



Canadian Military Mail Study Group



NEWSLETTER

Special United Nations Issue

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Page 61

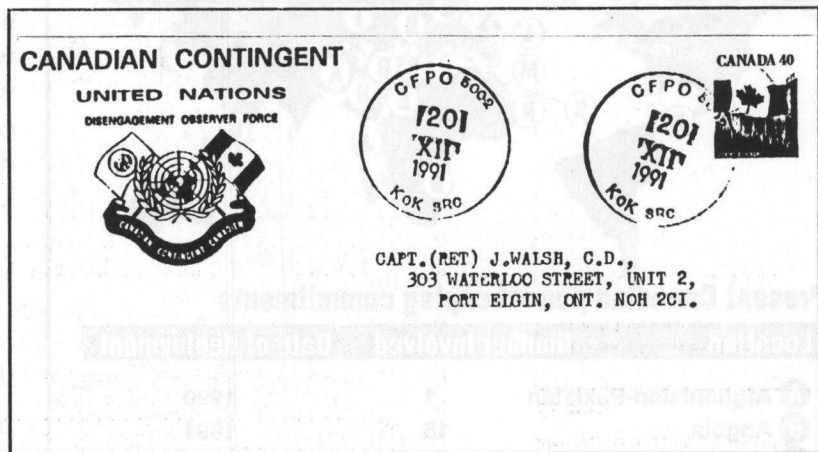
Editorial Ramblings

Just when you thought summer had arrived, it suddenly turned into fall. Of course, you know that Canada Post is promoting October as Stamp Collecting Month. I think that they are to be commended for the effort put into promoting the hobby among young people. At the same time, I also believe that the older, established collectors should get involved in recruiting new blood for our hobby.

October is not only stamp collecting month, it is also the month when the new peacekeeping monument is to be dedicated in the Nation's Capital. By the time you'll receive this issue, you will probably have seen the monument dedication ceremony on television. It is a powerful, realistic sculpture, sure to evoke memories in those of us who have been part of the United Nations' missions.

This issue is dedicated to all our peacekeepers, past and present. See you next month!

Henk Burgers



CAPT. (RET) J. WALSH, C.D.,
303 WATERLOO STREET, UNIT 2,
PORT ELGIN, ONT. N0H 2G1.

Coming in Future Issues:

Our Christmas / New Year's special, with more from the Canada Official Postal Guide and, of course, lots of interesting news items submitted by our members.

The Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter is the publication of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society.

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Please address mail to:
Henk Burgers,
c/o HBA Ltd.,
2680 Southvale Crescent,
Suite 301,
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1B 4W5

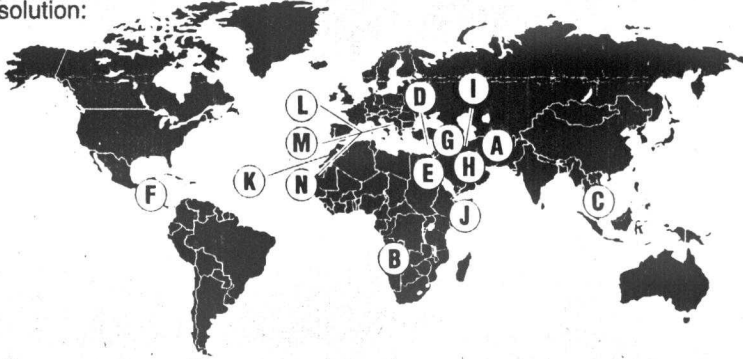
Fax: 613-737-7704

Peacekeeping: A Canadian Contribution to the World

Over the years, a continuing feature of Canada's foreign and defence policy has been the overall commitment to promote international peace and security. The effective participation of Canadian Forces in peacekeeping operations has contributed directly to the easing of tensions in trouble spots throughout the world.

A world of peacekeeping

Over the last 38 years, Canadian peacekeepers have helped bring stability to some of the world's hot spots. Beginning next June, they will be leaving Cyprus, giving up on a problem that seems to have no solution:



Present Canadian peacekeeping commitments

Location	Number involved	Date of deployment
A Afghanistan-Pakistan	1	1990
B Angola	15	1991
C Cambodia	213	1992
D Cyprus	575	1964
E Egypt (Sinai)	28	1986
F El Salvador	11	1992
G Golan Heights	180	1974
H Iraq-Kuwait	45	1991
I Middle East*	13	1954
J Somalia**	900	1992
K Western Sahara	33	1991
L Yugoslavia	12	1991
M Yugoslavia I	1,200	1992
N Yugoslavia II	1,200	1992

*Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria **Scheduled for deployment Dec. 14 or 15

Canada is the only country that has participated in all the UN peacekeeping operations since 1950. It has sent troops to Lebanon, New Guinea and Kashmir. This participation did not come without cost: 314 Canadians were killed in the Korean conflict, another 83 have since died while serving with the UN.

Current Commitments

Canadians are serving in the following areas:

India-Pakistan — The UN Military Observer Group in India/Pakistan (UNMOGIP);

Middle East — Two operations: the UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF);

Cyprus — Canada has 576 soldiers serving with the UN Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP);

Sinai — Although not a UN-mandated mission, Canada

is participating in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in response to requests from Egypt and Israel;

Afghanistan-Pakistan — Canada provided military observers to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP); a Canadian military adviser if with the Office of the Secretary General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP);

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Iraq-Kuwait — The UN Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) includes 45 Canadian Forces military engineers who clear mines and unexploded ordnance from the demilitarized zone;

Western Sahara — Canada contributes 33 CF members to the military component of the UN Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO);

Angola — There are 15 Canadians with the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM);

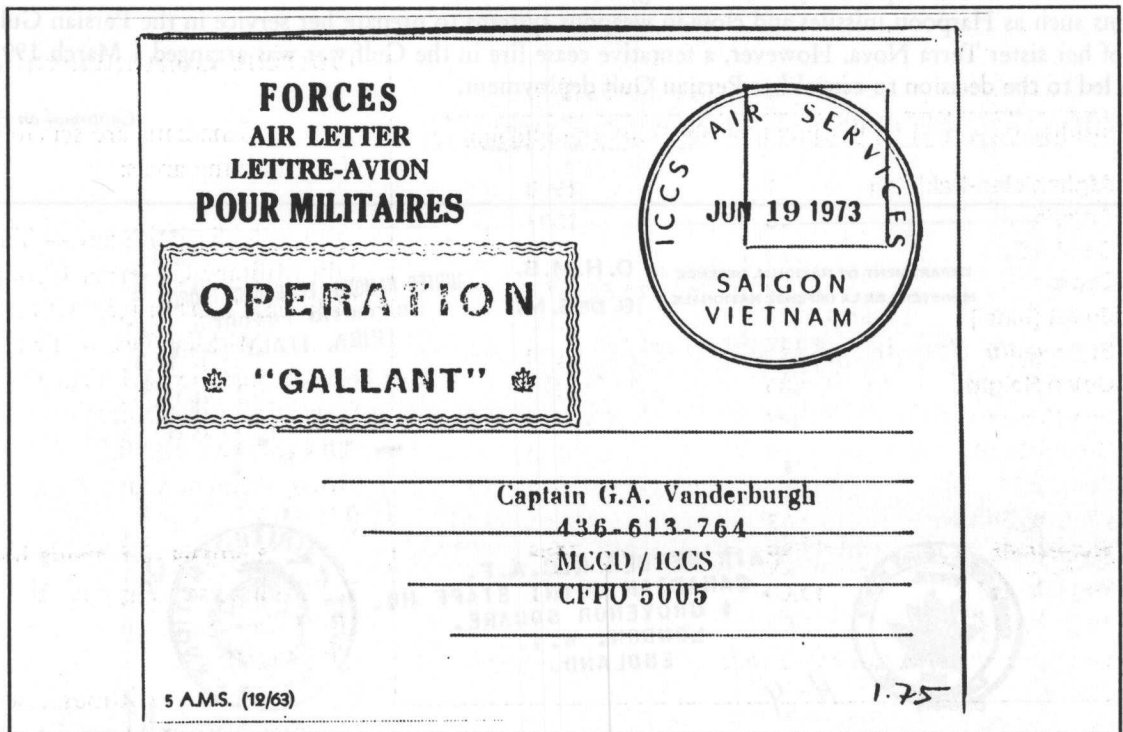
El Salvador — UN Observer Group in El Salvador (ONUSAL);

Cambodia — The Canadian contingent at the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) consists of engineers, a transport unit, a naval detachment and headquarters personnel;

Yugoslavia — Canada has committed up to 1200 personnel to the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR). It consists of an infantry battalion, a combat engineer regiment, military observers and RCMP.

Future Missions

Canada has agreed to commit troops to UN missions in Somalia and Mozambique. Stay tuned for more news to follow in the coming months.



A Forces Air Letter used during Canada's participation in the ICCS, Vietnam, dated Jun 14 1973. Cover bears a rectangular "Operation Gallant" cachet in red.

HMCS Restigouche on U.N. Service

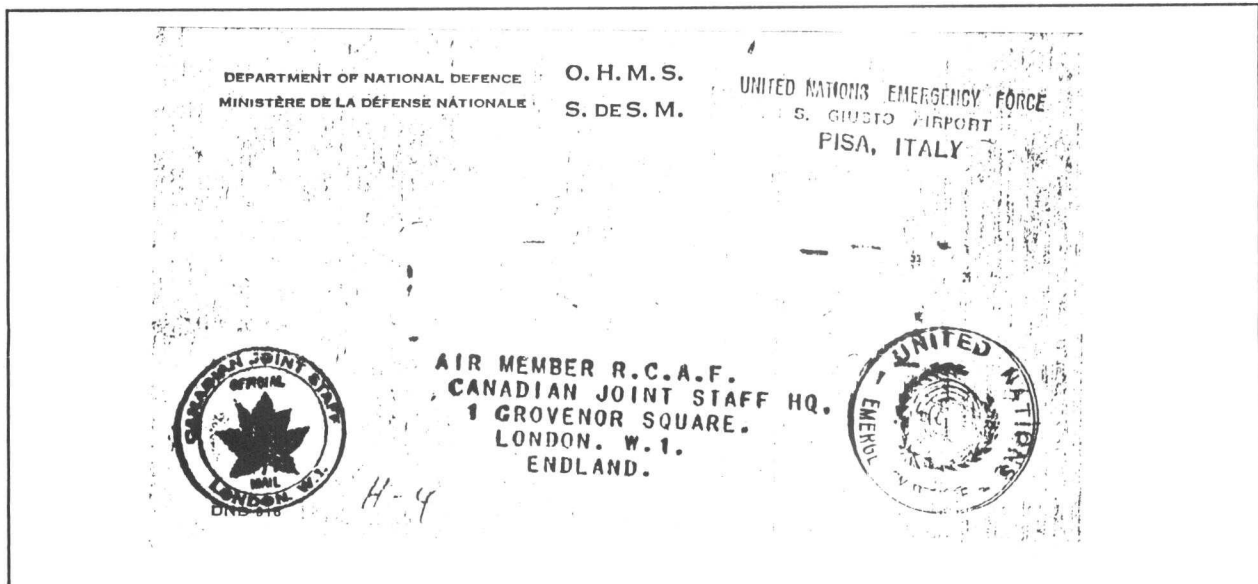
W. Whitehouse

On 24 February 1992, H.M.C.S. "Restigouche" departed Esquimalt for the Red Sea in order to carry out Canada's part in the enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Iraq. On Arrival 21 April, "Restigouche" joined ships from Australia, France and the U.S. on station South of the Gulf of Aquaba. Here all merchant ships regardless of nationality, southbound out of the Gulf or northbound for the Gulf of Aquaba are stopped for inspection. The time required to complete an inspection varies with the size of the ship and the type of cargo.

A patrol generally lasts 8 to 10 days with 3 or 4 days spent in Egyptian or Saudi Arabian ports for the rest and relaxation. Mail is received and despatched on a regular basis through the support unit ashore or U.S. sources. When at sea, mail arrives during refuelling or by helicopter. It was intended that all correspondence be routed through FMO Esquimalt the ship's home port, however covers received indicate that considerable mail passes through FMO Halifax, and that 18 to 20 days are required to and from Canada. Restigouche is expected to arrive back in Esquimalt toward the end of August 1992.

It may be of interest to mention here that Restigouche was commissioned at Montreal on 7 June 1958 and then on Halifax until July 1973 when she was transferred to Esquimalt. The ship has undergone a number of refits over the past 34 years including that of February 1991 in which she was fitted with modern weapons such as Harpoon missiles and close-in weapons systems to prepare her service in the Persian Gulf in relief of her sister Terra Nova. However, a tentative cease fire in the Gulf war was arranged 1 March 1991 which led to the decision to cancel her Persian Gulf deployment.

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Another reminder of UNEF 1: a cover from the RCAF detachment in Pisa, Italy to the RCAF member of the Canadian Joint Staff HQ in London. At right the UN Emergency Force cachet in black; at left the CJS "Official Mail" stamp in red.

Some postal items from HMCS Restigouche.

COMMANDING OFFICER
H.M.C.S. RESTIGOUCHE
EMO VICTORIA, B.C.
YOS 180

BASE
ESQUIMALT
EMO VICTORIA, B.C.

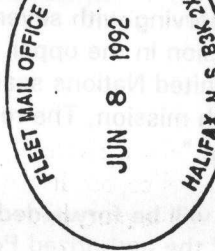


POSTED ON BOARD

HMCS RESTIGOUCHE

DATE 23 APR 92

CPo2 J. R. BOURDAGE,
HMCS RESTIGOUCHE
EMO VICTORIA, B.C.
YOS 180



Official Olympic Sponsor
Commanditaire officiel des Olympiques

M. HAMPSON
12108-53 ST.
EDMONTON
ALBERTA
T5W 3L9

Ship's handstamp on
the reverse dated
4 June 1992

United Nations Postage Agreement

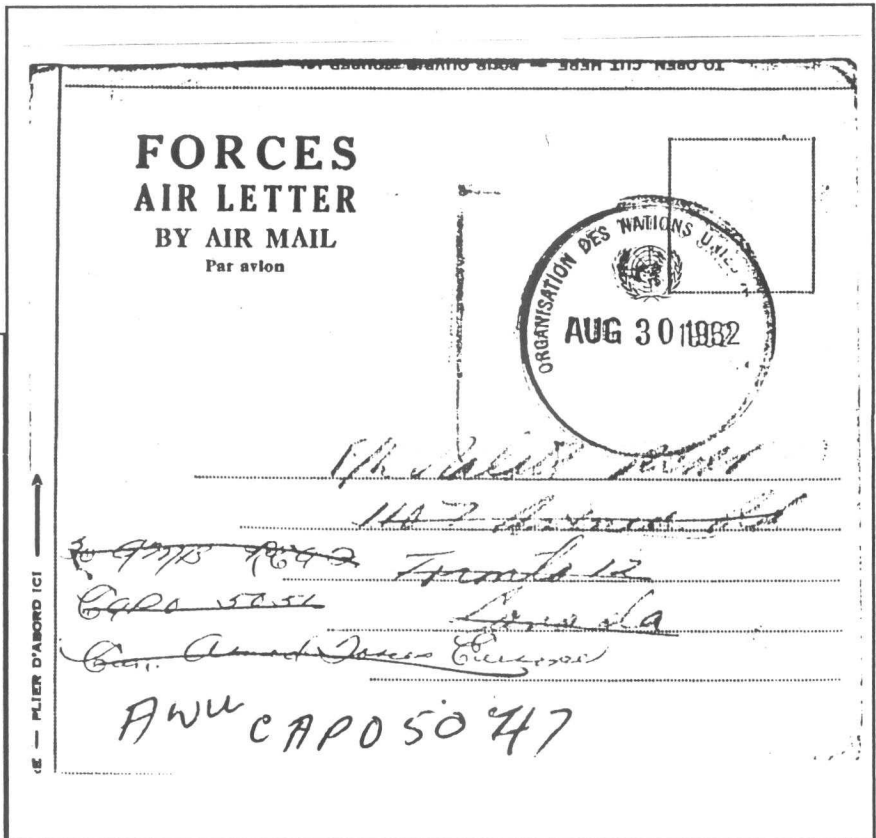
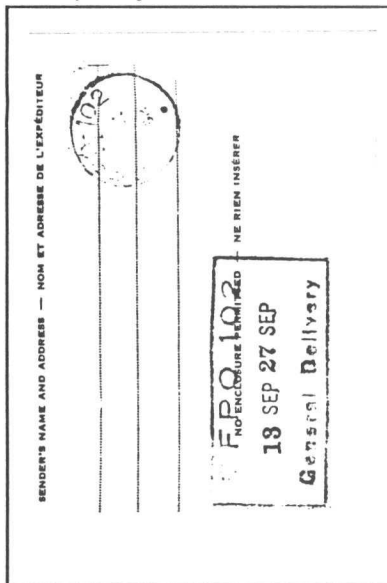
Of interest to members of the Military Mail Study Group, Vol 71, No.10 of the Bulletin of the Corporate Manual system of Canada Post dated April 27, 1992 noted in section 5.3 the following:

"As a result of a special agreement, the United Nations will pay the postage charge on letters and postcards from members of Canadian forces serving with several peacekeeping missions around the world. The mail will have a datestamp impression in the upper right corner on the address side reading: United Nations, an imprint of the United Nations seal, the date (e.g. 92.03.26) and the acronym (in bilingual format, if applicable) of each mission. The return address of the sender's name will appear in the upper margin of the item."

"Letters and postcards bearing this endorsement will be forwarded to addressees for delivery as fully prepaid mail. To date, the following is a listing of the authorized Peacekeeping Missions, their locations and their acronyms:

- UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE YUGOSLAVIA - YUGOSLAVIA - UNPROFOR
- UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA - CAMBODIA - UNTAC
- UNITED NATIONS IRAQ/KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION - KUWAIT - UNIKOM
- UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE - GOLAN HEIGHTS - UNDOF"

Another Canadian Forces Air Letter. This one was sent from the Congo (ONUC) to Canada. Round rubber UN canceller dated Aug 30, 1962. Redirected to CAPO 5051 and then to CAPO 5047. The reverse shows a CFPO 102 steel hammer cancel and a purple boxed CFPO 102 General Delivery stamp.

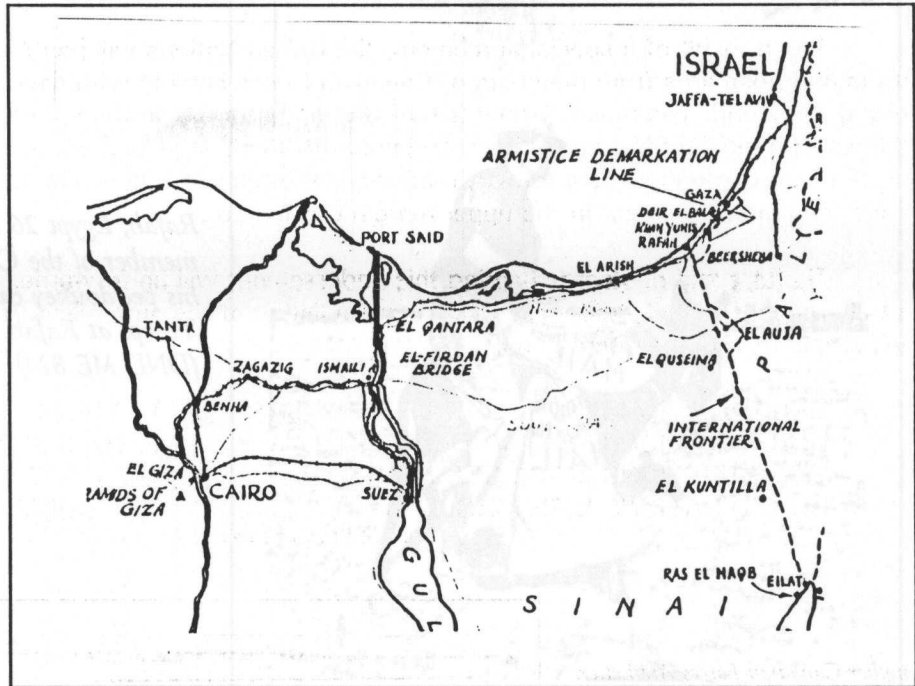


Postal Services under the UN Flag

The following pages show a few scenes of the military postal services under the United Nations flag. Perhaps it brings back memories for some of you!

Contributed by Ritch Toop

*Map of the Middle-East area in 1959.
(DND ME 1954)*



*UNEF Base Post Office, Camp Rafah, Egypt,
13 September 1962. Tpr Bernard Allen of
Yarmouth, N.S. paying the postal clerk for parcel
postage. This post office handled about a ton of
mail daily for five of the seven countries in the
Peace Force.*

(DND ME 62-168-4)



*Rafah, Egypt 26 Aug 1957. Pte H. Shean, a member of the Canadian Postal Corps and his pet donkey carry mail to the Canadian Troops at Rafah.
(DND ME 824)*



*Camp Rafah, Egypt 30 Nov 1961. Canadian soldiers with UNEF in Egypt sending their Christmas parcels home.
(DND ME 61-290-3)*

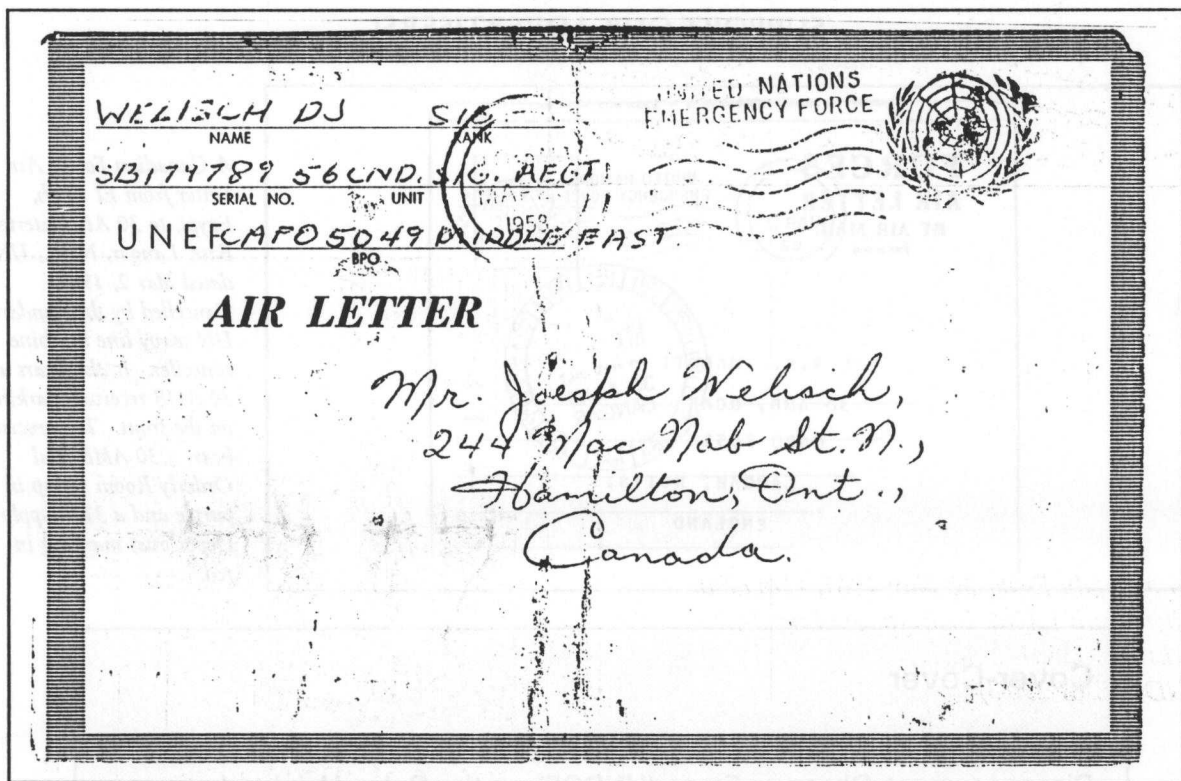
BNAPEX '92

by E.R. Toop (CMMSG Chairman for Life)

Another convention has come and gone. Each one presents something new and exciting; judging from the location and activity during the convention, together with the camaraderie, BNAPEX '92 certainly ranks well up the scale. The exhibits, bourse and study groups were most interesting and well attended. For all those military buffs, John Wannerton's exhibit of CANADA AND THE ANGLO-BOER WAR was enjoyed by all - thanks John!

The Military Mail Study Group was convened at 11:00 am on Friday the 11th of September with standing room only (21 attendees). During a very short business session, the incumbent Study Group Editor and President were re-affirmed for another year. A slide programme was presented on World War Two Prisoner of War and Hong Kong Force "C" mail.

All in all, the 10th through 12th of September were busy days with barely sufficient time to greet friends old and new. Hopefully we will be able to pick up where we left off during BNAPEX '93 in Toronto - see ya'll then.



A United Nations airletter from the early part of UNEF 1. Sent by a Signaller of 56 Canadian Signals Regiment to Hamilton, Ontario. CAPO 5049 was the Canadian military post office in the Middle East. The United Nations Emergency Force wavy line cancellation was used by UNEF for a long period; this one is dated March 26, 1958.

Small Ads

The Newsletter will accept small ads from members. One insertion of up to four lines for a Loonie! (For our overseas friends, that's a Canadian dollar) Send your ad with real money or mint (Canadian preferred) stamps.

TRADE: MILITARY History-hard cover-140 pages-SIXTH CANADIAN FIELD COMPANY (RCE) 1939-1945, for similar First World War.
J.C. Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC V1Z 1L6.

FOR SALE: CMMSG MILITARY MAIL ANTHOLOGY. Hard Cover - \$44.89 in Canada; US\$40.00 for USA and overseas; Soft Cover - \$32.05 in Canada; US\$30.00 for USA and overseas; Post Paid. Order from:
Robt. A. Lee, #203-1139 Sutherland Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 5Y2.

WANTED: Falklands Island invasion material (yes, Falkland Islands!). Please send photocopies/prices desired. Have material for trade (modern Canada/UK/USA).

Dean Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3.

CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS: Lost track of the number of responses to my C.F.C. ad. Thanks to all who replied! Covers, postcards still wanted, especially WW I.

Ken Ellison, R.R. # 1, Oyama, BC V0H 1W0.

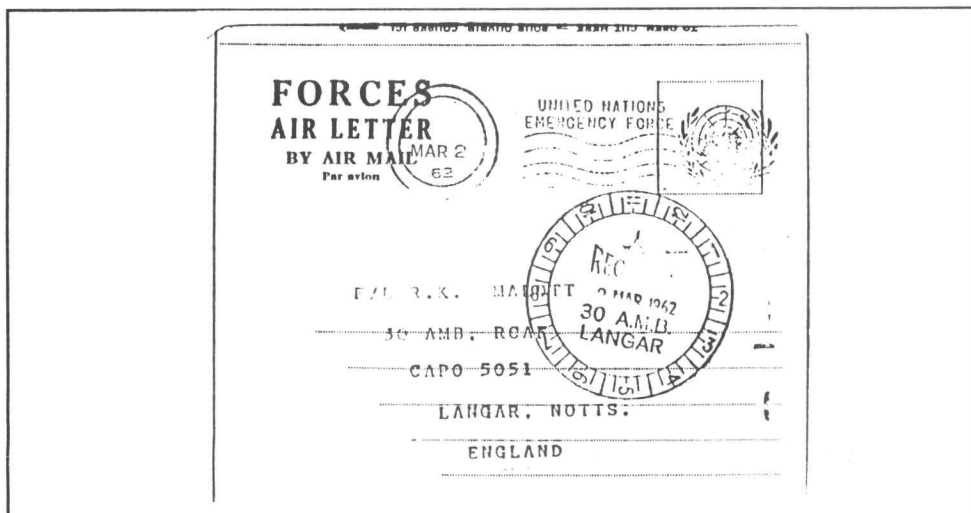
Wanted: FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE Canadian covers. (See article in the N/L this time or next). even photocopies will do! By the way, I had about 8 replies to my Cdn Forestry Corps request in this medium. Ken V. Ellison, R.R. #1, Oyama, B.C., V0H 1W0.

NEWFOUNDLAND WANTED: Covers to and from Newfoundland servicemen, all periods. Civil and Military censorship covers concerning Nfld. also desired. Send photocopies, even if you do not want to trade the material.
Doug Hannan, 23 - 1950 Burch Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 4B2.

THREE SHIP POSTCARDS WANTED, but photocopies in any case. CPR's *MONMOUTH* (built 1900); Donaldson's *LAKONIA* (built 1899); Atlantic Transport's *MANITOU* (built 1898). Any postcard will do, but prefer WW I period.

J. Colin Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC V1Z 1L6.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



A Canadian Forces Air Letter from El Arish, Egypt, to 30 Air Materiel Base, Langar, Notts., UK, dated Mar 2, 1962. Cancelled by the standard UN wavy line machine canceller. It also bears a 30 AMB receipt marking on the front. The reverse bears a 30 AMB oval Orderly Room stamp in purple and a 312 Supply Depot oval marking in red.

Cover-Cover

A cover from the Canadian Contingent at the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria. The letter is franked with a 40 cent flag stamp and cancelled by the rubber canceller of CFPO 5002, dated 20 December 1991.