

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 113

September - October 1993

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Editorial Ramblings

The BNAPS 93

Convention was one of the best stamp events I have attended recently. The warm welcome by old and new friends, the quality of the exhibits, the overall atmosphere and the location made it a marvellous experience. I can't wait to get to Burlington, Vermont next year!

Congratulations are due to my partner in crime, Ritch Toop, who was admitted to the Order of The Beaver. On the exhibit side our intrepid member John Frith won a Vermeil and the Ed and Mickey Richardson Award for his exhibit on the First Contingent of the COEF. Felicitations to both of you.

The usual mix in this issue, something old, something new, and so on. Our next one will be the last one for the year and our Christmas/New Year issue.

Enjoy!

Henk Burgers



Coming in Future Issues:

Articles on WWI Disembarkation Cards, Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camps in various countries during WW II, MPO upxxes, book reviews and, of course, lots of other interesting news items submitted by our members.

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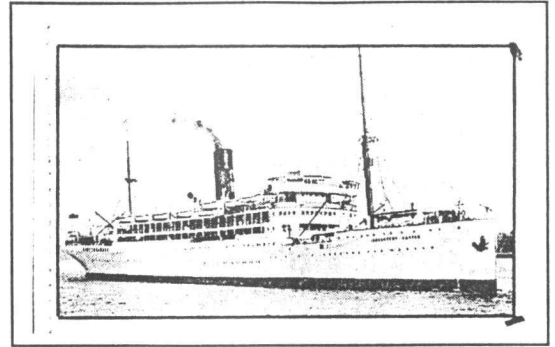
CHS Llandoverly Castle

Since November 11 is drawing near, I thought that this letter recently published in The Ottawa Citizen newspaper was particularly timely.

"Canadians will this year celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Nov. 11, 1918. One incident that has slipped from the pages of history is the disaster that befell the Canadian Hospital Ship Llandoverly Castle on June 27, 1918. More than 100 families from cities and towns across Canada lost loved ones in the disaster.

In 1918, the 11,400-ton ship, a converted Union Castle ocean liner, carried sick and wounded Canadian soldiers home via Liverpool. On the eastward return passage which departed Halifax on June 20, the Llandoverly Castle was torpedoed by U-86, 116 miles west of Fastnet Rock off the Irish Coast at 9:30 p.m., June 27. With the exception of those in the engine room, where the torpedo struck, the remaining crew and 97 Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC) personnel were believed to have left the ship alive. The ship sank in a few minutes.

Several lifeboats, which had been launched with great difficulty, desperately circled the area picking up survivors in the water. The submarine commander, Lt. Helmut Patzig,



ordered the lifeboats destroyed by shelling and ramming. One lifeboat of survivors, including the ship's captain, R.A. Sylvester, escaped in the darkness.

They were rescued two days later by the British destroyer HMS Lysander to tell an outraged world of the disaster. The death toll included 14 nursing sisters and the CAMC commanding officer on board, Lt. Col. T. Howard MacDonald MD, of Nova Scotia.

In all, 234 lives were lost. June 27 was the 75th anniversary of the tragedy. My father, who still lives in Sandwich South, near Windsor, lost a brother and a cousin in the disaster."

Walter K. O'Neil
Birmingham, Mich.

Letters to the Editor

From our Aussie counterpart:

The "Commonwealth Forces/Mail to Homeland" concession has been around at least since the mid-Fifties. I believe a 1992 AFMRG issue has a note on the current British Forces mail rates. They were interesting, because Australia was excluded from this concession.

I recently found a Canadian Forces aerogramme from the mid-Fifties. Nothing of importance, until I noticed a Tasmania Centenary label on the front bottom left corner. To my surprise, I found that it had been written at Hobart, Tasmania on 18 February 1954 by a crew member of HMCS Ontario, CFPO 5075, Esquimalt, BC. It appears that the ship was in port in its way to New Zealand. Queen Elizabeth II was to arrive the following day on her first Royal tour of Australia.

The aerogramme was postmarked RCN mail on 19 February, which I suspect was done on the

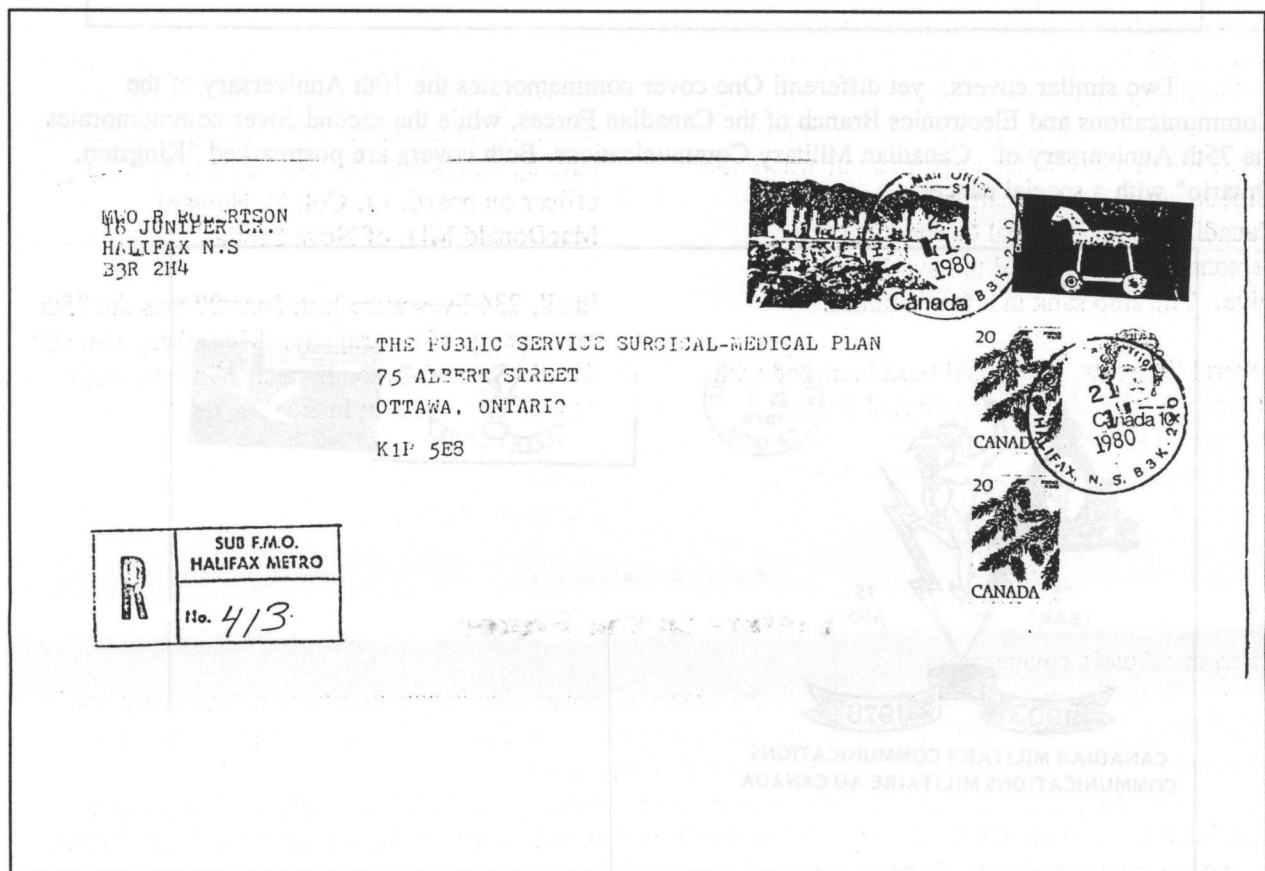
ship. The 5 cent QE II stamp is postmarked at Victoria on 22 February. I believe that the aerogramme was flown from Hobart to Sydney via Melbourne, where it connected with a CP service to Vancouver; there was an alternate service via British Central Pacific Airways (BCPA). I would appreciate it if one of your members could indicate whether HMCS Ontario had come direct from Canada or was on its way back from service in Korea.

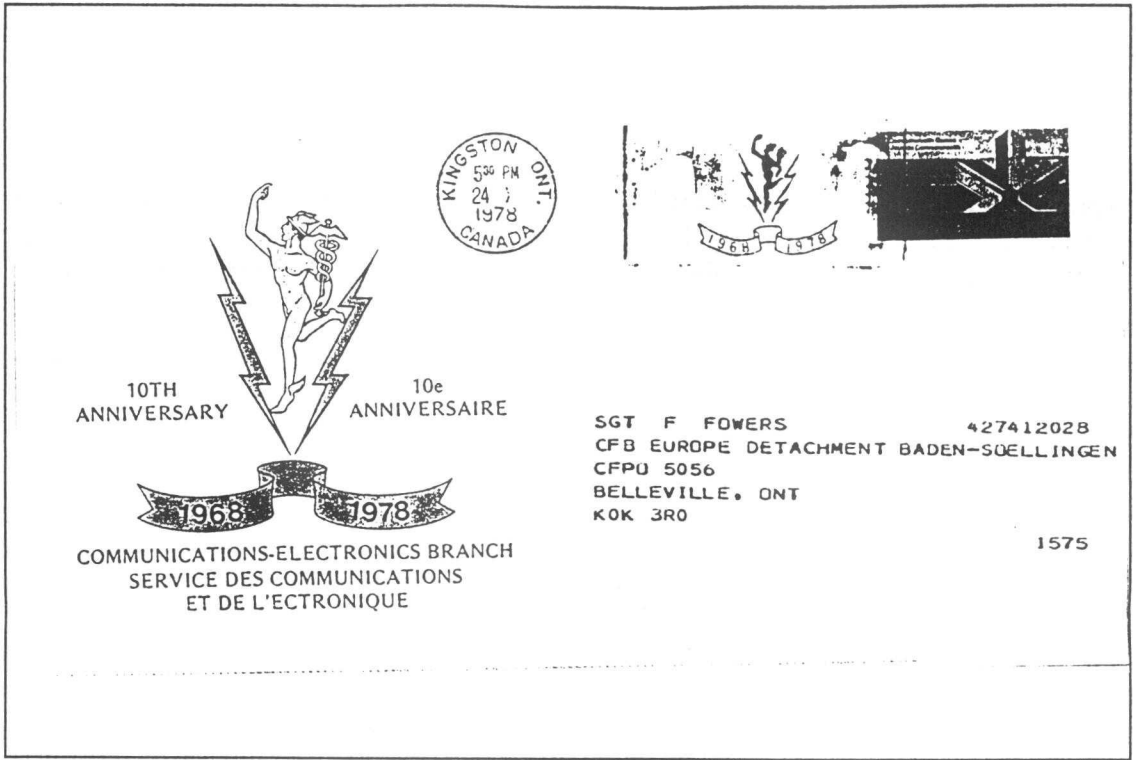
David Collyer, AFMRG

Dave's Miscellany

By Dave Hanes

A large sized registered cover from Halifax to Ottawa. The stamps are cancelled by the larger "Fleet Mail Office" cancel - NOTE the Registered Box - "SUB F.M.O./HALIFAX METRO" A different type of Registration Cancel!!!





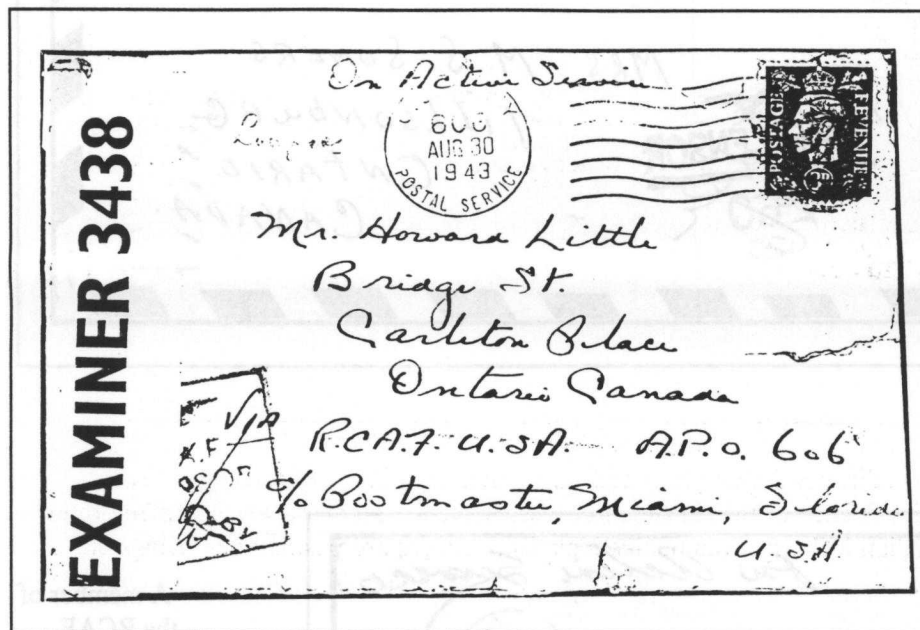
Two similar covers, yet different! One cover commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the Communications and Electronics Branch of the Canadian Forces, while the second cover commemorates the 75th Anniversary of Canadian Military Communications. Both covers are postmarked "Kingston, Ontario" with a special cancel.



Canadians in Various Countries During WW I

By E. R. Toop

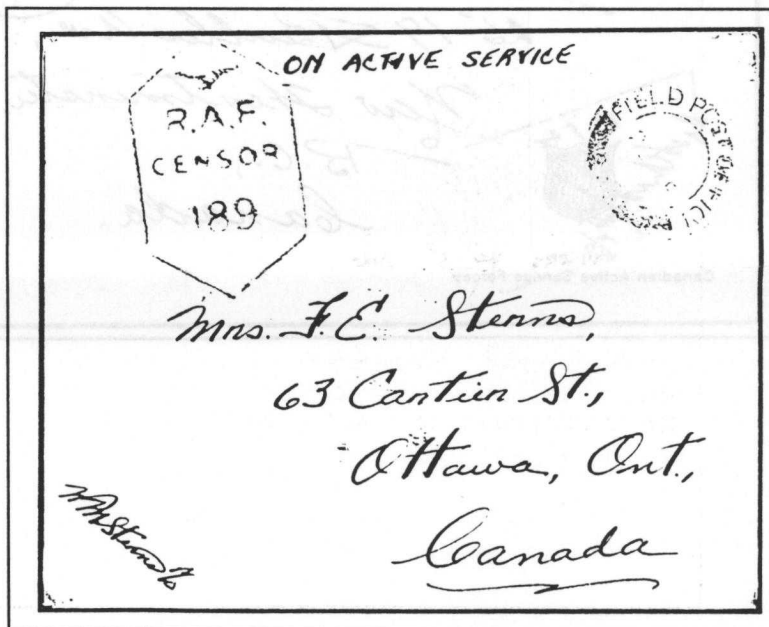
The Editor's comment on page 727 of last year's Newsletters regarding Canadians serving in other countries prompts me to illustrate a few covers from my collection as a matter of interest. While there are many more out there, including in my own collection, perhaps this will start the ball rolling to see how many countries are represented where the "Canucks" roamed about. Let's hear it from other members also!



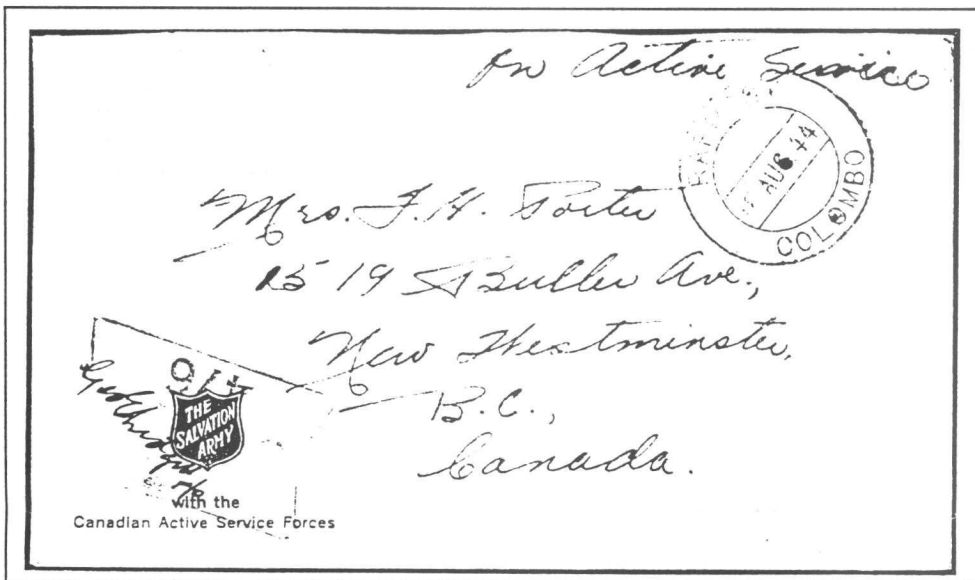
A cover from an RCAF member serving with the RAF in the Gold Coast. It was first postmarked at British FPO 106, on 5 Jul 1943, backstamped US APO 507, Headquarters WASC, Accra on 22 Jul, 24 Jul and 26 Jul 1943. A machine cancellation of 30 Aug 1943 has been applied from US APO 606 and the letter noted that it is Liverpool. The cancel isn't clear and I suspect it is U.S. Navy APO 606 in Miami. The Gold Coast was a former British Colony and obtained Dominion status

in 1957. Finally, in 1960 it became the independent nation of Ghana.

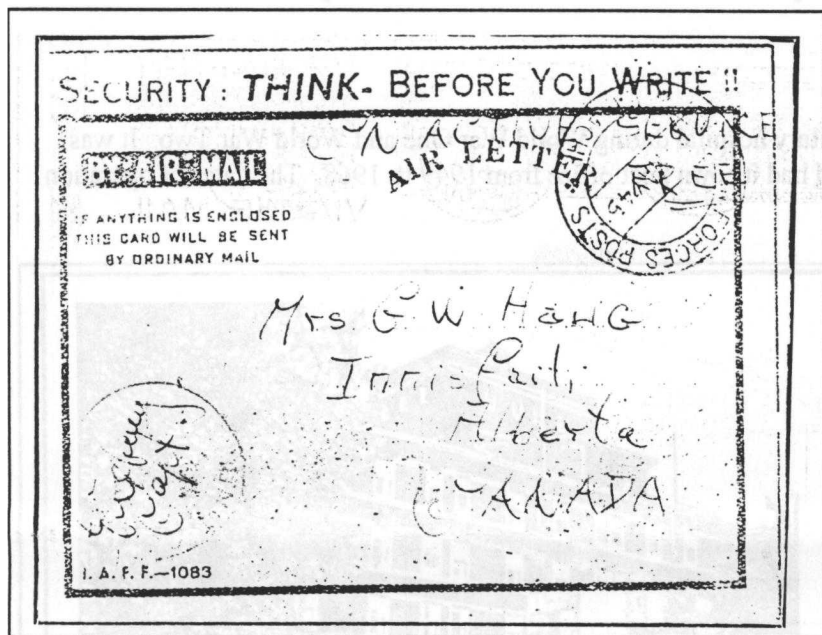
A cover from an RCAF officer serving with the RAF in Lagos, Nigeria, postmarked FPO 46, 25 Mar 1943.



An RCAF Sergeant writes home from FPO 475 in Gibraltar on 23 September 1942 while serving with the RAF.

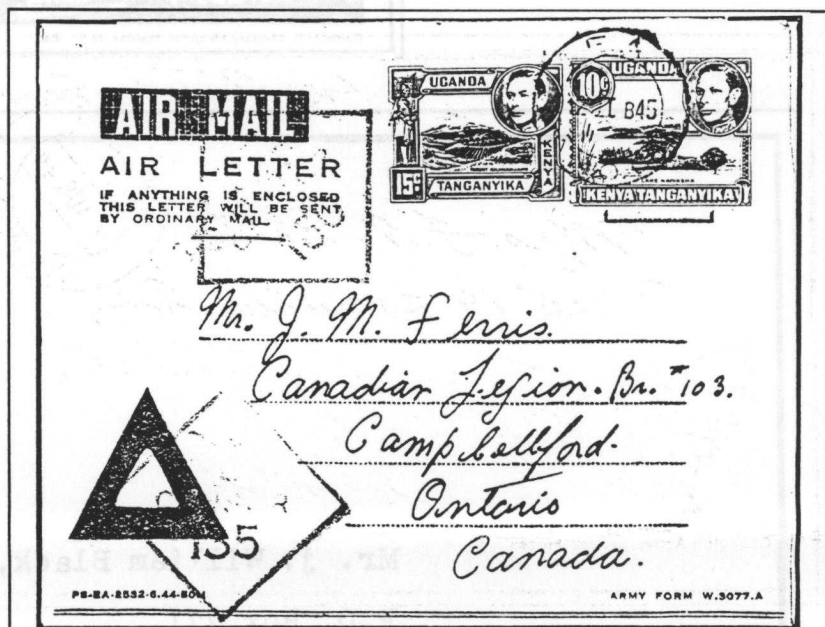


A member of the RCAF serving with No. 413 Sqn in Ceylon, writing home through RAF Post, Colombo, 18 August 1944.



Airletter written 18 May 1945 and postmarked CANADIAN FORCES POSTS/KARACHI 30 May 1945. The writer mentions he had not received mail since 7 May nor will he receive any until his return to Calcutta. He also mentions "An Army order has just come out authorizing free postage to British Dominions except Australia and New Zealand, hence no stamp."

A Canadian with 259 Sqn, East Africa writing home through APO 68 12 Feb 1945 at Dares Salem.



Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, N.S. 15 May 1953

By E. R. Toop

This hospital operated as a military hospital during World War One and World War Two. It was situated on Robbie Street in Halifax and had its own post office from 1949 to 1968. The dates of operation and the postmasters are as listed below:

Opened - 25 April 1949

Closed - 26 July 1968

Postmasters:

Robert E. Cann

25 Apr 49 - 27 Jan 54

Jerald Bernard Kelby

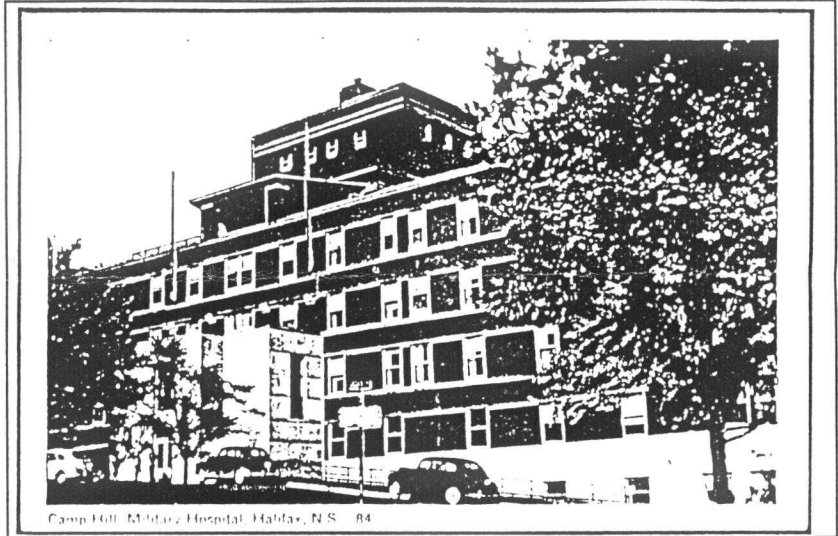
28 Jan 54 - 01 May 60

Noel R. Newberry

26 Jul 60 - 14 Apr 66

Dept of Veterans Affairs

26 Jul 65 - 26 Jul 68



Camp Hill Military Hospital, Halifax, N.S. 84

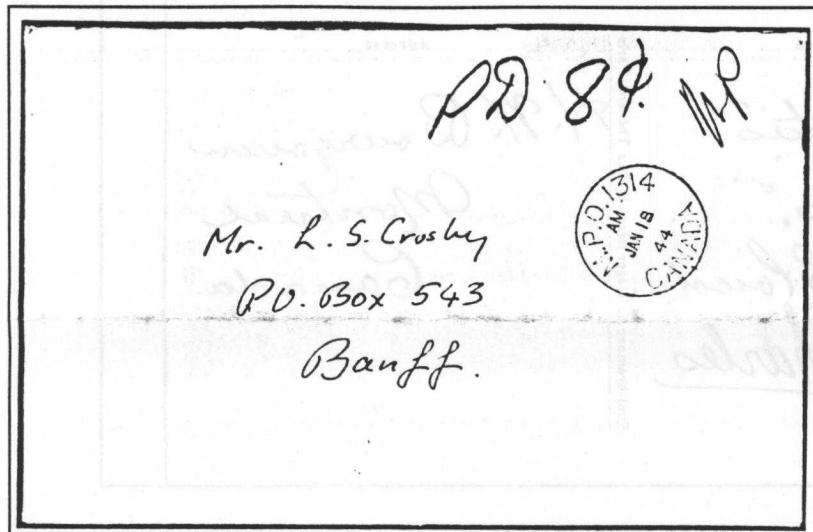


Mr. J. William Black,
P.O. Box 771,
Sackville, N.B.

MPO 1314 Canada, 18 Jan 1944

By E. R. Toop

MPO 1314 was located at Western Command Headquarters (Army) in Edmonton Alta., and was used for the Mountain Warfare School at Jasper, Alta., west of Edmonton in the Canadian Rockies. The MPO was open for a very short period from 23 December 1943 to 31 May 1944.



This cancel appears rather scarce with no reports from early surveys in the CMMMSG; it should be noted out membership was quite small during the survey period. The personnel strength at the Warfare School would be small compared to MPOs serving other bases, thus adding to the scarcity of the MPO and censor marking.

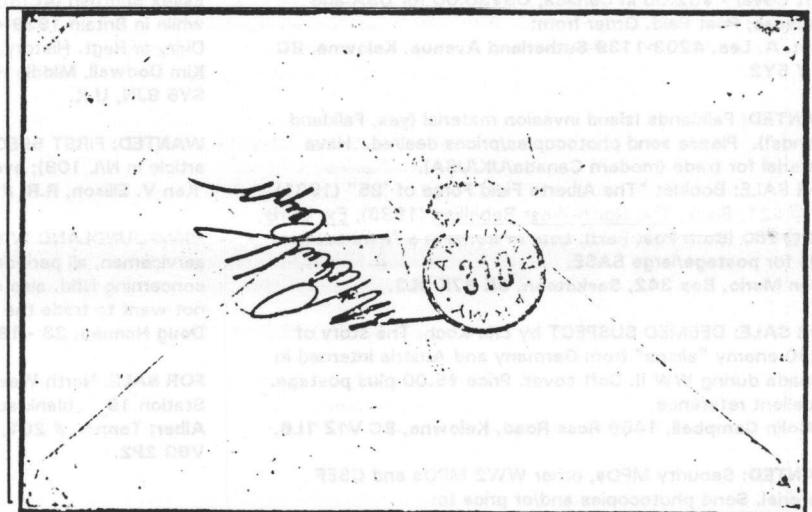
An interesting aspect of this cover is the manuscript notation "PD 8c". The domestic first class rate at the time was 4 cents for the first ounce, (increased from 3 cents to 4 cents 1 Apr 1943) with 2 cents each additional ounce or fraction. In addition to the "PD 8c" endorsement, the reverse shows a 20 mm small crown over circle censor number 310; the censor also initialised the postage due marking. There is no

indication that postage due was collected. While military censoring was quite common on the East and West coast of Canada during WW II, inland censoring of this nature was not common. Undoubtedly the security attached to the Mountain Warfare School was a factor in censoring mail during this period.

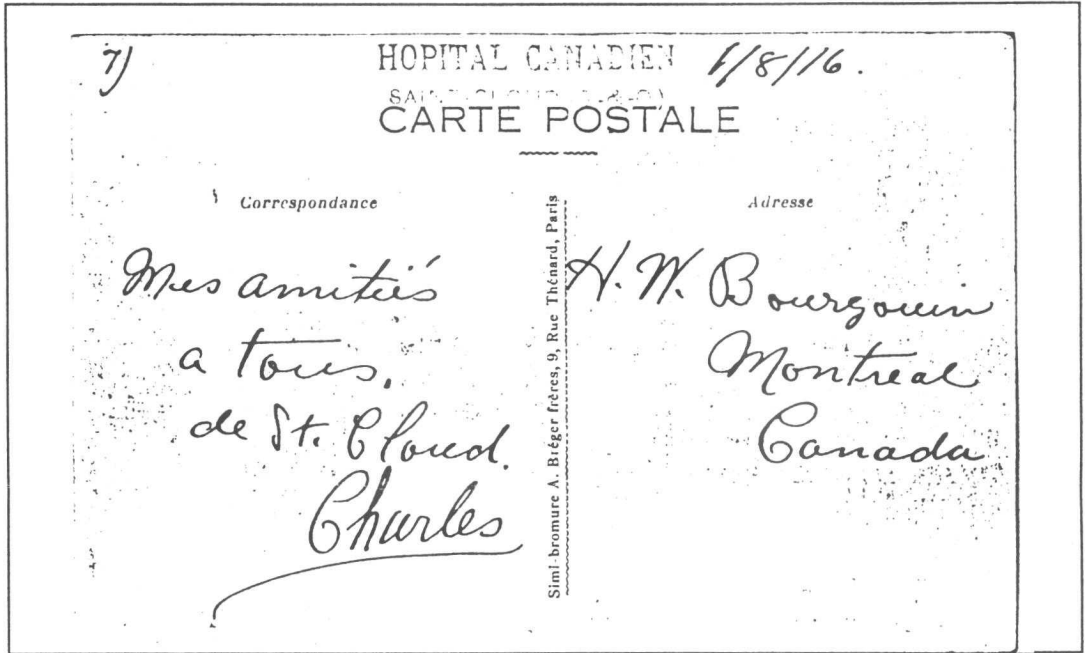
A review of usage of the small crown over circle censor indicates the following:

- Censor 301** - VG of C,
Br. Guiana, Jun 1944
- Censor 307** - CAPO 10
Nfld. May 1944
- Censor 310** - MPO 1314
Edmonton, Alta. Jan 1944
- Censor 312** - CAPO 10
Nfld. Apr 1944
- Censor 316** - Brockville Rifles,
Jamaica 1944
- Censor 324** - CAPO 10 Nfld. Dec
1944
- Censor 325** - Brockville Rifles,
Jamaica Dec 1944.

Can anyone report additional MPO 1314 markings or add to usage of the small crown over circle?



Cover-Cover



One of a series of postcards showing the Canadian Military Hospitals in France during World War I. This one shows the Canadian Hospital at Saint Cloud in 1916.

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).
FOR SALE: Booklet "The Alberta Field Force of '85" (1931) VF @\$21; Book, The North-West Rebellion (1886), Ex. Libris, VG @\$80 (Both Post Paid). Lots of items in a "mini-auction" sale for postage/large SASE.
Dean Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3.

FOR SALE: DEEMED SUSPECT by Eric Koch. The story of 2290 enemy "aliens" from Germany and Austria interned in Canada during WW II. Soft cover. Price \$5.00 plus postage. Excellent reference.
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: INFORMATION. Researching movements/locations/dates of West Nova Scotia Regt. (3CIB); Essex Scottish (4CIB); North Nova Scotia Highlanders (9CIB); while in Britain 1939-44. Does any member have access to War Diary or Regt. History, or know a veteran of these battalions?
Kim Dodwell, Middle Ho., Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN, U.K.

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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Canadian Military Mail

Study Group

NEWSLETTER

April 1994

Dear fellow CMMSG'ers,

I don't blame you if you're wondering what has happened to your Bulletins recently. To make a long story short, circumstances made it impossible for me to prepare the Bulletins for the past several months. After many years, I have sold my business and hope to be (semi)-retired soon. Once all the legal and other matters are settled, I will have more time to devote to my outside interests, including the CMMSG Bulletin.

Once I'm all settled in my new office (in the home) and have acquired all the necessary office equipment, things, and the publication schedule, will start to get back to normal with the next (double) issue out in May.

Please note the new address for mail to the CMMSG, effective immediately.

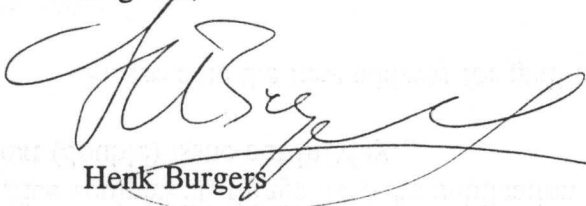
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Fax: (613) 737-7996

Tel: (613) 737-2993

Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Regards,



Henk Burgers

