

N A P
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Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER # 84
NOVEMBER 1988

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R.R. #1, OYAMA
B.C. Y0H 1W0

Without further ado, as the saying goes:

BNAPEX 88

Even though we did not schedule a Study Group meeting at the Convention in September, there was an informal gathering of some half dozen members in someone's room. It is gathered that many things were discussed but a report is not at hand. Thanks to those involved!

CHAIRMAN OF THE CMMSG

Many of you may have realized that we have, as a Study Group, been operating under 'relaxed rules' since Colin Campbell took early retirement at the end of our issue # 50. (1982). Any formal meetings that we have had tended to let the status be quo, so to speak.

Now that our Study Group Co-ordinator, Jon Johnson, has come up with operating guidelines it is time to pull ourselves together. As the only 'officer' of this Group, the Editor wishes to correct the situation. Accordingly we are appointing E. R. (Ritch) Toop as the Chairman pro-tem until BNAPEX at Hamilton next year when the position can be filled in the proper manner.

Thanks Ritch for going along with this - there will be space allotted in the next issue for Chairmans Comments! Ritch's address is Box 9026, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3T8 and he would be happy to hear of your complaints, etc., as to why the editor has not published the material you sent in a long time ago!

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In response to the suggestion in the last N/L, we now have someone who will look into this matter. None other than Ritch has volunteered, but as he says, it may be a long term project. Thanks again Ritch!

NEW MEMBERS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please welcome to the Group:
Dean W. Mario, Box 342, MPO, Saskatoon, Sask., S7K 3L3
Victor L. Willson, 2818 Pierre Pl., College Station, TX 77840

Gordon Hill has moved to:
11 Coach Side Terrace, SW, Calgary, Alta., T3H 2T3

THE MILITARY COLLECTORS CLUB OF CANADA

This group collects all area of Canadian Militaria, but am not sure about postal history. Should anyone desire more info please contact the Secretary, Geoff. Fairless, at 15 Abel Place, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 2Z5.

The information above comes from our new member, Dean Mario.

LETTER FROM COLIN POMFRET IN JULY

Colin has turned up an interesting marking and we wonder if someone can help us out. Reproduction of the cover is a problem but the marking appears to be:

EXPERIMENTAL S. O. /

15 APRIL 45

The cover was sent from India by 2nd Lt. W. G. Calder who also signed as censor and then the UNIT CENSOR / G88 was applied. Note also FIELD CENSOR / 237. The double ringed marking is the usual style for the area but what about the EXPERIMENTAL?



BAHAMAS ARTICLE N/L 83, PAGE 3.

In the 'heat of the battle' there were several omissions for which apologies are tendered. The article was used with the permission of Editor, Mark W. Swetland, of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. From there the article came by way of Robert Lemire to Colin Campbell and then to this N/L. An update has been published by the BCPJ and we will reprint it when received.

MICHAEL DOBBS FROM LAST N/L

We have had no reply from Bill Bailey as per our last N/L, page # 2. It is presumed that our letter to Bill was lost in his move!

Michael Dobbs of the F.P.H.S. pointed out "... one small correction (is) required concerning British F.P.O.'s in France 1944/45. On page 8 (of N/L 80) you show a picture post card with FPO 801 from Paris. The notation states that the Paris APO was APO S719, later S720."

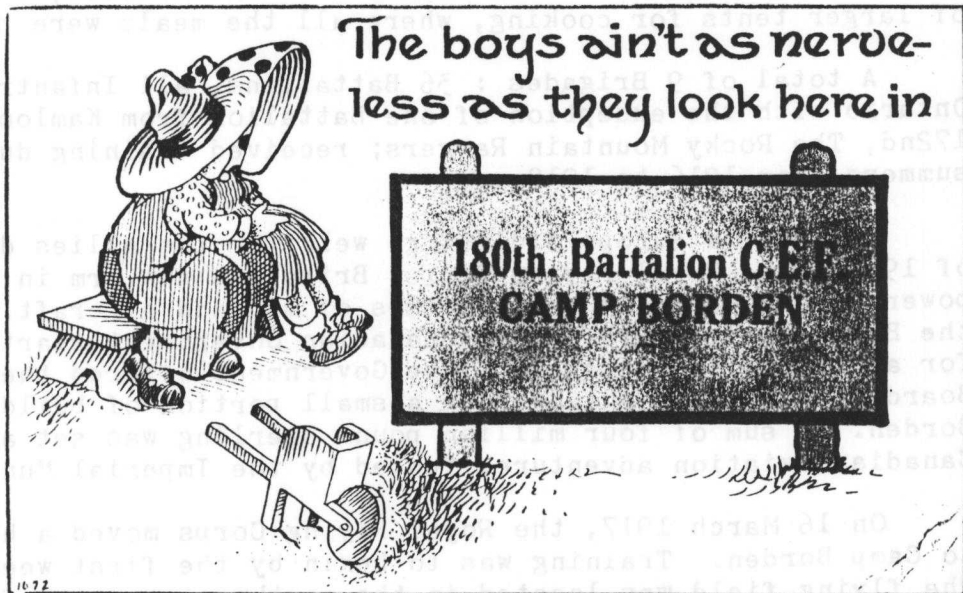
"This is not correct. Paris was always APO S720: it opened on 3 October 1944 and was still open at June 1946 at least. FPO 801 has been recorded used at Paris since 30 October 1944 and the datestamp was returned to the Home Postal Centre, Nottingham, UK on 10 October 1947."

"APO S719 was, in fact, ...near Boulogne itself by February 1945 and closed on 17 March 1945."

Thank you Michael for advising us of the situation. This is one of the benefits of exchanging N/L's with the FPMS.

CAMP BORDEN POST CARDS WW I

Dave Haines has sent in the article on these interesting items. If you can help Dave with his compilation, the address is 33 Lillian Crescent, Barrie, Ont., L4N 4P8. Since not all of the article will fit in, it has been necessary to split it into two N/L's.



If all goes well in its production we will have another Newsletter out to you before Christmas and it will be on Christmas cards of the RCAF since the one last year on the RCN was so popular.

Camp Borden - POST CARDS

Dave Haines

In 1902, after the end of the Boer War, the Militia Department of Canada saw the need for a newer, larger and more centrally located training camp for the Army. England and Germany went to war in August 1914, but it wasn't until 11 May 1916 that the approval was granted by the Privy Council, to purchase lands in Simcoe County, Ontario for the new army camp.

The new camp was located some five miles north of Alliston and fifteen miles west of Barrie in the Townships of Tosoronto and Essa. The land is sandy with small hilly sections, with a river running through it. The militia considered this land particularly well adapted for their purposes. Lumber barons had originally stripped the lands some twenty years prior, never replanting new trees.

The new base was given the name of Camp Horror, by the men who laboured to hack and chop out the brush and trees and pull stumps, then collect this material in piles and burn it. Sir Sam Hughes called the new camp - CAMP BORDEN, after the Minister of Militia and Defence - Sir Frederick William Borden.

As the land was cleared, surveyors laid out the main camp in the shape of a long narrow city with the central street running south to north; about two and one quarter miles long. From the central street ran side streets, about one half mile in length. Permanent structures were planned and eventually built; but the first summer of 1916 was spent under canvas. Hundreds of tents were erected, including dozens of larger tents for cooking, where all the meals were prepared and served.

A total of 9 Brigades : 36 Battalions, all Infantry, all from Ontario with the exception of one Battalion from Kamloops, BC - the 172nd, The Rocky Mountain Rangers; received training during the three summers from 1916 to 1918.

The war in Europe did not go well for the allies during the summer of 1916. The Royal Flying Corps, Britain's new arm in her military power, also sustained heavy losses of men and aircraft. On 2 June 1916, the British Air Board and the Canadian Government started negotiations for air training in Canada. The Government offered the British Air Board 1,000 acres of land plus a small portion of buildings at Camp Borden. A sum of four million pound sterling was set aside for the Canadian aviation adventure, funded by the Imperial Munitions Board.

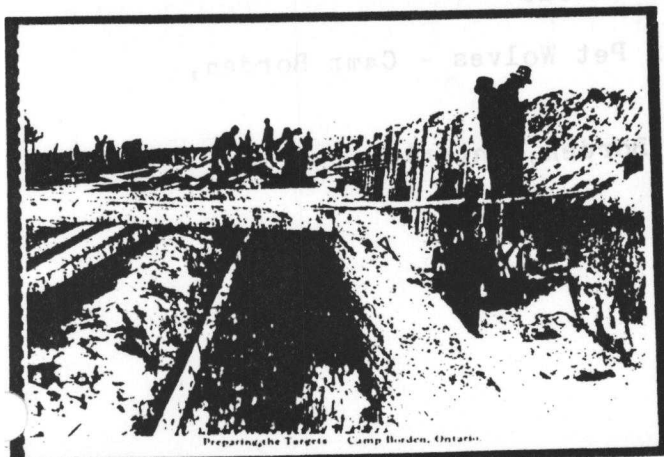
On 16 March 1917, the Royal Flying Corps moved a headquarters staff to Camp Borden. Training was to begin by the first week of April. The flying field was located in the southwest corner of Camp Borden, with a total of 57 buildings being built of which 15 were hangars.

The first allotment of aeroplanes for Borden arrived in the third week of March 1917. By the end of September, Borden's tally was - 116 - J.N.4.; 48 - J.N. 4.A.; and 167 engines. The first five Canadian Reserve Squadrons, as they were called, were formed for Borden. This was the 42nd Wing, Royal Flying Corps, Canada.

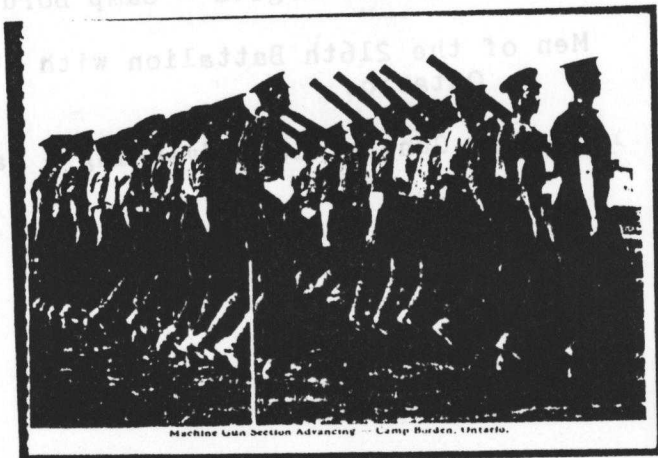
During April 1917, the Americans entered the First War. Arrangements were made to have American pilots trained at Camp Borden. In return, training fields in Texas, were used during the winter of 1917-18. The Corps, returning in the spring to Camp Borden and other areas.

The war to end wars finally happened. Germany surrendered on 11 November 1918, ending the war and also the air training at Camp Borden. During the two years of aviation training, Camp Borden had produced 1,884 pilots: 1,153 in 1917 and 731 in 1918. Included in the figures were 51 pilots for the US Army and 21 for the US Navy.

It appears that several publishers and printers took advantage of the popular hobby of the era, and produced several groups of Post Cards showing the construction of Camp Borden, and the troops during training periods. Various cards showing the Battalions, their crests, and poems, are also found. I have attempted to make lists of the various cards found, but in most cases, it is not fully known what actually exists. It would be greatly appreciated if fellow collectors could report any cards in their possession. If used, the date used and type of cancel used. Hopefully, fairly accurate lists can be produced.



Preparing the Targets - Camp Borden, Ontario.



Machine Gun section Advancing - Camp Borden, Ontario.

GEORGE CLARK - FEDERATED PRESS

A group of cards showing the troops in various stages of training of the WWI era. It is believed these cards were produced in a booklet (note the rouletting at the left edge). The cards were the work of: George Clark, Publisher, Southam Building, Montreal. Printed by The Federated Press Limited, Montreal, Canada.

View from Water Tower. 8A Getting ready their first meal - Camp Borden, Ontario

Battalion off on a Route March - Camp Borden, Ontario

Signallers at work - Camp Borden, Ontario

Getting to know the Rifle parts - Camp Borden, Ontario

Words of Sound Advise from the Instructor - Camp Borden, Ontario

Machine Gun Section on the Parade Ground - Camp Borden, Ontario

Recruits Learning Rifle Drill - Camp Borden, Ontario

Brig.-General Logie. Commandant - Camp Borden, Ontario

Battalion with Full Marching Kit being Inspected - Camp Borden, Ontario.

Explaining the Parts of a Rifle - Camp Borden, Ontario

Physical Drill - Camp Borden, Ontario

Changing Guard - Camp Borden, Ontario

Practicing with the Lewis Gun - Camp Borden, Ontario

Preparing the Targets - Camp Borden, Onatrio

Men of the 216th Battalion with their Pet Wolves - Camp Borden, Ontario.

) Machine Gun Section Advancing - Camp Borden, Ontario



180th BATTALION
 BORDEN CAMP
 ONTARIO, CANADA

From.....
 Reg. No.....
 Company

**HURRAH FOR THE LAND OF THE
 MAPLE.**

Hurrah
 Ever
 And hu
 Long

Our bro
 And
 Fightin
 Are

And wh
 And
 We'll fi
 Until

At Duty's Call



THE
129th Canadian Battalion

BORDEN CAMP
 ONTARIO, CANADA

A.M. Reg. No. 57,231

From One of The Bunch

I am sending you our Battalion Card
 For a letter this time instead.
 We are drilling all day good and hard
 And at night we are ready for bed.
 Our Battalion is a good bunch of boys,
 Always ready for a lark or a joke;
 You hear funny sayings of things they do
 With their pay, and how some go broke.
 I am feeling alright and ready to go,
 And our boys all feel the same;
 We will get these Huns upon the run
 And spoil their nice old game.
 So I hope that you and all of yours
 Are in the best of health.
 The other things I wish to you
 Are Happiness and Wealth.

BATTALION CREST CARDS

As mentioned before, 36 Battalions were stationed at Camp Borden during WW I era. Various types of cards were issued for the various Battalions. The "so called Crest Cards" were published in Canada by Purdy & O'Donnell, 43 Queen St. E., Toronto; and shows the unit crest or shield on a vertical format with six flags above the crest and a battle scene below. I have the following cards:

122 nd Battalion
147 th Battalion
159 th Battalion
216 th Battalion

The following two cards does not have the inscription:


110 th Battalion
168 th Battalion

Another version of the Battalion Cards has the following inscription - A.M. Reg. No. 57,231. Some of these cards are on a cream paper while others are on a pale light green card. The few I have are from the following Battalions:

129 th Battalion
125 th Battalion
177 th Battalion

A third type of Battalion Card exists with no means of showing who produced them. I have the following two Cards:

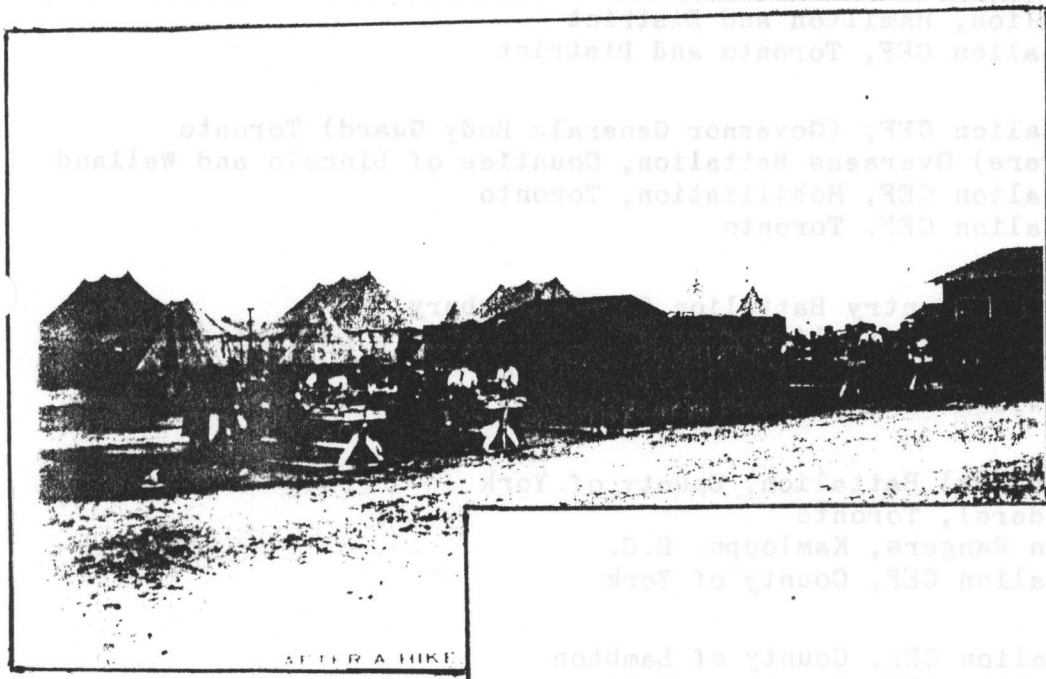
124 th Battalion
180 th Battalion

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>AT DUTY'S CALL</p>  <p>THE 124th CANADIAN OVERSEAS BATTALION BORDEN CAMP, CANADA</p> | <p>The Farewell of the G.G.B.G. LEAVING BORDEN CAMP, 1916</p> <p>"I'm thinking of YOU everyday"</p> <p>A Soldiers' Letter</p> <p>I haven't had time to sit down and write, And thought perhaps you might pine; So I send you this card just to say I'm alright, And getting along "real fine"</p> <p>When the Empire's Call for more men to fight For the honour—in me caused a thrill; I felt I must or else I should "bust," So I am leaving Borden and drill</p> <p>My duty calls me as you very well know, To the Front where fightin' is done; And when our bunch get a grip on the foe There's no letting go till they've won.</p> <p>So cheer up, my dear, tho' parted we are, And though I'm going far away, My loved ones are ever FIRST in my thoughts, I'm thinking of YOU everyday.</p> |
|--|---|

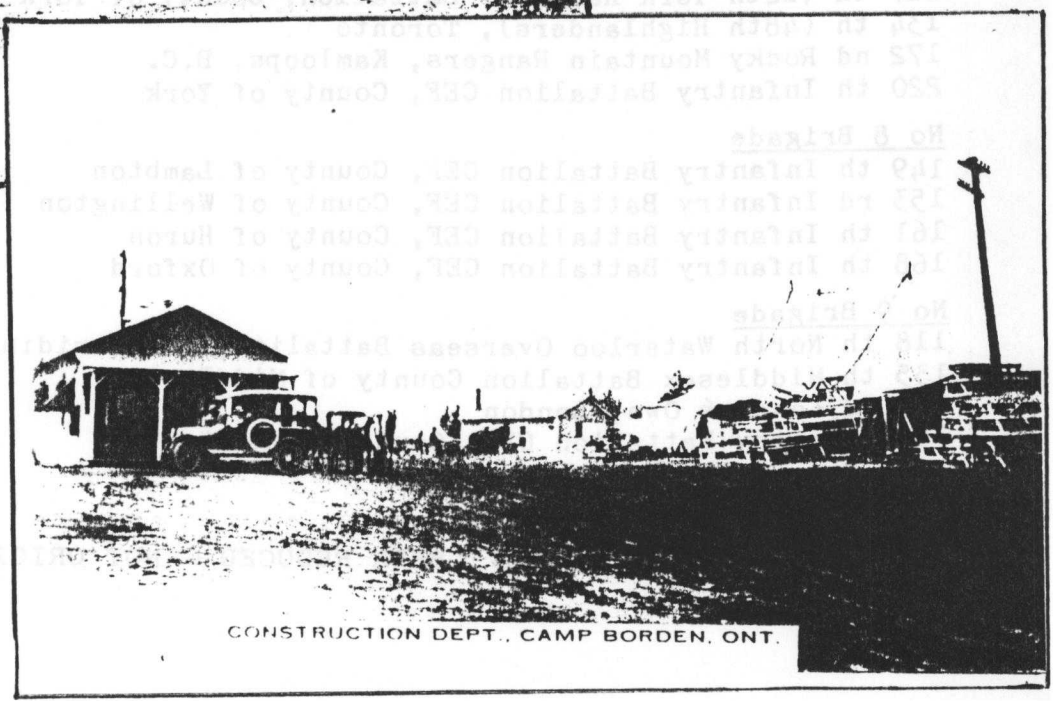
AZO - PHOTO CARDS

A fairly extensive group of cards exists, all are photocards, but there is no indication of who published or issued the cards. Some have verbal descriptions of the camp scene, while others just have Camp Borden, Ont. The following is a list of what is known:

- Construction Dept., Camp Borden, Ont.
- Camp Borden, Ont. (Tents behind power lines)
- Starting on a Route March, Camp Borden, Ont.
- After a Hike, Camp Borden, Ont.
- YMCA Tent, Camp Borden, Ont.
- Post Office, Camp Borden, Ont.
- Headquarters, Camp Borden, Ont.
- Stables, Camp Borden, Ont.



AFTER A HIKE



CONSTRUCTION DEPT., CAMP BORDEN, ONT.

No 1 Brigade

170 th - Mississauga Overseas Battalion, Toronto
 204 th - Toronto Beavers Battalion, Toronto and District
 126 th (Peel) Battalion CEF County of Peel
 129 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Wentworth

No 2 Brigade

122 nd Infantry Battalion CEF, District of Muskoka
 157 th Simcoe Foresters Overseas Battalion CEF, County of Simcoe
 177 th (Simcoe Foresters) Battalion CEF, County of Simcoe
 201 st Infantry Battalion CEF, Toronto

No 3 Brigade

114 th Brocks Rangers, Haldimand County, Six Nations Indian Reserve
 133 rd Battalion (Norfolk's Own), Norfolk County
 125 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Brant
 166 th Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Toronto

No 4 Brigade

147 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Grey
 180th Sportsman Battalion, Toronto
 205 th (Tiger) Battalion, Hamilton and District
 208 th Infantry Battalion CEF, Toronto and District

No 5 Brigade

124 th Infantry Battalion CEF, (Governor Generals Body Guard) Toronto
 176 th (Niagara Rangers) Overseas Battalion, Counties of Lincoln and Welland
 213 th Infantry Battalion CEF, Mobilization, Toronto
 216 th Infantry Battalion CEF, Toronto

No 6 Brigade

159 th (1st Algonquin) Infantry Battalion CEF, Haleybury
 164 th (Halton & Dufferin) Battalion, Counties of Halton & Dufferin
 198 th (Canadian Buffs) Infantry Battalion, Toronto
 228 th Infantry Battalion CEF, Nippissing & Sudbury

No 7 Brigade

127 th (12th York Rangers) Battalion, County of York
 134 th (48th Highlanders), Toronto
 172 nd Rocky Mountain Rangers, Kamloops, B.C.
 220 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of York

No 8 Brigade

149 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Lambton
 153 rd Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Wellington
 161 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Huron
 168 th Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Oxford

No 9 Brigade

118 th North Waterloo Overseas Battalion, North riding of Waterloo
 135 th Middlesex Battalion County of Middlesex
 142 nd London's Own, London
 186 Infantry Battalion CEF, County of Kent

POST CARDS HAVE BEEN REDUCED - NOT ORIGINAL SIZE

TO BE CONTINUED...