



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1996

NEWSLETTER NO. 126

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Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and now that fall is here, we can all enjoy another collecting "season". BNAPEX '96 has come and gone and I trust that it was an excellent show and convention. My sincere thanks to Ken Ellison who has prepared a short write-up for those who couldn't attend. Thanks too must go out to Mike Street who sent me a carton of back issues of the Newsletter. Most appreciated, Mr. President! These are certainly useful for reference and many good ideas from the past editors which the present one will try to emulate. Another mix of variety for members this time but the files are empty on topics from the militia area, Anglo-Boer War, and Korean War. Specialists on these are encouraged to send anything they can (and non-specialists too!).

CANADIAN ARMY IN ICELAND, 1940-41 SURVEY--By C.D. Sayles

Jack Davis gave us an introduction to "Z Force"--the Canadian occupation of Iceland--back in N/L 52. Since that time, little has been written although the prices these covers bring tells me that there is a lot of interest in this area!

Covers from the Canadian Army units in Iceland can be surprisingly hard to identify. Censor stamps could help; if we knew what censor stamps were used and locations or units but we do not. Earliest and latest dates are not documented. Documentation of the arrangements made for mail to and from the Canadian troops may not exist, or has not yet been found. In other words this is the kind of problem that Study Groups are formed to solve, and one which I am sure our members can solve. If you hold Iceland material or are aware of documentation, let's hear from you! [The Editor has some leads but is awaiting confirmation.]

Survey Return:

The best return is a photocopy with clarifying notes where the copy has lost detail. Otherwise, please report the following details:

--Postmark--type and date. Known options so far are: none, Base APO-Canada, British FPO's 2, 3, 304, 306, 307, and 308.

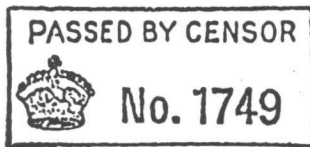
--Censor marking and seals--type and number [see following illus.]. Two types have been seen so far: a small rectangle with numbers 1124, 1171, 2209, 2306, 2364, 2365, 2384, 2388, and 2460; and

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a small triangle with the number 3333.

--Return address if present. Units present were the RRC (16 June-31 Oct. 1940); FMR (7 July-31 Oct. 1940); Cameron Highlanders (7 July 1940-28 April 1941).

--Other markings. These would include indications of active service status or transit/receiver postmarks.



TYPE A-102



TYPE A-200



TYPE A-201



TYPE R-4

"TYPE A-102: Small crown with open base (Nos. 1001-2499).

TYPE A-200: Normal crown with open base (Nos. 1-2999).

TYPE A-201: Simplified crown (Nos. 3000-3500).

TYPE R-4 : Used in Iceland etc. (Nos. 1-287)." [RCAF use]

[The above illustrations and descriptive text are from World War Two Censor Marks. Ed. J.A. Daynes, 1984 (Reprinted 1986). Forces Postal History Society, 1986, Essex. Ed.]

As has always been the case with CMMMSG surveys, anonymity of reporters is guaranteed. Reports to the author at 25 Howard Rd., Waterdown, Ont., LOR 2H4 please.

BNAPEX '96 REPORT--By Ken V. Ellison

The Fort Worth BNAPEX Study Group meeting had seven members present: Jon Johnson, Mike Street, Ed Christman, Charles Livermore, Bill Robinson, Robert Lemire, and Ken Ellison. Jon Johnson gave a very interesting talk on the Canadian Hospital Ships. It was noted that the Group and Newsletter are back on track. Not many military exhibits in the convention's palmares, however Larry Paige's two-frame "Boer War Canadian Contingent Patriotics" (split from his Wilson Patriotic exhibit) received a Silver-Bronze. [Thanks once again Ken for your assistance in reporting the "news" and a special thanks to Jon Johnson for his presentation. Ed.]

E-MAIL UPDATE

The following E-Mail addresses may be useful to members:

Ed. A. Harris: harrise@cadvision.com

E.L. Parker : eparker@agate.net

D.H. Whiteley: 104712.2405@compuserve.com

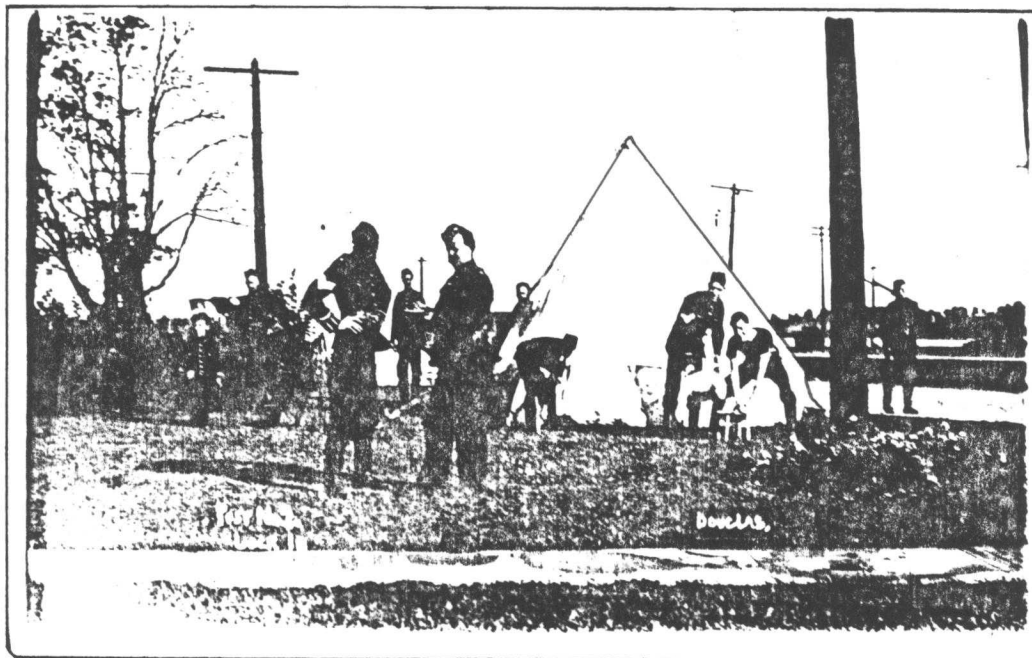
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THE WELLAND CANAL FORCE--By Colin Pomfret

The Welland Canal Force was called out on the outbreak of the Great War to protect the Canal from invasion across the Niagara River and from sabotage. The Force was comprised of the 19th Lincoln Regt., the 44th Lincoln and Welland Regt., 81 men from the 77th Wentworth Regt., and 9 men of the 2nd Dragoons.

The 19th Regt. guarded the north end of the Canal from Port Dalhousie to Lock 12, the 77th from Lock 13 to Lock 18, and the 44th from Lock 19 to Port Colborne, the southern terminus of the Canal. In June 1915 there was a threat that enemy agents would attempt to get off a ship and blow up one of the locks. To prevent this Lt.Col. Campbell ordered that every ship was to be boarded and searched and no one was to disembark in transit.

The members of the Canal Force had all volunteered for overseas service and many of them ultimately "deserted" to other battalions proceeding overseas. As a result of this reduction in strength the Force was reorganized in October of 1915. The 19th Regt. was to cover the Canal from Port Dalhousie to Lock 12 and to supply a guard at Queenston, Brock's Monument, and Niagara Falls. The 44th was to cover from Lock 19 to Port Colborne and to supply detachments at Niagara Falls, Chippawa, Crystal Beach, and the International Bridge at Fort Erie. The 77th was to guard Locks 13 to 18 on the Canal. The following illustration depicts the Cornwall Canal Guard (FIG.1).

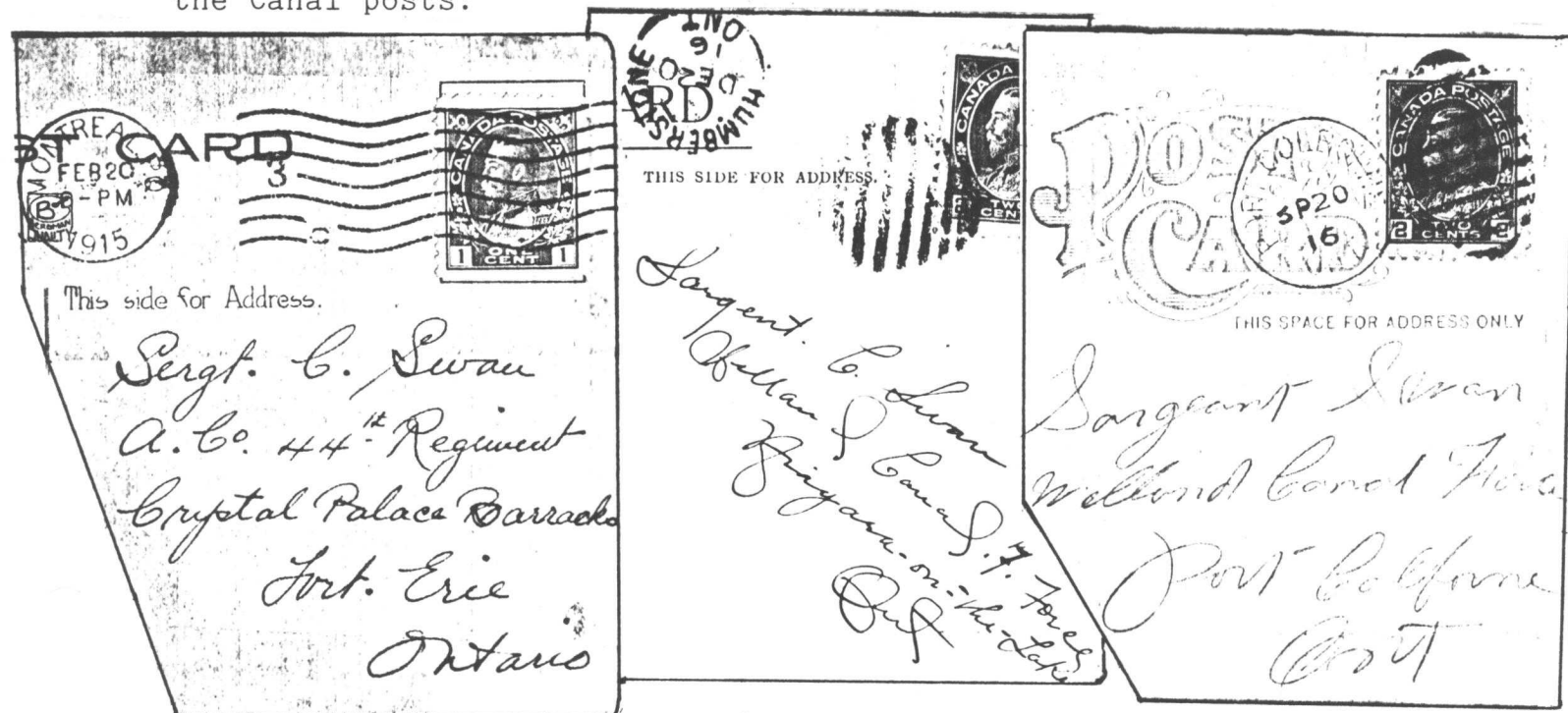


(FIG.1) POST NO. 1

On March 10, 1916 Lt.Col. Burleigh was ordered to organize his Force on a single regiment basis. The total strength was to be 32 officers and 727 men with detachments at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Queenston, Chippawa, Fort Erie, and Bridgeburg. There were units stationed at Port Colborne, Welland, Port Robinson, Allenburg, Marlatt's Bridge, Thorold, St. Catharines, and Port Dalhousie.

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With the entry of the United States into the War the tension diminished and steps were taken to allow some men overseas; their place being taken by returned veterans. Some time in 1917 the Force was reduced to 31 officers and 615 men. On July 1, 1918 the 2nd Battalion of the Canadian Garrison Regiment took over the duties of the Welland Canal Force and the Force itself ceased to exist on September 1, 1918. FIG.2 illustrates a few picture postcards sent to Sgt. C. Swan, Welland Canal Force, at different locations along the Canal posts:



(FIG.2)

Reference: Major R.L. Rogers, History of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. Chippenham Wilts.: Antony Rowe Ltd., 1954.

CAPEX '96 PALMARES

Although members have already been made aware of the awards presented to fellow BNAPSers, it is appropriate to congratulate Study Group members and their well-deserved work: (*) denotes military exhibit

Alan Steinhart, "Prestamp/Stampless covers, 1685-1865" (GOLD)

Dr.J. Frank, "Canada, 1868-1897" (VERMEIL)

*J. Wannerton, "Canadian Contingents, 1899-1902" (VERMEIL)

*E.R."Ritch" Toop (post.), "P.O.W. Mail--WWII" (LARGE SILVER)

*John Frith, "The C.E.F., 1914-19 (C.A.M.C.)" (SILVER)

R.F. Narbonne, "MOOD--Money Order Office Datestamps" (SILVER)

W.G. Robinson, "Northern Gold" (SILVER)

LITERATURE:

D. Lingard, Canadian Flag Cancels, 1896-1919 (LARGE SILVER)

*E.R."Ritch" Toop (post.) Canadian Military Posts, Vol.3 (LARGE SILVER)

*W.J. Bailey, Canadian Military Post Offices to 1993 (SILVER)

R.F. Narbonne & A.Chung, Specialized Cat. of Canada Post OFDC (SIL.-BRONZE)

Everett Parker, Pitcairn Log (BRONZE)

UNION OIL CO. POSTCARDS--By Ken Ellison

The three illustrated postcards below [reduced] are from a series produced by the Union Oil Company of Canada. I would like to know what others are out there. The three include Keller (#1), Murchie (#4), and Burns (#6). [Others to the Ed. please!]



LIEUT.-GENERAL JOHN C. MURCHIE, C.B.E.
Chief of Canadian General Staff

With experience extending back beyond the First Great War, when he was a student at Royal Military College, General Murchie has achieved his present high rank at the age of 48. He fought at Vimy, was severely wounded and went to England, but recovered to be in at the finish of the war. Continuing his military career, he studied at Comberley and at the War Office in London, interspersed with periods of service in Canada. At the outbreak of the present war he was Director of Military Training of National Defense Headquarters and later Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at Canadian Military Headquarters, London. About two years later General Murchie was called back to Canada to assume the position of Vice-Chief of General Staff, with rank of General, and in May, 1944, received promotion to present rank.



LIEUT.-GENERAL E. L. M. BURNS, O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Command of Canadian Corps in Italy, promotion to rank of Lieut.-General and award of D.S.O. for his work in attack on the Gothic Line climaxes the career to date of this studious 48-year-old Canadian-born soldier. His specialty is map-making, particularly by means of aerial photography for which he designed a special machine and gained award of O.B.E. in 1935. Besides graduating from Lower Canada College, Montreal, General "Tommy" Burns has also studied at Royal Military College, Kingston, at Staff College, Quetta, India, and at Imperial Defense College, London. As a Captain in First World War he was wounded and received Military Cross. At outbreak of present war he became Gen. Crerar's right hand man in building up Canadian Military H. Q. in Britain. He went to Italy as Divisional Commander in Spring of 1943, gaining speedy promotion and award as above. For his work there he also was made Officer of French Legion of Honor and awarded Croix de Guerre with palm.



Major-General RODNEY F. L. KELLER, C.B.E.,
Commanding Canada's 3rd (Infantry) Division.

"Red" Keller, of Kelowna, is British Columbia's own war hero. A soldier from the age of 20, now at the height of his career at 44, Major-Gen. Keller received the insignia of the order C.B.E. from the King in June, 1944, for his part in planning the Normandy beach-head attack. Born in Tetbury, Glos., England, he came to Kelowna with his family, graduating from R.M.C. in 1920. At the outbreak of war he rose to command the famous Princess Pats. He was appointed a Brigadier in 1941 and in September, 1942, took command of Canada's Third Division. Of tough physique, Maj-Gen. Keller believes in regimental smartness as a necessary fighting quality.

STAMP
HERE

UNION OIL COMPANY OF CANADA'S
Photo-Biographies of Canada's Generals
No. 4



This postcard is sent to you with compliments of the Union Oil Company of Canada. We hope you will find them interesting and informative. We wish to collect the series yourself or ask them in the mail or hand them to a friend. In any case we hope you'll find them interesting and informative.

(REV.)

U.N. I.C.S.C. 1958--By Robert Toombs

Illustrated on the right is a cover related to the U.N. International Commission for Supervision and Control in North Vietnam. It bears the Indian F.P.O. 743 dated March 26, 1958. The cover travelled by Indian military post to New Delhi, thence via domestic air to Canada.

Christmas '96 is almost here (yes, Christmas!), so if you have a Christmas card which needs to see the light of day please send a copy to the Editor for our next issue. Thank you...carry on!



Lt Col WG McGuire
International Commission
Hanoi, Viet Nam



Mr SF Bedwell
Box 206
Salmon Arm
BC, Canada

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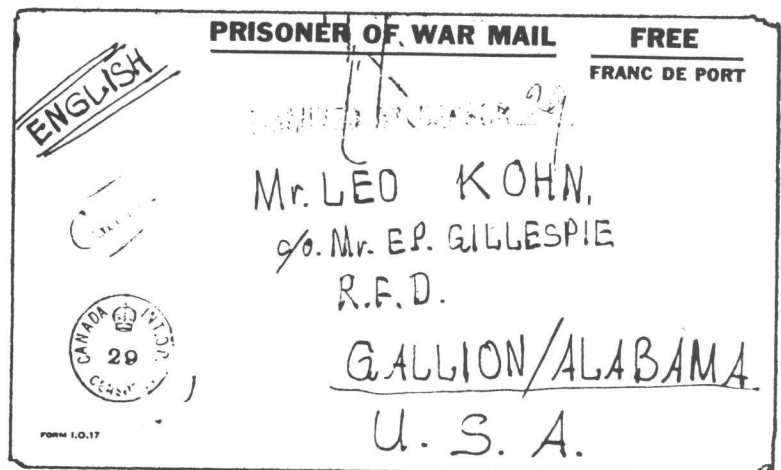
INTERNMENT CAMP MAIL FROM ALIEN P.O.W.'s
AND INTERNEES DETAINED IN CANADA: 1940-41--By David Whiteley

The short article by Steven Luciuk "Returned From Canada . . ." (page 223, N/L 123), has prompted this follow-up piece concerning internment mail from internees held in Canada during the early part of the Second World War which might be of interest.

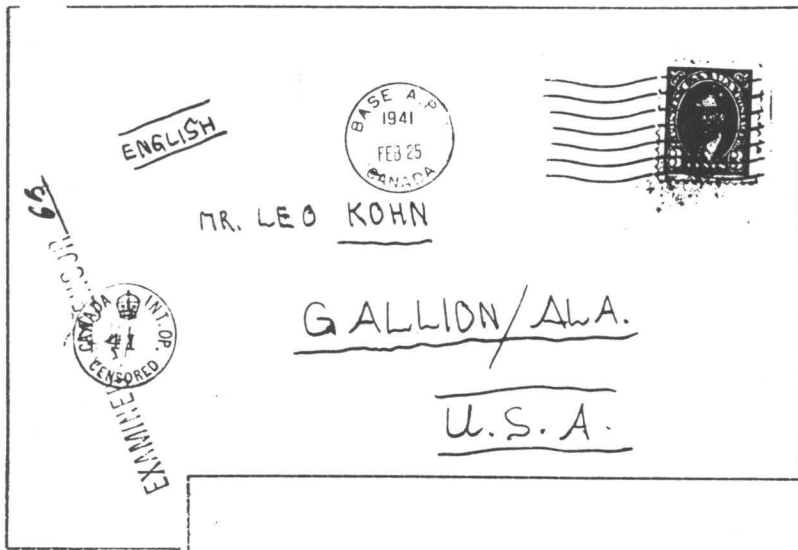
As a result of the British Government's policy after the early German victories in 1940, as Steven Luciuk states, over 38,000 individuals were interned by the British and Canadian authorities. Many of those Class II and Class III non-combatant civilian and refugee internees rounded up by the British authorities were sent to Canada, where they were processed and lodged in camps established at various points in Canada. Eventually the majority of these two classes of internee were released.

Between 1939 and 1941 some twenty camps were opened and each camp was identified by a letter of the alphabet. On October 15, 1941 letter designations were changed to numerals and eventually in 1943 distinctive P.O.W. steel hammers were introduced.¹ With the arrival of a large number of internees special arrangements had to be made by the authorities for the handling and regulating of correspondence to and from the camps. Initially it was decided that all mail matter would be handled through the Base A.P.O. (Ottawa). Letters originating from the internment camps were to be written on specially provided letter sheets with the writer being limited to twenty-four lines of text.² The name and the letter number of camp had to be written on the outer flap of the letter sheet. Letters were then forwarded unsealed to the Base A.P.O. (Ottawa) where they were read and passed by Internment Operations censoring staff who franked the letters with a red circular crown hand stamp, and struck them with a black straight line "EXAMINED BY CENSOR ____" rubber hand stamp. The classification of the individual would be the deciding factor as to whether postage was to be assessed or not. Prisoner of War mail was passed free of postage but Class II and Class III internees had to pay Canadian postage rates to destination.

This is clearly seen in the series of letters written by Bernd Weinberg between July 1940 and February 1941. Weinberg was a German national born June 26, 1922 in Bielefeld. He was studying in England when he was interned and was eventually sent to Canada as part of Group #18. Initially classified as a Class I P.O.W., he was consequently allowed to send letters free of postage. To facilitate the different classes of internees, P.O.W.'s were provided with a pre-printed letter sheet (FIG.1) Form I.O. 17 which, on the front, was printed "PRISONER OF WAR MAIL" and "FREE/FRANC DE PORT".



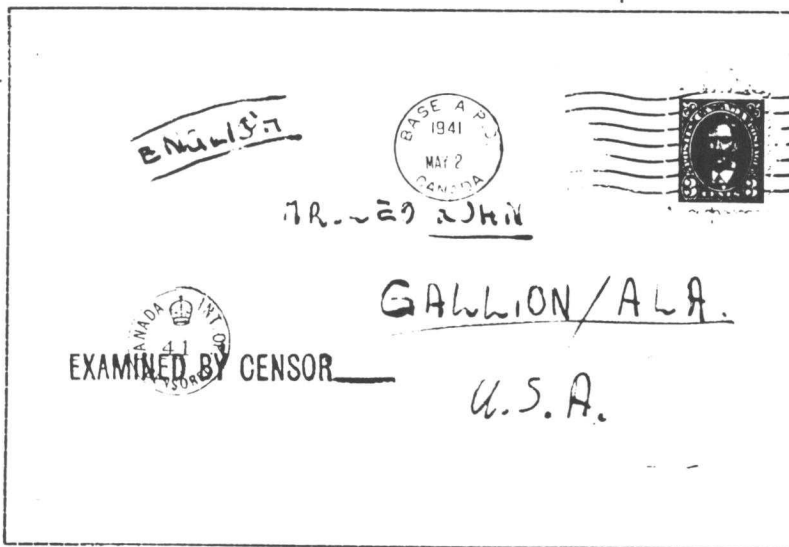
(FIG.1)



On the back was printed in English, German, and Italian "NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN HERE". The back flap had printed spaces for "SENDER'S NAME _____ NO./ _____ /RANK _____ CAMP".

The first letter in the Weinberg series (FIG.1) was written on July 31, 1941 and states that although he had been classified as a Class III internee in Britain, the Canadian authorities had classified him as a P.O.W. He also indicated that he was being held at Camp "T" (Three Rivers, Quebec which was only in use from July 15, 1940 to August 12, 1940) and was anxious to be re-classified and arrangements for his entrance into the United States be expedited. This letter bears no post-mark but was franked with a red circular "CANADA INT. OP. CENSOR 29" hand stamp and a black straightline "EXAMINED BY CENSOR 29". By the time the second letter in my possession (FIG.2) dated February 14, 1941 was written, Weinberg had been re-classified as an internee

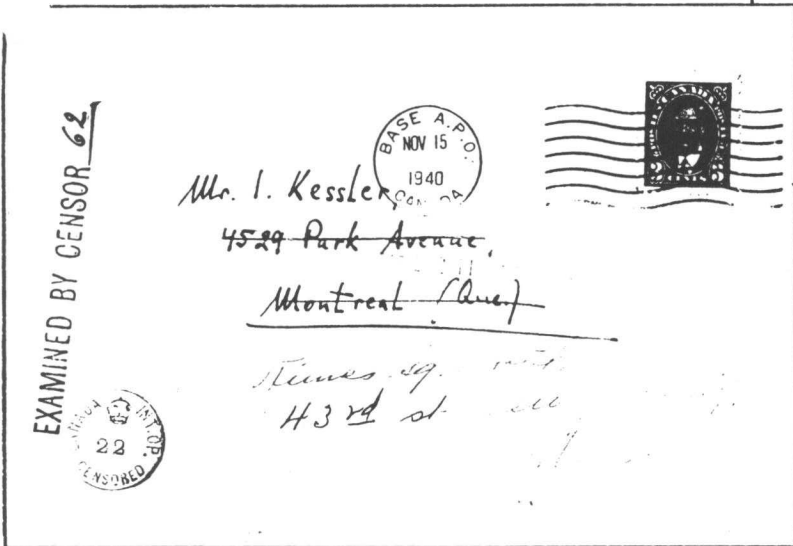
(FIG.2)



(FIG.3)

and after processing, was given the identification number 685, Group 4. He was transferred to Internment Camp "B" (Fredericton, N.B.). This letter is written on a plain letter sheet with postage paid with a Scott #233 3¢ Carmine [Mufti Issue] and cancelled with the "BASE A.P.O. CANADA/1941/FEB.25" machine cancel. The letter with the usual censor markings was then forwarded to its destination. The third letter in my possession (FIG.3) dated April 18, 1941, was received at the Base A.P.O. on May 2 and shows Weinberg to be still at Camp "B". The postal censor markings are similar to those shown in Figure 2.

I have in my possession two other letters. One already has been referred to (footnote 2) dated November 10, 1940 from Franz Goldstrom, who had been studying Economics and Transportation at Cambridge University when he was interned in July of 1940 and sent to Canada. As a student he was hoping for early release to the United States but was being held at Camp "N" (Sherbrooke, Que.). This letter was received at "BASE A.P.O. CANADA/NOV 15/1940" with postage paid with another Scott #233 (FIG.4). The final letter (FIG.5) in my possession was written by Ulrich Lewin, 536 Camp "A" (Farnham, Que.) on June 13, 1941 and received at Ottawa on June 15, 1941. It bears the usual censoring devices. This letter notes that some of his friends have received visa's for Cuba but that there is not much chance of getting into the United States.

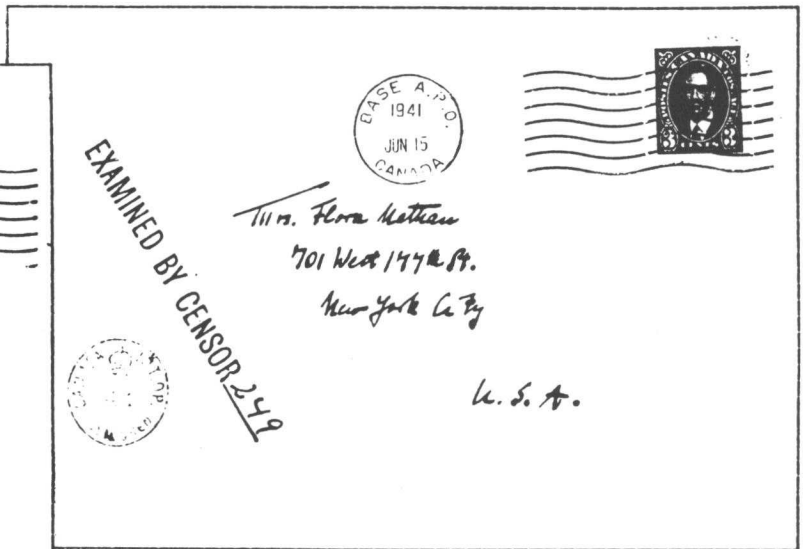


(FIG.4)

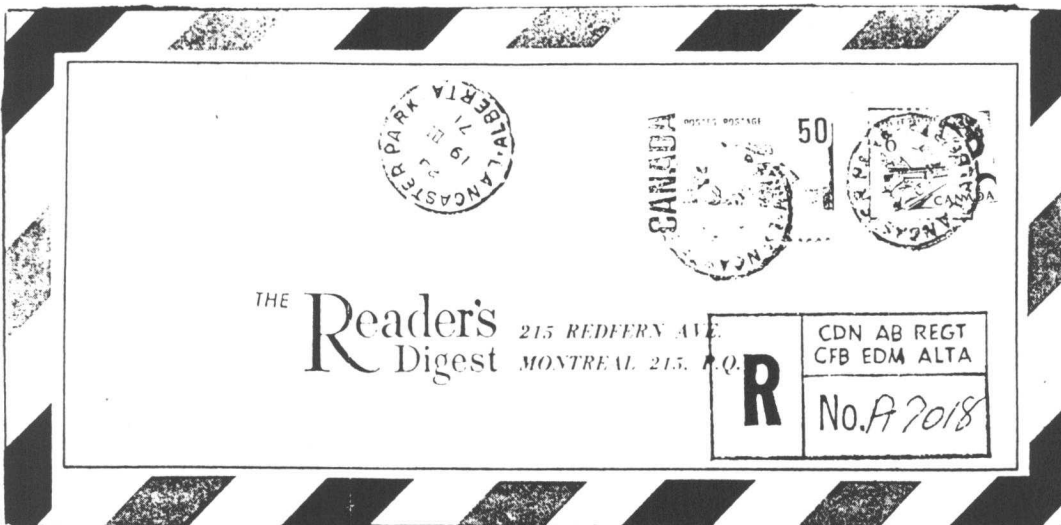
¹ See W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop, Canadian Military Post Offices to 1986 (Toronto: Unitrade Press, 1987), pp. 46-47 for a listing of these camps.

² Letter from Franz Goldstrom, Camp "N" (Sherbrooke, Que.), to Mr. I. Kessler, Times Square Hotel, 43rd Street, New York, dated Nov. 10, 1940 in which he states in part "but in 24 lines one has to be short".

CDN. AIRBORNE REG'T., EDMONTON--By A. David Hanes



(FIG.5)



The recently-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment originally was stationed at Edmonton prior to being moved to Petawawa. The above cover has two interesting and seldom-seen markings. On front, the registered box shows the abbreviated name and location of the regiment and on reverse is the mail room marking. As for the Lancaster Park, Alberta CDS, it is quite common.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES HOLDINGS

Cimon Morin, Chief of the Canadian Postal Archives in Ottawa, has recently provided the Editor with a small listing of military mail collections currently held in the National Archives. It will be of major interest to members and these may hold some interesting items. Perhaps one of our Ottawa area members can report back to the membership and briefly note the contents (or interesting items). A short series will be noted within the next few Newsletters. Thank you, Cimon! [Ed.]

ISN=20289

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION: Accession
DAP ACCESSION NO. 1996-017 Harry Guertin fonds

1939-1970 ; predominant 1939-1946

357 covers

.20 m of textual records

1 photograph : b&w

69 stamps : 31 revenue stamps, 38 regular issue

Collection of World War II era postally-used covers bearing various military and civilian postal markings, including censored prisoner-of-war, redirected, Ferry Command, British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, U.S. Army postmarks used in Canada, Military Camps in Canada, Airgraphs, Armed Forces Air Letters, Wartime markings from Newfoundland, and other related wartime postmarks.

Various post office patriotic/promotional slogan die cancels on corner cuts (from covers).

Envelope corner cards bearing patriotic images, messages, as issued by Bell Canada during World War II.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Open. There are no access restrictions on these records. Status effective from 1996-04-22

USE RESTRICTIONS: Nil.

COPYRIGHT: Unknown

CREDIT: National Archives of Canada

FINDING AID: CPA-185 The Harry Guertin fonds in Reference Services (file level)

Accession date: 1996-04-22

Branch accession no.: 123-040555-0

Provenance: Acquired from Mrs. Muriel Guertin.

Organization ; arrangement: mounted in albums arranged by subject

LOCATION: Covers, Textual, Photographs and Stamps: A1042

Harry Guertin (1900-[ca.1975]) collected Canadian military postal history. He often exhibited his collections and wrote research articles.

Many of Mr.H. Guertin's collections won awards at exhibitions.

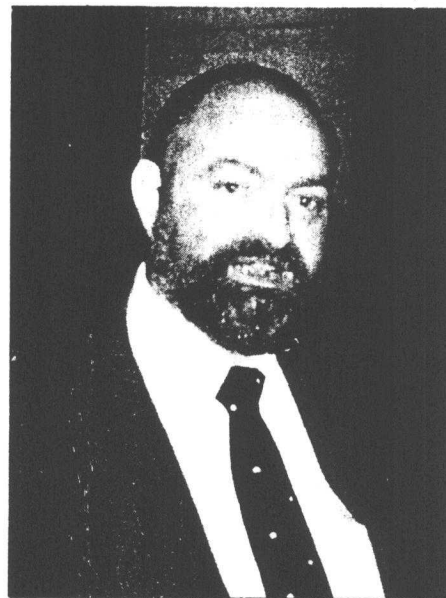
He wrote the book "The Wartime Mails and Stamps of Canada 1939-1946".

Formerly in accession 1989-565. Previously acquired by the National Postal Museum.

Canadian Postal Archives accession / Acquisition des Archives postales
canadiennes

ALLAN STEINHART

It is with great sadness that long-time Study Group member, Allan L. Steinhart, FRPSC, OTB, recently passed away earlier this month in Toronto. Well known to almost every collector and student of Canadian and B.N.A. postal history, Allan was certainly one of the great contemporary postal historians. He devoted much of his time and effort in philatelic writing and exhibiting of which we are all familiar. Perhaps best known are his three handbooks: Civil Censorship in Canada During WWI; The Admiral Era: A Rate Study, 1912-1928; and The Postal History of the Postcard in Canada, 1871-1911. He also authored the series in Topics entitled "For a Penny or Two..." as well as many other studies and articles. He also edited The Klusendorfer newsletter as well. Allan's most recent exhibiting success was obtained at CAPEX '96, where he obtained a show Gold for his "Pre-stamp and Stampless Covers to and From BNA, 1685-1865". Allan exhibited at all levels, and was a frequent participant in various Courts of Honour. Allan was also a devoted member of various national and international societies. He served on the BNAPS Board, served on the Handbook and Ethics Committees, and acted as the Associate Editor of Topics for some time. He was also the President and Vice-President of the P.H.S.C. Allan was a long-time member of both the Canadian and American Stamp Dealers' Associations. He was elected a Fellow of the RPSC in 1988 and received BNAPS' Order of the Beaver. He will be greatly missed.



[Photo courtesy of
the Can. Philatelist]



SMALL ADS

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 (3/5)

WANTED: WWI-related items from or to Newfoundland (including civilian censored). Please contact the Editor with photocopies. Thank you! (1/2)

WANTED: Any postal military and military-related items of Poland. WWI and WWII (also orders, medals, documents, uniforms). Zdzislaw B. Kaczmarczyk, 5350 Macdonald Ave., Apt. 104, Montreal, QC H3X 3V2 (1/5)

WANTED: Still looking for "Z" Force incl. related British Home Depot/ABPO etc. (see N/L, pp. 315-18 by J.Davis). Photocopies welcomed or the "real thing" on approval. D. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3L3 (2/2)

YOUR AD COULD GO HERE!
