

Merry  
Christmas

BNAPS

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

Newsletter #24

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

November 18, 1977

Dear Member:

BNAPEX '77 is now an historical event in the life of the Society and in our view, one of the great ones. One third of the Group's membership were in Edmonton for the convention.

There was a fine friendly crowd for the 3 day show and some 200 framed exhibits for their viewing. Thirty dealers had mustered a vast and varied selection of material and their tables were crowded most of the time.

Meetings, seminars, coffee parties, a Bar-B-Q at Fort Edmonton and finally the Awards banquet. A great time for everyone and a credit to those who did all the hard work.

Palm Beach, Florida will be the host city next October so remember to pack your favourite swim wear.

Our Military Mail Seminar was attended by 12 plus people. Following this a "clothes line" exhibit of military postal markings was held and then a brief slide show of more of the same. Three new recruits signed on and we welcome them and invite their active participation. Here are their names:

Philip Wolf	10515 Shillington Cres., S.W. Calgary Alta. T2W 0N8
Rev. Thos. B. Murray	45 Winnett St. Woodstock, Ont. N4S 5Z4
Sam C. Nickle	1208 Belavista Cres. Calgary, Alta. T2V 2E1

From the seminar two points came through clearly:

- 1 vote of confidence in the present "Orderly Room" staff
- 2 "slow march" for the next year and consolidate what we have covered so far

A favourite topic aired by the Chairman during the seminar concerned the necessity for "on going" study and its importance to the future of the Study Group. Here are the details:

Some time ago we recruited members to head up specific areas of study within the topic of military mail. US Army-APOs in Canada, NL9/2 was one, survey NL15/1, Newfoundland postal markings was another. Frankly we thought the varieties would never cease appearing! NL17/1 item 71 sparked a rash of writing, reporting and discovery which was hotly pursued by many of our readers, and the story isn't finished yet. Fourthly, the large group of postal markings beginning NL18/1 item 80 through NL21/5 item 103.

cont'd

A fifth example is item 86, NL19/1 which brought us RCN censor markings followed by item 114, NL22/1, the start of a 5 part series.

Our member, Bill Robinson is preparing a survey of British Field Post Offices allocated to Canadian Units during WW2.

Ken Barlow has accepted an invitation to commence study of machine type cancels used by the Canadian Forces since 1916. Members are invited to send photocopies of their holdings in machine cancels to Ken whose address appears in NL19/2. DO NOT send original items, PHOTOCOPIES only. Any information will help build up Ken's file and then in a year perhaps we will have another good article and checklist for the Newsletter.

All the foregoing illustrate what "on going" studies are and your Scribe has numerous other topics requiring leaders. Some of these are:

- 1 military mail from Canadian Forces personnel during WW2 in South East Asia
- 2 postal markings from Korea, Japan, Cyprus, Egypt and Vietnam
- 3 British type cancels used by Canadian offices during WW1
- 4 MOONS and MOTOS used at stations in Canada
- 5 study of postal markings from the larger, more prolific camps in Canada during WW1 and WW2. Camp Borden, Petawawa, Trenton or Debert are some which come to mind
- 6 special study of a particular "family" of cancels such as Canada Militia types in NL18/8, a 5 year project

Members are reminded of the extensive studies completed by Ed Richardson on Boer War military mail. The FNAPS Library has much of this material to loan.

To sum up then, if you have a reasonable supply of material, and interest in, a specific area of military mail and would like the Group's assistance to expand on the topic advise the Chairman and the task can be arranged including publicity in the Newsletter. Later, the results of the study will be included in the Newsletter.

Our member, Ron Kitchen has agreed to draw up an index to NLs1-25. This will be very useful.

It is a significant point that the Forces Postal History Society in England has within it many Study Circles collecting data, collating and later having published in their Newsletter, the results of their collective work. Many fine articles/papers have been written as a result of extensive study.

Your enquiries and suggestions are invited.

128...MPO 100

Have seen two references to this MPO which was operated from Cabot Park, P.E.I. during a recent Scout Jamboree. Should a member have one then a photocopy would be appreciated for illustration in our next Newsletter.

129...Canadian Armed Forces Air Letters - continued

A new form is introduced (1943), the RCAF take over delivery of Armed Forces mail, air letter rate reduced, another form released (1944) and issue of forms increased in numbers to overseas Forces.

130...The Corvette Navy by James B. Lamb

A new book by Macmillan at \$10.95. In excess of 130 of these little ships were built in Canada. Written by a man who knew them well. Its all reading though, no pictures. Pity.

140...Niagara Camp, Ontario - a machine cancel

Again, a most elusive item is illustrated and dated Jul 1, 1918. We have seen a number of references to this cancel but had not seen the real thing. The example was recently found by someone "down East" and although a bit light on ink shows us the fourth member of the group, the others being, Camp Borden, Valcartier and Toronto. NL19/7 refers and readers may add Niagara to their listing.

141;..Bella Bella, B.C.



Here is just one example of a civil post office handling Canadian military mail this office being the closest to Shearwater, an RCAF Station, using flying boats, which came to prominence late in 1941 after Pearl Harbour. This coastal station was on Denny Island about 190 miles south of Prince Rupert. The return address on the back of the cover reads:

P/O H----- E.L. RCAF Station, Bella Bella, B.C. and the date of the c.d.s. is Mar 10 1942.

142...Survey - Military Districts 13 and 12 (WW2)

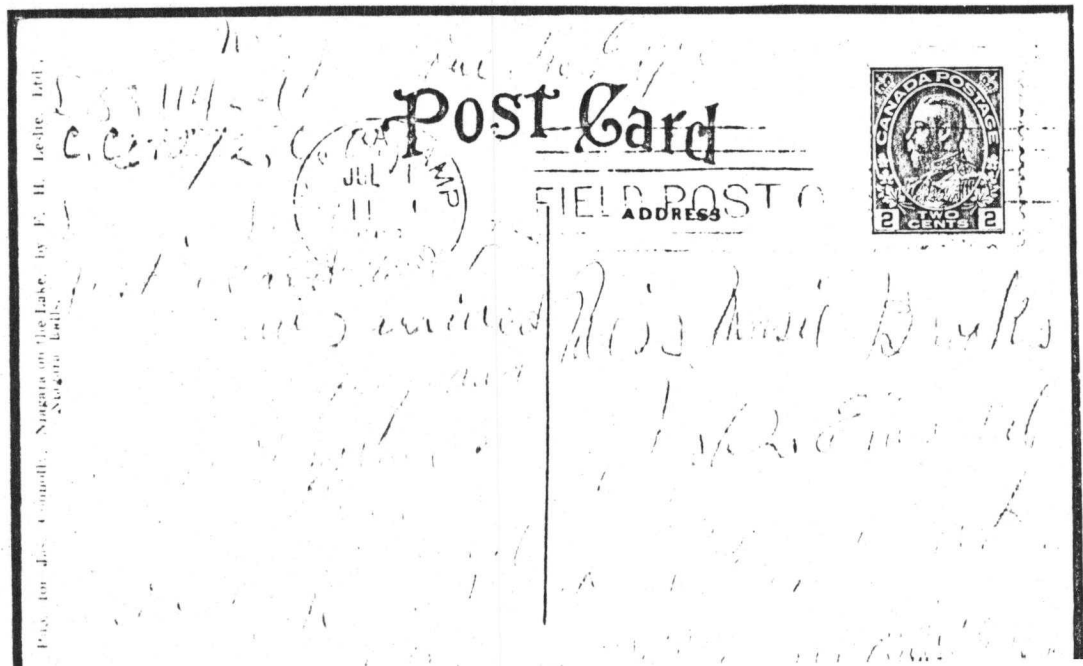
Please note we have retyped the "ROLE" column correcting and adding details. See 1314 and 1202 are blank this time where in our first survey we had some response. The scarcity of Registered markings is significant.

143...Re-survey - MD 10 - Manitoba

This is a very small grouping so please, let's try for 18 replies to this one! Managed 9 to current item 142. In addition to the usual type 1A watch for duplex and Registry markings. While on the subject of reporting to surveys would reader reporting NPO 1112 (type 2A) please send sketch along with current survey. Thanks.

Item.....	143	MPO/NPO	NAME/NUMBER	Series	M.D.....	10	Manitoba	Prov.....	oblons	round	blank
BRANCH	NUMBER	LOCATION	ROLE	1A	1B	2A	4A	4A	5A	6A	10A
	1001	A Shilo	A-3 CATC S-14 C Para TC								
	1002	R Dauphin	10 SFTS								
	1003	R Brandon	12 SFTS 2MD								
	1004	R Macdonald	3 B & G								
	1005	R Paulson	7 B & G								
	1006	R Rivers	1 Cen Nav S								
	1007	R Carberry	33 SFTS								
	1008	R Souris	17 SFTS								
	1009	R Winnipeg	2 Trg Comm								
	1010	R Gimli	18 SFTS								
	1011	R Winnipeg	1 W/T School								
	1012	R Portage	7 AOS 14 EFTS								
	1013	R Winnipeg	5 AOS								
	1014	A "	103 Pas TC 10 Voc TS								
	1015	A Churchill	Defence Research B								

Item 140...Niagara Camp



Item.....	142	MPO/NPO	NAME/NUMBER	Series	13 & 12 M.D..... Alta. & Sask. Prov.....												
NUMBER	BRANCH	LOCATION	ROLE											blank			
				1A	1B	2A	4A	4A	5A	6A	10A						
1301	A	Sarcee	camp	1													
1302	R	Edmon'n	3 MD 16EFTS	7													
1303	R	MacLeod	7 SFTS	7													
1304	R	Leth'ge	8 B&G	8													
1305	R	Calgary	3 SFTS	6													
1306	R	Clare'm	15 SFTS	7				1									
1307	R	Penhold	36 SFTS (RAF) 2 TSU	6													
1309	R	Calgary	9 Ecp't Dep	6													2
1310	R	Calgary	Currie Barracks	9													
1311	A	Wain't	camp	7													1
1312	R	Vulcan	19 SFTS	5					1	1							1
1313	R	Calgary	2 W/T Sch	5													
1314	A	Edmon'n	HC West Com														
1315	R	"	HQNW Air C	8													
1316	A	Calgary	A-16 CITC	5													
1317	R	"	10 Rep Dep	5													
1201	A	Dundurn	121 Basic TC	8													
1202	A	Regina	120 Basic TC														
1203	R	Mossbank	2 B & G	5													
1204	R	Sask'oon	4 SFTS 6 ITS	6				1									1
1205	R	Yorkton	23 EFTS 11 SFTS	8													
1206	R	Dafoe	5 B & G	7													
1208	R	N' Batt	13 SFTS	4													1
1209	R	Estevan	38 SFTS (RAF)	4													
1210	R	S' Curr	39 SFTS (RAF)	4				1									
1212	A	P' Albert	Esquimo Force			4											
1213	N	Sask'oon	HMCs Unicorn			2											
1214	R	Regina	# AOG 2 ITS 15 EFTS	1													

NOTE: 1126 from the previous survey Item 113/120 was a Field Post Office

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



The Manager,  
Globe Furniture Co. Ltd.,  
Waterloo, Ont.

M. F. E. 1483  
1,500,000 -12-43 (1245)  
H.Q. 1772-39-1996

*"Don't waste words - Don't waste paper"*  
*"Economisez les mots et le papier"*

144...NPO 617 - Cornwallis, N.S.

Very few of these meters (9E) have been found. This one dated Dec 8, 1944 was only recently sent in for illustration. NPO 1113 Esquimalt, B.C. and NPO 1117 (Burrard) also are known.

145...Machine cancel - earliest date of usage

We have illustrated a cover concerning the RCAF Station at Bella Bella and the above from a NPO. The question of an early date concerns the Army at Camp Borden during the First World War. It is important that we know the earliest date of usage of the known machine type cancels used at Borden. See NL20/7 for two types and NL21/5 for a third. August 1916 dates are known so we must look to July, June or May of 1916 for our early date. Please report any date in these last named months of 1916 which you may have or know to exist. This applies to machine type markings only.

146...Military Mails - reference the Official Handbook - CANADA - 1945 - in part

The Canadian Postal Corps was originally recruited from executives and personnel of the Canadian Post Office in 1939 and is serving all branches of the Armed Forces. The Base Post Office in 1943-44 despatched overseas over 30,552,000 lb. of parcels, 715,100 lb. of letters and 1,133,545 lb. of news to the fighting services.

Facilities have been established to expedite correspondence with the Armed Forces in the form of Airgraphs - letters on film that travel by air - and the Armed Forces Air Letter - a combined lightweight letter and envelope operating at the low postage rate of 10 cents. In 1944 both services were extended for civilian overseas use and the Airgraph fee reduced to 5 cents.

Special arrangements were made for communication with prisoners of war interned abroad, and the Canadian Army Priority Casualty Postcard was introduced to enable a soldier entering hospital to send a personal message by air to his family, and to have his mail short-circuited to his hospital.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(continued)

By mid-1943, a new supply of air letter forms was required and as the public were now well acquainted with their use, Ottawa decided to produce a form which could be used both in Canada and Overseas. The new form which made its appearance in September 1943, contained franking instructions covering both areas, "AFFIX 10c or 6d STAMP" (Fig.6)

About this time, Canadian military strength overseas was nearing its peak. The first Canadian Army was in England, First Corp was fighting the German Army in Italy, the R.C.N. had over 30 ships operating in European waters and the R.C.A.F. had over 40 Squadrons spread from the U.K. to India. When B.O.A.C. was withdrawn from Atlantic air service in the summer of 1943, it was obvious that T.C.A. and the Ferry Command which had simply been a stop-gap measure for speeding up mail delivery since 1942, would no longer be capable of handling the huge volume of mail.

In October 1943, the R.C.A.F. was called upon to take over the duty of delivering the mail. In order to carry out this new assignment, 168 (HT) Squadron was formed immediately, six B-17 "Flying Fortress" aircraft were purchased from the U.S. and the first mail was flown on 15 December 1943, from Rockcliffe, Ontario to Prestwick, Scotland, 189 bags of mail being delivered.

In March 1944, Ottawa finally reached agreement with British Authorities to make official a 3d rate for the air letter from any theatre addressed to Canada. Thus a change was required in the franking instructions of the 1943 form illustrated in Fig. 6. The form with instructions "AFFIX POSTAGE HERE" was made available in April 1944 (Fig. 7)

<p>ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER</p> <p><b>AIR MAIL</b></p> <p>If anything is enclosed in the letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.</p> <p>TO:.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Affix 10c. or 6d. Stamp</p>
<p>Fig. 6</p>	<p>ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER</p> <p><b>AIR MAIL</b></p> <p>If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.</p> <p>TO:.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Affix Postage Here</p>

118  
-6-

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(continued)

Meanwhile in England on 7 March 1944, #1 P&S Detachment apparently unaware of Ottawa's latest printing, released a completely new form to be used by the Forces overseas. This new form was a different format than previously, a little larger and containing new postal instructions. Although it was common knowledge among the personnel overseas that their best chance of obtaining air conveyance was through a Forces postal facility, the instructions on the new form insisted on this procedure.

Later a note was added to the back panel that the air letter could not be accepted for registration.

This particular air letter went through quite a number of printings which produced many varieties in layout and types of paper.

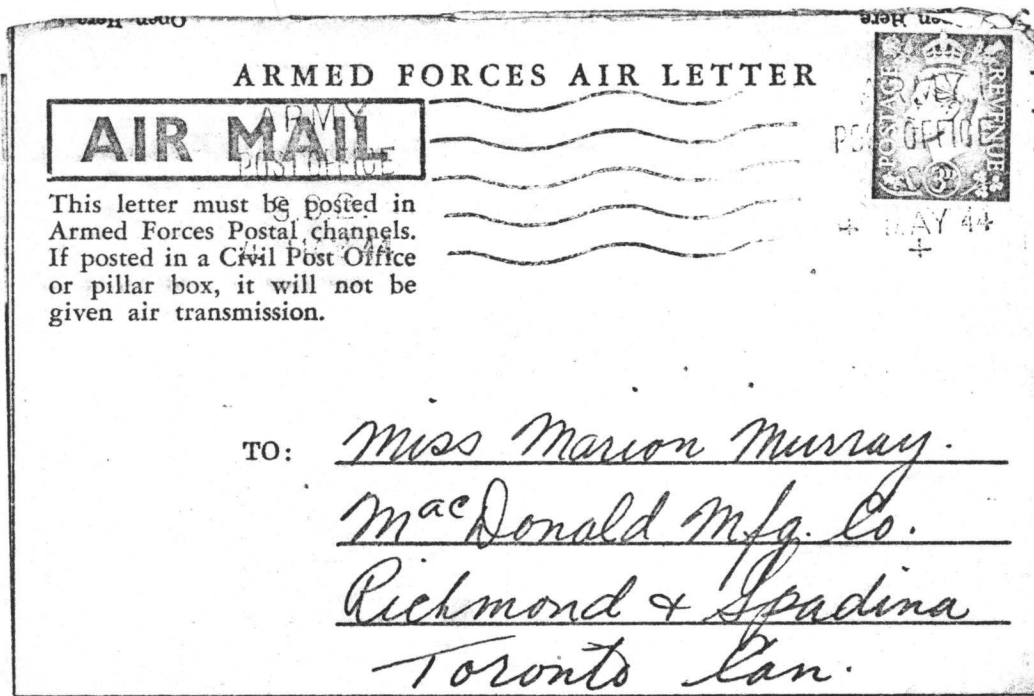


Fig. 8 - Used from England, 4 May 1944

The majority of those concerned, both in Canada and overseas realized that priority was given the air letter for air transportation and that it was to everyones advantage to use the air letter because of the saving in weight compared to ordinary letters. As a result of the widespread use together with the fact that the R.C.A.F. was providing regular air mail flights, an increase in the ration from 4 to 6 forms per month for the Forces overseas was authorized early in 1944.