

B N A P S

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

Newsletter #21

1450 Ross Road,
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June 6, 1977

Dear Member:

100...Military Postal History - Felicitations are extended

We should like to record in this Newsletter our felicitations to the writers and researchers of the following articles which have appeared in BNAPS Topics in recent months. Also to the Editor and staff of Topics who have presented these writings to BNAPSers. For those members who study Canadian Military Mail the material presented is of great interest and emphasizes the widening interest which this field of study is experiencing.

BNA TOPICS 1976

- Mar Apr p 14 The Mystery of Box 252, A World War Two Accomodation Address by Ken Rowe
- Jul Aug p 8 The Canadian Postal Corps in the Boer War and
- Nov Dec p 35 do
- p 17 Topics - permission Public Archives of Canada and the National Postal Museum
- p 17 The Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force 1918-19 by National Postal Museum staff

1977

- Jan Feb p 7 Teslin, B.C. - Teslin, Y.T. and the Yukon Field Force by NPM staff Ottawa
- p 47 The CPC in the Boer War as above - third in the series
- Mar Apr p 21 Canadian Contingent Cachet by Kenneth Rowe
- p 31 The CPC in the Boer War as above - fourth in series

101...Canadian Contingent Cachet

Kenneth Rowe's article brings us details of a most interesting find concerning these well known cachets. The periods of use are significant, that of Rowe's type 3 being approximately 7 weeks only, at the date of writing the article. Other dates may be established. One of the major differences between types 2 and 3 is illustrated below. Provision is made on the survey page included so that readers may record their holdings of type 3. Our illustration of the cachet on page 7 of Newsletter #18 is Rowe's type 2.

type 2



type 3



102...Survey Result - item 98

Here again as in Newsletter #19 a page can be saved if the results are recorded in type only -

page 4	Fort Henry		R markings
	(censored)	1 report	(Petawawa) 1 report
	Camp Borden		(Niagara) 1 report
	(34mm cancel)	1 report	Camp Borden
	Vernon, B.C.		(24mm) 1 report
	(triangular)	1 report	Camp Borden
page 5	Siberian Exp. Force		(broken circle) 5 reports
	(indicia 1)	2 reports	Valcartier 1 report

103...Continuing Survey - page 5

This page is the last of our Canadian Military Mail cancellation surveys begun in Newsletter #2. Many hundreds of listings have been recorded and hundreds of reports entered into the records for readers usage.

To this point we have pretty well confined our surveys to actual postal marks (see chart NL#15 page 5). When we entered the final stages (NL #18 item 80) censor marks and cachets were added, some of which were used outside the country, but it seemed appropriate to include them in the style of listing which suited them best.

The task however is far from complete and many areas await "in depth" study. Please send your final reports in letter form only making specific reference to the type of cancel reported.

104...Censorship marks of the R.C.N. during WW2

Our member Wilf Whitehouse brought us the interesting group of RCN censor marks in NL #19 item 86 and a summary of dates of usage appeared in NL #20, page 4. Wilf has followed this with the attached article and illustrations on censorship marks beginning with the RCNs earliest PASSED BY CENSOR straight line types. Please note Wilf's dates on page 2 which vary slightly with those which appeared in NL #19.

Comments and findings resulting from Wilf's article should be passed to your scribe who will bring details to the attention of readers through ensuing Newsletters.

Thank you Wilf for bringing us the results of your study and providing the entire six pages at our cost of additional postage only.

105...Armed Forces Airletters - A Newsletter feature

Study group members shortly will be treated to the results of more study done by Wilf Whitehouse and others of Canadian AFALS from the 1939-45 period. The first of these serial type articles will appear in our next Newsletter. Here again it is proposed that correspondence arising from this series will be aired through the Newsletter.

106...Published articles of interest

The Canadian Review for April 1977 on page 24 features an article "The Great Escapes" by John Melady which deals with P.O.W. escapes from Angler Camp, Ontario in 1941 and others. Angler was designated as Camp 101 and Ozada, Alberta also mentioned, as Camp 133.

Another article is "Coast Defence in British Columbia, 1939-41" by TM Hunter in B.C. Studies #28, Winter 1975-76.

107...Canadian Presence in India - WW2 -item 99

A number of comments were received and the following references quoted. The CANADIAN FORCES POST/BOMBAY is fig 4 in "The RCAF in South -East Asia, 1942-45" by Lt. Col. R.H. Webb, Canadian Philatelist, Vol 18, #4 1967 page 149. The larger CANADIAN BASE POST OFFICE /BOMBAY mark is illustrated in CP for Jul/Aug 1969 on page 180.

See also a paragraph in H. E. Guertin's book "The Wartime Mails and Stamps, Canada 1939-46" para 10 page 70, entitled RCAF in Ceylon, India, South East Asia. A further note adds, quote, "It appears that both the pictured markings are very scarce indeed. Their scarcity is due to the fact that the RCAF Postal Unit at Bombay acted as a Directory Service only, thus these markings would only appear as backstamps on re-directed mail handled by this unit ". Unquote. We trust these references will be useful to Wally Gutzman and other readers who wish to follow up on these very scarce markings.

108...Some "Rapid Fire" items

Readers are asked to amend their TYPE charts (NL #15, page 5) by adding types 10 and 10A. See illustration below. A type 10A may be added to item 82 as follows, BARRIEFIELD MPO 312, ONT., this having been seen on an OFFICIAL cover.

9B	"			X				
10	STRAIGHT							
10A	"		X					

Straightline
see NL#18 item
number 82.

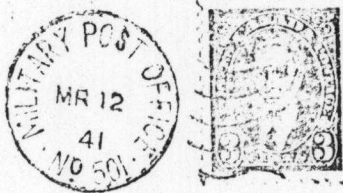
In NL #19 page 3 RCAF Greenwood add "1" in column 4 REG'D as this marking has now been reported.

Also NL #18 page 5 RCAF BORDEN add "I" under ROLLER type 5 and for HURON PARK add "1" under ROLLER type 5 and MOON type 7 as these too have been reported. Further to item 88 we have two copies of MPO 308 reported as new finds and one of the elusive MPO 102. One of the 308 covers bears a corner card of the Lanark & Renfrew Scottish Regiment.

Two duplex cancels are shown and designated as to type. Would readers please send photocopy or sketch of other duplex types from Valcartier, MPO 501.



type 2A



type 2B

109...September 15-17 ENAPS Annual Convention

A reminder of this event in Edmonton. Have Study Group members any thoughts on a get-together or seminar? Perhaps some members will enter military mail in the show's exhibit?

110...Type chart usage - item 59

The cover shown highlights 3 postmarks and proves the value of such a chart. It is planned to re-do the early surveys of BC and the Prairie Camps using the type chart exclusively. Please assemble your covers, etc., and "type" the postal markings for future reference. A little practice will ensure accurate reporting. See next page.

TYPE 4A (OBLONG)

REGISTERED

ST. THOMAS, ONT.
M. P. D. 10
NO. 211

A. M. Stauffer Ltd.
Food Dealers,
Tillsonburg,
Ontario

TYPE 1A

type 4A (Round)

M. F. B. 299
1200M-9-40 (8783-4-5)
H.Q. 1772-39-278

ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTERS

AIR MAIL

MAR 11
032A

**SURE YOUR
LETTERS
WILL BE
DELIVERED**

10 CENTS

**SALVAGED FROM
AIR CRASH.**

TO: Pte. J.M. JOHNSTON K74376
D. COY. P.P.C.L.I.
CENTRAL MEDITERANIAN FORCES
CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS

If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.

This AFAL photocopy was sent in by member Thurlow Fraser. It was one item of 5059 pounds of air cargo and surface letters jettisoned from a plane enroute to the Mediterranean in 1944. This information is shown in a Canada Post Office Report "Losses of Mail by Enemy Action". Three similar items are known each having been mailed within a few days of each other in March '44. Thurlow asks if other readers have seen the SALVAGED FROM AIR CRASH inscription on military mail?

A LARGE Newsletter this time. Please don't delay your returns as the next will be on time, hopefully, to get us back on track. We like you to get your copy in the third week of the month.

All the best,
Ed, Ken, Colin

Period 1919-1939 (Aug 31) continued



known in black ink

see Topics Aug 1975, p179



steel hammer

this strike seen



rubber hammer

30mm dia.



proofed 28 Jun 1939

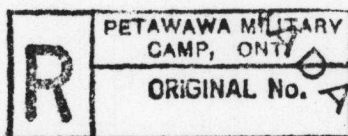
see Boggs' p642



first day strike

28mm dia.

late additions -



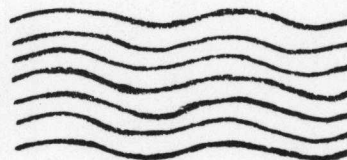
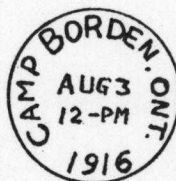
used 1936

inscription matches 30mm cancel at upper left - may have been made locally

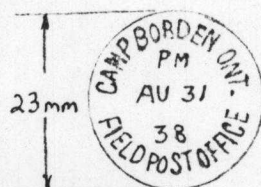


lettering 3 1/2 mm high

dots at 3 and 9 o'clock



↑ nil killer bars ↓



lettering 3mm high

nil dots

TYPE 111



27 mm

Censorship marks of the R.C.N. during WW II

W. Whitehouse

It is now 32 years since the last WW II censor marking was applied to Canadian servicemen's correspondence and although quite a number of articles have appeared over the years in connection with the Army and R.C.A.F., it is strange that so little attention has been paid to the various censor markings applied to R.C.N. mail.

In September 1939 when Canada declared war on Germany, the R.C.N. stood at 6 reasonably new Destroyers and 5 old Minesweepers with personnel roughly 150 Officers and 1600 men. A few weeks later another Destroyer "Assiniboine" joined this small fleet which would show no increase in ship strength until very late in 1940. Due to the small size of the navy at this time there is little in the way of philatelic material available from this early period, consequently information is vague and undoubtedly incomplete.

Immediately war was declared, a straight line "PASSED BY CENSOR" mark made it's appearance on mail from both ships and shore establishments. (see Fig 1 and 2) It appeared in a wide variety of sizes with many resembling Royal Navy censor marks suggesting that some of the varieties were in fact obtained from the R.N.

It should be mentioned here that mail received from R.C.N. and Allied warships was entitled to be processed "free" through civilian Post Offices in both Canada and the U.K., but in order to prevent abuses by unauthorized persons, some indication as to the origin of the letter was required by the postal authorities. Because the straight line mark did not provide this information something different would have to be provided to the ships.

In February 1940, the Royal Navy introduced a marking which served both censorship and naval identification requirements, this new mark eventually became known as the tombstone and it appears to have influenced the R.C.N. in it's choice of a censor marking.

In May 1940, H.M.C.S. "Fraser", "Restigouche", "St. Laurent" and "Skeena" arrived in the U.K. to help defend against the expected invasion of England. Shortly after their arrival the 4 ships were issued with the new tombstone censor marking to insure free mail privileges to the crews.(see Fig. 3)

At about this time in Canada, a straight line "MAILED ON H.M.C. SHIPS" together with a boxed "PASSED BY/CENSOR" made it's appearance (Fig. 4) The earliest known date of use is 17 May 1940 and it is easy to understand why this form of censorship and naval identification did not last long.

What appears to be a combination of the above two markings made it's appearance in mid-1940 and it became the only Canadian naval censor mark used during the forthcoming 2½ years. (Fig. 5)

The six known varieties of this particular mark were illustrated in Newsletter #19 dated 26 January 1977, the earliest dates of use being

- #1 - 7 June 1940 (see Fig. 5)
- #2 - 20 May 1941
- #3 - 12 December 1942
- #4 - No dated copies reported
- #5 - 7 October 1941
- #6 - 30 September 1940

In January 1943, authorities began to phase out the censor mark which had been in use for so long with a new style that required neither signature or date. The changeover took place so rapidly that it was practically completed by mid-1943 and thus 1943 dates on Fig. 5 are not at all common. Among ships, the exception seems to be 3 of the 4 "Tribal" class Destroyers which had been built in the U.K. for the R.C.N. "Athabaskan", "Huron" and "Iroquois" were commissioned between November 1942 and July 1943, at which time they were issued with the censor mark illustrated in Fig. 5. They then served with the R.N. in Northern and European waters and did not surrender their old style censor mark until one at a time they arrived in Canada for refit between February and September 1944.

"Haida" the last of the 4 to commission in August 1943, apparently received the new style censor marking at this time, no cover from "Haida" bearing the old oblong mark has been reported.

As for shore establishments, the latest known date of use was 11 August 1943, from the R.C.N. signal school at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

The new style censor mark which as mentioned earlier required neither date nor signature is illustrated in Figures 6 to 12 inclusive. For earliest dates of use we must rely on postmarks which were occasionally applied to naval mail. The earliest recorded date in this group is 8 January 1943, (Fig. 10) with examples known used from ships as late as October 1945.

It will be quite apparent that the single line mark (Fig. 6 to 9) was intended for use in shore establishments while the 2 line (Fig. 10 to 12) type was intended for use aboard ship.

Again there were exceptions, a few ships "Haida" and "Edmunston" to name two were issued with the single line type while the two line with numbers DB/N 500 to 510 inclusive were used exclusively at F.M.O. "Avalon", St. John's, Newfoundland. There is evidence to suggest that other numbers in the two line type were also used ashore.

In November 1944, there was a return to an earlier form of censorship and naval identification. Again as in 1940 it took the form of two separate markings but in this case the wording was different. These markings "FROM H.M.C. SHIP" and that illustrated in Fig. 7, is illustrated in Figure 13. Little is known as to the reason behind this practice but examination of the covers available indicate the ships involved were small ships, Fairmiles, Auxiliary vessels, together with ships undergoing refit. The indication is that censorship was taking place at a central point for these categories however, this is strictly speculation.

With the war drawing to a close, more and more ships were being issued with the marking "FROM H.M.C. SHIP" in order to satisfy the Post Office requirement for identification of ship mail and thus the free mail privilege at the time censorship would cease. (Fig. 14)

Reference should now be made to the large volume of R.C.N. mail which contains the R.N. tombstone censor mark. Aside from the 4 Destroyers who in 1940 were issued with the tombstone mark on arrival in the U.K., no other R.C.N. ships were issued this mark on arrival overseas. However, ships purchased from the R.N., or those built for the R.N. but manned by R.C.N. personnel, came equipped with the tombstone censoring device and it was used until such time as the opportunity presented itself for exchange to the R.C.N. type or such change was requested by the Commanding Officer of the ship. Almost without exception, mail from R.C.N. personnel stationed in shore establishments in the U.K., including H.M.C.S. "Niobe", received the tombstone censor mark.

This brings to a close what is presently known about censorship markings in the R.C.N. during WW II. At this point I would like to thank Philip Chaplin, of the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, for his kindness in searching the official records in order to tie down more accurately the dates of use for some of the markings.

Finally, there is undoubtedly a good deal of material in collectors hands which could perhaps clarify or shed further light on some obscure points in the foregoing article, the Editor would be pleased to hear from anyone who can assist in this connection.

PASSED BY CENSOR

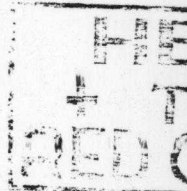


FIG 1
"SKEENA"

J. A. Lafond
Mount,
Montreal
P. Q.,
Canada

FIG 2
"STADACONA"

PASSED BY CENSOR

CENSOR

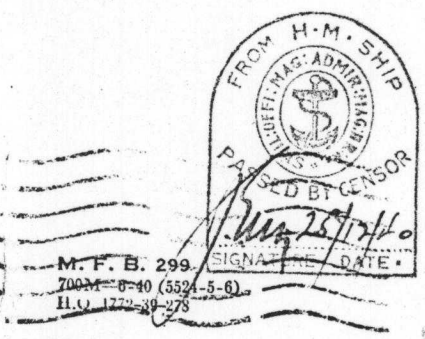
Canada

H.M.C.S. " St Laurent " O. H. M. S.
Clydebank, Scotland

FIG 3

Ave.,

Montreal, Canada



M. F. B. 299
700M-8-40 (5524-5-6)
H.C. 1772-39-278

PASSED BY CENSOR

MAILED ON H.M.C. SHIPS

Carter, Exp,
Montreal,
Bay Sts, Br.,

FIG 4

FIG 5



From H.M.C. SHIP
PASSED BY CENSOR
Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]* Date: *3/6/40*

WOODWORTH E. WOODWORTH LTD
San Francisco, Calif



FIG 6
DATED
3 SEPT 1943

RECEIVED BY

EXAMINED BY DB/N. 25

FIG 7

EXAMINED BY DB/N 41



FIG 8

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

EXAMINED BY DB/N 88



W. E. Olson

FIG 9

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

EXAMINED BY DB/N 127



Mrs. J. E. Olson,
2622 Rose St.,
San Francisco, Calif

FIG 10

FROM H. M. C. SHIP
EXAMINED BY DB/N 628

Mrs K. Rouse
Broadway St,



FIG 11

FROM H.M.C. SHIP
EXAMINED BY DB/N 708

Mr. E. G. Dick

FIG 12



FROM H. M. C. SHIP
EXAMINED BY DB/N 1006

Mr. W. A. Burt

FIG 13

EXAMINED BY DB/N 41

FROM H.M.C. SHIP

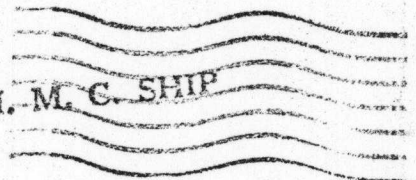
Joe A. Hayes

H. M. C. S. Charlottetown.

FIG 14



FROM H. M. C. SHIP



Mr. Ronald Giblett,
99 Duke St.,
Hamilton,