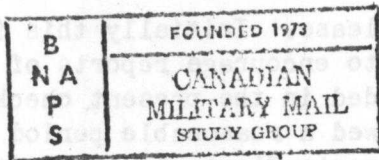


Merry Christmas



46

paid

not paid

November 30, 1981

Dear Member:

First mention should be made of two good shows LACPEX 81 at Dorval, P.Q. and BNAPEX 81 at Ottawa. We are personally aware of 14 Study Group members attending one or both of these fine events. Friendly crowds of people, stimulating philatelic exhibits, well stocked bourse tables, interesting seminars and good food when one remembered to eat all provided for two memorable events.

Our member Bill Robinson carried off a silver medal for his exhibit entitled Canada-Military-Mail - 1871 to the 1918 Armistice. Two other Group members, Rev. T.B. Murray and W.L. Gutzman earned silver bronze awards on non military subjects. Congratulations gentlemen.

Ritch Toop at the Study Group seminar gave an illustrated talk on Prisoner of War mail which brought to light much interesting military postal history information.

386...IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we record the passing of Ian Cleveland Morgan on September 18, 1981. Ian Morgan was a member of the Royal Canadian Hussars and a Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

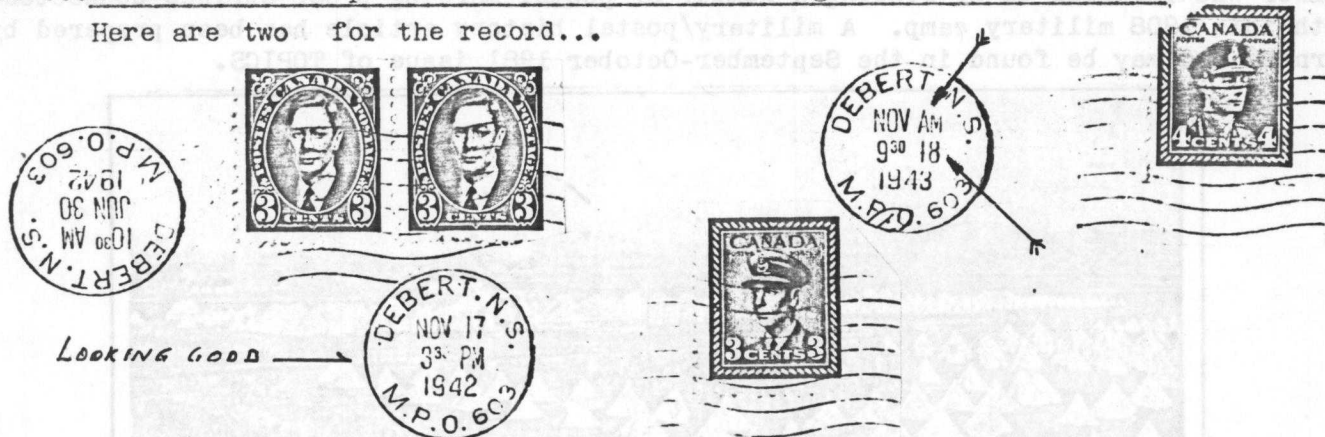
As early as 1934 he was writing articles on the subject of Canadian Air Mail and shortly afterwards, and for some years, on Canadian Military postal history.

— " —

It is with regret that we record the passing on September 16, 1981 of William Herbert Howes late of Kindersley, Saskatchewan.

387...Minor technical problems- automatic cancelling machine - M.P.O. 603

Here are two for the record...



Looking Good →

388...To clarify some points on surveys - to reply or not to reply

Going back to NL 41 item 337. This is a check list with representative cancels illustrated. Such a list is primarily for bringing to the attention of collectors the existence of such military material so they may watch for it when searching through the proverbial shoe box of covers. At a later date, when hopefully some significant "finds" have been made, a survey return may be requested. But not yet.

Now see NL 43, item 358 please. Initially this is a check list to record your holdings. Another purpose is to encourage reports of those duplex cancels in your collection which are not included in the present check list. See second paragraph below check list. Having allowed a reasonable period of time for reports then a survey might be conducted. Reports first please of items not included on the chart and/or not included in subsequent Newsletters.

Turn to item 374 please and again this is our first listing of hospital markings and probably the first ever presented philatelically anywhere. Hopefully there won't be any errors but there certainly will be some omissions such as the military hospital ( a numbered hospital) at Rhyl during the First World War. Canadian too. Information needed please.

The above listing then is bound to be missing important details and readers are encouraged to search out hospital designations/cachets not included thus far. At a later date a survey return can be called to establish an idea of scarcity but not yet. It would be premature at this time.

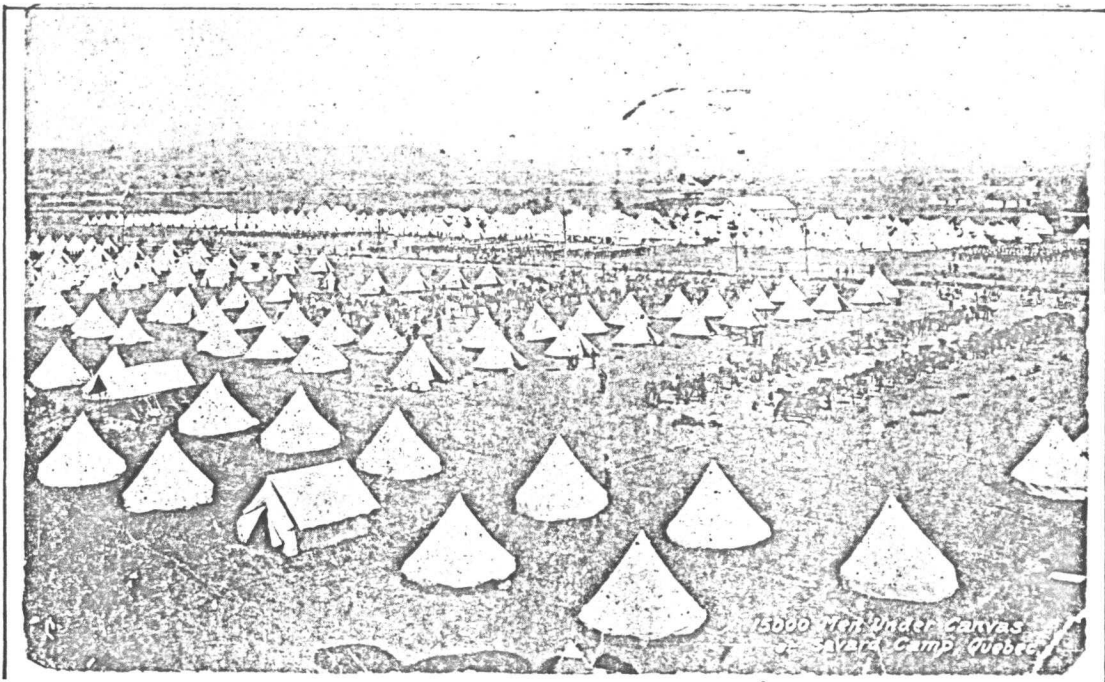
Lastly our item 384. Again a partial/preliminary check list to open up the subject of double ring, 25-27 mm WW1 cancels. Surely there are some that have been overlooked? These are the ones we want to add to the list before requesting a survey return. A few representative illustrations were included in the item for orientation purposes.

When it comes to check lists and surveys our hobby moves along at a fairly slow rate concerning the aquisition of items to add to our collections so a reasonable waiting period from the printing of a check list and a survey return would be one year.

Please check your stocks in the areas noted above and report any items not already included. Enclose photocopies if possible. Some have already done their part and of course need not duplicate this effort. Cheers.

389...Savard Camp - good news

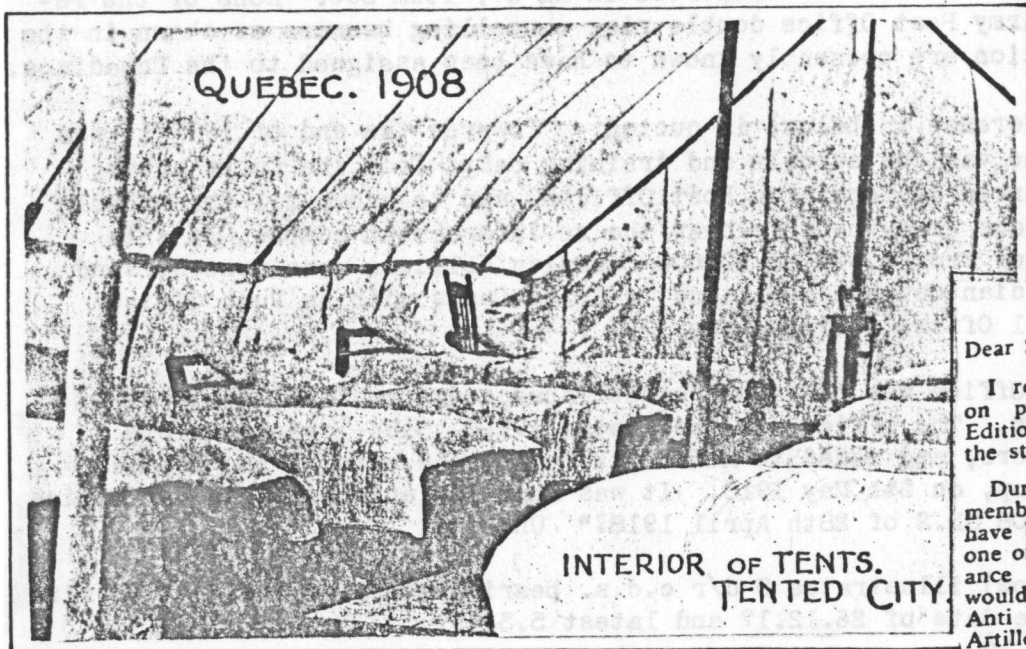
While attending IACPEX 81 in Montreal we talked with Fernand Belanger and Father Walker who informed us of finding a number of postal marking proof strikes connected with this 1908 military camp. A military/postal history article has been prepared by Fernand and may be found in the September-October 1981 issue of TOPICS.



389...continued

It was 5 years ago in our item 81 when this camp was first mentioned and we are delighted at this recent addition to Canada's postal/military history.

The two postcards shown here were provided by two Group members. On the back of each appears the wording QUEBEC PAGEANT SOUVENIR POST CARD. Both are unused although another example is known in used condition. A Quebec, Que. machine cancel, die 1C dated Sep 10, 1908 was used.



"SOS" CANCELLATION

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter to the Editor on page 10 of the October 1961 Edition concerning the cover bearing the strike, "SOS to Canada".

During the Second World War a member of the Canadian Army might have been returned to Canada for any one of a number of reasons. In accordance with the normal procedure, he would proceed from his unit (e.g. 5th Anti Tank regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery), to a hospital, a reinforcement unit etc., in the United Kingdom, thence he would go 1 NETD (No. 1 Non-effective Transit Depot) where he would remain until a draft could be readied for return to Canada by ship or plane.

Each major unit of the Army had one or more postal orderlies who were kept informed of any departure of unit personnel and were responsible for forwarding mail as required to them.

The cover accompanying Mr. Anderson's letter indicates that the addressee had been S.O.S. (struck off strength) 5th Anti-tank Regiment and posted to 2 C.A.R.U. (2 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit) in the U.K. By the time the letter reached there, the soldier had been moved on to 1 N.E.T.D. It was then re-forwarded but again missed the addressee who must have been lucky in getting placed on an early ship or plane to Canada. The letter was accordingly returned to the sender by the postal orderly at 1 N.E.T.D.

As re-forwarding directions were placed on letters by postal orderlies operating in accordance with instructions and equipment issued to them by the Canadian Postal Corps, strikes such as "SOS to Canada", "Return to Sender", etc., are definitely military postal cancellations. The two World Wars have produced a fairly large variety of such cancellations and an interesting military postal history collection can be made of them.

Yours very truly,

R. H. Webb, 1041.

390...#1 N.E.T.D. - the last word

Ritch Toop recently found this information in answer to a question on the abbreviation S.O.S. The two letters "tell it all" and a bit more as well. Thanks to Maple Leaves, Thurlow Fraser and Ritch.

S.O.S. letter reduced for space saving.

S.O.S.

Dear Editor,

My collecting friends have been pressing me for some time to write to you about the enclosed cover.

It was sent from Aberdeen in 1944, during the second world war, to a Canadian soldier, "somewhere in England." At that period, as you know, the locations of troops was a closely guarded secret.

My query is what is the outstanding strike on the cover "S.O.S. to Canada?" Is this a military cancellation or a Post Office strike?

Yours very sincerely,

J. ANDERSON (7)



reduced in size

391...Mails for Troops in Schools and Training Camps - WW1

According to the two references listed at the end of this item Army Post Office S.84 was the second stationary office to be established specifically for Canadian troops. A.P.O. S.22 was the first as reported in NL 37, item 290. None of the remaining 127 "S" type Army Post Office double ring cancelling hammers as shown in the accompanying illustration are presently known to have been assigned to the Canadians.

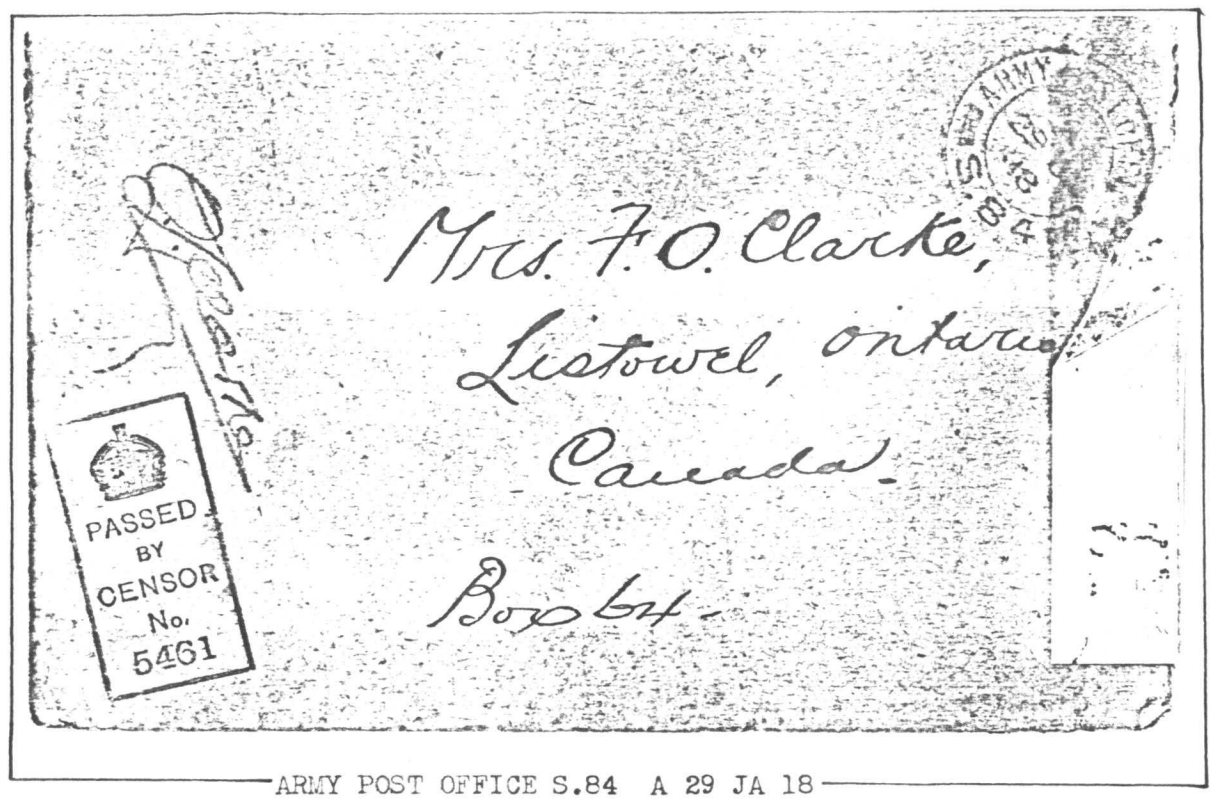
A portion of reference 1 (below) is quoted:- "Towards the end of 1917 it was decided to withdraw the various schools and training camps from the Corps areas, where they had been served by formation Post Offices, and to group all the schools of each Army Corps in one area, usually near the re-inforcement camps. In this manner a large number of from 6,000 to 10,000 Canadian soldiers were concentrated in and around the Canadian Corps Schools and Training Camps with no Post Office nearer than an Imperial Office 6 miles away.

A Canadian Post Office was therefore established to serve them with a staff of 1 Corporal and 3 men. The office was designated A.P.O. S.84, opened on 5th December 1917 at Lilliers, and moved to Aubin St. Vaast, the site of the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp, on 8th May 1918. It was formally authorized in War Office Letter 121/overseas/5408 SD.2 of 28th April 1918." Unquote.

Reference 2 (below) illustrates 3 d/r c.d.s. bearing the S.84 designation with earliest reported usage date of 26.12.17 and latest 5.3.19. The office closed 29.4.19.

References: ① Historical Memorandum of the Canadian Postal Service with the Armies in France, Belgium and Germany 1914-1919.

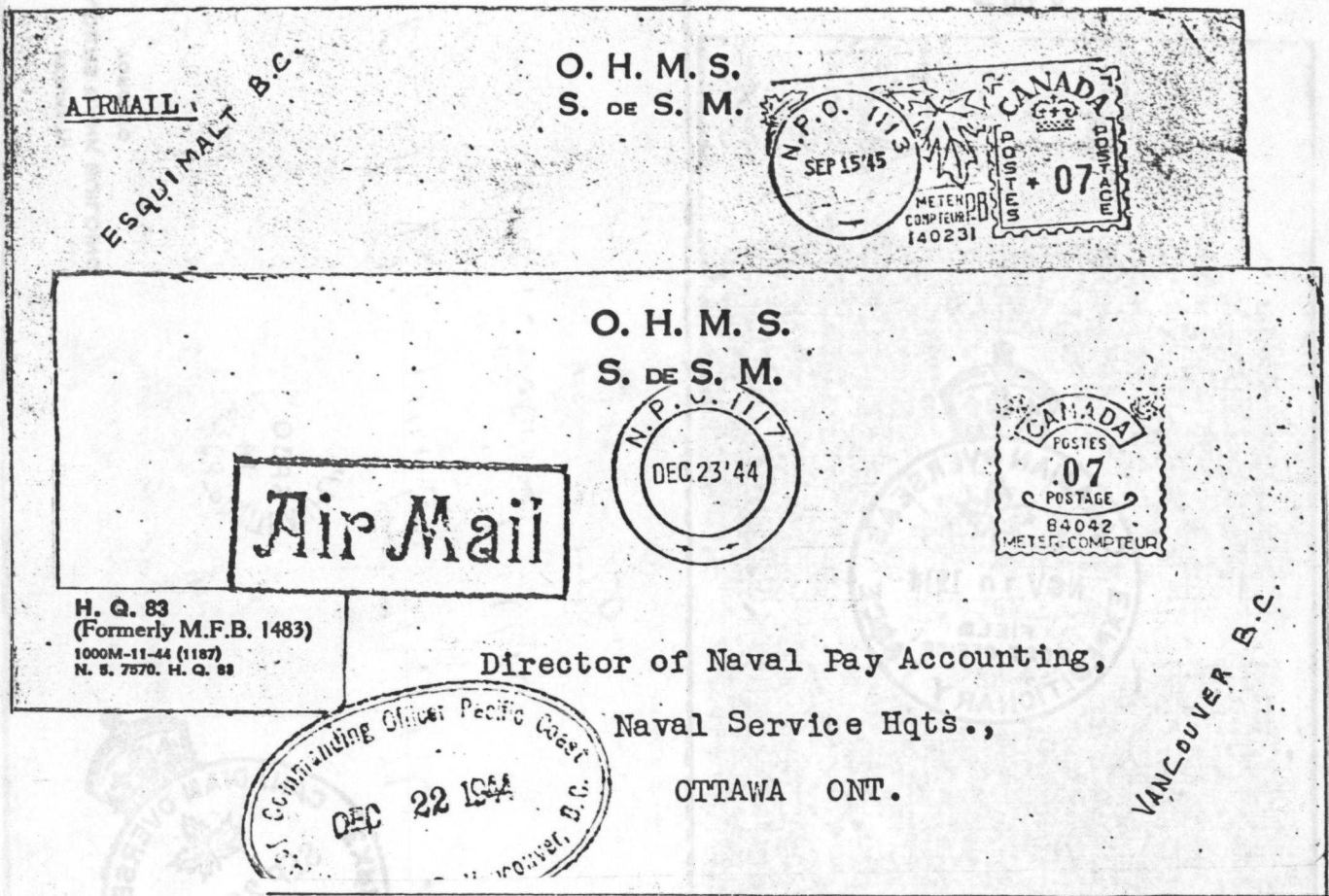
② History of British Army Postal Service 1903-1927 by E.B. Proud (1981).



392 ...Meters - N.P.O.s 1113 and 1117

Four years ago item 144 illustrated the first of three N.P.O. meters used during the Second World War and listed in R.W. Irwin's catalogue of Canadian Meter Postage Stamps (1972). These must be reasonably scarce as its been quite a while waiting for examples of the others to appear. Two members have obliged. Notice the small symbols at the bottom of the d/r dater hub are the same as those in the N.P.O. 618 machine cancel dater.

Two of the meters are very similar with the other quite a different style. The meter serial numbers are very clear and incidentally the serial of the N.P.O. 617 meter is 04004.



393 ...The Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force postmark - applied in Canada & England

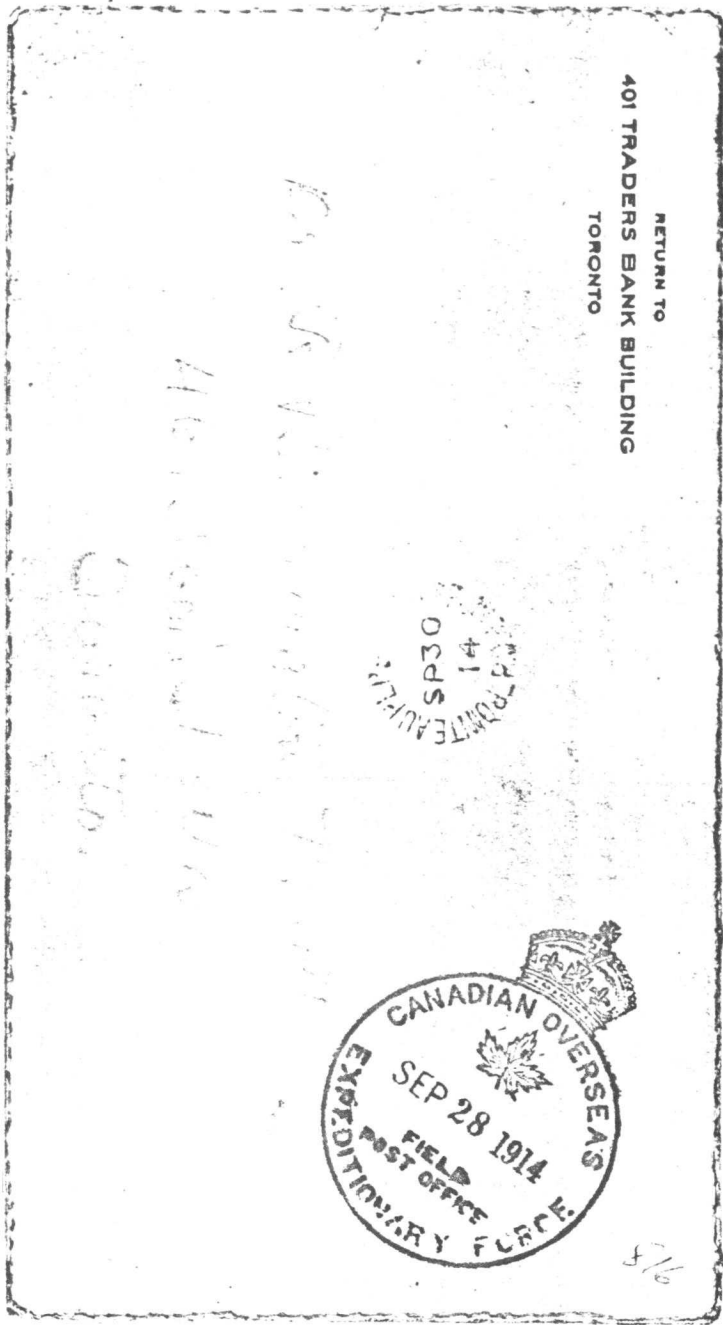
Examples of these postmarks are frequently seen and always command attention because of their large size and the considerable detail of the design. Their most frequent usage was to cancel British postage stamps on Canadian soldier's mail prior to free mail privileges. The use of these stamps began approximately mid October 1914 and ended about mid February 1915. We refer to both the rubber and the steel stamps. The approximate period of use above will suffice for the purposes of this item.

The fact that some covers exist bearing the C.O.E.F. postmark dated prior to the 1st Contingent C.E.F. sailing from Gaspe <sup>Basin</sup> October 3, 1914 (1) is well known and a cover is shown to support this point. A quantity of mail was offloaded at Father Point from one or more ships as they sailed down the St. Lawrence from Quebec. The broken circle cancel inscribed POINTE AU PERE FATHER POINT SP 30 14 was applied there. See tracing. Not all soldier's mail received at Father Point bears the C.O.E.F. handstamp however.

393...continued

It should be noted that the C.O.E.F. strike shown here was made by the rubber hammer (NL 19 p 6) proofed SEP 24 1914.

As a point of interest nine members of the Canadian Postal Corps accompanied the 1st Contingent sailing from Quebec on the Franconia (18,150 tons) approximately Oct 1, 1914. ②



Another strike from this hammer dated NOV 10 1914 was applied to this facing slip in England.

We understand the original hammer is in the custody of the National Postal Museum.

References are: ① Official History of The Canadian Army C.E.F. 1914-1919 by G.W.L. Nicholson. ② History of the Canadian Forces 1914-1915, by A.F. Duguid, (1938).

394...WANTED - to purchase or trade

- 1 The Wartime Mails & Stamps - Canada - 1939-46 by H.E.Guertin.
- 2 Canadian Expeditionary Force - 1914-1919 by Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson, C.D., (1962)
- 3 Reports of this British censor mark on cover - the exact number. Please notify Colin for further details.



395 ...Answers to questions - further to item 378

Three out of five isn't bad and Ritch Toop earns the 3 day pass to Paris!  
Concerning NPO 110, Preston, Ontario.

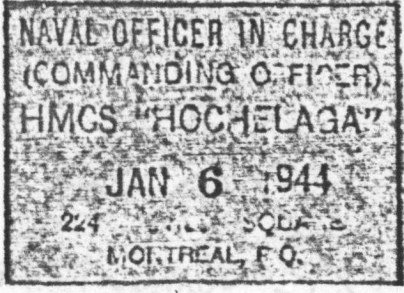
From copies of official letters a request from Naval authorities was received by the Post Office Department in June 1943 to establish a Naval Post Office at the W.R.C.N.S. (WRENS) Training Establishment, Preston Springs Hotel, Preston, Ontario.

NPO 110 was opened 2 August 1943 to be an accounting office with Savings Bank. The post office number was 4124 with frequency of pick up and dispatch daily except Sunday. An official statement records the closing of the office 20 October 1944.

Preston has been absorbed now into the new city of Cambridge-Preston, Ontario.

Concerning NPO 407.

Approval was granted for the establishment of NPO 407 and it was opened 29 May 1944. Despatches from the Montreal Head Office (civil) for NPO 407 would include mail to the following addresses:-



H.M. Canadian Ship  
Hochelaga

Naval Officer in Charge  
224 Youville Square  
Montreal

P.O. Box No 9000  
Montreal

This was to be a non-accounting office with no financial business transacted. Box 9000, Montreal was to be an address for Merchant Seamen's mail.

The NPO was closed 1 October 1945.

It may be seen that NPO 407 and HMCS Hochelaga were linked and the accompanying cachet from a cover which pre-dates NPO 407 ties HMCS Hochelaga and 224 (Youville) Square, Montreal, P.Q.

Concerning NPO 409 in Montreal.

All the evidence point to NPO 409 being located at HMCS Donnacona on Mountain Street opening for postal service 23 Oct 1944 and closing 1 March 1946.

The reference "The Naval Service of Canada" Vol II by G.N. Tucker, Director of Naval Historical Section (1952) page 532. Other reference material is available.

See page 8...



396 ...Military Hospital markings - further to item 374

A nice little collection of these are illustrated and thanks go to a number of readers for their help.

One point that has become evident is that some hospitals had more than one hospital handstamp. Orderly Room, Postal Service, O.C. (Officer Commanding) and Adjutant's Office and of course those bearing just the name of the hospital have been seen. Be advised to check covers carefully when hospital cachets are involved.

Some of the handstamps shown below are virtually unreadable but at this stage of the game who knows if a better example exists? Please send photocopies of WW1 hospital cachets which have not yet been shown in the Newsletter.



No. 4 Canadian General Hospital Basingstoke Hants. O.C.

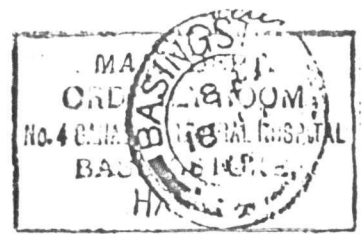


Kitchener (War) Hospital Brighton



Military Hospital Bramshott

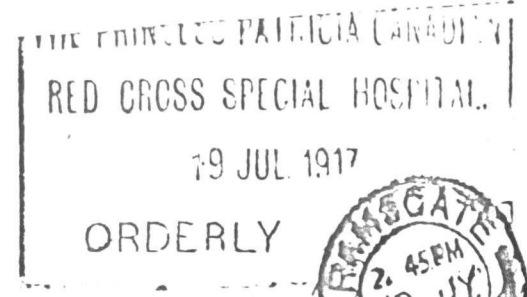
396 ...continued



Mail Dept.  
Orderly Room  
No. 4 Canadian General Hospital Basingstoke Hants.



(Military) Convalescent Hospital Wood/cote Park Epsom



The Princess Patricia Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital Orderly Room



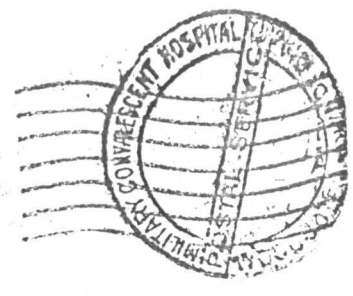
The King's Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital Orderly Room



Ontario Military Hospital P.O. Orderly Room



Granville Canadian Special Hospital Adjutant's Office (Buxton)?



Military Convalescent Hospital Postal Service Woodcote Park Epsom

395 ...continued from page 7

...the reference recorded states that Donnacona occupied leased premises before buying the Winter Club in 1942. Wilf Whitehouse has a Montreal newspaper dated 9 Jun 1944 showing the Montreal Winter Club, now transformed into HMCS Donnacona, complete with Naval sentries on duty. Wilf also has knowledge of a cover bearing the NPO 409 cancel with return address as H.M.C.S. Donnacona.

Thanks to others who helped in clarifying the information on the three NPOs and in the process correcting some errors which had crept into the record.

397...IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we advise members of the passing of Jack C. St. Laurent on Saturday November 21, 1981. Jack was a keen collector for many years and had a wide circle of friends. Late Seaforth Highlanders.

398...Ceylon and South East Asia - Second World War

Dr. B.C. Plain has agreed to begin a specialty study of Canadian military mail to and from these theatres of war. Brian would like to begin with mail to and from Ceylon where a substantial number of Canadians served with R.A.F. recce squadrons. His findings will of course appear in Newsletters.

Would readers please send photocopies of covers, and articles, which concern the above so a file may be built up. Ceylon only at first please.

Dr. Plain's address may be found in NL 38, item 300.

ALL FOR NOW... *Sid, John & Ken.*