

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

PAGE 640

NEWSLETTER NO. 89
SEPTEMBER 1989

NEW KINGSTON PRISONER OF WAR CENSOR MARKING WWI

The above 'title' is a misnomer really. Let us say that it is new to your Editor!

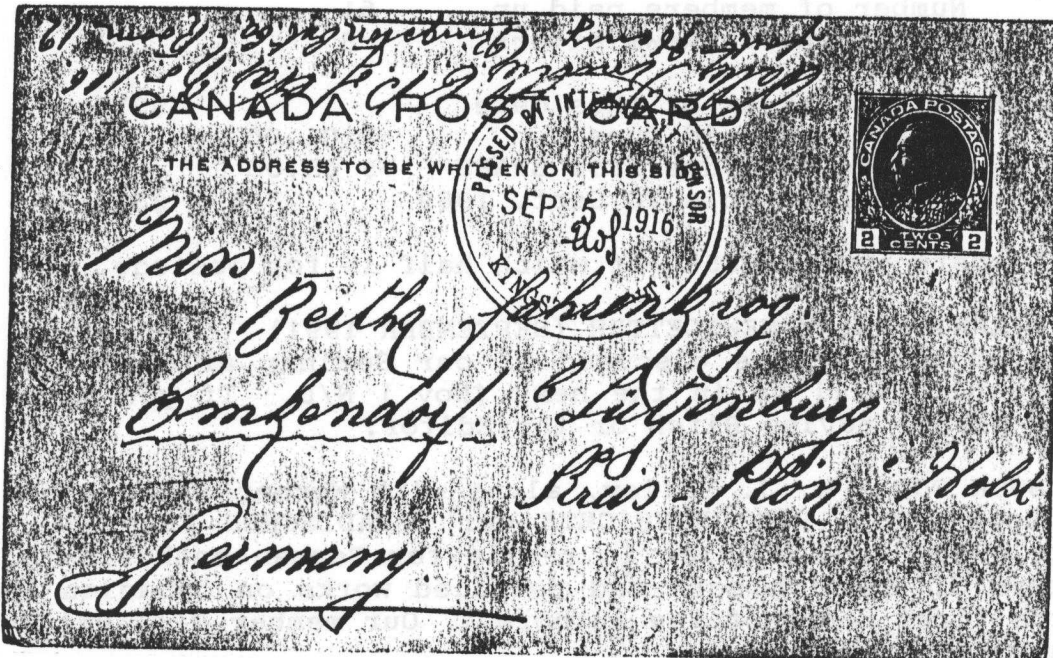
The illustrated marking was recently acquired in Vancouver (not everything turns up in the east) and it looked like a find. It is not listed by Bailey and Toop in their books but, according to Ritch, it turned up after their manuscript was turned over to Proud for publishing.

Note that this is a 36mm. double ring -thick outer and thin inner- and that the printing is all in capitals. Note also that KINGSTON ONT. is in serified letters and the PASSED BY INTERNMENT CENSOR is in block capitals.

The BANFF marking is also noted to be double ringed but has all its letters with serifs.

Are there any other camps in this series that used these double ring censor markings?

NEW DOUBLE RING POW MARKING



HAVE JUST LEARNED (on August 22) of the passing of ED. RICHARDSON in early August. Ed. was one of BNAPS' very early members, and one of the founders of our this study group. Ed's counsel will be dearly missed!



DOUBLE RING POW MARKING



REGULAR TYPE FROM SAME OFFICE

GREETINGS TO ALL AT BNAPEX 89 IN HAMILTON!

This issue of the Newsletter will be distributed at BNAPEX, September 22, 23, 23 so there is no need to exhort you to be there. Of course mailing will follow in due course.

Space is at a premium for this issue - on with the business!

INDEX Our Chairman, Ritch Toop, has completed this project and done a superb job. The INDEX is computer generated and is 30 pages in all. It is most useful, and here is how to get your copy. Write the Editor, Ken Ellison at R. R. # 1, Oyama, B.C., VOH 1W0 and be governed by the following costs (\$CAN).

By hand at BNAPEX \$2.00
Postpaid Can. & US \$3.00
Postpaid overseas \$4.00

NEW MEMBERS A welcome is extended to:

- * Geo. T. Douglas, 2106-32nd Ave., Vernon, B.C., V1T 5L1
- * Robt. Alary, 7462 de la Deviniere, Anjou (MTL), PQ H1K 3S7
- * Jacques Plante, C.F.P.O. 5056, Belleville, Ont., KOK 3R0
- Ron D. Leith, Box 430, Abbotsford, B.C., V2S 5Z5
- Don Kaye, Box 4201, Hamilton, Ont., L8V 4L6
- Doug Lingard, 2425 Blackstone Cres., Ottawa, Ont., K1B 4H3
- * Brought in by BNAPS FREE 1 year study group membership.

STATE OF THE STUDY GROUP as of 20 September 1989.

Number of members paid up	51
Complimentary Newsletters	8

FINANCES - In bank as of this date		\$377.47
Less prepaid dues	-\$101.00	
Plus fees due from BNAPS	+\$ 40.00	
BALANCE this 20 Sept. 1989		\$316.47

A N/L costs approx. \$50. of which half is for postage.

100th ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER (SEPTEMBER 1991)

This subject will be discussed at our Seminar at Hamilton and the results will be in the next (Nov.) N/L. If you have any ideas please advise Ritch or the Editor.

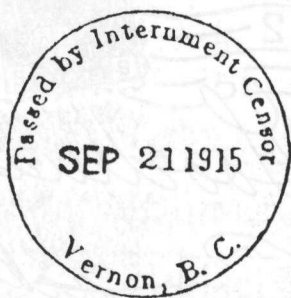
NEW BOOK OUT W. J. Bailey, along with Werner Steven, have a new book out - DIE GESCHICHTE der KANADISCHEN FELDPPOST. To quote FPHS "This booklet is really for German enthusiasts, as we have in English more and detailed works on Canadian FPO's by the first named of the authors." Our member Bill Bailey is a busy person!

NANAIMO INTERNMENT CAMP WW I

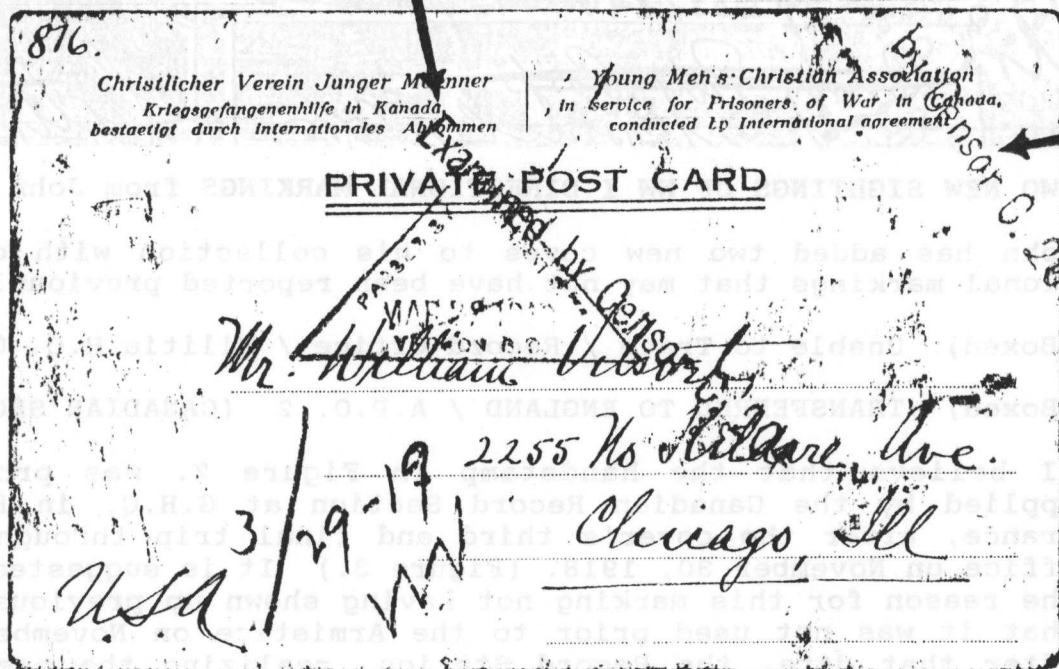
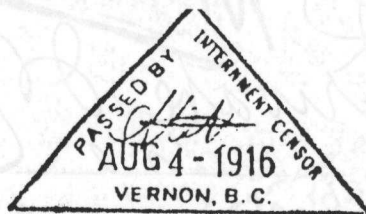
Colin Campbell has come up with an all inclusive article on the above to match his nice cover. See PHSC, June 1989, Page 28

STUDY GROUP OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN- E. Ritch Toop, Box 9026, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3T8
EDITOR, etc.- Ken Ellison, R. R. # 1, Oyama, B.C., VOH 1W0



THE TWO TYPES OF VERNON MILITARY
CENSOR MARKINGS



EXAMINED BY CENSOR C 204

The Y.M.C.A. card shown here was posted from the Vernon (B.C.) Internment Camp on 22 March 1919. As usual for Vernon, the triangular censor handstamp was applied (there is also a circular handstamp that was used here). The unusual part about this card is the straight-line EXAMINED BY CENSOR C 204. A communication on this marking from Allan Steinhart, slightly edited here, follows.

"The card has both a military and a civil censor. The C 204 is from a civil censor based in Ottawa. I have seen a number of his C 204 censor tapes on covers overseas to Europe, but this is the first time for his handstamp!

At present this is the first and only handstamp of this type I have seen from any of the Ottawa civil censors. There are a number of covers from Amherst and Kapuskasing with both internment and civil censors but those from Kapuskasing have the civil censor labels and are on cover while those from Amherst had a plain CENSORED civil handstamp with no number."

The Vernon Internment Camp was open until 20 February, ¹⁹²⁰ long after the war ended. Censorship continued locally until the camp closed, but the Ottawa censoring was discontinued on 1 May 1919.

CANADIAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
408 DRUMMOND BUILDING
MONTREAL

not in P.M.S



Private of Morris A. Goodman

Unabled to Trace

Record Office

Air Mail

FIGURE 1.

TWO NEW SIGHTINGS OF WW I DIRECTIONAL MARKINGS from John Frith

John has added two new covers to his collection with directional markings that may not have been reported previously.

(Boxed) Unable to Trace / Record Office / Militia H.Q. Ottawa

(Boxed) TRANSFERRED TO ENGLAND / A.P.O. 2 (CANADIAN SECTION)

"I believe that the handstamp in Figure 2. was probably applied by the Canadian Record Section at G.H.Q. in Rouen, France, after the cover's third and final trip through that office on November 30, 1918. (Figure 3.) It is suggested that the reason for this marking not having shown up previously is that it was not used prior to the Armistice on November 11. After that date, the Record Station, realizing the need for such a marking, would probably have requisitioned the handstamp.

At this time, just after the end of the War, increasing numbers of personnel were being transferred back to England. As the bulk of the Canadian troops were back in England by May of 1919, the handstamp would have had a relatively short period of use."



FIGURE 2.

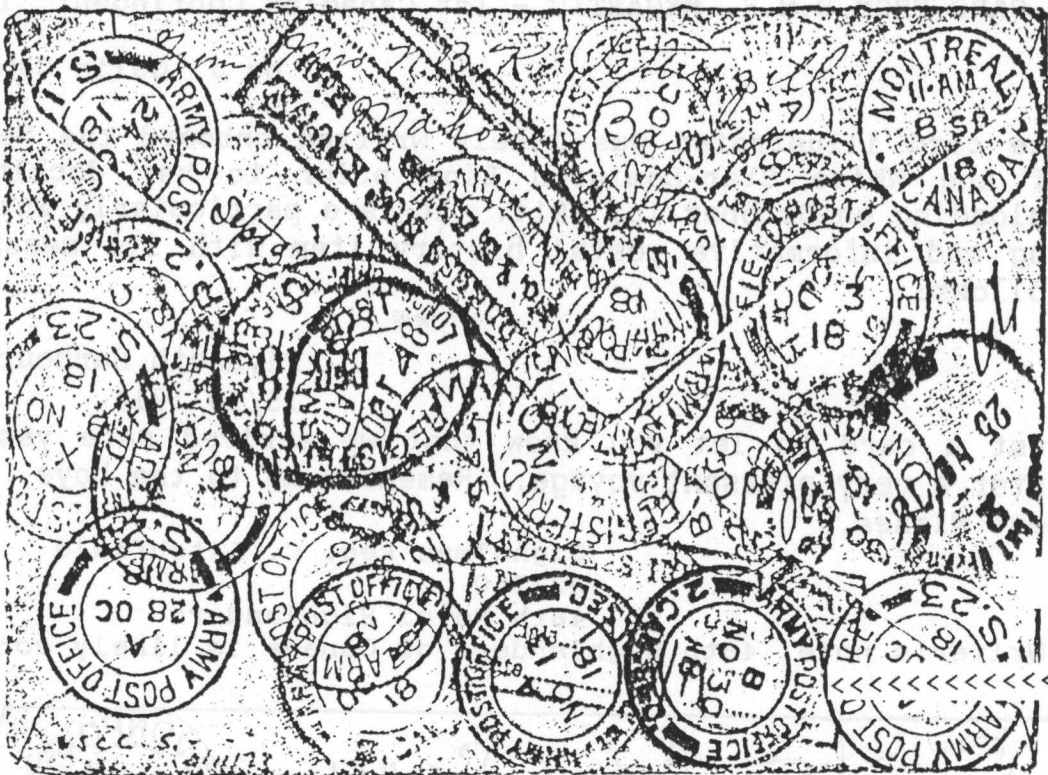


FIGURE 3.

NOTE - ARMY POST OFFICE / 2. CAN. SEC. // NO 30 / 18

COUNT THE MARKINGS HERE! Photocopy of photocopy - Not the best!



RUINS, ARRAS, FRANCE, OCCUPIED BY CANADIANS DURING 1918.
PUBLISHED BY E. DE SOUZA, 1235 DUNDAS ST., WEST, TORONTO

E. De SOUZA

This person published, in Canada, a series of postcards of battlefield, etc., scenes in France in WW I. Does anyone else have any of his cards, and if so, what are the scenes?

The following are in the Editor's hands:

- 1) RUINS ARRAS, FRANCE, OCCUPIED BY CANADIANS DURING 1918
- 2) DEADMAN'S HILL, VERDUN
- 3) SHELL HOLES NEAR TELEGRAPH HILL

A CARD FROM R.M.S. MEGANTIC - 1st Canadian Contingent 1914

by J. Colin Campbell

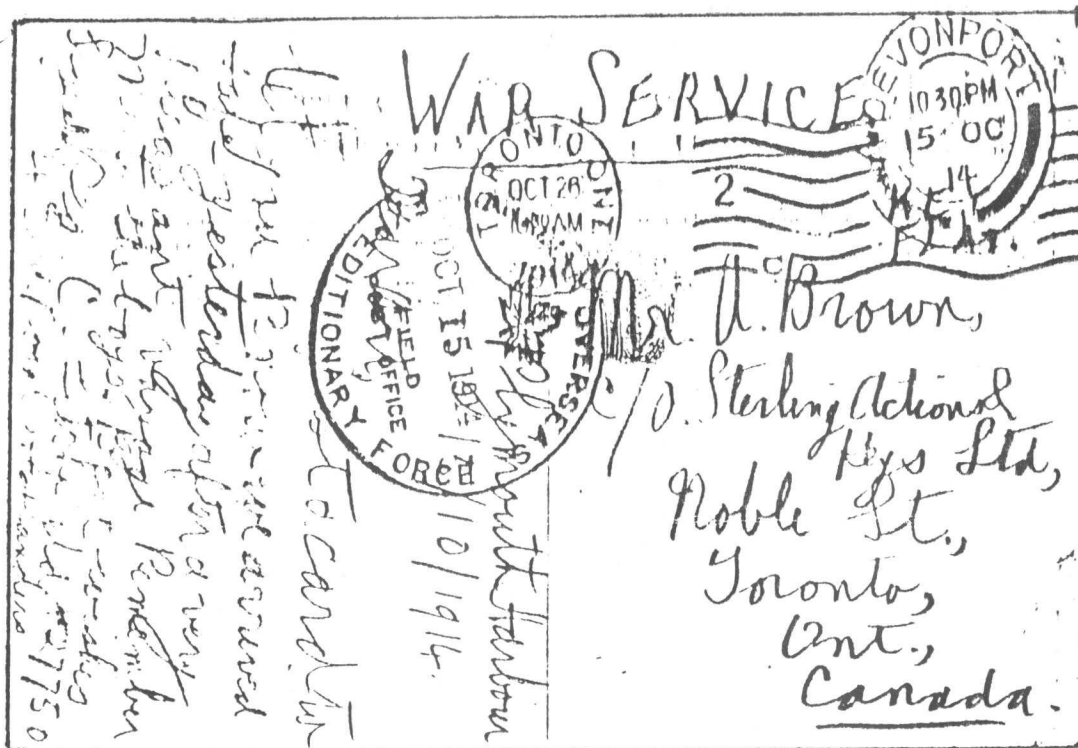
The card illustrated was likely written onboard the Megantic of the White Star-Dominion Line prior to her docking and unloading on October 16, 1914. It is a particularly interesting and informative postal history item with its message as follows:

Plymouth Harbour
15/10/1914

Just a card to let you know that we arrived safe yesterday after a very pleasant voyage. Remember me to the boys.
Best Wishes.

Signalman Reg. C. Litchfield
#27750
48th Royal Highlanders

(Writer's note: 48th Highlanders of Canada is likely correct.)

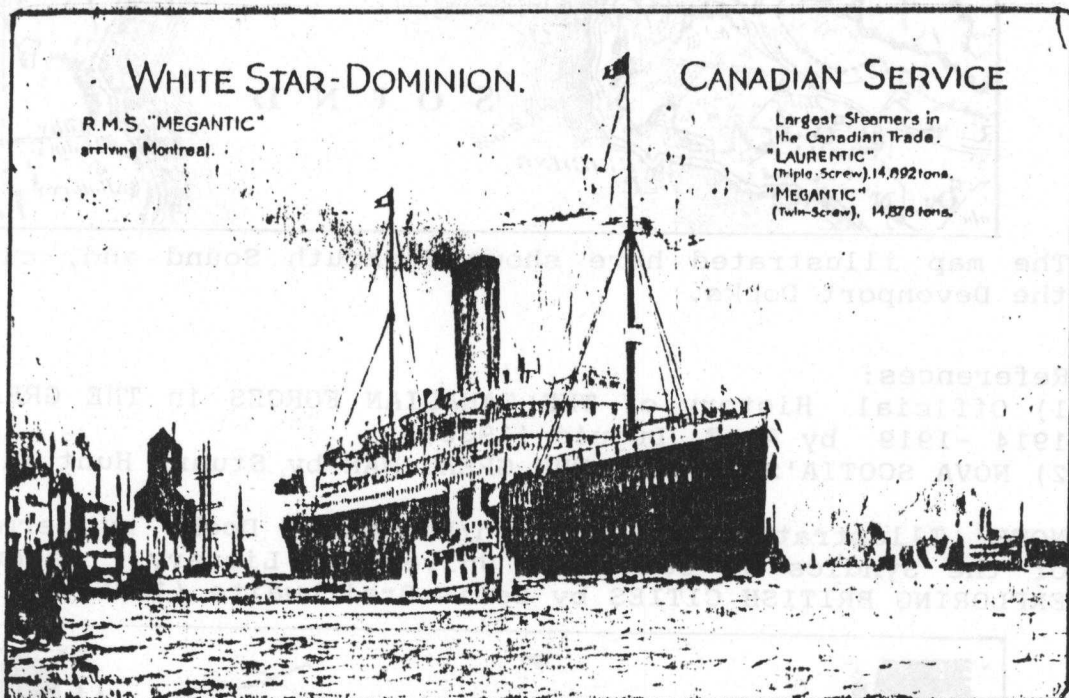


stamp removed

R. M. S. MEGANTIC (14,878 tons), among her passengers, carried 46 Officers and 1,109 other ranks of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) with headquarters at Toronto. The Officer Commanding was Lieut-Col. J. Allister Currie. Pte. Litchfield was a member of "F" Company. (Ref. 1)

Pte. Litchfield's card may have been picked up by a tender and taken aboard R. M. S. FRANCONIA where the Postal Corps had set up an office. The C. O. E. F. cancel (rubber handstamp) was struck October 15, 1914 and then, with other mail, taken ashore where the DEVONPORT cancel was struck at 10:30 PM. the same day. No postage stamp was affixed. The card must then have been put aboard a Canada bound ship immediately, finally arriving at Toronto where a 1 cent stamp was applied and machine cancelled October 26th at 10:30 am. That was good service!

Also on board were 87 members of Number 2 Clearing Hospital (later No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station) under Lieut. Col. F. L. S. Ford. In the history of Nova Scotia Military Units there are some interesting details of their journey overseas, quote, in part, "At 4:30 PM. September 25 the unit left (Valcartier) by train for Quebec and embarked on the MEGANTIC at 6:00 PM. After lying in the stream for five days the ship weighed anchor at 10:30 PM. on September 30th and proceeded down the St. Lawrence River to the rendezvous in Gaspé Bay. At 3:00 PM. October 3rd. 1914 this great flotilla put to sea. After an uneventful voyage of eleven days the flotilla arrived at Plymouth on October 14 (7:00 AM.). After lying in the stream for two days MEGANTIC docked and on October 16th the 1st C. C. C. S. disembarked." (Ref. 2)

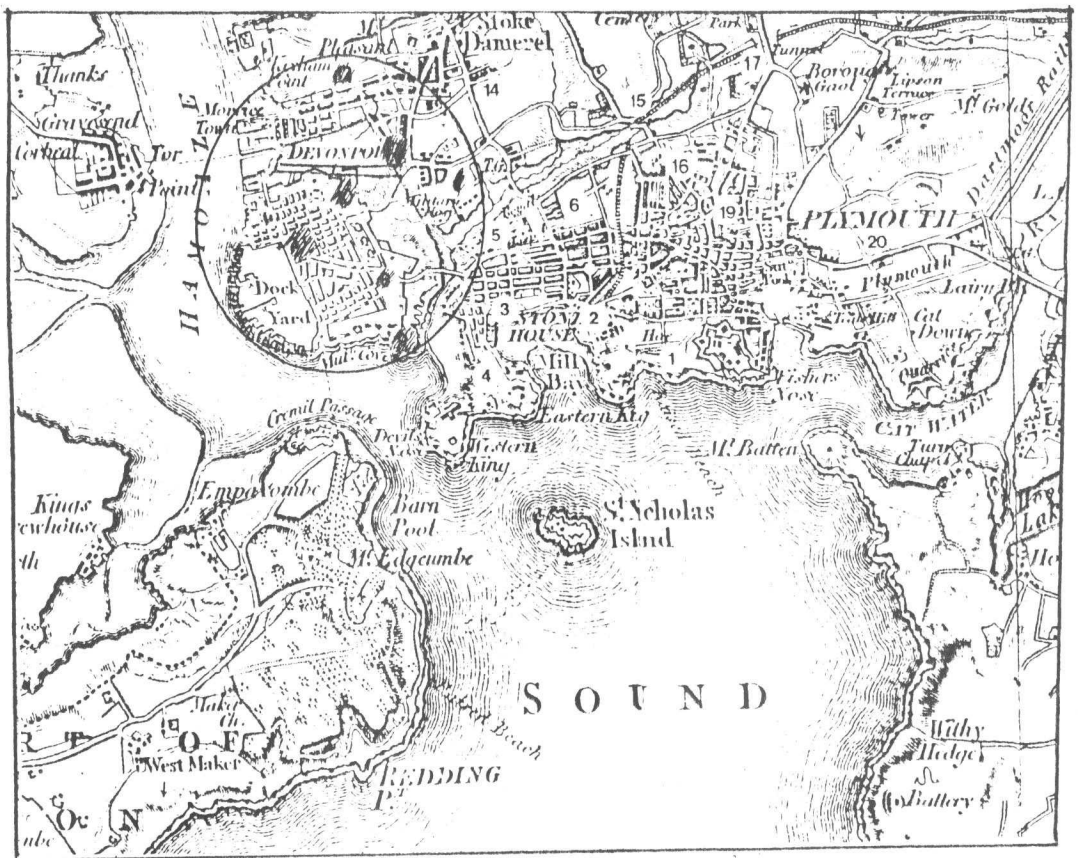


The availability of post cards illustrating the ship could be explained by this being MEGANTIC's first trip as a trooper and hence she had a quantity of cards on board from her previous voyage as a passenger ship in the Canadian Service.

It is of interest to note disembarkation did not begin until October 15th when, according to the record, four ships were unloaded, viz; MONTREAL, ALAUNIA, FRANCONIA and ARCADIAN.

Are there other cards/covers known to readers which can be traced to a specific ship? Cards bearing the large C.O.E.F. cancel dated from the convoy's arrival to October 25th when the last ship, CASSANDRA, completed disembarkation are those referred to. So far we know of these dates, October 13, 15 and 19. Two cards are known dated October 14 but the ship's name/s has not been advised.

It seems evident that only the large C.O.E.F. rubber cancelling device was used during this period. Details of this and the steel hammers may be found in P.H.S.C. Journal, No. 31, September 1982, page 36.

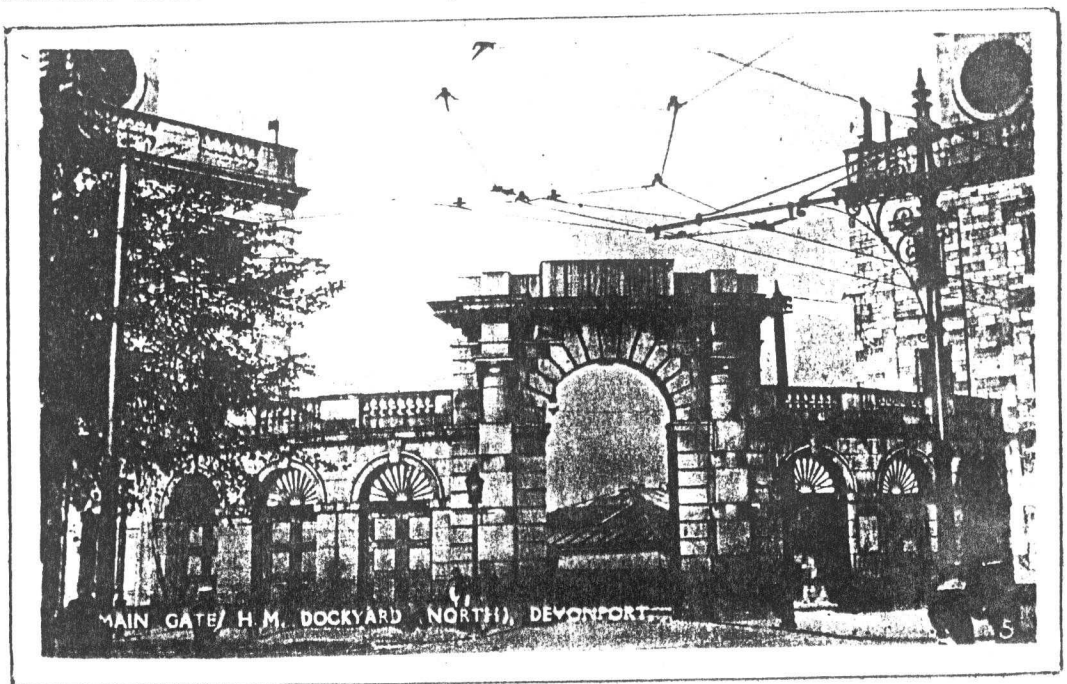


The map illustrated here shows Plymouth Sound and, circled, the Devonport Docks.

References:

- 1) Official History of THE CANADIAN FORCES in THE GREAT WAR 1914 -1919 by A. F. Duguid (1938).
- 2) NOVA SCOTIA'S PART in THE GREAT WAR by Stuart Hunt (1920)

NOTE: Illustration of Plymouth/Devonport Docks by permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library. Taken from EXPLORING BRITISH CITIES by Lewis Braithwaite (1986).



The post card here shows the main gate to H. M. Dockyard (North) Devonport circa 1914.

W.D.C.S. A FEW MORE WORDS ABOUT GROSSE ILE by Ritch Toop

Since N/L #81 in April 1988 on the mystery surrounding WDCS (War Disease Control Station) several interesting articles have appeared in newspapers which add additional historical data. One such item from Montreal (CP), published in the Ottawa Citizen 4 August 1988, is printed verbatim with permission of the Canadian Press.

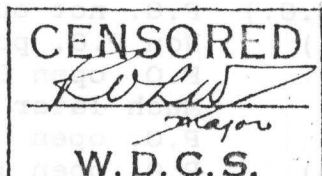
ONCE QUARANTINE STATION, ISLAND BECOMES PARK

A tiny island in the St. Lawrence River that once served as both the gateway to new opportunity and the graveyard of dashed hopes for thousands of immigrants to Canada is now a national park. Federal officials were scheduled today to visit Grosse Ile, once a quarantine station for immigrants, to declare the island a historic park.

Ron Seale, senior planner at the National Historic Parks and Sites Directorate, said the ceremony would cap years of interest in preserving the site, officially recognized as 'historically significant', as parkland. The island's new status will also protect the 50 historic buildings, including churches, hotels and medical facilities, constructed at the turn of the century.

"The island was prominent at the time of the major Irish immigration to Quebec, but it was used as a general quarantine site for about a century," Seale said. The rocky island, which covers about 460 acres, is situated about 40 kilometers northeast of Quebec City. It was established as a quarantine headquarters in 1832 to prevent the spread of cholera further inland. Of the 50,000 immigrants, most from England, Scotland and Ireland who were examined the first year, 5,000 died on Grosse Ile.

And in 1847, thousands of Irish immigrants, fleeing famine and oppression at home, were buried in mass graves on the island after contracting typhus during their transatlantic voyage. Sixty years later, a Celtic cross was erected on the island to commemorate the immigrants who never made it to Canada's mainland. During the Second World War, Defense Department scientists on the island conducted research into bacteriological warfare and developed a vaccine against cattle plague. And in 1957, Grosse Ile became a screening site for a very different kind of immigrant when the Federal Department of Agriculture set up a quarantine station for imported livestock.





GUARDING THE GOLDFIELDS / THE STORY OF THE YUKON FIELD FORCE
 Ed. Brereton Greenhous, TORONTO, Dundurn Press, 1987
 CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM HISTORICAL PUBLICATION No. 24

The above book came to hand recently. It is a story of the Yukon Field Force of 1898 - 1900, as the title suggests, but told mainly by the diary of an enlisted man of the Force. It is a hard cover book of 222 pages and a list price of \$24.95 (which we found for less than 10.00 in a book store remainder!).

Throughout the book frequent mention is made of the mails - both coming and going. This prompts one's thoughts to dwell on why we have not seen mail from the Force which numbered 202 of all ranks and was in transit and in the Yukon from May 1898 to July 1900.

The above pictured markings, from Bailey and Toop Vol. 1 (The Canadian Military Posts) are noted as N.S. (never seen). They also say "To date (1984) only three identifiable covers have been discovered from the Yukon Field Force."

To guide in your search, here is a summary of some dates for the YFF (from the Greenhous book).

6 May 1898	Leave Ottawa by train.
11 May	Arrive Vancouver.
14 May	By C.P.N.'s Islander for the north.
17 May	Arrive Wrangell.
19 May	By steamers up the Stikine River.
	Four months to Fort Selkirk.
Summer 1899	'Half' returned to Toronto (Boer War on).
May 1900	Fort Selkirk abandoned - to Dawson City.
25 June 1900	Yukon Garrison to White Horse and Skagway.
5 July	Arrive Vancouver.

Covers could have been postmarked from these post offices which were open when the troops passed by, or later, were camped there. Also markings might be found from men on the train trip at the appropriate times and places. You may not find the above illustrated markings, but watch for military related return addresses, etc.

Wrangell (Alaska)	P.O. open 6 October 1869
Glenora (B.C.)	P.O. open 1 May 1898
Telegraph Creek (B.C.)	P.O. not open when YFF going in.
Hootalinqua (Yukon)	Non P.O. point.
Pelly (Yukon)	P.O. open 9 Sept. 1899
	Much later was called Fort Selkirk.
Dawson (Yukon)	P.O. open 1 Sept. 1897.
White Horse (Yukon)	P.O. open 1 June 1900.
Skagway (Alaska)	P.O. open 6 July 1896 (?)

Please let us know if you find ANYTHING from the Force!