

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 110

March - April 1993

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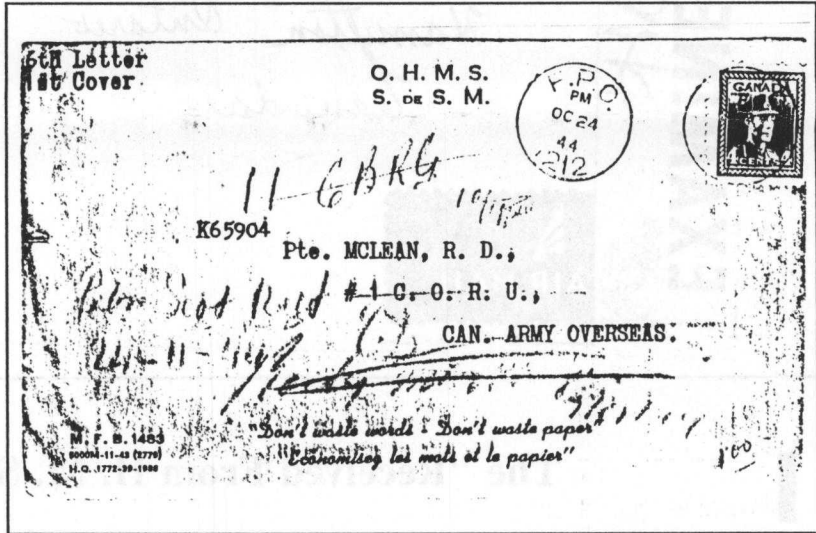
Editorial Ramblings

Spring is here! And so are the first of the stamp shows. I'm sure that you'll all know about Royal '93 Royale at Orapex which is taking place in Ottawa from 30 April - 2 May 1993 at the Radisson Hotel. Some of our military mail specialists will be there as dealers at the bourse and I hope that some of you will attend.

This issue has the usual eclectic mix of article, opinions, as well as some facts and a bit of fiction (?). Anyway, as the days are lengthening, I hope that, unlike me, you do not spend all your spare time in the garden, but set some aside to improve your collection to get it ready for exhibit at the next BNAPEX in Hamilton.

Happy spring stamping!

Henk Burgers



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Coming in Future Issues:

Articles on RV'92, British FPOs used by Canadians in Britain, and, of course, lots of other 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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The "Received From H. M. Ship" Marking

By Herb Williams

I've gone through the CMMSG newsletters and haven't found anything of a similar design, however, I've found similarities in the accompanying article from the FPSH. These are supposed to be from the G.P.O. proof book, but they look like tracings to me, and rather poor at that.

The date over the censor mark appears to be 26 Jun 1942, which may indicate a time period that seems about right. (Continued on next page)

Is this message for you?

☞ £ ¥ ₣ f ¢ \$ ₣ ☜

As you all know, annual dues for the Study Group are due each January 1st. So, if you don't want me to look like ☹, send money and I'll really ☺ when I see you in Toronto this fall!

Just to refresh your memory, \$10 per year is all it takes to continue to receive this marvellous publication, just bursting with military mail info and only the odd cliché.

The following article from the Forces Postal History Society newsletter also provides some background. Ed

RECEIVED FROM
H.M. SHIPS

1.



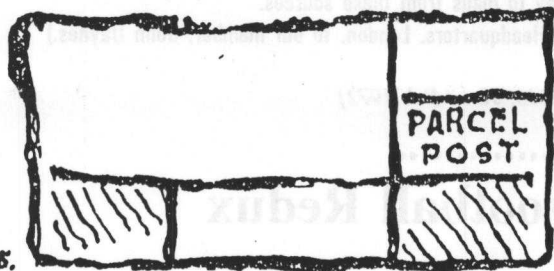
2.



3.



4.



5.

RECEIVED FROM
H.M. SHIPS

6.

History of the MARITIME MAIL Stamp

Before 1939 there was no necessity for mails posted on H.M. Ships in Home Waters to be given any special treatment. They were, in fact, sent direct to the nearest Post Office for onward transmission in the normal course.

However, when war broke out, free postage for certain classes of mail up to two ounces in weight was granted to naval personnel serving on H.M. Ships, and it then became necessary to stamp the Ships' mail in some way to ensure freedom from surcharge.

At first the stamp "Received from H.M. Ships" was used, incorporating the date and office of stamping, and, for security and censorship reasons, these mails were handled only at London, Edinburgh or Liverpool.

The G.P.O. Proof Book impressions shown above are dated 29 March 1940 and identified as follows:

1. Machine Stamp, Letter Sorting Office.
2. Steel Stamp, Registered Letter Office.
3. Rubber News & Packets Stamp, Letter Sorting Office.
4. Steel News & Packets Stamp, Letter Sorting Office.
5. Parcel Sorting Office.
6. Parcel Sorting Office.

In a further effort to tighten up the security arrangements in 1940, the stamp omitted the name of the Office and the date impression (examples of these stamps are shown above).

For various reasons, in 1943 the "Received from H.M.Ships" stamp was replaced by a new stamp "Post Office Maritime Mail" and arrangements were introduced for handling the mails at one of the following Offices: London, Edinburgh, Belfast, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester and Chatham. In 1948 free postage facilities to H.M.Forces were withdrawn, but a concessionary rate for letter mail at the first weight step sent from personnel serving on H.M. Seagoing Ships in Home Waters was retained and the need for the "Post Office Maritime Mail" stamp therefore continued. This concessionary rate of postage for letters posted on board H.M.Seagoing Ships in Home Waters, and included in closed mails, was finally withdrawn in May 1969.

The "Maritime Mail" stamp has been used on all mail, letters and parcels, received from H.M.Seagoing Ships in Home or Foreign Waters or Naval Shore Establishments overseas which were received in 'closed mails' and which either did not bear postage stamps because they were allowed free (1939-1948) or were prepaid at a concessionary rate of postage and the stamps had not been cancelled at origin.

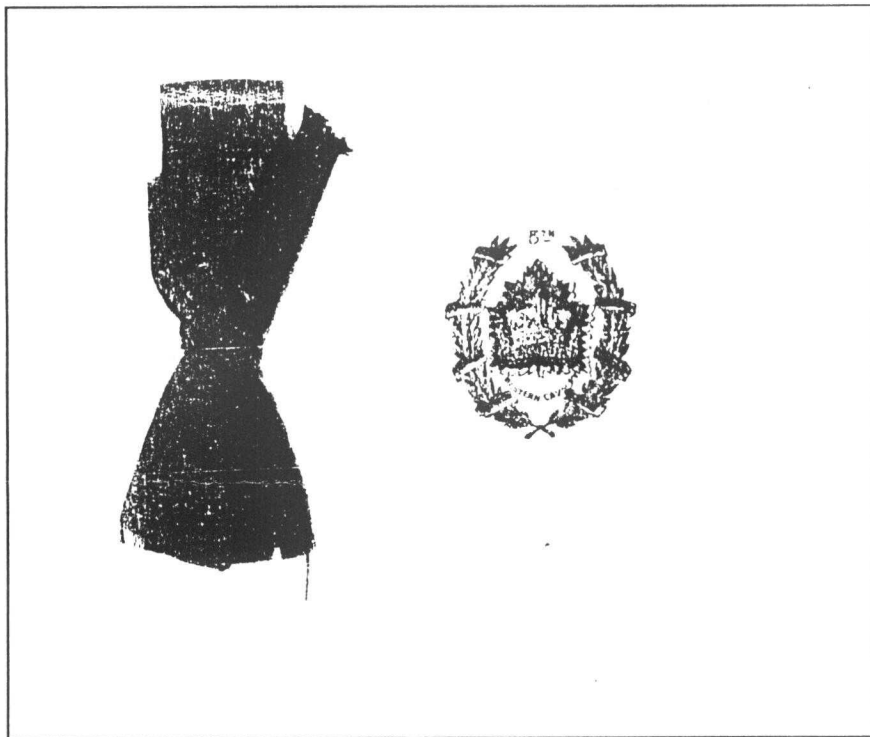
The primary purpose of the "Maritime Mail" stamp was to obviate surcharging, but, in 1967, it was decided to add the name of the Office and the date to the impression, partly because there was no longer any security reason for not doing so, but also as it was considered this would facilitate enquiries into damage or delay to mails from these sources.

(Information supplied by Mr. P. H. Westbrook of G.P.O. Headquarters. London. to our member, John Daynes.)

[This article was originally published in FPHS Newsletter No.113, Jan - Feb 1972]

Christmas Football Redux

See page 79, December 1992 issue.



Colin Campbell writes that the crest may refer to: THE ROYAL SCOTS (The Royal Regiment). All British Isles regiments had a nickname and theirs was *Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard*. The unit was first raised in 1635 and is the oldest infantry regiment on U.K. records. It is now (since about 1970) known as the 1st Bn THE ROYAL SCOTS (The Royal Regiment) and forms part of the Scottish Division.

It is quite possible that they served in Egypt during WW I. Note the thistles in the wreath and the two Scotties in the illustration.

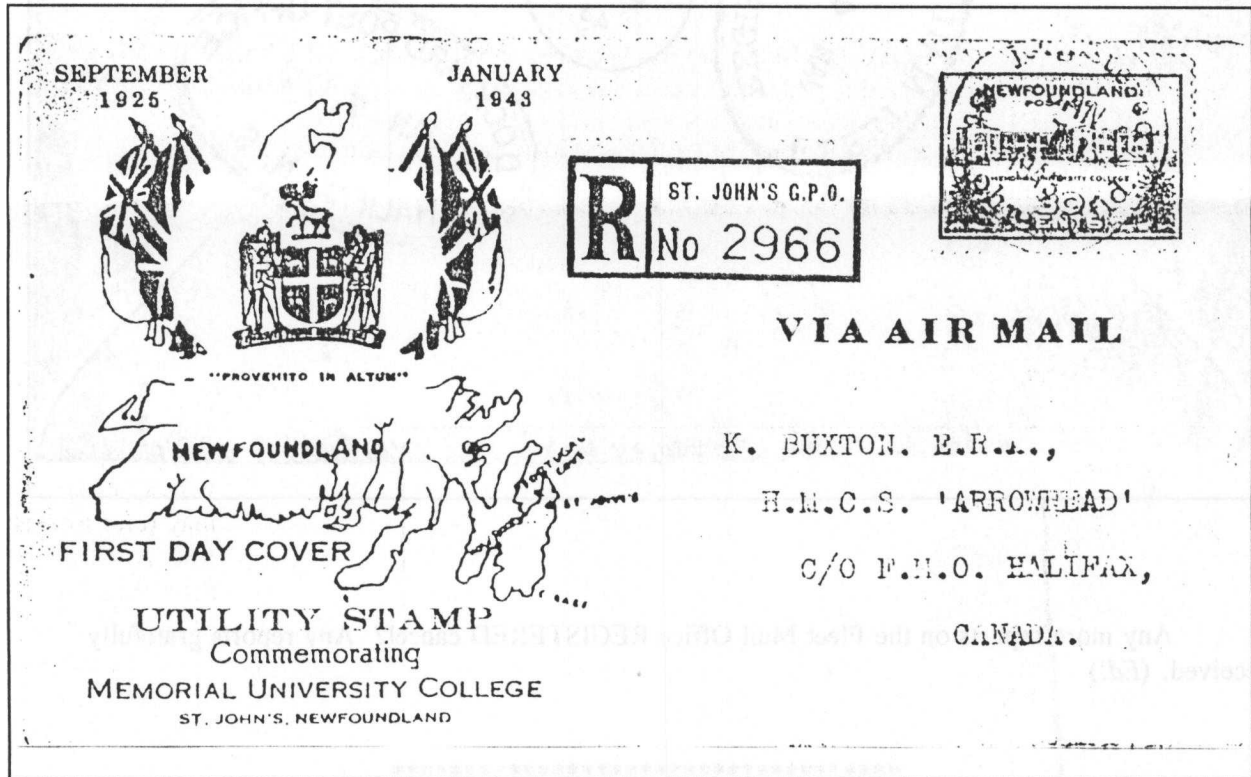
Dave Hanes sent along (via Colin) a copy of a card with the 5th Battalion crest (see illustration).

FLEET MAIL OFFICE - REGISTRATION

By Dave Hanes

W

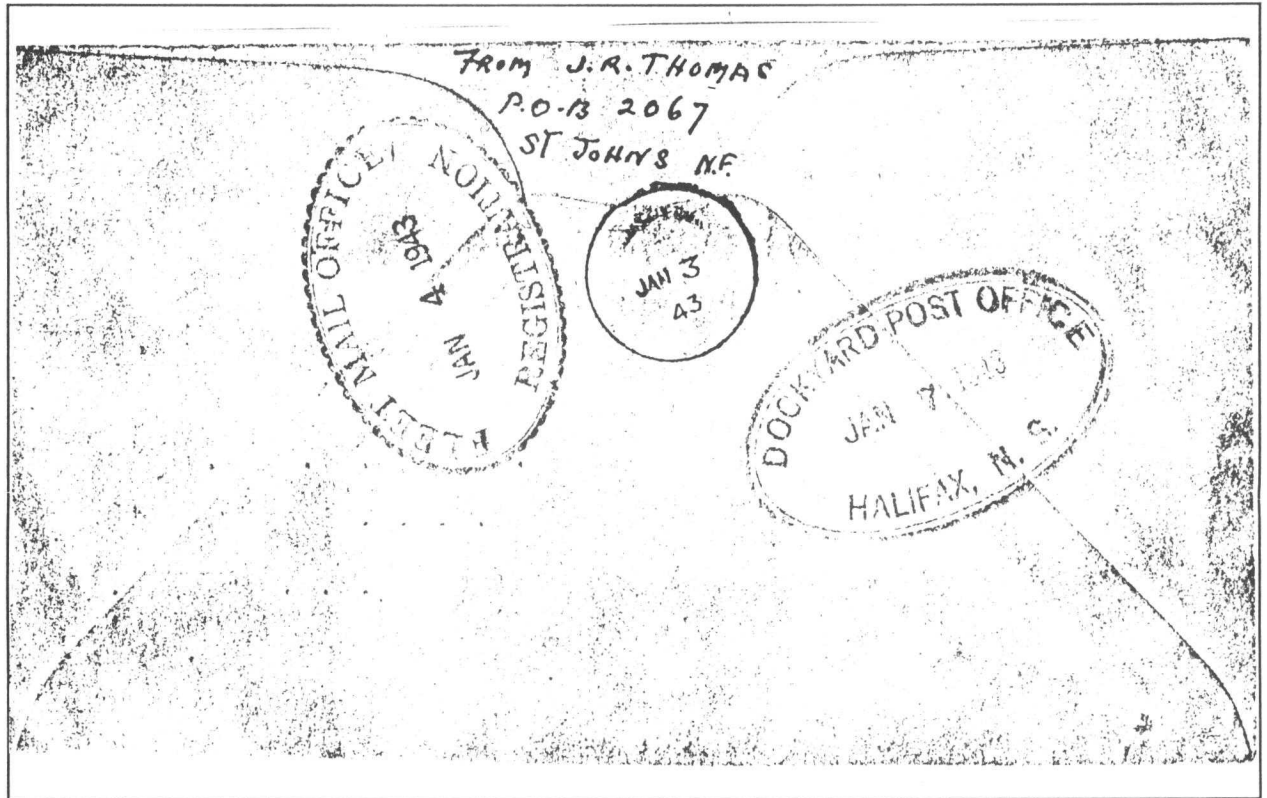
e have several very interesting items in from **Dave Hanes**, one of which is this item which may be a "new" report. The whole cover is too big to show here so it has been "clipped" to show the markings. It is a First Day Cover, if we read the date correctly as 2 January 1943, of the Memorial University College 30 cent stamp of Newfoundland.



This registered envelope is addressed to an Engine Room Artificer on H.M.C.S. *ARROWHEAD*, c/o FMO Halifax. The Halifax blackout shows a receiving date of Jan 3/43, the FMO REGISTERED of the next day used a transit marking which took the letter to the DOCKYARD POST OFFICE / HALIFAX on January 7.

Continued on Page 96

Remember, September is closer than you think; make sure you book for the BNAPS Convention at the Royal York hotel, Toronto.



Any more reports on the Fleet Mail Office REGISTERED cancel? Any reports gratefully received. (Ed.)

The Observer

Our sister group, the Australian Forces Mail Research Group has forwarded another fine newsletter. The November-December issue includes an article Australians in the Boer War, showing some interesting covers from the "New-South Wales Imperial Bushmen" and another illustrating several ANZAC picture postcards.

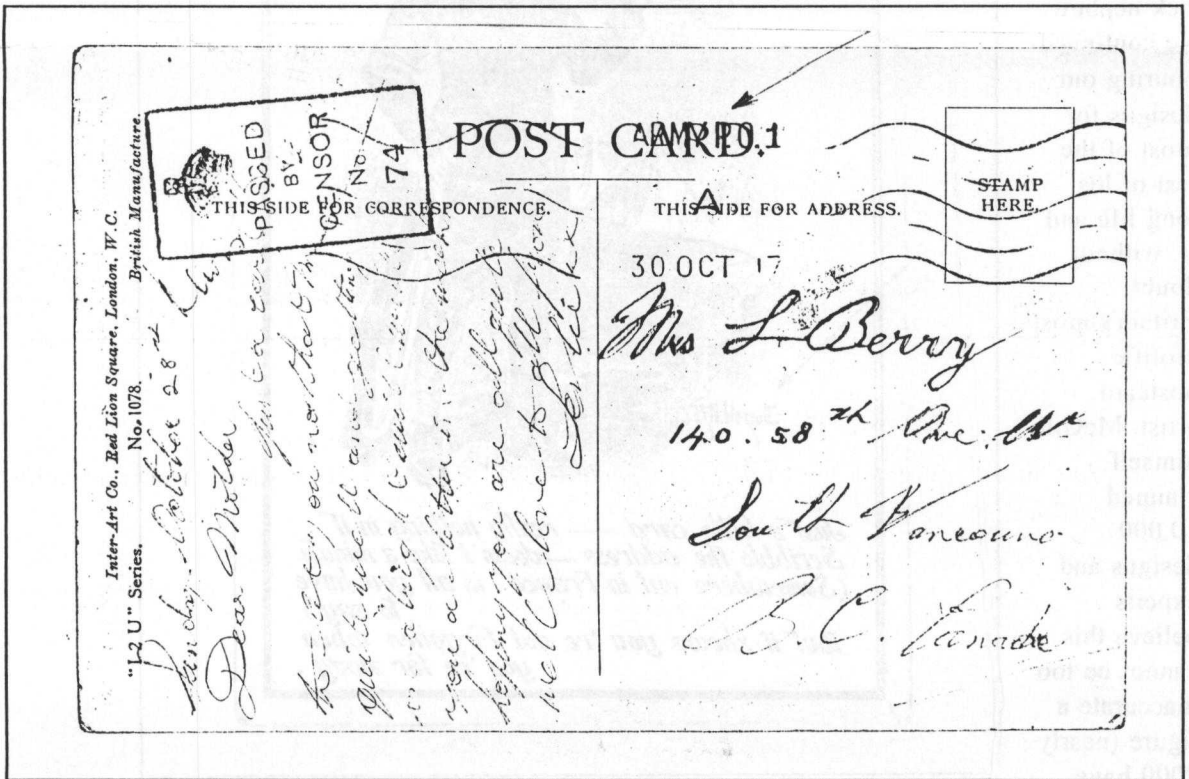
Artist-Signed Postcards

By J. Colin Campbell

M

ost military mail collections will include two or three picture postcards from Britain or the Continent signed by the artists who designed them.

The cards illustrated are a little different, but still related to Military Mail collecting. Of prime importance is the FPO/APO marking, then the Censor marking and signature, followed by any battalion or orderly room markings, etc. A "signed" card has a bit more value than an unsigned one.



Posted at Army P.O. 1 Le Havre France.
 Note censor marking and signature upper left (probably British).

Not all artists who have signed cards are listed in a catalogue, however. One example is illustrated and a brief biography of the artists adds to the interest.

Artist Signed from 1914-1935 period (about 3500 designs are known)

**McGill,
Donald
(1875-1962)**

Donald McGill started designing postcards in 1904 for a sick nephew. He continued pouring out designs for most of the rest of his long life and is, without doubt, Britain's most prolific postcard artist. McGill himself claimed 10,000 designs and experts believe this cannot be too inaccurate a figure (nearly 9000 have been



positively identified). Chiefly known for his rumbustious, often vulgar, seaside comics. McGill also drew pungent social and political comments during both designs. McGill's output is usually classified into 4 periods and, generally speaking, the earlier the card, the higher the value

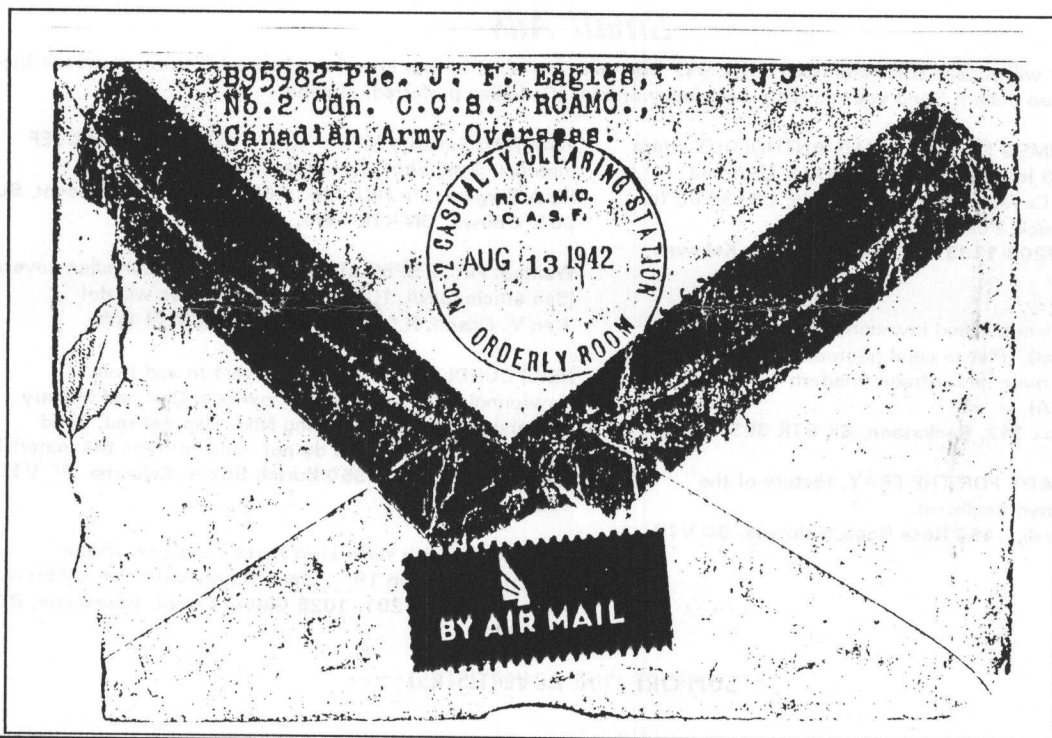
[Reference: Postcard Catalogue - Stanley Gibbons (4th ed. 1985)]

DUES ARE DUE!!

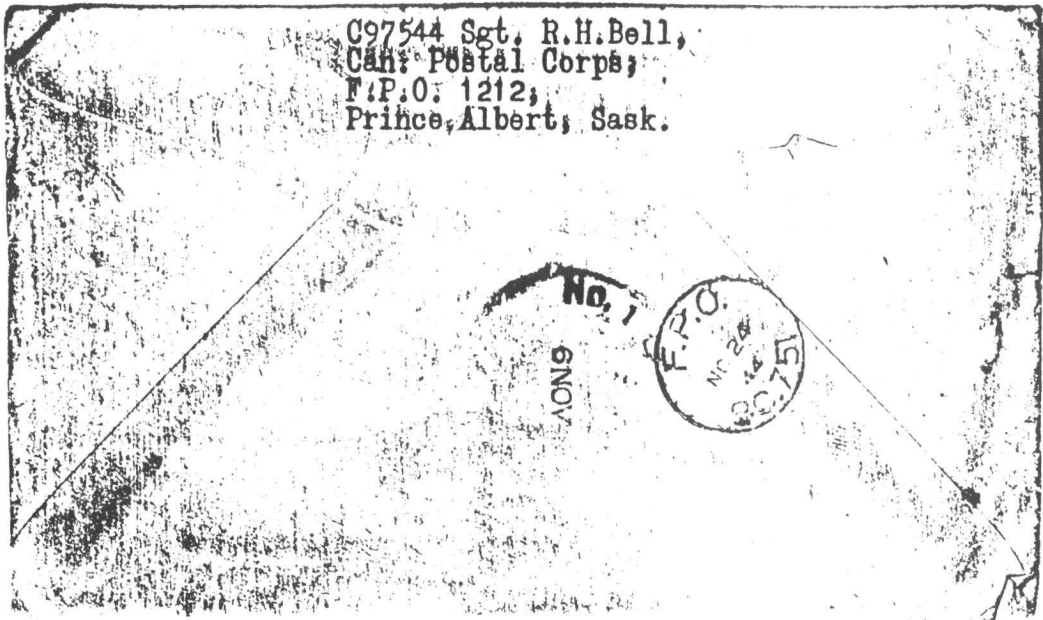
A Medical Cover



From Peter McCarthy, a fine "Orderly Room" cover from No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station



Cover-Cover



First Day Cover of Field Post Office 1212, Prince Albert, Sask., 24 October 1944. This was one of only 2 FPOs established in Canada during WW II. It was set up for "Eskimo Force" and closed on 21 March 1945. Further information on Eskimo Force welcomed.

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.

FOR SALE: CMMMSG 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.

FOR SALE: READY FOR THE FRAY, History of the Canadian Scottish Regiment.
J. Colin Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC V1Z 1L6.

WANTED: Security MPOs, other WW2 MPOs and CSEF material. Send photocopies and/or price to:
Henk Burgers, c/o HBA Ltd., 2660 Southvale Crescent, Suite 301, Ottawa, ON K1B 4W5.

Wanted: FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE Canadian covers. (See article in N/L 109); even photocopies will do!
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 Burtch Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 4B2.

FOR SALE: North West Field Force Transport Office Qu'Appelle Station 18__, blank supply order form. \$50.00.
Albert Tanner, # 201, 1025 Gilford Street, Vancouver, BC V6G 2P2.

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