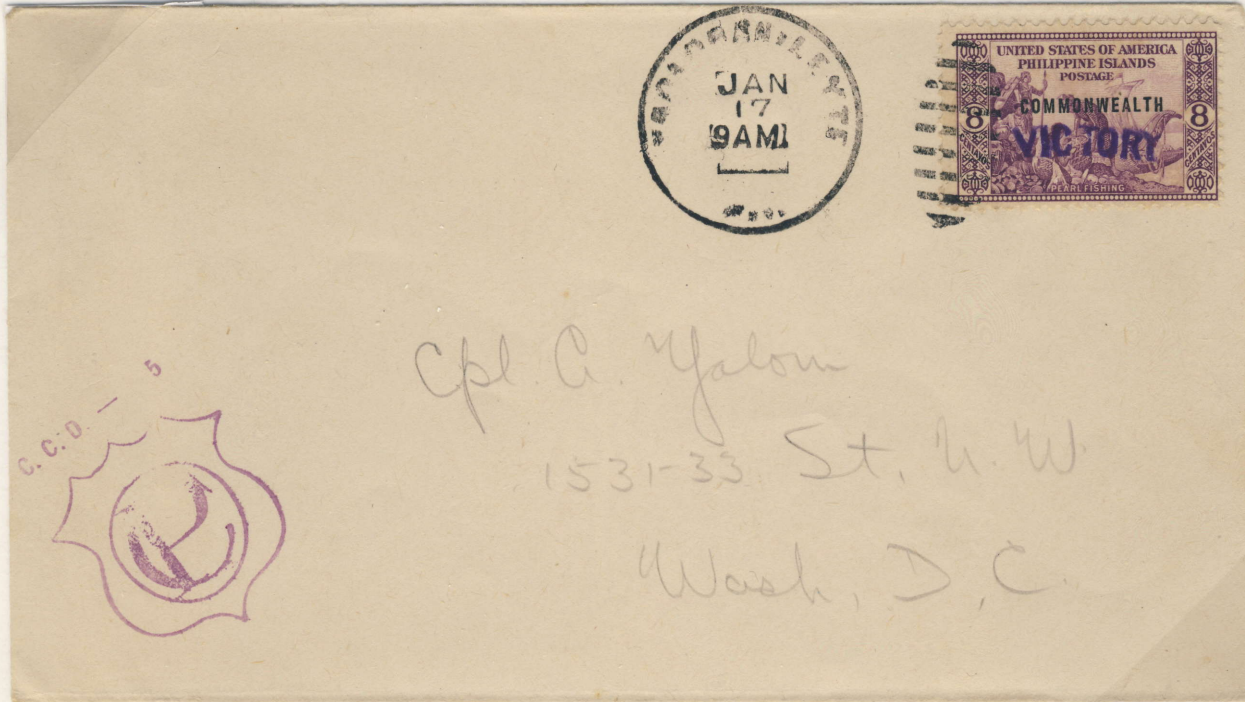
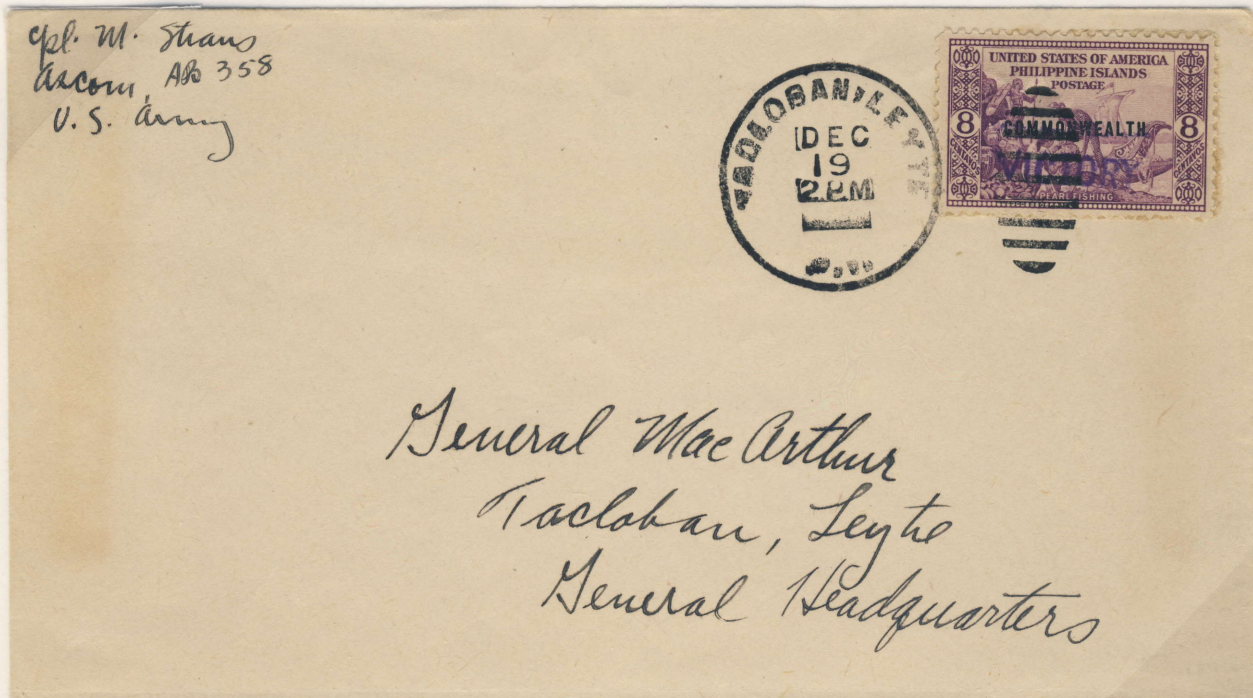


# HANDSTAMPED "VICTORY" OVERPRINT

With victory in the Pacific Theater considered imminent, the BEP scheduled production of pre-war stamps to be overprinted, "Victory-Commonwealth" for use in the Philippines by mid-January, 1945. In September 1944, the U.S. Navy Carrier Group Task Force raided the Western Pacific, including the Philippines. General MacArthur reported the central Philippines, including Leyte, as "wide open." MacArthur canceled the scheduled landing on Mindanao and advanced the Leyte landing to October 20, 1944. On that date, MacArthur broadcast from Red Beach - the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's beachhead near Tacloban, " ... I have returned ... rally on me. The first provincial capital liberated was Tacloban, Leyte. The U.S. believed one of the ways to project the re-establishment of the Commonwealth Government was to operate a postal service. The BEP did not have "a need to know" the landing date was advanced, and was unable to supply the planned "victory" stamps in time. Major Lambert of MacArthur's G-5 Staff Section (Civil Affairs-Military Government) was aware of the BEP's plans. Lambert authorized creation and use of a handstamp bearing the single word, "VICTORY." The reopened post office had no stamps available. Locals provided what varied, and very limited stock, they could.



Tacloban, Leyte to U.S., Jan. 7, 1945. First Class Rate, 1-20g (overpaid by 2c.)



8c. Internal Airmail Rate to Gen. Douglas MacArthur