

MEETING

BNAPEX '87 Charlottetown, P.E.I. September 17-19, 1987. Military Study Group members are advised of a Group meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 10.30 A.M. on Military Mail.

NEWSLETTER #75

C. Campbell is assembling this one to give a summer "break" to K. Ellison.

CAMP BORDEN BATTALION cards - WW1

Readers will be familiar with these cards which showed the Battalion badge and number, etc. There could be as many as 36 ranging in numbers from the 114th to the 228th. If interested in collecting/trading these write to Dave Hanes. See NL 69 for address.

FOR SALE

HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN FORCES - 1914-19 - MEDICAL SERVICES by SIR ANDREW MACPHAIL (1925). Contact C. Campbell soonest.

FERRY COMMAND

Check with your library re:
FERRY COMMAND by Don McVicar (1981) and
NORTH ATLANTIC CAT by Don McVicar (1983)
Excellent reading.

OUR INTERNED ALIENS from VERNON NEWS 30 MAY 1918 and
THE INTERNMENT CAMP ditto 11 SEP 1918
courtesy K. Ellison

OUR INTERNED ALIENS.

Who would not be an alien enemy? The report of the Senate on the operation of internment camps shows that the camp at Amherst cost last year \$202,393.40; that at Banff, \$93,471.61; Brandon, \$51,898.54; Edgewood, \$30,612.67; Halifax, \$17,963.78; Jasper, \$26,153.61; Kapusking, \$160,535.93; Kingston, \$91,618.17; Lethbridge, \$19,325.22; Mara Lake, \$60,683.17; Petawawa, \$14,520.49; Vernon, \$100,616.12; and Spirit Lake Camp, \$108,060.89.

Among the delicacies supplied to the camps, according to the report, are lobster, asparagus, chutney sauce, sago, tapioca, salmon, tomato catsup, bologna, eggs, bacon, sauerkraut and parsnips. The marmalade and jam cost runs up to over \$10,000.

Between this treatment of interned Germans and their countrymen's treatment of British prisoners there is a wide contrast.—Winnipeg Telegram.

THE INTERNMENT CAMP.

Some weeks ago the News reproduced an article from the Winnipeg Telegram giving some figures relating to the expense entailed in connection with alien internment camps. It is only fair to state that in a recent interview Major-General Sir William Otter informed the News that this statement was misleading. He drew attention to the fact that the figures given to the Senate embraced payments for supplies that may reasonably be termed "luxuries," but which are not paid for by the people of Canada. Internment prisoners, he said, were recipients of money from various sources which is deposited with the Government and checked out as required. Hence it followed that vouchers signed for such articles as asparagus tips, tinned lobster, etc., while passing through the Auditor-General's accounts were not paid for by public funds, but were provided from private sources. General Otter further stated that the food of

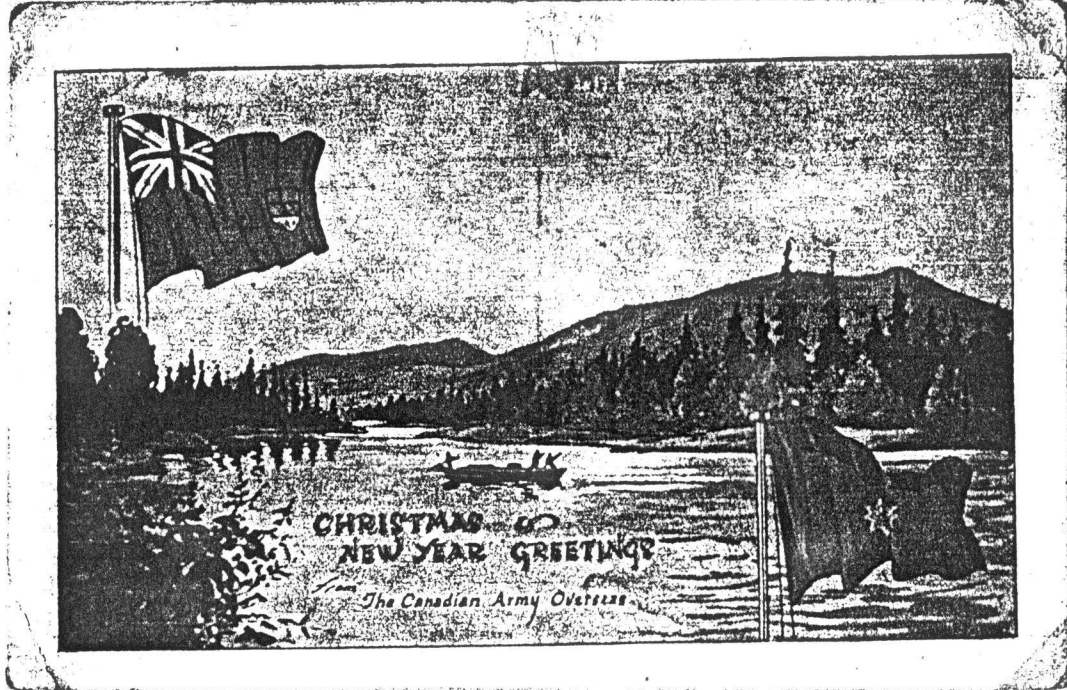
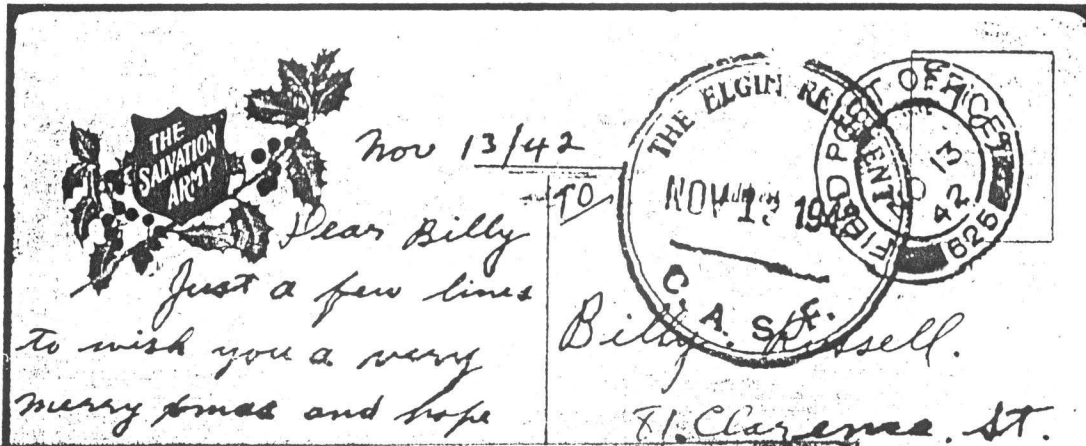
prisoners in the Vernon camp cost the Government only 22 cents per day, any "extras" over this amount being provided by the prisoners themselves. He also wished to make it known that neither he nor the Canadian Government is responsible for the regulations governing these camps, which are conducted in accordance with instructions issued by the Imperial Government and based upon rules laid down at the Hague Tribunal. As the News has occasionally made reference to these matters from another point of view it is only right that we should publish General Otter's statement which throws new light upon the situation.

— 11 —

Please See Note -
BOTTOM PAGE 2.

ELGIN REGIMENT - orderly-room handstamp

ROBERT C. SMITH



London.
 Ont.
 Can.

Christmas greeting postcard addressed to London, Ontario, with a FIELD POST OFFICE / 625 circular dater of November 13, 1942. This marking was used by the 10th Infantry Brigade in the United Kingdom at that time. In addition, an orderly-room marking which reads, THE ELGIN REGIMENT / C.A.S.F. was applied to the card on the same day.

This newsletter has been put out by Colia Campbell -many thanks to Colin !!!
 Material desperately needed for the next issue as your editor may not have the time to be able to do it.
 Would a member like to produce an issue - all we need is the

CDN. SECT./year-month-date/APO. 214

IN NEWSLETTER #28 (September 1978), Ken Ellison replied to a prior question about this type of cancellation by indicating that it was used by the postal section serving with the U.S. Army/Airforce APO 214 located at Tachikawa Airfield near Yokohama, Japan. A period of use for this marking is reported from October 1950 to January 1952.

If the photocopies in Newsletter #27 and #28 are carefully examined, it will be noted that two different hammers are illustrated, but temporal distance has perhaps contributed to this fact having gone unnoticed. The recent acquisition of a lot of Korean War material has brought the presence of the two hammers to light as illustrated below.

A) Dated: 1951.10.26 This hammer is 30mm in diameter

B) Dated: 1951.12.31 This hammer is 38mm in diameter

Both cancellations are somewhat irregular in outline and of varying thickness of configuration which suggests that they were made locally of rubber.

B.C. Plain

Active Service

30mm

[CA]



Mrs J. L. Hood
39 York St
Sydney N.S.

38mm

CANADIAN  LEGION

[CB]



MR. & MRS S. DOVAUD
P.O. Box 16,
Lumbly, B.C.
CANADA.

BILL ROBINSON

Military Mail

World War II Overseas

FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE



This U.S.- Canadian joint force, commonly known as "The Devil's Brigade", included the Second Canadian Parachute Battalion. It was trained in the U.S.A., used American equipment and organization, and served in the Aleutians and with the U.S. Fifth Army in Italy, 1944-45.

This cover was mailed from Italy November 2, 1944, by a Private of No. 2 Company, Second Regiment, First Special Service Force. It bears a U.S. ARMY / POSTAL SERVICE machine cancel, the signature of the censoring officer, and the U.S. Army Examiner's stamp. It carries the return address A.P.O. # 4994, % P.M. New York, N.Y. The clue to the Canadian origin lies in the soldier's regimental number - A 105113, which ties his point of enlistment to Military District No. 1, with headquarters at London, Ont.

INTRODUCTION

The following article is, to some extent, exploratory in nature. The postal service which existed at Camp Borden during World War One and to the beginning of World War Two presents the possibility of a most interesting story for military postal history collectors. Perhaps the most significant point in the story is the number of different postal cancelling devices which were manufactured, and put into service, during the period. The first task is to gather these together in order of their appearance on the scene. Information from readers is solicited in order to accomplish the job.

CAMP BORDEN AND ITS MILITARY POSTMARKS 1916 - 1940

Part 1

by Colin Campbell

By the month of February, 1916 there were 16 military camps in Canada of which a few had served the Militia for some years. The remainder however were hastily built to handle the large number of recruits gathering for the Canadian Expeditionary Force which was Canada's contribution to the Allied cause in the First World War. Some of these campsites are still serving the military today.

the present day.

The need for yet one more training camp resulted from the inadequacy of the camps at Niagara, and Carling Heights (London, Ontario) to handle the training needs of the C.E.F. The site chosen, some 17000 acres, a few miles west of Barrie, Ontario was to be named Camp Borden after Frederick William Borden, cousin of R.L. Borden, Canada's Prime Minister from 1911 to 1920. Camp activity began June 15, 1916 but the official opening was staged on July 11 with thousands of soldiers on parade. It is interesting to note that the first battalion to go into camp on the Plains, or Angus Plains, as the area was known locally, was the 157th (Simcoe Foresters) under Lt. Col. D.H. MacLaren followed by the 166th, 180th and 198th Battalions.

From the accounts one reads of Borden's early days, the sandy soil on which the entire camp was built, and ashes, the result of burning thousands of pine stumps after clearing the land, was the first "enemy" the recruits were to encounter. Especially trying during a route march on a hot, windy day!

The high concentration of troops was short lived however as after little more than one year the huge camp had fulfilled its primary purpose. One reference is quoted...Unfortunately by this year (1917) the flood of recruits had become a mere rivulet and as trained battalions went overseas few infantry units were left for accomodation at Camp Borden...unquote.

As we shall see this period of intense activity brought with it the greatest number and variety of postmarks of any of the camps referred to above and the scarcity, with one exception, of these can be attested to by today's military mail collectors whose diligent search for cancellations bearing the Camp Borden name, is not often enough satisfied.

It seems evident that a Canada Militia type cancellation was the first to be proofed (see 1) and that date was May 12, 1916. To this writer's knowledge no example of usage of this hammer has yet been reported.



1

A second hammer (see 2) of the same type is known to have been used to cancel mail in 1916 and 1917. The proofing date of the hammer is not known at this time.

A third hammer of the same type is on record and known to have seen "active service" in 1918. Here again the proofing date is unknown as this is being typed. Notice the rim break at the nine o'clock position. The original hammer is in the custody of the National Postal Museum. See 3.



2

A fourth hammer of the same type, proofed July 7, 1916 is shown at (4) and reports of usage for cancelling mail are on record from the 1917 period only.

The numbers 1 to 4 identifying the Canada Militia hammers above match those used in earlier correspondence with staff at the National Postal Museum. They do not match the identifying letters used in

Canadian Military Posts, Volume I by W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop of 1984.



3



4

Over the past five years a fair quantity of the subject cancels have come onto the market and it is hoped that some earlier dates of usage (e.d.u.) can be established. Especially for hammers 2 and 3. Readers are requested to report their findings in this regard and, also, report all Borden CM strikes so our total numbers can be increased. There surely are more than 17 strikes in collections at this time. In identifying your strikes note the periods (dots) between BORDEN and ONT. in hammers 1 and 2. These are not present in the other two hammers. Hammer 3 exhibits the rim break previously mentioned although the break was not there when the hammer was first made. Hammer 4 exhibits the indented "C" of CANADA. Here is some data on which to base your reports.....please send photocopies.....

HAMMER #	year/years used	number of reports	earliest date reported
1	no reports		
2	1916 and 1917	4	AM JU (JUNE) 10, 1916
3	1917 and 1918	9	APRIL 2, 1917
4	1917	4	MARCH 28, 1917

Nil January, February or December dates have yet been reported. The year most reported is 1918.

Space filler: from the Postmaster General's Report... Revenue Camp Borden (Camp Borden A)

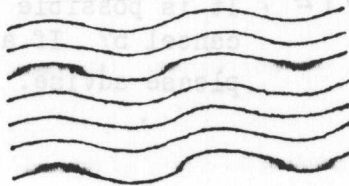
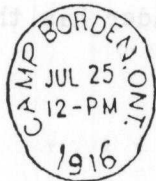
Aug 1 - Oct 31, 1916 \$37,257.73

While no Post Office Record Card has yet been found recording the opening date of the Field Post Office at Camp Borden other sources available at the Postal Museum suggest May 22, 1916 as the first operational day. Closings and re-openings followed at various intervals until World War Two.

The next cancelling device, the first of three machines cancels to appear bearing the Camp Borden title is shown at 5 with a modest number of examples reported. July 3, 1916 is, so far, the earliest date reported.

Note ONT. abbreviated

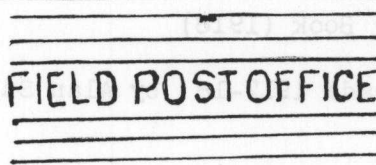
5



* See note

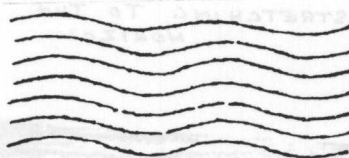
The second machine cancel is shown at 6 with August 3, 1916 the earliest reported date. This one has proved to be the most prolific of the three and is of the Universal type.

6



The third machine (see 7) is unique among Internationals with the two radial dashes at year date. August 4, 1916 is the earliest date reported at this time. This is much the toughest of the three machines to add to a collection. Notice ONTARIO in full.

7



Also in 1916, July 15 to be exact, two cancelling hammers were proofed. See 8 and 9. No dates of usage are known to this writer.



military camp A	8	
military camp B	9	

August 24, 1916 was the day the double ring cancel was proofed and is shown here at 10. No examples of usage have yet been reported. The next whose proofing date is unknown at this time has been seen on covers with its unique "pie crust" centre. The inscription is in script. Please report any dates in your collection. This latter we will designate as #11. Two very clear examples of #11 have been seen dated SEP 18, 1916 and AUG 29, 1917. Both sent at the Registered rate.

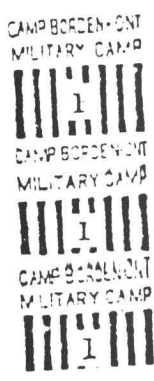
10



11 sketch only

79

A roller type cancelling device was manufactured for use at Camp Borden and is recorded in the late E.A. Smythies Canadian Roller Cancellations handbook, 1894-1930, 2nd edition.



Quite recently a properly applied example of the Borden roller has been found cancelling two Admiral stamps. No date, of course, is in evidence but August, 1916, or afterward, is a likely date of usage. See 10.

* NOTE: It is possible that a late June date is known for cancel 5? If a reader has this card/cover would he please advise.

facsimilie

REFERENCES:

Canada in the Great World War by various authorities (1921)
Vol II - Days of Preparation - United Publishers of Canada Limited, Toronto.

The Canada Year Book (1918)

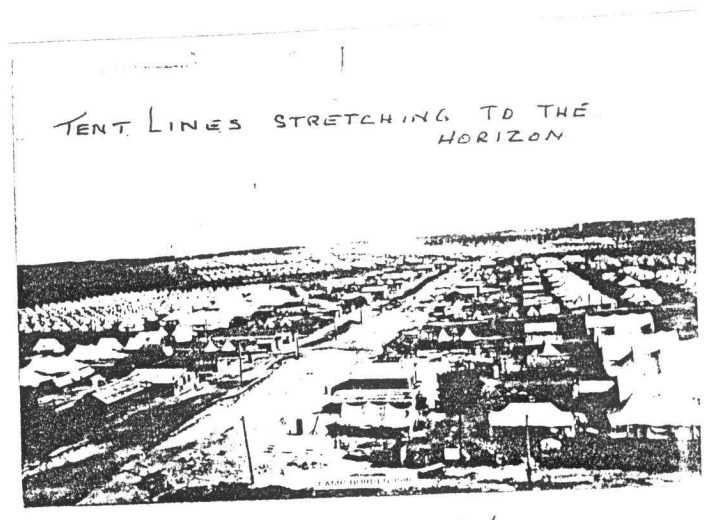
Aviation in Canada 1917-18 by Alan Sullivan
Lt. R.A.F.

Royal Flying Corps by W.E. Chajkowsky (1979)

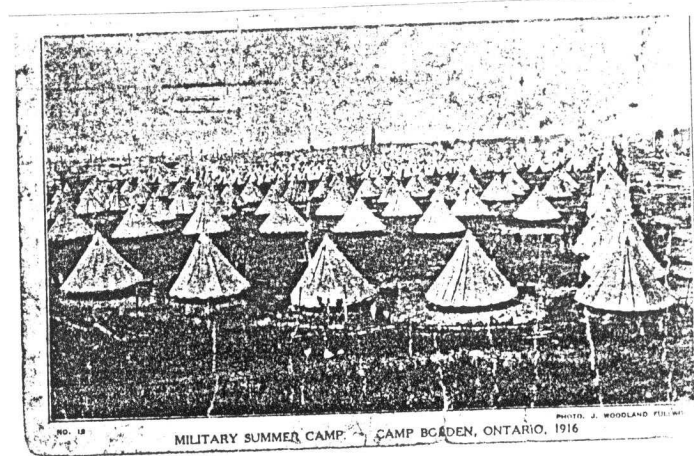
Writer's files

Fighting Men by Leslie Frost

Information Booklet - R.C.A.F.
Camp Borden (1952)



CAMP BORDEN - 1916



A FAMILIAR LANDMARK
100,000 GAL. WATER
TANK