

**BNAPEX '77**  
**EDMONTON**

**B N A P S**

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

Newsletter #22

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

September 16, 1977

Dear Member:

119...BNAPS CMMSG Balance Sheet for year ending Jul 31 1977

carried forward	\$88.45	number of members	27
postage,		comp. NL	3
supplies	\$44.35	BNAPS Library	
dues	10.00	FPMS (England)	
Balance	\$54.10	A/Editor TOPICS	

120...Survey Result page 2

A big improvement on the second time around with 7 members reporting 43 different postal markings for a total of 161 items. Our first attempt (1974) was narrower in scope and 5 members reported 23 different marks to a total of 88 items.

121...Continuing survey page 3 MPO/NPOs Alberta and Saskatchewan

Please send your reports to the above address. You may number the "blank" column to report any marking you have within the period of coverage which is not shown on the report sheet. Item 120 illustrates an example where a type 9B is added.

122...Further to Item 111. NAME only postal markings.

Here we re-cap and add some new material from the World War Two period. Pages 4/5.

123...Ship mail via Admiralty bag - A favourite cover

124...Internment Camps in Canada - WW1 - Possibly a first report.

Slightly different than the type shown in NL20 page 7. Note the term Internment Station which we are seeing for the first time.

125...Camp Borden, Ont. - Field Post Office.

126...Armed Forces Air Letters 1942/45

The second of five parts, for Study Group members only, is attached. The changing of titles on air letter forms to increase their usage by other than Armed Forces personnel is discussed and illustrated.

127...Reference Item 118 - No 1 Fort Detachment

Ron Kitchen reports one of these dated 23 VIII 62 with note attached saying No 1

Item..... 120

MPO/NPO NAME/NUMBER Series

M.D..... 11

Prov..... B.C.

BRANCH	NUMBER	LOCATION	ROLE	oblong		round		Series						
				1A	1B	2A	4A	4A	5A	6A	10A	9B		
A	1101	Vernon	bsc. trng.	7			1				1			
R	1102	Pat. Bay	OTU RAF RCAF	7			1							
A	1103	Victoria	OTC & Art'y	7					1			2		
A	1104	Nanaimo	sm arms sch	7			1							
A	1105	Port Alberni	13 Inf Bgde	7										
A	1106	Vanc'r	H.Q. Pac C	7				3	1	1				
A	1107	Chi'wack	112 Bsc trng	6										
A	1108	P. George	16 Inf Bgde	7				2						
A	1109	Terrace	14 Inf Bgde	5		4		1						
A	1110	P. Rupert	Garrison	7				3						
R	1111	Jericho Beach	flying boats	5										
N	1112	Esquimalt	Givenchy		2	1								
N	1113	do	Naden		6		2						1	*v
N	1114	do	Royal Roads		3									
N	1115	P. Rupert	Chatham		3									
R	1116	Vanc'r	RCAF Stn.	4	1									
N	1117	do	Burrard		5									
	<del>1118</del>	<del>not opened</del>												
A	1119	Vanc'r	joint forces HQ	5										
N	1120	do	Discovery		2									
R	1121	Comox	recc'e & ftr sqdn	7										
R	1122	Tofino	do	6										
	<del>1123</del>	<del>P.C. not opened</del>												
R	1124	Boundary Bay	EFTS	7									1	
R	1125	Abbo'ford	OTU	5										
A	1126	Williams Lake	Polar Bear exercise		2									
R	1127	Alliford Bay	flying boats	4										
RE:	"Givenchy" etc. are depot ships													

TER # 140231



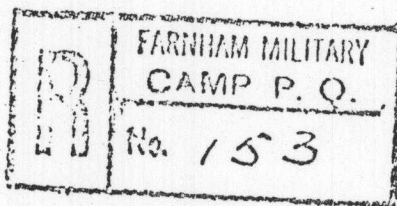
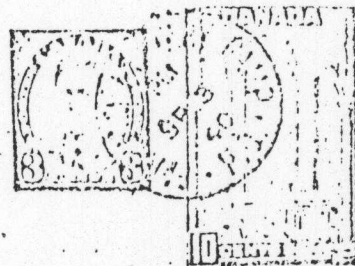
122.... Further to item 111

A number of World War Two military camps may be singled out for their usage of the camp name only in their postal markings, at least in the early years of the war. The postal markings of Thames Valley Camp were illustrated in NL #9, Item 8 so readers will be on the watch for examples for their albums. Farnham Military Camp seems to have gone unlisted by us so with Bill Robinson's co-operation a Farnham cover is illustrated showing a type 1 c.d.s. and type 4 Registration (oblong) mark. The c.d.s. was proofed Aug 3, 1940.

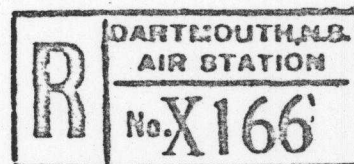
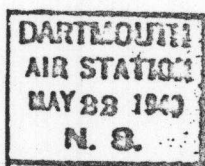
NL13, item 49 listed Dartmouth Air Station, also R.C.A.F. Stations Rockcliffe and Uplands and copies of proof strikes are included here. Circular date stamps from camps named Little Norway, first at Toronto, Ontario then at Muskoka are included in order to make their appearance known.

None of the pictured postal markings are at all common, in fact some await their first reporting.

Note: The c.d.s. RCAF STATION UPLANDS-ONT proofed OC 24 40 has been, it is believed, erroneously reported as being used. Details in this regard from readers would be appreciated.

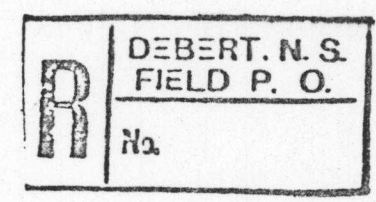
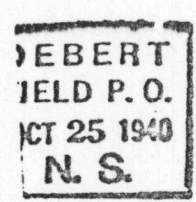
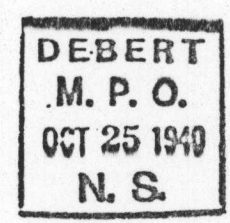


Mrs. C. L. Dwyer  
2207 Melrose Ave.  
N. Y.  
Montreal.



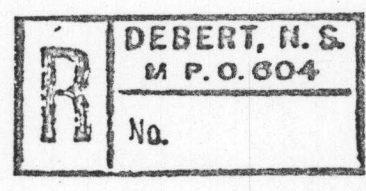
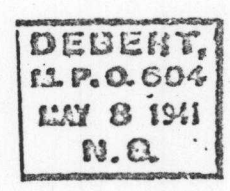
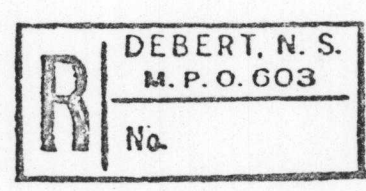
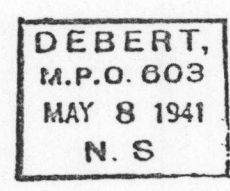
122.... Further to Item 111 (cont'd)

Debert Military Camp, near Truro, Nova Scotia, must have been a very active camp well provided for handling military mail. Possibly the first military cancels used there were the M.P.O. series with earliest proofing date SP 14 40. Another group using the FIELD P.O. designation followed and are also illustrated. Notice the use of the camp name only.



At that time, or very early in 1941, a machine cancel was needed and a photocopy of it will be found in NL15 page 6. Note the Debert MPO inscription. Whether a type 3 machine cancel inscribed DEBERT FIELD P.O. was ever produced is not known at this time.

Some time later in 1941 the Name/Number type of postal marking replaced the early Debert MPO series and copies of Proofs are shown below.



Debert was important for the Army camp and a short distance away, #31 Operational Training Unit, Royal Air Force. Also an R.C.A.F. X Depot.

MPOs 603 and 604 were used by the Canadian Army while MPO 613 (not illustrated) served the RCAF. Evidence at hand indicates that #31 OTU personnel used the MPO 603 facilities for their mail.

MPO 603 closed 15 Nov 45 and 604, 2 Mar 46. MPO 613 after less than two years operation closed 15 Oct 45.

123... Ship mail via Admiralty bag. A favourite cover

Occasionally small batches of non-official mail were included in a Admiralty bag to take advantage of a partly filled bag destined for the U.K. by aircraft or H.M. Ship travelling direct.

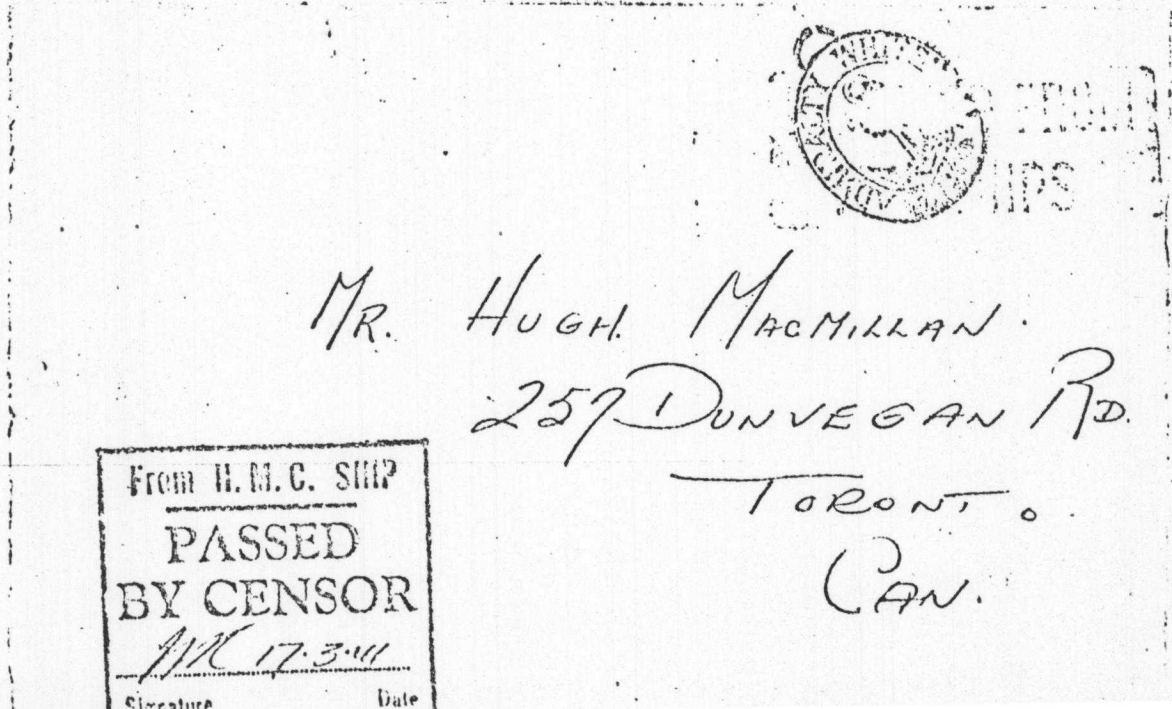
On receipt at the Admiralty, non-official items were stamped with the mark illustrated to the right and passed to the G.P.O. for onward transmission. The mark insured that the letter continued it's journey postage free.



Due to the small amount of non-official mail carried in this manner, the mark is seldom seen on WWII covers and is particularly scarce on R.C.N. mail.

The cover illustrated below is from an unidentified Canadian warship who's location is unknown but is probably Gibraltar. It will be noted that after being received at the G.P.O., the arrival marking "Received From H.M. Ships" was applied.

It may also be of interest to point out that the Censor mark is type #6 illustrated in Newsletter #19.



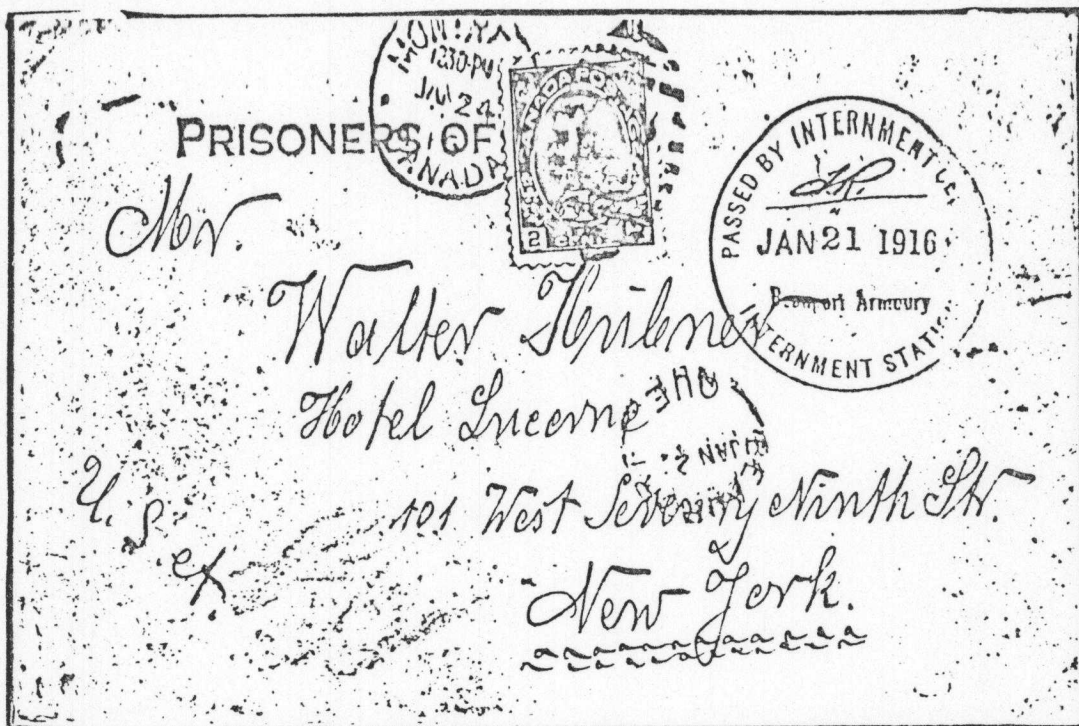
MR. HUGH MACMILLAN  
257 DUNVEGAN RD.  
TORONTO.  
CAN.

From H. M. C. SHIP  
PASSED  
BY CENSOR  
AW 17.3.41  
Signature Date

124... Internment Camps in Canada - World War One

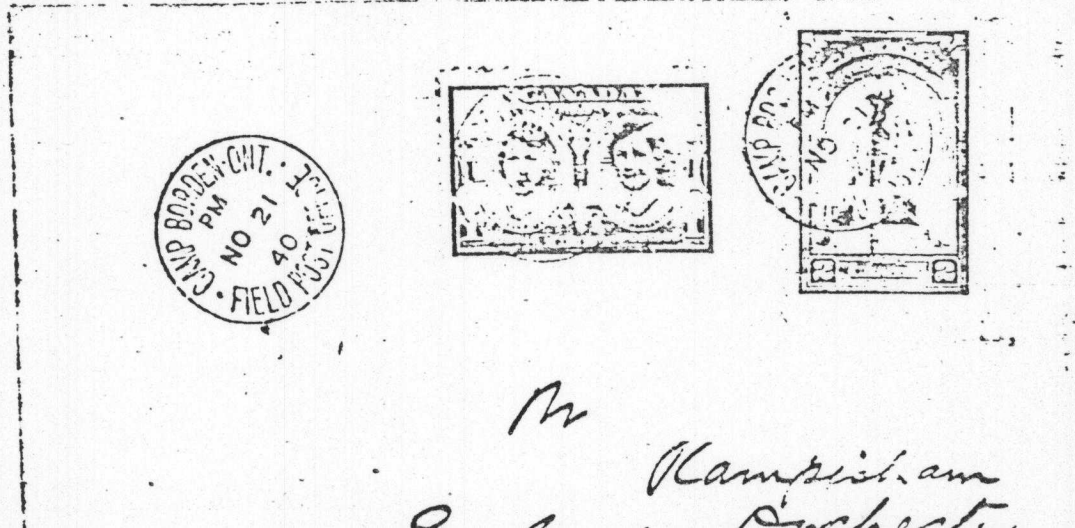
A reader in the Toronto region sends a photocopy of a cover inscribed, PRISONERS OF WAR, and bearing a unique censor mark. It is our belief this is the first report of this marking. Reference is made to:- Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War 1914-1919 published by Authority D.N.D., Ottawa, 1938.

See Appendix 235, pl65 titled, Notes on Action Taken in Respect to Enemy Aliens, 1914-1919. Referring to page 167. Beauport, Que., is listed as the site of an internment camp which opened 28 Dec 1914 and closed 22 June 1916. The building used to house the internees is described as an armoury. Your scribe was shown the actual cover some months ago.



125... Camp Borden Ont. Field Post Office

Two reports in of this rather scarce cancel proofed Jul 17 40, some 10½ months after the cut-off date of our survey first announced in Item 80. Note the dots at 9 and 3 o'clock positions. Perhaps you have one of these in your possession and can now identify it for your collection?



109  
-3-

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45  
(continued)

The first air letter was an immediate success with the servicemen overseas. Unfortunately, not enough people in Canada were taking advantage of the new forms and it was felt that the problem lay in the title which led the public to believe that the forms were for use between members of the Armed Forces only. Consequently, a change was made in the title and this new form was made available in Post Offices throughout the country on 19 September 1942 (Fig. 3).

AIR LETTER TO  
ARMED FORCES

**BY AIR MAIL**

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

Number, Rank or Rating and Name *R-15* *L. J. L.*

Unit (Company, Battery, Ship, Squadron, etc.) *Staff R.C.A.F.*

Regiment, Branch, Establishment or Station *Canadian Overseas Postal Dept*

Service *Royal Canadian Air Force*

**OVERSEAS.**

Fig. 3

Meanwhile, demand was growing overseas for a similar service to Canada. However as there was one aircraft flying West for every ten flying to England, Ottawa was reluctant to begin such a service. But early in August 1942, Authorities decided to proceed with a Westbound transatlantic service on a provisional basis and announced 1 October 1942 as the date for the first flight. The routine order which announced commencement of the service also advised that the air letter form would be restricted to one form per week per man.

For the men overseas there were actually two forms made available. It was not originally intended to be that way but eventually one form was printed in the U.K. and the other in Canada.

#1 Printing and Stationery Detachment of the Canadian Army in England was authorized to print forms in August 1942, but when it appeared that they could not produce and distribute their forms in time for the first flight, they requested that Ottawa produce approximately 150,000 forms as an interim measure.

#1 P&S Detachment eventually overcame their problems and completed their forms in September 1942 (Fig. 4) while Ottawa ran into printing problems and their forms did not arrive in the U.K. until nearly 2 weeks after the first flight date (Fig. 5)



CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45  
(continued)

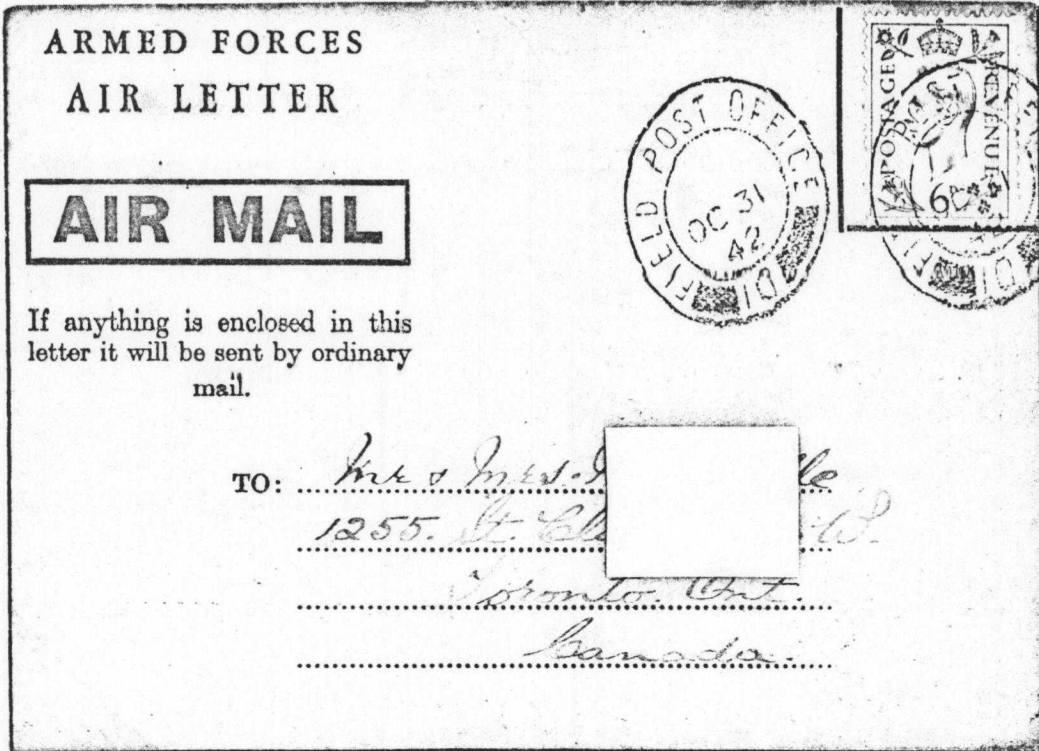


Fig. 4 - Used from U.K. in first month of Westbound service.

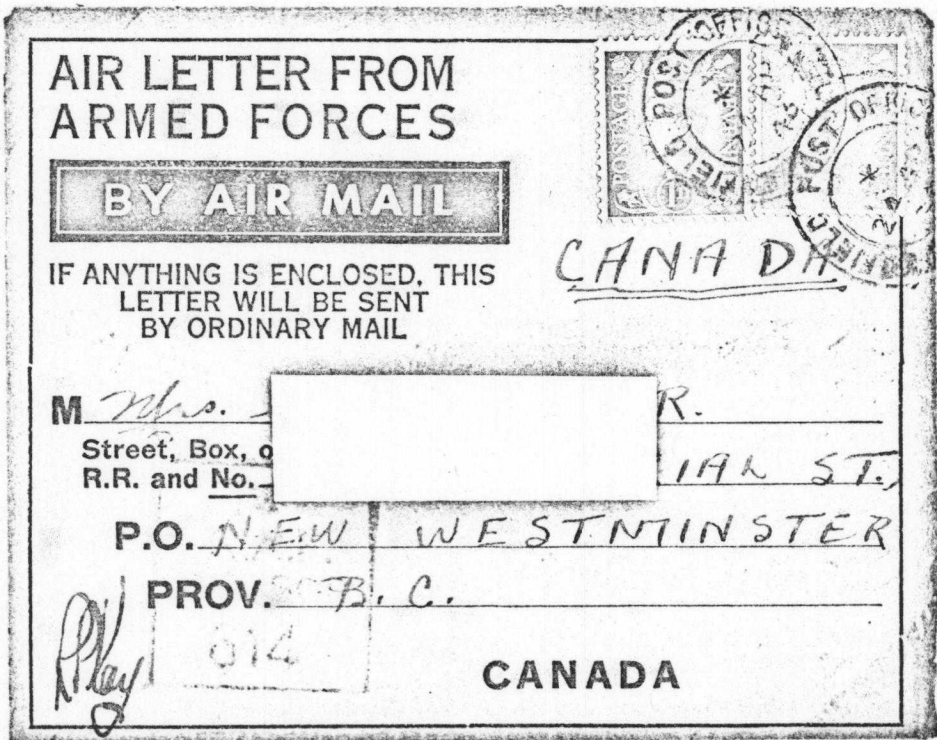


Fig. 5 - Used from Egypt in April 1943