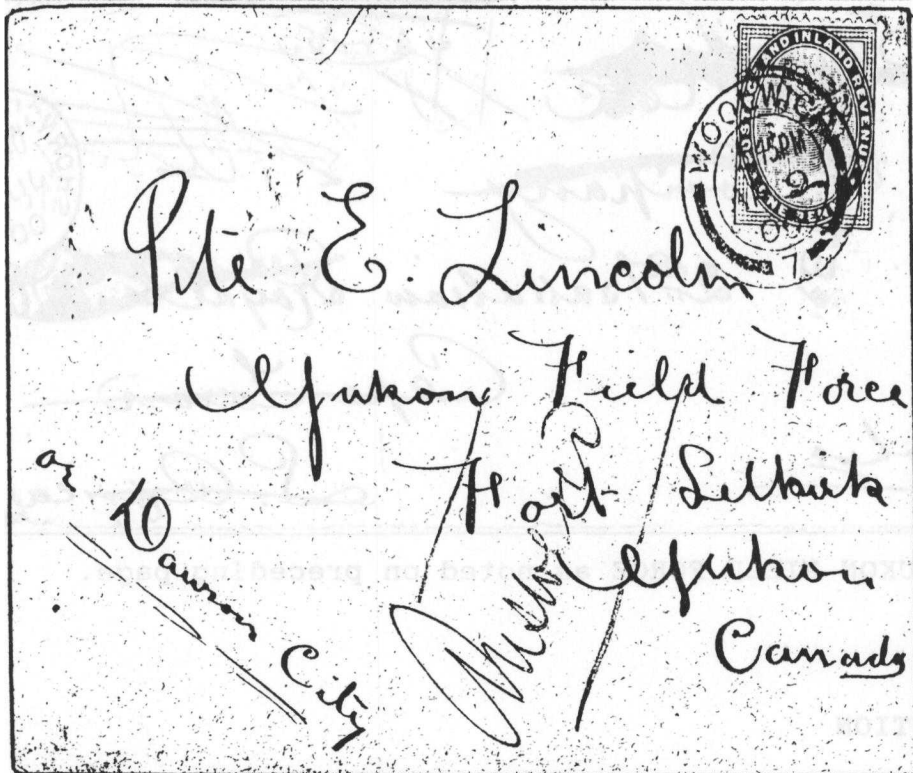


# Canadian Military Mail Study Group



NEWSLETTER # 90  
NOVEMBER 1989

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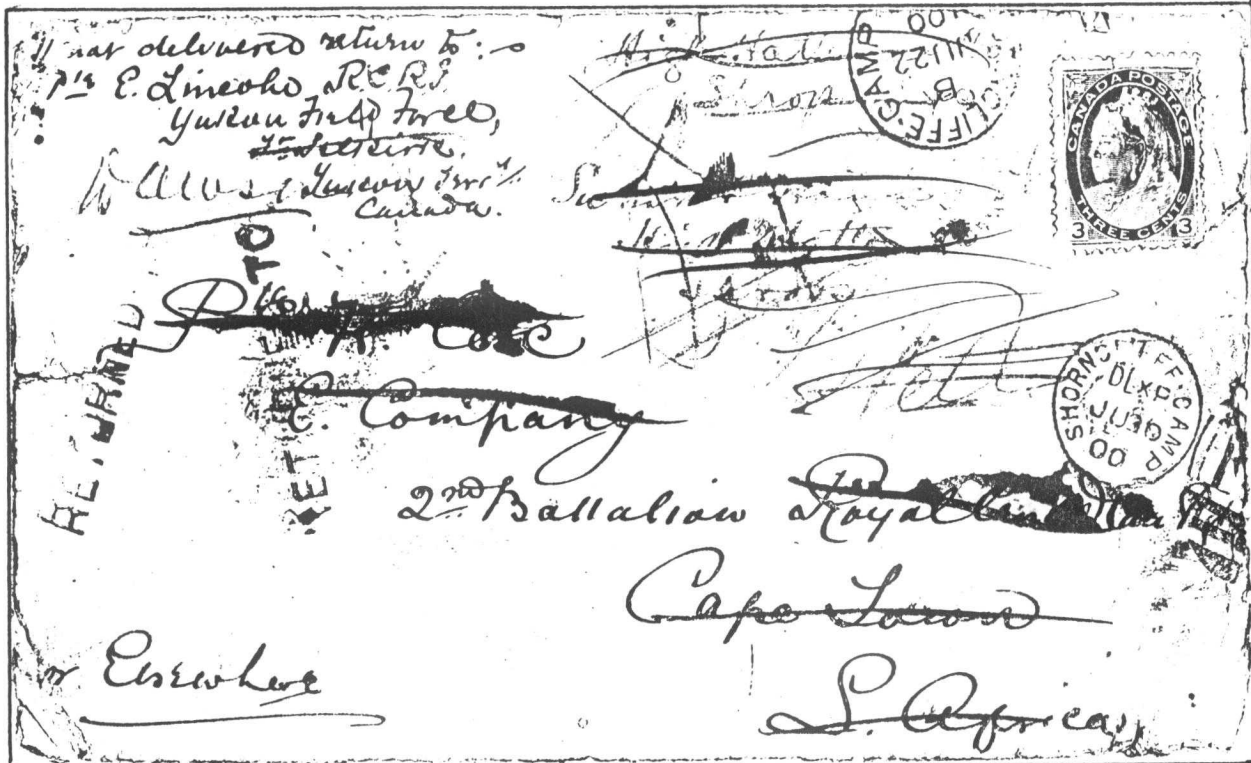
GUARDING THE GOLDFIELDS From our last N/L.

We refer you back to Page 649 in the last N/L. An immediate response to this 'article' came from SAM NICKLE and herewith some more on the subject. Sam has, in fact, two covers which were to and from Edward Lincoln. If you have read the book you will recall that Lincoln was the person who wrote the diary upon which the book was based. Unfortunately we do not have the book any more (but it is in good hands) so a more detailed check of the covers could not be made. Sam's covers are shown herewith. Has anyone else turned up anything on this interesting aspect of our military history?

An aside here by the Editor: It is gratifying to any writer to get a reply like this to an article - it makes it all worth while. Thanks Sam!

This cover, from Woolwich, England, April 9, 1900, was addressed to Lincoln in the Yukon Field Force at Fort Selkirk. The backstamp is PELLY, YUKON and is dated in May 1900.

The second cover is from Lincoln to Pte. H. Cox of E Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment and is addressed to Capetown (Boer War). Postmarks on the cover are: PELLY YUKON, Fe - 00; VICTORIA B.C., Fe 12 00; LONDON CANADA, 5 Mar 00; SOUTHAMPTON, 3 Ju 00; SHORNECLIFFE CAMP B, Ju 22 00; SHORNECLIFFE CAMP (DLxP), Ju 30 00; VANCOUVER B.C., Jy 18 00; LAKE BENNETT B.C., Jy 24 00; WHITE HORSE YUKON, Jul 25 00. (If memory serves, the book stated that Lincoln stayed on after the Force left as he was part of a court case, a witness probably.)



COVER FROM YUKON FIELD FORCE as noted on preceding page.

**BNAPS CONVENTION**

The big news this time is the Hamilton Convention. Our seminar, at 1:15 on Saturday the 23 September, nearly filled the room. There were 28 attending and that must be a record for us!

First off there was a 'business' meeting at which many items were discussed. Ritch Toop was confirmed as Chairman and nobody volunteered to take over as Editor, so-- An ultimatum was delivered by your Editor in that, as soon as N/L # 100 is reached and our Anniversary Issue is completed, this will be a vacant position. In this light (or darkness) it is hoped that someone will take a step forward soon and volunteer to work into the Editorship position.

The finances, as noted in the last N/L, were discussed and it was decided by the meeting that the surplus be held to help with the extra costs of the Anniversary Issue. It was further agreed upon that the dues of \$10. be called for, as usual, in January 1990.

Ron Leith brought up the subject of the Blackouts of WW II and what his group, a sub group of the CMMSG, was doing. They hope to have a comprehensive article on the subject for our special issue in 1991.

Our program was given over to John Tyacke and a slide presentation on the Canadian Civil Censors of WW II followed. This was most informative and we were sorry time was short and John had to leave for Overseas that night. It is hoped that we can persuade John to come up with an article for our N/L on what censor numbers were in what localities, etc.

## THE CHAIRMANS PAGE

BNAPS Conventions seem to just get better and better! BNAPEX '89 was no exception. One of the benefits is renewing friendships and making new acquaintances. As noted by the Editor in this issue, our Study Group session was well attended and the three day convention resulted in six new members. I think this says something for the Military Mail Study Group.

We are planning on a "beefed" up edition of the N/L for #100 which will be available at BNAPEX '91 in Vancouver. Details are being worked out and we will be soliciting the membership for informative and in-depth articles.

The current INDEX for N/L # 1-87 will be updated to incorporate all data including N/L #100 and hopefully be available at BNAPEX '91 also. It has been decided to start another index commencing with N/L # 101. I will continue with this project.

It has also been decided, at our meeting, that it is time for a re-survey and with this in mind it is planned to commence this aspect shortly after #100 has been released. It will take the form of illustrations of all markings together with their size, proofing dates and identifying numbers. Hopefully we can assemble a visual record of all military markings.

**NEW EDITOR REQUIRED** Our Seminar at BNAPEX '89 did not produce any nominations or volunteers for the position of Editor. As you know, Ken Ellison will be stepping down immediately N/L #100 has been published. All of us have enjoyed the benefits of our editors efforts. We have examined vast areas of the military which would not have been possible without everyone's interest and input. Much more has yet to be learned. Unless we can find someone willing to edit the N/L we could very well see it fading into oblivion. Ken has devoted much time and effort in producing the N/L from #51 onward besides assisting Colin Campbell who was the Editor from #1 to #50. I don't think any of us wish to see our Study Group wither, so, I am looking for a volunteer. Please feel free to write me on the subject as follows: E. Ritch Toop, Box 9026, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3T8. Thank you.

### INDEX Last Call!

In our last N/L you had notice of the Index that has been compiled by Ritch Toop. It is a most worthy addition to our N/L's and it has yet to let us down. Cost, postpaid, is \$3.00 to Canada and the US and \$4.00 Overseas, all in Canadian \$\$\$\$.

This is the LAST CALL as the Index will be 'history' as soon as the supply is gone. Don't worry though, Ritch has promised us a whole new INDEX to cover up to and including N/L # 100. Since the cost for the current index has been small, we expect all of you to order the Revised Index at BNAPS '91 (at Vancouver).



#### CMMSG MEMBERS ATTENDING BNAPEX '91<sup>49</sup>

One of the great things about this, or any BNA convention, is the meeting of old friends and making new ones. The large turnout enabled your Editor to meet many for the first time that he had known only by correspondence.

Probably the greatest effort in coming to Hamilton came from John Wannerton, one of our South African members. John exhibited his heretofore unseen, on this continent, THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN THE BOER WAR 1889-1902. For this the judges awarded him a Vermeil. It was great to meet you at last John and we hope to see you at BNAPEX '91 in Vancouver.

Those members attending the show came from all over. We met many who were only a name on a letter - COLIN POMFRET, DAVE HANES, JIM GOBEN, JOHN TYACKE, PETER SANDERSON, PAUL BUREGA, JIM FELTON, LOLA CARON, ED. CHRISTMAN and somehow missed DOUG LINGARD. Others there that we had met before - RITCH TOOP, DON KAYE, JON AND LEANNA JOHNSON, FRANK WAITE, JOHN FRITH, MIKE STREET, WAYNE CURTIS, CIMON MORIN, BILL ROBINSON, BOB BAYES, CLARENCE STILLIONS (OTB), HANK NARBONNE, BEVERLIE CLARK and EARLE COVERT. E. & O. E. please!

In the exhibits, besides John Wannerton's, Ritch Toop got a Silver for P.O.W. Mail in WW II as did Colin Pomfret with Soldier's Letters and Related Mail From the First Contingent, C.E.F. Dave Hanes did a very nice Postal History of Camp Borden for which he was awarded a Silver-Bronze. Other members getting awards, but for other than military subjects, were Bob Bayes (Vermeil), Paul Burega (Vermeil), Vic Willson (Vermeil), Jon Johnson (Silver), Hank Narbonne (Silver) and Earle Covert (Silver-Bronze with Felicitations). Well done!

#### NEW MEMBERS

Something must be going right. We added six welcome new members as follows:

ROBERT A. BAYES, Box 86456, North Vancouver, B.C., V7L 4L1  
JAMES W. FELTON, Box 56371, Little Rock, Ark., 72215  
Mrs. LOLA CARON, 110 Grande Allee Ouest # 201, Quebec, P.Q.,  
G1R 2G8

EDWIN F. CHRISTMAN, 5419 Jason, Houston, Texas, 77096  
R. F. NARBONNE, 216 Mailey Drive, Carleton Place, Ont. K7C 3X9  
Mrs. BEVERLIE CLARK, 924 North Drive, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 0A8

Add to the above, an 'old' member rejoining -  
EARLE L. COVERT, M.D., Box 1070, Hay River, NWT., XOE 0R0.

In addition to the above new members, there has been inquiry from three other BNAPSers.

**NEWS FROM CPS of GB**

Our member, Colin Campbell was awarded the Clifford Aikens Trophy for the best article of research into BNA philately printed in MAPLE LEAVES during the last year.

This event took place at their recent convention. Colin's article was titled CAMP BORDEN AND ITS MILITARY POSTMARKS and he earns our congratulations!

**NEW BOOK ON THE BCATP**

An advertisement has come to hand on the following new book: TRAINING FOR VICTORY, The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in the West. It is by Peter C. Conrad and is available from Western Producer Prairie Books, Box 2500, Saskatoon, Sask., S7K 2C4.

This is a hard cover book with '50 black and white photos' and the price is listed at 24.95 plus 1.50 shipping. "Brought together in time of need, Western Canadian civilians and service personnel join forces in the national war effort."

**CMMSG SALES CIRCUIT**

A military mail sales circuit is off and running under the hand of Ed. Harris in consultation with the Chairman and Editor. More will be forthcoming very soon as the details are unfolded.

This is a Sales Circuit with a difference. Instead of sending out the material, it will be photocopied and a batch of these sent around to members who can then 'order' the wanted items. In this manner it is hoped to keep costs down. Ed has some material now but will need much more soon. Do not send anything now but please advise Ed. on what you have and await further instructions.

Ed. Harris, 620-75th Ave., NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2K 0P9

**BLACKOUTS** The latest news.

A Sub Group, working under our CMMSG, has been formed to study and report their findings on the subject of Canadian Blackout Cancellations. Members, all in the vicinity of Vancouver, are Ken Barlow, Ron Leith, Bill Thorne and Herb Williams.

Four meetings have already been held and are scheduled monthly. Already an extensive topic breakdown has been prepared, and a file with bibliography of all articles on the subject is well under way. Short preliminary articles are being prepared for publication to stimulate interest and to start a feed back process of much wanted data. The assistance of those interested in the topic would be greatly appreciated, and other members would be welcome at the meetings, at present held in Greater Vancouver.

Correspondence is invited, to be addressed to any of the above members, or to Ken Barlow, 1055 Ottawa Ave., West Vancouver, B. C., V7S 2J2. The Sub-Group has promised us an article to

ON ACTIVE SERVICE



HMCS 'CRUSADER'



Mrs J.H. Arrowsmith

313# - 20th Street North.

Lethbridge, Alberta.

Canada.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY IN KOREA

From a friend of the Newsletter, Maurice F. Hampson of Edmonton, comes this update on the H.M.C.S. CRUSADER - ON ACTIVE SERVICE Cachet. This was reported in N/L #82, Page 576 and see also Pages 550-1. Maurice reports:

"I had the good fortune recently to contact Jack H. Arrowsmith who was the originator of some of the covers that have been discussed. Jack states that he joined this ship for its second tour to Korea. On arrival at Sasebo, Japan, he advises, several of the crew had rubber cachets made up at a rubber stamp shop there. They duplicated a rubber cachet that had been previously used on this ship. He purchased one of these cachets for use on his own letters. Jack cannot recall how many other crew members bought them, nor what happened to his. He does not recall ever seeing the larger type cachet as illustrated in N/L 82.

The return address stamp he borrowed from a crew member in Seaman's Mess # 15 and changed it for his use by 'xxxing' out the 15 and typing in # 22, the number of his Petty Officer's Mess which was aft. The designation P1MA3 in his return address stands for Petty Officer First Class, pay level 3 Medical Assistant."

EDITORS LEFT OVER SPACE!

Apologies go out to the members for the excess of verbiage in this issue. As a justification for this, there were the goings on at BNAPEX in September that you should know about.

We are going to try for a Christmas Special Issue as we have done in the past two years. At this point there is no promise but will see if there is time and material available.

ARTICLES ARE NEEDED for your Newsletters so please sit down and do something - one pagers or more are great as are half pages. Please help!

And if we don't see you before Christmas, BEST WISHES FOR THE SEASON!

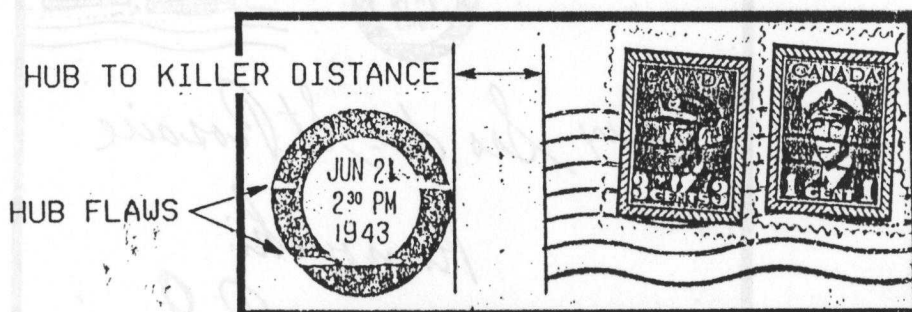


FIGURE 3. Differences between cancellation devices can easily be seen when hub flaws and hub to killer distances are analyzed. This example shows a Rimouski blackout.

#### BLACKOUTS - SOLID BAND EASTERN PORT BLACKOUTS 1943-1945.

By Ron Leith.

One blackout that has fascinated the author for some time is the unusual and somewhat scarce East Coast solid band machine blackout. A nice example is shown in Figure 1. The author has a number of these cancels on cover and the first observation is they appear to originate at different towns (Fig. 2). One cover dated October 6, 1943 has a North Sydney return address, another dated March 18, 1943 has a Dartmouth return and three have Rimouski returns dated June 21, 1943 to March 15, 1945. Although all of these locations are sea ports, none of them has been reported to have been issued blackout devices from Ottawa. There are numerous possibilities with a few of the most likely scenarios...

1. The devices were locally constructed for minor Atlantic sea ports as the magnitude of the U-Boat threat intensified.
2. Ottawa distributed the blackouts unofficially after the main convoy ports had been supplied.
3. One canceller or machine was circulated among the smaller sea port locations.
4. The mail from these locations was gathered as WAY MAIL and forwarded to central locations for blackout cancelling.

The Rimouski cancels overlap the North Sydney period thus eliminating the likelihood of a single circulating canceller. Although all the hubs have the same horizontal elongation and the wavy bar killers have no apparent die differences, closer examination of the hub flaws and the hub to killer spacings confirms they are not all the same (Fig. 3)

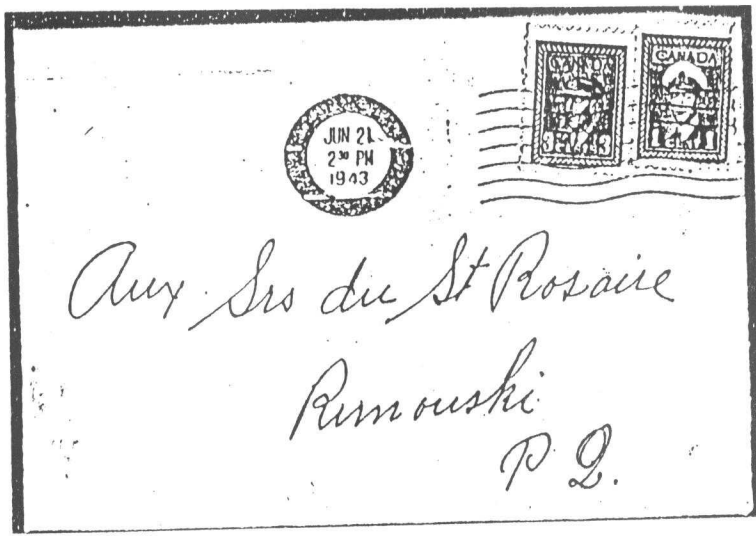


FIGURE 1. East Coast solid band blackout cancellation addressed to Rimouski, P.Q.



FIGURE 2. Similar solid blackout cancels with return addresses from Dartmouth, North Sydney and Rimouski.



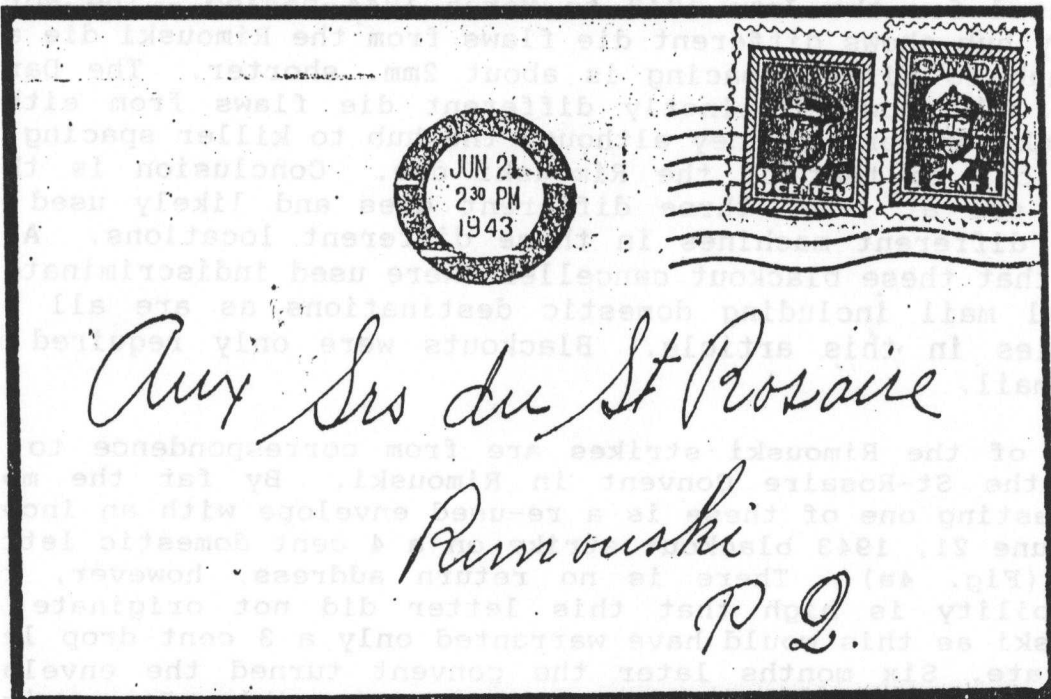
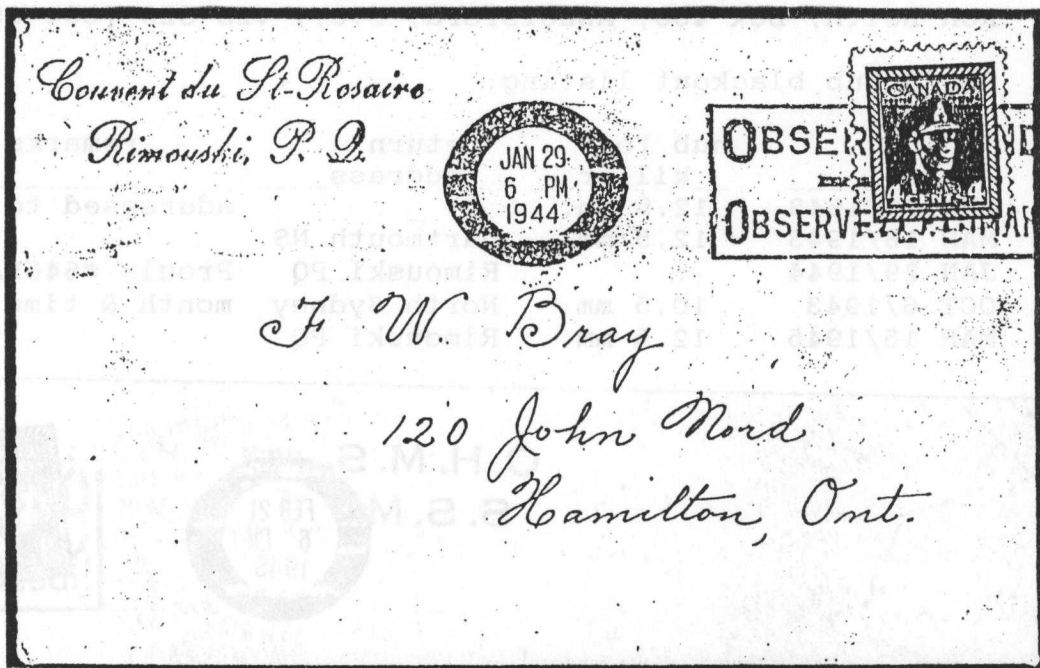


FIGURE 4a. A blackout addressed to the St-Rosaire Convent in Rimouski PQ. Note the 4 cent letter rate dated JUN 21/1943.

FIGURE 4b. The same envelope as in Fig. 4a turned inside out and re-used. Note the same hub with a bilingual slogan killer dated JAN 29/1944.



The Rimouski hubs have the same constant variety die flaws and based on this limited sample we can conclude that only one hub was used for the June 1943 to March 1944 period. The North Sydney hub shows different die flaws from the Rimouski die and the hub to killer spacing is about 2mm. shorter. The Dartmouth hub shows distinctly different die flaws from either Rimouski or North Sydney although the hub to killer spacing is identical to that of the Rimouski die. Conclusion is that there are at least three different dies and likely used on three different machines in three different locations. Also note that these blackout cancellers were used indiscriminately on all mail including domestic destinations as are all the examples in this article. Blackouts were only required on ship mail.

Three of the Rimouski strikes are from correspondence to or from the St-Rosaire Convent in Rimouski. By far the most interesting one of these is a re-used envelope with an incoming June 21, 1943 blackout strike on a 4 cent domestic letter rate (Fig. 4a). There is no return address, however, the probability is high that this letter did not originate in Rimouski as this would have warranted only a 3 cent drop letter rate. Six months later the convent turned the envelope inside out and re-used it to Hamilton (Fig. 4b). It received another identical blackout hub strike dated January 29, 1944 with the wavy bar killer replaced with a bilingual slogan (Proulx #6465A). The author strongly suspects that Rimouski mail was routed through a single postal agent in Quebec City and that the blackout cancels were applied there.

Following the same argument, it is conceivable that the Dartmouth mails were routed through Halifax as would be the North Sydney mail. Could Halifax have had two or more machines, each used for different mail dispatches? More supporting or refuting evidence is solicited from the readership.

Please direct your correspondence to the author:

Ron Leith, Box 430, Abbotsford, B.C., V2S 5Z5 (604-850-1137)

Solid hub blackout listing:

date	hub to killer	return address	remarks
JUN 21/1943	12.5 mm.	-	addressed to Rimouski
MAR 18/1943	12.5 mm.	Dartmouth NS	
JAN 29/1944	-	Rimouski PQ	Proulx #6465A
OCT 6/1943	10.5 mm.	North Sydney	month & time reversed
MAR 15/1945	12.5 mm.	Rimouski PQ	

O. H. M. S.

S. S. M.



Monsieur Octave Tourchot,  
Ste-Anne de la Pôcatière.  
Cté Kam.