

DUES
OF \$5.

PAID	NOT PAID
------	----------

Newsletter No 55
November 1983

Glad to see so many of you at BNAPEX in Winnipeg in September. It is always a pleasure to meet those known only through correspondence, and those not seen since the last BNAPS convention.

Our seminar was well attended and our thanks to Ritch Toop and John Frith for showing us some of their military items. Equally well received was member Ron McGuire's seminar on our involvement in Hong Kong during World War II.

This newsletter is a little off schedule and maybe a little short of material. Our main article by Colin deals with Army Forms in World War I that were used for Private Postal Correspondence. One item, on page two of the article shows an unusual cover. Colin was concerned that the cover would not copy well. Being carmine red, it does not copy well at all, but we feel, even if your copy is unintelligible that Colin's description will give you the idea. Another short article concerns the Canadian Army in the West Indies in World War I. If you check back to Newsletter 44, item 371, you will note that this has been dealt with before. This time we have illustrated a Royal Canadian Regiment cover, whereas last time it was one from the 38th Battalion. A summary of the Canadian Army involvement in the area is also included.

It is also time to call for dues again and your status is noted at the top of this page. If you wish to receive future issues please remit the sum of \$5 to:

Ken Ellison, R R 1, Oyama, B C, Canada V0H 1W0

New members since our last letter are:

James R Goben, 304 W Lincoln St, Bloomington, Illinois, USA 61701
'general Canadian military'

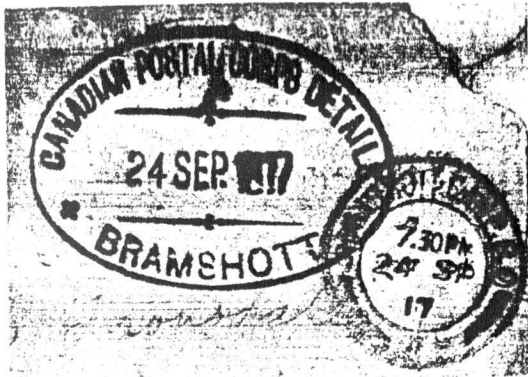
A David Hanes, 126 School St, Site 20, Borden, Ontario L0M 1C0
'RCAF station cancels, Post W.W.II"

John Kessel, 19925 - 78th Ave SE, Snohomish, Washington, USA 98290

Another noteworthy item is that founding members, Ed and Mickey Richardson, are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 16 November. Best wishes to them from all of us.

We regret to record the passing recently of member Reverend Tom Murray. Tom had just retired to Blenheim Beach, Ontario, and was looking forward to spending some time on his collecting interests.

MISCELLANY



Mike Street sends this nice item -

CANADIAN POSTAL CORPS DETAILS BRAMSHOTT

- along with this is the usual Bramshott Camp B O Cancel. Since the whole cover does not photocopy well, we will show only the important parts. For further information see newsletter 44, item 372 for a similar cancel; OFFICER I/C C P C DETAILS BRAMSHOTT

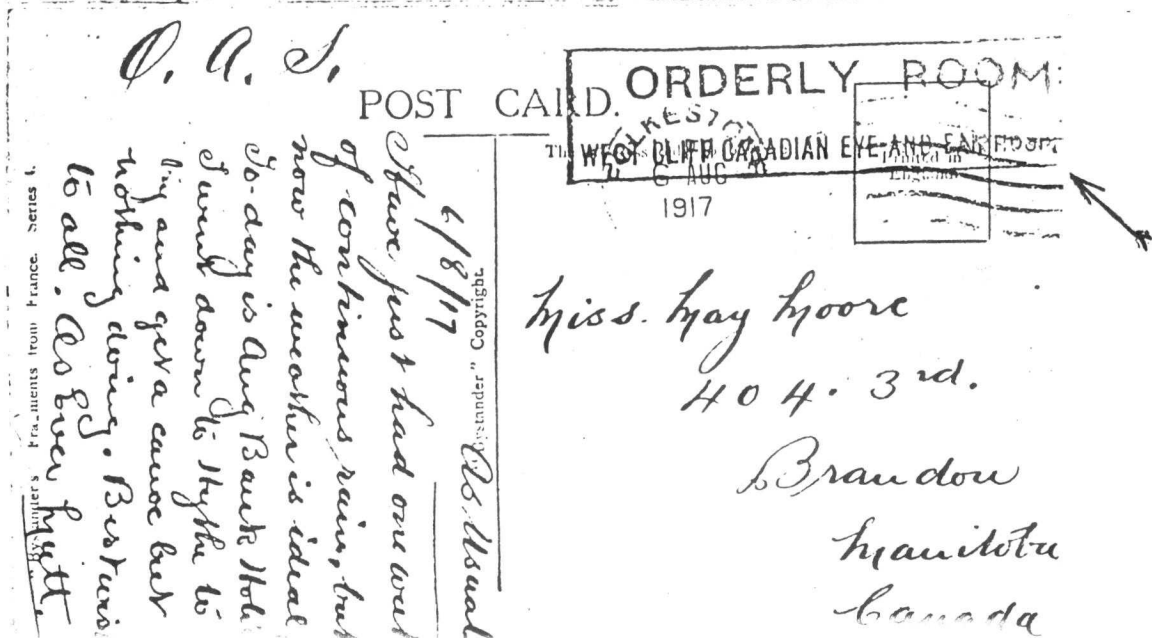
From Dave Crane comes this hospital item -

ORDERLY ROOM/ WEST CLIFF CANADIAN EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL

To quote from Sir Andrew Macphail in the official record of 'The Medical Services,' gives one some understanding of the work that was started in this hospital and carried on to other hospitals:

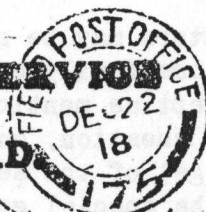
The most piteous aspect in the medical service was not the dead and those about to die, but the living whose facial wounds obscured their resemblance to humanity. Much was done to ease their pain and restore their appearance; but at best, after observing the cases or looking at photographs, paintings, and casts, and yielding full admiration to the triumph of surgical dexterity, one looks with pity upon the sorry spectacle. These horrid wounds were first repaired in a special surgical centre at Westcliffe, then at a general hospital, then at Sidcup, and in Canada at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg. Finally the centre was transferred to Ste. Anne de Bellevue, afterwards to Toronto with all personnel and equipment, and the cases, 170 in number, were treated to a conclusion. All the resources of surgeons, dentists, and artists were lavished upon them; yet the much that was done was less apparent than the little that could be done.

(Macphail, Sir Andrew, THE MEDICAL SERVICES, Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War, 1914-19, The King's Printer, Ottawa, 1925.)



A.F.A. 2042.
114/Gen. No./5248.

FIELD SERVICE
POST CARD



A.F.A. 2042.
114/Gen. No./5248.

FIELD SERVICE
POST CARD.



A.F.A. 2042
114/Gen. No./5248.

FIELD SERVICE
POST CARD



*Mrs. J. Geo. Watson
Poil Hope, Ont.
Canada.*

A number of readers will be familiar with Field Service Pocket Books issued to Army personnel during the First and Second World Wars. They might well have been called "The Soldier's Bible" as the contents included such information as camp cooking, marches and march discipline, map reading, knot tying, small arms and medical information to mention a few of the topics. The copy I have just thumbed through is a reprint dated April 1917 and, on pages 157 /158, gives data on slinging camels on to a ship and their care when on board. Yes, these books are a fund of knowledge.

Even the postal historian can find something of interest and pages 215, 216, 276 and Plate 21 were of sufficient interest to prompt this article. The section on correspondence contains the following:

QUOTE.. in part...Private postal correspondence of officers, soldiers, foreign attachés and civilians employed by or accompanying the army is permitted by means of -

- (a) Printed post cards (A.F. A2042, see page 276)
- (b) Ordinary post cards (usually local scenes, Ed)
- (c) Letters (registered and unregistered)
- (d) Urgent letters enclosed in special envelopes
- (e) Parcels, including photographs and sketches, or private diaries

All such correspondence must be posted in boxes or offices controlled by the army postal service.

Correspondence carried out under para 1 (b),(c) and (e) is liable to serious delay in transmission owing to the necessity of censorship. All ranks should therefore in their own interests preferably carry on correspondence by means of the printed post cards.

Urgent letters may be sent in circumstances when immediate action is required in respect of some family or financial matter, and are not subject to delay, or censorship, except as mentioned below. Such letters will be confined strictly to the business in question, and will, before despatch, be submitted to the C.O. (or officer in charge) of the sender, who, if he approves of their contents, will place them in the special envelope (A.F. A2043) provided for the purpose, which will be closed in his presence and countersigned by him, no reference being made either to rank or unit. UNQUOTE.

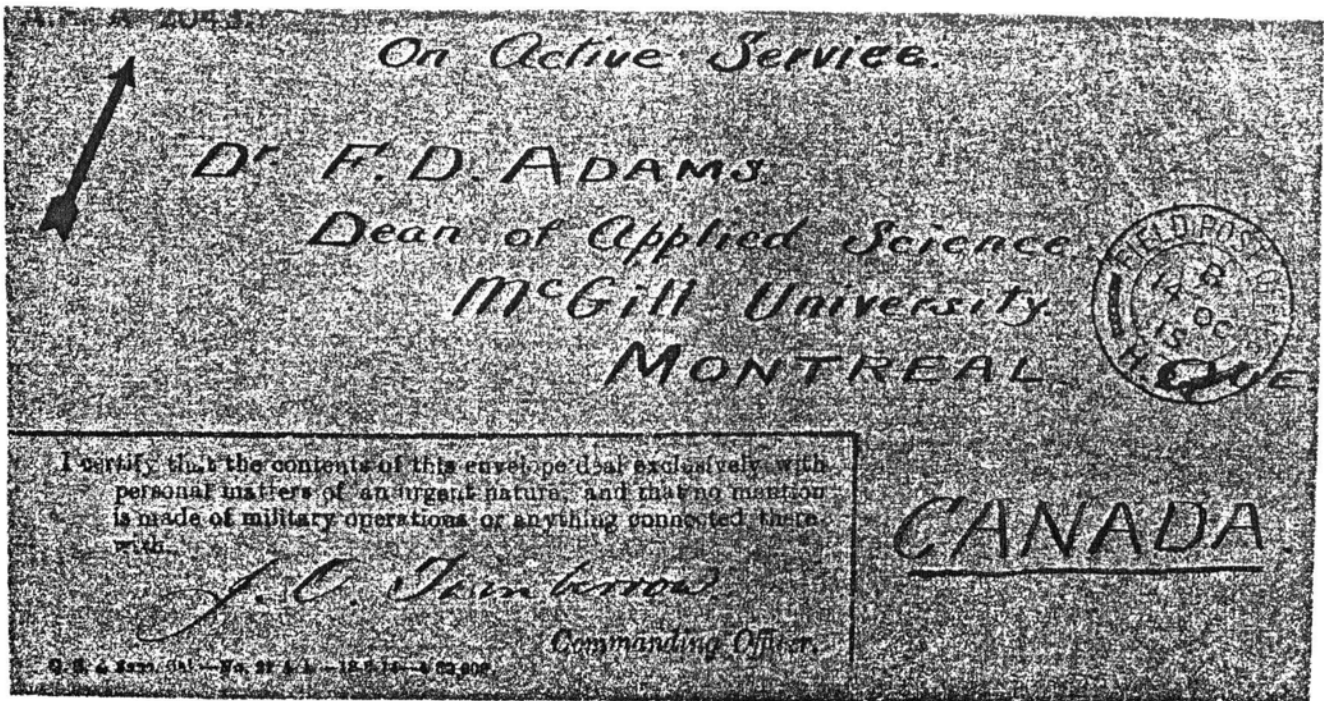
white
red

Plate 21, in colour, shows the distinguishing flag to be flown at military post office sites. It is as sketched.....

Checking over a quantity of post cards (A.F. A2042) reveals a number of varieties. There are two basic sizes, i.e. $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (approximate) with large and small coats of arms and others $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " similarly embellished.

One card, illustrated above, is unusual with its typographed 1 penny red stamp cancelled by a Field Post Office strike dated 4 MR 15. Note the small coat of arms.

Not illustrated is the commonest card, approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ ", with large coat of arms. Other differences are apparent when studying these cards however these will be left for others to record.



true size $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3 & 5 eighths

The illustration above shows the special envelope (A.F. A2043), in carmine red. See upper left corner for designating number. The printing date at lower left is 18.8.14. The F.P.O. H.2. cancel dated B 14 OC 15 would place its point of mailing with the British 2nd Corps, H.Q., Western Front, possibly in Belgium.

THE CANADIAN ARMY IN BERMUDA AND ST. LUCIA IN WORLD WAR I

At the beginning of World War I the Army's intention was to keep Canada's Permanent Force units at home to provide organization and training for the greatly expanding army. With this in mind, herewith quotes from Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson's "CANADIAN EXPEDITARY FORCE, 1914-1919" as published by the Department of National Defence in 1964.

"While Permanent Force units were thus unexpectedly finding overseas destinations, the only regular infantry battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, was given a role which though carrying the honour of being the first Canadian unit to serve outside the Dominion in the First World War was nevertheless to keep it out of active operations for another year. On 6th September (1914) the regiment embarked at Quebec and sailed under escort of H.M.C.S. Niobe for guard duty in Bermuda, where it relieved a British unit, the 2nd Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. The following March and April saw No. 6 Company of the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery (123 all ranks) off to St. Lucia in the Windward Islands; there it was to man four 14-centimetre and two 6-inch guns, operate a 70-ton steamship on examination service, and sweep the entrance of Port Castries for mines . . . This unit plus attached services remained in the West Indies for the duration of the War. The Royal Canadian Regiment (on Bermuda) was relieved in August 1915 by the 38th Battalion, which in turn handed over to the French speaking 163rd Battalion in May 1916. Relieved six months later by a British battalion, the 163rd went to England, where it proved reinforcements for French-Canadian battalions in the field."

"The Royal Canadian Regiment had been employed on guard in Bermuda for 11 months; it had arrived in France in November 1915 and trained with the 2nd Brigade."

Illustrated here is a cover from Hamilton, Bermuda of 11 December 1914 which bears the Bermuda Censor mark. Although addressed to England, it is supposed the cover bearing the Royal Canadian Regiment insignia is from a Canadian serviceman. Reports of other covers, especially from St. Lucia would be greatly appreciated.

