

SLOGANS OF U.S.S. AMPHION (AR 13)

The Universal Ship Cancellation Society

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During 1960 and 1961, USS AMPHION used multiple slogans in the killer bars of her type 2 cancels. AMPHION was one of a few US Navy ships to use slogans after 1950. This uncommon usage came to being by the encouragement of her commanding officer, Captain Herbert F. Rommel, Jr. With his guidance, various ports of call and appropriate sayings were used. His discussion of AMPHION's cancels in the Universal Ship Cancellation Society's *The Log* (July 1961) is attached.

The most common slogans found are "NAVY DAY" for covers commemorating 27 October 1960, and "FLEXIBLE FORCE FOR FREEDOM" which was used to cancel covers for AMPHION's fifteenth commissioning anniversary, 30 January 1961. These two slogans were used on many covers, only for the mentioned occasions, and are relatively easy to find. The ports of call slogans are harder to come across. "NAVAL BASE NORFOLK VA." is the most common of these since she spent more time there than in any of the others; Norfolk was her home port..

An explanation of the cancels and the accompanying chart:

The Locy system of naval cancellation devices uses many cancel device type classifications. The USS AMPHION used Type 2 devices for her slogans. As Type 2 devices have four killer bars, there are three spaces between where wordage can be installed. On AMPHION, rubber-stamp strips were ordered which had the wording on them. These strips were glued in between the bars when used. There was a slight elevation difference between the bars and the words as can be noted by the fact the bars do not show clearly on many of the covers cancelled.

When listing the "Slogan Used", the use of "/" designates the splits of the words between different bar spaces. The use of "-XX-" designates a blank space – no wordage was installed.

Two cancel devices were used: a Type 2 and a Type 2(n).

The "Known Dates of Use" category show dates of each cancel known to this writer. It is assumed that other dates can exist for the ports of call and "At Sea", especially for those with two dates lists.

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SLOGAN USED	CANCEL TYPE	KNOWN DATES OF USE
-XX- / AT SEA / -XX-	T-2	30 JUL 1960
-XX- / AT SEA / -XX-	T-2(n)	16 Nov 1960 26 Mar 1961
FLEXIBLE / FORCE FOR / FREEDOM GTMO BAY / CUBA	T-2	30 JAN 1961
HAMPTON / ROADS, VA. / -XX-	T-2(n)	17 NOV 1960
KINGSTON / JAMAICA / -XX-	T-2	28 MAR 1961 7 APR 1961
NAVAL BASE / NORFOLK / VA.	T-2	25 OCT 1960 20 APR 1961
NAVAL BASE / NORFOLK / VA.	T-2(n)	18 NOV 1960 7 DEC 1960
NAVAL / SHIPYARD / PORTSMOUTH	T-2(n)	30 DEC 1960
NAVY / DAY / -XX-	T-2(n)	27 OCT 1960
-XX- / NEWPORT / R.I.	T-2	18 AUG 1960
PORT / EVERGLADES / FLORIDA	T-2(n)	14 NOV 1960
SAN JUAN, / P.R. / -XX-	T-2	7 APR 1961

Were “ -XX- ” is printed above, no wording was placed in that bar area.

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U. S. S. AMPHION AND HER POSTMARKS

by
Captain H. F. Rommel USN

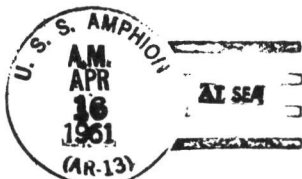
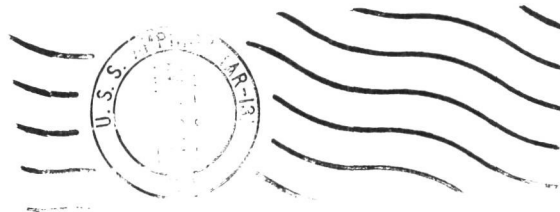
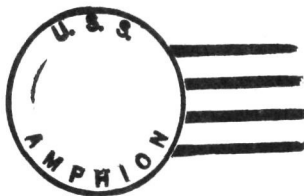
As I complete my one year tour of duty in a deep-draft command, I feel a report is in order. The AMPHION has been a bit more active in the postoffice than most ships, and this is understandable.

The most significant items are the new roller cancels. At my request, the Navy Postal Clerk requested a metal handstamp (type 6). This was returned not approved. The request was resubmitted stating that the cancel was desired to fulfill requests of collectors. The metal roller without ship's class number was received direct from the manufacturer and was first used Sept. 23, 1960. The postal clerk did not like this canceller, and it is used only on request. The "A" frequently does not print, apparently because of the date sticking out. The year is inserted with a pin. When 1961 rolled around, a new date was requested. Apparently as a result of this request a new roller was received, the latest one with the ship's class number. Both of these cancels are on board and will be used by the postal clerk upon request.

Please do not write me for duplicates; I did not get a stock for myself. I felt that this would be commercializing an effort which was intended to increase interest in current cancels.

Finally, a word should be said about cachets. An attempt was made to give these full publicity. Notice was sent to all the weeklies in plenty of time. The Navy Day cachet had a drawing of the ship which was made by one of our men, Marvin Korpela, surrounded by 50 stars and the wording Flexible Force for Freedom (the official slogan for Navy Day 1960). About 3500 covers were cancelled. A postcard of the ship was enclosed in most of them. The Fifteenth Birthday cachet is, I think a masterpiece. It was designed and drawn by Miss Lorraine Carlson of New York, a talented artist and an enthusiastic cover collector. It used the AMPHION plaque design, an octopus with 13 on his forehead and tools in his tentacles. A card listing the shops was enclosed in most of the covers. About 5500 covers were cancelled.

Notice the two type 2r on the illustrations. They



How shall we classify these new cancels? I am strongly opposed to any re-use of type 4. I never fully agreed with the decision to drop it; the old type 4 was a different size from types 3 and 5. However, it was a minor difference, and furthermore, a difference which was repeated in type 6 with the New York NY wording. (It, too, was smaller than the standard type).

The roller is a standard type of government-issue cancel. It will probably be known as type 10. We should wait to see if many other ships also get this type. Is it not a great tribute to the thoroughness and judgment of Dr. Francis Locy that his classification system, published in 1927, has survived until this date with no need for additions to major types?

The next most interesting feature of AMPHION cancels has probably been the use of locations and slogans. These are rubber strips which I purchased and which the postal clerk glues into the cancel, as appropriate. As most of you know, the old types 3 and 5 had slots between the bars and the mail clerk was furnished with a set of rubber type. The new cancels have the four killers and no provision for locations and slogans. There have been ships which have used wording between the bars--I recall some from various Deepfreeze ships, and one ship, the Ernest G. Small, I believe, which used "Tri, Itali, and Naples, Italy several years ago. There does not seem to be any flood of such cancels in the offing--most commanding officers are not interested, and while not prohibited, neither are locations "authorized". Perhaps this is just as well; who could afford a succession of locations from all our ships?

The AMPHION has used the following locations: Newport, R.I.; At Sea; Naval Base, Norfolk, Va.; Port Everglades, Florida; Hampton Roads, Va.; Gtmo Bay Cuba; Kingston Jamaica; Naval Shipyard Portsmouth; Flexible Force for Freedom; San Juan P.R.

were made by two different handstamps. When the post-office issues cancels, they usually send more than one at a time, an economy measure since the main expense is setting up the type. These cancels are received without the handles; they are just flat rubber to be glued on the handles. This will explain why ships have cancels which are almost identical, but which have worn differently.

The past year has been a busy and a happy one. I regret that I have not had more time to devote to cancels. With all the publicity the AMPHION received, we could have used more (I'm afraid the postal clerk will not agree). I am glad that I have helped you get some unusual items for your collections.



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EXAMPLES OF

SLOGANS USED BY U.S.S. AMPHION (AR 13)

