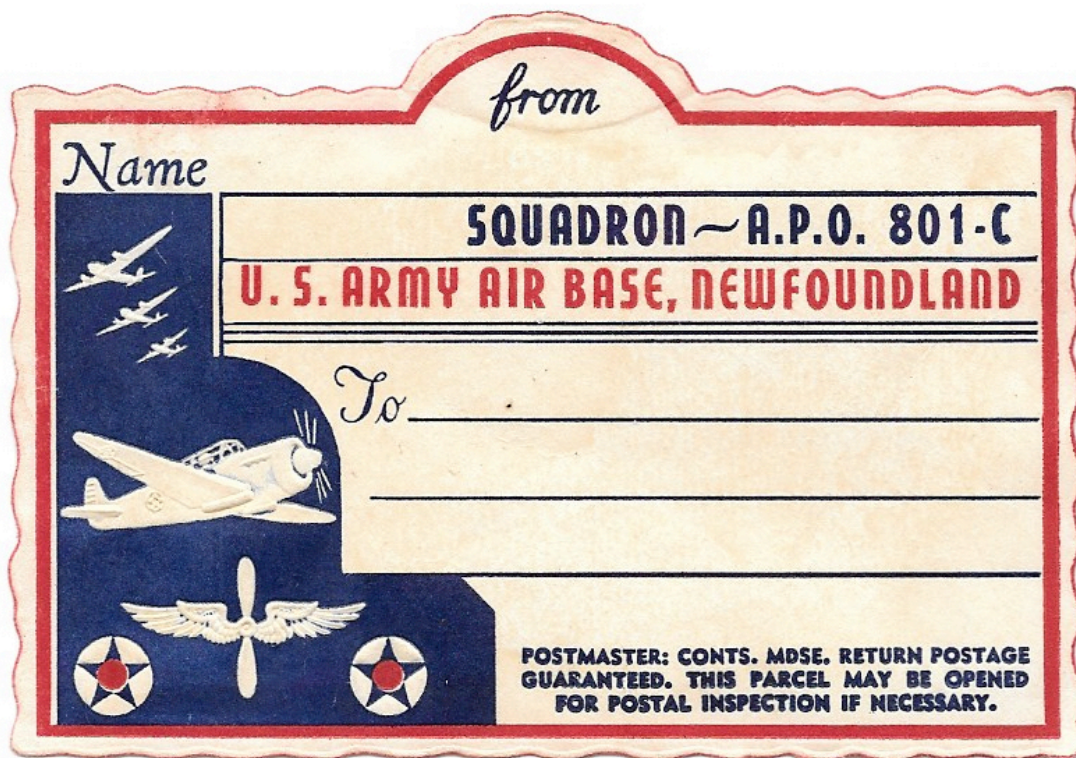


USAAF Gander parcel sticker

(Robert G Pelley, 2018-09-20)
<http://bobsganderhistory.com>

The photo below shows a parcel sticker used by United States Army Air Force personnel in Gander during World War Two - with lovely graphics typical of the period.

I must say I find it unusual because it appears that a space has been left to write in the squadron identification. This seems to contrary to usual practise, whereby unit identification was generally well hidden, so as to give as little information as possible to the enemy.



As can be seen, the address has been given as US Army Air Base Newfoundland. The Gander identification comes from the "APO 801-C". There were two other main USAAF bases in Newfoundland at that time, namely:

- ° 801-A Harmon Air Force Base, Stephenville
- ° 801-B Fort Pepperell, St. John's

US army and navy units used a different set of numbers. Sometime in 1942-43 the American military chain of command in Newfoundland was slightly modified and the APO numbers were modified. The new Gander APO number became 865.

So here's the puzzle: it is easy to imagine US military personnel in Gander receiving "care" packages from home. But what could they be sending back?? In those days before refrigerated shipping, it wouldn't be moose meat or trout from Deadmans Pond. Maybe stuff in bottles like screech or bakeapple jam! Your guess is as good as mine!