

Canadian Military Mail

Study Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 114-115

Spring 1994

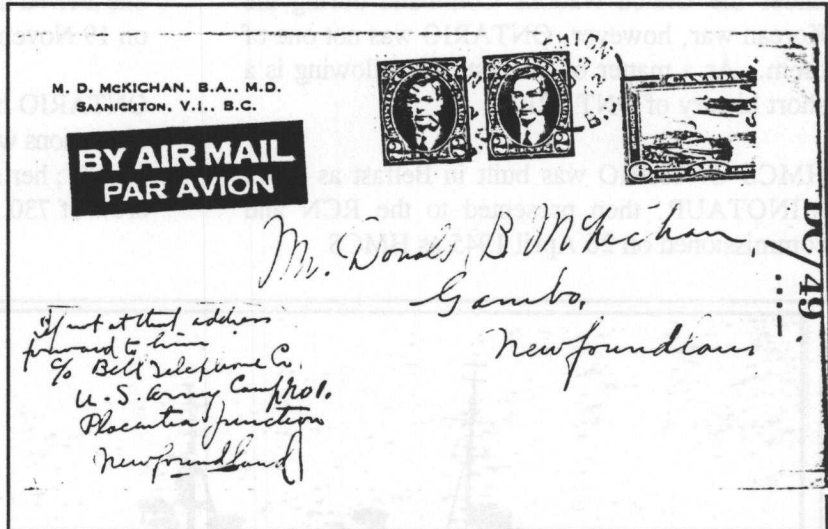
Page 131

Editorial Ramblings

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. 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.

Please note the new address for mail to the CMMSG, effective immediately. My apologies to you all for the recent tardiness in producing our journal, but there was simply no choice. Meanwhile, I hope you'll enjoy this double issue offering!

Henk Burgers



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Coming in Future Issues:

Articles on WWI Disembarkation Cards, Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camps in various countries during WW II, MPOs, 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.

Please address mail to:
Henk Burgers,
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Gloucester, ON
Canada K1G 3N2
Fax: 613-737-7996

HMCS ONTARIO

Ritch Toop

David Collyer in his letter to the Editor, N/L 113, p. 122, inquires about the cruiser HMCS ONTARIO during a visit to Tasmania in February 1954 and wondered if she had come directly from Canada or was on her way back from service in Korea.

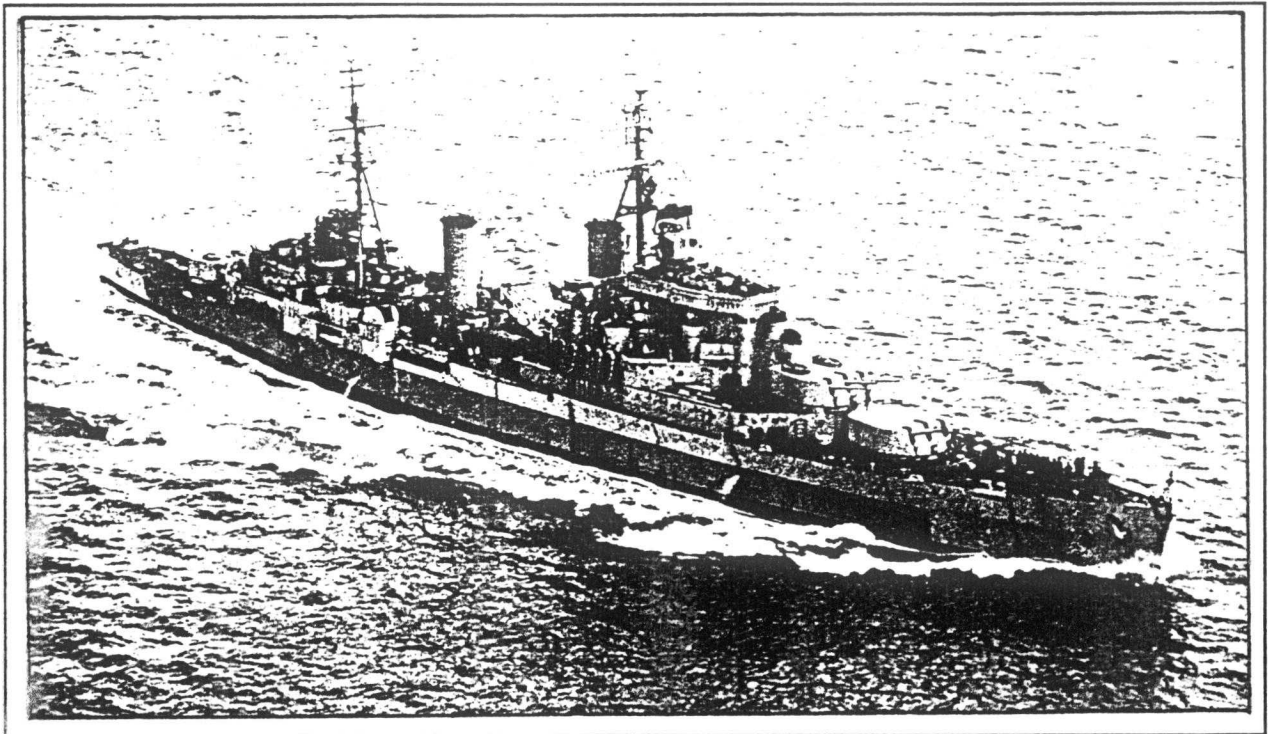
A total of eight Canadian ships served (on rotation) under the United Nations Command during the Korean war, however, ONTARIO was not one of them. As a matter of interest, the following is a short history of ONTARIO:

HMCS ONTARIO was built in Belfast as HMS MINOTAUR, then presented to the RCN and commissioned on 26 April 1945 as HMCS

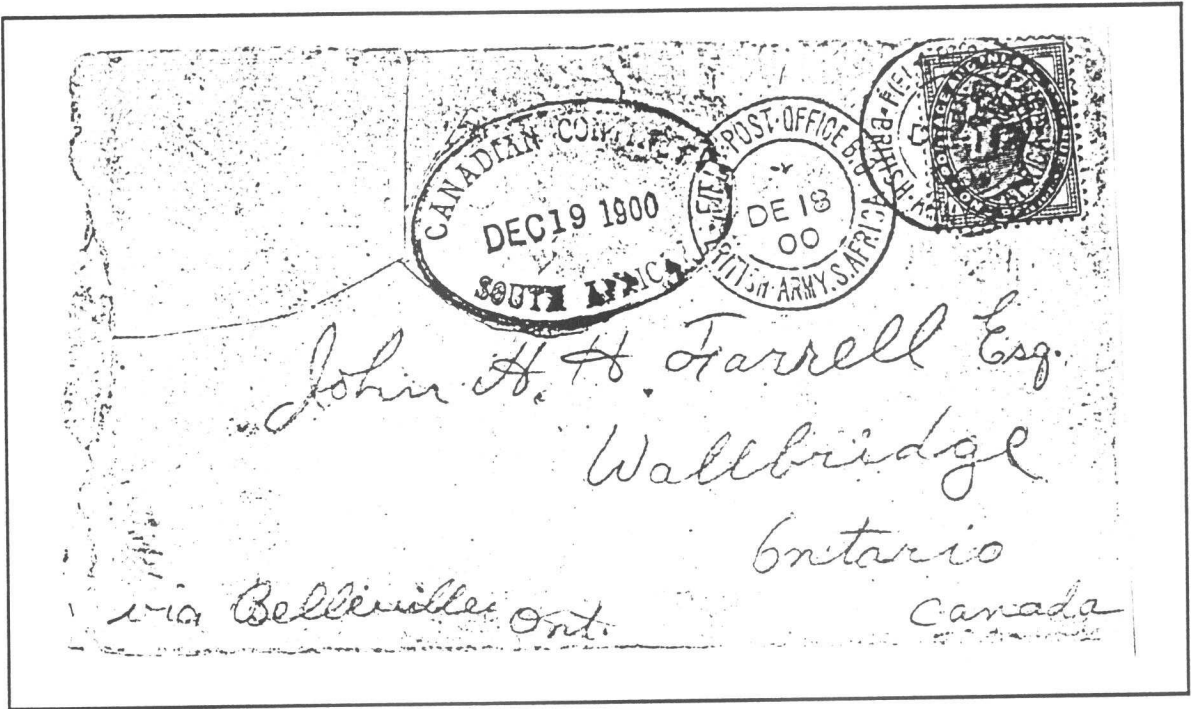
ONTARIO, too late to see war service. After joining the 4th Cruiser Squadron, British Pacific Fleet, she was employed in a variety of duties. She arrived in Esquimalt, B. C. on 27 November 1945 for a refit.

ONTARIO spent the remainder of her career as a training ship and was paid off 15 October 1958. She arrived in tow for breaking up at Osaka, Japan on 19 November 1960.

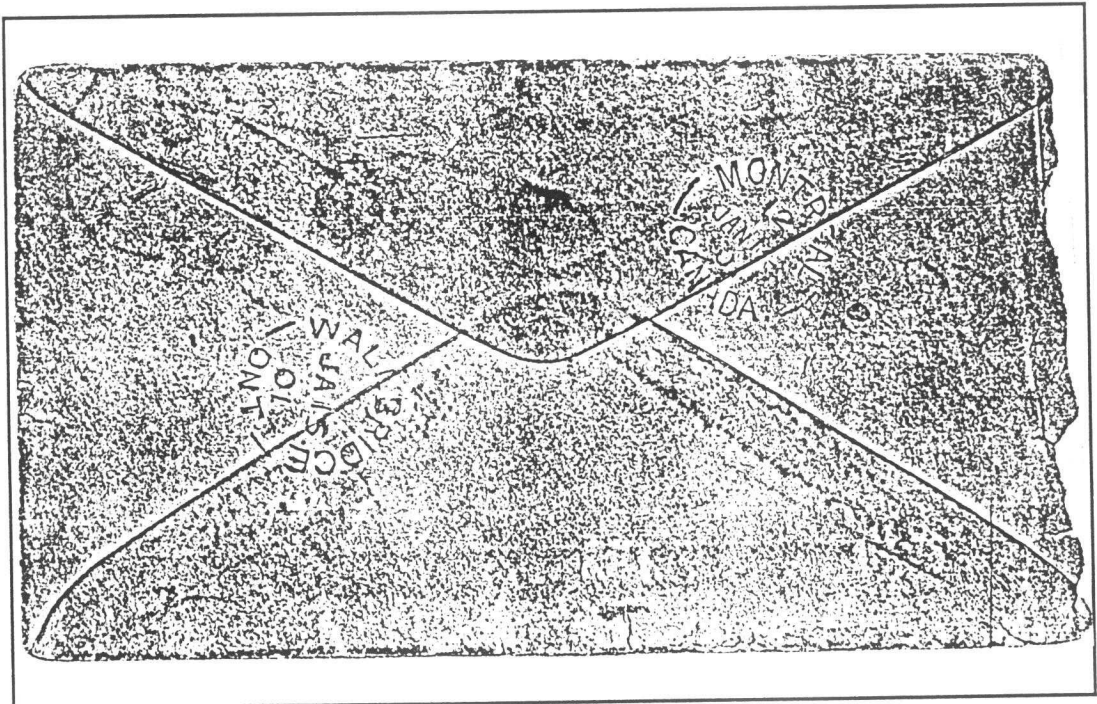
ONTARIO had a displacement of 8,800 tons; her dimensions were: length 555 ft 6", breadth 63 ft x 16 ft 6"; her speed was 30 knots and she carried a crew of 730.



HMCS ONTARIO - May 1945



Two different FPO cancels were used on this cover: one with a B. O. (Branch Office) and one without. The indicia are different, as is the dating. In the first one it is 31/DE 11/00, while the second one shows */DE 18/00. The CANADIAN CONTINGENT oval handstamp was added on the 19th.



Reverse of cover.



Post card from Kimberley to Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Note the text on the post card below the crest and the dates. Ladysmith was under siege (no stamps were available) and apparently post cards were pre-stamped with the CDS cancel. The card then was not used until August in Kimberley, where a 1-penny stamp was applied.

POST OFFICE WEEKLY BULLETIN

Address all correspondence re Weekly Bulletin or Publicity Posters to the Deputy Postmaster General, for Chief of Public Relations, Post Office Dept., Confederation Heights, Ottawa 8, Ontario.



For copies of Bulletin address the Director of Budgets, for Superintendent, Purchasing and Stores Division, Post Office Dept., Confederation Heights, Ottawa 8, Ontario.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF W. H. WILSON, DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

Vol. XLIII - No. 2233

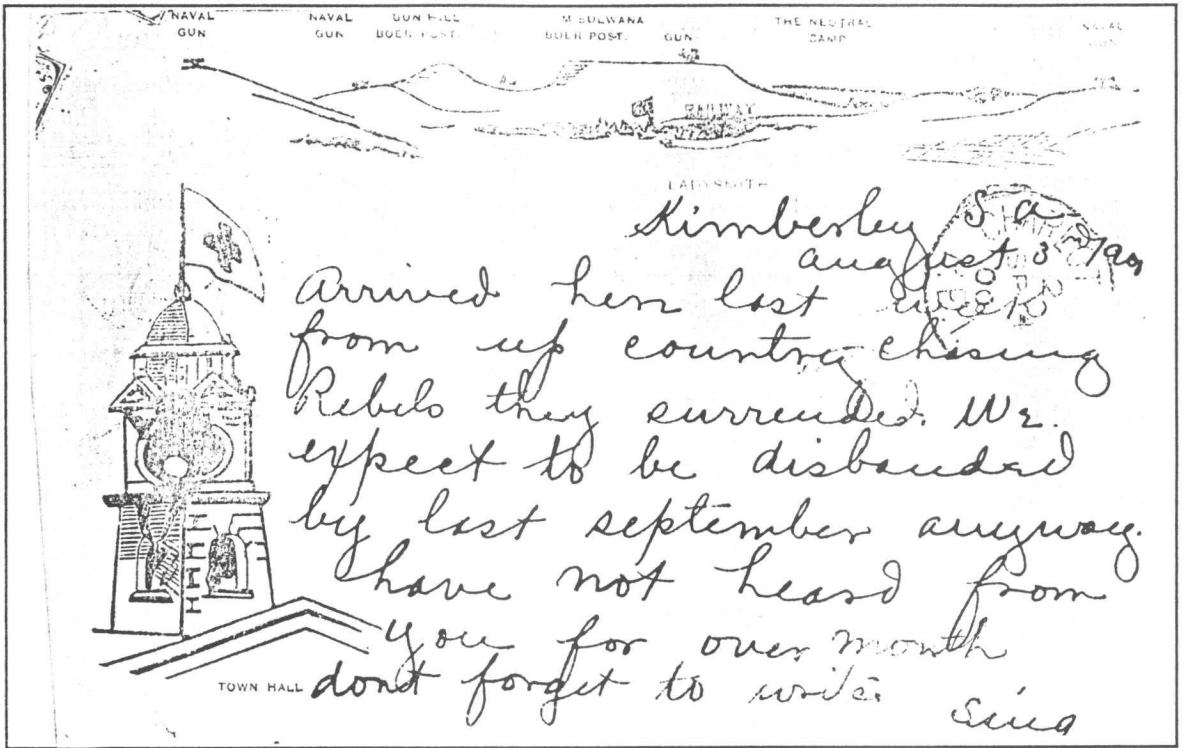
Ottawa, 28th December 1963

1. C. A. P. O. SURFACE MAILES TO BE ROUTED TO BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

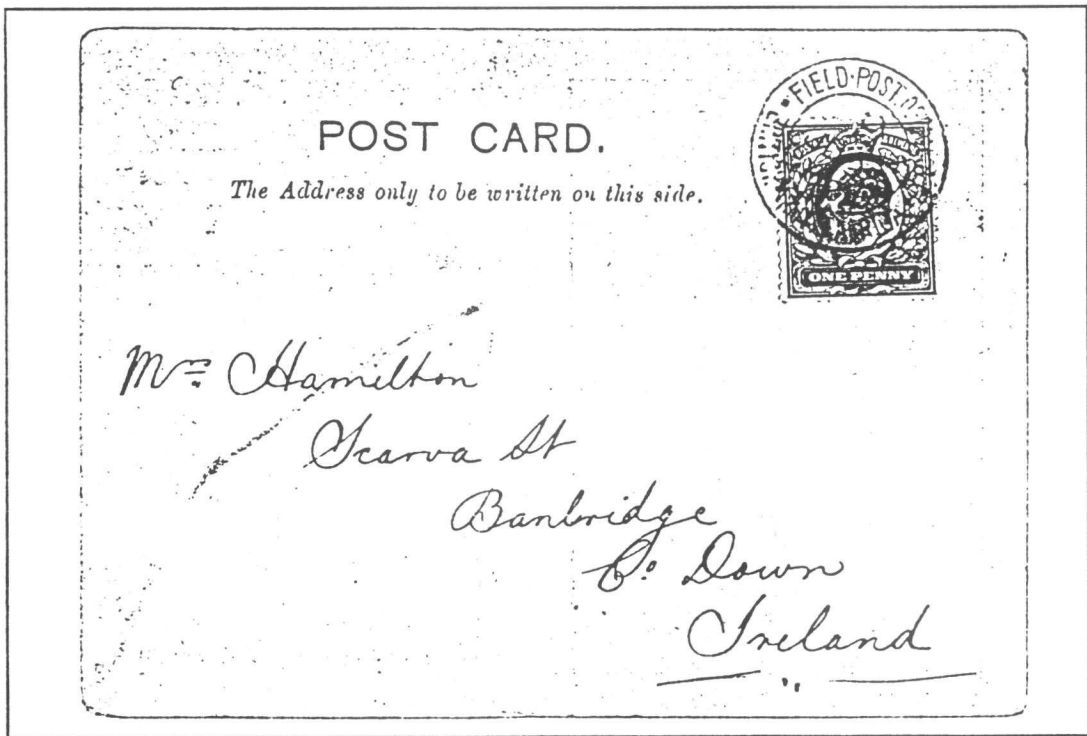
All concerned are reminded of the relocation of 1 Base Post Office, Royal Canadian Postal Corps, from Montreal, P. Q. to Belleville, Ontario.

Care must therefore be taken to ensure that all surface mails addressed to C. A. P. O. designations are forwarded to Belleville.

In so far as C. A. P. O. air mail is concerned it should still be routed to A. M. F. Dorval, P. Q.

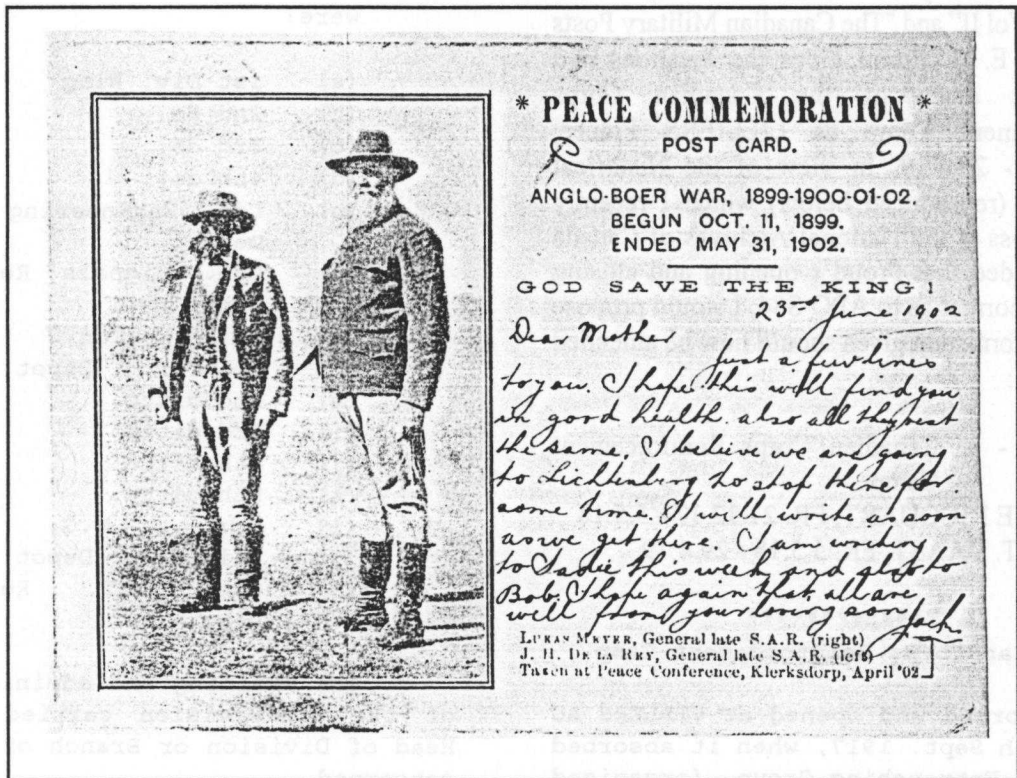


Reverse of the Kimberley card



Peace commemoration post card from Klerksdorp

This card is postmarked 9/JU 25/02. The FPO cancel is of the type with B. O. (Branch Office) included. The large numeral 9 is indicative of usage at Klerksdorp. (See Rowe, p. 96 for details of cancellations found on Boer War mail).



See also Rowe, p. 54.

“In the negotiations for a peace settlement of the Boer War, Dr. Abraham Kuyper, the Dutch Prime Minister, visited England and subsequently proposed a meeting of the principals of the conflict to discuss the terms. Lord Kitchener was to act on behalf of His Majesty’s government. Among the Boer delegation to meet April 12, 1902 at Klerksdorp were Lukas Meyer (General) and J. H. De la Rey (General).” (2)

The terms sought by the Boers were unacceptable to the British and another meeting was held on the 17th of April, 1902 in Pretoria. Subsequently, on May 31, the Boers agreed to the British terms and the war which had begun in October 1899 was ended.

References:

1. “Canadian Contingents”, Kenneth Rowe, 1981.
2. “After Pretoria -The Guerilla War”, Volume 2 supplement to “With the Flag to Pretoria”, H. W. Wilson, 1902.

WW I APO S84

John Frith

In both "History of the British Army Postal Service - Vol II" and "The Canadian Military Posts - Vol I", E. B. Proud gives the locations and operations dates of the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp as LILLIERS France, 21.12.17 - 29.4.19. In view of the Historical Summary (reproduced below) which I recently came across at the National Archives of Canada and provided that Proud's opening and closing dates are correct as to APO S84, I would propose that the information given should now be amended as follows:

APO S84 - Canadian Corps Reinforcement
Camp
CALONNE RICOUART, FR. 21.12.17 - 5.5.18
AUBIN ST. VAAST, FR. 5.5.18 - 29.4.19

Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp.

1. Formed and opened at VILLERS AU BOIS 15th Sept. 1917, when it absorbed the Cdn. Entrenching Group, (organized 22nd May 1917 which, with its four battalions, had acted as the Cdn. Corps forward depot for infantry reinforcements. At first the C.E.G. was under the Camp Commandant Cdn. Corps, but no change in personnel could be made without sanction of D.A.G. Base. On 31st Aug. 1917 Entrenching Bns. were placed directly under Divs. for training.)

2. The C.C.R.C. was formed:

To handle all reinforcements for Canadian Corps from date of despatch from Base until ordered to join respective units. Reinforcements, while in C.C.R.C., administered and trained under Divisional arrangements. Under the C.C.R.C. for draft movement only.

3. The subdivisions of the C.C.R.C. were:

- (a) 1st Div. Wing
- (b) 2nd do.
- (c) 3rd do.
- (d) 4th do.
- (e) Cdn. Engineering Reinf. Depot
- (f) Cdn. Signals Reinforc. Depot
- (g) 1st Cdn. D.A.G. Reinforc. Depot
- (h) 2nd ditto.
- (i) 3rd ditto.
- (j) 4th ditto.
- (k) 5th ditto.
- (l) Cdn. M.G. Corps Reinforc. Depot.
- (m) Cdn. M.T. Reinforc. Depot.

The training and administration of the Sub-Division carried out by Head of Division or Branch of service concerned.

4. The C.C.R.C. moved to Calonne Ricouart on 9th Oct. 1917 and to Aubin St. Vaast on 5th May 1918.

5. During the period Oct. 1917 - Dec 1918, average daily strength of C.C.R.C. as under:

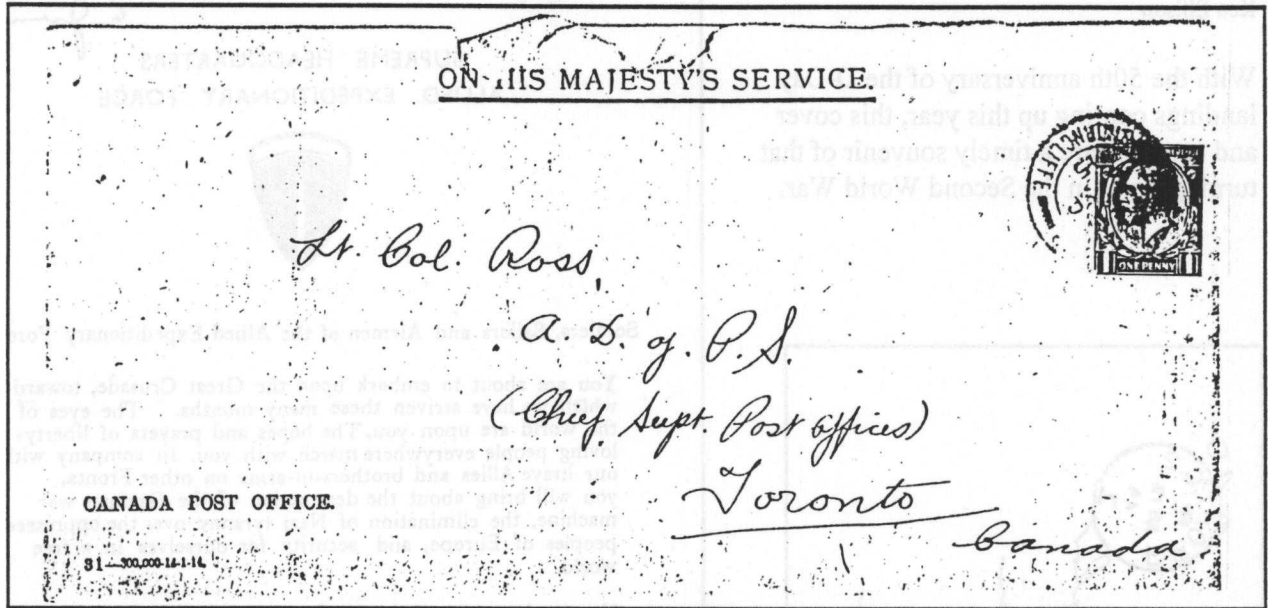
<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Other Ranks:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
273	9262	9535

Lowest figures (Mar. 1918):--	--	6356
Highest (July 1918):--	--	13467

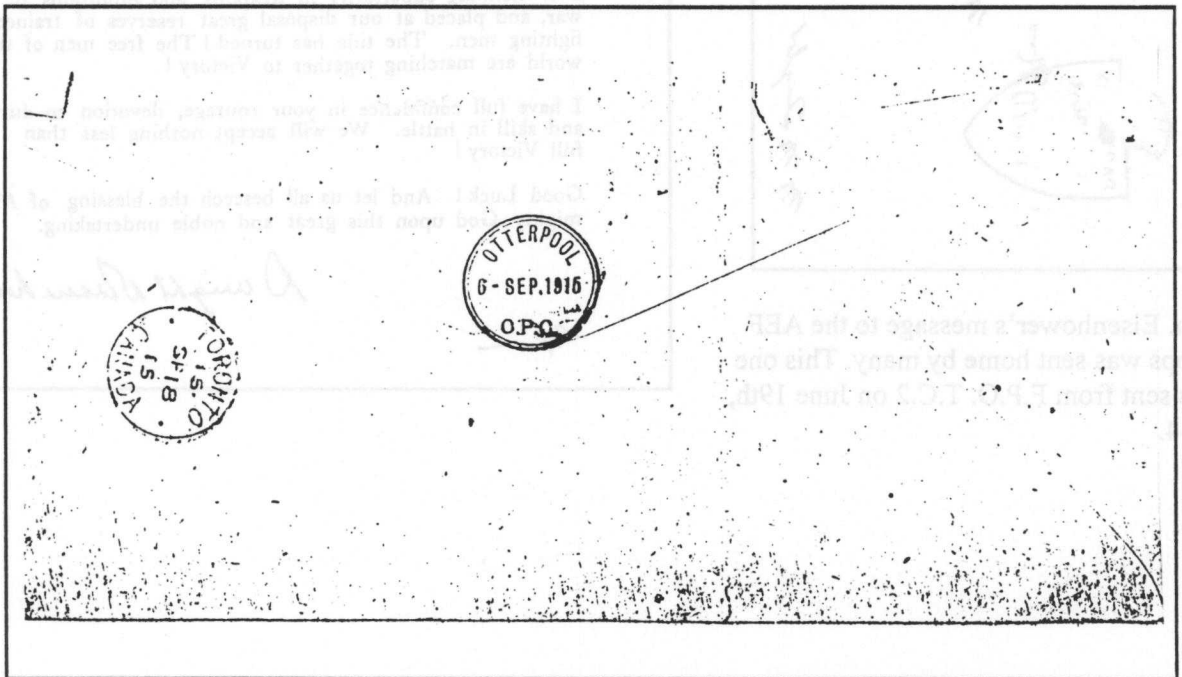
- This organization was amended June 1918, see attached chart. (Compiled by Historical Section (General Staff) Ottawa, Department of National Defence)

An Otterpool Mystery

John Frith



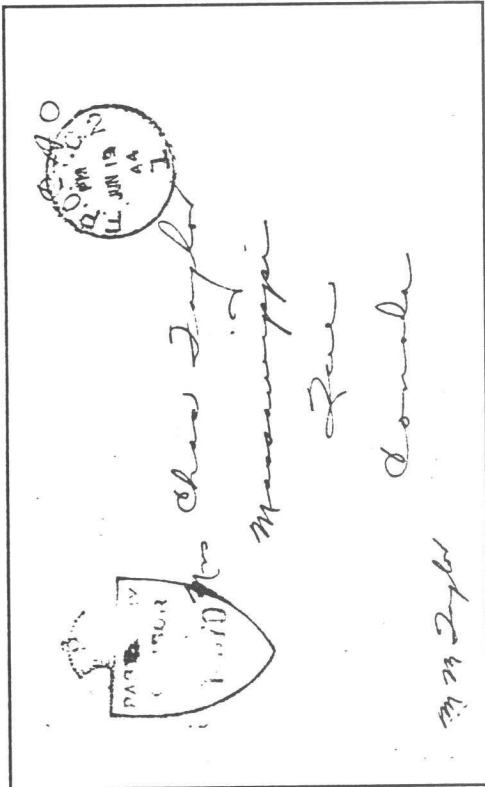
I came across this photocopy while going through some old files recently and I don't think it has ever been recorded elsewhere. The main problem I have is that it isn't in my collection and I don't remember where I saw it, but it obviously existed. The question remaining is - "Was the double ring hammer an orderly room handstamp or a postal hammer?"



A D-Day Souvenir

Ken Ellison

With the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings coming up this year, this cover and contents are a timely souvenir of that turning point in the Second World War.



Gen. Eisenhower's message to the AEF troops was sent home by many. This one was sent from F.P.O. T.C.2 on June 19th, 1944.

6 June 44

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

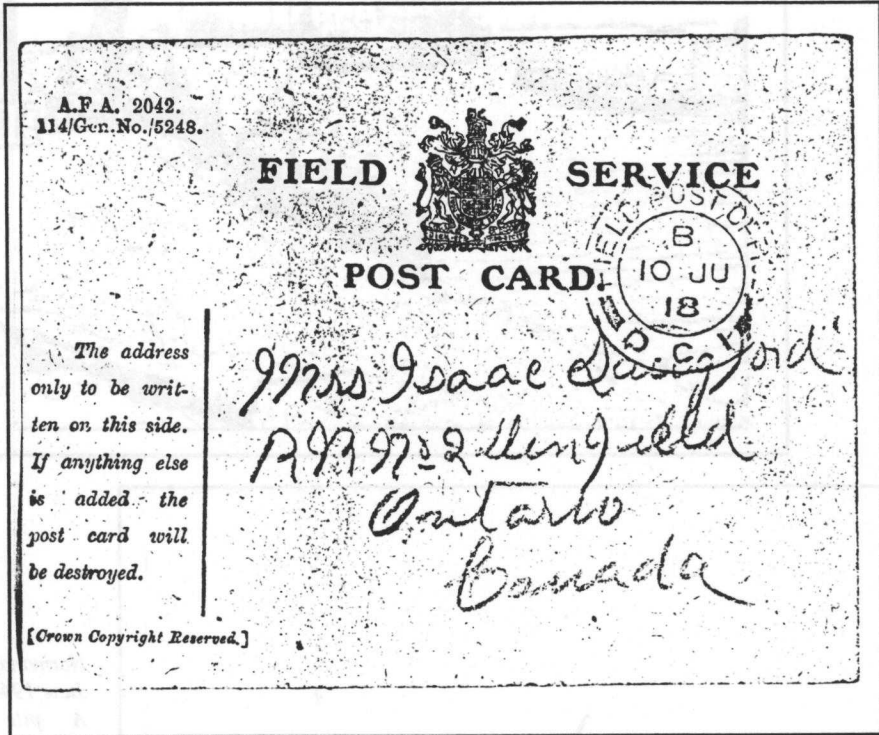
Dwight D. Eisenhower

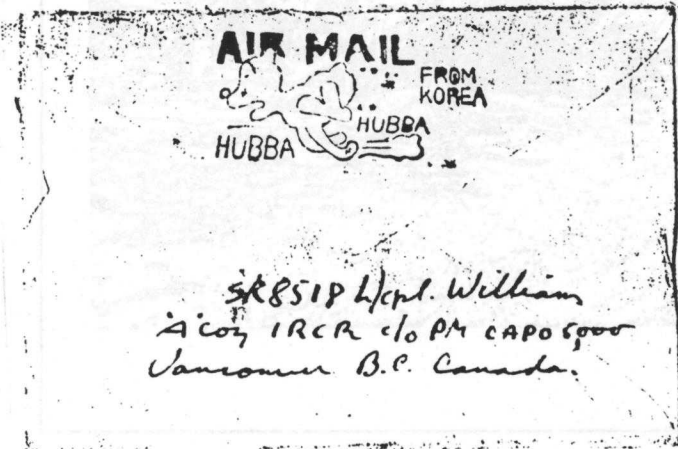
Man

FPO DCI

John Frith

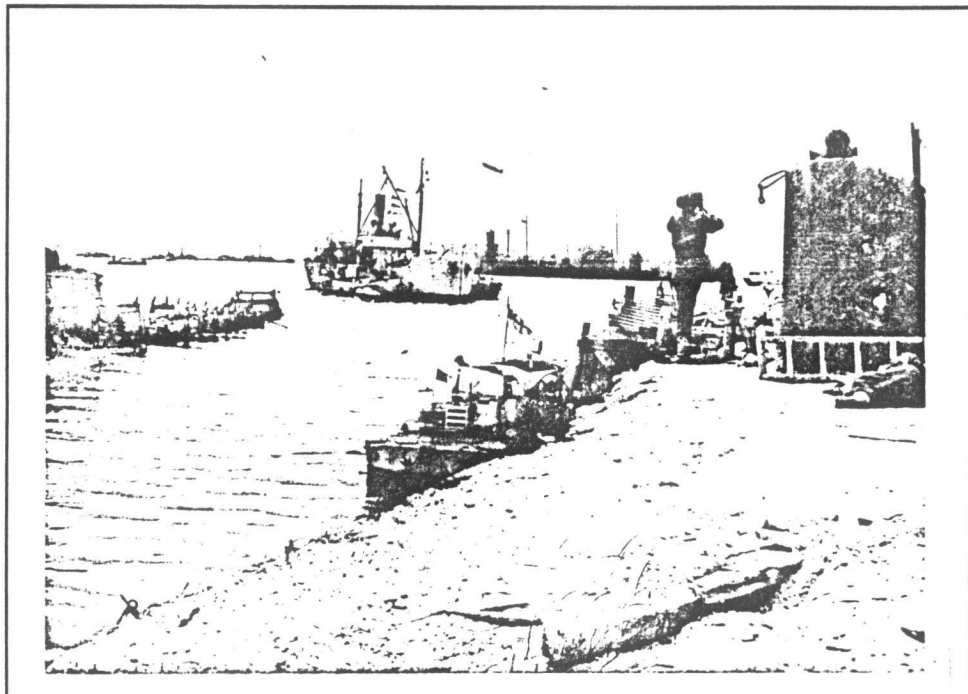
With reference to CMMSG N/L 88, page 639. As requested, here is a Field Service Post Card cancelled with FPO DCI during Security Phase V 1 FEB 18 - 31 JUL 18.





More D-Day Memories

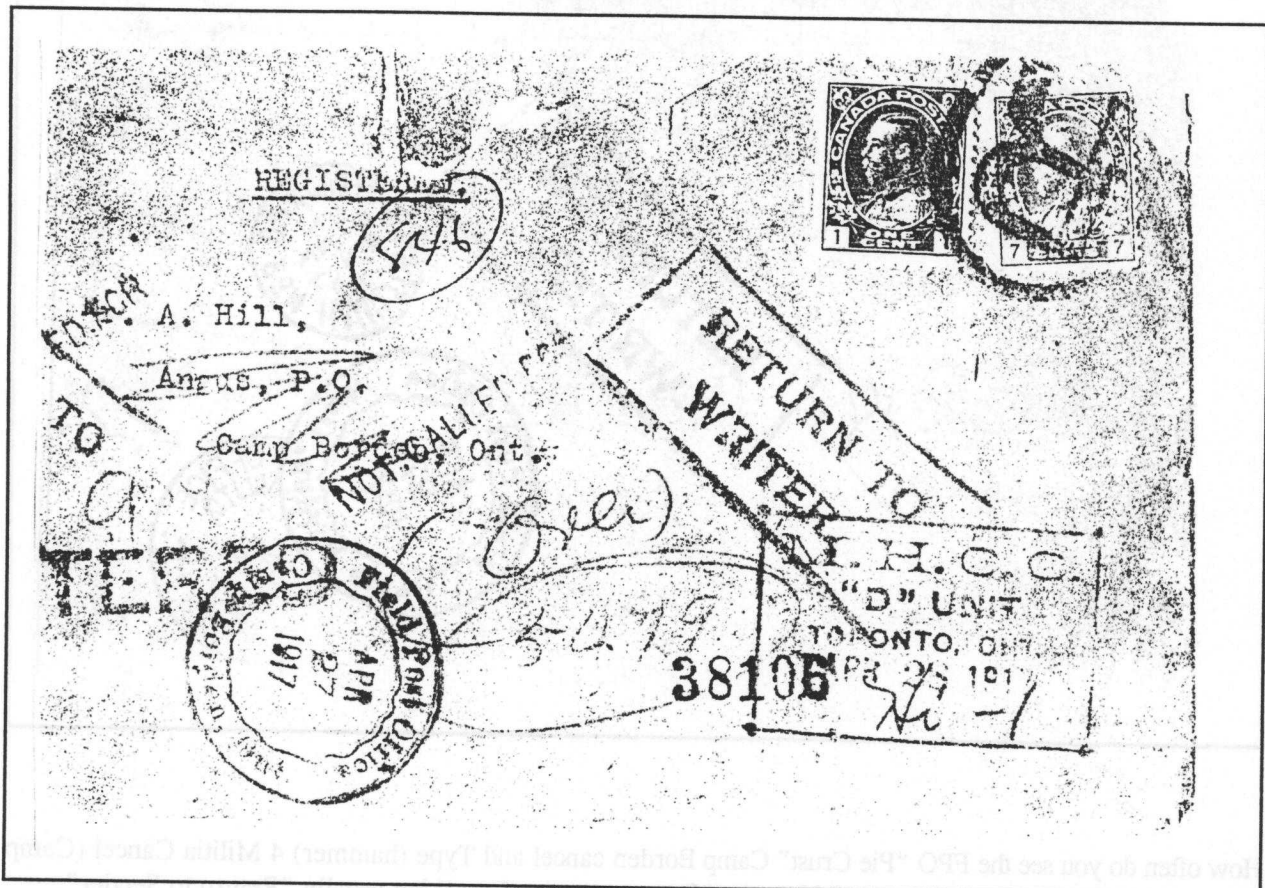
*France, 6 June 1944;
Scene of the invasion
landing on the Normandy
Beachhead
(DND 34023)*



*Normandy Beachhead, 6
June 1944
A pile of underwater
obstacles with which the
Canadian assault troops had
to deal with. The flag at the
top centre indicates that all
charges have not yet been
removed.
(DND 33918)*

A Camp Borden Pie Crust

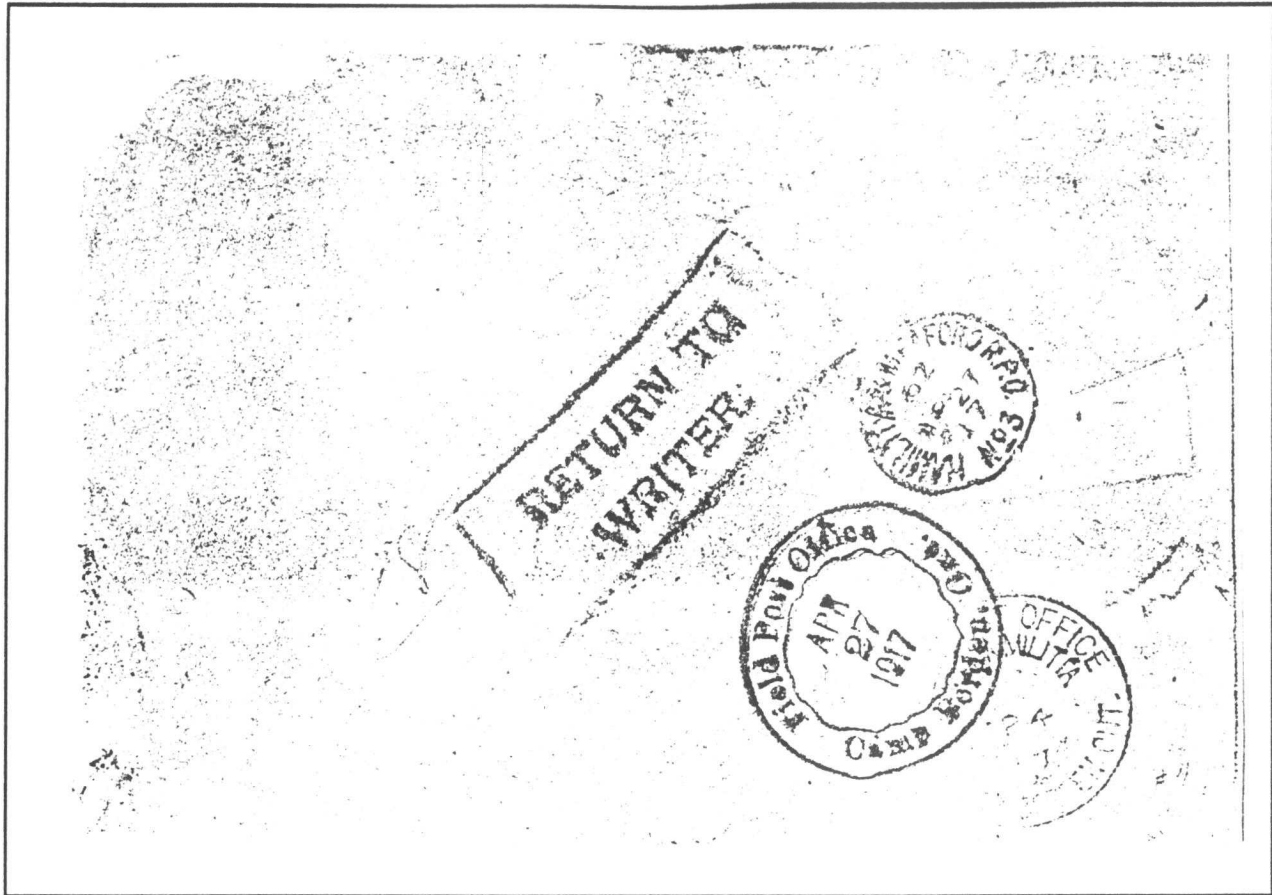
Dave Hanes



Does M.H.C.C. stand for "Militia Headquarters Canadian Contingent"? Any other guesses?

quantity of the 1917 label prepared for the
Australian Army's 50th anniversary. The
March-April issue has been best War material,
including an Army 1917-1918 cover. There is also
an update on current ARPDs with the United
Nations and an item on Australia's participation in
UN peacekeeping missions.

From our antipodean counterparts here is another
fine newsletter offering The January-February
issue features some fine War material,
including a recent find of a cover with mixed
franking charged postage due. The First World
War section has more statistics on ANZAC mail
during 1917. The issue concludes with an



How often do you see the FPO "Pie Crust" Camp Borden cancel and Type (hammer) 4 Militia Cancel (Camp Borden) together on the same cover? Note the "Return to writer" marking usually "Return to Sender".



The Observer

From Down Under

From our antipodean counterparts there is another fine newsletter offering. The January/February issue illustrates some fine Boer War material, including a recent find of a cover with mixed franking charged postage due. The First World War section has more statistics on ANZAC mail during 1915. The issue concludes with an

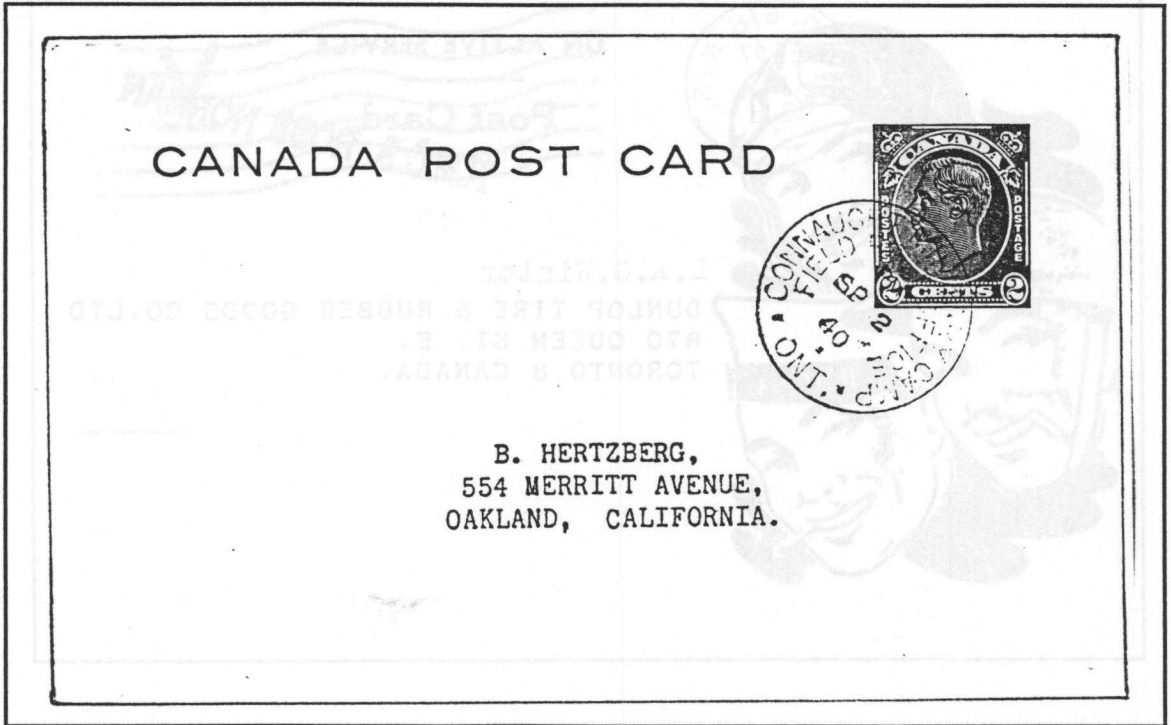
illustration of the 1991 label prepared for the Australian Army's 90th anniversary. The March/April issue has more Boer War material, including an Army Telegraphs cover. There is also an update on current AFPOs with the United Nations and an item on Australia's participation in UN peacekeeping missions.

A Connaught Camp Cancel

J. C. Campbell

Connaught Camp, named in honour of Canada's Governor General, 1911-1916, The Duke of Connaught, was located near Ottawa, Ontario. The camp was perhaps best known for its rifle ranges which were virtually treeless and extremely hot in summer. The building of the facilities was started in 1914.

This Field Post Office cancel was in use from July 1939 until about September 1940 and possibly only then during summer camp periods. Revenues during this period, according to the Postmaster General's Reports, was about \$500.00, hence cancels are seldom seen. They rank with the Sarcee Camp cancel in scarcity.



(The Connaught Rifle Ranges are still used for training by the Canadian Forces and the facilities still looked to be the original ones the last time I was there! Ed.)



WHICH SHIP?

W. Whitehouse

Here is a typical cigarette acknowledgement postcard from a sailor aboard ship in Halifax. Postmarked at NPO 618 (Fleet Mail Office) Halifax on 27 September 1945 from HMCS "Ross Norman", it appears at first glance to be like hundreds of others.

However, on looking again one notices that the writer is actually serving aboard HMCS "Sackville", a Flower class Corvette, which in September 1945 was acting as training ship to HMCS "Kings", the Officer Training School at Halifax.



Ship's mail was required to have some marking applied if it was to receive the free mail privilege through civilian post offices. The handstamp HMCS "Ross Norman" has been applied in the upper right corner which satisfied the requirement, but poses the question: from which ship did the postcard originate?

The writer would obviously know which ship he was serving in, so we can be certain the card originated from the "Sackville" which was a small auxiliary vessel based on Halifax from 1940 until it was paid off in April 1946.

The wartime practice of a ship leaving harbour at short notice and putting her mail aboard another ship alongside would not seem to apply here, given that the war had

This package of cigarettes is sent you through the Overseas League (Canada) Tobacco and Hamper Fund, Toronto, Canada

You will be helping us to send you and your comrades a regular supply of gift cigarettes by expressing your appreciation on this card to the donor whose name appears on the other side.

IMPORTANT! When replying you must not mention your unit or address, unless this postcard is enclosed in an envelope.

Thanks of million for your thoughtful welcome gift of frags. All the fellows on board really appreciate it.

V-95044 HINDLE F.W.
H.M.C.S. SACKVILLE
F.M.O. HALIFAX.

ended 6 weeks prior to the cancellation date on the postcard and that "Sackville" had been detailed to training duties.

Perhaps some of our members have another explanation to offer.

And Now a Word from our Sponsor!

CMMSG Seminar BNAPEX '94 - Burlington, VT

Ritch Toop

As a reminder to all members attending BNAPEX '94, a seminar has been requested for Friday, 30 September at 3:00 p. m. While I am not aware of the full schedule at this time, one should be alert to the fact that the time requested vs allotted may differ slightly based upon the organizing committee's final schedule. In any event, I am hoping we can be allotted about 90 minutes, sufficient time for a short meeting and a slide programme on "KOREAN WAR POW MAIL". See you all there!

Canadian Military Mail Study Group - BNAPS

1993 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet (as of August 31, 1993)

Assets

Cash on hand	15.95
Stamps	8.34
Bank Account	<u>935.58</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u>959.87</u>

Liabilities

Prepaid dues	120.00
Members' equity	<u>839.87</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES	 <u>959.87</u>

Statement of Income and Expenses (period April 10 to August 31, 1993)

Income

Dues	439.24
Small Ads	12.00
Bank interest	15.40
Misc. income	<u>45.62</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	 512.26

Expenses

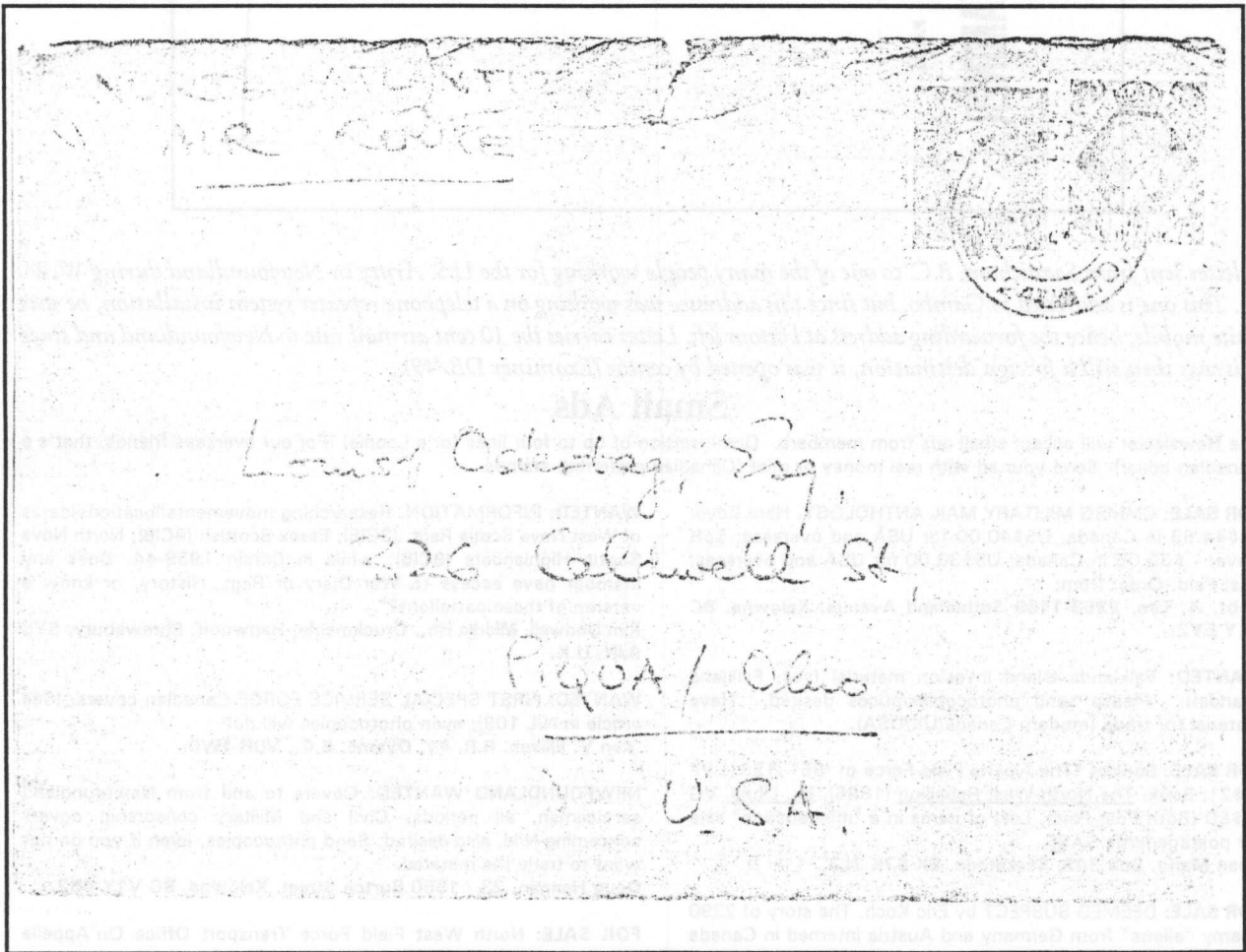
Postage	313.58
Misc. expenses	--
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 313.58
 NET INCOME	 <u>198.68</u>

A C.A.O.F. Cancel

Bill Robinson

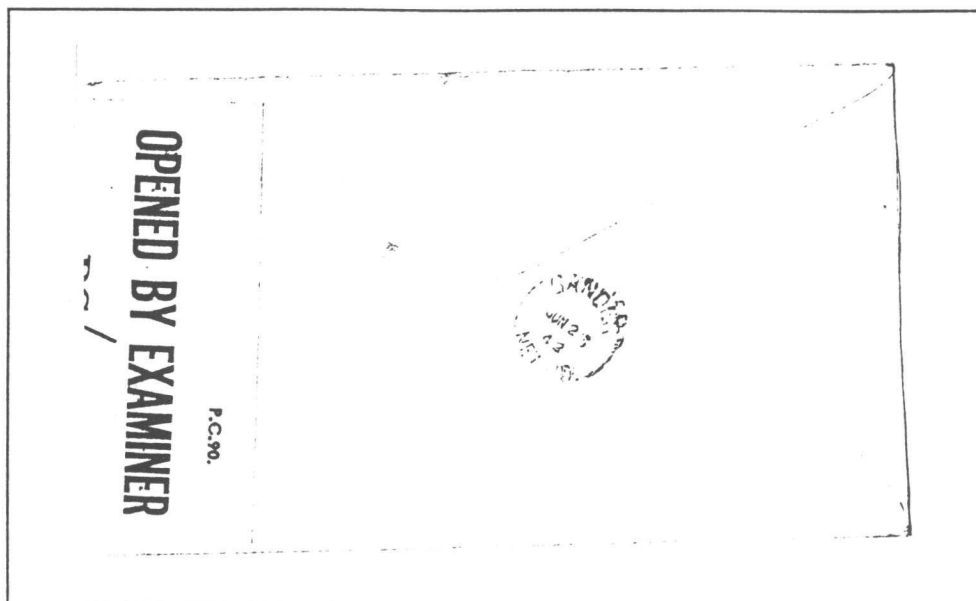
30th Corps District H. Q. , B.A.O.R.

H. Q. First Canadian Army ceased operations on July 31, 1945 and administration of the Canadian Army Occupation Force was then carried out through the 30th Corps District H. Q. of the British Army of the Rhine.



This cover was mailed from Field Post Office 424, at H. Q. 30th Corps, by a Canadian Warrant Officer (Regimental No. B-116112, Military. District 2 - Central Ontario) employed on the Canadian Section of the Staff, January 20, 1946.

Cover-Cover



A letter sent from Saanichton, B.C. to one of the many people working for the U.S. Army in Newfoundland during W.W. II.. This one is addressed to Gambo, but since this addressee was working on a telephone repeater system installation, he was quite mobile; hence the forwarding address at bottom left. Letter carries the 10 cent airmail rate to Newfoundland and since this was then still a foreign destination, it was opened by censor (Examiner DB/49).

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, 11 Elma Street, Gloucester, ON K1G 3N2

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.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

E. R. Toop
2830-B Sandalwood Dr.
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 7P5
(613) 731-6259

6 November 1994

Memo: To All CMMSG Members

Rather than take up valuable space in the Newsletter, I thought I should prepare a separate report of activities during BNAPEX '94 at Burlington, VT. and, at the same time appraise everyone of plans to regain our schedule on Newsletter production.

Our Study Group held a meeting during BNAPEX '94 at 2:30 pm 30 September with 23 members in attendance. Our Editor, Henk Burgers, presented an overview of current activity and reported a total of 80 members (excluding exchange & BNAPS officer mailings) being recorded. A financial statement was also presented (copy enclosed), which shows the account in good financial condition. Newsletter No. 114-115, a double issue, was mailed to all members prior to BNAPEX '94; another double issue is expected by end of November. While he has material on hand for the next several newsletters, members are encouraged to continue sending items to the Editor at 11 Elma Str., GLOUCESTER, ON K1G 3N2 which will permit a varied selection for future issues.

Discussions were held on various subjects with particular emphasis on future newsletter output. It was proposed, and accepted, that our Study Group should have a President, Secretary Treasurer and an Editor. The Sec/Treasurer would be responsible for all administrative activity including maintenance of the membership list, production of mailing labels, funds, dues notices and responding to correspondence other than that related to newsletter content; the latter would continue as present whereby members would submit their data direct to the Editor. The concept being that it would permit the Editor to concentrate on Newsletter production without having to attend to the administrative chores, bearing in mind that we wish to maintain a rather informal approach as has been the case so far. The Seminar closed with a slide program on Korean War POW mail.

As no volunteers came forth for the Sec/Treasurer function, yours truly stated he would take over this job provided someone would take over the office of President, a position with little or no activity to attend to. I don't feel that I should wear both hats, thus we need a volunteer for President. I would be pleased to hear from a member who is willing to be President of our Study Group.

I am currently in the process of relieving Henk of activity as noted above and hope that this mailing

will reach everyone. Please advise me of any errors or omissions in order to maintain an accurate record of everyone for mailing and other purposes. Sometime in the future we will publish a list of our members in the Newsletter. If anyone would prefer their address not be published, please advise the undersigned.

Mailing labels will indicate your paid-up status, for example, the month and year will appear as Exp. 95/08 or beyond. If any of the dates are incorrect as indicated on this mailing, please advise me. There will be a general call for dues (currently \$10.00 US or Cdn per year) in the Newsletter as and when required. Please note that we are unable to accept personal cheques from other than Canada/USA as the collection cost through the bank is prohibitive. Payment should be made in favour of the CMMSG. It is not intended to maintain a large bank balance so membership dues could possibly be extended without payment from time to time. Eventually we want all dues to run for the calendar year which would mean that anyone joining the CMMSG in June for example, would pay \$10.00 for that particular year and back-issues would be sent to them; more about this at some future time. I hope we can keep costs to a minimum, bearing in mind that past Editors did not always declare all their expenses for items such as paper, photocopying, mailing envelopes and so on. We will continue this practice wherever possible in order to provide the best 'bang' for the buck.

We have tentatively scheduled a CMMSG Seminar during BNAPEX '95 at Edmonton, Alta., for Friday 8 September '95 @ 2:30 pm. If anyone would care to give a talk or slide program, please let me know.

I would appreciate any feed-back, suggestions or otherwise which will give us the benefit of a Newsletter worthy of past editions. **DON'T FORGET TO CONSIDER THE PRESIDENTS POSITION. IT'S OPEN FOR A VOLUNTEER NOW!**

Regards to All,



Ritch Toop
President & Sec/Treasurer

Canadian Military Mail Study Group - BNAPS

1994 Financial Statements (preliminary)

Balance Sheet (as of August 31, 1994)

Assets

Cash on hand	0.00
Stamps	13.05
Bank Account	<u>1108.03</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1121.08</u>

Liabilities

Prepaid dues	120.00
Members' equity	<u>1001.08</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1121.08</u>

Statement of Income and Expenses (period September 1, 1993 to August 31, 1994)

Income

Dues	270.00
Small Ads	2.00
Bank interest	3.18
Misc. income	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	275.18

Expenses

Postage + GST	204.91
Misc. expenses	--
TOTAL EXPENSES	204.91
NET INCOME	<u>70.27</u>

