



Canadian Military Mail Study Group



WORLD PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION
EXPOSITION PHILATÉLIQUE
MONDIALE

NEWSLETTER

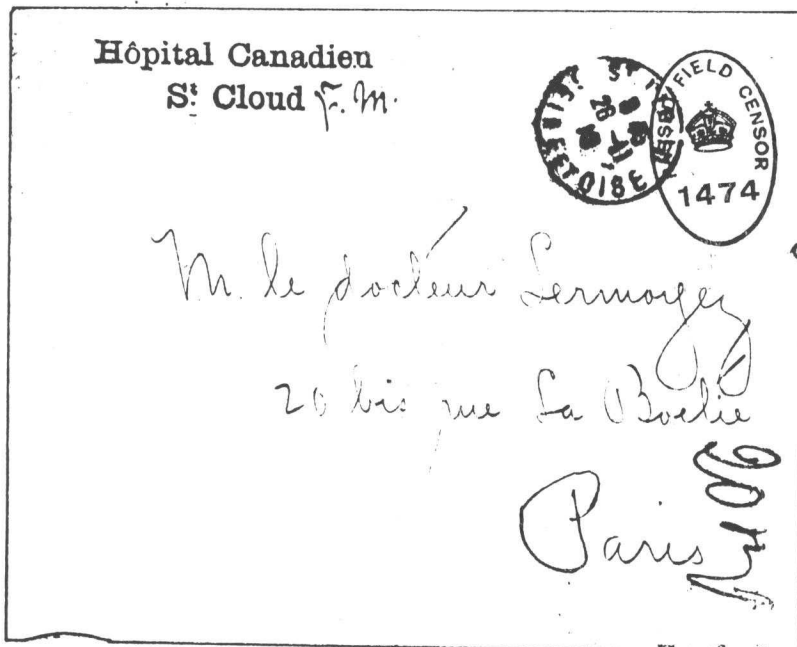
JUNE 1996

NEWSLETTER No. 124
Page 231

CAPEX 1996!

Dear Fellow CMMMSG Members:

Welcome to the special CAPEX '96 issue! For those members attending this very spectacular event please know that our Chairman, Bill Bailey, will be working at both the BNAPS and RPSC tables so do drop by and say hi! If enough members can be "rounded up", perhaps an informal meeting/get-together can be planned. Please also note elsewhere in this issue some very special projects which need our attention. Ken Ellison's note regarding the Ritch Toop Collection publications is also important and members need to place their orders as soon as possible. Supplies will be limited! Thanks again to all of the contributors and have a great summer!



NO. 8 CDN. GENERAL HOSPITAL--
By Colin Pomfret

The cover illustrated at left was sent from the No. 8 C.G.H. (originally the No. 4 Cdn. Stationary Hospital) to a doctor in Paris, France. The No. 8 was at St. Cloud from July 8, 1916 to February 12, 1919. The attractive handstamp upper left acted as an O/R for the "free mail" privilege.



Page 232

"Y" FORCE--LOCAL USAGE--By C.D. Sayles © 1996

"Y" Force was a Canadian battalion (initially the Winnipeg Grenadiers) assigned to garrison duty in Jamaica starting in June of 1940. The Grenadiers replaced a British garrison battalion who were being moved to Curacao, presumably to protect the oil installations there. In all, four battalions served in Jamaica; the last departing in April 1946.

This Force had three duties: the first was to staff the Internment Camp, the second was to form a mobile reserve for the defence of Jamaica, and the last was to provide a garrison Company at Newcastle, which guarded Kingston's northern approaches.

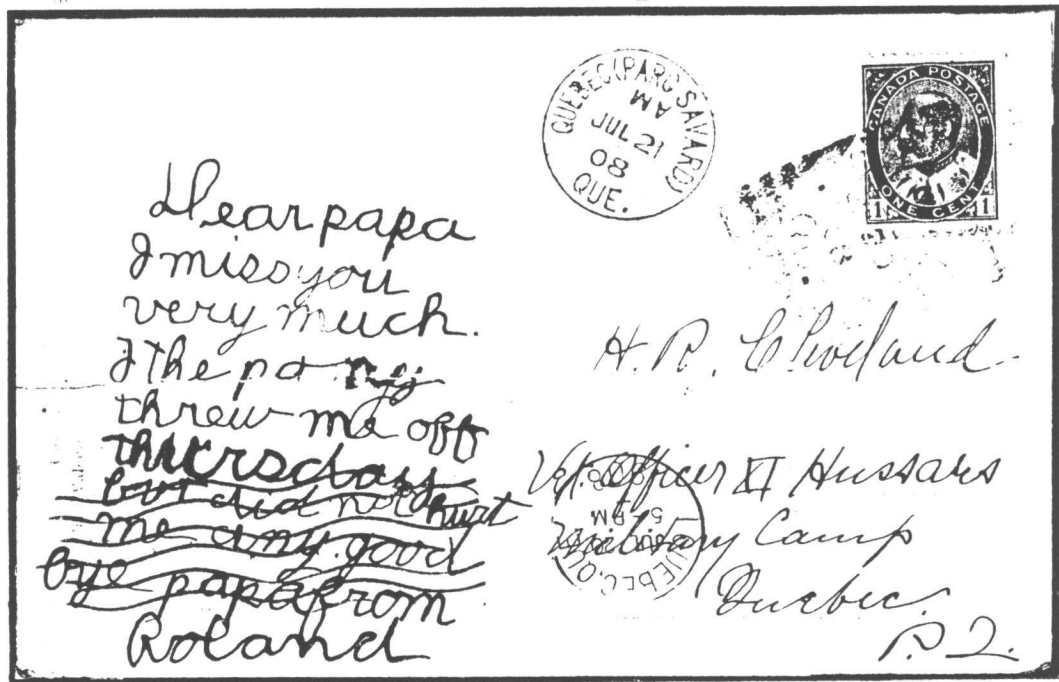
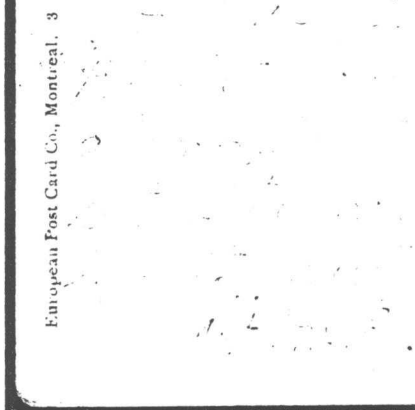
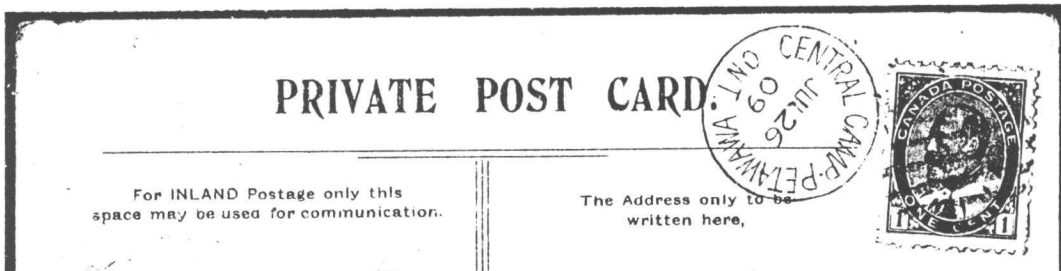
This cover is from a Private of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who had arrived in Jamaica on September 10, 1941 as part of the force to relieve the Winnipeg Grenadiers. It is remarkable for two reasons: it is the first "Y" Force cover I have seen which is to a local address; and it is from a member of the Newcastle garrison. The censor number will not show well in the photocopy: it looks like "1" but is really an "8". Can any of our members relate the censor numbers of "Y" Force to specific locations? I would be glad to hear from other members who have covers showing local usage within Jamaica or usage from the Newcastle garrison.



(REV.)

EARLY MILITARY CANCELS--Ex. E.R. Toop Collection

The two items illustrated below represent some unusual and scarce military cancellations used before the Great War. The first shows a 1909 cancel from the Central Camp, Petawawa, Ontario and the second illustrates a rare strike of the Parc Savard, Quebec hammer used during the Quebec Tercentenary Celebrations of July 19-30, 1908. [Ed.]



Empire Post Card Co., Montreal. 3



SPECIAL NEWS ABOUT THE TOOP COLLECTION VOLUMES!



These are available right now. The grouping of the collection has been changed as follows:
 Volume I, 480 pages, includes pre-WWI, WWI, and up to the end of WWII
 Volume II, 296 pages, includes Post World War II to date

Price: Volume I \$35.00 Volume II \$22.50 Vols. I & II \$50.00

ORDERING INFORMATION ***NOTE*** All orders must be prepaid. Add \$4.00 postage and handling per order. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. If payment is in US funds, you may deduct 25%. Send orders to:

BNAPS BOOK DEPARTMENT, P.O.Box 66660, Stoney Creek Postal Outlet, STONEY CREEK, ON L8G 5E6

Page 234

HMCS FREDERICTON'S ADRIATIC UN SERVICE--By W. Whitehouse

Under the command of Cmdr. K. Laing, H.M.C.S. Fredericton departed Halifax on November 28, 1995 to begin her second tour of operations on U.N. Service in the Adriatic Sea. After meeting at Gibraltar with Ville de Quebec, which was returning to Canada from the Adriatic, Fredericton departed on December 11 for Trieste, Italy. She arrived on December 14 in company with H.M.S. Beaver.

Operating with other NATO warships carrying out operation "Sharp Guard" (the boarding and searching of merchant vessels bound for the former Yugoslavia), the ship was on station for approximately two weeks followed by a five or six-day port visit. Here the time was equally spent between required maintenance and shore leave. Ports visited by NATO ships have been in Italy, Crete, Greece, and Sicily.

On Christmas Eve 1995 Fredericton returned to Trieste to deliver 2200 pounds of winter clothing to the International Red Cross. These clothes had been donated by the people of Halifax to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. After Christmas dinner in harbour, Fredericton's crew was back on patrol on Boxing Day.

In mid-February 1996 the ship became the flagship of NATO's Standing Naval Force (Atlantic), placing her in the heavy traffic area of the Adriatic. Fredericton had been deployed to the Adriatic for six months which meant she was scheduled to return to Halifax in April 1996.

The illustrations below show covers from both the Fredericton and the Ville de Quebec while serving recently in the Adriatic. They also show the new type of cancel which has been issued to the majority of Canadian warships. It appears that all mail is now to be cancelled aboard ship rather than at the F.M.O. (as was previously the case).

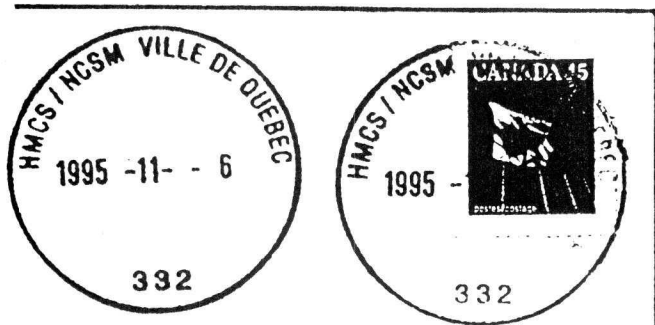


FIG. 1

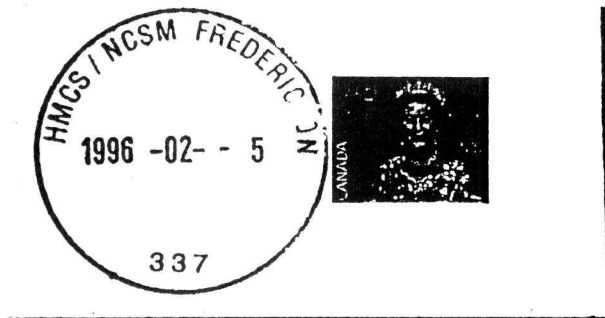


FIG. 2

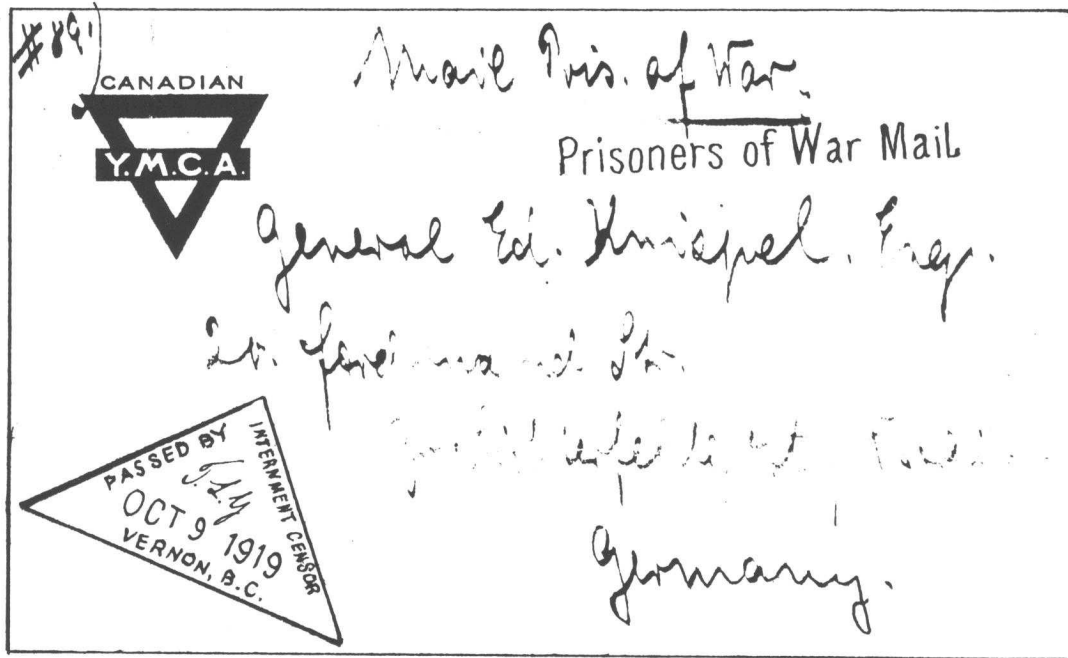
FIG. 1: Ville de Quebec in November 1995, second tour "Sharp Guard"

FIG. 2: Fredericton in February 1996, second tour "Sharp Guard"

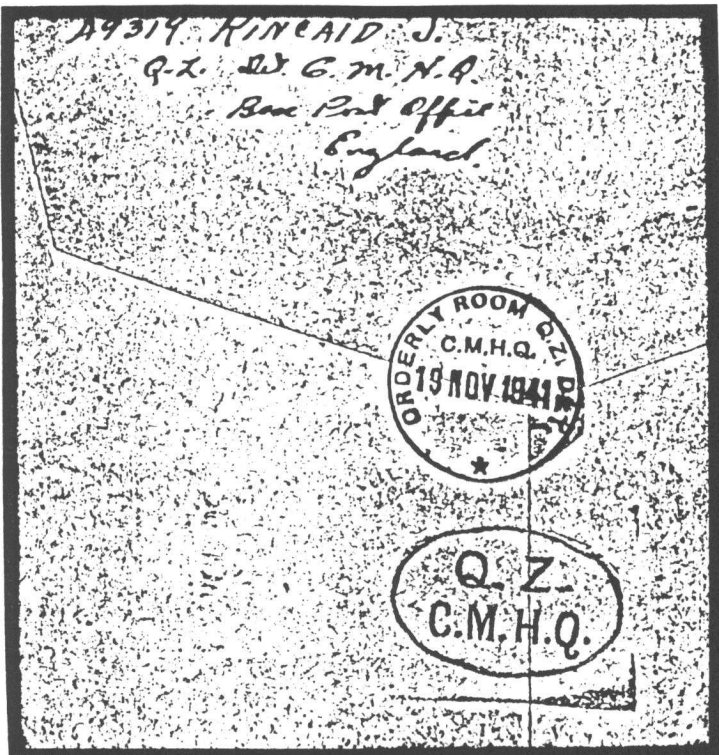
NEW U.S. APO PRICE GUIDE PUBLISHED 

Of interest to members may be the new publication A Price Guide to U.S. A.P.O. Cancels of the Second World War by J. Forte and R.W. Helbock. It describes the cancels and prices of all U.S. A.P.O. cancels (including those in Canada and Newfoundland) from 1941-1945. Price is \$14.95 plus \$2.00 shipping (U.S.\$) and is available from La Posta Publications, Box 135, Lake Oswego, OR 97034, U.S.A. [Ed.]

VERNON P.O.W. LATEST REPORTED DATE?

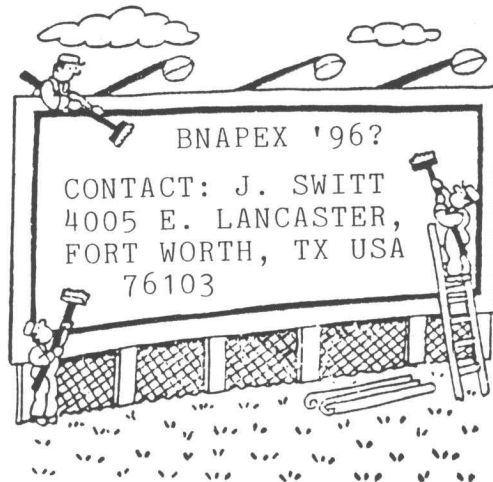


The above Great War Vernon P.O.W. marking appears to be the latest known date of use of October 9, 1919. Can members inform the Editor?



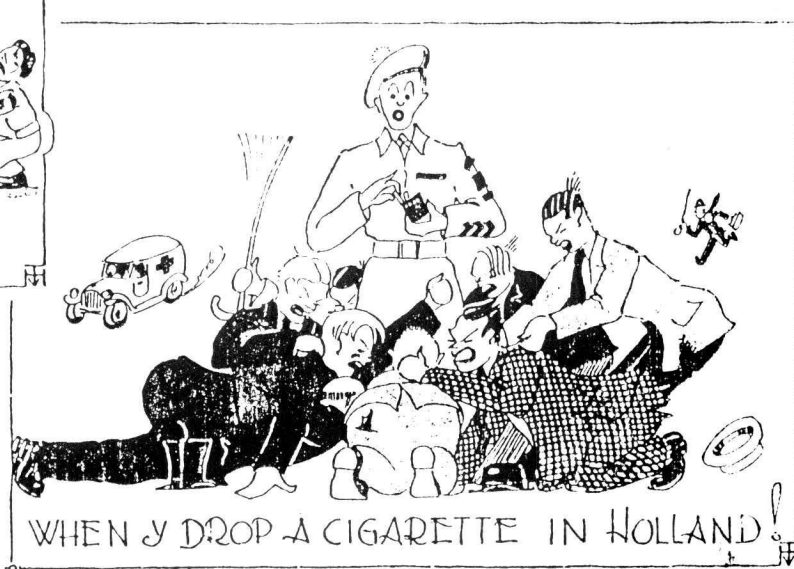
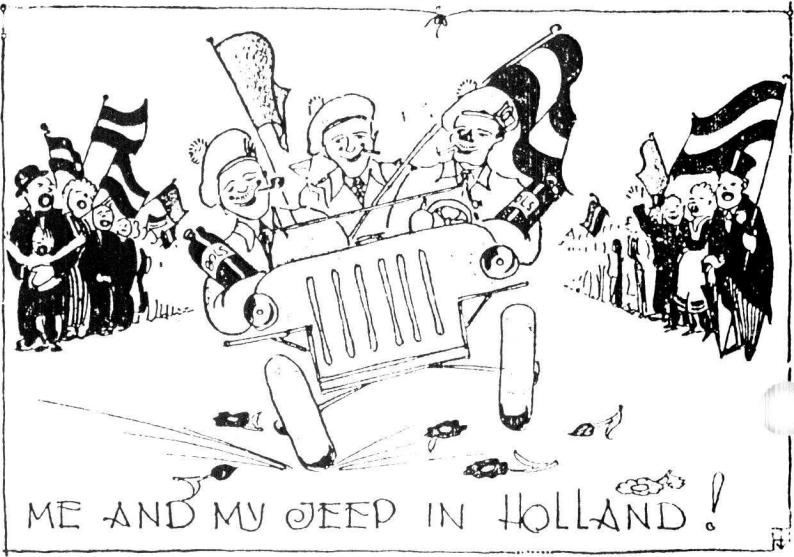
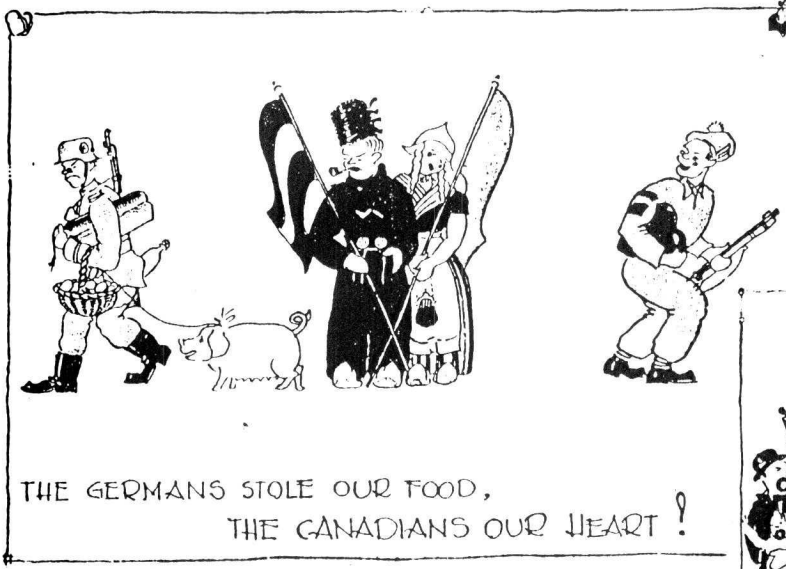
Q.Z. DETACHMENT/C.M.H.Q.--By John Frith

Does anyone have any information on the unit using the O.R. handstamp illustrated at left? It would have been applied at C.M.H.Q. in London, but is it related to the Canadian "Z" Force units serving in Iceland? Note the MOOD datestamp as well. The postmark on the reverse of the cover is "APO SC1 20 NOV. 41" (machine cancel).



COMIC WWII POSTCARDS FROM THE NETHERLANDS--By Colin Pomfret

Pictured below are four humorous picture postcards which members may enjoy seeing. Do members have other different ones from the set? Judging by the red patches that the soldiers are sporting, were these cards issued by the First Canadian Division? [Additions to the Editor].



LAST ISSUE IF DUES UNPAID ☹️
Send Bill your \$10 now please!

UPCOMING IN JULY/AUGUST 😊
Articles on the CNE "X" Military Post Office; Goderich Camp; a few unusual markings; and an interesting letter from Capt. Ian Morgan! Plus more!



Page 237

THE CANADIAN PROVOST CORPS--By A. David Hanes

The Canadian Provost Corps was a descendant of older organizations in both the Canadian and British Armies. Prior to 1914 Canadian history is devoid of any mention of a provost service. During WWI, Military Police were employed on detachments at the various military districts in Canada and on April 3, 1918, the Corps of Canadian Military Police was formed. The Corps ceased to exist on March 9, 1920.

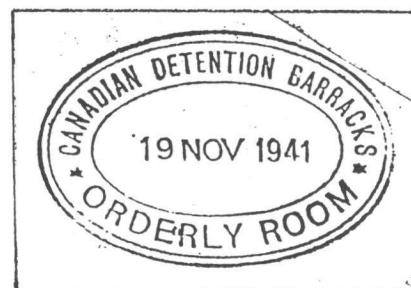


On the outbreak of war in September 1939, each District Depot had a number of Garrison Military Police on its war establishment. These, together with battalion and other regimental police, patrolled streets in the larger cities and operated guardrooms at the various centres of troop population. On November 1, 1940 Canada's first provost company was formed from volunteers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This small force congregated at Rockcliffe Barracks in Ottawa, spent one day being outfitted, one day learning military law, and three days transferring their equestrian abilities to Norton motorcycles. With their "basic training" completed, they went overseas with the main body of the First Canadian Infantry Division.

As the Second Canadian Infantry Division was being mobilized, No. 2 Provost Company was formed and trained by sections in the different military districts. This Company, which had a high percentage of civil policemen, congregated at Halifax in May 1940 and arrived in Aldershot, England at the time of Dunkirk. In October 1940, No. 3 Provost Company arrived overseas with the advance contingent of First Canadian Corps. Three Provost Company orderly room markings used are illustrated below.



As each successive formation arrived overseas it was accompanied by its own provost unit. By the end of 1941, in addition to the field companies, there were two base companies, a detention barrack, a field punishment camp, a training depot, and a special investigation section. The "S.I.D." and "C.D.B." markings are shown below.



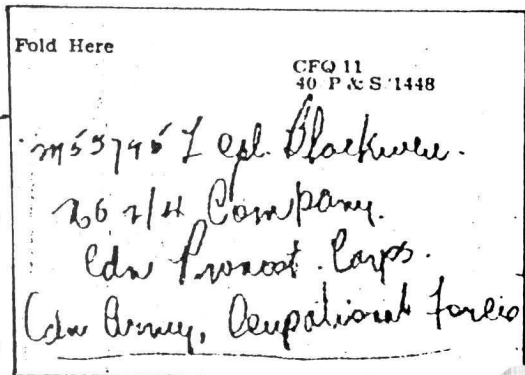
Page 238

On August 19, 1942 the Canadian Provost Corps was bloodied at Dieppe. Forty-two men from No. 2 Company landed on the beaches and instead of guarding prisoners, joined and fought with the infantry and engineers. Twenty-eight men were casualties.

In July 1943 No. 1 Company landed in Sicily and was joined in Italy later in the year by No.'s 3 and 5 Companies with the First Canadian Corps.

On D-Day for France, No. 4 Company landed with the Third Canadian Infantry Division and was joined at intervals of a few days by No.'s 2, 13, 8, and 11 Companies. These Companies had virtually no rest from the time they landed on the continent until the following summer. They were joined by No. 1 Company ("The Spaghetti-Leaguers") in February 1945, and men from every Company eventually became part of 2/4 Provost Company when the Occupation Force was formed.

The illustration of the return address at right is that which was typically used by the C.A.O.F.



As the field force grew so did the number of Military Police at home. The term "MP" was dropped and the name "Provost" substituted. A new badge embodying the Royal Cypher was authorized and on June 15, 1940, the Canadian Provost Corps was born.

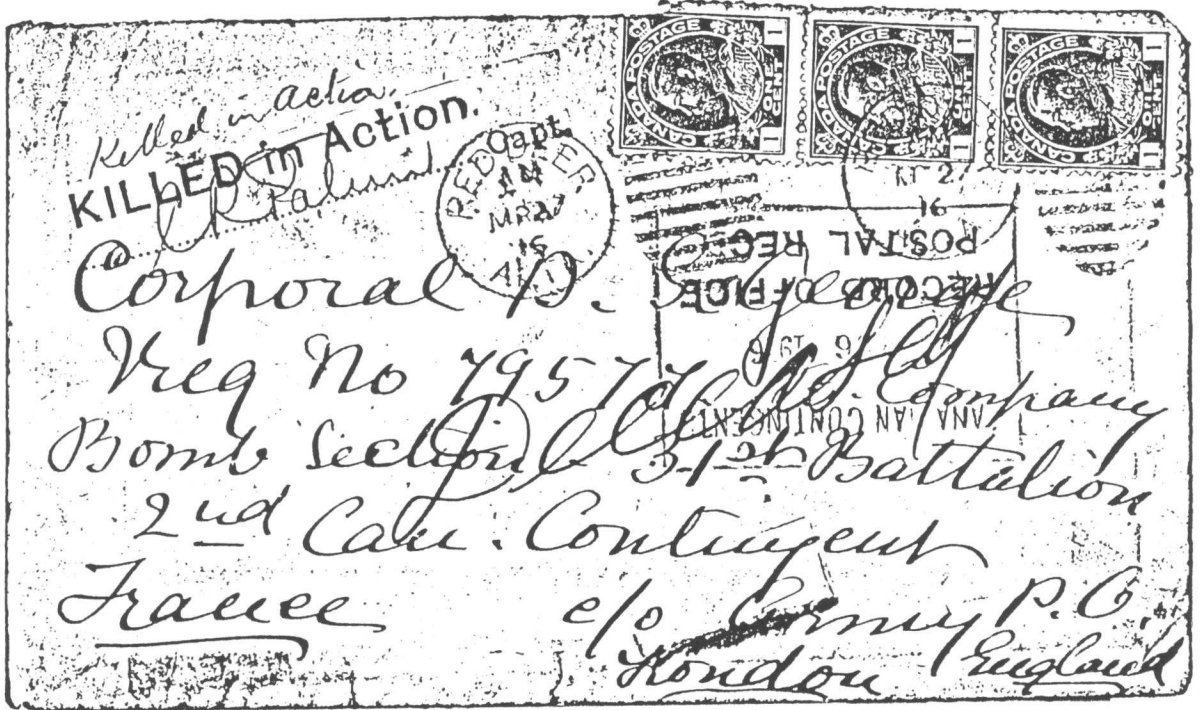
In the spring of 1941 the Canadian Provost Corps assumed the responsibility for the movement of prisoners of war and internees. During the next two years, 26,000 prisoners were taken over at ports and moved under escort to various camps across the country. Administration of Detention Barracks was a provost responsibility from the start. At one time, thirty-one barracks with a staff of over eight hundred men were in operation. In July 1942 the responsibility for the apprehension of absentees and deserters was taken over from the R.C.M.P. One further duty of the Provost Corps was the policing of all dock areas, railway stations, and main line trains.

On November 1, 1942, A-32 Canadian Provost Corps Training Centre was established at Camp Borden, Ontario (see the following illustration). Its job was to produce eighty reinforcements for field units and fifty for home units each month. The Canadian Provost Corps grew to a strength of approximately eight thousand officers and men at the end of the Second World War. [Continued next Newsletter.]



GREAT WAR K-I-A HANDSTAMPS--By John Frith

Can members confirm whether the "Killed in Action" below, and other handstamps similar to the one illustrated, were "official" creations? There is a great variety of these and yet at the same time, one often finds only a written notation utilized. [Responses to the Editor.]



Stat. 608-91263

JAN 5 1944

We acknowledge with thanks your order for \$ 30.⁰⁰ calling for goods to be dispatched overseas.

Shipments will be made in accordance with your wishes, and your order has been given the following number D-3A-61861. Please refer to this number in all correspondence should occasion arise for you to write to us.

In the case you wish to continue these shipments uninterruptedly beyond the expiry date, we shall advise you in ample time before the last shipment is made.

JJ
Yours faithfully,
IMPERIAL TOBACCO SALES CO. OF CANADA LIMITED
(OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
POST CARD.

E.D. JOHNSON
675 DORCHESTER ST. W.,
MONTREAL PQ.

CANADA.

PLEASE MAIL THIS CARD PROMPTLY TO ADDRESS ABOVE

PARCEL NUMBER D3A 61861

WWII TOBACCO CARDS--By Peter J. McCarthy

These cards are familiar to most members but what is interesting is that they denote the series of D3A-61861--making them traceable. The donor, E.D. Johnson, was the Secretary of the St. James Club in Montreal. One often sees the parcel number "tag" removed but these are complete.

MONTREAL
JAN 13
12:30 PM
1944
P. O.

E.D. JOHNSON
675 DORCHESTER ST. W.,
MONTREAL PQ.

IMPORTANT
KEEP THIS PORTION AND COMPARE PARCEL NUMBER WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD YOU RECEIVE FROM OVERSEAS. QUOTE PARCEL NUMBER WHEN WRITING TO US.

PARCEL NUMBER D3A 61861

Page 240

ERRATUM: WWII FPO SC16 AND BFPO 548

The Editor mistakenly abbreviated John Frith's article in N/L 120, p. 199. The important information below should be noted:

"I believe the listing for FPO SC16 and BFPO 548 should be as follows:

FPO SC16: U.K.- Glasgow, Scotland, May 1943 - December 1943. Used for the departure of the 1st and 5th Div. to the C.M.F.

BFPO 548: D3 (30.5.43) (5.8.43). Returned 5.7.45.

REFERENCES: CMMSG N/L, No. 31, Item 212. Ed. J.C. Campbell, March 19, 1979.

Bailey, W.J. and Toop, E.R. The Canadian Military Posts, Vol. 2. Ed. E.B. Proud. U.K.: Proud Bailey and Co., Ltd., 1985."

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome is extended to the following new members:

DWIGHT D. GRAY, 527 SAN SALVADOR DRIVE, NORTH AUGUSTA, SC, 29841 U.S.A.
CHRIS HARGREAVES, 4060 BATH ROAD, KINGSTON, ONTARIO, K7M 4Y4

SPECIAL STUDY GROUP PROJECTS

Our Chairman Bill Bailey has suggested a few ideas for future projects and all members are encouraged to participate. One important study is a proper listing of Canadian orderly room markings. Another good topic concerns the military censor markings of the First and Second World Wars. Both John Frith and John Daynes have done excellent work in this field and a pamphlet or monograph is due. Project Officers for these studies are needed, as well as ideas for organization and disposition. Please contact Bill with your thoughts or willingness to help out.

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 (3/4)

WANTED: Canadian military covers, all periods, all areas. Have same for sale. "Want lists" solicited. John Frith, P.O. Box 286, Copper Cliff, ON, POM 1N0 (1/1)

WANTED: Cdn. Base Army Post Office markings on covers/cards, 1939-46. Auxiliary markings needed too. See Bailey & Toop, Vol. II, Chapter 10!
D. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3L3 (2/2)

WANTED: Information/descriptions regarding the POW Camp at Gravenhurst, ON, Toronto's "Little Norway", and "Little Norway, Muskoka, ON". Sue Sheffield, c/o Muskoka, "A Summer Love Affair", Box 67039, Meadowlark RPO, Edmonton, AB T5R 5Y3, FAX (403) 481-1144 (1/5)