



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

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500th
1497-1997
B.N.A.P.S Convention
Hotel Newfoundland - St. John's, NF
Aug 28th - Aug 30th

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1997

NEWSLETTER NO. 131
Page 301

Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

Summertime is here (for most of us) and Bill and I trust that you are enjoying the season to the fullest! We hope that this latest edition will be a good read along with your "favourite" summer beverage. Lots to report so let's get started. Unfortunately Bill and I won't be attending BNAPEX but our Group will be represented by a one-frame exhibit entitled "Newfoundland in the Second World War, 1939-1946".* I hope that all members attending will enjoy the convention and a hearty "good luck" to those entering competitive exhibits.

Members couldn't continue their hobby and studies without the assistance of our dealer-members who deserve some recognition and thanks. Why not contact the following with your latest wantlist?: John Frith, Don Kaye, Ron Leith Auctions, L. Dann Mayo Auctions, Jim Miller, and R.F. "Hank" Narbonne. Perhaps their summer buying trips have produced some new treasures!

Jack Walsh of Winnipeg has sent in a cover bearing the recent Canadian Forces' "OP ASSISTANCE" cachet (illustrated right at 74%). This marking was in effect during their time assisting with the terrible flooding this past spring in Manitoba. Jack informs us that the free-mail period was quite short (details of exact period has not been forthcoming as of publication) and mail was limited to one letter per person per day! Keep your eyes open for mail from this operation. We hope that Group members in the area came through this trial unscathed.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

BILL PEKONEN, #201-7300 MOFFATT RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1X8

. . . AND WELCOME BACK TO:

RON KITCHEN, 1387 PEARL ST., GLOUCESTER, ON K1T 1C6

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

KEN ELLISON: kenell@bc.sympatico.ca

JIM R. HILL: hilljr@cal.cybersurf.net

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

DAVID H. WHITELEY: 77 EDMONTON ST., APT.#605, WINNIPEG MB R3C 4H8

CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5

EDITOR: D.MARIO, BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

*NB. Shortly before going "to press" our exhibit entry has been denied due to a lack of space [Ed.]

Page 302

CENTRAL CAMP-PETAWAWA, ONTARIO--By J.C. Campbell and C.D. Sayles

In February 1905 the Minister of Militia, Sir Frederick Borden, assured the Annual General Meeting of the Artillery Association (assembled in Ottawa) that a suitable camp ground and artillery range would be provided during the year. His announcement was received with warm applause.¹

In 1905 the Royal Canadian Horse and Garrison Artillery trained at the new Central Camp which was located near Pembroke, Ontario beside the Ottawa River. A total of 73,364 acres comprised the Camp. A number of militia field batteries also took advantage of the Camp's training facilities. The facility was established as a summer camp in 1905 and as a permanent camp in 1906. It officially opened on July 16, 1906.²

Further training followed in 1906 when the R.C.H.A., R.C.G.A., a heavy battery from Quebec, the Royal Canadian Engineers, and some militia batteries also attended. Five field brigades and an independent battery did the whole of their annual training for 1907 at Petawawa.

It should be remembered that 1908 saw the celebration of the Quebec Tercentenary in which Canada's military played an important role, resulting in much less activity at the Central Camp. A cavalry brigade, seven infantry battalions, and a Western contingent were in attendance. At the Royal Review on July 24, 1908 there were 12,422 officers and men on parade. Field artillery from Hamilton were included.³

For the next three years training fell off considerably owing to Militia Department financial constraints. In 1912 with Colonel Sam Hughes head of the Militia Department, activity at the Camp increased dramatically, with brigades and field batteries numbering over 5,000 officers and men receiving their annual training. This had been increased to sixteen days for each individual per year. In 1913 training was restrained because of the prohibitive cost of transporting the more distant batteries. In that year much training was carried out locally with the 3rd and 11th Brigades at Aldershot, N.S., and the 4th Brigade at Sussex, N.B. The 25th Lethbridge Battery trained at Sarcee, Alberta, while the 13th Winnipeg and the 26th Regina Batteries concentrated at Camp Sewell, Manitoba.

The summer of 1914 was the busiest time at Petawawa since its founding. Over 10,000 officers and men practiced combined manoeuvres which came very close to active service conditions. Despite the diversity of training at Petawawa, it will always be remembered as an artillery camp.

The Central Camp-Petawawa hammer shown here (measuring 23.5mm) was the third circular military-type used in Canada. It was of the c.d.s. style. The "broken circle" Brigade Camp hammer of 1886 and the similar Aldershot hammer of 1905 preceded it. It is considered most likely that a 1906 date for Central Camp will prove to be the earliest reported date of use. However, the timely assistance of readers is sought to establish, as best we can, earliest and latest dates of usage. Or, in other terms, e.r.d. and l.r.d.!





It is of interest to note that a Canada Militia type hammer was proofed June 23, 1910 for Peta-wawa Camp (measuring 27.5mm in diameter). Present knowledge of dates shows an overlap of the two hammers by seven weeks. The earliest reported date for this hammer is June 25, 1910.⁴

A considerable number of cancellation dates for the Central Camp-Peta-wawa hammer have been recorded from a variety of sources. These dates are:

<u>1906</u>	<u>1907</u>	<u>1908</u>	<u>1909</u>	<u>1910</u>
AUG.20 (erd)	AUG.12	SEPT.14	JUL.26(4)	JUN.22
AUG.29	AUG.13	SEPT.15	AUG.4 (2)	JUL.11
	AUG.14		AUG.15	JUL.18(2)
	AUG.17		AUG.17(2)	JUL.27
	AUG.19(2)			JUL.29
	AUG.20			AUG.8
				AUG.10 (1rd)

References:

1. C.A.A. Report, 1904, p.63.
2. Encyclopedia Canadiana, Vol.VIII, p.165 (1963)
3. Canadian Annual Review. Castell-Hopkins, p.600 (1906)
4. A Canadian Postal History Anthology, p.110 (1991)

Basic Reference:

Gunners of Canada: The History of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Vol.I (1967). Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, C.D.

CANADIAN PUBLIC ARCHIVES HOLDINGS (cont'd.)

ISN=16212

Mathieu, Sybil

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION: Accession

DAP ACCESSION NO. 1993-071 Sybil Mathieu collection

1919-1940 ; predominant 1940

32 postal covers

1 letter

Postally-used World War II prisoner-of-war covers addressed to German internees at Internment Operations, Ottawa, Whitewood, Saskatchewan and Kananaskis (Seebe) Internment Camp K, bearing various Canadian / German wartime postal and censor markings.

Postally-used World War I era prisoner-of-war cover addressed to unidentified German internee, c/o Scapa Flow, England.

Letter dated 1940-10-09, from M. Hertzberg, Oakland, California to the Canadian Red Cross, Ottawa, Canada, requesting examples of censored German prisoner-of-war postal covers.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Open. There are no access restrictions on these records. Status effective from 1988-04-01

USE RESTRICTIONS: Nil.

COPYRIGHT: Unknown

CREDIT: National Archives of Canada

Accession date: 1993-12-24

Provenance: Transfer from Manuscript Division, internal transfer number unknown

Organization ; arrangement: Organized in file folders ; Items arranged chronologically in file folders by postmark date.

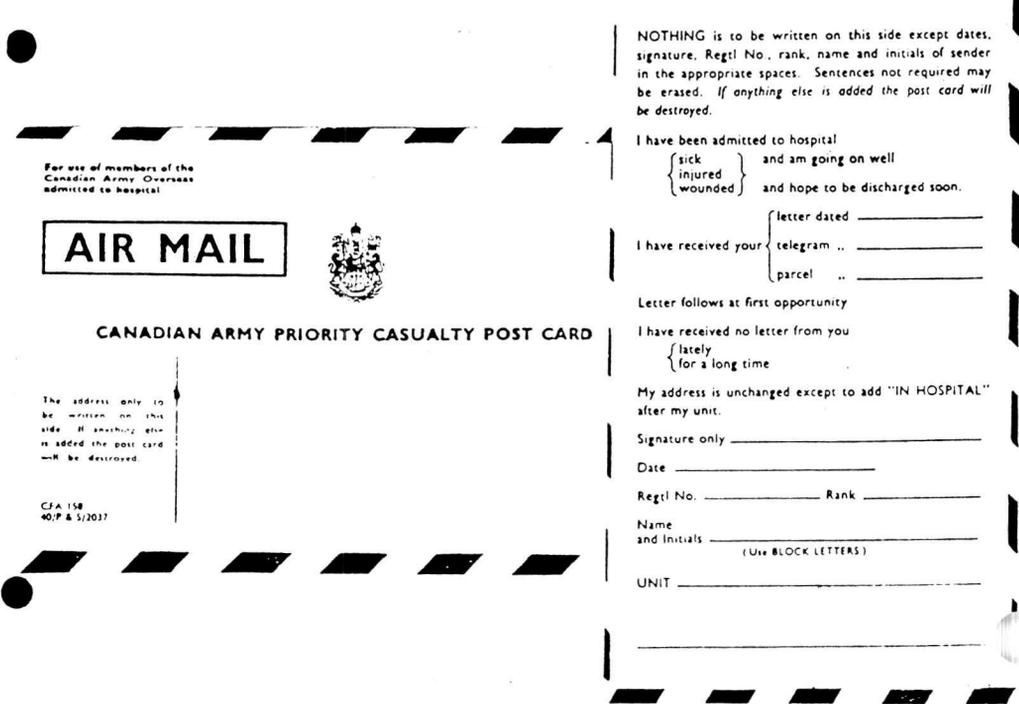
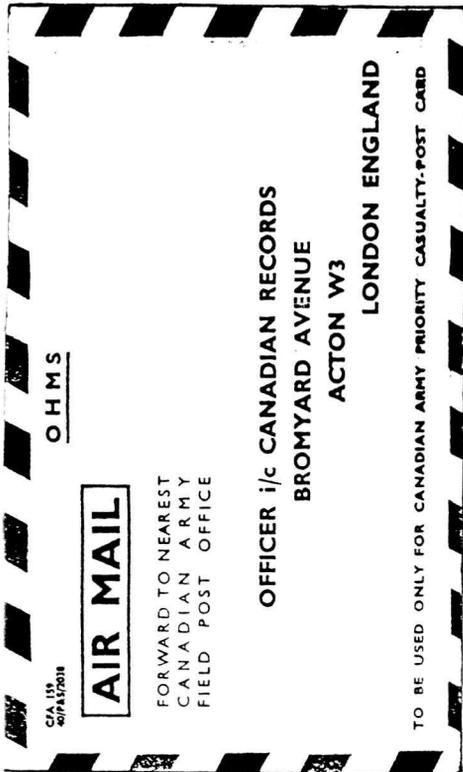
LOCATION: C0063

Formerly in accession 1989-565. Previously acquired by The National Postal Museum, accession number unknown.

Photocopies of postal covers in acquisition file

CANADIAN ARMY PRIORITY CASUALTY ENVELOPES--By C.D. Sayles ©

The existence of the Priority Casualty cards was first noted in N/L 24# and N/L 42* of February 1981 illustrated a fine example. The card illustrated was mailed at Cdn. Postal HQ in London on July 6, 1944, and was received at Lennoxville, PQ on July 10, 1944. The card had a circular marking reading "CANADIAN RECORDS C.M.H.Q., 6 JUL 44, CASUALTIES". A recent find is the previously unrecorded Priority Casualty envelope illustrated below.



With this, we can make some guesses about the Priority Casualty process. It appears that the intent was for the casualty himself to fill out the card, probably at the Casualty Clearing Station or a field hospital (ie. as quickly as possible and as far forward as possible). It was then placed in the envelope and sent to Canadian Records in London to enable up-to-date records to be maintained. From there it was sent to the addressee. The four day trans-atlantic delivery on the above card would indicate that these cards were indeed given priority handling.

As a test of the above theory I would expect that the vast majority of these cards were posted in London (Acton) at the Postal HQ, and also at the site of the Canadian Records Office (it is conceivable that a few could have been incorrectly used, and thus be found posted elsewhere). Can any of our members provide examples which support or dispute the above, or offer further information on the process of keeping casualty records? A second test is the existence of used examples of these envelopes. If they were used as I postulate, virtually all of the envelopes would have been opened and discarded at the Records Office. Can any of our members provide used examples of the Priority Casualty envelope? [#p.116, item 146; *p.238, item 350. Ed.]

[The late Major E.R. "Ritch" Toop had written up this, or a similar item, for inclusion in the Newsletter but it was never printed. The

(Cont'd.)

Page 305

article has recently been found and additional information will be shared with members.]

CANADIAN ARMY PRIORITY CASUALTY POSTCARDS--By E.R. Toop*

. . . .The Canada Post Office Weekly Bulletin No. 1202 of March 18, 1944 introduced use of the Priority Casualty Postcard. Its purpose was to enable next-of-kin in Canada to receive notification from casualties in hospital overseas as soon as possible after receipt of the casualty telegram.

Each soldier admitted to hospital, other than suffering from minor ailments, was furnished with a priority casualty card which was completed by the patient, or on his behalf, by an orderly or nurse. The card, when completed, was inserted into the covering envelope and despatched by airmail, if possible, to the Canadian Army Records Office in the U.K. After verification at the Records Office, the card was transferred to the Canadian Postal Corps for transmission by first airmail despatch to the next-of-kin [or addressee] in Canada. The card is made of light cream stock with the usual red and blue lozenges around the outside. All other detail with the exception of "CANADIAN ARMY PRIORITY CASUALTY POST CARD", which is in red, is a very light blue.

The priority casualty postcard suggested to the next-of-kin [or addressee] that when writing to the soldier who was in the hospital, that the words "IN HOSPITAL" be added to the unit address usually used. Letters bearing this indication were routed to the Records Office, then directly to the addressee's current hospital location rather than to his parent unit, thus eliminating redirection/tracing and of course much delay. The envelope is a deep pink shade and all other markings, including lozenges around the edge, are in a deep red and blue.

*Deceased

[Ed. note: Member Kim Dodwell has also written about these cards and has illustrated a used 1944 example in the CPSGB's Maple Leaves, No. 250, Vol. XXIII (No. 10), October 1994, pp. 352-353.]

NEW BAILEY & TOOP TOME



Our Chairman Bill Bailey advises us that his, and the late "Ritch" Toop's postmark book begun in 1982 is completed and should be ready from the publisher C.G. Firby this fall. Bill notes that the book will probably be issued in two volumes as the final tally is almost 900 pages! There will be thousands of military postmarks illustrated, given a number, and a rarity factor. It will undoubtedly be a "must" for military mail collectors. The Appendices will be useful references themselves and will include such topics as: Wars; Campaigns; Peace-Keeping Operations; Important Dates; Unit and Formation listings (for every military operation in which Canada has participated); and Military Postal Rates. Bill is very pleased with the outcome and most of us will look forward to its appearance very soon. [Ed.]

INFORMATION REQUEST

John Daynes, 25a Mill Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CMO 8PZ, UK, is seeking information about new censor markings (especially naval) not within his previous publication on Second World War censor markings. Further information from John.

Page 306

UNION OIL CO. POSTCARD UPDATE--By Wayne R. Curtis

On p. 255 of the September 1996 NL [#126], Ken Ellison was looking for information on the Union Oil postcards showing World War II Canadian Generals. You will find [below] the listing which may prove of interest to Ken and others in the Study Group. In my own collection I have Keller and Vokes. Publisher unknown.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mjr.Gen. RODNEY F.L. KELLER, CBE | 6. Lt.Gen. E.L.M. BURNS |
| 2. Mjr.Gen. BERTRAM M. HOFFEISTERR | 7. Gen. H.D.G. CRERAR |
| 3. Lt.Gen. GUY GRANVILLE SIMONDS | 8. Mjr.Gen. CHRISTOPHER VOKES, DSO, OBE |
| 4. Lt.Gen. JOHN C. MURCHIE | 9. Mjr.Gen. HENRY WOCKSHIRE FOSTER |
| 5. Lt.Gen. CHARLES FOULKES | 10. Mjr.Gen. FREDERICK F. WORTHINGTON |

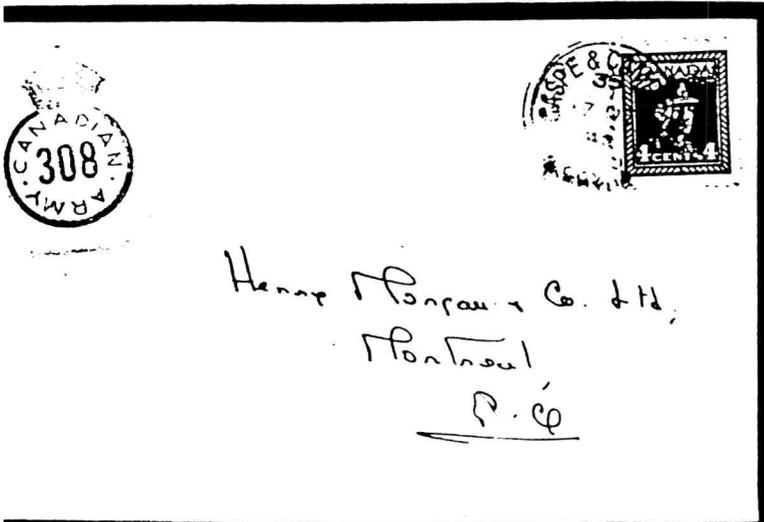
[Ken has recently noted that he's found #'s 5, 7, and 8. Ed.]

THE SMALL "CROWN OVER CIRCLE" CENSOR UPDATE

The late Mjr. E.R. "Ritch" Toop requested some information (NL 113, p. 129) about this Canadian censor marking and had listed several already known. The Editor has been able to gather all of the information sent in by members over the years and will attempt to print what is known so far. I hope that "Ritch" will understand the adage about being "better late than never!". Thanks for assistance go to Messrs. Frith, Soper, Robinson, Whitehouse. Any other reports to add? [Ed.]

- CENSOR 301---VG of C, Br. Guiana, June 5, 1944
- CENSOR 302---B FORCE, Bermuda
- CENSOR 304---N FORCE, Bahamas
- CENSOR 307---CAPO 10, Nfld., March 8, 1944; May 24, 1944
- CENSOR 308---CAPO 10, Nfld., December 7, 1943
- CENSOR 310---MPO 1314, Edmonton, January 1944; April 20, 1944
- CENSOR 312---CAPO 10, Nfld., April 22, 1944
- CENSOR 316---Brockville Rifles, Jamaica, 1944
- CENSOR 317---Brockville Rifles, Jamaica
- CENSOR 320---CAPO 10, Nfld., October 30, 1944; December 20, 1944
- CENSOR 321---CAPO 10, Nfld., " "
- CENSOR 322---CAPO 10, Nfld.
- CENSOR 324---CAPO 10, Nfld., December 1944
- CENSOR 325---Brockville Rifles, Jamaica, December 6, 1944

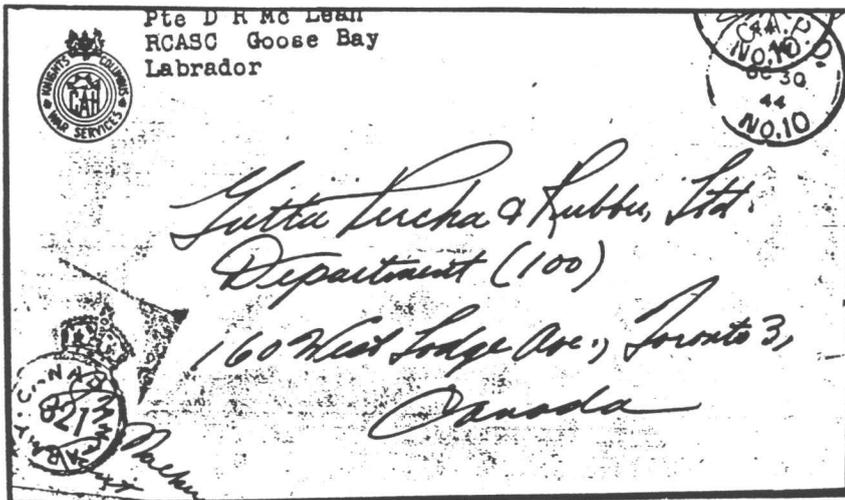
Some of the above members sent in some illustrations with their reports and I think that members would be interested by their inclusion within this update.



[From John Frith:]

"This cover [left] is postmarked with a Q-16A RPO "Gaspé & Camp" ton/R.P.O./G. Doyle, 7 DE 43" which may indicate the cover originated at Goose Bay, Labrador. Can anyone confirm?

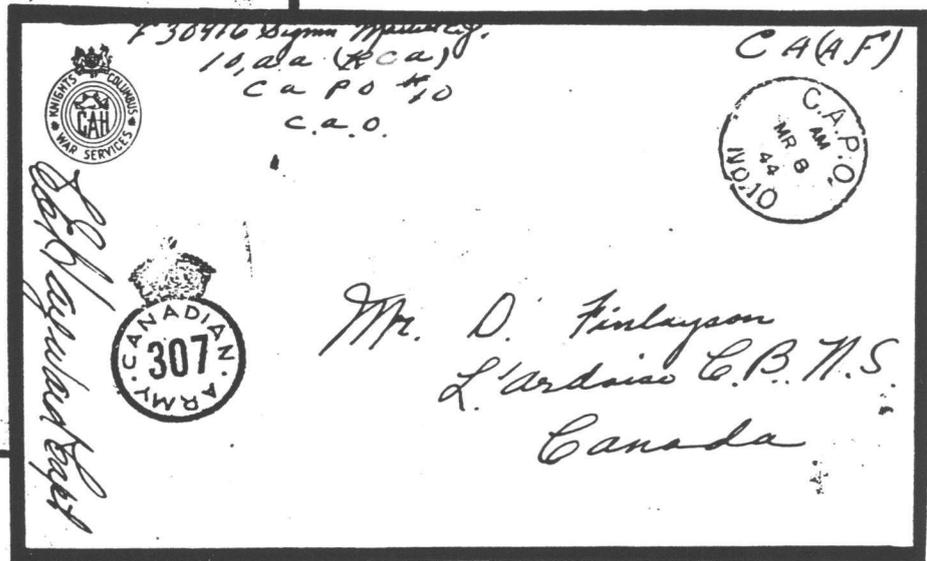
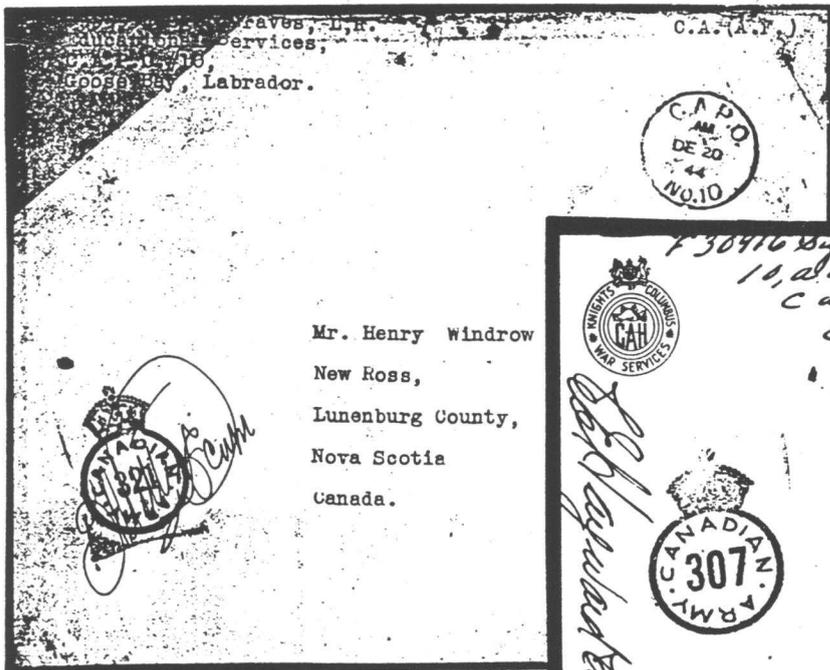
Aside from the No. 321 [illustrated over], . . . I have had pass through my hands No. 320 and No. 322. I've also seen No. 317 used on a cover from 'Y' Force in Jamaica."



[John Frith's CAPO 10 with No. 321 is at left]

[From Robert Soper:]

"In my Newfoundland collection I have the following [below] covers with Censors No. 307 and 321."

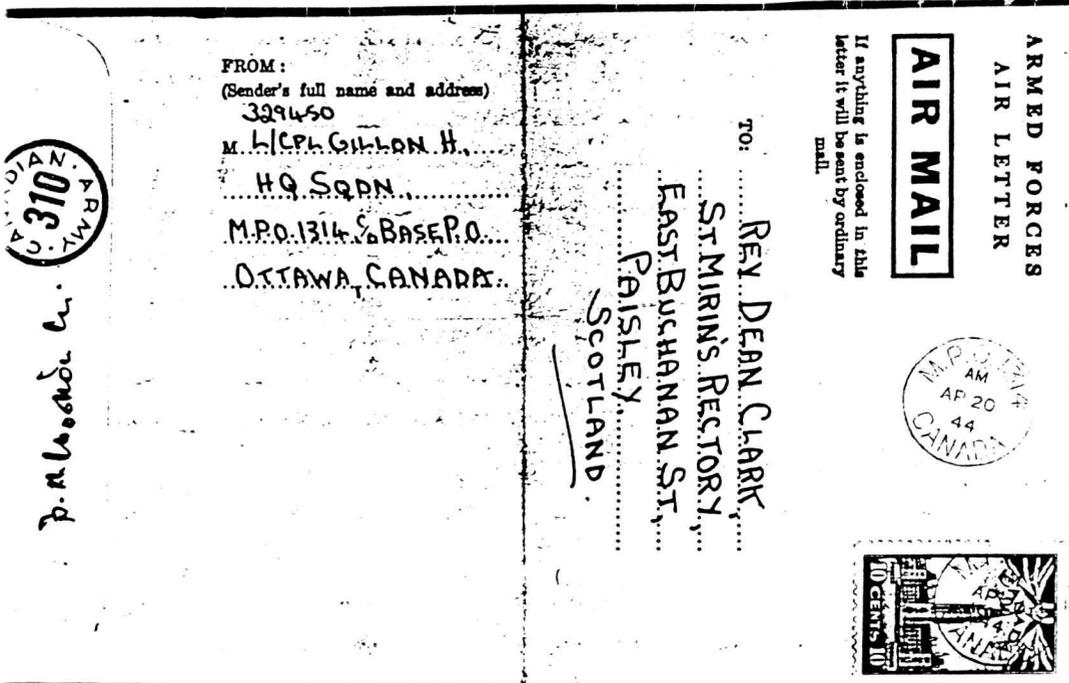
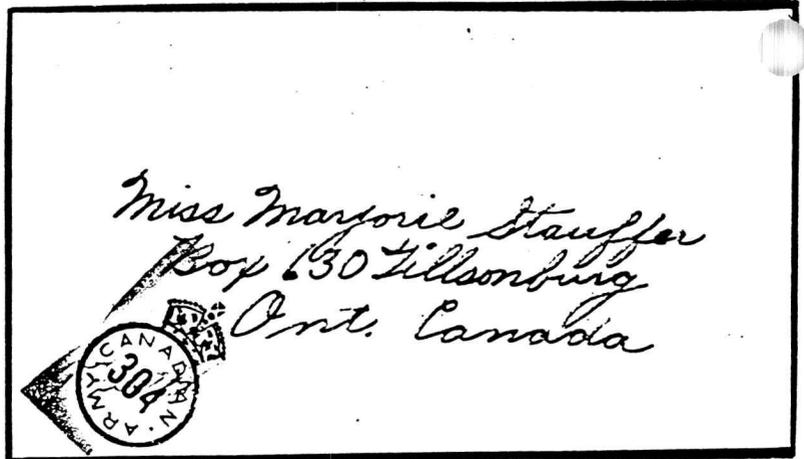


[From the Editor:]

"The item illustrated on the left shows No. 302. Unfortunately there is no return address on the postcard 'folder', nor is the date on the civilian cancel entirely legible."

[From W.G. Robinson:]

"From the autumn of 1943 to the spring of 1946, a company of the Pictou Highlanders provided a garrison for the Bahamas. This cover [on the right] was sent to Tillsonburg, Ont. by a member of 'N' Force. It bears the Crown and No. 304 Canadian Army censor marking used in 1944 and 1945, and the signature of the censorship officer. . . .The cover bears no postal markings, and probably travelled to Canada by surface mail at the Overseas Forces free concession rate."



[From W.D. Whitehouse:]

"Ritch Toop wrote about MPO 1314 and accompanying small crown over circle censor marking and asked to hear about other examples. [At left] is an AFAL, Type #5A in my "checklist" from British soldier training at MPO 1314 and dated April 20, 1944. The writer speaks in his letter about the tight security connected with the training, but does mention that he has had leave in Edmonton."

This particular type of AFAL was printed in Canada and explains how and why it was available to a British soldier at a Canadian training base. As most members realize, other AFAL types that were printed in Canada were available at all of the Commonwealth Air Training Bases in Canada and were used by RAF personnel."

[This examines only a small part of this most interesting censor marking. If members have anything to add, or identify a new number, please direct all to me for publishing in the future. Ed.]

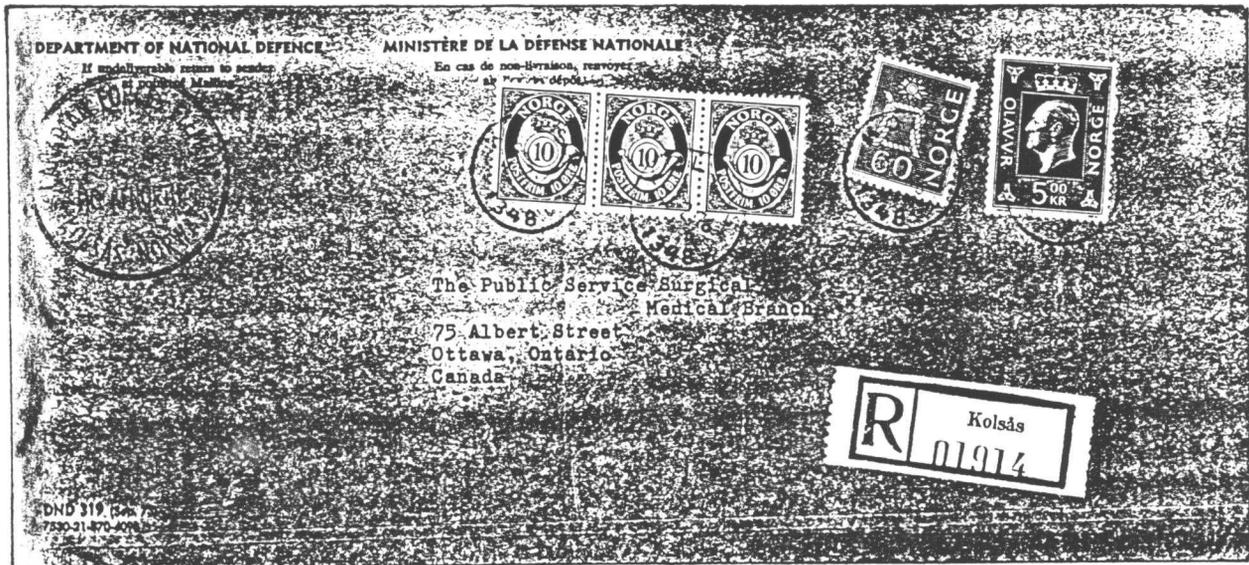
ORAPEX '97

Congratulations to the following members for their exhibits at the show held on April 26-27: S. Sheffield (non-military, Silver; Silver-Bronze; AAPE Pin; R. Mitchener Award); D. Mario (military, "Allied Forces in Iceland", Silver-Bronze); C. Hargreaves (non-military, Bronze). Mjr. R.K. Malott was awarded the E.R. Toop Award for his "Canadian Military Air Letter Forms, 1942-1974" [non-member].

Page 309

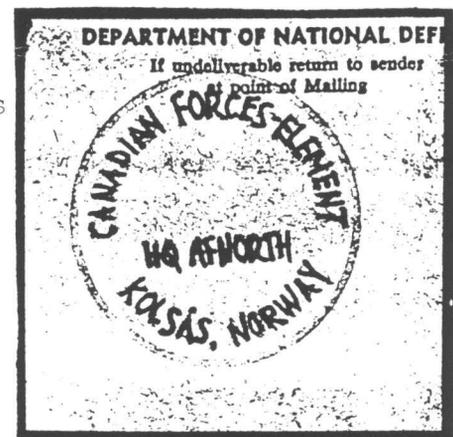
NATO MAIL: HQ AFCENT-HQ AFNORTH-HQ AFSOUTH--By Robert Toombs

In my collection I have a cover from NATO Forces CFPO 5045 (Brunssum, Netherlands) postmarked 13/VII/74. The return address includes "HQ AFCENT" confirmed by Bailey and Toop. It is understood that "AFCENT" stands for "Allied Forces CENTral Europe". Apparently it was a substantial sub-headquarters (the main NATO HQ was at Casteau, Belgium, CFPO 5048).



"AFNORTH" stands for "Allied Forces NORTHERN Europe" and was at Kolsås, Norway. A very small Canadian presence was maintained there headed by a Lt.Colonel. A CDS marking in the left upper corner of a registered letter from Kolsås, Norway to Canada reads "CANADIAN FORCES ELEMENT/HQ AFNORTH/KOLSAS, NORWAY". The Kolsås postmark is 16/2/76. This cover is shown [above] reduced at 70%. Also shown is the CDS at full size darkened by hand for reproduction.

Of current interest NATO also has an "HQ AFSOUTH" at Naples, Italy. This sub-headquarters of NATO is the command centre for IFOR, the Implementation Force in the former Yugoslavia that replaced UN Operations. We should keep a sharp eye out for AFSOUTH mail. It is not known if there is a CFPO there or not. It is suspected that the Italian civil post is used at AFSOUTH in Naples. Any comments from readers? Good hunting and keep those eyes peeled.



PLAN TO ATTEND ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

B N A P E X ' 9 7

Page 310

NETHERLAND-CANADIAN POSTCARDS--By Ken Ellison

Ken sends along these two postcards below of Dutch origin. The Editor has attempted to get them translated and I hope that they are as humorous as originally intended!



Je voelt er je teenen precies évan goed.
Of 'n Hollander of 'n Canadeesje het doet



Of ooit een Canadeezen-bal
Zóó'n indruk op hem maken zal?

You feel your toes just as good whether a Dutchman or a Canadian does it.

Whether a ball with Canadians will make such an impression on him?

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 TO Miss J. Wilson, The General Hospital, Moose Jaw, SK (1918); TO Mr./Mrs. George Hegan, St. John, NB (1916-19); also hospital ship and nursing sister covers and postcards. Will trade when possible. Jon Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Rd., Vernon, BC V1B 1L3 (5/5)

WANTED: UNFICYP mail cancelled CFPO 26 in 1964 (HMCS Bonaventure transp'ting UN soldiers to Cyprus). Also other UN Forces & Observers' mail incl. Korean War. Can buy or exchange for other UN mail. Willem Put, Postbus 23175, 3001 KD, Rotterdam, Netherlands. E-Mail: putw@worldonline.nl (1/2)

WANTED: A postcard or good photograph of the ship Braemar Castle ca. 1918 or so. Please send with your price. If unacceptable, I will return + postage. Gordon Hill, 11 Coach Side Terr. S.W., Calgary, AB T3H 2T3 (2/2)

WANTED: MPO #1210 (Swift Current, SK) CDS on cover/card. L.G. Clinton, 1329 Elevator Rd., Saskatoon, SK S7M 3X3 (1/1)

WANTED: Generous offer for the item on p.18 of the Anthology! Still need WWI Nfld. material incl. a ppc of the ship S.S. Florizel. Photocopy to D. Mario please. Thanks! (1/2)
