

Follow-Up of the Census of American Flag Machine Cancellations for Military Facilities

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Date: September 21, 1997

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Introduction

This article reports the current results of my census of the American flag machine cancellations for military facilities. This census started back in 1993, but I continue to update my database as new dates are discovered or reported to me. The flag cancels I am studying are those primarily described on page 62 of Frederick Langford's "Flag Cancel Encyclopedia", 3rd Edition. In this follow-up article, I have only listed the dates of usage, and counts for the items. Some new EKU and LKU dates have appeared over the intervening years. Also, I have added a couple of items that probably qualify as military markings. They were noted elsewhere in Langford's book, and for convenience, I have listed them here. Work on these items is incomplete, and more information is requested of the members of the MCS. As is usual, I heartily thank the members who have sent me new dates, since the last printing of my census results. Some of the additional folks who have helped in recent years include:

Gregory Ciesielski
Ed Dubin
Jack Elder
Gene Falada
John Hardies
Tom Luellen
Edgar Newman
Sam Ockun

Donald Pearson
Larry Resnick
Robert Scales III
Ronald Simpson
Dwight Stuckey
James Ware
John White
John H. Williams

and, Bart Billings, for gathering the dates from the Stickels Estate Auction

The Current Listing of American Flag Machines

This listing is ordered by State, with no regard to Army or Navy.

In the following listings, EKU means earliest known usage date, LKU means latest known usage date. If the date is followed by (NC), this means that this date was reported, but I have not seen the item or a confirming photocopy.

Where the American flag machine was followed by a Universal machine, I will indicate the earliest reported date of the Universal machine by using the notation (U mm/dd/yy). The Universal dates were taken from listings I have been maintaining, and which have been recently updated by Bob Payne.

Anniston, Ala., McClellan Branch, A-38

EKU 9/ 7/17 : LKU 2/ 6/18 (year could be 1918 or 1919, other 1918 item has no year slug) : (U 11/7/17) : 68 examples reported

McClellan, Ala., A-14 (LFHC)

EKU 7/20/22 : LKU 8/16/24 : 5 examples reported

Montgomery, Ala., Sheridan Branch, A-38

EKU 9/20/17 : Last reported 1917 use 11/16/17 : One example seen in 1918, dated 7/5/18 (U 11/6/17) : 53 examples reported

San Francisco, Cal., Fremont Branch, A-38

EKU 11/19/17 (only 1917 use known) First 1918 use: 2/6/18 : LKU 11/ 8/18 : 64 examples reported

Vallejo, Cal., Mare Island Naval Branch, A-38

EKU (example reported to Langford from 1917, but month/day not known)
Earliest 1918 usage, 7/19/18 : LKU 7/17/22 : 38 examples reported

Jacksonville, Fla., Navy Yard Station, A-38

No examples reported. Note also, that in my research on military bases, I have found no record that indicates that any Navy Yard ever operated in Jacksonville, Florida.

Atlanta, Ga., Gordon Branch, C-14

No examples reported. My Army research shows that the camp real estate and buildings were put up for sale in 1920, and the site was abandoned September, 1921. The latest date I've recorded for the Universal machine at Camp Gordon is 8/14/19. "Fort Gordon", an entirely different military base, was later established near Augusta, Georgia.

Augusta, Ga., Hancock Branch, A-38

EKU 9/ 7/17 : Last 1917 date: 12/ ??/17 (photocopy shows that this could be 3, 6, or 8th). One example reported from 1918: 10/10/18. (U 11/8/17) : 67 examples reported

Camp Benning, Ga., A-14

EKU 4/18/21 : LKU 5/ 1/22 : 10 examples reported

Fort Benning, Ga., A-14

EKU 4/15/22 : LKU 4/ 7/28 (photocopy could be 1928 or 1929)
15 examples reported

Macon, Ga., Wheeler Branch, A-38

EKU 9/25/17 (5 is faint) : LKU 11/30/17 : (U 12/26/17(NC)) : 13 examples reported
NOTE: all machine cancels before June, 1918 from this camp are very uncommon.

Great Lakes, Ill., Great Lakes Receiving Ship, A-38

EKU 1/26/18 : Latest 1918 date reported is 10/14/18, which is the only October date reported

EKU for 1920 : 1/10/20 : LKU 1/25/22 : 130 examples reported

Used in Washington, DC, reported 2/7/20, 3/19/20, 4/16/20

Great Lakes, Ill., U. S. Receiving Ship, A-38

EKU 10/15/18 : LKU 12/30/19 : 92 examples reported

Great Lakes, Ill., A-14

EKU 10/ 1/18 : LKU 10/14/18 (NC) : 32 examples reported

Great Lakes, Ill., A-14 different die

EKU 2/1/22 : LKU 3/13/22 : 2 examples reported to me, but there may be more.

National Military Home, Ind., A-14

EKU 1/14/28 : LKU 12/ 8/31 : 8 examples reported

Veterans Administration Hosp., Ind., A-14

EKU 4/13/33 : LKU 7/9/35 : 18 examples reported

Des Moines, Iowa, Dodge Branch, A-38

EKU 9/ 7/17 : LKU 10/ 6/17 (NC) : (U 10/27/17) : 42 examples reported

Fort Riley, Kansas, A-14

EKU 6/21/17 : LKU 8/9/20 : 300+ examples reported

Fort Riley, Kansas, A-14 different die (1921)

EKU 4/15/21 : 4/15/22 : 7 examples reported

Junction City , Kansas, Funston Branch, C-14

No examples reported

Alexandria, La., Beauregard Branch, A-38

EKU 9/13/17 : LKU 11/19/17 : (U 11/22/17) : 15 examples reported; note that
There are "AUG" dials, but no year in dial.

Devens, Mass., A-14 (blank)

EKU 7/ 7/22 : LKU 7/12/29 : 26 examples reported. Many date impressions are unclear.

Ayer, Mass., Devens Branch, V-14

EKU 7/ 6/31 : LKU 7/13/32 : 8 examples reported

Ayer, Mass., Fort Devens Station, A-38

EKU 6/ 2/33 : LKU 10/11/35 : 17 examples reported

Annapolis, Md., Nav. Acad. Br., C-14

EKU 12/12/19 : LKU 2/24/21 : 29 examples reported

Fort Harrison, Mont., A-14 **

EKU 1/29/31 : LKU 7/ 4/40 (Official last day) : 50+ examples reported **

Trenton, N.J., Dix Branch, C-14

No examples reported

Deming, N.Mex., Cody Branch, A-38

EKU 9/2/17 (Quaker date)

First "normal" date 9/ 8/17 : Last 1917 usage: 11/ 8/17 : (U 11/14/17)

1918 reuse period : EKU 5/10/18 : LKU 6/11/18 : (U 6/15/18)

Total of 75 examples reported

Brooklyn, N.Y., Navy Yard Station, A-38

EKU 8/28/17: LKU 8/23/20 : 17 examples reported

Brooklyn, N.Y., Upton Branch, A-38

EKU 9/19/17 : LKU 10/20/17 : (U 10/18/17) : 10 examples reported

Hempstead, N.Y., Mills Branch, A-38

EKU 12/ 4/17 : First 1918 usage 4/23/18 : LKU 9/ 5/19 : 140+ examples reported

New Rochelle, N.Y., Fort Slocum Military Branch, A-38

EKU 6/21/17 (NC) : LKU 4/22/22 : 110+ examples reported

New York, N.Y., Pelham Naval Station, A-38

EKU 4/23/18 : LKU 3/19/19 : 49 examples reported

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Military Branch, A-38

Only example confirmed: 7/19/17

Watertown, N.Y., Military, A-38

EKU 5/ 1/17 : LKU 2/27/19 : 35 examples reported

West Point, N.Y., A-14

EKU 10/18/20 : LKU 8/25/25 : 41 examples reported

Camp Perry, Ohio, A-14

EKU 9/7/17 : Last 1917 date: 12/10/17. First 1918 date: 6/17/18 : LKU 10/ 3/18
17 examples reported. Dates are indistinct on many 1917 examples.

Port Clinton, Ohio, Erie Proving Ground Branch, A-38

EKU 12/20/18 : LKU 4/14/19 : 9 examples reported

Fort Bragg, N.C., A-14

EKU 10/18/27 : LKU 2/28/29 : 6 examples reported

Lawton, Okla., Fort Sill Branch, A-38

EKU 9/28/17 : LKU 11/9/17 : (U 11/7/17) : 28 examples reported

Philadelphia, Pa., Navy Yard Station, A-38

EKU 8/20/17 : LKU 11/ 3/20 : 59 examples reported

Newport, R.I., U. S. Naval Training Station, A-38

EKU 8/12/19 : LKU 10/10/20 : 7 examples reported

Sevier, S.C., A-14

Only example reported: 8/29/17

Greenville, S.C., Sevier Branch, A-38

EKU 8/31/17 : Last 1917 known: 11/13/17. Then 1/12/18, 2/5/18, and LKU 10/21/18: (U
11/6/17) : 31 examples reported

NOTE: the two early 1918 examples are all without year slug.

Spartansburg, S.C., Wadsworth Branch, A-38 (note "SBURG" in name of city)

EKU 9/ 1/17 : LKU 10/ 8/17 : 54 examples reported

Spartanburg, S.C., Wadsworth Branch, A-38 (no "SBURG" in city)

EKU 10/9/17 : Latest 1918 use: 2/22/18 : (U 11/26/17)

LKU 4/13/19 (only example reported in 1919) : 80 examples reported total

Chattanooga, Tenn., Forrest Branch, A-38

EKU 10/30/18 : Last 1919 use: 10/10/19. One example in 1920: 4/27/20
38 examples reported

Chattanooga, Tenn., Greenleaf Branch, A-38

EKU 10/??/? (Dial clearly says OCT) : First clear date 11/1/18 : LKU 12/22/18 : 23 examples reported

Chattanooga, Tenn., Military Branch, A-38 1917-1918 (first die)

EKU 8/ 1/17 : 180+ examples reported

September/October 1918 dates confirmed:

9/3, 9/11, 9/12, 9/13, 9/14, 9/17, 9/19, 9/20, 9/24, 9/25, 9/27, 10/3, 10/6, 10/8, 10/11, 10/13,
10/14, 10/16, 10/20, 10/22, 10/27

LKU 10/27/18

These dates overlap with those of the second die. See below for more information.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Military Branch, A-38 (second die)

Unconfirmed, but reported, 1918 use: 9/19, 9/24, 10/8, 10/9

The following are confirmed dates (all 1918), based on photocopies that I have received:

9/27, 9/28, 9/29, 10/1, 10/4, 10/5, 10/11, 10/13, 10/27

Note the overlap of dates with the first die. The dates of use for the Military Branch A-38 killer connect neatly with those for the Greenleaf Branch and Forrest Branch A-38 killers.

Fort Bliss, Texas, A-14 1917-21 (first die)

EKU 6/28/17 : LKU 7/16/21 : 66 examples reported.

Two examples are reported for 1921. It is unclear to me whether these are of the first die type or a later die type. I need confirming photocopies of ALL Fort Bliss items from 1921 and later.

Fort Bliss, Texas, A-14 (second die) 21-24

EKU 7/16/21 : LKU 8/ 8/22 : 8 examples reported.

All Fort Bliss cancels from 1921 and later need verification of type. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Fort Bliss, Tex., A-14 (third die) 24-28

EKU 3/30/26 : LKU 12/12/27 : 6 examples reported

El Paso, Tex., A-14 (used at Fort Bliss) 16-17

Two examples reported, dated 5/18/17 and 6/8/17. Many more must exist. See page 52 of FCE. Please send photocopies of this, and the following El Paso machine.

Fort Bliss, Tex., A-38 (International Dry Farming slogan) 16

EKU 9/24/16 : LKU 9/29/16 : 2 examples reported so far, but many others must exist. See page 71 of FCE. Please send photocopies of this, and the previous machine.

Fort Worth, Texas, Bowie Branch, A-38

EKU 10/ 1/17 : LKU 10/31/17 : (U 12/15/17) : 11 examples reported

Houston, Texas, Ellington Branch, A-38

EKU 4/ 1/18 : LKU 5/27/19 : 37 examples reported

Houston, Texas, Logan Branch, A-38

EKU 9/14/17 : LKU 11/28/17 : (U 11/26/17) : 51 examples reported

Llano Grande, Texas, A-14

EKU 8/ 7/16 : LKU 10/21/16 : 24 examples reported

Mercedes, Texas, Llano Grande Military Branch, A-38

EKU 10/31/16 : LKU 2/1/17 : 30 examples reported

Waco, Texas, MacArthur Branch, A-38

EKU 9/21/17 : LKU 11/20/17 : (U 11/21/17) : 31 examples reported

Waco, Texas, Aviation Branch, A-38

EKU 3/14/18 : LKU 11/19/18 : 90 examples reported

Burlington, Vt., Military Branch, A-38

EKU 6/27/17 : LKU 12/20/18 : 34 examples reported

Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., A-14 **

EKU 5/14/30 : LKU 4/27/36 : 30 examples reported

Alexandria, Va., Military Branch, A-38

EKU 7/ 7/17 : LKU 10/ 1/19 : 83 examples reported

NOTE: so far all examples that have readable return addresses show that this Branch was used for mail originating from Marines at Quantico. Any other return addresses should be reported to me!

Fort Myer, Va., A-14

EKU 5/28/17 : LKU 6/16/26 : 61 examples reported
No 1922, or 1925 use reported

Newport News, Va., Aviation Branch, A-38

EKU 2/18/18 : LKU 6/18/19 : 42 examples reported

Newport News, Va., Hill Branch, A-38

EKU 12/24/17 : LKU 7/13/19 : 66 examples seen

Norfolk, Va., Military Branch, A-38

EKU 4/ 4/18 : LKU 3/21/19 : 11 examples reported

Norfolk, Va., Naval Base Station, A-38

EKU 12/19/17 : LKU 2/6/21 : 84 examples reported

Quantico, Va., Marine Branch, A-38

EKU 4/ 5/20 : LKU 7/18/22 : 20 examples reported

Bremerton, Wash., U. S. Receiving Ship, A-38

EKU 12/12/18 : LKU 9/11/19 : 10 examples reported

Vancouver, Wash., A-14 (used at Vancouver Barracks)

EKU 11/1/17 (NC) : LKU 6/7/18 (NC) recent addition, four reported so far.
Please provide any dates that you know, thank you.

Fort Warren, Wyo., A-14 **

EKU 5/ 9/34 (NC) : LKU 9/21/35 : 12 examples reported **

** Note that these flag cancels may be much more common than my figures indicate. During the 1930's, many collectors sent their covers to the postmaster at these facilities for cancellations. This traffic probably far exceeded that from the normal mail of the military facility.