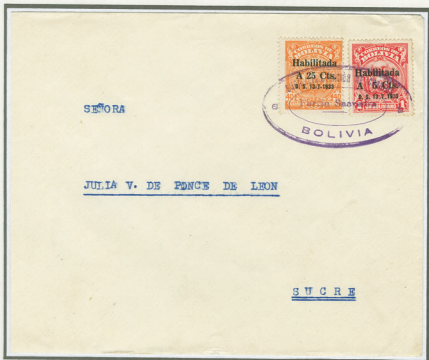
Bolivian Military Mail



1934 military cover with 'Pagaduria de Guerra/Santa Cruz' printed corner card (military paymaster's office) to Robore with block of six 5c to pay the 30c airmail fee with boxed 'LAB SANTA CRUZ' (Lloyd Aereo Boliviano) datestamps. Boxed Santa Cruz 'CENSURA' marking on the reverse with oval 'CORREOS MILITARES/3er C.E.' (3rd Army Corps) arrival datestamp (10 Dec) in red alongside



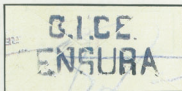
Bolivian Military Mail



Undated military cover to Sucre with 5c on 1b and 25c on 40c to pay the 30c airmail fee with oval 'Fortin Saavedra' cancel. Unframed 'C.I.C.E./CENSURA' (1st Army Corps) marking on the reverse

Very few examples of this 'Fortin' cancel have been recorded on cover

Fortin Saavedra was located on the Bolivian side of the original Chaco demarcation line some 75 km north of the Pilcamayo River. It was taken by Paraguayan forces on 13 December 1933 so the above cover must date from before this time



Bolivian Military Mail



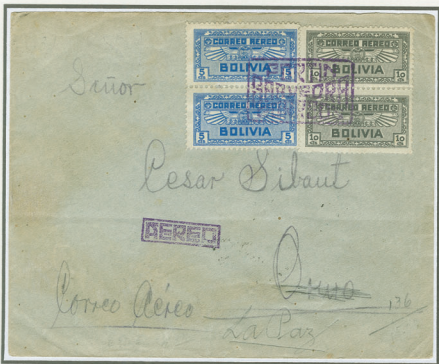
Undated oval 'Fortin Saavedra' (small fort) cancels



1933 military cover to Cochabamba with printed 'Batallon de Tren No.1' corner card with 3 x 10c to pay the 30c airmail fee with undated oval 'Fortin Saavedra' cancel with circular 'BATALLON TREN No.1/1 C.E' (1st Army Corps) cachet alongside. Unframed 'C.I.C.E./CENSURA' handstamp with manuscript date (9 Jul) on the reverse

One of just two recorded examples of mail from this Battalion

Bolivian Military Mail



1933 military cover to Oruro with pair 5c and pair 10c to pay the 30c airmail fee with boxed 'FORTIN/SAAVEDRA/CORREOS' cancel in violet with matching boxed 'AEREO' alongside. Oval 'GRAN CHACO-VILLA MONTES' transit datestamp (6 Jun) on the reverse and Oruro arrival cds (8 Jun). Readdressed to La Paz (10 Jun)

One of just two recorded examples of this boxed Fortin Saavedra marking and the only recorded example of the 'AEREO' marking

Fortin Saavedra was Bolivia's forward base in the Chaco. It became the headquarters for General Hans Kundt after he took command of the Bolivian Army on 6 December 1932. It fell to Paraguayan forces just over one year later on 13 December 1933 after which it was renamed "Mayor Ramon Avalos Sanchez". At about the same time, Kundt was relieved of his duties and Colonel Enrique Peñaranda was appointed in his place

Bolivian Military Mail



1934 military cover to La Paz with 2 x 15c to pay the 30c airmail fee with circular 'CONTROL/ Servicio Aereo Postal' cancel with oval 'SUBADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS/ I.C.E' (1st Army Corps). Manuscript 'Cmte.Bat. M.M.10' dated censor (17 May) on the reverse and La Paz arrival datestamp (29 May)

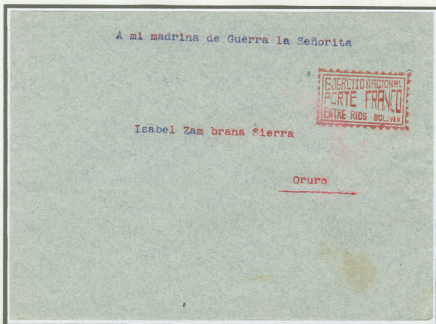
Bolivian Military Mail



1934 military cover to La Paz with 2 x 15c to pay the 30c airmail fee with oval 'CORREO MILITAR/IL.C.E.' (2nd Army Corps) with straight line 'CENSURA' marking alongside in violet with manuscript date alongside (11 Apr)

At this date the Bolivian 2nd Army Corps were deployed in the western Chaco region and were being forced slowly northwards by Paraguayan advances

Bolivian Military Mail



Undated stampless military cover to Oruro addressed 'A mi madrina de Guerra ...' (war mother - soldier's correspondent) with serrated edge boxed 'EJERCITO NACIONAL/PORTE FRANCO/ ENTRE RIOS BOLIVIA' marking in red

Entre Rios was located well outside the war zone but was an important military staging post for troops and supplies heading to Villa Montes in the south west of the Chaco Region

Bolivian Military Mail



1935 unsealed mourning cover with 15c to pay foreign postage rate with circular 'CORREO MILITAR/La Paz' cancel addressed to 'Senor Don Atilio Peña' in Asunción and endorsed 'via Buenos Aires'. Oval 'CENSURA MILITAR/LA PAZ' datestamp (2 May) on the reverse with La Quiaca (4 May) and Estacion Perico (5 May) Argentine transits (on the railway that ran from the border to Tucuman) plus arrival cds alongside

An unusual example of direct mail contact between the Bolivian military and Paraguay

Atilio Peña was a Paraguayan Minister Plenipotenciary



Bolivian Military Mail



1935 military cover from Villa Montes to Buenos Aires with 2 x 20c, one bisected, to pay the 30c foreign mail fee with oval 'CORREO MILITAR/VILLA MONTES' datestamp (9 Nov) and boxed 'ADMINISTRACION/PRINCIPAL DE/CORREOS/VILLA MONTES' marking alongside. Straight line 'CENSURA' markings and boxed 'CENSURA' on the reverse

The boxed Villa Montes marking is very uncommon

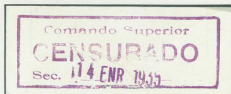
Although a ceasefire signifying the end of hostilities was declared at midday on 14 June 1935, military activities continued in and around the region for several more months

Bolivian Military Mail



1935 cover to Cochabamba with printed 'Comando Superior' corner card with 15c and 45c to pay a 60c double airmail fee with boxed 'Correo Militares de Bolivia / COMANDO SUPERIOR' date stamp (14 Jan). Added coloured 'LAB' (Lloyd Aereo Boliviano) label with boxed 'CORREO AEREO / VILLA MONTES' and circular LAB Villa Montes office cachets both in blue. Boxed 'Comando Superior / CENSURADO / Sec. ...' with handstamped date (14 Jan) on the reverse

This cover is addressed to a dentist for the detachment of prisoners (POW's) at Cochabamba. Three or four similar covers are known, one of which is addressed to a dentist at Military Hospital No.6 also in Cochabamba



Bolivian Military Mail



1934 stampless cover from Villa Bella in the Amazon region to Yacuiba with unframed Villa Bella datestamp (28 Dec) and boxed 'PORTE PAGO' marking both in red with boxed 'CORREO AEREO/VILLA BELLA' Lloyd Aereo Boliviano cachet also in red alongside. Circular 'Jefatura Militar de la Frontera Sud/Yacuiba' backstamp and straight line 'CENSURA' in outline capitals with manuscript date (1 Apr) both in violet on the reverse

Yacuiba was located some 85 km south of Villa Montes on the border with Argentina



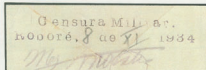
Bolivian Military Mail



1934 stampless military cover to Tarija with oval 'CORREOS MILITARES/3er. C.E.' (3rd Army Corps) datestamp (8 Nov) and framed 'CORREO AEREO/ROBORE' cachet both in red. Two-line 'Censura Militar./Robore, .. de ... 1934' with manuscript date inserted on the reverse. The airmail fee was probably paid in cash due to the unavailability of stamps

This is the only recorded example of this Robore airmail cachet. Ex Goldschmidt

Robore is in the northern Chaco region and was the site of an airbase from which the Bolivians could reach and dominate targets on the Paraguay River



Bolivian Military Mail



1933 stampless cover to the General Hospital in La Paz with, on the reverse, boxed 'INTENDENCIA MILITAR/MUNOZ-BOLIVIA' (Quartermaster Corps) marking in blue with 'CENSURA/Muñoz' handstamp alongside also in blue with manuscript date (19 Oct). Oval 'CORREO MILITAR/LA PAZ' arrival datestamp (2 Nov) in red

Bolivian Military Mail



Undated military cover to Buenos Aires in Argentina with 5c on 1b and 25c to pay the 30c foreign mail fee with circular 'CM' cancels (Correo Militar) in violet and straight line 'CENSURA' markings with additional straight line 'REVISADO BALLIVAN' censor marking in black alongside. Saladillo telegraph office and 'GRAN CHACO/CARAPARI' transit markings

Ballivan was located on the Pilcomayo River some 200 km south east of Villa Montes. It was captured by Paraguayan forces on 17 November 1934

Bolivian Military Mail



REPUBLICA DE BOLIVIA
CORRESPONDENCIA MILITAR DEL CHACO

C. 1. Mayo

Fecha 19 de febrero, 1934.
NO SE INDIQUE LUGAR DE PROCEDENCIA

Señor Don Pablo de Rada

La Paz.

Muy apreciado amigo:

En la semana anterior le escribí una extensa carta, remitida por el amable intermedio del Dr. Torres Bracamonte, que viajó a esa. Si aun no la



CORRESPONDENCIA
DEL
SOLDADO

CENTRO DE PROPAGANDA Y DEFENSA NACIONAL
LA PAZ. BOLIVIA

C. 3 Mayo.

Fecha 22 de abril de 1934

Nombre Sr. Pablo de Rada

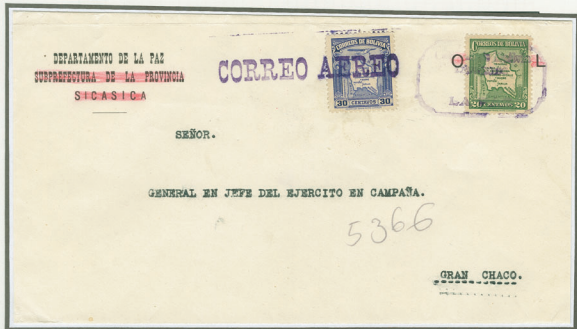
Dirección Calle Don Bosco La Paz

Muy apreciado y recordado amigo: Aunque hace algún tiempo que no he tenido el agrado de recibir sus noticias. Quiero expresarle mis agradecimientos por sus molestias con motivo de mis asuntos. Quiero también agradecerle la gentileza de escribirme por el

SOLDADO: EL CHACO, ES TU HEREDAD, DEFÍENDELO CON LA VOLUNTAD DE VENCER.

Two different format field postcards with the upper one headed CORRESPONDENCIA MILITAR DEL CHACO and the lower one CENTRO DE PROPAGANDA Y DEFENSA NACIONAL used in February and April 1934 respectively to send messages to the same addressee in La Paz

Bolivian Military Mail



1935 incoming cover with 'Departamento de La Paz' corner card seemingly used privately from La Paz with added 20c for internal postage and 30c for airmail addressed to 'Senor General en Jefe del Ejercito en Campana. Gran Chaco'. Oval 'CORREO MILITAR/TARIJA' datestamp (28 Mar) in red on the reverse



Bolivian Military Mail



1935 incoming cover from Cauquenes in Chile (15 Jun) addressed to 'Al. Sr. Comandante en Jefe del Ejército de Bolivia' in La Paz' with La Paz arrival backstamp and boxed 'Correos Militares de Bolivia/COMANDO SUPERIOR' datestamp in blue (26 Jun). Forwarded to Villa Montes for delivery with 'CORREO AEREO/VILLA MONTES' cachet and, on the reverse, Lloyd Aereo Boliviano Villa Montes office cachet

This cover was mailed the day after the ceasefire on 14 June 1935



The Platanillos Provisional



Reading up



Reading up
Mint with original gum

The only recorded copy
Ex Goldschmidt



Reading down
Mint with original gum

The only recorded copy
Ex Patino



Reading down



With oval 'Platanillos' cancel



With oval VILLAMONTES (transit)
datestamp (7 Sept 1933)

During the Chaco campaign, the ordinary Bolivian soldier was able to send regular internal mail without any charge. However postal fees were levied for supplementary services such as registration and airmail. As regular mail could often mean delivery times of two to three weeks or more, especially from some of the further reaches of the Chaco region, many soldiers used the supplementary airmail service to speed up the delivery of their letters. The fee for the airmail service was 30c per 10 grams

Sometime around early September 1933 in Platanillos, which was situated on the Bolivia side of the effective demarcation line that existed at the start of the conflict in 1932, supplies of higher value stamps for the airmail fee were running low and the acting postmaster decided to create a provisional surcharged issue for use until further supplies could be obtained. He surcharged some of his existing stocks of the 1928 5c green (Condor) with a four-line handstamp reading 'HABILITADA/CORREO AEREO/30 CTS/PLATANILLOS' in a red colour ink. Surcharges are known both reading up and reading down. There are no known multiples

This was the only provisional issue made by either side during the course of the conflict. The exact numbers surcharged are not known but it is estimated that only around 20-25 copies are still extant today. All known copies apart from the two exceptions shown above, are used

The Platanillos Provisional



1933 military cover from Platanillos to Estacion Vinto with the 30c on 5c Platanillos surcharge (reading down) with oval 'Platanillos' cancel to pay the single 30c airmail fee. 'CENSURA' handstamp and Cochabamba transit cds (18 Sep) on the reverse

One of just two known usages on cover and the only recorded single franking

Ex Herskovitz

Platanillos fell to the Paraguayan forces on 6 November 1932. It was recaptured by the Bolivian forces on 13 December 1932 before falling, once again, into Paraguayan hands just over one year later on 7 January 1934. It was renamed "Teniente Acosta" by the Paraguayans



The Platanillos Provisional



1933 (1 Oct) military cover with sender's details 'Soldado Adolfo Ballivan S. / Platanillos' on the reverse to Santa Cruz with two of the 30c on 5c Platanillos surcharges (reading up) with oval 'Platanillos' cancel and additional strike alongside to pay the 60c double rate airmail fee. 'CENSURA' handstamp and light circular 'SEGUNDO CUERPO EJERCITO' cachet on the reverse

One of just two known usages on cover and the only recorded double rate franking



Bolivian Censor Labels



1935 (June) registered civilian letter from La Paz to Buenos Aires with Type 1A censor label and boxed 'CENSURA/MILITAR/No.57' handstamp

Type 1A censor label has a thick and thin double lined frame (78 x 26 mm) with the wording in serifed type. 'Militar' measures 25 mm in length

The Bolivian censor labels fall into five main groupings:

Group One (Type 1) are perforated labels printed in red with the wording 'Revisado por la Censura/Militar' in a double lined frame measuring about 78 x 25 mm. There are four recorded sub-types

Group Two (Type 2) are also printed in red and can be found perforate, rouletted or imperforate, dependant on the sub-type, with the same wording but with 'MILITAR' in capitals in various different patterned frames measuring about 71-76 x 18 mm. One sub-type lacks the word 'MILITAR'. There are six recorded sub-types

Group Three (Type 3) are larger size imperforate labels printed in black including the wording 'EJERCITO DE BOLIVIA' and 'Abierto por la Censura' in plain style frames measuring about 123 x 38 mm. There are three recorded sub-types, two of which are sequentially numbered

Two other types of label are known to exist and these come under the Group Four and Five headings

All the recorded types and sub-types of the five different groups are shown in this exhibit. Many of these labels can be correctly classified as rare with only a few examples of each known at the most. The more seldom seen ones include Types 1A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 3B, 3C, 4, 5 and 5A labels

Bolivian Censor Labels



1933 (25 Nov) bank cover from Santa Cruz to New York with Type 1B censor label with circular 'CM' (Correo Militar) and 'CAM' (Correo Aereo Militar) markings plus oval '(CORREO)/MILITAR' La Paz transit datestamp (11 Dec)

Type 1B censor label has a double lined frame (79 x 25 mm) and shows a sans-serif lettering style on 'Revisado por la Censura' which measures 72 mm in length. 'Militar' measures 31 mm in length

Bolivian Censor Labels

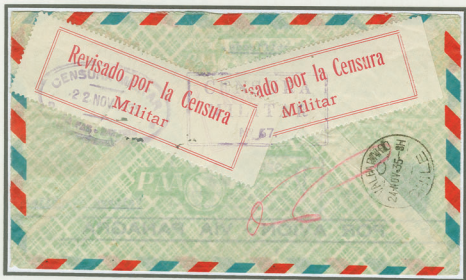


1934 (4 Jan) civilian cover from Cochabamba to Arica in Chile with Type 1C censor label and boxed La Paz 'CENSURA' handstamp. Arrival cds (12 Jan) and readdressed to Mollendo in Peru (2 Mar)

Type 1C censor label has a double lined frame (78 x 25 mm) and shows a sans-serif lettering style on 'Revisado por la Censura' which measures 72 mm in length. 'Militar' measures 25 mm in length



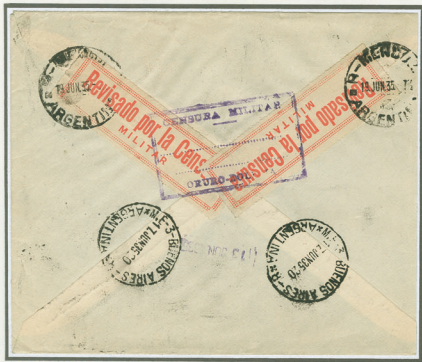
1934 (Sep) airmail cover from Santa Cruz to La Paz readdressed on arrival to Buenos Aires with Type 1D censor label and oval La Paz 'CENSURA MILITAR' datestamp (18 Sep)



1935 (23 Nov) registered airmail cover from La Paz to Valparaíso with two Type 1D censor labels with boxed 'CENSURA MILITAR/No.57' and oval La Paz 'CENSURA MILITAR' datestamp

Type 1D censor label has a double lined frame (78 x 25 mm) and shows a condensed lettering style with 'Revisado por la Censura' measuring 62 mm in length and 'Militar' measuring 22 mm in length

Bolivian Censor Labels



1935 (13 Jun) cover from Oruro to Mendoza in Argentina with two Type 2A censor labels with boxed Oruro 'CENSURA MILITAR' handstamp. Buenos Aires transit cds (17 Jun) and arrival cds (19 Jun)

Type 2A censor label can be found rouletted or imperforate and has a double lined frame (71 x 19 mm) with a row of dots in-between

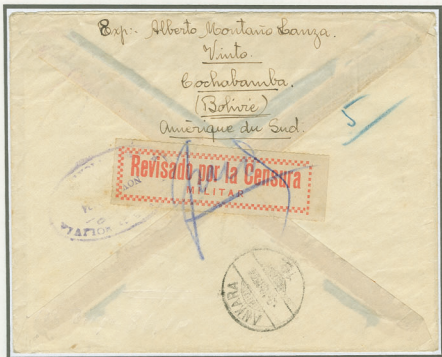
Bolivian Censor Labels



1935 (2 May) registered cover from Oruro to Mendoza in Argentina with Type 2B censor label with large boxed Oruro 'CENSURA' handstamp. Buenos Aires transit cds (6 May) and arrival cds (8 May)

Type 2B censor label can be found rouletted or imperforate and has a diamond pattern frame (71 x 18 mm)

Bolivian Censor Labels



1934 (Nov) registered cover from Vinto to Ankara in Turkey with Type 2D censor label and oval datestamp with arrival cds (9 Dec) alongside

Type 2D censor label can be found rouletted or imperforate and has a 'checkered' pattern frame (72 x 19 mm)



Bolivian Censor Labels



1933 (9 Dec) bank cover from Trinidad to New York with Type 2C censor label with boxed Oruro 'CENSURA MILITAR' handstamp

Type 2C censor label is perforated and has a 'scalloped edge' pattern frame (76 x 18 mm)

Bolivian Censor Labels



1934 (18 Sep) cover from Trinidad to Hamburg with Type 2E censor label with circular 'CM' (Correo Militar) marking. The cover was flown internally in Bolivia by Lloyd Aereo Boliviano

Type 2E censor label is perforated and has a distinctive double line frame made up of 'zig-zag' and 'dots and dashes' patterns (76 x 18 mm)



Bolivian Censor Labels



1933 (Mar) cover from a Bolivian POW in Paraguay to Villa Montes in Bolivia with two-line 'CORRESPONDENCIA/DE PRISIONEROS' marking, and, on the reverse, Paraguayan boxed 'CENSURADO' handstamp with Bolivian circular 'CM' (Correo Militar) marking and with Type 2F censor label plus two additional boxed La Paz censor handstamps

Only three examples of this label have been recorded to date

Type 2F censor label differs from other Type 2 labels in that it does not contain the word 'Militar'. It is imperforate and has a plain single line frame (75 x 20 mm)



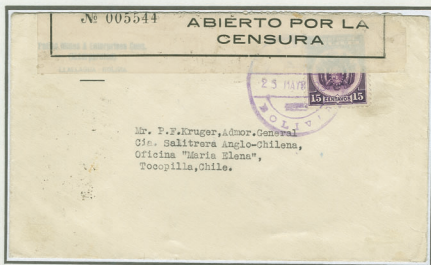


1934 (2 Feb) cover from Oruro to Buenos Aires with Type 3A censor label (No. 13164) and boxed Oruro 'CENSURA MILITAR' handstamp. Arrival datestamp (19 Feb)

Type 3A censor label is inscribed 'Correo Militar/ABIERTO POR LA/CENSURA' and is individually numbered with a 5-digit sequence in a plain frame (123 x 38 mm)



1934 (Feb) cover from Oruro to Temperley in Argentina with Type 3A censor label and boxed Oruro 'CENSURA MILITAR' handstamp. Arrival datestamp (15 Feb)



1934 (25 May) cover from Llagagua to Tocopilla in Chile with Type 3B censor label with boxed Oruro 'CENSURA MILITAR' handstamp. Antofagasta (3 Jun) and Maria Elena (5 Jun) transits

Type 3B censor label is similar to Type 3A but is set in a different typeface and numbered with a 6-digit sequence in a plain frame (123 x 36 mm). The 'N' of 'No.' is in a decorative serifed typeface

Bolivian Censor Labels



1934 (18 Jan) cover from Cochabamba to Tarija with Type 3C censor label with unframed Cochabamba 'Censurado' handstamp and circular 'Ofic. de Censura Militar de Prensa e Informaciones de Guerra'

This is the only example of this label recorded to date

Type 3C censor is inscribed 'Abierto por la Censura Militar' and is not numbered. It has a plain double lined frame (123 x 37 mm)

Bolivian Censor Labels



1933 (27 Aug) soldier's cover from Villa Montes to Oruro with 30c franking to pay the airmail fee cancelled by oval 'GRAN CHACO - VILLA MONTES' datestamp . Type 4 Villamontes 'CENSURADA/POLICIA MILITAR' label and Oruro arrival datestamps (28 Aug)

Only three examples of this label have been recorded to date

This Military Police censor label is unlike any of the other known labels. It is inscribed for use from a specific town in a specific year (Villamontes - 1933). It is printed in black with a plain frame in red (78 x 40 mm)



Bolivian Censor Labels



1934 (27 Dec) cover from the Treasury Dept. in Potosi to a soldier in the 'Regimiento Cochabamba 20 de Infanteria' at Plana Mayor in the Chaco with oval Potosi 'CORREO MILITAR/FRANCA' in violet and number '8' circular Potosi Rotary Club censor ID marking. Individually numbered Type 5A 'CENSURADO/Rotary Club de Potosi' label, oval Rotary Club censor datestamp and ID handstamp plus boxed 'CENSURA/MILITAR/No.2' handstamp

Type 5A Potosi Rotary Club censor label has a decorative 'N' in 'No.' and 21 ornaments making up both the top and bottom frame lines



Bolivian Censor Labels



1934 (3 Jul) cover from Potosi to Tarija with oval Potosi 'CORREO MILITAR/FRANCA' in blue and number '4' circular Potosi Rotary Club censor ID marking. Individually numbered Type 5B 'CENSURADO/Rotary Club de Potosi' label, oval Rotary Club censor datestamp and ID handstamp plus boxed 'CENSURA/MILITAR/No.2' handstamp and oval Tarija 'CORREO MILITAR' datestamp (7 Jul). Undelivered and readdressed back to Potosi

Type 5B Potosi Rotary Club censor label has a plain serifed 'N' in 'No.' and 22 ornaments making up both the top and bottom frame lines



Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1935 military cover to Cordoba in Argentina with 15c to pay the foreign mail fee with boxed 'HOSPITAL MILITAR/NARVAEZ - No. ...'. Boxed 'CENSURA/HOSPITAL/CALDERON DE LA BARCA/NARVAEZ' with manuscript date inserted (4 Apr). Villazon and Juyuy (14 Apr) transits and arrival cds (17 Apr)

This was Military Hospital No.8 and it was situated in Narvaez in the Tarja region. The hospital was probably named after the famous Spanish playwright, Pedro Calderon de la Barca (1600-1681)



Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1934 cover to Washington DC, USA with 25c on 40c to pay the foreign mail rate with, on the reverse, oval 'SUBADMINISTRACION DE POSTES / BOLIVIA' datestamp (19 Dec) with boxed 'CENSURA MILITAR / COMANDO SECTOR CARANDAITI' marking. A manuscript notation on the reverse shows the sender to be from the 5th Regiment, Lanza, First Division Corps of Cavalry, Bolivian Regular Army

The sender was a Lieutenant Marshall Dickerson and the envelope is addressed to a Mrs. Dickerson. It seems quite likely that Lt. Dickerson was a U.S. mercenary soldier

Carandaiti was a supply depot some 60 Km. to the north-east of Villa Montes. It was at this period of time a base for Colonel David Toro, a member of the Bolivian High Command and one of the leaders that deposed President Salamanca in November 1934

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1934 registered military cover to La Paz with 4 x 15c to pay 30c airmail fee and 30c registration fee with, on the reverse, framed 'CENSURADO/POLICIA MILITAR/BALLIVAN' marking in blue with manuscript dated (4 Apr) and oval 'GRAN CHACO - VILLA MONTES' datestamp (11 Apr) alongside

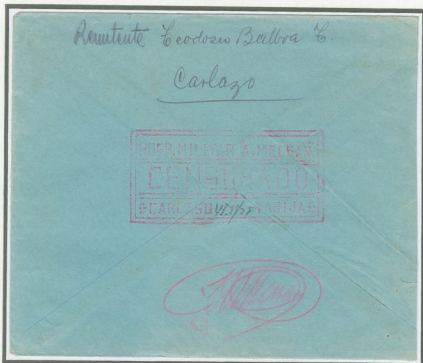
Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1933 cover with printed corner card 'JEFATURA/DE LA/POLICIA MILITAR/VILLA MONTES' sent registered to St. Maxime in France with 5c and 3 x 10c with 'GRAN CHACO - VILLA MONTES' oval datestamps (13 May). Unframed 'CENSURADO/POR LA POLICIA MILITAR/Villa Montes ... de ... 1933 ...' handstamp incorporating a signature with manuscript date inserted (10 May) on the reverse. La Paz transit (20 May) and arrival cds (21 Jun)

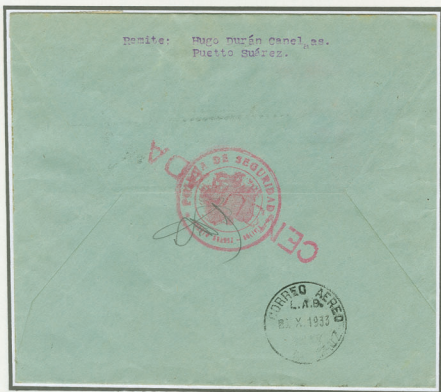


Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1935 stampless military cover to Calacoto (Pacajes Province) with, on the reverse, boxed 'HOSP. MILITAR "A.MELIAN"/CENSURADO/CARLASO ... TARIJA' handstamp in red with manuscript date inserted (1 Jun)

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1933 military cover from Puerto Suarez to Santa Cruz with 6 x 5c on 1b to pay 30c airmail fee with, on the reverse, circular 'POLICIA DE SEGURIDAD / PUERTO SUAREZ, BOLIVIA' cachet and straight line 'CENSURADO' (73 mm) marking both in red with L.A.B. (Lloyd Aereo Boliviano) arrival cds alongside (21 Oct)

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



Undated stampless cover to La Paz with oval 'CORREO MILITAR / II.C.E. / BOLIVIA' marking (2nd Army Corps) with, on the reverse, boxed 'CENSURADA / BTR-ACOMP 65' marking. A manuscript notation on the reverse shows the sender to be from the 3rd Battery Accompaniment, Second Army Corps, Group 8



Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1934 (Dec) incoming cover from Peru to Potosi and 1935 (May) incoming cover from Chile to La Paz both with oval CENSURA MILITAR/LA PAZ datestamps and with boxed 'CENSURA/MILITAR/No. 23' and 'CENSURA/MILITAR/No.35' markings respectively

The numbered boxed censor handstamps all seem to originate from La Paz and were probably introduced in the mid 1934 period. A range of different numbers have been seen with the highest so far recorded being '57'

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1935 (Jul) cover from La Paz to Santa Cruz with boxed 'CENSURA/MILITAR/Nº.41' and 'CENSURA/MILITAR/Nº.55' markings plus 1935 (Jul) registered cover from La Paz to Monte Caseros in Corrientes Province, Argentina with boxed 'CENSURA/MILITAR/Nº.57' marking

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1934 registered civilian cover from La Paz to Buenos Aires with 35c franking to pay 25c foreign mail rate and 10c registration fee with, on the reverse, boxed 'ESTADO MAYOR GENERAL / CENSURA / La Paz 193..' marking with manuscript date inserted (5 Apr)

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1935 civilian cover from Tupiza to La Paz with 15c to pay the internal surface mail rate with circular 'COMISION DE RECLUTAMIENTO / BOLIVIA' cachet and straight line 'CENSURADA' marking (62 mm) with La Paz arrival cancel alongside (2 Feb)

The 'Comision de Reclutamiento' was a military recruitment commission

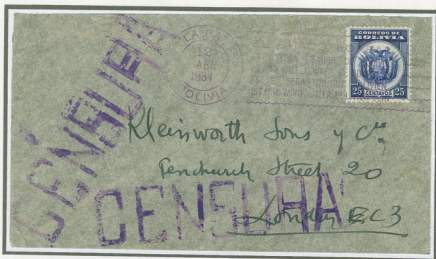
Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1935 civilian cover to Los Angeles, USA with bisected 20c and bisected 25c on 40c with oval 'Yacuiba' cancel overpaying the basic foreign mail fee of 15c. Double oval 'JEFATURA DE LA FRONTERA SUD / OFICINA DE CENSURA / YACUIBA BOLIVIA' handstamp with manuscript date alongside (6 Dec). Aguaray (Argentina) transit cds (7 Dec)



Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1934 (Apr) civilian cover from La Paz to London and undated civilian cover from Pulacayo (near Uyuni) to Berlin both with large straight line 'CENSURA' handstamps, latter also with circular 'Intendencia de Policia/PULACAYO' marking

Although very similar handstamps, the La Paz marking is actually slightly larger measuring 90 mm in length while the version used in Pulacayo measures 3 mm less at 87 mm in length

Bolivian Censor Handstamps

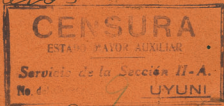
SCHWEITZER Y CIA.
"LA PROVIDENCIA"

LA PAZ

CASILLA 339

TELEGRAMAS: "PROVIDENZA"

Impreso



Ins. Schweitzer y Co.



30

Casilla 685,

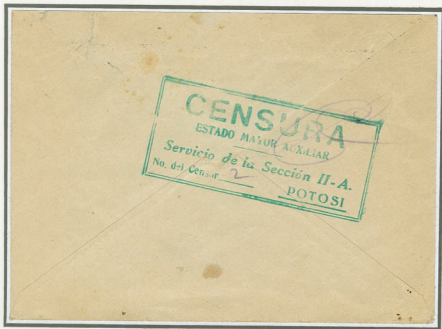
La Paz.



1934 unfranked civilian cover from Uyuni to La Paz with boxed 'T' and ms. '180 gm - 30' due marking with added pair 15c postage dues. Boxed 'CENSURA/ESTADO MAYOR AUXILIAR/Servicio de la Sección II-A/No. del Censor UYUNI' handstamp in violet

Correct usages of the 1931 postage due stamps are extremely rare

Bolivian Censor Handstamps



1934 (Apr) civilian cover from Potosí to Oruro with, on the reverse, boxed 'CENSURA/ESTADO MAYOR AUXILIAR/ Servicio de la Sección II-A./ No. del Censor POTOSI' handstamp in green

Identical or similar style boxed censor handstamps are known used in the main regional cities (not La Paz) of Bolivia from the early 1934 period through to the post war period. These include Cochabamba, Oruro, Sucre and Uyuni

VIA

R. 2

Ejército
SERVICIO DE COMUNICACIONES



de Bolivia
CAMPANA DEL CHACO

RADIOGRAMA

Procedencia La Paz,
Nº. origen 49
Nº. palabras 19
Hora de origen 18
Fecha de origen 1/8/34
Categoría ad.
Clase

Recibido de R. M.
A hs. 10/134
Fecha Recep. 2/8/34
Emp. Recep. WV
Emp. transmisor
Retransmitido a
Fecha a hs.
Por empl. a empl.

Pagaduría Sucre.

2160. Suve 35. Per solicitud señor Zelada debe desempeñar
cargo Contador esa pagaduría caracter adhereres.

Minguerra

Nº. palabras	
Hora de origen	
Fecha de origen	
Categoría	
Clase	
a empl.	

Bolivian 'Timbre Patriotico' Stamps

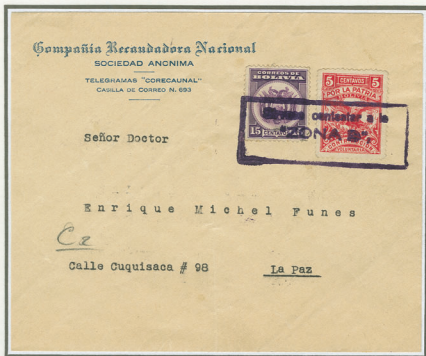


1932 cover sent locally in La Paz (9 Jul) with the franking including the 'Timbre/Patriotico/Un Cvo.' surcharge in red on an unissued lithographed 10c Ballivan portrait stamp from circa 1910 period

The only recorded usage of one of these 'Timbre Patriotico' surcharges on cover

It is believed that these surcharges were produced very soon after the commencement of hostilities so that citizens could make voluntary contributions to the Chaco War effort. They were soon replaced with a more permanent 'Timbre Patriotico' issue later the same year

Bolivian 'Timbre Patriotico' Stamps



1932 cover with 'Compañia Recaudadora Nacional' printed corner card (tax collectors) sent locally in La Paz (28 Oct) with the franking including a 5c carmine 'Timbre/Patriotico' stamp

The only recorded usage of one of these 5c 'Timbre Patriotico' stamps on cover

These two 5c 'Timbre Patriotico' stamps in carmine and in green replaced the temporary surcharged stamps. It is believed that these two stamps remained in use for up to two years before being replaced

Bolivian Propaganda Postcards



Postcards Nos. 23 and 49 from a series of 50 cards drawn by O. Rowland Luhle in 1933 showing various war scenes both used, the former by a civilian from Oruro to La Paz (13 March 1935) and the latter by a soldier from Santa Cruz to Spain with oval 'CORREO MILITAR/3er C.E.' datestamp (10 December 1934). Both cards have different size straight line 'CENSURA' markings

Genuinely used examples of these postcards are rare

Bolivian Propaganda Markings



1934 (16 Nov) registered airmail cover from La Paz to New York with 'EL CHACO BOREAL/IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE BOLIVIA'S' multilingual machine cancel

This marking remained in use for up to three years after the war



1934 (1 Jun) airmail cover with La Paz origination to New York endorsed 'Correo Aereo Via Arica' with added Chilean stamps cancelled in Arica with, on the reverse, boxed 'El Chaco Boreal/ is and always will be Bolivia's' multilingual cachet

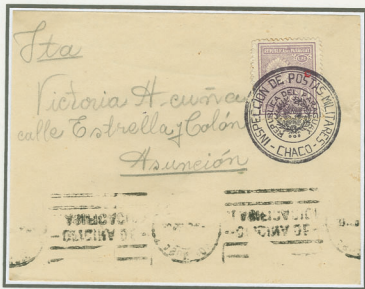
This is the only recorded example of this particular cachet

Paraguayan Military Mail



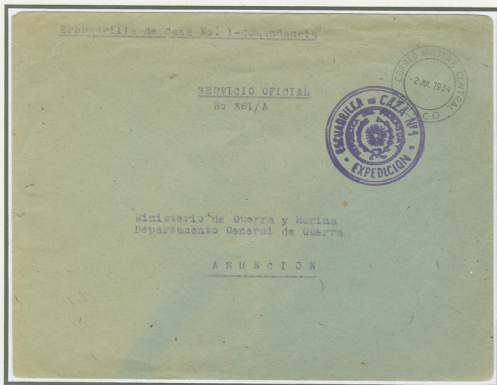
'CORREOS/FORTIN ESTEROS'

Fortin Esteros was located on the Pilcomayo River at almost the mid point between Asuncion and Villa Montes (a total distance of around 750 km) and some 170 km downstream from Ballivian. It was taken by Paraguayan forces on 8 January 1934



1934 personal letter (and thus subject to postage) sent to Asuncion from the Inspector of Military Posts in the Chaco with 50c with 'INSPECCION DE POSTAS MILITARES/CHACO' cancel. Asuncion arrival backstamp (30 Sep)

Paraguayan Military Mail



1934 cover endorsed 'SERVICIO OFICIAL' addressed to 'Ministerio de Guerra y Marina' in Asuncion with circular 'ESCUADRILLA DE CAZA No.1/EXPEDICION' cachet with 'CORREO MILITAR CENTRAL/CHACO' cds (2 Jul) alongside

The 'Escuadrilla de Caza No.1' (No. 1 Fighter Squadron) were the fighter pilots known as "Los Indios" due to their "Indian archer" squadron emblem. It was this squadron that was specially formed to receive the five Fiat fighter planes that arrived in Paraguay from Argentina in April 1933. The squadron operated out of Isla Poi in the Central Chaco region around 190 km west of Puerto Casado



1935 (12 Jun)
New cancelling devices were made in the latter part of 1934

Paraguayan Military Mail



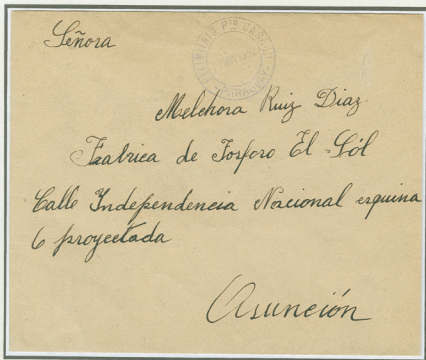
'P.M. No.1 PTO.CASADO/
PARAGUAY'



'P.M. No.2 KILOMETRO 145/
PARAGUAY'



'REGIMIENTO PTO.CASADO/
No.3/ CORREOS/ PARAGUAY'



1932 stampless cover to Asuncion originating from Villa Militar with 'REGIMIENTO PTO.CASADO/ PARAGUAY' cds (22 Nov) in blue. Asuncion arrival backstamp (24 Nov)

Villa Militar was around 45 km south west of Kilometro 145 which was the site of the railhead into the Central Chaco region 145 km west of Puerto Casado

Paraguayan Military Mail



'P.M. No.3 CASANILLOS/
PARAGUAY'

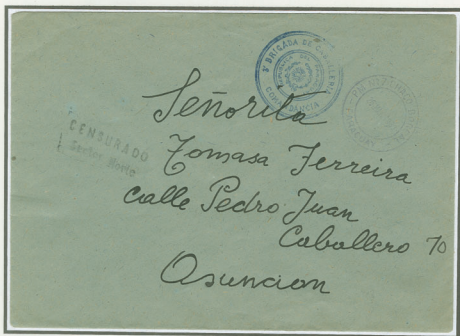


'P.M. No.4 POZO AZUL
PARAGUAY'



'P.M. No.5 CPO.ESPERANZA/
PARAGUAY'

Casanillos, Pozo Azul and Esperanza are all located in the Central Chaco region between Kilometro 145 and Villa Militar



1933 stampless cover to Asuncion with circular '3ª BRIGADA DE CABALLERIA/COMANDANCIA' cachet with 'P.M. No. 7 CHACO BOREAL/ PARAGUAY' (Posta Militar) cds (26 May) and two-line 'CENSURADO/Sector Norte' (Northern Chaco) handstamp

Paraguayan Military Mail



'P.M. No. 6 VILLA MILITAR/PARAGUAY' cds and
'EJERCITO EN EL CHACO/DIRECCION DE CORREOS MILITARES' cachet



1935 obsolete 2c lettercard sent registered to Asuncion with added 1p to pay the registration fee with 'P.M. No. 6 VILLA MILITAR/PARAGUAY' (Posta Militar) cds (15 Mar) and Asuncion arrival cds (24 Mar) alongside

Villa Militar (more commonly known as Isla Poi) was one of a group of Fortins that ran in a south westerly line from the railhead at Kilometro 145 (the rail line from Puerto Casado into the Central Chaco region) down to Boqueron. It was sent of the Paraguayan Military Headquarters during the early part of the conflict

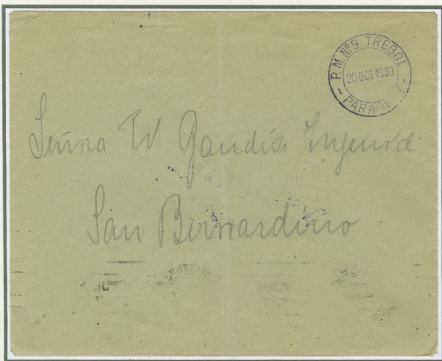
Paraguayan Military Mail



1933 special patriotic "flag" envelope inscribed 'CORRESPONDENCIA DEL SOLDADO' sent registered to Asuncion with added 1p50 (fault) to seemingly overpay the 1p registration fee with 'P.M. No. 8 FORTIN FRANCIA / PARAGUAY' (Posta Militar) cds (23 Oct) with circular 'CORREO MILITAR EN CAMPAÑA - CHACO / DIRECCION' marking alongside plus manuscript 'Certificado 137' endorsement

Fortin Francia (formerly the Bolivian Fortin Arce) was located around 70 Km south of Villa Militar. This letter was mailed on the same day (23 October) that Estigarribia committed virtually his entire forces into a major offensive against the Bolivians that became known as the Battle of Zenteno. Within two days the troops from Fortin Francia were in action on the road to Zenteno which was situated some 25 Km. further south of Fortin Francia

Paraguayan Military Mail



1933 stampless cover to San Bernardino with sender's origination '2º Cuerpo Sanidad' (2nd Health Corps) with 'P.M. No.9 TREBOL/ PARAGUAY' (Posta Militar) cds (20 Oct). Boxed 'Estado Mayor General/ CENSURADO/ Asuncion-Paraguay' handstamp on reverse with Asuncion arrival datestamp (Nov) alongside

Trebol was situated about 15 km. north west of Villa Militar (Isla Poi)



1934 (12 Nov)

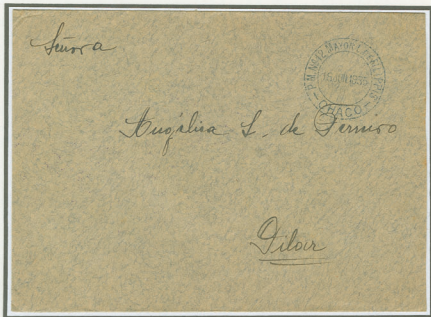
Paraguayan Military Mail



'P.M. No.12 MAYOR L. DE FILIPPIS/
CHACO'



'POSTA MILITAR No.13/
COMANCHACO'



1935 stampless cover to Pilar with 'P.M. No.12 MAYOR L. DE FILIPPIS/CHACO' (Posta Militar) cds (18 Jun) in blue. Boxed Asuncion 'CENSURADO' marking on the reverse with arrival datestamp alongside (4 Jul)

Fortin Lopez de Filippis was the renamed Bolivian Fortin Camacho which was taken by Paraguayan forces on 8 January 1934. It is now known as Mariscal Estigarribia

Paraguayan Military Mail

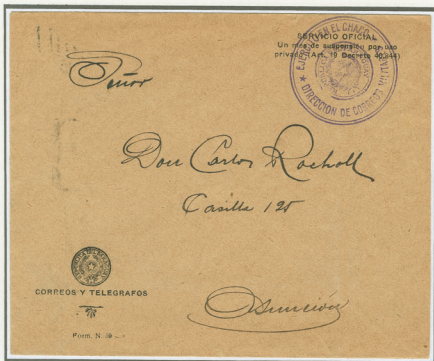


1935 stampless cover to Asuncion with primitive two-line 'P.M. No.13/COMANCHACO' (Posta Militar) handstamp and small straight line 'II DIVISION DE INFANTERIA' marking. Straight line 'CENSURADO' and circular dated 'COMANDO DEL EJERCITO/EN EL CHACO/CENSURADO' handstamp (6 Jun). Sender's notation on the reverse 'R.I. 26 "Cerro Leon" Sector Casado' with Asuncion arrival datestamp (18 Jun) alongside

This primitive 'Posta Militar' marking is recorded used from May 1935 through to the end of the conflict. One can only assume it was a locally made replacement for the regular circular date stamp which must somehow have been lost or destroyed

The 26th Infantry Regiment "Cerro Leon" was attached to the Military HQ in the field

Paraguayan Military Mail



1934 Post Office envelope with 'SERVICIO OFICIAL' inscription addressed to Asuncion with circular 'EJERCITO EN EL CHACO/DIRECCION DE CORREOS MILITARES' cachet. Asuncion arrival backstamp (9 Feb)

Paraguayan Military Mail

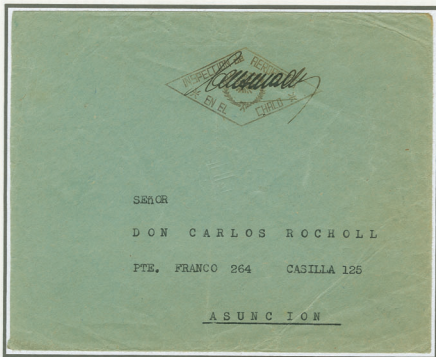


1934 stampless cover to Asuncion with return address 'V Division en Chaco Boreal' with circular 'BASE AEREA CONCEPCION/COMANDANCIA' cachet and crude 'LIBRE CORREO/SOLDADO CARTA' handstamp. Concepcion cds (Feb) and Asuncion arrival. Straight line 'CENSURADO' on the reverse with manuscript date (2 Feb)

The only recorded example of this airbase marking

At the start of the conflict the Paraguayans had around a dozen serviceable but basically obsolete aircraft, one of which was actually a survivor from the 1922 revolutionary period. These were mostly a mixture of fighters (Wibault) and bombers (Potez) and attempts to economise by fitting the same 450 hp water cooled engines to both planes backfired badly in the fierce heat of the Chaco. Most of the fighter planes ended up being grounded and cannibalised for parts. The fighter force was re-equipped in 1933 with the acquisition of five biplanes (Fiat) from Argentina

Paraguayan Military Mail

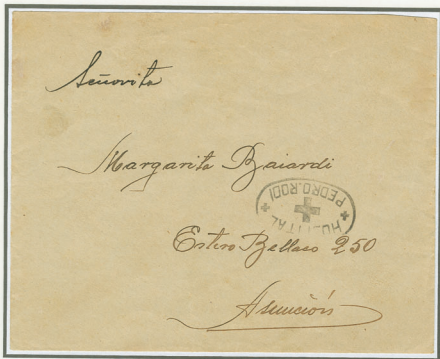


Undated stampless cover showing sender's origination from 'Comanchaco' to Asuncion with diamond-shape boxed 'INSPECCION DE AEROPISTAS/EN EL CHACO' (airstrip inspection) handstamp with manuscript 'Censurado' endorsement

One of just two recorded covers with this marking

'Comanchaco' was an abbreviation for the Military Command Headquarters in the Chaco and was, of course, a moveable entity

Paraguayan Military Mail

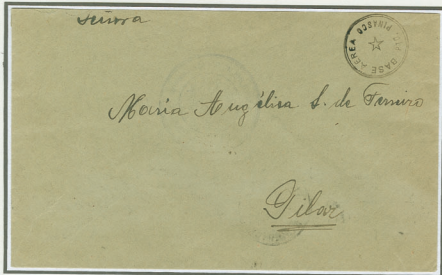


Undated stampless cover to Asuncion with oval 'HOSPITAL/PEDRO RODI' marking with, on the reverse, oval 'HOSPITAL /MESA ENTRADA /"PEDRO RODI"' and sender's notation 'sub. of. Sdad.' (health inspector)

One of just two recorded covers with these markings

"Pedro Rodi" was a field hospital located at Fortin Lopez de Filippis (formerly Fortin Camacho) in the central Chaco region. It was named after 1st Lieutenant Pedro Rodi of the medical corps who was killed earlier in the war and decorated with the medal "Cruz del Defensor"

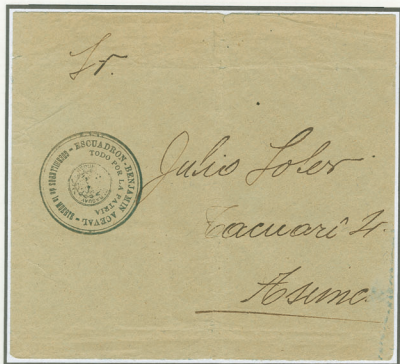




1935 stampless covers to Asuncion and to Pilar respectively, the former with circular 'AVIACION MILITAR/Direccion de Aviacion en Campana' cachet plus 'PTO. PINASCO' cds (16 May) and the latter with small circular 'BASE AEREA/ PTO. PINASCO' cancel plus, on the reverse, 'AVIACION MILITAR BASE AEREA CAMPO GRANDE/COMANDANCIA' cachet and Asuncion transit datestamp (8 Apr)



1934 stampless cover to Asuncion with circular 'EJERCITO NACIONAL/ESTADO MAYOR III CUERPO - 2º DPTO.' (3rd Army Corps) cachet and large straight line 'CENSURADO' handstamp (86 mm). Asuncion arrival backstamp (25 Sep)



Undated stampless cover addressed to Asuncion with 'ESCUADRON-BENJAMIN ACEVAL/ GUERRILLEROS de la MUERTE' cachet ("Guerillas of Death" squadron)

This is the only recorded example of this squadron cachet

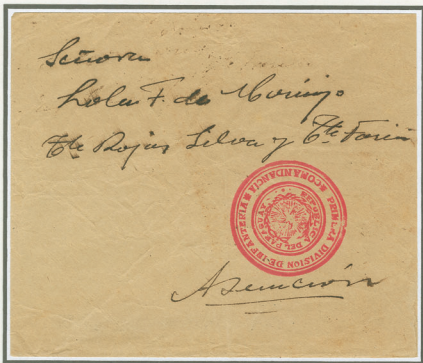
Paraguayan Military Mail



1932 stampless cover with a return address in Bahia Negra addressed to the director of the newspaper "El Diario" in Asuncion with circular 'CANONERO TACUARI/COMANDANCIA' cachet with 'PTO. GUARANI' cds (3 Oct) alongside. Asuncion arrival backstamp (6 Oct)

Bahia Negra was an important port on the Paraguay River some 340 km north of Concepcion and Puerto Guarani was located about 120 km south of Bahia Negra. The obtaining of an outlet on this river at Bahia Negra or, preferably, at a more southerly point, was a non-negotiable condition consistently demanded by Bolivia for any settlement of the Chaco question

'Canonero Tacuari' (Gunboat Tacuari) was a small river steamer (around 18 meters in length) with a small gun emplacement on top of the pilot's cabin



1934 cover to Asuncion with manuscript notation showing Concepcion origination and date (3 Jun) on the reverse with circular 'PRIMERA DIVISION DE INFANTERIA / COMANDANCIA' cachet in red

This is the only recorded example of this particular First Infantry Division cachet

Paraguayan Military Mail



1934 cover to Asunción with circular 'HOSPITAL MILITAR S. BERNARDINO / Intendencia' (Quartermaster) cachet with 'CORREO SAN BERNARDINO' cds (19 Jan) alongside. Asunción arrival backstamp (29 Jan)

This is the only recorded example of this San Bernardino Military Hospital cachet

Paraguayan Military Mail



Undated stampless cover with printed 'Regimiento N.4 de Caballería / ACA-CARAYA' corner card addressed to the President, Dr. Don Eusebio Ayala, in Asunción with matching 'REGIMIENTO 4º DE CABALLERIA ACA-CARAYA' cachet alongside

This is the only recorded example of this regimental envelope

'Aca-Caraya' means "Monkey Head" and is derived from the peculiarly shaped brass helmets decorated with monkey tails worn, originally, by all ranks. This was probably the most famous regiment in the Paraguayan Army having been founded in 1858 as a personal bodyguard to President Francisco Solano López. During the Chaco War it was a part of the 2nd Cavalry Division

Paraguayan Military Mail



Undated 'SERVICIO OFICIAL' envelope with 'Comando en Jefe del Ejército' inscription addressed to the Paraguayan President, Dr. Don Eusebio Ayala, with 'EJERCITO NACIONAL/Comando en Jefe' cachet and straight line 'SECRETO' markings on both the front and back

One of just two recorded covers with the 'SECRETO' marking

The Commander in Chief of the Paraguayan Army throughout the whole Chaco campaign was General Jose Felix Estigarribia and he is well recognised as being the architect responsible for Paraguay's eventual victory. Estigarribia never left the Chaco region until after the ceasefire on 14 June 1935. President Ayala took office on 15 August 1932 and remained in power throughout the duration of the remainder of the war

Paraguayan Military Mail



1932 'CORREO DEL SOLDADO' lettercard produced for the troops by the pharmaceutical company, Bayer, promoting 'Cafiaspirina' (a caffeine / aspirin based painkiller) sent from Fortin Orihuella (6 Feb) to Germany with circular 'INTENDENCIA DE ETAPAS / CONCEPCION-NANAWA' cachet. Asuncion transit backstamp (17 Feb), boxed 'T' and manuscript '50' signifying the amount due on arrival. Postage should have been paid for mail destined to foreign countries

Fortin Orihuella was located almost midpoint on the "road" west from Concepcion to Nanawa (a total distance of around 220 km) in the south east Chaco region

Paraguayan Military Mail

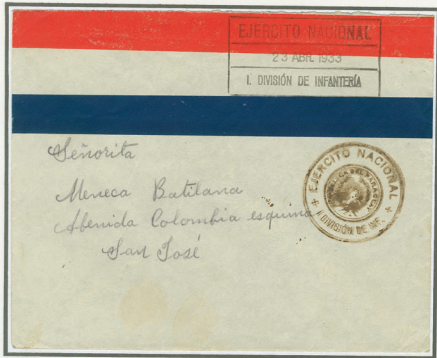


Undated stampless patriotic cover with "flag" corner card with 'ESTADO MAYOR GENERAL/ CORREO MILITAR' cancel addressed to the editor of the newspaper 'El Liberal' in Asuncion with 'ASOCIACION DE BOY SCOUTS DEL PARAGUAY' cachet and, on arrival, 'EDITORIAL EL LIBERAL' newspaper cachet

Less than five covers known with this 'Boy Scout' cachet

The Boy Scout Association in Asuncion undertook the delivery of some military mail during the conflict to help try and ease general manpower shortages

Paraguayan Military Mail



1933 stampless patriotic cover with "flag" across the top addressed internally to San José (Obrero) with boxed 'EJERCITO NACIONAL/I. DIVISION DE INFANTERIA' datestamp (23 Apr) with circular 'I DIVISION DE INF.' cachet alongside. Second strike on the reverse with straight line 'CENSURADO' and circular 'ESTADO MAYOR 1º DIVISION/1º Seccion' cachet both alongside



Paraguayan Military Mail



1932 patriotic cover with "flag" across the top and a boxed Chaco statement at the lower left showing, on the reverse, origination from Puerto Casado addressed to Buenos Aires with circular 'EJERCITO NACIONAL/I CUERPO DE EJERCITO (1st Army Corps) cachet and added 1p50 to pay the foreign mail fee with Asuncion cancel (9 Nov). Buenos Aires arrival backstamp (12 Nov)

Puerto Casado was on the eastern edge of the Chaco on the Paraguay River about 110 km north of Concepcion. It was the seat of the First Division of the Paraguayan Army

Paraguayan Military Mail



1933 patriotic cover with "flag" across the top endorsed 'Correo Militar' and 'Correspondencia Soldado' showing, on the reverse, an origination from the Second Infantry Division sent registered to Buenos Aires with added 2p50 in stamps to pay the 1p50 foreign mail fee and the 1p registration fee. Small straight line 'CENSURADO' marking with signature and date (5 Mar). The stamps were cancelled in transit in Asuncion (12 Mar) and the registration label was endorsed 'Militar' in manuscript. Arrival backstamps (21 Mar)

Paraguayan Military Mail

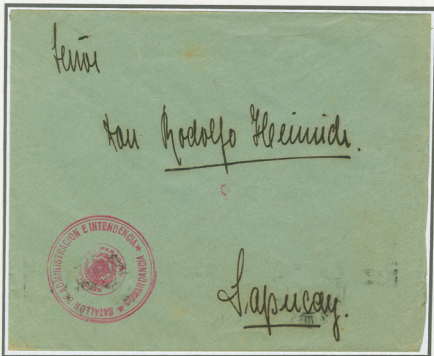


1932 special patriotic "flag" postcard produced for use by troops with several pre-printed messages on the reverse side to choose from. The one used reads 'Estoy Bueno' (I am fine) and was sent from 'Chaco Paraguayo' (2 Nov) to Buenos Aires with circular 'EJERCITO NACIONAL / I Cuerpo de Ejercito' cachet with added 1p50 to pay the foreign mail fee. Asuncion transit cds (8 Nov) and Buenos Aires arrival backstamp (Nov)

Other (translated) messages on the postcard include "I am in hospital", "Wounded - but I hope to be discharged very soon", "I have received your letter dated", "I have not received news from you for a long time", etc.

Estoy bueno	
Me encuentro en un hospital	
Enfermo - Y sigo mejorando	
Herido - Y espero ser dado de alta muy pronto	
He sido enviado a la línea de etapas	
He recibido su	Carta fechada
	Telegrama
	Encuadrado
Escrito en la mejor oportunidad	
No he recibido - Desde hace largo tiempo	
recibido - Desde hace unos días	
Firma	10/22

Paraguayan Military Mail



1934 stampless cover to Sapucay with circular 'BATALION DE ADMINISTRACION E INTENDENCIA/ COMANDANCIA' cachet in red. Asuncion arrival backstamp (17 Sep)

One of just two recorded covers with this marking

Paraguayan Military Mail



1935 stampless cover originally addressed to Rosario (Argentina) and readdressed to Asuncion with 'DEPARTAMENTO DE MARINE GRUPO DE MANDO/COMANDANCIA' (Command Group) marking with straight line 'CENSURADO' handstamp alongside. Asuncion arrival backstamp (9 Feb)

The reverse of the cover shows the sender to be from the 'Seccion Musico' (Military Band)

Paraguayan Military Mail



1934 cover to Asuncion with boxed 'R. A. I. GRAL. BRUGUEZ / CORRESPONDENCIA / DEL / SOLDADO' cachet with two unclear 'DISTRICTO 5 PARAGUARI / PARAGUAY' cds's (12 Mar) alongside

Fortin General Bruguez was situated on the Pilcomayo River around 130 Km west of Asuncion. The fortin was left empty when the major offensive began against the Bolivians towards the end of 1933 (Battle of Zanteno) but was re-garrisoned in early 1934 amidst fears that Argentina would take advantage and occupy the fortin as they had done with Fortin Sorpresa Vieja just over one month earlier

A total of 332 men including 27 officers were stationed at Fortin General Bruguez. Their equipment consisted of four 105 mm howitzers, eight 75 mm guns, 4 light machine guns, 4 small machine guns and 296 rifles plus 13 trucks, 1 radio transmitter, 2 telephone exchanges, 6 field telephones, 40 Kms. of cable, 30 axes, 20 picks, 20 shovels and 35 machetes !

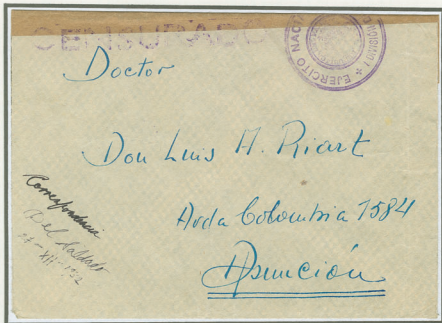
Paraguayan Military Mail



1932 (30 Dec) ingoing cover from Asuncion addressed to a 'practicante' (male nurse) of the Third Battalion of the First Infantry Regiment "2 de Mayo" at Puerto Casado with 1p50 in postage to pay for an internal letter

A 'practicante' would have been responsible for basic medical care including the dressing of wounds, minor ailments and the like. Puerto Casado was, at this date, the seat of the First Infantry Regiment

Paraguayan Censor Handstamps

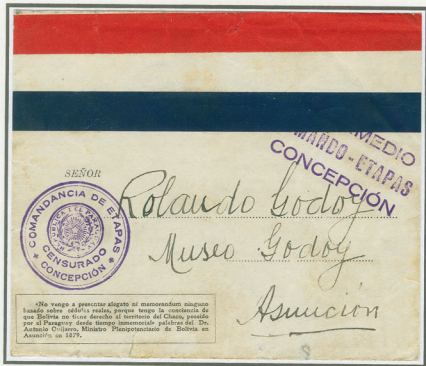


1932 stampless cover to Asuncion endorsed 'Correspondencia del Soldado' and dated (27 Dec) alongside which has been opened and resealed with brown tape by the censor and tied with large (86 mm) straight line 'CENSURADO' marking and circular 'EJERCITO NACIONAL / I DIVISION DE INF' cachet

Paraguay did not employ the use of any official printed types of censor tapes or labels throughout the course of the war



Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



Undated stampless patriotic envelope with "flag" across the top and with boxed Chaco statement at lower left showing sender's origination from Nanawa addressed to Asuncion with circular 'COMANDANCIA DE ETAPAS/CENSURADO/CONCEPCION' handstamp with three-line 'INTERMEDIO/COMANDO-ETAPAS/CONCEPCION' (Intermediate Command Stage) marking alongside with a further strike on the reverse

This is the only recorded example of this latter marking from Concepcion

Nanawa is some 220 km due west of Concepcion. It was made the seat of the Paraguayan defense forces in December 1932 when Bolivian troops pressed forward with repeated attacks in this area of the Chaco

INTERMEDIO
COMANDO-ETAPAS
CONCEPCION

Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



1933 stampless cover to Asuncion with two-line 'CENSURADO/V DIVISION' handstamp with circular 'EJERCITO NACIONAL DIVISION/COMANDANCIA' cachet (with space to enter the division number in manuscript) alongside. Sender's details on the reverse show 'R.I. 6 "Boqueron"' (6th Infantry Regiment "Boqueron"). Arrival backstamp (19 Apr)

At its onset, in September 1932, the "Boqueron" regiment consisted of some 1800 men and had its own artillery and mounted cavalry sections. It was formed by the sons of the elite of Paraguay society with a nucleus of military cadets and the most part of the Asuncion police force. It suffered a defeat in its first action at Boqueron in September 1932 but in June 1933 it was involved in the successful defence of Nanawa

Paraguayan Censor Handstamps

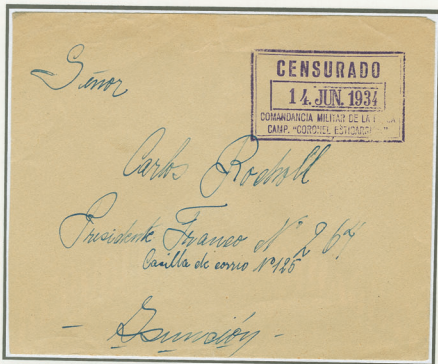


1934 stampless cover to Asuncion with, on the reverse, circular 'CENSURADO/D.C.2' with "star" handstamp (2nd Cavalry Division). 'P.M. No.6 VILLA MILITAR/ PARAGUAY' (Posta Militar) cds (30 Aug) on the face

One of just two covers recorded with this censor handstamp



Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



1934 stampless cover to Asuncion with boxed dated 'CENSURADO/COMANDANCIA MILITAR DE LA PLAZA/CAMP "CORONEL ESTIGARRIBIA"' handstamp (14 Jun)

One of just two recorded covers with this censor marking from the military camp of General Jose F. Estigarribia, the Commander in Chief of the Army in the Field

At this date in June 1934 Estigarribia was concentrating his main efforts into trying to take Ballivian, the Bolivian stronghold on the Pilcamayo River, either by direct or indirect action. However, Bolivian resistance proved too strong and it was some five months later, on 17 November, before Ballivian finally fell into Paraguayan hands. It was renamed "Mayor Alberto Gardel"

Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



1934 special 'Al Soldado Paraguayo' envelope supplied to troops by the 'Legion Civil Extranjero' (Foreign Civil Legion) sent to Buenos Aires with added 1p50 for the foreign mail fee with boxed 'CENSURADO/I.C. DE E.' handstamp (1st Army Corps). On the reverse, sender's notation 'Htal. Frontal I.C.E. Chaco Paraguayo' (Front Line Hospital) and circular 'EJERCITO NACIONAL/I Cuerpo de Ejercito' cachet alongside. Buenos Aires arrival backstamp (2 Jan)

One of just four covers recorded with this censor handstamp



Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



1934 stampless cover to Asuncion with two-line 'CENSURADO/Sector Norte' handstamp with manuscript 'Censurado' alongside. 'C.MTAR. 3a.DIV. B.NEGRA/PARAGUAY' (Correo Militar) cds (28 Dec) and Asuncion arrival backstamp (2 Jan)

Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



'SEGUNDO CUERPO EJERCITO/
CENSURA'

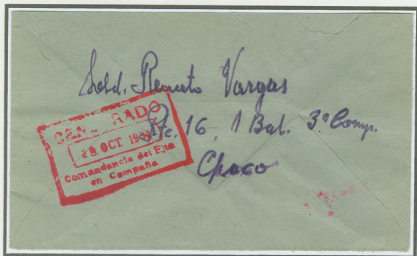


'V DIVISION /CORREOS CENSURA'



1935 stampless cover from 'Chaco Paraguayo' to Asuncion with, on the reverse, boxed 'Estado Mayor General/CENSURADO/Asuncion - Paraguay' handstamp with arrival machine cancel (24 Apr) alongside

Paraguayan Censor Handstamps



1934 two different boxed dated censor handstamps with the same wording 'CENSURADO/ Comandancia del Ejto./en Campaña', the first with a 'P.M. No.1 PTO.CASADO' (Posta Militar) cds (27 Dec) to Asuncion and the second with sender's endorsement 'Rte.16, 1 Bat. 3a. Comp' and, on the face, circular 'R.I. No.16- "MARISICAL LOPEZ" / COMANDANCIA' cachet

Paraguay Propaganda Labels



The four different designs with the slogans in Italian



English



French



German

Foreign Nationals living in Paraguay formed an organisation called 'Legion Civil Extranjera del Paraguay' which produced and distributed four differently designed perforated propaganda labels each inscribed with various pro-Paraguayan slogans in five different languages in order to show support for their adopted country during the Chaco War period

They were given out to be affixed to foreign mail and the idea was to use labels with slogans in the language of the destination country

Paraguay Propaganda Labels



The majority of labels have the slogans in Spanish. A total of eight different slogans have been recorded

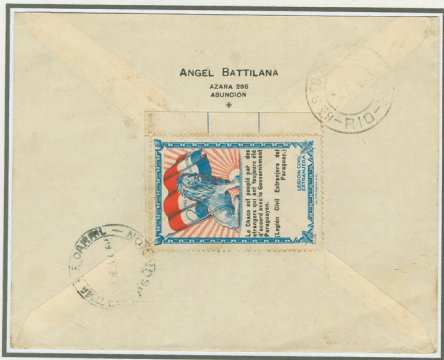
Paraguay Propaganda Labels



1934 (Jan) registered cover from Asuncion to Zurich in Switzerland with two different design labels on the reverse both with the slogans in English



1933 (Dec) registered cover from Horqueta (Concepcion) to Colorado, USA with three different design labels on the reverse with the slogans in Spanish and 1934 (May) registered cover also from Horqueta to Chicago, USA with label on the reverse with the slogan in Italian



1933 (Nov) cover from Asuncion to Paris, France and 1934 (Mar) registered cover from Asuncion to Sao Paulo, Brazil both with single labels with the slogans in French

Paraguay Propaganda Labels



1935 (Jan) cover from Encarnacion to Santa Cruz in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil addressed to someone with a German name (Hedwig Kämpf) with all four different design labels with the slogans in German

This is the only recorded cover with all four label designs physically tied to the envelope

Mennonite Colony in the Paraguayan Central Chaco Region

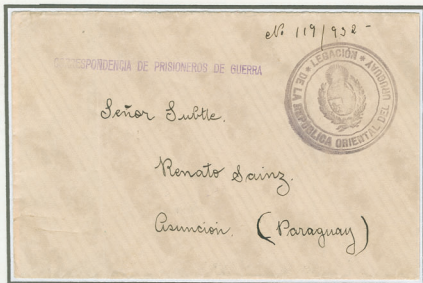


1933 registered civilian cover from Colonia Fernheim in the Central Chaco region to Munich in Germany with 4p50 franking to pay 2p50 postage rate and a 2p registration fee. Registration label with manuscript 'Col. Fernheim' inserted, Asuncion transit (3 Oct) and arrival (28 Oct) backstamps

*Wm. Diet. Kuefeler. Lind - America
Paraguay del. Fernheim Chaco*

Colonia Fernheim was a Mennonite Colony founded in the Paraguayan Central Chaco region (approximately 32 Km. north-west of Isla Poi - Villa Militar) on 1st July 1930 with the blessing of the Paraguayan government. The Colonists were mainly German refugees from the Soviet Union. The Colony was not evacuated during the course of the war and it became an important source of food and help to the Paraguayan army which was outposted around them for both protection of the Colonists and for the general strategic importance of the area which was fairly close to the end of the Paraguayan railhead from Puerto Casado into the Chaco region. The Colonists are known to have cared equally for the sick and wounded of both sides during the conflict

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1932 stampless cover from La Paz with straight line 'CORRESPONDENCIA DE PRISIONEROS DE GUERRA' addressed to a Bolivian POW in Asuncion and forwarded through the offices of the Uruguayan Legation with a large circular cachet and manuscript notation 'No. 119 / 932' alongside suggesting that it was letter number 119 from the year 1932

This is one of just two recorded POW covers with actual evidence that they were forwarded through the offices of the Uruguayan Legation

The following is an extract from a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross following a visit by a Mission to Bolivia and Paraguay in the mid-1933 period

"Following their mission to Bolivia and Paraguay, the ICRC delegates noted that there was no need to set up a prisoner-of-war information agency as the Uruguayan government had already established one in 1932. In cooperation with the Rotary Clubs of Asunción and La Paz, the Uruguayan agency had taken charge of forwarding the prisoners' mail to their families."

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1932 stampless cover from Cochabamba (9 Nov) with circular 'PRO-SOLDADO' cachet to a Bolivian POW addressed through the offices of the Rotary Club in La Paz with La Paz arrival backstamp (12 Nov). The Rotary Club in La Paz forwarded the cover to the Rotary Club in Salta in neighbouring neutral Argentina who, in turn, forwarded it to the Rotary Club in Asuncion for eventual delivery to the addressee. All three branches of the Rotary Club applied their cachets to the cover

This is the only recorded dated cover that was sent by this Rotary Club routing from Bolivia to Paraguay

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1932 stampless cover from Uncia (Potosi Dept.) with circular 'Subprefectura de la Provincia Bustillo/ UNCIA' (censor) handstamp addressed to a Bolivian POW in Asuncion and endorsed 'prisionero y erido' (prisoner and wounded). Asuncion arrival backstamp (10 Dec)

Following the visit of a Mission from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Paraguayan Government organised the repatriation, on 23 July 1933, of 26 wounded or sick Bolivian POW's. A few weeks later, on 22 August 1933, the Bolivians reciprocated and 14 sick and wounded Paraguayan POW's were likewise repatriated.

On a second visit at the end of 1934 the ICRC obtained agreement in principal from both Governments that sick and wounded prisoners should be repatriated and a second reciprocal repatriation took place in May 1935 involving 135 Bolivian and 22 Paraguayan POW's

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

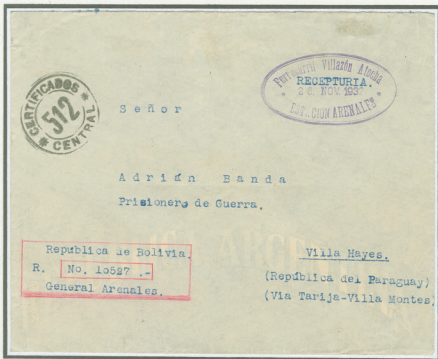
Undated stampless cover from Sucre with large circular 'Prefectura y Comandancia General del Departamento de Chuquisaca/SUCRE' (censor) cachet addressed to a Bolivian POW from the Perez 3rd Infantry Regiment in Asuncion and readdressed on arrival to Villa Hayes

The Perez 3rd Infantry Regiment was a part of the 1st Army Corps whose Headquarters were in Sucre



Contemporary photograph showing Bolivian POW's at Villa Hayes

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1932 stampless registered cover to a Bolivian POW at Villa Hayes in Paraguay with oval 'Ferrocarri Villazon Atocha/ESTACION ARENALES' datestamp (26 Nov) with a handdrawn registration etiquette alongside. Routed via Buenos Aires (3 Dec)

The Atocha to Villazon (on border with Argentina) railway marking is very uncommon

The first major group of Bolivian POW's interned during the war came from the Paraguayan forces retaking of Boqueron on 29 September 1932. After a very fierce onslaught lasting some 20 days the Bolivian commander, Lt.-Col. Marzana Oroza, personally surrendered his troops to the Paraguayan Commander in Chief, Lt.-Col. Estigarribia. The Bolivians had run out of food, water and munitions and were in appalling conditions. This had been an heroic defense by the Bolivian forces of which they could be justly proud. Most of these Bolivian prisoners were subsequently interned at Villa Hayes in Paraguay



Mail to Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1932 stampless cover from Oruro with circular 'LIGA FILIA/ORURO' (Affiliate League) cachet with 'CORREOS DE ORURO/INTERVENCION' (official inspection) marking addressed to a Bolivian Sargeant POW in Asuncion. Sent via Argentina with Buenos Aires transit (9 Nov) and Asuncion arrival (13 Nov) datestamps on the reverse

This is the only recorded example of this Oruro 'official inspection' postal marking

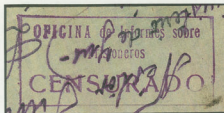
The 'Liga Filial' organised the forwarding of mail to Bolivian POW's from the Oruro area

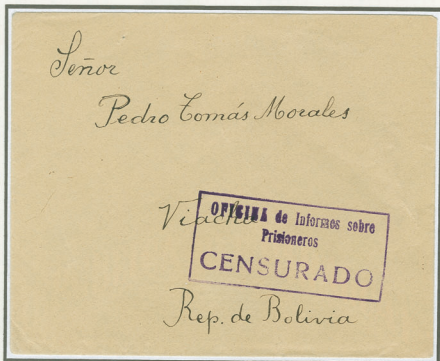
Prisoner of War Mail



Mail from Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1934 stampless cover from a Bolivian Sargeant in a POW camp in Paraguari with boxed Paraguayan 'OFICINA de Informes sobre/prisioneros/CENSURADO' handstamp and, on the reverse, POW Office cachet addressed to La Paz with oval 'CORREO MILITAR' arrival datestamp (15 Feb) and boxed La Paz 'CENSURA' handstamp alongside

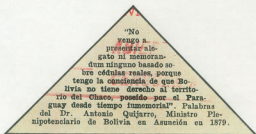




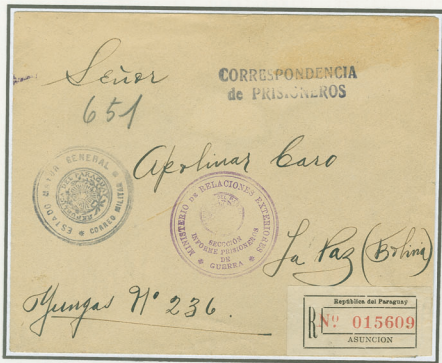
Mail from Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

Undated stampless cover to Viacho in Bolivia with boxed Paraguayan 'OFICINA de Informes sobre Prisioneros/CENSURADO' handstamp in violet with, on the reverse, a boxed 'EJERCITO DE BOLIVIA' censor handstamp and circular 'ESTADO MAYOR GENERAL' cachet

The envelope was obviously supplied by the Paraguayans and has a pro-Paraguayan Chaco claim printed on the reverse and a Paraguay map including the whole Chaco region on the inside



Prisoner of War Mail



Mail from Bolivian Prisoners in Paraguay

1933 (25 Jan) stampless registered cover with two-line 'CORRESPONDENCIA / de PRISIONEROS' and circular 'ESTADO MAYOR GENERAL / CORREO MILITAR' markings with Paraguayan POW Office cachet alongside addressed to La Paz. Boxed Paraguayan 'CENSURADO' handstamp on the reverse with Villazon (Bolivia) transit cds (7 Feb), added 'Revisado por la Censura' Type 2F censor label and boxed La Paz registration datestamp (11 Feb)all alongside

The only recorded registered cover from a Bolivian POW



- 2-17

Ante Ofe. nuestros cas-
tigados en policia Militar
presbitero penevayo Bantolome
Adorno ex director de la Junta Militar
Lios y miembro actual de
social y candidato al arzobispado de Asuncion manifestó con
muestra de júbilo que en Santa Cruz fué nombrado prefecto el Dr. Agustín
Saevalde haciendo suponer esto al que entendimiento o complicidad.
Este Dr. tiene un hijo militar en nuestro Ejercito.

②.- Sub. Oficial boliviano prisionero Hernán Bolán (cuerno)
es activo colaborador de di Putado Velillo en propege de separación de
Santa Cruz. Probable tenga con agentes en ese
comunicaciones ilícitas y peligrosas para la Patria.



St

Jamás Andelman y Cia

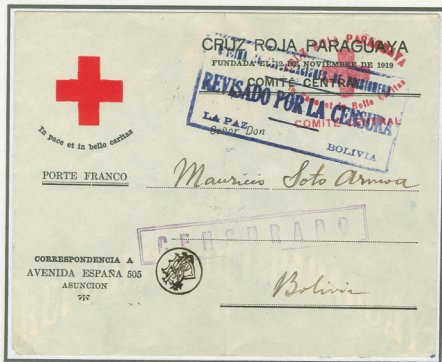
Casilla 265
Mucado 66

ENCUADADO

La Paz
(Bolivia)

Undated letter from a Bolivian POW in Paraguay with a hidden message originally written in an invisible ink (probably lemon juice) on the inside of the envelope. The message, amongst other things, denounces a fellow prisoner as a collaborator with the enemy. The contents have been noted by the Bolivian authorities with a circular 'ESTADO MAYOR GENERAL' cachet in red

Prisoner of War Mail



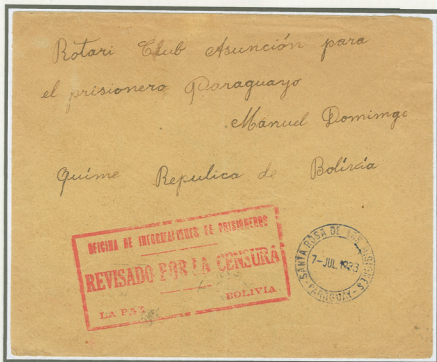
Mail to Paraguayan Prisoners in Bolivia

Undated stampless 'CRUZ ROJA PARAGUAYA' envelope incorporating a 'PORTE FRANCO' inscription under a "Red Cross" addressed to a Paraguayan POW in Bolivia. Paraguayan boxed 'CENSURADO' handstamp and, on the reverse, both Paraguayan and Bolivian POW Office cachets. Boxed Bolivian La Paz POW Office 'REVISADO POR LA CENSURA' handstamp

This is the only recorded example of this Red Cross envelope used for POW mail



Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Paraguayan Prisoners in Bolivia

1933 (7 Jul) stampless cover from Santa Rosa de las Misiones addressed to a Paraguayan POW in Quime in Bolivia through the offices of the Rotary Club in Asuncion. Paraguayan boxed 'CENSURADO' handstamp and both Paraguayan and Bolivian POW Office cachets all on the reverse. Boxed Bolivian La Paz POW Office 'REVISADO POR LA CENSURA' handstamp

Santa Rosa was a small agricultural town in the south of Paraguay in the Misiones District

The main internment camp for Paraguayan POW's in Bolivia during the Chaco War was located at Quime in Inquisivi Province. Quime was just over 100 km due north of Oruro

Mail addressed to Paraguayan POW's in Bolivia was free of charge. However, several covers are known with internal frankings and it must assumed that the "free franking" information was not that widely known amongst the populace

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail to Paraguayan Prisoners in Bolivia

1933 (Jul) cover from the interior with 1p50 franking for internal mail addressed to a Paraguayan POW in Quime in Bolivia through the offices of the Rotary Club in Asuncion. Paraguayan boxed 'CENSURADO' handstamp and both Paraguayan and Bolivian POW Office cachets all on the reverse. Boxed Bolivian La Paz POW Office 'REVISADO POR LA CENSURA' handstamp



Prisoner of War Mail

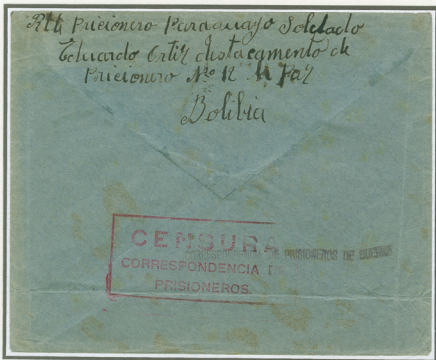


Mail from Paraguayan Prisoners in Bolivia

1934 stampless cover with manuscript date (25 Sep) sent from the POW camp in Quime to Asuncion with Bolivian POW Office cachet and, on the reverse, circular 'DESTACAMENTO de PRISIONEROS de GUERRA/QUIME' with manuscript 'Censurado' and initials alongside plus boxed La Paz 'CENSURA' handstamp. Paraguayan POW Office cachet and boxed 'CENSURADO' handstamp applied on arrival



Prisoner of War Mail



Mail from Paraguayan Prisoners in Bolivia

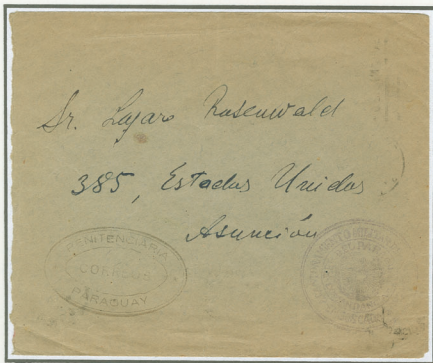
Undated stampless cover written from 'Destacamento de Prisionero No. 12, La Paz' to Villa Rica in Paraguay with Bolivian 'CENSURA/CORRESPONDENCIA DE/PRISIONEROS' handstamp and straight line 'CORRESPONDENCIA DE PRISIONEROS DE GUERRA' marking

Covers from Paraguayan POW's in Bolivia are, by far, the scarcest category of POW mail

During the course of the war some 24,000 Bolivians were taken prisoner as against just 2,700 Paraguayans. The final agreement for the release of all prisoners was not signed until 21 January 1936 at the same time diplomatic relations were renewed. This was over seven months after the 14 June 1935 cease fire

Numbers vary depending upon the source but Bolivia repatriated around 2,500 prisoners and Paraguay repatriated over 17,000. Many POW's died in captivity (mostly of wounds sustained in battle or of their weakened condition at the time of their capture), some escaped and others chose to stay on in the country of their captors

Prisoner of War Mail



Mail from a Paraguayan Military Prison

1935 stampless cover to Asunción with 'ACANTONAMIENTO MILITAR DE/EMBOSCADA - COMANDANCIA' (military camp for draft dodgers) with oval 'PENITENCIARIA/CORREOS/ PARAGUAY' marking alongside. Arrival backstamp (29 Jul)

This is the only recorded example of this 'Penitenciaría' cancel

The Disputed Territory



Contemporary map prepared for the 1935 edition of the South American Handbook showing the disputed Chaco territory between Bolivia and Paraguay in white

The dotted line diagonally across the centre of the Chaco is the arbitrary dividing line of the annulled 1897 Hayes Treaty. The small section at the bottom is the part that was under Paraguayan control at the outbreak of the conflict

