

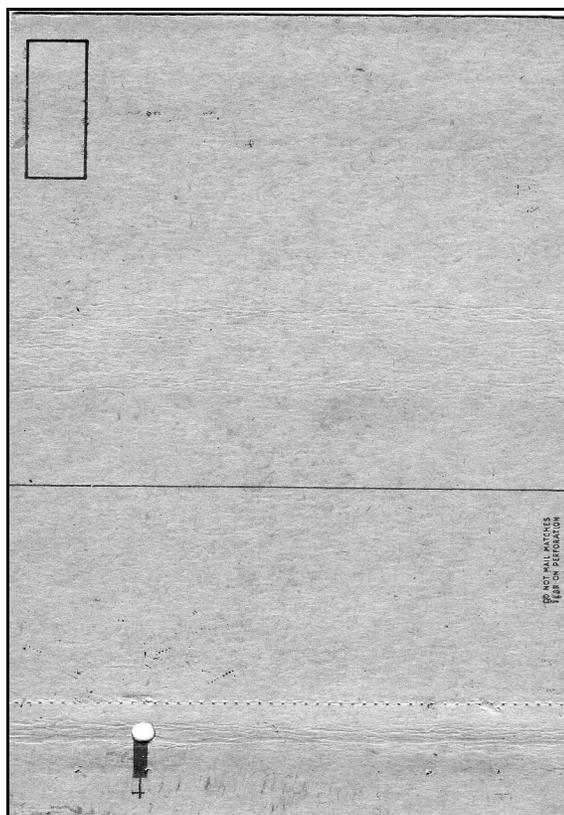
World War II Universal 40-Strike Variations

Since World War II demanded a colossal amount of materials, you can readily see from the WW II Patriotic covers that there were a number of shortages of some items at home, and the population was urged to conserve in every possible way. Save metal! Save fats! Save paper! The latter proved to be advantageous to us today because it resulted in a surge of 40-strike matchbooks for the Military. If you look at the inside of most of them, you can see that they were designed to be used as postcards when the matches were gone. This, in turn, lead to a number of variations of the same cover, based on what the inside looked like:

There are also a few where you may see the word "FREE" printed in the rectangle or square, referring to the postage, but from the ones I have I can't be certain that that wasn't added at the base post office. Also, there are another few which have a center dividing line made up of Universal's mm, but I don't count that as a variation, although you could. I do count all of the above as different covers. And, although I haven't checked all my covers, I'm reasonably certain that those referred to here are all of Universal design.

1. Blank	9. Blue square, upper right hand corner, gray stock
2. Red rectangle, upper right hand corner, white stock	10. Black rectangle, upper right hand corner, white stock
3. Red rectangle, upper right hand corner, gray stock	11. Black rectangle, upper right hand corner, gray stock
4. Red square, upper right hand corner, white stock	12. Black square, upper right hand corner, white stock
5. Red square, upper right hand corner, gray stock	13. Black square, upper right hand corner, gray stock
6. Blue rectangle, upper right hand corner, white stock	14. Red 3-line address form w/any of the above
7. Blue rectangle, upper right hand corner, gray stock	15. Blue 3-line address form w/any of #2-13
8. Blue square, upper right hand corner, white stock	16. Black 3-line address form w/any of #2-13

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