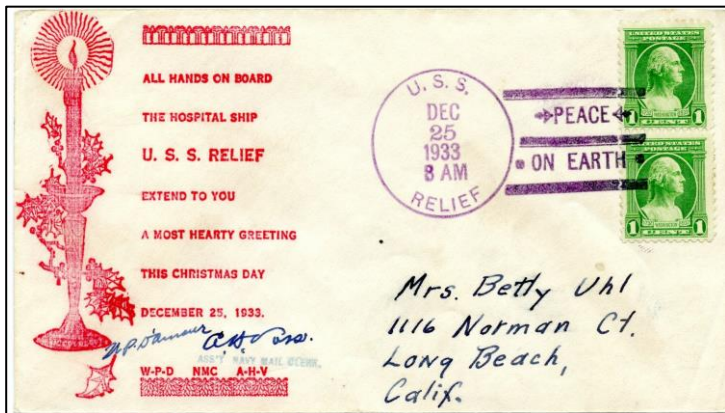


Recent Purchase at WESTPEX

During the presentation at the club meeting on May 28, **John Walter** showed a few of his purchases in a new collecting area, Navy Hospital Ship covers. Below are two covers from the USS Relief VI (AH-1).

The sixth *Relief* (Hospital Ship No. 1) was the first ship of the U.S. Navy designed and built from the keel up as a hospital ship. The keel was laid down on June 14, 1917, at Philadelphia Navy Yard; launched on December 23, 1919; given the designation AH-1 on July 17, 1920 and commissioned on December 28 1920.

With a bed capacity of 550 patients, *Relief* was one of the world's most modern and best equipped hospital ships.



Postmarked Christmas Day 1933 and signed by the Ass't Navy Mail Clerk.



Postmarked in 1935 while on Fleet Maneuvers around Hawaii.

John Walter collects U.S. used postal stationery, U.S. naval covers esp. hospital ships, Japan, U.N., and U.S.