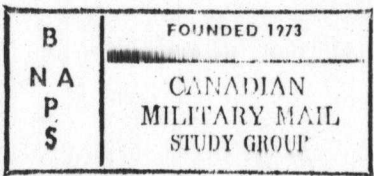


26



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

March 23, 1978

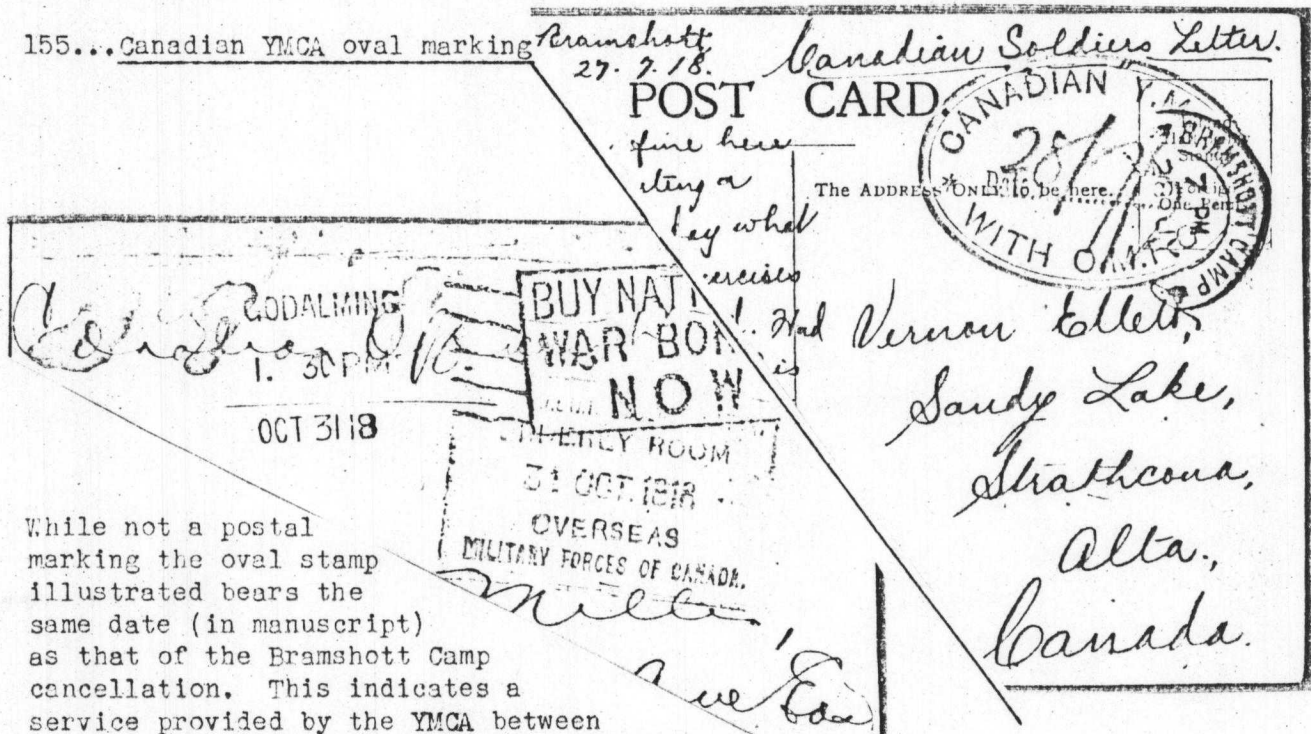
Dear Member:

Our new "logo" is seen for the first time and will be used on "official" correspondence as well as the Newsletter.

Members are receiving with NL 26 the Index for Newsletters 1 - 25. Our thanks to Ron Kitchen who did the work on our behalf.

Response to the current survey (item 153) is included herein but NL26 will not feature another survey. Others will appear in subsequent Newsletters.

155...Canadian YMCA oval marking



While not a postal marking the oval stamp illustrated bears the same date (in manuscript) as that of the Bramshott Camp cancellation. This indicates a service provided by the YMCA between the posting of the card and the application of the cancel at the Field Post Office. A couple of years ago this marking was noted for the first time and the abbreviation O.M.F.C. speculated upon. What was the meaning of the abbreviation? Quite recently two different sources provided what seems to be the answer and one of these is illustrated by the Orderly Room stamp dated about 3 months later. Notice in both instances no Canadian postage was added to these items of military mail on their arrival in Canada. Have trimmed the illustrations to conserve space.

156...REGINA MPO 1202

Three reports of this MPO now recorded and, per item 149, an illustration provided. On stamp only and underinked so photocopy of proof added showing it to be our type 1A. A scarce one apparently used at #120



157...Canadian Armed Forces Air Letters - 1942/45 - conclusion

A most impressive supplement from member Wilf Whitehouse in which he poses a number of questions, not outright perhaps, but implied. See his paragraph 8 concerning an AFAL checklist. In this connection Wilf and your scribe suggest that Study Group members wishing a checklist send 50¢ (mint stamps ok) to cover cost of posting and envelope. The checklist consists of 15 pages and at the soon to be increased rate will require the above postage. It is considered some readers will not be interested in pursuing AFALS further than heretofore presented. If sufficient interest is shown in "following up" the AFAL checklist then a SURVEY will follow (perhaps NL28) in order to determine the number of Air Letters held by collectors, newfound items, and of course, some rarity factors can be determined.

Our thanks again to Wilf for supplying the entire Air Letter series to the Study Group membership.

Oh yes! A note, with enclosure, to Treasurer Ken Ellison, RRL, Cyama, B.C., VOH IWO for the checklist.

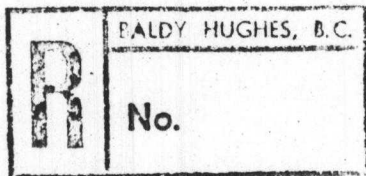
158...Baldy Hughes, B.C.

Wayne Curtis sends examples of postal markings from a civil post office which opened 15 Jan 1969. Should members supply any other details on this post office the same will be included in future Newsletters.

MIS-SENT

to

RCAF Station Baldy Hughes, B.C.



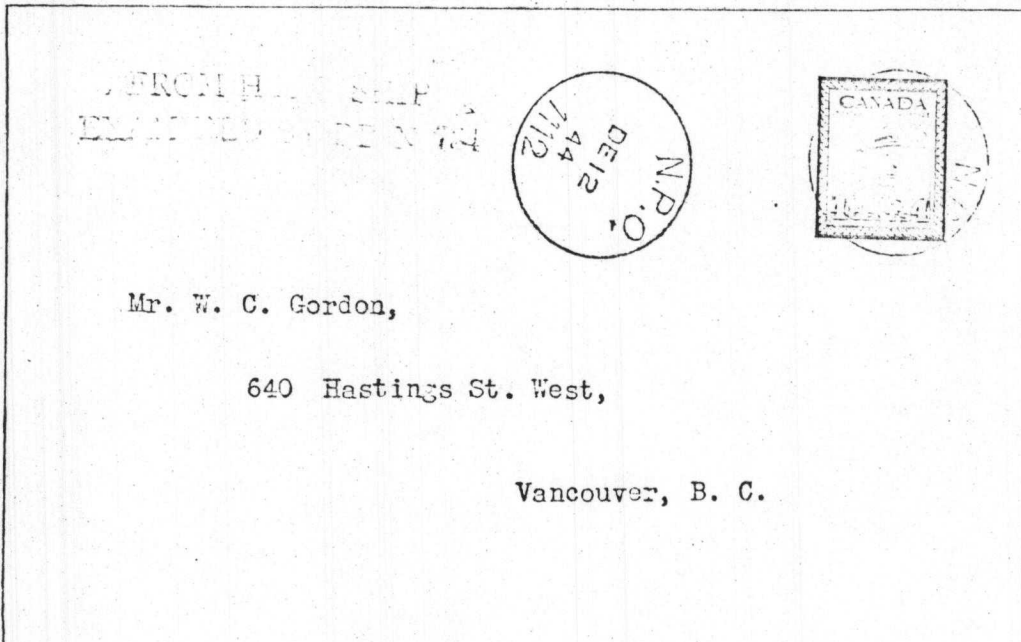
640425

9 IV 1976
BALDY HUGHES
B C





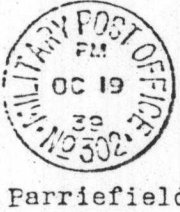
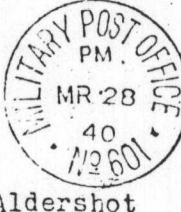
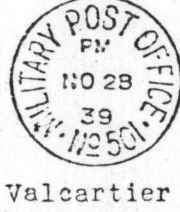
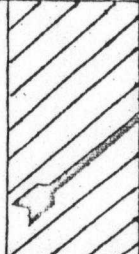
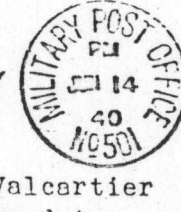



159...NPO 1112 Esquimalt, B.C.

Another illusive item we promised to illustrate. A type 1B and we await a photocopy of a type 2A from this NPO.



160...

160...		Branch	Role	1939	1940	1941	1941	1940	Role	Branch	
	R C A F	#1 MD #1 ITS		Oct 30 Campbell	5 reports	Mar 27 Kitchen	Apr 19 Kitchen	Jun 27 Wilsdon	Tech. Train Sch'l	R C A F	
	A R M Y	Lans- downe Park		Nov 2 Purcell	nil	nil	Apr 22 Kitchen	Jun 4 Campbell	#1 CFS	R C A F	
	A R M Y	CA(A)		Nov 24 Harris	8 reports	Feb 5 Ellison	nil	Jul 1 Wilsdon Oct 28 Campbell	camp	A R M Y	
	A R M Y	CA(A)		nil	May 29 Wolf	Mar 17 Wolf	Mar 30 Campbell	nil			
							Jan 15 Harris Mar 29 Kitchen	nil	Valcartier 		

160...MPO Number series - answer sheet

Note earliest and latest dates of usage.

MPO	REPORTS	
501 no dots	1	Space was left on the answer sheet for members to add improved dates.
301 -	3	
501 duplex	3	Note correction for MPO 301 re Branch and Role and thanks go to 2 readers for noticing. An enlarged illustration of MPO 501 (no dots) is shown. Should members acquire additional copies a few points are highlighted to enable differentiation between the two 501 hammers.
601 -	5	
201 -	8	
101 -	9	
501 with dots	11	
302 -	12	
303 -	12	

The date of course is one factor, diameters are identical. The P of POST in the no dot variety is very slightly backwards leaning. The L of MILITARY is horizontal as is the second F of OFFICE. Finally the 5 of 501 stands vertically where other Valcartier 5s tend to be backwards leaning.

According to the Postmaster General's Report on revenue from Post Offices up to March 31, 1941 MPOs 501, 101 and 303 each reported an excess of \$10,000 revenue and their rank in the REPORTS list is evident. Keep up the search and report your good fortunes.



CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(conclusion)

For Christmas 1944, Canadian Forces overseas and British personnel stationed in Canada were granted "FREE" mail privileges with a variety of overprints, cartoons or simply the word "Free" depending on the theatre of operations.

These Christmas forms are well known to collectors because they have been frequently mentioned in philatelic publications over the years, consequently a few illustrations will substitute for further comment (Fig. 12 - 2 sheets)

Not so well known perhaps but worthy of mention here are the British Christmas Greeting Air Letter Cards for 1942 and 1943 used by Canadians stationed in the theatres where these forms were made available.

1942 Christmas air letters are known used by Canadians from Ceylon and Egypt, while the red overprints "Postage Free" or "Free" on British air letters for 1943 are seen from Ceylon, Italy and North Africa.

As the war came to a close, and as Canadians from all over Europe, the Middle and Far East, began moving back to England and then home, there remained one more variety of the air letter to make its appearance.

For Christmas of 1945, #1 P&S Detachment at the request of the various Auxiliary Services in England, printed a Christmas motif together with the word "Greetings" on the message side of the March 1944 issue (Fig. 13). All copies seen used are dated December 1945 from England except one copy used from Austria.

Various Regiments on the Continent also had Christmas Greetings of one type or another printed on the message side of the March 1944 issue. Understandably the numbers printed in each case must have been small indeed and those that have survived are very scarce.

Looking back over the 3½ years the air letter was in use, one is struck by how few examples can be found used by Canadians serving in the Merchant Navy or by the Forces stationed in Bermuda, Jamaica and British Guiana, or those in the Middle East, India and South East Asia. Canadians stationed in these areas must have used hundreds of air letters, but very few have survived (Fig. 14).

Finally, last dates of use are always of interest to collectors. In my collection the latest date of use by a Canadian is 6 February 1946 from England, while the latest date of use of a Canadian Armed Forces Air Letter is 8 November 1948 from a soldier in the British Army of Occupation.

The list of ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS mentioned in the opening paragraph is now available from the editor. The checklist contains all the varieties known to the writer and it is reasonable to assume that many more varieties exist in the hands of collectors. Should there be sufficient interest, the editor has agreed to provide space in the Newsletter for the exchange of information. In this connection may we suggest that photostats be used in order to avoid confusion among the readers.

3 address lines.

Used from Belgium

Open Here

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS

AIR MAIL

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1944

POSTAGE FREE

This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or pillar box, it will not be given air transmission.

Open Here

Open Here

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS

AIR MAIL

ARMY POST OFFICE

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1944

POSTAGE FREE

This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or pillar box, it will not be given air transmission.

TO: Mr & Mrs
Tilsonburg
Ontario
Canada.

Open Here

Tolson

Full Ave.,

Minister BC

A.

4 address lines

Used from England

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1944

POSTAGE FREE

VULCAN

M. P. O. 1312

DEC 29 1944

ALBERTA

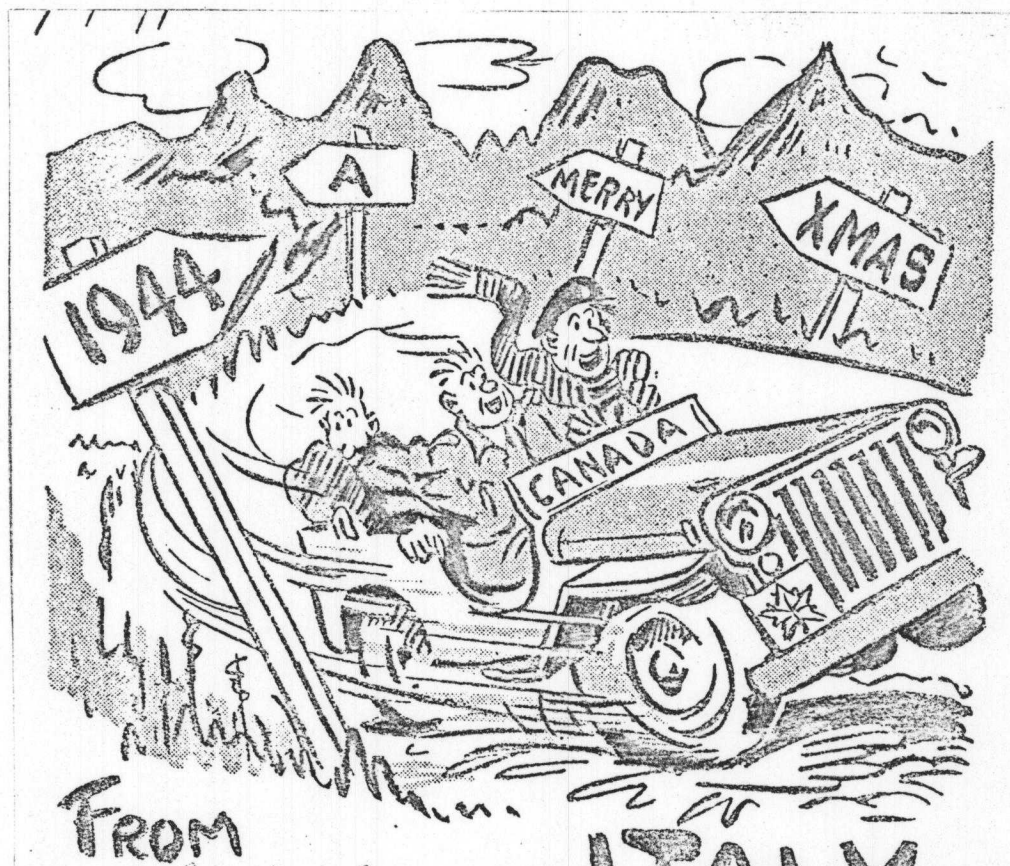
If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.

TO: Mrs. _____ n.
Ranwol _____
St. Lawrence Drive.
EASTCOTE. Pinner.
Mdx.



Time Out
to Wish You
A MERRY XMAS

from
*Royal Canadian Engineers
Italy*



Greetings

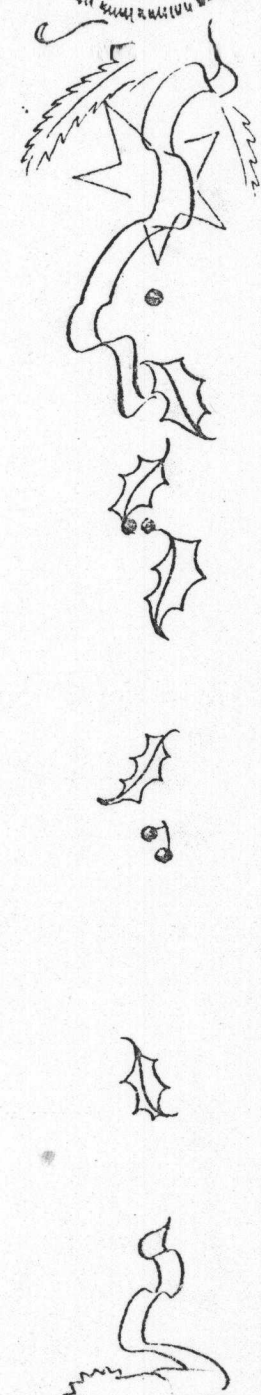
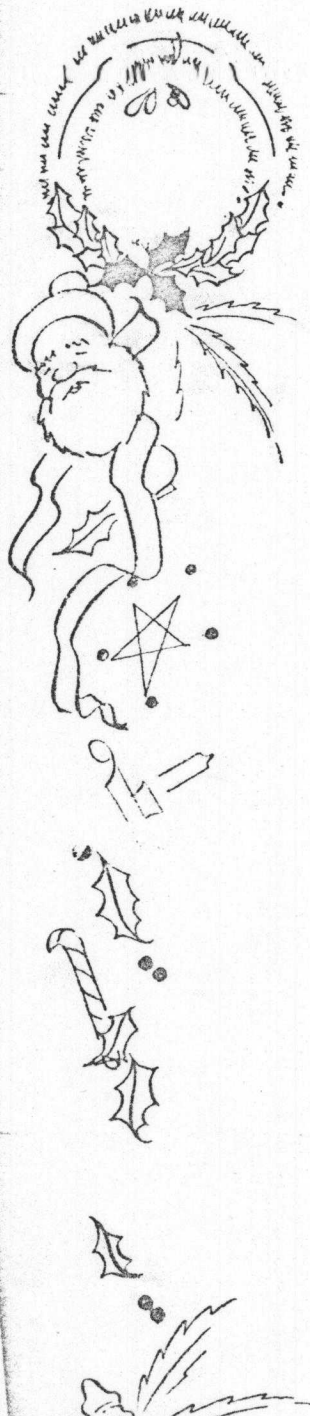
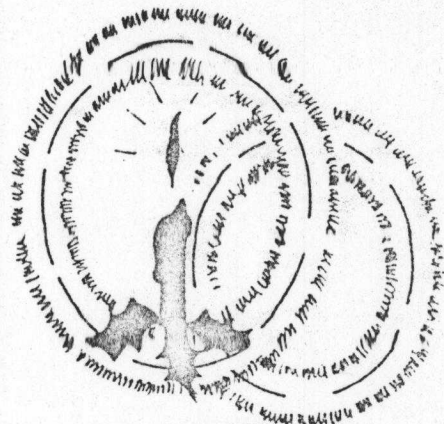
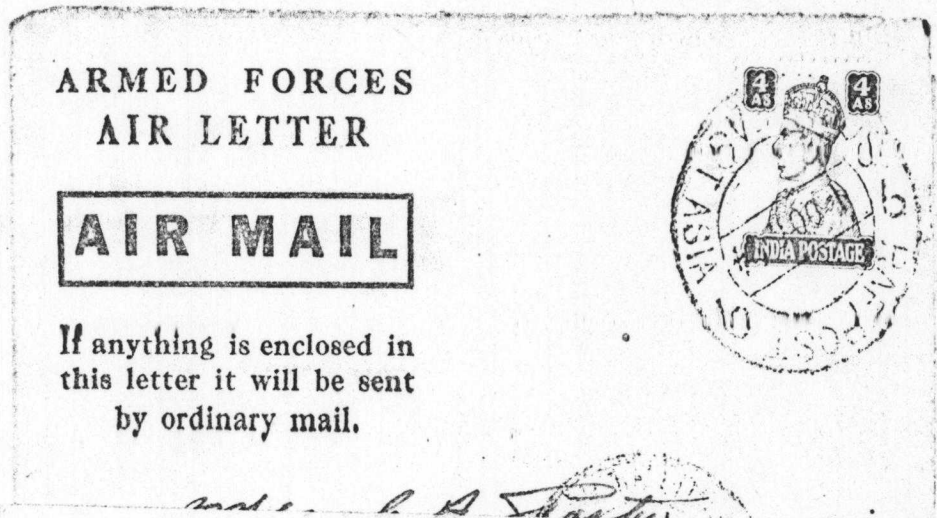


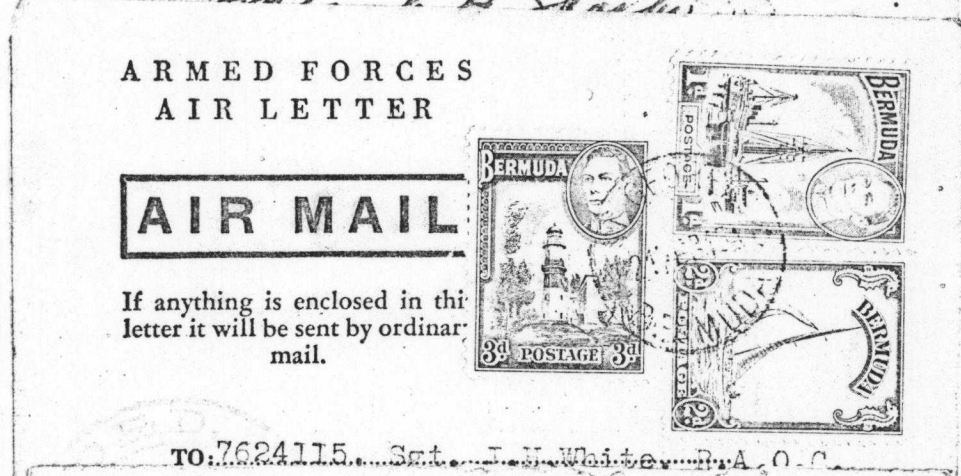
FIG. 13

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

R.C.A.F. →
South East Asia

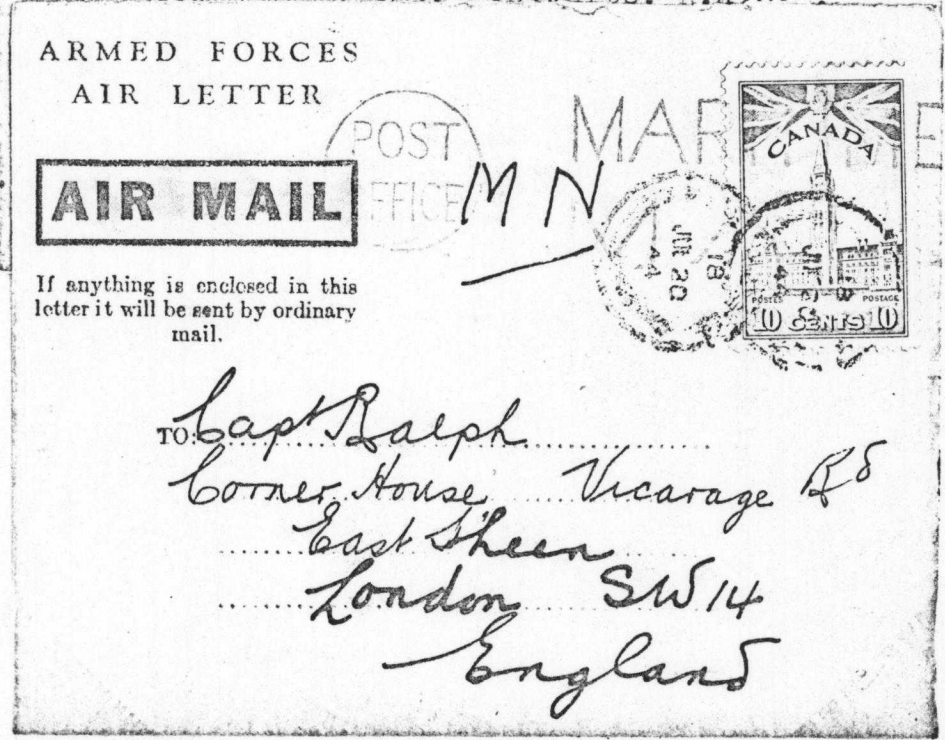


Bermuda 1944 →



TO: 7624115... Sgt. J. H. White... R.A.O.C.

S/S Cataraqi Park
at Sydney, N.S.
20 July 1944 →



TO: Capt Ralph
Corner House Vicarage Rd
East Sheen
London SW14
England

From Thurlow Fraser comes confirmation of a new AFAL (see Fig. 1) and a most unusual variety of #7B2 (see Fig. 2).

The new AFAL (Fig. 1) will be given number 4B2, Watermark "A" and in the Remarks column please enter - Form Code now dated (12/42)
- Title centered over AIR MAIL box.

It should be mentioned here that number 4B1 is being reserved pending the reporting of an example dated (11/42) which now appears a distinct possibility.

The variety of #7B2 is best described by illustrating Thurlow's example alongside a normal form (Fig. 2). It will be noted that the variety does not contain the following -

- (1) Triangle in LL corner of front panel.
- (2) Registration instructions and "Honour" certificate on back.
- (3) "A" after CFQ11 in Form Code.

For the moment it is not possible to assign a number to this variety due to the fact that it appears to be one of a kind, or an error if you prefer. However, the date of use is 17 January 1946 and although it is improbable that #1 P&S Detachment would have printed AFAL's after the war in Europe ended, it is possible that during a final printing of the "Honour" forms all reference to the "Honour" portion of the form was removed from the printing plates.

To support this theory it will require more examples to make their appearance which would indicate that a printing run of this variety actually took place.

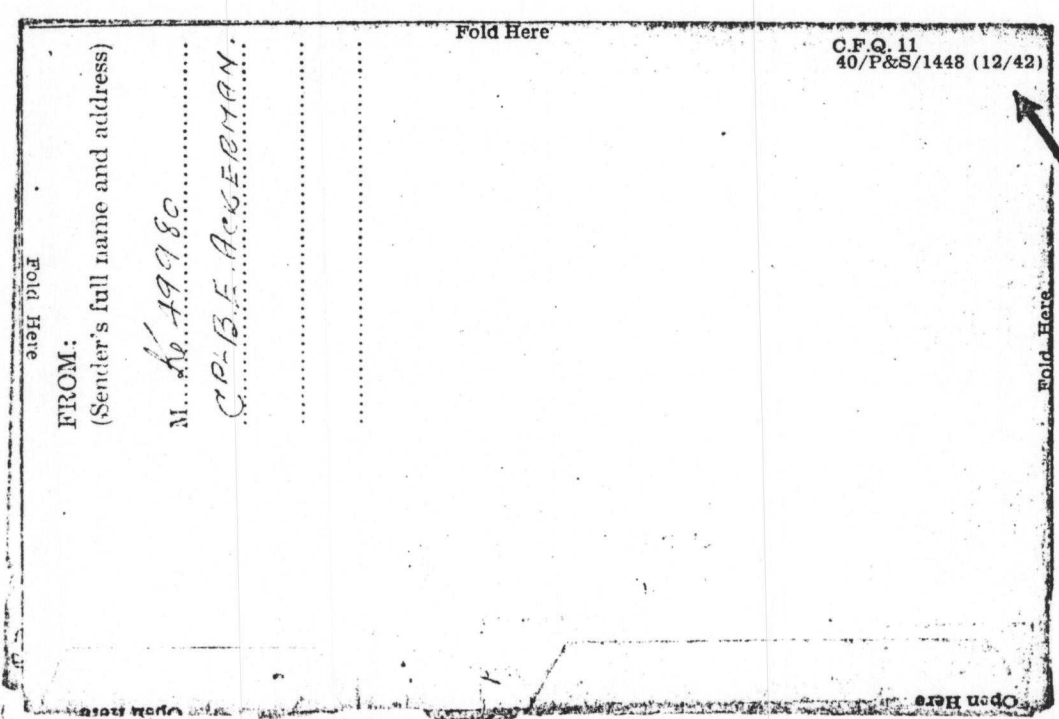


Figure 1

1364

Open Here

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL



This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or 'pillar' box, it will not be given air transmission.

TO: MRS B.E. ACKERMAN.
1070 EAST 13TH AVE.
VANCOUVER. B.C.
CANADA -

Fold Here
CPQ 11
40/P & S/1448

FROM: Kyggso, B. E. Ackerman
(Sender's Reg'l No., Rank and Name only)
C.D. 805. M.D. 11.
CAN. ARMY ENGLAND -

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

Fold Here

Variety No watermark

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

MAIL



This letter must be posted in Postal channels. Civil Post Office it will not be given air transmission.

TO: Mrs. W.A. Ziegler
41 College St.
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada

Fold Here
CPQ 11A
40/P & S/1448

SIGNATURE: (Name only)
W.A. Ziegler

NOTE - Correspondence in this A F A L need not be censored regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.
The following certificate must be signed by the writer:
I certify on my honor that the contents of this Armed Forces Air Letter, refers to nothing but private and family matters.

This Armed Forces Air Letter cannot be accepted for registration.

W.A. Ziegler W.A.
B115153
(Name only)

Normal 7B2