



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

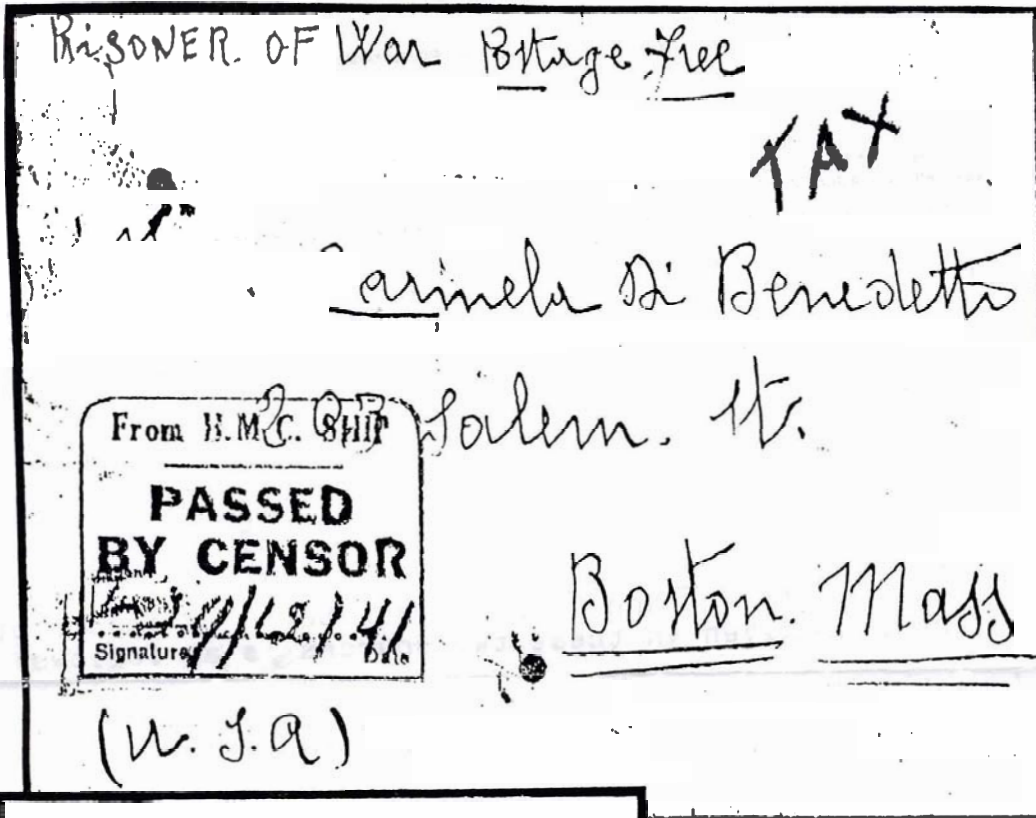
## Canadian Military Mail Study Group

### NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1999

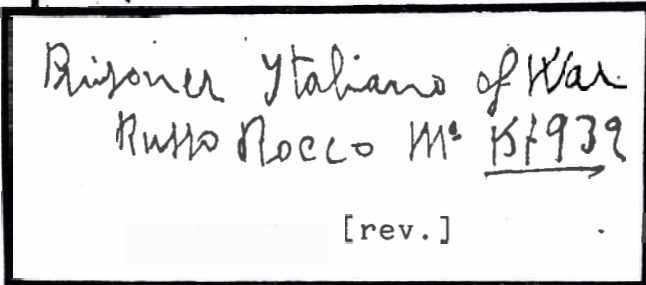
NEWSLETTER NO. 138  
Page 381

ITALIAN P.O.W./HMC SHIP CENSOR--By John Daynes



One of the most unusual P.O.W. covers with a Canadian connection, dated 1941, is illustrated at left. One of the problems, however, is one cannot tell if the censor mark was used ashore (Wilf Whitehouse suggests possibly Sydney or Halifax, Nova Scotia), or by a sea-going ship.

Canada did have some success against U-boats in late-1941 but whether this is the origin (a rescued U-boat crew



member) is unclear. Postage stamps were not normally carried aboard RCN ships, hence the "postage free" franking. The Italian P.O.W. may have been a transportee too. Note the crayon "tax" in the same pencil as the censor's signature. Other information is certainly welcome. [Thanks to Wilf for much of

the information above and to John for sharing this wonderful cover. Ed.]

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SOLDIER'S CONCESSION RATE 1863

114 1c ROSE PAIR ON SOLDIER'S CONCESSION RATE COVER TO G.B.; 13th Feb. 1863 yellow env. (minor wear at top), headed & countersigned by "2nd Class Army Schoolmaster J. Chambers, Sec. Fus. Gds." and franked by a pair of 1859 1c Rose tied by fine Montreal duplexes for the 2c Concession Rate. Rare; only 22 covers at the Concession rate are recorded for the 1859 Issue; compare with the 1866 cover with single 2c sold by Cavendish in the Russell Collection in June 1997 for £2530. [Ex Nickle.] COLOUR PHOTO - BACK COVER. £1200

The above cover in Cavendish Auctions' December 1998 sale was highly sought-after. It sold for £1,495 (including the 15% buyer's fee) which was approximately \$3,902.70 in Canadian funds! A rare item and unusual.

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BRITISH F.P.O. 469 HAMMER-USAGE?--By John Frith

I came across an anomaly regarding the location and usage of this hammer while writing up some covers for stock. When consulting my two favourite sources for information on these hammers, The Canadian Military Posts, Vol. II<sup>1</sup> and the Group's Newsletter (#31, item 212)<sup>2</sup>, I found that data regarding FPO 469 conflicted and I think that both are incorrect in varying degrees. The data given in these two sources is as follows:

<sup>1</sup>In the Index at p. 230, Proud says "see FPO SC 415", yet when one consults this reference at p. 267, there is no mention of FPO 469 whatsoever;

<sup>2</sup>In item 212, p. 5, the data given is "Oct. '43-Dec. '43, U.K., C.O.P.D."

Assuming that (2) may be correct, if one cross-references to (1) and consults FPO SC2 (C.O.P.D.) at p. 238, Proud makes no mention of FPO 469 usage there. In addition, Proud gives the locations of FPO 415 as Algeria, Sicily, and Italy, and on the covers I have seen there is no indication that this hammer was used outside the U.K.

Both of the covers illustrated (Figs. 1 and 2) give the return address of the writers as No.1 C.A.R.U. (Figs. 3 and 4), and both show usage in the U.K. (orderly room handstamps and no censor handstamps). Note that the cover in Fig.2 is postmarked FPO SC3/1.

[Cont'd.]

Both of the above references give the location of FPO SC3 as H.Q., Reinforcement Units, Borden, Hants., U.K., and as No.1 C.A.R.U. was located there, I think that the evidence favours FPO 469 being used at FPO SC3 also. If any member of the Group has any evidence pro or con of the location and usage of FPO 469 at SC3, I think the Editor/members would appreciate a report in order to clarify this question.

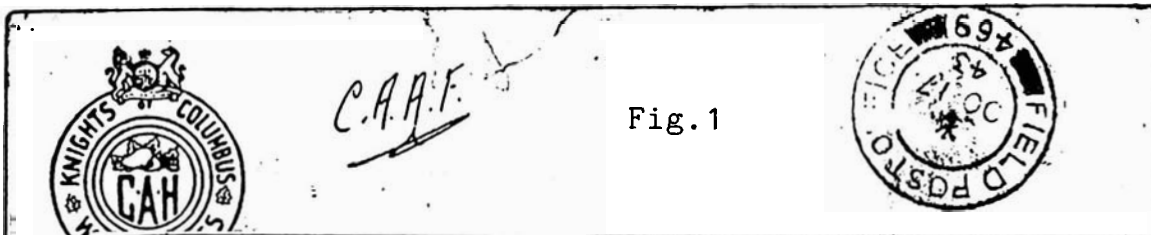


Fig.1

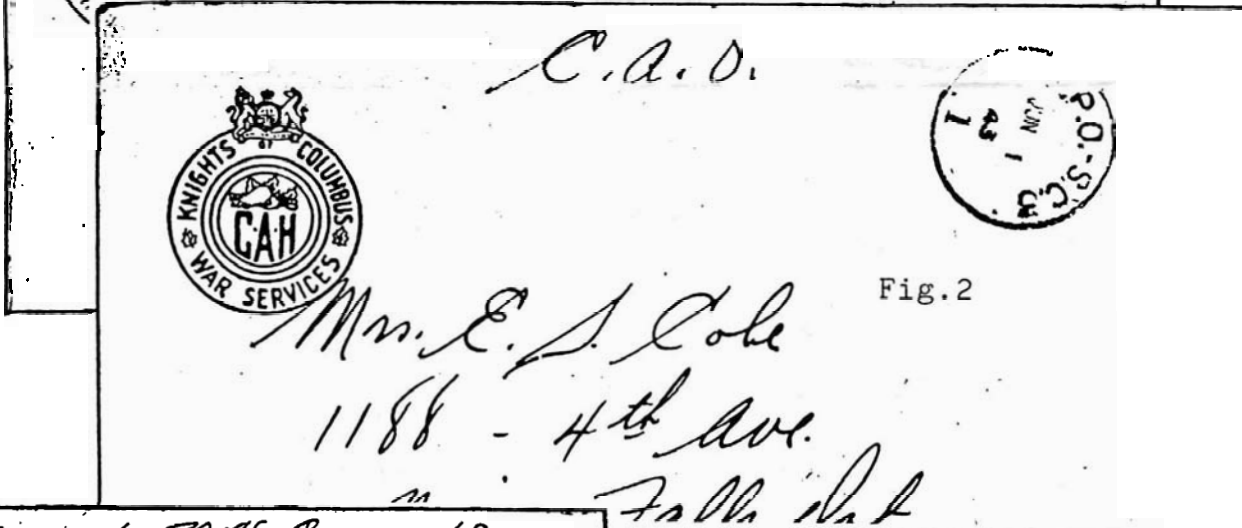


Fig.2

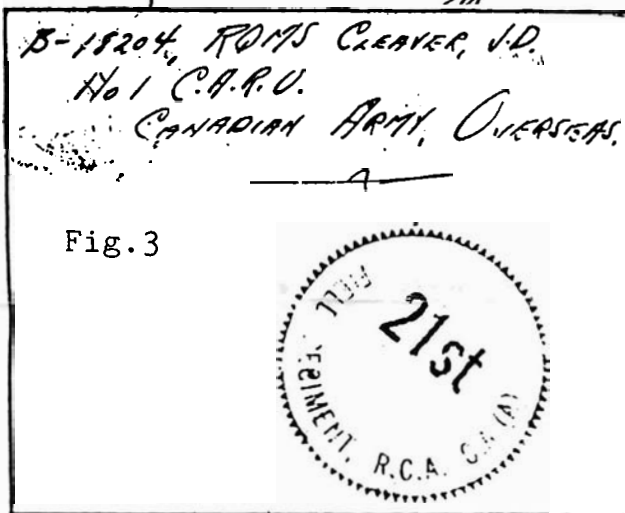


Fig.3

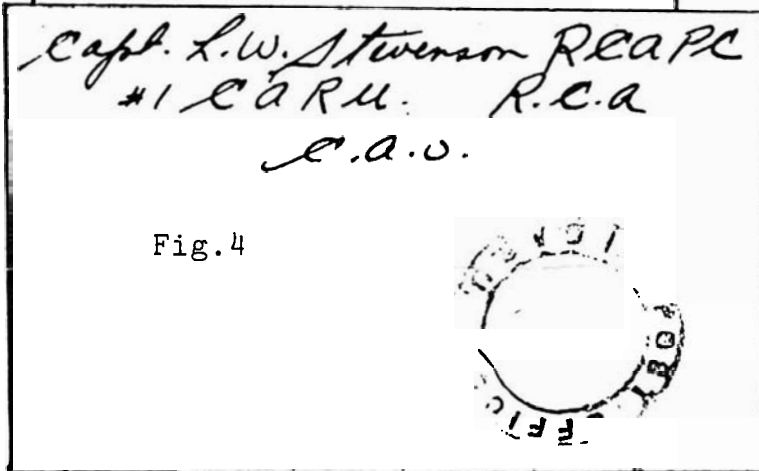


Fig.4

References:

- (1) Bailey, W.J. and E.R. Toop. The Canadian Military Posts, Vol.II: Between the Wars and World War Two, 1920-1946. Ed. E.B. Proud. Heathfield, E. Sussex, U.K.: Proud-Bailey Co., Ltd., 1985.
- (2) The Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter 31. Ed. J.C. Campbell. Kelowna, B.C., March 12, 1979.

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HMCS ARMENTIERES' BADGE?--By Wilf Whitehouse

J. Colin Campbell sent along an item that appears to be the badge of HMCS Armentieres, 1918-45 (illus. reduced) which is 7" high, shiny dark blue cloth with a white felt-like overprinting and attached to a stout canvas backing. The question arises whether or not this is the badge carried by Armentieres, and if so, in what period of her commission?



In this form it's difficult to suggest how it would be used aboard ship, given that a ship's badge was usually displayed on the face of the bridge, on the bows of small boats, tampions of the main gun muzzles, wardroom tableware, and ship stationery etc.

The illustration does not show a panel of three horizontal maple leaves immediately under the ship name and the rope-like surround of the shield which was common to this type of badge (see illustrations of R.C.N. badges in NL #77, p. 528, and NL #123, p. 227).

The insignia within the shield generally contains a design connected to the ship's name. A single maple leaf in this case does not seem to fill this requirement and thus casts some doubt as to this being the true

badge of Armentieres, if in fact she actually prepared one.

In the Royal Navy the shield type was set aside for destroyer and submarine badges, and it's my guess that this type of badge came to the R.C.N. with the Destroyers Saguenay and Skeena built in the U.K. for Canada and completed in mid-1931. It could then have been copied by the handful of small minesweepers in the R.C.N. at the time and later by the wartime corvettes and minesweepers built in Canada.

The dark blue cloth and the white felt-like printing is very similar to a 1940 cushion cover sent to my Mother and it's possible that this may be the origin of the item found by Colin. If any of the members can help with additional information on this item, and particularly whether or not this was the badge carried by Armentieres, it would be greatly appreciated.

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CANADIAN INTERNEES IN IRELAND--By W.G. Robinson

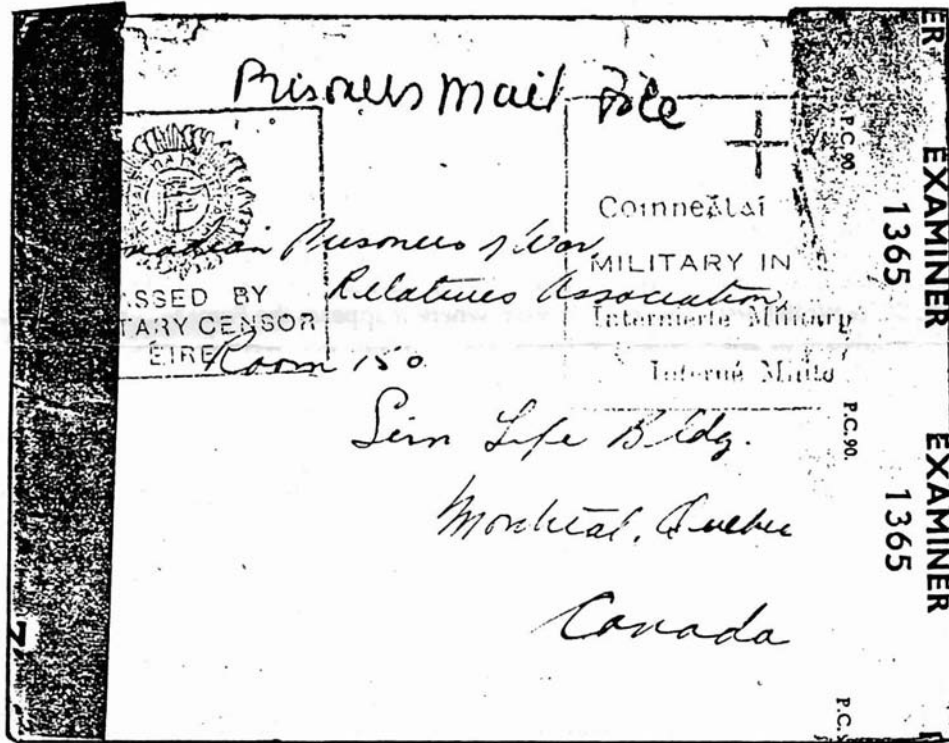
During the Second World War a small number of R.C.A.F. flying crew landed in [neutral] Ireland for various reasons, such as mechanical problems, lack of fuel, or becoming lost in the fog. Such personnel were interned mainly at the Curragh Camp, County Kildare, near Dublin

This cover [illustrated on the following page] was mailed free by J-15499, Flying Officer C.S. Brady, R.C.A.F. Internee, Curragh Camp. It bears boxed rectangular markings in red "PASSED BY MILITARY CENSOR

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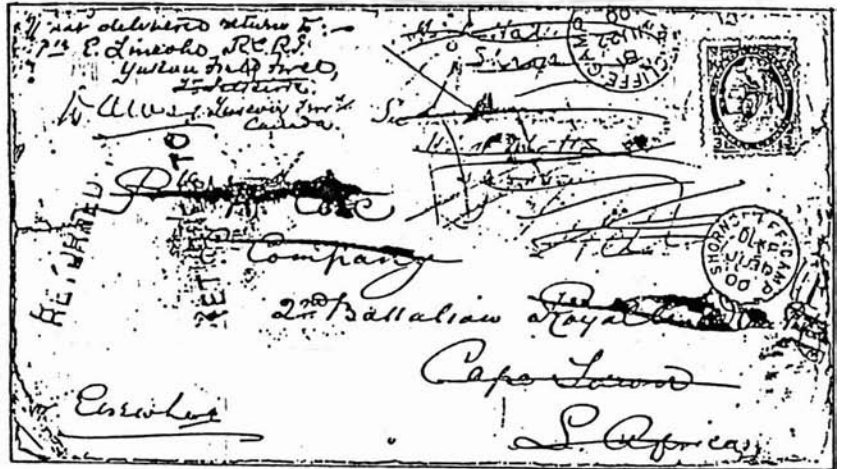
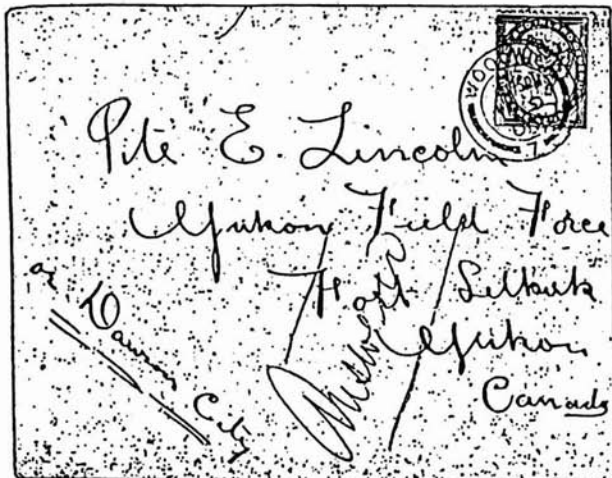
EIRE" and "MILITARY INTERNEE" in four languages. Censorship labels of the Irish and British Post Offices occupy both ends of the envelope. Because of the small number of internees such covers are scarce.



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YUKON FIELD FORCE COVERS RE-VISITED

Members know that covers from the above Force are extremely rare. Two were illustrated in our Newsletter back in 1989 (NL #90, pp. 650-51) and are shown here to refresh members' memories. Some interesting background information on them has come to light recently from Bill Longley.



[Cont'd.]

The following excerpt is reprinted with permission by Dr. Gray Scrimgeour, Editor of the PHSC's The Northerner (Issue No. 25, Oct.-Nov. 1998, p. 827):

### The Northerner

827

#### Response to Item 263. Finding the Yukon Field Force Covers.

Several years ago (Item 263), there was a description of the only two reported covers to or from the Yukon Field Force. Bill Longley has found some notes written by Allan Steinhart, about how he found and sold a series of covers. One of these notes tells about finding the Field Force covers:

On Sat. Oct 20, 1979 I went to Guelph to the annual Guelph Stamp Club show. I didn't expect much but lo & behold I bought a pair of the nicest covers I ever found. Barry Masters stopped and produced a cover franked with a 3¢ numeral from Pte. E. Lincoln, Royal Canadian Regiment I, Yukon Field Force, Ft. Selkirk, Yukon to a fellow private in the second battalion in South Africa during the Boer War. It could not be delivered and so was returned after passing thru Shorncliffe Camp, England, Vancouver, Lake Bennett, BC & Whitehorse, Yukon to Dawson where it appears the Force was not now stationed. He was very excited and knew what the cover was. I asked if it were for sale and when it was suggested it might be I promptly said "I will pay five hundred dollars for this cover." I think he went into shock the way he held it and I said "Well" at which point he said O.k. He then pulled out a second cover from Woolwich, England to Pte. E. Lincoln, Yukon Field Force for which I promptly offered an additional two hundred dollars.

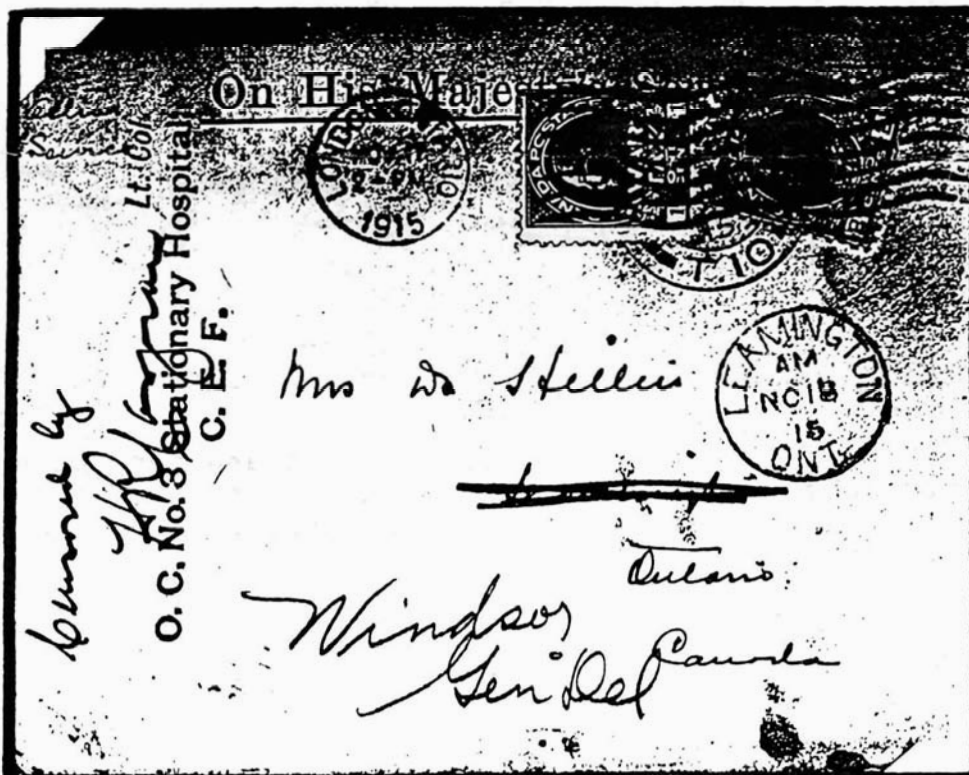
As I wrote out the cheque for \$700, Dick Lamb who was standing close to me leaned over and whispered to me there were no known covers from the Yukon Field Force. I knew this of course. I have priced the pair at \$4000.00 for sale and really don't care if I sell them.

Oct 31/79 - raised the price to 6000.00 & sent with D.I.J. to Vancouver

Nov 6/79 - sold them to Sam Nickle to-day for \$6000.00

They sold quickly! And were expensive, even in 1979. I don't think the word "nicest" applies to them, but they certainly are desirable, rare, and important. And Al certainly loved them, even if he only owned them for a few weeks. He talked about them for years.

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NO. 3 STATIONARY HOSPITAL, C.E.F. CENSOR--  
By Colin Pomfret

No.3 Canadian Stationary Hospital arrived on Lemnos on the 17th of August and apparently without a censor stamp as Lt. Col. H.R. Casgrain, O.C., has hand-censored this cover.

The staff of the Canadian hospitals in the Eastern Mediterranean laboured under deplorable conditions. This and other irregularities in the C.A.M.C. finally led to the investigation of the Canadian Medical Services by

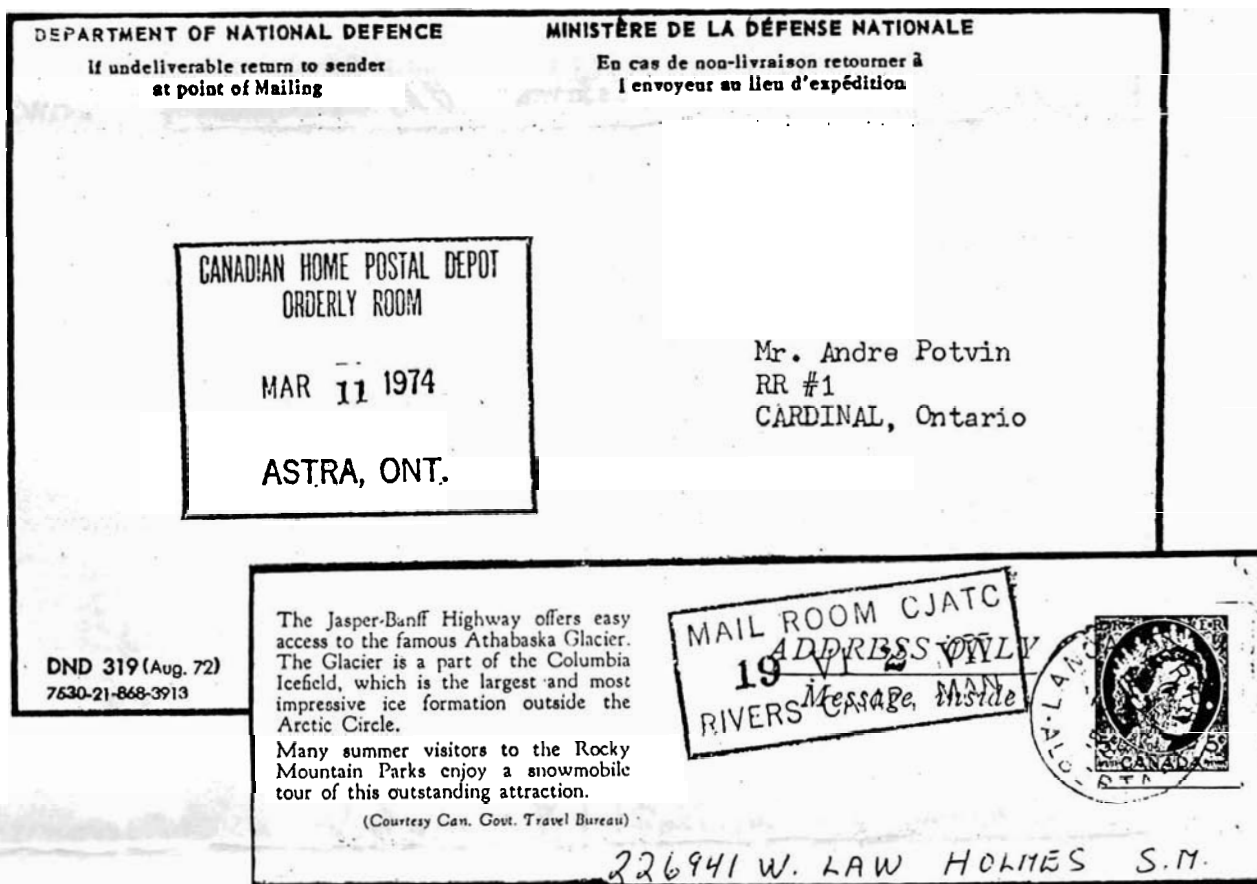
[Cont'd.]

Colonel Bruce. The cover bears the FPO T10 14 SP 15 postmark of the 10th (Irish) Div. Train, Lemnos.

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TWO INTERESTING MODERN-DAY MARKINGS--By A.D. Hanes

Dave sent in the following two items which, he noted, are quite unusual and seldom-seen items. The CANADIAN HOME POSTAL DEPOT O/R marking is on a D.N.D. 319 (reduced for the purposes of illus.) cover, and the CANADIAN JOINT ARMY TRAINING CENTRE mail room handstamp at Rivers Camp, Manitoba is on a "Folkard" from Lancaster Park, Alberta in June, 1958.



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VICTORIA ARMY BARRACKS-102ND R.M.R.--By J.C. Campbell

The title "Rocky Mountain Rangers" came about on January 1, 1900 when five independent rifle companies joined forces. They were from Nelson, Rossland, Kamloops, Kaslo, and Revelstoke, B.C.

Later on April 1, 1908, additional amalgamation occurred and the 102nd Regiment was formed. On June 1, 1909 two more companies were added and the new unit was designated the "Rocky Mountain Rangers" with headquarters at Nelson, B.C. The first Commanding Officer was Lt. Col. W.J. Holmes. A number of changes took place in the next three years with companies disbanding and others joining until September 3, 1912 when headquarters was moved to Kamloops, B.C. and Lt. Col. J.R. Vicars became Commanding Officer.

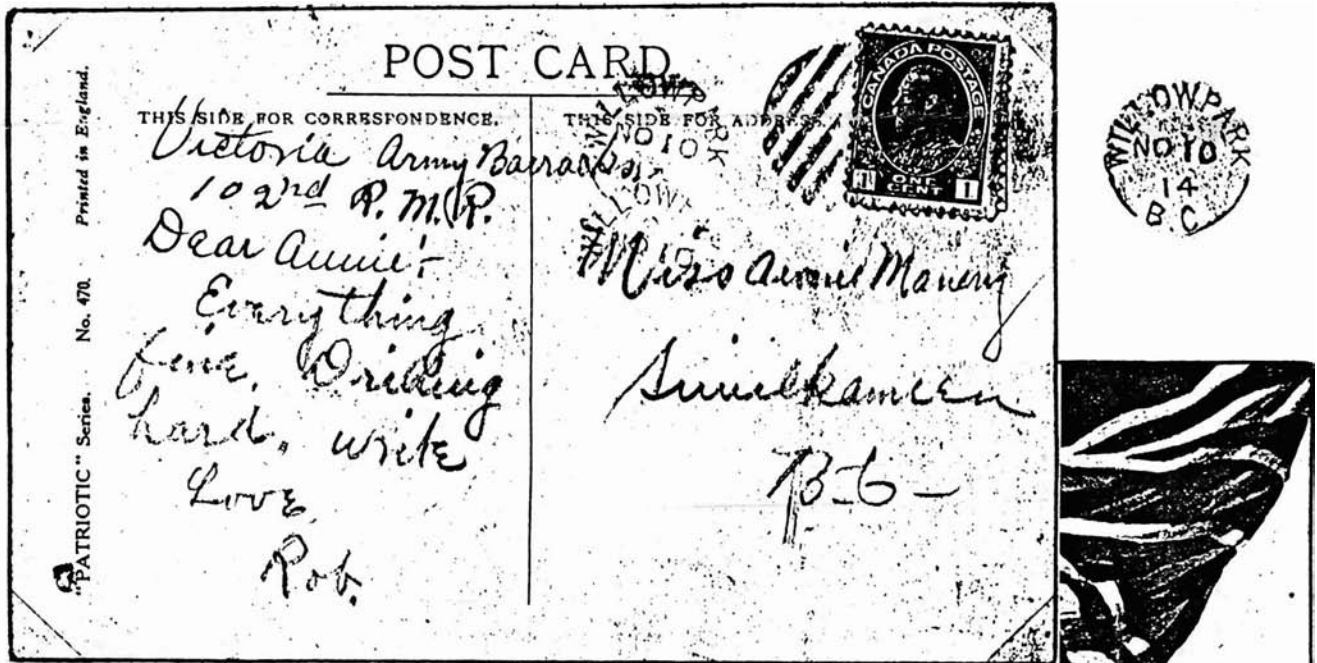
The Regiment was placed on active service August 14, 1914 mainly for

[Cont'd.]

local protective duties. A few members joined the 7th Battalion, C.E.F., for overseas service.

In January 1916 Lt. Col. Vicars was ordered to begin recruiting for the 172nd Battalion, C.E.F. which eventually sailed for England in October. The 172nd was broken up to provide reinforcements for the Canadian Corps; about 800 soldiers in all.

The 102nd remained in existence, on paper, for the remainder of the war. [Illustrated below is a postcard sent from a member of the 102nd R.M.R. at Victoria Army Barracks with illustrated postmarks. Information from the Canadian Almanac, 1914 related to the 102nd is also included.]



**102nd** Regt. "Rocky Mountain Rangers." (Nelson, B.C.) (1st April, 1908). Motto: "Kloshe Nanitch." Hon'y Col. Col. J. G. Holmes (ret.). Lt. Col. J. R. Vicars. Maj. F. O. Wolfenden. Cos. and Cpts.: (a) Kamloops, C. Wain; (b) Kamloops, J. W. Clark; (c) Armstrong, E. T. Peter; (d) Revelstoke, R. H. Sawyer; (e) Kelowna, ... (f) ... Adj. Capt. E. Fisher. Sig. Of. ... Or. M. Hon'y Lt. F. Harding. Med. Of. ... Hon'y Capt. Rev. F. H. Graham.

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This is the **LAST ISSUE** of your subscription!

...If you have not renewed! Please send your fees to Bill as soon as possible!

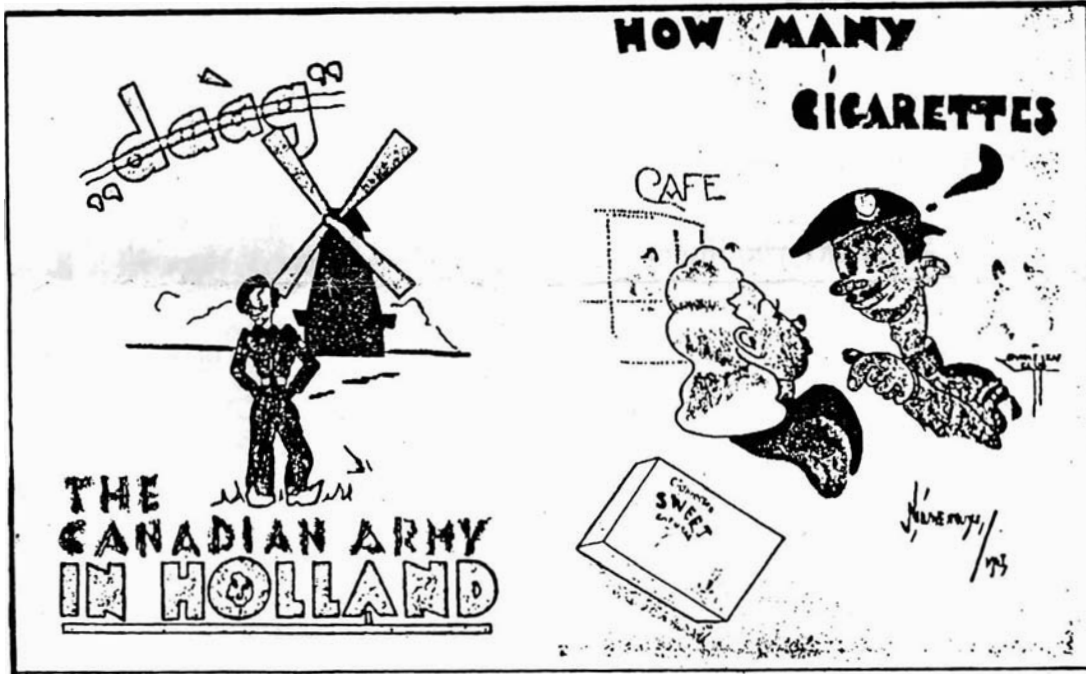
THANK YOU!





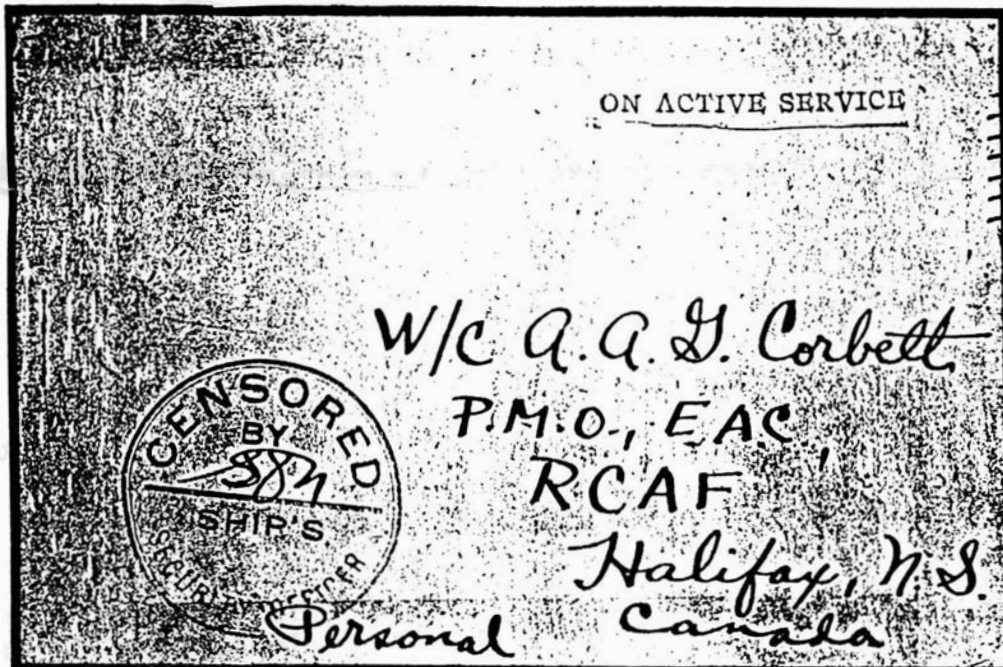
THE CANADIANS IN LIBERATED HOLLAND--By Walter Veraart

Walter sent in this copy of the cover from a joke book about the Canadian Army in The Netherlands. It is similar to the humorous post-cards sent in by Ken Ellison (NL #125, p. 250; NL #131, p. 310), and Colin Pomfret (NL #124, p. 236).



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SHIP'S "SECURITY OFFICER" CENSOR--By A.D. Hanes



Dave sent in the unusual cover illustrated at left.

The "Ship's Security Officer" censor is interesting and is not often seen with a Canadian connection. It may have been used on a troopship (as noted by Wilf Whitehouse) and may not be of Canadian origin.

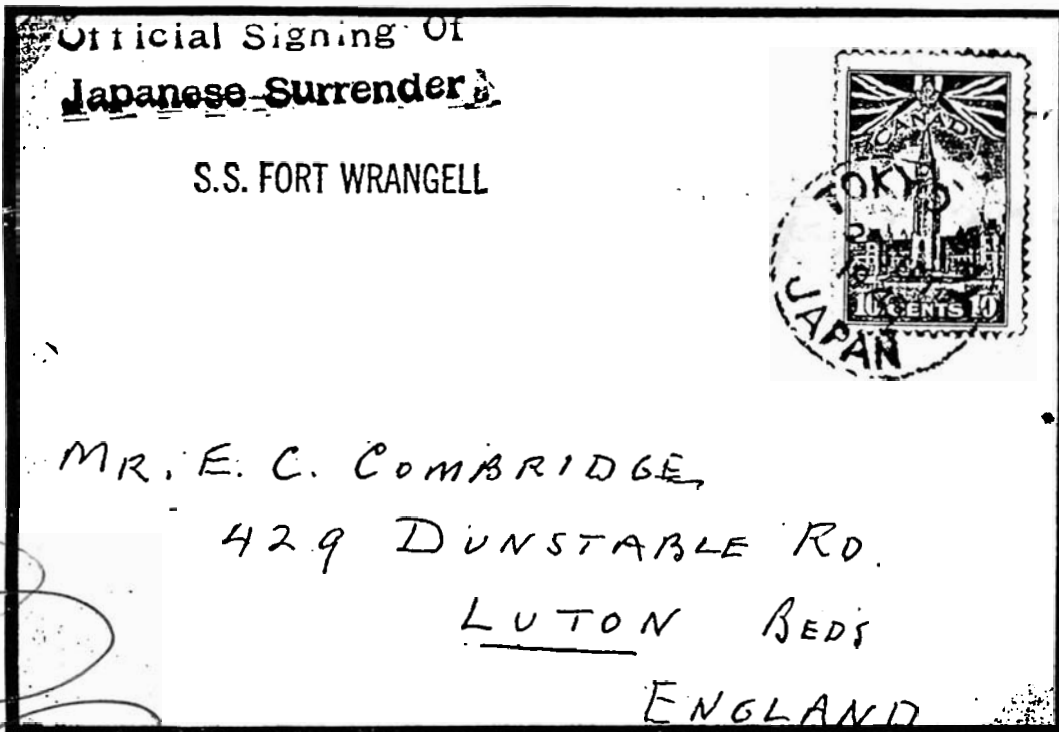
Can members shed any more light on the marking?

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1945 JAPANESE SURRENDER/TOKYO BAY--By John Daynes

John sent in this item below which is unusual given its Canadian connection and the 10¢ Peace Tower "paquebot" franking aboard the S.S. Fort Wrangell. It appears to be a philatelic souvenir of the official signing of surrender on September 2 which took place in Tokyo Bay aboard the U.S.S. Missouri. The connection of the Fort Wrangell is unclear. Perhaps members can enlighten the rest of us and provide more information.



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Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

Happy New Year! Bill and I hope that your Christmas went well and trust 1999 will go even better! Thanks are extended to members who've sent in their dues. Thanks too are extended to members for keeping the cupboard full of material and it is hoped that I can provide members with more interesting newsletters this year.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH REGRET:

BEVERLY CLARK, ROBERT BAYES, JAMES R. HILL

Organizers of BNAPEX '99 in Vernon this fall are busy and a reminder is extended to members thinking about attending/exhibiting. It is not too early to make arrangements! Until March, good collecting!

NEW ADDRESS: DR. E.L. COVERT, GENERAL DELIVERY, RAYMOND, AB TOK 2S0

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SMALL ADS

WANTED: Dept. of Militia and/or National Defence, Director of Records covers, 1912-1955; RCAMC mail any period; covers from South Africa to Canada 1942-45 with rectangular free franking cachets. J.C. Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Rd., Vernon, BC V1B 1L3.  
(1/5)

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WANTED: Cdn. military postmarks on cover from Korean War. Needed for exhibit: CFPO 25 (without dash); CFPO 28 (with/without); CFPO 29 (without); CFPO 30 (with/without); CFPO 32. Also registration/other markings. S. Luciuk, 1542 E. Heights, Saskatoon, SK S7J 3B5. (3/3)