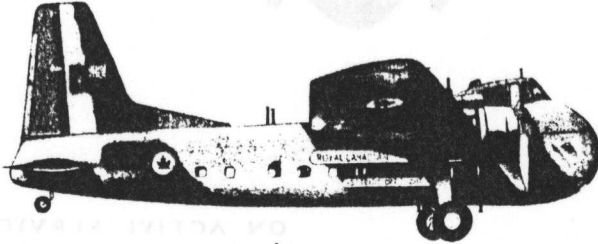


Season's Greetings



*137 Transport Flight
Langar, England*

This card shows an old Bristol Bomber and the inscription 137 TRANSPORT FLIGHT, LANGAR, ENGLAND. When the Air Division was moved Overseas in the early 1950's, the main Supply Depot was located in Langar. The Bristol Bomber, originally built in the 1940's, was still being used in 1968.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE CHRISTMAS CARDS

by Dave Hanes

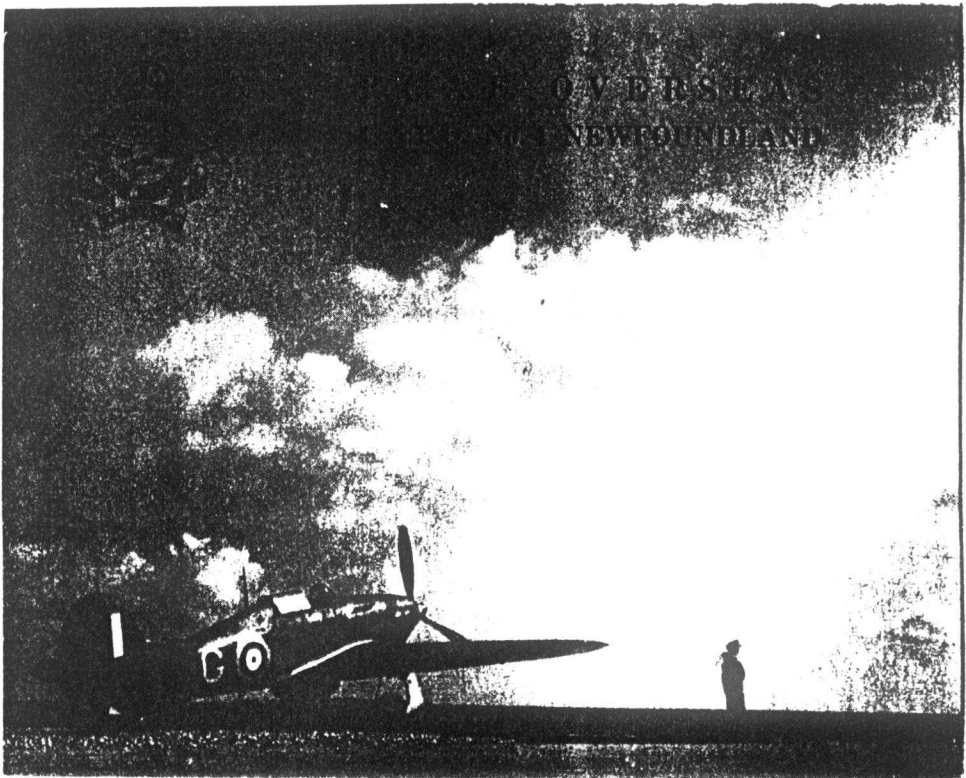
Wilf Whitehouse's article a year ago on the Royal Canadian Navy's Christmas Cards was very enjoyable and a nice change from the normal postal history, and was very well suited for the Holiday Season. This year, I think it only right that the so called "Gentlemen" of the original three Forces - the Air Force - be represented.

The R.C.A.F. is, or was, the junior of the three Forces which saw its pre-birth during the WW I era, and was finally fully recognized in 1924. It wasn't until WW II and the British Commonwealth Air Training Program that saw the expansion of a tiny token group grow up to a Force with over 40 operational squadrons in the field, on Coastal Defence and on shipping protection here in Canada. Overseas, at the end of the War, 47 R.C.A.F. Squadrons operated in Western Europe, the Mediterranean and the Far East. Thousands more R.C.A.F. Personnel served in the air and on the ground with R.A.F. formations in every part of the globe.

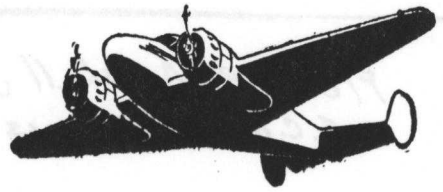
During the Holiday Season, greetings were sent to family members and friends from the many flying bases and units all over the world. These Christmas Cards will attempt to show a few of the various cards used during the WW II era up until the more modern times - the late 70's.



This is a 'general type' card with the term "ON ACTIVE SERVICE". This same type of card also exists minus the inscription. It is thought to be mass produced and could be used from Overseas Units and Bases here in Canada.



This card has the inscription R.C.A.F. OVERSEAS / C.A.F.O. NO. 4 NEWFOUNDLAND (Gander). Pictured is a Hawker Hurricane ready for flight.



May a Merry Christmas
bring to you
All the season's good cheer
All it's gladness, too.

This card is very deceiving as it appears as nothing special until it is opened up. Inside is an aircraft, an Expeditior, and Seasons Greetings. This card was sent from No. 2 Bombing and Gunnery School at Mossbank, Saskatchewan.



WOMEN'S DIVISION

In July 1941 a Women's Division (W.D.) of the R.C.A.F. was formed to release men for combat duties. This is a card with the R.C.A.F. Crest and the inscription "WOMEN'S DIVISION".

F/O K.P. Marshall J6962
A.C.A.F. Overseas



403 SQUADRON
OVERSEAS

Christmas 1942

This card shows the R.C.A.F. Crest with the inscription 403 SQUADRON / OVERSEAS / CHRISTMAS 1942. The Squadron was formed at Baginton, Warwickshire, England, on 1 March 1941 as the first R.C.A.F. Squadron to be formed Overseas. Also shown is the reverse of the cover in which the card was sent. Note the 403 Squadron Orderly Room marking.



Que ce Joyeux Noël escorte

Gaité, bonheur, félicité

Et que le Nouvel An apporte

Un surcroît de prospérité

Sylvia J. Aubry

No. 13 S.F.T.S.

St. Hubert, Que.

This card shows the R.C.A.F. Crest with a wreath of holly and bells. Inside the greetings are in French. This one was sent from No. 13 S.F.T.S. (Service Flying Training School) at St. Hubert. Quebec.



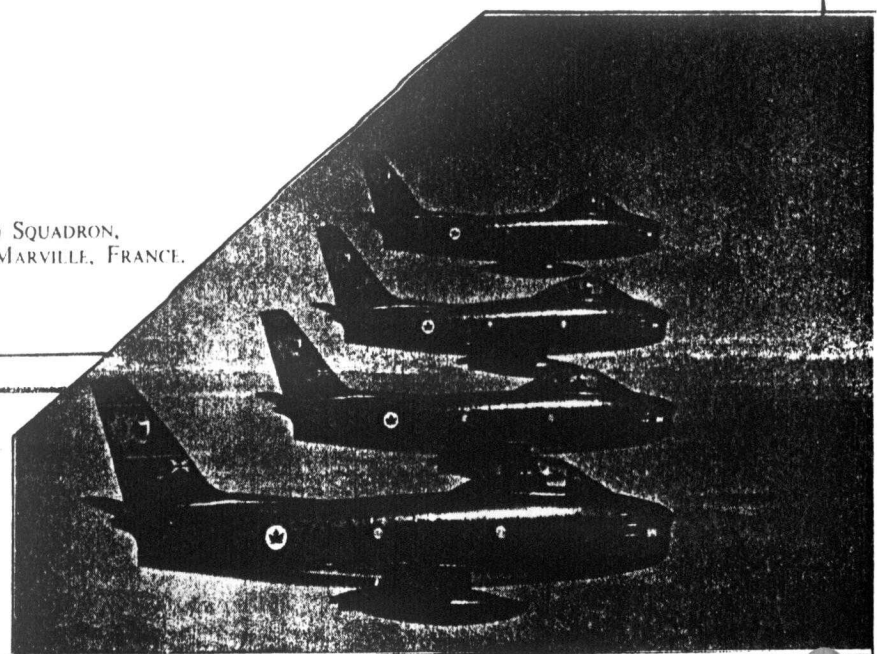
This is a post card type with a photograph of a "Mosquito" aircraft. It was sent from R.C.A.F. Station Greenwood, N. S.

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*With Greetings
and Every Good Wish
for
Christmas and the New Year
from*

439 (F) SQUADRON,
MARVILLE, FRANCE.



439 Squadron

*Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year*

*Frohe Weihnachten
und ein glückliches
Neues Jahr*

This fancy card, with a purple and gold ribbon at left, shows the crest of 439 - Tiger Squadron. Inside the card there shows a flight of F86 Sabres (the 1950's - 1960's era) and the inscription of 439 (F) Fighter Squadron, Marville, France. The third part of this display shows a CF104 - a Starfighter - in a special effects "tiger stripes" being flown from Baden Soellingen, West Germany (former No. 4 Wing). The Seasons Wishes are in English and German (late 1970's era).

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1924 - 1984

Season's Greetings
from the Spiritual Home
of the Royal Canadian Air Force



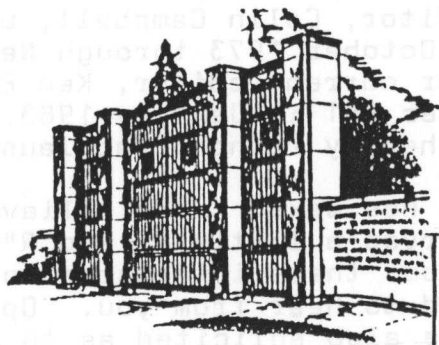
Meilleurs Voeux
du foyer spirituel
de l'Aviation Royale Canadienne

Base Commander and All Personnel
Le Commandant de la Base
et tout le personnel

Craven King Col



CANADIAN FORCES BASE
BASE DES FORCES CANADIENNES
TRENTON



The Memorial Gates
Les Portes Commemoratives

THE MEMORIAL GATES
LES PORTES COMMÉMORATIVES

1939 - 1945

"These gates have been given to the Royal Canadian Air Force by the governments of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand to commemorate their partnership with Canada in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the service of the airmen who helped bring victory to the Allied cause in the Second World War."

"Ces portes ont été données à l'Aviation royale du Canada par les gouvernements du Royaume-Uni, de l'Australie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour commémorer leur participation, avec le Canada, au Programme d'entraînement aérien du Commonwealth et le rôle des aviateurs dans la victoire des Alliés lors de la Seconde Guerre mondiale."

Canadian Forces Base Trenton

Base des Forces canadiennes Trenton

Astra, Ontario K0K 1B0

This Christmas card is not really a R.C.A.F. card, but is from CFB Trenton. It shows the Memorial Gates given to the R.C.A.F. by the governments of the UK, Australia and New Zealand (see back of card). Inside, the 60th Anniversary of the R.C.A.F. is commemorated.

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N A P
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Canadian Military Mail Study Group

DECEMBER 1988

NEWSLETTER # 85

*Christmas
Greetings*

As promised, here is your Christmas Newsletter.

Hope you do not mind the reversed format. We are sure that you knew what you were reading before you got to this page!

Below is a 'letter' to the members from our 'appointed' chairman, Ritch Toop. We have been firing letters back and forth lately on matters concerning this Group. All your help is greatly appreciated Ritch. At this time of the year thanks also go out to those who have helped greatly with the Newsletter. Not everybody can be thanked, but we would like to single out Dave Hanes, Colin Pomfret, Wilf Whitehouse, Colin Campbell, Bill Bailey and of course, Ritch - all of whom have gone 'beyond the call of duty'.



VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON, from Ritch/Ken

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I'm not sure that surprise is the right word, but, whatever interpretation one chooses it probably amounts to the same thing. I must admit I was a bit surprised to find that I had "volunteered" as chairman of the CMMSG. In any event I'm sure we all recognize the dedication of those persons who have been so persistent in keeping our Study Group operating at such a high level since its inception in 1973. Much credit is due of course to our first editor, Colin Campbell, who managed the helm from Newsletter #1 in October 1973 through Newsletter #50 in November 1982, and, our current editor, Ken Ellison, who has been on deck since Newsletter #51 in January 1983. It goes without saying they deserve a hearty round of applause from the membership.

As everyone knows, Ken has asked to be relieved as editor. I'm sure all agree he deserves a little "R and R". If there are any volunteers or someone out there interested in taking over from Ken, I would be pleased to hear from you. Opinions and suggestions from the membership are also solicited as to what, if anything, they would like to see in our Newsletter. While I don't have any great words of wisdom at this time, I do think there is ample room to develop many good in-depth articles; explore many of the unanswered questions from past Newsletters and, at the same time continue to keep abreast of the current or modern aspects of the military.

Often one has some information for a NL article but requires additional data or membership input to flush out the whole story. Coordination of data in these areas are, in my view, a benefit to all of us. We have noticed a number of areas where members are seeking information on a particular subject, therefore assistance or input from others may hold the key in permitting an article to be published which ultimately benefits everyone in the long term.

Nuff said! Any comments, suggestions etc to E.R. Toop, P.O. Box 9026, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3T8 will be appreciated.