

(32)

May 17, 1979

Dear Member:

220...Historic notes..further to Item 198 - same reference source

While item 198 listed those members of the Postal Corps attached to Divisional Headquarters the following is a list of the entire Postal Detachment of the First Canadian Contingent - B.E.F. (1914).

Lieutenant- Murray, K.A.
Caldwell, B.M.

Regl. No.	Rank	Name	Regl. No.	Rank	Name
35204	Sergt.	Ross G.W.	35203	Private	Boyd W.A.
35211	Corpl.	Gow W.J.	35215	"	Chagnon F.H.
35208	"	McPherson D.V.	35210	"	Edwards L.
35214	"	Taggie F.A.	35213	"	Livingstone H.W.
35202	"	Wallis G.T.	35209	"	Murray T.H.
35206	Private	Baldock G.H.	35207	"	Smith C.G.
35216	"	Belanger J.H.	35205	"	Terry B.J.

Readers will notice the different regimental numbers, apparently for the same persons, recorded in items 198 and 220.

Reference is now made to the series of articles beginning in TOPICS of May 1964 entitled Historical Memorandum of the Canadian Postal Service with the Armies in France, Belgium and Germany 1914-1919. Part 12 states, in part under STAFF, quote " The authorized establishment of Post Offices and Staff at the end of the campaign comprised 31 Canadian Post Offices staffed by 4 Officers, 44 Non-Commissioned Officers and 108 men." unquote.

Further to the list of Postal Detachment personnel above it is of interest to note that Lieut. Murray reached the rank of Lieut.-Colonel and Corporal Gow that of Lieutenant. Part 13 records a S/Sgt H.W. Livingstone (presumably Private Livingstone in 1914) was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and Lieut-Colonel Murray the Order of the British Empire (Military Division) in January 1919.

221...Two new reports - Trenton, Ontario and CFPO 111

The MPO No. 303 illustration is from a proofing book. A strike from this hammer has just been reported bearing the date NOV 28 1947. It is in lilac ink and measures approximately 32mm.

The CFPO 111 illustration is of an actual strike on a cover from Kuneitra, Syria (Golan Heights) one of the detachments operating in support of UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) formed to supervise the truce on the Syrian front.



222...Straightline MPO markings - further to NL18/22 and 22/115

These markings were proofed on or about the dates shown:

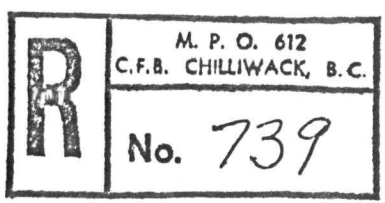
- Toronto M. P. O. 201 Ont. MAY 27 1941
- Toronto M. P. O. 204 Ont. JUL 10 1941
- PETAWAWA M. P. O. 305, ONT. APR 28 1941

223...FIELD POST OFFICE cancel and censor marking - Siberia - page 3

Readers are not "seeing double" as most will remember our item 214 showing a Siberian Expeditionary Force cover with censor mark 014. The present item bears the now familiar Field Post Office - Canadian cancel with indicia 1 plus the censor mark 012. To our knowledge this is the first reported usage of this censor mark. Again, owned by a Western Canada Group member, it, along with the previously featured cover, was first reported in January 1979 but just now being shown in the Group's Newsletters. Another remarkable addition to Canada's military mail story.

224...MPO 612 CFB Chilliwack, B.C.

CFB Chilliwack, B.C. is served now by MPO 612 with effective date January 8, 1979. Bill Robinson has supplied photocopies of 3 of their postal markings. The square POCON would be our type 8A with its number 651907, MPO number and name. Postal code is VOX 2E0.



225...The Lasting Honour - The Fall of Hong Kong, 1941.

A new book which readers may wish to read. Christmas Day, 1941 was a dark day for the British, Indian and Canadian troops in garrison at Hong Kong. The Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers were there. The author is Major Oliver Lindsay. Thomas Nelson and Sons, Canada; 226 pages, \$14.95.

Another book, recently found in a used book store which might be available from libraries is: Passport to Eternity by Ralph Goodwin. Printed in Great Britain by the firm of Morrison and Gibb Limited it was first published in 1956. Lieutenant-Commander Goodwin's story of life in a prisoner of war camp in Hong Kong.

226...REGISTERED oval type postal markings - WW1

Further to item 30 in Newsletter 11. Through the kindness of Reg A. Kingston and John Daynes, Forces Postal History Society, we can illustrate 2 examples of the subject marking. A third dated 12 MR 17 from Crowborough Camp is too faint to reproduce here. These markings are very scarce in Canada and in England so it would be of interest to know of others from the list which readers have in their collections. Please send a photocopy for use in a future Newsletter. The initials C.D.D. in the Shoreham-on-Sea handstamp stands for Canadian Discharge Depot.



227...PIPEX '79 - New Westminster, B.C.

June 8-9-10 are the dates of this show with the Royal Towers Hotel the exhibition site. It is expected that the CMSG will be well represented there with some members assisting at the Postal History seminar.

228...New (to Canadians) early date - Canadian Contingent cachet

Further to item 204. Since that item John Wannerton has reported 13 March 1900 as the earliest date in his collection. John also reports 19 December 1900 as the latest date of usage while Ed Richardson records 27 December in purple with pre-dated APO 55 cancel of December 20th.

CANADA

C.E.F. SIBERIA

1918 - 1919



Cancelled

PASSED BY CENSOR 012

from Russia Feb 10 1919

On Active Service

POST CARD

CENSOR

APMCA

NAME AND ADDRESS HERE

Dear Little Gladys

Just as line to let

You know that

Mr. Fata will soon

Come Back to you

Best Regards to all.

Miss Gladys Swain

163 - Kennedy St.

Winnipeg Man

Canada

PASSED BY CENSOR 012

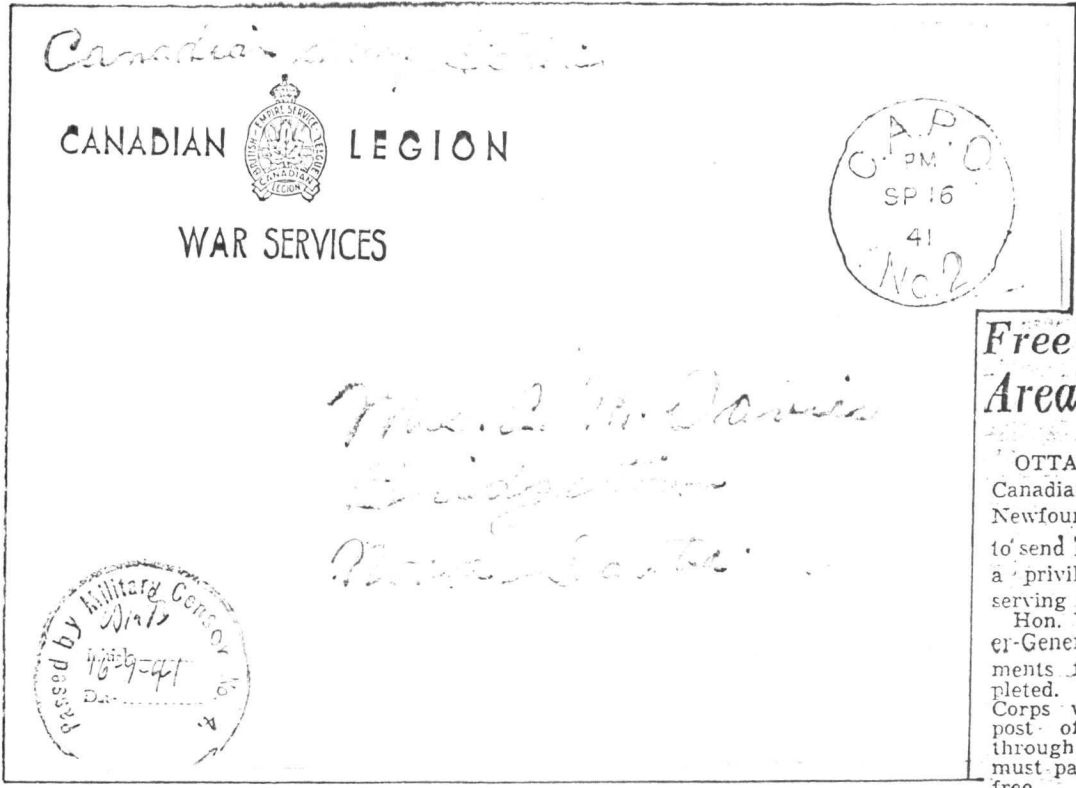
CARD FROM THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
IN SIBERIA, WRITTEN FEB. 10, 1919 TO WINNIPEG, MAN.

THE FIRST REPORTED USE OF "PASSED BY CENSOR 012" OCCURRED IN JAN. 1919.

229...FREE POSTAGE from Newfoundland - WW2

The newspaper clipping of June 19, 1941 brought good news to Canadian Servicemen who then were being paid approximately \$1.30 per day! The records show that St. John's, Gander and Botwood bases were the first to enjoy this free service. Handstamps for CAPOs 1, 2 and 3 were proofed August 29 and were in use as early as September 7. The accompanying illustration from Gander shows an early strike of SP 16 '41 with Military Censor's stamp No. 4. Can any reader report an earlier date from these CAPOs?

Canadian troops arrived at these 3 locations about 22 June 1940. CAPO 2 staff are recorded as being on duty in Newfoundland from Sep 41 to Jun 45.



*Thos. J. Davis
Bridgeton
Newfoundland*

Free Postage Area Extended 1941

OTTAWA, June 19—(C. P.)—Canadian soldiers stationed in Newfoundland will soon be able to send letters home postage free, a privilege enjoyed by troops serving in England. Hon. W. P. Mulock, Postmaster-General, said today arrangements for this are being completed. The Canadian Postal Corps will soon establish field post offices in Newfoundland through which soldiers' mail must pass in order to be carried free.

230...Confirmation of dates of usage - further to Item 195

Bill Robinson reports having the following dates from appropriate units which confirm their usage as recorded in item 197. In item 186 it is noted that FPO numbers in brackets without question mark had not yet been seen but were known to have been allocated. Reg. Kingston to note, please.

FPO 10X on SEP 6 1916 and FPO 11X on AUG 24 1916

231...New mailing address - Wayne R. Curtis

P.O. Box 74, Postal Station "A", Toronto, Ontario M5W 1A2

232...Ship - to - Shore Airmail Service of the 1920's by F.J. Hatch

A slight digression from the purely military leads us to the above article by Dr. Hatch an historian with the Directorate of History, D.N.D. The Canadian Geographical Journal carried the article in Summer/Fall 1978.

Ship-to-shore airmail service was started by the Canadian Post Office in 1927 to speed the delivery of overseas mail. Royal Canadian Air Force and civilian experimental flights went from Montreal, down the St. Lawrence to Rimouski where contact was made with incoming and outgoing ocean liners for the transfer of mail.

In 1932 a Royal Canadian Navy minesweeper (HMCS Festubert) was involved out of Red Bay, Labrador where it would receive mail from an incoming liner and transfer it to an RCAF aircraft for the first leg of the journey to Ottawa, Ontario. It was anticipated that mail could be speeded up by 2 days.

Readers unable to obtain the Journal from their library may write Colin Campbell for further information.

233...Meter - Prisoner of War Mail - WW2

A Study Group member sent in a photocopy of this fine cover showing one of the scarce meter postal markings, our type 9B. Note the airmail rate of 30¢.

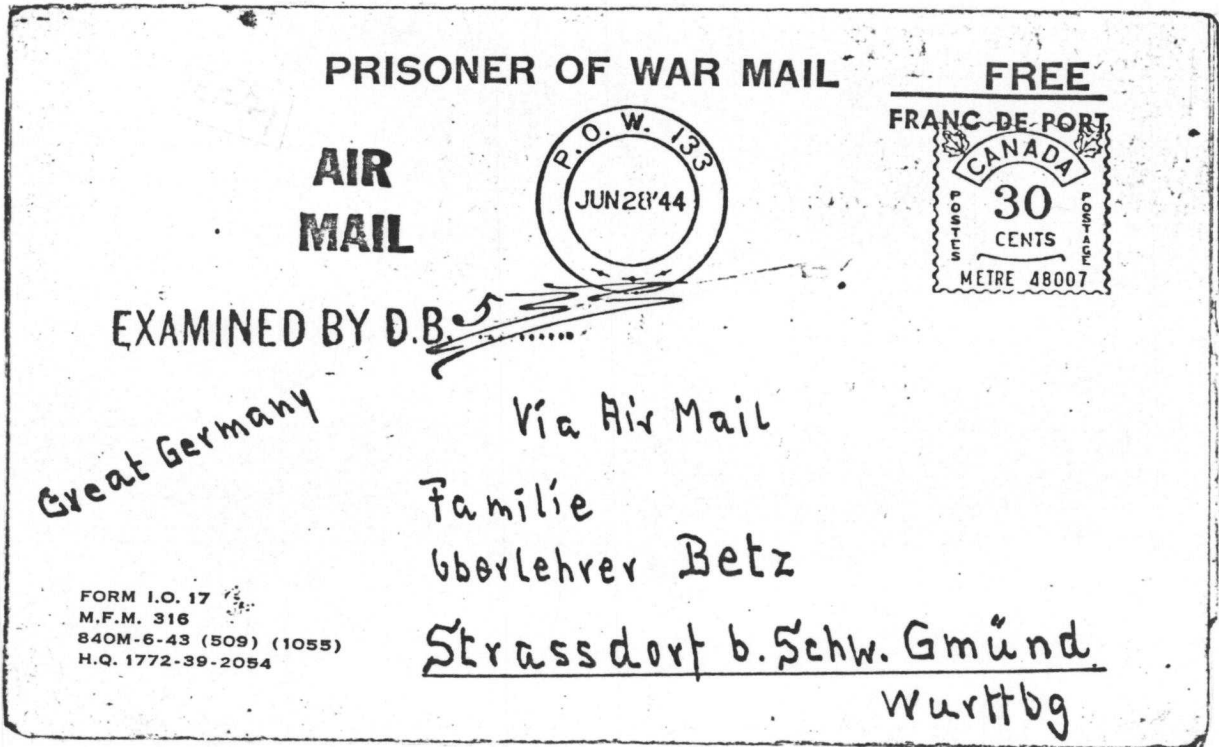
Information from NDHQ advises Camp 133 to have been at Lethbridge, Alberta opening November 1942, closing 30 June 1946. Barrack type lodging was supplied with a camp capacity of 12,500 persons, Other Ranks only.

Other P.O.W. Camp meters listed in R.W. Irwin's catalogue, Canadian Meter Postage Stamps are:

- 48008 POW 23 Monteith, Ontario
- 48009 POW 132 Medicine Hat, Alberta

The illustration shows a folding type form I.O. 17, second issue, with instructions to prisoners/internees in English, German, Italian and Japanese.

Photocopies of meters 48008/9 would be appreciated for inclusion in a future Newsletter.



234...Corrections and/or amendments to be made, please

- Newsletter 27 item 160 - add A making it 160A
- 28 " 179 - line 13, delete British and add Base
- 30 " 199 - for British camp datestamps used by the Canadian Army during World War One read British camp datestamps used on Canadian Army mail during World War One

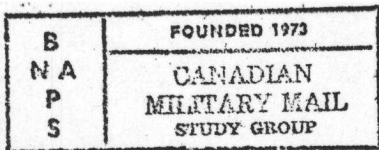
235...THANKS

Member Sid Bedwell has photocopied this Newsletter giving Ed Harris a well earned rest from the task.

236...Articles needed

Now is the time to send in material for future Newsletters. Details concerning Prisoner of War camps in Canada during World War Two would be most welcome. This refers of course to the military mail aspect.

All for now, Sid, Ed, Ken + Colin.



NEWSLETTER 52
MARCH 1983

Time again for another newsletter. We seem to be short of news items this time around and request all help to fill these two pages up! Have had several favorable comments re this new format and, not hearing any unfavorable ones, will continue on in the same manner.

Please note a change of address for '(Rev. ret.)' Tom Murray which is R.R. # 3, Erie Beach, Blenheim, Ontario, NOP 1A0. We hope Tom gets settled soon and will turn his hand from sermons to some writing for this newsletter.

The feature this month is on 'Z' Force and has been written by member Jack Davis who was with the Royal Regiment of Canada in Iceland on this operation. He has much to tell on this subject, however we have managed to keep him to the main points as outlined in our last newsletter.

Several other items in the works are; the abortive 'Q' Force, USAPO's in BC, the Canadian Nursing Sisters in South Africa, the RCAF in South-east Asia, and hopefully, articles on each Militia Camp by Colin. There is much to cover!

MILITIA CAMPS. Here is a 'job' for someone with access to the Post Office Supplements. The information below is from the September 1939 Supplement and lists the Militia Post Offices open during the summer camps. It would be handy to have this info available pre, during, and post WW I. Perhaps some of our Ottawa members might look into this?

Aldershot Camp Field Post Office, N.S., was in operation during the period 3rd to 12th July.

Barriefield Camp Field Post Office, Ont., was in operation during the period 22nd July to 2nd August.

Connaught Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Carleton, Ont., was in operation during the period 4th to 9th July.

Dundurn Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Rosthern, Sask., was in operation during the period 2nd to 16th July.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Lincoln, Ont., was in operation during the period 10th June to 6th July.

St. Bruno Field Post Office, P.Q., was in operation for the period 18th June to 8th July.

Sarcee Camp Field Post Office, Alta., was in operation during the period 1st to 11th July.

Shilo Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Neepawa, Man., was in operation during the period 12th June to 12th August.

Sussex Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Royal, N.B., was in operation during the period 3rd to 13th July.

Camp Valcartier Field Post Office, Electoral District of Quebec-Montmorency, P.Q., was in operation during the periods 24th June to 11th July and 26th July to 6th August.

Vernon Camp Field Post Office, B.C., was in operation during the period 28th June to 1st July.

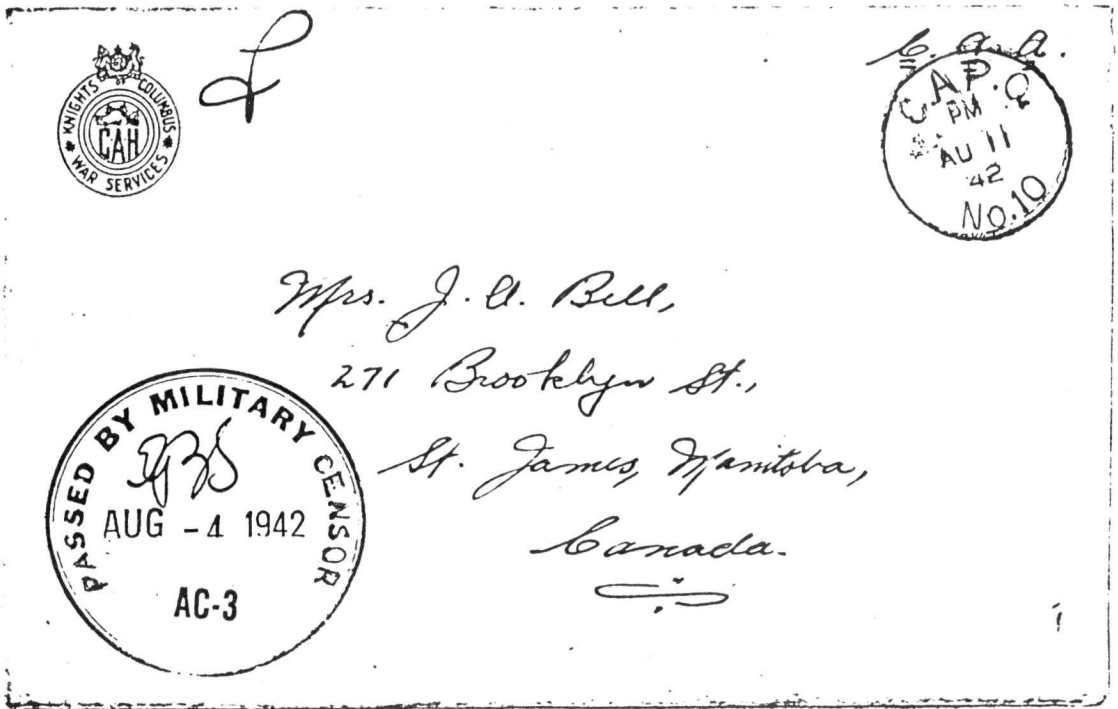
O. H. M. S.



Henry H. W. ... and Co. Ltd.
P.O. ...

LABRADOR ARMY CENSOR AC 3

We have heard about various C.A.P.O. No. 10 censors in previous newsletters (see Index). Now a new report has come in as per the photostat. The explanation put forward on this scarce item is that the unit involved, the 108th Coast Battery, R.C.A., was at Rigolet near the entrance to Hamilton Inlet only during the summer months. On freeze-up the unit returned to headquarters at Goose Bay. Was AC 3 used only away from base? The time difference between censoring on August 4, 1942 and the C.A.P.O. No. 10 cancellation on August 11 at Goose Bay adds credence to this.



FROM OUR WESTCOAST CORRESPONDENT comes a reminder of the Japanese Internment in British Columbia in 1942. This item was an enquiry by a person interested in purchasing one of the confiscated vessels.

JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

Committee:

- THE HONORABLE MR. JUSTICE SIDNEY SMITH
CHAIRMAN
- COMMANDER B. L. JOHNSON, D.S.O., R.C.N.R.
KISHIZO KIMURA
- A. E. MCMASTER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1528 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.

**JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE**
1528 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.



Mr. Clifton Barrick,
Marigold P. O., B. C.

by Jack Davis

British forces occupied Iceland on May 10, 1940 with a brigade group named the Alabaster Force. Headed by Brigadier G. Lammie it consisted of 650 Royal Marines and anti-aircraft and coastal battery units. The force was strengthened a week later by the 147th Infantry Brigade and in June by the 146th. Shortly after the occupation the British government asked Canada to dispatch a force to relieve British troops for service elsewhere.

The decision to occupy Iceland was taken against a background of increasingly ominous news. Iceland lies in the North Atlantic approximately halfway between Bergen, Norway and Cape Farewell on the east coast of Greenland. Iceland's coastline is deeply indented with fjords and its position would have made it a valuable air and submarine base for German attacks on North Atlantic convoys.

On June 5, 1940, Brigadier L.F. Page was summoned to Ottawa where he was informed he would command a Canadian expedition to Iceland. It was to be known as "Z" Force and consist initially of the Royal Regiment of Canada, later to become part of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Division of the Canadian Army. The Royals sighted land at noon on June 16, 1940 and by midnight the last of them had disembarked. This unit left Iceland for England on October 31, 1940.

Two other Canadian regiments followed and were Les Fusiliers Mont Royal who served from July 7, 1940 until October 31, 1940 and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.) who served from July 7, 1940 until April 28, 1941.

Upon arrival in England both the Royal Regiment and Les Fusiliers Mont Royal became part of the Second Canadian Division and the Camerons part of the third Division. Of possible interest is the fact that the British Alabaster Force insignia was a polar bear on a cake of ice against a black background. It was issued to all ranks in Iceland including the Canadians who retained it until taking their place in Canadian Divisions in England.

British troops replaced the Canadians in April 1941 who in turn were replaced by U.S. troops by October 1942. British and Canadian air and naval forces remained in Iceland until 1946.

"Z" Force Postal Arrangements

The first mail from Canadian troops may have been sent via England as evidenced by Illustration 1 and the postmark "Home Depot - Royal Engineers Postal Service" which was located at Plymouth. Other early mail appears to have been bagged and dispatched directly to Ottawa and handstamped "Base A.P.O. - Canada".

Subsequently British FPO's were used by "Z" Force. Field Post Office numbers used by the Canadian Army were: 2, 3, 304, 305(?), 306, 307 and 308 as shown in Illustration 3.

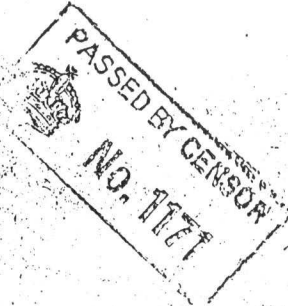
(1)

B.67408
Pte. F.F. Ducher
R. Regt. of Canada
2. Forel "B" Company
Base P.O. Canada.



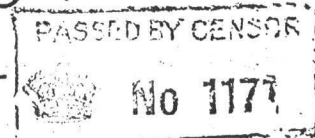
Miss Ada Green
16 Main St.

Huntsville Ontario
Canada



Mr Jean Voyer
270.06 St Laurent
Montreal
P.Q.

Canada



(4)

Kind -



ON ACTIVE SERVICE



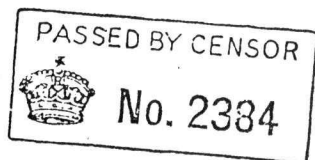
(3)

Mrs William Plontz

Hester ville

Ontario

Canada



H. Vortus

The locations of these British FPO's are believed to be as follows: FPO 2...Reykjavik (transit camp near the city); FPO 3...Seydisfjordur (on the east coast); FPO 304...Akureyri (north coast); FPO 305...Reydarfjordur; FPO 306...Reykjavik; FPO 307...Reykjavik-Geithals; FPO 308...Borgarnes (north of Reykjavik).

Censorship

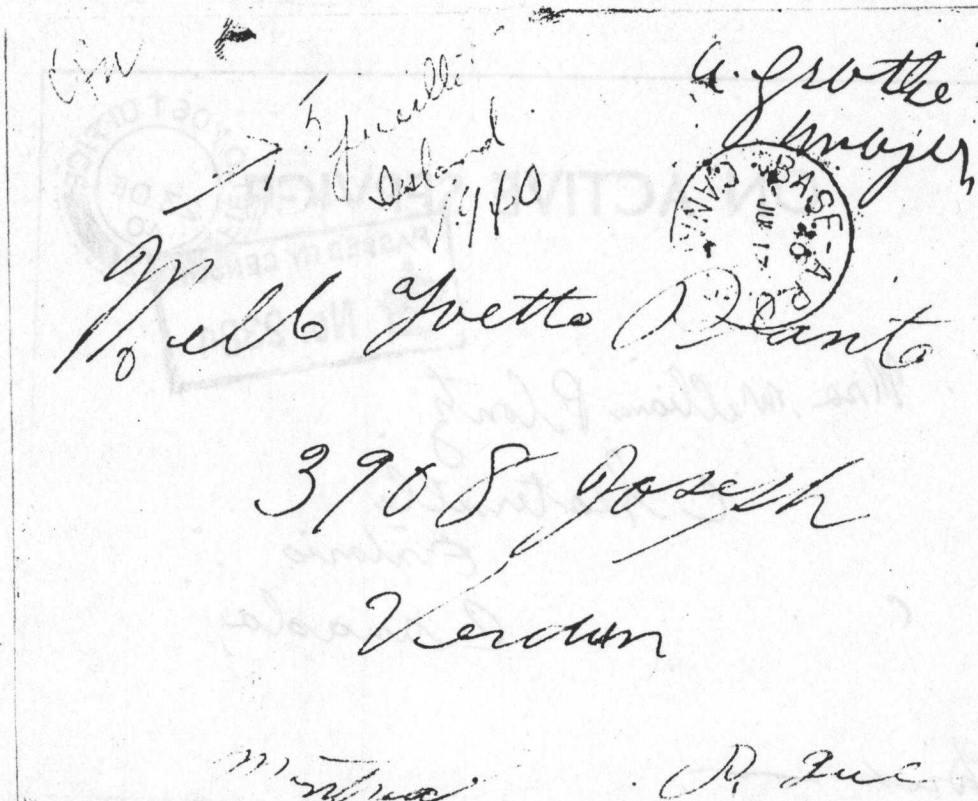
Some early covers carried an officer's signature only to show censorship but in general censor markings on Canadian mail were of the rectangular type (Illustration 1). This was used on both Canadian and British mails.

Illustrations

- (1) Home Depot - Royal Engineers Postal Service On very early mail.
- (2) Base A.P.O. - Canada...Early mail bagged direct to Ottawa.
- (3) Field Post Office...British..Nos. on Canadian mail...2, 3, 304, 305(?), 306, 307, 308.
- (4) Censor numbers were various. Noted are 1124, 1171, 2209, 2306, 2365, 2384, 2388, 2460.
- (5) Field Post Office Z...Information needed.

References

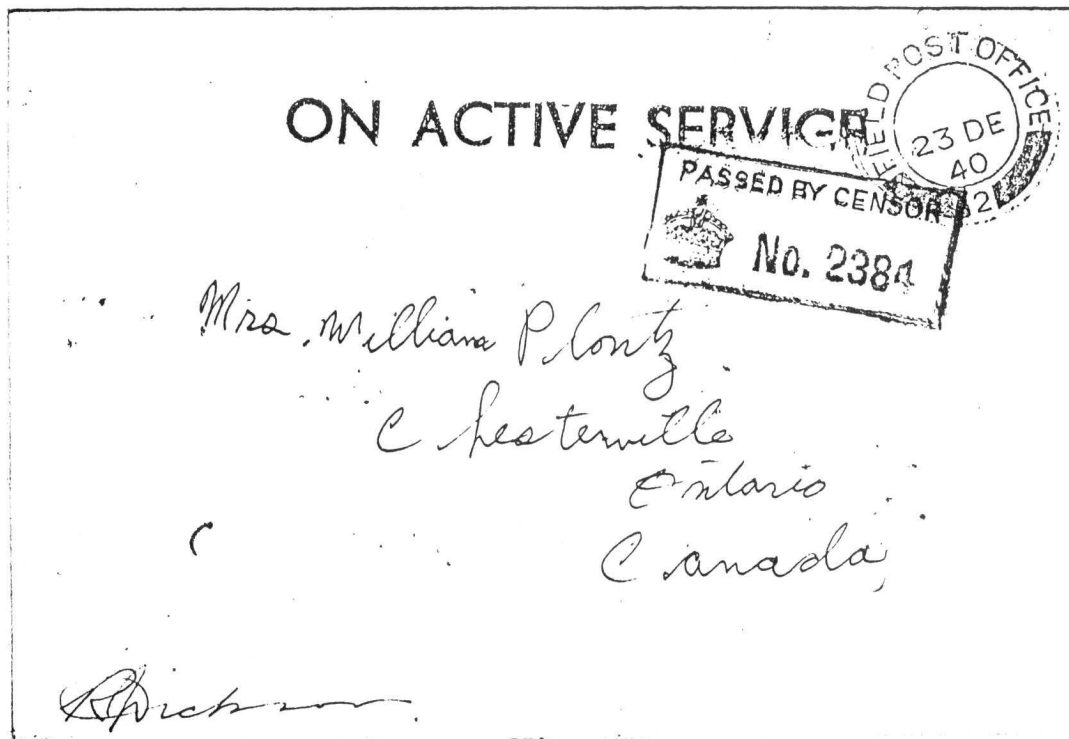
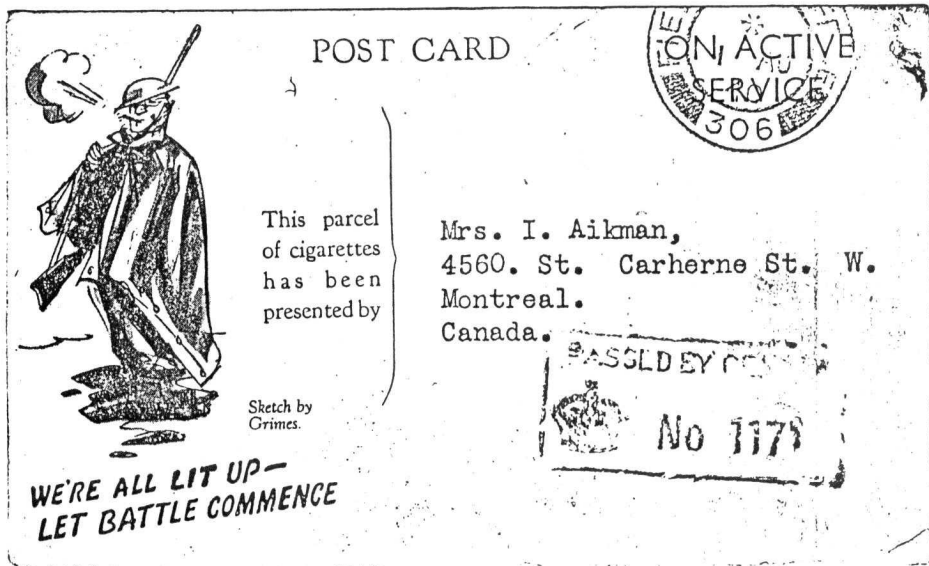
C.P.Stacey, Arms, Men and Government, 1939-45. Ottawa, 1974.
 C.P.Stacey, Canadian Army, 1939-45, Ottawa. 1948.
 David Cornelius, British Military Mail, 1940-46: Faroe Islands and Iceland. Forces Postal History Society Bulletin, No. 152-3.



(2)



(5)



The United States forces suffered serious losses in the Pacific in 1941-42. There was a lack of immediate reinforcements available for their troops in Alaska and an agreement was signed with Canada under which the RCAF was to assist in the defence of Alaska.

Accordingly, the 115th Bomber and the 118th Fighter Squadrons were sent to Annette Island and they arrived in May of 1942 to form "Y" Wing of the RCAF. They served there until November 1943 when they were transferred to the new airfield at Terrace, British Columbia.

A second formation, "X" Wing, was established in June 1942 at Anchorage and consisted of No. 8 Bomber and No. 111 Fighter Squadrons with the former being replaced by No. 14 Fighter Squadron on March 3, 1943.

Postal facilities were entirely through the U.S. Army Postal Service and the cancellations were of the US types using the following A.P.O. numbers:

No. 935 at Annette Island	May 1942 to November 1943
No. 937 at Kodiak (Fort Greely)	June 4/42 to Summer 1943
No. 942 at Anchorage (Fort Richardson)	June 4/42 to Summer 1943
No. 948 at Umnak (Fort Glenn)	later to Summer 1943
No. 986 at Amchitka	later to Summer 1943

Postal censoring was by officers of the RCAF with their signature and rank. In addition, many envelopes were given the US censor markings.

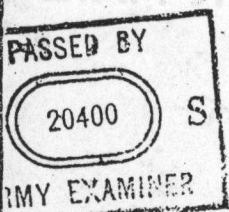
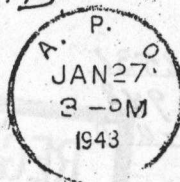
References:

- S. Kostenuk and J. Griffin. RCAF Squadrons and Aircraft. Toronto, 1977. Hakkert and Company.
- C.P. Stacey. Arms, Men, and Governments. Ottawa, 1974. D.N.D.
- Stan Cohen. The Forgotten War. Missoula, Montana, 1981. Pictorial History.

Illustrations:

Several US A.P.O.'s are shown as used by the RCAF. Of those A.P.O.'s listed above, most used from several to 20 different hammers of the same general types as shown.

C6294 F/O MORGAN J.B
R.C.A.F. APO 942
SEATTLE WASH



Mrs O. Stewart Peterson
3462 Peel St
Montreal
P.Q

Edward H. Morgan

Canada

320

Flight/Lieut.
N.T. Spence
1689 - RCAF
A.P.O. 986
Seattle, Wash.,
S. A.



Frank B. Dalglish, Esq.,

Chief Agent, Federated Hardware Mutuals,

Prudential House,

55 York Street,

Toronto,
Ontario

CANADA.

OFFICER'S MAIL

J. N. J. Spence
1st Lieut RCAF



1941
770 RASBERRY, L.W.
R.C.A.F., A.P.O. 935
SEATTLE, WASH.
U.S.A.



MRS. W. RASBERRY
3 UNDERHILL PLACE,

MONTREAL, P.Q.
CANADA.

CENSORED
A.P.O. 935

Hawaii Reg. Fil
AIR MAIL

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Col. W. Broeder - 762531
R.C.A.F. - A.P.O. No 948
SEATTLE - WASH. - U.S.A.



REGISTERED
NO. 2452 VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Ann Broeder
P.O. Box 105

Cobden Ontario
Canada

Censored by
Det. Spence 3/1 RCAF
Registered
PASSED
ASST. ADG. CENSOR

Date

I-B-80,000 Sheets-18-41