



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

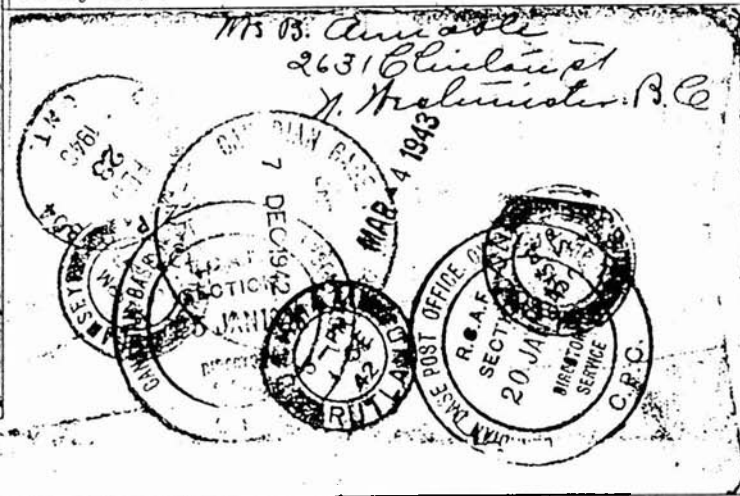
MAY 1999

NEWSLETTER NO. 140
Page 403

A MUCH-TRAVELLED RE-DIRECTED SOLDIER'S LETTER--By David H. Whiteley

I recently obtained this illustrated cover. It was sent by surface mail from New Westminster, B.C. on Aug 5/1 PM/1942 to "R.57754, Sgt. Dieringer, c/o American Eagle Club, London, England" (crossed out in blue crayon). It has a London receiver "2:15 PM/2 SEP/42" and a black straightline "2-SEP 1942". Initially it was redirected to the "Sgts.' Mess, RAF Station Upwood, Hunting-

donshire" (crossed out in blue crayon).



A red manuscript "Transferred to R.C.A.F. Manchester" was also crossed out then endorsed "140 to 14 O.T.U." Two forms "Post-54/40 P & S/1140/RECORDS SHOW ADDRESS AS _____/IF MOVED, MAIL SHOULD BE REDIRECTED/TO NEW ADDRESS" labels are attached. The top one reads "REPAT 149 SQ". It appears that at sometime this letter was re-directed to P.D.C. W. Kirby (West Kirby, Cheshire). A red manuscript "Return to RCAF Base P.O." and a purple straightline "ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA" are on the front.

On the reverse there are several backstamps including "London 2 SEP 42", "Ramsey 3 SEP 42", and somewhere in "Rutland Co. 1 DE 42". A purple "CANADIAN BASE POST OFFICE C.P.O. ENTERED 7 DEC 1942", a purple "CAN-

[Cont'd.]

CHAIRMAN/TREASURER: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5
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ADIAN BASE POST OFFICE OVERSEAS C.P.C./RCAF/SECTION/DIRECTORY SERVICE/20 JAN 1943", a purple "CANADIAN BASE POST OFFICE OVERSEAS C.P.C./RCAF/SECTION/DIRECTORY SERVICE/25 JAN 1943", a blue "OTTAWA, ONT. M.P.O. 304 FEB 23 1943", and finally a purple straightline date of "MAR 4 1943" are all marked on the back of the cover. Even though the cover's travels from Canada to the U.K., its travels around the U.K. and back to Canada are complete, we still cannot be sure that the addressee finally received his letter.

Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

Late spring is here and the early flowers are just beginning to poke their heads out and it must be time for another Newsletter! I hope all is well with everyone as it is here in "rainy" Saskatchewan. Members' support with material is most appreciated and you will see some wonderful articles included within this edition. Please don't forget that the Newsletter is also a great research tool and members frequently request information--please help all of us if you can and participate! Thank you!

This will be the final Newsletter before BNAPEX '99 in Vernon and it is hoped that we can have a tremendous turn-out for our Study Group meeting. It is also hoped that the BNAPS award honouring the late E.R. "Ritch" Toop (one of our previous Study Group Chairmen) will be in place for the Convention. Our present Chairman, Bill Bailey, hopes to see everyone at the show (plans are still tentative for your Editor!).

Unfortunately it is not known if the PHSC's "Ritch Toop Award" was presented at ORAPEX '99 but a salute goes to our own Bob Toombs (details elsewhere).

Bill and I want to extend our very best for the upcoming summer months and hope that it is safe and sunny (and not too cool for our members south of the Equator!). The next Newsletter will be issued in late August/early September. Until then, keep cool and dry!

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO:

JEROME C. JARNICK, 108 DUNCAN DR., TROY, MI USA 48098-4613--Collects ?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

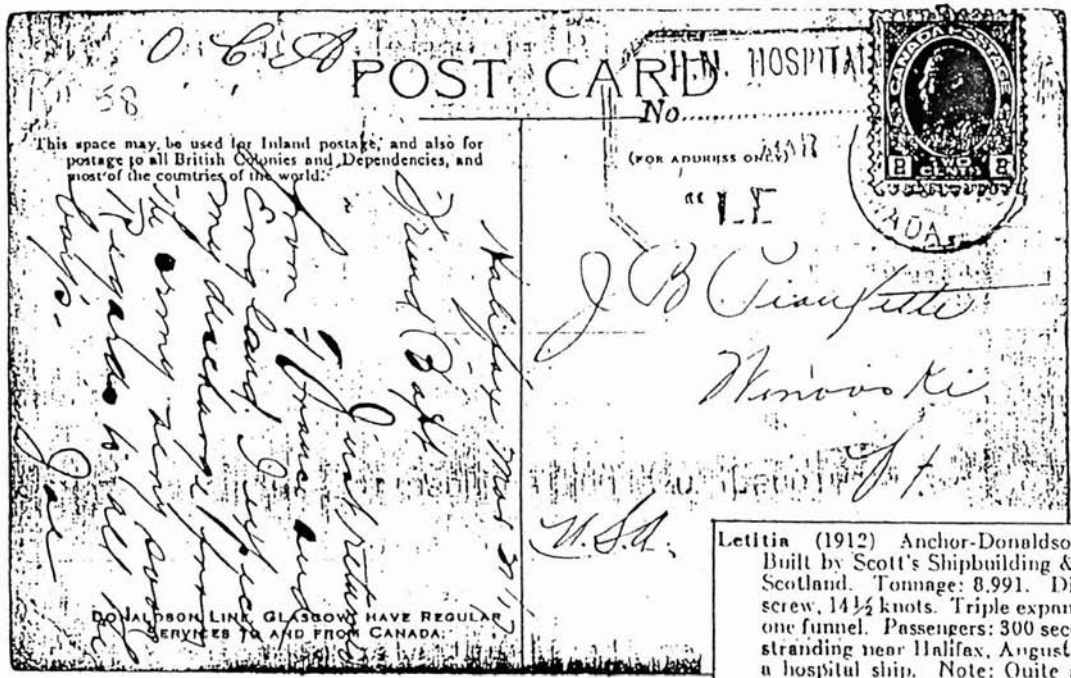
PETER J. MCCARTHY, 573 GRIFFITH ST., LONDON, ON N6K 2S5
DR. E.L. COVERT, 187 W. 200 S AVE., RAYMOND, AB TOK 2S0
ERIC P. YENDALL, CANADIAN EMBASSY, 23 STAROKONYUSHENNY PEREULOK,
121002 MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY 

This publication is an excellent magazine for anyone interested in Canadian military history (non-postal history though!). It is issued four times per year for \$32 (international subscriptions are \$27 US). Lots of superb photo illustrations (often archival), in-depth articles, and new subscribers receive a free introductory issue! Contact C.M.H., Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5.

A PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED HOSPITAL SHIP
HANDSTAMP--By John Frith

I acquired this illustrated postcard which has a handstamp used by H.M.H.S. Letitia that I don't believe has been recorded elsewhere. The obverse of the card shows the ship in her hospital colouring of white with a broad green horizontal stripe containing three large red crosses. The double-bordered octogonal-shaped handstamp (blue) reads as follows: 'H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP/No...../MAR. 19, 1917/"LETITIA"'.
 58
 This space may be used for inland postage, and also for postage to all British Colonies and Dependencies, and most of the countries of the world.
 (FOR ADDRESS ONLY)
 "LE
 J B Cianfetti
 Monrovia
 U.S.A.
 DONALDSON LINE GLASGOW HAVE REGULAR SERVICES TO AND FROM CANADA.



Letitia (1912) Anchor-Donaldson Line. Built by Scott's Shipbuilding & Engineering Co., Greenock, Scotland. Tonnage: 8,991. Dimensions: 470' x 56'. Twin-screw, 14 1/2 knots. Triple expansion engines. Two masts and one funnel. Passengers: 300 second and 1,000 third. Lost by stranding near Halifax, August 1, 1917, while being used as a hospital ship. Note: Quite similar to her running mate the Saturnia.

The Letitia served with the Royal Navy from November 18, 1914, most actively in the Mediterranean Service (1), until joining the Canadian Service on April 13, 1917. She had a crew of 60, carried 550 patients and 60 C.A.M.C. personnel, and made five trips carrying a total of 2,635 patients between Liverpool and Halifax (2 & 3). She was run onto the rocks by her pilot ten miles outside of Halifax at 10:15 a.m. on her final voyage on August 1, 1917 (2).

It should be noted that a later handstamp used by Letitia was illustrated in NL 68, p. 457.

References:

- (1) Plumbridge, John H. Hospital Ships and Ambulance Trains. London, U.K.: Seeley, Service & Co., 1975.
- (2) A short history of the ship, written and signed by her Captain G.M. Davis on a postcard of the ship dated August 6, 1917, is in the writer's personal collection.
- (3) Macphail, Sir Andrew. Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War 1914-1919, The Medical Services. Ottawa: King's Printer, 1925.

B

BNAPEX '99 STUDY GROUP MEETING

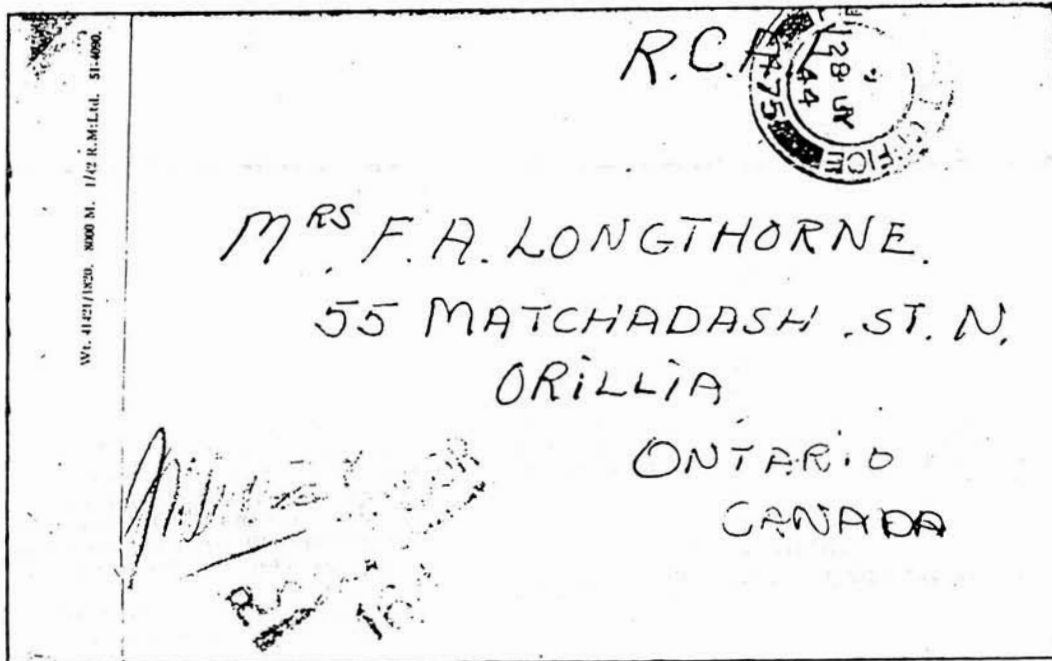
Member Joe Smith has kindly volunteered to conduct a short presentation on his family's connection with the Cdn. Siberian Expeditionary Force. Thanks Joe! We're looking forward to it.

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THE R.C.A.F. IN WEST AFRICA--By W.G. Robinson

Numerous R.C.A.F. personnel were stationed along the aircraft staging route through Africa. One of the largest bases was at Takoradi Airfield, near Accra, in the Gold Coast.

This cover was mailed by an R.C.A.F. Flight Sergeant to Orillia, Ontario. It bears a censoring officer's signature, the handstamp of R.A.F. Censor No.164, and has been re-sealed by a gummed label reading "Wt.41421/1820.8000M. 1/42 R.M.Ltd. 51-4090.".



It was mailed from Field Post Office 175 on July 28, 1944. According to Proud, this canceller was lost in Greece in 1941 and not used again. A backstamp shows examination by R.A.F. Base Censor No.5 (Gibraltar) on July 28, 1944. The return address is "c/o Postal Hdqrs. British West African Forces".

GREAT WAR POSTMARKS RE-VISITED--By David Whiteley

I attended the Military Study Group Seminar during the BNAPS Convention several years ago in which the First World War Canadian APO's were discussed. I came across an article written in 1967 by Dr. W.M. Carstairs entitled "Canadian Forces Postmarks, 1885-1919" in Stamp Collecting Weekly, October 26, 1967, p.451. In view of the discussion in Edmonton I thought that Carstairs' remarks regarding External Camps during the Great War is worth repeating for member's interest. The last paragraph is particularly significant where Carstairs states "Even now, 50 years after their usage, it is difficult to be dogmatic about the listing given here, and it is hoped that there are not too many inaccuracies.". Another 32 years has passed since Carstairs penned those words and judging from the previous discussions in Edmonton, there is still considerable confusion regarding the usage and locale of many of the cancelling devices used during the Great War. Perhaps this abbreviated article will solve some problems and enable others to approach the subject with an open mind. [I often find these earlier

[Cont'd.]

articles and works of interest, although they are often updated with new information--much of which comes within the Newsletter. The article is a good introduction for basic information but members are cautioned that much has passed in the last 32 years to perhaps update some of the findings. Ed.]



Fig. 6.

Canadian Forces
Postmarks
(continued from
page 449)



Fig. 7.

A rubber hand-stamp was used at Camp Borden, and roller cancellations at Aldershot Camp, Camp Borden, Camp Hughes, Niagara Camp (Fig. 6), and Petawawa Camp for parcels, packets and newspapers.

Machine cancellations were used briefly at Camp Borden, Toronto and Valcartier Camp.

Nearly all these cancellations were made between 1909 and 1919, and the survivors were still in use at the outbreak of World War II. Therefore they can be sought for on the stamps of this period, but particularly on the Admiral issues of 1912-22.

External Camps

So much for the camps in Canada. We must now go back to the beginning of the war to record some of the date-stamps used outside the Dominion.

The first contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force concentrated at Valcartier in August 1914, and then sailed for England, taking with them several Expeditionary Force postmarks (Fig. 7), which were used on Salisbury Plain until the contingent embarked for France in February 1915.

The different sub-types of these attractive postmarks are almost impossible to separate; suffice it to say that the rubber hand-stamps differ from the steel ones by their purple colour and coarser lettering. They are usually found cancelling British K.G.V ½d. and 1d. stamps. A smaller type also exists, but only proof impressions are known.

Certain Canadian base units remained in England throughout the war, and many G.P.O.-pattern date-stamps were issued, but they seem to have been used only as receiving or forwarding marks and are, thus, rarely seen. Examples of the types used are: the double-ring circle (Fig. 8); the registered oval (Fig. 9); and the skeleton mark (Fig. 10), here mis-spelt REGISTERED. A few date-stamps were also produced with C.F.P.O. above, and numbers from "1 E" to "8 E" below.

In addition to these elusive camp postmarks, cancellers were also required at the Dominion Army Letter Office and the Canadian Record Office. The Dominion Army Letter Office, or D.A.L.O., was part of the Home Depot of the



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

Army Postal Service in Regent's Park, London, and was responsible for the sorting and distribution of mail between Canada and units in England, France and other theatres of war.

The postmarks were standard G.P.O. pattern, inscribed "D.A.L.O., London", as Fig. 11. The letter "R" above the date signifies registered usage. More usually, "A" or "B" are seen.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

The Canadian Record Office was situated at Green Arbour House, Old Bailey, E.C.4, and dealt with the redirection of mail returned via the D.A.L.O. A single-ring date-stamp with CANADIAN RECORD OFFICE above and POSTAL DESPATCHED was one of the postmarks used.

The Canadian contingent crossed to France in February 1915, and soon became integrated with the Allied Armies already there. Eventually, there were 150,000 Canadians on the Continent. I understand that about two-thirds of them formed the four Canadian Divisions which made up the Canadian Corps. The remaining 50,000 men were attached to formations other than Canadian and used the British Army postal services.

The Canadian Corps, at the height of its operations, had 31 post offices open, using standard G.P.O. equipment—the double-ring circle. Until 1917, the suffix "X" was employed for Canadian units, but, to avoid confusion with the Tenth British Corps, it was then altered to "P". A second alteration took place in 1918-19, when a few post offices were re-numbered in the "C" series (the "C" being a prefix).

The original list, then, was as follows:—

- H.Q. Canadian Corps: Field Post Office HX.
- 4 Divisional H.Q. P.O.s: Field Post Offices D.X. 1-4
- 12 Infantry Brigade P.O.s: Field Post Offices 1X-12X
- 1 Cavalry Brigade P.O.: Field Post Office C.X. 1.
- 4 Divisional Railhead P.O.s: Army Post Offices R.X. 1-4.
- 5 Divisional Train P.O.s: Field Post Offices T.X. 1-4 and T.X.
- 1 P.O. for Canadian Corps Troops: Field Post Office DX.
- 1 P.O. for Training & Reinforcement Camp: Army Post Office S.84.
- 1 Base Depot P.O. (at Etaples): Army Post Office S.22 and:— 1 Postal Record Office.

In the 1917 renumbering scheme, H.Q. Canadian Corps used Field Post Office date-stamp "H.P.1."; the Divisional P.O.s used "D.P.1" to "D.P.4."; the Cavalry Brigade, "C.P.1."; and the Divisional Trains, "T.P.1" to "T.P.4.". Field Post Office "T.P.5" was a new one for a proposed fifth division. The Army Post Offices, being stationary, as opposed to mobile, offices probably remained the same.

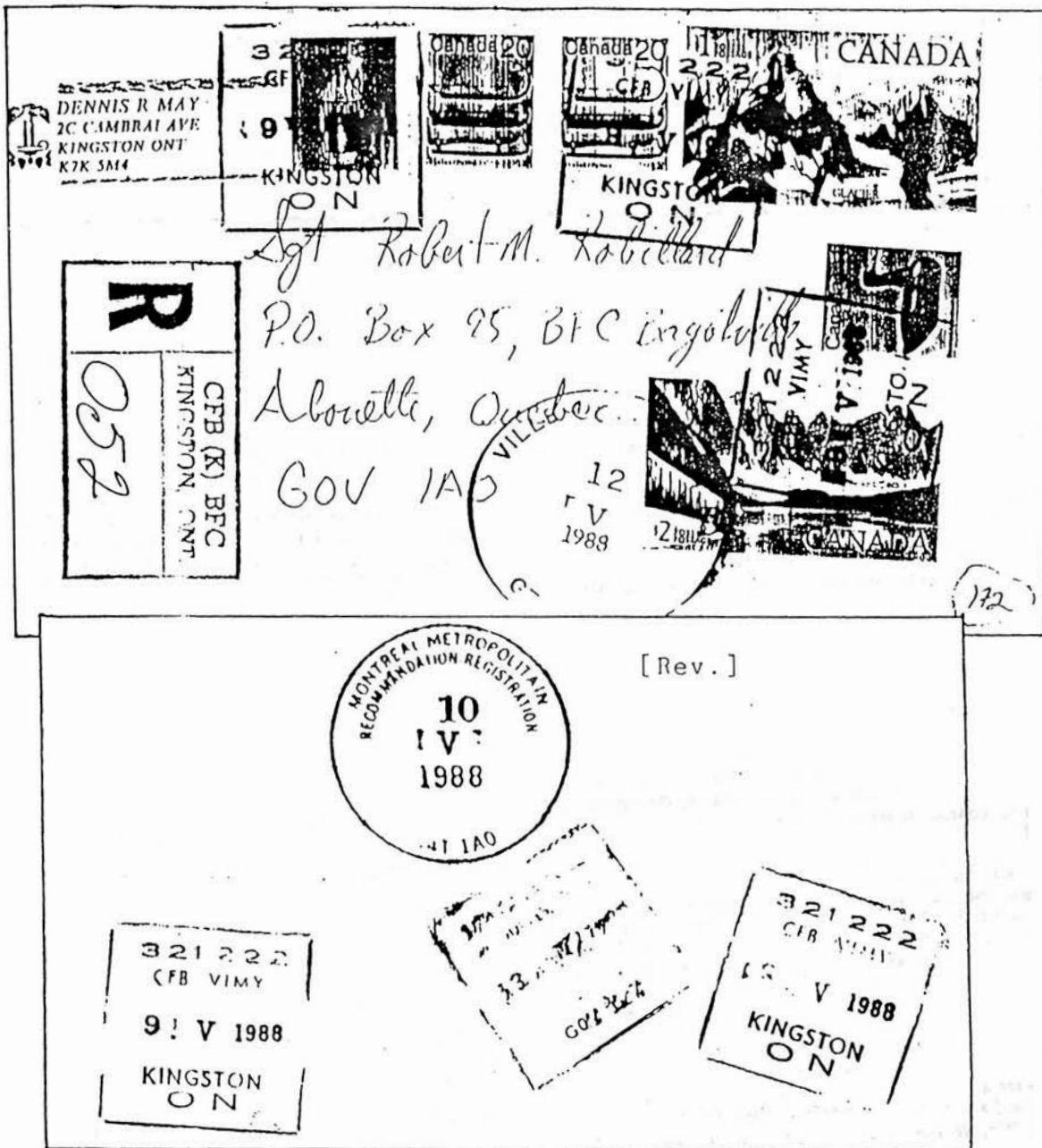
In the last re-shuffle many of the post offices had closed, and so only a few numbers can be found. For example, Field Post Office "7.P" became "C.7".

Postmarks can also be found for the 2nd Canadian Section at Rouen and the 11th Canadian Section at Etaples. Even now, 50 years after their usage, it is difficult to be dogmatic about the listing given here, and it is hoped that there are not too many inaccuracies.

(Continued on page 453)

CANADIAN FORCES BASE (K)-KINGSTON

Here is a cover showing an unusual registered usage from CFB Kingston in May 1988. Given the rather low registration number of "52" for May, one might presume that these various markings will be somewhat difficult to find in the future. The cover was sent to CFB/BFC Bagotville. Are any of our members currently studying these modern markings? It may be an interesting area to pursue.



EDMONTON '99 SPRING NATIONAL SHOW



Congratulations are due to members who received awards at this show recently held in Edmonton. Bob Toombs was awarded a Silver for his exhibit as well as the PHSC's E.R. "Ritch" Toop Award. It was entitled "Canadian NATO Mails, 1951-64". Steve Luciuk's "Saskatchewan and Military Conflict, 1885-1945" (Display Class) was awarded a First, and D. Mario's "For Valour: The Victoria Cross" (Display Class) received a Second. Congratulations also to non-military exhibitors: Ken Barlow, Earle Covert, and Joe Smith.

THE RCMP IN HAITI--By Wilf Whitehouse

UNSMIH  MANUH
 UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN HAITI
 MISSION D'APPUI DES NATIONS UNIES
 EN HAITI

082 V&B 3AD 970905 05 30 NS-11111111

Literacy/Alphabé



C/O NCO 1/2 RCMP (TELECOMS)
 1230 - 102ND AVENUE
 DAWSON CREEK,
 BC

VIG 4U3

Although I've seen this particular U.N. cancel on a couple of occasions in past Newsletters, the corner card on this cover above might be of interest to some people [the cover has been reduced from a no. 10 size for illustration purposes. Ed.]. I would have thought that the RCMP had their own corner card, and perhaps they did, but this fellow just happened to use this one.

NO.2 SQN., CANADIAN AIR FORCE--By A.D. Hanes

Dave sent in these two very rare postcards from Upper Heyford, Great Britain identified from a member of No.2 Squadron, C.A.F. Both are dated 1919.


90C-3230353
 Can Air Force
 Upper Heyford
 Down by

POST CARD.

This Space may be used for Communication in the British Isles Etc

The Address only to be Written Here

Monday 27/19
 Dear Mother
 I have just return from london where I spent my leave. On arriving back I found the box also letter with money order. I wish I could have received the money order before going on leave as I was certainly very short of money I would have liked to have bought several articles as presents to send to Canada but it was impossible under the conditions. There is no room of any size with in bounds for this camp. (it) will try to get a walk and (on) london 27/19

VE

 THREE HALFPENCE

*Mrs E. S. Shier
 877 Bay street Ave
 Toronto Ont
 Canada*

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. SALMON, STERNSHAKES, ENGLAND. WITH COLOUR DRAWING BY A. R. QUINLAN.

[Cont'd.]

Canadian Soldier Letter

same add POST CARD.

This Space may be used for Communication in the British Isles, Etc

The Address only to be Written Here.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. SALMON SEVENAKES, ENGLAND. DRAWING BY A. R. QUINTON. FROM AN ORIGINAL WATER COLOUR.

Near Mother Fri Feb 14/19

*I received your letter
of your car and
the engine of
wheels brake down on the
street. No doubt it would
give you quite a shock
I also received the order
I will drop you a letter
shortly Geo.*

*Mrs E. S. Shier
87 Troopster
Toronto Ont
Canada*

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A CURIOUS "O.A.S." MARKING (1952)--By Doug Sayles

on active service

OAS

*Miss Loretta Lateur
1092 Danforth Ave
C/o Lida Brill
Toronto, Ont.
Canada*

May 19.

The above is a CFPO 27 cover, dated "21 V 52", which unfortunately doesn't photocopy well. This is the first time I've seen this "OAS" ("On Active Service") handstamp. I would guess that it was to emphasize the post-free status of this soldier's letter. Was this applied at the Unit level or is it a marking applied by the Postal Corps, either in Korea or Vancouver? It seems redundant because the writer put "On Active Service" at the centre top of the envelope.



DUES OVERDUE? If there is a red star on p. 403 it denotes that dues have yet to be received by Bill. This will be your last Newsletter if dues are not sent. Please send Bill the nominal payment or advise him that you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter. Thank you!

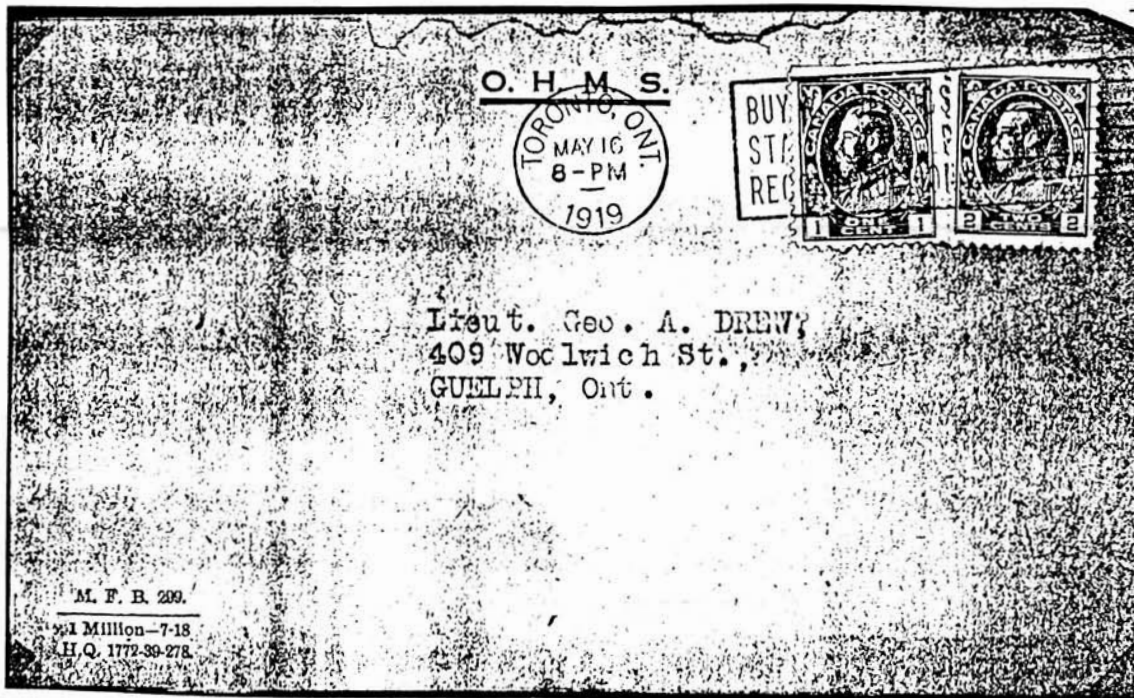
G.A. DREW IN THE GREAT WAR--By J.C. Campbell

George Alexander Drew was born in Guelph, Ontario on May 7, 1894. He enlisted in 1914 at age twenty, going overseas with the Canadian Artillery. Severely wounded in 1916, he was invalided to Canada in 1917 and was discharged from the Army in 1919.

George
Alexander
Drew



Drew's military service involved both the Militia (11th, 16th, and 64th Batteries) and



the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Canadian Field Artillery. His favourite article of clothing was his red and blue artillery tie. He served as President of the Canadian Artillery Association in 1932-33. Colonel Drew was [also] a prolific writer [and] two of his books were The Truth About the War (1928) and Canada's Fighting Airmen (1930).

Perhaps best known for his public service, George Drew was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1920, practiced law in Guelph, and [was] later named Master of the Supreme Court of Ontario in 1929. He was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1939 and became Premier of Ontario from 1943 until 1948. Elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1948, he became Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons from 1949 until 1956. Resigning that seat he became Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom from 1957 until 1965.

George Drew died in Toronto, Ontario on January 4, 1973.

FPO 469 RE-VISITED--By W.J. Bailey

Bill writes: "About FPO 469 [NL 138, pp.382-83]. It was reported lost by enemy action Dec. 3, 1943 in Proud's "British" book (Vol.III, p.402). The "Canadian" Proud book lists Algeria, Sicily, and Italy (1 CRG--1 Canadian Reinforcement Group) for SC 415 not 415. SC 415 used the British FPO 600 as their datestamp. SC 3 could well have used FPO 469

[Cont'd.]

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at 1 C.A.R.U. They did move the British FPO cancellers around and I am always making minor corrections. The C.O.P.D. in London used SC 20 as well as SC 2 and FPO 469 was originally sent there. Anyway, John has quite a rare cover there!"

RESEARCH TOOLS NOW AVAILABLE

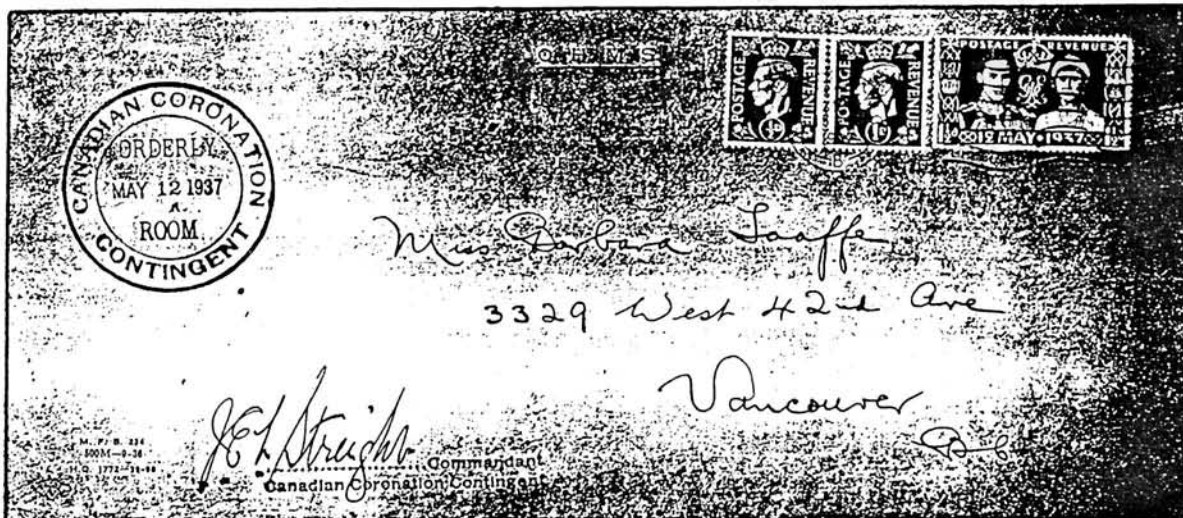
Members are fully aware of non-philatelic research sources which help to "add more to the story" about their covers and military postal history. Access to Internet sources recently (especially archival) has "opened the floodgates" and members may find the following particularly useful:

1) The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has introduced a website at www.cwgc.org which will certainly benefit philatelic military research. The Debt of Honour Register provides personal and service details and places of commemoration for the 1.7 million members of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. It is now possible to search for individual casualties and obtain a record of their service details. Generally, the information gathered from the website will include: full name, service number, regiment/unit/squadron/ship, age and date of death, place of commemoration (cemetery plot/memorial panel), name of next of kin and home town. Details of the 60,000 civilian casualties of the Second World War are also available. Best of all, the service is FREE!

For those of us not "online", the CWGC will provide its traditional service for individual searches at £2 per name. Contact the CWGC at 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7DX, U.K., or fax: 01628 771208.

...Speaking of the 'Net, John Frith now has an email address and invites all those looking for covers to contact him:

johnfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca

1937 CANADIAN CORONATION CONTINGENT...AGAIN!

[Cont'd.]

The preceding 1937 Coronation Contingent cover was seen recently in a U.K. auction (Cavendish). It is similar to Doug Sayles' cover (in NL 139, p. 391) but it has 3d in postage. Doug's cover has generated some interest among the members and Ken Barlow responded: "...the Coronation cover...was interesting but the 1½d rate was a regular rate to all of the world for a single-weight letter. No concession. The postmark, May 13, 1937, pointed out that it was an FDC of the Coronation stamp". David Collyer also wrote in and added: "I was interested in the 1937 Coronation Contingent cover...the 1½d rate was the Empire rate from the U.K. by surface to all parts of the Empire. It is interesting to note the printing details of the envelope visible in the bottom left-hand corner of the cover. "M.F." is "Military Form" but there is something obscured between this and the number "234" [with this second cover it's a "B"]. The second line gives the number printed 500M which is generally taken as 500,000 and then the date "9-36" (September 1936). This indicates that the envelope was printed during the reign of Edward VIII but used during the reign of George VI. Compared to the others on the list on p. 392 [NL 139], Colonel Streight is fairly low-ranked". [Thanks Ken and David for your insights on these most interesting covers. Ed.]

FIRST WORLD WAR INTERNMENT MARKINGS
FROM OTTAWA--By Steven Luciuk

The Editor of our Newsletter recently showed me a photocopy of a 1915 invoice from a Duncan, B.C. garage. The document and its handstamps seemed familiar. It prompted me to go through some of my postal history files where I found a photocopy of the same invoice given to me by Colin Campbell several years earlier [the invoice is reproduced below at 65%. Ed.]

PHONE 35
P.O. BOX 117

DUNCAN, B.C. *5th November* 1915

M. Dept of Alien Recruits
To Lt. Col. W. Ridge

ACCOUNT WITH *D. C.*

DUNCAN GARAGE LIMITED

AGENTS FOR
 CADILLAC, STUDEBAKER AND FORD AUTOMOBILES
 TRUCKS, MOTOR CYCLES, TIRES AND ACCESSORIES
 CARS FOR HIRE DAY OR NIGHT

Office of Officer Commanding
 Internment Operations
 NOV 24 1915
 OTTAWA

Payments made after date of this account will be shown in account for following month. All accounts subject to sight draft if not paid by 15th of month following.
 We assume no responsibility for loss or damage by fire or other cause to vehicles or accessories placed with us for storage. Cars operated by our employees at owner's risk and responsibility.

	Folio	Dr.	Cr.	Balance
<i>1915</i>				
<i>14</i>		<i>14.00</i>		
<i>19</i>		<i>7.00</i>		
		<i>21.00</i>		

I certify that the items charged for in this account have been received, that the prices are just and fair, and that no item has been previously certified by me for payment.
 THEY ARE ALL PROPER CHARGES AGAINST INTERNMENT OPERATIONS.

W. Ridge Lt. Col.
 Dept. Alien Recruits, M. D. No. 11

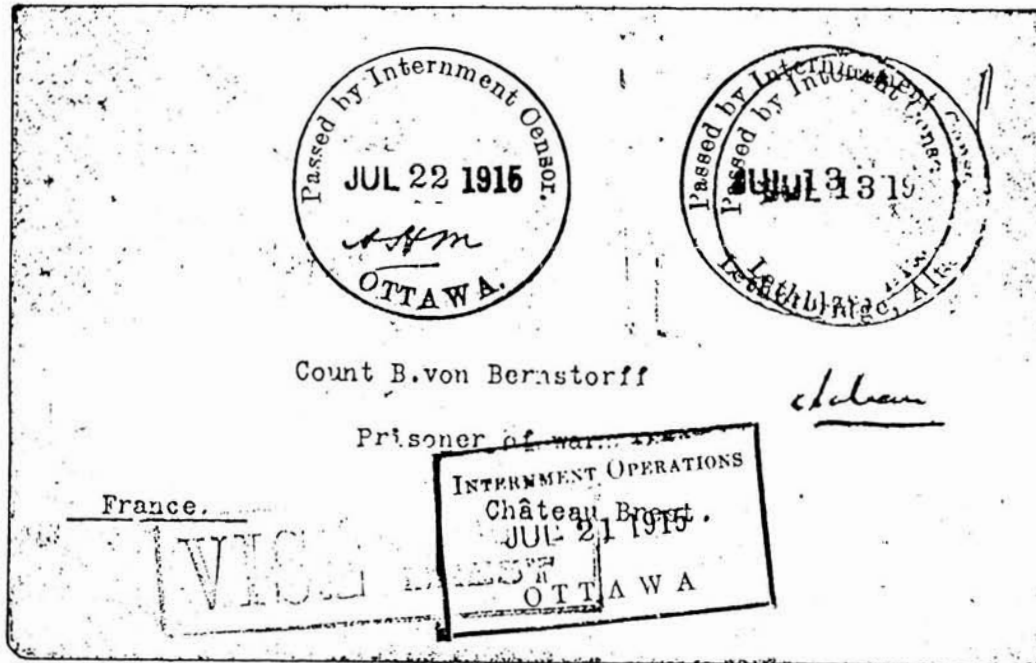
INTERMENT OPERATIONS
 NOV 23 1915
 OTTAWA

Colin, with his usual thorough approach to postal history research, came across the Duncan bill at an archives in Victoria. He was gathering information for an article on the Nanaimo Internment Camp and its scarce censor's handstamp. His article appeared in the Newsletter

[Cont'd.]

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in 1986 (No.66, p. 439) and in a 1989 issue of the PHSC Journal (No.58, pp. 28-29). Colin also provided Ritch Toop with a photocopy of the garage invoice. Presumably, this is how the internment markings and the same dates came to be illustrated on p. 152 of Canadian Military Postal Markings: 1881-1995 by W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop. This comprehensive and important publication, however, does not note that the two 1915 handstamps were placed on an invoice rather than on a cover.



One example of the Ottawa rectangular marking is known on a cover. It was addressed to a P.O.W. held in Brest, France. The cover was formerly in the "Toop Collection" and, in addition to the rarity of the rectangular marking, is noteworthy for other reasons. Canadian censoring handstamps from the First World War, identifying more than one location, are most unusual. Moreover the existence of three different internment-related markings, all placed on the cover's front, resulted in a remarkable piece of mail. Incidentally, only one other example of the Ottawa "Passed by Internment Censor" circular handstamp has been reported on cover. It was dated May 17, 1917, close to two years after the one illustrated in this article.

The First World War internment era in Canada ended almost eighty years ago. Unfortunately too little is known about the number of surviving internment-related markings. Are there other covers showing one or more Ottawa internment handstamps? Please contact the Editor if you have information related to this question. [Thank you Steve for showing us this rare cover. Can other members report additional strikes or covers? Ed.]

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 (3/5)
