

N A P  
B S

# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER # 86  
JANUARY 1989

## GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

We are entering our 16th year as a Study Group and as one looks back there is a great deal of accomplishment in the information and material that the group has uncovered. One only needs to peruse the literature of the 40's to the 70's to realize this. Besides this group's efforts, there are now the works of Bailey and Toop and thus the 'field' today is much more fully understood. Of course there is still much to add to the story.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Starting on a new year means that operating funds are again needed. In looking back at '88, there have been 8 N/L's sent out - probably a record! This all takes money even though we try to economize as much as possible. You may have noted the envelopes (the light green ones) that we use. A sympathetic BNAPS member donated a box of 500 that were to be thrown out as printers waste. This has saved us 2.50 per N/L. Incidentally, postage is nearly half the cost of your newsletter (and it is up again to Canada and the USA, but down 1 cent to our O/S address').

For this year, as last year, we are asking for \$C10.00 or \$US8.50 with cheques made out and sent to Ken Ellison at the address noted. PLEASE check the BOX at the top of the page for your amount owing as many have prepaid. THANK YOU!

## OTHER NEWS

**INDEX** Great progress is being made by our Chairman Ritch in this regard. With this issue we are using "whole page numbers" to coincide with the new index. Before long we will be issuing instructions on how to number your back issues consecutively. DO NOT do this yet as there are variables that would upset the system. The index itself is looking great - worth waiting for!

## ARTICLES THIS ISSUE

This issue has, as its main feature, CAMP BORDEN POST CARDS, the conclusion, by Dave Hanes. Please send in all reports on these cards to Dave (address with article). We have had some nice comments on your R.C.A.F. Christmas cards as per last month's N/L Dave.

Also included is a page by Wilf Whitehouse on FROM H.M.C. SHIP - REMOVED. This was prompted by a photocopy from Colin Pomfret. There is also a belated report on our Study Group meeting at BNAPEX '88, courtesy of Bill Robinson. And, at this writing it looks like there will be one or two pieces by Ritch Toop, depending on space available.

**STUDY GROUP OFFICERS** Your correspondence is invited.

Chairman - E. Ritch Toop, PO Box 9026, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3T8  
Editor - Ken V. Ellison, R.R. # 1, Oyama, B.C., VOH 1W0

**A.F.M.R.G.**

On the advice of our Chairman, we have been in contact with the above group. In case you are wondering, the name comes out to AUSTRALIAN FORCES MAIL RESEARCH GROUP. Their Editor is:

David Collyer, P.O. Box 201, Gladesville, 2111, Sydney, Aust.  
N/L's will be exchanged with this group. Jack Davis, of our CMMMSG, is a member of AFMRG.

The focus of the AFMRG is identical to ours, but of course, from the Australian viewpoint. Our fields of interest overlap in two areas that come to mind - The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the Canadian Army Wireless/Radar units that were in Australia in 1944-45. A reference to the latter can be found in our N/L # 42, page 8.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING OF CANADIAN MILITARY MAIL STUDY GROUP**

No formal meeting of the Study Group was scheduled for BNAPEX '88 at Virginia Beach, but an informal one was held on the evening of September 9, 1988, with the following present: John Frith, Ritch Toop, Ed. Richardson, Ed. Harris, Vic Willson, Ron Leith, Hank Narbonne and Bill Robinson.

Much informal discussion ensued, and it was agreed that Ritch Toop would prepare a complete index of issues #1 to 100. Ed. Richardson offered to contribute several 9 page articles for the Newsletter. This would leave one page available to the Editor for news, etc. and still allow mailing at the first rate of postage. Ritch offered to work on a similar article for "C" Force (Hong Kong), including P.O.W. items. John Frith promised an article on the markings used by the First Canadian Contingent in WW I, and asked for any available information on Canadian mail from Salonika, Cairo, or other exotic sources of Canadian Medical mail in WW I. Ritch also mentioned that he wants any Camp Borden Militia markings for study. A suggestion was made that we list and study all of the Canadian "Forces" in WW II - "C", "W", "X", "Y", etc.

A period of discussion and good fellowship followed, and it was the general impression of those present that much good had resulted from the meeting.

Courtesy: Bill Robinson.

MILITARY POST OFFICES (MPOs)  
AND CANADIAN FORCES POST OFFICES (CFPOs)  
OPERATED BY  
THE CANADIAN FORCES POSTAL SERVICE

17 MAY 88

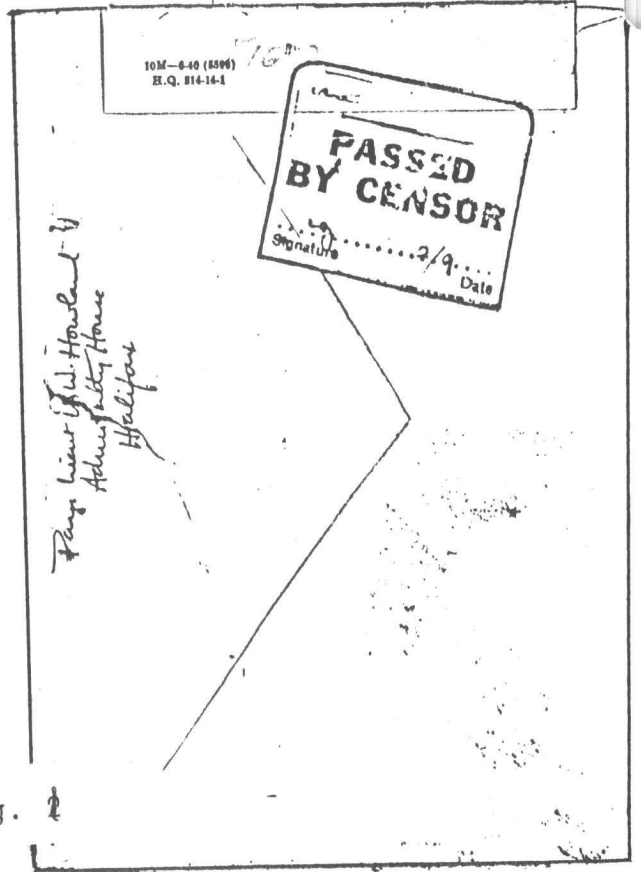
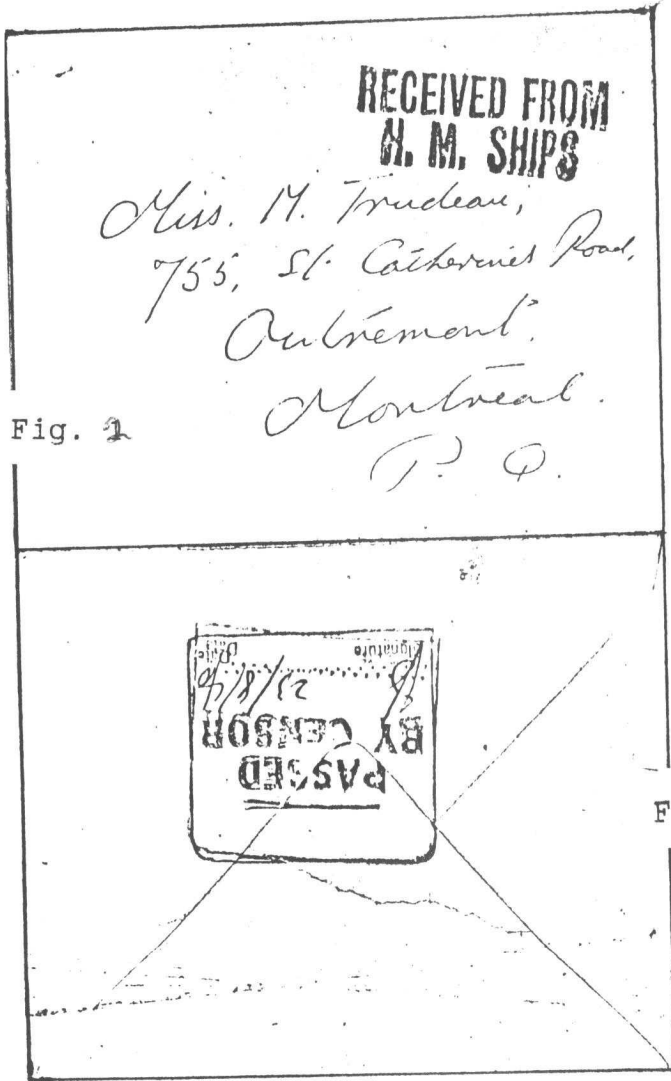
CFPO NO.	FULL POSTAL ADDRESS	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	REMARKS
30			*Inactive
33	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Field Operations
40	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Field Operations
42	CFPO 5056, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Baden-Soellingen, Germany	Field Operations
43	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Field Operations
44	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Field Operations
46	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Open for Exercises only
101		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
102		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
103		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
104		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
105	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Active-Static Location
106		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
107		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
108	CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Active-Static Location
111	CFPO 5002, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0		*Inactive
112		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
113		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
114		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
5000	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	Regulating CFPO
5001	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Nicosia, Cyprus	Regulating CFPO
5002	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Golan Heights	Regulating CFPO
5003		Trenton, Ontario	Open for Exercises only
5004		Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
5005	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Lahr, Germany	*Inactive
5045	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Brunssum, Holland	Regulating CFPO
5046	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Trenton, Ontario	*Open for Exercises only
5048	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Casteau, Belgium	Regulating CFPO
5051	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	London, England	Regulating CFPO
5053	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Geilenkirchen, Germany	Regulating CFPO
5054	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Trenton, Ontario	*Inactive
5055	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Heidelberg, Germany	Regulating CFPO
5056	Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	Baden-Soellingen, Germany	Regulating CFPO
5058	NDHQ/D POST Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0K2	Ottawa, Ontario	*For Accounting Purposes only
5071	FMO Halifax, N.S. B3K 2X0	Halifax, Nova Scotia	*For Exercises only HMC Ships
5075	FMO Victoria, B.C. V0S 1B0	Victoria, B.C.	*For Exercises only HMC Ships

MPO NO.	FULL POSTAL ADDRESS	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	REMARKS
81	CFB Gagetown, MPO 81, Dromocto, N.B. K0G 2P0	Dromocto, N.B.	*Inactive
102	CFB Gagetown, MPO 102, Dromocto, N.B. E0G 2P0	Dromocto, N.B.	
103	CFB Gagetown, MPO 103, Dromocto, N.B. E0G 2P0	Dromocto, N.B.	*Open for Exercises only
111		Dromocto, N.B.	*Inactive
115		Dromocto, N.B.	*Inactive
140	CFB Chatham, Curtis Park, N.B. E0C 2E0	Chatham, N.B.	
200	CFS Sydney, MPO 200, Sydney, N.S. B0A 1B0	Sydney, N.S.	
204	CFB St. Jean, MPO 204, Richelain, PQ J0J 1R0	St. Jean, PQ	
210	CFB Valcartier, MPO 210, Courcellette, PQ G0A 1R0	Quebec City	
302	CFB Petawawa, Petawawa, Ont. K8H 2X3	Petawawa, Ont.	*Inactive
303	CFB Trenton, MPO 303, Astra, Ont. K0K 1B0	Trenton, Ont.	
305	CFB Kingston, MPO 305, CFB Kingston, Vimy Post Office K7K 5L0	Kingston, Ont.	
310	CFS Alert, MPO 310, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3S0	Alert, NuT	
333	MPO 333, Belleville, Ont. K0K 3R0	CF Postal Unit Trenton	*Postal Tracing only, no other services available
400	Westwin, Man. MPO 400, Westwin, Man. R2R 0T0	Westwin, Man.	
401		Victoria, B.C.	*Open for Exercises only
511		Calgary, Alta.	*Inactive
512		Calgary, Alta.	*Inactive
513		Calgary, Alta.	*Open for Exercises only
555	CFB Calgary, MPO 555, Calgary, Alta. T3E 1T8	Calgary, Alta.	
612	CFB Chilliwack, MPO 612, Chilliwack, B.C. V0X 2E0	Chilliwack, B.C.	
POST OFFICE	Stadacona, P.O., FMO Halifax, N.S. B3K 2X0	CFB Halifax, N.S.	
FLEET MAIL OFFICE	FMO Halifax, N.S. B3K 2X0	Halifax, N.S.	
FLEET MAIL OFFICE	FMO Victoria, B.C. V0S 1B0	Victoria, B.C.	

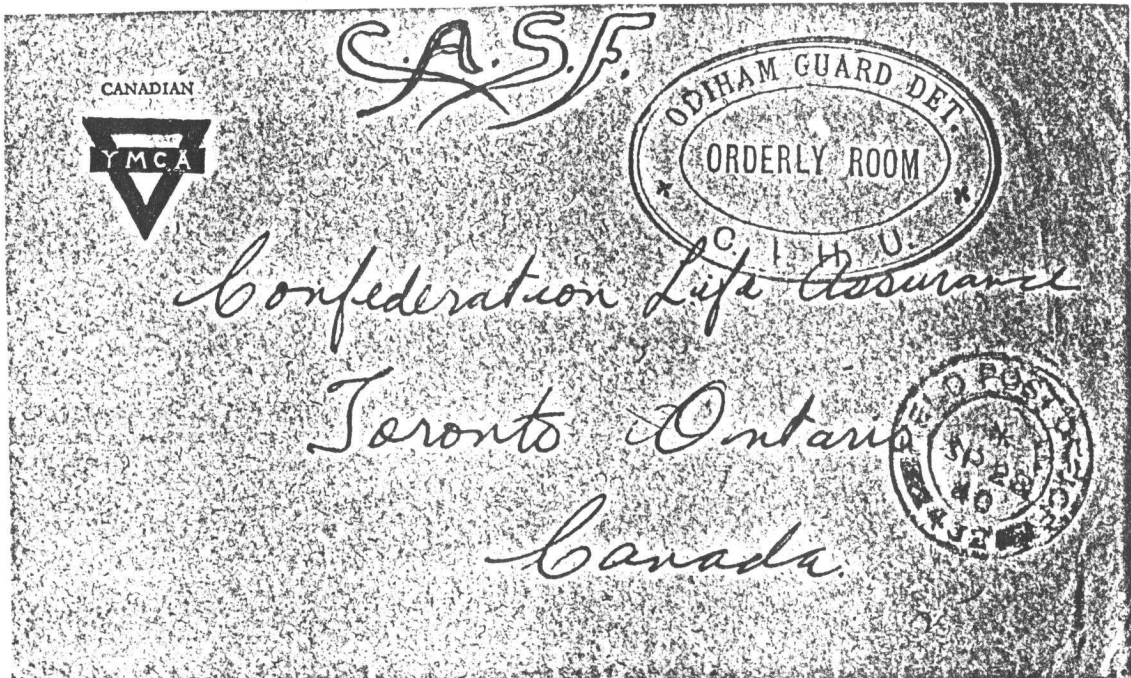
Courtesy Ritch Toop and NDHQ/D POST.

Several offices have been activated since this list was prepared i.e. CFPO 5003 and CFPO 5054 in Iraq/Iran.

ILLUSTRATIONS



See Page # 614 opposite  
RCN Censor.



See Page # 615 - Odiham Guard Detachment.

By Wilf Whitehouse.

Reference is made to the R.C.N. oblong censor marking with "FROM H.M.C. SHIP" removed (Fig. 1) submitted by Colin Promfret, which has not until now been covered in our newsletter.

This altered version is not at all common, but common enough for us to learn that it was used on mail originating in C.P.R. vessels operating out of Halifax, C.N. ships with the "Lady" prefix, as well as naval personnel stationed ashore in Halifax.

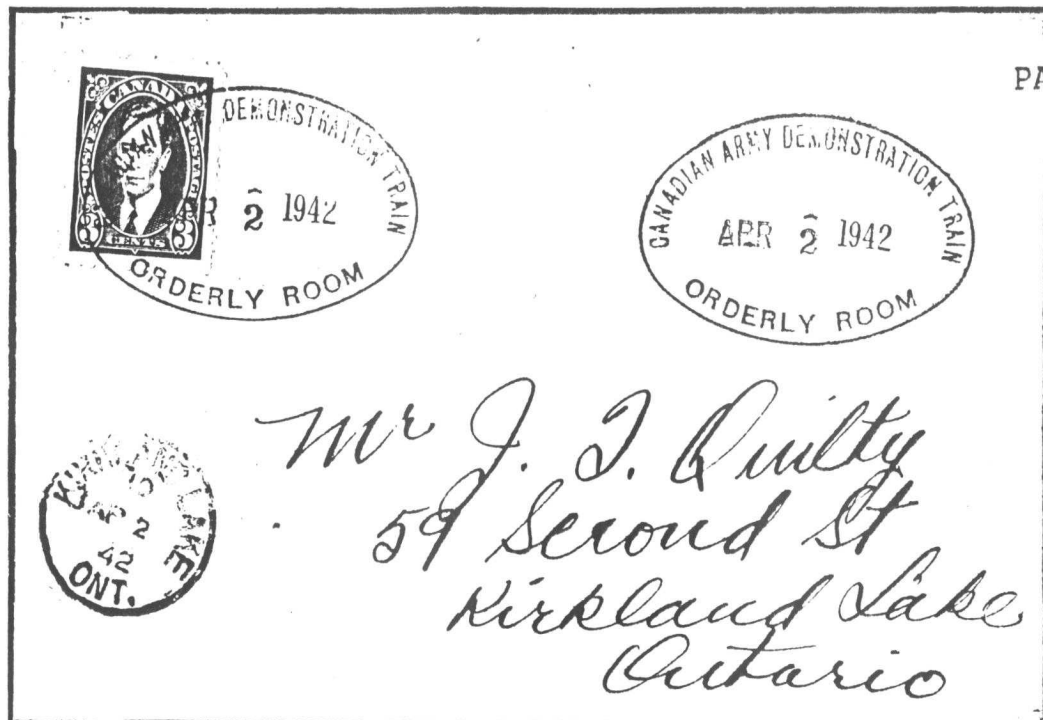
What the normal procedure was for censorship of mail aboard these ships is not clear, but as they often carried troops, some form of censorship would have been established for these occasions. As Defensively equipped merchant ships (D.E.M.S.) they would have carried Canadian naval gunnery ratings, what their arrangements for censorship were is also unclear. All examples of this particular marking from these ships seen to date are undated as to year and thus it is not possible to establish whether the marking was used on a regular basis, or only when carrying troops, the later being the most likely.

By far the majority of the examples that exist are used on mail originating with naval personnel stationed ashore in Halifax. There were persons in authority who felt that "FROM H.M.C. SHIP" should not appear on shore establishment mail, and this feeling was upheld by Ottawa in 1943 when the new straight line censor marks were introduced. The earliest date of use for this altered mark seen to date is August 1940, with the latest being March 1941. Colin's example, fig. 1, is undated as to year but could possibly be 1940 considering the June 1940 printing date on the PASSED BY CENSOR label used to seal this cover.

Both the mark as issued and the altered versions were in use simultaneously at Dockyard indicating that the altered versions were in the hands of individual censor officers, and may even have been altered by them.

One problem caused by the use of these altered marks was in connection with uncensored mail from H.M.C. ships proceeding to sea on short notice. On arrival at the F.M.O., if this mail was censored using an altered mark and sent on to the Halifax post office, chances are it would either be returned to have postage affixed because there was no indication that the letter originated aboard ship and thus entitled to the free mail privilege, or postage due could be charged to the addressee. The solution to this problem was the application of the arrival marking RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS. (Fig. 2)

We have no way of knowing why the use of these altered censor marks ended after such a short period of time. We know that some of the experienced censor officers in Halifax were sent to St. John's, Newfoundland, to set up shop when the R.C.N. commissioned "Avalon" as a convoy escort base in mid-1941. We also know that the R.C.N. was very short of Officers to man the increasing numbers of escort vessels coming into commission at this time, it's quite possible that the officers responsible for these altered censor marks were drafted away from Dockyard in connection with these events.



CANADIAN ARMY DEMONSTRATION TRAIN - by Ritch Toop

While I knew about the Army Demonstration Train used during World War II, I was not aware of any specific markings having been used until very recently. A closer look at the history of this train reveals that during 1942, many publicity devices were used to encourage recruits from across Canada. One was the Canadian Demonstration Train, a 15-car railway train containing displays of arms, clothing and equipment, which toured Canada from coast to coast, beginning in February 1942. More than 800,000 people across the country visited the display.

I am surprised that forty-six years after the event, few covers, if any, have been reported. Literally, hundreds of stops must have been made during the tour. I am wondering how many other "stops" our members can come up with, so, this is your chance to dip into your "shoe boxes" and report any findings to the Editor.

#### ODIHAM GUARD DETACHMENT - CANADIAN INFANTRY HOLDING UNITS

In July 1940 the various holding units based at Bordon Camp, Hampshire, were required to furnish a guard detachment for duty at RAF Station Odiham. As a result, on 22 July 1940 the Odiham Guard Detachment, C.I.H.U., was formed of different groups from the holding units at Bordon. It consisted of three companies (A B & C) of two platoons each, under the command of a major. It took over defensive positions at the RAF Station at 1200 hours on 22 July 1940.

As the Guard was made up of troops from the various holding units there were frequent changes as personnel were called forward from Bordon to their units. The strength of the detachment fluctuated, but as at 9 August 1940 it consisted of 320 all ranks. During November 1940 the Guard was run down until on 25 November 1940 it was withdrawn altogether. After handing over its remaining commitments to the RAF, the Odiham Guard ceased to exist.

Ref.: Public Record Office Doc. WO 179-646 (War Diary of the Odiham Guard Detachment, July to November 1940)

Article courtesy of Michael Dobbs and Kim Dodwell.  
Cover illustrated on page # 613.

# Camp Borden - POST CARDS

PAGE # 616.

HEREWITH PART II OF DAVE HANES ARTICLE from N/L 84

Please send any reports on these cards that you have to:

Dave Hanes, 33 Lillian Crescent, Barrie, Ont. L4N 4P8

We should have an update from Dave after your info is in!

## CAMP BORDEN POST CARDS ALEX J. McLEAN

This group of photo cards shows Camp Borden under construction. All of the cards have "Photo By / Alex J. McLean" on the front of the card. Each card is numbered and starting with number 25 they have a caption about the scene. The earlier numbers I have tried to describe.

1. -
2. -Camp scene with building, troops, power line.
3. -
4. -Troops and sand bags.
5. -
6. -Troops ready to board train.
7. -Band and marching troops.
8. -
- ✓ 9. -Band and marching troops (Bush scene).
10. -as above with officer on horse.
11. -
12. -Target Range.
13. -
14. -Review of marching troops - opening ceremonies?
15. -
16. -
17. -Steam shovel loading railway cars
18. -
19. -Drill Hole with drill and water.
20. -
21. -Pump house and early fire engine
22. -Pipe line to water tower.
23. -
24. -
25. -Road Making, Camp Borden, Ont.
26. -
27. -Road Making, Camp Borden, Ont. (early shovel)
28. -
29. -Carrying Mess Tables, Camp Borden, Ont.
30. -
31. -Y.M.C.A., Camp Borden, Ont.
32. -Stump Pulling, Camp Borden, Ont.
33. -Camp Borden, Ont., From the Water Tower.
34. -
35. -Headquarters Building, Camp Borden, Ont.

SOME POST CARDS HAVE BEEN REDUCED - NOT ORIGINAL SIZE

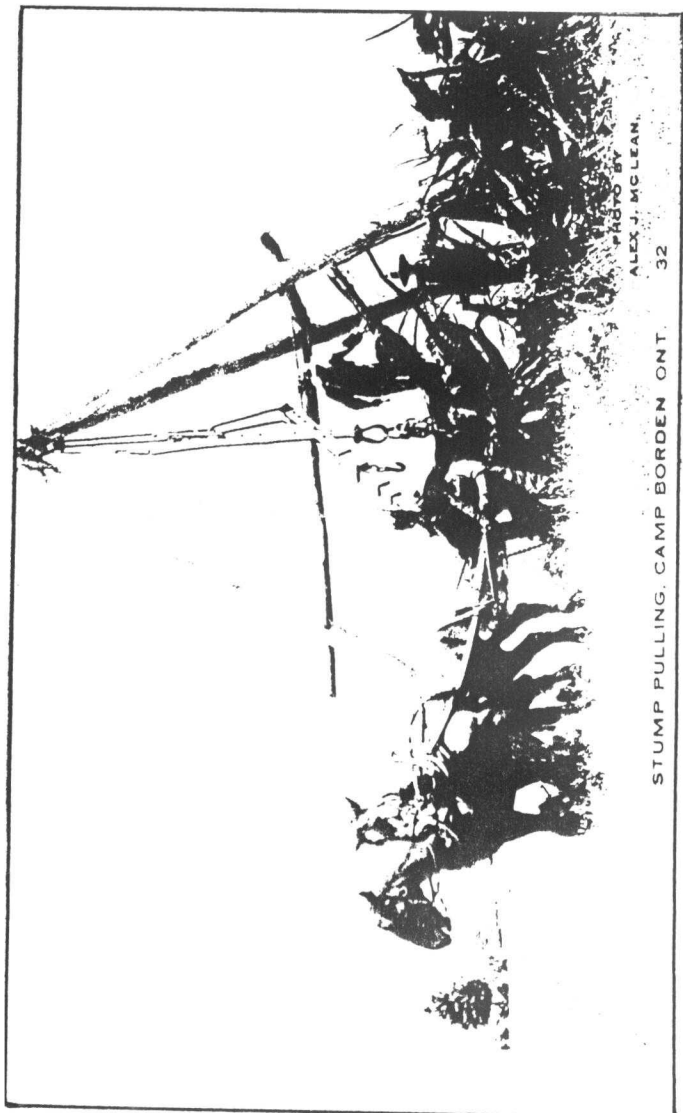
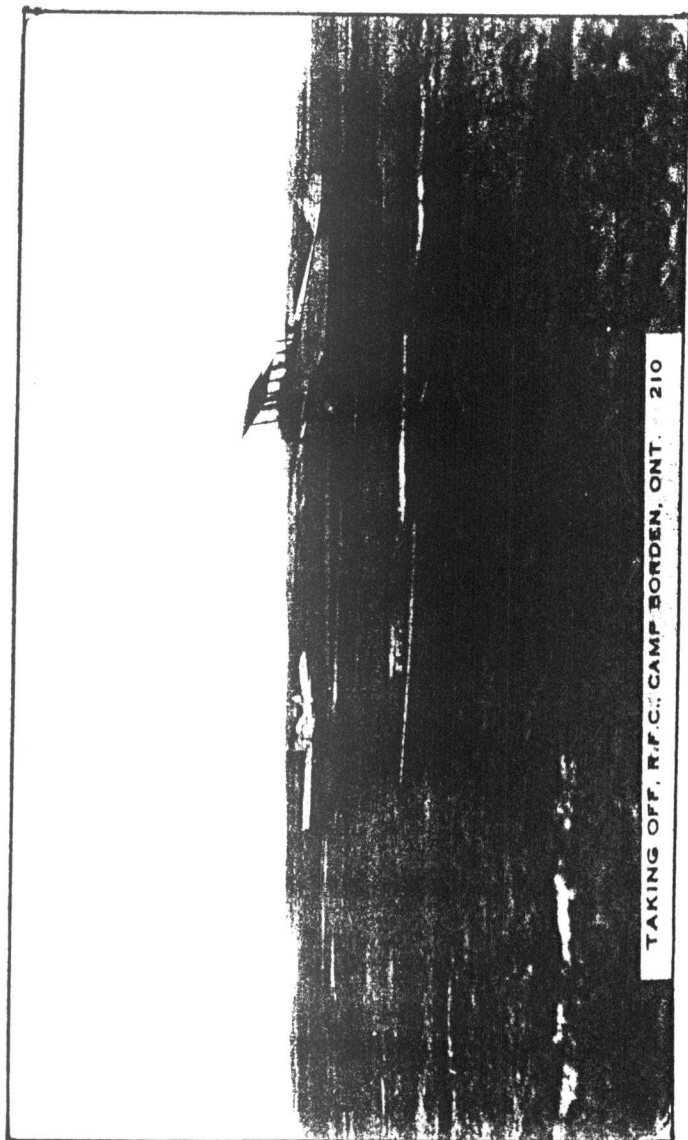


PHOTO BY  
ALEX. J. McLEAN.

STUMP PULLING, CAMP BORDEN, ONT. 32



TAKING OFF, R.F.C., CAMP BORDEN, ONT. 210

ROYAL FLYING CORPS ALEX J. McLEAN

There appears to be a second series of photo cards by Alex. J. McLean. This is a later edition as it deals with the RFC. At present only 5 cards are known but the numbers seem to indicate 15 different. Note that same inscription appears on the card face "Photo by/ Alex J. McLean" with the addition of "Toronto."

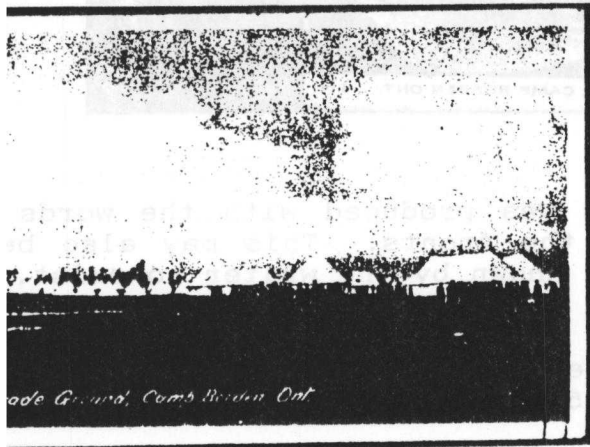
- 201. -
- 202. -
- 203. -
- 204. -Cadet Quarters, R.F.C., Camp Borden, Ont.
- 205. -Cadets, R.F.C., Camp Borden, Ont.
- 206. -
- 207. -Bringing Out Machines, R.F.C., Camp Borden, Ont.
- 208. -
- 209. -
- 210. -Taking Off, R.F.C., Camp Borden, Ont.
- 211. -
- 212. -
- 213. -
- 214. -Hangers, R.F.C., Camp Borden, Ont.
- 215. -



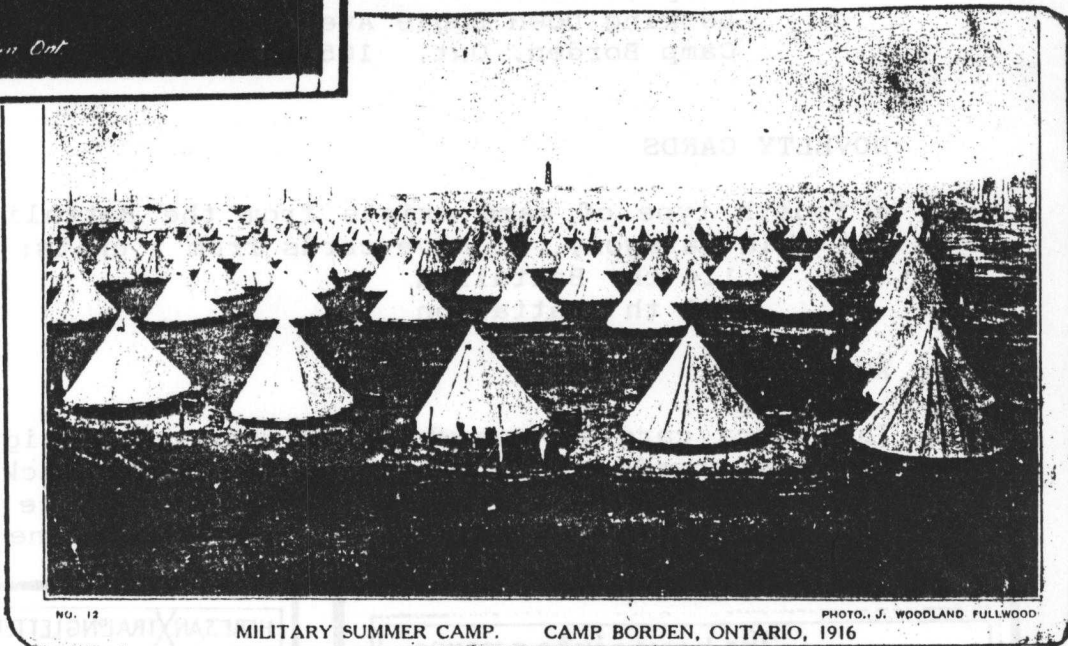
Another group of post cards, with "Published By Hay Stationery Co., London, Canada" was printed at this time. It appears that several of these cards did not receive the inscription, but the backs are the same, plus the lettering on the front appears the same and I have allotted them to Hay Stationery.

- Arrival of troops at Camp Borden, Ontario.
- Sunday morning at Camp Borden. — 44?
- Camp Borden, Ont. from the water tower.
- Parade Ground, Camp Borden, Ont.
- On the March, Camp Borden, Ont.
- Camp Borden, Ont. Canada (Tents behind power line)
- Camp Borden, Ont. Canada (Troops marching thru tents)
- ✓ Troops drilling, Camp Borden, Ont. Canada
- Union Depot, Camp Borden, Ont.
- At the Depot, Camp Borden, Ont.

✓ CAMP BORDEN, ONT (TROOPS coming around a curve - Camp in background)



Parade Ground, Camp Borden Ont



NO. 12

MILITARY SUMMER CAMP. CAMP BORDEN, ONTARIO, 1916

PHOTO. J. WOODLAND FULLWOOD

J. WOODLAND FULLWOOD

Limited information is known of those cards published by J. Woodland Fullwood, Photographer, 4 Queen Street East, Toronto. Only one card has turned up and it is number 12 which shows "Military Summer Camp Camp Borden, Ontario, 1916." A number 12 indicates there may have been a group of 15 (?) issued.



**BLAKEMORE STUDIO**

Another group of camp scenes was produced with the words of BLAKEMORE STUDIO printed on the fronts. This may also be a series of 15 (?) as three are known by the writer to exist.

- Camp Borden Ont. 102 (overall scene looking north)
- Looking Down Logie Ave., Camp Borden Ont. 111.
- Camp Borden, Ont. 105 (overall scene looking north)

**NOVELTY CARDS**

A fourth type of card exists from the Battalions which would fit this category. I have cards from 2 units:

- 114 th Battalion
- 180 th Battalion

**XTRA CARD**

The extra card is somewhat similar to the cigarette acknowledgement cards in that the sender can check off pertinent lines. On the back of these cards was a place for the address and also a short written message. Only one type has been noted for Borden.

