

43

April 21, 1981

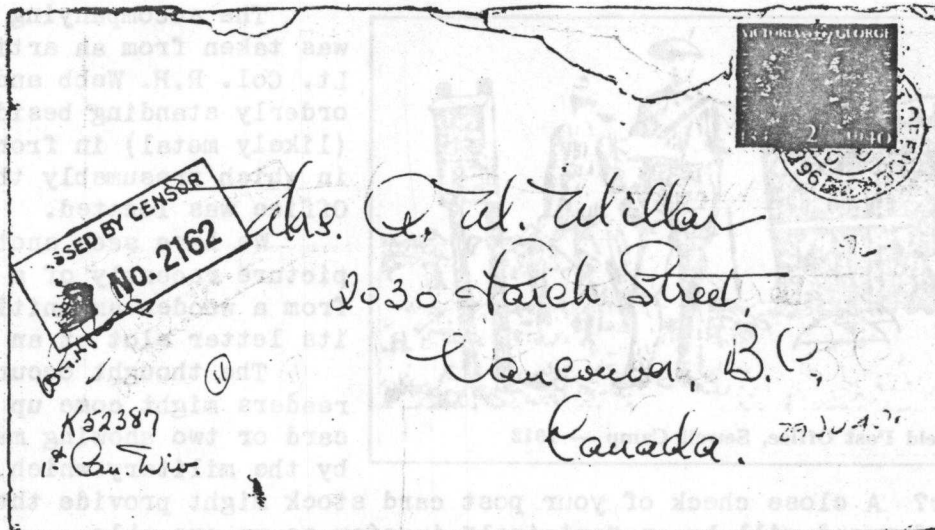
Dear Member:

First of all a change of address for R. Thurlow Fraser:

205 - 1521 Blackwood Street,
 White Rock, British Columbia
 V4B 3V6

A correction is required in our item 352, 11th line down which should read Volume II, not Volume I.

354... FPO cancels 95 - 99 - their use by Canadian Forces - information requested



The cover shown above was sent in by Bill Robinson and highlights this item. From the little we have read on this series of FPO numbers, they are very scarce. Bill notes this cover is from a sergeant in the Seaforths posted during the Invasion stand-to. The cancel is dated 29 JU 40. Readers are asked to assist in providing information which will assist in a good cause. Read on.

A member of the Forces Postal History Society in England is engaged in researching the usage by Canadians of the series of datestamps FPO 95 - 99 inclusive. Michael Dobbs wants to know of as many examples as possible, the dates appearing in the datestamps, censor numbers and types of censor stamps, whether postage was applied or if posted FREE and finally, any indication of the sender's unit?

We know that Michael has certain information available in England that is not likely available to collectors in Canada and that he will provide us with the final results of his findings. It would be most appropriate if our Study Group has shared in providing some of the basic information required.

Could we approach the project in this manner? Send brief information, photocopies are unbeatable, to-

J. C. CAMPBELL
 1450 ROSS ROAD
 KELOWNA, B.C. V1Z 1L6 who will pass the information along smartly to

Michael.

354... continued

But here's the wrinkle. Should you have no examples of these FPOs, in any form, drop a postcard saying just that. As stated above these are scarce items but we can learn just how scarce if we know positively that, for example, out of 33 replies only 6 reported positively, etc.; etc.

Please make your contribution shortly after receiving this Newsletter.

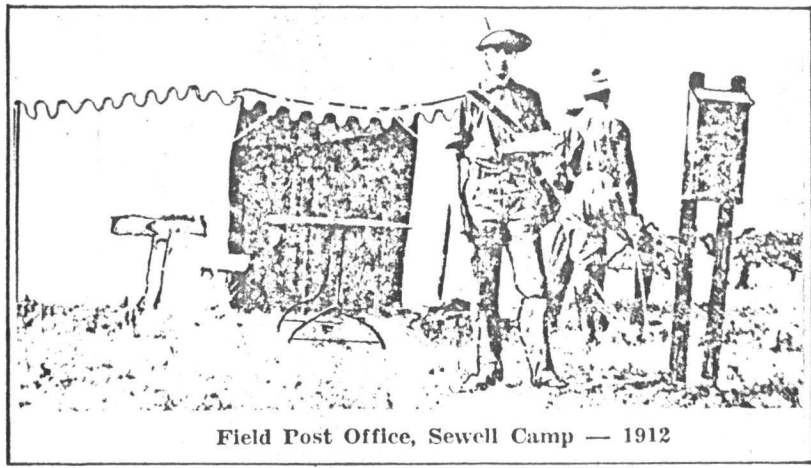
355.... Correspondence

This is a subject we have neglected to mention previously so a few words are in order.

Your editor does receive some correspondence directly from members and some through Treasurer Ken. These letters are very welcome of course and information from them is relayed to members through the Newsletter as applicable.

We hasten to add that answers to questions beyond our immediate resources are sought from other members of the Study Group. The subject of military mail is so large that its unlikely any single member has all the references required to answer all the many challenging questions.

356.... Post Box - Field Post Office - 1912



Field Post Office, Sewell Camp — 1912

The accompanying illustration was taken from an article by the late Lt. Col. R.H. Webb and shows a mail orderly standing beside a mail box (likely metal) in front of the tent in which presumably the Field Post Office was located.

We have seen another classic picture recently of a post box made from a wooden ammunition box with its letter slot at an FPO in Egypt.

The thought occurred that readers might come up with a post card or two showing mail boxes used by the military which could be shown

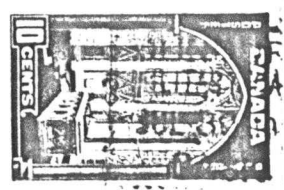
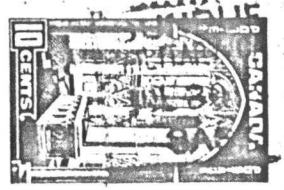
in a Newsletter? A close check of your post card stock might provide the very thing we are looking for and will be an "original" insofar as we are able.

357... Odds and ends - perhaps a first report or two?

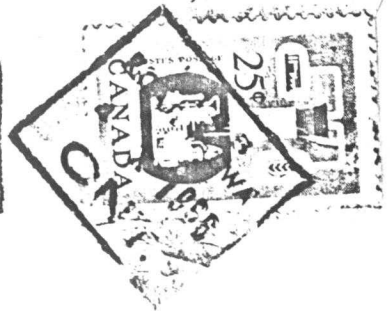
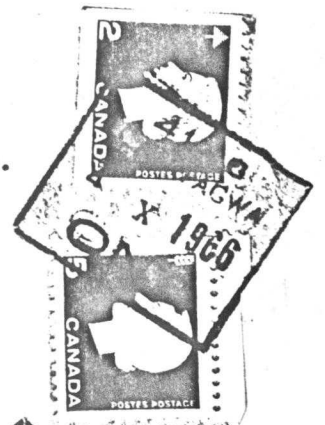
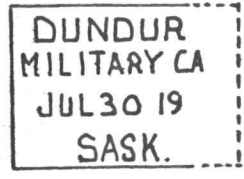
The type 6 M.O.T.O. was struck twice in scarlet on a pair of Scott's 241 issued in June and July 1938 in two shades of carmine. The sketch shows that which can be read. Frame size about 21 x 31 mm. This MOTO would have been struck between June 1938 and 5 May 1941.

The R.C.A.F. PAGWA ONT. type 7 M.O.O.N. is dated 4 X 1966 and the office number is 4146.

The R.C.A.F. Station Clinton Mail Room stamp was used in June 1962.



sketch



358 ... Canadian duplex cancels check list



		type	with CANADA	without CANADA	got it	state			type	with CANADA	without CANADA	got it	state
St. Thomas	MPO 101	2A		X			Shilo	MPO 1001	2A		X		
Trenton	" 303	2A		X			Rivers	" 1006	2A		X		
Ottawa	NPO 317	2B		X			Souris	" 1008	2A		X		
Centralia RCAF Station		2					Churchill	" 1015	2A	X			
Valcartier	MPO 501	2A		X			Gimli RCAF Station		2	X			
MPO 501 (Valcartier)		2B		X			Rivers Camp Man.		2	X			
Moncton	MPO 705	2A		X			Terrace	MPO 1109	2A		X		
Dartmouth	" 602	2A		X			Esquimalt	NPO 1112					
Debert	" 603												
Shearwater	NS	2	X										

Recently Dr. Plain phoned concerning a Churchill MPO 1015 duplex cancel and during our talk it was decided it might be useful to draw up a chart listing the known duplex cancels and whether or not the word CANADA was included in the design.

A number of blanks have been left and we would appreciate reports of those you find in your collections which are not included above. Other details also remain to be confirmed as you will notice.

Some duplex cancels are quite common but others will require a good deal of search work to find. Good luck.

359.....Skeleton datestamp #155



continued next page

359... continued

Readers will have noticed in item 333 the (SB2) designator beside FPO 155 assigned to the 5th Brigade, 2nd Division Canadians. We are now able to illustrate a cover showing one of the two skeleton type datestamps included in the whole of item 333. (SB2) refers to a skeleton (single ring) datestamp with number or letter at the foot.

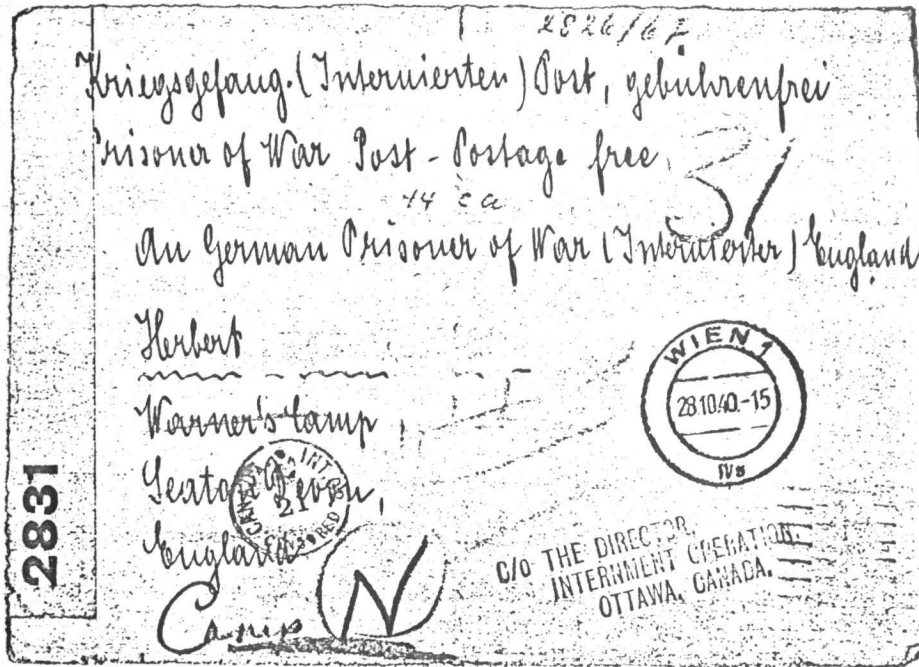
Four datestamps, 3 double ring and 1 skeleton, may be associated with FPO 155 which first served with the British 155th Brigade, 52nd Division. Two of these, 1 d/r and the skeleton, saw much active service in Greece, Turkey, Egypt and Palestine with the earliest usage date reported of 23 Sep 15. The Brigade left Alexandria and arrived in France in late April, 1918.

Effective 1 Aug 1918, for reasons of security, FPO 155 transferred their datestamps to the 5th Brigade Canadians who used them until 1 Feb 1919. FPO 155 took over datestamps numbered 5P for the same period of time these having been used by FPO C5 of the 5th Cavalry Brigade, British Army, in the preceeding period.

We have been told that the censoring officer J.A. Fournier, whose signature appears on the cover, was in the Canadian Engineers. The first two digits of the censoring stamp number are 33 with the remainder too faint to read.

The cover's date, August 19th, was the exact day according to one reference that the Canadian Corps after 14 days of heavy fighting south east of Amiens was relieved and the front handed over to the Australian Corps.

360... P.O.W. Post - Postage Free - CAMP N - 1940



This is a particularly fine cover loaned by Dr. Plain. Camp N was at Sherbrooke, Que. and opened for internees and refugees 16 Oct 40. Accomodation there was barrack type buildings with a total capacity of 750 persons.

Notice that the cover was first addressed to Herbert (remainder of name obliterated), Werner's Camp, Seaton, Devon, England. The Canada Int. Op. Censored 21 circular stamp is in red ink. From another reference stamp number 22 has been seen on a cover addressed to the Sherbrooke camp.

On the back of the cover two type 3 machine cancels BASE A.P.O. CANADA have been applied dated Jan 24 and Jan 29 1940.

This camp closed after about 9 months of operation on 1 July 1941 hence covers likely are rather scarce.

The camp opened again 2 Dec 1942 as number 42 for enemy merchant seamen and Officers, closing finally in June 1946.

361... Military Postmark Identification Chart - updated

It will soon be 6 years since the first chart appeared and we hope it has proven useful. Two members have recently stated it is helpful in sorting out the types of cancels.

Please bear in mind the chart was designed mainly for the World War Two period but it does have a slightly broader application.

In updating this chart and reissuing it, members who joined the Study Group in the last 3 or 4 years and have not got all the back Newsletters will now have the newer chart for their use. See page 5.

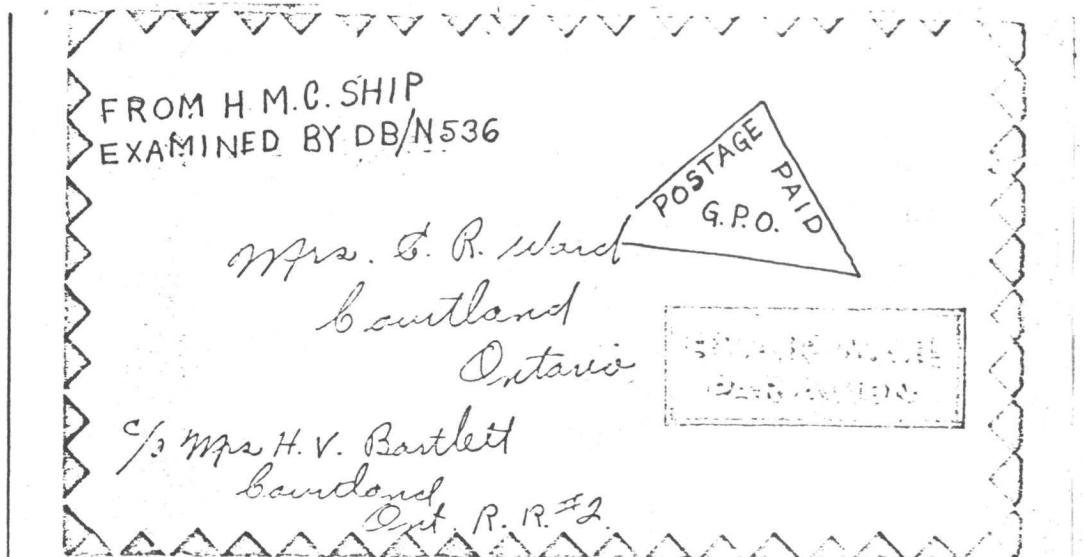
362 ...WW2HMC SHIP censor marking - a member's questions answered

Ritch Toop sent in a photocopy of the cover illustrated. The censor marking and the PAID triangle were so faint they had to be strengthened considerably. Ritch's questions were, "Does anyone know how censor numbers were allotted, and, was DB/N 536 also used at Avalon?" See also item 340, NL 41.

Wilf Whitehouse has provided a detailed answer and reminds us of his article on RCN censor marks which accompanied Newsletter 21 back in June 1977.

Note Wilf's closing paragraph below as there is more to be learned on censor marks.

Thanks to both members for an interesting "one pager".



Reference is made to the WWII R.C.N. cover submitted by Ritch Toop containing the censor marking "FROM HMC SHIP/EXAMINED DB/N 536" and the postage paid triangular marking used at "Avalon", together with his inquiry as to how these censor numbers were issued and whether they can be tied to a specific location.

It should be mentioned here that the basic details concerning the various types of censor markings used by the R.C.N. during WWII, along with the periods of use, were covered in "Censorship Marks of the R.C.N. during WWII" distributed with NL #21.

Unfortunately, Canadian Forces Headquarters have no record whatever in connection with the issuance of these censor markings or their numbers, consequently we have no idea how many numbered markings were prepared or to which ships and establishments the numbers were assigned.

We think these numbers can be tied to a specific location and have been attempting to trace down which marks were issued to whom, a formidable task incidentally, which has been underway for some years. Two lists have been prepared, the first covers the marking "EXAMINED BY DB/N....." with numbers from 1 to 200, while the second covers the marking "FROM HMC SHIP/EXAMINED BY DB/N....." with numbers from 500 to 1009.

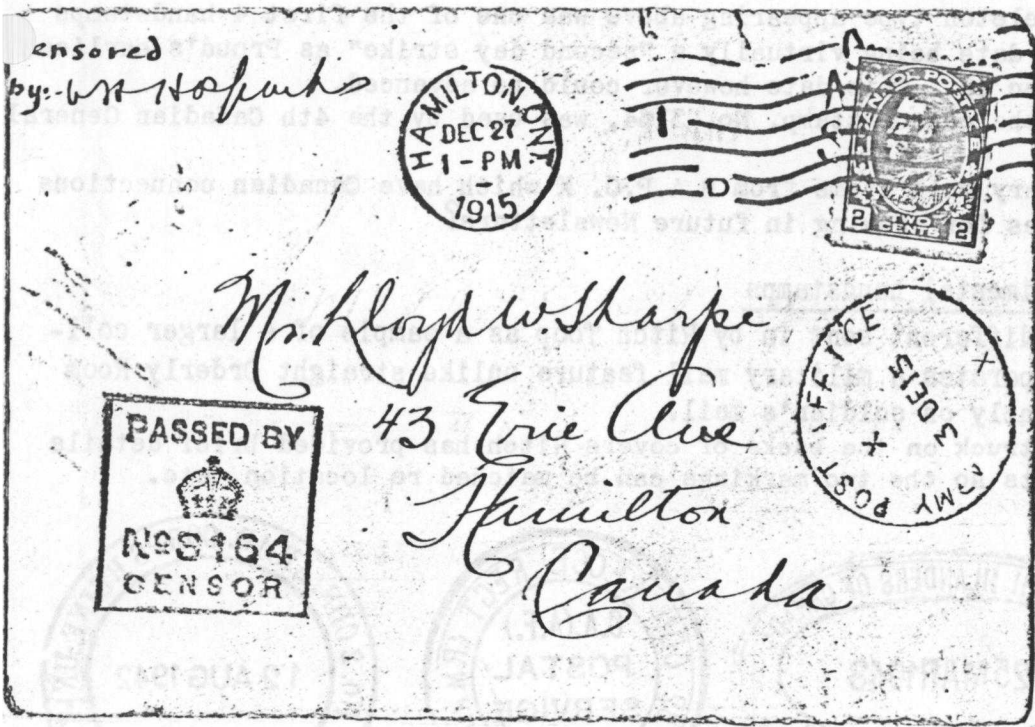
It is felt that to confirm a DB/N number in either group at least two identified covers are the minimum number required, however there are so few identified R.C.N. covers (particularly from ships) available, it is difficult in all but a few cases to meet this objective.

Identified R.C.N. ship covers have been found bearing censor markings definitely confirmed as being assigned to another ship or a Shore Establishment, this probably results when a ship was ordered to sea unexpectedly, and in such cases all uncensored mail was put aboard a ship remaining in harbour or left with the Dockyard where it was censored before being placed in the mail stream.

Ritch Toop may be interested to know that DB/N 536 has been reported on one and that cover was also unidentified as to origin. DB/N 536 cannot be definitely tied to "Avalon" because of the "Postage Paid" marking, in all probability DB/N 536 was assigned to a ship, the letter being censored aboard, the writer paid the air mail fee to the mailman (usually the signalman), who delivered the letter and fee to the F.M.O. "Avalon" where the triangular postage paid marking was applied.

Members with covers in their collection which contain these numbered censor markings from the R.C.N. are encouraged to send details to the editor.

363.... 4th General Hospital (Canadian)-Salonika - November 1915 - June 1917 - C.A.M.C.



on the back of the cover: From: Pte S.S. English
4th G.H. C.A.M.C.

One cannot do better than to quote from Col. G.W.L. Nicholson's Official History of the Canadian Army (WW1), Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919 (Ottawa 1962) when presenting a brief picture of the Canadian Army Medical Corp's involvement in the Eastern Mediterranean in WW1. Quote..

While no Canadian troops fought in the Eastern Mediterranean (Newfoundland was then not part of Canada), five Canadian hospitals operated in that theatre during the Gallipoli campaign and for sometime afterwards. A total of some 450 officers (including nursing sisters) and about 1000 men served during the period 1915-1917. The hospitals were dispatched by Major-General G.C. Jones, the Canadian Director of Medical Services, in response to an urgent request from the Director General of the (British) Army Medical Services.

The first units to go were Nos. 1 and 3 Canadian Stationary Hospitals, which opened on the island of Lemnos during August 1915 for the treatment of patients from Gallipoli. After the evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula four months later, both hospitals left Lemnos. No.1 moved to Salonika in March 1916 where it remained until returning to England in August and September of the following year. No.3 was transferred to France in April 1916. In the meantime two general hospitals had gone directly to Salonika: No.4 (University of Toronto) General Hospital opened there in November 1915, while No.5 opened a month later. Both returned to England late in the summer of 1917. A fifth Canadian hospital, No.7 (Queen's University) General (which was sent out as No.5 Stationary), opened in Cairo during August 1915 with 400 beds. The following January it became a General Hospital with 1040 beds. Three months later it left Egypt, to reopen in France in April 1916. Unquote.

Now that we have the picture it may be possible to trace other covers from that area of the world sent by Canadian servicemen and nursing sisters?

To quote from E.B. Proud's "History of British Army Postal Service - 1903-1927" (1980) we learn that B.A.P.O. X was formed at the end of November 1915 the original base occupying an old drapery warehouse at 39 Rue Franque (Salonika) later burnt in the Great Salonika Fire of 19 August 1917. Unquote.

363... 4th General Hospital - continued

Ten circular datestamps bearing the "X" designation are recorded, 5 skeleton type and 5 double ring. The skeleton type appearing above was one of the first 4 handstamps to see active service, its date being virtually a "second day strike" as Proud's earlies reported usage date is 2 Dec 15. This date however could be advanced.

It is probable that the censor stamp, No. 3164, was used by the 4th Canadian General Hospital.

Members having military mail items from B.A.P.O. X which have Canadian connections may wish to send photocopies for showing in future Newsletters?

364.... Postal oriented Regimental handstamps

Something a little different sent in by Ritch Toop as a sample of a larger collection. Notice each incorporates a military mail feature unlike straight Orderly Room stamps which appear frequently on soldier's mail.

As these were all struck on the backs of covers Ritch has provided brief details of the cancels on the fronts so the two markings can be matched re location, etc.



FPO 522
11 Dec 41



FPO 310
25 Mar 43



FPO THC1(1)
18 May 43



FPO SC6(2)
13 Aug 42

365.... Further to item 351

Three members have reported the following additions. One example of each may be added to the survey sheet for these offices:

<u>Canadian Corps</u>	<u>Div Train</u>	<u>8th Bde</u>
HX (Jun 17-Feb 18)	TX2	8X, C8
<u>Cavalry Brigade</u>	<u>4th Bde</u>	<u>9th Bde</u>
*CX1 (Jan 16-Apr 16)	4P (Jun 17-Feb 18)	9X
<u>1st Cdn Div 2nd Bde</u>	<u>5th Bde</u>	<u>Railhead</u>
2X	C5, 155*	*RX3 (Jan 16-Jun 16)
<u>2nd Div Div HQ</u>	<u>3rd Div 7th Bde</u>	<u>4th Div 10 Bde</u>
DX2, *DP2 (Feb 19-Apr 19)	C7, 1X	10X, C10
		<u>11th Bde</u>
		11P (Feb 19-May 19)

The asterisks denote first time reports.

366... Postal Branch, Canadian Section, G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon

CANADIAN SECTION G.H.Q.

3rd Echelon 5 MARS 1915

This topic was begun with item 332, NL 41, in which a d/r d/s and an oval receipt marking with Canadian identification was shown. We now know that three hammers were used bearing the 2 CAN SEC designation.

The 2 line handstamp shown at the left is evidence of yet another dated stamp however the number, 3rd, is

very "shaky" in each of the photocopied examples seen.

Alan Brown of the FPHS was kind enough to send photocopies for Study Groupers to see. The dater appears on the back of each of the original covers, according to Alan, in a grey black ink.

All the best..all for now... Colin, Sid, Ken.