

42

February 16, 1981

Dear Member:

341...Canada Militia cancel - Niagara No 1



Further to item 323, NL 40. On page 4, FPO No 1 is listed second from the top with earliest reported postal usage of PM JUN 18 09. Bill Robinson has reported an earlier date for this hammer of AM JUN 16 09 on Scott's Canada 89, on piece. This is remarkable as the proof strike is dated PM JUN 16 09.

As far as first day strikes are concerned it may be recorded here that Official Souvenir cards were prepared (186mm X 114mm) for presentation to dignitaries attending the opening day ceremonies of first day strike FPO No 1 and these bear a postmark dated PM JUN 16 09 on the front.

They were signed by George Ross, Chief Post Office Superintendent, Canada and Capt. W. R. Ecclestone, Officer in charge Field Post Office.

We were fortunate to see one of these souvenir cards in a postal exhibit at CAPEX 78.

342...Future projects

It is hoped that a listing of Canadian Military Hospital markings from the two World Wars can be started. Much work on this topic has already been done by Ed Richardson in his column, The Hollow Tree, which was a feature in the Canadian Philatelist for years.

Our item 212 and pages 4 to 8 inclusive record Field Post Offices allotted to a number of WW2 hospitals.

Any hospital marking with Canadian "content" would be applicable. See NL34 item 254.

Also believe a separate listing of Base A.P.O. Canada postmarks would be useful.

343...New Index to Newsletters

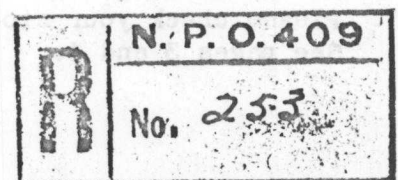
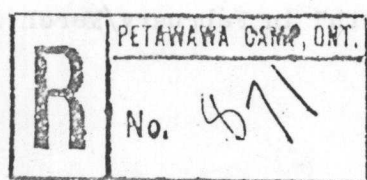
A cumulative index is being prepared which will contain references to Newsletters 1 to 50 inclusive.

344...First reports

John Frith sends photocopies of a number of military postal markings he has added to his collection. These have not previously been recorded and readers may add them to their survey answer sheets for the record.

Straightline

BARRIEFIELD M.P.O. 302 (type 10A) see also NLS 18 and 22  
The postmaster, W.F. Hubbard, signed this cover as well.



344...continuedRegistered box

OTTAWA, ONT. M.P.O. 318 (type 4A)  
 CFPO - 101 (type 4G)  
 N.P.O. 409 (type 4G)  
 CFPO - 33 (type 4G)  
 PETAWAWA CAMP, ONT. (type 4)  
 CFPO - 104 (type 4G)

c.d.s. (large) 31mm

BARRIERFIELD ONT MPO 302 (type 1A)

Roller cancels

CAMP BORDEN ONT MPO 202 (type 5A)  
 BROCKVILLE ONT MPO 315 (type 5A)

345...New members

A collector in Peterborough just made application to join B.N.A.P.S. and subsequently the C.M.M.S.G.

New members are always welcome so please keep watching for new recruits who presently are BNAPSers or would like to be.

346...Free postage - WW2

ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH  
 HIS MAJESTY'S CANADIAN FORCES



July 12, 1940

Dear Guertin:

Just a line to let you know that censorship has been removed and free postage to Can. troops starting today, so there is a cover.

The best to you and  
 yours  
 A. Murray.

C.A.S.F.



No. 9 CANADIAN FIELD AMBULANCE



Mr. H. GUERTIN,

4345 HARYARD AVE.,

N.D.Q. MONTREAL, CANADA.

An item of postal history interest is illustrated thanks to John Frith. A similar item is shown in H.E. Guertin's book in Part 10 page 10C.

Guertin records that in January 1940 Canadian soldiers in Britain were advised that surface mail could be posted free and some mail was dispatched dated January 23, 24 and 25. Shortly afterward it was discovered this concession did not apply to the Canadian Armed Forces hence covers with these dates may be considered as unique.

It was July 12, 1940 (see photocopied letter) when "free mail" was again authorized for the Army and one bag was dispatched from Aldershot on that date. Most letters however,

posted on the 12th, received the 13th date. Notice the straightline unit handstamp.

347...Victoria, B.C. "Dumb" Cancellation 1942/43.

An interesting item from Wilf Whitehouse.

Please check your stock for a cover from "Queen Elizabeth" in February/March 1942. See pages 3 and 4.

347.....VICTORIA, B.C. "DUMB" CANCELLATION 1942/43

W. Whitehouse

Item 338 in NEWSLETTER #41 illustrates the Victoria Post Office attempt to conceal the origin of Naval mail passing through it's office and evidence to date indicates that this was the first time a civilian post office in Canada altered it's equipment in such a manner for security purposes.

The removal of the City/Province hub from one of their electric machine cancellers appears to have taken place about February 1942. The blank square illustrated in Fig 1 and in Item 338, was not intended to register being that part of the die frame holding the hub in place, but perhaps it registered occasionally due to the thickness of some covers.

A review of covers in my collection indicates that the "Victoria" City/Province hub was in use from the outbreak of war in 1939 until early 1942 (see Fig 2), while the earliest dated censored cover cancelled with the "missing hub" is 20 March 1942 (see Fig 3)

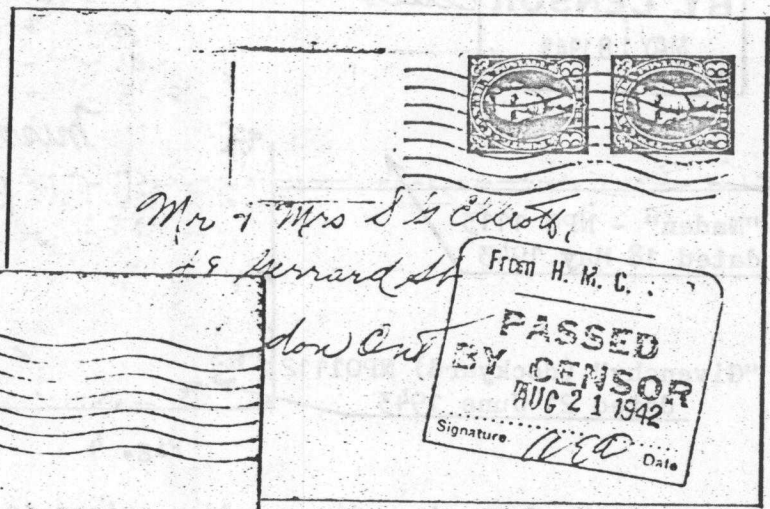


Fig. 1 "Naden"

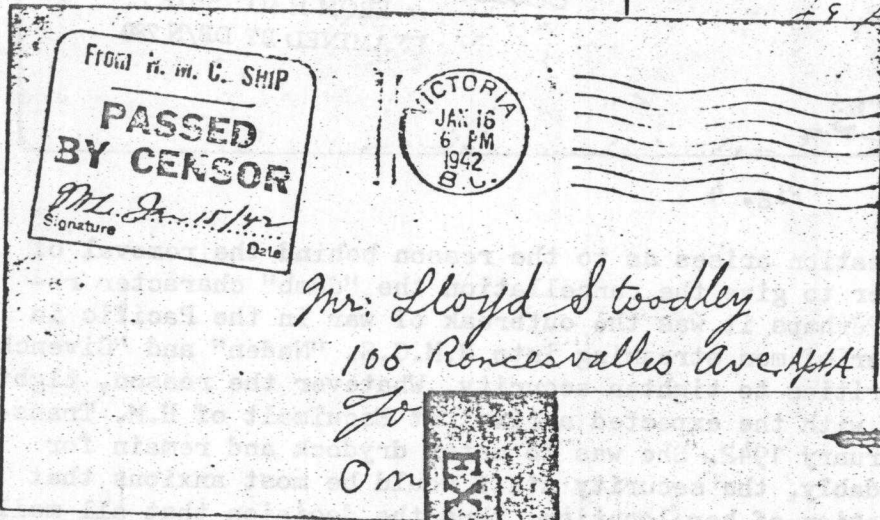


Fig 2

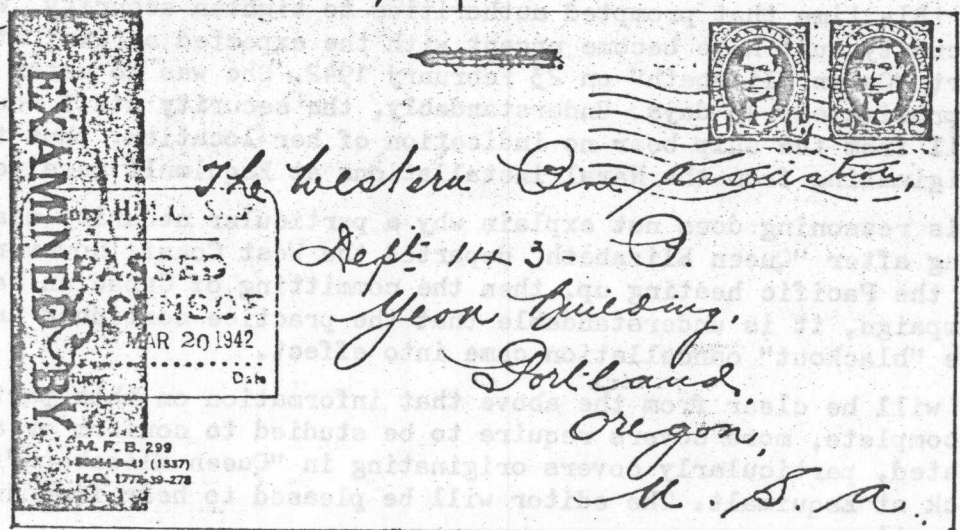


Fig. 3 "Naden"

The introduction of the circular handstamps NPO 1112 and 1113 together with the "blackout" cancellations at major coastal post offices resulted in the gradual disappearance of the "Victoria" missing hub cancellation. 3 covers from the same writer dated 12 April through 21 June 1943 provides the approximate latest use of the "dumb" cancel (see Fig. 4).

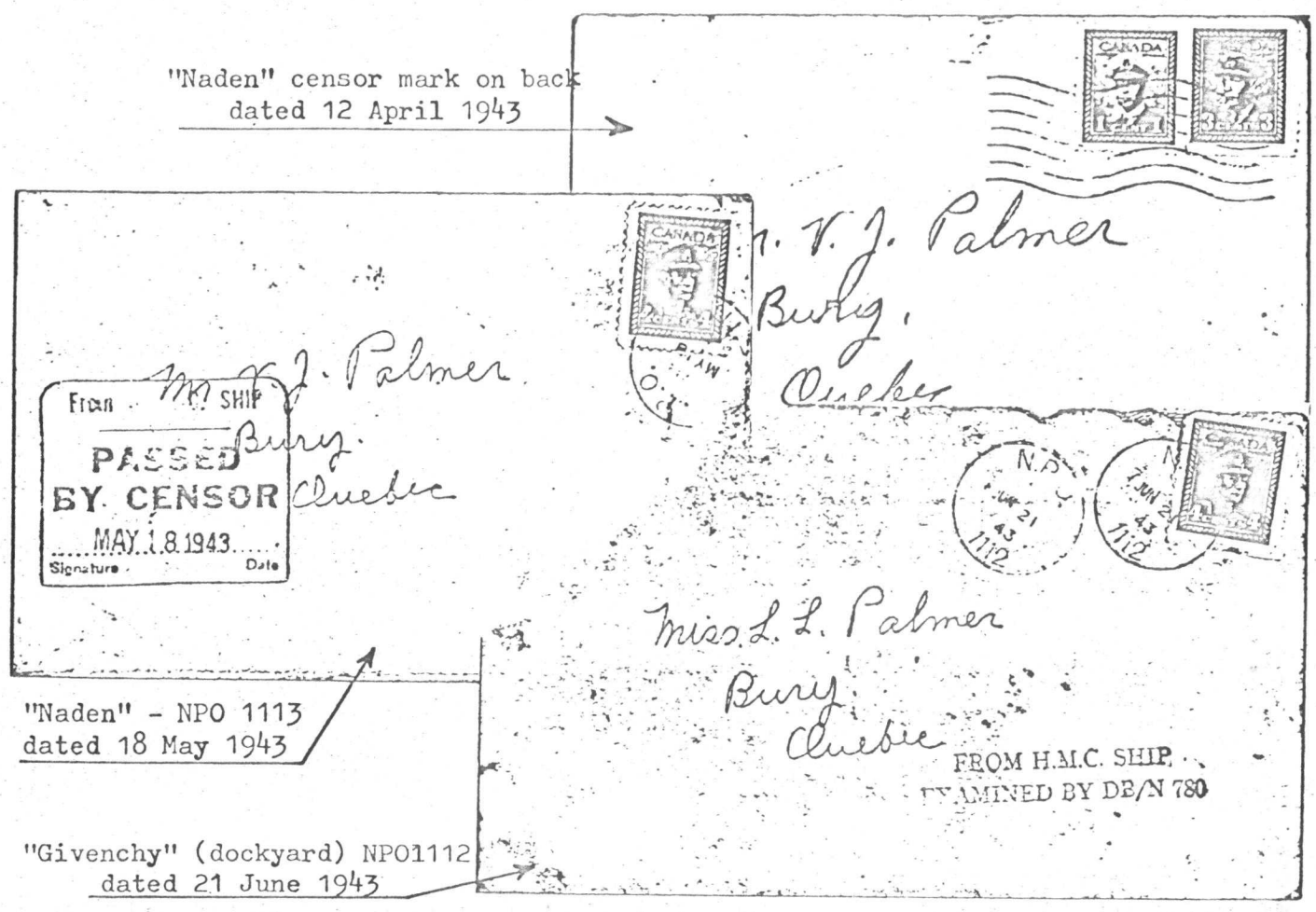


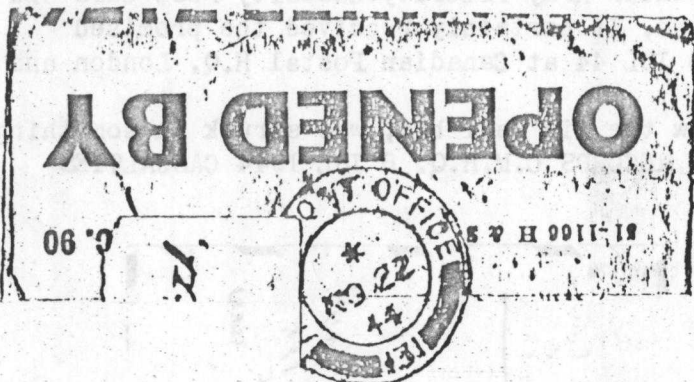
Fig. 4

In view of the foregoing, the question arises as to the reason behind the removal of the "Victoria" place name in order to give the cancellation the "dumb" character required in a security situation. Perhaps it was the outbreak of war in the Pacific in December 1941, or the large number of men streaming into H.M.C.S. "Naden" and "Givenchy" at this time that prompted authorities to tighten security. Whatever the reason, tighter security must have become urgent with the expected arrival at Esquimalt of H.M. Transport "Queen Elizabeth" on 23 February 1942. She was to enter drydock and remain for approximately 15 days. Understandably, the security staff would be most anxious that mail from the ship bear no indication of her location, thus the decision that all mail originating from the Naval installations at Esquimalt receive a "dumb" cancellation.

This reasoning does not explain why a particular security measure continued in use long after "Queen Elizabeth" departed the West Coast, however once in place and the war in the Pacific heating up, then the committing of Canadian Naval Forces to the Aleutian campaign, it is understandable that the practice continued until the nationwide use of the "blackout" cancellation came into effect.

It will be clear from the above that information on this particular cancellation is incomplete, more covers require to be studied to confirm or amend the time periods stated, particularly covers originating in "Queen Elizabeth" during her stay in drydock at Esquimalt. The editor will be pleased to hear from anyone with relative information.

348...F.P.O. 131 - a WW2 cancellation



One small item we have finally cleared up concerns the information in Major W.J. Bailey's handbook on page 42 concerning the above office. We have seen, and have had reports, of a number of covers with the FPO 131 cancel dated after 3 Dec 43 the date when supposedly the cancellor was lost.

A note from Bill Bailey confirmed that the information in the handbook should apply to FPO 133, not to FPO 131.

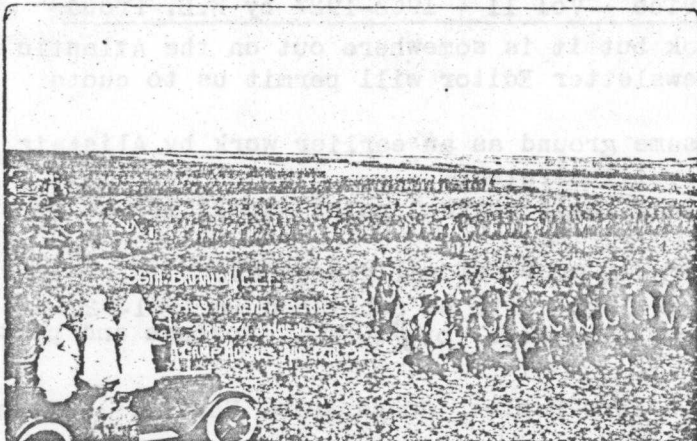
The information then is as follows:

F.P.O.	issued to	date	date returned
131	CASF	May 1941	?
133	RCAF	Oct 1943	Dec 1943 (reported lost)

Can a reader come up with a cancel showing FPO 133 dated during the period October /December 1943?

349...Canada Militia cancels - part 3 of 3 (conclusion)

Camp name	Hammer number or other detail	Proof date of hammer	Earliest reported usage date	Latest reported usage date	Total number of reports
Borden Ont	second dated proof	Jul 7 16	not yet determined		-
Beamsville Ont	only hammer	May 29 18	Jun 30 18	Dec 9 18	16-20
Long Branch Ont	only hammer	May 29 18	Aug 6 18	Nov 4 18	7
St. Jean P.Q.	first hammer	Aug 2 18	Sep 24 18	Nov 8 18	6
London Ont	second hammer	Aug 9 18	Oct 2 18	Jan 30 19	5
St. Jean P.Q.	second hammer	Jun 21 29	strikes unknown		-
Petawawa Ont	27 1/2mm dia.	unknown	Jun 28 10	Sep 2 37	150+
Aldershot N.S.	only hammer	unknown	Sep 10 10	Jul 11 39	86-90
Hughes Manitoba	second hammer	unknown	Jun 23 16	Jul 12 16	4
Valcartier P.Q.	fourth hammer	unknown	tentative quantity		2
Petawawa Ont	29mm dia.	unknown	Aug 10 16	Jul 3 41	106+



The photo caption reads:

96th Battalion/C.E.F. pass in review before Brig. Gen. J. Hughes, Camp Hughes, Aug 12th 1916.

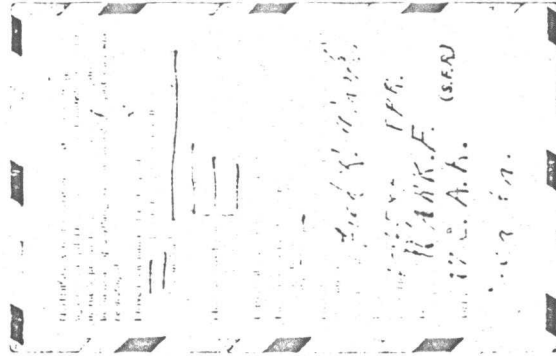
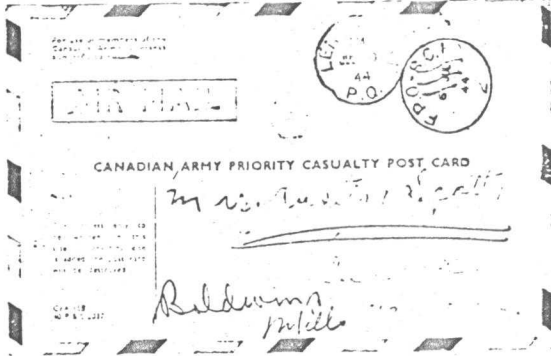
proofing dates The 96th was from Saskatoon. These cancellors were used concurrently during June to October 1916, inclusive.



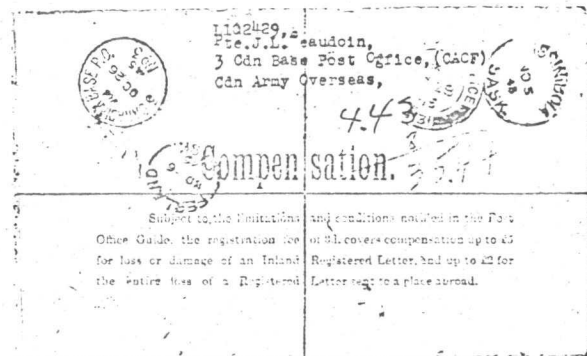
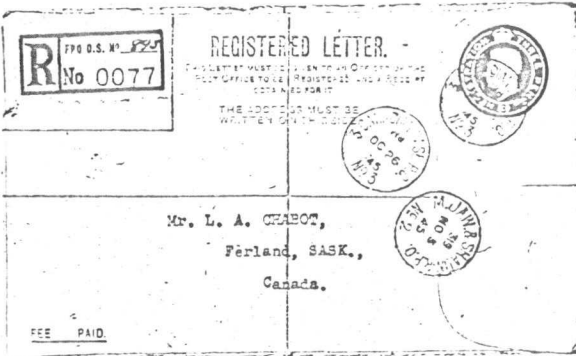
350...Military Mail - WW2 - first sightings

In NL24, item 146 we mentioned the Canadian Army Priority Casualty Post Card and lo and behold a fine example recently appeared. It certainly received the promised priority handling as it was postally dated 6 JUL 44 at Canadian Postal H.Q. London and at Lennoxville, P.Q., JUL 10 44.

The circular marking on the left, below the Air Mail box, was struck in something approaching turquoise-blue and reads CANADIAN RECORDS C.M.H.Q. 6 JUL 1944 CASUALTIES CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS.



NL35 item 271 illustrated an undated strike (possibly a proofing strike?) and here again a fine example on cover was loaned by Ken Ellison for members to see. The strikes (3) are exceptionally sharp indicative of a new instrument. Use by Canadian Army Occupation Force on the Continent seems most likely but further details are sought? By the way, hammers 1, 2, 4 and 5 also are possible. Notice FPO 131 d NO 28 45 as a backstrike.



351...British datestamps - WW1 - survey return - see page 7.

We were a trifle surprised at the good showing on these Canadian military mail items. An extra "48" to all subscribers, including your scribe. It appears that 52 offices remain to be seen and reported. The majority of reports however are for one copy only attesting to their scarcity.

Please continue to report your finds and we will run an up-date another time.

352...History of the British Army Postal Service - Vol II - 1903-1927 by E.B. Proud

We were to have information on this book but it is somewhere out on the Atlantic as this item is written! Perhaps the FPRS Newsletter Editor will permit us to quote from his Newsletter 164 as time is a factor.

This reference book covers mainly the same ground as an earlier work by Alistair Kennedy and George Crabb but is more profusely illustrated.

The many datestamps are valued on a points basis where 1 point equals 10p at the present time.

Book consists of 312 pages in hard covers to professional standards.

Volume I (1881-1903) and Volume III (1927-1952) will be published in 1981-82.

Volume I is available for a limited time to CMMSG members for £20-00. Postage and packing might be extra to Canada and the U.S.A.

Please write W.R. Wellsted Esq., 10, Fiddlers Hamlet, Coopersale, Epping, England.

British datestamps - Canadian Expeditionary Force usage - Survey return sheet

Further to item 333 on page 3.

LEGEND: means 1 means 2 means 3 means 4 means 5 means 6

CANADIAN CORPS

Table with columns for dates and FPO codes: Sep 1915 - Sep 1916 FPO HX, Oct 16 - Jan 17 HW 4, Feb 17 - Jun 17 HW 2, Jun 17 - Feb 18 HX, Feb 18 - Jul 18 HX, Aug 18 - Feb 19 H3

CAVALRY BRIGADE

Table with columns for dates and FPO codes: Jan 1916 - Apr 1916 FPO CX1 (T2 & D2), Jun 16 - Sep 16 CX1, Oct 16 - Jun 17 (C3?) SA1, Feb 17 - Jun 17 (SA1) C9, Jun 17 - Feb 18 SA1, Feb 18 - Mar 18 (12P), APR 18 - JUN 18 CPI

1st Canadian Division

Table with columns: Div HQ, Div Train, 1 Cdn Bde, 2 C Bde, 3 C Bde, Railhead (APO). Rows include dates from Feb 1915 to Feb 1919 and various unit codes like DX, TX, DW, TP, DP, DC, CI, SN.

2nd Canadian Division

Table with columns: Div HQ, Div Train, 4 Cdn Bde, 5 C Bde, 6 C Bde, Railhead. Rows include dates from Sep 1915 to Feb 1919 and various unit codes like DX, TX, DW, TP, DP, DC, CI, SB.

3rd Canadian Division

Table with columns: Div HQ, Div Train, 7 Cdn Bde, 8 C Bde, 9 C Bde, Railhead. Rows include dates from Jan 1916 to Aug 1918 and various unit codes like DX, TX, DW, TP, DP, DC, CI, SB.

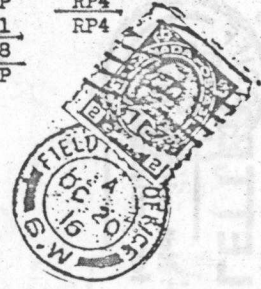
4th Canadian Division

Table with columns: Div HQ, Div Train, 10 Cdn Bde, 11 C Bde, 12 C Bde, Railhead. Rows include dates from Aug 1916 to Feb 1919 and various unit codes like DX, TX, DW, TP, DP, DZ, TI, TP.

5th Canadian Division (Artillery)

Table with columns: Div Train. Rows include dates from Oct 1917 to Feb 1918 and unit codes TP5, DC2, TP5.

ten members reported



353...some unusual items

Bill Robinson sent the photocopy of the Forces Letter and a caption from Guertin's book applies, in part..in 1944 about 500 Canadian Army personnel were flown to Australia on loan to the Australian Army for the purpose of operating radar equipment manufactured in Canada. These men belonged to the First Special Wireless Group. Some of the troops later accompanied the Australian and New Zealand Forces to Forneo and Morotai. The earliest arrivals reached Melbourne early August 1944. A later detachment arrived at Ingleburn Camp, N.S.W. in September 1944.

Some of these men saw active service in the East; this being one of the objectives in case Canada should become involved in the Pacific War. Unquote..

Trimmed a bit to fit..

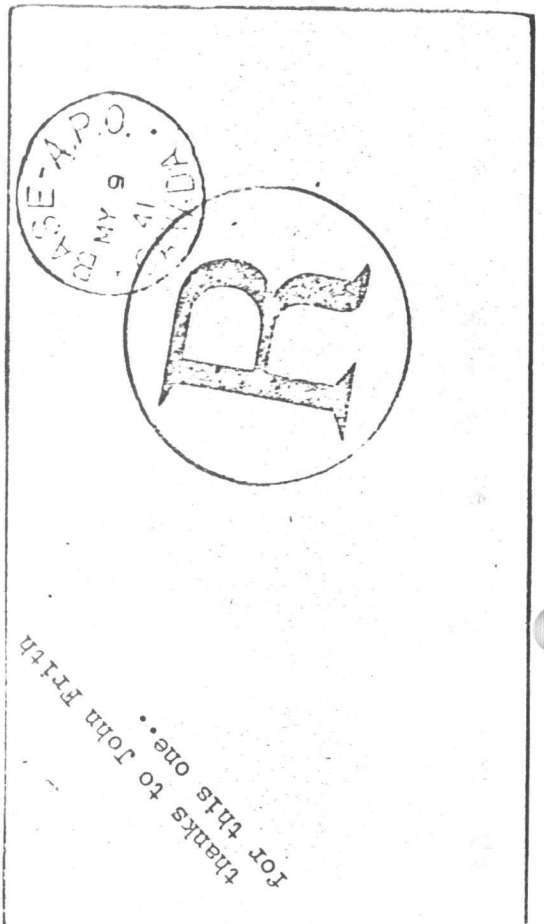
Sender's name and address:-

Mrs J. G. Hargitt  
10 Lady Smith Rd  
Pen-y-lan Cardiff.

PROUDANE  
2:30 PM  
23 OCT  
1945  
QLD, AUST

UNITED STATES  
100045  
AUST 413

Second fold please  
back



Thanks to John Firth  
for this one..



FORCES  
LETTERS  
RDIFF  
2:30 PM  
27 SEP  
1945  
Not suitable  
for enclosures

V-CAN-K71971  
SGT: J. G. HARGITT  
CANADIAN ARMY  
POST-OFFICE  
INEVIC:  
RALIA  
Indoor  
Lang School of E.M.E.,  
INGLEBURN N.S.W.  
AIB Day  
Glad  
Gle

FIELD POST OFFICE  
N  
40  
JUL 2  
PM



An enlarged photograph from an unaddressed envelope, trimmed to fit, sent by an interested party from England.

CHEERS..... Sid, Colin + Ken