

United Nations Service Center

By Fran Adams

The Capitol Park Hotel in Washington, DC served as a "Service Center" for "United Nations" service personnel during World War II. The hotel provided rooms for servicemen and their families but also included recreation facilities like a reading room for soldiers passing through Washington to assignments. The center sponsored events such as an ice cream social and even a dance night. Funds for the activities were provided by Recreation Services, Inc., an arm of the Community and National War Fund.

"The appeal of the National War Fund is a human appeal for three causes for continued friendly services for the men and women who still have a job to do in the armed forces: for health and welfare services for our own people at home; and for relief and assistance for the war stricken people of liberated countries-our Allies who fought by our side."- Radio Address, October 2, 1945 by Harry Truman.

Stationery (both writing paper and envelopes) was provided to soldiers so they could write home to family and friends. Figure 1 shows an envelope overlaid on a sheet of letter stationery. A UNP Article "Before San Francisco: The Transition from War to Peace" by Dick Powers, June 1996 included an image of a post card which was also available to servicemen. This post card was mailed by a US Army Private stationed at Ft. Jackson, SC.

Editor's note: Another article on the UN Service Center, by me, appeared in the December 2014 Journal. In that article was another overprinted post card, with a different picture side. That card was unmailed. The article also shows Center matchbooks and photos.

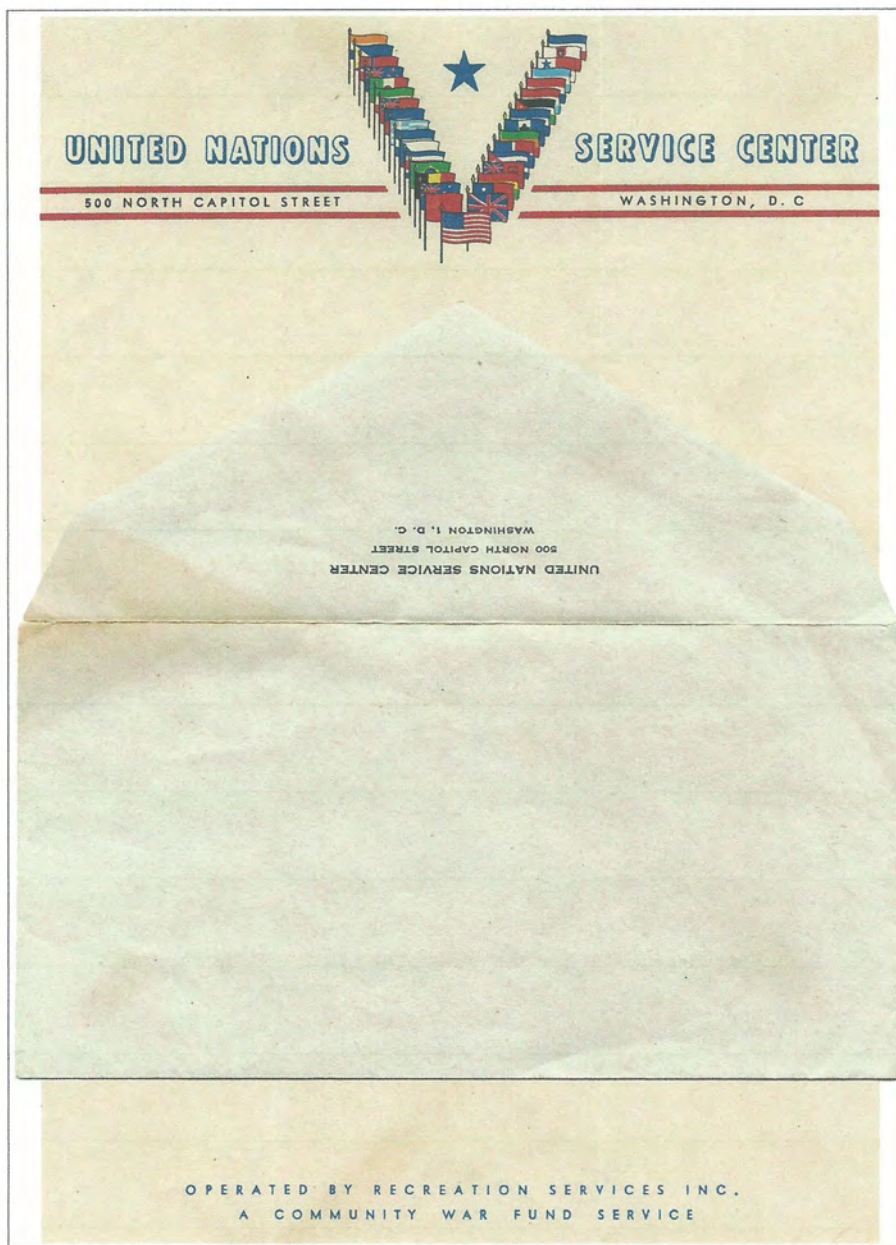


Figure 1: Stationery provided by UN Service Center for use by Service Personnel Using the Center.

References:

1. UNP Journal, June 1996. 20-3, pages 4-7
2. UNP Journal, December 2014, 38-6, pages 10-11