

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 111

May - June 1993

Page 101

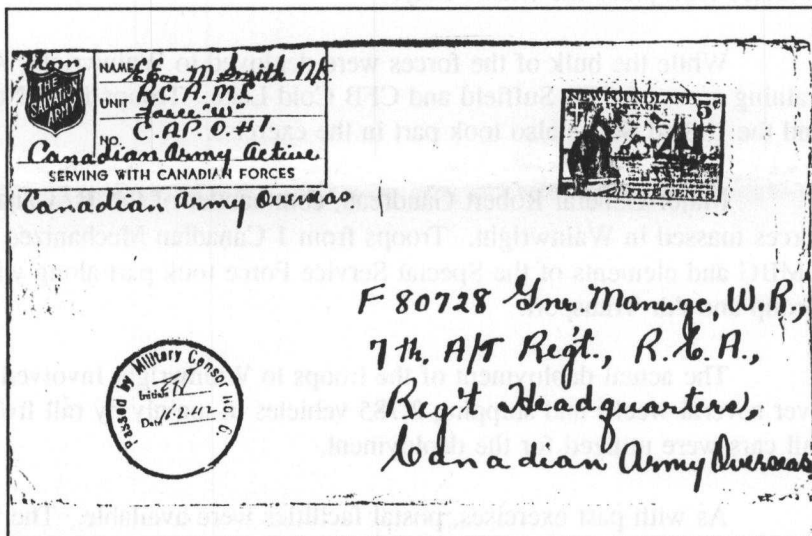
Editorial Ramblings

First of all, a correction: the article on the Fenian Raids in Issue No. 109 was not the work of Hank Narbonne, but of R. Payloski of Hamilton, Ontario. Hank N. informs me he did, however, own the cover in question (at least for a while).

While I am setting things straight, I'm sure that you all noticed that I placed BNAPEX in Hamilton this year again. What can I say, other than that it is my hometown!

I also intend to publish an updated list of Study Group members in the near future. Would those of you who prefer NOT to have their address published, please let me know ASAP?

I hope that you will enjoy this latest offering.



Coming in Future Issues:

Articles on RV'92, British FPOs used by Canadians in Britain, book reviews 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.

Henk Burgers

In this Issue:

RV 92 - Ritch Toop	102
Christmas Football in June - Kim Dodwell	104
CFPO Update - K. Zografopolous	104
BNAPEX News	106
Postal Archives move	106
A New Military Collectable - Ritch Toop	107
HMCS Preserver	108

Regular Features

Editorial Ramblings	101
Cover-Cover	110
Small Ads	110

RENDEZVOUS 92

By E. R. Toop

Rendezvous (RV 92), a month-long military exercise took place in the province of Alberta, in Western Canada, from mid April to early June 1992. This was the sixth of the RV Exercises.

RV 92 involved nearly 13,000 Canadian troops. The extended period of simulated warfare commenced training the soldiers in basic skills and worked up to larger formations until the divisional exercise took place the end of May.

While the bulk of the forces were deployed to Wainwright, Alta., artillery units used the training areas of CFB Suffield and CFB Cold Lake. Troops from New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States also took part in the exercise.

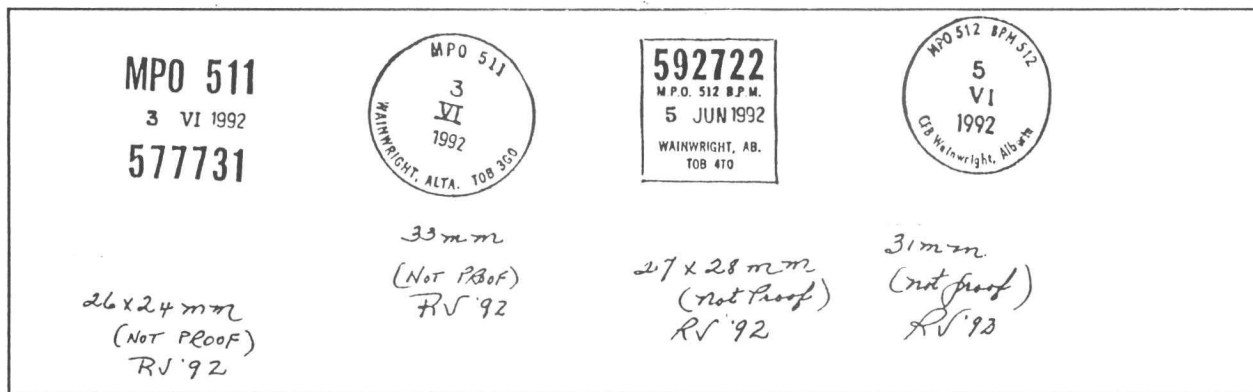
Major-General Robert Gaudreau, commander of the 1st Canadian Division was head of the forces massed in Wainwright. Troops from 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG), 5 CMBG and elements of the Special Service Force took part along with support from 10 Tactical Air Group and Air Transport.

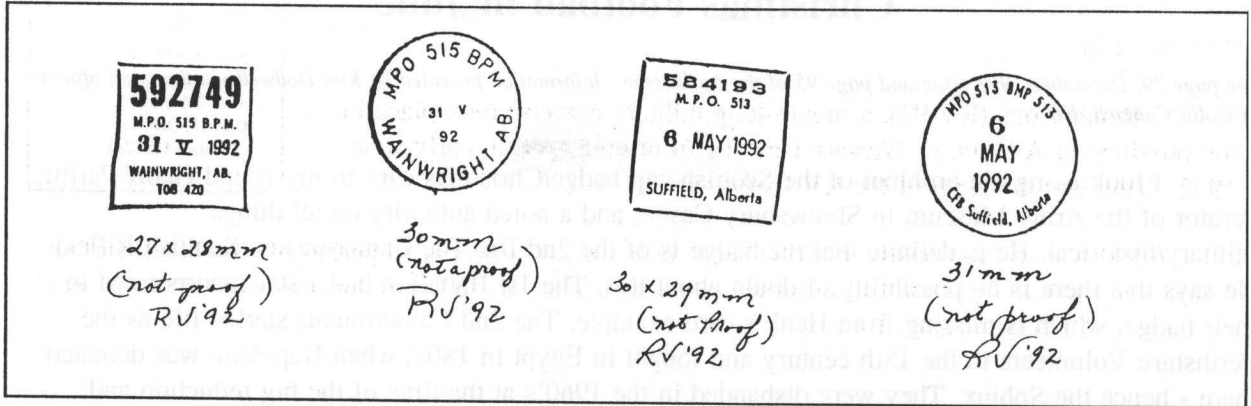
The actual deployment of the troops to Wainwright involved airlifting close to 9,000 troops over several weeks and shipping 2,785 vehicles in mainly by rail from across the country. Over 1,300 rail cars were utilized for the deployment.

As with past exercises, postal facilities were available. The following MPOs were activated:

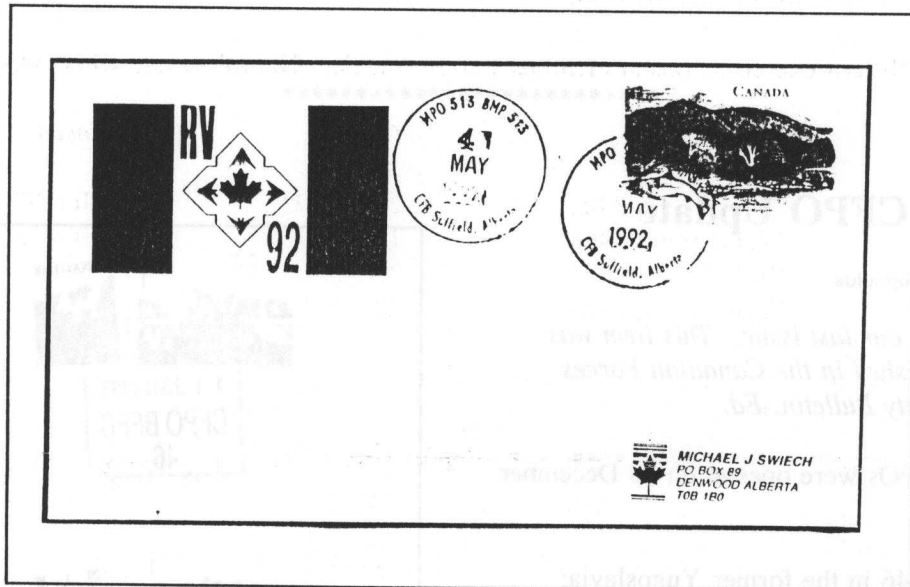
MPO #	Location	Opened	Closed
MPO 511	Wainwright, Alta.	23 Apr 92	5 Jun 92
MPO 512	Wainwright, Alta.	15 Apr 92	5 Jun 92
MPO 513	Suffield, Alta.	23 Apr 92	7 May 92
MPO 515	Wainwright, Alta.	22 Apr 92	5 Jun 92

A number of markings used during RV 92 are illustrated below:





A special philatelic cover (see below) was produced to commemorate RV 92. The cover depicts the blue and red and logo of RV 92 with the Mobile Command (FMC) crest.



Christmas Football in June

See page 79, December 1992 issue and page 95 of the April issue. Information provided by Kim Dodwell via the good offices of Colin Cambell. Ed.

I took along the problem of the Scottish cap badge/Christmas card to my friend Geoff Parfitt, curator of the Army Museum in Shrewsbury Castle, and a noted authority on all things military/historical. He is definite that the badge is of the 2nd Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). He says that there is no possibility of doubt about this. The 1st Battalion had a star incorporated in their badge, which is missing from Henk's card example. The 2nd Cameronians started life as the Perthshire Volunteers in the 18th century and fought in Egypt in 1802, when Napoleon was defeated there - hence the Sphinx. They were disbanded in the 1960's at the time of the big reduction and reorganizations of British infantry regiments. They were very proud lot, it seems, and alone among the battalions that were cut out, refused to be amalgamated with any other regiment, instead electing to be disbanded.

Geoff was in the KSLI (King's Shropshire Light Infantry) in WWII, has an award-winning (medal-winning - ha!) collection of campaign medals, including at least one on every campaign every one of the Shropshire battalions was ever involved in. He used to be an insurance salesman until he retired, then took on the honorary job of running the army museum in the castle, which he has built up to become one of the best in the country - they even had the dubious honour of being targeted by the IRA for a firebomb attack last year, which did a lot of damage to irreplaceable document, maps, uniforms, etc.

CFPO Update

By Kosmos Zografopoulos

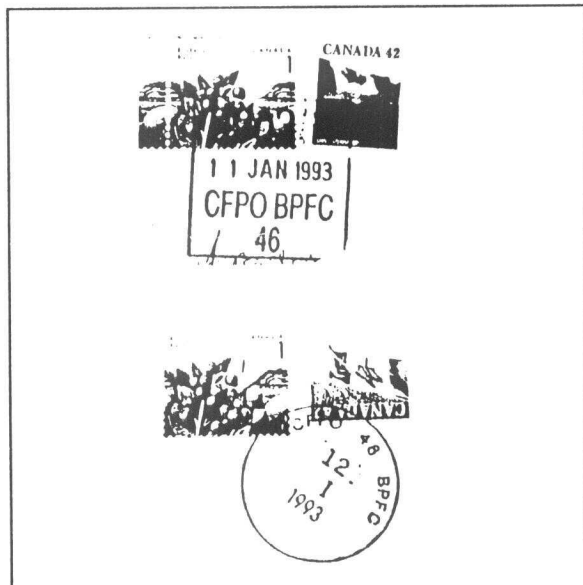
As promised in our last issue. This item was originally published in the Canadian Forces Philatelic Society Bulletin. Ed.

Three new CFPOs were opened on 28 December 1992:

- CFPO 46 in the former Yugoslavia;
- CFPO 5005 and CFPO 40 in Somalia.

They are illustrated at right and on the following page.

Some strikes have been enhanced for better reproduction.



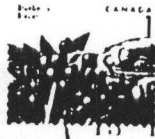
CFPO 46

CFPO 40 without postage and with UNOSOM cancel only.

name contingent
op Blueward
Cdr, Service commands
CFPO 40
Ottawa Ont
KOK 3RD



Operating Room Staff
Name
1745 Alta Vista
Ottawa, Ont
K1A 0K6



K 3 ~~KOK 3RD~~



L. J. [unclear]

CFPO 5005 and CFPO 40

CANADIAN POSTAL ARCHIVES RELOCATES

The postal archives are on the move again. This is where you'll find them this year! Ed.

Ottawa - The National Archives of Canada announces that the Canadian Postal Archives, formerly situated at 365 Laurier Street West, Ottawa, has been relocated to the West Memorial Building, 344 Wellington Street, Ottawa, across from the main National Archives building.

This move conforms with the National Archives' policy of facilitating access to its collections by consolidating them in one location, thereby improving its reference and research services. There will no longer be a permanent philatelic exhibit; items from the Canadian Postal Archives will be incorporated in the National Archives thematic exhibitions.

Services at the Canadian Postal Archives, including inter-institutional loans, are suspended until April 14, to allow for the installation of the collections in the new location.

The new mailing address is:

National Archives of Canada
Canadian Postal Archives Section
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3

Service will be provided between 8:30 and 4:45 p.m.

Information

Joy McDonell
Public Affairs
(613)992-9361

André Martineau
Public Affairs
(613)996-7250

BNAPS Study Group Meetings Toronto '93

Eugene Labiuk advises that the Military Mail Study Group meeting will take place on Friday, September 3rd, at 3 pm in meeting room "A" of the Royal York Hotel.

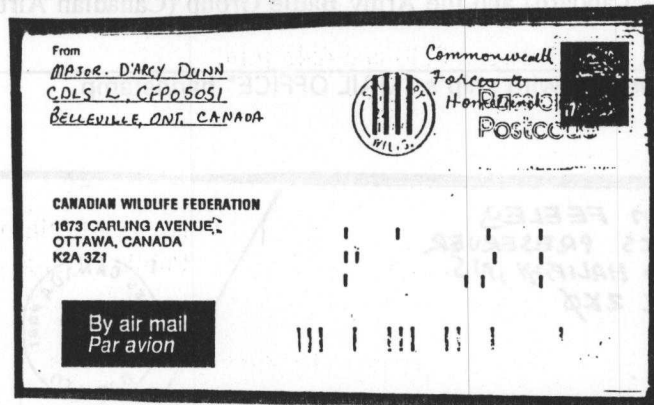
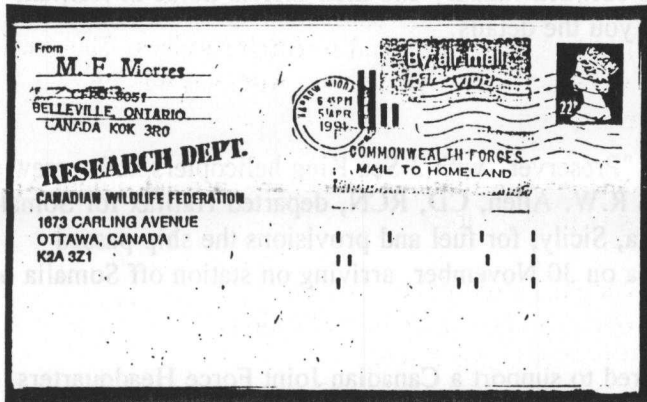
The speaker scheduled for our get-together will be John Frith, who will speak on "World War I Medical Services".

See you there!

A NEW MILITARY COLLECTABLE

By E. R. Toop

Recently I came across several covers from CFPO 5051, Canadian Defence Liaison Staff, London, England. What caught my eye was the manuscript marking on the upper cover postmarked 22 Sep 1986 and the lower cover with a handstamp COMMONWEALTH FORCES / MAIL TO HOMELAND postmarked 5 Apr 1991, both franked with British postage. One would expect to see the normal CFPO 5051 canceller used, franked with Canadian postage as has been the case for many years.



An enquiry to CDLS (L) has confirmed this is a concessionary rate for Canadian forces serving in England which permits them to send mail to their homeland using in-country postage equivalent to the Canadian domestic rate, posted through the local post. While the Canadian domestic first step weight schedule is 30 grams, letters sent by the Canadian forces must conform to the International air mail weight schedule of 20 grams for a similar rating. The Canadian domestic rate in 1986 was 34 cents and in 1991, 41 cents; the British stamps used represent the closest equivalent at the time of posting.

I am informed that this concession does not apply to Canadian forces in other countries which would permit them to send mail through the local posts franked with in-country postage equivalent to the Canadian domestic rate. The date of introduction for this type of mail is not known at this time, however, it has been in vogue for over six years so we can expect to see more of it in the future.

I.M.C.S. "PRESERVER" ON U.N. SERVICE OFF SOMALIA

By W. Whitehouse

Introduction

In NL #107 page 63 you mentioned wanting articles covering our peacekeepers in Somalia, herewith "Preserver's" part in the Somalia affair.

I have no idea where the U.N. "UNOSOM" handstamp dated 91-1-93 was applied, nor was I aware that "Preserver" crew had been granted the FREE mail privilege, obviously, they did not have the privilege when they first arrived in December 1992.

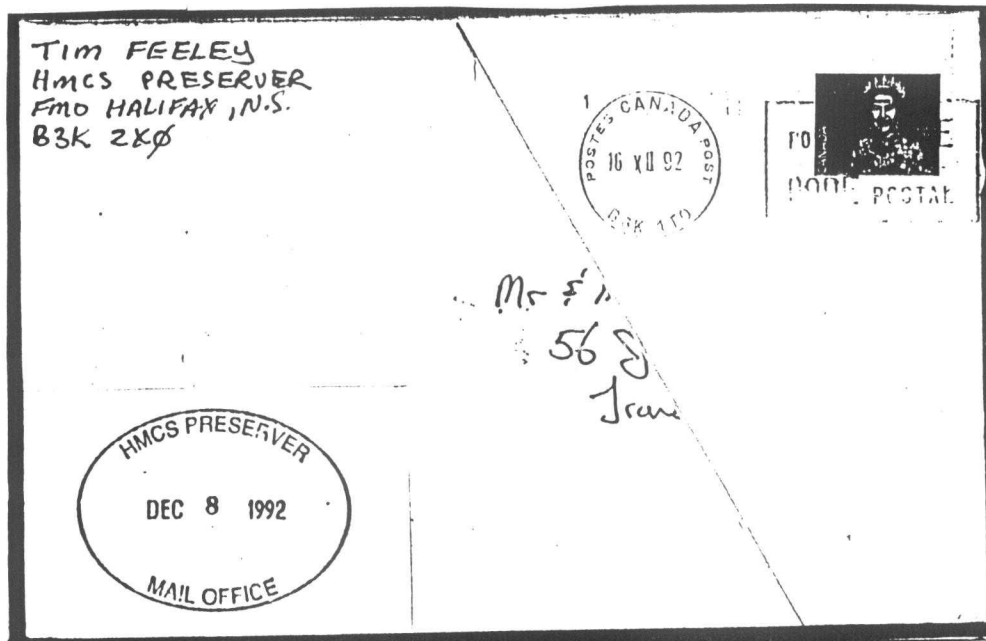
Should I come across any covers dated between January and their arrival home at Halifax, which would shed some light on this, will send you the details.

To Somalia

The Canadian operational support ship "Preserver" with 3 Sea King helicopters and a crew of more than 380, under the command of Captain R.W. Allen, CD, RCN, departed Halifax for Somalia on 16 November 1992. After calling at Augusta, Sicily, for fuel and provisions the ship passed through the Suez Canal and on into the Red Sea on 30 November, arriving on station off Somalia on 5 December.

On 6 December, "Preserver" was ordered to support a Canadian Joint Force Headquarters and Staff (stationed aboard) and the Army Battle Group (Canadian Airborne Regiment) ashore.

Figure 1. Backstamped with ship's "MAIL OFFICE" handstamp.

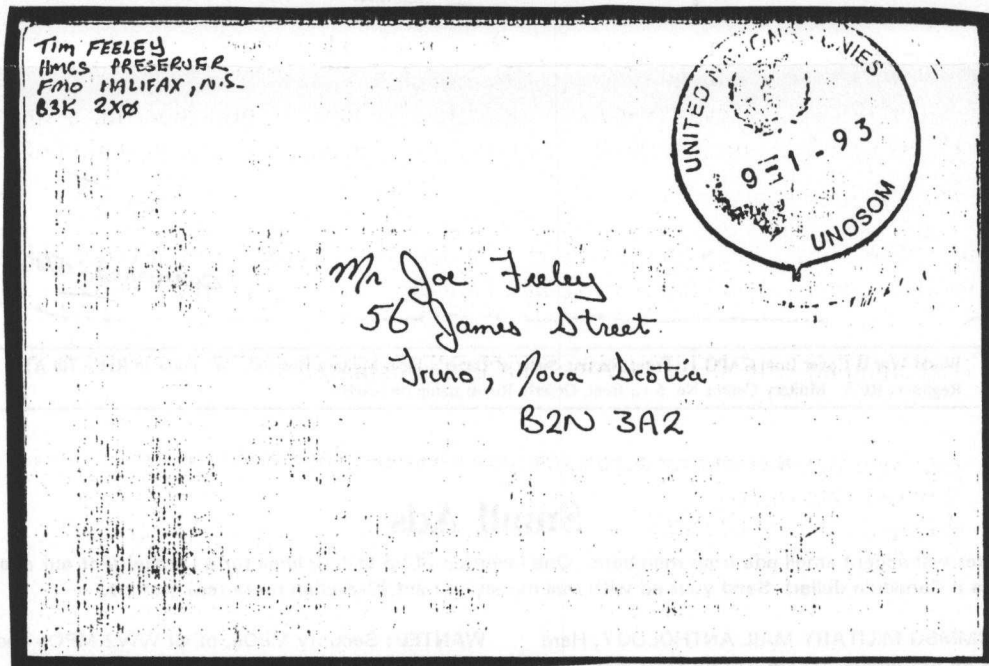


The ship took up station off the port of Mogadishu because her 30 foot draught could not be accommodated in the harbour. Anchored offshore, without shelter, and with daily winds of 25 to 40 knots, the sea ran from 6 to 8 feet resulting in great difficulty in the loading of supplies aboard the ship's boats. The run into Mogadishu required about 1 hour.

Tons of army stores were moved ashore by both helicopter and the ship's boats; these stores were then transported to the airport where the ship's company loaded them aboard Hercules aircraft for delivery to Baledogle (55 km) and later to Balet Huen (350 km) after this strip had been secured by U.S. Marines.

At Christmas, "Preserver" provided 200 turkey dinners to the Canadian Airborne Regiment Advance party in Baledogle; these meals were flown from Mogadishu by Canadian Hercules aircraft.

Figure 2. FREE mail privilege and use of UN handstamp.

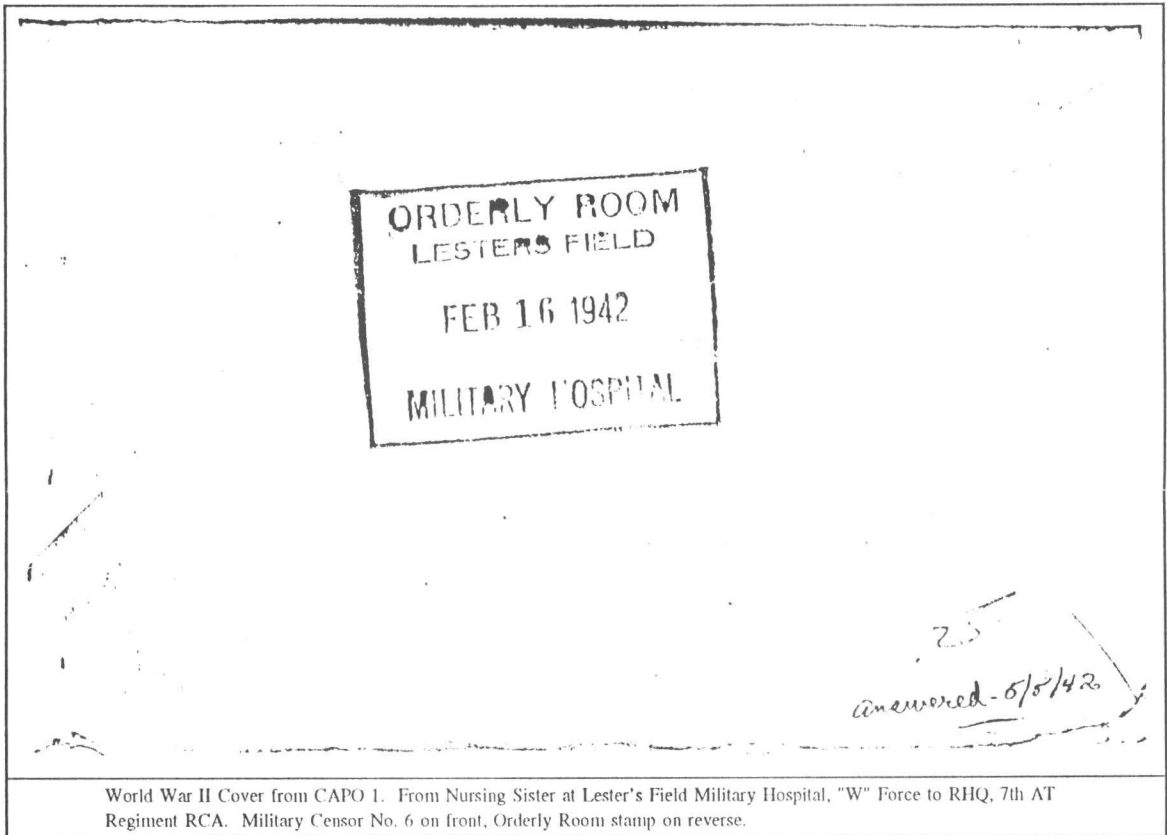


A Christmas letter from the ship required only 8 days to arrive in Halifax (Figure 1). A January 1993 letter from the ship received a U.N. cancellation and travelled FREE (Figure 2). Both covers are courtesy of Maurice Hampson of Edmonton.

Ships from 7 of the world's navies are operating in the anchorage with "Preserver", including ships from the Indian and Turkish Navy, this being the first time we had operated with these two navies. The 3 Sea King helicopters, besides their regular job of ferrying supplies and personnel, have been called on to transport U.S. soldiers who had been wounded, or bitten by poisonous bugs, flies etc., to the U.S.S. "Tripoli", an amphibious warfare ship with special medical facilities.

"Preserver" returned to Halifax on 7 April 1993, to receive the appreciation of all Canadians who realize that the men and women of our peacekeeping contingents continue to reflect so proudly on the maple leaf.

Cover-Cover



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: 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.

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.