



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1996

NEWSLETTER No. 122

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Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 1996 and I hope that the New Year is going well for all! This is also the last of my scheduled "trilogy" of newsletters. However I am very pleased to "re-up" on a more permanent basis now that the momentum is carrying us forward. I hope that I can carry on the excellent work done by all of our previous editors. The membership's exceptional support for the Newsletter has been fantastic and I hope that we can continue to produce an informative publication for many years to come.

Your "Executive" has decided to call for dues with this issue. Now that we have things organized it is in the best interests of the Group. Further details pertaining to dues can be found on page 220. I hope that every member continues with us and "re-enlists"!

Most Study Group members are aware that the collection of the late Major E.R. "Ritch" Toop, OB is now being dispersed. Interested members should contact R.F. Narbonne, Greenwood Stamp Co., 216 Mailey Drive, Carleton Place, Ontario, K7C 3X9 for more information.

Members will have noticed a difference between these last three newsletters and those from the desk of Henk Burgers. One of the most significant is that I haven't a PC (aka "personal computer") and desktop publishing is beyond my scope! Perhaps I still haven't entered the Twentieth Century! Therefore would members please submit their articles in hard copy, already printed, rather than on disk. I realize that this is quite inconvenient but it is the only method I can use at the moment. Thank you! (Neat handwriting is ok too!).

Although I have some material "in the bank", I am a bit short of material from the Korean War and UN Operations. Members are encouraged to submit articles on these subjects as well as on anything else!

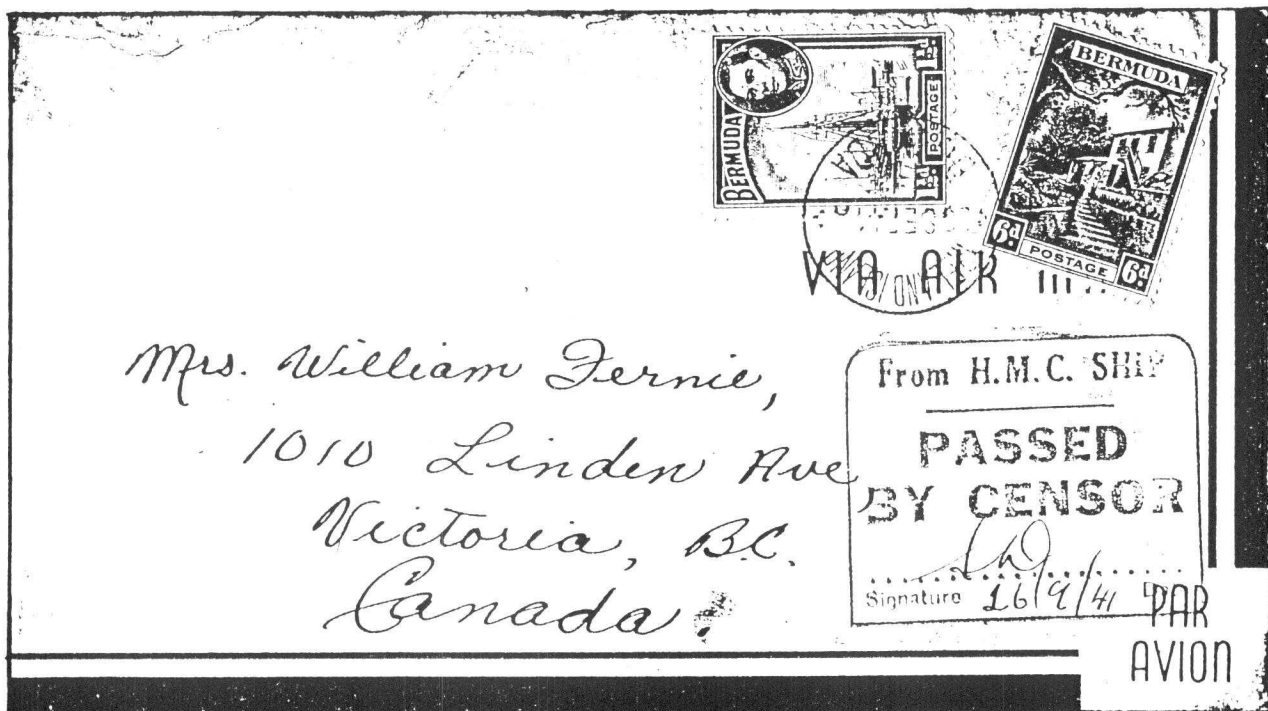
Chairman-Treasurer: Wm.J.Bailey, #5- 8191 Francis Road, Richmond,
B.C., V6Y 2E3/AS Canada

Editor: Dean Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, Sask., S7K 3L3

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H.M.C.S. PRINCE HENRY--By W.G. Robinson

This ship was built in 1930 for C.N. Steamships and later was North Star of the Clarke Steamship Company. She was bought by the Navy on March 11, 1940, and converted to an armed merchant cruiser. She served off the east and west coasts of America. She displaced 5,736 tons, with dimensions 385' x 37' x 21', carried a crew of 32 officers and 386 ratings, and was capable of a speed of 22 knots. She was armed with four, four-inch guns in twin mountings, two two-pounders, and eight 20mm cannon. She was later converted to an Infantry Landing Ship.



The airmail cover above was mailed at Bermuda on September 26, 1941 during the transfer of the ship from the west coast to Halifax, which commenced on August 24. It bears the circular date stamp of Ireland Island, Bermuda, the R.N. Dockyard, and the Naval censor marking of September 26, 1941.

TORONTO, ONT. SUB POST OFFICE "X"--By J.C. Campbell

It may be timely to collect some facts on the two cancels illustrated in The Canadian Military Posts, Vol. I by W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop (Ed. by E.B. Proud, 1984). Please see pages 247 and 249. For starters, what are the earliest and latest dates of usage, by the military, for these hammers known as "A" and "B"?



The copies of proof strikes on page 247 differ in their appearance of, or the absence of, a period after "Toronto". Also, there appears to be a slight difference in the position of the "X" in the earlier hammer relative to the later hammer.

Two dates which the writer can cite struck during the Great War are

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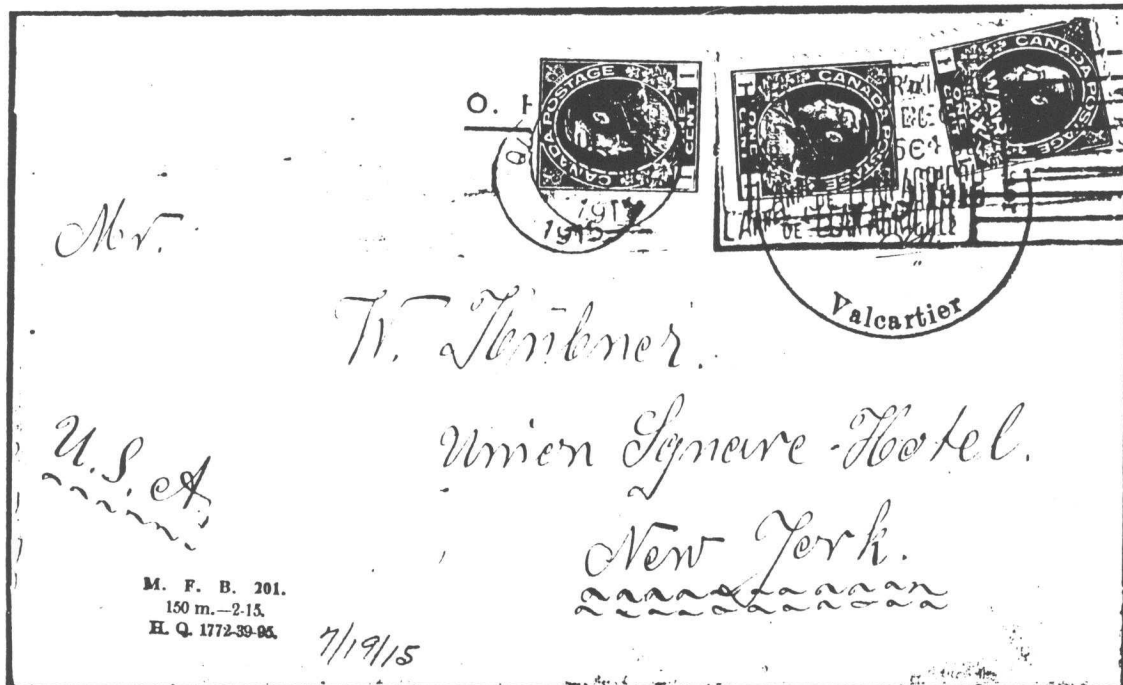
"AM/FE 7/15" and "Blank/NO 21/18". The latter is Proud's "A". The pre-war dates shown on page 247 include timemarks "12" and "15" and the writer has "SP 1" and "SP 6/1910" with timemarks "17" and "13" respectively as well as "AU 29/1912" with timemark "19". It therefore would seem that numbered indicia indicate pre-military usage. Is this correct? The illustration on page 249 appears to be dated "PM/AP 5/1915".

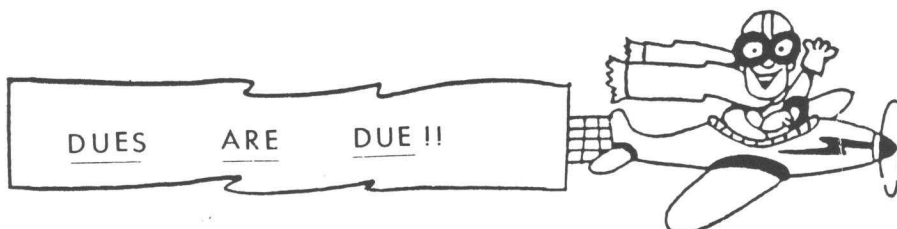
Would readers having examples of "TORONTO ONT/SUB POST OFFICE X" cancels, struck during the First World War and having some indication of a military connection, advise the writer or the Editor, so that more may be learned about these markings and the military establishment at the Exhibition Grounds, Toronto.

For those members having the CMMMSG N/L #20, page 7 (renumbered page 83), this cancel is shown. I might add that my copy of the Canada Official Postal Guide for 1911 makes no mention of this Sub Post Office at all.

VALCARTIER INTERNMENT CENSOR--Ex. E.R. Toop Collection

The cover below illustrates an unrecorded "Passed by Internment Censor/JUL 19 1915/Valcartier" marking from Quebec. It is on a 1915 O.H.M.S. cover to New York. The Camp opened on April 24, 1915 and closed October 23, 1915; hence its great rarity.[Ed.]





CANADA'S \$1.00 1942 DESTROYER--By W. Whitehouse

Once again the question as to which Canadian ship is represented on the \$1.00 Blue of 1942 (Scott #262) has been raised and as this subject has not been discussed in our Newsletter, this would seem to be a good time to lay rest the myths this stamp (FIG.1) has generated.

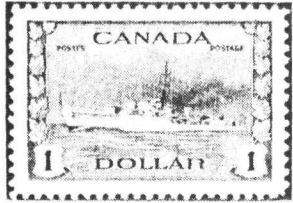


FIG.1

There have been many suggestions that the engraving of a "Tribal" class destroyer represents Iroquois, Canada's first of this type, or Athabaskan, the second ship. Now Haida has been suggested in a recent letter to me.

The fact is that the stamp design does not represent a Canadian ship but is an accurate reproduction of a pre-war photograph of a British "Tribal" H.M.S. Cossack, pendant number L-03.

I have a copy of this photo which was distributed by Ottawa in 1941-1942. The ship is shown at speed trials while still in the hands of the builders. The photo has been touched up by the censor with a wash of black in order to darken the sky and background. It could be that this was a deliberate attempt to make a pre-war photo appear to be a censored wartime photograph for use by the press.

Proof that the photo is pre-war is the pendant number. In 1938 Royal Navy "Tribal" class ships carried the pendant prefix "L". In 1939 this was changed to "F", then early in 1940 the prefix was changed to "G" which remained throughout the war. For those interested, the prefix "L" was assigned to the "Hunt" class destroyer escorts as they entered the Royal Navy in March 1940.

There are several easily recognized differences between British and Canadian "Tribal" class ships. None of the Canadian changes are indicated in the \$1.00 stamp design.

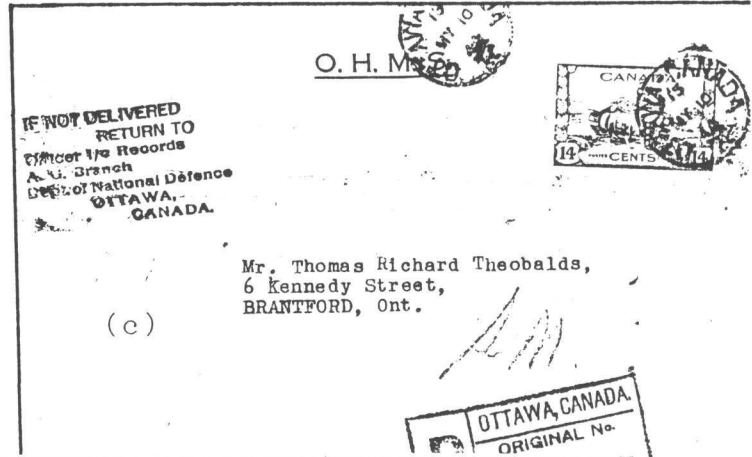
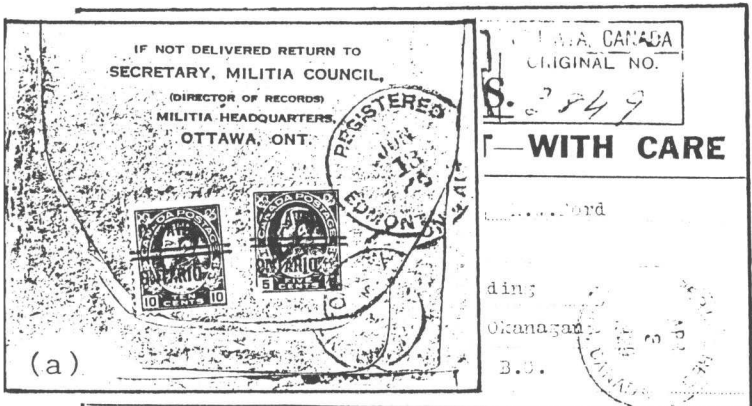
The Canadian "Tribal" class eliminated the tripod mainmast, a prominent feature in the stamp design. With this high mainmast gone the Canadian ships were able to mount a multiple pompom on the high platform forward of the mainmast which, on British ships, a searchlight was carried. The pompom in this location allowed a better arc of a/a fire to the stern. The searchlight was moved to a platform below and forward of the pompom.

There would be no wide band painted on the forward funnel of a Canadian "Tribal" which, in the Royal Navy, indicates a flotilla leader. The photo of Cossack shows such a band. Having been built as a leader, she became divisional leader in the 1st Destroyer Flotilla. Canadian "Tri-bals", when completed, were painted in the special Home Fleet design camouflage: three shades of blue panels on white. The stamp design shows the pre-war light grey overall.

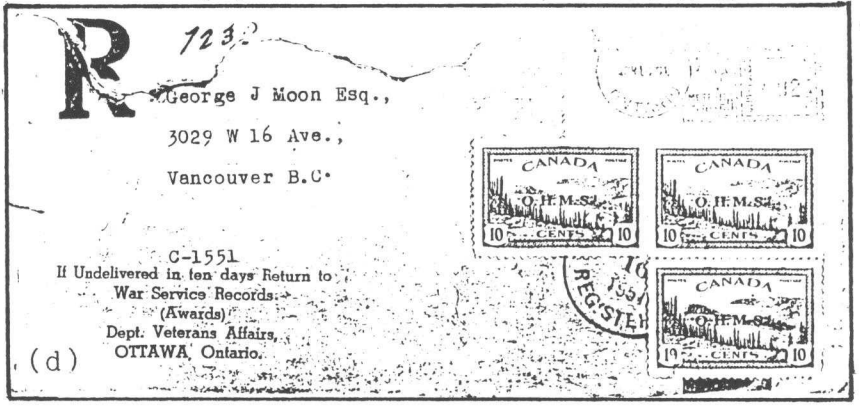
Finally, the \$1.00 Blue was issued on July 1, 1942, but the first R.C.N. "Tribal" was not commissioned until November 1942. It was named Iroquois. As the engraving work for the stamp would have begun at least six months prior to issue date, a photo of a British "Tribal" would be the only reference available.

RESEARCH REQUEST 

Jon Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Rd., Vernon, B.C. V1B 1L3 writes: "I have a great interest in covers with the "Director of Records, Militia Council" (a); "Director of Records, Dept. of National Defence" (b); "Officer i/c Records, Dept. of National Defence" (c); and "War Service Records, Dept. of Veterans Affairs" (d). If members have any covers with these return addresses, I would appreciate receiving: date; return address type; preprinted or rubber stamp address; stamp cat.no. and perfin or overprint if applicable".



not delivered return to Deputy Minister, Dept. of National Defence (Director of Records)
Ottawa, Ontario
(b)



BRITISH DATESTAMPS USED BY CANADIAN CAVALRY BRIGADE (WWI) UPDATE--By John Frith

An error was made in the original survey sheets on WWI British datestamps used by the Canadian Cavalry Brigade (N/L 41, Item 333) as to periods of use. This was carried through on the survey returns (Items 351 and 439). As a result of this, the proper allocations were not made in the last three periods of use. The major reference works agree as to periods of usage and their only difference in allocations are degrees of certainty which are given in the following table:

PERIODS OF USE:	K & C ¹	E.B.P. ²
Jan. 1916 - 17.6.16	CX1	CX1
18.6.16 - 30.9.16	CX1	CX1
1.10.16 - 31.1.17	(C3?)	C3
1.2.17 - 30.6.17	(SA1)	SA1
1.7.17 - 31.1.18	SA1	SA1
1.2.18 - 31.7.18	12P	12P
1.8.18 - 1.2.19	230	230
1.2.19 - May 19	CP1	CP1

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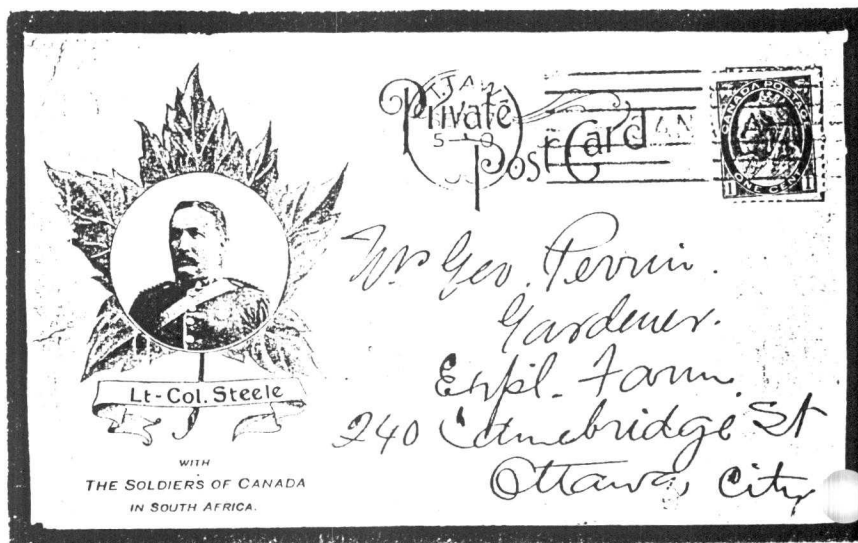
Based upon my own experience, I believe that the only allocation to still be uncertain is C3 in Security Phase II (1.10.16 - 31.1.17).

References:

- 1) Kennedy, A. and Crabb, G. The Postal History of the British Army in World War I: Before and After 1903-1929. G. Crabb, Epsom, Surrey, U.K.
- 2) Proud, E.B. History of the British Army Postal Service, Vol. II (1903-1927). Proud-Bailey Ltd., East Sussex, U.K.

SAM STEELE RE-VISITED--By J.C. Campbell

Members may wish to refer to my previous article (N/L #119, p. 189) regarding this famous soldier. The card, right, was sent from Ottawa on September 27, 1900 to a local address. The card's true size is 153mm x 91mm. This card is one from a set of ten showing famous persons from the Boer War. Others include Lt.Col. Otter, Buchan, Evans, Lessard, Drury, and Herchmer. Major Denison and Capt. Nelles are also featured. All are very difficult to add to one's collection.



CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TRAINING TEAM-GHANA (CAFTTG)--By Robert Toombs

During the 1960's the Government of Canada sent instruction groups from the Canadian Armed Forces to Ghana and Tanzania. In most instances mail from Canadian military personnel comprising these groups to Canada was via local post and is not easily identified. Likely very little mail has been so identified and set aside.

Figure 1 [page 217] shows such a cover from Canadian Armed Forces Training Team Ghana (CAFTTG) in 1971, near the close of this programme there. It is addressed to a captain at Canadian Forces Base Rivers in Manitoba, from a major, c/o CAFTT Canadian High Commission, Accra, Ghana. The front is manuscripted "Forces Mail" as it was posted at a Ghanaian military post office in Accra. The oval postmark reads "BURMA CAMP A/GHANA/10:00 (?) AM/22 JUN 71" cancelling stamps of 2 Np and 1 Np.

There were Canadian military teams at several other locations throughout Ghana, mainly Kumasi, Teshie, and Takoradi. They would have used the local post, and mail may not have been inscribed "Forces Mail".

The key to identifying Canadian military mail from (or to) Ghana (1961-1971) and also from (or to) Tanzania (1965-1969) is to look for clues in the address and the return address. It is hoped that this short note will stimulate the hunt for such rare covers from Ghana and Tanzania. You may be pleasantly surprised what covers the 25 cent shoe-

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box holds!



FIG. 1

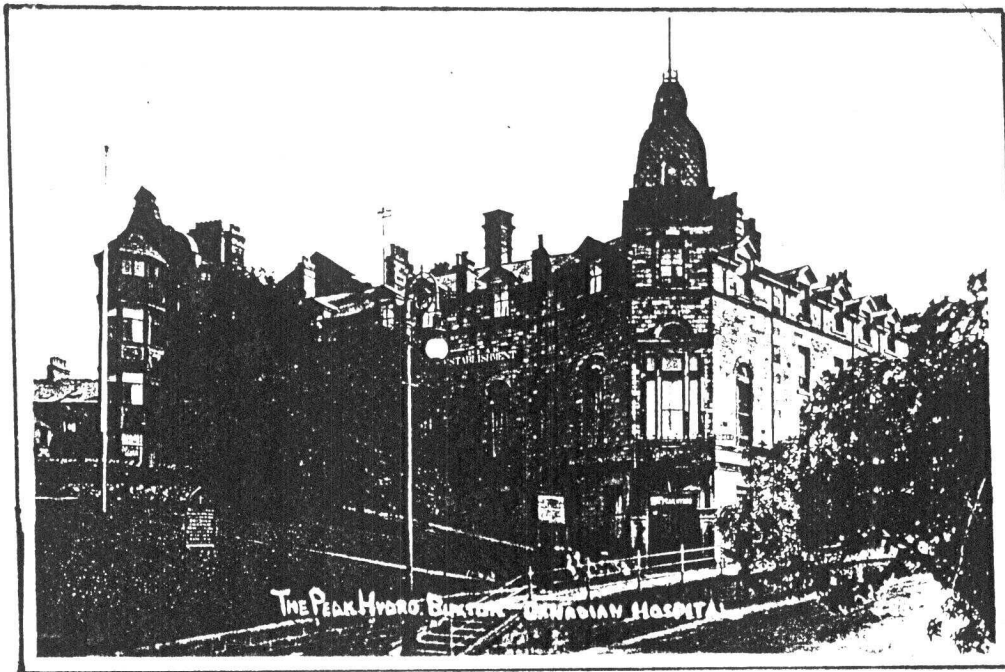
THE PEAK HYDRO - BUXTON CANADIAN
HOSPITAL--By Brian Plain, M.D.

The official record by Sir Andrew Macphail¹ indicates the names and locations of many Canadian medical establishments scattered throughout England during the First World War. That listing is however vague and somewhat confusing when it comes to certain smaller but affiliated facilities providing ancillary services such as hydrotherapy and rehabilitation.

Although a Special Hospital, Buxton Red Cross Special Hospital is listed for Buxton², and functioned from February 1, 1916-March 26, 1919, it does not seem as though this card is representative of that institution. Rather, it would appear more likely that the Peak Hydro was part of the "Orthopedic Centre". This was a network of ten facilities scattered throughout England and comprising 4420 beds. In November 1915, a hospital for orthopedic cases was opened in Ramsgate but after its removal to Buxton in October 1917, its function became truly specialized. Such function comprised surgery, massage, electrical treatment, hydrotherapy, and gymnastic exercises as well as curative workshops³.

The fame of Buxton, whose population in 1919 was 10,024, rested upon its "waters". The waters of Buxton were known to the Romans and, in medieval times it was a kind of English Lourdes. The Thermal Springs (82°F.) were recommended for chronic gout, rheumatism, and allied disorders.⁴ The Peak Hydro, in Higher Buxton, was one of the most famous hydro-pathies in the area.⁵

It is most likely therefore that the Peak Hydro was used as an orthopedic rehabilitation centre for Canadian servicemen who had suffered significant musculo-skeletal trauma and surgery. The card [page 218] is dated July 12, 1917 which is somewhat before the Orthopedic Centre officially arrived, but the designation as a "Canadian Hospital" indicates that it was already in use for convalescent services.



The Peak Hydro, Buxton

¹Macphail, Sir A. Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War 1914-19, The Medical Services, (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1925).

²Ibid., p. 219.

³Ibid., pp. 208-209.

⁴Muirhead, Findlay. The Blue Guides England, (London: MacMillan and Co., 1920), p. 377.

⁵Ibid.

RCAF IN BAHAMAS--By C.D. Sayles

The card below was posted in Nassau October 18, 1944 at a civil post

Dear Folks

This scene is similar to a view of the Florida Keys which I saw last week. I'm sure having an easy life right now but what I could be spending this time in B.C. instead of wasting it here. It's very hot most of the time except for showers, but the sandy beaches are always bad. Keeps Hazel calm & contented for the heat few weeks, then after that she can get as excited as of old. Keep well, yourselves & get the best out of life love Ted.

F/O Boulden EAA
J 23304 RAF
Nassau BWI

Overseas Forces.
POST CARD

Mr. & Mrs. S. McPhee.
1219 Hillside Ave
Victoria BC
Canada

Tues. Oct. 17.

RECEIVED OCT 20 1944

POST CARD (REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)
"C.T. ART. COLORTONE" POST CARD - CHICAGO

office and it appears to be from an RCAF F/O serving in an RAF unit. Why did he endorse it "RCAF" and what does "FRESS" signify? Normally the free postage privilege for servicemen only applied to mail posted at military offices. Were the rules different in the Bahamas? [Members' responses to the Editor please.] [P.S. Some covers do exist with and without postage (see N/L #83 pp. 5-7), but was free postage "official" ? Ed.]

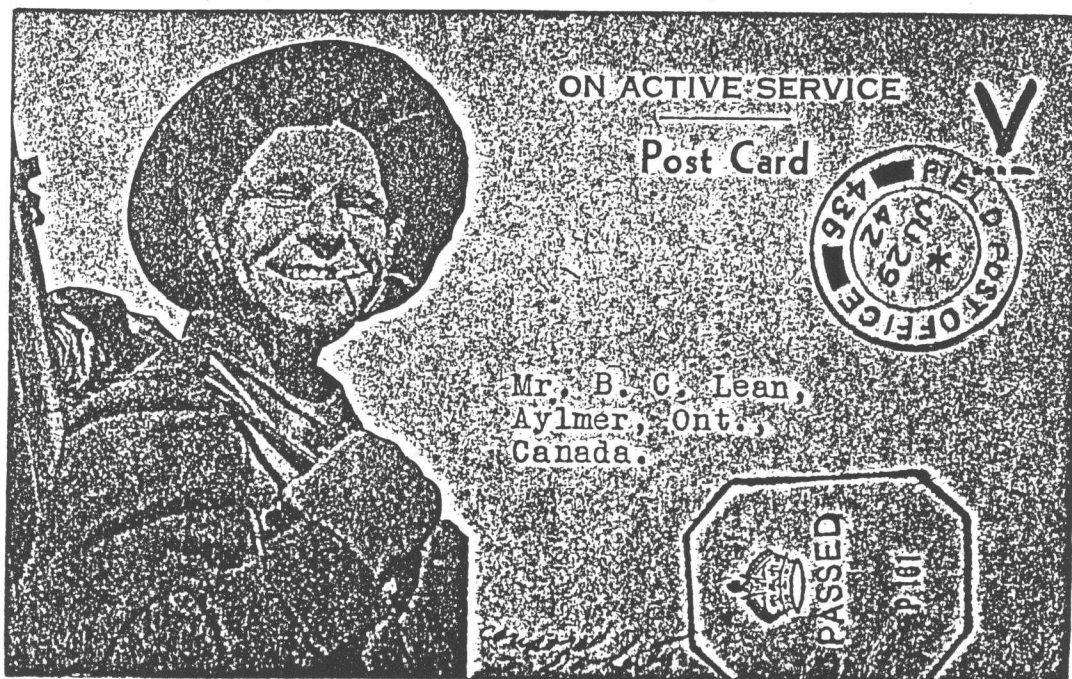
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TORONTO SUB "X" ADDENDUM

The Editor has just found several references to Colin Campbell's article (p. 212) which members may find interesting. One includes an auction catalogue reference ex. Graham Noble Collection from R.A. Lee's Sale #44 (May 30, 1987). Contained in lot 730 is a cover with the "AM/AP 21/15" CDS to England. Can one of our members supply a copy? Also found with a military connection was an item in C.G. Firby's Sale of November 13-14, 1991. Lot 240 contained a registered O.H.M.S. cover to Toronto with the "BLANK/OC 23/17" CDS. It also had the "PAYMASTER/OCT 23, 1917/M.D. No. 2" scalloped ellipse on reverse. The recent price-listing by G.S. Wegg featured two "X" covers in a C.N.E. lot. One was "17?/SP 2/11" and another "13/SP 5/12" but obviously pre-war. [Ed.]

A DIEPPE RAID POSTCARD?--By John Frith

FPO 436 was used by the 6th Canadian Brigade and this Brigade participated in the Dieppe Raid in August 1942. In June 1942 the 2nd Canadian Divisional Units, which were going to take part in the raid, were practicing amphibious landings on the Isle of Wight. This postcard below is dated June 29, 1942 and is the first censored cigarette acknowledgement card I can remember used from England at this period.



Can anyone report a similar card being censored in this period, or can anyone confirm that this card was linked to the raid? [Details to the Editor for future publication please. Ed.]

SAM C. NICKLE MILITARY COLLECTION--JANUARY 16, 1996

Charles G. Firby Auctions dispersed a major collection of the late Sam Nickle's superb early military holdings. More about this amazing sale in the next Newsletter. [Ed.]

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CMMMSG - CALL FOR DUES

Now that our Newsletter is back on track the "Executive" feels a call for dues is required. Firstly let us say that we are not destitute (yet!). A financial statement will soon follow, probably in the next Newsletter when our finances are all sorted out. In the near past it was noted that there were varying dates upon which a member's dues were collected. The current proposal is that we will call for dues all at one time when the treasury gets low. This may very well be less often than once a year. Accordingly, we are now asking for a \$10.00 payment in either Canadian or U.S. dollars (given the difference in postage rates). In order to facilitate matters please make all cheques/payments out to our Treasurer, Wm.J.Bailey, #5- 8191 Francis Road, Richmond, B.C., V6Y 2E3, Canada 145

If members can "prove" that they have already paid beyond December '95 please advise Ken and it will be looked into. It appears, however, that most members have not paid membership dues for some time. Thank you for your early remittance so Dean will be able to keep the Newsletters coming!

CMMMSG - FUTURE AUCTION/SALES CIRCUIT?

Many Study Groups now include an annual or semi-annual auction in their programmes. Would members be interested in participating in such an activity? The idea of a sales circuit (photocopies) was initiated by Ed Harris et al. back in 1989 (N/L #90, p. 654) but the idea seemed to just fizzle out. Any views? Your Editor needs your input! Thanks. [Ed.]

KUDOS, KUDOS, KUDOS

Special congratulations are due to Ken Ellison for his introduction into the "Order of the Beaver". It is a well-deserved recognition Ken! A further tip of the hat goes to BNAPEX '95 award-winning exhibitors (and Study Group members) Bill Pawluk (Grand Award) and John Frith (Ed and Mickey Richardson Award). Well done gentlemen! [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. Please send your ad with "real" money or mint (Canadian preferred) stamps to the Editor's attention.

WANTED: Covers or cards addressed to, or from, members of the Cdn. Provost Corps; SIS Units; or Service Detention Barracks (SDB's).
A.D. Hanes, 33 Lillian Cresc., Barrie, ON, L4N 4P8 (1/4)

WANTED: Info. on pre-printed POW cards and self-mailers (Cdn.). I'll send a listing in exchange for copies of additions to list.
E.L. Covert, Box 1070, Hay River, NT, XOE ORO (1/1)

FOR SALE: Canadian military mail, WWI to date. Send me your wants!
Philip Wolf, #5-513 8th Ave., S.W., Calgary, AB, T2P 1G3 (1/2)

WANTED: WWII "Z" Force (Iceland); Newfld. military covers/cards.
D. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3 (1/2)

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