

September 18, 1978

Dear Member:

CAPEX '78 is now an entry in the history book of philatelic events. It was a good show with something for everyone. At least 14 Study Group members were there and took time to exchange greetings.

175...New Recruit

Welcome please, John Wannerton whose address is "Caertaff", Pearson Avenue, Kenilworth, 7700, Cape Town, South Africa. A long time BNAPSer John has a large measure of experience in military mail collecting.

176...BNAPS Library - Military Mail Directory

Approximately a year and a half ago Michael Squirell drew up a listing of articles (about 100 titles) concerning Canadian military mail. It comprises 9 typed pages. Michael's principal references were, TOPICS, CANADIAN PHILATELIST and MAPLE LEAVES. The current Library list (1972) on page 12, classification 9, lists about 25 items which are available on loan to BNAPSers so the later compilation (February '77) likely has material for everyones special interests. Please write to the Librarian direct at 241, 12th Avenue, Lively, Ontario, POM 2E0 and ask whether a copy can be loaned for photocopying.

177...DUNDURN MPO 401 SASK.

W.H. Howes of Kindersly was on the elert and provided a copy of a new MPO. At the request of the Forces this office was open from June 28, 1978 to approximately August 18th. Perhaps some other member has examples of other postal markings used at this MPO and would send photocopies to be shown in our next Newsletter?

178...Canadian Navy Mail Markings

Bill Robinson provides page 6 for your information. Please add to Bill's listing as you can and this new data will be included in a future Newsletter. See also the new FLEET MAIL OFFICE HALIFAX N.S. steel circular date stamp. Bill says there also is a rubber stamp with the postal code.



179...further to our 171

Ken Ellison was able to provide the following information which was recorded by the late H.E. Guertin, quote:

This type of datestamp was rarely used on military mail to Canada. The dater was used by the postal section serving with the U.S. Army/Airforce APO 214 located at Tachikawa Airfield near Yokohama, Japan. This APO was responsible for loading and off-loading American and Canadian military mails from the U.S. Military Air Transport Service (MATS) aircraft flying between Japan and the U.S.A. MATS carried Canadian mails from October 1950 until January 1952. After that date the RCAF and Canadian Pacific Airlines took over this duty. Unquote.

A very clear APO 214 marking is illustrated on page 1. Further information and dates of other strikes would be of interest for the record. John Daynes sends a photocopy of a similar item from British Army Post Office 6. See page 1. Another item to add to your want list.

180...Censored W.D.C.S. - further to our 172

Two other examples reported, one from Wilf Whitehouse on cover postmarked LEVIS, P.Q. NOV 21, 1945 and the second from John Daynes of Essex, England on cover with QUEBEC c.d.s. dated JAN 4, 1946. Civil source is likely. Designation W.D.C.S. still a mystery.

181...Certificate of Award - ENAPS Newsletter

On a suggestion from Ken Barlow and backed by Ken Ellison a series of Letters were entered in the Philatelic Literature section of the Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition's 38th annual show at Portland, Oregon in May 1978. A silver medal was awarded and, together with the certificate, is in our files. Your contributions were most helpful and thanks go to Ken Barlow who took the exhibit to Portland and set it up.

182...Military machine cancels - part 2

Ken Barlow, aided by Bill Robinson and your scribe have provided 29 more machine cancels making 55 so far listed. The ball is now in your court. There are sure to be a few which have escaped detection. In NL 29 a SURVEY will be included and space provided for additions by members. Please re-read item 145 re machine cancels. See pages 4 and 5.

183...Unfinished business - Thurlow Fraser's AFAL variety

Two supplements have been issued and included with copies of the AFAL checklist sent to members requesting same per Item 157 (members to send 50¢ to Treasurer, etc.). In item 160A, Newsletter 27 (Canadian Armed Forces Air Letters - added finds) reference is made to the second supplement which was Brian Plain's new type 3. The first supplement wasn't clearly attributed to Thurlow's unusual variety of #7B2 resulting in an additional listing, 4B2. Members in possession of checklists should have copies of Thurlow's and Brian's supplements but if not please write our Treasurer, Ken Ellison.

183...Supplement #3 - from Wilf Whitehouse and attributed to, "a member"

Members in possession of a Checklist will receive a copy of this supplement which provides additional information on the 6B1 AFAL variety.

184...Canadian Forces in the Far East - FORCE "C"



large "C"



small "c"

The co-operation of the Staff at the Postal Museum enables us to see, perhaps for the first time, two impressions from handstamps carried by the Canadian Postal Corps to Hong Kong. Readers are referred to the TOPICS article of October 1969 by the late Lt. Col. R.H. Webb in which double ring daters are mentioned which contained the designation FIELD POST OFFICE FORCE "C".

The handstamps from which the above strikes were made were not designed to provide for dating slugs and resemble seals rather than dater type handstamps. Further information is sought. The assistance of our member Sid Bedwell is noted here for providing the two articles on FORCE "C". See also TOPICS for August, 1969.

185...WW2 H.M.C. SHIP censor marking

FROM H.M.C. SHIP  
EXAMINED BY DB/N633

It is possible this censor marking belonged to H.M.C.S. KENORA a minesweeper in U.K. waters at the invasion in 1944. The one date seen is 26 Jun 44. Would readers please check their stocks and report other examples of usage of the subject censor marking.

186...British datestamps used by the Canadian Army in WW1

We have on file a comprehensive listing of these circular datestamps and would like Study Group members to see the list in order to sort out their holdings and thus better appreciate the material in their possession. Your comments are invited. The total listing comprises:

Canadian Corps	3rd Canadian Division
Canadian Cavalry Brigade	4th " "
1st Canadian Division	5th " "
2nd " "	

All datestamps in the first groups are worded FIELD POST OFFICE. Where a (?) is added the FPO number is believed to have been so allocated. T2 refers to a double ring stamp with number or letter at base set in movable type. D2, also a double ring datestamp, has normal number/letter designation.

Here are the first two groups:

<u>CANADIAN CORPS</u>				<u>CAVALRY BRIGADE</u>			
Sep 1915 - Sep 1916	FPO	HX		Jan 1916 - Apr 1916	FPO	CX1 (T2 & D2)	
Oct 16 - Jan 17		HW		Jun 16 - Sep 16		CX1	
Feb 17 - Jun 17		HW 2		Oct 16 - Jan 17		(C3?)	
Jun 17 - Feb 18		HX		Feb 17 - Jun 17		(SA1)	
Feb 18 - Jul 18		HW		Jun 17 - Feb 18		SA1	
Aug 18 - Feb 19		H3		Feb 18 - Mar 18		(12P)	

FPO numbers in brackets without question mark have not yet been seen but are known to have been allocated.

All for now....

*Ed, Ken & Colin.*

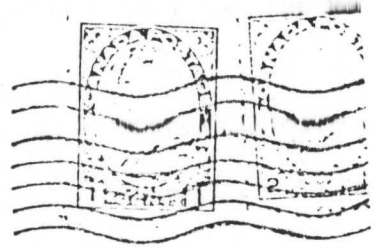
182... Military machine cancels - part 2

Our type 3 (name only-no MPO number) dominates with the following added and similar in design to DEBERT MPO NOVA SCOTIA shown in part 1:

FORT CHURCHILL MAN  
F.M.O. HALIFAX N.S.  
CAMP BORDEN ONTARIO

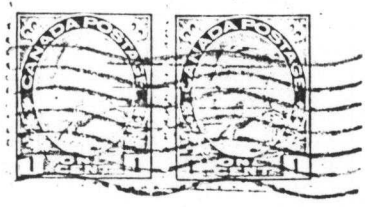
PETAWAWA CAMP ONT.  
RCAF STATION COLD LAKE ALBERTA  
R.C.A.F. STN. GREENWOOD N.S.

The remaining type 3s vary in design hence are illustrated:



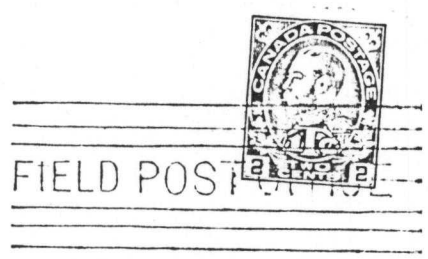
early machine - time slug not always used

this is an International hub



early machine - not a true International hub because of dashes left and right 1916

note ONTARIO in full



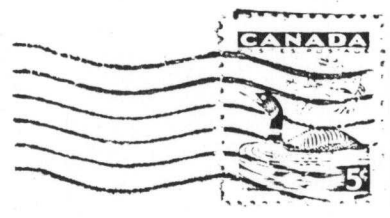
known also for  
VALCARTIER CAMP QUE.  
TORONTO ONT.  
NIAGARA CAMP ONTARIO



known also for  
CAMP BORDEN, ONT.



not often seen  
note CANADA at base



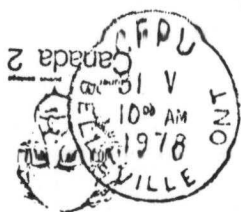
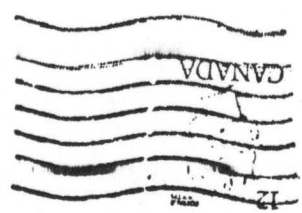
not often seen

Type 3 continued



slogan and short bars used at Borden in May only

bilingual versions were used at Montreal and Quebec



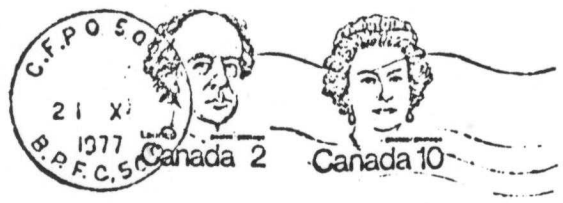
known also for CFPU ASTRA ONT

Type 3B (MPO number at 6 o'clock)



4 (F) Wing RCAF Baden-Soellingen Germany

Type 3B/C bilingual



CFPO 5000 our second type 3 B/C but this one from Lahr, Germany

Beginning in 1966 a number of military post offices assumed civil post office names. A few of these employed machine cancellers, our type 3

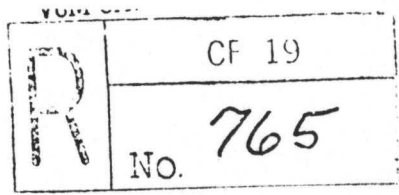


also known for CORNWALLIS NS, OROMOCTO N.B., BORDEN ONTARIO, MEDLEY ALBERTA, MEDLEY ALTA., LAZO BC

178.....CANADIAN NAVY MAIL MARKINGS

Currently, Canadian Navy ships use a circular rubber stamp approximately 32 mm in diameter with a single outer ring. The stamp is inscribed "C F" in sans-serif capital letters and an identifying number around the top, and a straight line date (month day year) in English across the centre. The larger ships have facilities for registering mail and use a standard type 50 x 22 mm registration box stamp with the "C F" number where the Post Office name is normally located. Those seen denoted "R".

Examples of these markings are shown below -



Allotment of the numbers was as follows on the dates shown -

1	PRESERVER	1977	R	31	
2	PROTECTEUR	1976		32	
3	ANNAPOLIS	1976	R	33	
4	ATHABASKAN	1976	R	34	
5	FRASER	1975		35	
6	MARGAREE	1976		36	
7	<i>Nipigon</i>	<i>78</i>		37	
8	SKEENA	1976		38	GATINEAU 1975 R
9	<i>Sheridan</i>	<i>1978</i>	R	39	KOOTENAY 1975 R
10	IROQUOIS	1975	R	40	
11				41	MACKENZIE 1977
12				42	
13				43	
14				44	
15	RESTIGOUCHE	1975		45	
16				46	
17				47	
18	HURON	1978	R	48	
19	ASSINIBOINE	1978	R	49	
20	ALGONQUIN	1978	R	50	TERRA NOVA 1975
21	MARGAREE	1978	R	51	
22		<i>1978</i>	R	52	QU'APPELLE 1977 R
23				53	PROVIDER 1978 R
24				54	
25				55	
26				56	YUKON 1975 R
27					
28					
29					
30					

Anyone able to add any information to this listing is requested to advise the Editor.



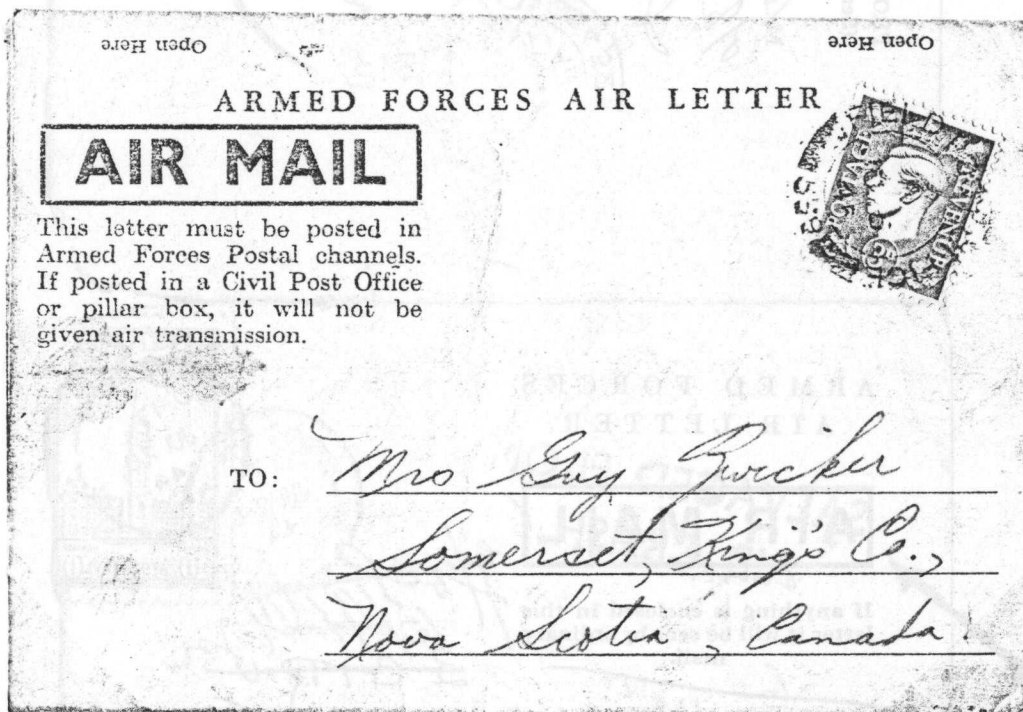
Further information on Armed Forces Air Letters

W. Whitehouse

#3 Supplement

A member has written to advise that identification remarks have not been provided in the CHECKLIST for Type 6B1. He requests that the missing information be publicized together with an illustration of this particular item.

For those members with the CHECKLIST, please enter for Type 6B1 under "Identification remarks" :- Right edge of Air Mail box is directly under "O" of "Forces".



Type 6B1 used from FPO 559

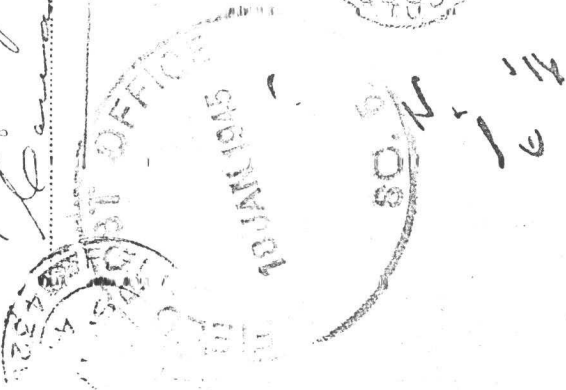
In NL #21 dated 6 June 1977, Thurlow Fraser illustrated a copy of a AFAL which contained the marking "Salvaged From/Air Crash" and asked if members had seen other examples of this marking.

This would appear to be a good time to illustrate a similar item from my collection which contains the identical marking. (see overpage)

In this example fire was involved and it will be noted that the date of mailing at Sydney, N.S., was some 4 months later than Thurlow's letter. Unfortunately the date of this a/c accident has not yet been determined.

FROM:  
(Sender's full name and address)

*M. Ad. Geneva Slater  
478 Gloucester St.  
Sydney, N.S.  
Canada*



ARMED FORCES  
AIR LETTER

**AIR MAIL**

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



*Hospital  
3 CIRU  
6-8-44*

TO: *No 3900*

*Pte McKenzie P. F.  
No 4  
Canadian Army Overseas  
c/o Hall 1785 Lt Coy*

- Sydney, N.S. - Blackout cancel 29/7/44
- 3 CIRU - 6/8/44
- 2 CBRG - 10/8/44
- FPO 499 - 17/8/44
- Hospital - 15/9/44
- FPO 432 - 17/9/44
- FPO 3C5 - 18/1/45



W. Whitehouse

It is widely believed that the arrival cancellation "Received from/H.M. Ships" automatically indicates that the cover has passed through a British Post Office at a U.K. port. Few realize that this particular marking was used in the Halifax Post Office early in WWII and appears on covers originating in R.C.N. ships.

When war broke out in September 1939, the Royal Navy immediately despatched units of the West Indies fleet to Halifax where they would act as escorts for the ocean convoys bound for the U.K. Because the chief threat to merchant ships at this time was the surface raider (the pocket-battleships "Graf Spee" and "Deutschland" were in the Atlantic when war was declared) the Royal Navy was forced to use Cruisers and even Battleships on occasions as convoy escorts.

For security reasons the Royal Navy was most anxious that Halifax postmarks should not appear on mail from the large numbers of their personnel operating out of the port and undoubtedly suggested to Canadian authorities that ship mail should be handled in the same manner as in England. Generally speaking, all naval mail received at a British port in 1939/40 was for security and censorship reasons routed through either London or Edinburgh. Here the mail received the arrival cancellation "Received from H.M. Ships" which would not only disguise the port of arrival but ensure free passage for the letter to its destination.

In view of the above it is not surprising that a cancellation similar to that used in Britain made its appearance on naval mail passing through Halifax Post Office. There is no doubt that the marking was of British origin but whether supplied by them or of local manufacture is not known. The Halifax version was a rubber hand-stamp and generally struck in violet and is easily recognized from the machine type used in the U.K.

In all probability it was never intended for use on Canadian ship mail, indeed the majority of R.C.N. mail of the period does not contain this marking. However when bags of mail from both Navies arrived simultaneously at the Main Post Office from the Fleet Mail Office, the arrival marking would be applied to all ship mail including that from the R.C.N. ships.

There are 4 known varieties, with "Received from" measuring:-

- 46 X 18mm - see Fig. 1
- 48 X 19mm - see Fig. 2
- 51 X 20mm - see Fig. 3
- 55 X 20mm - see Fig. 4

Examples of Fig. 1, 2 and 3 are seen on R.C.N. mail with the earliest use being that illustrated in Fig. 1 on a cover from "Skeena" dated November 1939.

The only example of the type illustrated in Fig. 4 seen by the writer used in the early period of the war, is on a cover from an unidentified ship of the Royal Navy addressed to Canada, the tombstone censor marking is dated April 1940.

The use of the arrival marking at Halifax appears to have been discontinued early in 1941, but for some unknown reason the type illustrated in Fig. 4 returned to use briefly in mid-1943, this time generally struck in red.

It will be obvious from the above remarks that my knowledge of the arrival marking and its use at Halifax is very incomplete. No doubt there are covers in members collections that could clarify and enlarge on the information presently available. It would be particularly interesting to learn dates of use in 1943, the reason for the re-introduction of the arrival marking after such a long absence and other varieties known to collectors.

O. H. M. S.

RECEIVED FROM  
H.M. SHIPS



PASSED BY INSOR.

The Commanding Officer,  
H.M.C.S. Skeena,

~~Fleet Mail Officer~~  
Halifax.

go N.O. Nc.  
St. John N.B.

Sub Lt Lawrence Revik.

Urgent

CURRENT

MFB 224  
2,000,000 12-39 (3002-3-4)  
H.C. 1772-39-98

Fig. 1

In-service letter addressed to "Skeena", but as the ship was not in Halifax and the letter urgent it was readdressed and forwarded Special Delivery to St. John, N.B. by the Fleet Mail Office Halifax.

At the Halifax Post Office the S.D. stamp is applied and cancelled with the circular dumb postmark and the arrival cancellation "Received from/H.M. Ships".

Backstamped at St. John, N.B. 28 March 1940.

It should be mentioned that "Skeena" did not arrive in the U.K. until May 1940

RECEIVED FROM  
H. M. SHIPS

Miss.

388 Ave. ...

Fig. 2

"St. Clair" in  
Halifax 30/9/40

RECEIVED FROM  
H. M. SHIPS

Mrs. B. Thayer.  
2112 Claremont Ave.  
Montreal, Quebec.

apl. 21.

From H.M.C. SHIP  
PASSED  
BY CENSOR  
Signature

Fig. 3

"St. Francis" in  
Halifax 19/12/40

RECEIVED FROM  
H. M. SHIPS

Mr. Eric Denston,  
79 Madison Avenue,  
Toronto,  
Ontario,  
Canada.

Fig. 4

unidentified R.N.  
ship 17/4/40