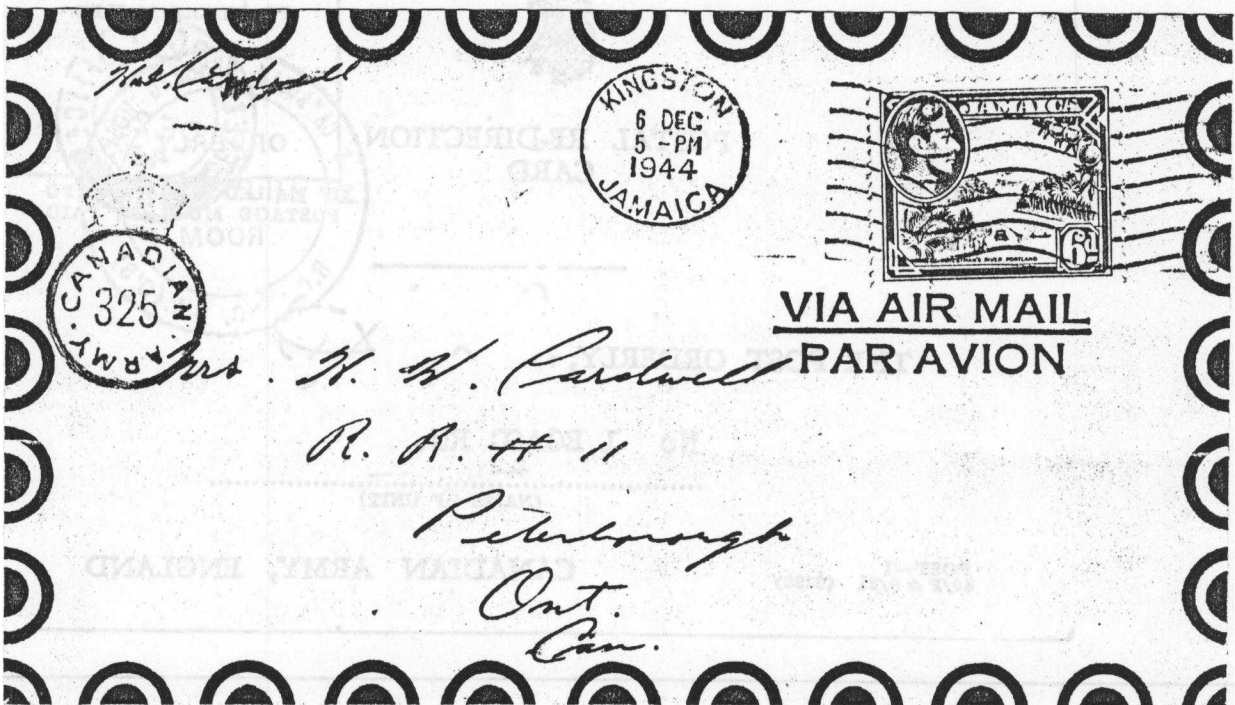


NEWSLETTER 53
MAY 1983

We start this letter with a decided lack of news and small items so please bear with us as we try to fill two pages. This letter is also a bit later than usual in that our 'printer' has been heavily involved in the just completed British Columbia provincial election. Had we sent this in earlier it probably would have ended up in a ballot box!

This edition will have as the feature two articles, both on the US Army Post Offices in Western Canada. The first is by Wilf Whitehouse and deals with the British Columbia APO's in WW II during the construction of the Alcan Highway while the second article by Bill Robinson covers the Yukon area.

Y FORCE. Further on the Y Force article in N.L. #51, we have had communication with Mr. A.P.D. Sutcliffe of West Yorkshire, England that the cancel under our illustration #8 has also been recorded with the number 325 used by the Brockville Rifles (see photo herein). Also our illustration #3 is known over in England with the Y FORCE No. 3 mark.



Mr. Sutcliffe has just published a comprehensive book on the 'MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY OF JAMAICA' which provides information about the British and US involvement as well as a chapter on Canada's role there. If interested in this write editor for further details.

FIELD POST OFFICES OF WW I. A report has come in of the finding of the following Canadian FPO cancels which were previously unreported to Colin.



D.Z	Feb 1918 to July 1918	4th Division	Div HQ
3.N	Jan 1919 to Feb 1919	1st Division	1st Bde
D.P.1	June 1917 to Feb 1918	1st Division	Div HQ
12.P	Feb 1919 to May 1919	4th Division	12th Bde



BNAPS TOPICS. Ed Richardson, one of our original members, and a very long time BNAPSer, has begun a detailed series in TOPICS on Canadian military subjects. Covered so far are North Russia, and the Nile Expedition of 1884-85. Looks like Ed is covering the 'classic' subjects and we hope he continues with the series.

CANADIAN STAMP NEWS. Our member, Jack Davis, who is a professional editor-writer, has started a regular column on military mail in the above paper. Good work Jack, and perhaps we may get several new members in BNAPS and in our study group because of your efforts.

BNAPEX 1983. Winnipeg is the place, September 1 to 3 is the date and during the show the Military Study Group is scheduled for a seminar. At this time there probably should be a discussion on where we are going, and how to get there. Do make every effort to be in Winnipeg for BNAPEX 83. Details were in the last TOPICS.

 POSTAL RE-DIRECTION CARD	DATE STAMP OF PO WHERE MAILED  IF MAILED IN POSTAGE ROOM PAID
<hr/> THE POST ORDERLY,	
No 1 BCASC RU. (NAME OF UNIT)	
POST-1 40/P & S/21 (3493)	CANADIAN ARMY, ENGLAND

POSTAL RE-DIRECTION CARD. This photostat of a Canadian Postal Re-direction Card shows what must be a rare item. These cards would have been used only within the army for a 'change of address' so to speak. The date of use of this one is December 28, 1943 but the FPO is too blurred to make out.

REFERENCE BOOKS. Colin reports a new one as follows:

100 Years, The Royal Canadian Regiment 1883 - 1983, by C.P. Stacey and Ken Bell; Collier Macmillan Canada Inc.; \$30.

Again, there is a great need for contributions to keep this newsletter going. Several members have been very good about contributing, but surely most of you have a special cover you would like the rest of us to see, or a query, or some other item no matter how small. Lets get involved! Send anything to Ken Ellison, R.R. #1, Oyama, B.C., V0H 1W0

U.S. ARMY POST OFFICES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA DURING WORLD WAR II
By W. Whitehouse.

With the opening of hostilities in the Pacific on 7 December 1941, U.S. and Canadian authorities realized that to defend Alaska and eventually strike back at Japan from that location, tremendous quantities of equipment, manpower and particularly petroleum products would be required. At that time, the only route open to Alaska was by sea, however with freighters and tankers in short supply and the threat of Japanese naval activity in Pacific coastal waters an alternate route had to be established.

Prior to World War II, the Canadian Department of Transport had been looking at possible air routes to Alaska through Northern B.C. and the Yukon territory. They had decided that the best route was from Edmonton, Alberta, to Fairbanks, Alaska. The Permanent Joint Board on Defence agreed in late 1940 that Canada should proceed with the building of airfields at Grande Prairie, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. Over this route short range (Fighters) could move quickly from the U.S. to Alaska. This project began in early 1941, and was known as the Northwest Staging Route.

Because Imperial Oil Company was operating oil wells and a small refinery near Norman Wells, N.W.T., the U.S. saw this site as a secure source of fuel for Alaska without having to use the normal sea route. A series of pipelines with a refinery at Whitehorse was planned and became known as the "Canol" project.

Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbour, the U.S. proposed a military supply highway to Alaska following roughly along the line of airfields under construction for the Northwest Staging Route. On receipt of Canadian approval, the first U.S. Army units arrived at Dawson Creek in March 1942, to commence building the 1500 mile road to Fairbanks, Alaska. The road was completed as a supply route by December 1942, with finishing work by civilian contractors begun in 1943. The completed "Alcan" highway (later known as the Alaska Highway) cost approximately \$140,000,000. and it was this project that produced 9 of the 11 U.S. Army Post Offices in B.C.

In January 1942, a U.S. ship "David W. Branch" loaded with military equipment went aground near Prince Rupert, B.C. The subsequent unloading of the military equipment and its delivery to Prince Rupert brought the city to the attention of U.S. military authorities. Here they found one of the largest natural harbours in the world, with a large shipyard and floating drydock, and best of all it was connected to the U.S. by common railroad lines. It was the ideal location for shipping additional men and equipment to Alaska. After receiving Canadian approval, the U.S. Army improved the port's facilities and built a military staging area 10 miles away at Port Edward. During the two and a half years of operations, approximately 1,500,000 tons of freight and ammunition together with over 70,000 men passed through the area. It was this location that provided the additional 2 U.S. Army Post Offices in B.C.

Due to space limitations, the above is a very brief description of the projects connected with the defence of Alaska and ultimately Canada. Canadians from all three services fought alongside U.S. servicemen in Alaska after the Japanese occupation of Kiska and Attu, but that is another story.



The following list of U.S. APO's which operated in B.C. is taken in part from the publication "Location and Assignments U.S.APO's, WWII" published by the War Cover Club and indicates the location and dates of operation where known.

Types of cancellations to be found from these offices was originally distributed with NL #11 dated June 1975, but included here for ease of reference.

U.S. A.P.O.	Commenced operation	Ceased operation
#476 - Fort Nelson BC Muskwa BC Fort Nelson	19 January 1943 April 1943 1 February 1944	To Muskwa To Fort Nelson Closed 15/2/46
#478 - Fort St. John	5 May 1943	Closed 21/3/44
#479 - Fort Nelson Muncho Lake Fort Nelson	5 May 1943 8 August 1943 1 February 1944	To Muncho Lake To Fort Nelson Closed 9/3/44
#701 Fort St. John Dawson Creek	18 July 1942 31 December 1945	To Dawson Creek Closed /1/46
#701 U1- Location Unknown	Unknown	
#701 UB- Trutch BC	Location & operation not confirmed	
#724 - Dawson Creek Fort St. John	9 December 1942 15 December 1944	To Fort St. John Closed 2/10/45
#728 - Port Edward BC	1 June 1943	Closed 6/10/45
#918 - Muskwa BC Watson Lake Y.T.	9 March 1942 10 July 1942	To Watson Lake
#934 - Lower Post BC Morris Lake Y.T.	1 April 1942 May 1942	To Morris Lake
#996 - Dawson Creek BC Fort St. John BC Watson Lake Y.T.	14 April 1942 November 1942 March 1943	To Fort St. John To Watson Lake
#997 - Prince Rupert BC	May 1942	Closed 24/11/45
#998 - Dawson Creek BC Muskwa BC	June 1942 5 November 1942	To Muskwa Closed 23/4/43

References:

R.W. Helbock. Military Postmarks of Territorial Alaska. 1977

Rogan and McGrath. Locations & Assignments US APO's, WWII and later. Third Edition. War Cover Club.

Stan Cohen. The Forgotten War. Pictorial Histories. Missoula, Montana. 1981. (Non-philatelic - excellent).

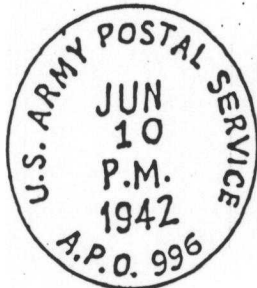
P.F.C. Harry D. Measom
A.S.N. 19610674
Prince Rupert Sub Post of Emb.
O.S.D. Signal Section
APO 997 % P.M.
Seattle, Wash.



Oregon Journal

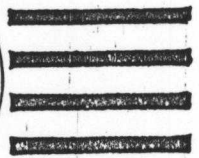


Illustrating various U.S. APO HANDSTAMP and KILLER cancels to be found on APO covers from B.C. locations



#1

KILLER edges in line at postmark.



#2

KILLER as #1

Neither A.P.O. or Number at base

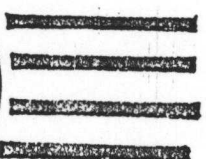
Office number not indicated in postmark.
(used from A.P.O. 934)



#3

KILLER edges uneven at postmark.

Time slug (A.M./P.M.) not used.



#4

KILLER as #3

Office number in time slug location
rather than in space provided at base.

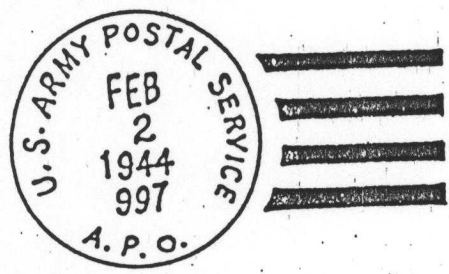


(4)

Because the writer can not confirm the use of REGISTRATION and MACHINE cancellations at B.C. APO locations, the editor will be anxious to hear from members who have examples of these or any other cancellations not illustrated above.

It should also be mentioned here that although not common, covers can be found where U.S. servicemen made use of Canadian Post Offices along the B.C. section of the "Alcan" Highway. (SEE COVER BELOW.) #998

#5



KILLER concave at postmark.

A.P.O. centered at base with office number in time slug location.

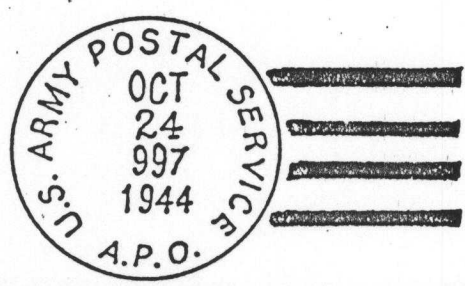
#6



KILLER as #5

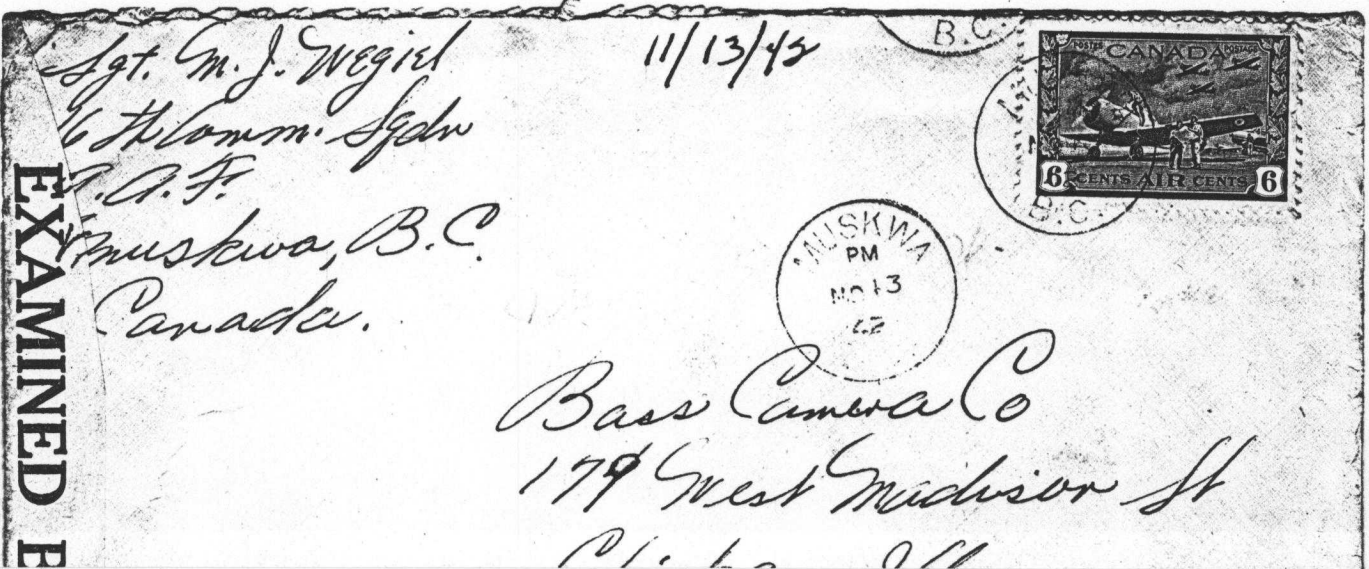
Office number in time slug location rather than in space provided at base.

#7



KILLER roughly concave and uneven.

Larger diameter circle than previous examples.





U.S. ARMY POST OFFICES IN ALBERTA, YUKON & N.W.T. DURING WW II
By Wm. G. Robinson

The previous article on US Army Post Offices by W. Whitehouse covered the offices located in B.C., serving the Alaska Highway and the sea supply route to Alaska through Prince Rupert.

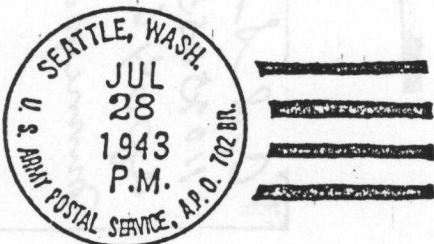
This listing will cover the remaining Offices serving the Alaska Highway and the Canol Project in Alberta, Yukon and N.W.T. A subsidiary listing is also provided for associated offices in Haines and Skagway, Alaska, which were the US termini of the sea supply routes for the Highway and the Canol Pipeline.

Types of cancellation refer to the diagrams in Mr. Whitehouse's article, except for Type 8, which is added.

U.S. A.P.O.	Cancel type	Opened	Ceased Operation
#462 - Edmonton, Alta	5,7	9 April 1943	1 April 1946
Unit 1 - Unknown	-	?	?
#473 - Camp Canol, NWT	-	8 Jan 1943	15 Sept 1943
#474 - Peace River, Alta	-	8 Jan 1943	to Waterways
Waterways, Alta	5	- May 1943	15 Sept 1943
#475 - Watson Lake, Yukon	5	19 Feb 1943	29 July 1947
#702 - Whitehorse, Yukon	1(no No.) 6	8 July 1942	1 June 1946
#702 Br. - "	8	28 July 1943	14 Jan 1944
#702-Unit 1 " ATC Stn 21	5	- April 1944	1 June 1946
#702-Unit 2 " Maint.Facil	-	- April 1944	1 June 1946
#702-Unit H " Destruction Bay	-	?	?
#722 - Edmonton, Alta	5	10 Oct 1942	1 June 1946
#722-Unit 1 -Unknown	-	?	?
#722-Unit 2 -HQ NWSC Edm	5	? 1944	?
#722-Unit 3 - ATC Stn 9 "	5	? 1944	?
#722-Unit 4 - RHd Dept "	-	?	?
#722-Unit A,D,F,G - Unknown			
#931 - Kluane Lake, Yukon	1,1(no No.)	- March 1942	9 Jan 1943
Canyon, Yukon	-	30 Dec 1943	29 July 1947
#933 - Squanga Lake, Yukon	-	1 April 1942	to Carcross
Carcross, Yukon	-	10 Sept 1942	- Feb 1943
#936 - Haines, Alaska	3,4,6	25 April 1942	30 June 1945
#985 - Skagway, Alaska	5,6	21 Sept 1942	15 May 1945
#999 - Waterways, Alta	-	24 June 1942	to Edmonton
Edmonton, Alta	1(no No.)	- Oct 1942	to Fort Smith
Fort Smith, NWT	-	- May 1943	to Waterways
Waterways, Alta	-	- Nov 1943	to Norman Wells
Norman Wells, NWT	5	-? 1944	-? 1945

Note: APO's 3433, 3552, 4503 may also have operated on the Alaska Highway in Canada. No cancels or covers are known.

TYPE 6



Capt R E Edmund
146 Ind Hq F Base
APO 702 Clo PW
Munich, Minn



Free

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

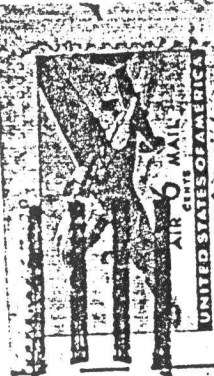


POF
lay
in

Booby of the Month Club
385 Madison Ave
New York 17, NY

P.F.C. Frank Bandel 38005023
18th. Engrs. Co-F (Combat)

Cpl S S Redent
11070555
ap0462, Gyp E
Munich, Minn



BASS CAMERA CO.
DEPT. D
179 W. MADISON ST.
CHICAGO, ILL. USA

CENSORED

By Commanding Officer
and / or Control Office

Miller
St.