THE USS CONSTITUTION - 1932 AND 1934 TRANSITS OF THE PANAMA CANAL

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

By Roger A. Wentworth and Robert J. Karrer, Jr.

As a path between the seas, the Panama Canal has seen thousands of vessels, from mighty battleships to "Panamax" container ships, and once even a rowboat. From all of these countless thousands perhaps a sailing ship was her most famous customer - and an old one that required assistance to make it through at that!

That ship, of course, is the famous man-o-war, the USS Constitution -"Old Ironsides"-best known for her astounding success during the War of 1812. By a fortuitous set of circumstances the once proud frigate survived the age of ironclads, and as the 19th Century ended she lay a virtual hulk awaiting the apparently inevitable end. But in 1925 a campaign was initiated to restore Old Ironsides to her former glory, and over \$500,000 was collected in an energetic campaign over the next few years, a campaign spearheaded by the The old wood was replaced and new rigging nation's school children. installed - all done in the hope of creating a faithful recreation of the ship as she was in her days of glory. By 1931 the work had been completed at the Boston Navy Yard, and on July 2 Old Ironsides set out on a coast-to-coast tour of the country to enable the people who had contributed their nickels and dimes to see the fruits of their bounty. Over the next three years she would visit 75 ports, navigating the entire coastline from Maine to the state of Washington. She also dropped anchor in Cuba. She eventually returned to Boston, where she was berthed on June 8, 1934, after 4,647,570 sightseers had boarded her during her many port calls.

In order to make it as far as the West Coast there was no choice but to pass through the Panama Canal, and so, when it was announced that she would spend Christmas 1932 in the Canal Zone, a high level of interest was soon manifested. The Constitution was not expected to sail under her own power and was to be towed by the Navy minesweeper USS Grebe (AM-43). The local newspaper published in English in Panama, the Star & Herald, presents a spirit-of-the-times series of accounts describing the events as they unfolded. The visit was complicated by continual changes in the schedule as favorable weather conditions caused the date to be advanced and welcoming plans to be disrupted. For example, the Christmas school vacation had already begun on the Isthmus and so no organized class visits by local children could be set up - which was considered to be unfortunate since it was the nationwide school campaign that had made the visit possible.

The Navy was also pouting for the local naval authorities had planned to escort her into Cristobal with a group of modern submarines stationed at Coco Solo, but they were over in the Pacific area engaged in maneuvers and could not be brought back in time to participate. Even the Army had to be disappointed for the programmed fighter plane escort also had to be scrubbed as the final arrival of Old Ironsides turned out to be after dusk on Thursday, December 22d, and the 14 plane escort never got off the ground.

And, so, at 9:25PM she came into the port, where her Captain (Commander Louis J. Gulliver) was a well known figure, having been stationed for some time in the Canal Zone only a short time previous as Executive Officer aboard

the <u>USS Rochester</u>. Docking took place at 11:07PM that same night at Pier 9B in Cristobal. Among the official party to meet the ship was local magistrate Judge E. P. Tatelman, a well known local philatelic figure who would become in the future an important cachet designer and author of an authoritative book on Canal Zone stamps.

Since it was the Christmas season many events were laid on for the crew and local homes were open to visitors. Playing at the Colon Theater was a most appropriate moving picture titled "Old Ironsides" with Wallace Beery and George Bancroft. The members of the crew were invited to attend a private special showing of the film as guests of the management. The general public would have to wait for the Christmas Eve childrens' matinee that afternoon at a cost of 15¢ for regular seats and 10¢ in the balcony.

The <u>Star & Herald</u> that day also had a notice of great interest to philatelists which outlined the procedures involved in obtaining a philatelic memento of the occasion.

"Collectors of Naval Covers and postmarks are offered an opportunity to have their letters mailed on the "Constitution" at Cristobal or Balboa, according to information released by postal officials at Balboa Heights yesterday. When it was ascertained that the old frigate was modern to the extent that it has a Navy Mail clerk and the necessary paraphernalia to postmark letters at all ports visited, the commanding officer was interviewed relative to the acceptance of letters with Canal Zone postage affixed. There being no objections and as all mail will have to be turned over to the Canal Zone post office for dispatch, it was announced that anyone interested may have their letters or Christmas greetings postmarked on "Old Ironsides" if they are handed in or sent under cover to the Cristobal post office, and later, to the Balboa post office.

The postmark reads: "US Frigate" in the upper part of circle and "Constitution" in lower part, and the words "Cristobal, Canal Zone" in the cancellation bars. It will be changed to read Balboa upon arrival of the frigate at that port, now tentatively set for December 27th.

It was further divulged that letters or cards destined to any place in the world may be posted through such channels provided they are properly prepaid and conform in general to Postal Union requirements.

A number of "first day" covers were mailed yesterday which was considered proper in view of the late arrival of the frigate on Thursday night."

The feature article on the grand arrival described her as "majestic and beautiful" as she was pushed up to Pier 9B by the Panama Canal Zone tug Tavernilla, with the searchlights of the escort Grebe "playing up and down her stately sides and rigging," - a "phantom ship." It was also announced that the eight officers and 80 man crew would welcome visitors aboard every day from 10AM to 5PM except on Christmas. Visitors were treated to cabins filled with period pieces and treasures, and they marveled over the news that a full ship's complement when she was a fighting ship was about 475 men crammed literally into every nook and cranny.

The Star & Herald ran a special article on Christmas Day on the holiday garb the ship was decorated with under the headline "Christmas Trees on Old Ironsides/Throngs Flock to Visit Frigate at Cristobal in Holiday Dress." The article went on to say: "The US Frigate "Constitution", the Cynosure of all eyes since her arrival at Dock 9, today attracted the awed gaze of Cristobal in general as her tall masts, visible high above the dock shed, began to sprout Christmas trees. First one appeared, carried aloft by agile tars who displayed the most remarkable seamanship in climbing the 180 foot mast with their burden and lashing it firmly to the tip end of the timber. Before long foremast, mainmast and mizzenmast all wore their feathery fir trees, and then one was added to the tip of the protruding bowsprit and the holiday attire was complete.

There were trees on the main deck and below decks, and all hands were very busy this afternoon cleaning ship after the hordes of sightseers left the vessel.

On Christmas Day, the only day of the year, the <u>Constitution</u> will be closed to visitors thereby giving her courteous and patient officers and men an opportunity to enjoy the day."

There were a total of 4,640 visitors at Cristobal, and on the 27th she made her canal transit. She departed Cristobal at 6:15AM and was towed to Gatun by Tavernilla and from there by her usual escort Grebe. At Gatun she was met by an English ship which showed her respect for the one-time adversary by dipping her ensign in respect. The magnanimous gesture was quickly reciprocated. An airplane flying overhead did likewise. At Balboa she was to go into drydock for a well earned scraping and refitting of the copper clad hull. Arriving at Pier 16 Balboa at 3:48PM, she took on no visitors that day due to the late arrival. The newspaper ran a long article describing in detail her contents, but no mention was made of the mailroom where mailclerk Harry Moore spent much of his time postmarking hundreds of letters nearly every day.

Since only a few of the crew had been able to get into Colon to see the movie "Old Ironsides" the owners of the Cecilia Theater in Panama City extended a repeat invitation for Friday. The number attending is not recorded.

Prior to putting down the gangplank for visitors on Saturday the crew underwent a full inspection. Later that day the <u>Constitution</u> had a distinguished visitor, Panamanian President Harmodio Arias, who was accompanied by US Ambassador Davis. The two were met by a Guard of Honor and given a personal tour by Commander Gulliver.

Newspapers love human interest stories, and the Star & Herald's New Year Edition related the tale of three youngsters who brought 50¢ between them as a gift for Commander Gulliver to use on whatever the ship needed. The gentleman did not tell them that the work had already been paid for and so he put the offering in with the other relics complete with donor card. The paper remarked he did it so "people of the world would know that a child's heart is still beating for Old Ironsides." Philatelically the day was also important for Panama announced the suspension of air mail service into the interior of the country as an economy measure.

On the 3rd she was to go into drydock, and visits were cancelled; however, people were invited to come down to the drydock at Balboa to catch a good look at her copper sheathed hull, and the day previous the local contingent of the "Best People of Earth" - the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks - visited en masse. The Elks, whose Balboa club only recently passed into history, were instrumental in the 1925 fund raising campaign which raised the money to spruce her up. Old time Zonian Gene Hamlin recalls that as a youth in Balboa his 4th grade teacher was a big supporter of the fund drive, and that large pictures of the ship were offered to contributors. Gene remembers his 25¢ donation to this day, and wishes he still had the Do others recall the ship's passage through the Canal? Constitution went into drydock her captain took advantage of the break to speak to the Balboa High School students at a special convocation at the Balboa Club House. On the 4th ex-President Calvin Coolidge passed away, and on the 5th the USS Bushnell arrived to fuel up prior to beginning her return voyage towing the Constitution to San Diego. As scheduled, they departed at 9:07AM on the 7th for California. It is clear the ship's Canal visit was the biggest thing on the Isthmus that 1932-1933 Christmas Season. 11,110 visitors came aboard in Balboa.

However, on the return trip eastward in 1934 her presence on the Isthmus was "ho-hum" it would seem. There is but one mention of her or her tow the Grebe in the local paper, and that was on the day after Easter, Monday, April 2, 1934, when it was noted she had arrived at 6:08PM. Commander Gulliver was still in command and once again she was at Pier 16 after a 13 day voyage from San Diego. Her canal transit took place on the 7th and she docked at Cristobal Pier 10 at 6:57PM. There were obviously no visitors that day, and she departed for St. Petersburg, Florida at 6:29AM the next day under tow of the Grebe. One can only surmize that "everybody" had already been down to see her the previous year and that it was not big news. The visitor count of 2,404 in 1934 reflects this lessened interest and publicity. Philatelically, there are fortunately many souvenirs of her stay which will be extensively treated in this survey.

During the cruise, postal clerk Harry Moore postmarked covers from all ports of call with various place names and wording between the killer bars of the postmarks. He also made use of several handstamped cachets in various colors at several ports, including Balboa and Cristobal. These are found as "Ship's cachet-handstamp" in the listings. Numerous printed cachets were also sent to Moore by various artists to be postmarked along the way. Strangely, no slogan postmarks have been recorded from Grebe or Bushnell, although both are known to have used slogans during other Panama Canal visits.

Canal Zone covers from this cruise are among the more difficult to acquire and realize above average prices. Those with a ship's handstamp cachet are the least expensive. Printed and private cachets command slightly higher prices as do covers with colored postmarks. Double or multiple cacheted covers are even higher, as are those autographed by Harry Moore or Commander Gulliver. A few covers with C.Z. postmarks also exist.

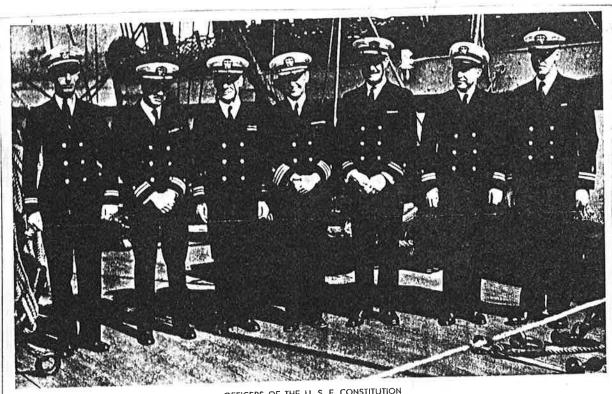
The cachet numbers used are from universally accepted designations in the 1949 Gwynne Catalog. Cachets recorded subsequent to the publication of the Gwynne Catalog are often referred to as "X-1", etc. However, in this listing they are listed under a subheading of the "P" group as that category is what they fall into. These are shown with a "PX-1", etc, number both in the illustrations and the daily listings sections of this study.

The listing is divided into three sections corresponding to the two transits in 1932 and 1934 and the San Diego to Canal Zone Voyage where several postmarks of interest were used, with each day's postal remembrances listed in turn. The bulk of the covers listed and illustrated here are from the authors' collections and the Allen Klein holding, with only one exception from the Collection of James W. Brumbaugh (a previously unlisted cover by Dr. H. H. Kretzler, PX-4.) We would like to thank the members of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society (U.S.S. Constitution Study Group) for their help and encouragement while researching this project, and in particular Leon Field, Study Group Chairman. John C. Havice of the U.S.S. Constitution Museum was most generous in offering copies of the pages of the cruise log for the Canal Zone transits. The picture post card and photographic views of the transits are from the collections of Elizabeth B. Stergion, John Beall and the authors.



HARRY MOORE

Storekeeper, first class, Naval Mail Clerk on the
U. S. Frigate Constitution, 1931-1934

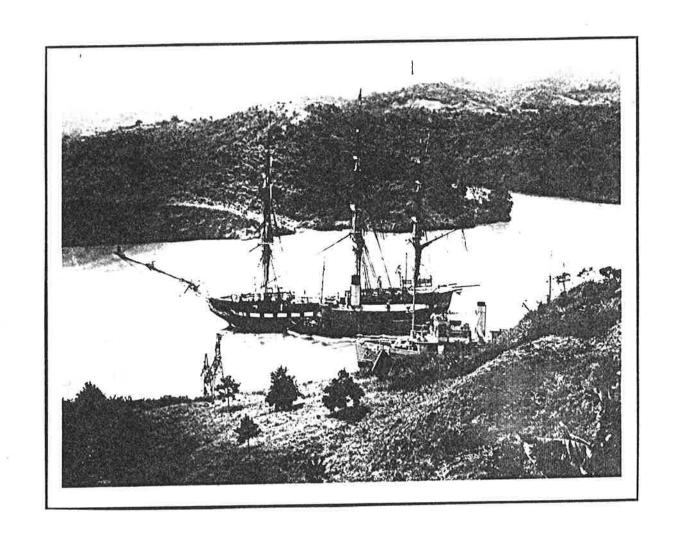


OFFICERS OF THE U. S. F. CONSTITUTION

Left to right — Lieutenant (ig) D. W. Tolson, USN — Lieutenant W. J. Dean, (SC), USN — Lieutenant Commander Henry Hartley, USN — Commander Louis J. Gulliver, USN, Commanding — Lieutenant J. C. Van Cleve, USN — Lieutenant J. Y. Dannenberg, USN — Lieutenant D. W. Lyon, (MC), USN Louis J. Gulliver, USN, Commanding — Lieutenant J. C. Van Cleve, USN — Lieutenant J. Y. Dannenberg, USN — Lieutenant D. W. Lyon, (MC), USN

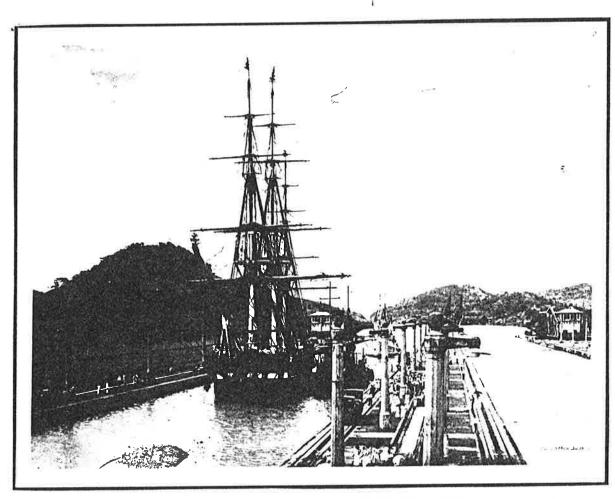
COMMANDER LOUIS J. GULLIVER AND THE OFFICERS OF THE USS CONSTITUTION

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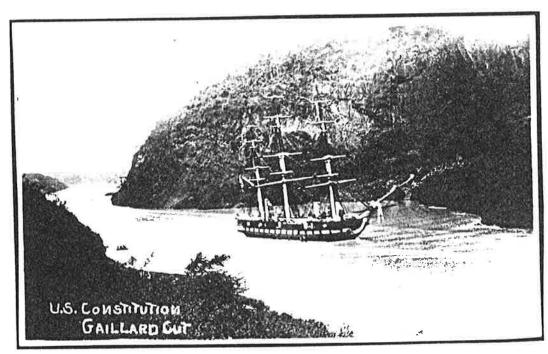


ENTERING CULEBRA CUT AT BAS OBISPO WITH THE USS GREBE IN FOREGROUND ON DECEMBER 27, 1932

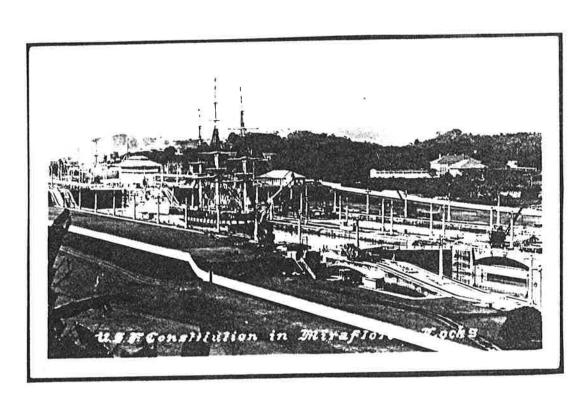
- 7 -



AT PEDRO MIGUEL LOCKS DECEMBER 27, 1932 NOTE CHRISTMAS TREES ON MASTS AND BOWSPRIT

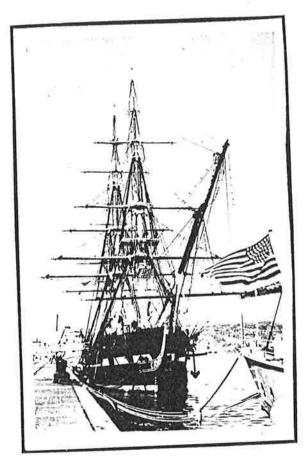


PASSING CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TO PACIFIC DECEMBER 27, 1932

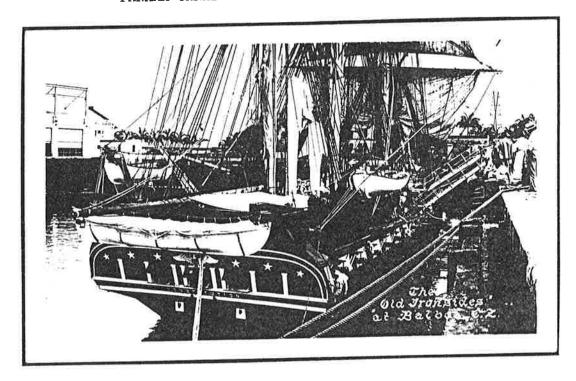


BEING LOWERED TOWARDS PACIFIC DECEMBER 27, 1932

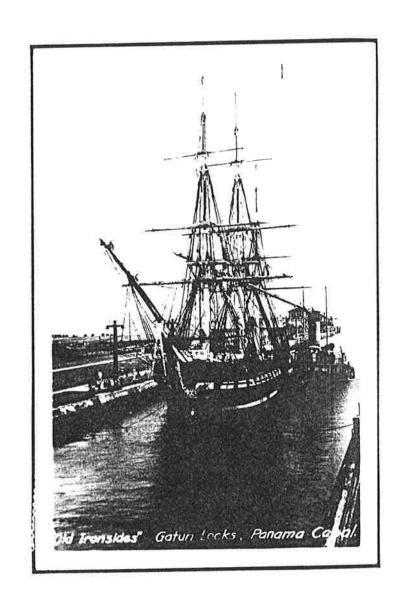
_ 9 _



FRONT VIEW, MOORED TO PIER AT BALBOA APRIL 1934 PANAMA CANAL AND WEST BANK IN BACKGROUND



REAR VIEW, MOORED TO BALBOA PIER APRIL 1934



ENTERING GATUN LOCKS AFTER COMPLETING TRANSIT OF PANAMA CANAL APRIL 7, 1934

CACHETS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN USED WHILE IN PANAMA CANAL AREA

There are four basic types of cachets and several varieties found in connection with Panama Canal visits. This system is found in the standard, but obsolete, reference work - the Gwynne Catalog - and is broken down as seen below in order to better acquaint today's collectors with them.

- S: Ship's Cachet used and applied exclusively by mail clerk Harry Moore at most ports along the route, upon request of visitors or collectors who mailed covers for postmarking. These are rubber handstamps.
- P: Private Printed Cachet made by individuals or groups for their personal use, or for sale at a profit. These usually mark a specific event whose anniversary fell while Constitution was on her cruise. Some of these employed photos rather than a printed design. The duplicator cachets also fall into this category.
- E: Private Envelope Cachet generic cachets on envelopes made by individuals or organizations for use on any date or at any port. These were made for resale or profit.
- C: Official Cachet sponsored at no cost by individuals and organizations to be distributed among friends or members at no cost. (for example Boy Scouts or Chambers of Commerce)
- A fifth category has been developed through the years to record previously unlisted cachets. These are normally prefixed with an "X"; however, in this work they are with the "P" group as all those known from the Canal Zone fall into this category. To date there are four of these.

We have alluded to the varieties which will be noted within this listing; they are as follows:

Photo Card Cachet - Privately Printed Cachet (P) using a photograph rather than a printed design.

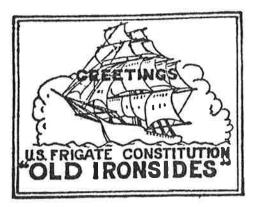
<u>Duplicator Cachet</u> - Privately Printed Cachet (P) used exclusively by Donald A. Schramm and C. Wright Richell in multicolored pastels in quantities of 35 or less, for their private use. In this process each color is printed separately, and was only locally used by the two men in 1934, in preparing covers during the <u>Constitution's</u> 1934 Canal Zone visit and for Easter 1934.

Rubber Handstamp Cachet - Ship's Cachets (S) and Official Cachets (C) applied by hand. These are often small cachets with appropriate wording, but also include larger theme varieties made by various individuals and organizations. The Harry Moore cachets are of this type.

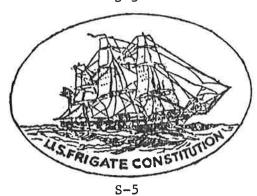
USS CONSTITUTION SHIP'S CACHETS BY MAIL CLERK USED IN CANAL ZONE



S-1



S-3

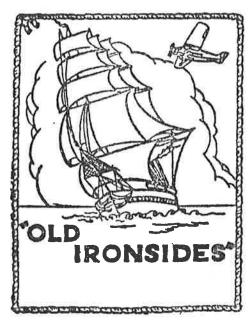




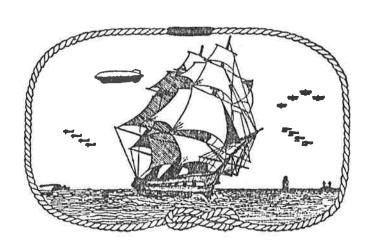
OLD IRONSIDES



S-2



S-4

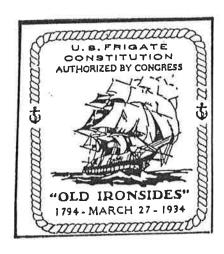


S-7

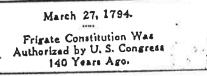
S-6



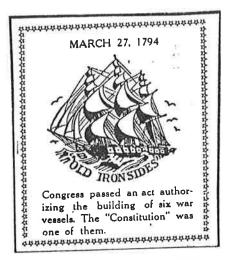
P-95 by LEONARD GILMAN



P-97 by ALEX HESSE, JR. & WILLIAM I. HAGER



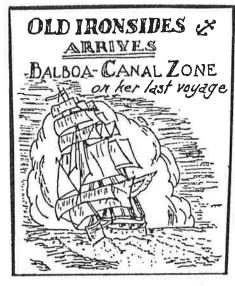
P-99 by JULIUS W. HULFF



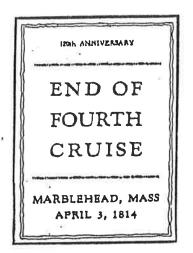
P-96 by LEONARD GILMAN



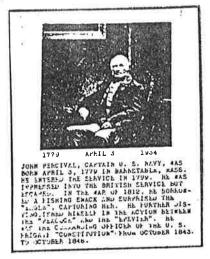
P-98 by FRANK I. MORSE



P-100 by RICHELL & SCHRAMM



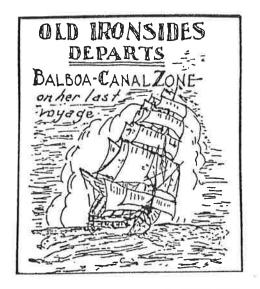
P-101 by FRANK I. MORSE



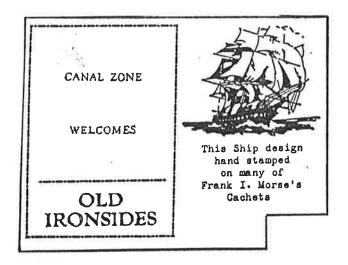
P-102 by DR. H. H. KRETZLER



P-103 by RICHELL & SCHRAMM



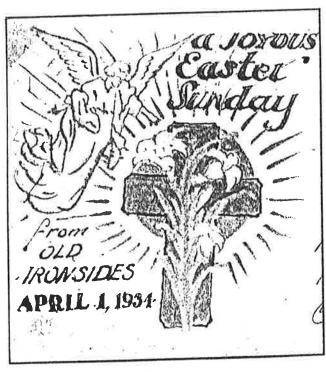
P-104 by RICHELL & SCHRAMM



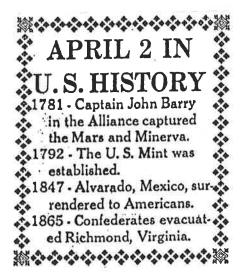
P-105 by FRANK I. MORSE



PX-1 (X-1) by UNKNOWN ARTIST (POSSIBLY EDGAR L. LUCKEY)



PX-3 (X-3) by RICHELL & SCHRAMM



PX-4 (X-4) by DR. H. H. KRETZLER

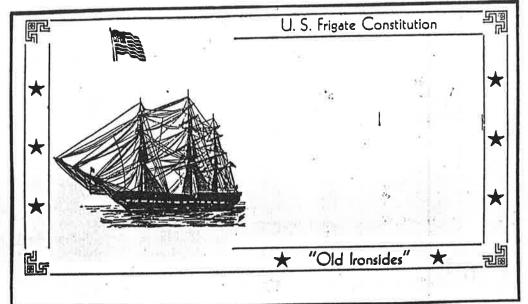


PX-2 (X-2) by SARAH LITTON

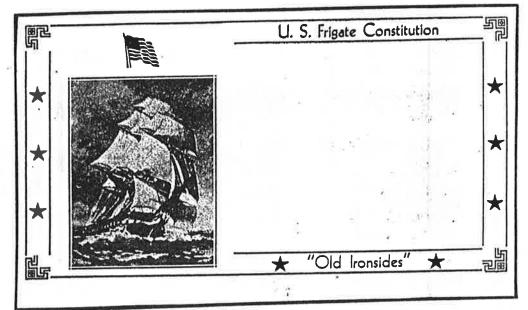


PX-2a (X-2a) by SARAH LİTTON (NOTE THE SMALL PHOTOS ADDED ON SEPARATELY)

USS CONSTITUTION PRINTED OR DUPLICATOR PRIVATE ENVELOPE/CACHETS (E) GENERIC CACHETS USED IN THE CANAL ZONE



E-7 by, JOHN E. GILL



E-8 by JOHN E. GILL

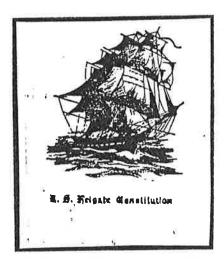


E-9 by
A. C. ROESSLER





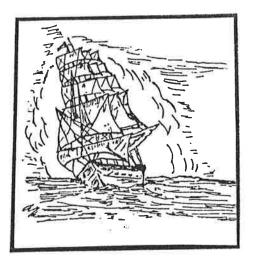
E-10 and E-10a by JOHN E. GILL



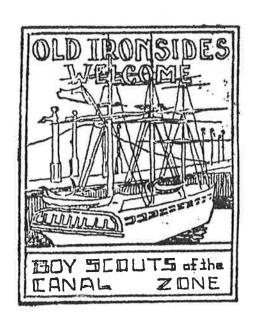
E-11 by JOSEPH M. HALE



E-27 (UNKNOWN)



E-28 by WRIGHT RICHELL & DONALD SCHRAMM



C-80 BOY SCOUTS CACHET DESIGNED BY
C. CARGILL BARNARD

THE U.S.S. CONSTITUTION: TRANSITS OF THE PANAMA CANAL

PART ONE

THE 1932-1933 TRANSIT

At 0650 on December 19, 1932 the <u>U.S.S. Constitution</u> left Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for the Panama Canal Zone. She was in tow of the <u>U.S.S. Grebe</u>, minesweeper (AM-43). She arrived at Cristobal, Canal Zone, at 2307 hours on the 22nd and was moored to the starboard side of Pier 9B. The <u>Constitution</u> started her Canal transit from Cristobal at 0615 hours on the 27th under tow of the C.Z. Tugboat <u>Tavernilla</u> with the <u>Grebe</u> immediately astern. There were a total of 4,640 visitors at Cristobal in the seven days she was docked there.

DECEMBER 22, 1932

(NO VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE - LOCY 3 (BLACK)



TYPICAL CRISTOBAL POSTMARK USED ON BOTH CRUISES

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-4 S-4 S-5 E-7* E-8	Ship's cachet-handstamp """" Printed envelope cachet """"	Purple Aquamarine " Blue & red " "	John E. Gill

 $[\]star$ E-7 and E-8 covers are known with the ship missing and S-3 or S-5 cachets substituted in aquamarine or red violet.

DECEMBER 23, 1932 (888 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN:

CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET		TYI	PE	COLOR	MAKER
S-4 S-5 S-5 S-5 S-5	Ship's	s cachet	-handstamp " " " "	Aquamarine Red violet Aquamarine Black Purple	

DECEMBER 24, 1932 (1035 VISITORS) NO COVERS REPORTED

DECEMBER 25, 1932 (NO VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE - (LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

		A14-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-		
CACHET	T	(PE	COLOR	MAKER
S-2		t-handstamp	Red violet	
S-2	11 11	11	Purple	
S-4	11 11	11	Purple	
S-4	tf H	Ħ	Black	
S-5	11 11	11	Red violet	
S-5	11 11	11	Aquamarine	
E-7*	Printed env	elope cachet	Blue & red	John E. Gill
E-7*	11 11	11	Red & blue	11
E-8*	10			11
ьо		11	Blue & red	11
E-8*	n 11	11	Red & blue	"
E-10**	11 11	H	Red & green	11
E-10	11 11	11	Red & olive green	11
E-10	11 11	11	Burgundy & green	11
E-10	11 11	TI .	Red, gold & green	"
E-10	11 11	11	Red & gold	
E-10	11 11	11	Red	11
E-10	11 11	11	Green	11
E-10	11 11	ff	Gold & green	
PX-1	11 11	11	Black, red, white & go	1d Unknown

*E-7 and E-8 covers are known with the ship missing and S-5 cachets substituted in aquamarine. (Note that there are two different color combinations recorded. On one the frame is red and design blue; on the other the color are reversed).

**E-10 covers exist with the ship missing and various depictions of Santa Claus, Christmas trees, and various holiday greetings substituted (usually handstamps in black or red.)

DECEMBER 27, 1932

(NO VISITORS-ENROUTE TO BALBOA)

KILLER SLOGAN: CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

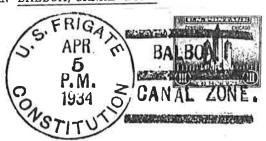
CACHET S-4	Shin's	TYPE cachet-ha	ndstamp	1	COLOR Red violet		M	AKER
S-4	11 11	11	11		Purple Blue			, ²
S-4 S-5	11	11	11		Aquamarine	т - 1	17	C411
E-7* E-8*	Printed "	envelope "	cachet "		Blue & red Blue & red	John	E.	GIII

 $\star E-7$ and E-8 covers exist with ship missing and S-5 cachets substituted in aquamarine and red violet.

On December 27, 1932, the <u>Constitution</u> arrived at Balboa at 1548 hours. She was moored to Pier 16 on the starboard side. She left Balboa on January 7, 1933, at 0907 hours, for San Diego in tow of the <u>Grebe</u>. There were a total of 11,110 visitors at Balboa.

DECEMBER 27, 1932 (NO VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)*



TYPICAL BALBOA POSTMARK USED ON BOTH CRUISES

CACHET	TYPE		COLOR	MAKER
S-3	Ship's cachet-ha	ndstamp	Purple	
S-4	11 11	ti	Red violet	
S-4	11 11	11	Purple	
S-4	n n e	11	Black	
S-5	11 11	!!	Aquamarine	
E-7	Printed envelope		Blue & red	John E. Gill
E-7	11	11	Red & blue	11
E-8	11 11	11	Blue & red	
E-8	11 11	Ħ	Red & blue	11

*aquamarine, blue or red violet cancels are also known.

DECEMBER 28, 1932

(1600 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET		TYPE		COLOR	MAKER
S-4 S-4 S-5 S-5 & S-3 (#10) S-5 & S-1 (#10)	Ship's	cachet-	-handstamp " " " "	Red violet Purple Aquamarine Purple & aquamarine Aquamarine & red vio	let

DECEMBER 29, 1932

(1576 VISITORS, INCLUDING ARMY AND NAVY OFFICIALS) KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET		TYPE		COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-2 S-3 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-5 E-7* E-8 E-11	Ship's	cachet-	-handstamp	Red violet Purple Red violet Red violet Aquamarine Aquamarine Purple Aquamarine Red & blue Red & blue Black	John E. Gill " Joseph M. Hale

*E-7 covers exist with the ship missing and S-5 cachet substituted in aquamarine.

DECEMBER 30, 1932

(1542 VISITORS)

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-4 S-5 E-7 E-8 E-11	Ship's cachet-handstamp """" Printed envelope cachet """"	Red violet Aquamarine Red & blue Red & blue Black	John E. Gill Joseph M. Hale

DECEMBER 31, 1932 (1058 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)*

CACHET		TYPE	N.		COLOR	MAKER
S-3 S-4 S-4 S-4 S-5 S-5	Ship's	cachet	-handstamp " " " " "	Ĭ	Aquamarine Red violet Green* Purple Aquamarine Green*	280

*This is the first time a true "green" color has been reported for these cachets. They were possibly aquamarine handstamps with blue ink mixed on the stamp pad.

JANUARY 1, 1933 (1546 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

	Aquamarine Purple	
S-3	Black Purple & red violet Red violet Purple Blue Red violet Aquamarine Blue & red Blue & red Green Red & green Red & gold Red & olive green Green & gold Red Green Green Green & gold Red Green Green & gold Red Green	er

*E-3 covers exist with Panama City "Agencia Postal" cancels and S-3 or S-5 cachets in purple or aquamarine.

**E-10 covers exist with ship missing and various New Year wordings substituted (handstamped in black) as well as Father Time and New Year's Baby (handstamped in black, red, or green.)

JANUARY 2, 1933 (2143 VISITORS) NO COVERS REPORTED

JANUARY 3, 1933 (NO VISITORS) NO COVERS REPORTED

JANUARY 4, 1933

(NO VISITORS-IN DRYDOCK)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-5	Ship's cachet-handstamp	Blue Red violet Red violet Purple Aquamarine	
NOTE:	Covers may have a manuscript notation	"IN DRY DOCK H.M.".	

JANUARY 5, 1933 (386 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-4 S-5	Ship's cachet-handstamp	Blue Red violet Aquamarine	
NOTE:	Covers may have a manuscript notation	"OUT OF DRY DOCK H.M.".	

JANUARY 6, 1933 (1260 VISITORS)

CACHET	TYPE			COLOR	MAKER
S-3 S-4	11	cachet-	handstamp "	Aquamarine Red violet Red violet	
3-5 3-5 & S-3 (#10)	11	11	**	Purple or aquamarine	

JANUARY 7, 1933 (NO VISITORS-ENROUTE SAN DIEGO) KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET		TYPE		1	COLOR	MAKER
S-1 & S-2 (#10) S-4 S-5 S-4 & S-3 (#10)	Ship's	cachet " "	-handstamp " "		Purple or aquamarine Purple Red violet Purple or aquamarine	39

NOTE: An E-2, E-3, and E-4 have been reported for this date with photographic cachets by W.G. Crosby.

NOTE: From December 17, 1932, to January 7, 1933, covers are known with red violet, blue, and aquamarine postmarks.

PART TWO

ENROUTE TO CANAL ZONE 1934

Constitution left San Diego at 0915 hours on March 20, 1934, for Balboa. She was tow of the submarine tender U.S.S. Bushnell (AS-2). She switched tow to the minesweeper U.S.S. Grebe (AM-43) on the 29th at 0803 hours. She arrived at Balboa on April 2, 1934, at 1808 hours.

MARCH 22, 1934

KILLER SLOGAN: EN ROUTE/BALBOA, C.Z. - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)



TYPICAL EN ROUTE/BALBOA, C.Z. POSTMARK

CACHET		TYPE		COLOR	MAKER
P-95 P-95 P-95 P-95a	Private " "	printed o	achet "	Purple & black Red & black Black Black("our Count toast is mis	
S-1 S-4 S-4 S-5 & S-7 (#10) S-5 & S-7 (#10) S-7 E-27	11 11 11 11 11	achet-han " " " " " " " envelope	11	Blue Purple Red violet Purple Aquamarine or bl Purple or blue Blue Blue	

MARCH 23, 1934

KILLER SLOGAN: ENROUTE/BALBOA, C.Z. - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET	TYPE		COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-1 S-6	Ship's cachet-ha	andstamp "	Blue Purple Blue	

MARCH 26, 1934

KILLER SLOGAN: LAT. 16-26N/LONG. 99-45W - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)



TYPICAL POSTMARK OF THIS TYPE

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-4 S-4 S-7 E-11 E-27 E-27 E-27 E-27	Ship's cachet-handstamp """" Printed envelope cachet """" """"" """""""""""""""""""""""""	Purple Blue Blue Red violet Blue Green Brown Grey	Joseph M. Hale Unknown ""

NOTE: An E-10a has been reported for this date.

MARCH 26, 1934
KILLER SLOGAN: AT/SEA - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)



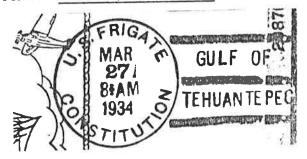
TYPICAL AT SEA POSTMARK

MARCH 26, 1934 - CONTINUED

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-5 S-6 P-96 P-97	Ship's cachet-handstam	Aquamarine Aquamarine Purple Red violet Red violet Purple Blue & red Red Brown, red & blue	Leonard Gilman " Alex Hesse, Jr &
P-98 P-99 P-99 & S-6 E-10 E-10a E-11 E-27 E-27	" " " " " " " " " " " " "	Black (ship blue) Red Red or purple Red & blue Red & blue Red Blue Green	William J. Hager Frank I. Morse Julius W. Hulff "" John E. Gill " Joseph M. Hale Unknown Unknown

MARCH 27, 1934

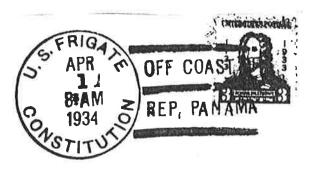
KILLER SLOGAN: GULF OF/TEHUANTEPEC - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)



TYPICAL GULF OF/TEHUANTEPEC POSTMARK

CACHET	TYPE	<u>COLOR</u> <u>MAKER</u>
S-4 S-4 S-5 S-5 S-6 P-96	Ship's cachet-handstamp """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	Blue Purple Red violet Red violet Aquamarine Blue Blue & red Leonard Gilman Red

APRIL 1, 1934
KILLER SLOGAN: OFF COAST/REP. PANAMA - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)



TYPICAL OFF COAST/REP, PANAMA POSTMARK

CACHET			TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
s - 3	Ship's	cachet	-handstamp	Purple	
S-3	11	11	11	Red violet	
S-3	11	11	11	Aquamarine	
S-4	81	***	11	Red violet	
S-6	H	11	11	Purple	
E-27	Printe	d envel	lope cachet	Red	Unknown
E-27	11	11	11	Blue	**
E-27	11	11	11	Brown	tt
PX-2*	11	11	**	Purple & green	Sara Litton
PX-2	**	11	11	Silver & blue	11 *1
PX-2	11	11	11	Black	11 11
PX-2a (#10))* "	11	" (Double)	Purple & green	11 11
PX-3	Duplica	ator ca	•	Multi-colored	C. Wright Richell
111 5	Dupiro			&	Donald A. Schramm

^{*} These covers are known with and without the small ship's picture stickers. They are often confused with covers by the well-known W.G. Crosby, whose cachets are characterized by the use of small photos integrated into the design.

PART THREE

THE 1934 TRANSIT

On April 2, 1934 Constitution arrived at Balboa at 1808 hours in tow of the $\overline{\text{U.S.S.}}$ Grebe and escorted by the $\overline{\text{U.S.S.}}$ Bushnell. She moored to the starboard side of Pier 16. There were no visitors.

APRIL 2, 1934 (NO VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-5 S-5 S-5 & S-7 (#10) P-100	Ship's cachet-handstamp """" """ Duplicator cachet	Aquamarine Purple Aquamarine or Multi-colored	
P-105 (No ship) E-10a E-10a E-27 E-27 PX-4	Private printed cachet Printed envelope cachet """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	Black Red & blue Blue & red Green Blue Purple & black	Frank I. Morse John E. Gill " Unknown " Dr. H. H. Kretzler

APRIL 3, 1934 (511 VISITORS)

CACHET TYPE COLOR MAKER S-1 Ship's cachet-handstamp Blue Purple S-3 " " " Aquamarine S-4 " " " Red violet S-5 " " " Aquamarine S-5 " " " Blue S-5 " " " Purple or blue S-7 " " " Purple or aquamarine S-7 Black Unknown E-27* " " " Blue Blue " " " Blue Blue Joseph M. Hale						
S-1	CACHET		TYPE		COLOR	MAKER
	S-1 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-5 S-5 S-5 & S-7 (#10) S-7 S-7 & S-3 E-27* E-27	n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	" " " e cachet	Purple Aquamarine Blue Red violet Aquamarine Blue Purple or blue Purple Purple or aquamarine Black Green Blue	11 11

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
P-101 P-101	Private printed cachet	Black & brown Black	Frank I. Morse
P-101 P-102	Photo-card cachet	Black & white	Dr. H. H. Kretzler

* E-27 covers for this date often have a handstamped Canal Zone Seal in green. Other naval vessels used this cachet with a "Farewell Old Ironsides" purple handstamp. Combinations with both of these handstamped cachets exist.

APRIL 4, 1934 (509 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET		TYPE	<u>COLOR</u> <u>MAKER</u>
S-1 S-4 S-5 S-6 S-6 & S-7 (#10) S-7 S-7 & S-5 & S-4 (#10)	11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	chet-handstan	p Blue Red violet Aquamarine Purple Purple or blue Blue Red violet or aquamarine or blue
E-11 E-28 P-103	Printed en Duplicator		7 1 36 11-1-

APRIL 5, 1934 (705 VISITORS)

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-3 S-3 S-5 S-5 S-6 S-7 E-27 P-103	Ship's cachet-handstamp """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	Blue Red violet Purple Black Aquamarine Purple Red violet Red Multi-colored	C. Wright Richell & Donald A. Schramm

APRIL 6, 1934 (679 VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: BALBOA/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET		TYPE		ĺ	COLOR		MAKER
S-1 S-1 S-1 & S-3 (#10) S-3 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-4 S-5 S-7 S-7 E-7	11	11 11 11 11 11 11 11	handstamp		Blue Red violet Blue Blue Aquamarine Purple Aquamarine Red violet Aquamarine Blue Red violet blue	John E	. Gill

APRIL 7, 1934 (NO VISITORS)

CACHET	TYPE		<u>TYPE</u> <u>COLOR</u>	
S-1 S-1 S-2 S-3 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-5 S-6 S-6 S-6 S-7* S-7 E-27 E-27 P-104	Ship's cache """" """" """" """" """" """" """" "	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Blue Red violet Purple Aquamarine Blue Black Red violet Aquamarine Blue Red violet Blue Purple Blue Dark grey Multi-colored	C. Wright Richell
1 107				& Donald A. Schramm

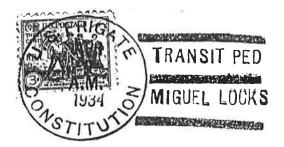
^{*} An S-7 cover is known with a "Farewell Old Ironsides" purple handstamp.

APRIL 7, 1934

(NO VISITORS-ENROUTE CRISTOBAL)

KILLER SLOGAN: TRANSIT PED/MIGUEL LOCKS - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

On April 7, 1934, Constitution began her second transit of the Panama Canal. She left Balboa at 0727 hours escorted by Grebe and an unidentified tug. She arrived at Cristobal at 1857 hours the same day and moored to the starboard side of Pier 10. There were no visitors. Constitution got underway for St. Petersburg, Florida, at 0629 hours on April 8th under tow of the Grebe.



TYPICAL TRANSIT PED/MIGUEL LOCKS POSTMARK

CACHET		TYPE		COLOR		MAK	ER
011011111						3,710	
C-80*	Rubber ha	andstamp	cachet	Black			Barnard
C-80a	Printed e	envelope	cachet	Black	11	11	11
C-80 & S-3 (#10)	Rubber ha	ndstamp	&				
	Ship's h	andstam	р	Black/?**	11	11	tt
C-80 & S-4 (#10)	11 1			Black/?**	11	11	11
C-80 & S-5 (#10)	11 11	11		Black/?**	11	11	11
C-80 & S-2,S-5,S-6	11 11	1 11		Black/?**	11	11	11
S-1	Ship's ca	chet-ha	ndstamp	Blue			
S-2	11 11		•	Purple			
S-3	11 11	11		Aquamarine			
S-3	11 11	. 11		Blue			
S-4	11 11			Red violet			
	11 11			Aquamarine			
S-5	11 11	11		Purple			
S-5	11 11			Red violet			
S-5	11 11						
S-6				Blue			
S-7	11 11			Blue			
S-7	11 11	11		Red violet			
E-11	Printed e	nvelope	cachet	Green	Jos	seph M.	Hale

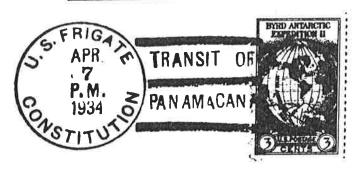
^{*}C-80 cachets were sponsored by the Canal Zone Boy Scouts. Many of these covers have the small ship stickers.

** Only examples seen are on photocopies.

APRIL 7, 1934

(NO VISITORS-ENROUTE CRISTOBAL)

KILLER SLOGAN: TRANSIT OF/PANAMA CANAL - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)



TYPICAL TRANSIT OF/PANAMA CANAL POSTMARK

CACHET		TYP	E	COLOR	MAKER
C-80	Rubber	handst	amp cachet	Black	G. Cargill Barnard
C-80a S-1 S-2,S-6,S-7 S-3 S-4 S-4 S-5	Printer Ship's " " " "	d envel cachet " " "	ope cachet -handstamp " " " " "	Black Blue Purple/?/?* Aquamarine Red violet Aquamarine Aquamarine	11 11

*only example seen is on a photocopy

APRIL 7, 1934 (NO VISITORS)

		•			
CACHET		TYP	<u>PE</u>	COLOR	MAKER
S-1* S-1 S-1 S-2* S-3* S-3* S-4* S-5* S-6* S-6	Ship's	cachet	-handstamp "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" ""	Blue Purple Blue-green Green Red violet Aquamarine Black Purple Purple Green	
S-7*	11	11	If	Blue	

^{*} Combinations of S-1 to S-7 cachets are known on #10 envelopes for April 7 in every combination possible, and in all colors previously mentioned. With signatures of Harry Moore and CDR Gulliver either on the front or back. There are also cachet combinations known on the back. (These covers are from Harry Moore collection).

APRIL 7, 1934 - CONTINUED

B / 1 1	1	anahat	Purnle	A. C. Roessler
Printed			-	John E. Gill
- 11	11	**		11 11
11	11	11	Blue & red	,,
11	11	11	Blue	Joseph M. Hale
11	11	11		Unknown
11	11	11		11
Private	printed	cachet	Black & blue	Frank I. Morse
	11 11 11 11	11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	

 \star P-105 cachets can be found with the ship missing.

APRIL 8, 1934 (NO VISITORS)

KILLER SLOGAN: CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE - LOCY TYPE 3 (BLACK)

CACHET	TYPE	COLOR	MAKER
S-1 S-1 S-4 S-7	Ship's cachet-handstamp	Red violet Purple Red violet Purple	
E-27	Printed envelope cachet	Blue	Unknown

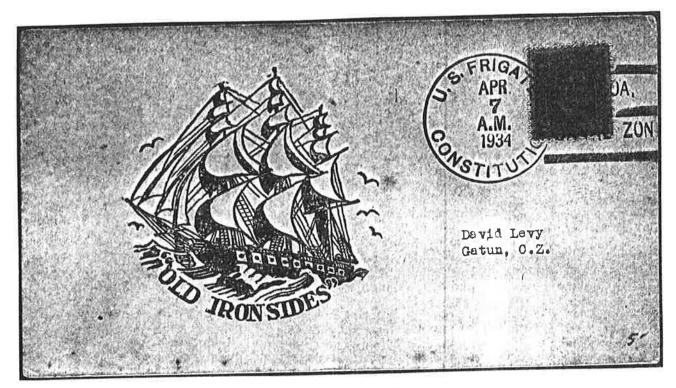
NOTE: Many covers for this date as well as April 7th have BALBOA/CANAL ZONE and CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE postmarks on the back of the cover. Some covers have a Pedro Miguel, C.Z. postmark. Locy Type 3 cancels for the 7th and 8th exist in red, blue, green, purple, red violet, and aquamarine.

AUTHORS' NOTE: Only those cachets for the Canal Zone which have been actually seen are listed. There may well be others as well as unlisted combinations. Collectors having examples of new cachets, cachet colors, or cancel colors are requested to send a Xerox copy of your new find, together with colors and maker if known, to:

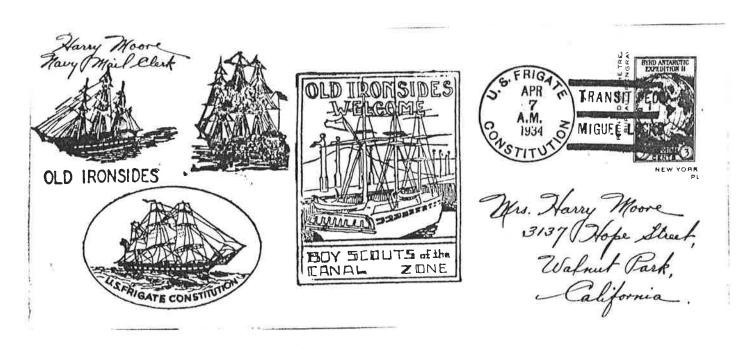
Roger A. Wentworth
154 Braelinn Courts
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Robert J. Karrer, Jr.
Box 6094
Alexandria, VA, 22306

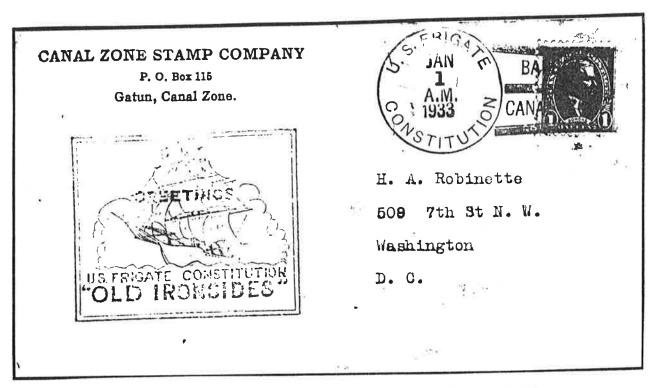
SOME TYPICAL OCD IRONSIDES COVERS



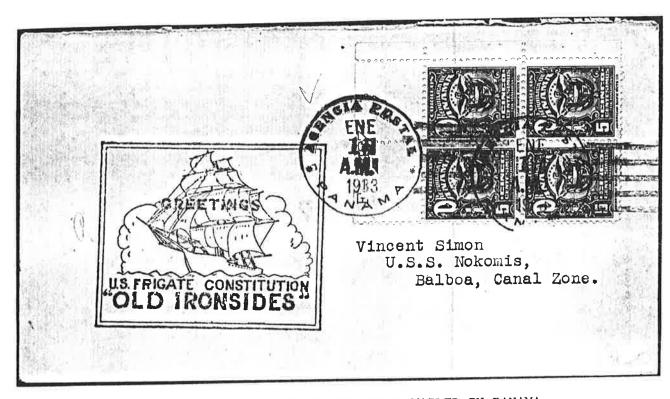
S-7 SHIP'S CACHET



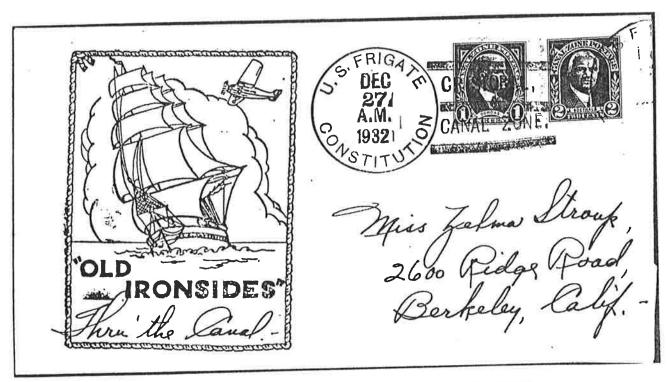
S-2, S-5 & S-6 SHIP'S CACHETS, AND C-80 CACHET ON COVER AUTOGRAPHED BY HARRY MOORE AND ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE



S-3 SHIP'S CACHET POSTMARDED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY 1933



S-3 SHIP'S CACHET ON SCARCE COVER MAILED IN PANAMA ON NEW YEAR'S DAY 1933, FOR DELIVERY TO ANOTHER US NAVAL VESSEL



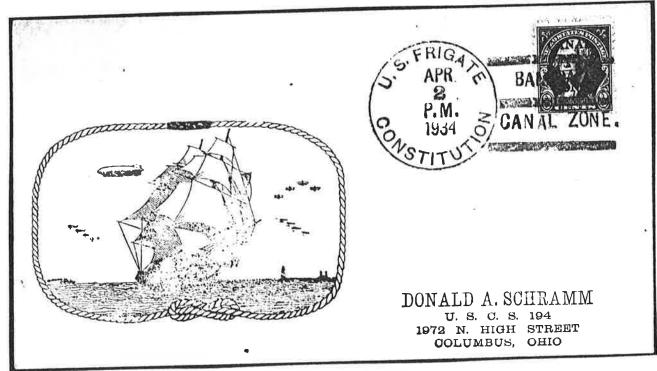
S-4 SHIP'S CACHET USED BY MAIL CLERK HARRY MOORE NOTE MANUSCRIPT "THRU THE CANAL" WITHIN THE CACHET



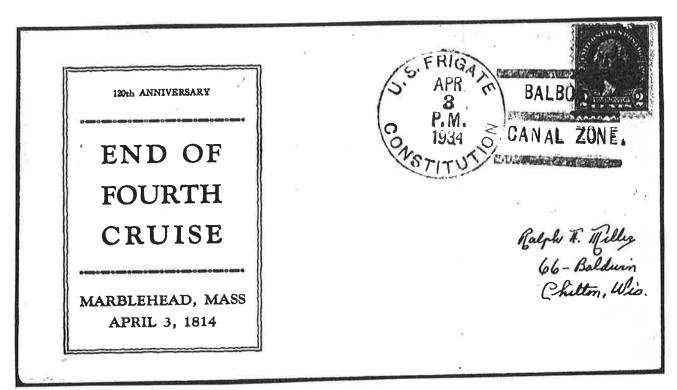
S-5 SHIP'S CACHET ADDRESSED TO SAILOR AT THE DARIEN RADIO STATION NEAR GAMBOA, CZ



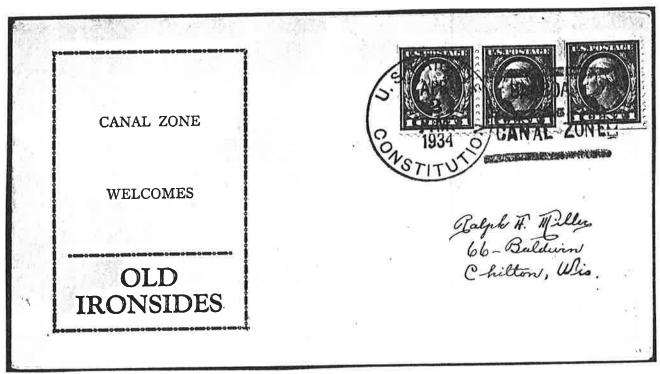
S-6 SHIP'S CACHET



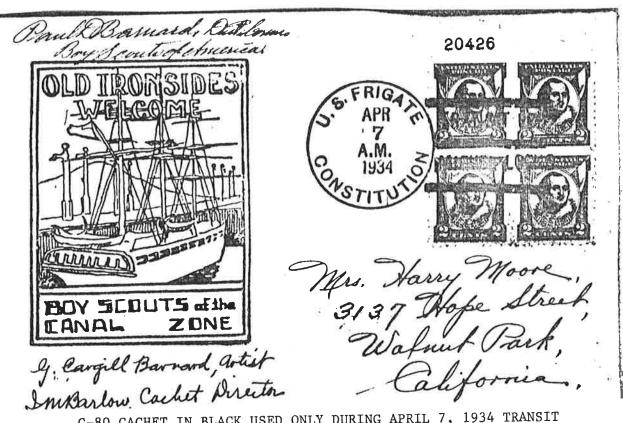
S-7 SHIP'S CACHET



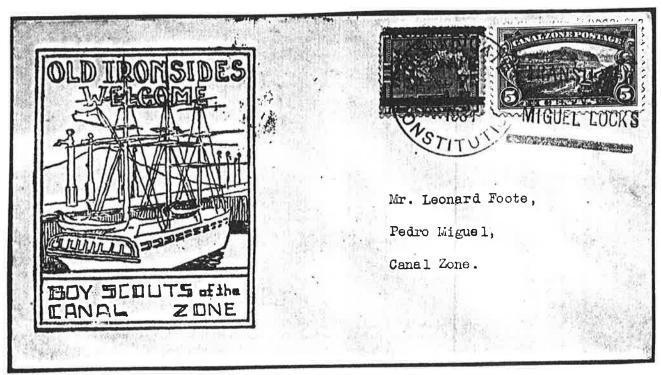
P-101 BLACK CACHET BY FRANK I. MORSE ONLY USED ON APRIL 3, 1934



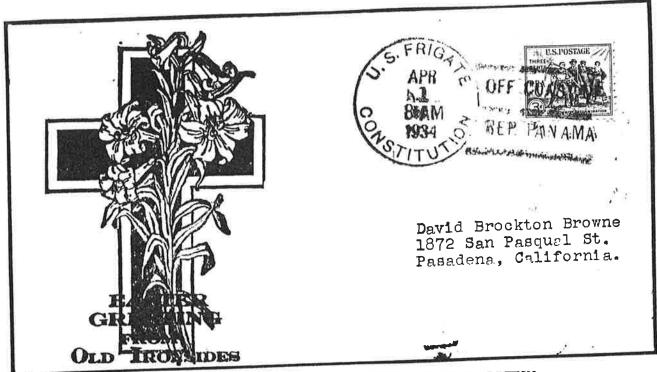
P-105 BLACK CACHET BY FRANK I. MORSE ONLY USED ON APRIL 2, 1934



C-80 CACHET IN BLACK USED ONLY DURING APRIL 7, 1934 TRANSIT OF PEDRO MIGUEL LOCKS; SIGNED BY THE ARTIST G. CARGILL BARNARD, CACHET DIRECTOR J. M. BARLOW, AND THE DISTRICT BOY SCOUT COMMISSIONER PAUL D. BARNARD



C-80 CACHET WITH ADDITIONAL POSTAGE INCLUDING AN EARLY MAP STAMP OF 1906 (SCOTT #16) AND A 5¢ ISSUE WITH STEAMSHOVEL IN CULEBRA CUT (SCOTT #107)



PX-2 CACHET IN PURPLE AND GREEN BY SARAH LITTON USED ONLY ON EASTER SUNDAY, 1934



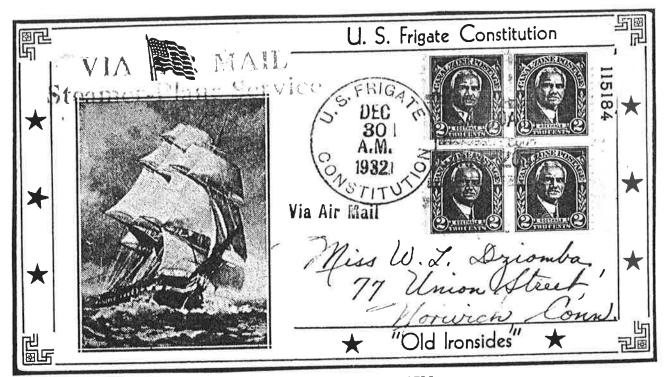
E-27 CACHET IN BLUE BY UNKNOWN ARTIST

NOTE THAT IN THIS CASE IT WAS USED ON APRIL 3, 1934 ABOARD THE

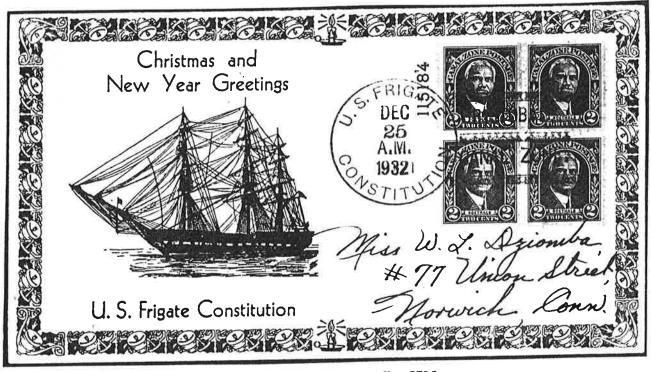
AUXILIARY AIRCRAFT TENDER USS TEAL (AVP-5) WHICH WAS STATIONED AT COCO SOLO

ORIGIN OF THE CANAL ZONE SEAL HANDSTAMPED IN ORANGE IS UNKNOWN,

AS IS THE PURPLE "WELCOME OLD IRONSIDES" BELOW THE CACHET



E-8 CACHET BY JOHN E. GILL BALBOA, 30 DECEMBER 1932, POSTMARKS INDICATE STEAMER SERVICE TO USA AND AIRMAIL TO CONNECTICUT



E-10 CACHET BY JOHN E. GILL CHRISTMAS DAY 1932 AT CRISTOBAL