

SHIP'S OFFICE

JAN 17 1950

H.M.C.S. "TECUMSEH"
CALGARY, ALTA.

CANADIAN MILITARY MAIL STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER 61
JANUARY 1985

COMMANDING OFFICER

DEC 30 1983

H. M. C. S. MAGNIFICENT

COMMANDANT
I.M.C.S. ROYAL ROADS
JAN 19 1950
VICTORIA, B.C.

H.M.C.S. QUEEN

JAN 17 1950

SHIP'S OFFICE

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Response to the questionnaire sent out in the last N.L. was very good with about 50% replying, and some are still coming in. This information will be kept on file and referred to as necessary. Perhaps we can also prepare a membership list with each persons interests for a future letter so that there will be more 'interaction' between members.

A summary to date of members interests shows the following priorities: NAVAL and MILITIA are the top interests. POST WW II (to the present), FORCES (Z, Y, etc.), and WW II MPO's are next in popularity and are followed in order by Field Post Offices of WW I, Blackouts, and P.O.W.'s. Other topics mentioned are A.F.A.L.'s, Censors, and Meters. Mention was also made of Siberian, North Russia, Boer, and Riel interests. This about covers the whole spectrum of military interests!

Back to this issue of the Newsletter and the article this time is on FORCE W in Newfoundland. This will be followed in March by John Frith's THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY IN NEWFOUNDLAND, WW II. Several other pieces are on hand including Wilf Whitehouse's RECEIVED FROM H.M.SHIPS as used at Halifax. Would any of our readers be willing to do an article on the individual Militia camps such as Borden, London, etc.? A two page, or more, item including photostats would be most welcome and would help to balance out our researches.

Please add to the membership list the name of

JOHN TYACKE 115 RIDGE DRIVE, TORONTO, ONT., M4T 1B6

John advises that he has acquired Tom Murray's file of our Newsletters, so he is fully aware of what we are doing. His main interest is Censorship (civil) in WW II and when John gets this sorted out I hope he will help us out!

Please note a change of address for

Philip Wolf 636 WOODBINE BLVD., SW, CALGARY, ALTA., T2W 4W4

R.A.F. ARMAMENT SCHOOL
HAMILTON

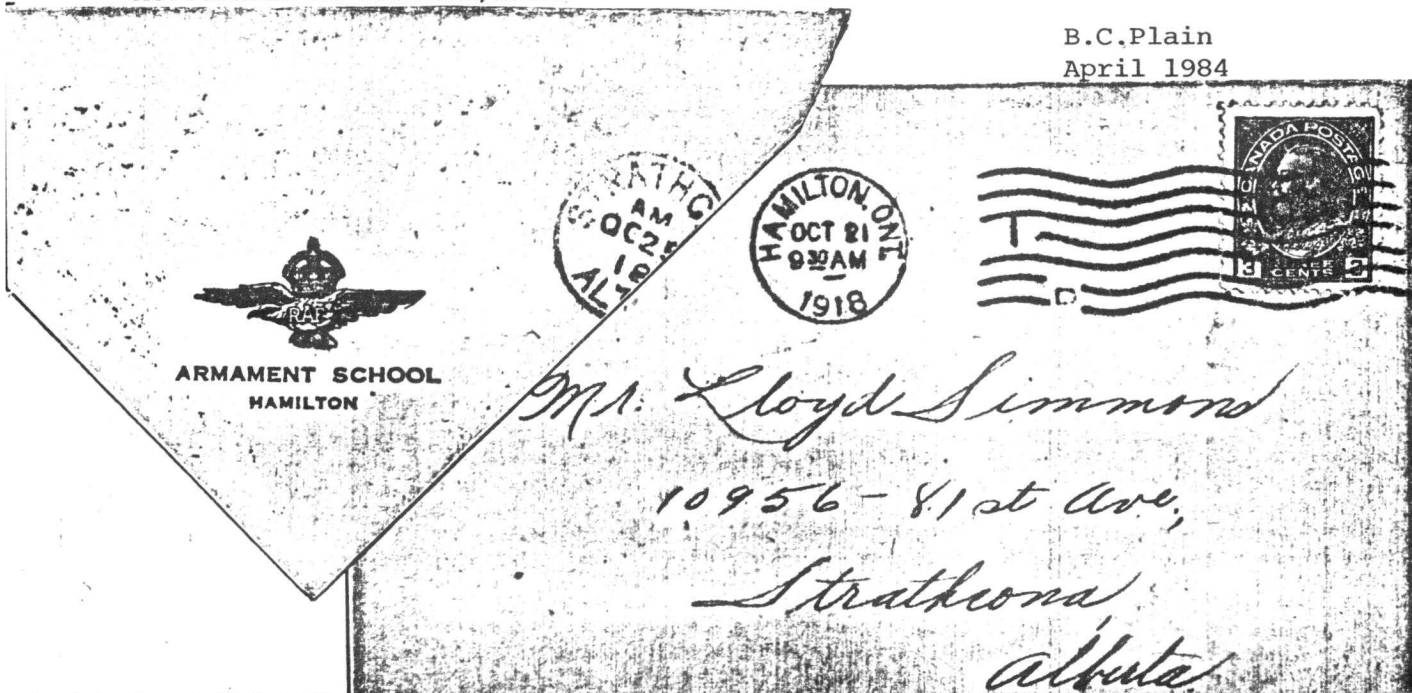
In a cover lot, recently acquired, I found an item that was undoubtedly connected to the early days of military training and aviation in Canada. The R.A.F. insignia on the flap was a definite clue, but the ARMAMENT SCHOOL HAMILTON notation on the back flap was a bit of a mystery. Research has now provided the answer and confirmed the military link.

On April 1, 1918, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service joined together as one service, and became the Royal Air Force. By the time of this unification, pilot training had been well established in Ontario, mainly at Camp Borden and at several smaller facilities near Toronto. Coincident with the unification of the flying services, a new training facility was established at Beamsville, on March 21, 1918. Due to changing directions in the War, and the need for more specialized training, additional facilities were needed, as the existing camps were inadequate and could not meet the demands placed upon them. One such special facility was the R.A.F. Armement School. This school was established at Hamilton in May of 1918. The training done there closely resembled that done at the School of Aerial Fighting at Beamsville, but differed in that there was no actual flying done except in specially made airplanes that never left the ground. Here, the students learned about machine guns and the different armament that they would be required to use while actually flying a fighting aircraft. This preflight training enabled the cadet to proceed directly to flying upon his arrival at Beamsville, and enabled much of the ground training to be dropped from the Beamsville schedule.

On Monday, November 11, 1918, the War ended, and abruptly, so did flight and pre-flight training at Beamsville and Hamilton. In January 1919, an auction sale was held in Hamilton, and equipment from both Hamilton and Beamsville was sold, with the unsold remainder being transferred to Camp Leaside, near Toronto.

The cover shown in this case has a very clear RAF insignia on the reverse flap. As well, a Strathcona Alta. receiver's mark is seen dated AM/OC 25/18. The cover is cancelled with the International machine current at the time, Type G dater, Obliterator type 1.

Ref: CHAJKOWSKY, William E.: ROYAL FLYING CORPS, Borden to Texas to Beamsville; The Boston Mills Press, 1979
SESSIONS, David F.: THE EARLY RAPID CANCELLING MACHINES OF CANADA: Unitrade Associates of Toronto, 1982.



To quote from Stacey's SIX YEARS OF WAR:

"In 1939 the island of Newfoundland was not a part of Canada, nor was it to become such for a decade. Nevertheless, the significance of Newfoundland for Canadian security needed no emphasis. Military cooperation between the two communities was clearly of the first importance. It is true that there was no joint planning before the actual crisis: but cooperation began even before the Canadian declaration of war and continued throughout the conflict. In the first week of September of 1939 Canada asked and received permission for R.C.A.F. aircraft to fly over Newfoundland and use the colony's airport facilities, ... and in the spring of 1940 Canada agreed to provide two coast defence guns to protect Belle Island in Conception Bay, an important source of iron ore."

The importance of Newfoundland was emphasized by the course of the war in Europe in the early summer of 1940. It was agreed at this time to send a flight of bomber-reconnaissance aircraft to the Newfoundland Airport at Gander and this was to be supported by a flight of fighter aircraft. An infantry battalion was to be sent also for ground protection.

Accordingly the 1st Battalion of the Black Watch of Canada arrived at Botwood on 22 June 1940. In August they were relieved by the Queens Own Rifles, and from then on greater quantities of troops garrisoned the island for the rest of the war. "W" Force, as the Canadian Army here was designated, reached its peak strength on 15 December 1943 with 5692 of all ranks.

The Canadian Army in Newfoundland was comprised mainly of coastal artillery and anti-aircraft batteries along with airfield defence battalions. Other ancillary units provided support. Beginning in October 1943 many of these defence units disbanded as the need for them was diminishing.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

On 22 June 1940, the 1st Battalion of the Black Watch arrived at Botwood, Newfoundland. All the early mail was censored by the unit and put in civil post offices, and thus required the regular mail rate of 5 cents in Newfoundland stamps. This situation continued until the Canadian Army Postal Corps was authorized to operate in Newfoundland in late August of 1941. Hereafter free postage was allowed on surface mail but 6 cents Newfoundland postage was needed for air mail.

Canadian Army Post Offices (C.A.P.O.'s) used special cancellation hammers for the six post offices established here. They were as follows:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| C.A.P.O. No. 1 | at St. John's | from 1 Sept 41 to 31 Jan 46 |
| No. 2 | at Gander | 1 Sept 41 to 27 June 45 |
| No. 3 | at Botwood | 1 Sept 41 to 18 Feb 45 |
| No. 4 | at Gander | 10 August 42 to 20 Nov 45 |
| No. 5 | at Torbay | 26 Sept 42 to 30 Nov 45 |
| No. 10 | at Goose Bay, Lab. | 2 July 42 to 31 Jan 46 |

-C.A.P.O. No. 10 will not be dealt with here, but in a separate article.

For several days, from 1 September to possibly 7 September 1941, the Canadian Postal Corps No. 1 hammer was used at C.A.P.O. No. 1 and at the same time Canadian Postal Corps No. 2 hammer was used at C.A.P.O. No. 2. Information on C.A.P.O. No. 3 is sketchy but a manuscript notation (see illustration) of 4 September 1941 on cover suggests that the C.P.C. hammer may not have been delivered to Botwood before arrival of the regular hammer. First usage of the C.A.P.O. No. 1 cancel appears to be 7 September 1941. The other C.A.P.O. hammers at C.A.P.O. Nos. 2 & 3 may have been put into use sometime later as no very early covers have been noted therefrom.

Along with the regular hammers came the MOTO square rubber fiscal cancellers, but their use on mail is quite scarce.

Of the five C.A.P.O. offices in Newfoundland, the army seems to have used only No. 1 at St. John's and No. 2 at Gander to any great extent. No. 3 at Botwood and No. 5 at Torbay were used to a much lesser degree. Reports of Canadian Army usage of No. 4 at Gander would be appreciated as no covers from here have been reported. On the other hand, the RCAF used all the C.A.P.O. offices in Newfoundland.

CENSORSHIP

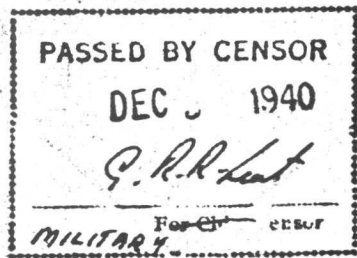
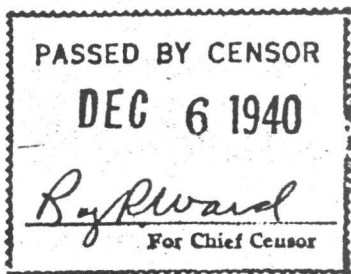
From 22 June 1940, to the end of the year various censor markings have been noted. These all used either an officer's signature or initials, by themselves, or in combination with an orderly room stamp, or the stamped initials P.M.C. (PASSED MILITARY CENSOR). Most of this mail was from Botwood and bore a Botwood cancel and, or, one of several different styles of barred killer marks.

Mid December of that year saw introduction of the 28mm round rubber marking - "PASSED BY MILITARY CENSOR No. 4". Numbers used have been noted from 1 to 90. Some of these markings appear to be double ringed while others are wider, single ringed. Use of this mark continued into the spring of 1945, when censorship was withdrawn.

Another form of security/censorship was the use in 1940-4, in addition to the killer as noted above, of the St. John's machine cancellation without the place and date hub.

Besides the above C.A.P.O.'s, the army had units posted at other points in Newfoundland and Labrador. Covers from these points often had the local postmark, or may have been taken to a nearby C.A.P.O. Censoring was usually noted by the 28 mm round rubber marking as used in Newfoundland. Other covers show only initials or signature to signify censorship. Recognizable mail from these points is hard to find!

LIKELY CIVIL CENSOR MARKS USED BY ARMY ONLY NOTED USED IN EARLY DECEMBER 1940



UNITS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY
THAT SERVED IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR 1940 - 46
(From History Section, D.N.D)

Headquarters:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Headquarters "W" Force | 11 Nov 40 - 30 Jun 46 |
| Headquarters Botwood Defences | 1 Oct 41 - 31 Mar 45 |
| Headquarters Goose Bay Defences | 24 Jun 42 - 20 Aug 45 |
| Headquarters St John's Defences | 2 Sep 41 - 31 Jul 45 |

Artillery:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Newfoundland Armament Maintenance Establishment | 10 Jun 45 - 30 Apr 46 |
| 103rd Coast Battery | 16 Jun 41 - 2 Jul 45 |
| 105th Coast Battery | 15 Jul 43 - 31 Oct 43 |
| 106th Coast Battery | 15 Sep 41 - 10 Feb 45 |
| 107th Coast Battery | 10 May 42 - 24 Feb 45 |
| 108th Coast Battery | 18 May 42 - 3 Oct 44 |
| 25th Anti-Aircraft Regiment | 1 Oct 42 - 13 Jun 45 |
| 14th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type H) | |
| No 5 Anti-Aircraft Gun Operations Room | |
| 26th Anti-Aircraft Regiment | 15 Oct 42 - 27 Jun 45 |
| 5th Anti-Aircraft Battery | |
| 56th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type H) | |
| 57th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type H) | |
| 2nd Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Battery | |
| 7th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type H) | 17 Aug 41 - 2 Nov 43 |
| 16th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type H) | ?? Nov 41 - 15 Nov 42 |
| 17th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 2H) | 28 Oct 43 - 10 Mar 45 |
| 27th Anti-Aircraft Battery | 2 Jul 42 - 18 Mar 44 |
| 28th Anti-Aircraft Battery | 13 Jun 43 - 18 Dec 43 |
| 29th Anti-Aircraft Battery | 13 Jun 43 - 30 Sep 44 |
| 30th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 3L) | 22 Jun 42 - 24 Jun 45 |
| 49th Anti-Aircraft Battery | |
| 52nd Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 4L) | 3 Dec 43 - 13 Jun 45 |
| 55th Anti-Aircraft Troop (Type "LS") | 21 Dec 42 - 30 Jun 43 |
| 60th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 2H) | |
| 61st Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 2L) | 16 Dec 43 - 30 Sep 44 |
| 105th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 4L) | 18 Mar 43 - 6 Dec 43 |
| 125th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 3L) | 1 Jul 43 - 30 Jun 4- |
| 148th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 2L) | 21 Dec 42 - 31 Aug 44 |
| 154th Anti-Aircraft Battery (Type 2H) | 21 Dec 42 - 13 Jun 45 |
| No. 4 Anti-Aircraft Gun Oper. Room | 4 Dec 43 - 30 Apr 45 |
| No. 10 Anti-Aircraft Gun Oper. Room | 17 Aug 43 - 1 Oct 44 |

Engineers:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| No. 16 Engineer Services & Works Coy. | 1 Mar 42 - 26 Jun 46 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|

Signals:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Newfoundland Signal Company (was No. 3 Coy., Atlantic Command Signals) | 15 Sep 41 - 30 Apr 46 |
|---|-----------------------|

Veterans Guard of Canada:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| No. 42 Company (3 officers and 80 OR's) | 23 Jan 43 - 13 May 44 |
|---|-----------------------|

Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| "W" Force Ordnance Company | 1 Dec 41 - 26 Jun 46 |
| (Redesignated as "W" Force Ord. Depot | 1 Apr 44) |
| Goose Bay, Lab., Ordnance Depot | 1 Jun 42 - 1 Sep 43 |

Infantry:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Algonquin Regiment, The | 8 Feb 42 - 9 Feb 43 |
| The Black Watch (R.H.R.) 1st Btn. | 22 Jun 40 - 11 Aug 40 |
| Edmonton Fusiliers, The | 7 Mar 45 - 31 Oct 45 |
| Lincoln and Welland Regiment, The | 29 Sep 41 - 11 May 43 |
| New Brunswick Rangers, The | 24 Jun 42 - 18 Jul 43 |
| Pictou Highlanders, The | 2 Mar 43 - 10 Sep 43 |
| Prince Edward Island Highlanders, The | 26 Jul 41 - 16 Mar 43 |
| Queen's Own Rifles of Can., 1st Btn. | 10 Aug 40 - 15 Dec 40 |
| 1st Airfield Defence Battalion (Le Regiment de Chateauguay) | 4 Aug 43 - 31 Jan 45 |
| Regiment de Joliette, Le | 19 Jan 43 - 19 Feb 44 |
| Regiment de Montmagny, Le | 1 Feb 44 - ?? Jun 44 |
| Regiment de Quebec, Le | 4 Sep 44 - 24 Mar 45 |
| Regiment de St-Hyacinthe | 18 Apr 43 - 24 Sep 44 |
| Royal Rifles of Canada, The | 25 Nov 40 - 25 Aug 41 |
| Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment, The | 14 Aug 41 - 16 Feb 42 |
| Victoria Rifles of Canada, The | 14 Nov 40 - 30 Sep 41 |

Royal Canadian Army Service Corps:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| "W" Force Company | 20 Feb 42 - 26 Jun 46 |
| No.1 Bakery Section (Mechanical) (Absorbed by "W" Force Company | 15 Mar 42 - 15 Feb 46 15 Feb 46) |
| No.2 Bakery Section (Mechanical) (Absorbed by No.6 District Coy, RCASC) | 25 Jun 42 - 31 Jan 44 |

Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| No.25 General Hospital (Botwood) | 6 Jan 41 - 15 Aug 45 |
| No.26 Military Hosp.(Lesters Field, Nfd) | 20 Nov 40 - 31 Jul 44 |
| No.27 General Hospital (Lewisporte) | 15 Aug 42 - 30 Dec 44 |
| No.1 Medical Stores Depot | |

Canadian Dental Corps:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| No.10 Company | 14 Aug 41 - 15 Aug 45 |
|---------------|-----------------------|

Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| "W" Force Company | 15 May 44 - 14 May 46 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|

Canadian Postal Corps ("W" Force Detachment):

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canadian Army Post Office No.1 | 1 Sep 41 - 31 Jan 46 |
| Canadian Army Post Office No.2 | 1 Sep 41 - 27 Jun 45 |
| Canadian Army Post Office No.3 | 1 Sep 41 - 18 Feb 45 |
| Canadian Army Post Office No.4 | 10 Aug 42 - 20 Nov 45 |
| Canadian Army Post Office No.5 | 26 Sep 42 - 30 Nov 45 |
| No. 1901 Postal Detachment (Labrador) | |
| Canadian Army Post Office No.10 | 2 Jul 42 - 31 Jan 46 |

Canadian Intelligence Corps:

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| "W" Force Security Intelligence Section | 1 Mar 45 - 15 Sep 45 |
|---|----------------------|

Canadian Provost Corps:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| No. 18 Provost Company | 8 Oct 41 - 22 Jun 46 |
| No. 82 Military Detention Barracks | 28 Nov 41 - 30 Oct 45 |

Miscellaneous:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| No. 3 Special Employment Platoon (Veterans Guard of Canada) | |
| "W" Force Transit Camp | 13 Jan 43 - 29 Apr 46 |

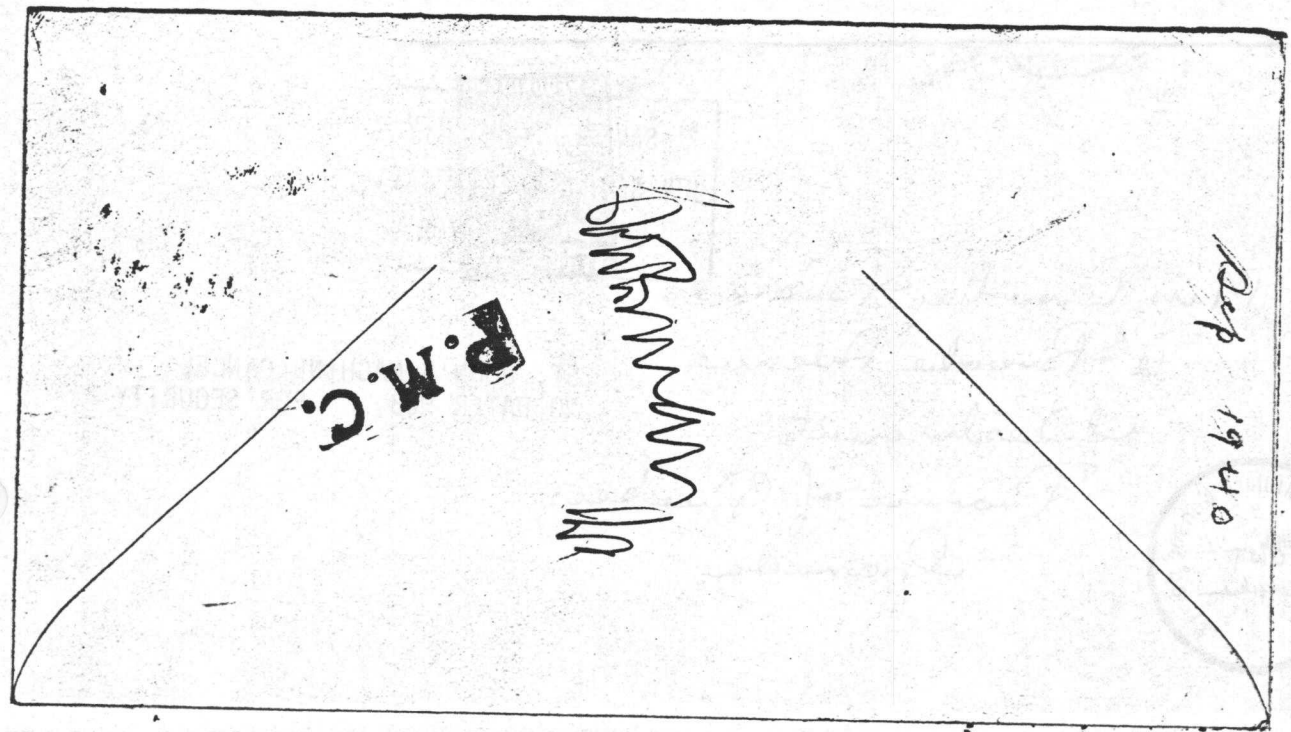
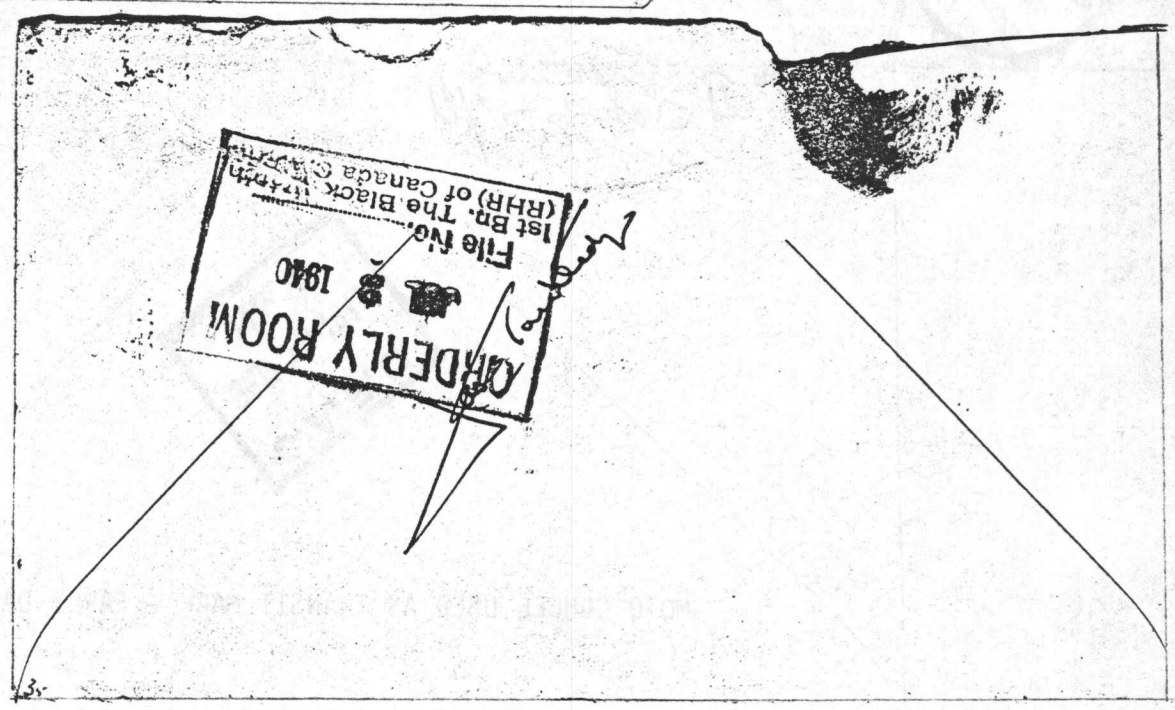
D-81650. Hqpl. AIRD. W.A.
H.Q. Coy -

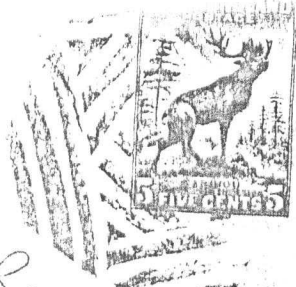


Page 5.

W. Matheson, Sqg.
c/o Sun Life Club.
Sun Life Bldg. Dominion Sq.
Montreal. P.Q.
Canada.

EARLY COVERS AS USED
BEFORE THE CAPO'S





10
Mrs I Warry
5255 Cote St Luc Road
apt 23
montreal
Que
Canada

EARLY USE OF 28MM ROUND CENSOR MARKING
NOTE KILLER CANCEL



7/12/40

St John's fld.



MOTO CANCEL USED AS TRANSIT MARK - EARLY DATE



Miss Dorothy Blades
12 Brooke Avenue
Westmount
Province of Quebec
Canada

ST. JOHN'S MACHINE CANCEL
NO DATER HUB FOR SECURITY





NAME *Edw*
 UNIT *Active*
 NO. *Army*

SERVING WITH CANADIAN FORCES



Page 7.



Mrs. N.H. Welsh
129 Quebec St.
Sherbrooke,
Que
Canada

EARLY C.P.C. CANCEL SP 2 41

Lieut N.H. Welsh
S.F.R. A Coy
Force W.
C.A.P.O # 1
Edm Army Overseas

CANADIAN  LEGION
 WAR SERVICES

p.k. Active

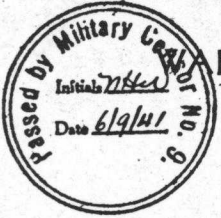
C.A.P.O-3
4-9-41

BEFORE HAMMER ARRIVED
C.A.P.O. - 3 IN MANUSCRIPT

The Canada Permanent Mortgage
St. John,
New Brunswick
Canada

Edm Army Overseas.

CANADIAN  LEGION
 WAR SERVICES



EARLY C.A.P.O. NO. 1 USAGE

N.H. Welsh Lieut
S.F.R.
W Force
C.A.P.O. # 1
Edm Army Overseas

Mrs. N.H. Welsh
129 Quebec St.,
Sherbrooke, Que

PROBABLY FIRST DAY

399

CANADIAN LEGION



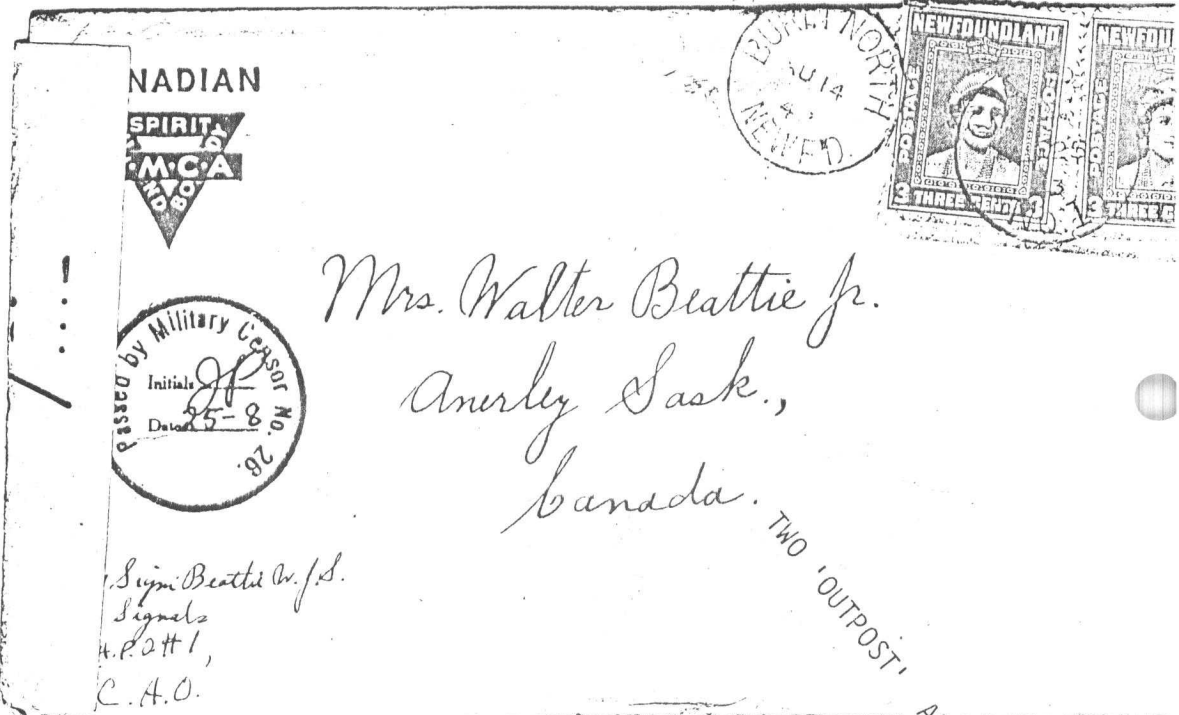
WAR SERVICES



Page 8.

Mr Clifford Bond
Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada
Montreal P.Q.
Canada.

EARLY C.A.P.O. NO. 2



Sign: Beattie W. J. S.
Signals
A.P.O. #1,
C.A.O.

TWO 'OUTPOST' ARMY SIGNALS COVERS

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



Mrs. Walter Beattie Jr.
Anerley Sask.
Canada.



Canadian Active Service Forces
LLO 7149
Name: Sign: Beattie W. J. S.
Unit: A.C. Signals
No: C.A.P.O. #1
Can. Army Presses.