

Seaman Mail 1918

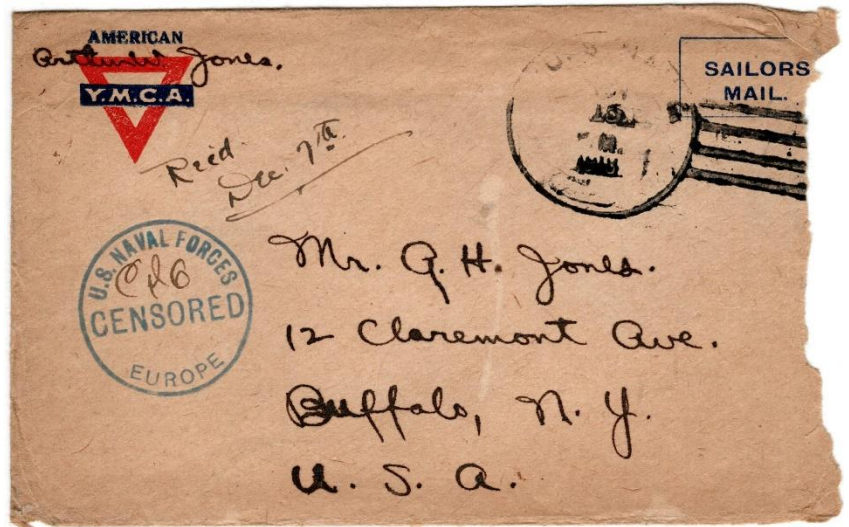
By Dave Gehringer

While looking for naval covers at GASS, a dealer showed me this cover with enclosed letter. It was written on Armistice Day. I wanted to share the entire letter with the stamp club members. A son stationed on the USS Stevens writing to his father in Buffalo, New York. It has a U.S. Naval Forces Europe Censored handstamp.

Armistice Day (Remembrance Day or Veterans Day) is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed in 1918 between the Allies of World War I and the German

Empire at Compiègne, France, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning, the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918.

Most countries changed the name of the holiday after World War II to honor veterans of that and subsequent conflicts. Most member states of the Commonwealth of Nations adopted the name Remembrance Day, and the United States chose Veterans Day.



Dear Dad,

Nov. 11 - 1918

The big day has arrived. I guess the whole world is having a wild celebration, and it must be especially wild in the States. I just copied the radio press report from London that stated that the armistice was signed today at 5 a.m. It was wonderful news. Events have moved more rapidly during the past few weeks than anyone dared to predict. War critics have throughout the war drawn a comparison between this and the Civil War. In that Civil War both sides were able to fight apparently equally for a long time and then the end came quickly, as it would probably do in this war. It hid the nail on the head.

But the peace has come would be hard for you to bear, because with your daughter now earning her own living, and the Navy supporting your son, and public opinion keeping your automobile locked in the barn a good share of the time, you were having a mighty soft time. You will just have to make up your mind that it was too good to last.

I have heard of no plan about what to do with the destroyer flotilla at this base, but the rumor going around is that we will make a cruise about the British Isles, stopping at every port of importance for some kind of celebration. That will be fine if it isn't overdone. I would welcome a chance to see something of this side of the water before we return because as far as I have been ashore in Liverpool and Davenport only. However, I would rather spend Christmas at home than taking part in a parade at some other little one-horse place. I suppose three or four months here will be the most reasonable time to figure on, and it could be six months or more.

It certainly gives me a restless feeling to know that it is all over with, and we are free to go back home as the Admiralty orders us back. Think I should be able to get my discharge pretty soon after we do get to the States.

There probably isn't much use in trying to make plan as to what I would do for a living when I get home. At least I guess I can plan that it won't be agricultural, unless conditions have an immense change in the business and its future. The income tax statistics have shown that a farmer's money return are less than those of a school teacher. You can probably give me some valuable suggestions as to what to do I will find worthwhile when I get there.

We received mail today. There were five letters for me – yours of Oct. 22nd, Aunt Bertha's of Oct. 24th, and Mother's of Oct. 18th, 21st, and 24th. I was mighty glad to hear none of you have been sick with influenza. Two fellows in the radio crew received word of the death of relatives and friends from influenza.

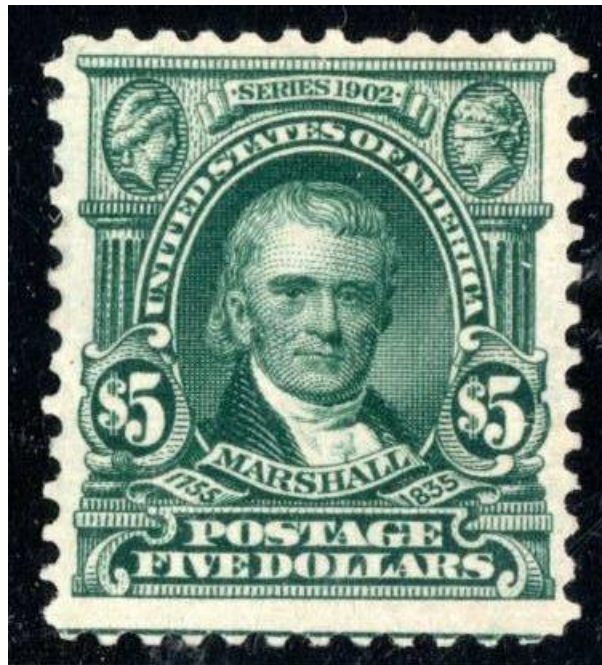
Am sorry you haven't heard from me in over a week when Mother wrote last. I have written every few days.

Nothing has been said about whether or not the censorship regulations are lifted. As soon as they are I will give you a rapid fire series of letters telling about the exciting times we have had.

Am going ashore now. Will write tomorrow. Much love to you all, Arthur
Arthur W. Jones U.S.S. Stevens c/o Postmaster New York City

High Value John Marshall Scott #313

Another purchase at the Great American Stamp Show that Dave is proud to share is this stamp. He was looking at different auctions and finally found this VF stamp at a dealer. The stamp was issued on June 5, 1903.



Dave Gehringer is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society, and he collects U.S. naval covers with emphasis on USS Lexington and some destroyers. He also collects U.S. booklet panes and postal cards.