

B N A P S

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

Newsletter #22

1450 Ross Road  
Kelowna, B.C.  
V1Z 1L6

July 18, 1977

Dear Member:

111...Survey Result - Item 103

Positive replies to this survey were few in number however some wrote saying they had no examples to report. There is no doubt all 10 postal markings are difficult to find.

|                        |   |                            |   |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Petawawa Military Camp | 1 | St. Bruno Camp Militaire   | 3 |
| Dundurn " "            | 2 | Sarcee Military Camp       | 3 |
| Sussex Camp, N.B.      | 3 | Petawawa M.C. (Registered) | 1 |
| Camp Borden, Ont.      | 2 | Canadian Contingent oval   | 1 |

Two readers noted a group of postal markings not yet fully covered which belong to the World War Two period. These were used early in the war and were known only by their name, i.e. FARNHAM MILITARY CAMP. We have a listing of these but further work is needed before they can be included in a Newsletter. Will try for NL23.

112...Reference book - South East Asia

Legion magazine, a fine publication, in Book Reviews for June 1977 brings news of a reference work which should be of interest to CMM collectors. Its titled CANADIAN FLYING OPERATIONS in SOUTH EAST ASIA 1941 - 1945 and is written by T.A. Melnyk. Send cheque for \$3.00 (\$3.60 outside) to The Publishing Centre, Order Fulfilment Division, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0S9. Cheque payable to Receiver General for Canada.

113...Re-Survey - WW2 MPO/NPO postmarks - see pages 4 and 5 - British Columbia.

114...Armed Forces Airletters - 1942/45

The first of five parts is included as part of this Newsletter. A most interesting study which should prompt readers to bring to light their holdings for identification and inclusion in their collections.

115...Straightline postal markings - additions

Further to Item 82 these have been seen as proof strikes and/or actual examples.

|               |                 |              |                      |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Barriefield   | MPO 312 Ont.    | Patricia Bay | MPO 1102 B.C.        |
| Penhold       | " 1307 Alberta  | Mont Joli    | " 502 (nil PQ)       |
| Mossbank      | " 1203 Sask.    | Lachine      | " 405 P.Q.           |
| Dauphin       | " 1002 Man.     | Carberry     | " 1007 Man.          |
| Moncton       | " 705 N.B.      | Boundary Bay | " 1124 B.C.          |
| Charlottetown | " 612 P.E.I.    | Gorden Head  | " 1103 B.C.          |
| Kingston      | " 314 (nil Ont) | Uplands      | 2 forms:             |
| Estevan       | " 1209 Sask.    |              | 1 in upper case      |
|               |                 |              | 2 in upper and lower |

116...Registered markings (type 4A oblong) Rarity Factor

Examples of these are not easily found. A means of trying to find a degree of scarcity has recently come to light but requires more examples. The following MPO (types 4A oblong) examples are requested, in photocopy only, for study.

Toronto, Ont MPO 204

sample:

Lachine, P.Q. MPO 405

Claresholm, Alberta MPO 1306

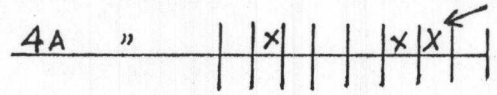


Please send photocopies only to the above address.

Copy must show both R marking and c.d.s.

117...Addition to Identifier Chart - further to Item 59

Please turn to your Newsletter #15, page 5 and add a small "x" under Round column on line 4A



An example of this type was illustrated in NL 21 page 4.

118...Further to Item 94 - Favourite covers

Three are shown for readers interest and thanks to contributors. More in NL 23.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE  
MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE

O. H. M. S.  
S. DE S. M.



*Canadian Army Liaison Establishment*

*CPA 5051*

DND 318

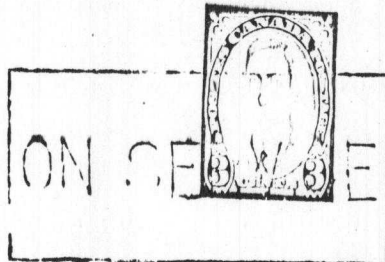
Has anyone seen another like this? Appears to be a temporary date stamp of local manufacture. Does anyone know the history of No. 1 Port Detachment, C.P.C.? Appears to have been at Montreal.

All for now and a pleasant summer holiday to everyone.

Cheers,

*Colin, Ken & Ed.*

118...cont'd.



Mrs. W. B.

1 Pinewood Avenue

Toronto

Ontario

Canada

TRANSMISSION DELAYED FOR PURPOSES OF SECURITY

Note one of two types of DELAYED handstamps - two line in small print. Most likely applied at Halifax. Reads, "Transmission delayed for purposes of security". FREE ON SERVICE marking would have made 3¢ postage unnecessary.



M-101007 Cpl. Byron D. Ray  
C. P. C. Sub Base P. O.  
HALIFAX, N. S.

Doubleday One Dollar Book Club,  
105 Bond Street,  
T O R O N T O  
Ontario.

An unusual cancellation which we have not seen reported elsewhere. Does anyone know the history of this unit? What was their size, function and strength? What date were they formed? What date disbanded?

Item...113

...WW2 MPO/NPO postmarks • NAME/NUMBER series

Various writers have listed this interesting series of postal markings and such a list may be found in early Newsletters. Perhaps the earliest comprehensive listing was in TOPICS of November 1945 in an article by Ian C. Morgan This list, and others, were confined to the office number/name/branch/opening and closing dates. The most recent listing by the late H.E. Guertin is comprised of a description (with illustrations) and location of a wide range of postal markings which is a most useful reference for military collectors.

The purpose of this NL item is to acquaint readers with the eight most likely postmarks to be found on military mail from Western Canada as this is the area to be re-surveyed through the NL using the Identifier Chart as revised May 1977.

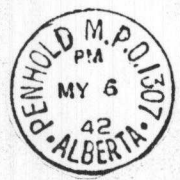
The illustrations are copies of proofing strikes, or actual postmarks used in Canada and may be readily associated with the above mentioned chart. Our survey in NL #2 was intended to record circular/duplex/machine cancels used in Military District #11, or British Columbia. The tally from that survey showed circular daters to be most prominent with one duplex type. Since that time a 4A Registered has been seen. It is hoped that a second survey will bring reports of two Plain types, the known Duplex, two Registered, a M.C.T.O. and a Straight, all from the WW2 period. Machine cancels do not appear to have been used in B.C. in WW2 and Rollers may be in that category as well?

Opening and closing dates vary somewhat between different lists but one writer gives April 1942 as the earliest opening date of a particular NPO in MD #11 and October 1947 as the latest closing date of a specific MPO. We do not intend pursuing opening and closing dates but it is of interest to note that our survey covers approximately a five and one half year period only.

Members are asked to check their B.C. NAME/NUMBER series of military postmarks and record their findings on the attached tally sheet. The collective result will be printed in the next Newsletter.



2A



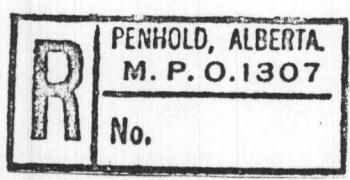
1A or 1B

PENHOLD M.P.O. 1307, ALBERTA

10A



6A



113  
Item..... MPO/NPO NAME/NUMBER Series M.D..... 11

Results please to your scribe

B.C.  
Prov.....

| NUMBER | BRANCH | LOCATION      | ROLE                | oblong |    |    | round |    |    | blank |     |  |
|--------|--------|---------------|---------------------|--------|----|----|-------|----|----|-------|-----|--|
|        |        |               |                     | 1A     | 1B | 2A | 4A    | 4A | 5A | 6A    | 10A |  |
| 1101   | A      | Vernon        | bsc. trng.          |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1102   | R      | Pat. Bay      | OTU<br>RAF<br>RCAF  |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1103   | A      | Victoria      | OTC & Art'y         |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1104   | A      | Nanaimo       | sm arms sch         |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1105   | A      | Port Alberni  | 13 Inf Bgde         |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1106   | A      | Vanc'r        | H.Q. Pac C          |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1107   | A      | Chi'wack      | 112 Bsc trng        |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1108   | A      | P. George     | 16 Inf Bgde         |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1109   | A      | Terrace       | 14 Inf Bgde         |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1110   | A      | P. Rupert     | Garrison            |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1111   | R      | Jericho Beach | flying boats        |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1112   | N      | Esquimalt     | Givenchy            |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1113   | N      | do            | Naden               |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1114   | N      | do            | Royal Roads         |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1115   | N      | P. Rupert     | Chatham             |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1116   | R      | Vanc'r        | RCAF Stn.           |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1117   | N      | do            | Burrard             |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1118   | /      | not opened    |                     |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1119   | A      | Vanc'r        | joint forces HQ     |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1120   | N      | do            | Discovery           |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1121   | R      | Comox         | recc'e & ftr sqdn   |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1122   | R      | Tofino        | do                  |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1123   | R      | P.O.          | not opened          |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1124   | R      | Boundary Bay  | EFTS                |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1125   | R      | Abbo'ford     | OTU                 |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1126   | A      | Williams Lake | Polar Bear exercise |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |
| 1127   | R      | Alliford Bay  | flying boats        |        |    |    |       |    |    |       |     |  |

NOTE: "Givenchy" etc. are depot ships  
 OTU - Operational Training Unit  
 EFTS - Elementary Flying Training School

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

W. Whitehouse

The story of these air letters was told in great detail many years ago by the late R.H. Webb and it is not intended that the story be repeated here. Rather, the intent is to bring to members attention this most interesting phase of WWII postal history by briefly outlining the reasons which led to the introduction of the air letter, details and issue dates of the basic types and later provide interested members with an up to date list of what is known to exist in this field.

With todays high speed flights across the Atlantic in a matter of a few hours we perhaps forget that when WWII began some 38 years ago, flights across the Atlantic were neither fast nor reliable. Only Trans Canada Airlines and British Overseas Airways Corporation were flying the Atlantic from Canada at this time and understandably they were not able to cope with the increase in passenger and airmail traffic brought about by wartime demands.

With more and more Canadian servicemen arriving overseas in early 1942, the Government began facing the same problem British Authorities had faced in 1940. Agitation among families, friends and servicemen alike was becoming very noticeable in connection with the length of time taken for mail to be delivered and the amount of mail which was being lost at sea due to operations by German submarines. The British had solved their problem with the introduction of the AIRGRAPH in May 1941, and now in 1942 as aircraft began to fly from one theatre of war to another in large numbers, had introduced an air letter form with the title AIR MAIL LETTER CARD.

In April 1942, Canada decided to take advantage of the military aircraft being flown across the Atlantic by Ferry Command and following the lead of British Authorities announced that an air letter form would be available to the Canadian public on 15 June 1942, with the title of ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER (Fig. 1). The postage rate for this new service was to be 10¢ as this was the closest equivalent in Canadian funds to the 6d rate set for the British air letter card.

**ARMED FORCES  
AIR LETTER**

**BY AIR MAIL**

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

*RCAF Liaison Officer  
HOME 1217*

Number, Rank and Name Sqn Ldr. Donald RCAF

Unit (Company, Squadron, Battery, etc.) RCAF

Regiment or Branch c/o RCAF, F. Headquarters

Service CAIRO, Egypt.

FIRST AIRMAIL LETTER CARD. OVERSEAS.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(continued)

Although I have been unable to determine the exact date, it would have been about this time that the Prisoner of War air letter was made available to the Canadian public for correspondence to Allied prisoners of war in German and Italian hands (Fig. 2). The British had a similar form available in July 1941. As we usually followed their lead and as a short article in a Montreal newspaper dated September 1942 reminded the public that the air letter form available for use to prisoners in Europe, was not to be used to Allied prisoners in Japanese hands, I feel certain that it was between June and August 1942 when this form was first issued.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>PRISONER OF WAR POST</b><br><b>KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST</b><br>SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE                  |   | <b>AFFIX</b><br><b>10c</b><br><b>POSTAGE</b> |
| <b>BY AIR MAIL</b><br><b>PAR AVION</b>   |   |  |
| <b>RANK &amp; NAME:</b><br>(CAPITAL LETTERS)   | ..... <b>PRISONER OF WAR</b><br>(BRITISH OR CANADIAN, ETC.) |  |
| <b>PRISONER OF WAR NO.</b> .....<br>(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)   |   |  |
| <b>CAMP NAME &amp; NO.</b> .....<br>(INCLUDING SUBSIDIARY<br>NUMBERING OR LETTERING<br>IF ANY-E.G. WORKING CAMP) |   |  |
| <b>COUNTRY:</b> .....  |   |  |

Fig. 2

Very few examples of these air letters that reached the prisoners in Europe have been saved. Used examples which have survived are usually dated in late 1944, or are crossed by the rubber stamp "Addressee returned to Canada" and dated 1945.