



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

MARCH 1991

PAGE NO. 740  
NEWSLETTER NO. 99



## EASTER GREETINGS!

Perhaps this is a little late for your Easter, but for the Editor the event is still a week away.

The card shown here is courtesy of Ritch Toop.

Many of you may complain that Christmas / Easter cards have little to do with military postal history, and you are right. But, does an editor not go along with a good thing? Response from members on this subject is probably higher than for any other items we have dealt with. Look for a repeat on these cards for the next Christmas issue as there are enough interesting items on hand now!

The editor collects these things too, and may have started the whole business. Many of you must be buying these things up because there don't seem to be any left out there to acquire!

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

It is with regret that we advise of the death of R. Thurlow Fraser, one of our longer term members. Thurlow was a fine gentleman in all aspects and any who knew him, as we did for some 30 years, will mourn his passing. The CMMMSG has sent its sympathy to his family, and received a nice letter in return.

In the field of new members we have:

Dr. George A. Vanderburgh of Box 204, Owen Sound Street, Shelburne, Ontario, L0N 1S0. The Doctor is re-joining our study group after some years of absence.

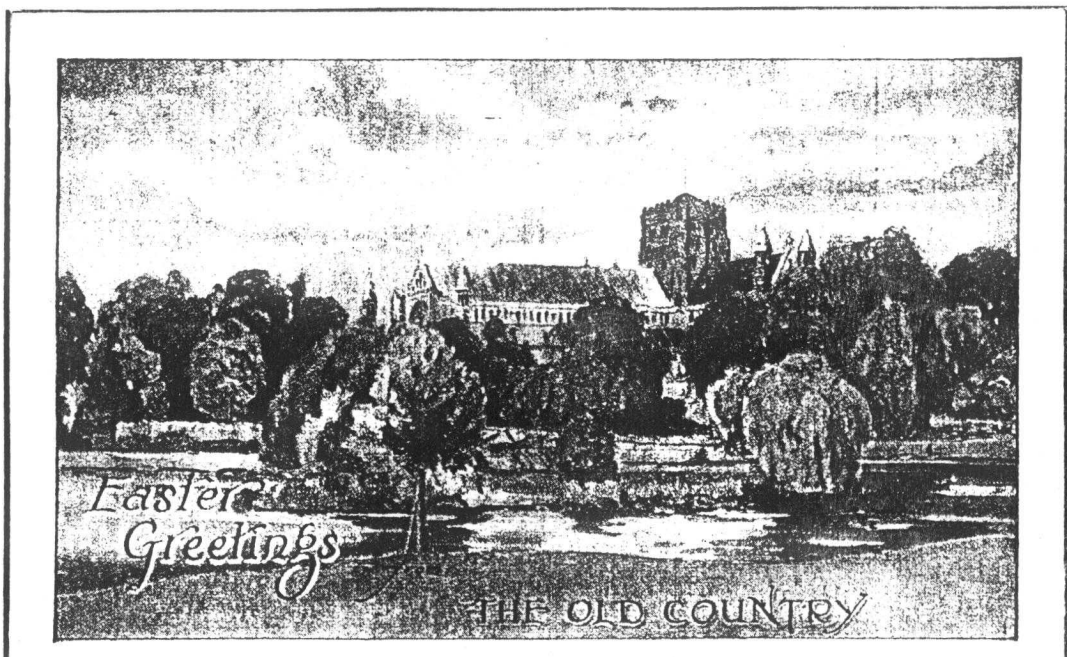
NEWLETTERS 100 and on....

As you may realize this N/L is NUMBER 99 and NUMBER 100 is on the way. If you have been following the scenario you will know that No. 100 will be out for BNAPEX 91 in VANCOUVER. At the moment, the Chairman and the Editor are having a long distance 'argument' about how to fit all this in. The question is about page numbering, of all things! It is possible that there may be a regular N/L for No. 100 and also the Anniversary Issue 'thrown' in as an extra. The results will become apparent to you when you are at BNAPEX 91!

The ANNIVERSARY ISSUE is on schedule with its 200 + pages. All those who have contributed are to be thanked for their cooperation in getting this project into reality. We are sure you will enjoy it and that it will be a ready reference for some years to come.

### VOLUME 3 - THE CANADIAN MILITARY POSTS - 1947 to 1989

A new mystery Vol. in this series is apparently out now. The mystery is that to date the authors, W.J.Bailey and E.R.Toop, and anybody else out west have not seen the book. You can be assured that this Volume III in the series will be well worth acquiring. A few details as we know them: It is edited and published by E.B.Proud in England, as have the others in the series. It covers the operations in NATO, the United Nations and Canada in 12 chapters and three appendices. It is hard bound with over 260 pages and is available from Geo. S. Wegg Ltd., 53 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ont., M5C 1K6 and the price is Can. \$69.00. This volume will be essential for any well informed Canadian Military Postal History collector - remember that knowledge is the secret to success in this hobby!



A Salvation Army Easter greeting card, this was sent from a Canadian soldier overseas to his mother. It is postmarked 15 April 1943 and is from FPO SC4 (2), 2 Cdn Artillery Holding Unit, Witley, England.

## CANADA'S SHIPS IN THE GULF

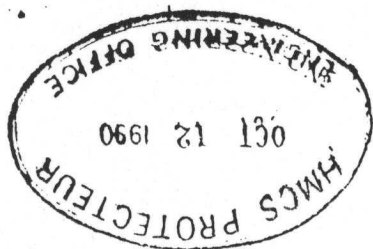
By Wilf Whitehouse

When Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, Canada decided to send three ships to the Persian Gulf to help enforce the United Nations embargo against Iraq. The ships chosen were the destroyers TERRA NOVA and ATHABASKAN together with the support ship PROTECTEUR. Since their arrival in the Gulf our ships have been hailing and occasionally boarding merchant ships as are ships from other countries navies in the alliance.

The three ships operate out of the Port of Manama, Bahrain, with patrols lasting roughly 14 days, after which they spend 3 or 4 days either in Manama, or ports in the United Arab Emirates.

Immediately the ships left Halifax it was announced that CFPO 5071 had been assigned to the group and that postage (\$.39) would be required on mail from the ships. Some time later the FREE mail privilege was granted.

With the granting of the FREE mail privilege, the writer's name and address was required to be placed in the upper left corner of the envelope, in a few cases a ships stamp may appear in this location (Fig. 1). A ship stamp may also appear on the face of the cover in addition to the writer's name and address but these examples are few and far between. Surprisingly, the circular rubber handstamp containing the CF and number assigned to the ship which was intended for use on ship mail when absent from its home port, has not been seen except on philatelically prepared covers.



M

12108-53 Street

Edmonton

Alberta

T5W 3L9



FIGURE 1. This cover was from PROTECTEUR prior to the granting of the FREE mail privilege. Note 5 days between date of the ship's handstamp and the postmark presumably applied at the FMO Halifax.

To date, three different postmarks have been seen on ship mail, the most common appears to be a unilingual handstamp, 33mm in diameter, CFPO 5071 / current date on three lines / FMO HALIFAX, N.S. B3K 2X0 which Ritch Toop suggests is probably applied at Halifax (Fig. 2).

B.

Emcs TERRA NOVA  
CFPO 5071  
Fmo HALIFAX, N.S.  
B3K 2X0



10R

Cres.

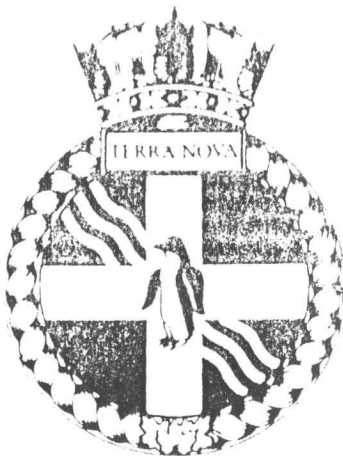


FIGURE 2. This cover illustrates FREE mail from TERRA NOVA together with a Christmas card from the ship. The printing is completely in red on a white card and there is a photo of the ship and Christmas greetings inside.

A second postmark, also 33mm in diameter but bilingual, CFPO 5071 / current date on one line / BPFC 5071 was perhaps applied on board ship or at the base in Bahrain given that only two days elapsed between the date on the letter, the ship's stamp and the postmark date (Fig. 3).

Finally, a cut down example of the 33mm postmark illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, shows all reference to the FMO Halifax has been removed, indicating its use either aboard ship or at the base. (Fig. 4)

This is all that is known about the postmarks from ships in the Gulf at the present time. There is a steel handstamp CFPO / date / 5071 available (probably at Halifax) but this has not been seen by the writer on mail from the Gulf. Perhaps members could expand the information known by sending photostats of their covers to the editor for possible future use in the N/L.

HMCS Terra Nova  
CFPO 5071  
FMO HALIFAX, N.S.  
B3K 2X0



COXSWAIN'S OFFICE

JAN 02 1991

HMCS TERRA NOVA

Mr. W. Whitehouse  
#39-1750 Pacific Way  
Kemloops B.C.  
U2E 2K8

FIGURE 3. The bilingual postmark appears to be well worn and makes no reference to the FMO Halifax.



MESS  
MCS ATHABASKAN  
CFPO 5071  
MO HALIFAX, NS  
3K 5X5

Mr & Mrs  
2910 Cook St #507  
Victoria, B.C.  
Canada  
V8T 3S7

PAR AVION - BY AIR MAIL



FIGURE 4. This cover originated aboard ATHABASKAN and the letter is dated 22 December 1990 which indicates that the postmark was applied either aboard ship or at the base in Gulf.

BLUE AIR MAIL LETTERS  
NON-TRANSMISSIBLE  
TO PRISONERS OF WAR

Proofed April 1944

BLUE AIR MAIL LETTERS  
NON-TRANSMISSIBLE  
TO PRISONERS OF WAR  
LES LETTRES-AVION BLEUES  
NE SONT PAS TRANSMISSIBLES  
AUX PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

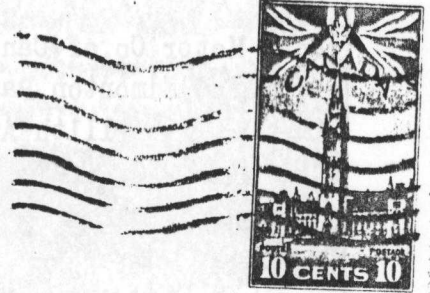
Proofed April 1944

GREY AIR MAIL LETTERS  
NON-TRANSMISSIBLE  
TO PRISONERS OF WAR  
LES LETTRES-AVION GRIS  
NE SONT PAS TRANSMISSIBLES  
AUX PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Proofed March 1945

ARMED FORCES  
AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL



If anything is enclosed in this  
letter it will be sent by ordinary  
mail.

BLUE AIR MAIL LETTERS  
NON-TRANSMISSIBLE  
TO PRISONERS OF WAR

TO: W/Sgd William L. Gilmore,

Prisoner No. 105479

Stalag-Loft 3,

Sub Camp 17 B.  
Germany.

BLUE AIR MAIL LETTERS  
NON-TRANSMISSIBLE  
TO PRISONERS OF WAR

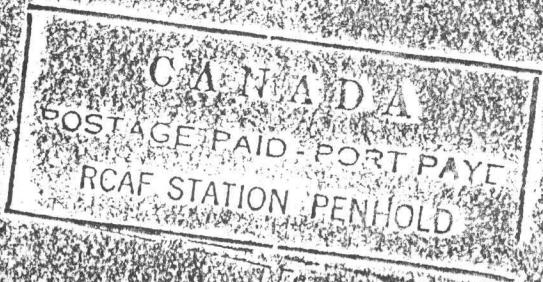
#### NON-TRANSMISSABLE BLUE AIRMAIL LETTERS

Member Walter Plomish, as you will note from his interesting article in the Jan-Feb. TOPICS (1991), collects Canadian Airmail Postal History. He has sent us some of this material with a military connotation and we present this Air Letter as the first installment.

This AFAL was posted at St. John, N.B. on 23 January 1945 and was addressed to a Canadian POW in German hands. These Air Letter forms were not to be sent to POW's as special pre-printed forms were available for the purpose. You will note the boxed handstamp that was struck twice on the AL. On the reverse there is a red bilingual handstamp INSPECTION DIVISION / DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

To round out the picture, Ritch Toop has sent proofs of three of these handstamps. Although 'rare' now these mis-used AFAL's must have been plentiful enough to warrant so many markers since it looks like the mark was applied in Ottawa. Perhaps there is a lot more to the story? Can anyone else provide examples of the use of these markings?

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE  
SERVICE DE SA MAJESTÉ



Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd.,  
Edmonton Parts Depot,  
111th Ave. & 149th St.,  
P.O. Box 2357,  
Edmonton, Alta.

Cut down # 10 envelope.

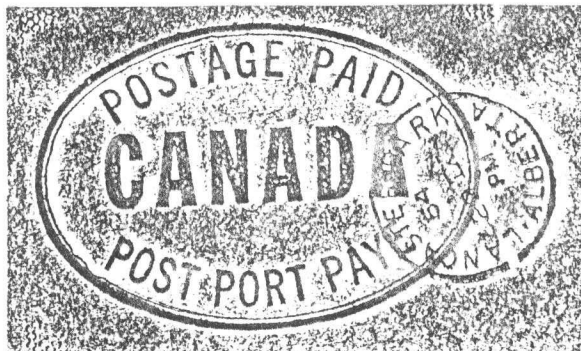
FD29)

MORE ON POSTAGE PAIDS

On Page 793 of the last N/L this subject took up the whole page. Several responses have come in, most notably from Allan Steinhart.

Another identical marking confirms the story given last time. In addition there a couple more of the Post Paids to add to the record. Most unusual, from Allan, is the marking used at RCAF STATION, PENHOLD. Although not dated, this one should be in the 1964-65 period. The second item is the POSTAGE PAID / CANADA POST / PORT PAYE, a more common item and not likely locally made. This one was used at CFB Esquimalt and was elsewhere on the cover dated 7 November 1967. Also shown here is the 'new' Lancaster Park item, again from Allan, and it is dated 29 September 1964.

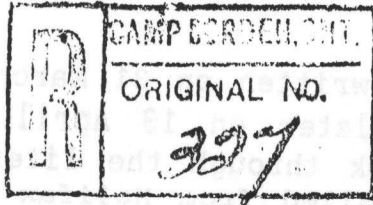
Any more identified military Post Paids, or have you had enough on this subject?



Both illustrations are cut down to fit here from #10 envelopes.



MORGAN TRUST COMPANY  
1455 UNION AVENUE  
MONTREAL

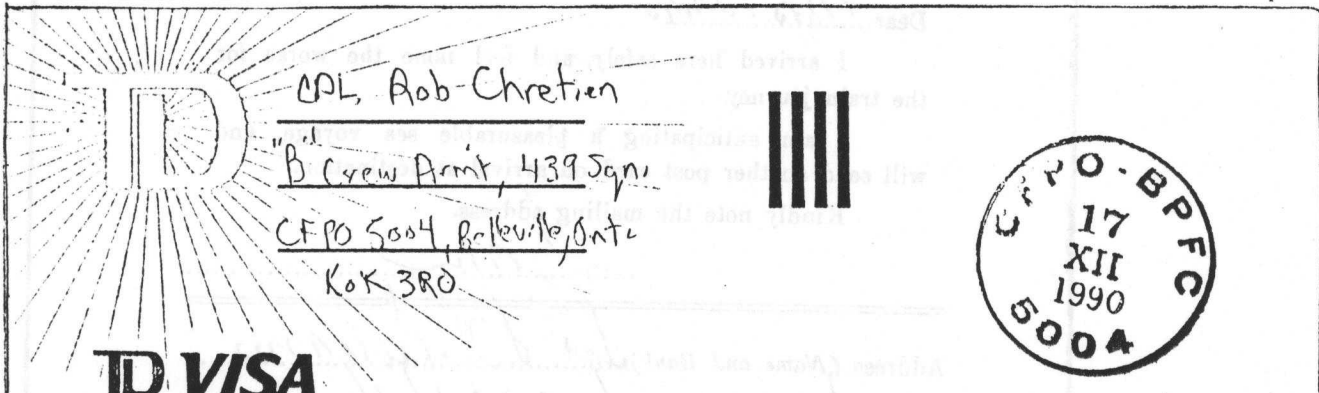
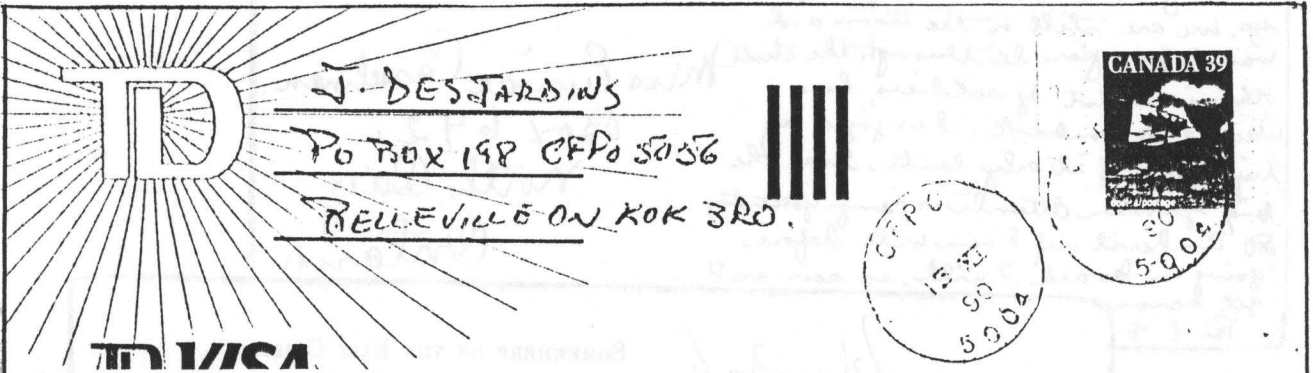


Mr Ian C. Morgan  
1455 Union Avenue  
Montreal, O.Q., Canada.

Registered.

MILITARY MOODS

What a title! A recent letter from member Hank Narbonne includes this photocopied cover of the Camp Borden MOOD cancel. As you may have noted in the TOPICS classifieds, Hank is a collector of these cancellations. The MOOD stands for MONEY ORDER OFFICE DATESTAMP. You omitted to mention, Hank, if there are any of these cancels from other military camps?



**TD VISA**

P.O.B./C.P. 222  
TORONTO-DOMINION CENTRE,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5K 1M6

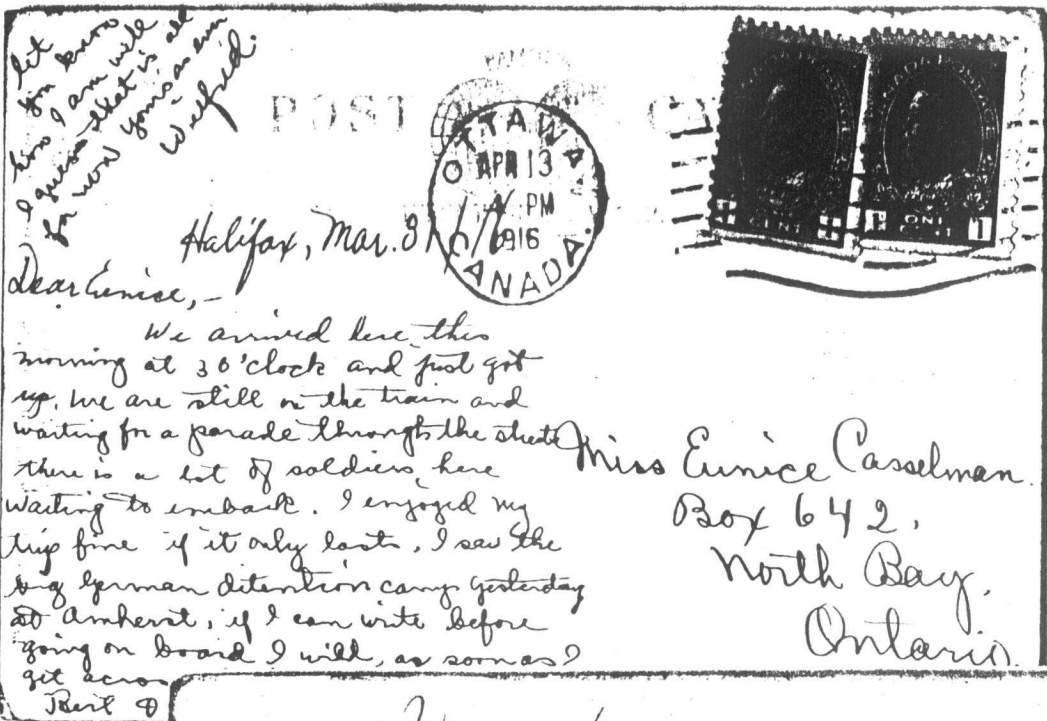
Being in the 'Gulf' was no excuse for not paying one's bills! Covers courtesy of Allan Steinhart Get your 'Gulf' covers soon-- some are likely 'rare' now!

DELAYED TRANSMISSION FROM CANADA WW I

The two illustrations used here were provided by Colin Pomfret, one of our faithful contributors who 'sneaks' 'little' items in quite frequently.

These items were from servicemen in Halifax who were about to board ship for overseas. It appears both cards were delayed by the Army, or the post office, to give the transports time to reach England safely.

In the first case the postcard was written on 31 March 1916 and postmarked in Ottawa 14 days later on 13 April. The second card is not dated, but a look through the literature tells us that the 85th Battalion sailed from Halifax on 12 October 1916. This card is also postmarked in Ottawa, some 18 days later, on 25 October. In both cases the cards were postmarked in Ottawa, not at Halifax where they were written - a real case of delayed transmission!



Dear *Mr. Banks* ..... SOMEWHERE ON THE EAST COAST.

I arrived here safely, and feel none the worse for the train journey.

I am anticipating a pleasurable sea voyage, and will send another post card on arrival at destination.

Kindly note the mailing address.

Address (Name and Rank) *1st Lt. J. Williams* .....

*No. 222164*  
*Medical Officer 15th Bn. C.E.F.*

Canadian Expeditionary Force,  
c/o. Army Post Office, London.