

# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

#82.

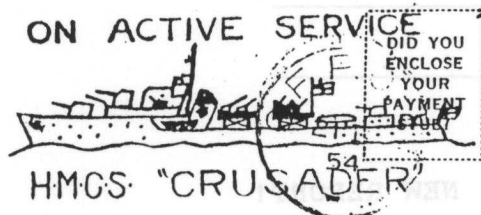
Ed. KENNETH V. ELISON  
R.R. #1, OYAMA  
B.C. V0M 1W0

JUNE 1988

Here we go again for the fifth newsletter this year. Are you all still with us?

Spring is always a lovely time of the year in the Okanagan with everything so fresh. At this time of writing in early May the apple blossoms are out in profusion. There is talk of a water shortage for irrigation this year but we have had several wonderful rains of late.

This N/L has four pages dealing with the 1918-19 Siberian Expedition and they are from three different sources. Also from the first World War is a page by Colin Pomfret dealing with a Scheveningen POW cover.



PLM 3 J. Arrowsmith 51131/E

22-~~15~~ Mess

H.M.C.S. "Crusader"  
C.N.P.O. 5075  
% Postmaster  
Victoria, B.C.  
Canada

## H.M.C.S. CRUSADER

You will recall that this topic was dealt with on pages 5-6 of N/L # 79. Further to this comes a note from Wilf Whitehouse.

"As a result of the Crusader article in N/L 79, Mike Street has sent photocopies of covers containing the same ON ACTIVE SERVICE cachet as that illustrated by Jack Davis. The return address rubber stamp on Mike's covers confirms that both the ON ACTIVE SERVICE and RETURN ADDRESS rubber stamps are from the same manufacturer and were made for 15 Mess aboard CRUSADER. In the case of Mike's covers, the writer obviously borrowed the two stamps, XXed out 15 and substituted 22 and typed his name above as per the illustration.

Because one of Mike's covers is dated 9 November 1953, which is in the first month of Crusader's second tour, it is reasonably safe to suggest that the rubber stamps were probably made in Victoria."

## NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

Dr. Keith Scherty, 3806 Oaklawn, Bryan, Texas, 77801

AIR LETTER TO  
ARMED FORCES

**BY AIR MAIL**

ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

AFFIX  
10c  
POSTAGE

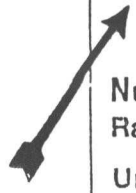
Number, Rank or  
Rating and Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit (Company, Battery,  
Ship, Squadron, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment, Branch,  
Establishment or Station \_\_\_\_\_

Service \_\_\_\_\_

**OVERSEAS.**



**FROM** (Sender's full name and address)

M \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS NEW REPORT!**

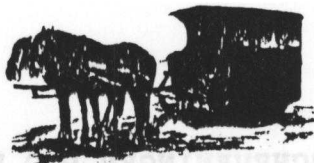
Courtesy of Wilf Whitehouse, here is a new report on a strange happening. Note the missing IF as indicated by the arrow. You will recall Wilf's great work much earlier on sorting out all these AFAL's. This item is Number 2B - please add it to your information bank.

**FINANCES**

After a session of collecting dues, the CMMSG is solvent again. We are also grateful to BNAPS and the Study Group Co-ordinator for a \$32.50 contribution to cover the 'free' issues we send out to the Editor, Librarian, etc. Thanks Jon!

Our balance at 10 May is	215.44
Less paid in advance (set aside)	119.50
Balance for use this year	95.94

Many of you have included a 'donation' in addition to the dues. To be fair we 'set aside' these monies and apply them to next year so everyone is treated equally. Is this the right thing to do?



THE CANADIAN MILITARY POSTS



VOLUME 2

BETWEEN THE WARS AND WORLD  
WAR TWO - 1920 to 1946

By

W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop



Edited by

Edward B. Proud



BOOK REVIEW CANADIAN MILITARY POSTS VOLUME II

Just out is Volume II of Bailey and Toop's series on the Canadian Military. Where Volume I dealt with the period to 1919, this book covers the years 1920 to 1946. This includes the 1939-45 war and should prove of interest to the great majority of military collectors.

This volume is hard bound and has 367 pages. Do not confuse this book with the same authors' 'booklet' reviewed in N/L # 79 which was designed as a handbook-checklist and as such is always needed by collectors.

Vol. II, as Bill Bailey calls it, is in the same format as Vol. I. Part 1 of Vol. II gives a brief history of all the military aspects of the period such as Base Post Offices, Commonwealth Air Training Plan, Fleet Mail Offices, Field Post Offices and R.C.A.F. Postal Services just to mention a few. The second part is profusely illustrated with postal markings in all the various aspects along with myriad dates and info. Most useful are the many tables provided on units, ships, bases, etc., etc.

Since many more military collectors have a good showing of World War II material this latest book should be in your library as it is another great work by Bill and Ritch!

Your editor had a hard time finding a price on the book. Finally, from Bob Lee (new address - #203 - 1139 Sutherland Ave., Kelowna, B.C., V1Y 5Y2), who says that the price has risen already from that first announced, comes his POST PAID price - \$C. 65. / \$ US. 55.

ABOVE: Part of dust jacket of new book. Greatly reduced in size- Actual size is 6 3/4 by 9 3/4 inches.

URGENTLY NEEDED.....ARTICLES FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE  
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SCHEVENINGEN P.O.W. CAMP IN HOLLAND. W.W. I

From Colin Pomfret.

The cover shown here is from a Corporal W. A. Richards of the 2nd Battalion Canadians who was an internee in Holland during World War I. Mail from Canadians in this situation in Holland is rare. You will recall that Holland was neutral then.

Markings on this cover, which will be hard to read in the photocopy, are:

PORTVRIJ / FRANC DE PORT.

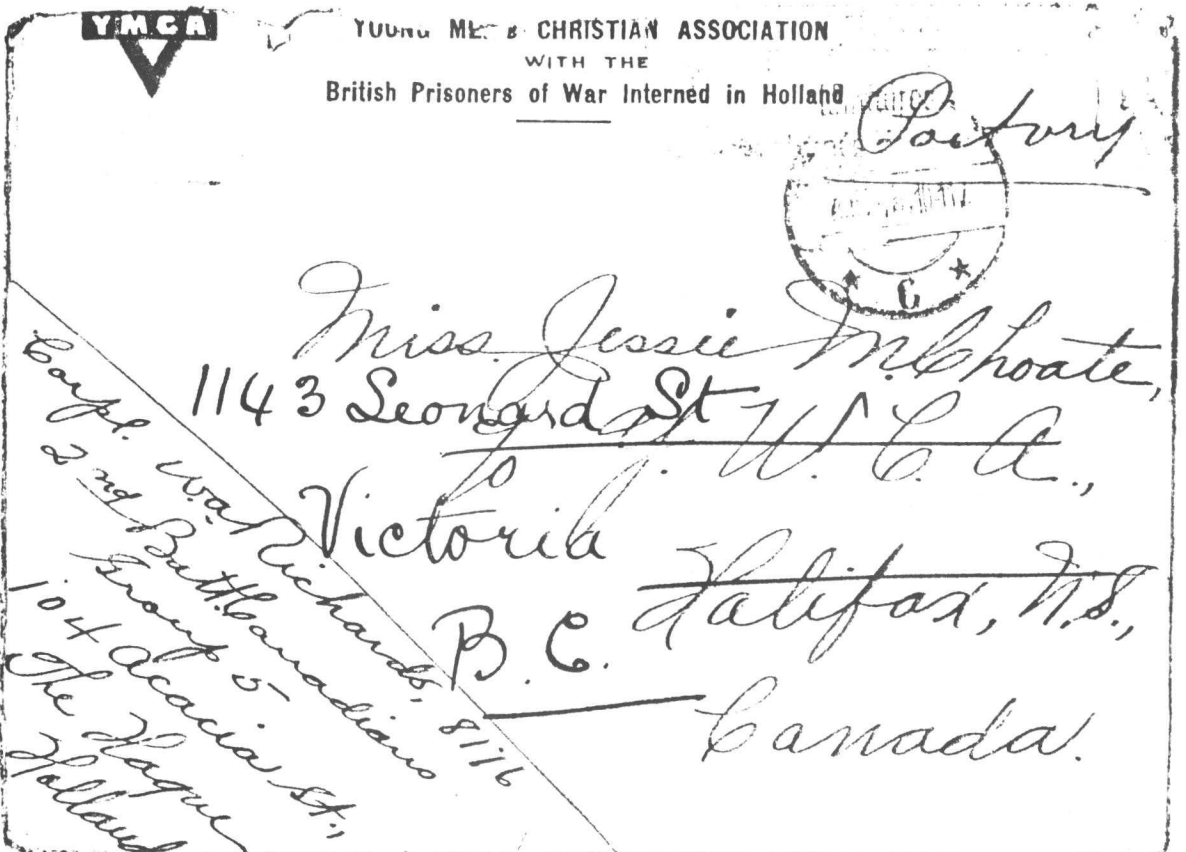
Militaires etrangers / internes dans les Pays-Bas.

Postmark- SCHEVENINGEN / 4-5-16 / \*6\*

How many of the readers have seen this special YMCA stationery used for British POW's interned in Holland?

Scheveningen is almost a suburb of The Hague (south-west Holland, on the North Sea). Mail has been seen from Canadian officers interned in Holland but these men seem to be located outside the camps. This cover, from a corporal, was from the Scheveningen Camp.

Ed. Richardson in TOPICS (#397, Sept. - Oct. 1983, Pages 12-15) has written an article on these P.O.W.'s. At the time he stated that "I have yet to see my first cover or card from a Canadian Internee held at Scheveningen." This very desirable cover seems to fill the bill!



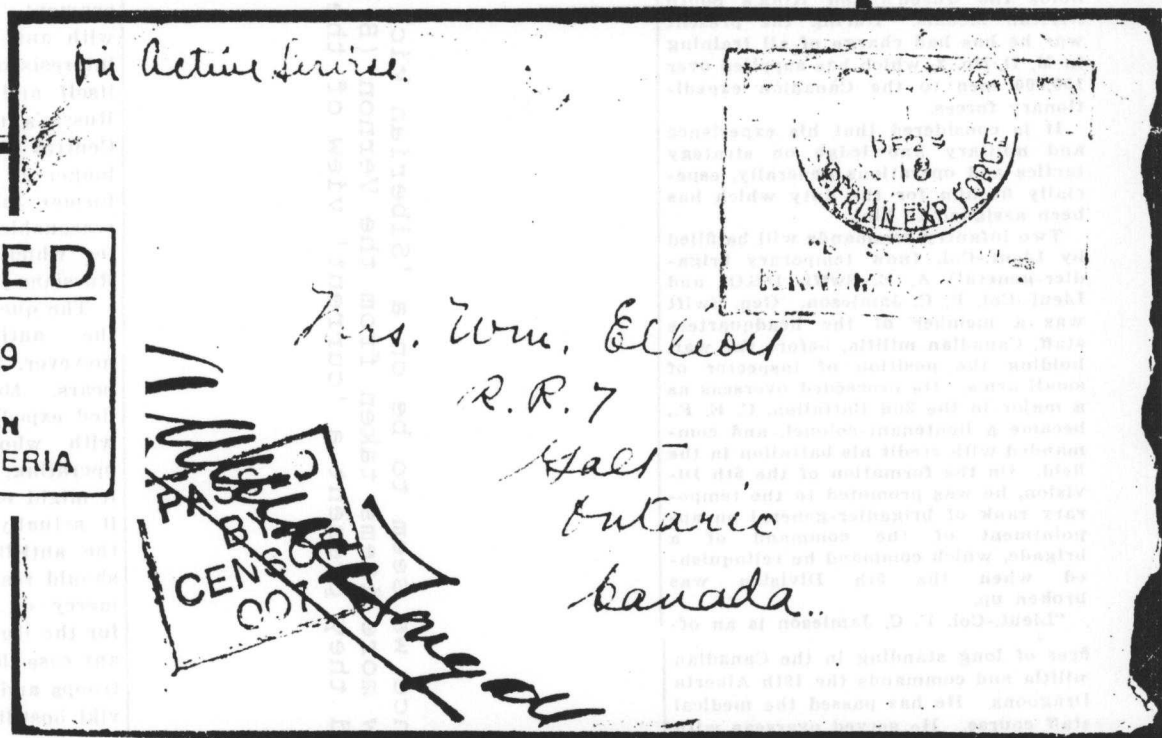
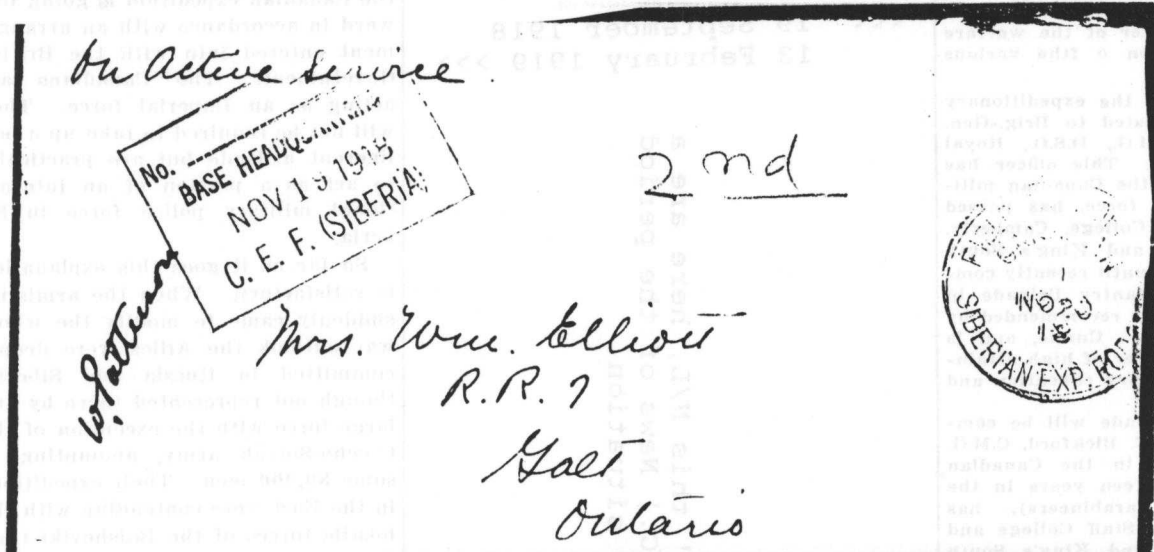
FURTHER ON THE CANADIAN SIBERIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 1918-19  
From the collection of Geo. Otty.

Shown here as best as we can reproduce them, are two great covers from Siberia.

- 1) The upper cover has the usual F.P.O. which is dated November 20, 1918. In addition note the nice BASE HEADQUARTERS rubber handstamp dated the day before.
- 2) The lower cover is of December 28, 1918 and has three markings most notable of which is the RNWMP RECEIVED. Note its position on the front of the cover! Since this marking may not show up very well we have copied from Bailey and Toop Vol. 1 a drawing of it. Note also the '007'.

For further information please see:

- a) Robt. C. Smith, PHSC Journal #36, pages 4-11.
- b) Canadian Military Posts Vol. 1, Bailey and Toop, Pge.225-7



## SIBERIAN LEADERS ARE TRAINED MEN

### Senior Officers For Expeditionary Force Have Been Carefully Selected.

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—An official list of the officers who will serve with the Canadian expeditionary force in Siberia is issued by the militia department. The list is not quite complete and further appointments will be announced later. The statement of the militia department follows:

"The selection of officers for these duties more particularly for the senior commands, has been a matter of much concern and careful consideration. The troops to be sent to Siberia consist of a self-contained force of all arms and services, and the nature of the operations to be carried on differs widely from those on the western front. It has been necessary, therefore, to select officers who possess not only the ability to command, but technical qualifications of a high order in view of the open character of the warfare and the co-operation of the various arms.

"The command of the expeditionary force will be entrusted to Brig.-Gen. J. H. Elmsley, C.M.G., D.S.O., Royal Canadian Dragoons. This officer has long experience in the Canadian militia and permanent force, has passed the Imperial Staff College, Camberly, holds the Queen's and King's South African medals and until recently commanded the 8th Infantry Brigade in France. He is highly recommended by Lieut.-Gen. Sir A. W. Currie, and is recognized as an officer of high attainments, superior military education and great experience.

"The infantry brigade will be commanded by Col. H. C. Bickford, C.M.G. This officer served in the Canadian militia and for thirteen years in the Imperial army (Carabineers), has passed the Imperial Staff College and holds the Queen's and King's South African medals. During the present war he has had charge of all training in M. D. No. 2, which has supplied over 100,000 men to the Canadian expeditionary forces.

It is considered that his experience and military knowledge on strategy tactics and operations generally, especially fit him for the duty which has been assigned to him.

Two infantry commands will be filled by Lieut.-Col. (now temporary brigadier-general) A. E. Swift, D.S.O., and Lieut.-Col. F. C. Jamleson. Gen. Swift was a member of the headquarters staff, Canadian militia, before the war, holding the position of inspector of small arms. He proceeded overseas as a major in the 2nd Battalion, C. E. F., became a lieutenant-colonel, and commanded with credit his battalion in the field. On the formation of the 5th Division, he was promoted to the temporary rank of brigadier-general on appointment of the command of a brigade, which command he relinquished when the 5th Division was broken up.

"Lieut.-Col. F. C. Jamleson is an officer of long standing in the Canadian militia and commands the 19th Alberta Dragoons. He has passed the medical staff course. He served overseas with the first divisional mounted troops in his present rank, and is considered by General Currie to be a most capable officer."

### MOUNTED POLICE FOR SIBERIAN FORCE

Regina, Sask., Aug. 20.—Official announcement is made by Commissioner Perry, S. C. M. G., head of the R. N. W. M. P., that the famous riders of the plains will send a unit with the Canadian forces to Siberia.

One hundred and sixty men of all ranks are to be recruited, and 180 horses will be attached to the unit. This force will be mobilized at Regina immediately. There will be room for a limited number of recruits, all of whom must be expert horsemen and good shots. A limited number of shoeing smiths and saddlers will also be recruited.

22 August 1918

<<< 19 September 1918  
13 February 1919 >>>

Since we seem to be on a 'Siberian kick' this N/L, here are a few more items taken from the Vernon (B.C.) News of the period and they present a 'current' view of the situation.

### THE SIBERIAN EXPEDITION.

Some light is thrown upon a matter, the status of which has not been clear to the minds of many Canadians, by a letter of the Minister of Militia in reply to a protest against the despatch of Canadian soldiers to Siberia. In various quarters it has been felt, remarks a Toronto paper, that since the cessation of hostilities the need for persistence in the effort to create an "eastern front" in Russia has vanished. Though this view does not take into account the fact that it is impossible to regard an armistice as obviating the need for precautionary measures, it has sufficient reason behind it to make an explanation of the situation necessary.

General Newburn points out that the Canadian expedition is going forward in accordance with an arrangement entered into with the British Government. The Canadians are acting as an Imperial force. They will not be required to take up a belligerent attitude but are practically to act as a portion of an international military police force in Siberia.

So far as it goes this explanation is satisfactory. When the armistice suddenly came to modify the whole war outlook the Allies were deeply committed in Russia and Siberia. Though not represented there by any large force with the exception of the Czecho-Slovak army, amounting to some 80,000 men. Their expeditions in the East were contending with the hostile forces of the Bolsheviki Government. They were co-operating with anti-Bosheviki elements in the interests of law and order in Russia itself and of the reconstitution of Russia's military opposition to the Central Powers. The latter is no longer an object of solicitude. The former might with some show of reasonableness be regarded as a matter which ought to be left to the Russians themselves.

The question of ceasing to support the anti-Bolsheviki Government, however, is not so simple as it appears. Merely to withdraw the allied expeditions might involve those with whom they have been co-operating, in irremediable disaster; it might easily appear to be, even if it actually were not, a betrayal of the anti-Bolsheviki, especially if it should result in placing them at the mercy of the assassins responsible for the Russian "reign of terror." In any case the withdrawal of the Allied troops and stores in face of Bolsheviki hostility might react to the disadvantage of other Allied interests in the Far East. The operation must also take time and would require to be protected from interruption by hostile action.

## Appendix Two

## A TRIP TO SIBERIA.

THE departure of Canadian troops to Siberia gave to the Directors in Canada an opportunity of doing what they would have wished to do Overseas had it been found possible. The Chaplains preparing to leave Camp Willows, Victoria, in Dec. 1918, found that they were to have with them a K. of C. Secretary who would look after the recreation and comforts of the troops. Gramophones furnished from Ottawa had already arrived and made such a decided hit that a number of other musical instruments were bought by the Secretary, who also laid in a stock of good things for distribution at Christmas time on the boat. The convoy left Victoria on Dec. 21st and arrived after a stormy voyage at Vladivostok on Jan. 12. Three weeks later the Secretary found that 70 per cent of the Canadian troops were to be located at Gournostia, about 12 miles from the City. He then endeavoured to locate a building for a K. of C. Club in Vladivostok; but this was found impossible. The only accommodation which could be secured was part of the barrack property at Gournostia which was released by the Military Authorities about March 1st. The Camp Engineers erected a stage and provided benches and tables to accommodate 500 men. The formal Hut opening took place on March 15th when Brig. Gen'l Brickford with his Staff and about 800 "other ranks" witnessed an excellent programme of 8 boxing bouts. The exercise of the "manly art" afterwards became a weekly event in camp life and the K. of C. evenings were looked forward to, not only by Canadians but also by British and American jack-tars who journeyed to the camp from the harbour for this purpose.

When the fine weather set in about the middle of April, outdoor sports were organized and the C. A. H. had the honour of presenting the prizes given on all these occasions. The spirit of our work was well observed

by the Secretary who, during the stay of the Army in Siberia, distributed a million cigarettes and a hundred thousand packages of gum. Besides the distribution thus made to the units, the Secretary helped out the work of the Chaplains in distributing to the Hospitals many comforts provided by the C. A. H. and the Canadian Red Cross.

On May 15th, the necessity of the Hut had ceased to exist and the one and only Secretary "on active service" returned to Vancouver and rendered an account of his careful stewardship. The excellent results thus obtained by one layman will give food for thought to many a Catholic Chaplain who had had to fulfil the duties of K. of C. Secretary in addition to his own. Consolation may be found in the reflection that is what *was* done was *well* done.

In termination of this brief account we are very proud to be able to add to it a word of friendly appreciation from a Senior Church of England Chaplain, who after long service overseas, was also with the troops in Siberia:

*"I very gladly add my testimony to the excellence of the work of the C. A. H. organization with the C. E. F. (Siberia). Owing to the most discouraging handicap of lack of proper transportation and accommodation, there was some delay in getting the work started; but once under way, it soon became a very prominent feature with the troops and a boon to all, irrespective of rank or creed. The Secretary and the two Chaplains most closely associated with him in the free distribution of the many good things among the hospitals and barracks, deserve the greatest praise for their untiring efforts, as, indeed, they have the sincerest thanks of all ranks."*

From Robert C. Smith comes these two pages dealing with the Canadian Siberian Expedition of 1918-19. The text is taken from A HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, CATHOLIC ARMY HUTS which was published in 1922. Shown overleaf is a lovely cover from that theatre.

# Patriotic stationery



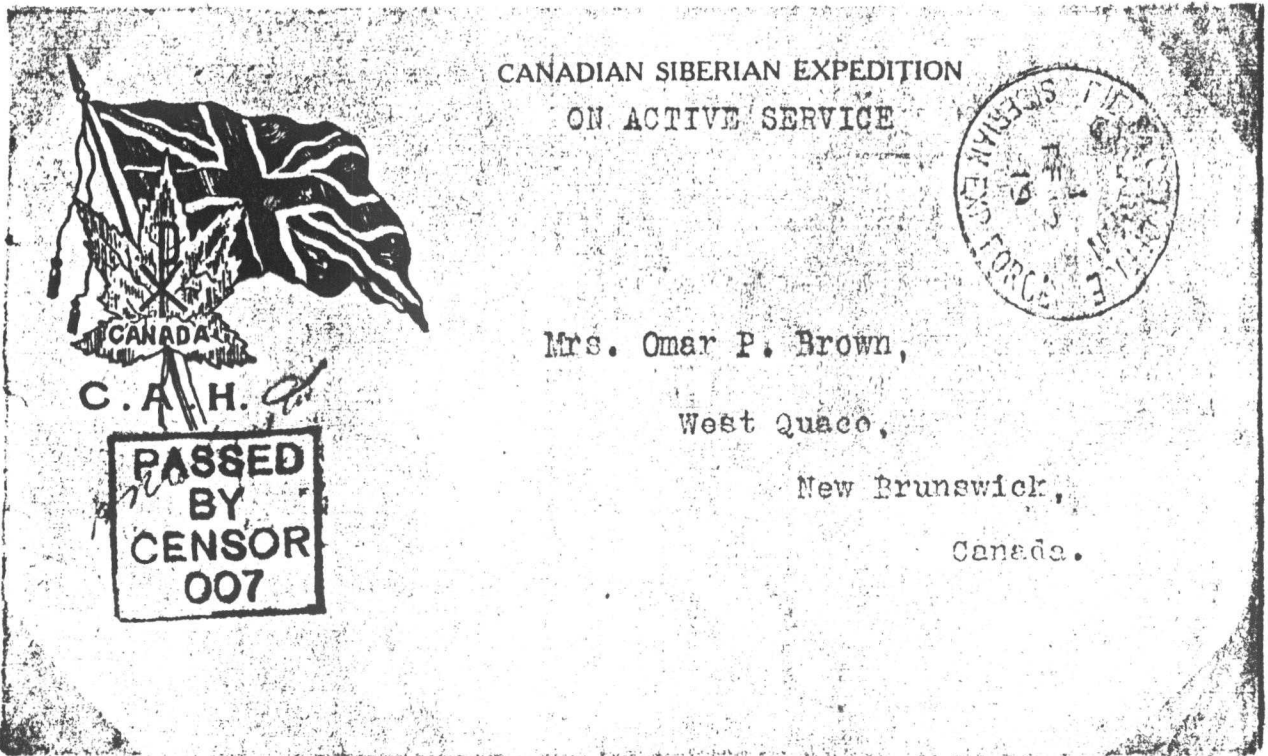
Dear Mother,

## ALL SOLDIERS WELCOME

Catholic Army Huts.

Canadian Siberian Expedition

Vladivostok, 6 / 2 / 1919.



An example of the earliest of three similar but distinct designs of patriotic cover with part of the letter it enclosed. The cover is post-marked with one strike of the FIELD POST OFFICE / CANADIAN / SIBERIAN EXP. FORCE hammer 1 of February 12, 1919, and has a violet PASSED BY CENSOR 007 boxed handstamp, countersigned in pencil by H.R.Christie. The cover reads CANADIAN SIBERIAN EXPEDITION, and shows a Union Jack on which is superimposed a maple leaf with the Christian chi rho symbol and CANADA, atop C.A.H. (Catholic Army Huts). ST MARTIN'S / N.B. and WEST QUACO / N.B. broken circles of March 13 are backstamped on the cover.