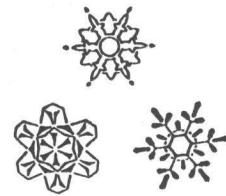




Canadian Military Mail Study Group



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1995

NEWSLETTER No. 121

Page 201

Holiday Greetings

Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

Welcome to the Christmas-New Year's issue of the Newsletter and Season's Greetings! I would like to extend a special thank you to all those members who have offered their encouragement and kind words. They are most appreciated. You will notice a few changes and, hopefully, improvements in this issue--I will continue to respond to your suggestions for a better product. I do hope that you enjoy this special Holiday issue.

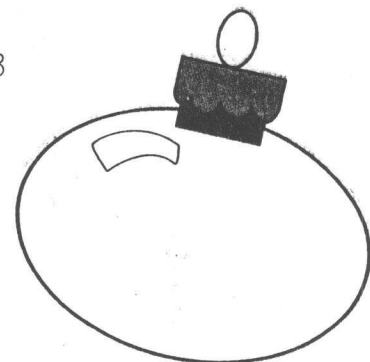
All of the previously-submitted articles and Study Group files are now in my possession thanks to the gracious assistance of Maureen Toop. I have a good supply of articles and fillers for the Newsletter but please do not be dissuaded from sending items in for publication. I shall try to work in the "old" and the "new" so your help is still essential for full issues. The Group's financial affairs have been duly turned over to our Chairman, Bill Bailey.

We sadly say goodbye to an outstanding and long-term member of our Study Group in this issue, E.R. "Ritch" Toop. Ritch, as you all know, was a dedicated leader in the study of all military mail and he will be greatly missed. Thanks to Dick Malott for providing the Group with his special memorial.

I would like to once again thank Ken Ellison for copying and mailing out the Newsletters. This is a monumental task and one which is seldom recognized.

On behalf of our Group's officers, Bill Bailey, Ken Ellison, and myself, I want to wish you all a safe and happy Holiday Season and the very best for 1996! Dean Mario

Editor: P.O. Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3





STUDY GROUP NEWS

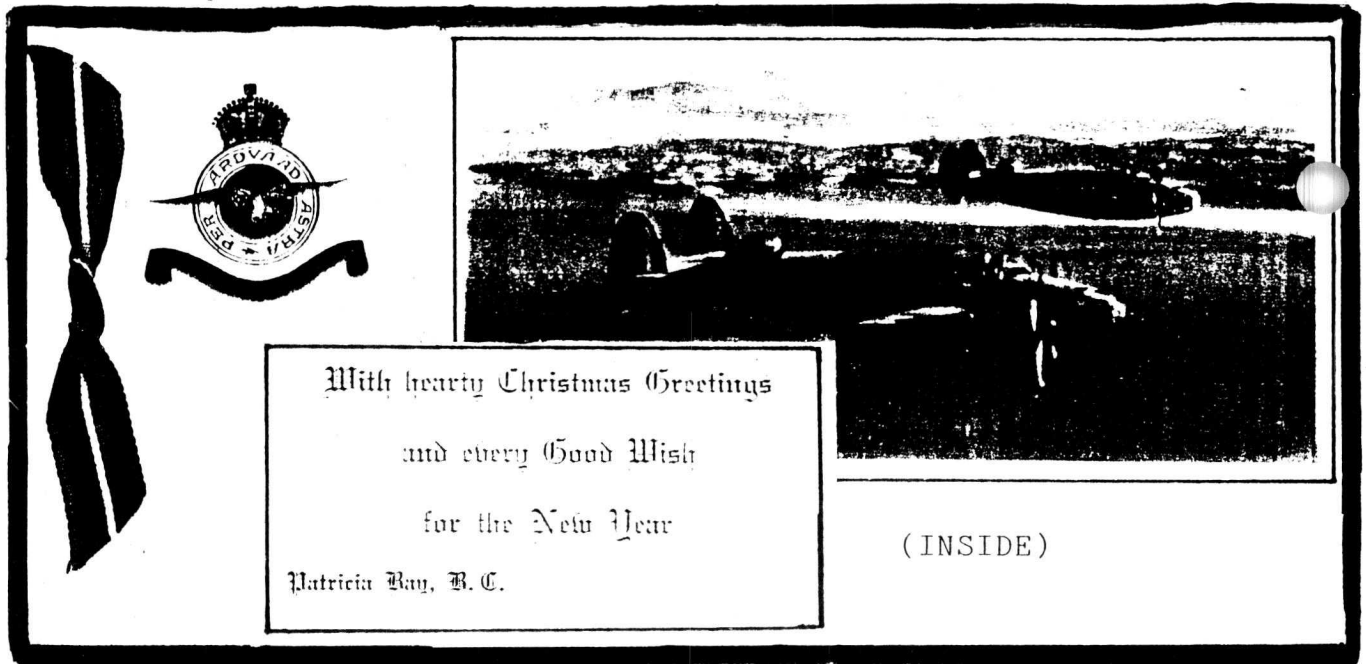
Kudos to several members of our Study Group on their recent show awards. Our Chairman, Bill Bailey, along with E.R. "Ritch" Toop were awarded a Large Silver and a Silver at SINGAPORE '95. These were for their two excellent publications in the Literature Class. W.G. Robinson obtained a Vermeil Medal there as well for his outstanding exhibit, "Canadian Participation in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902". Word has also just arrived that John Wannerton had received a Large Vermeil award at Helsinki. Congratulations to all of these exhibitors!

Welcome to ZDZISLAW B. KACZMARCZYK, #104-5350 MacDonald, Cote St. Luc, QC H3X 3V2!

Please note the new address for JEAN-MARC VILLEMAGNE, 2 Rue du Noyer, Niffer 68680 Kembs, France.

R.C.A.F. PATRICIA BAY, B.C.--By Dean Mario

The rather segmented card below was sent from the R.C.A.F. Operational Training Unit (Air Station), Patricia Bay, B.C. It was also known as MPO 1102 and operated from 1944-1947.

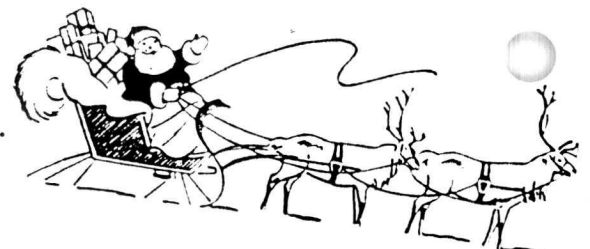


STUDY GROUP REFERENCE RESOURCE UPDATE

Further to Dr. Brian Plain's suggestion of a reference book listing (N/L 119, p. 188), the Editor has most of the Great War Embarkation Rolls for members of the C.A.M.C., C.E.F. Details can be provided for a s.a.s.e. (send name/rank of individual). [Ed.]

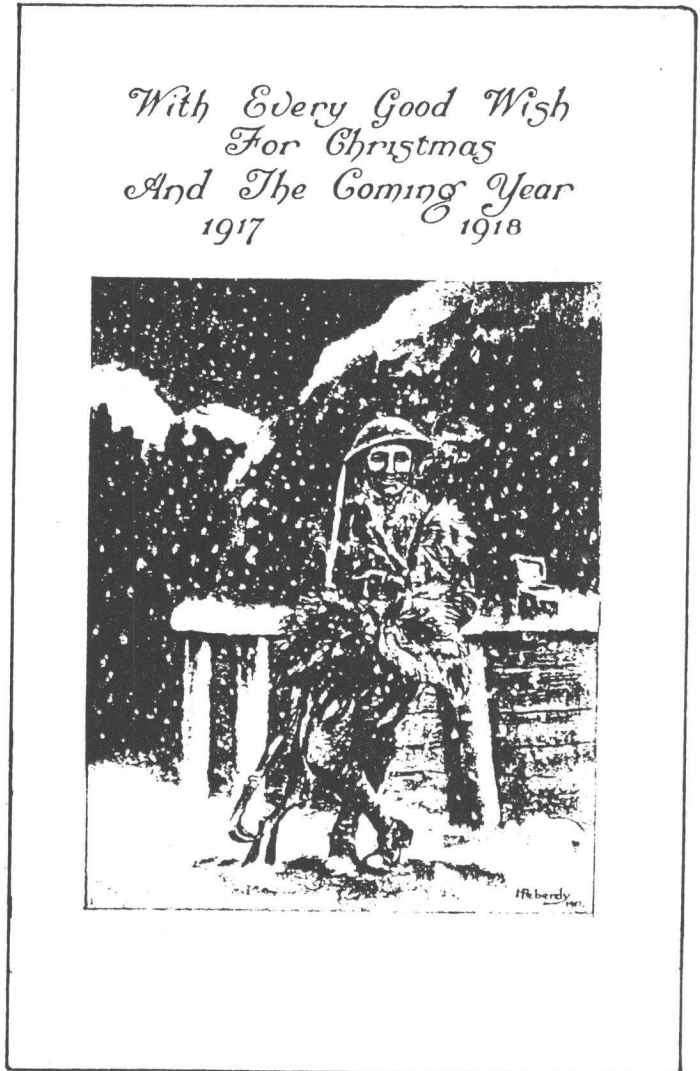
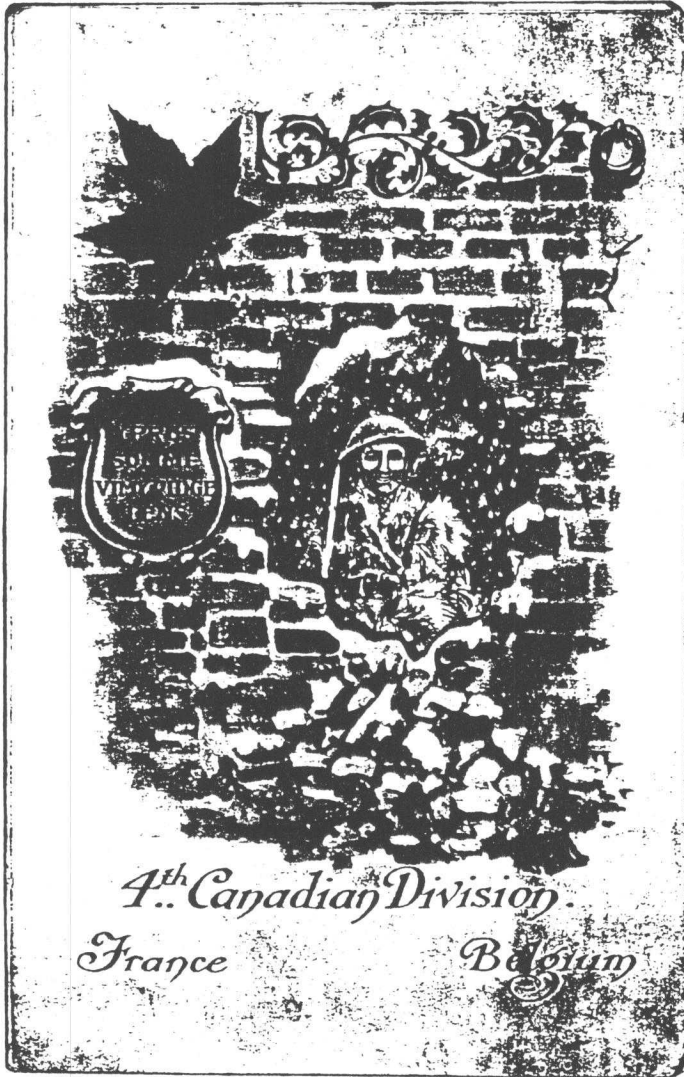


SEASONS GREETINGS





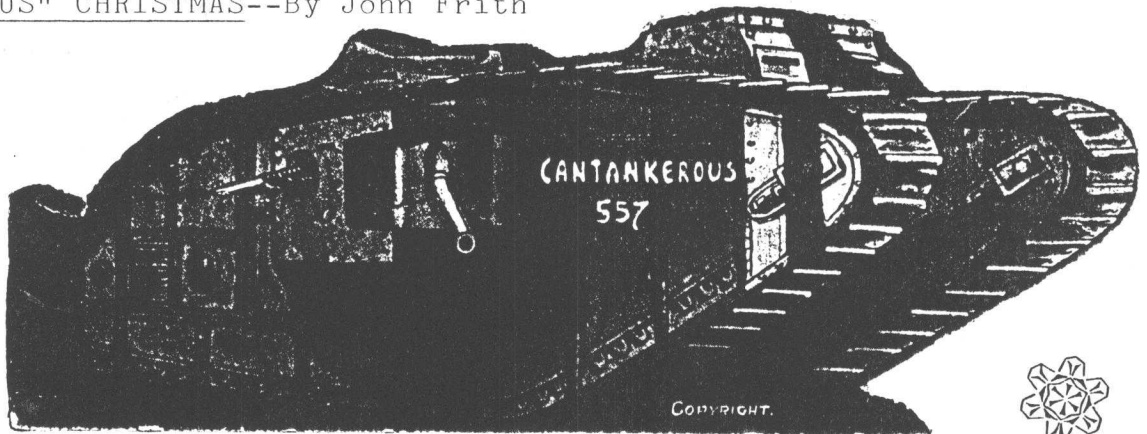
4TH CANADIAN DIVISION--By John Frith



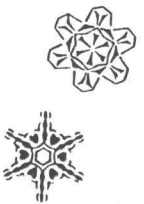
(INSIDE)

A "CANTANKEROUS" CHRISTMAS--By John Frith

(Inside greeting top of page 204)



COPYRIGHT.





*With
Christmas Greetings and all
Good Wishes for the Coming Year,
from the
1st Battalion Canadian Tanks, B. C. F.
Overseas, Christmas, 1918.*



A GERMAN CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 7, 1961



RCPC personnel handling Christmas mail in the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group area in the former West Germany. Pte. H. Clark, Fernie, B.C. is on the left and Pte. G. Ross, Charlottetown, P.E.I. on the right.
(DND EF 61-9401-21)



RESEARCH REQUEST

David Whiteley, #1210-525 St. Mary Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X3 writes: "I am presently working on an article surrounding the activities of No. 5 Postal Corps, C.S.E.F. I am hoping to create a check list of known material. I am seeking photocopies of covers etc. with complete descriptions of all postal and censor markings (including colours). The donor of each piece will receive appropriate recognition and anonymity will also be respected* if so desired....I have been able to examine 25 pieces which has given me a good start".



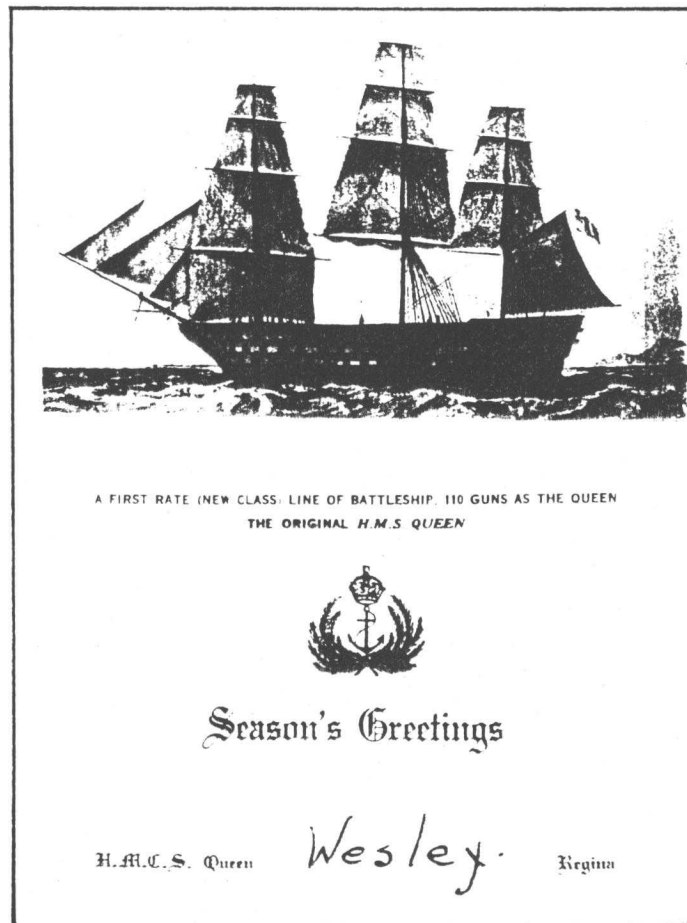
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

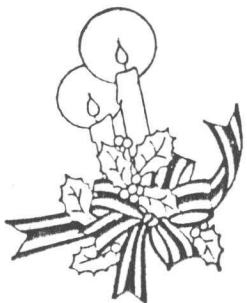
"WARM GREETINGS FROM SIBERIA, 1918"--By Dean Mario

This attractive fold-out card (blank inside) is printed on yellow/buff paper and is a seldom-seen example of those sent from the C.S.E.F. The sender, Pte. Arnold Stewart, sailed from Victoria, B.C. on December 22, 1918 aboard the S.S. Teesta. The card was mailed from Victoria on December 20 so it obviously was printed in Canada (the Contingent arrived in Vladivostok in January). Louis Keene, the card's designer, was a period war artist. [Thanks to Mr. Tim Stewart, CD, the sender's Great-Nephew, for his kind permission to reprint this card. Ed.]



H.M.C.S. QUEEN--By Dean Mario

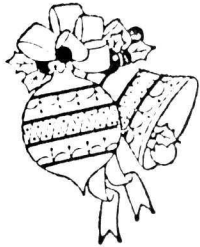




Holiday Greetings 



6TH BN. CANADIAN
RAILWAY TROOPS--
By Colin Pomfret

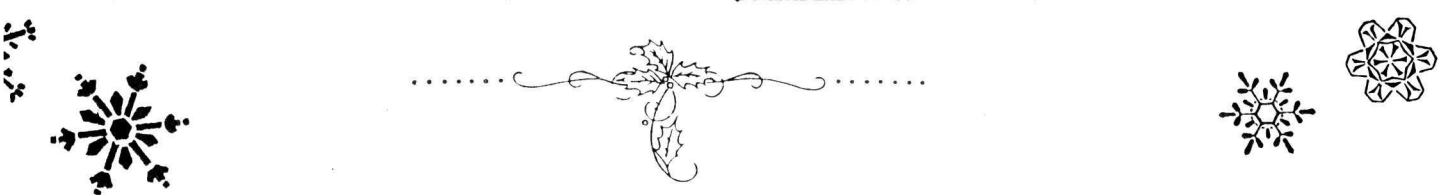
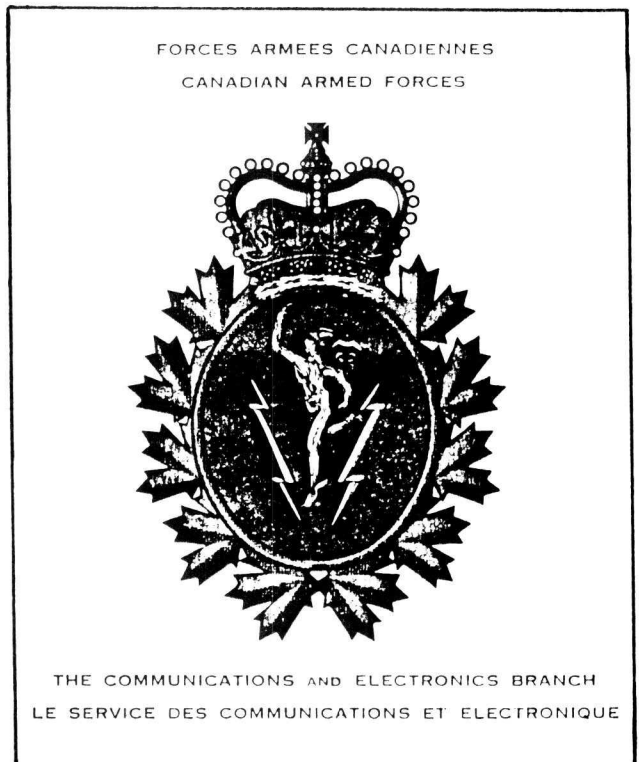
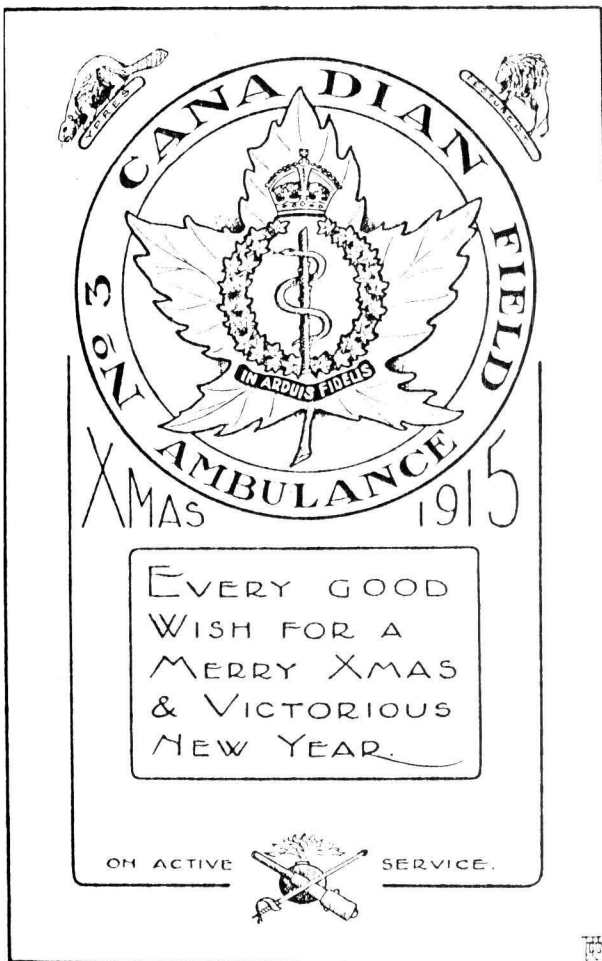


The Officer Commanding,
Officers, N.C.O's, and Men
of the 6th Bn. Canadian
Railway Troops send
you heartiest greetings
for A Merry Xmas &
A Happy New Year.

In the field, France, 1918. From *J. G. W. Dawson*

NO. 3 CANADIAN FIELD AMBULANCE--By
Colin Pomfret

C & E BRANCH (CA. 1980)--By Dean Maric

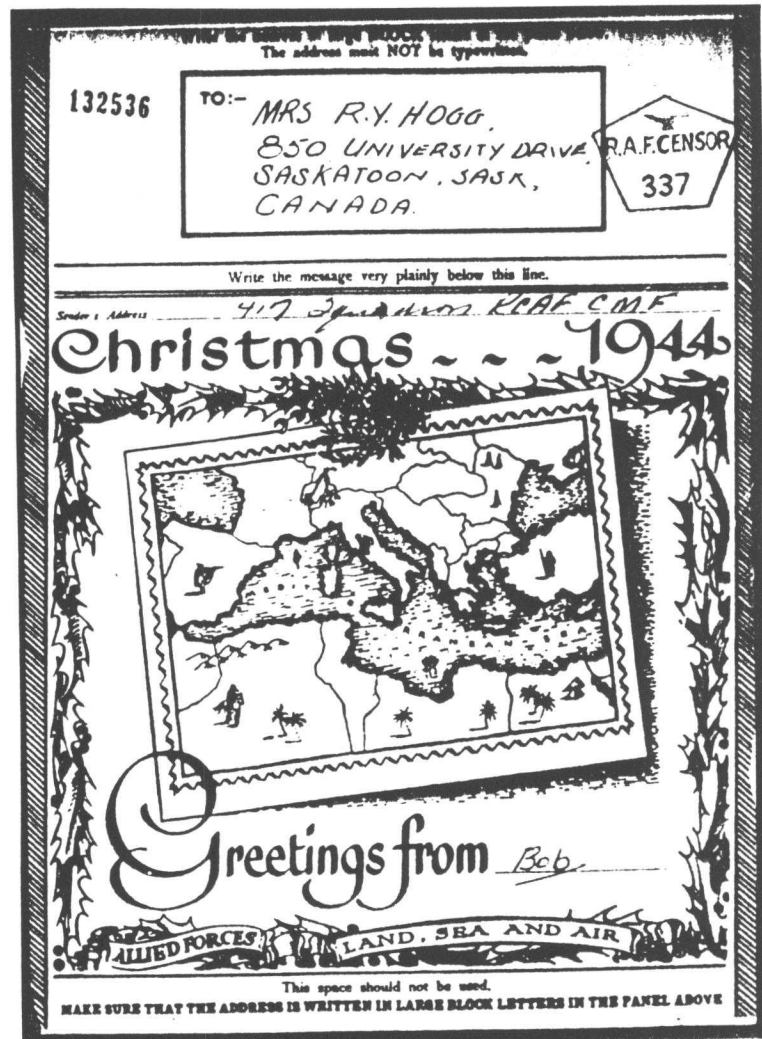


A 1944 CHRISTMAS AIRGRAPH--By Dean Mario

This Airgraph, familiar to most members, is one from a member of the No. 417 (Fighter) Squadron, R.C.A.F., Central Mediterranean Force. The Squadron, formerly a part of the Desert Air Force in Egypt, was active in the Sicily Campaign and supported the Italian invasion. At Christmastime 1944, the Squadron was stationed in Bellaria, Italy from December 5, 1944 to May 3, 1945 (see Bailey & Toop, Canadian Military Posts, II, 1985, pp. 120-21, 321-22).



Happy New Year





In spite of war and trouble,
Christmas day brings still
The same old sacred message--
Peace, and to men Goodwill.



CHRISTMAS 1915.

SECOND FIELD AMBU-
LANCE--By Jon Johnson

With Best Wishes for Christmas

and the New Year.

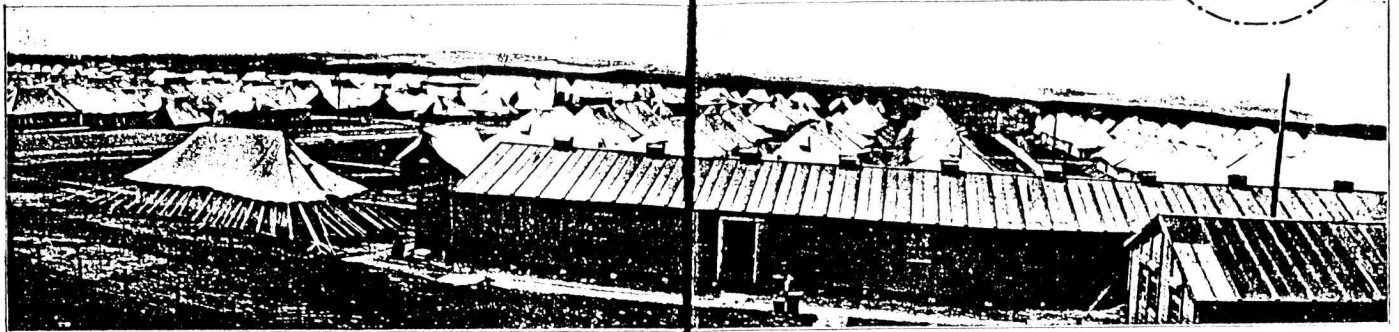
From
Private H. Saxon.

IN THE FIELD.

2ND FIELD AMBULANCE,
1ST CANADIAN CONTINGENT.



NO. 7 CDN. GENERAL HOSPITAL (QUEEN'S)--By Jon Johnson



Mobilized - Kingston, March, 1915
Sailed - Montreal, May, 1915

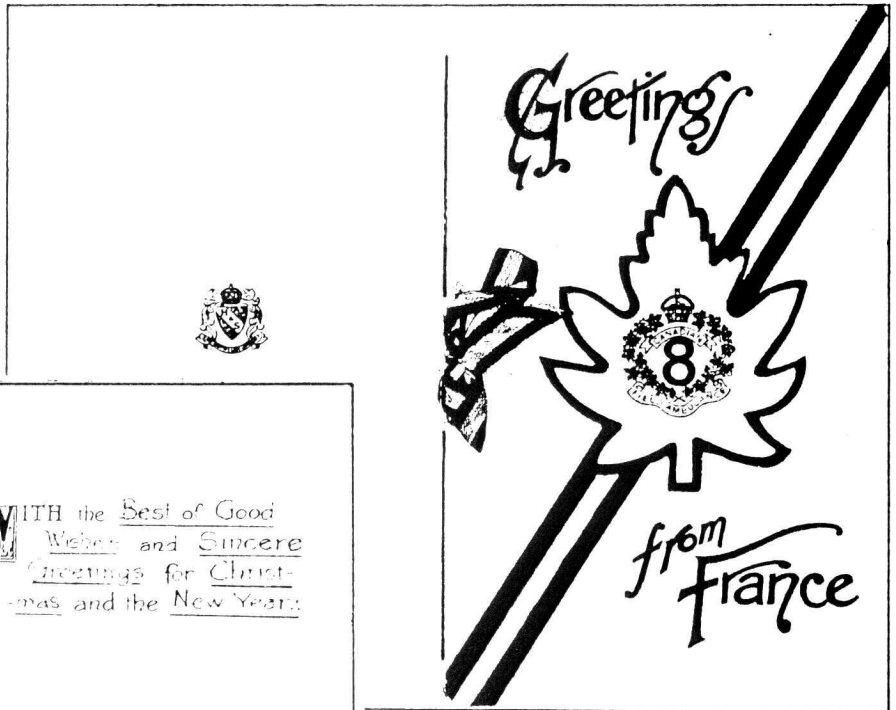
Stationed - England, 1915
Egypt, 1915-1916
France, 1916

NO. 7 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL (QUEEN'S)

Lt. Col. F. H. BINGHAM, C.M.G.

MISS B. WILLOUGHBY

NO. 8 CDN. FIELD AMBU-
LANCE--By Jon Johnson



No. 8
CANADIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Sgt./Major G. H. Taylor.
Actg./Staff/Sgt. Major S. J. Coward.
Staff/Sgt. W. Graydon.
" C. Hay.

Sergeant T. M. Brown.
" W. I. Coleman.
" A. I. R. Davidson, D.C.M.
" E. E. Dutton.
" C. H. Fitzroy.
" H. Hay.
" A. Holding.
" W. J. Latham.
" G. F. Mitchell.
" M. Munro.
" A. G. McDeerid, M.M.
" H. A. Wvers, M.M.

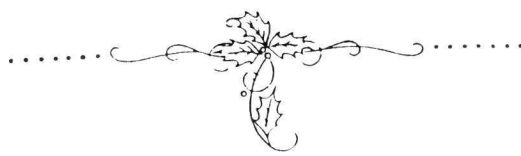
Lance/Sgt. P. Bruce.

Actg./Sgt. I. E. Cowan
" J. Nash

WITH the Best of Good
Wishes and Sincere
Greetings for Christ-
mas and the New Year.

From

No. 8 Canadian Field Ambulance
in the Field



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E. R. TOOP

1923-1995

On 13 October 1995 we lost our dear friend, Major (Ret.) E.R. "Ritch" Toop, C.D., FRPSC, OB, an icon to the Canadian military postal history community. He was a most successful exhibitor of his well-researched military exhibits and highly rated reference texts. His last award was a FIP Large Silver at SINGAPORE '96 for his book done in conjunction with Lt.Col. Bill Bailey, Canadian Military Post Offices to 1993 (Second Edition). His exhibits, at the request of his wife Maureen, will continue to be shown at ESPAMER '96 and AVIACION Y ESPACIO in Seville, Spain, ORAPEX '96 in Ottawa, and at CAPEX '96 in Toronto.

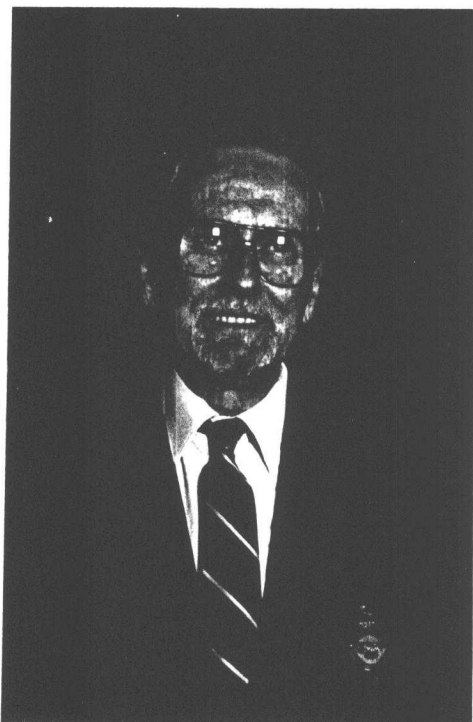
Ewen Richards Toop was born in Ramsay Township, Lanark County, Ontario on 28 August 1923. In January 1941 "Ritch" joined the RCAF and remained in Service until his retirement in 1972. He married Phyllis Flawn in 1945. She died in 1961. Their only child, Lynn Diane, resides in Calgary with her husband and three children. In July 1963 "Ritch" married Maureen Clark.

"Ritch" was commissioned from the ranks in 1960 and served as a logistics (supply) officer at numerous bases. In 1968 when integration of the Armed Forces was enacted, "Ritch" converted from a Squadron Leader to a Major. In 1972 "Ritch" commenced duties as a manager in the Philatelic Service Branch (First Day Covers) with the Canadian Post Office in Ottawa. In 1978 he transferred to the National Postal Museum as a Special Projects Officer and later became a Research Officer. He remained at this position until May 1985.

"Ritch", in conjunction with Lt.Col. Bill Bailey, wrote and had published five volumes on Canadian Military Postal History and Canadian Military Post Marks. At the time of his death they were finalizing their sixth volume on Canadian Military Postal History, which updates their previous work including the Korean War and Canadian Peace-Keeping commitments. "Ritch" also spent a great deal of time on the genealogy of the Toop family. Despite all of these activities, "Ritch" found time for the local R.A. Stamp Club which he was associated for over 25 years. For this dedication, and devotion to the RPSC, "Ritch" was made a "Fellow" of the RPSC in 1988. His support to the BNAPS resulted in his nomination to the BNAPS Order of the Beaver in 1993. A "Ritch Toop Award for Canadian Military Postal History/Research" is planned by at least two postal societies. In due course appropriate announcements will be made.

Per Ardua Ad Astra, "Ritch", Per Ardua Ad Astra!

--Major (Ret.) R.K. Malott
[Précis by Ed.]



CDN. RAILWAY TROOPS--By Colin Pomfret

Early in W.W.I. the rail system of the B.E.F. was provided by the French but as the scope and scale of the War increased, it proved to be inadequate.

On January 21, 1915 the War Office asked the Canadian Government to supply a corps of railwaymen. Mobilization of the Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps began at St. John, N.B. and was completed by May 15. The Unit sailed for England on June 14 under the command of Col. C.W.P. Ramsey and landed on June 25. Two months later the Corps was in France.

N/L BACK ISSUES



Ihor Rudyk and several other members have expressed a desire to obtain back issues of the Study Group newsletters. Perhaps they can be reproduced and sold in yearly sets at cost + postage. I can provide this service but I require a complete set of N/L. Does anyone have a full set to loan or can provide a duplicate set to the Editor at cost? Details to the Editor. [Ed.]



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.

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. Collin Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC V1Z 1L6.

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.

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.

WITH APPOLOGIES ON DARKNESS OF PHOTO ON PAGE 209



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

[Advertisers please note: The above ads will expire with this issue. To renew, or place an ad, please contact the Editor. Thank you! Ed.]



A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

