

CHILENO ANTARTICO

Base Postmark Update

BASE ARTURO PRAT

On 6 February 1947 a permanent base was established at 62°30'S 59°41'W, Puerto Soberania, Isla Presidente Gonzales Videla, (Discovery Bay, Greenwich Island, South Shetlands). Initially called Base Naval Soberania, the name was changed shortly after to Base Capitan Arturo Prat. The post office opened on 24 February 1947 with a generic canceller, a base specific canceller first appeared in 1961.



AP pmk 01
24 Feb 47-09 Apr 64
30mm diameter
boxed date

TERRITORIO CHILENO ANTARTICO



AP pmk 02
02 Jan 61-23 Feb 64
34mm diameter
boxed date
sharp C in CHILE

BASE NAVAL ANTARTICA/ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 03
27 Feb 63-01 Jan 69
34mm diameter
boxed date
blunt C in CHILE, arched CORREOS
CAP. ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 04
18 Feb 69-25 Dec 71
35mm diameter
boxed date
sharp C in CHILE, flat CORREOS
CAP. ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 05
10 Dec 72-22 Nov 73
34mm diameter
boxed date
sharp C in CHILE, arched CORREOS
CAP. ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 06
6 Dec 74-02 Jan 86
35mm diameter
open date

BASE ANTARTICA/CAP/ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 07
26 Nov 83-17 Oct 89
34mm diameter
open date
BASE/CAPITAN/ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 08
28 Jun 90-05 Oct 91
34mm diameter
boxed date
BASE ANTARTICA/ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 09
24 Feb 92-
34mm diameter
open date
BASE/CAPITAN/ARTURO PRAT



AP pmk 10
01 Feb 93-25 Nov 94
34mm diameter
boxed date
BASE ANTARTICA/PRAT



AP pmk 10a
31mm diameter
boxed date
BASE ANTARTICA/PRAT



AP pmk 11
26 Nov 95-03 Oct 99
31mm diameter
open date
BASE/CAPITAN/ARTURO PRAT

BASE BERNARDO O'HIGGINS

On 18 February 1948 the Chilean Army opened a base at 63°19'S, 57°54'W, Cape Legoupil, Tierra O'Higgins (Trinity Peninsula).



BOH pmk 01
18 Feb 48-12 Jan 53
27mm diameter
open date
O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 02
13 Jan 55-27 Nov 57
34mm diameter
boxed date
O'HIGGINS

Base O'Higgins was destroyed by fire on 27 November 1957. A new canceller, BOH pmk 03, arrived with incoming expedition members in December 1957. Co-ordinated cancellers were introduced for all bases in February 1963.



BOH pmk 03
25 Dec 57-24 Mar 64
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched ANTARTIDA
BASE O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 04
18 Feb 63-01 Dec 73
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched CORREOS, blunt C in CHILE
GRAL. BDO. O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 05
18 Jan 73-
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched CORREOS, sharp C in CHILE
GRAL. BDO. O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 06
7 Dec 74-09 Dec 84
35mm diameter
open date
BASE /ANTARTICA/GRAL. BDO. O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 07
 25 Dec 82-01 Jan 88
 35mm diameter
 open date
 BASE/ANTARTICA/GRAL. O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 08
 26 Dec 83-15 Jan 88
 34mm diameter
 open date
 BASE/GENERAL/BERNARDO O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 09
 22 Dec 86-18 Feb 91
 33mm diameter
 open date
 BASE GRAL./BDO. O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 10
 24 Nov 93-08 Dec 95
 boxed date
 BASE ANTARTICA/O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 11
 10 Nov 92-26 Feb 94
 34mm diameter
 boxed date
 BASE/MILITAR/GRAL. BDO. O'HIGGINS



BOH pmk 12
 10 Dec 97-29 Sep 99
 40mm diameter
 boxed date
 ANTARTICO/BASE/BERNARDO O'HIGGINS

BASE PRESIDENTE PEDRO AGUIRRE CERDA

The Chilean Navy established their base on 18 February 1955 at 62°56'S, 60°36'W, Caleta Pendulo, Islas Decepcion (Pendulum Bay, Deception Island, South Shetlands).



PAC pmk 01
18 Feb 55-07 Feb 60
34mm diameter
boxed date, 2 digit year
arched ANTARTICA
PRESIDENTE PEDRO AGUIRRE CERDA



PAC pmk 01a
03 Jan 61-25 Mar 64
34mm diameter
boxed date, 4 digit year
arched ANTARTICA
PRESIDENTE PEDRO AGUIRRE CERDA



PAC pmk 02
11 Feb 63-01 Dec 67
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched CORREOS
blunt C in CHILE
PDTE. PEDRO AGUIRRE C.

A volcanic eruption in December 1967 closed Base Cerda.

BASE PRESIDENTE GABRIEL GONZALES VIDELA

The Chilean Air Force established their base at 64°49'S, 62°52'W, Waterboat Point, Bahia Paraiso (Paradise Harbour, Danco Coast). The base opened on 12 March 1951 but a post office did not operate there until the following season.



GGV pmk 01
25 Jan 52-25 Jan 64
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched ANTARTIDA
blunt C in CHILE
EXPEDICION GABRIEL GONZALES VIDELA



GGV pmk 02
31 Dec 62-13 Jan 70
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched CORREOS
blunt C in CHILE
PDTE. GONZALES VIDELA

Base Videla closed at the end of the 1967/68 summer.

The Base Videla canceller GGV pmk 02 was transferred to Base Frei for the 1968/69 season and used as a provisional canceller until the first Base Frei canceller arrived for the 1969/70 season. The earliest recorded use of GGV pmk 02 at Base Frei is 7 February 1969, when President Eduardo Frei flew south on a tour of inspection.



PDTE. GONZALEZ VIDELA - 7 FEB 69 - 2H, CAP. ARTURO PRAT - 8 FEB 69 - 18H,
TERRITORIO CHILENO ANTARTICO / - 8 FEB 69 / PROV. MAGALLANES
Signed by President Eduardo Frei.

BASE PRESIDENTE EDUARDO FREI

Base Frei was opened on 7 March 1969 at 62°12'S, 58°55'W on King George Island, South Shetlands. A base specific canceller was introduced the following season.



EF pmk 01
29 Jan 70-23 Dec 72
35mm diameter
boxed date
flat CORREOS
sharp C in CHILE
PTE. EDUARDO FREI



EF pmk 02
18 Dec 71-08 Jan 75
34mm diameter
boxed date
arched CORREOS
sharp C in CHILE
PTE. EDUARDO FREI



EF pmk 03
8 Dec 74-11 Feb 81
34mm diameter
open date
BASE/ANTARTICA/PRESIDENTE/ EDO FREI

Base Frei name changed in August 1981 to Base Teniente Rodolfo Marsh Martin, when the new air facility opened one kilometre away in January 1981.

BASE TENIENTE RODOLFO MARSH MARTIN

Chilean Air Force Base Marsh was officially opened on 21 June 1980 at 62°12'S 58°54'W on King George Island, South Shetlands. Mail was cancelled with a base specific canceller from the second season. Mail from the first season is identified by a Base Marsh cachet and the Base Frei canceller EF pmk 03.



RM pmk 01
29 Jan 81-08 Jan 89
34mm diameter
open date
BASE AEREA/ANTARTICA/
TTE. RODOLFO MARSH M.



RM pmk 02
18 Dec 82-06 Mar 92
34mm diameter
open date
TENIENTE/R. MARSH



RM pmk 03
12 Feb 83-19 Aug 94
34mm diameter
open date
BASE/TENIENTE/RODOLFOMARSH



RM pmk 05
21 Dec 92-20 Aug 94
34mm diameter
boxed date
FILATELIA/BASE TTE. MARSH



RM pmk 06
20 Nov 92-24 Aug 94
31mm diameter
open date

Cancellers RM pmk 03, RM pmk 04, RM pmk 05, RM pmk 06 were in use at the base simultaneously.
Polar Post. Vol 25, No.3, page 81, 1993.

Base Teniente Rodolfo Marsh Martin was renamed Base Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva in August 1994.

BASE PRESIDENTE EDUARDO FREI MONTALVA



EF pmk 04
19 Aug 94-31 Dec 99
30mm diameter
open date
FILATELIA/BASE ANT/EDUARDO FREI



EF pmk 05
30 Oct 96-26 Feb 98
34mm diameter
boxed date
BASE PRESIDENTE/EDUARDO DFREI/MONTALVA

BASE PRESIDENTE GABRIEL GONZALEZ/VIDELA



GGV pmk 03
30 Dec 97-
34mm diameter
boxed date
BASE PRESIDENTE/GABRIEL GONZALEZ/VIDELA

BASE LUIS RISOPATRON

On 3 March 1957, the Chilean Defence Ministry established a base about 80km from Base O'Higgins for the 1957 International Geophysical Year. There were no postal facilities at Risopatron, however mail from this location can be identified from an octagonal IGY cachet, similar to that used by the USA and New Zealand during IGY.



TERRITORIO CHILENO ANTARTICO 5-DIC. 57 12H

The base burned down in 1958.

BASE YELCHO

During the 1960/61 season, the University of Chile re-opened Risapatron (which had burned down in 1958), as a summer station on Doumer Island about 27km from US Palmer Station on Anvers Island, renaming it Yelcho. There was no canceller for this station, mail was cancelled at Base Videla but the below University of Chile cachet identifies covers from this location:



BASE PROFESSOR JULIO ESCUDERO

This is not a separate base but a group of Instituto Antartico Chileno scientific buildings housing radiation and cosmic studies laboratories at Base Frei on King George Island, South Shetlands. Mail is cancelled at Base Frei. A double lined circular cachet Instituto Antartico Chileno/Chile/Base Escudero identifies mail from this location.

BASE CIENTIFICA TENIENTE LUIS CARVAJAL

This permanent summer base and air facility is at 67°34'S 68°08'W on Adelaide Island, it was the old British Antarctic Survey Base T that had closed in 1977 and the site transferred to Chile early in 1983. Mail is cancelled at Base Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva. A cachet identifies mail sent from this location.



The base changed its name to Base Antartica Teniente Luis Carvajal Villarroel on 16 May 1985 (Chile filatelico No 235, page 195, 1985).

DATE CACHETS

Date cachets were introduced at the permanent bases Arturo Prat, O'Higgins and Frei in the 1980/81 season. (Chile Filatelico Nos 225-227, pages 201, 216, 286, 1982). Initially they were to have accompanied the regular cancellers but covers do appear with date cachet only.

References

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