

POSTMARKS OF ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC BASES



by

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INTRODUCTION

There have been several attempts to document the postal markings of Argentine Antarctic bases (Premoli 1960, Von Meyeren 1968, Trogel 1982, Alaimo 1998). A recent classification review (Brown 2001) also compared the postmark classifications of previous researchers (see end of this article) and included the latest recorded postmarks as well as a start to the recording of the spread of dates of usage of each postmark. This article further updates and expands information on the postmarks of the Argentine bases.

1. BASE BALLVE

A refuge hut was established on 6 December 1953 on the Ardley Peninsula of King George Island. It was reopened as Base Ballve for the 1996/97 summer season, during which scarce mail was cancelled. Fire destroyed the base towards the end of the season.

Ballve pmk 01

circular cancel, motif shows mushroom cluster, words Base "Ballve"; dateline under. Usage: 30 Dec 1996 – 1997.



2. BASE BELGRANO

Army Base General Belgrano was established on the edge of the Filchner Ice Shelf on 4 January 1955; the Post Office opened on 10 March 1955; it was renamed Belgrano I in 1978 when the other bases Belgrano II and Belgrano III were opened.

Belgrano pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 35mm; dateline in centre; Argentine flag with sun 7 rays; words Base General Belgrano. Usage 1955.



Belgrano pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 35mm; dateline in centre; Argentine flag with sun 8 rays; words Base General Belgrano. Usage: 05 Apr 1955 – 20 Sep 1977.



Belgrano pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; Argentine flag with sun 8 rays, southern cross large stars, left star above RT of ANTARTICA; words Base General Belgrano. Usage: 21 Jan 1959 – 21 Dec 1978.



Belgrano pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 32mm; dateline in centre; curved sabre and olive branch; words Base General Belgrano. Usage: 21 Jan 1956 – 23 Jun 1958.



Belgrano pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; Argentine flag with sun 7 rays, southern cross large stars; words Base De Ejercito General Belgrano. Usage: 1965 – 12 Jan 1966.



Belgrano pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; Argentine flag no sun; words Base de Ejercito Gral Belgrano. Usage: 25 May 1972 – 1979.



Belgrano pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; Argentine flag with sun 10 rays; words Base Belgrano.
Usage 1979.



3. BASE BELGRANO I

Due to continuing decay of the Filchner Ice Shelf under Base Belgrano, construction began on a new base 'Belgrano II' near the coastline of Coats Land during 1978. In anticipation, Belgrano was renamed Belgrano I that year.

Belgrano pmk 08

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; dateline under; words Base De Ejercito Gral Belgrano I. Usage: 1978 – 31 Mar 1979.



4. BASE BELGRANO II

This new base was inaugurated and the Post Office was opened on 05 February 1979.

Belgrano pmk 09

circular cancel, motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector, words Base De Ejercito "Gral Belgrano II"; dateline under. Usage: 05 Feb 1979 – 02 Apr 1983.



20 DIC 1980

Belgrano pmk 10

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; words Base Antartica “General Belgrano II”; dateline under. Usage: 10 Oct 1984 – 21 Oct 1986.



21 OCT. 1986

Belgrano pmk 11

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; medium stars; words Base “Belgrano II”; dateline under. Usage: 1987 – 16 Aug 1993.



24 FEB. 1989

Belgrano pmk 12

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; small stars; words Base “Belgrano II”; dateline under. Usage: 27 Aug 1987 – 1993.



27 AOU. 1987

Belgrano pmk 13

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians and penguins; words Base “Belgrano II”; dateline under. Usage: 16 Jan 1992 – 27 Jan 1993.



Belgrano pmk 14

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; words Base “Belgrano II”; dateline under. Usage: 28 Dec 1994 – 1995.



Belgrano pmk 15

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base “Belgrano II”; dateline under. Usage: 16 Jan 1996 – 02 Feb 1998.



Belgrano pmk 16

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; dateline under. Usage: 19 May 1998 – 2004.



5. BASE BELGRANO III

A third base was established in January 1980 west of Belgrano I & Belgrano II on the Filchner Ice Shelf. The base was open only a short time, it closed in 1983.

Belgrano pmk 17

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; dateline under; words Base De Ejercito "Gral Belgrano III". Usage: 26 Jan 1980 – 27 Feb 1983.



27 FEB 1983

6. BASE BROWN

An Argentine Navy base was established at Paradise Harbour in 1949; it was closed for the 1950 season then reopened on 6 April 1951. The post office was opened on 28 September 1951.

Brown pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20.5x8mm; anchor sun with 14 rays circle & point; words Destac. Naval Almirante Brown. Usage: 28 Sep 1951 – 1959.



Brown pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20.5x8.5mm; anchor sun with 14 rays circle & point; words Destac. Naval Almirante Brown. Usage: 27 Jan 1952 – 1958.



Brown pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20x9mm; anchor sun with 13 rays circle and point; words Destac. Naval Almirante Brown. Usage: 20 Feb 1954 – 1959.



Brown pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun with 16 rays no circle; words Destac. Naval Almirante Brown. Usage: 1955 – 21 Jan 1957.



Brown pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun with 11 rays with circle and point; words Est. Cientifica Almirante Brown. Usage: 17 Feb 1965 – 1978.



Brown pmk 06

Identical in many respects to pmk 05, but the expanded size of EST. CIENTIFICA ALMIRANTE BROWN makes the dateline in centre align with "CA" of CIENTIFICA rather than with "IC" as in pmk 05. Usage: 15 Feb 1966 – 22 Feb 1968.



Brown pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun with 10 rays with circle; words Est. Cientifica Almirante Brown. Usage: 15 Mar 1967 – 06 Dec 1977.



Brown pmk 08

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun with 15 rays with small circle; words Base Brown. Usage: 26 Dec 1975 – 1978.



Brown pmk 09

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Estacion Cientifica "Almte. Brown", dateline under. Usage: 03 Jan 1979 – 10 Mar 1983.



8 FEB 1980

Brown pmk 10

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridian lines; words Estacion Cientifica "Almirante Brown"; dateline under. Usage: 1984.



3 ENE 1984

Brown pmk 11

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base Brown. Usage: 08 Mar 1997 – 1998.



7. BASE CAMARA

In March 1952 Base Bahia Luna was established on Half Moon Island, South Shetlands. The post office opened on 29 October 1953. During 1957-58 the base was renamed Teniente Camara after a naval officer who was killed in a helicopter accident in 1955.

Camara pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; penguin above southern cross large stars; words Bahia Luna. Usage: 29 Oct 1953 – 08 Feb 1955.



Camara pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; penguin above southern cross medium stars; words Teniente Camara. Usage: 12 Jan 1957 – 02 Jan 1959.



Camara pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; ship above southern cross, large stars; words Teniente Camara. Usage: 1956 – 1958.



Camara pmk 04

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Destacamento Naval "Tte. Camara"; dateline under. Usage: 03 Jan 1979 – 04 Jan 1980.



Camara pmk 05

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; dateline under; words Destacamento Naval "Camara". Base a temporary summer camp only. Usage 1994.



Camara pmk 06

circular cancel; motif shows mushrooms; words Base "Camara"; dateline under. Usage: 24 Jan 1996 - 05 Mar 1997.



Camara pmk 07

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base "Camara"; dateline under. Usage: 13 Jan 1998 – 2004.



8. BASE DECEPCION

The first Argentine Navy base was established at Fumarole Bay, Deception Island in the South Shetlands on 20 November 1947. Mail was first cancelled on 27 January 1948.

Decepcion pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 33mm; boxed date 20x8mm; anchor sun 16 rays with circle & large stars, left star above PC of DECEPCION; words Destac. Naval Decepcion. Usage: 27 Jan 1948 – 30 Nov 1954.



Decepcion pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20x8mm; anchor sun 15 rays with circle, point & large stars, left star above EP of DECEPCION; words Destac. Naval Decepcion. Usage: 02 Jan 1951 – 18 Jan 1968.



Decepcion pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 33mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun 13 rays with no circle and larger stars, left star above CE of DECEPCION; words Destac. Naval Decepcion. Usage 1951 – 1965.



Decepcion pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20x8mm; anchor sun 15 rays with circle and large stars, left star above PC of DECEPCION; words Destac. Naval Decepcion. Usage: 25 Dec 1954 – 05 Dec 1967.



Decepcion pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20x11mm; anchor sun 15 rays with no circle, very large stars, left star above PC of DECEPCION; words Destac. Naval Decepcion. Usage: 1964 only.



Decepcion pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 34mm; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Destacamento Naval Decepcion; dateline under. Usage: 31 Dec 1978 – 28 Jan 1980.



28 ENE 1980

Decepcion pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; words Destacamento Decepcion; date line under. Usage: 1988 only.



10 ENE. 1988

Decepcion pmk 08

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; words Destacamento Naval "Decepcion"; dateline under. Usage 1994 – 1995.



Decepcion pmk 09

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base "Decepcion"; dateline under. Usage: 16 Dec 1996 – 1997.



Decepcion pmk 10

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base Decepcion; dateline under. Usage: 13 Feb 1998 – 2004.



9. BASE ESPERANZA

A Naval base was established in Jan 1952 at Hope Bay. The Post Office opened on 23 July 1952. In 1956, the Navy withdrew. An Army base was established adjacent in Dec 1953 and this eventually became the operating station.

Esperanza pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; small ship and southern cross; words Bahia Esperanza. Usage: 23 July 1952 – 16 Jan 1956.



Esperanza pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; letters 3mm; large ship and southern cross; left star above “TI”; words Bahia Esperanza. Usage: 27 Jan 1953 – Nov 1954.



Esperanza pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; letters 2.5mm; large ship and southern cross; left star above “ID”; words Bahia Esperanza. Usage: 1956 – 31 Jan 1957.



Esperanza pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man with nose; southern cross large stars; words Destac. Militar Esperanza. First postmark for the Army base. Usage: 1953 – 19 Dec 1959.



Esperanza pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man no nose; southern cross small stars; words Destac. Militar Esperanza. Usage: 1953 – 1964.



Esperanza pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man without nose; southern cross medium stars; left star above "R"; words Destac. Militar Esperanza. Early dates show use of time slugs, by 1958 these had been removed. Usage: 1953 – 19 Nov 1958.



Esperanza pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 34mm; sledge and man without nose; dateline in centre; southern cross larger stars; left star above "PE"; words Destac. Militar Esperanza. Usage: 24 Dec 1961 – 25 Dec 1965.



Esperanza pmk 08

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man no nose; southern cross larger stars; shorter arm of cross to the left; words Base de Ejercito Esperanza. Usage: 25 Jan 1965 – 20 Aug 1974 .



Esperanza pmk 09

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man with cap; southern cross larger stars; left star above "AR"; shorter arm of the cross to the left; words Base De Ejercito Esperanza. Usage: 1967 – 1968.



Esperanza pmk 10

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man without nose; southern cross larger stars; shorter arm of cross to the right; words Base De Ejercito Esperanza. Usage: 27 Nov 1969 – 30 Nov 1978.



Esperanza pmk 11

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; sledge and man without nose; southern cross larger stars; left star above “ZA”; shorter arm of the cross to the left; words Base Esperanza. Usage: 20 Dec 1975 – 16 June 1976.



Esperanza pmk 12

circular cancel; motif Argentine Antarctic sector; dateline under; words Base De Ejercito “Esperanza”. Usage: 1978 – 02 Apr 1984.



12 OCT 1981

Esperanza pmk 13

circular cancel; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; dateline under; words Base Antartica “Esperanza” Fortin Sargento Cabral. Usage: 02 Apr 1984 – 20 Aug 1986.



Esperanza pmk 14

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; southern cross small stars; words Base “Esperanza”; dateline under. Usage: 1986 – 25 May 1990.



Esperanza pmk 15

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; southern cross with crossed line stars; words Base “Esperanza”; dateline under. Usage: 1990 – 23 Aug 1991.



Esperanza pmk 16

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector; southern cross with small stars; words Base “Esperanza”; date under. Usage: 1992 - 17 Sep 1993.



Esperanza pmk 17

oval cancel; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians and penguins; words Base “Esperanza”. Usage: 29 Dec 1991 – 1993.



Esperanza pmk 18

oval cancel; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; words Base “Esperanza”; dateline under. Usage: 23 Feb 19 4 – 30 Jan 1995.



Esperanza pmk 19

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base “Esperanza”; dateline under. Usage: 21 Dec 1995 – 10 Mar 1997.



Esperanza pmk 20

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base Esperanza; dateline under. Usage: 27 Dec 1997 – 2004.



10. BASE GURRUCHAGA

The refuge hut built on Nelson Island in December 1953 was used as a base during the 1997/98 season; mail was cancelled for a brief period only.

Gurruchaga pmk 01

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base Gurruchaga; dateline under. Usage: 1998.



11. BASE ORCADAS

The 1902-04 Scottish National Antarctic Expedition set up a base on Laurie Island (Islas Orcadas Del Sud) in the South Orkneys. Argentina took over at the end of the expedition and the first post office was opened on 20 February 1904.

Orcadas pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; wording Orcadas Del Sud/Distrito 24 (Gallegos); date between lines in centre. Usage 20 Feb 1904 - 01 Jan 1905.



This post office closed on 1 January 1905. Argentina established a radio-telegraph station on the island on 30 March 1927 (Vogel 2004) and a permanent post office was finally opened on 14 November 1941.

Orcadas pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 31mm; words Islas Orcadas Del Sud Argentina; dateline in centre. Usage: 02 Feb 1942 – 01 Jan 1949.



Orcadas pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 33mm; words Islas Orcadas Del Sur Antartida Argentina; boxed date 20x7.5 mm. During first day of use the edge was damaged (dent above L in ISLAS): Usage: 19 Feb 1949 – 04 Dec 1961.



Orcadas pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; words Islas Orcadas Del Sur; boxed date 20x9mm. A damaged edge under IDA of ANTARTIDA occurs on later cancels. Usage: 1949 – 11 Feb 1977.



Orcadas pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 35mm; words Islas Orcadas Del Sur; dateline in centre. Usage: 1952 – 14 Feb 1961.



Orcadas pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 34mm; words Islas Orcadas Del Sur; boxed date 20x11.5mm. Usage: 12 Jan 1959 – 1970.



Orcadas pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 34mm; whale with flattened head and enlarged mouth; words Observ. Meteor. Orcadas; dateline in centre. Usage: 01 Oct 1971 – 22 Feb 1974.



Orcadas pmk 08

circular cancel diameter 34mm; whale with rounded head; words Observ. Meteor. Orcadas; dateline in centre. Usage: 02 Jan 1971 – 02 June 1978.



Orcadas pmk 09

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Destacamento Naval "Orcadas"; dateline under. Usage: 21 Feb 1979 – 07 Feb 1983.



21 FEB 1979

Orcadas pmk 10

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; words Destacamento Naval "Orcadas"; dateline under. Usage: 01 Jan 1984 – 08 Jan 1987.



1 ENE 1984

Orcadas pmk 11

circular cancel diameter 34mm; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians & small stars; words Base "Orcadas"; dateline under. Usage: 1987 – 19 Dec 1993.



12 ENE 1988

Orcadas pmk 12

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians & penguins; words Base “Orcadas”; dateline under. Usage: 15 Jan 1992 – 20 Dec 1992.



Orcadas pmk 13

circular cancel diameter 34mm; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians & medium stars; Base “Orcadas”; dateline under. Usage: 20 Dec 1992 – 1993.



20 DIC 1992

Orcadas pmk 14

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; words Base “Orcadas”; dateline under. Usage: 19 Mar 1994 – 23 Feb 1998.



23 FEB 1998

Orcadas pmk 15

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base "Orcadas"; dateline under. Usage: 05 Dec 1995 – 29 Nov 1997.



Orcadas pmk 16

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base "Orcadas"; dateline under. Usage: 22 Feb 1998 - 2004



12. BASE ELLSWORTH

Ellsworth was built on the Filchner Ice Shelf by the USA for IGY 1957. The base was transferred to Argentina on 02 February 1959.

Ellsworth pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm, penguins above southern cross; dateline in centre; words Est. Cientif. Ellsworth. Usage: 30 Jan 1959 – 30 Dec 1962.



pmk 1 was first used on 30 January 1959 in anticipation of the expected handover date, however USS Edisto was delayed in arrival until 2 February.

Ellsworth pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm, seal above southern cross; words Est. Cientifica Ellsworth; dateline in centre. Usage: 30 Jan 1959 - 1 Jan 1960



This pmk was not used at Ellsworth as the Icebreaker ARA *General San Martin*, which was carrying the canceller, was unable to reach the base in November 1959. Some philatelic mail was backdated to 30 January 1959.

Ellsworth pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; penguin motif; words Est. Cientifica Ellsworth; dateline in centre. Usage: 30 Nov 1960 – 06 Jan 1962.



Both pmks 1&3 were returned to Buenos Aires Post office on 11 July 1963.

13. BASE JUBANY

Established as a summer refuge hut on King George Island on 21 November 1953, Jubany was transferred to the Argentine National Antarctic Division on 12 February 1982 and became a permanent base. First mail was cancelled 12 April 1984.

Jubany pmk 01

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine sector with meridians; words Base Cientifica "Teniente Jubany"; dateline under. Usage: 17 Jan 1984 – 27 Oct 1986.



Jubany pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif shows Argentine sector with meridians and small stars; words Base “Jubany”; dateline under. Usage: 01 Dec 1986 – 1993.



Jubany pmk 03

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine sector with meridians and penguins; words Base “Jubany”; date under. Usage: 26 Mar 1992 – 04 Dec 1992.



Jubany pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; motif shows Argentine sector with meridians and medium stars; words Base “Jubany”; dateline under. Usage: 09 Mar 1993 – 29 Nov 1993.



Jubany pmk 05

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine sector with Skua; words Base “Jubany”; dateline under. Usage: 21 Jan 1994 – 28 Feb 2000.



Jubany pmk 06

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base “Jubany”; dateline under. Usage: 07 May 1996 – 2004.



14. BASE LIVINGSTON

This base was established on Livingston Island west of Base Camara during the 1997/98 season. Mail was cancelled for a brief period only.

Livingston pmk 01

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base Livingston; dateline under. Usage: 1998



15. BASE MARAMBIO

Established on 29 October 1969 on Seymour Island, Base Marambio is usually snow free and the runway can be used by wheeled aircraft, providing main access to bases Brown, Esperanza, San Martin, Matienzo and Petrel.

Marambio pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane over Antarctic emblem 15x6mm; dateline in centre; space BASE-ANTARTIDA 5mm; words Base Aerea V.Com. Marambio. Usage: 29 Oct 1969 – 20 Oct 1977.



Marambio pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane over Antarctic emblem 16x7mm; dateline in centre; space BASE-ANTARTIDA 7mm; words Base Aerea V. Com. Marambio. Usage: 01 Nov 1971 – 04 Jul 1978.



Marambio pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane no wing over Antarctic emblem; dateline in centre; words Base Marambio. Usage: 18 Nov 1977 – 10 Jun 1978.



Marambio pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 33mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector length 18mm; dateline under; words Base Aerea "Vicecomodoro Marambio". Usage: 22 Jan 1979 – 1985.



15 JUL 1980

Marambio pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians length 18mm, small stars; words Base Aerea Vice Comodoro Marambio; dateline under. Usage: 15 Sep 1985 – 24 Sep 1986.



Marambio pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians and medium stars; words Base "Marambio"; dateline under. Usage: 1986 – 07 Dec 1996.



Marambio pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif Argentine Antarctic sector length 19mm; dateline under; words Base Aerea "Vicecomodoro Marambio". Usage: 21 Dec 1989 – 10 Jan 1990.



Marambio pmk 08

oval cancel; motif Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians and penguins; words Base "Marambio"; dateline under. Usage: 10 Dec 1992 – 11 Mar 1997.



Marambio pmk 09

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; words Base “Marambio”; dateline under.

Usage: 03 Dec 1993 – 28 Oct 1995.



Marambio pmk 10

circular cancel; motif shows Hercules C-130 profile; words Base “Marambio”; dateline under.

Usage:
13 Dec 1995 – 1997.



Marambio pmk 11

circular cancel; motif shows Hercules C-130 aircraft over runway; words Base Marambio; dateline under.

Usage: 27 Dec 1997 – 2004.



16. BASE MATIENZO

A joint Army/Air Force base was established on Robertson Island on 15 Mar 1961 and initially named Base Conjunta.

Matienzo pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; bird with long neck; dateline in centre; words Base Conjunta. Usage: 1961.



Matienzo pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; bird with short neck and horizontal beak; dateline in centre; words Base Conjunta Tte. Matienzo. Usage: 03 Dec 1961 – 14 Nov 1964.



Matienzo pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; bird with short neck and beak facing upward; words Base Conjunta Tte. Matienzo; dateline in centre. Usage: 02 Nov 1962 – 22 Sep 1965.



Matienzo pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane above southern cross; space BASE-ANTARTIDA 5mm; dateline in centre; words Base Aerea Tte Matienzo. Usage: 07 Dec 1965 – 1970.



Matienzo pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane above southern cross; space BASE-ANTARTIDA 6.5mm, dateline in centre; words Base Aerea Tte. Matienzo. Usage: 22 Feb 1967 – 1977.



Matienzo pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane with more pronounced wings; space BASE-ANTARTIDA 4mm; words Base Aerea Tte. Matienzo; dateline in centre. Usage: 15 Apr 1970 – 11 Jan 1977.



Matienzo pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 34mm; airplane with pronounced wings; dateline in centre; words Base Matienzo. Usage: 1977 – 11 Jan 1978.



Matienzo pmk 08

circular cancel, motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Base Aerea “Tte. Benjamin Matienzo”; dateline under. Usage: 08 Dec 1978 – 02 Mar 1984.



Matienzo pmk 09

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; dateline under; words Base Aerea Teniente Matienzo. Usage: 09 Jan 1984 – 11 Dec 1996.



Matienzo pmk 10

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; dateline under; words Base Matienzo. Usage: 14 Feb 1998 – 2004.



17. BASE MELCHIOR

In 1946 Argentina extended its claim to the area between 25°W & 74°W and the Argentine Navy established a base in the Melchior Islands in January 1947. Mail was first cancelled on 1 January 1949.

Melchior pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 33mm; boxed date 21x7.5mm; anchor sun 16 rays without circle; words Destac. Naval Melchior. Usage: 01 Jan 1949 – 25 Feb 1961.



Melchior pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; boxed date 20x9.5mm; anchor sun 19 rays with circle; words Destac. Naval Melchior. Usage: 1953 – 23 Jan 1969.



Melchior pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 33mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun 13 rays with circle and point; words Destac. Naval Melchior. Usage: 25 Dec 1955 – 1958.



Melchior pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; anchor sun 16 rays without circle; words Destac. Naval Melchior. Usage: 1951 – 23 Apr 1959.



Melchior pmk 05

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Destacamento Naval Melchior; dateline under. Usage: 1978 – 28 Jan 1980.



28 ENE 1980

Base Melchior was closed after the 1979/80 season. It reopened temporarily in 1996/97 and 1997/98.

Melchior pmk 06

circular cancel; motif shows mushrooms; words Base "Melchior"; dateline under. Usage: 1996–Mar 1997



5 MAR.1997

Melchior pmk 07

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base "Melchior"; dateline under. Usage: 1998 – 2004.



9 FEB.1998

18. BASE PETREL

A Naval air base was built on Dundee Island in the Weddell Sea on 22 February 1967.

Petrel pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; hut over southern cross; lower star over DA of ANTARTIDA; dateline in centre; words Est. Aeronaval Petrel. Usage: 22 Feb 1967 – 17 Dec 1973.



Petrel pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 33mm; hut over southern cross; lower star over A of ANTARTIDA; words Est. Aeronaval Petrel; dateline in centre. Usage: 1967 – 1975.



Petrel pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; hut over southern cross large stars; words Dest. Naval Petrel; dateline in centre. Usage: 03 Dec 1974 – 1976.



Petrel pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; hut over southern cross large stars; words Base Petrel, dateline in centre.

Usage: 12 Dec 1975 – 1 Mar 1978.



Petrel pmk 05

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Destacamento Naval "Petrel"; dateline under. Usage: 25 Feb 1979 – 24 Feb 1980.



Base Petrel closed at the end of the 1979/80 season. It reopened as a temporary summer camp in 1996.

Petrel pmk 06

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; words Base Petrel; dateline under. Usage: 1996 – 1977.



Petrel pmk 07

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base Petrel; dateline under. Usage: 05 Jan 1998 – 2004.



19. BASE PRIMAVERA

A refuge hut was established at Hughes Bay on the Danco Coast on 23 January 1954. At first it was named Primavera, then Capitan Cobbet. In 1977, it was renamed Base Primavera and turned into a facility for wintering parties; first mail was 08 March 1977.

Primavera pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; penguins over southern cross; dateline in centre; edge damaged under GEN of ARGENTINA; words Base De Ejercito Primavera. Usage: 08 Mar 1977 – 09 Jul 1978.



Primavera pmk 02

Circular cancel; motif shows Antarctic sector; medium stars; words Base De Ejercito "Primavera". Usage: 20 Jun 1979 – 29 Dec 1980.



Primavera pmk 03

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; dateline under; words Base Primavera. Usage: 1997.



Primavera pmk 04

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base Primavera; dateline under. Usage: 15 Dec 1997 – present.



20. BASE SAN MARTIN

On 8 March 1951, the Argentine Army occupied a base at Bahia Margarita (Barry Island) previously occupied by the 1934-37 British Graham Land Expedition. A Radio-Post Office was opened the following day.

San Martin pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 33mm; sabre and olive branch motif; words Base General San Martin; dateline in centre. Usage: 09 Mar 1951 – 06 Mar 1952.



San Martin pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; sabre and olive branch motif; boxed date 20x8.5mm; words Base General San Martin. Usage: 07 Feb 1952 – 1957.



San Martin pmk 03

circular cancel diameter 34mm; sabre and olive branch motif; words Base General San Martin; dateline in centre. Usage: 03 Mar 1957 – 1961.



San Martin pmk 04

circular cancel diameter 34mm; sabre and olive branch motif; Base Naval San Martin; dateline in centre. Usage: 1952 – 17 Aug 1957.



San Martin pmk 05

circular cancel diameter 34mm; sabre and olive branch motif; dateline in centre; words Base Gral. San Martin. Usage: 1959 only.



San Martin pmk 06

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; words Base De Ejercito General San Martin. Usage: 12 Dec 1973 – 19 Feb 1978.



San Martin pmk 07

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; words Base San Martin. Usage: 20 Jun 1978 – 1979.



San Martin pmk 08

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; words Base De Ejercito Gral San Martin; dateline under. Usage: 20 June 1979 – 18 Feb 1983.



San Martin pmk 09

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians; words Base Antartica "General San Martin"; dateline under. Usage: 1981 – 10 Jun 1986.



San Martin pmk 10

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians inside and small stars; words Base “San Martin”; dateline under. Usage 10 Mar 94 – 1995. Usage: 17 June 1987 – 1996.



San Martin pmk 11

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians and penguins; words Base “San Martin”; dateline under. Usage: 11 Feb 1992 – 02 Mar 1993.



San Martin pmk 12

circular cancel diameter 35mm; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with meridians inside and medium stars; words Base “San Martin”. This postmark has not been previously recorded. Usage: 1993.



San Martin pmk 13

oval cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector with Skua; words Base "San Martin"; dateline under.

Usage: 10 Mar 1994 – 1995.



San Martin pmk 14

circular cancel; motif shows mushroom cluster; wording Base "San Martin"; dateline under.

Usage: 04 Sep 1996 – 30 Mar 1998.



San Martin pmk 15

circular cancel; motif shows cormorants; words Base "San Martin"; dateline under. Usage: 02 Apr 1998 – 2004.



21. BASE SOBRAL

A new Army base was established at the southern edge of the Filchner Ice Shelf on 2 April 1965 for research into the ice shelf itself.

Sobral pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; torch to left of DE; words Base Cient. De Ejercito Sobral; dateline in centre. Usage: 1965 – 22 Nov 1971.



Sobral pmk 02

circular cancel diameter 34mm; torch below DE; lower left star different shape; dateline in centre. Usage: 25 May 1967 - 09 Jan 1968.



The base closed early in 1968; it reopened as a temporary camp during the 1970/71 summer season.

22. BASE CORBETA URUGUAY

Originally opened as a refuge camp during 1954/55, this site was developed into a base on Morrell Island in the South Sandwich Islands in 1977 with first mail during the 1980/81 season. The station was closed in June 1982 after British Forces occupied the island.

Uruguay pmk 01

circular cancel diameter 34mm; dateline in centre; words Destac. Naval Thule. Usage 1955-1956.



Uruguay pmk 02

circular cancel; motif shows Argentine Antarctic sector; words Estacion Cientifica "Corbeta Uruguay"; dateline under. Usage: 27 Nov 1980 – 27 Jan 1982.



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APPENDIX

Comparison of Argentine Antarctic Postmarks

Base	Brown Premoli	Alaimo	Trogl	Meyeren	
Ballve	01	A			
Belgrano I	01	A1	RA-09-1	Ia	1a
	02	A2	RA-09-2	Ib	1b
	03	A3	RA-09-3	Ic	1c
	04	A4	RA-09-4	IIa	2a
	05	B	RA-09-5	IIIa	
	06	C	RA-09-6		
	07	E	RA-09-7		
	08	D	RA-09-8		
Belgrano II	09	A	RA-09-9		
	10	B			
	11	C1			
	12	C2			
	13	C3			
	14	C4			
	15	C5			
	16	C6			
Belgrano III	17	A			
Brown	01	A1	RA-05-1	Ia	1a
	02	A2	RA-05-2	Ib	1b
	03	A3	RA-05-3	Ic	1c
	04	A4	RA-05-4	Id	1d

	05	B3	RA-05-5	IIa	
	06	B2	RA-05-6	IIb	
	07	B1	RA-05-7		
	08	C	RA-05-8		
	09	D	RA-05-9		
	10	E			
	11	F			
Camara	01	A1	RA-07-1	Ia	1a
	02	B1	RA-08-1	IIa	1a
	03	B2	RA-08-2	IIIa	2a
	04	C	RA-08-3		
	05	D1			
	06	E1			
	07	E2			
Decepcion	01	A6	RA-03-5	Ia	1a
	02	A5	RA-03-2	Ib	1b
	03	A3	RA-03-1	Ic	1c
	04	A2	RA-03-3	Ie	
	05	A4	RA-03-4	Id	1d
	06	C1	RA-03-6		
	07	D			
	08	C2			
	09	E1			
	10	E2			
Ellsworth	01	A	RA-11-1	Ia	1a
	02	B	RA-11-2		
	03	C			
Esperanza	01	A1	RA-06-1	(B) Ia	1a
	02	A2	RA-06-2	(B) Ib	1b
	03	A3	RA-06-3	(B) Ic	
	04	B1	RA-06-4	(M) Ia	1a
	05	B2	RA-06-5	(M) Ib	1b
	06	B3	RA-06-6	(M) Ic	1c
	07	B4	RA-06-7	(M) Id	
	08	C1	RA-06-8	(M) IIa	
	09	C3			
	10	C2	RA-06-9		
	11	D1	RA-06-10		
	12	E	RA-06-11		
	13	F			
	14	G1			
	15	G2			
	16	G3			
	17	G4			
	18	G5			
	19	G6			
	20	G7			
Gurruchaga	01	A			

Jubany	01	A			
	02	B1			
	03	B3			
	04	B2			
	05	B4			
	06	B5			
	07	B6			
Livingston	01	A			
Marambio	01	A1	RA-14-1		
	02	A2			
	03	B	RA-14-2		
	04	C1	RA-14-3		
	05	C2			
	06	D1			
	07				
	08	D2			
	09	D3			
	10	D4			
	11	D5			
Matienzo	01	A1	RA-10-1		
	02	B1	RA-10-2		
	03	B2	RA-10-3		
	04	C1	RA-10-4		
	05	C2	RA-10-5		
	06	C3			
	07	D	RA-10-6		
	08	E	RA-10-7		
	09	F			
	10	G			
Melchior	01	A1	RA-02-1	Ia	1a
	02	A2	RA-02-2	Ib	1b
	03	A3	RA-02-4	Ic	1c
	04	A4	RA-02-03	Id	1d
			RA-02-05		
	05	B	RA-02-06		
	06	C1			
07	C2				
Orcadas	01	A	RA-01-1	I	1
	02	B	RA-01-2	II	2
	03	C1	RA-01-3	IIIa	3a
	04	C2	RA-01-6	IIIb	3b
	05	C3	RA-01-4	IIIc	3c
	06	C4	RA-01-5	IIId	3d
	07	D1	RA-01-7		
	08	D2			
	09	F	RA-01-8		
	G1	RA-01-9			

	10	G2			
	11	H1			
	12	H2			
	13				
	14	H3			
	15	H4			
	16	H5			
Petrel	01	A1	RA-13-1		
	02	A2	RA-13-2		
	03	B	RA-13-3		
	04	C	RA-13-4		
	05	D	RA-13-5		
	06	E1			
	07	E2			
Primavera	01	A1	RA-15-1		
	02	A2	RA-15-2		
	03	B1			
	04	B2			
San Martin	01	A1	RA-04-1	Ia	1a
	02	A2	RA-04-2	Ib	1b
	03	A3	RA-04-3	Ic	1c
	04	B	RA-04-4	II	
	05	C	RA-04-5	III	
	06	D			
	07	E	RA-04-6		
	08	F	RA-04-7		
	09	G			
	10	H1			
	11	H2			
	12				
	13	H3			
	14	H4			
	15	H5			
Sobral	01	A1	RA-12-1	I	
	02	A2	RA-12-2		
Uruguay	01	B	RA-16-1		