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DUES BOX

NEWSLETTER NO 71
JANUARY 1987

A special New Year's greeting to all, even more so as this is being put together on New Year's Day. After a 'brown' Christmas, and a lovely fall, we woke up to three inches of white, and wet, snow this morning! Enough of this.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: In this Newsletter we have another Christmas item, this time on the Devil's Brigade. Items from this the combined Canadian - United States Special Service Force of WW II are very elusive. How many of you have such covers? The only one we have is from the Kiska operation. Thanks go to Wilf Whitehouse and Bill Robinson for this item.

The other part of this N.L. is devoted to John Frith's on-going study of the World War I Censor markings. Hopefully John's article will help to explain what he and his group are trying to do. We hope you will examine your 'holdings' of World War I overseas material and report to John as every little bit helps to complete the puzzle.

For World War II, Kim Dodwell, Middle House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN, England, is spear-heading the same sort of thing with regard to censors and units. Kim would be happy to hear from you - just say you saw it in our N.L.!

FINANCES: A look at our funding shows that we need some more money to operate on. Postage is the big item, being in the area of \$20. per N.L. Accordingly, would those of you who have not paid in advance please forward \$5. to the editor as above. Cheques, either Canadian or US, are quite acceptable if made out to me personally since we do not maintain a separate account. Please note your status as per the box above. Thank you.

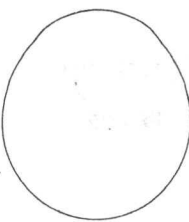
OTHER NOTES: As for study groups of BNAPS they are perhaps the most important link many of us have with the Society. Here much credit goes to John Burnett, the Co-ordinator, and to Frank Waite, who comes up regularly with the Study Group Centerline column in TOPICS. BNAPS owes much to John and Frank for their efforts.

We note with regret the passing of Don Makinen who was our BNAPS Librarian in recent years. The Library Advisory Committee has appointed Clinton Phillips in his stead to whom go our best wishes on what is sometimes a thankless job.

A PAGE FROM...: Would all members try to come up with some material for the Newsletter. We are short out of one page items such as Wilf's herein on the Devil's Brigade, and the several we have run lately. Just send the best photocopy of a descriptive page from your collection that you think would interest others. Please don't just send a photo of an item, but do a little research and tell the cover's story - you might be surprised how much one can learn doing this. THANK YOU!

REMEMBER YOUR DUES - AND ENCLOSE A PAGE FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



TO: _____

FROM _____

CHRISTMAS, 1944

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)



FOLD TOP AND BOTTOM IN, THEN FOLD IN CENTER AND SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE - A PAGE FROM THE COLLECTION OF WILF WHITEHOUSE

Illustrated here is a special 1944 Christmas V-Mail form (reduced in size) from the Devil's Brigade. a combined Canada - U.S. outfit.

The official name of the group was the Special Service Force, but their exploits earned them the nickname of the Devil's Brigade. This unit was formed at Fort William Henry Harrison, Helena, Montana on July 20, 1942. The Canadian element consisted of the 2nd Canadian Parachute Battalion, but the personnel of both countries were generally mixed together in operations. They served in the Aleutians early in September, 1943, then to North Africa in November, and on to Italy, until August 1944. The unit was disbanded in France on December 5, 1944.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 10-28143-5

THE IMPORTANCE OF WWI CENSOR MARKINGS TO THE STUDY OF CANADIAN MILITARY MAIL - by JOHN FRITH

While I was recently "writing up" some new covers in my WWI collection, I was struck by how much we've gained in knowledge since the study of the censor markings began. I also thought if I was able to illustrate this, then perhaps it might serve as an incentive to the members of the group to begin recording the data on their covers and send it to me !! The study group working on this project Larry Mathews, Colin Pomfret, Bob Wyse and myself have a vast amount of research material (Bn nominal rolls, histories, etc) available and the main thing holding us back is the lack of data on covers which is where you the members come in.

To illustrate the importance of censors, I will compare the knowledge we have in FIG 1,2 & 3 with and without censor information:

WITHOUT CENSOR INFORMATION

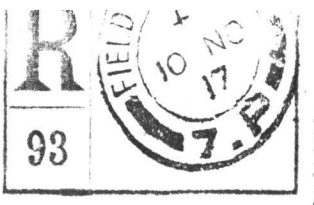
FIG 1 - A Registered cover from British Army Post Office SX4 (Salonika - Kalamaria, Greece (28/2/16) - 29/3/19)¹. PROBABLY mailed by a Canadian soldier or Nursing Sister serving at one of the C.A.M.C. hospitals in this area during 1916 - 1917.

FIG 2 - A Registered cover from Field Post Office 7P used by the 3RD CAN DIV, 7 BDE during Security Phase IV 1/7/17 - 31/1/18². (This covers a lot of units: Bde HQ, 4 Inf Bns, CMGC Coy and ancillary units temporarily attached, Fd Ambs, CFA, etc).

FIG 3 - A cover mailed from British Base Army Post Office 3 (Boulonge, France 21/1/15 - (13/1/20)) Type E (State III)(13/9/15) - (7/1/18)¹. PROBABLY from a Canadian serviceman stationed at one of the base units there - hospitals, CASC base units, camps, etc or passing through on his way to the front (As Boulogne was one of the largest B.E.F. bases there are literally hundreds of units possible).

WITH CENSOR INFORMATION

FIG 1 - A Registered cover from No 4 Canadian General Hospital (CM3/4042) which was at Kalamaria, Greece from 19/5/16 to 17/8/17³. Posted at British Army Post Office SX4 (Salonika - Kalamaria (Jan 1916) - 29/3/19) on 16 Nov/16.



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

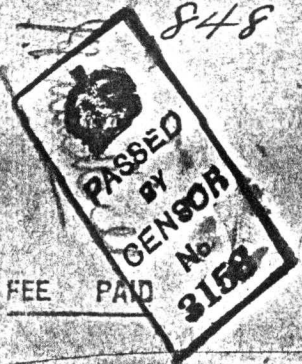


Mrs. William Perry.

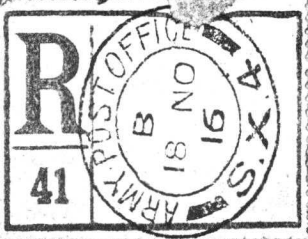
848 Maplewood Ave

Montreal

Canada



FEE PAID



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



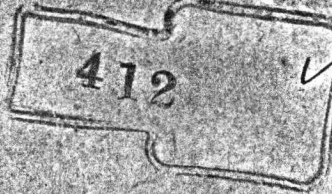
Mr Henry Cousens, B.A.

Presbyterian College,

67 McTavish St.

Montreal

Canada



FEE PAID



Vertical handwritten text on the left margin.

3

Handwritten signature or initials.



Mrs R. A. Holland.

24 St. Matthew St.

Montreal



FIG 2 - A Registered cover from the R.C.R. (CM6/3158) censored by Lt. J.F. MacNeil⁴. Posted from FPO 7P used by the 3RD CAN DIV, 7 BDE with which the R.C.R. served on Nov 10/17.

FIG 3 - A cover mailed from No 3 Canadian General Hospital (CM4/1567) and censored by Maj. J.A. MacMillan C.A.M.C.⁵. No 3 CGH was at Boulonge, France from 6/1/16 to 29/5/19. Posted from British Base Army Post Office 3 (Boulonge, France 22/1/15 - 13/1/20).

I think that the above illustrates the help Censor Markings give us in tying a cover to a specific unit rather than a vastly larger formation such as a Division, Brigade, Base unit, etc. In addition it also helps us to identify the Post Offices used by Canadian Corps (see Newsletter #66 re CM6/5219 & FPO TI2, etc)

In case anyone is wondering how it is possible to identify the units using the censor numbers, I have included FIG 3A, 4 & 5 with the following explanations:

CM4/1567 = No 3 Canadian General Hospital - F.W. Daniel has identified this number in his book⁶ and FIG 3 only serves to confirm it, as you will notice the embossing on the reverse of the cover (FIG 3A). In addition, the censor Maj. J.A. MacMillan appears in the C.A.M.C. rolls.

CM3/1762 = No 3 Canadian General Hospital - Again FIG 4 only confirms one of Daniel's identifications. The corner card gives us a pretty good clue as 3 CGH was raised by McGill U. but the clincher is the censor's signature. It is that of Col. J.M. Elder who was OC 19/6/15 - 29/5/19.

CM3/4042 = No 4 Canadian General Hospital - The censor's signature is that of Col. W.B. Hendry, OC the hospital. In this case he self-censored the letter as he was writing to his wife and this cover (FIG 5) plus several others reported confirms this number.

CM6/3158 = R.C.R. - This is a tentative identification as it is the first cover reported (FIG 2) to have any identifiable origin. The censor's signature is that of Lt. J.F. MacNeil who appears on the Regiments roll.

I hope that the above will induce any group member with even one WWI cover to write giving me the data on the cover (photocopies would be preferred, BUT IN ANY CASE PLEASE WRITE). The information we require is 1) Censor type (see newsletter #66 for chart), 2) Censor #, 3) FPO/APO # and date, 4) Censor's signature (if legible), 5) Name and address to whom cover sent (this is important as in a lot of

Registration.

Compensation is given for loss or damage in respect of Inland Registered Letters and Packets of all kinds,

and for the loss of Foreign and Colonial Registered Letters and Packets, subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide.

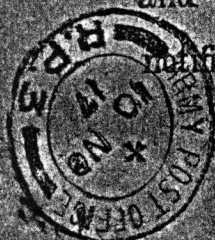


FIG. 2A

Registration.

Compensation is given for loss or damage in respect of Inland Registered Letters and Packets of all kinds,

and for the loss of Foreign and Colonial Registered Letters and Packets, subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide.

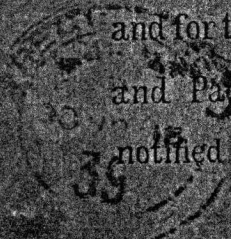
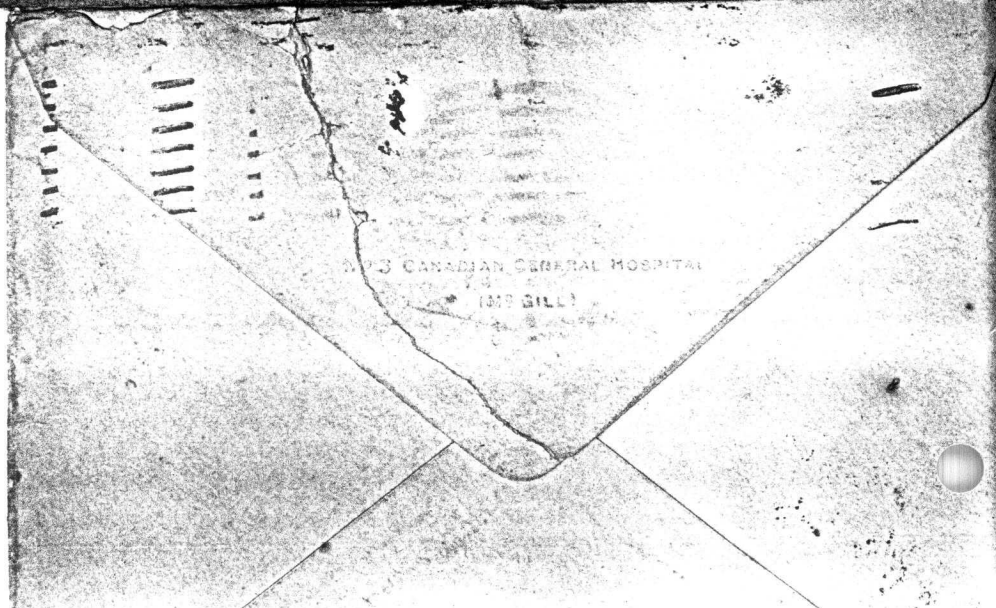


FIG. 1A

No 3 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL / MCGILL

FIG. 3A



cases units were raised locally and gives a good indicator of origin). As an added incentive, I promise to provide a print-out of any "matches" I get from information sent and also of course the completed results of our study will be printed in the newsletter. Please write to me at P.O.Box 286, COPPER CLIFF, Ont., POM 1N0 .

References:

1. PROUD, EDWARD B.: HISTORY OF BRITISH ARMY POSTAL SERVICE. VOL II 1903 - 1927: PROUD-BAILEY CO LTD, U.K., 1980. All British APO/FPO hamper information taken from this source.
2. CMMSG NEWSLETTER: VOL 50-439.
3. MACPHAIL, SIR ANDREW: THE MEDICAL SERVICES. THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN FORCES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-19: KINGS PRINTER, OTTAWA, 1925. All hospital locations come from this source.
4. FETHERSTONHAUGH, R.C.: THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT 1883-1933: Originally printed 1936. REPRINTED 1981 CENTENNIAL PRINT & LITHO LTD, FREDERICKTON.
5. SNELL, COL.A.E.: THE C.A.M.C. WITH THE CANADIAN CORPS DURING THE LAST 100 DAYS OF THE GREAT WAR: KINGS PRINTER, OTTAWA, 1924. All C.A.M.C. personell information comes from this source or REF 3.
6. DANIEL, F.W.: THE FIELD CENSOR SYSTEM OF THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE 1914-1918/ UNIT ALLOCATIONS/ I. WAR OFFICE BASED TYPES 1,2,3,4 & 7: THE FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY, U.K., 1984.

Several technical difficulties have made this newsletter hard to print. Please bear with us. Thank you.
The Editor



FIG. 4

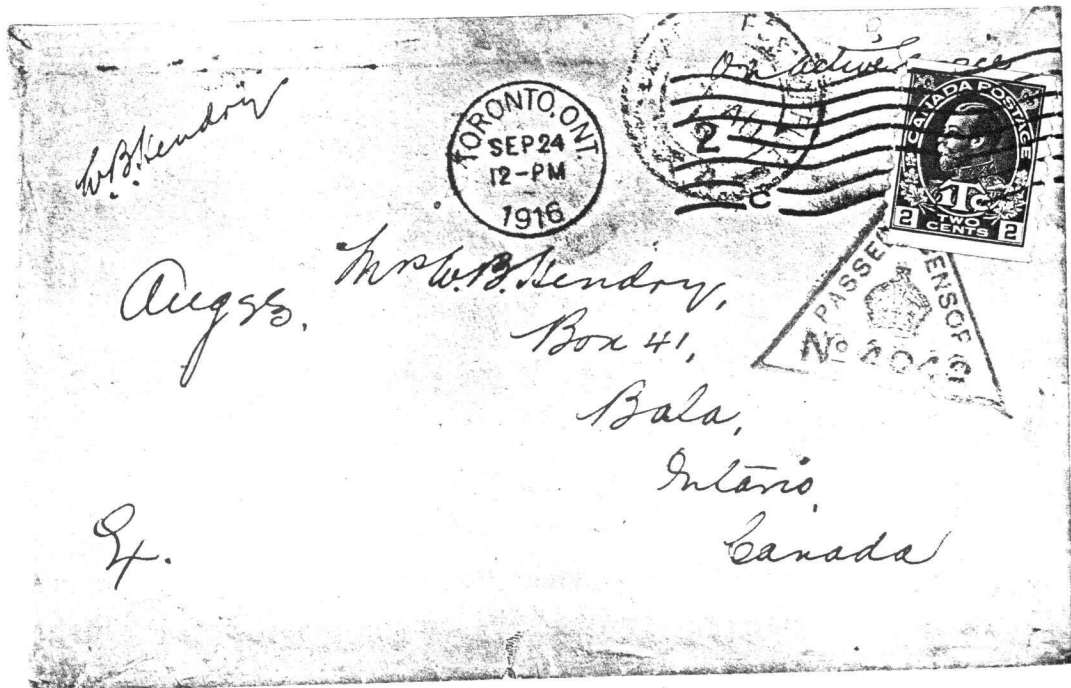


FIG. 5